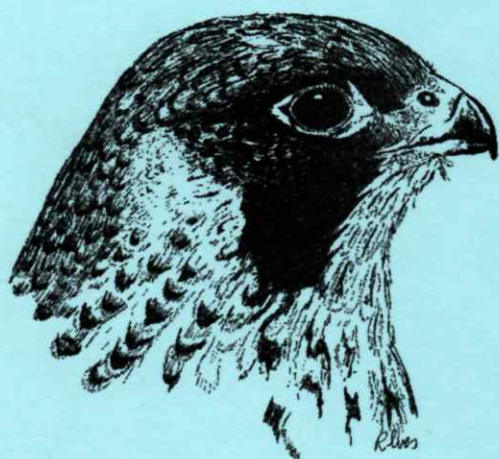
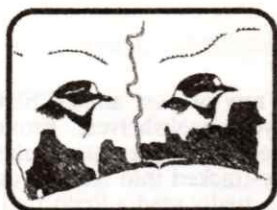


**Shoreham District
Ornithological
Society**

ANNUAL REPORT 1999



No 47



**SHOREHAM
DISTRICT
ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

ANNUAL REPORT 1999

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EDITORIAL

Probably many of you, like me, have a neat row of past annual SDOS (and possibly also SOS) Reports sitting on one of your bookshelves. From time to time I take one out and dip into it to check the facts about a particular species relating to this area, and I occasionally get side-tracked into reading one of the 'extra' articles near the back, but I have never actually read a Report all the way through — until this year! Having now done this, what really impresses me is the enormous amount of co-ordinated effort that goes into such a production by many people, all of whom deserve our thanks for their efforts.

Firstly all the observers in the field who produce the 'raw data'. (Incidentally, if you do not already send in details of your sightings, you could help to make this Report even more comprehensive in future: see page 00.) Next, thanks to John Newnham, Phil Clay and Martin Ford, who distil this material into special commentaries on seawatching, ringing, garden bird observation and the like, and to Tony Fenton and Brianne Reeve, who have provided the summaries on our outdoor and indoor meetings respectively. Then almost annually there is a 'special feature', and our thanks this year go to Bernie Forbes who has contributed a further instalment to his series 'Know Your Area Better'. This time concentrating on the North and West of the SDOS area, he spotlights a number of interesting sites, several of which some of us may not have heard of, let alone visited. Richard Ives and John Reaney must be thanked yet again for providing us with a selection of excellent line drawings to illuminate our pages, and finally special thanks to our Recorder, Peter Whitcomb for writing the bulk of the material. It must be a daunting task to spend most of your spare time drawing all the records together, while coping with a demanding full-time job involving daily commuting to London and struggling with the current chaos of the rail service.

For this Report we have reinstated Richard's map and gazetteer of our Recording Area and added another half-dozen pages of (hopefully!) useful information, with addresses, 'phone numbers and (inevitably today) websites, together with a set of tide tables for Shoreham for the year 2001. Privately calculated by computer, these tables may not correspond to exact predictions, with a possible leeway of a quarter-hour or so either side of the true peak and a corresponding discrepancy in heights. While this is quite acceptable for bird-watching purposes, please don't rely on them if you are navigating your expensive yacht out of the Harbour! Finally we've added an alphabetical index to the systematic list.

Apologies for the late appearance of this Report yet again, partly due to Terry Hicks and I unexpectedly finding ourselves at the helm as joint editors at relatively short notice. We hope that you will think it has been worth waiting for and wish you good birding in 2001.

Jim Steedman

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 1999

Milder than normal conditions for most of January produced low numbers of wintering wildfowl and very few raptors such as Hen Harrier and Merlin. There were few early-year Bramblings either. Up to 2 Firecrests wintered at Sheepcote and there were inland records of Little and Mediterranean Gulls near the Cement Works. Five Velvet Scoter lingered off Worthing on 23rd.

Almost exclusively, the February highlights concentrated on coastal areas and sea passage. A roost of 3000 Common Gulls were at Southwick on 2nd, the same day producing the winter peak of 4 Jack Snipe from Ferring Rife. An Iceland Gull was off Palace Pier on 8th. Significant seabird passage was recorded at the Marina and included 255 Red-throated Divers on 10th, a heavy auk movement on 13th and 24th, and 1000+ Brent Geese on 25th. Elsewhere there was a roost count of 250 Magpies at Wildpark, a Long-tailed Duck off Worthing on 24th and unusually a flock of 15 Smew flew west.

On the 11th March 600 Kittiwakes went east off Marina and the Sanderling flock at Goring Beach almost reached 100 on 21st. An early Willow Warbler was at Wildpark on 24th. Notable falls occurred at Sheepcote on 25th with a Sussex record site count of 22 Black Redstarts and also 30 Wheatears. On the same day a Long-tailed Duck swam with Mergansers off Worthing, and may have been the same bird also seen off the Marina.

Sea passage from the Marina on 1st April produced 158 Shoveler, 1539 Common Scoter, 106 Sanderling, 563 Sandwich Terns and a Black-necked Grebe. On the same day a male Dartford Warbler was on Hollingbury Camp. A Stone Curlew was a surprise find at Whitehawk Hill on 4th. The next day saw 3 Red Kites in the Patching area. Henfield levels produced a Little Ringed Plover on 11th. Then the Marina recorded a string of high day counts starting with 93 Manx Shearwaters on 11th; 9 Velvet Scoter on 17th; 56 Little Gulls, 600 Fulmar and 900 Gannets on 20th, the latter being a Sussex record count. Also on 20th a flock of 87 Avocets flew east off Brighton, then inland NE before reaching the Marina. The first Ring Ouzel was at Chanctonbury on 17th. A Black-necked Grebe was off Brooklands on 23rd. The month ended with high wader counts of 173 Whimbrel off Worthing on 25th and 2198 Bar-tailed Godwit off the Marina on 30th.

A full-scale breeding survey undertaken by the SOS revealed healthy numbers of Nightingales north of the Downs. However, other species seem now to be in serious decline. Very few Cuckoos or Turtle Doves were reported, and we have possibly lost Spotted Flycatcher as a regular breeding bird within the SDOS area. All records of these species should therefore be submitted.

Whimbrel and skuas featured during the first week of May and a large movement of Commic Terns numbered 3160 east off Marina on 7th. A Long-tailed Duck in breeding plumage was off the Marina on 9th. Apart from a Quail at Beeding Hill on 16th, all the other highlights were from the Marina with a Montagu's Harrier on 17th, a Puffin on 21st, 100+ Manx Shearwaters on 23rd and a typical late May Roseate Tern on 25th.

In June a pair of Wheatears raised 4 young at Southwick Beach. On 3rd a day count of 139 Manx Shearwaters passed the Marina. One of the birds of the year was an Alpine Swift seen flying with Common Swifts at Beeding Hill on 7th. A couple of days later a Honey Buzzard passed over north Hollingbury. A Quail was heard in the Lancing area on 22nd, and 21 Mediterranean Shearwaters passed the Marina on 28th.

July was a very quiet month with the only significant record being repeated churring of Nightjar at Sullington Warren, almost certainly indicating the first breeding in the area for a number of years.

Early August produced two record counts with 20 Reed Warblers on 2nd and 125 Whitethroats on 6th - both at Sheepcote Valley. Mid-month saw a peak of 7 Greenshanks on Henfield Levels. On 17th the Marina produced 2 Cory's Shearwaters and the next day a good passage of Common and Arctic Terns and 500+ Gannets. There were 15 Knot at Widewater on 31st.

September started with a high 40 Whinchats at Sheepcote on 3rd. There was a report of a White Stork over Highdown on 6th and the next day a Mediterranean Shearwater was off the Marina. A good local spot was the Adur Saltings with a Little Stint on 11th, and from mid-month a maximum of 4 Little Egrets, Greenshanks, a Ruff and Curlew Sandpiper numbers into double figures. The maximum count of Common Sandpipers was 16 on the Marina beach on 14th. A Leach's Petrel was over the sea off Southwick on 18th and a Wryneck at Sheepcote on 21st. On the 24th an Osprey was off the Marina, together with a good Arctic Skua passage there, and a Long-tailed Skua went east, previously being spotted at Shoreham. A Quail was reported at Lancing Clump on 28th.

October is often the peak month for scarcities, but 1999 had fewer than normal. There were low numbers of Ring Ouzels and few winter thrushes. A Lapland Bunting associated with Linnets at Portslade beach on 10th. A heavy movement of Goldfinches occurred at Worthing with 365E on 18th and 478 the next day. A Pallas's Warbler was with Firecrests and Goldcrests at Brooklands on 25th, the same day as a Dartford Warbler was seen at Sheepcote. A female Scaup frequented Brooklands for a few days at the end of the month, and the Greenfinch flock on Shoreham Beach peaked at 400.

Late migrants featured in November, with a Ring Ouzel at West Hove GC on 7th, a Swallow at Shoreham on 17th and a Sandwich Tern east off Worthing on 21st. There was a good auk movement off Marina on 20th with 401W and 342E. The only Short-eared Owls of the year appeared in the Beeding Brooks area during Nov/Dec.

On December 9th another Dartford Warbler was at Sheepcote and 2 Snow Buntings were at Shoreham Harbour. Another Snow Bunting flew east at Marina on 17th and a Mediterranean Shearwater passed by on 21st. The next day 2 Scaup were spotted at Southwick and at the Marina, where there was a big Kittiwake movement recorded. Interest moved inland at the year end with 13 Bewick's Swans and a record 257 Canada Geese on Henfield Levels, and unusually a flock of 10 Egyptian Geese on Steyning Levels on 31st. There was news of a Cattle Egret in this vicinity on New Year's Day, which may have already been present for a few weeks but no confirmation has been received.

A special thank-you

The Recorder is greatly indebted to those stalwarts who regularly sea-watch from the Marina, whose phenomenal hours often in poor weather conditions produce great reward. Without these, and the Worthing records, this Report would not reflect the vital sea passage which embellishes the following pages.

Peter Whitcomb, Hon Recorder

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM is held annually in April, preceding the usual lecture. The date is notified in the Society's annual calendar which is sent to all Members. The meeting begins with a report from the President on the previous calendar year's activities. Members present at the meeting are cordially invited to raise any questions arising from the President's report. If, however, any Member wishes to raise any specific point about any matter affecting the Society, which may or may not be covered in the President's report, would the Member concerned be kind enough to notify the Honorary Secretary in writing, at least 14 days before the AGM, so that such questions may be adequately dealt with at the AGM.



A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA

The following is an edited version of the guide which appeared in the 1997 Report together with a detail guidance on individual species.

The Society is keen to encourage all members to send in their records so that a complete picture of the birds of the area can be shown in this Report. As most members will already be aware of the need to report scarcer birds and all rarities, I propose to use this space to give examples of some 'grey areas' where members may be uncertain of the usefulness of reporting a record.

It really goes without saying that any bird noticed to be in decline, or to have a changed distribution should be considered important. We are fortunate to have good numbers of Corn Buntings and Skylarks, species which are in decline nationally, but what of Tree Sparrow, Sand Martin and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker? Are they really as rare as the lack of records indicates? Do Spotted Flycatchers or Grey Wagtails nest in our area? Also I have received very few reports of Cuckoos or Lesser Whitethroats. These are just a few examples and from the Recorder's point of view, it's difficult to formulate any pattern for some of the scarcer breeding birds. I would urge all members to send in records of successful or possible breeding for these species. And even a rookery count wouldn't go amiss!

Nowadays, in a good year, over 200 species are recorded in our area, ranging from the very common to the very rare. In between are species considered 'grey areas'. The following examples illustrate which records to send in:

a large raptor soaring over Cissbury Ring. You think it's a Marsh Harrier but aren't absolutely sure. Send it in as a 'probable' as someone else may have seen the same bird further along the downs. The direction of flight would be useful.

a flock of Wood Pigeons in a field. Again rather insignificant but if unusually, they were feeding on the tideline of beach of a large flock coming in off the sea (pigeons do migrate, especially in November) - in both cases send in the record.

you find something rare and exciting. If it looks likely to stay, 'phone another member to share it, and help verify the sighting.

It's most important that all national rarities should be submitted to the SOS with a full description. Forms are available from Robin Pepper, Scobells Farm, Boast Lane, Barcombe Lewes BN8 5DY. Please mention to the SDOS recorder that the record is under consideration. The record will be confirmed the following year if necessary.

Remember, if in doubt, send it in! The society will not mention the location of a breeding site or owl roost and confidentiality will be honoured.

Peter Whitcomb

**SDOS recording forms are available from
Peter Whitcomb, 99 Barnett Road Brighton BN1 7GJ.
Please enclose postage with your request.
Refer to page 68 for boundaries of SDOS recording area.**

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 1999

This systematic list of birds in the Shoreham District is based upon records submitted by the following (non- members are marked*):-

S.R. Allen, V. Bentley, P. Brown*, D. Buckingham, A. Burtenshaw*, G.L. & M. Champion, B.R. Clay, B.F. Forbes, Friends of Bevendean Down, K.B. Gillam*, M.J. Helps*, S.P. Hitchings, J.A. Hobson, C. Hope, R.A. Ives, L.R. Keen, A.R. Kitson, I. Lawes, B. Metcalfe, J. Miller, J.A. Newnham, C. Piper, B. Reeve, R.J. Sandison, D.I. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, P. Thompson*, J. Underwood, M. Walford, A.B. Watson, R. Westwater, A.D. Whitcomb*, I.J. Whitcomb*, P.J. Whitcomb, C. Wright.

The recorder especially thanks John Newnham for supplying additional records from the SOS database with relevant records from C. Brooks, R.J. Fairbank, J.A. Feest, J.C. Holt, and others.

Abbreviations: ad = adult, BBRC = British Birds Rarities Committee, f = female, GC = golf course, 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.

References to **Worthing** in sea watching data include all sea watch sites unless separately identified. **'Adur'** refers to the river and associated mudflats between the footbridge and Shoreham Flyover. **'Wildpark'** includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely, Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulsecoomb Wildpark.



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0002 **RED-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia stellata*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly totals of identified birds were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina East	197	876	262	49	15	-	-	-	-	-	78	286
Marina West	105	249	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	97	110
Worthing	5	3	4	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	11	38

High counts at Marina were 6W/129E on Feb 10, 40W/88E on Feb 11, 28W/95E on Feb 13 and 85E on Dec 16. Peak Worthing count was 18W on Dec 27. Birds on the sea, recorded as singles, were off Ferring, Marina and Widewater during Mar. The only other record was 1 off Goring Beach on Oct 18.

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

Fairly scarce passage migrant

Many were positively identified on seawatches, the monthly totals at Marina being: Jan - 6, Mar - 2, Apr - 30, May - 29, Nov - 3, Dec - 1, and at Worthing: Jan - 2, Apr - 3, Nov - 2. Peak counts at Marina were 13E on Apr 25 and 9E on Apr 30. 1 juv was inside the Marina on Nov 24.

0004 **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

Rare visitor, 1-2 most years

All sightings were: at Marina 1E&W on Jan 1, 4 on Jan 5, 1 offshore on Mar 9, 1 in from S on Mar 26, 1E on Dec 14, 20 and 23 (all IJW); 1 off Worthing on May 27 (CH, JAN) and a 1st w at Southwick from Nov 19-21 (IJW). An extremely good year and all accepted by SOS.

DIVER Species

Monthly seawatching totals of unidentified divers were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	332	202	41	42	34	-	-	-	-	-	39	18
Worthing	9	14	20	19	11	-	-	-	-	2	26	57

High counts at Marina were 44W/72E on Jan 31 and 43W/23E on Feb 12. Max count at Worthing was 14W/29E on Dec 16.

0007 **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder

Max counts at Brooklands were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	2	-	-	2	2	2	3	3	3	6	12	2

Counts in early year were 2 at Cuckoo Corner on Jan 1 and 7 at Adur Toll Bridge on Jan 29; 3 up river on Feb 13 and 3 on Widewater on Mar 10. Bred successfully at Brooklands with 4 young seen. Late year there were 2 at Widewater on Nov 1, then 3 at Cuckoo Corner on Nov 25. At least 3 wintered inside Marina during Dec.

0009 **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

Regular offshore for most of year

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina East	13	39	26	9	13	-	-	-	-	-	12	31
Marina West	7	16	10	1	4	3	-	-	2	-	5	12
Worthing	2	13	43	42	29	-	-	-	-	5	38	23

Additionally there were small numbers recorded offshore at Marina, mainly early year, and also off Goring in Feb and May, peak being 16 on May 2.

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

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

Another good year for this species. The Marina records were 1W on Feb 14, 1E in full sp on Mar 14, 1 on sea on Sep 12, 1E on Sep 20, 1W on Nov 24, 1E on Dec 21, 2E on sea briefly on Dec 23 and finally 1W on Dec 27. Elsewhere there was 1 off Palace Pier on Feb 25, an imm off Southwick on Nov 15 until Nov 24, and joined by a second bird on Nov 19-20.

0011 **SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

Regular winter visitor offshore

A good number of early-year records started with 2 offshore at Marina on Jan 2. Seawatching records there were 1W on Feb 14, 1W on Feb 19, 1E on Mar 9, 2E on Mar 15, 1W on Mar 22, 2E on Mar 31, 2E on Apr 2 and 1E on Apr 19. 1 was off Worthing on Feb 1, and 3 there the next day. 3 were offshore with Mergansers at Widewater on Feb 11. A single was present off Goring for most of Mar. Worthing seawatches recorded 5 on Mar 9 and 1 on Apr 5. Late-year records were fewer, with 1 off Worthing on Oct 11, 1W at Marina on Nov 17 and 1E there on Dec 20.

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

Rare winter visitor

1 off Marina on Jan 24 (IJW) then 1 off Marina on Apr 1 (KBG,IJW). There was 1 off Widewater on Apr 24, then 3 at Marina on May 7 (KBG, IJW), and finally 2 reported off Marina on Nov 17 (SOS). SOS has accepted all.

0020 **FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common passage migrant, nests just outside area

Seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina East	141	448	467	1919	1485	237	23	16	24	-	16	97
Marina West	14	13	39	240	162	109	17	71	32	-	80	67
Worthing	-	3	16	108	62	24	-	3	3	-	-	-

The peak counts at Marina included 600E on Apr 20 which is the highest spring day count in Sussex. Other high counts were 146E/1W on Feb 24, 175E on Apr 1, 215E/92W on Apr 28 and 121E/9W on Jun 3. An inland sighting was 1 at Sheepcote on Aug 12 (IJW), and also of interest was a 'blue phase' bird passing the Marina on Dec 22.

0036 **CORY'S SHEARWATER** *Calonectris diomedea*

Very rare vagrant

2W at Marina on Aug 17 (IJW). Record has been accepted by SOS and is the first in Sussex since 1993.

0043 **SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

Rare autumn visitor

1 off Marina on Sep 24 has been accepted by SOS (IJW).

0046.01 **MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER** *Puffinus yelkouan*

Rare autumn visitor

All records were from the Marina with 21 on Jun 28 (IJW), 1 on Sep 7 (KBG), 3W on Sep 25 (IJW) and 1 on Dec 21 (IJW). These have been accepted by SOS, the last record being the first ever for Sussex in Dec.

0046 **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

Fairly uncommon passage migrant

High numbers were recorded off Marina as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	172	337	583	65	6	1	-	-	-

The first was 1E on Apr 1. The peak counts were 16W/77E on Apr 11, 55E on May 5, 11W/91E on May 23, 135W/4E on Jun 3, 103W/2E on Jun 28 and 91W/ 3E on Jun 29. The 139 total on Jun 3 was the highest ever recorded from this site. Other records were 9W on May 9, 7E on June 2 at Worthing; 2W at Shoreham on Jun 2; and 1E at Shoreham on Sep 23.

0055 **LEACH'S STORM-PETREL** *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare vagrant

1 on the sea off Southwick on Sep 18, drifting off W to the Harbour entrance (PJW et al). Accepted by SOS.

0071 **GANNET** *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore in most months, usually peaking in spring

Seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	44	103	317	1767	1762	782	817	1851	1408	3	417	303
Worthing	-	2	13	157	211	37	-	12	293	55	497	15

Prolonged hours at the Marina produced many high counts. On Apr 20, coincidentally the same day as a record tally of Fulmar, a total of 900E was the highest spring count in Sussex. Other significant counts were 19E/97W on Mar 29, 119E on May 7, 116E/20W on May 23, 15E/135W on Aug 15, 90E/200W on Aug 17, 85E/440W on Aug 18, 186E/55W on Sep 19 and 15E/219W on Sep 23. Peak counts at Worthing were all late year with 3E/116W on Sep 18, 300W on Nov 19, 75 offshore and 228W on Nov 20. Other records were a bird flying close in over Brighton beach and over rooftops in Kemp Town at end of May, 40W off Widewater on Aug 9, and a sick bird caught at Worthing beach on Sep 24 was taken into care and released at Beachy Head on Oct 1.

0072 **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common at coastal and some inland sites

Roost counts on the pylons at Steyning Levels were 58 on Mar 5, 77 on Aug 10, 93 on Sep 16, 116 on Sep 19, 128 on Oct 8, 84 on Nov 22, and 44 on Dec 31. Seawatching totals at Worthing were Apr - 4, May - 16, Oct - 24, Nov - 56. The latter total included 41 offshore on Nov 21. An even larger group was 80 off Brooklands on Nov 11.

0080 **SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fairly uncommon winter visitor

A single bird was present in or around the Marina during Jan, and 2 there on Feb 3. Also 1-2 imm were present on Southwick Canal at this time. Above average numbers were recorded at Marina seawatches, the monthly totals being: Jan - 6, Feb - 16, Mar - 1, Apr - 4, May - 4, Aug - 19, Sep - 35, Oct - 2, Nov - 2. These high numbers included peak day counts of 6W on Aug 18, 9E on Sep 28 and 14W on Sep 20. Other records were 1 off Worthing on May 3, 4 ad off Southwick on Nov 9 and 1 off Brooklands on Nov 10.

0111 **CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

Very rare vagrant

1 reported on Southwick Hill on May 18 (SOS) may have been the bird present at Ovingdean earlier in the year and last seen there on or around May 9. If accepted this would be only the second visit of this species to the area, following 1 in 1962.

0119 **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

Once a rare vagrant, now annual in area

An increasing number of records which included birds staying for long periods. At Ferring Rife a single bird from Jan 10 to Feb 20. In May 1 at Cuckoo Corner on 3rd and 1E at Marina on 8th. In Jun 1W at Hove beach mobbed by gulls on 23rd, and 1 seen at Adur Cement Works staying into Jul. There was a single at Adur Saltings on Jul 1 and seen regularly during the month; 1E at Hollingdean on 24th and 1W at Hove beach on 31st. In Aug numbers increased at Adur Saltings to 2 on 24th and 4 on 27th, this peak residing until Sep 25. The numbers did fluctuate and birds noted at Shoreham Beach, Cement Works and New Salts Farm were probably from this nucleus. There were 4W in one flock over Marina arm on Sep 30. In Nov 1-2 present on Ferring Rife, at least 1 staying into Dec, and 2 around the Airfield area.

0122 **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident

Early year there were 16 at New Salts Farm on Jan 1. The Marina produced the following: 1W on Feb 23, 1W on Feb 28, 1E on Apr 28, 1E on May 2, 1E on May 3, 9W/1E on Jun 10, 2W on Jun 24, 1E on Jul 12, and 3W on Sep 14. At Worthing there was 1E on May 3, 1E on May 5, 3W on May 10 and 1W on Oct 10. One was found dead on Steyning Levels in Mar choked with a frog in its throat. During the solar eclipse 2W were at Hollingdean on Aug 11. A group of 20 were at New Salts Farm on Aug 27. At least 8 were seen overflying Goring Gap mostly during Sep/Oct.

0134 **WHITE STORK** *Ciconia ciconia*

Rare vagrant, occasional escape

An unconfirmed report of 1 over Highdown Hill on Sep 6, seemingly genuine as 1 in Hampshire the previous day, and 1 in the Rye area the day after.

0152 **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident

Monthly peak counts at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	30	40	28	42	50	9	9	13	47	26	21	16
Henfield Levels	59	53	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	69	64	86
Lower Adur	2	2	2	6	12	40	80	78	7	2	2	2
Steyning Levels	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	19
Widewater	31	-	-	-	--	--	--	-	30	-	-	-

Noted on seawatches in small numbers in seven months of the year, peaks 6E at Marina on Jan 6 and 9E at Worthing on May 2. Breeding prs were at Brooklands - 2, Lower Adur - 3, New Salts Farm - 1 and Patching Pond - 1. Additionally there were 90 feeding in a kale field at Sullington Warren on Mar 6.

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

Scarce but regular winter visitor

A herd fluctuating between 2 and 15 was present at Steyning and Henfield Levels between Jan 3 and Feb 22. The peak count of 12ad/3juv was on Jan 16. The same site was used from Nov 14 with 2 birds arriving, then 4ad/3juv from Nov 25 until end of Dec, and peaking at 13 during the last week of the year.

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

Rare winter visitor

A single bird was with wild swans at Henfield Levels on Jan 1, and probably the same bird over on Steyning Levels on Feb 6. Another was noted late year from Henfield Levels on Nov 28 and Dec 30.

0161 **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

Fairly scarce introduced resident

2 were on Henfield Levels on Mar 9. Noted on Marina seawatches with 15E on Mar 9, 3E on Apr 1, 4W on Apr 28 and 5W on May 1. Worthing had 1E on Apr 2. Next were 3 on Brooklands lake on Apr 18. Late-year sightings were 3 on Henfield Levels on Oct 10 and 15S at Upper Beeding on Dec 1.

0166 **CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

Introduced, increasing in area, now breeding

1-2 present at Henfield Levels in early months, increasing to 22 on Mar 21. At the Marina a few noted on seawatches with 2E on Mar 15, 6W on Apr 17, 2W on Apr 19 and 1E on Jun 10. The flock at Rye Farm ranged from 98 on Oct 10, 28 on Nov 9, 104 on Nov 28, and the peak 257 on Dec 26 was the highest count in the SDOS area.

0168 **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	52	1107	2361	1078	392	-	-	-	18	-	333	116
Worthing	-	20	1032	235	104	-	-	-	33	176	121	68

Peak counts at Marina were 1058E on Feb 25, 1091E on Mar 13, 526E on Apr 2. The last Spring date there was May 22, and the first in the Autumn was Sep 16. Worthing's peaks were 656E on Mar 13 and 256E on Mar 21. Lingering birds were 1 on Adur on Oct 16 and 1 at Brooklands on Nov 28.

0170 **EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

Rare visitor, maybe spreading from feral population in East Anglia

A flock of 10 mixed ad/juvs were on Steyning Levels on Dec 31 (ARK). These are the first for the SDOS area.

0173 **SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	94	31	16	45	73	6	-	6	-	-	27	14
Worthing	23	2	16	21	43	-	-	-	-	-	25	23

Highest counts at Marina were 1E/24W on Jan 9 and 4E/33W on Jan 12. Peaks at Worthing were 19W on Jan 10 and 12 on May 9 and Dec 6. Sheepcote had its first ever record, an ad on Apr 29, with a juv there on Aug 10. In May a pr were present near Rye Farm, Henfield but not seen subsequently. Late-year records were 22 off Palace Pier on Nov 10 and 1 at Brooklands on Nov 28.

0179 **WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

On Jan 1 a flock was heard at night going E at Broadwater. 3 birds stayed in the vicinity of New Salts Farm from Jan 10 into Feb. Winter movements at seawatching sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	12	109	-	8	-	-	-	-	2	-	58	78
Worthing	7	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	9	20	12

Peak was 105E at Marina on Feb 20 and 75W on Dec 16. A group of 20 were at Adur Saltings on Mar 24. A couple of birds stayed around the houseboats in mid-Sep and 10 were off Widewater on Nov 10. Late year Henfield Levels recorded a peak 64 on Dec 26.

0182 **GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

Uncommon in the area

The only inland record was 3 on Henfield Levels on Jan 3. Sea-watching totals from Marina were 2E on Mar 17, 64E on Apr 1, 8W/13E on Apr 26, 2E on May 7, 2E on May 27 and 2W on Nov 20. Worthing recorded 4E on Apr 30.

0184 **TEAL** *Anas crecca*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly counts of groups at the Adur houseboats area were Jan - 35, Feb - 18, Mar - 3, Nov - 18, Dec - 1. Seawatching counts were generally quite low and are reflected in these monthly totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	2	14	41	3	-	-	-	12	-	14	-
Worthing	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	43	14

The only high counts were 41E at Marina on Apr 1, and 42W at Worthing on Nov 11. Brooklands recorded 3 birds from Aug 15 for a month, and 4W noted at Goring Gap in Oct. Inland records were 50 residing on Steyning Levels during Dec, and 5 at Oreham Common on Dec 27.

0186 **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident and winter visitor

The monthly counts from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	58	35	85	48	60	61	128	65	59	77	65	67
Henfield Levels	-	6	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38
Lower Adur	56	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	9	34	64	16

Also noted on seawatches at Marina, the monthly totals being Mar - 2, Apr - 23, May - 5, Jun - 2, Nov - 9; and at Worthing Apr - 4, May - 2, Nov - 16. There was also 1 at Sheepcote on Aug 8, and reported as unusual at the site.

0189 **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

Regular winter visitor at coastal and inland sites

Low numbers were logged on seawatches, the max count 9E at Marina on Apr 1. A small wintering flock was briefly at Henfield Levels in late Dec, peak 8 on 26th.

0194 **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Regular winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	6	163	5	-	3	-	-	-	2	-
Worthing	-	1	5	60	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The peak day, as with other wildfowl passage, was on Apr 1, when 158E at Marina and 60E at Worthing. The only other records were 3 at Brooklands on Sep 12 and 3 at Henfield Levels on Dec 26.

0198 **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

The peak monthly counts at the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	65	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	39	54
Widewater	45	28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Numbers ranging from 60-80 have remained constant during the last few years. The only other record was 3 at Henfield Levels on Dec 27.

0203 TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Declining winter visitor

Monthly maxima at Brooklands were: Jan - 14, Feb - 14, Mar - 2, May - 4, Jun - 1, Sep - 23, Oct - 25, Nov - 14, Dec - 8. Very small numbers were noted on seawatches. 1 pr bred at Sullington Pond, raising 4 young. There were no records from Widewater.

0204 SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce winter visitor

The only records were 1f at Brooklands on Oct 28, staying a few days, and 2E on Dec 22 recorded at both Southwick and then Marina.

0206 EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Regular and passage migrant and winter visitor

The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	11	26	7	38	15	-	-	-	-	-	60	33
Worthing	-	-	4	33	2	-	-	-	-	31	37	67

Rather insignificant counts included 21E at Marina and Worthing on Apr 2; 15W 6 offshore at Worthing on Dec 15; and 20E at Marina on Dec 29. Other records were 1 on the Canal on Apr 24, 6W at Palace Pier on Jun 9, 12 off Shoreham on Oct 28, the flock increasing to 20 in Nov and max 32 in late Dec. Small flocks were off Brooklands and Widewater in Nov.

0212 LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis*

Scarce passage migrant or winter visitor

The first was 1 offshore at Worthing on Feb 24 (JAN). On Mar 25 an ad drake was noted flying E at Goring (CH), then the Marina (IJW) and later at Seaford. A drake in breeding plumage went E past the Marina on May 9 (IJW).

0213 COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant

Seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	105	94	1495	3213	2365	87	126	18	36	10	144	68
Worthing	15	11	54	589	716	8	-	-	6	20	18	24

Notable counts at Marina were 390E on Mar 13, 1539E on Apr 1, 13W/366E on Apr 25, 523E on May 1 and 332E on May 7. Peaks at Worthing was 314 on Apr 1 and 172E on May 1. Also noted were 44W off Palace Pier on Nov 11.

0215 **VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

Fairly regular passage migrant

An imm f was off Southwick in early Jan and 5 offshore at Worthing on Jan 23, then 3 off Widewater on Mar 26. Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1	-	9	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	12	4
Worthing	-	-	3	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2

Peak was 9E at Marina on Apr 17. Late year there was an imm f off Southwick on Nov 15, increasing to 2f/1m on Nov 11, the group remaining through Nov, and still 1 on Dec 2. Last was 1 off Widewater on Dec 25.

0218 **GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

All the records were from the main seawatching sites: Marina 1E on Mar 25, 3W on Nov 10, 2E on Nov 11, and at Worthing 5E/1W on Nov 12, 1W on Nov 28 and 3 offshore on Dec 16.

0220 **SMEW** *Mergellus albellus*

Rare winter visitor

An amazing record of a flock of 15, including 4 drakes, off Palace Pier, Brighton on Feb 26 (RAI).

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

Common winter visitor

Offshore peaks were 16 off Widewater during Jan, 35 at Southwick on Jan 17 and 66 off Worthing on Feb 24, increasing there to 210 by Mar 14. There were also 31 on Canal on Jan 18, and 40 off Goring in Feb/Mar. Seawatching totals below include offshore birds at Worthing:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	96	55	90	125	18	1	-	-	-	-	31	48
Worthing	52	310	431	64	19	-	-	-	-	9	182	342

Late-year offshore peaks were 20 off Brooklands and Goring; and 72 off Worthing on Dec 18.

0223 **GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

Scarce winter visitor

The only record was 1f on the Adur on Oct 31 (ARK).

0231 **HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce migrant

The first was over Brighton Bypass at Hollingbury on Jun 9 (IJW), then 1N at Sheepcote on Jun 11 (ADW). A returning bird flew over Portslade on Aug 29 (SOS). So far only the Hollingbury record has been accepted by SOS.

0239 **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

Rare vagrant

One was seen in the Patching area on Mar 31 (JAN), and 3 nearby at Michelgrove on Apr 5 (ARK). These have been accepted by SOS. There were other reports around the same area at the time.

0260 **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

There were 2f at Steyning Bowl on May 31 with a single there the following day. Autumn passage was poor with just 2 birds, both seen being mobbed, at Golding Barn on Aug 27 and Sep 26.

0261 **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

Passage and occasional winter visitor

A good number of records this year, although there may be the chance of some duplication on the downland records. Early-year ringtails were at Lower Standean in Jan; Lancing/Steep Down in Feb; Lychpole Hill in Mar and the last at Harrow Hill on Apr 1. Late-year birds commenced with an imm.m at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 2, which stayed all month. Probably 2-3 birds were regular in Chantry Hill area from Sep to early Dec. 1m was at Findon Park Brow on Oct 13. In Nov 1m and a ringtail went W at Marina on 11th, and other birds were noted at Clapham Woods and No Man's Land. A different ringtail stayed at No Man's Land mid Nov into Dec, and 1m was at Beeding Hill on Dec 19.

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

Rare passage migrant

1E at Marina on May 17 has been accepted by SOS (IJW). A female and a young male were seen during May-Jun at a site withheld for security reasons. Some individual dates accepted by SOS (BFF, JM, JAN, RAI)

0269 **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident

A good number of sightings from around the area, including gardens. Definite breeding prs were Benfield Valley - 1, Bostal chalkpit - 1, Cissbury - 2, Findon Valley - 2, Goring Gap - 1, Lancing Clump - 1, Patching - 2, Sanctuary - 1, Sheepcote - 1, Storrington - 1, Wildpark - 1, Withdean Park - 1. Most of these were reported as successful, with 1-2 juvs seen. Probably bred at another 6 sites where birds were noted during the breeding season. Noted during winter period at more coastal sites such as Brooklands, West Pier and Worthing beach.

0287 **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

Increasing resident and passage migrant

The numerous records received indicate a very healthy and increasing population and a probable 6 prs at least now nest to the west of the area. Over 100 sightings were received from every month of the year, some of multiple flocks of up to 7 birds. Migrants were recorded at Lower Adur and Wildpark in Apr. Other migrants probably mixed with local birds at some of the downland sites during Autumn. Also of note was 1 watched carrying a snake over the A27 at Sompting in Sep and 1W at Brooklands in Nov.

0301 **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Rare passage migrant

Just 1 reported in Spring over Worthing on Apr 5 (SOS). A good autumn for this species - 1 at Cissbury on Aug 29, circled round to north, then returned SE (CH), 1E at Goring Beach on Sep 21 (DS), 1 at Small Dole on Sep 23

(ARK), 1 at Marina flying out of wave trough during rough seas on the following day (IJW) and a late bird in Lower Adur on Oct 2 (SRA).

0304 **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Single prs bred at Bramber Castle, Brighton Cemeteries, Durrington, No Man's Land, Shoreham fly-over, Waterhall, and Whitehawk Hill. 2 prs nested at Cissbury and Findon Valley, and 3 prs at Wildpark. Birds in off the sea were noted at Marina during May and Nov. Recorded in 8 other areas where may have bred. Reported as now quite scarce in Goring Gap area, and did not breed.

0307 **RED-FOOTED FALCON** *Falco vespertinus*

Rare vagrant

An ad f was found at Sheepcote Valley on May 15 (ADW), but has not been submitted to BBRC. Another was at Cuckmere the same day.

0309 **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular in autumn/winter

The only early-year birds were at Lower Standean in Jan/Feb and 1NW at Harbour on Feb 24. The second winter period was more productive with 1f at Cissbury on Oct 15, 1E at Marina on Nov 18, 1 at Lancing Clump on Nov 19, and 5 in Dec from Findon Park Brow, No Man's Land, a Lancing garden, Steyning and Wildpark.

0310 **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Regular passage migrant, occasionally breeding

The monthly totals were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	3	14	10	14	6	16	-	-	-

The first was at West Hove GC on Apr 25, then on 27th 1 in off the sea at Marina and 1 at Wolstonbury. Others were noted in off sea at Marina with 1 on May 4 and 2 on May 8. Further May records were from Brighton Preston Park, Ferring Rife, Fulking, Goring, Hollingdean, Steyning and Upper Beeding. At least 2 prs bred in the area. July records were from Cissbury and Harrow Hill areas. There were numerous records from around the area in Sep, the last being 1 at New Salts Farm on 24th, 1 at Cissbury on 25th and 1E at Marina on 29th.

0320 **PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce but increasing breeding resident

Roving birds were reported at Henfield Levels and Lower Standean in Jan/Feb. Seen regularly throughout the year at West Pier, which the nesting pr use as a roost. The pr at Sussex Heights laid 4 eggs and successfully reared 3 females. The second pr in our area also raised 3 young. Noted from numerous sites during the year, especially from Marina where one or two were not local birds. An escaped bird with jessies was at Harrow Hill on Jul 14. Late-year records were mainly from inland or downland sites. It is interesting to compare the numbers of sightings of Hobby and Peregrine over the last few years, the latter presumed more common-place and thus not being reported so

regularly. In 1999 there were more Hobby records submitted than Peregrine, a complete turn-around.

0358 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Common introduced resident

Highest count was of 60 mainly released birds at Lower Standean on Jan 13. Pairs were noted at Beeding Hill, Patching Hill and Sompting Brooks, but no indication of breeding was given. The only other record was 1 at Wildpark north on Dec 16.

0367 GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Fairly common resident

An encouraging number of records - over 2 dozen, proving the species is doing well in the area. At Goring Gap coveys seen during Jan, peak 38, and probably bred. At Highdown Hill small coveys seen in Jan, 4 prs thought to have bred, but no family coveys reported later in year. 1-2 prs bred at Devil's Dyke, Hollingdean allotments, Steep Down and Stump Bottom. Few coveys were reported late year, the most was 18 at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 9, also 7 at Cuckoo Corner in Oct and 12 at Lancing Clump in Dec.

0370 QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare but regular summer visitor

Calling birds were first noted at Mill Hill on May 15, and 2 there on 17th. Two were at Beeding Hill on May 16, increasing to 3 on Jun 8. There was 1 at Steep Down on May 26, and probably 2 there in Jun. The last was reported at Lancing Clump on Sep 28.

0394 PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident

Breeding prs were recorded at Steyning (where one half of the pr was an albino female); 2 prs at Waterhall and 1 pr at Wildpark. Now regularly reported from Goring Gap with max 6 in Oct.

0407 WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular winter visitor, may breed

Very few records this year: A single was at Woods Mill on Jan 26, and 1 on Ferring Rife between Jan 31 and Feb 3. The only late-year bird was 1 found sick in Brighton on Dec 28 which was released well on Lewes Brooks two days later.

0424 MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident and winter visitor

Monthly WEBS counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	12	10	7	2	-	3	5	8	3	8	3	15
Henfield Levels	7	47	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	12	6

Also noted at other sites - inside Marina on Jan 7 and 2 during Nov; 1 in Lower Adur in Mar and 7 in Nov; a roadside mortality at Goring Gap in Jun; 4 at Steyning Levels in Sep; and 12 at Ferring Rife on Nov 15.

0429 **COOT** *Fulica atra*

Common resident and winter visitor

The monthly maxima at Brooklands were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	122	74	43	45	40	38	73	113	102	120	110	98

The breeding count there was 10 prs.

0450 **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	112	27	72	95	63	-	-	20	63	-	18	5
Worthing	6	5	23	47	15	4	7	2	12	11	-	-

Peak count at Marina was 52W on Sep 24. Beach counts included 24 at Ferring on Feb 19, 24 also at Goring in Feb and peak 45 there on Oct 24. Small numbers were reported from Adur Saltings, Brooklands, Marina and Southwick.

0456 **AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Uncommon, but regular passage migrant

Records E from the Marina were 2 on Feb 25, 2 on Mar 11, 1 on Mar 12, 2 on Apr 30 and 4 on May 5. The largest flock count recorded in the area was 87 seen flying E off Brighton on Apr 21, then flying NE inland before reaching the Marina (KBG). Quite a sight! At Worthing there were 2E on May 2 and 2E the next day.

0459 **STONE CURLEW** *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Rare passage migrant, once bred

1 at Whitehawk Hill, Brighton on Apr 4 (JC). This is the first record in the area since 1991.

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

Rare passage migrant. Has bred.

A single bird was on Henfield Levels on Apr 11.

0470 **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; attempts to breed

Beach and roost gatherings were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	200	80	8	-	-	-	-	160	137	149	350	75
Brooklands Beach	-	6	8	6	7	3	6	3	1	2	2	1
Goring Beach	-	17	6	-	-	-	-	89	70	46	44	55
Shoreham Fort	-	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	100
Worthing Beach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	30	-	-	-

There were also small groups noted at Marina, max 40 on Aug 16. Generally low numbers were seen on seawatches where only noted in 3 months at Marina, max 20E on Sep 26; and at Worthing peaks were 30W on two Aug dates and 20W on Oct 24. Peak month there was Aug with total of 124, but

included a beach count of 50. Breeding came from three areas. At Widewater 4 prs were on territory in Apr but success doubtful; 1 pr bred on Shoreham beach with 1 chick seen at end of May; and 2 prs attempted to breed on Southwick beach but disturbance meant no young were reared. At the Marina part of their favourite area has been built upon and although a couple of prs were displaying, there was no sign of nesting.

0485 GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fairly common winter visitor

A good scattering of records from around the area included 4 at New Salts Farm and 10 at Henfield Levels in early Jan. Migrants were spotted with 1 over Sheepcote on Sep 2 and 1E at Marina on Sep 19. The next day 9 were at Steyning Round Hill. Further migrants were 8E off Worthing on Nov 10. Singles were recorded from Airfield in Oct and Dec. 4 were at Henfield Levels on Dec 26, 11 there on 28th and also 2 nearby on Steyning Levels on the same day.

0486 GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year peak roost counts were from Goring Beach: Jan - 85, Feb - 98, Mar - 77 and at Adur Saltings: Jan - 33, Feb - 24, Mar - 1. Seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	7	30	195	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
Worthing	-	-	-	14	88	-	-	-	4	-	4	7

Peak day was May 7, with 62E at Worthing and 103E at Marina. Late-year counts were from Goring Beach: Aug - 8, Sep - 24, Oct - 33, Nov - 74, Dec - 161.

0493 LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Common winter visitor but declining breeder

Good numbers were present early year with 2000 at Lower Adur on Jan 1, 1200 at New Salts Farm on Jan 5, 203 at Ferring Rife on Jan 23, 2700 at Airfield on Feb 13 and 150 at Goring on Feb 27. Up to 3 birds were displaying at Scare Hill, north Patcham, in May and 1 pr laid eggs. Displaying birds also noted at Findon; and at Harrow Hill with 3 prs on territory; 2 prs at Steep Down. Seawatching at Marina produced 4E on Apr 1 and unusually 1W on Jul 11. Small numbers started to build up with 109 at Airfield in Jul and 260 at New Salts Farm in Aug. By Oct there were 500 on Adur Saltings, increasing to 3700 on Nov 23 and still 2000 on Nov 30, then reducing to 1000+ to the year end. Other counts were max 700 on Steyning Levels and 160 at Highdown Hill in Dec.

0496 KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Regular passage migrant

Numbers on seawatching were from the Marina: 4E on Apr 30, 18W on May 6, 4W on Nov 24; at Worthing 3W on Aug 10 and 7E on Oct 15. Records of lingering birds in Aug were 5 at Brooklands Beach on 15th; 3 at Adur Saltings on 22nd, 4 there on 24th and singles into Sep; at Widewater 6 on 22nd, 11 on 27th and peak 15 on 31st. Other records were 1 at Goring Gap on Sep 12 and 1 at Brooklands Beach on Nov 11.

0497 **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year beach flocks were at Goring Gap with monthly counts of Jan - 38, Feb - 51 and Mar - 91; at Widewater with peak 40 on Jan 21 and 14 on Feb 18 and 13 in Mar; and 51 at Ferring on Feb 19. The sea-watching monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	120	148	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	5	52	169	-	-	3	7	20	-	-

Peak counts were on Apr 1 with 106E at Marina and 25E at Worthing. There were also 60E at Marina on May 7 and 39E at Worthing on May 5. Two were resting on the beach at Widewater on May 6. Small numbers were noted at Adur Saltings from Jul 15 to Sep 12. At Goring Beach counts included 17 in Sep, 54 on Oct 24 when severe gales blew 3 into the seafront shelter much to the surprise of the observer, 39 in Nov and 45 in Dec. Other Dec counts were 35 on Adur Saltings, 40 at Brooklands and 6 at Shoreham Fort.

0501 **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant

1 on Adur on Sep 11.

0509 **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant

The first were 4 on Adur Saltings on Sep 4 and increasing to max 15 on Sep 15, still 6 on 22nd and 1 on Oct 1. All except 1 ad on Sep 22 were reported as juvs. Others were 2 at Widewater on Sep 9, increasing to 8 on 11th; 3W at Sheepcote on Sep 14 - a first ever record for the site; 3E at Harbour on Sep 19; and finally 1 at Airfield on Oct 2.

0510 **PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

Scarce winter visitor

Numbers early year at Marina tended to fluctuate considerably with only 1-3 early Jan, then 9 on Jan 21, this number repeated during Mar/Apr. The last was a single on May 21. 1-2 were regular in Jan/Feb at the Harbour, and a single at Southwick. A sp bird was at Southwick beach on Apr 24. First returning bird at Marina was on Jul 26, then 2 during Aug/Sep, 5 on Oct 30, peak 10 on Nov 24 and 9 throughout Dec. First bird at Harbour was on Nov 4, then 3-4 to year end; and at Southwick the peak was 5 on Nov 13.

0512 **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly roost counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	287	207	22	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	74	150
Shoreham	998	1080	86	-	-	-	-	-	32	42	930	189
Worthing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	153	146

Another early-year count was 500 at Shoreham Fort on Feb 17, and small flocks at Brooklands Beach. 10 sp were on Widewater on Apr 22. Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	155	9	43	77	270	-	5	18	-	-	16	40
Worthing	-	-	47	148	76	-	-	17	-	5	185	321

Peaks were 154E/1W at Marina on Jan 3 and 100E at Worthing on Apr 1. Late-year totals from Worthing included flocks on the beach there. A group of 20 were on Widewater on Oct 28 and 4 inland at Steyning Levels on Dec 31.

0517 RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

1f at Goring Beach on Aug 25, then 1 on Adur Saltings from Sep 15-26.

0518 JACK SNIPE *Lymnocyrtus minimus*

Winter visitor in small numbers

Up to 4 were resident at Ferring Rife from Jan 16 to Feb 16. A single bird was at the same site from Nov 14 to year end.

0519 SNIPE *Gallinago gallinago*

Common winter visitor

Main counts were on Adur Levels with monthly peaks: Jan - 33, Feb - 36, Mar -18, Oct - 3 and a large count of 120 on Nov 28 including a wider surrounding area. Other early-year records were up to 5 at Ferring Rife, 2 on Sompting Brooks and 7 at Sullington Sandpit on Mar 21. Singles were flushed from Sheepcote Valley on 4 dates from Aug 11 to Sep 14, similarly 2 were flushed from Wildpark during the same period. There were 6 on Henfield Levels in Aug, up to 5 again at Ferring Rife in Dec and 4 at Sullington Sandpit.

0529 WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Winter visitor and passage migrant

There were no early-year wintering records. 1 at Sullington Sandpit on Mar 21 and 1 freshly dead at Falmer University on Mar 23. Late-year records were 1 found resting in seaweed on Shoreham Beach on Nov 11, 1 flushed from Hollingdean allotments on Nov 21 and lastly 1 at Sheepcote on Dec 19.

0532 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Still quite a scarce species within the area, the records were: 1E at Marina on Apr 27 and 22E there on May 27; 26NE over Steyning Bowl on May 30; and 4W at Sheepcote on Aug 17.

0534 BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Common passage migrant and regular winter visitor

Some extremely high counts can be seen in the seawatching monthly totals below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	27	3704	3703	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	476	631	-	-	-	-	2	-	2

The first were 27E on Mar 31. High counts there included 728E on Apr 26, peak 2198E on Apr 30, 1205E on May 5 and 759E on May 7. Worthing's highest count was also on Apr 30 with 380E. The wader roost counts at Goring Beach commenced with 1 on Aug 8, then monthly counts: Sep - 4, Oct - 4, Nov - 2, Dec - 2. A single bird frequented the Adur Saltings area between 8-15 Sep.

0538 WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Common passage migrant

Monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	386	665	5	-	-	1	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	235	151	-	1	1	1	-	-	-

The first date was at Marina on Apr 11. There the peaks were 155E/1W on Apr 25, 209E/1W on May 5 and 63E on May 7. At Worthing the peaks were 173E on Apr 25 and 42E on May 5. In the Autumn there were 4E over Wildpark on Jul 31, and others heard passing during the night at Hollingdean in Aug. Birds were noted on Adur Saltings during Jul/Aug, max 4 on Aug 7. Singles were seen at Widewater, over Sheepcote and 1 on Henfield Levels - all in Aug. Goring beach recorded 1 on Sep 13, and the last went past the Marina on Sep 29.

0541 CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant

The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	7	16	6	4	23	27	-	-	-	4	-
Worthing	-	5	6	6	19	2	4	-	-	-	5	4

Peaks were 6W 9E at Worthing on May 9, and 18W at Marina on Jul 1. There were 5 on Goring Beach on Jul 2. Some interesting inland records were 1 at Cissbury on Jul 3, 3 there on Sep 25 and 1 on Oct 9; 1W at Lancing Clump on Aug 9; 1N at Sheepcote on Aug 21; and 1 over Wildpark on Aug 27.

0546 REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Common winter visitor

The only regularly high counts came from the Adur, the WEBS or max counts being Jan - 90, Feb - 113, Mar - 27, Jul - 49, Aug - 64, Sep - 50, Oct - 32, Nov - 144, Dec - 55. Much smaller numbers were at Brooklands, Steyning Levels and Worthing Beach during the winter months. Additionally 1 or 2 were at Marina in May and Aug, and 16 by the Adur opp Cement Works on Oct 25.

0548 GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Regular passage migrant

Spring seawatching records, all E, were from the Marina with singles on Apr 23, Apr 26, Apr 29, May 1, May 4 and 2 on May 7. Worthing recorded 3E on May 3. Birds were well represented in early Autumn and included 7 inland at Henfield Levels from Aug 14 - 18; 1 over Cissbury on Aug 22; 1 at Goring beach on Sep 5. Present on Adur Saltings from Sep 8 to Oct 11 and may have

involved small groups moving through, with peak 4 in mid Sep, and 1 at Widewater on Sep 29.

0553 GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Regular winter visitor

Wintering birds in Jan-Mar were on Henfield and Steyning Levels with max 6 on Jan 1 at the latter site. Probably at least 7 birds were involved. A good number of records during Aug included 6 overflying birds on 3 days at Sheepcote, max 4 on 11th; 2 at Henfield Levels; 1 heard at night at Marina; 1 on the ground at Sheepcote and 1W at Wildpark. 2 to 3 birds were again resident on Henfield and Steyning Levels from Nov 20 to the year end.

0556 COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common passage migrant, occasionally winters

1 on Henfield Levels on Mar 9 (VB). First Spring arrivals were 2 on Adur at Cement Works on Apr 13. The Marina's first birds were 2 on Apr 23, the month's total being 13. Then almost daily through May, with max 7 on 6th. Other May birds were noted at Cuckoo Corner, 5 at Adur and 1E at Worthing. The only Jun record was 1 heard at night at Hollingdean. The Marina's Autumn totals were Jul - 5, Aug - 23, peak 16 on Sep 14 and the last on Sep 19. Other Jul birds were 1 calling at night at Broadwater and 1 at Washington Sandpit. In early Aug 15+ were at Adur Tollbridge and 1 on beach at Goring. Much smaller numbers were recorded through Sep, mainly from Adur area with max 5 on 16th. Later birds were 1 at Cuckoo Corner on Oct 16 and 1 upstream nr Cement Works on Dec 19 (ARK).

0561 TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Peak counts from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Fort & Adur	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	29	13	45	-
Goring Beach	7	3	46	-	-	-	-	10	30	20	24	9

Other counts were 45 at Widewater beach on Mar 13 and 34 at Worthing beach on Nov 24. Seawatching records at Marina were Mar - 4, Apr - 7, May - 61, Nov - 2, peak 30E on May 5; and at Worthing Apr - 43, May - 15, Aug - 14, peak 15E on Apr 18.

0565 GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Rare autumn/winter visitor

1 found on Adur Saltings on Oct 2 (BFF). It was very flighty but seen by a number of birders before it was reported as being hit by a passing car.

0566 POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Regular spring passage migrant

First at the Marina were 2E on Apr 21, then almost daily until May 9. Peak counts were 9 on May 1 including a flock of 7; 14 on May 2; 23 on May 3; a flock of 11 on May 7 was also spotted earlier at Hengistbury Head and Selsey; and 11 on May 9. The last there was 1 on May 28. Worthing's peak was 26E on May 3 including a flock of 8; also 6W on Jun 24. Few autumn records,

there were 1W off Widewater on Sep 28; 3 off Marina on Nov 11; and 1 there on Dec 2.

0567 ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant

A good seawatching season shows in the monthly totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	1	160	113	7	11	16	54	-	4	2
Worthing	-	-	-	28	42	-	-	-	5	2	-	-

The first was on the early date of Mar 29. Peak day counts from the Marina were 6E on Apr 25 and 27E on May 6. Worthing's peak was 24E on May 3. In the Autumn the peak count was 10W at Marina on Sep 25. The two late birds were on Dec 3 and 22. Elsewhere there were 8 off Harbour on Sep 24, 5W off Widewater on Sep 28 and 1 over Adur on Oct 8.

0568 LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare passage migrant

1E passed Shoreham Harbour and Marina on Sep 24 (ADW, IJW).

0569 GREAT SKUA *Catharacta skua*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

The seawatching monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1	-	-	27	15	3	-	1	2	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	6	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

The early date was 1E on Jan 19. At both sites most were in ones and twos, but peaks were 5E at Marina on Apr 20 and 2W/5E the following day. At Worthing 3E on Apr 25 was the peak count.

0575 MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Regular passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Early-year roost counts at Southwick were up to 4 ad and 2 1st w in Jan, up to 10 ad and one 1st w in Feb, and 3 ad in Mar. Single ads were reported from opp. Dacre Gardens and West Pier also in Jan; a 1st w at Sheepcote. Seawatch records (E in Spring, mainly W in Autumn) were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	5	13	6	25	4	1	1	3	-	1	6
Worthing	-	-	3	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-

Most passage was noted in ones and twos, but peak 5 on May 10, and 2 counts of 4 in early May. An ad with white ring was at Southwick roost together with 1 juv on Jul 9. Few were noted from Jul to Oct, with singles at Adur Saltings, Chantry Hill, Southwick and Tollbridge. Numbers increased in Nov at Southwick with up to 4 ad on 28th; 6 ads and 1 1st w in early Dec and up to 13 different birds during that month. There were no reports of the wintering individual from the Harbour.

0578 **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

Regular on spring/autumn passage, occasional winter visitor

Few were reported in winter, with singles at Marina on Jan 7, 1 off-shore there on Jan 24 and 1 in roost on Feb 4; 1 ad at Sheepcote on two dates in Jan was probably the same bird; an inland individual roosted with gulls from Feb 21 to Mar 9 opp. Dacre Gardens, and occasionally venturing downstream to Cuckoo Corner. The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	1	3	83	33	-	-	1	29	-	6	2
Worthing	-	-	-	8	4	-	-	-	2	3	3	-

The first were 3E on Mar 31. Marina peaks were 56E on Apr 20 and 23E on Apr 30. As well as the late records at seawatching sites, there were 1 in Harbour on Sep 15, 1 ad at Southwick on Oct 23 and 2 at Shoreham the following day.

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

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

A good winter count was 830 near Rye Farm, Henfield on Jan 22. The Marina total for Jan was 150, but no subsequent counts were submitted. Monthly totals, mainly of birds passing E, at Worthing were Mar - 256, Apr - 484, May - 453, Jun - 39. Peak there was 308 on Apr 30. Roost counts received were 700 at Southwick Beach on Jul 20 and 100 at Goring Gap on Sep 13.

0590 **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor

Early-year counts included 600 at Cuckoo Corner on Jan 23, 220 at Findon Valley also on Jan 23, 3000 at Southwick Beach on Feb 2, 1100 by Adur Tollbridge on Feb 20 and a similar sized flock at Cuckoo Corner the next day. Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were Mar - 15, Apr - 51, May - 4, the peak being 22E on Apr 30. An adult bird inland at Steyning Levels on Jul 18 was unusual. The only late-year count was 800 at Chantry Hill on Nov 13.

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

Common in winter, now breeding in small numbers

Singles were reported at a few inland sites in Jan, but 12 were at Withdean Park on Jan 15 and 30 at Cuckoo Corner on Feb 21. A pr bred at Palmeira Square, Hove, but failed. Probably bred at Durrington, Maybridge and 3 areas of central Brighton. There is no doubt this species breeds more extensively, and next year's Herring Gull roof survey should confirm just how many. On Sep 27 an ad bird with white ring was seen on Airfield. A possible Baltic Gull (*L.f.fuscus*) was reported from Queen's Park, east Brighton on Oct 17 and it is hoped this may have been submitted to SOS, this subspecies being the rarest of the three types recorded in the U.K.

0592 **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

Common, expanding breeding population

400 were at Marina on Jan 4 and 500W in only 15 mins there on Apr 12. Breeding counts received were prs at Goring and Swandean Hospital; 2 prs at Durrington; 3 prs at East Worthing. At Brighton, the Red Arrows display on May 22 put up a conservative estimate of 240 birds, thus giving a minimum

120 prs! On Sep 20 approx 2000 were following the plough at Steyning Round Hill. The only late-year counts were 800 at Marina on Nov 26 and 470 on Adur on Nov 28.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus cachinnans*

Regular autumn flock

1 was reported on the Adur on Jan 10. At the more usual dates there were 1 to 5 around the Houseboats area from Jul 10 to Nov 10, the peak of 5 on Sep 25. A little further upstream by the Tollbridge there were 11 ad on Aug 11 and 13 ad on Oct 9. Other individuals noted there were a 1st summer moulting to 2nd on Sep 12; and a 3rd or 4th summer. Later birds were 3 near Airfield on Oct 28 and 1 at Cuckoo Corner on Nov 11. The only record outside the Adur was a 3rd summer bird at Southwick on Jul 17.

0598 ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucooides*

Rare winter visitor

A 2ndw bird was off Palace Pier on Feb 8 (RAI). Submitted to SOS.

0599 GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus*

Rare winter visitor

A 1stw bird was seen at Southwick and Marina between 5-10 Feb (ADW).

0600 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Fairly common winter visitor

Some good size flocks in Jan included 180 at Marina and 300 on the Adur. 2 were inland at Henfield Levels on Jan 8. Small numbers were recorded on seawatches. Of interest was a repeat visit from a bird ringed in Jersey (orange C on left leg; yellow over green over metal on right leg). This bird was seen near Airfield on Aug 19 and again at Marina on dates in Sep and Nov. A large flock was again on the Adur with 150 on Nov 28.

0602 KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	522	1286	1497	754	1589	68	19	933	944	-	638	1455
Worthing	16	-	50	9	32	-	-	-	7	13	290	18

High counts at the Marina included 355E on Feb 13, 600E on Mar 11, 8E/278W on Sep 23, 310E on Dec 21 and a massive 731E/139W on Dec 22. There was 93E and 100 offshore at Worthing on Nov 21. Roost counts at Marina were 120 on Sep 4 and 82 on Sep 11. Other records were an imm on Widewater in Mar and an oiled bird at Goring Beach in Dec.

0611 SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant

First of the year was on Mar 11, the monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	489	2641	846	216	60	414	1049	2	2	1
Worthing	-	-	70	695	432	43	11	33	106	3	1	-

Significant counts at Marina were 563E on Apr 1, 327E on Apr 20, 10W/238E on Apr 25 and 140W/5E on Sep 23. The peaks at Worthing were 152E on Apr 25 and 126E on May 8. Resting birds were on Adur Saltings with 9 on Apr 29 and 12 on Sep 16. Unusual were 2 high over the Sanctuary on Aug 1. Late migrants were noted in Oct with 1 off Palace Pier on 5th, 2 at Widewater on 8th and 1E at Worthing on 10th. A 1st w bird was found at the Southwick roost on Nov 13, and seen on other dates through Nov also at Marina and Canal, and last seen on Dec 1. 1E at Worthing on Nov 21 may have been a different bird.

0614 ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Rare passage migrant

1E at Marina on May 25 was accepted by SOS (IJW).

0615 COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant

First date was on Apr 4 at Marina. Those specifically identified there were: Apr - 71, May - 14, Jun - 21, Jul - 11, Aug - 2605 and Sep - 683. The peaks were 1015W/50E on Aug 18 and 365E on Aug 24. Late dates were 1W on Sep 27, 8W 2E on Sep 29, 1E on Sep 30 and 1 in Harbour on Oct 8.

0616 ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Noted on passage but not always split from Common Tern

A good number were specifically identified, particularly on return Autumn passage. The totals at Marina were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	72	58	-	-	68	64	-	-	-

The first at Marina were 46E on Apr 20, peak 65W on Aug 18. Of special interest was a 1st summer bird seen at the Marina on May 7 (IJW), this being only the 2nd ever record for Sussex of this plumaged bird, and the first from a seawatching site. Late records were 2 off Shoreham Beach on Oct 2, 1 in Harbour on Oct 8 and another there on Oct 16. The last were 3 off Widewater and 1 in Harbour on Oct 24.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

Seawatching tables of unspecified birds were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	2718	5644	-	-	650	3	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	349	891	6	-	11	47	1	-	-

Some remarkably high counts at Marina included 1065E on Apr 20, 915E on Apr 26, 1001E on May 5, 3160E on May 7 and 650E on Aug 23. Worthing's peaks were on the same days.

0624 **LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

The first was at Worthing on Apr 21. Monthly totals here were 28 in Apr and 179 in May, the peak counts being 62E on May 3 and 57E on May 5. At Marina the totals were 50 in Apr and 186 in May. There the peaks were 33E on Apr 26, 39E on May 3 and 45E on May 5. None were recorded in the Autumn.

0627 **BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

Regular passage migrant

The first was 1E at Marina on Apr 30, followed by another 27 on 7 dates during May, peak 21E on 7th. Worthing recorded 1 on May 7. Return passage from Marina was 1W on Aug 17, 14W on Aug 18, 3W on Aug 19, 2E on Sep 16 and 1W on Sep 23. A good year.

0634 **GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor

Low numbers were specifically identified on seawatches; see auk sp. for main totals. Close birds were offshore at Brighton during Jan/Feb and a couple of birds were found dead on the beach. 1 was at Goring Beach on May 1.

0636 **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Identified birds were 692E at Marina on Feb 24 and 2E there on Mar 13. At Worthing, totals were Mar - 7, May - 1 and Nov - 2. Birds also noted on the sea at Harbour, Palace Pier and Worthing.

0647 **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle*

Very rare autumn migrant

The only authenticated record was 1 off Brighton on Jan 4 (SOS).

0654 **PUFFIN** *Fratercula arctica*

Very rare spring migrant

1 flew E at Marina on May 21 (IJW). Accepted by SOS.

AUK Species

Monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1231	4529	1092	220	533	39	10	-	9	-	1300	1338
Worthing	14	7	52	5	23	-	-	-	3	4	235	162

Peak counts at Marina included 265W/50E on Jan 29, 14W/572E on Feb 11, 1056E on Feb 13, 4W/1332E on Feb 24, 34W/439E on Mar 5, 401W/342E on Nov 20 and 211W/254E on Dec 22. The highest count at Worthing was also on Nov 20.

0668 STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Common resident

Roost counts of 20+ were noted regularly from the woods adjacent to Preston Park Station in Mar/Apr. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 3, Wildpark - 4, Withdean Park - 4. Seen in three other areas during the breeding season. At Sheepcote up to 8 were resident for a period in Sep, and 52W there on Nov 3. Unusual were 2 in off the sea at Marina on Nov 17. The only late-year roost count was 8 at Wildpark in Dec.

0670 WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident

Early-year gatherings were all noted in Feb with 300 at Lower Standean, 250 at Steyning Round Hill and 1500 near New Erringham Farm. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 35, Waterhall - 6, Whitehawk Hill - 8, Wildpark - 62 and Withdean Park - 16. Feeding parties were 130 at Coombes in Apr and 300 at Steyning Bowl in Jun. Passage started with 330W at Worthing on Oct 27, 130 at Wildpark on Nov 3 and 2 other movements noted there in Nov. 1000 were at Steyning Levels on Nov 7. At the Marina 2000NW in off the sea on Nov 12 and 400 there on 17th. The last of the movement was 390 at Goring Gap on Nov 25. No late-year records were received.

0684 COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident

The only flock count received was 23 in a Ferring garden in Jan. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 13, West Hove GC - 1, Whitehawk Hill - 3, Wildpark - 38, Withdean Park - 13. The West Hove pr were still incubating on Sep 12.

0687 TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Summer visitor, probably declining

A good number of records, but this species still seems to be in decline. A very early migrant was at Steyning on Apr 7. Others followed late Apr at Marina and Wildpark. Regularly noted at a few sites where may have bred - Devil's Dyke, New Erringham Farm, Rye Farm and Steyning Bowl. Also seen at Cissbury, Golding Barn and Sandgate Park. Returning migrants were singles at Stump Bottom in Aug, and at Sheepcote with 3 during Sep, the last on 28th.

0712 RING-NECKED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri*

Scarce introduced resident

2 seen flying W over Hove Lagoon to roost on West Pier on Jan 5, and a single bird was on Bedford Hotel, Brighton on Jan 27. Another Brighton bird was at The Level on Jun 6, but no sightings were received from the Hollingbury area where the colony is assumed no longer in existence.

0724 CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Summer visitor, possibly declining

One in off the sea at the Marina on Apr 11, then 1-2 birds spasmodically in the Cissbury area during May/June. None reported from Wildpark. The only late record was 1 at Ditchling Beacon on Aug 11.

0735 BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Scarce winter visitor and possibly resident

1 seen regularly around the Airfield in Jan/Feb and again in July was probably a resident bird. A roadside casualty was found at Castle Goring on Mar 23. 3prs bred in nestboxes in Coombes, Edburton and Storrington areas with mixed success. The only other report was 1 at Washington Tip on Sep 5.

757 LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common resident

The only breeding reported were a pr at Storrington raising 2 young, and 1 pr at Golding Barn. Others were seen or heard calling at Beeding Hill, Cissbury, Harrow Hill, Michelgrove and Wiston. In Sep, 1 found dead on Brighton seafront on Sep 9 and others were seen late year at Brooklands, Findon and Stretham Manor.

0761 TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

Definite breeding occurred at Coombes and 2 prs at Michelgrove, with eggs or young seen at all three. Probably bred at other sites where birds were heard calling - Clapham, Goring, Lychpole Hill, Highdown Hill, Sanctuary, West Worthing and Wiston.

0767 LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor

There were no records for 1999.

0768 SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

The only resident birds were at Beeding Brooks with 1 from Nov 22 to year end, and a second present from Dec 12 to 29 (JCS). One seen across the river on Steyning Levels on Dec 18 was probably one of these birds (ARK).

0778 NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer migrant, formerly bred

Two first noted on May 1 at Sullington Warren. Subsequently heard churring on various dates into July and seen in display. Contact call heard Aug 9. Following last year's sightings from this area, it is encouraging to assume this may have been the first breeding in the area since 1963.

0795 SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

First date was at Brighton on Apr 26, then another on 27th at Ferring Rife and 1 at Marina on 29th. Main arrival at Brighton was May 3. Late Spring movement was noted at Marina with 160 mostly in off the sea on May 25 and 300W there on Jun 22. Inland were 250 at No Man's Land and 200 at Steyning on May 29; and in Jun 500 at Steyning Bowl on 7th and 400 at Cissbury on 10th. Breeding prs were Hangleton/Hove - 89, Storrington - 8 and West Worthing - 10. As usual most Swifts dispersed during night-time in Jul/Aug, but 300E at Widewater on Jul 11 and 100 at Broadwater on Aug 3 were the only visible counts. Few were seen in Sep - 1 at Chantry Hill and Sanctuary both on 4th and 1 at Chantry Hill on 12th.

0798 ALPINE SWIFT *Apus melba*

Rare vagrant

1 at top end of Anchor Bottom, Beeding Hill on Jun 7 (SRA). Noted as a larger bird flying in flock of Common Swifts. Seen well. Record accepted by BBRC.

0831 KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident and winter visitor

Regularly seen throughout the year between Adur Saltings and Tollbridge area. No confirmed breeding was reported from any site, but also seen at Beeding Brooks, Brooklands, Ferring Rife, Sanctuary, Steyning Levels, Sullington Warren and Woods Mill, mostly out of the breeding season. Summer records or confirmed breeding would be welcomed.

0848 WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare passage migrant

The only record this year was 1 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 21 (ADW, IJW).

0856 GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident

Confirmed breeding was reported from Brighton Cemeteries, Findon Valley, Goring Gap, Michelgrove, Sanctuary, Waterhall and Wildpark. Probably bred at over a dozen other sites where birds were seen out of the breeding season. At Cissbury, 3 birds were ringed and may have bred.

0876 GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus major*

Common resident

Breeding records were from Brighton Cemeteries, Cissbury, Clapham Woods, Findon Valley, Goring Gap, Sanctuary, Warren Hill and Wildpark. May have also bred in other areas where birds noted in breeding season - High Salvington, Highdown, Lancing and Michelgrove. A female with brood patch was ringed at Sanctuary on May 30. Noted out of the breeding season at 4 other sites.

0887 LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopus minor*

Scarce, has bred

The only record was 1 drumming at Sandgate Park on Apr 23.

0974 WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant

A flock of 7 were at Wiston Estate on Feb 13 (SOS). Autumn passage birds included 1w at Brooklands on Oct 25 (BFF) and 1w flushed from Wildpark arable field with skylarks on Oct 31 (PJW).

0976 SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident

There were 50 at Highdown Hill on Jan 16. Breeding prs were: Chantry Hill - 10, Clayton - 2, Goring Gap - 3, Highdown Hill - min 8, Sheepcote - 15, Steep Down/Round Hill - 20, Wildpark - 7. Singing males reported from half a dozen other sites. Passage was noted with 40W at Worthing beach on Oct 10,

and a total of 246 at Wildpark from Sep 26 to Nov 27, peak 50 on Oct 6. Flocks feeding in cereal fields numbered 150 at Steyning Bowl in Oct and 100-200 during Nov/Dec at Beeding Hill. A flock of 50 in linseed in mid-Nov at Chantry Hill area increased to 200 by Dec 28.

0981 SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and common passage migrant

There were no early passage records, the first birds turning up at Sandgate Pit on May 1 and 15 there on 3rd, but only 2-3 prs attempted to breed. The only successful breeding was at Rock Common where 20 prs nested, and max count of 80 on Jun 18 included some juvs. This species continues to be recorded in very low numbers on passage, and in the Autumn the only counts in double figures were 20E at Airfield in Jul and 10 at Brooklands in Sep. Also reported from 8 other sites, the last were 2 at Goring Gap on Sep 30.

0992 SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor

First were singles at West Hove GC and Wildpark on Apr 1. Others were noted after a week at Clapham, Goring, Stayning and Worthing beach, where the May total was 50N 21E 23W, peak 23W on 16th. Breeding prs were Beeding Hill - 1, Clayton pond - 4, High Down - 2, Small Dole - 1 and Washington - 2. The only summer count was 130 around Rye Farm on Jul 6. Wildpark's autumn total was only 2220 from Aug 20 to Oct 16, peak 1050 on Sep 26. Other high counts in Sep were 600E at Goring beach in 1hr on 5th, 1000W / 400E at Worthing on 25th, 1000E at Widewater also on 25th, 1460W at Worthing on 26th and 2000 at Marina on same date. Over 400 recorded in Oct, peak was 100 at Steyning Levels early month, and late dates included birds at Shoreham Fort on Nov 8 and the last at Shoreham on Nov 17.

1001 HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Common summer visitor

First was a single at Marina on Apr 6. Few other Spring dates noted, the next were 2 at Upper Beeding on Apr 17. Breeding prs were Mile Oak - 6, Patching - 1 and West Durrington - 5. The colony at Patcham was not counted but is thriving. Birds seen collecting mud at Sheepcote and probably bred nearby in Kemp Town. At Cissbury 246 were tape lured and ringed between Aug 29 to Oct 9, max 87 on the first day. The Autumn total at Wildpark was only 650. The biggest day counts were 500 at Cissbury on Sep 25 and 1270W at Worthing the next day. Late migrants included 100 at Stanmer Park on Oct 6, 40 over Brighton on 11th, 6 at Brooklands on 20th, 20 at Cissbury on 23rd and the last at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 10.

1009 TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Fairly common passage migrant

One in off the sea at Marina was the first arrival on Apr 5, then followed 3 at Wildpark later in month. Autumn passage was noted at only 4 sites, but the totals were high. At Cissbury a total of 7 between Aug 14 and Sep 12; Wildpark total was 12, peak 6 on Aug 20; Marina seawatches produced 46 in Aug and 17 in Sep, max 12 on Sep 21; and the last were at Widewater and Wildpark on Sep 26.

1011 MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common resident

A flock of 30 were at Ferring Rife on Jan 23. Passage during Mar included 20 in off the sea at Goring Gap on 18th, similarly 32 at Worthing on 21st. Highest Spring count was 50N at Goring Gap on Apr 9. Breeding prs were Blackpatch Hill - 3, Golding Barn - 1, Highdown Hill - 3, Sheepcote - 5, with young birds seen there, and Steep Down - 1. Probably bred at Beeding Hill, Cissbury and Lower Adur. Autumn passage was reported from Goring Gap with 30 on Sep 21 and 50 on Oct 4; at Wildpark a total of 575 from Sep 22 to Nov 21, peaks 175 on Sep 22 and 100 on Oct 5; and Worthing with high counts 119W/10E on Sep 25 and 455W the following day. Flocks were also noted at this time from Chantry Hill. Late-year groups were 30 at Muntham Court in Nov, 30 at Stump Bottom in Dec and 120 at Henfield Levels on Dec 28.

1012 RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cirvinus*

Rare autumn passage migrant

An unconfirmed report, heard only, at Sheepcote on Sep 10.

1014 ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

Fewer numbers than usual were recorded early year. Up to 5 were at Marina in Jan, also 3 at Widewater, 2 at Southwick Beach and a single at Goring. Most of these had gone by early Mar. There was no indication of breeding at Marina this year. Returning birds were noted from Sep 21 at Widewater and the peak was 7 at Harbour on Nov 23. Smaller numbers were present to the year end at Goring, Southwick and Worthing beaches.

Two birds of the Scandinavian race (*ssp. littoralis*) were at Widewater on Mar 15 have been accepted by SOS (JC).

1017 YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Common passage migrant

A very early bird was at Widewater huts on Mar 7, and the next was not until Apr 17 when 1 came in off the sea at Marina. Worthing reported a total of 5 in May, but Wildpark had no Spring sightings. The first of the Autumn return passage was at Widewater on Jul 14. Well recorded during Aug, the peaks being 12 at Cissbury on 23rd; 15 at Chantry Post and 12 at Cobden Farm both on 30th. The Wildpark total was 44 from Aug 6 to Sep 15, peak 8 on Aug 27. Good numbers continued well into Sep, with 30 at Beeding Hill on 10th, 11 at Cissbury on 18th and 9 at Brooklands on 26th. The last were 2W at Goring beach on Oct 6.

1019 GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Noted on passage, may breed, regular in winter

Early-year birds noted again in urban Brighton and Worthing, also 1 at Myrtle Grove Farm in Feb. Possibly bred at Storrington millpond. Autumn passage was fairly widespread - 1 at Sheepcote on Aug 25, then a total of 46 during Sep, max 12 on 21st; 3 at Sanctuary on separate days in Sep; peak 17W at Goring Beach on Oct 4; 5 over Brighton on Oct 11; and small numbers at Cement Works, Cissbury, Lancing Clump, Small Dole, Widewater

and Wildpark. Semi-resident birds noted at Brooklands and Ferring Rife in Nov, and at Steyning Levels and Sullington sandpit in Dec.

1020 PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

Common resident

At ASDA store, Marina there was a roost count of 270 on Jan 6, and 30 at Lower Standean on Feb 2. Breeding prs of this under-reported species were at Waterhall and West Durrington. Considerable autumn movements were noted from Worthing beach with 70E on Oct 14 and 58E on 16th, the overall Oct total being 339. Smaller numbers were noted at Wildpark, peak 10 on Oct 5; and also 37 at Goring beach on Nov 10. A late-year count was 25 at Devil's Dyke on Dec 29. Four White Wagtails (*ssp. alba*) were seen at Marina from Mar 7-12, also 1 in off the sea at Goring beach on Apr 9 and another at Goring Gap on May 2.

1066 WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 25, Cissbury - 2, Waterhall - 24, Whitehawk Hill - 6, Wildpark - 72 and Withdean Park - 22. Cissbury's ringing total was 17 from Apr 17 to Oct 23.

1084 DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 11, Cissbury - 8, Waterhall - 16, Whitehawk Hill - 18, Wildpark - 55 and Withdean Park - 13. Total ringed at Cissbury was 50 between Apr 17 to Oct 23.

1099 ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 28, Cissbury - 2, Waterhall - 22, Whitehawk Hill - 2, Wildpark - 136 and Withdean Park - 31. At a Storrington garden a pr used a nestbox. The ringing total at Cissbury was 49 from Apr 17 and Oct 23, max 11, but no significant autumn influx. A member reported of three instances of a robin feeding on a peanut holder from a Hove garden during Nov.

1104 NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Passage migrant, occasionally breeds

First birds were at Ashurst and Worthing on Apr 20. An SOS survey revealed at least 11 sites where singing males were recorded. Two prs were at Oreham Common and Woods Mill, and singles were at Ashurst, Calcot Wood, Devil's Dyke, Sandgate Park, Shoreham, Steyning, Tottington Manor and Westmeston. There were other sightings during the summer at Chattri and Cissbury, where also 1 was ringed. At Sheepcote there was 1 on Jul 22, max 3 on Aug 11 and 1-2 on eight other dates in autumn.

1121 BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Regular autumn/winter visitor, has bred

Wintering birds were 1m at Southwick Beach Feb/Mar, 1 at Hove Lagoon may have been the same, and 1 at Widewater huts end Feb into Mar. Probably an early migrant was at Worthing on Mar 9, then 5 at Sheepcote on Mar 24. The

next day, the largest ever Spring fall occurred in Sussex, with 22 at Sheepcote, 2 on Brighton Beach and 3 at Black Rock (with others just outside the area at Roedean). In Apr, migrants noted at Sheepcote and Steyning. Autumn passage was noted with 1 at Marina on Oct 13 and a different bird on Oct 25. In Nov recorded at Brooklands, Lancing Clump, Marina (2) and Southwick Beach; and in Dec wintering birds were regular at Marina, Harbour and Southwick. There seemed a noticeable drop in numbers reported this year apart from the record count.

1122 REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

Very few in Spring, the first was 1m at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 7, and 1 at Sheepcote the following day. Return passage noted early with 1 at Steep Down on Jul 30. Well watched areas like Steep Down reported 2-3 most days until mid-Sep; Sheepcote had low totals, just 8 in Aug and 9 in Sep; and Wildpark, too, had an Autumn total of only 18. The last were birds at Goring Gap and Lancing Clump on Sep 30.

1137 WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Common passage migrant

First was 1 in off the sea at Marina on Apr 27, closely followed by 6 at Sheepcote and 1 at Wildpark on 30th. 2m were at Steep Down on May 1, 3 at Hollingbury Camp on 3rd and 1m at Sheepcote on 9th. This was a good Spring showing for this species. There were higher than normal counts for Autumn too, particularly at Sheepcote where the totals were 100 in Aug and 220 in Sep, max day counts 37 on Aug 20 and 35 on Sep 21. Regularly reported at downland sites which included peaks of 12 at Steep Down in Aug, 10 at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 5, 8 at Canada Bottom on Sep 15 and 5 at Wildpark on Sep 22. Reported also from Ferring Rife and Widewater. 1 at Tolmare Farm on Oct 2 would have been the last date, but an extremely late bird at Cement Works on Nov 8 was seen again at Beeding Hill on Dec 4. This pale grey individual is being considered by SOS and is the latest date ever in Sussex (ARK, RJF).

1139 STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

Early-year reports were 2 prs at Coombes and singles at Adur Valley, Chantry Hill and Cissbury. In Mar noted at Adur, Steep Down and Worthing beach. A good number bred around the area, with fledged young seen at most - Beeding Hill, Cissbury, Findon Place, Lychpole Hill, Sheepcote, Steep Down, Steyning Round Hill, Stump Bottom and Whitehawk Hill. Probably bred at Steyning Levels. Max autumn counts were at Sheepcote Aug - 8, Sep - 10, and at Steep Down with 20 on Aug 28 and 10 into Oct. Also in Oct were 5 at Tolmare Farm on 2nd and 6 at Cissbury on 16th. Smaller counts from the above sites plus Goring Gap, Blackpatch Hill, Henfield Levels, New Salts Farm. Few were reported in Dec, but pairs were at Devil's Dyke and Goring beach.

1146 WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant

Ferring Beach had the first arrival on Mar 13. Falls occurred on three dates with 19 at Sheepcote on Mar 24, 30 the following day there, and on Apr 30

with 11 at Wildpark and 10 at Sheepcote. Worthing Beach recorded 11 total in Apr, but there were relatively few others reported. Late dates were 1m at No Man's Land on May 23 and a bird of the *Greenland* race (ssp. *leucorhoa*) was at Steyning Round Hill on May 29 (JM). A pr bred at Southwick beach fledging 4 young. A juv was at Steep Down on Jul 14. Another probable *Greenland* race was at Steep Down on Aug 2. Well recorded on Autumn passage with most of the higher counts on downland, typical was max 25 at Steep Down on Sep 6. There were about 80 reported in Aug and 100+ in Sep, but both Cissbury and Wildpark had abnormally low numbers. Birds continued well into Oct, with singles at Goring Gap on 21st, at Worthing Beach on 22nd and the last at Widewater on 25th.

1186 RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Regular passage migrant

Proving the species is not always an easterly bias, there was 1 at Chanctonbury on Apr 17. At least 2f were at Sheepcote between Apr 28 and May 1. Autumn records were mostly in Oct with 3W over Broadwater on 9th, 1 at Sheepcote on 16th, 1 at Brooklands and 2 over Brighton on 25th, and 1 at Marina on 29th. The last was at West Hove GC on Nov 7. Rather a poor year.

1187 BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Very common resident

The early nesting pr in central Brighton were feeding young on Mar 19. Breeding pairs counted were Brighton Cemeteries - 69, Cissbury - 11, Waterhall - 24, Whitehawk Hill - 22, Wildpark - 120 and Withdean Park - 39. Total ringed at Cissbury was 33 from Apr 17 to Oct 23.

1198 FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor

In Jan, flock counts included 50 on Henfield Levels and 100 at Upper Beeding. Feb was almost a blank, then 30 at Beeding Hill on Mar 13, 150 at Harrow Hill on Apr 1 and the last a flyover on Apr 10. First of the Autumn was 1 at Cuckoo Corner on Oct 16, followed by another single at Lancing Clump on Nov 3. Below average numbers were at Botolphs, Chantry Hill and Wildpark, and the biggest flocks were 500 at Adur Levels on Nov 24 and flocks of over 200 at Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels. Generally a poor year, perhaps reflecting the milder conditions.

1200 SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 3, Cissbury - 2, Waterhall - 3, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Wildpark - 16 and Withdean Park - 12. An early nester was seen collecting food in centre of Brighton on Feb 18, with the first juv out of the nest on Mar 4.

1201 REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor

Two large early-year flocks were 180 at Henfield Levels in Feb and 200 at the Chattri in Mar. Smaller flocks were at Clapham Woods, and 2 at Goring on Mar 23. Night passage was heard at Brighton on Oct 5 but early winter movements were low. Lancing Clump recorded 20 on Oct 6 and 26 on Nov

11; 16 at Cissbury on Oct 16 and lower numbers from Wildpark on four dates. In Dec flocks were 300 at Beeding Brooks, 300 at Henfield Levels, 35 at Oreham Common and 25 feeding in a Worthing garden on 18th. A very poor year.

1202 MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 2, Hove Park - 1, Patching Hill - 2, Wildpark - 7 and Withdean Park - 4. The only flock counts were 9 at Stanmer Arboretum in Sep and 4 at Oreham Common in Dec.

1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Generally scarce passage migrant

1 in Brighton park on Apr 14. A number of single birds on different dates were recorded from Sheepcote with 4 in Aug and 2 in Sep. 1 was at Steep Down on Sep 8.

1243 SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer visitor

The first arrival was on the early date of Apr 8 at New Salts Farm. Other birds were recorded at Sheepcote and Wildpark at end of Apr. the only breeding reported was 3 prs at Ferring Rife. High numbers were at Sheepcote in the Autumn with monthly counts of 76 in Aug and 16 in Sep, max 15 on Aug 16. Others were at Lancing Clump in Aug and a late bird at Ferring Rife on Sep 24.

1251 REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer visitor

Spring migrants at non-breeding areas were 3 at Wildpark on May 15, and singles at Cissbury, Lychpole Hill, Maybridge and West Worthing. Breeding prs were Adur - 1, with 3 juvs seen; Henfield Levels - 2; Ferring Rife - 6 and Sanctuary - 2. Ringing totals were 19 at Cissbury and 14 at Sanctuary. Autumn passage was well noted at Sheepcote with 127 total in Aug and 17 in Sep, peaks 20 on Aug 20 and 18 on Aug 29. Much fewer numbers elsewhere at Goring Gap and Wildpark, and the last were 6 at Cissbury on Sep 18.

1262 DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Autumn migrant, increasingly recorded in winter

Following the disappearance of the resident bird at Hollingbury last year, a good number of records as follows - Male on Hollingbury Camp on Apr 1, 1 ringed from phragmites on Oct 3 at the Sanctuary, 1 at Cissbury from Oct 16 into Nov, 1 at Sheepcote on Oct 25 (another on Dec 12 may have been a different bird), and 1 at Beeding Hill on Nov 7.

1274 LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer visitor

Late arrival this year, the first on Apr 29 at Findon, followed by 4 at Wildpark on May 1. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 3, Findon Gallops - 3, Goring Gap - 3, Henfield Levels - 1, Waterhall - 1, and Wildpark - 2. Reported at seven other sites during the breeding season. Low numbers were recorded in the Autumn with 29 at Sheepcote, peak 8 on Aug 8; and only 9 total at Wildpark.

peak 3 on Aug 20. The only reasonable count was 10 at Lancing Clump on Aug 9. With no ringing records, this species must have had a poor breeding season in the UK.

1275 WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor

First bird was noted at Wildpark on Apr 15, then 1 at Upper Beeding on 17th and at 4 sites on 19th. Breeding prs included Brighton Cemeteries - 1, Cissbury - 5, Durrington - 1, Ferring Rife - 2, Goring Gap - 3, Highdown Hill - 7, High Salvington - 3, New Salts Farm - 1, Steep Down - 15, Waterhall - 16, Whitehawk Hill - 25, Wildpark - 26. At Cissbury 70 were ringed during the year, max 12 on Aug 14 and 29. Autumn totals from Sheepcote were Aug - 1130 and Sep - 155, with some really high day counts including 125 on Aug 6, 95 on Aug 10 and 100 on Aug 16. At Wildpark some disappointing numbers with only 86 from Aug 20-Sep 26, max 20 on Aug 20.

1276 GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor

Very few were noted in Spring, the first being at Wildpark on Apr 17 followed by singles at New Salts Farm and Sheepcote on Apr 30. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 7, Highdown Hill - 1, Sandgate Park - 1, Wildpark - 1. Seen also during the breeding season at High Salvington, Lancing Clump and Sullington Warren. A total of 17 were ringed at Cissbury, max 9 on Aug 1. Autumn totals were from Sheepcote with 10 during Aug and 7 in Sep; 2 from Goring Gap; 2 from Henfield Levels; only 2 from Wildpark; and last at Ferring Rife on Sep 24.

1277 BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

Wintering birds reported in Jan/Feb at Findon Valley, Hollingbury Camp, Hollingdean (2), Steyning and West Worthing. The first migrant noted in Wildpark on Mar 27. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 3, Cissbury - 14, Broadwater - 1, Goring Gap - 2, Highdown Hill - 3, High Salvington - 1, Lancing Clump - 1, Sandgate Park - 1, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Wildpark - 15 and Withdean Park - 3. Possibly bred at Durrington.

A good number were ringed at Cissbury, totalling 234, with peaks 34 on Sep 11 and 23 on Sep 26. Elsewhere there were remarkably low numbers during Autumn with totals of only 41 from Wildpark and 60 at Sheepcote, where the peak days were 7 and 10 respectively. The last were 6 at Brooklands on Oct 25. Wintering birds noted Nov/Dec from Broadwater (2), Brooklands, Findon, Sheepcote (2), Sullington Warren and West Hove GC. Less reported during both winter periods, but this may be an indication that such sightings are becoming more common rather than of a lack of birds.

1298 PALLAS'S WARBLER *Phylloscopus proregulus*

Very rare visitor, mostly late autumn

1 in woodland copse near Brooklands on Oct 25 (BFF, DIS, *et al*). On the same day 1 by Portslade railway station (SOS). Both accepted by SOS.

1308 WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Fairly scarce passage migrant

The only record was 1 sm at the Chattri, north Brighton on Apr 30.

1311 CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

Wintering birds were reported from 14 sites, most from urban gardens. Probably the first migrant was at Wildpark on Mar 6, where the Spring passage was poor, just max 8 on two dates. Early arrivals a few days later were at Durrington and Goring. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 3, Cissbury - 1, Goring - 3, Highdown - 2, Sandgate Park - 2, Waterhall - 1, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Wildpark - 13, Wiston - 2, Withdean Park - 2.

At Cissbury a total of 70 were ringed, max 11 on Sep 12, but this number was regarded as a poor Autumn here. the same comments were passed at Sheepcote, where very low numbers were recorded, and at Wildpark, where peaks were only 20 on Sep 22 and Oct 1. Fair numbers were reported through Sep at Goring Gap, with max 22 on Oct 4; and at Brooklands where there were 25 on Oct 8 increasing to 30 on 11th. At the Sanctuary 18 were ringed with at least 2 wintering into Dec. Other wintering birds were noted from Broadwater, Cissbury, Henfield Levels, Hollingdean, Mill Hill, Oreham Common, Sheepcote, and Steyning. Of note was a bird at Goring Gap on Dec 6 with aberrant plumage and a wide whitish collar (DIS).

1312 WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

An early bird was at Wildpark on Mar 24, the next were 2 at Cissbury on Apr 4. Few were noted at Goring Gap and Wildpark and the Spring peak was 10 at Sheepcote on Apr 30. Breeding prs were Sandgate Park - 2, Waterhall - 4 and Wildpark - 6. The latter is the lowest count for many years following 28 prs as recently as 1990. The decline of this once common species was further reflected in the ringing total of only 84 at Cissbury, max 26 on Aug 22. This, too, was the lowest total since the group began ringing in 1984. Wildpark only recorded 68 between Aug 20 and Sep 15, but Sheepcote fared better with 426 in Aug, 26 in Sep and peak 50 on Aug 16. The last was at Cissbury on Sep 18.

1314 GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Surprisingly none were recorded during the first 3 months. The only breeding noted was 1 pr near Preston Park in urban Brighton. Autumn passage was generally poor. Cissbury only ringed a total of 48 from Aug 26 to Oct 23, peak 24 on Oct 9. The first at Sheepcote was on Aug 29 but Sep was poor and peak only 20 on Oct 23. At the Wildpark, peaks were only 11 on Oct 5 and 14 on Nov 8; similarly at Goring Gap the peak was 17 on Oct 4 and 14 on Nov 8. The only exception to all these low figures was a fall of 50 (which also brought in a Pallas's Warbler and Firecrests) at Brooklands on Oct 25. There were still 10 there on Nov 7.

1315 FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, often winters

About two dozen records and an excellent year for this charming little bird. Wintering birds in Jan were up to 3 at Sheepcote and 1 in Woodvale

Cemetery. Noted from three areas of urban Brighton during Feb. Migrants were 1 at Devil's Dyke on Mar 20, 1 at Sheepcote on 24th and a couple at Wildpark in May. Two were also at Wildpark and Brighton gardens in Sep. There were no records from Cissbury. A bevy of records in late Oct included 2 at Brooklands, 1 in Pavilion Gardens Brighton, 2 at Sheepcote, and 1 at Sompting Abbots which wintered into Dec.

1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

First date was 1 in a private park in Brighton on May 6, and the only others in Spring were at Patching Hill and Sheepcote in late May. Three juvs seen at New Erringham Farm on Aug 10, and may have nested. A good number were seen in Autumn. Peak counts in Aug were 4 at Beeding Hill, 6 at Cissbury, 7 at Pigeon House Plantation, total 7 at Sheepcote, and peak 14 at Wildpark on Aug 28, where the Autumn total was 35. In Sep, peaks were 4 at Steep Down on 7th, 5 at Sompting Abbots on 15th, 5 in Brighton on 28th, and smaller numbers at Findon, Goring Gap, Mill Hill, Sheepcote, Small Dole, and Steyning Bowl. The last was at Brooklands on Oct 8.

1349 PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Regular passage migrant

The only Spring record was 1 in a private park in central Brighton on May 14. Scarce, too, in Autumn with 1 at Sheepcote on Aug 31, 3 in the Brighton area during Sep, and a late bird at Wildpark on Oct 16. This handful of records is similar to 1998 and shows a distinct downturn in numbers.

1437 LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 2, Cissbury - 3, Highdown - 1, High Salvington - 1, Waterhall - 3, Wildpark - 11, and Withdean Park - 2. Flock counts of over a dozen were at Benfield Valley, Broadwater, Cissbury and Chantry Hill. There were two peak counts of 40 at Wildpark in Nov and at Warren Hill in Dec. At Cissbury 34 were ringed from Apr 17 to Oct 23, with max 20 on Oct 17.

1440 MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

Early-year birds were noted from Highdown Hill and Clapham Woods. Probably bred at Michelgrove where 4 were noted in Mar and small parties during Oct. 1 pr bred at Cissbury, with 3 birds ringed. There were 2 at Findon Park in Nov and a single at Chantry Hill in Dec.

1442 WILLOW TIT *Parus montanus*

Fairly uncommon resident

1 at Michelgrove on Feb 6 and Mar 17. 1 pr nested at Devil's Dyke with juv seen on Jun 6.

1461 COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Fairly common resident

Reported all year from a Storrington garden, and also during Feb at a garden in Findon Valley. Probably bred at Warren Hill. The only other sightings

reported were 1 at Wildpark on Apr 24 and 1 at Woodvale Cemetery, Brighton, on Dec 20.

1462 BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Abundant resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 18, Cissbury - 3, Storrington garden - 1, Waterhall - 9, Whitehawk Hill - 6, Wildpark - 61, Withdean Park - 13. The total ringed at Cissbury from May 1 to Oct 17 was 50.

1464 GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 14, Cissbury - 2 (1 pr confirmed as raising 7 young), Waterhall - 8, Whitehawk Hill - 2, Wildpark - 49, Withdean Park - 15. Total ringed at Cissbury between May 1 to Oct 16 was 31.

1479 NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident

Breeding prs were 2 at Stanmer Woods and 1 at Warren Hill. Probably bred at Clapham Woods and Michelgrove. 1 at Cissbury Ring on Jun 24 was unusual at this site. Reported late year from Oreham Common and a Storrington garden. This species continues to be under-reported, the true status being uncertain.

1486 TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Uncommon resident

Reported in the breeding season only at Spithandle Lane and Warren Hill. Roving birds were well represented with 2 ringed at Cissbury in Aug, 1 ringed and 1 seen at Sanctuary in Jul and Dec, and 1 in Wildpark in Aug. Singles also noted as resident from Oct in St. Anne's Well gardens, Hove and in Storrington. Last was 1 at Goring Gap on Dec 5, reported as scarce at this site.

1520 GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

1 seen at Stump Bottom on Mar 22 (CW).

1539 JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

3 seen in a Shoreham garden in Jan and at Goring Gap a single was present during Mar. Breeding prs noted at High Salvington (reared 3 young) Wildpark and Withdean Park. Seen during breeding season at Sandgate Park and Washington. Also noted from gardens in Hove and Southwick, Benfield Valley, Cissbury, and at Sheepcote where 1-3 were resident from Oct/Nov.

1549 MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Very common resident

Early year there were counts of 15 at Ferring Rife in Jan and 16 at Henfield Levels in Feb. Roost counts at Wildpark were 160 on Jan 28 and an all-time high of 250 on Feb 15. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 12, Waterhall - 6, Whitehawk Hill - 6, Wildpark - 45 and Withdean Park - 5. A late-year roost count was 98 at Wildpark on Dec 3.

1560 JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Common resident

There were 50 at Wildpark arable field on Feb 7. The only breeding records received were 1 pr at Brighton Cemeteries and 2 prs at High Salvington. In Aug an early morning flight from roost at Varncombe Hill, north Brighton, was counted at approx 210. Feeding flocks in late year were 60 at Wyckham Dale, Steyning on Oct 10 and 160 at Beeding Hill on Nov 7.

1563 ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident

Counts of rookeries received were Clapham - 26, Clayton - 25 (also 30 unoccupied nests there), Findon/Nepcote - 100, Patching - 17, Scare Hill Patcham - 30 and Westmeston - 9. Foraging flocks noted were of 40 at Wildpark in Feb and 114 at Myrtle Grove Farm in Mar.

1567 CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 6, Brighton to Portslade - 13, Waterhall - 3, Whitehawk Hill - 3, Wildpark - 19, Withdean Park - 9. Other records were 2 in off the sea at Marina on Apr 13, 126 at Goring Beach Green on Jun 15 and 24 at Hove Beach on Oct 9.

1582 STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

A valiant effort to count the West Pier roost on Jan 3 totalled 10,000 birds, and on the same day 3000 were at Airfield. Other large flocks were 500 at Henfield Levels in Jan, 1000 at Cuckoo Corner in Feb and 1000 at Old Erringham Farm in Mar. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 17, Waterhall - 3, Whitehawk Hill - 4, Wildpark - 30 and Withdean Park - 11. Flocks of 100+ were seen in off the sea at Marina on two dates in mid Nov. Late-year flocks were 2000 at Airfield on Dec 7 and 1000 at Henfield Levels during the last week of Dec. An individual with an abnormally long bill was seen for a period around the Sealife Centre, Brighton.

1591 HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 10, Lancing - 6, Waterhall - 5, Whitehawk Hill - 9, Wildpark - 11, Withdean park - 5. The only flock count of this under-reported species was 50 at Shoreham dog kennels on Aug 8.

1598 TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Scarce resident

The Lower Standean flock was only recorded once with 27 on Feb 2.

1636 CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident

A flock of 50 were in stubble at Mill Hill on Feb 6. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 7, Cissbury - 4, Waterhall - 22, Wildpark - 42 and Withdean Park - 9. Only 13 were ringed at Cissbury during the year.

1638 **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Regular passage migrant

Just 1 early-year bird at Lower Standean on Jan 1. Singles noted in Mar from Lancing Clump and Marina. Continuing a poor year, Autumn passage included 1 at Lancing Clump on Oct 12, 2 more there in Nov, 2 at Sompting Abbots on Oct 19, 4W at Brooklands on Oct 27, 2 at West Hove GC on Nov 7 and finally 1 at Broadwater on Nov 8.

1640 **SERIN** *Serinus serinus*

Rare passage migrant, usually in spring

A singing male reported from Park Crescent, Brighton on Jun 29. It is unlikely this record was submitted to SOS.

1649 **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident

The only winter flock was 20 at High Salvington on Jan 20. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 29, Lancing - 5, Waterhall - 6, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Wildpark - 31, Withdean Park - 15. Only 1 bird was ringed at Cissbury. Post breeding flocks were 50 at Lancing Clump on Aug 12 and 65 at Steep Down on Sep 23. The flock at Steep Down had swelled to 200 by Sep 28. Another large flock fed on the beach at Shoreham with max 400 on Oct 28 and still 90 there a month later. There was a Dec roost count of 57 at Wildpark.

1653 **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common resident

A flock of 25 was at Long Furlong on Feb 17. Breeding prs were Brighton Cemeteries - 1, Cissbury - 2, Waterhall - 4, Wildpark - 4 and Withdean Park - 1. 10 birds were ringed at Cissbury, including birds with brood patches, thus confirming breeding there for the first time. Seawatches at Worthing recorded passage birds with 33 in May, peak 16 on 3rd; 1479E/16W in Oct, peaks 365 on 16th and 478 on 19th. This Oct passage was also noted at Goring with 50W on 4th and 36E on 16th; 30 at Cissbury on 15th and 60 at Wildpark on 17th. The only late-year flock was 12 at Cissbury on Dec 29.

1654 **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

The only early-year records, all in Mar, were 2 feeding in a Storrington garden, 1 at Steyning and 1 over Wildpark. Passage in the Autumn was noted mainly at Sheepcote with peak 60 on Sep 28, and Wildpark with a total of 25 from Aug 31 to Nov 11. Elsewhere recorded on three Oct dates at Sanctuary, peak 5 on 26th; 6 at Worthing Beach on Oct 16, 8 at Goring Gap on Oct 25 and max 10 at Brooklands on Nov 12. Winter birds were 25 at Storrington pond on Dec 26 and 2 at Oreham Common the next day.

1660 **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and passage migrant

Flocks of 60 were at Steep Down on Jan 6 and 49 at Adur Saltings on Jan 30. Spring passage was noted at Worthing beach with 147 in Apr and 53 in May, peak 26 on Apr 25. Breeding prs were: Cissbury - 7, Downs - 3, Patching Hill - 3, Steep Down - 10, Waterhall - 9, West Durrington - 2, Whitehawk Hill - 10 and Wildpark - 6. Of interest was that Cissbury had its highest total ever,

while Wildpark noted a steady decline from 10 prs in 1996. Cissbury, not surprisingly ringed its highest total of 20, max 9 on Jul 3. Many autumn flocks reported, the highest being 100 at Beeding Hill on Jul 11; 750 at Steep Down on Sep 28 increasing to 1000 on Oct 4, but soon dispersing; and 100 at Beeding Hill on Dec 18. Smaller numbers were from Clapham, Goring Gap and Wildpark.

1662 TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Rare winter visitor

Two were seen at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 23 (JM) and have been accepted by SOS.

1663 REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Spring passage was poor with 1 over Wildpark on Apr 20 and 2 at Broadwater on May 23. Two were seen at Warren Hill in Mar, and may have bred there. Autumn movement commenced on Oct 9 with 2 at Cissbury and 1 at Sanctuary. Insignificant numbers were reported at six sites through Oct, and then a peak of 25 at Sanctuary on 26th, and 25 at Sheepcote on Nov 2. Small numbers continued until mid-Nov. There was 1 at Oreham Common on Dec 27.

1666 COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce visitor, more common in eruption years

Late Summer movement was recorded as follows: 7E at Broadwater on Jul 30, and 5E there on Aug 1; 1 over Cissbury on Aug 14; 1 over Brighton and 7 over Wildpark on Aug 27; 1 over Sheepcote on Sep 1 and 5 on Sep 3.

1710 BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 3, High Salvington - 1, Waterhall - 1, Wildpark - 4. Out of the breeding season recorded at Beeding Brooks, Highdown Hill, Lower Adur, Oreham Common and Sheepcote. A good total of 39 were ringed by the Steyning Ringing Group at Cissbury.

1847 LAPLAND BUNTING *Calcarius lapponicus*

Rare winter visitor or passage migrant

1 found with a small flock of linnets on Portslade Beach on Oct 10 (ADW). Thought to be a male bird, it was searched for next day without luck when the finder came across a Monarch butterfly!

1850 SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Two were at Shoreham Fort on Oct 11, with another 2 there on Dec 9 and 1W at Marina on Dec 17.

1857 YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common resident

There were few winter flocks reported, just 16 at Beeding Hill on Jan 10, and 10 at Mouse Lane, Steyning on the same date. Breeding prs were: the Downs - 2, Highdown Hill - 5, High Salvington - 1, Patching Hill - 4, Saddlescombe -

1. Steep Down - 3, Waterhall - 9, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Wildpark - 12 and Wolstonbury - 2. Also noted at Cissbury but no confirmation of breeding there. Notable late-year counts were 40 at Chantry Hill on Nov 13, a migratory flock of 38W over Hollingbury Camp on Dec 3, and 20 at Beeding Hill on Dec 18.

1877 REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common resident

A flock of 22 were feeding in stubble at Erringham Farm on Jan 10. Also in Jan/Feb noted in small numbers at Adur and Lower Standean. Breeding prs were Ferring Rife - 1 and Rye Farm - 1. Migrant fly-overs were 2 at Wildpark on Oct 16 and peak 6 at Sheepcote on Nov 3. Wintering flocks of up to 20 were at Beeding Hill and Chantry Hill in Nov/Dec.

1882 CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Locally common on downland

Early-year flocks included 12 at Annington, 20 on the Downs near Erringham Farm, and 14 at Lychpole Hill - all in Jan. At Lower Standean there was a flock of 40 on Feb 2, and a similar-sized flock at Steyning Round Hill on Mar 12. A gratifying number of breeding prs were Beeding Hill - 4, Blackpatch Hill - 3, Cissbury - 5, Findon - 4, Findon Place - 1, No Man's Land - 10, Sheepcote - 2, Steepdown/Steyning Round Hill - 7. An odd record was 1 from an urban garden in Hollingdean on Aug 10. Flocks were reported at half a dozen sites in late year, the peaks being 80 at Stump Bottom on Nov 21 and 55 at Chantry Hill in Dec.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS IN 1999

BUDGERIGAR

CANARY 1 at Brighton Old Steine on Mar 16. Another in Wildpark on Apr 28.

CHUKAR PARTRIDGE About 30 released birds noted at Lower Standean on Feb 3.

COCKATIEL Numerous records were from Hollingdean and West Worthing in Apr, Southwick in Jul, Sheepcote in Aug/Sept, Hollingbury Camp and West Hove on the same day in Sep.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD 1f on Brooklands Lake on Sep 15.

WHOOPEE SWAN A feral bird was noted in the Beeding Brooks/Small Dole area from Jun 26 to Jul 26.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO 1998 REPORT

Mute Swan 98 in kale field, Sullington Warren on Dec 27.

Swift 70 at Benfield Valley were on Jul 2 not Sep 2.

UPDATES TO RARITY RECORDS

Recent BBRC decisions and confirmation of records accepted by the Sussex Ornithological Society are listed below:

1998 - All the following records have been accepted:

0012 **Black-necked Grebe** Adur Jan 9

0239 **Red Kite** all records except Cissbury Aug 22

0263 **Montagu's Harrier** Storrington Aug 9

0267 **Goshawk** Storrington Sep 20

0599 **Glaucous Gull** Worthing-Widewater Feb 19-23

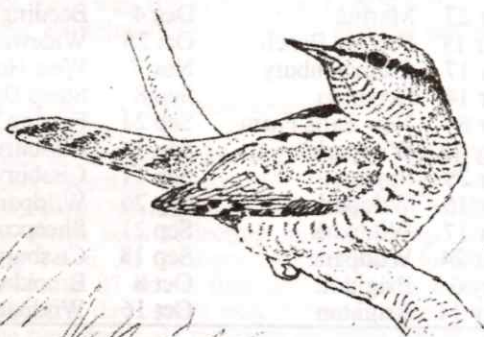
0599 **Glaucous Gull** Worthing Apr 6

0654 **Puffin** Southwick Mar 24 (dead)

0798 **Alpine Swift** Worthing May 14

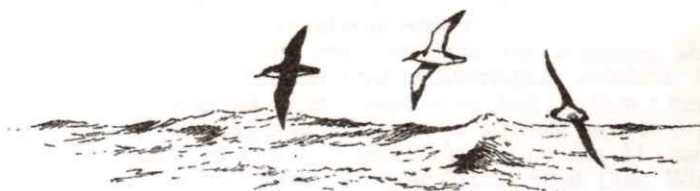
1437 **Long-tailed Tit** 2 white-headed of European origin at Whitehawk Hill on Oct 26

1515 **Red-backed Shrike** Sheepcote May 31



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 1999

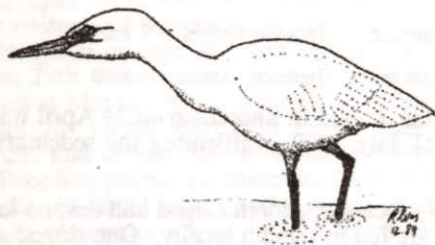
Species	Date	Arrival	Date	Departure
Osprey	Apr 5	Worthing	Oct 2	Adur
Hobby	Apr 25	West Hove GC	Sep 29	Marina
Whimbrel	Apr 11	Marina	Sep 29	Worthing Beach
Common S'piper	Mar 9	Henfield Levels	Oct 16	Cuckoo Corner
Arctic Skua	Mar 29	Marina	Oct 8	Adur
Sandwich Tern	Mar 11	Marina	Dec 1	Marina
Commic Tern	Apr 4	Marina	Oct 8	Adur
Little Tern	Apr 21	Worthing	-	-
Black Tern	Apr 30	Marina	Sep 23	Marina
Turtle Dove	Apr 7	Steyning	Sep 28	Sheepcote
Cuckoo	Apr 11	Marina	Aug 11	Ditchling Beacon
Swift	Apr 26	Brighton	Sep 12	Chantry Hill
Sand Martin	May 1	Sandgate Pit	Sep 30	Goring Gap
Swallow	Apr 1	Hove & Wildpark	Nov 17	Shoreham Harbour
House Martin	Apr 26	Marina	Nov 10	Shoreham Harbour
Tree Pipit	Apr 5	Marina	Sep 26	Widewtr/Wildpark
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 7	Widewater	Oct 10	Cissbury
Nightingale	Apr 20	Ashurst	Aug 22	Cissbury
Redstart	Apr 7	Hollingbury Camp	Sep 30	Goring Gap & Lancing Clump
Whinchat	Apr 27	Marina	Dec 4	Beeding Hill
Wheatear	Mar 13	Ferring Beach	Oct 25	Widewater
Ring Ouzel	Apr 17	Chanctonbury	Nov 7	West Hove GC
Gr/hopper Warbler	Apr 14	Brighton	Sep 8	Steep Down
Sedge Warbler	Apr 8	New Salts Farm	Sep 24	Ferring Rife
Reed Warbler	May 12	Wildpark	Sep 18	Cissbury
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 29	Findon	Sep 11	Cissbury
Whitethroat	Apr 15	Wildpark	Sep 26	Wildpark
Garden Warbler	Apr 17	Wildpark	Sep 21	Sheepcote
Willow Warbler	Mar 24	Wildpark	Sep 18	Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 6	Brighton	Oct 8	Brooklands
Pied Flycatcher	May 14	Brighton	Oct 16	Wildpark



RINGING REPORT FOR 1999

The ringing totals for 1999 were remarkably similar to those for 1998, with 2459 birds ringed, comprising 42 different species. Most, as usual were trapped as fledged birds but once again about 12% (288) were ringed as nestlings and, typically, most of these were pulli from box-nesting Blue and Great Tits. Over 75% of the area total was caught by the Steyning Ringing Group operating from four sites. The greatest effort was mist netting at Cissbury where Brian and Phil Clay, Val Bentley, David King and Ralph Hartfree caught 1867 birds which included 4 Redstarts and the area's only Nightingale. 'Constant Effort' trapping here during the breeding season provided valuable information about breeding populations of common scrub-loving birds and the Autumn ringing accounted for a high proportion of the warblers. At Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve the total of 471, including a Ring Ouzel and Siskin, showed a return to normal after a poor 1998 season. Phil also caught 60 birds in his Steyning garden and the group's total was completed with 140 pulli ringed by Chris Fox in the Wiston area. At the Sanctuary an interesting selection of species included a Dartford Warbler but the total of 420 was again disappointing. John Newnham's total was completed with 52 birds ringed in his Worthing garden. Barrie Watson, helped by John and Charlie Holt, ringed 120 birds, of which 103 were nestlings and included 2 Barn Owls.

The table below, showing the numbers of the species ringed, reveals remarkably similar numbers to previous years for many of the common species. After good catches of Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps in 1998, the numbers in 1999 were much lower, whilst numbers of Whitethroats rose slightly. The annual totals for House Martins widely fluctuate and are dependent on the ability to catch passing flocks by tape-luring in the Autumn. A series of mild winters may contribute to the large total of Long-tailed Tits and healthy local populations of Wrens, Robins and Dunnocks. Although no buntings were trapped there was a small, but welcome, increase in the number of finches ringed, with rises in both the totals of Bullfinches and Linnets trapped. The other two regularly-trapped species on the 'Red List' of Conservation Concern showed declines, with only 44 Song Thrushes and a single Spotted Flycatcher trapped.



Species	No.	Species	No.	Species	No.
Sparrowhawk	3	Blackbird	96	Marsh Tit	3
Woodpigeon	2	Song Thrush	44	Blue Tit	263
Barn Owl	2	Sedge Warbler	15	Great Tit	188
Kingfisher	1	Reed Warbler	131	Nuthatch	7
Green Woodpecker	6	Dartford Warbler	1	Treecreeper	6
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	Lesser Whitethroat	28	Starling	17
Swallow	27	Whitethroat	91	House Sparrow	26
House Martin	246	Garden Warbler	23	Chaffinch	37
Wren	68	Blackcap	331	Greenfinch	27
Dunnock	117	Chiffchaff	125	Goldfinch	10
Robin	130	Willow Warbler	155	Linnet	20
Nightingale	1	Goldcrest	65	Siskin	1
Redstart	4	Spotted Flycatcher	1	Bullfinch	45
Ring Ouzel	1	Long-tailed Tit	93	Total	2459

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:- The recoveries from the intensive gull ringing in the area are slowly declining. During 1999 there were just 4 British recoveries, all from Sussex, but one individual was 20 years of age. The foreign movements were single recoveries from Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, Latvia, Sweden and Finland and three recoveries from Germany. An adult, coming to bread on Southwick beach on 10 February, had been ringed at Usimaa, Finland in June 1989.

2) Common Gull:- One set of recoveries from a Sompting ringed bird, although reported very late, provides an interesting life history. The bird was additionally ringed with a colour ring (White P4449) in 1987 which no doubt contributed to the later sight records.

23 Jan 1985	2nd year	Sompting	2nd year		
6 Jun 1987	Controlled	Tagarahu, Estonia	Adult	1755 km	60 deg
10 Jun 1992	Controlled	Tagarahu, Estonia	Adult		
24 Jul 1992	Sight record	Ujście Wisley, Poland	Adult	1356 km	
1993 (no date given)	Controlled	Tagarahu, Estonia	Adult		
1994 (no date)	Controlled	Tagarahu, Estonia	Adult		

3) Tawny Owl:- A pullus, ringed in Shoreham on 21 April was found dead in a local water butt on 21 July 1999, reaffirming the sedentary nature of this species.

4) Woodpigeon:- This species is seldom ringed and despite large movements noted in Autumn most are felt to remain locally. One ringed at the Sanctuary

as an adult on 8 June 1997 was shot on 9 February 1999 at Truleigh Hill, supporting this view.

5) Reed Warbler:- This, the only movement recorded this year, is fairly typical for this species.

Ringed	First-year	Litlington, East Sussex	50.49°N 0.09°E	
23 Aug 1998				
10 Jul 1999	Controlled	Shoreham Sanctuary	50.50°N 0.17°W	31 km, 280 deg, 321 days

6) Garden Warbler:- Like the Garden warbler reported last year, this bird was also 4 years old but was recovered further from our area; a small distance however, when considering this bird had spent 4 winters in Africa.

Ringed	First-year	Mumbles, Steyning	50.54°N 0.19°W	
12 Aug 1995				
9 July 1999	Dead on road	Nr Belmont, Lancashire	53.41°N 2.33°W	346 km, 334 deg, 1427 days

7) Blackcap:- A run of good years for recoveries of this species continues with an interesting Algerian Spring recovery, this being the fifth recovery of a Blackcap ringed in this area and subsequently found in North Africa.

Ringed	First-year female	Cissbury	50.52°N 0.23°W	
31 Aug. 1998				
29 March 1999	Trapped & released	Akbou, Alger, Algeria	36.38°N 4.32°E	1647 km; 166 deg; 210 days
Ringed		Pitsea Marsh,		
31 Jul 1999	Juvenile female	Basildon, Essex	51.32°N 0.30°E	
29 Aug 1999	Controlled	Cissbury	50.52°N 0.23°W	96 km 220 deg 29 days

8) Chiffchaff:- The following add to the excellent series of movements already reported for 1998.

Ringed	Juvenile	near Norwich,	52.37°N 1.22°E	
16 Aug 1998		Norfolk		
10 Oct 1998	Controlled	Cissbury	50.52°N 0.23°W	229 km; 212 deg; 55 days
Ringed	Fully grown	Beachy Head,	50.44°N 0.15°E	
18 Sep 1998		East Sussex		
27 Sep 1998	Controlled first-year	Cissbury	50.52°N 0.23°W	47 km; 288 deg; 9 days

9) Willow Warbler:- Movements between our area and Scotland have previously been recorded; both of the following birds were ringed presumably near their natal site and controlled emigrating in mid-August.

Ringed	First-year	Hill of Fortrose,	57.35'N 4.09'W	
2 Aug. 1998	female	Highland, Scotland		
15 August 1998	Controlled	Mumbles, Steyning	50.54'N 0.19'W	785km; 162 deg, 13 days
Ringed	First-year	Greystoke Forest,	54.41'N 2.57'W	
2 Aug 1999	male	Cumbria		
21 August 1999	Controlled	Mumbles, Steyning	50.54'N 0.19'W	458 km; 157 deg; 19 days

Like previous years there were several local recoveries and many birds were retrapped in successive years. All help to build information on movements and population sizes.

John Newnham

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT 1999

Altogether a total of 23 ringing sessions were carried out at the Cissbury site during the year, 12 of which were of the 'constant effort' variety, with a tally of 1196 birds being ringed. At the Mumbles site near Steyning, 11 sessions of mist netting were operated, with 471 birds being ringed.

In 1999 Cissbury was operated with a minimum of two ringers, usually three and occasionally four, with 12 net sites in use for two ringers and 15 sites when working with three or more, most of the nets being 18 m. long. The Mumbles set-up is more flexible and can be operated with only one ringer on site, using between four and eight 18-m. mist nets, as happened on five sessions. Two group members were present on 4 other occasions, with three on duty for the Open Day.

The Cissbury total of 1196 new birds ringed includes a tape-lured catch of 246 House Martins, 25 Blue Tit pulli and 6 Great Tit pulli, leaving an actual 'real' tally of 919 birds netted at that site. The total of 471 new birds at the Mumbles leaves, at a cursory glance, both sites appearing about even but, when the number of operatives, the number of nets and the number of sessions are taken into consideration, it would appear that the Mumbles can actually produce more birds with fewer nets for less effort!

Cissbury, however, always has had the edge in the Autumn with large numbers of *sylvia* and *phylloscopus* warblers moving and feeding through the site, although in 1999 the numbers were well down on the previous year: Blackcap down from 457 to 234, Chiffchaff down from 301 to 70 and Willow Warbler down from 102 to 84. Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat numbers were, however, both up slightly. The figures for early-Autumn were probably reduced due to the calm high-pressure weather systems allowing the migrating

birds a 'quick get-away' and also due to slightly fewer ringing sessions taking place.

The 'Constant Effort' (CES) ringing data are, as usual, somewhat complex, with some resident bird species inexplicably in decline, and others apparently thriving, the figures for the usual species quoted being shown in the accompanying table.

Species	1996		1997		1998		1999	
	ad.	juv.	ad.	juv.	ad.	juv.	ad.	juv.
Wren	6	16	6	6	4	11	2	4
Dunnock	21	9	14	17	13	23	15	11
Robin	7	19	4	17	4	22	4	14
Blackbird	17	11	13	19	18	6	15	3
Lesser Whitethroat	8	5	8	2	8	4	9	4
Whitethroat	21	16	17	31	8	13	9	33
Garden Warbler	7	5	14	9	10	11	10	8
Blackcap	10	11	21	33	12	63	26	37
Willow Warbler	9	48	9	47	8	34	10	34

A word of warning about CES figures and ringing data. CES came about when it was noticed that the crude national ringing figures for species (i.e. total numbers ringed) followed the same trends as those of other BTO surveys. Pilot studies were done at a number of sites where the netting regimes, i.e. the hours operated, and the net sites, length and type, were standardised and the number of sessions per annum was set at twelve, to be carried out between the beginning of May and the end of August, the idea being to eliminate as many variables as possible, with the only variables left being the weather and habitat growth. It was only when the results from *all* the sites are accumulated and averaged out that the data becomes significant, and thus data from *individual* sites has never been intended to be interpreted in isolation, but as a guide only such results may prove useful.

Apart from the data collected for the commoner species, it is always the more-unusual records that provide the highlights, and during the year a total of 3 Green Woodpeckers were ringed, along with 3 Marsh Tits, 4 Redstarts, one Swallow, one Nightingale and a Spotted Flycatcher. Notable by their absence were Pied Flycatcher and Sedge Warbler. Very much on the plus side was an increase in the finch population, with 10 Goldfinches and 20 Linnets being ringed during the year, both increasing from zero. A healthy total of 39 Bullfinches were also ringed, up from 26 in 1998.

Amongst the total of 471, the Mumbles also produced a collection of bits and pieces, including one Sparrowhawk, a brace of Green Woodpeckers, a very welcome 8 Sedge Warblers and (possibly the highlight of the year) a single Ring Ouzel.

As usual, during the ringing operations a number of sightings were made at the ringing sites. At Cissbury there were regular views of Sparrowhawk and Kestrel, 4 separate observations of Hobby, and the wader family was represented by three separate sightings of Curlew and a lone Greenshank on 22 August. Tree Pipits were noted flying over between 14 August and 12

September, a solitary Crossbill was recorded on 14 August and two Redpolls on 9 October.

The winter management work continued on both sites, with more tree removal at the Mumbles than at Cissbury, thanks to David King and his trusty chainsaw. Little did I realise how dominant the trees had become at that site; there are still plenty left, however!

Many thanks to the National Trust and their Warden Vic Oliver for the use of Cissbury, and to SEEBOARD for the use of their access road at the Mumbles on the Open Day.

Phil Clay



SANCTUARY REPORT 1999

This annual review is based, as usual, on the records from my notebook augmented by observations from Dr Barrie Watson. Once again there were about 60 visits to the copse with a further small increase in mist-netting sessions to 21. The ringing sessions were all morning visits between 11 May and 26 October. The following table, presented for consistency, shows the crude annual ringing statistics for the past eleven years. The total of 616 birds trapped of 28 different species (420 new and 196 retraps) is comparable to the total for 1998.

Summary of ringing effort and results for 1989 - 1999

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. of sessions	19	19	9	13	16	14	16	16	13	18	21
Average catch	50	52	31	32	31	37	38	27	25	34	30
Year best	135	94	56	53	49	70	66	55	46	55	61

The winter was again mild, and indeed 6 January was the warmest January day since 1840. This unseasonable weather induced plenty of early bird song and a Chiffchaff was flitting about the willows on 10 January. By late February the Marsh Marigolds in the centre of the copse were in full bloom and frog spawn was found in one of the streams on the 28th. There were few bird records and most of the trips to the copse in the early months were for clearing and 'gardening' work. Two parties were organised: on 17 January five members cleared the osier on the west bank to allow more light into the reed bed, the task being completed at the second work party on 17 February. During February there were two other days of felling and clearing.

Spring was poorly documented compared to those years in the past when the copse was visited daily. The first Chiffchaff was singing on 28 March with

Willow Warblers and Blackcaps joining the chorus by 11 April. The first flags were in bloom by 18 April, a Chaffinch collecting cobwebs for nesting on 4 April and a Mallard carefully tending its brood of chicks on 11 May. The early mist-netting sessions produced few birds but on each occasion an unusual species was trapped, with Sparrowhawks netted on 11 and 23 May, a Kingfisher on 15 May and a Great Spotted Woodpecker on 30 May. Just three people visited the copse on 23 May for the Society's Spring outing: a small selection of common birds was trapped but sadly and rather typically the hawk waited until all had left before being captured.

Nesting fortunes were rather mixed: perhaps the most exciting was a pair of Sparrowhawks which nested in one of the old hawthorns. On 10 July there were 3 eggs but no young were seen later. A small colony of Jackdaws could regularly be heard squabbling in the maturing Sycamore wood and Turtle Doves were heard purring during June. There were probably three pairs of Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and Reed Warblers but both Lesser Whitethroats and Willow Warblers were only irregularly recorded during the breeding season. During June there were several spikes of Pyramidal Orchid and a few Flowering Rush to be found. A Yellowwort, unusual in the copse, was in flower on the grass bank but later there were only two Autumn Lady's-tresses, the lowest number recorded for many years and continuing a downward trend for this species.

All too soon Summer drifts into Autumn, bringing with it clear evidence of birds returning to warmer climates. Two Sandwich Terns flew SW high over the copse on 1 August, their presence announced by their call and, I believe, the first time this coastal species has been recorded from the copse. Passage warblers were never numerous this year but 34 were trapped on 11 August. This day I will never forget, as the near-total eclipse of the sun brought an eerie quietness and distinct coolness to the copse. No birds were moving nor trapped during the period of shadow but as the temperature rose again, song and activity increased. Single Spotted Flycatchers, now a scarce bird at the copse, were recorded on 3 dates in late August, passage Grey Wagtails first appeared on 21 August and the last Swift was seen hurrying eastward with a large flock of Hirundines on 4 September.

September was reported to be the warmest since 1949 yet wet and windy weather coincided with my free time, allowing only two mist-netting sessions to be done during this often productive month. No doubt this, in part, accounted for fewer Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps being trapped. On most visits both Sparrowhawk and Kestrels were recorded but few other raptors were seen this year, of which a Hobby on 12 September and Peregrine on 9 October were noteworthy. During October small parties of finches were recorded moving over the copse: Goldfinches were the most numerous but a few Siskins were heard and 25 Redpolls flew east on 26. The largest surprise of the year was a male Dartford Warbler which was trapped next to the reedbed on 3 October. Although this species has been recorded on Mill Hill, it was the first time it has been recorded in the Sanctuary.

The arrival of 25 Fieldfares on 10 November heralded the onset of Winter and small parties of Goldcrests were recorded but few other Winter visitors were seen. As the leaves left the trees it was easier to see both Great Spotted and

Green Woodpeckers (up to 3 regularly) and a Tawny Owl was occasionally seen but regularly heard during the last two months. At least 2 and possibly 3 Chiffchaffs lingered on to the end of the year. During the last two months more clearing and pruning was needed and in both September and December the west boundary ditch was cleared and dredged.

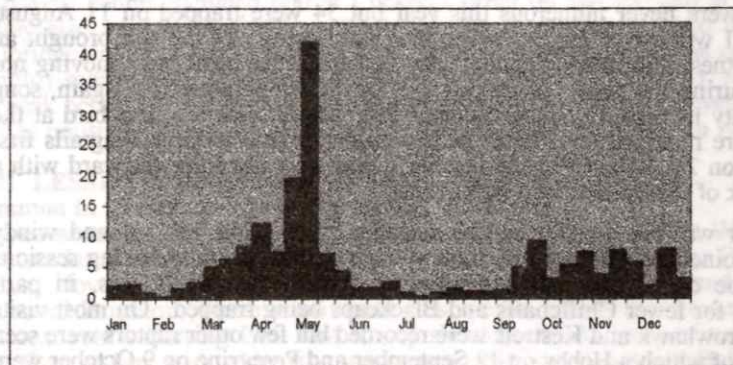
I would like to express the society's thanks to Mr W. Schultz and to the staff of Southern Water for their continuing help and co-operation. I also thank Dr. Barrie Watson for help with maintenance and the ringing activities, Mark Newnham for his regular help with the gardening and Judith Baker and Sarah Dawkins for help with the ringing.

John Newnham

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 1999

Introduction

During 1999 a total of 195 hours of watching was logged, showing a small, insignificant decrease from 1998. Like last year the hours watched at Worthing compares poorly with the 660 hours of observations recorded from Brighton Marina and, as usual, the major sea-watching effort was recorded during March to May when east winds bring a more predictable chance of seeing a good passage. In 1999 over 57% of the watching was concentrated over these months but only in the first period of May was the effort notably greater. The following figure demonstrates this clearly and shows the low amount of watching undertaken in the Summer and variable observations conducted in the Autumn.



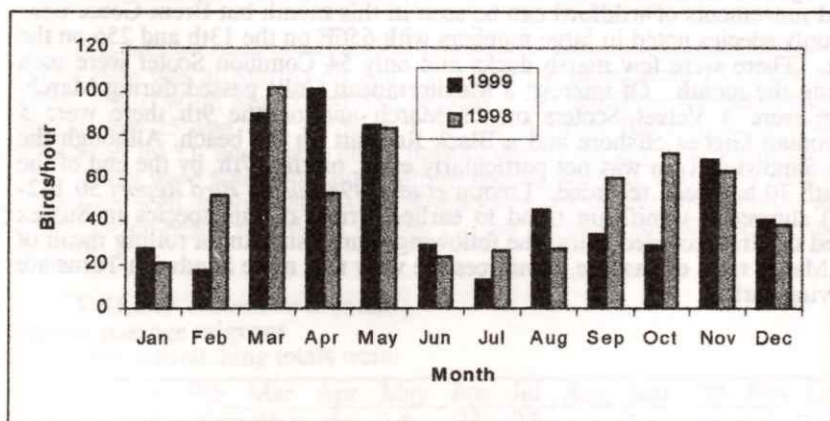
Number of hours sea-watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 1999

Like the hours watched, the small increase in the number of non-passerines logged to 13,502 shows no significant change from 1998 but the overall rate rises slightly to 69 birds per hour watched. As usual these figures and the following table excludes the large numbers of passerines which can be seen moving along the coast, particularly in the autumn months.

Hours watched and total number of birds seen

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hours	5.2	4.3	20	39.2	53	6	2	3.5	15.4	15.8	17.2	13
Total birds	142	74	1790	3973	4475	174	25	159	528	452	1183	527
Birds /Hour	27	17	90	101	84	29	13	45	34	29	69	41

The following figure demonstrates graphically the monthly trends in 1999 (black) compared with 1998 (grey) and shows an improvement in rate of passage in April but reductions in February and some of the autumn months.



The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched

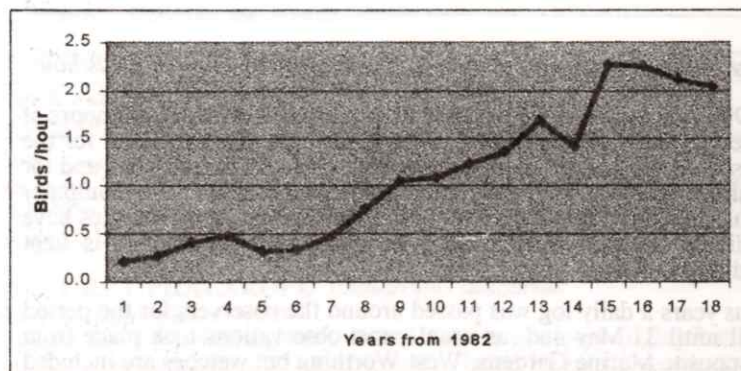
Including 1999, the records for 22 consecutive years and nearly 8,500 hours of watching are now held electronically. For all of these years the data for the regularly observed species are easily accessed on a 10-day period basis and for the years since 1986 a daily log has been maintained. As computer technology has advanced and the software grown more powerful the files have been accordingly updated, meticulously ensuring that the format is kept identical and thus enabling easy analysis.

Like previous years a daily log was passed around the observers for the period from 1 April until 31 May and, as usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing but watches are included from other sites such as Ferring beach, Goring beach, Worthing pier, and Brooklands beach. In early May several watchers were present but particular thanks go to the following observers who have contributed records to the daily log which form the basis of the records and this report: P.M. Brayshaw; M.B. Brayshaw, A. Carter, S. Cross, M. Hall, C.E. Hope, M. Howard, R.A. Ives, J.A. Newnham; M.G. Prince, R.J. Sandison, D.I. Smith, and R. Tofts.

Chronological Account

The early weeks of the year were very quiet with few interesting birds recorded offshore; the low numbers of hours watched in both January and February are testament to this dearth of birds. A party of 5 Velvet Scoters on 23 January; 3 Slavonian Grebes offshore in early February and a Long-tailed Duck on 24 February were the most interesting records. Although divers and auks were few in number there was the usual large gathering of Red-breasted Mergansers to be seen; numbers in the first two months were between 50 and 65 but during March there was a notable increase with 210 counted on the 14th.

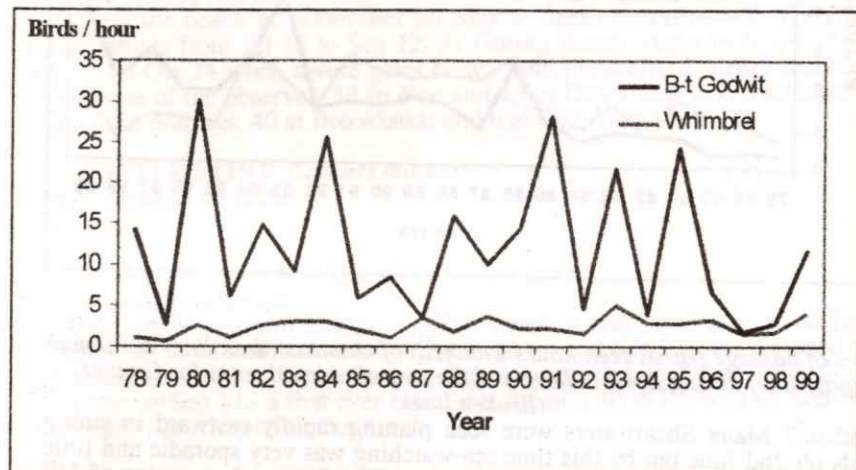
Throughout March the number of hours watched gradually increased. Often good movements of wildfowl can be seen in this month but Brent Geese were the only species noted in large numbers with 656E on the 13th and 256 on the 21st. There were few marsh ducks and only 54 Common Scoter were seen during the month. Of interest; 3 Mediterranean Gulls passed during March, there were 3 Velvet Scoters on 11 March and on the 9th there were 5 Slavonian Grebes offshore and a Black Redstart on the beach. Although the first Sandwich Tern was not particularly early, on the 27th, by the end of the month 70 had been recorded. Loxton *et al* (1998 *Sussex Bird Report* 50:182-195) showed a significant trend to earlier arrival of this species in Sussex based on first recorded dates; the following figure, showing a rolling mean of the March rates of passage, reinforces the view that more Sandwich Terns are arriving earlier.



Five-year rolling mean of March rates of Sandwich Tern passing Worthing 1978-1999

As the figure showing the monthly rates of passage clearly shows, this April was better than April 1998, however, it will not be remembered as a 'vintage' period with just one or two reasonable days passage mixed in with weeks when little movement was visible. Like March there were no large

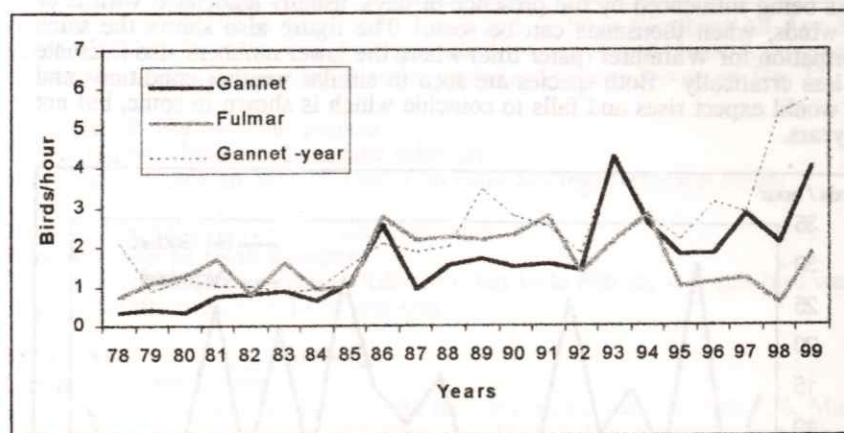
movements of wildfowl with the 1st being the best day with 60 Shovelers and 314 Common Scoters. A west bound Osprey on 5th April, 173 Whimbrels on the 25th and 4 Gadwalls on the 30th were records of note. Only 476 Bar-tailed Godwits were seen during the month and although more followed in early May there were no impressive movements. The following figure clearly shows the marked annual variation in observed Bar-tailed Godwit passage, the peaks being influenced by the presence of days, usually associated with E or NE winds, when thousands can be seen. The figure also shows the same information for Whimbrel (paler line) where the lower numbers also fluctuate but less erratically. Both species are seen in similar weather conditions and one would expect rises and falls to coincide which is shown in some, but not all, years.



Rates of passage (Birds seen/hours watched) of Bar-tailed Godwit (dark line) & Whimbrel (pale line) during April & May

As usual early May was the most exciting period of watching during the year, with 26 Pomarine and 24 Arctic Skuas seen on 3rd and a steady movement of the regular species. Two Avocets seen at Worthing at 0745 hrs were logged at Splash Point, Seaford at 0834 hr but 2 seen the following morning were not subsequently recorded at Seaford. Clearly the day to have spent sea-watching was 7th May when most sites recorded a huge movement; the early morning watch in SE2-3 was promising with parties of waders and ducks passing regularly; by mid morning heavy rain started and the wind dropped completely and in just 1 hours watching at lunch time nearly 500 terns passed. During fresh winds on 9th May 9 Manx Shearwaters were seen heading west and the month's maximum of 48 Gannets were recorded. However only 10 Fulmars were seen on this blowy day which prompted observers to suggest that this species had declined in number in recent years. The following figure plots the April and May rates of observations for each year since 1978 and

indeed the pale line representing Fulmar suggests fewer have been recorded in the past few years than in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Conversely Gannets (darker line) appear to be recorded more frequently, a feature more evident if the whole year figures (dotted line) are studied rather than those for just April and May.



Rates of passage (Birds seen/hours watched) of Gannets (dark line) & Fulmar (pale line) during April & May and the overall annual rates for Gannet (Broken line).

Another 7 Manx Shearwaters were seen planing rapidly eastward in strong winds on 2nd June but by this time sea-watching was very sporadic and little recorded. One such brief watch, during light SE winds in the evening of 24th June, produced a surprising party of 6 Pomarine Skuas flying SW. Passage was not really evident until September when passerines were seen flying along the coast in the early mornings; several hundreds of *hirundines* were noted and on 26th September 455 Meadow Pipits were counted. In October parties of Goldfinches were the most numerous species seen with the month total of 1495 including 478 on the 19th. The first Brent Geese were seen on 27th September and the first Red-breasted Merganser on 10th October; neither were seen passing in large numbers later in the autumn. Throughout the autumn there were a few skuas, Little and Mediterranean Gulls recorded but a Slavonian Grebe offshore on the 11th October and passing Little Egrets on 16th and 24th October were more unusual. As indicated above, Gannets were more numerous with 116W in 2hours on 18th September, 228W and 75 fishing offshore on 20th November and 125 passing on 21st November. On this last date 193 Kittiwakes, the season's maximum, were seen and a winter plumaged Sandwich Tern passed E. Auks too were recorded in good numbers as 194 were seen flying W on 20th November and the December total was 162. Invariably if there are good numbers of Gannets and auks offshore then divers are also recorded; the December totals being 38 Red-throated and 57 diver spp. The annual variations in numbers of seabirds seen offshore is interesting

and perhaps warrants some research in correlating the observations with fish stocks in this part of the Channel. Slightly unusual observations in December were a Peregrine on the 15th and 2 Velvet Scoters and 3 Goldeneyes on the 16th.

John Newnham

INDOOR MEETINGS 1999

In January Stephen Knapp spoke on the Reserva Ecologica de Guapi Acu (REGUA). For many years Stephen has been involved with this area in Brazil and just before he left his job as Warden of Pagham Nature Reserve to move to Brazil he came to tell us why he had become so interested in the Reserva and the work which still needed to be done there. More than 130 bird species are endemic to the Mata Atlantica, of which REGUA forms a principal site, and we were shown slides of a number of such species and other local wildlife. Plans are well developed to build a Field Station to accommodate research and educational facilities, as well as visiting bird watchers and other ecotourists.

Much closer to home, Ann Griffiths came to us in **February** to tell the story of the West Sussex Reserve at Levin Down. Ann works for West Sussex in the Countryside Services Department but also acts as the voluntary warden for Levin Down. She began her talk by showing slides of the area as illustrated in old maps. It was easy to see that the Down had survived as unimproved grassland even although it was surrounded by modern farmland. Ann talked about the geology and the resulting flora and fauna. Although there were very few slides of birds, everyone enjoyed this talk and learned a great deal from her extensive knowledge and love of this unusual site. No one present had visited Levin Down but the opportunity was offered by the two outings in the 1999 Field Trip programme later in the year.

The **March meeting** was led by two of our knowledgeable members, Keith Noble and Barrie Watson, speaking on Gulls. Keith opened by showing the comparative sizes of the Little Gull at 11 in. (28 cm.) and the Great Black-backed Gull at 27 in. (68 cm.) He went on to give examples of plumage changes from nestling to adult which, in some cases, take as long as three years. There were marvellous slides of all the gulls, with special pointers to identification in the field, including comparisons of Black-headed, Mediterranean and Little Gull, and Kittiwake. Everyone added to their knowledge as a result of Keith's clear and helpful directions. Barrie Watson then gave us the results of some ringing returns and showed how some gulls are caught with rocket netting on the rubbish dumps and seashore. By this method a new 'strain' of Common Gull had been discovered with a slightly longer wingspan than the recognized Common Gull. He also explained the wide variety of places from which ringing returns had come for the Mediterranean Gull. Ringing has taught us a great deal about the life cycle of gulls. We were all extremely grateful to our two experts!

At the **AGM in April** our President Stanley Allen, summarised the work done by the Committee over the past year. Stanley is a great asset to our Society because with his main contacts, he keeps his finger on the pulse of what is happening in the SDOS area. He has, for example, attended committee

meetings on both Widewater and the Cement Works, making sure that conservation needs are known.

After the AGM we had a lively mix of short talks by members, with Audrey Wende telling us about our sister society, the SOS, Cliff Walder allowing us a tantalising view of a visit to the Antarctic with stunning pictures of its frozen seas, Jay Cooper providing an unusual offering by playing some audio tapes of soothing music interspersed by birdsong that we were asked to identify, and Stanley Allen showing some of his favourite slides of bird rarities seen in our area.

The **Social Evening** was held at the Old Rectory, Coomes on one of the few fine evenings in July. It was warm enough to stay outside until after 10 p.m. The setting was attractive, the company excellent, and everyone could relax and enjoy the superb food provided by Truffles.

John Wyatt came in **October**, highly recommended by John and Sheena Maskell who had been on one of his organised bird tours. His travels have taken him all over Africa and Europe but this talk was entitled 'Magical Mountains' and was about the birds of the Pyrenees. John was an excellent speaker, showing slides of a good variety of birds but also talking about the history of the Pyrenees and its flora and fauna.

Gordon Langsbury has visited the SDOS on a number of occasions and is a popular speaker. His subject was British waders in their haunts. There were memorable photographs (waders are not the easiest birds to approach) and a great deal of information from Gordon's keen observations. We were shown waders in all seasonal and sexual plumages, obtaining which must have been a huge feat of patience. The large audience appreciated this lecture from an expert in his field.

We ended the year with a talk on the Birds of Spitsbergen from Ian Rumley-Dawson who presented his very professional talk with the aid of a twin dissolving projection system which is used to create continuous pictures on the screen with interesting aesthetic effects. He showed us many of the spectacular islands formed from huge sea cliffs, which in turn provide breeding ledges for vast colonies of seabirds. A splendid end to an interesting year!

Once again, my thanks go to Diane and Terry Hicks for their absolute reliability in providing the refreshments for all our indoor meetings in 1999.

Brianne Reeve

FIELD TRIPS 1999

About a dozen members accompanied Tony Fenton on 9th January around Dungeness on a cold, breezy day starting with the Reserve, then seawatching from opposite the power station and finally taking a look at Scotney Gravel Pits. On the reserve were Red-throated Diver, Black-necked Grebe, four Smew, 12+ Goldeneye and two Chiffchaffs, seen at close quarters from the hides. Seawatching only produced one Common Scoter and at least six

Guillemots. Scotney however produced a Great Northern Diver and both Slavonian and Red-necked Grebes. Overall, members were pleased to have started the year by adding two Diver and five Grebe species to their lists.

Although 21st February was very windy, a good number of members met Dave Smith for a morning's trek around Apuldrum. Good numbers of Grebes were noted together with two Goldeneye, one Red-breasted Merganser and a Little Egret. A Peregrine struggled up-channel, displacing a few waders. Other species recorded were Rock Pipit, Grey Wagtail and Green Woodpecker.

After lunch the group transferred to West Dean Woods, where the majority of expected woodland species were noted including Marsh Tit. A flock of in excess of 100 Chaffinches were located feeding around the farm area but no Bramblings could be picked out amongst them. The only raptors seen were a single Buzzard and a Hen Harrier.

The 15 members who met John Newnham at the Goring Ilex tree shelter on the 25th April anticipated a good selection of birds for the SDOS annual seawatch, which this year enjoyed south-easterly winds. They were not to be disappointed. Both Red-throated and Black-throated Divers passed by, along with two Great-crested Grebes, three Gannets and more than 30 Common Scoter. Sandwich, Common and Little Terns were noted and the waders seen included Dunlin, more than 100 Whimbrel, 18 Turnstones and an Oystercatcher. Two Fulmars and several Gull species, including Little Gull were also seen, but the Skuas stole the show with four Arctic and one Great Skua being enjoyed by most of those present. In addition, one Wheatear and four Linnets were seen along the Beach.

Brianne Reeve, Ann Griffiths and nine SDOS members enjoyed a warm and sunny day around Levin Down on 18th April. This outing was arranged as a sequel to the interesting talk given by Ann at a prior indoor meeting. The 32 bird species recorded included Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap, as well as Swallow. While resting for lunch an Osprey flew over. Although a good selection of butterflies had been anticipated, the sightings of Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper and Green Hairstreak so early in the season were unexpected.

Sarah Patton was kind enough to meet Society members at Climping on 2nd May to catch up on incoming Spring migrants. A good selection were either seen or heard, including seven species of warbler (including Lesser Whitethroat), plus four Wheatears, three Reed Buntings and a few Swallows. Also noted were a Little Owl plus several Linnets and Yellowhammers. Along the tideline ten Sandwich and six Little Terns passed close in, as well as three Bar-tailed Godwits, 25 Oystercatcher, two Great-crested Grebes and a Fulmar.

On 23rd May, John Newnham kindly opened up the Sanctuary for SDOS members. Although only two people attended, they witnessed the mist-netting capture of eight different species. Somewhat later, regrettably after the departure of the members, a female sparrowhawk was caught and processed.

Bernie Forbes accompanied 15 members on a rather windy 6th June in the New Forest. A circular morning amble around the Pig Bush area was

followed after lunch by a walk around the Beaulieu Road site. Observed from the car park here were a pair of Spotted Flycatchers, with Hobby, Siskin and Crossbill in the vicinity. Other good birds noted throughout the day included Redstart, Tree Pipit, Woodlark, Hawfinch, Stonechat, Curlew, Redshank and up to eight Hobbies and four Buzzards.

On 17th July Bernie again led a full-day outing, this time to Martin Down and Telegraph Hill, with 10 members attending on a warm, dry day. Around Martin Down the highlights were good views of two Stone Curlews, with four Buzzards, a Sparrowhawk, and Corn Bunting and Turtle Dove also being recorded. Later, at Telegraph Hill a further six Buzzards were seen, together with four Dartford Warblers, a Spotted Flycatcher and a Stonechat. The day also produced a high butterfly count with more than 40 Dark Green Fritillaries and 100 Marbled Whites, plus Chalkhill Blues, Grayling, Pearl-bordered Fritillaries and Silver-studded Blues being the most interesting. Calling in at the Farlington Marsh Reserve on the way home produced good close views of the Spotted Crake and the Little Ringed Plover that had been present there for some time.

On 15th August, Chris Wright completed his induction as the new SDOS Outings Leader when, with seven other members, he toured Kithurst Hill by walking towards Wepham Down and back. The weather was warm and cloudy and masses of Hirundines were noted along with several Willow Warblers and Whitethroats, plus Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Yellowhammer, three Wheatears, a Buzzard, several Kestrels, a few Linnets and one Skylark. Among the flora, several Frog Orchids and a few Autumn Ladies Tresses were found at the dew pond near The Burgh.

Another outing was undertaken by Brianne Reeves and nine SDOS Members around Levin Down, this time on 21st August and again in the company of Ann Griffiths. A beautiful sunny day produced 21 bird and 16 butterfly species, of which several Spotted Flycatchers, one Redstart and a Lesser Whitethroat were the most notable.

Dave Smith led an outing around Pagham Harbour on 12th September. He, along with 9 Society members had an excellent day's birding, so much so that Dave asked to lead the outing again at the same time in 2000. Many highlights were amongst the 73 species recorded, albeit with relatively few migrants. Starting at Ferry Pool, many waders were present including 20 juvenile Curlew Sandpipers, four juvenile Little Stints, one Spotted Redshank, five Ruff and two Common Sandpipers. A Yellow-legged Gull was also identified as well as two rather distant Buzzards: there had apparently been quite a passage of the latter along the south coast that day.

At lunch-time, from the Information Centre car park a Peregrine was seen to cause panic in the harbour. Similarly at Church Norton a little later, a Hobby seemed determined to catch a Dunlin that it had singled out, but seemed to miss out. More than 20 Wheatears were seen in the fields and as the leader was walking back on the top track towards the churchyard a bird which flew towards him turned itself into a Wryneck as it passed him and came to ground fortunately, so that all the group had good views. Amazingly, north of the scrub area another Wryneck also showed even better later on. Finally, back at

the Information Centre 27 Yellow Wagtails flew over to complete a memorable day's birding.

Due to the intended leader falling ill a few days prior to the outing to Birling Gap on 10th October, the assembled group of nine members decided their own itinerary. A quick Seawatch proved that not much was passing offshore. A walk along the cliff then followed, producing two Wheatears close to the cliff edge, and after turning up the valley towards Crowlink a Redstart flitted about around the Dew Pond. Back at Belle Tout Wood many Goldcrests were seen and heard, one in particular being noteworthy because of its extremely bright orange crown feathers.

On 14th November, Richard Ives led the outing to Pagham, meeting at East Beach where he was greeted by 24 members for a walk around the peninsular. Just off the hide a second-winter Mediterranean Gull performed well, giving good views to the assembled and providing an excellent opportunity for comparisons to the numerous Black-headed Gulls nearby. Around the harbour more than 300 Golden Plover were distant but ten Slavonian Grebes were seen off shore and a flock of 50 Common Scoter moved east with a pair of Goldeneye. Two Gannets were also spotted feeding out at sea. Three Red-Breasted Mergansers were, most unseasonably, displaying to each other, apparently having the foreknowledge that there would be little winter between 1999-2000! There were plenty of waders on the mudflats, but nothing unusual, but 50 Knot was a good flock. Fifteen members remained for the afternoon walk to the North Wall but the impending rain and strong wind ensured that most passerines save two Stonechats kept a low profile.

The last SDOS outing of the Millennium suffered from bad early weather on the 27th December. However Stanley Allen and Chris Wright advised that nine members enjoyed a walk around the Adur Fort in Shoreham, routing along the Footbridge area to Widewater. Twenty species were recorded in total including 32 Eider on the sea, two Gadwall by the footbridge and two Rock Piptits by the beach huts.

Tony Fenton

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 1999/2000

This survey records birds seen using members' gardens for any reason. All the gardens, except one, provided food and water. Records from thirty-three gardens were submitted for the Autumn and Winter periods 1999-2000, with a total of 58 species being recorded. There was a good geographical spread of gardens, with types varying from urban to semi-rural.

Most species, 32, were recorded in Pat and Clive Hope's garden at Storrington, with 30 being recorded by Brian Stow (also at Storrington) and 29 at Christine Nichols's Steyning garden.

Blue Tit, Blackbird and Collared Dove were recorded in all gardens, while Robin and Dunnock failed to appear in only one. The next five most recorded birds were Greenfinch and Wren in 30 gardens, Starling in 29 and House Sparrow and Chaffinch in 28. House Sparrow counts were often less than ten and in some gardens they were only sporadic. Twelve gardens consistently

recorded counts of more than ten, with a maximum of 50 being recorded at Judith and Jim Steedman's garden at Upper Beeding. The Steedmans also saw the maximum number (100) of Starlings. Song Thrush was recorded in 26 gardens, albeit intermittently.

A mild Autumn and Winter saw only two gardens recording Redwing and Fieldfare while five recorded Siskin. There were also two records for Brambling and one for Ring Ouzel. Over-wintering Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps used 9 and 10 gardens respectively.

Willow, Marsh and Coal Tit, Garden Warbler, Linnet, Stock Dove, Redpoll, Mallard, Reed Bunting, Ring Ouzel, Firecrest, Corn Bunting and Kestrel were recorded only in single gardens. Six gardens attracted Black-headed Gulls and and seven were visited by Herring Gulls.

Sparrowhawk was seen in fifteen gardens while Kestrel came to only one. Four gardens recorded Tawny Owl.

Species	Percentage of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum nos.
Blue Tit	100	15	4.7
Blackbird	100	10	4.5
Collared Dove	100	10	4.1
Robin	97	4	1.8
Dunnoek	97	7	2.5
Greenfinch	91	26	6.6
Wren	91	2	1.2
Starling	87.9	100	19.9
House Sparrow	84.8	50	13
Chaffinch	84.8	30	3.6

The table shows the top ten birds related to the percentage of gardens used by these birds and the maximum numbers of species recorded.

Participants were: S.R. Allen, C. Allistone, E. Chadwell, R. Clough, J. Cooper, J.E. Cooper, S. Denman, B. Dobbs, A. & L. Fenton, M. & P. Ford, K. Herbert, C. Holter, C. & P. Hope, H. Jackson, L.R. Keen, C.L. Leeves, J. & S. Maskell, I.B. McWilton, P. Mulcock, C. Nichols, A. Robinson, R. & A. Sandison, J. & J. Simpson, G. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, B. Stow, M. Talbot, R. Titcomb, B. Upton, C. Walder, P. Watson, P. Whitcomb, and C. Wingate.

Martin Ford

BOUNDARIES OF RECORDING AREA

The western boundary of the SDOS recording area is Ordnance Survey Easting 08 thus including Ferring Rife, part of Harrow Hill and Chantry Hill. The eastern boundary is Easting 35 thus including the entire Sheepcote Valley, part of East Brighton golf course and Bevendean Down. The northern boundary is Northing 15.

KNOW YOUR AREA BETTER - THE NORTH AND WEST

My article 'Know Your Area Better', on page 58 of the 1996 Report, covered the lower Adur south of Bramber down to the Harbour mouth. These present notes include most of the sites west of the River Adur.

Adur levels north of Upper Beeding/Bramber. Access/Parking: North end of Pound Lane (Ordnance Survey Grid Reference TQ197112). This area is worth visiting at any time of year. Winter months are better for Kingfisher, Cormorants, Corn Bunting, Winter Thrushes, Stonechat, Snipe, Bullfinch, Little Owl, Short-eared Owl and Grey Partridge.

Adur levels south and west of Henfield. Access via public footpaths, old railway track (Downslink) and river bank. Car parking at OS Ref. TQ217153 or TQ216137. Winter is the best time. Follow the stream out from Woods Mill to the old railway track, turning south to Stretham Bridge, then north along the riverbank to Henfield and returning via various footpath options. The walk is excellent for Kingfisher, Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail, Corn Bunting, Green Sandpiper, Bewick Swan, Little Owl, Lapwing, Golden Plover, Woodpecker, Ruff and Winter Thrushes. Recent rare finds in this area include Cattle Egret, Little Egret, Crane and Great Grey Shrike.

Shoreham Airport, New Salts Farm and Monks Farm. This area is well worth visiting at any time. Despite being a busy commercial Airport, plenty of birds turn up in and around this habitat. Access can be gained by using the perimeter road from the north entrance or via New Salts Farm and the southern entrance, or the public footpath along the river bank. The farmland to the north-west of the Airfield can be viewed from the lay-by south of the A27 road at TQ193058. Plenty of migrants use the whole area, Chats, Warblers, Larks, Pipits, Wagtails, Finches, and huge Lapwings flock in autumn/winter, with Waders roosting on the Airfield itself. Occasional Golden Plover and Ruff in the winter. The occasional Barn Owl and Short-eared Owl use the rough farmland north-west of the Airfield. In very cold weather, birds can be found using New Salts Farm area or using the Airfield. Rare birds found here include Sociable Plover, Great Spotted Cuckoo and Yellow-browed Warbler.

Widewater Lagoon (OS Ref. TQ205043). Access south from A259 roundabout to Shoreham Beach, then follow sign. (There is a charge at the car park during summer months, but free parking is usually possible in the side roads to the east.) The lagoon and beach are easily covered in a short time. This is a regular March site for Wheatear and breeding Ringed Plover. In Autumn, there are Waders, Dunlin, Curlew Sandpiper, Little Stint, and Knot. It is also worth checking out on very high tides when birds move off the Adur or during gales, as birds such as Terns and Gulls often seek protection on the Lagoon. In Winter, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Little Grebe, Stonechat, Black Redstart and Rock Pipit occur.

Offshore the sea is worth looking at using a telescope at any time. There is good sea passage in the Spring with Terns, Gulls, Waders, Ducks and Skuas, and also many noted in September and October. On return migration, Winter

Grebes, Merganser, Red-throated Diver, Auks and Eider are often found offshore in small numbers. A walk along the coastal footpath to Lancing can be good for passage migrants and wintering Stonechat, Pipits and Black Redstart.

Brooklands Lagoon and Park. (OS Ref.: TQ171035) .Open access with various car parking places, e.g. St. Paul's Avenue, west off Western Road (TQ170039) . It is best to spend a little time checking for migrants around the golf course stream, the western boundary edge and the shrubbery in the northern section of the park. A good route is to start in the north at St. Paul's Avenue and work along the western edge, following the fringe of the golf course down to the beach, then east along the beach for 300 m. before crossing back over the A259, checking out the lagoon and returning over the park. This route could take up to two hours. Good Spring migration often noted, and also a heavy Autumn passage of Finches, Chats, Wagtails, Warblers and Crests, with many birds flying west. Recent records have included Firecrest, Pallas's Warbler, Woodlark, Brambling, Black Redstart, and Buzzard, all seen in October 1999. The lagoon has good numbers of Ducks in the winter and is worth checking out at any time, but especially after stormy weather.

Goring Beach, Ilex Wood, and Goring Gap. Open access. Park on the coast road near the wood at OS Ref. TQ100015. The wood holds common species with occasional Woodpeckers, Tree Creeper, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and passage of Spring migrants including Chats, Wagtails, Pipits, Finches, together with the odd rarities such as Serin, Dartford Warbler and Pied Flycatcher. Heavy Spring sea passage of Terns, Gulls, Skuas, Waders and Ducks is often recorded. Good numbers of Waders use the beach at low tide in Autumn and Winter, including Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Redshank, Grey Plover, Sanderling and Turnstone. It is worth scanning the beaches at low tide in the Autumn for Little Stint, Bar-tailed Godwit and Greenshank. Upwards of 100 Red-breasted Merganser can be found offshore with the odd Duck, Diver or Grebe.

Ferring Rife and Beach. Access via Ferring Village, parking at OS Ref. TQ093015, or walk along foreshore from Goring Gap, to the Rife by the Bluebird Café. It is well worth visiting for Spring and Autumn migrants. It is also a good winter site for Grey Wagtail, Kingfisher, Little Egret, Stonechat, Chiffchaff, Snipe and the only regular site in our area for Jack Snipe. The adjoining beach and gardens can sometimes have wintering Black Redstart.

Patching Hill, Michelgrove and Blackpatch Hill. This area of downland can be accessed by using the car park north of Patching Church (OS Ref. TQ088068). It is a good area for resident Buzzard, Little Owl, Stock Dove, and in Summer, Hobby. In Winter occasional Hen Harrier, Red-legged and Grey Partridge are found. Good views of this area can be gained by driving along the A280 towards Findon.

Cissbury Ring and Lychpole Hill. The (extremely small) car park at OS Ref. TQ139085 (accessed by turning east along Nepcote Lane at The Square in Findon) provides good access to the Ring and its environments. The area is worth visiting at any time for the view, the birds and the butterflies. Early morning is best for Spring and Autumn migrants. There is a good passage of

many common migrants, with occasional Ring Ousel and Redstart, and in Summer, Corn Bunting, Hobby and Quail. In Autumn, there are large movements of Swallows, House Martins and Sand Martins, plus visible passage of Pipits, Finches, Chats, Flycatchers, Crests and Thrushes. Over the years the Cissbury area has attracted its fair share of rare and uncommon birds; including Black Kite, Red Kite, Osprey, Red-footed Falcon, Tawny Pipit, Red-backed Shrike, Great Grey Shrike, Wryneck, Firecrest, Yellow-browed Warbler and Dartford Warbler.

Chantry Hill and Harrow Hill. Access is via Chantry Lane, south of the A283 (OS Ref. TQ092142), then driving to the downland car park at Chantry Post (TQ087120). There are outstanding views over Storrington, Parham and towards Arundel, and the "loW" and it is a good vantage point for raptor watching. Take the footpath south towards Lee Farm/Harrow Hill, where Buzzard, Hen Harrier, Merlin, and Peregrine occur in Winter. In Summer and Autumn, Quail, Turtle Dove, Corn Bunting, Hobby, Marsh Harrier, Little Owl, Partridges and Chats may be found.

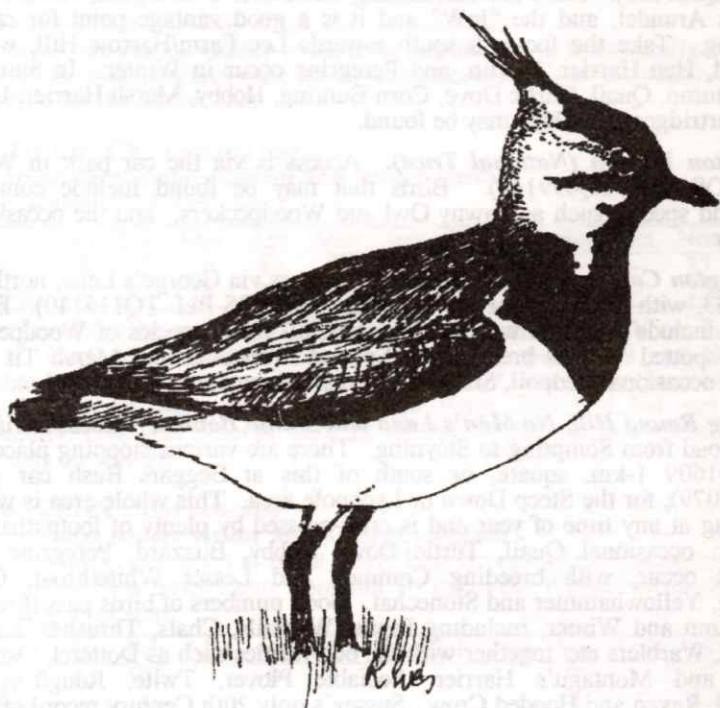
Sullington Warren (National Trust). Access is via the car park in Water Lane (OS Ref. TQ099142). Birds that may be found include common woodland species such as Tawny Owl and Woodpeckers, and the occasional Nightjar.

Washington Common (National Trust). Access via George's Lane, north off the A283, with a car park at the top of the lane (OS Ref. TQ115140). Birds present include common woodland species, all three species of Woodpecker (Lesser-spotted W. has bred there), Spotted Flycatcher and Marsh Tit. In Winter, occasional Redpoll, Siskin and Crossbill may occur.

Steyning Round Hill, No Man's Land and Stump Bottom. Access is via the minor road from Sompting to Steyning. There are various stopping places in the TQ1609 1-km. square, or south of this at Beggars Bush car park (TQ162079), for the Steep Down or Lychpole area. This whole area is worth exploring at any time of year and is criss-crossed by plenty of footpaths. In summer, occasional Quail, Turtle Dove, Hobby, Buzzard, Peregrine and Harriers occur, with breeding Common and Lesser Whitethroat, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer and Stonechat. Good numbers of birds pass through in Autumn and Winter, including Pipits, Wagtails, Chats, Thrushes, Larks, Finches, Warblers etc. together with the odd rarities such as Dotterel, Osprey, Marsh and Montagu's Harrier, Sociable Plover, Twite, Rough-legged Buzzard, Raven and Hooded Crow. Sussex's only 20th Century record of Gyr Falcon occurred here. In winter the hills can be bleak but Merlin, Peregrine, Hen Harrier and Buzzard can be found.

I hope these notes have given you an insight into a few areas around our patch. My advice is to select a few convenient sites and visit them as often as possible, at least once a week over a twelve-month period, taking notes of what you find. You will then build up a comprehensive picture of the birds and movements which you will find worthwhile and satisfying.

Bernie Forbes



SOCIETY OFFICERS
SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1ST OCTOBER 2000

Chairman

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Hon. Secretary

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Hon. Recorder

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7 Berberis Court : Shoreham By Sea : West Sussex : BN43 6JA

Chairman of the Council

Mr. Bernie F. Forbes

Sanctuary Committee

Dr. John A. Newnham

Dr. A. Barrie Watson

Other Council Members

Mrs. Pauline Ford

Mrs. Diane Hicks

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year to 31 December 1999

	1999	1998
RECEIPTS	£	£
Balance brought forward	3,829.49	3,962.88
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,053.00	806.00
Sale of books, reports, cards and stickers	36.00	37.50
Net raffle and refreshment receipts (including barbeque)	54.61	75.69
Bank interest	87.20	141.48
Video hire	2.00	8.00
Donations	28.00	-
	<u>5,080.30</u>	<u>5,031.55</u>

PAYMENTS		
Printing	81.55	249.99
Postage and stationary	165.02	144.22
Secretary's expenses	-	1.80
Hire of hall	60.00	140.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	301.50	375.00
Sundries	14.58	33.10
RSPB - re Bird Race	500.00	-
Purchase of computer	85.00	120.00
Purchase of videotapes	-	33.95
SDOS bench renovation	-	50.00
Refund of subscription	-	50.00
BTO Membership	19.00	-
Balance carried forward	3,849.65	3,829.49
	<u>5,080.30</u>	<u>5,031.55</u>

John M. Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 7th March 2000

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.

BDO STOY HAYWARD, Chartered Accountants, BRIGHTON.

Date: 8th March 2000

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2001

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH			APRIL		
Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
Mo 1	02:57 5.5	15:13 5.1	Th 1	03:53 5.3	16:16 5.2	Th 1	02:39 5.8	14:58 5.7	Su 1	05:54 5.3	18:30 5.2
Tu 2	03:41 5.1	16:02 5.0	Fr 2	04:47 5.2	17:18 5.1	Fr 2	03:22 5.6	15:46 5.4	Mo 2	07:03 5.1	19:49 5.1
We 3	04:33 5.0	16:58 4.9	Sa 3	05:53 5.1	18:31 5.1	Sa 3	04:40 5.3	16:47 5.2	Tu 3	08:28 5.0	21:16 5.2
Th 4	05:34 5.0	18:04 4.9	Su 4	07:08 5.1	19:49 5.2	Su 4	05:21 5.1	18:03 5.0	We 4	09:51 5.2	22:31 5.5
Fr 5	06:40 5.1	19:13 5.1	Mo 5	08:22 5.4	20:58 5.6	Mo 5	06:42 5.0	19:29 5.2	Th 5	10:59 5.7	23:31 6.0
Sa 6	07:46 5.3	20:19 5.4	Tu 6	09:26 5.8	21:58 6.1	Tu 6	08:04 5.2	20:44 5.5	Fr 6	11:54 6.1	*****
Su 7	08:47 5.6	21:18 5.8	We 7	10:23 6.2	22:52 6.5	We 7	09:13 5.7	21:46 6.0	Sa 7	00:22 6.4	12:43 6.5
Mo 8	09:43 5.9	22:12 6.2	Th 8	11:14 6.5	23:42 6.8	Th 8	10:10 6.1	22:39 6.4	Su 8	01:07 6.6	13:27 6.7
Tu 9	10:35 6.3	23:04 6.5	Fr 9	*****	*****	Fr 9	11:00 6.5	23:26 6.8	Mo 9	01:49 6.8	14:09 6.7
We 10	11:25 6.5	23:54 6.7	Sa 10	00:29 6.9	12:49 6.8	Sa 10	11:46 6.8	*****	Tu 10	02:30 6.7	14:50 6.6
Th 11	*****	12:14 6.7	Su 11	01:15 6.9	13:35 6.7	Su 11	00:11 6.9	12:31 6.9	We 11	03:09 6.5	15:29 6.3
Fr 12	00:42 6.8	13:03 6.7	Mo 12	02:01 6.6	14:21 6.4	Mo 12	00:54 6.9	13:14 6.8	Th 12	03:47 6.1	16:08 5.9
Sa 13	01:32 6.7	13:52 6.5	Tu 13	02:46 6.3	15:08 6.0	Tu 13	01:36 6.7	13:55 6.5	Fr 13	04:26 5.7	16:48 5.5
Su 14	02:22 6.5	14:43 6.2	We 14	03:34 5.8	15:58 5.5	We 14	02:17 6.3	14:38 6.0	Sa 14	05:06 5.3	17:32 5.1
Mo 15	03:13 6.1	15:36 5.9	Th 15	04:26 5.4	16:54 5.1	Th 15	02:59 5.8	15:21 5.5	Su 15	05:53 4.8	18:26 4.7
Tu 16	04:08 5.7	16:34 5.5	Fr 16	05:25 5.0	18:02 4.7	Fr 16	03:44 5.3	16:10 5.1	Mo 16	06:53 4.5	19:38 4.4
We 17	05:08 5.4	17:39 5.1	Sa 17	06:37 4.7	19:21 4.6	Sa 17	04:35 4.9	17:11 4.6	Tu 17	08:14 4.3	21:03 4.4
Th 18	06:15 5.1	18:50 5.0	Su 18	07:54 4.6	20:33 4.7	Su 18	05:44 4.5	18:32 4.4	We 18	09:36 4.4	22:12 4.7
Fr 19	07:24 5.0	20:00 4.9	Mo 19	08:58 4.8	21:29 4.9	Mo 19	07:10 4.4	19:57 4.5	Th 19	10:37 4.7	23:03 5.0
Sa 20	08:28 5.0	20:59 5.0	Tu 20	09:48 5.0	22:12 5.1	Tu 20	08:26 4.5	20:59 4.7	Fr 20	11:21 5.0	23:42 5.3
Su 21	09:21 5.1	21:49 5.2	We 21	10:27 5.2	22:49 5.4	We 21	09:20 4.8	21:44 5.0	Sa 21	11:58 5.4	*****
Mo 22	10:06 5.3	22:31 5.3	Th 22	11:02 5.5	23:21 5.6	Th 22	10:00 5.1	22:21 5.4	Su 22	00:18 5.6	12:33 5.7
Tu 23	10:45 5.4	23:07 5.5	Fr 23	11:34 5.7	23:53 5.8	Fr 23	10:35 5.4	22:53 5.7	Mo 23	00:52 5.9	13:08 6.0
We 24	11:21 5.5	23:41 5.6	Sa 24	*****	12:05 5.8	Sa 24	11:07 5.7	23:25 5.9	Tu 24	01:26 6.1	13:43 6.2
Th 25	11:54 5.7	*****	Su 25	00:23 6.0	12:36 6.0	Su 25	*****	12:38 6.0	We 25	02:01 6.3	14:19 6.3
Fr 26	00:14 5.7	12:26 5.7	Mo 26	00:54 6.0	13:08 6.0	Mo 26	00:56 6.1	13:10 6.1	Th 26	02:37 6.3	14:58 6.3
Sa 27	00:46 5.8	12:59 5.7	Tu 27	01:27 6.0	13:41 6.0	Tu 27	01:28 6.2	13:43 6.2	Fr 27	03:17 6.2	15:39 6.2
Su 28	01:19 5.8	13:32 5.7	We 28	02:01 5.9	14:17 5.8	We 28	02:01 6.2	14:18 6.2	Sa 28	04:00 6.0	16:26 5.9
Mo 29	01:52 5.7	14:06 5.6	Th 29	02:37 6.1	14:56 6.1	Th 29	02:37 6.1	14:56 6.1	Su 29	04:48 5.7	17:20 5.6
Tu 30	02:28 5.6	14:44 5.5	Fr 30	03:16 5.9	15:38 5.8	Fr 30	03:16 5.9	15:38 5.8	Mo 30	05:45 5.4	18:24 5.4
We 31	03:08 5.5	15:26 5.4	Sa 31	04:00 5.7	16:28 5.5	Sa 31	04:00 5.7	16:28 5.5			

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 25 March to 20 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.
Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.
Times and heights are approximate only. COPYRIGHT.

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2001

MAY			JUNE			JULY			AUGUST		
Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
Tu 1	06.56 5.2	19.41 5.2	Fr 1	09.14 5.3	21.49 5.5	Su 1	09.53 5.3	22.22 5.4	We 1	11.27 5.2	23.47 5.3
We 2	08.17 5.1	21.02 5.3	Sa 2	10.19 5.5	22.48 5.7	Mo 2	10.52 5.4	23.16 5.5	Th 2	00.00 ***	12.14 5.3
Th 3	09.35 5.3	22.13 5.6	Su 3	11.14 5.7	23.38 5.9	Tu 3	11.44 5.5	23.44 ***	Fr 3	00.30 5.4	12.54 5.5
Fr 4	10.41 5.6	23.11 5.9	Mo 4	00.00 ***	12.03 5.9	We 4	00.03 5.6	12.29 5.6	Sa 4	01.08 5.5	13.29 5.6
Sa 5	11.36 6.0	24.00 ***	Tu 5	00.23 6.0	12.46 6.0	Th 5	00.46 5.7	13.09 5.7	Su 5	01.42 5.6	14.02 5.7
Su 6	00.01 6.2	12.23 6.2	We 6	01.04 6.0	13.27 6.0	Fr 6	01.24 5.7	13.47 5.7	Mo 6	02.15 5.7	14.35 5.8
Mo 7	00.45 6.4	13.07 6.4	Th 7	01.43 6.0	14.05 6.0	Sa 7	02.00 5.7	14.22 5.7	Tu 7	03.20 5.7	15.07 5.8
Tu 8	01.26 6.4	13.47 6.4	Fr 8	02.20 5.9	14.42 5.8	Mo 8	02.36 5.7	14.57 5.7	We 8	03.47 5.7	15.40 5.7
We 9	02.05 6.4	14.26 6.3	Sa 9	02.56 5.7	15.18 5.7	Tu 9	03.10 5.6	15.32 5.6	Th 9	03.53 5.6	16.14 5.6
Th 10	02.43 6.2	15.04 6.1	Su 10	03.32 5.5	15.55 5.5	Mo 10	03.46 5.5	16.08 5.5	Fr 10	04.29 5.5	16.51 5.5
Fr 11	03.19 5.9	15.41 5.8	Mo 11	04.10 5.3	16.35 5.3	We 11	04.23 5.3	16.46 5.4	Sa 11	05.08 5.4	17.33 5.3
Sa 12	03.57 5.6	16.20 5.5	Tu 12	04.51 5.1	17.18 5.1	Th 12	05.02 5.2	17.28 5.2	Su 12	05.54 5.2	18.22 5.1
Su 13	04.36 5.3	17.02 5.1	We 13	05.37 4.9	18.07 4.9	Fr 13	05.46 5.1	18.14 5.1	Mo 13	06.49 5.0	19.22 5.0
Mo 14	05.20 4.9	17.50 4.8	Th 14	06.29 4.7	19.03 4.8	Sa 14	06.36 4.9	19.08 5.0	Tu 14	07.57 5.0	20.33 5.0
Tu 15	06.13 4.6	18.49 4.6	Fr 15	07.28 4.7	20.04 4.8	Su 15	07.35 4.9	20.09 5.0	We 15	09.13 5.1	21.48 5.2
We 16	07.18 4.5	20.00 4.6	Sa 16	08.32 4.7	21.06 4.9	Mo 16	08.40 4.9	21.14 5.1	Th 16	10.26 5.4	22.55 5.5
Th 17	08.31 4.5	21.10 4.7	Tu 17	09.33 4.9	22.03 5.2	Th 17	09.47 5.1	22.17 5.3	Fr 17	11.28 5.8	23.53 6.0
Fr 18	09.37 4.7	22.07 4.9	Mo 18	10.29 5.2	22.54 5.4	We 18	10.49 5.5	23.15 5.6	Sa 18	00.00 ***	12.24 6.3
Sa 19	10.30 5.0	22.55 5.2	Tu 19	11.20 5.6	23.43 5.8	Th 19	11.45 5.8	23.44 ***	Su 19	00.46 6.4	13.14 6.6
Su 20	11.15 5.3	23.37 5.6	We 20	00.00 ***	12.08 5.9	Fr 20	00.09 6.0	12.38 6.2	Mo 20	01.35 6.7	14.02 6.9
Mo 21	11.56 5.7	24.00 ***	Th 21	00.30 6.0	12.55 6.2	Sa 21	01.00 6.3	13.28 6.5	Tu 21	02.23 6.8	14.49 6.9
Tu 22	00.16 5.9	12.36 6.0	Fr 22	01.16 6.3	13.42 6.4	Su 22	01.49 6.5	14.18 6.7	We 22	03.09 6.8	15.35 6.8
We 23	00.56 6.1	13.17 6.2	Sa 23	02.02 6.4	14.30 6.5	Mo 23	02.38 6.6	15.06 6.7	Th 23	03.56 6.6	16.22 6.5
Th 24	01.36 6.3	13.58 6.4	Su 24	02.51 6.4	15.19 6.5	Tu 24	03.27 6.6	15.56 6.6	Fr 24	04.44 6.2	17.10 6.1
Fr 25	02.18 6.3	14.42 6.4	Mo 25	03.40 6.3	16.10 6.3	We 25	04.17 6.4	16.47 6.3	Sa 25	05.35 5.8	18.02 5.6
Sa 26	03.02 6.3	15.28 6.3	Tu 26	04.32 6.1	17.04 6.1	Th 26	05.09 6.1	17.40 6.0	Su 26	06.31 5.3	19.02 5.1
Su 27	03.49 6.1	16.19 6.1	We 27	05.28 5.9	18.03 5.8	Fr 27	06.05 5.8	18.37 5.6	Mo 27	07.38 4.9	20.12 4.8
Mo 28	04.41 5.9	17.14 5.8	Th 28	06.30 5.6	19.06 5.6	Sa 28	07.06 5.4	19.40 5.3	Tu 28	08.56 4.7	21.30 4.7
Tu 29	05.40 5.6	18.17 5.6	Fr 29	07.36 5.4	20.14 5.4	Su 29	08.14 5.1	20.49 5.1	We 29	10.11 4.8	22.38 4.8
We 30	06.46 5.4	19.28 5.4	Sa 30	08.46 5.3	21.21 5.4	Mo 30	09.26 5.0	21.57 5.1	Th 30	11.11 5.0	23.31 5.0
Th 31	08.00 5.3	20.42 5.4	Tu 31	10.32 5.1	22.57 5.1	Fr 31	11.56 5.2	23.57 5.1	Sa 31	00.00 ***	12.24 6.3

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 25 March to 20 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.
Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.
Times and heights are approximate only.

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TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2001

SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day & date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
Sa 1	00.12 5.3	12.34 5.4	Mo 1	00.21 5.4	12.39 5.6	Th 1	11.08 6.0	23.25 6.1	Sa 1	11.17 6.1	23.38 6.2
Su 2	00.48 5.5	13.07 5.6	Tu 2	00.52 5.7	13.09 5.9	Fr 2	11.41 6.1	23.59 6.2	Su 2	11.56 6.2	23.59 6.3
Mo 3	01.20 5.7	13.38 5.8	We 3	01.23 5.9	13.39 6.0	Sa 3	*****	12.16 6.2	Mo 3	00.19 6.3	12.38 6.2
Tu 4	01.51 5.8	14.08 5.9	Th 4	01.53 6.0	14.09 6.1	Su 4	00.35 6.2	12.53 6.1	Tu 4	01.03 6.2	13.22 6.1
We 5	02.21 5.9	14.39 6.0	Fr 5	02.24 6.1	14.41 6.1	Mo 5	01.15 6.1	13.33 5.9	We 5	01.50 6.1	14.10 5.9
Th 6	02.52 5.9	15.10 5.9	Sa 6	02.57 6.1	15.15 6.0	Tu 6	01.58 5.9	14.19 5.7	Th 6	02.41 5.9	15.04 5.7
Fr 7	03.24 5.9	15.42 5.9	Su 7	03.33 5.9	15.51 5.8	We 7	02.48 5.6	15.12 5.4	Fr 7	03.39 5.6	16.06 5.4
Sa 8	03.58 5.8	16.18 5.7	Mo 8	04.12 5.8	16.33 5.6	Th 8	03.48 5.4	16.17 5.2	Sa 8	04.46 5.4	17.17 5.3
Su 9	04.36 5.6	16.58 5.5	Tu 9	04.59 5.5	17.23 5.3	Fr 9	05.00 5.2	17.35 5.1	Su 9	05.59 5.4	18.32 5.3
Mo 10	05.21 5.4	17.46 5.2	We 10	05.57 5.2	18.28 5.0	Th 10	06.21 5.2	18.56 5.2	Mo 10	07.11 5.5	19.43 5.4
Tu 11	06.17 5.1	18.48 5.0	Th 11	07.11 5.0	19.48 4.9	Sa 11	07.36 5.5	20.05 5.5	Tu 11	08.15 5.7	20.44 5.7
We 12	07.28 5.0	20.05 4.9	Fr 12	08.37 5.1	21.13 5.1	Mo 12	08.38 5.8	21.05 5.9	We 12	09.11 5.9	21.37 5.9
Th 13	08.52 5.0	21.28 5.1	Sa 13	09.55 5.4	22.25 5.5	Tu 13	09.32 6.2	21.55 6.3	Th 13	10.00 6.0	22.25 6.1
Fr 14	10.10 5.4	22.40 5.5	Su 14	10.58 5.9	23.23 6.0	We 14	10.18 6.4	22.41 6.5	Fr 14	10.44 6.1	23.08 6.1
Sa 15	11.14 5.8	23.39 6.0	Mo 15	11.51 6.3	*****	Th 15	11.02 6.6	23.24 6.5	Sa 15	11.26 6.1	23.49 6.1
Su 16	*****	12.08 6.3	Tu 16	00.14 6.4	12.39 6.7	Fr 16	11.43 6.5	*****	Su 16	*****	12.05 6.1
Mo 17	00.31 6.5	12.58 6.7	We 17	01.00 6.7	13.22 6.8	Sa 17	00.06 6.5	12.23 6.4	Mo 17	00.28 6.0	12.43 5.9
Tu 18	01.18 6.8	13.44 6.9	Th 18	01.43 6.8	14.05 6.8	Su 18	00.46 6.3	13.02 6.1	Tu 18	01.06 5.9	13.20 5.7
We 19	02.04 6.9	14.28 7.0	Fr 19	02.26 6.8	14.46 6.7	Mo 19	01.26 6.0	13.42 5.8	We 19	01.43 5.7	13.58 5.5
Th 20	02.48 6.9	15.11 6.8	Sa 20	03.08 6.5	15.27 6.3	Tu 20	02.06 5.6	14.23 5.4	Th 20	02.22 5.4	14.37 5.2
Fr 21	03.32 6.6	15.54 6.5	Su 21	02.49 6.1	15.08 5.9	We 21	02.49 5.2	15.07 5.0	Fr 21	03.03 5.2	15.20 5.0
Sa 22	04.16 6.2	16.39 6.0	Mo 22	03.33 5.7	15.52 5.4	Th 22	03.38 4.9	16.00 4.7	Sa 22	03.49 5.0	16.10 4.8
Su 23	05.03 6.7	17.26 5.5	Tu 23	04.20 5.2	16.42 4.9	Fr 23	04.37 4.7	17.05 4.5	Su 23	04.42 4.8	17.06 4.6
Mo 24	05.55 5.2	18.21 5.0	We 24	05.17 4.8	17.45 4.6	Sa 24	05.47 4.6	18.18 4.5	Mo 24	05.42 4.7	18.10 4.6
Tu 25	06.58 4.8	19.31 4.6	Th 25	06.30 4.5	19.06 4.4	Su 25	06.57 4.6	19.25 4.6	Tu 25	06.46 4.8	19.14 4.7
We 26	08.19 4.6	20.56 4.5	Fr 26	07.54 4.5	20.27 4.5	Mo 26	07.56 4.9	20.19 4.9	We 26	07.45 4.9	20.13 5.0
Th 27	09.42 4.6	22.12 4.6	Sa 27	09.03 4.7	21.26 4.7	Tu 27	08.43 5.1	21.03 5.2	Th 27	08.39 5.2	21.04 5.3
Fr 28	10.45 4.8	23.06 4.9	Su 28	08.51 5.0	21.10 5.0	We 28	09.24 5.4	21.43 5.5	Fr 28	09.27 5.5	21.52 5.6
Sa 29	11.30 5.1	23.47 5.2	Mo 29	09.30 5.3	21.46 5.4	Th 29	10.01 5.7	22.21 5.8	Sa 29	10.12 5.8	22.37 6.0
Su 30	*****	12.07 5.4	Tu 30	10.04 5.6	22.19 5.6	Fr 30	10.39 5.9	22.59 6.0	Su 30	10.57 6.1	23.22 6.2
			We 31	10.36 5.8	22.52 5.9	Mo 31	11.41 6.3	*****	Mo 31	11.41 6.3	*****

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 25 March to 20 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.
Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.
Times and heights are approximate only.

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USEFUL REFERENCES

RSPB: Head Office:

The Lodge, SANDY, Beds, SG19 2DL ☎ 01 767 680 551

Regional Office: 2nd Floor 42 Frederick Place, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 4EA,
☎ 01 273 775 333

Brighton Members Group Leader: Colin Upton, 2 Montford Close,
SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, BN43 6YP ☎ 01 273 593 938

BTO: Head Office: The Nunnery, THETFORD, Norfolk, IP24 2PU

☎ 01 842 750 050 fax: 01 842 750 030

Regional Rep: Dr Barrie Watson, 83 Buckingham Rd, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, W.Sx, BN43 5UD. ☎ 01 273 452 472

SOS:

Secretary: Mrs Val Bentley, Chetsford, London Road, HENFIELD, W.Sx,
BN5 9JL ☎ 01 273 494 723

WWT:

Head Office: SLIMBRIDGE, Gloucs, GL2 7BT ☎ 01 453 890 333;
fax 01 453 890 827

Local Reserve: Mill Road, ARUNDEL, W.Sx, BN18 9PB,
☎ 01 903 883 355; fax 01 903 884 834

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, HENFIELD, W.Sx, BN5 9SD

☎ 01 273 492 630; fax 01 273 494 500

Pagham Harbour LNR:

Information Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, CHICHESTER,
W.Sx, PO20 7NE ☎ 01 243 641 508

English Nature:

Howard House, 31 High St, LEWES, E.Sx, BN7 2LU

☎ 01 273 476 595; fax 01 273 483 063

Chichester Harbour Conservancy contact:

Anne de Potier, Harbour Office, Itchenor, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7AW
☎ 01 243 512 301

Booth Museum of Natural History:

194 Dyke Road, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 5AA

☎ 01 273 292 777

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital:

Penny Cooper, Cow Lane, Sidlesham, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7LN

☎ 01 243 641 672

Rye Harbour NR: Dr. Barry Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach,

WINCHELSEA, E.Sx, TN36 4LU ☎ 01 797 223 862

Police Wildlife Liaison Officer:

Police advice is initially to ring 0845 60 70 999 and they will pass the call on as appropriate. Our local Wildlife Liaison Officer and his assistant are based at Worthing but *any* officer can act in an emergency.

OTHER TELEPHONE NUMBERS (All charged at Premium Rate)

Birdline (National) ☎ 09 068 700 222

Birdline South-East ☎ 09 068 700 240 (Please report sightings on

Freephone ☎ 08 000 377 240 or 01 426 933 933)

Rare Bird News ☎ 09 063 888 111

Met. Office: Weathercall national 7-day weather forecast: ☎ 09 068 500 400

Weathercall local 7-day forecast for Sussex, Surrey & Kent

☎ 09 068 500 402

To obtain **bird news on a mobile phone**, contact:

Birdnews: ☎ 01 603 763 388 e-mail info@birdnews.co.uk or visit

www.birdnews.co.uk

Birdcall (via Focalpoint): ☎ 07 092 247 392 or visit

dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/close/xdu72

Birdcall (via Birdguides): ☎ 0800 919 391 or visit www.birdguides.com

Rare Bird Alert: ☎ 01 603 456 789

USEFUL WEBSITES

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS): www.susos.org.uk

Has Sussex rare bird sightings page updated daily (usually!). Also Sussex gazetteer of 2800 sites with automatic link to www.streetmap.co.uk, so that location map for any site can be displayed (and printed).

Bird Guides: www.birdguides.com

National rare bird sightings.

Hampshire Ornithological Society: www.hants.gov.uk/hos

Kent Ornithological Society: www.kentaccess.org.uk/kos

[This is the valid address though it has not responded during Autumn 2000.]

Focalpoint: dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/close/xdu72 (Has rare bird news)

Birdline SE: www.southeastbirdnews.co.uk

WSCC: www.westsussex.gov.uk

ESCC: www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk

General Portal (i.e. starting point for national & international sites):

birding.start4all.com

BBC online weather centre: www.bbc.co.uk/weather

Birders weather: freespace.virgin.net/jack.harrison/wxbird.htm

BIRDING PUBLICATIONS

British Birds (monthly): The Banks, Mountfield, ROBERTSBRIDGE, E.Sx,

TN32 5JY ☎ 0 580 882 039 or visit www.britishbirds.co.uk

Bird Watch (monthly): Solo Publishing Ltd, 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex

Rd, Islington, LONDON, N1 3QP ☎ 02 077 049 495; fax 02 077 042 767

or visit www.birdwatch.co.uk

Bird Watching (monthly): Apex House, Oundle Rd, PETERBOROUGH, PE2

9NP ☎ 01 733 898 100; fax 01 733 466 843

Birding World (monthly): Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the Sea,

HOLT, Norfolk, NR25 7RY. fax 01 263 741 173 or visit

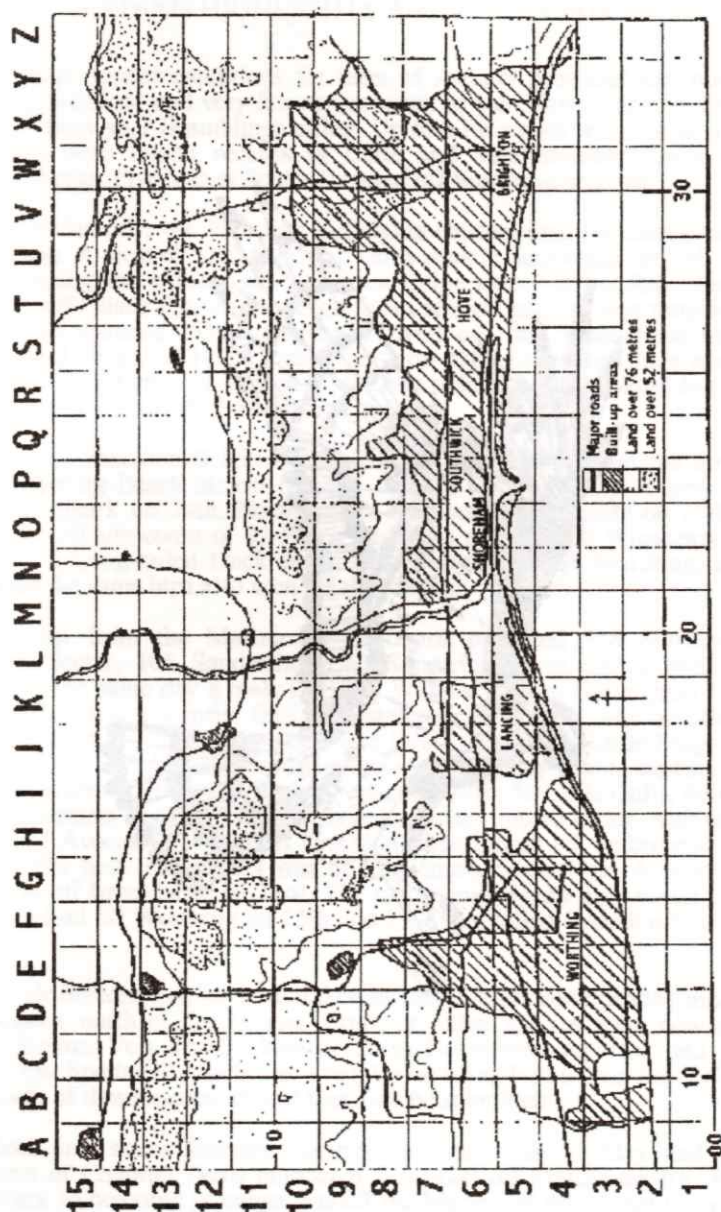
www.birdingworld.freemove.co.uk

Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary (annual): Buckingham Press, Freepost

ANG30007, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6BR ☎ 01733 561 739

LOCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AREA

Applesham Farm	L8	Ferring Rife	B2	Nepcote	E8	Steep Down	I8
Beeding Brooks	L12	Flood Arch	M5	New Erringham Farm	N8	Steyning Mill Pond	J12
Beeding Cement Works	M9			New Salts Farm	M5	Steyning Round Hill	I11
Benfield Valley	R8	Glebe Farm	L11	Newtimber Hill	U13	Storrington Mill Pond	A14
Bines Bridge	L15	Golding Barn	M11	No Mans Land	G10	Stretham Manor	M4
Blackpatch Hill	B10	Goring Gap	C2			Stump Bottom	H9
Bramber Castle	L11			Old Erringham Farm	M8	Sullington Warren	B15
Brighton Marina	Z4	Highdown Hill	B5	Old Salts Farm	L5	Sweet Hill	U10
Broadmare Common	O15	Hollingbury Camp	X8	Oreham Common	O14		
Brooklands	J4	Holt Farm	C6				
Buckingham Park	N6	Hove Lagoon	T5	Patching Pond	A6	Truleigh Hill	N10
				Power Station	Q5	Upper Adur Levels	L15
Castle Goring	C6	Ilex Wood	C2	Rock Common	E14		
Chanctonbury	F13					Wappingthorne	J14
Chantry Hill	A13	King's Barn	L11	Saddlescombe	T11	Washington Bostal	E13
Chantry Pond	A14			Sandgate Sand Pit	B15	Washington Sandpits	E14
Cissbury Ring	G9	Lancing Ring	K7	Sheepcote Valley	Z5	Waterhall	U10
Clapham Woods	C8	Long Furlong	C9	Shoreham Airport	M6	Widewater	L5
Clayton Hill	W14	Lower Standean	X12	Shoreham Fort	P5	Wild Park	Y7
Cockroost Hill	Q9	Lychpole Hill	H8	Sompting Brooks	I5	Wiston Pond	I13
Cote Street	D6			Southwick Canal	Q5	Withdean Park	W8
Cuckoo Corner	M8	Michelgrove	A8	Southwick Hill	P7	Woods Mill	N14
		Mill Hill	N7	Spithandle Lane	G15	Woodvale Cemetery	Y6
Devil's Dyke	S11	Mumbles, The	J12	St Botolphs	L10	Wyckham Farm	L14
Ditchling Beacon	Y14	Muntham Park Crem.	F6	Stammer Park	Y9		



Please note that the East boundary of the SDOS recording area is Easting 35 and not as shown on the map.



ABOUT THE SDOS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Shoreham and District Ornithological Society (SDOS), based in Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex, was founded in 1952 and is the oldest birdwatching society in Sussex. As well as covering Shoreham itself, the SDOS recording area extends to Brighton, Worthing, Steyning and Storrington, and the membership also includes a number of people who live outside the recording area.

We hold monthly indoor meetings from October to April at St Peter's Church Hall in Shoreham usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Non-members are welcome to attend on payment of a small fee.

We also arrange a programme of field outings throughout the year to birdwatching sites around the south east. Members receive two newsletters a year as well as this annual report.

New members are welcome. If you would like to join, please complete and send in the joining form below. Many back issues of this report are also still available from the Hon Secretary for purchase by members or non-members.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/we apply to join the Shoreham and District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our annual subscription of £8.50 single or £12 for a couple or family.

Cheques should be made payable to SDOS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Names

Address.....

.....

.....Post code.....

Tel no

Please send to Mrs B Reeve, The Old Rectory, Coombes,
Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0RS

EDITORIAL NOTES

However comprehensive (or not) this Report might be, it could be even more so if the Recorder received records from even more Members. If you do not yet send details of your sightings to Peter, please remember that you do not necessarily have to report every bird that you spot throughout the year. If, like me, you are not 100% (or even 90%!) confident of your identification skills, you don't have to report the species that you are not sure about. Many worthwhile sightings occur with relatively easily identified birds, because that particular observer happens to be at the right place at the right time. Peter would like to hear about Kingfisher sightings, for example, especially when seen during the summer breeding season. Also reports of Cuckoos are now relatively rare, so if you hear and see one (beware of imitations!) please let him know. And so on. With your help we could go that one mile further.....

Though I have double-checked all the information (where possible, from two independent sources) some of the useful data given on pages 78 and 79 will doubtless soon be out of date (possibly even before 2001!). If and when you find something wrong, or if there are items missing that you think should be there (or vice-versa), please let me know and we will rectify it in next year's Report.

Jim Steedman

