

Shoreham District Ornithological Society

ANNUAL REPORT 1992



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S O C I E T Y

ANNUAL REPORT 1992

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Logo, map and line drawings by Richard Ives.

Graphs by Brian Clay.

Cover illustration of a Red Kite by Richard Ives.

EDITORIAL by Richard Ives

Another year has passed and the final record has been imputed into the system. This is the last report from the pen of Dave Smith, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work over the last six years. It is also time to thank all those who have served on the committees, represented the Society on open days, and those who have provided refreshments at the indoor meetings. It is only by the unstinting work of all concerned that this thriving, friendly society can survive into the 21st century.

You may have noticed that the 1990 report got a mention, in the also rans, in the British Bird Annual Report competition. We have submitted last year's report for perusal by the judges and I feel we should get promoted into a different category because of the superior quality of the print. However, many of the suggestions BB made arrived too late to be incorporated into the 1991 report: it had been produced before the comments came to light! The winning entry was the Norfolk Bird report which, as many of you are aware, is a glossy affair with superb colour photographs. We cannot compete with our budget and so the famous BB 'grouse' logo will never grace our cover unless they appreciate the amount of work put in by a few individuals to produce a report of this quality. It is quite amazing that such a thick tome such as ours can be produced from such a small membership and I feel that our Reports do represent a thorough coverage of the local bird scene and does fill a niche within the county structure.

This year Dave Smith has written a paper on the "Hippos", this isn't a travelogue through Africa, but a look at the difficulties of this group of warblers and the possible confusion species. I trust that you, the members, agree on having an identification paper in the report- should you have any enquiries or comments please speak to me at the indoor meetings or on the field outings. Maybe you'd like a problem species dealt with in a paper, if so tell me what it is and then something will be done about it.

Thanks again for all those who sent in records. Please help the Recorder by being punctual with your sightings. Don't forget we do need descriptions for many species (see the back page of the Sussex Bird Reports). Unless we receive notes, the rare species committee cannot accept the record. Keep the records coming in so we can produce a quality report every year.

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1992

1992 was a year without extremes of weather; January and February were mild and rather dry, lacking the previous year's severe gales and freezing conditions. As a consequence no hard-weather influxes occurred, and the mild weather remained into March, when the pattern changed and was dominated by cold northerlies into early April, slowing down spring passerine migration and contributing to a number of late first dates. 1991's spring sea-watch was described in last year's report as "near-forgettable" but 1992 was even worse; even the occasional south-easterlies failed to produce the hoped-for migration. Mid-May to end-June produced the only hot and dry conditions of the summer, giving way to mild and wet conditions for the most of the autumn, and continuing into November and December. The year will be remembered, perhaps, by there having been not one national rarity recorded in the area.

Despite the mild conditions, January was not birdless, and produced a scattering of sea-ducks, with 16 Velvet Scoter regularly between Shoreham and East Worthing, 2 Scaup on Brooklands and the Long-tailed Duck from 1991 remained off Shoreham until March. Also seen off-shore was a Great Northern Diver at Brighton Marina on Jan 18, and 3 Slavonian Grebes off Widewater on Jan 14, with 1 off Goring on Jan 31. A Red Kite frequented the Hollingdean area and was noted on several dates during the month, a Peregrine was at Brooklands on Jan 1, and there were 3 records of Merlin. Jack Snipe are usually found in numbers during hard-weather, so an area record of 6 together at Ferring Rife was exceptional, and may well reflect the increasingly good conditions for this species which is being allowed to develop in the flood basins there. Few unusual finches were noted, 8 Bramblings at Lower Standean on Jan 4 being a good number for the mild conditions. The two Snow Buntings at Goring at the end of 1991 remained throughout the month.

February was unexceptional and came and went with very few birds of note. These were a Red-necked Grebe off Worthing beach on Feb 6, a Buzzard over Broadwater on Feb 29, and 2 further records of Merlin.

Another Slavonian Grebe was reported off Worthing beach on Mar 7 and a probable, but distant summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebe was off Goring on Mar 30. One of the few sea-watch "movements" was Mar 19, when a party of 12 Avocets passed Worthing beach. Interesting passerines

included a Water Pipit at Widewater on Mar 28, 3 White Wagtails, and a Crossbill over Shoreham on Mar 25.

April started with below-average temperatures. Birds of the month were a well-watched Little Egret in the lower Adur valley on Apr 28, a Hoopoe briefly at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 25, and a male Garganey which arrived at Brighton Marina on Apr 1. One of the very few Manx Shearwaters of the year passed Worthing beach on Apr 18, a total of four Mediterranean Gulls passed Worthing beach (with 5 seen there during May), a Marsh Harrier hunted over Southwick Hill on Apr 20, and there were a healthy 5 records of Short-eared Owl for the month. Migrants were thin on the ground in the first few days but included 8 Pied Flycatchers and 3 Ring Ouzels later in the month.

May was warm, at least in the second half of the month, but low passage numbers contributed to unrelenting gloom in the Marine Gardens shelter at Worthing beach, apart from those lucky ones who saw some of the 55 Pomarine Skuas for the month - the only species which performed well. The probable Long-tailed Skua which passed Brighton Marina in the company of Arctic Skuas on May 14 must also have passed Worthing, unseen, and added to the despair. Apart from Skuas, few seawatch gems passed, but included a Little Egret on May 21, 5 Avocets on May 19, a Great Northern Diver on May 17, and a White-fronted Goose on the unusual date of May 3. Raptors included a well-seen Red Kite over West Worthing on May 25 (well done John, I still need it for Sussex!), a Marsh Harrier at Hollingbury Camp on May 3, a Peregrine at Goring on May 10, and 3 Buzzard sightings for the month. Miscellaneous sightings were a Nightjar in Worthing on May 27, at least 5 Wood Warblers; and most-interesting were both male and female Red-backed Shrikes at a site in late-May, never seen together, did they miss one another? Any further sightings from the finders would be treated with confidentiality.

June and July were warm, and very good for butterflies, but not for bird sightings. However, it was a good year for Quails with at least 7 individuals singing at downland sites in June, and a further 3 further birds in Jul. Only the very fortunate managed a glimpse of these expert skulkers. After a Little Ringed Plover at Shoreham on Jul 20, wader passage in autumn was less than spectacular and we suffered another year without Curlew Sandpipers. The only Manx Shearwater of the month passed Worthing beach on Jun 20, and another Buzzard was over Long

Furlong on Jul 27. Golden Oriole was heard but not seen, at Rock Common on Jun 13.

August showed only a slight improvement in fortunes, with a Marsh Harrier at Cissbury on Aug 8, a Peregrine at Findon Valley on Aug 13, two further Buzzards and one further Quail, and 4 Ruff passed Worthing beach on Aug 30. Pied Flycatchers had already done well in spring and performed well in autumn, with 11 for the month. Parties of Crossbills were noted passing Sompting on Aug 15 and Aug 21.

For variety, September was probably the best month of the year and included a Tawny Pipit at Cissbury early in the month, a Wryneck at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 16 with a Dartford Warbler there Sep 22, and most unusual was a Goosander on R. Adur at Steyning on 3 dates from mid-month. Conditions were superb for sea-watching on Sep 6 and the 194 Black Terns that flew W there made some recompense for the poor spring. A Manx Shearwater also passed in the evening. There were 2 more records of Peregrine and 1 of Merlin, and waders included a Little Stint at Widewater on Sep 27, and 3 Spotted Redshanks. Yellow-legged Gulls (now recognized as a distinct species) numbered 11 on R. Adur at Shoreham on Sep 14, and this is the time of the year when numbers are the greatest at this site. A Short-eared Owl showed at Ferring Rife on Sep 18, and passerines included a Blue-headed wagtail at New Salt's farm on Sep 27, and 2 Firecrests at Wildpark on Sep 20.

October, recognized as THE month of the year nationally for rarities failed dismally in the South of England, and our highlights were few and far between. These included another Wryneck at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 1, a Water Pipit on R. Adur at Steyning on Oct 23, one further Peregrine and 3 Short-eared Owls, 6 records of Bramblings, and only 2 Ring Ouzels.

November produced another Dartford Warbler at Hollingbury Camp, 2 Water Pipits together on the Upper Adur levels, but apart from this it was very quiet, with just 1 Merlin and 2 Short-eared Owls.

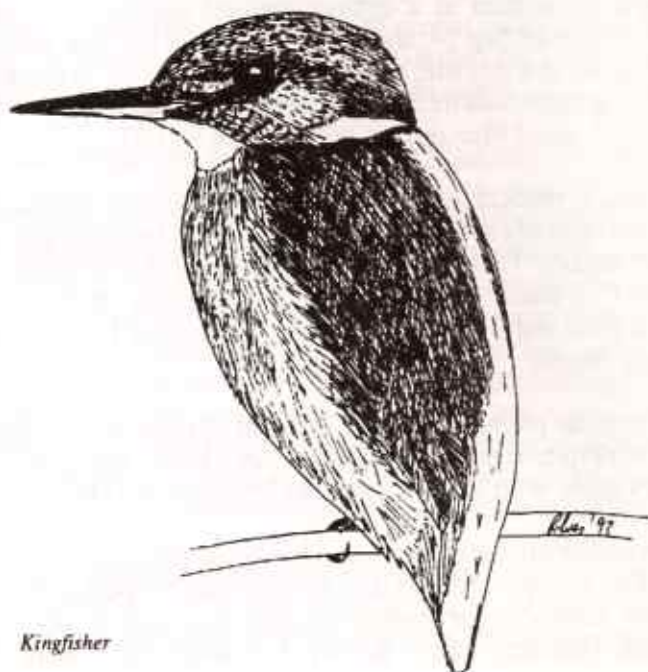
December's highlight was undoubtedly the adult Iceland Gull at Shoreham on Dec 21, a pity it didn't stay; Bewick's Swans peaked at 14 in the Upper Adur Valley where another Buzzard was seen on Dec 27; Peregrines again showed, with a further 2 records, there were 3 records of

Mediterranean Gull, and two more of Short-eared Owl. Passerine species were again few, unusually there being no Snow Buntings at the year's end. However 2 Twite were at Shoreham on Dec 22 and it was an excellent month for Black Redstarts, with a minimum of 15 reported, bringing one of the more lack-lustre years to a close.

As most of you probably know, I'm handing over to my successor at the AGM in April, so perhaps I could take this opportunity of thanking all the contributors of records over the last six years; do please keep them coming in at the volumes now received- and a special "thank you" to Richard Ives for adjusting the systematic list with the late records.

Dave Smith (Hon Recorder)

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Kingfisher

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1992

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, V. Bently, P & M Brayshaw, C. Brooks, E.Chadwell, G.L M.L. & N.J. Champion, B.R. Clay, P.J. Clay, G. Cuzons, R. Edney, G.V. Edwards, R. Emery, R.J. Fairbank, J.A. Feast, A.R. Fenton, B.F Forbes, C.J. Fox, P.A.Frazer, P.Griffiths, M.P.Hall, R. Hartfree, C.E. Hope, R.A. Ives, H.Jackson, D. King, D.Labdon, I. Lawes, G.T.J. Martin, J.M & S.P.Maskell, V. Maynard-Smith, C.E.Messer, B. Metcalfe, Dr. J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, M.G. Prince, C.Richards, H.Richardson O.B.E., M. Russell, D. Sadler (DS), R.J. Sandison, R.M.Shaw, R. Simpson, T.C.Smart, D.I. Smith (DIS), Dr J.Stafford, Mr & Mrs Steedman, R.Tofts, W. Turner, B.Upton, D.Walker, R.L. Westwater, A.D. Whitcomb, P.J. Whitcomb, I.J. Whitcomb, H.M.V. Wilsdon, W. Woodford.

See also acknowledgements in the seawatching report.

Abbreviations:- 1y - first year etc, 1st W - first winter, 2nd S - second summer, ad - adult, f - female, ha - hectare, imm - immature, juv - juvenile, m - male, N- North etc., pr - pair, sp - summer plumage, wp - winter plumage, km- kilometre.

"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	6	9	37	72	95	6	8
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Total
	36	23	12	18	12		332

0002. **RED-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia stellata*):- In the early months up to 2 in the Shoreham Harbour/Lower Adur area Jan 26 to Apr 29, with 3 on Feb 10, & singles noted off Widewater on Jan 1 & Apr 20, Shoreham beach Jan 26, Kingston beach Jan 30-Apr 12, & 2 off East Worthing on Jan 19.

Recorded from Worthing beach between Jan & May 10, and again from Sep 13, the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	—	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	17	7	4		-	-	1	-	43
W	-	1	-	-	-		-	1	-	6	10

Peak movements were 5E Mar 29, 10E Dec 24, and 29E Dec 30. 2 off-shore there on Jan 19, with singles Feb 1 and Nov 21.

0003. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia arctica*):- Few specifically identified in 1992, the records were:- 1 off Kingston beach Feb 14, 1 off Worthing beach Feb 6, 1 off Goring beach Mar 4 & 14, and on sea-watches at Worthing beach, 3 E in April, 5 E in May (the last being on May 17), and 1E on Nov 23.

0004. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (*Gavia immer*):- Just two singles for the year; 1 off Brighton Marina on Jan 18 (GLC) and 1E in s.p. Worthing beach May 17 (PMB). Details forwarded to SOS.

DIVER SP.:- Divers not specifically identified were recorded mainly from sea-watches at Worthing beach. The monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	—	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	20	85	37	25		1	1	5	46
W	2	2	-	-	2		1	-	15	14

Peak movements were 22E Mar 29, 19E Mar 30 & last for the spring 1E May 30; & the first for the autumn was 1E on Sep 9.

Away from this site just 1 offshore Worthing Pier Jan 30, & 2 off Brighton Marina May 15.

0007. **LITTLE GREBE** (*Podiceps ruficollis*):- In the early months 1 to 3 at Brooklands Jan 12 to Mar 9, 1 Southwick Canal Jan 30, & 2 Lower Adur Jan 22 and Mar 2. 1 at Ferring Rife Jan 8 to Mar 8 was probably the individual which reappeared there Jul 22 & on several dates to year-end, with two there on Dec 28.

There were again no breeding records.

In the later months, 2 on River Adur (Steyping) on Oct 24 with 1 there Nov 15, 2 Brooklands Nov 8, 1 Brighton Marina Dec 19, & 1 New Salt's farm all December.

0009. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*) :- The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	—	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	9	5	7		-	-	-	2	-
W	-	-	6	4	3		1	2	-	-	-

Offshore, there were 25 on Apr 3 & 12 on 31 Dec.

Away from this site some high offshore counts in the early months which include 42 at Goring beach Jan 18, with 75 on Mar 8 & 30 on Apr 4; 29 Shoreham beach Mar 4; 16 off Widewater on Mar 1 & 19 off Lancing Apr 5. Lower counts in later months, the peak being 25 off Goring on Dec 31.

0010. **RED NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*) :- Again, just one record for the year of 1 off Worthing beach on Feb 6.(RAI)

0011. **SLAVONIAN GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*) :- Another poor year with just 3 records, all in the early months, 3 were off Widewater on Jan 14, 1 off Goring beach on Jan 31, & 1 off Worthing beach on Mar 7.

0012. **BLACK NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*) :- None specifically identified, although a distant individual off Worthing beach on Mar 30 was considered probably to be this species (DIS).

0020. **FULMAR** (*Fulmaris glacialis*) :- The monthly totals from sea-watches at Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	-	3	28	42	56	-	-	8	3	-
W	-	3	7	82	47	7	-	29	12	-

The first of the year was 1E on Feb 1, & peak movements were 19W Apr 24, and 15E on May 14. More than usual passed in August & September with the last for the year 1W on Sep 9.

Otherwise, 17 at Brighton Marina on May 4, 1 was seen circling Brighton town centre on Jun 26, & another was seen over High Street, Shoreham on Aug 7.

0046. **MANX SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus puffinus*) :- Another poor year, with 3 records, all of singles. These were 1E off Widewater Apr 18 (SRA), 1W Worthing beach Jun 20 (JAN), & 1W Worthing beach Sep 6 (DIS). All details sent to SOS.

0071. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*) :- Again not recorded every month at Worthing beach, as the following table of monthly totals illustrates:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	6	-	83	50	62	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	7	-	8	64	58	3	-	103	32	39	28	-

Peak movements were 66E on Mar 30 & 26E Apr 24.

0072. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) :- Peak monthly counts of the Wyckham farm pylon roost were:-

Jan	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
80	55	27	68	135	165

At the E Worthing off-shore roost:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Dec
51	24	51	27	5	8	12	21	35

Other counts involved 65N Lower Adur Jan 11, 37E Worthing beach Nov 21, 45N Beeding brooks Dec 24, and 53N Lower Adur Dec 22.

0080. **SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*) :- A poor year, with few records. The only sighting in the first 6 months was 1E at Worthing beach May 6 (MPH); then 1 in Shoreham Harbour Nov 2 (BFF) & 1 off Goring Gap Dec 31 (PMB). In the latter months counts at Brighton Marina were 3 on Nov 28 & Dec 5, 5 on Dec 12, & 7 on Dec 13.

0119. **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*) :- The fourth and fifth area records of this increasingly occurring species were a well-watched individual seen on River Adur (Shoreham), Flood Arch, and Widewater on Apr 28 (M.O.), and 1E

at Widewater and Worthing beach on May 21 (CEH/RJS/RS). Details sent to SOS. Two in one year is unprecedented.

0122. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*) :- Autumn monthly peaks in the Adur Saltings/New Salt's farm area were:- 7 Aug; 9 Sep; 10 Oct; 6 Nov; 3 Dec.

At Worthing beach just 3 singles, on May 3, May 5, & May 23. Otherwise a wide scattering of records involving mainly single birds passing E or W over the area, with 5W over Broadwater on Sep 25 the largest group noted.

0152. **MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*) :- Low counts in the early months, with no details from the Upper Adur levels. 6 at Brooklands on Jan 1 & 20 on Mar 22 at Wiston were the only birds reported.

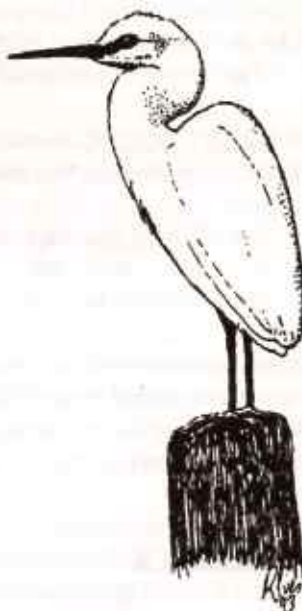
Unusual from sea-watches from Worthing beach, there were 4E there May 7 & 5 off-shore there May 19. 8 were off Ferring Rife May 16 & 6 flew E over Ferring Rife on Jun 26.

Breeding records included 1 pr Storrington Village pond raising 5 young, and 4 pairs Upper Adur levels on Aug 9 with 3,3,4 & 4 juveniles respectively.

Late year counts included 29 Lower Adur Aug 23 with 34 there Aug 27, 19 Wyckham farm Nov 15 with 21 there Dec 20, 67 Bines bridge Nov 27, and 20 Beeding brooks Dec 24.

0153. **BEWICK'S SWAN** (*Cygnus columbianus*) :- Unusually none reported from Upper Adur levels in the early months. In autumn, after 4 adults at Wyckham farm on Oct 31 & Nov 4 there were 14 there on Dec 6, 9 on Dec 20, & 2 on Dec 23. 12 on the Upper Adur levels 4/5 Dec may have been the same 12 noted flying N at Beeding brooks on Dec 22. A poor year by recent standards.

0159. **WHITEFRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*) :- In a year with no hard weather, just one record of 1E at Worthing beach May 3 (CEH).



Little Egret

0166. **CANADA GOOSE** (*Branta canadensis*) :- As for 1991, few records this year. In the early months 2W at Broadwater Mar 14, 1W Widewater Mar 29, 2 at Brooklands Mar 31, & 1E Worthing beach May 4. Breeding records involved 1 pair on a pond on Upper Adur levels May 4, & attempted breeding Storrington Mill pond Mar 3 to May 14; eggs were laid, but not brooded. None bred at Woods Mill for the first time since 1985.

The only late year record was 13 on Upper Adur levels Nov 29.

0168. **BRENT GOOSE** (*Branta bernicla*) :- Noted passing Worthing beach up to May 19 & again from Oct the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	117	537	4038	907	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	76	2	14	7	1	-	-	-	-	860	680	-

Peak movements were 2590E Mar 29, 937E Mar 18, 611W Oct 4, & 292W Nov 8. Separately reported were 677E at Widewater on Mar 29, no doubt part of the above movement. Other records involved 11 at Goring Gap on 4 Feb, 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Feb 10, 3 at Widewater on Oct 31, and 1 in Shoreham harbour Dec 30.

0173. **SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna tadorna*) :- In the early months between 2-3 were present on R. Adur (Shoreham) Jan 25 to Feb 10.

The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	117	25	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	6	-	5	27	17	-	-	-	-	-	33	7

Peak movements were 108E Mar 29 & 24W Nov 14, & separately reported were 51E Widewater Mar 29.

Few noted later in the year, with 2 on River Adur (Shoreham) Sep 6 & 1 there Dec 27.

0179. **WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*) :- With no hard weather to drive them in, a poor year for the species. Early records were 6 near Sussex Pad on Jan 8, 16 R. Adur (Shoreham) Jan 26, 1 New Salt's farm Jan 25, with 2 there Jan 29 & 8 on Feb 9. The only sea-watch record for the period was 21E at Worthing beach on Mar 29, & in autumn a November total of 31W there which included 23 on Nov 9. Even scarcer in December, the only record was 3 on Upper Adur levels Dec 30.

0182. **GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*) :- Back to normal in 1992, with few records. A pair was present at New Salt's farm Jan 5 to at least Feb 12, & there were 2 on Brooklands Jan 18. Interestingly, a pair was noted at Wyckham farm on Apr 14. The only sea-watch record was 1E Worthing beach May 14, & none were reported in the area during the second half of the year.

0184. **TEAL** (*Anas crecca*) :- Noted in the early months on passage at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	3	-	10	2	5	-
W	1	-	-	-	-	-

3 were offshore at Ferring Jan 31, & the only other records were 22 at Wiston on Mar 22, 1 at King's barn, Steyning on Sep 16, 2 at Widewater on Sep 6, & 15 Upper Adur levels Nov 29.

0186. **MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*) :- Peak counts for the year were 112 Brooklands (excluding hybrids) on Jan 18 with 79 there Dec 2, 58 at Ferring Rife on Aug 19, & 30 New Salt's farm Nov 2. In the breeding season 4 pairs bred at Woods Mill, 4 adults with 25 young were noted at Ferring Rife on May 3 & 2 males at Storrington Mill pond did the species no favours whatsoever by mating with an introduced "puddle duck" & raising 11 hybrid young. Few noted on sea-watches at Worthing beach, being noted in just Mar and Apr with totals of 3 & 4 respectively.

0189. **PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*) :- A scattering of records for the year. At Worthing beach, 2 offshore on Feb 6, 11 in March included 8 on Mar 29, and the May total was just 7. In autumn there, 14 flew W on Oct 4 & 10W on Nov 8. The only records away from this site were 2 SW at Sompting on Mar 5, & 2 over Woods Mill on the late date of May 3.

0191. **GARGANEY** (*Anas querquedula*) :- The one record for the year involved a male in off the sea at Brighton Marina on Apr 1 (GLC).

0194. **SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*) :- A dismal year for this species in our area. At Woods Mill there were 2 on Jan 1, with a male over there on Feb 26, & 1 was at Brighton Marina on May 4. Sea-watches at Worthing beach produced totals of 11E in April, and just 2E 1W in May, & no more for the year. Only 2 were noted in the later months: at Bines Bridge on Nov 29.

0196. **RED CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*) :- The usual washed-out escape was present at Brooklands from Jan to early Sep, but was not reported as missing after this date; any observer who has not seen (or fed) this dreadful specimen is now out of luck.

0198. **POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*) :- There were 5 at West Durrington on Feb 2. Monthly maxima at Brooklands and Widewater were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	22	22	-	21	22
Widewater	22	27	11	5	22

As usual most of these counts involved the same birds moving between the two sites. 3 flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 29, with 1W there on the unusual date of June 20.

0203. **TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fudigula*) :- Maxima at Widewater were 10 in Jan, 9 in Feb, 11 in Nov, & 7 in Dec. The comment above re. Pochard applies equally to this species.

1 was at W. Durrington on Feb 2, & at Worthing beach 4E on Apr 20 and 14W there on Nov 9. Breeding may have occurred at Patching Pond where a pair was present on Apr 11.

0204. **SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*) :- Another return to normality with just 2 records, and both of them from Brooklands, where a female was present on Jan 1 and an adult male on Jan 19.

0206. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*) :- At Worthing beach, totals of 4W Jan, 111E Mar, 37E Apr, & 6W Aug. Peak movements were 51E on Mar 31 & 40E on Mar 30. Additionally, 28 flew E off Widewater on Mar 29 with 63 E there on Mar 30, and 45E Brighton Marina on Mar 31. Away from these sites there were 7 offshore at Shoreham on Jan 24 & 26, and 6 off Ferring on Mar 30. The only records in the late months were 11 off Lancing beach on Dec 15, with 1 there Dec 20.

0212. **LONG TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*) :- The only record for the year was of the male offshore at Shoreham harbour from 1991 to Mar 15 1992.

0213. **COMMON SCOTER** (*Melanitta nigra*) :- The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	3	-	526	1622	2856	33	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	1	1	10	58	-	-	-	32	-	-	-

Peak movements were 1042E Apr 21 & 1006E May 4. 88 flew E off Brighton Marina on May 4. Other counts during the year included 40 off Shoreham beach on Jan 5, 37 off Palace Pier, Brighton on Jan 4, & 23 Brighton Marina May 15. Virtually non-existent after Sep, with just 2 off Lancing on Dec 20.

0215. **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*) :- A wintering flock of 8 to 16 individuals was present from 1991 to at least Apr 5 1992 between Shoreham beach & East Worthing, & was last seen with 2 off Widewater on Apr 16. The records from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	1	-	7	77	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

Peak movement was 56E Apr 21.

0218. **GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*) :- An uninspiring year with just three records. After 3 at Brooklands on Jan 1, 2 (including a male) remained until at least Feb 8. A male off Widewater on Jan 1, & there were 4 off Shoreham beach on Jan 31. No more were reported for the year.

0220. **SMEW** (*Mergus albellus*) :- None recorded for 1992.

0221. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*) :- In the early months there were a number of high counts received, including 100 off Goring/Ferring beach on Feb 25, with 110 there on Mar 8, 126 on Mar 14, reducing to 12 on Apr 5. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	9	4	265	94	3	-	-	-	-	10	19	3
W	7	1	35	17	1	-	-	-	-	10	116	57

Peak movements were 173E on Mar 29 & 50W on Nov 8. Last of the spring was 1E on May 14, & the first of the autumn was 1E on Oct 4. Lower numbers at

Goring/Ferring beaches in the latter months, with counts of 21 on Dec 10, and 28 on Dec 24.

An unusual inland record was of 1 male on the Adur at Beeding on 12 Nov. (DS)

0223. **GOOSANDER** (*Mergus merganser*) :- Only one record for the year, a "redhead" on R. Adur (Steyning) on 16, 23, & 29 Sep (KN).

0239. **RED KITE** (*Milvus milvus*) :- 1 at Hollingdean Jan 3 (ADW/IDW) was seen in this general area on several dates to Feb 3. 1 W over W Worthing on May 25 (JAN) may have been the same as seen on May 24 in the Adur valley at Golding barn (JS). Details sent to SOS.

0260. **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*) :- There were 3 records for the year. The first was a male at Southwick Hill on Apr 20 (SRA), followed by 1 at Hollingbury Camp May 3. The only autumn sighting was one at Cissbury on Aug 8 (RAI). Details to SOS.

1991 Additional spring records of 1 Lancing Apr 5 & 1 Findon May 25.

0261. **HEN HARRIER** (*Circus cyaneus*) :- Only one sighting: 1 "ringtail" at No Man's Land Jan 1. A very disappointing showing for 1992.

0263. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*Circus pygargus*) :- None recorded in 1992

0269. **SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*) :- Again well-reported during the year with mainly singles from 24 sites within the area, & in terms of breeding territories we may now have reached saturation point. During the breeding season 1, possibly 2 pairs, Findon Valley; 1 pr Benfield valley, 1 pr north Ferring, 1 pr bred Sullington raising 4 young & 1 pr bred Wild Park raising 3 young; & 1 pr bred Sanctuary. Probable breeding occurred at a further 7 sites.

No obvious migrants were noted. 1 was ringed at Cissbury on Oct 17.

0287. **BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*) :- As usual, a scattering of sightings throughout the year, & possibly bred in the area as a pair were reported to have been present all year. After 1 NW at Broadwater on Feb 29 there were three singles in May, at High Salvington on May 13, Findon Valley on May 26, and Cissbury on May 31.

In autumn, 1 over Long Furlong on Jul 27, 1 at Truleigh Hill on Aug 26, 1 at Wild Park on Aug 29, and finally 1 at Beeding Hill & Woods Mill on Dec 27.

0301. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*) :- None in 1992

0304. **KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*) :- A similar picture emerges as in recent years, & the species appears to be stable in our area. Recorded from 33 sites during the year with breeding being again better documented than the more elusive Sparrowhawk. Details of 16 confirmed breeding pairs were received which raised a minimum of 18 young, & probably far more as the number of fledged young was infrequently noted. Probable breeding occurred at at least another 8 sites. One site in Portslade was demolished once the young had fledged.

Post-breeding concentrations included 10 in 10km of downland N of Brighton on Oct 31, 6 on downs at Standean on Jul 25, 10 at Long Furlong on Jul 27, and 5 at Southwick Hill on Sep 27. Possible migrants were singles at Worthing beach on Jun 3 and Jun 17. The only late-year concentration was 6 at Beeding brooks on Dec 24.

0309. **MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*) :- The usual scattering of singles, mainly in the early part of the year; at Broadwater on Jan 12, Sompting on Jan 21, Mill Hill on Jan 26, Beeding brooks on Feb 3, Hove Feb 8, Lancing on Feb 9, and Durrington on Mar 6. In autumn 1 at Chantry Post on Sep 23 chasing finches, 1 at Cissbury Oct 17, 1 hunting Starlings at Brighton West Pier on Nov 16. The last of the year was 1 at Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak Dec 30. Of birds sexed, 4 were males and 2 were females.

0310. **HOBBY** (*Falco subbuteo*) :- Another good year in line with the increasing British population. First of the year were singles at Sompting on Apr 22 and Wildpark on Apr 26, with a noticeable influx in the first 10 days of May. Recorded spring to autumn from 17 localities, the monthly totals were:-

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
3	9	3	4	7	7

No confirmed breeding but the summer distribution is similar to that of 1991, & again suggests a minimum of 3 pairs. The last of the year was 1 south at Goring on Sep 26.

0320. **PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*) :- Another excellent year, with a minimum of nine records, all involving singles. These were W at

Brooklands on Jan 1, W at Goring beach May 10, W at Findon Valley on Aug 31, W at Marine Parade, Worthing on Sep 6, W at Cissbury on Sep 7 and Sep 19, on Southwick power station chimney Oct 18 & 21, & Nov 4, E at Widewater on Dec 23, & lastly, on a pylon at Wyckham farm on Dec 30.

0358. **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** (*Alectoris rufa*) :- Again, very few noted, the largest covey being 4 only, at Castle Goring on Feb 16. Otherwise, 3 at Pyecombe golf course on Apr 1, 2 Storrington Feb 29, 2 Nepcote Mar 6, a monthly total of 6 at Sompting, & reported as "occasional" at Hollingbury allotments. As mentioned in the 1991 report, how many "pure" Red legged Partridges are in the area is open to debate, considering Rock Partridge & Chukhar releases; perhaps this hybrid version will become "Rockridge" or "Chukridge" in future! (see also "escapes".)

0367. **GREY PARTRIDGE** (*Perdix perdix*) :- Peak covey sizes reported were 12 Highdown Hill Feb 1, 10 Chancetonbury Dec 3, 10 Sanctuary Oct 18, & 6 Goring Gap Jan 1. Breeding records were 2 prs Devil's Dyke; 2 prs Downs, Sweethill; 1 pr King's Barn, Steyning; & present in the breeding season at 4 further sites.

0370. **QUAIL** (*Coturnix coturnix*) :- After none in 1991, a minimum of 11 in 1992, mostly singing males. These include 1 below Cissbury May 23 to Jul 25 with two singing on Jun 13; 2 at Lower Standean on Jun 22 with 3 there on Jun 28; 1 "Downs" Jun 8; 1 Mill Hill Jun 28; 1 Southwick Hill Jul 7; 2 seen New Erringham farm Jul 2; & 1 Downs, Pyecombe Aug 15. A very good year.

0394. **PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*) :- No counts in 1992; records included 1 feeding in a Storrington garden Jan 26, 2 pairs bred at both Wildpark & Devil's Dyke; & an albino at Washington Bostal on May 27.

0407. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*) :- None noted in the first 6 months. First of the year were 2 at King's barn, Steyning on Oct 13 & there were 2 at Woods Mill Dec 12 to year-end. Singles were noted at E. Worthing on Dec 13, Sompting brooks on Dec 19, & Shoreham Airport on Dec 24.

0424. **MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*) :- Counts included 30 at Brooklands Jan 5, 28 there Feb 7, 27 on Dec 10, and 8 Ferring Rife, Dec. Breeding records involved 4 to 6 pairs Woods Mill, 1 pr with 4 young Ferring Rife, 1 pr with 4 young Storrington Mill Pond & an additional 3 young in a second brood, & 1 pr Poynings.

0429. **COOT** (*Fulica atra*) :- Maxima at Brooklands were 69 in Jan, 73 in Feb, 12 in Mar, 22 in Sep, 57 in Nov, and 64 in Dec. 1 was sitting on a freshly-made nest there on the early date of Feb 15. Otherwise, just 2 at Chantry Pond on Feb 29.

0450. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*) :- The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	71	226	448	-	-	-	27	-
W	20	170	215	31	-	-	-	-

Peak movements were 94E on Apr 20 & 67W on May 13.

Very high numbers on R.Adur at Shoreham, mainly in the later months as the following table illustrates:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
15	26	27	6	14	35	21	41	67

The monthly wader counts at Goring Gap revealed average numbers for the site:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
20	4	nil	nil	28	27	31

Other counts received were 50+ at Worthing beach May 8, & 24 Lancing beach May 14.

0456. **AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avocetta*) :- After 1E at Goring beach Jan 12, spring passage involved 12E Worthing beach Mar 19 & 5E there May 19. There were no autumn/late-year records.

0469. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*) :- A pair at an inland site were noted on four dates Apr 19 to Jun 4. The only migrant was 1 on R.Adur (Shoreham) Jul 20.

0470. **RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius hiaticula*) :- The following are the maximum counts from R.Adur (Shoreham) and the Goring wader roost:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	99	33	14	19	16	6	25	150	440	nc	nc	317
Goring	150	105	nil	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	121	nil	6	25

The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	-	9	92	-	-	-	-
W	1	-	2	-	-	172	67

An unexceptional spring passage. Peak movements in autumn were 116W Aug 28 & 47W Sep 27. Additionally 30 were on the beach there Aug 2, with 50 Aug 29.

Breeding records involved 5 prs displaying at Widewater Feb 29, 2 prs bred E. Worthing beach, 1 pr raised 3 young, & a pair displaying on Southwick beach.

Miscellaneous counts received were 23 Brighton Marina roost Feb 27 with 42 there Sep 5, 306 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 19, & 178 at Goring Gap Sep 1 with 87 there Dec 31.

0477. **KENTISH PLOVER** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*) :- None recorded.

0482. **DOTTEREL** (*Eudromias morinellis*) :- 1 seen near Steyning Round Hill in August but the Recorder is still awaiting the record.

1991 1 just outside our area at Balsdean 24 Aug.

0485. **GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Pluvialis apricaria*) :- Early-year counts were 170 Greenfields (Upper Adur levels) on Feb 2, 45E at Sompting on Jan 29 with 18N there on Jan 14, & counts at other sites on the Upper Adur levels of 35 Jan 2, 17 Jan 5, 22 Jan 26, & 25 Jan 31. Additionally 6 flew over Woods Mill on Feb 19. After this date the only record outside of December was 1 at Sompting on Aug 29.

Recorded mainly (again) from the Upper Adur levels in Dec, with 74 at Wyckham farm on Dec 27 and 35 there on Dec 23, 9 at Small Dole on Dec 15, 15 Upper Adur levels on Dec 19, 2 near Woods Mill Dec 4, & 4 King's barn, Steyning on Dec 30. Away from this traditional area there were 30 SW over Cissbury Oct 31, & 1 at Goring Gap on Dec 10, where unusual. A good year.

0486. **GREY PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*) :- In contrast to Golden Plover above, an average to poor year for numbers of this species. Monthly maxima for R.Adur (Shoreham) and Goring wader roosts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	31	15	4	4	2	3	2	1	8	11
Goring	210	166	nil	nc	nc	nc	nil	nil	45	207

0493. **LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*) :- Maximum counts in the early months were 3000 Upper Adur levels Jan 5, 1000 New Salt's farm Jan 1, & 1000 Ferring Rife Jan 8, this latter flock reducing to 200 on Feb 5 and 40 on Mar 3.

Breeding season counts involved a minimum 12 pairs Cissbury to Chanctonbury in May, 1 pr Applesham (where 3 prs 1991), 1 pr Chantry Post, & 1 pr Bramber.

Post-breeding flocks included 130 at Cissbury on Jun 14, 100 at New Salt's farm Jul 11, & interestingly 15 arrived from the sea at Brighton on Jul 6. Late-year counts included 1200 New Salt's Aug 19, 1000 Upper Adur levels Nov 29, 654 New Salt's & Airport Nov 28, 537 Beeding brooks Dec 24, a total of 252 SW at Sompting during Aug; 150 Highdown Hill Nov 12, & a Ferring Rife peak of 130 in Nov.

0496. **KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) :- Noted at Worthing beach on sea-watches in May & Aug only, with a month total of 99. These included 46E on May 14, and 30E on May 13, and 4 were on the beach there Aug 30.

Away from this site, just 1 on R.Adur (Shoreham) 9/10 Sep.

0497. **SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*) :- The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach shows a spring passage only as the following table shows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	12	49	414	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	9	29	-	-	-	-	-

Peak movements were 226E on May 20 and 50E on May 14. Monthly maxima at Goring wader roost were:- 120 Jan, 106 Feb, 10 Nov, 63 Dec.

Singles noted on R. Adur (Shoreham) on May 12, Sep 1, & Sep 11. Miscellaneous beach counts included 112 on Ferring beach Mar 20, 119 Worthing beach Apr 3. First of the autumn was 1 on Goring beach Aug 27.

0501. **LITTLE STINT** (*Calidris minuta*) :- A poor year, with just one record, of a single at Widewater on Sep 27.

0509. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*Calidris ferruginea*) :- None reported in 1992.

0510. **PURPLE SANDPIPER** (*Calidris maritima*) :- In the early months, 2 were at Shoreham harbour on Jan 5, 3 at Palace Pier, Brighton Jan 12 & 18, with 2 up to Feb 24; & singles at Shoreham beach on Jan 21 and Brighton Marina on Feb 27.

First of the autumn was 1E at Worthing beach on Sep 6, after which birds again at the traditional sites of Shoreham harbour, with 2 there Nov 2 to at least Nov 26, and Palace Pier with 3 there Nov 28. Additionally 2 at Brighton Marina Dec 13, & 1 on Goring beach Dec 31.

0512. **DUNLIN** (*Calidris alpina*) :- Monthly maxima from R.Adur & Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R.Adur	877	183	123	42	58	2	35	50	50	*	(see below)	
Goring	367	457	nil	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	3	nil	46	195

* For Oct to Dec R.Adur counts, see the forthcoming Sussex Bird Report.

The records from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	30	10	81	-	-	-	-
W	-	2	10	-	5	-	58

A low passage. Peak movements were 40E May 14, and 54W Sep 6. Miscellaneous beach counts were 100 Goring/Ferring beach Jan 10 with 80 on Mar 8, & 19 at Widewater on Mar 4. Inland, at King's Barn, Steyning, 3 were present on Jan 1 with 5 on Jan 3 and 1 was recorded at Cissbury on Aug 18.

0517. **RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*) :- The only records were from Worthing beach, with 1E May 14 & 4W Aug 30.

0518. **JACK SNIFE** (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*) :- All records this year from Ferring Rife, where 4 were present Jan 1, with an area record of 6 there Jan 8, 4 again to Jan 24, then a single remaining to Mar 29.



Jack Snipe

At the end of the year, 2 were present from Dec 19 to Dec 31.

0519. **SNIFE** (*Gallinago gallinago*) :- Early records were 40 at Ferring Rife on Jan 5 & at King's Barn, Steyning, maxima of 9 in Jan, 36 in Feb, 13 in March, and 12 in April. 1 at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on Apr 4 was unusual for the site.

In autumn, 31 were on R.Adur (Shoreham) on Jul 28, with 3 at Hollingbury Campon Aug 30, after which 2 at King's Barn in Sep with 11 in Oct & 1 in Nov; and maxima on R.Adur (Shoreham) were 6 in Oct, 19 in Nov, and 106 in Dec. Finally, 22 were at Ferring Rife on Dec 19.

0529. **WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax rusticola*) :- Without hard weather, just 6 records for the year- these were all of singles, flying SW at Broadwater on Jan 11, 1 flushed from path S of Henfield Feb 4. (DS), Lychpole Hill on Feb 11 and Nov 7, Woods Mill on Mar 28 & again on Dec 22, and finally 1 Hollingbury Woods Dec 31.

0532. **BLACK TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*) :- At Worthing beach, 5W on May 12 & 1W on Aug 30. The only other record was 1 at Widewater on Jul 21.

0534. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica*) :- The records from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	2	14	748	-	-	-	-
W	-	4	1	-	-	-	50

An abysmal April, compared to the 4000+ total in 1991. Peak movement was 339E on May 4.

On Goring wader roost, 9 in Jan, 6 in Feb, & 1 in Dec. Singles were on R.Adur (Shoreham) on May 5, then 2 Aug dates & 4 in Sep with 2 Sep 10; 1 at Flood Arch Sep 9.

Miscellaneous beach counts were 2 at Goring Aug 22, 72 on Sep 2, 1 on Oct 8, & 1 at Widewater on Jul 21. Inland, 1 was a Wyckham farm on 3/4 May.

0538. **WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*) :- First of the year was 1 on R. Adur on the early date of Mar 18. Coastal movements were noted at Worthing from Mar 29 & the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	6	73	117	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	48	18	-	-	4	4	-

Peak movements were 34E on Apr 21, & 29E on Apr 26. 71 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4, & there were a number of spring records, mostly from the Adur valley, & included 2E at Sompting brooks Apr 18, 1 Airfield Apr 20, 1N King's Barn, Steyning Apr 25, 20 between Beeding brooks & Stretham May 4, 6 Wyckham farm May 3, 1 Adur Saltings May 7, & a late bird there on Jun 3.

First of the autumn was 1 on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jun 28 after which just singles there on two dates in Jul & 1 on Aug 5. Additionally, 8 flew SW over Sompting Jul 24, 1 over Cissbury Aug 8 & 1 over Wildpark on Aug 15.

0541. **CURLEW** (*Numenius arquata*) :- All records in 1992 confined to sea-watches at Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	1	58	28	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	2	-	10	5	-	3	4	1	-

Peak movement was 57E on Mar 29.

0545. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*) :- There were two records for the year, all in autumn. 2 flew W at Worthing beach on Sep 6, & 1 was on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 14.

0546. **REDSHANK** (*Tringa totanus*) :- Monthly maxima from R. Adur (Shoreham) & Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
R. Adur	130	79	49	-	-	1	35	50	4	-	-	90
Goring	5	7	nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	nil	nil	nil

Noted at Worthing beach on sea-watches between Mar & May, the monthly totals were Mar, 4E; Apr, 1E; May, 30E, 3W & included a high day total of 25E on May 14.

Other records were singles King's Barn, Steyning Jan 3 & R. Adur (Steyning) Apr 4, 1 at Wyckham farm on May 3, 1 again R. Adur (Steyning) Oct 14 to 31, & 1 South Sompting Aug 15.

The regular albino was again reported in Mar, Nov & Dec.

0548. **GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*) :- In spring, noted only at Worthing beach with singles E there on Apr 20 & May 19. More noted during the autumn with a minimum total of 24 between Aug 9 and Oct 1 & the majority from the lower Adur valley, including 7 at New Salt's farm Aug 29, 6 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 14, & 4 Widewater on Aug 25.

0553. **GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*) :- Wintering birds in the early months were 2 on the Upper Adur levels during Jan & 1 West Durrington rife Feb 9. The only spring record was 1 Upper Adur Levels (Stretham) on May 4.

No passage birds were noted in autumn & at the end of the year 2 were again on the Upper Adur levels from Nov 21 to the end of the year.

0554. **WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*) :- No records in 1992.

0556. **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) :- First of the year were singles at Worthing beach Apr 12 and Apr 20, with 2 there on May 10, 1 on May 13, and 4 on May 23. Additionally, 2 at Brighton Marina on May 15, and 1 at Lancing beach on May 21.

As usual, most noted from the lower Adur valley in autumn with a minimum total of 29 between Aug 2 (Worthing beach) and Oct 31 (R. Adur, Steyning), & included 5 at the Flood Arch Aug 21 and Sep 10, 4 Worthing beach Aug 19, and 3 R. Adur (Shoreham) Sep 19.

0561. **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*) :- Unusually high numbers R. Adur (Shoreham), as the following table of monthly maxima shows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	nc	10	22	14	nc	1	1	4	1	8	9

Noted only from Mar to May on passage at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were Mar 1E; Apr 2E; and May 73E 8W, an unexceptional showing. Small numbers recorded on monthly wader counts at Goring Gap, the peaks being 10

in Jan & 8 in Feb. Miscellaneous counts included 16 E. Worthing beach Mar 20 and Widewater Mar 30.

0565. **GREY PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) :- No records for 1992 but 1 for 1991: 1 Shoreham Harbour on Nov 3.

0566. **POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) :- A better year with a May total of 51E from Worthing beach, the records were as follows:- 2E May 10, 13E May 13, 16E May 14, 5E May 19, 15E May 20, 4W May 30; and in autumn, just a single E on Aug 16 (MGP).

19E including a flock of 13, were noted at Brighton Marina on May 14.

0567. **ARCTIC SKUA** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) :- A poor spring, but better autumn than 1991. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	2	37	9	-	1	10	7	-	1	-
W	1	-	-	-	-	3	29	-	-	-

First in spring were 2E 1W on Mar 31 & the last of the autumn was 1E on Nov 14. Peak movements were 10E Apr 21 & 29W Sep 6. Records from Brighton Marina were 4E 1W on two dates in Apr, & 5 E on May 14.

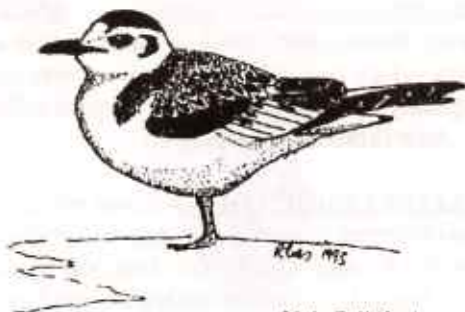
0569. **GREAT SKUA** (*Stercorarius skua*) :- A poor year with only 7 records. These were singles E at Worthing beach on Mar 29 and Apr 21 with 2E Apr 24, & in autumn singles W on Jul 14, Aug 31, & 2W Nov 9. 1 flew W off Widewater on Sep 9.

0575. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*Larus melanocephalus*) :- At Worthing beach 1 2nd W. E Mar 31 & another on Apr 9; the 3 1st-years during Apr, & in May, 3 1st-years E, 2 2nd-years E, & 2 adults E. In autumn, 1 1st-winter there on Sep 6 & the only un-aged individual W there on Aug 28.

Away from this site, 1 1st-w Brooklands Feb 23 with an adult there Jan 19 & Jan 26; 1 adult R. Adur (Shoreham) Feb 29; 1 1st-w Widewater Mar 14; 2 adults W Brighton Marina May 4, & a 1st-summer E Goring beach Jun 21.

In autumn, 1 adult at Sompting on Aug 20, 1 adult R Adur (Shoreham) Nov 22, 1 ad. Brighton Marina Dec 13, 1 2nd-winter at Varndean on Dec 17, and 1 1st-winter in Shoreham harbour on Dec 30.

0578. **LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*) :- An exceptionally poor year. Spring passage at Worthing beach involved totals of just 5E in Apr and 6E in May; 1W in Sep. & 4E 10W in Nov. Unusual were 2 N over Adur Rec. on Apr 24.



Little Gull (Juv)

0579. **SABINE'S GULL** (*Larus sabini*) :- None recorded in 1992

0582. **BLACK HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*) :- Spring passage at Worthing beach produced the following month totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	292	1638	862	6
W	-	35	17	15

Peak movements were 403 E Apr 10 & 397E Apr 9.

Early year peak counts were 500 Ferring Rife in Jan, & 350 in Feb; & 230 Wild Park, Feb. Post-breeding flocks included 250 at R Adur (Shoreham) on Jul 11 & 1350 at Sompting on Aug 20, & numbers peaked at 180 at Ferring Rife in Nov, & 160 in Dec. An albino with dark primary tips was noted at Worthing beach on several dates around Nov 10.

0590. **COMMON GULL** (*Larus canus*) :- Worthing beach totals were 25E 48W in April, & just 9 in May; no doubt this species was seriously under-recorded. Counts received during the year included 50 Wildpark Jan, with 100 in Feb; 100 Downs, Standean on Feb 15; 75 Widewater beach Apr 3; and 150 Ditchling Beacon Apr 4.

0591. **LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*) :- Worthing beach monthly seawatch totals in spring were 10E Apr & 20E May. 2 pairs held territory on rooftops in central Brighton May/June, & up to 6 were at West Worthing during the breeding season but no nests could be located. No counts were received, & the only other records were singles at Ferring Rife on 3 dates in Jan, & 1 Widewater beach May 8. Another under-recorded species.

0592. **HERRING GULL** (*Larus argentatus*) :- Breeding records were of a pair on Durrington Health Centre, which raised 1 young, & a pair at nearby Worthing Sports Centre which raised 3 young. 1 young was raised in Broadwater- this species is quickly moving northwards in its quest to find suitable rooftops. 161 were on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 5.

YELLOW LEGGED GULL (*Larus michahellis*) :- This yellow legged form of Herring Gull has now achieved full species status (1993) and was recorded on the R. Adur as follows:- 1 on Mar 8, the only spring record. In autumn, 1 on Sep 5, 11 (all adults) on Sep 14, and 3 on Sep 25. In October, 3 on 18th & 5, again all adults, on Oct 12th.

0598. **ICELAND GULL** (*Larus glaucoides*) :- An adult was on R. Adur (Shoreham) on Dec 21 (KN et al). Details sent to SOS.

0599. **GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*) :- No records in 1992.

0600. **GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*) :- Counts during the year included 92 R. Adur (Shoreham) on Jan 1, 190 there Feb 10, & 19 at Ferring Rife Nov 22.

0602. **KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*) :- Noted in the seawatch log at Worthing beach in the early months & spring only, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	2	-	69	13	33	-
W	1	-	1	19	9	-

Peak movements was 63E on Mar 29. A poor year.

0611. **SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna sandvicensis*) :- First of the year was 1W at Worthing beach on Mar 7 (RAI)- which beats the earliest county record by one day. The monthly totals of passage birds at this location were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	38	773	712	6	6	6	18	3	-	-
W	-	73	32	-	14	229	39	7	-	-

Peak movements were 94E May 4 & 53 W Aug 31. Last of the year were 5W on Oct 4.

On April 11 Brighton Marina recorded 30E & on May 5, 44E. There were 22 at roost there on Sep 5. The only other records involved 4 on the R. Adur (Shoreham) on Apr 28, & 2 there on both Aug 25 & 28.

0614. **ROSEATE TERN** (*Sterna dougallii*) :- None recorded in 1992.

0615. **COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*) :- Birds specifically identified were 8W Widewater Aug 29, 4 at R. Adur (Shoreham) Aug 5 with 11 on Aug 25 and 1 on Sep 10, & 3 Widewater on Sep 5.

0616. **ARCTIC TERN** (*Sterna paradisaea*) :- 1 was at Widewater on Sep 5.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN :- First of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Mar 31, after which a poor spring passage noted there. The monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	1	66	723	3	-	77	269	-
W	-	-	7	4	4	506	1071	-

Peak movements were 183E May 10, 170E May 14, 186W Sep 2, & 502W Sep 6. After these movements the last recorded was unexpectedly early, on Sep 9.

Additionally 29 flew E at Brighton Marina on May 4. Inland records involved 10SW over Sompting during a gale on Aug 30, & 21 roosting on the banks of the Adur at Cuckoo's Corner on the same day.

0624. **LITTLE TERN** (*Sterna albifrons*) :- First of the year were on the late date of Apr 21 when 7 flew E at Worthing beach, where the monthly totals were:-

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	7	13	42	-	-	-	-
W	-	1	5	-	7	42	-

As for "Commic" tern a poor spring passage. Peak movements were 16E on May 10 & 40W on Sep 6.

Away from this site, the only other records received were 2E Brighton Marina May 4, & 1 at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 9.

0627. **BLACK TERN** (*Sterna niger*) :- A poor spring with just 1E at Worthing beach Apr 21 & 3E there May 14. In contrast, monthly autumn totals were 2E 5W Aug, and 5E 202W Sep; 5E 194W were noted on Sep 6, easily breaking the previous day record. Of interest, in the region of 10,000 birds passed W off Dungeness on the same day.

The only other record was 1 offshore at Widewater on Aug 26.

0634. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*) :- At Worthing beach just singles E in Feb & Mar, & 1W in Jan, plus 1 offshore there on Jan 7. Oiled individuals were noted at Widewater on Jan 5 and Shoreham harbour on Jan 7. Singles were off Brighton Marina Feb 24, and Widewater Mar 1. There were no autumn or late year records except for 1 in Shoreham harbour on Dec 30.

0636. **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*) :- All records from Worthing beach, where singles flew E in Sep & Oct, and W in Nov & Dec.

0647. **LITTLE AUK** (*Alle alle*) :- After a good run, none in 1992.

0654. **PUFFIN** (*Fratercula arctica*) :- None recorded this year; but a record from 1991: 1 corpse picked up at Brighton Marina 14 Jan.

AUK SPECIES :- All records of auks not specifically identified from Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	6	-	-	2	8	-	-	5	4	1	2	3
W	4	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	1	4	5	18

0668. **STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*) :- In the breeding season 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 2 prs Wild Park where reported as declining due to habitat loss. Scattered counts of under 12 individuals received from only 6 sites during the year.

0670. **WOOD PIGEON** (*Columba palumbus*) :- 20 pairs bred Brighton Cemeteries, 36 prs Wild Park & 15 prs Devil's Dyke. Counts during the year were 1000W over Broadwater Oct 31, 800 Cissbury Jan 21, 500+ Downs above Lancing Jan 11, 500+ Woods Mill, Feb; 300 Highdown Feb 1, 230 Ferring Rife in Nov, & 200 Worthing beach in 30 minutes on Nov 21.

0684. **COLLARED DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*) :- 16 pairs bred Wild Park, 11 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 1 pr in a Storrington garden. No large counts received during the year, the largest counts being 20 Ferring Rife Sep 23 & 18 Wild Park in Jan.

0687. **TURTLE DOVE** (*Streptopelia turtur*) :- First of the year were singles at Woods Mill and Hollingbury Woods on Apr 26, after which a further 16 to May 27, including 6E at Broadwater on May 10 & 4 at Sompting on Apr 28.

Breeding season records were 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, 2 prs Small Dole, 2 prs New Erringham farm, & singles during the breeding season at Lower Standean, Lychpole Hill, Southwick Hill, Steyning Round Hill & Sanctuary. In autumn a total of 66 recorded, including month totals at Sompting of 12 in Jul & 38 in Aug, & 4 on Upper Adur levels Aug 9. The last were 3 at Goring Gap on Sep 24.

0712. **RING-NECKED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula krameri*) :- A better spread of records than usual, for the second year in succession. Early year records involved 4 at Wild Park in Jan & 3 in Feb, with a maximum of 7 there for the year; additionally 1 pr bred Wild Park raising a single young. 1 was at Lancing on May 12.

After 3 at Westdene on Jul 15, there were 1 to 3 at this site in Aug & 1 in Dec. Singles were in a Steyning garden on Sep 10 & at Hove on Sep 27; 7 flew over a Patcham garden on Dec 7, 1 was at Hollingbury Woods on Dec 30, & 1 frequented Buckingham Park, Shoreham on several dates during the year.

0724. **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*) :- First of the year was a very early individual arriving from the sea at Worthing beach on Apr 4, after which no more until singles at Cissbury Apr 18, Woods Mill on Apr 22, Ferring Rife on Apr 24, & 2 on Upper Adur levels Apr 23. Arrivals continued into early May but few

reported except from Cissbury where 3 were noted on May 10. Present during the breeding season at Castle Goring, and breeding again confirmed at Wild Park.

The only autumn record was 3 at Sompting on Aug 20.

0735. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*) :- 1 pr bred Devil's Dyke, with probable breeding at a downland site in the west of the area. 1 was at the Patcham roundabout N of Brighton on Jun 19, & interestingly 1 in a semi-urban area at Charmendean, Worthing on Jul 27 & 29. An encouraging showing.

0757. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*) :- Breeding records involved 1 pr Church Lane, Storrington which raised 1 young, & the usual pair at Storrington glider field. Probable breeding occurred at Nepcote and Michaelgrove, & singles in the breeding season at Lower Standean, Cissbury (2 there Apr 22), North Portslade, New Erringham farm, Beeding brooks (where seen mating in Feb & Apr), Golding barn, Steyning Round Hill & Sompting brooks. 2 were near Coombes 14 July & 2 were at Woods Mill on Sep 11 with 1 on Oct 18. A good spread of records.

0761. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*) :- 1 pr bred Woods Mill, raising two young; bred Cissbury & probably bred Michaelgrove. A pair raised 2 young at Lancing Ring- first breeding record for many years there. A juvenile was seen with adults at the traditional Southwick site, & there was an adult with a juvenile in a Worthing garden on May 5. Otherwise 3 at Woods Mill late December, 2 at Cissbury on Oct 4-5, 2 at Broadwater in Dec, & singles during the year at Sanctuary, Maybridge, Portslade, Bramber Castle & West Worthing.

0767. **LONG EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*) :- Up to 4 were present at a downland roost during Feb, with one still at this location on Apr 18. 1 car fatality, ironically the car was being driven by one of our members, in Brighton in January.

0768. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*Asio flammeus*) :- In the early months 2 at Beeding brooks during Jan, with 1 remaining to Apr 24. Possibly the same was at King's Barn Steyning on Apr 7-8, 1 flew N at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on Apr 4, & 1 was at Shoreham Airport Apr 22 to May 1.

First of the autumn was 1 at Ferring Rife on Sep 18, after which 1 at Goring Gap on Oct 7, 1 S at Worthing beach on Oct 10, 1 Hollingbury Camp Oct 18, 1 Upper Adur levels (New Hall farm) on Nov 22, 1 E Brighton golf course Nov 28, 2 at Sheepcote valley on Dec 7, & again 1 at Beeding brooks from Dec 24 into the new year.



Short-eared Owl

0778. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*) :- Again, just a single record. 1 at Swandean hospital, Worthing at dusk on May 27 (BFF,DIS), was not seen subsequently despite searching.

0795. **SWIFT** (*Apus apus*) :- First of the year was 1 at Wild Park Apr 22, the only record for that month, & a general arrival in the first 2 weeks of May included 40 at Broadwater on May 8 & May 11, with 100 there May 13 & 84 Wild Park May 9 with 45 there on May 13.

Summer flocks included 250 over Goring on Jun 18, 80 at Sompting on Jun 22, & 60 at Worthing seafront on Jun 6. As usual, the majority departed late July/early August, & counts around this period included totals of 750 at Sompting in Jul with 2964 in Aug, 500+ Broadwater Jul 30 with 100 there Aug 6, 500+ Downs, Standean on Jul 25, & 150W Broadwater Aug 19.

Singles & small groups noted frequently in Sep with a total of 31 for the month, which included 12W at Portslade on 3rd. The last of the year was at Cissbury on Sep 27.

0831. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*) :- Again, very well reported with no noticeable change of status. The most regular sites were Cuckoo's Corner with 2 there on several dates, & the Flood Arch/ New Salt's farm area. As usual, the majority noted from the Upper & Lower Adur Valley & these included 3 on the Upper Adur Dec 30 & 2 on Nov 21. A pair bred at Woods Mill, raising 4 young.

Records away from the Adur valley stronghold were singles at Widewater on Sep 5 & 20; at Sanctuary Oct 11; Southwick lagoon also on Oct 11; Storrington on May 9; Chantry pond on May 12; 1 at a Storrington garden pond on May 8; & 1 Ferring Rife Sep 12. 4 were caught at the Mumbles, Steyning in September.

0846. **HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*) :- Yet another record from Hollingbury Camp, with one there on Apr 25 (ADW). Details to SOS.

0848. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*) :- Singles recorded at Hollingbury Camp Sep 16 and Oct 1 (ADW, IJW). Details to SOS.

0856. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*) :- No change in status. Breeding records were single pairs at Wild Park, Devil's Dyke, & near Woods Mill, plus juveniles on 3 dates in Jul/Aug at Findon Valley & singles in the breeding season at Lower Standean, Rock Common (Washington) & 2 at the Sanctuary.

Outside the breeding season a group of 4 were in a Storrington garden Feb 17 & on the Upper Adur levels on Dec 30, whilst 2 were at Wild Park in Jan, & 2 at West Durrington on Feb 1. 3 were ringed at Cissbury 1 in Aug & 2 in Oct. Otherwise, singles noted from a further 4 locations, 2 of them coastal.

0876. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*) :- No change in status. Breeding records were 1 pr Woods Mill, 1 pr Washington common, with a pair in the breeding season at Goring Wood & singles at Rock Common, Oreham Common, & Durrington. Outside the breeding season singles noted from 6 further sites, including 1 regularly feeding on fat & nuts in a Findon Valley garden, & 1 on peanuts in an Offington garden in Oct & Nov. 6 were ringed at Wiston Jan/Feb & 1 was ringed there in Dec.

0887. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos minor*) :- The fortunes of this elusive woodpecker in our area do not improve & reported from 3 sites. Woods Mill had its "best year for many" with singles Feb 11 & Apr 11, then on 10 occasions Sep 13 and Dec 22. The only other sites, south of Henfield, had two records: Feb 4 & Nov 12; & 1 seen in Steyning May 15. This species is best looked for in spring when it is at its most vocal. The recorder would like all records of this very secretive species-surely it cannot be this rare?

0976. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*) :- With no hard weather at either end of the year, few large flocks noted. In the early months 100 were on Upper Adur levels Jan 2, & 300 at Mill Hill on Jan 26. Breeding records were scattered, & involved

9 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 6-8 prs Cissbury golf course, 4 prs Goring Gap, & 1 pr Ferring Rife.

Autumn migration noted at Wild Park with 50 on Oct 18, then a total of 405 to Nov 7 which included 144 on Oct 31. Late-year counts involved 120 Downs, Standean on Oct 31 & 100+ Southwick Hill Dec 23.

0981. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*) :- First of the year was 1 at Cissbury on Apr 9, & 19 were at Sandgate park Apr 19, 16N at Worthing beach on Apr 26, 20 at Sompting May 3, & 15 there May 4.

Again the Sandgate Park colony comprised 70-80 pairs & no breeding at the former colony at Rock Common. Totals at Sompting in autumn were 4 in Jul & 137 in Aug, otherwise few noted. The last were 2 at Wild Park on Sep 26.

0992. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*) :- First of the spring were 2 at Cissbury on Apr 9 but the main influx appeared to be in late April/early May with 20 at Sompting Apr 22, 30 there on May 3, & 40 on May 4; at Worthing beach, 73 on Apr 24 & 51 on May 4. Scattered breeding records involved 1 pr W. Durrington, 1 pr Mill Hill, & 2 prs Saddlescombe.

Peak autumn movements were 10,000+ Downs, Standean Sep 12, 2000E Withdean Park Sep 21, 3,192 Wild Park Jul 28 to Oct 18 (maximum 1045 on Sep 8) & a month total for Aug of 647E at Sompting. Smaller numbers continued to be reported in Oct when typical were 30W Lancing Oct 15, & the last, & only Nov record, was 1 at Shoreham harbour on Nov 13.

1001. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*) :- First of the year were 5 at Wild Park on the early date of Mar 28, but not noted again until Apr 9 with 1 at Cissbury, then singles at Goring beach & Woods Mill on Apr 23. Numbers slowly increased during the first week of May with a more general arrival in the second week when 21 flew N at Worthing beach on May 12, & 12 were at Broadwater May 13. The only breeding season count was 7 prs Patcham Village. Peak autumn counts were 2000+ Downs, Standean Sep 21, a total 923E at Sompting in Aug, at Wild Park 2877 Jul 15-Sep 27 maximum 550 on Sep 22, 60W Broadwater Sep 10, & 30W Lancing Oct 15. 502 were ringed at Cissbury in Sep with peak trappings being 122 on 13th, 239 on 20th & 105 on 27th. The last, & only November record, was 1 at Stanmer on Nov 22.

1005. **TAWNY PIPIT** (*Anthus campestris*) :- 1 was verbally reported on a date in early Sep at Cissbury, when multiple arrivals occurred at coastal headlands in Kent, Sussex, and Dorset. Remorseless nagging awaits the observer (CJF) if no description is forwarded to SOS!

1009. **TREE PIPIT** (*Anthus trivialis*) :- First of the year was 1E calling at Worthing beach on Apr 8, after which 3 at Cissbury Apr 18, 2 at Wild Park Apr 22 with 1 on May 2 & 1 on May 14, and 2 Sompting May 6 with 1 there May 11.

In the breeding season a male held territory at Sullington Warren Jun 26 to Jul 4. In autumn between Aug & the last at Wild Park on Sep 20, a total of 98 reported, including 49 Wild Park Aug 15 to Sep 20 maximum 20 on Aug 19, 17 Cissbury Aug 21, 8 there Sep 5, 2 there Sep 19.

1011. **MEADOW PIPIT** (*Anthus pratensis*) :- Very few noted Jan & Feb with several counts received, none of which exceeded 20 individuals. An influx noted on Mar 20 with 155 at Wild Park, & 44 there on Mar 28; additionally, 44N over Ferring Mar 20.

Breeding records involved 12 prs Devil's Dyke, 4 prs Cissbury, & 1 pr Chanctonbury dew pond. As usual, more noted in autumn than in spring, with a total between mid Sep and early Nov of 1433, including 700 Wild Park Sep 16 to Nov 7 max. 145 on Sep 16, 350 Cissbury Sep 20, 200 Withdean Park Sep 21, and 100+ Cissbury Sep 19. Few noted Nov/Dec maxima being 20 Ferring Rife Nov 16, & 30 Upper Adur levels Dec 19.

1014. **ROCK PIPIT** (*Anthus petrosus*) :- Present at the usual coastal sites in the early months, with 3 at Shoreham harbour Jan 5, 2 at Widewater Jan 26, & singles Goring beach Jan 31 & Feb 29. First of the late-year was 1 at Worthing beach on Oct 3, after which 2 at Shoreham harbour Nov 2 with 6 there Nov 10 & 8 on Nov 13; & at Goring beach, 1 on Nov 21 & 3 on Dec 10.

1015. **WATER PIPIT** (*Anthus spinoletta*) :- 1 at the now-regular spring site of Widewater on Mar 28 (RJF). In the later months, 1 R. Adur, Steyning Oct 23 (KN) & 2 on Upper Adur levels nr. Woods Mill on Nov 21 (BFF).

1017. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava*) :- First noted on the early date of Mar 31 with 1 at Worthing beach, after which 1 there Apr 18, 5 on Apr 20, & 4 on May 14. Wild Park noted just singles Apr 13 & May 8, 4 were noted at Cissbury Apr 18 & singles were again at Lancing on May 1 and Brighton Marina on May 5.

1 was present in the breeding season at Sompting on Jun 22. Autumn passage was unexceptional, & from early Aug to the last at Worthing beach on Oct 4 a total of just 253 noted. These included 50 Upper Adur levels Sep 26, 40 Cissbury Sep 8, & 40 New Salt's farm Sep 27. A male of the Blue-headed race (Central European) was seen at New Salt's farm on Sep 27 (KN), one of only few records of this race.

1019. **GREY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*) :- Early year wintering birds included 3 at Ferring Rife Jan 8 with 4 there Jan 20 & 1/2 up to Feb 21; & 1 at Steyning Sewage farm Feb 2.

Resident at Woods Mill where a pair attempted breeding, laying 5 eggs, all of which were predated. In autumn a total of only 16 noted on passage Aug 29 to end-Oct. 2 were again at Ferring Rife on Nov 9 & noted there into Dec. 1 was at Glebe farm Steyning on Nov 15 was observed to attack its own reflection in a car wing mirror. Finally 1 was on Goring/Ferring beach Dec 25 to end of year.

1020. **PIED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba*) :- Early year counts were 100+ Steyning Sewerage farm Jan 2, 55 King's Barn, Steyning on Apr 10, 50 at a Woods Mill roost on Jan 14, & 70+ Widewater to Brooklands Jan 1.

The only confirmed breeding record was 1 pr near Woods Mill; however, a pair was present in the breeding season at Storrington Mill Pond & singles also in the breeding season at Maybridge, W. Durrington, & Worthing Sports Centre.

Autumn movements involved 27E at Worthing beach on both Oct 4 and 5, & 50E there Oct 10. In the later months, a roost of 150+ was counted behind Tesco's, W. Durrington & this rapidly increased to 200, & then 400 in early 1993 (JF) Records of the "White Wagtail" nominate race were 1 at Worthing beach Mar 19 (DIS) & 2 at Widewater on Mar 28. (RJF)

1066. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) :- Early year counts were 31 Wild Park in Jan & 33 in Feb, & 19 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 13 in Feb. Breeding season counts were 120 pairs Wild Park, 33 prs Devil's Dyke, & 27 prs Brighton Cemeteries.

1084. **DUNNOCK** (*Prunella modularis*) :- Counts in the early months were 38 Wild Park Jan & 46 in Feb. In the breeding season 61 prs Wild Park, 18 prs Devil's Dyke, & 16 prs Brighton Cemeteries.

1099. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*) :- Early year counts were 57 Wild Park in Jan & 73 in Feb; 24 Withdean Park Jan & 27 in Feb, & 26 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 38 in Feb. Breeding season counts were 119 pairs Wild Park, 34 prs Devil's Dyke.

1104. **NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) :- First of the year were males singing at Broadmere Common & Oreham Common on Apr 23; singles at Woods Mill on Apr 24 and Wild Park on Apr 27, Upper Adur levels May 4 & 2 in the Adur Valley S. of Cement Works on May 6.

Breeding records involved 3 territories held Woods Mill & a further 8 in a 1 mile radius of the reserve; interestingly 7 of these were in blackthorn & only 1 in a hazel coppice. 1 pr bred Wild Park, the first attempt since 1985, & 1 was holding territory in Spithandle lane, Wiston on May 22.

Autumn migrants involved a juvenile at the Sanctuary on Aug 1, 1 Wild Park Aug 8, & at Sompting 2 on Aug 2, 3 on Aug 10, 1 on Aug 19, & the last there on Sep 1.

1121. **BLACK REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*) :- Only two records in the early months; a male at Goring and Ferring beaches from Dec 1991 to Mar 9, & 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 31. Additionally 1 Lychpole Hill Apr 20, & a male singing at a site in the east of the area on May 28.

Autumn migrants were 2 at Hollingbury allotments on Oct 1 with 1 on Oct 3 & 1 again Nov 28, 1 at Widewater Nov 10, 1 Shoreham Council Offices Nov 18-19, & 1 W Worthing allotments Nov 19. What was almost certainly the same returning male appeared at Goring Gap on Nov 14, remaining there or Ferring beach to the year's end.

A plethora of wintering birds in Dec with a minimum of 15 from 2 inland and 7 coastal sites. These included 5 at Brighton Marina Dec 13, 4 between Worthing and Ferring beaches Dec 25-26, & 2 E. Worthing Industrial Estate Dec 13.

1122. **REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*) :- Often few, or even none are recorded in spring, & this year was no exception with the only records being 1 at Devil's Dyke on Apr 20, 2 at Lancing Ring and 1 at Worthing Golf Club on the same day.

In autumn noted between Aug & the last at Wild Park on Oct 3 with a total of 66 recorded. These included 25 at Sompting during August, 26 Wild Park Aug 19 to Oct 3, & 5 Findon Valley Aug 26 with 2 there Sep 3. A further 8 noted from 5 sites. 5 were caught at Cissbury mid Aug-early Sep.

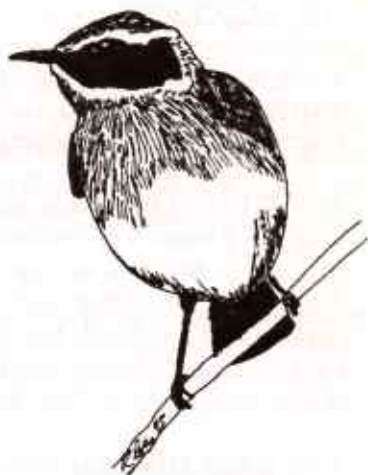
1137. **WHINCHAT** (*Saxicola rubetra*) :- First of the year was 1 at Shoreham Airport on Apr 24, after which a further 13 reported May 1 to May 9, which included 3 at Goring Gap on May 3, 2 at Ferring Rife on the same day, & 2 Beeding brooks May 4.

Between Aug and the last at the end of Sep a total of 237 noted from 13 sites, & included 49 East Brighton on Sep 5, 61 Wild Park Aug 28 to Sep 27 max 30 on Sep 17, 22 Sompting in Aug, and 13 Waterhall Sep 19. A noticeable peak in numbers Sep 14 to Sep 22. 1 was ringed at the Mumbles Sep 23. The last were 4 at Ferring Rife on Sep 30.

1139. **STONECHAT** (*Saxicola torquata*) :- Between Jan & Mar a total of 21 wintering individuals reported at a mix of inland and coastal sites, & included 6 Beeding brooks Feb 23, 3 Ferring Rife Mar 29, & several "pairs", 4 at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 4 were probably migrants.

The first confirmed breeding for at least 8 years was a pair at Cissbury from Apr 20, with two young on Aug 21. Additionally a pair present between Portslade & Devil's Dyke on May 15 may have bred.

Between Aug 21 & end-Nov a minimum total of 51 noted from just 2 coastal and 9 inland sites (many of the latter in the Adur Valley), & included 7 at Beeding brooks on Nov 8, 3 Cissbury and Goring Gap Sep 28, 4 King's barn, Steyning Oct 24 with 3 there Oct 31 & Nov 15, & 3 Flood Arch Nov 6. In Dec. wintering birds totalled 16 & included 3 at Wyckham farm Dec 27, & 5 records of "pairs".



Whinchat

1146. **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) :- First of the year was 1 at Wild Park on the very early date of Mar 2 (the second-earliest area record) followed by 1 at Goring beach Mar 8. A total of 69 for the month included 13 at Goring beach Mar 20 with 8 there on both Mar 17 and Mar 21, & 8 Shoreham beach Mar 17. Surprisingly few noted in April, the month total being only 57, & included 21 at Goring Gap on Apr 12. Migration continued into early May with 7 for the month, & the last of the spring was 1 at Brighton Marina May 5. A male at Sompting on Jun 22 seemed too late for spring & too early to be an autumn migrant, & was possibly holding territory.

First of the autumn were juveniles at Steyning Horeseshoe on Jul 19 & Goring beach on Jul 25, with 1 at Sompting on Jul 31. Between early Aug & the last at Shoreham harbour on Oct 31, a total of only 155 noted (but figures suffered from the usual Sompting counter being unavailable in Sep). These included 22 Downs, Standean Aug 15, 59 Wild Park Aug 13 to Oct 16 & 10 New Salt's farm Aug 19.

1186. **RING OUZEL** (*Turdus torquatus*) :- A poor year with just 4 records. These were singles at Hollingbury Camp Apr 8 and Apr 13, Cissbury on Apr 20, & in autumn, 2 at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 1.

1187. **BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus merula*) :- Counts from Brighton in the early months were 81 Wild Park Jan & 54 in Feb; 68 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 52 in Feb; and 44 Withdean Park Jan & 36 in Feb. In the breeding season 122 prs Wild Park, 40 prs Devil's Dyke, & 70 prs Brighton Cemeteries. The only autumn concentration was 40 at Beeding brooks Dec 24.

1198. **FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*) :- The only substantial early-year flocks were 200 2 miles N of Portslade Jan 6, & 78 Downs, Saddlescombe Jan 25. However in March, a sizeable concentration of 500 at Woods Mill Mar 4. Additionally, 30 Truleigh Hill Mar 9. Virtually absent in the autumn & not reported until 5 at Woods Mill on Nov 6. 52 flew W at Cissbury on Nov 20. In December just 65 Beeding brooks Dec 24 & 30 there Dec 22. No doubt the lack of hard weather was to blame for this year's mediocre performance.

1200. **SONG THRUSH** (*Turdus philomelos*) :- Breeding records involved 11 prs Wild Park, where reported as declining; 5 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, & 2 territories held at Woods Mill. Otherwise counts of less than 10 from the Brighton Parks in the early months, & a small SW movement on the nights of Dec 4 and Dec 21.

1201. **REDWING** (*Turdus iliacus*) :- Generally rather scarce in the early months, with peak counts of 100+ Upper Adur levels Jan 5 & 100 Withdean Park in Jan, otherwise flocks of under 20 noted from scattered localities. In Mar, 50+ at Woods Mill on Mar 20, 20 at Wild Park on Mar 5, & nocturnal easterly movement noted over Maybridge on Mar 7, Mar 16 & Mar 17. The last winter/spring record were 2 at Hillbarn on 12 April.

First of the autumn were 2 at Wild Park on Oct 12, 1 was ringed at Cissbury Oct 17 & as Fieldfare practically non-existent until December, where 250 were on the Upper Adur levels near Woods Mill on Dec 27 & 40 were at Beeding brooks on Dec 22 & Dec 24. A "heavy nocturnal passage" noted over Sompting on Dec 4 & Dec 21.

1202. **MISTLE THRUSH** (*Turdus viscivorus*) :- In the breeding season 6 prs Wild Park where declining; 1 pr Devil's Dyke; 6 prs Brighton Cemeteries; 1 pr Storrington feeding young in April; & 1 pr near Woods Mill. Reported as holding territory at W. Worthing & Victoria Park, Worthing.

1220. **CETTI'S WARBLER** (*Cettia cetti*) :- None reported in 1992.

1236. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*) :- In spring, singles "reeling" at Lychpole Hill on Apr 20, Wild Park on Apr 22, Apr 26, & Jun 2, Beeding brooks Apr 23, & for 1.5 hours in a Southwick garden on May 6.

In autumn 1 Falmer Aug 1, 1 at Sompting on Aug 11, & 4 ringed at Cissbury Jul-Sep, 1 ringed at Wiston Sep 8 & another at Storrington Sep 11.



Sedge Warbler

1243. **SEDGE WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*) :- First of the year were singles at Worthing beach on Apr 8, Wild Park on Apr 11, & Ferring Rife on Apr 18. From that date until May 5 a further 24 reported, a much better showing than in recent years, & included 4 at Ferring Rife Apr 29 with 5 there May 1 increasing to 7 there on May 10, & 3 at New Salt's farm May 3. Most unusual was 1 in full song at Cissbury on Jun 8. As usual under-reported in the breeding season, the only records being 2 prs Sanctuary, 1/2 prs Ferring Rife, a family party in Broadwater on Aug 8, & no breeding this year at Woods Mill.

As usual uncommonly noted on autumn migration with singles at Sompting on Aug 7, Wild Park on Aug 8, 4 ringed at Cissbury from late Jul to Sep 26 & Woods Mill Sep 26.

1251. **REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) :- Spring migrants were noted at New Salt's farm on May 3, Woods Mill on May 4, & Ferring Rife May 16, 19 & 21. Breeding records again far from complete, & involved 2 prs at Woods Mill, 3 prs Sanctuary, & 2/4 prs Ferring Rife, and 1 pr at the Paddocks in Lancing. A scattering of autumn records involved 27 ringed at Cissbury Jul 26-Sep 29, 2 at Sompting in Aug, 1 Wild Park Aug 29, 2 at New Salt's farm Sep 5, 3 Ferring Rife to Sep 14, & the last at Woods Mill on Oct 1.

1259. **ICTERINE WARBLER** (*Hippolais icterina*) :- None recorded in 1992.

1262. **DARTFORD WARBLER** (*Sylvia undata*) :- Singles at Hollingbury Camp (IL) and Nov 19 (IJW). Details sent to SOS. Also 1 just outside our recording area at Brighton Rubbish Dump which wintered into 1993.

1274. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia curruca*) :- First of the year was 1 at Wild Park on the early date of Apr 12, but not seen again until singles at Sompting on May 1 and Goring Woods May 2. An influx in the first few days of May included 8 at Wild Park May 2, & one's & two's noted to May 17.

Breeding records were 5 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill with another pair just off the reserve. Breeding was proved at Beeding where an adult was seen carrying food.

Unexceptional numbers reported on autumn migration when 268 noted Jul to Sep, including 100 Wild Park Jul 22 to Sep 26, 55 Sompting in Aug, 50 Waterhall Aug 31, & 10 Downs, Standean Aug 16. A total of 42 were caught during the breeding season to Sep 13 at Cissbury. The last of the year were at Wild Park and Woods Mill on Sep 26.

1275. **WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia communis*) :- First of the year were 2 at Lambley's Lane, Sompting Apr 21, with singles at Lychpole Hill & Woods Mill on the same day, & 1 Wild Park Apr 22. Small numbers then noted to the end of the month, with a peak arrival May 4 to May 9 which included 19 Southwick Hill & 10 Highdown Hill May 4, 16 at Wild Park May 9, & 9 at Sompting May 5.

Breeding records were 15 prs Devil's Dyke, 14 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Woods Mill, 5 singing males in 2km downs, Sweetfield on Jun 11, 1 pr Brighton Cemeteries, 1 pr Southwick Hill, 1 pr Goring Gap, 2 prs W. Durrington, & 2 prs Highdown Hill.

On autumn passage noted from late Jul to late Sep with a total of 759, which included 230 Sompting in Aug, 238 Wild Park Jul 29 to Sep 29, 60 Waterhall Aug 31, & 10 Southwick Hill Aug 8. 186 were ringed at Cissbury with peaks of 21 on Aug 22 and 26 on Aug 29. The last were at Goring Wood on Sep 28 & Wild Park on Sep 29.

1276. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*Sylvia borin*) :- After the first at Wild Park on Apr 29, a further 17 noted to May 17, including 4 at Sompting on May 6 & 6 at Wild Park May 9.

Breeding records involved 8 prs Wild Park, 5 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 5 singing males at Cissbury May 25. Noted from few sites in autumn with a total of 140 reported, including an Aug total of 50 at Sompting, and at Wild Park 26 only Jul 5 to Sep 5. A total of 61 were trapped at Cissbury during the breeding season until Sep 27. The last of the year were 2 in a Lancing garden on Sep 29.

1277. **BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*) :- Wintering birds numbered a minimum of 8 from mainly town gardens. These were 1 Brighton Jan 1, 1 Steyning one date Jan & three dates in Feb, 1 W Worthing Feb 7 with possibly the same there Mar 13-18 & a different individual on Mar 1; 1 Southwick Feb 20, & 1 to 3 Broadwater Jan-Mar. The first probable spring migrant were 1 in a Goring garden Mar 28 & 1 Bramber Mar 30, after which a small influx around Apr 10-11 & again late Apr/early May, which included 14 at Wild Park May 2 & 8 Highdown Hill May 4.

Breeding records received from scattered sites and included 14 prs Wild Park, 8 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 2 prs Highdown Hill, & single prs Goring Wood, Woods Mill, Findon Valley, & possibly Withean Park.

Autumn migration recorded from Aug to at least end-Oct with a total of 416, which included 232 Wild Park Aug 8 to Oct 7 max 28 on Sep 15, 100+ Cissbury Sep 19, & 50 Cissbury Sep 5. A total of 608 were ringed at Cissbury Apr-end Sep. Late migrants or wintering birds were 1 at Sanctuary Nov 8, 1 Mill Hill Nov 11, 2 Findon Valley Nov 13, & 1 W. Worthing Nov 24. Finally, 1 was present in a Broadwater garden Nov 29 to the year's end. There were no other December records.

1300. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*) :- None in 1992.

1308. **WOOD WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*) :- 2 were at Hollingbury Camp on both May 3 and May 8, 1 was at Lancing Ring on May 3 (DL). The only autumn record was 1 ringed Cissbury Aug 7.

1311. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*Phylloscopus collybita*) :- Wintering birds in the early months were singles Bramber and Stanmer Park Jan 2, Worthing Hospital Feb 18, Worthing Feb 21,23-24, & W. Worthing Jan 19 to Mar 4.

The first probable spring migrants were singles in a Broadwater garden Mar 13, a Southwick garden Mar 15, Woods Mill on Mar 19, & Steyning on Mar 20. 4 passed through a Goring garden Mar 21 to Mar 30. No doubt cold northerlies held migration back until after the first week of April, with 14 at Sompting on Apr 9, 8 there Apr 11, & 6 Southwick Hill May 20. Limited migration continued into May, with 10 at Wild Park on May 9. Breeding records involved 10 prs Wild Park, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries & 1 pr Woods Mill.

A total of 527 were noted on autumn migration from Aug to late-Oct; including 445 Wild Park Aug 8 to Oct 31, max 75 on Sep 18; 40 Downs, Standean Sep 12, with smaller numbers from a further 7 sites. A leucistic individual was

present at Cissbury on Sep 12. 371 were ringed at Cissbury May to Oct. Just 2 records in Nov; both on Nov 8, with 3 at the Sanctuary, & 1 at Steyning. December birds involved 2 E Worthing Dec 19; apart from this, singles noted at W Durrington & Goring Dec 6, W Worthing & Durrington railway station Dec 21, & Stanmer Park Dec 28.

1312. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) :- A late arrival, no doubt caused by the cold northerly airstream late Mar early April. The first was at Sompting Apr 9, then a small influx in the next week when mainly singles noted from 7 scattered sites; after which migration proper noted, with 25 at Southwick Hill Apr 20 & 29 Wild Park May 2.

Breeding season records involved 22 prs Devil's Dyke, 18 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Woods Mill, & 2 singing males Highdown Hill May 17. A total of 806 noted from Jul to Sep included an Aug total at Sompting of 409; 293 Wild Park Jul 15 to Sep 29 max 36 on Aug 19; 35 Waterhall Aug 31, & 30 Southwick Hill Aug 8. The Cissbury group ringed 371 from May to the last of the year on Oct 10.

1314. **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*) :- After being exceptionally scarce in autumn 1991, the early months were little different with 2 at Sompting Jan 14, 2 in a Storrington garden Jan 18 with 1 there Feb 23, & 1 Wild Park Mar 31. 1 pr bred at Devil's Dyke.

Autumn showed an improvement with 166 Wild Park Oct 1 to Dec, max 30 on Oct 11; 12 at Cissbury Oct 11; & Woods Mill reported a better autumn with a regular passage of up to 10 birds during the period. 92 were ringed at Cissbury from Aug-early Nov. The only Dec record was a regular pair in a Broadwater garden throughout the month.

1315. **FIRECREST** (*Regulus ignicapillus*) :- The worst year for many, with 2 at Wild Park Sep 20 (IJW) being the sole record.

1335. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*) :- First of the year were 1 at Lancing Ring May 3, 1 at Sompting May 4 with 2 there May 5, after which migration continued until the end of the month, with a further 15 reported from 6 sites & no defineable peaks.

1 pr bred Michaelgrove, & 1 was present at Steyning on Jun 25. This is obviously a very incomplete picture of the breeding season & all future records of pairs or singles at this time of the year would be welcome.

A better showing on autumn migration, with a total of 200 from Aug to Sep, & including 105 Sompting, Aug, 29 Wild Park Aug 15 to Sep 22, 15 Findon Gallops Aug 26, 17 Findon Valley Aug 17, & 12 there Sep 3. 2 were ringed at

Cissbury during Sep. The last were 6 at W. Durrington Sep 27, 1 Goring Wood Sep 28 & finally 2 in a Lancing garden on Sep 29.

1349. **PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*) :- The first were 1 at Waterhall Apr 19 and 1 at Southwick Hill on Apr 20, after which singles at Sompting on Apr 24, Woods Mill Apr 26, Hollingbury Camp May 3; & Wild Park on Apr 24, Apr 29, May 3, & May 8. A good spring.

In autumn singles at Sompting Aug 16, Aug 24, & 4 on Aug 29; 1 New Salt's farm Aug 17; & at Wild Park, 2 on Aug 19 with singles there Aug 8, Aug 29, & on Sep 16. 1 was ringed at Wiston Aug 20, 1 at the Mumbles Sep 9, 1 at Cissbury Sep 19 & the last of the year was 1 ringed at the Mumbles on Sep 23.

1437. **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*) :- No concentrations noted in the early months, with 4 or less from 5 sites. Interesting were 2-4 on peanuts in a Storrington garden Jan 13 to 20, 2, again on peanuts in another Storrington garden Feb 8 & Mar 8. Breeding records involved 6 prs Wild Park & single pairs Devil's Dyke, Brighton Cemeteries, & Woods Mill, & counts in June were 15 at Benfield Valley on Jun 8, & 8 at Goring Wood Jun 25.

Autumn and late year flocks included 31 at Findon Valley Aug 31 with 9 there Dec 30, 20 Woods Mill late-year, 11 Goring Wood Sep 26, & 7 in a W. Worthing garden Aug 19. 27 were rung at Cissbury mid April- mid November.

1440. **MARSH TIT** (*Parus palustris*) :- Very few noted in 1992; 1 was in Clapham Woods Feb 2, a pair present at Bramber Castle Mar 28, & 2 Woods Mill mid-Sep to end-year. 7 were caught at Cissbury during the year.

1442. **WILLOW TIT** (*Parus montanus*) :- 1 pr bred Devil's Dyke. The only other records were 2 caught at Wiston in Jan & 1 at Waterhall Aug 31.

1461. **COAL TIT** (*Parus ater*) :- 1 pr bred Devil's Dyke, 1 pr bred Woods Mill, & a pair inspected a nestbox in a W. Worthing garden Mar 4 but did not breed. Additionally, 2 at Sullington Warren Jun 4 & 2 in a Broadwater garden staying until year-end. Up to 2 reported outside the breeding season from Wild Park, Findon Valley, & Storrington. Noted feeding on peanuts at 4 localities.

1462. **BLUE TIT** (*Parus caeruleus*) :- Counts in the early months were 52 Wild Park, Jan, & 49 in Feb; 27 Withdean Park Jan, & 22 in Feb; & 51 Brighton Cemeteries Jan with 46 in Feb. Breeding season reports were 58 prs Wild Park, 20 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 18 prs Devil's Dyke; 1 pr in a Storrington garden with 7 young, 1 pr in a Broadwater garden, & a pair failed at Findon Valley after laying 11 eggs.

1464. **GREAT TIT** (*Parus major*) :- Early year counts were 21 Wild Park Jan & 28 in Feb, with smaller numbers from Withdean Park & Brighton Cemeteries. An unusual all black-headed individual was recorded in Lancing on Feb 4.(DS) In the breeding season, 38 prs Wild Park, 12 prs Devil's Dyke, & 9 prs Brighton Cemeteries.

1479. **NUTHATCH** (*Sitta europaea*) :- As usual, few reported. Resident at Woods Mill, where 1 pr bred, 1 was on peanuts in a Storrington garden Jan 2, & 2 were noted from a Storrington garden Aug to Dec. 1 was at Cissbury (where very rare) on Aug 15.

1486. **TREECREEPER** (*Certhia familiaris*) :- Suffers with the Nuthatch from the fate of being under-recorded. In the breeding season, pairs bred at Devil's Dyke, Woods Mill (where resident), & a single at Sullington Warren Jun 30. This species can be both silent and elusive at this season. Outside the breeding season, 4 were noted at Spithandle Lane in Jan. 2 were at Clapham Woods Feb 2 & singles at Sullington Warren Mar 18, Goring Wood Dec 5, & Upper Adur levels Dec 27.

1508. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*) :- 1 passage bird reported from our area for 1 day in June.

1515. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*Lanius collurio*) :- Two birds were recorded in our area on May 26 (IJW) & May 29 (ADW). Details sent to SOS.

1539. **JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*) :- Early year counts were between 2 & 4 Brighton parks Jan & Feb, & 2 flew N at Sompting Feb 5. 1 was at the Sanctuary Aug 28 where unusual. Probable autumn migrants were 20 at Wild Park Sep 15 & 1W Sussex Pad Sep 3. Breeding records were 2 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Brighton Cemeteries, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 1/2 prs Storrington. 4 were at Sullington Warren to Sep at least.

1549. **MAGPIE** (*Pica pica*) :- Early year counts were 105 Wild Park Jan & 92 in Feb, with 22 Brighton Cemeteries Feb. In the breeding season, 38 prs Wild Park, 9 prs Devil's Dyke, 9 prs Brighton cemeteries, 1 pr Woods Mill, & a pair with 1 juv in a Storrington garden in May. In autumn up to 150 frequented a roost at Wild Park.

1560. **JACKDAW** (*Corvus monedula*) :- Early year counts were 42 Wild Park Jan, with 33 Feb. 12 individuals nested in dead trees at Storrington, about 16 prs were recorded in N Broadwater, & there were single prs Brighton Cemeteries & Woods Mill. 185 were at Downs Sompting Jun 30. The only late-year count was 195 Beeding brooks Dec 24.

1563. **ROOK** (*Corvus frugilegus*) :- Counts of rookeries were 22 nests Findon, 118 Patcham Place, 18 Coledean. 6 St. Mary's Church, Brighton. 15-20 Steyning, & 2 Devil's Dyke. Flocks during the year numbered 220 Castle Goring Feb 16, 265 below Cissbury Jul 9, & 600 north of Cissbury Aug 5.

1567. **CARRION CROW** (*Corvus corone*) :- Counts at Goring beach Green were 70 on Jan 24, 51 on Sep 11, and 176 on Dec 19. Otherwise 52 Ferring Rife Jan 15, with up to 28 there Jul to Sep, & 23 Wild Park in Feb.

1582. **STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) :- 34 prs bred Wild Park, 24 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 6 prs Woods Mil, & 5 prs Devil's Dyke. Miscellaneous counts during the year were 150 Ferring Rife Feb 11, 700 at Maybridge Mar 20, 300 Southwick Hill Jul 15, 300W in 1 flock 1 mile off Worthing beach on Nov 14 & 2,000+ roosting on West Pier Nov & Dec.

1591. **HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*) :- 13 prs bred Brighton Cemeteries, 13 prs Wild Park, & 2 prs Woods Mill. Counts during the year included 250 Patcham Court farm Aug 15, 100+ Ferring Rife in June, & 75 Wild Park in Jan.



Tree Sparrow

1598. **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) :- Reported exclusively from the Adur Valley in the early months, with 38 at Stretham Jan 2, 7 "Upper Adur levels" Jan 5 & Jan 26, & 4 Beeding brooks Jan 26 & Feb 1. in the autumn 4 at Sompting Aug 6 with 9 there Aug 8, 12 Upper Adur levels Nov 21, & 1 Woods Mill Dec 12.

1636. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*) :- Counts in the early months included 300 downs Standean Feb 15, 60 Holt farm Feb 2, 60 lower Standean Jan 4, & 55 Waterhall Jan 25. Breeding records involved 49 prs Wild Park, 33 prs Devil's

Dyke, 22 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & 2 prs Woods Mill. At Sompting a total of 160 in Aug. No significant counts were received for the later months.

1638. **BRAMBLING** (*Fringilla montifringilla*) :- 8 were at Lower Standean on Jan 4, 1 at Wiston Feb 16 & 1 was in a Storrington garden Feb 25. Autumn migrants were 1 at Cissbury Sep 26 & 27, 2 at Lancing Ring Oct 11, 1 at Cissbury on Oct 17 & 31, & at Wild Park 2 on Oct 16 and 1 on Oct 31. An unexceptional year.

1649. **GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*) :- No large concentrations in the early months, with 24 Wild Park Jan & 38 in Feb; & 39 Brighton Cemeteries Jan with 37 in Feb. 31 prs bred Wild Park, 42 prs Brighton Cemeteries, 2 prs Maybridge, 1 pr Woods Mill; & 12/14 juveniles were at Southwick Hill Jul 7. Autumn late-year counts included an exceptional 350 at Shoreham beach on Nov 2, an Aug total of 105 at Sompting, 40 Beeding brooks Dec 24, & 20 Ferring Rife Sep 20.

1653. **GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*) :- No large flocks reported Jan to Mar, the largest being 35 Upper Adur levels Feb 2 & 24 W Durrington Feb 9. A low spring passage noted at Worthing beach, where the highest day total was 16E on May 14. Breeding records were 5 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Brighton Cemeteries, & single prs Southwick Hill, Highdown Hill, West Durrington, Woods Mill, & Goring Wood.

Autumn movements were not exceptional, with Sompting totals of just 12 in Jul and 71 in Aug; 200+ Wild Park Sep to Oct; a total of 340 E at Worthing beach on 3 dates in Oct; & 50+ Southwick Hill Sep 27. 100+ were at the latter site on Dec 23.

1654. **SISKIN** (*Carduelis spinus*) :- An enigmatic species in our area with very few in some, & a great many in other years. 1992 was one of the quieter years with a total of 87 from 7 localities Jan-Mar which included 30 at Steyning, 24 at Woods Mill, & 10 to 18 in Storrington during the period. Feeding on peanuts was recorded in 2 Storrington gardens. In Apr 3 flew E at Worthing beach Apr 8, & 1 was at Lychpole Apr 21.

In autumn/late year, 3 at Cissbury Oct 14 & 2 there Oct 17, a total of 46 Wild Park Sep to Nov max 18 on Oct 24, & a "trickle" of birds into Dec; 3E Worthing beach Oct 10, 6 Woods Mill Oct 14 with 3 there Oct 21, 8 at the Sanctuary Nov 8, & 1 S Broadwater Dec 5.

1660. **LINNET** (*Carduelis cannabina*) :- Maximum numbers in the early months were 80 Lower Standean Jan 4, & peaks at Ferring Rife of 40 on Jan 4 & 60 on Mar 24. Spring counts of easterly movements at Worthing beach were 35E on Apr 8, 33E Apr 18, 59E Apr 20, and 144E Apr 21. Additionally 24 Wild Park Apr 11. Breeding records were 19 prs Devil's Dyke, 5 prs Wild Park, & 1 pr Brighton Cemeteries. Counts in the later months included 400 downs Standean Sep 12, 150 Lancing Ring Oct 11, 143 Cissbury Oct 1, 50 Ferring Rife Sep 17, & 38 Wild Park Sep 22.

1662. **TWITE** (*Cardeulis flavirostris*) :- Again, only 1 record for the year, of 2 at R. Adur (Shoreham) on Dec 22 (SRA).

1663. **REDPOLL** (*Cardeulis flammea*) :- A poor year, with few reported; the following are all the records:- 3 at Cissbury Jan 15 were followed by 6 at Steyning on Jan 28, & 1 E calling over Goring Feb 11. In autumn, a total of 33 at Wild Park Oct 17 to the end of year, 6 Cissbury Oct 17, 1 at Sanctuary Oct 18 with 2 there Nov 8, & 1 at Ferring Rife Nov 21.

1666. **CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*) :- Scarce in 1992 with only 3 records; 1W over Shoreham Mar 25 (RJF), & 4E at Sompting Aug 15 with 4E there again Aug 21 (PMB)

1710. **BULLEFINCH** (*pyrrhula pyrrhula*) :- Breeding records were 3 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill (where adults seen feeding young on the late date of Sep 17), & single prs Cissbury, Washington Bostal, & Southwick Hill. As usual with this species, no concentrations (other than family parties) outside the breeding season & the maximum seen together was 8 near Cissbury Nov 1 where 43 were caught during the year. Systematic watching in Sompting produced an average of 7 per visit.

1850. **SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) :- The 2 remaining from 1991 at Goring beach were present to Feb 2, then one up to Feb 25. There were no other records for the year.

1857. **YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*) :- Counts in the early months were 55 Mill Hill Jan 26, 50 W. Durrington Feb 2, & 50+ downs Standean Feb 15. Breeding season records involved 17 prs at Devil's Dyke and 12 prs Wild Park; 4 males singing Southwick Hill Jul 7; 1 male singing Chantry Hill Jun 19 with 4 males & 3 females there Jul 27 & single males at Sullington Warren, Highdown Hill, & W. Durrington.

In autumn 20+ at Chantry Post with 40+ 2 miles from this site on Sep 23, & 50 at Cissbury Oct 11 where there were 18 on Dec 16. The maximum count at Ferring Rife for Dec was 7. Again, all breeding records & counts would be welcome.

1877. **REED BUNTING** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*) :- 50 were at Woods Mill during the early months, otherwise only 3 records of 4 or less in this period. Breeding nowhere reported as greater than 1 pair per site, & these were at New Salt's farm, Woods Mill, Ferring Rife, & Lancing College. 50 were again at Woods Mill in the later months with just 2's reported from 3 sites. An uneventful year.

1882. **CORN BUNTING** (*Miliaria calandra*) :- Early year counts included 40 between Portslade & Devil's Dyke on Jan 6, & 4 only Chantry Post to Kithurst Post Feb 29. Breeding was well reported & involved the following which relate to pairs or singing males:- 10 Lower Standean Jun 26, 1 Southwick Hill Apr 10-Jul 7, Cissbury (northside) 2, 1 Goring Gap Jul 16, 6 New Salt's farm Apr 18, 2 Steyning Hoseshoe Jul 26; 5 Coombes Apr 1, 1 Sanctuary Jun 3, 3 Sompting May 22, 2 Chantry Post Jun 13 & Jul 27, 4 Saddlescombe, & 2 Mile Oak Jul 3. This species is reported nationally as declining over parts of its range, and again, all breeding season records would be welcome. Just two autumn records; 1 at Sompting Aug 29, & 135 in a reedbed roost at King's Barn, Steyning Oct 13.

ESCAPES & FERALS

A veritable cornucopia of escapes in 1992! These are as follows:-

<u>"White" Cockateil</u>	1 Broadwater Jan 30
<u>Cockateil sp.</u>	1 W. Worthing May 17
	1 Steyning Oct 28
<u>Bahama Pintail</u>	1 Brooklands Nov 27-Dec 2
<u>Bar-headed Goose</u>	4 Beeding brooks Nov 8
<u>Red-billed Firefinch</u>	1 male Steyning Aug 10
<u>Golden-headed Bishop</u>	1 male Lancing Green Mar-Jun
<u>Rock Partridge</u>	2 University of Sussex Apr 13 & 15
<u>Cape Glossy Starling</u>	1 University of Sussex May 28. Reported to have been killed by a cat

Dave Smith (Hon Recorder)

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1992

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
Hobby	Apr 22 Sompting	Sep 26 Goring
Whimbrel	Mar 18 R. Adur	Aug 15 Wildpark
Common Sandpiper	Apr 12 Worthing	Sep 19 R. Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar 7 Worthing	Oct 4 Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Mar 31 Worthing	Sep 9 Worthing
Little Tern	Apr 21 Worthing	Sep 9 R. Adur
Turtle Dove	Apr 26 Woods Mill	Sep 24 Goring
Cuckoo	Apr 4 Worthing	Aug 20 Sompting
Swift	Apr 22 Wildpark	Sep 27 Cissbury
Sand Martin	Apr 9 Cissbury	Sep 26 Wildpark
Swallow	Apr 4 Cissbury	Nov 13 Shoreham
House Martin	Mar 28 Wildpark	Nov 22 Stamner
Tree Pipit	Apr 8 Worthing	Sep 20 Wildpark
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 31 Worthing	Oct 4 Worthing
Redstart	Apr 20 Lancing	Oct 3 Wildpark
Whinchat	Apr 24 Shoreham	Sep 30 Goring
Wheatear	Mar 2 Wildpark	Oct 31 Shoreham
Ring Ouzel	Apr 8 Hollingbury	Oct 1 Hollingbury
Sedge Warbler	Apr 8 Worthing	Sep 26 Woods Mill
Reed Warbler	May 3 New Salt's	Oct 1 Woods Mill
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 12 Wildpark	Sep 26 Woods Mill
Whitethroat	Apr 21 Sompting	Sep 29 Wildpark
Garden Warbler	Apr 29 Wildpark	Sep 29 Lancing
Blackcap*	Mar 28 Goring	Nov 8 Sanctuary
Chiffchaff*	Mar 13 Broadwater	Nov 8 Sanctuary
Willow Warbler	Apr 9 Sompting	Oct 10 Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 5 Lancing	Sep 29 Lancing
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 19 Waterhall	Sep 29 Steyning

* Excluding possible wintering birds

RINGING REPORT FOR 1992

After a temporary slump in the annual ringing totals during 1991 the efforts in 1992 yielded an area total of 5198 birds ringed. This was the second highest ever recorded and only 100 short of the record total set in 1981. The greatest proportion of the 1981 catch comprised Black-headed Gulls compared with 1992 when over 90% of the birds ringed were small passerines. As usual only a small fraction (253 ie 4.9%) were ringed as pulli the majority trapped and ringed after fledging. Dr. Barrie Watson was the most successful pullus (nestling) ringer as 149 out of his total of 155 were nestlings including a clutch of Ringed Plovers and Skylarks, both species rarely ringed in this area. Dr Watson also led two trips to Washington Refuse tip when 417 gulls were ringed.

Once again the Steyning Ringing Group were the highest contributors with a grand total of 4300 birds. The following table shows a return of good numbers of warblers trapped at Cissbury where the total was 2483. An increase in activity by Phil Clay at his "Mumbles" site in Steyning brought 460 birds and Chris Fox's luring of birds to hedgerows near his Wiston garden with both feeding stations and tape-recorders produced 1181 birds. The group's total was completed with 176, mainly Swallows, trapped at Sandgate Park. Several members were involved in helping the Steyning Ringing Group whose efforts were meticulously recorded and co-ordinated by Brain Clay.

Ringing activities at the Society's Sanctuary were again very limited and Dr John Newnham, with the help of Judith Baker and Charlie Holt, ringed 325. The following table shows the numbers of the 54 species ringed; only Goldfinch showing a significant decline on the 1991 total and many showing a marked rise.

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

1) BLACK-HEADED GULL:- Controls and retraps from the two catches at Washington were retraps (25); GB control (1); Kaunas (2) and Denmark (1).

TABLE 1

MUTE SWAN	2	LESSER WHITETHROAT	51
BLACK-HEADED GULL	402	WHITETHROAT	230
COMMON GULL	15	GARDEN WARBLER	63
SPARROW HAWK	1	BLACKCAP	778
RINGED PLOVER	2	WOOD WARBLER	1
TAWNY OWL	1	CHIFF-CHAFF	487
KINGFISHER	4	WILLOW WARBLER	361
GREEN WOODPECKER	4	GOLDCREST	82
GT.SPOTT. WOODPECKER	4	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	3
SKYLARK	3	PIED FLYCATCHER	4
SAND MARTIN	4	LONG-TAILED TIT	81
SWALLOW	276	MARSH TIT	19
HOUSE MARTIN	503	COAL TIT	9
MEADOW PIPIT	24	BLUE TIT	417
WREN	112	GREAT TIT	209
DUNNOCK	143	NUTHATCH	2
ROBIN	154	TREECREEPER	5
NIGHTINGALE	1	STARLING	5
REDSTART	10	HOUSE SPARROW	2
WHINCHAT	1	CHAFFINCH	100
BLACKBIRD	154	BRAMBLING	1
FIELDFARE	3	GREENFINCH	133
SONG THRUSH	52	GOLDFINCH	17
REDWING	12	LINNET	1
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	6	BULLFINCH	60
SEDGE WARBLER	25	YELLOWHAMMER	19
REED WARBLER	117	REED BUNTING	23
TOTAL			5198

Recoveries reported in the year were from - USSR (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (4), Finland (6), Sweden (3), Norway (1), Netherlands (10), Belgium (3), Germany (4) and Denmark (7). Within the U.K. the recoveries were from Sussex (5), Surrey (1), Essex (2), Suffolk (1), Dorset (1), Isle of Wight (1) and Greater London (1). Although the total number of recoveries is slowly falling as gull ringing activity decreases the proportion of foreign recoveries (77%) remains very high. More details about the movements of Black-headed Gulls, including recovery maps, can be read in "The Birds of Shoreham" and in the Sussex Bird Report (1985).

2) **COMMON GULL**:- The only recoveries reported were from Denmark (2) and Germany (1).

3) **HERRING GULL**:- there were just 4 recoveries reported from Sussex; from Devon, Cornwall, Kent and the Netherlands.

4) **BARN OWL**:- A nestling from a brood of 4 ringed at Washington (June 90) was found dead, hit by a car, at Clapham in Dec 1991.

5) **SWALLOW**:- One ringed as a juvenile at Sandgate Park (Sep 91) was controlled roosting near Pretoria, Transvaal, RSA in Feb 1992. This is the second South African Swallow recovery from this area; the first in 1959. The other reported recovery was also from the Sandgate Park roost in Sept 1991 and controlled 5 days later at Icklesham.

6) **HOUSE MARTIN**:- A juvenile ringed in Somerset (Aug 92) was controlled at Cissbury (Sept 92). Despite large catches (of mainly juveniles) with tape luring there are disappointingly few movements recorded.

7) **REDSTART**:- A juvenile ringed at Cissbury (Sept 91) was controlled in Bedfordshire (Aug 92).

8) **REED WARBLER**:- Multiple distant recoveries of the same bird are rare for most small species. The Reed Warbler is one of the exceptions as its preferred habitat of large reed beds is one which is often "worked" by ringers. The most interesting recovery this year involved a juvenile ringed at Wilstone, Herts (Aug 89), controlled at Cissbury (Aug 92) and again at Elms Farm, Icklesham 4 days later. Another Cissbury ringed juvenile (Aug 91) was also controlled at Icklesham (Aug 92) and one ringed in Sept 1991 was controlled at Basildon, Essex in Jun 1992.

9) **BLACKCAP**:- It is not surprising with the marked increase in the numbers ringed in the past decade that this species is rapidly overtaking the Reed Warbler as the warbler with the most recoveries. Two recoveries stand out; both birds ringed as juveniles at Cissbury on 8th Sept 1990 and found dead, presumably on spring passage, in Morocco (Mar 92 {male} and Apr 92 {female}).

Other distant movements are listed below, and with the above, highlight the significance of September for this species in Sussex.

Greenhow, N.Yorkshire	(Jul 92) ->	Wiston	(Sep 92)
Sevenoaks, Kent	(Sep 91) ->	Cissbury	(Sep 92)
Aldershot, Hants	(Aug 90) ->	Cissbury	(Sep 92)
Cissbury	(Sep 92) ->	Reculver, Kent	(Sep 92)
Easton, Huntingdon	(Jun 92) ->	Sanctuary	(Sep 92)

10) **CHIEF-CHAFF**:- a juvenile ringed at Litlington on 26th Sept 1992 was controlled at the Sanctuary the following morning.

11) **WILLOW WARBLER**:- a juvenile ringed in Aug 1991 at Icklesham, Sussex was controlled at the Sanctuary in July 1992.

As usual there were several local retraps and movements which were of interest.

J.A.Newnham

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Grasshopper Warbler

SANCTUARY REPORT 1992

Once again the number of visits to the copse during the year was low with only 30 visits recorded. This provides a stark contrast to the activities in the late 1970's when over 200 visits were recorded in most years. However there was a slight improvement in the number of mist-netting sessions as trapping was done on 13 days between June 14th and Oct 11th.

During the winter there was a small finch roost in the ivy clad trees which were also used at times by either a Tawny Owl or up to 2 Long-eared Owls, one of which stayed until at least Apr 18th. The annual work party was held on Feb 16th when 4 adults with the help of 3 children successfully coppiced and cleared two small patches of osier.

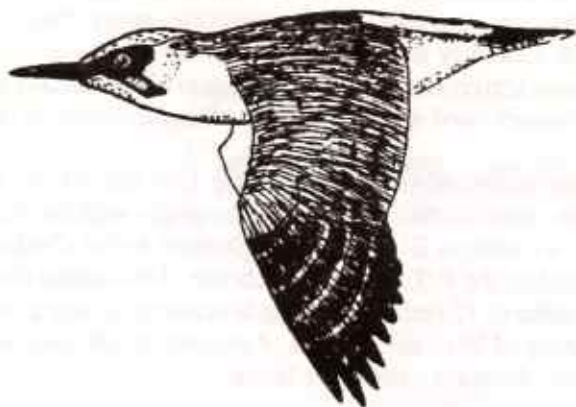
Spring was poorly recorded; the highlights were a Green Woodpecker on Mar 4th and territorial Turtle Doves and Corn Buntings, both declining species at the Sanctuary, present on June 3rd.

Ringling started in mid June after all the overgrown paths had been cleared and bridges spanning the streams repaired. Although the ringling totals were greater than 1991 the following table shows there were still fewer birds in the copse compared with the late 1980's.

Summary of ringling effort and results for 1988 -1992.

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. sessions	26	19	19	9	13
Average catch	45	50	52	31	32
Year best	253	135	94	56	53

A pair of Sparrowhawks nested in the copse and in early August a pair of Kestrels were feeding their young. Up to 2 Green Woodpeckers were seen feeding on the pump station lawn on several days during the summer. Other autumn highlights included a juvenile Nightingale trapped on Aug 1st, a Kingfisher on Oct 11th and records of Jays, an unusual bird at the Sanctuary, on Aug 23rd and Oct 11th. There were no days which were good for warblers and the peak catch of Reed Warblers (10) occurred on the rather late date of Sept 19th. There were a few Chiff-chaffs and Blackcaps lingering on into the late autumn; at least 3 Chiff-chaffs and a Blackcap were still evident on Nov 8th.



Green Woodpecker

I would like to express my thanks to those who have helped with both the ringing and the gardening 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

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STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1992

1992 was a record year for the ringing group. Altogether a total of 5,243 birds were processed at our four main sites of Cissbury, Wiston, Sandgate Park (Storrington) and The Mumbles (Steypning). The catch of 2,434 new birds at Cissbury did not quite meet the record achieved in 1990 but increased activity by Chis Fox at Wiston and Phil Clay at Steypning more than compensated and also increased the diversity of birds rung.

Ringing activities at Cissbury in the first half of the season - May to August - were dictated by the need to comply with the requirements of the B.T.O.'s Constant Effort Ringing Scheme as the Cissbury site had been accepted by the B.T.O. into the scheme. This means that the group must try to achieve 12 ringing sessions in separate 10 day periods between the beginning of May and the end of August. Each session must also be of a similar duration - about six hours.

Although the scheme imposes some limitations on ringing activities, for example no tape lures on CES days or no ringing for 3 days prior to a CES session, the benefits will mean that the populations of both adult and juvenile birds at Cissbury will be accurately monitored and also that they can be compared to the national pattern as the B.T.O. analyses and publishes the data. The national analysis of the 1992 data has shown that breeding productivity of most common species with the exception of Greenfinch was far better in 1992 than the disastrous 1991 breeding season, indeed Whitethroat had its most productive season since 1982. However of more concern is the longer term decline CES ringing has identified in the adult populations of Blue Tit, Song Thrush, Reed Bunting, Willow Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat which are now at there lowest levels since CES ringing began in 1981. Since 1990 CES returns show significant declines have occurred in the adult populations of Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Reed Bunting and Tree Creeper.

The decline in Blue Tit populations was noticed in our Cissbury ringing totals but scientific conclusions were not possible due to variations in our year to year activities. However the graph (fig 1) shows the average number Blue Tits caught per session and the falling numbers are well illustrated. Nest boxes were provided for the 1992 season and encouraging all were occupied; 5 boxes holding 2 pairs of Great Tits (8 & 10 young) and 3 pairs of Blue Tits (10, 10 & 7 young). All appeared to have fledged

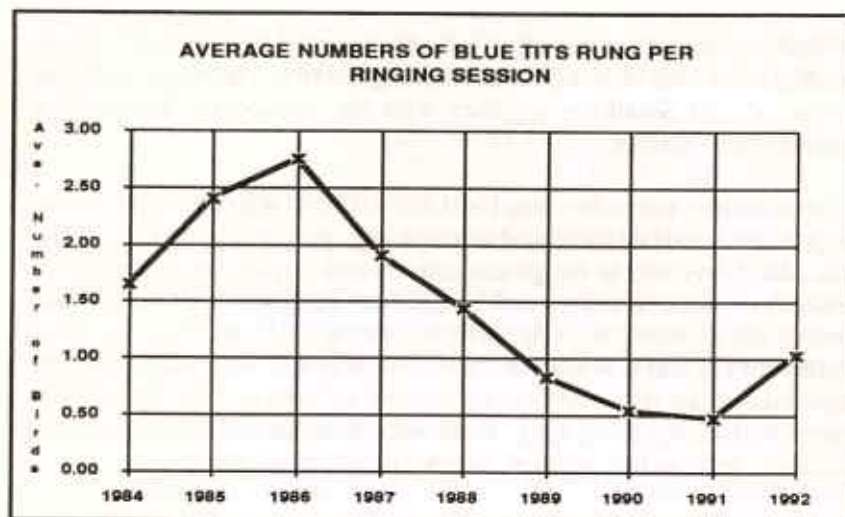


Fig 1:- Graph showing average numbers of Blue Tits rung per ringing session (Nest Boxes provided in 1992).

successfully as several of the youngsters from different boxes were caught later in the season. This productivity is perhaps the reason the graph shows a slight increase in Blue Tit numbers in 1992!

Our Willow Warbler totals were again poor in August (only 157 rung during the month) but September proved a particularly good month with catches, enhanced by tape luring, averaging over 225 birds per session resulting in the highest ever annual totals of Blackcaps (543) and Chiffchaff (359). Tape luring of House Martins also produced an exceptional total of 501 birds rung.

As usual a sprinkling of rarer species enlivened the volume of the commonermigrants with Wood Warbler, Grasshopper Warbler, Redstart, Pied and Spotted Flycatchers and Sparrowhawk all featuring. However no Nightingales were caught and a minimal autumn passage of Repoll and Siskin kept these finches off the ringing totals. 1992 was also the first year since Cissbury ringing began in 1984 that no Yellowhammers were rung, a reflection of both declining populations and changing habitat in the fields adjacent to the site. Ring Ouzels have evaded the nets for 4 years now! However Goldcrests reappeared in modest numbers (79) after an almost total absence in 1991 and tape luring proved effective in adding Meadow Pipit to the species list.

At Sandgate attention was exclusively concentrated on ringing Swallows roosting in the reed beds, a pleasant evening activity. The effort produced a total of 162 Swallows together with the unexpected bonus of a Grasshopper Warbler.

At the Mumbles site in Steyning Phil Clay's ringing activity in and around the pond and reed bed increased to something approaching former levels. This added diversity to the groups activity and is reflected in the higher numbers of Reed Warblers and Kingfishers rung and the return to the species list of Reed Bunting. Highlights included Redstart (2) Pied Flycatcher (2) and a Whinchat. Unfortunately the finch flock that had graced the adjacent old rubbish tip was not so large in 1992 resulting in fewer Goldfinches being rung. However compensation came by way of Fieldfares rung in late autumn; another new bird for the group.

At Wiston the season commenced with ringing at the feeding station which, apart from the usual Blue and Great Tits, also produced Great Spotted Woodpecker, Marsh, Willow and Coal Tits, Nuthatch and, amongst the regular finches, a Brambling in February. The Brambling was a total surprise as there had been no indication that any were about.

Later in the year Chris Fox moved his ringing activity to the hedgerow nearer his cottage and concentrated on tape luring for an hour or two at dawn. The results were impressive, particularly as Chris missed most of August which is the peak migration month for many species. Indeed, some of the warbler totals were equivalent or higher than the Cissbury totals, particularly Sedge Warbler, 15 caught at Wiston compared to 4 at Cissbury, and give an indication of the number of birds passing through a small area of open farmland on autumn migration. Two Dutch ringed birds, a Robin and a Blackcap, caught in the hedgerow within a fortnight of each other in September added an exciting new dimension to the project. We await with interest to find out when and where they were rung.

Our thanks to Glyn Jones, the National Trust Warden at Cissbury, for supporting our activities and to members of the S.D.O.S. who have helped in many ways.

Brian Clay

GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY - WINTER 1991/92

Analysis of the returns from the 1991/92 winter confirm the general comment from contributors that it was a pretty forgettable season. The main point of interest was the increase in the number of contributors to 15 which made this one of the best years ever for participation. I have averaged out the results again so that the bias caused by the different numbers and types of gardens does not affect the outcome too significantly. The inclusion of March appears justified as good numbers were still recorded in this month.

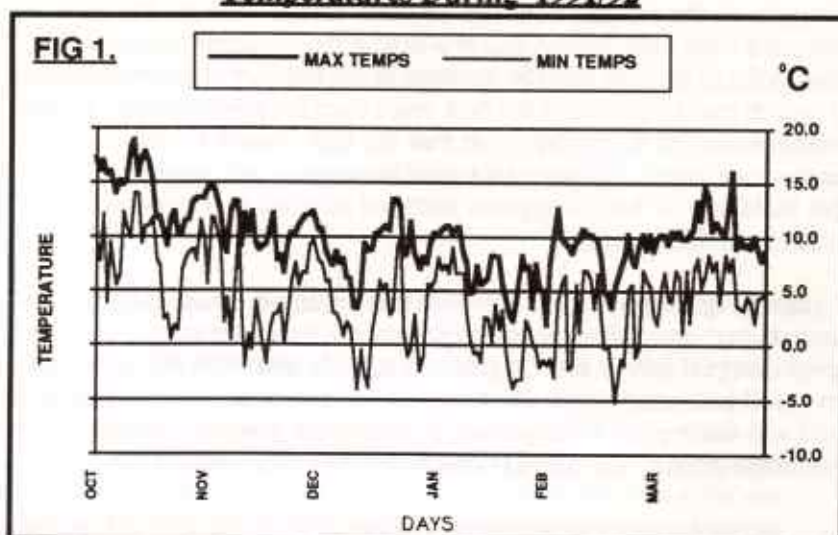
A graph (Fig 1) shows the maximum and minimum daily temperatures throughout the recording season. Significantly, the maximum temperature never dropped below zero degrees centigrade and even the minimum never fell below zero for more than a day or two at a time. The coldest spell was during late January/early February but it was harsh enough to encourage greater numbers of birds to forage in the gardens.

Fig 2 shows the average maximum number of birds feeding per garden in each month. The figures are compared to the 1990/91 season. Whereas in 1990/91 maximum numbers increased steadily as the season progressed, in 1991/92 after a slow start in October numbers remained remarkably constant throughout the winter. It is notable that figures for November and December in both seasons were more or less identical.

Fig 3 shows the average number of species occurring in each garden per month. Whereas, at first sight, the graph follows a similar pattern to that shown in maximum numbers it is noticeable that whereas in 1990/91 the average number of species increased steadily throughout the season, in 1991/92 numbers remained remarkably static at just over 12 species per garden per month. The increase in 1990/91 began before the spell of cold weather in the early part of 1991 so some other factor must be at work to fully account for this difference.

The overall maximum number of species appearing each month is shown in Fig 4. Again the difference between the 90/91 and the 91/92 seasons is quite apparent. Interestingly, although both seasons commenced at about 25 species, 90/91 increased steadily to a total of 36 in February whereas 91/92 only showed a slight variation in February when the range of species increased to 28. February certainly seems to be the best month.

Graph Showing Maximum and Minimum Winter Temperatures During 1991/92

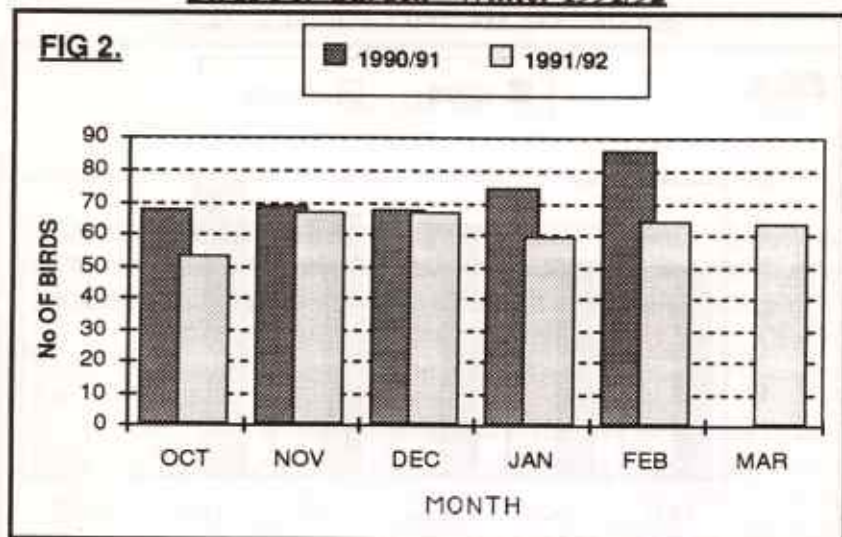


Of the more usual and regular garden species Great Spotted Woodpecker was entirely absent from all gardens and of the winter thrushes Fieldfare was not recorded at all and only one Redwing occurred; at the Sandison's garden in Findon. Numbers of finches, Black-headed Gulls, Song Thrush and Collared Doves were all down. Only 3 species occurred in all gardens, Blue Tit, Robin and Blackbird; Starling, Greenfinch, Song Thrush and Collared Dove failing to appear in some gardens in 1991/92. Crow and Woodpigeon occur in almost 70% of gardens and really must be added to the main list! I'm still waiting for someone to record Marsh or Willow Tit.

As usual a variety of uncommon species added interest to proceedings. Clive and Pat Hope's garden exclusively attracted Pheasant, Long-tailed Tit, Siskin and, star bird of the winter, a Brambling. A Reed Bunting relocated from John Feest's garden in Maybridge, Worthing to Sylvia Denman's garden in Hove for the 1991/92 winter (probably not the same bird)! However a late Chiffchaff in October provided John with some compensation.

The award for the most species recorded (22) goes jointly to the Champion's garden in Brighton and Roy Sandison's garden in Findon. The Hope's

Graph Showing Average Maximum Numbers of Birds Per Garden - Winter 1991/92



(on 20) just miss out because of their continuing failure to attract House Sparrow and also because the more inland and secluded nature of their garden deters gulls. In contrast the Champion's garden in Brighton attracts 3 species; Black-headed, Common and Herring Gull. The highest monthly species count was 20 occurring in the Sandison's garden in October and the Champion's garden in December and February.

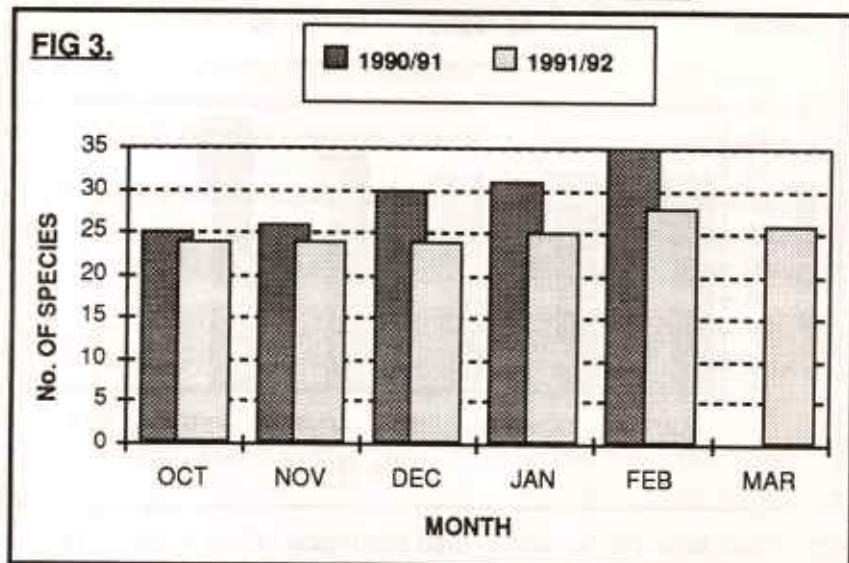
The greatest overall number of birds occurred in the Ford's garden at Ferring, an average of 99 per month boosted by Starlings and Black-headed Gulls, closely followed by Silvia Denman's garden averaging 91 per month playing host to a healthy House Sparrow population! The highest monthly total was in March when an influx of 100 Starlings boosted the Ford's total to 154.

I would like to thank the following contributors for participating in the survey whose dedicated recording makes this article possible:-

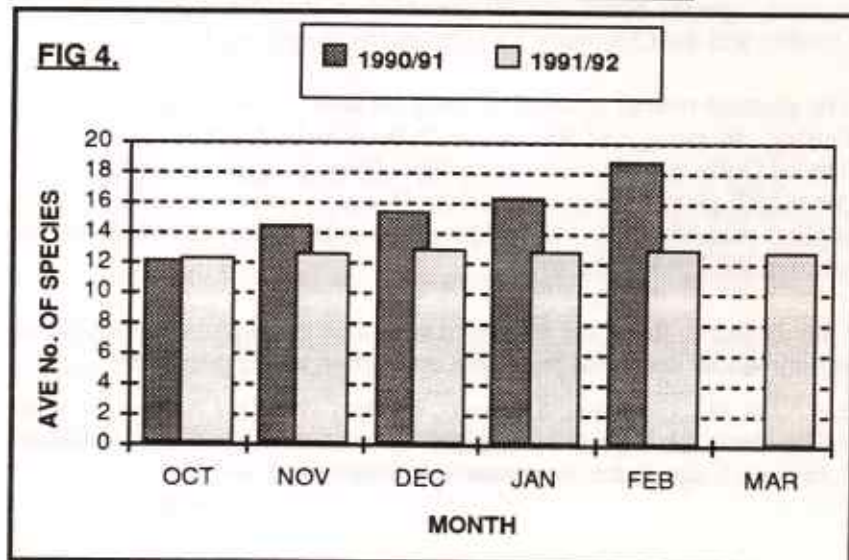
S.R.Allen; G.L.Champion; S.Denman; R.Edney (90/91); J.A.Feast; M.Ford; P.Griffiths; C.& P.Hope; G.T.J.Martin; P.& J.Maynard; J.Nye; R.& A.Sandison; J.Stafford; B.Upton; R.L.Westwater & P.Wilmschurst.

Brian Clay

**Graph Showing Maximum Numbers of
Species Per Garden - Winter 1991/92**



**Graph Showing Average Numbers of
Species Per Garden - Winter 1991/92**



SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1992

Introduction.

During 1992 the sea-watching log had entries for 331 hours revealing yet a further decline of 9% from the effort in 1991. The reduction in coverage undoubtedly reflects the lack of good productive watches to encourage the local watchers to "brave" the elements. The total number of birds recorded was also reduced by 20% to c 28,000; a figure which is a little more than half of the average total for the past 17 years. Like the past years the sea-watch information has been computed and I now hold records for 807,000 birds seen in 6259 hours of watching since 1976.

Apart from one or two interesting watches, this year, like 1991, will not hold many memories for the regular sea-watchers. As usual the spring months were most popular with watchers; over 50% of the hours watched and 54% of the total birds seen were recorded in Apr and May alone although an unsettled period of weather at the end of August and in September produced a further 10% of the annual total.

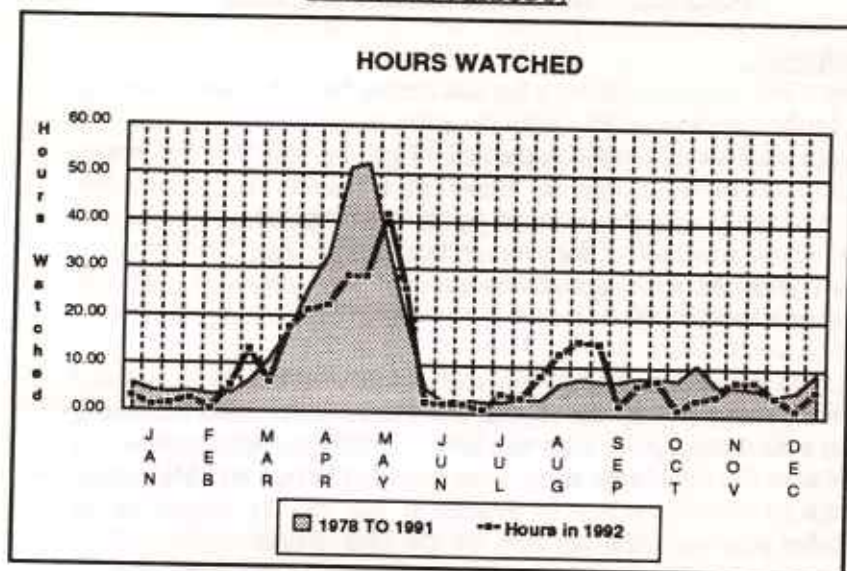
As in previous years a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping them informed and saving much time collecting records. During 1992 the log started on Sunday 29th Mar, incidentally one of the spring's best days, and ended in early June. As usual most observations took place from the shelter 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 and the following acknowledgements are to those who have contributed records to the daily log which form the basis for this report:-

P.M.Brayslaw; G.Edwards; J.A.Feast; P.A.Fraser; M.P.Hall; C.E.Hope;
R.A.Ives; J.A.Newnham; M.G.Prince; R.J.Sandison; R.Shaw; D.I.Smith;
R.Tofts

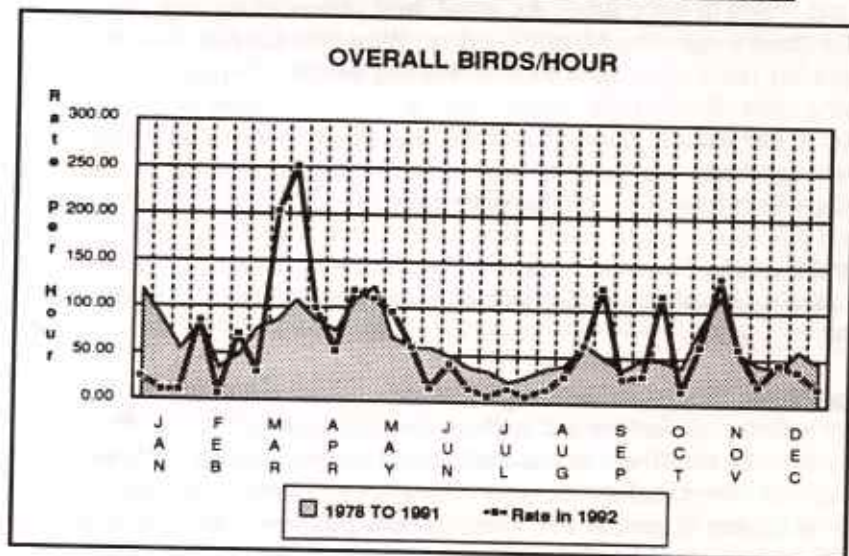
Chronological Report

Another winter period passed without any noteworthy cold weather movements of wildfowl or substantial coastal movements of auks, Kittiwakes or divers. Indeed the only large flocks of birds seen in the 15 hours of watching in Jan and Feb were eastbound parties of Brent Geese with 200 on 1st Feb and 195 on 29th Feb.

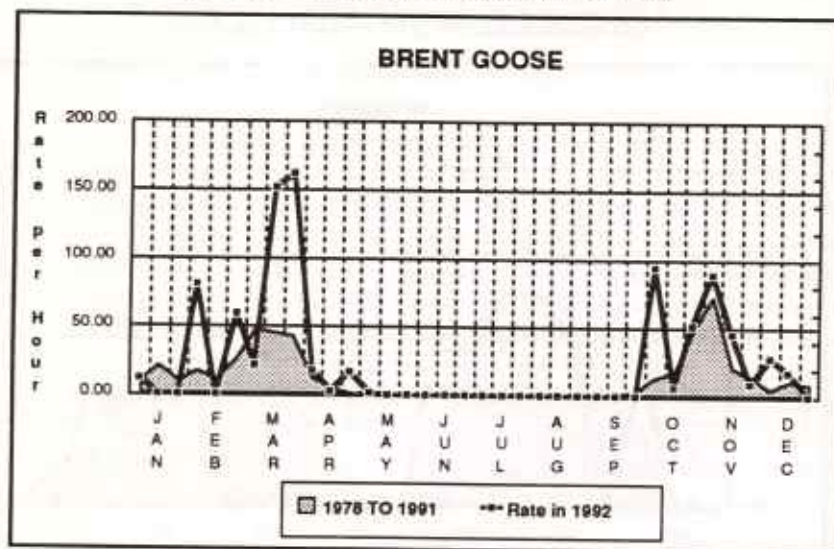
SEAWATCHING 1992 - HOURS WATCHED
(IN 10 DAY PERIODS)



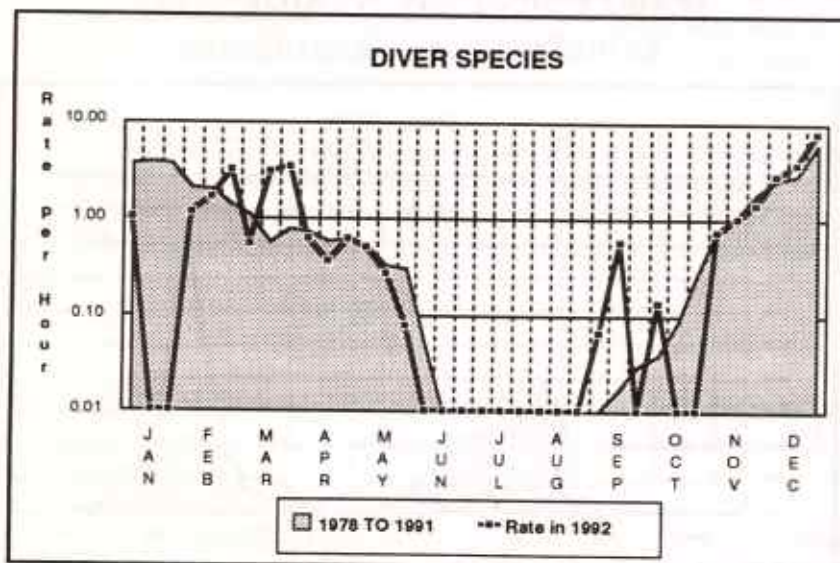
SEAWATCHING 1992 - RATE OF PASSAGE
OVERALL RATE OF BIRDS PER HOUR IN 10 DAY PERIODS



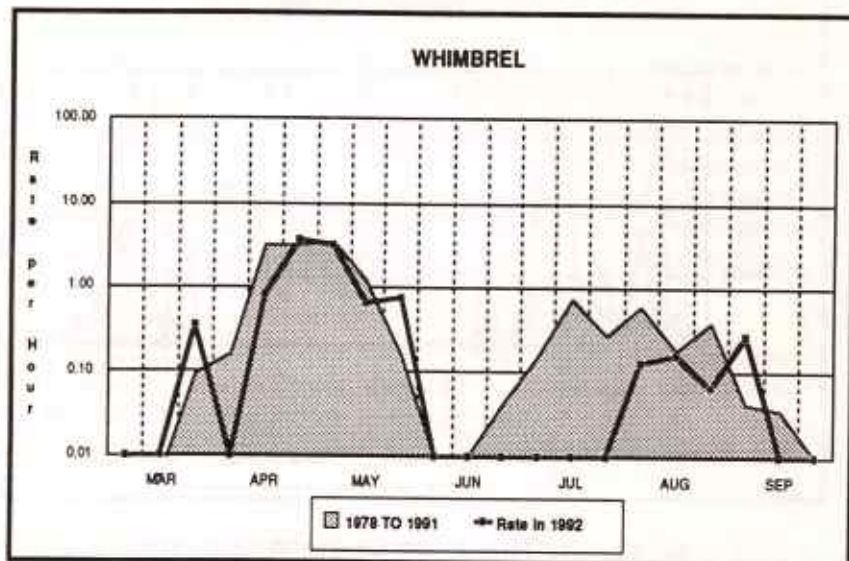
SEAWATCHING 1992 - BRENT GOOSE
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



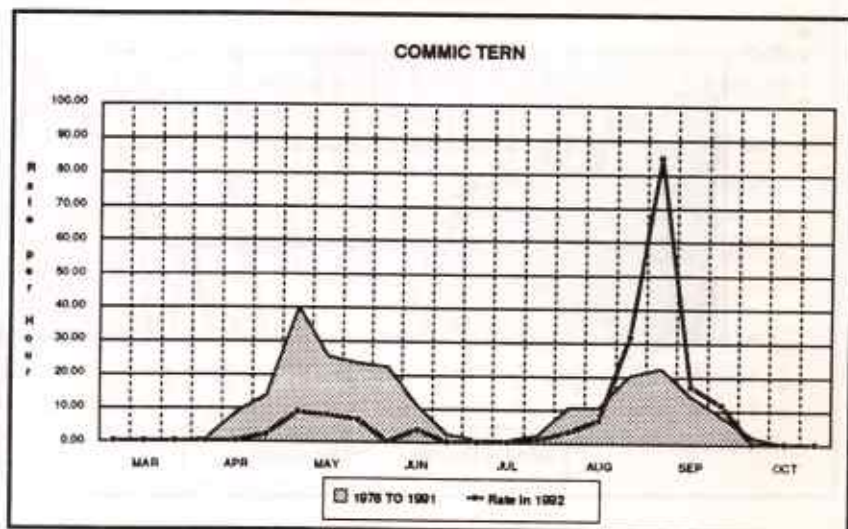
SEAWATCHING 1992- DIVER SPECIES
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1992 - WHIMBREL
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1992 - "COMMIC" TERN
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



As usual the tempo of eastward Brent Goose passage accelerated in March when a total of 4038 were seen with peaks of 937 in 2 hours on 18th Mar and 2590 in 6.4 hours on 29th Mar. This last day was not only a Sunday (good for watchers) but was also cloudy with a SSE force 3-4 wind blowing, excellent conditions for bringing birds passing up the Channel close to the shore. As well as the impressive Brent movement there were over 200 Common Scoter, 7 Velvet Scoter, 108 Shelducks, 173 Red-breasted Mergansers and the spring's first Whimbrels (6), Avocets (12), Sandwich Terns (30) and Bonxie. The following morning there were still a few divers passing but 3 early Arctic Skuas were a surprise.

April was a curious month as the weather patterns on several days looked "good" with E or even SE winds but the amount of visible migration was poor. Highlights during the earlier part of the month included an arriving Cuckoo on 4th Apr, a few small parties of Velvet Scoters and a Mediterranean Gull. Another "Med" was seen on 20th Apr, a promising looking day when a steady movement was recorded between 06 -0900 hrs before a thick sea mist fell obscuring the sea! For most observers the following day brought a return to work after the Easter weekend but for some 21st Apr was one of the few good spring watches when the log recorded 1042 Common Scoter, 56 Velvet Scoter, 411 Sandwich Terns, the first Black Tern and several skuas. The winds over the next few days were moving between SE and SW (often ideal circumstances) but few birds were seen except a small numbers of Arctic Skuas and an occasional Mediterranean Gull.

May opened with a cool NW airstream which turned to a light S briefly on 4th May when 1006 Common Scoter and a good assortment of other species were seen. Apart from a brief spell for the society's annual sea-watch outing on 10th May, a westerly airstream became established until 13th May. For the morning of the outing a light southerly and very heavy rain produced a few parties of terns, some very distant ducks and divers, a small number of skuas and a magnificent Peregrine which coasted W over the sand. Needless to say after all the assembled members had returned home 2 Pomarine Skuas passed by.

On 13th May the weather was warm, sunny and a gentle SSE wind swept along the shore. The hours watched rose dramatically and the hoped for

Pomarine Skuas passed by in the late afternoon along with an assortment of other species. The following day produced the same mixture of terns, waders and Common Scoters (811) but observers who arrived after 0630hrs missed the 16 "Poms". The wind turned more NE for the next few days and fell in strength until in almost calm warm weather on 19th May 5 Avocets and 5 Pomarine Skuas were recorded with a further 15 east-bound Pomarine Skuas noted in the afternoon of 20th May. The highlight of the spring, a Little Egret, passed Worthing at 0735hr on 21st May in the company of Black-headed Gulls and was recorded, also with the gulls, passing Widewater at 0747hrs. The latter part of May also produced a few Mediterranean Gulls but no large tern or wader movements. The final spring surprise was a small, very close party of 4 Pomarine Skuas, including a tailless immature, moving W on 30th May. Throughout spring the number of passerines seen was very small but there were regular sightings of dolphins, porpoises and on a few occasions seals.

The summer watching only totalled 6 hours in June and 8hrs in July, the only noteworthy record being a Manx Shearwater on 20th June. More terns were noted moving W in late August and early September. Perhaps the most interesting watch of the year occurred on 6th Sept when a fresh SSW wind and heavy rain brought large numbers of Black Terns to the south coast. At several sites in excess of 1000 were recorded but in the 6 hrs watched at Worthing (which probably excluded the most productive times) an area record of 194 were seen. As well as Black Terns there were 502 Commic Terns, 40 Little Terns 34 Arctic Skuas, 2 Spotted Redshanks and single Purple Sandpiper, Manx Shearwater and Peregrine noted. The first returning diver was recorded on 9th Sept and the last tern drifted westward on 4th Oct. Brents Geese are often seen returning westward in fresh N wind and 611 passed in 2.5hrs also on 4th Oct. Other autumn wildfowl movements were only sampled; on 8th Nov in a watch lasting just 1hr there were 292 Brent Geese and 50 Red-breasted Mergansers recorded and in less time the following day a mixture of wildfowl were logged with 2 Bonxies and 10 Little Gulls. Throughout Nov an albino Black-headed Gull could be found on the beach at Worthing which provided an interest when the passage was quiet. The only significant movement recorded at the end of the year was 29 divers moving east in 2hrs on 30th Dec.

John Newnham

SEPARATION OF MELODIOUS, ICTERINE AND REED WARBLERS IN THE FIELD

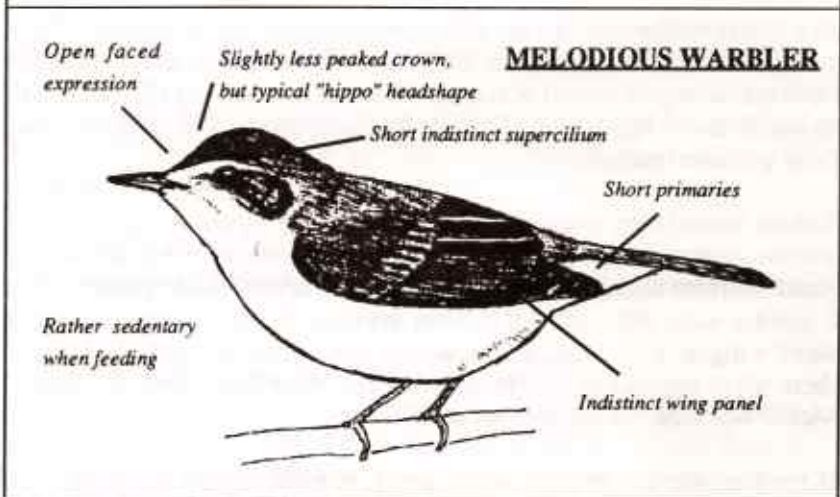
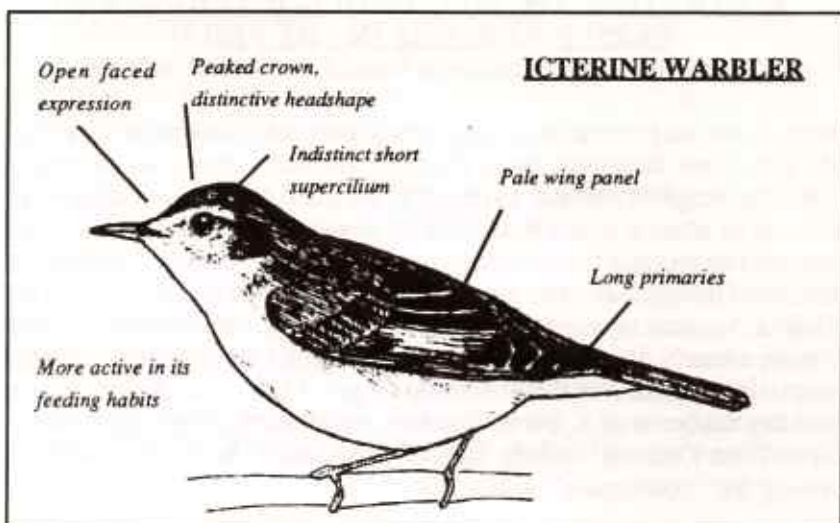
(with supplementary notes on Booted and Marsh warblers)

Melodious and Icterine Warblers are both uncommon migrants in spring, the latter now becoming more frequent nationally due to its extending breeding range in Europe. In recent years there have been a number of records of singing males from the east coast and the possibility that the species has recently bred, perhaps in some remote Scottish woodland, is not out of the question; and Sussex had two records of singing birds in the 1980's. Autumn, however, produces more records, with Icterine showing a more easterly distribution bias and Melodious a more westerly; hardly surprising considering their breeding ranges. Most occur during August and September with a few in October, these late records often coming from West Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly where both are considered among the "commoner" rarities.

In autumn, neither species are annual in Sussex but are nearly so and have each produced 17 records since 1977. In the Shoreham area there has only been one accepted record of Icterine Warbler this century (21.8.83) and, as yet, none of Melodious although the latter can be a skulker and may have occurred unseen.

Before considering the separation of these two *hippolaïs* species, it is worth covering one of the most common of identification pitfalls, that of Reed Warbler misidentified as Melodious Warbler. Both species are of a similar size, although Melodious appears stouter, being noticeably short-winged with bunched primaries and round wing-tip. Although there are a number of subtle differences, when faced with a potential Melodious look for the following features:-

If the bird shows obvious rufous tones, particularly on the flanks and rump, then it's a Reed Warbler (with an outside chance of the much rarer Marsh Warbler which seldom shows any hint of rufous). Additionally Reed's back is undeniably brown whereas Melodious is grey/green, the latter colour always shining through and quite prominently so in sunlight. Remember to take the light conditions into account, birds can change plumage tones to an amazing degree between shade and sunlight. Given good views, Melodious always shows some yellow on the underparts and this is usually stronger on the chin, throat and upper breast, often visible



only at close range on the remainder of the upper parts where it is usually a very pale wash. A well-seen bird completely lacking yellow tones is not a Melodious Warbler. (It should be mentioned that a yellow wash is only apparent on some dull, grey Icterine Warblers in the hand, and the exceptionally rare Olivaceous Warbler shows no yellow at all).

Next the bare parts. Melodious has a thicker bill than Reed and it is predominately dull orange or pink with a little black along the ridge of the upper mandible. On Reed, in contrast, the bright areas of the bill are duller, horn or straw yellow. Leg colour is always different. Melodious has black legs and although Reed's do vary they are always paler ranging from brown to yellow/brown, although usually darker than the orange or straw-coloured legs of an autumn Marsh Warbler. Perhaps one of the most reliable ways of telling these two apart is the facial pattern- or on the Melodious, the lack of one. This species has a bland, open-faced appearance with a shiny black eye and usually rather indistinct yellowish supercilium over the eye, whereas Reed has a distinct dark eyestripe extending through the lores, and a pale off-white supercilium before the eye.

Melodious is noticeably heavy in flight and due to its short wings it tends to be laboured. It is clumsy in vegetation with slow and deliberate movements often remaining inactive in the same bush for considerable periods. It seldom calls on migration whereas Reed quite frequently gives out a short harsh call. I've only heard a Melodious call once and this was a quite different, low "chatter".

Note that on migration Reed Warbler can be found almost anywhere but a reed bed, for example in the canopy of a coastal woodland, on downland, or in coastal scrub, and as such may occupy the same habitat as a vagrant Melodious Warbler. It is, however, much more common !

Of course, if you are lucky enough to see an adult Melodious then its most obvious feature is its uniform yellow underparts which contrast strongly with Reed's buff flanks and white underparts. The inexperienced observer, however, must beware of autumn bright yellow Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs but both these species are much smaller and far more active.

So, now that you've had a good look at your bird and it hasn't had the effrontery to disappear forever out of sight; having established a *hippolais* species you must now decide between Melodious and Icterine Warblers. Much has been made by some field guides of Icterine's more peaked forecrown as opposed to the more gentle forecrown slope of Melodious (both having a rounded crown), and this is true when the bird is sideways-on. However, it doesn't stay in that position for very long, and for example when facing away, head to one side, it can be very difficult or impossible to separate these species on head-shape alone. Both have

sturdy bills and bland faces. It is usually possible to get a good view of the closed wing and this holds the two key separation features. The first is the Icterine's very long primary projection as opposed to the already mentioned short, bunched primaries of the Melodious. The second is the pale wing panel caused by the pale edging to the tertials and secondaries, which is always more pronounced on Icterine, and can appear almost absent on Melodious. Both have black legs and it is said that Icterine's appear bluer, but this is difficult to determine. Juvenile Icterine is generally greyer above than the same age Melodious.

In flight, Icterine is longer winged and hence flies more strongly. As previously mentioned, Melodious is clumsy in contrast to the far more active Icterine which at times can be as brisk and mobile as a Willow Warbler.

I should add at this point that an autumn Marsh Warbler, rather pale above and showing no rufous tones, has been mis-identified as Melodious Warbler by experts, and without a prolonged close view it may not be possible to tell these two apart. However, if well-seen look again for the yellow wash to the underparts. Marsh will never show it.

Lastly, a brief word about Britain's rarest *hippolais*, the Booted Warbler from the distant east. One of these in our recording area would generate rather more than average interest, and I've managed to catch up with three in England now over the years. It's much smaller than either Icterine or Melodious, is predominately pale brown above and white below (rather like a Desert Warbler) and completely lacks any yellow tones. It is often compared to a pale Willow Warbler or Chiffchaff and it is around the same size, but I find it an unmistakeable *hippolais*, particularly in headshape and looks more like a small washed-out Icterine Warbler.

The majority of the above is drawn from my own field notes, and I have also found the Mac Millan Guide to Bird Identification by Harris, Tucker and Vinnicombe an invaluable reference. No serious birder should be without it! Also: Sussex Bird Reports 1977-91.

Dave Smith (Hon. Recorder)

FIELD OUTINGS 1992

25 members met Bernie Forbes for the **January** meeting at **Amberley Wildbrooks**. The walk out from Quell Farm proved rather fruitless as very few birds were seen probably due to the lack of water in the fields; however, fabulous views of a male Hen Harrier compensated for the lack of wildfowl. The woodlands produced its usual species: with Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Great Spotted and Green Woodpeckers all being recorded. The late afternoon walk out to Pulborough brooks produced a huge count of 9,000 Lapwings with hundreds of Wigeon and Teal; there were smaller numbers of both Pintail and Shoveler. Good views were also obtained of 6 White-fronted Geese and Grey Lags. A Green Sandpiper and both Sparrowhawk and Grey Wagtail were glimpsed. A very enjoyable day!.

15 members joined Richard Ives and Dave Smith at the **Dover Woods** for a trek through the mud on **February 23rd**. Unfortunately, the Crossbills of previous years were not present in the spruces. A good selection of woodland birds were recorded but the two stars of the day were undoubtedly the wintering Chiffchaff and a lovely Firecrest (only 1 of 3 seen in the UK by the leaders in the whole of 1992!). Alas, the speed of the latter species meant that some people missed it as it zipped across the path and out of sight. The trudge through the mud on the way back ensured that few birds were recorded as most people were clinging on to their wellies rather than their binoculars!

9 joined Peter Whitcomb on the 26th **April** at the **Cuckmere** on a very wet and windy day - not very conducive for migrants or birdwatching. Shelter was sought in the woods where Coal Tit and Treecreeper were seen and also more surprisingly a few migrants trying to avoid the worst of the weather, these included Chiffchaff and Blackcap and the birds of the day: a pair of Pied Flycatchers. Charleston reedbed only produced a single Reed Bunting and with the weather closing in everyone agreed to call it a day.

12 members met John Newnham at the **Ilex Wood** on **May 10th** for a sea-watch. The sea-watching was far from being the most productive- not surprising in the worst spring that many people can recall. The weather forecast for the day was most promising: fresh southerlies and heavy rain as a low pressure would pass over the area. However it was calm, grey, cool and at times rained very heavily! (typical accuracy of our weather

forecasts) The shelter had not been repaired from the previous year and so there was still only one bench and 1 window ! Initially the visibility was good but as the rain came the tide-line disappeared but with the rain came small pulses of "commic" terns. The watch was disappointing- a few terns, a handful of scoter, the usual spring waders on the beach were constantly disturbed and chased by dogs and passing waders were few. The highlights were 2 Cetacea offshore, 2 very distant Arctic Skuas and a magnificent Peregrine which came low over the sand in front of us. Even the stalwarts decided to call it a day at 11.30.

12 members joined Bernie Forbes for the **June (6th)** jaunt to the **New Forest** which began in marvellous fashion with a female Montagu's Harrier quartering the moor near the car park. While everyone was savouring the delights of this raptor the group was also entertained by a Woodlark performing its breeding song flight. The woods around Pig Bush produced a Lesser Spotted Woodpecker and a Great Spotted at its nest hole. There were two pairs of Dartford Warblers and several pairs of Redstart but Wood Warblers seemed extremely scare and only one was heard singing. A Lesser Spotted Woodpecker's nest was found and everyone had the rare chance to see the adult pair bringing food to their young.

In the afternoon the area around Beaulieu Road was scoured and more Dartford warblers were recorded and also the less common finch species: Redpoll and Siskin. The highlight of the afternoon was the excellent views of 4 Crossbills- everyone agreed it was an excellent day and many members had added a few species to their British list.

Only one keen member joined Brian and Hilda Metcalfe for the **July** outing to **Greatham and Parham**. The weather had been foul the whole day and so it was hardly surprising that very few people turned out. In the event, the rain stopped and some birding was undertaken along the Coldwaltham canal. Sadly few birds were present on the pool- in fact only 1 Mallard and 1 Canada Goose. The only passerines were a distant singing Reed Bunting and a Sedge Warbler. This year it was decided to break with tradition and look for Nightjars in the Parham estate. Once dusk fell Woodcock began roding and the Nightjars began churring and those assembled were treated to some excellent views as the male circled overhead. Thus from a bad beginning the evening turned out to be one of the best for many years for seeing the principal species. It may also be of interest to members that I recall leading a Nightjar outing in the 1960's

to nearby Wiggonholt Common when that species bred there last. The new Parham site is very near to the old area and has become suitable due to woodland clearance.

The weather did its worst for Peter Whitcomb's **September** outing to **Hollingbury Wildpark** where 13 members turned up. Strong westerlies and rain ruined the morning and it was a real struggle to find the resident birds let alone any migrants. At the start, and from the car park, two Greenshank flew over heading westwards, then two flocks of Swallows before the rain set in. A mixed flock of tits and a lone Wheatear were really the only other birds of note. A disappointing outing for all concerned.

23 members (nearly a record?) joined Clive Hope at **Cissbury** for the **October** (11th) meeting. It was grey, cool but thankfully dry. The walk began at the car park along the top of Lychpole Hill and down the slope to the ringing site. Members saw about 10 Goldcrests in the hand which was the main species of that day, together with 2 Blackcaps, Blue Tit, Robin, Wren and Song Thrush. There was overhead passage of finches, mainly Chaffinches but also some Bramblings and Redwings, both unfortunately too high and brief to give good sightings. In the bushes were a flock of Long Tailed Tits and 3 or 4 Chiffchaffs. Two each of Kestrel and Sparrowhawk, plus Goldfinches, Meadow Pipits, several Jays and some Swallows and House Martins added to the list. Finally, to the north of the car park, some members saw 2 Wheatears, 30+ Linnets and about a dozen each of Yellowhammer and Pied Wagtail.

16 brave people ventured out on a drizzly day to meet Les Hemblade and Martin Casemore for the **November** (22nd) outing to **Chichester Harbour**. After leaving Ichenor church the group went across farmland until they reached the eastern side of the harbour where both Goldeneye and Red breasted Mergansers were seen swimming in the channel. A Kingfisher was also seen skimming across the harbour- a marvellous sight on a winter's morning. Good views were obtained of over 100 Golden Plovers in the field; other wader species recorded were both species of Godwit and numerous Oystercatchers. The star attraction of the day was undoubtedly the Little Egret which gave superb views in flight and even settled for a few minutes. On the way back 2 Little Owls were discovered in the oaks near the church and two species of Partridge were recorded. Despite the unfavourable weather conditions everyone agreed it had been a good trip.

The 16 members who joined Stanley Allen's traditional Christmas walk (28th Dec) along the **Adur saltings** managed to record Grey Wagtail, Rock Pipit, Stonechat, Kingfisher, Snipe and the famous albino Redshank. It was a bitterly cold, but sunny day and a perfect tonic for those still suffering from post-Christmas hangovers. We walked from the footbridge nearly to the Toll Bridge, and saw a number of Grey Plover near the Railway Bridge and 9 Turnstones by the Norfolk Bridge. A solitary Shelduck was seen on the mud, along with 9 Heron, and three Reed Bunting near the houseboats. It was a cheerful outing, and at the finish the leader was sustained by two kindly members who bought him a pint of excellent ale at the Waterside Inn. (typical of Stanley's luck! Ed. and other leaders)

Field Outings Leaders

INDOOR MEETINGS 1992

January 6th : Mike Russell. "Woods Mill... Shop Window for Sussex Wildlife Trust or Theme Park ?" Mike gave an interesting account of the work achieved at Woods Mill and the way in which the activities offered have increased over recent years; specialist courses, fun days, and craft fairs but all with the aim of widening the importance of the knowledge and understanding of natural history in relation to ourselves. Woods Mill does a great deal to encourage young children to discover and appreciate the world in which they live. Mike made the point that Woods Mill is often criticised by those who do nothing for wildlife but that he felt that Woods Mill is fulfilling more than a local need. His slides supported the evidence of a great deal of hard work; it was a thought provoking talk.

February 3rd: Barrie Watson "Birds of New Zealand" Barrie decided to combine slides and video for this talk. His slides illustrated his visit to New Zealand in 1990 with his wife Anne on an organised holiday which seemed very intensive. They toured North and South Islands rising early in the morning and often birding at night particularly in search for the elusive Kiwis and soulful Moreporks (owls). Over three weeks they covered an incredible distance both on land and visiting the outlying islands- his slide of the Shy Albatross was particularly evocative. The talk ended with Barrie's commentary to a video of some more New Zealand birds and its natural history. There is no doubt that some members will consider a visit to NZ in the future.

March 2nd: David Cotteridge "Hide and Seek" David is known to members for his fine photographs of birds but his talk started with the first camera in 1827 and then traced the development of photography and the changing techniques up to the Second World War. The Kearton brothers were the great driving force in the use of the camera, they started making hides, some very curious, resulting in amusing situations. I think we shall all remember the bullock carcase which turned turtle with one brother inside it and which the other brother recorded on film for posterity before releasing him.

Oliver Pike followed the Keartons and it was thought he "touched up" the negatives to get the required results sometimes, but there is no doubting the contribution he made to bird photography. David is a fluent, intelligent speaker, aptly backed up by the slides he used, though it was just slightly disappointing not to see his own photographs but we can always look forward to another talk.

April 6th: AGM and Tim Calloway "the New RSPB Reserve at Pulborough" Tim came to us at very short notice as Richard Williamson was unable to give his talk. Tim is the warden of the new RSPB reserve at Pulborough. He gave us a very professional and enthusiastic lecture on the pleasures and very hard work involved in setting up a reserve. Pulborough is mainly wetland and Tim was obviously quite excited about the way in which they were able to control the water levels in returning the wild brooks to their original state. His slides gave us a very good idea of the spectacular views to be seen across the reserve. Two old barns are about to be rebuilt for use as the Visitor Centre and Tim hopes to open the reserve in December 1992. We were most grateful to Tim for coming at such short notice and allowing us to see the progress of a local reserve which, most probably, will become a popular place used by our members.

October 5th: "Acres Wild" Debbie Roberts and Ian Smith These two described the wild garden and walk they created for the London and Edinburgh Insurance Group Head Office in West Worthing two and a half years ago. They specialise in conservation gardens, and like to incorporate local stone and wood where possible. They had taken the advice of the Sussex Wildlife Trust for the choice of plants and trees. Spring and summer meadows make up part of the garden which is surrounded by mature native trees. Their slides showed the development of the area from its rather stark beginnings to the garden now flourishing with plants and

new trees. The public, and local school children were seen discovering the different habitats. An interesting talk but no pictures of birds.

However Bernie Forbes made up for this with lively description of the Bird Race done by 4 SDOS members (RI, DIS, BF, and AF) on May 9th 1992. The weather forecast was dire but nevertheless they left home at 4 am and some of the highlights were Barn Owl, Little Grebe, Red-throated Diver, 2 Serins, Mediterranean Gull, 5 Hobbies, Woodlark, Cetti's warbler, Nightingale and Nightjar- the low light was nine hours of rain!

The rules are that three people must see or hear the bird and the fourth person must record in writing. Only three species were not seen or heard by the required number of the team but even so 120 were recorded- a County record for 7 days and still a West Sussex record. Sponsorship raised £308 and at this point Bernie presented Mike Russell of the Sussex Wildlife Trust with a large cheque. The money is to go towards the purchase of Castle Water, a 210 acre site near Rye harbour Nature reserve for which the Trust has had to raise £200,000. Mike was very grateful for the cheque and suitably congratulatory on the magnificent number of birds seen. The SDOS beat ("thrashed" Bernie's word) the SWT team! Bernie hopes the Bird Race will become an annual event for the SDOS with perhaps two teams competing and as 1993 is the 25th anniversary for the SWT money raised should be given to them again.

November 2nd: John Reynolds "In Search of Waders" John Reynolds is an expert on this large group of birds and his expertise and enthusiasm was easy to detect in his very interesting talk. His slides showed a variety of species from all over the world. His interest in population dynamics was evident in the second half of the evening and the complicated graphs and distribution maps were designed for our own local experts. His discussions on the wintering grounds of some of our familiar waders within Africa also threw some light onto the mysteries of our disappearing autumn waders. It was an extremely interesting talk and I am sure that everyone both beginner and expert could gleam a great deal from the evening. This fascinating group deserve more attention and I am sure that John will continue in his research and will return to tell us of his findings.

December 7th: Members' Evening As usual there was nearly a full house for this popular event on our calender. The evening began with Brianne's version of the popular dice game Boggle. We were given a few

minutes to locate as many wildlife words from a grid of letters. Tony Fenton was the winner with a very large score. An interesting way to get the grey matter working on a Monday evening.

Brian Clay then gave an interesting talk on the Cissbury Ringing group and brought along some of the equipment that is needed for this interesting aspect of ornithology. He gave us a brief history of the group's existence and the progress they have made at the site. He also gave examples of some of the best recoveries from the area: pride of place being two Lesser Whitethroats being recovered in Egypt from only ten British ringed birds found there. He encouraged members to visit the site to see the group at work.

Richard Ives then gave an ornithological tour of Czechoslovakia and highlighted the hotspots. He recommended the country for anyone who has an interest in birds and hops. The pictures of the Tatra Mountains were very atmospheric with cloud covered peaks, scree-strewn slopes and cascading waterfalls. Unfortunately the star bird of the area was not captured on film but those present now know the precise waterfall where Wallcreepers can be found.

Stanley Allen gave his usual whistle-stop tour of Sussex and the birding highlights of the year. As usual Stanley's pictures were superb and it was sometimes hard to believe that such beauty could be captured from some of our less exciting scenery. The bird shots were very interesting and many members learnt a great deal about identification from them.

Cliff Walder then gave an excellent insight into the wonders of Namibia. The wide angle shots of seif sand dunes and the contrast of colours was unbelievable. The pictures of a finch like species known as "Mexican Bandits" will be imprinted on the minds of those present forever. The close ups of Kori Bustard and Bee-eaters were marvellous, as were the larger mammals. Cliff's relaxed style and knowledge of the subject ensured that those who have the financial means will be visiting Namibia in the not too distant future.

These evenings are always popular and with the wealth of knowledge within the society it is hardly surprising. We all look forward to the next one. The mince pies and the Christmas drinks added the usual festive spirit to an entertaining evening.

Brianne Reeve (Hon. Secretary)

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 following is the preferred format in which records should be sent:

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)

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Chairman of the Council	Mr B.Forbes.
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 1992

	<u>1991</u>	<u>1992</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	£	£
Balance brought forward	2,371.08	3,328.53
Subscriptions	906.00	810.50
Sales of Books, Reports etc.	201.60	47.60
Net Raffle & Refreshments	125.56	26.85
Building Society Interest	78.76	71.93
Legacy (N.C.Evans)	200.00	-
Proceeds of Sponsored Walk	-	24.00
Sale of Computer	-	140.00
	<u>£3,883.00</u>	<u>£4,449.41</u>

PAYMENTS

Computer Software	70.50	-
Printing	226.81	258.91
Postage and Stationary	20.50	30.00
Secretary's Expenses	50.53	56.90
Hire of Hall	84.00	56.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' Fees	70.00	172.00
Sundries	3.00	32.73
Charge for Stall at Env. Fair	5.00	-
Cards for Resale		72.00
Bank Charges	20.13	0.66
Balance carried forward	3,328.53	3,766.21
	<u>£3,883.00</u>	<u>£4,449.41</u>

A.D.Bullock (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 9th February 1993

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

