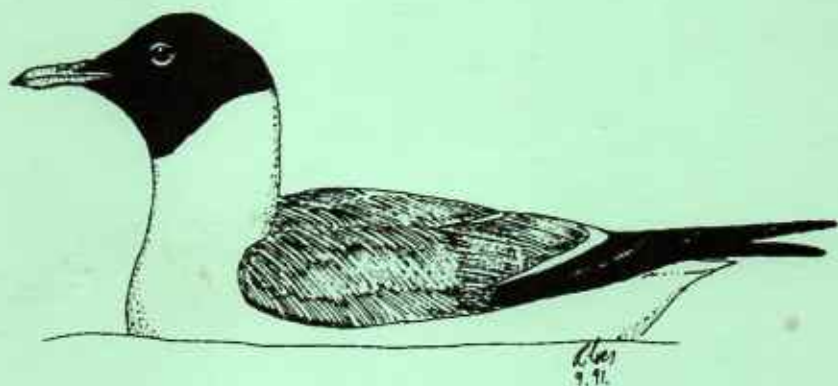


# Shoreham District Ornithological Society

ANNUAL REPORT 1991



No. 39

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SHOREHAM  
DISTRICT  
ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

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Logo, map and line drawings by Richard Ives.  
Graphs by Brian Clay.  
Cover illustration of a Laughing Gull by Richard Ives.

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## **EDITORIAL**

Another year has passed and here is the proof that our area has produced a few surprises. A few new birds for me had I been at the right place at the right time! There is a new look to the report this year and I must express my gratitude to both Dave Smith for his superb write up of your records and to Brian Clay for his unstinting support as I had to grapple with a new (and somewhat complex!) word processing package. His patience at my never ending stream of questions and desperate phone calls to get this report off the ground amazes me. The Society has had a problem with non-compatibility with software but this has now been sorted out with the purchase of Microsoft Word; a word processing program which links with a desk-top publishing system on which the final design and layout have been achieved. I hope you appreciate the end result.

May I extend my thanks to all those who served on the various committees, the Chairman, the Secretary, all the speakers and those who led the field outings. Without these people the Society could not function. There will be a few key committee positions coming vacant within the next few years and we would like some volunteers to take over the reins in the not too distant future. Anyone interested? Could you please make yourselves known to anyone on the Committee.

After having spent many hours loading in Dave's excellent systematic list my mind began to wonder about the whole question of records in general. Among the collection were a few species which would set the pulse racing - Clive Hope's Black Stork sailing over Cissbury Ring conjures up an incredible image of open spaces and a large and very rare twitchable species. The records speak for themselves, the rarities punctuate the year and encourage everyone to look more closely. It is both frustrating and rewarding to see these rare birds reported within the pages of this report. I would have been glad to have been standing at the right place at the right time - that's what it's all about.

However, the pages do reflect another side of local ornithology: the importance of really knowing what is going on in our local area. The population counts of Dunnocks, Robins and Rooks may not be very

inspiring to many but it does show that this society is blessed with those willing to put in vast amounts of time actually logging our less exciting species. It is only through knowledge of what is happening to our common birds that we can argue our corner whenever "development" in whatever guise is raised on the local agenda. Having the ammunition of breeding censuses and local trends means that we can play a part and enter the ugly world of politics. Stanley Allen played his part in protecting Widewater and preventing a target golf course from being built on New Salt's farm. We have to stay vigilant to protect the little greenery our coastal plain has to offer.

It is also heartening to see the volume of records rising appreciably-nearly 50% of our members submitted records; this is a far cry from when I first joined when there were only a few people prepared to weather the cold and log what was about. The Society seems to be fulfilling its purpose to the full: like minded individuals showing concern and taking the time to write down what they see. It's a long laborious task for the recorder and for the editor but I hope that this report shows that it was all worthwhile.

Anyway, don't forget to give me a ring if you have an Arctic Warbler in your garden or a ..... , oh yes I could do with a.....

Have a good year and don't forget Dave would appreciate any of your spring records as soon as possible so that the whole process can start again.

Richard Ives (Hon Editor)



*Wood Warbler*



## **NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1991**

1991 will be remembered, or otherwise, for early gales in January, a spell of harsh weather in early February, a near-forgettable May seawatch and spring passerine migration, and a far more lively autumn. However the rarities did materialize with 3 potential new birds for the area.

January started windy and mild, and brought a rare record of Leach's Petrel to R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jan 2. Unusual sightings, perhaps generated by the gales, were Fulmars W at Worthing beach on Jan 1 and Jan 2, and single Little Gulls W there on Jan 5 and Jan 9. Raptors included a superb Red Kite over Shoreham on Jan 21, a Peregrine at Shoreham harbour on Jan 6, and a Buzzard W over Patching Pond on Jan 21. At Southwick Canal 4 Shags were present on Jan 12, and nearby at Southwick beach an Iceland Gull arrived on Jan 2 to stay to Jan 31. The Glaucous Gull reported in Dec 1990 at Shoreham harbour remained there to Jan 13. A Little Auk found at Partridge Green was released at Widewater on Jan 2 and 3 Snow Buntings from 1990 remained at Lancing beach green to at least Feb 17, rounding off a busy month.

February experienced the only period of ice and snow during the year and consequently was an exciting month, with wildfowl influxes dominating. The Bewick's Swan herd on the Upper Adur levels peaked at 60 mid-month, 17 probable Pink footed Geese were reported on Feb 14 with 20 unidentified grey geese at Lancing on Feb 10. Concentrations of duck mid-month at Wyckham farm were 6 Gadwall, 200 Teal, 6 Pintail, 31 Wigeon and 4 Shoveler whilst Scaup numbered 15 at coastal sites, 4 Long tailed Ducks were seen, and Goldeneyes peaked at 13 on the R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 14. Sawbills included 3 Smew on R. Adur at Cuckoo's Corner Feb 9 - Feb 17 but only a single Goosander was reported, flying E at Brighton Marina on Feb 9. Lapwings, often the first to leave in hard weather, totalled 2,000 over Shoreham on Feb 6 and there was a small influx of Jack Snipe, Ruff, and Water Rails with a substantial movement of Woodcocks to coastal areas.

Passerines included 2 Water Pipits in the Adur Valley on Feb 17, a Great Grey Shrike on the Upper Adur levels from Feb 10 into March, a Twite with Linnets at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 13/14, 3 Lapland Buntings at Widewater on Feb 15 with one at Lancing on Feb 17 and 22, and Tree Sparrows at West Durrington on Feb 19. The most visible invasion was

of Fieldfares to urban and coastal areas, numbering many thousands and accompanied by smaller Redwing groups.

March, often the quietest month of the year, produced a number of interesting species. These included single Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes plus 4 Slavonian Grebes. 2 White-fronted Geese moved E over Goring on the night of Mar 9, part of a large nocturnal movement which also involved Brent Geese, Curlews, Spotted Redshank, Fieldfares and Redwings. Offshore, 2 Garganey flew east at Worthing beach on Mar 29 with Avocets, Golden Plovers and a Glaucous Gull also from this site. A Hen Harrier hunted over the Upper Adur levels mid-month and 2 Short eared Owls were at Wyckham farm on Mar 24. 3 more Water Pipits were seen plus 3/4 Black Redstarts, 1 Firecrest and 7 Crossbills.

April's highlights was undoubtedly the summer-plumaged Laughing Gull on R.Adur (Shoreham) Apr 6, the first for the area, and 2 Mediterranean Gulls were at Shoreham beach on the same day. Highlights offshore were a Black-necked Grebe at Brighton Marina, and at Worthing beach 10 Gadwalls on Apr 11, 50 Velvet Scoters on the same day, 9 Avocets, 138 Knot on Apr 24, 4009 Bar-tailed Godwits on Apr 24, and a total of 14 Great Skuas for the month. A Glaucous Gull was noted at Brighton Marina on Apr 29 with a Long-eared Owl in from the sea there on Apr 10. Passerine migration was unremarkable and included a Black Redstart at New Salts farm Apr 12 and a Grasshopper Warbler at Woods Mill Apr 25/26.

A yellow-billed tern, showing characteristics of Lesser Crested Tern moved E off Worthing beach on May 9 but, apart from this, sea watching during the month was poor with 14 Black-tailed Godwits, 1 Glaucous Gull, 9 Pomarine Skuas, a handful of Black Terns, and 2 Spotted Redshanks being memorable records. Raptors included single Marsh Harrier and Peregrine plus 2 Buzzards. A Savi's Warbler was reported from Watershall on May 8 and there were 7 records of Wood Warbler, more than is usual for spring.

June and July were, as usual, quiet. A Black-necked Grebe sat offshore at Worthing beach on Jun 6, a Spotted Redshank flew E there on Jun 2, and there were just 2 sightings of Manx Shearwater for the month. Up to 4 first-summer Mediterranean Gulls were on the River Adur (Shoreham) from Jun 12 to Jul 1, with another there Jul 23. A Little Stint was at



Widewater Jul 31 with a Black-tailed Godwit on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jul 3, and 35 Crossbills were noted during the month.

The highlight of August was the Black Stork over Cissbury on Aug 26, another addition to the area list. It was seen by one lucky observer (well done Clive!) and while the recorder was in Scotland, much to his chagrin. Raptors included 2 Marsh Harriers, and 1 Montagu's Harrier at Sompting on Aug 15 plus another Buzzard, 2 Merlins, and a Peregrine. Wader passage was unremarkable with single Little Ringed Plovers at Widewater, where there were also 9 Curlew Sandpipers and 2 Wood Sandpipers. 3 reports of Pied Flycatcher were received for late August, and Crossbill sightings continued with 27 for the month.

September was average to good, with a spread of raptors which included a Honey Buzzard at Wild Park on Sep 1, a single Marsh Harrier and 2 Hen Harriers, 4 Buzzards, 1 Peregrine, and an Osprey (at Sompting on Sep 17). Waders included 7 Knot on R. Adur with 4 at Goring beach, 4 records of Little Stint, and 7 Curlew Sandpipers on R. Adur with 10 at Widewater and 4 at Goring beach. The only Nightjar of the year was at Sompting on Sep 3 and a Hoopoe was at Hollingbury Camp Sep 14/15. Passerine migrants included a Black Redstart, 11 Ring Ouzels at Hollingbury on Sep 28, single Grasshopper Warbler and Firecrest. 6 records of Pied Flycatcher, plus a record Siskin movement at Goring, and 7 Crossbills for the month.

The bird of October was a Yellow-browed Warbler trapped at Cissbury on Oct 6, part of a small influx to southern and eastern counties at the time. However we still missed Radde's Warbler to the west of us (Selsey Bill) and Dusky Warbler, Pallas's Warbler and Red breasted Flycatcher to our east (Beachy Head). Keep looking, they'll turn up one day!

Also this month there were 4 Short eared Owls with 2 Peregrines, 3 Merlins and a Hen Harrier. A migrant Jack Snipe was at Hollingbury on Oct 20 and autumn's only Little Gull at Worthing beach was present on Oct 11. Interesting was a Woodlark at Cissbury on Oct 12, where there were also 10 Ring Ouzels on Oct 13. 4 Black Redstart records were received, plus 5 Firecrests, 5 Crossbills, and 8 Snow Buntings at Sompting on Oct 27.

By contrast November was quiet, highlights being 4 Long-tailed Ducks, 6 Shags, 2 Goosanders, 2 Merlins, 1 Hen Harrier and 2 Short-eared Owls. Forno apparent reason sightings improved in a still rather-mild December; sea ducks included 350 Common Scoter off Shoreham early in the month, with 1 Long-tailed Duck which remained into the new year, 10 Velvet Scoters and a party of 14 Scaup W at Worthing beach on Dec 21. It was another good month for raptor sightings, with 3 more Peregrines, 3 Merlins, 1 Hen Harrier, and a Goshawk. 80 Golden Plovers were on the Upper Adur levels on Dec 15, a Mediterranean Gull was at Goring Gap on Dec 11, and a Great Skua passed Worthing beach on Dec 23. On Dec 27, 3 Short-eared Owls were at Beeding brooks and passerines included 1 Black Redstart, 25 Tree Sparrows on the Upper Adur levels Dec 15, 27 Bramblings at Lower Standean on Dec 7, and to round off the year, a Snow Bunting at Shoreham harbour on Dec 6 with 2 which arrived at Goring beach on Dec 9 to stay into the new year.

Once again, many thanks to all observers who contributed records in 1991. A number of sites appear very regularly in the systematic list so this year I've broken precedent to highlight those observers who have put in a huge effort during this and previous years. Grateful thanks then, to John Newnham for keeping and supplying seawatch data from Worthing beach; Peter Whitcomb for accumulating the Hollingbury records; the Champion family for their winter counts and breeding season surveys of the Brighton parks and Devil's Dyke; Paul Brayshaw for his consistent work with migrants at Sompting; Keith Noble of RSPB for the plethora of Adur Valley records; Mike Russell of Sussex Wildlife Trust for the Woods Mill summary; and Ralph Simpson for his vast pile of records which took me an eternity to log!

1991 was a record year for volumes of records; let's beat it in 1992!

Dave Smith (Hon Recorder)

----oooOOOooo----



## **SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1991**

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

P. Allen, S.R Allen, M.I. Banks, R.J. Bayne, Mrs V. Bently, P & M Brayshaw, C. Brooks, G.L M.L. & N.J. Champion, B.R. Clay, P.J. Clay, S. Curzon, R. Edney, G.V. Edwards, R. Emery, R.J. Fairbank, J.A. Feast, A.R. Fenton, B.F Forbes, C.J. Fox, N.A. Gearty, M.P. Hall, R. Hartfree, C.E. Hope, R.A. Ives, Mrs H. Jackson, D. King, R. Knight, I. Lawes, G.T.J. Martin, J.M. Maskell, S.F. Maskell, B. Metcalfe, V. Maynard-Smith, Dr. J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, R.J. Noble, M.G. Prince, M. Russell, D. Sadler, R.J. Sandison, R. Simpson, D.I. Smith, Mr & Mrs J. Steedman, H. Sturnam, W. Turner, R.L. Westwater, A.R. Whitcomb, P.J. Whitcomb, I.J. Whitcomb, H.M.V. Wilson, W. Woodford.

See also acknowledgements in the seawatching report.

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

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

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

Hours watched:-	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
Worthing Beach	11	6	41	96	89	20	13
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Total
	6	28	25	10	17		362

1. **RED-THROATED DIVER** Recorded at Worthing beach between Jan and May 6 and again after Oct 27, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	3	-	2	18	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	15
W	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	13

Peak movements were 6E on Apr 27 & 8E on Dec 26. Offshore, 4 were noted on Feb 19 and Dec 8, 2 on Dec 28 and 1 on Apr 30.

Away from this site there were singles at Southwick canal, Shoreham harbour and Widewater on 3 dates in Jan, 5 in Feb, and 5 in Mar, & 2 were present in Shoreham harbour on Mar 2. A single was recorded off Widewater on Apr 28, and 3 off Goring 27 Oct.

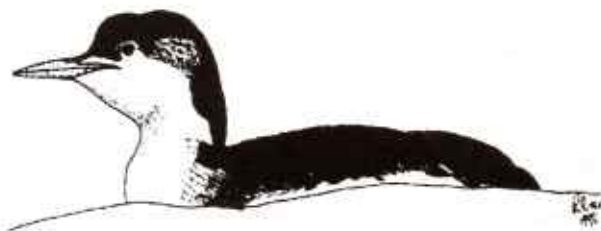
2. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** The monthly totals from Worthing beach were:-

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

Last for the spring were 2E on May 9, and the first for the autumn was 1W on Nov 13. Peak movements were 3E on Apr 25 and 5E on Dec 7  
1 was fishing off Goring beach on 27 Oct.

3. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** Only a couple of confirmed records of this species, by far the rarest of our divers, in 1991; 1 off Brighton 23 Mar. & 1 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 9 (JC/RJF).

A report of 1 off Widewater on Dec 28 awaits written confirmation.



*Great Northern Diver*

**DIVER SP.** Divers not specifically identified were recorded, mainly from Worthing beach. The monthly totals there were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	7	3	30	56	20	-	-	-	-	1	12	40
W	11	2	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	6	29

Peak movements were 13E Apr 24 and 13E Apr 25 with 5E 16W on Dec 7. Away from this site 6 flew E off Shoreham beach on Nov 24, and the only records from Brighton Marina were 4E on Apr 29 and 6E on Dec 2.

6. **LITTLE GREBE** In the early months 1 was at Brooklands on Jan 16 with 2 there on Jan 23, & a single was at Brighton Marina on Jan 19. The harsh spell in February brought up to 6 on the Lower Adur between Feb 7 and Feb 23 and there were 3 on Southwick Canal Feb 6 to Feb 25, with 1 at New Salts farm on Feb 23. March records included 2 at Southwick Canal on 14th, 1 on R. Adur (Steyning) on Mar 7, & 1 at Clay's Field Pond Steyning, all month.

There were no breeding records. In autumn there was a single at Brooklands on Sep 12 & 18 but the species was not reported again until 1 at New Salts farm on Nov 12 and 2 on R. Adur (Steyning) on Nov 13. In December, 2 were on R. Adur (Cuckoo's Corner) on Dec 14, 4 just south of there on Dec 21, 1 at Southwick Canal Dec 24-26, & 1 on a pond near Ferring Rife all month.

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

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

As can be seen, few noted there in 1991. Offshore, 2 in Feb, 10 in March, 5 in April, 1 in May, and 5 in December.

Away from this site, in the early months 15 were offshore Shoreham harbour to Widewater on Feb 13, between 2 and 4 in Shoreham harbour/ Southwick canal during February, & like numbers off Goring/Ferring beaches to the end of April.

Numbers started to build toward the year's end, with 15 off Lancing beach on Dec 21, 6 off Goring beach on Dec 14, & up to 5 off Widewater all month.



8. **RED-NECKED GREBE** The only record was of 1 in s.p. off Widewater on Mar 23 (RS).

**1990** 1 offshore Worthing Jan 20 and 1 on River Adur at Bramber Mar 12.

9. **SLAVONIAN GREBE** A poor year, with just 8 records. These were singles off Widewater on Feb 13, 2 there Feb 16, and 1 on Lower Adur on Feb 21 with 2 offshore Widewater on Mar 23 with 4 there on Mar 24. The only late-year records were 2 off Goring beach Oct 27 and 1W at Worthing beach on Dec 22.

10. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** After none in 1990 there were three records in 1991. These were all of singles, at Worthing beach on Mar 29 (PMB), Brighton Marina on Apr 10 (GLC) and off Worthing beach again on Jun 6 (JAN). All records have been forwarded to SOS.



*Slavonian Grebe*

*Black-necked Grebe*

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	1	17	195	101	7	1	-	1	-	-	-
W	4	-	21	160	56	37	-	5	2	1	-	3

January birds were 3W Jan 1 & 1W Jan 2. Peak movements were 12E 28W Apr 4, 38E 16W Apr 21, and 32E 37W Apr 25. Other records involved 1W Brighton Marina Jan 25, and inland, 1E over W Worthing on May 28.

17. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** None were recorded in 1991.

18. **MANX SHEARWATER** A very poor year with just 2 records: singles W at Worthing beach on Jun 9 and Jun 13.

23. **LEACH'S PETREL** 1 after the gales on R. Adur at Shoreham between the road and railway bridges on Jan 2 (SRA,AB,KN) was the first since 1987 for the area.

25. **GANNET** Unusually not recorded in every month at Worthing beach as the following table of monthly totals shows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	106	91	15	10	1	116	17	4	1
W	-	1	-	32	64	167	47	3	59	135	3	46

Peak movements were 62E 9W on Apr 25, 34E 2W on May 7, 90W on Jun 23, 107E 35W on Sep 28, and 38W on Oct 16. Additionally, 35 were feeding offshore there on Jun 22 with 11 on Jun 23.

The only reports away from this site were 3W Brighton Marina May 1 and 3E Widewater Aug 17. An unringed adult was found dead in a field at Goring Gap in December.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	5	11	3	12	4	4	4	10	1	-	-
W	-	-	17	-	14	2	3	1	11	36	6	2

There were 28 offshore there on Sep 26 & 38 on Sep 6.

Counts of the pylon roost at Wyckham farm were received for the latter half of the year: 40 Jul, 55 Aug, 60 Sep, 133 Oct, 180 Nov, 108 Dec. Other counts included 49 at Southwick on Feb 16, 29NE over Shoreham Airport on Mar 27, 38 off Brooklands on Sep 6, 40 off Goring beach on Oct 27, 45N Widewater on Nov 17, and 55 opposite Brooklands on Dec 15. At Woods Mill there were singles on Dec 29 and 31; additionally 17 flew over there on Oct 29.

27. **SHAG** In the early months 4 were at Southwick canal on Jan 12 with singles Jan 13 and Feb 3, 1 at Brooklands on Jan 6, and singles off Widewater and Shoreham harbour on Feb 16. On spring passage, 4E at Worthing beach on May 5 with 3E there May 6, 1W May 9, and at Brighton Marina 1E on Mar 23. In the later months all records for Nov, with 2 off Widewater on Nov 10, 1 in Shoreham harbour Nov 13, and 3 at Brighton Marina on Nov 22.

37. **LITTLE EGRET** None recorded in 1991.

39. **HERON** As usual, the largest numbers outside the breeding season were from New Salts farm/Adur saltings where between 5 and 10 were present. Aug to Dec. Noted at Worthing beach with 1W Mar 15, 3E Apr 26, 1E May 24, 1W Oct 1 and 2W Nov 24. Regularly recorded at Woods Mill during the year, mostly

singles but up to 3 in the frog spawn season. Otherwise just scattered singles in flight over the area, these being most regularly recorded at Ferring Rife.



*Black Stork*

**BLACK STORK** 1 flew W over Cissbury Ring at 09.45 hrs on Aug 26 (CEH). If accepted by the BBRC, the first record for our area.

46. **MUTE SWAN** Counts of the Wyckham farm herd on the Upper Adur levels included 46 on Jan 1, 33 on Jan 5, 38 on Jan 27, and 33 on Dec 15.

In the breeding season, 1 pr raised 6 young at Patching Pond, 1 pr raised 4 young at Widewater, 1 pr bred New Salts farm & there were pairs at Northbrook pond (W. Durrington), Storrington Mill Pond, and Woods Mill.

Again all sea watch records were for September with 3E Worthing beach Sep 13, 1E there Sep 20, & 2 offshore on Sep 26. The only other count received was 18 on R. Adur on Sep 22.

47. **BEWICK'S SWAN** In the early months the usual rather complex picture emerged from the Upper Adur levels, where from Jan 1 to Mar 26 between 6 & 60 individuals noted, and including up to 12 juveniles. High counts from Wyckham farm, where 60 present on Feb 17 included 29 newly arrived from the north; 54 on Feb 16; and 46 on Jan 27. Numbers tailed off in Mar, the last reports being of 4 at Wyckham farm on Mar 24 and 4 at Stretham bridge on Mar 26.

Just one record from the Upper Adur levels in late autumn; 9 including one juvenile there on Dec 15.

50. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** 17, probably of this species flew south-east over Goring during hard weather on Feb 14 (DIS).



51. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** The only record was of 2 moving east at night, calling, over Goring on Mar 9 (DIS). This was part of a substantial nocturnal movement of waders, geese, and thrushes.

**GREY GOOSE SPECIES** Grey geese not specifically identified included 20 in fields near Lancing Ring on Feb 10 (BFF) and 1E Worthing beach Apr 21.

55. **CANADA GOOSE** Few reports in 1991, and all of low numbers. Singles flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 27, Apr 28 and May 5. There were 2 at Storrington Mill pond on Feb 23, 2 at Wyckham farm on Feb 24 with 1 on Mar 24, and 2 flew SE over the Adur Rec. on Feb 16. A pair at Woods Mill raised 5 young. There were no autumn/late year records.

57. **BRENT GOOSE** Noted from Worthing beach up to May 15 and again after Sep 28, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	91	442	1318	427	116	-	-	-	1	16	102	89
W	16	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	60	1526	260	39

Peak movements were 442E on Feb 24, 350E on Mar 9, 229E on Mar 13, 525E (in 20 minutes) on Mar 15, 770 W on Oct 20, and 329W on Oct 27.

Other coastal records included a hard-weather movement of 1000E at Lancing beach on Feb 13, 140E Widewater on Feb 23, 635E Widewater Mar 9, and 116E Brighton Marina Feb 13.

4 flew over Goring at night Mar 9, calling. Inland records involved 4 over R. Adur (Shoreham) on Oct 8, 3 over Adur Rec on Oct 11, and 14 over Upper Adur levels on Oct 10.

61. **SHELDUCK** In the early months up to 13 were present on Lower Adur during hard weather from Feb 8 to Feb 23, and 1 was at Widewater on Jan 6.

The monthly totals for Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	45	66	50	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	2	29	6	14	18	-	-	-	4	11	17	1

Peak movements were 38E on Mar 13 and 28E 3W on May 9. Interestingly, 3 were at Sandgate Park (Washington) on May 31.

64. **WIGEON** A better showing than in 1990, partly due to the February freeze, 40 were on the lower Adur on Feb 13 with 15 on Feb 16, 31 were at Wyckham farm on Feb 17, 3 flew NW over Ferring Rife on Feb 9, & 1 was on the Upper Adur levels at Steyning on Feb 10.

Recorded at Worthing beach in 8 months of the year, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	35	1	7	3	-	-	-	5	24	-	2
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	99	11	2	-

Peak movements were a party of 72W on Sep 28 and 23W on Sep 29. Scattered records received for the later months with 2 at Brooklands on Sep 26, 6 on Lower Adur on Dec 14, and 6 at the Sussex Pad on Dec 30.

67. **GADWALL** A better showing than usual with 2 on the Lower Adur on Feb 11, 2 at Wyckham farm on Feb 11 with 6 there on Feb 17, and at Worthing beach 2E on Mar 4, 10E on Apr 11, and 2E at Widewater also April 11.

The only late year record involved 2 at New Salts farm on Dec 21.

69. **TEAL** In the early months there were 200 at Wyckham farm on Feb 17 with 70 there Feb 24, reducing to 34 on Mar 9. Additionally 45 on Upper Adur levels (King's Barn) on Feb 10, 11W Brighton Marina Feb 7, 5 Ferring Rife Feb 7, and 6 Shoreham Airport Feb 16. A male was present at Woods Mill on Mar 31.

Noted in 7 months from the seawatch log at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	65	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	1	3

Peak movements were 20W Feb 8, 24E Mar 3, and 38E Mar 4. Later in the year there was a male at Widewater on Nov 18, and 22 at Wiston on Dec 31.

70. **MALLARD** Noted in 5 months of the year at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	Jun	Sep	Oct
E	7	7	-	-	4
W	-	-	1	4	16

4 pairs bred at Woods Mill but none bred at Storrington Mill pond, the first time in 10 years. Other counts were from Widewater with 24W on Aug 23, 40 there on Aug 24, and 61 on Aug 29, and Lower Adur levels with 42 on Dec 2.

72. **PINTAIL** A scattering of records in harsh weather during Feb; between 1 and 3 on Lower Adur levels Feb 9 to Feb 16 with 7 over there on the latter date; 6 Wyckham farm on Feb 17 with 1 there Mar 9; 2W Ferring beach on Feb 8; 1 King's Barn, Steyning on Feb 10; and a possibly injured male beside the by-pass south of Bramber on Mar 31. The only records from Worthing beach were 10E on Mar 4, and a total 2E 1W during Oct.

In the later months 1 on Lower Adur Oct 12 & 9 flew W at Ferring on Nov 10.

73. **GARGANEY** 2 flew E together at Worthing beach on Mar 29.

75. **SHOVELER** As with the other marsh ducks, all significant early-year records from Feb; 5 were on Lower Adur on Feb 11 with 4 on Feb 12 and 4 in Shoreham harbour Feb 12, perhaps the same; on the same day 1 was at Ferring Rife. Between Feb 17 & Feb 24 4 were at Wyckham farm.

Recorded in 5 months of the year at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Oct	Dec
E	54	23	1	5	-
W	-	2	1	-	1

Peak movements were 30E on Mar 3 and 18E 2W on Apr 24.

76. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** The usual washed-out escape, present from 1987 at Brooklands, was again there all year but was joined by another male on 27 Oct (where did that one come from?).

77. **POCHARD** The maximum monthly counts from the traditional sites of Widewater and Brooklands were:-

	Jan	Feb	Nov	Dec
Widewater	22	22	21	23
Brooklands	14	30	7	n.c.

These counts show some duplication as, on occasion during the year this species and Tufted Duck were seen flying from the direction of Widewater to land on Brooklands.

The hard weather movement in Feb brought a number of sightings; 20 offshore at Widewater on Feb 9 may have been the same 20 on the R. Adur at Shoreham



on Feb 12, 16 remaining until Feb 13 & 8 to Feb 14, and there were 4 at Brighton Marina on Feb 9.

Miscellaneous records were 2E at Worthing beach on Apr 11 and 9 offshore at Shoreham beach on Dec 2.

80. **TUFTED DUCK** Maxima at Widewater were 5 in both Jan & Feb, and 10 in Nov and Dec; and at Brooklands 8 in Feb, 2 in Sep, and 11 in Dec.

Other early year records were up to 10 on R. Adur at Shoreham Feb 9 to Feb 12, and in Shoreham harbour/Southwick canal up to 9 Feb 13 to Feb 27. At Worthing beach 2E Mar 30, 1E Apr 25, and 1E May 13.

9 were at Patching Pond on Mar 29, and breeding may have taken place as pairs were present there on May 9 and at Northbrook pond, Durrington on May 12.

81. **SCAUP** The individual reported in 1990 at Brooklands remained there to at least Jan 23. An influx after this date caused by hard weather when 3 on R. Adur at Shoreham Feb 14 to 21, up to 4 Southwick canal/Shoreham harbour Feb 10 to Feb 27. 3 at Brighton Marina Feb 9 with 4 on Feb 11, a single at Widewater and Brooklands on Feb 23, and 4E Worthing beach on Mar 4.



*Scaup*

In the later months, 1 off Shoreham beach on Oct 28 may have been that with Common Scoters on Dec 5 & Dec 8. On Dec 21 a party of 14 flew W at Worthing beach (DIS), one of the largest groups to have been recorded in the area, and included several adult males.

82. **EIDER** The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	1	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	31
W	2	-	-	6	1	-	9	8	2	-	-	14

Offshore there were singles on Feb 9 and Mar 9 with 6 on Aug 25 and 6 on Dec 28.

Away from this site the only early record was 1 in Shoreham harbour on Jan 6. 1 was off Widewater Aug 17 to 29 and Sep 14. In the later months a slightly oiled bird was off Widewater on Oct 6 & up to 8 were seen off there late November through December. Some of these may have been duplicated with the flock of up to 20 off Shoreham harbour from Dec 7 to Dec 29.

86. **LONG-TAILED DUCK** A good year. Early year records involved 1E at Brighton Marina on Feb 23 (GLC), 1E at Widewater on Feb 2 (GLC), and 2 in Shoreham harbour Feb 13 (BFF) which later flew W, there were also 2 seen at Brighton Marina on Feb 17. Later in the year 3W at Widewater on Nov 3 (KN) & 1E at Worthing beach on Dec 7. A male, first noted off Widewater on Nov 23 (VMS) remained there or at Shoreham beach into the new year.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	43	1735	1200	122	30	-	24	11	50	49
W	-	3	2	6	125	50	7	8	3	17	20	33

Peak movements were 643E Apr 21, 329E 4W Apr 25, and 456E 70W May 11. 35 were offshore there on Feb 19. At Brighton Marina 325E May 7 to May 11.

In February a scattering of small groups from several coastal sites, the largest being 6 off Widewater on Feb 16.

There was an exceptional concentration off Lancing beach green to Shoreham beach in the later months. After 27 on Oct 23 the flock grew to 256 on Dec 7, with a maximum count for the month of 350 (SRA). Additionally 60 were off Brighton on Nov 2.

89. **VELVET SCOTER** Noted in four months off Worthing beach, the totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	65	1	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	3	-	2

Peak movements were 50E on Apr 11, 9E on Apr 21, & the last of the spring 1E on May 11. Additionally 25E at Widewater on Apr 11. Between 10 and 15 associated with the Common Scoter flock off Lancing Beach Green/Shoreham harbour from Oct 27 to at least Dec 16, 5 being present into the new year. There were 6 between Brighton Marina and Palace Pier on Nov 17.

91. **GOLDENEYE** A better year after just 2 singles in 1990. In the early months 5E at Widewater on Feb 7, 2E Ferring beach Feb 8, and singles at Worthing beach and Brighton Marina on Feb 9. After 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 7 and 6 on Feb 9, the group grew to 13 on Feb 13 reducing to 10 on Feb 16. In the later months 2E at Shoreham beach on Nov 23, and 2 (including a male) remained at Brooklands from Dec 21 into the new year.

93. **SMEW** 3, all "redheads", were on R. Adur at Cuckoo's Corner from 9 to 21 February, during hard weather.

94. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** In the early months there were 10 off Widewater on Feb 13 and 20 off Goring Gap on Mar 2. The monthly totals at Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	20	7	95	107	6	-	-	-	-	7	1	23
W	35	-	14	24	2	-	-	-	-	10	19	31

Peak movements were 23E 9W Mar 31 and 27E 8W Apr 24. Maxima offshore there were- Jan 3; Feb 20; Mar 30; Apr 15; May 3; Nov 5; and Dec 5. There was a record of 80 off Goring beach on Dec 28.

95. **GOOSANDER** Only one record from the February freeze, a single male E at Brighton Marina on Feb 9. The only other record for the year was 2W Worthing beach on Nov 20.

97. **HONEYBUZZARD** 1 at Wild Park on Sep 1 (PJW et al). Details have been sent to SOS.

99. **RED KITE** 1 over R. Adur at Shoreham on Jan 21 (KN/AJN). 1 was recorded at Ditchling Beacon on Dec 13. Details sent to SOS.

The record for last year at Steyning Round Hill was on Aug 17.

103. **MARSH HARRIER** A better year, after only one in 1990 (see below). In spring 1 was recorded off Lancing beach on May 5 followed by a female or immature NE over Findon Valley on May 30 (RJS) & in autumn 1N at Sompting on Aug 12 (PMB), and several sightings of one on the Downs between Sompting & Steyning Aug 25-26 (PMB/CEH/KN). The last was a juvenile E then N at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 28 (PJW). All details sent to SOS.

**1990** The only record for last year (not included in last year's report) was 1 at Steyning Round Hill on May 20.



104. **HEN HARRIER** As for Marsh Harrier, a better year. There were six records, as follows:- 1 'ringtail' at Upper Adur levels on Mar 14; 1 male W at Woods Mill on Sep 20, the first record for the reserve; 1 'ringtail' N at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 28 with the same or another there on Oct 26; a 'ringtail' W at Cissbury Ring on Nov 17, and lastly a male SE at the same site on Dec 9.



*Hen Harrier*

105. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** 1W over Sompting on Aug 15 (PMB) has been sent to SOS.

107. **GOSHAWK** A probable wintering male was seen at a site in the area in December.

108. **SPARROWHAWK** Again, well reported during the year, especially from urban areas. In the early months (Jan to Mar) mainly singles noted from 15 sites, with 2 at Wild Park in Jan.

During the breeding season 2 pairs bred successfully in the Findon Valley/West Cissbury area, 1 pr at Withdean, 1 pr (unsuccessfully) at Wild Park & 1 pr bred Bevendean. Probable breeding occurred at a further 6 sites.

2 were at Cissbury on Oct 12, 2 at Withdean in Oct, 2 Preston Park in Nov and 2 Patcham in Dec, and 2 at Bevendean & Brighton Cemetery Nov/Dec were the only multiple sightings. Singles were recorded from 7 sites.

109. **BUZZARD** The usual scattering of sightings through the year, all involving singles, at Patching Pond on Jan 21, Hollingbury Camp on Mar 6, Mill Hill on Apr 29, and Woods Mill on May 10 and May 23. In autumn singles at Cissbury on Sep 14 and Sep 17, Long Furlong on Aug 12, and Sompting on Sep 8, Sep 29, and Oct 13.

113. **OSPREY** 1 flew E over Sompting on Sep 17 (PMB). Details sent to SOS.

**1990** 1 in off the sea at Brighton Marina May 7.

115. **KESTREL** Noted from 31 localities during the year (one less than 1990!), mostly involving breeding birds or singles but 3 at Wildpark in Feb, 2 at Withdean Park in Feb, 8E at Sompting in Sep and 4E there in Oct, and 3 at Ferring Rife on Oct 13.

Details of 13 confirmed breeding pairs were received which raised a minimum of 15 young; these include one found on the ground under a nest box at Woods Mill, which was hand reared & later released on Brighton racecourse. Additionally a further 5 pairs probably bred, with the species being well-recorded during the breeding season in 6 more sites. For the third year running 40% of breeding pairs were in urban or semi-urban areas.

118. **MERLIN** There were 10 records for the year, although some duplications could be involved. These were all singles, at Coombes on Feb 13, Sompting on Aug 12 and Aug 27, Widewater on Oct 6, Wildpark on Oct 20, 1 W Worthing beach on the same date, Cissbury on Oct 6, King's Barn (Steyning) on Nov 4, River Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 12 and Dec 8, Sompting brooks on Dec 14, and Beeding Hill on Dec 30. Of interest only 2 were identified as males.

119. **HOBBY** The first of the year were singles at Woods Mill on May 4 and Brooklands on May 8. Recorded spring to autumn from 10 localities, the monthly totals were:- May 4; Jun 5; Jul 2; Aug 5; Sep 4; Oct 1. No confirmed breeding but the summer distribution suggests a possible 3 pairs. The last of the year was 1 at Wildpark on Oct 1.

123. **PEREGRINE FALCON** An excellent year for sightings of this species, no doubt reflecting its growing breeding population in Britain. An early-year record was 1 at Shoreham harbour on Jan 6 (DS) but not seen again until singles E at Brighton Marina on May 6 (RJF), 1 there May 9, 1 offshore there May 18, and W at Brighton on Jun 24 (RAI).

Most records, however, were from the autumn/late year period and were all of singles; over Lancing on Aug 8 (BFF), south at Wildpark on Sep 9 (IJW), E at Hollingbury Camp (PJW) on Oct 20, W at Lancing and Sompting brooks on Dec 4 (MNB/PMB), and at Beeding brooks (KN/RJN) and Worthing beach (RAI/JAN) on Dec 26.

**1990** 1 at Steyning Round Hill Mar 24.

129. **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** At least one observer reported "not seen this year in SDOS area" & very few were reported, perhaps due to the dilution of the population by Chukar releases.

A pair bred at Devil's Dyke & 2 were in the car park at Woods Mill on May 14, the first record for the reserve. Unusually, one was on Hove seafront on May 9.

130. **GREY PARTRIDGE** Peak covey sizes were 15+ at Steepdown on Apr 3, 10 by Goring railway station Feb 9, 13 Wildpark during Feb, and 10 No Man's Land Nov 26. Breeding records were 3 pairs at Goring Gap, a pair of which had 2 young on Sep 2; 2 prs Cissbury included 1 pr with young on Aug 21, & at least 1 pair Wildpark & 2 prs Devil's Dyke. Smaller coveys were reported from a further 3 sites during the year.

131. **QUAIL** None were reported during 1991.

**PHEASANT** 300+ were present at Michelgrove during the year. Regular at Woods Mill with an albino there on Apr 25. Single pairs bred at Wildpark and Devil's Dyke.

136. **WATER RAIL** More than usual noted in the early months due to hard weather. 3 were at King's Barn (Steyning) on Feb 13 with singles there Feb 19 and Feb 23, & singles were at Cuckoo's Corner on Feb 7, New Salts farm on Feb 8, Coombes on Feb 11 and Cuckoo's Corner again on Feb 14. Interesting was 1 at Broadmere Common Apr 24. The only autumn record was 1 at the Mumbles (Steyning) on Oct 12.

142. **MOORHEN** Counts included 25 at Clays Field pond, Steyning on Feb 6 with 20-25 there in Dec, and 23 at Brooklands on Dec 26. Breeding records including 1 pr which raised 8 young at Storrington Mill pond, 4 prs Woods Mill, & a singleton feeding a juvenile near Ferring Rife on Sep 29.

145. **COOT** Maxima at Brooklands were 60 in Jan, 21 in Sep, and 56 in Dec. Breeding records involved 2 prs with 3/4 young at Patching pond, 1 pr with 2 young Northbrook pond, Durrington on May 12, and 1 pr with 4 young at Sandgate park on May 4. There were 6 on Patching pond on Dec 24.

151. **OYSTERCATCHER** Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	13	49	37	8	-	3	12	11	4	-
W	5	3	44	-	2	19	1	4	-	-

Beach counts were 20 at Worthing beach on Sep 10 and 37 at Ferring beach on Nov 16. Small numbers noted from R. Adur (Shoreham), mainly in the last 5 months of the year and varying between 2 and 10 individuals. 3 were on Southwick harbour arm on Dec 24, where unusual.



153. **AVOCET** The only records were from Worthing beach where 7E on Mar 7, 1E Apr 1, and 8E Apr 25.

154. **STONE CURLEW** 1 answering to a tape call in the Adur Valley on May 29.

158. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** A single noted at an inland site on May 26, and a pair there Jun 4. In autumn there were singles at Widewater on Aug 21 & Aug 25.

159. **RINGED PLOVER** The following represent monthly maximum counts from R. Adur (Shoreham) and the Goring wader roost:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	53	58	10	16	9	5	27	180	180	220	nc	nc
Goring	120	71	7	nc	nc	nc	nc	65	119	193	112	140

Monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	3	24	52	-	-	-	14
W	-	-	-	-	5	41	4

Peak movements were an unremarkable 13E on Apr 25, and 30W on Aug 27. The only breeding record was a pair which raised 3 young at Widewater.

Other counts included 40 Worthing beach Aug 20, 61 Widewater Aug 26, 75 at Ferring Sep 26, 46 Brighton Marina Nov 2, and 125 Shoreham beach on Nov 24. Inland, 1 was at Wildpark on Aug 11.

163. **DOTTEREL** 1 just outside our area at Woodingdean May 26 to 28.

165. **GOLDEN PLOVER** Early year records were 3 on Upper Adur levels Jan 7, 2 at New Salts farm Jan 12, & 52W at Worthing beach on Mar 8. The remainder of sightings were in Dec, with 2 on the Downs at Sompting on Dec 8, 3 south over Steyning on Dec 15 and 80 on the Upper Adur levels on this latter date.

166. **GREY PLOVER** Monthly maxima for R. Adur (Shoreham) and Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur		1	18	0	-	1	-	3	6	6
Goring		15	150	0	-	9	21	57	112	190

Noted from the seawatch log at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	42	13	74	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
W	4	-	-	-	3	11	-	1	1	1	6	-

Inland, an unusual record of 1 over Chantry Post with Lapwings on Mar 7.

169. **LAPWING** Maximum counts in the early months were 1500 New Salts farm on Jan 3 reducing to 218 on Jan 26, 750 Upper Adur levels on Jan 7, and in February hard weather 2,000 over Shoreham on Feb 6 and 69W at Worthing beach on Feb 9. No breeding season records were received. Post-breeding flocks included 57 at New Salts farm on Jul 4, with 205 there on Aug 15.

Late year counts included 445 at New Salts farm on Oct 26, 450 at King's Barn on Oct 30 with 270 there Nov 13; 1,000 at New Salts Nov 24, 800 Upper Adur levels on Nov 27, 200 Ferring Rife Dec 23 & Dec 28, 830 Shoreham airport Dec 2, 2,000 Lower Adur Dec 21, and 150 Highdown Hill Dec 22.

170. **KNOT** Early year records were 2 R.Adur (Shoreham) Feb 5 with 3 there Feb 6, and 1 at Shoreham beach on Feb 9. At Worthing beach the monthly totals were 140 in Apr, with 138E on Apr 24; 3 in May, and 2 in Sep.

In autumn/late year at R. Adur (Shoreham) the first was a single on Aug 24-26 followed by 3 on Sep 3, 5 on Sep 4 and 7 Sep 5; apart from 3 on Sep 13, just 2 singles there during the month, with singles also on Nov 6, Nov 12, and Dec 1. Away from this site there were 2 at Goring beach on Sep 12 with 4 there on Sep 16 and 2 again on Oct 23, and 1 at Widewater on Aug 15.

171. **SANDERLING** The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	50	52	386	13	-	-	-	-
W	-	1	87	-	-	1	5	-

Peak movements were 34E Apr 28, 151E 4W May 25 and 41E May 26. The last for the spring were 2E on June 8.

Monthly maxima at Goring wader roost were:- Jan 8, Feb 32, Mar 179, Apr 107, Sep 8, Oct 66, Nov 81, Dec 66. At R. Adur (Shoreham) maximum counts were 10 on Jun 17 with 7 on Jun 20 & still 1 on Jun 24; 2 on Jul 19, 1 on Jul 23, and 1 on Sep 3. Miscellaneous beach counts were 27 Widewater beach Mar 30 with smaller numbers there during April and Aug, and 14 Ferring beach on Jun 11.

175. **LITTLE STINT** All records from the autumn with 1 at Widewater on Jul 31, 2 there Sep 3 to Sep 5, and 1 on Sep 8. Singles were on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 3 and at Goring beach on Sep 7 & 8, with 4 there on Sep 11.

**1990** 1 at Worthing beach on May 3.

182. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** The only spring record was 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on May 8-9. In autumn, 2 at Widewater on Aug 20 increased to 9 on Aug 26, 7 on Sep 5, 10 on Sep 10, reducing to 6 on Sep 11. On R. Adur at Shoreham during this period 1 on Sep 3 then 7 on Sep 4, 1 Sep 12, 3 Sep 17 & 2 Sep 22. The only other records were 4 at Goring beach on Sep 8, with 5 there on Sep 11 & 3 on Sep 27.

183. **PURPLE SANDPIPER** The 2 at Shoreham harbour on Jan 3 were undoubtedly the same as those on Southwick beach Jan 25 and Jan 30. Possibly different was 1 at Shoreham harbour on Feb 21. In the later months a now-rare record of 1 at Goring beach with a single there Nov 5, and at Shoreham harbour 1 on Dec 7 with 2 on Dec 26.

184. **DUNLIN** Monthly maxima from R. Adur and Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	444	541	15	10	9	7	43	50	5	nc	nc	372
Gor.	610	215	37	-	-	-	-	-	21	42	320	594

At Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	80	57	77	1	-	-	18	-	-	-
W	2	21	7	1	-	1	5	48	3	-

Feeding flocks at Worthing beach were 30 in Jan, 110 in Feb, and 30 in Aug. 5 were still present in s.p. at Widewater on May 25, and at this site 25 on Jul 28 increased to 61 on Aug 10, 82 on Aug 26 but reducing to 13 on Aug 31. Other records involved 8 R. Adur (Steyning) on Feb 10, and at King's Barn between 4 & 8 present Nov 3 to Dec 8. Late counts at Widewater were 25 on Sep 29 and 20 on Nov 3.

188. **RUFF** Between 2 and 4 present at Widewater in hard weather Feb 9 to Feb 18, and at New Salts farm there were 2 on Feb 11, 5 on Feb 21, and 2 on Mar 18. 3 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 12 may have been the Widewater birds. 7 were at Shoreham airport Mar 2. At Worthing beach 5E May 30 but no more were reported after this date.



189. **JACK SNIPE** The first of the year was 1 at Ferring Rife on Jan 10. This was followed by a small hard-weather influx in Feb, with 1 Sanctuary Feb 7, 3 Cuckoo's Corner Feb 7-9, and singles King's Barn Feb 10 and Feb 19. 2 were on the Upper Adur levels (Stretham Manor) on Mar 24. The only records for the autumn were 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 20.

190. **SNIPE** January records involved 10 at King's Barn on Jan 1 with 90 on Jan 27, 20 there on Feb 20 included 2 dead. 25 were counted from Upper Beeding to Stretham on Jan 1. February brought an influx to many local sites and included 36 Stretham to Henfield Feb 2, 15 at Fletcher's Croft stream, Steyning Feb 14 for 1 week, 23W at Brighton Marina on Feb 7, up to 13 on Ferring Rife Feb 2 to Feb 20, and up to 5 Woods Mill Feb 7 to Feb 14. 1 was at Southwick Green on Feb 13.

Fewer reported in autumn, with 1 Sompting Sep 22, 3 R. Adur (Shoreham) Nov 24, 40 King's Barn (Steyning) Nov 9 increasing to 65 on Dec 1 reducing to 25 on Dec 24, and singles at Hollingbury Camp Sep 3 and Cissbury Nov 17. Up to 6 were at Ferring Rife during Dec.

194. **WOODCOCK** A major influx to mainly coastal town parks and gardens, and to any unfrozen water during the hard spell in February when between Feb 8 and Feb 22 a total of 27 were reported. These were mainly singles except for 4 at Ferring Rife on Feb 14, 2/3 Bramber Castle moat on Feb 10, and 2 in a Broadwater garden Feb 9.

None were recorded in the breeding season. In autumn there were singles at Wildpark on Oct 21, Oct 27, Nov 20, and Dec 29 whilst at Sompting there were 2 on Oct 11 and 4 on Dec 4. On Nov 17, 2 were flushed at Cissbury and 1 was at the Mumbles (Steyning).

195. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** Still an unusual wader in our area, there were just 4 records for the year; 1 flew N at Brooklands on Feb 7, 10 flew E at Worthing on May 11, with 2E on May 22 in the company of 2 Spotted Redshanks. 1 was on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jul 3.

196. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** Still maintains its status as by far the commoner Godwit in our area. Monthly totals at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E		1	-	148	1037	1	-	-	-	9	-	-
W		-	-	-	21	1	2	2	14	-	-	-

Peak movements were a superb 4009E on Apr 24, a record day total; 272E on Apr 28, 225E on Apr 27, and 241E on May 4.

In the early months there were 2 on Ferring beach on Jan 12 with 4 on Feb 14. Small numbers noted on R. Adur (Shoreham) during the year with 1 on Apr 6, 8 on May 4, 3 on May 8, & in autumn 1 on Sep 12/13, 9 on Sep 15, 6 on Oct 10, and 1 on Dec 21.

An unusual concentration appeared in autumn when 67 were at Goring wader roost on Sep 14, 57 there on Oct 10, reducing to 19 on Oct 28 and 11 on Dec 21. Most of these birds could be seen at low tide on the Goring/Ferring beaches where feeding must have undoubtedly been good.

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

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	17	212	230	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	8	7	-	2	1	-	-

Peak movements were 12E on Mar 29, 102E on Apr 24, and 47E 2W on May 9. An unremarkable performance, especially in the autumn. Other spring records included 1 at Shoreham airport Apr 14, 3 at Shoreham on May 8, 4 Upper Adur levels (Beeding) on Apr 28, 12E at Brighton Marina May 11 and 3N at Waterhall on May 8.

In autumn reported from lower Adur with 3 on Jul 9, 1 on Jul 12, 2 on Jul 22 & singles Jul 23 & 29, 1 at Shoreham on Aug 3 with 2 on Aug 11. Away from this area 1 was at Goring Gap on Jul 27, 16 flew S over Lancing on Aug 2, and 6 were at Ferring beach on Oct 5.

199. **CURLEW** As usual the majority were seen during seawatches at Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	1	17	17	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	3	2	1	2	81	10	-	-	-	-	9

Peak movements were 28W on Jun 23 and 25W Jun 25, highlighting the return passage during this month. 7 were on Worthing beach on May 30. Away from this site 2 were on Upper Adur levels in Feb; 6 were at Ferring beach Feb 9 with 1 at Ferring Rife on Jan 22; 4W at Bramber Castle on Feb 9 & 1 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 12, a minor influx during hard weather. A total of 11 flew E at night over Goring on Mar 9. Inland records involved 1 over Wildpark on Mar 27, 1 over Steyning on Aug 27, and 2 over Cissbury on Sep 7.

201. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** An uncommon wader in our area, there were just three records; 1E (calling) over Goring at 22.00 hrs on Mar 9 (DIS), 2E with Black-tailed Godwits at Worthing beach on May 22 (BFF/DIS), and 1E there on Jun 2 (RJS)

202. **REDSHANK** Monthly maxima from R. Adur (Shoreham) and Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	112	090	56	-	-	9	65	-	95	111	-	91
Gor.	nil	nil	nil	-	-	-	-	nil	nil	nil	4	4

Rarely noted on seawatches at Worthing beach, monthly totals were 3E in Feb, 3E in Aug, 6E in Oct, & 8W in Nov. Other records were 3 at Ferring Rife on Feb 12 with 1/2 there Nov/Dec, up to 7 R. Adur (Steyning) Jan/Feb, 1 at King's Barn (Steyning) on Oct 20 with 3 there Nov 17 and 7 on Dec 1, and 5 at Widewater on Aug 20.

The creamy albino individual remained on the Lower Adur to at least Mar 3 and returned for its 7th winter from 24. Obviously being a pale morph presents it with no handicaps!

204. **GREENSHANK** In spring, 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on May 8, and at Worthing beach singles E on May 14 and May 25, representing an uninspiring season. As usual, more noted during the autumn months with singles at Steyning on Aug 1 and Aug 22, 1 at Widewater on Aug 22 to Aug 24, with another there Sep 11, and at R. Adur (Shoreham) singles on Aug 24, Sep 3, Sep 12/13 with 2 there Sep 1, Sep 14, Sep 18, Sep 22, & Sep 25. Inland, 1 flew over Cissbury on Sep 1.

208. **GREEN SANDPIPER** In the early months, wintering birds involved a number of sightings from the Upper Adur levels; 2 at Stretham on Jan 1, with 1 Jan 7 and Mar 24; 2 near the old Steyning railway on Feb 17 & near Steyning on Feb 19. 1 flew N lower Adur on Feb 7. 2 were on Goring Rife Feb 9, 1 remaining to Feb 16 & a single at Ferring Rife Jan 25/26 and again Feb 12.

There were fewer autumn records; 1 at Broadmere Common on Aug 21, 1 over Woods Mill on Oct 20, & 2 Upper Adur levels on Dec 15.

209. **WOOD SANDPIPER** An irregular visitor to our area, there were 2 at Widewater Aug 11 to Aug 24 (Many Obs.).

211. **COMMON SANDPIPER** The first of the year were at Widewater on the early date of Apr 2, and between this date and Jun 6 a total of 17 were noted from a further 6 sites, mainly during the first two weeks of May. In autumn the first



returning individual was 1 in a roadside puddle at Patcham on Jul 7. A poor autumn for numbers, only a further 21 were noted from this date to Sep 25 with small peaks in early Aug and early Sep, the majority being noted from the Adur valley.

213. **TURNSTONE** The monthly totals from Worthing beach highlight a poor spring and worse autumn passage, and were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	18	10	50	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	2	2	-	-	-	5	-

The peak movement was 16E on May 5. On R.Adur (Shoreham) the February maximum was 7 and singles were there Sep 3 to Sep 18 with 2 Sep 19, 3 Oct 30, and 1 Dec 8. The Goring wader roost held 4 in Sep, 9 in Oct, 2 in Nov, and 15 in Dec. After 2 at Ferring beach on Feb 9 there were up to 16 there during Mar and Apr. At Widewater beach 5 on Mar 26, 6 on Apr 20, and 5 on May 4.



*Turnstone*

217. **POMARINE SKUA** A very poor spring passage and none during autumn made it a forgettable year for this much sought after skua. All the records were from Worthing beach, and were as follows:- 1E on Apr 24, 2E on Apr 25, and 9E May 21. On this latter date local observers must just have been unlucky, as 99 flew E off Seaford (East Sussex).

There were 2 extremely late records of birds wintering in the Channel with 3, 9 miles off Brighton, on Dec 29 and 1 a mile offshore Brighton the following day.

218. **ARCTIC SKUA** A slightly better spring passage than the above species but a dreadful autumn. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	48	27	3	-	3	1	-
W	-	-	-	-	2	1	-

First for the spring was 1E on Apr 21 and peak movements were 13E Apr 24, 13E Apr 25, and 8E on Apr 28. The last for the spring were 2E on May 22 but 5 in June, 2 of which sat offshore on Jun 21 may have been summering, 1 was offshore there on Oct 27.

Away from this site singles flew E at Brighton Marina on Apr 13, May 9 and May 10, E at Widewater on Apr 11 and Apr 25 with 1 offshore there Sep 14, 1 flew E off Goring on 27 Oct, and 1 was off Palace Pier, Brighton, on Nov 2.

220. **GREAT SKUA** Unusually more recorded at Worthing beach this year than for Pomarine Skua. The monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	14	3	1	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

The first was 1E on Apr 10 and additional to the one above, 1 sat offshore there on Apr 11. Peaks were 5E on Apr 25 & 3E Apr 24 with the last, 2E on May 9. The December records were 1W at Worthing beach on Dec 23 (RAI) and 1 six miles off Brighton on Dec 30.

222. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** At Worthing beach singles W on Jan 5, E on Mar 13, Mar 29, Apr 28, May 6 & May 7, and a superb 8E on May 9. 1 was there on the beach on Nov 2. Away from this site 1 second-winter at Shoreham harbour on Jan 7, an adult at Brighton Marina on Jan 21, and a second-winter at Brighton Marina on Jan 23. Not then noted until Mar 9 with an adult in Shoreham harbour, an adult E at Brighton Marina on Mar 15, and a second-winter on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Mar 23. April records involved 1 first-winter plus a second-winter at Shoreham harbour on Apr 6 and 1 adult on Dorothy Stringer school field, Brighton, on Apr 10. A first-summer bird was at Shoreham on May 8 and up to 4 first-summer birds were at R. Adur Jun 12 to July 1, with 1 again on Jul 23. The only record after this date was an adult at Goring Gap on Dec 11. Another good year.

225. **LITTLE GULL** At Worthing beach, there were singles W on Jan 5 and Jan 9. First of the spring were 2 offshore there Apr 7 and the April total was 83E, peaks being 39E on Apr 24 and 30E on Apr 25. 11 flew E there in May, & the last were 2E on May 23. Unusually, absent in autumn except for a juvenile feeding offshore there on Oct 11.

Away from this site 1W Shoreham harbour Mar 2, 1E Widewater Apr 25, and 1 Widewater Nov 15.

228. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
E	1431	1642	4710	2	-	-
W	3	38	9	5	40	-

Peak movements were 1029E Mar 13; 786E Apr 28, and 3122E on May 9. 50 were on Worthing beach Jul 12. Returning birds were 28 at Hove on Jul 26 & counts during the year were 210 Wildpark in Jan with 140 in Feb, and 600 at Ferring Rife on Dec 23. A leucistic individual was at Worthing beach on Dec 21.

**LAUGHING GULL** The first record for our area was an adult in s.p. on River Adur, opposite Shoreham Airport on Apr 6 (RJF/RS). It has been accepted by BBRC.

**FRANKLIN'S GULL** The first for our area was seen at Brighton Marina on Dec 30 1990. Details have been forwarded to the BBRC.

253. **COMMON GULL** The monthly totals from Worthing beach were 81E in Mar, 107E 150W in Apr, and 42E in May. Peaks were 46E Mar 13, 150W Apr 21 and 69E Apr 24. 104 flew E at Brighton Marina on Apr 29.

At Wildpark 45 were present in Jan, 50 in Feb, with 250 lower Adur Mar 23. Unusually, 30 adults were at Ferring beach on Jun 27. Other counts were 300 lower Adur Nov 11 and 80 at Cissbury on Dec 8.

234. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** At Worthing beach the monthly totals were 5E in Mar 35E in Apr, 35E in May, & 1W in Sep. The peak was 33E May 9, 4 were present there on Jun 2 with 6 on Jun 12.

2 pairs on rooftops in central Brighton, May/June may have bred. Other records include 2 at Goring Gap on Oct 10, 7 at Sompting on Oct 27, and an individual of the race "fuscus" on Brighton beach Sep 7.

235. **HERRING GULL** All records received were of the race "michahellis" or "Yellow-legged gull". The monthly totals from lower Adur were:-

Jun 3; Jul 9; Aug 25; Sep 35; Oct 12; Nov 2; Dec 1.

These include a third-summer on Jun 23. An adult was at Brighton Marina on May 9.

236. **ICELAND GULL** A first-winter was present at either Shoreham harbour, Southwick canal or Southwick beach from Jan 2 to at least Jan 31. (SRA/BFF/RK)



237. **GLAUCOUS GULL** The first-winter reported in Dec 1990 remained at Shoreham harbour to at least Jan 13. An adult flew W at Goring beach on Mar 15 (RE/RJS), a first-winter flew E at Brighton Marina on Apr 29 (RJF), and finally a second-summer flew E at Worthing beach on May 10 (MPH/JAN/DIS).

239. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** Counts during the year were 112, including 60 juveniles at R. Adur on Jul 23, 91 at Goring Gap on Oct 10 with 105 there on Nov 9, and 65 R. Adur Nov 15.

240. **KITTIWAKE** As usual most noted seawatches at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	7	1	13	52	27	3	-	-	2	2	10	2
W	65	-	1	35	-	6	3	1	12	16	-	74

Peak movements were 18W Apr 6, 24E 3W Apr 25, and 54W Dec 23. In Jan 2 were at Shoreham harbour on Jan 1 with 1 on Jan 12, & an adult was at Brooklands on Jan 6. 1 was at R. Adur Jun 17 to Jul 23 and a count of 125 noted on the west arm of Brighton Marina on Sep 7.

**LESSER-CRESTED TERN** A yellow-billed tern sharing the characteristics of this species flew E at Worthing beach on May 9 (PMB). If accepted by BBRC the first record for our area.

245. **SANDWICH TERN** First of the year were 2E at Worthing beach on Mar 15 where the monthly totals were

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	10	17	53	39	7	1	31	-
W	-	24	51	54	15	16	56	2

Peak movements were 518E on Apr 24, 437E on Apr 25 and the last for the year were 2W on Oct 13. Summer records included singles at Shoreham on Jun 25 and Jul 7, an adult with juvenile at Widewater on Aug 24, and 8 offshore at Worthing beach on Jun 22.

246. **ROSEATE TERN** There were no records in 1991.

248. **ARCTIC TERN** 1 was at Widewater on May 8 with 6 at Brighton Marina on May 9.

**COMMON/ARCTIC TERN** First of the year were 10E on Apr 4 at Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	2030	1433	17	2	-	4	1
W	4	19	8	36	18	18	8

Peak numbers were 698E Apr 25, 457E Apr 29, and 523E May 8. The last was 1W on Oct 9. Additionally 131E Brighton Marina on May 7 and unusually 3 flew NE over Findon Valley on May 29.

251. **LITTLE TERN** First of the year were unusually 139E on Apr 24 at Worthing beach rather late this year. The monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	264	336	1	-	-	-	-
W	-	11	1	-	-	1	1

Peaks, apart from Apr 24, were 54E on Apr 25, 134E on May 7, and 71E on May 9. The last was 1W there on Oct 16, a late individual. Other records involved 37E at Brighton Marina on May 7, & 2 at R. Adur (Shoreham) on May 8 with 2 there May 22 and Jun 25.

253. **BLACK TERN** A poor spring compared with recent years. At Worthing beach, the April total was 5E (1st on Apr 25) with 13E 1W in May, peak movement being just 8E on May 23. However 20 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 9.

The only autumn record was 3E at Widewater on Sep 28, these also seen 30 minutes later moving W off Shoreham beach.

255. **GUILLEMOT** At Worthing beach just 1E in Jan, 1E in May, 1W in Jul, 1E in Oct, and 3W in Dec. 2 were in Shoreham harbour on Jan 2 with 1 there Jan 4, 1 off Widewater on Jan 3 and Jan 12, and 2 off Brighton Marina on May 7.

An oiled individual was found dead at Southwick canal on Feb 22 & singles were off Widewater on Oct 20, and Goring beach on Dec 14.

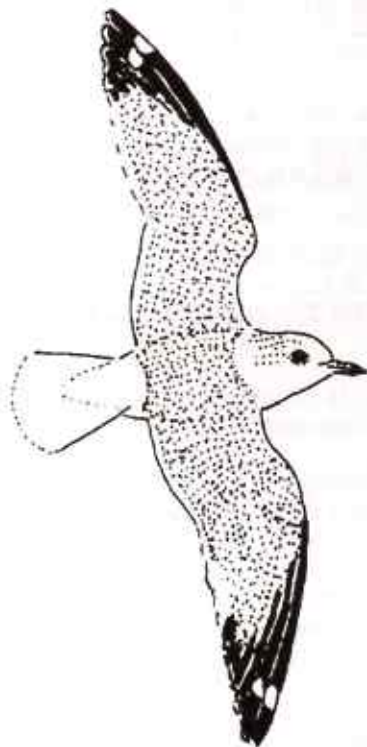
257. **RAZORBILL** Monthly totals at Worthing beach were 2E 1W in Jan, 3E in Apr, 1E in May, 1W in Oct, 3W in Nov, and 4W in Dec with singles offshore there on Jan 3, Sep 6, Sep 26, and Dec 7. Other records involved 1 at Shoreham harbour on Jan 30, 2E Brighton Marina May 11, and 1W Hove Oct 17, 1W and 1 offshore Goring on Oct 27.

260. **LITTLE AUK** 1 picked up exhausted at Partridge Green was released at Widewater on Jan 2 (MR). A corpse of this species was found at Shoreham Harbour on Jan 19 (hopefully not the aforementioned bird). An undated autumn record of 1W at Worthing beach (RJS), details sent to SOS.

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	18	-	-	3	5	-	1	-	1	11	3	13
W	30	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	2	2	13	44

Peak movements were 10E 13W on Jan 1, 17W on Jan 2, and 2E 19W on Dec 21.



*Common Gull*



264. **STOCK DOVE** In the breeding season 3 prs Hollingbury Woods, this area affected by early-year tree felling; 1 pr Sandgate Park, 1 pr Woods Mill, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, and 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries. Counts during the year were generally low but included 42 at Lower Standean on Dec 27 and up to 4 at Goring Gap, Ferring Rife, Cissbury, Wildpark (7 in Feb), Withdean Park, Sompting, and Stanmer Park.

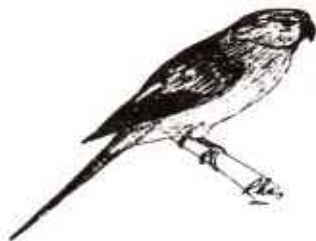
265. **WOOD PIGEON** 15 prs bred Brighton Cemeteries and 34 prs Wild Park. Counts were 110 Wild Park in Jan, 130 in Feb, and 1000 at Shoreham airport on Feb 14. 500+ were at Woods Mill autumn/early winter and at Broadwater 175W on Nov 7, 850W on Nov 10, and 500W on Nov 22. At Wild Park 268 on Nov 6, 116W on Nov 10, & 704 on Nov 16.

266. **COLLARED DOVE** An estimated 20 prs bred Southwick, 9 prs Wild Park, 12 prs Brighton Cemeteries, and 1 pr bred in a Storrington garden. Counts included 17 at Wild Park in Jan with 36 there in Feb & 35 at Patcham on Apr 1. After none at Woods Mill in 1990 there were 4 singles during the year with a pair on 1 day in May.

267. **TURTLE DOVE** First of the year was 1 at Woods Mill on May 7, after which only 4 more in May from as many sites. Breeding records were 1 pr Devil's Dyke & probable pairs at Woods Mill, Sandgate Park, High Salvington and Southwick Hill. 1 was at Wild Park on Jun 12, & 1 at Cissbury on Jul 16.

In autumn singles at Ladywells on Aug 25 and Waterhall on Aug 26 with 11 for the month at Sompting, where the Sept total was 33, maximum 12 on Sep 8. Only three further sightings during the month, the last of which was 1 at Broadwater on Sep 29.

269. **RING-NECKED PARAKEET** A better spread of records this year than usual. 1 was in a Steyning garden on Feb 3 & there were 4 present at Wild Park in both Jan and Feb. The first record for Woods Mill was 1 there on Apr 25, and 3 flew over St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing on Apr 14. 2 juveniles were noted with 2 adults at Wild Park on Jul 7, the only breeding record. Finally, 1 was at Buckingham Park, Shoreham, during Sep.



*Ring-necked Parakeet*

271. **CUCKOO** The first for the year was 1 at Goring beach on Apr 10, after which 1 at Steyning on Apr 13, 1 at Woods Mill Apr 21, 1 which arrived from the sea at Ferring on Apr 28, and 3 at Waterhall Apr 28, 4 remained at Wild Park Apr 26 to May 25, where breeding was confirmed. Arrivals continued into May, with 4 at Wiston on May 11 & 4 at Hollingbury allotments also May 11, plus several singles in the first 2 weeks of the month.

Autumn records were few and involved singles at Wild Park on Jul 26 and Aug 5, on the downs at Saddlescombe Aug 26, and the last, at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 7.

274. **BARNOWL** Fewer records than in 1990 but still showing a better position than in recent years. Singles were noted at Broadmere Common Jan 21 & hunting beside the by-pass south of Bramber on Jan 7 and Jun 13 & 1 at Small Dole on Feb 25. The introduced pair at Sompting brooks raised 1 young and at least 1 young was raised at a regular downland site.

279. **LITTLE OWL** Breeding records involved the usual pair at Storrington, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr bred in the roof of a Storrington house, & probable breeding at Steyning, Steepdown, and Buncton. In the early months there were singles at Wild Park in Feb, and at Woods Mill on Jan 1 and Apr 10. In autumn singles were noted at Sompting on Aug 12 & 25 with 2 there on Aug 27 & 1 Sep 9, Cissbury on Sep 14 and Oct 4, Beeding brooks Oct-Dec, Findon Valley on Nov 11, and Upper Adur levels (Stretham) on Dec 15. There were no other records this year.

280. **TAWNY OWL** Breeding season records were the usual Southwick pair which raised 2 young & 1 pr bred Woods Mill raising 2 young and pairs or singles noted in the breeding season at only a further 3 sites. Scattered records from 7 sites outside the breeding season but few of these were urban. All future records would be much appreciated.

281. **LONG-EARED OWL** Between Jan 16 and Feb 17 up to 4 present at a downland roost. An unusual record was 1 which arrived from the sea at Brighton Marina on Apr 10. Yet another casualty reported: 1 dead on the road, Beeding to Bramber by-pass on Nov 13 (KN).

282. **SHORT-EARED OWL** Just 1 reported in the early months, of 2 on Upper Adur levels at Wyckham farm on Mar 24. More noted in autumn/late year with singles W at Shoreham on Oct 6, over R. Adur (Shoreham) on Oct 12, Hollingbury Camp on Oct 27, Beeding brooks on Oct 12 and Nov 10, R. Adur (Shoreham) again on Nov 5, W at Widewater on Nov 10, and at Beeding brooks on Dec 24 with 3 there Dec 27.

284. **NIGHTJAR** 1 was at Sompting on Sep 3 (PMB). This species is still rare in our area and we are unable to better single records in most years.



289. **SWIFT** First of the year were 2 over Southwick on Apr 25, 2 at Storrington on Apr 26 & 3 at Beeding brooks on Apr 28. Singles & small groups reported during the first 2 weeks of May but a more general arrival appears to have occurred between the second and third week of the month when numbers at Wild Park peaked at 77 on May 18, and 40 were at Broadwater on May 10.

Counts in June included 300W at Broadwater on 30th & 50 Hove Station on 8th. The main exodus in autumn was on time, late July & early Aug. 250 to 300 per hour for 7 hours were noted over Patcham on Jul 31 with 50 at Shoreham airport and 42 Hollingbury Camp on Aug 3, but 50 still at Worthing on Aug 14. More than usual reported in Sep with a total of 30, the last being singles at Sompting on Sep 26 & 29.

293. **KINGFISHER** As in 1990, very well-reported indeed. A small influx to lower Adur in February hard weather with singles regularly noted there Feb 6 to Feb 14. This area continued to produce sightings mainly during the autumn with 2 at Cuckoo's Corner on Dec 14, singles at Ladywells on Aug 25 and Floodarch/New Salts farm on Sep 1, Sep 10, and Sep 17, and 1 at Widewater on Oct 5.

Noted from the Upper Adur in Feb and Mar, with 3 between Beeding and Stretham on Oct 20, 2 at Beeding brooks on Nov 10 and 1 "Upper Adur" on Dec 15. A juvenile was seen at Broadmere Common on Jun 21. Other sites included singles at Ferring Rife on 4 dates in Feb, near Storrington Mill pond on Mar 13, Apr 15 and May 9, Chantry Mill pond on Apr 1, Sandgate Park on Jun 4, and the Mumbles (Steyning) on Feb 17, 2 dates in Mar, 1 trapped and ringed there Aug 26, then Sep 29 & Oct 11. Did not breed in 1991 at Woods Mill but a single male noted there from late summer.

297. **HOOPOE** 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 14/15 (ADW/IJW/PJW). Details have been sent to SOS.

298. **WRYNECK** None reported in 1991.

300. **GREEN WOODPECKER** Breeding season records were 3 prs Cissbury area, 1 pr Findon Valley (1 juv. seen), near Woods Mill, & pairs at Wild Park, Brighton Cemetery and Devil's Dyke. Additionally, present during the breeding season at Sandgate Park, Truleigh Manor farm, Sullington Warren, Storrington, Muntham Park, and Waterhall. Outside this period mostly singles reported from a further 6 sites at both ends of the year.

301. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** The only confirmed breeding was 1pr at Woods Mill, but present in the breeding season at Highdown Hill, Sandgate Park, Cote Street, Truleigh Manor farm, Small Dole, Sullington Warren, Cissbury, and Steyning. Outside this period mainly singles noted from a further 14 sites at both ends of the year with 2 at Stanmer Park on Feb 14, and 2 ringed at Wiston on Feb 24. A good year.



302. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** There were 5 records of this difficult woodpecker in 1991. These were all singles, at Woods Mill Mar 15-31, Muntham Park Mar 31, Sompting on Aug 25, in a Storrington garden on Sep 14, and near Henfield on Nov 26.

311. **SKYLARK** 100 were on Upper Adur levels at Stretham on Jan 1. A major influx in February hard weather, when between Feb 9 and Feb 19 a total of 4,965 noted from 11 sites, mostly close to the coast. These included 1,000W at Brighton Marina on Feb 9, 1000 Shoreham airport Feb 14, 500 at Cuckoo's Corner on Feb 17 and the Sanctuary on Feb 11, 374 at New Salts farm on Feb 9, and 300W in 15 minutes at W. Durrington on Feb 13.

In the breeding season 9 prs Wild Park and 3 prs Devil's Dyke. Migrants in autumn included totals at Sompting of 96E in Sep and 509E in Oct, 200 Falmer hill Oct 12 with 300 there Oct 26, and counts of up to 40 from several sites in Sep/Oct. In the later months 70 were at Lower Standean on Dec 7 and the Nov/Dec total from Wild Park was 131.

313. **SAND MARTIN** First of the spring was 1 at Shoreham on Apr 12 and 2 at Broadwater Apr 13. 3 were at Wild Park May 18. In the breeding season an estimated 70 prs in one colony at Sandgate Park but sadly the Rock Common site was deserted. In early autumn 11 at Hollingbury Camp on Jul 27 with 6 on Aug 15. High numbers recorded in autumn on systematic watches at Sompting, where the monthly totals were 27E in Aug, 2151E in Sep max 936 on Sep 8 and 585 on Sep 3, and the last were 2 on Oct 6. Other September records included 20E Goring beach and 40E Widewater on Sep 8, and 2 at Ferring Rife on Sep 29.

314. **SWALLOW** First of the spring was 1 at Broadwater on Apr 2 with a steady arrival through the month and a peak in the second/third weeks.

Peak autumn movements were totals of 23,073 for Sep at Sompting max 11,073 on Sep 8 where the Aug total was 133 & in Oct, 249. From Jul 16 to Oct 26 3,066 were noted at Hollingbury Camp, max 1030 on Oct 5. Additionally 5000E Goring beach Sep 8, 1000E there Sep 25, & 440E at Widewater on Sep 8. The only November record and the last for the year was 1E at Widewater on Nov 2.

316. **HOUSE MARTIN** Apart from the first at Broadwater on Apr 13, the main arrival appeared to again be late, after the first week of May; the first noted at Wild Park was May 7, where just 28 noted to May 30.

Peak autumn counts were 5000 Upper Adur levels Oct 10, total 5473 at Sompting in Oct (with 220 in Aug and 156 in Oct), and at Hollingbury Camp 2681 Aug 9 to Oct 10, max 1400 on Oct 5. After 1 at Storrington on Nov 3, there was 1 at Shoreham on Nov 5, & the last was at Hollingbury Camp on Nov 10.

320. **TREE PIPIT** Unusually, only one spring record for 1991: 1 at Worthing beach Apr 10. In autumn, between early Aug and Oct 7 a total of 175 which included 104 at Sompting in Sep, 35 Hollingbury Camp Aug 18 to Oct 7 (when last reported), and 20 at Cissbury on Aug 26.

322. **MEADOW PIPIT** In February hard weather 450 at Ferring Rife Feb 11 with 200 there Feb 12, 200+ Brighton Marina Feb 9, & 90 Upper Adur levels (Bramber) Feb 23. In spring, 247 passed through Wild Park Mar 6 to May 1. The only breeding record was 10 prs Devil's Dyke.

More noted on autumn passage with 2547 noted from Sep to mid-Oct - these include 1069 at Sompting in Sep & 509 in Oct, 500E Goring Gap Sep 25, 150 Chantry Pyecombe Sep 22, and 100 Ferring Rife Oct 12. In the late months 50W at Beeding hill on Nov 18 and 30 at Ferring Rife on Nov 23.

324a **ROCK PIPIT** Present at the traditional coastal sites in the early months with 3 at Widewater in Jan, 3 at Shoreham harbour also through Jan with 5 there Feb 2, and 1 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jan 1 with 2 there Mar 2. Noted with one's and two's at Widewater and Shoreham harbour in Feb and Mar, & the last was at the former site on Apr 8.

Noted in autumn from Oct 12 with 1 at Widewater where 1 present to end-year, and at Shoreham harbour from Oct 26 where between 2 and 4 noted to end-year. 2 were at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 10 with 1 there Dec 10, and 1 at Lancing beach on Dec 21.

324b **WATER PIPIT** Singles were reported from Widewater on Jan 28. Cuckoo's Corner and Wyckham farm, both on Feb 17 (when concentrations noted in the west of the county). 2 were in partial s.p. at Widewater on Mar 23 and out of 2 seen there the following day, 1 was considered different (RJF/RS). There were still 2 present on Mar 31. No records were received after this date.

325. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** First of the year was 1 at Worthing beach on Mar 31 and then there were 3 at Widewater on Apr 20 with singles there Apr 24, Apr 28, and May 15, 4 on Apr 27, and 2 on May 8. Singles were also noted at Wild Park on Apr 26 & 27, at R. Adur Apr 27 and May 8, and 2N at Brighton Marina on May 11.

After 1 at Widewater on Jul 28, a total of 617 noted on autumn passage from Aug 17 to Oct 14, when last seen, with 8 at Adur Rec. The vast majority were from the coast, and included a total of 344 at Sompting in Sep, max 112 Sep 4 and 96 on Sep 3, and counts of 20 to 40 at 5 further sites during Sep.

327. **GREY WAGTAIL** In the early months 2/3 wintered in Steyning and there were singles at Goring Rife on Feb 11, Storrington Mill pond Feb 15, Woods Mill Feb 17, Widewater on 3 dates in Mar, and R. Adur (Beeding) on Mar 23.



A pair attempted to breed at Woods Mill for the first time in 7 years but were unsuccessful, and a male present in the breeding season at Small Dole on Jul 9.

After 1 at New Salts farm on Aug 24 a total of 139 noted on passage from Sep 3 to Oct 10, mainly from coastal sites and included 116 at Sompting during Sept max 46 on Sep 26. In the later months 1 was at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 10, 2 in Brighton town centre during Nov, 2 Durrington Rife on Dec 8, and again 2/3 were wintering in Steyning.

328. **PIED WAGTAIL** Early year counts included 200+ at Steyning Sewerage works on Jan 1, and 30 at Palatine Park (Worthing) on Jan 26. Pairs bred near Woods Mill and at Devil's Dyke, & a pair present at Maybridge in the breeding season. Passage birds and autumn concentrations included 252E at Sompting in Sep and 134 in Oct, 100 King's Barn (Steyning) on Oct 12, 75 Goring Gap Oct 23 with 50E there in 30 minutes on Oct 12; and after a roost of 100+ at Sandgate Park in Sep 1990, only 5 to 10 present in Sep 91.

In the later months a roost of 150 Boundstone School, Lancing in Nov/Dec, 50+ Brighton Pavilion Nov/Dec, 40 Preston Park Nov 1 and 20 Wild Park Oct 18. Records of "White" Wagtail were 2 at Widewater on Apr 1 with 2 there Apr 16, 1 at Goring beach Sep 8 and at Sompting 2 on Sep 6 and Oct 7 with singles Sep 10 and Sep 27.

331. **WREN** Early year counts were Wild Park 77 in Jan & 44 in Feb, Brighton Cemetery 34 in Jan and 35 in Feb and Withdean Park 17 in Jan & 6 in Feb. In the breeding season 91 prs Wild Park, 35 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 18 prs Devil's Dyke, and 15 prs Woods Mill.

333. **DUNNOCK** Counts in the early months were 71 Wild Park in Jan and 64 in Feb, 14 Withdean Park Jan with 17 in Feb, and Brighton Cemetery 14 in Jan and 9 in Feb. In the breeding season 61 prs Wild Park, 19 prs Brighton Cemeteries, and 12 prs Devil's Dyke.

336. **ROBIN** At Wild Park 129 in Jan, 101 in Feb, Brighton Cemetery 45 in Jan & 43 in Feb, and Withdean Park 21 in Jan and 11 in Feb. 104 prs in the breeding season at Wild Park, 37 prs Brighton Cemeteries, and 27 prs Devil's Dyke.

338. **NIGHTINGALE** First of the year were singles singing at Woods Mill on Apr 12 and Goring Wood on Apr 13, singing males were noted in Apr & May at Wild Park, Mumbles (Steyning), 2 at Broadmere Common and 2 at Orham Common. 2 males sang throughout the spring at Woods Mill where 1 pr bred, the first for the reserve, & 1 pr bred just outside the reserve. On autumn passage singles at Wild Park on Aug 17, and Sompting on Aug 25, Aug 31, and Sep 2.



342. **BLACK REDSTART** Between Jan and Mar singles noted at Ferring beach on Feb 14, Mar 6 and Mar 18, Widewater on Mar 6, and Cissbury on Mar 14. A female was at New Salts farm on Apr 12. There were no breeding records.

In autumn the first was at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 2 with another there on Oct 30; additionally singles at Sompting on Oct 27, Highdown Hill on Oct 30, Widewater on Oct 27 and Shoreham town centre on Nov 4. In Dec records of singles at Goring Gap and Ferring beach on Dec 6 probably relate to the same bird.

343. **REDSTART** As with some other migrants, a poor spring during which none were recorded. Noted in the autumn between Aug 25 (Shoreham airport) and Oct 12 (1 at Bevendean) with a total of 56 noted. These include 11 at Sompting in Sep, 20 Wild Park Aug 28 to Sep 25 max 6 on Sep 7, and 7 at Newtimber Hill Aug 26.

344. **WHINCHAT** First of the spring were 3 at Shoreham airport on May 8 then 3 at W. Durrington and 2 at Wild Park on May 12 after which a total of 11 recorded to May 23 from 5 sites.

The first returning bird was 1 at Sompting on Aug 9 and between this date and Oct 9 a total of 326 noted from 17 sites. These include monthly totals at Sompting of 9 in Aug and 191 in Sep, max 89 on Sep 5, 51 Hollingbury Camp Aug 25-Oct 9 max 8 on Sep 3, and 47 at Cissbury Aug 26-Sep 8. Apart from 1 at Hollingbury on Oct 9 the only others for the month were 1 at Sompting on Oct 2 and the last of the year was at Worthing beach on Oct 11.

345. **STONECHAT** Sightings between Jan-Mar were mainly from the coast and involved up to 15 individuals, the same figure for the same period in 1990. These were singles or pairs from traditional sites such as Goring/Ferring beaches, Widewater, New Salts farm & Upper Adur levels. A late pair were at Widewater during April.

There were no breeding records. Noted in the autumn from Sep 20 to end-Oct, a total of 40 recorded from 7 inland and 12 coastal sites. Again well represented in Nov with 6 from 4 coastal and 3 from 2 inland sites. In Dec 3 at Flood Arch Dec 26/27 and 4 at Ferring Rife on Dec 28 with a scattering of singles and pairs at Shoreham airport, R.Adur, Sompting, Beeding Hill & Upper Adur levels.

346. **WHEATEAR** First of the year were 2 at Goring Gap on Mar 6, 1 at Lancing on Mar 13, after which a further 28 from 5 sites including 10 at Brighton Marina Mar 22, and 11 Widewater Mar 23. A total of 73 noted in April (not including 33 Wild Park Mar 31 to May 14), mainly in the first to second week, includes 14 at Ferring on Apr 10. More than usual noted in May with a total of 27 which included 8 at Hollingbury Camp on May 11 and 5 Shoreham airport May 19.

The first returning bird of the autumn was at Hollingbury Camp, where 83 noted from this date to Oct 30. The August total was 57 from 8 sites, & the September total was 419, including 379 at Sompting max 118 on Sep 5 & 81 on Sep 6 & 20 at Ferring.

Numbers dwindled during October with 2 at Sompting on Oct 2 and Oct 6 and 1 there Oct 13, 1 Shoreham airport & 12 Falmer Hill Oct 12, 3 at Ferring and 8 by Steyning/ Sompting road on Oct 13, when last seen.

359. **RING OUZEL** There was one spring record: 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 10. In autumn 1 at Sompting on Sep 21, 3 there Oct 11 and 2 on Oct 13; 1 at Cissbury Sep 29 with 10 there Oct 13; and at Hollingbury Camp 1 on Sep 15 then 11 on Sep 28, 2 on Sep 29, 1 on Oct 1, 4 on Oct 12, 3 on Oct 20, and lastly 2 on Oct 29.

360. **BLACKBIRD** Counts from the Brighton parks in the early months were 138 Wild Park in Jan & 117 Feb, 63 Brighton Cemetery in Jan, 76 in Feb, and 40 Withdean Park in Jan with 12 in Feb. In the breeding season 118 prs Wild Park, 43 prs Devil's Dyke & 64 prs Brighton Cemeteries. A large influx was noted at Woods Mill on Sep 22, and a total 235 were at Wild Park Oct 7 to Dec 29.

364. **FIELDFARE** After a few scattered small parties in Jan, a substantial influx to mainly coastal urban areas in the February hard weather with a total of 11,000 reported. These include 3,100W over W Durrington in 30 mins on Feb 13, 1,500 Findon Valley Feb 12, 700 Ferring Rife on Feb 9, 500 in a Lancing garden on Feb 9, 500 Goring on Feb 12, and between 600-1,000 in Shoreham Feb 9- Feb 14. Numbers rapidly declined with the thaw & the only March records were 70E over Goring on Mar 9 & 20 on Upper Adur levels on Mar 24.

In autumn noted from Sep 19 with 1 at Woods Mill where 100+ through autumn. Counts included 124 Upper Adur levels, 62 Wild Park, and 50 at Muntham Court on Oct 20, 200 at Steyning on Nov 10, 40 Beeding Hill Nov 18, 57 Wild Park Nov 27, 250W Mill Hill on Nov 24, and 75E Sompting on Nov 30. In December 1000 were at Upper Adur levels (Steyning) on Dec 1 with 600 at Wyckham farm on Dec 8 & Dec 15, 50 at Cissbury on Dec 1, and 30 at Maybridge on Dec 25.

365. **SONG THRUSH** In the breeding season 14 prs Wild Park, 7 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, & 2 prs Woods Mill. Cold weather movements were noted at Brighton Marina with 50W on Feb 7 & 1000W on Feb 9, 25 were at Wild Park on Oct 19.

366. **REDWING** Small parties noted in Jan, the largest being 24 St Lawrence Avenue. Worthing from Jan 20 to Jan 29. Although not in the same numbers as Fieldfares, an influx with this species to urban areas occurred in the February cold spell, and between Feb 9 & Feb 18 a total of 1,132 noted. These include 250 Adur Rec Feb 14, 300 King's Barn Lane Feb 16, 105 Brighton Cemetery, 100



Withdean Feb 11, and 100 The Level, Brighton on Feb 15. There were two reports of birds killed by cats.

On Mar 9 a total of 1257E over Goring 21.00 to 22.40 hrs, with a smaller nocturnal movement E there on Mar 14, & 50 at Woods Mill on Mar 15.

First for the autumn were 7 at Sompting on Sep 29 and a total of 129 there in Oct. Counts included 142 Wild Park Oct 5 to Dec 29, 100W at Cissbury on Oct 20, 80 at Woods Mill on Oct 24, and a "large nocturnal movement" over Lancing on Oct 26. 160 flew E at Sompting brooks on Nov 30 and in Dec 500 Upper Adur levels Dec 15. 100+ Woods Mill to year-end, 80 in Storrington on Dec 25 and 30 St Lawrence Avenue on Dec 30.

367. **MISTLE THRUSH** In the breeding season 11 prs Wild Park, 6prs Brighton Cemeteries, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 1 pr Goring Wood. Counts during the year included 9 at Wild Park in Jan & 13 in Feb, and 20 Withdean Park Sep 2.

369. **CETTI'S WARBLER** After the first at Woods Mill in 1990, recorded there again in 1991.

373. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** Singles were at Woods Mill on Apr 25/26 and Sompting on Sep 2.

378. **SEDGE WARBLER** First of the year was 1 at W Durrington on May 5 & only 3 singles noted to May 25. At Small Dole on Jul 9 there were 8 singing males and 1 pr bred at Woods Mill, the first there for 10 years. In autumn singles at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 8 and Woods Mill on Sep 12.

382. **REED WARBLER** First of the year were singles at Shoreham airport on Apr 22 and New Salts farm on Apr 27 and May 4, with 1 at the Mumbles May 7 (where ringed on Jun 25), and at Hollingbury allotments on May 27.

4 pairs were at Patching pond on May 16, 1 at Sandgate Park on Jun 4, and 2 prs Woods Mill. As usual, an incomplete picture. At Sompting only 4 in Sep & singles at Hollingbury Camp on 3 dates in early Sep. In Oct singles at Cissbury on 13th & at Woods Mill on 14th & at the Mumbles 4 ringed Oct 6, 2 ringed Oct 11 with singles there Oct 12 & the last for the year, a re-trap on Oct 15.

397. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** First of the year were singles in a Broadwater garden on Apr 18 and at Wild Park on Apr 21 with 12 there on May 25, & there were several reports in mid-May from scattered sites. In the breeding season 5 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Waterhall & 1 pr Small Dole.



From July 27 to Sep 29 a total of 224 were noted on autumn passage; these include 120 Wild Park Jul 27 to Sep 27 max 24 on Sep 14, 29 at Sompting in Aug, & 60 Newtimber Hill to Waterhall on Aug 26. The last were 4 at Cissbury on Sep 29.

398. **WHITETHROAT** First of the year were singles at Lancing Ring on Apr 24 and Wild Park on Apr 27, with 13 there on May 14. Otherwise just scattered singles mainly in the first week of May.

Breeding records received included 18prs Wild Park, 15 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Brighton Cemetery, 1 pr Goring Gap, 3 prs Woods Mill, & 2 prs Ferring Rife. On autumn passage noted from Jul 16 to Oct 9 with a total of 447, which included 269 Wild Park Jul 16 - Oct 6, 56 at Sompting on Aug 26, with 10 Cissbury on that date. The last was at Sompting on Oct 9.

399. **GARDEN WARBLER** After 1 at Woods Mill on Apr 28 just 8 further birds noted on spring passage, including 4 at Wild Park on May 8. In the breeding season 8 prs bred Wild Park, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Brighton Cemetery, & 1 pr Woods Mill. Very few in autumn; just 26 noted from Aug 4 to the last, at Wild Park on Sep 21.

400. **BLACKCAP** Wintering birds numbered just 1 in Jan, in a Broadwater garden, and 7 in Feb, again from town gardens. Singles at Storrington on Mar 18/19. Steyning on Mar 12, and Brighton Cemetery Mar 23 were probably wintering although 1 at Wild Park on Mar 31 may have been an early migrant. Most passage birds were noted Apr 16 to early May, & 6 males were singing in Goring Wood on May 14.

Breeding records were 20 prs Wild Park, 7 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 2 prs Woods Mill. In autumn a total of just 217, 189 of which noted at Wild Park between Jul 27 and Oct 29. A poor passage is indicated by the Sompting totals; 5 in Aug, 14 in Sep, and 4 in Oct. Late migrants or wintering birds were 1 at Hollingbury Woods on Nov 16 and 3 at Cissbury on Nov 23. In December 8 wintering birds were reported again from town gardens.

404. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** A rare vagrant to our area, 1 was ringed & photographed at Cissbury Ring on Oct 16 (MIB/BM/WW)

408. **WOOD WARBLER** An excellent showing in spring. After 1 at Woods Mill on Apr 29 (the first for the reserve), a further 9 noted to May 20, from Wild Park, Preston Park, Devil's Dyke, and W. Durrington. None were reported during the autumn.

**1990** 1 at Cissbury Aug 29.

409. **CHIFFCHAFF** Early year records of singles in a Broadwater garden on Jan 14 & Feb 4, in another Broadwater garden on Jan 18 and Feb 9, and 1 with a clear wing-bar in a Steyning garden on Jan 7 was probably one of the eastern races.

A later spring arrival than in recent years with the first at New Salts farm on Mar 9, then singles at Woods Mill on Mar 13, Widewater on Mar 22, Wild Park on Mar 27, and W Durrington on Mar 31. Few April records, & passage continued into May with 10 at Goring Wood on May 18 being new arrivals. Breeding season records were 10 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, & 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries.

A total of 548 were noted on autumn passage from late Jul to end-Oct; these included 319 at Wild Park Jul 26-Oct 29 max 52 on Sep 14, at Sompting 4 in Aug, 133 in Sep and 32 in Oct, max 27 on Oct 13, 20 at Brighton Cemetery Sep 20 with 13 there on Oct 4, and 10 at Cissbury on Sep 29. There were just 2 Nov records of late or wintering birds: singles at Wild Park on Nov 13 & 1 at Goring Wood Nov 23 which could be identified by its unusual call & it was still present there Dec 14. Other December sightings were singles at Dorothy Stringer School, Brighton on Dec 4, in a Broadwater garden Dec 14, in a South Lancing garden on Dec 29, and in a Steyning garden on Dec 31.



*Yellow-browed Warbler*

410. **WILLOW WARBLER** First of the year was 1 at Widewater Mar 23/24, an early date but after this none until 1 at Woods Mill on Apr 2 & 2 at Broadwater on Apr 6. Arrivals, as Chiffchaff, continued into May with 20 in Goring Wood on May 18, all new arrivals. Breeding season records were 19 prs Wild Park, 28 prs Devil's Dyke, and 2 prs Woods Mill with pairs at Sandgate Park and Sullington Warren.

A total of 498 were noted on autumn passage from mid-Jul to late Sep and included 329 at Wild Park Jul 16 to Sep 29 max 37 on Sep 2, at Sompting 105 in Aug & 19 in Sep; additionally 20+ at Cissbury on Aug 26 and 20+ at Newtimber Hill to Waterhall also Aug 26. Late records involved singles at Ferring Rife on Sep 26 and Wild Park on Sep 29.

411. **GOLDCREST** Up to 6 were noted in Jan to Mar from Wild Park and Sullington Warren, with smaller numbers reported from Withdean, Southwick, Brighton Cemetery, Shoreham, Central Worthing, & Woods Mill. The 2 April records were 3 at Wild Park on Apr 12 and 1 at Woods Mill during the month. 8, including juveniles, were present at Sullington Warren on Aug 20.

Extremely scarce in the autumn, some Sussex observers saw more Firecrests! Sompting fared the best with monthly totals of 2 in Aug, 13 in Sep, and 38 in Oct max 14 on Oct 6 & Oct 13, but at Wild Park just 3 on Oct 21 & the only other records were from Woods Mill with singles on Aug 26, Sep 4, Oct 15 & Oct 24 with 2 on Oct 25. There were no Nov or Dec records.

412. **FIRECREST** The only spring record was 1 at Woods Mill on Mar 17. As for Goldcrest, fewer autumn records for this species; after 1 at Sompting on Sep 17, 1 was at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 5 with 4 there Oct 29.

413. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** First of the year were 1 at West Durrington and 2 at Cissbury on May 20, and a late general arrival indicated by a fall of 40 at Hollingbury Camp on May 25 & 1 at Ferring Rife on May 31.

In the breeding season at least 2 prs Goring Wood, 1 held territory in a Steyning garden in June & in this month 2 sightings at Storrington church yard. All future breeding records would be welcome.

A total of 293 were reported on autumn passage from late Aug to the last at Woods Mill on Oct 1. These included monthly totals of 72 at Sompting in Aug max 31 on Aug 25, and 18 in Sep, 91 Wild Park Aug 25 to Sep 26 max 10 on Aug 27, and 65 at Cissbury on only 3 dates Aug 26 to Sep 8.

416. **PIED FLYCATCHER** Unusually, only 1 spring record 1 West Worthing May 18. In autumn, singles at Hollingbury Camp/Wild Park on Aug 23, Aug 28, Sep 2 and Sep 9, at Cissbury on Aug 26, at Sompting on Aug 31 and Sep 5 with 2 on Sep 6, 1 at Woods Mill Sep 9 (the 1st for the reserve), and the last at Mill Hill on Sep 11.

**1990:** 1 Findon Aug 2, 1 Lancing Aug 5 & 2 Sompting Sep 3.

418. **LONG-TAILED TIT** In the early months, totals of 18 at Wild Park in Jan and 8 in Feb but no large wintering flocks reported, the most being 8 at Sullington Warren on Jan 29 and Feb 12, 2 to 5 on peanuts in a Storrington garden Jan 13 to Feb 9, 4 at Goring Wood on Feb 3, 3 at Ferring Rife Feb 2, and 2 Hove Park Feb 14.

Breeding season records were 8 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Brighton Cemetery, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 1 pr Goring Wood. Autumn & late-year flocks



included 25 at Woods Mill in Sep, 10+ at Sullington Warren Aug 20, 10 at Cissbury Nov 10, and 9 in a Goring garden on Nov 30.

419. **MARSH TIT** Of 4 trapped at Wiston on Feb 24, 2 of these were re-trapped there on Mar 3, and 2 were also present on May 11. Scattered records received through the year of up to 2 at Highdown Hill, Woods Mill, and Sullington Warren. 5 were at Newtimber Hill on Aug 26 and 4 were at Lychpole Hill on Dec 1.

420. **WILLOW TIT** Singles were trapped at Wiston on Feb 24 and Mar 3. 1 pr bred at Devil's Dyke. Still an uncommon species in the recording area.

422. **COAL TIT** In the early months to Mar 24, up to 2 reported from Sullington Warren, Steyning, Westdean, Preston Park, Stanmer Park, Broadwater and Central Worthing. 1 was on peanuts in a Storrington & Broadwater garden during Jan, and of 3 trapped at Wiston on Feb 24, 2 were re-trapped on Mar 3.

There were no breeding records. Reported as an "occasional visitor" to a Findon Valley garden Jun to Nov, in the later months singles at Wild Park Oct 5 & Oct 29, 2 at Newtimber Hill Aug 26, singles Brighton Cemetery Oct 4 & Withdean Oct 18, 1/2 on nuts in a Storrington garden Nov 15 - Dec 27, and singles in Broadwater & Goring gardens in Dec.

423. **BLUE TIT** In the early months counts of 115 at Wild Park in Jan & 103 in Feb, 33 at Withdean Park in Jan & 28 in Feb, and 63 Brighton Cemetery Jan with 51 in Feb. Breeding records were 57 Wild Park, 20 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 14 prs Devil's Dyke, and at Woods Mill 10 prs in nestboxes; smaller broods being reported there than usual.

424. **GREAT TIT** Early counts were 64 at Wild Park in Jan, 55 in Feb, with 13 at Brighton Cemetery in Jan & 14 in Feb. Breeding records were 30 prs Wild Park, 10 prs Devil's Dyke, 7 prs Brighton Cemeteries, and 7 prs in nestboxes at Woods Mill.

425. **NUTHATCH** Very few reported, there were 3 at Wiston on May 11, 1 pr bred Woods Mill where resident, 1 trapped at Wiston on Feb 24, and 1 on peanuts in a Storrington garden on Dec 25.

427. **TREECREEPER** There were 2 Highdown Hill on Mar 29. Breeding records involved a pair with 2 juveniles at Sullington Warren on Aug 20 & 1 pr bred Woods Mill, where resident.

434. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** 1 wintered on the Upper Adur levels along the old Steyning railway from Feb 10 to Mar 24 (BFF/KN).

436. **JAY** 5 were at Wild Park in Jan with 2 there in Feb, with 2 at Brighton Cemetery in Jan & 4 in Feb. Singles were at Waterhall on Jan 2 and Withdean on Mar 11. In the breeding season 2 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, & upto 4 at Sullington Warren through the year. Autumn records, possibly involving migrants, were 6 at Sompting on Sep 25, with 9 there Oct 5 & 1 on Oct 11, & 1 over Hollingbury Camp on Sep 18.

437. **MAGPIE** Counts during the year were 106 Wild Park in Jan & 108 in Feb, 15 at Southwick Hill on Apr 8, and 143 Wild Park in Dec. Breeding records were 31 prs Wild Park, 8 prs Devil's Dyke, 6 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 2 prs Woods Mill.

438. **JACKDAW** In the early months 46 were at Wild Park in Jan, 24 Brighton Cemetery in Jan with 18 in Feb, 77 at Coombes on Apr 12, and 75 at Wiston on May 11. Breeding records involved 6 prs Downlands Avenue, Broadwater, a colony of up to 10 individuals in Church Street, Steyning, & 1 pr Woods Mill.

441. **ROOK** Counts outside the breeding season were 250 Truleigh Manor farm on Sep 22 & 55 Wild Park in Jan. Rookery counts were 25 nests in Findon, 142 nests Patcham Place, 46 nests Saddlescombe, 17 nests Steyning, 3 nests Standean, and 6 nests St. Mary's Church, Brighton.

442. **CARRION CROW** Counts at Goring Beach Green were 82 Feb 2, 76 on May 20, & 101 May 14. At Wild Park 26 in Jan & 24 in Feb, & 49 Shoreham airport Nov 10. Breeding records were few, & involved 7 prs Wild Park, 4 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 3 prs Devil's Dyke.

444. **STARLING** 26 pairs bred at Wild Park & 20 prs in Brighton Cemeteries. Counts during the year were 1482 NW at Sompting in Sep, 2,200 Wild Park Sep to Nov, 2000+ Brighton Pavilion Nov-Dec, and 600+ Worthing town centre at dusk on Nov 9.

446. **HOUSE SPARROW** 11 prs bred at Wild Park & 11 prs Brighton Cemeteries. Counts of the Brighton parks were 35 in Wild Park in Jan & 50 in Feb, 25 at Withdean Park in Jan with 30 in Feb, and 50 Brighton Cemetery Jan/Feb.

448. **TREE SPARROW** In the early months 16 Upper Adur levels Jan 1, 8 Shoreham airport Jan 6, 25 Woods Mill end-Jan with 1 on Mar 15, and 22 W. Durrington on Feb 19. In autumn/late year 4 at Sompting on Aug 9 & Aug 26 with 1 on Aug 27, 3 Upper Adur levels Nov 27 with 25 there Dec 15, and 2 at Beeding brooks Dec 27.

451. **CHAFFINCH** In the early months 48 at Wild Park Jan, with 76 in Feb. Breeding records were 55 prs Wild Park, 41 prs Devil's Dyke, 19 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 1 pr Woods Mill. In autumn, easterly movements at Sompting

totalled just 30 in Aug and 18 in Oct. Up to 150 at the Mumbles on Sep 22, with 20 still present there end-year. Other counts were 80+ Highdown Hill Nov 8 & 85 Lower Standean Dec 7.

452. **BRAMBLING** The only record for the early months was 2 at Ferring Rife on Feb 9, with 1 there Feb 12. In autumn 1 at Sompting on Sep 27 with 7 on Sep 29 & singles Oct 11 & Oct 14; 1 Wild Park Oct 23 with 3 there Oct 26 & 1 Nov 16; singles Goring Wood Oct 23 & Nov 9; 1 Cissbury Oct 13; & 27 at Lower Standean on Dec 7.

455. **GREENFINCH** Early year counts were 54 Wild Park in Jan & 42 in Feb, 21 Withdean Park in Jan & 41 in Feb, and 26 Brighton Cemetery in Jan with 43 in Feb. Breeding season records involved 34 Brighton Cemeteries, 21 prs Wild Park, & 1 pr Woods Mill.

Easterly movements at Sompting totalled 191 in Aug, 60 in Sep & 31 in Oct. Other counts were 80 Widewater on Sep 27, 54 Lower Standean Dec 7, 50 Shoreham harbour Nov 17, & 30 at Cissbury on Sep 5.

456. **GOLDFINCH** Maximum counts in the early months were 70 at Highdown Hill on Jan 20, 55 Wild Park in Jan with 28 in Feb, & 43 Upper Adur levels on Jan 1.

Breeding season records involved 4prs Brighton Cemeteries, 4 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Woods Mill and 1 pr High Street Steyning for the 3rd year running. At Sompting easterly movements totalled 292 in Sep & 141 in Oct, & at Wild Park 861 Sep 24 to Dec 11 max 135 on Oct 5. Other counts included 250E in 10 minutes at Widewater on Oct 18, 195 E Worthing beach on Oct 27, 172E Widewater on Oct 27, 100SE New Salts farm & 40 on the ground there Oct 12, and 100 Mumbles in Sep reducing to 40 end-year.

457. **SISKIN** In the early months between 1-6 reported from 5 sites to Apr 6 including 2 reports of birds feeding on garden peanuts. At Broadwater 10N & 30S on Feb 23, & 1E on Apr 13. Interestingly, 6 at Woods Mill on Jul 21.

A superb autumn when from Aug 11 to Oct 20 mainly coastal movements involved 1020 E, 73W & 40N. These include a record 604E at Goring Gap on Sep 25, 98 at Sompting in Sep, and between 20 & 40 at 8 further sites. None were reported in Nov & the only Dec records were 1 in Storrington on Dec 25 & 25 at Wiston on Dec 31.

458. **LINNET** Early year counts included 400 at Ferring Rife on Feb 14, 150 at Shoreham airport on Feb 16, & 75 Withdean Park in Feb. Small movements noted in spring with 69E Widewater Apr 30 & 30 Apr 27. Breeding records were 5 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Durrington, 16 prs Devil's Dyke & pairs at Ferring Rife, Highdown Hill & Woods Mill.



Easterly movement at Sompting totalled 2165 in Sep max 1074 on Sep 26, & 420 in Oct max 150 on Oct 6. 400 were at Ferring Rife on Oct 12, 200 Beeding Hill Dec 30, 150 King's Barn on Oct 29, 108 Lower Standean Dec 7, 100 Widewater Sep 29, & 80E there on Oct 12 with 60E Oct 27. Counts between 25-60 were received from 8 further sites.

459. **TWITE** The only record was 1 with Linnets at R. Adur on Feb 13/14 (KN).

**1990** 1 Widewater Nov 3.

460. **REDPOLL** Early records were of 5 at Highdown Hill on Jan 20, 18S at Portslade on Mar 2, and 2 Washington Woods Mar 21. Semi-resident at Woods Mill in the second half of the year max 10 on Oct 15. Easterly movements in autumn were 35E Widewater and 27E Worthing beach Oct 27, 6E Brighton Cemetery on Oct 4 & 2E at Patcham Nov 20. 167 were noted at Hollingbury Camp Sep 2 to Nov 27, max 20 on Sep 25 & 26 on Oct 30, and at Cissbury 6 on Aug 24, 40/50 on Oct 3, 20 on Oct 6, 30 on Oct 12, & heard only on Nov 17. The only other report was 6 at Shoreham on Oct 20.

463. **CROSSBILL** Singles flew over Wild Park on Mar 27, Mar 30, & Mar 31. From Jul 7 to Oct 27 a total of 74 were reported, which include 22E over Ditchling Road on Aug 20, 10E at Wild Park Jul 28 with 14E on Jul 29, 7W at Storrington on Jul 7, and 6 in a Hillbarn garden on Sep 9. A good year.

469. **BULLEFINCH** The usual scattering of records at both ends of the year, maxima being 15E at Sompting in Aug, 6 Wild Park in Feb, and 4 at Withdean Park Jan 1 with 4 at Highdown Hill on Jan 20. Breeding records were 3prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, and present in the breeding season at W Durrington & Goring Wood.

493. **LAPLAND BUNTING** 3 were at Widewater on Feb 15 (BFF/RK) with 1 still present there on Feb 16 (SRA/RAI). 1 at Lancing beach green Feb 17 may have been one of these three. Only the 3rd/4th record for the area this century.

494. **SNOW BUNTING** The 3 at Lancing Beach Green in 1990 remained there to Feb 22, 1 staying to Apr 6. 3 at Widewater on Feb 18 may have been this party. 8 flew W at Sompting on Oct 27, 1 was at Shoreham harbour on Dec 6, & 2 were at Goring Gap from Dec 9 into the new year. Another good year.

**1990** 2E at Worthing beach on Oct 7.

496. **YELLOWHAMMER** 70+ were at W Durrington on Feb 19 & 50 Upper Adur levels Dec 15. Breeding records were 11 prs Wild Park, 18 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr near Woods Mill, with 6 males Truleigh Manor farm Apr 27 & 8 Southwick Hill the same day. The species is showing a decline in our area, particularly autumn and winter flocks. All counts would be welcome.

506. **REED BUNTING** An influx in February hard weather when between Feb 9 & Feb 20 a total of 132 noted, mainly from the lower Adur valley. Woods Mill held an early-year roost of 100+.

Few breeding records with 2 males at Ferring Rife on May 31, 1 pr bred at Woods Mill, & present during the breeding season at 3 further sites.

Autumn movements involved very small numbers, examples being 2E at Sompting in Sep & 2E in Oct. Up to 8 present at the Mumbles in Dec, and up to 2 at 4 sites during this period. At Woods Mill the late-year roost was down in numbers, never exceeding 20.

510. **CORN BUNTING** 1 at Woods Mill on Feb 13 was the first there for 10 years. Otherwise few early-year counts, the maximum being 50 at the Mumbles, & 24 Lower Standean Jan 31.

In the breeding season there were few concentrations; 4 males at Long Furlong, 2 males Downs, Saddlescombe, 2 males Beeding Hill, 1 pr Steepdown, & single males at Chantry Post, Edburton Hill, and Southwick Hill. All breeding season records would be welcome.

Late year counts involved 500 Beeding Hill on Dec 30, and 120 King's Barn on Oct 10.

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### **ESCAPES & FERALS**

**BUDGERIEGAR** 1 at Patcham Sep 18

**COCKATEIL SP.** 1 at Goring Gap in Sep.

Dave Smith (Hon Recorder)

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## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1991

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>		<u>Departure</u>	
Hobby	May 4	Woods Mill	Oct 1	Wild Park
Whimbrel	Mar 29	Worthing	Oct 5	Ferring
Common Sandpiper	Apr 2	Widewater	Sep 25	Shoreham
Sandwich Tern	Mar 15	Worthing	Oct 13	Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 4	Worthing	Oct 9	Worthing
Little Tern	Apr 24	Worthing	Oct 16	Worthing
Turtle Dove	May 7	Woods Mill	Sep 29	Brooklands
Cuckoo	Apr 10	Goring	Sep 7	Hollingbury
Swift	Apr 25	Southwick	Sep 29	Sompting
Sand Martin	Apr 12	Shoreham	Oct 6	Sompting
Swallow	Apr 2	Broadwater	Nov 2	Widewater
House Martin	Apr 13	Broadwater	Nov 10	Hollingbury
Tree Pipit	Apr 10	Worthing B	Oct 7	Hollingbury
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 31	Worthing B	Oct 14	Adur Rec.
Redstart	—	—	Oct 12	Bevendean
Whinchat	May 8	Shoreham	Oct 11	Worthing
Wheatear	Mar 6	Goring	Oct 13	Sompting
Ring Ouzel	Apr 10	Hollingbury	Oct 29	Hollingbury
Sedge Warbler	May 5	Durrington	Sep 12	Woods Mill
Reed Warbler	Apr 22	Shoreham	Oct 15	Mumbles
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 18	Broadwater	Sep 29	Cissbury
Whitethroat	Apr 24	Lancing	Oct 9	Sompting
Garden Warbler	Apr 28	Woods Mill	Sep 21	Wild Park
Blackcap*	Mar 31	Wild Park	Nov 23	Cissbury
Chiffchaff*	Mar 9	New Salts	Nov 13	Wild Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 23	Widewater	Sep 29	Wild Park
Spotted Flycatcher	May 20	Cissbury	Oct 1	Woods Mill
Pied Flycatcher	May 18	Worthing	Sep 11	Mill Hill

\* Excluding possible wintering birds



## **RINGING REPORT FOR 1991**

After 15 years of high ringing activity in the area 1991 saw signs of a "recession" as the area total only reached 1760. As usual however, most were ringed as free flying birds and only 56 (all tits) were ringed as nestlings.

The Steyning Ringing Group were the highest contributors with 600 birds ringed at Cissbury, 287 at the Mumbles, Steyning, 173 at Sandgate Park and 48 at Wiston. Their total of 1108 reflects a marked reduction in the catches of warblers on the slopes of Cissbury. The total of ringed birds at the Sanctuary was only 201 which is the lowest for several decades; a combination of few ringing expeditions and low numbers of birds accounting for the poor total. The Gull Group had three successful outings at Washington refuse tip when 378 Black-headed gulls and a 17 Common Gulls were cannon-netted. The final figure was reached by Dr Barrie Watson ringing 48 nestling Blue and Great Tits from boxes around Shoreham.

The table below shows the numbers of the 46 species ringed; only 7 of these species show an increase from 1990 and 45 species showed a decrease with Willow Warbler (-888), Blackcap (-322) and Whitethroat (-279) revealed the largest changes. Undoubtedly the bird of the year was the Yellow-browed Warbler (a "ringing tick" for the area) which turned up in a mist net at Cissbury at the end of an otherwise quiet session.

**RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS**:- the following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries and controls reported since the last ringing report. As fewer birds were trapped there were generally fewer movements recorded.

1) **KESTREL**:- One of a brood of 5 ringed at Meadowhead, Strathclyde, Scotland in June 1991 was controlled at Cissbury on 27th October 1991. This is the furthest recorded movement for this species from our area.

2) **BLACK-HEADED GULLS**:- There were three catches totalling 397 birds at Washington rubbish tip in Jan/Feb 1991. In these catches there were just 14 retraps yet 8 controls from Moscow; Estonia(2); Lithuania; Helsinki; and Brussels(3).

TABLE 1

Black-headed Gull	378	Yellow-browed Warb	1
Common Gull	17	Chiff-chaff	61
Sparrowhawk	1	Willow Warbler	109
Woodpigeon	1	Goldcrest	1
Kingfisher	1	Spotted Flycatcher	2
Great Sp Woodpecker	2	Long-tailed Tit	26
Sand Martin	8	Marsh Tit	5
Swallow	168	Willow Tit	1
Pied Wagtail	2	Coal Tit	3
Wren	50	Blue Tit	116
Dunnoek	58	Great Tit	62
Robin	74	Nuthatch	1
Nightingale	1	Treecreeper	2
Redstart	4	Starling	1
Blackbird	67	Chaffinch	40
Song Thrush	16	Greenfinch	14
Redwing	1	Goldfinch	103
Grasshopper Warbler	1	Siskin	1
Sedge Warbler	7	Redpoll	11
Reed Warbler	53	Bullfinch	30
Lesser Whitethroat	18	Yellowhammer	3
Whitethroat	40	Reed Bunting	1
Garden Warbler	18	TOTAL	1760

Recoveries from previous years ringing are still coming in at a reasonable rate but fewer than the recent past years.

Within Britain:- Sussex (14); Surrey (1); Greater London; Essex (7); Devon (1); Norfolk (2); Cumbria (1); Suffolk (1); Yorkshire (1); and Stafford (1). The total of 28 includes slightly unusual recoveries in Northern Britain (Cumbria and Yorkshire). The large number (proportionately) in Essex is due to a gull cannon-netting team's activities.

Within Europe:- Finland (2); Sweden (5); Norway (2); Baltic States (4); Russia (1); Poland (1); Germany (East)(6); France (3); Holland (9); Belgium (1) and Denmark (4). Once again a higher number (58%) were from Europe than Britain.

3) COMMON GULL:- An adult caught coming to food in a West Worthing garden in November 1988 was shot to prevent air strike at Copenhagen Airport in June 1991.

4) HERRING GULL:- just 3 recoveries reported from Sussex; Cornwall (10yrs old) and Devon.

5) SWALLOW:- One ringed at Fleetwood, Lancashire in Sept was controlled at the Sandgate Park roost 13 days later.

6) SONG THRUSH:- One ringed on passage in April 1988 on Heligoland, Germany was found dead in a West Worthing garden during the cold weather in February 1991.

4) BLACKCAP:- Two individual short movements were recorded; a male between Cissbury (Aug 90) and Horsham (Jul 91) and a female from Litlington (Aug 90) to the Sanctuary (Jul 91).

5) WILLOW WARBLER:- a juvenile ringed in July 1990 at Wraybury, Berks was controlled at the Sanctuary in July 1991.

6) STARLING:- the most interesting passerine movement reported in the year, although more than 5 years after the date of recovery, was an adult male ringed in West Worthing on 07-01-80 and found dead in Sept 1986 in the Pestov region, Novgorod, USSR; a distance of 2474 km ENE (58°35'N 35°50'E).

As usual there were several local retraps and movements which were of interest; the following brief retrap story of two Blue Tits ringed at the Sanctuary leaves one wondering where they have been in between retrapping:-

		Ringed		
E281231	Juv	24-09-86	08-10-86	19-08-88 14-09-91
E281234	Juv	..		27-04-88 22-06-88 21-09-91

J.A.Newnham



## SANCTUARY REPORT 1991

The copse was visited on fewer days during the year with about 30 visits recorded. Only 9 of these were longer mist-netting sessions which is the lowest number of trapping sessions since ringing started at the Sanctuary in the 1950's. Most of these visits, as usual, were in the migration periods with the autumn being better observed than the spring.

During January there was a small finch roost, mainly Chaffinches, in the ivy clad trees but little else until the weather turned cold in February. On Feb 6th a small party of 40 Fieldfares were seen, at least one Brambling was roosting with the Chaffinches and a Little Owl, an unusual birds in the copse, was seen in the willow withy.

The annual clearing/gardening session was in this bitter cold spell; a bunch of 7 stalwarts braved the cold to clear the willows under the electricity cables. A huge bonfire and the effort of dragging boughs of Willow kept everyone warm and there were up to 30 Snipes, 3 Woodcocks and a party of 200 Fieldfares to be seen during the morning.

Thankfully the intensely cold weather was short-lived; the first frog spawn was noted on Mar 3rd yet the first Chiff-chaffs were not seen until Mar 31st. The rest of spring was poorly covered and there were no records of note.

Despite all the efforts of the winter "conservation party" a party of workmen armed with chain-saws raided the copse and in the height of the breeding season cut a huge ride through the centre of the sanctuary. The task was presumably designed to prevent the vegetation reaching or interfering with the overhead cables but left much of the damp area in the sanctuary bare of vegetation. Although the area looked useless for birds the following table shows the numbers of birds caught in the two mist-nets most effected by the work and the simple analysis suggests little actual difference in the birds caught from previous years.

Birds trapped in nets in centre of Willow withy.

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
no. trapped	297	285	237	72
% of total	26%	30%	24%	26%



*Little Owl*

Following the disturbance in the early summer the rest of the summer also was a disaster! June seemed cold and windy and many of the paths were not only overgrown but overblown. In June and July several mist netting sessions were cancelled for bad weather and there seemed to be a dearth of birds in the Sanctuary. These reasons, coupled with my complete absence in August (usually one of the most productive months) produced the poorest ringing totals for many years. Totals alone can be misleading but a clearer picture of the poor season can be seen from the following table.

Summary of ringing effort and results for 1988 -1991.

	<u>1988</u>	<u>1989</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
No sessions	26	19	19	9
Average catch	45	50	52	31
Year best	253	135	94	56

In the later autumn there were a few Siskins and Redpolls passing overhead and a Chiff-chaff lingered on feeding in a dead Sycamore until Nov 17th. Up to 30 Redwing were roosting in the copse in December.

I would like to express my thanks to those who have helped with both the ringing and the maintenance work at the Sanctuary during the year. Furthermore I would like to express the Society's thanks to the Southern Water Authority and their staffs whose help and cooperation has continued throughout the year.

John Newnham

## **STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1991**

1991 was not the best year for the ringing group. Most members of the group found that personal circumstances restricted the amount of time that was available for ringing activities and although the final total of 1108 new birds rung was higher than the totals achieved in the earlier years of the group's history it was well below the figure of 2-3000 birds handled in the previous two years (for complete 1991 totals and detailed recoveries see the Ringing Report).

The number of ringing sessions at Cissbury dropped from 57 in 1990 to 23 in 1992 which partly accounts for the drop in the overall numbers. However a closer look at the numbers of birds trapped on each day indicates that it was not just the ringers that had a poor year as the following table shows:-

Average Number of Birds Ringed per Session

	<b><u>1990</u></b>	<b><u>1991</u></b>
July	39	17
August	65	26
September	60	40
October	30	19
<b>Ave. for Season</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>26</b>

The dramatic drop in the numbers of birds has also been mirrored at other ringing sites and seems to indicate a very poor breeding season. Further evidence of this was the appearance of recently fledged birds late in the season indicating that several pairs had attempted late broods.

Other factors too contributed to the low total. The cold winter of 1990/91 affected Goldcrest numbers and the autumn influx of 201 in 1990 dropped to just 1 bird in 1991. This happened after the cold winter of 85/86 and numbers slowly recovered over about three years. No doubt the same will happen again.

Technical difficulties with the tape lure together with low numbers at the breeding sites meant that very few Sand Martins were rung and the Pied Wagtail roost at Sandgate that was successfully tackled in 1990 had



moved elsewhere in 1991. However by way of compensation it was discovered that Swallows respond well to tapes on migration when coming in to evening roost and the total of 168 were nearly all caught by this method at Sandgate.

The season commenced with just 2 sessions at the winter feeding station at Wiston which enabled Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch and Willow Tit to feature on the totals list as well as some of the commoner tits and finches. Activity started much later than usual in July when the sorry evidence of the poor breeding season was immediately apparent. The late start also meant that very few adult birds were rung; most adults being trapped when they first arrive on the site in April, May and June and are moving around establishing and defending breeding territories.

Only one session was held in early August which meant that those young Willow Warblers that did survive to fledge escaped our nets! Small numbers of the common migrants for the site passed through during August and September with, in descending order of abundance, Blackcap (139), Willow Warbler (93), Chiffchaff (45), Whitethroat (32) and Garden Warbler (16). One surprise in the poor year was the relatively large number of Reed Warblers that appeared on the site; 19 were trapped identical to the 1990 total despite the lower activity. Two Reed Warblers were also retrapped at Cissbury having been rung as recently fledged birds on the same day earlier in the autumn at our Mumbles, Steyning site - an interesting example of local movement. A third youngster from this same brood remained at the Steyning site for some time before departing.

Although the scarcer species were scarcer still in volume nearly all were represented including Grasshopper Warbler, Nightingale, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher. A Sparrowhawk added to the interest in late September and young a Kestrel that we caught in October, already bearing a ring, originated from Scotland!

The atmosphere of the site in late autumn was dulled by the absence of the Goldcrests but some Siskins and Redpolls were present with the latter responding to a limited extent to the tapes resulting in 11 ringed birds. Ring Ouzels evaded the nets but were at least present on the site. However the gloom of the season evaporated rapidly when one of our ringers returned from a net round with a Yellow-browed Warbler in his hand on the 6th October. Fortunately Brian Metcalfe was on hand with his camera

and he obtained some superb photographic evidence of our triumph! There has been a high degree of expectation over the years that something would "turn up" and this bird justified the optimism. It was a pity that all the members of the group could not be on hand to witness it!

Whilst Cissbury ticked over fortunes were being revived at our Mumbles site at Steyning where activity had been minimal over recent years. 25 Reed Warblers were trapped in or near the reed beds including some very late fledglings in September along with small numbers of other warblers and resident birds. However a particular delight was the flock of upto 150 Goldfinches with a few Chaffinches and Greenfinches admixed that adorned the teasles on the adjacent waste ground. 107 of these finches were rung, 88 of which were Goldfinches. A Kingfisher caught during a session in August provided a welcome reminder of the beauty of these attractive birds.

Mention has already been made of the Swallow ringing at Sandgate so the summary of 1991 is complete. Expectations are high again for 1992 and plans are being made to introduce Constant Effort Ringing; a scheme that provides the British Trust for Ornithology and the ringing group with controlled data over a specific time and activity period that enables a more meaningful analysis to be made of breeding success and population levels. This will add a new dimension to our activities and extend the value of our effort.

Thanks to all the "friends of the ringing group" who have been roped in to "scribe" or hold bird bags or trim bushes and thanks also to the National Trust and their warden Glyn Jones for allowing us permission to operate the site.

Brian Clay

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## **HOLLINGBURY CAMP AND WILDPARK - 1991 DIARY**

January started quietly with the Treecreeper and a handful of Goldcrests remaining from the previous year. Small numbers of Fieldfares and Redwing were seen. One or two overflying Redpoll were recorded and the only other significant records were some quite large flocks of Pied Wagtail, Skylark and corvids - all feeding on the arable field.

On 2nd February 14 Lapwings flew over and the cold spell brought in many hundreds of Skylark, Fieldfare and Redwing into the Wildpark and local gardens. The crab apple tree was a popular source of food for Fieldfares. Two Woodcocks were seen on the 9th, and on the 13th a large Linnet flock comprising 84 birds was feeding in Hollingbury woods.

In March, both Pheasant and possibly two pairs of Grey Partridge were seen or heard regularly in the arable field area. A Buzzard flew east on 6th, whilst 55 Redwing on the 15th was the only high count of the period. A Woodcock was seen on the 17th, when a female Stonechat stayed on the Camp for a few days. On 27th a Curlew flew over and the first Chiffchaff arrived. Flocks of Pied Wagtails were on the field with a maximum of 25 on the 27th. The first of many Crossbills recorded this year flew over on 27th, another on 30th and 5 on 31st which alighted in the trees for a while before flying off northwards. Further arrivals were noted with the first Blackcap and Wheatear on the 31st.

On the 12th April a flurry of Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers were seen as well as 4 Wheatears on the Camp. Subsequent visits uncovered few warblers generally but a Lesser Whitethroat was found on 21st. Other migrants were Yellow Wagtail & 2 Cuckoos on 26th and Whitethroat on 27th.

The first 2 Swifts arrived on 1st May, and Garden Warbler on 4th. Early May always produces a Wood Warbler, and 2 were in the canopy on 7th and another 2 on 9th. A surprise for a group of visiting RSPB members was a Nightingale singing mid-morning on 8th. By the 11th, at least 4 Cuckoos were thought to be in the area, and another Wood Warbler was seen. Wheatears continued with some late passage with 8 on 11th, and a few Whinchats joined them the following day. Very few hirundines were passing through, and for a change the largest movement was 77 Swifts on 18th. A huge count of 40 Spotted Flycatchers on 25th and a Sedge



Warbler proved to be the only spring records. A poor spring this year seemed to be repeated elsewhere, and unusually, no Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher, Turtle Dove or Ring Ousel were recorded here.

There were few visits in June, but a Hobby on 8th was the only record of note. In July two juvenile Parakeets were seen with adults in Wildpark, but we are uncertain as to where they bred this year. Later in the year this family party of 4 was a common sight and only one larger count in the autumn probably means that the colony is spreading farther afield. July turned out to be a good butterfly month with good numbers of Marbled Whites, and Hairstreaks recorded by enthusiasts on the side of the coombe. A movement of Crossbills occurred at the end of the month with 10 on 28th and 14 on 29th, both flocks flying east.

Early returning Swallows were seen on 4th August, and a single Crossbill the same day. A Ringed Plover was heard calling on 11th, but was, unfortunately, not seen. A small movement of hirundines attracted a passing Hobby on 9th. A covey of Grey Partridge on 18th proved that breeding had been successful. The end of the month normally sees substantial movements of Willow Warblers and other passerines but this year numbers were down. The exception were Whinchats and Spotted Flycatchers, particularly the latter on the eastern side of the Camp where the insects were in abundance. Some of the better birds, including the highest counts are listed below.

20 August	20 Crossbill
23 August	12 Tree Pipit, 4 Whinchat, 1 Pied Flycatcher.
28 August	5 Yellow Wagtail, 10 Spotted Flycatchers, 1 Pied Flycatcher
1 September	Honey Buzzard, 6 Whinchat, Reed Warbler.
2 September	Black Redstart, 13 Lesser Whitethroat, 37 Willow Warbler, 8 Redpoll.
3 September	Snipe, 8 Whinchat, 10 Blackcap
7 September	Cuckoo, 6 Redstart, 15 Blackcap
8 September	516 Swallow, 5 Yellow Wagtail, Sedge Warbler
9 September	Peregrine, Pied Flycatcher, Reed Warbler
14 September	Hoopoe, 55 Blackcap, 52 Chiffchaff, 8 Spotted Flycatcher
15 September	Hoopoe, 2 Swift, Ring Ousel, 5 Siskin
19 September	Hobby, 3 Redpoll.

21 September	12 Siskin, 11 Redpoll, Grey Wagtail.
25 September	6 Wheatear, Turtle Dove, 22 Siskin
27 September	70 Meadow Pipits, 2 Stonechats, 11 Redpoll
28 September	Hen Harrier, Marsh Harrier, 19 Siskin
29 September	11 Ring Ousel, 24 Siskin
1 October	Hobby, Ring Ousel, 28 Chiffchaff, 12 Siskin
2 October	Buzzard, 30 Siskin
5 October	1000 Swallow, 1400 House Martin, Firecrest, 36 Siskin, Redwing.

An Arctic Warbler was claimed by a visiting birder on 6th October but wasn't seen by anybody else - although there were many people looking once the news broke (including most of the SDOS Committee!). On the 9th there was the 1st of 4 October sightings of a Red Kite. (all were seen after 3pm and the bird was always flying north). A male Stonechat remained on the Camp for a few days and 4 Ring Ousels were there on the 12th. There were more Siskins and Redpolls - what a good autumn for these. The 20th was an interesting day with a Peregrine over high, a Jack Snipe alighting briefly in the stubble field (the 1st known record for the area), a Merlin and the only large flock of Fieldfare. Two separate Woodcock were seen, whilst a ring-tailed Hen Harrier flew west on 26th, and 3 Brambling noted the same day. Four Firecrests and a Woodlark turned up on 29th, followed by a Black Redstart on 30th.

November started with an extremely late Wheatear on 3rd. The Skylark and pipit numbers were tailing off now, but November saw the usual large flocks of Wood Pigeon, 704 on 16th being the peak count. Blackcaps turned up twice - on the allotments and in a nearby garden. There were the odd Redpolls passing over and a Linnet flock of 46, but generally the year finished on a quiet note with just a Woodcock in the Wildpark and possibly 2 wintering Chiffchaffs in the area.

This summary compiled by Peter Whitcomb, with the help of his two sons, Andrew & Ian; and also Colin Brooks, Graham & Gyn Champion, Bob Emery, Nick Gearty, Ian Lawes and Wayne Turner.

Peter Whitcomb



## **GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY - WINTER 1990/91**

Welcome to the return of the Garden Bird Feeding Survey to the Annual Report. After an absence of 5 years the Survey is now back on course as an annual event. After Mike Hall relinquished control the survey has stumbled along for a few years with only a brief summary of the 89/90 winter appearing in the spring '91 newsletter. However new forms were issued and as a result a pleasing response from both former and new participants was obtained which has enabled a more worthwhile analysis to be made of the 1990/91 data. I have also received from Mike the returns from the earlier years and having re-read some of Mike's write-ups I notice that he was keeping a running grand total of all the different species seen from year to year. I will try and bring this up to date as I am sure that a Palm Dove which frequented the Champion's garden in Brighton must be a new one for the list!

Unfortunately the timing of the Annual Report means that there is not enough time to include an analysis of the most recent winter so the report will be about a year behind. However this is no different from other aspects of the report and is in common with several other surveys.

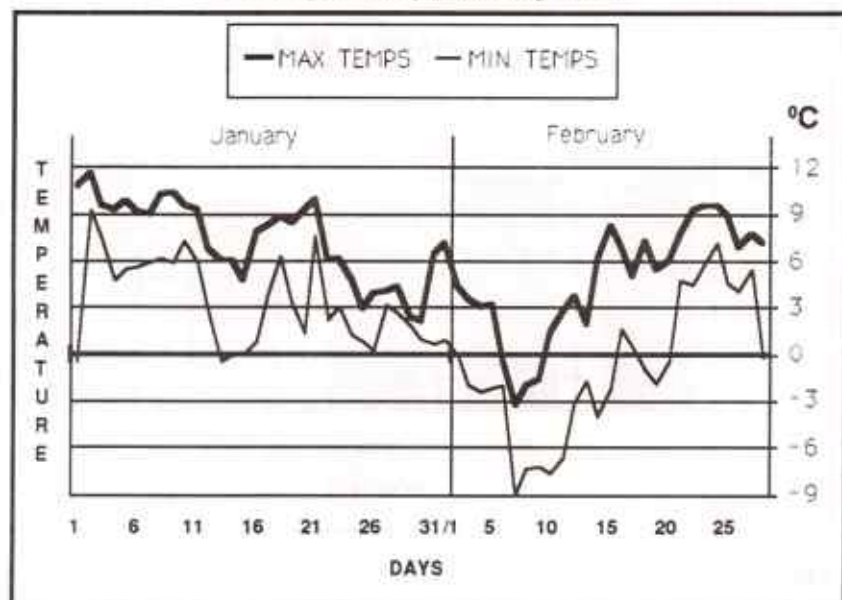
There were 11 participants in the 1990/91 survey, only 2 less than the last full year in 1985, which is excellent considering the gap. The survey records birds coming to food specifically provided by the contributor. At present birds taking naturally occurring food are not recorded although I feel many contributors would prefer this to be the case (I will look at devising a simple way of recording this for inclusion in the 1992/93 survey). Over the winter a total of 40 different species were recorded which is similar to the numbers recorded in earlier years; indeed the running total for the first 3 years of the survey only totalled 43.

The comparatively high species count is of course due to the severity of the winter, particularly February 1991, which forced a wide range of species into the gardens and meant that Redwing and Fieldfare appeared on most lists with maximum numbers showing about twice as many Fieldfare (average of 10 per garden) as Redwing (5) despite the fact that Fieldfare often become territorial once established in a garden. The graph (Fig 1) shows quite dramatically the temperature drop in early '91 with minimum temperatures remaining below zero for the first two weeks of February.



**FIG 1.**

Graph Showing Maximum and Minimum Winter Temperatures  
During January/February 1991

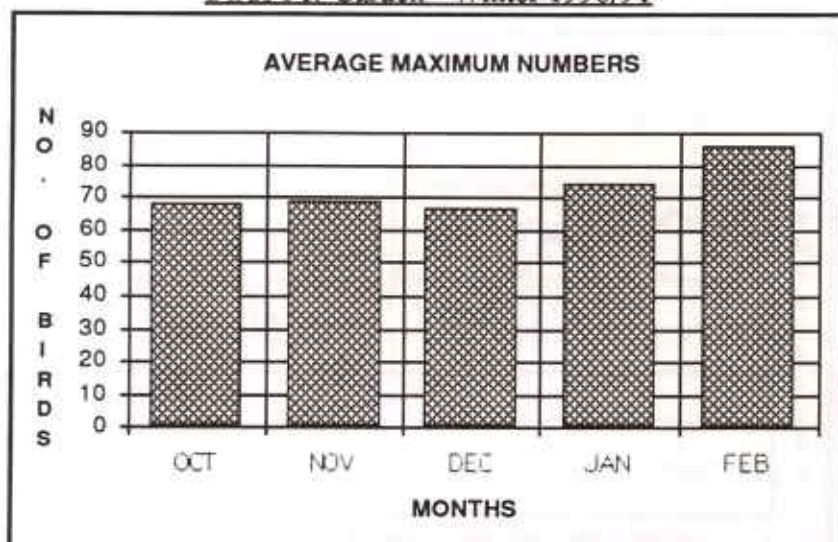


While visiting numbers of some species such as House Sparrow, Robin, the tits and Dunnocks remain fairly constant despite the cold snap other species show a distinct increase. In particular more gulls, both Black-headed and Common appeared as did Blackbirds and Song Thrushes. The numbers of Wood Pigeons and Feral Pigeons nearly doubled whereas Collared Dove numbers remained constant. There was also a small but less significant increase in Chaffinch and Greenfinch numbers.

Over the whole winter period the Starling was the most numerous species, very closely followed by House Sparrow; the average maximum monthly counts of both these species per garden is 18. There is then a big drop to 5 for Black-headed Gull, then down to Greenfinch (4), Collared Dove (3), Blackbird (3) and Blue Tit (3). The maximum numbers then drop into ones and twos with the more solitary feeders such as Dunnock and Robin at 2 and 1 respectively and the Song Thrush and Great Tit down at 1. The remainder of the species are either less common or only frequent a few of the gardens such as Palm Dove and Chaffinch!

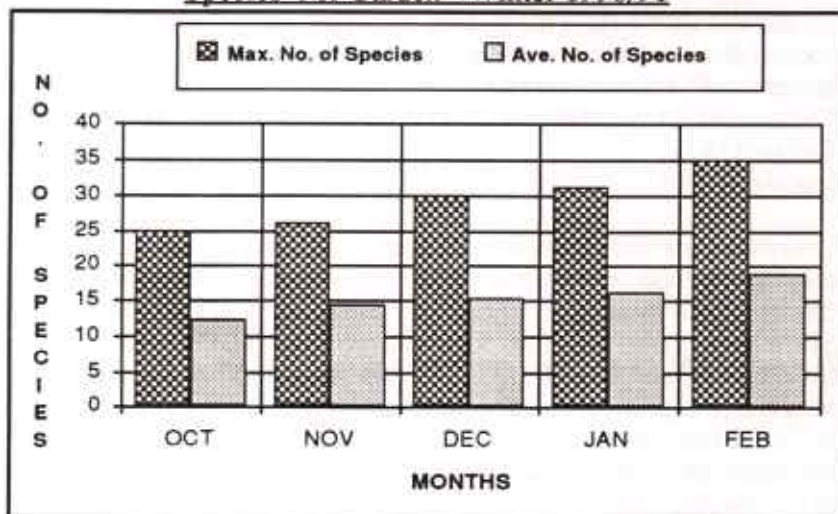
**FIG 2.**

Graph Showing Average Maximum Numbers of  
Birds Per Garden - Winter 1990/91



**FIG 3.**

Graph Showing Maximum and Average Numbers of  
Species Per Garden - Winter 1990/91



The highest maximum count of any one species was 52 Feral Pigeons in Sylvia Denman's garden in January closely followed by 48 House Sparrows in the same garden in both December and January. Highest Starling counts were of 45 in the Champion's garden in Brighton in November and also Roy Sandison's Findon garden in December. Other top totals were 38 Black-headed Gulls in Roger Edney's garden, 24 Collared Doves in the Champion's garden and 15 Fieldfare in the Ford's Ferring garden. As the winter progressed the average maximum numbers per month remained steady until the New Year when the cold weather generated an increase as the graph (Fig 2) shows.

The award for the greatest diversity of species again goes to Pat and Clive Hope recording a total of 25 in their Storrington garden. However the Champion family in Brighton noted the highest average monthly total of 19.5 species. All the species on the pre-printed form occurred apart once again from Marsh/Willow Tit which is intriguing as Chris Fox and I ring both these species at a winter feeding station at Wiston sited not half a mile from his cottage. Only 5 species occurred in all gardens in every month; Blue Tit, Robin, Blackbird, Starling and Collared Dove. Greenfinch and Song Thrush also occurred in all gardens but not every month. House Sparrow is missing from this list because of their total absence from the Hope's garden. As Clive says "strange but we really never see them"!

Several species appear so regularly that they should be added to the main list. Apart from Redwing and Fieldfare, both Wood Pigeon and Carrion Crow appeared in 73% of gardens with Common Gull and Goldfinch in 27%. Apart from the Palm Dove, which unfortunately died on New Year's Eve and is now at the Booth Museum, a number of less exotic but equally notable species were also recorded. Both wintering Blackcap and Chiffchaff visited as did Siskin, Meadow Pipit, Grey Wagtail, Stock Dove and Pheasant.

The average numbers of species visiting each month as well as the total number of different species occurring increased steadily each month as the third graph shows; a slightly different pattern to maximum numbers. Again this is probably attributable to the harshness of the winter but as the information is built up from year to year it should be possible to confirm this.



I thought it would also be interesting to have a look at the types of garden and the food and other facilities that our contributors provide for their birds. It is difficult to assess actual sizes of gardens. Most refer to their gardens as medium, but I suspect some are being modest! Two definitely have large gardens one being 11 and the other about 15 thousand square feet. On the other hand only one admits to a small garden! Clearly though some more standard method of measurement is required here but it would appear that small gardens are under represented in the survey! Most gardens I suspect are cultivated to some degree with 8 noting flower borders and 7 lawns, trees and shrubs. Several have the advantage of backing on to open countryside which is undoubtedly an advantage as they have, as one would expect, the higher diversity of species.

All except one noted that water was provided with a minimum of 6 out of the 11 gardens possessing ponds. However it was the food provision that really amazed me. I identified at least 15 different types of food being provided! Most popular was peanuts which were provided in all 11 gardens followed by wild bird seed (9), scraps (7), bread (6) and fat (5). Some of the more specialist foods provided in 3 or less gardens were "fresh" fruit, dried fruit, oats, grain, cheese, sunflower seeds, coconut and proprietary food such as "soft bill" and "songster". I will try and survey the food provision in more detail for the 1992/3 winter as these comments are based on the notes supplied on the survey forms rather than any systematic method.

The forms for the 1991/92 winter are now coming in and the number of contributors has already reached 15. The initial impressions are of a mild winter with no great influxes and fewer unusual species. Good feeding for '92/3!

Brian Clay



## SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1991

### Introduction.

During 1991 the sea was watched for 362 hours with a total of 34,600 non-passerine birds noted. Coverage has been falling in the past few years with 1991 showing a 30% reduction in hours recorded from 1990. The total of non passerines represents a 28% reduction on the total for 1990 too. I suspect most sea-watchers will soon forget 1991 as there were few good watches and only a few good birds: most would summarise the year as "disappointing". As usual the spring months were most popular with watchers; over 51% of the hours watched and 72% of the total birds seen were recorded in Apr and May alone.

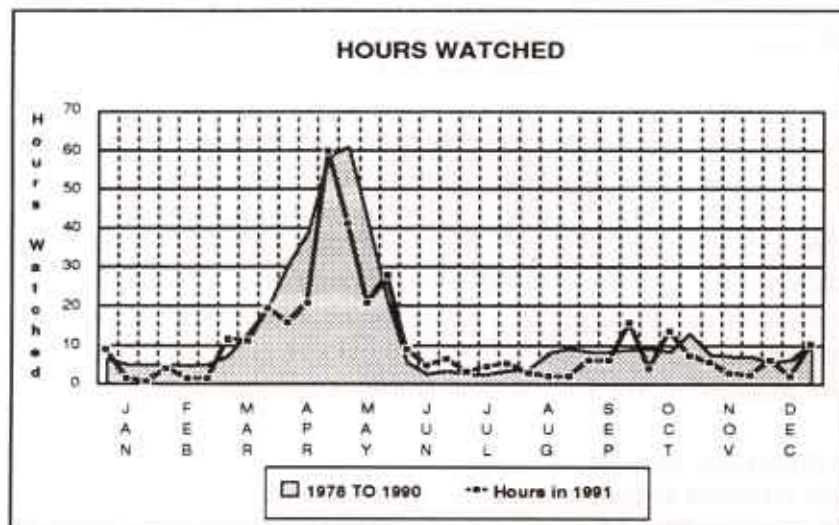
As in previous years a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping them informed and saving much time collecting records. During 1991 this ran from 29th Mar (Good Friday) to 30th May. As before most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing but watches are included from other sites such as Ferring beach, Goring beach, Worthing pier, Brooklands beach and Widewater. Many observers were seen, particularly during the spring, but thanks must go to all observers who have contributed records to the daily log which form the basis for this report:-

M.N.Brayshaw; P.M.Brayshaw; G.Edwards; M.P.Hall; C.E.Hope;  
R.A.Ives; R.Jackson; J.A.Newnham; B.A.E.Marr; M.G.Prince;  
R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith.

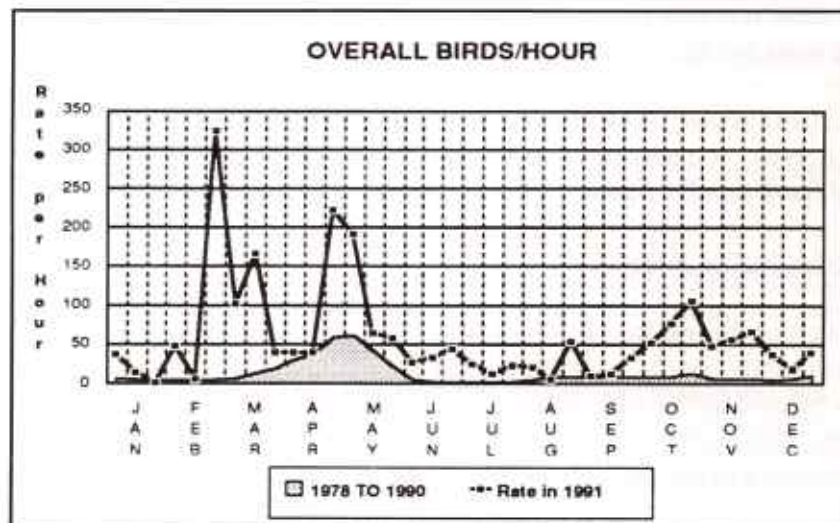
### Chronological Report

Watching during the early part of the year was unrewarding; even the fresh winds in early Jan produced just a few Kittiwakes and auks and the severe cold spell in early Feb was probably too late in the winter to induce large movements of wildfowl. The largest eastward winter/spring movement of 442 Brent Geese was noted in 1 hours watch on 29th Feb.

# SEAWATCHING 1991 - HOURS WATCHED (IN 10 DAY PERIODS)

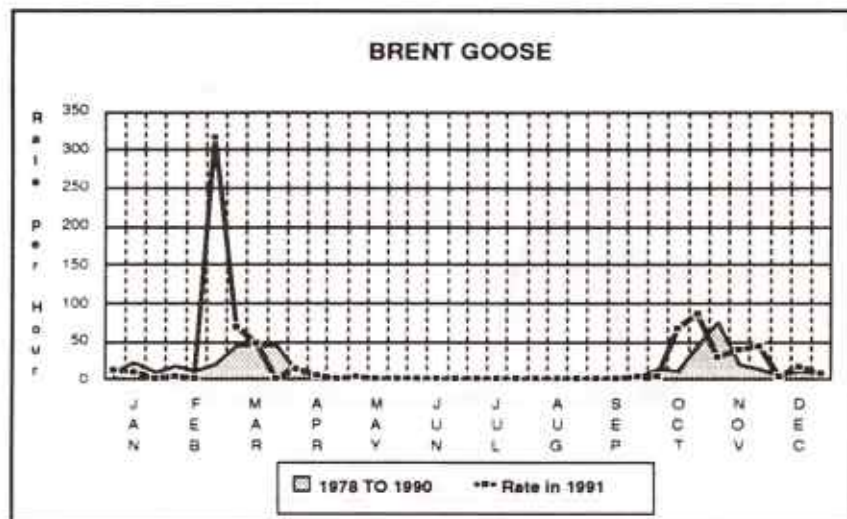


# SEAWATCHING 1991- RATE OF PASSAGE OVERALL RATE OF BIRDS PER HOUR IN 10 DAY PERIODS

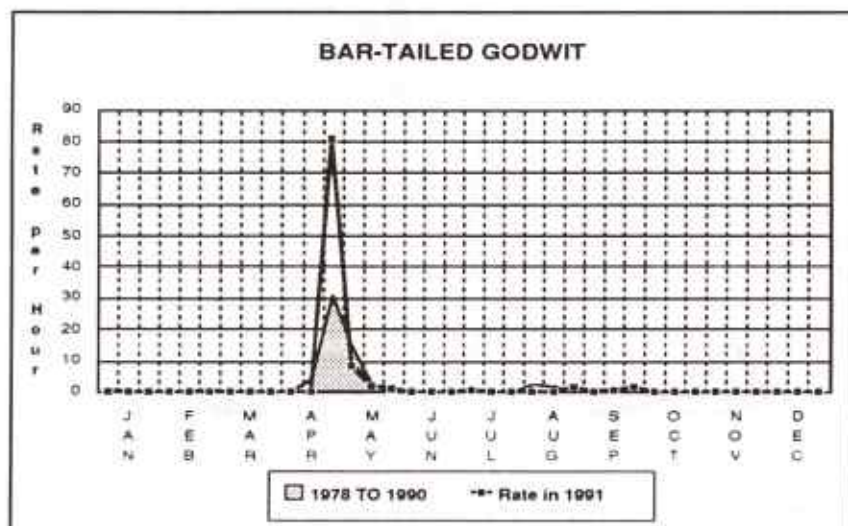




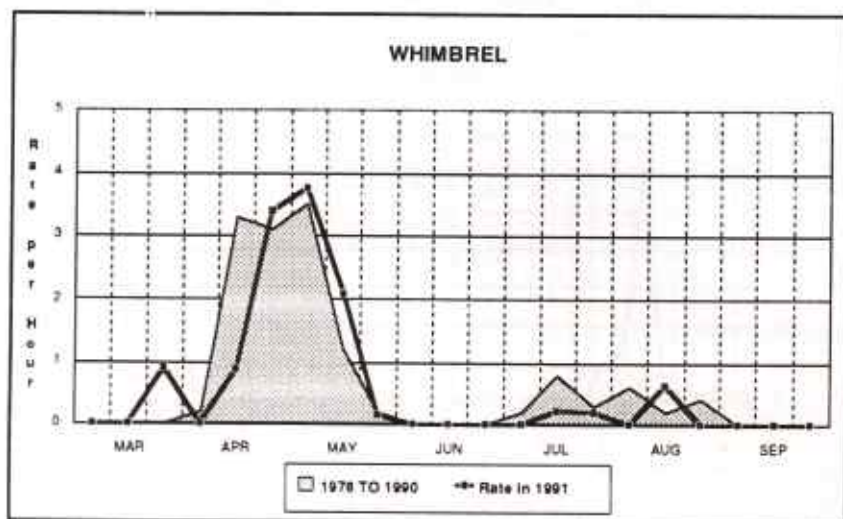
SEAWATCHING 1991 - BRENT GOOSE  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



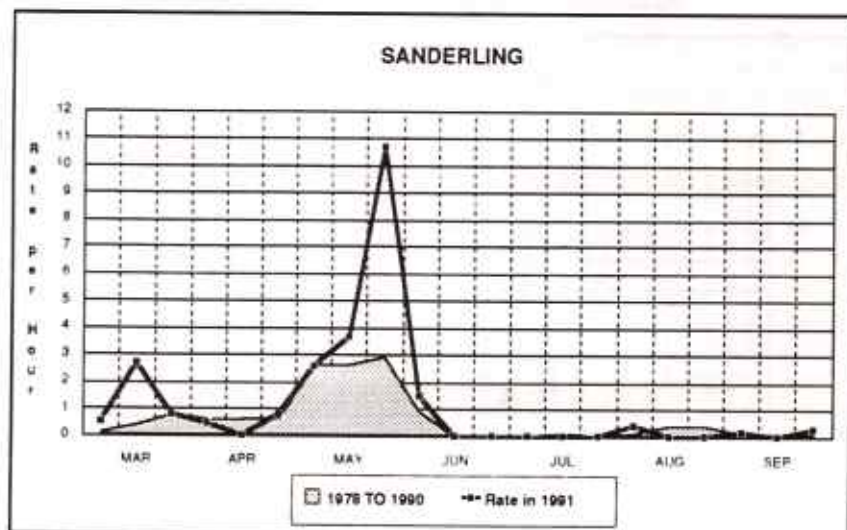
SEAWATCHING 1991- BAR-TAILED GODWIT  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1991- WHIMBREL  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1991- SANDERLING  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



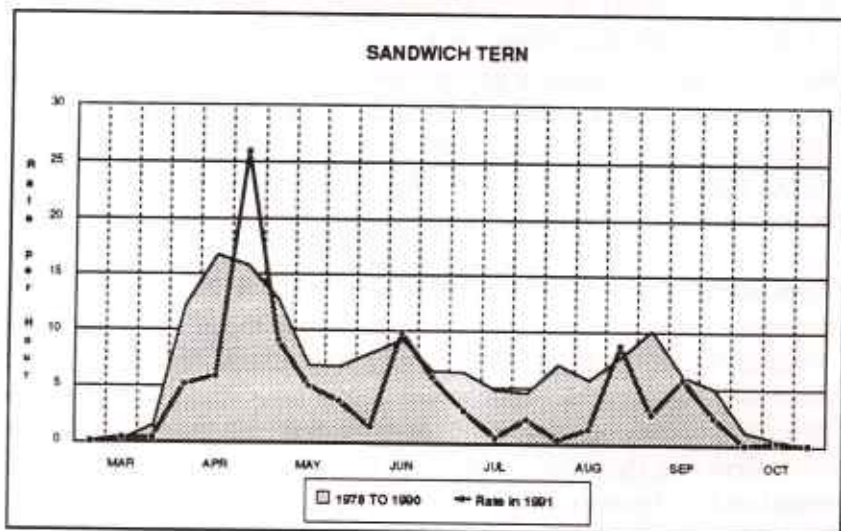
March started with a few skeins of Brent Geese passing east associating with other wildfowl including 30 Shoveler on 3rd Mar and 4 Scaup and 2 Gadwall on 4th Mar. Brents trickled past for most of March but there were no large movements of any species except 1029 Black-headed Gulls on 13th Mar; hardly a sight to stir all! The first Sandwich Terns were recorded on 15th March, a day when a Glaucous Gull was also seen. The month also produced 2 Mediterranean Gulls and on the 30th a Black-necked Grebe and 2 Garganeys were seen.

April started promisingly with an Avocet on the beach on the first but thereafter it was a very uninspiring early part to the month. Cold north winds prevailed for much of the month and on several days the log-book was bare. Whenever the wind turned briefly away from the north there were birds passing the shore. On 11th Apr a short early morning wildfowl movement was recorded including 50 Velvet Scoters and 10 Gadwalls whilst on 21st Apr the spring peak of 643 Common Scoters was recorded. East winds on 24th Apr produced a good day when in 10 hrs watching 4009 Bar-tailed Godwits, 518 Sandwich Terns, 39 Little Gulls, 13 Arctic and a single Pomarine Skua were seen. The wind was still from the south-east the following morning and there were terns and skuas passing but a party of 8 Avocets and another Pomarine Skua waited to pass until most of the regulars had just left for work. On 29th Apr the wind was blowing freshly from the south-east, with cloud and a hint of rain in the air the scene was set for a "big" movement but there were few birds until in an hour in the evening 438 commic terns passed east. There were few passerines recorded in April but noteworthy was a party of 7 Crossbills on the 20th and an unseen bird which called repeatedly whilst passing overhead and caused both observers (BAEM and JAN) to leap to their feet simultaneously shouting "Serin".

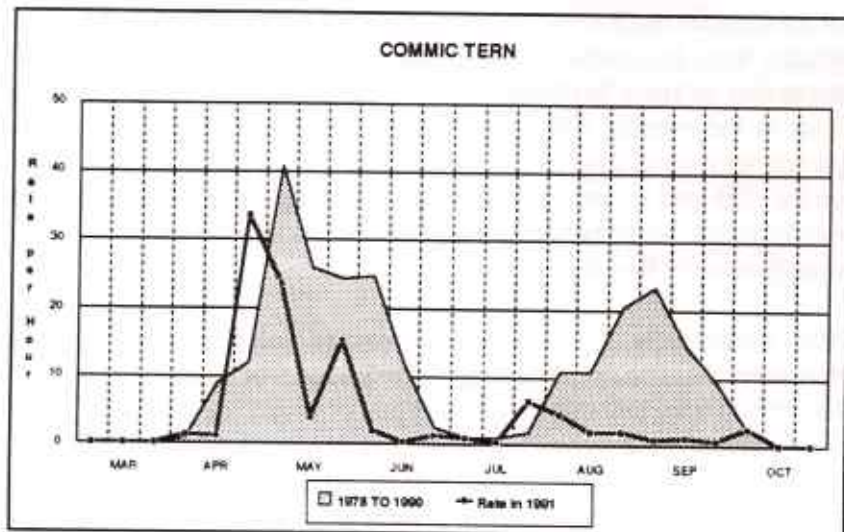
May, traditionally the sea-watchers favourite month, was quiet. Again north seemed to be the prevailing winds for much of the early part of the month. Most interest was in watching parties of cetacea or an occasional seal offshore but an occasional arriving Hobby or Shag feeding with the Cormorants kept ornithological observations alive. On 9th May the spring peak of 3122 Black-headed Gulls passed but also several terns



SEAWATCHING 1991- SANDWICH TERN  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1991- "COMMIC" TERN  
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



were moving including a Lesser Crested Tern which, like many rare birds, passed in the late afternoon when only one observer was present. A Glaucous Gull and 10 Black-tailed Godwits were the only other unusual records from early to mid-May. An hours watch in the morning of 21st May in light SW winds produced over 200 Common Scoter; the rest of the day should have been watched as only 9 Pomarine Skuas were seen in the evening yet the day total at Seaford was 99 and 28 seen at Selsey. The spring peak of 151 Sanderling was on 25th May and 2 Spotted Redshank and 5 Ruff recorded at the end of the month were unusual records.

A blustery June saw single Manx Shearwater records on the 9th and 13th, small groups of Curlews moving westward and plenty of Gannets offshore with 35 on 22nd June and 90 flying westward on the 23rd. The rest of the summer was very quiet and not until 28th Sept was there any notable movement when in a stiff onshore wind 107 Gannets passed east, the first (58) Brents and 72 Wigeon passed west and 5 Arctic and 2 Great Skuas were seen.

Through October Brent Geese were passing westward with the peaks of 770 on 20th and 329 on the 27th. A Mediterranean Gull and 2 Goosanders were the highlights in an otherwise quiet November. Over the past few years December has proven interesting and often in the short days of this month a large number of birds can be seen. Although this year was not as good as some others there were days when several divers, auks and Kittiwakes were seen. A Long-tailed Duck passed on 7th Dec; 2 Velvet Scoters on 4th Dec and 14 Scaup on 21st Dec were unusual. Perhaps the best bird of the month was a Peregrine which coasted westward on Boxing Day.

John Newnham

TABLE A:- SELECTED DAYS SEA-WATCHING TOTALS WINTER-SPRING 1991 FROM WORTHING BEACHES

DATE	1-Jan	11-Mar	29-Mar	10-Apr	11-Apr	21-Apr	30-Apr	10-May	28-Apr	29-Apr	7-May	8-May	9-May	11-May	14-May
HRS WATCHED	1.7	3.3	4.3	4.1	3.5	5.7	10	10.1	8.4	7.3	8.2	6.2	6.1	5.7	6.8
DIVER SP 3	12	2	-	3	9	13	13	3	5	4	-	8	1	-	-
FULMER	2	-	-	3	54	45	69	27	35	22	14	12	12	8	-
GANNET	-	-	18	1	5	9	71	7	4	36	7	29	10	10	-
BRENT GOOSE	2	229	19	-	94	9	11	10	29	22	8	-	82	25	-
SHELDUCK	-	36	-	-	3	20	18	1	1	-	2	3	3	2	-
WIGEON	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-
EIDER	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COM. SCOTER	-	2	17	58	135	643	196	133	90	25	188	31	55	526	-
RED BR MERG	17	2	19	15	-	35	35	10	3	3	1	1	5	-	1
GREY PLOVER	-	-	16	-	-	-	4	-	6	-	2	2	-	-	31
SANDERLING	-	29	-	-	-	-	1	7	34	4	19	15	15	13	15
DUNLIN	-	-	-	-	-	17	20	18	11	2	20	6	1	8	-
BAR T. GOWDIT	-	-	-	-	-	-	4089	95	272	6	31	14	31	20	10
WHIMBREL	-	-	12	-	7	13	103	30	27	5	24	28	49	21	9
POM. SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ARCTIC SKUA	-	-	-	-	-	1	13	13	8	5	1	4	5	2	1
BONXIE	-	-	1	1	1	3	5	-	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
LITTLE GULL	-	-	-	7	3	1	39	30	2	1	-	2	5	-	1
KITT WAKE	38	-	1	3	5	2	1	27	4	6	2	3	3	-	-
SANDWICH TERN	-	-	1	68	35	61	518	437	152	120	110	41	53	48	24
COMMON TERN	-	-	-	9	18	5	399	698	206	457	219	523	79	27	22
LITTLE TERN	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	54	10	7	134	45	71	11	5
BLACK TERN	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
AUK SP. 23	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-



## IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

### Winter plumages of Lapland, Reed, Little & Rustic Buntings

This is primarily intended as a short identification paper to assist in highlighting the differences between Lapland and Reed Buntings in autumn and winter immature and females plumages, with a few words on Little and Rustic Buntings taken mainly from my field notes.

### Lapland and Reed Bunting

Once familiar with Lapland Bunting there should be little difficulty in separating it from Reed Bunting in the field. The latter is a common species, often found during winter in coastal habitats but Lapland is, in our recording area, a sporadic vagrant & always on the coast, during spells of hard weather. It is more commonly found on the East coast, or North Kent marshes.

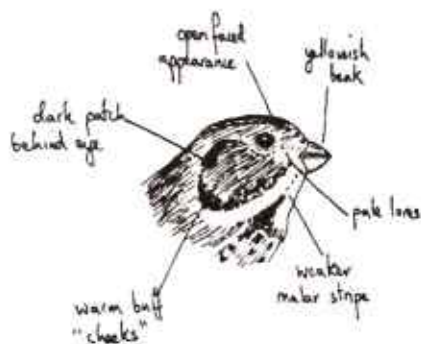
Compared with Reed Bunting, Lapland is noticeably bulkier with a long, flat carriage and is long winged, as highlighted by the primary projection of the closed wing. Note also the "open-faced" appearance produced by the plain buff centres to the ear coverts (edged black), and the buff lores; the distinctive chestnut patch on the nape, the double wing bars formed by white tips to the median and greater coverts - these being buff and merge with the rest of the plumage on Reed Bunting. Reed also lacks Lapland's bright chestnut panel between the wing bars.

Reed Bunting male in winter shows a variable but distinctive amount of black on the crown, ear coverts, chin & throat whilst Lapland male has a distinctive, blotchy charcoal band of variable width across the upper breast, and otherwise white to greyish underparts.

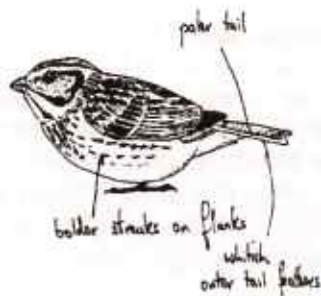
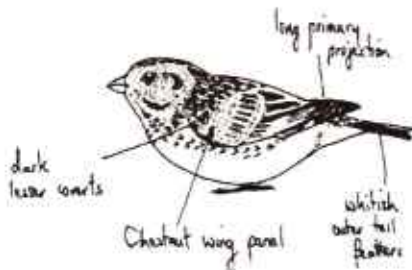
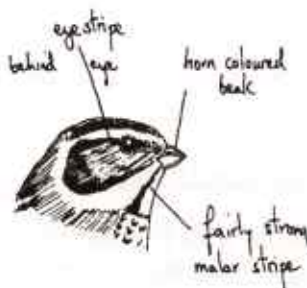
Although not entirely reliable, in my experience Lapland Buntings tend to keep to themselves and, even if feeding in the same area as other buntings or finches, do not actively associate with them, flying off on their own if they are disturbed. Call is the easiest way of distinguishing the two species as it differs considerably. Lapland's call is a "chatter" or "rattle" followed by a distinctive, liquid "pew"; unmistakable if heard well but care, if for example the wind is blowing strongly from the

observer to the bird, only the "pew" may be heard. Even this is very different from the loud monotone "tsui" of Reed Bunting.

### LAPLAND BUNTING



### REED BUNTING



### Little and Rustic Buntings

Nationally, both of these are rare vagrants and could be confused with Reed, or even Lapland Bunting. Neither has been recorded in our area since the 1860's but I feel that either or both are long overdue for a repeat showing; especially as a Rustic Bunting stayed for a few days at nearby Littlehampton in October 1991. Little and Rustic Buntings can both be easily overlooked in a mixed finch/bunting flock, and I've seen both species in a flock of sparrows.

Little Bunting looks a little like a small compact Reed Bunting but is noticeably small with usually bright chestnut lores and ear coverts, a wide buff supercilium behind the eye and a buff eye-ring, whilst Rustic is a large, chunky-looking bunting, around Lapland Bunting size and often has a crested appearance, caused by its frequent habit of raising its crown feathers; it shows a wide white supercilium behind the eye, grey bill, and chestnut nape, lower back and rump, upper breast (band) and flanks (streaked), and bright chestnut centres to the tertials. Both species have a similar call, a repeated short "tick", quite different from that of Lapland and Reed Bunting, and surprisingly obvious when heard, for example, in a flock of calling Reed Buntings.

Dave Smith & Richard Ives

References:

Harris, Tucker & Vinicombe

"The Macmillan Field Guide to Bird Identification."

Bruun & Singer

"The Hamlyn Guide to Birds of Britain and Europe".



*Snow Bunting*



## FIELD OUTINGS

6th January Amberley Wildbrooks A sunny start brought 10 members to meet at Greatham bridge for Bernie Forbes annual trip. Apart from Wigeon & Teal, little of note was on Coldwatham pool- a Kingfisher was seen briefly. On Amberley Wildbrooks proper, good numbers of wildfowl were present. 60 Bewick's Swans and 40 Grey Lag Geese were recorded, ducks were represented by Wigeon, Teal and Pintail. 1 Ruff and 1 Golden Plover were seen in flight. The best passerines recorded were 4 Stonechats. After lunch a visit to Wiggonholt Common produced 2 Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Bullfinch and a number of Redwing & Fieldfare. The trip was terminated early owing to afternoon rain.

24th February Chichester Harbour & East Head Unfortunately by the time the 8 members joined Bernie Forbes and Richard Ives at Appledrum the best birds of the day had already passed eastwards. The two leaders had seen 14 Pink footed Geese over Chichester Gravel Pits an hour before the scheduled start. However, it was a beautiful sunny day and the Appledrum Creek was full of waters and wildfowl. A wintering Green Sandpiper was the pick of the waders.

At East Head the low tide meant that the seaduck were very distant. Over 20 Goldeneye were seen in the Channel and the sky was full of Brent Geese. Although nothing exceptional was seen, it was a very atmospheric day.

14th April Climping Beach & West Littlehampton Beach It was a typical 1991 spring morning, freezing! Bernie & Richard had another joint effort. As the arctic conditions had persisted for a few days there was a definite lack of spring migrants. The most common visitor was Sandwich Tern, 20 of which were seen in the morning. Only 4 Willow Warblers were recorded and 1 Blackcap made an appearance. The golf course finally yielded 7 Wheatears, Bernie glimpsed a Ring Ouzel (no one else did!) and everyone enjoyed the Little Owl sat in the oak at Bailiffscourt.

5th May Seawatch at Goring Gap 10 members met John Newnham on a bitterly cold morning with an unfavourable north easterly wind. To add to the discomfort the "shelter" had been vandalised meaning that there was no protection (the windows had been removed) and there was only

one seat remaining. Over a period from 8.30 to 10.30 all the usual terns and waders were seen on passage albeit in low numbers. The most interesting birds of the day were both Red & Black-throated Divers. A Mistle Thrush feeding young in the adjacent Ilex Wood showed that some birds could be successful even in such a terrible spring.

9th June New Forest For the second year running Bernie Forbes led a highly successful trip to the New Forest. 17 members met at Telegraph Hill for an all day walk to Hampton Ridge and Latchmere Bottom. Shortly after setting off fine views were had of singing Woodlark. A perched Hawfinch was new for many members. The forest specialities were seen and heard: Wood Warblers, Redstarts and Tree Pipits. 3 Buzzards were recorded during the day and a displaying Hobby entertained everyone during the lunch break. A lovely place and a highly enjoyable day.

5th July Coldwaltham & Lavington Common The usual good turn out met Brian Metcalfe at Coldwaltham brooks for this annual trip. Although not as productive as in recent years the pool still held 2 Green Sandpipers, 2 Yellow Wagtails and 4 Teal, unusual at this time of year. Also very unusual was a party of 4 Common Terns which followed the River Arun and then paused for a brief visit. Two species of raptor were seen over the brooks: Sparrowhawk and Hobby.

The visit to Lavington Common had mixed success. Good views were had of roding Woodcock but the several Nightjars present only gave brief views in the fading light.

1st September Hollingbury Camp A treat was in store for the 18 members who joined Peter Whitcomb for a walk around Hollingbury Camp and Wild Park. At 11.00 a Honey Buzzard flew leisurely over and across Wild Park in an easterly direction. I am sure it was a life tick for many of those present. On the camp itself good views were had of Whinchat and Wheatear whist nearby Spotted Flycatcher and Blackcap were observed. A scan from the top of Wild Park produced some interesting birds including a Green Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk and a Jay.

14th September Pagham Harbour Many thanks to Stanley Allen who led the meting at such short notice and to Enid Chadwell who volunteered to be the trip recorder. 12 members saw a total of 63 species with passage

migrants very much in evidence. At Church Norton good views were had of Redstart, Blackcap and Spotted Flycatcher whilst the harbour produced Greenshank, Whimbrel, Knot and Common Sandpiper amongst the more usual waders. Other interesting birds included a late Swift and a Little Gull. The star bird was undoubtedly the Osprey which alas, like so many raptors at Pagham, was somewhat distant.

20th October Climbing Roy Sandison led 14 members on round trip. The morning couldn't have started better as one of the first birds recorded was a Short-eared Owl which was flushed from the Golf Course (or was it driven?). 770 Brent Geese were recorded and a late Arctic Skua made its appearance. The resident flock of Tree Sparrows was located and the most notable of the finch family were 3 Siskins and a few fortunate members recorded 2 Bramblings.

1st December Thorney Island Clive Hope marked his entrance into field outing leadership by taking a group around the northern areas of the island. The trip got off to an auspicious start with fine views of an adult Mediterranean Gull. The majority of species were waterfowl with Long tailed Duck, Velvet Scoter & Goldeneye being the pick of the day. The usual waders were supplemented by the presence of two species which had failed to migrate to warmer climes for the winter: a Greenshank and a Common Sandpiper. The total of 65 species shows just what an excellent area this part of Sussex is.

28th December Adur Walk A record 28 members joined Stanley Allen to work off their Christmas excesses on a walk along the Adur estuary. The variety of waders was nothing too exciting, a single Grey Plover was worthy of note. A Kingfisher was watched around the Flood Arch - always a joy to see. A seawatch off Widewater produced a few Common Scoter, Great Crested Grebes and 1 Eider. Unfortunately, the bird of the day was recorded after most people had left (as is often the case!) - it arrived in the form of a Great Northern Diver.

Les Hemblade (Field Secretary)



## **INDOOR MEETINGS 1991**

### **Jan 7th Cliff Walder: Birds of Venezuela**

Cliff spends quite a lot of his time travelling the world in search of birds. This time we were able to go with him to Venezuela aided by a lively commentary accompanying his own slides. He has an easy, relaxed manner and a great deal of experience so one was definitely encouraged to think of travelling beyond Europe.

### **Feb 4th Jackie Lehané: Badgers and their need for Protection**

Although Jackie was very new to presenting a talk, her enthusiasm and sincerity could not be doubted. A local Badger Group had recently been formed in the hope of raising the awareness of this sometimes-maligned animal. We are so used to seeing pictures of badgers we tend to forget how rarely they are actually seen in the wild. The slides were interesting and informative and gave us an insight into the life of the badger and the many dangers it has to face in the demands of the modern world.

### **March 4th Bill Woodford: Birds of Europe**

Bill Woodford has not given us a talk before but it is obvious he will be asked again in the future as he is yet another of our members who has travelled to find his birds and shows his own excellent slides. The talk concerned ringing trips to Italy and Hungary and showed a huge variety of birds he saw including various shrikes and perhaps the best part was a visit to a big marsh area with its Mediterranean specialities. There were slides of some of the breeding birds there: Great White Egret, Purple and Night Herons, different kinds of rails such as Little and Spotted Crakes and an enviable list of passerines including River & Great Reed Warblers. It was a fascinating talk and one which may have spurred members to search the area carefully just in case some of these southern specialities make it across the Channel.

### **April 15th AGM and Chris Corrigan: Turn of the Tide. Estuaries and Conservation**

Chris works for the RSPB and he gave a thought-provoking explanation of the problems we face now and warned that if specific action is not taken those problems will overwhelm us in the future. His slides supported the facts he gave and showed that our intervention often destroyed natural habitats to the detriment of us all.

#### July 20th Barbecue at The Old Rectory, Coombes

We were fortunate to have a pleasant evening for our barbecue and a goodly company of all ages gathered in the garden of the Old Rectory. Terry Hicks and Dave Labdon did stalwart work cooking the various meats on the two barbecues and with salads and later a large choice of desserts provided, a good meal was enjoyed by everyone and the evening was a great success.

#### Oct 7th Andrew Cleave: Wildlife of the East Coast of the USA

Andrew Cleave has given high quality lectures in the past with superb slides and this time was no exception. His knowledge is extensive, not only on birds but general Natural History too, which on this occasion included excellent coverage of whales and the way in which they can be identified by their tail and dorsal fin markings. He emphasised the friendliness and cooperation he found in America especially when searching for specific birds like pelicans. A most interesting evening.

#### Nov 4th Graham Hart: Conservation of Butterflies and their Habitats

Although Graham is definitely interested in birds his great love is butterflies which comes across vividly whenever he gives one of his lectures. Though informal in his approach, his talk is packed with facts on all aspects of butterflies and their ecology. We were told the importance of preserving the correct type of habitat and its maintenance in Shoreham and other sites in Sussex. Graham's enthusiasm was magnificently backed up by his own slides.

#### Dec 2nd Members' Evening

Brianne Reeve opened the proceedings with a light-hearted quiz based on colour in the names of birds. There was a good deal of banter to cover the fact that members found the questions more difficult than their simplicity suggested!

Brian Metcalfe followed with a short discourse with slides on bills and beaks and other identification features. His pictures were excellent, supporting the points he was making. Brian had organised this meeting which turned out to be one of the most enjoyable of the year.

Enid Chadwell entertained us with the reasons she chose to go on organised birding holidays. She has had a great deal of experience, she has travelled widely with great enjoyment to such places as Botswana and

the Skeleton Coast of Namibia, and occasionally she went off on her own to less remote spots. She did not use any slides or pictures but it certainly encouraged us to follow her example, a lively and interesting talk.

Bernie Forbes gave an amusing and witty talk on birding in North Cornwall. He has a delightful approach, often turning the joke on himself with wry humour. There was a good deal of laughter but I think we were convinced North Cornwall could be quite as exciting as the Isles of Scilly!

John Stafford gave us a very unusual aspect of birding showing his own slides on bird parasites taken during his long bird-ringing career. The flat-fly running up the back of a house martin was memorable but his talk was interesting because of its unusual subject matter.

Stanley Allen's talk was a calendar of natural history events over the past year; notable birds seen locally which included the Snow Buntings at Lancing, the Wood Sandpipers and other birds at Widewater. Stanley has become interested in flowers too in 1991 and he showed some he found on Mill Hill. A very interesting talk.

During the interval there was good Christmas food, hot and tasty enhanced by wine and other drinks. This collection of short, sharp offerings from members contributed to a most successful evening which seemed to be appreciated by the audience and enjoyed by those taking part. A fitting end to the year.

Brianne Reeve (Hon Secretary)

-----oooOOooo-----



## **SUBMISSION OF MEMBERS' RECORDS**

It would be a great help to the recorder if members could send in their records twice a year, with the second batch in December leaving the last few records to the first 2 weeks of January. Particularly where large numbers are involved this is vital if members 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 SOS Bird Report and also in a paper published by that society in 1978 entitled "Identification and Notetaking and Reporting". This is an essential guide to every birdwatcher, whether a beginner or an experienced observer. I believe they are still available from the SOS.

Please keep your records pouring in so that the quality of this report can be maintained.

Dave Smith (Hon Recorder)

## **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 Crescent, Southwick Brighton 594798.
Hon. Treasurer	Mr A.D. Bullock 65 Roman Road, Steyning. Steyning 815644.
Hon Recorder	Mr D.I. Smith 15 Ryecroft Close, Goring. Worthing 247231.
Hon Report Editor	Mr R.A. Ives 90 Downlands Avenue, Worthing. Worthing 204567.
Chairman of the Council	Mr S.R. Allen.
Sanctuary Committee	Dr. J.A. Newnham Dr. A.B. Watson
Other Committee Members	Mr D. Labdon, Mr B Clay, Mr T. Hick.

**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1991**

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>		
	£	£
Balance brought forward	1,700.97	2371.08
Subscriptions	644.50	906.00
Sales of Reports	260.30	201.60
Net Raffle & Refreshments	57.00	125.56
Building Society Interest	110.47	78.76
Legacy (N.C.Evans)	-	200.00
	<u>£2,773.24</u>	<u>£3,883.00</u>

**PAYMENTS**

Computer Software	-	70.50
Printing of Report	240.16	226.81
Postage and Stationery	9.61	20.50
Secretary's Expenses	55.39	50.53
Hire of Hall	-	84.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' Fees	60.00	70.00
Sundries	7.00	3.00
Charge for Hall at Fair	5.00	5.00
R.S.P.B. Slides	6.00	-
Bank Charges	15.00	20.13
Balance carried forward	2,371.08	3,328.53
	<u>£2,733.24</u>	<u>£3,883.00</u>

A.D.Bullock (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 4th March 1992

**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

