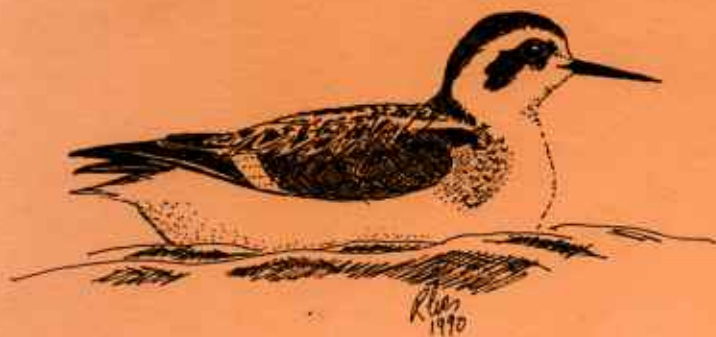


**Shoreham District
Ornithological Society**

REPORT 1989



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SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 1989

CONTENTS	PAGE
Editorial Notes by R.A.Ives	2
Notable Birds of the Shoreham Area by D.I. Smith	2
Systematic List of Birds of the Area by D.I. Smith	6
Arrival and Departure of Migrants	59
Sanctuary Report by J.A. Newnham	60
Ringling Report by J.A. Newnham	62
Cissbury Ringling Report by C.J. Fox	66
Seawatching Report by P. Brayshaw	68
Hollingbury Report by P. Whitcomb	80
Kingfishers Steal the Show by M. Russell	82
Field Outings by L. Hemblade	84
Indoor Meetings by R.Ives	88
Members Records by D.I. Smith	89
Members of the Council	90
Notes and Accounts	91
Cover logo, Maps & Line Drawings by R.A. Ives	
Graphs & Pre-print Preparation B. Clay	
Proof Reading by Dave Smith.	

EDITORIAL

It doesn't seem possible that the year has turned full circle at such an amazing speed! Hours of poring over a sweaty keyboard and another report hits the streets. I and the other committee members would like to hear what you think about our publications as it is to you, the members, we are answerable to; I should be grateful to hear any suggestions on how the report and the newsletter could be improved. Drop me a line or speak to me at the indoor meetings. Well it's time to thank all those who have served on the committees, those who have provided refreshment at the meetings, and the intrepid leaders who go out in all kinds of weather to make the outings a success. Thanks to Richard Neal for his work as secretary I wish his successor all the best. I have to express my gratitude to Dave for his work as recorder, he really does make my work much easier. His daunting task is performed quickly and efficiently and without his excellent work this report wouldn't appear before the autumn!

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NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1989

1989 was a contrasting year weather-wise; mild at both ends of the year with a long, hot summer and its associated drought. In the absence of hard weather no large movement occurred, and although other areas of the South of England noted good numbers of overshooting vagrants from the south of Europe during the summer (for example, parties of Little Egrets were not uncommon), we largely missed out.

January 1989 was one of the mildest on record, and consequently rather quiet. After a large country-wide invasion of Waxwings, we thankfully recorded one, in Brighton on 6th. 3 Snow Buntings frequented Shoreham beach from early Jan with 2 there to at least mid-February. A Slavonian Grebe was seen off Worthing beach on 7th, and 52 Eider flew west on 2nd, with 9 Long-tailed Ducks on 14th. There were few unusual waders but notable were 3 Green Sandpipers on the upper Adur levels in the early part of the month. Redwings were scarce but two flocks of 300+ fieldfares were recorded. There were a few wintering Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps. February continued mild, and was a rather quiet month bird-wise.

Slavonian Grebes were seen on the sea off Worthing beach on two dates, and the regular Bewick's Swan herd on the upper Adur levels numbered 28 early in the month. Pintail, seldom numerous in our recording area, were in good numbers on

the upper Adur levels, with 48 reported there at the end of the month. As in January, few unusual waders put in an appearance; there were 2 Purple Sandpipers at Shoreham harbour on 19th, and a Ruff on the lower Adur on 12th. A Sandwich Tern flew east at Widewater on Feb 11; either a very early spring migrant, or more likely, a wintering bird. March came in anything but lion-like, but at least managed a short colder spell towards the end of the month. Two Salmon Grebes were seen off Worthing beach, where 2 Bewick's Swans flew E on 27th. Pintail again appeared in numbers with 95 passing there on 5th, on which date 2, possibly 5 Garganey were seen. Seawatching continued to produce good numbers and unusual species; 2 Long-tailed Ducks on 27th, 26 Velvet Scoters during the month, 5 Goosanders on 6th, 1920 Common Scoters on 27th (when 1106 passed Hove), 93 Knot on 18th, and a remarkable 16 Little Gulls on 19th. Black-tailed Godwits are seldom seen inland in our area, thus 3 on the upper Adur levels on 5th were unusual.

Raptors included an exceptionally early Hobby at Broadwater on 27th, and a Merlin there on 9th. The mild weather no doubt contributed heavily to the early arrival of some spring migrants. Wheatears were seen in the first week of March, and there were very early first dates for Swallow, Chiffchaff, and Willow Warbler, the latter appearing in numbers before the end of the month. 6 Ring Ouzels were at Hollingbury Camp on 28th. April and May's highlights appeared mainly off Worthing beach, where seawatchers had to put up with near-warm conditions and light easterly winds, often being forced away from the sanctuary of the seafront shelter to bask in the sun! Details are fully covered in the seawatching report and systematic list but notable birds in April included Red-necked Grebe, Black-necked Grebe, Velvet Scoter, Goosanders, Avocet, Garganey, and Puffin; and in May, Great Northern Diver, Manx Shearwaters, Avocets, Roseate Terns, Glaucous Gull, Short-eared Owl and high numbers of assorted waders, Pomarine Skuas, Black Terns, "Commic Terns", and Mediterranean Gulls in both months.

Returning to April, a Hawfinch was seen at Hillbarn on 8th, and a Short-eared Owl flew over Goring on 23rd. The trend for passerine migrants to arrive early continued, with Lesser Whitethroat and Redstart noted on 4th and 1st respectively. 8 Pied Flycatchers were together in Brighton on 24th. A Nightjar arrived at Brighton Marina on May 6, and other May highlights were a Wryneck at Hollingbury Camp on 4th, one in Hove on 8th, and a Buzzard over Broadwater on 14th. June began cool, but hot weather soon arrived, to continue through the summer months. As usual, a quiet time although the Gull billed Tern reported from Worthing beach on 16th, if accepted, will be only the third area record. A

Buzzard flew over Findon Valley on 14th, and a Quail called at Long Furlong on Jun-15. An encouraging increase in Sand Martin breeding numbers was noted.

July heralded the start of a very poor return passage of waders, most species being well down in numbers during late summer and autumn. Of note were 2 Little Stints at Widewater on 20-21st. Two more Quail were reported, 1 Mediterranean Gull, and unusual for the month was a Little Gull at Worthing beach on 6th.

August was warm and dry, and produced a number of unusual species. A Cory's Shearwater passed Worthing beach on 11th, with a Manx Shearwater on 15th, 6 Great Skuas on 26th, and 2 early Pomarine Skuas late in the month. Raptors included two Marsh Harriers at Shoreham Airport on 24th, and a Buzzard over Mill Hill on 28th. Waders, as previously mentioned, were disappointing but notable were 2 Little Ringed Plovers on the lower Adur on 24th, with a Little Stint there 23rd, and a total of 6 Ruff from 2 sites. Most enjoyable must have been the Hoopoe at Hollingbury golf course on 10th, and a Melodious Warbler at Findon Valley on 8th, the latter being potentially the second-ever record for the area. September produced arguably the two "birds of the year" in the same week. A Red-necked Phalarope was present on Widewater from 1st to 7th, which gave excellent views to many observers; and a Savi's Warbler was located at Adur Recreation ground on 6th. Sadly its stay was brief. Other highlights included an Osprey over Lancing on 18th and a Peregrine over the Shoreham flyover on 17th, both seen by the same observer. Single Glaucous Gull and Roseate Tern passed Worthing beach, and up to 60 "yellow legged" Herring Gulls were counted at Washington tip during the month. A Wryneck was found freshly dead in Brighton on 13th.

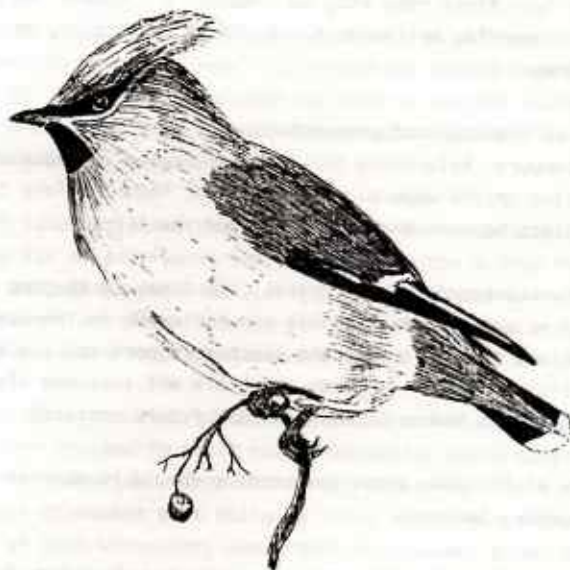
Another Hoopoe appeared in October, this time at Stanmer Park from Oct 30 to Nov 1, and a Yellow browed Warbler was seen in Hollingdean on 17th. Apart from these, a rather quiet month; raptors included single Peregrine, Merlin, and Buzzard, with a passage Short-eared Owl also noted. Worthing beach recorded a Long-tailed Duck on 8th, a Purple Sandpiper on 1st, a Manx Shearwater on 21st, and Snow Buntings on 28th and 30th.

Dry and mild conditions were prevalent in November. A Little Auk was seen at Worthing beach on 2nd; other notable birds recorded there during the month were further Snow Buntings, Great Northern Diver, and Velvet Scoter. Buzzards and Merlins appeared at several sites, as did Short-eared Owls. Firecrests numbered between 5 and 8 at Wild Park on 5th, and the only record of Twite for the year was 3 on Adur Rec on 11th. December was often wet and windy, with above-average

rainfall. Gales in the late month brought significant numbers of Leach's Petrels to the south coast. Although not recorded in the systematic list this year, a reliable verbal report has been received of 25 passing Brighton Marina on Christmas Day, when undoubtedly most of us were not looking! Even larger numbers were seen off Beachy Head. Better luck next time.....

Other highlights included a Grey Phalarope on 26th to 30th, found in Shoreham harbour (during an unsuccessful search for petrels); a Water Pipit at Widewater on 28th, a White-fronted Goose on the upper Adur levels, where 15 Bewick's Swans had returned by late December; raptors again involved single Buzzard and Merlin; and 2 Slavonian Grebes were seen off Worthing beach. Up to 3 Snow Bunting at Shoreham harbour from 18th brought the year to a close.

Dave Smith
Hon Recorder



SYSTEMATIC LIST OF BIRDS OF THE AREA

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

S.R. Allen, R. Bayne, M. Brayshaw, P. Brayshaw, G.L., M.L., & N.J. Champion, B.R. Clay, G. Edwards, R.J. Fairbank, J.A. Feest, B.F. Forbes, C.R. Fox, M.P. Hall, S. Harthill, L.E. Hemblade, C. Hope, R.A. Ives, R.W.C. Ives, H. Jackson, L.R. Keen, B.A.E. Marr, G.T.J. Martin, N. Matthews, B. Metcalfe, Dr J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, M. Price, M. Russell, R.J. Sandison, T.C. Smart, D.I. Smith, J. Stafford, J.S. Stuart, H. Sturman, A.B. Watson, A.D. Whitcomb, P.J. Whitcomb, I.C. Whitcomb.

See also acknowledgements in the sea watching report.

Abbreviations:- 1y - first year etc, ad - adult, f - female, ha hectare, imm - immature, juv - juvenile, m - male, N - North etc., pr pair, sp - summer plumage, wp - winter plumage.

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

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the Cissbury Ringing Group were unable to provide data at an early enough date for inclusion in the systematic list. Members are advised that this year the Cissbury report and the ringing report includes significant details of birds which are NOT included elsewhere in the report. This should be borne in mind for any future research.

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

Hours Watched	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Worthing Beach	17	14	61	133	177	31	10	44	52	53	19	25	636

1. RED THROATED DIVER In the early months 5 were at Brighton Marina on Jan 7. 1 was in Southwick Canal on Jan 10, 1 off Widewater on Jan 6, and 1 in Shoreham Harbour on Feb 17.

Recorded at Worthing Beach between Jan and May, and again after Sept 24. The monthly totals of birds moving offshore were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	17	2	6	28	3	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
West	4	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6

Last date noted in the spring was 1E on May 26. Peak movements at Worthing were 12E on Jan 2 and 9E on Apr 30. 2 were offshore there Mar 4, 1 on Apr 4, and 8 on Apr 17 & in the autumn 1 on Sep 24 and 5 on four dates between Oct 26 and Dec 28. Away from Worthing beach 3 flew E at Widewater on Dec 19 and 1 again in Shoreham Harbour on Dec 28.

2. BLACK THROATED DIVER All records were from Worthing beach; the monthly totals of birds moving offshore were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	1	-	1	3	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

The last date recorded in spring was 7E on May 21. Singles were noted offshore on Apr 29, Dec 10 and Dec 28.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER The only acceptable records were of singles noted from Worthing beach; 1E in w/p on Apr 2 (PMB), 1E in s/p on May 8 (PMB), and 1 offshore in w/p Nov 25 (PMB)

DIVER SP. Records of divers not specifically identified were from Worthing beach, were recorded from Jan to May 30 and again after Oct 7. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	30	9	43	72	50	-	-	-	-	1	6	10
West	23	15	4	6	3	-	-	-	-	1	33	135

Peak movements were 25E 1W on Mar 27, 1E 26W on Nov 25, and 1E 105W on Dec 27, the latter being one of the largest winter day movements on record.

6. LITTLE GREBE Again, low numbers at both ends of the year, again probably due to mild weather. The highest early year count was 6 on the R. Adur on Jan 21 reducing to 4 on Feb 12 and 2 on Feb 19. 3 were on the R. Adur at upper Beeding on Mar 5, 2 on Widewater on Jan 26 2 at Southwick canal on Feb 23 (otherwise just singles there), and 2 at Clayton pond during Jan-Mar. 1 was at Brighton Marina on Mar 11.

None were recorded in the breeding season. In the autumn, apart from 2 on upper Adur on Nov 18, just 3 singles were recorded at 3 traditional sites.

7. GREAT CRESTED GREBE The monthly totals of birds seen passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	1	1	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
West	4	7	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	6

Larger numbers were seen offshore at Worthing beach, maximum monthly totals being 13 in Jan; 15 in Feb (max. 10 on Feb 12); 21 in Mar; 4 in Apr; 2 in May; and 35 in Dec (max. 21 on Dec 10). 1 was off Widewater on Jan 6.

Away from Worthing beach, 2 were offshore at Ferring on Oct 11, and a total of 21 were recorded at 4 other coastal locations in Dec.

8. RED NECKED GREBE There were just two acceptable records, both from Worthing beach, where 1 was seen on the tideline on Apr 9 (GVE/JAN/DIS) and another flew E on Apr 30 (JAN)

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE There were 7 records; singles offshore at Worthing beach on Jan 7, Feb 12, Mar 2, Mar 18, May 2, and two there on Dec 28. 1 was noted on the sea at Widewater on Feb 22.

10. BLACK NECKED GREBE Continues to be recorded annually, just. The only record was 1 offshore at Worthing beach on Apr 5 (PMB). Early April seems to be the time to see this attractive, small grebe.

1988 1 off Lancing 21 Jan.

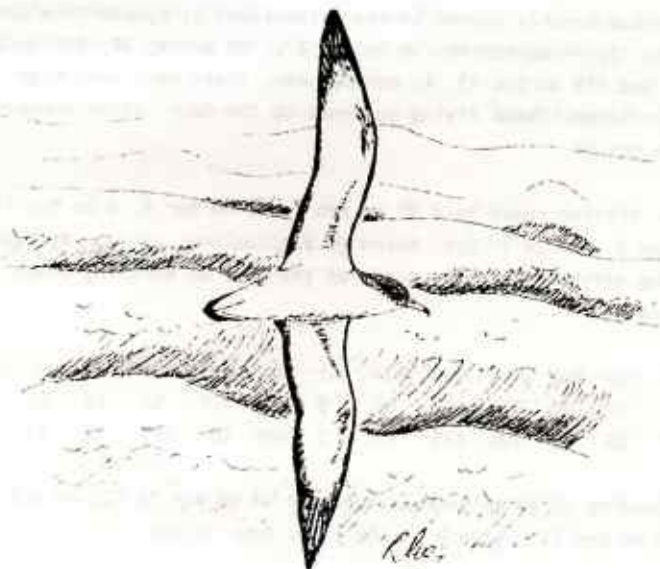
12. FULMAR First of the year was 1 W over the houses at Widewater on Jan 15. Recorded on seawatches at Worthing beach in all months except November, the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	1	-	11	140	163	9	1	8	1	-	-	1
West	1	6	15	207	171	19	8	37	16	1	-	-

Peak movements were 20E 33W on Apr 30; 26E 35W on May 6; 42E 12W on May 7; and 9 W on Aug 28.

Inland records were of singles flying W over Broadwater on Apr 28 and Jun 10, and 1 over Hollingdean on Aug 10.

15. CORY'S SHEARWATER 1 flew E at Worthing beach at 07.40 on Aug 11 (MPG) The second year running that this species has been recorded, although the 1988 records have been referred to the Seabirds Advisory Panel and a decision is still pending.



17. SOOTY SHEARWATER None recorded in 1989 but one for the previous year:
1988 2 W Brighton Marina 27 Sept.

18. MANX SHEARWATER All records were for the period May to October and all from Worthing beach, as follows:- 1 E on May 6, which was possibly the race "mauretanicus". 2W on May 12; 2W May 13; 1E Jun 3; 1E 4W Jun 28. Also 1W on Aug 15 and 1W on Oct 21.

25. GANNET Again recorded in every month at Worthing beach, as shown in the following table:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	3	5	-	90	181	203	9	64	44	35	2	5
West	2	24	9	133	120	177	51	113	111	784	18	8

Peak movements were 118E 3W on Jun 9, 1E 101W on Jun 28, 2E 50W on Aug 11, and record breaking movement of 17E 292W on Oct 8 & 12E 393W on Oct 28, the highest-ever day-totals for the area. A very good year indeed for sightings of this species.

Unusually, one was seen resting on the grass at Brooklands on Oct 21.

26. CORMORANT Maximum monthly counts of the pylon roost at Wykham Farm were as follows:- 71 on Jan 12; 74 on Feb 10; 30 on Aug 27; 106 on Sep 29; 106 on Oct 12; 82 on Nov 27; and 119 on Dec 13. As can be seen, these were very high numbers for this location. Those flying to roost up the Adur valley numbered 24 on Feb 1 and 33 on Oct 21.

The Shoreham Power Station roost held 20 on Feb 1, 22 on Mar 8, 5 on May 11, 16 on Aug 24, 7 on Sep 2, and 24 in Oct. Noted as a occasional visitor to Woods Mill. Noted passing offshore in every month of the year at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	6	17	83	265	180	20	8	129	147	54	22	27
West	9	23	88	194	115	21	5	109	181	195	33	35

Counts of birds feeding offshore were as follows: 28 on Mar 12, 20 on Jul 14, 30 on Dec 10, and 40 on Dec 28. 24 were on the lower Adur in Oct.

27. SHAG As in 1988, a significant number of records in 1989, albeit concentrations were lower. Totals of birds noted at Worthing beach were as follows:-

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

Singles were noted feeding offshore there on Apr 17 and Dec 28. Away from Worthing beach there were 2 in Shoreham harbour on Oct 21 and 3 at Brighton Marina on Dec 26.

39. HERON Largest concentrations were at New Salt's Farm and the lower Adur saltings where an average of 7 were noted regularly through the year, with a high of 13 in October. Otherwise most records involved mainly single or pairs flying E or W over the area and passing offshore, totalling 20 sightings from 7 locations. Reported as regular during the year at Woods Mill.

2 were at Widewater on Apr 21, 6 were on Ferring Rife on Jan 29, and 1 was seen in a Broadwater garden on Sep 23.

46. MUTE SWAN Counts of herds on the upper Adur levels were 43 on Jan 2, 52 on Feb 5, and 43 in Dec. An unusual species noted on seawatches, 3 flew E and W at Worthing beach on Jan 11, and 4 flew E there on Sep 30. The only breeding records received were of a pair which raised 7 young on Patching Pond; and a pair with cygnets at New Salt's Farm. 1990 sees a national Mute Swan survey; all breeding records would be welcome.

Additionally, 14 were on the R. Adur at Steyning on Jul 20 and 2 were at Widewater in Jan & Feb.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN The wintering herd on the upper Adur levels appears to have established itself as a regular feature giving an opportunity for all of us to enjoy this graceful wild swan. There were 18 on Jan 2 and 28 on Feb 5, including a high count of 11 juveniles. A separate herd to the 18 comprising 9 individuals was on the Henfield levels on Jan 2. 2 were again present on Dec 2 and 15 were counted on Dec 31 including 5 juveniles.

Away from the upper Adur 2 flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 27 and 2 were briefly at Brooklands on Dec 22.

51. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE There was just one record, of a single bird on the upper Adur levels on Dec 24.

53. GREY LAG GOOSE 2 flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 15, and there were 2 at Brooklands on Oct 5.

55. CANADA GOOSE Even fewer records than 1988; apart from 47 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16, there were 3 on Wiston pond on Dec 2 and 2 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 22. A pair at Woods Mill raised 4 young.

56. BARNACLE GOOSE 9, of questionable origin, flew W at Worthing beach on Dec

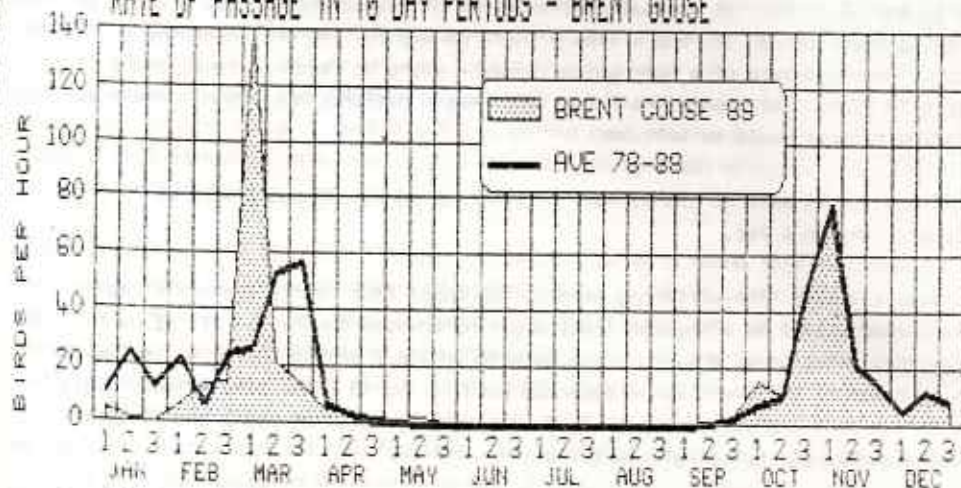
27. Could these have been part of the free-flying feral group at Arundel Wildfowl Trust, on one of their excursions away from base?

57. BRENT GOOSE In the early months 1 was in Shoreham harbour Jan 15 to Mar 11.

Noted from Worthing beach up to May 23 and again after Sep 12, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	17	160	2929	451	150	-	-	-	10	84	10	50
West	15	1	37	5	-	-	-	-	21	1982	133	31

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS - BRENT GOOSE



Peak movements were 1684 E 3W on Mar 5; 314E on Mar 9; 13E 827W on Oct 8, and 14E 749 W on Oct 28.

In autumn, 1 was on the lower Adur on Oct 1 with 2 on Oct 29, and on Oct 4 9 flew W over Shoreham airfield; 1 was at Widewater Oct 27-29 with 3 there Nov 27 to Dec 9. On Nov 3, 10 were on the Adur rec. and 5 were at Goring gap on Nov 11 and Dec 15, whilst on the Downs at No Man's Land 2 were noted feeding on cereals on Nov 17, then flying off NW. 3 were in Shoreham harbour on Nov 15 and 1 flew W over Broadwater on Nov 28. 39 flew N up R. Adur on Nov 26.

61. SHELDUCK As in 1988, few were noted at both ends of the year other than those passing offshore; hardly surprising considering the mild conditions in both winters.

1 was regular on the lower Adur between Jan 14 and Feb 12. On Mar 3, 2 were on the upper Adur levels. Recorded in the sea-watch log at Worthing beach the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	10	59	105	21	-	10	-	-	-	4
West	18	8	21	71	61	2	-	3	8	83	9	3

Peak movements were 31W on Apr 15; 21E 8W on May 5; and 75W on Oct 8. 4 were noted on the sea at Worthing Pier on Dec 28.

Inland records involved 29NE over Woods Mill on Jun 30 and 3 at Wiston on May 14.

64. WIGEON Again, the mild weather at both ends of the year generated no visible influx and very few were recorded during the year, apart from passage birds in Oct and Nov. 1 was on the upper Adur levels on Feb 19 with 5 there Feb 26.

As can be seen, the early year monthly totals from Worthing beach were lamentably low:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	12	2	12	1
West	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	74	33	-

Peak movements were 64W on Oct 8 and 12E 33W on Nov 16. 5 sat offshore on Dec 28. Additionally, 7 were on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16 and between 2 and 4 were at Widewater in late Dec.

67. GADWALL The only records were of birds passing offshore at Worthing beach, with 4 E on Apr 16 and 2E on May 4.

69. TEAL In contrast to Wigeon, good numbers were reported from the upper Adur levels in the early months, with 24 there on Feb 19, 50 on Feb 26, and an excellent 118 on Mar 5. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	2	-	28	20	3	-	-	-	6	5	-	2
West	1	-	1	2	2	-	-	8	58	63	24	2

Peak movements were 17E on Mar 6; 19E on Apr 9; 4E 27W on Sep 9; and 1 E 55W on Oct 8.

At Woods Mill there were just 2 early year records. 6 were on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3, with 13 there on Sep 24, and 19 there on Dec 16.

70. MALLARD Peak counts of 50 were taken at New Salt's farm on Jan 15, 22 at Small Dole pond on Sep 20, and 29 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16. Regular easterly flights at dusk of up to 40 individuals were noted at Goring, spring to autumn. The only breeding record received was of a pair at Woods Mill.

Noted in very small numbers passing offshore at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	2	4	-	8	1	-	-	3	-	8	-
West	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4	2	8	-

72. PINTAIL Good numbers were present in the early months on the upper Adur levels with counts of 14 on Feb 19, 48 on Feb 26, and 43 on Mar 3. 12 were on Widewater Mar 9, 10 flew S down the R. Adur on Mar 25.

Also a good year for the species on seawatches at Worthing beach, as the monthly totals demonstrate:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	2	93	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	-

Interestingly 2 were just outside our area at Falmer pond on Jun 10; the possibility that these were escapes cannot be excluded.

73. GARGANEY The only acceptable records of this elusive small duck were 2 males, with 3 females probably also of this species which flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 5 (PMB), and 1 male flew W at Brighton Marina on Apr 27.

75. SHOVELER A poor year, apart from seawatches at Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	12	36	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
West	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	20	4	-	-

Peak movements were 2SE on Apr 9 and 9 W on Sep 2. There were 2 on the lower Adur on Feb 12, 3 on the upper Adur levels in Feb with 4 on Mar 5, and a male was at Brooklands on Nov 19.

76. RED-CRESTED POCHARD The probable escape, present from 1987 at Brooklands, was again there all year.

77. POCHARD Maximum counts in the early months were at Brooklands where 15 were present on Jan 15 and 12 there on Jan 26. The maximum count for Jan at Widewater was 18.

3 flew E at Worthing beach on May 4. In the autumn, 14 sat offshore at Worthing beach on Sep 9, and 1 was on Brooklands Oct 29 increasing to 11 on Nov 19 and 14 on Dec 23. 10, possibly the same birds commuting between the two sites, were at Widewater on Nov 30 with a maximum of 15 there in Dec.

4 flew E at Worthing beach on Oct 10.

80. TUFTED DUCK In the early months 10 were at Brooklands and Widewater in Jan reducing at the former site to 2 on Feb 12. 4 were present at Patching Pond Feb 21 to Mar 1 with a pair present on May 29 although it is not known whether breeding occurred. At Worthing beach 2 flew W on Feb 22.

In the autumn 2 sat offshore at Worthing beach on Sep 9-10. At Brooklands 1 was present on Oct 29 with 9 on Nov 17, 22 on Nov 19 and 10 on Dec 23. 8 were at Widdewater on Nov 30 with 7 on Dec 28.

11 were on Wiston pond on Dec 2 and finally 2 flew E at Worthing beach on Dec 10.

81. SCAUP No 1989 records were received.

82. EIDER As usual most noted from Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	2	3	5	95	-	-	-	-	8	5	37	24
West	83	-	13	10	1	-	-	6	10	13	2	3

Peak numbers were 52W on Jan 2; and 23E 7W on Apr 9. Numbers noted on the sea; there were a total of 7 on 3 dates in Jan, 14 on 2 dates in Oct, and 9 on Dec 28.

86. LONG-TAILED DUCK 2 females flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 27 (PMB/JAN) & 1 flew E with 4 Pochard on Oct 8 (PMB)

87. COMMON SCOTER Recorded in each month of the year passing offshore, the totals were:-

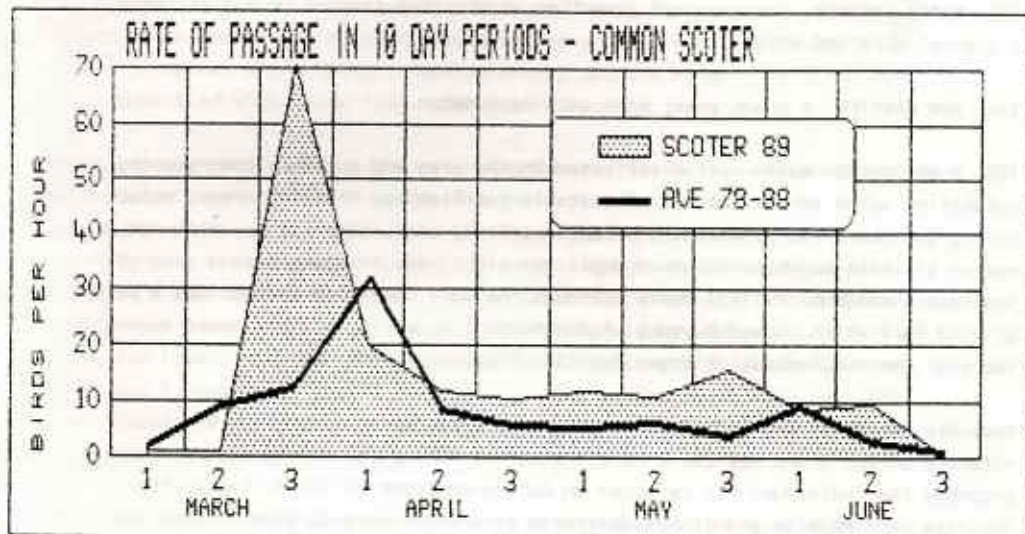
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	31	13	2031	1767	2158	158	2	60	25	12	21	1
West	3	14	11	107	47	59	-	32	69	39	2	-

Peak movements were 1920E on Mar 27, 446E 8W on Apr 9, and 455E on May 5, with occasionally small groups noted on the sea there. Additionally on Mar 27 1106 flew E at Hove.

89. VELVET SCOTER After the poor year of 1988, this species was seen in greater numbers in 1989 as the monthly totals of birds passing offshore at Worthing beach demonstrates:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	26	27	11	-	-	-	-	-	12	-
West	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	17	2	-	-

Peak movements were 11E on Mar 27, 15E on Mar 28, 12E on Apr 29, 16W on Sep 4, and 11E on Nov 18.



91. GOLDENEYE A very poor performance this year, in contrast to previous years, all records coming from the late months. At Worthing beach 2 flew W on Nov 25, 2W on Dec 17, and 1E on Dec 28. 2 were on Brooklands on Dec 30.

94. RED-BREADED MERGANSER The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	20	51	126	118	9	-	-	-	-	1	15	38
West	13	89	45	126	6	-	-	1	-	56	14	35

Peak movements were 47E 6W on Mar 27, 22E 21W on Apr 2, 32E 23W on Apr 9, and 27W on Oct 28. First of the autumn was recorded on the early date of Aug 5.

Counts of birds feeding offshore: there were 21 in Jan; 15 in Feb; 30 in Mar; 12 in Apr; 1 in May; & 63 in Dec. Few were noted away from Worthing beach. 7 was the maximum recorded off Widewater during Mar, and between 1 and 4 were at Shoreham harbour Feb-Mar.

95. GOOSANDER There were 3 records involving 9 birds. 5 flew E at Worthing beach on Jan 6 (JAN), 1 flew W there on Apr 15 (PMB), and at Brighton Marina 3 flew W on Apr 26 (GLC)

99. RED KITE No records this year but one for last: 1988 1 Lancing 21 Jan.

103. MARSH HARRIER There were 2 juveniles at Shoreham Airport on Aug 24 (PMB). A typical date and site.

104. HEN HARRIER A blank year; none were recorded.

108. SPARROWHAWK Again well distributed in the area and possibly now reaching saturation point in the context of suitable territories/ breeding areas. Noted during the year from 23 coastal, urban, downland, and wealden sites, although a number of these may have involved duplicate sightings. Breeding season records indicate a minimum of 11-13 pairs although the only confirmed success was a pair at Wild Park which raised 2 young. Again noted frequently in urban areas during the year where noted taking House Sparrows from town gardens.

Possible migrants were recorded from Worthing beach where singles were noted offshore on Apr 8 and May 20. A male regular at Goring in Jan and Feb was probably the individual hit by a car on Goring seafront on Feb 8. Sadly, its injuries were massive and it was destroyed by a veterinary surgeon.

109. BUZZARD There were 7 records involving 8 birds. Singles flew W over Broadwater on May 14, S down Findon Valley on Jun 14, over Mill Hill on Aug 28 and Nov 26, NE over Cissbury on Oct 3, and again E over Broadwater on Dec 28. 2 were seen over Sompting Brooks on Nov 29.

113. OSPREY The only record was 1 W over Lancing on Sep 18 (BFF)

115. KESTREL Noted from at least 25 localities during the year. Details of 11 confirmed breeding pairs were received with a probable further 8 pairs; where breeding success was noted, 3 pairs raised a total of 5 young. Pairs at Sompting Brooks and Woods Mill nested in poplars, and at the latter site a Magpie was seen to take an egg. Some 40% of pairs were in urban or semi-urban sites.

Possible migrants were singles passing Worthing beach on Apr 25 and May 7, with 2E 1W there on Apr 30; 1 flew S on Oct 29. Autumn concentrations included 8 at Long Furlong on Jul 26 and 5 on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3.

Interestingly, the total number of records received for this species in 1989 was only marginally greater than that of Sparrowhawk.

117. RED-FOOTED FALCON Reports of a male at Hollingbury on Aug 3 and 10 have yet to be submitted. This record is pending BBRC acceptance.

118. MERLIN There were 6 records, and apart from one, all were of females. Singles were seen over Broadwater on Mar 9, Cissbury on Oct 15, R. Adur at Shoreham on Nov 22, Wild Park and Broadwater on Nov 24, and Sompting Brooks on Dec 6.

119. HOBBY First of the year was 1 W over Broadwater on Mar 27 (RAI), the first record for this month and the earliest ever recorded, by at least 18 days, after which no more were recorded until 1 at Goring Gap on Apr 23. Recorded spring to autumn from 15 localities, Woods Mill reporting their best year ever. The monthly totals were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	4	3	1	3	2	8	-

These totals include arrivals at Worthing beach on Apr 28 and May 21. Breeding was confirmed at one site in the area, a pair raising two young.

123. PEREGRINE FALCON A juvenile was seen near the Shoreham flyover on Sep 17 (BFF), one was seen at Sompting Brooks (PMB) and Broadwater (RAI) on Oct 6.

129. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE The only record received was 1 at Ditchling Beacon on May 10, after sizeable coveys reported in 1988. Is this species just not being reported, or is it in decline?

130. GREY PARTRIDGE Reported during the year from 17 sites, the largest coveys being 14 at Goring Gap on Dec 10; 12 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 2, 10 at North Durrington in Aug (where 3 pairs were known to breed) 10 at Stump Bottom on Aug 13, and most unusually 9 in a Mill Hill garden on Oct 14. Groups of 7 were noted at New Salt's farm on Jan 29 and King's Barn, Steyning, Oct 7 to Dec 22. A pair bred at Devil's Dyke.

131. QUAIL Singles, all calling, were reported Jun/Jul from 4 downland sites, as follows:- Long Furlong on Jun 15, South Downs Way above Steyning on Jul 1, Cissbury on 16 & 17 Jul, and New Erringham Farm on Aug 2.

136. WATER RAIL A better year, with at least 7 noted from 5 sites. Singles were at the Sanctuary on Feb 12, New Salt's farm on Mar 25, and at Woods Mill Jan to mid-Mar, where occasionally 2 were seen.

There were no breeding records but 1 was calling at Patching Pond on Jun 15. In December, singles were again at Woods Mill on Dec 10, and on the upper Adur levels at Steyning on Dec 15 and Dec 22.

142. MOORHEN Concentrations were down on previous years, peak counts being 17 at Brooklands on Jan 26, 8 at New Salt's farm on Jan 21, and 7 at Brooklands on Nov 19. 4 pairs, 8 juveniles and 2 pulli were on Falmer Pond on Jul 23 and 4 pairs bred at Woods Mill. Considered unusual by the observers were 3 on Stanmer Pond on Dec 13 and 1 at Widewater on Mar 7.

145. COOT Peak monthly counts at Brooklands were 59 in Jan, 41 in Oct, and 71 in Nov. 2 were on Widewater Jan 8 and Small Dole on Sep 22. A pair at Patching raised 1 young.

151. OYSTERCATCHER Recorded in every month, and as usual the largest numbers were recorded passing offshore at Worthing beach, as the following totals show:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	23	16	98	168	239	4	-	41	75	71	16	29
West	26	12	18	53	114	7	7	61	41	53	29	30

Small numbers were present on R Adur at Shoreham in each month, with a low of 1 (Feb & Oct) to a high of 10 in Aug. Peak counts at the Goring Gap wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	26	18	-	-	-	-	-	18	21	39	NC	27

Inland 1 flew W at Lancing Clump on Jul 18.

153. AVOCET 1 flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 9, with 2 E there on May 5.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER 1 flew E at Worthing beach on May 20. In the autumn 2 were on River Adur on Aug 24.

159. RINGED PLOVER The peak monthly counts from Shoreham & Goring were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	110	20	30	4	13	6	50	69	200	215	211	56
Goring Gap	166	78	38	-	-	-	259	-	174	179	180	

Miscellaneous counts were 350 on Shoreham beach Feb 13, 150 Shoreham Airport Nov 2, 33 at Brighton Marina on Dec 30, and 62 at Widewater on Aug 21.

Monthly totals of birds passing offshore at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	17	21	192	4	3	52	113	51	26	-
West	-	-	21	11	27	-	-	160	113	48	18	-

Peaks were 67E 1W on May 21, by far exceeding the previous day total for the spring; and high numbers in autumn of 3E 73W on Aug 27 and 70E 16W on Sep 24.

Encouragingly, comprehensive breeding records were received from 2 sites. Despite disturbance, a pair on the shingle beach at Brooklands raised 5 young, hatching on May 13, and 4 well-grown young were seen there on May 24. 2 pairs also at Brooklands raised a total of 5 young, end-Jun. 3 pairs were seen holding territory there on Jun 21. At Widewater a pair raised 3 or 4 young in early May and 4 pairs were holding territory there on Jun 18, one juvenile also being present. All breeding records will again be most welcome.

161. KENTISH PLOVER 1 was on the R. Adur on Jun 26 (KN et al), the first record since 1984.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER Again, rather few were recorded in 1989, the highest number being 24E at Lancing on Nov 22.

In the early months 6 were on the upper Adur levels Jan 12 with 1 there Mar 5. Singles were noted at Worthing beach with 1E on Apr 9, 1W on Aug 26, 1W on Sep 16, 4W on Aug 27, and 3 W on Nov 25. In August singles were at Cissbury on 27th and upper Adur levels on 28th, and in Sep 3 were at Cissbury on 3rd. A further 7 were noted from 3 sites in November.

166. GREY PLOVER Recorded in the seawatch log at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	6	27	389	3	-	2	1	1	-	-
West	5	-	23	5	13	-	-	9	3	4	10	4

Peak movements were 124E on May 6 and 42E 7W on May 5. 3 were on Worthing beach on Jul 23.

5 were on the R Adur at Shoreham in Jan with 17 on Feb 19 but none were seen there in Mar; up to 3 were present Oct to Dec.

Counts at the Goring Gap roost were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
180	122	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	76	131

169. LAPWING Maximum counts in the early months were 2094 at Shoreham Airport on Jan 15 with 710 there on Feb 9/19, and 600 at Ferring Rife on Feb 21. Breeding records were up to 6 pairs Cissbury to Chanctonbury, 2 pairs near Castle Goring, and 1 pair N. Durrington which was unsuccessful due to disturbance. Again, all records of breeding birds will be welcome.

Groups present in the breeding season were 4 at W Durrington in May, 12 Harrow Hill early Jun, and 6 at New Salt's farm mid-Jun. Post-breeding flocks included 200 at Shoreham Airport on Jul 9, 124 at New Salt's farm on Jul 18, 70 Long Furlong on Jul 26, and 179 Airport Aug 14. 50 were at Cissbury on Sep 2, 43 were unusual at N Durrington on Sep 3, and 450 were at the airport on Oct 18.

In the later months, peak counts were 150 Ferring Rife Nov 1, 250 New Salt's farm Nov 12, 350 Sompting Brooks Dec 13, 900 "Shoreham" Dec 15, and 1000 upper Adur levels Dec 16. Not a typical seawatch bird outside hard weather, 3 flew E at Worthing beach on Dec 3. 170. KNOT None were noted Jan-Feb. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	93	2	395	4	-	1	3	1	1	-
West	-	-	2	1	-	7	2	4	-	-

Peak movements were 93E on Mar 8, the largest day total on record for this month; 89E on May 5, and 113E on May 8. 1 was on R. Adur at Shoreham on May 5.

All autumn records were from the lower Adur with 2 there on Aug 24, and singles on Aug 22, Oct 27, and Dec 8.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
86	118	153	NC	NC	1	100	284

As can be seen, high numbers were present there in Dec. Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	40	14	391	16	-	-	2	3	-	-
West	15	22	27	-	-	49	3	1	1	-

Peak movements were 72E on May 21, 32E 11W on May 6, and 25W on Aug 26. Last in spring were 16E on Jun 4.

Away from these main sites, 9 were on the beach at Widewater on May 7 with 7 there on Dec 8, and singles on Widewater itself on Sep 1 and Dec 17. On the lower Adur 1 was present on Jul 19 to 25, with 2 on Sep 27, and 1 on Oct 1. 134 were on Ferring beach Feb 21.

175. LITTLE STINT 1 was at Widewater on May 15, with 2 there Jul 20-21 1 was on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 3 Aug.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER Singles were at Widewater on Jul 18 and Goring Gap on Aug 22. A very poor year throughout the county.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER An average performance, with two in Shoreham harbour on Feb 19, and Dec 24-30. 1 flew W at Worthing beach on Oct 1.

184. DUNLIN Peak monthly counts from R Adur and the Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	1150	720	300	15	15	-	65	19	20	-	446	600
Goring	1050	360	82	-	-	-	-	21	-	80	111	549

Miscellaneous counts included 576E to roost at Worthing beach on Dec 31, 234 Ferring beach Feb 21, 150 Shoreham Airport Feb 19, and 43 Widewater May 13 with 22 there Nov 25.

Coastal movements at Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
East	176	81	391	-	-	12	35	18	-
West	133	29	66	-	3	77	17	126	28

Peak movements were 105E on Mar 5, 3E 79W Mar 9, 91E May 5, 77E 1W May 6; 54W Aug 26, and 68W Oct 28.

188. RUFF Rarely recorded on seawatches, singles flew E at Worthing beach on May 5 and May 6, with 1W on Aug 20 and 3W Aug 22; these latter birds may have been those also seen at Goring Gap on the same day.

On the lower Adur 1 was present on Feb 12 with 2 on Aug 24, and 2 were on the upper Adur Levels on Dec 16.

189. JACK SNIFE The only record was of a passage bird flushed on Oct 14 from the lagoons on the west side of Ferring Rife. A record for last year was 1 Ferring Rife in Feb 1988.

190. SNIFE In the early months very few were noted; a total of 5 only from 3 traditional sites, with occasional singles at Woods Mill Jan-Mar. In autumn 7 were on the Adur saltings on Sep 25, 2 flew over Broadwater on Sep 28, and 2 flew over Wild Park on Oct 1.

Late year maxima on the upper Adur levels were 4 in Sep, 2 in Oct, 6 in Nov, and 40 in Dec. 4 flew W at Worthing beach on Dec 9, and unusual was 1 in Storrington town centre on Nov 26.

194. WOODCOCK A better year for this species. In the early months up to 2 were at Wild Park on Jan 10, 1 flew SW over Truleigh Hill on Mar 11, and 1 was at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 20. No roding birds were reported. In the later months 2 were at Sompting Brooks on Nov 16, singles at Cissbury on Nov 17 and Nov 21, and the first records at Woods Mill for 2 years were singles on Nov 18 and Nov 26. In December, singles were at Wild Park on 22nd and Wiston on 30th.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Singles were on Ferring beach on Jan 1 and Goring wader roost on Feb 19; what was undoubtedly this latter bird flew W at Worthing beach on the same day. Inland, 3 were on the upper Adur levels on Mar 5.

At Worthing beach 1 flew E on Apr 9 with 2E Apr 11, 2E Apr 25, 3E May 6, 1W Aug 26 and 7E 3W on Sep 10.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT In the early months, 3 were on the Goring wader roost on Jan 1, with possibly the same birds on the lower Adur on Feb 12.

The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach show a very poor autumn passage.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	-	1109	1903	17	-	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	14	5	4	58	-	2	-	-	-	1	

Peak movements were 359E 1W on Apr 29, 352E 21W on May 4, 323E on May 5, and 473E on May 6. The 17 in June flew E on 12th. Singles were at Widewater in Apr/May, and after 1 on the lower Adur on Apr 21, 31 were noted there on 5 dates in early May.

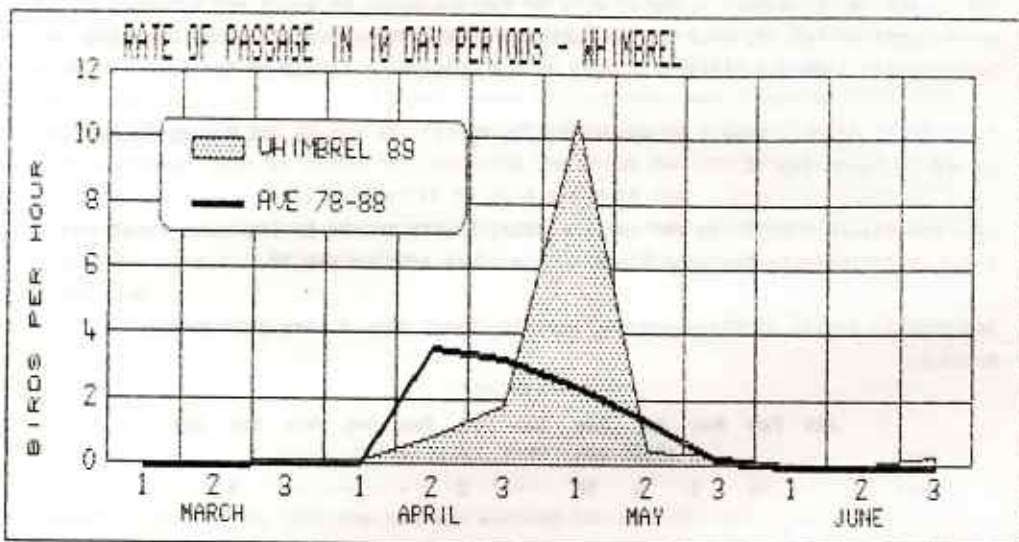
In autumn 1 was on the lower Adur on Sep 27 and 1 on Goring wader roost on 5 dates in October. Birds noted inland were 20E over Broadwater on May 7 and 6E there on May 5.

198. WHIMBREL Coastal movements at Worthing beach were noted from Apr 3 to May 28, and again from Jul 2 to Oct 1. The monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
East	-	93	991	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	32	40	2	3	11	2	1

Peak movements were 336E on May 8, the highest-ever day total on record; 148E 27W on May 10, and 140E 1W on May 6. 1 flew NE over Broadwater on May 8, 8 flew over Wild Park on May 6, 6 were on Ferring beach May 16, and 1 on the lower Adur on May 17.

In the autumn, 2 were on the lower Adur Jul 14 with singles on 3 dates in Jul, 1 was on Shoreham Airport Aug 14-16 1 in flight over the A27 at Shoreham on Aug 26, and 2N over Wild Park on Sep 8.



199. CURLEW As usual, most were seen on seawatches from Worthing beach. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	4	18	42	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
West	-	-	8	10	3	27	4	22	22	3	-	2

Peak movements were 13E May 5, 18W Jun 3, 15W Aug 28, and 19W Sep 6. 2 were on the lower Adur on Jul 23, 6 at Goring beach on Oct 16, and 2 at Ferring beach Oct 9-11. Inland records involved 20 wintering in fields at Wiston from Sep to end-year, which was unusual; at Broadwater 9N on Apr 8, 2W on May 16, and 1 S on Jun 20; and 1 was at Cissbury on Aug 13.

202. REDSHANK More noted than usual on seawatches at Worthing beach, as the monthly totals show:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	19	-	31	-	-	6	-	2	-	-
West	-	-	5	-	7	1	-	4	2	1	3	7

Peak movements was 14E 6W on May 21. Monthly maxima on the R Adur were:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
102	112	50	-	-	26	100	49	80	100	150	145

Occasionally record with other waders on the Goring roost, maxima there were 4 in Feb and 6 in Dec. 90 were at Widewater on Aug 21, a very high number for this site (where at the time water levels were extremely low).

Counts from other sites were 30 at Shoreham airport on Feb 19 and 5 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16. inland records included 1N at Broadwater on Jun 4 and 1 over Cissbury on Aug 13.

The creamy, or albino, bird was again present on R Adur up to Jan 16, and again from Oct 23 to the end of the year.

204. GREENSHANK An unprecedented spring passage at Worthing beach. A total of 41 passed east on 11 dates between May 4 & May 27, doubling the previous best spring total, and 10E on May 18 was the highest day ever recorded for this season. In autumn, 1E 1W there on 5th, with 4W on 19th and 5W on 26th.

Unusual was 1, feeding with Starlings, at West Hove golf course on May 3. In autumn most records were from the lower Adur, with 3 in Jul, 2 in Aug, 7 in Sep, 5 in Oct, and 1 on Nov 5. 2 were noted at the Flood Arch and 1 at Widewater in Sep.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER In the early months, 3 were seen on the upper Adur levels at Wykham farm on Jan 2, with 1 on the R Adur at Steyning on 4 dates between Jan 2 and Mar 12.

Unusual was 1E at Worthing beach on Jun 16, after which singles were noted on the R Adur (Steyning) on Aug 31, lower Adur on Nov 9, R Adur (Steyning) again on Dec 16, and upper Adur levels on Dec 31.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER First of the year was 1W at Worthing beach on Apr 24, after which 1 was at Widewater on May 7. At Worthing beach, 1 was present on May 7 with 5 on May 10, 1E May 12, and 1E May 20.

Autumn passage commenced from Jul 727 when 2 were on the lower Adur. 7 flew W at WB in August, 1E 4W in Sep, and 2W Oct 14, when last seen. All other records were from the R Adur and Widewater with monthly totals of 11 in Aug and 14 in Sep, the largest concentration being 8 on the upper Adur at Steyning on Aug 1. A rather poor showing this year.

213. TURNSTONE In the early months, 48 were at Goring beach on Jan 1, a very high count for the area. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	-	29	270	2	-	52	27	11	2	
West	-	-	1	21	25	-	-	59	25	20	30	29

Peak movements were 59E on May 6, 42E on May 4, 38E 4W on May 5, 44E 29W Aug 26, and 2E 30W on Nov 25.

At Goring wader roost 1/2 Jan-Mar with higher numbers later in the year, notably 12 in Sep, 14 in Oct, 6 in Nov and 8 in Dec. At Widewater 2 in May, 1 in Aug, 8 in Nov and 1 in Dec. Regularly noted on R.Adur at Shoreham, singles were present in Jan, Jul, and 3 in Nov. At the end of the year, 12 were on Worthing beach on Dec 31.

215. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE A juvenile moulting into winter plumage (many obs) was at Widewater from Sep 1 to Sep 7. Only the third record for the area this century, the previous 2 also being in Sep, in 1948 and 1952.

216. GREY PHALAROPE 1 in Shoreham harbour Dec 26 to at least Dec 30 (DIS et al) was the only acceptable record.

217. POMARINE SKUA A very good spring for this species which is illustrated by the monthly totals of 3E in Apr, 125E 1W in May, and 1E in Jun, on the very late date of Jun 23.

First of the year were 2E on Apr 29. Peak movements occurred in the first 10 days of May, with 10E on 5th, 8E on 6th, 41E on 7th, 38E 1W on 8th, 7E on 9th,

and 3E on 10th; also 10E on 15th and 4E on 21st. In autumn 2W at Worthing beach on Aug 22, and 1W on Aug 26 (PMB), which were early dates. Additionally 1W on Sep23 (PMB).



Pomarine & Arctic Skuas

218. ARCTIC SKUA In contrast to Pomarine Skua, a rather poor spring passage, as is evident from the monthly totals from Worthing beach:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	-	19	46	3	-	3	6	1	-	-
West	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	14	9	10	-	-

The February individual was 1W on 4th, after which not seen again until Apr 8. Those in Jun were singles E on 2nd, 10th, & 21st. Peak movements were only 8E on Apr 30, 7E on May 4, and 1E 5W on Aug 26.

220. GREAT SKUA The monthly totals from seawatches at Worthing beach indicate an average spring, and good autumn:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	-	3	4	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
West	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	6	7	-	-

The first noted in spring was 1E on Apr 14, with the last 1E on May 26. Peak autumn movement was 6W on Aug 26.

222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL An excellent year for sightings of this usual local rarity. The roost on playing fields at Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton, held 2 adults and 1 first-summer on Mar 15, 2 adults plus a second-summer on Apr 4, 3 adults and a first- summer on Apr 10, 4 adults on Apr 20, and 1 adult plus 1 second-summer on May 15.

An unprecedented passage in spring at Worthing beach where a total of 27 were noted from Apr 1 to Jun 16. The monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
East	7	12	3	-	-	-	-
West	3	-	2	-	-	1	-

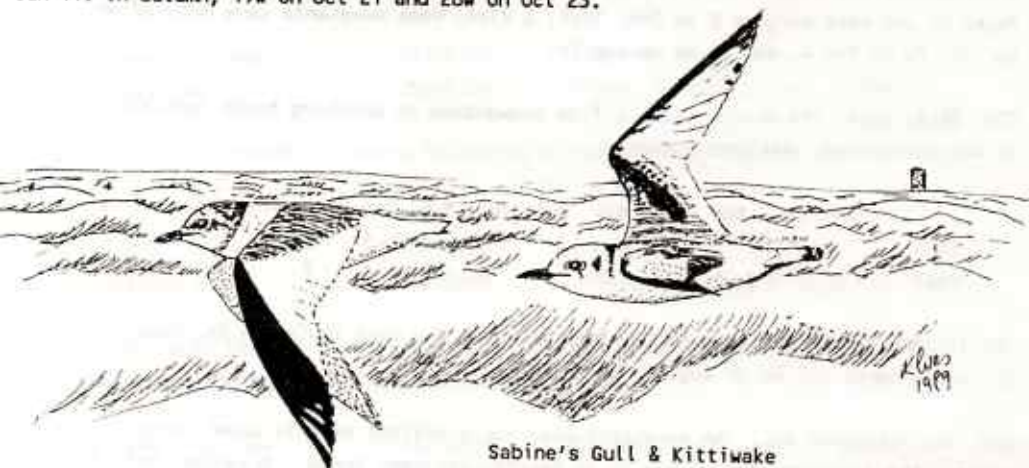
Interestingly, all the April birds were adults, and all those in May and June were first or second-year individuals, with the exception of a single June adult.

Autumn records all involved adults, with singles on Worthing beach on Jul 23 and Dec 2, 1 on the lower Adur Aug 22, and one in Lancing on Nov 29.

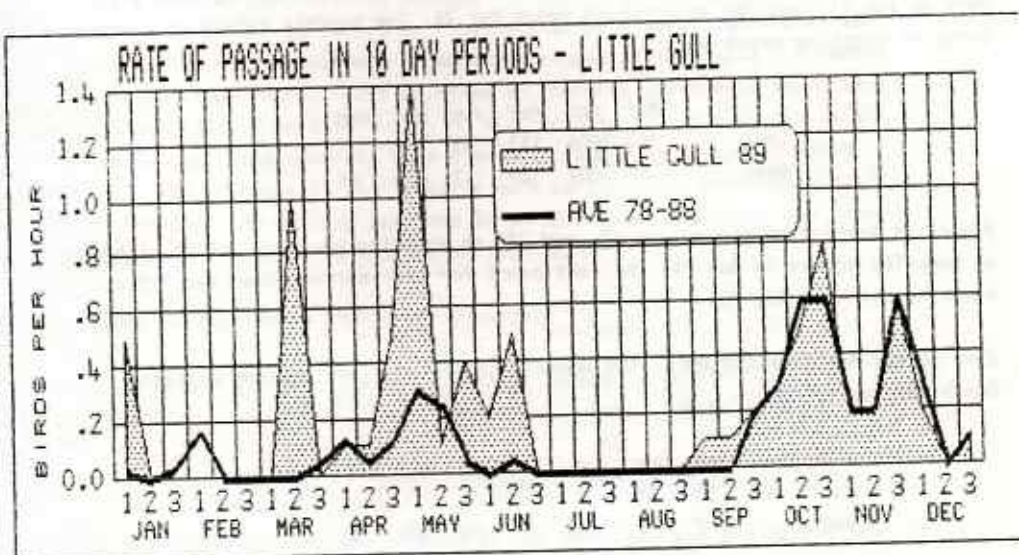
225. LITTLE GULL The best year on record for this species. A total of 277 were recorded, almost 100 more than the previous best, in 1984. As usual most were seen on passage at Worthing beach; the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	16	26	146	7	-	-	-	-	-	1
West	3	-	-	9	1	1	1	1	5	54	4	1

The January birds were 3W on 7th. 16E in one group on Mar 19 almost doubled the all-time March total. Peak movements in spring were 55E on May 5, beating the previous best day total by one; 26E on May 4, 15E on May 9, the last being 5E on Jun 11. In autumn, 19W on Oct 21 and 28W on Oct 23.



Sabine's Gull & Kittiwake



Rarely seen in Jul & Aug, the singles seen in those months were on Jul 6 and Aug 22. 1 was feeding with Black-headed Gulls on the tideline at Goring beach on Oct 14. 1 flew W at Shoreham harbour on Dec 27

226. SABINE'S GULL 1988 1 off Shoreham Power Station 9 Oct.

228. BLACK-HEADED GULL The peak early-year count was 302 at Goring Gap on Jan 22. As usual, the highest numbers were seen passing Worthing beach, as the monthly totals demonstrate:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	1494	1639	4849	101	32	2	-	-	-	-
West	77	300	182	182	436	1263	206	603*	-	-

* an estimate of 20,000E on Oct 4 was received.

Post breeding counts in late summer included 108 at Washington tip on Jun 17, 152 lower Adur on Jun 18, and 1801 Worthing beach on Jul 3323. Maximum counts

for the later months included 2100 Worthing beach on Aug 20, 725 Goring Gap Aug 22, 400 Shoreham Airport Oct 21, and 1000 upper Adur levels on Dec 16. An albino was noted at several coastal sites between Brooklands & Ferring, Oct to Dec.

233. COMMON GULL Early year counts were 350 at Patching on Mar 18, 200+ Wild Park on Feb 11, and 780 on Worthing beach Mar 24. The monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
East	162	1006	133	15	1	-
West	-	207	20	1	26	45

3 were at Washington tip on Jun 17, and 277 on Worthing beach on Jul 23 with 21 at Sompting Brooks on Jul 24. The last count for the year received was 210 at Worthing beach on Aug 20.

234. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	13	56	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	7	2	1	1	70	23	2	-	1

Small numbers were present at 5 locations in Jun & Jul, the largest group being 12 on lower Adur on Jul 18, and 12 at Sompting Brooks on Jul 24. In August, 34 were on lower Adur on 22nd, and 70 were on Shoreham Airport on Oct 21, where similar numbers have been recorded in the past.

Late year records included 53 at Goring Gap on Nov 1, and 12 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16.

235. HERRING GULL Breeding records involved birds occupying roof tops at 4 sites in Central and West Worthing, with 2 young seen. Peak counts were 350 Worthing beach on Aug 20, and 250 Shoreham Airport Oct 21.

Records of the yellow-legged race "michahellis" were as follows:-

In the first 6 months of the year, just a single at Broadwater on Jan 5, after which most were seen on the lower Adur between June and November. The monthly maxima there were:-

Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	6	16	19	9	2	-

Interestingly, one first-winter bird was identified with these adults, which resembled a Herring Gull-sized juvenile Greater black-backed Gull (RJF). Additionally, there was 1 at New Salt's farm on Jul 18. Figures for Washington tip were as follows:- 19 on Jul 8, 42 on Aug 5, c.60 on Sep 13, 50 on Nov 11 and 1 there on Nov 17.

237. GLAUCOUS GULL There were two acceptable records. A first-summer bird was on Worthing beach on May 22 (JAN), and an adult flew W at Worthing beach on Sep 24 (PMB).

A second-winter bird E at Brighton Marina on Feb 26 (IJW) awaits an S.O.S. decision.

238. GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL No counts were received for the early months. In the later months, peak counts were 700 Shoreham Airport Oct 21, surprisingly not a record count for the site; 309W at Worthing beach on Oct 26, 198 lower Adur Sep 10, 70 Ferring Rife Nov 1, and 67 Goring Gap Oct 5 with 53 there Nov 1.

240. KITTIWAKE 6 were noted in Shoreham harbour on Jan 8. Noted in every month of the year at Worthing beach, the totals show:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	20	17	72	68	193	381	32	19	14	24	69	37
West	39	92	31	62	86	60	33	35	254	381	451	245

The large movements in Jun were unusual, with 205E on 11th and 11E 22W on 9th. Autumn peaks were 172W on Sep 24, 122W on Oct 8, and 365W on Nov 5. Flocks on the sea there numbered 47 on Jul 13, 60 on Nov 25, and 20 on Dec 10.

242. GULL-BILLED TERN 1E at Worthing beach on Jun 16 (PMB) has been forwarded to the BBRC. If accepted, it will be only the third record for the area.

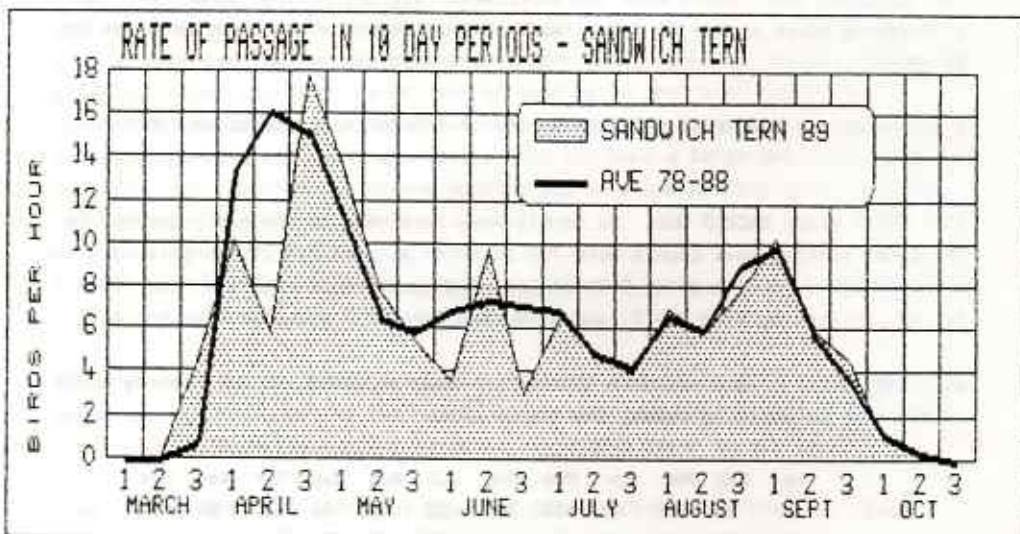
245. SANDWICH TERN First of the year was 1E at Widewater on Feb 11, possibly a wintering bird or very early migrant.

Passage was recorded at Worthing beach from Mar 25; the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	127	1374	1539	130	11	52	63	1	-	-
West		1	213	292	39	18	151	441	5	-

Peak movements were 271E 6W on Apr 29; 294E 27W on Apr 30; 7E 166W on Sep 10; and 3E 82W on Sep 24. Last of the year were 3W on Oct 9. Additional to the above were 66E at Hove on Mar 27. singles noted on the lower Adur in Jul, 3 in Aug, and 7 in Sept, in which month 10 at Widewater on Sep 14. At the latter site, 4 adults plus 2 juveniles present Aug 6.

Inland 1 flew SW over Broadwater with Black-headed Gulls on Jul 12.



246. ROSEATE TERN A good year, with 6 records, all except one coming from Worthing beach, where singles flew E on May 6 (JAN/PMB), May 7 (JAN), May 18 (PMB), and Sep 10 (PMB). 1 E at Brighton Marina on May 3 (GLC/MLC).

247. COMMON TERN Birds specifically identified were between 1 and 8 on the lower Adur Jul 10 to Aug 16, and 7 juveniles in Shoreham harbour on Sep 2.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN Noted on passage at Worthing beach from Mar 27 to Nov 8, the monthly totals show a good spring:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	4	929	5387	503	1	178	152	1	-	-
West	-	23	40	12	11	940	850	3	2	-

Peak movements in spring were 921E 2W on May 6; 696E 5W on May 9; 687E 5W on May 10; 650E 11W on Apr 29; 648E on May 5; and 283 E on Jun 11.

In autumn, 32E 352W on Aug 26, 22E 220W on Aug 28, and 33E 260W on Sep 10. Other September records included 5 on Ferring beach on 1st, and 10 Southwick beach on 2nd.

251. LITTLE TERN The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows, with the first on Apr 11, and the last on Sep 23.

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
East	36	452	7	2	3	2
West	6	33	4	5	14	13

Peak movements were 74E May 4, 68E May 8, and 58E May 5. 3 were on the lower Adur at Shoreham on Jul 26-27, with 4 there on 28th.

253. BLACK TERN Noted from the seawatch log at Worthing beach from May 2 to Jun 3, and again from Jul 4 to Sep 17. The monthly totals show this to have been a good spring:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
East	-	185	2	3	-	-	-
West	-	2	-	-	-	1	-

Peak movements were 74E on May 9, 37E on May 6, and 25E on May 8. Additional to these figures was 1E at Widewater on Jul 31.

255. GUILLEMOT 27 mainly singles, were reported from 6 coastal sites between Jan & Mar, including 8 at Brighton Marina on Jan 7; of these 6 were oiled, 1 unoiled, & 1 dead.

None were specifically identified Jan to Aug at Worthing beach, and the only birds seen there were 1W Sep, 1E 1W Oct, and 1W Nov. 1 was of Shoreham power station on Aug 10, then none until the last for the year at Brighton Marina on Dec 30.

257. RAZORBILL At Worthing beach, the monthly totals were 1E Jan, 1W Feb, 1E May, 1W Aug, 6W Oct, and 1E Nov. 2 were on the sea there on Apr 30, with 1 on May 16. 1 was at Brighton Marina on May 3.

260. LITTLE AUK 1 E at Worthing beach on Nov 2 (JAN) was the only record.

1988 1 picked up dead Shoreham 9 Jan, 2 off Brighton 27 Oct

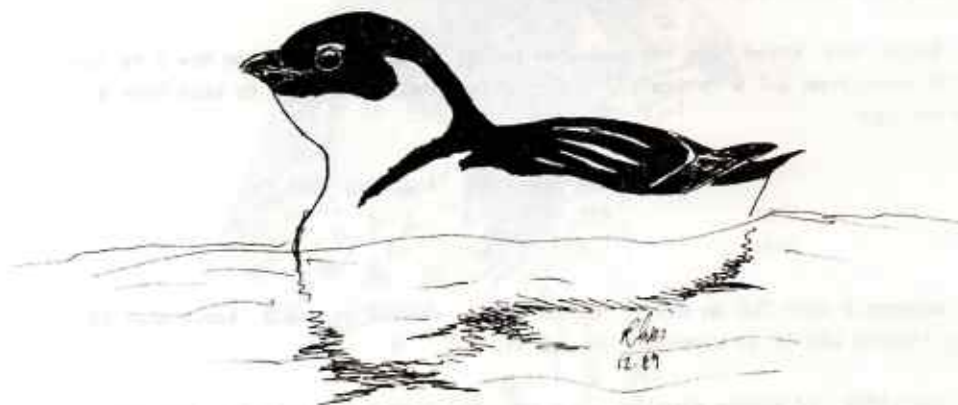
261. PUFFIN The only acceptable record was 1 on the sea at Worthing beach on Apr 29 (PMB)

1988 1 E Brighton Marina 29 April.

AUK SPECIES Monthly totals of auks not specifically identified passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	30	3	4	4	28	1	-	-	3	11	13	5
West	13	9	-	8	18	-	-	3	4	24	48	6

Peak movements were 12E 6W on Jan 11, 8E on May 12, and 44W on Nov 25.



Little Auk

264. STOCK DOVE The largest concentrations reported were 42 at Hollingbury on Feb 25 and 14 there on Mar 11. 17 pairs were reported in the breeding season as follows:- Wild Park/Hollingbury, 9 prs; Withdean Park, 2 prs; Brighton Cemetery, 2 prs; Rock Common 2 prs; and single pairs at Preston Park and Devil's Dyke. Possibly bred at, or near, Goring Gap, Cissbury, and Southwick Hill. However, did not breed this year at Woods Mill. All breeding records would again be particularly welcome.

265. WOOD PIGEON The largest late-autumn movement on record took place on Nov 5, when during the morning 2300 flew W at Cissbury, 500W & 460N at Wild Park where in the afternoon 7500 were seen. Otherwise, 96 at Worthing golf course on Jan 30, 90 at Ferring Rife on Mar 29, and 70 Goring Gap Mar 27.

266. COLLARED DOVE The largest concentration reported was at W Hove golf course, where a roost of 17 on Aug 27 increased to 120 on Oct 3. The only breeding record received was 12 pairs at Wild Park/Hollingbury. 68 were feeding on grain at Sompting Brooks on Dec 13, and small numbers were noted from 4 other sites during the year.

At Woods Mill, its status is now reduced to "occasional winter visitor". Some parts of the country are reporting a decline in this species, thus all roosting/feeding flock counts and breeding records would be most welcome.

267. TURTLE DOVE First of the year was 1 arriving at Worthing beach on Apr 28, with another on May 6; only a further 5 were recorded in May from 4 sites. In the breeding season 2 pairs bred Wild Park/Hollingbury, 1 pr Sandgate Park, 1 pr Rock Common, 3 individuals at Southwick Hill Jun 10 with 3/4 there Jul 3 and 1 Jul 11, and regular at Woods Mill during the summer, but breeding was not confirmed.

In autumn, 5 flew S at Worthing beach on Sep 23, 4 were at Wild Park on Sep 9, and 6 there on Sep 20 were the last noted. Another poor year, although a little better than 1988. Again all records would be welcome!

269. RING-NECKED PARAKEET 7 were noted in Hollingbury Woods in the first half of the year, and a pair raised there raised 1 young. Reported as now roosting in Hove Park, as Hollingbury is no longer suitable. 9 flew W to roost at Patcham on Dec 20.

271. CUCKOO First of the year was 1 on the upper Adur levels at Steyning on Apr 9, after which singles at Wiston on Apr 212, and Southwick Hill on Apr 13, with 1 at Woods Mill on the same day. A further 13 were noted in April and early May from 9 sites. Probable breeding occurred at 7 sites. Few noted in the autumn, with singles at Shoreham Airport on Jul 26, Steyning on Jul 31, unusually none in Aug, and 1W Worthing beach Sep 2 with 1E there on Sep 9, when last seen.

274. BARN OWL The only record received was 1 at Cissbury Feb 15. Of interest, a pair bred just outside the area, near Henfield, in the water tank of an old barn (MR), raising 3 young. The barn was due to be converted but renovation was halted until the young fledged. Sadly, this site is now lost. Many such sites have been converted in recent years, and there now seems little future for this species in the recording area.

Plans to reintroduce this bird into our area began in February 1990.



Barn Owl

279. LITTLE OWL Single pairs bred at Harrow Hill, Devil's Dyke, and probably at Findon Park farm. Single birds reported during the breeding season at Ladywells, Wiston, and Nephote.

Otherwise, singles at 2 sites on the upper Adur levels in Mar, Michelgrove in Aug, Cissbury in Sep, and No Man's Land in Oct. An injured bird was released at Woods Mill in late summer, after which it was seen occasionally there to the end of the year.

280. TAWNY OWL Breeding records were as follows:- a pair again successful at Southwick Green, raising 2 young (this site is now known to be under threat); a pair raised 2 young at Woods Mill; and single pairs bred at Findon Park farm, and at Lychpole. 1 juvenile was reported at the latter site. Also bred Goring with at least 2 juveniles in Jul.

3 were calling at Michelgrove Aug 23, otherwise scattered singles noted. 2 were found dead by the roadside on the Shoreham-Beeding road Nov 7.

281. LONG-EARED OWL 2 winter roosts were occupied, at both ends of the year. The first held 1 bird on Feb 6, increasing to 2 on Mar 24, and again, 1 on Nov 21.

The second roost held 2 in Feb with upto 4 in Nov, and 2 in Dec. A reliable verbal report was received of 9 at this site in 1988. Sadly, these locations cannot be published, as the owls would inevitably suffer from disturbance by "year listers" from outside the area, a problem which exists in well-known roost sites.

282. SHORT-EARED OWL In the early months 2 were on the upper Adur levels at upper Beeding in Jan, with 1 in Feb; 2 on Mar 5; and 1 was seen there on May 1. 1 flew E over Goring Gap on Apr 23, and 1 arrived from the sea at Worthing beach on May 5.

In the autumn, 1W at Goring Gap and Worthing beach on Oct 8, 1 upper Adur levels Nov 9, 1S at Wild Park on Nov 14, and 1 at Beeding Hill on Nov 31. A good year.

284. NIGHTJAR There were no birds noted in the breeding season, but a rare seawatch record received; a male arrived from the sea at Brighton Marina on the morning of May 6 (PJW/IJW/ADW)

289. SWIFT First noted were singles at Worthing beach and Storrington on Apr 23, 3 at Wild Park and Swandean hospital on Apr 24, 3 at Shoreham on Apr 25, then mainly singles at a number of sites to the end of the month. 50 flew N on May 7, some localities reporting a major influx in the first week of May; however, peak dates at Worthing beach were May 12 and May 20, with 39N & 32N respectively. Monthly spring totals for WB were 5 in April and 140 in May.

Peak counts in summer of feeding flocks were 150 Maybridge on Jun 1, and 80 at Shoreham with 70 at Broadwater on Jun 22. 6 pairs in one colony bred at Maybridge, and breeding was reported at 3 sites in Worthing and 1 site in Southwick.

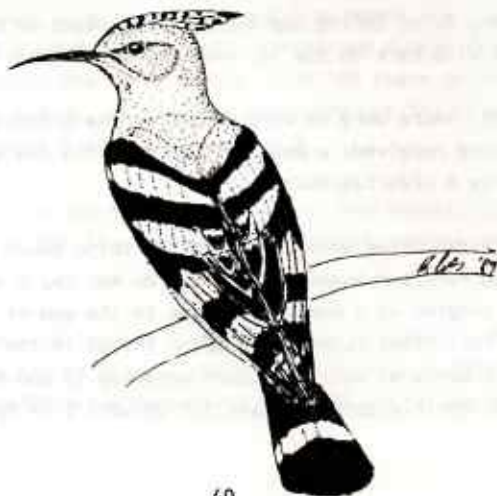
Post-departure flocks of 200 were at Broadwater on Jul 22. 150 flew SW there on Jul 12, and 100+ were reported from 3 further sites in late Jul/early Aug.

An early departure was indicated by virtually no August records. A total of 6 were recorded from as many sites, from Sep 1 to Sep 17, and the last was 1 at Brooklands on Oct 5, a late date. October Swifts should be looked at VERY CAREFULLY INDEED.

Remarkably, 1 was found dead in a Hollingdean Street on Dec 20. The finder commented that "although wet, its condition did not look 3 months old".

293. KINGFISHER Significantly more records were received this year, and as usual, most were from the Adur Valley and surrounding areas. Typical locations were New Salt's farm, Widewater, upper and lower Adur, Shoreham harbour and Woods Mill, where at the latter site a pair raised 2 broods (see separate article).

Away from these sites, singles were at Poynings Pond on Aug 20, Steyning on Jul 9, and Southwick on Sep 17.



297. HOOPOE Singles were at Hollingbury golf course on Apr 10 (ADW et al), and Stanmer Park Oct 30-Nov 1 (CB/PD). Details have been sent to the SOS (a verbal report was received of one photographed by a non-birder on a Ferring lawn in spring.

298. WRYNECK 1 was at Hollingbury camp and golf course on May 4 (IJW et al) Details sent to the SOS. 1 was seen in a Hove garden May 8.

1 was found freshly dead below a shop window in Western Road, Brighton, on Sep 13 (LRK). It is now in the Booth Museum.

300. GREEN WOODPECKER Breeding records were received from Wild Park (2 prs), Devil's Dyke (1 pr), Findon Valley (1 pr), Findon Gallops (1pr) and Sullington Warren (1pr); the latter 3 pairs each raised 1 juvenile.

Outside the breeding season, 18 were reported from 11 further sites, the maxima being 4 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 20, and 3 at Hill barn on Apr 8. No apparent change in status.

302. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER The only confirmed breeding records received were 1 pr with a juv. near Steyning, and 1 pr Woods Mill. Probably bred at 4 further sites in the area. Otherwise, just singles reported outside the breeding season at Sompting, Muntham Park, Cuckoo's Corner, Highdown and Goring Wood. A decline was suspected in 1988, which is confirmed by even fewer records in 1989.

303. LESSER-SPOTTED WOODPECKER A better year than usual, with 9 records, all of singles:- at Woods Mill on Apr 9, Preston Park, Brighton on May 4, Patching Pond on Jun 15, Lancing Clump on Jul 18, Wild Park on Sep 19, Woods Mill again on Oct 11, Cissbury on Nov 3, a female photographed in a Durrington garden on Nov 12, and 1 feeding on peanuts in a Broadwater garden on Dec 2.

311. SKYLARK Peak counts in the early months were 300 at Hill barn on Jan 31, and 100+ on the upper Adur levels on Jan 12. Sparingly reported in the breeding season, the only records were 4 pairs at Southwick Hill, 4 prs Wild Park/- Hollingbury, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, & 2 prs Goring Gap. At Worthing beach, 1 in Apr and 2 in Oct.

In the later months, counts were made of 40 at Wild Park in Nov, with 38 in Dec; 47 upper Adur levels on Dec 16; and 52 at Goring Gap on Dec 27.

313. SAND MARTIN First recorded on Mar 27 at Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

Mar 1; Apr 2; May 10; Jul 3; Aug 33; Sep 834; Oct 4.

Peaks were 689 with a huge hirundine movement on Sep 24, and 76E on Sep 30.

Encouraging breeding season results were obtained on Jun 12 & 19, where at Sandgate Park, there were 47 occupied nest-holes in 3 colonies (one of them new), and at Rock Common there were at least 100 occupied nest-holes; an approximate increase of 200% over 1988 (BFF/RAI/DIS).

2 were at Ferring Rife on Jul 22, & 1 at Cissbury on Aug 13. As demonstrated in the WB totals, a significant increase in autumn birds was noted. 200 were with approx. 10,000 hirundines on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3, 40 were between Hillbarn and Cissbury on Sep 7 with 6 there Sep 12, and 5 were at 3 further sites in Sep.

After 4 at Ferring Rife on Oct 1, the last were 3E at Worthing beach on Oct 8.

314. SWALLOW First of the year was 1 at upper Beeding on the early date of Mar 21 with another there Mar 28. Other March records were singles at Broadwater on Mar 27, and Shoreham Airport on Mar 30. Scattered reports were received in Apr.

Few breeding records received although a bird prospecting the classroom at Woods Mill has to be dissuaded! First recorded at Worthing beach on Apr, the monthly totals were:- Apr 75, May 611, Aug 53, Sep 34,162, Oct 453. Peak movements in spring were 36N on Apr 20, 87N on May 4, and 63N on May 20. In autumn, the largest movement ever recorded in the area occurred in 3 hours on Sep 24, when 30,090 flew east, and 3,300 flew E in 2 hours on Sep 5. Also in Sep a total of 6,800 were noted from 7 further sites, which included 5,000+ on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3 and 1000 at Cissbury on 2 dates.

In October, there were 50 at Brooklands on 5th, otherwise small numbers recorded. The 3 records for November were 1 at Brooklands on Nov 2, 1 at R Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 6, and the last were 11 over Broadwater on Nov 15.

316. HOUSE MARTIN As with 1988 a poor spring and late general arrival. First of the year were singles at Sompting Brooks on Apr 14 and WB, 30 at Broadwater on May 2, 3 at Hove on May 3, and 6 at Ferring May 16. Scattered breeding records were received.

The monthly totals at Worthing beach were as follows:-

Apr 4; May 65; Aug 5; Sep 16,419; Oct 28.

Peak numbers in the spring was a lamentable 26N on May 20 but in autumn, 1273E on Sep 9, and 14900 E in 3 hours on Sep 24. (see Swallow and Sand Martin)

In August there were 1000+ at Newtimber Hill on 20th and 1000+ at Bevendean on 26th. A further 10800 were noted from 6 sites in Sep, which included 5000+ on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3, 1100 at Broadwater on Sep 12, and 1000+ Wild Park Sep 27.

Few were seen in October, indicating an early departure. 20 were at West Hove golf course on Oct 1 and 4 at Highdown on Oct 27, otherwise the occasional single. After 2 at Broadwater on Nov 2, the last of the year was 1 at Church Street, Shoreham, on Nov 22. 1988 1 Brighton 3 Mar which is the earliest ever recorded in our area.

320. TREE PIPIT There were no spring or breeding records. A total of 57 were noted at 8 sites in Aug and Sep, which included 24 Wild Park Aug 12 to Sep 26, 10 at Cissbury on Aug 27, and 7 at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 24. Last of the year was 1 on Adur Rec. on Oct 1.

322. MEADOW PIPIT In the early months, a total of 394 flew N at Wild Park between Feb 28 and Apr 18, maximum being 102 on Mar 28. Additionally 100 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 12, and 25 New Salt's farm Mar 11. Breeding season counts were Devil's Dyke, 6 prs; Cissbury, 5 prs; and Findon Gallops, 4 prs.

Monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach were as follows-

Mar 62; Apr 36; Sep 166; Oct 305; Nov 21.

Peak movements were 102 W on Oct 8, and 86W on Sep 19.

In the autumn 150+ were at Hollingbury camp on Sep 24 with 65 there on Oct 1, and 26 on Nov 19. Small numbers recorded at several, mainly coastal sites in Sep & Oct, with 40 at Widewater on 5th. 100+ were at Wild Park on Dec 27.

324a. ROCK PIPIT A total of 17 were noted from the traditional coastal locations in Jan and Feb, including 10 at Brighton Marina on Jan 7. In the later months, first reported from Worthing beach with 6 on Oct 29, after which 17 again noted on the beaches from Ferring to Brighton Marina; at this latter site, 7 were present on Dec 30.

324b. WATER PIPIT 1 was at Widewater on Dec 28 (BFF)

325. YELLOW WAGTAIL First of the year noted at Worthing beach on Apr 10; away from this location, the only spring records were singles at W. Durrington on Apr 21, Apr 23, and May 2. There were no breeding records.
The monthly total of birds seen at Worthing beach were

Apr 5; May 37; Aug 1; Sep 44; Oct 1.

Peak numbers were 8 N on May 5 & May 6, 5N on May 21, and 20 on Sep 9; on this latter date an unusual individual, possibly of the Blue-headed race, was also present.

Autumn passage commenced from Aug 18, when 6 were on the upper Adur levels; after which a further 224 reported during the month, including 75 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 20, 70 at Cissbury on Aug 24, and 21 Hillbarn to Cissbury Aug 21. The September total (which includes the WB figure above) was 237, including 120 Hill barn- Cissbury Sep 7 and 50 upper Adur levels Sep 3. 2 were at Cissbury on Oct 1, 2 at Broadwater on Oct 7, and 3 at Adur Rec on Oct 7. The last was a very late individual at Sompting Brooks on Nov 2. Undoubtedly due to the very mild conditions, there were a number of late migrants of several species, including this one, in the county at the time.

327. GREY WAGTAIL The usual scattering of records in the early months, with just 5 reported from 4 sites, one of them coastal. Probably bred at Steyning, where a male was singing on May 21, and a possible breeding bird was at Patching Pond on May 29.

First of the autumn were 2 at Steyning sewage works on Sep 3, after which a further 29 noted from 5 inland and 2 coastal sites during the month, which included 19 passing Worthing beach. Slightly fewer in Oct with 23 from 2 inland and 3 coastal sites, including 13 at Worthing beach.

In the last two months of the year, singles were at Ferring Rife on Nov 19, at Widewater on Nov 26 and Dec 23, at Woods Mill, and at the upper Adur levels on Nov 12 and Dec 22.

328. **PIED WAGTAIL** A good year, with a plethora of records received. In the early months 550+ were noted, including 190 E to roost over Maybridge on Jan 17, 100+ to roost upper Beeding on Jan 12, 100+ at Steyning sewage farm Jan 12, 56 Durrington Sports Centre Feb 15, and 34 Widewater Mar 2. Evening sightings of birds coming into roost at Seeboard, Broadwater, (50+) Jan to Feb.

The only breeding record was a pair feeding a juvenile at Durrington Sports Centre on May 28, although singles were noted in the breeding season at Washington, Goring, West Durrington, Castle Goring, and Ferring Rife. 30 at Sandgate Park on June 19 comprised 60% juveniles. Between Sep and Nov, a total of 1,697 were reported. These included monthly totals at Worthing beach of 132 in Sep, 986 in Oct, and 28 in Nov; an average of 227 flew to roost daily over central Worthing, Oct 1 to Oct 14; 90W at dusk, Shoreham on Oct 11; 50 Goring/Ferring beach on Oct 14; 50 at Cissbury Nov 5; and 40E to roost, Maybridge, Oct 27. December totals included 65 Shoreham-Lancing beaches.

The nominate race *M. alba alba*, or "White Wagtail" was well recorded. 2 were on Worthing beach Mar 5, with 3 there Oct 6. Careful examination of a flock at West Durrington on Oct 14 identified 22 of this race, all in sharp adult plumage (GVE), by far the largest concentration ever recorded in the area. With them were 15 "Pied" Wagtails.

329. **WAXWING** The winter of 1988/89 saw a substantial invasion of this species into the country, although few were seen in Sussex. 1 appeared in the grounds of Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton, on the morning of Jan 6, remaining there until 13.30 hrs. (IJW)

331. **WREN** Breeding records were 114 prs Wild Park/Hollingbury, 51 prs Devil's Dyke, 7 prs Woods Mill, and 1 pr Central Brighton.

333. **DUNNOCK** 61 prs bred Wild Park/Hollingbury, 19 prs Devil's Dyke, and 4 prs Woods Mill.

336. **ROBIN** 107 were at Wild Park on Feb 11. Breeding totals were 129 prs Wild Park/Hollingbury, and 52 prs Devil's Dyke. 11 males holding territory at West Hove golf course on Sep 23.

338. NIGHTINGALE First recorded at Woods Mill on Apr 13, after which 1 singing in the sallows at New Salt's farm on Apr 23 and 1 at North Durrington on Apr 28.

Probable breeding birds, involving singing males in May & June, were as follows:- 2 at High Salvington; 1 at Small Dole; 1 at Woods Mill, with 2 nearby; 3 at Wiston; 1 at Patching Pond, 1 "north of Steyning", and 1 Steyning Round Hill; 1 at Rock Common. There were no autumn migrants reported, but an excellent year, all the same.

342. BLACK REDSTART In the early months of the year, 2 were reported at Southwick beach on Jan 11 to Mar 8 with 3 on Jan 14; what may have been one of these was seen at nearby Shoreham Harbour on several dates between Jan 6 and Feb 12. 1 was at Widewater Jan 6 & Jan 15.

Spring migrants were singles at Brighton cemetery on Apr 19 and Worthing beach on Apr 24. First of the autumn was 1 at Adur Rec on Sep 7, after which singles at Worthing beach on Oct 23 and Nov 21, Ferring beach Nov 1-13, Worthing Pier on Dec 28, and Lancing Sailing Club Dec 31.

343. REDSTART First of the year was 1 in a Hove garden on the early date of Apr 1 & 2, after which 6 well scattered singles from Apr 23 to Apr 30.

As usual, many more were seen in the autumn. The first returning bird was at Wild Park on Aug 19, where a further 22 were noted between this date and Sep 26. A further 22 were noted from 9 sites in Aug and Sep, which included 7 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 20 and 8 at Cissbury on Sep 12. The 2 October records were singles at Highdown on 8th and Ferring Rife on 23rd. 1 at Cissbury on Nov 3 was the first record for this month, and latest ever for the area.

344. WHINCHAT Again, more than usual seen in spring, with the first being singles at N. Durrington on Apr 23 and central Worthing Apr 24 (an unusual site); 3 more, all at N. Durrington, were noted to the end of the month, and between May 5 and May 23, a total of 19 were seen at 6, mainly inland sites.

Return passage commenced on the early date of Jul 12, when 2 were at Goring Gap; additionally 1 at Steyning on Jul 31. 25 were noted in Aug, which included 5 on Aug 17, and 7 Aug 21 to 25. Peak passage was in Sep, when a total of 161 were reported, including 21 at Hill barn on Sep 21, 27 Wild Park Sep 1 to Sep 27, 15 Hollingbury Camp Sep 14, and 13 Hill barn Sep 7. The last was 1 at Adur Rec on Oct 1.

345. STONECHAT Few were noted in the early months; 2 were at Widewater Jan 7 to Jan 15, which may have moved to Shoreham airport were 2 were present to the end of the month, with 1 remaining to Mar 11. 1 was seen below Lancing College on Feb 12. Again no breeding records.

Sep records totalled 7 birds; 3 at Wild Park on 27th, 1 at Worthing beach on 24th, and 2 Goring Gap with 1 Adur Rec on Sep 29. Passage was most noticeable in Oct and Nov with 19 recorded from 5 inland and 3 coastal locations in Oct, including 5 at Goring Gap on Oct 2. However, 21 were reported in Nov from 6 inland and 2 coastal sites- most locations being different to those in Oct.

In Dec, wintering birds had settled at traditional sites, with 2 present at Widewater, Ferring beach, Adur Rec and Goring Gap. The comments given in 1988 apply equally in 1989; again, the absence of breeding records gives cause for concern. All records are most welcome.

346. WHEATEAR First of the year were singles at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 5 and Worthing beach on Mar 6. More than usual noted in this month with a general arrival in April, and a few late birds extending into May. Again, no breeding records. the monthly totals were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
50	94	7	-	-	138	115	33	2	-

The April figure included 35 at Ferring on Apr 26, and 10 at Worthing beach on Apr 25. Return passage commenced from the rather late date of Aug 17 with 1 at Steyning, after which the highest count for the month was 76 at Goring Gap on Aug 28. There were no sizeable Sep counts, the above total showing a scattered distribution from 11 localities. Peak counts in Oct were 11 at Worthing beach on 8th, and 6 at Goring Gap on 7th.

Last of the year were singles at Widewater and Goring beach on Nov 1. 1 at Wild Park between Apr 14-16 was believed to be of the "Greenland" race. 1989 totals were marginally higher than 1988, in both spring and autumn, but still a rather poor performance by this species in both seasons.

359. RING OUZEL After the excellent year of 1988, few were noted in 1989, and the only concentration were the first birds to be recorded, 6 at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 28. Also on Mar 28 was 1 at Wild Park, with the same or another there on Mar 29. Singles were at Hollingbury golf course on Apr 8, Cissbury on

Apr 23, and Hollingbury Camp on the late date of May 5. Almost non-existent in autumn, 1 was at Wild Park on Oct 1, and 1 flew W at Worthing beach on Nov 5.

360. BLACKBIRD Breeding records included 128 prs Hollingbury Wild Park, 53 prs Devil's Dyke. Peak counts were received were 105 Brighton Cemetery on Dec 4, and 47 Wild Park on Nov 24.

364. FIELDFARE Despite the lack of hard weather, sizeable flocks were noted in the early months; these included 300+ North Stanmer and 300+ upper Adur levels during Jan, 160 there on Feb 26, 100+ Wykham Farm Mar 8, and 80 Woods Mill Mar 24. Late were 70 at Wiston on Apr 5, with 1 there Apr 15. In autumn, arrival appeared to have been late, none being noted until Nov, when the monthly total was 460 from 10 sites, including 200 on the upper Adur levels on Nov 22, and 150 at Streatham on Nov 18. The December total of 425 included 140 at Upper Beeding on Dec 2, 100W at Wild Park on Dec 22, and 65 at Steyning on Dec 9.

365. SONG THRUSH Breeding records included 15 prs Hollingbury Wild Park, and 6 prs Devil's Dyke; a continuing decline noted at both these sites (GC/MC). However, considered more plentiful at Woods Mill than in previous years, although only 1 pr proved to breed. (MR) 150 were on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16.

366. REDWING Rather scarce in the early months, peak counts being 100+ at Brighton Cemetery on Mar 11, 40 at Storrington on Feb 12, and 20 there Jan 1. Small numbers noted from Sep 18, when a large nocturnal movement was reported over Broadwater, and few seen (or heard) in Oct apart from 70 on the evening of Oct 10 passing W over Worthing football club. Maxima in November were 100 at Upper Beeding on Nov 17, 24 Wild Park Nov 24, and 23 Sompting Brooks Nov 29.

Vast numbers were recorded in Dec; on the night of 21-22, from 21.00-06.00 hours, an estimated 50,000 passed over Worthing, this number being based on the average calls per second over the period (PMB)- a tribute to the observer's tenacity in staying up all night to record them. 1000+ moved W at Wild Park on 22nd, 1000 were on the upper Adur levels on Dec 16, and 120 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Dec 26.

367. MISTLE THRUSH Breeding counts were as follows:- Hollingbury /Wild Park 14 prs; Hove Park 2 to 5 prs; Devil's Dyke 3 prs; St Anneswell gardens, Hove 1 pr; W Hove golf course, 1 pr; Aldrington Rectory, 1 pr; and Palmeira gardens 1 pr. 24 Brighton Cemetery Dec 4. Regular Woods Mill, but did not breed.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER The 4 records were all of singles; nr. University of Sussex on May 18, Wild Park on Aug 18, Woods Mill on Sep 12, and Hollingbury Camp on Sep 13.
375. SAVI'S WARBLER 1 at Adur Rec on Sep 6 (RJF) was only the second record for the area.
378. SEDGE WARBLER The first for the year were 8 singing males at Small Dole on Apr 22, and 1 at New Salt's farm on the same day with 1 there Apr 23. Thereafter singles at Cissbury on Apr 30, West Durrington on May 2, and 2 behind Brighton Marina on May 6.
- 1 pr bred Patching Pond; again this species was undoubtedly seriously under-recorded in the breeding season. Few are usually seen on autumn passage, and 1989 was no exception; there were 6 on the lower Adur on Jul 26, which may have been local birds, after which just singles at 3 sites in Aug and 2 in Sep, the last being at Shoreham Sanctuary on Sep 30.
382. REED WARBLER First of the year were singles at Hollingbury Camp, and behind Brighton Marina, on May 6, after which 1 at Worthing beach on May 7, 2 at Adur Rec on May 10, 2 New Salt's farm May 10, 1 singing in a Maybridge garden on May 29, and 1 at Wild Park on Jun 6.
- As Sedge Warbler, this species was under-recorded in the breeding season, the only counts being 6 prs at Patching Pond, and 5 individuals on L. Adur on Jul 26, probably local breeding birds. Very few were noted in the autumn. 1 was at Cissbury on Aug 6, and 3 were at Woods Mill on Sep 12. Last of the year was 1 killed by a cat at Southwick on Oct 29, the latest-ever area record by six days.
388. MELODIOUS WARBLER A juvenile was watched in a Findon Valley garden on Aug 8 (RJS). Details have been sent to SOS. If accepted, ostensibly the first record for the area; this species is certainly not included in "The Birds of Shoreham" (1988), but in conversation with an SOS Records Committee member, it appears that there is a previous record from Woods Mill.
389. DARTFORD WARBLER No records for 1989 but 1 from last year:
- 1988 1 Whitehawk Hill 21 Oct.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT First of the year was 1 singing at Wild Park on Apr 4, the earliest-ever area record by 3 days. Not again seen until 1 at Wiston on Apr 20, 5 at Cissbury on Apr 22, 1 at Swandean on Apr 24, then up to 2 at 3 further sites to May 4.

Breeding records received were 6 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Southwick Hill, & 1 pr Sompting Brooks. A total of 306 were noted in the autumn from Jul 28 to Sep 16, both early and late dates being from Wild Park where 192 were recorded during the period (max 27 on Aug 20 & 26 on Aug 26). 100 were at Newtimber Hill on Aug 20. An excellent autumn was reported from Woods Mill, where up to 5 were seen on any one day; these are not included in the above total.

398. WHITETHROAT First of the year were singles at Woods Mill on Apr 12, and Wild Park on Apr 18; after which 52 reported to May 21, including a pair nest building at Cissbury on Apr 22, and unusually 2 males in central Worthing.

Breeding season counts included 15 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 14 prs Devil's Dyke, 5 prs Sompting Brooks, 4 prs Woods Mill, and "many juveniles" at Southwick Hill, on Jul 3. Interestingly, at one site, a pair were still feeding 2 juveniles on Sep 19. No counts were received from some traditional downland sites, but it appears that the species had a good breeding season.

A total of 400 were noted on autumn passage, from Aug 3 to Sep 23, both early and late dates being from Wild Park where 169 were noted in this period (max 35 on Aug 20). Peak counts were 100 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 20, 46 Hillbarn to Cissbury on 4 dates Aug 21 to Sep 12, 35 Bevendean on Aug 26, and 30 Cissbury Aug 6.

399. GARDEN WARBLER First of the year was 1 at Wild Park on Apr 28, after which singles at Woods Mill on Apr 30, 1 at Mash barn on May 8, and 1 in a Maybridge garden on May 13.

Breeding records were 7 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, and 1-2 prs Woods Mill. Few noted on autumn passage, the first and last date being from Wild Park, where from Aug 5 to Sep 19, a total of 18 were recorded. Otherwise, 5 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 20, 2 in a Broadwater garden on Sep 1, and 1 in a Hill barn garden on Aug 17.

400. BLACKCAP In the early months, a female was seen in a Broadwater garden on 4 dates in Jan & 2 in Feb, with a male there on 2 (different) dates in Jan, and 1 in Feb. 1 was at Durrington Hill on Feb 28. The first probable spring migrants were 2 at Lancing Clump on Mar 27, then singles at Woods Mill on Mar 29, and Wiston on Apr 8. None then noted until the last 10 days of April, when 6 were reported from 4 sites.

Breeding records were 17 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 8 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, and probable breeding at a number of further locations. A total of 311 were noted on autumn passage from 6 sites, including 237 Wild Park Aug 5 to Oct 3 (max 26 on Sep 30), 23 at Shoreham Sanctuary Sep 2, with 18 on Sep 10, and 23 at Cissbury on Oct 1. Last of the autumn was 1 at Goring Wood on Oct 8.

In the later months, 1 was in a Broadwater garden on Nov 30, which was joined by another on Dec 12, both being present to the end of the year. 1 was in a different Broadwater garden on Dec 3.

404. YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER 1 was at Hollingdean on Oct 17 (ADW). A description has been sent to the SOS.

408. WOOD WARBLER Spring records involved singles singing at Wild Park on May 5, May 9 and May 21. The only autumn record was 1 in a Storrington garden on Aug 19. One record from last year was 1 Worthing 7 April 1988.

409. CHIFFCHAFF Few wintering birds were noted in the early months, just singles in a Broadwater garden on Jan 4, and Storrington on Jan 7. There were none reported in Feb. Spring passage seems to have commenced from Mar 9, when 1 was present at Woods Mill, and an early arrival is indicated by the total of 31 from 15 sites during this month, at the end of which it seemed well-established; very few were reported arriving in Apr, although this may be due to observers concentrating on the first arrivals, and not reporting the "second flush"!

Breeding records were 10 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, and probable single pairs at Goring Wood and Woods Mill. A total of 510 were reported on autumn passage during Sep and Oct which included 100 passing through a Broadwater garden during the period, 65 at Wild Park Sep 16 with 40 there Sep 24, 82 at Shoreham Sanctuary on 3 dates between Sep 10 and Sep 30, 80 at Goring Wood on 10 dates Sep 26 to Oct 23, and 30 at Cissbury on both Sep 12 and Oct 1. A few late birds were seen in Nov, the last being singles at Wood Mill on Nov 19, and Wild Park on Nov 26.

The only Dec record was 1 in a Broadwater garden on 3 dates during the month. The individual reported from Wild Park in 1988, considered to have been of the eastern race "abietinus", remained there into 1989.

410. WILLOW WARBLER A similar, but slightly later initial arrival pattern this year to that of Chiffchaff; far more birds noted in Mar than usual, the first being at Lancing on the early date of Mar 24, after which a total of 18 noted to the end of the month, including 10 at Cissbury on Mar 27. A more general arrival occurred in April, with 34 at Wild Park on Apr 15, 20 at Goring Wood on Apr 22, and 70 in the L Adur/Adur Rec/New Salt's farm area on Apr 23.

Breeding records were 29 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 32 prs Devil's Dyke, 6 prs Southwick Hill, and 1-2 prs Woods Mill.

During autumn, a total of 519 were reported from Jul 25 to Sep 16, both early and late dates coming from Wild Park where 354 were noted (max 42 on Aug 5); also included in the autumn total were 60 through a Broadwater garden in Aug, 45 Newtimber Hill Aug 20, 30 Cissbury Aug 6, and 25 Bevendean Aug 26. The only Oct record, and the last for the year, was 1 at Woods Mill on Oct 4.

PHYLLOSCOPUS SP. "Phylloscopus" warblers (Willow Warblers/Chiffchaff) not specifically identified, included 4 at Worthing beach in Apr, with 1 in May; 135 Hillbarn to Cissbury on 3 dates, Aug 23 to Sep 12; 55 through W Hove Golf Course Aug 23 to Oct 3; 16 Hillbarn Sep 21; and 4 Widewater Sep 4.

411. GOLDCREST A great many records received this year, enabling monthly totals as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	-	39	NC	NC	NC	7*	1	143	150	43	14

As can be seen, passage was heaviest in Sep and Oct. The totals include counts of 22 Wild Park on Mar 20, with 65 there Sep 27 and 38 on Sep 30; 35 Goring Wood on Sep 26, 20 on Oct 23; and 32 Cissbury on Oct 1. * A pair with 5 juveniles, at Broadwater on Jul 2. The only other breeding record was 1 pr at Woods Mill.

412. FIRECREST An even better year than 1988, with between 19 & 22 birds reported. 2 were at Hollingbury/Wild Park on Mar 11, with 2 again on Mar 28, which were considered different. Singles were at New Salt's farm on Mar 30, and Woods Mill on Apr 16. On Sep 9, 1 was at Hollingbury golf course, and 2 at Wild

Park, where at the latter site 5, possibly 8, were seen on Nov 5, and 2 on Nov 11. 2 were in a Storrington garden on Nov 7, and the last of the year was 1 at Stanmer Park on Dec 17.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER First of the year was 1 at Cissbury on May 13, after which just five further singles were reported during the month. Breeding records were 2 prs Goring Wood, and 1 pr at Findon Church (raising 2 young), with possible breeding at Patching Pond, Nephcote Park, Cissbury, and Stanmer Park.

Return passage involved a total of 21 birds in Aug, and 83 in Sep. Peak counts were 40 at Cissbury on Sep 3, 10+ at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 24, with smaller numbers at 9 other sites. Last recorded at Hollingbury, and Highdown gardens, Worthing on Sep 24.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER A small fall occurred on Apr 24, when 8 were at Brighton Rock gardens, and 1 at Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton. 1 was at Wild Park on May 5. First of the autumn was 1 at Findon Church on Aug 4, after which singles at Adur Rec on Aug 18-19, Chantry Hill and Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 20, Brighton Cemetery on Aug 23, and 2 at Wild Park on Aug 28.

The only Sep record, and the last for the year, was 1 at Wild Park on Sep 16

418. LONG-TAILED TIT Breeding records were 8 prs Hollingbury/ Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke and single pairs at Cissbury and Highdown; also breeding Woods Mill. Outside the breeding season, the largest parties reported were 20 at Muntham Park on Nov 11, 15 at Wild Park Aug 5, 11 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Feb 12, and 8 at Cissbury on Oct 23. Unusual at Goring Wood, 3 were present on both Mar 11 and Oct 23.

419. MARSH TIT The only breeding records were single pairs at Cissbury and Devil's Dyke. Otherwise, up to 3 noted at 3 further sites.

420. WILLOW TIT The only record was of a pair, which bred at Devil's Dyke.

422. COAL TIT The only breeding records were single pairs at Devil's Dyke and Findon Church. 6 were at Stanmer Park on Dec 17. Unusual at Wild Park, singles were present on Feb 7, Oct 14, and during Dec; also unusual at Goring Wood, where 1 was noted on Mar 11. Otherwise, singles reported outside the breeding season from 4 further sites, with 2 at Adur Rec on Feb 1.

423. BLUE TIT Breeding records were 62 prs Hollingbury/ Wild Park, 13 prs Devil's Dyke, a "number of pairs" at Woods Mill, and several pairs in town gardens. 170 were counted at Wild Park on Jan 14.

424. GREAT TIT 33 prs bred Hollingbury/Wild Park, 11 prs Devil's Dyke, and a "number of pairs" at Woods Mill. 85 were counted at Wild Park on Jan 14. More records of melanistic individuals were received, with singles at Shoreham on Jan 2, and Upper Beeding on Mar 11.

425. NUTHATCH Just 2 breeding records were received of single pairs at Nephote Park, and Woods Mill. Otherwise the usual scattering of singles, from Warren Hill, Muntham Park, Patching, and Stanmer Park.

427. TREECREEPER Single pairs bred Devil's Dyke & Woods Mill. Otherwise singles during the year from Muntham Park, Rock Common, Washington Golf Course, Storrington, Shoreham Sanctuary, and Wild Park.

430. GOLDEN ORIOLE No record for this year but 1 for last: 1988 1 singing Cissbury 6 June.

436. JAY 2 prs bred at Wild Park, with 1 pr Devil's Dyke and 1 pr Woods Mill. 3 were at Small Dole on Sep 7. Otherwise just scattered singles reported.

437. MAGPIE 30 prs bred Hollingbury/Wild Park, 9 prs Devil's Dyke. 1 pr St Anneswell gardens, Hove, 1 pr Maybridge, and 1 pr Woods Mill, where a juvenile drowned in the dipping pond. Concentrations reported during the year were 170 roosting at Wild Park in the early months, with 180 there on Mar 5; 20 at Swandean Hospital on Feb 20; 20 Shoreham Sanctuary Oct 18; 19 at Waterhall on Jun 30; and 16 Southwick Hill Mar 30 and May 9.

438. JACKDAW The only group reported were 36 at Washington tip on Jul 17, and 16 on Hove rooftops on Dec 16. Otherwise, very small numbers noted from 4 urban localities.

441. ROOK Peak counts of feeding flocks were 400 at Sompting Brooks during the year, 126 at Steyning Round Hill on Jul 21, and 50 in a Hillbarn garden Oct 27-Nov 20. The only breeding record received for 1989 was 17 prs at St Mary's Church, Brighton.

442. CARRION CROW The only concentrations reported were at beach green, Goring, where between 60 and 80 present all year, and 15 W Hove golf course Mar 26. Breeding records were 13 prs Brighton to Portslade; interesting, the trees chosen as nest sites were Elm, 8 prs, with 1 pr each in Ilex Oak, Horse Chestnut, Hornbeam, Yew and Lime; the majority of nests were in roadside trees, small woods, & gardens (LRK). Additionally 6 prs bred Wild Park, 3 prs Southwick, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, & 1 pr Hove.

444. STARLING Peak counts during the year were 300 at Durrington Sports Centre on Jan 28, 900E over Worthing hospital on Jun 23, 900 West Hove golf course on Sep 10, and 40 arrived from the south at Worthing beach on Sep 10. Between 6-10 prs bred at Woods Mill.

446. HOUSE SPARROW The only count was of 200 roosting at Adur Rec on Aug 19.

448. TREE SPARROW Many more noted than usual in 1989. 59 were on upper Adur levels on Dec 2, 25 were at Patcham on Jan 8, 35 were at Streathill farm, Stanmer on Jan 10, 35 were at Wiston on Oct 26, and 12 were at Stump Bottom on Nov 17. Smaller groups were 6 at Streatham Manor on Jan 2, 2 at Widewater on Feb 12, and 2 in a N Brighton garden Feb 17-Feb 21. Singles were noted at Widewater on Jan 15, Cissbury on Oct 24, and Goring beach on Oct 12. By recent standards, a very good year.

451. CHAFFINCH Peak counts during the year were 300+ at Standean farm, Patcham, Jan-Feb; 400 at Cissbury on Nov 17, 73 at Wild Park Jan 14, and 30 at 2 further sites. 58 prs bred Wild Park, with 46 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

452. BRAMBLING In the early months, 8 were at Standean farm, Patcham Jan-Mar, with 4 at Storrington and 1 at Shoreham Harbour on Feb 12. Autumn and late-year records included 1 at Goring Wood on Oct 23, 2 at Cissbury on Oct 24, 2 at Wild Park on Nov 11, 1 in a Broadwater garden on Nov 25 and Dec 3 and 19 on the upper Adur levels on Dec 2.

1988 1 Cissbury 8 April.

453. SERIN 1988 1 singing Hollingbury Camp 28 July.

455. GREENFINCH Early year gatherings included 76 at Withdean Park on Feb 17, 70 S down Findon Valley, also Feb 17, 61 Wild Park on Jan 14, 46 at Brighton Cemetery on Jan 11, and a total of 34 from 2 further sites.

Breeding records were 18 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, & 1 pr Woods Mill.

Autumn & late-year peak counts were 171 at Wild Park on Nov 14, 150 Shoreham beach on Sep 27, 68 at Ferring beach on Nov 23; also 55 at Widewater on Nov 17, 53 Brighton Cemetery Dec 4, 52 Withdean Park Dec 11, and 50 Stanmer Park Dec 13. A further 31 noted from 3 sites. A good year.

456. GOLDFINCH Very few noted in the early months, the largest group being only 17, at Upper Beeding on Mar 5. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov
4	48	75	48	271	14

Breeding records were 3 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Muntham Park, and breeding suspected at Woods Mill. A further 241 were recorded in Sep & Oct, including 40E at Goring on Nov 12. Few seen in Dec, the largest group being 17 in a Broadwater garden on Dec 22.

457. SISKIN In the early months, a total of 41 were reported between Jan 1 and Apr 2, which included 12N at Wild Park on Mar 9, and 8 at Storrington on Jan 1. Up to 5 were feeding on peanuts in a Storrington garden Jan 7- Mar 27, 1 was performing same at Findon Valley on Apr 1-Apr 2, and 1 was in full song in a Broadwater garden on Mar 27.

Peak autumn passage was in Sep, when a total of 229 were noted from 5 sites, including 121E at Worthing beach Sep 24 (total 192 there for the month), and 21E Wild Park on Sep 26. The October total was 26 from 3 sites. Only singles were seen in Nov, and 1 was at Broadwater on Dec 3 with 7 there Dec 22 and Dec 28.

458. LINNET Peak counts in the early month were 60 at Streathill farm, Patcham, on Jan 10, 50 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Jan 26, and 34 Peacock Lane, Brighton, on Jan 7. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov
17	256	198	11	60	8

51 were at Goring Gap on Apr 8.

Breeding records were 8 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, and 14 prs Devil's Dyke. In autumn 300 flew E at Widewater in 30 minutes on Oct 5, 150 were on the upper Adur levels on Sep 3, 80 were at Goring Gap in Nov and 60 were at Ferring Rife on Nov 19. The only record in Dec was 50 at Goring Gap during the month.

459. TWITE 3 were at Adur Rec on Nov 11 (HS)

460. REDPOLL After 2 on the upper Adur levels on Jan 22, not seen again until 8 at Cissbury on Mar 27 with 1 on Apr 2, and singles at Worthing beach on May 5 and May 7. A female in Steyning on Jun 16 was on a most unusual date, and was rather tame. In autumn, 3 were at Shoreham, Sanctuary on Sep 30, after which 21 were noted at 3 sites in Oct, and 20 at 3 sites in Nov; these included 12 at Cissbury on Oct 25, and 12 there again on Nov 5.

463. CROSSBILL 3 flew S over Broadwater, calling, on Dec 20.

469. BULLFINCH Breeding records were 3 prs Hollingbury Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Southwick Hill, 1 pr Woods Mill, with between 1 & 4 noted from 5 further sites during the breeding season. Otherwise, 2 parties of 3 noted, with 4 at Steyning Mill pond on Feb 19.

470. HAWFINCH 1 Hillbarn Apr 8 (PMB). 1988 1 Hollingbury 14 Nov.

494. SNOW BUNTING 3 were at Shoreham Harbour on Jan 8 (HJ/KN), after which 2 stayed there to at least Feb 19. In autumn, 1 flew W at Worthing beach on Oct 28, with 3W on Oct 30 & 3 W on Nov 9; the possibility that the same birds were involved cannot be excluded. 1 was at Goring beach on Nov 20 (JAN) 1 was again at Shoreham Harbour Dec 18 (RAI), increasing to 3 on Dec 26 (BFF/JAN), with at least 1 present there to Dec 31.

496. YELLOWHAMMER Breeding records were 13 prs Hollingbury Wild Park 22 prs Devil's Dyke, 5 prs Southwick Hill, 2-3 prs Goring Gap, & 1 pr W. Durrington. Noted as "abundant Cissbury and Harrow Hill, Jan-Jun". The largest group reported was 100+ Standean farm, Patcham, on Jan 8.

506. REED BUNTING The only breeding records were 3 prs at Patching Pond & 1 pr Woods Mill, with between 1 & 4 males seen at 3 further sites during the breeding season. Otherwise, just small parties noted, the largest being 9 at New Salt's farm on Mar 30, and 8 on the lower Adur on Nov 11. 3 at Cissbury on Oct 24 were probable migrants.

510. CORN BUNTING The largest counts received were from Upper Beeding, where 350 roosted in a reed bed during late Aug, with 300 there on Sep 9, and 150 earlier in the year on Jan 10. 40 were at Cissbury on Apr 2, 12 at Mill Hill on Jun 18, and 2 at Wild Park on Oct 18.

Breeding records were 4prs Cissbury, 4prs Harrow Hill, 1 pr Mill Hill, 1 pr Goring Gap which raised 2 young; and 1pr Southwick Hill.

Dave Smith (Recorder)



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1989

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

Species	Arrival	Departure
Hobby	Mar 29 Broadwater	-----
Whimbrel	Apr 3 WB	Oct 1 WB
Common Sandpiper	Apr 24 WB	Oct 14 WB
Sandwich Tern	Mar 25 WB	Oct 9 WB
Common/Arctic Tern	Mar 27 WB	Nov 8 WB
Little Tern	Apr 11 WB	Sep 23 WB
Turtle Dove	Apr 28 WB	Sep 20 Wild Park
Cuckoo	Apr 9 Upper Adur	Sep 9 WB
Swift	Apr 23 Storrington	Oct 5 Brooklands
Sand Martin	Mar 27 WB	Oct 8 WB
Swallow	Mar 21 Upper Beeding	Nov 15 Broadwater
House Martin	Apr 14 Sompting	Nov 22 Shoreham
Tree Pipit	-----	Oct 1 Shoreham Rec
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 10 WB	Nov 2 Sompting
Redstart	Apr 1 Hove	Nov 3 Cissbury
Whinchat	Apr 23 Durrington	Oct 1 Adur Rec
Wheatear	Mar 5 Hollingbury	Nov 1 Widewater
Ring Ouzel	Mar 28 Hollingbury	Nov 5 Worthing
Sedge Warbler	Apr 22 Small Dole	Sep 30 Sanctuary
Reed Warbler	May 6 Hollingbury	Oct 29 Southwick
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 4 Wild Park	Sep 16 Wild Park
Whitethroat	Apr 12 Woods Mill	Sep 23 Wild Park
Garden Warbler	Apr 28 Wild Park	Sep 19 Wild Park
Blackcap*	Mar 27 Lancing Clump	Oct 8 Goring
Chiffchaff*	Mar 9 Woods Mill	Nov 26 Wild Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 24 Lancing	Oct 4 Woods Mill
Spotted Flycatcher	May 13 Cissbury	Sep 24 Highdown
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 24 Brighton	Sep 16 Wild Park

* Excluding possible wintering birds.

SHOREHAM SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1989

The Sanctuary was visited on at 31 occasions with 16 of these being long sessions for mist-netting. This was a reduction in the observations from the previous year and mainly reflects my increasing commitments to a growing family and other ornithological activities. The 16 ringing sessions took place between 3rd May and 14th Oct with a large gap in a good period between mid July and mid August. Clearly the potential the Sanctuary offers for both observations and ringing are not being fulfilled.

Not many years ago the copse was permanently flooded during the winter months, this has not been so for the past few winters and in January the Water Authority staff had noted the water to be several feet below the usual level, and this before one of the driest and warmest summers. On 12th Feb the first working party was attended by 8 stalwarts who helped chop and burn a large patch of the Osier. News that the task for the second meeting was to clear prickly Hawthorn clearly spread as the attendance was very meagre!

The few visits in the winter revealed a paucity of birds; a small number of finches and a regular Sparrow Hawk.

There were no notable spring records except for the sad report of a pregnant Badger being found dead on the nearby main road, presumably the female of the local pair as I saw no further evidence of Badgers later in the year.

Like 1988 no detailed counts of breeding was undertaken but the ringing activities allow some idea of the success of some of the commoner species. The following table shows the numbers of adults and young ringed between May and September for 6 common species. There were, of course a large number of adults already bearing rings but the table suggests that Robins had a successful year whereas the Bullfinch had declined considerably in 1989.

	Blackbird	Dunnock	Robin	Wren	Chaffinch	Bullfinch
Adults	8	3	5	3	15	-
Juveniles	13	35	52	17	10	3

In June there was some water in the streams and small parties of finches started to come to drink so boosting the catches for ringing. This however was short lived for as the summer progressed so the streams became totally dry and thereafter both finches and buntings were only seen in small numbers.

The most interesting bird caught in the summer was a melanistic young Great Tit wearing a very sooty plumage.

Autumn is always the best season at the Sanctuary and the time when most passerines are ringed. Warblers are perhaps the most interesting, particularly as their migration is easier to record by ringing than by observation alone. The following table records the numbers of warblers ringed at the copse and can be compared with previous years. There appeared an enormous decline in the Willow Warbler passage; this in part is due to no mist-netting in early August as all the other early departing warblers have also been caught in reduced numbers compared with 1988. Conversely Chiff-chaffs were particularly numerous with 27 trapped on 10th Sept, 21 on 14th Sept and 34 on 30th Sept. Blackcaps too showed an increase with the peak of 18 trapped on 10th Sept.

Numbers ringed during Autumn 1989 (July onward):-

Sedge Warbler	Reed Warbler	Lesser White	Common White	Garden Warbler	Black- cap	Chiff- chaff	Willow Warbler
3	19	6	7	8	60	129	16
-50%	-55%	-67%	-54%	-64%	+46%	+118%	-81%

The number of Goldcrests seen and trapped at the Sanctuary was the best since 1975 but was far behind the large numbers trapped at Cissbury. The other highlights of the autumn were a Pied Flycatcher on 20th Aug, a few parties of Redpolls in early October, a Treecreeper on 10th Oct, a good crop of Autumn Ladies' Tresses and a late Chiff-chaff on 12th Nov. The first Redwings appeared on 30th Sept but were scarce thereafter until 120 were flushed from the copse on 26th Dec. Thankfully the population of Magpies showed some sign of decreasing with the maximum autumn roost count being 20.

As usual the staff of Southern Water Authority, particularly Mr Schultz, have been kind and cooperative and I express the Society's thanks to them. I would also like to thank those members who helped with the management tasks in the winter and with the mist netting in the summer and autumn.

J.A. Newnham.

RINGING REPORT FOR 1989

Ringling activity was maintained at a high level during 1989 with a total of 3708 birds ringed. As usual most were ringed as full-grown birds with only a tiny proportion (3.5%) marked as nestlings. Apart from a clutch of Kestrels, Swifts and Blackbirds all the pulli ringed were either Great or Blue Tits nesting in local nestboxes.

For the second year the highest total has been contributed by the Steyning Ringing Group who caught 106 birds at the Mumbles in Steyning, 296 at Wiston and 1836 on the north slopes of Cissbury. The efforts of the group to adapt this scrub habitat at Cissbury into an effective ringling site coupled with a sustained effort throughout the autumn migration has been rewarded with large numbers of warblers and Goldcrests with highlights of 5 Firecrests, 3 Grasshopper Warblers and 12 Redstarts. The groups work at Cissbury (outlined in more detail in a separate article) has been co-ordinated by Brian Clay and Chris Fox but has involved the help of many of the other local ringers and bird watchers.

A regular number of sessions at the Society's Sanctuary during the summer and autumn produced 646 birds (see Sanctuary Report) and John Newnham's total was increased by 27 birds trapped in his Worthing garden. The Gull Study Group only had 4 successful cannon-netting sessions at Sompting refuse tip yet these produced 644 new gulls, 106 retraps and 10 controls. Dr Barrie Watson as usual organised the Gull ringling and also contributed 146 passerines to the area total. A visiting ringer whilst camping at New Erringham Farm ringed 7 birds which made up the grand total to 3708 birds.

The following table shows the numbers of 50 species ringed in the area and as usual Black-headed Gull is the highest, however three warblers and Goldcrest have overtaken Blue Tit which is usually second in the table. The figures in brackets after the area total are the species totals ringed at Cissbury.

RECOVERIES:- the following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries and controls reported since the last ringling report.

TABLE 1

Sparrow Hawk	3 (2)	Willow Warbler	305 (277)
Kestrel	5	Goldcrest	286 (251)
Black-headed Gull	510	Firecrest	5 (5)
Common Gull	2	Spotted Flycatcher	9 (7)
Herring Gull	125	Pied Flycatcher	1
Gt Black-back Gull	7	Long-tailed Tit	87 (36)
Swift	2	Marsh Tit	8 (2)
Swallow	22 (1)	Willow Tit	1
House Martin	114 (80)	Coal Tit	3 (1)
Pied Wagtail	17	Blue Tit	264 (36)
Wren	101 (69)	Great Tit	132 (27)
Duncock	105 (35)	Nuthatch	3
Robin	169 (98)	Treecreeper	2 (1)
Redstart	12 (12)	Jay	2 (2)
Blackbird	60 (17)	Starling	2
Song Thrush	51 (33)	House Sparrow	2
Redwing	5 (5)	Tree Sparrow	4
Grasshopper Warbler	3 (3)	Chaffinch	71 (17)
Sedge Warbler	17 (9)	Greenfinch	66
Reed Warbler	62 (17)	Goldfinch	10 (1)
Lesser Whitethroat	51 (32)	Linnet	4 (4)
Whitethroat	161 (147)	Redpoll	6 (6)
Garden Warbler	40 (31)	Bullfinch	28 (24)
Blackcap	364 (291)	Yellowhammer	2 (1)
Chiff-chaff	395 (256)	Reed Bunting	1

1).BLACK-HEADED GULL:- during the year there were controls from Lithuania (2), Estonia (2), U.S.S.R (2), Poland, Denmark and England (2).

This species continues to produce a large number of recoveries with 122 generated in 1989. Interestingly 75% of these were from foreign countries and comprised Finland (13), Sweden (11), Norway (1), U.S.S.R (15), Baltic States (4), Poland (1), Denmark (25), Germany E+W (7), Netherlands (10), Belgium (2) and France (2).

Those reported from within England came from Sussex (13), Hampshire (1), Surrey (1), Dorset (1), Devon (9), Cornwall (1), Gt London (1), Essex (2), Buckinghamshire (1) and Tyne and Wear (1). It is interesting to reflect that there is more chance of a recovery in other European countries than within neighbouring counties. A more detailed appraisal of movements can be found in the Sussex Bird Report (1985).

2).COMMON GULL:- there were summer/early autumn recoveries from the U.S.S.R (2), Norway (2) and Finland. Earlier movements are plotted in "The Birds of Shoreham".

3).HERRING GULL:- There were 7 recoveries reported which re-affirmed that this is the least migratory of our gull species; apart from birds in Cornwall and Norfolk the others were found in Sussex.

4).HOUSE MARTIN:- a single recovery from a large number caught by tape-luring at the Sanctuary.

ringed 1st year	15/10/88	Shoreham Sanctuary
found dead	13/06/89	Usk, Gwent, Wales. 250km NW

5).SEDGE WARBLER:- a recovery from France in 1983 is the only longer movement recorded from our area.

ringed 1st year	23/08/87	Shoreham Sanctuary
controlled	29/05/89	Wigan, Gt Manchester. 338km NW

6).LESSER WHITETHROAT:- closely following an interesting Egyptian recovery reported last year there is another.

ringed 1st year	21/08/88	Cissbury
released alive	14/10/88	Alexandria, Egypt. 3325km SE

7).GARDEN WARBLER:- this recovery, with some shown below, reveal how quickly migrants move on during autumn migration.

ringed 1st year	28/08/89	Cissbury
dead - hit window	30/08/89	Peacehaven, Sussex 28 km E

8).BLACKCAP:-

ringed 1st year F	03/09/89	Cissbury
controlled	07/09/89	Icklesham, Sussex 75km E
ringed 1st year	23/08/87	Shoreham Sanctuary
found dead	26/06/89	Rowlands Castle, Hants 47kmW

9).CHIFF-CHAFF:- there were 4 movements all involving birds trapped in this area during September. Two ringed at Cissbury in Sept 1988 were controlled in May 1989 at Englefield Green, Surrey and in June 1989 at Watchet, Somerset. Chiffchaffs controlled at the Sanctuary had been ringed at Beachy Head and Icklesham respectively 20 and 3 days previously.

10).WILLOW WARBLER:- the only recovery involves a fairly early returning spring bird.

ringed 1st year	21/08/88	Cissbury
killed by cat	15/04/89	Matlock, Derbyshire 263km N

11).GOLDCREST:- the following first recovery recorded in this area indicates a continental source for autumn's fall.

ringed 1st year F	28/09/89	Dunwich, Suffolk
controlled	30/09/89	Cissbury 208km SW

12).BLUE TIT:- There were two controls; a young bird ringed in Horsham in June occurred on Cissbury in Oct and a nestling ringed at Horsted Keynes was feeding from peanuts in a Worthing garden in Feb.

13).MAGPIE:- Although this is a common and widespread species few are ringed and this is the areas first notable movement.

ringed pullus	15/05/88	Shoreham-by Sea
shot	12/01/89	Walberton, Sussex 25km W

14).STARLING:- The distant recoveries of this most regular passerine to be found abroad are plotted in "The Birds of Shoreham" and an excellent paper on the movements involving the whole county by Roy Leverton was published in the 1988 Sussex Bird Report.

ringed adult F	01/02/87	West Worthing
found dead	10/04/88	Pinsk, Brest, USSR 1845km E
ringed adult F	22/02/87	West Worthing
caught in shed	23/02/89	Boxmeer, Noord-Brabant Neth.
ringed adult M	07/01/87	Sompting refuse tip
found	04/02/89	Kollum, Freisland, Netherlands

15).CHAFFINCH:- One ringed at the Sanctuary in Aug 1987 was found dead at Newhaven in May 1989 and was the only noteworthy finch recovery for the year.

As usual there were several local recoveries and retraps all which help understand the life histories of the area's common birds.

John Newnham.

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CISSBURY RINGING

It was back in 1984 that ringing at Cissbury first took place. In that season we made 17 visits to our site on top of the north facing scarp. The first session started on 29th July and our last on 28th September. The average catch for that season was 23 birds ringed per session and overall 396 birds were ringed. We spent three years on the slopes of Cissbury and in that time we ringed 1,808 birds. One of the great drawbacks of the site was the twenty minute walk it took to reach it and the extreme gradient of the net rides. Ideally we would have liked to have ringed on the lower slope and in 1987 we were excited to hear that the National Trust were hoping to purchase it. When finally contracts were signed Glyn Jones, the Warden, readily gave us permission and the search for suitable net rides commenced. It is only when a site has been worked for a season does a true pattern of bird migration and behaviour evolve, so we were not too disappointed when we ringed only 617 birds in our first season. During the winter

of 1987 we made many improvements to the site and cut new rides in places where the birds had been "moving through".

When the spring of 1988 arrived our site looked much more suitable for bird ringing and migration study and by the end of the season a total of 1,625 birds had been caught. The average catch being 55 birds per session. During the winter of 1988/89 Brian Clay and myself spent several weekends clearing Sycamores that were encroaching into the scrub and also possibly interfering with the movement of passerines along the fringes where our nets were located.

The spring of 1989 heralded our sixth year at Cissbury and we decided to make an effort to monitor the returning migrants to the site. On 30th April we retrapped Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, and Whitethroat which we had ringed in previous years and on 3rd May a Lesser Whitethroat was retrapped. It is amazing to think that these birds will spend the winter in various parts of Africa yet return to the same site the following year.

During 1989 we managed 44 visits to the site which greatly exceeds the record of 30 visits in 1988. Without doubt it was a memorable year resulting in 2,311 birds being trapped. (see ringing totals in JAN's report). This total includes 291 Blackcap, 277 Willow Warblers, 256 Chiffchaff, and 251 Goldcrest. The more unusual species were also in evidence with 3 Grasshopper Warblers, 7 Spotted Flycatchers, 12 Redstarts and 5 Firecrests being ringed. The average catch being 51 birds per session.

We are fortunate that the ringing table commands a superb view which allows us to do some bird watching. Quail was heard calling on 23rd July. 62 Tree Pipits passed over in the last ten days of August and a Merlin on 15th October were all noted.

Now that the study of the passerines at Cissbury has been carried out for a period of six years we are beginning to discover some exciting facts about our birds. We have always been aware that the feeding parties of Blue and Great Tit (which are so much in evidence in July and August) seem to disappear by September. Brian has spent many evenings putting all the records onto his computer and we subsequently discovered that 5 Blue Tits ringed at Cissbury have been controlled in the Worthing town area in September; so it would seem that the birds disperse to the towns every autumn.

Altogether we have had 29 Cissbury ringed birds controlled over the years involving 13 species. Our special bird is undoubtedly the Lesser Whitethroat; as singles ringed at Cissbury were reported from Egypt in 1987 and 1988. These two represent 20% of all British ringed Lesser Whitethroats ever reported from that country. Another highlight of the autumn of 1988 was the influx of Goldcrests on 30th September when we caught 92 including one which had been ringed at Dunwich in Suffolk only two days before! It is on a sad note that I have to finish this brief report. I received an anonymous letter with a small ring attached- it read " this bird was killed by my dog"- it belonged to a Dunnock which was nearly five years old!

C.J. Fox

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SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1989

INTRODUCTION During 1989 the sea was watched for over 654 hours with a total of 56,494 non-passerine birds noted; over 53,000 passerines were also observed, the majority of these seen during late September. As usual the spring months were most popular with watchers (although other periods of the year were also very productive) and almost 70% of the total of non-passerine birds were noted during this period. The spring was record-breaking in many ways, with excellent numbers of all waders, including Greenshank, along with near daily sightings of Mediterranean Gulls and record numbers of Pintail, mainly during March. As in previous years a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping them informed and saving much time in collecting separate records. As before most of the observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing but watches are included from several other sites between Ferring beach and Widewater.

Thanks must go to all the observers who have contributed and spent hours watching, experiencing times of no activity, and then having very hectic watches in often difficult conditions of wind, rain or even the searing heat of the late spring and summer. The following observers have watched or submitted records during the year:- S.R.Allen, R.J.Bayne, M.N.Brayshaw, P.M.Brayshaw, B.R.Clay, P.J.Clay, G.V.Edwards, N.Fletcher, C.J.Fox, M.P.Hall, S.Harhill, L.E.Hemblade, M.Hollings, Mrs D.Hollings, C.E.Hope, R.Ives, R.A.Ives, R.J.B.Jackson, B.A.E.Marr, J.A.Newnham, M.G.Prince, R.J.Sandison, D.I.Smith. As usual the graphs for this report have been kindly prepared by B.R.Clay and the records compiled and computed by J.A.Newnham.

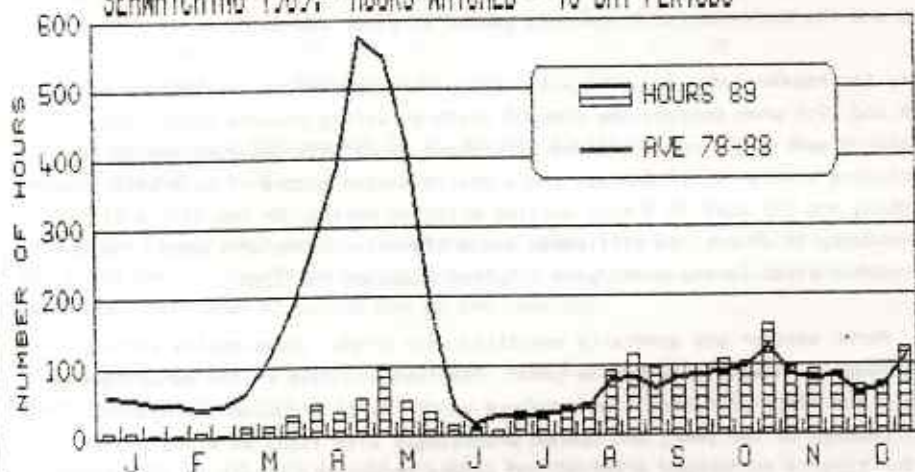
CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT January remained mainly dry with a mild westerly airflow predominating throughout most of the month. There were no strong winds and the month ended calm and misty. Not surprisingly these conditions induced very little visible offshore passage but included 52 Eider flying westward on Jan 2nd which was presumably a continuation of the large passage noted at the end of December 1988. Twenty divers, a Slavonian Grebe and 3 Little Gulls were seen on the 7th and the Red-breasted Mergansers peaked at 21 on Jan 25th.

February too remained dry and mild with mainly calm conditions, exceptions being the 4th and 19th when depressions brought fresh to strong onshore winds. Not surprisingly most sightings coincided with these winds with observations on Feb 4th including a total of 17 Gannets and a scarce winter record of an Arctic Skua at Worthing and 292 auks in 1 hour passing Brighton marina. On Feb 19th a Black-tailed Godwit, 11 divers, 50 Kittiwakes and a Slavonian Grebe were seen. The only other notable birds in the month were 2 Tufted Ducks on Feb 22nd.

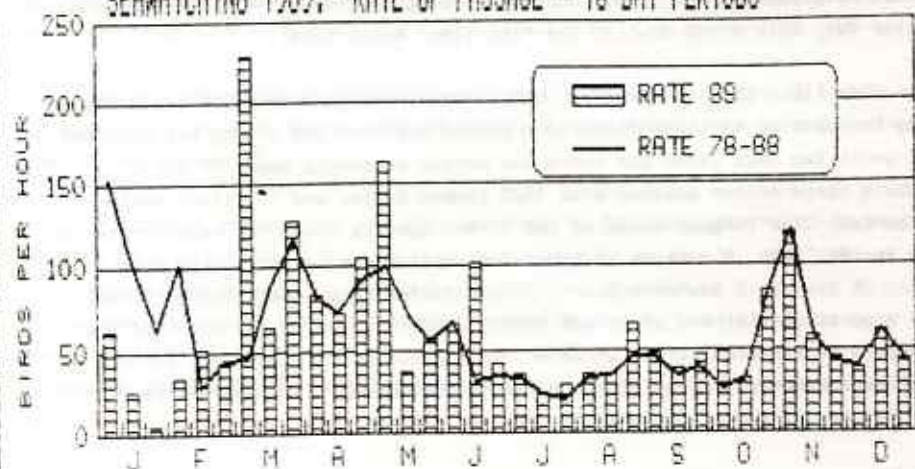
SPRING March weather was generally unsettled with winds, occasionally strong, staying roughly between a SE and SW point. The last few days of the month however were calm and misty with very light onshore winds. March produced the highest rate of passage of the year, and opened promisingly with light SW winds on Mar 5th which clearly encouraged wildfowl and waders to depart; totals of 1684 Brent Geese and 105 Dunlin were not unexpected, but 95 Pintail were - the day total being over twice the all time March total. The most notable records were an early party of 2 male (with 3 probable females) Garganey on Mar 5th, 5 red-headed Goosanders, an early Wheatear on Mar 6th and a curious movement of 93 Knot on Mar 8th. More activity occurred on Mar 18th and 19th when a Slavonian Grebe and 63 Kittiwakes were seen on the former date and a single party of 16 Little Gulls on the latter day; this group doubled the "all-time" March total.

From Mar 25th light SE winds arrived, unfortunately often with thick sea-mist. On this day the seasons first Sandwich Tern passed eastward and a Shag was recorded but not until two days later was there any marked movements seen. On Mar 27th there was a large scoter passage with 1920 Common Scoter and 11 Velvet Scoter being counted - the largest total of the former species since the record total of 4500 on Apr 8th 1979. A mixture of other interesting species were also seen including 26 divers, 2 Bewick's Swans, 2 Long-tailed Duck (seen also at Selsey Bill 36 minutes earlier and at Splash Point, Seaford later in the morning) and good numbers of Sandwich Terns, while 4 Commic Terns on this day were the earliest ever recorded in the area. On the following day, 15 Velvet Scoter passed, before thick mist obscured the sea for several days.

SEAWATCHING 1989:- HOURS WATCHED - 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1989:- RATE OF PASSAGE - 10 DAY PERIODS



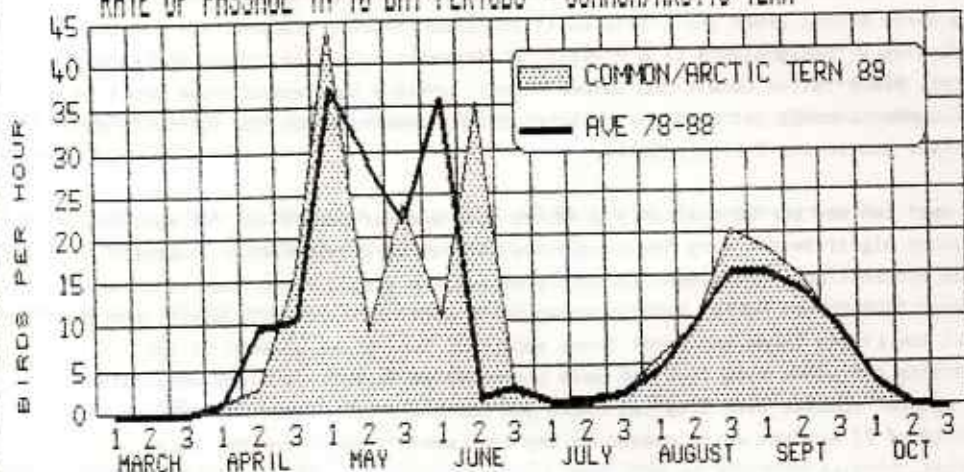
April, as March, was dominated by a southerly airstream with winds alternating between the west and east, and although good watches did not always materialise most days noted good passage. The first few days produced 3 Mediterranean Gulls (out of a month total of 10), a Great Northern Diver, Black-necked Grebe, and Shag while Arctic Skuas and Little Gulls appeared in small numbers. Apr 9th was productive with highlights of 6 Pintail, 25 Shoveler, 6 Velvet Scoter and single Avocet, Black-tailed Godwit and Golden Plover, while a Red-necked Grebe moulting into summer plumage sat on the tide line. Strong onshore winds the following day 7 Velvet Scoter and 3 Little Gulls.

The next ten day period similarly produced good weather conditions for watching offshore migration but very few productive watches were experienced. However these alternating winds almost certainly helped the spring to an excellent total of over 1300 Common Gulls. Mediterranean Gulls were again noted regularly and the first few Little Terns and Great Skuas appeared. During the weekend of Apr 15th/16th the winds blew from the east but no large numbers of birds were noted but unusual species like Grey-lag Geese and Goosander were recorded. Regrettably a party of 22 Avocets which passed Selsey Bill weren't seen from the local beaches.

As usual the final 10 days of the month provided the best birds; the first Swift arrived on Apr 23rd, followed a few days later by the first Hobby. On Apr 29th the wind veered from SW to SSE for about two hours and during this time a good number of Commic Terns and Bar-tailed Godwits were seen but this passage rapidly subsided as the wind decreased. However the evening brought an excellent variety of species with a Puffin and Black-throated Diver sitting offshore and eastbound Shag, Velvet Scoter and the first Pomarine Skua. The SDOS sea-watching outing was held on the following morning with light SW winds during which 8 Arctic Skuas and a number of Little Gulls were seen together with a Red-necked Grebe.

May started with a moderate SW airstream but very soon an anti-cyclone built over southern Britain bringing light E winds and hot, settled weather. These conditions not surprisingly produced large numbers of birds passing offshore; indeed, over 15,000 birds were noted in the first ten days alone. The settled weather was ideal for wader passage; on each morning from May 3rd to 10th the early morning watchers were met with a bombardment of mixed wader parties passing at all ranges and heights. Amongst the more regular shore waders there were occasional Ruff, Avocets and the May total of 41 Greenshanks clearly surpasses the previous best spring when 20 were seen. These settled conditions also produced many Pomarine Skuas in the channel, the May total of 126 being

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS - COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

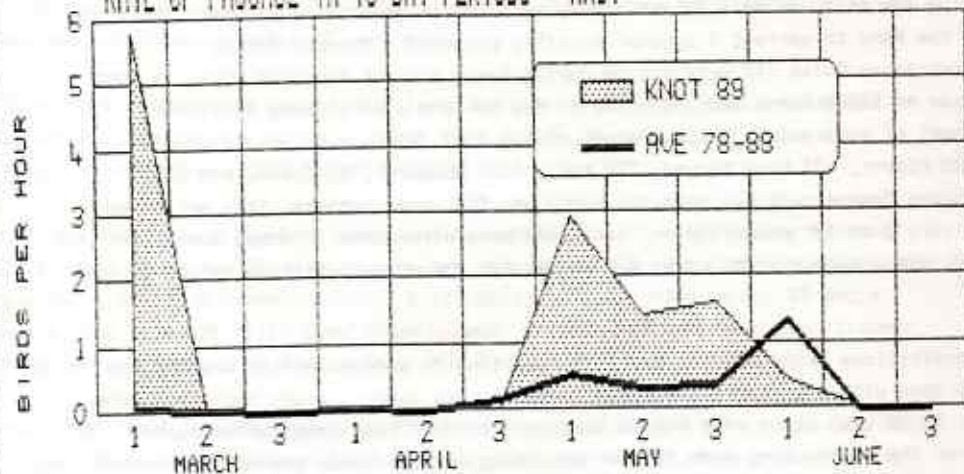


good with peaks of 41 on May 7th and 39 on May 8th. Little Gulls too were very prominent and the record spring total had its peak of 55 on May 5th. However, watchers further east at Seaford and Beachy Head saw many more of both these species. Commic Terns were numerous during this period with regular counts in excess of 500, 921 were logged on May 6th when a Roseate Tern and a shearwater showing the features of a Balearic were seen. Other good days, of which there were too many to warrant a special mention, produced 4 Roseate Terns, Mediterranean Gulls (12 were logged during May), a Great Northern Diver, a good passage of Black Terns peaking at 74 on May 9th and a continuing excellent movement of waders (e.g. 336 Whimbrel on May 8th). The months totals of 219 Ringed Plover, 402 Grey Plover, 397 Knot, 1031 Whimbrel, 42 Curlew and 295 Turnstone demonstrate how good the month was for wader passage. This period was also very good for passerine arrivals with many hirundines, finches and pipits noted, along with a Short eared Owl on May 5th and an unidentified falcon on May 6th.

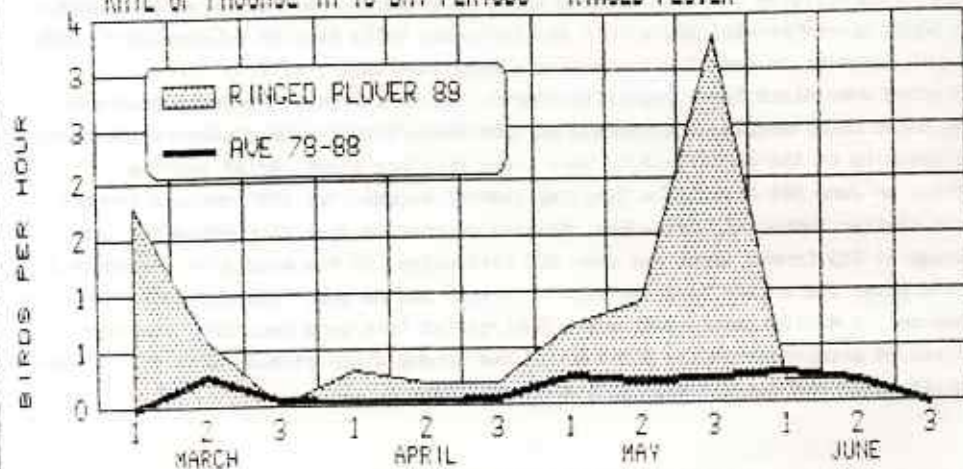
The anticyclone broke down on May 11th resulting in some unsettled weather and windy days with a westerly airstream. Despite this waders, skuas and terns were still to be seen along with 4 Manx Shearwaters and 2 late Long-tailed Ducks. However the anticyclone soon rebuilt resulting in more birds and better tanned sea-watchers! Similar species were again seen including more Pomarine Skuas, Mediterranean Gulls and Black Terns as well as another Roseate Tern and a Glaucous Gull. The month by contrast ended quietly with a Purple Sandpiper and a notable arrival of Feral/Racing Pigeons.

SUMMER June remained warm, calm and sunny throughout the month, the weather breaking abruptly on the 28th as gale force SW winds and rain occurred in Sussex. The month opened promisingly with 4 Mediterranean Gulls seen in as many days, and a small movement on June 3rd comprising a Manx Shearwater, several terns, including some Black Terns and Little Gulls. The first returning Curlews were also noted on this date. The weekend of June 9th - 11th produced some of the best sea-watching of the month in hot, very light on-shore winds. Brief evening watches on June 9th revealed a large up-channel movement of 120 immature Gannets and a similar number of Kittiwakes. Similar weather on June 11th brought a late passage of 283 Commic Terns and over 200 Kittiwakes. In the middle of the month 2 Arctic Skuas and a late Pomarine Skua were seen and on June 16th a Green Sandpiper, a Mediterranean Gull and a Gull-billed Tern were recorded, the last subject to acceptance by the B.B.R.C. In the strong winds of June 28th 101 Gannets were recorded and another 4 Manx Shearwaters.

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS - KNOT



RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS - RINGED PLOVER



July was similarly settled and warm with very few birds; more notable sightings included 3 Black Terns on July 4th, 3 Arctic Skuas on July 23rd, a Heron on July 29th and a midsummer Shag. On July 13th an observer was met by thousands of Cabbage White butterflies and ladybirds arriving from the south!.

AUTUMN During August the weather was warm and often sunny, but much more unsettled than in the previous months, with many fronts crossing the country. The first half of the month was dominated by a westerly airstream leading up to the remnants of tropical storm "Dean", causing severe onshore winds. The final ten days were unsettled with winds from many directions.

The month started slowly with a few returning waders, including Greenshank and Common Sandpipers. Storm "Dean" produced a small movement of 52 Gannets and, subject to acceptance by the SOS, a Cory's Shearwater. During the last ten days of the month many more waders appeared including scarcer species such as Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit and Golden Plover, while terns and skuas started to appear in larger numbers. Peak passage occurred over the Bank Holiday week-end (26th-28th) with good day totals of Commic Terns (352, 162, 220) along with skuas (8 Great, 11 Arctic and 1 Pomarine), some of which were noted moving south high over the coast having passed overland. The month ended with regular sightings of Cetacea that continued into October.

September was dominated by dry, mild weather, with the winds once again being light and on-shore. A front moving southward over the country on Sept 8th produced moderate winds from the north for a few days before they returned to being light onshore. An Atlantic depression causing strong winds about Sept 20th; these decreased with the month ending in a light NE airflow.

Passage continued with small numbers of terns and shorebirds, while a single group of 16 Velvet Scoter and a Heron on Sept 4th were noteworthy. On Sept 9th the northerly winds took effect pushing birds out of the North Sea; on this day good numbers of duck passed west along with a variety of waders and 140 Commic Terns. The following day produced more terns, with 260 Commics and 166 Sandwich, the latter count being the largest autumn count noted from the beach. Other unusual species observed on this day included a Roseate Tern, Tufted Duck and 10 Black-tailed Godwits. Arctic Skuas were also associated with these movements, 7 being recorded. Over the next few day 3 Shags and a Mediterranean Gull were seen and more than 200 Commic Terns passed highlighting an excellent autumn passage for these species. The first Brent Geese were seen in mid-month. The weekend Sept 23rd/24th produced large passerine movements with a peak of 30,090 Swallows,

14,900 House Martins, 689 Sand Martins, 7 Grey Wagtails, 11 Wheatears, single Whinchat and Stonechat, and 121 Siskins on the latter date. The staggering count of 90,000 House Martins at Dungeness on the same day puts this into perspective. Seabirds on this day included Red-throated Diver, a Glaucous Gull and 172 Kittiwakes. Other good movements of passerines during the month included 20 Yellow Wagtails on Sept 9th and 86 Meadow Pipits on Sept 19th.

October started dry, with light variable winds which soon turned to the north over the weekend Oct 7th/8th. The winds then turned to the west, often associated with rain, with violent storm form winds during the night of Oct 20th/21st, decreasing slightly but gales continuing for the next few days. A calm and dry period followed for a week before the month ended with more strong wind on Oct 28th.

The month started slowly with a Purple Sandpiper and 283 Pied Wagtails passing on Oct 1st. Brent Geese returned in force on Oct 4th with over 100 noted in each hour, while 144 Goldfinches were also noted. The moderate northerly winds on Oct 8th pushed large numbers of wildfowl westward with counts of 827 Brent Geese, 75 Shelduck, 64 Wigeon, 55 Teal, 21 Pintail, 4 Pochard and a Long tailed Duck. Seabirds too were noted with 122 Kittiwakes, 5 Little Gulls and over 300 Gannets, several of which were noted to be coming from the north, very high overland before plummeting down toward the sea and progressing westward. A quiet period followed until the last ten days of the month when 19 Little Gulls were seen on Oct 21st and 28 on the 23rd, 2 Great Skuas were seen and an unusual movement of 309 Great Black-backed Gulls including 2 "white" gulls on Oct 26th. In strong on-shore winds on Oct 28th there was a large westbound movement of 395 Gannets, 749 Brent Geese, 68 Dunlin and 69 Kittiwakes; there were smaller numbers of these species then seen to the end of the month.

WINTER The first few days of November were dry and mild with light westerly winds. In the middle of the month the winds moved to the south-east, often bringing rain, remaining in the eastern quarter until the end of the month.

The month opened well with a Little Auk on Nov 2nd, while a large movement of 365 Kittiwakes were observed in under 1.5 hours on Nov 5th; a late Commic Tern was also seen on this date. In the period of east winds there were sightings of marsh ducks, Velvet Scoter (including a flock of 11 on Nov 18th) and Goldeneye. The first winter movement of divers and auks occurred on Nov 25th when 27 divers were noted which including a Great Northern and 2 Red-throated sitting on the sea, and 44 auks passed.

December started with light winds and mist but the period up before Christmas was dominated by a series of Atlantic depressions bringing strong SW-W winds. However the year ended as it started; mild, calm and dry.

The calm weather produced very little visible movement; a Mediterranean Gull and Heron were of interest and records of 4 Snipe and 3 Lapwing were unusual in mild conditions. The stronger winds induced small movements of Kittiwakes offshore with a peak of 64 on Dec 24th and a late Arctic Skua moved westward on Dec 20th. During the period up to Christmas there were many sightings of Leach's Petrel from the south coast, those seen from the Sussex shore mainly occurring on Dec 25th, regrettably none were seen from Worthing. Light east wind and mist on Dec 27th were the conditions when 110 divers were seen, typically most of this movement was during the mid-morning. On the same day there was a rare sighting of 9 Barnacle Geese, whether these were wild or part of an increasing feral population in the county will remain unknown.

Although the number of Great Crested Grebe offshore reached a peak of 21 on Dec 10th other species were most numerous on Dec 28th when counts included 60 Red-breasted Mergansers, 12 Guillemots, both Red and Black-throated Divers, a Slavonian Grebe, Shag, Wigeon and Eider. Like the weather the last few days of the year remained quiet.

Paul Brayshaw.



SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER TO SPRING 1989 FROM WORTHING BEACHES

DATE	MAR	MAR	APR	APR	APR	APR	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY
	5	27	9	16	29	30	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
HRS WATCHED	5.2	8.2	12.3	6.8	11.8	10	5.9	5.2	11.7	9.9	13.3	11.7	13.8	10.4
#DIVER SP	4	26	14	2	7	16	-	4	4	2	6	1	3	3
#FULMAR	-	9	12	21	27	53	8	5	19	12	61	54	11	4
#MANX SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
#GANNET	-	-	3	29	29	28	2	2	14	1	54	20	5	-
BRENT GSE	1684	179	-	-	17	22	8	-	-	10	9	-	1	-
#SHELDUCK	9	-	8	2	2	44	12	14	15	29	1	7	27	9
#WIGEON	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIDER	2	-	23	-	9	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
C. SCOTER	-	1920	446	44	79	240	23	13	145	455	126	28	111	147
RED BR. MERG	7	47	32	1	4	6	3W	-	2	3	1	2	1	-
GREY PLOVER	6	-	-	11	-	1	-	9	43	42	124	28	35	23
SANDERLING	-	31	6	5	-	4W	2E3W	11	19	36	32	21	28	24
DUNLIN	105	-	18	18	4E4W	7W	4W	SE4W	24	91	77	14	20	50
BAR T. GOWIT	-	-	59	216	359	256	175	145	352	323	473	171	57	87
WHIMBREL	-	-	-	6	10W	12	69	22	46	46	140	129	336	23
#POM. SKUA	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	1	10	8	41	39	7
#ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	1	-	2	8	3	3	7	3	6	-	6	5
#GREAT SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
LITTLE GULL	-	-	-	-	7E4W	6	-	-	26	55	8	12	6	15
#KITTIWAKE	8	6	1	4	23	13	17	9	9	8	37	13	14	2
S. TERN	-	74	297	23	271	294	86	61	186	115	178	173	76	60
C/A TERN	-	4	22	32	650	116	111	93	319	648	921	295	362	696
L. TERN	-	-	-	-	3	19	4	47	74	58	46	34	68	48
B. TERN	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	7	4	37	3	25	74
#AUK SP.	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	6	3	-	2

Denotes the total of E and W movements; rest move east in spring and west in autumn

DATE	MAY 10	MAY 19	MAY 20	MAY 21	JUN 11	AUG 26	AUG 27	AUG 28	SEP 9	SEP 10	SEP 24	OCT 8	OCT 28	DEC 27
HRS WATCHED	9.1	5.2	9.2	8	3.1	6	5	7	6.4	4.6	3.8	6.5	7.2	1.6
#DIVER SP	2	-	2	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
#FULMAR	11	3	11	12	-	6	5	9	9	-	-	-	-	-
#MAX SHEAR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#GANNET	7	5	9	5	12	14	39	21	32	19	5	308	395	-
BRENT GSE	31	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	836	749	19
#SHELDUCK	-	1	2	6	-	-	-	13	8	-	-	76	1	-
#WIGEON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	22	-	64	3	-
EIDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	8E	4	-	-
C. SCOTER	56	9	45	117	17	11	-	1	30	15	21E	1	34	-
RED BR. MERG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	27	17
GREY PLOVER	4	17	23	15	-	4	1	-	1E	-	-	1	-	-
SANDERLING	14	10	18	72	-	25	17	2	1E	1E	1	-	3EIV	-
DUNLIN	39	5	12	24	-	54	4	15	2	11E	3E	-	68	1
BAR T. GOWIT	67	6	12	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHIMBREL	148	-	11	2	-	2	5	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
#POR. SKUA	3	1	1	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#ARCTIC SKUA	1	4	-	-	-	6	3	2	2	5	-	4	-	-
#GREAT SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	-
LITTLE GULL	6EIV	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	1	-
#KITTIWAKE	28	23	10	15	211	9	7	3	8	3	172	122	69	27
S. TERN	150	13	35	79	17	17	17	41	50	166	82	1	-	-
C/A TERN	687	101	129	224	283	352	160	220	140	260	16	2	-	-
L. TERN	13	6	2	6	1	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
B. TERN	17	-	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#AUK SP.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	3	4

■ Denotes the total of E and W movements; rest move east in spring and west in autumn

REVIEW OF THE BIRDS OF HOLLINGBURY WILDPARK 1989

Comparatively few visits were made during January and February, both Redwings and Fieldfares being totally absent. Goldcrests were seen in small numbers throughout the winter and at least 1 Woodcock was recorded from 10 January to 20 March. The only Coal Tit of the year was found on 7 February

March started with a high count of 180 Magpies and on 8th an early Wheatear just beat a Chiffchaff on the 11th. Also on 11 March 2 Firecrests were present near the Camp. At this time Stock Doves were pairing in Hollingbury Beech woods but only 9 pairs were counted for the year, and a pair of Ring necked Parakeets raised 1 young behind the tennis courts. Winter finished with flushes of Goldcrests and on 28 March 7 Ring Ousel signified the start of Spring migration.

The first Willow Warbler turned up on April 1, and pairs of Bullfinch and Long-tailed Tits were seen around Wild Park. Generally April was quiet with very few early warblers or Wheatears. The first Swallows, a Cuckoo and male Blackcaps were spotted on 23 April, followed the next day by an exceptionally early Swift. Other spring highlights were 2 Redstarts and a Hobby on 28th April; a Wryneck on the Camp on 4 May; 8 Whimbrel overhead, 3 Whinchats and a Reed Warbler on 6 May; and finally another Reed Warbler and the only spring Wood Warbler on 21st. Breeding pairs in the area included 2 Green Woodpecker, 4 Skylark, 15 Whitethroat, 6 Lesser Whitethroat, 7 Garden Warbler, 17 Blackcap, 2 Jay, 10 Chiffchaff, 29 Willow Warbler, 8 Long-tailed Tit, 1 Pheasant, 3 Goldfinch, 18 Greenfinch, 8 Linnet, 3 Bullfinch, and 13 Yellowhammer. We are pleased to have a Sparrowhawk and 2 Kestrels nesting in the area. We had to wait until August for the other highlights, and what an exceptional month it turned out to be. Two sightings of a male Red footed Falcon on 3 and 10 August were believed to be the first recorded here, the bird was thought to have been roving the downland between Devil's Dyke and Falmer area. The memorable 10 August had a Hoopoe and Fulmar (!) over our garden- the Hoopoe was found again on the golf course later in the day- as well as Sand Martins and a Pied Flycatcher. Other good birds before the end of the month were a Nightingale, a Wood Warbler, a flock of 18 Whimbrel, and a high count of 12 Redstarts on 23rd. 2 Grey Wagtail were unusual for the area on 28 August, and a Hobby was well seen the next day.

The odd sighting of a Nightjar flitting around allotment sheds on the 1st Sept was an extremely good local record. Firecrests and Turtle Doves were seen during this period as well as 6 Pied Flycatchers on the 8th; a Grasshopper Warbler on 13th; a Hobby and Wryneck on 14th; further Wryncks on 20th and 25th; and a

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker on 19th. High counts included 40 Wheatear on 1st; 15 Whinchat on 14th; 80 Blackcap on 14th; 80 Goldcrest and 15 Siskin on 26th, but perhaps the best day in terms of sheer numbers was the 24th September. The area was absolutely swarming with birds, and it actually became difficult to make reasonable counts. We stopped counting House Martins at 515, but they were still passing through. On the Camp 150 Meadow Pipits dropped in briefly. Spotted Flycatchers numbered at least 20, whilst 28 Goldcrest, 26 Blackcap, 40 Chiffchaff 14 Wheatear and 2 Siskin were probably too conservative an estimate. All these birds were on or around the Camp and if the whole area had been covered thoroughly I suspect some of the numbers could easily have doubled.

A possible Yellow-browed Warbler was seen in a neighbour's garden on 14 October and was positively identified on 17th, the bird staying around gardens until at least 21st. However the garden was obviously private and the bird proved elusive throughout. Meadow Pipits and Skylarks were passing through in quite large numbers, as were Goldcrests, all three counting well into 40's into November. The first Fieldfares were on 21 October and Redwings on 5th November. Redwings proved by far the commoner of the two until the year end, some possibly taking up more permanent residence rather than passing through. Stonechats were present on the Camp for about 2 weeks, and 2 other visitors included a Short-eared Owl, 4 Ring Ousels, a Firecrest, and 6 Brambling on 23 Oct; a Black Redstart on 24th Oct, and the occasional Reed Bunting. There were many thousands of Wood Pigeons passing north on 5 November, and many more the following day. A Treecreeper remained with the tit flock well into December and just 1 Merlin was recorded

Hollingbury Wildpark covers an area of over 240 hectares. It includes the area to the east of Ditchling Road from Hollingbury Woods, the Hollingbury golf course, the Roman Camp and the Wildpark itself down to the Lewes Road. For our bird recording we include the allotments and some bordering gardens to the south. The site is of great interest not only for birds, where the review above is fairly typical, but especially for butterflies and other wildlife. There are plans to protect the Wildpark from further development by giving it the status of a Local Nature Reserve, and this is backed by the Brighton Urban Wildlife Group, some local Councillors, the Parks and Recreation Department of Brighton Borough Council, and of course those who wish to see the area protected. The area gives many people pleasure be it dog-walkers, golfers, the birdwatchers and nature lovers, so we hope it will become possible to ensure the preservation of this important wildlife site. Negotiations are believed to be at committee stage at the time of going to press.

It would be helpful if anyone reading this article who has some knowledge of any scarce breeding records of the area, or rarities seen, could they please contact the author. Records prior to 1960 and for the mid to late 70's are particularly welcome.

Thanks to Messrs Champion for proving the many hours necessary to count breeding pairs; to Nick Allen for taking the initiative and sending monthly reports to Bird Watching magazine, and to the other stalwarts who have contributed records and cover the area regularly.

P. J. Whitcomb

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KINGFISHERS STEAL THE SHOW

The ultimate in bird-watching occurred at the Woods Mill Countryside Centre, Henfield this year. Visitors to the Sussex Wildlife Trust's headquarters were able to watch these fine birds live on a big screen in the comfort of the audio-visual room in the Mill!

A pair of Kingfishers decided that an upturned root plate of a willow tree would make an excellent nesting site and at the beginning of April had well established the site as their territory. Unfortunately, this was only about 2½ metres away from the nature trail, and as we were just a few days away from opening to the public, we had to make the decision to close a particular section of the trail, which meant visitors had to back-track and do the rest of the trail in reverse. However, this caused no problems at all, as visitors were delighted to know that the birds were around.

Having closed part of the trail though, it seemed rather a shame that the public would not actually have much chance of seeing the Kingfishers as it was impractical to erect a hide near the nest site. Knowing of some of the schemes whereby remote controlled cameras were placed in or nearby some nest sites, we contacted Ken Smith and Keith Noble at the RSPB, Shoreham Office, who put us in contact with David Boag, producer of the book entitled "The Kingfisher". He advised that such a project was feasible. On obtaining a licence from the NCC, we only had the small problem of obtaining over £1,000 worth of equipment with no money to spend! Undeterred, we then unleashed our Marketing Manager, Graham Turnbull, who, literally in days, had acquired a big screen monitor, video player

and video camrecorder from Kingfisher plc (holding company for Woolworths), and 500m of relay cabling from Viewpress Ltd. of Worthing.

Throughout the rest of the summer, we and the visitors could enjoy the private life of these wonderful birds. The quality of picture was excellent and although the camera was continually focussed on a branch just outside the nest, we were able to record some very varied aspects of their behaviour: courtship, feeding, preening, and even mating. We managed to record some of the young of the second brood as well. Many times, either of the parents would spend long periods on the perch just resting, especially after lengthy spells of brooding. Quite a few other species also wanted to grab some of the limelight, plus a squirrel and field mouse. We ended up with over 40 hours of film which we hope to edit down into a short documentary video.

Everyone wants to see Kingfishers and, by providing this opportunity, it not only encouraged extra visitors, but also gave immense amount of satisfaction and enjoyment. Although they were seeing the birds on a screen, the fact that it was "live" made all the difference. After all, it was only like looking along an extra long telescope! I personally never tired of seeing them; I learnt a tremendous amount about their lifestyle, and it was a privilege to be so involved and to be able to bring such delight to so many people.

We are very much indebted to Kingfisher plc and Viewpress Ltd. for the generous loan of the equipment to enable us to set up the whole operation.

Mike Russell

FIELD OUTINGS - JANUARY TO DECEMBER 1989

1. The 15th January heralded the start of the year's Field Outings with our annual visit to Amberley Wild Brooks and surrounding areas. Two early arrivals, meeting Bernard Forbes at dawn, witnessed the dispersal of 130+ Bewick Swans from their roost on Waltham Brooks pool. With nine members all told, the trip started well with views of a Bean Goose feeding with forty Bewicks just north of Greatham Bridge. A truly wild bird always a possibility!

A walk via Quell's Farm led to Amberley Brooks. The water level being low, few wildfowl were seen. A Willow Tit calling vigorously from some thickets, was not seen. Further Bewicks were seen at a distance. Wiggonholt Brooks provided the afternoon's birding, with at least eight Short-eared Owls giving fine views, and the male Hen Harrier came into roost. Other birds seen included four Stonechats, thirty Snipe, fifteen Corn Buntings and eight Tree Sparrows, detected at dusk by flight calls.

2. As a new venue, Thorney Island fully justified its choice, with some interesting birds seen. On Sunday 5th February 11 members, led by Richard Ives, set out to walk the perimeter footpath from west to east around the island. On the western side, near the Great Deep, an over-wintering Common Sandpiper was discovered. An additional bonus was a Spotted Redshank found amongst the many Black-tailed Godwits. A perched Kingfisher also gave good views.

On the harbour were many Goldeneye, some splendid males, seven Long-tailed Ducks giving excellent views, swimming close inshore. In the direction of Hayling Island a Black Brant gave tantalizingly difficult views amongst the many Brent Geese.

During lunch at the southern end of Thorney, a single Avocet was found amongst many Oystercatchers. Unfortunately, only two members saw this bird. On the eastern side, notable amongst the many waders was a Greenshank in flight and several Bar-tailed Godwits.

3. Disappointingly only four members met Rod Shaw at the Western Arm car-park at Newhaven Harbour on 19th March. possibly the cloudy weather, with rain threatening, together with the fresh south-westerly wind had some bearing on this.

Good views were had of many Fulmars, some sitting on their nesting ledges, whilst others patrolled along the cliffs below Newhaven Fort. The normally wintering Black Redstart was looked for without success. At Tide Mills both Curlew and Redshank were seen roosting in the surrounding fields. A walk on the eastern arm of the harbour produced the most interesting birds of the day- twenty Purple Sandpipers roosting on the understructures of the pier. A close view of a male Red-breasted Merganser was an additional bonus. A break was made on the homeward journey to view the ever-expanding Kittiwake colony on the cliffs east of Peacehaven.

4. An excellent turn-out of 18 members joined John Newnham for a morning sea watch from the shelter by Goring Illex Wood on 30th April. Two Arctic Skuas passing east were the stars of the day, with one in particular giving good views as it pursued its favourite pastime of harassing gulls.

With good visibility and a light south-westerly wind, a reasonable passage was seen. Fifty Sandwich Terns were recorded passing east, together with "Commic" and Little Terns. There was often a distant Gannet in view, with Common Scoter and Fulmar also passing.

During quiet periods of the watch the shoreline was always of interest with Godwits, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Sanderling among the many waders feeding. An unidentified stint species came off the beach flying east, but was unfortunately only picked up on the wing. A Red-necked Grebe, seen in flight, was recorded 5 minutes later by the Worthing shelter "veterans".

5. 15 "early birders" assembled at Chris Fox's cottage garden, Wiston on 4th May. This was to hear the dawn chorus and to appreciate woodland bird song under the guidance of Chris's expert ears. Unfortunately, the birds were up even earlier and most songs had finished by the time the outing set out. A circular route of bridleways and footpaths were taken to the north of Wiston. Many woodland birds were seen and heard including Nuthatch, Jay, Long tailed, Coal & Marsh Tits. The melodic song of the Blackcap was heard in the distance. It was a shame that none of the woodpeckers showed themselves, a possible Nightingale site was sadly silent.

Most of those present had not walked this delightful area before and were keen for a return visit. For next year an hour earlier start was given a unanimous vote.

6. The evening bat watch in July in the grounds of Woods Mill Nature Reserve was a tremendous success, with a record number of people attending. This was no doubt part due to the fascinating talk given on the subject at our winter meeting by Mr and Mrs Clarke. The weather, however, was not kind, being cloudy with the odd patch of drizzle, not at all ideal for the insect hunting bats. A few were seen, mainly in the woodland glades. These were found to be *Pipistrella*, as shown on the sound frequency detectors being used by the leaders. Earlier in the evening, a perched Kingfisher by the main pool, provided an enjoyable spectacle.

7. Many thanks to Bernard Forbes who stood in at short notice to lead our evening Nightjar jaunt. On 21st July, 14 members met by Greatham Bridge to overlook the pool at Waltham Brooks. Two Green Sandpipers and a Common Sandpiper were seen, together with many feeding Snipe. Whilst these birds were being viewed, a Barn Owl obligingly began hunting along the far bank of the River Arun.

Just before leaving for Coates Common, Bernie's keen eyes picked up a Hobby from the direction of Greatham Bridge, which flew with ever increasing speed westwards. Sadly the weather, which had been overcast, developed into a fine rain and no Nightjars were heard or seen on Coates Common. Most members saw Little Owls from their cars, on route to the Common.

8. Commiserations to Dave Smith who failed to complete his hat trick, when this year on September 616th, no American rarity graced the Pagham Harbour area. 11 members met Dave at the reserve centre Sidlesham, a rather poor turn-out considering the exciting birds seen on the previous two years.

Little water and few birds were present on the Ferry pool, due, no doubt, to the summer drought. A walk beside Ferry Creek produced two Greenshank, five Golden Plover, and a Sparrowhawk, all viewed in flight. Distant Ruff were observed in the fields to the south.

On arrival at Church Norton, the churchyard, as usual, turned up a good selection of autumn migrants, including Blackcap, Lesser and Common Whitethroat, Spotted Flycatcher and a good male Redstart. On Pagham Harbour itself, eight Knot, amongst all the usual waders, was of special interest. On the homeward journey, a few members called at Dell Quay to see an unbelievable sight of FIVE Little Egrets roosting beside Chichester harbour.

9. Clymping and its superb habitat is just the place to be in mid-October especially on a calm, sunny day. Unfortunately, it was neither. Richard Ives and twelve members walked into the teeth of a gale and as a result any wise passerine had either left the country or was hanging on for dear life at the bottom of the bushes. It was a very disappointing trip with 4 Brent Geese feeding on a cereal field being the highlight - better luck next year?

10. The 2nd December dawned cold and grey, with a fresh north-easterly wind blowing, when Dave Smith met 8 hardy beings for a visit to Farlington Marshes. Passerines were conspicuously absent throughout the meeting, but what Farlington lacked in unusual birds, it more than made up for in numbers. Wildfowl were abundant, including Pintail, Wigeon and Shoveler. As usual all the common waders were present, and overlooking the harbour at the southern extremity, both Goldeneye and Red breasted Merganser were seen.

On the return leg, fine views were had of a male Kestrel perched on fencing. At the approach to the Information centre, our friend the albino Coot showed for its annual inspection. On the way home, a stop was made at Hayling Island to scan Langstone Harbour for the normally present Black necked Grebes. These were not found, the only consolation being a Kingfisher.

11. Stanley Allen's late Christmas present to the members who gathered by Shoreham Footbridge for an Adur walk, was to announce that a Grey Phalarope had been present since Boxing day near the Old Fort on Shoreham Beach. By a unanimous decision, the 14 members went with Stanley to the harbour arm where good views were had of the bird, just offshore between the piers.

Back to the Adur saltings, careful scrutiny produced all the regular wintering waders and it was then decided to visit nearby Widewater where earlier in the week a Water Pipit had been seen. Once there, all pipits seen were studied, but to no avail. A female Stonechat gave obliging views and a male Wigeon resting well into the bank of west Widewater, was almost overlooked. After the dispersal of the main party, 4 members were rewarded by the discovery of a Black Redstart along the beach footpath.

A REVIEW OF THE INDOOR MEETINGS by Richard Ives

The first meeting of the year in January was given by Glyn Jones on the National Trust in Sussex. The lecture dealt with the problems facing Sussex and the work the Trust was doing throughout the country. There were some excellent slides and there was a lively question time to end a very interesting evening.

Mr M Clark was the speaker for the second lecture of the year and it was about the conservation of the Adur Valley. It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn more about our local environment and I am sure we were all very much the wiser at the end of the evening. March saw a move away from birds into the other flying creatures of our area: the bats. The Clark's gave a fascinating lecture on the status and habits of these fairly unknown creatures. It also gave members the opportunity to see Serotine in the hand and appreciate how small the Pipistrelle really is! The slides of bat nurseries and roosting sites were fascinating.

John Newnham's slides on the results of the breeding atlas showed just how important intensive fieldwork is to find out where our local birds really are. It was very satisfying to see that our members can play an important part in this respect. The collection of maps showing the distribution of our breeding birds were most enlightening.

Keith Noble opened the autumn programme with 100 years of bird protection. It was very interesting to see how from very small beginnings the RSPB has now the respect and political clout it needs to force people into realising that our environment is at threat. Let's hope this organisation will achieve as much in its next 100 years as it has done over the last.

The November lecture was by Dr Peach on the wild life of Kenya. The slides were really superb and everyone gained an insight into the wonders of African. Unfortunately, as Dr Peach said things have changed substantially since his visit in the early 70's. However, his slides will have inspired other budding photographers to new heights.

Those who had missed John's April session would have suffered greatly in the December quiz as there were many slides of the breeding birds distribution maps. The experts and novices alike were tested to the full especially with the songs and calls. The evening was rounded off nicely with mince pies and wine. A very enjoyable evening and one of the most popular events on our calendar.

MEMBER'S 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 are to receive their report 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
---------	------	----------------	--------	----------

It would be greatly appreciated if records could be submitted in standard "Voos Order" (ie. the order of this report, your checklist or field guide), not for example, in order of sightings 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 is an essential guide to every birdwatcher, whether beginner or experienced observer. I believe that this is still available from the S.O.S.

Again, many thanks to everyone who sent in records- without them no report could be produced. Keep them coming in for the new decade!

Dave Smith

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RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1989.

RECEIPTS	1989	1988
	£.	£.
Balance brought forward	1142.39	924.67
Subscriptions	793.50	574.50
Sale of Reports	1317.03	-.-
Net raffle & refreshments	242.81	112.07
Building Society interest	44.69	23.88
Donations	-.-	48.50
Sponsored Birdwatch	-.-	325.48
	-	-
Total	<u>£3540.42</u>	<u>£2009.10</u>
PAYMENTS		
Donation to S.O.S	500.00	-.-
Printing of Books	850.00	-.-
Other Printing	234.50	223.00
Postage & stationery	40.18	39.53
Secretary's expenses	40.82	59.04
Hire of hall	84.00	168.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' fees	70.00	81.00
Sundries	4.45	20.69
Purchase of Computer	-.-	259.95
Bank charges	11.50	11.50
Balance Carried Forward	1700.97	1142.39
	-	-
Total	<u>£3540.42</u>	<u>£2009.10</u>

C.J. Fox (Hon Treasurer) Dated 4th February 1990

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, Nile Street, BRIGHTON.