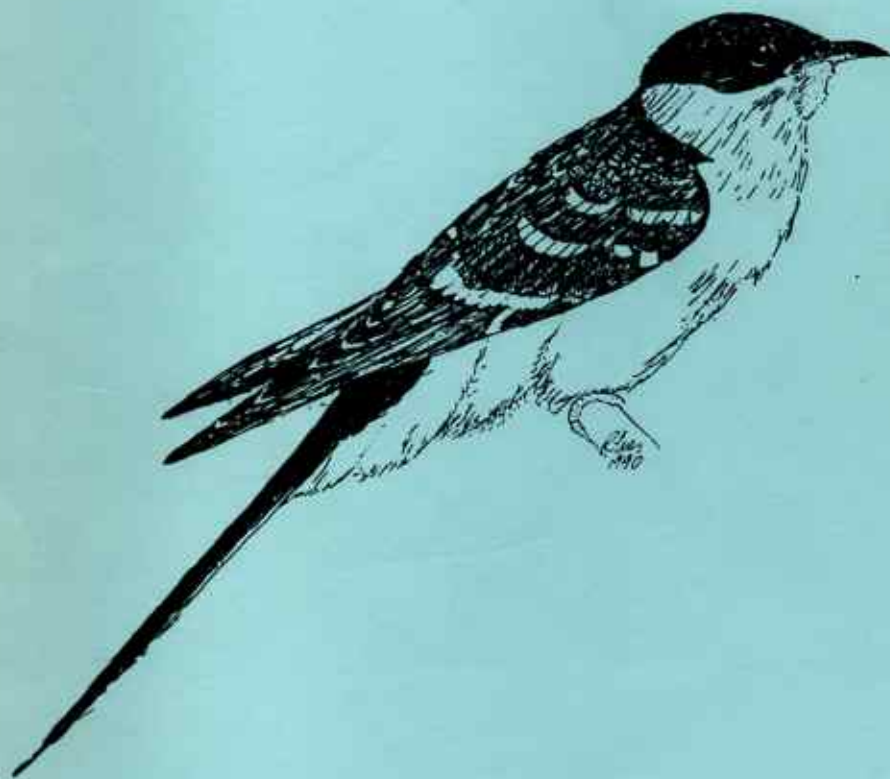


**Shoreham District
Ornithological Society
REPORT 1990**



No.38

Price £2.00

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 1990

<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Editor's Notes	R.A.Ives	2
Review of the Year	D.I.Smith	3
Notable Birds of the Area	D.I.Smith	6
Arrival/Departure of Migrants	D.I.Smith	58
Sanctuary Report	J.A.Newnham	59
Ringling Report	J.A.Newnham	2
Cissbury Ringling Report	B.R.Clay	67
Seawatch Report	P.Brayshaw	70
Predictions for the Future	D.I.Smith	79
Field Outings Report	L.Hemblade	84
Indoor Meetings	B.Reeve	88
Members' Records		90
Members of the Council		91
Accounts		92

Cover logo, maps & line drawings by R.A.Ives.
Graphs, formatting & pre-print preparation by B.R.Clay.
Proof reading by D.I.Smith.

EDITOR'S NOTES

After so many hours of collecting, collating, consulting, sketching and typing this introduction is the final seal on the work that began back in the middle of last summer when Dave began to sort out your records. Thankfully he did his task exceptionally well which made my job so much easier- thanks again Dave. I should also express my gratitude to those who have contributed articles and to Brian Clay for reformatting the report. Also thanks everyone who contributed to the running of the Society: the speakers, the refreshment providers, the outing leaders, the Secretary, the Chairman, those who kept the society running and all of you who sent in records, for without that vital element there would be little to write about! Thanks should also go to Chris Fox our retiring Treasurer- best wishes go to his successor and I hope he will continue to keep us in the black, welcome aboard.

1990 was a wonderful year both weather wise and species wise. I even got a couple of local "ticks" which must be a good sign. The report has had a few hiccoughs especially on the personal computer side: a complete breakdown of one system has meant that a host of interesting records could not be retrieved in time for this report. I shall endeavour to add them to next year's systematic list so that this report really does reflect the true status of our local birds. The Society should also feel rather proud that it has "interfered" once again and saved a local area which was under threat from development- a feather in Stanley's cap for representing the feelings of this Society.

In future editions an identification paper on the tricky birds seen on the area may be an asset for everyone. Dave Smith and I would be most grateful for any feedback on this suggestion. I wish you all an excellent year and I hope you will continue to give the Society your support as we move into the 90's.

Richard Ives

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1990

In terms of weather during the year, 1990 closely mirrored 1989, mild in the early months but with severe January and February storms, followed by a long, hot summer, and generally mild through to the end of the year. In the absence of hard weather no major associated movements or influxes occurred, but the early gales produced a number of interesting sightings; and for once, warm spring southerlies brought our fair share of overshooting southern European rarities.

Without very cold conditions, January remained rather quiet but still had its movements. A Peregrine was seen at Mill Hill on 18th, Bewick's Swans again graced the Upper Adur levels, 12 Slavonian Grebes were on the sea off Worthing on 20th, and 3 Snow Buntings were present at Shoreham harbour to 11th. Most unusual was a Great Skua, which flew E at Goring beach on 29th, in a strong SW gale, the same conditions being responsible for sightings of 2 Little Gulls at Worthing in the same period. Only 1 Mediterranean Gull was noted in this month, in Shoreham harbour on 12th, and a Glaucous Gull frequented Brighton Marina from 26th to 28th. Interesting passerines were a Water Pipit on Widewater, a Brambling in a Worthing garden, 2 Black Redstarts at coastal sites, and very few wintering Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps.

Great Skuas continued to be seen in the February storms, with a total of 4 from the Worthing beaches early in the month. In this month there were several sightings of Short Eared Owls, mainly from the Adur valley, a Buzzard over Sompting brooks on 12th and unusual gulls were again prominent with 2 Glaucous Gulls, 2 Mediterranean Gulls, and higher than usual Little Gull numbers. A Shag was in Brighton Marina on 3rd, & other species of note during February included Slavonian Grebe, Black Redstart, and Blackcap.

Mild conditions remained into March, and hopes were high of early migrants. We were not to be disappointed, with very early Wheatears, Sand Martins, House Martins, Chiffchaffs, Sandwich Terns and one Willow Warbler mid-month. A number of Firecrests were noted in early March, and other passerine highlights included 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Water Pipits at Widewater on 31st, 2 Bramblings at Goring on 12th, and another Black Redstart mid-month. Turning to the sea, an exceptional marsh duck passage took place off Worthing on 31st, with record numbers of Shoveler and Pintail passing eastwards; in addition, on the same day 7 Avocets flew E there plus a Great Skua. Other seawatch highlights for the month were 8 Garganey past Brighton Marina on 18th, and 15 Velvet Scoter past Worthing beach on 17th. A Purple Sandpiper, now seldom seen in our recording area in numbers above 3 or 4, was at Brighton Marina on 3rd.

Early April brought the bird of the year, who amongst us could have predicted a Great Spotted Cuckoo? Nevertheless, one was reportedly first seen from a lorry at the traffic lights on the Shoreham flyover on Apr 4, and was relocated in the grounds of Ricardo's early on 5th, staying for at least 3 weeks, and was well-watched by many hundreds of observers during its stay. It may be worth mentioning that three of us had travelled to Devon in the previous week to see an earlier arrival of this species; hardly expecting another to turn up on our "doorstep".

On 23rd, whilst the Great Spotted Cuckoo was still entertaining many observers, a Red Rumped Swallow was seen at Widewater; and, during the evening, two of this species were well-watched at Brooklands, flying off eastwards at dusk. Both the Recorder and the Editor separately passed Brooklands whilst these birds were present, and didn't stop; so near, and yet so far! A Purple Heron was reported flying E, then inland, at Worthing beach on 21st, completing the month's rarities. Raptors included an early Hobby on 15th, 2 Peregrines on 5th & 22nd, and a Buzzard on 13th. Most incoming landbird migrants first arrived on typical or even slightly later dates; the more unusual involved a few Wood Warblers at the end of the

month, a Grasshopper Warbler on 17th, a Firecrest at Wiston on 25th, & just 1 Pied Flycatcher.

Another area first was a Mandarin Duck past Worthing beach on 29th, at which site, in brief, notable species during the month included Manx Shearwater, Pomarine Skua (in numbers), Great Skua, Goosander, Velvet Scoter, Avocet, and a number of Mediterranean Gulls. Brighton Marina produced a Garganey on 25th, 4 Avocets on 1st, and a Roseate Tern on 25th.

May was warm, with more overshooting vagrants; a Little Egret passed Worthing beach on 14th & a Hoopoe was at Patcham on 3rd. 2 incoming Short-eared Owls were noted at Worthing beach in the first week of May, & another Buzzard flew over Woods Mill on 6th. Passerine arrivals included Firecrest, Wood Warbler, Ring Ouzel, and good spring numbers of Whinchats in early-month. As usual for May, the unusual appeared most frequently on sea-watches. To avoid duplication these are summarized succinctly here, as they appear both in the systematic list and seawatch report. At Worthing beach a Red-necked Grebe was present on May 1, after which Shag, Velvet Scoter, Avocet, Little Ringed Plover, Knot, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Pomarine & Arctic Skuas, Mediterranean Gull, Roseate and Black Terns were the rarer species recorded. Little Gulls passed eastwards in unprecedented numbers.

In contrast, June passed quietly, with Crossbills (no doubt part of the huge country-wide invasion) at Broadwater on 9th and Cissbury on 23rd. At the latter site, a Quail called on 10th. 4 Little Gulls flew W at Ferring on the early date of June 25th.

Crossbills were again heard flying over Cissbury on 30th July, and there were 2 of this species over the Sanctuary on 22nd. 2 Quail called at Steepdown on 9th but otherwise July was as quiet as June. 2 Manx Shearwaters passed Worthing beach on 1st, there were 3 Green Sandpipers at Woods Mill on 13th, and interestingly, a juvenile Redstart was trapped at the Sanctuary on 29th.

August highlights were undoubtedly the three White Storks, the first over Worthing on 1st, & 2 were tracked from Durrington through to Portslade on 24th. Apparently these latter two birds were noted above my place of work in Durrington; something of this nature usually happens when I am on holiday! Potentially the second area Icterine Warbler was at Woods Mill on 27th. Vagrant "Hippolais" warblers are very rare in our area, and can prove somewhat elusive anyway; but are still most welcome! Waders included an Avocet past Goring beach on 1st, and a scattering of Green and Curlew Sandpipers. A high count of 64 "Yellow legged" Gulls were at Washington tip on 11th, & a Short-eared Owl flew over Sompting brooks on 27th. The only Wryneck of the year was at Hollingbury on 15th. Crossbills continued to appear over Cissbury, small groups noted there on 8 dates during the month, & Quail was heard there on 2 dates. Seawatching produced Manx Shearwater, Pomarine Skua, Shag, and Black Tern.

September was generally uneventful, except for a Montagu's Harrier at Cissbury on 2nd, a probable of this species at Long Furlong on 18th, Merlins at two sites, a Nightjar at Chanctonbury on 17th, & a Dartford Warbler at Hollingbury Camp on 1st. 3 Little Stints were noted late-month, & the summer migrants gradually disappeared, with few highlights.

October produced several sub-rarities, which were a Richard's Pipit with Meadow Pipits at Cissbury on 21st, a Kentish Plover on the River Adur at Shoreham on 16th, and a Sabine's Gull close-in on the sea at Worthing on 3rd. Peregrines were seen at Cissbury on 7th and Worthing beach on 22nd, and a Merlin was at the Sanctuary on 27th. Waders were again unexceptional, with a Little Stint on 7th, and a Jack Snipe at Woods Mill on 28th. A Long-tailed Duck remained at Hove Lagoon from 30th into November and a Bewick's Swan flew east at Worthing beach on 21st as did 9 White-fronted Geese. Passerines included a scattering of Ring Ouzels, good numbers of Black Redstarts and Firecrests, Bramblings, Redpolls, more Crossbills, Tree Sparrows, and another large Goldcrest influx.

In November, yet another White Stork was noted in the area, this time over Shoreham on 15th. A Little Auk was on the tide-line at Ferring on 4th, a Scaup arrived at Widewater around 24th, and raptors included a Hen Harrier at Worthing beach on 4th, a Buzzard at Woods Mill on 21st, and a Merlin at Wild Park on the same date. Seawatching brought Red-throated Divers, a Slavonian Grebe, and an Avocet; late hirundines included a Swallow on 15th and 2 House Martins on 20th, both records from Woods Mill. Passerine highlights were scatterings of Firecrests, Redpolls, Brambling, Tree Sparrows and Black Redstarts during the month. A "northern race" Long-tailed Tit was claimed at Wild Park on 10th.

December often passes us by with few birds of note, but in 1990 this month proved very interesting indeed; no doubt due to a short cold spell mid-month and strong winds at the month's end. At Goring beach on 15th 2 Whooper Swans flew in to land on the sea, remaining there for over 1 hour; the first area record for many years. After a Little Auk at Worthing beach on 13th and 2 on 16th, an astonishing 8 flew past there on 29th; the species being noted in numbers at this time from many sites in eastern and southern England. 19 White-fronted Geese passed Worthing beach on Dec 10, & also noted there were Goosander, Velvet Scoter, 2 Long-tailed Ducks on 16th, and 3 Slavonian Grebes for the month.

Other notable species during December were 18 Shags at Brighton Marina on 29th, a high number for this far east; 3 Merlins during the month; a Glaucous Gull at Shoreham beach from 30th and 3 Purple Sandpipers there from 27th. The occasional record of Black Redstart, Blackcap and Chiffchaff was received. The year ended as it began, with again 3 Snow Buntings, this time at Lancing beach, which are still there at the time of writing (end-Feb 1991). Finally a Franklin's Gull was watched briefly on 29th at Brighton Marina, if accepted, our first record of this great Nearctic rarity. So it was a rather exciting year in many respects; 1991 has started well too, and hopefully will continue as such!

Dave Smith (Hon. Recorder)

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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, T.Allen R.Bayne, M.Brayshaw, P.Brayshaw, C.Brooks, G.L., M.L., & N.J.Champion, B.R.Clay, S.Cook, R.Edney, G.Edwards, R.J. Fairbank, J.A.Feast, B.F.Forbes, C.R.Fox, N Gearty, P.Griffiths, M.P. Hall, C.Hope, R.A.Ives, H.Jackson, L.R.Keen, D.King, G.T.J.Martin, J.M.Maskell, S.F.Maskell, B.Metcalf, Dr.J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, M.Prince, B.Reeve, C.Ruffell, M.Russell, R.J.Sandison, T.C.Smart, D.I. Smith, V.Maynard-Smith, M.Snelling, H.Sturman, B.Upton, C.J.Walder, A.B. Watson, A.D.Whitcomb, P.J.Whitcomb, I.C.Whitcomb, W.Woodford.

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.

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
18.0	29.6	52.4	130.7	121.9	12.4	7.3
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
	28.9	39.2	31.3	13.6	29.2	

1. RED-THROATED DIVER Recorded at Worthing beach between Jan and May 15, and again from Oct 23, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	19	10	2	-	-	2	1	38
W	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	13	26

Singles were noted offshore there on Jan 9, 2 on Jan 20, 1 on Mar 4, and 1 on Apr 22. Peak movements were in Nov, with a group of 13W on Nov 27 (RJS), and in Dec with 11E on 15th & 12E 1 W on 16th.

Away from this site 1 was at Brighton Marina on Mar 10, & a juvenile present on the tideline at Goring Gap Dec 15.

2. BLACK-THROATED DIVER Very scarce in the early and spring months, the monthly totals from Worthing beach were:-

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

Not noted away from this site; uncommon in 1990. A record from 1989 concerned 2 at Brighton Marina on 27 Mar.

3. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER None were recorded in 1990.

DIVER SP. Divers not specifically identified were recorded mainly from Worthing beach; the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	4	2	54	43	15	-	-	-	-	2	5	74
W	2	5	1	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	16	73

Peak movements were 11E on Mar 3, 14E on Mar 18, and 11E on Mar 22; last were 2E on May 25. Late year peaks were 24E Dec 15 and 2E 14W on Dec 31. At Brighton Marina 11E on Mar 18 and 5E on Apr 1.

6. LITTLE GREBE Again few noted at both ends of the year, there being no hard weather to bring an influx. The peak counts were 6 at Brighton Marina on Feb 10, and 3 at Cuckoo's Corner on Jan 21 and Feb 16 with 1 there Jan 12. Otherwise, singles at Southwick Canal on Jan 22 and R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 10.

A pair present at Wiston Pond in the breeding season. In autumn/late year 1 was at Clays field pond, Steyning on Oct 30, 2 at Cuckoo's Corner on Dec 3, and 1 on R. Adur (Steyning) Nov 16 to Dec 19. None for the year were reported from the former stronghold of Widewater (SRA)- possibly the fact that it has dried out in 2 successive summer droughts could point to the cause.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	6	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
W	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	9

Noted offshore there with 3 in Jan, 6 in Feb, 3 in Mar, 3 in Apr, and a occasional single in autumn.

Away from this site 2 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4, 1 offshore at Ferring on Oct 7, 11 offshore Worthing beach Nov 29, and 5 offshore Shoreham to Lancing in Dec. Additionally up to 5 offshore Worthing beach in Dec. A quiet year for this species, no doubt due to the prevailing mild conditions at both ends of the year.

8. RED-NECKED GREBE There was just 1 acceptable record, of 1 offshore at Worthing beach on May 1 (many obs.).

9. SLAVONIAN GREBE An exceptional concentration of 12 were noted offshore at Worthing beach on Jan 20, there being large groups noted at other Sussex sites at the time. 1 was again offshore there on Feb 16.

In the late-year singles were off Worthing beach on Nov 27, and off Widewater on Dec 15, 1W at Worthing beach on Dec 8 & 1 E there Dec 9.

1989 A record of 3 at Brighton Marina 28 March.

10. BLACK-NECKED GREBE None were record in 1990.

12. FULMAR The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	31	13	139	91	4	1	18	2	-	-	-
W	6	43	12	255	96	9	4	20	10	-	-	-

Peaks were 6W on Jan 29 and 1E 24W on Feb 22, both during or after severe gales; 5E 34W 20 April, 15E 45W Apr 21, 15E 15W on May 2, 12E 1W on May 27, and the latest in June was 1 on 30th.

Inland records involved singles over Mill Hill on Apr 27, and over Southwick football ground on Jun 9.

17. SOOTY SHEARWATER 1 W at Worthing beach on the unusual date of Feb 4 (PMB) has been forwarded to SOS for consideration.

1989 8 km off Brighton Marina on Feb 1.

18. MANX SHEARWATER Few in 1990, the records being 4E at Worthing beach on Apr 6 with 3W on Apr 14, and 2E at Goring beach on Jul 1 with 1 W at Worthing beach on Aug 18 & 1E on Aug 19. 1W at Worthing beach on the unusual date of 28 Dec.

23. LEACHS' PETREL None recorded this year.

1989 7 Brighton Marina 25 Dec, with a small dark rumped petrel.

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
E	2	5	8	163	89	16	10	6	58	53	1	11
W	2	44	5	101	27	33	22	213	347	160	-	41

Peak movements were 130E 18W on Apr 20; 10E 73W on Sep 19; and 11E 102 W on Sep 29.

26. CORMORANT Monthly totals from the seawatch log at Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	10	4	52	152	146	7	12	17	23	44	-	-
W	7	14	49	160	62	2	3	12	57	112	15	96

Maximum counts of the pylon roost at Wyckham farm were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	75	32	55	152	NC	21	25	79	136	170	NC	121

Groups in & around Shoreham harbour numbered 32 on Jan 27 & 17 on Dec 15. Flocks flying inland to roost were 35 over Widewater on Oct 22 and 45 there Dec 13. 42 were on an Upper Beeding pylon on Oct 25.

Only noted at Woods Mill in the early months, with 6 records of singles Jan/Feb.

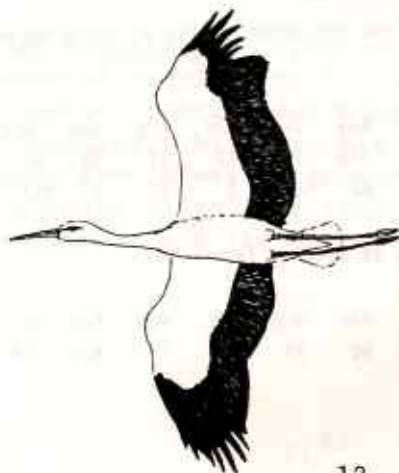
27. SHAG In the early months 1 at Brighton Marina on Feb 3 with 2 there Mar 18 and 2 again Apr 1.

1 was offshore at Worthing beach on May 11, 1 flew W there on Aug 25, & 1 offshore on Oct 6. On Dec 29 a remarkable 18 at Brighton Marina, which is rapidly becoming a traditional site for numbers of this species. 1 flew W at Worthing beach on Dec 21.

37. LITTLE EGRET 1 flew E along the tideline at Worthing Beach on May 14 (PMB/JAN) - details submitted to BBRC and if accepted will be the third area record. Of interest to observers, 1990 is the final year in which this species will be considered by the national rarities committee.

39. HERON As usual, the largest numbers outside the breeding season were at New Salt's farm/ Adur saltings where between 7 and 9 were present Aug to Dec. Singles were noted at Worthing beach flying east on Apr 6 with 2 on May 2, and 1W on Oct 17. Otherwise just scattered singles reported. There were 19 nests at the Wyckham Wood heronry.

40. PURPLE HERON 1E, then NW inland at Worthing beach on Apr 21 (PMB), if accepted by SOS it will be the fifth area record.



White Stork

42. WHITE STORK An excellent year for sightings of this species. 1 flew over Worthing on Aug 1 (JAN) and 2E over Worthing (MP), Shoreham (KN), Southwick Hill (CJW), and Portslade (ECB) on Aug 24 were probably escapes from Whipsnade Zoo (which were reported in Dorset on Aug 23). 1 flew E over Shoreham on Nov 15. All details submitted to the SOS.

46. MUTE SWAN Early year counts were herds of 45 at Wyckham farm on Feb 10, and 35 on Upper Adur levels at Steyning on Feb 11, and 41 at Bines bridge on Feb 4.

A pair prospected Woods Mill lake in Apr but did not breed. A non-breeding flock of 36 was on R. Adur at Steyning on Jun 18.

Late year counts involved 42 at Bines bridge on Dec 9, 20 on R. Adur, Beeding to Stretham bridge on Dec 6, 18 Wyckham farm Dec 27, and 15 on the Upper Adur levels at Steyning on Dec 9. Unusual on seawatches but a total of 9 were recorded on 3 dates in September.

47. BEWICK'S SWAN In the early months 9 were on the Upper Adur levels at Bines bridge Jan 2, with 11 there (8 adults, 3 juveniles) on Jan 3, and 17 (11 adults plus 6 juveniles) there on Feb 4.

Lower down the river at Wyckham farm 8 (4 ads, 4 juvs) were present on Feb 3 with 4 there, and 5 at Stretham bridge, on Feb 4. Again 8 at Wyckham farm on Feb 10/11 but 15 (including 6 juveniles) noted there on the same day by another observer. Some duplication must be involved, as herds and family groups tend to wander.

In autumn 1 flew E at Worthing beach on Oct 21 (JAN), and 32 were at Bines bridge.

48. WHOOPEE SWAN 2 adults arrived from the south to land on the sea at Goring beach on Dec 15 (DIS). This record has been accepted by SOS, and is the first locally since 1971. Later in the morning, they were seen flying E at Worthing beach.

51. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE There were two records both from Worthing beach: 9W on Oct 21 (CH) and 19E on Dec 10 (JAN).

1989 30 Lancing 5 Mar.

53. GREY LAG GOOSE Just one record of a singleton E at Worthing beach on Jan 26.

GREY GOOSE SP. 22E Worthing beach Dec 21.

55. CANADA GOOSE In the early months 26 were on the Upper Adur levels on Feb 10, 15 on the Steyning levels on Feb 10 with 11 there on Feb 11, and 11 Wyckham farm Feb 3. 2 were at Storrington Mill pond May 21 to Jun 4, and 2 flew E at Worthing beach on Jun 10.

A pair raised 5 young at Woods Mill.

After 2 on the Steyning levels on Aug 2, the only other records for the year were 12 at Clays field, Steyning, on Nov 3, and 2 at Goring on Dec 4.

56. BARNACLE GOOSE None recorded this year.

57. BRENT GOOSE Noted from Worthing beach up to May 27 and again after Sep 19, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	7	336	1457	1547	154	-	-	-	33	87	5	84
W	6	18	8	4	1	-	-	-	106	424	531	49

Peak movements were 187E 12W Feb 18; 342E Mar 17; 1446E 3W Apr 1; 188W on Oct 29; and 510W on Nov 4.

Movements noted at other seawatch sites were 165E Brighton Marina Mar 18 with 861E there Apr 1; 120E Shoreham beach Mar 31; and 60E Ferring beach Mar 9. 5 were at New Salt's farm on Apr 5, and 20 flew over Wild Park on Oct 13, the only inland record.

1989 1 light bellied form (hrota) at Shoreham Airport 30 March.

61. SHELDUCK Recorded from the Upper Adur levels (Wyckham farm) in the early months, with 11 on Feb 10, 13 on Feb 11, and 2 on Mar 4. Monthly totals from Worthing beach the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	1	3	83	72	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
W	2	9	7	43	26	-	-	-	3	57	55	5

Peak movements were 12E 18W on Apr 29; 18E 8W on May 4; 33W on Oct 22; and 36W on Nov 4. 3 flew N at Wyckham farm on Aug 24, after which 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Oct 24, and singles at Widewater on Nov 4 and Dec 22.

63. MANDARIN DUCK What appears to be the first for the area was a male E at Worthing beach on Apr 29.

64. WIGEON Extremely scarce in the early months; at Worthing beach 1 in Jan and 4 in Mar; and 7 flew S Upper Adur levels Feb 4, with 2 Wyckham farm Feb 3.

Late-year monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were 14W in Sep, 3E 28W in Oct, none in Nov, and 60W in Dec; in this latter month all 60 passed W on Dec 10. 8 were offshore there on Oct 2.

67. GADWALL The only record for the year was 2E at Worthing beach on May 1.

69. TEAL In the early months, 27 were at Wiston on Mar 27, 20 were at Wyckham farm Jan 28 with 35 Stretham bridge Feb 4, 16 at Sandgate Park on Mar 18, and at Brighton Marina 68E on Mar 18 and 29E on Apr 1. Noted from Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	8	565	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	8	1
W	7	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	13	1	7

Peak movement was 529 E on Mar 31, a day of remarkably heavy marsh duck passage.

70. MALLARD As usual few passed Worthing beach, the totals were 19 between Jan-Jun, and 32 between Jul-Dec; 20 of which were in Sep.

4 prs nested at Woods Mill, & 1 pr with 10 young Storrington Mill Pond on Apr 28. Counts involved 18 Wyckham farm on Feb 10, 60 Upper Adur levels (Beeding) on Sep 24, and 24 New Salt's farm on Oct 14.

72. PINTAIL Early-year counts were 7 at Stretham bridge on Feb 4 and 10 at Wyckham farm on Feb 10.

At Worthing beach, totals of 16W in Jan, 279E in Mar, all on Mar 31, and 4E in Apr. The March figure coincided with an exceptional movement of marsh ducks, and is many times greater than the previous record day total for the area. 12 flew E at Brighton Marina on Apr 1. At Worthing beach in autumn, 1W on Sep 29, 8W in

Oct, and 1W in Nov. In the late months 1 at Widewater on Dec 22 with 2 there Dec 26, & 1 on the Lower Adur on Dec 27.

73. GARGANEY 8 flew E, comprising 3 females & 5 males, at Brighton Marina on Mar 18 (PJW), and a single male flew E there on Apr 25 (GLC). All details forwarded to SOS.

75. SHOVELER The only record in the early months was 2 at Storrington pond on Jan 1. Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were 334E in Mar, 108E in Apr, 3E in May, and 1W in Nov.

Peak movements were 330E on Mar 31, as with Pintail massively breaking the previous record day total; and 26E on Apr 30. Additionally 3 offshore there on Mar 8, & 3 again on Apr 1.

Apart from the singleton above, there were no autumn/late-year records.

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

77. POCHARD A poor year. Maximum counts at Widewater were 15 in Jan, 15 in Nov, and 15 again in Dec, consistent if nothing else! At Brooklands monthly maxima were 14 in Jan, 13 in Feb, 9 in Mar, and 18 in Dec; and as usual some movement of birds between the two sites is strongly suspected. 13 flew E at Worthing beach on Jan 10.

80. TUFTED DUCK This species fortunes locally in 1990 mirrored those of Pochard - except they were worse! At Widewater monthly maxima were 7 in Jan, 4 in Nov, and 5 in Dec; and at Brooklands just singles in Jan and Feb, 2 in Mar, and 6 in Dec. 1 flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 28.

81. SCAUP A single juvenile male was located at Widewater on Nov 24, and remained there or at Brooklands into the new year; obviously moving between sites with the Pochards and Tufted Ducks, with which it associated.

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
E	-	19	24	1	5	-	-	-	-	10	-	1
W	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	8	-	8	8	6

Peak movements were 16E on Feb 8 and 12E on Mar 11. Noted offshore there with 1 on Jan 20, 3 there on May 4, and 1 on Jun 5. 10 flew E at Brighton Marina on Mar 18.

In autumn/late year 1 offshore at Shoreham beach on Aug 31, after which 5 there on Dec 16 with 2 Shoreham harbour on Dec 29.

86. LONG-TAILED DUCK A juvenile was present at Hove Lagoon Oct 30 for at least 7 days (SA/BFF/RAI), and in December 2 flew E at Worthing beach on Dec 16 (GVE/RAI/DIS).

87. COMMON SCOTER Recorded from the seawatch log at Worthing beach, the totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	6	581	1927	491	-	2	1	10	53	3	3
W	1	12	6	7	7	10	9	34	18	10	6	22

Peak movements were 332E on Mar 21; 1021E on Apr 1; 433E on Apr 2; and 115E on May 12. The June record was 10W on 24th. Additionally 1052 at Brighton Marina on Apr 1 & 44E there Mar 18. 3 flew W at Shoreham harbour on Dec 31.

89. VELVET SCOTER A good spring passage at Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	-	17	23	55	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
W	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Peak movements were 15E Mar 17; 10E Apr 13; 15E May 3; and 39E May 14. Last of the spring was 1E on May 15.

Late-year records involved 2E at Worthing beach on Dec 16, 1W there on Dec 18, and 1W Dec 30, and 2 Brighton Marina on Dec 29.

91. GOLDENEYE 1W at Worthing beach on Nov 4, & 1W there Dec 14 were the only records. A poor year.

1989 A late record received of 2 at Brooklands on Dec 30.

93. SMEW None recorded in 1990.

94. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER In the early months 1 at Widewater on Jan 28 and Feb 8, with 2 there Feb 25-Feb 28. Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	14	29	62	72	4	-	-	-	-	2	6	87
W	60	73	47	28	2	-	-	-	1	14	25	102

Peak movements were 39W on Feb 24; 23E 7W on Mar 31, and 23E 6W on Apr 1, with the last of the spring being 1E on May 6, & the first of the autumn was 1W on Sep 23, with a peak of 33W 14E on Dec 29. Maximum concentrations offshore were 64 in Feb, 26 in Mar, and 30 in Dec.

95. GOOSANDER 5 flew W at Worthing beach on Apr 6. 1 flew E there on Dec 15 and 29.

1989 The 5 off Worthing were on Mar 6 not Jan 6 as reported in last year's report.

99. RED KITE Reports of one recorded on the Bostal Road in August. Recorder is awaiting more details.

103. MARSH HARRIER There were none reported in 1990.

104. HEN HARRIER After a blank year in 1989, just 1 record in 1990, of a single "ringtail" which flew W at 09.25 on Nov 4 (CEH).

105. MONTAGU'S HARRIER An immature male flew W along the scarp of Cissbury Ring at 09.30 hrs on Sep 2 (CEH)- details forwarded to SOS. Additionally an individual probably of this species flew W over Long Furlong on Sep 18 (RJS).

108. SPARROWHAWK Again, numerous sightings during the year. In the early months (Jan to Mar), mainly singles noted from 9 sites, with 2 at Wild Park in Mar. A male arrived from the sea on Mar 31.

During the breeding season, a pair raised one juvenile at Wild Park, a pair raised 2 young in the Cissbury area; and probable breeding occurred at a further 10 sites.

5 were reported from Cissbury on Aug 26, 3 hunted at a Starling roost at Broadwater on Dec 29, and 2 were at Patcham on Dec 22, otherwise singles noted from 9 sites until the end of the year. Again regular through the year in a number of urban localities.

109. BUZZARD There were four records for the year, all involving singles; at Sompting brooks on Feb 12, Wiston on Apr 13, Woods Mill on May 6, and Woods Mill again on Nov 21.

115. KESTREL Noted from at 32 localities during the year, the only concentrations were 3 over central Worthing on Mar 11 and 7 at Long Furlong on Sep 18.

Details of 9 confirmed breeding pairs were received with a probable further 8 pairs; and the species was present during the breeding season at another 13 sites. Where breeding success was noted, 5 pairs raised 11 young. For the second year running, 40% of pairs were in urban or semi-urban sites.

A male was found dead during the year by the A27 at Castle Goring, the only casualty reported.

118. MERLIN There were seven records for the year; these were all of singles in the last four months of the year, at Sompting brooks on Sep 8, Southwick on Sep 7 and Sep 13, the Sanctuary on Oct 27, Wild Park on Nov 21, Portslade on Dec 13, and Standean on Dec 23. Both males and females reported, although some sightings may relate to the same individuals.

119. HOBBY First of the year was 1N over Patcham on Apr 15, after which not recorded again until 1 N at Worthing beach on May 4. Recorded spring to autumn from 18 localities; monthly totals were:-

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	6	8	1	2	6

No confirmed breeding was reported but the June distribution of localities in which the species was present indicates a minimum of 3 pairs. 2 were at Wiston on Sep 2, and the last of the year was 1 at Woods Mill on Sep 21.

123. PEREGRINE FALCON There were 5 records for the year, all of singles, as follows:- 1 flew W over Mill Hill on Jan 18 (SRA); immature birds N over Worthing beach on Apr 5 (PMB) and Shoreham Airport on Apr 24 (RJF); an adult over Cissbury on Oct 7 (RJS/DIS); and 1 E at Worthing beach on Oct 22 (JAN).

129. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE Counts during the year included 33 at Standean on Dec 22 with 16 there Feb 22, and 16 at Ferring on Nov 14. 1 pair bred at Devil's Dyke.

130. GREY PARTRIDGE Peak covey sizes were 12 at Wyckham farm on Jan 1, 8 at Stamner Park on Jan 24, and 6 at Goring Gap on Oct 27, and 6+ Offington (Worthing) Oct 20. Breeding records were two prs King's barn, Steyning; 1 pr Wild Park; 2 pairs Devil's Dyke; & 1 pr Steyning Round Hill. Coveys of between 2 and 5 were noted through the year from a further 9 sites. A better showing than in recent years, perhaps due to drier spring periods when the young are newly hatched.

131. QUAIL The only records were of 2 calling at Steepdown on Jul 9, and singles calling at Cissbury on Jun 10, Aug 17 and Aug 23.

PHEASANT The only significant group reported was 250+ at Michelgrove on Dec 16. Unusual was 1 in a Broadwater Street on Mar 29, and an albino at Truleigh Manor farm on Oct 16. 1 pr bred at Woods Mill, with 2 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

136. WATER RAIL In the early months there were singles at King's barn, Steyning, on Jan 24 and at Woods Mill on Mar 8. None were noted in the breeding season.

In the later months 2 were at Woods Mill on Nov 11, with singles there Dec 21 and 24.

142. MOORHEN Counts made at Brooklands during the year were 26 on Feb 8, 10 on Feb 21, and 11 on Mar 3. Otherwise, 12 at New Salt's farm on Dec 3 and, just outside the area, 20 on Falmer Pond on Dec 15. 3 pairs bred at Woods Mill.

145. COOT All records in 1990 from Brooklands where counts made of 60 in Jan, 47 in Feb, 17 in Mar, and 47 in Dec. 1 pair bred there, raising 3 young.

151. OYSTERCATCHER Monthly totals of movement noted at Worthing beach were as follows.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	17	19	31	103	109	-	2	24	23	12	4	4
W	8	16	2	25	24	-	1	23	18	22	-	5

Between 1 and 5 noted on the lower Adur Jul to Dec, with 1 there in Jul & 5 in Oct and Nov. At Goring wader roost, 7 in Jan and 9 in Mar, then 20 in Sep, 10 in Oct, 23 in Nov, & 10 in Dec. Counts at other sites during the year were 52 at Brighton Marina on Feb 10, 25 at Ferring on Jan 28, 60 at Brighton Marina on Nov 14 with 36E there on Dec 29, and 1 at Widewater on Apr 9 (where unusual).

153. AVOCET A good year for sightings of this species. At Worthing beach, 7E on Mar 31, 1E on Apr 2, 5W on Apr 9, 1W on Apr 22, 1E on May 1, and 4E on May 4, followed by a party of 15E, one of the highlights of the spring seawatch; these were also noted passing Brighton Marina, and was the second-largest group to be recorded in the area.

In autumn, singles flew W at Goring beach on Aug 1 and at Worthing beach on Nov 17.

1989 3E Brighton Marina 2 Apr; 2E there 20 May.

158. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Singles noted at an inland site on Apr 8 and May 15, and flying E at Worthing beach on May 7 and May 12. There were no autumn records.

159. RINGED PLOVER In the early months, roosts of 170 noted at Shoreham beach on Jan 27, & 16 at Brighton Marina on Feb 10. Monthly totals of movements at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	nc	nc	15	39	84	4	-	2	-	11	nc	nc
W	nc	nc	5	2	7	1	3	79	35	7	nc	nc

Peak movements were 17E on May 4, 13E on Apr 25, 14E on May 2; 2E 44W on Aug 19; and 11E 2W on Oct 7.

The following represent the monthly counts from R Adur (Shoreham) and Goring wader roost:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	232	28	11	-	28	16	25	200	350	190	-	12
Goring	117	109	18	-	-	-	-	85	146	110	74	66

An excellent 5 pairs bred at Widewater, 3 young noted on Apr 29, and 1 pr bred Shoreham beach.

Late-year roost counts included 300 at Shoreham beach on Nov 10 and 59 Widewater on Sep 23.

161. KENTISH PLOVER 1 at R.Adur(Shoreham) Oct 16 (KN)- details have been sent to SOS. The same site (and fortunate observer) as a single in Jun 1989, highlighting the rewards of consistently watching a local patch.

165. GOLDEN PLOVER Early-year records were 16 on the Upper Adur levels on Jan 1, 11 at Wyckham farm on Feb 3 and 7 there on Feb 4. 1 flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 17.

In autumn, singles at Shoreham Airport on Oct 26 and New Salt's farm on Nov 25, and 5 were on Worthing beach on Oct 5.

166. GREY PLOVER In the early months 95 were at Worthing beach on Feb 17. Recorded in the seawatch log at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	-	-	102	207	-	-	-	-	5	-	1
W	-	21	13	2	4	-	-	37	6	21	2	2

Peak movements were 44E on Apr 21; 33E on Apr 30; 46E 1W on May 4; 43E on May 5; and 15W on Aug 19. 106 were on the beach there on Dec 1.

The following represent the monthly counts from R. Adur (Shoreham) and the Goring wader roost:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	12	9	1
Goring	9	44	93	-	-	-	-	-	21	63	89	121

Reports from other sites were 13E at Brighton Marina on May 4, and 1 at Widewater on May 12. 1 was recorded over Cissbury Aug 1.

169. LAPWING Maximum counts in the early months were 1000+ Upper Adur levels Feb 25, 500 at New Salt's farm on Jan 11, 500 at Shoreham Airport on Jan 28, 795 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 10, and an undated record of 250 in fields adjacent to Goring railway station.

The only breeding season record was 7 prs holding territory in the Cissbury area. Post-breeding flocks were 106 at New Salt's farm on Aug 1, 250 at King's Barn, Steyning, on Aug 12, and 400+ at Cissbury on Aug 28.

Autumn and late-year records maxima were between 1300 and 1500 in the Airport/ Adur Saltings/New Salt's farm areas in December, 100 Ferring Rife on Dec 3 with 300 Goring Gap on the same day, 110 at Highdown on Dec 6, and 98 at Wyckham farm on Dec 27.

170. KNOT The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	7	10	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-

Peak movements were 12W on Feb 3; 202E on May 2; 133E on May 3; and 107E on May 4. The May total is the highest recorded in our area for a single month. Additionally 6E at Brighton Marina on May 4 and 4 on Goring beach Jun 3. In autumn, 3 were present on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Aug 24 with singles there on Aug 29, Oct 8, and Nov 27. At Widewater beach, 1 on Sep 23 and 2 on Sep 25.

171. SANDERLING Miscellaneous early-year and spring counts from the coast were 33 at Brooklands beach in Feb; 34 at Worthing beach on Feb 17; 17 at Widewater beach on Mar 29 with 8 there Apr 5; and 13E Brighton Marina May 4. Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	70	65	312	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	1	3	9	4	9	-	35	5	10	-	-

Peak movements were 33E Mar 22; 51 E 1W May 5; 9W on Jun 9; and 35W Aug 19. At Goring wader roost, the monthly counts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
44	142	105	-	-	-	-	2	9	59	88	12	

Again reported from R. Adur at Shoreham, with 2 on Jun 11 & singles there Aug 13 and Oct 19.

175. LITTLE STINT All records for the autumn; there were singles on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 25/26 and Oct 7, and 2 at Widewater on Sep 27.

182. CURLEW SANDPIPER All records from River Adur (Shoreham), with singles there Sep 17 and Sep 23/24, and 9 on Sep 16. At Worthing beach 5W recorded on Aug 19, 1W there on Sep 8 and 1W Sep 22. Finally, 1 flew E at Widewater on 22 Oct.

183. PURPLE SANDPIPER 1 at Brighton Marina on Mar 3 and 3 at Shoreham harbour Dec 27 into the new year were the only records.

184. DUNLIN Early bird counts included 100 at Shoreham beach on Jan 27, 150 Worthing beach Feb 11, and 4030 at the latter site on Feb 17.

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	1367	1370	209	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	-	-	-	274
Goring	577	249	-	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	9	7	30	86

The late year counts at Goring were remarkably low. The monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	24	47	172	-	-	-	1	109	-	-
W	-	-	9	11	7	1	-	138	9	37	103	29

Peaks were 34E on May 1; 32E on May 3; 1 flew W on Jun 23; 120 W on Aug 19; and 103W on Nov 4. Maximum counts at Widewater for the year was 44 on Sep 5. Late-year counts at Worthing beach were 196 on Dec 2 and 276 on Dec 30.

188. RUFF At Worthing beach, 2 flew E on May 5 and 2 again E on May 15.

189. JACK SNIFE The only record was of a bird flushed at Woods Mill on Oct 28, the first record for the reserve.

190. SNIFE In the early months, concentrations involved 150 at King's barn, Steyning on Jan 14 with 47 there on the previous day; 100 Stretham bridge on Feb 4, and 50 Wyckham farm on Feb 10. 45 were on the lower Adur on Feb 11, and 18 were at New Salt's farm on Feb 27, otherwise between Jan-Mar between 1 & 4 noted from a further 3 sites.

In the later months just small numbers recorded. These included 2 over Widewater on Oct 17 with 1 on Oct 25, 2 at Widewater on Nov 10, 1 M at Storrington on Dec 15, and just 3 at New Salt's farm on Dec 3.

194. WOODCOCK On Mar 24, 1 was found dead on Brighton beach, & 1 flew over Findon Valley.

None were reported in the breeding season.

In the later months singles were noted at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 11 and Oct 25, 1 arrived from the sea at Ferring beach on Nov 3, 1 was at Patcham on Dec 22, and 1 at Woods Mill on Dec 24.

195. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT In spring, 1 flew E at Worthing beach on May 5. There were three autumn records. 1 flew NE over Broadwater on Jul 16, 3 were at King's barn, Steyning, on Aug 12, and 4 were at Ferring beach on Oct 9.

196. BAR-TAILED GODWIT Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	3	1991	1647	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
W	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	2	5	1	-	1

Peak movements were 1087E Apr 21, 310E Apr 28 and 802E on May 4. Last in spring was 1E on May 929. 44 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4.

Away from Worthing beach, there were singles on R. Adur on Mar 3, 1 at Brooklands on Apr 24 (where unusual), 1 at Widewater on May 14, and at Goring/Ferring beach 1 on Sep 5, 3 on Oct 13, 2 on Nov 14 and again 2 on Dec 12.

198. WHIMBREL Coastal movements at Worthing beach were noted from Mar 17 to May 29. The monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	1	187	330	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	4	11	-	-	2	1	-	-	-

Peak movements were 74E on Apr 29; 103E on May 2; and 75E on May 3. 12 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4.

1 was on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jul 16 & 18 with 2 there on 19th. Inland records were 1 at Wyckham farm on Aug 2; 1 over Cissbury Aug 19, 3 SSW over No Man's Land Aug 24; and 1 over Wild Park on Sep 5. Last of the year was 1 at Worthing beach on Sep 9.

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
E	-	-	13	18	4	1	1	-	1	1	-	-
W	2	44	-	1	-	31	3	5	13	3	8	-

Peak movements were 40W on Feb 10 and 14W on Jun 24. 2 were at Ferring beach on Jun 26. Inland records were 1 at Wyckham farm on Aug 2, 1S at Steyning on Aug 13, and 2 over Steyning on Sep 27.

201. SPOTTED REDSHANK The only record was 1 E at Worthing beach on May 3.

1989 1 at Shoreham 21 Jan.

202. REDSHANK Still uncommon on seawatches at Worthing beach, as the following monthly totals demonstrate:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	7	13	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
W	-	-	2	4	-	1	-	-	2	14	7	12

Counts from the River Adur (Shoreham) were as follows:-

Jan 110; Feb 75; Mar 133; Jun 30; Jul 52; Aug 52; Dec 180.

More than usual at the Goring wader roost in the early months, with 10 on Jan 27, 1 on Feb 4, and 9 on Mar 10. Singles present there at the end of the year in Nov and Dec.

Up to 10 were at King's barn, Steyning, in Jan, and on Oct 7 a roost of 105 was counted at New Salt's farm. Encouragingly, 2, possibly 3 pairs, bred on the Upper Adur levels. The "white" individual was again reported up to Mar 11, and returned for its sixth successive winter around Oct 29, still being reported at end-year.

204. GREENSHANK At Worthing beach 1E on Apr 24, 1E Apr 25, 4E May 1, 5E May 2, 4E May 3, 7E May 4, and 5E May 14. Additionally in spring 1 flew NE over Sompting brooks on May 10, and 2 were on the lower Adur on May 12.

The first of the autumn was 1 over Cissbury on Jul 7. 1 was at Wyckham farm on Sep 25, and 1W at Worthing on Aug 1. The remainder of the records all came from

R. Adur (Shoreham)/Flood Arch: singles on Jul 16, Jul 19, Jul 25 (2 on Jul 28), Aug 1, (2 on Aug 24 & Aug 29, 3 on Sep 1, 2 on Sep 9) Sep 23, Sep 25, (2 on Sep 24), Oct 1, and Oct 7.

208. GREEN SANDPIPER All records were for the autumn. 3 were at Woods Mill on Jul 13, 1 over Cissbury Aug 1, 2 were on R. Adur (Steyping) on Aug 2 with 1 there Sep 17, and 3 flew S down the R. Adur (north of Bramber) on Aug 14.

211. COMMON SANDPIPER First of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Apr 24, at which site 1E on May 1, 8E on May 2, 3E on May 3, 9E on May 4, and 1 E on May 5. 1 was at Widewater May 2/3 & 3 were at Sandgate Park on Jun 3.

In autumn noted from Upper and Lower Adur with a total of 47 reported between Jul 1 and Oct 7. These include 8 on R. Adur (Steyping) on Jul 25 with 6 on Aug 12, 10 on Aug 24 and 3 on Sep 25; 10 on R. Adur (Bramber) on Aug 24; and 3 at Cuckoo's Corner on Jul 1.

213. TURNSTONE In the early months, 10 were at Ferring beach on Mar 9, with 2 at Worthing beach on both Jan 20 and Feb 17. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	nc	nc	11	102	207	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
W	nc	nc	42	5	5	-	1	5	11	1	-	-

Peak movements were 33W on Mar 14, 31E on Apr 20, 52E on May 1, and 50E on May 3. 2 were present at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Aug 1 with singles there Aug 29, Sep 25, 3 dates in Nov; and 2 on Nov 27.

Maxima at Goring wader roost were:- Jan 2; Feb 6; Sep 5; Oct 8; and Nov 20. Additionally, 6 were at Widewater on Sep 23 with 3 there in Nov, and 1 was on Shoreham Airport on Dec 8.

217. POMARINE SKUA Monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	57	36	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

All the above records are as follows:- 1E on Apr 13; 3E Apr 27, 2E on Apr 28, 47 E on Apr 29, 4E Apr 30, 8E May 1, 4E May 2, 15E May 3, 1E May 4, then not recorded until May 14, with 2E; 4E on May 15, and 2E on May 29. A rather early peak this year. In autumn, 1W on Aug 19.

Additionally, 1 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4.

1989 2 at sea, 10 kms off Brighton, 16th July.

218. ARCTIC SKUA A poor spring passage, compared to some recent years, as is demonstrated by the table of monthly total from Worthing beach:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	1	41	27	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	8	1	-	-

First was 1E on the early date of Mar 19. Peak movements were 10E on Apr 18 and 9E on May 1. Last of the spring was 1E on May 27. Additionally, 5E at Brighton Marina on May 4.

1989 1 very late record of 1 off Worthing on 20 December.

220. GREAT SKUA Unusually, early year storms brought 3 records. 1 flew E at Goring beach on Jan 29 (RAI/DIS), with 3W at Worthing beach on Feb 3 (JAN), and 1E again at Goring beach on Feb 11 (DIS/GVE). Details of these early individuals have been forwarded to the SOS.

Good numbers passed the Worthing beaches in April, as the following table of monthly totals shows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	1	1	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-

The March record was 1E on 31st; after which singles on 5 dates Apr 2 to May 1, with 8E on Apr 6 and 4E Apr 13. 1 flew E on May 15. In autumn 2W on Sep 23, 1W on Sep 30, and 1W on Oct 3.

222. MEDITERRANEAN GULL Fewer noted than in 1989, with a total of 29 for the year; but still respectable for this former sub-rarity. Most were observed passing Worthing beach, with 16E there in Apr and 8E 3W in May; of these, 5 flew E on Apr 24, 4E on Apr 28, and 4E on May 1.

Singles were at Shoreham harbour on Jan 12, and Brighton Marina on Feb 10.

225. LITTLE GULL After a record-breaking spring in 1989, this year was even better. The monthly totals at Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	3	7	167	257	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
W	1	6	-	1	-	-	-	4	32	-	-	2

Peak movements were 69E 1W on Apr 28, 45E on Apr 29, 112E on May 1, 79E on May 3, the last being 1E on May 27. In autumn, 828W on Sep 28. The figures of 69, 112, and 70 all break the previous best day-total of 55, in 1989.

Additionally, 1 was at Palace Pier, Brighton Feb 10, 5 were at Brighton Marina on Feb 11, and 4 flew E there on May 4. At Widewater, 2E on May 1, 4E on May 2, and 11E on May 4; and 4W at Ferring beach on the late date of Jun 25. In autumn 4 were off Widewater on Aug 9 & 1 was at Brighton Marina on Sep 23.

226. SABINE'S GULL A well-documented record was received of a juvenile on the sea, then W at Worthing beach on Oct 3 (RJS). Details sent to SOS.

228. BLACK HEADED GULL The peak early-year count was 1200 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jan 11 with 1500 there on Feb 21, 800 at Buckingham Park on Jan 9, and 500 at Wild Park on Feb 17.

As usual the highest numbers were recorded passing Worthing beach, as the monthly totals show:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	nc	nc	437	3497	3856	1	-	-	-	160	nc	nc
W	nc	nc	135	127	64	10	-	-	173	143	150	nc

Peak movements were 1185E on Apr 28 and 1180E on May 3. Post-breeding flocks included 51 at Ferring on Jun 26 and 100 juveniles at Widewater on Jun 11. The only late-year counts were 220 at Wild Park in Nov with 350 there in Dec.

232. RING-BILLED GULL An adult was reported Nov 19 & Nov 22 (SRA) - details have been submitted to SOS. If accepted, only the second area record.

233. COMMON GULL Early year maxima counts were 1500 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 10, 510 King's barn, Steyning Jan 6, 350 Lower Standean Feb 22, and 70 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Apr 6:

The monthly total of passage birds at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	nc	nc	119	337	7	-	-	-	-	nc	nc	nc
W	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak movements 126E Apr 1 & 83E Apr 2. Late year counts were 250 Standean Dec 22, 200 New Erringham farm Dec 15, 150 Patcham Dec 22, and 100 Wild Park in Nov.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	nc	nc	10	62	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	nc	nc	3	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-

Peak movement was 20E on Apr 30. No others reported apart from 1W at Brighton Marina on May 4.

235. HERRING GULL No significant counts of the nominate race "argentatus" were received this year. Records of the yellow-legged "michahellis" were as follows:- On the lower Adur, 1 on Jan 15; then 1 on Jul 1, 3 on Jul 6, and 3 Jul 10. 8 were present Aug 7, followed by 17 on Sep 9, 3 on Sep 29 which included a juvenile, 11 on Oct 11 and singles Oct 14 and Oct 28.

The highest numbers, however, recorded from Washington Tip where 64 present on Aug 11, and 40+ there on Aug 28.

237. GLAUCOUS GULL There were 4 records for the year, all of which have been submitted to the SOS:- A first-winter individual at Brighton Marina on Jan 26 (RJJ), and again Jan 28 (PJW et al); probably a different first-winter bird there on Feb 11 (PJW et al); at Worthing beach a first-winter bird on Feb 23 (CEH/JAN); and in the later-year, yet another first-winter individual at Shoreham beach on Dec 30 (BFF,RAI,DIS)

238. GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL Peak roost counts were 92 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jan 21 with 170 there on Feb 10, 131 on Aug 30, and 47 on Dec 22; and Goring Gap, 79 on Nov 4.

240. KITTIWAKE The majority, as usual, noted on seawatches at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	79	278	62	95	108	4	-	6	8	5	-	24
W	433	286	55	75	26	-	1	9	9	3	4	412

Peak movements coincided with Jan & Feb storms, and were 198W on Jan 27, 154W on Feb 4 and 230E on Feb 22. Also 190W on 29 Dec and 125W on Dec 30. Away from this site, 3 were at Shoreham harbour on Feb 11, 13 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4, and singles in Dec at Widewater on 15th, and R. Adur (Shoreham) on Dec 31.

245. SANDWICH TERN First of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Mar 16 and 11E at Brighton Marina on Mar 18.

The monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach were as follows

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	90	1456	1692	54	40	7	32	9	-	-
W	-	-	6	181	77	37	7	174	294	26	-	-

Peak movements were 69E 4W Mar 31; 233E 11W Apr 28; 283E May 1; 222E May 2; 228E May 3; and 68W on Sep 20.

Additionally, at Brighton Marina 114E on Apr 1, 61E on May 4, and 50E on Apr 14. 7 at Widewater on Aug 22 included 3 juveniles being fed by adults. On R Adur (Shoreham), singles on Jul 31, Aug 24, Sep 25, with 2 on Sep 26 and 2 Oct 1. 3 were at Worthing Pier on Oct 5. Last of the year was 1W at Worthing beach on Oct 28.

246. ROSEATE TERN Singles flew E at Brighton Marina on Apr 25 (GLC), and at Worthing beach on May 14 and May 26 (PMB). Details forwarded to SOS.

1989 1 E Brighton Marina 30 Apr.

247. COMMON TERN Birds specifically identified were 28 on Lower Adur Aug 19, 4 juveniles at Widewater on Sep 25, and 6 off Widewater, also Sep 25.

248. ARCTIC TERN A pair displayed (food offering) from May 12 to May 17 (SRA)

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN First of the year were 3E at Worthing beach on Mar 31. The monthly totals of passage birds at this site were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	3	633	4384	41	9	37	124	5	-	-
W	-	-	-	3	15	3	5	764	1103	3	-	-

Peak spring movements were 273E on Apr 30, 810E on May 2, 760E on May 3, and 487E on May 14. Last of the spring was 1 E on Jun 24. Peak autumn movements were 216W on Aug 19, 296W on Sep 4, and 218W on Sep 9. Additionally, 69E at Brighton on May 4. Last of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Oct 24.

251. LITTLE TERN First of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Apr 12. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	68	921	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	2	13	-	-	2	3	-	-	-

Peak movements were 116E on May 1; 159E 1W May 2; 171E May 3; 180E May 4; 123E May 6. Last of the spring were 2E on Jun 10, and in autumn, 1W on Sep 5. Additionally 12E Brighton Marina on May 4.

253. BLACK TERN An excellent spring passage, as the monthly totals of passage birds at Worthing beach shows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	14	203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	-	-

First of the year was 1E on Apr 20. Peak movements were 61E on May 1; 25E on May 2; 58E on May 6; 30E on May 13; and 18E on May 26. Last were 2E on May 27. Additionally 12E at Brighton Marina on May 4, and in autumn, 2W at Widewater on Sep 1. Last of the year were 3W at Worthing beach on Sep 4.

255. GUILLEMOT In the early months, 1 was on the Upper Adur at Bines Bridge on Jan 2 (GT/JM), a most unusual occurrence, & an oiled bird was at Widewater on Jan 11.

Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach as follows:

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

Offshore there, 4 were noted in Jan, 3 in March, 1 in May, and 2 in Dec. In the later months 1 offshore at Widewater on Dec 5, 2 were at Brighton Marina on Dec 9, 1 was at Ferring beach on Dec 12, and 10 Lancing/Shoreham beaches on Dec 31.

257. RAZORBILL Specifically identified individuals passed Worthing beach as follows:-

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

1 was at Brighton Marina on Apr 14.

260. LITTLE AUK By far and away the best year ever, with 12 noted, all in the late year. The first was 1 at Ferring beach on Nov 4 (HS), but no more recorded until 1E at Worthing beach on Dec 13 (JAN). Then, on Dec 16, two singles east there (GVE/RAI/DIS) and (JAN/RJS).

The best was yet to come. At Worthing beach on Dec 29, 8 singles flew E there during the morning (DIS/RAI/MGP/RJB), a remarkable day-total.



Little Auk

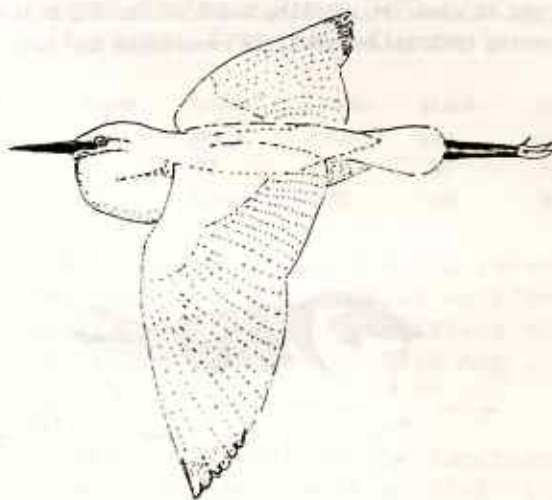
261. PUFFIN None recorded in 1990.

1989 1 on sea 10 kms S of Brighton Marina 27 May.

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
E	-	1	5	2	7	2	-	-	-	19	4	202
W	30	53	2	2	2	2	-	-	1	10	17	1

Peak movements were 16W on Jan 26, 46W on Feb 4: 114E 9W on Dec 13; and 91W on Dec 29. 1 was offshore there on Jun 6.



264. STOCK DOVE In the breeding season 7 prs reported from Wild Park, 2 prs Stanmer Park, 1 pr Woods Mill, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Withdean Park, 3 prs Brighton Cemetery, and 1 pr Preston Park.

Counts outside this period included 32 at Falmer Hill on Dec 15, 23 on the downs at Sompting on Dec 27, 19 at Wild Park on Jan 13, and 11 at New Salt's farm on Apr 17. Smaller groups were noted from 4 further sites.

265. WOOD PIGEON Autumn movements included 1027 S at Sompting brooks on Oct 10 with 264 N there on Oct 18, and counts of 500 were made at Wild Park in Dec, and 100 Brighton cemetery, also in Dec. 3/4 pairs bred at Woods Mill.

266. COLLARED DOVE Many more counts received in 1990 than in previous years, and were as follows:- 350 at Standean on Dec 1, 80 there Dec 22, 40 Goring hall Sep 20, 30 Ferring Rife Feb 16, and smaller groups noted from a further 8 sites.

Breeding records were 11 pairs Wild Park, 2 prs Southwick Hill, 4 prs Steyning High Street, and 2 (unsuccessful) pairs in a Storrington garden. Interestingly none were recorded all year at Woods Mill. A leucistic bird was noted in a W Hove garden in Mar.

267. TURTLE DOVE First of the year was 1 Shoreham Airport on Apr 17, after which only 7 in May from 5 sites. Breeding records were 1 pr Standean farm, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Southwick Hill, and singles in Jun/Jul at Stanmer, Coombes, and Woods Mill.

In autumn reported from Sompting brooks with 2 on Aug 26, 7 on Aug 28, 14 on Sep 12, and 7 on Sep 13. 2 were at Wild Park on Aug 15. Another poor showing gives cause for concern.

269. RING-NECKED PARAKEET Counts at Hollingbury Woods in the early months were a max of 9 during Jan/Mar. 1 pr attempted breeding but were unsuccessful. 1 was at Wild Park in Nov, with 4 in Dec.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO An immature bird was reported on 4 Apr on the north side of Shoreham Airport, and re-located in the grounds of Ricardo's on Apr 5 (RAI/DIS). It stayed in the area until May 1, possibly May 3. It was the first for the area and only the second for Sussex; the first being a corpse found near Bognor in Aug 1967. For many, the bird of the year.



Great Spotted Cuckoo

271. CUCKOO A rather late arrival, the first being noted at Woods Mill on Apr 16 and Wiston on Apr 17, after which a further 11 reported in Apr & early May from 10 sites. Probable breeding occurred at 5 sites.

Only 2 reported in autumn; 1 at Durrington on Aug 5 and 3 juveniles at Bramber on Aug 12, none being noted after this date. A poor year.

274. BARN OWL After years with few records, a bumper year in 1990. Proven breeding records involve 3 pairs with 8 nestlings ringed; sadly 2 already reported as road casualties by November. At one of these sites 3 adults were seen on one occasion. Singles during the year were at Wiston on May 2, 1 at Woods Mill on 7 dates Jan 11 to Jan 21, the first reserve record for over 10 years; 1 Upper Adur levels Jan 5 to Jan 26; 1 Michel Grove during July; 1 Beeding Hill Oct 22; 1 Buncton Nov 4; 1 Coombes Oct 19, Nov 1 & 2; and 1 found dead on the tide-line at Brighton on Feb 11.

Reports received of a pair introduced at Sompting brooks but no further details available.

After stating in the 1989 report that there "now seems little future for this species in the recording area", the recorder is delighted with this year's performance and hopes that it represents a true upturn in the fortunes of this magnificent owl.

279. LITTLE OWL Breeding records included a pair at Storrington raising 2 young, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, and probable breeding at Findon Valley, Mepcote Park, Coombes, Cissbury, and Small Dole.

Outside the breeding season a further 8 were reported from as many (different) sites; interestingly 2 of these were urban records from Worthing and 1 was noted in a "Kestrel" nest box at the Sanctuary on Jan 25, but not subsequently. 3 were ringed at Wiston.

280. TAWNY OWL Breeding season records were:- a pair again successful at Southwick, raising 2 young; a pair at Woods Mill raised 2 young; and pairs or singles noted in the breeding season at Michel Grove, Steyning, Coombes, Lancing Ring, West Worthing, Goring and Cissbury/ Findon Valley. A decline reported by the observer at the last two sites. Outside the breeding season singles were noted from just 3 further inland sites.

281. LONG-EARED OWL One downland roost was occupied at both ends of the year, holding between 2 and 4 individuals, birds being noted here on Jan 27 and Dec 22. Sadly, two casualties were reported; 1 found dead beside the railway bridge at New Salt's farm on Mar 31, and another on the roadside at Upper Beeding on Feb 28.

282. SHORT-EARED OWL In the early months, singles were noted at Sompting brooks on Feb 8, Shoreham Airport on Feb 11, possibly the same at Shoreham on Feb 15, and 2 on the Upper Adur levels at Steyning on Feb 3. Singles flew N at Worthing beach on May 6 and May 7.

Just one autumn record, of 1 flying S at Sompting brooks on Aug 27.

284. NIGHTJAR The single record for 1990 was 1 hawking at Chanctonbury Ring on Sep 17 (CJF).

289. SWIFT First noted were singles over Hove and Worthing on Apr 29, with singles at five scattered sites on Apr 30. Thereafter a general arrival in the first week of May with 500+ at Wild Park on 11th.

Breeding season reports included a colony of "many birds" in Eastern Avenue, Shoreham; nests at Storrington Church & Mill House; 3 pairs at Maybridge; and feeding flocks during this period included 100+ at Preston Park on Jun 12.

Pre-departure flocks were a total of 780 at Broadwater Jul 20- Jul 28, when a mass exodus reported; 70 Small Dole Jul 20; 50 Ferring Jul 29; 120 Withdean 27 Jul; after which few noted in August, the maximum being 6 at Lancing on 21st.

September records included singles at Broadwater on Sep 3 and Sep 4, Steyning on Sep 17 with 2 there Sep 18. The last were 3 late birds with Swallows at Sompington brooks on Oct 10.

293. KINGFISHER Another good year, with many records, and as usual most were from the Adur valley where mainly singles were regularly noted through the year from New Salt's farm, Shoreham harbour and R. Adur at Small Dole, Shoreham, Stretham bridge, Wyckham, Steyning, and Upper Beeding. 1 was killed by flying into a school window at Steyning on Sep 10, and a pair raised a total of 7 young at Woods Mill. Other records away from the Adur Valley were 1 at Clays field pond (Steyning) from Sep 10 to end-year, 1 at Brighton Marina in November, 2 throughout the year at Chantry Mill Pond, Storrington, and 1 at Ferring Rife on Nov 14. A single bird was ringed at Sandgate Park, Washington.

297. HOOPOE 1 at Standean farm, Patcham on May 3 (GLC et al). Details have been sent to the SOS.

1989 The individual at Hollingbury golf course was Aug 10, not Apr 10, as stated.

298. WRYNECK 1 was at Wild Park Aug 15 (PJW). Details have been sent to the SOS.

1989 1 in a Hove garden on May 8 (TA).

300. GREEN WOODPECKER Breeding season reports were as follows:- 1 pr bred Woods Mill raising two young, 1 pr noted feeding 2 young, Storrington Jun 20; and probable breeding at Cissbury/Lychpole (2 prs), Steyning, Findon Valley, Sandgate Park, Sullington Warren, Wild Park, and Devil's Dyke. Singles also recorded in the breeding season from Muntham Park, Coombes, and West Durrington. Outside this period singles reported from 9 further sites, including Goring Wood in Nov/Dec, Clapham Woods in Dec, and Brighton Cemetery in Nov/Dec. An average year.

301. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER After an apparent decline in 1988/89, more noted in 1990. Breeding records were 3 pairs feeding young at sites near Steyning in Apr/May, and 1 pr bred at Woods Mill. Singles also noted in the breeding season at Wiston, Sullington Warren, Sandgate Park, Findon Park, and Wild Park.

Outside this period singles reported from a further 10 sites, which included Cissbury, Maybridge, Goring Wood, Clapham Woods, Storrington, and Stanmer Park. A better year.

302. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER After 9 records in 1989, only 2 in 1990. These were singles, at Woods Mill on Mar 28 and Clapham Woods on Dec 5. Undoubtedly, there are more in the recording area but this species does prove elusive.

311. SKYLARK Few noted in the mild early months, the maximum being 100 at Standean farm on Jan 20.

Breeding records were few, but included 11 pairs at Devil's Dyke. Autumn counts included 387 Wild Park Sep 22 to Oct 31, max 40 on Oct 10; 201 at Sompting brooks on 5 dates in Oct, max 120 on Oct 13, and 100 at Standean on Dec 1.

To year-end, smaller numbers (<40) in Nov/Dec at Goring Gap, Widewater, Upper Adur levels, and Brighton Cemetery.

313. SAND MARTIN First of the year were 2 N at Broadwater on Mar 18; very few others noted on spring passage.

Regretably no systematic counts of the Sandgate/Rock Common colonies was carried out. At the latter site 4 nest holes were still occupied on Jul 25. In autumn a total of 997 on 11 dates at Sompting brooks max 116 on Sep 13 and 750 (in 20 minutes) on Sep 17; and 34 Hollingbury/ Wild Park Aug 21 to Oct 13, max 24 on Sep 15. Last of the year were 3 at Sompting brooks on Oct 18.

314. SWALLOW First of the year were singles at Sompting brooks on Apr 2, over Worthing on Apr 3, and 3 at Shoreham Airport on Apr 9, after which most reports of arrivals were in the last week of the month, and in early May. The only breeding season records were pairs at Coombes, one of which raised 4 young in a garage, and another pair which raised 4 young in a stable.

Peak movements in autumn were a total of 15,449 at Hollingbury/Wild Park Aug 3 to Oct 26, max 5026 on Sep 4 and 8600 on Sep 15; 1000+ at Cissbury on Sep 13; at Sompting brooks, 155 on 4 dates, late August, 1446 on 717 dates in Sep max 275 on Sep 4, and 268 on 3 dates in Oct, max 180 on Oct 10; "hundreds" at Southwick on Sep 15; and small counts from various sites through October. November records were singles at Shoreham on Nov 2, Widewater on Nov 11 & Nov 15, 2 at Woods Mill on Nov 15, and the last at Mill Hill on Nov 16.

315. RED-RUMPED SWALLOW After a report from Widewater of a single on the late afternoon of Apr 23 (MC), 2 (one of which may have been the earlier bird) were seen at Brooklands in the evening (JAN). If accepted by BBRC, the first record for the area.

316. HOUSE MARTIN Another peculiar spring arrival. 3 were recorded at Broadwater on the early date of Mar 31, and there were certainly others seen in Sussex around this time; however, the main arrival did not appear to be until the end of April and the first week of May, when 1 was at Broadwater on Apr 25, with 60 there on Apr 30, 3 were at Southwick on May 3, 9 at Storrington on May 5, and 1 at Portslade on May 8.

The only breeding record received was 5 prs in Sompting Road, Worthing. Counts of colonies, particularly under the eaves of houses in urban areas, would be most welcome.

Peak movements in autumn were a total of 18,313 at Hollingbury/ Wild Park Aug 3 to Oct 14, max 4010 on Sep 4, 11700 on Sep 15, and 900 on Oct 2; 1000+ at Cissbury on Sep 13; 1000+ at Brighton Cemetery on Sep 26; "hundreds" at Southwick on Sep 15; 1418 at Sompting brooks on 12 dates in Sep, max 327 on Sep 13; 300 Steyning on Sep 20; 240 W in 5 minutes at Broadwater on Oct 8; and smaller numbers at various localities through Oct. Last of the year, and the only November record, was 1 at Woods Mill on Nov 20.

317. RICHARD'S PIPIT 1 was reported with Meadow Pipits at Cissbury on Oct 21 (MS). If accepted by SOS, the first area record since 1956.

320. TREE PIPIT First noted with 1 N at Brighton Marina on Apr 1, after which 3 at Cissbury on Apr 16, and 1 N again at the Marina on May 5.

In autumn, 4 at Sompting brooks on 3 dates in Aug, and a total of 33 there on 5 dates in Sep. At Hollingbury/ Wild Park a total of 62 Aug 21 to Oct 14, max 26 on Aug 21; and at Cissbury 2 on Aug 8, then 12 there on 4 dates to Sep 15. Additionally, 3 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 27. Last of the year was 1 at Wild Park on Oct 14.

322. MEADOW PIPIT Groups in the early months were 50 on the Upper Adur levels (Beeding) on Jan 1, and 20 at Widewater on Mar 30. 176 flew over Wild Park Feb 17 to Mar 21, & 11 were at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 1.

No breeding records were received.

Peak counts in autumn were 658 Hollingbury/ Wild Park Aug 17 to Oct 31, max 38 on both Sep 15 & Sep 25, 45 on Oct 2, and 55 on Oct 525; 146 at Sompting brooks on 4 dates in Oct; 300 Cissbury on Sep 20; and 25 at Widewater on Sep 27 with 16 there on Oct 8. In the late months 55 were at King's barn, Steyning, on Dec 24, & the Wild Park total for December was 25.

324a ROCK PIPIT 2 were at Shoreham harbour on Jan 11 and Jan 13, 5 at Shoreham beach on Jan 27, and 1 at Widewater on Mar 31.

In autumn and late-year, 2 were at Widewater on Oct 2, and singles at Ferring beach on Oct 27, Widewater on Nov 25, Goring beach on Nov 11, and Shoreham beach on Dec 13. A poor performance this year.

324b WATER PIPIT The singleton reported at Widewater in late December 1989 was regularly noted there until at least Mar 31 (SRA,KN,RJF et al) when it was joined by a second bird (DIS).

Another, or one of the above two, was reported there on Apr 5 & Apr 8 (RJF). All details sent to SOS.

325. YELLOW WAGTAIL First of the year was 1 NW over Wild Park on Apr 21, then 7 N at Brighton Marina on Apr 25, 2 N at Wild Park on May 1, and singles at the Marina on May 4, Cissbury on May 14, and W Hove golf course on May 20.

Autumn passage commenced from Jul 27 when 2 were at Widewater, then 20W at Broadwater and 1 at New Salt's farm on Aug 21 & 1 at Maybridge on Aug 27; 45 were present at Newtimber Hill, also on Aug 27, and between Aug 18 and Sep 24 a total of 76 were noted at Hollingbury/Wild Park, max 12 on Aug 24 and 15 on Aug 27.

Other concentrations noted were 20 at Cissbury on Sep 1, 25 there Sep 13, & 30E at Lancing on Sep 11. 1 at Woods Mill on Sep 1 was the first record for the reserve. Last of the year were 12 at King's barn, Steyning, on Sep 25.

327. GREY WAGTAIL In the early months singles noted on R. Adur (Steyning) Jan 2, in Steyning town centre on Feb 3, Queen's Park, Brighton on Feb 10, and at Woods Mill.

Probably bred at Woods Mill, where a juvenile was present in July. Otherwise just two singles in the breeding season, at King's barn, Steyning on Jul 20 and at Mill Hill on Jul 22.

First of the autumn was 1 at Cissbury on Aug 19 with another there on the 26th. 1 was at Sompting brooks on 8 Sep, and between this date and Oct 31 a total of 20 reported from 4 coastal and 6 inland sites, these being mainly singles. November and December records all involved single birds; at Steyning on Nov 19, Annington on Nov 25, and Withdean Park during the month; and in a Storrington garden Dec 8 to Dec 15, Cuckoo's Corner on Dec 16, Woods Mill & Preston Park; and on the downs above Sompting on Dec 27.

328. PIED WAGTAIL Counts in the early months included 130 Steyning Sewerage works on Jan 1, 50 at Brooklands on Mar 3, and 29 at Widewater Mar 14 and Mar 25.

Pairs noted in the breeding season were 1 pr Steyning, 2 prs with 5 juvs Starmer Park Jul 28, 1 pr which bred in the rubbish tip at Woods Mill, and 1 pr Devil's Dyke. Singles noted during this period were in a Coombes garden, and Worthing town centre.

Counts in Sep/Oct included 64 Hollingbury/ Wild Park Sep 22 to Oct 31 max 18 on Oct 19; 35 Sompting brooks on 6 dates in Oct; 22 Cissbury Oct 22; 18+ Coombes Oct 30; and 15 Widewater Oct 19. Few counts received for the later months, the maximum being 18 at Ferring beach on Nov 4. "White" Wagtails recorded were as follows:- 1 Brighton Marina Mar 18; 1 Widewater Apr 9; 1 Brooklands Apr 24; and in autumn, 4 at Sompting brooks Oct 13, 3 at Cissbury on Sep 23, and 2 at Hove on Sep 2.

331. WREN Counts in the early months were 68 Wild Park on Jan 13, with 81 there on Jan 17. Breeding season counts were 112 prs Wild Park, 47 prs Devil's Dyke, and 6 prs Woods Mill.

In the later months counts of 102 in Nov & 68 in Dec were made at Wild Park; also 56 Brighton Cemetery in Nov with 41 there in Dec, and at Withdean Park, 32 in Nov and 28 in Dec.

333. DUNNOCK 54 were counted at Wild Park on Jan 13. Breeding season counts were 59 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Devil's Dyke, and 4 prs Woods Mill. Counts in the later months were 53 Wild Park in Nov, 56 there in Dec; 21 Brighton Cemetery in Nov but only 5 in Dec; and 20 Withdean Park Nov with 22 in Dec.

336. ROBIN 104 were at Wild Park on Feb 17. In the breeding season, 125 pairs Wild Park, 49 prs Devil's Dyke, 4 prs Woods Mill, & 4 prs Southwick Hill. In autumn 104 noted on 7 dates at Sompting brooks in Sep/Oct. Late-year counts were

124 Wild Park Nov, with 74 in Dec; 55 Brighton Cemetery Nov, with 33 Dec; and 33 Withdean Park Nov, with 28 in Dec.

338. NIGHTINGALE First recorded at Woods Mill on Apr 21, after which a single singing at Brooklands, with 5 at Sompting brooks, 2 at Broadwater and 2 at Hillbarn, all on Apr 24; then singles (again singing) in a West Worthing garden on Apr 25, West Hove golf course on Apr 29, and West Durrington on May 3.

A mixed breeding season, the species not being reported from some traditional sites but present at several new ones. Males holding territory were as follows:- 2 Sompting brooks May 11, 1 Washington Woods May 26, 1 Adur (Steyning) during Apr/May, 3 prs near Woods Mill, and at King's Barn (Steyning) and Beeding Church. The stronghold appears to be in the Wiston area with a count of 13 pairs.

In autumn singles seen at Sompting brooks on Sep 3 and Sep 9. A total of 6 were ringed at Cissbury for the year.

342. BLACK REDSTART In the early months of the year, singles noted at Goring Gap on Jan 20, Widewater on Jan 22, Lancing Sailing Club on Feb 11, and Hollingdean Allotments Mar 18.

First of the autumn was 1 at Hollingbury on Oct 7, after which 1 at Truleigh Manor farm on Oct 16; 2 at Goring Rife on Oct 17; 4 Hollingdean allotments Oct 20; 2 Ferring beach Oct 22; 2 Highdown Oct 23; 1 Shoreham Airport Oct 26 & 31; and in November, 1 at Ferring on 7th, 1 at Shoreham harbour on 1st and 15th, & 1 at Widewater on 25th. Just one reported in Dec, a superb male at Goring Gap on Dec 1, moving to nearby Ferring beach from Dec 15.

343. REDSTART First of the year was 1 at R. Adur (houseboats) on Apr 17, after which singles at Shoreham Airport on Apr 25, Wild Park on Apr 26 & 29, Southwick Hill on Apr 28, and W Hove golf course on Apr 30.

A rank juvenile was ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary on Jul 29, giving rise to speculation that the species may have bred in the area.

First migrant of the autumn was one at Mill Hill on Aug 8, closely followed by another at Wyckham on Aug 12. Thereafter, a total of 73 noted to Oct 14, which included 40 Hollingbury/Wild Park Aug 18 to Oct 14, 14 at Cissbury on Aug 25, and 4 there Aug 28 and 4 again on Sep 13.

344. WHINCHAT First of the year were 3 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 29, after which 1 at W Hove golf course on Apr 30, 2 at Wild Park on May 1, and 1 at Shoreham Airport on May 2. From this date to May 17, a further 15 noted from 7 sites.

The first returning birds were 1 at Goring Gap on Aug 6, and 1 at King's barn, Steyning on Aug 12 with 2 there Aug 13. From this date to the last on Oct 5, a further 123 noted, which included 42 at Sompting brooks Sep 2-Sep 9, max 19 on Sep 4; 36 Hollingbury/Wild Park Aug 17- Oct 5; 17 at Cissbury on Aug 28; and 7 at Sompting brooks Aug 28.

345. STONECHAT In contrast to 1989, many sightings between Jan/Mar involving a minimum of 15 individuals, mainly noted at traditional sites such as Widewater, Hollingbury Camp, Goring beach and Shoreham Airport.

There were 2 at the Adur Rec. on May 7, and 3 there May 12 - these birds were probably migrants. However, a pair was present in suitable habitat at Lancing Ring on Jul 26 and may have attempted breeding, or were very early migrants.

Noted in the autumn from Aug 29 when 2 were at Shoreham Airport, and from this date to end-Nov a total of 40 recorded from 8 inland and 4 coastal sites. These included 17 Hollingbury/Wild Park during Oct max 4 on Oct 6, 3 at Cissbury on Oct 14, and 3 at Widewater on Nov 15.

In December 3 were at Widewater on Dec 5 with 2 at W. Durrington on the same date, 1 Upper Adur levels Dec 6, and 2 at Goring Gap on Dec 16. A better year than usual but, yet again, all records would be most welcome.

346. WHEATEAR First of the year were singles at Hillbarn on the early date of Mar 1, then 3 at Goring beach Mar 11/12. A further 66 noted to the end of the month, most being in the last week, and include counts of 17 at Goring beach on Mar 28, 14 Adur Rec. Mar 28, 11 Shoreham beach Mar 31, and 13 Goring Gap Mar 31. Few noted in April, the monthly total being 20 only, max 8 at Goring Gap on Apr 30. Late arrivals in May included 4 at Hollingbury Camp on May 5, a pair at Widewater, a singles at Southwick Hill on May 2, Cissbury on May 14, & Devil's Dyke on May 16.

The first returning birds were at Wild Park on Aug 3 and 3 at Goring Gap on Aug 6, after which a further 34 during the month; the Wild Park autumn total of 122 between Aug 3 and Oct 28 (max 23 on Aug 21, 12 on Aug 24, and 29 on Sep 4) is not included in this or the other monthly totals.

The Sep total was a low 89, most of which noted at Sompting brooks, with a total of 70 there on 7 dates max 27 on Sep 2. 21 (out of the October total of 30) were at Sompting brooks on 10th. There were 2 records in November, of singles at Goring Gap on Nov 3 and in a Ferring garden on Nov 13. Again, a rather poor year, particularly the autumn months.

359. RING OUZEL First of the year was a male at Hollingdean on Mar 24 and a female at Broadwater on Mar 25. Not then recorded until 1 at W Hove golf course on Apr 29, 1 at Wild Park on May 1, and 1 at Hollingbury Camp on May 2.

As in 1989, few noted in the autumn, and all were in the last 10 days of October. 3 were at Goring Gap on Oct 22; and at Hollingbury/Wild Park 3 also on Oct 22 with 1's and 2's there on 5 dates to Oct 30, 9 individuals being involved altogether. 2 were at Cissbury on Oct 24.

1989 A few records to add were 3 Hollingbury Camp 2 Oct, & 4 East Brighton golf course 19 Oct.

360. BLACKBIRD Breeding records included 122 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 51 prs Devil's Dyke, and 4 prs Woods Mill. Counts during the year included 105 Wild Park Feb 17; increasing numbers Hollingbury/Wild Park from Sep 22, a total of 89 during Oct; 108 in Nov, and 102 there in Dec; 74 Brighton Cemetery in Nov with 66 in Dec; and 63 Withdean Park Nov with 54 in Dec.

364. FIELDFARE Counts in the early months included 250 Wyckham farm on Jan 1, 150 at North Stanmer on Mar 4, 75 Lychpole Hill on Jan 22, and 50+ Wiston on Jan 7. There were still 45 at Wiston on Apr 8, where late sightings are becoming traditional.

First of the autumn was 1 at Woods Mill on Sep 21, and peak counts in the period Oct-Nov were 257 NW over Sompting brooks on Oct 18, 150 No Man's Land Nov 11, 120 W at Steyning on Nov 1, 60+ at Woods Mill on several occasions, and a further 133 noted from 7 sites.

Numbers built into December when a number of high counts were made. These included 500 on the downs at Standean on Dec 1; 500 Beeding brooks on Dec 7; 230 on the downs at Sompting on Dec 27; 260 Standean on Dec 22; 250 Upper Adur levels on Dec 6; 150 Newtimber Hill on Dec 22; 100 south at Broadwater on Dec 29; and 100 Beeding Hill on Dec 22.

365. SONG THRUSH Breeding records included 14 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, and 6 prs Devil's Dyke; 2/3 prs Woods Mill, and a pair raising 2 broods in a Southwick garden. A serious decline noted by several inland observers; in Storrington predation by Magpies was given as the cause. However, Woods Mill reported a slightly better year.

Counts during the year were 67 Hollingbury/Wild Park in Oct indicating an autumn influx; with much smaller numbers there Nov/Dec, and 39 Standean area on Dec 22.

366. REDWING Counts in the early months included 350 at Wiston on Mar 12, 200 Upper Adur levels Jan 1st, 200 Wiston Jan 7, 57 Woods Mill Mar 22, and groups of 10-50 additionally reported from a further 4 sites. 15 were still at Wiston on Apr 8.

First noted in autumn with "arrivals" at Woods Mill on Sep 27, and peak counts during the period Oct-Nov were 110 Hollingbury/Wild Park in Oct and 50 there in Nov, otherwise numerous sightings of flocks numbering 10 to 20. 100+ roosted at Woods Mill to the end of the year. Large nocturnal movements were noted over Goring on Oct 31, Nov 5, and Nov 15.

As with Fieldfare, many more in Dec, counts including 500 on the downs at Standean on Dec 1, 300 Upper Beeding on Dec 15, and 150 Newtimber Hill on Dec 22.

367. MISTLE THRUSH Breeding counts were as follows:- Hollingbury/Wild Park 14 prs; Devil's Dyke 4 prs; and regular at Woods Mill, but no breeding occurred. Counts included 15 at Worthing Crematorium on Sep 30 and 14 at Withdean Park in November.

369. CETTI'S WARBLER 1, possibly 2 at Woods Mill Oct 11 to mid Nov (SC/DK/MR), the first record for the reserve.

373. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER The only spring record was 1 singing at Shoreham Airport on Apr 17. A pair bred at Devil's Dyke, and 1 was holding territory at Washington on May 29.

8 were ringed during the autumn at Cissbury, a good total for the site.

378. SEDGE WARBLER First of the year was 1 at New Salt's farm on Apr 17 and between 4 & 6 were reported at Shoreham Airport on Apr 27. 2 arrived from the sea at Brighton Marina on May 16, and the only spring sighting at Woods Mill was on this date.

Again breeding season reports were few. 6 males held territory at Small Dole on May 16, and 4 pairs present Patching Pond on May 7.

In autumn, just singles noted, at Woods Mill on Sep 3/4 and Sompting brooks on Sep 2, 4, & 5. Totals of 13 and 7 were ringed at the Sanctuary and Cissbury respectively.

382. REED WARBLER First of the year was 1 at New Salt's farm on Apr 29, but no other spring migrants reported.

2 males held territory at both Patching Pond on May 7 and Small Dole on May 25. A pair bred at Woods Mill, the first breeding noted for 7 years.

A "good autumn passage" noted from Woods Mill, the last being on Sep 26. Otherwise few noted in the autumn, examples being 1 at Sompting brooks on Sep 9 and 3 near Shoreham Airport on the same date. A total of 33 were ringed at the Sanctuary, 26 at Cissbury, and 15 at Sandgate Park.

387. ICTERINE WARBLER 1 at Woods Mill on Aug 27 (SC/MR), if accepted by SOS will be only the second record for the area.

389. DARTFORD WARBLER 1 at Hollingbury Camp Sep 1 (PJW) was possibly the same as seen there on Oct 22/23. Details have been sent to the SOS.

397. LESSER WHITETHROAT First of the year were 3 at Wild Park on Apr 21, and at this site 6 were present on Apr 26 with 8 on Apr 29. Other April records were singles at Woods Mill on 24th, Sompting brooks on 25th, and W Hove golf course on 28th. 10 further individuals were reported in early May from as many scattered sites.

Breeding records received were 6 prs Wild Park, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, a "good breeding season" at Woods Mill, and a male holding territory in a Patcham garden from Apr 28 to Jun 23.

In autumn a total of 451 were noted for early Aug to late Sep. These included 186 Hollingbury/Wild Park Aug 3 to Sep 22, max 27 on Aug 14 and 21 on both Aug 17 and Aug 18; 107 Sompting brooks Aug to Sep 4 max 39 on Sep 2; 45 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 27; and 12 at Cissbury on Aug 25 with 25 there on Sep 13. Ringing totals for the year were 57 at Cissbury and 16 at the Sanctuary.

398. WHITETHROAT First of the year were singles at Woods Mill and in the Asda Car Park, Brighton, on Apr 14, after which singles at Coombes and Wiston on Apr 16, then a total of 54 from 9 sites in late Apr & early May. These included 11 at Wild Park on both Apr 29 and May 5, and 20 there May 4.

Counts of pairs or males holding territory in the breeding season included 25 Lancing Ring to Steepdown in Jun, 15 Wild Park, 19 Devil's Dyke, 6 Mill Hill, 16 Southwick Hill, & 4 Woods Mill.

In autumn from early Aug to Sep 22 a total of 1,100, many more than in previous years, were noted. These included 369 Hollingbury/ Wild Park Aug 3 to Sep 22 max 28 on Aug 22 and 68 on Sep 1; 103 Sompting brooks in Aug with 186 Sep, max 101 on Sep 2; 45 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 28; at Cissbury 12 on Aug 25, 17 on Aug 28, and 20 Sep 13; and 18 Worthing Gallops Aug 20. Totals for the year of 287 and 26 were ringed at Cissbury and the Sanctuary respectively.

399. GARDEN WARBLER First noted was 1 at Hillbarn golf course on May 1, after which singles at Wiston & Woods Mill on May 2, and 11 at 7 sites May 5 to May 12. Breeding season records were 7 prs Wild Park, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, and 2 prs Woods Mill.

In autumn, between early Aug and Sep 8 a total of 156 recorded, many more than usual. These included 65 ringed at Cissbury (with 17 at the Sanctuary); 22 Hollingbury/Wildpark Aug 3 to Sep 8; 21 at Sompting brooks in Aug max 15 on Aug 27, with 28 there in Sep max 17 on Sep 7; and 2 at Newtimber Hill on Aug 27.

400. BLACKCAP In the early months wintering singles were noted at Preston Park on Jan 27, in a Worthing garden on Jan 28 and Mar 10, and a Findon Valley garden on Feb 22.

Not reported again until 1 at Preston Park on Mar 23, which may have been the wintering bird seen in January; then 3 in Broadwater on Mar 24, 1 in Southwick on Mar 28, singles in West Hove and Wild Park on Mar 31, and singles at Steyning Round Hill and Worthing on Apr 1. A further 35 noted from 9 sites during Apr and early May.

Breeding records were 16 prs Hollingbury/Wildpark, 8 prs Devil's Dyke, 3 prs Woods Mill, and singing males at Withdean Park, Brighton Cemetery, and Hillbarn. A female was found dead in Storrington on Jun 27.

In autumn from early Aug to early Nov a total of 354 were noted. These included 216 Hollingbury/Wildpark Aug 7 to Oct 28 max 37 on Sep 11; 75 on 7 dates Sompting brooks in Sep; 40 at Cissbury on Oct 13; and a "good autumn passage" reported from Woods Mill. Late autumn sightings were singles in Goring Wood on Oct 28 and Nov 3.

Additional to those above were an exceptional 455 ringed during the year at Cissbury and 44 at the Sanctuary.

The only December record was 1 in a Broadwater garden 15-20 Dec.

408. WOOD WARBLER Spring records were 2 at Wild Park on Apr 26 and May 6, with singles there Apr 28, Apr 29, and May 1. There was 1 at Cissbury on Apr 28. Just 1 in the autumn and again at Wild Park, on Aug 26.

1989 1 was in Brighton on 10 Sep

409. CHIFFCHAFF In the early months 2 reported from Lancing gardens on Jan 13 and 1 was at Cuckoo's Corner on Feb 21.

First for the year and probable migrants were 1 at Woods Mill on Mar 3/4, 2 Lancing Mar 5, another Woods Mill Mar 10, and singles in Worthing on Mar 11, Wild Park on Mar 12, Hollingdean Mar 12, Coombes Mar 13, the Sanctuary Mar 14, Stanmer Park Mar 15, and a further 30 from 10 sites to end-month, at which point the species was well-established.

A further influx occurred during early April when 26 reported, including 15 at Wild Park on Apr 14. Breeding season records included 9 prs Wild Park, 5 males holding territory at Brighton Cemetery, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, 3 territories held at Woods Mill, and single pairs at Coombes and Sullington Warren; no doubt that, apart from these counts, the species was under-recorded during the period.

In the autumn, between early Aug and Oct 31 a total of 1060 noted. This total is comprised mainly from systematic counts of common migrants at Wild Park, where 762 were recorded Aug 3 to Oct 31, max 55 on Sep 4, 81 on Sep 22, and 56 on Oct 1; and at Sompting brooks where 169 recorded Sep 2 to Oct max 34 on Sep 3. Other concentrations were 50 at Cissbury on Oct 13 and 14, 50 through a Broadwater garden in Sep. An "excellent autumn passage" reported from Woods Mill.

November records were singles in Broadwater on Nov 3, Wild Park on Nov 5 & Nov 11, and Woods Mill on Nov 18. The only December sighting was 1 at Wild Park on the 9th.

Ringling totals for the year were 147 at Cissbury and 53 at the Sanctuary.

410. WILLOW WARBLER The first was a very early individual at Broadwater on Mar 17, but the only other record for this month was 1 at Wild Park on the more traditional date of Mar 31. Most arrived during April with exactly 100 reported during this month, including 39 at Wild Park on 28th, 20 Adur (houseboats) and 10 New Salt's farm Apr 17.

Breeding records included 28 prs Wild Park, 30 prs Devil's Dyke, 4 territories Sullington Warren, and 3 Small Dole.

In autumn between early Aug and mid-Sep a total of 1,043 reported, most from Wild Park and Sompting brooks. At the former site 651 noted Aug 3 to Sep 15, max 42 on Aug 17, 60 on Aug 18, and 48 on Sep 8; and at the latter site 80 in late Aug with 146 there Sep 2 to Sep 8, max 112 on Sep 2. Other noted counts were 50+ through a Broadwater garden in Aug, 35 Upper Adur levels Aug 12, and 60 Cissbury Aug 25. The last was 1 at Cissbury on Sep 23.

Ringling totals for the year were an excellent 894 at Cissbury, and 92 at the Sanctuary.

411. GOLDCREST Scattered singles and small groups noted in the early months, which include 7 at High Salvington on Jan 7 and 11 Wild Park on Mar 21. Breeding records were single pairs at Woods Mill; Stanmer Park (with 6 young); Steyning; Broadwater; and 2 prs Devil's Dyke. Males holding territory were reported from Preston Park, Wild Park, Storrington, and 5 flew over the Upper Adur levels on May 15.

Another large autumn influx, when between late Aug and end-Nov a total of 840 were noted, which include 509 Wild Park Aug 25 to Oct 31, max 59 on Oct 25; 201 ringed at Cissbury (peak of 58 on Oct 27); 100 Goring Wood Oct 27/28; and 21 at Sompting brooks on Oct 17. Additionally, a "large continuous autumn passage" noted from Woods Mill. As can be seen, the main influx occurred during mid and late October.

In contrast, few noted in December, the maxima being 8 at Wild Park and 6 in a Broadwater garden during the month.

412. FIRECREST Another excellent year for sightings of this species. In spring, singles were at Stanmer Park on Mar 2, Woods Mill on Mar 3/4, Broadwater

on Mar 14, the Sanctuary on Mar 14, Wiston on Apr 25, and 2 at Wild Park on May 6.

The autumn influx coincided with that of Goldcrest, the two species often being noted together. At Hollingbury/Wildpark there were singles on Oct 1, Oct 7, Oct 13, Oct 23, Oct 25 with 6 there on Oct 14 and 3 on Oct 25, and 1 during Nov. At other sites, singles recorded at New Salt's farm on Oct 14; 1 at the Adur footbridge on Oct 22; 2 at Goring Wood Oct 27 with 1 on Nov 3; 1 Coldean Nov 10; 2 Stanmer Park Nov 14; and 3 were ringed at Cissbury during the period.

413. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Only three incoming birds noted. These were singles at Cissbury and Wild Park on May 7, and Goring Wood on May 8.

Breeding season records were few and included a pair in a Steyning garden in June, which did not stay; 10 at Findon Gallops in early Aug, (adults still feeding young) and at least 2 pairs in Goring Wood. Any further breeding records would be welcome.

In autumn between Aug 20 and Oct 1 a total of 211 reported. Many of these were from downland above Sompting where 24 on Aug 26, an amazing 91 on Sep 2, 35 on Sep 3, and 30 on Sep 4. A total of 55 noted from Wild Park, max 18 on Aug 25 and other counts included 15 at Cissbury on Aug 20 with 6 there Aug 28, and a "good autumn passage" from Woods Mill, where the last was noted on Oct 1.

416. PIED FLYCATCHER Singles noted on spring passage at Wild Park on Apr 29 and May 5.

All autumn reports were from late Aug/early Sep; 1 was at Chanctonbury on Aug 24, and on the same date 2 were at Wild Park, where at this latter site 2 on Aug 25/27, and 1 Aug 28. 2 were at Sompting brooks on Aug 26.

418. LONG-TAILED TIT In the early months, 25 were noted from Wiston on Jan 3 with a huge count of 50+ there on Jan 7. Smaller groups of less than 10 reported from Storrington, Sullington Warren, Broadwater, Coombes, and Small Dole.

Breeding season records included 8 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, and probable breeding at Wiston.

Again plentiful during Aug-Dec, with 23 Sompting brooks Oct 17, 25 Woods Mill during the period, 30 Wild Park on Nov 11 with 18 there in Dec, 15 Waterhall Nov 2, and 12 Findon Valley Dec 11.

419. MARSH TIT Singles in the breeding season were noted at Woods Mill on Jul 3, and Highdown on Jul 5. Otherwise, singles and pairs reported from Clapham Woods, Highdown, Clayton Holt, Cissbury, and Stanmer Park, mainly Nov and Dec.

420. WILLOW TIT 2 at Wiston Jan 7 and 1 there May 1, and 1 at Cissbury Apr 16 were the only records.

422. COAL TIT Breeding records were of single pairs at Devil's Dyke, in a Broadwater garden, a Storrington garden, and "small numbers" at Sullington Warren.

Outside this period again reported from gardens with 1 in Storrington Jan- Mar & another present in Steyning all year. 1 was at Brighton Cemetery in Nov. Present throughout the year at Woods Mill, where it was described as an "avid bird-table feeder".

423. BLUE TIT Breeding counts involved 57 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Devil's Dyke, and 17 prs Woods Mill.

Counts outside the breeding season were 125 Wild Park Jan 13 with 75 there in Nov and 55 in Dec, 42 Brighton Cemetery in Nov and 28 there in Dec, and 41 Withdean Park in Dec.

424. GREAT TIT Breeding season counts involved 24 prs at Wild Park; 12 prs Devil's Dyke; and 7 prs Woods Mill in nest boxes, where one brood was eaten by a Weasel- having got inside and eaten 5 nestlings it took nearly an hour to gnaw its way out, as by that time it was too fat to exit from the original hole! Counts outside the breeding season were 65 Wild Park in both Jan and Dec, and 12 Withdean Park in Dec. Another partially melanistic bird noted from the Adur Valley: 1 at New Salt's farm on Jan 6.

425. NUTHATCH Few breeding birds noted; there were single pairs at Woods Mill and Devil's Dyke. Otherwise, 4 at Wiston on Jan 7 with 2 there Mar 2. Infrequently visited a Storrington garden throughout the year. 1 recorded at Cissbury on Aug 10 (where very unusual).

427. TREECREEPER A pair raised 3 young in a High Salvington garden and resident at Woods Mill, where probably bred.

In the early months singles noted from Cissbury (where unusual), Sullington Warren, Warminghurst, 2 at Stanmer Park, and 4 at Wiston. From Sep to Dec singles reported from Clapham Woods, Goring Woods (where 2 present Dec 30), Wild Park, Stanmer Park, and 2 at Stretham.

436. JAY Breeding records were of 2 prs Sullington Warren, 1 pr Woods Mill, and 2 prs Devil's Dyke. Counts of 7 were made at Washington on Apr 8 and Wild Park in Nov, with 4 at the latter site in Dec. Groups of 3 were at Small Dole on May 16, Brighton Cemetery in Nov/Dec, and regularly at a Storrington garden in Nov. Otherwise, just singles reported from a further 4 sites.

437. MAGPIE 30 prs bred Wild Park, 8 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr in a Storrington garden raising 2 young, and 1 pr bred Woods Mill. Counts outside the breeding season included 48 Wild Park Nov, 76 there in Dec, and at Brighton Cemetery 16 in Nov and 17 in Dec.

438. JACKDAW Breeding colonies reported were 6 prs Steyning, 3 prs in chimney pots, Hove, and breeding birds were being ousted from Downlands Avenue, Worthing, by prospecting Herring Gulls. Concentrations during the year were 350 Upper Adur levels Feb 10, and 36 Wild Park in Nov with 85 in Dec.

441. ROOK Rookery counts included 100+ nests Patcham Place, 22 nests St Mary's Church, Brighton, and 15 nests in a Steyning colony where " good fledging success " was reported.

Counts of 42 were made at Wild Park in Nov, with 76 in Dec.

442. CARRION CROW 6 prs bred Wild Park & 3 prs Devil's Dyke, but no other breeding records were received. Peak counts came from the Goring beach green/ Goring Gap areas, where concentrations of 50+ present all year; 74 were reported on Oct 22, and at Goring Gap 87 assembled to encircle a fox on Sep 8 (the fox retreated gracefully) Additionally, 28 were at Wild Park in Nov with 18 in Dec.

444. STARLING Roost counts involved 5000 at W. Hove golf course on Feb 4, 1500 Liverpool Terrace, Worthing on Dec 22, and smaller numbers in the Brighton parks. There were 500 on the Upper Adur levels on May 19. 10 prs bred at Woods Mill.

446. HOUSE SPARROW Counts of 50-60 made in the Brighton parks, Nov-Dec, & 3 pairs nested at Woods Mill.

448. TREE SPARROW Counts made during the year were as follows:- 7 at Wyckham farm on Feb 10, after which all records were from the autumn. 6 regular at Woods Mill Oct to end year, with 25 there end Nov; 9 Cissbury Oct 20; 2 Goring Rife Oct 17; 6 Hollingbury Camp Oct 7; 6 West Durrington Nov 11; and 6 Stretham on Dec 6.

451. CHAFFINCH In the early months there were 100+ at Greenfield farm, Steyning, on Jan 1, and 100+ Standean farm, Patcham, on Feb 20.

58 prs bred Wild Park, 36 pairs at Devil's Dyke, and 3 territories were held at Woods Mill.

No sizeable concentrations in the later months; counts included 57 Wild Park Nov and 55 there in Dec, 55 Standean farm on Dec 1, at Brighton Cemetery 33 in Nov and 25 in Dec, and 20+ Patching village on Dec 6.

452. BRAMBLING Few this year, the following represent all the records received:- 1 was in a Worthing garden on Jan 7, 2 at Goring Gap on Mar 12, and 1 at Wild Park on Apr 26.

In autumn, 2E at Sompting brooks on Oct 10, 1 in Goring Wood on Nov 3, and 1 at Woods Mill on Oct 22, the first record for the reserve.

455. GREENFINCH Peak counts in the early months were 94 Wild Park on Apr 1, 65 Withdean Park Jan 15, 58 Brighton Cemetery Feb 16, 40 Storrington Jan 1, and 35 at Ferring Jan 28.

Breeding records involved 17 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Steyning (High Street), and 1 pr Woods Mill.

Late year counts included 200 Shoreham beach Oct 29, and 85 Wild Park Dec 2, 22 Withdean Park in Nov, 50 Goring Rife Oct 17, and 50 Lancing College Sep 5. Smaller numbers were reported from a further 5 sites.

456. GOLDFINCH Maximum counts in the early months were 32 at Withdean Park on Feb 12, and 28 at Starmer Park on Jan 18.

In April, small parties of <10 were noted daily over Broadwater. Breeding records involved 4 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, and 1 pr Woods Mill.

As usual, most noted in autumn, peak movements being 114E at Goring on Oct 17, 100 Widewater on Sep 26, 81 at Sompting brooks on 4 dates from Aug 14 to Oct 10, 50 at Waterhall on Aug 27, and to end-Oct a further 172 noted from 7 sites. Late year totals from Brighton parks were Wild Park, 27 in Nov and 32 in Dec; Brighton Cemetery, 10 in Nov, with 4 in Dec.

457. SISKIN Early year records were 1 at Woods Mill on Mar 11, up to 4 feeding on peanuts in a Storrington garden from Feb 6 to Mar 14, and 2/3 also feeding in peanuts in another Storrington garden from Feb 17 to Mar 10.

In autumn 4E at Sompting brooks on Oct 10, 17S at Broadwater on Oct 9, 6 on 4 dates in late Oct at Hollingbury/Wild Park, singles at Hollingbury Camp on Nov 5 & Nov 11, and 2 at Brighton Cemetery in Nov. One of the species quieter years.

458. LINNET Counts in the early months were 25 at Goring Gap on Jan 6, with 60 there Jan 20, 34 on Mar 11, & 11 at W Hove golf course on Apr 28. Breeding records involved 4 prs at Wild Park, a "disastrous breeding season here" (GLC); 16 prs Devil's Dyke, 4 prs Southwick Hill, and 1 pr attempted breeding at Woods Mill.

In autumn, peak counts were:- Sompting brooks, where 60W on Aug 26, then 94E on Aug 27/28, 194 E on 4 dates in Sep, 74E on Oct 13, and 180E on Oct 14; Saddlescombe, 400 on Aug 27; Bevendean, 100 on Aug 27 and 200 on Oct 13; 320 at Mill Hill on Oct 14; and a further 148 noted from 5 sites to end-Nov. A mixed flock totalling 500 of this species and Goldfinch was at Shoreham Airport on Oct 26. The only December record received was of 38 at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Dec 14.

459. TWITE None reported this year.

460. REDPOLL In spring, singles reported flying north over Broadwater on Mar 21 and Brighton Marina on May 4.

Autumn records involved 13 at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 25 with 6 there Oct 27 and 2 on Nov 5; 6E at Sompting brooks on Oct 17; 4 Woods Mill Oct 28, and 17 Wild Park in Nov. A total of 22 were ringed at Cissbury where 1 was recorded on Apr 28 and 10 on Oct 27.

463. CROSSBILL The following are all the records:- 3 Cissbury on Jun 23; 9 flew E over Broadwater, calling, on Jul 15.(RAI); 2 N the Sanctuary Jul 22; 8 Cissbury on Jul 30, 1 there Aug 1 with 3 on Aug 7, 1 Aug 10, 2 Aug 15, 12 on Aug 16, 3 on Aug 24, 4 on Aug 25, 1 on Aug 28 and 8 on Oct 20 (ie a total of 46

between Jun 23 - Oct 20); "Crossbills" reported in pines at Lancing College on Aug 5 (BR), and 10 flew over Warren Hill NT (Washington) on Oct 17 (RJS).

469. BULLFINCH Breeding records included 3 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, 1 pr Sullington Warren, 1pr Southwick Hill, & 1 pr Hillbarn. Otherwise, singles and groups of up to 4 noted from a further 6 sites during the year.

494. SNOW BUNTING The group of 3 individuals reported at Shoreham harbour in Dec 1989 remained there until at least Jan 11 (many obs).

3 were located at Lancing beach green on Dec 23 (SRA et al), remaining there into the new year.

496. YELLOWHAMMER The few breeding records received were 13 prs Hollingbury/Wild Park, 19 prs Devil's Dyke; 1 pr Woods Mill; 2 prs Goring Gap; & a group of 6 at Southwick Hill on May 2.

The paucity of post-breeding flocks reported gives some cause for concern; the largest groups being 35 at Cissbury on Oct 24 and 20 Lychpole to No Man's Land Nov 11. Counts of all flocks (of these numbers and greater) would be welcome.

506. REED BUNTING Very few noted in the early months, just singles from a few scattered sites. 20 prs were noted along the R Adur from Bines Bridge to the Cement Works in the breeding season; 2 males were at Small Dole on May 25 and 1 pr bred Woods Mill; apart from the systematic counts the species was seriously under-recorded during the breeding season. Any counts of pairs or males holding territory would be welcome.

Late-year counts involved a roost of 100+ at Woods Mill, and just 6 singles from 2 sites.

510. CORN BUNTING In the early months 65 were at Standean farm, Patcham on Jan 20 and 62 there Feb 22.

Breeding season records involved pairs at 3 downland sites, and 6 prs Lancing Ring to Steepdown Jun 24, but no records received from some traditional downland sites. All breeding records would be welcome.

Late-year counts were 60 at King's barn, Steyning on Aug 11, 100 there Sep 16 with 80 Sep 26 and 130 on Oct 1. At Standean 21 were present on Dec 22.

ESCAPES & FERALS

CRESTED COCKATEIL 1 W over Broadwater Apr 2.

"GREY PARROT" 3 sightings in Offington, Worthing in Nov/Dec.

PALM DOVE 1 present with Collared Doves in a Withdean garden from Oct 9 to Dec 31, when it died. Now at the Booth Museum. Origin unknown.

BARBARY DOVE 1 with Collared Doves at Hollingdean on Dec 29.

SAKER FALCON 1 trailing jessies at Standean on Dec 22.

Dave Smith Hon. Recorder.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1990

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Hobby	Apr 15 Patcham	Sep 21 Woods Mill
Whimbrel	Mar 17 WB	Sep 9 WB
Common Sandpiper	Apr 24 WB	Oct 7 River Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar 16 WB	Oct 28 WB
Common/Arctic Tern	Mar 31 WB	Oct 24 WB
Little Tern	Apr 12 WB	Sep 4 WB
Turtle Dove	Apr 17 WB	Sep 13 Wild Park
Cuckoo	Apr 16 Woods Mill	Aug 12 Bramber
Swift	Apr 29 Hove	Oct 10 Sompting brooks
Sand Martin	Mar 18 Broadwater	Oct 18 Sompting brooks
Swallow	Apr 2 Sompting brks	Nov 16 Woods Mill
House Martin	Mar 31 Broadwater	Nov 20 Woods Mill
Tree Pipit	Apr 1 Brighton M.	Oct 14 Wild Park
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 21 Wild Park	Sep 25 Steyning
Redstart	Apr 17 Shoreham	Oct 14 Wild Park
Whinchat	Apr 29 Hollingbury	Oct 5 Wild Park
Wheatear	Mar 1 Hillbarn	Nov 13 Ferring
Ring Ouzel	Mar 24 Hollingdean	Oct 30 Wild Park
Sedge Warbler	Apr 17 New Salt's	Sep 5 Sompting brks.
Reed Warbler	Apr 29 New Salt's	Sep 26 Woods Mill
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 21 Wild Park	Sep 22 Wild Park
Whitethroat	Apr 14 Brighton	Sep 22 Wild Park
Garden Warbler	May 1 Hillbarn	Sep 8 Wild Park
Blackcap*	Mar 23 Preston Park	Nov 3 Goring Wood
Chiffchaff*	Mar 3 Woods Mill	Nov 18 Woods Mill
Willow Warbler	Mar 17 Broadwater	Sep 23 Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 7 Cissbury	Oct 1 Wild Park
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 29 Wild Park	Sep 3 Sompting brks

* Excluding possible wintering birds

SHOREHAM SANCTUARY REPORT FOR 1990

The Society's sanctuary was visited on at least 37 occasions in the year; 19 of these were long visits for mist-netting. All the trapping and ringing was done between 12th May and 20th Oct during which time nearly 1000 birds were caught. The year was an eventful one from the meteorological point of view with a mild yet stormy winter and a long dry, often very hot summer. Like most of the recent years the copse was seldom visited during the winter months but during the migration periods and during the summer a more regular log was kept.

Thankfully the storms in January did no damage and it meant the "gardening" party on 11th Feb was able to get on with the perennial problem of osier coppicing. The work-party was very effective and the group of 15 members cleared two areas of osier on the west and north sides of the copse.

Spring came early and by 11th Mar at least 5 Goldcrests were busy singing and a splendid Firecrest was catching insects in the area of cleared osier on the north side. Three days later the first spring Chiff-chaff was singing. Bumble Bees were everywhere and a Brent Goose (a very unusual species at the Sanctuary) was seen flying eastward over Mill Hill. The first Willow Warblers were not heard until 5th Apr, a day when the celebrated Great Spotted Cuckoo also strayed briefly into the Sanctuary's recording area. On 11th Apr the resident Mallard duck was proudly leading a brood of 12 ducklings, the streams were full of tadpoles and there was evidence of possibly two pairs of Badgers in the area. Throughout the early months a pair of Sparrowhawks and Kestrels were regularly seen, 2 Turtle Doves, now a scarce bird at the Sanctuary, were recorded on 12th May, a passage Garden Warbler was trapped on 19th May and 50 Swifts gathered over the copse on 10th June.

The following table shows the number of some of the commoner resident species ringed during the breeding season and early autumn. When compared with 1989 the table shows how constant the numbers of Blackbirds,

Dunnocks and Robins are and suggests an increase in the productivity of Wrens and Bullfinches.

	Blackbird.	Dunnock.	Robin.	Wren.	Chaffinch.	Bullfinch.
Adults	3	4	4	3	6	5
Juveniles	14	36	46	25	14	11

The summer was hot and dry, indeed in early August some of the highest temperatures recorded in Britain were being enjoyed. Although the water levels dropped considerably the main dykes still held some water which attracted small flocks of birds to drink. In the past these dry conditions would have attracted large charms of Goldfinches and flocks of Linnets to the streams but the ringing totals of only 2 Goldfinches and 18 Linnets suggest considerable reductions in the numbers of these finches in the neighbouring fields. The early passage warblers however were more numerous as the following table shows but the warblers normally passing through in September were fewer.

Numbers ringed during Autumn 1990 (July onward)
(% change from 1989 figures)

Sedge	Reed	Lesser	Common	Garden	Black-	Chiff-	Willow
Warbler	Warbler	White	White	Warbler	cap	chaff	Warbler
10	31	11	23	17	37	53	86
+233%	+63%	+83%	+229%	+113%	-38%	-59%	+438%

The total of 26 Whitethroats ringed was a record for the Sanctuary and the peak catches of other warblers were 12 Reed Warblers on 22nd Aug; 5 Garden Warblers on both 24th and 27th Aug; 29 Willow Warblers on 27th Aug and 27 Chiff-chaffs on 16th Sept.

During late July the field next to the Sanctuary was the site for the circus; elephants were a "tick" for the copse. More natural, unusual records were 2 Crossbills and a Marsh Tit on 20th July, a juvenile Redstart in "spotty" plumage on 29th July, the two common woodpecker species on 8th Aug and a Jay on 22nd Aug. A second Redstart and a Kingfisher (the first for a few years) were

and a Marsh Tit on 20th July, a juvenile Redstart in "spotty" plumage on 29th July, the two common woodpecker species on 8th Aug and a Jay on 22nd Aug. A second Redstart and a Kingfisher (the first for a few years) were trapped on 27th Aug but the most curious record for that day was a Fulmar (Sanctuary first!) gliding along the hillside. No less than 5 Foxes were seen on 4th Aug, 2 small deer were seen on the hillside on 26th Sept and the count of Autumn Ladies Tresses was similar to 1989 despite the dry weather.

The later autumn migrants appeared from mid Sept with the first Grey Wagtail and Goldcrests recorded on 16th Sept, 2 Redwings on 13th Oct and 8 Redpolls on 20th Oct. Goldcrests were fairly numerous throughout October with at least 15 on most days usually seen feeding on the undersides of the Sycamore leaves. A small roost of 50 Linnets were on the hillside in late October. Chiffchaffs lingered on through the late autumn as 2 were still present on 11th Nov and singles on 14th Nov and 5th Dec.

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.

John Newnham

RINGING REPORT FOR 1990

Ringing activities have remained high in 1990 as the grand total of 4118 ringed birds shows. Indeed the total is the third highest for the area (beaten only by 1980 and 1981 when large numbers of gulls were ringed) and maintains a run of 15 years with the total exceeding 3000. As usual the total of 148 ringed as pulli only represents a poor 3.6% of the total; furthermore 86% of these pulli were tits from nest-boxes however a brood of Kestrels, 8 Barn Owls and 2 Swifts were more exciting species.

For the first year since 1973 no gulls were ringed, this was due in part to the mild, often wet winter weather and to the completion of tipping at Sompting tip. In contrast the activities of the Steyning Ringing Group increased further with efforts spread over 4 sites. At Cissbury the total of 2858 included impressive catches of warblers, possibly increased by the use of tape-lures. These included 286 Whitethroats, 457 Blackcaps, 65 Garden Warblers, 997 Willow Warblers and 201 Goldcrests. The Barn Owls and 3 Little Owls were the main interest from a total of 367 caught at Wiston and a new venture to trap Sand Martins in a sand pit near Storrington yielded 140 birds. The group's total of 3371 birds was completed by 6 birds trapped at the Mumbles, Steyning. All the Steyning Ringing Group information is processed on a computer by the group's secretary, Brian Clay, for easy analysis. At the Sanctuary the total was 667 and Dr Barrie Watson ringed 74 birds in and around Shoreham. The grand total was reached by a visiting ringing who ringed 3 birds on summer camp near Erringham Farm.

The following table shows the numbers of the 50 species ringed in the year; like the table for 1989 the figures in brackets represent the total at Cissbury

TABLE 1

Sparrow Hawk	3(3)	Garden Warbler	82(65)
Kestrel	5(1)	Blackcap	504(457)
Barn Owl	8	Chiffchaff	208(147)
Little Owl	3	Willow Warbler	997(894)
Swift	3	Goldcrest	212(202)
Kingfisher	2	Firecrest	3(3)
Green Woodpecker	2(2)	Spotted Flycatcher	5(3)
Gt. Spotted Wood	2	Long-tailed Tit	41(16)
Sand Martin	85	Marsh Tit	11(4)
Swallow	73	Coal Tit	1
House Martin	142(126)	Blue Tit	222(31)
Pied Wagtail	33	Great Tit	121(31)
Wren	148(99)	Nuthatch	3
Dunnock	88(42)	Treecreeper	6(3)
Robin	215(148)	Jay	3(1)
Nightingale	6(6)	Starling	2
Redstart	10(8)	Chaffinch	50(10)
Blackbird	67(36)	Greenfinch	62
Song Thrush	66(53)	Goldfinch	3(1)
Redwing	7(6)	Linnet	23(5)
Grasshopper Warbler	8(8)	Redpoll	22(22)
Sedge Warbler	21(7)	Bullfinch	56(37)
Reed Warbler	74(26)	Yellowhammer	12(2)
Lesser Whiteth.	76(56)	Reed Bunting	3
Whitethroat	318(286)	Corn Bunting	1

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

1). MEDITERRANEAN GULL:-

ringed Ad	07-12-88	Sompting refuse tip
field record nesting	07-06-90	Gard, Camargue, France. 882km SE.

Both the Mediterranean Gulls handled locally by the Gull Group have recorded movements; the first in 1977 already wore a Belgian ring.

2). **BLACK-HEADED GULL**:- during the year there were over 100 recoveries reported and 62% of these were from other European countries. The distribution was from France (2); Belgium (1); Netherlands (7); Denmark (14); Germany (19) (12 from East Germany); Poland (1); Estonia (2); USSR (1); Norway (1); Sweden (5) and Finland (11).

Within the Britain the reports were from Sussex (20); Kent (5); Surrey (2); Staffordshire (2); Gloucestershire (2); and single birds from Cambridge, Essex, Dorset, Greater London, Hampshire, Berkshire and Devon. A detailed appraisal of movements of this species can be found in the Sussex Bird Report (1985).

3). **COMMON GULL**:- the two recoveries, both in July, were from Norway and Sweden.

4). **HERRING GULL**:- There was little new learnt from the 10 recoveries of this species; 4 from Sussex and single recoveries from Kent, Surrey, Suffolk, Hampshire and Dorset. The only foreign recovery was:-

ringed by	26-11-88	Washington refuse tip
ring only found	05-02-90	Freisland, Netherlands. 532km NE.

5). **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**:- One local recovery in Shoreham (from Sompting) on 14-09-90 was nearly 10 years after ringing on 01-11-80.

6). **BARN OWL**:- 2 owls ringed as pulli near Steyning were found dead by the roadside, both only a few miles from the nest site and both victims of collisions with motor vehicles.

7). **SAND MARTIN**:- Two birds trapped at Sandgate pit in July were subsequently controlled at Icklesham, one just a week later. The following is the areas first foreign recovery of a Sand Martin presumably on its autumn passage southward through France.

ringed juv	16-07-90	Sandgate Park
controlled	08-08-90	Loire-Atlantique, France. 433km

8).SWALLOW:- One trapped at Cissbury in late Aug was controlled at Icklesham (75km E) just 9 days later and one controlled at Wiston on 26-09-90 had been ringed in Buckinghamshire in 1989.

9).HOUSE MARTIN:- a young bird ringed at Titchfield Haven, Hants in mid-Sept was tape lured at Cissbury just 6 days later.

10).PIED WAGTAIL:- three Pied Wagtails which were caught and ringed in early Jan 1990 in a Chichester greenhouse and transported to be released in Shoreham because they were causing problems to the lettuce grower were later found dead, back in the same Chichester greenhouse. Another was found dead in Portslade in Feb 1990 and a ly female was controlled in Dyfed, Wales on 06-03-90.

11).ROBIN:- There were two movements records; one ringed in West Worthing in Dec 1988 was killed by a cat in Woodingdean in Nov 90 and a juvenile ringed on Cissbury in June was found dead on the Isle of Wight in Aug.

12).BLACKBIRD:- the most distant movement for some years; a juv female ringed at the Sanctuary in June 86 was killed by a cat in Guildford during Nov 1990.

13).REED WARBLER:- a bird ringed in Aug 89 at Icklesham was controlled as a breeding bird at Sandgate Park in July.

14).GARDEN WARBLER:- the following is only the second movement recorded outside Sussex, the first was from the same direction having been ringed in Powys.

ringed juv	22-07-86	Brierly, Gloucestershire.
controlled	04-08-90	Cissbury, 184km.

15).BLACKCAP:- There were 9 movements of Blackcaps recorded, the most interesting and presumably on spring migration was:-

ringed 1YF	23-09-89	Cissbury
found dead	06-05-90	Leman F gas platfrm,North Sea (NE of the North Norfolk coast)

The other distant movements were recorded between Cissbury and Greater Manchester; Selby, N.Yorkshire; Chew Valley Lake, Avon; Chatham and St Margarets Bay, Kent; and between the Sanctuary and Rye Meads, Hertfordshire.

16).CHIFF-CHAFF:- One ringed at Cissbury on 20-09-90 was controlled at Icklesham 3 days later.

17).WILLOW WARBLER:- birds ringed at Diss, Norfolk in July 1989 and at Bullbrook, Staffordshire in Aug 1990 were controlled at Cissbury, the second only 3 days later on 22-08-90

18).GOLDCREST:-

ringed 1YF	30-09-89	Cissbury
killed by cat	10-06-90	Abergele, Clwyd, Wales. 347km NW

Interestingly this bird was on Cissbury on the same day as the control reported last year from the east coast!

19).STARLING:- The only notable recovery involved an adult female ringed in Worthing during Feb 1987, this bird was caught in a shed and released in Feb 1989 in Boxmeer, Netherlands and was found dead, also in Boxmeer having been killed by a cat on 19-05-90.

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

John Newnham.

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1990

The year started as usual during the winter with maintenance work at the main ringing site at Cissbury. This involved keeping the pathways clear and reducing the height of the scrub in the area adjacent to the net rides to increase the catching potential of the nets and maintain the vigour of the bushes. In addition a new net ride was cut. This ride complements the existing nets by running from midway up the slope to the very top thereby ensuring that the whole slope from bottom to top is at some point covered by a net ride.

Technological developments were also taking place. It was already known that birds could be attracted by replaying tapes of their song. Some initial attempts had been made during 1989 with domestic tape cassette machines which indicated that better reproduction would considerably improve the performance of this technique. New machines were developed to run off long life batteries using a variety of new and cannibalised components and assembled within a purpose built cabinet by Chris Fox's neighbour, to whom we are extremely grateful. The machines were field tested during March/April and resulted in the ringing of three Little Owls and the identification of many previously undetected Little Owl territories in the Wiston Area. I should add that the British Trust for Ornithology do issue strict guidelines for the use of tape machines when replaying bird song or calls and these are strictly followed by the Ringing Group.

Traditional ringing activities commenced in January 1990 at our Wiston feeding station. Tits and finches form the majority of the catch but other woodland species such as Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch and Treecreeper also visit.

In April activities moved to Cissbury and continued through to November with ringing taking place on 20 days in August alone a substantial increase on previous years. The tapes were brought into action at the beginning of August when breeding had ceased and migration was under

way: they immediately proved their worth. The target species were the warblers and Willow Warblers responded particularly well resulting in catches of 111 on August 6th, 91 on the 7th and 87 on the 22nd and a grand total for the year of 894 at Cissbury. The totals of other species, particularly those moving mainly in August such as Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat and Garden Warbler also doubled and there was a better sprinkling of Grasshopper Warblers, Redstarts and Nightingales.

However we did not have it all our own way as, untypically for the site, September proved to be disappointing, as numbers of Chiffchaffs were well down on the previous year and Blackcap numbers were not exceptional apart from 107 on the 8th September. Things improved again during October and a later movement of Goldcrests (58 on Oct. 27th and 33 on Nov. 3rd) with 3 Firecrests considerably raised spirits. The tapes again proved their worth luring 126 House Martins during September and as a final treat, 22 Redpolls during October and November.

Observations from the ringing site at Cissbury are detailed in the Systematic List but highlights included Quail, Wood Warbler, Crossbill, Greenshank, Grey Plover, Green Sandpiper, a Nuthatch (new for the site), the usual Tree Pipits in August and a Peregrine on 7th October spotted by two visitors but missed by the ringers!

A new venture for the Group was a series of ringing sessions at Sandgate Park, near Storrington, which resulted in catches of 85 Sand Martin and 33 Pied Wagtails; the former responding to tapes and the latter at roost. With limited time at our disposal these catches only realised some of the potential of the site. The ringing recoveries detailed in the Ringing Report such as the Sand Martin retrapped in France 3 weeks later or the Pied Wagtail caught in the autumn roost that had fledged in May in Norfolk from a brood of three, indicate not only an exciting future for the site but also the value of the ringing programme.

Reports of birds rung by other ringers and subsequently retrapped at Cissbury or Cissbury birds later found elsewhere are also detailed in the Ringing Report, but the total of 17 birds "controlled" (the technical term for birds caught that already bear rings and are re-released) or found dead is our highest ever annual total and included 8 Blackcaps showing the importance of Cissbury for this species. 13 of these birds were caught by ringers and released and 4 were found dead, 3 killed by cats!

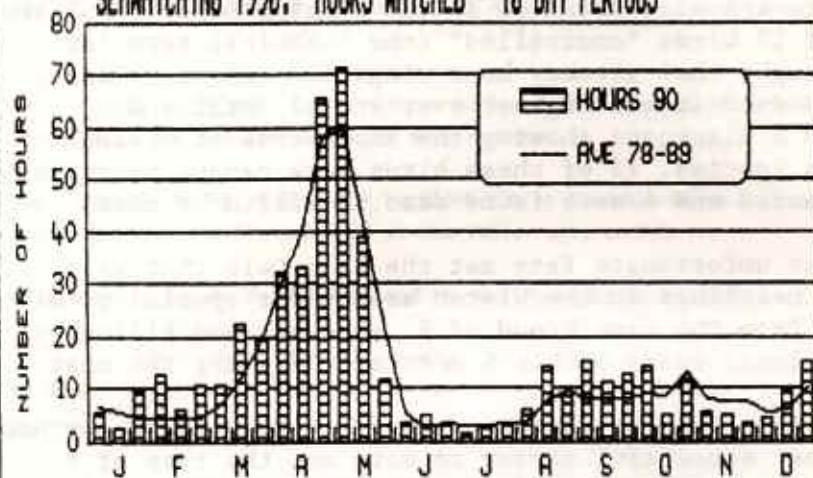
A similar unfortunate fate met the Barn Owls that were rung as nestlings in the Wiston area under special permit. 2, both from the same brood of 4, were hit and killed by cars on local roads within 5 months of leaving the nest.

Despite this one depressing outcome, overall the Group had their most successful season to date and the team of 8 ringers now involved can feel well pleased. Grateful thanks are due to the three landowners of the sites we use without whose permission and co-operation our activities would not be possible.

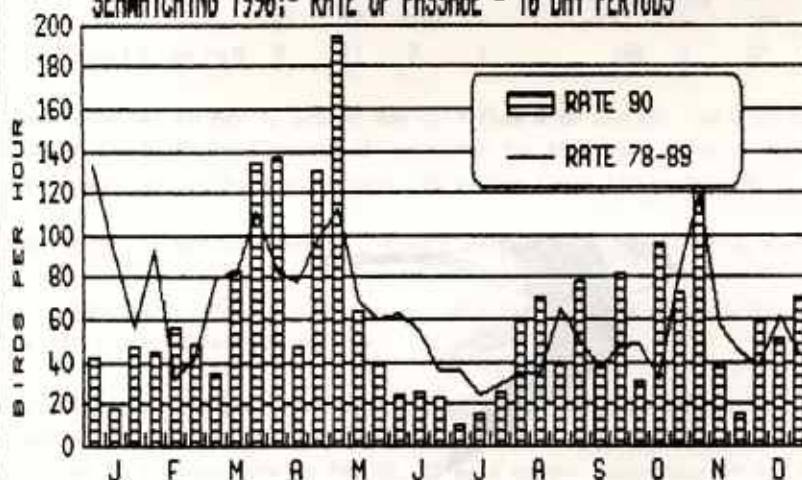
Brian Clay



SEAWATCHING 1990:- HOURS WATCHED - 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1990:- RATE OF PASSAGE - 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1990

Introduction.

During 1990 the sea was watched for 515 hours when a total of 47,750 non-passerine birds noted: many passerines were also observed during offshore watches. Although coverage was less than 1989 the sightings were noteworthy of a report. As usual the spring months were most popular with watchers (although other seasons were also very productive) with over 75% of the total non-passerine birds noted during this period. As in previous years a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping them informed and saving much time collecting records.

As before most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing but watches are included from other sites such as Ferring beach, Goring beach, Worthing pier, Brooklands beach and Widewater.

Finally thanks must go to all observers; particularly the following whose records form the basis for this report:-

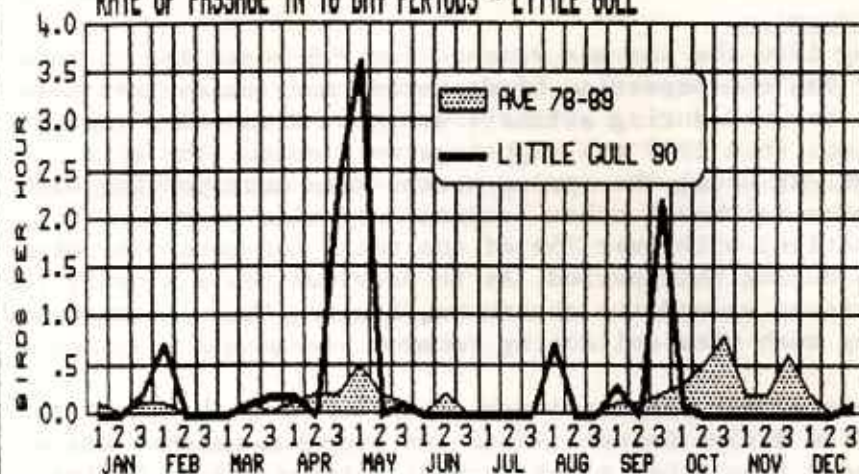
S.R.Allen; R.J.Bayne; M.N.Brayshaw; P.M.Brayshaw;
G.Edwards; M.P.Hall; S.Harthill; C.E.Hope; R.A.Ives;
J.A.Newnham; M.G.Prince; R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith.

Chronological Report

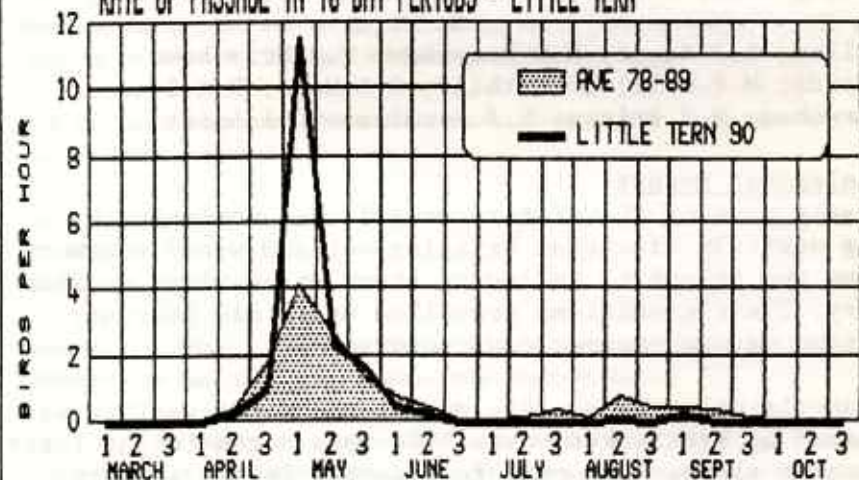
The early part of the winter was mild and dominated by a strong westerly airstream bringing wet and windy weather in from the Atlantic, including storm force winds on 25th January. These conditions prevailed until mid February when some warmer, calmer days occurred.

Not surprisingly sea passage during the windy weather was dominated by Kittiwakes; over 1000 were noted in the first two months alone. Peak passage occurred in the stronger winds: 71E on 3rd, 101E on 10th (a day which also produced 13 Pochard), and 198W on 27th being the best day counts. Otherwise a single Greylag Goose, Velvet Scoter and 3 Great Skuas on the days following the storm were the main interest. Calm weather on 20th January gave an opportunity to observe birds feeding offshore with counts of 2 Red

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 18 DAY PERIODS - LITTLE GULL



RATE OF PASSAGE IN 18 DAY PERIODS - LITTLE TERN



Throated Divers, 3 Great Crested Grebes, 1 Red-necked Grebe and 12 Slavonian Grebes: the maximum count of 64 Red-breasted Mergansers was on 16th February. During this month similar species were seen in the windy conditions: Kittiwakes peaked with 154W on 4th and 230E on 22nd; the former date also producing reasonable movements of Fulmars, Gannets and auks, while 4 Little Gulls were rather less expected. The month ended with sightings of single Glaucous and Mediterranean Gulls.

March started slowly with a few skeins of Brent Geese passing east, but it was not until the weekend of 17th/18th when warm south-east winds occurred inducing small numbers of geese and ducks to pass, along with the first Sandwich Terns and more Little Gulls. Other notable sightings included 15 Velvet Scoter, a Golden Plover, and early Arctic Skua and Whimbrel. The remainder of the month was generally quiet until the momentum of the spring returned on the last day, when in a moderate south-east wind an exceptional wildfowl passage occurred. The expected Common Scoter only mustered 332, but 529 Teal, 279 Pintail and 330 Shovelers provided the main excitement. Also noted were 4 Gadwall, 2 Velvet Scoters, 7 Avocets, a Black-tailed Godwit, Great Skua and more Little Gulls and terns, including the first "commics".

This movement continued into early April with the 1st producing the spring's peak of Brent Geese (1446) and Common Scoter (1021) along with 156 Sandwich Terns, an Arctic Skua and 2 Mediterranean Gulls. Another two of this species were seen the following day as well as a single Avocet and Great Skua. During a strong easterly airstream on 6th a good early passage of 3 Arctic and 8 Great Skuas occurred but 4 Manx Shearwaters and 5 Goosanders were very unexpected. Following this there was very little sea passage until 13th when a front moving east across the country pushed birds inshore including 10 Velvet Scoters and Great (4), Pomarine and Arctic Skuas. The advent of north-east winds on 20th brought a large up-channel passage of Gannets, with 130 noted along with a Black Tern. The expected Bar-tailed Godwit passage was seen on the following day when 1087 were recorded along with a

variety of other waders. The final days of the month saw anticyclonic weather set in and migration visibly increasing; Mediterranean Gulls were regularly seen along with the first few Greenshanks and Common Sandpipers. Little Gulls were particularly numerous at the end of the month with 69, 45 and 24 recorded on the final days. The first sea-watch record of a Mandarin occurred on the 29th, a day when a flock of 47 Pomarine Skuas passed eastward.

Early May is often said to be the best time to watch offshore passage from Sussex, and this year was no exception with over 13,000 birds noted passing up-channel. The settled anticyclonic weather provided ideal conditions for observing terns and waders: Avocets were seen on three dates, including a flock of 15 on the 4th, Greenshanks and Common Sandpipers were regular and scarce seawatch species such as Spotted Redshank and Ruff were recorded. The common shoreline waders also appeared in good numbers with Knot peaking at 101 on 2nd, Bar-tailed Godwits on 4th (802) and 52 Turnstone on 1st. Skuas were often noted but in small numbers, however Little Gulls surged passed with 255 recorded in the first week which included a peak of 112 on 1st, a day which also produced the seasons peak of 61 Black Terns and a Red-necked Grebe. Little Terns were also recorded in above average numbers, exceeding 100 on 5 dates and the peak movement of 180 seen on 4th. Commic terns were regular but no huge movements were noted; the peak of 810 recorded on 2nd May. Generally the remainder of the month saw little passage, although the return of south-easterly wind between 13th -15th saw more terns, skuas and waders. The 14th produced what was undoubtedly the seawatch bird of the spring in the form of a Little Egret which flew up-channel along the tide-line, while the supporting cast included 39 Velvet Scoters and a Roseate Tern. However from then on passage was on a meagre scale.

June and July were mainly settled with many hot sunny days. Sea-watching was, as usual, unrewarding: a few terns were observed along with some returning waders, while 2 Canada Geese and a Black Tern were good sightings in June. July commenced with 2 Manx Shearwaters being observed, but then was quieter with few birds noted.

August opened hot and sunny and remained that way for most of the month excepting Atlantic depressions that passed east over the country in the middle of the month. Terns were the flavour of the month with the first wave of "commics" at the end of the first week along with some Little Gulls and a single Black Tern. The depressions on the 15th and 19th produced some of the best birding of the month, with 56 Gannets noted on the former date, while the latter saw many returning waders: 120 Dunlin, 35 Sanderling and 44 Ringed Plover being the best counts. Other good records were 5 Curlew Sandpipers, a single Pomarine and 3 Arctic Skuas and 200+ "Commic" terns.

Northerly winds saw September in, pushing good numbers of terns past during the month. The evening of the 4th saw the peak movement of the autumn with 296 passing westwards, although birds continued to pass until the end of the month. The settled summer weather began to break in the second half of the month with some wet and windy days inducing Gannets to pass: peaks were 83 on 19th, 113 on 29th and 97 on 30th. During this period a variety of wildfowl and waders were observed along with 28 Little Gulls on 28th. Throughout the month passerines were passing, the best day being 26th when over 2000 hirundines were noted.

October continued much as September left off with the same species but in smaller numbers. The windy weather of the 3rd provided a sighting of a Sabine's Gull offshore, but sea passage was then slow until a a run of moderate to strong south-easterly winds later in the month. However, passerines featured highly in mid-month; 1038 Goldfinches and 388 Linnets were recorded during the month and 2 Snow Buntings flew by on 7th Oct. Towards the end of the month wildfowl became more prominent, with scarcer species such as Pintail, Bewick's Swan and White-fronted Geese accompanying the more usual Brent Geese and Shelduck.

November opened promisingly with the season's peak of 510 Brent Geese, 130 Dunlin, a Goldeneye and a ring-tailed harrier on the 4th. Thereafter the month was quiet with

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS WINTER TO SPRING 1990 FROM WORTHING BEACHES

DATE	MAR	MAR	APH	APH	APH	APH	APH	APH	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY	MAY
	17	31	7	8	9	20	21	28	24	10	10	10	10	10
HRS WATCHED	5.5	11.1	7.8	8.3	9.5	12.1	10.2	12	12	10.8	10.8	10.8	9.4	9.7
*DIVER SP	9	2	4	1	1	-	-	5	3	-	4	3	-	1
*FULMAR	1	8	8	17	39	60	43	16	16	43	22	30	13	14
*MAX SHEAR	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
*GANNET	-	6	1	7	140	16	21	3	3	3	13	11	4	7
BRENT GSE	342	270	1446	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	18
*SHELDUCK	-	3	1	-	2	21	13	30	8	8	9	3	7	26
*WIGEON	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
EIDER	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1
C. SCOTER	100	332	1021	91	4	11	30	32	32	21	35	6	33	69
RED BR. MERE	12	23	23	7	-	44	-	7	7	5	-	24	-	3
GREY PLOVER	-	-	-	-	-	44	4	3	3	33	31	18	36	46
SANDERLING	-	2	-	1	21	1	16	4	4	-	32	43	39	31
DUNLIN	17	6	9	6	-	2	13	-	-	8	39	18	32	18
HAR T. GOWIT	3	2	3	-	13	1087	301	192	142	142	42	190	206	802
WHIMBEL	1	-	2	-	3	22	32	74	26	26	44	103	75	48
*POM SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	47	4	4	8	4	15	1
*ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	1	3	-	3	7	5	6	6	9	4	-	2
*GREAT SKUA	-	1	-	8	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
LITTLE GULL	1	4	1	3	-	-	59	45	24	24	112	24	79	23
*KITTIWAKE	9	14	3	4	21	19	11	1	7	7	8	9	8	11
S. TERN	9	69	156	25	70	164	233	185	107	107	283	222	228	197
C/A TERN	-	3	-	3	4	36	121	91	273	273	619	810	760	489
L. TERN	-	-	-	-	1	4	22	14	21	21	116	159	171	180
B. TERN	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	9	3	3	61	25	-	7
*AUK SP.	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

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

SELECTED DAYS SEAWATCHING TOTALS SPRING TO WINTER 1980 FROM WORTHING BEACHES

DATE	MAY	MAY	AUG	AUG	SEP	SEP	SEP	OCT	OCT	NOV	DEC	DEC	DEC
HRS WATCHED	14	15	9	19	4	23	29	22	23	4	13	16	23
	9.5	5.2	7	4.3	2.6	3.5	1.5	1.7	1.4	3.5	1	2.3	2
#DIVER SP	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	34	14	4
#FULMAR	9	11	-	17	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
#MAX SHEAR	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#GANNET	15	22	-	57	3	18	113	1	-	-	4	-	23
BRENT GSE	-	9	-	-	-	8	5	47	6	510	-	8	8
#SHELDUCK	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	4	36	-	1	56
#WIGEON	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	18	3	-	-	1	1
ELDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	10E	-	-	-	6
C. SCOTER	57	48	-	34	6	4	-	2	7E	3	-	2	-
RED BR. MERE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	7	-	13	19
GREY PLOVER	5	1	-	15	-	3	-	1E	-	2	-	-	33
SANDERLING	-	-	-	35	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
DUNLIN	2	-	-	120	-	4	-	78E	27E	103	-	-	29
BAR T. GOWIT	34	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
WHIMBEL	5	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#POM SKUA	2	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#ARCTIC SKUA	4	1	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#GREAT SKUA	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
LITTLE GULL	-	-	4	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#KITTIWAKE	26	5	-	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
S. TERN	97	107	15	31	33	68	4	-	-	-	30	1	43
C/A TERN	487	174	127	216	296	57	2	-	-	-	-	-	192
L. TERN	30	16	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B. TERN	1	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
#AUK SP.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	20	123	18	75

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

little or no passage observed; a Slavonian Grebe and 13 divers on 27th were the only sightings of note. The cold snap in early December induced a small offshore movement with 60 Wigeon, 18 Lapwing and 19 White-fronted Geese passing on the 10th. However the cold air was soon replaced by a warmer, wet and windy south-westerly airstream which lasted until the months end. These conditions saw large numbers of birds passing, as illustrated by the monthly totals of 147 divers, 436 Kittiwakes and 397 auks. Associated with these movements were Little Auks with 11 recorded; the peak of 8 on the 29th, while other notable species seen were Goldeneye, Goosander, Whooper Swans (2 on 15th), a Manx Shearwater (west on the 28th) and a Shag: a fitting end to another eventful sea-watching year.

Paul Brayshaw.



NEW BIRDS FOR THE AREA - WHAT NEXT?

After a number of species were added to the SDOS area list in 1990, I am making no excuses whatsoever for indulging in a little harmless speculation on what new birds may be recorded in the next few years. This is not meant to be erudite, scientific, or even serious but hopefully will provide some discussion.

For its size, our area has recorded a surprising number of species over the years. Recent additions have been both expected and unexpected, for example Honey Buzzard in 1985, with another in 1986 was long over due, but who of us could have predicted Great Spotted Cuckoo? Nationally, vagrants and overshooting breeding birds a southern origin have increased over the past two or three years, some dramatically (eg. Little Egret); predictions, therefore have a heavy southerly/south-easterly bias!

Great Shearwater Still considered an outsider this far up-Channel, but sightings particularly from Kent and the east coast give grounds for at least a little optimism. Local seawatchers may just pick this one up on an autumn seawatch but, unless it sits on the tideline (most unlikely) it will never be easy, especially if the wind blows SW 8! It will be a fly-by and entirely unexpected.

Little Shearwater The possibility of this still-great rarity occurring is remote, almost as likely as recording an albatross; however, a lucky observer in Dorset noted this species and Black browed Albatross on the same day in 1989, off Hengistbury Head, so anything is possible.

A close bird in good light, and a prolonged view (particularly noting the flight pattern) would seem essential requirements for acceptance - flight is usually "flappier" than Manx Shearwater, but beware auks!

Great White Egret The SDOS has done well for rare herons over the years, notably Little Bittern, Night Heron, Cattle Egret, and Squacco Heron; but as yet, not this one. A once-great rarity, sightings show an upward trend

nationally, perhaps due to a northwards extension of its breeding range. With one at Pagham in 1990, it is a real possibility; perhaps passing offshore, or on the River Adur ?

Black Stork A few years ago I would have regarded the addition of Black Stork as being almost out of the question. However it has extended its breeding range (now in Belgium) which may have given rise to the significant national increase in sightings, a number of which have been in the South of England. When it comes, it will probably be at a height, in the air, or possibly on the Adur levels; keep an eye on the sky!

Ferruginous Duck Although ot a BBRC rarity, I'm not entirely surprised that it has not been recorded, given its habitat preferences. We lack large areas of red-fringed open water and believe me, it does like to skulk in reeds! Still a possibility, though; perhaps Wiston Pond, or just dropping for a few hours at Brooklands ?

Black-winged Stilt This one is long overdue. Most likely to be seen on a spring sea-watch (what a sight - just imagine it!) or perhaps on the R. Adur or Widewater (flood arch would not be a bad site). Not so many around in 1990, apparently, but previous years have been good and have involved confirmed and attempted breeding in the UK.

White-rumped Sandpiper No real evidence of a national increase in sightings but this rare nearctic vagrant is annual in small numbers. Tends to turn up at Pagham occasionally. We've had Baird's, why not White rumped? Again, Widewater or R. Adur would seem most likely; and with Dunlins.

Long-billed Dowitcher Another long-shot, but does appear annually in small numbers, and at well-scattered, often unlikely sites. Sometimes winters so may hang around long enough for someone to find and identify it. In winter plumage, a little like a grey Snipe, with "sewing machine" feeding action, and more elegant than some field guides depict it - it is also surprisingly small.

Wilson's Phalarope Tends to be almost plentiful nationally (in rarity terms) during some years, and absent in others. It has been recorded in Sussex in recent years but still must remain an outsider for our area. Widewater seems one of the most likely locations (it's the one phalarope that's seen most often out of water) rather than, for example, Shoreham harbour. Bill length alone splits it from other phalaropes and it is larger; if you can't see the leg colour, it often bears an uncanny resemblance to a small winter-plumaged Spotted Redshank with no wing bars either.



Icterine Warbler

Icterine Warbler Suspected, but not yet recorded, and possibly one of the strongest candidates. Potential "hippolais" warblers do cause the inexperienced (and at times, the experienced) observer identification problems. Reed Warbler is often mistaken for this species or Melodious Warbler, and bright yellow juvenile Willow/Chiffs are sometimes mis-identified. I find that the most reliable feature when faced with a "hippolais" is the closed wing; Icterine is long winged with a prominent long pointed primary extension whereas this feature is lacking on Melodious, the wing being much shorter and round-ended. The pale wing panel is always or nearly always noticeable on Icterine whereas it is more subdued, and at times almost absent on Melodious. Field guides often stress Icterine's head-shape as being more peaked, and this is true, but often difficult to determine, unless the head is at the right angle and it stops moving. Both species are thick-billed.

Subalpine Warbler Again, a long-shot, but does turn up regularly and produces a surprising number of records in most years. More would undoubtedly be found if it wasn't such an appalling skulker; the song, although unmistakeably a "sylvia" is different and should attract attention (not as much as Orphean Warbler but I'll leave that tale for another day). Spring males are bright and easy to identify, given a good view. Autumn birds are difficult. A little coastal gorse scrub would help this one's chances.

Pallas' Warbler Wishful thinking ? Perhaps not. We've had a few "near misses" in recent years, this species having occurred both just east and west of the recording area. Described as a "gem", and not without foundation but can be difficult to locate, even in a small copse. Tiny, hyper-active, and brilliant please let me know if you find one! Wild Park Hollingbury, or perhaps the Sanctuary or Goring Wood seem the most likely localities, from mid-October into December.

Greenish Warbler Less likely to occur than the above, but still a possibility Now breeds in NE Germany. A good prolonged view is vital; it is remarkably Chiffchaff-like in jizz with a simple short (but in fresh plumage) noticeable wing-bar but feather abrasion can reduce this feature considerably; so beware of Chiffchaffs with a faint wing bar! A "BBRC" job and not easy to get . accepted. Preferably it will have the good grace to drop into a mist net, and when a camera is on site.

Red-breasted Flycatcher Experience of this species should be a fundamental requirement for acceptance. Why ? Each year, nationally, poorly-seen Robins are turned into Red breasted Flycatchers by observers who have yet to see the latter- once seen, never forgotten. A Robin with a cocked tail and drooping wings does look remarkably similar, as long as you ignore the red breast and larger size.

This is one of my favourites; not being brightly coloured but has such "charisma". It must come some day (in fact I've heard of a strong claim from Wild Park this year)-perhaps in Goring Wood, although JAN's garden would be just as likely! or any garden with a mature orchard.

Penduline Tit We lack habitat for this species, but not entirely. They like to feed on bullrush heads, and we do have bullrushes. A significant increase nationally over the last few years in records, from its previous exceptionally rare status; may well have bred already, and is expected to colonize many suitable habitats. I feel that this won't be long coming. The adult looks like a miniature Red backed Shrike, but watch out for the plainer juvenile in autumn.

Red-eyed Vireo There's nothing like controversy is there! I had to throw this one in, but agree that it is most unlikely. However, it is the most numerous American passerine to be recorded in the UK, albeit still no more than a handful but now being recorded annually in the west.

Anyone finding a vireo in our recording area has my eternal gratitude. Now I've got this far, I may as well stick my neck out further; although nationally rarer, I have a suspicion that, in Sussex at least, Northern Parula will turn up first. It's made its way to Portland and Hengistbury Head in recent years, why not a little further eastwards ?

In conclusion, I will no doubt enjoy being proved totally wrong when none of the above materialize in the next few years.

Dave Smith

PS Thanks to Richard Ives for commenting on the above.

FIELD OUTING REPORTS 1990

21st January- 13 members took part in the opening trip of the year to Amberley Wildbrooks, which was led by Bernie Forbes. Good numbers of Wigeon, Teal, and Shoveler were present on the pool by Greatham Bridge. The star bird of the day was a juvenile Peregrine, flying west over the River Arun. Two Bean Geese of unknown origin were observed on the brooks towards Rackham. Rackham Woods were later visited where the usual woodland species were seen, including 5 Siskin feeding in the Alders.

18th February- Richard Ives led a party of 10 members on a circular tour of Thorney Island. Female Goldeneye and Red breasted Mergansers were abundant in the harbour and there were large numbers of Wigeon in the fields beside The Deeps. At the southern end of the island an Avocet was picked out amongst the enormous flock of mixed waders. The eastern side of the island provided the most interesting part of the trip with 4 species of grebe being observed together the highlight being two Red necked Grebes, one in winter plumage and the other attaining summer plumage. A highly successful day with good numbers of waders, geese, and grebes.

31st March- A good turn out of members were led by Dave Smith along the coast from Goring Gap to Ferring Rife. Whilst seawatching at various points, a good number of duck was seen including Common Scoter, Shoveler and Teal. The rarest species observed was two Velvet Scoters amongst a flock of Commons. At least 8 Wheatears were present in the fields to the west of the Ilex Woods. The Rife itself was very quiet, with little seen apart from Reed Buntings and Meadow Pipits. Several Sandwich Terns were also seen passing east offshore.

29th April- On a calm and hazy morning 11 members found John Newnham at Goring Gap shelter for a seawatch. The movement of waders and terns over the period was very slow. Of interest were 3 Dolphins which were seen at a reasonable distance off shore. A strange tern seen at about 9.00 caused pulses to quicken, but identification

was impossible, due to distance and poor visibility. A good sighting was a Short-eared Owl flying north off the sea. As proof of the unpredictability of seawatching, a record 54 Pomarine Skuas were seen off Worthing that afternoon.

5th May- 7 early risers were treated to the wonderful song of the Nightingale before dawn at Chris Fox's cottage. At first light a walk along North Lane produced songs from Whitethroat, Robin, Wren, and 3 Tit species. Problems were had sorting out the songs of Blackcap and Garden Warbler. Three pairs of the latter were seen. Several Cuckoos and a further Nightingale were seen and heard. Excellent views were had of an aggressive male Roe Deer, which barked at the party for many seconds.

19th May- Bernie Forbes extra trip to the New Forest was a great success, apart from the small number attending. On a walk from Telegraph Hill out to Hampton Ridge, we observed a good number of raptors with sightings of several Buzzards and Sparrowhawks and good views of Hobby were obtained. Of great interest was a Wood Warbler observed building its nest on the forest floor. As expected on a trip to the New Forest, Dartford Warblers were seen and an unexpected bonus was a Nightjar which was flushed by the party.

22nd June - As usual a good turn out met at Greatham Bridge for Brian Metcalfe's evening trip. Scanning the pool produced several Green Sandpipers and Snipe and a Barn Owl was seen hunting along the banks of the Arun. Several Little Owls were seen on the journey to Lavington Common. Disappointingly, the Nightjars did not perform very well although several were heard and one glimpsed. Woodcock performed well in their roding flights.

22nd July - On a perfect day, a large number of members and friends met at Mill Hill to be shown the local butterflies by Graham Hart. On the western slopes of the hill, Chalk Hill Blues abounded and the rare Adonis Blue was also observed at close quarters. Other species

recorded included Essex Skipper, Brimstone, Comma and Gatekeeper, proving the value of the conservation work.

26th August - A wealth of birds were awaiting the inspection of 11 members lead by Clive Hope at the Cissbury ringing site. 15 species were watched being weighed, measured, and ringed. These included such interesting species as both male and female Blackcap, Lesser and Common Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Spotted Flycatcher. Later, on a walk along the northern side of Cissbury Ring, views were had of juvenile Cuckoo, male and female Sparrowhawk and Redstart.

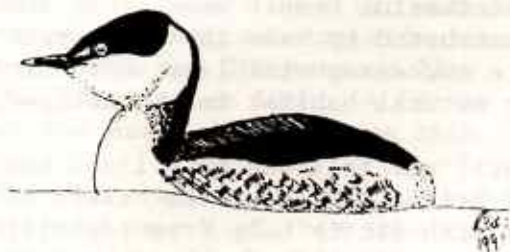
16th September - The Hollingbury Camp and Wild Park trip, led by Peter Whitcomb, was well attended and it was a pity that not many birds were willing to show themselves. The previous day 10,000 Hirundines were reported in the area. A Sparrowhawk was seen briefly and good views were had of Ring-necked Parakeets feeding on Beech nuts. A flock of these Parakeets have been in the area for some years but they have been greatly reduced in numbers since the 1987 hurricane. Mixed tit flocks, Goldcrest and Chiffchaff were also seen.

21st October - After the disastrous 89 trip, Climping finally showed its true potential in 1990. Ten members joined Richard Ives and were well rewarded for doing so. The weather was rather grey and overcast but this did not deter a huge movement of passerines and geese. Over a 1,000 Goldfinch coasted during the day and there was always something on the move. The sea provided much interest especially as over 300 Brent Geese were recorded returning to their wintering grounds. A flock of 9 Whitefronts were picked out amongst the Brents- a real surprise for everyone. The leader identified a thrush at half a mile distance and received many quizzical looks from the members but once the bird was seen at closer range everyone agreed with the initial identification: a male Ring Ouzel which performed superbly for everyone. A Kingfisher flashed through the trees to end a very enjoyable morning.

24th November - The weather forecast for Dave Smith's Pagham Harbour trip was for wind and rain and for once they were right! However, 10 members did brave the elements and from the North Wall, large numbers of wildfowl were seen these included Brent Geese, Pintail, Wigeon and there were some Black-tailed Godwits amongst the waders recorded. After a soggy lunch back in the cars in Church Lane, a walk to the western end of Pagham Lagoon resulted in views of Water Rail and Kingfisher. A pair of Red-breasted Mergansers and several Little grebes were also present.

29th December - Heavy rain once again spoilt a club trip, this time the post Christmas Adur walk led by Stanley Allen. A few intrepid members turned out but after a brief scan of the Adur Saltings the usual wader and gull count was abandoned. Grey Plover and Oystercatcher were amongst the waders seen. The best bird was found at Widewater where a immature Scaup was located with the Pochard.

Les Hemblade (Field Secretary)



INDOOR MEETINGS

Graham Hart of the British Butterfly Conservation Society opened the year with an enthusiastic and lucid talk, well illustrated with his own excellent slides. Graham lives in Shoreham and has spent a great deal of time and energy improving the chances of wild life on Mill Hill. As a result the numbers of butterflies in particular have increased with the careful clearing done by on the Mill Hill slopes. This talk was followed up by an outing led by Graham in July (see Field Outings Report above).

In February Brian Metcalfe entertained us with a talk about the holiday he took in Israel with Hilda, illustrated by his slides. Brian, occasionally prompted with a place-name or bird identification by Hilda enthused about their visit. He pointed out the problems of photography when travelling with a group of enthusiasts all keen to get the bird! The trip took them from northern Israel, Mount Hermon, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and right down to the northern tip of the Red Sea.

The March talk was given by Ms Steyning from the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust. A very interesting talk and although she had only just taken up the post she spoke with great confidence and showed her obvious flair for the subject. The trials and tribulations of trying to get the New Zealand Blue Duck to breed at Arundel was explained in detail. The successful result meant that another waterfall had to be constructed to make the "newcomers" feel at home. Any more successes will lead to returning the birds back to their natural habitat in the antipodes.

The AGM in April was followed by a light-hearted talk by Chris Fox and Brian Clay about the trials of hunting birds in Costa Rica with little help from identification books - the best one was published after they returned home! They were amusing but informative and the slides complemented their talk showing the difficulty of finding birds in sometimes impenetrable foliage. It was a talk much enjoyed by members.

Perhaps one of the most interesting talks was given by Dr. David Harper in October on "Bird Colour-what it means". He obviously had a deep interest in his subject and he spoke fluently backing up what he said with fascinating examples of bird behaviour. He showed the importance of colour, describing experiments of reducing or changing colour patterns thereby causing a bird to react against those changes. There is still a lot of work to do but he made us think and consider again the importance of colour and patterns of recognition and acceptance amongst birds.

The November meeting brought a welcome return of Mr and Mrs Simpson telling us of the many facets of the conservation work they do all over Sussex. Their slides showed how much time is given by volunteers and those who lead them to keep Sussex working for wildlife and encouraging more people to enjoy the results.

The December Members' Evening was a lively combination of short talks. Brian Metcalfe talked about field marks, the way we look at a bird to check its identification: from supercilium to tail markings. John Ford had some superb slides of crickets and grasshoppers and a great deal of knowledge which he passed on to us. Brianne Reeve talked about some of the natural history work she does with very young children between the ages of 3 and 5 and quoted some of their sayings. She likes to think that if children can be encouraged to enjoy nature at such a young age by introducing them to flowers, birds etc. they can carry those experiences and develop them as they grow up. Stanley Allen had gathered together some slides of his birding trips during the year both abroad and locally. John Stafford had compiled a quiz using his own excellent slides and testing our knowledge with birds which were not always showing us the features Brian had discussed earlier. Perhaps it was appropriate that our Editor Richard Ives identified them all. (not quite true-the diving White headed Duck could have been anything from a Cormorant to a piece of polystyrene!- Ed.) The evening was celebrated in a cheerful manner with wine and various tasty refreshments.

Brianne Reeve (Hon. Secretary)

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 "Voous 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.

I am delighted with the volume of records sent in by so many contributors in 1990; also many thanks fro the excellent reponse to my "all records" requests, essential when records begin to show that a species could be in decline. Again, keep them coming in for 1991 !

OFFICERS

President	Dr J.R. Stafford.
Hon. Secretary	Mrs B. Reeve. The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing. 0273- 452497.
Hon. Field Secretary	Mr. L. Hemblade. 34 The Cresent Southwick. Brighton 594798.
Hon. Treasurer (1990/91)	Mr. C. Fox.
New Hon.Treasurer is:	Mr. A.D. Bullock. 65 Roman Road, Steyning. Steyning 815644.
Hon. Recorder	Mr. D. Smith. 15 Ryecroft Close, Goring. Worthing 47231.
Hon. Report Editor	Mr. R Ives. 90 Downlands Avenue, Worthing. Worthing 204567.
Chairman of the Council	Mr. S. Allen.
Sanctuary Committee	Dr. J. Newnham Dr. A.B. Watson.
Other Committee Members	Mr D. Labdon, Ms Merrick Mr Clay, Mr Hick (from 1991).

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
December 1990

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>	£	£
Balance brought forward	1,700.97	1142.39
Subscriptions	644.50	793.50
Sale of Reports	260.30	1317.03
Net raffle & refreshments	57.00	242.81
Building Society interest	<u>110.47</u>	<u>44.69</u>
	<u>£2,773.24</u>	<u>£3540.42</u>

PAYMENTS

Donation to S.O.S	----	500.00
Printing of Books	----	850.00
Other Printing	240.16	234.50
Postage & stationery	9.61	40.18
Secretary's expenses	55.39	40.82
Hire of hall	----	84.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' fees	60.00	70.00
Sundries	7.00	4.45
Charge for hall at fair	5.00	-----
RSPB slides	15.00	-----
Bank charges	15.00	11.50
Balance Carried Forward	<u>2,371.08</u>	<u>1700.97</u>
	<u>£2,733.24</u>	<u>£3540.42</u>

C.J. Fox (Hon Treasurer) Dated 19th February 1991

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.

SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDING AREA

