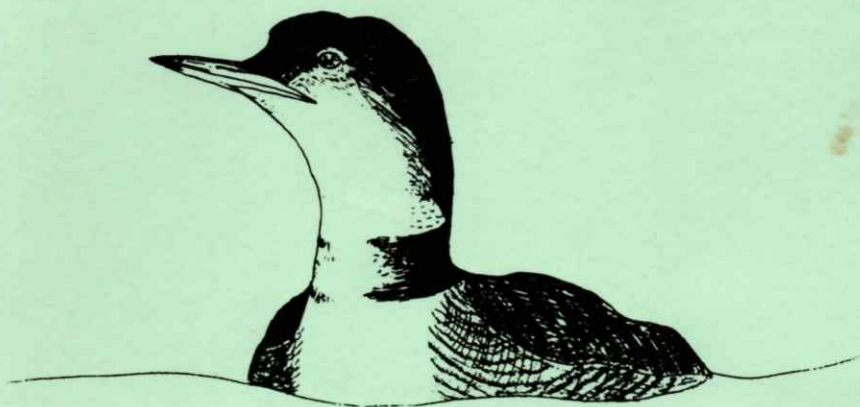


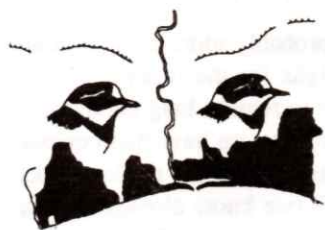
**Shoreham District  
Ornithological  
Society**

**ANNUAL REPORT 1996**



**No 44**

**Price £3.00**



# SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## ANNUAL REPORT 1996

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Thanks to Richard Ives for the illustrations in this Report  
including the cover illustration of a Great Northern Diver.

## NOTABLE BIRDS OF THE SHOREHAM AREA IN 1996

The year scudded along rather benignly, offering probably more troughs than peaks to the average observer, but with definite highs for the lucky few who managed to find the 'goodies', most of which failed to remain long enough for the many to enjoy. As the pages of this report will reveal, we have had our fair share of regional rarities and also several local rarities, but if the reader blinks he will miss the national rarity. Good luck in 1997 (we know already what a bumper January we've enjoyed) and keep the records coming. In good time please!

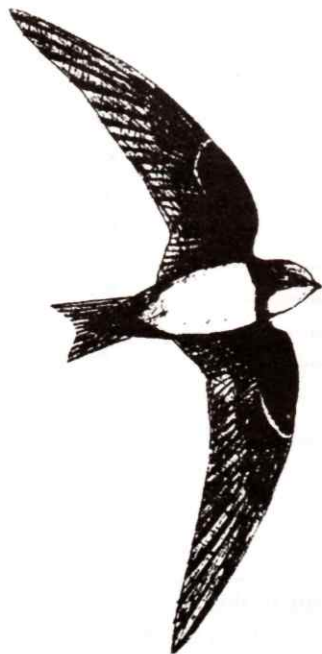
January started where December left off with the Brighton Marina Black Guillemot staying until at least mid-March, and the female Snow Bunting at the same location still present well into February. Keeping with Brighton Marina, a Great Northern Diver was present (2nd) and a Black-necked Grebe arrived there (30th) remaining until Feb 5. Wildfowl of interest in the area included up to 21 Bewick's Swans in the Upper Adur Valley, a female Scaup at Widewater (28th) which followed 3E there the previous day, and six Goosander at Cuckoo's Corner also on the 28th. On the same date two Avocets appeared on the Adur with a single there (30th - Feb15).

The most notable bird for February had to be the overwintering Ring Ouzel in a Lancing garden, and equally notable but probably more bizarre, was the

Mandarin Duck which popped up at Brighton Marina (20th). Bird of the month would certainly have been Waxwing if the bird found at Coldean (5th) had not been a roadside corpse. Back at the Marina, a Great Northern Diver was present (23rd), and a Red-necked Grebe (1st - 3rd) and offshore (15th - 26th).

Adult Black-necked Grebes some in summer plumage, graced Brighton Marina on several dates throughout March. Elsewhere at sea, six Garganey and two Long-tailed Ducks passed east off Worthing (21st). Inland, a Dartford Warbler lurked in the bushes behind the Shoreham houseboats (26th) and a Short-eared Owl quartered Sheepcote Valley (28th).

April was basically a non-event for spring 'goodies' despite a very early migration for several species. Seabird-wise, further Black-necked Grebes appeared in Brighton Marina and seawatching there produced a single Pomarine Skua east (21st). Further along the





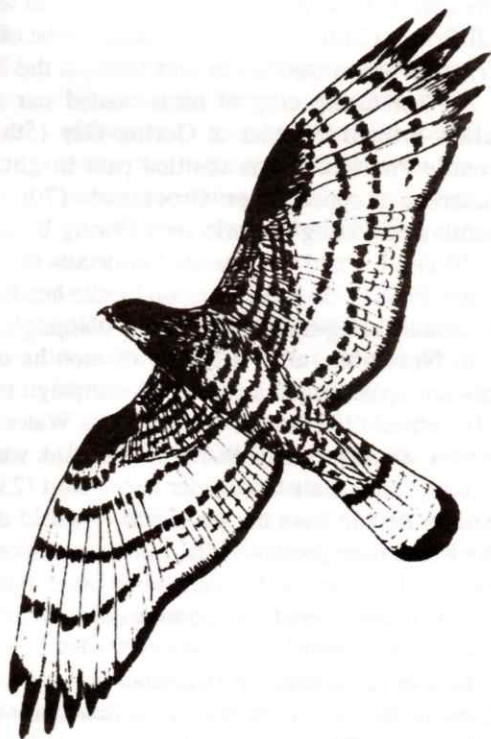
coast, Avocets passed Southwick (5th) and Widewater (21st and 27th). The only spring Grasshopper Warbler reeled at Sheepcote (28th) and spring Pied Flycatchers bobbed up at Hove, Hollingbury Camp and the adjacent golf course.

An outstanding May produced the best birds for some while starting with a well-seen and photographed female Kentish Plover at Widewater (17th) — unfortunately by only one observer! While the majority of us ate our dinners, drank our ale or watched our nightly soaps, an Alpine Swift was bedding down at Beeding Cement Works, only to re-emerge the following morning (20th) before a few lucky observers before passing into obscurity. Those who turned out too late to see this bird, will be distressed to learn that they also missed an adult Caspian Tern at Brighton's Palace Pier later in the day. Finally, there is an unconfirmed report of a Golden Oriole at Goring Gap (25th). Other interesting birds in chronological order, were 2E Manx Shearwaters and adult Glaucous Gull at Brighton Marina (1st); a Red-necked Grebe off Widewater and five Black Terns passing (5th); a single Garganey at New Salts Farm (13th) and four more Black Terns east at Shoreham (22nd).

June permitted a little time to breathe with the only notable sightings being a Honey Buzzard north over Broadwater (2nd) and an unrelated record of a similar bird over Shoreham Sanctuary on the same day.

Pick of the month for July was yet another Kentish Plover, this time on Worthing Beach (17th). The following day, a Little Ringed Plover was found on the Adur Estuary, and over the hills, Quail called on Harrow Hill (25th) and Chantry Lane, Storrington (26th). Persistent seawatchers were rewarded with 4W Manx Shearwaters (4th).

Raptors were the star birds for August with Red Kites reported over





Hammerpot (10th) and Harrow Hill (13th) and a female or immature Marsh Harrier at Cissbury (18th). The predator theme continued with a Red-backed Shrike at Sompting (18th) appearing in exactly the same bush as a similar bird in 1995. Back at the Marina, the diehard seawatchers were rewarded with yet another westbound Manx Shearwater (29th).

September raptors were female/immature Marsh Harrier over Lancing (11th) and Osprey west over Bramber (19th). Autumn waders appeared in good numbers with up to ten Little Stints and up to six Curlew Sandpipers on the Adur and a single Spotted Redshank at New Salts Farm (3rd). Seabirds included Black Terns around the Adur (16th and 20th); an adult Glaucous Gull at Shoreham Toll Bridge (28th); and a Red-necked Grebe off Palace Pier (29th). Lastly, three Wrynecks were noted in our area between the 7th and 31st.

An interesting crop of birds visited our area in October starting with a Yellow-browed Warbler at Goring Gap (5th). The next day an adult and a juvenile Pomarine Skua scuttled past Brighton Marina, and a juvenile Grey Phalarope dropped in on Brooklands (7th - 9th). An observer engaged in counting migrating Skylarks over Goring Beach was rewarded with a Woodlark (19th) and I would be interested in details of a Red Kite reported near Cissbury (23rd). Finally, Brooklands again hit the headlines (or birdlines) with the arrival of a female Long-tailed Duck which obligingly remained until November 7th.

In November, after a couple of months out of the limelight, the Marina stalwarts spearheaded a successful campaign to retake their title as the 'in place to be' especially after the 10th, when a Water Pipit and a Grey Phalarope were on view simultaneously. Sadly, a Little Auk which appeared (15th) was dead the next day, but a male Goosander flying west (23rd) was very much alive. A Snow Bunting flew in from the sea (26th) — could this have been the Widewater bird which had been present (24th)? A Velvet Scoter was noted in a scoter flock off Southwick (30th) and divers were once again being noted along the coast. Finally, a Short-eared Owl hunting adjacent to Shoreham Airfield (25th) and one lucky observer noted a Long-eared Owl at Steyning Bostal (22nd).

Bird of the month for December and arguably bird of the year would be the Raven in the vicinity of Shoreham Sanctuary (11th). If accepted this will be an SDOS first. Other December birds, in order of interest, were 42 Pink-footed Geese east over Hollingbury (11th); four Bewick's Swans in the Upper Adur Valley (28th); a Glaucous Gull at Worthing (26th) and a Ruff in the Upper Adur Valley (21st). Finally as the big freeze loomed, a portent of things to come lurked in the form of three Goosanders in Southwick Canal. Little did we know that before our New Year hangovers had subsided the arctic freeze would inflate this total tenfold.

Rod Shaw, Hon. Recorder

## SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1996

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

SR Allen, R Antonini, PM Brayshaw, D Buckingham, MC Casemore, G Champion, B Clay, C Corrigan, R Emery, AR Fenton, BF Forbes, LE Hemblade, CE Hope, RA Ives, H Jackson, LR Keen, JM & PM Maskell, B Metcalfe, CA & PH Mulcock, Dr JA Newnham, K Noble, A Polkey, RJ Sandison, RM Shaw, R Simpson, DI Smith, JC & JM Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, Dr AB Watson, R Westwater, AD, IJ & PJ Whitcomb, Wild Park Conservation Advisory Group.

See also acknowledgements in individual reports

Abbreviations: ad = adult, BBRC = British Birds Rarities Committee, CW = cement works, f = female, GC = golf course, ha = hectare, imm = immature, km = kilometre, juv = juvenile, m = male, (m.o.) = many observers pr = pair, SOS = Sussex Ornithological Society, sp = summer plumage, wp = winter plumage, W=West etc, yr = year.

The Marina = Brighton Marina, the Airfield = Shoreham Airfield, the Fort = Shoreham Fort, the Harbour = Shoreham Harbour, the Canal = Southwick Canal, the Sanctuary = Shoreham Sanctuary.

'Downs' refers to the downland area between the Adur Valley and the A24, including Cissbury and Chanctonbury. References to **Worthing** 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 passage migrant and winter visitor

Totals of birds passing Worthing were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	2	14	-	-	-	2	-	-
W	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Early year records were received from many coastal localities and different observers recorded different numbers from the same locality. Most significant were 5 in the Harbour late January and 7E Marina on Feb 24. Birds were recorded on seawatches as late as May 27 (1W Widewater), but most notable was a bird off Worthing on July 9. Autumn birds were noted from Oct 3 and the most significant late year records were on Dec 27 with 5 off Widewater and 16E Worthing. The November total passing the Marina was 15E with a max. of 7E on Nov 6.

**0003 BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*****Fairly scarce passage migrant**

Early year records were all of singles and included birds at the Harbour on Jan 2, Hove on Feb 21-23 and the Canal on Feb 25 and Mar 16. Spring seawatches at Worthing produced singles E on Mar 18, 21 and Apr 15; and 2 offshore there on Apr 15/16. At the Marina there were 9E on May 5. First autumn record was 1E Worthing on Oct 4, and a further bird offshore there on Oct 28; off Southwick, 1W on Nov 16 and 3E on Nov 28; then at the Marina, 2E on Nov 16 and Dec 7, 1E on Dec 18 and a single on the sea on Dec 4; finally 1W from Worthing on Dec 22.

**0004 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*****Rare visitor, 1-2 most years**

Singles at the Marina on Jan 1/2 (RJF, RAI) and Feb 23 (ADW). Both records accepted by SOS.

**DIVER Species**

Unidentified Divers passing Worthing were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	6	3	46	9	-	-	-	1	14
W	-	12	-	1	-	-	-	1	22

Peak movement was 39E on Mar 21. All other diver records have been specifically identified, a contemporary trend probably reflecting the quality of modern optics. As always, however, exercise caution with distant divers in flight.

**0007 LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*****Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder**

Early year records came from the Lower Adur (up to 4 birds but 6 on Jan 1); the Canal (up to 4, Jan 1 - Mar 15); and Upper Beeding and the Marina (one each). A bird in summer plumage was noted at New Salts Farm on Apr 5 but there was no evidence of breeding. Late year, a maximum of 6 were at Brooklands, 7 on the Canal, and 3 in the Marina. Other late year sites were the Upper and Lower Adur, New Salts Farm and Ferring Rife. Of particular interest was a seawatching record of 1E/2W from Goring on Dec 25.

**0009 GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*****Regular offshore for most of year**

There were early year records along the length of the coast with the most significant being 25 off Widewater and 20 off Shoreham on Jan 2 (probably the



same birds); 13 off Shoreham on Jan 27, and 33 off Hove on Mar 23. Spring seawatching off Worthing produced a March total of 62E/2W and a max of 21 offshore (18th); and a May total of 4W and 2 offshore.

Significant late year records were 15 in the Harbour on Dec 30, and 12 off Widewater on Dec 27 with 8 there on the 29th.

**0010 RED-NECKED GREBE** *Podiceps grisegena*

**Rare winter visitor and passage migrant**

There was 1 present in the Marina from Feb 1 - 3 and again offshore from Feb 15 - 26 (RAI, PJW). A single was off Widewater on May 5 (SRA), and later in the year 1 was off Palace Pier, Brighton on Sept 29 (PJW).

**0011 SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

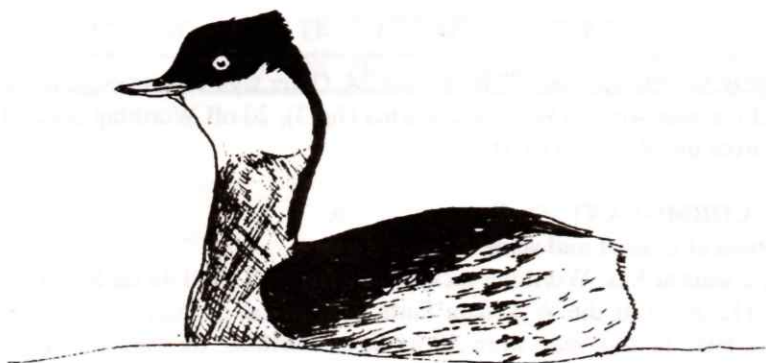
**Regular winter visitor offshore**

There was 1 off Widewater (Jan 2), 2 in the Harbour (Jan 27), 1 on the Canal (Feb 25) and 2 off Southwick (Feb 24). Along the stretch of beach between the Harbour and Widewater there were 2 on Mar 22 with 4 the next day and then singles on five days between Mar 30 - Apr 16. Other spring records were 1E Worthing (Mar 23), singles in summer plumage off Southwick (Apr 13) and the Marina (May 1). Late year records were 1W Marina (Oct 29), 2 off Ferring (Nov 13), 1 in the Harbour (Nov 18), 1 off Worthing (Nov 20) and 1 off the Marina (Dec 14).

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

**Rare winter visitor**

All records came from the Marina and are as follows a single (Jan 30 - Feb 5, RAI, ADW et al); 2 adults (1wp, 1sp) on Mar 9; then on Mar 31, 4 adults all in summer plumage and including a pair displaying (ADW); and a single (Apr 9 - 13, SJP). All have been accepted by the SOS.



0020 **FULMAR** *Fulmaris glacialis*

**Common passage migrant, nests just outside area**

The only early year record was of 2 around the Marina on Jan 2. Spring birds were noted at all seawatch sites and the Worthing totals were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	11	37	14	2	1	1	5	-	-	2
W	-	-	8	23	14	1	3	10	2	-	-	-

Inland records were singles over Hollingdean Park (May 5), Mill Hill (Jun 23), Central Brighton (Jul 31), and 2 over Shepcote (Aug 8). Returning birds were 2E Worthing on Dec 31.

0046 **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Fairly uncommon passage migrant**

A record of 2E from the Marina on May 1 (ADW) has been accepted by the SOS. There are further records of singles west from the Marina on Jul 4 and Aug 29 which are still under consideration.

0071 **GANNET** *Sula bassana*

**Regular offshore in most months, usually peaking in spring**

The only early year records were 4 off the Marina on Jan 2 and 4E from Widewater on Jan 4. Significant spring seawatch counts away from Worthing were 42E on May 1, and 26W on Apr 24 from Widewater; and 10E from the Harbour on May 1.

Monthly totals from Worthing were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	15	40	41	3	6	11	57	25	-	21
W	-	-	4	26	38	3	43	135	39	124	-	2

The peak movement was 120W on Aug 24. Other significant counts during the rest of the year were 37W off the Marina (Jul 3), 20 off Worthing (Oct 15) and 18W from the Marina (Oct 9).

0072 **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

**Common at coastal and some inland sites**

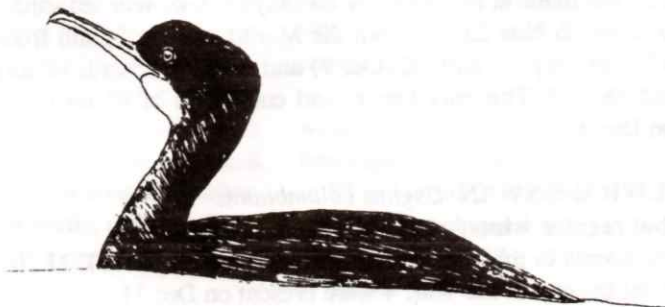
Early counts at East Worthing included 57 on Jan 27 and 48 on Mar 17. There were 112 Birds at the Wykeham Farm pylon roost on Mar 2. Miscellaneous counts later in the year were 48 at East Worthing on Aug 30, and 22 at

Southwick on Oct 30. Monthly maxima at Wykeham Farm were 90 in August, 196 in September, 104 in November, and 148 in December.

0080 **SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

**Fairly uncommon winter visitor**

A single was in the Marina on Feb 8 and then up to 6 were there on Feb 20, but only 1 on Feb 23. Further records from the Marina were 1E (Feb 24) and 2W (Apr 20) and a single was seen from the West Pier on Feb 24. There were 2 in the Harbour during February and a single on Apr 5. The first autumn bird appeared at the Marina on Aug 30 and became a late year resident; subsequently up to 4 were noted on Sep 30 and the maximum winter count was 6 on Dec 15. Elsewhere there were 2 in the Harbour on Sep 28 and a single on Dec 1. Autumn seawatches at Worthing produced 1W (Aug 29), 4W (Sep 3), 1E (Sep 17) and 3W (Oct 4).



0095 **BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris*

**Very rare winter visitor**

A sound, but unsubstantiated record of a single in Ladywells Valley (Lower Adur) on Mar 1.

0119 **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

**Once a rare vagrant, now annual in area**

At the beginning of the year, a pair were present along Ferring Rife (Feb 2) and singles were noted there (Feb 11 and Mar 9); a single was present on the Upper Adur Levels (Feb 4-8). Later in the year at least 1 bird was present in the Lower Adur Valley from Jul 23 - Oct 13, but it is uncertain how many records relate to the same bird. Sightings during the period came from Adur Saltings (Jul 23 - Aug 25), the Sanctuary (Aug 4 - 10), and various parts of the valley between Sep 24 and Oct 13. Additionally, a pair was at New Salts Farm on Oct 1. Elsewhere there were 1S over Steyning (Sep 22), 2W off Worthing (Oct 26) and a single in Ferring Rife on Dec 31.



0122 **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

**Fairly common resident**

There were 24 occupied nests at the Wykeham Wood heronry. The Adur Saltings roost typically held up to 10 birds at either end of the year and 3 were noted in Ferring Rife throughout December. A single over Devil's Dyke on Oct 5 was unusual.

0152 **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

**Fairly common resident**

Specific early year counts at Henfield Levels produced 36 on Jan 28 and Feb 11, and 64 on Feb 17. Other counts were: 32 at Steyning (Jan 13), 16 Widewater (Jan 4) and 11 (Jan 14). During inclement weather on Feb 3, 3 appeared in the Marina.

Breeding pairs were noted by the Adur houseboats, at New Salts Farm, and at Brooklands where a pair raised one young (from a clutch of 6). A post-breeding count of 24 was made at Beeding CW on May 27. Late year seawatches produced 5W from Hove on Nov 22; 7E from the Marina on Dec 3; and from Worthing, 3E (Sep 3), 4E (Sep18) and 3E (Oct 9) and offshore records of singles on Sep 16/17 and Dec 16. The only late inland count was of 86 on the Upper Adur Levels on Dec 28.

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

**Scarce but regular winter visitor**

Early year counts in the Upper Adur Valley were 21 (Jan13), 11 (Jan 14) and 9 (Feb 11). At the end of the year, 4 were present on Dec 31.

0158 **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

**Very rare winter visitor**

A record of 42E over Hollingbury on Dec 11 has been submitted to the SOS (ADW, IJW).

0161 **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

**Fairly scarce introduced resident**

Two records:- 4SW over New Salts Farm on Mar 18, and one off the Marina on Dec 29.

0166 **CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

**Introduced, increasing in area, now breeding**

Records received were 2W Worthing on Mar 30; 3E Widewater on Apr 14; and 25W over Cissbury on Jun 5. At Henfield Brooks, 133 were present on Nov 30 and on Beeding Brooks 20 on Dec 4.

0168 **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

**Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Singles or small flocks were recorded from many coastal localities in Jan/Feb.

Monthly totals from Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	9116	764	7	29	13	14	30
W	-	-	1		-	147	116	78	32

Peak movements were 3927E on Mar 16 and 119W on Sep 21. Other spring records included 600E Goring (Mar 16); 500E Widewater (Mar 15) and 135E (Mar 22); and 210E Shoreham Beach (Mar 10) and 145E (Mar 16).

Return passage commenced on Sep 16 and birds were widely reported from mid-October to the end of the year.

0173 **SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Monthly totals passing Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
E	-	-	18	22	2	-
W	-	2	5	36	6	-

The peak movement was 36E on Apr 16.

At the start of the year there was a single present on the Upper Adur Levels from Jan 1-7, then 6 on the 13th and 9 on the 14th. On the Adur Saltings there were up to 24 (Jan), up to 17 (Feb) and up to 6 until at least Mar 22. Records received from New Salts Farm may have been part of this flock. Later, 16 were off Widewater on Apr 16. Late year records were of an immature at Widewater on Sep 8, a pair there on Nov 10 and 72W off Worthing on Dec 21.

0178 **MANDARIN** *Aix galericulata*

**Rare introduced visitor**

A single was in the Marina on Feb 20 (ADW).

0179 **WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Max counts in the Upper Adur Valley for the first part of the year were 140 on Jan 13, and 200 on Mar 15. Up to 32 were present in the Lower Adur Valley at this time and were reported from various specific locations. Elsewhere there were 5E Goring (Jan 2), 20 Shoreham (Feb 3) and 3 Widewater (Mar 31). Spring and

autumn seawatches at Worthing produced a March total of 59E (with a max. of 25E on the 16th) and monthly totals of 15W (Aug) and 6E/17W (Sep). After early October, birds appeared in a variety of locations including Ferring Rife, Upper Adur Valley and the Lower Adur Valley where the late year max reached 30. Of special interest were 3 at Sheepcote on Dec 10 and 9W over Broadwater on Dec 31.

0182 **GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

**Uncommon in the area**

A single male with 2 females were present at New Salts Farm at either end of the year and at least one bird was present in May. At Worthing there were 1E (Mar 21), 6W (Sep 3 and 8) and 7W (Dec 14). A pair was present at Brooklands on Oct 10.

0184 **TEAL** *Anas crecca*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

In the Lower Adur Valley up to 11 were present in January, decreasing to 3 in February. There were 5 at New Salts Farm on Mar 30 and 2 there at the end of the month, then 3 in early April until at least the 14th. In the Upper Adur Valley there were 70 on Jan 13. Spring seawatching produced 12E Goring on Mar 16 and a March total of 40E at Worthing (with a max. of 15E on the 20th). Birds had returned to the Lower Adur Valley on Sep 15 and the flock reached a max. of 13 on Oct 17.

0186 **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

There were up to 25 on the Adur Estuary in January. Later, spring seawatches at Worthing produced a March total of 2W/ 6E. and an April total of 2E/1W. Specific late year counts were 47 near the Airfield (Oct 17), 70 at Brooklands (Oct 28), 92 Henfield Brooks (Nov 30) and 38 New Salts Farm ( Dec 18). Unusual were 3 at Sheepcote on Dec 10.

0189 **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

**Regular winter visitor at coastal and inland sites**

The only early year records were from Stretham Manor with 30 on Jan 13 and Henfield Brooks with 54 on the same day. Spring seawatching from Worthing produced a March total of 60E (with a max. of 43 on the 20th), and an April total of 14E (with a max. of 9E on the 13th). Elsewhere there were 10E Goring on Mar 16 and from Widewater:- 5E (Mar 22), 3E (Mar 31), 6E (Apr 13) and 2E (Apr 15). Late year records were 3E off Worthing (Sep 17), 3E off Widewater (Sep 21), 2E off Worthing (Dec 22) and 4E off Shoreham (Dec 31).



0191 **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

**Scarce passage migrant**

There were 6E from Worthing on Mar 21 and 1 at New Salts Farm on May 13.

0194 **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

**Regular winter visitor**

A single bird was present at New Salts Farm on Jan 20/21, and at Stretham Manor there were counts of 25 on Jan 13 falling to 16 the next day. In spring, 5 passed Widewater on Mar 22, and 5 passed the Harbour on Mar 24 and a female was there on Apr 21. Worthing totals were 185E in March and 10E/1W in April with a max. of 107E on Mar 20. The only late year record was a single at New Salts Farm on Dec 14.

0198 **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

**Regular winter visitor in small numbers**

Max monthly counts for Widewater and Brooklands were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WW	64	73	65	-	-	-	48	70
B'lands	21	-	42	-	5	5	42	-

Late January records of birds in the Harbour were probably from the above flock. Other records were 2E from the Marina on Jan 2 and a female on the Upper Adur on Mar 11. The March total from Worthing was 26E with a max of 24E on 16th.

0203 **TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

**Declining winter visitor**

The monthly counts at Widewater and Brooklands were as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
WW	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
B'lands	14	11	18	1	4	20	52	25	6

Elsewhere, a pair were in the Upper Adur Valley from Jan 7 - 13, and from Worthing, there were 2E on Dec 21 and 4E on the 22nd.

0204 **SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

**Scarce winter visitor**

Both records came from Widewater: 3E on Jan 27 and a female on Jan 28.

0206 **EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

**Regular and passage migrant and winter visitor**

Monthly totals from Worthing were:-

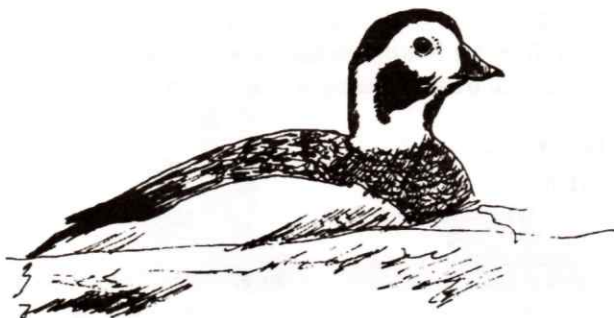
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	129	25	-	-	17	3	25
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	63

Peak movements were 75E on Mar 21 and 45W on Dec 21. Elsewhere, an early year flock was present variously between Widewater and Hove until at least mid March with a max. count of 50 in late January. As well as a flock of 20 off the Harbour on May 22, spring movements of small numbers of birds were noted along the length of the coast and those remaining for the summer included up to 8 off Shoreham and a pair in the Marina from Jul 3 - Aug 29. Small numbers were again present along the coast at the end of the year and up to 30 were noted between the Harbour and Widewater during December.

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

**Rare winter visitor**

There were 2E from Worthing on Mar 21 and a female was present at Brooklands between Oct 28 and Nov 7.



0213 **COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

**Common passage migrant**

Monthly totals from Worthing were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	3	681	270	402	-	-	8	2	5	-	7
W	-	1	-	22	-	-	-	5	1	10	-	-

Peak movement was 398E on Mar 21.

Early year records were a single in the Marina and 2 at Widewater on Jan 2, 5E Goring on Jan 3, a male off Hove on Feb 20 and nine were present around the Harbour throughout January. Spring records (away from Worthing) included 50E off Goring on Mar 16, 45E off the Marina on Apr 20 and from the Harbour 14E on Apr 22 and 73E on May 1. Widewater counts were: 235E (Apr 10), 226E (Apr 16), 66E (Apr 20) and 175E (May 1).

Later in the year, a female was present in the Marina from Oct 29 - Nov 9 and there were 7 offshore there on Nov 17. A flock of 12 off Southwick on Nov 4 had increased to 30 on Nov 25.

**0215 VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

**Fairly regular passage migrant**

Spring seawatches from Worthing produced 3E on Mar 21 and 7E on Apr 17 and from the Marina, 4E on Apr 13. A single bird was noted in a Common Scoter flock off Southwick on Nov 30.

**0218 GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**Regular winter visitor in small numbers**

Single males were along the Lower Adur (Jan 1 - 15) and Brooklands (Jan 5 - 16). A pair were off the Harbour on Feb 3 and there were 2E off Worthing on Mar 16. Following 1W off the Marina on Nov 20, there were three along the Lower Adur on Dec 30.

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

**Common winter visitor**

Early year records, received from the length of the coastal strip, involved a large number of birds. Larger flocks included 60 off Worthing (Feb 4 & 21 and Mar 31), 40 off Widewater (Mar 31), 30 off Goring (Jan 3), 20 each off the Harbour and Goring (Mar 9), and 16 off Worthing (Jan 20). Unusually, a male was noted on the River Adur near Steyning on Mar 23.

Spring seawatches at Worthing produced totals of 354E (Mar) and 79E (Apr) with a max of 151E on Mar 21. After a very early record of a bird off Southwick on Aug 24, birds were noted along the coast from October onwards. Few large coastal flocks were recorded except for 45 off Worthing on Dec 21.

**0223 GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

**Rare winter visitor**

There were 2 males with 4 redheads at Cuckoo's Corner on Jan 28. A male passed W at the Marina on Nov 23 and a male and 2 redheads were on the Canal on Dec 30.



0231 **HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

**Rare vagrant**

A single north over a Broadwater garden on Jun 2 (RAI) has been accepted by SOS. A further sighting over the Sanctuary on the same day (JAN) has been submitted to SOS.

0239 **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

**Rare vagrant**

Records of a single over the Hammerpot, Patching on Aug 10 and a sub-adult over Harrow Hill on Aug 13 have been submitted to SOS. There is an unconfirmed report of one near Cissbury on Oct 23.

0260 **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

**Scarce passage migrant**

Two records: a female/imm over Cissbury on Aug 18 (RJS, CEH) and a female E over Lancing Ring on Sep 11 (PMB).

0269 **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**Fairly common resident**

Specific breeding records came from Wild Park where 1 pr raised 2 young, Sheepcote Valley where 2 young were raised. Pairs were also noted at Bevendean Down, Sompting Abbots, Golding Barn, Broadwater, Goring, Cissbury, Findon Valley and Benfield Valley.

0287 **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

**Scarce but increasing resident and passage migrant**

Records for every month from a whole variety of downland locations reflects a healthy increase in the local population. Most records referred to singles except 5 over Kithurst Hill on Sep 7 and 3 there on Jul 15; 3 at Chantry Post on Aug 21; and 2 each at Long Furlong and Harrow Hill on Mar 3 and Sep 15 respectively. Some sightings obviously referred to migrants most notable of which would be an arrival at the Marina on Feb 20. There is a breeding season record from our area but the outcome has not been reported.

0301 **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Rare passage migrant**

One autumn record of a single W over Bramber on Sep 19 (KN).

0304 **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

**Fairly common resident**

Specific breeding records were received from Findon Valley, Long Furlong,

Whitehawk Hill, Toads Hole Valley, Bevendean Down and Wild Park. Birds probably bred at West Durrington, Washington, No Mans Land, Castle Goring, Offington, Highdown, Sompting Abbots, Harrow Hill, Golding Barn and Cissbury.

0309 **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**Scarce but regular in autumn/winter**

The only early year record was a single at Holmbush, Shoreham on Feb 29. Autumn records were of single at Chantry Post (Aug 21), Sompting (Aug 29 and Sep 13), Mill Hill (Sep 8), Lancing Ring (Sep 16), and Lower Adur (Sep 21). Late year records were singles over New Salts Farm (Nov 3), Brighton suburbs (Nov 25) and Sheepcote (Dec 3).

0310 **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

**Regular passage migrant, has bred**

The first for the year was a single at Shoreham on May 4, followed by 12 more May sightings from across the area. Between May 4 - Oct 3, birds were seen from 18 locations with monthly totals as follows:-

May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
13	7	3	5	28	1

0320 **PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

**Scarce but increasing resident and winter visitor**

Many records of this species have been received from a variety of downland and coastal locations but the status of these individuals cannot be defined. There have been 2 breeding sites this year: Brighton's West Pier and Beeding C.W. Success at the former is unclear but although the eggs of the pair at Beeding successfully hatched the young failed to fledged.

The following birds may have been in transit:- an imm at the Marina (Jan 9), 1N at Highdown Hill (Apr 5), 1 at Cissbury (Sep 21/22), 1W at Goring (Sep 12, Oct 5 and 8), a juv. at Sompting (Sep 24), and a single arriving from the sea with prey at the Marina (Nov 14).

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

**Common introduced resident**

There were 4 at Washington Village on Mar 25 and birds probably bred at Sompting Abbots (where present all year) and at Cissbury. Late year counts were 10 at Ferring Rife on Oct 21, 7 at New Erringham Farm on Oct 25 and a single at Goring Gap with Grey sp. on Oct 2nd.

0367 **GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

**Fairly common resident**

Highest early year counts were: 9 Henfield Levels (Jan 9) and Goring Gap (Feb 8) 8 at Ferring (Feb 2) and 6 at New Salts Farm (Jan 17). Most unusual was a single at the Marina on Feb 23. A pair bred at Sheepcote and raised young and breeding probably took place at Sompting Abbots and Wild Park. Largest post breeding coveys were 46 at Goring Gap on Nov 18, 20 at Steep Down on Nov 6, and 18 at Sompting Downs.

0370 **QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

**Rare but regular summer visitor**

One was heard calling at Harrow Hill on Jul 25 (CAM & PHM) and the following day 1-2 were calling at Chantry Lane Storrington. (SN).

0394 **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

**Common introduced resident**

Present in suitable habitat across the region. A pair at Goring Gap Jul - Oct were considered unusual. At Clapham Wood, 14,000 were reared and released.

0407 **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Regular winter visitor, may breed**

Two early year records were singles at Broadmere Common on Jan 14 and Upper Adur on Feb 11. At the end of the year, singles were at Sheepcote (Nov 14 - Dec 19), Ferring Rife (Dec 13 - 31), Shoreham Airfield (Dec 15 and 30), Upper Adur (Dec 26), and Oreham Common (Dec 31). Lastly, up to two were at New Salts Farm (Dec 8 - 27).

0424 **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

A count of 16 was made at Brooklands on Mar 23. Of interest, was a single at West Hove (Blatchington) miles from any fresh water on Mar 18. During the breeding season, at least 1 pair raised 3 young at Brooklands and a pair at Sompting Abbots School raised 2 young. Five were noted in a field near the Airfield on Oct 17 and up to 5 were along Ferring Rife at the end of December.

0429 **COOT** *Fulica atra*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

Monthly counts for Brooklands were as follows:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
85	-	60	33	66	126	130	114



A total of 7 were noted on nests at Brooklands during April.

**0450 OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder**

Early year maxima at Goring wader roost were 43 (Feb and Mar). Elsewhere, up to 10 were noted at Adur Saltings (Jan - Mar). Spring seawatches from Worthing produced totals (between Mar 16 - Jun 30) of 144E, with a max. of 37 E on Mar 16/Apr 16. It is believed a pair bred in a field near Cuckoo's Corner but the outcome is unknown; the female was recorded sitting between Jun 5 - Jul 4 (AWB). There were few significant late year records except 30W at Worthing on Sep 30.

**0456 AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

**Uncommon, but regular passage migrant**

A pair were on Adur Saltings on Jan 28 and then singles were there between Jan 30 and Feb 15. In Spring, one was noted on Southwick Beach (Apr 5) and passage birds were seen at Widewater with 1W on Apr 21 and 1E on Apr 27.

**0469 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius dubius*

**Rare passage migrant**

One Adur Saltings on Jul 18 (KN).

**0470 RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant; attempts to breed**

Roost counts are tabulated below:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	60	-	-	-	125	-		-
Goring	110	88	43	-	57	59	-	20
Marina	38	40	-	-	-	-	57	57

Spring sea watches at Worthing produced a total of 62E with a peak of 18 on May 9. Breeding season records included 2/3 prs at the Marina, 5 prs Southwick Beach and 3 prs Widewater. Some additional late year counts were 14 at Widewater on Nov 28 and the largest count at Worthing was 78 on Sep 19, otherwise about 30 birds were present there.

**0477 KENTISH PLOVER** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

**Rare vagrant**

Two records: a female seen and photographed at Widewater on May 19 (KN) and an adult at Worthing Beach on Jul 17 (JAN). Details submitted to SOS.

**0485 GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

**Fairly common winter visitor**

Max. count from Upper Adur Levels for the early year was 65 on Jan 13. Up to 4 were noted in the Lower Adur Valley (various locations) during January. Miscellaneous records were 1E at the Fort on Jan 21 and 1 in Goring wader roost on Feb 8. September records were 7W Sheepcote on 20th, 1 at Cissbury on 21st and 1E over the Sanctuary on 22nd. Noted in small numbers at a few downland locations during Oct and Nov, and in the Upper Adur Valley during Dec with a max of 24 on Dec 24. Elsewhere 1E at Ferring Rife and 2E Worthing on Dec 21, and up to 3 present at New Salts Farm on Dec 13/14.

**0486 GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Wader counts from the Adur Estuary and Goring Gap produced the following monthly max.:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	13	20	3	-	-	-	8	-
Goring	155	219	169	-	37	118	162	66

Seawatching from Worthing from March - May produced a total of 82E with a peak of 26E on May 10.

**0493 LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

**Common winter visitor but declining breeder**

Early year max. from New Salts Farm were 1,500 in January and 2,000 in February. 2,000 were noted on Henfield Levels on Jan 13 and there were 300 at Old Salts Farm on Jan 28. Of interest were 750 at Goring on Feb 11 and 424 passed W at Hove on Feb 20, in one hour during snowy weather. Breeding season records were 3 prs displaying at Cissbury and 1pr displaying at High Salvington. Doubtless there were others.

Post breeding flocks were forming by late June with 52 at New Salts Farm on 28th and 50 at Cissbury on 30th. Then at Ferring Rife there were 40 by the end of July. Some late year counts were 210 at Goring on Dec 15 and 150W at dusk and Ferring Rife counts included 500 on Dec 1 with 400 on Dec 6. The Lower Adur flock reach about 2,000 birds by the end of the year.

**0496 KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

**Regular passage migrant**

Two early year records: 1E at the Fort on Jan 21 and 1 at Widewater on Mar 13. Autumn/ winter records were a single in partial summer plumage at Goring

Beach on Aug 13, 1 on the Lower Adur Sep 20/21, 2 Goring roost on Sep 22 and a further single at Widewater on Nov 28.

**0497 SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Early year counts from Goring wader roost were 72 (Jan), 124 (Feb) and 84 (Mar). Other early year counts were up to 6 Shoreham/Lancing Beaches (Jan - Mar) and unusually, a single on Adur Saltings on Jan 30. Spring seawatches from Worthing produced totals of 20E (Mar), 63E (Apr) and 84E/10W (May) with max. of 46E on Apr 21 and 44E on May 2. Other spring counts included 53 at Lancing on Apr 21 and 80 at Goring beach on May 29 with 23 still present on Jun 4. There were still 3 at Lancing on Jun 7.

After a single at Goring beach on Jul 22, coastal flocks began to build towards the norm but the max count at Goring was only 60 during Oct. Highest beach count was 12 at Lancing on Nov 21.

**0501 LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

**Scarce passage migrant**

Three on Worthing Beach on Sep 18. Along the Lower Adur, present between Sep 21 and Oct 9, with 10 on Sep 21, then 5 from Sep 22 - Oct 1, 3 on the 2nd and 1 remaining until the 9th. Six at Widewater on Sep 27 may have been part of the Adur flock. Lastly, a bird with a limp at Widewater on Nov 10. (KN). The recorder is aware of an omitted record and requests the observer to resubmit it.

**0509 CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Scarce passage migrant**

Present in Sep along the Lower Adur, singles (9th & 12th), 2 (16th), 3 (19th), then up to 6 until at least the 24th. A single at Worthing Beach on Sep 18.

**0510 PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**Scarce winter visitor**

The two strongholds for this species in our area are the Harbour (including Southwick beach) and the Marina. Birds are usually present in small but varying numbers until mid-Apr and again from early/mid-Nov. Early year max was 4 at both the Harbour and the Marina and late year max were 3 and 10 respectively.

**0512 DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Miscellaneous counts included 38 at Widewater on Mar 16 and 18; 182 between Goring and Ferring on Nov 13; and Worthing Beach recorded max of 95 on Aug 24, and 86 on Dec 29. Of note were 3 on Henfield Brooks on Jan 13, and 15 still



present on Goring beach on the late date of May 29.  
Roost counts from the Lower Adur and Goring were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	605	200	-	-	-	30	80	100
Goring	1037	774	680	-	12	15	-	55

Spring seawatches from Worthing produced the following monthly totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
E	381	57	69	-	-	7	-	-
W	-	1	1	33	76	19	24	12

Peak movement was 190E on Mar 21.

#### 0517 **RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

##### **Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

Records of single birds at either end of the year from Upper Adur Levels from Jan 1 - 13 and Dec 21.

#### 0518 **JACK SNIPE** *Limnospiza minima*

##### **Winter visitor in small numbers**

Early year records were, 1 Ferring Rife on Feb 2 and 2 at Steyning on Mar 13. Recorded only from Ferring Rife at the end of the year with 3 from Nov 21 - 30, 1/2 from Dec 14 - 26, and 5 on Dec 29.

#### 0519 **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

##### **Common winter visitor**

Early year max were: Lower Adur - 94, Upper Adur - 20, and Ferring Rife - 4. Also, a single was at Sheepcote on Jan 4. Late year max were: Lower Adur - 35, Upper Adur - 70, and Ferring Rife - 10. Other records were 3N over Lancing Ring (Sep 19), 6 at Sompting Brooks (Dec 26) and 1 at Sheepcote (Dec 23).

#### 0529 **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

##### **Winter visitor and passage migrant**

January records (all singles) were from Sheepcote on 1st, Lancing Clump on 26th and Lychpole Hill on 27th. In March, there were 2 at Hollingbury Camp on the 15th, 1 over Worthing then SE out to sea on the 19th and 1W at West Hove on the 29th. A further single was at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 15 and unusually 1 in a Shoreham garden on May 10. Late year records were from Sheepcote 3 (Dec 10) then 1/2 (Dec 21- 31). and 1 at Broadwater on Dec 31.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor**

Spring records were 1E at Worthing on May 2 and 2 at Adur Rly Bridge on May 7. There were 3 further records from the Lower Adur of singles on Aug 15 and Dec 6, and 2 on Dec 31.

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

**Common passage migrant and regular winter visitor**

Two were noted at Goring wader roost on Feb 8 and Mar 7. After 2 on Adur Saltings on Apr 30, there were up to 4 at Widewater until at least May 6. Spring seawatching totals at Worthing was 527E with a total of 137E on Apr 26. There were 7 at Goring wader roost on Sep 22 with 15 there on Oct 12. Elsewhere were 5W at Worthing Beach on Sep 17 and 2 there on Oct 11. At Goring Beach were 2 on Nov 30 and 3 on Dec 28.

0538 **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Common passage migrant**

First of the year was 1W at Worthing on Apr 10, then 6 were on Adur Saltings on Apr 13. Spring passage at Worthing involved movements of 144E/8W with a peak of 54E on Apr 21 and May 8. Other localities recorded 43E with the highest totals being 20E (Apr 20) and 11E (Apr 14) at the Marina. 'Inland' records included a single at Widewater on Apr 28, and 8 on the Lower Adur on Apr 24. Apart from 1 on the Lower Adur on Sep 3, all autumn records were of 1/2 passing offshore until the last record of 1 at Goring Beach on Sep 17.

0541 **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

**Common passage migrant**

Seawatching from Worthing gave the following monthly totals:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	15	5	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
W	-	3	-	2	2	-	30	2	-	-	-	1

Some early year flocks included at max of 10 at Henfield Brooks on Jan 13, and there were up to 4 at the Airfield/New Salts Farm area from Feb 23 - Mar 27. There were no significant counts for the end of the year.

0545 **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

**Scarce passage migrant**

A single was noted at New Salts Farm on Sep 3.

0546 **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

**Common winter visitor**

The monthly max at Adur and Goring roosts were:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	73	50	-	30	49	62	58	-	35
Goring	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-

Spring total passing Worthing was 35E with a peak of 13E on May 2. Unusually, a single was noted at Brooklands when the water level was low on Dec 4.

0548 **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**Regular passage migrant**

Spring records were 1W from Worthing on Apr 20 and singles along the Lower Adur on Apr 29/30 and May 7. Autumn birds were along the Lower Adur from Jul 12 (from 1 - 4) with at least 5 present from Sep 3 - 28. Oct records there were 3 until 7th and 2 until the 9th. Elsewhere, a 1 flew N over Sheepcote on Aug 12.

0553 **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

**Regular winter visitor**

Birds were present in the Upper Adur Valley until at least Apr 2 with max counts of 5 on various dates. Elsewhere, 1 was noted at Storrington on Jan 1 and a single was noted at Ferring Rife from Apr 1 - 4. Upper Adur birds returned from Sep 11 with a max of 3 on Dec 28. Other records were 1W Sheepcote on Sep 3, 2 New Salts Farm on Sep 21, and 1 at Ferring Rife on several dates between Nov 15 and Dec 31.

0556 **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Common passage migrant, occasionally winters**

There were no records of over-wintering birds at either end of the year. First spring record was 1W from Worthing on Apr 17 and thereafter singles were noted at suitable coastal and estuarine locations until May 19. Four were on Portslade Beach on Apr 26 and a single was nr Steyning on May 21. Autumn passage began with 2 on the River Adur on Jul 24 and involved a total of 23 birds until the last at New Salts Farm on Sep 24. Notable counts were 8 on the Adur on Aug 23, and 5 on the Upper Adur Levels on Aug 10.

0561 **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

**Common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Some early year counts were 20 on Southwick Beach on Jan 18, 20 in the Harbour on Feb 25 with 16 there on Mar 3, and 14 Lower Adur on Feb 17.



Monthly maxima from Adur and Goring wader roosts were:-

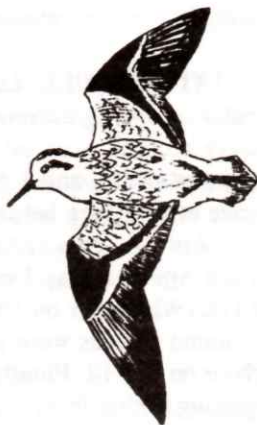
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur	15	23	18	16	1	-	16	-	-
Goring	-	2	11	-	-	15	10	-	-

Spring seawatching total from Worthing was 52E. Unusual was 1N over Sheepcote on Aug 30. The end of year max along Shoreham/Southwick beaches was 22 on Dec 8.

**0565 GREY PHALAROPE** *Phalaropus fulicarius*

**Rare vagrant**

Two records: a juvenile moulting into 1st winter plumage at Brooklands from Oct 7 - 9 (DIS, RAI et al); and a 1st winter bird at the Marina on Nov 10 and Nov 19/20 (ADW, IJW, PJW et al). Details of both birds have been sent to SOS.



**0566 POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Regular spring passage migrant**

A poor year with 1E at the Marina (Apr 21); 2E at Worthing (May 5); and at the Harbour 3E (May 1), and 1E (May 22). In the autumn a juv and an adult were off the Marina on Oct 6.

**0567 ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Regular spring and autumn passage migrant**

First for the year were recorded from Worthing on Apr 18 and a total of 38E was logged there until May 27 with a peak of 17E on May 1. On the same day there were peaks of 14E at the Marina and 19E at Widewater; the former recorded a further 4E during May and the latter a further 11E between Apr 20 and May 27. Autumn began with 1E at the Marina on Jul 3 (or was this a late spring bird?). Then between Aug 17 and Oct 6 (ad. off the Marina) a total of 13 were noted offshore. A bird passed Worthing on Oct 23 and a dark phase juv passed E at the Marina on the unusual date of Dec 3.

**0569 GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

**Regular passage migrant in small numbers**

Spring records were 1E at the Marina on Apr 13 followed by 2E there on Apr 20; then 1E at Worthing on Apr 21, and 1E at the Harbour and Widewater on May 1. The only autumn records were 1W at Worthing on Jul 3 and an adult at the Marina on Sep 22.

0575 **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

**Increasing winter visitor**

The regular adult was present around the Harbour until at least Mar 4 and from Aug 3. The frequent sightings of this species have reached the point where it is now virtually impossible to plot movements or report on all records submitted.

Regular sightings of birds in all plumage phases were recorded along the coast in every month of the year and also from a handful of inland locations. Of special note was a count of 6 along the Lower Adur between the bridges on Mar 30 with 5 there the following day.

0578 **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

**Regular on spring/autumn passage, occasional winter visitor**

January records were an inland bird at Steyning on the 12th, an adult at Widewater (14th), and 1 (possibly same) at the Harbour (14th & 18th). Spring passage at Worthing between Mar 31 and May 19 involved 13E with a peak of 5E on Apr 16. Seawatching from Widewater, the Harbour and the Marina between Apr 10 - May 1 produced 37E with peaks of 10E (Marina on the 10th) and 11E (Widewater on 16th).

Autumn records were singles in the Marina on Aug 24 and Oct 6 and the Harbour on Sep 18. Finally after an adult in the Harbour on Nov 17, there were 25 seeking shelter from stormy conditions in the Marina on Nov 19.

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

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Spring passage at Worthing produced the following totals:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	263	447	301	-	10	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	13	6	6	35	-	-	105	-	-

Peak movement was 122E on May 11 and 109E on Mar 24. Some early year counts were 80 on Adur Saltings on Jan 30, and 141 at Goring Beach on Feb 17. Of particular interest were 2 ads at Widewater on Feb 20 bearing rings from Lithuania and Poland.

Some high autumn counts included 1,600 Benfield Valley on Sep 27 and 1,200 at Southwick Beach during Aug, with up to 1,500 there during Sep. Late year counts from Adur Saltings were 280 on Nov 8 and 430 on Dec 2. Of interest was a bird with a full nuptial hood noted on Nov 29.

0590 **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

**Common winter visitor**

Counts received for the first half of the year were 250 Lower Standean on Jan 7; 400 Adur Toll Bridge on Jan 19; 955 Cuckoo's Corner on Apr 2; and on the Lower Adur 300 on Apr 13 and 350 on May 5. Spring seawatching from Worthing from March-May produced a total of 106E with a peak of 39E on Apr 14. High late year counts were 325 at Cissbury on Oct 20; 3,000 on Southwick Beach on Nov 16; and 400 at the Marina on Dec 3.

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

**Common in winter, now breeding in small numbers**

Noted from various localities during the early months in small numbers; the most significant counts being 28 at Shepcote on Apr 6 and 8 there on Mar 16. Spring seawatching from Worthing produced a Mar/Apr total of 31E with a peak of 22E on Mar 21. Breeding season records were 4 prs central Brighton and pairs at Hove and the Maybridge/Durrington areas of Worthing. At the end of the year, up to 4 were present along the Lower Adur.

0592 **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

**Common, expanding breeding population**

Specific breeding season records were of pairs each raising 2 young above homes in Hove, Southwick and Broadwater. The only count were 130 on Adur Saltings on Dec 2 and 300 in flight over Sompting Abbots on Oct 22. Birds showing characteristics of the race *argentatus* were at the Marina on Nov 6 (ADW, IJW), Southwick Beach on Nov 7 (ADW, IJW), and the Lower Adur on Dec 19 (PMB).

**YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus argentatus michahellis*

**Regular autumn flock**

A bird was reported in central Hove on Apr 26; then the Adur flock was present from Jul 12 to Oct 31 with a max of 6 during September.

0599 **GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Rare winter visitor**

1ad. E at the Marina on May 1; 1ad Adur Toll Bridge on Sep 28 (SRA); and 1 at Worthing on Dec 26 (PMB)

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

**Fairly common winter visitor**

The only counts received were from the Adur where an average of 100 birds are present at suitable times of the year. Highest counts were - 128 on Sep 18; 115 on Dec 2 and 110 on Dec 1.



0602 **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Early year records were 3 at the Marina on Jan 2 with 10 there on Mar 1; 1 imm on Adur Saltings on Mar 19 and 1 ad at the Fort on Mar 23. An unremarkable spring passage at Worthing brought a March/April total of 17E and 12W with a peak of 12E on Apr 20. Elsewhere there were 49E at the Marina on Apr 14 and 6E at the Fort on Apr 22.

Three were noted off Shoreham on Oct 3 but the remainder of late records came from the Marina where between 10 and 40 birds were present during September and a flock of 300 flew E in 5 minutes on Sep 4. There were 2 there on Nov 1 and a single remained on Nov 17.

0606 **CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia*

**Rare vagrant**

A record of an adult at Palace Pier Brighton on May 20 (DTP) has been submitted to BBRC.

0611 **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

**Common passage migrant**

First for the year were a single at the Marina on Mar 11 and 3E at Widewater on Mar 18. A good influx occurred after Mar 21 and some notable seawatching counts were 53E at the Marina on Apr 20 with a similar number at Widewater on the same day and 45E there on Apr 10..

Seawatching from Worthing produced the following totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
E	180	645	343	28	12	29	9
W	3	32	26	60	53	62	12

Peak movements were 151E on Mar 21 and 110E on May 1. 3 were feeding at Widewater on Jun 28. The main autumn movement took place during Sep. Last for the year were singles at Adur Saltings and Worthing beach on Oct 13.

0615 **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

**Common passage migrant**

After 1E from Worthing on Apr 5, most spring sightings referred to non-specifically identified terns. A single was at Brooklands on May 11 and unusually, 7 flew high E over the downs near Steyning on May 5. Autumn seawatching totals at Worthing were 5E/5W in Jul; 3E in Aug; 9E in Sep and 1W in Oct. Last for the year was in the Harbour on Oct 19.

0616 **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

**Noted on passage but rarely split from Common Tern**

Unprecedented totals of specifically identified birds were 20E passing the Marina on May 1 and 18E there on May 19. There is a record of 11E from Worthing on Aug 24 and an ad and juv at the Harbour on Oct 3.

**COMMON/ARCTIC TERN**

Apart from 1E at Worthing on Mar 21, most movements took place after mid-Apr. Spring total at Widewater between Apr 20 - May 5 was 798E with a peak of 350E in 40 minutes on May 1. A record of 120E at the Marina on Apr 20 was submitted as Common Tern but is included here for report purposes. Seawatches from Worthing produced the following monthly totals:-

	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep
E	1	356	837	7	26	18
W	-	7	7	65	13	4

Peak movement was 501E on May 1.

0624 **LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

**Fairly common passage migrant**

First for the year were 4E at Worthing on Apr 12. The spring total was 94E/7W with a peak of 23E on May 1. Elsewhere, a total of 28E passed Widewater with a peak of 19E on May 5, and 15E passed the Marina on May 19. The only autumn record refers to 2E/2W at Worthing on Aug 24.

0627 **BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

**Regular passage migrant**

Spring records were 5E at Widewater on May 5, and 4E at The Fort on May 22. In autumn, a single was on Adur Saltings on Sep 16 & 20.

0634 **GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

**Regular winter visitor**

An early year total of 19 were noted from 6 coastal localities, including a flock of 14E at the Marina on Feb 24. In April a total of 8 birds on 7 dates was recorded from 4 coastal locations.

July records were of singles at the Marina (3rd), Goring (21st) and the Harbour (24th - 30th). Subsequently many singles were reported offshore or passing through our area with top counts from the Marina of 6E (Dec 18) and 4E (Dec 17).

0636 **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

Records from the Marina for the first half of the year were 2 (Feb 2), 3 (Feb 23), 5E (Feb 24), 3 (Mar 1), 50 offshore (Mar 9), and 3 (May 9). Elsewhere 2 were seen from the West Pier on Feb 24 and 1 off Widewater on Apr 13. A single was at the Marina on Jul 14 and another off Worthing on Oct 11.

0638 **BLACK GUILLEMOT** *Cepphus grylle*

**Extremely rare winter visitor**

The Marina bird which arrived on Dec 23 1995, stayed until early Mar but became rather elusive towards the end. There is a report of a bird off Hove on Mar 28 (JCS) but no confirmation of submission to SOS has been received.

0647 **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle*

**Very rare autumn migrant**

An individual at the Marina on Nov 15 was sadly reported dead next day (IJW).

**AUK Species**

At Worthing there were 17E/2W on Feb 21 and a monthly total of 3E/4W in May. After 2W at Worthing on Oct 16, a December total of 2E/3W was recorded.

0668 **STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

**Common resident**

Breeding season records were: 4-5 prs at Preston Village, 4 prs at Wild Park and probable breeding at Golding Barn. Late year counts were 28 Lancing Clump (Oct 25) and 70 at Mill Hill (Dec 15).

0670 **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

**Abundant resident**

The only early year count was 50 at Southwick Hill on Mar 31. Breeding season counts were: 56 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Bevendean Down, 9 prs Whitehawk Hill, and 2 prs Toads Hole Valley. Late year counts were: 300 at Sompting Down on (Oct 3), 480W over Worthing (Oct 30), 70 at Steep Down (Nov 5), 200 at Golding Barn (Nov 23) and 1,235W over Worthing Beach (Oct 30). Between October - December observations from Sompting Abbotts School showed morning movements involving between 200 - 600 birds.

0684 **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Common resident**

There were counts of 22 at Lancing Clump on Jan 4 and 25 at Southwick Hill on Mar 31. A bird was noted arriving from the sea at the Marina on Apr 14.



Specific breeding season counts were: 29 prs Wild Park, 6 prs Bevendean Down, and 4 prs Whitehawk Hill. Late counts were 100 Old Salts Farm (Oct 16), 40 Benfield Valley (Oct 5), 36 Sompting Down (Oct 3), 16 Lancing Clump (Sep 30), and 15 West Kingston Farm (Oct 6).

**0687 TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Summer visitor, probably declining**

No arrivals were recorded but 1 pr bred at Southwick Hill. Other prs noted during the breeding season also probably bred. Autumn movements involve 44 birds, including a total of 25 through Lancing Clump between Aug 25 and Sep 27, with a peak of 8 on Sep 23. Last for the year was one at Sheepcote on Sep 28.

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

**Scarce introduced resident**

Now believed to be breeding at Sussex Univ or outside our area with odd birds commuting to the old Hollingbury Wood site. The resident Hollingbury population is now believed to be 3 birds with others visiting. Other records were 1W at Goring Gap on Jul 9 and 1E there on Aug 29.

**0724 CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

Spring records were: singles at Goring Gap on Apr 14 and Cissbury on Apr 20. Heard calling during the breeding season at Golding Barn, Chanctonbury Ring, Warren Hill, Patching Woods, Fulking Down and Cissbury Ring. Last record was at Cissbury on Aug 18.

**0735 BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

**Scarce winter visitor and possibly resident**

No records were received of resident birds. Sightings were from the Adur Valley on Apr 3, Rock Common on Oct 29, and west of the Airfield from Dec 18-31 where up to two were present.

**0757 LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

**Fairly common resident**

Resident and bred in New Erringham Farm area, Golding Barn and at Standean. Also present during the breeding season at Beeding Priory, Beeding Hill and Old Erringham Farm.

Other sightings later in the year included a single at Mill Hill on Oct 9, 1/2 Portslade Old Village in November/December and there were 3 at Cissbury on Oct 13.

0761 **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**Fairly common resident**

Resident and probably bred at Cissbury, Findon Valley, the Sanctuary (1pr - 4 young ringed), suburban Worthing, Goring, Sompting Abbots, Streatham Manor, Lancing Ring (at least 2 young), Applesham (1pr - 3 young ringed) and Portslade Village. A juv was noted in a tree hole in Storrington. Unfortunately there were road casualties at Erringham Farm on May 9 and Bines Bridge on Sep 3.

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

**Scarce winter visitor**

There were 3 near Brighton between Jan 2 and Mar 11. A single bird was along the Steyning Bostal Road on Nov 22.

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

**Migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Only 2 records: 1 at Sheepcote on Mar 28, and 1 at the Airfield on Nov 25.

0795 **SWIFT** *Apus apus*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant**

Very early arrivals this year, beginning with a single at Widewater on Apr 14, with the main influx occurring after Apr 30. Breeding season records were 25+ prs at Broadwater and 16 birds at a known Steyning colony. Heavy movements in Jun suggested an early exodus with steady movements following in July and August until the last singles at Sompting on Sep 3 and Goring on Sep 21.

0798 **ALPINE SWIFT** *Apus melba*

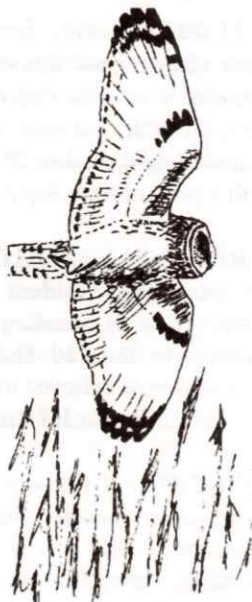
**Rare vagrant**

A bird at Beeding CW on the morning of May 20 had been roosting since the previous evening (BFF et al). Details have been sent to BBRC.

0831 **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

**Scarce resident and winter visitor**

Resident and probably bred Lower & Upper Adur Valley areas. Elsewhere there were singles at Ferring Rife (Oct 21 and Dec 8-12); the Harbour (Nov/Dec); Widewater (Dec 8-15); and a single at the Marina (Oct 31-Dec 31) was joined by a second bird from Nov 23.



0848 **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*

**Rare passage migrant**

Autumn records were singles at Mill Hill on Sep 7 (BFF) and Wiston Estate on Sep 8 (JP). A single at Sheepcote (Sep 19 - Oct 1) may have been just beyond our recording area (ADW,IJW, PJW).

0856 **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

**Common resident**

Resident and probably bred at Southwick Hill, Ferring Rife, Wiston Estate, Lancing Ring, Sompting Abbots, Findon Valley, Cissbury Ring, Wild Park, Wykham Wood and Devils Dyke. Also juvs were noted at Warren Hill and Golding Barn. Other sightings refer to singles and pairs from suitable habitat.

0876 **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopus major*

**Common resident**

Resident and probably bred Sompting Abbots, Devils Dyke, Warren Hill, Cissbury Ring, Wild Park, Ferring and Patching Woods. A juv was noted at Warren Hill on Jul 15. Sporadic sightings from suitable habitat across the region but the status of these birds is unknown.

0887 **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopus minor*

**Scarce, has bred**

A bird was drumming at Sandgate Park, Washington (Mar 17 - Apr 3). In autumn singles were at Upper Beeding (Sep 7) and Swandean Hospital (Oct 2).

0974 **WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*

**Rare passage migrant**

1E, at Goring with a Skylark flock on Oct 19 (DIS).

0976 **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

**Common resident**

Early year counts were: 150 Upper Adur Levels on Jan 1; 80 Chantry Hill on Jan 17 and 80 Henfield Levels on Jan 28. Breeding season counts were: 10 prs each Bevendean Down and Lancing Clump, 8 prs each Southwick Hill and Wild Park, 3 prs Whitehawk Hill and 2 prs Ferring Rife. Highest late year counts were: 122 Sompting (Oct 2), 100 Goring Gap (Oct 19), 100 Chantry Hill (Oct 30), 100 Steep Down (Nov 16), and 75 Lancing Clump (Oct 2).

0981 **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**Summer visitor breeds at one site only and common passage migrant**

First for the year was 5E at Worthing Beach on Mar 19, followed by a single at



New Salts Farm on Mar 22. 47 were at Sandgate Pit on Apr 16. Specific autumn counts were 396 at Brooklands (Sep 8 - 20) 182 at Lancing Ring (Sep 4 - 24), and 41 at Sompting Downs (Sep 11). Last for the year was 1E at Worthing on Oct 5.

**0992 SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica***

**Common summer visitor**

First for the year was an arrival at the Harbour on Mar 23, then more general arrivals occurred after Mar 31 continuing the early trend.

Autumn counts from well-watched locations were: 5,261 at Sompting Downs (Aug 27 - Oct 3), with a peak of 3,810 on Sep 12; 6,251 at Lancing Ring (Aug 25 - Oct 4), with a peak of 1,260 on Sep 23; 2,421 at Sompting Brooks (Aug 24 - Oct 5), with a peak of 405 on Oct 1. Other high counts were 4,958E Worthing Beach (Sep 24), 1,700E at Hollingbury (Sep 14), and 1,200E at Worthing (Sep 7) and at Ferring Rife, the max autumn count was 40 on Sep 11. Following smaller flocks in October there was 1E at Worthing on Oct 29, and a juv at Goring Gap on Nov 18.

**1001 HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica***

**Common summer visitor**

After 1E at the Airfield on Apr 14, spring passage was typically slow with only a few sightings of singles and pairs. Breeding season records were: 6 prs Sompting Road, Worthing and 5 prs at a regular colony in Mile Oak, Portslade which was reported as very much down on previous years. Curiously, a regular colony in Southwick was not formed until mid-July. Some peak autumn counts included 9,589E at Worthing Beach on Sep 30 with 9,576E there on Sep 24; 3,818 over Lancing Ring on Sep 24; 900E at Hollingbury on Sep 24 and 605E at Sompting Downs on Sep 12. Last were 6 over Upper Adur Levels on Oct 20.

**1009 TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis***

**Fairly common passage migrant**

Spring records were singles at Widewater on Apr 10 and the Marina on Apr 20. Autumn passage was noted between Jul 27 and Oct 5 (a single at Goring Gap) and involved at least 227 birds. Totals were: 100 Lancing Ring (Aug 25 - Oct 4), 52 Sheepcote (Sep), and 45 Sompting Brooks (Aug 27 - Oct 4).

**1011 MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis***

**Locally common resident**

Spring counts were 34 Lancing Ring on Apr 6, 58 Worthing Beach on Mar 19 27 New Salts Farm on Mar 24 and 25N the Fort on Mar 23. Breeding season records were: 4-6 prs Cissbury, 3 prs Whitehawk Hill, and 1 pr each Wild Park and Bevendean Down.

High autumn concentrations included 512 at Sompting Brooks on Oct 2 and 317 there on Oct 4; 500 at Beeding Hill on Oct 1, 236 at Lancing Ring on Oct 1 with 212 there on Oct 2; 200N at Goring Gap on Sep 28; 199 at Sompting Downs on Oct 2; and 115 at Sheepcote on Sep 28. 350 were noted feeding on ploughed pasture at West Kingston Farm on Oct 6; 35 were at the Fort on Dec 19 and the Nov max at Ferring Rife was 5 (Nov) and 8 (Dec)

**1014 ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

**Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds**

Early year total in the Harbour was 3 and at the Marina there were 2 birds (Jan-Mar) but 4 on Mar 18. At the end of the year, the total generally in the Harbour was 3/4 birds but with 8 on Nov 27 and Dec 27. The Marina total was 4 in Nov/Dec and at Widewater there were 4 on Oct 7, then up to 2 in Nov/Dec. Other records were singles at Goring Gap on Oct 19 and Dec 14. A bird showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *littoralis* was present on the Upper Adur levels on Mar 13 (ARK). The record has been accepted by SOS.

**1015 WATER PIPIT** *Anthus spinoletta*

**Scarce winter visitor**

Two records of singles: on the Upper Adur levels on Jan 1 (KN) and the Marina on Nov 10 (IJW). Details to SOS.

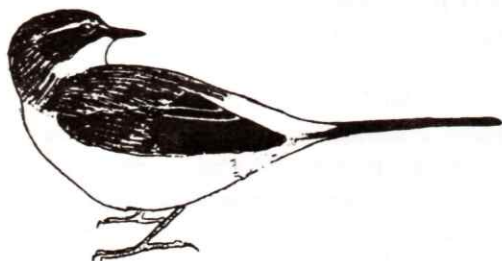
**1017 YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

**Common passage migrant**

First for year appeared on Apr 14 at Widewater and the Fort. A single at Ferring Rife on Apr 19 was the only other spring record. Autumn passage was noted from a variety of locations across the region and involved 1,854 birds of which 1,238 were noted between Aug 26 and Oct 5 at Sompting Brooks. An adult female was present at Goring Beach on Nov 18, then an unspecified single (possibly same) at Ferring Beach on Nov 23.

**1019 GREY WAGTAIL** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Noted on passage, may breed, regular in winter**



Regular early year birds were noted from the Lower/Upper Adur Levels, Steyning, Ferring Rife, Woodvale Cemetery, and North Laines Brighton. During the breeding season a bird was gathering nesting material along the River Stor on Apr 16.

Autumn passage between Aug 25 and mid October involved 103 birds of which 27 were recorded from Sompting Brooks, 22 from Lancing Ring and 20 from Sheepcote. Late year regulars were present at the same locations as for early year with the addition of Brooklands. Further records were 2 at Preston Park on Nov 14, and 2 at Hove Fire Station on Nov 23.

1020 **PIED WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba*

**Common resident**

A roost of 300 birds was noted in Stanmer Park on Mar 14, and 8 were along Ferring Rife on Apr 1. Later in the year there were 100 at West Kingston Farm on Oct 6, 56 at Brooklands on Dec 17, and 43 were roosting around the Airfield on Oct 17. At Worthing Beach there were totals of 37E and 15W in Oct.

1048 **WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulus*

**Rare winter visitor**

Sadly one was found dead in the road at Coldean on Feb 2. There is an unofficial record of 1 in Sainsbury's car park, West Hove also during February.

1066 **WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Very common resident**

Breeding season counts were: 72 prs Wild Park, 24 prs Bevendean Down, 8 prs Whitehawk Hill, and 7 prs Toads Hole Valley. A total of 43 were ringed at Cissbury (Apr 20 - Nov 16) and a max of 11 on Aug 18.

1084 **DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

**Very common resident**

Breeding season: 58 prs Wild Park, 20 prs Bevendean Down, 18 prs Whitehawk Hill, 7 prs Toads Hole Valley.

1099 **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Very common resident**

Breeding season counts were: 126 prs Wild Park, 37 prs Bevendean Down, 10 prs Toads Hole Valley, and 8 prs Whitehawk Hill. A total of 34 were ringed at Cissbury (Apr 20 - Nov 16) and a max of 10 on May 24. A large autumn influx occurred on Mill Hill during September and included 12 singing.

1104 **NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

**Passage migrant, occasionally breeds**

First record was a singing male at Lancing Clump on Apr 17 which continued to sing until Apr 28. Further spring records were 1 singing Upper Adur Levels on Apr 21, 2 at the Sanctuary, and 1 singing at Mill Hill on Apr 27. Max singing at

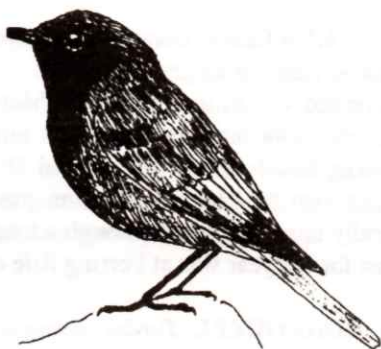


the traditional site near Beeding CW was 5 on May 27. The only autumn record was 2 at Sheepcote on Aug 30.

**1121 BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

**Regular autumn/winter visitor, has bred**

Early and late year regulars were at the Marina and the Harbour, but records received showed varying numbers. Short term residents are often supplemented by migrants or casual individuals in transit. Records have been received from most coastal sites and inland records were from Hove Villas, Hove on Jan 31, Sheepcote on Mar 30, Southwick Hill on Apr 3, and Sompting Brooks on Mar 17 and Apr 6. Late in the year there were singles at Standean on Dec 23 and on the Upper Adur Levels on Nov 9/10. A pair were present in a well-populated locality in our area during the breeding season.



**1122 REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

**Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn**

First was a male at Lancing Clump on Apr 6, followed by a female in a Worthing garden on Apr 7. Other spring records were 2m at Adur Recreation Ground on Apr 9, 1m in a Worthing garden on Apr 13, 7 Hollingbury Camp on Apr 16, and 1m in a Hangleton garden on May 12. A total of 167 passed through our area during autumn passage and 90 of these were noted at Lancing Ring between Aug 25 and Oct 2. One was ringed in a West Worthing garden on Oct 6 and the last was at Sheepcote on Oct 25.

**1137 WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Common passage migrant**

A single was at Sheepcote on Apr 16, then on Apr 28 there were 3 at Steyning and a single at Lancing Clump. During May, singles were noted around Adur Recreation Ground and the Airfield (5th) and New Salts Farm (27th). A late migrant was at Hollingbury on Jun 5.

Highest autumn counts were 27 at Sheepcote on Sept 3, with 23 there on Sep 11 and 17 on Sep 19. An impressive total of 126 passed through Sompting Brooks between between Aug 24 and Oct 2. Last for the year was at West Kingston Farm on Oct 6.

**1139 STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*

**Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds**

Widely reported at each end of the year and good numbers of autumn migrants were noted from a variety of habitats. During the breeding season 1pr were present in the Steyning area and up to 2 prs were in the vicinity of Southwick Hill /Mile Oak Farm but there is no evidence of breeding. Likewise, a male was in song at Sheepcote, but breeding has not been proved. Successful pairs were at Harrow Hill and Whitehawk Hill.

**1146 WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Common passage migrant**

First record was at the Marina on Mar 6, the start of a good spring migration which saw 284 birds pass through our area. Of this total 116 were noted at Worthing Beach during March and 48 were on the beach between Widewater and the Fort on Mar 23. Autumn passage was noted from Aug 14 and was generally unremarkable, although a total of 33 were at Sompting Brooks on Sep 9. Last for the year was at Ferring Rife on Oct 27.

**1186 RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

**Regular passage migrant**

An over-wintering male was noted in a Lancing garden from Feb 20 - 24 (BFF et al). Spring records were a male at Hove Park on Apr 14, and 4 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 16. A quiet autumn with 1 at Lancing Clump on Sep 7, 2 at Sheepcote on Sep 22 and 25, 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 23/24, and 2 at Cissbury on Oct 1.

**1187 BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

**Very common resident**

Only early count was 30 at Southwick Hill on Jan 27. Breeding records were: 123 prs Wild Park, 50 prs Bevendean Down, 38 prs Whitehawk Hill, and 17 prs Toads Hole Valley. A total of 43 were ringed at Cissbury between May 6 and Nov 11. Late year counts were 34 at Lancing Clump on Dec 28, 30 at Sheepcote on Nov 14, 25 at Durrington on Oct 26, and 20 at Sompting Abbotts School on Nov 15.

**1198 FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**Common winter visitor**

Some very large early counts included 2,000 on Henfield Levels on Jan 13 with 1,000 in the Steyning area on the same day; 1,100 on Beeding Brooks on Jan 17; 800 on Chantry Hill on Jan 17; and a flock of 720 at No Mans Land on Jan 16 had increased to 1,250 the next day. Flocks of 50 - 80 birds were not uncommon

during February and March, and the last for the winter were 4 on Beeding Brooks on Apr 13. After 25 on the Upper Adur Levels on Oct 23, the late year totals were unremarkable, the highest being 12 on Sompting Brooks on Dec 17.

**1200 SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

**Fairly common resident**

Breeding records were: 13 prs Wild Park, 4 prs Benfield Valley, 2 prs Bevendean Down and 1 pr each at Toads Hole Valley and Whitehawk Hill. A total of 30 were ringed at Cissbury between May 6 and Nov 16. The only late count was 12 at Sompting Abbotts School on Nov 15.

**11201 REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**Common winter visitor**

Some large January counts included: 1,500 Henfield Levels and 400 nr Steyning on the 13th; 200 Henfield Levels on the 28th; 160 Lower Standean on the 7th; and 100 each at Lancing Clump on the 10th and at Beeding Brooks on the 17th. Highest Feb/Mar totals were: 400 Upper Beeding stables on Feb 13; 200E over a Worthing garden in 30 mins on Mar 15; 175 Beeding Hill on Mar 18, and 100 Ferring Rife on Feb 11. Of interest were singing birds in a Worthing garden from Mar 9 - 18, Goring Beach on Mar 23, and Hove on Mar 25. Last winter record was 4 on Southwick Hill on Apr 7.

After a single at Lancing Ring and 2E at Sheepcote both on Sep 20, some highest late year counts were: 100 Sompting Abbotts Nov 24/27 and 57W there on Oct 10; 50 at Goring Gap on Dec 28; 48 at Sheepcote on Nov 26; and 45 Hollingbury on Dec 6. A total of 4 were ringed at Cissbury during November

**1202 MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Common resident**

Breeding season records were: 6 prs Wild Park, and 1 pr each Portslade Old Village, Sompting Abbotts and Bevendean Down. There were doubtless many more. Other counts were: 11 at Cissbury on Jun 30, and 10 there on Jun 23; and 10 at Patching Hill on Sep 23.

**1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

**Generally scarce passage migrant**

The only spring record was one in song at Sheepcote on Apr 28. There were 7 autumn records of singles at Cissbury on Aug 25, Sep 14 and 15; Sheepcote on Aug 22 and Sep 23; and Kings Barn and Sompting Downs on Sep 24.



**1243 SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

A singing male at Beeding Brooks on Apr 13 was the first for the year followed by a bird at the Airfield on Apr 19. It was under-reported during the breeding season but from 4 prs along Ferring Rife at least 1 pr were successful. The only autumn record was a single at Brooklands on Sep 3.

**1251 REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

The first for the year was in song at New Salts Farm on Apr 21. One pair bred along Ferring Rife as did 4 prs along the Adur between the Railway and Toll Bridges. Doubtless many other pairs also bred. Up to 50 birds were reported during autumn passage including 10 at Sheepcote on Aug 21, and 7 ringed at Cissbury between Aug 3 and Sep 21. Last for the year was at Sompting Brooks on Sep 24.

**262 DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*

**Autumn migrant, increasingly recorded in winter**

A male noted at a downland location throughout the year was also noted singing and displaying through April and May. A single bird was noted behind the Shoreham Houseboats on Mar 26 (KN).

**1274 LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

There were 2 at the Sanctuary on Apr 21, with 1 there on Apr 27; and 1 singing at Adur Recreation Ground on Apr 28. Breeding season records were: 3 prs Wild Park, 2 prs Bevendean Down; and single prs at Southwick Hill, Whitehawk Hill and Golding Barn. Autumn counts at well-watched locations between Aug 25 and the last at Lancing Ring on Oct 4 were: 21 Sompting Downs, 44 Sompting Brooks and 180 at Lancing Ring. A total of 21 were ringed at Cissbury between May 6 and Sep 29.

**1275 WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

**Common summer visitor**

A single was at Ferring Rife on Apr 2, then 7 in Pavilion Gardens Brighton on Apr 16, and 1 in a Southwick garden on Apr 20. Breeding season records were: 20 prs Wild Park, 18 prs Whitehawk Hill, 10 prs Bevendean Down, 16 prs Southwick Hill, 6 prs Goring Gap, 5 prs Toads Hole Valley and 2 prs Ferring Rife.

Autumn totals from well-watched locations between Aug 21 and the last at Sompting Downs on Oct 2 were: 314 Lancing Ring, 175 Sompting Brooks 129

Sheepcote, and 88 Sompting Downs. A total of 65 were ringed at Cissbury between May 6 and Sep 29.

**1276 GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

Spring singles were at the Sanctuary on Apr 27, Golding Barn and Brighton Cemetery on Apr 28, New Salts Farm on Apr 30, Cissbury on May 6, and the Sanctuary again on May 11. Single breeding pairs were recorded from: Wild Park, Golding Barn, Washington, Warren Hill and Patching Woods. Of interest, a female trapped at the Sanctuary on Jun 23 was sporting a brood patch. About 42 birds were counted during autumn passage. A total of 16 were ringed at Cissbury between May 6 and the 'normal' date of Sep 22. A very late bird was ringed on Nov 16. The bird was reported to be in good condition and of normal weight.

**1277 BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

**Common summer visitor, regular in winter**

The number of birds over-wintering in our area is definitely on the increase with a total of 18 for the early months. Obviously this prevents accurate recording of spring migrants. Breeding season counts were: 14 prs Wild Park, and 1 pr each Bevendean Down and Goring Gap. I suspect there were many, many more.

Between Aug 25 and Oct 19 (possibly the last at Goring Gap) autumn counts at well-watched locations between were: 36 Sompting Downs and Sompting Brooks and 346 at Lancing Ring. A total of 241 were ringed at Cissbury between Apr 20 and Nov 9, with peaks of 31 on Sep 7 and 14. Late records involved 8 birds from North Portslade, Lancing, Southwick, Broadwater, Steyning, and Kings Barn.

**1300 YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** *Phylloscopus inornatus*

**Rare autumn vagrant**

A single at Goring Gap on Oct 5 (DIS). Details sent to SOS.

**1308 WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

**Fairly scarce passage migrant**

A single at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 27 and two there on May 12 and 2 at Brighton Cemetery on Apr 28. In autumn there were: singles at Wild Park on Aug 18 and Sheepcote on Aug 21/22. There were 2 at Wild Park on Aug 20.

**1311 CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

**Common summer visitor, with small wintering population**

A plethora of early year over-wintering birds covering much of our area. There

were several March records but indications are that general arrivals took place around the 20th - 23rd and again on the 30th. Breeding season records were: 11prs Wild Park, 3 prs Southwick Hill, 2 prs Goring Gap, and single prs Cissbury, Whitehawk Hill, Toads Hole Valley and Bevendean Down.

Autumn totals from well-watched locations between Aug 25 and Oct 31 were: 403 Lancing Ring, 133 Sompting Downs and 66 Sompting Brooks. Other large gatherings were 40 at Cissbury on Aug 17 and Sep 14, 23 Sompting Abbots on Oct 22, and 20 at Goring Gap on Sep 23 with 10 there on Oct 2. A bird in full song in a Broadwater garden on Oct 25 may have been the last migrant or one of up to 10 recorded late in the year. A total of 107 were ringed at Cissbury between Jul 13 and Nov 9.

### 1312 WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

#### **Common summer visitor and passage migrant**

First spring bird was at New Salts Farm on Mar 31. More general arrivals took place during mid-April and included 12 at Southwick Bowling Green from 14 - 16th. Breeding season counts that reached me were: 10 prs Wild Park, 5prs Southwick Hill, 2 prs Bevendean Down and 1 pr Toads Hole Valley.

Autumn totals were (Aug 18 - Sep 24): 327 Lancing Ring, 76 Sompting Downs and 40 Sompting Brooks. Peak fall was 71 Lancing Ring on Aug 31. Max count at Sheepcote was 23 on Aug 22, and at Ferring Rife there were 14 on Aug 18/19. A total of 100 were ringed at Cissbury between Apr 20 - Sep 15 with a max of 34 on Aug 18. The last records were Ferring Rife and Lancing Ring on Sep 24.

### 1314 GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

#### **Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

Pairs were noted regularly in the early months in a Broadwater garden and at Southwick Hill. Miscellaneous early year records came from a Worthing garden with a pair in early January and a single mid-March; 2 or 3 Steyning gardens with singles variously between late January and mid-April; Upper Adur Levels with a single in January; and Lancing Ring with 2 on Apr 2 and 4 on Apr 6. Breeding season records came from Cissbury and Broadwater and a juv was noted from May 26 - Jul 16 in a Worthing garden.

Noted from several locations during autumn, most notably a total of 22 through Lancing Ring (Sep 9 - Oct 2) and 8 at Sompting Abbots on Nov 4. Late year singles and pairs were reported from Goring Wood, Highdown Hill, Henfield Brooks, Upper Adur Levels, and gardens in Steyning, Broadwater and Worthing. A total of 27 were ringed at Cissbury between Sep 7 and Nov 16.



**1315 FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus*

**Regular passage migrant in small number, occasionally winters**

In January, noted at Patching Pond (1st), Goring Gap (7th), and Woodvale Cemetery (29th). March records were from Brighton Cemetery (5th), Sheepcote (21st) and New Salts Farm on (28th). In April, there were singles at Southwick Hill (7th), Hollingbury Camp (26th) and a male singing in Brighton Cemetery (28th).

A good autumn at Hollingbury Camp with 3 on Sep 23, 1 on 24th/25th and a further 1 on Oct 24th. At Sheepcote, there was 1 on Sep 20, 2 on the 22nd and 1 on the 26th. At Cissbury birds were ringed on Sep 21/22 and Oct 13. A fiendish individual escaped from an ringer's bag here on Sep 22. A singing male was at Sompting Abbots on Oct 21, and a pair there from Oct 24 - Dec 12; 5 were in central Brighton on Nov 1 and a single was at New Salts Farm (Dec 4 - 8). Miscellaneous records were of singles at Woodvale Crematorium (Sep 19), a Storrington garden (Oct 26), Steyning (Nov 10), Woodvale (Nov 16) and a Southwick garden (Dec 15).

**1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant**

A record of a bird along Ferring Rife on Apr 14 is considered early for this species and the Recorder would like to eliminate female Pied Flycatcher which is more typical for this date. A bird was in Brighton Cemetery on Apr 28 and there were 6 May records from Goring Gap, Sompting Abbots School, Ferring Rife, Beeding Brooks and a Worthing garden. Breeding season records were of pairs raising young at Hove Park and Highdown and probably also at Findon.

A total of 361 were recorded in our area during the autumn with 266 of these noted at Lancing Ring between Aug 25 - Oct 2. Peak counts were 37 Lancing Ring (Sep 2), 10 Goring Gap (Sep 3), 10 Cissbury (Sep 8), and 11 Sompting Downs (Sep 2). A total of 4 were ringed at Cissbury and the last of the year was at Sompting Downs on Oct 3.

**1349 PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Regular passage migrant**

After a male at Hollingbury GC on Apr 21, there were singles at Three Corner Copse, Hove on Apr 24, and Hollingbury Camp on Apr 27. Aug records were 1 in a Shoreham garden on Aug 15, 1 at Sheepcote on Aug 22, and 2 at Lancing Ring on Aug 26, with a single there on the 27th and 31st. During Sep, a single was at Sompting Downs on 2nd with 2 there on the 4th and 11th, singles were noted at Goring Gap on the 3rd, Lancing Ring on the 9th and 23rd, Sheepcote on 22nd, and Sompting Brooks on 24th. A total of over 10 were noted at Hollingbury between Aug 10 and Sep 25.

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

**Common resident**

Early year flocks were 2 in a Hangleton garden from Feb 7 - 11; 1 at a Steyning garden feeder on Feb 15 and two in a Worthing garden on Mar 23. Breeding season records were: 11 prs Wild Park, 2 prs each Goring Gap and Bevendean Down and 1 pr each Southwick Hill, Toads Hole Valley and Tottington Woods. In the late summer there were 4 in a Worthing garden on Jun 2, and 7 in a Hangleton garden on Jul 19. Many records were received of medium to large late year flocks with the highest numbers being 25 at Sompting Church on Aug 3 and at Sompting Abbotts School on Oct 14; 22 at Lancing Clump in mid-Sep; and 20 in Goring Wood on Dec 25. A total of 35 were ringed at Cissbury between Apr 20 and Nov 16.

**1440 MARSH TIT** *Parus palustris*

**Fairly uncommon resident**

There were 4 at Michelgrove on Feb 3. Breeding records were: 2/3 prs at Cissbury and possible breeding at Highdown Hill, Patching Woods, Chanctonbury Ring and Washington. A single was at Chantry Post on Oct 30, 4 were at Lee Farm on Nov 30, and 3 at Highdown Hill on Dec 28.

**1442 WILLOW TIT** *Parus montanus*

**Fairly uncommon resident**

One was seen at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 9, 2 in Patching Woods on Mar 18, and 1 at Devil's Dyke on Oct 5.

**1461 COAL TIT** *Parus ater*

**Fairly common resident**

A pair were resident all year in a Broadwater garden and bred there. Singles were noted in Patching Woods on Mar 18, Warren Hill on Apr 15, and Tottington Wood on Apr 23. Later, there were 1 at Devil's Dyke on Oct 5, 2 at Cissbury on Oct 12 and 1 in a Hangleton garden on Dec 25. There were 2 birds of the continental race *ater* at Hollingbury on Sep 24 and also at Woodvale Crematorium on Sep 25/26. There was an influx into SE England at this time.

**1462 BLUE TIT** *Parus caeruleus*

**Abundant resident**

Breeding records were: 61 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Bevendean Down, 5 prs Whitehawk Hill and 4 prs Toads Hole Valley. At Three Corner Copse, Hove 5 nest boxes were occupied and 4 prs raised 14 young while 1 pr failed. A pr raised 3 young in a Worthing garden nest box. A family party was noted at Southwick Hill on Jun 29, and 54 were ringed at Cissbury between Apr 20 and Nov 16.

**1464 GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

**Very common resident**

Breeding records were: 37 prs Wild Park, 9 prs Bevendean Down, 3 prs Whitehawk Hill, 2 prs Toads Hole Valley and 1 pr Southwick Hill. There were two occupied boxes at Three Corner Copse Hove and 9 young fledged, and in a Storrington garden nest box a pair raised 2 young, but 2 more were subsequently found dead inside.

**1479 NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**Uncommon resident**

Probable or possible breeding took place at Michelgrove, Warren Hill, Tottington Woods, Wiston Estate, Clapham Wood, Highdown Hill, Sandgate Park and Wappingthorn Wood. A single was in Preston Park, Brighton on Nov 14 (an excellent urban record), and there were 4 at Oreham Common on Dec 14 with 2 there on Dec 28.

**1486 TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

**Uncommon resident**

Early year records were 2 at Michelgrove on Feb 3, 1 at Golding Barn on Feb 11 and 1 in a Storrington garden on Mar 20. Breeding season records were from Wild Park, Warren Hill and Tottington Woods. At Cissbury, 2 were ringed on Jul 13 and a single was present on Jul 27. Late year records were: 1 at Goring Wood (Oct 5, Dec 14 and 25), 2 at Chantry Post (Oct 30), 1 at Sompting Abbotts School (Dec 10), and 1 at the Sanctuary (Dec 22).

**1508 GOLDEN ORIOLE** *Oriolus oriolus*

**Rare vagrant**

There is an unconfirmed record of a single at Goring Gap on May 25. It is believed that details have been submitted to SOS.

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

**Rare vagrant, formerly bred.**

A juvenile was present at Sompting on Aug 18 and using the same bush as a similar bird in 1995! (RAI et al).

**1539 JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

**Fairly common resident and winter visitor**

The only early year record was 5 at Golding Barn on May 4. Two pairs bred at Wild Park. It was noted from unusual localities during autumn passage but the largest flocks were 4 at Goring Gap from Oct 6 - 25, and 5 at Goring Wood from October to year end.



1549 **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

**Very common resident**

There were 23 at Lancing Clump on Feb 14. Breeding season counts received were: 38 prs Wild Park, 4 prs each Bevendean Down and Whitehawk Hill and 2 prs Toads Hole Valley. Late year counts were a roost of 145 at Wild Park on Dec 1, 14 on Southwick Hill on Jun 29, and 13 in Benfield Valley on Aug 28. the long-standing partial albino was still present in the Lower Adur Valley until at least March.

1560 **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

**Common resident**

Bred in central Hove and Brighton. There were 20 at Sompting Abbots on Nov 15, and 9 there on Oct 10. This species is still under-reported.

1563 **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Common resident**

A total of 1,410 nests were reported occupied in our area from 84 sites. Among the larger rookeries were Sompting Abbots (150), Steyning By-pass (93), and Storrington (70). The only other large count was 200 at Steep Down on Jan 10.

1567 **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

**Common resident**

Specific breeding season counts were: 13 prs Wild Park, 12 prs along the A27 between Southwick and Hove, 3 prs Bevendean Down, 2 prs Whitehawk Hill and 1pr Toads Hole Valley.

1568 **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

**Rare vagrant**

A record of one in the vicinity of the Sanctuary on Dec 11 has been submitted SOS (JAN).

582 **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Abundant resident and winter visitor**

Early counts were 1,604 on Adur Saltings on Jan 30, and 1,500 at West Pier on Jan 31. Breeding season counts were: 37 prs Wild Park, 15 prs Bevendean Down and 2 prs Whitehawk Hill. The largest late year counts were 6,000 at West Pier (Nov 30), 5,000 at Southwick Power Station (Dec 20), 3,000 Shoreham Beach rooftops (Dec 1) and Sussex Pad on (Oct 25), 2,000 each at Cissbury (Oct 19) and Mill Hill (Oct 17), and 450 the Airfield (Oct 17).

1591 **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

**Very common resident**

Breeding season counts were: 16 prs Wild Park, 8 prs each Bevedean Down and Whitehawk Hill and 4prs Toads Hole Valley.

1598 **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

**Scarce resident**

Up to two were present at Smugglers Lane, Upper Beeding (Jan 10 - Feb 18). A pair probably bred at Stretham Manor. The only late year record was 2 at Lancing Clump on Sep 25.

1636 **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

**Very common resident**

Breeding season records were: 40 prs Wild Park, 14 prs Bevedean Down, 5 prs Toads Hole Valley, and 1 pr Whitehawk Hill. Between May 12 and Nov 16 a total of 25 were ringed at Cissbury, mostly in Oct/Nov. Counts received were 60 at Lower Standean on Jan 7, and 65 at Sompting Downs in early October.

1638 **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**Regular passage migrant**

There were no early year records. Later in the year there was 1W at Lancing Ring on Oct 2, 1 at Sompting Downs on Oct 3, a male at Sompting Abbotts School on Oct 10, 2W at the Harbour on Nov 8, and 15 over Mill Hill on Dec 15. At Cissbury, there was a single on Oct 12 and 2 on Oct 19, and a bird was present at Sompting Abbotts from Oct 22 - Nov 23.

1649 **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

**Very common resident**

The only early year count was 9 in a Storrington garden on Mar 20. Breeding records were: 24 prs Wild Park, 8 prs Bevedean Down, 3 prs Whitehawk Hill, and 1 pr Toads Hole Valley. Larger autumn counts were 177 at Lancing Ring and 56 Sompting Downs in early September and flocks of 50 at the Fort (Sep 21) and Smugglers Lane, Upper Beeding (Sep 30). Some later counts were: 52 at the Marina (Nov 9) and 40 in the Harbour (Dec 15).

1653 **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Fairly common resident**

There were 15 in a Steyning garden on Feb 20. In the breeding season there were 4 prs Wild Park, 1 pr Bevedean Down and two records of possible breeding in residential parts of Shoreham. Autumn totals were 161 at Lancing Ring (Aug 25 - Oct 2) and 80 at Sompting Brooks (Aug 24 - Oct 4).

Large autumn flocks included: 40 at Brooklands on Oct 8 rising to 80 by the 20th; 80E at Goring Gap on Oct 9; 50 on Truleigh Hill on Oct 5; 20 at Sompting Abbots on Oct 21 and 41 on the 22nd; and 30 at Widewater on Oct 11. At Worthing Beach there were 533E /8W in 3 hrs on Oct 10 and 498E in an hour on Oct 11. At the end of the year, there were 22 at New Salts Farm on Dec 18 and 15 on the 21st; and late year flocks along Ferring Rife peaked at 14 on Nov 3 with no more than 8 thereafter.

1654 **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

A single bird fed on peanuts in a Findon garden on Mar 8. The autumn total through our area was 277 with 151 recorded at Sheepcote during September with a max of 66 on the 23rd. Other large flocks included 48 over Cissbury on Sep 22 and 33E at Lancing Ring on Oct 25. November records (not included above) were 2W at Broadwater (8th), 1 at Ferring Rife (9th), a small flock west over Sompting Abbots (13th) followed by 9 there (14th) falling to 7 (15th).

660 **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

**Locally common resident and passage migrant**

January counts were 60 on Chantry Hill and 40 at Cissbury on the 17th, and 30 on Adur Saltings (7th - 31st). Counts for April were 92E at Widewater on the 14th, with 32E the next day; 30 at Ferring Rife on the 27th, and 46E at Worthing Beach on the 15th and 55E on the 20th.

Breeding season records were: 16 prs Whitehawk Hill, 10 prs Toads Hole Valley and Wild Park, 5 prs Bevendean Down, and 2 prs Cissbury. Autumn counts included : 300 Mill Hill on Oct 9; 100 Beeding Hill on Oct 1 with 30 on Nov 8; 125 Cuckoo's Corner on Sep 14; and 95 Sompting Brooks on Sep 19. Counts for December were 36 at New Salts Farm on the 18th, 28 Benfield Valley on the 29th and 12 Brooklands on the 17th.

1663 **REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea*

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

The only early year record was 6 at Knepp Pond on Mar 15. In autumn, there was 1W at Goring on Oct 5, 1 at Cissbury on Oct 19, 16E at Sompting Abbots on Oct 21, 2W at Worthing Beach on Oct 30, and 1E at the Harbour on Nov 15.

1710 **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrula pyrrula*

**Fairly common resident**

Present and probably bred at 28 sites within our area. Sizeable flocks were 20 at Michelgrove on Feb 2; and at Oreham Common, 4 on Dec 28 rose to 8 on the 30th. At Cissbury, 23 were ringed between Apr 20 and Nov 16.



**1850 SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenas nivalis*

**Fairly regular winter visitor in small numbers**

A female present at the Marina until at least Feb 27 was probably one of the birds noted from Dec 23 1995 (PJW et al). A male was at Widewater on Nov 24 (m.o.) staying until Nov 26, the same day as a bird arrived at the Marina. (ADW).

**1857 YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

**Locally common resident**

Early year counts were: 33 Highdown on Jan 27, 30 on Chantry Hill on Jan 17, and a flock of 30 in Smugglers Lane (Upper Beeding) on Jan 10 had increased to 50 by the 14th. Breeding season records were: 12 prs Wild Park, 10 prs Mile Oak Farm area, 5 prs each Cissbury and Southwick Hill, 4 prs Bevendean Down, 3 prs Toads Hole Valley and 2 prs Whitehawk Hill.

Specific counts in September were 42 Lancing Ring (mid-month), 17 Sompting Downs (late month), and at Lancing Clump, a flock of 31 on the 5th increased to 42 on the 13th, then fell to 20 on the 30th. There were 10 at Patching Hill on Oct 19.

**1877 REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**Locally common resident**

No large flocks reported but present and probably bred along the length of the River Adur (including the Saltings) and Ferring Rife. Some autumn records received were from downland locations but did not involve more than 3 birds.

**1882 CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra*

**Locally common on downland**

Some early year flocks were: 60 Upper Adur Levels on Mar 2, 40 each at Chantry Hill (Jan 17) and Kings Barn (Mar 3), 20 Sheepcote on Mar 30 (15 on Feb 15), and 17 at New Salts Farm on Mar 10 (15 there on Jan 2 and Mar 13). Breeding season counts were: 12 prs Mill Hill/Beeding Hill area, 6 prs Mile Oak Farm area, 2/3 prs Sheepcote, 2 prs Golding Barn, and at least single pairs at Sompting Abbots, Southwick Hill, Bevendean Down, New Salts Farm and Beeding Bostal.

September counts in the Upper Adur valley were 100 on the 10th increasing to 150 on the 19th with 131 on the 27th. A flock of 50 at Kings Barn on the 11th had grown to 90 by the 26th but a flock of 20 at Sheepcote on the 15th was reduced to 10 by Dec 15. There were 35 at Lancing Clump in mid-September. Other counts were 40 at Mill Hill/Beeding CW on Oct 24, 20 at the Sanctuary on Oct 13, and 20 on Mill Hill on Dec 15.

## ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS

### COCKATIEL SP.

One or more birds involved - noted at Goring, Cissbury and Highdown.

### BUDGERIGAR

One perched on the window ledge of the National Westminster Building, Preston Road, Brighton for 5 minutes on July 8 and then flew off towards Preston Park.



## SUPPLEMENTARY RECORD FOR 1995

0304 **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

A pair raised 3 young at Long Furlong (RJS).



## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1996

SPECIES	ARRIVAL		DEPARTURE	
Hobby.....	May 4.....	Shoreham.....	Oct 3.....	Widewater
Whimbrel.....	Apr 13.....	Adur.....	Sep 17.....	Goring
Common S'piper.....	Apr 17.....	Worthing.....	Sep 24.....	New Salts Farm
Sandwich Tern.....	Mar 21.....	Worthing/Brooklands.....	Oct 13.....	Adur/Worthing
'Commie' Tern.....	Mar 21.....	Worthing.....	Oct 19.....	Harbour
Little Tern.....	Apr 12.....	Worthing.....	Aug 24.....	Worthing
Black Tern.....	May 5.....	Widewater.....	Sep 20.....	Adur
Turtle Dove.....	May 25.....	Southwick Hill.....	Sep 28.....	Sheepcote
Cuckoo.....	Apr 14.....	Goring Gap.....	Aug 18.....	Cissbury
Swift.....	Apr 14.....	Widewater.....	Sep 21.....	Goring
Sand Martin.....	Mar 24.....	Shoreham.....	Oct 5.....	Worthing
Swallow.....	Mar 23.....	Shoreham.....	Oct 29.....	Worthing
House Martin.....	Apr 14.....	Airfield.....	Oct 20.....	Upper Adur
Tree Pipit.....	Apr 10.....	Widewater.....	Oct 5.....	Goring
Yellow Wagtail.....	Apr 14.....	various.....	Nov 23.....	Ferring Beach
Redstart.....	Apr 6.....	Lancing Clump.....	Oct 25.....	Sheepcote
Whinchat.....	Apr 16.....	Sheepcote.....	Oct 6.....	W. Kingston
Wheatear.....	Mar 6.....	Marina.....	Sep 30.....	Marina
Ring Ouzel.....	Apr 14.....	Hove Park.....	Oct 1.....	Cissbury
Grasshopper Warbler.....	Apr 28.....	Sheepcote.....	Sep 24.....	Kings Barn/Sompting
Sedge Warbler.....	Apr 13.....	Beeding Brooks.....	Sep 3.....	Brooklands
Reed Warbler.....	Apr 21.....	New Salts Farm.....	Sep 24.....	Sompting Brooks
Lesser Whitethroat.....	Apr 21.....	Sanctuary.....	Oct 4.....	Lancing Ring
Whitethroat.....	Apr 2.....	Ferring Rife.....	Oct 2.....	Sompting Downs
Garden Warbler.....	Apr 27.....	Sanctuary.....	Nov 16.....	Cissbury
Willow Warbler.....	Mar 31.....	New Salts Farm.....	Sep 24.....	Lancing Ring
Spotted Flycatcher.....	Apr 24.....	Ferring Rife.....	Oct 3.....	Sompting Downs
Pied Flycatcher.....	Apr 21.....	Hollingbury.....	Sep 25.....	Hollingbury

This feature has been compiled from records submitted by local observers



## RINGING REPORT FOR 1996

1996 saw a further small (7%) reduction in the number of birds ringed in the area with the total of 2479 birds comprising 45 different species. As usual most were ringed by mist-netting fledged birds but 169 (6.8%) were ringed as nestlings and these included 7 Tawny Owls and 14 Corn Buntings. Over 75% of the area total was caught by the Steyning Ringing Group who ringed 1875 at three sites. The regular trapping on the north facing slope of Cissbury by Brian & Phil Clay and Val Bentley contributed 1284 new birds including 4 Firecrests and a Pied Flycatcher. All three species of woodpecker, 3 Kingfishers and 59 Goldfinches were the notable features from the total of 539 birds ringed at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve at Steyning. The groups totals were completed by 52 birds

ringed at Wiston. Once again low numbers of warblers and finches provided an uninspiring total of 304 birds ringed by John Newnham and Judith Baker at the Sanctuary but just two afternoons with a single mist net set in John Newnham's urban Worthing garden added a further 64 including a wintering Blackcap. Amongst the total of 237 ringed by Dr Barrie Watson, assisted by John and Charlie Holt, were most of the nestlings ringed in the area.

The **Table A** shows the numbers of the 45 species ringed; although 19 show small increases from 1995 no less than 30 species were ringed in lower numbers. The most notable increases were noted in House Martins (137) and Blackbird (60) whilst the largest decreases were amongst

**Table A - List of species ringed**

Sparrowhawk.....3	Redwing.....6	Coal Tit.....3
Kestrel.....1	Grasshopper Warbler.....2	Blue Tit.....305
Woodpigeon.....3	Sedge Warbler.....5	Great Tit.....96
Tawny Owl.....7	Reed Warbler.....40	Treecreeper.....7
Kingfisher.....3	Lesser Whitethroat.....32	Starling.....19
Green Woodpecker.....1	Whitethroat.....74	House Sparrow.....8
Gt-spotted W'pecker.....4	Garden Warbler.....23	Chaffinch.....47
Ls.-spotted W'pecker.....1	Blackcap.....296	Greenfinch.....30
Swallow.....15	Chiffchaff.....222	Goldfinch.....60
House Martin.....308	Willow Warbler.....179	Linnet.....3
Wren.....75	Goldcrest.....30	Bullfinch.....42
Duncock.....86	Firecrest.....4	Yellowhammer.....1
Robin.....122	Spotted Flycatcher.....8	Corn Bunting.....14
Redstart.....1	Pied Flycatcher.....1	
Blackbird.....149	Long-tailed Tit.....48	<b>TOTAL.....2479</b>
Song Thrush.....86	Marsh Tit.....10	

the warblers with Reed Warbler (-164), Whitethroat (-52), Blackcap (-70), and Chiffchaff (-66).

### Recoveries and Controls

The following is a selection of the more interesting movements reported during the year, several refer to movements from previous years.

**1) Black-headed Gull:-** Although the cannon netting study of gulls on the local refuse tips was completed several years ago and the last gulls ringed in 1993 this species still provides more recoveries than the continuing ringing of passerines.

The number of recoveries is clearly declining, as shown in the **Table B** below but the proportion of foreign recoveries remains high. A detailed review of the recoveries from Sussex, most of which come from this area, is given in Table 67, p.314 of *"Birds of Sussex"*

Recoveries reported in 1996 were from:

Sussex	2	France	1
Greater London	1	Netherlands	2
Suffolk	2	Denmark	3
Germany	2	Estonia	1
Lithuania	1	Finland	5

**2) Herring Gull:-** One ringed at Sompting in November 89 was reported from a Worthing roof top during May 1996; although the report is unclear it is

presumed this was from the growing roof top colony in Worthing.

**3) Kingfisher:-** A juvenile ringed at the Sanctuary in October 1995 was controlled as a breeding female at Brandon, Suffolk in early May 1996. A movement of 188km is remarkable for this usually sedentary species and with the control from Hampshire (1988) provide two of the longest movements recorded from Sussex.

**4) Reed Warbler:-** A juvenile ringed near Haversham, Bucks in late July 1995 was controlled at Cissbury (138km SE) on 20th August 1995 and is fairly typical of autumn movements previously reported.

**5) Lesser Whitethroat:-** A juvenile ringed at the Sanctuary (July 1995) was controlled as a breeding female just 6 km NE at Devils Dyke Farm (June 1996).

**6) Blackcap:-** For the fourth consecutive year the area has recorded a foreign movement; a juvenile female ringed at the Sanctuary on 23rd August 1992 was controlled on the Isla de Cabrera (Mallorca) Spain on 30th April 1996.

There were three British movements recorded; all ringed in their first year, all females and all from Cissbury. Two, controlled at Cissbury in September 1995, were ringed at Betley, Staffs (July 1995)

**Table B - Recoveries of Black-headed Gulls ringed in Sussex**

Year	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96
Recoveries	130	119	121	124	135	122	103	65	52	47	44	63	20
% from abroad	42%	67%	51%	60%	54%	75%	62%	58%	77%	66%	80%	80%	75%

and at Wigginton, Herts (August 1995) and had travelled 275 km SE and 101km SSE respectively whilst one ringed in October 1995 was found dead near Midhurst in June 1996.

**7) Willow Warbler:-** Juveniles ringed at Cissbury (June 1993) and at the Sanctuary (August 1993) were controlled at Devils Dyke Farm in May 1996.

**8) Goldcrest:-** An adult male ringed at Cissbury on 4th November 1995 was controlled on 7th April 1996 on Bardsey Island, Gwynedd (368km WNW). This is

the fourth distant movement of this species recorded from autumn ringing at Cissbury; previous movements were recorded from Suffolk (September 1989), Clwyd (June 1990) and Pas-de Calais (December 1994).

**9) Blue Tit:-** A juvenile ringed at Cissbury (October 1995) was killed by a cat at Brooks Green near Horsham, just 17 km N in May 1996.

As usual there a large number of retraps and local recoveries, including both a Sparrowhawk and Magpie.

John Newnham

## GARDEN BIRD FEEDING SURVEY - WINTER 1996/7

Twenty-two members took part in this winter's survey that again included several new gardens. They were from Worthing, Findon, Lancing, Shoreham Southwick, Hove, Brighton Goring, Ferring, Steyning, and Storrington with coastal, suburban and semi-rural inland sites represented.

The weather during October was mainly fine and dry though sometimes

breezy. November was also windy, from the west or south-west. It was wet in mid-month and changeable at the close. Colder weather appeared in December with a very cold spell from the 22nd lasting into the New Year. January remained exceptionally dry through often dull. Overnight frost returned at the end of the month. The very dry spell carried on through February, al-

### Relative abundance of top twenty species recorded

Species	%	Species	%
1 House Sparrow .....	26.6	11 Dunnock	2.5
2 Starling .....	22.5	12 Great Tit	2.0
3 Blue Tit .....	5.3	13 Robin	1.9
4 Greenfinch .....	5.3	14 Goldfinch	1.5
5 Blackbird.....	4.9	15 Redwing	1.4
6 Black-headed Gull.....	3.5	16 Magpie	1.3
7 Collared Dove .....	3.4	17 Carrion Crow	1.3
8 Feral Pigeon .....	3.1	18 Long-tailed Tit	1.3
9 Woodpigeon .....	2.8	19 Song Thrush	1.1
10 Chaffinch .....	2.6	20 Wren	1.1



though a short fine spell in the middle of the month gradually led to milder conditions. March started fine but with more rainfall than in any month this winter. Sunny weather returned to give a warmer finish to the month.

The relative abundance across the six-month period, based on the maximum numbers recorded, of the top twenty species recorded (all over 1%) was as shown in the Table.

The figures compare remarkably well with those of last year and are representative of the same species with the exception that Feral Pigeon replaces Fieldfare in the top twenty.

It was not a particularly good winter for thrushes away from the river valley with only three Fieldfares recorded in as many gardens. Redwings fared rather better with the maxima over the period totalling 112 at 16 sites, more than the equivalent figure of 91 for Song Thrushes which were, however, encouragingly noted at every garden. This distinction was only shared with Robin, Blackbird, House Sparrow, and Starling, with Blue Tit and Collared Dove only missing from one and Greenfinch and Dunnock from two. Siskins remain rather scarce in our area with just 53 (totalled as above) from five gardens, almost all in the north and none before December.

No less than 51 species were recorded at all sites. This total included single only records of Treecreeper, Moorhen, Kestrel, Firecrest, Brambling, Marsh Tit, Meadow Pipit, Snipe and Water Rail, the last two at the Fords' in Ferring being adjacent to the Rife. Nuthatch, Mistle Thrush, Bullfinch, Rook and Common Gull each occurred at just two sites. Not surprisingly, in view of

the very cold weather, Chiffchaffs were not recorded in January or February suggesting that the March records were early migrants rather than overwintering birds.

Most species (32) were found at the Hopes' in Storrington and the Fords' in Ferring. The most birds in total, adding the maxima for each month, were recorded at Sylvia Denman's Hove garden (630), thanks to the large numbers of House Sparrows, Starlings and Pigeons regularly feeding there.

At least 39 species took food or water provided including Mallard and Pheasant. Goldfinches and Long-tailed Tits are now regular peanut feeders although not the former's preferred choice. Even Robins occasionally have a go on them and we thought they were insectivorous - we will have to throw the books away! Food provided included grated cheese (Wren, Blackbird, Robin), apples (to replace cat food at one site!), cold chips (gulls, crows), fatball (Coal Tit), muesli, acorns from oaks in garden (Jay, pigeons) as well as all the of the more conventional offerings of peanuts, maize, sunflower seeds, millet, fat, kitchen scraps, and bread.

Clive Hope

#### Survey participants were:

S R Allen, B Antonini, S Bickham,  
G L Champion, J Cooper, D Culpitt,  
S Denman, R Edney, A & J Fenton,  
P Griffiths, M & P Ford, C E & P Hope,  
H Jackson, J & S Maskell, P R Mayard,  
J Nye, D Titcomb, C Walder, P Walker  
P Whitcomb, C Wingate.

## SANCTUARY REPORT 1996

This brief report of the activity at the Sanctuary is based solely on the 43 visits recorded in my notebook. Whilst aware of several visits to the copse by other members, in particular Dr Barrie Watson and Stanley Allen, I have not been able to use their notes; perhaps a return of the regular daily log kept in the 1960's and 70's may be helpful! Once again there were 16 sessions of mist-netting and, in keeping with recent years, these were all between 11th May and 13th October with most, except 23rd June, being during the mornings.

There were few visits and equally few birds recorded between January and March; the 12 Magpies and Sparrowhawk recorded on 30th March may, in part, account for the dearth of small birds. The first Chiffchaff was heard on 6th April but my first records for several migrants were during the Society's outing on 27th April when Stanley Allen led a group of members along the private water authority road and around the copse. During the morning at least two Nightingales were heard well whilst snatches of song from a Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Garden Warbler and Sedge Warbler kept member's ears alert. Two guests, Betty and George Bishop, enlightened members about the botany of the copse and indicated two species, Marsh Marigold and Greater Tussock Sedge, which occur nowhere else in the Adur valley.

By 11th May other migrants were evident with Cuckoo and Reed Warblers singing but most attention was drawn to a family of fox cubs which was playing on

the steep banks above the Sanctuary. A Tawny Owl was regularly seen being mobbed during the spring and summer and three chicks were ringed in the owl nest-box. Other noteworthy observations in the late spring and summer were a silhouetted view of a Honey Buzzard-sized raptor passing eastward over the A27 on 2nd June, a Fulmar flying north over Mill Hill and presumably prospecting the cliffs in the Cement Works on 23rd June, 80 Swifts and 2 Curlew on 29th June and a Peregrine on 7th July.

The following table shows how poor the ringing was during the summer and autumn with the lowest average catch recorded. Small numbers of warblers, the absence of finches and no hirundines to catch: gone even are the Swallows which regularly nested in the Water Authority garage. Although no mist netting is now done on the hillside, which was particularly productive in September, it is clear that fewer birds are now attracted to the copse than a decade ago; perhaps the lower water levels and changing vegetation are as important factors as the lower population sizes of our common species.

A few years ago it would have been inconceivable to spend an autumn morning mist-netting and only catch eight birds, this happened on 6th October and on 8th September, despite an early start, nothing was caught before 0900hrs. Conversely during three hours on a breezy, sunny afternoon in June no less than 46 were trapped. With a long history of ringing at the sanctuary a detailed review of the

### Summary of ringing effort and results for 1988 - 1996

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No sessions	26	19	19	9	13	16	14	16	16
Av. catch	45	50	52	31	32	31	37	38	27
Year best	253	135	94	56	53	49	70	66	55

retraps is interesting. During the season 41 birds, ringed in previous years, were retrapped, the oldest was a Blackbird from October 1990 and two Robins which had been trapped on nine previous occasions (covering all the years) since being ringing as juveniles in 1993.

Despite the low water levels the copse was "crawling" with froglets during mid-July. July saw the return of a Green Woodpecker and at least two Great Spotted Woodpeckers were seen on several days. An early autumn Greenshank flew over the copse on 20th July, the first of the autumn Grey Wagtails was recorded on 17th August and the only other noteworthy autumn record was a Golden Plover on 22nd September.

The low water levels in November allowed Bob Antonini access to the marshy areas of the Sanctuary to coppice and clear the overgrown osier and sallows. In just two sessions an extensive area in the middle and west side of the copse was felled. The reduction of willows should encourage more growth of reeds and sedges and may help maintain soil

moisture thus helping the Marsh Marigolds and Flags. Furthermore, a denser growth of reeds should restore the falling Reed Warbler population.

During December a small party of Roe Deer was regularly seen sheltering in the copse. The local Magpie population was joined by a partially albino bird which was possibly the same individual which frequented New Salts Farm for several months. The most interesting corvid, however, was a Raven which flew west over Mill Hill and the copse during the afternoon on 11th December. Just a few Redwing and Fieldfare were seen as the year ended with a cold spell.

I would like to express the society's thanks to Mr W. Schultz and to the staff of Southern Water for their help and co-operation during the year. Once again I thank Bob Antonini and Dr Barrie Watson for help with the "gardening" and Judith Baker for her assistance with the ringing activities.

John Newnham



## KNOW YOUR AREA BETTER

### THE LOWER ADUR

This article covers the Lower Adur and its environs from just south of Bramber to the harbour mouth.

We start our tour of the river at the west entrance to the Fort car park at Shoreham Beach which is pay and display in the summer months. This area is worth visiting at any time of year. The beach below the car park always holds something of interest: in the summer months - visiting terns and waders; in the winter - Mediterranean Gulls, Cormorants, and common waders and remember to check out all the jetties and breakwaters for Rock Pipits, Black Redstarts and Purple Sandpipers. During spring and autumn migration, Wheatears, Whinchats and wagtails stop to feed on the jetties and beaches.

You should always scan the open water of the Harbour for divers, grebes, ducks or terns according to the season. A walk along the west harbour arm is often good for gulls, auks and occasionally a Shag, while seawatching from here can produce passing seabirds, ducks and waders. Check the sea west of the arm, as in autumn or winter you may find a Guillemot, Eider, Great Crested Grebe or a Red-throated Diver. Then walk westward along the shingle ridge, at any time of year, checking for passerines, resting gulls and roosting waders. In winter, flocks of Linnets, Greenfinches, Pied Wagtails, Rock and Meadow Pipits and the occasional Black Redstart feed on the beach and Sparrowhawks often hunt these species. Be on the lookout for uncommon birds as in the past few years, Glaucous, Iceland

and Little Gull, Grey Phalarope, Snow Bunting, Little Auk, Storm Petrel and Black Tern have all been seen here.

Another beach known as Soldiers' Point is just to the north west near the sailing club and opposite the lifeboat station. This is another good place for Mediterranean Gull and Black Redstart as well as Kingfisher and Common Sandpiper. You can also get good views from here of terns and gulls flying up-river. Now move back towards Shoreham and look from the car park south of the footbridge (or from the river bank by the houseboats) for waders (including Snipe), Shelduck and Grey Heron at any time of year. This is the best place on the river to find Lesser Black-backed Gulls together with Greaters for comparison. From August to October, you could find the occasional Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Greenshank, Common Sandpiper, Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit or Whimbrel. On high tides in July to September, Sandwich Terns often hunt over this area and can be watched diving into the river. You can even hear their loud, rasping calls while shopping in Shoreham!

The river between the Norfolk Bridge and the Old Tollbridge can be very productive, especially during spring and autumn migration. Public footpaths cover the whole area and access is easiest from the west bank. The greatest number and variety of waders is present from July to October. This is the best place on the river to look for Yellow-legged Gull as small flocks occur at low tide from July to

September and occasionally a Little Egret may also appear. Cold spells in January or February are often good for many species of duck, or the occasional grebe, or a Red-throated Diver.

The upper stretch of the river from the Tollbridge to Bramber, usually holds fewer birds, especially as the river narrows. But the cold spell in January 1997 showed what you may find if you watch the upper river regularly. During that freeze, there were 20+ Goosander, four Scaup, four Smew, 75 Tufted Ducks, six Goldeneye, 100+ Wigeon, 50 Teal, and a few Gadwall, Slavonian and Little Grebes. It's also worth checking the adjacent ditches and fields in cold conditions, for Snipe (including Jack), Water Rail, Woodcock, thrushes, larks, buntings, pipits and finches.

For the best results, visit part or all of the area at least once a week at any state of the tide during migrations periods and in the winter. There's easy access to most parts of the river bank and you can also use the Airport perimeter service road via New Salts Farm off the A259.

To finish our exploration, take the A259 east to Southwick and stop near the Lifeboat Station to check the beaches. You'll see similar species as around the Fort. Also look at the Southwick Canal from near the Schooner Pub - there are good views of the Canal from the footpath below the A259 going east. Just to the west of the Texaco Wharf can be good for 'sawbills', grebes and divers and in 1995 a Little Auk was present for several days. Scan the top part of the old power station chimney for wintering Peregrine and roosting Kestrel.

Continue east on the A259 to Hove Lagoon, which is also worth a look, then take Beach Road to the southern section of the Harbour (access to the Canal is difficult from here). Check out all the gull flocks resting in empty yards — Mediterranean Gulls, Kittiwakes and terns will often shelter here during rough weather and Black Redstarts also frequent quays and yards. You can get good views of the sea - look out for Eider, Red-breasted Merganser and Cormorants.

The final stop is at Southwick Beach public car park. You can check out the Canal from here by walking over the footpath which crosses the locks or continues west along the beach to the east side of the Harbour mouth. Again, check sea, beaches and breakwaters for the species already mentioned. The best time to look for Purple Sandpipers is from October to February, one hour each side of high tide. They often feed from the harbour arms especially when the sea is rough on big high tides.

Remember, if it's raining, blowing a gale or bitterly cold - it could be the best time to find your own good bird. So out you go and look for your personal Bogey bird!

Bernie Forbes



## WORTHING SEAWATCHING REPORT FOR 1996

### Introduction.

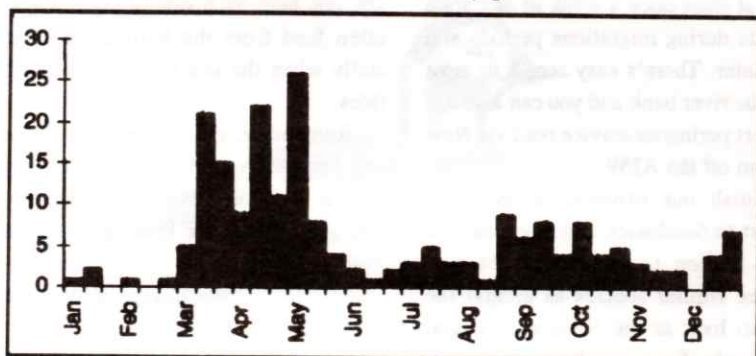
During 1996 the sea-watching log revealed a total of 204 hours of watching. This remains about the same as in 1995 but less than half the hours recorded during the 1980's. In keeping with past years most sea-watching (58%) was recorded during the spring (March to May) and the following figure demonstrates this clearly. The figure also shows the variability even during the spring; the better watched periods coinciding with potentially favourable winds whilst the cold May induced little watching.

During the year just over 21,000 birds were recorded, a rise of 26% on 1995 and

giving an overall average of about 104 birds per hour. These figures, however, are markedly influenced by the large east-bound movement of wildfowl, particularly Brent Geese, in March. The following table clearly shows that 87% of the birds seen were in the spring months but in 1996 there was a small increase in the number of birds seen in the later part of the year.

Like previous years a daily log was passed around the observers for the period 5th April until 27th May and, as usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing but watches are included from

**Seawatching at Worthing 1996**  
**Hours watched in 10 day periods**



**Hours watched and total numbers of birds seen**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hours	3	2	41	41	37	4	11	12	18	17	7	11
Total	28	48	11896	3678	2933	30	346	462	596	567	163	491
Birds/hour	9	24	290	90	79	8	31	39	33	33	23	46



other sites such as Ferring Beach, Goring Beach, Worthing Pier, and Brooklands Beach.

Several watchers were present, especially in periods of south-east winds during the spring but particular thanks go to the following observers who have contributed records to the daily log which form the basis for this report.

P.M.Brayshaw; R.Edney; C.J.Fox;  
C.E.Hope; M.J. Howard; R.A.Ives;  
J.A.Newnham; R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith;  
R.Tofts

### Chronological Account

The year started quietly with the only good records being a count of 60 Red-breasted Mergansers offshore on both 4th and 21st February and a small movement of auks and divers on 21st February. The numbers of winter divers and auks seen off the West Sussex coast were a fraction of the movements seen further east at Seaford and Bexhill. Brent Geese were noted moving east from 8th March with the peak movements of 3927E, 1370E and 1243E occurring on 16th, 18th and 21st March respectively. On both 16th and 21st March a good mixture of other wildfowl were observed and extraordinary numbers of early Sandwich Terns were recorded with 15 on 18th March and 151 on 21st March. Slightly more unusual were two Goldeneye on 16th March, six Garganey, two Long-tailed Ducks and a Scaup on 21st March and a Slavonian Grebe offshore on 23rd March.

April and May, traditionally the months with most watching and most excitement, were very quiet. The number of birds recorded during these two 'peak'

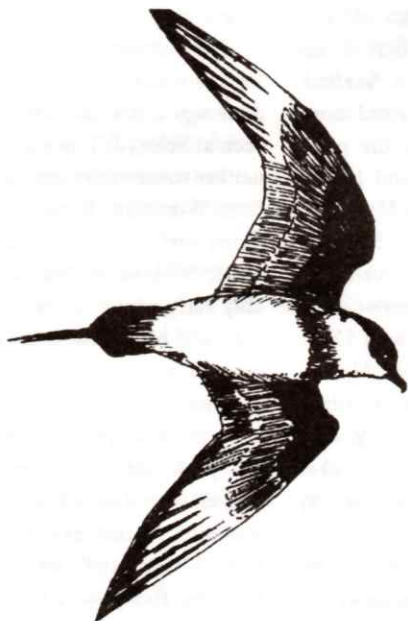
months was about half of the March total; indeed in April the most recorded species was Brent Goose, a species associated with early spring. There was no good passage of terns or waders seen and for most observers regular spring sea-watching species such as Black Tern, Little Gull, Bonxie and Pomarine Skua were not seen. The only two Pomarine Skuas were recorded on 2nd May and the only 'reasonable' watch during the later part of spring was on 1st May when 500 commic terns, 110 Sandwich Terns, a small selection of waders and 17 Arctic Skuas were recorded. Likewise there were few records of the more interesting species with seven Velvet Scoter on 17th April, a Greenshank on 20th April, a Black-tailed Godwit on 2nd May and a west bound Avocet on 21st April probably being the best of a very poor spring.

The summer months are usually quiet for sea-watching from southern England. Although a few interesting seabirds were seen at Selsey Bill in early July there were neither shearwaters nor Storm Petrels seen from Worthing. However, four diver sp. flying east on 7th July and a Red-throated Diver offshore on 8th July were remarkably early whilst records of Bonxie on 3rd July and Mediterranean Gulls on several days provided interest. On several days reasonable numbers of Gannets were seen offshore with 113 on 24th August being the peak. An early Red-breasted Merganser was also noted during the 4.5hrs watching on that day. On 3rd September four Shags and six Garganey were recorded flying west whilst another Shag was seen on 17th September with three on 4th October.

There were no large movements of sea-birds recorded in the autumn but a few divers were seen in early October, occasional skuas passed by and the last Common Tern was seen on 12th October with the last Sandwich Tern on the following day. A Mediterranean Gull was seen on 5th October and a juvenile Peregrine passed along the beach and was later seen attempting to catch a Starling and Bartailed Godwit at Goring Gap. Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the watching during October was the early morning movements of passerines; most notable were 533 and 448 Goldfinches on 10th and 11th October and 1235 Wood Pigeons flying south and west on 30th October.

November and early December were very quiet with many days when no watching was done. Occasionally small parties of Great-crested Grebes were seen with 11 on 24th November being the highest but as the cold weather at the end of the year approached the watching improved with increasing numbers of divers and westbound wildfowl. Numbers were not as large as in some cold weather movements but in two hours watching on 21st December the log included 72 Shelduck, 46 Wigeon, 45 Eider and 45 Red-breasted Mergansers. Few auks were seen and the only movement of Kittiwakes was 30 moving east in bitterly strong north-east winds on Christmas Eve.

John Newnham



## STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1996

For all intents and purposes 1996 commenced with its usual pattern of management work for the members of the group. The work at Cissbury proceeded well with the help of Dave King and his chain saw. Four sessions were held in all and one day's chain sawing would result in two days clearing up! The cutting work took place on Fridays with myself and David Golds of the SOS helping, and then a clear and burn-up operation on the next Saturday and, usually, the one after.

The bulk of the work in and around the site is now complete with the areas adjacent to the nets being lowered and thinned out to enable the ground vegetation to get a hold. Now ground ivy, wild strawberry and other plants have started colonising out from the paths and into these cleared areas. Although there is no quantification, many species of butterfly, including Holly Blue and Grizzled Skipper appear more abundant.

It was at our last tidy up session before the ringing season started that my brother Brian brought the news that Bill Woodford, a ringer with the group since 1989, had died in a car accident along with his son Luke who was eight and daughter Eleanor who was five. At a working party only a few weeks before, Bill had called a halt to a "sword fight" between Luke and Val Bentley's son Nicky who were using dog rose stalks as swords. The death of Bill and his children in such a sudden and tragic manner stunned the group and cast a deep shadow over the ringing group's activities. Our heartfelt sympathies went to Bill's wife Vanessa who kindly donated Bill's rings to the group.

The memory of Bill and his children will be forever associated with the Cissbury ringing site which made us determined to continue the year's ringing activities as I am sure Bill would have wished. With just three members in the group we managed to complete all 12 six-hour constant effort (CES) ringing sessions from the beginning of May to the end of August. Comparing the results with the previous years, the warbler populations maintained themselves well with a slight drop in Blackcap numbers, a rise in Willow Warblers and with Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats and Garden Warblers maintaining a reasonable status quo. So did most resident species except Blackbirds whose numbers are rising; now up to 28 total captures compared to 19 in 1992, 15 in '93 and 14 in '94. In contrast Dunnock numbers have dropped from 47 in 1993, 36 in '94 and 42 in '95 to 30 captures in '96. A closer look at the tables showing Constant Effort over the last five years shows that in particular juvenile numbers were lower in this and several other species. The cold spring had an adverse effect on juvenile populations, an impact mirrored in national figures produced by the BTO.

No additional sessions were held apart from the CES sessions in August but David King rejoined the group to help out (he had previously been a trainee with the group) and throughout September and October the site was operated on most Saturdays and Sundays. The lack of ringing in August resulted in reduced totals of some warblers e.g. Willow and Reed Warblers but good number of Chiffchaffs and Black-



caps were achieved; 108 and 241 respectively. Two good catches of House Martins resulted in 308 birds caught.

Highlights at Cissbury included Spotted Flycatchers, on 24th May, peak passage of Willow Warblers on 18th August with 34 being caught, another Spotted Flycatcher on the 7th September followed by a Redstart on the 8th, a Swallow and two Grasshopper Warblers on the 14th and 15th. Individual Firecrests were caught on the 21st and 22nd and two more on the 13th October. A Pied Flycatcher was trapped on the 28th September and an exceptionally late Garden Warbler on 16th November; seven days later than the previous Sussex record.

Sightings from the table included regular views of Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and Cuckoo. A Turtle Dove was heard on two occasions in May and June; Green Woodpeckers were also frequently seen and less so Great Spotted Woodpecker. The first Tree Pipit of the autumn passed over on the 27th July with a second on the 18th August. On the same day, perhaps the highlight, a female or juvenile Marsh Harrier passed over and a Hobby gave two views on the 31st. Up to 10 Yellow Wagtails were about in the fields on the 7th and 8th of September, a Peregrine put in an appearance on the 21st and again on the 22nd when four Tree Pipits flew over. A Curlew was seen on the 29th and into October, eight Cormorants passed overhead on the 5th. Autumn species also started turning up in October with a Brambling and a Redwing present on the 12th and two more Bramblings on the 19th when 2,000 Starling smoved west in many small flocks during the morning. On the

20th a Golden Plover came past as did the last Swallow of the year. A sighting of a Red Kite was reported on the 26th and a probable Goshawk escaped positive identification at the concluding session of the year on the 16th November.

In all a total of 1,284 birds of 32 species were ringed at Cissbury with a further 539 ringed at the Mumbles site at Steyning where ringing sessions started on the 1st June and then followed at regular intervals until 10th October. Apart from the regular crop of Reed Warblers some highlights included all varieties of woodpecker; one Green, four Great Spotted and one Lesser Spotted, a Sparrowhawk and three Kingfishers. The teasels on the old tip attracted the usual flock of Goldfinches with 59 being trapped. On the day the Lesser Spotted was ringed an Osprey drifted over - the second sighting from the area, with the Red Arrows putting in an appearance followed by the Battle of Britain memorial flight! Chris Fox completed the group's totals with 52 pulli of three species; Blue Tit, Robin and Swallow ringed at his property at Wiston.

Thanks go to Vic Oliver, the National Trust Warden for Cissbury for his co-operation and for taking his cattle off the site prior to each ringing session. The animals have been introduced as part of the management plan to control the spread of the scrub. Thanks also to regular helpers David Golds, Charles Hutcheon and Steve Limbury for their unstinting assistance with the clearance work.

Phil Clay

**STEYNING RINGING GROUP**  
**CONSTANT EFFORT RINGING SUMMARY - 1992 to 1996**  
**COMMONEST SPECIES**

	Visits 1-12 (May-August)					Visits 1-12 (May-August)				
	<b>ADULTS</b>					<b>JUVENILES</b>				
<b>RESIDENTS</b>	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Wren	2	2	6	10	6	17	31	17	17	16
Dunnock	13	14	16	27	21	21	33	20	15	9
Robin	3	4	7	8	7	21	17	15	11	10
Blackbird	12	11	10	17	17	7	4	4	4	11
Song Thrush	1	3	7	12	3	4	2	1	2	3
Long-tailed Tit	2	3	3	9	2	8			4	10
Blue Tit	4	3	3	2	6	6	10	6	15	14
Great Tit	4		4	4	7	5	10	2	9	8
Bullfinch	11	18	12	14	13	9	7	2	2	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>MIGRANTS</b>										
Lesser W'throat	9	12	4	9	8	6	7		7	5
Whitethroat	9	5	5	16	21	56	19	13	26	16
Garden Warbler	4	6		6	7	14	2	4	7	5
Blackcap	8	14	16	17	10	38	25	15	15	11
Chiffchaff	2	1	1		3	4	2		10	5
Willow Warbler	8	14	6	4	9	64	41	17	34	48
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>173</b>

## FIELD OUTINGS 1996

On Saturday 13 January, 27 members joined Tony Fenton on a bright and breezy morning at Appledram where we notched up a total of 56 species. Highlights were 4 Red-breasted Mergansers, 6+ Goldeneye and a slow fly-past by a Peregrine battling against the wind up the channel. A Kingfisher and a wintering Blackcap were also notable.

On 4 February, Bernie Forbes led a group around Shoreham Fort and Wide-water in the morning, noting two Rock Pipits, a Sanderling, a Purple Sandpiper, and a Mediterranean Gull. In the afternoon, we relocated to the Upper Adur Levels around Henfield and an even larger number of members had congregated at the meeting place in the Woods Mill car park. Of the 64 species noted on the outing, the most memorable were good numbers of Fieldfares and Redwings, two Green Sandpipers flushed from ditches and a Little Egret. The group was privileged to view a Tawny Owl peering out of its nest box and this rounded off the day very nicely.

On Sunday 10 March, a day at Dungeness, six gull species, five grebes and two divers gave much pleasure to the group. However, the highlight for most was the stake-out at Hooker's Pit, where eventually almost every member saw and heard a Penduline Tit. We also glimpsed a Bearded Tit and at nearby Scotney Gravel Pit counted 151 Scaup and 26 Goosander on our way home. We saw a total of 57 species.

Dave Smith led 23 members on a morning walk along Littlehampton Beach to Climbing on Saturday 20 April. The

weather was warm and sunny with a light breeze from the south-east. We saw the usual selection of waders as well as Common, Sandwich and Little Terns. Also among the 47 species recorded were migrants such as three Wheatears, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler and a flyover Yellow Wagtail.

Stanley Allen and John Newnham opened the gates to the Shoreham Sanctuary on a warm Saturday morning on 27 April. Among the 18 species recorded, there were no less than six species of warbler singing including Garden Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat. Several Holly Blue butterflies were also a welcome sight around the entrance road. We were grateful to Mrs Bishop and her husband (who has sadly since died) for accompanying us and kindly sharing some of their knowledge of plants with the group.

At 5 o'clock in the morning on Saturday 4 May, Chris Fox welcomed members to Wiston for the dawn chorus and the usual sound symphony was enjoyed by the assembled group.

Bernie Forbes met 21 members for a walk around the Beaulieu Road area of the New Forest. Unfortunately, it was cold, wet and windy. However, some of the expected species showed themselves while we sheltered, including Cuckoo, two Tree Pipits, five Redstarts, two Wood Warblers, a Dartford Warbler, a Whinchat and six Stonechats. Later the group stumbled across a pond hidden among trees and found a Mandarin Duck.

Dave Smith was due to lead the annual Nightjar outing and at 8 pm, he began to think he had turned up on the wrong night!



But all was well as 16 members had appeared by 8.10 pm. We had ordered perfect weather and it had duly turned out both warm and windless which boded well. We began as usual at Waltham Brooks which produced Redshank, Reed Bunting, Whitethroat and both Reed and Sedge Warblers. Common Terns were flying up and down the river and both Cuckoo and Barn Owl appeared. The group then relocated to the Parham to Rackham road where it was quieter than the traditional site which is subject to traffic disturbance. It was not long before we saw two Woodcock roding low overhead and a couple of Pipistrelle Bats were also interesting. The Nightjars began churring at 9.30 pm and continued more-or-less non-stop for the next 45 minutes. One male churred from a branch virtually over the group's heads while a lucky few saw a female rise from the nest only about 20 metres in front of them.



Peter Whitcomb led a sizeable group of 26 members from Birling Gap to Chat Vale and Hodcombe on 7 September. The weather was slightly overcast with a NE wind but many migrants were recorded including Whitethroat, Whinchat, Redstart and Spotted Flycatcher. There were many hirundines and we also noted over-flying Grey Wagtail, Whimbrel, Greenshank and a distant Marsh Harrier. We saw resident

Stonechat and Corn Buntings too. Early on, a single Snipe was flushed from scrub at the hilltop which was a little unusual. The group had to curtail its intended route around Hodcombe and back following the discovery of a Wryneck. It gave both distant and close views as well as a fly-past so that all members, even stragglers, managed to get at least a glimpse of a species rarely recorded on an SDOS outing. It was clearly the highlight of a good morning's birding and a new bird for many.

A couple of weeks later, Roy Sandison took charge of a group of 12 members for an early morning visit to the Cissbury ringing station. First bird out of the bag was — a Firecrest!! More usual fare followed: Chiffchaff, Robin, Blackbird, Blackcap and Whitethroat. Later several birds of prey were seen hunting over the hillsides including Sparrowhawk, Kestrel and Peregrine.

Richard Ives was greeted by 20 members on a grey 6 October for a stroll around Pagham Harbour. At the west fields, we saw a Ring-necked Parakeet type fly into trees and had prolonged views despite its good camouflage. Then we headed for Church Norton and birds seen included: an adult Mediterranean Gull, a Yellow-legged Gull, Chiffchaffs, eight Little Egrets, a Bar-tailed Godwit, two Green-shanks and three Spotted Redshanks. There was a splendid Sparrowhawk on the mud at Church Norton and Tawny and Little Owls were heard calling there. There were 30 Great Crested Grebes on the sea.

Conditions at Thursley Common on 24 November were not ideal — starting off drizzly and gradually deteriorating. However, several soggy members sloshed

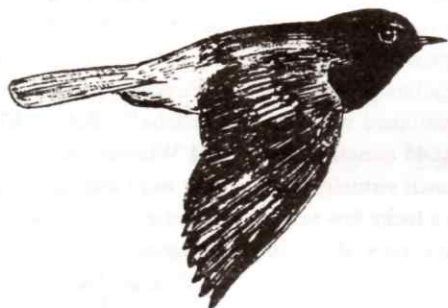
round with me seeing Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Stonechat but no raptors although two Merlin had been reported in the area. The highlight was a mixed finch/tit flock which included about 40 Redpoll.

The year ended with Stanley Allen's morning stroll around the Adur area on 28 December. It was a cold but clear day and with 21 members, we started at the Fort where we had good views of Great Crested Grebe, Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Rock Pipit, Black Redstart and

Mediterranean Gull. Along the riverbank near the houseboats there were several Snipe and a fine Grey Wagtail landed near the flood arch. Teal and Kingfisher were near the kennels and we saw Kestrel, Little Grebe and noticed a build-up in Wigeon numbers. A few people went on to Widewater, counted 64 Pochard and brought the total for the day to 34 species.

A splendid total of 146 species were recorded on SDOS outings during the year.

Tony Fenton, Field Secretary



## INDOOR MEETINGS 1996

David Cotteridge was our first speaker of the year. He has lectured to us before and we knew we could expect superb photography with a fluent and knowledgeable presentation. His subject was 'Autumn in the forest', his photographs are meticulously set up and show the experience of a man who teaches photography, has won the *British Birds* Photographer of the Year and is widely published.

In February, Richard Ranft gave us a rather unusual talk on 'Bird Song'. He is the Curator of the British Library of Wildlife Sounds (BLOWS) at the National

Sound Archive in London, producer of compact discs and tapes. He is particularly mentioned on those excellent tapes 'Teach Yourself Bird Sounds' which are a test for even those who think they know all bird song! 'Birdsong' started with a superb woodland dawn chorus and we were told of the function of songs and calls, the special features of bird song including dialects and mimicry. All this was backed by excellent photographs. Many were encouraged to learn more from the Spring bird song soon to arrive in 1996.

Another unusual talk, one of the best in



a very good year was given by David Lang on 'Tasmanian Birds and Blue Orchids'. David is a retired vet from Lewes, but has a deep and fascinating knowledge of most things botanical, in particular orchids. He has written several books including the authoritative one on British Orchids. He is a keen traveller and has visited Tasmania on a number of occasions and knows the country well. He was matter of fact about some of the less pleasant aspects of travelling rough in an awesome countryside and snakes and insects featured frequently. However, he obviously knows his birds too and the orchids were breath-taking. Photographs of the highest quality with an enthusiastic narrative made for a fascinating evening.

The AGM in April was followed by a splendid, lively talk from Gordon Langsbury, yet another excellent speaker supported by his own professional photographs. We do expect superb quality on these occasions and we were not disappointed by 'Bird Islands of Britain'.

In October, we welcomed the Lithuanian naturalist, Algirdas Knystautas who has brought his talents to the sturdy of nature, particular in the former USSR. He has written the Collins Guide to the Birds of Russia. Every year he comes to Britain on a lecture tour to encourage people to visit Russia. It is such a vast country but Algirdas has studied its geology and natural history and has the ability to put his knowledge across to an audience. I am not sure if anyone will be going on one of his holidays which he leads and organises but I do know he was pleased that he sold several copies of his latest book.

Mike Mockler from Ringwood in

Hampshire is another author, photographer and lecturer on a wide variety of subjects. 'Have Hide, Will Travel' was an entertaining and light-hearted journey through the British Isles and Europe to record such birds as Puffin, Pied Flycatcher, Cirl Bunting, White Stork, Hoopoe, Bee-eater etc. Mike's talk was full of delight and enthusiasm for what he had seen and we were a most appreciative audience.

The last meeting of the year in December was John Newnham's Quiz Night which was an evening of education in a gentle way interspersed with some fun questions including a excellent quiz game. John had put a great deal of effort into making special slides of parts (of body, tail, wing, or back view) of birds for us to name as well as photographing maps etc. it was an excellent evening, much appreciated by the rather small audience.

This year we have moved to St. Peter's Church Hall which has given us more space both inside and outside for parking. Apart from initial complaints of not being able to find the place, it has proved to be a good move.

I am grateful to those who help in various ways at all the indoor meetings. I cannot name everyone but I am very grateful to Diane and Terry Hicks who have taken on the refreshments from me and to all those who come forward to help during the interval with serving and washing up. The raffle continues because I have had offers of help there too and a committee member collects and returns the key. All these jobs take time and SDOS cannot function without such help — thank you everyone.

Brianne Reeve



## SUBMISSION OF MEMBERS RECORDS

It would be a great help to the Recorder if members could send their records throughout the year and not in a large batch in January. Please aim to send in all your records by the end of January. A reminder that the following is the preferred format in which records should be sent.

Species	Date	Locality/Notes	Number	Observer
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It would be greatly appreciated if records could be submitted in standard 'Voous order' (i.e. 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 SOS Records Committee or the BBRC 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 Sussex Bird Report.

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

Rod Shaw/Hon Recorder

## EDITORIAL FOOTNOTE

I hope members will be pleased that the Report is finished considerably earlier than last year. A great deal of work has to be done, mainly by the Recorder, but also by the writers of the various articles, before I can even make a start on the considerable amount of typing and editing. I would like to thank Rod Shaw and all contributors for their co-operation. I am also especially grateful to Brian Clay for help and advice and for arranging the printing through Adur DC. My husband, Chris, scanned all the illustrations, spent many hours helping me to check and correct my highly erratic typing, and provided many brilliant ideas as to how the pages should be laid out. I hope you will not be able to find too many errors but it is inevitable that some will have slipped through.

Pat Mulcock/Hon. Report Editor

## OFFICERS FOR 1996

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Hon Report Editor	Mrs P H Mulcock Pinehurst, West Drive, Angmering Tel: 01903 776151
Chairman of the Council	Mr B F Forbes
Sanctuary Committee	Dr J A Newnham Dr A B Watson
Other Committee Members	Mrs P Ford Mr T Hicks Mr P J Whitcomb

# **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT** **For the year to 31 December 1996**

	1996	1995
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	3,900.91	3,697.24
Subscriptions	937.00	1,048.00
Sale of books, reports and cards	24.00	41.36
Net raffle and refreshment receipts (including barbeque)	66.62	107.25
Bank interest	80.02	132.94
Donations	7.00	-
Contribution to trees	-	227.80
	<u>5,015.55</u>	<u>5254.59</u>
	=====	=====

PAYMENTS		
Printing	176.92	531.46
Postage and stationery	185.85	171.34
Secretary's expenses	22.83	14.49
Hire of hall	72.00	98.00
Southern Water	4.00	4.00
Speakers' fees	392.70	252.00
Sundries	118.87	52.39
Purchase of screen and table	-	100.00
Purchase of seat	-	130.00
Purchase of extension reel	9.89	-
Balance carried forward	4,032.49	3,900.91
	<u>5,015.55</u>	<u>5,254.59</u>
	=====	=====

A D Bullock (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 8th March 1997

## **ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT**

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have prepared without carrying out an audit, the above receipts and payments account from the accounting records of Shoreham District Ornithological Society and from information and explanations supplied to us.

**MOORES ROWLAND**

Chartered Accountants

**BRIGHTON**

Date 12th March 1997