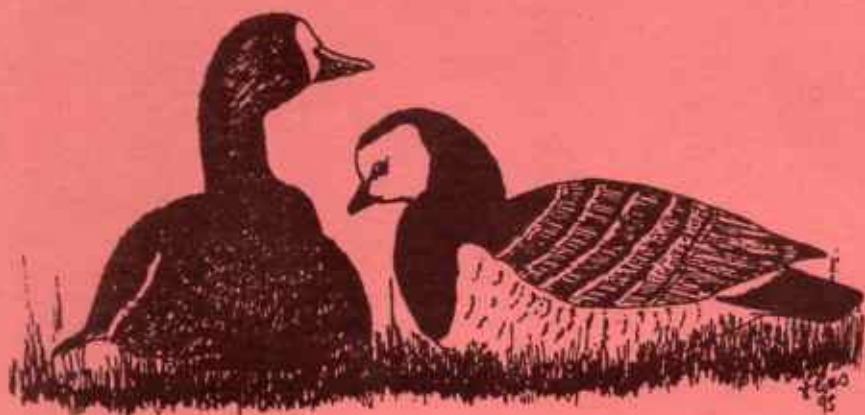


Shoreham District Ornithological Society

ANNUAL REPORT 1993



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D I S T R I C T
O R N I T H O L O G I C A L
S O C I E T Y

ANNUAL REPORT 1993

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Logo, map and line drawings by Richard Ives.

Graphs by Brian Clay.

Cover illustration of Barnacle & White-fronted Geese by Richard Ives.

EDITORIAL

Well this is my final report I shall be producing for some time and I wish my successor all the best in this role. I'd like to congratulate our new recorder, Rod Shaw, for producing an excellent systematic list - he made my final report easy to type as his handwriting leaves nothing to be desired. I had a few arguments with this computer and, as a result, spent at least five fruitless hours producing absolutely nothing! At last it's done and I hope that you'll enjoy the result. Thanks to Brian for the final preparation of the report and thanks to all those who have served on the various committees and have led outings. I am sure that you will all agree that the Society continues to grow from strength to strength even after our fortieth anniversary.

It was heartening when I was preparing the finished document to see just how many people contributed records this year. It was over 50% of the membership which just goes to show how keen everyone is. I recall the days when only a handful of people bothered to submit records - thankfully those days are over and we can now produce a report which gives a fair indication to the number of birds which actually live or pass through. Armed with this data we can make educated guesses on populations and recognise trends. This is a vital facet of this society and one of which we can be proud. Rod has managed to collate this information and will be pleased to receive your early winter records at any time. The bench mark has been set and I hope we can continue in the same vein until our fiftieth anniversary and way beyond that!

Richard Ives (Hon. Editor)

NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1993

1993 has followed 1992 in being yet another generally unremarkable year-there were no prolonged cold spells or snowy weather at either end of the year, there was very little to lend itself to sea-watching and the summer tended to be rather wet. For selfish reasons this was fine as it enabled my first year as Recorder to run fairly consistently with little hounding of the outgoing Recorder for advice. Let's hope this changes for 1994!

January produced no winter sea ducks of note except for a female Scaup on Southwick Canal on the 26th and 2 females on Widewater from 7th to 11th. A Red-necked Grebe off Worthing beach on Jan 6th and 6 Slavonian Grebes off Widewater on Jan 4th constitute the only notable seawatching records. The December Peregrine continued to visit the Power Station chimney at dusk but only 1 Merlin was recorded passing E over the Harbour on the 4th. The coastal plain held most of the month's interesting birds with Purple Sandpipers around the Harbour and at Palace Pier, up to 2 Jack Snipe on Ferring Rife with Black Redstarts nearby on the path to Goring Gap, and Mediterranean Gull records from Worthing beach and the Harbour. Inland, up to 2 Short-eared Owls quartered Beeding Brooks all month, 2 Bewick's Swans were on the upper Adur levels on Jan 25th and there were wintering Blackcaps at Swandean, Broadwater and in Hollingbury Woods.

Without exceptional weather conditions, February provided no exceptional birds except for the observer who found a Long-eared Owl roosting at a traditional downland site. The Beeding Short-eared Owls had increased to 3 on Feb 14th and there was a fourth bird in our area at Sheepcote Valley on Feb 27th. The Southwick Peregrine remained during the month as did the Ferring Jack Snipe. At sea, 1 Red-necked Grebe off Lancing on the 28th reflected a poor month.

March held promise of things to come with early Sandwich Terns passing Worthing on the 1st, and 2 very early Swallows reported from Hollingbury Camp on the 14th whilst the 8th produced the first Wheatear. The end of the month saw 3 Whitethroats in the lower Adur Valley from the 27th, but the month's best record was of an early Hobby flying north in Worthing on the 29th. In addition the 14th saw a Buzzard over Patching, there were 4 Firecrest in our area and the Southwick Peregrine continued to show at

least until Mar 21st.

Apr 8th gave one observer a very early Swift over Shoreham but in general spring migration was unremarkable. A good crop of raptors included 5 records of Buzzard with 3 together over Harrow Hill on Apr 3, 4 records of Hobby, a juvenile Peregrine at Worthing on 25th, and the ultimate prize on Apr 30 with an Osprey arriving over Worthing beach. At sea, Arctic Skuas passed on the 20th (9) and 24th (22), and single Bonxies were noted east on 20th & 21st. Passerine-wise, "reeling" Grasshopper Warblers were at Shoreham Airfield and at Sheepcote on 20th & 24th respectively. An early Ring Ouzel record from the 3rd was a male at Hollingbury Camp.

Raptors held good again for May with Worthing beach seeing an eastbound Marsh Harrier on May 5th, an arriving Osprey on the evening of May 6th, and 2 arriving Hobbies on May 8th. Elsewhere there was a White Stork moving eastwards over Mill Hill on the 3rd May but the lucky observer has yet to submit his record, a Buzzard over Sompting and also a Peregrine & further Hobby sightings over Broadwater. Sea-watching was not particularly memorable and although Pomarine Skuas passed Worthing beach on 6 dates, the maximum was a mere 11 on May 10th. Other highlights included 1 Roseate Tern on May 11th with a further 2 east on May 12th, a Red-necked Grebe in summer plumage east on May 16th & the only Manx Shearwater was a single west on May 31st. An arriving Nightjar off the sea at East Worthing delighted one observer on the 10th as did a Little Egret roosting adjacent to Shoreham Airport on the 5th. A male Firecrest was caught on the 1st at Cissbury much to the delight of the ringers.

June and July were typically quiet with very little to report. Further Buzzard sightings in June included a possible breeding record and singles at Golding Barn and Storrington. Hobby records came from Steepdown, & Wild Park, and unusually a Nightjar churred briefly during the afternoon of Jun 13th at Tenantry Down. The only Quail records have been of 2 birds from Steep Down.

August can usually be described as the calm before the storm despite the build up in wader numbers early on and in the passerines as the month progresses. An Alpine Swift seen in our recording area has been accepted by the BBRC and is probably the bird of the year. Apart from this there

were very few notable birds or even records for this month. Marsh Harriers were noted from Lancing Ring & Sheepcote Valley and there were sightings of Merlin, Hobby & Peregrine in the area. A Nightjar was at Wild Park on Aug 25th, a Wryneck in Sheepcote Valley on the 28th, a Wood Warbler at Lancing Ring on Aug 6th and Pied Flycatchers from Sompting and Lancing Ring. The only notable waders were a Knot by the houseboats on Aug 28th and 3 Whimbrel adjacent to Wild Park on the 26th.

September produced a good crop of raptors with no less than 9 species including the regular species. The raptor list comprises 3 Honey Buzzards (if accepted), 2 Marsh Harriers, 5 Buzzards, 1 Osprey, 2 Merlins, 4 or more Hobbies & 1 Peregrine. At sea 2 Manx Shearwaters passed west off Worthing on Sep 13th whilst during the evening of Sep 2nd 2 eastbound Little Egrets off Goring decided on a quick U turn & returned westwards. Meanwhile, Ring Ouzels appeared at Lancing Ring, Cissbury and Sheepcote & single Firecrests were at Lancing Ring on 3 dates. There were good movements of Pied Flycatchers, and autumn waders included Little Ringed Plover at Ferring, Knot on the Adur, Little Stint at Widewater, Curlew Sandpiper by the houseboats & 9 Ruff on Adur Rec on Sep 17th.

Quality rather than quantity was the order for October starting with a very obliging Snow Bunting at Widewater from 2nd to the 11th. At the other extreme, the month produced a well watched Little Egret near the Adur Railway Bridge from the 24th. 2 Cranes flew eastwards on Oct 24th but unfortunately no one looked up as they passed through our area ! Notable passerines for the month included a Dartford Warbler at Sheepcote on Oct 26th, a Lapland Bunting (if accepted) there on the 16th & a westerly movement of Bramblings on the 23rd. Sadly, a Little Auk in Brighton Marina all day on Oct 16th expired overnight! Better news were 2 Woodlarks adjacent to Wild Park from the 11th-17th and a very late Cuckoo at Widewater on the 17th. The small gull plunge diving off Goring Gap on Oct 31st would have undoubtedly been the bird of the year had it been a little closer- as the observer was 95% it was an adult Ross's Gull; how long before this wonderful creature is seen well in this county?

A quiet November saw the return of Black Redstarts, Purple Sandpipers and Jack Snipe to traditional winter haunts, also a 2nd winter Mediterranean Gull to Shoreham Harbour. A Long-eared Owl was noted at a roost near



Alpine Swift

Brighton on Nov 20th but not seen subsequently- apart from this a male Dartford warbler at Goring Gap constitute the only notable records for the month.

1993 fizzled out like a damp squib despite a promising start to December with a well seen flock of Barnacle and White-fronted Geese on the upper Adur levels (Stretham) from Dec 4th. A Peregrine commuting between Brighton's Bedford Hotel & West Pier at

dusk (also from the 4th) was the best raptor record apart from a single Merlin over a Hove public park on the 14th. A Short-eared Owl passed over Wild Park on Dec 1st but the Beeding brooks birds failed to materialise. A good number of Black Redstarts, wintering Blackcaps and up to 8 Tree Sparrows (at Stretham Manor) brought the year to a close.

Many thanks to all who have taken the time to submit records. Please keep up the good work for 1994.

Rod Shaw (Hon Recorder)

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1993

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

T.Agate, S.R Allen, Mr & Mrs C.L.Barnard, R.J. Bayne, V. Bently, P & M Brayshaw, P. Brown, M.Casemore, G.L.M.L. & N.J. Champion, S.Charlwood, B.R. Clay, P.J. Clay, G. Cuzons, R. Edney, G.V. Edwards, R. Emery, R.Eyre-Walker, I.Faichnee, R.J. Fairbank, J.A. Feest, A.R. Fenton, B.F Forbes, M.&P.Ford, C.J. Fox, R. Hartfree, L.E.Hemblade, C.E. Hope, R.A. Ives, H.Jackson, L.R.Keen, D.King, I. Lawes, B.A.E.Marr, J.M & S.P.Maskell, B. Metcalfe, Dr. J.A. Newnham, M.G. Prince, M. Russell, R.J. Sandison, J.Shaugnessy, R.M.&S.J.D.Shaw, R. Simpson, D.I. Smith, Mr & Mrs Steedman, M.Taylor, R.Tofts, J.Underwood, 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	12	6	34	68	199	2	1
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		Total
	17	30	10	3	7		389

0002. **RED-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia stellata*)

Regular on passage & winter resident in the area. Away from Worthing beach there were no records for January with only 2 in Shoreham Harbour for February on 14. After 1 on Southwick Canal Mar 6-9 singles were reported off Widewater on Mar 8, 14 and April 1. 2 passed Brighton Marina on Apr 2 & again on Apr 10.

Recorded from Worthing beach between Jan & May 27, and again from Oct 1, the monthly totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	—	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	3	32	8	8		-	-	6	3	20
W	3	-	-	1	-		-	-	3	1	-

Peak spring movements were 22E Mar 28. Noted offshore on Feb 26 & 27. Peak late movement was 20E Dec 27, when 2 were noted offshore. Other records were 4 off Goring beach on Oct 30 & 1 Southwick Canal Dec 5-18.

0003. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia arctica*)

Fairly rare passage diver. A better year for specifically identified birds with a total of 30 birds at Worthing & Hove between Mar & May. After a peak of 8E on May 17, the last was recorded on May 29.

At the end of the year, 1 was identified off Worthing beach on Dec 27 and 3E on the same date.

0004. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (*Gavia immer*)

Rare visitor to area, 1 to 2 records per year. The only records are of 1E Worthing beach on May 19 (RJS), and 1E Brighton Marina on May 14 (RJB)

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

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	—	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	16	-	54	545	53		1	6	1	72
W	15	-	-	5	2		-	3	1	5

Peak movements were 54E on Mar 31 & 45E on Apr 30. The last were 2E on May 31. The first for autumn was 1E on Sep 8 and there was a late year peak of 72E on Dec 27.

0007. **LITTLE GREBE** (*Podiceps ruficollis*)

Occasional breeding pair in area. Noted from January to March with 1 on Ferring Rife from Jan to Mar 12, 1 Brighton Marina Jan 1, 3 Southwick Canal on Jan 8 with 2 there on 18, 2 New Salts farm during January and 1 at Cuckoo Corner on Feb 1. Again there were no breeding records.

A single bird had returned to Ferring Rife on Aug 16 & was noted until Sep 5 then only sporadically until mid November. Elsewhere there was a max. of 4 at Brooklands on Sep 21, 1 Brighton Marina on Nov 27; and in December 2 remained on Southwick Canal all month, 5 in the lower Adur valley on the 9th & 1 at Brooklands on 25th. A single at Woods Mill on Nov 4th & Dec 2nd was the first record there for over 20 years.

0009. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Regular offshore for most of the year. There were no unusually high offshore counts early in the year with maxima being 10 off Hove on Jan 4 and 10 off Goring on Mar 20. Monthly totals from Worthing beach were 4W in Feb, and 6E in March & May but no April records.

Again there were no high counts at the end of the year with singles reported from the lower Adur on Nov 24 & Dec 15, & Brooklands on Dec 25.

0010. **RED NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps grisegena*)

Rare visitor to area, with one to 2 seen each year. An improvement on previous years with 3 records: 1 off Worthing beach on Jan 6 (MGP), 1 off Lancing on Feb 28 (GLC) and a summer plumaged bird east off Worthing on May 16th (PMB).

0011. **SLAVONIAN GREBE** (*Podiceps auritus*)

Fairly regular visitor offshore. Another improvement on 1992, starting well with 6 off Widewater on Jan 4. The only other Jan record was 1 off Worthing beach on 26; whilst Feb saw 1 off Widewater on 14 & 1 E at Worthing on 26. There were two off the harbour arm on Mar 3 then a further single off Widewater on Mar 8. Worthing beach had 1 on Mar 21 & 2 off Goring in summer plumage on Mar 27.

1 off Worthing on Nov 6th was the only late year record.

0012. **BLACK NECKED GREBE** (*Podiceps nigricollis*)

Rare visitor; 1 to 2 records per year. None recorded in 1993.

0020. **FULMAR** (*Fulmaris glacialis*)

Common spring passage species, no suitable nesting sites available. Seawatches at Worthing beach produced following monthly totals:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	-	-	19	80	235	-	-	3	3	-
W	3	-	8	101	153	-	-	13	3	-

Peak movements were 37E on May 5 & May 8, 48E on May 9 and 33E on May 16. Elsewhere up to 5 at Brighton Marina during April from nearby colonies, & 1W over Broadwater on May 1 following the A27- apparently a traditional date and ritual! 1 frequently over Brighton during May & June is apparently a further tradition.

Peak autumn passage at Worthing was 8W on Aug 22. The last was 1W on Sep 17. An early return was noted with 2 at Brighton Marina on Dec 18.

0046. **MANX SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Fairly uncommon spring autumn visitor, numbers depending on weather conditions. A poor year with 1W Widewater on May 31 (RAI), and 2W Worthing beach on Sep 13 (RJS). Details to S.O.S.

0071. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*)

Regular in most months of the year. Totals at Worthing beach were as the follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	39	64	727	-	-	87	126	22	-	1
W	24	-	-	80	265	-	-	71	68	52	1	-

Peak movements were 203E on May 17 & 68E on May 16. Autumn peaks were 82E on Aug 22 and 75E on Sep 13. Other spring records come from Brighton Marina on Apr 2 & 2W on Apr 25. An oiled bird was found dead on Southwick beach on Apr 30.

Autumn records away from Worthing showed sporadic sightings from Brighton Marina, Shoreham & Goring beach with 20 off the latter on Oct 24.

0072. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Common both at coastal & inland sites. Counts from traditional roosts have not been consistent this year but 111 were noted from the Wyckham farm pylon

roost on Feb 14, and 36 at Brooklands outfall on Mar 25. Later in the year 101 were at Wyckham farm on Oct 29 & the Dec max. for the sewage outfall was 38. A flock of 19 over Hollingbury Camp on Nov 29 was considered an unusually high count.

0080. **SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*)

Fairly uncommon visitor, with small wintering population in Brighton Marina. A single at Brighton Marina on Jan 23 was the only record until further singles were noted there on Apr 4 & 30. During May there were records from Worthing beach comprising 9 eastbound birds on 4 dates.

There were 4 birds in Brighton Marina on Oct 6 & singles off Goring on Oct 24, Shoreham harbour on Nov 9, & East Worthing on Dec 24. Lastly, a single Southwick Canal Dec 18-29.

119. **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

Once a very rare vagrant but now annual which mirrors the population explosion in southern England. No less than 4 recorded in our area reflecting the overall national trend as this species increases its range. 1 roosted at the southern end of Shoreham airport on Aug 8 (RAI), 2E Goring beach during the evening of Sep 2 & then turned westwards again (DIS), and a well watched bird between the bridges at Shoreham from Oct 24 to 5 Nov. A bird noted in the area 6 days earlier was probably the same bird.

0122. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*)

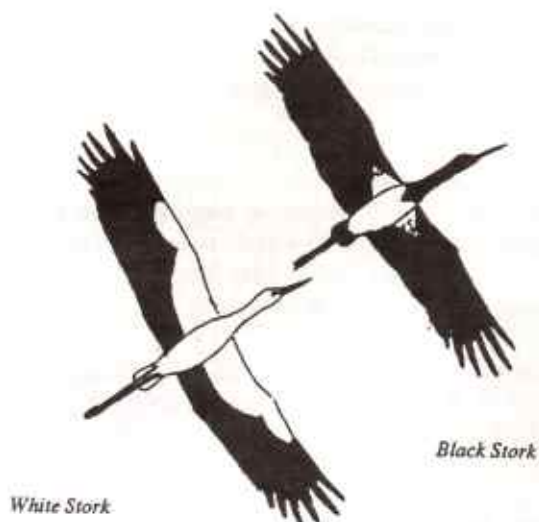
Common with breeding colony in area. Few notable records in the early months and Worthing beach recorded just 3 birds during May. Specific counts at Adur saltings produced 12 for Aug; 11 Sep; 13 Oct. Notable overhead movements were 8W Ferring Rife on Sep 18 & 5W Hollingbury Camp on Aug 24.

0131. **BLACK STORK** (*Ciconia nigra*)

Rare Vagrant. 1 was seen flying over Southwick in the summer. The recorder would like details on this sighting from the extremely fortunate observer. (REW)

0134. **WHITE STORK** (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Rare Vagrant. 1 was seen flying E over Mill Hill on May 3. This bird had earlier been seen at Madehurst. The recorder is awaiting details from the lucky observer. (MT).



0152. **MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*)

Common breeding species. No specific counts have been received for early in the year. Seawatching from Worthing produced 3W on Apr 24 & 3E on May 6.

Breeding records have come from Widewater where 2 young were raised. On Aug 2nd a total of 88 were recorded between Shoreham & Upper Beeding but no late counts received. Unusually a pair with 2 juvs. were in Brighton Marina on Nov 27.

0153. **BEWICK'S SWAN** (*Cygnus columbianus*)

Small wintering herd in winter. The Upper Adur maxima for the early months was 18 on Feb 6 & there were 8 at Bines Bridge on Dec 7th.

0159. **WHITE FRONTED GOOSE** (*Anser albifrons*)

Rare in area. An unprecedented record of 43 on the Upper Adur levels near Stretham with up to 38 Barnacle Geese from Dec 4. There is no record of the duration of their stay but they were gone by early January. A flock of 30+ nearby on Nov 29 were probably the same birds.

0161. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*)

Few records of this usually feral species. A single bird of unknown origin on the lower Adur on Nov 23 & a further single at Wyckham farm on Dec 7.

GREY GOOSE SP.

1W Sandgate Park 18 Apr & 8E Worthing beach on Dec 27.

0166. CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Increasing within the area. Few records again with 3 briefly landing on Brooklands on Mar 26, 2 Sandgate Park Apr 18 & 7 Beeding brooks on Apr 27 being the spring records. In summer a pair bred at Woods Mill. Late year counts in the Upper Adur valley were 73 on Dec 21 & 62 the following day.

0167. BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*)

Extremely rare bird in the area with only 4 previous records. A flock of birds "considered to be wild" consorted with a flock of 43 Whitefronts on the Upper Adur levels during Dec. The max. count on Dec 4th comprised 20 birds with an increase upto 38 the following day. There is no record of their subsequent dispersal.

0168. BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

Common on passage with small winter flocks at coastal sites. The monthly totals passing Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	94	88	4975	120	100	-	-	-	-	10	-	18
W	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	148	3	27

Peak movements were 1168E Mar 27, & 2181 E on Mar 28. Elsewhere Shoreham beach recorded 106E on Feb 2 & 85E on Mar 12. Taking a short cut were 30NE over central Brighton on Mar 3.

Autumn passage was recorded from Sep 30 with 20W at Worthing beach and 20 inland over Lancing on the same day. Despite disturbance, 4 visited Beach Green, Goring on Nov 13 & 14.

0173. SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*)

Increasing in numbers. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	8	23	114	-	-	-	-	-	4	-
W	5	9	9	12	34	-	-	-	3	-	7	-

Early max on Lower Adur was 8 on Jan 23. At the end of the year, 2 visited Widewater sporadically during Nov & Dec, and 5 were on the Lower Adur on Sep 22.

0179. WIGEON (*Anas penelope*)

Regular in the area; numbers depending on winter weather conditions. Early year records were 33SW over Sompting on Jan 3, 12 Ferring Rife on Jan 4, and on Feb 21; 2 were on Beeding brooks and 12 on the Upper Adur levels. Few records for late in the year, most notable being 43 on Upper Adur levels on 21 & 22 Dec.

0182. GADWALL (*Anas strepera*)

Regular but uncommon in the area, has possibly bred. 2E Goring beach on Mar 28 was the only record for the early months. The only other record was 2W Worthing beach on Aug 9.

0184. TEAL (*Anas crecca*)

Regular within the area. Noted in the early months on passage at Worthing beach, the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Sep
E	-	-	17	20	4	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	13

3-4 were recorded from the Upper Adur during Feb & early March these being the only records for the year.

0186. MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Common species. Breeding records from Brooklands show a late brood of 15 noted on Sep 7. At Ferring Rife 13 juvs were noted on Apr 10, up to 15 during May, 14 in early June & 11 early July. At the end of the year the max. December count for Brooklands was 71 on the 11th.

0189. PINTAIL (*Anas acuta*)

Regular sightings from both coastal & inland sites. After 3W off Goring Gap on Jan 11 there were no records until spring when Worthing beach recorded 9E on Mar 9 and 35E on Mar 13. There were 2 autumn records from Worthing beach with 1E on Sep 13 & 1 E on Nov 6.

0191. **GARGANEY** (*Anas querquedula*)

Rare passage migrant, 1 or 2 records per year. No records for 1993.

0194. **SHOVELER** (*Anas clypeata*)

Regular from coastal & inland sites, numbers depending on winter weather conditions. Yet another dismal year, recorded from Worthing beach early in the year with a March total of 16E (max. 11E on 27th). 6 were on Ferring Rife on Jan 4th & 5th.

0196. **RED CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*)

No records in 1993

0198. **POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*)

Regular at two sites in winter. A single bird was on Ferring Rife during early March otherwise the monthly maxima at Brooklands and Widewater were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	20	42	-	16	35	37
Widewater	33	40	-	-	35	37

The only passage record was of 2E at Worthing beach on May 11. 2 males present at Woods Mill on Feb 6 were the first records here.

0203. **TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fudigula*)

Regular at two sites in winter, possible breeding occurs in the area. The dearth of records for this species reflects either under recording or a poor year. The only records were from Brooklands with 2 in Jan, 4 in Sep, & 8 in Oct, Nov, & Dec.

0204. **SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*)

Uncommon but regular winter visitor. The only records were of 2 fms on Widewater from 7-11 Jan, and a female on Southwick Canal on Jan 26.

206. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*)

Regular offshore in winter and as passage migrant:- None were reported from Worthing beach during Jan and in Feb there were 19W on Feb 6. A total of 8E passed during March & a total of 61E during April with a peak of 46E on Apr 10.

Elsewhere, 1 was off Widewater on Jan 1, 9 were in the harbour on Feb 14; and on Apr 10 38E at Brighton Marina. Late year monthly totals from Worthing were Sep 9W; Nov 5E; and Dec 7E. Offshore flocks included 4 off Goring on Nov 6,

an imm off Brooklands beach on Dec 27 and 3 in Shoreham harbour throughout Dec.

0212. **LONG TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*)

Rare but regular migrant to area. 2W Worthing beach on Nov 6 was the only record.

0213. **COMMON SCOTER** (*Melanitta nigra*)

Common on spring passage. Widewater had 5 offshore on Jan 10, and 2 on Feb 14. Spring seawatches from Brighton Marina produced peaks of 460E on Apr 9 & 151E on Apr 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	10	1	607	1859	448	-	-	-	6	6	6	14
W	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	27	28	-	-

Peak movements were 303E Mar 28 & 784E Apr 9. Noted again from Aug. 31 with 6W at Worthing beach, but no significant records for the remainder of the year.

0215. **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*)

Fairly regular on passage. An early year record was of 2W Worthing beach on Jan 6. Spring seawatches from Worthing beach produced a poor total of 18E during Apr and 9E for May. Peak movement was 6E May 12. There were 6E off Widewater on Apr 9. The only late year records were of 2 off Hove on Nov 15, and singles passing west Worthing beach on Oct 1 and 31.

0218. **GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*)

Regularly recorded. No early records were received for this species. At Goring beach a female passed E on Oct 24 and a male E there on Oct 30. Single birds were at Brooklands from 7-17 Nov with an imm. male there on Dec 24 & 25. Worthing recorded single birds E on Oct 24 & Nov 6.

0220. **SMEW** (*Mergus albellus*)

Rare winter visitor depending on the severity of the weather. No records for 1993.

0221. **RED BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*)

Common offshore. No unusually high counts were received away from Worthing beach with 43 off Goring Gap on Jan 11 being the highest. Next best was 13 off

Widewater on Mar 7. Counts off Worthing beach produced 69 on Feb 20 & 54 on Mar 11 whilst the monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	63	46	149	37	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	93
W	53	10	34	15	9	-	-	-	5	4	1	2

Peak movements were 58E on Mar 27 & 77E on Mar 28. Last of the spring was 2E on May 25. The first of the autumn was 2W on Sep 8 and the late year peak was 93E on Dec 27. Other records were 30 off Goring on Dec 11 & up to 6 frequenting Widewater during Dec.

0223. GOOSANDER (*Mergus merganser*)

Rare winter visitor. No records for 1993.

0231. HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*)

Rare vagrant. The following have been submitted to the SOS for consideration: 1 over Wild Park on Sep 17 (ADW); 2 over Lancing Ring on Sep 24 (PMB), and 1 over Stamner Park on Oct 18 (ADW,PJW).

0239. RED KITE (*Milvus milvus*)

Vagrant. Reported from Hollingbury Camp but the recorder has yet to receive notification.

0260. MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*)

Rare but regular in area, has become annual. 4 records for the year starting with 1 fm at Worthing beach on May 5. (RAI,PMB,RJS). In August there were singles over Lancing Ring on 25 (PMB) and Sheepcote Valley on 22.(RE) then in September over Sompting downs on 16th & Lancing Ring on 21st (PMB).

0261. HEN HARRIER (*Circus cyaneus*)

Has become rare in the area, no longer annual. The only record was of a single male E over Truleigh Hill on Dec 24 (MCC).

0263. MONTAGU'S HARRIER (*Circus pygargus*)

Very rare in the area. No records for 1993.

0269. SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter nisus*)

Common and well-established. Extremely well reported throughout the area.



Osprey

Possible breeding from 16 sites although no successes have been substantiated. 2 males were ringed at Cissbury. In late April a male which flew into a Goring window died after being fed worms by its "rescuer"!

0287. **BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*)

Regular sightings in the area. An excellent year with records for every month between Jan & Sep. Out of 23 sightings, 9 came from Hollingbury Camp/Wild Park with records in Jan,

Feb, Apr, July, Aug & Sep. Other records have come from Sompting, Golding Barn, Cissbury, Lancing Ring, Storrington, Withdean & Shoreham Sanctuary. There was a possible breeding record for the area.

0301. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Very rare passage migrant. 3 records. One seen coming in off the sea at Worthing on Apr 30 (RAI), another arrival at the same location on May 6 (PMB), and 1W over Broadwater on Sep 17 (RAI). Details forwarded to SOS.

0304. **KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*)

Common and well-established, about 20 pairs in the area. Breeding records were received from 27 locations from which at least 10 young fledged. Migrants were reported on 5 dates between May 3 & 14 which would seem to indicate that the British population is supplemented by Continental birds or that some birds migrate in the autumn from our shores.

The only late year concentrations to be reported were 4 Benfield Valley during Oct and 6 on downland north of Brighton on Nov 16.

0309. **MERLIN** (*Falco columbarius*)

Regular in autumn/winter. The only early year record was of 1E over Shoreham harbour on Jan 4, the next being an arrival at Brighton Marina on May 11. The first autumn record was 1 over Ferring Rife on Aug 25, then 2 singles over Wild Park on Sep 18 & 21. After a further single at Wild Park on Oct 9, 1 flew N over Sompting on Oct 29, 1N over Shoreham Holmbush Centre on Nov 5 & a male with prey over Cissbury on Nov 10. The last record was 1S over St Anne's Wells Gardens, Hove on Dec 14.

0310. **HOBBY** (*Falco subbuteo*)

Regular with probable breeding. Yet another good year for this species. After a very early report of a bird flying N in Worthing on Mar 29 (2nd earliest record for the area, the other being Mar 28) arrival dates were more traditional with 2 Hollingbury Camp on Apr 19 being the next. Recorded spring to autumn from 13 localities the monthly totals were:-

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	5	7	4	-	5	8	1

The October bird refers to a late sighting over Sheepcote Valley on 15th.

0320. **PEREGRINE FALCON** (*Falco peregrinus*)

Increasing within the area. The bird roosting on Southwick power station chimney during late 1992 remained until at least Mar 21. During the spring a juv passed Worthing beach on Apr 25 & there was a single over Sompting downs on May 5.

After a single at Sompting downs on Aug 14 there were singles at Lancing Ring on Aug 26 & 31, 1 at Cissbury on Sep 18 & 25, at Brooklands on Sep 23 and a juv on Oct 31. A bird S over Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct 17 was probably one of 3 seen S over Widewater on the same day. 1 over Woods Mill on Nov 20 was followed by 1 on West Pier, Brighton from Dec 4 to year end. The last was 1N Hollingbury Woods on Dec 14. The best year ever for this species.

0358. **RED LEGGED PARTRIDGE** (*Alectoris rufa*)

Regular but with hybridisation reducing true stock. Few significant records but probably bred adjacent Ferring Rife and Devil's Dyke. The largest covey late year was 7 Ferring Rife on Oct 26.

0367. **GREY PARTRIDGE** (*Perdix perdix*)

Common but declining. Peak covey sizes reported were 19 Sompting downs in Aug with 16 there in Sep, and 8 Ferring Rife on Feb 6. During the breeding season there were five pairs present on Sompting downs, 3 prs Devil's Dyke and 2 prs Wild Park.

0370. **QUAIL** (*Coturnix coturnix*)

Rare but regular summer visitor, numbers depending on migration influxes. 2 calling Steepdown on Jul 19 was the only record for the year.

0394. PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Common. The only count was of 14 Sompting downs on Sep 26. Breeding season counts were 4 prs Devil's Dyke & 2 prs Wild Park.

0407. WATER RAIL (*Rallus aquaticus*)

Regular winter visitor may breed. There were 4 records for the year: 2 Woods Mill Jan 1-10, 1 Shoreham Kennels Feb 23, 1 Ferring Rife Nov 22, & unusually 1 Sheepcote Valley on Nov 27.

0424. MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Common. Specific counts for Ferring Rife produced a max of 6 in Jan & 9 in Feb. Max counts at Brooklands were 35 in Sep & 45 in Dec. 4 pairs bred Woods Mill, 2 prs Falmer pond and at least 1 pair Ferring Rife.

0429. COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Common. Maxima at Brooklands were 60 in Jan, 35 in Feb, 49 in Sep, 65 in Oct, 72 in Nov, and 89 in Dec.

0433. COMMON CRANE (*Grus grus*)

Rare Vagrant. 2 birds were recorded leaving Pagham harbour by two of our members on Oct 24 & the birds were subsequently recorded at Newhaven so they must have passed over our area ! It is a shame that no one reported them!

0450. OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

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

	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	5	32	47	352	-	-	4	23
W	-	-	93	62	-	-	8	52

Peak movements were 53W on Apr 9 & 53E on May 10. Few records were received from the Adur at Shoreham but there was a max count of 92 for Jan, & 48 Feb. The monthly wader counts at Goring Gap revealed average numbers for the site:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
32	33	1	10	12	18	6	34	18

0456. AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avocetta*)

Uncommon but regular passage wader. Spring passage produced 11E Worthing beach and Widewater on Apr 24 with 1E there on May 3 & 4E on May 4. There were 2E off Hove May 10.

0469. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*)

Regular sightings in area. There were 3 records: 1 from a traditional site on Apr 11, 1 arriving from the sea at Worthing on Apr 22 and 1E with 15 Ringed Plover Ferring beach on Sep 2.

0470. **RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius hiaticula*)

Common with breeding pairs. The following are the maximum counts from the Goring wader roost:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	17	80	53	-	-	-	5	1030	10	-	8	44

Adur counts were not consistent enough to tabulate but 120 were noted for Aug & 71 for Sep. Spring and autumn passage was unexceptional with a spring peak of 51E on May 10. Breeding records involved 7 pairs holding territory at Widewater during Mar, and at least 1 pr Southwick during Apr-May. 3 young fledged at Brighton Marina & 2 young on Brooklands beach. Other counts include over 100 at Marine Gardens; 26 at Brighton Marina on Jan 23 with 52 there on Aug 21, & 24 on Brooklands beach on Dec 25.

0477. **KENTISH PLOVER** (*Charadrius alexandrinus*)

Very rare visitor. No records for 1993.

0482. **DOTTEREL** (*Eudromias morinellis*)

Rare passage migrant. No records for 1993.

0485. **GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Pluvialis apricaria*)

Regular winter flocks. Early year records were 4 New Salts farm Jan 2, 15 Ferring Rife on Jan 2, 94 SW over Sompting on Jan 3, 60 Adur levels Jan 28, and 6N over Shoreham harbour on Feb 21.

Some very early autumn records start with 13NW over Sheepecote on Aug 28, followed by 1 Steyning Round Hill on Sep 3, then singles over Lancing Ring on Sep 12 & 24. Later, 1 was at Shoreham Airport Nov 28, & a flock of 12 on the Upper Adur levels on Nov 21 had reached a peak of 71 on Dec 21. In addition 6 were recorded Ferring Rife on Dec 4.

0486. **GREY PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Regular winter flocks. The following table refers to Goring wader roost. The poor end of year totals reflect the change of use for this land:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	94	164	1959	-	-	3	6	-	6	-

Again, there were no consistent counts from the R. Adur. Spring passage from Worthing beach produced a total of 723E for May with a peak of 166E on 10th. Miscellaneous sightings include 1 over Sheepcote Valley on Nov 24, a count of 17 Brooklands beach on Dec 15.

0493. **LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*)

Common but declining as a breeding species. Maximum counts in the early months were 3000 New Salts farm on Feb 14, 600 Ferring Rife Jan 21 & 250 Highdown on Jan 31. Overhead flocks included 100SE Hollingbury Camp on Jan 1, & 568 over Sompting Jan 3.

During the breeding season pairs or displaying birds were noted from Highdown, Steyning Round Hill, & Steepdown. Post-breeding flocks included 109 New Salts farm on Jun 26 & 333 Shoreham Airfield on Jul 26. Late year maxima between October & December were 1500 New Salts/Airfield, 200 Ferring Rife & 2000 Upper Adur levels. A flock of 90 flew NE over Hollingbury Camp on Dec 4.

0496. **KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*)

Regular passage wader. Noted at Worthing beach on seawatches during Apr (3E), May (803E), & Sep (12E), with peaks of 307E on May 8, 177E on May 9 & 197E on May 10. There were 8 Widewater beach on May 9. In autumn singles recorded from the Lower Adur on Aug 28 & Sep 9. Later 2 reported from lower Adur on Nov 6 & 14, & a single there on Nov 27, 4 over Sheepcote Valley on Nov 20 was unusual.

0497. **SANDERLING** (*Calidris alba*)

Common winter wader. Seawatching from Worthing beach produced records for Mar (8E), Apr (6E), & May (1087E) with peaks of 266E on May 10 & 277E on May 12. Recorded from Goring wader roost as the following table shows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
22	55	87	-	2	11	1	-	38	60

The July record refers to 2 birds noted on 28th. Miscellaneous beach counts for the year include 20 Brooklands beach Mar 25, 28 Widewater beach Mar 27, & 46 Brooklands beach Dec 25.

0501. **LITTLE STINT** (*Calidris minuta*)

Unusual but regular passage wader. In spring a single at Widewater on May 8 & 16. A good flock of 7 there on Sep 7 had reduced to 3 by 9 & 10 but 8 reported there on 12 & 19. Singles on lower Adur on Sep 9 & Sep 14.

0509. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*Calidris ferruginea*)

Unusual passage wader. 1 Lower Adur Aug 28, Sep 9 & Sep 19.

0510. **PURPLE SANDPIPER** (*Calidris maritima*)

Small wintering flocks of up to 8 individuals. The only early year record was 3 at Shoreham harbour on Jan 10, & 3 Palace Pier, Brighton on Jan 23. Late year records were 2 at Shoreham harbour from Nov 12 to year end; 4 Brighton Marina on Dec 4 & 2 Palace Pier, Brighton also on Dec 4.

0512. **DUNLIN** (*Calidris alpina*)

Most common wader species in area. Monthly maxima from Goring wader roost were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	250	232	260	-	-	-	4	24	4	-	8	72

Spring passage was noted from Worthing beach during Mar (33E), Apr (103E), & May (709E) with peaks of 290E on May 10 & 180E on May 12. In autumn there was a monthly total of 34W for Sep. Miscellaneous counts include 939 on Widewater on May 12 & 105 Brooklands beach on Dec 27.

0517. **RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*)

Regular passage migrant in small numbers. Passage birds at Worthing beach were 1E May 5 & 2E May 22. In autumn there were 9 Adur Recreation ground on Sep 17, 2 Shoreham airfield on Oct 7, & 3 New Salts farm on Sep 9. Other sightings in the vicinity around this time probably refer to the same birds.

0518. **JACK SNIFE** (*Lymnocyrtes minimus*)

Small regular winter flock. After 4 on Ferring Rife on Jan 1, there were variable counts of 1-2 birds through to Mar 13 & thereafter a definite single bird until Mar 29. An unusual record of a bird flushed from an arable field in Wild Park occurred on Oct 15 & the Ferring Rife birds (up to 2) were present from Nov 4 to the end of the year.

0519. **SNIFE** (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Common outside breeding season. Early counts include a maximum of 20 on Ferring Rife for Jan & Feb with 7 still present on Mar 13. Elsewhere there were 37 Adur saltings on Jan 19 & 100 New Salts farm on Feb 1.

After 2 near Beeding on Aug 30 there were 5 Lancing Ring on Aug 30 & 1E Goring Gap on Sep 28; and by the end of the year maxima at Ferring Rife had reached 15; for the Upper Adur levels 200, & for Adur Saltings 219 on Dec 30.

0529. **WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax rusticola*)

Unusual but regular throughout the year. As in 1992 there was no hard weather hence only 5 records. Singles were at Woods Mill on Jan 19 & Feb 14, & in Shoreham Sanctuary on Mar 10. Two birds were flushed from Hollingbury Camp on Oct 7 & a single at Sheepcote on Nov 20.

0532. **BLACK TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*)

Regular but uncommon in area. Only 2 records: 1 E Worthing beach on May 6 & 2N over Hollingbury on Mar 22.

0534. **BAR TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica*)

Common on passage. The records from Worthing beach were 1027E for Apr and 4766E for May with peaks of 854E on May 2 & 978E on May 10. Independently, Brighton Marina recorded 275 E on Apr 30. Singles were recorded from Goring Gap on Jan 9, Feb 6, Mar 2 & Dec 4. There were no other records.

0538. **WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Common on spring sea-watches. First of the year was 1E Worthing beach on Apr 8. Spring passage here is shown below:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	159	1110	-	-	-	-	-
W	30	14	-	-	1	1	-

Peak movements were 309E on May 6 & 288E on May 7 with the last on May 10. Records from the Lower Adur include 5 on Apr 20 & 20 on Apr 25; and inland a single over Wild Park on Apr 30 & 4 over Hollingbury Camp on May 8.

First autumn record was 1W Worthing beach on Aug 11; then 3 in a field near Wild Park on Aug 26, and lastly, 1W Worthing beach on Sep 8.

0541. **CURLEW** (*Numenius arquata*)

Common on passage. Apart from 2 at New Salts Farm on Feb 14 & 1 on the Upper Adur levels during Dec, all records have come from seawatches at Worthing beach where the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	2	35	7	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	1	-	1	6	1	4	2	-	2	-	-	-

Peak movements were 13E on Mar 1 & 12E on Mar 9.

0545. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*)

Unusual but regular migrant. There were two records for the year: 1E Worthing beach on May 11, & 2N over Goring on Sep 17.

0546. **REDSHANK** (*Tringa totanus*)

Common. Very under reported for 1993 with no consistent recording from any location. The regular albino bird on the River Adur was still present.

0548. **GREENSHANK** (*Tringa nebularia*)

Regular passage species. After 1E Worthing beach on Apr 28 recorded on seawatches there during May with peaks of 25E on May 5, 11E on May 9 & 12E on May 10. Elsewhere, a single passed Brighton Marina on May 11, & a single N over Widewater on May 9.

First autumn record was 1S over Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 14, & probably the same bird noted at Widewater next day. Recorded from Widewater until Sep 26 with varying numbers peaking at 4 on Sep 7. Birds seen at the Flood Arch & Lower Adur during Aug & Sep could have been from the same flock. The last was a single at the Flood Arch on Oct 5th.

0553. **GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa ochropus*)

Regular wintering species. In the early months 1-2 were present in the Upper Adur valley during Feb, a single was noted on a small trout pond at Wiston on Mar 26, & further singles reported from Sandgate sand pit on Apr 11 & Woods Mill on May 6.

Single birds again appeared on the Upper Adur levels from Aug 12 with birds being recorded there until year end with a max of 4 on Oct 29 & 3 during Dec. A further single was on Ferring Rife on Nov 20.

0554. WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*)

Rare passage migrant. No records for 1993.

0556. COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

Common passage wader. An over wintering bird was present on the Lower Adur (near the cement works) during Jan & Feb. Noted at Southwick beach Mar 12 & Apr 12; Widewater on Apr 19, 29, & 2 on May 3; Brooklands on Apr 9; 2 Brighton Marina May 9 & 2 Woods Mill on May 13. Birds passing Worthing beach between Apr 10 & May 12 involving a total of 12E with a peak of 6E on May 12.

After 5 in the Lower Adur on Jul 18 there was a single at Ferring Rife on Jul 28 with 2 there on 29 & 30, & 2W off Widewater also on Jul 30. Later a single in Shoreham harbour on Oct 2.

0561. TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Increasing species away from the coast. Noted on sea watches from Worthing during Apr (11E), May (317E) & Oct (6W). Peak movement was 63E on May 10. Monthly max for Goring was 6 during Mar, & other counts have included 8 Brooklands beach on Mar 25, & 26 Southwick beach on Apr 12 with 12 there on Apr 29. At the end of the year there were 7 on Brooklands beach on Dec 24 & 21 on Shoreham beach on Dec 29.

0565. GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

Rare visitor, less than annual. None recorded in 1993.

0566. POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

Regular on spring passage in varying numbers. A below average year with a total of 33E from Worthing beach between May 5 & 17 comprising the following:- 2E May 5, 10E May 9, 11E May 10, 5E May 11, 4E May 13 & 1E May 17. At Hove there were 6E noted on May 10.

0567. ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

Regular spring/autumn. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were as follows:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	39	64	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	2	-	-

Peak movements were 22E Apr 24 & 13E on May 10. The last were 2E on May 30. Spring records from other sites were 1E Widewater on Apr 9 & 1E Brighton Marina on May 14.

After 1E Brighton Marina on Aug 21, an unexceptional autumn except for 4 off Brighton Marina on Sep 8. The latest were a single off Shoreham beach on Oct 2, & 2 W Worthing on Oct 5.

0569. **GREAT SKUA** (*Stercorarius skua*)

Regular visitor. A poor spring with only 4 records of single birds east from Worthing (Apr 20, 21, & May 22), & Brighton Marina (May 14). In autumn singles west from Worthing noted only on Aug 9 & 31. A disabled bird beached at Widewater on Sep 14 was taken into care at Lancing & was still in a cardboard box on Sep 21. Its ultimate fate is unknown !

0575. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*Larus melanocephalus*)

Increasing numbers within the area over 20 records in 1992. At Worthing beach there was 1 2nd year bird E on Jan 6; 1 2nd year E on Apr 8 & 1st year E on Apr 11. In May a total of 6 passed on 5 dates between May 4 & 17 all of which were 1st year birds. In autumn there were 2 (adult & 1st year) on Oct 3.

Away from this site a 1st year in Shoreham harbour on Jan 4; 1 ad. Brighton Marina Jan 21; 1 2nd year Goring beach Mar 14; 2 2nd years Lower Adur Apr 3 & 25 (almost in adult plumage); & 1 1st year Adur saltings May 28.

A ringed bird noted as 1st year at Shoreham Fort on Jan 16 was later noted from Oct-Dec as a 2nd year bird. The majority of late year records of a 2nd year bird variously sighted between the harbour & Widewater during autumn may refer to this bird although an unringed 2nd year bird was at Shoreham fort on Nov 20. Other late summer/autumn records were 1 ad. Palace Pier on Jul 12; 1 Brooklands on Sep 21; 1 2nd year Goring Gap on Oct 6; 1 ad. Broadwater on Dec 18; & 1 2nd year Broadwater on Dec 24.

0578. **LITTLE GULL** (*Larus minutus*)

Regular on spring/autumn passage. A better year than 1992 with spring passage for Worthing beach producing 82E during May but a dismal 1E for Apr. Peak movement was 36E on May 10. Autumn passage was noted on Aug 21 (3W), Oct 5 (13E), Oct 6 (5E) & Oct 9 (1E).

The only spring records away from this site were 4E Brighton Marina on May 10 & 2E there on May 11. Autumn records involved a single on Brooklands Aug 24; 1 imm Brighton Marina Sep 12/13; 1 Brooklands Sep 21; 2 ads off Shoreham harbour Oct 7-9; 4 Brooklands Oct 2 & 7 with 3 there on Oct 9; & 2 ads Goring beach on Oct 30.

0579. **SABINE'S GULL** (*Larus sabini*)

Extremely rare vagrant. No records for 1993.

0582. **BLACK HEADED GULL** (*Larus ridibundus*)

Common. Spring passage at Worthing beach produced a total of 1066E for Apr & 2805E in May with a peak of 1031E on May 10. Other counts include 612 mainly east off Brighton Marina on Jan 23 with 108E there on Apr 25; a winter peak of 235 on Ferring Rife during Jan; 721 Ferring beach on Jan 24; & a winter peak of 200 Wild Park during Jan. A post-breeding flock off 77 was noted at Goring Gap on Jul 3 & winter peaks at Ferring Rife were 220 in Oct, 260 in Nov & 400 in Dec. A total of 1000+ were recorded from Sheepcote on Dec 18.

0590. **COMMON GULL** (*Larus canus*)

Common in winter. Worthing beach total was 476E in April peaking at 325E on 12th. A flock of 200 roosted on Worthing beach on Apr 28. Counts received included 604 Ferring beach on Jan 24; 24 Brighton Marina Jan 23; a max of 25 Wildpark during Jan; 600 Adur between railway & toll bridges Feb 17; & 360 near Cuckoo Corner on Nov 9. This species is still seriously under recorded.

0591. **LESSER BLACK BACKED GULL** (*Larus fuscus*)

Increasing as breeding species within the towns. Worthing beach monthly seawatch totals in spring were 22E Apr & 51E May. At least 2 pairs held territory on rooftops in central Brighton May/June, & possibly in the Hollingbury area. There were widespread reports from our area, the most significant being of 75 on Worthing beach on Sep 10.

0592. **HERRING GULL** (*Larus argentatus*)

Expanding breeding population. Early year counts were 993 mainly W off Brighton Marina on Jan 23 & 101 on Ferring beach on Jan 24. Breeding records were of 8 pairs on rooftops in the Hollingbury area, 1 pair in Hangleton & another pr successfully raised 3 young on a member's chimney in Southwick thanks to her efforts to fend off the local cats! 23 prs attempted to breed at Beechams but the nests were destroyed.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian nominate race *L. a. argentatus* were noted on the Adur on Nov 21 (RJF), at Brooklands on Dec 24 (PMB), & Worthing beach on Dec 24 (PMB). Details sent to the S.O.S.

YELLOW LEGGED GULL (*Larus michahellis*)

Regular autumn flock. No spring records but recorded on Adur in Jun (2), July (2) & Aug (9) A single was at Goring Gap on July , & 2 on Adur saltings on Sep 5. Later, 1 Adur Dec 4.

0598. **ICELAND GULL** (*Larus glaucooides*)

Rare winter visitor. No records for 1993.

0599. **GLAUCOUS GULL** (*Larus hyperboreus*)

Rare winter visitor. No records for 1993.

0600. **GREAT BLACK BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*)

Common. Significant counts received have included 128 on Adur saltings on Jun 26, 101 Goring Gap on Jul 29, 247 Adur saltings on Nov 6 & 250 Shoreham airport on Nov 28.

0602. **KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Fairly common on passage, breeding colony just outside our area. Noted in the seawatch log at Worthing beach the monthly totals were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	13	-	45	14	114	-	8	21	-	1	1
W	96	6	6	10	49	-	4	2	-	-	-

Peak movements was 44W on Jan 13; 29W on Jan 6 & 28E on Mar 1. Regularly noted in Brighton Marina with a max of 26 on Aug 21

0611. **SANDWICH TERN** (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

Common on Passage. First of the year was 1E at Worthing beach on Mar 12. The monthly totals of passage birds at this location were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	49	1104	1338	4	-	23	98	3
W	4	86	91	-	-	86	72	-

Peak movements were 229E Apr 24. Last of the year were 3E on Oct 2.

Brighton Marina recorded 30E & on Apr 25 & off Palace Pier were 45W on Sep 8. Other records included 3 on Widewater on Sep 4 & 8; 5 on Goring wader roost on Sep 20, and, unusually, 1 on Sompting brooks Aug 13.

0614. **ROSEATE TERN** (*Sterna dougallii*)

Very rare on passage. 2 records from Worthing beach: 1E May 11 (PMB) & 2E May 12 (JAN).

0615. **COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*)

Common on Passage. Birds specifically identified in spring were 2 Brighton Marina Apr 10. Others were 10 Adur saltings Sep 3 with 2 there Sep 5; 6 Brighton Marina on Sep 12; 6 Widewater beach Sep 22; & 4E Worthing beach Oct 2.

0616. **ARCTIC TERN** (*Sterna paradisaea*)

Common on Passage but rarely split from Common Tern. 2 specific records: 29 Hove (11 & 18) on May 10 & 16E Brighton Marina Sep 13 (both RJF).

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

Recorded from Apr 9 from Worthing beach the monthly totals were:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	-	718	7096	-	-	47	512	-
W	-	36	20	-	-	145	146	3

Peak movements were 1547E May 10, 1319E May 12, & 1693E May 13. Last for the year were 3W on Oct 2. No records were received from other localities.

0624. **LITTLE TERN** (*Sterna albifrons*)

Fairly common but becoming rarer. After 1E on the very late date of Apr 20, a total of 488E were recorded from Worthing beach with a peak of 155E May 10. Away from this site there were 8 off Brighton Marina May 9 & 18E May 10. 1E Worthing beach Sep 14 was the only autumn record!

0627. **BLACK TERN** (*Sterna niger*)

Regular on passage. A better spring with 1E Worthing beach Apr 23 & a total of 184E for May with peaks of 77E on May 10 & 60E May 12. Another spring record was of 14E Hove May 10.

Autumn records from Worthing beach were 4W on Aug 21, 2 offshore Aug 23, 2E Sep 8 & 1E Sep 12.

0634. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*)

Regular in winter months. At Worthing beach there were 2 singles W in Jan and a single E in May. Singles offshore noted on Jan 5, 23 & May 12.

Elsewhere 1 off Hove Jan 4; 1 off Lancing Jan 7; 1 off Widewater Jan 8; 1 Brighton Marina Jan 23; 1 Shoreham harbour Feb/Mar; & 3 off Brighton Marina Mar 6.

0636. **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*)

Regular offshore. Sea-watches from Worthing beach recorded singles W Jan 6 & 13, also on May 6 & 26. A total of 11E passed during May with a peak of 5E May 8. Birds were recorded offshore May 12 & 25. 1E Sep 11 was the only late year record. Elsewhere there was a single off Brighton Marina Apr 8; 1E there May 11; & 2 off Goring beach Oct 24.

0647. **LITTLE AUK** (*Alle alle*)

Rare late-autumn migrant. 1 below the west arm of Brighton Marina Oct 16 died overnight (MO).

0654. **PUFFIN** (*Fratercula arctica*)

Rare in the area. None recorded in 1993.

AUK SPECIES All species of auks not specifically recorded at Worthing beach were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	11	-	-	-	59	3	12	-	25
W	6	-	-	-	22	8	1	-	3

Peak movements were 7W May 5 & 7E May 17. The only other record was of 15W Shoreham harbour Jan 5.

0668. **STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*)

Common breeding species. In the breeding season 1pr Castle Goring, 1 pr Devil's Dyke, & 3 prs Wild Park. Few counts received except for 51 Wild Park Jan/early Feb; 6 Withdean Park Jan; & 8 Devil's Dyke Aug 30.

0670. WOOD PIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

Extremely common. 40 pairs Wild Park & 14 prs Devil's Dyke. Counts during the year were 47 Brighton Cemeteries for Jan & 70 for Feb; 140 Wild Park Feb 8; 48 Withdean Park Feb; & 442 Ferring Rife Nov 1. Visible movement from Wild Park on 3 dates in Oct totalled 35W (16th) 160W (20th), & 150W (27th).

0684. COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

Common. 16 pairs bred Wild Park, & 6 prs Lea Farm, Patching. Wild Park counts were max 12 in Jan, 15 in Feb & 66 on Oct 2, whilst max for Withdean Park were 13 Jan & 21 Feb. 42 were on Sompting brooks Sep 15 & a leucistic bird on Lancing Ring Sep 16.

0687. TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

Declining as breeding a species. First of the year was a single at Woods Mill Apr 12, thereafter singles at Shepcote Valley & Shoreham Apr 24 & Shoreham Airfield Apr 25. 4 flew NE over Worthing beach May 9 & a dishevelled specimen at Southwick Hill Jun 12 appeared to be a new arrival.

No breeding records have been received & autumn passage was poor involving 46 birds, 28 of which were recorded from Sompting downs. The last of the year was at Wild Park on Oct 2nd.

0712. RING-NECKED PARAKEET (*Psittacula krameri*)

Small breeding population which may be in terminal decline. The Hollingbury Wood population of 7 birds had diminished to 3-4 after the spring (the local press covered a story of shooting by travellers!). 4 were recorded at Wild Park during Jan & Feb & 1 pr bred. Elsewhere, a single in Buckingham Park Shoreham on Jan 4; 1 West Worthing allotments Mar 12; 1E Worthing beach May 6; 1 Lancing Ring Sep 19; & 1 near Woods Mill Nov 4.

0724. CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)

Common breeding species. First of the year was a single at Woods Mill Apr 12 & then no more until 1 Wild Park Apr 26. There were very few early May records & birds were present during the breeding season at Highdown, Clapham Common & Wiston. A fledgling was noted in a Lancing garden attended by a Dunnock until the bird flew.

Autumn records come from Sompting downs (singles Aug 1 & 21), Hollingbury allotments (1 Aug 21) & Lancing Ring (1 Sep 2). A single reported from Widewater on Oct 17th would be a very late record indeed.

0735. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*)

Small breeding population in the area with a possible three pairs. 1 pr probably bred in the Henfield area, & possibly 1 pr north of Brighton. Singles noted from Michelgrove Mar 14, Wild Park Sep 1; & Woods Mill on various dates. A corpse recovered by Shoreham toll bridge Oct 31 was sent away to a research institute.

0757. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*)

Small breeding population in excess of ten pairs. Breeding pairs were noted at Nepcote, Findon Valley, Devil's Dyke & possibly New Erringham Farm & Maybridge. Birds noted at Golding Barn (Jan-Mar & again Sep-Nov) may have bred locally. Odd sightings of single birds include Mill Hill Jan 4; North Portslade Feb 18; Steepdown July 22; Woods Mill Aug 29 & Shoreham Sanctuary Oct 27. A pair was present on Sompting downs during the autumn.

0761. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*)

Breeds in both urban & rural areas within the area. For the second year running a pair successfully raised 3 young at Lancing Ring. Breeding & possible breeding records have been received from Woods Mill, Ferring Rife, Cissbury, Findon Valley & Portslade. The success of the regular Southwick birds is unknown due to disturbance at the site. Other records include sightings from Goring, Lancing, Hollingbury Camp & Wild Park.

0767. **LONG EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*)

Small winter population. One bird was present at a traditional downland roost during February & another was present on one date in November near Brighton.

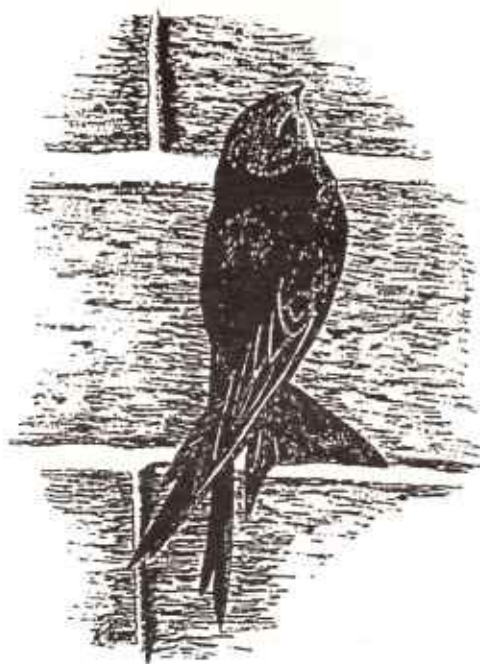
0768. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*Asio flammeus*)

A small winter population. After a single on Beeding brooks during January, there were at least 2 present by early Feb & 3 were noted Feb 14. No records have been received after Feb 23. There were singles at Sheepcote Valley Feb 27 & Apr 24, although there are unconfirmed reports of 4 there during Jan.

In the autumn a single was noted around Hollingbury allotments between Sep 19 & Nov 6, & a single over Wild Park Dec 1st.

0778. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*)

Rare summer migrant, formerly bred. Five records: 1 in from the sea at East Worthing on May 10 (JAN) 1 Brighton Marina on the same date (RS), & 1 churring briefly mid-afternoon of Jun 13 at Tenanby Down (JAN). A single at Wild Park Aug 25 may have been the same noted there Sep 3. (GLC).



0795. **SWIFT** (*Apus apus*)

Common and widespread in the area. Two very early records from Shoreham were singles Apr 8 & 10. Other April records came from Sheepcote Valley & Storrington Apr 24, & Woods Mill & Hollingbury Camp Apr 25. Arrivals were generally later than usual with Worthing beach recording peak arrival of 79 May 11; 200 Sompting brooks May 15; & Hollingbury Camp peak of 100 May 27.

During the breeding season a colony of 18 adults was noted in Steyning High Street. Counts during July/Aug included ads & juvs over Broadwater Jul 4 with 300 SW there Aug 1 & 300 assembling there Aug 8.

Also, 1157 at Sompting Aug 1 & 211 at Lancing Ring Aug 7. Scattered records received up to Sep 22 & a very late record of a bird E over Southwick Oct 9.

0798. **ALPINE SWIFT** (*Apus melba*)

Extremely rare vagrant with only 4 records. A bird seen over Sompting downs in Aug (PMB) has been accepted by the BBRC and constitutes our fourth record.

0831. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*)

Small breeding population with an influx in late autumn/winter. Very well reported throughout the year especially from lower Adur/New Salt's farm/Flood Arch & environs. The breeding pair at Woods Mill may have accounted for the Upper Adur sightings.

Away from the Adur valley, individuals were in Shoreham Sanctuary Aug 8 & Sep 19, Brighton Marina Sep 26 & Oct 6; Ferring Rife Oct 30, Widewater Nov 6 & Dec 5, & Aldrington Basin 23/24 Nov.

0846. **HOPOE** (*Upupa epops*)

Rare passage migrant with one record per year on average. A record of a bird at Wiston on Mar 23 (CJF).

0848. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*)

Rare passage migrant. Singles recorded at Sheepcote Valley Aug 28 & the Mumbles Sep 26.

0856. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*)

Well represented in the area. Breeding records came from Findon Valley (2 prs), Devil's Dyke & Wild Park. Juveniles were noted from Sompting downs, Lancing Ring, Waterhall & Woods Mill. Two ads. with 2 juvs were noted in a Lancing garden Jul 19. Outside the breeding season, singles or pairs noted from 8 locations except for a record of 4 on Newtimber Hill, Aug 30.

0876. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*)

Well represented in the area. Breeding records were 2 prs Cissbury/Findon Valley, 1 pr Findon Church & 1 pr using a nest box in Durrington. Possible breeding at Woods Mill. Recorded otherwise from a diverse array of habitat across the area, but regularly from Findon (feeding on fat) & Ferring Rife, and occasionally from Hollingbury Woods/Wild Park.

0887. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos minor*)

Scarce may breed in the area. Another reasonable year for Woods Mill with singles Feb 20, Oct 3, Oct 29 & Nov 1. Other singles were at Ferring Rife Feb 17; Lancing Ring Aug 6, Sep 5 & Sep 29; and Sompting downs Aug 26.

0974. **WOODLARK** (*Lallula arborea*)

Rare Migrant. A single at Hollingbury Camp Sep 18 (PJW,IL) & 2 in an arable field adjacent to Wild Park Oct 11/16 with one remaining on 17th (PJW et al).

0976. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*)

Common. The mild weather produced no records of significantly sized flocks. Scattered breeding records were 18 prs Southwick Hill; 11 prs Highdown; 7 prs Wild Park, & 3 prs Devil's Dyke. Visible migration produced 145 over Hollingbury Camp Oct 15 with 100 over there Oct 17. Records of other flocks of 100 birds received from Sheepcote Oct 16, downland north of Brighton Nov 6, & upper Adur levels Dec 12.

0981. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*)

Breeds in the area with a population of under 100 pairs. First of the year was 1 at Widewater Apr 1 then the only other records received were of 6 Sandgate Apr 18, 1 off Brighton Marina Apr 25, & 33 arriving at Worthing beach May 10. There were no breeding records received.

Migration between Jul 31 & Oct 9 included totals of 705 for Sompting; 784 for Lancing Ring but only 30 for Hollingbury Camp. The last bird on Oct 9th was 1E over Shoreham harbour.

0992. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*)

Common summer visitor:-2 over Hollingbury Mar 14 would be very early records indeed. More typical were a single Ferring Rife Apr 10, 2 East Worthing beach & 1 over Broadwater Apr 12. Large influxes late Apr/early May included 50W Brighton Marina May 5; 595 arriving Worthing beach Apr 10 with 141 there May 11. Breeding records involved 35 prs Saddlescombe farm, 1 pr New Salt's farm & 1 pr Patcham Place.



Peak autumn movements were 3590

Lancing Ring Sep 2 & 3226 Sompting

Sep 19. Hollingbury Camp recorded 4643 between Jul 31 & Nov 10. Smaller October flocks included 100E St Ann's Wells Garden Oct 7 but otherwise numbers were considerably less. The last was at Hollingbury Camp Nov 10.

1001. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*)

Common. First of the year was at Woods Mill Apr 29 & a single at Widewater May 5. Spring migration was very poor & breeding was only reported from Southwick & Broadwater. Peak autumn movements were totals of 5376 at Sompting in Sep with a peak of 2876 on 16th, & 4698 at Lancing Ring in Sep. A total of 1500 passed Widewater Sep 28; 375E Goring in 5 minutes Oct 2 & the Wild Park total was 6500 between Aug 8 & Oct 28, this being the last date. A total of 298 were taped lured at Cissbury with peaks of 104 on 18 Sep & 109 the following day.

1005. **TAWNY PIPIT** (*Anthus campestris*)

Very rare autumn migrant. A record of 2 birds in our area on Sep 1 has been forwarded for consideration.

1009. **TREE PIPIT** (*Anthus trivialis*)

Fairly common on passage. Spring records came only from Hollingbury Camp with a single Apr 16 & 3 other singles to Apr 24. There were no breeding records. The autumn total for Wild Park between Aug 24 & Sep 30, our last record, was 93. Other high counts came from Sompting & Lancing Ring. Elsewhere were 4 Newtimber Hill Aug 20; a total of 7 on 4 dates Cissbury, an extremely low total; & 1 Whitehawk Hill Sep 29. Please exercise caution when counting this species to avoid duplication.

1011. **MEADOW PIPIT** (*Anthus pratensis*)

Common. Very few noted Jan & Feb with no large flocks reported. Breeding records involved 12 prs Devil's Dyke, 5 prs Cissbury, 2 prs Wild Park & a pair displaying on Worthing Golf Course. Autumn records involved a total of 1419 at Hollingbury Camp between Sep 5 & Oct 27; a Sep total of 1095 at Sompting; 112 at Brooklands Sep 23; 30 Ferring Rife Sep 26; 55E Brighton Cemeteries Sep 29; 51 Adur Rec Oct 2 & 60 Goring Gap the same day.

1014. **ROCK PIPIT** (*Anthus petrosus*)

Regular winter resident. Present at the usual coastal sites in the early months, with 3 Lancing beach Jan 3; 8 at Shoreham harbour Jan 8; & 4 Worthing beach Mar 6. After 2 at Brooklands Sep 17 & 3 there Sep 23 the Shoreham harbour birds returned on Oct 2 with 3 birds increasing to 5 during Nov/Dec. Along Widewater/Lancing beaches up to 8 birds present from Oct 16 & a single regular Goring beach from Oct 24.

1015. **WATER PIPIT** (*Anthus spinoletta*)

Unusual but regular visitor. None reported in 1993.

1017. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla flava*)

Common on passage. Under-reported in spring with the only record being of a single at Hollingbury Camp May 8. Present in the breeding season on Ferring Rife but no further details.

A good autumn passage from Sompting with totals 109 Aug & 391 Sep. The Sep total for Brooklands was 465 with a peak of 74 Sep 5; & totals at Lancing Ring were 150 Aug & 130 Sep. Hollingbury Camp recorded 36 from Aug 21-Sep 23.

A good October with 74 on Adur Rec. Oct 2 with 5 in the area between 5 -9. The last was a single at Ferring Rife Oct 31.

A bird showing characteristics of the central European race (Blue headed Wagtail) was reported from Brooklands on Sep 12 (PMB). Details forwarded to the S.O.S.

1019. **GREY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*)

Noted on passage may breed. Wintering birds included 2 Ferring Rife Jan/Feb; 1 Steyning Jan-Mar; 2 Highdown Jan 31; 1 Central Brighton rooftops during Jan & 1 near Woods Mill Feb 14.

A bird was present on Ferring Rife late in the breeding season. Autumn passage involved 42 birds from diverse habitats including Central Brighton, a Findon Valley garden & Shoreham Sanctuary. After 3 on Ferring Rife Sep 26, 2 were noted to the end of the year. Elsewhere, scattered singles from a variety of habitats.

1020. **PIED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba*)

Common with large winter roosts. Early year counts were 22 Lancing/Widewater beaches Jan 8; 9 Southwick beach Jan 30; & 60W Southwick Power Station Feb 14. During the breeding season 3 prs Southwick & 1 pr Patcham. Autumn counts were 59 Sompting Sep 26; 25 Southwick Sep 30 & 21 at Wild Park Oct 8 was the highest ever count. No late year roost counts have been received. Records of White Wagtail were from Brooklands on Sep 15 & 23 (PMB) & Stamner Park Nov 11 (RJF).

1066. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

Common. Early year counts were 42 Wild Park in Jan & 58 in Feb; 33 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 30 in Feb; & 17 Withdean Park in Jan & 20 in Feb. Breeding season counts were 112 pairs Wild Park, 40 prs Devil's Dyke, & 3 prs Southwick Hill. Pairs also noted at Broadwater, Ferring Rife, & Woods Mill.

1084. **DUNNOCK** (*Prunella modularis*)

Common. Counts in the early months were 36 Wild Park Jan & 43 in Feb; Brighton Cemeteries 13 Jan, 11 Feb; & Withdean Park 13 Jan Feb 14.. In the breeding season 66 prs Wild Park, 21 prs Devil's Dyke, & 3 prs Southwick Hill.

1099. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*)

Common:- Early year counts were 102 Wild Park in Jan & 107 in Feb; 44

Withdean Park Jan & 32 in Feb, & 44 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & Feb. Breeding season counts were 131 pairs Wild Park & 44 prs Devil's Dyke. Two autumn counts were 43 Sompting Sep 25 & 127 Lancing Ring on the same day.

1104. **NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)

Fairly widespread but declining as a breeding species. First of the year was at Woods Mill on Apr 11, then 1 Old Erringham farm Apr 26 & 2 Wiston Apr 29. The Warden reports no breeding at Woods Mill; elsewhere only possible breeding from Sompting downs. Autumn records were of singles at Lancing Ring Aug 24, Aug 30 & Sep 11. 2 birds were ringed in the area during the year.

1121. **BLACK REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*)

Fairly regular in autumn/winter, possibly a nesting pair in the area. During the early months a total of at least 14 birds from 5 coastal & 4 sites. These included at least 3 different birds in the Goring Gap area and the same for Worthing beach.

Autumn records were of singles at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 18 & Oct 16, Sompting Sep 25, & Wild Park area on 3 dates in Oct. Two were on Hollingbury allotments on Oct 27/28. Winter records were of 2 at Brighton Marina Nov 20 & singles at Shoreham Fort all Dec, Southwick Dec 22 & Widewater from Dec 13 - 17.

1122. **REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Fairly common on passage especially in autumn. 5 spring records with singles at Hollingbury Golf Course on Apr 10, Ladywells Apr 12, Southwick Hill Apr 17, Wild Park Apr 27 & Sompting downs May 7.

Noted between Aug & Oct with a total of over 200 birds recorded mainly from Lancing Ring & Sompting. Wild Park recorded 28 from Aug 3 to Oct 1. Nine were ringed in the area with 5 of those at Cissbury in the first three weeks of Sep. The last was in a Worthing garden between Sep 27 & Oct 2.

1137. **WHINCHAT** (*Saxicola rubetra*)

Common on autumn passage. First of the year was 1 at Goring Apr 2. After singles on Ferring Rife & Shoreham Airport Apr 20, there were 8 records which included 4 inland at Hollingbury Camp May 11.

Autumn passage involved 448 birds between August & the last at Goring Gap Oct 10. These included totals from Sompting of 73 in Aug & 146 in Sep; Lancing

Ring of 18 in Aug & 30 in Sep; & a total of 84 at Hollingbury Camp between Aug 21 & Sep 24. Other counts were 10 Cissbury Aug 30, 11 Sheepcote Valley Aug 31, & 12 Goring Gap Sep 9. Three were ringed in the recording area in 1993.

1139. STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

Regular in winter; breeds. In the early months a total of 19 were reported from both inland & coastal sites. All singles or pairs except Adur levels on Feb Feb 14. During the breeding season a pair was recorded carrying nest material at Sheepcote Valley & a male was present at Cissbury during June but no further details received.

Many wintering birds had returned to traditional sites by late Sep/early Oct but often supplemented by obvious migrants producing a confusing picture. A minimum of 55 were reported between late Aug/late Nov, from 9 inland sites & 6 coastal site. The December pattern remained similar to that of Jan-Mar.

1146. WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

Common on passage. First of the year was 1 Hollingbury Camp Mar 8 followed by 1 Widewater Mar 14. Many observers reported an unexceptional spring & the highest count was 15 Goring Gap Mar 20 with 6 there Mar 22. Other flocks were of 5 or less throughout April but 6 Southwick Hill May 2.

First of the autumn were 4 Goring Gap on Jul 31. Between early Aug & the last at Ferring Rife on Oct 20 a total of 494 were noted which included totals for Sompthing of 160 in Aug & 141 in Sep, & 104 for Hollingbury Camp from Aug 31 to Oct 7. Other maxima were 12 Southwick Hill on Aug 25, 8 Benfield Valley Aug 30 & 7 Sheepcote Valley on Aug 28. 1 was ringed in the local area last year.

1186. RING OUZEL (*Turdus torquatus*)

Regular on autumn passage. An excellent year for records starting with a male at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 3 & 8 there on Apr 25 & 5 May 4. Autumn passage between Sep 16 & the last at Hollingbury Golf Course on Nov 20 involved 113 birds of which 100 were reported from Hollingbury Camp on 11 dates (not accounting for possible duplication on consecutive days). Elsewhere were 1 Cissbury Sep 16 & 4 Sheepcote Valley on the same day with 3 there on Oct 14 & 1 on 15. A single at Lancing Ring on Sep 30 was followed by 2 Goring Gap on Sep 12 with 1 remaining to 14th, 1 over a Broadwater garden on Sep 13 & 1 Cissbury on Oct 17.

1187. **BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus merula*)

Common. Counts from Brighton in the early months were 91 Wild Park Jan & 66 in Feb; 97 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 92 in Feb; and 56 Withdean Park Jan & 48 in Feb. Breeding season records were 127 prs Wild Park, & 41 prs Devil's Dyke. A count of 204 at Hollingbury Camp on Nov 20 were undoubtedly migrants. 188 birds were ringed in the area.

1198. **FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*)

Common & widespread in winter. Few significant counts for early year except 80 Adur levels on Jan 8, 50 Michaelgrove on Mar 19 & 35 Woods Mill late Mar. After an early record of a single at Lancing Ring on Sep 15 there were 40N over Broadwater on Oct 14 with 5 arriving Goring beach the same day & 30 Stretham Manor on Oct 29. Records for Nov/Dec involve 1283 birds from across the area including 500 over Ferring Rife on Dec 3, 300W Mill Hill in 10 minutes on Nov 11 & 100+ Southwick Hill on Dec 3rd.

1200. **SONG THRUSH** (*Turdus philomelos*)

Common. Early year peak counts in Jan were 11 Wild Park, 11 Withdean Park & 9 Brighton Cemeteries. Breeding records involved 13 prs Wild Park & 5 prs Devil's Dyke. Woods Mill reports a decline as per an apparent national trend. Autumn counts were 55 Sheepcote Oct 15 & 40 Hollingbury Oct 21.

1201. **REDWING** (*Turdus iliacus*)

Common & widespread in winter. Scattered early year records involved flocks of no more than 20 these being from the Beeding brooks area. No record after Mar 17 which was a late evening movement over central Brighton.

Sep records involved 1 Lancing Ring on Sep 11, 3 there Sep 15, 1 on Sep 23 with 4 on Sep 25, & 1 Hollingbury Camp Sep 18. Scattered records for October included 50 at Standean on 30, & in November 50 Shoreham Sanctuary on 28, & 260 Hollingbury Camp on 22. December gave us an area total of over 2000 birds from the Adur Valley, Downs, residential areas & coastal plain. Highest count 1000+ Hollingbury Camp on Dec 3. Excluded from the total was a nocturnal movement over Worthing on Dec 9 involving an estimated 1000+ birds moving east.

1202. **MISTLE THRUSH** (*Turdus viscivorus*)

Common. In the breeding season 6 prs Wild Park; 4 prs Devil's Dyke; 1 pr near Woods Mill, 1 pr West Durrington & 1 pr Clapham Common. Max. counts early year were 13 Withdean Park in Feb & 11 Brighton Cemeteries in Feb. The bird

ringed at Cissbury on May 22 was a new ringing species for the site. Late counts were 15 Stamner Park on Nov 11 & 11 Woods Mill on Nov 26.

1220. **CETTI'S WARBLER** (*Cettia cetti*)

Rare visitor to area. None reported in 1993.

1236. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*)

Regular on passage, formerly bred. In spring, singles "reeling" at Shoreham Airport on April 19-22 & May 6, & 1 Sheepcote Valley Apr 24. In autumn 1 at Cissbury on Aug 29 when 3 were ringed including a retrap another 5 were also caught at this site between Aug 25 & Sep 18; the ringing total for our area also included another 5 birds making a grand total of 13- an excellent number; 1 bird was present at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 3.

1243. **SEDGE WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*)

Common in area. First of the year was a single at New Salt's farm Apr 12 followed by 2 Shoreham Airfield on Apr 19 with 5 there Apr 20, & singles at Hollingbury Camp Apr 30 & May 2. Also 5 Ferring Rife on Apr 30 with 4 there on May 3.

Remaining under-reported during the breeding season with 3 prs New Salt's farm & 3-4 prs Ferring Rife. In autumn 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Aug 10 with another on Sep 2, 1 Sompting Aug 19, a total of 9 ringed at Cissbury between Aug 1- Sep 18 (the latter date being the last record), 93 birds were ringed at other sites during the summer/autumn; 3 Brooklands Sep 5 with 1 there Sep 7; & Lancing Ring 1 Aug 13, 2 on Sep 6 & 1 on Sep 11.

1251. **REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

Common. Spring records were 2 Shoreham Airport on Apr 19 with up to 10 there on Apr 20; & noted at Woods Mill on Apr 29. Again under-reported in the breeding season with 2 prs Woods Mill & 2 prs Ferring Rife the only records. In autumn there were singles at Sompting on Aug 4 & 26, 22 were ringed between Aug 8 & Oct 9 (the last record), the Aug total for Lancing Ring was 9 as was the Sep total. Later records was 1 at Brooklands on Sep 25 & 1 at Shoreham Airfield Oct 7.

1259. **ICTERINE WARBLER** (*Hippolais icterina*)

Rare migrant. None recorded in 1993 but record for 1992 of 1 singing in a Steyning garden 21 May.

1262. **DARTFORD WARBLER** (*Sylvia undata*)

Rare autumn migrant. Singles at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 26 & Goring Gap on Nov 20.

One record for 1992 was 1 at Brooklands on Oct 28.

1274. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia curruca*)

Common breeding species. First of the year was 1 at Hollingbury Camp Apr 24 followed by singles at Preston Park on Apr 28, Ferring Rife on Apr 29/30 & Broadwater in full song on Apr 30 to May 7. Thereafter, occasional singles. Breeding records were 4 prs West Durrington/Highdown area, 3 prs Wild Park & 2 prs Devil's Dyke.

From Aug 1 until the last at Cissbury on Oct 3 totals for Sompting were 127 Aug & 42 Sep, & for Lancing Ring were 363 Aug & 227 Sep. A count on downland between Waterhall & Newtimber Hill on Aug 28 produced 50 birds & the Hollingbury Camp total between Aug 8 & Oct 2 was 91. 34 birds were ringed at Cissbury between May 1 & Oct 3.

1275. **WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia communis*)

Common summer species in the area. First of the year were 3 in the lower Adur valley on the very early date of Mar 27. A generally early arrival with 1 Hollingbury Camp & 1 Woods Mill on Apr 11 & singles at Broadwater & New Salt's farm on Apr 12. Thereafter unspectacular except for counts of 15 at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 21 & Hollingbury Camp on Apr 22. Breeding records were 18 prs Devil's Dyke, 16 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Woods Mill, 13 prs Southwick Hill, 12 prs Mill Hill, 2 prs Goring Gap, & 1 pr Ferring Rife.

Autumn passage noted from early Aug to early Oct with a total of 1094 which included 405 Lancing Ring in Aug, 330 Sompting in Aug with 122 in Sep, & 142 Hollingbury Camp for Aug/Sep. There were 40 Newtimber Hill on Aug 30 & the last was in Stamner Park on Oct 12. 62 were ringed at Cissbury between Apr 10 & 18 Sep.

1276. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*Sylvia borin*)

Fairly common in area. After 1 Sheepcote Valley on Apr 21 there were 3 Wild Park on Apr 24 & 1 singing Goring Wood on May 2. Breeding records involved 4 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Southwick Hill, & 1 pr Woods Mill. Ringing effort from Cissbury produced 37 birds between May 14-Sep 19. Scattered autumn records involving 98 birds came from various downland sites

except 1 Goring Gap on Sep 23, the last record for the year sharing the same date as Hollingbury Camp.

1277. **BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

Common in summer and regular in winter in small numbers:- Wintering birds numbered a minimum of 9 including at least 2 different birds in a Broadwater garden between Jan & Mar, singles Hollingbury Woods on Jan 19, Swandean Jan 7, Ferring Rife Jan-Mar, a Worthing garden Mar 17, & a pair in a Hollingdean garden during Feb. In addition a single in a Steyning garden from Feb 20- Mar 25.

Breeding records included 14 prs Wild Park, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Highdown Hill, 1 pr Southwick Hill & 1 pr Woods Mill. Constant effort ringing at Cissbury meant that 569 were caught between May 1 & 31 Oct (probably the last record) with peaks of 69 on Aug 30, 67 Sep 1, 122 Sep 18 & 69 Sep 19- an excellent year; the area total for 1993 was 1214 birds ringed.

Autumn migration recorded from Aug to Oct 20 with a total of 1394, which included 867 Lancing Ring Sep, 200 there Aug; 131 Sompting Sep & 146 from Wild Park between Aug 13 to Oct 19. Probable last record was 1 Ferring Rife Oct 22. A plethora of late Nov/Dec records involve at least 13 birds. All singles from across the area.

1300. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus inornatus*)

Vagrant. A single from Woods Mill on Nov 17. Details forwarded to S.O.S.

1308. **WOOD WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*)

Unusual but regular. 2 were at Wild Park on Apr 24 & 1 there on Apr 30. In autumn there was 1 at Lancing Ring Aug 6.

1311. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*Phylloscopus collybita*)

Common with small wintering population. There were 10 records for the early months throughout the area. All were singles except for 2 Beeding brooks on Jan 8/10.

The first probable spring migrants were singles in a Worthing garden Mar 15, a Lancing garden Mar 16, & 2 in a Broadwater garden on Mar 20. Thereafter, singles and small numbers reported throughout late Mar/Apr. Breeding records involved 11 prs Wild Park, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Clapham Common, 1 pr Highdown & 1 pr Woods Mill. 148 were rung at Cissbury from 1 Sep to Oct 16. A total of 2529 were noted on autumn migration from Aug to late-Oct; including

1296 Lancing Ring in Sep, 388 Sompting in Sep & a total of 626 at Wild Park between Aug 13 & Oct 3. Autumn peaks at Shoreham Sanctuary was 22 on Sep 26 & elsewhere there were 25 Newtimber Hill on Aug 30 & 25 Brighton Cemeteries on Sep 29. 316 were ringed in our recording area.

At least 9 wintering birds noted at the end of the year again from across the area.

1312. WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

Common summer migrant. The first record was of a singing male at Woods Mill on Mar 28. Few spring birds reported with 1 in a Goring garden on Apr 3, 1 Shoreham Airfield Apr 5, 1 Broadwater Apr 14 & 10 through a Southwick garden between Apr 11 & 16. Breeding season records involved 19 prs Devil's Dyke, 15 prs Wild Park, 5 prs Southwick Hill, 1 pr Woods Mill, & 1 pr possibly Ferring Rife.

In autumn Sompting recorded 541 in Aug & 30 in Sep; Lancing Ring counts were 1053 in Aug & 250 in Sep; & Wild Park's total from Aug 8 - Sep 18 was 305. 435 were ringed during the year which included 186 from Cissbury which recorded autumn peaks of 34 Aug 8, 25 Aug 25, 25 Sep 1 - a poor year. Autumn peak at Shoreham Sanctuary was 12 Aug 29, there were 8 over 4 dates in Aug on Ferring Rife, & 70 Newtimber Hill on Aug 30. Last record was on the late date of Oct 9 at Adur Recreation Ground.

1314. GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

Common. A more promising start than in recent years with 4 Wild Park Jan; 2 Brighton Cemeteries Jan with 1 Feb; 2 in a Broadwater garden throughout the early winter; 2 Withdean Park Feb; 1 Goring Wood Jan 23; 2 Durrington Mar 12 & singles at Southwick Hill Mar 18 & Ferring Rife Mar 20. Breeding season records were 2 prs Devil's Dyke & 1 pr raised 4 young in a Storrington garden. Autumn passage involved 300 Wild Park from Sep 18 - Oct 27 with a peak of 52 Oct 13. Total for Sompting was 27 for Sep & at Lancing Ring there was a max of 35 on Sep 29. Other counts were 10 Brighton Cemeteries on Sep 29 with 12 there Oct 30; 5 Goring Gap on Oct 2; 1 in a Worthing garden on Oct 3 & 1 in a Southwick garden on Oct 29. 2 were present from Aug onwards in a Broadwater garden. 5-6 were present Wild Park in Nov/Dec. A total of 102 were ringed in the area during 1993.

1315. FIRECREST (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

Regular in small numbers. A better year with 1 Brighton Cemeteries Mar 19, 1 Devil's Dyke Mar 20, 1 New Salt's farm Mar 21, 1 Steepdown Mar 26 & 1

Woods Mill Apr 5-7. A male was ringed at Cissbury May 1 & another on Oct 16. There were singles at Lancing Ring on 3 dates during Sep & at Hollingbury Camp 1 - Oct 13, 3 - Oct 30 & 1 on Nov 7. Lastly, a single at Woods Mill on Dec 1.

1335. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*)

Fairly common. First of the year was 1 at Lancing Ring May 15, thereafter 5 records from as many sites. No breeding records but 1 sang from a Steyning TV aerial on Jun 29. The recorder would like records of breeding birds in future.

Autumn passage produced a total of 156 from Aug to early Oct. These included 34 Hollingbury Camp from Aug 13 to Sep 23; 56 Sompting Aug & 27 there Sep. 6 were ringed in our area in 1993. Last was a single on Adur Rec on Oct 8-9th.

1349. **PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Regular on passage. The first were 2 Hollingbury Camp on Apr 15, then 2 there Apr 29 & singles on May 1/2.

In autumn singles from Sompting on Aug 14 & 16 & 4 dates in Sep; 7 Lancing Ring in Aug & also in Sep; 8 Hollingbury Camp from Aug 20 - Sep 22 which was our last record; 1 in a Worthing garden on Aug 29 & 4 Sheepcote Valley on Sep 16.

1364. **BEARDED TIT** (*Panurus biarmicus*)

Very Rare vagrant. 1 recorded at Ferring Rife on Oct 30 (BRC) constitutes only the fifth record for this century! Hopefully as this bird increases its breeding population they will become more regular.



Bearded Tit

1437. **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*)

Common. Winter concentrations in the early months were 16 Wild Park Jan & 18 Feb, 4 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 2 Feb; 7 Findon Valley on Jan 2, 11 Cissbury Jan 8, & 12 Highdown Woods Feb 7. Breeding records involved 9 prs Wild Park, at least 5 prs Highdown & 2 pairs Devil's Dyke.

Larger of the autumn/winter flocks were 27 Woods Mill, 33 Lancing Ring on Sep 26, 30 Cissbury on Sep 22, 15 Stamner Park on Dec 19 & 12+ in a Lancing garden throughout the autumn. 87 were ringed in the area in 1993.

1440. MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*)

Fairly uncommon in area. Again very few with 2 Newtimber Hill on Jan 2 & 1 Highdown Woods on Feb 7, 2 prs bred at Devil's Dyke, birds regular at Cissbury and 5 new birds were ringed during the year and another 5 were ringed elsewhere. Later, 2 regular at a bird table at Woods Mill & 2 Stamner Park Nov 11 with 1 there on Nov 17.

1442. WILLOW TIT (*Parus montanus*)

Sparse population in the area. One pair bred Devil's Dyke. Elsewhere 1 at Newtimber Hill on Jan 2 & again on Aug 30, 1 was calling at Wiston on Apr 30, 1 Hollingbury Camp Aug 13 with 2 there from Sep 7-26th.

1461. COAL TIT (*Parus ater*)

Common. Bred Woods Mill. Other records were of a singing male throughout the year in a Steyning garden & also a garden in Broadwater, 1 Wild Park in Feb & 2 there on Sep 29, 2 Brighton Cemeteries Jan/Feb, 1 Preston Park Jun 25, 1 Stamner Park Aug 21 & Nov 24 with 2 there Dec 19, & recorded from 3 dates in Sep at Sompting with a max of 4 on 26. 4 were ringed during the year.

1462. BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*)

Abundant in area. Counts in the early months were 67 Wild Park, Jan, & 107 in Feb; 42 Withdean Park Jan, & 43 in Feb; & 57 Brighton Cemeteries Jan with 53 in Feb. Breeding season reports were 60 prs Wild Park, 17 prs Devil's Dyke; & 2-3 prs Southwick Hill. 3 nest boxes were occupied at Cissbury with 29 young produced ie. an average of 9.7 per box! In addition birds bred at Woods Mill & a family party was noted in a Worthing garden on Aug 29. An autumn count was of 100 at Lancing Ring on Sep 26.

1464. GREAT TIT (*Parus major*)

Common. Early year counts were 44 Wild Park Jan & 52 in Feb, 26 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 22 Feb; & 20 Withdean Park Jan & 18 Feb. Pairs bred at Woods Mill also 39 prs Wild Park, 12 prs Devil's Dyke & 1 pr Southwick Hill. 2 nestboxes were occupied at Cissbury & 20 young were ringed - 10 offspring per box! An autumn count of 75 at Lancing Ring on Sep 26 was noted as was a bird with a solid black head at Sompting on Aug 10.

1479. NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*)

Small breeding population. As usual, few reported. 3 were noted at Spithandle Lane on Jan 3. Resident at Woods Mill, where 1 pr bred, 2 pairs were at Wiston nest building on May 25. 2 were ringed during the year. Otherwise, 2 Newtimber

Hill Aug 30 & 1 Stamner Park Nov 17 were the only records. All records would be appreciated by the recorder.

1486. **TREECREEPER** (*Certhia familiaris*)

Small breeding population. Resident & breeding at Woods Mill. Other records were 1 Clapham Woods Feb 7; 2 Wiston Jun 6; 1 Wild Park on the unusual date of Jul 3; 1 Lancing Ring Sep 11-18; 1 Goring Gap Oct 2 & Dec 11 to year end; 1 Preston Park Nov 24 & 1 Stamner Park Dec 14. 11 were ringed during the year.

1508. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*)

Very rare vagrant. A passage bird in our area for 1 day in May. Details to S.O.S.

1515. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*Lanius collurio*)

Rare vagrant formerly bred. No records for 1993.

1539. **JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*)

Common. Early year counts were between 2 & 5 Brighton parks Jan & Feb, & there were 6 at Wiston Mar 26. During the breeding season there were 2 prs Wild Park & 1 pr Brighton Cemeteries. Probable autumn migrants were a total of 17 at Wild Park between Sep 24 & Oct 15 with a peak of 8 on Sep 24; 5 Goring Gap on Oct 2 with 2 there on Oct 20, & 2 West Worthing garden on Oct 10. A single was noted regularly Ferring Rife throughout the year.

1549. **MAGPIE** (*Pica pica*)

Very common in suburban gardens. Early year counts were 104 Wild Park Jan & 112 in Feb, with 15 Brighton Cemeteries in Jan & 18 Feb; & 31 Southwick Hill Mar 20. In the breeding season, 40 prs Wild Park, 8 prs Devil's Dyke & young were noted at Southwick Hill during June.

1560. **JACKDAW** (*Corvus monedula*)

Common and widespread in area. Early year counts were 34 Wild Park Jan, with 83 Feb; 70 Shoreham Sanctuary on Mar 10 & 150 Muntham Park Crematorium Jan 12. About 18 pairs breeding in the Broadwater area. Only late count was 82 flying to roost Beeding brooks Oct 29.

1563. **ROOK** (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Common. Counts of rookeries were 129 Patcham Place, 60 Saddlescombe/Devil's Dyke, 16 Varndean School, 15 Steyning. Other counts were 500 Muntham Park Crematorium Jan 12; 392 Sompting downs Aug 16, & 36 Wild Park Feb 27.

1567. **CARRION CROW** (*Corvus corone*)

Common. Breeding season counts were 5 prs Devil's Dyke & 10 prs Wild Park. Counts on Goring beach Green were 92 on Mar 20 & 103 on Dec 7.

1582. **STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Extremely common. Only breeding season count was 38 prs Wild Park. In the early/late months post & pre-roost flocks over Brighton & Hove numbered in excess of 10,000 & specific counts included 2000+ Preston Park on Feb 22 & 1000 inside Southwick power station chimney on Apr 13. Regular early year counts were 150 Wild Park Jan & 210 Feb, 150 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 90 Feb, & 250 Withdean Park Feb.

1591. **HOUSE SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*)

Common. Peak Wild Park count in the early months was 40 in Jan whilst at Brighton Cemeteries the peak was 20 in Feb. 17 prs bred at Wild Park.

1598. **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*)

Breeds in small numbers. Again reported mainly from the Adur Valley with a max of 6 in Feb/early March. A single on Beeding brooks on Nov 20 was followed by 8 at Stretham on Dec 5 & 1 on Ferring Rife the same day.

1636. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Common. Unremarkable early counts included a roost of 40 in Shoreham Sanctuary on Feb 24; a max of 47 Withdean Park Feb, 27 Brighton Cemeteries Feb & 21 Wild Park Feb. Breeding season counts were 46 prs Wild Park & 31 prs Devil's Dyke. Autumn flocks included 575 over Wild Park on Oct 15 & 500W Sheepcote on Oct 23.

1638. **BRAMBLING** (*Fringilla montifringilla*)

Regular in small numbers. No early year records received. In autumn there were 3 Hollingbury Camp on Oct 8 with a further 43 recorded there on 9 dates during Oct/Nov; 25W Sheepcote on Oct 23, & 3 Stamner Park Nov 11.

1640. **SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*)

Very Rare in the area. One reported over Brighton Marina calling on Apr 25. Details to S.O.S.

1649. **GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*)

Common. Early year counts were 34 Brighton Cemeteries Jan & 56 Feb; 12 Wild Park Jan & 52 in Feb; & 10 Southwick Hill Jan 15. In the breeding season

were 28 prs Wild Park & a pair fed young on Southwick Hill in June. 192 were ringed in the area during 1993.

Autumn passage on Sompting downs produced peaks of 42 on Aug 7 & 38 Sep 15 whilst at Lancing Ring were 128 Aug 31 & 173 Sep 2.

1653. **GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*)

Common. Largest flocks reported Jan to Mar were 50 Southwick Hill in Jan; 20 Worthing Football Club fields Jan 23 & 20 in residential Worthing on Feb 6. Breeding records were 5 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Woods Mill.

Autumn movements included 101 Sompting in Aug & 205 in Sep; 49 Lancing Ring in Aug & 221 in Sep; 100 Wild Park Nov 1 & 90 Hollingbury Camp Oct 10. Other flocks were 50 Saddlescombe Aug 28, 40 Findon Valley Aug 29, 31 Brooklands Sep 26, 36 Ferring Rife Sep 29, & 40 Golding barn Oct 20.

1654. **SISKIN** (*Carduelis spinus*)

Regular in variable numbers. A quiet start to the year with 30 Storrington Mill Pond Jan 15, & 3 in a Storrington garden Jan 2 with 12 there Feb 6 & 6 on Mar 14. Up to 6 in the Steyning area Feb/Mar.

A good autumn with a total of 293 at Hollingbury Camp between Sep 17 & Nov 27 with a peak of 107 on Oct 15. Larger concentrations included 41E Goring Gap Sep 26, 20E Broadwater Oct 14 with 20E Goring beach the same day, 15 Cissbury Sep 18 & 15W Shepcote Oct 23. In Dec were 8 over Stretham Manor 5th, 22E St Ann's Wells Gardens on 13, 5 Hove Fire Station 25 & 1 in a Findon Valley garden on 29th.

1660. **LINNET** (*Carduelis cannabina*)

Common on downland. Maximum numbers in the early months were 201 Southwick Hill Mar 27; 54 Hollingbury Camp Mar 21 & Apr 2; & 30 Steepdown Mar 26. In April were 100 at Steyning Round Hill on 12th. Breeding records were 22 prs Devil's Dyke, 8 prs Wild Park, & 4 prs Southwick Hill. Autumn/winter flocks of over 100 were 500 Goring Gap on Oct 24 with a Dec flock there of 300, 200 Cissbury Sep 22, 138 Hollingbury Camp on Nov 20 & 100+ Ferring roost Nov 25.

1662. **TWITE** (*Carduelis flavirostris*)

Now a rare visitor. A report of 4 in the area has not been substantiated. Owing to the rarity of this species full supporting notes are required with all records.

1663. **REDPOLL** (*Carduelis flammea*)

Regular in variable numbers. The only early year records were of singles at Woods Mill Jan 8 & Hollingbury Camp Apr 27. In autumn, a total of 55 Hollingbury Camp between Sep 18 & Nov 30, 1 Lancing Ring Sep 26, 6 trapped in the area in 1993, 2 Stamner Park Oct 12, 15W near Cissbury Oct 17, 1 Shoreham Sanctuary Oct 27 (a poor year here), & 8E Goring beach Nov 20.

1666. **CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*)

Regular in variable numbers. There were 2 over Hollingbury Camp Oct 20 (GLC). It would be of assistance if brief supporting notes could be submitted with records for this species.

1710. **BULLFINCH** (*pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

Common. Breeding records were 3prs Wild Park, 2 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Woods Mill & 2 singing Highdown in June. Birds were also present on Mill Hill. Singles reported from 5 other localities during the year, otherwise 9 Lancing Ring Sep 2, 4 Wild Park Jan/Feb, & 2 Findon Valley from Nov 19 to Dec 31.

1847. **LAPLAND BUNTING** (*Calcarius lapponicus*)

Rare to the area. 2 records have been received of this species but they have not been supported with supplementary notes. This species requires a description.

1850. **SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*)

Fairly regular visitor. A well watched bird at Widewater from Oct 2 to Oct 11 (MO).

1857. **YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Common. No significant early year counts. In the breeding season were 14 prs at Devil's Dyke and 12 prs Wild Park; & 10 singing Highdown in June. Autumn/winter flocks included 37 Lancing Ring Sep 20 with 46 there Sep 26, 35 Saddlescombe Oct 30, 20 Race Hill Dec 18, & 50+ behind Holmbush Centre, Shoreham during Dec.

1877. **REED BUNTING** (*Emberiza schoeniclus*)

Common. In the early months there were 50+ Woods Mill & 5 Steep Down on Mar 26. Breeding records were 3 prs Woods Mill, 2 prs Sussex Pad & 2 prs Ferring Rife. Late year counts included 50+ Woods Mill & 50+ behind Holmbush Centre, Shoreham in Dec. Otherwise singles or 2's & 3's reported including records from members' gardens in Broadwater & Southwick.

1882. CORN BUNTING (*Miliaria calandra*)

Common but declining. Early year counts included 30 New Barn Farm, Portslade Mar 7, 12 Adur Valley Mar 8 & 9 singing Southwick Hill in Jan. A single at Goring Gap Feb 4 is unusual here. Breeding records relating to pairs or singing males were 25 Saddlescombe, 8 between Mill Hill & Beeding Hill, 5 Cissbury, 5 Michaelgrove, 3 Lancing downs, & singles at Pyecombe Golf Course, Sanctuary & New Salt's farm. Late year counts included 17 New Barn Hill & 10 Beeding brooks on Oct 29. A single at Hollingbury Camp on Nov 7 is the first record here since 1989.

ESCAPES & FERALS

FLAMINGO SP.

1S Findon Valley at 1840 Sep 20.

WHITE CHEEKED PINTAIL

1 fm Brooklands Nov 11

YELLOW FRONTED SERIN

1 male Lancing Ring Sep 25

Rod Shaw (Hon Recorder)

--oooOOooo--

HOUSE MARTIN SURVEY

An independent survey is being conducted, hopefully on a national scale, to monitor breeding trends of House Martins on an annual basis. If anyone has any knowledge of breeding sites for House Martins & would be prepared to count nests once a year, please contact the Hon Recorder with details of the area(s) proposed to be covered.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1993

This feature has been compiled from records submitted by local observers.
Two dates are given when one is extremely early or late.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>			<u>Departure</u>
Hobby	Mar 29	Worthing	Oct 15	Sheepcote
	Apr 19	Hollingbury		
Whimbrel	Apr 8	Worthing	Sep 8	Worthing
Common Sandpiper	Apr 19	Widewater	Oct 2	Shoreham
Sandwich Tern	Mar 12	Worthing	Oct 2	Worthing
Common/Arctic Tern	Apr 10	Marina	Sep 2	Worthing
Little Tern	Apr 20	Worthing	Sep 14	Worthing
Turtle Dove	Apr 12	Woods Mill	Oct 2	Wild Park
Cuckoo	Apr 12	Woods Mill	Sep 2	Lancing
			Oct 17	Widewater
Swift	Apr 8	Adur Valley	Oct 9	Shoreham
	Apr 24	Storrington		
Sand Martin	Apr 1	Widewater	Oct 9	Shoreham
Swallow	Mar 14	Hollingbury	Nov 10	Hollingbury
	Apr 10	Ferring		
House Martin	Apr 29	Stamner Park	Oct 28	Wildpark
Tree Pipit	Apr 16	Hollingbury	Sep 29	Whitehawk
Yellow Wagtail	May 8	Hollingbury	Oct 31	Ferring
Redstart	Apr 10	Hollingbury	Oct 2	Worthing
Whinchat	Apr 2	Goring	Oct 10	Goring
Wheatear	Mar 8	Hollingbury	Oct 20	Ferring
Ring Ouzel	Apr 3	Hollingbury	Nov 20	Hollingbury
Sedge Warbler	Apr 12	Shoreham	Sep 18	Cissbury
Reed Warbler	Apr 19	Shoreham	Oct 9	Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 24	Hollingbury	Oct 3	Cissbury
Whitethroat	Mar 27	L Adur	Oct 12	Stamner
Garden Warbler	Apr 21	Sheepcote	Sep 23	Goring
Blackcap*	Apr 4	Ferring	Oct 20	Ferring
Chiffchaff*	Mar 15	Worthing	Oct 3	Wild Park
Willow Warbler	Mar 28	Woods Mill	Oct 9	Shoreham
Spotted Flycatcher	May 15	Lancing	Oct 9	Shoreham
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 15	Hollingbury	Sep 22	Hollingbury

* Excluding possible wintering birds

RINGING REPORT FOR 1993

The years ringing total of 5692 breaks a record held for the past 12 years for the highest number of birds ringed in the area. As usual most were ringed after fledging but 447 (7.9%) were ringed as nestlings with over 64% of these being *Parus* sp using nest boxes.

The greatest portion of the catch was contributed by the Steyning Ringing Group. Trapping on the lower slopes of Cissbury successfully continued and the group completed another year of data collection for the BTO's Constant Effort Survey designed to monitor common bird populations and breeding productivity. The efforts by several ringers but mainly Brain and Phil Clay, Val Bentley, Bill Woodford and Ralph Hartfree at Cissbury yielded 2036 birds which included a good number of warblers and the areas only House Martin catch. Just behind the Cissbury total was 2014 birds ringed in and around Chris Fox's garden in Wiston. Although some of the Wiston total includes birds trapped at a winter feeding station and spring nest box ringing the greatest proportion comprises migrants caught in a small hedgerow during the autumn. Undoubtedly the catch in this small hedgerow was enhanced by using tape luring equipment reminiscent of a Wembley rock concert but totals of 91 Sedge Warblers, 108 Reed Warblers, 72 Garden Warblers and 536 Blackcaps was remarkable and the same hedgerow produced the area's only Wood Warbler, Tree Pipits, Whinchats and Wheatear. The Steyning Ringing Group's third site was at the Mumbles in Steyning where Phil Clay ringed 686 birds which included a Cuckoo and Water Rail, both species rarely trapped these days.

Far behind the Steyning group come the other contributors. The sanctuary trapping by John Newnham with the help of Judith Baker totalled 354. Barrie Watson with the help of some pullus ringing by John and Charlie Holt ringed 324 (85% nestlings) and the gull group, also led by Barrie Watson, had two sessions at Washington refuse tip where 277 gulls were cannon-netted.

Table A shows the totals for each species ringed in the area. The total of 58 different species shows a wider range than usual with 25 species showed reductions from the 1992 total, the most significant being Swallow, House Martin, Whitethroat and Chiff-chaff, and 40 species showed larger totals than 1992 with Blackcap (+436) being the most noteworthy.

TABLE A

BLACK-HEADED GULL	221	REED WARBLER	197
COMMON GULL	2	LESSER WHITETHROAT	98
LESSER BB GULL	4	WHITETHROAT	158
HERRING GULL	50	GARDEN WARBLER	124
SPARROW HAWK	1	BLACKCAP	1214
WATER RAIL	1	WOOD WARBLER	1
WOODPIGEON	2	CHIFF-CHAFF	316
COLLARED DOVE	2	WILLOW WARBLER	435
CUCKOO	1	GOLDCREST	102
LITTLE OWL	2	FIRECREST	2
KINGFISHER	8	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	6
GREEN WOODPECKER	2	LONG-TAILED TIT	87
GT.SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	MARSH TIT	10
SWALLOW	44	COAL TIT	4
HOUSE MARTIN	298	BLUE TIT	559
TREE PIPIT	2	GREAT TIT	228
MEADOW PIPIT	5	NUTHATCH	2
WREN	166	TREECREEPER	11
DUNNOCK	169	MAGPIE	3
ROBIN	252	JACKDAW	2
NIGHTINGALE	2	STARLING	23
REDSTART	9	CHAFFINCH	94
WHINCHAT	3	GREENFINCH	192
WHEATEAR	1	GOLDFINCH	63
BLACKBIRD	188	LINNET	13
SONG THRUSH	107	REDPOLL	6
MISTLE THRUSH	1	BULLFINCH	53
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	13	YELLOWHAMMER	25
SEDGE WARBLER	102	REED BUNTING	5

RECOVERIES AND CONTROLS

The following is a selection of the more interesting recoveries and controls reported since the last ringing report, as usual several are recoveries from previous years which were not heard about until 1993.

Although fewer gulls have been ringed in the past few years they are long lived species with a high chance of being recovered therefore this group still provides the highest proportion of ringing recoveries from the area.

1) BLACK-HEADED GULL:- The two catches at Washington provided only 6 retraps and one control from Lithuania.

A total of 47 recoveries were reported in the year with 31 (66%) from other western European, Scandinavian or Baltic countries. These were from - USSR (1), Sweden (3), Poland (5), Denmark (11), Netherlands (5), Belgium (1), Germany (4) and France (1).

Within the U.K. the recoveries were from Sussex (10), Essex (1), Berkshire (1), Devon (1), Buckinghamshire (1), Norfolk (1) and Greater London (1).

2) COMMON GULL:- There were three foreign recoveries of birds all ringed in February and found dead in spring or summer at:-

a) Dalarna, Kopparberg, Sweden	61 10'N 15 15'E	1492 km NE
b) Nyuksensky, Vologda, USSR	60 30'N 44 25'E	2985 km ENE
c) Borowiczi, Plock, Poland	52 29'N 19 51'E	1402 km E

3) HERRING GULL:- There were again just 4 recoveries reported from Sussex (3) and Kent showing far shorter movements in this species than the other regular wintering gull species.

4) SWALLOW:- One ringed as a juvenile at Sandgate Park (Sep 92) was found dead on an Algerian road on 7th Mar 93. This, our area's first and about 60th from British ringing from Algeria, was presumably on spring passage having almost crossed the Sahara.

5) HOUSE MARTIN:- A juvenile ringed at Cissbury after being attracted to a tape lure in Sept 92 was found dead 294 km away in Carmarthen, Dyfed Wales in July 93.

6) ROBIN:- An adult ringed at Noord-Brabant, Netherlands on 16th Mar 92 was controlled at Wiston on 19th Sept 92. The only other foreign movements of Robins from this area were two October ringed birds subsequently recovered in Denmark.

7) **SEDGE WARBLER:-** There were two controlled at Wiston on 31st July and 16th Aug 93, there were ringed respectively at:-

- a) Powgavie, Inchtute, Tayside on 5th Aug 91 as a juvenile
- b) Haversham, Buckinghamshire on 3rd May 92 as an adult

The movement of 637 km from Scotland is the longest recorded from this area.

8) **REED WARBLER:-** For the second consecutive year a Reed Warbler from local ringing has shown a multiple movement. Bird H710943 was first ringed at Icklesham in Aug 92, controlled in Steyning in Sept 92 and then controlled again at Itchen Abbas in Hampshire in July 93. Two other Reed Warblers recorded movements between this area and Icklesham, East Sussex. Other distant Reed Warbler movements are listed below:-

Thatcham Berks (Aug 91)	->	Steyning (July 93)
Little Linford Bucks (Jul 93)	->	Wiston (Aug 93)
Partington Humberside (Jul 93)	->	Cissbury (Aug 93)
Basildon Essex (Jul 93)	->	Wiston (Aug 93)
Cissbury (2nd Oct 93)	->	Somme France (Oct 93)

The last, a latish date for this species, was controlled just 6 days later and is the first from France from this area although British ringing has recorded over 220 French movements.

9) **GARDEN WARBLER:-** A juvenile ringed in early Aug 93 at Chew Valley Lake, Avon was controlled at Wiston on 1st Sept 93.

10) **BLACKCAP:-** For the second year running there were two foreign movements reported, both however, were late reports from 1992.

Noord Brabant Netherlands (29/8/92) -> Wiston (26/9/92) juv male
Mumbles Steyning juv fem (17/9/92) -> Faro, Algarve Portugal (23/10/92)

Other distant movements are listed overleaf:-

Cissbury (Aug 92)	-> Beachy Head (Aug 92)
Beachy Head (Aug 93)	-> Steyning (Sep 93)
Upton Warren, Hereford (Aug 92)	-> Cissbury (Sep 92)
Maplethorpe, Lincoln (Sep 93)	-> Cissbury (Sep 93)
Cissbury (Sep 92)	-> Biggleswade Beds. (Jun 93)
Cissbury (Sep 92)	-> Canterbury Kent (Jun 93)
Hoddesdon, Herts (Jul 93)	-> Wiston (Aug 93)
near Oxford (Aug 93)	-> Wiston (Sep 93)

11) CHIFF-CHAFF:- probably the most exciting recovery reported in the year was a young bird ringed in mid Sept 1992 at Cissbury and controlled in mid Dec 1992 at Djoudj, Senegal, a mere 4080 km away. The exciting ringing project at the Parc National Oiseaux du Djoudj has produced many recoveries and there are 19 other British ringed Chiffchaffs noted from Djoudj.

Three other distant movements were reported:

Edlington, Wilts (Jul 91)	-> Wiston (Sep 92)
Bainton GP, Cambs (Jul 93)	-> Wiston (Sep 93)
Watlington, Oxon (Jul 93)	-> Cissbury (Aug 93)

12) WILLOW WARBLER:- two long distance movements were recorded:-

Ardross, Highland (Aug 93)	-> Steyning (Sep 93)
Marsworth, Herts (Jul 92)	-> Wiston (Aug 92)

This concludes the best list of warbler movements noted from this area and is a tribute to the hard work done by members of the Steyning Ringing Group.

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

J.A.Newnham

SANCTUARY REPORT 1993

This year saw a slight increase in the activity at the Sanctuary as my notebook records just under 50 visits to the copse with 16 of these being ringing sessions. Once again the ringing was confined to the summer and early autumn with all the sessions between May 15th and Oct 3rd.

The first recorded visit was not until Feb 3rd when the copse was flooded and the first signs of spring were evident with many of the resident species in full song and the willows and elders developing fresh green shoots. The annual working party gathered on Feb 7th but the with only 4 helpers all the planned tasks were not completed. I thank Barrie Watson and the two Roys (Sandison and Westwater) for their help in clearing part of the osier patch on the west side of the copse.

The only notes of interest during the early part of the year were a pair of Sparrowhawks displaying regularly, a Chiffchaff on Feb 14th, a small roost of 40 Chaffinches and a Woodcock on Mar 3rd.

Spring was again poorly recorded with no notable days of migrant arrivals although by May 1st several warblers including Lesser Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Blackcap and Willow Warbler were singing vigorously and by May 18 at least 3 pairs of Reed Warblers were holding territories. The only record of a Turtle Dove was on May 23rd.

The regular summer jobs of maintaining both the bridges and paths seem to get harder and take longer each year. I would like to thank Judith Baker who helped with these tasks and with the ringing programme. The total of birds ringed was marginally better than 1992 but the following table suggests this was due to a slightly increased effort rather than more birds passing through the copse.

Summary of ringing effort and results for 1988 - 1993.

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No sessions	26	19	19	9	13	16
Average catch	45	50	52	31	32	31
Year best	253	135	94	56	53	49

As usual autumn warblers started to move through the copse in late July with the first Garden Warbler on July 25th. Numbers of warblers overall, as suggested by the ringing totals, were low with the peak of 12 Willow Warblers on Aug 29th and 22 Chiffchaffs trapped on both Sept 19th and 26th. The only Spotted Flycatcher of the year was recorded on Aug 14th and there were no records of other interesting migrants such as chats, Redstarts, Pied Flycatchers or Nightingales. September was the most interesting month with regular records of Grey Wagtails, a Kingfisher, a Jay and on Sept 19th 2 Buzzards flew westward, one very high over the valley and the other skimming the tallest hawthorns in the copse.

The first 12 Fieldfares of the autumn were seen on Oct 13th and small numbers of these and up to 50 Redwings were noted, usually taking haw berries on the hillside, until the end of the year. On Oct 17th a male Peregrine was chased by two Carrion Crows over the copse; undoubtedly the foolhardy corvids regretted their folly when the falcon reversed the chase with vigour! The tits and Chaffinches were mobbing a roosting Little Owl on Oct 27th, the same day the only Redpoll of the autumn was recorded and the largest party of 8 Siskins. On Nov 21st there was still a Chiffchaff calling in the copse and 8 Pheasants were flushed.

In the late part of the year a squirrel, a scarce visitor to the copse, was seen regularly and 2 mink were noted playing in the stream. Weasels and Stoats have been regularly recorded at the Sanctuary in the past but never a Polecat which was caught by the Pest Officer in Mr Schultz's chicken house. Rabbits seem more numerous and this thriving population presumably attracts these mustelids and keeps the local fox population healthy.

I would like to express the Society's thanks to the Southern Water Authority and their staffs whose help and cooperation has continued throughout the year.

John Newnham.

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1993

1993 will be remembered as one of the best years for the group. The grand total of birds rung during the year was a record 4736, exceeding by over 400 birds the record set in the previous year. Although the Cissbury total was down a little on last year's (2036 compared to 2483) this was more than compensated by increased catches at the Mumbles, Steyning where Phil Clay caught nearly 700 new birds and at Wiston where Chris Fox, experimenting with hedgerow nets near his garden and using tape lures, amassed an amazing 2014 new birds rung.

At the Cissbury site this was the second year of Constant Effort Scheme ringing and the main ringing effort between May and August, the Constant Effort "season", was to achieve the 12 ringing sessions; one session to be accomplished within each 10 day period. These sessions can then be compared with sessions within the same 10 day period in previous years and an analysis of the results can yield information on population levels and breeding success. All the data is sent to the BTO who then combine the information from all Constant Effort sites, nationally there are about 120 sites, and incorporate it into their overall population monitoring analysis.

Although it would seem simple to organise 12 visits over 4 months in fact it was necessary to call on all members of the ringing group at some stage during the season, particularly when holidays and other absences intervened. However it is of credit to the group that for the second year all 12 visits were achieved.

Analysis of the results can be split into two groups. The birds rung during May and June (the first 6 visits) are mainly adults and the totals give an indication of the survival rate of the birds during the previous winter. However any juveniles rung during this period are likely to be local birds so this also gives an indication of local breeding success. The results from the second period (July and August) give an indication of national breeding success as juveniles move through the site on their autumn migration.

The Cissbury figures for May and June indicate a better season all round than 1992. Numbers of adults, particularly migrants were higher, notably Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Lesser Whitethroat, although numbers of

residents were also marginally up. Most striking however were the numbers of juveniles caught during this period, up 75% on the previous year's figure.

The second part of the season shows a different pattern with numbers of juveniles caught during July and August down from 244 in 1992 to 154 in 1993. However a closer look at the totals for the individual species reveals an interesting breakdown as the following table shows:-

Comparison of Juvenile Populations 1992/93

Residents	1992	1993	% Change	Migrants	1992	1993	% Change
Wren	9	29	222.2	Sedge Warbler	1	2	100.0
Dunnock	13	18	38.5	Reed Warbler	3	2	-33.3
Robin	14	8	-42.9	Lesser White,	6	5	-16.7
Blackbird	3	3	0.0	Whitethroat	54	15	-72.2
Marsh Tit	3	3	0.0	Garden Warbler	14	2	-85.7
Blue Tit	4	6	100.0	Blackcap	30	23	-23.3
Great tit	2	8	300.0	Chiffchaff	3	2	-33.3
Bullfinch	8	5	-37.5	Willow Warbler	69	30	-56.5
TOTAL	56	82	46.4	TOTAL	180	81	-55.0

Whilst the general improvement in the fortunes of the resident birds seems to have mirrored the national CES results, Cissbury migrants seem to have been well below average compared to the national position where Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler all showed an increase on their 1992 position.

The remainder of the year at Cissbury was devoted to the more intensive ringing of migrants with tape lures used more frequently; they cannot be used during Constant Effort visits as their use would distort the results. Whilst a total of 569 Blackcaps was similar to 1993 Chiffchaffs numbers were down by over half from 359 to 148 and Willow Warblers continued to decline with only 186 rung in 1993. Over 500 House Martins were rung but this total is more a reflection of successful tape luring and optimum conditions rather than any reflection on numbers. Highlights during the year included Sparrowhawk, Firecrest (2) and a fair number of Grasshopper Warblers (7) and Redstarts (5).

At Steyning Phil Clay's total included 6 Kingfishers, a Water Rail and a Cuckoo amongst the regulars as well as his more local specialities such as Reed Bunting (5 rung), Goldfinches (56) and Reed Warblers (55). Bearing in mind that Phil's Reed Warblers were caught in or around his pond and reed bed, Chris Fox's total of 108 Reed Warblers caught in his hedgerow is even more astonishing. The significance of his total of 91 Sedge Warblers is brought into context when compared to the group total of 102; 89% were caught in his Wiston hedge! His totals for all warblers except Blackcaps were higher than the Cissbury equivalents. However to produce these results he was up before dawn on every suitable catching day during the migration season and the majority of these birds were caught in the dawn catch. The amount of effort required to produce these results means that the experiment is unlikely to be repeated on the same scale but the exercise has been extremely valuable in showing the extent of the autumn migration and the fact that birds like Reed and Sedge Warblers are migrating through what most would consider unsuitable habitat. Although the tape lures will have increased the volume of the catches the birds must have been in the vicinity of the hedgerow to respond to the lure.

The final months of the year were spent trying to resolve conflicts of interest at Cissbury where the National Trust who own the site were revising their management scheme and intending to move cattle onto the hillside in an attempt to restrict the encroachment of scrub and prevent the regeneration of woodland. To a certain extent this is in line with the requirements of Constant Effort ringing which requires the habitat to remain as constant as possible so that any variations in the numbers of birds can be attributed to population changes or breeding success and not evolution of habitat. However it is fairly obvious that cattle and bird ringing do not mix and discussions are continuing with the Trust in an attempt to resolve the problem.

I would like to thank Glyn Jones of the Trust for continuing permission to ring at Cissbury and the members of the ringing group who in addition to those mentioned above are Val Bentley, Bill and Vanessa Woodford, Ralph Hartfree, Barrie Watson and newcomers Dave Buckingham and Mark Hopkins. Finally a special thank you to those visitors, usually members of this society, who get commandeered during particularly busy sessions at Cissbury; their assistance at those times is invaluable.

Brian Clay

GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY - WINTER 1992/3

Following the two previous informative reports produced by Brian Clay, I have retained the general presentation from the information provided by the 14 contributors, who have diligently maintained their record sheets throughout the winter, together with further detail of the gardens themselves.

Geographically there are 7 localities: Ferring/Goring (4) Shoreham (3), Hove (2) Findon Valley (2) and one each in Brighton, Offington, & Storrington. This gives a good spread, mainly along the coastal environs but apart from Storrington omits some larger towns and inland centres. Three of the sites could be considered urban the others being situated in smaller residential areas adjacent to open country. Whilst two gardens enclose 3 quarters of an acre each, the average smaller ones comprised 4500 square feet and the smallest 600 square feet.

All gardens are provided with essential water, access ranging from small dishes to large ponds. Specific food items have already been covered in a previous survey- dare I mention it- cat food has now been added to the listed 15 varieties! Good cover and roosting sites are a feature of all gardens, invaluable to resident birds, whilst a selection of feeding stations embrace the requirements of different species.

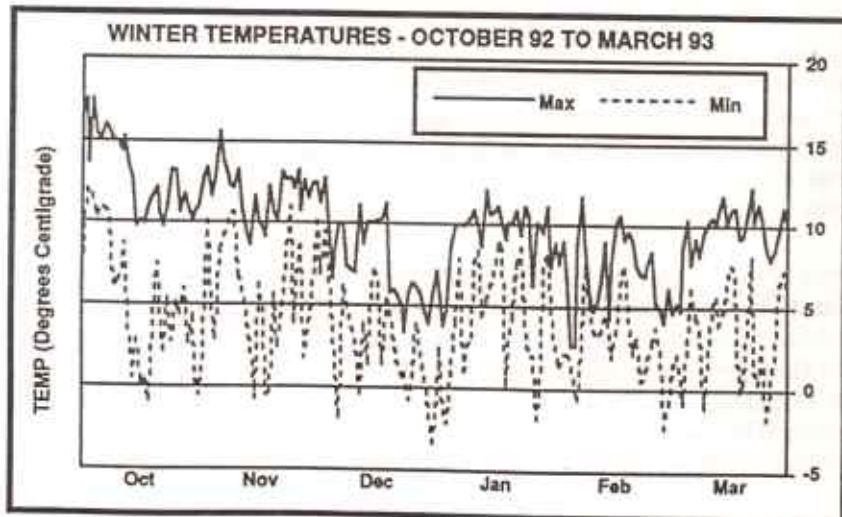
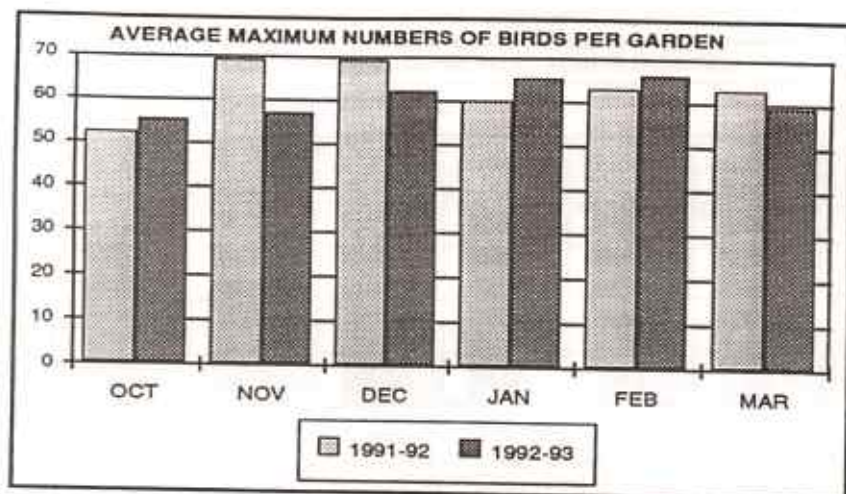


Fig. 1 indicates the maximum and minimum winter temperatures during the recording period. The chart confirms that there were no severe weather periods. Indeed the maximum temperature did not drop below zero; a pattern similar to the 1991/92 winter.

Fig 2



In Fig. 2 the average maximum number of birds feeding per garden each month remained constant, range 55-66, although the highest numbers were slightly down on the previous winter. Peak numbers occurred in January & February whereas in 1991/92 November & December produced more birds.

Fig 3 shows that the maximum number of species appearing per garden each month was constant, apart from the high in October, but the figures appear to have fallen quite sharply compared to 1991/92, particularly between December & March. The generally mild winter probably influenced this factor. The pattern of 1991/92 is reflected in Fig 4. where the average number of species occurring in each month was remarkably constant at 13-14 although this also indicates a slight decline since 90/91.

Turning to species, Great Spotted Woodpecker, absent from the list last year, was recorded from 4 gardens as being regular in our area, attracted by fat tacked to a tree. The Hope's & Ford's gardens also hosted this attractive bird occasionally every month but neither Marsh Tit, Willow

Tit or Lesser Spotted Woodpecker graced any gardens. The following species were recorded by all observers- Blue Tit, Robin, Blackbird, Starling, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Collared Dove.

Fig 3

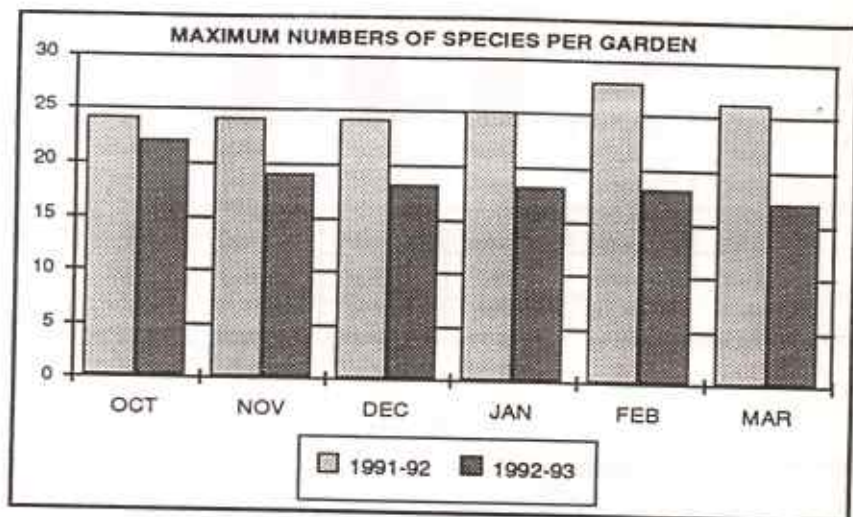
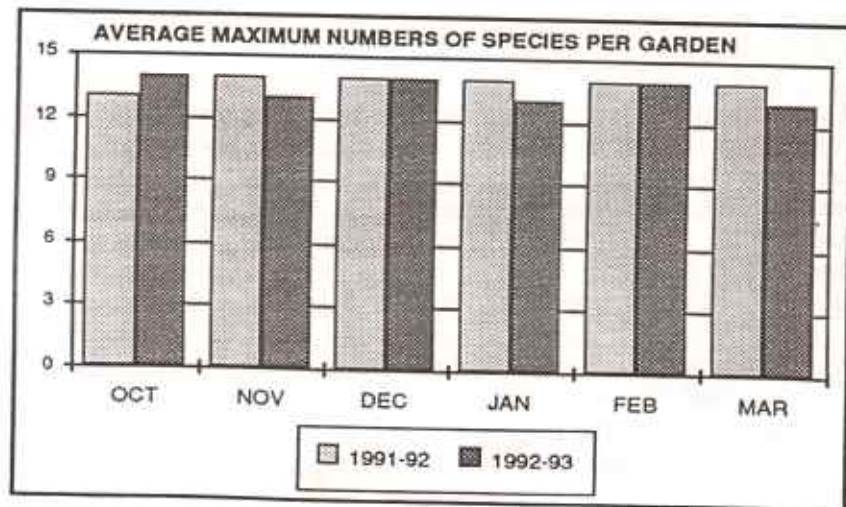


Fig 4



Great Tit, Song Thrush, Wren, Magpie, Wood Pigeon, & Crow appeared in 80% of gardens and Pied Wagtail and Black headed Gull in 50%, the latter mainly concentrating in the Champion's & Ford's gardens with a high of 40 in January. Coal Tits were recorded regularly by P. Griffiths, R Edney and the Hopes. Out of 6 gardens visited unfortunately only 4 survey forms specified birds feeding on natural food (N) or water (W) only and these did not significantly affect the monthly total. However, I have found and the survey shows that some N factor species, such as Pied Wagtail, Wren, Long tailed Tit, Goldfinch & Blackcap occasionally feed off scraps from tables & below nut baskets, whilst nearly all of the 37 species recorded were dependent on water.

Interestingly, 5 gardens yielded a total of 4 Sparrowhawks and a Kestrel and I would like to think these "valid" by reasons of feeding on prey attracted by non-natural food! Roger Edney hosted a regular Sparrowhawk without detriment to his native population. Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Jay were only sparsely recorded, with Rook absent & Black headed Gull numbers were down. Goldcrest was again scarce.

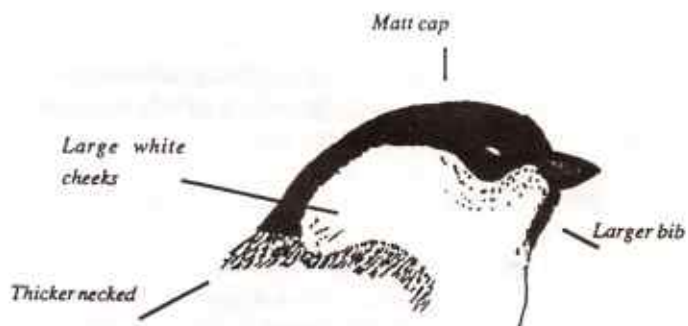
SPECIES		%	SPECIES		%
1	Starling	27.8	8	Woodpigeon	3.3
2	House Sparrow	23.3	9	Chaffinch	3.0
3	Greenfinch	5.9	10	Great Tit	2.7
4	Blue Tit	5.0	11	Dunnock	2.6
5	Black-headed Gull	5.0	12	Robin	2.3
6	Blackbird	4.3	All Others		10.9
7	Collared Dove	3.9			100.0

Top garden award goes to the Ford's with 25 species whilst top bird was again Starling with 27.8% of the total of all birds recorded in the period (See Fig 5). The average maximum number of species per garden was 19 (range 10-25) and the highest monthly total recorded was 153 scored by, yes the Fords in February.

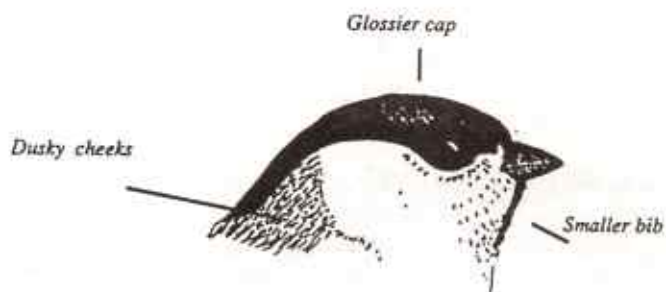
My thanks to the following for their enthusiastic participation:-
SR Allen; GL Champion; S Denman; R Edney; J Feest; A & L Fenton; M & P Ford; P Griffiths; C & P Hope; P & J Maynard; J Nye; J Stafford; R Westwater.

Roy Sandison

WILLOW TIT



MARSH TIT



IDENTIFICATION OF MARSH AND WILLOW TIT

Marsh and Willow tits are very similar, closely-related species found typically in deciduous woodland, although Willow Tit prefers damper areas. Willow Tit is not common in our recording area, and is outnumbered by Marsh Tit, with a ratio of around 1:2 in favour of the latter. Splitting these two is not easy, and requires practice. No single feature is good enough to be positive, and identification must be made on a number of characteristics - especially as both species are very active and perpetually on the move, so much so that the salient features often take a long time to establish. Often, the bird moves off and you are left in a state of bewilderment. I would say that the following two features together would clinch identification - call, and presence [or otherwise] of a wing panel. Both species are typical of the tit family, in as much as they have a variety of calls, but Marsh's common call is a loud, distinctive 'pitchou', whereas Willow's is much different, a low, nasal, buzzing 'nirrr'. Care, though, I have watched Marsh give its typical call immediately followed by a passable, but more drawn out Willow call - there was a calling Willow Tit close-by at the time, to add to the confusion!

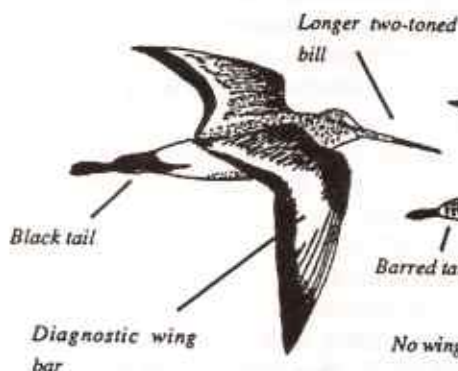
Wing-panel is the next most distinguishing feature; the tertials and secondaries are edged white on Willow Tit, showing a wing panel which is most prominent in fresh plumage. This does, however reduce with wear, and a fresh juvenile Marsh Tit may show a vestigial panel. Some field guides stress the black cap. True, it is glossy on Marsh, and dull [or matt] on Willow, but this does depend on good viewing conditions. In poor light, Marsh's cap can lose its gloss, and again, with a constantly moving bird [often in the canopy above, making the cap difficult to see unless the bird hangs upside-down] this often causes indecision. Where a good view is obtained, then Willow Tit is more bull-necked than Marsh, and its white cheek patch extends farther towards the nape. The black "bib" of Marsh Tit is very small, and is larger on Willow Tit, but beware a poorly-seen Coal Tit showing its underparts only. This species is mistaken for both Marsh and Willow - until its white nape patch and double wing-bars are evident!

Dave Smith

IDENTIFICATION OF BAR-TAILED AND BLACK-TAILED GODWITS

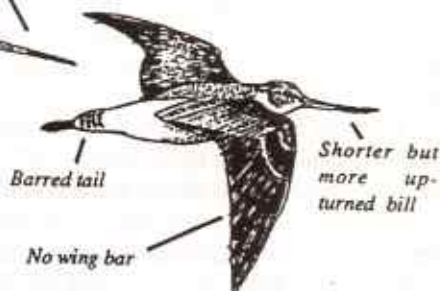
BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

*Basically grey when on ground,
longer legged than Barwit.*



BAR-TAILED GODWIT

*More speckled in winter,
shorter legged than Blackwit.*



Basically a duller bird in flight

A point to consider when faced with a winter-plumaged godwit is the habitat it is using. If on a sandy shore then it is much more likely to be a Bar-tailed, as Black-tailed Godwits are unusual here, perhaps staying only to rest briefly on migration. Both, however, frequent mudflats on estuaries and harbours where quite often they are distant, and a challenge to even the most experienced birder.

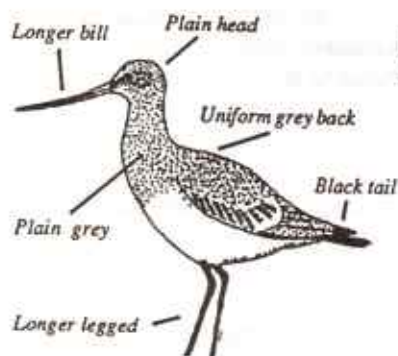
A distinguishing feature in any plumage is, of course, the tail - if it can be seen, and is not covered by the primary tips. This can be surprisingly conspicuous, even at range, especially the solid black of Black-tailed Godwit, but Bar-tailed's barring gets increasingly difficult to see the farther away the bird is and merges into a "fuzzy" grey, or white. Size alone is no firm indicator as there is some overlap between the species, but generally Black-tailed Godwit is larger and stockier, whilst Bar-tailed

is dumper and shorter. No problem exists, however, when the bird is in flight, as Black-tailed Godwit has a wide wing-bar running through the centre of the wing and has a broad, square white rump contrasting strongly with the black tail, whilst Bar-tailed Godwits either lacks a wing-bar completely, or just has a pale tipped wing coverts, forming a very narrow, inconspicuous wing bar, a a white rump in a V shape, extending up the back.

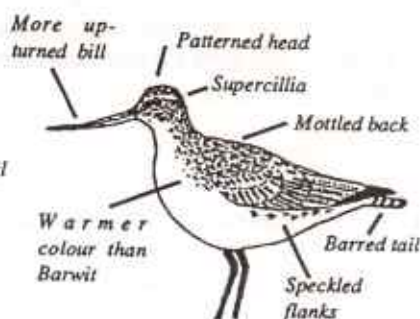
Black-tailed Godwit has a longer, straighter bill - most Bar-tailed Godwit's are noticeably up-turned, but again this varies with individuals, and can be very difficult at distance. Black-tailed Godwit is longer-legged, and consequently stands higher. Bar-tailed Godwit, in contrast, can look quite short-legged. I think that, where none of the obvious features are visible, the most reliable distinguishing feature is the most is the upper colouring. Black-tailed Godwit's crown mantle and wing coverts are a uniform mid-grey, whereas Bar-tailed Godwit has a streaked brown crown and mantle, and dark brown scapulars edged pale buff or cream, giving a patterned appearance. So, if it's unmarked grey above, it's a Blackwit; and if patterned brown it's a Barwit.

Dave Smith

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT



BAR-TAILED GODWIT



HOLLINGBURY CAMP AND WILDPARK REPORT 1993

The period from January through to March is generally a quiet period here, but for once there were some interesting sightings. Both Blackcap & Chiffchaff wintered in Hollingbury woods and were seen regularly in gardens bordering the area. A flock of 100 Lapwings flew over on 1st January, followed by 3 other flocks on other dates in the month. Fieldfares, with 18 on 2nd, and Redwings were recorded more frequently than in recent years.

A Wildpark roost count on 8th February included a high 49 Stock Doves and 140 Wood Pigeons. On 11th two Dartford Warblers were seen, and a Coal Tit on 17th was unusual. Two Buzzards were noted, and another in March. The first Wheatear was on 8th March and 2 Swallows on 14th were the earliest ever here. A pair of Black tailed Godwits flew over the golf course on 22nd. Meadow Pipits were moving through in regular numbers, peaking 46 on 26th. Stonechats and Black Redstarts put in an appearance on the Camp.

The Spring produced earliest dates for 6 species, but generally there seemed to be fewer common migrants than usual, with observers remarking the only exception being Whitethroat. Notable April records included Ring Ouzels, Buzzard, 2 Hobbies, 2 Wood Warblers, 2 Grasshopper Warblers and Pied Flycatchers. May started with 2 Turtle Doves and a ring tail Montagu's Harrier flying north on 2nd, 4 Whimbrel over on 8th, and a Golden Oriole watched by a visiting birder on 10th. Cuckoos were infrequent and 2 on 6th June could have been an indication of breeding. More Hobbies and Pied Flycatchers were noted and yet another Buzzard on 10th.

The breeding season survey showed increases for Wood Pigeon, Dunnock, Robin and Linnet and decreases for Skylark, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Greenfinch. The first record of a Barn Owl for a few years was on 9th June, and another unusual visitor was a Treecreeper on 3rd July. The only notable August birds were a Nightjar on 25th (again on 3rd September) and 3 Whimbrel stopping to feed on north field on 26th.

A bumper autumn started with a second Barn Owl on 1st September, followed by a Grasshopper Warbler on the Camp on 3rd. A Wood Warbler was seen in Burstead Woods on 6th, the only positive sighting

of the period. Then followed a purple patch with a Red Kite on 16th, a Honey Buzzard on 17th and the first Woodlark of the autumn circling the Camp on 18th. Observers recorded the highest numbers of Tree Pipit and Whinchat since collective records have been kept. At this time there was a resident pair of Willow Tits on the Camp and a short stayer Short eared Owl seen on Roedale allotments. With Buzzards on four dates, 8 migrant Jays on 24th, and a few Hobbies, it was a rewarding month.

Autumn Migration Count Comparisons - Wildpark & Camp

Species	1990	1991	1992	1993
Honey Buzzard	-	1	-	1
Hobby	2	3	2	8
Turtle Dove	2	1	3	1
Swift	6	88	76	153
Wryneck	1	-	4	-
Hoopoe	-	1	-	-
Sand Martin	34	20	83	30
House Martin	18313	2618	2987	6500
Swallow	15449	3066	3339	4643
Tree Pipit	62	74	49	93
Yellow Wagtail	76	29	33	38
Nightingale	-	1	1	-
Redstart	44	23	37	28
Whinchat	40	51	61	84
Wheatear	142	84	63	104
Ring Ouzel	10	38	2	108
Grasshopper Warbler	-	-	-	1
Sedge Warbler	-	3	5	4
Reed Warbler	-	3	5	4
Lesser Whitethroat	186	120	100	91
Whitethroat	399	269	253	142
Garden Warbler	22	11	29	12
Blackcap	216	189	232	146
Wood Warbler	-	-	-	1
Chiffchaff	762	319	445	626
Willow Warbler	515	329	293	305
Spotted Flycatcher	55	103	47	34
Pied Flycatcher	9	4	7	8

Other birds recorded on autumn migration include Goldcrest, Firecrest, Grey Wagtail, Dartford Warbler and Whimbrel.

There were more high flying migrant Jays in October, and a good passage of Siskins and Bramblings, but it was the Ring Ouzels that caused the biggest excitement with a massive total of 108, peaking 37 on 10th. Other birds of note were a Firecrest on 13th, Jack Snipe on 15th, 3 Woodlarks on 61th, 2 Crossbills on 29th and 3 Firecrests on 30!

The finch passage continued into November, with small flocks coming down to feed. On the 7th there was yet another Firecrest, and a Snipe circled over Holingdean Park. Redwing outnumbered Fieldfares with 355 on 1st December and a huge movement of 1000+ on 3rd. The year finished with a Blackcap or two and a Peregrine on 14th completed a marvellous year.

Peter Whitcomb



SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1993

Introduction.

During 1993 the sea-watching log showed a total of 388 hours of watching; a rise of 17% on the 1992 watching but 9% below the average number of hours watched (426hrs) for the years 1978 - 1992. A large contribution to this effort was made by Paul Brayshaw who logged several long watches, particularly during the spring, and without Paul the log for both hours and birds would have been very lean.

The years total of just over 43,000 birds was 28% above the average total for the 1978 - 92 period (33,638 birds) and the bias of birds recorded in the spring was greater in this year with 39,699 (ie 92%) seen between March and May. Similarly the total of westward moving birds was only 3343 (7.7% compared with the 78-92 average of 24%) which reflects the poor effort and absence of good autumn watches. The following table amplifies these points.

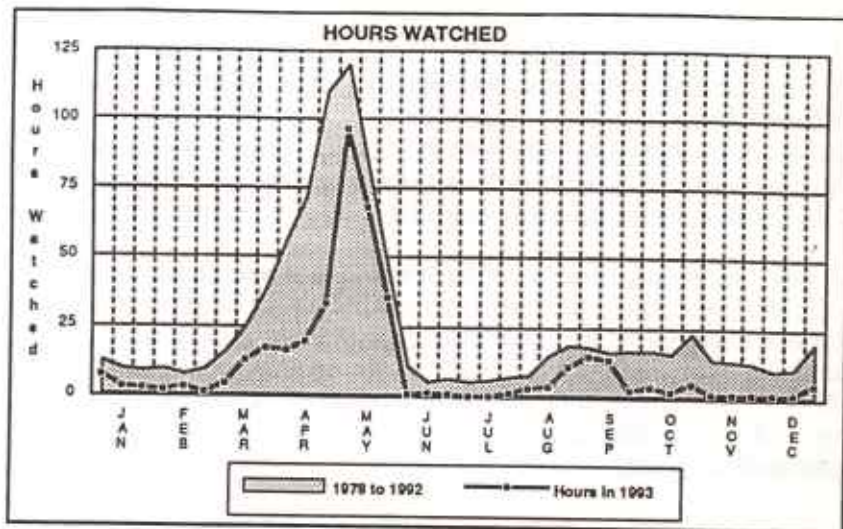
Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
12	6	34	68	199	2	1	17	30	10	3	7
338	213	6353	8164	25182	12	2	630	1408	356	38	311

2nd row hours watched, 3rd row number of birds seen.

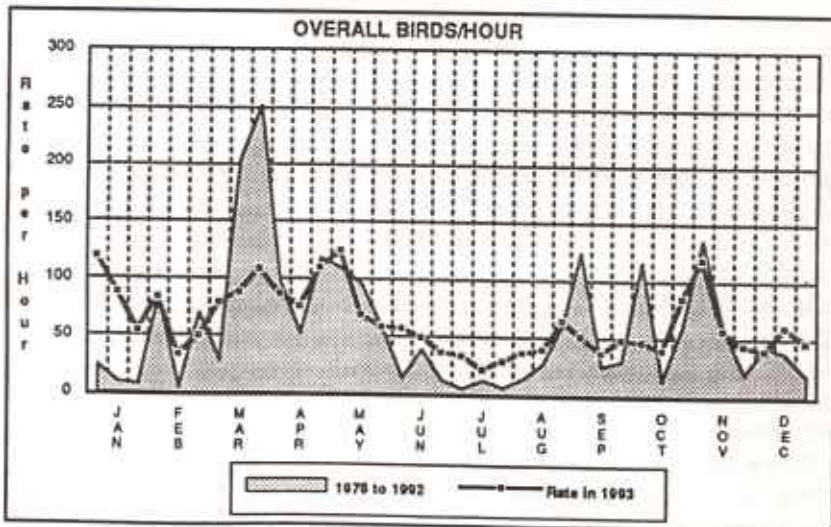
As in previous years during the spring a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping them informed and saving much time collecting records. As usual the log commenced on a reasonable day in late March often when a good Brent Goose or Scoter movement was noted: this on Saturday 27th Mar in 1993. The log was ended on the Whit Monday May 31st. 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. Watching from the usual shelter was impossible in the autumn and winter due to considerable sea defence work being done on this section of the coast.

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:-

SEAWATCHING 1993 - HOURS WATCHED
(IN 10 DAY PERIODS)



SEAWATCHING 1993 - RATE OF PASSAGE
OVERALL RATE OF BIRDS PER HOUR IN 10 DAY PERIODS



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

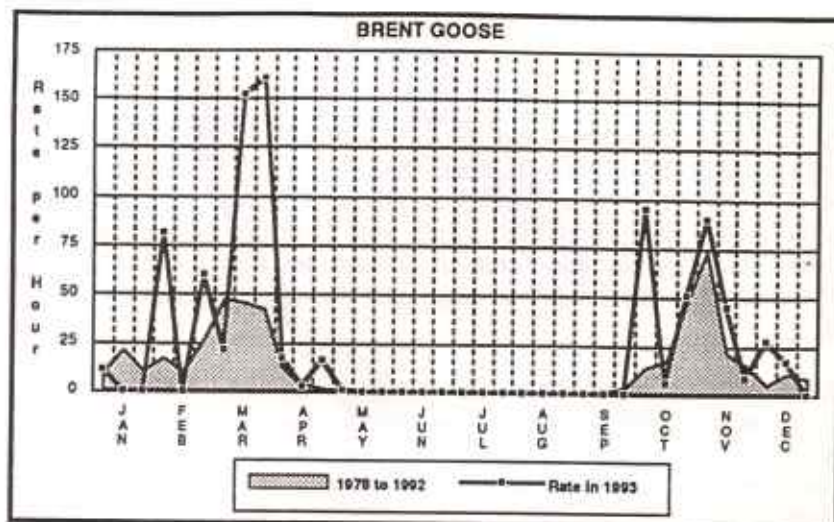
Chronological Report

Very little was seen in the early months. The first Sandwich Tern of the spring passed on Mar 12th with a total of 53 seen during Mar and a peak of 21 on Mar 28th. South-east winds over the weekend of Mar 27th/28th brought a rush of typical March birds with 1168 Brent Geese on the 27th and 2181 on 28th, 303 Common Scoters and a good selection of wildfowl on 28th and 2 summer plumaged Slavonian Grebes on Mar 27th.

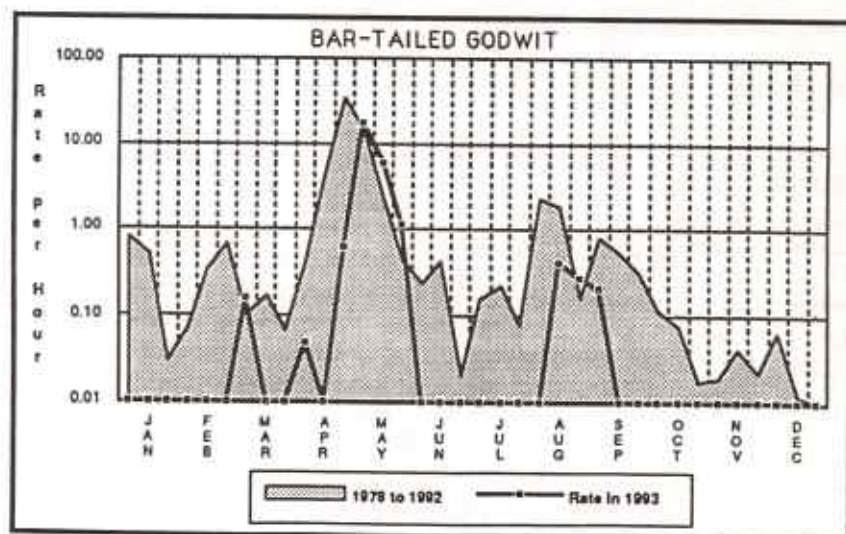
April opened very quietly, indeed several days only had a few minutes observation and there were at least two blank days. The tempo picked up on Apr 8th as the wind once again blew from the SE; a Mediterranean Gull and an Arctic Skua preceeded a good passage of 784 Common and 14 Velvet Scoters on Apr 9th. Passage continued at a trickle over the Easter week-end and then ground to a halt until later in the month when 9 Arctic Skuas passed on Apr 20th, 22 Arctic Skuas and a magnificent flock of 11 Avocets on Apr 24th and the first arriving Hobby on Apr 25th. Towards the end of the month the winds blew from the north-east and the weather maps were showing typical weather for observing large movements of Bar-tailed Godwits. Although some large flocks were observed no huge movements were witnessed.

The best passage of godwits came in lighter NE winds during the first 10 days of May which turned out, as reputation, to be the best period in the spring. A total of c 15,000 birds were seen in this period as a steady stream of eastbound waders produced totals of 4469 Bar-tails, 1057 Whimbrels, 744 Knot, 570 Grey Plovers, 531 Sanderling and 279 Turnstones. Terns too were more numerous with the 10 day total of Common/Arctic terns being 3009, 315 Little Terns, 86 Black Terns and 38 Little Gulls. Following the terns there were Skuas, although not numerous there were 27 Arctic and 23 Pomarine Skuas including the palest light phase individual I have ever seen. This period also produced some of the best spring birds including 5 more Avocets, a female Marsh harrier on May 5th, an Osprey on May 6th, 2 Hobbies arriving on May 8th and a

SEAWATCHING 1993 - BRENT GOOSE
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS

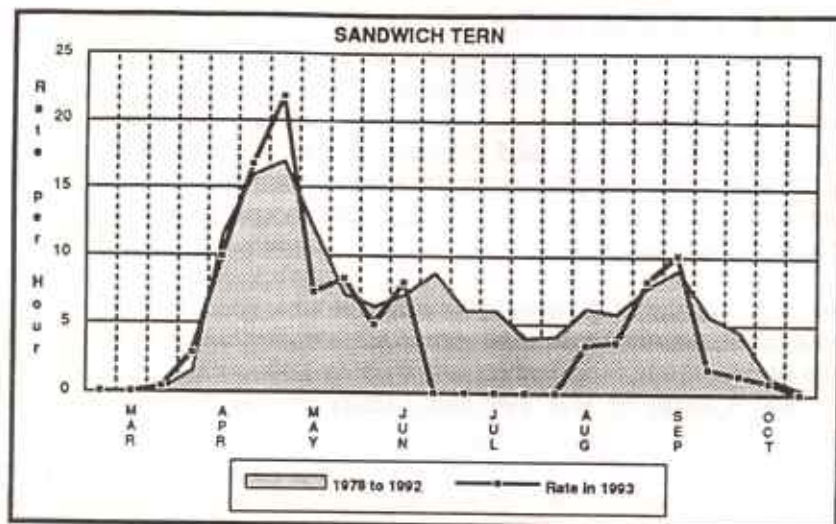


SEAWATCHING 1993- BAR-TAILED GODWIT
RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS (Logarithmic Scale)



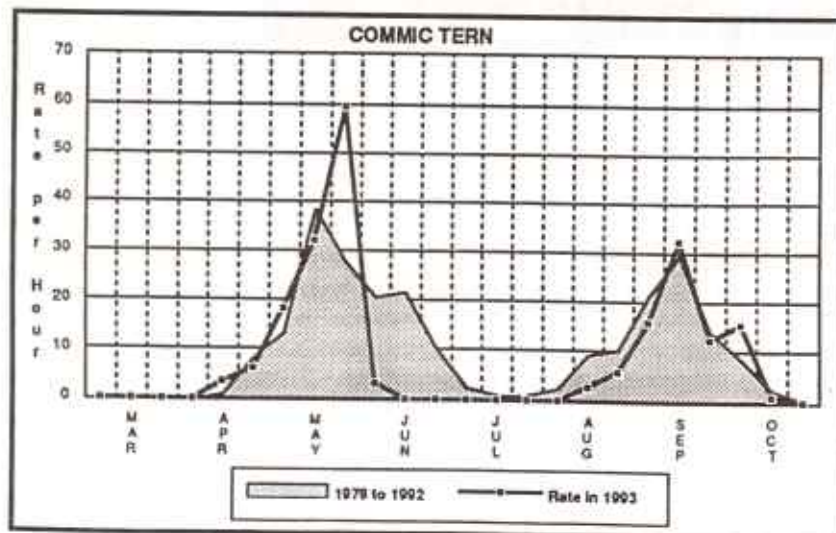
SEAWATCHING 1993 - SANDWICH TERN

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



SEAWATCHING 1993 - "COMMIC" TERN

RATE OF PASSAGE IN 10 DAY PERIODS



Nightjar which wing-clapped on arrival over the beach during the afternoon of May 10th.

The light E or NE winds remained until May 13th continuing the steady passage of waders and terns; the season's peak of 60 Black Terns passed on May 12th and the peak of 1693 "commics" was seen on May 13th. No less than 5 Roseate Terns were seen moving east with the commoner terns, a single on May 11th and 2 on each of the following two days. Spotted Redshank, Greenshanks, Mediterranean Gulls were amongst the variety of irregularly seen species which combined to make May the most varied and interesting sea-watching month.

After May 15th the tempo slowed but still there were good watches with several skuas, mainly Arctic, to be seen. A summer plumage Red-necked Grebe on May 16th, 203 Gannets east on May 17th, a Great Northern Diver and 4 Shags on May 19th and 2 Ruffs on May 22nd were the highlights in the latter part of May.

The above table shows how little watching was done in the summer and autumn too was not well covered. Few days were noteworthy; a blow on Sept 13th produced 75 Gannets and 2 Manx Shearwaters, the autumn peak of Brent Geese was a mere 85 on Oct 24th, a brief cold watch on Nov 6th produced both Goldeneye and Long-tailed Duck and a watch of 2.8 hrs on Dec 27th revealed an eastward movement of 72 divers (most considered to be Red-throated), 93 Red-breasted Mergansers and 25 Auks.

John Newnham



FIELD OUTINGS 1993

The first outing of the year took place on 17th Jan at Appledrum where 14 members joined Dave Smith & Richard Ives for a tour of the area. 3 brief views of Kingfisher brought a flash of colour to the grey, overcast morning. A superb male Sparrowhawk provided the best raptor of the day. The tidal creek at Appledrum produced the usual number of mixed wader & duck flocks. The party then headed westwards to Thorney Island where 2 Little Egrets were found fishing in the Great Deepes and a male Scaup was an excellent bonus for the day.

Bernie Forbes all day outing around the local area on 14th Feb allowed the 14 participants to catch up with some of the local specialities. Members were first shown 2 Common Scoter, 2 Red throated Divers, 1 Guillemot & 300 Brent Geese moving eastwards off Shoreham Harbour. At Widewater 3 species of Grebes were found with Little on the lagoon and Great Crested and Slavonian out to sea. The Flood Arch produced a fleeting glimpse of a Kingfisher and a single Snipe.

The afternoon session on the Adur levels was fairly productive but one species, a Green Sandpiper, was only seen by the leader. Fortunately the Tree Sparrow which was being extremely elusive in the centre of a hawthorn finally gave itself up when it was joined by a mate. A total count of 111 Cormorants on the pylons show just how important this area is for this species. The afternoon highlight was the 3 Short eared Owls who performed well for 15 minutes- what wonderful creatures they are. The total number of species for the day was 64 species which is impressive for the local area especially in such a mild winter.

Dave Smith met 16 members for the April 18th walk along Ferring beach and Ferring Rife. Although the day was cool and overcast a reasonable selection of birds was seen although the expected Wheatear did not oblige. A Turnstone was spotted amongst the usual waders along the beach. The sea produced a close Red-throated Diver, a more distant Gannet and 4 Great Crested Grebes sat offshore while 8 Sandwich Terns migrated eastwards. Other migrants included a Swallow and an early Sedge Warbler seen along the Rife. The raptorial contribution was provided by a Sparrowhawk!

A fairly cold but still morning greeted the 6 members who joined Chris Fox at the crack of dawn at Wiston on May 8th. The walk through

both conifer & deciduous woodland produced a total of 3 singing Nightingales. 2 pairs of Treecreepers and a variety of other common migrants. Blackcaps were well represented and there was the ever confusing problem of trying to distinguish between that superb fluty song and that of the Garden Warbler. After much deliberation it was decided that only one pair of Garden Warbler was present. The members also recorded Fallow Deer and two lucky individuals saw a Muntjac Deer which is rapidly becoming more common in the area.

The combination of cold NE winds, rain, very low tides and perhaps a new venue clearly detracted members from this normally popular outing. In fact only 1 member joined John Newnham on 9th May for the sea-watching outing at the Alinora shelter. Despite the dreadful weather there were several redeeming points to the morning: several parties of waders, many in full summer plumage passed by and there were a few Swift and Hirundines arriving. A small group of Gannets were fishing close offshore and there were plenty of Fulmars enjoying the strong wind. The highlight of the morning watch was a party of 5 "Poms" which passed east at 0940. This species has successfully avoided SDOS outings previously, regrettably however the small party was the most distant birds to be seen.

A beautiful day greeted those 22 intrepid members who travelled down to the New Forest to meet Bernie Forbes on June 6th. The journey was obviously made very worthwhile when some of the forest specialities were located. The highlights included at least half a dozen Hawfinch - such a difficult species to locate at any time of the year. Another elusive bird in Sussex, the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, was well represented with three being located during the day. Good numbers of Hobby (6), and a similar number of Buzzard showed just what a superb place this is for our raptor species. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful trip and everyone added a little to their sun tans and many added a few ticks to the life lists.

Despite many of our members going to the SOS Nightjar outing the night before Brian Metcalfe mustered 20 on July 3rd. Coldwaltham brooks were exceptionally quiet with only a couple of Reed Buntings & 2 Mallards. A Common Tern and a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew over and a Barn Owl afforded excellent views. Later at Parham two male Nightjars were seen and a few Woodcocks roded across the woods.

Another blustery day greeted the 14 members who joined Peter Whitcomb on **5th September** at Hollingbury Camp. Owing to the windy conditions the party went down into Wildpark Coombe where it was more sheltered. Sparrowhawk, Spotted Flycatcher and Jay were seen but there were very few other birds. A small mixed flock of Willow Warblers, tits, and Spotted Flycatchers were seen making its way along the top edge of the arable field and the outing finished with good views of Lesser Whitethroat on the Camp itself. Frog Orchid was the best floral species recorded.

Brian Metcalfe was once again on hand to lead a party of 17 around Cissbury and the ringing site on **October 3rd**. The bushes around the carpark yielded a mixed finch flock and an unusual sight of 18 Jays leaving a roost. The highlight of the trip was the visit to the ringing site where members could watch the ringing activities and compare the various species in the hand.

Roy Sandison led 21 members around the Climping area on **October 10th** where the party recorded 50 species. The usual wading species were recorded on the beach and the wooded area produced the resident Little Owl and a few departing warbler species. The highlight of the day was a Woodlark which flew southwards over Atherington. (It was an excellent autumn for this species with multiple sightings in both the east and west of the county- Ed.)

Clive Hope led 12 people around the northern end of Thorney Island on **5th December** and they managed to record 62 species. Needless to say, one of the most numerous and obvious species was Little Egret where between 4 and 6 were recorded. Thorney also showed its attractiveness to over wintering waders when both Whimbrel and Greenshank were seen. The reedbed harboured 5 Bearded tits, and an elusive Cetti's Warbler which was heard only briefly. It also provided a hunting area for the 2 Short eared Owls which were present in the area.

Finally atrocious weather forced Stanley Allen and the two members brave enough to turn up into abandoning the traditional Boxing Day walk. However they regrouped the following day for a stroll around the lower Adur and were justly rewarded with sightings of Purple Sandpiper, Mediterranean Gull and a Black Redstart at the Old Fort.

INDOOR MEETINGS 1993

The year kicked off well with L Holloway's lecture on mammals & birds of Tanzania. Everyone was enthralled by the wonderful slides of this wildlife haven. Every picture seemed to evoke an atmosphere & give one the feeling of actually being there. A piece of winter escapism.

February's lecturer was brimming with enthusiasm as he described his beloved Berry Head. Nigel Smallbone, the warden, went into great detail on how the auk population is monitored and the trends in the fortunes of the Cirl Bunting. There were numerous atmospheric shots of this rugged Devonian headland. Everyone knew at the end of the lecture that a visit to this reserve is absolutely necessary whenever a trip to the west is planned.

The Secretary had to apologise for the second non-appearance of Richard Williamson from Kingley Vale. With only 30 minutes to go some of our members prepared themselves for an impromptu members' evening. Bernie gave an informative talk on the various clubs and societies which we should join. He also gave advice on which publications would be most beneficial to our members & then finally he went onto the electronic gadgets which are becoming the armoury for the dedicated twitcher.

Stanley gave us a photo tour & included Berry Head just to convince us that we really should make the effort to go there. The local hot spots were also described and some members had to admit to quite a bit of ignorance of their own County. John Stafford chose to show us some of his excellent slides which have been put on the SDOS promotional video. These evoked memories of several of our more interesting local rarities. The evening ended with Cliff Walder showing us the slides on his trip to Namibia. Besides the birds there were wonderful close-ups of the larger mammals including elephants, antelopes & even a cheetah basking in the sun at the hotel ! It was an excellent evening and it is pleasing that we have so much talent on tap within our society.

After the AGM in April we were treated to a lecture by Ann Griffiths who is the Conservation Officer for West Sussex. Ann paid tribute to the work the society is doing in the area of conservation and she gave us an update on the work being carried out in the county. She gave an insight into the strategy and environmental policies which will reap benefits for our

wildlife. She also gave us some important information on the habitat directive from Europe along with some of the positive steps taken within Sussex to meet this criteria. A very interesting talk.

Our October meeting saw Mr T Whitbread from the Sussex Wildlife Trust giving a lecture on water for wildlife. He stressed the need to conserve this very important resource and gave us an informative lecture about the wildlife associated with our lakes, ponds and rivers. There were numerous photographs of the plants & insects which we need to conserve. The evening ended with a cheque being handed over to the Wildlife Trust from our society. The four members who had spent 20 hours in the field one day in May had raised a lot of money to ensure that the SWT can continue its important work for conservation.

November saw a visit by Sarah Patton who gave us a tour of her local stomping ground: Climbing. She described how the establishment of the Preservation Society has been beneficial to the area as they have been able to block various schemes which would have been detrimental to the wildlife. She also went into depth on the various ways in which the sand dunes can be stabilised & their relative success rates. As this area is on our outdoor programme it provided some interesting background information.

To mark our fortieth anniversary Tony Marr returned to give us his insight into local ornithology and some of his more memorable moments. It was a wonderful talk and the stories about the "chum" & the Irish tractor saga will not be forgotten. He also gave everyone an insight into the beginnings of the Sussex Ornithological Society and the problems of getting a record accepted by the recorder- thankfully things have improved since then! It was rather touching that one of our first members who has achieved so much in ornithology was very proud to have been asked to lead our 40 year celebration. He promised to come back to help us with our 50th- we will make sure he keeps his word!

R.Ives / B.Reeve / T.Hicks

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.

Rod Shaw (Hon Recorder)

OFFICERS FOR 1993

President	Dr. J.R. Stafford
Hon. Secretary	Mrs B. Reeve The Old Rectory, Coombes. Tel: (0273) 452497.
Hon. Field Secretary	Mr B. Metcalfe 16 High Street, Steyning. Tel: (0903) 813360
Hon. Treasurer	Mr A.D. Bullock 65 Roman Road, Steyning. Tel: (0903) 815644.
Hon Recorder	Mr R. Shaw 1 Forge Close, Portslade by Sea, Brighton. Tel: (0273) 422485.
Hon Report Editor	Mr R.A. Ives 90 Downlands Avenue, Worthing.
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 1993

	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
<u>RECEIPTS</u>		
	£	£
Balance brought forward	3,328.53	3,766.21
Subscriptions	810.50	901.00
Sales of Books, Reports etc.	47.60	56.00
Net Raffle & Refreshments	26.85	63.20
Building Society Interest (net)	71.93	24.51
Proceeds of Sponsored Walk	24.00	-
Sale of Computer	140.00	-
	<u>£4,449.41</u>	<u>£4,810.92</u>

PAYMENTS

Printing	258.91	346.17
Postage and Stationary	30.00	95.92
Secretary's Expenses	56.90	31.04
Hire of Hall	56.00	140.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' Fees	172.00	105.00
Sundries	32.73	15.00
Donation - Sussex Wildlife Trust	-	226.00
Cards for Resale	72.00	-
Bank Charges	0.66	-
Balance carried forward	3,766.21	3,847.79
	<u>£4,449.41</u>	<u>£4,810.92</u>

A.D.Bullock (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 28th February 1994

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

