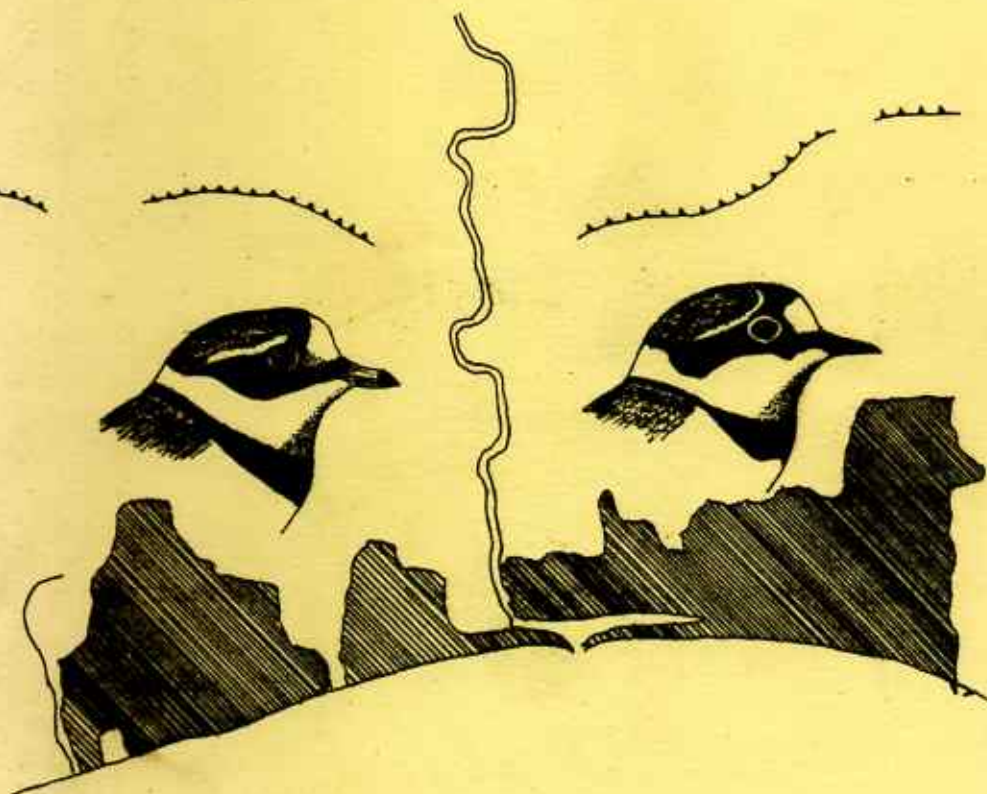
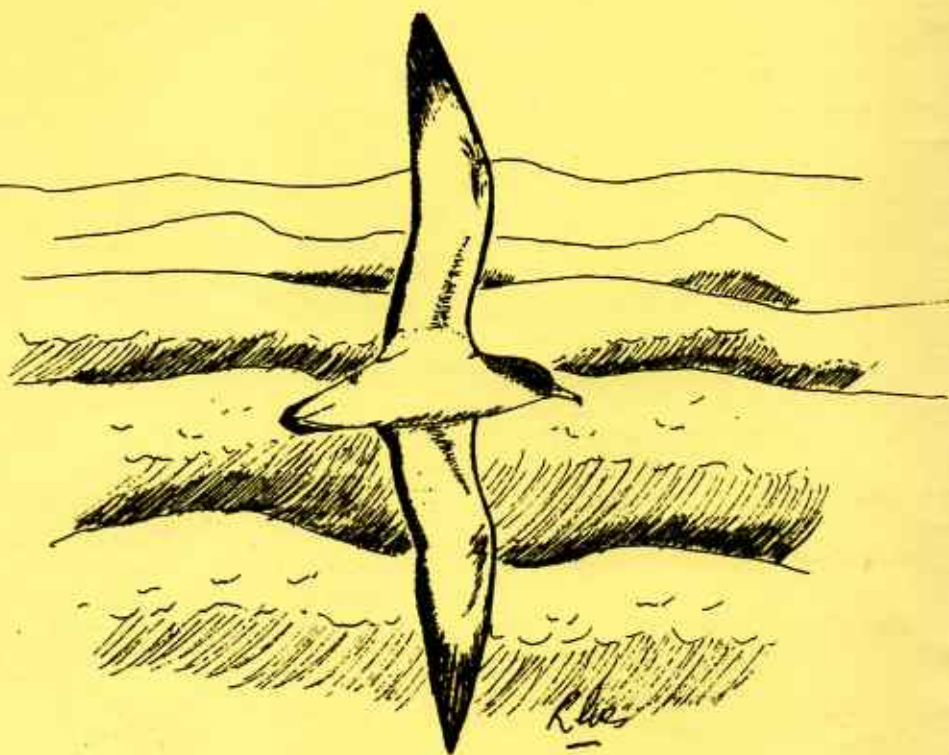


**Shoreham & District
Ornithological Society**

REPORT 1988





SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report 1988

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Cover Logo, Maps, & Line Drawings by R.A.Ives
Graphs and tips on the computer by Brian Clay
Proof Reading by Dave Smith

EDITORIAL

Well the controls have been handed over to a far less experienced hand on word processors but I hope the join isn't too apparant. May I give my thanks to Brian Clay who has managed to provide an excellent report over the last few years. The benchmark he set will be difficult to maintain but I shall endeavour to do my best. Also thanks for the help you gave to me especially on showing me how to get started !

Thanks must also go out to all those who served on the committees and for all those people who volunteered to help with providing refreshments at the indoor meetings. Those intrepid leaders of the outdoor meets should also be thanked as many members were shown a good selection of species and I am sure that each outing will be remembered for the camaraderie and the special identification tips on the birds seen.

1988 saw the appearance of the Society's own publication : Birds of Shoreham , this book has put us firmly on the map and the data provided will be used as a base line for any specific survey work that we shall be undertaking in the future . Congratulations should be given to all those who put in their time and effort to produce such a high class piece of work.

Mike Hall is stepping down as Chairman owing to work commitments and we must thank him for his work and the legacy that he and the society have left at Ferring rife which will, no doubt, reap benefits as the trees and bushes really take hold.

The cover has been changed to show a change in stewardship but I trust that the quality will remain the same or even bettered. Finally thanks must be given to Dave Smith for all his hard work in collating the records and presenting them in such a way that it wasn't such a daunting task compiling this report and to my poor wife Eva who has managed to keep her patience on those lonely nights as I tapped away on the Society's latest asset.

There would be nothing to write about without your contributions so please keep sending Dave your records.

Richard Ives

Sponsored Birdwatch

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank everyone who took part in the sponsored birdwatch in July.

A total of £325.48p was raised by the ten people who took part and by donations given at the Bar-B.Q. This figure covered the cost of the computer and allowed us to make a donation to the R.S.P.B. for their Caledonian Pine Forest Appeal. Two prizes were given: 1 for the person who raised the most money - won by Phil Clay (£75), and the other for the most species seen won by Brian Clay (88 species). A clean sweep by the brothers- perhaps next time someone else will be able to play.

Richard Weal
(Secretary)

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1988

1988 contained neither hurricanes nor hard weather as experienced in 1987, but still had its moments with a scattering of rarities and an excellent offshore passage in the spring.

The weather was unusually mild and wet in January and February, and consequently brought no influx of species associated with colder conditions. January brought single "ringtail" Hen Harriers to Shoreham Airport on 4th and Chantry Hill on 6th, a Buzzard over Steyning on 18th and two Scaup on Widewater on 4th. Few wildfowl were noted, Wigeon being almost non-existent and Pochard and Tufted Duck numbers were lower than usual. Waders included 3 Purple Sandpipers at Brighton Marina and 35 Golden Plovers on the upper Adur levels. No large passerine flocks were reported; Fieldfares and Redwings were very scarce, only 1 Black Redstart was reported with few Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs; 6 Bramblings were at Shoreham Airport on Jan 4th.

High rainfall caused extensive flooding on the upper Adur levels attracting unusual numbers of dabbling duck. Peak counts in February were 300 Teal, 66 Pintail, 40 Mallard, 15 Shoveler and 9 Gadwall, plus a herd of 24 Bewick's Swans, now becoming regular at this locality. Other notable February sightings were a Merlin at Mill Hill on 9th, 1-3 Jack Snipe at New Salt's Farm on Feb 6th with 1 at Wiston on Feb 7th, and a now rare record of the decreasing Barn Owl, on the upper Adur levels on Feb 14th.

March began with a cool north to northwesterly airstream bringing low temperatures for the first half of the month, after which warmer westerlies dominated. The highlight of the month, if not for the year, was a male

Little Bittern found on Hove Seafront on Mar 30th and released at Oreham Common, near Woods Mill that day. More than usual Shags were evident along the coastline, and at the beginning of the month a Red-necked Grebe was off Hove on Mar 1st. Seldom seen on seawatches, the herd of 27 Bewick's Swans flying eastwards along the tideline at Widewater on the early morning of Mar. 9th must have been a magnificent sight for the lucky observer.

Vying for raptor of the year was a Red Kite at Hollingdean on Mar 22nd, probably part of an influx into southern counties at the time, and an escaped Eagle Owl was present in the Adur Valley from Mar 15th.

The first Sandwich Terns, Sand Martins, Wheatears, and Chiffchaffs arrived on typical dates but a Swallow at Widewater on Mar 25th and a Tree Pipit there on Mar 31st were early. Other notable species were Purple Sandpiper (5), a Glaucous Gull, and a leucistic Common Gull, rounding off a good month.

April was rather cool with anticyclones bringing predominant easterly and south-easterly winds, ideal for seawatching. Full details are given in the 1988 sea-watch report but suffice to say that good numbers of Arctic, Pomarine and Great Skuas were seen passing the beaches, with high totals of Common/Arctic, Sandwich and Little Terns, also Common Scoter and Little Gulls. Six Great Northern Divers and a Roseate Tern at Worthing Beach on Apr 30th are worthy of mention, and up to 7 Mediterranean Gulls were noted between March and May. The only record of Black-necked Grebe was 3 off Worthing beach on Apr 2nd. A Hoopoe was at Wild Park on Apr 20.

The first Whinchat on Apr 15 was early but Redstarts, Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Garden Warblers appeared on typical or slightly early dates. House Martins, after the first arrivals on Apr 10th became scarce, not being recorded again until 24th. The first Ring Ouzel was at West Durrington on Apr 16th and the first of 4 spring Grasshopper Warblers was at Hollingbury golf course on Apr 17. Splendid black and white male Pied Flycatchers were at Goring Wood on Apr 16th and Southwick Hill on Apr 17th. Raptors during the month included a Peregrine at Widewater on Apr 3rd, two Buzzards, and the first Hobby on 26th.

After an unsettled start, May improved weather-wise with settled, spring-like periods but still with dominant easterlies. Rarities included an amazing 6 Cory's Shearwaters at Worthing beach on May 2nd and an adult Night Heron at Woods Mill on 6th.

Several Roseate Terns were seen passing the beaches during the month, also 2 further Great Northern Divers and 3 Spotted Redshanks. Raptors included another Peregrine, at Wild Park on May 28th, and two further Buzzards. Quail arrived mid-month, with up to 4 calling in the Cissbury area;

the first Spotted Flycatcher was seen on May 9th, and other notable passerines included 3 Pied Flycatchers and 4 Wood Warblers at Wild Park.

As usual June and July were quiet months; June was cool with few fine days and fewer highlights. Encouraging were churring Nightjars at Cissbury and Sullington Warren, and 2 reeling Grasshopper Warblers at Devil's Dyke but few breeding Turtle Doves were noted. Otherwise, a Crossbill flew over Cissbury on Jun 19th and a Barn Owl was present at Washington Bostal on Jun 5th.

July was one of the wettest on record with Atlantic depressions persistently further south than usual, bringing an associated south-westerly airstream. Not surprisingly, there were few birds of note; single Mediterranean Gulls were logged at Worthing beach and Brighton Marina, an early Little Ringed Plover was on R. Adur on Jul 7th, two more Crossbills were noted at Cissbury, and a Buzzard flew over Wild Park on 30th.

A warmer settled spell occurred in the first two weeks of August after which unsettled conditions again took over. Returning waders included Little Stints on R. Adur on Aug 17th and Widewater on 18th and the first Curlew Sandpiper was noted on Aug 18th, on which date a Spotted Redshank was present on R. Adur. The second Little Ringed Plover of the autumn was at Widewater on Aug 31st but generally passage waders were seen in low numbers.

There were few unusual passerines, with a scattering of Pied Flycatchers, and 2 Crossbills at Sullington Warren.

Weather conditions were much improved in September with dry and warm days dominating the month. A Barred Warbler was reported from Wild Park on 1st and 2nd with a Honey Buzzard there 3rd, and a Merlin at Shoreham on 5th. High numbers of Curlew Sandpipers were seen along the south coast, and the species' presence was noted at Widewater and R. Adur throughout the month, with a maximum of 20 at the latter locality between 4th and 6th. Smaller numbers of Little Stints and Greenshanks were reported, plus 3 Ruff and a Spotted Redshank.

A Wryneck was at Cissbury on Sep 20th and an early Fieldfare flew eastwards there on Sep 11th, whilst a significant influx of Siskins and Redpolls began which continued, to peak in October.

Miscellany included a Red-necked Grebe flying west at Worthing beach on Sep 23rd, 2 Shags in Brighton Marina on Sep 10th, and a Long-eared Owl at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 19th.

October began warm and settled but the inevitable depressions were not far away, and a south-easterly airstream soon returned.

Highlights of the month were single Yellow-browed Warblers in the Editor's garden on Oct 4th and 5th, a most agile and attractive eastern

species; and a Montagu's Harrier at Lancing Clump on Oct 14th. Other raptors included a Hen Harrier at Cissbury, 2 more Merlins, and another Buzzard. Up to 3 Short-eared Owls were at Wild Park at the end of the month.

Unusual waders were few, but an Avocet flying westwards at Worthing beach on Oct 30th and 4 Black-tailed Godwits on R. Adur were notable. Record numbers of Ring Ouzels were at Cissbury and Wild Park mid-month, together with a sizable passage of Goldcrests; with them were several Firecrests. A large easterly passage of Goldfinches also occurred mid-month, and a small passage of Black Redstarts and Stonechats was recorded. Many summer visitors stayed on through the month and there were late records of Spotted Flycatcher, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, and Redstart. A Wood Warbler was ringed at Cissbury on Oct 6th.

Apart from a few nights of frost in November, this month and December continued mild. Up to 4 Mediterranean Gulls were at a Brighton roost to the end of the year, there were 2 Green Sandpipers at Ferring Rife during November plus a Purple Sandpiper at Brighton Marina.

The latest-ever Sandwich Tern passed westwards at Worthing beach on Nov 20th; 3 Twite were on the Adur recreation ground on Nov 13th and 6 Bramblings were at Patcham in Nov/Dec. Fieldfares and Redwings remained scarce.

In December large concentrations of auks and divers appeared offshore; raptors included a Hen Harrier at Upper Beeding on Dec 29th and a Merlin at Broadwater on Dec 30th. 2 Short-eared Owls were on the upper Adur levels at the end of the month. Two Red-necked Grebes were feeding offshore at Worthing Pier on Dec 24th, as were 2 Slavonian Grebes of Worthing beach on Dec 27th with 1 on Dec 30th. The year ended as it began, with mild weather dominating.

Dave Smith

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, R.Bayne, M.Brayshaw, P. Brayshaw, E.Chadwell, , G.L., M.L., & N.J.Champion, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, G. Edwards, J.A. Feest, B.F.Forbes, C.J.Fox, J. Halls, M.P.Hall, S.Harthill, L.E. Hemblade, C.Hope, R.Ives, H. Jackson, R.J.B. Jackson, L.R.Keen, G.T.J.Martin, N.Mathews, V.Maynard-Smith, Mrs.C.M. Newcombe, Dr.J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, M. Prince, M.Russell, R.J.Sandison, T.C.Smart, D.I.Smith, H.Sturman, A.B. Watson, A.D.Whitcomb, P.J.Whitcome, I.C.Whitcome.

See also acknowledgements in the sea watching report.

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

"Downs" refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A24 including Cissbury/Chanctonbury. References to Worthing Beaches in seawatching data include all seawatch sites unless separately identified. "Adur" refers to the river and associated mudflats between the footbridge and the flyover.

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

Hours Watched	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
Worthing Beach	15	11	44	150	151	14	36
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
	36	41	37	16	29	580	

1. RED THROATED DIVER

Recorded at Worthing beach between Jan and May, and again after Oct 29.
The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	12	1	8	31	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	14
W	4	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	41

Last date recorded in spring was 3E on May 23. Peak movements at Worthing were 9E/2W on Jan 1; 14E on Apr 14, and 2E/16W on 27 Dec. Larger than usual numbers seen feeding offshore there with 13 on Dec 24 and 10 Dec 31.

2 BLACK THROATED DIVER

Noted at Worthing beach from Jan to May 23 and again after Nov 20, the monthly totals were:-

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

The largest movement at Worthing involved 3W on 26 Dec. Additionally, 2 reported offshore there on 24 Dec, with 1 on Dec 26. Other reports were of 2E Brighton Marina on May 2 f7 again 2E there on May 8. 1W Brighton Marina Dec 31.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER

A remarkable total of 6, all in summer plumage passed E off Worthing Beach on Apr.30 (PMB/BAEM/DIS/RAI). Additionally, singles there on May 8 (PMB) and May 22 (JAN)- all records subject to acceptance by Sussex O.S. 1987 1 between Hove and Brighton Marina from 16-23 Jan.

DIVER SP.

Records solely from Worthing beach where recorded from Jan to May 30 and again after 29 Oct, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	26	5	18	102	69	-	-	-	-	2	10	61
W	14	7	5	5	2	-	-	-	-	1	27	133

Peak movements were 19 W on Dec 24, 19W on Dec 26 and 21E/ 59W (in only two hours) on Dec 27, illustrating the high number of divers present in the Channel at this time. The vast majority of the December birds were considered by observers to most likely have been Red throated Divers.

6. LITTLE GREBE

Lower numbers than usual reported at both ends of the year, probably due to the prevailing mild weather conditions. Highest early year counts were 8 on the lower Adur on Feb 17 and 4 at Brooklands on Jan 17 and Feb 6. 3 were on the Adur on Jan 5 and Jan 26, and apart from 2 at Southwick Canal on Jan 21 and Mar 19 only singles were noted from 2 further sites.

In the autumn just 6 were reported from 4 sites; these included 2 at Widewater on Dec 17.

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

In contrast to 1987, few were noted in 1988; groups included 5 off WW on Mar 6 and 4 off Worthing beach on Apr 1.

The monthly totals of those seen in flight off Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	2	-	4	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	9	1	4	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1

At the end of the year one was in Shoreham Harbour on Dec 17 and 9 together off Goring Beach on Dec 31. 1987 100 at Shoreham on Feb 24.

8. RED NECKED GREBE

A typical year, the records were as follows; 1 off Hove on Mar 1 (SRA); 1E in s/p at Worthing Beach on Sep 23 (JAN); 1 at WW from Oct 27-31 (SRA); and 2 off Worthing Pier on Dec 24 (SH). 1987 2 off Hove on Jan 13; 2 off Worthing on Jan 18; 1 Brighton Marina Jan 16 - Feb 3.

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE

The early year influx of 1987 was not to be repeated; there were just two early records, of singles at Brooklands on Feb 6 and off Worthing on Mar 13. At the year-end 2 were off Worthing beach on Dec 27 with 1 on Dec 28 and an oiled individual there on Dec 30.

10. BLACK NECKED GREBE

The only record was of 3 in summer plumage off Worthing beach on April 2 (DIS).

12. FULMAR

Recorded on seawatches at Worthing from Jan 4 to Sep 9, the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	4	15	162	153	9	2	29	2	-	-	-
W	2	-	19	209	160	21	14	63	8	-	-	-

This table again, as in previous years, illustrates the species' scarcity from Sept to Mar. Peak movements at Worthing were 50E/20W on May 1; 32E/20W on May 2; 6E/56W on Apr 22; and 3E/6W on Aug 31.

Seldom recorded away from the coast, singles flew E over Broadwater on May 18 and W on May 31.

15. CORY'S SHEARWATER



A remarkable occurrence at Worthing beach on May 2 when 6 flew W in a force 6 south-east wind; these comprised a party of 3 W at 0630 hrs (JAN/PMB/DIS et al), a singleton W at 0652 (JAN/BRC/DIS et al), and 2W at 0853 hours (GEE/CEH/RAI et al). If accepted by the Sussex O.S. these constitute only the fourth, fifth and sixth records for the area.

18. MANX SHEARWATER

All records were for the period May-Aug and were as follows:- 2 W at WW on May 1, with singles W at Worthing beach on May 30 and May 31; 1E/2W at Worthing beach on Jun 3; in July all sightings from Worthing beach with 5W on Jul 3, 7W on Jul 4 and 4E on Jul 29; finally, 1W there on Aug 27.

1 considered to be the western Mediterranean race 'Mauretanicus', flew W with 3 Cory's Shearwaters on May 2 (JAN/PMB/DIS et al) 1987 4E at WW on Apr 11; 2E Brighton Marina May 23 with 1W there on 26th.

25. GANNET

Again, recorded offshore at Worthing Beach in every month, as the following table shows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	2	-	14	117	127	22	52	74	37	3	2	-
W	1	1	47	55	162	52	139	146	73	30	5	8

Larger numbers in both spring and autumn than 1987 with peak movements of 49E/11W on May 1; 53W on May 4; 26E/17W on May 2; and 29E/9W on Apr 30. Autumn peaks were 38W on Aug 20; and 35W on Aug 21.

26. CORMORANT

Roost counts received are as follows and show the November and December totals of birds on pylons at Wykham Farm to be a very high number for this site:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Wykham Farm	30	NC	32	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	26	NC	57	74
Southwick	14	27	22	6	NC	2	NC	NC	NC	17	24	26

The following monthly totals are from the seawatch log at Worthing Beach:-

E	4	3	17	95	114	7	4	20	36	95	65	23
W	8	5	70	89	52	3	31	31	95	120	65	69

Additionally, 54 flew in from the sea at Southwick on Nov 21.

27. SHAG

More records than usual with a notable influx in March, all sightings coming from the coast. 1 was at Brighton Marina on Jan 16 after which 8 were off WW on Mar 8, 7 at Brighton Marina on Mar 5, 7 at Southwick from 9-27 Mar, and up to 4 between Shoreham Harbour and WW from 6-13 Mar.

At Worthing beach singles were recorded as follows; 1E on Mar 13; 1W on Apr 1; 1W Apr 3; 1E/SW Apr 30; 1E May 3; 1E May 13; 1E May 15; 1E May 22. A number of these sightings may refer to the same individual.

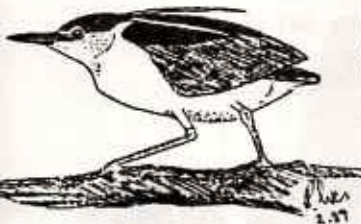
Autumn reports were 2 at Brighton Marina on Sep 10 and Dec 31, and 2W at Worthing beach on Oct 29, otherwise singles at the latter site on Jul 10 (1W), Jul 17 (1W) and Oct 30 (1W).

32. LITTLE BITTERN

A male, found exhausted in the gutter at Hove seafront on the early date of Mar 30 was released later that day on a pond at Oreham Common near Woods Mill (PJ et al). It remained for over one week giving excellent

views to the many hundreds of observers who came to see it. This constitutes the fourth record for the area, the last being as recently as 1986.

33. NIGHT HERON



An adult male was flushed from cover at Woods Mill at 0850 hrs on May 6 and relocated there at 0905 hrs (JH/MR/SW). If accepted by BBRC this constitutes only the second record for the area, the first being at Lancing in December 1954.

39. HERON

Fewer than usual noted, the largest concentrations being just 9 at New Salt's Farm on Jan 21, and 6 on the lower Adur on Dec 11. Otherwise a scattering of singles through the year flying either E or W over 9 widely spaced sites. There was a winter roost of 7 near Hole Street at the end of the year.

46. MUTE SWAN

Counts from the upper Adur were as follows:- 22 on Feb 2; 54 on Feb 7; 62 on Mar 15; 21 on May 5; 54 on Jul 6; and 3 pairs plus 13 juveniles on Aug 29. Additionally, 36 were on the lower Adur on Jun 16 and at Brighton Marina, 2 on Jan 10 and up to 4 between Oct and Dec. Again, all counts of pairs and young during the breeding season, together with non-breeding and wintering herds are most welcome.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN

A rather confusing picture emerges from the early months; On Feb 2, 24 (21 adults plus 3 juvs) were present on the upper Adur levels (BRC/CJF/RAI/DIS); but 45 were photographed in this area on Feb 12 (SRA). 24 were again reported on Feb 14 (KN); 24, including this time 11 juvs were present on Mar 15 (GLC), well after the 24 in Feb were reported to have left, giving rise to speculation that possibly up to three herds visited this area during the period.

A herd of 27 flew along the shoreline at Widewater on Mar 9 (SRA).
3 were recorded flying W over Hole Street on the Dec 12.

53. GREYLAG GOOSE

The only record was of 10 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 21.

55. CANADA GOOSE

The only records were of 14 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 31, 2 at Brooklands on Feb 17, 2 on the upper Adur levels on Apr 24, 20 flying S down Findon Valley on Apr 30, and 7 at Small Dole on Aug 4.

A pair bred at Woods Mill, raising 3 of the 4 goslings to the flying stage. (MR)

56. BRENT GOOSE

Noted at Worthing beach up to May 24 and again after Sep 17;
monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	8	77	577	1130	41	-	-	37	19	82
W	36	7	3	45	4	-	17	761	141	94

Peak movements were 693E/1W on Apr 1; 234 E on Mar 20; 182E on Apr 14; and 19E/135 W on Oct 29.

Singles were at Shoreham on Jan 10 and Mar 10, and an individual of the pale-bellied race 'hrota' flew east at Worthing beach on May 4. In autumn 65 flew SW over Wild Park on Oct 18 and singles were at Shoreham harbour between 13-20 Nov, and at Widewater for several weeks from Oct 27.

GREY GOOSE SP.

18 flew NW over Broadwater at 0830 on Nov 5.

61. SHELDUCK

Few recorded other than from sea-watch log at Worthing beach:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	8	36	87	5	-	-	-	9	-	5
W	37	23	21	44	43	2	-	21	2	51	43	42

Peak movements were 24W on Jan 8; 20E/ZW on May 29; 17E/ZW on May 8; and 9E/26W on Oct 29.

Far fewer were noted in the early months, no doubt due to the milder than usual weather conditions. 1 was on the upper Adur levels on Jan 30 with 2 there 7-14 Feb, and there was just a singleton on the Adur at Shoreham 4-14 Jan. 1 was at Widewater 9-12 Dec.

64. WIGEON

In the absence of hard weather, few were recorded at both ends of the year. 10 were on the upper Adur levels on Jan 30 with 35 there Feb 7 and 18 Feb 14. 2 were at New Salt's Farm on Jan 24 and the only record from Worthing beach between Jan & Jun was 1E on May 21.

Autumn totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	1	3	-
W	-	-	51	1	5	-

Peak movements were 27W on Sep 9 and 20W on Sep 15. 1 flew SW over Broadwater on Dec 2.

67. GADWALL

The only records were of 9 (6 males, 3 females) on the upper Adur levels on Jan 24, 2 (1m, 1fm) at New Salt's farm or River Adur between Feb 6-Mar 28, and finally 3W at Worthing beach on Aug 20.

69. TEAL

Extensive flooding of the upper Adur levels in the early months of the year brought more than usual to the area; 100 were present there on Jan 30, 102 on Feb 7 rising to 300 on Feb 14. 1 was at New Salt's Farm on Feb 6.

Again noted in small numbers passing Worthing beach as the following monthly totals demonstrate:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	18	3	3	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	-
W	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	8	11	7	-	-

The last spring record was 2E on May 21. Peak movement was 14E/1W on Feb 14.

70. MALLARD

Recorded in very low numbers during seawatches at Worthing beach with a total of just 10E/1W for the period Jan to Jun.

Counts included 40 on floodwater on the upper Adur levels Feb 7, 39 on the lower Adur on Oct 15 and 34 at Small Dole on Jan 3. Breeding was not recorded at Storrington Mill Pond this year where 3-8 broods have been noted annually from 1982-1987.

72. PINTAIL

More than usual recorded in the early months when floodwater on the upper Adur levels attracted 30 on Jan 30 increasing to 66 on Feb 2 (KN), an area record, and reducing to 22 on Feb 7 and 10 Feb 14. The largest group recorded prior to 1988 was 25 in November 1985.

None were recorded during spring sea-watches at Worthing but a total of 14 were noted in the autumn, as follows:- 1E on Aug 21, 10W on Aug 31; 1 E on Sep 15; 1 W on Sep 22; and 1 E on Nov 21.

75. SHOVELER

Counts from the flooded upper Adur levels were 1 on Jan 24, 6 on Feb 2, 22 on Feb 6, 15 on Feb 7 and 10 on Feb 14. Few were noted during spring

and autumn seavatches at Worthing, the following represent all the records: 3 W on Mar 30, 4 E on Apr 30, 3 E on May 1, and singles on Jul 17, Aug 9, Aug 17, and Nov 19.

76. RED CRESTED POCHARD

The probable-escaped male present at Brooklands in 1987 remained there for the whole of 1988.

77. POCHARD

Maximum early year counts from Widewater were 12 in Jan and 15 in Feb, and a female was present with Tufted Ducks on the upper Adur levels on Feb 7. At Worthing beach 3 flew W on Aug 31 and 8 W on Oct 2.

In the autumn, maxima at WW were 1 in Oct, 9 in Nov & 19 here or at Brooklands in Dec. A rather poor year.

80. TUFTED DUCK

As Pochard, fewer recorded than usual, maximum early year counts from WW being 13 in Jan and 17 in Feb. 10 at Brooklands on Jan 31 may have been the WW birds. Unusually 4 were on floodwater on the upper Adur levels Feb 7 (see above). Scarcely recorded on seavatches at Worthing beach, the only sightings were 1 E & 1 W (probably the same individual) on May 8 and 1 W there on Jul 27.

At the end of the year maxima at WW were 5 in Nov and 15 in Dec with up to 5 present at Brooklands during the period. 1987 29 on Patching Pond, mid-October.

81. SCAUP

The only record was of a male plus a female at Widewater on Jan 4. A poor year by recent standards.

82. EIDER

More noted than in 1987, all records coming from Worthing beach. The monthly totals were:-

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

E	9	-	1	23	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
W	1	-	6	9	6	-	-	-	3	1	12	113

The last spring record was 3 offshore on May 24, and the maximum number feeding offshore in spring was 15 on May 1, and in autumn 4 on Oct 8. Peak movement was 77W on 15 Dec.

87. COMMON SCOTER

Recorded in each month passing Worthing beach, the totals were:-

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

E	4	10	111	2591	724	5	29	14	-	38	79	25
W	2	1	23	31	21	-	59	90	15	8	73	129

Peak movements were 1005 E on Apr 14; 549E on Apr 18; 231 E on Apr 10; and 20 E/60 W on Dec 31. The largest flock noted offshore in spring was 20 on Mar 27 and in autumn just 6 on Dec 21. Additionally, 134 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 8th.

89. VELVET SCOTER

All records from the sea-watch log at Worthing beach with again small numbers recorded, autumn being particularly disappointing as the following table demonstrates:-

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

E	-	-	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

Peak movement was 4 E on May 1; the only autumn sighting was 2 W on Oct 29. Again a poor year. 1987 3 offshore Brighton in January.

91. GOLDENEYE

Unusually, very few recorded; the only records were from Worthing beach with 3W on Oct 31 and 1W on Nov 19. A reversal of recent trends, no doubt associated with the mild weather conditions prevailing at both ends of the year.

94. RED BREASTED MERGANSER

Concentrations off the coast in the early months. Here low, maxima at Worthing beach being 3 in Jan, 28 in Feb, 2E in Mar and 16 in Apr. 10 were noted off WW on Mar 6.

2 were on the Adur on Feb 5, a male was on WW on Mar 26, and on Mar 27, 2 were seen fishing successfully there.

Regularly noted passing Worthing beach from Jan to May 13 and again from Oct to the year-end. The monthly totals were as follows:-

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Sep Oct Nov Dec

E	64	34	164	230	12	-	-	1	3	39
W	62	10	84	70	7	-	-	16	41	59

Unusually, 1 was recorded inland on the upper Adur at Wineham on Oct 11.

97. HONEY BUZZARD

1 over Wild Park, Brighton on Sep 3 (GLC/IJW), if accepted by the Sussex O.S. will constitute the third record for the area; the previous two being singles in 1985 & 1986.

99. RED KITE

1 over Hollingdean at 12.00 hrs on Mar 22 was again seen, being mobbed by crows, at 16.00 hrs (ADW/IJW). It is worthy of note that a substantial influx of this species occurred in southern and eastern counties at this time.

If accepted by the Sussex O.S. this constitutes only the third or fourth area record this century, the previous records being in Nov 1971 and Oct 1979.

104. HEN HARRIER

There were five records for the year, all involving "ringtails" as follows:- 1 at Shoreham Airport on Jan 4th; 1 at Chantry Hill, Storrington on Jan 6th; 1 Cissbury on Oct 15; 1 at Hollingbury Camp Nov 18; and 1 on the Adur levels at Upper Beeding on Dec 29. A typical showing of dates and sites.

105. MONTAGU'S HARRIER

A juvenile (probably male) flew SSW over Lancing Clump on Oct 14 (PMB). If accepted by the Sussex O.S. this constitutes the second-latest autumn record for the area, the latest being at No Man's Land on 21st Oct 1972.

106. SPARROWHAWK

Again well-distributed in the area and noted from at least 19 coastal, urban, downland and wealden sites. Breeding season records indicate a minimum of 11 pairs in the area; given its preference for wooded nest-sites this may be a low estimate as it is undoubtedly under-recorded in the weald. Again noted regularly hunting in urban areas throughout the year. The maximum number recorded at any one locality was 4 at Cissbury in October, and four were recorded migrating high over Hole Street on Sep 25. Single males were trapped and ringed at Cissbury on Aug 27 and Oct 15.

109. BUZZARD

A typical scattering of singles were noted during the year, the following are all the records:- over the Steyning by-pass on Jan 18; over Hill Barn and Broadwater Apr 11; Chanctonbury on May 15; Cissbury on May 17; Wild Park on Jul 30; Lychpole Hill on Oct 30; E over Swandean Hospital Nov 23; and finally over Broadwater Dec 1. One pair present in summer - whether breeding occurred is unknown.

115 KESTREL

As in 1987, noted from at least 23 localities during the year; details of 16 confirmed breeding pairs were reported with a possible further 8 pairs; where breeding success was noted, 4 pairs raised a total of 8 young. A significant percentage of birds chose urban nest sites with fewer reported from downland; as Sparrowhawk this specie is undoubtedly under-recorded in woodland areas.

1 was seen foraging on shingle at Worthing beach on May 12. There were no sizable autumn concentrations, the largest being 7 at Long Furlong on Jul 30. The only possible migrant was a female which arrived from the south at Goring beach on Mar 26.

An albino was reported from Wild Park on Aug 15th.

118. MERLIN

A similar year to 1987, the following are all the records :- 1 at Mill Hill Feb 9; a probable immature male over the River Adur at Shoreham on Sep 5; 1 noted pursuing a Green Woodpecker over Worthing Golf Course on Oct 12; 1 male Wild Park Oct 24; and finally 1 chasing Meadow Pipits over Manor Sports ground, Broadwater on Dec 30.

119. HOBBY

First of the year was one at the upper Adur levels on Apr 26, after which the usual scattering of sightings until the last at Chanctonbury on Sep 18. The monthly totals were:-

April 2 May 7 June 1 July 1 Aug 5 Sept 4 Oct 0

No breeding records were received.

123. PEREGRINE FALCON

There were 2 records, as follows; an immature bird flew E at Widewater on Apr 3 (BFF), and a first-year male was at Wild Park on May 28 (GLC). Details of both have been sent to the Sussex Ornithological Society.

129. RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE

Coveys of 25 were reported on the downs above Storrington on Jan 4 with 15 there on Nov 12 also 15 at Cissbury on Sep 17. Otherwise singles were noted, unusual being one at Hollingdean between Mar-May, 1 at Widewater in Mar, and 1 around the buildings at Shoreham Airport on Mar 19.

ROCK PARTRIDGE

1 Beeding Hill 1 Dec. Many of these released birds remain unrecorded in our area.

130. GREY PARTRIDGE

The largest covey reported was 40 at Applesham Farm on Sep 21. Up to 4 were between Cissbury and Chanctonbury May - Jul, with 17 there on Aug 29, and 4 were at Truleigh Manor on Feb 6.

Breeding season records received were 2 pairs at West Durrington and 1 pair Devil's Dyke. Unusual was a male in a central Worthing garden on Oct 23.

131. QUAIL

An average year with singles calling from the downs above Sompting on May 15, Cissbury on May 12, and No Man's Land and Cissbury on May 17. 3 reported below Cissbury and 1 near Lychpole Hill between May 8 and Jun 3.

136. WATER RAIL

A poor year. A bird present at Woods Mill at both ends of the year and possible breeding there during the summer. The only other records were singles at the Sanctuary on Mar 13 and 30.

142. MOORHEN

Peak counts included 32 on Falmer Pond on Dec 17, 26 at Brooklands on Jan 17, and 10 there on Mar 13. 1 was at Brighton Marina on Jan 10.

Breeding records were as follows:- a pair at Queen's Park, Brighton on May 11 with two juveniles present in Jul, 2 pairs Storrington Mill Pond, and two pairs with 4 juveniles on Poynings Pond in Jul.

145. OOOT

Fewer recorded than in years involving hard weather; peak monthly counts for Brooklands and Widewater were as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	62	34	15	NC	NC	26	40	56
Widewater	7	8	NC	NC	1	NC	1	2

1 was on the River Adur at Shoreham Jan 11- Feb 11 and 2 were at Brighton Marina on Mar 14.

151. OYSTERCATCHER

Recorded in every month and as usual the largest numbers were from the seawatch log at Worthing beach; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	5	5	19	90	105	-	-	14	15	19	62	79
W	-	2	6	56	55	3	12	90	35	13	10	36

Peak movements were 30E/3W on May 7 and 35E/1W on Nov 19. Counts at the Goring roost were:- Jan (30); Aug (8); Sep (19); and Dec (3). Up to 6 present on the River Adur at Shoreham each month with 7 on Dec 8 and only 1 in Jun. 10 were on Ferring beach Nov 2 with 7 there Dec 25.

153. AVOCET

5 flew E at Worthing beach on May 16 (JAN), and 1 flew W there on Oct 30 (PMB). 1987 3 flew E at Brighton Marina on Mar 21.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER

Passage migrants numbered one in spring and two in autumn; the following are all the records:- 1 on lower Adur on May 6; 1 there on Jul 7; and 1 at Widewater on Aug 31.

159. RINGED PLOVER

Peak monthly counts were as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
River Adur	139	54	11	245	340	161	285	215
Goring	309	-	-	24	144	103	126	192

Monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	55	37	-	-	4	4	33	11	-
W	-	-	1	4	7	2	3	29	54	44	6	-

Peak movement was 33E on Apr 29. The only breeding record was a pair with a juvenile at Brighton Marina in Jul, the same site at which a pair raised 4 young in 1987. All breeding records are very welcome. High-tide roost counts at Widewater included 57 on Aug 18 and 150 on Sep 4. 165.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER

Few recorded this year, the maximum counts being 35 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 24, 18 there on Jan 31 and 3 on Feb 7. 1 was at Cissbury on Oct 1st.

166. GREY PLOVER

Recorded at Worthing beach from March to May 29 and again from Aug 9 to the year-end; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	18	51	125	-	4	13	-	5
W	-	-	1	-	2	20	32	23	34	31

Peak movements were 58E on May 7; 45E on Apr 29; and 31 W on Dec 3.

Up to 4 Jan-Mar on River Adur at Shoreham, and between Sep-Dec up to 5 there but 13 on Nov 7 and 17 on Nov 13. Counts at Goring wader roost were:- Jan (116), Aug (41), Oct (18), Nov (87); Dec (176). One on WW Sep 14 was considered unusual.

169. LAPWING

Maximum counts in the early months were 1000 at Shoreham Airport during Jan reducing to 309 on Feb 6, and 1009 on the upper Adur levels on Feb 7.

Breeding recorss were 3 pairs Lychpole farm and 3 prs Cissbury to Canctonbury; these were attempting to breed but may have been hindered by agricultural activity. All future counts of breeding pairs would be welcome. 2 were on the lower Adur on Jun 2. Post-breeding flocks included 300 on Shoreham Airport and 500+ upper Adur levels on Jul 31, with 151 remaining on the airport on Aug 18.

Autumn and year-end counts were rather low and included 500 in the Cissbury area on Aug 29; 600 on the airport on Nov 13; 500+ upper Adur levels on Dec 1; 500 at New Salt's Farm on Dec 31; and 110 on Goring wader roost on Dec 25.

Additionally, 125 flew S over Broadwater on Oct 14 and 350 flew N over Lancing on Dec 6.

170. KNOT

None were noted in the early months; the monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
E	2	155	-	-	-	23	3	-
W	19	-	-	-	2	152	-	-

The last and peak date in spring was May 23 with 98E; the largest autumn movement involved a single flock of 150W on Sep 1.

Up to 4 were reported from R.Adur at Shoreham from Aug 15-Sep 20. 2 were on the airport on Aug 18 and 1 at Widewater on Sep 10.

171. SANDERLING

Peak monthly counts of the Goring wader roost were as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
230	NC	50	40	-	-	-	10	2	2	24	117

Maximum numbers feeding on Worthing beach were 30 in Nov and 150 in Dec.

Recorded in spring from Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	-	-	19	170	274	6
W	-	-	-	5	34	-

Last recorded on Jun 3 with 6E. Peak movements were 57E on Apr 30; 47E on May 8; and 44E on May 21. Singles were present on the River Adur at Shoreham on Aug 10 and Sep 13.

175. LITTLE STINT

Noted in autumn only with singles on River Adur at Shoreham on Aug 17 and Sep 30, and at Widewater with singles on Aug 18, Sep 18 and Sep 28; 2 were present at the latter site on 20-21 Sep.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER

A good autumn, all records as usual coming from R.Adur, Widewater, or passing offshore.

In August 2 were on R. Adur at Shoreham on 26th, after which 8 on Sep 2; 4 Sep 3; 20 on Sep 4-6; between 2 & 4 Sep 8-13; 13 on Sep 16; and 3 on Sep 30. Some of these birds may have also been recorded at Widewater, counts being 1 on Aug 18; 8 on Aug 28; 10 on Sep 1; 8 on Sep 27;; and 10 on Sep 28.

At Worthing beach 1 flew W on Aug 27; 4W on Sep 14; 1W on Sep 23; and 1 W Widewater Sep 28. These numbers compare favourably with counts at other south coast sites at this time.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER

Brighton Marina continues as a regular wintering site for this species; 3 were present there on Jan 16 with 5 on Mar 5 and 1 during November, the only autumn record.

Additionally, 2 were at Shoreham Harbour on Mar 6 reducing to 1 on Mar 20th.

184. DUNLIN

The peak monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	1160	1560	204	NC	NC	20	9	84	1139	1243
Goring	310	NC	NC	NC	NC	45	20	6	41	500

Coastal movements from Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	44	231	174	1	-	6	5	37	-	-
W	-	-	2	28	25	-	13	39	75	169	-	-

Last date in spring was 1E on Jun 3. Peak movements were 69 E/13 W on Apr 29; 71E on Apr 22; and 119E/25W on Oct 29. First date noted in the autumn was 2W on Jul 14.

More than usual feeding on Worthing beach at the end of the year with a count of 590 on Dec 17.

150 were on a flooded field near Lancing College on Feb 8. Counts at Widewater included 2 on May 25, 13 on Jul 6, 30 on Aug 17; and 90 on Aug 28.

188. RUFF

The only record was 3W at Worthing beach on Sep 9 which were initially seen feeding on the beach.

189. JACK SNIPE

1 flushed from a ditch at Wiston on Feb 7 and 1, possibly 3, at New Salt's Farm on Feb 6 were the only records.

190. SNIPE

In the early months flooding in the Adur valley attracted larger numbers than during hard weather in early 1987. Counts included 171 on New Salt's Farm on Feb 6, 100 on the upper Adur levels on Feb 14 and 60 on the

lower Adur levels on the same day. The maximum count for Jan on the River Adur at Shoreham was 29 with 23 there in Feb reducing to 3 on Mar 10th.

Similarly, numbers at New Salt's had reduced to 2 on Mar 20. Other March counts included 75 still on the upper Adur levels on Mar 15.

Few noted in autumn; there were 2 on R. Adur at Shoreham on Oct 1, 1 at New Salt's Farm on Aug 18, and 4 at Ferring Rife on Nov 15.

194. WOODCOCK

There were just 4 records, as follows:- 1 at Cissbury on Mar 6, 1 at Wild Park on Nov 19, 1 roding at Wiston on May 3, and most interestingly one roding over woodland at West Durrington in the breeding season.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

A scattering of records, mostly involving offshore passage. At Worthing beach, 3E on May 7; 12E on May 15; 1E on May 21; 1W on Aug 15; 10W on Aug 26; 5W on Nov 5. Otherwise 4 were on River Adur at Shoreham on Oct 9 with 1 there on Aug 31. 2 were on Ferring beach Nov 15. A good year.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT

Scarce in the early months; 1 was on R. Adur at Shoreham on Jan 4 but not reported there again until 2 on Apr 8. As usual the largest numbers were seen on passage offshore at Worthing beach; the monthly totals were:-

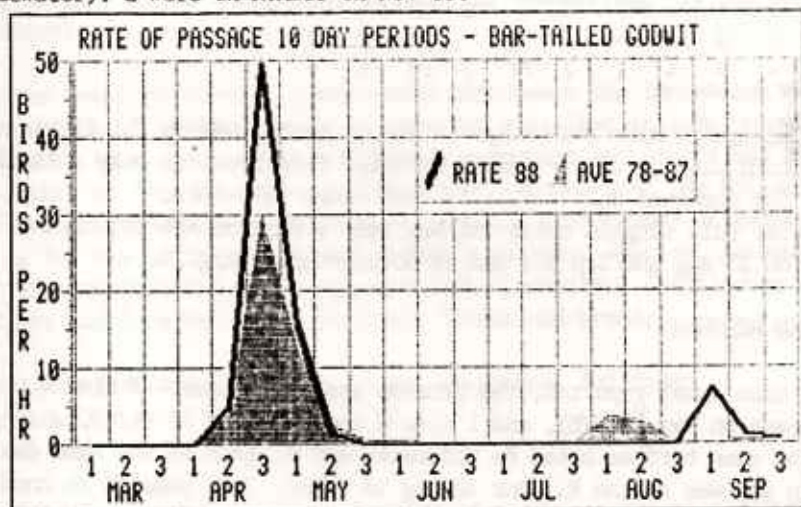
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

E	-	-	-	3438	1296	-	-	1	5	7	-	3
W	-	-	-	29	4	-	5	3	108	9	2	-

In spring, a return to form after the indifferent year of 1987. First noted in spring on Apr 1 (1E), the last was on May 23 (1E). The first autumn record was on Jul 5 (2W). Peak movements were 1549E/3W on Apr 29; 657E on Apr 24; 578E on May 7; 547E on Apr 30; 506E on May 1; and in autumn, a single flock of 70W on Sep 1.

Unusual numbers were present in autumn frequenting the Goring wader roost from Sep to the year-end, the peak being 23 on Oct 8 reducing to 2 on Dec 25. Similar numbers, possibly involving the same birds were seen on the R. Adur and Widewater during this period, counts including 3 on Aug 31; 4 on Sep 6, 26 on Sep 16 and 24 on Sep 30 (Adur); and 24 on Sep 10 with 10 on Sep

28 (Widewater). 2 were on R.Adur on Nov 13.



198. WHIMBREL

Coastal movements at Worthing beach were noted from Apr 3 to May 25 and again from Jul 10 to Sep 15; the monthly totals were:-

Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

E	-	379	70	-	-	10	-	-
W	-	44	29	-	23	6	2	-

As can be seen, the May figures in particular were rather low. Peak movements were 143E/6W on Apr 16; 60E on Apr 22; and 41E on Apr 24 indicating a slightly earlier spring passage than usual. Largest autumn movement was 17W on Jul 17.

Small numbers were reported from the lower Adur in autumn, the first being 1 on 7-8 Jul after which the largest parties were 5 on Aug 26, 6 on Sep 2, 3 on Sep 10, and last recorded there with a single on Sep 30.

Inland records involved 4 on the upper Adur levels on Apr 26; 1 there on Jul 10; 2W over Broadwater on Jul 7; and 1S over Hollingbury on Sep 16.

199. CURLEW

As usual the majority noted during sea-watches at Worthing; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	7	3	32	4	2	-	-	2	2	2	-
W	-	-	-	4	1	2	79	1	19	1	-	1

Peak movements were 24E on Apr 14 and in autumn 46W on Jul 17. As can be seen, return passage was noticable in July; this total is only a little lower than the combined July totals for the years 1978-1987.

Otherwise only singles noted; at New Salt's Farm on Apr 10; on the lower Adur on 25 Aug and Sep 10; and at Goring Gap on Aug 29.

201. SPOTTED REDSHANK

More than usual reported, the records are as follows:- 3 flew N over Worthing beach on May 7 (GVE), and 1 flew W there on Sep 10 (RJS), which was probably the same bird as noted on Widewater and R. Adur on the same day (PMB). 1 in s/p was on the R. Adur on Aug 18 (PMB). This remains an unusual species in the area.

202. REDSHANK

Sporadically recorded from spring sea-watches at Worthing with 2E in Jan; 5E/1W in Mar; 3E in Apr; 2E/3W in May; and none in June.

Systematic counts of the birds on the R. Adur were as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
152	132	111	26	58	70	36	72	91	143

Occasionally recorded with other waders on the Goring roost, the maximum was 5 there in Dec.

The "creamy" individual was noted again on R. Adur from Jan 5 to Mar 16.

204. GREENSHANK

Rather scarce this year. In spring, singles flew E at Worthing beach on May 14 and May 15. Autumn was only a little better; there were up to 2 on the R. Adur at Shoreham between Jul 15- Sep 6, with singles at Cuckoo's Corner on Aug 23, and a juvenile at the Flood Arch on Aug 11, 1 flew over Cissbury on Aug 18. Singles flew W at Worthing beach on Sep 9 and Oct 30, the last date noted.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER

Unusually none were reported in the early months. First of the year was not until Jul 27 when 1 flew W at Worthing beach (RJS), the first sea-watch record for this locality. 1 was recorded flying W over Devil's Dyke on July 15. Apart from 2 at Ferring Rife on Nov 8 only singles were noted in autumn to the year-end; on the upper Adur on Aug 29 and again there on Dec 1 and Dec 27-29.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER

First of the year were singles at Ferring Rife on May 6 and calling at Wiston on May 8, after which singles at Worthing Beach (1E) on May 11 and 1W on May 12, and on R.Adur on May 15.

The first returning birds were 3 at Brighton Marina on Jul 16 and 2 on the R. Adur at Coombes on Jul 20. Most records thereafter were from the Adur Valley, largest numbers being 13 on the upper Adur at Wykham on Jul 31, 11 Cuckoo's Corner on Aug 21, 4 Small Dole pond Jul 31 and 4 in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 21. Only 10 further singles were noted mainly in Aug; these include 1W at Worthing beach on Aug 29, 1 at Ferring Rife on the same day and 1 on R. Adur at Shoreham Sep 9, the last recorded.

213. TURNSTONE

Noted in the sea-watch log at Worthing beach from Mar to Aug; the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	2	8	87	-	-	-	-
W	-	4	5	-	5	10	-

Peak movement was 33E on May 15.

Recorded from R. Adur (Shoreham) in the following months; 7 in Jan; 2 in Feb; 1 in Mar; 1 in Aug; 1 in Oct; 7 in Nov. Other groups included 7 at Ferring on Oct 25 and Nov 8, 4 at Goring wader roost on Nov 5, 5 Goring beach Dec 31, and at Widewater 2 on 18-28 Aug with 3 on Sep 4.

217. POMARINE SKUA

A higher spring total passing Worthing beach than in 1987 with 7E in Apr and 42E in May. The records are as follows:- 6E Apr 22; 1E Apr 23; 22E May 1 (which included the largest party noted of 16); 6E May 2; 1E May 3; 1E May 7 1E May 8; 1E May 13; 4E May 21; 1E May 22; 5E May 23. Passage appeared to peak slightly earlier than usual.

In autumn, 1 flew W at Worthing beach on Nov 20, at a time when large numbers were recorded from North Sea coasts. 1987 Singles at Brighton Marina on Sep 21 and Oct 17.



(Arctic Skua)

218. ARCTIC SKUA

First recorded on the early date of Mar 25 at Worthing beach. Numbers logged in spring there were well above the dismal year of 1987 as the following table shows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
E	1	42	109	4	2	3	6	1	-
W	-	-	1	-	2	1	7	1	-

Peak movements were 30E/1W on May 2; 29E on May 1; 21E on Apr 30; 16E on May 3; and in autumn 4E/3W on Sep 24. The four July individuals occurred around mid-month, and may have been non-breeding birds summering off the south coast.

Reports away from Worthing beach were 2E Brighton Marina May 2 with 3E there May 8; and 7E Widewater on May 6 with 3E there on May 7.

220. GREAT SKUA

More noted than in 1987 passing offshore in spring at Worthing beach, as shown by the following monthly totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	14	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-

Peak movement was 9E on Apr 16, which included a remarkable party of 6. Autumn was disappointing with 1E Jul 24; 1W Aug 9; 1 W Aug 29, and 1E Oct 29. 1 flew W at WW on Aug 21.



222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL

After just 4 records in 1987, an excellent year with up to 14 recorded. First of the year were 2 adults on R.Adur on Mar 14 (KN), after which a second-year bird flew W at Worthing beach on Mar 17 (JAN), an adult E plus an adult W on May 1 (JAN/RJS/RAI), and a second-year bird W on May 2 (JAN). A second-summer bird flew W at Worthing beach on Jul 24 (JAN) and an oiled second-summer bird was present at Brighton Marina on Jul 22 and again on Oct 29 (PJW). The same bird was also noted on the gull roost at Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton from Nov 3 to at least Nov 20, where, during this period there was also an un-oiled second-year (IJW), an adult (JMS) and a first-winter (IJW); the latter arriving in Dec.

An adult was ringed at Sompington refuse tip on Dec 7 (ABW)

225. LITTLE GULL

At Worthing beach, one of the best years on record for this attractive gull with a total of 158 passing offshore during the year; the monthly

totals were:-

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

E	2	-	-	98	51	-	-	-	1	4	-	-
W	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-

The first were 2E on Jan 21 and the first spring record 2E on Apr 2. As can be seen, most occurred in Apr/May peak movements being 21E on Apr 14; 20E on Apr 16; 25E on Apr 30; and 26E on May 1. Additionally, 8 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 2 with a single E there on May 8. 1 was at Widewater on Feb 11, and unusually 3 flew W over Wild Park on Aug 27.

228. BLACK HEADED GULL

Noted passing offshore at Worthing beach from Mar - Jun the monthly totals being:- 248E/48W, Mar; 1308E/223W, Apr; 2103E/199W, May; and 21E/1W, Jun. Peak movement was 358E on May 13.

Other counts were 800 West Hove golf course on Jan 1, 490 on Worthing beach on Jul 15, 6000 at Lychpole farm on Sep 5, and 5000 flying S over Lancing on Dec 6. Ringing records involved 411 at Sompting tip and 392 at Washington.

233. COMMON GULL

Recorded in the sea-watch log at Worthing beach from Apr-Jun, the monthly totals were:- 437E/8W, Apr; 67E/10W, May and 1 W June. Other counts were 220 near Small Dole on Mar 9, 400 at Cissbury on Apr 23, and 200+ Cissbury on Nov 11

A very pale leucistic individual was present at Goring beach on Mar 26 and at Worthing beach on several dates thereafter; also in flight over Broadwater on Mar 27.

234. LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL

At Worthing beach just 8 flew E in Apr and 2E in May. Otherwise, few reported, the largest number being 20 on the River Adur at Shoreham on Dec 20.

235. HERRING GULL

Rooftop nesting again reported from Brighton away from the seafront at Dorothy Stringer School, Barnett Road and Hertford Road. The status of the central Worthing colony in 1988 is not known, although 1 young was raised in Oxford Road A most unusual record was received of this species taking a Swift at Patcham on May 13 (GLC). The maximum count for the Cissbury area was 32 on May 30.

Individuals of the yellow-legged race "hutchinsii" were noted with 1 on R. Adur on Feb 6; after which noted between Jun-Nov as follows:- 5 on River Adur on Jun 22, 1 there on Jul 27-28, 4 Washington 12 Jul; 11 between the Tollbridge and Cuckoo's Corner on Aug 11; 1 there Aug 31; 12+ at Washington 27 Aug; 9, one of which showed a green ring near upper Beeding on Sep 8; 89 at Washington 30 Sept, with 17 there on 27 Oct and finally 2 there on 5 Nov

237. GLAUCOUS GULL

A first-winter bird flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 3 (JAN)

238. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL

The only counts received were 56 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Aug 9, 230 there on Dec 20, and 59 flew SW over Lancing on Dec 6. All roost counts of this species would be welcome.

240. KITTIWAKE

Recorded offshore at Worthing beach in every month, the totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	5	-	18	106	184	9	3	9	5	5	18	2
W	98	13	20	41	82	46	49	22	13	25	19	194

Peak movements were 37W on Jan 31; 3E on May 23; and 1E/76W on Dec 26. Otherwise, 1 was on Widewater on Jan 15, 3 there 24 Dec, and 70 were present at Brighton Marina on Sep 10.

245. SANDWICH TERN

Recorded at Worthing beach from Mar 19; the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
E	32	2973	1896	142	46	45	23	6	-
W	10	288	170	113	145	223	185	7	1

As can be seen, a good spring passage noted. Peak movements were 234E/5W on Apr 2; 470E on Apr 14; 409E/15W on Apr 16; 391E/17 W on Apr 18; 656E/9W on May 1; and in autumn, 97W on Sep 3.

2 juveniles with 2 adults were at Southwick on Jun 26 and up to 4 were on R.Adur (Shoreham) Jun 23-Jul 26. Last of the year, and the latest record for the area was 1W at Worthing beach on Nov 20.

246. ROSEATE TERN

A good year with 5 records, all in spring/early summer and all of them from Worthing beach:- 1E with a Common Tern on Apr 30 (PMB/BAEM/DIS); 1E with a Sandwich Tern on May 8 (PMB); 1E with 4 Common Terns on May 23 (JAN/RJS); 1E on Jun 23 (JAN); and 1W on Jul 1 (PMB). All details have been sent to the Sussex O.S.

1987 1 at Brighton Marina Sep 3 and Sep 21-25.

247. COMMON TERN

1 flew E over Broadwater on May 23, and 3 were present on R.Adur on Aug 31.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

Recorded offshore between Apr 6 and Oct 12, the monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	1954	6418	22	20	79	144	15
W	27	79	4	52	346	959	3

A good spring passage which included the highest day total for the area of 3269E/51W on May 1. Other peak movements were 976E on Apr 29; 329E/22W on

Apr 30; 376E/6W on May 8; 1323E on May 23; in autumn, 342W on Sep 3; and 63E/270 W on Sep 14.

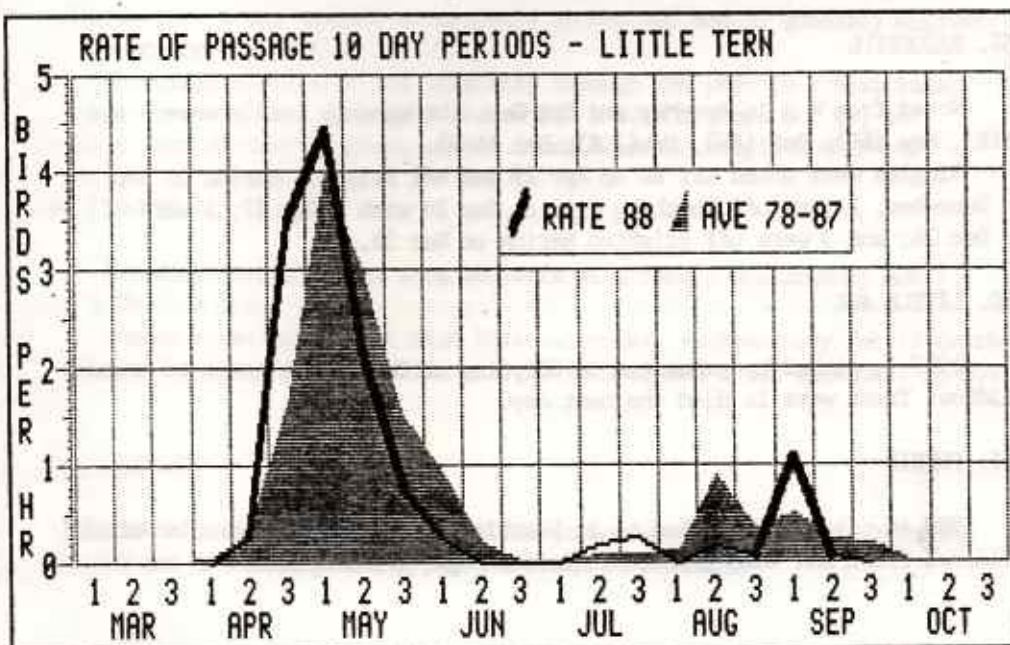
Away from the coast, 45 flew S down the R.Adur at Upper Beeding on Aug 9, 1 flew SW over Cissbury on Oct 2, and the last of the year was 1 on R.Adur on Oct 13.

251. LITTLE TERN

Noted offshore at Worthing beach between Apr 6 and Sep 14, the monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	223	440	1	-	-	12
W	17	13	2	7	5	1

Peak movements were 222E on May 1, a record day total for the area; 93E on Apr 30; and 59E on Apr 29. As with other tern species, a good spring passage; the eastbound total of 676 is the third highest for the area, only exceeded by 699 in 1980 and 687 in 1983.



Few noted in the autumn, the last being 1W at WB on Sep 14.

253. BLACK TERN

Recorded from WB between Apr 29 and Jun 2 but, unusually none noted there in 195 hours of watching in the autumn. The monthly totals were:- Apr (2E), May (44E), Jun (2E). Peaks were 8E on May 6 and 9 E on May 7. An average spring but disappointing autumn.

255. GUILLEMOT

Few specifically identified on seawatches at WB ; the totals were 3W in Jan, 1W in Feb, 1E in Mar, 1W in Apr, 4E in Nov, and 10W in Dec.

Scarce in the early months, just singles noted at Brighton Marina on Jan 20 and Mar 5. However, large numbers were seen offshore in December with peak counts of 41 off WB on Dec 26, 50 off WW on Dec 23, and 20 off Brighton Marina on Dec 31. A number of these birds were noticeably oiled and, although no figures are currently available, many oiled birds are thought to have been picked up from the beaches or from the sea. .

257. RAZORBILL

Noted from W B in Apr-May and Oct-Dec, the monthly totals were:- Apr (11E), May (6E), Oct (2W), Nov(1 E), Dec (4 W).

Singles were noted off WW on Apr 29 and off Brighton Marina on Sep 10. In December, 2 were off Worthing Pier on Dec 24 with 1 Dec 27; 3 were off WW on Dec 26; and 3 were off Brighton Marina on Dec 31.

260. LITTLE AUK

1987 1, picked up exhausted in Steyning on Oct 12 was taken to Arundel Wildfowl Trust where it died the next day.

261. PUFFIN

1987 An oiled bird picked up at Worthing on Feb 28 was taken to Arundel Wildfowl Trust and then removed to Brent Lodge bird hospital.

AUK SPECIES

Auks not specifically identified were recorded passing WB in most months; the totals were:-

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

E	13	-	8	23	34	-	1	-	-	4	9	13
W	35	2	12	8	8	-	-	-	2	12	10	92

Last recorded in spring on May 30. Peak movements were 2E/25W on Jan 8; 15E/2W on Apr 30; 8E/58W on Dec 23; and 17W on Dec 24.

264. STOCK DOVE

Apart from 100 on farmland at Truleigh Manor on Jan 30 no other concentrations were reported. Breeding season records were 6 pairs Wild Park/ Hollingbury Woods and 2 pairs Sandgate Park. All counts of feeding flocks and breeding records would be welcome to assess what impact the hurricane of Oct 87 had on this tree-hole nesting species.

265. WOOD PIGEON

Counts included 2000W at Mill Hill on Dec 15 and 1000N over Lancing on Dec 6th.

266. COLLARED DOVE

The highest concentration noted was 200+ at Standean Farm, Patcham, on Dec 17, and 75 there on Nov 12. 57 were counted on electricity wires at Beeding cement works on Jan 18. 11 pairs bred in Wild Park/ Hollingbury Woods area. 1 at Cissbury on 31 Jul was considered unusual for the site. Again, all counts of feeding flocks would be welcome.

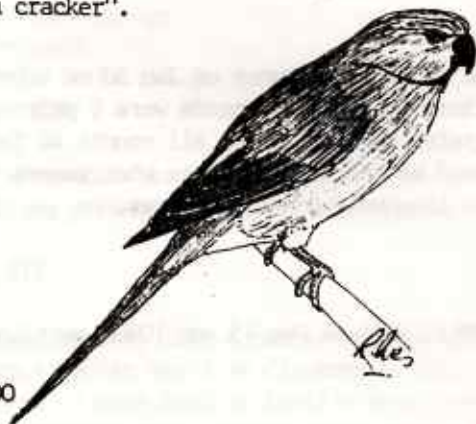
267. TURTLE DOVE

First noted was 1 at Cissbury on May 9 after which few were reported. The following are ALL the records:- singles Cissbury May 14 & 15 with 2 on

May 21, 3 there May 17; IN WB May 21; 1 Mill Hill Jun 19; 1 Shoreham Airport Jul 27; 1 Cissbury Jul 31; 8 Waterhall and 2 Cissbury Aug 18; 2 Cissbury Aug 20; 2 Wild Park Sep 3; and the only breeding records this year were of 2 pairs at Devil's Dyke and 1-2 pairs Lychpole. An apparently poor year- all records of this species would again be welcome, as a decrease was also noted in 1987.

269. RING-NECKED PARAKEET

The Hollingbury Woods colony fared a little better this year with one pair successfully fledging 2 young. The total population at this site is thought to be six, although 8 were seen on one date. 1987 The undated record at WB referred to in last year's report was on Nov 5. Observer comments that it "was a cracker".



271. CUCKOO

First recorded at Southwick Hill on Apr 13 and Cissbury on Apr 16, mainly singles reported from 11 sites 1 in late Apr-early May but 3 were at Cissbury on Apr 28 and 2 on the upper Adur levels on Apr 24. Present in the breeding season with up to 2 present at 8 sites, with reports of 2 juveniles being fed by Dunnocks. In autumn just 5 juveniles noted, 3 in August and 2 in September; the latest being 1 at Hill Barn on Sep 17.

274. BARN OWL

Again, no breeding noted, and there were just 3 records of singles; 1 Hole Street, Wiston 18 May; a probable unmated individual at Washington Bostal on Jun 5; and 1 on the upper Adur levels on Feb 14.

279. LITTLE OWL

A decline noted at Cissbury, Findon Valley & High Salvington, probably due to the after-effects of the hurricane. 1 pair bred Devil's Dyke and present during the breeding season at Coombes, upper Adur levels, Edburton churchyard, New Erringham Farm, Applesham Farm, Sullington, and Spithandle Lane.

Outside the breeding season one was noted at Nepcote on Sep 19, 2 at West Durrington on Oct 7, and singles at Ovingdean Church on Oct 15, Goring Gap on Oct 16, and West Durrington on Nov 22-23.

280. TAWNY OWL

Breeding records were as follows:- a pair at Southwick Green raised 2 young; 1 pr Goring; 5 prs at Wiston; 1 pr Woods Mill produced 2 young; also present at only 4 other sites. A decline noted at Cissbury and High Salvington. Outside breeding season just singles noted from 7 well-scattered sites. All records would be welcome.

281. LONG EARED OWL

Only two records for the year: 1 exhausted individual, probably a migrant, at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 19th; and 1 injured bird picked up near Henfield and taken to Woods Mill on 13 Dec. It was taken to the vet, but unfortunately it died the following day. (MR)

282. SHORT EARED OWL

All records from the last quarter with 1 at Wild Park on Oct 18 and the same or another there on Nov 1; 2 at Hollingbury golf course on Oct 29; and 2 on the upper Adur levels at Upper Beeding on Dec 27 and 29.

284. NIGHTJAR

Breeding was not confirmed, but single males heard "churring" at Cissbury on Jun 6 (DIS) and Sullington Warren on Jun 10 (BFF/RAI). From 1965 until this year there has only been one churring bird recorded.

289. SWIFT

The first were 2 at the upper Adur levels on Apr 24 after which a scattering of singles reported to the end of the month. No large-scale invasions were noted in May but peak arrival probably occurred between 2-7th May with 26 at Worthing Beach on the latter date. There were 50 at Cissbury on May 21. Totals at WB were 1N Apr (28th), 81N May, and 1N Jun. Counts during the summer were 90 over West Durrington on Jun 11 and 130 West Hove Golf Course on Jun 21. On return passage 500 gathered over Broadwater Jul 30 - Aug 1, 90 were over Patcham on Jul 27, and 50 West Worthing on Jul 19. 30 flew N at WB on Jul 14.

Most had departed by mid-August but small numbers remained into Sept; 3 were at West Hove golf course on Sep 5; and the last was 1 at WB and 3 over Broadwater on Sep 14.

293. KINGFISHER

As usual most noted from the Adur Valley, and between 2/3 pairs may have bred, although this could not be proven. Typical were 1 to 2 individuals present throughout the year in the New Salt's/ Flood Arch area; single (different) individuals at the Sanctuary on 15 and 22 Jun; and one at Ladywells or Cuckoo's Corner in most months. 2 juveniles at Woods Mill in Aug but there was no proof of breeding on the reserve itself. 1 was on the upper Adur on Aug 29, 1 was at Storrington Mill Pond on Aug 12 and Nov 4, and 1 flew W at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 6.

297. HOPOE

1 present at Wild Park on Apr 20 (GLC et al) 1987 1 arrived from the sea at Brighton Marina on Apr 17 and 1 was at Chantry Hill, Storrington on Apr 20- the second year in succession for this latter site.

298. WRYNECK

The only record was 1 at Cissbury on Sep 20 (BFF). Details have been sent to the Sussex O.S.



Wryneck

300. GREEN WOODPECKER

9 pairs were reported during the breeding season, again mainly from the weald, downs and Adur valley. The records suggest possible breeding by a further 6 pairs. All sightings outside the breeding season were also in areas where nesting was proven or suspected, apart from the now customary scattering of singles in observers' gardens. The hurricane of 1987 does not appear to have resulted in a noticable decline in numbers. Three different birds were ringed at Cissbury on Sep 25, Oct 23 and Nov 13.

302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

Breeding season records suggest just 12 pairs in the area. A decline noted at Cissbury and Muntham Park, which may be general in the area; the species was certainly better-reported in 1987 and may have suffered more than the Green Woodpecker from the effects of the hurricane.

Singles were noted from scattered localities outside the breeding season; a number of these included coastal sites, including singles at Brooklands on Jan 21 and Widewater on Nov 4. Just a single record this year of one regularly feeding on peanuts in a member's garden.

303. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER

There were just 3 records; 1, feeding on a peanut/fat feeder at Muntham pottery on Nov 11 was thought to have been present there all year; suspected breeding at Woods Mill but only seen occasionally; and 1 was at Cissbury on Oct 21.

311. SKYLARK

Peak count was a concentration of 500 or more in fields between Cissbury and Chanctonbury on Nov 6. Apart from 150 on the downs, 80 at Cissbury on Apr 5, at Pyecombe on Dec 17 only small groups noted, including 30 flying to roost at Highdown on Nov 4. Breeding records involved 4 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury and 2 pairs Devil's Dyke.

313. SAND MARTIN

Few arrivals were noted in spring, the first being 2N Worthing beach on Mar 27, where totals for Apr and May were only 2N and 8N respectively. Unusually 14 arrived from the south at Brighton Marina on the morning of Jul 16.

There were approximately 30 occupied nest holes at Sandgate Park; however, an abandoned colony in the area is thought to have been re-occupied, although no details of breeding numbers have yet been received.

No returning birds were noted in August; there were 6 at Wild Park on Sep 5, 5 at Ferring Rife on Sep 10, 1 over Broadwater on Sep 16 and 1 at Cissbury on Sep 24. Last of the year were 3W over Broadwater on the late date of Oct 7th.

314. SWALLOW

First of the year was 1 at WW on Mar 25 with one at New Salt's Farm on Apr 1, after which singles and parties of up to 4 noted from a number of localities over the next few days. Small numbers continued to be reported during the month but peak arrival did not appear to occur until early May when 85 flew N at WB on 9th. Spring totals from the WB seawatch log were 42N in April, 279N in May; and 1N in Jun.

Peak autumn counts were low; 1000 were at Wild Park on Sep 6 and the WB monthly totals were 696E in Sep and 1003E in Oct. 50 flew S at WW on Aug 16, and 55 were at Cissbury on Oct 21. After singles at West Hove Golf Course on Nov 6 and at WW and Adur recreation ground on Nov 13, the last was at Broadwater on Nov 17.

316. HOUSE MARTIN

A poor spring and late general arrival, giving initial cause for concern. After the first records of 2 at Ladywells on Apr 10 and WB on Apr 11 (where the Apr total was 5N only), not noted again until Apr 24 with 2 at upper Beeding and 1 at West Hove Golf Course. May was only a little better; the WB monthly total was a meagre 41N, peaks occurring around the same dates as Swallow with a maximum of 15N on May 7.

Far more significant numbers were noted in autumn; there were westerly movements at West Hove Golf Course of 630 on Sep 13, 625 on Sep 14 and 265 on Sep 16; 1500 were at Hove on Sep 17; 1000 SW over Broadwater and 2000+ Wild Park Sep 30; and in October, 5000, mostly this species, at Cissbury on Oct 2; 200 Southwick with 700E WW on Oct 3; and monthly totals for WB were 1690E in Sep and 2060E in Oct, peak day Oct 15 when 1500 flew E. Most had departed by Nov; last for the year was 1 at WW on Nov 18.

320. TREE PIPIT

First of the year was 1 at WW on Mar 31 (HS), the earliest date for the area, 3 were at Cissbury on Apr 17 and 1 at WB on May 7. This species maintains its status as a rare breeding bird in the area with just 2 records, of a pair at Sullington Warren, seen displaying in May and carrying food to the nest in June; another pair was noted at Chanctonbury in May.

Autumn records involved a total of 40 at Wild Park Aug 16 - Sep 24 with a maximum count of 17 on Sep 3. An early individual was at Cissbury on Jul 18 with another on Aug 5; 66 were noted there between Aug 20 and Sep 20 with a maximum of 40 on Sep 9. The last were 2 at Worthing crematorium on Sep 19 and 1 at Cissbury on Sep 20.

322. MEADOW PIPIT

No numbers noted in the early months until an influx towards the end of March. 500+ arrived from the sea at Goring in 3 hours on the morning of Mar 26 and a "substantial influx" was reported at WW on the same day. At WB the first arrivals were 4N on Mar 16; spring monthly totals there were 577N in Mar; 41N in Apr; and none in May. 60 were at Wild Park on Apr 20 and 40 at Cissbury on Apr 4. The only breeding season record was 6 prs at Devil's Dyke.

In autumn, between Aug 6 and Nov 19 a total of 880 passed through Wild

Park, maximum being 250 on Sep 30. Worthing beach autumn monthly totals were none Aug; 40E in Sep; 348E/ 66W in Oct; and singles in Nov; peak movement was 100E on Oct 16. A further 200 were noted at 5 additional sites Sep 30 - Oct 16. Fewer in Nov with 15 at Ferring Rife on Nov 15 and 10 Airport Dec 8, the only record for that month.

324a. ROCK PIPIT

A typical showing in the early months, as usual all records from the coast where 1-2 noted from 4 sites with 6 at Brighton Marina Jan-Mar. Late singles were reported from WB on Apr 18 and Apr 24. In autumn 14 were present at Brighton Marina on Oct 15 and 1-2 were on R.Adur at Shoreham during Oct.

325. YELLOW WAGTAIL

First of the year was 1 at Lychpole Hill on Apr 4, and few noted on spring passage; at Worthing beach the first was 1N on Apr 9 and the last 1N May 15 with monthly totals of 7N in Apr and 3 N in May.

The only breeding season record was a pair on the upper Adur levels on May 8.

As usual, far more numerous in autumn; the first returning bird was 1 at Cissbury on Aug 6 after which a total of 635 noted from 12 sites. Peak counts/movements were 200E at WW on Oct 3, a day of notable passerine movement, 75 upper Adur levels on Aug 29, 81 on 7 dates Aug 29 - Sep 25 at West Durrington, and 45 New Salt's Farm Sep 3. In Oct numbers dwindled rapidly, the last being at West Hove golf course with 5 on Oct 15 and 1 on Oct 16.

327. GREY WAGTAIL

Only 4 singles were noted between Jan-Mar from 3 coastal and 1 inland sites; and there were no breeding records although 2 were at Storrington Mill Pond Jul 27 to at least Sep.

Autumn passage noted from the early date of Aug 18 when 1 was noted at WW, and 2 were at Cissbury on Aug 30. During Sep and Oct a total of 30 were seen at 4 coastal and 5 inland sites which included 7NE in one flock over the Sanctuary on Sep 17 and 5 at Cissbury on the same day; most birds being noted around this date to the month-end and the first few days of Oct.

In Nov, 2 were at Ferring Rife on Nov 23 and Nov 27 and in December singles were reported at Hollingbury Road, Brighton on several dates, Steyning Sewerage Works on Dec 1, and West Durrington Rife on Dec 26.

328. PIED WAGTAIL

In the early months 600+ were seen arriving to roost at the Seeboard buildings in East Worthing on Feb 2, and as usual noted in numbers along the coast, counts including 40 at WW on Feb 14, 33 there on Jan 30, and 30 New Salt's Farm on Mar 13. All counts from stretches of beach or flying to roost in autumn/winter would be welcome.

Most interesting was a pair which nested in the dashboard of an abandoned car on Broadwater Trading Estate, (JAF) the only confirmed breeding; although singles were noted during the breeding season at 4 further sites.

In autumn, between Sep 9 and Nov 19 a total of 104 were noted over Wild Park, and to the end of the year a further 283 were noted from 2 coastal and 5 inland sites. This figure includes 70E over Worthing Football Club on Nov 5, 50 at Cissbury on Nov 6, and 40 at Steyning Sewerage Works on Dec 1.

329. WAXWING

In an autumn of large-scale invasion into Scotland and England, sadly none were seen in our area; few reaching the south coast.

331. WREN

Breeding season records involved 83 pairs at Wild Park / Hollingbury and 28 pairs Devil's Dyke.

At Cissbury 76 trapped Apr 17 - Nov 13, of which 18 were re-traps.

333. DUNNOCK

In the breeding season 43 pairs were recorded at Wild Park/Hollingbury and 13 prs Devil's Dyke. At Cissbury 99 trapped Apr 17 - Nov 13 of which 41 were re-traps. Interestingly, 1 noted singing at night (02.00 hrs) Findon Valley Mar 27-29.

336. ROBIN

Breeding records involved 104 pairs in 280 hectares at Wild Park/Hollingbury and 37 pairs Devil's Dyke. 78 were trapped Apr 17 - Nov 13 at Cissbury, 20 of which were re-traps. 4 at Brighton Marina on Oct 18 were unusual for the site and may well have been migrants.

338. NIGHTINGALE

First of the year were 1 at Small Dole on Apr 19 and 1 singing at Lychpole Hill Apr 24 - May 14; singing birds were reported with 2 at Wiston May 8, Rock Common (Washington) on May 15 and Chantry Lane, Storrington on May 26 and Jun 19. A non-breeding adult was at the Sanctuary on Jun 26 and a juvenile trapped there Aug 16. 1 was seen well at Lychpole Hill on Aug 14. Singles were trapped at Cissbury on Jul 31 and Aug 21, when last recorded.

342. BLACK REDSTART

Scarce in the early months, the only record being 1 at Shoreham harbour on Jan 18. Not again noted until Apr 4 with 1 at West Durrington and 1 at WB on Apr 19.

In the breeding season a pair successfully fledged 2 young at 1 site and probable breeding occurred at another. An August record close to the first of these sites may well represent post-breeding dispersal.

The first autumn migrant was 1 at Shoreham Airport on Sep 10 after which a total of 14 were noted from 4 coastal and 2 inland sites in Oct and Nov; these include 1 in a Lancing garden on Oct 26; and 1 was at Southwick beach on Dec 10.

343. REDSTART

First of the year was a female at Lychpole Hill on Apr 11 but few others seen in the spring; singles were noted at New Salt's Farm and Cissbury Apr 17, West Hove Golf Course on May 1 and in central Worthing on May 17.

One at Hollingbury Camp on Jul 16 was unusual for the date but possibly a very early returning bird, as a migrant was trapped at Cissbury on Jul 31 and 2 were reported at Hollingbury Golf Course in the last week of Jul. A total of 27 were noted at Wild Park Aug 20 - Sep 20 with a maximum of

9 on Sep 6; a further 32 were reported from 8 sites in Aug and Sep which included 9 between Cissbury and Hill Barn on Sep 6.

There were 2/3 October records; 1 was trapped at Cissbury on Oct 2, and an unsexed individual was at Ferring Rife on Oct 23 with the last of the year, a male there on Oct 25.

344. WHINCHAT

More noted in spring than usual, the first being 1 on the Adur recreation ground on Apr 15, the earliest record for the area. Following close behind was 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 22, also an early date; after which none reported again until May 6 with 1 at Ferring Rife. A further 17 were noted from 5 sites to mid-May, including 6 at West Durrington on May 12.

Return passage commenced from Aug 20, at Wild Park, where a total of 23 were recorded to Sep 22. Most were noted in Sep although 20 were at No Man's Land on Aug 31; a further 80 were reported from 6 sites to end Sep, which included 13 at Southwick Hill on Sep 10 and 20 on 7 dates at West Durrington Aug 29 - Sep 16. The last was 1 at Goring Gap on Oct 2.

345. STONECHAT

In the early months 13 were noted in Jan, all between Brooklands and Shoreham Harbour, which included a high count of 9 along the length of Shoreham beach on Jan 4. Fewer in Feb with up to 4 from WW. Again, there were no breeding records, and not noted again until Aug 31 when 1 was at No Man's Land. Sep records totalled 4 birds, 2 at Cissbury and 2 at Wild Park; passage more marked in Oct with 17 reported from 5 well-scattered inland and 3 coastal sites with day totals not exceeding 4.

Fewer in Nov when 8 noted from 5 sites and a scattering in Dec as illustrated by the localities; 1 at Steyning Sewerage Works; 1 upper Adur levels; 2 Shoreham airport; 1 Mill Hill; 1 West Durrington; strangely, none in the usual coastal sites.

Superficially, a better year but the species still gives cause for concern, especially continued non-breeding in the area. Again, all records would be welcome.

346. WHEATEAR

Passage was slight in both spring and autumn with no large falls. The first were 2 males at Shoreham Harbour and 1 at WB on Mar 20, after which noted mainly from the coast until 2 at Cissbury on May 21. The monthly totals were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
28	94	7	3	3	140	90	26	1

There were no breeding records but 3 at Hollingbury Camp on Jun 26 were unusual. Return passage commenced in late Jul with 1 on the upper Adur levels and 2 Cissbury on Jul 31 and was most noticeable in Aug, as the above table shows. The autumn total of 260 was well below the 303 of 1987, which in itself was a poor performance, considering that, as a prominent species it continues to be well reported throughout the area. The only Nov record and the last for the year was 1 at WW on Nov 4.

359. RING OUZEL

A scattering of spring records, the first of which was at West Durrington on Apr 16 after which singles at Brooklands on Apr 17, Cissbury on Apr 28, and 2 at Hollingbury Camp Apr 25-30. Noted on 5 dates at Cissbury with 3 on Apr 16 and Apr 17.

Record-breaking numbers noted in the autumn when the peak passage occurred between Oct 12 and Oct 16. The first 2 were at Cissbury on Oct 11, and on Oct 12 there were 46 at Wild Park and a flock of 8 over Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton. High numbers then recorded in the west of the region with 40 at Cissbury and 2 Goring Gap on Oct 14, increasing to 46 Cissbury (where 3 were trapped) and 3 Goring Gap on Oct 15. There were 30 along Lychpole Hill to the Steyning Road plus 25 Cissbury (with 2 trapped), 2 at Wild Park, and one at Goring Wood on Oct 16.

Numbers declined rapidly after this date with 5 at Wild Park on Oct 19 and Oct 21, 1 Wild Park and 3 Cissbury on Oct 23, 1 Wild Park and 1 Hollingbury Golf Course Oct 26, with the last, a single at Wild Park on Oct 29th.

Given the late dates in autumn most, if not all of these birds may well have been of Scandinavian origin. An exceptional passage.

360. BLACKBIRD

Breeding season records involved 130 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury and 53 pairs Devil's Dyke. An increase at Cissbury from Sept onwards; between Apr 17 - Nov 13, 66 were trapped of which 25 were re-traps.

364. FIELDFARE

Few flocks noted in the early months, the peak counts being 250 on the upper Adur levels on Feb 14 and 200 there on Mar 15; 15 were at Truleigh Manor farm on Jan 17 and 40 at Cissbury on Mar 27. The latest was 1 at Woods Mill on Apr 1.

First of the autumn was 1E at Cissbury on the early date of Sep 11, after which low numbers noted in Oct with a total of 68 for the month from 3 sites, which included 35 at Cissbury on Oct 25.

In Nov, 181 reported from 6 sites; these include 120 on the downs above Brighton on Nov 12. There were none noted in Dec.

365. SONG THRUSH

Breeding season counts were 17 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury and 8 pairs Devil's Dyke. Almost absent from Cissbury until Sep with higher numbers in Oct; 27 were trapped there, which included 9 re-traps.

366. REDWING

A rather poor year. Counts in the early months included 42 at Ferring Rife on Jan 9 and a "large nocturnal movement" over Broadwater on Mar 16.

First noted in autumn with 1E at Swandean hospital on Oct 13, after which a total of 89 reported from 4 sites to the end of the month, principally Cissbury and Wild Park where the peak coincided with that of Ring Ouzel. The November total of 82 included 70 on the Downs above Brighton on Nov 12; as with Fieldfare, there were no December records.

367. MISTLE THRUSH

Breeding season counts were 13 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury, 2 pairs Devil's Dyke, and 4 pairs Hove. There were 18 at Withdean Park on Aug 8.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER

After mainly singles each year since 1983, up to 11 birds were reported this year. The first was 1 reeling at Hollingbury Camp and another at Hollingbury golf course on Apr 17, after which reeling birds noted at Devil's Dyke on Apr 20 and Sompting on Apr 28. Encouragingly 3 reeling birds noted from 2 typical sites in the breeding season.

In autumn singles at Cissbury on Aug 18, Hollingbury Camp on Sep 10, West Durrington on Sep 25, and trapped at Cissbury on Aug 30 and Sep 17.

378. SEDGE WARBLER

The first of the year was 1 at New Salt's farm on Apr 17, when 1 was also seen at Cissbury after which singles noted at Wild Park on Apr 25 and May 14. Undoubtedly under-recorded in the breeding season in the Adur Valley, the only count received was 6 pairs at Small Dole on Jun 3 (see also Red Warbler). There were 2 at the Sanctuary on Jul 9, where a total of 6 were trapped. Just 4 returning singles noted in the autumn; Cissbury on Sep 9, at Ferring Rife on Sep 10, Goring Gap on Sep 12, and Broadwater on Sep 16.

392 REED WARBLER

Not noted until 1 at Wild Park on May 21, the only spring record.

There were no breeding records received, but a survey undertaken by the Sussex O.S. in 1986/1987 identified the Arun Valley and Sompting Brooks as the strongholds of this species in our area with 164 and 29 pairs respectively. (Additionally, 57 and 17 pairs of Sedge Warblers were found at these sites). (Prater 1988) First of the autumn was 1 in a Findon Valley garden on Jul 31.

A total of 42 were trapped at the Sanctuary and 9 at Cissbury. There were 3 late records of singles; typically, 1 at the Sanctuary on Oct 8,

after which 1 feeding in the canopy at Goring Wood on Oct 19 and 1 trapped at Cissbury on Oct 23, the latest record for the area. These last two records highlight the species' propensity for appearing "out of habitat" on migration.

396. BARRED WARBLER

1 at Wild Park on 1-2 Sept. (ADW/IJW/PJW), if accepted by the Sussex O.S. will constitute only the second record for the area.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT

First of the year was one at Wild Park on Apr 19, after which a further 24 noted to the end of the month, most of which were between Apr 25 - Apr 28. A further 6 were noted in May.

Breeding season records as follows:- Cissbury to Lychpole, 7-10 pairs; Salvington, 3-4 prs; Findon Park farm, 3-5 prs; Wild Park/Hollingbury, 6 prs; Devil's Dyke, 2 prs; West Worthing, 1 pr; Small Dole, 2 prs; with singles in the breeding season at 3 further sites.

A total of 334 were noted in the autumn from Jul 29 to Sep 28, both early and late dates being from Wild Park where 212 were recorded during this period (maximum 43 on Sep 3). Other counts included in the above total were 41 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 18, 18 trapped at the Sanctuary and 26 trapped at Cissbury.

398. WHITETHROAT

First of the year were singles at Wild Park on Apr 15, Goring Gap on Apr 17, with 2 at Cissbury and 1 at West Durrington on Apr 23 after which 20 on the upper Adur levels on Apr 26, 1 in a Worthing garden on Apr 29 ; 3 at Ferring Rife on May 6, and 15 at Cissbury on May 8.

The species quickly established itself after this date and in the breeding season 70 pairs were noted, mainly from downland sites; these include 20 pairs Cissbury to Lychpole; 12 prs Washington Bostal to Chanctonbury; 12 prs Wild Park; and 9 prs Devil's Dyke.

A total of 334 were noted in autumn with the first on Jul 15 at Cissbury and the last on Oct 21, also at Cissbury. However, this total does not include a percentage of the 99 birds trapped there between May 25 and Sept 29 (of which 19 were re-traps). Included in the total were 87 at Wild Park

Aug 2 - Sep 29, 28 at Newtimber Hill Aug 18, and 14 trapped at the Sanctuary Jul-Oct.

399. GARDEN WARBLER

First noted on Apr 23 with 1 in a Findon Valley garden after which just 4 further spring records, of singles in a West Worthing garden on Apr 29 and May 20, 2 at Cissbury on May 1, in a Worthing garden on May 2, and Chanctonbury on May 9. The species appears to be living up to its name! Breeding records as follows:- 5 pairs Cissbury-Lychpole; 3 prs Findon Park farm; 3 prs Salvington; 8 prs Wild Park/Hollingbury; 6 prs Devil's Dyke; 1 pr Goring Wood. 1 was at the Sanctuary on Jul 9 and in autumn a total of 105 noted from Aug 6 to the last at Cissbury on Oct 15; this total includes 24 at Wild Park Aug 6-Sept 13, maximum 12 Sep 3; 22 trapped at the Sanctuary Jul- Sept; and 35 trapped at Cissbury Jun - Oct, of which 11 were re-traps.

400. BLACKCAP

The only record in the early months involved a male feeding on a Storrington bird table Feb 10-Feb 17 and a male at Preston Park on Mar 21. Spring passage noted from Apr 16 with a female at Goring Wood, after which few reported in spring; 3 were at West Durrington on Apr 17 and 3 at Cissbury on Apr 28.

In the breeding season 17 pairs noted at Wild Park, 9 pairs Devil's Dyke and 2 males holding territory at Withdean Park on May 13; undoubtedly under-recorded away from the sites in which regular breeding surveys are undertaken.

In autumn noted from Aug 5 when 6 were at Lychpole Hill; after which totals from Wild Park were 237 between Aug 6-Oct 19 with a peak of 46 on Sep 3; 41 trapped at the Sanctuary, maximum 14 on Sep 17; 253 trapped at Cissbury Jun 1 - Nov 13 (including 19 re-traps), max 52 on Sep 10; and a further 111 recorded from 6 sites.

Singles at 6 sites in Nov were probably a mixture of late migrants and wintering birds. The only records in December were of single females at Lancing Clump and a garden in Broadwater on 6th and 15th respectively.

404. YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER

Full descriptions were received of 1 in a Broadwater garden on Oct 4 and

a duller individual considered to be different in the same garden on Oct 5 (RAI). Both records were associated with large movements of Chiffchaffs. If accepted by the Sussex.O.S. these constitute only the fourth and fifth records for the area.



Yellow-browed
Warbler

408. WOOD WARBLER

In spring, a small fall on May 8 when 4 were singing at Wild Park. The only autumn record was 1 trapped at Cissbury on Aug 6.

409. CHIFFCHAFF

The only Jan records were 1 in a Southwick garden on Jan 8 and 1 Brighton Cemetery Jan 15. First of the spring were singles at the Sanctuary on Mar 23 and in the same Southwick garden on Mar 24; after which 2 at New Salt's farm on Mar 27 with 3 at the Sanctuary on the same day. A further 24 were noted until the end of April, maximum being only 7, at Brighton Cemetery on Apr 22.

Breeding season records received were 10 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury, 3 pairs Devil's Dyke and 2/3 pairs Goring Wood.

Returning birds noted from Aug 6 with 1 at West Durrington, after which a total of 735 at Wild Park Aug 16-Nov 4, max 100 on Sep 3; 59 trapped Sanctuary Jul-Oct, max 25 on Sep 17; 20 at Cissbury Sep 20; 18 NW corner Goring Gap Oct 6; 25 Goring Wood Oct 9; a further 53 from 8 sites to end-Oct; and 1 at the Sanctuary on Nov 9.

At Cissbury a total of 253 were trapped Apr 17 - Oct 16 (but mainly from Aug 27), max. 57 on Sep 17. This figure included only 7 re-traps.

There were only 2 records in December, both of singles:- 1 at Wild Park on Dec 7 and 1 at Hangleton on Dec 24. 1 at Wild Park from Oct 2 to Nov 18 was considered by the observer to be probably the eastern race "tristis".

410. WILLOW WARBLER

The first in spring were singles at Woods Mill and Shoreham Airport on Apr 1 with scattered singles over the next few days. A more general passage occurred between Apr 15 - Apr 22, with between 4 & 10 reported from 6 sites but 18 at West Durrington on Apr 17. Breeding season counts were 27 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury and 33 pairs Devil's Dyke.

The first returning birds appeared around mid-July; Peak counts were 368 at Wild Park Jul 26 - Sep 17, max. 55 on Aug 23; 55 Newtimber Hill on Aug 18; 83 trapped Sanctuary Jul-Sep, max 28 on Aug 16; and a total of 104 from 4 further sites during the period.

At Cissbury 231 were trapped from Apr 17 - Oct 1, max. 47 on 27 Aug, with only 11 re-traps; the last was trapped at this locality on Oct 1.

Perhaps with the above Devil's Dyke breeding figures in mind, it is worthy of note that a proposed management plan will continue to adversely effect this and other species breeding in the Dyke area, if carried out unsympathetically as was the scrub clearance work during 1983-86. (see S.D.O.S. Bird Report 1987 p84/88 - Champion, M & N; Devil's Dyke - the effect of scrub clearance on breeding bird populations).

411. GOLDCREST

Scattered singles noted between Jan-Mar from just two sites. In the breeding season one pair bred at Devil's Dyke, a pair was displaying at Oreham Common on Apr 3, and 1 was in a Hill Barn garden on May 17.

Large numbers reported on autumn passage, which was heaviest in Sep/Oct. The total at Wild Park between Sep 9 and Nov 19 was 310 with day maxima of 50 in Sep and 45 in Oct, whilst at Cissbury exceptional ringing figures were recorded; 94 were trapped, including 9 re-traps, from Aug 27, max. 28 on Oct 16, and counts of birds seen at this site were 35 on Oct 14 and 54 on Oct 21.

Up to 20 were present at Goring Wood during Oct, and in this month a further 18 were reported from 3 other localities.

412. FIRECREST

A record year with up to 18 birds recorded. One was noted in spring, in a Hill Barn garden on Apr 13.

In autumn most were seen in Oct, passage coinciding with heavy falls of

Goldcrests. The first was trapped at Cissbury on Sep 25, after which up to 6 were present at Wild Park Oct 1-22nd; 2 were at Cissbury on Oct 16; and singles were noted at Hollingbury golf course on Oct 5; Goring Gap on Oct 6, Oct 14 and Oct 19; Devil's Dyke on Oct 13; another trapped at Cissbury on Oct 16 with 1 seen on Oct 21; and the last of the autumn at Hollingbury on Oct 22.

There were no wintering records.



413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER

First of the year were 4 at Cissbury on May 6; after which 4 at Wild Park and 1 in a Hill Barn garden on May 8, 2 at Wild Park on May 9, 1 Goring Wood May 14, 1 at Wiston Pond on May 15, and 1 at Hangleton May 30.

Breeding season records were as follows:- Wild Park/Hollinbury, 2 pairs; Devil's Dyke, 1 pr; Goring Wood, 2 prs; Storrington Churchyard, 1 pair; Hove Park, 1 pr; with singles reported from two further sites.

Autumn passage noted from early-Aug. A total of 68 passed through Wild Park/Hollingbury between Aug 6-Sep 29, max. 35 on Sep 6; 6 were at Cissbury on Aug 28; 6 were at West Durrington on Sep 6; 6 were ringed at Cissbury; and a further 50 were reported from 10 sites to the end of Sept. The last of the year and only October record was 1 at Goring Gap from Oct 6 - Oct 9.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER

A number of spring sightings with the first, a male, at Goring Wood on Apr 16 closely followed by a further male at Southwick Hill on Apr 17. Two males plus a female were at Wild Park on May 8, the female remaining to May 9th.

The first returning bird was at the Sanctuary on Aug 3, after which singles at Wild Park on Aug 15; Cissbury on Aug 18 & 22, Withdean Park on Aug 19; upper Adur on Aug 28; and the last at Wild Park on Sep 10th.

418. LONG-TAILED TIT

Breeding season records were as follows:- Wild Park/Hollingbury, 8 pairs; Devil's Dyke, 2 prs; Withdean Park, 2 prs; and Coombes, 1 pr. No large flocks were reported during the year, the best being 8 in a Storrington garden on Mar 20, 7 at Wiston on Apr 1, and 9 at Waterhall on Nov 16.

The sedentary nature of autumn/winter flocks was highlighted by ringing records at Cissbury; from Aug 27, 36 were trapped there, of which 25 were re-traps; 1 to 2 flocks were thought to be involved.

419. MARSH TIT

Apart from 2 at Wiston on Apr 1, all records were from the Downs, with 2 pairs at Cissbury and 2 prs Chanctonbury in the breeding season. 10 were trapped at Cissbury Apr 17 - Nov 13, of which 8 were re-traps. All records would be welcome.

420. WILLOW TIT

Pairs were noted at Findon Park farm on Apr 26 and Newtimber Hill on Aug 18. A pair was present throughout the year at Devil's Dyke.

422. COAL TIT

Scattered records from a number of sites through the year; the largest number seen together was 5 at Cissbury on Oct 16, on which date 1 was also trapped there. 1 pair bred at Devil's Dyke, the only breeding record received. Otherwise just singles noted from 4 further localities.

423. BLUE TIT

In the breeding season 56 pairs were in the Wild Park/Hollingbury area and 18 pairs Devil's Dyke. At Cissbury between Apr 17 - 13 Nov, 69 were trapped of which 26 were re-traps. Counts involved 170 at Wild Park Jan 9, and 100 Withdean Park Jan-Feb.

424. GREAT TIT

Breeding season records involved 25 pairs Wild Park / Hollingbury and 11 pairs Devil's Dyke. There were 80 at Wild Park on Jan 9. A total of 41 were

trapped Apr 17- Nov 17 at Cissbury, of which 16 were re-traps.

425. NUTHATCH

The largest number noted was 3 at Sleepy Hollow on Apr 4, 1-2 were present at Muntham Park on Feb 7 and 2 were at Wiston on Apr 1. Unusual at Cissbury, 1 was present on Sep 18, and at Storrington one noted feeding on a garden bird table on Dec 4. There were no other records.

427. TREECREEPER

Breeding season records were a pair with 2 juveniles at Preston Park on Jul 18, and 1 pair bred at Varndean Holt copse. Otherwise, just singles reported from Withdean Park, Storrington shopping precinct, and the upper Adur levels. As Nuthatch, undoubtedly under-recorded.

436. JAY

There were 2 pairs in the breeding season at Wild Park, and 1 pair at Devil's Dyke. 1 was trapped at Cissbury on Sep 10, and 3, possibly migrants were seen there on Oct 2.

Otherwise, there were 1-3 regularly through the year in a Hill Barn garden; 1 was at West Hove golf course Feb 1 with 2 there Oct 25; and singles were at the Sanctuary on Oct 8 and Swandean hospital Oct/Nov.

437. MAGPIE

Breeding season counts were 26 pairs Wild Park / Hollingbury and 7 pairs Devil's Dyke.

Counts received were 74 Wild Park Jan - Mar; 40 Sanctuary Feb 17 (with 16 there Oct 2); Southwick Hill, max. 30 in Jun; and 23 at Waterhall on Nov 14.

438. JACKDAW

The only record received was 1000N at Lancing on Dec 6. All breeding records and counts of feeding parties would be welcome.

441. ROOK

Counts of rookeries were as follows:-

Locality	Occ Nests	Locality	Occ Nests
* St Mary's Church, Brn.	12	Patcham Place	117 (22 in 1987)
* Hollingdean Rd. Brn.	2	Patching Pond	12+ (26 in 1987)
* Coledean	12	Hove Cemetery	1 ?
Sussex University	51	(pair present but nest not located)	
Standene Park	18		

* New Rookeries

To help assess the effects on the breeding population inflicted by the 1987 hurricane, counts of all rookeries would be most welcome; particularly the fate of those counted during the 1987 Corvid Survey (see SDOS report pages 63-64).

Feeding parties included up to 20 in a Hill Barn garden Oct 13 to Nov 26, and 72 at Ferring Rife on Nov 8.

442. CARRION CROW

Up to 70 present through the year on the seafront green at Goring. These birds are seen regularly flying towards Highdown at dusk, where the roost numbered 300 on Nov 4 (smaller numbers of Rook and Jackdaw also present).

In the breeding season 6 pairs were reported from Wild Park/Hollingbury, but a decline noted at Hove/Portslade where none of the traditional sites were used and only 3 pairs bred, nest-building there first noticed on the late date of Apr 2 (LRK). However, 12 possibly non-breeding birds were at Easthill Park, Portslade, on Jun 6.

444. STARLING

At West Hove golf course a pre-roost gathering of 11,000 was noted on Dec 4; other counts included 3000 at Shoreham Airport 25 Jan with 2000 on

Nov 1, 3000 at New Salt's Farm on Nov 13, and 300 at Waterhall on Dec 17.

448. TREE SPARROW

No large flocks were reported, and only one breeding pair noted. The following represent all the records:-

At least 2 upper Adur levels Feb 7, 1 at Shoreham beach Feb 6; 7 at Small Dole Feb 14; 1 pair present throughout summer upper Adur levels, singles at Cissbury on Sep 16 and Oct 25; and 5 at Stratham Manor (upper Adur) on Dec 1.

451. CHAFFINCH

In the breeding season 64 pairs counted at Wild Park and 45 pairs at Devil's Dyke. Counts during the year included 300 Standean Farm Dec 17, 100 Wild Park Jan 8, 100 Withdean Park Mar 12, and 42 at Truleigh Manor farm on Jan 17. Between Apr 17 - Nov 13, 42 were trapped at Cissbury, of which 3 were re-traps.

452. BRAMBLING

In contrast to 1987, few were reported in 1988. The following were all the records :-

6 at Shoreham Airport on Jan 4; 1 at Withdean Park Jan 15; 6 at Standean farm, Patcham on Nov 12 and Dec 17; and 1 at Wild Park on Oct 22.

455. GREENFINCH

The largest counts were:- 100 in two flocks at Standean farm, Patcham, on Nov 12; 124E in 2.5 hours at WB on Oct 19; 74 Wild Park Mar 12; 60 Withdean Park Feb 20; and 44 Brighton Cemetery on Feb 12.

Reported as uncommon at Cissbury this year with just 1 trapped there between Apr 17 - Nov 13, and 10 seen on Nov 6.

456. GOLDFINCH

Breeding season records mirrored 1987 at Wild Park and Devil's Dyke,

with 1 and 2 pairs respectively.

In the early months, 45 were at Upper Beeding on Mar 15 and 34 at Steyning on Jan 18. Arrivals in spring totalled just 27 in Apr & May at Worthing beach.

Visible passage was much greater than usual during Oct; at WB just 9E/SW in Sep then a magnificent 3,258E in Oct, peak movements being 900E on Oct 15; 700E on Oct 16; and 783E on Oct 19. In addition, 100 flew E at the Sanctuary on Oct 16, 100E at WW on Oct 3, 63 NE over West Hove plus 53 on West Hove golf course on Oct 16, and 80 at Cissbury on Oct 1. Fewer noted in Nov with 14 at Waterhall on Nov 14, and a total of just 6E at Worthing beach.

457. SISKIN

None were noted in the early months. The first of the year was not until 1 at Cissbury on Aug 30, the earliest autumn date on record, after which a substantial passage occurred in Sep/Oct with smaller numbers to the end of the year. Between Sep 6 and Nov 23 a total of 306 passed through Wild Park, max. 38 on Sep 13. The majority of birds seen throughout the area were flying in an easterly direction and from Sep - Nov a further 403 were recorded from 10 localities; included in this total were 70NE at the Sanctuary on Oct 15; 108 at Cissbury, 68 over Broadwater, and 65 at Worthing beach during this period.

7 were ringed at Cissbury between Sep 10-Oct 1; only one bird had been ringed in the recording area prior to 1988. Small parties were still around during Dec, and included 21N at Lancing on Dec 7, 2 at Lancing Clump on Dec 6, and 2 at Storrington Mill Pond on Dec 22. A superb autumn.

458. LINNET

A rather poor year with few sizable flocks noted. Between Jan-Mar the only report was of 32 at the Sanctuary on Feb 17. Arrivals in spring noted at WB with totals of 116 in Apr and 9 in May; and in autumn 6E in Sep, and 243E/10W in Oct, peak movement being 114E on Oct 17.

Breeding season counts were 7 pairs Wild Park/Hollingbury and 12 pairs Devil's Dyke. In autumn, flocks of 88 were at Goring Gap on Oct 8 and 45 at Shoreham Airport on Oct 11.

459. TWITE

The only record was of 3 on the Adur recreation ground on Nov 13.

460. REDPOLL

As Siskin, not noted until the autumn months with the first being 5E at WB on Aug 14. Between Sep 11 and Nov 13 a total of 164 were recorded from 7 sites, including totals of 59 at Wild Park and 44 at Cissbury during the period; 20 at the Sanctuary on Oct 15; 15E at Worthing beach on Oct 16; and 11W at Brighton Cemetery on Oct 21. As can be seen, passage was heaviest in mid-Oct. Cissbury experienced its first ringing records, with singles trapped on Sep 25 and Oct 23.

463. CROSSBILL

The only records were of 2 juveniles at Sullington Warren on Aug 16, and 1 calling over Cissbury on Jun 19 with 2 there on Jul 31.

469. BULLFINCH

In the breeding season, pairs were recorded from Wild Park (2), Devil's Dyke (2), Lychpole (1), and Washington Bostal (1). Up to 2 reported during the year from 3 further sites and regular at Cissbury, where between Apr 17 and Nov 13 a total of 46 were trapped, of which 19 were re-traps.

496. YELLOWHAMMER

Breeding season records received were 10 pairs Wild Park / Hollingbury, 19 pairs Devil's Dyke, 3 pairs Goring Gap, and 2 pairs West Durrington. The only counts of feeding flocks were 60 at Cissbury Apr 24; 55 at Street Hill farm on Dec 17 and 14 at Waterhall on Jul 2. Fewer than usual noted at Cissbury where between Apr 17 and Nov 31 only 11 were ringed; significantly, 5 were re-traps.

506. REED BUNTING

Undoubtedly under-recorded in the area; the reports received involved just 6 at Waterhall on Nov 6, 5 at Ferring Rife on Nov 8, and 2 at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 23. Any breeding records or counts of wintering

flocks would be most welcome.

510. CORN BUNTING

No large wintering flocks were noted, the largest being just 12 at Truleigh Manor farm on Feb 6 although in spring 40 were seen together at Cissbury on Apr 16. There were few breeding records; 2 males held territory at Cissbury on Mar 27, although the population in this area was undoubtedly much higher (see 1987 report), no obvious decrease being noted. The first breeding at Southwick Hill for over 2 years was reported (1 pair), and one holding territory at Goring Gap on Jun 28 was unusual for this site. In the autumn a total of 19 were recorded from 3 localities. 1 was ringed at Cissbury on Aug 21, and 3 were seen there on Oct 23.

ESCAPES

EAGLE OWL

1 was recorded from farm buildings at Lancing College on Mar 15, and was noted by several observers in the area until at least May. Possibly the same individual as now resident in the grounds of Chichester Cathedral.

COCKATIEL SP.

1 arrived from the sea at Widewater on Mar 26.

PARAKEET SP.

1 was noted being mobbed by Black-headed Gulls at Goring on several dates in December.

Dave Smith

(Recorder)

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1988

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

Species	Arrival	Departure
Hobby	Apr 26 Adur Levels	Sept 18 Chanctonbury
Whimbrel	Apr 3 Worthing	Sept 30 Hollingbury
Common Sandpiper	May 6 Ferring	Sept 9 River Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar 19 Worthing	Nov 20 Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 6 Worthing	Oct 13 River Adur
Little Tern	Apr 6 Worthing	Sept 14 Worthing
Turtle Dove	May 8 Cissbury	Sept 3 Wild Park
Cuckoo	Apr 13 Southwick	Sept 17 Hillbarn
Swift	Apr 24 Adur Levels	Sept 14 Broadwater
Sand Martin	Mar 27 Worthing	Oct 7 Broadwater
Swallow	Mar 25 Widewater	Nov 17 Broadwater
House Martin	Apr 10 Ladywells	Nov 18 Widewater
Tree Pipit	Mar 31 Widewater	Sept 20 Cissbury
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 4 Lychpole	Oct 16 W. Hove G.C
Redstart	Apr 11 Lychpole	Oct 25 Ferring Rife
Whinchat	Apr 15 Adur Rec.	Oct 2 Goring Gap
Wheatear	Mar 20 Worthing	Nov 4 Widewater
Ring Ouzel	Apr 16 W. Durrington	Oct 29 Wild Park
Sedge Warbler	Apr 17 New Salt's	Sept 16 Broadwater
Reed Warbler	May 21 Wild Park	Oct 23 Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 19 Wild Park	Sept 28 Wild Park
Whitethroat	Apr 15 Wild Park	Oct 21 Cissbury
Garden Warbler	Apr 23 Findon	Oct 15 Cissbury
Blackcap*	Apr 16 Goring Wood	Nov 25 Broadwater
Chiffchaff*	Mar 23 Sanctuary	Nov 9 Sanctuary
Willow Warbler	Apr 1 Wood's Mill	Oct 1 Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 6 Cissbury	Oct 9 Goring Gap
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 16 Goring Wood	Sep 10 Wild Park

* Excluding possible wintering birds

SHOREHAM SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1988

by J.A.Newnham

The Sanctuary was visited on at least 48 occasions during 1988 with 26 of these being long sessions for mist-netting. Although the overall numbers of visits was less than 1987 the number of ringing sessions showed a welcome increase. The timing of the visits followed the pattern of the past few years with few days logged during the winter months and all the ringing taking place between April and November.

During the early months of 1988 two "conservation" meetings were convened; on Jan 31st a party of 12 members cleared many of the trees blown over by the hurricane of 1987 and a huge bonfire devoured most of the debris. However, only 4 members helped at the second meeting on Feb 28th when a small patch of osier was coppiced.

The winter was mild and few birds were seen in the copse. A few Chaffinches and Linnets roosting, at least 40 Magpies, a Green Woodpecker and a Sparrowhawk were the only notable records from the first two months. A clump of frog-spawn which appeared in one of the small streams on Feb 17th was the earliest I have recorded at the Sanctuary and undoubtedly reflected the mild winter weather.

The Mute Swans returned to the copse in March and started to build on the site of previous nests. A Water Rail too liked the wet habitat offered in the copse and could regularly be seen foraging by the streams throughout March. The first Chiff-chaff was in full song on Mar 23rd, 3 were present on Mar 30th and 4 on Apr 2nd but like the past few years there were no large falls of migrants recorded.

The few visits in April showed a steady arrival of the common summer migrants. On Apr 27th a party of 26 school children from Crawley visited the Sanctuary and were able to see a small number of the common, resident species trapped and ringed. The only two visits in May were for maintenance with all the time spent in path clearing and bridge reconstruction but on one of these trips the most unusual bird of the spring, a Common Tern, flew over the copse. During June at least 2 Kingfishers fished in the streams, a Great Spotted Woodpecker and a Nightingale visited the copse and a pair of Turtle Doves were noted. This last species used to be a regular migrant and

breeding species at the Sanctuary but sadly in recent years it has become rather scarce.

Although no detailed breeding counts were undertaken the impression was of similar numbers of breeding pairs to previous years but it soon became apparant that some species had good breeding success and others had a poor productivity. An idea of the variation can be gleaned from the following table showing the numbers ringed between April and September of adults and offspring for six of the common and probably resident species. Although many factors are involved the table suggests that Blackbirds, Chaffinches and Bullfinches did less well than Dunnocks, Robins and Wrens.

	Blackbird.	Dunnock.	Robin.	Wren.	Chaffinch.	Bullfinch
Adults	22	7	2	3	11	9
Juveniles	11	45	30	27	4	5

The warblers too seemed to have a good breeding season and by early July the first of the autumn passage warblers were being trapped. Like last year the hillside was leased for horse grazing so very little mist-netting could be done amongst the hillside scrub. Despite this and a very wet and unsettled July, good numbers of passage warblers were trapped. The best days included 8 Garden Warblers trapped on Aug 10th, 28 Willow Warblers on Aug 16th, and 25 Chiffchaffs and 14 Blackcaps on Sept 17th.

The following table showing the total numbers of warblers ringed during the autumn also shows the percentage change from 1987; a noteworthy increase occurred in the Sylvia warblers and Chiffchaff.

Numbers Ringed during Autumn 1988.

Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Lesser White	Common White	Garden Warbler	Black-cap	Chiff-chaff	Willow Warbler
6	42	18	15	22	41	59	83
+50%	+5%	+125%	+50%	+340%	+156%	+168%	+0%

Amongst the scarcer migrants recorded were a Pied Flycatcher on Aug 3rd, a Nightingale on Aug 16th and Redstarts on 3 different days. During August a count of 397 flowering spikes of Autumn Ladies' Tresses were counted but they were soon eaten by the local rabbits.

The first of the autumn Grey Wagtails was seen on Sept 4th and an unusually large party of 7 were noted on Sept 17th. Two of the memorable features of the autumn were the large movements of both Siskins and Goldcrests throughout south-eastern England. The first of both of these species were recorded on Sept 17th. Siskins were noted regularly with the best days being 35 on Sept 17th and at least 70 on Oct 15th, Goldcrests however, were not so obvious at the Sanctuary with an autumn ringing total of only 8 and no more than 5 seen on any day.

Redpolls were present on most days in October with a peak of 20 on the 15th and a small number of Goldfinches were seen with the largest flock being about 100 also on Oct 15th.

Several summer migrants were late in departing; a Reed Warbler was trapped on Oct 8th during a visit by 15 members of the Brighton YOC group. Chiffchaffs were seen on Nov 5th and 9th, and a Blackcap noted on Nov 16th. In keeping with the pattern for the past few years the late autumn and winter become very quiet in the copse.

I would like to express the Society's thanks for the continued cooperation and help from Mr Schultz and 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 1988.

1988 STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT

Of the groups three sites, the winter feeding station at Wiston was the venue for the first ringing session of the year, with three catches in January and one in February. The birds were mainly tits but a typical assortment of finches, Robins, thrushes etc. added to the interest. New birds caught included Coal Tits and a Jay. Retraps now form a more significant part of the catch; with up to 50% on some days, and some of the returning visitors were Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Marsh Tits, Coal Tits and a Willow Tit.

Cissbury sessions started early in the year with 9 Willow Warblers and two Chiffchaffs trapped on the 17th April. Two sessions were held in May with the first Lesser Whitethroat trapped on the 1st and a Whitethroat on

the 22nd. The first Garden Warbler was caught on June 1st.

Four nets were put up at the Mumbles on the 26th June and 65 birds were trapped including 9 adult Reed Warblers. A further 7 were trapped on July 17th, when 32 birds were ringed and a Whimbrel flew over. Three sessions were held in August; on the first, a Kingfisher was seen during netting sessions and on the 11th a juvenile was trapped much to the delight of my 9 and 11 year-old neices who were helping with the work.

Meanwhile, up at Cissbury, the doubts about the move of the ringing site from the top of the slope used up to 1986 to a site further west on less steeply sloping ground at the foot were gradually being dispelled. Sessions in June netted 7 and 17 birds, things started picking up in July, probably with 'local' birds moving about, with a small peak of 16 Willow Warblers on the 31st July- and a record total for a July day of 56.

The sessions continued to increase through August with 52 new birds on the 10th, 41 on the 20th, and a record total of 108 on the 27th which included 46 Willow Warblers and a Sparrowhawk. A further 15 Willow Warblers were caught on the last peak date on the 30th August, when both Nightingale and Grasshopper Warbler were also controlled. The following day a Spotted Flycatcher was also caught. The highlight of the year for the ringers and a 'new' bird for all was the Wood Warbler which was controlled on the 6th.

September got off to a flying start (sic) on the 4th with 54 new birds, only to be bettered by 108 on the 10th, 86 on the 11th, and finally all records were broken on the 17th when 135 birds were caught. The bulk of the catches were Blackcaps (50 on the 10th, 34 on the 17th) Chiffchaffs (54 on the 17th), Willow Warblers, and Garden Warblers. Highlights included a Jay on the 10th; a male Redstart on the 11th; a Grasshopper Warbler, Siskin and Spotted Flycatcher on the 17th; a superb Firecrest, Green Woodpecker and Redpoll on the 25th. At the end of the month the site's yearly total stood one short of a thousand, a barrier never broken before by the group.

Fortunately, this historic occasion didn't take too long to achieve as 42 birds were trapped on the 1st October, followed by 58 on the 2nd, and the record day being 65 on the 16th. Highlights of the month included three Ring Ouzels, a Sparrowhawk lured into the net by a trapped Kestrel which sadly escaped before it could be ringed, a Redstart, another Firecrest, and Green Woodpecker, and a surprisingly late Reed Warbler controlled on the 23rd.

By the end of the year 1,334 birds had been ringed at the site, more than double any other year. A superb achievement! The area is beginning to reap dividends for all the hours put in at the ringing site as our first foreign recovery, a Lesser Whitethroat, was reported from Egypt showing that this species migrates in an easterly direction. Hopefully, more of 'our'

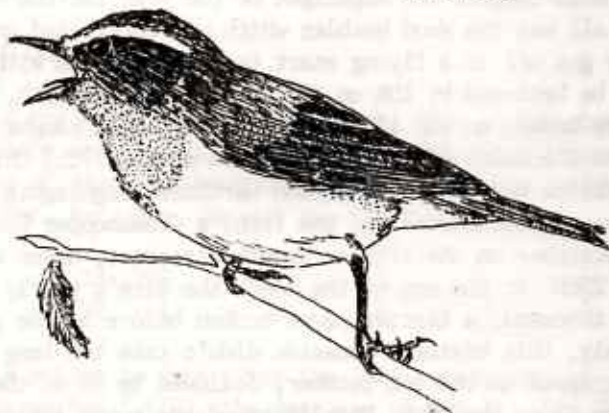
birds will be recovered in the future so that we can build up a more accurate picture of where our local birds migrate and also begin to assess changes in their populations.

As well as the impressive totals for ringed birds the area also provided a constant delight with Quail calling in May, Crossbill, Redpoll and Tree Pipit in July, Golden Plover and 2 "Commic" terns and thousands of Hirundines in October.

The area is now being managed with the help of the National Trust and by members groups and so, by controlling the amount of scrub encroachment and the spread of sycamore, the habitat can be further improved and catches increased. We are most grateful to Glyn Jones and the National Trust for their help and co-operation.

Here's looking forward to 1989 and the surprises it will hold; with many more autumn sunrises to be seen over Lancing Clump to the east, in the quiet and solitude of Cissbury but for how much longer ?

Phil Clay



RINGING REPORT FOR 1988.

For the thirteenth year the total of birds ringed in the area exceeded the 3000 mark. Only 100 (2.7%) of this total 3669 were ringed as pulli; a low proportion when compared with the national figure of c.23% ringed as nestlings. The majority (97%) therefore were ringed as full grown birds.

Most of these pulli were, as usual, tits ringed in nest boxes at the Sanctuary and Lancing College although a clutch of Magpies were ringed.

For the first year the Steyning Ringing Group (Brian & Phil Clay and Chris Fox) contributed the area's highest totals with 1333 at Cissbury, 261 at the Mumbles and 109 birds trapped coming to a winter feeding station at Wiston. The autumn mist-netting at Cissbury was most rewarding; the totals of many of the common migrants were high and included 234 Blackcaps, 246 Chiff-chaffs, 220 Willow Warblers and 85 Goldcrests. With these were a number of scarcely ringed birds like 5 Ring Ouzels, 2 Grasshopper Warblers, 2 Firecrests and 7 Siskins. The welcome increase in the number of birds caught at Cissbury was in part due to considerable "management" work done by the group to reduce the height of the scrub to make mist nets more effective but undoubtedly there were larger numbers of migrants in Sussex during the autumn of 1988 to boost the catches. This was evident too at the Sanctuary where the total of 901 birds included reasonable numbers of warblers and 226 House Martins. Dr John Newnham also ringed 70 birds in his Worthing garden.

The cannon netting programme to catch gulls on Sompting refuse tip continued and here the total of 428 gulls included a fine adult Mediterranean Gull. Cannon netting was also started at a new refuse tip near Washington and a further 420 gulls were ringed there and many of those trapped at Washington already carried rings previously put on at Sompting.

Dr. Barrie Watson, as well as leading the gull trapping, caught 143 smaller birds in and around Shoreham including all the pulli and 34 Pied Wagtails. The grand total was completed by a visiting ringer who, whilst on a summer camp, ringed 4 birds near Erringham Farm.

A brief glimpse at Table 1, which shows the totals of the 54 different species, reveals larger numbers than usual of the warblers and relatively low numbers of finches and buntings.

TABLE.1

Sparrow Hawk.	3	Blackcap.	295
Mediterranean Gull.	1	Wood Warbler.	1
Black headed Gull.	803	Chiff-chaff.	314
Common Gull.	10	Willow Warbler.	337
Herring Gull.	34	Goldcrest.	95

Wood Pigeon.	1	Firecrest.	2
Kingfisher	2	Spotted Flycatcher.	9
Green Woodpecker.	3	Long-tailed Tit.	21
Great Sp Woodpecker.	2	Marsh Tit.	4
Swallow.	2	Willow Tit.	2
House Martin.	226	Coal Tit.	5
Pied Wagtail.	35	Blue Tit.	264
Wren.	124	Great Tit.	141
Dunnock.	135	Treecreeper.	1
Robin.	117	Jay.	2
Nightingale.	4	Magpie.	4
Redstart.	4	Starling.	2
Ring Ouzel.	5	Chaffinch.	66
Blackbird.	125	Greenfinch.	30
Song Thrush.	44	Goldfinch.	14
Redwing.	1	Siskin.	7
Grasshopper Warbler.	2	Linnet.	1
Sedge Warbler.	9	Redpoll.	3
Reed Warbler.	88	Bullfinch.	43
Lesser Whitethroat.	52	Yellowhammer.	18
Whitethroat.	105	Reed Bunting.	1
Garden Warbler.	49	Corn Bunting.	1

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

1). KESTREL:-

ringed pullus 05-07-82 Lancing (nest box)
found dead 08.10.87. Mayfield, Sussex, 44km.

This was not reported until 1988.

2). BLACK-HEADED GULL:- during the year there were controls from Belgium, Estonia, Norway, Finland (2), Denmark (2) and a single BTO control.

The recoveries were reported from Finland (12), Sweden (7), Estonia (3), USSR (2), Norway, Denmark (14), Netherlands (17), German Democratic Republic (7), Federal Republic of Germany (2) Latvia (4), France (2), Poland and Czechoslovakia. Surprisingly none were reported from Belgium during a year when more than usual were from the Netherlands. As usual most (54%) of the

recoveries were from abroad and are described in more detail on pages 57-65 of the 1985 Sussex Bird Report.

Movements recorded within Britain are from Sussex (27), Kent (3), Surrey (2), Hants (4), Gloucester (2), Essex (5), Cambridge (5), Suffolk (2), Greater London (2), Devon (5), Cornwall (2), Dorset (2), Avon and Durham. The last is somewhat out of the usual pattern and there are more from the West Country than usual, although there is someone in Plymouth (like in Cambs) who is actively looking for ringed gulls and therefore creating a bias in the recovery pattern.

3) COMMON GULL:- There were no controls but recoveries were from Estonia (2 in June), Norway (in July), Sweden (in June) and the following which is the furthest east reported to date.

ringed adult	05-02-86	Sampting refuse tip
found dead	01.05.87.	Arkhangelsk, USSR,
		61°31'N 45°58'E, 3077km.

4). LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL:- The only movement noted was one ringed at Small Dole in Oct 1981 and controlled at Ipswich in Apr 1988.

5). HERRING GULL:- There were recoveries from Netherlands (Aug), Devon (Dec), Grampian (July), Suffolk (May and July), Hants (Apr) and Sussex (June and May).

6). RINGED PLOVER:- Interestingly the following was the only Ringed Plover trapped during the wader studies on the River Adur in the 1970's, unfortunately the recovery details were very vague and the bird may have been dead a long time.

ringed 1st yr.	28-11-79	River Adur, Shoreham
reported	12-02-88	„ „ „

7). KINGFISHER:- The following shows an interesting and rapid dispersal of a usually fairly sedentary species.

ringed juv	27-05-88	Ashurst, Hampshire
controlled	22-06-88	Shoreham (sanctuary) 87km.

8). HOUSE MARTIN:-

ringed 1st Yr	18-09-86	Shoreham (sanctuary).
freshly dead	28-05-88	Milton Malsor, Northants.

ringed 1st year	14-10-88	Litlington, East Sussex
controlled	15-10-88	Shoreham (Sanc) 31 km W.

These add to the rather scant knowledge of the movements of this species.

9). WREN:- The following recovery shows a remarkable movement for this usually sedentary species.

ringed 1st year	25-09-88	Walberswick, Suffolk
controlled	02-10-88	Shoreham (Sanc) 208km SW.

Other local distant recoveries of Wren involved an Oct ringed individual recovered 30 miles N in Surrey some three months later and another recovered at Dungeness.

10). REDSTART:-

ringed pullus	05-07-87	nr Katrine, Central Scot.
controlled	20-09-87	Cissbury, 655 km SSE.

Few Redstarts have been trapped in this area and it is interesting that now two distant movements have been recorded; the first was an autumn ringed bird which was shot in May 1960 in Germany.

11). REED WARBLER:- The British recoveries from this area are plotted in "The Birds of Shoreham"; the following conform to the pattern shown.

ringed 1st yr	10-08-86	Farlington Marsh
controlled	05-08-87	Shoreham (sanctuary) 53km.

ringed Ad F.	09-08-87	South Muskham, Notts
controlled	04-09-88	Shoreham (Sanc) 253km.

12). LESSER WHITETHROAT:-

ringed 1st yr	08-09-86	Cissbury
reported ?	c. 15-10-87	Gebul umm Shomar, Egypt. 3820km SE.

This is only the ninth recovery of a British ringed Lesser Whitethroat in Egypt and demonstrates that this species migrates towards the eastern end of the Mediterranean. The only other foreign recovery from local ringing was from Israel. The following is a more typical but nevertheless interesting recovery.

ringed 1st yr	21-08-87	St Margarets, Kent
controlled male	26-06-88	Shoreham (Sanc), nesting

13). GARDEN WARBLER:-

ringed 1st yr F.	21-06-87	Ashcombe, nr Lewes
controlled	01-06-88	Cissbury, 25km W.

Previous movements of this elusive warbler have been recorded from Powys and Bexhill.

14). BLACKCAP:- The two recoveries reported this year involve autumn migrants:

ringed 1st yr M.	10-09-88	Cissbury
controlled	18-09-88	Beachy Head, Sussex.
ringed	01-08-86	Sevenoaks Wildfowl Trust
controlled	07-09-86	Cissbury, 61km WSW.

15). CHIFF-CHAFF:- Few spring warblers have been trapped in the past few years; the following recovery highlights the speed of the spring migration and demonstrates that continental birds pass through the South coast in spring.

ringed 4	20-04-88	Shoreham-by-Sea (Sanctuary)
controlled	07-05-88	Blavand, Jylland, Denmark, 763km, 47'.

16) GREAT TIT:-

ringed 4 F.	08-10-83	West Worthing (garden)
freshly dead	13-02-88	Handcross, Waywards Heath, Sx. 31km, 25' 1589 days.

17). STARLING:- The movements of Starlings are plotted in "The Birds of Shoreham". The following is the longest recovery this year.

ringed 4 F.	17-02-87	West Worthing (garden)
shot	25-08-88	Clifton, Oxfordshire. 145km
	(report)	

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.

SEA WATCHING REPORT FOR 1988.

Introduction.

The sea was watched for over 579 hours this year which is the second best year in the area beaten only by the mammoth watch of 680 hours in 1985 and interestingly only one hour more than the time recorded in 1983. Such a noteworthy effort warrants yet another full report of the year's activities. The histogram and the following table showing the hours watched depicts, as usual, the spring months to be the most popular with fairly typical dips in the watching during February, June and November. Like most years the last period in April and the first ten day period in May were the best covered and it is pleasing to see such regular observation during July and August.

The hours recorded sea-watching in each month

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
15	11	44	150	151	14	36	36	41	37	16	29

The total of birds logged during the year was 46,547 which means about 80 birds were seen in each hours watching. Nearly three-quarters of the years

total were recorded in April and May and the total of 33,968 birds gives a spring passage rate of about 113 birds logged for each hours observation.

1988 saw the eleventh year of computerised sea-watching records; this not only helps in working out the totals but allows easy calculations of rates of passage and spotting of various trends. Since 1978 over 4913 hours have been logged and in this time a mere 372,367 birds recorded. The most numerous species are Common/Arctic Tern (63,061) and Brent Goose (51,240) but four others, Common Scoter, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black-headed Gull and Sandwich Tern, have a total exceeding 30,000. At the other end of the spectrum there are many species, like Green Sandpiper, for which there are only a few sightings but of the 50 species for which detailed records are kept the Avocet is the least recorded with only 66 noted. Nearly 75% of this grand total have been recorded flying eastward and 63% have been seen in April and May.

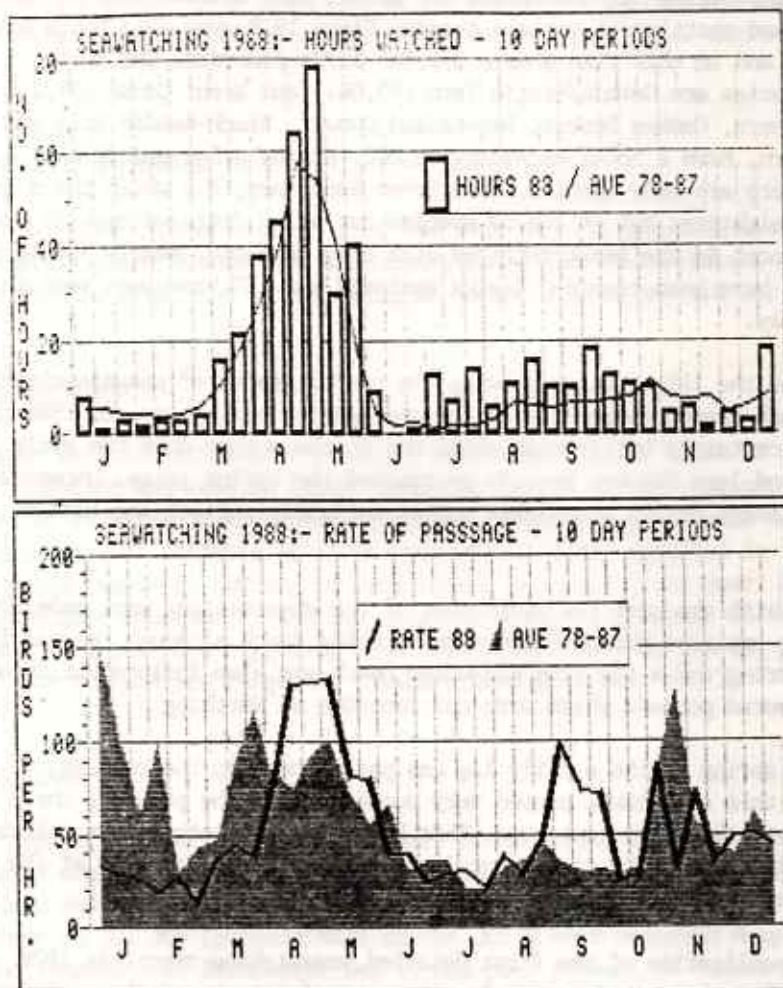
A glimpse at the illustration showing the overall rates of passage clearly show how each season compares with the average for past years. In 1988 the spring was certainly better than usual and in the autumn only the early September and late October periods approached the spring rates. Unremarkable rates of passage during the winter months certainly reflect the lack of cold weather.

In keeping with the past few years most of the observations were made from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens on Worthing Beach although records from Goring, Ferring and a few from Widewater beach are also included if these watches covered periods which were not recorded at Worthing.

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

Since the publication of the first detailed seawatching report in 1978 histograms have been used to display the rate of passage of the commoner species and once again similar graphs are drawn. Also, in keeping with the previous years, two tables are presented which reveal the details of selected days watching (Table A), and a summary of the main species involved in the autumn and winter watches (Table B). Each table is intended for

comparison with past years and as before table A. records mainly eastward passage in the spring and westward during the autumn except in certain indicated species where the east and west movements have been combined. Further details of individual species are documented in the systematic list.



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

Chronological Report

Jan/Feb.

The year started mild, wet and windy as a moist south-westerly airstream predominated the weather and many places recorded above average rainfall. Although there were a few frosty nights there was no snow and no periods of severe arctic weather the like of which had hit Sussex during the previous three winters. Like the weather the sea-watching was unexciting with peak westward movements of 28 and 31 Kittiwakes on Jan 12th and 31st respectively and 25 auks on Jan 8th. A pair of Little Gulls seen on Jan 21st brought the January grand total for this species to six. February is often a disappointing month for sea-watching and the lowest monthly total of only 11 hours reflected the dearth of birds.

Spring.

Although some of the winter's lowest temperatures were recorded in early March this month often heralds the spring and frequently has many of the best sea-watches, indeed the overall rate of eastward passage in March since 1978 is marginally greater than both April and May. 1988 was an exception with the overall passage rate being less than half of normal and not even 1800 birds were recorded in the 44 hours of watching. Often wildfowl, particularly Common Scoter and Brent Geese are seen in large numbers but this year the peak of passing Brent Geese occurred in April. The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the flight of 27 Bewick's Swans flying eastward at Widewater on Mar 9th but 3 Velvet Scoter on Mar 12th, a Slavonian Grebe and Shag on Mar 13th and a Mediterranean Gull on Mar 17th were of interest. The first 2 Sandwich Terns were noted on Mar 19th and an early Arctic Skua appeared on Mar 25th.

The meteorological office summarised April as "typically showery" and certainly the weather was unsettled at times. The log was started on Apr 1st and almost immediately the sea-watching dramatically improved. The season's peak of 693 Brent Geese passed eastward on Apr 1st and on the following day light south-south-east winds produced 20 divers, 3 Black-necked Grebes, 2 Velvet Scoters, a Shag and 234 Sandwich Terns. The first Whimbrel was seen on the Apr 3rd but then a cooler period followed with mainly northerly winds and a marked reduction in the number of passing birds. Once again the winds returned to the favoured south-east on Apr 14th and once again larger

numbers of birds were seen with 24 divers, 1005 Common Scoter, 470 Sandwich Terns and 184 "Commic" Terns. Two days later the weather was classic with mist and rain joining the south-east wind and highlights included a party of 6 Bonxies, 20 Little Gulls, 143 Whimbrel and a 2nd year Mediterranean Gull which was seen 48 minutes earlier at Selsey. Viewing further east from Seaford Head was even more exciting with many more terns and skuas but a total of 105 Little Gulls. Two days later the south-easterly was back and more terns and 549 Common Scoter were recorded. The first Pomarine Skuas of the spring were two parties of three individuals moving eastward during the late afternoon on Apr 22nd. The wind became cooler and moved to the north-east for a period but only on Apr 24th were any appreciable numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits recorded passing.

So to the last few days of the month, the Bank Holiday weekend and more weather which for sea-watchers was ideal; four days followed which those watching will not forget! The weather on Apr 29th was grey with a chilling east wind into which parties of terns, godwits and scoter were moving. The 30th was much brighter and was the day for the Society's sea-watching outing at Goring Gap; regrettably and as so frequently happens the quietest hours of passage coincided with the outing yet good views were had of Little Gulls, terns, several wading species and Arctic Skuas. The day's total however included no less than 6 Great Northern Divers, 6 Shags, 21 Arctic Skuas, 25 Little Gulls and a Roseate Tern.

Sunday May 1st dawned grey, damp and misty. The gathered observers huddled into the corner of the shelter to keep warm and to keep binoculars and telescopes as dry as possible. The early morning watching was frantic with huge parties of terns not only passing over the sea but flying over the sand, shingle and even the road behind the beach. Terns were not alone as Gannets, Fulmars, waders and Arctic Skuas were noted passing eastward behind the beach. At times it was impossible to identify and count everything that was passing and observers felt that many flocks could have passed in the mist and drizzle without being seen. Over 5200 birds were recorded including 3669 Common/Arctic Terns, 656 Sandwich Terns, a record 222 Little Terns, several Black Terns, Little Gulls and 2 Mediterranean Gulls. By midday the weather was much brighter but tern parties continued passing at a more leisurely pace and it was in the better weather that most of the 29 Arctic and 22 Pomarine Skuas were seen.

The watching on the Bank Holiday Monday was equally frantic but in a

different way. The early morning wind was very strong; skuas and terns were speeding eastward but most Fulmars, a Manx Shearwater and no less than 6 Cory's Shearwaters were seen moving westward. After a tremendous start to May the volume of visible migration slowed but there were two other good periods of watching both associated with east to south-east winds. The weekend of May 7th/8th was particularly good for wader passage and the mixed bag of species which were recorded included another Great Northern Diver, a Red-necked Grebe, 3 Spotted Redshanks and a Roseate Tern. The last period of good watching in the spring came between May 21st and 24th when 10 more Pomarine Skuas were noted, the season's peak of 98 Knot was recorded on May 22nd and the passage of a frontal system on May 23rd brought 1323 Common/Arctic and a single Roseate Tern in sight from the shore.

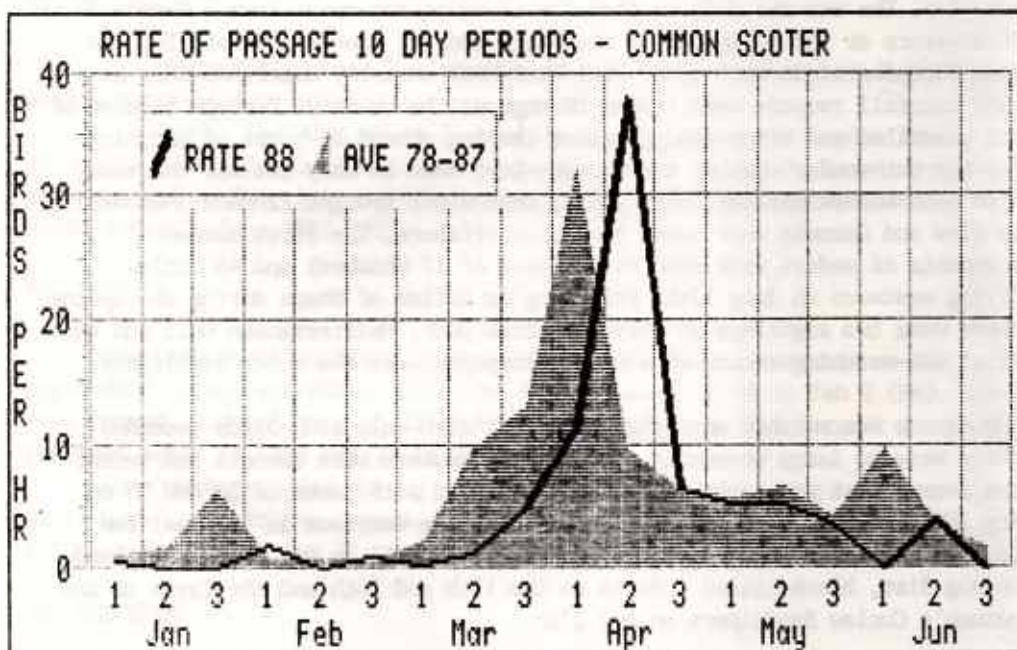
Summer/Autumn.

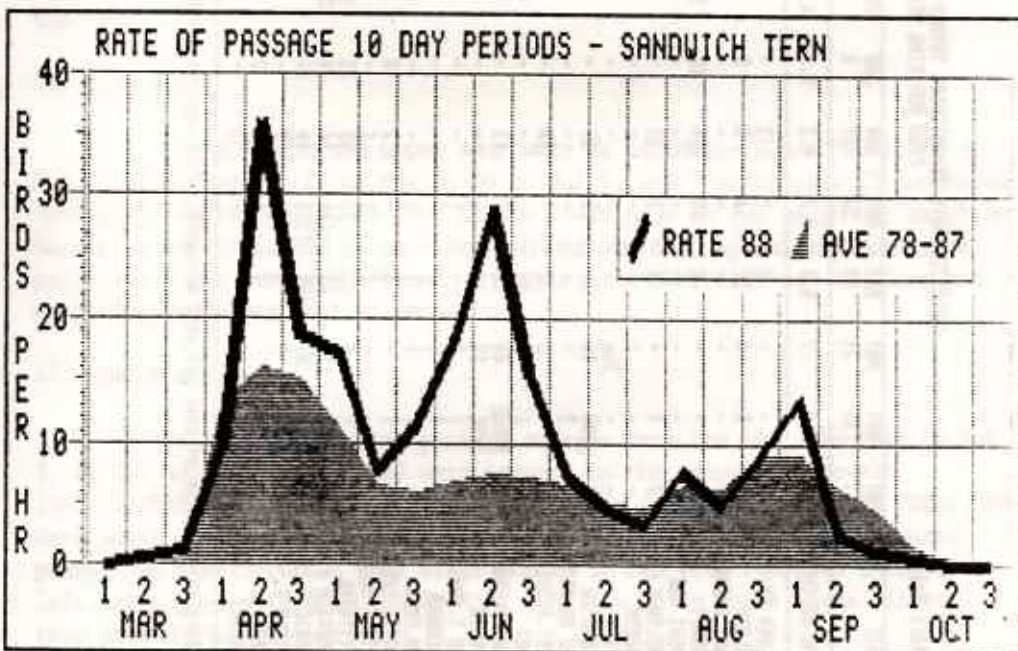
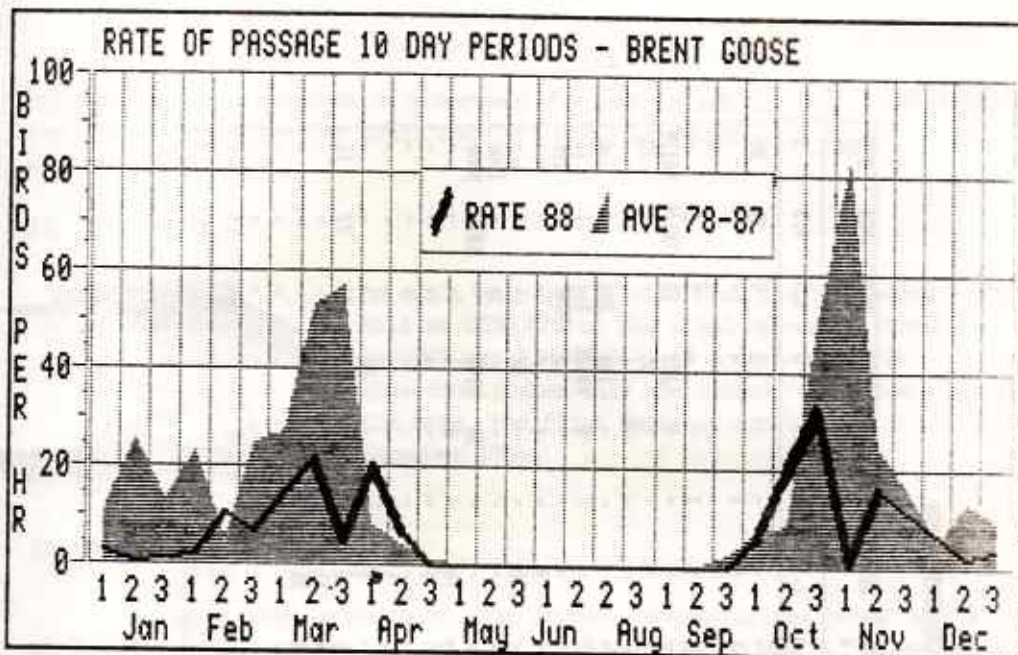
June was hardly flaming as a lot of the month was dull and the temperatures were low. The sea was only watched for 14 hours and apart from 3 Manx Shearwaters at the beginning of the month and yet another Roseate Tern on June 23rd few birds were seen. Wet! Wet! Wet! suitably described July as many rainfall records were broken throughout the country. Perhaps because of the unsettled and often windy weather the log showed 36 hours of watching. One can but wonder whether the Roseate Tern seen on July 1st was the same bird seen a week earlier. Very strong west winds brought 12 Manx Shearwaters in view and Gannets were noted regularly offshore. The first autumn movements of waders were seen with a peak of 17 Whimbrel and 46 Ouzel flying westward on July 17th. Following an influx of Shags during the spring there were two sightings in July; a Tufted Duck, Mediterranean Gull and the first sea-watching record of a Green Sandpiper were the other highlights.

August too was watched more than usual but with only 1400 birds recorded there were no large movements. The largest numbers were Gannets and terns; the former were regularly seen moving westward with peaks of 38 and 35 on Aug 20th and 21st respectively. Terns were more numerous in the last few days of the month. Unusual birds included 3 Gadwall on Aug 20th, 3 Pochard on Aug 31st, Black-tailed Godwits on the 15th and 26th and the first of the autumn's Ouzel Sandpipers on Aug 27th.

September came in with a raging gale during which two large flocks of waders passed westward, in the early morning 150 Knot and a party of 70 Bar-tailed

Godwits in the evening. By Sept 3rd the winds had dropped and in a 2 hour watch with light south-westerly winds a total of 97 Sandwich and 342 Common/Arctic Terns flew westward. The other large autumn tern movement was during the afternoon and evening of Sept 14th when 270 "Comms" passed by along with a good selection of waders including 4 Curlew Sandpipers. The weather on Sept 14th was cool with a strong northerly wind; it is interesting that these conditions which would theoretically seem unproductive on a south facing coast often produce the best of the autumn watches. Curlew Sandpipers were not the only scarce waders noted during the month as Greenshanks, Spotted Redshank and at least 3 Ruffs appeared. The first Brent Geese passed on Sept 17th and a Red-necked Grebe was seen on Sept 23rd.





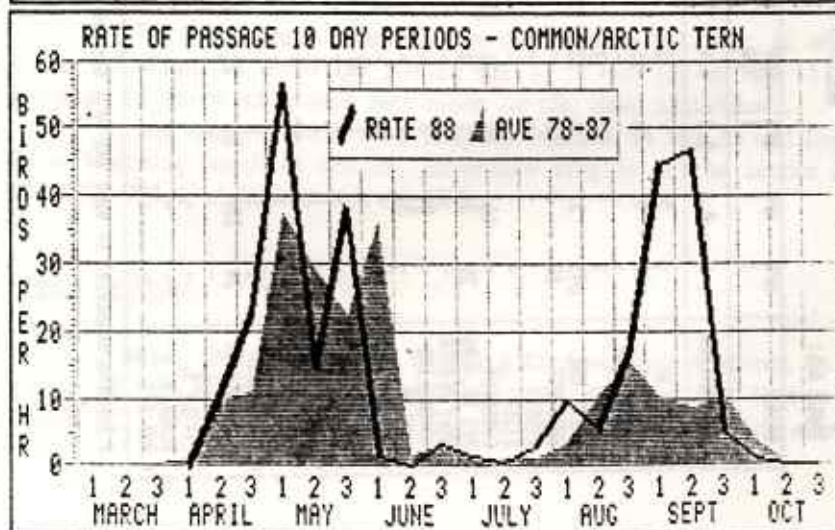
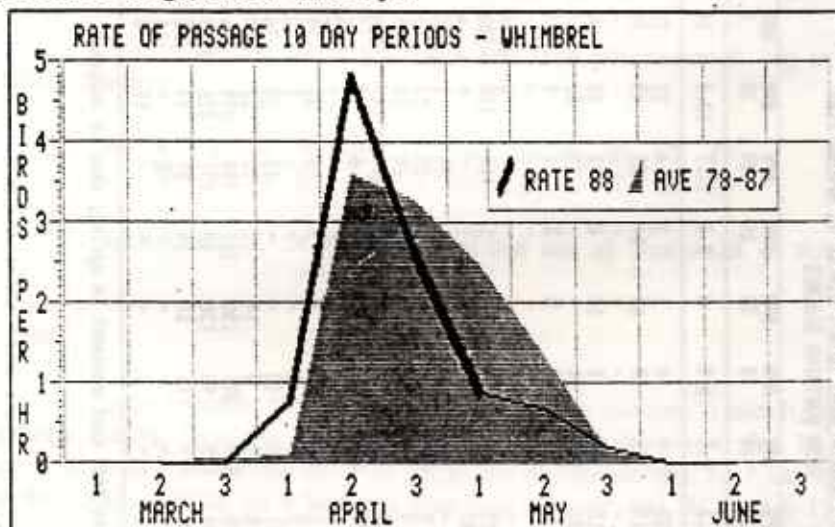
SELECTED DAYS SEAMATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1988
FROM NORTHING BEACHES

TABLE A(11)

DATE	MAY 12	MAY 13	MAY 21	MAY 22	MAY 23	MAY 29	JUN 2	JUN 4	JUL 4	SEP 1	SEP 3	SEP 14	OCT 29	DEC 23	DEC 26	DEC 27
HRS MATCHED	4.7	3.9	7	8.5	9.7	4.3	2.7	4.8	2.6	2.1	2.1	3.6	3	4.2	4.3	2
* DIVER SP	-	-	-	5	9	3	-	9	1	4	1	-	2	9	25	80
* FULMAR	9	5	6	17	14	5	-	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* HAWK SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36	34	9	3	-	-	5	3	-
* GANNET	10	-	-	8	10	24	18	-	-	-	-	-	135	15	7W14E	4W12E
* BRENT GSE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	10
* SHELDUCK	2	4	-	2	3	22	-	5	-	-	-	-	104	204	4	104
* WIGEON	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1W17E	504	1	11
* EIDER	-	-	304	-	-	-	-	-	2E	-	7	8	6	3M4E	1E	29E
* C-SCOTER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* RED BR. NERB	2W3E	100	15	24	75	27	-	1	-	-	-	-	3E	-	-	1004
* GREY PLOVER	2	2	2	22	-	1W	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5004
* KNOT	-	-	8	98	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	-
* SANDERLING	7	11W4E	44	35	37	12	-	6	-	-	-	50	119E	-	1074	-
* DUNLIN	7	2W2E	12	4	6	-	-	1	-	70	-	8	1	-	-	-
* BAR T. GOWIT	14	1	8	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* WHINBEL	1	7	2	1	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
* POM. SKUA	-	-	4	1	1	2	3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
* ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* LITTLE BULL	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* KITTYHAWK	3	9	9	12	33	12	23	22	16	2	2	-	-	2E	77	11
* SANDWICH T.	50	27	118	69	144	14	74	27	14	11	97	11	-	-	-	-
* CONNIC T.	122	60	83	101	1323	16	14	1	2	26	342	270	-	-	-	-
* LITTLE T.	35	10	9	4	12	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* BLACK T.	1	-	-	4	4	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
* AUK SP.	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	66	14	1

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

The meteorological summary for October said 'Not a repeat of 1987' and in Sussex there were no unusual storms to bring any numbers of seabirds within sight of the coast. This is often the best of the autumn months but 1988 was quite disappointing as only 3 skuas, 6 Little Gulls and 30 Kittiwakes were seen. There was a large national influx of Brent Geese with a high proportion of juveniles but even these either moved overland or passed at times the sea was not being watched as the total was only 641 with a peak, a mere 135, occurring on Oct 29th. The first diver appeared on Oct 8th, just 4 days before the last Common Tern was seen and the highlights were sightings of at least 3 Shags, and 3 Goldeneye.



A Goldeneye passed on Nov 19th but the only other noteworthy November day was the 20th when 13 divers and a Sandwich Tern passed westward and a Pomarine Skua was seen attacking gulls offshore. The year ended very mild, indeed Christmas was the mildest since 1940. Consequently there were no large cold weather movements of ducks or geese recorded. Despite this the month was interesting for the large numbers of divers, auks and grebes noted feeding offshore. The maximum counts were of 11 Great Crested Grebes, 2 Slavonian Grebes, 13 Red-throated Divers, 2 Black-throated Divers, 52 Red-breasted Mergansers and 50 Guillemots. The numbers of birds feeding offshore are clearly reflected in the totals seen flying; the monthly total of the commoner species were 133W and 61E divers (28% identified as Red-throated Diver), 113 Eiders flying westward, 194 Kittiwakes and 92 westward flying and 13 eastbound auks. If there were few birds on the sea then the birds on the foreshore could be watched and here the peak counts were 590 Dunlin, 150 Sanderling and 70 Ringed Plovers. Regretably December ended on a sad note as many of the auks, divers, grebes, kittiwakes and even waders which observers enjoyed watching prior to Christmas were coated in thick oil by the end of the year.

John Newnham.

FIELD OUTINGS 1988

JANUARY - FERRING RIFE

The morning of Saturday 9th Jan was dull and drizzly for the first of the year's outings when 12 members joined Mike Hall for a tour of the Ferring Rife. After a brief sea watch an inspection was made of the pools of water around the Rife but the prevailing weather conditions meant that the highlights of the area were no more than Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer and Linnets. At Highdown, continuing bad light produced only disappointing views of Marsh Tit, Treecreeper, and Nuthatch. In fairness to a potentially good area, however, the Rife continues to be best during passage or cold snaps, at least until the newly planted bushes grow and the pools develop.

FEBRUARY - AMBERLEY

On the slightly later than usual date of 20th February, Bernard Forbes met 10 members at Greatham Bridge for the annual trek around Amberley Wildbrooks. Due to an exceptionally mild winter, the potential for matching the 1987 trip (performed partly in a snowstorm), seemed rather unfavourable; but a fair selection of wildfowl adorned Waltham Brooks including Pintail, Wigeon, Gadwall, and Grey Lag Goose. Walking out toward the Brooks, the warm sunshine stimulating Nuthatch, Treecreeper, and Great Spotted Woodpecker to forage around the trees, while on the Brooks itself, members enjoyed Water Rail, Kingfisher, and Sparrowhawk; with 12 Ruff, 100 Snipe, 200 Fieldfare, several Redwing and 63 Pintail distantly viewed over the Rackham area. Sadly, the Bewick's Swans managed to remain elusive all day (believed to be lurking in the Wiggonholt area), but a brilliant display of hunting technique by a Short-eared Owl was more than compensation.

APRIL - GORING BEACH

Due to repainting work on the Ilex Wood shelter at Goring, the 16 members who joined John Newnham's spring sea watch on April 30th had to be content with sitting on the beach. On a lovely day with force 3 SE winds, ideal for sea-watching at this time of year, those who turned out were well rewarded for their efforts with 2 Arctic Skuas passing close to the shore, 9 Little Gulls, 6 Diver sp., 130 Bar-tailed Godwits and an excellent passage of "Commic", Little, and Sandwich Terns. All this occurred within the space of 2 hours on what was a good morning all along the coast, and a warm-up to what was to pass during the ensuing couple of days!

MAY - HILL BARN (?)

At 08.00 hrs on Sunday 8th May, Bernard Forbes eagerly awaited the party he was to conduct on a downland walk from Hill Barn to Cissbury. After a reasonable wait, however, he resigned himself to the fact that it was now unlikely that anyone would materialise, so he promptly moved off to bird elsewhere and was rewarded with a Temmick's Stint at Waltham Brooks.

JUNE - LAVINGTON

As usual, John Dixon's evening Nightjar trip was well attended, members gathering at 2000 hrs on the evening of 10th June at Waltham Brooks. Due to the uncertainty of the Nightjar population at Coates Common (the usual venue), John had decided upon Lavington Common as the new site, but before departing the members enjoyed 3 Little Ringed Plovers and a reeling Grasshopper Warbler at Waltham. At Lavington itself, no less than 3 Nightjars were recorded with excellent views of one of the males. In addition, there were Woodcock roding at dusk and most members saw Little Owls from their cars travelling to and from Lavington.

SEPTEMBER - PAGHAM HARBOUR

A misprint in the 1988 programme card may have accounted for the poor attendance figure for Dave Smith's outing to Sidlesham Ferry and Pagham Harbour on September 17th. This, as it turned out was very unfortunate, as for the second year running Dave had "planted" a rare Nearctic wader for all to enjoy- this time in the shape of an adult American Lesser Golden Plover which all 6 members viewed in the fields to the west of Church Norton. This outing seems to turn up trumps every time, and not content with a national rarity Dave also managed to find an immature Red-backed Shrike as well as 70 more species including both incoming and outgoing migrants.

Meeting at Sidlesham Ferry, those in attendance were led a return walk to Church Norton along the outskirts of Pagham Harbour in warm, sunny and windless conditions. Waders abounded with 16 Curlew Sandpipers, 4 Little Stints, 2 Spotted Redshanks, 15 Ruff, and 150-200 Golden Plovers, whilst passerine offerings included Tree Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher, Yellow Wagtail, Whinchat, and one early Redwing in the churchyard. In all, a perfect day with perfect weather and perfect birds.

OCTOBER - CLIMPING BEACH

A wealth of species were recorded on Richard Ives' outing to Climping on the 16th October but not all the members managed to see all the birds. At 0900 hrs, about 7 members assembled at Climping car park to await their leader who was at the same time waiting at the car park at the Littlehampton end! (please read the details in future folks!) So two groups did their own thing until ultimately the twain met half-way. There was great dismay when the leader said that his group had found a Dartford Warbler and a

Firecrest. Frustratingly, neither could be re-located by the assembled masses.

Anyway a plethora of birds were logged including a constant stream of Hirundines (2,000+) and finches including 1,000+ Siskin, 1500 + Goldfinch surely record numbers for the autumn. In addition to the Dartford Warbler, a male Ring Ouzel haunted the bushes near the golf course, 6 Tree Sparrow "chipped" near the car park a Sparrowhawk hunted over the pig field and a Wheatear was on the beach. Finally, owls came into their own with a Short-eared Owl passing right overhead and a Little sunning itself atop the Bailiffs court dovecot. In all, a remarkable day.



NOVEMBER - FARLINGTON MARSHES

During the cold spell of the latter months, a freezing circular walk around Farlington Marshes was undertaken by 7 members under the leadership of Dave Smith on 26th November. Typically, Farlington provided quantity rather than quality, thus large numbers of relatively common birds were present, most notably 4000 Brent Geese and large groups of Pintail, Wigeon, Shoveler and Teal with 10 Goldeneye in the harbour. Wader-wise, the spectacle of over 10,000 Dunlin overshadowed lesser numbers of the 'usual' waders of the western harbour which also held Knot. A single Sparrowhawk provided 'raptorial' interest and finally, 2 white Coot were either albino's or in Dave's own official description of the day's temperatures, were b..... freezing!

DECEMBER - RIVER ADUR

Last but not least- the Society's annual weight-watchers special- Stanley Allen's walk up the Adur to shed the excess Christmas pounds. On New Year's Eve, 14 members were again conned into counting wildfowl and waders on Stanley's behalf and this year, on a mild and still morning and with the water running at low tide, the count produced 140 Dunlin, 215 Ringed Plover, 93 Redshank, 500 Lapwing, 3 Oystercatchers, 24 GBB Gulls, 100 Herring Gulls, 11 Common Gulls and 200 Black headed Gulls. By noon, the outing had disbanded and members returned home to commence celebrations for the new year.

Les Hemblade

INDOOR MEETINGS 1988

Monday 4th Jan

Brian Metcalfe's sparkling lecture on Pagham Harbour was one of the highlights of our indoor meetings. Brian produced some superb slides, and spoke with the knowledge and enthusiasm of someone who has grown up with the Pagham environment, with all its changes, both natural and man-made, down the years. He also gave some very important tips to those budding camera-people.

Monday 1st Feb.

Chris Passmore's Applesham farm, situated on the west side of the Coombes Road and to the north of Lancing College, provided the topic for this very interesting meeting. It was refreshing and encouraging to hear from a farmer who is so sensitive and caring to the environment and his talk demonstrated that if every landowner took such a view then the devastation of our ecosystem would be a thing of the past. Chris showed how it was possible to run a mixed-farm with a sympathetic view towards nature and hence his farm is a model on how to preserve the South Downs yet remain profitable.

Monday 7th March

Jim Glover took us to Eastern Scotland (Fife) for the first part of his talk and showed us some beautiful slides of the area he used to live in. It was interesting to hear that pollution control in the whisky industry had led to a reduction in the number of seaduck off the coast near the distilleries, what a sobering thought! The second part of his talk was spent looking at RSPB reserves in the south-east and the myriad of problems he has to deal with.

Monday 16th April

Peter Burns gave us an insight into the varied duties of a Reserve warden. His round world synopsis of how various countries run their reserves was an education to all. His amusing and witty manner and superb slides were the perfect ingredients for a very interesting evening.

Monday 3rd October

Stephen Morfey took us far away from our Sussex countryside with a beautifully photographed description of the Isle of Islay (pronounced eyelay). Possibly not the most spectacular Scottish island, but it is needless to say of great importance as a wintering ground for Barnacle Geese- and we were told about the clash between commercial and ornithological interests which have, of course, become headline news. The tape recordings of the geese coming into roost and the characteristic call of the Chough transported one to that distant island.

Monday 7th November

John Newnham, Chris Fox, Brian Clay and Dave Smith paid a memorable visit to south-west Spain and they shared their exploits, accompanied by some superb photographs, to the society. It made everyone rather envious and the presentation was both informative and witty. Any more Woodchat slides?

Monday 5th December

Brian Metcalfe took on the task of organising a members' evening for the

festive month. Mike Hall spoke first on the Ferring Rife, past, present and the possible future. It was good to hear that the trees planted by the society are thriving and ready to receive their first rarity.

Stanley Allen took us on a world tour taking in Cyprus, Crete, Norway and Shoreham using his usual wit and imagination. Brian Metcalfe then showed us a number of slides on both birds and scenery and was always giving advice to those who worry about shutter speeds, apertures and the likes.

John Dixon then took the floor with his talk on classification of birds according to families. Controversy ruled with a warbler photographed in the hand where a few rowdy hecklers (DIS/RAI) disagreed with the identification. There's always a very special atmosphere at the Christmas do's, and the mince pies, wine and home brew were appreciated by everyone.

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 2 weeks of January. Particularly where large numbers are involved this is vital if members want to receive the report on or shortly after the AGM. A reminder that the Society's record sheets are set out in the following format:-

SPECIES	DATE	LOCALITY/NOTES	NUMBER	OBSERVER
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It would be greatly appreciated if records could be submitted in standard 'Vocus order' (ie. the order in this report, your checklist or fieldguide), not for example, in order of sighting on a field trip. As the records log is held in this order it really does save a lot of time and effort.

Rarities should have full supporting notes and it would again assist greatly, when sending in a rare or unusual bird record if the observer could state whether the description has been forwarded to the County recorder (either for consideration by the Sussex Ornithological Society Records Committee or the British Birds Rarities Committee if it is sufficiently rare to require their adjudication).

There is no need to go into minute detail for those birds considered "unusual" but those records should contain enough salient points to confirm

an accurate identification. A list of "Unusual" species is published annually in the S.O.S. Bird Report and also in a paper published by that society in 1978 entitled "Identification, Notetaking and Reporting". This paper is an essential guide to every birdwatcher, whether beginner or experienced observer. I believe copies can still be obtained from the S.O.S.; however, any S.D.O.S. member requiring a photocopy can obtain one from the recorder, either at an indoor meeting or by sending a large s.a.e. to the following address:-

Mr D.I. Smith,
15 Ryecroft Close,
Goring-by-Sea.

Again, many thanks to all those members (and non-members) who contributed records for 1988; their importance cannot be over-emphasised. Keep them coming in 1989!

Dave Smith



Red Kite

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Sanctuary Committee	Dr. J.A. Newnham. Dr. A.B. Watson
Other Committee Members	Mr. J. Dixon,

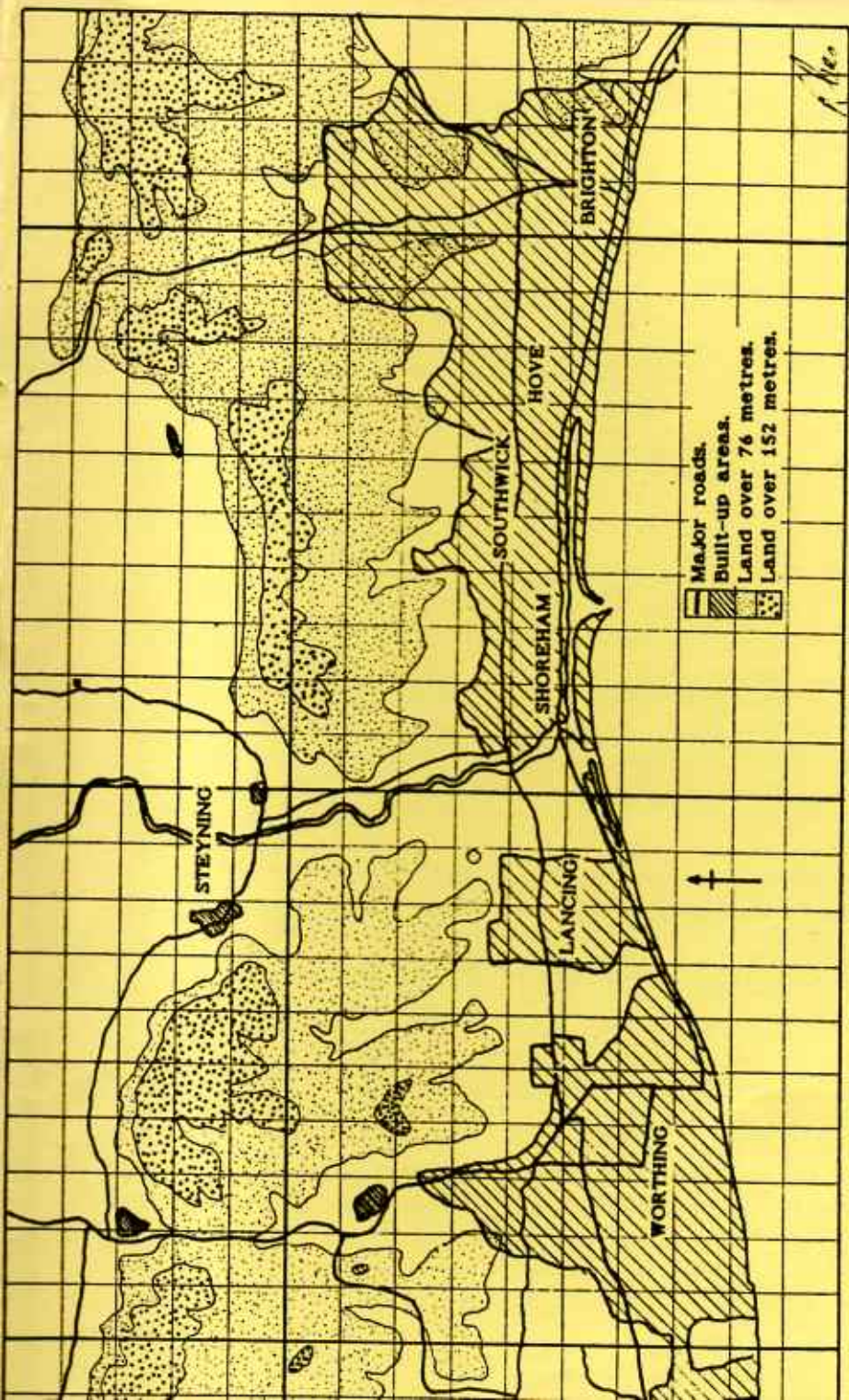
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 st DECEMBER 1988

RECEIPTS	1988 £	1987 £
Balance brought forward	924.67	950.92
Subscriptions	574.50	449.50
Sale of Reports	—	12.00
Net raffle & refreshment receipts	112.07	57.11
Building Society interest	23.88	28.79
Donations	48.50	4.00
Sponsored Birdwatch	325.48	—
	£ 2009.10	£ 1502.32
PAYMENTS		
Printing	223.00	326.79
Postage & stationery	39.53	19.00
Secretary's expenses	59.04	20.94
Hire of hall	168.00	70.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	81.00	116.00
Sundries	20.69	9.42
Purchase of Computer	259.95	—
Bank charges	11.50	11.50
Balance Carried Forward	1142.39	924.67
	£ 2009.10	£ 1502.32

C.J.Fox (Hon Treasurer). Dated 21st February 1989

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



MAP OF THE SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S RECORDING AREA.