

SHOREHAM DISTRICT  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT  
1994



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Logo, map and line drawings by Richard Ives. Notebook sketches by a member.  
Graphs by Brian Clay. Cover illustration of Radde's Warbler by Richard Ives.

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## EDITORIAL

My first Annual Report has been unfortunately delayed owing to the postponement of purchasing a computer. Most of the typing used old traditional methods and also involving much extra work by Brian Clay whose welcome input once again eventually got the Report published. My thanks to Rod Shaw for his well written copy for the systematic list and apologises to him for the needless rush earlier in the year! Thanks too to all the contributors and members who have given me advice, and most particularly to the aforementioned Brian Clay for his expert guidance and involvement.

It was extremely encouraging to see a high proportion of the membership contributing records, but I am sure the Hon. Recorder would like to press for even more! Coastal migrant sightings and seawatching are of course important, but data on some of the area's other resident birds seems to be getting overlooked? Surely we have Nuthatches in our recording area? There must be breeding Barn Owls? Are House Martins declining? Do the Stretham Manor Tree Sparrows breed? These are just a few examples that come to mind. The systematic list is the most important feature of the Report and should accurately reflect the birding scene of the Shoreham area.

Lastly some praise for the backroom boys (and girls) who serve on the various committees; to those who plan and lead the outdoor outings, and who in turn are encouraged by the support; to the arrangers of the indoor meetings where the attendance is increasing so much that a larger venue is being sought; and finally some overdue thanks to Richard Ives whose drawings have been extensively used for both newsletters and Reports over a long period. I am proud to be editor of such an enthusiastic membership.

Peter Whitcomb Hon. Editor

99 Barnett Road  
Brighton BN1 7GJ



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## **NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1994**

1994 has produced not only a crop of interesting birds in our area, but also a liberal sprinkling of local and national rarities. It is always heartening to know that our area is being well watched and not totally forsaken in favour of more exotic locations in the county. With this, please bear in mind that your 'bread and butter' records are equally as welcome as your 'unusual' records. Good luck in 1995.

For yet another year January failed to provide the icy, inclement weather required for radical bird movements on an intensive scale. Winter resident Jack Snipe were on Ferring Rife, there were a smattering of Black Redstarts, some Mediterranean Gulls and local Peregrine sightings. The only interesting seaduck was a Long-tailed Duck passing west at Shoreham Harbour on 23rd and also at the Harbour a 1st winter Iceland Gull was present from 11-13th. Away from the coastal strip, a Water Rail at the Sanctuary on 31st, and a Short-eared Owl over a Southwick garden on 11th.

Although February produced a couple of snowy mornings (with associated interesting observations), there still remained little to lend itself to a hard weather movement. The best birds for the month were 2 Bewick's Swans on Shoreham Airfield before flying south downriver on the snowy 15th, and a Dartford Warbler reported at Shoreham Fort on 13th.

In March, spring weather at the month end promised the lure of an early migration especially after Serins at Goring Gap between 19th and 26th (see systematic list). At sea, a Great Northern Diver passed Worthing eastbound on 28th, 31 White-fronted Geese also eastbound on 31st and 3 Garganey sped past Brighton Marina on 30th. Few and far between these days, a ringtail Harrier was quartering the Goring area on 29th, and passerines included Firecrests in a Broadwater garden and at Woodvale Crematorium, a Brambling calling over Broadwater on 20th, and also a Crossbill a week later.

The spring-like weather of early March gave way to ceaseless northerly winds for the first 3 weeks of April! However, after a brilliant weekend embracing the 23rd and 24th, more unsettled weather threatened to prolong the long anticipated migration yet further. Migrants arrived sporadically throughout the month but nothing of great note was reported until 21st when 3 Black Necked Grebes in summer finery graced the sea off Worthing Beach and the following day a similar Slavonian Grebe off Widewater and an adult Glaucous Gull east



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there. Inland on the same day a Goshawk reported at Stanmer Down. The first flock of Pomarine Skuas appeared on 24th with 6 east off Worthing and 2 east off Brighton Marina. On the same day a single Roseate Tern passed both of these locations and a grand total of 60 Black Terns passed Worthing. The month bowed out with a singing Grasshopper Warbler at Shoreham Airfield on 25-26th, and the 28th provided a female Pied Flycatcher in the Pavilion Gardens, Brighton, and a Hobby over Preston Park Station. Finally, another Grasshopper Warbler at Hollingbury Camp on 30th.

Periods of SE winds near the beginning of May failed to produce a mass migration and thereafter the weather remained fairly unsettled. At sea, Manx Shearwaters were seen off Worthing on 3rd with 12 east and 12 west, a single passed Widewater east on 10th, and 2 eastbound Roseate Terns were noted from Goring and Worthing on 21st. Inland, a Wryneck at Sussex University on 3rd is a 'rare' spring record, a Black Kite over Lancing Ring on 13th is under consideration, as is a Red-rumped Swallow seen at Cuckoo's Corner on 28th.

A quiet June and July produced breeding records of Buzzard and Peregrine, and keeping to the raptor theme which dominated the early summer, a Honey Buzzard was reported over Preston park on July 19th.

August was a generally unsettled month with warm periods alternating with cooler periods. Autumn migration was under way by the end of the month and the highlights included a female or immature Marsh Harrier west over Worthing Beach on 7th, an Osprey south over Hollingdean, Brighton on 13th, and a single Little Egret in the Lower Adur Valley from 15th was joined by a second bird from 18th, both remaining around the railway bridge area until the month end. The 18th saw also the return of the ringed Mediterranean Gull to Shoreham Harbour, now a fully fledged adult.



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Early September threatened the start of a long wet winter but for the saving grace of an Indian Summer towards the end. Autumn passage of common birds continued, now in full swing, and our area produced a crop of interesting records. Although apparently absent since August 31st, a Little Egret reappeared on the Adur on the 11th and remained there until October 2nd. The best wader record was of a Curlew Sandpiper along the Saltings on 11th, but Little Stints ignored us. A Corncrake was flushed at Sheepcote Valley on 17th, then the 24th produced a Grasshopper Warbler at Cissbury and a juvenile male Red-backed Shrike at Sompting which saw the month out and stopped until October 2nd. Finally, a Short-eared Owl circled Goring Gap on 27th and Ring Ouzels were present at Hollingbury Camp.

October was a bumper month for rarities, semi-rarities and infrequently recorded birds. The early part of the month saw Ring Ouzels continuing to linger around Hollingbury Camp before a Brambling was noted at Goring Gap on 13th. First of the 'goodies' was a winter-plumaged adult White-winged Black Tern in Shoreham Harbour on 15th, then two days later, before dawn on the 17th, a pair or small flock of Cranes were heard passing approx. SE over Findon. A positive gem, a Pallas's Warbler, was recorded in East Brighton Park on 22nd and a second individual graced a Ferring garden on 23rd. Observers vainly attempting to locate the Brighton Pallas's Warbler on 24th had to settle for the area's second Red-backed Shrike for the year, another immature. Last but not least, member's gardens in the west of our area continued to exploit their monopoly on Eastern Palearctic Warblers with a Radde's Warbler in a West Worthing garden on 26th and 27th.

The mildest November since records began was rather an anti-climax after the excitement of October. Bird of the month was undoubtedly the Crane on the Upper Adur Levels north of Bramber from 7-9th. Other birds of interest included a Dartford Warbler on Hollingbury Camp, a male Goosander west past Goring Beach on 13th and 6 Bewick's Swans briefly in the vicinity of Ferring Rife on 29th.

After an unseasonally mild start to December, cold weather set in just before Christmas only to be broken by rain and gales over the holiday period. As a result, bird populations remained rather static and there were very few reports of bird movements. The month's best bird was a Merlin at Ferring Rife on 13th but otherwise December saw the year out on a somewhat disappointing note.

Rod Shaw

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## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1994

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

T Agate, S R Allen, J Andersson, V P Bentley, P M Brayshaw, C Brooks, P Brown, J Bujok, M C Casemore, G L Champion, B R Clay, R Edney, G Edwards, R Eyre-Walker, R J Fairbank, J A Feest, A R Fenton, B F Forbes, M Hall, L E Hemblade, C E Hope, R A Ives, H Jackson, I Lawes, N Lever, J M and S P Maskell, B Metcalfe, Dr J A Newnham, A Polkey, M Prince, B Reeve, R J Sandison, R M and S J D Shaw, R Simpson, D I Smith, R Tofts, D Walker, Dr A B and A E Watson, R Westwater, P J and A D and I J Whitcomb, K Wood.

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 and Chanctonbury. References to Worthing Beach in seawatching data include all seawatch sites unless separately identified. 'Adur' refers to the river and associated mudflats between the footbridge and Shoreham flyover.

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

**Regular on passage and winter resident.** Early year records away from Worthing Beach were 1 Shoreham Harbour on Jan 14 and 12 E with 2 W off Shoreham on Feb 2. Spring seawatching at Brighton Marina produced 1 E Mar 26, 3 E Apr 23 and 14 E Apr 24.

Records for Worthing Beach between Jan 1 and May 21 and from Nov 12, give the following totals



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	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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E	-	9	99	11	14	-	-	-	2	-
W	4	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Peak spring movement was 72 E on Mar 27. Apart from 2 W Worthing Beach on Nov 12 there were no other late records received.

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

**Fairly rare passage diver.** Passage birds specifically identified came from Worthing Beach, Widewater and Brighton Marina. Totals for April were 22 E and 5 W; totals for May being 14 E. Peak movement was 8 E Worthing Beach on Apr 23, when there was also a single bird on the sea.

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

**Rare visitor, just 1-2 per year.** 1 E Worthing Beach on Mar 28 (PMB) constitutes the only record.

**DIVER SP**

Caution should always be exercised when identifying distant divers. Unspecified birds from Worthing Beach were recorded between Jan 1 and May 21 and from Sep 23 giving the following totals :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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E	1	9	419	47	64	-	-	2	-
W	9	-	9	5	1	1	-	11	10

Peak spring movement was 297 E on Mar 27.

0007 **LITTLE GREBE** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)

**Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder.** Noted from January to March from Southwick Canal, New Salts Farm, Cuckoo's Corner, Brooklands and Ferring Rife - either in singles or pairs. The overall picture from October to December was similar but with 3 recorded from Brooklands.

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

**Regular offshore for most of year.** Offshore reports received only from Worthing Beach with a peak of 8 on Mar 20. After 5 there on Apr 20, odd birds

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were reported until May 7. Spring seawatches, again only from Worthing, produced a March total of 17 E and 6 E for April. The only late record was 1 E Worthing Beach on Sep 14. This species is probably well under-reported. All records gratefully received.

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

**Regular winter visitor offshore.** No early records, but recorded off Worthing Beach in Spring with 2 E on Mar 21; 1 offshore on Mar 24; and 2 there on Apr 13. An individual in summer plumage was off Widewater on Apr 22. No late year records reported.

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

**Rare visitor, 1-2 only per year.** Three s.p. birds off Worthing Beach on Apr 21 (DIS et al) was the only record.

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

**Common spring passage species, no suitable nest sites.** Seawatches from Worthing Beach produced monthly totals as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep
E	-	-	74	39	181	8	-	1	3
W	-	-	35	76	85	6	-	7	4

Peak movement was 112 E on May 21. Monthly totals from Brighton Marina, where birds nest on the cliffs a mile or so to the east (outside recording area) were 30 in Mar and 127 in Apr. Continuous summer sightings from the few pairs breeding. Curiously, an inland record was 1 over Findon on July 28.

After an unremarkable autumn passage, birds were again around Brighton Marina from Dec 3. The only other December record was 1 E Brighton Beach on 15th.

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

**Fairly uncommon spring/autumn visitor.** Spring records were 12 E and later 12 W Worthing Beach on May 3 (DIS); 1 E Widewater on May 10 (SRA); and 1 W Worthing Beach on June 4 (RJS). In the autumn there were 2 W Worthing Beach on Sep 14 (MP).

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

**Regular in most months.** Monthly totals for Worthing Beach were as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	44	35	171	9	-	86	18	13	-	-
W	-	-	22	17	127	44	-	12	1	15	-	1

Peak movements were 78 E on May 21 and 30 E on Aug 7. At Brighton Marina were 1 on Mar 26, 21 on Apr 16 and 2 on Apr 24 (no directions given).

Away from Worthing Beach very few autumn records were received. Unusual was a report of an immature SSW over Maybridge on Sep 13 chivvied by Herring Gulls.

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

**Common at coastal and some inland sites.** The Wyckham Farm roost was 67 on Jan 16 and other early year counts were 39 East Worthing Sewage outfall on Mar 20 and 36 there on Apr 12. Late year counts included 41 along the Lower Adur on Sep 19; 24 Southwick on Nov 5; and 116 roosting on pylons along the Upper Adur Valley on Nov 8.

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

**Fairly uncommon winter visitor, regularly only at Brighton Marina.** In the early months were up to 4 at Brighton Marina Jan-mid Feb, and 2 Southwick in early January. In spring an adult was at East Worthing Sewage Outfall on Apr 12, and passing Worthing Beach were 2 E on Apr 24 and 1 E on May 13. There were no late year records.

0119 **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

**Once a very rare vagrant, now annual in area.** A single reported in the Lower Adur Valley near Botolphs on Aug 15 (BM) was probably the same bird reported on the west bank of the Adur between railway and tollbridges on 16th. This bird remained in the area until at least Aug 31 and was joined by a second bird from 18th (mo). Another well-watched bird (or probably one of the previous birds) was reported from various sites around the Lower Adur from Sep 9 to Oct 2 (mo). Finally, a further single was present by the tollbridge on Dec 21 (PMB).



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0122 **GREY HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*)

**Common, with breeding colony in area.** No significant counts were received from the early months and Worthing Beach recorded only 2 E on May 2. The Wyckham Wood heronry contained 24 nests. Fairly regular along Ferring Rife and late year counts for the Adur Saltings were 5 Aug, 6 Sep, 11 Oct and 9 Nov. Of interest were 10 landing on Widewater lagoon well after dark at 22.00 hrs on Aug 3rd.

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

**Rare vagrant.** A record of a bird in the Adur Valley near Coombes reported to a member by several casual walkers would need substantiating re. status etc.

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

**Common breeding species.** Early year records were 31 Wyckham on Jan 1, and 20 there on Jan 23. During Feb 2 adults with 1 imm were in Brighton Marina, then spring seawatches at Worthing produced 2 W on Apr 17 and 1 E on May 13. During the breeding season a pair raised 7 young on Patching Pond.

A total of 73 were in the Lower Adur Valley on July 3, and later in the year seawatches produced 2 on the sea off Goring on Oct 7 and 3 E Brighton on Nov 28. There was a count of 33 birds at Wyckham Farm on Nov 16 and in December, the Brighton Marina birds had increased to 4 adults and 3 imm.

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

**Small regular wintering herd.** The Upper Adur Valley count for Jan was 9 which included 2 juvs. Elsewhere, 2 on Shoreham Airfield in snowy weather on Feb 15 flew south along the River Adur. The only late year records were of 6 birds near Ferring Rife on Nov 29 and 2 Wyckham Farm on Dec 21.

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

**Rare winter visitor.** A skein of 31 E Worthing Beach on Mar 31 (PMB) was our only record.

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

**Fairly scarce feral species.** 1 W Goring Beach on Mar 26.

**GREY GOOSE SP**

15 S over Sussex University on Nov 11.

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0166 **CANADA GOOSE** (*Branta canadensis*)

**Increasing within area.** Three records for our area: after 12 on the Upper Adur levels on Mar 1, there were 5 near tollbridge on May 8, and at the end of the year an unprecedented 120 were on flooded fields in the Upper Adur Valley on Nov 15.

0168 **BRENT GOOSE** (*Branta bernicla*)

**Common on passage; small winter flocks at coastal sites.** Monthly totals from Worthing Beach were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	40	99	1093	412	140	-	44	-	14
W	-	15	7	-	2	24	79	111	14

Peak spring passage was 697 E on Mar 27 and the last were 62 E on May 22. Elsewhere, 4 were noted on Adur Saltings on Mar 27; Brighton Marina peak was 205 E on Mar 26; and from West Pier, Brighton there were 110 E on Apr 21.

Autumn passage was noted from Sep 21 with 6 W at Worthing Beach. Other records were until the end of the year including 6 on the sea off Goring on Oct 7; 4 in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 16; and 1 Ferring Rife on Nov 16.

An individual showing characteristics of the Pale-bellied sub-species (*B.b. hrota*) was noted flying east with a flock of nominate race birds off Worthing Beach on Mar 23 (PMB).

0173 **SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna tadorna*)

**Increasing in numbers.** Seawatching totals from Worthing Beach were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	11	15	40	-	-	-	-
W	-	4	3	7	10	17	-	8	1

Max. were 18 E on May 8 and 15 E on May 22. Other records were up to 3 on the Adur from Jan to at least Apr 6; and a pair on Widewater on Mar 30 and Apr 23.

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0179 **WIGEON** (*Anas penelope*)

**Regular winter visitor.** Early year records were 17 Henfield Brooks on Jan 1, and 4 Ferring Rife on Feb 14/15. The only spring seawatching record was of 2 passing Brighton Marina on Apr 24. Two autumn records were 30 W Worthing Beach on Sep 19 and 2 W Shoreham on Sep 29. Winter records were 30 Adur Levels on Nov 8 and a single near the railway bridge on Dec 25.

0182 **GADWALL** (*Anas strepera*)

**Uncommon in the area.** No records received for 1994.

0184 **TEAL** (*Anas crecca*)

**Regular within the area.** Recorded from Worthing Beach in March with a total of 57 E. This total was largely comprised of 29 E on Mar 27 and 26 E on Mar 21. The only other record received was of a single on Ferring Rife on Aug 13.

0186 **MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

**Common species.** Breeding records from Ferring Rife show chick counts of 5 in April, 2 June and 10 July. By Adur Kennels 6 chicks were noted on May 13. During September a regular easterly movement at dusk from Goring was noted, a count of 46 being made on 25th. At the end of the year, counts around the Lower Adur showed a December peak of 62.

0189 **PINTAIL** (*Anas acuta*)

**Regular winter sightings from both coastal and inland sites.** After 4 on Henfield Brooks on Jan 1, there were no records until spring when Worthing Beach recorded totals of 35 E and 1 W between Mar 18 and Apr 23, with a peak of 26 E on Mar 27. Other spring records were 2 E West Pier, Brighton on Mar 21, and 4 E Brighton Marina on Mar 26. The only late year record was of 7 W Worthing Beach on Dec 31.

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

**Rare passage migrant.** One record - 3 E Brighton Marina on Mar 30.

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

**Regular winter visitor depending on weather conditions.** No early records and in spring the Worthing Beach total was 26 E, all in March. At Brighton Marina were 10 E on Apr 16. Late year records were 1 W over a residential part of Shoreham Beach on Oct 16; and 2 in flooded fields in the Upper Adur Valley on Nov 15.



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

**Regular winter visitor in small numbers.** Only recorded from Brooklands and Widewater between which the same birds obviously commute. Early year maxima were 39 Jan; 31 Feb, and 28 Mar. At the end of the year birds were noted from Sep 14 with 2 on Brooklands and late year maxima were 26 Oct; and 36 Nov and Dec.

0203 **TUFTED DUCK** (*Aythya fuligula*)

**Declining winter visitor.** Another poor year for records with 8 noted Brooklands during the early months at least until March but 4 were present there May 14th-17th. Spring seawatches from Worthing produced a total of 15E between Mar 22 and May 19. After 4 on Brooklands on Sep 19 there were 14 during October but no records received for Nov or Dec.

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

**Scarce winter visitor.** One record:- 2E Worthing Beach Mar 21.

0206 **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*)

**Regular offshore in winter, and passage migrant.** A regular flock of 7 between Hove and West Pier in the early months dwindled to 3 by May before dispersing. Spring seawatching from Worthing Beach produced totals of 50E Mar; 21E Apr; 430E May with peaks of 13E on Apr 21 and 16E on May 18. At the end of the year 7 were off Shoreham Harbour on Oct 16 otherwise a single east off Widewater on Sep 18.

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

**Rare winter passage migrant.** IW close to Shoreham Harbour entrance on Jan 23 was the only record.

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

**Common on spring passage.** There were no significant records for the early months then spring seawatches from Brighton Marina between Mar 26 and Apr 24 produced 331E with a peak of 221 on Apr 24. The totals from Worthing Beach were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E		3	561	671	1538	66	-	3	10	-	-	-
W		1	-	3	36	12	-	-	26	-	1	-

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Peak movements were 228E on Mar 27; 199E on Apr 23 and 249E on May 13. Away from Worthing Beach the only autumn record was 1W Shoreham Harbour on Sep 19, and later on were 25 there on Dec 2.

0214 **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*)

Fairly regular on passage. A flock of 9 were recorded off Hove on Feb 10, then in spring were 4E off Brighton Marina on Mar 26 and the seawatch log from Worthing Beach recorded 24E between Mar 27 and May 21 with a peak of 11E on Apr 21. In the 'wrong direction' were 2W Widewater on Apr 20. There were no late year records.

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

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. One record:- 3E Worthing Beach on Mar 21.

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

Rare winter visitor. No records for 1994.

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

Common offshore. At least 2 of the December visitors to Widewater lagoon maintained a presence until early April. A single was on Brooklands on Jan 2, 3 were on Adur Saltings on Jan 24 and in the harbour area (including Southwick Canal) up to 8 were present in Jan and Feb. Monthly totals passing Worthing Beach were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	3	25	490	65	10	-	-	-	1	9	-	7
W	-	6	30	11	1	-	-	-	6	-	7	23

Peak movements were 111E on Mar 27 and 107E on Mar 30. Other spring records were of 20 off Widewater on Mar 20 and 6 passing Brighton Marina on Apr 24. In the later months a single on Brooklands from Oct 31 was noted (on Nov 19) to be feeding on bread with the Mallards! Also on Nov 19 were 26W Widewater and finally 2 birds frequented Widewater lagoon during Dec.

0223 **GOOSANDER** (*Mergus merganser*)

Rare winter visitor. 1 male W, Goring Beach, on Nov 13 (DIS).

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0231 **HONEY BUZZARD** (*Pernis apivorus*)

**Rare vagrant.** 1 report of 1 over Preston Park on July 19 (GLC). The recorder is interested to know if this record has been submitted to S.O.S..

0238 **BLACK KITE** (*Milvus migrans*)

**Rare vagrant.** 1W over Lancing Ring between 1302 hrs and 1307 hrs on May 13 (RMS and SJDs). Full details to SOS and BBRC.

0260 **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*)

**Scarce passage migrant, almost annual.** Only 1 record for 1994 - 1W (female or imm) Worthing Beach on Aug 7 (JAN).

0261 **HEN HARRIER** (*Circus cyaneus*)

**Passage and occasional winter visitor, no longer annual.** Another poor year for this species with only a ringtail in the Goring area on Mar 29 (HJ).

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

**Rare on passage.** No records in 1994.

0267 **GOSHAWK** (*Accipiter gentilis*)

**Very rare.** A single reported over Stanmer Down on Apr 23 (JA). Details have been submitted.

0269 **SPARROWHAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*)

**Common and well established.** Regular sightings throughout our area continue to reflect this species' success. Reported from 10 localities during the breeding season with pairs from Bevendean Down and Wild Park known to have raised 2 young to flying stage.

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

**Regular sightings in the area.** Fewer records than 1993 but still 1 probable breeding record. Other records were: 1E Lancing Ring Mar 19; 1 Michelgrove Apr 30; 1W Storrington May 1; 1 Mill Hill at dusk mobbed by corvids June 14; 1E Storrington Aug 14 and 3 September records from Steyning Round Hill, Sompting Abbots and Lancing Ring.

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

**Rare passage migrant.** 1N over Preston Circus, Brighton on Aug 7 (ADW) and 1 south over Hollingdean at 5.50 pm on Aug 13 (ADW).



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

**Common and well established.** Breeding records received from 12 locations with the following known successes:- 1 pair at Long Furlong raised 3 young; 1 pair Bevendean Down raised 2 young; 1 pair Devil's Dyke raised 2 young. No significant records were received for the other months.

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

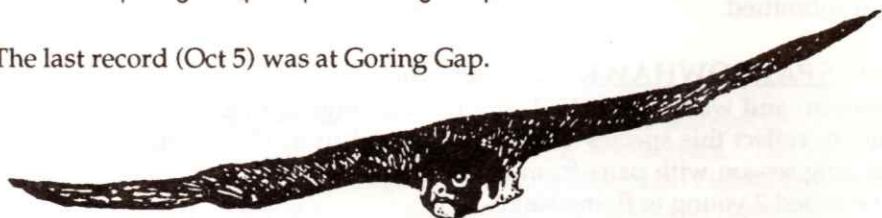
**Regular in autumn/winter.** The only early year record was of 1E Lancing on Mar 17. The first autumn record was a single at Sompting Downs on Sep 27 then in October were 1N Mill Hill on 12th and a female or juv. east over Shoreham Harbour on 16th. Finally, a single at Ferring Rife on Dec 13.

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

**Regular passage migrant, may breed.** First for the year was over Preston Park Stn, Brighton on Apr 28 then nothing until May 8 with 1W over a Storrington Garden. Between Apr 18 and Oct 5 recorded from 12 localities with monthly totals as follows :-

Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	5	4	1		8	1

The last record (Oct 5) was at Goring Gap.



0320 **PEREGRINE** (*Falco peregrinus*)

**Increasing within the area.** The status of this species within the SDOS recording area is currently under review. Frequent sightings at regular locations are probably attributed to certain behavioural patterns; likewise the glut of records from across the region. 1E Worthing Beach on Mar 19 was probably a passage migrant.

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

**Regular, with hybridisation reducing true stock.** Probably under-recorded.

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During the breeding season recorded only from Devil's Dyke and Foredown Hill.

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

**Common, maybe declining.** Significant counts included 14 Stretham on Jan 1; 10 Foredown Hill on Aug 31; 8 Sheepcote Valley on Sep 17 and 13 there on Oct 29; and 7 Goring Gap on Oct 9. Breeding season pairs were noted from Bevendean Down, Wild Park, Devil's Dyke, Highdown, Lower Adur Valley, Lancing Ring, Goring Gap and Ferring Rife.

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

**Rare but regular summer visitor.** East Brighton Golf Course singing 16th June (ADW). 1 calling Ditchling Beacon on Aug 10 (ADW; IJW).

0394 **PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*)

**Common.** Present in suitable habitat across the region. Breeding season counts received were 2 prs Devil's Dyke and 1 pr Wildpark.

0407 **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*)

**Regular winter visitor, may breed.** Three records for the year: 1 Upper Adur Levels Mar 2; 1 Shoreham Sanctuary Jan 31 and a bird was again present in Upper Adur Valley on Nov 16.

0421 **CORNCRAKE** (*Crex crex*)

**Extremely rare passage migrant.** One flushed from Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on Sep 17 (ADW). This is the first record since March 1973, and has been submitted to SOS.

0424 **MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*)

**Common.** Counts from Brooklands show maxima of 40 Jan, 46 Mar and 22 Nov. Early year peak counts on Ferring Rife were 8 during Jan, and in the breeding season up to 6 juvs were noted there in Apr and another 5 juvs in June. Up to 10 were on the Rife Sep/Oct before a peak of 40 in Nov. Elsewhere, birds were recorded regularly from New Salts Farm and Upper Adur Valley.

0429 **COOT** (*Fulica atra*)

**Common.** Maxima at Brooklands were 87 Jan, 50 Mar, 93 Sep (including 10 juvs), 86 Oct, 80 Nov and 71 Dec. A single was on Widewater on Apr 21.

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0433 **CRANE** (*Grus grus*)

**Rare vagrant.** A pair or a small flock was heard calling over Findon Valley before dawn on Oct 17 heading approx. SE - S (RJS). Later, a well watched single on the Upper Adur Levels north of Bramber from Nov 7 to 9th (BFF, SRA et al). All records have been submitted for consideration.

0450 **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*)

**Common.** Unfortunately the Goring wader roost had apparently moved to Kingston Beach, just west of our recording boundary, but maxima were 25 Sep, 22 Oct, 15 Nov and 23 Dec. Maxima for the Adur were 10 Jan, 27 Feb, 2 Sep, 7 Oct and 9 Nov.

Spring seawatches from Worthing Beach between Mar and May produced 223 E and 51 W with peaks of 37 E on Mar 27 and 30 E on Mar 30. At Brighton Marina 26 passed east on Apr 23.

0456 **AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

**Uncommon but regular passage wader.** 2 passing Brighton Marina on Apr 23 was the only record.

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

**Irregular in recent years.** No records submitted for 1994.

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

**Common, with breeding pairs.** Maximum counts from Adur and Goring water roosts are as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
A	142	95	51	-	48	-	-	147	102	152	228	NC
G	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	80	3	NC	65

The use of the Goring Gap roost is no longer consistent. Early year counts elsewhere included 125 on Shoreham Beach on Jan 11 and a max. of 70 at Brighton Marina on Jan 30. Late year counts on Shoreham Beach (west of the Fort) gave a maximum of 335 on Nov 22 and there were 45 in Brighton Marina on Nov 19.

Spring movements were insignificant but totals at Worthing Beach were 37E in August and 31E with 38W in September.



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Breeding records included 1 pr. holding territory on the beach near Brooklands and 2 prs. in Brighton Marina. A nest containing 3 eggs was noted at Widewater.

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

**Rare passage migrant.** No records for 1994.

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

**Regular winter flocks.** Early year counts in the Upper Adur Valley gave a maximum of 50 for January and there were 26 there on Feb 8. The only other records were 22 New Salts Farm on Jan 15 and 26 Shoreham Airfield on Feb 19.

First autumn record was 8 over Sompting Downs on Sep 26 then after 3 in the Upper Adur Valley on Nov 30 the Dec maximum here rose to 10. There were 19 at Goring Gap on Dec 19.

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

**Regular coastal winter flocks, passage migrant.** The only count from Goring wader roost was 121 as a December max. although 30 were noted on Goring Beach in Mar. Between Jan and Mar the Adur max. was 13, but only 3 at the end of the year.

Totals for Worthing Beach during spring passage were 45E in Mar and 172E in May with peaks of 34E on May 2 and 33E on May 11.

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

**Common, but now rare as a breeding species.** Counts for January were 2,000 on the Upper Adur levels and 1,000 for New Salts Farm, Airfield, etc. A count along Ferring Rife on Jan 19 produced 60 birds. Birds were noted displaying on Lancing Hill but no breeding records were received.

Winter flocks progressively built up after July: at Ferring Rife there were 30 present on July 26 then up to 60 in Aug, 150 in Oct and a peak of 800 in Nov. The Lower Adur flock was noted at 169 on Aug 13, 338 on Sep 1, 805 on Sep 14 and 1500 by early Dec. Max. count on the Upper Adur was 1,000 on Dec 14.

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

**Regular passage wader.** A relatively poor spring passage at Worthing brought a Mar-May total of 53E comprising 1E Mar, 5E Apr, and 47E May.

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A single present on the Adur from Feb 19 to Mar 19 may possibly have been the bird noted in summer plumage later in the spring. No late year records.

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

**Common winter wader.** Another casualty of the decline of the Goring wader roost, the only count here was of 45 in Dec. Goring Beach counts included a max. of 14 in Mar and 15 in Aug.

Spring passage past Worthing Beach gave the following totals:

	Mar	Apr	May
E	99	70	186
W	-	8	52

Peak movement was 59E on Mar 27. Other beach counts included 40 Worthing Beach on Mar 10 and 14 Lancing Beach Jan 13.

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

**Irregular passage wader.** A very poor year with one spring record from the Adur on May 8.

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

**Irregular passage wader.** A single noted on the Adur from Sep 11th-14th and 2 noted there on Sep 18.

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

**Small wintering flocks annually.** Between Jan and Apr reported from 3 coastal sites. A pair in Brighton Marina remained until at least April 23; 3 in Shoreham Harbour also remained until April and there is a record of 2 on Worthing Beach on Jan 9.

Late records were 2-3 in Shoreham Harbour from Oct 30 to the end of the year; up to 4 at Brighton Marina Nov/Dec.

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

**Commonest wader species in area.** The only counts for Goring wader roost were from two dates in December when there were 162 on 3rd and 603 on 31st.

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Adur counts for the year with monthly maxima were as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1397	97	2	-	-	-	-	20	31	23	232	

Movements were noted from Worthing Beach between March and June giving the following totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	82	146	86	-
W	3	1	1	3

Peak movement was 86E on Apr 22. The only beach counts were 267 Shoreham Fort on Jan 11, a pre-roost gathering on Worthing Beach of 80 on Mar 5; and a Goring Beach count during March of 166.

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

Normally regular passage migrant in small numbers. No records for 1994.

0518 **JACK SNIPE** (*Lymnocyrtus minimus*)

Regular winter visitor in small numbers. Up to 2 Ferring Rife from Jan-Mar with 1 there on Mar 21. The brief cold snap in February which produced a covering of snow on the morning of 15th also produced a single at Widewater. A single at the same place on 21st was probably the same bird and there were subsequently up to 3 there into early March.

The regular Rife birds may have deserted us as the only record for late year was a single on Nov 5. Elsewhere, a single on Beeding Brooks on Oct 28.

0519 **SNIPE** (*Gallinago gallinago*)

Common outside breeding season. Early year maxima were 123 Lower Adur in Jan; 200 Upper Adur in Feb; and 100 Ferring Rife in Mar.

Few records received for the late year but unusual were singles at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 17 and Oct 18.



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

**Irregular winter visitor and passage migrant.** Three records:- 2 at Wild Park on Mar 26; 1 at Wild Park on Nov 5, and 1 at Sheepcote on Nov 8.

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

**Regular but uncommon in area.** Three records for the year comprising 9E Worthing Beach on Apr 23 with 17E there on May 13, and 4E over Steyning Round Hill on Aug 6.

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

**Common passage wader.** Totals for Worthing Beach spring seawatches were 5E for Mar, 91E and 1W for Apr, and 416E with 22W for May. Peak day was May 10 with 107E.

Noted, during May, at Widewater and Adur with the last record being a single on May 22. The only autumn record was of an individual on the Adur on Sep 11.

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

**Common on spring passage.** First for the year were 5E Brighton Marina on Apr 16. Spring records passing Worthing Beach were 247E/60W in Apr and 95E/2W in May with a peak of 95E on Apr 22. Elsewhere were 22NE over West Worthing on Apr 22; 18E Marina on Apr 23 with 10E on the 24th; and a single by the tollbridge on May 7.

Only 1 autumn record: 1W Widewater on Aug 11.

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

**Common on passage.** A disappointing year for this species with records for the first half coming only from Worthing Beach seawatches where 13 passed east and 1 passed west from Feb-May inclusive.

Records for July-Dec from across the region were 2W over Broadwater on July 3 with 1W nearby on Aug 1; 2W Widewater on Sep 18; and 1E Lancing on Sep 21. Worthing Beach totals for Sep and Oct were 1E and 3E respectively.

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

**Rare passage wader.** No records in 1994.

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

**Common.** Counts from the Adur estuary produced monthly maxima as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
136	132	105	-	-	-	-	-	38	103	63	NC

The regular leucistic bird was present early year on the Adur and again from Oct 2.

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

**Regular passage wader.** The recorder has received no spring records for this species.

Autumn fared little better with only 5 records. After 1 over Shoreham Sanctuary on July 9 there were 1E Ferring Beach and 1E Worthing Beach on Aug 12; a single on the Adur on Aug 20 and finally and 1 calling over Brighton at 4am on Sep 17.

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

**Regular wintering wader.** Recorded only from the Upper Adur levels where 6 were noted in Jan and 3 in Feb. Not recorded again until a pair on Nov 8 which stayed into the new year.

0554 **WOOD SANDPIPER** (*Tringa glareola*)

**Rare passage wader.** No records for 1994.

0556 **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*)

**Common passage wader, occasionally over wintering.** No winter records for the first part of the year and the first for spring were 2 Brighton Marina on Apr 30. On May 14 a single passed Worthing Beach which may have been the individual reported at Widewater that day, and there were 2 adjacent to the Adur Flyover. A further single passed Worthing on May 22.

A solitary bird was near the cement works on June 26; 2 were at Goring Gap on Aug 4, and a max. of 3 frequented sites around the Lower Adur during Aug and Sep. After a single in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 15, a regular visitor around the Lower Adur during Oct and Nov may have over-wintered.

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0561 **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*)

**Passage wader and regular winter visitor.** Recorded from seawatches at Worthing Beach during Mar (29E), Apr (11E), and May (33E) with a peak of 12E on May 14. No significant records were forthcoming from the Adur Estuary or Goring Gap. A beach count at Shoreham Fort on Feb 19 produced 17 birds, and later in the year up to 25 were noted in Nov and Dec. There were 14 on Ferring Beach on Nov 5.

0565 **GREY PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*)

**Very rare visitor.** No records for 1994.

0566 **POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

**Regular on spring passage in varying numbers.** At Worthing Beach recorded on 7 dates between Apr 23 and May 13 with a total of 62 comprising the following:- 6E Apr 23, 3E May 2, 5E May 3, 1 on sea May 8, 2E May 10, 9E May 11 and 36E May 13. Other records were 2E Brighton Marina on Apr 23, 2E West Pier and 7E Widewater on May 3.

0567 **ARCTIC SKUA** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

**Regular spring/autumn.** Monthly totals from Worthing Beach were:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	7	53	25	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	2	1	-	-	1	-

First were 7E on Mar 27 and peak movement was 18E on Apr 23. Elsewhere, there were 3E Brighton Marina on Apr 23 with 10E there on Apr 24, and 1E West Pier on May 3. Another unexceptional autumn with 1W Widewater on Sep 3, 1W Worthing on Sep 10, 2W Widewater on Sep 14 on 1 imm E over Shoreham Harbour on Sep 19.

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

**Regular visitor in small numbers.** Spring records from Worthing Beach were 2E on Mar 30, 1E on Apr 23, 1E on May 11 and 2W on June 6. The only other record was 1E Brighton Marina on Apr 23. There were no autumn records.



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

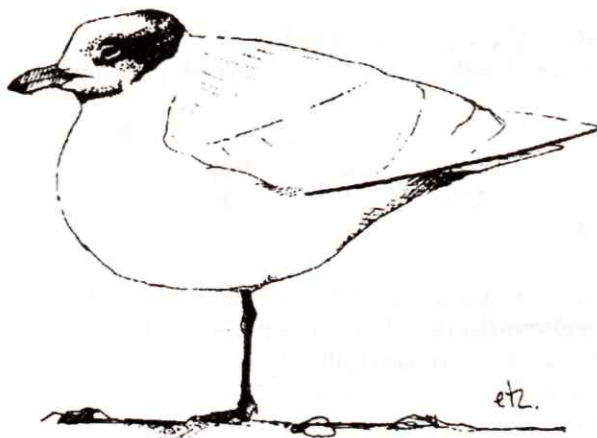
**Increasing numbers within area.** Spring seawatches from Worthing Beach produced passage birds between Mar 30 and May 13 as follows :-

2 2nd year E and W on Mar 30, 1 2nd year E on Apr 20, another 2nd year on Apr 23, 1 1st year E on Apr 29, 1 1st year E on May 3, 1 1st year offshore on May 11 and 1 1st year E on May 13.

Early year records come from Shoreham Harbour and Brighton Marina, the former having the regular ringed 2nd winter bird and an adult bird during Jan and Feb, and the latter having an adult during early Feb. Also there, were adults east on Mar 26 and Apr 24.

After a 1st summer bird on Goring Beach from Aug 1 - Aug 3, the ringed individual returned to Shoreham Harbour on Aug 18 now in adult plumage and remaining until the end of the year and later joined by a second unringed adult, possibly the bird recorded on Shoreham Airfield on Oct 30. The Shoreham Harbour saga intensified during December with a 1st winter bird present between 10th and 19th and a further adult with one leg and oil on the belly in the company of a 2nd winter bird on Dec 6th.

Other late year records were an example of each of the three plumage phases on Worthing Beach on Sep 23rd, 1 1st year on Brooklands on Nov 20, another 1st year at Goring Beach on Dec 12th, and an unspecified bird west at Worthing on Dec 31st.



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

**Regular on spring/autumn passage.** An adult was resident in Brighton Marina from late Jan to early Feb. Spring seawatches from Worthing recorded a total of 71E from Mar-May comprising 3E in Mar, 31E in Apr and 37E in May. Brighton Marina recorded 8E on Apr 23 and 2E on 24th. Autumn and late year records were 1 off Widewater on Aug 13, 1 off Shoreham on Aug 27 and 5W Shoreham on Nov 19.

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

**Common.** Spring passage at Worthing produced the following totals :-

	Mar	Apr	May
E	1185	832	155
W	8	584	13

Monthly maxima from Ferring Rife were as follows :-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
200	300	160					50	-	200	400	300

Other early year counts were 1500 Wyckham on Jan 1st, 2000+ Shoreham Airfield on Jan 6th, and 250 Wild Park in Feb. An aberrant adult with all white plumage relieved only by black primary tips was at Goring Beach from Sep 4 - Oct 21 and Wild Park maxima for Nov and Dec were 100 and 250 respectively.

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

**Common in winter.** Monthly totals from the Worthing seawatch log from Mar-May were :-

	Mar	Apr	May
E	820	81	35
W	-	70	-

Early year counts included a max of 200 at Wild Park in Jan, 30 Ferring Rife on Jan 28, 1250 in fields north of Cissbury on Feb 2, 300 Saddlecombe on Mar 5, and 48 (mainly 2nd year) at Shoreham tollbridge on Apr 11. An albino bird was at Cuckoo's Corner on Feb 22. Some late year counts were 100 Cissbury on Sep 4, 510 Lower Adur on Dec 26, and max. 350 Wild Park in Dec.

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

**Common in winter, now breeding in small numbers.** Lower Adur totals for Jan and Feb were 12 for each month. Worthing Beach monthly seawatch totals were 28E March and 1E April peaking on Mar 27 with 15E.

Breeding records included at least 2 pairs on central Brighton rooftops and a pair near Palmeira Square, Hove.

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

**Common, expanding breeding population.** Breeding season records received included a pair raising 2 young in Hangleton Road, Hove, and 10 pairs in two streets in the Hollingdean area of Brighton. At least 3 nests were reported from residential Shoreham.

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** (*Larus michahellis*)

**Regular autumn flock.** Recorded on the Adur between July 11th and October; monthly maxima were 4 July, 11 Aug, 6 Sep and 2 Oct.

0598 **ICELAND GULL** (*Larus glaucoides*)

**Rare winter visitor.** A 1st winter bird was present in Shoreham Harbour from Jan 11th-13th (BFF). Details to S.O.S.

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

**Rare winter visitor.** A single adult east off Widewater on Apr 22.

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

**Common.** The only Adur counts received were 90 on May 22 and 223 on Nov 28. Counts from Ferring Rife were 26 on Apr 4 and 30 on Nov 20.

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

**Fairly common on passage.** The monthly totals from Worthing Beach were :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	133	42	128	4	-	2	-	-	-	-
W	24	-	9	18	21	8	-	1	2	2	-	-

Peak movement was 117E on Mar 27. Spring movements from Brighton Marina included 105E on Mar 26, 48E on Apr 16, 40E on Apr 23, and 11E on Apr 24. The only late year record was 1 imm E Shoreham Harbour on Dec 9.



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

**Common on passage.** First for the year were 2E Worthing Beach and a single off Widewater on Mar 20. Monthly totals from Worthing were :-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	191	1615	559	12	-	21	15	2
W	2	21	13	22	-	17	77	-

Peak movement was 1069E on Apr 23 and the last were 2E on Oct 19th.

Autumn records included 4 on Widewater on Aug 13 with 77W there during 40 mins. during the evening of 16th. Shoreham Harbour recorded 10 on Sep 19 and 6 on Oct 2.

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

**Very rare on passage.** 1E Worthing Beach on Apr 24 (JAN) may have been the bird recorded off Brighton Marina on the same day (JA, visiting Swedish observer). Also, 2E Goring and Worthing on May 21 (JAN et al). All records have been submitted to S.O.S.

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

**Common on passage.** The only record of specifically identified birds relates to 10 juvs. in Shoreham Harbour on Sep 26.

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

**Seen on passage, but rarely split from Common Tern.** The only substantiated record was of a juvenile off Widewater on Aug 25 (MCC).

**COMMON/ARCTIC TERN**

After the 1st record of 7E at Worthing on Mar 27, monthly totals from the Worthing log were :-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	11	5504	556	1	-	46	41	-
W	-	-	5	1	-	2	96	-

Peak movement was 5155E on Apr 23. Peak movement at Brighton Marina on the same day was 3795E. Last record for the year was 16W Worthing Beach on Sep 28.

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

**Fairly common on spring passage.** First for the year were 13E Worthing Beach on Apr 22. Monthly maxima here were 87E Apr and 66E/1W May with a peak of 66E on Apr 23. Brighton Marina recorded 21E on the same day. No autumn records.

0627 **BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*)

**Regular on passage.** At Worthing Beach favourable conditions produced a grand total of 60E on Apr 23; thereafter 2E on May 3, and 1E on May 24. Brighton Marina recorded 16E on Apr 23 and 2E on 24th.

The only autumn record was of a single west off Worthing on Sep 19.

0628 **WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*)

**Rare passage migrant.** A record of a winter-plumaged adult in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 15 (BFF) has been submitted to SOS and BBRC.

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

**Regular in winter.** Recorded from Shoreham Harbour in the early months with singles on Jan 2 and Feb 6. A bird off Widewater on the previous day (5th) may have been the same individual. Brighton Marina recorded an oiled bird on Feb 19 and another bird offshore on Mar 26. Specifically identified from Worthing during March with 1E and 2W. Unusual was a bird on the Upper Adur on Feb 6. In the second half of the year were 1 in summer plumage off Goring on Aug 3, 1 off Worthing on Aug 20 with 1E there on Sep 20, and 3 off Shoreham Harbour on Dec 16.

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

**Regular off-shore.** Spring passage from Worthing produced totals of 1E/11W for Mar and 4E for May, with a peak of 10W on Mar 22nd. In addition was a single on the sea on May 6. There were 2 off Brighton Marina with a small party of Common Scoter on May 7 and a single there on May 11.

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

**Very rare late autumn migrant.** No records in 1994.

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

**Extremely rare winter migrant.** No records in 1994.

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### AUK SPECIES

Recorded only between January and June, monthly totals from Worthing were as follows :-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	2	2	53	1	9	1
W	5	-	97	6	18	-

Peak movement was 75W on Mar 22. Records from Brighton Marina were 4 on Apr 16 and 2 on Apr 24 but direction was not specified.

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

**Common breeding species.** Breeding season records come from Devil's Dyke, Lancing College Farm, Bevendean Down (1pr), and Wild Park (3 prs). Significant counts come from Goring Gap with 25 on Mar 20, 38 Wild Park on Feb 27, and 16 Sompting Downs on Sep 23.

#### 0670 WOODPIGEON (*Columba palumbus*)

**Extremely common.** Breeding season counts included 42 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Bevendean Down and 12 prs Devil's Dyke. Early year counts were 380 near Lancing College on Feb 12 and 120 Ferring Rife on Mar 5. Later in the year were 200 SE over Worthing on Nov 6 and 500 NW over Brooklands on the same day. Specific counts for Nov were 55 Brighton Cemeteries, 35 Withdean Park and 65 Wild Park, whilst December's counts for the same were 77, 22 and 48 respectively.

#### 0684 COLLARED DOVE (*Streptopelia decaocto*)

**Common.** 19 prs bred Wild Park and 6pr bred Bevendean Down. Early counts included 26 Manor Garden, Southwick, in Jan, and 54 Burstead Woods, Brighton. Significant late year counts were 300 over Adur tollbridge on Nov 8, 40 Ferring Rife on Dec 14, and a max. of 44 Wild Park during Dec.

#### 0687 TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)

**Summer visitor, declining as breeding species.** The first in our area was a single on Newtimber Hill on May 11, and during the breeding season there were pairs on Southwick Hill and Devil's Dyke. A very poor autumn passage involved 6 birds from Aug 6 (Shoreham Sanctuary) to the last on Sompting Downs on Sep 23.



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

**Small breeding colony.** The maximum count for Wild Park/Hollingbury was 4 all year. Other records were 2W over Patcham on Mar 22, 3 in a Withdean garden from Aug-Nov, 1E calling over Goring on Sep 2, and 1 Hove Fire Station on Oct 19.

0724 **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*)

**Common breeding summer visitor.** A rather poor spring with 4 from Cissbury between Apr 24 and June 6, a single at Wildpark on Apr 28 and only one other record of an arrival off the sea at Brighton Marina on May 18. Breeding season records were from Devil's Dyke, Lancing Ring, Highdown, Lower Adur Valley, Clapham and Castle Goring. The only autumn record was at Cissbury on Aug 14.

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

**Small breeding population, possibly declining.** Only one record received of 1 W over Hangleton Link Road at dusk on Mar 29.

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

**Small breeding population in area.** Resident birds also present during the breeding season were at Michelgrove, New Erringham Farm, Findon Valley, Winding Bottom (Bramber), Devil's Dyke area, Wyckham Farm, Applesham Farm and Benfield Valley. A single bird was on Mill Hill on Dec 6.

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

**Breeds in both urban and rural areas.** Resident pairs recorded from Shoreham Sanctuary, Applesham Farm, Portslade, Southwick, Cissbury, Goring, Worthing and Maybridge. Two birds at Broadwater on Oct 11 were only the third record there in 10 years. Known breeding successes were 2 chicks at Applesham Farm and Shoreham Sanctuary.

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

**Small winter population.** One calling in our area from Mar 4 to Apr 1.

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

**Migrant and small winter population.** Only 1 record for the early months was a single over a Southwick garden on Jan 11. Two autumn records were 1 W Goring Gap on Sep 27 which circled overhead and returned eastwards, then 1 Sheepcote Valley Oct 18-28.

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

Rare summer migrant, formerly bred. No records for 1994.

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

**Common and widespread.** First for the year was 1 W Goring Gap on Apr 23. General arrivals occurred after Apr 30 with peaks noted on May 13/14. After this date were 100+ W at Brighton Marina on May 18 and 150 Ditchling Beacon on 28th. Records of breeding colonies were from Dudley Road, Brighton; urban Hove; Shoreham; Steyning and Broadwater.

An early departure was indicated with local populations falling rapidly after late July, and August movements included 100 Hollingbury Camp on Aug 3 and 150 W Broadwater on Aug 15. After singles at West Worthing and Broadwater on Sep 1 and 6th respectively, last was at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 17.

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

**Breeds in small numbers, winter visitor.** Resident in Lower and Upper Adur valleys, probably 2-3 birds early and late year in each valley but breeding numbers uncertain. A single present along Ferring Rife throughout Feb, and from Sep 13 to at least Dec 23. Other records were singles in Queen's Park, Brighton and at the Marina during Feb/Mar and 1 at West Pier during Mar. Late year records were singles in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 30 and Sompting Brooks on Dec 22.

0846 **HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*)

Rare passage migrant. None in 1994.

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

**Rare passage migrant.** An unsubstantiated record of a single at Sussex University on May 3.

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

**Regular breeding resident.** Breeding records come from Wild Park (2 prs), Devil's Dyke, New Salts Farm, Lower Adur Valley, Newtimber (2 prs), Lancing College, Lancing Ring and Findon Valley where 2 prs were reported as successful. Regular reports were also received from Shoreham Sanctuary, Cissbury, Goring Gap and Ferring Rife.

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

**Regular breeding resident.** Resident birds were reported from Findon Valley, Cissbury, Washington Common, Devil's Dyke and Wild Park. All were present during the breeding season. Odd records were of singles at Lancing Ring on Jan 1, Goring Gap on Oct 8, Shoreham Sanctuary on Dec 19 and Brighton Cemeteries throughout Dec. A 1st year female was ringed in Shoreham Sanctuary on Dec 20.

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

**Scarce, has bred.** A single on the Upper Adur Valley near Stretham on Oct 24 is our only record.

0974 **WOODLARK** (*Lullula arborea*)

**Rare migrant.** Two records: a single N over Wild Park on Oct 6 (ADW), 1E near Hollingdean on Oct 15 (IJW).

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

**Common.** Early year counts received were 100 Sheepcote Valley on Feb 19 and 200 Ditchling Beacon on Feb 26. Breeding season records were 11 prs Wild Park, 5 prs Bevendean Down, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 16 prs Benfield Valley, 14 prs Foredown Hill, 6 prs Highdown, 7 prs Goring Gap, 2 prs Ferring Rife, and 1 pair Widewater. Autumn migration at Hollingbury Camp between Sep 25 and Nov 26 produced a total of 600+ whilst max. counts during Sep from Sompting Downs and Lancing Ring were 45 and 61 respectively. Visible movements at Goring Gap were 80E on Oct 11 and 50E on Oct 17. Finally, a count on Southwick Hill on Dec 23 produced 88 birds.

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

**Summer migrant, breeds at one site.** First of the year were 3 over Sompting Brooks on Apr 1 followed by 6 there the following day (2nd). Spring passage was unremarkable (or unreported!) and at Sandgate Park 120 holes were occupied during the breeding season.

Autumn passage gave a Hollingbury Camp total of 64 between July 23 and Sep 28; Lancing Ring's total for Sep was 91 and 150 were over Sompting Brooks on Sep 22. Elsewhere records totalled 49 from across the region, until the last at Woodvale Cemetery, Brighton on Oct 20.



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

**Common summer visitor.** First for the year was a single at Goring on Mar 29 followed by 2 at Stretham on Mar 31. Again, spring passage was unremarkable and breeding season records came from Bevendean Down (1 pr), Patcham Place (2 prs), New Salts Farm (1 pr) New Barn Farm, Portslade (1 pr), and Saddlescombe Farm where 2 prs raised 6 young.

Mammoth movements occurred during autumn with Lancing Ring recording 15,000 during Sep (peak 5,634 on Sep 23); Sompting Downs 20,500 during Sep (peak 12,000 on Sep 22), and Hollingbury Camp noting 14,235 from July 23 - Oct 21 (peak 10,200 on Sep 23). Elsewhere, other heavy movements were noted between Aug 21 and 23, and generally between Sep 22 and 24. Ostensibly, last for the year were 2 at Woodvale Crematorium on Nov 8 barring a single at Mill Hill on Dec 14.

0995 **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*Hirundo daurica*)

**Rare spring passage migrant.** A single at Cuckoo's Corner with other hirundines on May 28 (CEH). Details have been submitted.

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

**Summer visitor.** First for the year were 2 Ferring Rife on Apr 24 followed by 3 there on Apr 30. Breeding records were from Sussex University (12 prs), North Portslade, Lancing College (large colony), Broadwater (4 prs), and a pair in Southwick successfully raised 2 young.

Peak autumn movements from a total area count of over 15,000 birds were 4,100 Hollingbury Camp on Sep 23, 2,485 Lancing Ring same day and 1,726 Sompting Downs on Sep 26. Largest movements occurred from Sep 23-26. Last record was a single over Shoreham Harbour on Oct 28.

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

**Fairly common on passage.** There was 1 spring record - a single at Cissbury on Apr 21. Autumn passage at Hollingbury produced 76 birds between Aug 20 and Oct 1; and at Cissbury 10 birds from Aug 2 to Sep 18 and elsewhere were singles at Lancing Ring on Sep 23 and 28, and 2 over Waterhall on Aug 28. Last record was at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 1.

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

**Common.** February counts included 30 at Widewater on Feb 15 and 30 along the A27 by-pass at Hove on Feb 20. Noticeable movements took place between Mar 17 and 26 with northerly movements of up to 100 birds noted from Widewater, Broadwater, Goring Gap and Worthing Beach. At this time were 77 Sompting Brooks and 143 Lancing Ring both on 26th. A further influx occurred on Apr 16 with 42 crossing over Brighton Marina.

Breeding records received were 10 prs Devil's Dyke, 1 pr Fulking Down, 1 pr Beeding Hill and 1 pr Wild Park. Doubtless there were many more. Autumn records involved a total of 2,154 at Hollingbury Camp between Sep 16 and Nov 26, a Sep total of 626 at Sompting Brooks, 251E in 30 mins at Worthing Beach on Sep 23 and 180E there in 2 hrs on Sep 24.

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

**Regular winter resident, occasionally breeds.** Present in the early months at Shoreham Fort (max. 12 on Jan 15), and Widewater (4). A pair noted at Brighton Marina in late April were later seen with young.

After a single at Shoreham Fort on Sep 10 the count increased there to at least a regular 10 by the end of the year although 12 were noted on Dec 31. Other records were 2 Hove Lagoon Sep 17, 4 Goring Gap Oct 19, and 2 Brighton Marina Oct 22.

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

**Irregular winter visitor.** No records in 1994.

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

**Common on passage.** First for the year were 2 Sompting Brooks on Apr 15th then 8 there on 16th and on the same day 3 arrivals were noted at Brighton Marina. Other spring records were 3 New Salts Farm on Apr 22, 2 Hollingbury Camp on Apr 30 and a single there on May 9. Breeding may have taken place in the vicinity of Ferring Rife.

Autumn passage involved a total of 273 birds (very under-reported) with 76 of these recorded from Sompting Brooks, 43 from Goring Gap, 40 from Cissbury and 24 from Hollingbury Camp. Last were 7 Sompting Downs and 17 Sompting Brooks on Sep 28.

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

**Noted on passage, may breed.** Wintering birds were recorded from Ferring Rife (Jan/Feb), Wyckham Farm/Stretham area (Jan), Kings Barn (Jan 1st), and Buckingham Road, Shoreham (Jan 17). A pair bred along the river Storr at Storrington, but success is unknown.

The autumn total at Hollingbury Camp was 19 between Sep 16 to Oct 12, with a peak of 5 on Oct 12. There were also records from Cissbury on 3 dates from Aug 21 to Sep 18. Then regular on Ferring Rife from Sep 21 to the end of the year with up to 2 birds present. Also recorded sporadically from many locations including Sompting Downs, Sompting Brooks, Adur Saltings, Shoreham Harbour, Upper Adur Levels, Brighton Level, and central Brighton, the latter in residence from Oct to the year end.

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

**Common with large winter roosts.** Early year counts were 70 Lancing/Widewater Beaches on Jan 23 and 16 Shoreham Harbour on Feb 19. Present during the breeding season at Maybridge, Durrington, Patching Pond and Titmore Lane. Late year counts were 50 E Goring Gap on Oct 11, 40 N Goring on Oct 16, and 20 Brighton Marina on Nov 24.

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

**Common.** No early year counts were received. Breeding season counts were 103 prs Wildpark, 33 prs Devil's Dyke, and 24 prs Bevendean Down. Counts in the late year were 37 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov and 51 in Dec; 21 Withdean Park in Nov and 22 in Dec; 68 Wildpark in Nov/Dec.

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

**Common.** Breeding counts were 19 prs Devil's Dyke, 14 prs Bevendean Down and 62 prs Wildpark. Late year counts were 8 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov and 12 in Dec; 13 Withdean Park in Nov and 14 in Dec; and 64 Wildpark in Nov and 61 in Dec.

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

**Common.** Breeding counts were 44 prs Devil's Dyke, 33 prs Bevendean Down, and 137 prs Wildpark. Late year counts were 45 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov with 58 in Dec; 48 Withdean Park in Nov and 28 in Dec; and 182 Wildpark in Nov and 103 in Dec.



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

**Passage species, but declining as a breeding bird.** The only spring records were of 3 singing in the Lower Adur Valley within a mile radius of the Cement Works. In the autumn 8 records from Cissbury between Aug 1 and Aug 21 including 5 rung.

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

**Fairly regular autumn/winter, occasional breeder in area.** Winter records from Jan-Mar were of singles at Brighton Marina, Southwick Power Station, and Shoreham Harbour. During the breeding season a male was in full song at a location in Brighton.

During October a single was present on Hollingdean Allotments on 13th and possibly the same bird from Nov 9-23. Two were on Ferring Beach on Nov 5, 2 in Upper Adur Valley on Nov 8, and odd sightings from either side of Shoreham Harbour entrance during Nov/Dec have involved at least 5 different birds. On Dec 23, 4 individuals were noted on the Southwick side coinciding with 1 on the Fort side. There were also 2 at Brighton Marina from Nov to year end.

1121 **REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

**Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn.** Only one spring record - a male in a West Worthing garden on Apr 20. Noted from late Aug to early Oct with 44 passing through Hollingbury Camp between Aug 23 and Sep 27 (peak 9 on Sep 14), and from various other locations. Last was at Cissbury on Oct 3.

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

**Common on autumn passage.** First of the year was a male on Sompting Brooks on Apr 15. A total of 14 passed through our area during the spring and of interest was an adult female at Goring Gap on June 13.

Autumn passage involved 290 birds, with Hollingbury Camp recording 122 of these between Aug 12 and Oct 3, with a peak of 27 on Sep 14. Other large gatherings were 35 Sheepcote Valley on Sep 17 and 23 New Erringham Farm on Sep 17 also. After the last Hollingbury Camp record on Oct 3, the recorder would be interested in brief details of the individual reported from Sheepcote Valley from Oct 22 to Nov 12, in view of the late date.

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1139 **STONECHAT** (*Saxicola torquata*)

**Regular in winter, occasionally breeds.** In the early months, singles or pairs were reported from a variety of coastal and downland sites. Breeding season records were 1 pr Steep Down and 1 pr Falmer Hill. A confusing scenario always attends the later months as migrant birds overlap with winter residents. The largest gathering was 6 at Shepcote Valley on Oct 29.

1146 **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*)

**Common on passage.** First of the year occurred at Shoreham Fort on Mar 6. A good spring passage involving a reported 105 birds included 'flocks' of 36 on Sompting Downs on Mar 26 and 12 at Shepcote on Mar 30. During April an unfortunate individual at Brighton Marina was caught and eaten by a Herring Gull!

First return birds were at Hollingbury Camp on July 22, where 104 birds passed through up to Oct 15, with a peak of 33 on Sep 14. September total for Sompting Downs was 42 and Sompting Brooks recorded 93 in the same month. Well reported from other sites well into October, the last being at Hove Lawns on Oct 23, then later a male at Shoreham Harbour on the late date of Nov 30.

1186 **RING OUZEL** (*Turdus torquatus*)

**Regular on autumn passage.** The only spring record involved a single at Cissbury on Apr 21. A poor or under-recorded autumn compared to 1993. On Sep 26 a single noted on Sompting Brooks and 2 Lancing Ring on the same day until 28th. Hollingbury Camp recorded a single from Sep 22-24, then up to 2 until the month end, and 1-3 between Oct 17 to 26. Last was at Race Hill, Brighton on Nov 18.

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

**Common.** Breeding season counts were 133 prs Wildpark, 109 prs Devil's Dyke, 51 prs Bevendean Down, 7 prs Ferring Rife and 1 pr in a Southwick garden raising 3 young. Late year maxima were 12 Ferring Rife in Nov, with 14 in Dec; 66 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov and 78 in Dec; 64 Withdean Park in Nov with 66 in Dec; and 118 Wildpark in Nov with 81 in Dec.

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

**Common and widespread in winter.** Early year counts were 60 Upper Adur Levels on Jan 23, 14 Hollingbury Camp on Feb 5, and 50 Ditchling Beacon area on Feb 26. Last for the winter were 2 on Sompting Brooks on Apr 2. First return birds were a single at Lancing Ring on Sep 26 and 3 Sompting Downs the



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following day. Noted during Oct/Nov as 'occasional' at Hollingbury Camp, and in the Upper Adur Valley a flock of 15 on Oct 18 had increased to 200 on 28th, but diminished to only 2 on Nov 2. There were 18 over Cissbury on Nov 13. In December were 30 Lancing College cricket field on 31st.

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

**Common.** A significant early year count was of 18 along Ferring Rife on Jan 7. Breeding records involved 14 prs Wildpark, 4 prs Bevendean Down, 4 prs Devil's Dyke and 2-3 prs Ferring Rife. There was an autumn count of 32 at Lancing Ring on Sep 26 and in November, Withdean Park maximum was 10, whilst the Wildpark maximum was 12. December counts for these two sites were 11 and 2 respectively.

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

**Common and widespread in winter.** Widely reported during the early months. Ferring Rife recorded a max of 30 for Jan and 68 for Feb; the Upper Adur Levels recorded 500 on Feb 6 with 35 on Mar 8; 60 were noted at Wildpark on Feb 12; and elsewhere were 6 at Southwick on Jan 26, 30 at New Barn Farm, Portslade on Feb 13, and 28 Lancing Ring on Mar 26. A nocturnal movement over Goring on Mar 8 involved 142 birds between 20.10 and 20.55 hrs.

A quieter late year with the first being 3 Lancing Ring and 2 Sompting Brooks both on Sep 26, followed by 14 Lancing Ring the following day. Nocturnal movements were heard over Goring from mid Oct to early Nov, then only a handful of records for the remainder of the year, best being 30 Upper Adur on Dec 6.

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

**Common.** Breeding season records were 4 prs Wildpark, 1 pr Bevendean Down, and 2 prs Devil's Dyke. However, late family parties included 17 Sweet Hill on July 16, 7 Southwick July 20, 12 Patching Aug 5, and 25 Stanmer Park on Aug 22. A party of 4 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 6 was welcome as this species has become scarce at this location. Late year counts were 7 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov with 3 in Dec; 8 Withdean Park Nov with 10 in Dec; and 6 Wildpark in Nov with 2 in Dec.

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

**Rare visitor to area.** No records in 1994.



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

**Regular on passage, formerly bred.** Two spring records; 1 singing from the north end of Shoreham Airport on Apr 25 and 26; and 1 Hollingbury Camp on Apr 30. In autumn were singles at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 2 and a total of 9 at Cissbury from Aug 1 to Sep 24, including 4 rung.

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

**Common breeding summer visitor.** First for the year were singles at Ferring Rife and Sompting Brooks on Apr 12. Spring passage were generally slow and breeding season reports were of 3 prs Ferring Rife and 4 prs north end of Shoreham Airfield. Reports from other sites would be very welcome. Autumn records received from Hollingbury Camp involving 12 birds between July 24 to Sep 18; and at Cissbury a total of 38 between Aug 1 to Sep 18, including 10 rung.

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

**Common breeding summer visitor.** First spring record was a single at Sompting Brooks on Apr 16. Breeding season records were 2 prs north end Shoreham Airport, 2-3 prs New Salts Farm, and 2 prs Ferring Rife, although the last mentioned not holding territory until late June. Unusual was a bird singing in a Worthing garden on June 18. Autumn records were from Cissbury where a total of 52 recorded between Aug 1 and Sep 18, including 13 rung; 9 Hollingbury Camp July 24 to Sep 14; singles at Sompting Brooks and Lancing Ring on Sep 27 and 28 respectively; 3 Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct 2, and last were singles at Sheepcote and East Brighton Park on Oct 23.

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

**Mainly rare autumn migrant.** An early year record of a single at Shoreham Fort on Feb 13 (JB); and late year records were singles at Brighton Race Hill on Oct 8 (ADW, IJW); Sheepcote Valley on Oct 24 (ADW); and Hollingbury Camp from Nov 5 to Dec 20 (GLC, PJW).

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

**Common breeding summer visitor.** First of the year was around Brighton Pavilion on Apr 20, followed by further singles on Southwick Hill on Apr 21 and West Worthing on 22nd. Arrivals continued into mid May and breeding season records involved 16 prs from 9 locations.

Autumn passage from July 22 until the last at Lancing Ring on Sep 28 involved 224 birds of which 133 were recorded from Hollingbury Camp area. Sizeable concentrations included 40 between Waterhall and Newtimber on Aug 28, 24

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Hollingbury Camp on Aug 19, and 12 Bevedean Down on Aug 20. Only 12 birds were rung at Cissbury, the lowest total since ringing commenced in 1984.

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

**Common breeding summer visitor.** First spring record was a single at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 16, followed by singles in a Hangleton garden and at Ferring Rife on 20th, and at Southwick Hill on 21st. Breeding season records from 13 locations involved 77 prs, including 20 prs Devil's Dyke, 16 prs Wildpark, and 10 prs Sheepcote Valley.

Observers at Hollingbury Camp reported the best autumn for 5 years with a total of 434 between July 20 and Oct 4 (our last record), peaking at 26 on Aug 21. Other autumn concentrations were 40 between Waterhall and Newtimber on Aug 28, and 25 Bevedean Down on Aug 20.

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

**Fairly common breeding summer visitor.** Two spring records of 1 singing in a Southwick garden on Apr 20 and 1 Wildpark on May 3. Breeding season records were 2 prs Wildpark (the lowest count for 10 years), 2 prs Devil's Dyke and 1 pr Southwick Hill. Between Aug 13 and Sep 22 Hollingbury Camp recorded 14 birds, and elsewhere were 1 Southwick Hill on Aug 6, 2 Ferring Rife on Aug 10, 1 Lancing Ring on Sep 23/24, and the last at Sompting Downs on Sep 26.

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

**Common breeding summer visitor, regular in winter in small numbers.** A bumper year for wintering birds with 15 recorded from a variety of locations between Jan and March. First spring bird was probably on Apr 3 with a male in a Southwick garden, but no more reported until Apr 23 with a male at Goring Gap. Breeding season counts involved 34 prs from 8 locations including 14 prs Wildpark and 8 prs Devil's Dyke.

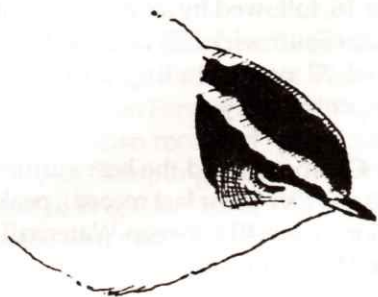
Autumn passage involved over 500 birds comprising 184 from Hollingbury Camp between July 26 and Oct 14; 110 from Lancing Ring; 100+ from Cissbury; and other records from Sompting, Southwick Hill, Ferring Rife and at East Brighton Park where possibly the last bird on Oct 23 was noted, although the number of November records indicated an overlap with over-wintering birds. Late year records from 8 locations involved 10 birds, the most unusual of which was probably a female behind Western Road, Brighton, on Christmas Eve.



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1298 **PALLAS'S WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*)

**Rare autumn vagrant.** Two birds present in bushes at East Brighton Park on Oct 22 (TJW, ADW et al); and a single in a member's garden along the Ferring Rife on Oct 23 (DIS).



1301 **RADDE'S WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus schwarzi*)

**Very rare autumn vagrant.** One in a West Worthing garden (Reigate Road) on 26/27 Oct (KW, RJF, DIS). This is the first from the area, and details submitted to BBRC.

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

**Fairly scarce spring/autumn passage migrant.** One rung at Cissbury on May 8 the only record.

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

**Common breeding summer visitor, with small wintering population.** Records of singles in Jan/Feb came from residential Lancing, Lancing Ring, Goring Wood and central Brighton. Two were at New Salts Farm between Feb 12 and Mar 5. There were records throughout March and it is not possible to establish the first spring migrants. Breeding season records received totalled 28 prs, including 11 prs Wildpark, 7 prs North Portslade area; and 3 prs from Devil's Dyke and Lancing Ring.

Autumn records from well watched areas included 354 at Hollingbury Camp between July 26 and Oct 26; and Sep totals of 205 for Lancing Ring and 88 for Sompting Downs. Records for Nov/Dec were of singles or pairs at Withdean Park, Wildpark, Portslade Village, Shoreham Sanctuary, Ferring Rife and New Salts Farm.



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1312 **WILLOW WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*)

**Common summer migrant.** First for the year was at Wildpark on Mar 28 followed by a singing male in a Southwick garden on Mar 30. Observers reported a generally poor spring migration and breeding records were 4 prs Bevendean Down, 10 prs Wildpark, 4 prs Newtimber Hill, 22 prs Devil's Dyke, 8 prs Southwick Hill, where adults were noted feeding young, and 1 pr Lancing Ring.

During autumn migration Hollingbury Camp recorded 410 between July 26 and Sep 29 with a peak of 43 on Aug 12. Other concentrations were 76 at Cissbury on Aug 5 and 50 on Aug 13; 35 Bevendean on Aug 20; and 25 between Waterhall and Newtimber on Aug 28. A late record and very unusual was a bird singing in Sheepcote Valley on Oct 23.

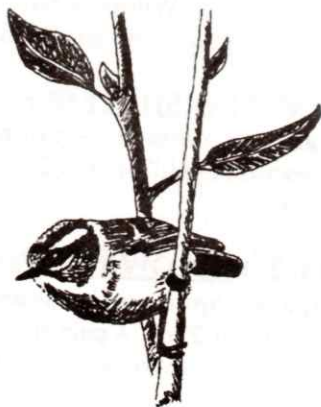
1314 **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*)

**Common.** Records for Jan/Feb were of 1-2 in Wildpark and Hollingbury Woods throughout, and 1 in a Storrington garden on Feb 12. In March there were 11 at Lancing Ring on 26th, 3 in a Worthing garden, but Wildpark reported no definite spring passage. Breeding season records were 2 prs Wildpark and Devil's Dyke, and a bird was present in Storrington from Apr 1 until August.

A bumper autumn included a Hollingbury Camp total of 432 between Sep 6 and Nov 26, with peaks of 27 on Oct 5 and 28 on Oct 14, although many were probably resident during the period. Other notable records were 30 at Goring Gap on Oct 8; 25 Stanmer Park on Oct 30; 20 Newtimber Hill on Oct 23; and 15 Wildpark during Nov. December records were 2 Goring Wood from 12th to the year end; 2 in a Worthing garden 23-31st; 4 Brighton Cemeteries; and up to 5 Wildpark throughout the month.

1315 **FIRECREST** (*Regulus ignicapillus*)

**Regular passage migrant in small numbers.** Spring records were 4 Woodvale Crematorium, Brighton on Mar 21; 1 in a Broadwater garden on Mar 22; and 1 singing at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 7. In autumn 2 were at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 29, a single was present on Brighton Race Hill on Oct 9, and the last was rung at Cissbury on Nov 6.



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

**Fairly common summer migrant.** Spring records commenced at Wildpark on Apr 30, then 1 at Sheepcote on May 11, and 1 in a Southwick garden on May 17 were the only reports. The only breeding season record was of a singing male at West Durrington mid-late May.

Autumn passage involved 131 birds with a September total of 33 from Lancing Ring, and 68 at Hollingbury Camp from Aug 12 to Sep 29 (our last record). Peak here was 20 on Sep 14. Other autumn records came from Sompting Downs/Brooks, Goring Gap, Cissbury Ring, Southwick Hill, Adur Rec and Brighton Cemeteries.

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

**Regular passage migrant.** One spring record - a female in Brighton Pavilion gardens on Apr 28. Autumn records were 2 Selden Farm, Patching on Aug 5; 5 Cissbury Aug 21; 1 Wildpark Aug 23; 1 Steyning Round Hill Aug 26; and in September, 2 Shoreham Sanctuary on 4th; 1 Brighton Cemeteries on 7th; and 1 Ferring Rife on 14th. Hollingbury Camp/Wildpark recorded singles on 4th, 6th and 8th, the last bearing a ring.

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

**Common.** Under-reported in the early months, but birds were present in the breeding season at Devil's Dyke, Newtimber Hill, Wildpark, Preston Park, residential Hollingbury, Highdown, Lower Adur Valley and Lancing Ring. In August 12 were at Maybridge early in the month, and 26 were in Findon Valley on 28th. A flock of 20 were in a Worthing garden on Sep 4. Late year records were 14 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov and 23 Dec; 20 Withdean Park Nov with 7 Dec; and 55 Wildpark Nov with 50 Dec. Also, 5 West Worthing on Oct 27 and 10 in a Broadwater garden on Dec 16.

1440 **MARSH TIT** (*Parus palustris*)

**Fairly uncommon.** A pair bred at Devil's Dyke and a pair were also noted at Newtimber Hill on Aug 28 and Oct 23. Up to 2 were reported from the Cissbury area.

1442 **WILLOW TIT** (*Parus montanus*)

**Sparse population in the area.** Two were along Ferring Rife on Jan 22 but only 1 noted on 23rd. A pair bred at Devil's Dyke. A single was resident in Wildpark in July and there was a further single at Cissbury on Sep 4.



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1461 **COAL TIT** (*Parus ater*)

**Fairly common.** A pair were resident in a Broadwater garden from Jan to Apr and a single was at Ferring Rife on Apr 4, and also June 6, but no breeding records have been received. Late year residents were 2 in a Broadwater garden from Sep to year end; 2 in a Southwick garden from Oct 9 to Dec 31; and 2 Wildpark Sep-Dec. Odd sightings were a pair at Goring Gap on Oct 6/7 reported as unusual here and possibly of the continental race; 2 Cissbury Sep 4; 2 Stanmer Park Oct 30; 1 Worthing garden Nov 17; and 1 Hove Park Dec 17.

1462 **BLUE TIT** (*Parus caeruleus*)

**Abundant.** Breeding records were 60 prs Wildpark, 17 prs Devil's Dyke, 7 prs Bevendean Down; and 1-2 prs Ferring Rife. Late year counts were 24 Brighton Cemeteries Nov and 38 Dec; 22 Withdean Park Nov and 26 Dec; and 53 Wildpark Nov and 48 Dec.

1464 **GREAT TIT** (*Parus major*)

**Common.** Breeding season records were 37 prs Wildpark, 10 prs Devil's Dyke, 5 prs Bevendean Down and 1 pr Ferring Rife. End of year counts were 15 Brighton Cemeteries Nov and 23 Dec; 16 Withdean Park Nov and 10 Dec; and 28 Wildpark Nov and 26 Dec.

1479 **NUTHATCH** (*Sitta europaea*)

**Small breeding population.** Only one record received 2 Newtimber on Oct 23.

1486 **TREE CREEPER** (*Certhia familiaris*)

**Small breeding population.** Early year records were 2 Lancing Ring on Jan 2, 1 over a Broadwater garden on Jan 29, and 1 Goring Wood on Feb 19. Breeding season records were of pairs at Highdown and Devil's Dyke. A single in Wildpark was noted on 4 occasions between July 22 and Aug 11, and 1-2 were again noted there between Sep 17 and Oct 6. A total of 6 were rung at Cissbury in autumn, the highest total there. Elsewhere singles were at Shoreham Sanctuary on Sep 25 and at Goring Wood on Dec 31.

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

**Rare vagrant, formerly bred.** Two records for 1994 have both been submitted for consideration: a juv male at Sompting from Sep 24 to Oct 2 (PMB et al); and an imm. at East Brighton Park on Oct 24 (CEH).



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

**Common.** During the breeding season there were 2 prs at Devil's Dyke and Wildpark, and 1 pr at Lancing Ring. Very few autumn records received with up to 6 at Goring Gap throughout Oct (unusual) remaining the only record of consequence. Late year counts were 4 Brighton Cemeteries Nov and 6 Dec; 8 Withdean Park Nov and 4 Dec; and 6 Wildpark Nov and 2 Dec.

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

**Very common throughout area.** There was a roost count of 152 at Wildpark on Mar 15. Breeding season counts were 40 prs Wildpark, 9 prs Devil's Dyke and 4 prs Bevendean Down. 13 on Southwick Hill on May 27 may have bred in the area, and there was a max. 18 there on July 8. Late year counts were 10 on a Hangleton rooftop on Oct 23; maxima of 13 Nov and 14 Dec at Brighton Cemeteries; and 52 Nov and 53 Dec at Wildpark. A near total albino was present at Adur Rec. from Aug 30 to year end.

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

**Common and widespread in area.** Breeding season records were from Durrington and residential Hove. The only late year counts were 55 Wildpark in Nov and 34 in Dec.

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

**Common.** Rookery counts were 127 nests at Patcham Place, Brighton; 52 at Saddlescombe; 14 South Steyning; and 10 Varndean area, Brighton. Late year counts in Wildpark produced maxima of 40 in Nov and 24 in Dec.

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

**Common.** Breeding season counts were 2 prs Shoreham Sanctuary, 12 prs Wildpark, 4 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Bevendean Down, and 11 prs along Old Shoreham Road between Southlands and the Brighton boundary. Late year counts were 80 Goring Gap on Oct 8; and Wildpark maxima were 35 in Nov, and 21 in Dec.

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

**Extremely common.** A flock of 1,000 were noted at Wyckham Farm on Jan 1, but to date nobody has been brave enough to count the massive Brighton and Hove roosts! Breeding season counts were 38 prs Wildpark and 3 prs Devil's Dyke. Congratulations to the member who estimated the West Pier roost to contain 30-50,000 birds.

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

**Common.** Specific breeding season counts were 17 prs Bevendean Down and 15 prs Wildpark. There was a significant count of a flock of 200 on Ferring Rife in July.

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

**Breeds in small numbers.** Reported only from the Upper Adur levels from Jan to 31 Mar, with a max of 4 on Jan 23. Late year records from the same site showed a max of 5 in Dec.

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

**Common.** No early counts submitted, but breeding counts from studied areas were 44 prs Wildpark, 37 prs Devil's Dyke and 26 prs Bevendean Down. Late year counts were 9 Brighton Cemeteries in Nov, with 11 in Dec; 11 Withdean Park Nov and 8 Dec; and 37 Wildpark in Nov and 7 Dec.

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

**Regular passage migrant in small numbers.** Spring records were 1 N over Broadwater on Mar 20 and 1 Hollingbury Woods on Apr 7. Autumn records were 1 Goring Gap on Oct 13; 1 Woodvale Crematorium on Oct 27; and over Hollingbury Camp were 6 on Oct 26, 2 Oct 28, 3 Nov 1 and 1 Nov 6. Lastly, 3 at Bines Bridge, Upper Adur in a large finch flock on Nov 19.

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

**Very rare passage migrant.** An adult male in full song at Goring Gap on Mar 19 was joined by a 1st summer male in song on 20th. A subsequent report of a female there on 25/26 may actually refer to the 1st summer male (DIS, RAI, BFF, et al). All details to SOS.

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

**Common.** Specific early year counts were 57 Lancing Ring on Jan 2; 60 Upper Adur Levels on Jan 23; and 40 Preston Park, Brighton on Feb 23. Breeding season counts were 28 prs Wildpark, 6 prs Bevendean Down, and family parties noted from the Southwick area. Autumn flocks at Goring Gap during Sep/Oct were 35 on Sep 3, 80 on Sep 27 and 50-60 regular during Oct. There were 120 along Shoreham Beach on Nov 26, and specific late year counts were 24 Brighton Cemeteries Nov with 37 Dec; 32 Withdean Park Nov with 17 Dec; and 11 Wildpark Nov with 13 Dec.



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

**Common.** The small regular flock at Widewater had swelled to 30 on Feb 15. Breeding season counts were 6 prs Wildpark, 5 prs Highdown, 3 prs Devil's Dyke, 2 prs Bevendean Down, and 2 prs Buckingham Road, Shoreham. Autumn max at Lancing Ring was 69 on Sep 23, and at Sompting Brooks were 95 on Sep 25. Elsewhere were 416 E Goring Gap in 1.5 hours on Oct 11, with 257 E there over the same period on Oct 17. At Worthing Beach were 153 E in 15 mins on Oct 21. End of year counts were 6 Brighton Cemeteries Nov with 4 Dec; and 14 Wildpark Nov with 8 Dec.

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

**Regular in variable numbers.** Records for the first half of the year have been more encouraging than of late. January records were a flock of 40+ Adur Rec on 6th, with 20+ there on 23rd; 5 New Salts Farm on 2nd; 1 Shoreham Sanctuary on 8th; 3 on a Storrington nut feeder on 16th; and 1 in a Broadwater garden on 29th. Later were 12 Preston Park on Feb 23; 1 N over Broadwater on Mar 26 and a single in a Storrington garden on Apr 15.

After 2 E Broadwater on July 2, there were scattered reports during Sep and autumn flocks included 60 E at Goring Gap on Oct 11, with 7 E Broadwater same day; 30 E Shoreham Harbour on Oct 16; and 30 E Storrington on Oct 23. Between Sep 13 and Nov 7 the total over Hollingbury Camp was 375 with max counts of 42 on Sep 23 and 34 on Oct 11. Winter sightings were 4 near Storrington Mill pond on Nov 19, with 9 there on Dec 31; 10 St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove on Dec 16; 4 Ferring Rife on Dec 20 and 23; and a regular flock of 8-10 in the Steyning area.

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

**Common on downland, passage migrant.** Large winter flocks were recorded from many coastal and downland sites. Flocks of 100 or more were 100 Ferring Rife on Jan 2; 150 Ditchling Beacon on Jan 1; 100 Cissbury on Feb 2; and Goring Gap counts were 400 on Jan 22, 300 Feb 6, 150 on Mar 22 and 30 on Apr 2. There were 125 at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 26. Also of interest were 23 arriving from the sea over Brighton Marina on Apr 16. Breeding season records involved 63 pairs from a variety of locations.

Autumn passage included 172 Lancing Ring on Sep 23; 39 E in 2 hours Worthing Beach on Sep 24; 30 Ferring Rife on Sep 27; 150 Goring Gap on Oct 1 and 50 E there in 1.5 hours on Oct 11. Late year records were less forthcoming but included a Nov max at Ferring Rife on 2nd; and 35 Southwick Hill on Dec 23.



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

**Rare winter visitor.** No records for 1994.

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

**Winter visitor and passage migrant.** There were no early year records. During autumn over 150 birds moved through the area, with Hollingbury Camp totalling 105 between Oct 6 to Nov 11, peaking at 21 on Nov 5. Other records include 22 E/ 16 W Shoreham Harbour on Oct 16; 2 Shoreham Sanctuary Nov 5; and a pair remained on Upper Adur Levels from Nov to year end.

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

**Regular in variable numbers.** One spring record of 1 E over a Broadwater garden, calling, on Mar 27. In the autumn 6 flew over Cissbury on June 26, and 5 on Aug 28.

1710 **BULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)

**Fairly common.** Resident pairs in the breeding season were from Highdown, Devil's Dyke, Wildpark, Hoe Court, Cissbury and Old Erringham Farm.

1847 **LAPLAND BUNTING** (*Calcarious lapponicus*)

**Rare winter visitor.** No records for 1994.

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

**Fairly regular winter visitor.** No records for 1994, the first blank year since 1988.

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

**Common in suitable habitat.** Early year counts were 15 Findon Valley roost on Jan 9, increasing to 26 on Feb 20; and a max of 39 Southwick Hill on Jan 30. Breeding season counts involved 56 pairs, the largest concentrations being 15 prs Devil's Dyke and 12 prs Wildpark/Hollingbury Camp. There were no sizeable flocks reported in later months.

1866 **ORTOLAN BUNTING** (*Emberiza hortulana*)

**Extremely rare autumn vagrant.** A record of a bird at Hollingbury Golf Course on Sep 14 (IJW) has been submitted to SOS.

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1877 **REED BUNTING** (*Emeriza schoeniclus*)

**Common.** Early year records were 70 Upper Adur Levels on Jan 23, 3 Lancing Ring on Jan 2, and a Ferring Rife max of 8 on Feb 4. Breeding season counts were 2 prs Adur Saltings and 1 pr Ferring Rife - the only records submitted. There were no significant counts for later months but migrants recorded at Hollingbury Camp totalled 11 birds from Sep 6 to Nov 2.

1882 **CORN BUNTING** (*Miliaria calandra*)

**Common but possibly declining.** The only sizeable flock in the early months was 150 on Mill Hill feeding in snow on Feb 15. Breeding season records involved 61 pairs from 12 mainly downland sites. Autumn/winter counts were 55 Sheepcote Valley on Sep 17; 54 Lancing Ring on Sep 23; 20 E over Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct 2; and 25 Southwick Hill on Dec 23.

## ESCAPES AND FERALS

**'GREEN PARAKEET'**

1 W Goring Beach on Apr 2

**BUDGERIGAR**

1 Shoreham Beach Green on Aug 13 (pale blue/white)

**COCKATIEL**

1 flying NW in fog at Cissbury on Nov 13, and another seen intermittently at Wildpark during the latter part of the year.

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## ADDITIONS TO 1993 REPORT

- 0010 RED-NECKED GREBE (*Podiceps grisegena*)  
1 E Brighton Marina on Apr 22.
- 0011 SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)  
1 Lower Adur on Nov 30.
- 0231 HONEY BUZZARD (*Pernis apivorus*)  
1 Beeding Hill on Sep 16/17.
- 0263 MONTAGU'S HARRIER (*Circus pygargus*)  
1 Steyning Round Hill on Aug 21.
- 0287 BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*)  
1 Shoreham on June 13.
- 0433 COMMON CRANE (*Grus grus*)  
2 over Patching on Oct 24.
- 0575 MEDITERRANEAN GULL (*Larus melanocephalus*)  
Ringed 2nd winter bird in Shoreham Harbour identified as bearing white ring no. 24H.
- 1598 ICELAND GULL (*Larus glaucoides*)  
A 1st winter bird in Shoreham Harbour on Jan 17.
- 0614 ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougallii*)  
2 E Worthing Beach on May 13.
- 1847 LAPLAND BUNTING (*Calcarius lapponicus*)  
1 flushed on Hollingbury Golf Course on Oct 10 (IJW) has been accepted by SOS.

Rod Shaw/Hon. Recorder



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## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1994

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

<u>Species</u>	<u>Arrival</u>		<u>Departure</u>	
Hobby	Apr 28	Brighton	Oct 5	Goring
Whimbrel	Apr 16	Brighton Marina	Aug 11	Widewater
Common Sandpiper	Apr 30	Brighton Marina	Oct 15	Shoreham
Sandwich Tern	Mar 20	Worthing	Oct 2	Shoreham
Common/Arctic Tern	Mar 27	Worthing	Sep 28	Worthing
Little Tern	Apr 22	Worthing		None recorded
Black Tern	Apr 23	Worthing	Sep 19	Worthing
Turtle Dove	May 11	Newtimber	Sep 23	Sompting
Cuckoo	Apr 24	Cissbury	Aug 14	Cissbury
Swift	Apr 23	Goring	Sep 17	Hollingbury
Sand Martin	Apr 1	Sompting	Oct 20	Brighton
Swallow	Mar 29	Goring	Dec 14	Mill Hill
House Martin	Apr 24	Ferring	Oct 28	Shoreham
Tree Pipit	Apr 21	Cissbury	Oct 1	Hollingbury
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 15	Sompting	Sep 28	Sompting
Redstart	Apr 20	West Worthing	Oct 3	Cissbury
Whinchat	Apr 15	Sompting	Nov 12	Sheepcote
Wheatear	Mar 6	Shoreham	Nov 30	Shoreham
Ring Ouzel	Apr 21	Cissbury	Nov 18	Brighton Racehill
Sedge Warbler	Apr 12	Ferring/Sompting	Sep 18	Cissbury and Hollingbury
Reed Warbler	Apr 16	Sompting	Oct 13	Sheepcote
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 20	Brighton	Sep 28	Lancing
Whitethroat	Apr 16	Hollingbury	Oct 4	Hollingbury
Garden Warbler	Apr 20	Southwick	Sep 26	Sompting
Willow Warbler	Mar 28	Wildpark	Oct 23	Sheepcote
Spotted Flycatcher	Apr 30	Wildpark	Sep 29	Hollingbury
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 28	Brighton	Sep 14	Ferring Rife

Blackcap and Chiffchaff have been omitted from the list as it is practically impossible to distinguish between migrants and wintering birds.

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## RINGING REPORT FOR 1994

There was a 27% reduction in the number of birds ringed in the area compared with the record total in 1993. From the grand annual total of 3584 ringed birds 419 (11.7%) were marked as nestlings and the rest were fully fledged birds. Most nestlings were ringed by Dr Barrie Watson whilst training John and Charlie Holt; their total of 333 comprised a good range of 15 common species as well as the usual clutches of nest-box breeding Parus sp.

The marked reduction in the numbers ringed can be accounted for by no autumn ringing in Chris Fox's Wiston garden and no local gull cannon netting sessions but the reduction covers most species with 42 different species having fewer ringed in 1994 compared with 1993; only 17 species recorded a rise from 1993; Starling the most with an increase of 34.

As in the past few years the greatest portion of the catch was contributed by the Steyning Ringing Group trapping mainly on the lower slopes of Cissbury and at the Mumbles in Steyning. At Cissbury Brian and Phil Clay, Val Bentley and Bill Woodford ringed a total of 1794 birds but regrettably substantial scrub management by the National Trust altered the habitat sufficiently to render the groups data collection for the BTO's Constant Effort Survey valueless. On a more positive note Phil Clay's long term recording and ringing at the Mumbles earned him the 1st prize in the Margaret Milner Memorial Award organised and presented by the Sussex Ornithological Society for site documentation; congratulations Phil! The total ringed at the Mumbles in 1994 was 342 and the Steyning RG annual total was completed by 30 nestlings ringed at Wiston.

John Newnham, with the help of Judith Baker and Mike Prince, totalled 377 at the sanctuary and Barrie Watson's Shoreham area total, including all the nestlings mentioned earlier, was 541.

Table A shows the totals of the 51 different species ringed in the area; the most interesting species being Wood Warbler, Firecrest and 8 each of Nightingales and Grasshopper Warblers. Interestingly no Yellowhammers were ringed and other finches and buntings only form a small proportion of the table.

TABLE A

SPARROW HAWK	2	WOOD WARBLER	1
WOODPIGEON	4	CHIFFCHAFF	189
COLLARED DOVE	6	WILLOW WARBLER	293
CUCKOO	1	GOLDCREST	66
KINGFISHER	3	FIRECREST	1

GREEN WOODPECKER	3	SPOTTED FLYCATCHER	6
GT.SPOTTED WOODPECKER	1	LONG-TAILED TIT	75
SAND MARTIN	1	MARSH TIT	4
SWALLOW	8	COAL TIT	1
HOUSE MARTIN	317	BLUE TIT	471
WREN	103	GREAT TIT	190
DUNNOCK	141	NUTHATCH	5
ROBIN	169	TREECREEPER	12
NIGHTINGALE	8	JAY	2
REDSTART	2	MAGPIE	1
BLACKBIRD	219	STARLING	57
SONG THRUSH	99	HOUSE SPARROW	11
MISTLE THRUSH	1	CHAFFINCH	77
REDWING	4	GREENFINCH	82
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER	8	GOLDFINCH	31
SEDGE WARBLER	50	SISKIN	1
REED WARBLER	170	LINNET	5
LESSER WHITETHROAT	22	REDPOLL	2
WHITETHROAT	118	BULLFINCH	68
GARDEN WARBLER	52	REED BUNTING	13
BLACKCAP	408	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3584</b>

## 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 reported until 1994.

Although no gulls were ringed in the area in 1994 this group still provides the highest number of ringing recovered for the area.

1) BLACK-HEADED GULL:- With no gull ringing there were no controls but a total of 44 recoveries were reported; 35 (80%) were from Europe and only 9 from south-east England (Sussex -5; Hampshire -3 and Dorset -1). Those abroad were from - USSR (1), Baltic States (4), Finland (5), Sweden (3), Norway (1), Poland (3), Denmark (4), Netherlands (8), Belgium (1), Germany (5)

2) COMMON GULL:- There was only one recovery from Denmark. A map plotting the recoveries of Common Gulls in the Sussex Bird Report for 1993 shows Denmark to be the source of many Common Gulls wintering in this area.



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3) HERRING GULL:- There were again just 3 recoveries reported from Sussex, Aberdeen and the Netherlands. Apart from a single past recovery from Norway the Scottish recovery is the furthest north from ringing in this area.

4) ROBIN:- A young bird ringed at Cissbury in early September was killed by a cat in Polegate, Sussex (45 km E) just 25 days later.

5) REED WARBLER:- There were 5 movements recorded and shown below; all were birds ringed as juveniles and subsequently controlled by other ringers operating in reed-beds:-

Shoreham sanctuary (Sep 92)	⇒	East Bedfont, Gt London	(Aug 93)
Shoreham sanctuary (Jul 94)	⇒	Icklesham near Rye	(Aug 94)
Mumbles Steyning (Jul 94)	⇒	Icklesham near Rye	(Aug 94)
Mumbles Steyning (Jul 94)	⇒	Little Marlow Bucks	(Aug 94)
Wiston (Aug 94)	⇒	Icklesham near Rye	(Sep 93)

6) LESSER WHITETHROAT:- a first year ringed at Wiston in August 1993 was killed by a cat in late May 1994 at Buckley, Clwyd, Wales.

7) BLACKCAP:- For the third consecutive year there were foreign movements reported (one rather belatedly):-

Cissbury (Sep 89)	⇒	Al Hoceima, Morocco	(Mar 90)
Cissbury (Sep 93)	⇒	San Sebastian, Spain	(Oct 93)
Cissbury (Oct 93)	⇒	El Bayadh, Algeria	(Nov 93)

Other distant movements are listed below:-

Cissbury (Oct 93)	⇒	Romsey, Hants	(Dec 93)
Wiston (Sep 93)	⇒	Wennington, Cambs	(May 94)
Wiston (Sep 93)	⇒	Cottam Power Stn, Nottingham	(Jul 94)
Mumbles Steyning (Jun 94)	⇒	Sandwich Bay, Kent	(Sep 94)

The late October ringing date and subsequent December recovery in Hampshire suggests the first listed had probably arrived in Britain from the continent to winter.

8) CHIFFCHAFF:- After the excitement of an African recovery in 1993 the selection of recoveries shown below return more to normal:-

Cissbury (Sep 92)	⇒	Lackford Pits, Suffolk	(Aug 94)
Cissbury (Sep 93)	⇒	Ripley, Surrey	(Apr 94)

9) WILLOW WARBLER:- the only recovery reported this year was an adult ringed on spring passage at Cissbury in mid April 1993 and subsequently controlled at Landguard Point near Felixstowe in August 1994.

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

J.A.Newnham

### SANCTUARY REPORT 1994

The society's Sanctuary was visited on 30 occasions during the year and 14 of these were session when mist-nets were set for ringing. The low level of recording at the copse, compared with past decades, therefore continues. Apart from a single session to catch tits coming to peanut feeders in December the ringing sessions followed the pattern of the past few years and were confined to the summer and early autumn; these 13 mornings of ringing falling between May 29th and October 9th.

During January the copse was flooded and at least 3" of water poured over the weir from the Southern Water Authority's pumping station into the overgrown streams of the copse. A Water Rail could be heard screaming from the soggy undergrowth and a Siskin briefly visited the copse on January 8th. The annual working party met on January 31st; only 3 members braved the early morning rain but the osier from an area in the centre of the copse and on the north side was successfully coppiced and cleared. Few birds were noticed whilst the "gardening" was being done but a large clump of frog spawn was one of the earliest any of the work party members could recall.

Spring was again poorly recorded with no notable days of migrant arrivals; the largest number of Chiffchaffs seen was 4 on March 30th co-incident with a small "fall" on the Sussex coast. A pair of Sparrowhawks and Kestrels were regularly seen. One of the Moorhens was incubating a clutch on a conspicuous nest in mid-April but in spite of the very obvious nest there was a brood of chicks scampering after the parents on 27th April.

Throughout the late spring and summer all the paths need to be cleared regularly and the bridges maintained. This was the season when the copse was at its liveliest and the largest catch of 70 birds occurred on 11th June. The total of 360 birds ringed was remarkably similar to 1993 and the following table shows the average catch remains lower than 5 years ago.

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Summary of ringing effort and results for 1988 - 1993.

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. sessions	26	19	19	9	13	16	14
Average catch	45	50	52	31	32	31	37
Year best	253	135	94	56	53	49	70

A Hobby hunting over the copse on 13th June, a Siskin seen on 19th June and a Greenshank flying south over the copse on 9th July were the most exciting birds of the summer. As usual autumn warblers started to move through the copse in late July but numbers throughout the autumn, like the past few years, were low.

Throughout the summer and autumn one or two Green Woodpeckers were regularly seen feeding on the lawn and Peregrines were occasionally noted hunting along the hillside. A Treecreeper trapped on 25th September was an unusual species for the copse despite the increasing maturity of the Sycamores growing on the west side of Mill Hill just north of the A27 Adur flyover. The first of the autumn Grey Wagtails was noted on 18th September, and on each occasion thereafter a few Siskins and Redpolls were recorded. Three Reed Warblers lingered on into early October but Chiffchaffs, as usual, were much later with one feeding with a party of Goldcrests on 6th November and 2 in the osier withy on 27th November.

A feeding station stocked with peanuts, seed and fat was introduced to the copse in December and attracted a small number of tits, finches and a Great Spotted Woodpecker.

I would like to express the Society's thanks to the Southern Water Authority and their staff whose help and cooperation has continued throughout the year. Furthermore I would like to thank those who have helped with both the ringing programme and the management tasks at the Sanctuary.

John Newnham



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## STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1994

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**Summary** Overall, the total activity of the group was lower than in recent years and this is reflected in the lower total number of birds ringed. However there were significant changes in the group's operation which account for the drop. The main change was that no ringing was carried out at Wiston apart from some nestlings, Chris Fox having decided to take a break following the intensive ringing of nearly 1900 birds that he undertook in the previous year. At the Mumbles at Steyning Phil Clay, with occasional assistance from other members of the group, caught almost 850 new birds. This total was the highest at the Mumbles for many years. The Mumbles site, with its pond and reed beds, provides a useful contrast to the scrub at Cissbury and adds to the diversity of birds caught by the group with Kingfishers, Reed Buntings and breeding Reed Warblers being the most significant variations although Goldfinch flocks feeding on the abundant nearby teasels are also rarely caught at Cissbury.

The total of birds caught at Cissbury has varied considerably over the years depending on effort and luck. Catches increased significantly in recent years with the introduction of tape luring during autumn migration. Tape luring is the playing of the song to attract a particular species and is very effective for catching certain species such as Willow Warblers and Blackcaps. The overall catch at Cissbury was 1745 birds, above the long term average but below the average for recent years after tape luring was introduced. Tape luring is also used to attract House Martins and the catch of 317 in 1994 was a record for Cissbury which disguises the fact that the remaining balance of the catch was significantly lower. The general verdict on the season was that it was poor.

**Cissbury** In previous years comments on populations and breeding success have tended to be subjective as the pattern of ringing activity was not regular enough to make meaningful comparisons. However the introduction of constant effort ringing in 1992, which imposes a regular regime on ringing activity from the beginning of May to the end of August, means that proper comparisons can be made. The overall total of the number of birds caught during constant effort sessions, in the same net sites, has dropped steadily over the years from 360 birds in 1992 to 282 in 1993 down to 234 in 1994; a reduction of 35%. A closer look at the figures reveals some interesting trends. The figures can be split in 3 ways; Residents/Migrants, Adults/Juveniles and May-June/July-August (this final split is important because in the latter period migration has started and the population of local birds is boosted by migrants commencing their return journey).

**Residents** The resident adult population seemed healthy and stable. Numbers of adult birds were very similar in all three years and in both parts of the season. In fact there was a small overall increase from year to year and in no

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individual species was a significant decline recorded. Against the national trend Song Thrushes showed a noticeable increase and Wrens increased marginally. The catch of juveniles was remarkably similar in 1992 and 1993 particularly in the July-August period with 80 caught in 1992 compared to 81 in 1993. There were some fluctuations; Robins did better in 1992 whereas 1993 suited the Wrens. However these fluctuations were insignificant compared to 1994 when the overall catch of juveniles dropped to 50 in the comparable July-August period. The main species to suffer were Bullfinch and Dunnock but tit catches were also down, a fact borne out by our nest box ringing when over 30% of nestlings were found dead in the boxes. The cold wet spell in late May would seem to have been the main cause.

**Migrants** The migrant picture is more complex and a further years worth of data will be valuable as most species seem to show fluctuations. The adult position is more stable and the variations that exist could be more to do with statistical quirks due to small populations rather than any general trend. However careful attention will be paid to adult Willow Warblers, Lesser Whitethroats and Garden Warblers to see if possible declines continue. Adult Blackcaps have shown a year on year increase in all three years which would indicate that their population is genuinely increasing. The plight of juvenile warblers is cause for concern. I noted in last year's report the decline in juvenile warbler numbers between 1992 and 1993. This worrying drop continued. The figures show the trend; 1992:-295, 1993:-220, 1994:-123 - a total drop of nearly 60%. The decline affected all species, most significantly Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Whitethroat but species with small local populations were also affected to the extent that no juvenile Chiffchaffs or Lesser Whitethroats were caught in constant effort nets.

**Comment** Although some variations in populations and breeding success mirror national trends such as the decline in Willow Warbler and poor breeding success of tits, there are significant differences. Key ones are increasing populations of Song Thrushes and Blackcaps and declines in the warblers such as Lesser Whitethroat, Whitethroat and Garden Warbler. Much thought has been given to the causes behind this and one of the top factors must be changing habitat. Roy Leverton has described the habitat succession that occurred in downland sites where he has rung and the sudden and dramatic drop in warbler populations that occur when scrub reaches a certain level of maturity, a canopy starts to form, and early stages of woodland approach. This would seem to be occurring rapidly at Cissbury. There has been prolific growth of Sycamore and Ash saplings coupled with an increase in the density and height of scrub species, mainly Elder, Blackthorn and Wayfaring Tree, so that much of the original grassy field layer has disappeared. This layer is of key importance in terms of diversity of habitat, the flora contained within it, the insect and other life dependant on it, and as a feeding and nesting habitat for birds.



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The problem had also been recognised by the National Trust and prompted their proposals for a grazing regime which would have conflicted with our ringing activities. Further thought is being given to alternative long-term solutions by both the Trust and the Ringing Group. In the short term a programme of tree felling and scrub thinning has commenced based on a plan drawn up by the ringing group. Although changes to the habitat on this scale mean that the Group's Constant Effort ringing results cannot be included in the national data as they will be biased by the management work, they will form the basis of monitoring the impact of the management work and enable the success or otherwise of the project to be monitored. This is an exciting development and will give added value to the ringing activities over future years.

**Other Highlights** From the end of August to the close of the season in early November ringing continues on an ad-hoc basis with September the best month due to the passage of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs. Goldcrests also appear regularly provided the preceding winter has been mild. Totals of all these species were a little lower but not significantly so considering fewer ringing sessions were managed. Uncommon species brighten any ringing session and in 1994 Cuckoo (1), Nightingale (8), Redstart (2), Grasshopper Warbler (8), Wood Warbler (1), Firecrest (1) and Redpoll (1) provided ample excitement.

**The Mumbles** With substantial management work paying off it was satisfying to see the site approaching former glories and just reward for the time and effort Phil has put in. The Reed Warbler total was a satisfying 96 birds but the Sedge Warbler total remains obstinately low - only 8 birds for the year compared to 38 at Cissbury. However tape luring boosted the Cissbury numbers so direct comparisons are not fair. Winter feeding not only attracted tits but also Greenfinches and Reed Buntings; 13 of the latter were rung. Specialities were Kingfishers (3 rung), Siskin and Redpoll.

**Acknowledgements** Principal thanks must go to the National Trust for permitting ringing activities at Cissbury and particularly to Vic Oliver, the Warden, who has allowed his management plans to be disrupted by the groups requirements. Thanks also to those who helped during last winter with the management work: David King, David Golds, David Buckingham, Charles Hutcheon; the significant progress that was made would have been impossible without them. More work looms during Autumn/Winter 1994/95 and a programme of working parties has been planned. Volunteers are always welcome; you do not have to be called David to help! Phone Phil Clay on 01903 815889 for more details.

Brian Clay

**Reference**

Leverton R.. *Downland, scrub and birds. The Sussex Bird Report No. 46 (1993): 103-111.*



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## GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY

### WINTER 1993/94

15 members again contributed to the Society's Survey, although the 'membership' differed slightly. The geographical area embraced two gardens each in Brighton, Ferring, Goring, Findon Valley and Hove, plus one each in Steyning, Offington, Shoreham, Southwick and Storrington, covering an appropriate mix of coastal and suburban sites.

The weather pattern was similar to 1992/93, mainly mild with no significantly low temperatures in mid winter, but some periods of prolonged and excessive rainfall. October 1993 was dry with average temperatures but spells of cold wind from NE in November induced freezing fox and some ice. December began tamely but a period of gales from NW heralded heavy rain. The worst of this fell in January with N winds whilst February was variable - fine spells in mid month followed by the only fall of snow between 14th-22nd. March produced sunny periods, above average temperatures, and finally gales to blow out the month.

To vary the reader's diet, if not of the birds, I have attempted to portray the records in narrative fashion, with just one table. It will be seen from this that the same 12 species again shared the honours by percentage of the total numbers of birds reported, with no variation in the top three :

	<b>Species</b>	<b>%</b>		<b>Species</b>	<b>%</b>
1	Starling	24.4	8	Chaffinch	3.7
2	House Sparrow	18.2	9	Dunnock	3.0
3	Greenfinch	5.8	10	Robin	2.2
4	Black headed Gull	5.3	11	Great Tit	2.1
5	Blackbird	4.8	12	Wood Pigeon	2.0
6	Blue Tit	4.7		All others	19.3
7	Collared Dove	4.5			

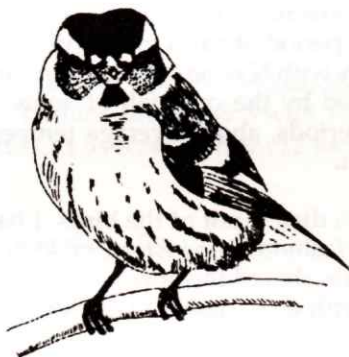
From only 15 gardens a commendable total of 40 species were achieved, 36 of which appeared genuinely to qualify by actually taking food or water. A brief summary of the more unusual birds is given later.

The average monthly maximum numbers of birds recorded per garden was again remarkably constant, varying between a low of 54 in March and 72 in December, with an average of 62. Also constant but slightly down on last year was the maximum number of species per garden, ranging between 20 in February and 24 in November / December. To complete the statistical picture,

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the average maximum number of species per garden per month was 15 - an increase of 8% on last year.

As our regular and more common species have been well covered in previous surveys, it seems relevant to make reference to the more unusual visitors. Coal Tits were recorded from 6 gardens, 11 each for Roger Edney and Clive Hope. The latter's attractive garden also hosted Nuthatch (9 visits), Bullfinch, Tree Creeper and an opportunistic Heron. A Marsh Tit, the only one seen, visited Sheila Denman's garden in urban Hove, whilst 4 members recorded Great Spotted Woodpeckers, but again, no Lesser Spotted. Notable were 65 Long Tailed Tits spread through no less than 7 gardens, and 87 Siskins also gracing 6 of these gardens - 50 briefly in one flock at the Ford's strategically sited domain.



Nine climatically correct Chiff/Willows were visitors at 5 abodes, and a total of 42 Goldfinches charming 8 sites was a dramatic increase for this species, which, with Long Tailed Tits have been recorded using nut-feeders. The harder weather induced far more Redwings - 113 on 9 patches - than Fieldfares (just 7 on one). Forty of the former fed on Pauline Griffith's holly and rowan berries, but Mistle Thrushes were scarce on 2 plots only, and only 4 observers recorded a total of 18 Goldcrests. Of note were 5 Herring Gulls (Peter Whitcomb) and 2 Common Gulls (G L Champion). Referring to last year's raptors preying in gardens, a Kestrel visited P R Maynard regularly each month and a Sparrowhawk was twice seen by L R Keen.

Martin Ford's was again top garden with 24 species, and the highest monthly total of 144 birds in December. I sincerely thank the following for taking part in the survey: S R Allen, G L Champion, D Culpitt, S Denman, R Edney, J Feest, M and P Ford, P Griffiths, C E and P Hope, H Jackson, L R Keen, P R Maynard, R L Westwater, P Whitcomb.

Roy Sandison



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## ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS - 1994

The first line of the Society's rules states that the main object of the Society is 'to promote the study and protection of birds'. In this context protection includes the defending of habitats against many threats; and enhancing these when and if possible.

During 1994, there have been a variety of such issues arising in our area, and in which the Society has had its say.

Both Adur and Horsham District Councils have produced their Local Plans - these are their framework plans for the future of their areas. They are important in that any future planning applications which might be contrary to what is in the Local Plan, much weight would be placed on the inviolability of the Plan. In Adur, the Society made written representations concerning Widewater, the River Adur, and the Mash Barn, Lancing area (where a golf course is proposed). Our views on a variety of items in respect of those areas were accepted by the Council and written into the Plan.

Our main interest in the Horsham Plan was Beeding Cement Works. This industrial site is partly (the main part) in Horsham's area and the part on the river side is in the Adur area. Nothing is settled on the future of the site, but there are hopeful signs that both authorities will recognise the need to make a comprehensive study of the wildlife there, and take all reasonable steps to protect it.

Adur District Council, commendably, have acquired the freehold of an open site (where the Red Backed Shrike was seen last autumn) in Sompting, and the Society have been asked, with other environmental bodies, to advise on the best future use of the site. There is also a possibility of Adur acquiring part of Sompting meadows. This interesting site lies to the south of the land already acquired, and is subject to prolonged and delicate negotiations between Adur and Sompting Estates.

The Society were consulted by NRA regarding Widewater. This is all bound up with sea defence, water levels and so on. A difficulty here is that the local residents like the water level high, whereas, as members will know, waders are more plentiful when there is plenty of mud. However, we have formed a close liaison with the newly formed Friends of Widewater Lagoon (FOWL), and have contributed to the purchase of shrubs which hopefully will be useful for migrating birds (financially assisted by a welcome donation from Birdline South East). Our chairman has advised on the temporary fencing erected by FOWL to try and encourage nesting Ringed Plover.



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Members will know the wader roost at Goring Gap. The Society has made a written representation to the DoE inspectorate, objecting to proposals to provide croquet lawns and car parking, pavilion and so on in the Gap. The appeal by the proposed developer (against planning refusal by Arun DC) will have been heard in April, with the result in six months. This is just the sort of 'its only a small development' of which a Society such as ours has to be constantly wary.

So the Council - and all our members - must keep alert to any such threats, however small, to loss of habitat in our area. Hopefully one good bit of news is that hedgerows will get some protection from a new bill now going through parliament. Your records too, are of paramount importance in contesting any planning application which affects habitat, as I learnt when I appeared at a planning appeal against Adur's refusal to allow a Golf Driving course at New Salts Farm. The records provided by our then recorder, Dave Smith, went a long way to persuading the Inspector to refuse the Appeal.

Stanley Allen

### **AUTUMN TRIP TO SWEDEN, 1994**

On the 11th September, I set off for Harwich Ferry Terminal catching the overnight crossing. The journey takes 25 hours and I spent most of the daylight hours seawatching. Highlights were 4 Arctic Skuas, a single Pomarine, Great Skuas and Merlin. Also seen were the odd Blackcap, Chiffchaff and Yellow Wagtail, but the star bird was a Spotted Crake seen flying alongside the ship, suddenly diving into one of the lifeboats and was not seen again. I arrived at Colin Messer's apartment in Norrköping at 01.00hrs on the 13th.

My first birding trip was to a local nature reserve situated on the Braviken. Norrköping is at the land end of the Braviken 50 kilometres from the Baltic. The reserve is larger than Pagham Harbour but has very few birders. In three visits we only saw one other birdwatcher. There is a large three-storey bird tower, the top floor glazed and locked, but Colin has his own pass key into this five star observation post. We spent several hours watching geese flighting in and feeding, including 3000 Grey Lag, 800 Bean, 9 Pink Feet and 31 Brent Geese (the latter two are locally very scarce). The hide is excellent for raptors and we saw 4 Honey Buzzard, Peregrine, Sparrowhawk, Goshawk, 6 Marsh Harrier, 2 Osprey, several Buzzard and 4 magnificent Sea Eagles, including three flying together (they remind you of a door on the wing!), then we witnessed two birds attacking a lone Bean Goose in the water. Both eagles worked in tandem, dive-bombing the unfortunate victim which eventually succumbed after continuous

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harassment, and became the eagle's lunch. Also seen from the hide were Greenshank, Ruff, Spotted Redshank, Raven (common here), Hooded Crows, Red Backed Shrike and a very close Bluethroat. On the edge of a large reedbed we had wonderful views of a female Elk with two youngsters - not bad for our first day.

The next day we visited a local area of open heath, mixed woodland and farmland close to the edge of town. The first two hours proved productive, flushing Red Throated Pipit and Lapland Bunting from stubble, both calling loudly. We saw Merlin, Hobby, Buzzard and another Bluethroat, which gave close views in a reedy roadside ditch. Then disaster struck. The clutch cable on the Renault Clio snapped. Fortunately I had taken out extra vehicle insurance, but of course all sorts of problems occurred - i.e. no right hand drive clutch cables in Sweden, so my car was off the road for a week waiting for the part to be flown out from Heathrow. We were able to birdwatch locally, but we had planned a weekend trip to the island of Oland, in the South Baltic. The insurance company then provided a hire car and we set off as planned. The island is huge, some 80 x 12 kilometres, and at its southern tip is Ottenby, Sweden's second most important migration watch point and ringing station. The last few kilometres of the island is an excellent birding area of coastal marsh, scrub and woodland and mixed farmland. We arrived in early afternoon in a force 7 wind and heavy rain showers, but still managed some good birding. This included several Little Gulls, Ruff, and offshore thousands of Eider and a few Velvet Scoter. Large flocks of migrants included Cuckoo, 2 glorious Nutcracker, Icterine Warbler, Red Backed Shrike, Merlin, Buzzard and hundreds of Pied and Spotted Flycatchers and Redstarts. We flushed Jack Snipe, and the day ended in darkening gloom with 300 Cranes coming in to roost on farmland as we retired to hostel accommodation, warm and dry.

The following day the weather had improved and we had a little sunshine, which induced up to 25 Hobby and 100 Sparrowhawks to feed above the woodland. Every open field had a Sparrowhawk dashing over it moving southward. Raptors also included 4 Osprey, 3 Merlin, 4 Honey Buzzard and a juvenile Golden Eagle, as well as Little Gull, Black Tern, a 1st winter Med Gull (very rare), dozens of Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper, Grasshopper Warbler and Whinchat. Nearly every bush had a couple of birds in it, with hundreds of Pied Flycatcher and Redstart, and lastly a Kingfisher. Talking 'kings' we literally ran into the King of Sweden, hunting deer in the coastal forest, with no security save his minder. To round off the day we found another large flock of roosting Cranes and had a day total of 10 Nutcrackers.



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Our last day on the island was spent around Ottenby bird station, and as we were loading our car, high above us a flock of 9 Nutcrackers moved south (we had a day total of 20) and we had good views of an immature Barred Warbler and our first Collared Flycatcher. Having spent hours checking through all the Pieds before we found one with a huge white patch at base of the primaries, in first winter plumage. We stumbled on five smallish buntings in a meadow, briefly, then flying off and calling a soft 'tic'. We felt pretty sure they were Rustic Bunting but our views were not enough to give positive identification. Raptor interest was once again stimulating, with 4 Osprey, 2 Merlin, 2 Peregrine, 10 Honey Buzzard, 50 Sparrowhawk, 6 Hobby, 6 Marsh Harrier and another immature Golden Eagle which flew so close over our heads you could see the yellow on its massive beak. On our drive back up the island we located a loose flock of 1000 Cranes, many of them swirling around in the sky in small flocks. Oland is connected to the mainland by a causeway/bridge about 4K in length and a real masterpiece of engineering. Setting off for our homebase as the rain had set in, in our fast hire car, I made a slight error in speed judgement. I was booked by the Swedish police for just exceeding the speed limit, at 124K per hour in a 70K limit and was handed legal papers and a roadside fine of 1600 Kronar which is about £140 (Gulp!).

The last couple of days were spent chasing up the garage, but we managed some local birding in the Kolmorden Forest (Sweden's forests are vast and thick) and there were plenty of Nutcrackers around, their calls sounding like an electric drill. We flushed a Crane from a boggy clearing, and also saw 2 Goshawks and a calling Black Throated Diver on a forest lake. The forest was full of thousands of Siskin, with small numbers of Brambling, Crossbill and a few Willow Tits. Elks were heard barking at each other.

On my last full day in Sweden we decided to revisit the 5 Star Bird tower and on a lovely warm autumn morning we were greeted with the magnificent sight of thousands of geese flighting over the roof of the hide. Our count reach 2500 Grey Lag, 3000 Bean, 2 Whitefront, 9 Pinkfeet, 9 Barnacle and a single Brent. The noise was a real hubbub of sounds. Other interest were 6 Goosander, 30 Bearded Tit, Merlin, and 2 very close Rough Legged Buzzard. Also here were Buzzard, Hen Harrier, Bluethroat and Tree Sparrows, and my last Nutcracker, and last but not least were superb views of 2 Sea Eagles close to the hide.

That was it. I had my car back safely and I managed to get out of the country without the police stopping me. I travelled from Norrköping to Gothenberg at the lawful speed reminiscing a marvellous birding holiday. The sea crossing was uneventful, but I was well satisfied.

Bernard Forbes



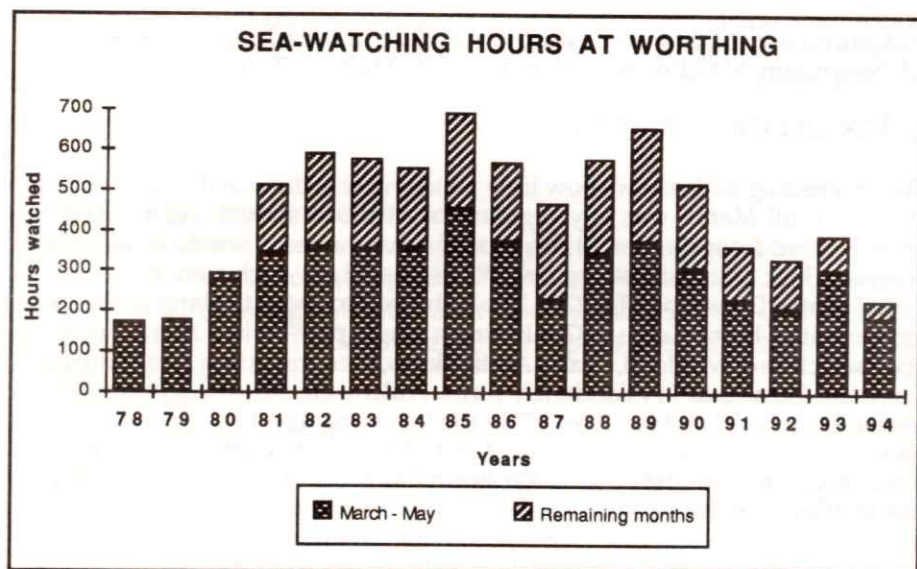
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## WORTHING SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1994

### Introduction.

During 1994 the sea-watching log showed a total of 228 hours of watching; a massive reduction of 41% on the effort in 1993 and 51% below the average of 465 hours of watching in the 16 years from 1978 to 1993. The scale of this reduced effort is clearly seen in Figure 1 which shows the hours of sea-watching recorded between 1978 and 1994 and demonstrates 1994 to be the third lowest in this period. As in past years most sea-watching was during the spring (March to May) when 81% of the watching was recorded. Although the spring effort was less than previous years (39% below the average) the watching in other months was over 74% below the average for 1978 to 1993 and this feature is also clearly shown in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1: *Annual totals of hours recorded sea-watching 1978 -1994.*



Whilst the absence of good winds and birds accounts for the lack of watching outside the peak spring period the reduced hours watched during spring was due to less available time for the fewer regular observers.

The years total of 24,366 birds were mainly recorded during the 3 spring months (93%) and like 1993 the total of westward moving birds was only 2606 (10.7% compared with the 78-92 average of 24%) which reflects the poor effort and

absence of good autumn watches. The following table showing the monthly hours watched and total numbers of birds recorded amplifies these points.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hours	3	4	50	58	77	4	0	5	15	4	4	5
Totals	87	174	6111	11144	5378	237	0	290	468	179	183	115

As in previous years during the spring a daily log was passed around the observers, keeping all informed and saving much time collecting records. The log started on 20th April, much later than usual as there was only one good day on early spring (27th March) and ended in late May. 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, and Brooklands beach.

Thanks to the following observers, and any I have inadvertently forgotten, who have contributed records to the daily log which form the basis for this report:-

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

## CHRONOLOGICAL REPORT

The preceeding table shows how little watching was done in the early months and not until March was any regular observations started. All the notable records were from the last 10 day period when onshore winds produced 43 divers on Mar 21st and a staggering 297 divers, 72 of which were identified as Red-throated Divers, on Mar 27th. The 27th also produced the largest observed movement of Brent Geese (697 including a single pale-bellied Brent Goose), a good selection of wildfowl, 7 early Arctic Skuas, the springs first Little Gulls and Common Terns and 111 Sandwich Terns. Auks were surprisingly numerous with 47E and 14W on Mar 21 and 75W the following day. Less commonly seen species during this period included at least 3 Slavonian Grebes, 2 Scaup and 3 Goldeneye on Mar 21st, 4 Mediterranean Gulls on Mar 30th and 31 White-fronted Geese on Mar 31st.

In keeping with my recollection of the past few years April started very quietly, indeed there was no incentive to spend hours on the beach nor to start the log circulating and the only record of interest during the first twenty days of the month was 2 Slavonian Grebes on Apr 13th. After the long lull the tempo of passage increased on the 21st when 11 Velvet Scoters passed east and 3 summer plumaged Black-necked Grebes briefly rested offshore. During the evening of 22nd April the wind was blowing from the south-east and the numbers of terns passing gradually increased. The flood-gates opened on the following morning



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when in soft winds and rain an area record of 5155 Common / Arctic Terns passed eastward, 4000 of these in a frantic 2 hours between 0700 and 0900 hrs. The tern movement was impressive and will be remembered by those who witnessed it but other species, although present were not in huge numbers. The more unusual birds seen on Apr 23rd were a Red-necked Grebe sitting offshore, a party of 9 Black-tailed Godwits, 60 Black Terns, 18 Arctic Skuas and the first 6 Pomarine Skuas of the spring. Only 14 Commic terns were seen on the following day although a Roseate Tern and 2 Shags were noted. Westerly winds set in for the rest of April and sea movement became very quiet.

May opened full of promise with east winds until late on May 3rd. Although an occasional Pomarine and Arctic Skuas passed by there was "good" movement. Most interest on May 2nd was generated by several parties of Ruff (totalling 23) and three very white terns, feeding with Commic terns, which remained tantalisingly too far offshore to be certain they were Roseates. The wind blew up from the south west later on May 3rd bringing 24 Manx Shearwaters within sight of the shore during an evening watch. West winds until May 8th brought few birds but then on May 9th the favoured south-east wind blew freshly and the log read "unbelievably slow in view of the date and wind". Most of the week the wind blew from the east, watching effort increased but with only occasional rewards of small parties of terns, waders or ducks and perhaps an occasional skua. Before breakfast on May 13th in light winds, overcast skies and crystal clear visibility no less than 60 Pomarine Skuas passed Hove and 36, including a party of 25 were seen at Worthing. A Shag, a "portlandica" type tern and a Mediterranean Gull added more spice to this day. A Little Ringed Plover on the 14th, a Hobby on the 17th and a 2 more Roseate Terns and 140 Fulmars and 90 Gannets in a strong blow on the 21st were the highlights at the end of a spring season when most species were seen in lower numbers than usual.

As usual the watching effort falls off in late May and in 1994 there was only limited watching done through the autumn. Skuas seemed scarce, no large tern movements were seen and the highlights were 2 Manx Shearwaters on Sept 14th, 3 Mediterranean Gulls (one of each age class) on the beach on Sept 23rd and a Hobby coming off the sea heading north during a large hirundine movement on Sept 24th. Most years the return Brent Goose passage has been logged but few were seen in 1994 and towards the year end the sea was very quiet with no auks, few Kittiwakes or Divers and virtually no wildfowl.

John Newnham



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## FIELD OUTINGS 1994

Our outings programme started on January 16th at Fishbourne and Dell Quay. Sadly only 4 members joined Hilda and Brian Metcalfe at Appledram. Perhaps members had been put off because of the severe floods in the Chichester area and roads had been closed. Despite the cold west wind, good birding was enjoyed with a high concentration of wildfowl and waders as one can expect to see in this excellent creek. 600 Brent Geese, 300 Wigeon, 6 Pintail, 3 Red Breasted Mergansers, 6 Goldeneye and a red-head Smew set the standard. Waders were also good and included 200 Black Tailed Godwits. Also nearby were 2 Bartails, one of which was in full summer plumage - this in January! Other birds were 2 Lesser Black Backed Gulls, 3 Reed Buntings, Kestrel and a brief Water Rail.

The popular local outing to Shoreham and the Adur Levels was attended by 20 members on 6th February. Although cloudy with only a little sunshine, it remained dry and produced some good birds. A watch at the harbour entrance provided 12 Red Throated Divers, Guillemot, Rock Pipit, adult Mediterranean Gull and a Stonechat on the beach. Along the Adur Levels starting from Woods Mill to Wyckham Wood in the afternoon. Typical hedgerow birds were seen and included 2 Tree Sparrows, 500 Redwing, 500 Fieldfare, Goldcrest and Long Tailed Tits. Elsewhere were Grey Wagtail and 2 Stonechats. On the floods were 3 Green Sandpipers, some Snipe, 200 Lapwing, 50 Lesser Black Backed Gulls, whilst Herons were busy at nests in Wyckham Wood. All in all a good day.

Rod Shaw conducted the outing to Littlehampton West Beach and Climping Gap on April 24th. There were a good number of summer visitor arrivals and 43 species were noted including 3 Common Tern, 2 Lesser Whitethroat, 4 Sedge Warbler, 5 Common Whitethroat, 1 Corn Bunting - all of the mentioned passerines were singing and one of the Sedge Warblers was displaying. A Little Owl was seen at Baillif's Court. Rod sadly mentioned that the day before had produced a good fall with scarcer birds like Redstart and Pied Flycatcher. Alas, these had moved on. Such are the vagaries of wildlife watching. The 11 members present enjoyed the fine warm day and the viewing of what, for many, were their year firsts of the spring migrants.

Chris Fox once again braved the early hours along with 8 intrepid members for the Dawn Chorus watch at Wiston on 7th May. Early indeed, as the start was 5.00 am and although starting clear, the weather deteriorated and ended in prolonged rain at 9.00 am. In the course of a circular walk from Chris's house, through fields and woodland, 5 Nightingales were heard singing, some being migrants as only 2 remained to breed. The usual songbirds were recorded, including summer visiting warblers. Garden Warbler and Blackcap caused the customary difficulties! Chris noted that they were lucky to hear the song of Nuthatch and Tree Creeper, more commonly heard in April.

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On 29th May Tony Fenton enjoyed his introduction as leader by conducting 21 members around Iping and Stedham Commons. This beautiful area, particularly in late May, was further graced by a bright and sunny day. A circular walk over Iping Common was followed by coffee at 11.15. Then over the road for a tour of Stedham Common. 39 species were seen - a fine Sparrowhawk soaring, 2 Tree Pipits, Jay, 2 Bullfinches, 1 Garden Warbler, also good views of 2 Green Woodpeckers flying busily to and fro, presumably to a nest with young. Well done Tony!

On 5th June Bernie Forbes made his customary and popular visit to the New Forest. 22 members joined him on a fine sunny day. This year the outing was centred around Pig Bush and Beaulieu Road area, including circular walks to obtain the best of habitats. During the day a total of 69 species were seen. The best, perhaps, was a fine male Goshawk flying over, but to quote Bernie a full supporting cast was provided with 4 pairs of Woodlark, 3 pairs of Dartford Warblers, 2 Crossbill, 2 pairs of Buzzard, 3 Hobby, plus Siskin, Redpoll, Spotted Flycatcher, Tree Pipit, Cuckoo, Turtle Dove, Stonechat, Snipe, Tree Creeper and Sparrowhawk. An excellent day was enjoyed by all present with good weather and good views of most of the birds.

Clive Hope was the leader on 9th July for the popular evening outing to Waltham Brooks and a nightjar site. Sadly the brooks failed to live up to its reputation and no waders were seen with the water levels being too high. The situation was saved by having good views of a hunting Barn Owl and Kestrel, whilst Reed Bunting, Reed and Sedge Warblers were identified. At the Parham site at dusk views were obtained of 2 Nightjars and 3 Woodcock.

Ten members joined Peter Whitcomb on 10th September at Hollingbury Camp for a morning round. The strong south west winds proved unsuitable for migratory birds but nevertheless the following species were seen in a walk taking in woodland, the Wildpark coomb and finishing with a circuit of the Camp - Redstart, Green Woodpecker, Sparrowhawk, numerous Goldfinches, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and mixed tit/warbler flocks. Overflying birds included a handful of Swallows and House Martin. Butterfly excitement was provided by 2 Clouded Yellows.

Roy Sandison conducted the morning on 2nd October for a visit to Cissbury ringing station, where Brian Clay and his team were ready at 8.30 with a collection of bagged birds to be displayed at close range to all present - always a novel and popular experience. The following were viewed - Blue Tit, Great Tit, Goldcrest, Robin, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Willow Warbler, Long Tailed Tit and Wren. The ringers had played House Martin tapes in adjacent bushes, the technique proving highly successful with 130 birds trapped and ringed to the



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delight of the group. Other birds seen later around the Ring were Wheatear, Kestrel, Yellowhammer, Lapwing, Skylark and a variety of downland birds.

It was noted that for the past two or three years Pagham Harbour has been rested from the Society's programme, so it was a pleasure to report a return to this splendid area on 27th November. Dave Smith's memorable day fully justified the choice. The fact is that he recorded so many birds that space doesn't allow mention of them all. Suffice to say 17 members attended an outing which provided the abundance of species expected from the area. The Brent Geese, a variety of ducks and waders in good number included Wigeon, Pintail, Mergansers and Black Tailed Godwits. In addition the following highlights were notable with two sightings of Peregrine, a female Merlin, 3 Little Egret, Avocet, 12 Slavonian Grebe, 3 Velvet Scoter and Ruddy Shelduck. The 'resident' wintering Dartford Warbler was watched for half an hour. The 73 species for the day also included Firecrest, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Green Woodpecker.

On 28th December Richard Ives kindly stood in for Stanley Allen for a walk around the Shoreham area. Sadly it proved a stinker with horizontal rain and gale force winds. Four intrepid members struggled round gamely, the highlights being 2 Purple Sandpiper, 1 Black Redstart and 100 Snipe.

Brian Metcalfe/Hon. Field Secretary

### **INDOOR MEETINGS 1994**

Our first speaker in 1994 was Roger Cragg with his talk on a "Closer look at Birds". He illustrated what he was saying with a good selection of his own slides taken all over Sussex, showing many different habitats. He knows his birds and his enthusiasm for local birds was infectious and made an interesting talk.

In February, Steve Dudley gave a lively, amusing and articulate lecture on the story of a year's sponsored birdwatching for the BTO called "Fun and Funding, the Year of a Leica Lister". He covered thousands of miles all over Britain in his pursuit of birds and would probably qualify as the ultimate 'twitcher'. How fortunate he is to be able to go and see birds when and where he chooses! An excellent evening.

Chris Janman came to us in March to talk about "Pagham Harbour and the Selsey Peninsular". His slides brought back memories of early birding at the Bill and his talk was humorous and interesting.



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After the AGM in April Ian Rumley Dawson entertained us with a superbly organised show, the twin dissolving projector added to the enjoyment of his admirable slides. He was a founder member of the Rye Harbour Reserve and talked with great expertise, not only about birds, but flowers and the geological formation of the area.

The October meeting was a talk by Alan Malpass from the Sussex Wildlife Trust. He is an experienced speaker, has a deep knowledge and understanding of the inter-linking of all sides of wildlife and his slides must qualify as some of the best we have ever had the pleasure to share. A most thought provoking evening - sadly our smallest audience of the year.

At very short notice, Ranger Neil Featherstone from the Seven Sisters County Park in the Cuckmere Valley, came to talk to us in November. There were very few slides of birds, he admitted he was not a bird man, but he certainly knew the Country Park and its management. Once again an interesting talk by someone who knows his subject well and it is hoped so encouraging people to visit the area.

John Newnham devised one of his special Quiz Nights for the December evening. We all came away slightly ashamed of the low scores achieved, but also with the enthusiasm to look at our bird watching in a different way and try to improve our standards. It was a most enjoyable evening, full of fun and repartee! A good end to year.

Summer Barbecue. This year we had our annual barbeque in the delightful garden in Storrington belonging to Pat and Clive Hope. About 40 members took advantage of a beautiful evening to relax and enjoy quantities of good food cooked to perfection by Clive, Bernie and Chris. Many thanks to Pat and Clive for making us all welcome.

Brianne Reeve/Hon. Secretary

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## 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

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## OFFICERS FOR 1994

<b>President</b>	Dr. J. Stafford
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Mrs B. Reeve The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing. Tel: 01273 452497.
<b>Hon. Field Secretary</b>	Mr B. Metcalfe 16 High Street, Steyning. Tel: 01903 813360
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Mr A.D. Bullock 65 Roman Road, Steyning. Tel: 01903 815644.
<b>Hon Recorder</b>	Mr R. Shaw 93 North Road, Portslade by Sea, Brighton. BN41 2HD Tel: 01273 422485.
<b>Hon Report Editors</b>	Mr R.A. Ives Mr T.Allen Mr P.J. Whitcomb (current)
<b>Chairman of the Council</b>	Mr B. Forbes
<b>Sanctuary Committee</b>	Dr. J.A. Newnham Dr. A.B. Watson
<b>Other Committee Members</b>	Mr D. Labdon Mr T. Hicks



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**RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1994**

	1994	1993
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
	£	£
Balance brought forward	3,847.79	3,766.21
Subscriptions	717.50	901.00
Sales of Books, Reports etc.	20.50	56.00
Net Raffle & Refreshments (including barbeque)	71.26	63.20
Building Society Interest (net)	20.98	24.51
Proceeds of Sponsored Birdwatch	50.00	-
Contrib. to Trees from Birdline S.E.	50.00	-
	<u>£4,778.03</u>	<u>£4,810.92</u>

**PAYMENTS**

Printing	309.00	346.17
Postage and Stationery	164.20	95.92
Secretary's Expenses	44.91	31.04
Hire of Hall	98.00	140.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers' Fees	165.68	105.00
Sundries	30.00	15.00
Donation - Sussex Wildlife Trust	-	226.00
Donation to Trees on Widewater	265.00	-
Balance carried forward	3,697.24	3,847.79
	<u>£4,778.03</u>	<u>£4,810.92</u>

A.D. Bullock (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 7th March 1995

**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.