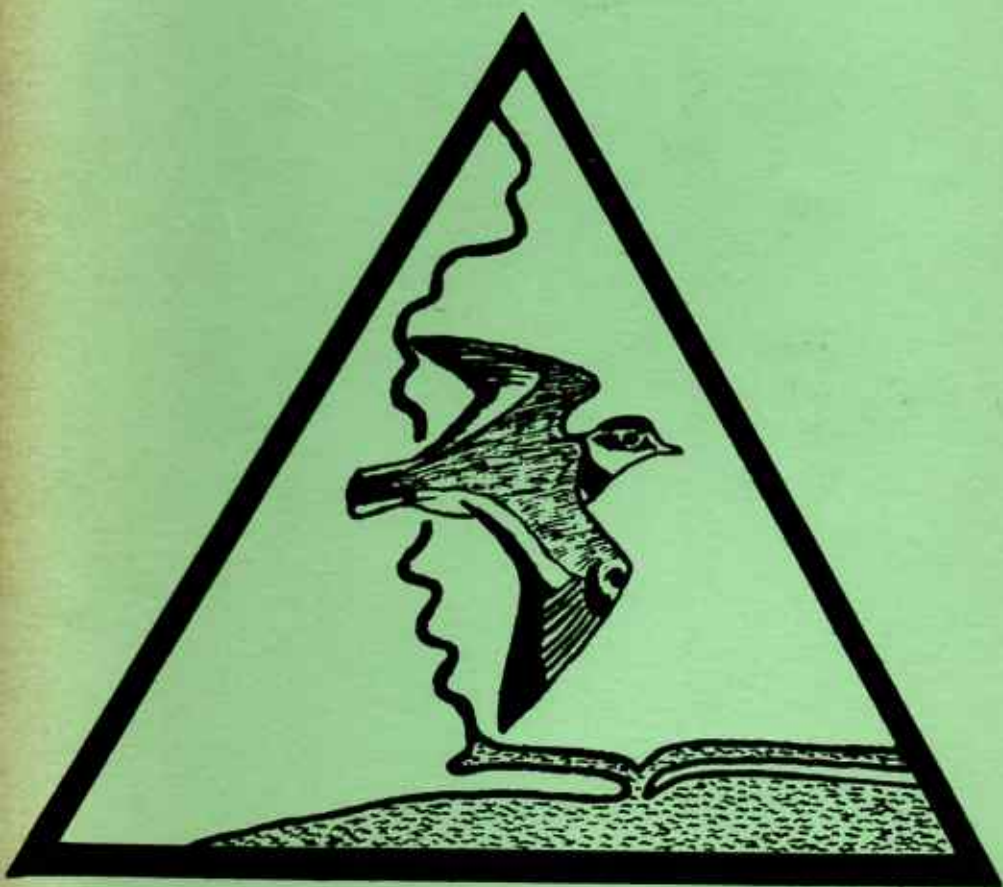


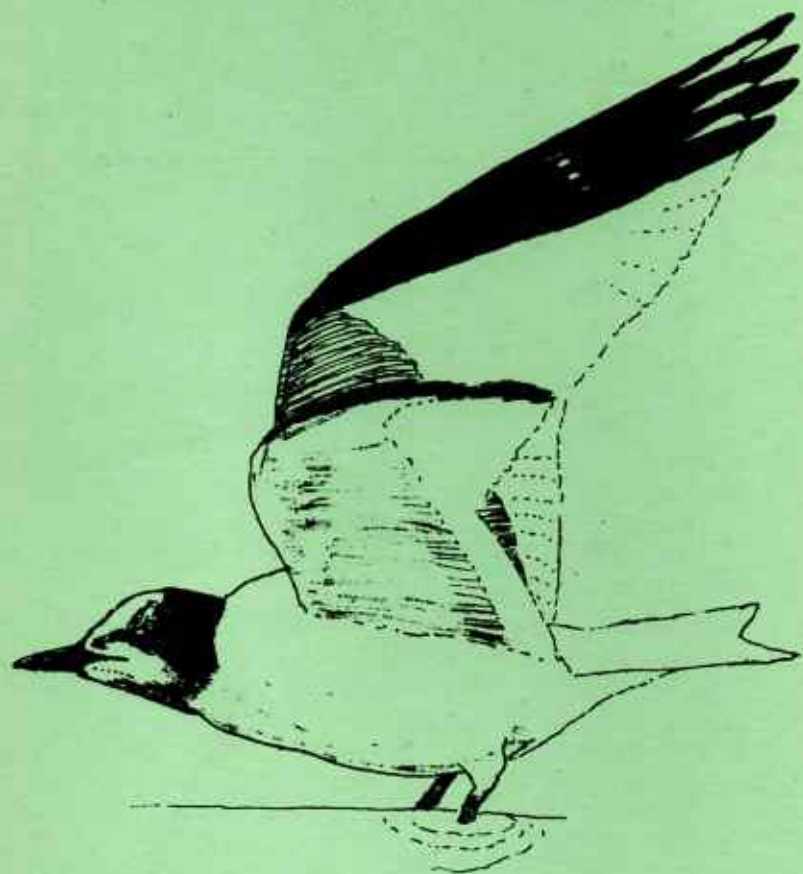
**Shoreham District
Ornithological Society**

REPORT 1987



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SABINE'S GULL

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1987

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EDITORIAL NOTES

It is with both relief and regret that I pen these notes as this will be the last report produced under my term as Hon. Report Editor. The relief is that someone else will be taking on the responsibility for the production of these reports but the regret is in leaving behind what has been a stimulating and challenging experience.

Whilst membership levels have been "holding their own" contributions to this report have been greater than ever this year, not only in terms of articles, but also indirectly by way of the number of records submitted to the Recorder. This indicates a strong active Society.

The ornithological activity of the year has been well summarised by Dave Smith, completing his first year of duties as our new Recorder. On the conservation front Mike Hall reports on a very successful conclusion to the Ferring Rife project whilst the Society has continued to monitor and involve itself in other environmental issues of relevance to our Members.

At a domestic level Chris Fox has taken over the duties of Hon. Treasurer from Stanley Allen. We thank Stanley and Bernard Forbes, the outgoing Recorder, for all their unstinting efforts. Finally Richard Weal, already a Committee Member, took over from Dave Smith as Hon. Field Secretary.

It is sad to report the death of George Rampton and Frank Forbes during the past year. Both were long standing members of this Society and tributes to them are included in this report.

Finally I wish to thank all those who have assisted me during my term of office; all the contributors, typists, artists and other back-room helpers. Without their efforts these reports would not be possible. I pass on good wishes to my successor and trust that you will continue your support of both this Report and the Shoreham District Ornithological Society.

BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM RECORDING AREA 1987

1987 certainly had its quieter moments with few rarities, but will be remembered for the quantity of birds brought in by the January freeze and the quality deposited by the October hurricane.

January began with mild weather for the first few days but soon changed to snow and sub-zero temperatures, and the best birding was to be had from the 10th onwards with substantial movements, particularly of wildfowl and plovers, either into or passing through the area. Strangely, few grey geese were seen, notable being 6 White-fronts past Worthing beach on the Jan 12th and 4 over Woods Mill on Jan 17. 638 Brent Geese passed Worthing beach on the 12th and up to 58 frequented the lower Adur valley during the month, this flock including one pale-bellied individual. The highest duck numbers passed offshore and included 1625 Wigeon on the 10th, 19 Pintail on the 15th, with groups of Shoveler, Teal, Pochard and Tufted Ducks. Scaup were well represented with groups of 4 and 3 individuals regularly noted.

Up to 29 Goosander were seen between the 10th and 18th but Smew were almost absent; the single 'red-head' on the Adur at Cuckoo's Corner was the only January record. A huge southerly Lapwing movement occurred on the 10th including 10,000 down the Adur Valley and 3,000 over Worthing. On the same day 830 Golden Plover flew south, again down the Adur Valley, and 212 passed SW over Broadwater. Other arrivals during the hard weather included a Ruff, 2 Jack Snipe, 2 Green Sandpipers and several reports of Woodcock in members' gardens. Few raptors were seen; notable were 1, possibly 2 male Hen Harriers plus a single 'ringtail', a Buzzard on the 3rd and 2 Short-eared Owls from well-spaced localities. Miscellaneous sightings were a Mediterranean Gull on Jan 4th and a Shag on Jan 1st.

Grebe numbers were well up in Jan and Feb with substantial counts of Great Crested Grebes plus Red-necked, Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes. 10 Twite were in the lower Adur valley on the Jan 31st and passerine concentrations included a mixed

flock of 100 Bramblings, 50 Tree Sparrow, 300 Linnets and 300 Skylarks on waste ground behind Brooklands. A male Smew and a 'red-head' were at Southwick Canal on Feb 5-6th.

March is traditionally a quiet month and highlights were an Avocet on the Adur and a Mediterranean Gull on Ferring Rife with raptors represented by a female Merlin in the Adur Valley and a Short-eared Owl at Ferring Rife. The first Chiffchaffs arrived mid-month and Wheatears began to arrive around the 21st.

April saw the main influx of Willow Warblers, Blackcaps, and Whitethroats with Nightingales a little late, although one was at Woods Mill on the 13th. 2 Firecrests were seen in the first week. Notable birds during the month were 2 Garganey and 1053 Common Scoter at Worthing Beach on the 3rd, 2 Great Northern Divers on the 2nd and 24th, 18 Avocets on the 17th, a Spotted Redshank on the 24th and a Merlin arrived from the sea at Hove on the 20th.

The spring seawatch was disappointing, numbers of most regularly recorded species being well down on previous years. Totals were especially low for 'Commic' Terns, Bar-tailed Godwits and skuas; the spring total for Arctic Skua was a little over half that recorded in the peak day last spring! Pomarine Skuas also appeared in lesser numbers, the largest party being 9 on May 8th, and after record numbers in the spring of 1986 only 6 Great Skuas were noted. A total of just 5 Black Terns were seen between April 28th and May 25th and Little Gulls peaked at 11 on May 9th - the month's total!

In May a Mediterranean Gull flew past Worthing Beach on the 9th and a was seen Shag on the 25th, ending a dismal season. The highlight of the month was a Montague's Harrier over Broadwater on the 4th.

June and July, often months to turn to butterflies and bats, can produce an avian rarity or two and this year was no exception; a female Red footed Falcon flew over Broadwater and Goring on June 23rd and on June 29th a Spoonbill stayed

for a day on the Adur. Another brief visitor was a Little Egret at Ferring Rife on July 26th. The area's Sand Martin colony showed an encouraging increase and more Quail than usual were heard on the Downs. Five Crossbills flew over Cissbury on July 12th.

August specialities included the second Red-footed Falcon of the year at Mill Hill on Aug 14th, a Marsh Harrier at Cissbury on the 15th and a Buzzard over Broadwater on the 7th. Apart from Common Sandpiper most passage waders appeared in lesser numbers than usual. On Aug 6th 2 Little Ringed Plovers were on the Adur and a Little Stint was at Widewater on the 31st. Good numbers of Wheatears, Whinchats, Yellow Wagtails and Willow Warblers could be seen in this month and September and 3 Wood Warblers were reported in the last week of August. Spotted Flycatchers were erratic, scarce in some localities but numerous in others.

In September, further Little Stints appeared at Widewater on the 9th and Worthing Beach on the 27th, and the only Curlew Sandpiper of the year was on the Adur on Sept 1st. On the 5th 2 Wood Sandpipers were on Ferring Rife, the first in the area for some years. 3 Sooty Shearwaters moving westwards together at Worthing Beach must have been an impressive sight.

October began well with 13 Manx Shearwaters at Worthing Beach on the 9th, a Little Stint on the Adur on the 12th and a female Peregrine over Broadwater on the 14th. The early morning of Oct 16th brought the hurricane; as we surveyed the devastation wrought upon our area the ornithological event of the decade was under way; the Sabine's Gull invasion. In the next few days an estimated 150, mainly adults, were in mainland Britain and we were not to be outdone - between 10 and 13 individuals were recorded at coastal sites from Brighton Marina to Worthing Beach.

On the 16th a live Storm Petrel was found in a Ferring garden, and a Leach's Petrel passed Brighton Marina on the 17th. Between 4 and 6 Grey Phalaropes were also recorded between Oct 17-18th and most unusually 2 Great Skuas blown

inland by the storm were at Cissbury on the 16th. Another Mediterranean Gull was on Worthing Beach on the 18th, the same date that single Arctic Terns were reported from Widewater and Brighton Marina. Those of us who opted for the Scillies in the third week of October were not amused. To round off the month's reports, single Merlins were seen at Worthing beach, Cissbury and Hollingbury Park, and on the 26th a Firecrest was seen in Goring Wood.

November was something of an anti-climax but still produced birds of interest including a female Goshawk over Ferring on the 13th, an immature Snow Bunting at Chantry Hill on the 29th and 20 House Martins still at Ferring Beach on the 8th.

December was mild, and the year quietly slipped away; however it still managed to produce the first Hawfinch for some years at Worthing on the 7th. 13 Bewick's Swans on the upper Adur levels on Dec 29th completed the year's records.



RED-FOOTED FALCON

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE AREA

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

P.Allen, S.R.Allen, M.I.Banks, R.Bayne, M.Brayshaw, P.Brayshaw, T.Bujok, E.Chadwell, G.L., M.L. & N.J.Champion, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, J.Dixon, G.Edwards, R.J.Fairbank, J.A.Feest, B.F.Forbes, C.J.Fox, J.Glover, M.P.Hall, S.Harthill, L.E.Hemblade, C.Hope, R.Ives, R.W.C.Ives, H.C.Jackson, R.J.B.Jackson, P.James, L.R.Keen, D.H.Labdon, G.T.J.Martin, J.Maskell, S.Maskell, V.Maynard-Smith, C.Melgar, B.Metcalf, O.M.Mitchell, C.M.Newcombe, J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, J.V.Nye, M.Prince, B.Reeve, M.Russell, R.J.Sandison, R.M.Shaw, T.C.Smart, D.I.Smith, M.A.Snelling, J.Stafford, H.Sturman, J.Underwood, A.B.Watson, R.Weal, I.C.Whitcome, P.J.Whitcome.

See also acknowledgements in the sea watching report.

Abbreviations:-

1y - 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	Jun	July
Worthing Beach	38	19	36	121	74	18	15
	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
	25	30	41	25	27	469	

1. RED THROATED DIVER - recorded at Worthing Beach between Jan 3 and May 9, and again after Oct 13. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	9	7	2	5	4	-	-	-	9	12
W.	20	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	19

Peak movements at Worthing were 9W/2E on Jan 3; 5W on Jan 10; and 13W/3E on Dec 19. They occurred occasionally offshore there with max 3 on Feb 22 and singles were noted off Widewater on Jan 17, Mar 1 and Nov 7.

1986 Most unusually, a slightly oiled immature was found walking the streets of Shoreham on Apr 15.

2. BLACK THROATED DIVER - noted in the sea-watch log at Worthing Beach between Jan 5 and May 24, and after Dec 19. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	10/s	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1
W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

The only other record was 2 in summer plumage at Widewater on May 8 (RMS).

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER - The only records were singles flying E at Worthing on Apr 2 (RJS) and Apr 24 (RJS,CEH,MPH) and flying W there on Dec 20 (RJS). These records are subject to acceptance by the Sussex O.S.

1986 Singles noted off Brighton Marina on Feb 15 and 25.

DIVER SP - Only noted from Worthing Beach where recorded from Jan 1 to May 25 and again after Oct 3. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	51	66	8	80	25	-	-	1	13	32
W.	76	5	10	-	-	-	-	5	12	35

Peak movements were 24W/2E on Jan 3; 14W/11E on Jan 10; 18E on Feb 1; 2W/22E on Feb 22; 27E on Apr 5; and 10E on May 9. Records later in the year were 3W/10E on Nov 26, 13W/3E on Dec 19 and 4W/11E on Dec 31.

6. LITTLE GREBE - Higher wintering numbers than usual as shown in the max. monthly counts:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	2	-	-	-	-	-
River Adur.	12	2	4	1	-	5
Southwick Canal.	5	9	4	-	-	2

1 on Brooklands on Jan 17, 2 at Brighton Marina on Jan 3 and 1 there Mar 7. There were 2 records of singles in April but breeding was not proved; breeding season visits to the less well known ponds may be of value.

In the autumn fewer were seen than in the earlier months with a single on the pond at Small Dole on Oct 2, a maximum of 5 on the Adur on Dec 20, 2 at Southwick Canal on Dec 6 and 19, 2 at Brooklands on Dec 23 and singles at New Salt's Farm on Oct 28 and Brighton Marina on Dec 5.

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE - In the early months mostly recorded along the coast, maximum counts being 57 along Brighton seafront on Feb 14, 37 off Hove on Feb 7 with 10 off Ferring on the same date and 30 off Widewater on Feb 13, all probably part of a hard weather influx. Singles and groups of up to 8 were also noted from a number of localities ie:- Widewater, River Adur, Shoreham Harbour and Southwick Canal, a few staying into March.

At Worthing noted regularly offshore between Jan 2 and June 21; peak counts of 6 on Feb 28 and 4 on several January dates. Recorded there again after Oct 21 with a maximum of 4 on Dec 2, and the monthly totals of those seen flying were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	8	5	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
W.	6	5	2	1	-	-	-	1	2	7

8. RED-NECKED GREBE - A good year with records from Jan 16 to Apr 26. Total numbers are hard to assess as some records may relate to the same individual; allowing for this, a max. of 8 and a minimum of 3 birds were involved and were all singles on the Adur on Jan 16, Shoreham Harbour on Jan 19, off Widewater on Jan 24/25, off Hove on Feb 7, Shoreham Harbour Feb 11/13, off Portslade on Feb 14, off Worthing on Mar 3 and finally 1 off Hove on Apr 26.

1986 1 off Brighton Marina on Mar 2.

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE - More records than usual, most relating to the period mid Jan to mid Mar. The largest gathering was 8 off Widewater on Jan 28 with groups of 3 there on Jan 17 and Feb 22. Likewise 3 were off Palace Pier, Brighton on Mar 7, 2 at Southwick Canal on Feb 6 and 2 on the Adur on Feb 17. The Worthing maximum was 3 on Jan 20 with singles there on 8 other dates, singles also noted off Brooklands and at Shoreham Harbour on Jan 17, off Hove on Feb 17 and off Widewater on Mar 14. Finally 2 passed E off Worthing on Nov 29 and 2 were offshore there on Dec 19.

10. BLACK-NECKED GREBE - As with the other grebes more records than usual in the early months with a maximum of 6 and a minimum of 2 birds involved. Records span from mid-Jan to mid-Feb and are all of singles; 1 off Worthing on Jan 14 (JAN) may have been at Goring on Jan 18 (DIS), Shoreham harbour on 19th (KN) and Widewater on 25th (JAN); 1 off Widewater on Feb 21 (RAI); and 1 at Brighton Marina between Feb 14 and Mar 7 (GLC,PJW,IJW).

1986 1 off Worthing on May 14.

12. FULMAR - recorded on seawatches at Worthing from Jan 15 to Dec 31 but the following table reveals how scarce they are from Sept until Mar.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	3	4	16	102	77	4	4	9	3	-	-	3
W.	-	1	19	160	87	32	19	50	15	1	-	4

Peak movements of 15W/13E on Apr 17; 8W/14E on Apr 19; and 16W/9E on Apr 24. As usual most were moving W with only 40% of the spring birds being eastbound. Larger numbers noted in early autumn with peaks of 14W/3E on July 19, 13W on Aug 22 and 10W/2E on Sept 5. Despite large seabird movements (including shearwaters) in Oct only 1 noted on Oct 18.

17. SOOTY SHEARWATER - A small party of 3 flying W at Worthing on Sept 12 constitutes the fifth record for the area. It is noteworthy that most have been seen in the 1980's.

18. MANX SHEARWATER - None seen during prolonged sea-watches from Worthing Beach during the spring, but more than usual were seen during the autumn with 13W on Oct 9, 2W/4E on Sept 5, 3W/1E on Sept 6 and 5W on Sept 12 being the best days.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Total
Worthing E.	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	8
W.	-	-	-	-	-	10	13	-	23

Single Balearic Shearwaters (*P.mauretanicus*) flew W at Worthing on Sept 12 (JAN) and E on Sept 19 (JAN,PB).

1986 1 was found dead at Brighton Marina on Jan 11 and singles passed E there on May 1 and June 21.

22. STORM PETREL - One found in a Ferring garden on Oct 16 after the hurricane was kept overnight and released on the morning of the 17th at Ferring beach, where it flew W (MPH).

23. LEACH'S PETREL - A single passing W close inshore at Brighton Marina on Oct 17 (PJ) represents the first live individual recorded in the area in recent years. The last record was a corpse found in Oct 1966.

25. GANNET - Recorded offshore at Worthing during every month; totals as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	43	-	13	21	39	51	66	68	29	19	1	10
W.	11	4	11	44	81	100	60	86	75	36	4	13

Small numbers noted in spring compared to 1986 with peak movements of 13W/12E on May 5; 19W/3E on June 22 and 14W/12E on June 30. Autumn peaks of 1W/47E on July 19, 16W/39E on Aug 22 with remarkably few in Sept and Oct gales although a juv. was found dead on Brighton beach on Oct 17 after the hurricane. A melanistic individual at Worthing Beach on Oct 6 (RJS).

26. CORMORANT - Counts of 66 between Widewater and Portslade on Jan 17; 17 on the Adur Levels at Wyckham Farm on Feb 8; 15 on a Small Dole pylon roost on Apr 19; 18 off Widewater on Sept 30 and 15 in Shoreham Harbour on Dec 2. Singles noted on Woods Mill lake in Jan and Nov and 2 in Oct.

27. SHAG - The three records for the year comprise a sub-adult at Brighton Marina on Jan 1 (PJ), 1E with a Cormorant at Worthing on May 25 (CEH/JAN), and one off Widewater on Aug 23 (LEH).

1986 Brighton Marina: a peak 6 on Feb 15 with 5 on both Jan 3 and Mar 4.

37. LITTLE EGRET - During the evening of July 26 one was briefly seen by an experienced observer from outside the area on Ferring Rife. If accepted by BBRC this constitutes only the second record and was probably the same bird found at the Cuckmere Haven in East Sussex shortly afterwards. Although local watchers were speedily contacted and arrived on the scene less than an hour after the initial finding, it had sadly departed.

39. HERON - Noted throughout the year, the maximum concentration again being at New Salts Farm with 15 on Oct 4, although fewer than usual noted there in autumn. Smaller groups included 6 on the Adur in Sept, 4 at Small Dole on June 26, 3W over Lancing on July 6 and 1-3 at Ferring Rife during the winter. There were a number of records of singles flying over Worthing or Brighton. The Wykham Wood heronry held 21 occupied nests on Apr 17.

44. SPOONBILL - A single bird on the Adur between the Toll Bridge and Railway Bridge on June 29 (SRA/KN) is the first record for the area since 1971. (Photographs taken by SRA).

46. MUTE SWAN - Counts from the lower Adur of 30 on Jan 16, 11 on Mar 17, 22 on July 23 and 20 between Small Dole and Norfolk Bridge on Apr 28. A herd of 32 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Feb 28. Pairs bred Shoreham Sanctuary, Brooklands, Widewater, New Salts Farm and at Small Dole where 6 young fledged. In the autumn 36 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Oct 25.

Miscellaneous records were 3 juveniles in Brighton Marina on Feb 14, 5 individuals there on Nov 21 and 7 at Widewater during Nov/Dec. All counts of pairs and young during the breeding season, together with non-breeding and wintering herds are welcome.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN - 5 flew W over Wiston on Jan 7 (CJF) and on Dec 6 a herd of 8 which included 4 juveniles arrived on the Upper Adur Levels and were joined by 5 more adults on Dec 29 (CJF).

1986 One flew W offshore at Worthing on Jan 30.

51. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE - Two small flocks were reported in Jan; 6 flew E at Worthing on 12th and 4 flew W over Woods Mill on 17th. One flying W at Worthing beach on the late date of Apr 24 may have been an escape.

1986 On Feb 5 there were 3 at Lancing.

53. GREY-LAG GOOSE - Two flying W over Washington sand pits on Apr 25 may have been from the small feral population at Amberley and a feral bird was regular at Woods Mill in Apr-May. On Sept 27 one flew W at Worthing.

55. CANADA GOOSE - Early records all refer to March with 4E over Lancing on 6th, 14 at Small Dole on 9th, 2 at Patching Pond on 11th, 4 at Adur Levels on 24th and 6 at Widewater on 25th. Later spring records were from the coast with 2E offshore at Widewater on Apr 10 and 2E at Worthing on Apr 18, and 2 were on the sea off Widewater on May 7.

A pair raised 4 young at Woods Mill and 10 were on the Adur on June 12. 16W over Chanctonbury on Aug 14th and 8 at Small Dole on Oct 2 were the only records for the autumn.

57. BRENT GOOSE - Recorded at Worthing Beach until May 25 and again after Sept 19: as usual most were seen on seawatches; monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	350	856	1223	819	80	-	-	8	5	37
W.	1257	-	95	9	-	-	38	379	320	28

Peak movements at Worthing were 638W on Jan 12; 700E on Feb 5; 613E on Mar 21 and 407E on Apr 2. Other eastward movement off Widewater involved 200 on Jan 26 and 350 on Jan 27 whilst 200 flew N up the Adur Valley on Jan 25. A flock of 34 were on cereal fields near Ferring Rife on Jan 17 rising to 53 by Jan 24, and a flock of up to 58 which frequented the lower Adur Valley between Jan 17-22 included a bird of the pale-bellied race. Away from the coast fewer noted in Feb with 5 flying S down the Adur Valley on 2nd and 2 on the Airfield on 13th. Few noted in autumn passing Worthing with peaks of 235W on Oct 21 and 108W on Nov 21. Singles also at Goring Gap, Widewater and the Adur in Nov and on the Adur Levels on Dec 27.

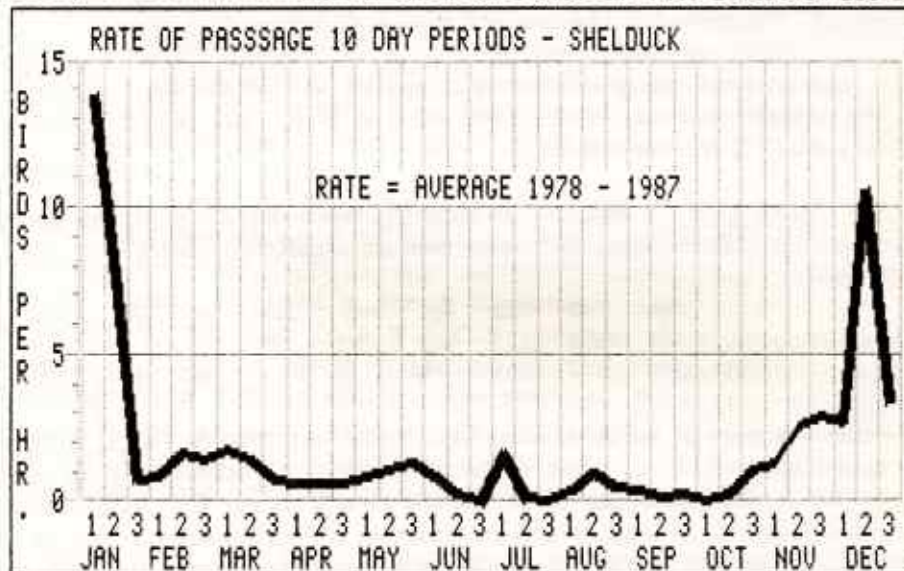
GREY GOOSE SPECIES The 3 which flew E at Worthing on Jan 11 were probably White-fronts and 4 flew E over Goring in hard weather on Mar 6.

61. SHELDUCK - Mostly recorded in coastal movements at Worthing Beach which were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	95	40	78	96	69	19	-	-	-	-	7	7
W.	647	12	76	57	42	4	-	-	12	19	87	9

The largest movements, induced by the severely cold weather, were 324W/29E on Jan 10; 131W/10E on Jan 11 and 89W/14E on Jan 12. The peak spring movements were 27E on Apr 17 and 25E on Apr 26.

In the early months numbers were higher than usual on the River Adur with peaks of 22 in Jan, 24 in Feb and 16 in Mar. Two were present on the Upper Adur Levels on Jan 11. Later in the year the peak movements at Worthing were 36W on both Nov 21 and 22. One flew S over the Adur Levels on Dec 27.



64. WIGEON - Birds which remained in the area during the cold weather congregated, as usual, in the Adur Valley; 212 were on New Salts Farm on Jan 16 with 140 on 21st while 100 flew S down the lower Adur on 18th, which may have been the same party seen on the sea off Widewater on the same day. Fewer were on the Upper Adur Levels in Jan with a maximum of 14 on the 14th. Dispersal following the freeze appears to have been rapid although 127 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Feb 7.

Most however were noted passing Worthing beach where noted on 11 dates between Jan 11 and Mar 7; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	115	-	8	-	-	-	-	7	-	2
W. 2380	120	14	-	-	-	2	6	-	-	-

The exceptionally cold weather in Jan induced large movements and peaks were 1692W/57E on Jan 10; 270W/27E on Jan 11 and 364W on Jan 12, interestingly a few days before the flocks were seen in the Adur Valley.

Noted on only four autumn dates passing offshore at Worthing after Sept 9.

67. GADWALL - Most records in the early months were from New Salts Farm with the maximum being 6 (3 drakes and 3 ducks) on Jan 19 and up to 4 remained until at least mid-March. A number of sightings of 3 or 4 birds on the Adur during this period probably refer to these individuals, but 4 on the Upper Adur Levels on Feb 7 may well have been different. Single pairs were reported in April and May from both these localities although breeding was not proved. At Worthing beach 2 flew E on both Apr 5 and 7.

In the autumn a male was at New Salts Farm on Nov 2 and 2 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Dec 23.

69. TEAL - The largest numbers between January and March were on the Upper Adur Levels; maximum counts being 100 on Jan 11, 41 on Mar 31 and 29 on Feb 7. Fewer noted on the lower Adur with 12 on Jan 17, 7 on Jan 18 and 20 at New Salts Farm on Jan 23. 2 were at Brighton Marina on Jan 15.

Seawatchers at Worthing noted them in small numbers on 7 dates between Jan 10 and Apr 7, the peak of 29W in cold weather on Jan 10, and again after Aug 11 and the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	20	-	4	20	-	1	7	-	-	1
W.	30	-	5	-	-	3	-	-	9	-

At the end of the year 9 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Dec 27.

70. MALLARD - Recorded in small numbers between Jan 4 and May 27 during sea-watches at Worthing, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	2	2	14	14	1	-	6	-	-	2
W.	54	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	8

Peaks were 17W on Jan 10; 16W on Jan 12 and 15 offshore there on Jan 15.

The maximum at New Salts Farm during the year was 42 and scattered counts from other localities were 22 on the Adur on Feb 13, 20 at Small Dole on July 1, 40 there on Oct 2 and 7 pairs at Ferring duck pond on Apr 12.

72. PINTAIL - Early in the year more were recorded during sea-watches at Worthing Beach than usual with sightings on 11 dates between Jan 10 and May 9, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	2	8	4	7	1	-	-	1	-	-
W.	34	2	16	-	-	-	-	-	11	-

The largest movement was 19W on Jan 15. The autumn birds there were 1E on Oct 3, 3W on Nov 18 and 8W on Nov 19. Away from the coast the only records were from the Upper Adur Levels with 3 there on Feb 7, 1 on Mar 8 and 5 there on both Mar 31 and Dec 23.

73. GARGANEY - On Apr 3 at Worthing beach 2 flew E at 1015hrs (RJS).

75. SHOVELER - Recorded during sea-watches at Worthing between Jan 10 and Apr 17, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
worthing E.	-	-	3	36	-	-	-	2	-	-
W.	29	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The largest movements were 20W on Jan 12 and 22E on Apr 3. Notably few seen there at the end of year with 2E on Oct 3 the only record. The only other record was 7 on the Upper Adur Levels on Mar 8.

76. RED-CRESTED POCHARD - A male on Brooklands from May 13 to the end of the year was probably an escape from a wildfowl collection.

77. POCHARD - The maximum monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	19	24	17	-	-	7	15
Brooklands.	7	-	13	-	-	-	-

Additionally 14 were on Southwick canal on Jan 23, 24 were at Small Dole on Feb 10 and 4 in Shoreham harbour on Jan 19.

A total of 73 noted at Worthing beach on 6 dates from Jan 13 to Apr 7, mostly in the cold weather (peaks were 20W on Jan 13 and 30W on Jan 17), but the only autumn record there was 10W on Nov 11. In autumn 2 were at Brooklands on Aug 20 (an early date) and 15 were on Widewater on Dec 31.

80. TUFTED DUCK - The monthly maximum counts show higher numbers than usual were in the area between January and March. The records suggest the birds seen on these two waters are the same individuals.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	42	56	38	-	-	1	17
Brooklands.	55	30	-	-	1	-	-

Other early year gatherings were 34 on Southwick canal in January and 5 at Patching Pond on Feb 5. A single bird was in Brighton Marina on Jan 22. Noted on sea-watches at Worthing on 10 dates between Jan 10 and May 4; the total of 58 seen included the peaks of 11W on Jan 10 and 19W on Jan 12; 6W on Dec 3 was the only record later in the year.

81. SCAUP - More than usual noted between mid-January and mid-March, the largest groups being 8 (including 3 males) flying E at Brighton Marina on Jan 17, 4 at Southwick canal on Jan 23, 4 (including 1 male) on the Adur at Coombes on Jan 28 and 4 W at Worthing on Jan 10 with a male also W on Jan 12. In the same period groups of up to 3 were also recorded at Brooklands, Shoreham harbour and Widewater. There were no further records after March.

82. EIDER - A poor year for this species; Worthing coastal movement was:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	17	2	8	36	9	-	-	-	-	22	11	3
W.	13	4	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	11	29

There were 7 offshore at Worthing on Jan 29 and the spring peak there was a mere 9E on Apr 3. Additionally a first winter male was seen regularly in Shoreham harbour during January.

1986 There were 35 off Lancing on Jan 1.

86. LONG-TAILED DUCK - A single male W off Worthing on Feb 14 (RJS) and a female also W there on Nov 25 (JAN) were the only two records.

87. COMMON SCOTER - Recorded passing offshore at Worthing during each month and the totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E.	11	8	78	1870	140	117	8	4	25	6	8	62
W.	68	-	5	57	-	12	-	33	28	12	16	91

There were unusually low numbers seen during Mar and May; the peaks were 1053E on Apr 3, 372E on Apr 4, and 155E on Apr 5. On Apr 3 the movement unusually started in mid afternoon whilst the winds were north-westerly. Later in the year 50W/17E on Dec 19 was the largest movement. Up to 5 females occurred offshore at Worthing during late Nov and elsewhere 8 were noted offshore at Portslade in January and 2 were off Brighton on Apr 22.

89. VELVET SCOTER - Singles flying W on Jan 4 and Jan 27 and 2E on Apr 3 were the only records; the worst spring at Worthing for 10 years. Autumn little better with only 5W on Sept 5, 4W on Sept 24 and 1W on Dec 19.

91. GOLDENEYE - In January the largest group noted on the Lower Adur was 8 (all females/immatures) on the 18th but 5 there on 31st included an adult male. Possibly associated with these groups were 4 on the Adur at Beeding on 11th and 16th; other sightings in the month were 2 at Southwick canal on Jan 23 and 3 flying W at Widewater on Jan 11. In February 3 were at Southwick canal on the 7th and 3 were still on the Adur on Mar 8.

More than usual also recorded on sea-watches at Worthing between Jan 3 and Apr 17 in spring and after Nov 21 late in the year. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	2	7	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.	8	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	5	2

The best days were Jan 15 and Feb 2 when 4 were were seen.

93. SMEW - A red-head frequented the Adur at Cuckoo's Corner from Jan 12 to at least Jan 29 and a male and red-head were seen on Southwick canal on Feb 5-6.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	44	12	70	72	5	-	-	-	5	77
W.	77	3	37	38	3	-	-	13	35	116

Max. offshore.	57	32	19	-	-	-	-	-	15	11
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Peak spring movement was only 17E on Apr 17 and last noted on May 9. Other early year concentrations were 15 at Southwick canal on Feb 8, 12 off Widewater on Feb 13 and 10 off Goring on Jan 24. There were still 5 at Southwick canal on Mar 28 with 3 in Brighton Marina on Mar 29.

Noted again at Worthing after first 3W on Oct 13 and the peak movement of 61W was on Dec 24.

95. GOOSANDER - A hard weather influx occurred in January when 13 flew S down the Adur during the morning of Jan 18 with 1N there an hour later and 2S at an unspecified time. One was in Shoreham harbour on the same date. At Worthing beach 1 flew W on Jan 10, 2W on Jan 14 and 2 males E on Jan 15 with a male and 2 red-heads flying W later that day. At Widewater 5, including 2 males, flew E on Jan 23. A male was in Shoreham harbour on Feb 2 and 5 were on the Adur north of Upper Beeding on Feb 7 with 4 still there on Feb 22.

103. MARSH HARRIER - The sole record was an immature/female at Cissbury on Aug 15 (BFF,RAI).

104. HEN HARRIER - After a blank year in 1986 there were two or three records. A ringtail flew W at Worthing beach on Jan 13 and on Jan 15 a male flew W at Brighton Marina; possibly the same individual seen flying N at Ferring Rife on Jan 17.

105. MONTAGU'S HARRIER - One showing melanistic characteristics flew N over Broadwater on May 4 (RAI). Details submitted to the Sussex OS.

107. GOSHAWK - A female flew NW over Ferring at 14.00hrs on Nov 13 (MPH). Details have been submitted to the Sussex OS.

108. SPARROW HAWK - Increasingly well distributed in the area and reported during the year from at least 25 coastal, urban, downland and wealden sites. Breeding season records indicate up to 21 pairs breeding in 19 localities, some observers noting increased numbers in the last quarter of the year, particularly in the coastal strip. Some localities held up to 4 in the autumn whereas mainly singles were noted in the earlier months.

This species appears to be increasingly taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by hunting in urban areas, where it is now being noted more frequently than Kestrel.

109. COMMON BUZZARD - Three singles noted during the year; over North Farm, Finton on Jan 3 and flying W over Broadwater on Mar 21 and Aug 7.

115. KESTREL - Noted from at least 23 localities during the year; records indicating that 18 pairs bred with possible breeding from a further 11 pairs and distribution in a similar but slightly less urban pattern than Sparrowhawk. Numbers of fledged young were not well recorded but 5 pairs are known to raised a total of 16 young during the breeding season including 4 young ringed at Applesham. The largest gathering was a welcome return to form with 14 at Long Furlong on Aug 3.

117. RED-FOOTED FALCON - A female flying W over Broadwater at 18.30hrs on June 23 (RAI) was seen some 5 to 10 minutes later over Goring (DIS/CJF). A further individual was seen during the evening of Aug 14 over Mill Hill, Shoreham (SRA) and if accepted by BBRC these will be only the 2nd and 3rd records for the area. Although just outside the recording area, a female was seen east of Brighton at Bullock Hill on July 3 (RJF). These birds were probably involved in the small but significant influx into the southern counties around this time.

118. MERLIN - A good year with singles noted as follows:- a female harrassing waders on the Adur at Shoreham on Mar 6; the same, or another female at New Salts Farm on Mar 31; 1 in from the sea at Hove on the late date of Apr 20; 1 male flew W at Worthing seafront on Oct 13 and a male at Hollingbury Park on Oct 24 with a female at Cissbury on the same day.

119. HOOBY - First of the year was a single N over Findon Valley on Apr 29, after which there were a number of widely scattered sightings until the last at West Durrington on the early date of Sept 7. Only 2 were seen in autumn on the Downs and the monthly totals were:-

Apr 1, May 3, Jun 1, Jul 1, Aug 3, Sep 6, Oct 0.

Singles flew W at Worthing beach on May 4 and at Ferring beach on May 9.

123. PEREGRINE - An adult female flew W over Broadwater at 07.50hrs on Oct 14 (RAI). Details have been submitted to the Sussex OS.

129. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE - Singles and groups of no more than 2 were reported from only 4 localities during the year.

130. GREY PARTRIDGE - Sporadically reported through the year mainly from the Adur Valley and Downs, the largest coveys were 20 at West Durrington on Aug 4 and 20 at Highdown in November. Breeding records include 2 pairs on the Downs at Saddlescombe and a pair with a single young in the SW corner of Shoreham airport on July 23.

131. QUAIL - A good year, with a total of 12 calling on July 3 in 4 square miles of downland between Steep Down and Park Brow. Singles calling Cissbury Aug 9/14 and seen there Sept 6 (CJF).

1986 One at Brighton on Oct 12.

136. WATER RAIL - Singles noted at New Salts Farm on Jan 18 and 25, on the Adur Levels at Upper Beeding on Feb 1 and at Shoreham Sanctuary in Jan, Oct and Dec. At Woods Mill again singles on 5 dates in Jan, 2 in Feb, 5 in Mar, 1 in Apr and then 3 dates in Nov.

142. MOORHEN - 30 noted at Brooklands during severe winter weather and 2 were at Brighton Marina in early March. Pairs bred at Woods Mill (3), Falmer Pond (3), Small Dole Pond (2), Poynings and Ferring duck pond.

145. COOT - As usual, the peak coincided with hard weather, higher monthly totals than usual:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Widewater.	5	6	-	-	3	4
Brooklands.	110	103	63	25	37	64
Brighton Marina.	26	10	6	-	-	-

Elsewhere 51 on the Adur at Cuckoo's Corner on Jan 18 fell to 22 by Feb 13 with lower counts at Southwick canal and Small Dole. No breeding records.

151. OYSTERCATCHER - Recorded in every month and as usual the largest numbers were noted on seawatches at Worthing; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	89	47	49	268	97	-	-	9	69	39	10	48
W.	17	1	4	132	43	3	8	29	23	13	15	28

The largest numbers recorded were 7W/60E on Apr 17, 54W/28E on Apr 23 and 6W/48E on Sept 19. Most are probably birds on roosting or feeding flights. Peak monthly counts from the Adur and Goring/Ferring area were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur.	15	13	10	9	3	3	-	11	10	13	1	8
Goring.	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-	12

2 flew S over Wiston on Oct 16, after the hurricane. All high tide roost counts at the Goring Gap roost of this species, together with Grey Plover, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Sanderling and Redshank are very welcome.

153. AVOCET - Another good year with all the records falling in March and April. The first of the year was on the Adur on Mar 6 followed by singles flying E at Widewater on Apr 4 and 23. A flock of 18 flew E at Worthing on Apr 17 and 15 of these passed Rottingdean later that morning.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER - Two on the Adur on Aug 6 the only record.

1986 One at Brighton Marina on Apr 12.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur.	63	66	36	12	36	4	40	203	247	151	119	106
Goring.	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	173	36	126

Maximum numbers reported from the high tide roost on Shoreham beach were 60 on Mar 15, 36 on May 17 and 47 on Aug 13. The only breeding records received were a pair on the beach next to the Brighton Marina and a pair at Shoreham beach but success is not known; all records of birds known to be breeding or holding territory are required.

Movements from sea-watching at Worthing were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	5	11	25	-	-	1	1	8	4	-
W.	-	1	3	4	-	54	37	7	20	-

Peak movement of 15E occurred on May 23. 1 noted at Cissbury on Aug 10.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER - Large southward movements were reported in severe weather on Jan 10 when 830 passed down the Adur Valley, 212 flew over Broadwater, 10 flew over Widewater and 5 flew W at Worthing beach with 2W there on Jan 11 and 1 at Ferring Rife on the same day. On Mar 8 a flock of 18 flew E at the Upper Adur Levels and 14 were seen near Sullington Church. No further records were received until December when 1 flew W at Worthing on the 10th and 7 were on the Upper Adur Levels on Dec 27.

166. GREY PLOVER - Winter counts on the Adur were lower than in 1986 but otherwise recorded in similar numbers; the peak monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur:-	12	9	11	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Goring:-	198	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61	116

The monthly totals of movements seen at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	9	13	8	46	106	-	-	-	-	-	23	5
W.	111	13	1	-	4	-	-	4	8	2	4	4

Westward movement predominated in harsh weather with peaks of 63W on Jan 11 and 24W on Jan 13. Last noted in spring on May 24; the peak just 46E on May 8. Few at Worthing in autumn after Aug 5; the peak of 23E on Nov 23.

169. LAPWING - A substantial southerly movement occurred on Jan 10 when over 10,000 flew down the Adur Valley, 3031 were counted over Broadwater and 1401 flew over Worthing beach in 5.7 hours with 605 in just 10 minutes at Ferring and 600S at Widewater. After 300 on Ferring Rife on Jan 11 most had left the area; only 16 being in the Lower Adur Valley on Jan 16, increasing to just 271 by Feb 13.

The downland breeding population showed a slight increase with 7 pairs between Chanctonbury, Cissbury and Steyning Round Hill, 3 pairs at Lychpole Hill, 6 pairs Findon Park, 3 pairs opposite Findon Church and single pairs at Cote Street (Salvington) and West Durrington.

Post breeding flocks included 120 at New Salts Farm on July 25 with 350 there on Aug 11 and 210 were on Shoreham airfield on Aug 29. Autumn counts from Ferring Rife were 200 in Oct and 250 in Nov. On Nov 4 at least 400 were on New Salts Farm and the peak end-year figure was 2000 on the Upper Adur Levels on Dec 7.

170. KNOT - In winter noted from the Adur with singles on Jan 17, Feb 22, Mar 17 and 2 on Mar 25, and in spring different singles were seen there between May 17-19 and on May 21. 2 were on Shoreham beach on Mar 8.

Only recorded in the sea-watching log at Worthing on 7 dates during spring with sightings between Apr 3 and June 10; the total of 75E were seen mainly on Apr 24 (15E), Apr 28 (9E), and Jun 10 (40E), these all in "red" plumage. In autumn 3 were on the Adur on Sept 2 with 4 on Sept 4 and 2 on Sept 14. Finally, 1 was again on the Adur between Dec 20 and 28.

171. SANDERLING - No systematic counts of the Goring Gap roost were received - as nationally important numbers winter in this area all counts, either from the beaches or the roost at high tide, are required.

Miscellaneous counts in the Goring/Ferring area include 38 on Apr 8, 13 on May 27, 1 on Oct 23, 18 on Nov 5 and 125 on the roost on Dec 28. On the Adur one was present on Feb 9 with 2 on Apr 27 and 2 on May 17. Coastal movements observed by sea-watchers at Worthing can be summarised:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	-	-	40	199	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W.	-	-	6	3	20	1	1	7	3	3	-	-

Peak movements of 32E occurred on both May 9 and May 25, and the first autumn bird was seen on July 20.

175. LITTLE STINT - Just singles at Widewater on Aug 31, Widewater and Adur on Sept 9, Worthing beach with Dunlin on Sept 27 and Adur on Oct 12.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER - A poor year with the only record being one on the Adur on Sept 1.

1986 One at Ferring on July 20.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER - This species returned to form after a blank year in 1986. 4 were at Brighton Marina between Jan and end-Mar with 6 on Feb 18 and at Shoreham harbour 2 were present in the same period with 3 on Mar 15. In autumn 2 were at Brighton Marina on Oct 31 with 5 there on Nov 28.

184. DUNLIN - The peak monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur:-	1250	1147	928	11	30	2	30	37	48	27	459	1310
Goring:-	366	-	-	-	-	-	-	52	-	4	158	187

750 were on the Shoreham airfield roost on Feb 15.

The coastal movements from the Worthing sea-watching log were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	14	-	54	80	92	-	-	-	7	2	69	-
W.	-	-	58	21	8	-	4	37	16	5	113	-

The peak movement was 31E on May 9. In late autumn the peak westward movement was of 55 on Nov 21 and 45 on Nov 22.

Up to 250 were feeding on West Worthing Beach during the winter months with 170 still there on Mar 5. Movements continue E on rising tide; 200E on Jan 31 and 420E on Dec 28 were the highest counts.

188. RUFF - In the early months 1 was on Ferring Rife on Jan 17-18 and 1 on the Upper Adur Levels and Cuckoo's Corner on Mar 15 and 17. A flock of 11 passed E at Worthing on Mar 7, one of which had a full white ruff. The last record of the year involved 2 on the Adur on June 29.

189. JACK SNIPE - Singles at Ferring Rife on Jan 24 and in a field N of the Shoreham flyover on the same date were the only records.

190. SNIPE - During hard weather in Jan, 50 were on Ferring Rife on 18th, 46 on the Upper Adur Levels on 11th, only 6 at the sanctuary, 9 at Goring Rife stream on 19th and 1 in a Coombes garden on 15th.

In Feb the maximum number reported was 30 on the Upper Adur Levels on 7th with 12 there on Mar 31. Later in the year 5 were seen over Upper Beeding on Aug 30 and 56 flew over New Salts Farm on Dec 21 with 10 on the Upper Adur Levels on the same day.

194. WOODCOCK - Hard weather in January brought 6 over or into town gardens and one found moribund in a Southwick garden on Jan 18 was taken in but died the next day. Additionally 4 were over Storrington on Jan 16, 1 at Cissbury on Jan 27 and singles at Woods Mill on Jan 13 and Feb 17.

After 1 at Sompting on Mar 9 no reports until 1 at Cissbury on Nov 29, 2 there on Dec 5, 3 at Wiston on Dec 10 and 3 at Lychpole Hill on Dec 22.



SNIPE

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT - This species maintains its status as an unusual bird in the area, the only records being 2 at Widewater on Jan 27, 1 over Cissbury after the hurricane on Oct 16 and at Worthing beach 7E on May 9, 1W on June 30 and 4E on Sept 5.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT - Monthly totals passing offshore at Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	11	11	2	404	276	-	-	1	1	-	1	-
W.	23	-	1	1	2	-	5	4	7	1	-	-

The last of a very poor spring was seen on May 23 and the peak movement was a mere 177E on Apr 27. Very few at Worthing in the autumn after July 19 but up to 8 noted feeding there during the winter months.

The only other records were two at Ferring beach on Jan 18, 1 there on Feb 10 and Mar 4, singles on the Adur on Mar 5 and May 23, 1W at Brighton Marina on Jan 22 and 1 still in summer plumage at Widewater on Aug 3.

198. WHIMBREL - Coastal movements at Worthing beach noted from Apr 8 to May 30 in the spring and again between July 12 and Sept 15; monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	-	-	227	394	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
W.	-	-	-	27	12	-	5	-	1	-	-	-

Peak coastal movements of 2W/205E occurred on May 7 and 141E on May 8.

Other records were 1 at New Salts Farm on May 3, 3 on Adur between Apr 27 and May 3 and up to 4 on Shoreham airfield or Adur Recreation ground between Aug 27 and Sept 10, reducing to 2 on Sept 16. There were more inland sightings than usual and all involved singles; at Washington sand pits on Apr 25, Upper Beeding on Apr 27, over Broadwater on July 12, Cissbury on Aug 10 and 15th and finally 1NW over Highdown on Aug 30.

199. CURLEW - Recorded on seawatches at Worthing; monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	1	-	6	41	4	4	2	1	-	-	2	-
W.	31	-	3	50	-	37	20	3	1	1	2	-

Peak movements were 22W on Jan 14, 19E on Apr 3 and 35W on Apr 4.

Like the Whimbrel more were noted away from the coast this year and apart from 2 over Maybridge on June 28 only singles were involved; Upper Adur Levels on Jan 11, over Upper Beeding on Apr 7, Downs at Saddlescombe on Apr 15 and West Durrington on Aug 30. On July 18 there were 4 at Ferring.

201. SPOTTED REDSHANK - One flew E calling at 07.52hrs at Worthing beach on Apr 24 (CEH/RJS).

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
152	132	111	-	-	-	27	63	68	78	67	106

Soring Gap roost held 18 on Jan 17. Small numbers passed Worthing beach in the winter months, usually involving up to 5 birds although 18 passed west on Jan 12. No more than 8 seen in Mar-May and the first 4 autumn birds W on June 20 and 18W on Aug 15. Up to 16 birds fed on Worthing beach in Dec. Usually 5 flew S over Cissbury on Oct 16 after the hurricane. The "creamy" individual was still present on the Adur on Mar 8 and returned by Nov 8.

204. GREENSHANK - A number of spring records; 3 flew E at Worthing on Apr 28 with 2 singles E on May 9, 1 on the Adur on Apr 24, and 1 over Lancing on May 9. The first of the autumn was 1W at Worthing beach on July 18 with further singles W there on Aug 24 and E on Aug 26 and Sept 5. Numbers were low on the Adur with 3 on July 21, singles on Aug 3 and 7, and up to 3 in September with the last on Oct 3. One flew over Lancing on Sept 13 and on Sept 25 one called over Upper Beeding at 23.00hrs.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER - In the winter 1 was reported from Ferring Rife on Jan 1 with 2 there on Jan 14 and 1 on Feb 25. A single was on the Upper Adur Levels on Mar 8 and the only later spring record was 1 on the Adur at Bramber on Apr 28.

Autumn produced 6 records and apart from 2 on the Adur on Sept 28 all were singles; Woods Mill on July 25, Adur on Aug 7, over Lancing on Aug 22 and singles flying E over the Sanctuary and Cissbury on Aug 23. One was again on the Ferring Rife at the end of the year.

209. WOOD SANDPIPER - Despite disturbance the 2 seen at Ferring Rife during the morning of Sept 5 (LEH/HCJ/DIS) were still present later in the day (MPH). The area's first record since 1981.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER - First of the year and the only April record was one at Woods Mill on Apr 17. Up to 9 were seen in the Adur Valley during May and 2 were displaying at Widewater on May 24.

The first returning bird was on the Lower Adur on July 19 and most autumn birds were recorded in the Adur Valley including a large flock of 24 at dusk on July 21 with 14 on July 23 and 12 at Small Dole on July 24. Smaller groups were recorded in August with a total of up to 40 on the Adur, with a further 21 from 5 other localities during the month, including 7 at Worthing beach on 25th, 6W and 1E there on 26th, 2 at Ferring Rife on 2nd and 29th and 3 at Brighton Marina on 26th. Passage was slight in September, all records coming from the Lower Adur with 1 on 3rd, 5 on 5th, and the last of the autumn on Sept 12.

A possible wintering bird was reported from Widewater beach on Nov 22 (CMN) - details have been sent to the Sussex OS.

213. TURNSTONE - Becoming more regular on the Adur, as the peak monthly totals indicate:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
6	7	11	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	1	3

Most other records were from Worthing and Ferring beaches with peaks of 11 on Mar 15, 4 on Apr 12 and 6 on Aug 5. Unusually 1 was seen on the upper Adur on Jan 12.

The sea-watching log noted monthly totals passing Worthing as:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	1	1	-	29	37	-	2	-	-	-	-	1
W.	5	1	39	2	11	-	1	-	1	11	-	-

Peak movement of 33W occurred on Mar 26 with 16E on Apr 24. The only noteworthy autumn movement was 11W on Oct 16.

216. GREY PHALAROPE - All records were for the two days following the hurricane in October with a maximum of 6 and minimum of 4 individuals as follows; on Oct 17 one was on the sea off Brighton (PJW), one was on Widewater (LEH) and one flew W at Ferring beach (MPH) whilst on 18th two were on Widewater (BRC/CJF/JAN) and one off Brighton between the Marina and Palace Pier (PJ et al) - details have been submitted to the Sussex OS.

1986 One inside Brighton Marina on Jan 29.

217. POMARINE SKUA - The small spring total of 14E at Worthing were seen as follows:- 2E on Apr 23 (RJS), 2E on Apr 30 (MPH), 9E at 20.32hrs on May 8 (DIS et al) and 1E on May 9 (MPH,DIS et al). On May 8 a party of 9 large skuas, probably this species, were seen off Widewater at 0918hrs (RMS).

218. ARCTIC SKUA - The monthly totals recorded on seawatches at Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	-	20	5	4	1	6	10	2	-	-
W.	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	5	-	-

A poor spring at Worthing with records spanning Apr 6 to June 25, the peak movement was a mere 5E on Apr 29. The autumn peak of 10E occurred on Sept 19 and the last was seen on Oct 18.

220. GREAT SKUA - A poor spring at Worthing Beach with records of singles on 6 dates between Feb 28 and May 22, the monthly totals were:-

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

The autumn "peaks" were 4W/1E on Oct 14 and 3W on Oct 18. Additionally one was being harassed by Black-headed Gulls in Southwick canal on Oct 10 (HS) and a most unusual post-hurricane report of 2 over Cissbury on Oct 16 (MAS).

1986 One flew W at Brighton Marina on June 15.

222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL - There were just 4 records; a second winter bird at Worthing beach on Jan 4 (BRC/CJF/JAN), an adult at Ferring Rife on Mar 21 (RAI/DIS), a first summer bird flying E at Worthing beach on May 9 (MPH) and another second year bird E at Worthing on Oct 18 (CEH/JAN).

225. LITTLE GULL - A poor spring passage at Worthing Beach noted between Mar 27 and May 9 when only 17 birds noted on 6 different days and the peak movement of 11E on May 9, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	1	5	11	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
W.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60	9	-

However autumn movements were better than usual and associated with strong October winds. Records at Worthing span Oct 4 to Nov 23 with peaks of 17W on Oct 14 and 28W on Oct 21.

Elsewhere records were 1 in Brighton Marina on Mar 28 with 3 there on Apr 13, 7 adults E at Hove on Apr 24 and 1W at Widewater on May 3. An adult and a juvenile were in Brighton Marina on Oct 17 with up to 8 there on Oct 18 and a juvenile was on the Adur at Shoreham on Nov 20.

226. SABINE'S GULL - An unprecedented influx occurred after the hurricane in October, and although it is difficult to assess the precise number of individuals involved the records suggest that between 10 and 13 birds, mostly adults, were seen along the coast between Oct 17 and 21. The records were as follows:-

On Oct 17 an adult flew W at Worthing at 08.16hrs (RB/JAN), 4 were in Brighton Marina (PJ) and 1 was seen off Brighton beach (PJW). On Oct 18th 3 were in Brighton Marina (PJ et al, the observers consider that 5 birds were here on 17th and 18th - 4 adults (one oiled) and 1 juvenile), 2 adults were off Widewater (BRC/CJF/JAN), and singles were seen off the Brooklands beach (RJS), Southwick (JAN) and Palace Pier, Brighton (PJW).

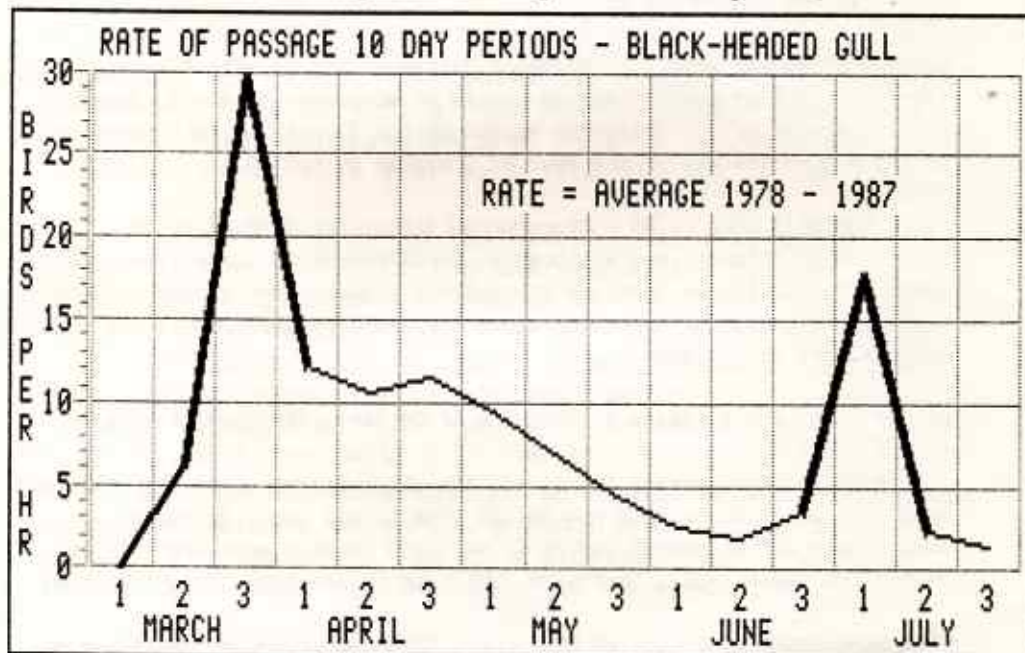
None were reported on Oct 19 but on Oct 20 an adult was off Worthing at 09.25hrs (CEH) and finally on Oct 21 an oiled adult was on Widewater (JAN, also JMM/SPM) which was possibly the same as that at Brighton Marina on Oct 18. This influx was all the more remarkable considering there have previously been only 3 acceptable records for the area prior to 1987.

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

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Worthing E.	1292	1280	1001	-	3573
W.	-	95	169	51	315

Peak movement here was 1165 E in 1.5hrs on Mar 25. The first returning adults were noted on June 15 and 60 ads on one small section of beach by July 7.

Post breeding flocks included 220 on the Lower Adur on July 7, 150 on Ferring Rife lagoons on July 28 and 850 following the plough at Long Furlong on Aug 4. Other counts were 2000 at No Man's Land on Sept 18 and 12,000 over West Durrington and Goring on the evening of Sept 5.



233. COMMON GULL - Only 50 noted on spring coastal movements at Worthing during April and May but 175 were on the Adur on Apr 22. Inland 48 were at West Hove Golf Course on Feb 1 and 220 were at Cissbury on Nov 29.

234. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL - A total of only 27E noted during April and May during sea-watches at Worthing. In June a pair held territory in Worthing town centre but no roof top nest was seen. Apart from 10 at Goring Gap on Oct 23, only singles were reported.

235. HERRING GULL - In the breeding season 36 nest sites were located on roof tops in central Worthing. However the colony, perhaps greater than 45 pairs, was expanding both northwards and westwards away from the town centre. 6 pairs were also found on Brighton roof tops away from the coast.

Apart from one in February, individuals of the yellow-legged race "*melanoleuca*" were noted from June onwards with peak monthly counts from the River Adur as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	1	-	-	-	6	2	21	9	3	-	-

Counts at Small Dole were 10 on Jun 25, and an astonishing 84 on Sept 17. 9 were at Washington tip on Oct 15; otherwise singles were recorded from Sompting tip in June and the Goring roost in October.

1986 A single adult showing characteristics of the Scandinavian race "*omissus*" was at Brighton Marina on Sept 16.

237. GLAUCOUS GULL - An adult at Shoreham airfield on Feb 12-13 was the only record for the year (SRA/BFF). Details submitted to Sussex OS.

1986 One flew W at Worthing on Apr 20.

238. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL - Highest counts were from the roost in the Lower Adur Valley with 67 noted on Jan 25, 160 on Sept 4 and 192 on Dec 5.

Other counts were 140 on the Goring roost on Oct 23 with 138 there on Nov 26 and 80W at Worthing beach during the afternoon of Oct 14. At Brooklands the count of 82 on Oct 23 only contained 4 adults.

240. KITTIWAKE - Records offshore at Worthing in every month were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	441	6	3	27	11	13	24	102	5	31	8	99
W.	84	1	4	28	89	49	4	43	22	405	102	23

The peak movements at Worthing were 75W in 2hrs on Jan 4, 354E in 3.1hrs on Jan 15, and 79E in 1hr on Jan 16. The best movements in autumn were 72E in 0.5hr on Aug 4, 252W in 3.3hrs on Oct 14 and 79E in 1hr on Dec 13.

At Brighton Marina 100 were roosting on rocks on Sept 26.

245. SANDWICH TERN - Recorded at Worthing beach after Mar 21; monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	9	1253	382	49	42	52	51	4	-
W.	-	83	64	112	73	206	151	13	-

Here the peak movements were 198E in 8hrs on Apr 17, 190E in 10.7hrs on Apr 23 and 189E in 9.6hrs on Apr 24. The rate of 8.4 birds per hour watched during April and May is lower than usual. Last recorded at Worthing on Oct 10, with autumn peaks of 31W on Aug 24 and 30W on Aug 25.

On the Adur there were counts of 1 on June 24, 10 on Aug 10 and 18 on Aug 26. Unusually 3 were in a field near Cissbury at dawn on Aug 30.

247. COMMON TERN - Up to 5 on the Adur in August with 2 there on Sept 2.

248. ARCTIC TERN - One recorded at Widewater on Oct 18 was still in full summer plumage and a juv. was present in Brighton Marina the same day.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN - Recorded offshore at Worthing between Apr 5 and Oct 20, the monthly totals can be summarised:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	-	305	472	11	5	17	65	8	-
W.	-	5	24	45	8	522	53	4	-

A poor spring with peak movement at Worthing beach a mere 118E in 11.3hrs on May 9 and 141E in 3.8 hrs on May 25. The autumn peak (beating the spring) of 389W occurred in strong northerly winds in 4.4hrs mainly during the afternoon of Aug 25. The last was noted in Southwick canal on Oct 22.



LITTLE TERN

251. LITTLE TERN - Noted offshore at Worthing between Apr 18 and Sept 7, the following table demonstrates the monthly totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Worthing E.	-	66	238	6	-	7	3	-	-
W.	-	1	6	-	-	6	11	-	-

Like the other terns, this species was recorded in fewer numbers in spring and the peak movement of 98E was in 11.3 hrs on May 9. Two juveniles were noted from the Lower Adur on July 19 and up to 5 unaged individuals were reported from this locality in August.

253. BLACK TERN - A very poor year as between Apr 28 and May 25 a total of only 5E noted at Worthing beach on 4 different days and 2W on Sept 5 and 1W on Sept 22 were the only two autumn records.

254. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN - 1986 An adult flying E at Brighton Marina on June 21 was the first record of this species for the area.

255. GUILLEMOT - In the winter months oiled birds were at Coring beach on Jan 17 and Feb 28, and one was found strangled by fishing nets on Adur, Shoreham on Feb 23. A single bird was in Shoreham harbour on Mar 8. At Worthing the sea-watch log notes just 2 records of singles offshore on

two Feb days and 4 singles flying passed between Jan - Apr; few also noted in autumn with 1-2 offshore during Oct thereafter few records of single birds only. Two westward flying auks in Oct were identified as this species and on Dec 19 a single flock of 32 flew W. At Brighton Marina singles were reported in Sept, Oct and Nov with 3E there on Sept 30.

257. RAZORBILL - At Worthing 1 offshore on Apr 4 and 7 identified in flight that passed between Mar - May were the only records from the early months. Equally few in autumn with only 2W and 2E identified in Oct and Nov. Singles offshore at Worthing on Oct 6 and at Widewater on Nov 7.

AUK SPECIES - Recorded moving offshore at Worthing in most months; the following table shows the monthly totals of all auks:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E.	103	8	2	3	9	-	-	-	1	5	4	27
W.	138	6	1	1	7	3	-	-	2	16	9	87

The peak movements were seen at Worthing Beach in the winter months; 122W in 1.8hrs on Jan 4 and 10W/74E in 3.1hrs on Jan 15. Recorded again after Sept 19 with peak 42W/3E on Dec 19.

264. STOCK DOVE - In contrast to 1986 few were reported: only 6 pairs were recorded in the breeding season. Apart from 30 at Cissbury on Jan 1 and 3 at Applesham Farm on Jun 15 the only other records were of singles.

265. WOOD PIGEON - Hard weather influxes were noted as follows:- 3000S at Wiston on Jan 15 with 3000 at Sompting Abbots Wood at roost and 1600NW at Swandean Hospital in half an hour on the same day, and 1000 at Goring Gap and 1700 at Ferring Rife on Jan 17. No large gatherings were noted at the end of the year.

266. COLLARED DOVE - The only counts were 106 around grain silos at Shoreham harbour on Oct 11 and 15 in a Patcham garden during Jan - Mar. Again all counts of feeding flocks or roosts would be welcome.

267. TURTLE DOVE - First of the year were singles at New Salts Farm and the Sanctuary on May 3. The main arrival fell between May 8 and May 21 with singles noted from 6 localities. Few breeding records were received with a maximum of 10 pairs from 7 sites, an apparent decrease. The largest

party was 6 at Small Dole on July 6. Autumn passage was also slight with only 10 individuals noted; the last a single over Broadwater on Oct 14.

269. RING-NECKED PARAKEET - An undated report of one over Worthing beach, and one flew W over Broadwater on Oct 14. No breeding took place at Hollingbury Woods this year and the colony is thought to be in decline.

271. CUCKOO - First recorded at Woods Mill and Lancing College on Apr 18, main arrival was in the last week of Apr with mainly singles reported from 7 well scattered localities. Present in the breeding season with groups of up to 3 reported from 12 sites. Most had gone from Woods Mill by mid-June and in Aug 12 juveniles were seen, mainly on the Downs and Adur Valley. The last, and only Sept record was one at W Durrington on Sept 8.

274. BARN OWL - No breeding birds were reported but there were 2 winter records of singles; at Adur Levels on Mar 8 and Long Furlong on Mar 24.

279. LITTLE OWL - As in 1986 records indicate 11 breeding pairs in, as usual, mostly downland locations. Outside the breeding season, of interest were 3 records totalling 4 birds from suburban localities around Worthing.

280. TAWNY OWL - A possible 12 pairs bred in the area including a pair at Southwick that raised 4 young and a pair in a Woods Mill nest box that raised 1 young. A decrease was reported in the Findon Valley area. Several observers noted very vocal and possibly dis-orientated birds just after the hurricane in Oct but generally few noted outside the breeding season.

281. LONG-EARED OWL - Up to two were present at a downland site during Dec and one was reported from a north Broadwater garden in early winter.

282. SHORT-EARED OWL - Only records were of singles near Brighton Marina on Jan 15, Ferring Rife on Mar 28 and Widewater at dusk on Oct 24. An "asio" owl flying E about 1 mile off Worthing on Nov 21 was probably this species.

289. SWIFT - The first arrivals were singles at West Hove on Apr 27, Lancing on Apr 28 and Wild Park on the same day after which few were seen until a general arrival on May 8-9. At Worthing beach only 77 were recorded arriving from the sea, the peak being just 23 on May 23 although this species is probably under recorded on sea-watches.

June counts included 270W in 15 minutes on the 19th during a SW gale and 300 at Cissbury on the 21st. Departure in autumn appeared to be earlier than usual; 200 were at Beeding Hill on July 28, 300 at Broadwater on July 30, 200 at Patcham on Aug 2 and 130 at West Hove golf course on Aug 15. Last seen on the early date of Aug 28 at Shoreham and Upper Beeding.

293. KINGFISHER - In Jan, during freezing conditions, singles were noted from Ferring Rife and the Adur, with 2 on Goring Rife on Jan 18. Only 2 possible breeding pairs were reported but there were a number of autumn and late-year records mainly from the Adur Valley and Widewater, involving possibly 3 to 4 individuals. One was on West Durrington Rife on Dec 13.

297. HOOPOE - 1986 One on the Downs above Storrington on May 16.

298. WRYNECK - 1986 One in a Portslade garden on Aug 21 and one at Brighton between Sept 16 and 19.

300. GREEN WOODPECKER - This species continues to be well reported, the records suggesting between 12 and 15 pairs mainly from the Weald and Downs, and to a lesser extent wooded areas on town outskirts. Outside the breeding season there were a number of reports of singles in town gardens, some observers noting this as unusual for their localities.

302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Breeding records suggest from 14 to 17 pairs in the area, with more than usual from Wealden localities perhaps due to increased observer coverage in these areas. However downland was as usual well represented. As in previous years a number were noted in town gardens feeding on nuts and fat.

303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - Unlike 1986 a poor year with only 2 records; singles at Wiston on Dec 6 and from Sept at Woods Mill. This species is undoubtedly under-recorded, especially in the Weald.

311. SKYLARK - As usual the larger groups were noted in periods of cold weather, and included 220 in the Adur Valley on Jan 12, 300 at Brooklands on Jan 18 and 100 at Goring Gap on Jan 17. Few breeding season counts were received, the maximum being 20 pairs in the Highdown area in June. A pair on Ferring Rife successfully raised 3 young. No large numbers noted in the autumn; counts include 50 in one party arriving from the sea at Goring Gap on Oct 26, 50 at Cissbury on Oct 4 and 80N over Highdown on Dec 9.

313. SAND MARTIN - First of the year, 5 at Sandgate Park on Apr 5, were probably part of the breeding colony. Again few were noted in spring and all migrants were from Worthing beach but only 4 were seen 3 of which were on Apr 17. A systematic count of the sand pits in the Washington and Storrington areas was undertaken on June 7, revealing a welcome increase to 45 occupied nest holes, nearly 50% above the 1986 figure. However, the colony is still confined to one sand pit, visits to other pits confirming that former colonies had not yet been re-occupied.

In autumn only one record of 10 moving N up the Adur Valley on July 23.

314. SWALLOW - The first singles were noted at New Salts Farm on Apr 8, and both Small Dole and Worthing beach on Apr 9 with a more general arrival from Apr 17-20. At Worthing beach only 73 were noted arriving on 20 dates with a peak of a mere 11N on Apr 19. Short autumn morning sea-watches at Worthing revealed 4545 moving mainly E from Sept 9 until Oct 11. Other autumn counts were low and included 1600E at West Hove golf course on Sept 19, 200 at Goring Gap on Oct 3, 60 at Highdown on Oct 12, 20 at Ferring beach on Nov 8 and lastly at Widewater 2W on Nov 21. An albino/ leucistic adult was with other hirundines at Brooklands on Oct 18.

316. HOUSE MARTIN - A significantly later arrival than Swallow, the first noted at Woods Mill on Apr 14 and thereafter few recorded in Apr until a more widespread influx in May. Between May 6 and 24, 55 on 4 dates arrived from the sea at Worthing with a maximum of 48 on May 24.

In autumn the first signs of movement at Cissbury was 15W on Aug 8. Autumn counts include 1000 at Nepcote Green on Aug 23 and 300 at Ferring on Aug 29 but a substantial movement took place on Sept 28 with 12,000E at Worthing in just 1 hour, smaller numbers being recorded from other coastal localities on the same day. In Oct there were 200 at Goring Gap and 700E at Ferring on Oct 3 and 20 at Ferring beach on Nov 8 were the last noted.

320. TREE PIPIT - The only spring record was a total of 7N over Worthing on Apr 17. Not by any means a common breeding bird in the area, single pairs were noted near Washington and Steyning Round Hill. Most were seen in autumn at Cissbury where a total of 93 were noted, peaks being 12 on Aug 16, 30 on Aug 22, 15 on Aug 23 and 12 on Aug 29. Additionally 3 were at Wild Park on Aug 18 and the last was at Cissbury on Sept 20.

322. MEADOW PIPIT - No large groups were noted in the Jan hard weather. At Worthing beach a total of 121 flew N between Mar 28 and Apr 20 with a maximum of 37 on Mar 28. During the autumn the largest flocks were 250 at Cissbury on Sept 18 and a total of 370 recorded at Wild Park between Sept 11 and Nov 25, which included 100 on Sept 26.

324. ROCK PIPIT - A total of 18 were noted in the early months on the beaches between Ferring and Brighton Marina, with a maximum of 6 at the latter locality. Noted in autumn from Oct 31 with 2 at Widewater and the maximum for the later months was 9 at Brighton Marina on Dec 5.

325. YELLOW WAGTAIL - First noted at Widewater on Apr 16 after which 20 individuals recorded until May 23, this figure including 10 at Worthing beach. In the breeding season a single pair held territory at New Salts Farm but no young were seen and no breeding records were received from the Adur Levels.

Autumn passage occurred between Aug 23 and Oct 11 with a marked peak in the third week of Sept. Maximum counts were 30 at Cissbury on Aug 29, 30 on the Adur Levels at Beeding on Sept 5, 100 at Ferring Rife and 85 at Cissbury on Sept 18, 41 at Adur recreation ground and 36 at West Hove golf course on Sept 19, and 22 on the upper Adur Levels on Sept 22. The last was on Worthing beach on Oct 11.

327. GREY WAGTAIL - Five singles were noted at 2 coastal and 3 inland sites between Jan and Mar. Resident at Woods Mill but did not breed for the second successive year and sightings were reported as decreasing at this site. Single pairs were noted during the breeding season from Ferring Rife and the Adur Valley but breeding was not proved.

As usual there were more reported during Sept with 12 individuals from 8 mainly coastal sites, the maximum together being 2. From Oct to the end of the year a further 5 were noted at 4 sites. Rather unusual were 3 which were reported from town gardens.

328. PIED WAGTAIL - A common sight along the coast at both ends of the year. Easterly movements to roost were again noted over Maybridge with 37 on Jan 18 and 42 on Jan 30. Other early year counts were 32 at Widewater on Jan 10 and 15 at Brighton Marina during this month which must represent only a small percentage of the total numbers in the area at this time.

Present at West Durrington, Salvington and Goring during the breeding season and one was feeding young at the Sanctuary on July 11. Between Sept 29 and Oct 23 a total of 69E and 35W passed Worthing beach, with more than usual noted in the later months. Peak counts were 1000 at the Seeboard roost (E.Worthing) in Dec, a pre-roost gathering of 100 near the Adur flyover on Nov 14 with 80 there on Nov 23, 40 at West Durrington on Nov 9, 35 at Brighton Marina on Nov 21, 38 at Widewater on Nov 28 and 30 at Goring Gap on Nov 7. A count of 100 at the Steyning Road, Shoreham reed bed roost in Aug-Sept had declined to only 5 by Oct 4.

329. WREN - Breeding season counts were 54 pairs in Hollingbury Woods and Wild Park, 14 pairs at Devil's Dyke and 5 singing males at Small Dole.

333. DUNNOCK - Breeding season counts of this drab (but in terms of breeding strategy, most versatile) species were 54 pairs or singing males at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 10 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

336. ROBIN - Breeding counts were of 74 prs in Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 32 prs at Devil's Dyke. In autumn 101 were counted in Wild Park on Oct 24, some of which may have been migrants. There were several late year reports of birds singing well into the night by the light of street lamps. One at Brighton Marina on Jan 3 was reported as unusual.

338. NIGHTINGALE - First of the year was at Woods Mill on Apr 13, then average numbers noted; a further 7 being reported from Storrington golf course, Lychpole Hill, Washington Mill, Small Dole and Spithandle Lane. At the Mumbles a pair and later a juvenile were trapped and an another male was singing during the breeding season. There were no autumn records.

340. BLUETHROAT - 1986 One at Brighton on Oct 5 was trapped on Oct 6.

342. BLACK REDSTART - After a decline in numbers in 1986 more were noted in 1987, as shown by the following table which gives the monthly totals :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2	2	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	1

As usual traditional sites such as Shoreham Harbour, Widewater, Ferring beach, Worthing beach and Brighton Marina were involved although 2 were at Hollingbury allotments on Oct 24 and 1 there on Nov 1.

343. REDSTART - First noted at Patcham and Devil's Dyke on Apr 15, the only other spring records were singles at Cissbury on Apr 17 and 18. Autumn passage commenced with 2 at Cissbury on Aug 15, and 20 more were noted at this site into Oct including singles ringed on 3 dates. Only 9 were noted at Wild Park between Aug 29 and Sept 22 but 12 were at Newtimber Hill on Sept 6. Otherwise 8 further singles were reported from 7 sites, the last being a female at Cissbury on Oct 25.

344. WHINCHAT - Four spring records involving 12 birds as follows:- One at Adur recreation ground on Apr 24, 7 at Hill Barn golf course on May 9, 2 at Wild Park on May 10 and 2 in the lower Adur Valley on May 17.

As usual, autumn passage involved far greater numbers with up to 145 recorded but again fewer than in previous years with the first at Cissbury on July 26. Ferring Rife, however experienced a good autumn with 84 (57% of the area autumn total) between Aug 20 and Sept 20 with a peak of 34 on Aug 26. Apart from 12 at Shoreham airfield on Aug 31 and 12 at Waterhall on Sept 30 mainly singles and groups of up to 5 were noted from a further 6 coastal and 3 inland sites, including the last at Hill Barn on Oct 6.

345. STONECHAT - Numbers reported continue to decline, with no breeding records, a scattering of probable migrants in October/November and a few birds wintering. Monthly totals were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	3

The Feb and Mar totals were of birds first recorded in Jan and one Dec individual was first reported in Nov. All records were from the beaches, Adur Valley, Cissbury, Ferring Rife and Wild Park. All records of this species are required.

346. WHEATEAR - First noted at Ferring beach with 3 on Mar 12 and a further 24 reported in this month, all sexed birds being males. Peak passage occurred in the first week of Apr with 54 on Apr 2 and 31 on Apr 5, all from the beaches. A smaller influx took place later in the month, 12 being noted on the 17th and 12 again on 18th. At Worthing beach 19 individuals were seen between Apr 2 and May 24, highlighting this spring as being rather poor compared to the totals in some recent years. During May there were 5 late arrivals recorded.

None were seen during the breeding season, the first of the autumn being in the lower Adur Valley on the early date of July 26 with other early records of singles at Widewater on July 31, Goring beach on Aug 3 and 2 at Cissbury on Aug 4. Thereafter up to 303 (40% fewer than 1986) were noted during Aug and Sept from mainly coastal localities, passage peaking in the last week of Aug and first week of Sept. Highest counts were 50 at the Adur recreation ground on Aug 31 and 28 there on Sept 4. Unusually few were noted at Cissbury. There were still 3 at Ferring beach on Oct 23 and the last was on Worthing beach on Oct 26.

Two resembling the Greenland race were at Worthing beach on Sept 22 (RJS).

359. RING OUZEL - The only spring record was a single bird at Wild Park on Apr 22. A good autumn with up to 14 at Cissbury between Oct 3 and Oct 24 which included 4 on Oct 11 and one ringed on Oct 4. Other records were 3 at West Durrington on Oct 3 with 2 still there on Oct 4 and one the following day; and 3 at Brighton cemetery on Oct 23.

360. BLACKBIRD - In the breeding season 131 pairs present in Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 54 pairs at Devil's Dyke. Autumn counts were 114 at Wild Park on Nov 14, 30 at West Durrington on Oct 11 and like numbers at West Hove golf course and St. Anneswell Gardens (Hove) in Nov and Dec.

364. FIELDFARE - Few noted in the severe Jan weather, peak counts being 450 at North Portslade on Jan 14, 100 at Ferring Rife the same day and 50w at Worthing beach on Jan 13. Almost absent during Feb, flocks were again noted in Mar with 75 at Wiston on Mar 7 and 90 on the upper Adur Levels on Mar 24. The last of the spring were on Steyning Round Hill on Apr 17. The first autumn record was 15 at Cissbury on Oct 11 and the only sizable flocks at the end of the year were 60 on the upper Adur Levels on Dec 6 and 300 there on Dec 29.

365. SONG THRUSH - In the breeding season 19 pairs present in Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 5 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

366. REDWING - Noted at both ends of the year in lesser numbers than Fieldfare and virtually absent from the area during the severe weather in Jan with no large flocks recorded. Peak counts after Jan were 36 at Swandean Hospital and 31 at Hove Park on Feb 9 with 25 at Preston Park during the month. Up to 100 roosting at Woods Mill had departed by Mar 11,

and on Mar 31 there were 40 at Wild Park. Returning birds were later than usual, the first arriving at Woods Mill on Oct 22 and at the Sanctuary on Oct 27. As usual nocturnal movements were noted, mainly during autumn. There were no significant numbers reported during Nov and Dec.

367. MISTLE THRUSH - Breeding season counts included 13 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods, 12 pairs at West Hove, 2 pairs at Devil's Dyke and 1 pair at Portslade. A post breeding flock of 15 individuals frequented West Durrington in late Aug and early Sept.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER - One reeling at Devil's Dyke on July 16 was the only record.

378. SEDGE WARBLER - First noted at Hill Barn on Apr 18 with 3 at New Salts Farm and 2 at Shoreham airfield the following day; few other spring migrants being recorded. Breeding season reports were of 17 singing males in the Adur Valley and up to 2 pairs from only 3 other localities.

The first autumn migrants were noted from early Aug; 5 were trapped at Cissbury between Aug 9 and Aug 30, the peak being 3 on the latter date, and at the sanctuary small but regular numbers passed through, only 4 being trapped. The last was at the Sanctuary on Sept 20.

382. REED WARBLER - Noted from New Salts Farm on Apr 23 after which few spring passage birds were seen. Up to 4 pairs were reported in the breeding season from just 5 localities and again 3 pairs bred at the Sanctuary. One singing in central Worthing on May 17 was unusual. At Cissbury 7 were trapped between Aug 8 and Aug 29 with a peak of 3 on Aug 23, and at the Sanctuary 40 were trapped with peaks of 11 on Aug 9 and Aug 15, the best results since 1980. Last seen at the Sanctuary on Oct 3.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT - First recorded at Wild Park on Apr 25 with 2 at Lychpole the same day. 8 were present at Wild Park on May 2. Up to 14 pairs were noted in the breeding season from 5 widely spaced localities.

Autumn counts included 114 at Wild Park between Aug 4 and Sept 19, 43 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 16 and at Cissbury 40 on Aug 22 and 20 on Sept 3. At the Sanctuary only 8 were trapped, representing a poor season and between May 25 and Sept 20 the Cissbury ringing total numbered 18 individuals. The last was seen at Newtimber Hill on Sept 27.

398. WHITETHROAT - First of the year were singles at Lychpole Hill and in a West Hove garden on Apr 18, with one at Steepdown on Apr 19, 4 at Wild Park on Apr 25 and 12 at Cissbury on Apr 27. In the breeding season up to 41 pairs were reported from 8, mainly downland, localities.

Autumn passage began on July 30 with singles at West Durrington and Ferring after which peak counts were 41 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 16 with 16 there Sept 6. At Cissbury, where the ringing total was 60, counts included 30 on Aug 16, 25 on Aug 22 with 40 on Aug 23 and 25 on Sept 3; and a total of 70 at Wild Park between Aug 4 and Oct 3, the final date.

399. GARDEN WARBLER - First noted in the spring with singles at Woods Mill on Apr 20 and Lychpole on Apr 25, after which a total of 11 further migrants reported in early May from 4 localities, the maximum being 5 at Wild Park on May 9. In the breeding season only 10 pairs were recorded from 3 localities; Wild Park (6), Devil's Dyke (3) and Woods Mill (1).

Autumn passage noted from July 30 with one in a Broadwater garden. At the Sanctuary only 5 were trapped, all in Aug but at Cissbury 19 were trapped between Aug 8 and Sept 20 with a peak of 4 on Aug 30. Three were at Wild Park on Sept 8 with 2 there on Sept 15, otherwise singles recorded from only 3 other sites. The last was at Cissbury on Sept 27.

400. BLACKCAP - Between Jan and Mar only 7 noted, and as usual most were from town gardens, including 2 in a Broadwater garden on Jan 1. The first probable spring migrants were singles at West Hove and Lancing Clump on Mar 28 with the main arrival in mid to late Apr, which included 17 at Wild Park on Apr 25. Breeding counts were 17 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 6 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

In autumn a total of 211 were recorded at the Wild Park between Aug 5 and Oct 10 with a peak of 58 on Sept 11. Only 16 were trapped at the Sanctuary whereas at Cissbury 88 were trapped with peaks of 17 on both Aug 29 and Sept 6. The peak count at Cissbury was 42 on Sept 3 with 10 at Newtimber Hill on both Sept 26 and Sept 29. Interestingly only 2 were seen at Ferring Rife between Aug 20 and Sept 20. Last of the year were a first year male in Goring Wood on Nov 7 and a male in a Southwick garden on Nov 22, both of which may have been late migrants. There were no Dec records.

408. WOOD WARBLER - There were no spring records and just 3 in autumn, all in the last week of Aug and involved singles in the lower Adur Valley on Aug 22 and at Cissbury on Aug 23 and Aug 30.

409. CHIFFCHAFF - In winter 4 were near Cuckoo's Corner on Jan 4, 4 were behind Brooklands on Jan 17, 2 were at New Salts Farm on Mar 2 and there were singles in 2 town gardens. The first migrants arrived at Goring Gap on Mar 14 and at Chantry Hill on Mar 15 with singles and groups of up to 4 at several well scattered sites to the end of the month. Few were reported in Apr, the maximum count being 13 at Wild Park on Apr 25. The peak breeding season count was 10 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods with breeding being recorded from just 2 other sites.

In autumn the highest counts were a total of 393 at Wild Park between Aug 15 and Oct 28 with a peak of 58 on Sept 11, 40 at Newtimber Hill on Sept 6 and 33 at Cissbury on Sept 3. At the Sanctuary only 22 were trapped with peaks of 10 on Sept 26 and Oct 3, and at Cissbury less than usual were trapped due to fewer ringing sessions in Sept; just 28 with a peak of 9 on Sept 6. Towards the end of the year one in a West Worthing garden on Nov 8 may have been a late migrant, and the only Dec record was of a single in a Southwick garden on Dec 11.

410. WILLOW WARBLER - First of the spring was a single at New Salts Farm on Mar 31, and after scattered singles in the first week of Apr, a more general arrival was noted from Apr 12. Peak spring counts were 32 at Wild Park on Apr 25, 12 at Cissbury on Apr 17 with 20 there on Apr 20. Breeding counts included 31 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods, 30 pairs at Devil's Dyke and 4 pairs at the Sanctuary.

Autumn passage was noted from mid-July; counts included a total of 304 between July 27 and Sept 11 at Wild Park, maximum of 55 on Aug 22; at Cissbury, 50 on Aug 2, 30 on Aug 16 and Aug 23, and 50 on Aug 30; at Newtimber Hill 100 were seen on Aug 16. At Woods Mill a larger than usual passage was noted whereas at Ferring Rife only 12 were noted between Aug 20 and Sept 20. Smaller numbers were regularly noted at West Durrington throughout Aug with a maximum of 9 on Aug 30.

At the Sanctuary 83 were trapped up to Sept 20 with a peak of 17 on Aug 2 and at Cissbury 142 were trapped with peaks of 27 on Aug 14, 25 on Aug 23 and 19 on Aug 29. The last was at the Sanctuary on Sept 20. 411.

411. GOLDCREST - None were reported in the early months until one was in a Broadwater garden during the breeding season. Two were at Ferring Rife on Aug 28. More than usual were reported in the autumn; peak counts were a total of 97 at Wild Park between Sept 28 and Nov 20, 15 in Brighton cemetery on Oct 23 and 12 at Cissbury on Sept 27, 6 of which were trapped. At the Sanctuary there were 4 on Oct 3 and 6 on Oct 28 and these were the first at this site for nearly 2 years.

412. FIRECREST - There were 3 records, all singles, at Widewater on Apr 3, Ferring on Apr 5 and Goring Wood on Oct 26.

1986 Singles at Shoreham airfield on May 6 and Shoreham on Nov 8.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - First of the year was a single at North Lancing on Apr 29 but not noted again until the third week of May when a further 8 were reported. In the breeding season, pairs noted as follows:- Goring Wood (3), Findon Park, Hill Barn, Findon churchyard, Cissbury and West Durrington.

Autumn passage was noted from Aug 13 and a total of 225 were recorded from 14 localities; peak counts were 45 at Cissbury on Aug 23 with 30 there on Aug 30, 20 in a 60 metre hedgerow at Woods Mill in mid-Sept, a total of 55 at Wild Park between Aug 15 and Sept 11 with a maximum of 22 on Sept 8 and at West Durrington the total of 36 between Aug 13 and Oct 4 included 9 on Aug 30. The records confirm that whilst substantial numbers occurred in some areas, other sites like Ferring Rife, where only 2 were noted, had a poor autumn. The last were singles at Sompting Church and West Durrington on Oct 4, at Woods Mill on Oct 5 and in a West Worthing garden on Oct 12.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER - The only spring record was a female at Lancing Manor on Apr 24. Fewer noted in the autumn, and apart from 2 in St Anneswell Gardens (Hove) on Sept 7 the others were singles; at Cissbury on Aug 10, Wild Park on Aug 28, Hove on Sept 3 and Withdean Park on Sept 7.

418. LONG-TAILED TIT - A total of 7 pairs were noted from 3 localities. Flocks reported during the year included 10 in a West Worthing garden in July, 20 at Highdown in Nov, 17 in Withdean Park in Dec with groups of up to 10 from 3 further localities. At Cissbury a party of 7 were trapped on Aug 13, all were adults 5 of which were already ringed, and the absence of juveniles suggested a poor breeding season.

419. MARSH TIT - Mainly singles and pairs noted from 3 downland sites during the year, most frequently from Cissbury. The largest gathering was 5 at Newtimber Hill in Aug. A scarce visitor to Woods Mill; just singles on 3 dates between Apr and Aug. 3 were trapped at Cissbury in Aug.

420. WILLOW TIT - A pair resident at Devil's Dyke with further pairs in Aug and Sept recorded from Newtimber Hill, Cissbury and Saddlescombe. A single was at Woods Mill on Apr 26 and one was ringed at Wiston on Dec 20.

422. COAL TIT - Pairs and singles were recorded from Goring Wood, Steyning, Withdean Park, Ferring, Broadwater, Brighton cemetery and a West Worthing garden. Breeding was confirmed at the latter site.

423. BLUE TIT - Breeding season counts were 64 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 12 pairs at Devil's Dyke. After the hurricane 150 were counted in Wild Park on Oct 24.

424. GREAT TIT - Breeding season counts were 30 pairs in Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 9 pairs at Devil's Dyke, with unusually high numbers in Goring Wood during June. On Oct 24 there were 100 in Wild Park.

An bird showing melanistic characteristics was at Shoreham airfield on Sept 9; interestingly a melanistic bird was at the same site in Nov 1983.

425. NUTHATCH - Regular at Highdown and Woods Mill; 2 at Sullington on Apr 17, 2 at West Durrington on Oct 28 and 2 feeding on peanuts near Hill Barn golf course between Jan and Apr. Singles were noted in a Steyning garden during Aug and Sept and at Cissbury on Sept 3.

427. TREECREEPER - Breeding season records were single pairs at Woods Mill and Withdean Park where an adult was seen with 2 juveniles on June 16. Otherwise singles were reported from Brighton cemetery, St Anneswell Gardens (Hove), Cissbury, West Durrington, Goring Wood, Highdown, Sanctuary and 2 at Preston Park.

436. JAY]

437. MAGPIE]

438. JACKDAW]:- see preliminary report of

441. ROOK] Corvid Survey.

442. CARRION CROW]

444. STARLING - A report that many birds were killed in the Steyne roost (Brighton) during the hurricane in Oct. The remainder moved to the nursing school grounds on Hove seafront where 6000 or more were present on Dec 19.

448. TREE SPARROW - More than usual reported in the first months of the year as indicated by the following counts:- 50 at Brooklands on Jan 19 decreasing to 2 by Jan 28; 25 at Small Dole on Feb 10 decreasing to 5 by Apr 2; and 5 at Ferring Rife on Jan 24 with 12 there on Mar 22.

In the autumn, 6 were at Truleigh Manor Farm on Oct 4, one was seen feeding at a bird table at Woods Mill on Nov 14, between 2 and 5 noted at Goring Gap during Nov and finally 2 at Cissbury on Dec 6.

451. CHAFFINCH - Large flocks recorded were as follows:- 100 at Wild Park on Feb 20; 60 at the Sanctuary on Feb 11; 65 near Sullington Church on Mar 8; 80N in one flock at Worthing beach on Oct 10; 200 in Hollingbury Woods on Oct 24; 100 at Highdown on Nov 21 and 50 roosting at the Sanctuary in Nov and Dec. Up to 30 were regularly noted from West Durrington and Cissbury. Breeding records were 61 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 44 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

452. BRAMBLING - A significant influx occurred in the early months, and between Jan and Mar a total of 138 were recorded, the largest flock being 100 behind Brooklands on Jan 18. Otherwise between 1 and 9 were noted from 12 sites including Widewater (6), Hollingbury Woods (9), Sanctuary (4), Upper Beeding (4), Small Dole and Wiston. Additionally 13 were noted in 5 town gardens, including 6 at West Hove where 3 stayed until early Apr, and 3 at Patcham. The last was a male at Hollingbury Woods on Apr 14.

455. GREENFINCH - The largest flocks recorded were:- 100 at roost in Swandean Hospital on Jan 27; 75 in Wild Park on Feb 20; 60 at Goring Gap on Jan 1; 80 at Brooklands on Jan 18; 40 at Shoreham beach feeding on tide wrack on Jan 5; and 23 in a West Hove garden on Jan 12. At the Sanctuary a total of 50 were trapped in July/Aug. Breeding counts included 13 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods.

456. GOLDFINCH - Breeding records were a pair at Wild Park and 2 pairs at Devil's Dyke. In Feb 80 were at Upper Beeding on Feb 8 with 50 there on Mar 24. Spring sea-watching at Worthing only recorded 3 but the autumn totalled 97E from Sept 29 to Nov 8. Other notable autumn counts were 34 at Adur recreation ground on Aug 22; 60 at Newtimber Hill on Sept 27; 40 at Small Dole on Oct 11; 50 at Highdown on Oct 12; 60 at Cissbury on Oct 13; and 50 at the Sanctuary on Oct 21.

457. SISKIN - A poor year in comparison with 1986. Small flocks were noted from the following 4 localities; 7 over Broadwater on Jan 28, 6 in a Storrington garden on Mar 21, 3 at Cissbury on Sept 27 and 11W over Worthing on Oct 11. Also reported feeding on peanuts in a Findon Valley garden in Mar, and one was at Upper Beeding on Feb 1.

458. LINNET - Early year counts were 200 at Goring Gap on Jan 17, 300 at Brooklands on Jan 18 with 50 in the lower Adur Valley on the same day and 50 at Ferring on Apr 8. A total of 84 recorded at Worthing beach between Apr 2 and May with the peak of 32E on Apr 28. Breeding season counts were 9 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods and 8 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

Notable counts in autumn were 52 at Truleigh Manor Farm on Oct 4, 50 at Ferring Rife on Oct 10 and 40NE over Maybridge on Oct 17.

459. TWITE - Between Jan 16 and Jan 31 up to 10 present in the lower Adur Valley, with 3 on Feb 13. None were seen at the end of the year.

1986 3 by the River Adur on Nov 18.

460. REDPOLL - The only record early in the year was 2 behind Brooklands on Jan 18. In the spring 2 were at Ladywells on Apr 19 and one flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 28.

In autumn 23 flew W at Wild Park between Sept 25 and Oct 30 and 33 flew W over Brighton cemetery on Oct 23. A further 33 were seen at 5 further localities, including 10 at the Sanctuary on Oct 28, 9E over Broadwater on Sept 27, 5 at Cissbury on Sept 27, 4E at Worthing beach on Nov 4 and 3 in a Broadwater garden on Oct 14.

463. CROSSBILL - A poor year; 5 SW over Cissbury on July 12 was the only record.

469. BULLFINCH - Breeding records were 2 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods, 3 pairs at Devil's Dyke and single pairs at Worthing crematorium and the Sanctuary, otherwise scarce in the coastal areas.

470. HAWFINCH - A single seen in Oxford Road, Worthing on Dec 7 (RAI) was the first area record for many years.

494. SNOW BUNTING - An immature male of this species was seen flying W out of a stubble field at Chantry Hill on Nov 29 (RJC).

496. YELLOWHAMMER - Breeding season records include 11 pairs at Wild Park and Hollingbury Woods, 18 pairs at Devil's Dyke, 6 pairs holding territory at Highdown and 2 pairs at West Durrington, and after after an absence of some years a single pair at Goring Gap.

Notable flocks were as follows; 50 on upper Adur Levels on Jan 11; 45 on Chantry Hill on Jan 17; 30 near Sullington Church on Mar 8; 60 at Cissbury on Oct 11; and up to 40 at West Durrington during the autumn with 80 there on Dec 12. At the Sanctuary a total of 18 were trapped in autumn, the most since 1975, and at Cissbury 27 were trapped between July 12 and Sept 27.

506. REED BUNTING - In the early months a number of small flocks were noted, including 20 behind Brooklands on Jan 18; 19 in an Upper Beeding garden on Feb 1; 5 frequented a Maybridge garden in Jan and one remained until Apr; and 10 at Small Dole on Feb 2.

In the breeding season there were 5 pairs at Sandgate Park and 5 were regularly seen at Ferring Rife. Singles in a Lancing garden on Jan 14 and at Cissbury on Oct 4 were unusual.

510. CORN BUNTING - In the early months the largest flocks recorded were 150 on the upper Adur Levels on Jan 11, 40 at Sullington Hill on Feb 28 and 30 at Small Dole on Feb 2. In thick fog on Feb 4 there were 3 on an E. Worthing school field which was considered unusual.

Breeding season counts include 20 singing males between Cissbury and Chanctonbury on Apr 17 and 3 pairs on the downs at Saddlescombe. Between 1 and 3 individuals present at Ferring Rife through the year. The highest autumn count was 40 at the Sanctuary on Aug 15.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1987

This feature has been compiled from records submitted by local observers.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Hobby	Apr 29 Findon	Sept 7 Durrington
Whimbrel	Apr 8 Worthing	Sept 16 Shoreham
Common Sandpiper	Apr 17 Woods Mill	Sept 12 Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar 21 Goring	Oct 10 Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 5 Worthing	Oct 22 Southwick
Little Tern	Apr 18 Worthing	Sept 7 Worthing
Turtle Dove	May 3 New Salt's	Oct 14 Broadwater
Cuckoo	Apr 18 Wood's Mill	Sept 8 Durrington
Swift	Apr 27 W. Hove	Aug 28 Shoreham
Sand Martin	Apr 5 Sandgate	- -
Swallow	Apr 8 New Salt's	Nov 22 Widewater
House Martin	Apr 14 Wood's Mill	Nov 8 Ferring
Tree Pipit	Apr 17 Worthing	Sept 20 Cissbury
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 16 Widewater	Oct 11 Worthing
Redstart	Apr 15 Patcham	Oct 25 Cissbury
Whinchat	Apr 24 Adur Rec.	Oct 6 Hillbarn
Wheatear	Mar 25 Ferring	Oct 26 Goring
Ring Ouzel	Apr 22 Wild Park	Oct 23 Brighton
Sedge Warbler	Apr 22 Hillbarn	Sept 20 Sanctuary
Reed Warbler	Apr 23 New Salt's	Oct 3 Sanctuary
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 25 Wild Park	Sept 27 Newtimber
Whitethroat	Apr 18 Lychpole	Oct 3 Wild Park
Garden Warbler	Apr 20 Wood's Mill	Sept 27 Cissbury
Blackcap*	Mar 28 W Hove	Nov 22 Southwick
Chiffchaff*	Mar 15 Goring Gap	Nov 8 W. Worthing
Willow Warbler	Mar 31 New Salt's	Sept 20 Sanctuary
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 29 Lancing	Oct 12 W. Worthing

* Excluding possible wintering birds

RINGING REPORT FOR 1987.

For the twelfth successive year the total of birds ringed in the area exceeded the 3000 mark. The total of 3162 comprised of only 62 pulli, the majority (98%) therefore were ringed as full grown birds. Most of the pulli were tits ringed in nest boxes at the Sanctuary and Lancing College although single clutches of Kestrel and Swift were ringed.

The cannon netting programme to catch gulls on Sompting refuse tip continued and once again the total of 1355 gulls was the largest single contribution in the area. There were 9 afternoons when trapping was possible on the tip and catches ranged from 59 on Jan 7 to 458 on Jan 21; in addition to the new birds there were 330 Black-headed Gulls retrapped; ie 20% of this species caught were already carrying a ring.

Dr. Barrie Watson, as well as leading the gull studies, caught 246 smaller birds in and around Shoreham but regrettably, due to inclement autumn weather, was only able to catch 11 roosting Pied Wagtails. Dr. John Newnham mist netted 164 birds in his Worthing garden and 519 at the Sanctuary but like the other mist-netting sites, the wet and windy late autumn weather reduced the numbers trapped here too. The Steyning Ringing Group (Brian & Phil Clay and Chris Fox) were active at three sites, nets at Cissbury and Wiston caught 617 and 150 respectively, including scarcely ringed birds like Ring Ouzel and Whinchat at Cissbury and a Willow Tit at Wiston. Meanwhile the Mumbles near Steyning produced 105 birds, including 3 Nightingales. The grand total was completed by a visiting ringer who, whilst on a summer camp, ringed 5 birds near Coombes.

A brief glimpse at Table 1, which shows the totals of the 52 different species, reveals a similar pattern to most years.

TABLE.1

Sparrow Hawk.	2	Whitethroat.	80
Kestrel.	4	Garden Warbler.	24
Black-headed Gull.	1288	Blackcap.	110
Common Gull.	46	Chiffchaff.	52
Herring Gull.	21	Willow Warbler.	233
Wood Pigeon.	3	Goldcrest.	14
Swift.	2	Spotted Flycatcher.	5
Green Woodpecker.	2	Long-tailed Tit.	10
Great Sp Woodpecker.	5	Marsh Tit.	9
Swallow.	2	Willow Tit.	1
House Martin.	1	Coal Tit.	3
Pied Wagtail.	11	Blue Tit.	230
Wren.	39	Great Tit.	91
Dunnoek.	91	Nuthatch.	3
Robin.	55	Treecreeper.	4
Nightingale.	3	Jay.	1
Redstart.	3	Magpie.	2
Whinchat.	1	Jackdaw.	1
Ring Ouzel.	1	Starling.	276
Blackbird.	76	Chaffinch.	42
Fieldfare.	1	Greenfinch.	71
Song Thrush.	21	Goldfinch.	13
Redwing.	1	Linnet.	19
Sedge Warbler.	13	Bullfinch.	24
Reed Warbler.	74	Yellowhammer.	45
Lesser Whitethroat.	29	Reed Bunting.	4

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

1). Black-headed Gull. In 1987 there were 21 birds ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at Sompting. These were from England (5), Belgium (5), Denmark (2), Netherlands (2), Finland (3), Lithuania, Poland, Heligoland and Switzerland. The Swiss control, shown below, was the first for the area.

Ringed 2nd yr m.	21-01-78	Luzern, Switzerland.
Controlled.	18-02-87	Sompting tip. 740km NW.

The recoveries of Black-headed Gulls ringed locally are shown below; as usual over half (60%) 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 (23), Kent (4), Essex (7), Cambridgeshire (3), Isle of Wight, Hereford and Worcester, Cornwall, Devon (4), Hampshire (4) and Glamorgan.

The foreign recoveries were reported from Finland (15), U.S.S.R. (1), Estonia (3), Denmark (34), Sweden (8), Netherlands (3), German Democratic Republic (3), Poland (2), West Germany (2), Norway, Lithuania and Latvia.

In England there are active gull trapping teams in Essex and Cambridgeshire which are responsible for all recoveries from those counties and a gull enthusiast in Denmark, K T Pederson, has reported most of the recoveries from there.

2). Common Gull. There were single recoveries in May from Denmark and Sweden.

3). Herring Gull. As usual all the recoveries were within England and comprise of Sussex (2), Devon (2), Kent and Cambridgeshire.

4). House Martin.

Ringed juv.	19-08-86	Shoreham Sanctuary.
Controlled.	14-06-87	Castle Donnington, Leicester.

This bird was caught by using a tape-lure and may have been breeding near the site of control.

5). Pied Wagtail. Three recoveries were reported of first year birds ringed at the Shoreham roost in Oct. The first was ringed in 1984, the others in 1986 and were found at:-

a).	05-04-87	Denholm, West Yorkshire	339km.
b).	29-04-87	Airdre, Strathclyde	613km.
c).	14-01-87	Stedham, Midhurst	39km.

These include the fourth and fifth movements from northern England.

6). Blue Tit

Ringed first yr	27-09-86	Beachy Head, Sussex.	
Controlled	26-01-87	Shoreham garden.	37km.
Ringed first yr	26-09-86	Beachy Head, Sussex.	
Controlled	08-10-86	Shoreham Sanctuary.	40km.
Ringed first yr	27-09-86	Beachy Head, Sussex.	
Controlled	04-10-86	Shoreham Sanctuary.	39km.

These short coastal movements are of interest because of their close timing and involve birds caught both in Hodcombe and Whitebread Hollow. The first was accidentally retrapped in a mist net set up to be mended. The others were reported too late for inclusion in the 1986 report.

7). Starling.

Ringed 1st yrF	07-01-87	Sompting tip (Cannon netted).	
Controlled	09-05-87	Frankfurt G.D.R.	1020km.

This German recovery was nesting in a fairly typical place.

8). Greenfinch

Ringed 1st yrF	15-12-85	West Worthing.	
Found dead	14-07-87	Hollesley, Suffolk.	188km NE.
Ringed 2nd yrF	04-01-87	Twyford, Hampshire.	
Controlled	05-08-87	Shoreham Sanctuary.	75km E.

These are typical recoveries showing short migrations south or west for the winter months.

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.

John Newnham.

SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1987.

The Sanctuary was visited on fewer occasions in 1987 with about 50 logged watches and only 17 long sessions for mist-netting. This was due in part to less opportunity and also to poor weather, particularly in the late autumn when wind and rain prevented mist-netting. The pattern of visits was similar to the past few years with few days logged during the winter months and most of the ringing taking place during the summer and autumn. Also in keeping with the past few years a meeting was convened in the winter to clear part of the copse; this year 15 members helped to coppice the osier stands on the north and west sides. Later in the winter a few willow cuttings were planted in the hope of diversifying the variety of habitats in the copse.

The winter was cold and during the worst of the weather the copse was exceedingly bleak. The flowing streams never freeze and in severe frosty conditions the water coming from the springs appears to be steaming. Invariably large numbers of Snipe can be seen feeding along the stream banks when the surrounding areas are frozen solid so a peak of 10 on Jan 18th was surprisingly low. A Water Rail was regularly seen by these streams and the only other unusual birds of the winter were four Brambling which roosted with the Chaffinches.

The first Chiff-chaff was in full song on March 25th but like the past few years there were no large falls of migrants recorded. In April most of the birds in the area were in the freshly sown field north of the copse; a count on April 15th revealed 200 Jackdaws, 40 Rooks, 4 Carrion Crows and at least 600 feral doves. The first Willow Warblers were in full song by mid April and most of the copse residents were busy nesting. Once again a pair of Mute Swans built on the west side of the copse but on May 17th the nest was found deserted with no sign of either eggs or cygnets. A Nightingale singing near the copse on May 3rd was the first spring bird for many years and by mid-May most of the later migrants had arrived with 2 Spotted Flycatchers, 3 Lesser Whitethroats and the first Reed Warbler being recorded.

June was unremarkable and although no detailed breeding counts were undertaken the impression was of similar numbers of breeding pairs to previous years.

On July 1st the Assistant Conservation Officer of the local division of the Southern Water Authority visited the copse and was pleased to see the varied and rich habitats that the Sanctuary offers for all wildlife. July was also one of the best months and although the scarcest birds were only a Tree Creeper, a Jay and a Great Spotted Woodpecker the catches of common birds for ringing were large. Finches regularly came to the stream to drink and several Greenfinches, Linnets and Yellow Hammers were trapped although Goldfinches again seemed fewer. For many years there have been suspicious signs of Mink being in the copse but none had been seen until one was startled soon after catching a rabbit on July 25th.

The main passage of warblers started in August; there were several days when Willow Warblers were plentiful but the following table shows a marked fall in the numbers of warblers caught during the summer. Unfortunately the lower slope of the hillside, although totally unsuitable, was again leased for horse grazing and so mist-netting in this productive area was impossible. This undoubtedly accounted for the dramatic fall in the numbers of Sylvia warblers trapped.

Numbers Ringed During Autumn 1987.

Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Lesser White	Common White	Garden Warbler	Black-cap	Chiff-chaff	Willow Warbler
4	40	8	10	5	16	22	83

The table also shows a good number of Reed Warblers although the Sedge Warbler, once a regular breeding species in the Sanctuary area, remains scarce. On Aug 15th there were at least 40 Corn Buntings feeding and drinking just outside the copse and the other interesting August record was a Green Sandpiper which flew over the copse on Aug 23rd, constantly calling and rising higher and higher in the sky until it disappeared eastward over Mill Hill.

At the end of August about 200 spikes of Autumn Lady's Tresses were appearing on part of the lawn, sadly a week later the lawn had been mown and thereafter the autumn went from one disappointment to the next. Despite a few migrants staying through September and into October there were no large movements recorded. A Grey Wagtail and Green Woodpecker, seen on several days, provided some interest in what was an ornithologically quiet autumn. However it was pleasing to note the return of Goldcrests to the copse on Sept 30th after an absence of over a year.

October was wet and windy and the hurricane in the middle of the month caused many of the older hawthorns and willows to topple making access to the paths difficult. In the centre of the copse the old wooden ringing hut lay flattened. The heavy rains raised the water level dramatically so the Sanctuary was not only blown into disarray but flooded as well. The first Redwings were not seen until Oct. 24th but the environment was clearly liked by the Water Rail which was back earlier than usual on Oct 28th. A small party of 50 Goldfinches was recorded on Oct 21st and the only Redpoll flock was 10 seen on Oct 28th.

The most interesting and yet worrying records from the last part of the year involve the local Magpies. No fewer than 50 were feeding in a nearby field on Nov 4th, by Nov 26th the count was 95 and in the fading evening light on Dec 23rd a large loose flock of Magpies disappeared to roost in a patch of scrub just north of the Sanctuary.

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 1987.

John Newnham.

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1987

As in the previous year the bulk of the group's activity took place at Cissbury during the autumn where 617 birds of 28 species were ringed. Some ringing was done at the Mumbles, Steyning, where 105 birds were ringed. The remaining 150 of the total of 872 were ringed at Wiston at the new woodland feeding station that Chris Fox set up.

Three sessions were held at Wiston at the beginning of the year and one in December. These efforts increased the species list to include woodland birds like Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Willow Tit.

The Reed Warbler total for the Mumbles amounted to 19, suggesting that the breeding population is fairly stable. The highlight of the spring was proof of a nesting pair of Nightingales that first appeared on the 17th May. They were retrapped later on with the female showing a good "brood patch". A juvenile was trapped on the 19th August, but this could have been on migration.

Sessions at Cissbury started early in the year on the 24th May. However much of this was experimentation due to a total move of the ringing site a quarter of a mile west and from the top of the slope to the bottom. The initial sessions proved to be somewhat lacking in birds and there was much debate and discussion about net location. As a result some of the nets were relocated and began to prove their worth. However the October hurricane intervened, blocked the access road and put paid to any further sessions! Somewhat unfortunately no damage was done to any of the tall sycamores we wanted removed but the site remained more or less intact. The majority of the birds ringed were Willow Warblers (142), peak passage occurring on the 14th and 23rd of August. Blackcaps and Whitethroats also figured highly with totals of 88 and 60 respectively.

The "hurricane" did little damage to the Wiston site; only taking out the tops of some trees, although some boughs

remain hanging precariously over the net sites. The Mumbles suffered the worst of the three sites with 6 Goat Willows that were planted some years ago being broken off at the roots. An old Aspen was split apart but will hopefully regrow. At the back of Strivens Reed Bed many of the old Grey Alders keeled over.

During the course of the winter further net sites were established at Cissbury; this should produce a more productive year ahead. Thanks to the National Trust and their warden Glyn Jones for their permission, co-operation and help and also to Worthing and Shoreham Conservation Volunteers who greatly assisted with the scrub management.

Phil Clay.

A VISIT TO THE FARNES

When the parents of my newly acquired daughter-in-law invited me to visit them in Sunderland last May, my thoughts immediately turned to the Farne Islands. Being a birder of little experience my chief desire at that time was to 'tick' a Puffin. The chosen day was sunny and calm and it seemed to me that everyone and his neighbour had descended on Seahouses for a boat trip to one of the islands.

Each trip lasted some three and a half hours with only 45 to 60 minutes to be spent on the island. In my letter from the National Trust it was pointed out that in order to avoid any undue length of disturbance to nesting birds Staple Island was to receive morning sailings and Inner Farne the afternoon visits.

My chosen destination was the Inner Farne; an island of some 16 acres at low tide, 11 of which are almost entirely bare rock. The preceeding voyage took us past towering basalt cliffs, all packed with a variety of nesting birds. Altogether in the day I saw 15 different species.

As we progressed the density of birds on the water and in the air increased. A few Gannets drifted by; small parties of Puffin rushed past, wings flapping furiously, whilst others idled on the water in little conversational groups. Grey Seals popped up from the sea to view this sudden noisy invasion. National Trust wardens sat around in bright orange dingies to prevent people from making unauthorised landings on the rocks and small islands. This was truly an experience never to be forgotten.

On reaching Inner Farne however my delight and amazement turned to dismay at the sight of masses of people spilling out onto this small island from three fair sized boats. As we slowly made our way up the narrow roped pathway to which we were always confined, I saw that every space had been taken by some nesting bird. A warden told me that that there were 1000 pairs of Arctic Tern and 250 of Common Tern. He took me to see the only pair of Sandwich Terns. Eider Duck and Black-headed Gulls nested close together with a few rabbits running around in between. Space was so limited that Eiders and terns were sitting inside the narrow walk-way. Children shouted and rushed about and I saw many broken eggs. True, the Eiders looked fairly placid and sat tight, but the terns were clearly disturbed. The island cliffs were tightly packed with Shag, Cormorant and Guillemot - some bridled. Kittiwake could have been touched had I not valued my fingers whilst down in the water I could see Razorbill.

With my little Brownie camera I succeeded in photographing most species just to prove I had seen them but of course, with such a camera, each came out disappointingly small. It was ironical that the bird I had gone all that way to see - the Puffin - was the only one that proved too minute to identify! So engrossed had I become in this truly amazing sight of the sheer quantity of nesting birds at close range that I missed my boat! My excuse was that it did come early. However, I slipped aboard the last boat of the three and, as nobody checked our tickets, I returned safely to Seahouses and my waiting hosts.

H.Jackson.

CORVID SURVEY 1987

Although the response to the survey was largely disappointing, those members who did respond provided a great deal of valuable data, especially for Rook and Carrion Crow. The results obtained from an analysis of these records is summarised in this article and it is hoped that a clearer picture will emerge from the forthcoming Breeding Atlas Survey which commences in 1988.

The summary is largely based on the completed survey forms received from:- E. Chadwell, J.A. Feest, L.R. Keen, G.T.J.Martin, Dr.J. Newnham, R.J. Sandison, D.I. Smith.

Jay

This was the scarcest of the corvids in the recording area. Single breeding pairs were reported from only 4 sites in the west of the area, leaving the weald largely unsurveyed. Otherwise 18 noted in mainly winter/autumn from 10 further sites which included 5 at Small Dole on Nov 8th, 3 at Cissbury on Sept 30th and 3 feeding on acorns in a garden south of Hillbarn golf course in the early months. Unusually one was at the Sanctuary on July 25th, October being the month when Jays are more regularly noted at this site.

Magpie

Only 4 pairs were reported from 4 localities. Gatherings throughout the year were better reported and totalled 338 birds in 13 localities with the largest numbers noted at the Sanctuary (95 on Nov 25th), Wild Park (66 on Oct 24th with 56 on Jan 31st), and Wiston (43 on March 14th). Otherwise between 4 and 16 were noted at 10 further localities. The largest gatherings were from outside towns but records notably from West Worthing, Goring, Maybridge and Durrington suggest that this species is readily adapting to the urban environment and is increasingly taking advantage of the feeding opportunities afforded by these areas.

Jackdaw

Few pairs were reported during the breeding season; notable were 3 pairs in Steyning High Street, and a "few pairs" in Findon Valley chimneys. Gatherings included up to 400 with other corvids in spring and autumn between Cissbury and Chanctonbury, 1000 flying to roost at Small Dole on Feb 6th, 200 at the Sanctuary on April 15th with 100 there on Oct 21, and 100 with Carrion Crows at the Highdown roost on Oct 29th. Smaller numbers were noted at the following localities; Sandgate Park, West Durrington, Steyning, Hillbarn golf course, High Salvington, Muntham Park, Findon Park farm, Nepcote park, Findon village, and Clapham Woods.

Rook

Rookery counts in the breeding season were as follows:-

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Occ. Nests</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Occ. Nests</u>
Highdown	32	Patching pond	26
Clapham	10	Findon village	45
A27 Southwick	2	Sandgate Park	44
Hove Cemetery	1	Patcham Place	22
Cement Works	18	Pyecombe	15
Lancing College	1	Poynings	30
Steyning, junction		Edburton	28
A283 & B2135	48	Beeding Towers	8
Wappingthorn	2	College Wood Fm	12
		<u>Total pairs</u>	<u>344</u>

Only 3 pairs nested in urban areas, the remainder being distributed mainly between downland and wealden localities. The Sompting Abbots rookery was not counted in 1987 but was probably the largest in the recording area; sadly it was virtually destroyed in the hurricane, as was another uncounted rookery at Swandean Hospital. The Nepcote Park rookery was visited, but had been abandoned. Few gatherings were reported; notable were 200 between Cissbury and

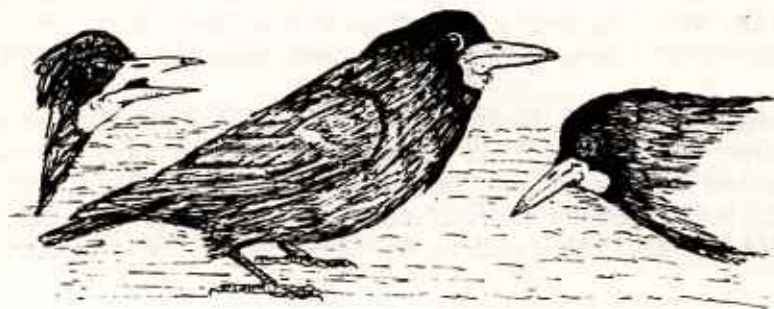
Chanctonbury in spring & autumn, 40 in fields near the Sanctuary on April 15, and "large numbers" feeding on acorns near Hillbarn golf course in late October.

Carrion Crow

In contrast with the gregarious nesting habits of the Rook, the Carrion Crow was reported as a solitary nesting species. A total of 11 pairs were noted in the Hove and Portslade areas. Sites of least disturbance were preferred such as churchyards, parks and school grounds, all close to grassy open areas. Most pairs chose to build in Elms (7 pairs) with 2 pairs in conifers and a single pair occupying a Lime tree.

Outside Hove only 5 pairs were reported from 5 further urban localities. Gatherings included a larger than usual roost of 500 at Highdown in December, 400 between Cissbury and Chanctonbury in spring and autumn whereas urban flocks in Hove and Portslade did not exceed 12 individuals. Otherwise year-round gatherings were mainly on the beaches between Worthing and Ferring. Peak counts were 73 on Worthing beach in October and 54 on the seafront green at Goring in March. Many of these individuals exhibit noticeably browner plumage tones, particularly in the upper wing, than birds which feed inland; an explanation may be provided by the marine diet of these "beach" crows.

Dave Smith



SEA WATCHING REPORT FOR 1987.

Introduction.

The sea was watched for over 469 hours this year, and although this is about 100 hours shorter than 1986, it is still a noteworthy effort and warrants another full report of the year's activities. The histogram showing the hours watched depicts, as usual, the spring months to be the most popular but it is interesting to see how quickly interest waned as one of the poorest Mays on record progressed. A clear picture of the poor spring is seen in the graphs showing the rate of passage for 1987 compared with the average for the period 1978-1986, particularly Common/Arctic Tern and Bar-tailed Godwit numbers were well down.

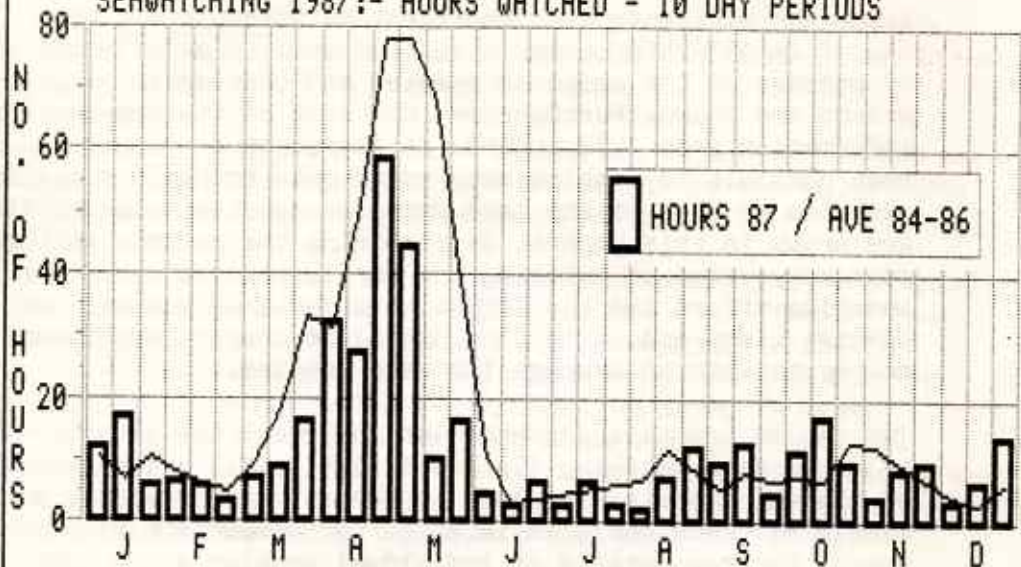
The total of birds logged during the year was 33,608 which is less than 72% of the 1986 total and slightly less than the number recorded in spring 1986 alone. In most years the spring passage contributes most records but only 49% of the observations in this year were from the period March to May.

The illustration showing the overall rates of passage clearly show that the most exciting and productive sea-watching was during the extremely cold period in the first and second ten day period of January with the best of the spring periods barely attaining half of these rates. Although there were some unusual birds and exceptional weather in the autumn the rates of passage at this time were unremarkable.

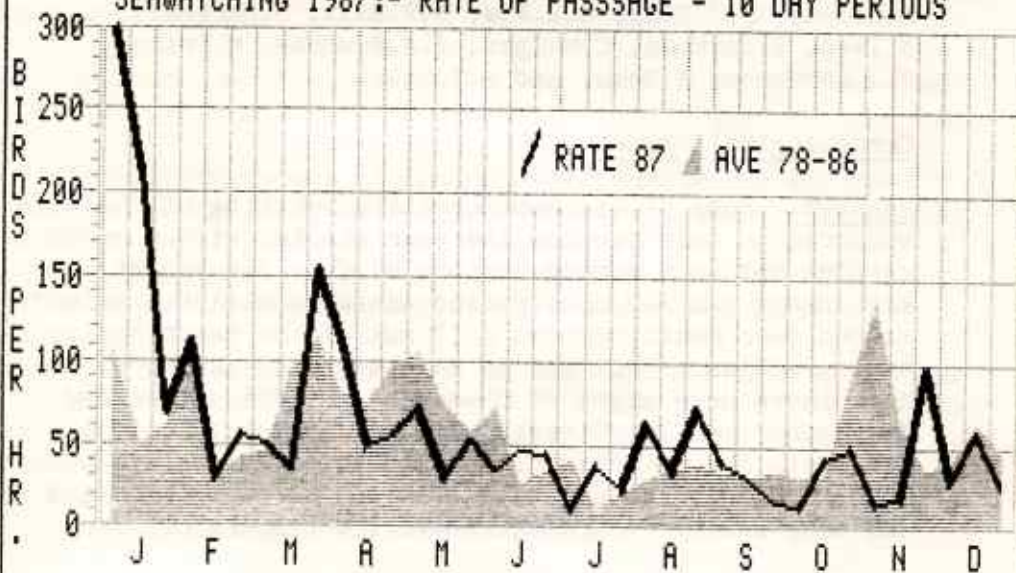
Again most of the observations were made from the shelter by Marine Gardens on Worthing Beach although records from Goring, Ferring and a few from Widewater beach are also included if these watches were not covered at Worthing.

During the spring months a daily log was passed between the regular observers; this experiment proved very successful in 1985 and 1986 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.

SEAWATCHING 1987:- HOURS WATCHED - 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1987:- RATE OF PASSAGE - 10 DAY PERIODS



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, now most of the sea-watching information from 1978 onwards is stored on a computer it has been possible to combine many years data to perform a similar exercise on some of the less numerous species, some of these are drawn in this report. By combining the records gathered over many years of watching one partly removes variation in watching effort and the effect that variable weather has on passage times and it is then useful to compare each years movements with an average for each species.

Two tables are also presented which reveal the details of selected days watching (Tables A(i) & (ii)), 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. Further details of individual species are documented in the systematic list.

The following chronological account is based on records from the following:- S.R.Allen, R.Bayne, P. and M.Brayshaw, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, C.J.Fox, M.P.Hall, S.Harthill, C.E.Hope, R.Ives, R.Jackson, C.Melgar, J.A.Newnham, M.Prince, R.J.Sandison, R.Shaw, and D.I.Smith.

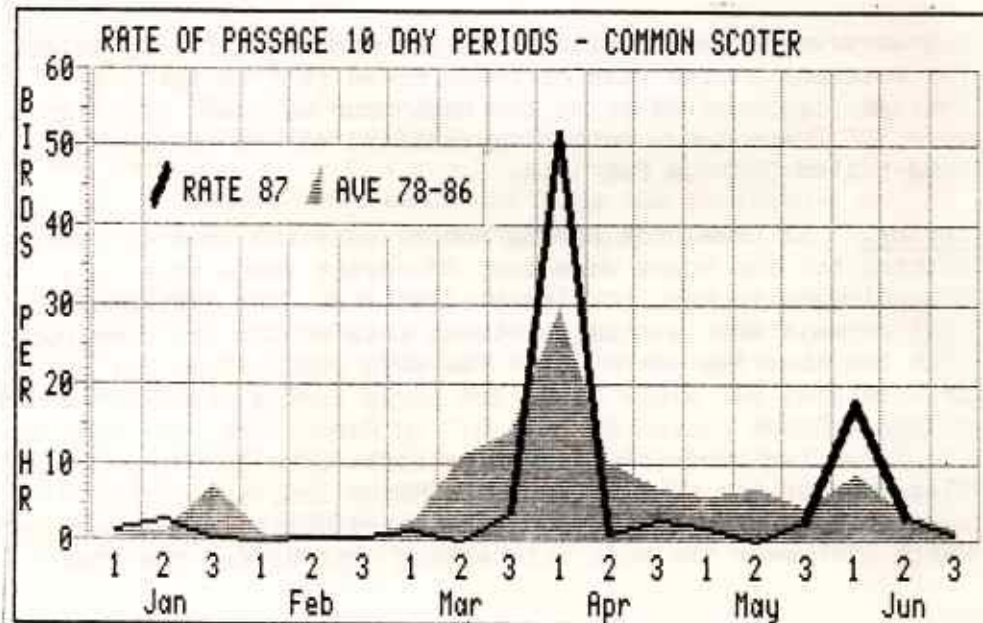
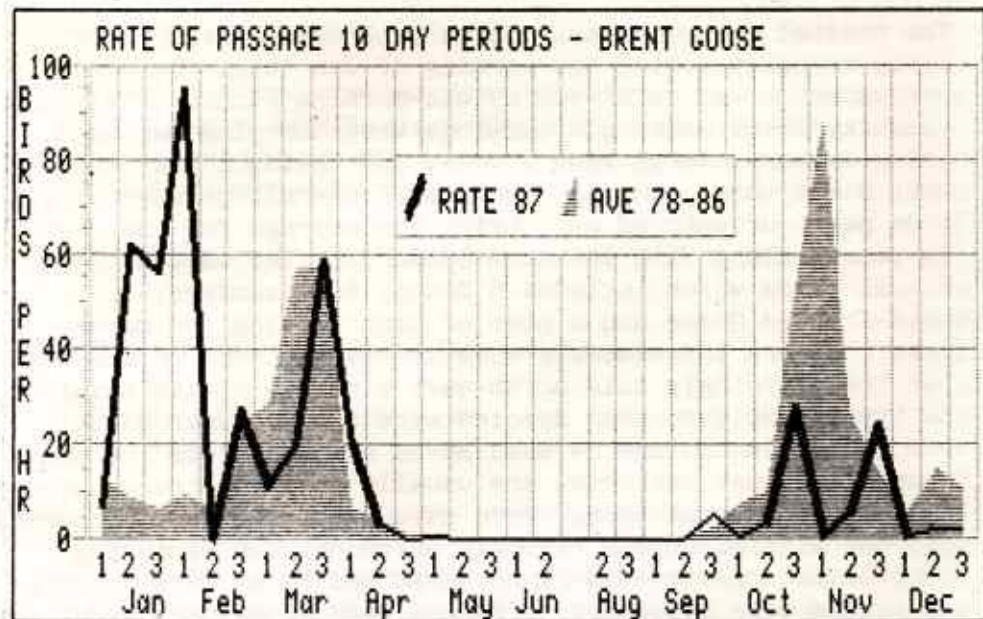
Chronological Report

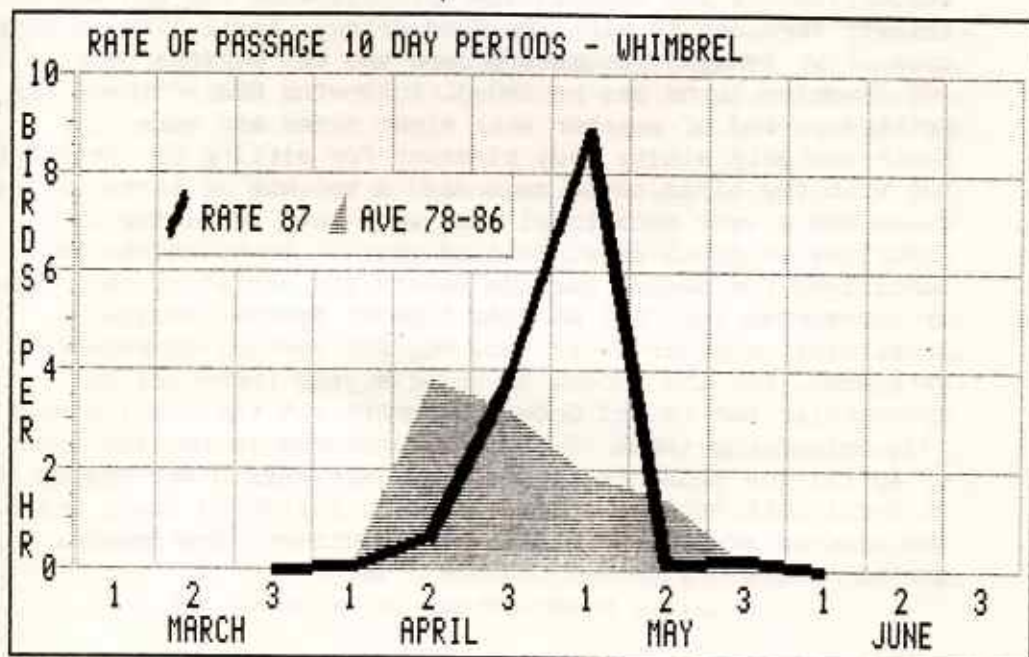
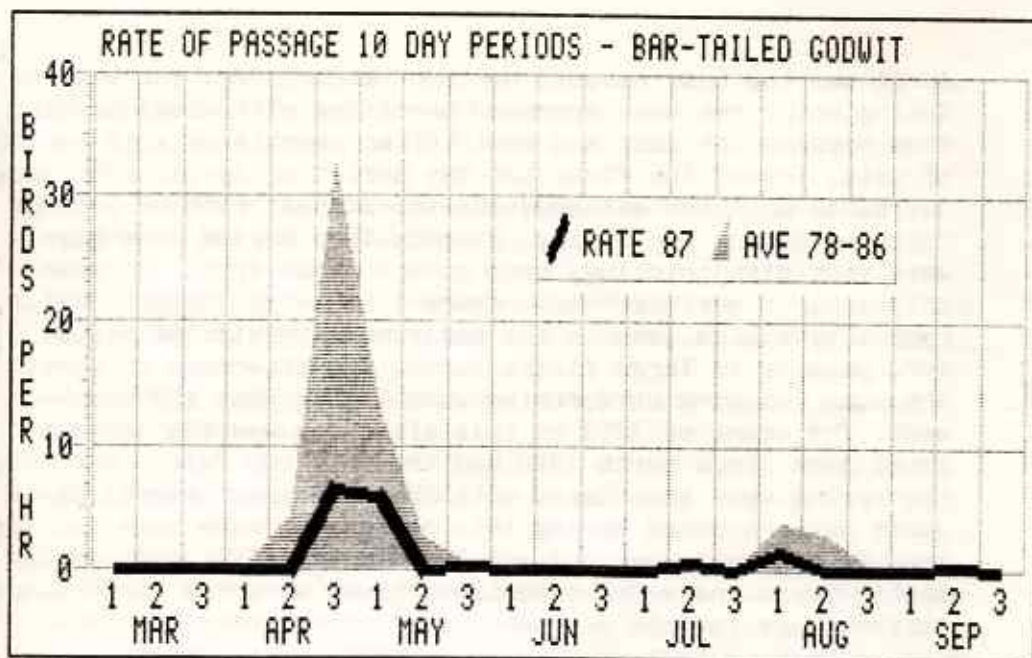
Jan/Feb. Some of the most exciting watching of the year occurred in this period. The year started with a westerly airflow and in a strong onshore wind on Jan 4th at least 75 Kittiwakes and 122 auks passed westward whilst a splendid second year Mediterranean Gull sat on the beach apparently taking molluscs from one of Worthing's breakwaters. By Jan 10th there were signs of change as an anticyclone had developed over Scandinavia bringing intensely cold air across the North Sea to Britain. For the third successive winter Sussex experienced severely cold weather with snow and frosts and many places recording record low temperatures.

The coastal movements associated with cold weather started fairly abruptly during the morning of Jan 10th. The early morning watch was quiet but by mid-morning flocks of Wigeon, Shelduck, Brent Geese and Lapwings were hurrying westward. During January nearly 2500 Wigeon, 700 Shelduck and 1600 Brent Geese were seen and the rate of overall passage at 225 birds per hour watched was thrice the average for the past few years. Along with the more common species were several unusual birds which included 5 Scaup, 8 Goosanders, 6 White-fronted Geese and a host of other diving and marsh ducks that are infrequently seen on sea-watches. On Jan 15th when the piercingly cold north-east wind was at its height the typical cold weather species were not so numerous but over 350 Kitiwakes and 84 auks moved eastward into the wind. These, like most seabirds, are usually seen in strong onshore winds but in recent years there have been some good movements when the wind has blown strongly offshore. The wintering flock of Red-breasted Mergansers reached 57 by late January and grebes were frequently offshore with occasional sightings of Slavonian, Black and Red-necked Grebes. The total of Great Crested Grebes seen from Worthing however, was insignificant compared to the 400 noted off-shore at Brighton.

February was somewhat milder and the month was fairly quiet for movement as the rate of birds noted fell to the near average figure of 70 birds for each hour watched. Highlights were 700 Brent Geese returning eastward on Feb 5th and a Long-tailed Duck on Feb 13th.

Spring. As usual the spring months were the most actively watched but the hours were down on recent years with only 74 hours logged in May, the least since 1980. The systematic list reveals what a disappointment this spring was compared with the past few years, with few days which stand out as interesting, yet alone good. The early spring eastward exodus of Brent Geese peaked at only 613 on March 21st, the same day the first two Sandwich Terns were seen. Both Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were offshore on March 3rd, a party of 11 Ruff on March 7th and 1165 Black-headed Gulls moving east on March 25th were the most interesting records for the month.





April was the best covered month of the spring. The weather during the first week appeared promising with winds blowing from between the east and south often associated with periods of rain. Indeed the first ten day period of April, with about 110 birds per hour watched, was the highest rate of passage recorded during the spring. Even in this period some days were very disappointing; none more so than April 1st when only 7 birds were seen in a force 5 SSE wind. Common Scoter, typically a bird seen in the early morning with SE winds, were passing in large flocks during the afternoon of April 4th when the wind at Worthing was blowing from the north-west. The count of 1053 on this afternoon was the largest total seen since March 1980 and the only two Velvet Scoter of the spring were associated with this passage. Several other ducks were recorded during this period but none more exciting than 2 Garganey seen on April 3rd. An Avocet, the first few Arctic Skuas and a Great Northern Diver were the more unusual observations in this period.

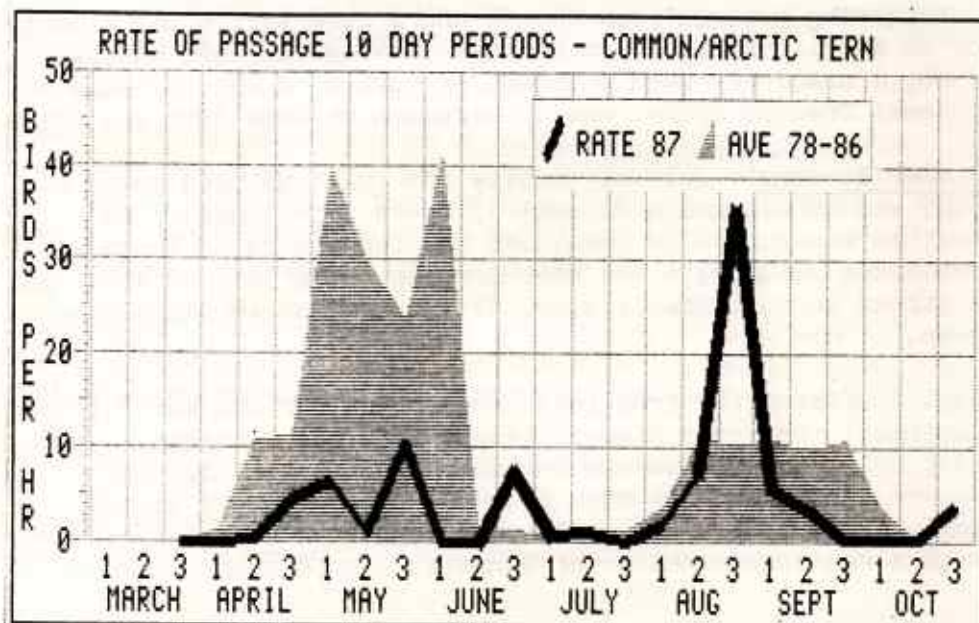
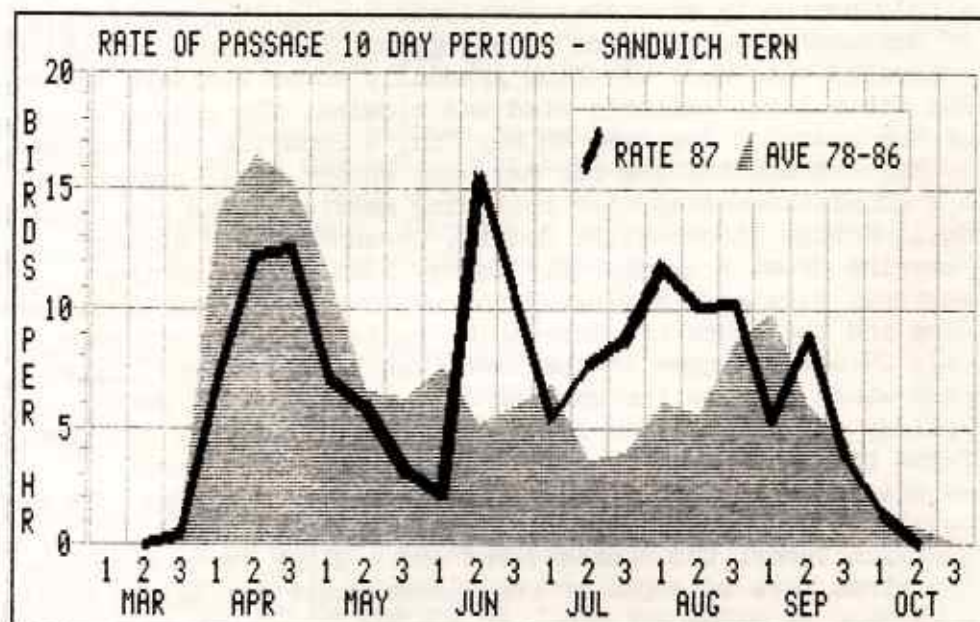
After this initial burst of activity there was a period of westerly winds and several days of calm when the sea was thickly shrouded in mist. On Good Friday, April 17th, a tight pack of at least 18 Avocets passed and the seasons peak of 198 Sandwich Terns was recorded. Following Easter there was a settled period of weather with clear skies and warm south-easterly winds; very pleasant for sitting on the beach but with few birds to be recorded. A trickle of terns, a few ducks and a very occasional skua were seen including two Pomarines on April 23rd. Settled weather is often the best conditions for seeing passage waders and certainly this group provided most interest at this time as Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, another Avocet and regular parties of Whimbrel were seen. For the second successive year there was no spectacular Bar-tailed Godwit movement but the peak, a mere 177, out of the total of 683 was also seen in the last part of April. The season's second Great Northern Diver was noted on April 24th but the origin of a White-fronted Goose which was seen on several occasions passing to and fro remains questionable.

A cold northerly airstream persisted through the early days of May and very few birds were logged. The anticyclone which generated this cool air-flow gradually moved eastward and by May 7th a light easterly wind was blowing. The season's peak of 205 Whimbrel was seen on May 7th, 9 Pomarine Skuas passed on May 8th and the log for May 10th showed small numbers but a good mixture of species including Mediterranean and Little Gull, Hobby, Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank and another Pomarine Skua. From May 10th to May 23rd a cool north-westerly airstream dominated the weather; very few birds were seen and the hours of observation rapidly tailed off with only 29 hours logged in the last twenty days of May. Light east winds blew on the morning of the Late Spring Bank Holiday on May 25th and a Shag and small flurry of 141 Commic Terns brought hope of a late season rush - this never materialised however as westerly winds soon returned. The May totals of 140 Common Scoter, 2 Knot, 5 Arctic Skuas, 382 Sandwich Terns, 472 Commic Terns and 4 Black Terns show how few birds were in sight of the Sussex coast during the month.

June was far from "flaming" with several wet days. As usual the sea was only watched for a short while. The most interesting records from the 18 hours observation was a party of 40 Knot, mostly in red plumage, moving eastward on June 10th, a small westward movement of Curlew, 4 Arctic Skuas and a Great Crested Grebe feeding offshore on June 18th and 21st.

Summer/Autumn. July is usually the least watched month and 1987 was no exception as only 15 hours were logged. The weather was generally unsettled but there were no large movements noted with the best morning being July 19 when, in a strong south-easterly wind, 17 Fulmars and 48 Gannets were seen.

August offered far from ideal summer weather and was full of contrast; the years highest temperature was recorded on the 21st yet the 25th was the second coldest August day on record. The trend for more Fulmars to be recorded in the early autumn continued as 59 were logged in August together with a reasonable number of Gannets. A noteworthy movement of



72 Kittiwakes was seen in just 30 minutes on Aug 4th and during this month 13 Arctic and 2 Great Skuas were recorded. The westward movement of terns was most obvious towards the end of the month and in strong cold northerly winds on Aug 25th 389 Common/Arctic Terns flew west. Interestingly this total was greater than that seen on any spring day and comprised several large flocks of up to 80 in number.

The meteorologists described September as being mainly dry and sunny but my notebook regularly recorded rain and even gales. The thirty hours of watching in September produced 18 Manx Shearwaters, 3 Sooty Shearwaters, and several Fulmars and Gannets which are not birds indicative of settled weather. The single party of three Sooty Shearwaters, slowly moving westward in strong south-westerly winds on Sept 12th, nearly doubled the total number of this species recorded in the area. Several Manx and a Balearic Shearwater were also seen on Sept 12th and another Balearic Shearwater passed eastward close to the shore on Sept 19th; a day which also produced the year's best total of 10 Arctic Skuas. Other interesting records during September included the only 9 Velvet Scoters, 3 Black Terns and a Little Stint which briefly paused to feed on the beach for a while before continuing its flight eastward.

So to October which is often the most exciting of the autumn months for sea-watching, particularly if the weather is not settled. The October of 1987 was described by the Meteorological Office as exceptional! The event which will be remembered for years occurred in the middle of the month when an intense low pressure moved northwards from the Bay of Biscay bringing hurricane force winds to the South of England and East Anglia. These winds, thought to be the strongest for more than 250 years, caused massive destruction of buildings and woodlands across the country and undoubtedly blew many birds well off course. There were other days too, like the 9th and 17th when onshore gale force winds blew. Not only was the October wind memorable but also the rainfall made it the third wettest October in England and Wales since 1727.

The month started quietly with the first autumn diver noted on the 3rd, the first Little Gull on the 4th and an unusual melanistic Gannet on the 6th. The first of the month's strong winds on the 9th undoubtedly produced an interesting day as a short watch in the afternoon yielded 13 Manx Shearwaters. Unfortunately the extremely high tide and enormous swell on the sea made watching difficult and the two observers felt many birds were passing without being clearly seen: a thought confirmed when news broke of 160 Sooty Shearwaters, 40 Manx Shearwaters and a Cory's Shearwater seen at Langney Point and 400 Sooty Shearwaters and 13 Leach's Petrels seen from Dungeness. During the afternoon of Oct 14th the wind again freshened considerably from the south and 252 Kittiwakes, 17 Little Gulls, 5 Bonxies and 2 Arctic Skuas were seen.

Immediately before and after the "Hurricane" there was little moving on the sea but a watch at Worthing on Oct 17th was rewarded with both a Grey Phalarope and an adult Sabine's Gull whilst at least 5 Sabine's Gulls were seen off Brighton. Over the next few days several Sabine's Gulls were offshore with Little Gulls and a few late Common and Arctic Terns. The seasons peak of 28 Little Gulls passed on Oct 21 which was also the best day for Brent Geese with a mere 235 noted.

After the excitements of October the weather in November was very typical with some fog and cloud and a few cold days. The numbers of wintering waders on the beach slowly built up and by the end of the month at least 15 Red-breasted Mergansers were feeding offshore. A few Brent Geese and Shelduck passed westward during a cold snap in late November and at least 5 Goldeneye and 2 Slavonian Grebes appeared at the same time. Although there were frosts the weather was not severe enough to encourage large movements of wildfowl and by mid December the temperatures had again risen to give a very mild end to the year. Typical December birds were seen in small numbers with peaks of 79 Kittiwakes on the 13th, and 16 divers, 67 Common Scoter, and 45 auks on the 19th. The most exciting bird seen at the end of the year was a Great Northern Diver which passed westward on Dec 20th.

John Newnham.

DETAILS OF THIRTEEN REGULARLY RECORDED SPECIES SEEN FROM WORTHING BEACH
DURING AUTUMN/WINTER 1987

TABLE B	JULY	AUGUST			SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER			TOTAL
	ALL	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	1-10	11-20	21-31	
HOURS	15.0	3.0	8.0	13.0	11.0	14.0	10.0	12.0	18.0	10.0	5.0	9.0	11.0	4.0	8.0	15.0	166.0
Diver Sp. E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	11	-	13	22	47
Gannet E	66	7	7	54	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	20	10	45
Brent E	60	10	19	57	47	23	5	7	11	1	-	-	1	3	3	4	193
Boose E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	9	1	-	-	4	-	5	8	274
Shelduck E	-	-	-	-	-	6	32	11	78	290	7	59	254	4	17	7	765
Wigeon E	-	-	-	-	-	4	8	-	-	1	1	8	79	2	3	2	14
Eider E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	127
Cooson E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Scoter E	8	24	4	5	3	19	1	5	1	2	6	4	5	-	3	-	10
Red-brst E	-	-	-	-	14	13	1	2	10	-	3	5	11	21	18	23	36
Little E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	13	22	16	23	38	113
Bull E	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	28	2	-	-	-	17	25	74	180
Kittiwake E	24	75	2	25	4	1	1	1	2	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	82
Sandwich E	4	17	23	3	5	16	4	23	7	1	-	45	57	1	94	4	164
Tern E	42	1	23	28	22	25	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	8	7	16	59
'Comic' E	73	37	61	108	37	96	18	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	269
Tern E	5	1	1	15	22	42	1	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	599
Auk Sp. E	8	6	61	455	42	9	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	149
	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	5	11	2	1	1	3	-	-	-	443
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	95
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	587
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114

SELECTED DAYS SEAMATCHING TOTALS WINTER TO SPRING 1987
FROM WORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A(1)

DATE	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 11	JAN 12	JAN 13	JAN 15	FEB 5	MAR 3	MAR 21	APR 2	APR 4	APR 5	APR 6	APR 17	APR 22	APR 23
HRS WATCHED	1.50	5.70	4.00	3.00	2.90	3.10	3.40	2.00	4.00	5.20	4.80	4.40	3.90	8.00	6.40	10.7
* DIVER SP	26	25	4	5	5	6	11	6	-	1	13	27	18	-	3	-
* FULMAR	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	2	8	-	2	8	6	28	14	22
* HANK SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* GANNET	7	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	-	-	11	12	4	8	1	2
* BRENT GSE	68M	31M	87M	638M	378M	-	700	84M	613	407	38	82	112	33	13	8
* SHELDUCK	19	353	141	103	30	30	-	47	1	5	15	21	-	27	5	5
* WIGEON	-	1749	297	364	-	81	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* EIDER	-	7MSE	-	3MSE	-	15M	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-
* C. SCOTER	-	13M	-	-	6M	21	-	-	19	-	1053	372	135	4	48	20
* RED BR. MERG	230s	19M	24M	1M	2M7E	21	-	7M3E	190s	-	12	14	2M	17	2M1E	-
* GREY PLOVER	-	7M3E	63M	8M	24M	6	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* SANDERLING	-	-	-	-	-	14	150b	44M	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* DUNLIN	-	-	50r	-	-	7	3	-	1	-	2M	3	-	-	-	5
* BAR T. GUNNIT	-	4	20b	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	1M	8	-	1	6	13
* WHIMBREL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	85	72
* POM. SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	73
* ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	2
* BONNIE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* LITTLE BULL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* KITTAWAKE	10	-	-	1	-	354	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
* SANDWICH T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
* COMMIC T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	19	31	32	80	198	136	190
* LITTLE T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	39	55
* BLACK T.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	30
* AUK SP.	-	1	-	-	-	84	1	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-

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

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1987
FROM WORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A(11)

DATE	APR	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	NOV	DEC
HRS WATCHED	9.6	6.7	7.5	11.3	3.8	1.5	4.4	4	5.2	3.3	3.9	2.9	1.8	3
* DIVER SP	1	6	3	10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
* FULMAR	25	9	6	11	10	6	4	12	-	-	-	6	-	-
* HAWK SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
* GANNET	3	3	19	4	7	-	37	35	3	3	1	2	1	1
* BRENT GSE	3	29	1	-	13	-	-	-	21	-	235	108	76	7
* SHELDUCK	5	16	14	7	2	-	-	-	6	-	18	36	36	-
* WIGEON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* EIDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2E	-	-	5W3E
* C. SCOTER	19	7	2	70	34	-	4	11	13	-	-	5W2E	30s	50
* RED BR. MERG	3	-	1W2E	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	20
* GREY PLOVER	36	7	46	39	32	1	2	4	-	-	-	1	-	5E
* SANDERLING	16	11	9	31	2	-	1	8	2	-	1	55	45	23r
* DUNLIN	19	18	5	60	2	-	2	-	1E	-	-	-	-	69r
* BAR T. GOWIT	79	205	141	31	1W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* WHIMBREL	-	-	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* POM. SKUA	-	-	-	3	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	2	-	-	-	-
* BONNIE	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-
* LITTLE GULL	1	-	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	17	28	5	1	-
* KITTIWAKE	20	-	4	3	4	1	1	3	4	257	74	6	26	-
* SANDWICH T.	189	32	85	63	18	31	30	5	20	-	-	-	-	-
* COMMIC T.	50	78	36	118	141	5	389	28	41E	-	-	-	-	-
* LITTLE T.	16	15	50	98	4	-	3	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
* BLACK T.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	45

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

FERRING RIFE - AN UPDATE

In the 1986 Report (SDOS 1986) I described the background to the Ferring Rife Flood Prevention Scheme and the agreement made between Southern Water and the S.D.O.S. following the negotiations which Stanley Allen and myself had with the Southern Water Authority (S.W.A.).

During this year the work agreed by the Water Authority has been carried out and the second phase of tree planting has been completed by a volunteer work-force of society members and Ferring residents. The majority of the project is now complete and the early signs are that generally things are going well. The trees planted in December 1986 are surviving well and even came through the hurricane of October 15-16th without severe damage. This year's trees have allowed the formation of a fairly continuous hedge around the western banks of both lagoons. More Hawthorn and Blackthorn were planted to augment those put in last year. These were placed around the banks and in a dense double row on the mound between the lagoons, where they will form a thicket hedge, above a reedy ditch.

Fifty Goat Willows were also planted; these should attract a rich insect population as they develop as well as providing excellent cover for birds. The planting scheme was completed by the inclusion of 50 Hazels which should also provide general cover and nest sites. Southern Water have carried out their part of the agreement with great skill and generosity; instead of the agreed simple pond they excavated two ponds, one in each lagoon, and a further shallow scrape. These were completed in July and since heavy rain of the autumn they have been full and overflowing.

The S.W.A. have also managed the bank cutting and channel clearing with considerable regard for the conservation aspects without any reduction in the flood prevention capacity. Undoubtedly the extreme rain in October, which did not quite cause the Rife to flood over into the lagoons, would have caused flooding before the scheme was carried out.

Two major practical jobs remain; firstly the ponds must be planted with marginal vegetation, particularly reed. I hope this will be done during the Spring of 1988. Secondly the on-going task of removing the rank vegetation from around the young trees will need to continue throughout the year.

The other task which needs attention is the general problem of publicity and public relations. At the present time (December 1987) the ponds on the Rife are suffering from a certain amount of unnecessary disturbance by dog owners who allow their animals to run onto the lagoons and even to enter the ponds. Whilst this is extremely irritating, one is forced to admit that the general public have been given very little opportunity to learn about the aims of the project and therefore may well be acting through ignorance.

Stanley and I have persuaded Southern Water to erect two signs asking people to respect the lagoons and ponds as a conservation area and to keep dogs under proper control. In addition, Southern Water plan to hold a press and publicity meeting early in 1988 to highlight the project.

There will have to be some further working parties, certainly to stop the trees, whilst they are small, from being engulfed by rank vegetation, and undoubtedly other jobs will arise from time to time. Nevertheless the basic work is complete and I feel proud that the society has been able to exert a little influence over the management of such an interesting site within our recording area.

May I thank everyone who has helped with the work at the Rife and hope that many members visit the area and find some interesting birds and other wildlife there.

Mike Hall

MY GARDEN BIRDS 1987

It may be apparent to those who scour the systematic list that there has been an increase in the number of species recorded in the Broadwater area and this is due, to some extent, to my moving into the area a couple of years ago. My back windows have a commanding 170 degree vista from Tennant's Hill via The Mountain and then the horizon over Lancing, an area of at least 3 square kilometres. This is what I tentatively call my garden. The following report is based on an average of 1,000 hours of watching from the window in 1987. It shows what perseverance and a very quick eye can turn up.

The first excitement of the year was on the 10th January when the winter was really beginning to bite and snow was imminent. I was poring over a book on the deductive methods of teaching when I noticed a flock of Lapwings heading SW over the house. They were duly logged (150) but another flock was soon picked up. Away went the book and out came the binoculars. It was obviously an exceptional hard weather movement of species was taking place and 90 minutes later I had logged 3,031 Lapwing, 212 Golden Plover, 2 Woodcock, 1 Jay and two duck - an hourly average of 2,165 birds an hour over the garden!

The rest of the winter was punctuated by another Woodcock and a few Siskin. Spring was heralded by a Buzzard which floated overhead and drifted westwards. Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers were the true harbingers of spring and the Cuckoo in May really was the epitome of the approaching summer (!?). All these birds were eclipsed by a large raptor which I picked up one evening on the 4th May. The bird was completely dark but incredibly light and liquid in its movements. The long tail and very long thin wings were diagnostic of a melanistic Montague's Harrier.

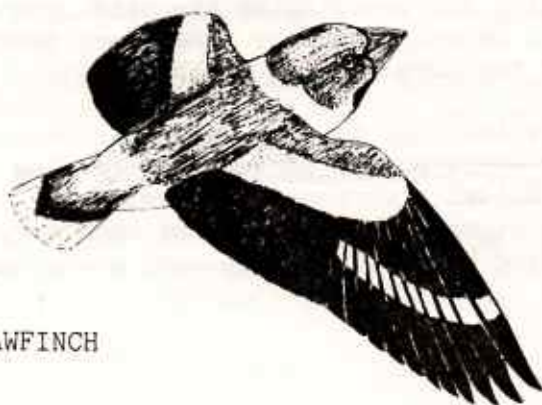
The Swifts returned in large numbers and their screaming became a familiar sound around the house. On the 23rd May I picked up a small falcon approaching from the east. There was

something odd about its 'jizz' as it hovered and stooped in a most unusual way. A quick glance through the binoculars dispelled all doubts as the bird showed bright orangey underparts! It was a female Red-footed Falcon! I quickly phoned eastwards and Dave Smith and Chris Fox picked it up as it passed over Goring - who needs Bird Line?

The autumn produced 3 Hobbies in 3 days which was exceptional and there were a few passerines in the garden itself: Pied Flycatcher, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat and a large passage of both Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs. It was interesting to watch the warblers using the lily pads as stepping stones for their impromptu baths. It was not difficult to select the most impressive autumn bird; it was a large Peregrine Falcon which almost took my ridge tiles off, thankfully something the hurricane also failed to do. A Rose-ringed Parakeet was also of interest in October.

As the final two months of the year elapsed nothing exceptional was recorded, perhaps because the weather was too mild. All the birds I have described have resulted from many hours watching and for all those aspiring armchair ornithologists there is a lot of work to do to get a large 'garden list'. You never know what may be lurking in the dark corners of your garden. Hey what was that !.....

Richard Ives



HAWFINCH

DEVILS DYKE - THE EFFECT OF SCRUB CLEARANCE ON
BREEDING BIRD POPULATIONS

Considerable attention has been focused in recent years on downland scrub clearance. Scrub clearance schemes have been promoted with the particular aim of restoring downland turf to re-establish orchids, flora and butterfly populations.

In 1982 the West Sussex County Council, in conjunction with other agencies including conservation bodies, formulated the Coombes - Newtimber project. This scheme promoted the participation of farmers and landowners in conservation projects, with the Council providing advice and grant aid assistance.

At Devils Dyke as part of this scheme the County Council and Brighton Borough Council who owned the land (approximately 110 hectares) devised a scrub clearance programme. The objectives, set out in a W.S.C.C. project booklet, were to selectively clear scrub followed by the re-introduction of sheep grazing during the winter months. This, it was claimed, would result in increased accessibility to the downland for the public, open up views and restrict further scrub invasion into remaining areas of downland turf.

In March 1983 details of the project were notified to us by the W.S.C.C.. The Brighton Centre for Advanced Biology (BCAB) at Brighton Polytechnic were undertaking detailed vegetational and insect surveys in the study area but we were requested to assist with winter and spring surveys of the birds feeding and breeding on the site. The scrub clearance work was to be undertaken by a Manpower Services Commission team under the direction of the W.S.C.C..

Regrettably the work in some areas was undertaken in the spring and early summer during the breeding season and in all areas the actual clearance was carried out in a manner which had little regard to the impact of machinery and debris on the remaining habitat which in many areas was severely damaged.

The Survey and Clearance Areas

Four specific areas were designated for clearance within the overall survey area. The survey area is shown on the map below with the four clearance areas separately identified.

Area 1 This area was located to the north and east of the Dyke Hotel and extended down the scarp slope to the woodland boundary below. The scrub comprised of typical hawthorn, elder, privet, wayfaring tree etc., interspersed with rough grassland. It was the first area to be cleared; work being carried out in the winter of 1983/84.

Area 2 Located to the east of the Dyke Hotel, this area was actually the eastern end of the Devils Dyke combe itself. The clearance area extended from the valley of the combe back up the northern slope toward the Dyke Hotel. The scrub was of a similar nature to area 1 although less dense, but included some Yew and Oak. This scrub was more or less completely cleared during the spring and summer 1986.

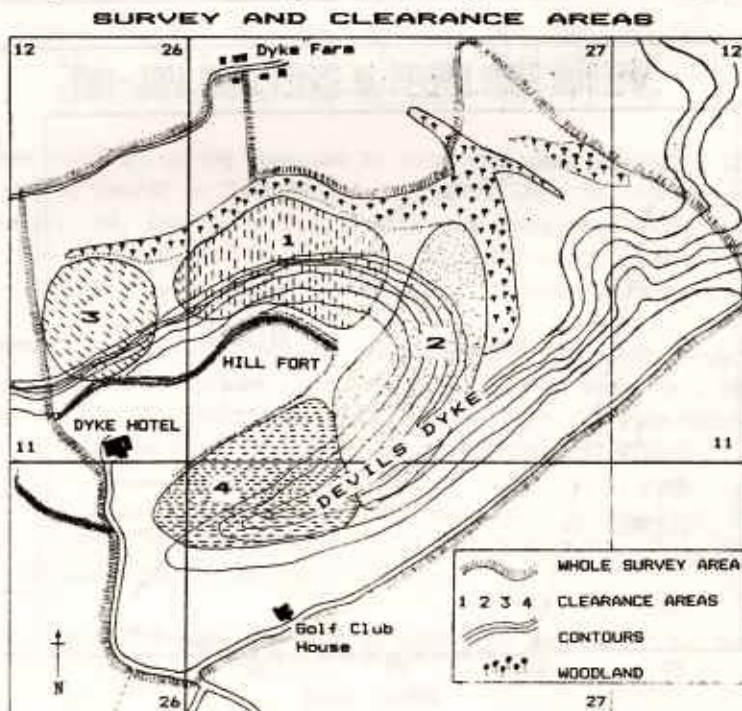


Fig 1 COMPARISON OF BREEDING TOTALS - CLEARED/NON-CLEARED AREAS

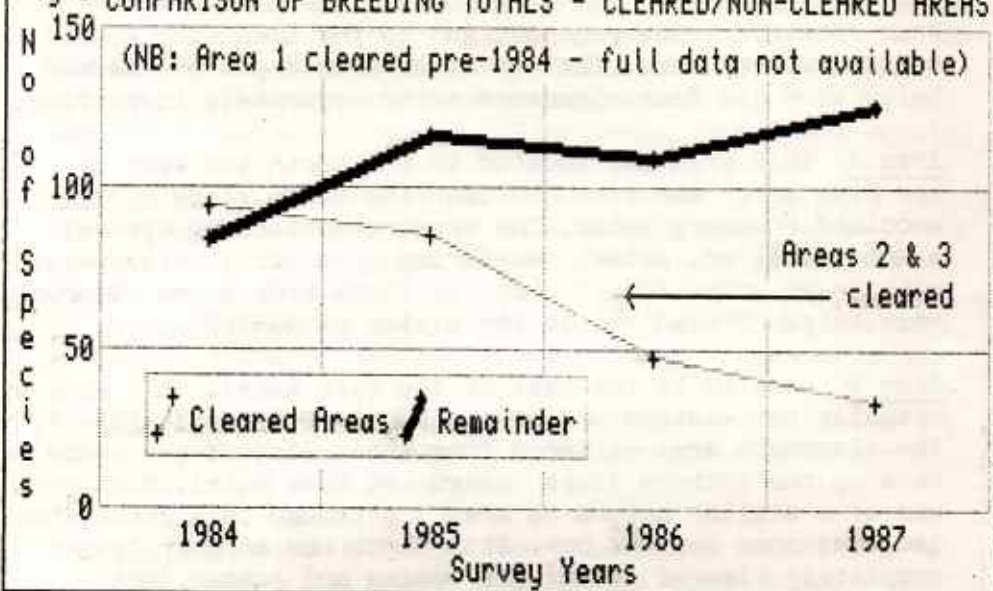
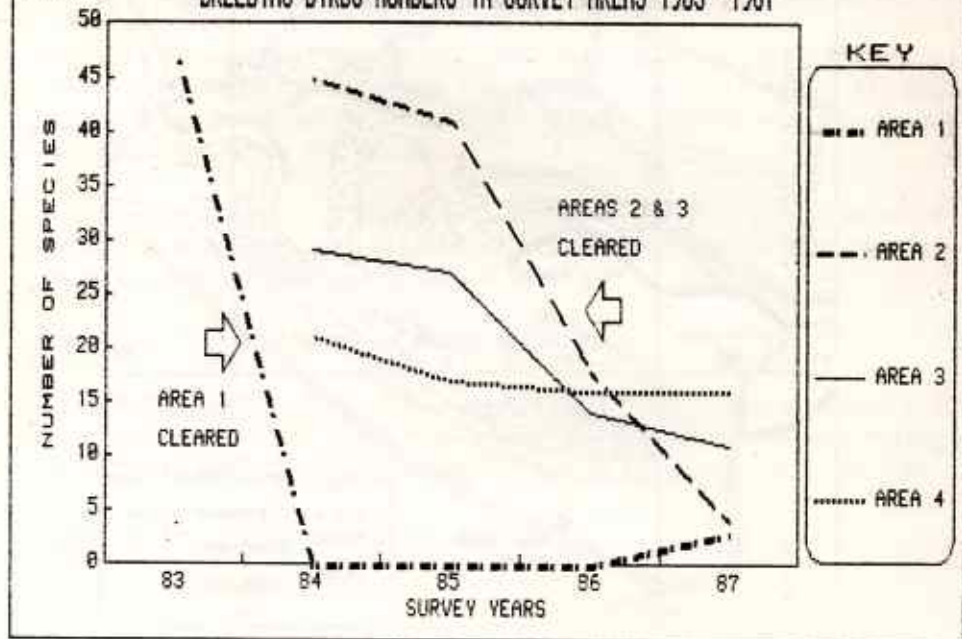


FIG 2 BREEDING BIRDS NUMBERS IN SURVEY AREAS 1983-1987



Area 3 Immediately adjacent to area 2, this area was the western end of the Devils Dyke combe and the habitat was therefore similar. This area was cleared in 1986 at the same time as area 2.

Area 4 This, the smallest of the four areas, was located to the immediate north of the Dyke Hotel on the scarp slope to the west of area 1. It had only a small amount of scrub; the area mainly being of rough grass. This area has not been cleared to date.

The Surveys and the Results

The method of the breeding season surveys was to record the presence of pairs or singing males. The surveys were carried out during early June in each of the survey years from 1983 to 1987. Particularly during the early years additional surveys were carried out during the winter and late spring but these results have been disregarded for the purposes of this analysis as the figures were not directly comparable from year to year. The results for 1983, prior to any scrub clearance, are also unfortunately of limited value as W.S.C.C. did not define to us the survey and clearance areas in sufficient time to enable the counts in that year to be related to each area, except area 1, and to the survey area as a whole. The results are summarised in Figures 1 & 2.

Figure 1 compares the annual totals of selected birds breeding within all the clearance areas with the breeding totals of the same species in the remainder of the survey area. The selected birds include all warblers, buntings, larks and finches but some corvids and thrushes are excluded as they were not fully counted in the first two years. 1983 has also been excluded due to lack of comparative data. However the decline within the clearance areas in the numbers of breeding birds, approximately 55 pairs, compared to an increase in birds breeding in the surrounding area is well illustrated by the graph. The decline in the clearance areas would have been much greater had 1983 been included as at least 45 breeding pairs were lost in area 1 in that year.

Figure 2 compares the annual breeding birds totals (again of the selected species) for each of the clearance areas. A noticeable decline in breeding birds is apparent in each area immediately following scrub clearance. Only in one site, area 4, where no clearance occurred do the totals remain relatively constant. Within each of the clearance areas summer migrants, exclusively sylvia and philloscopus warblers, accounted for between 25% and 50% of the total breeding birds. The intermediate decline in 1986, indicated on the graph for areas 2 & 3, reflects the fact that scrub clearance was actually being carried out during the breeding season so that the full impact was not evident until 1987.

Summary

Although it is not claimed that this survey has full scientific validity, the observers have had considerable experience in surveys of this nature and the consistency of approach throughout the survey period means that the overall results have considerable significance. The results indicate without doubt that the scrub clearance has had a severe impact on the populations of breeding birds within the cleared areas. In addition the timing and manner in which the scrub clearance was carried out did nothing to minimise the impact. Time will tell whether the main objectives of the clearance, the reinstatement of downland turf and associated flora and fauna, will be realised. If not the bird populations of the area will have suffered unnecessarily.

Perhaps future schemes could be modified to protect and even improve selected areas of scrub; after all scrub needs managing too if it is to retain its optimum bird population.

Survey work by:-	M. & N. Champion.
Text and analysis by:-	B.R. Clay.
Map by:-	R.A. Ives.

FIELD OUTINGS 1987

10 field outings were arranged for 1987; the first on January 11th was with Bernie Forbes to Amberley. 15 souls braved temperatures of -2C and snow showers at the start of the big freeze up. They were well rewarded for their bravery by spectacular views of 80 Bewick's Swans flying overhead as well as 400 Wigeon, 17 Greylag Geese, 400 Canada Geese, 4 Barnacle Geese, 12 Gadwall, 1 Golden Plover and large flocks of Redwing, Fieldfare and Lapwings. Other species included Nuthatch, Tree Creeper, Willow Tit, Snipe and a Bar-headed Goose.

Dover Woods was the venue for the field trip on the 7th February. This fine sunny day brought 24 members to join the leader, Dave Smith (Gary Edwards having the 'flu). The outing got off to a fine start with good views of a Firecrest and continued with Marsh Tit, Willow Tit, Goldcrest, Green Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, numerous Coal Tits and a female Sparrowhawk. The group narrowly missed a party of 4 Crossbills (spotted by Stanley Allen) after having staked out a larch plantation in the hope of finding just that species.

John Newnham met 12 intrepid members at Widewater on the 3rd May for a seawatch. There was a very strong cold northerly wind with occasional showers. After 2 hours of practically no birds, and with weather conditions still deteriorating, it was decided that the most sensible thing was to go home!

A sunny 3rd of July evening found John Dixon leading 18 members around Waltham Brooks. Unfortunately there was a lot of water on the brooks and the birds were scarce. However one Common and one Green Sandpiper were seen as was the local Sparrowhawk. The party moved on to Bignor Common and was rewarded with good views of Woodcock and one brief fly-past by a male Nightjar.

Stanley Allen joined 20 members for a local outing on the 22nd August, meeting at the Lady Jane pub in Shoreham. The party made their way past the houseboats, circled the Adur recreation ground and continued to the airport before returning. 33 species were seen, among them were 15 Wheatears, at least one yellow-legged Herring Gull, Whinchat, Yellow Wagtails, 34 Goldfishes, Common Sandpiper, Sparrowhawk, Whitethroat, Sedge, Reed and Willow Warblers and interestingly, a Wood Warbler.

Poor weather conditions at Ferring on the 5th September made for an uncomfortable morning's birdwatching. The wind was blowing south-westerly 5-6 with rain showers thrown in for good measure. Mike Hall commenced proceedings with an hours sea-watching; this turned up Gannet, Fulmar, Golden Plover, Ringed Plover and 7 Knot (interestingly 8 Knot were seen on the field outing to Ferring on September 13th 1986). A walk by the Rife proved fruitless and by this time most of the group were so drenched that they decided to call it a day. The small party that remained carried on and were rewarded for their determination with a Wood Sandpiper, 3 Whinchat, a Wheatear and an immature Cuckoo.

Once again Sidlesham Ferry and Pagham Harbour proved to be an excellent September venue. On the 19th Dave Smith met 14 members at the Ferry Pool to point out the juvenile Wilson's Phalarope! The pool also produced 3 Curlew Sandpiper, 1 Little Stint, 10 Ruff, 1 Common Sandpiper as well as Black-tailed Godwits and Dunlin. Anything else could have been a bit tame after such a start but a Marsh Harrier, 80-100 Yellow Wagtails and parties of Golden Plover flying north-east over the Ferry continued the luck - all before lunch! Afterwards the group moved to Church Norton where many of the common passerine migrants were seen including Redstart, Whinchat, Wheatear, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher, Blackcap and Chiffchaff. In the harbour were 5 Knot, a Greenshank and an adult Glaucous Gull. The outing dispersed at 16:00 hrs with a few members joining Dave at East Head to get a very good view of a Little Egret which made a total of 78 species for the day.

Two days after the hurricane was not the best of times for a field outing and not surprisingly the only person to turn out was Chris Fox, the leader. After waiting a while at Cissbury he went on to Brooklands where a white Swallow was seen and then on to Widewater where, not content with 2 Grey Phalaropes, he finished with 2 Sabines Gulls.

Nine members turned out on a bitterly cold December 6th for a field outing to East Head, led by the fearless Richard Ives. The strong wind made viewing very difficult but some good views of the more common waders were obtained. The intrepid team were rewarded by the spectacular sight of 1000 Brent Geese on the wing. Shortly after a very large falcon (probably an escaped Saker) was spotted as it flew overhead. A move to the main channel proved fruitless so the group went on to Climping where the bird of the day was found; the "Siberian jewel" a Pallas's Warbler.

A new outing at Shoreham on December 28th helped Stanley Allen and 9 others lose a bit of weight put on over the Christmas festivities. The leader decided to put the groups mathematical abilities to the test by undertaking a count of waders and gulls between the Footbridge and the Tollbridge. The results were:- 630 Black-headed Gulls, 100 "large" gulls (not good enough Stanley! Ed.), 29 Ringed Plover, 1235 Dunlin, 106 Redshank, 125 Lapwing, 3 Turnstone, 1 Knot, 2 Grey Plover and 3 Oystercatcher. 2 Herons, 1 Snipe and a Kestrel were also seen. The counting exhausted several members so much that they had to revive themselves in the Red Lion (this gets worse! Ed.).

Dr. John Newnham's conservation working party is described in the Sanctuary Report but on his behalf I would like to thank all those who helped.

Richard Weal.

GEORGE RAMPTON

George Rampton died on 9th December 1987 at the age of 92. He was a founder member of the Shoreham Ornithological Society in 1953 and was its Treasurer from then until 1978, a total of twenty-one years. His neat handwriting was a lesson to us all. He only gave up the post because of his increasing deafness. George Rampton was a remarkable man. In the 1914-18 War he lost both legs. Despite this disability, of which he never complained, he held down a full-time job, drove a car, ringed birds, and attended meetings and outings of this society. We owe him a great deal for the way that he controlled our finances during those years, and for the shrewd advice that he gave at Council meetings.

J. Stafford.

FRANK FORBES

As many members know, Frank Forbes died in the summer after having suffered poor health for the past few years. Everyone will have different personal memories of him, for Frank was a man who gave himself whole-heartedly into friendship. Whether one was sitting at the shelter at Goring, walking Cissbury or just chatting somewhere, Frank was always the same; cheerful, chatty and extremely good company. His wealth of knowledge about birds and birders and his repertoire of stories would warm the coldest winter's morning.

Frank made a great contribution to local birding, starting the watching at Cissbury and maintaining the seawatch when most of us were at work. He was a keen member of the Society, always encouraging the junior members, rarely missing an indoor meeting and making valued contributions to the field trips. It was a pleasure to him during recent years of declining health that the Society to which he had given so much to was thriving and expanding. His contribution to the fun and interest in birding will live in the memory of those privileged to have watched with him.

M.P.Hall.

NOTES, NEWS AND ACCOUNTS 1987

Membership

At the 1st March 1988 there were 136 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 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 year's 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 the 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 that date, as and when they do so.

LECTURES 1987

Monday 5th January

Dr. Peach specialises in photographing birds at the nest and he brought along a fine collection of pictures he had taken in Spain. Most familiar Mediterranean species were shown and also some of the less so - ie Black-shouldered Kite. The talk was most enlightening for the budding photographer and the aspects of building hides were interesting to all present.

Monday 2nd February

Bob Edgar returned to discuss some of the conservation issues in Sussex. His talk covered many of the problems facing the area especially the proposed A27 route through the back of the Downs. This led to some lively discussion afterwards.

Monday 2nd March

Dr. Peat gave the society some idea of the scientific methodology that can be adopted when making an ornithological study of a specific area. This lecture was an asset for all the local ornithologists who will be dusting off their notebooks to participate in the new Breeding Atlas fieldwork.

Monday 6th April

The A.G.M. was followed by some slides taken by Stanley Allen during a recent trip to Canada. There were some interesting identification problems as well as some very good shots of the animals and scenery of this untamed country.

Monday 5th October

Andrew Cleave returned to show us some slides on Iceland. Although there is not the variety of birdlife that one might find in warmer climes the pictures of Icelandic specialities were enough to encourage everyone to journey northwards. The superb photographs really caught the mood of the Arctic.

Monday 2nd November

Mike Mason has had plenty of experience in devoting his holidays to the voluntary wardening schemes of the R.S.P.B. He may have put off some by describing the hard work expected on some of the reserves - but the photographs of the Welsh reserves may encourage others to visit them. It made everyone appreciate that a warden's life is not always 'a happy one'.

Monday 7th December

The Christmas programme was the biennial quiz, the time for everyone to put on their thinking caps. It was a team event and so everyone benefited - the more experienced members could assist the others but they were not always right! The wine and mince pies helped to hide any embarrassment.

OFFICERS 1987

President	Dr.J.Stafford.
Hon. Secretary	Mr.J.Dixon. Rock Cottage, Common Hill West Chiltington, Nr. Pulborough, West Sussex. RH20 2NS. W.Chiltington 2234.
Hon. Field Secretary	Mr.R.Weal. 51 Greenacres, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex. BN4 5WY. Shoreham 461630.
Hon. Treasurer	Mr.C.J.Fox. Hole Street Cottage, Hole Street, Wiston, Steyning, West Sussex. BN4 3DH. Ashington 892948.
Hon. Recorder	Mr.D.I.Smith. 15 Ryecroft Close, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4LU. Worthing 47231.
Hon. Report Editor	Mr.B.R.Clay. 16 Melbourne Avenue, Goring by Sea, Worthing, West Sussex. BN12 4RT. 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.S.R.Allen; Mrs.E.Chadwell.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 1987

<u>RECEIPTS</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1986</u>
	£	£
Balance brought forward	950.92	894.88
Subscriptions	449.50	506.60
Sale of reports	12.00	24.10
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	57.11	29.95
Building Society interest	28.79	34.95
Donations	4.00	25.00
Lecture Fee	-	10.00
Weekend trip - costs recovered	-	110.00
	<u>£1502.32</u>	<u>£1635.48</u>
	=====	=====
<u>PAYMENTS</u>		
Display equipment	-	54.80
Printing	326.79	245.00
Postage and stationery	19.00	33.49
Secretary's expenses	20.94	46.00
Hire of hall	70.00	56.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Wine for Christmas meeting	-	42.77
Speakers fees	116.00	79.50
Sundries	9.42	13.00
Weekend trip costs	-	110.00
Bank charges	11.50	-
Balance carried forward	<u>924.67</u>	<u>950.92</u>
	<u>£1502.32</u>	<u>£1635.48</u>
	=====	=====

C.J.Fox (Hon Treasurer). Dated 3rd Feb 1988.

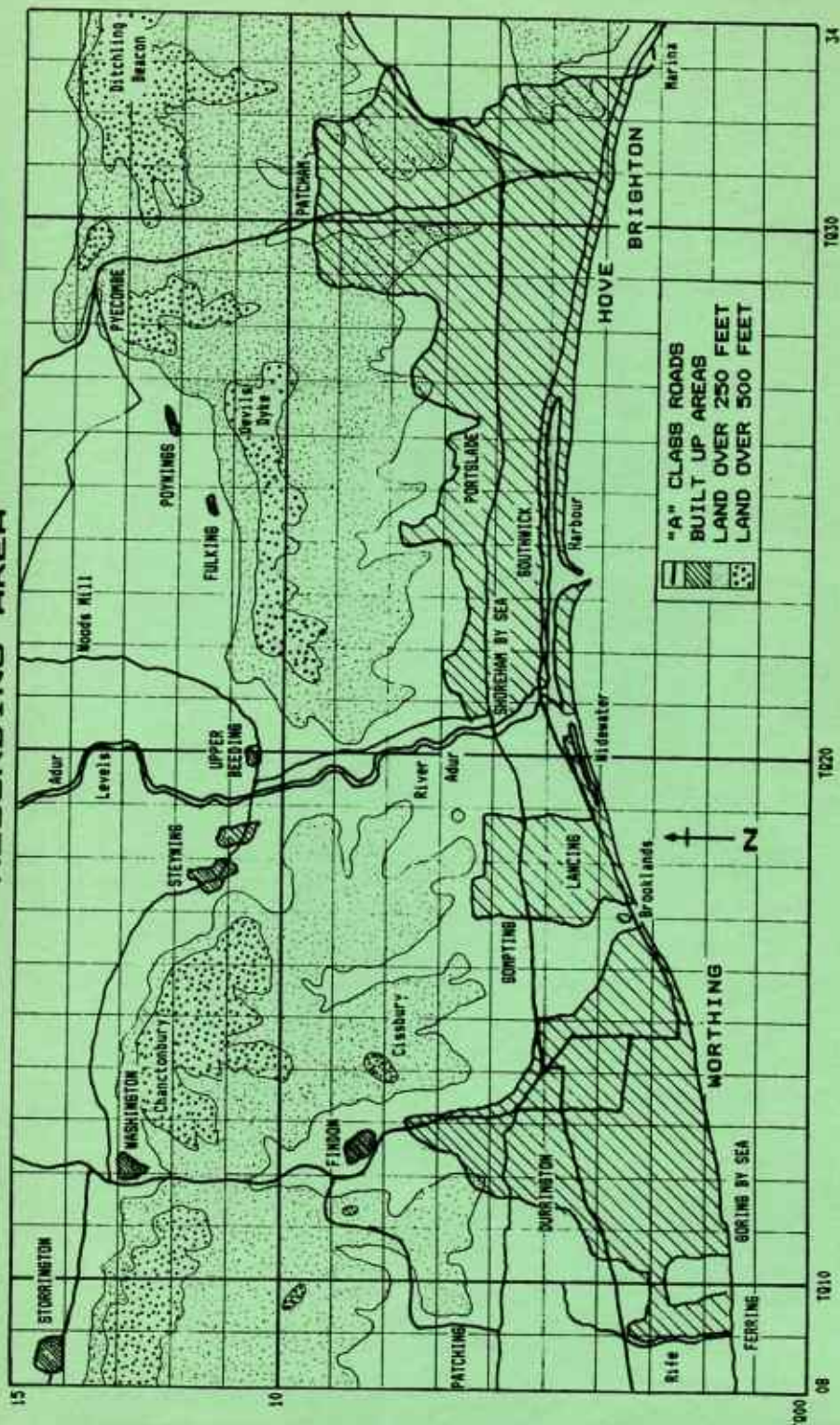
ACCOUNTANTS CERTIFICATE

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.

MOORES & ROWLANDS. Chartered Accountants.

52/53 Old Steyne, BRIGHTON. BN1 1PH. Dated 3rd Feb.1988

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDING AREA



1000 1010 1020 1030

08 10 20 30 34