Shoreham District Ornithological Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2000



No 48



SHOREHAM

DISTRICT

ORNITHOLOGICAL

SOCHETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2000

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EDITORIAL

In 2003, our Society will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. This is no mean achievement for a small group, in a bird-watching world that has changed out of all recognition since The Shoreham Ornithological Society (as it was then called) was founded in January 1953. As the Sussex Ornithological Society was not to come into existence for another nine years, we were then uniquely the only group in the County entirely devoted to the study of birds.

In comparing the two organisations some interesting statistics emerge. The SDOS recording area (about 125 sq. miles of mainland) is only about 8½% of Sussex as a whole, though our membership is approx. 15% of that of the SOS (so theoretically there are more SDOS members available to record over a given area and therefore our recording coverage should be better!). This is understandable as Shoreham and its environs are considerably built-up and populated compared to the County as a whole. However, our length of coastline is roughly 18% of that of Sussex, and a disproportionately high amount of seawatching is done from its shores, which influences both sea-watching and coastal migration records. In addition, a disproportionately large number of the top birders in the County are also either SDOS members or record in our area!

The main history of such societies as ours can largely be traced through their Annual Reports, and a glance though our back numbers makes fascinating reading, in the way that size, content and presentation have developed over the years. For a small society with limited finances unable to afford professional typesetting, we are deeply in debt to those who struggled with the typewriter and Roneo production methods of 30 years ago and more. It is (or at least it theoretically should be!) so much easier with today's computers and software, and our present-day reports hopefully compare favourably with those produced by the SOS and other county societies. If they do so, it is the result of much work done by a series of previous Report Editors, in particular Pat Mulcock who was editor from 1995 to 1998 and who sadly died in August this year (see page 74).

Due to current printing restrictions, the length of our Report is limited to 84 pages and so we cannot compete with the 200-plus pages of the SOS publication. If comparing Reports, remember that the 136 pages of species accounts in the 1999 SOS Report were contributed by a team of 24 writers, whereas the 44 pages of species accounts in our Report this year have all been written by our Recorder, Peter Whitcomb, who has also contributed this year's 'Know Your Area Better' article covering those parts of our area which form his 'home ground' Indeed, were it not for the records that the Whitcomb family provide from these locations, both the SDOS and the SOS Reports would be much less comprehensive.

That our society can produce our Reports and Newsletters so economically is due to the good offices of Brian Clay, who edited this Report for five years back in the mid-1980s and has unobtrusively helped us in many ways over the years. In thanking Peter, Brian and all the current contributors to the following pages, both those who wrote articles and those who sent in Records, we must also thank all the other people who contribute so selflessly to the running of our society. Terry and I join them in wishing all of you good birding in 2002.

Jim Steedman

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 2000

The Millennium year was celebrated by a string of record passage counts from the Marina and Worthing, a number of rarities and a well publicised and unprecedented Honey Buzzard influx in September.

Mild weather from the SW started the year. On the 1st a Cattle Egret was found at Henfield Levels, staying for 2 days, and nearby 10 Egyptian Geese were at adjoining Steyning Levels. An unseasonal Pomarine Skua was off the Marina on 5th. A number of Black-necked Grebe records were started off by 2 at the Marina on 21st. Short-eared Owls are getting to be a scarce bird in the area but a single was on Beeding Brooks on 13th, maybe the same as the one around the Airfield in Feb and Mar. A record auk species day count of 4,695 was logged at Marina on 24th.

There was another high auk count on 2nd Feb in NW winds, but generally the month was unsettled, mild and fairly wet. A Goosander was on Wiston Pond on 13th and an Iceland Gull at the Marina on 19th. A Lesser-spotted Woodpecker was at Wiston village on 24th, quite a rarity these days.

March also featured mild weather with SW winds. Highlights included 3 Long-tailed Ducks off the Marina on 10th, an early Willow Warbler the next day at Goring and a record roost of 21 adult Mediterranean Gulls at Southwick. Also off Southwick were 7 Garganey on 16th and unusually an inland Kittiwake at Mill Hill on 18th. Two more Long-tailed Ducks flew past Goring with Brents on 22nd and seawatchers at the Marina counted a Sussex record of 4,500 Brent Geese on 24th, with 5 displaying Red-necked Grebes on the sea and an early Common Tern the same day.

Southerly winds aided the earliest ever Hobby for the area, seen at Lancing on 1st April, the same day seeing a record 179 Red-breasted Mergansers off Worthing. A Scandinavian Rock Pipit was at Goring Beach on 3rd. Milder conditions mid-month produced a day count of 14 Black-throated Divers on 14th, 67 Arctic and 20 Great Skuas on 17th and an Iceland Gull on 21st - all from the Marina. A Wryneck appeared in a Steyning garden on 15th. The highlight of the year for the few that saw it, was a male Sardinian Warbler behind Roedean School on 20th and 21st (and only just inside the recording area). A Red Kite flew over Ditchling Beacon on 23rd. The first Pomarine Skuas of the year, including a flock of 11, went past the Marina on 27th.

May was a typically good migration month for the area. On 1st another Red Kite flew over the Sanctuary and Mill Hill. The 6th was one of many special days at the Marina with a Sussex record count of Greenshank, a massive 1,877 Commic Terns, high Whimbrel counts and a Montagu's Harrier. The next day a Cattle Egret flew east along the coast and on 8th a Nightjar flew in off the sea at the Marina. The same site produced a Long-tailed Skua east on 9th, a high passage of Grey Plover on 10th and a Night Heron on 12th. Good numbers of Manx Shearwaters were seen during the second half of the month. Another Montagu's Harrier came in off the sea at Goring on 23rd.

June was generally mild but somewhat unsettled. Ten Woodlark were heard then seen in fog off Brighton on 5th. A Woodchat Shrike was at Sheepcote Valley from 13th to 15th. A Honey Buzzard drifted west over Whitehawk on 27th.

After last year's churring Nightjar record, another was noted in July at a different site.

August was warm with pleasant light winds. On 6th a flock of 7 Little Egrets flew west off Goring. The only Crossbills of the year flew up Sheepcote on 11th. Belated news came of a Tawny Pipit at Steyning Roundhill from 22-23rd and a Wryneck was at Sheepcote on 27th.

Two Curlew Sandpipers took up residence on Adur Saltings for over a week, peaking at 4 on 2nd Sept. A record 27 Shag were off the Marina on 6th and 3 Sooty Shearwaters passed west there the same day. On 7th a Honey Buzzard flew NE over Hollingdean. Seawatching mid-month produced 2 Garganey off Worthing on 16th and a Roseate Tern at the Marina on 18th. A Quail was near Lancing Clump on 28th. From 22nd there was a daily passage of Honey Buzzards over the country. From the vantage point at Hollingbury Camp the numbers culminated at 15 on 29th and 31 on 30th. Others were noted at Beeding, Mill Hill and Steyning. Two Ravens flew over the Camp on 29th.

October saw a mixed month for weather with low pressure and frequent bands of rain causing some flooding. Observers watching for Honey Buzzards on 1st saw a Merlin and late Cuckoo at the Camp. Two Sooty Shearwaters went west off Worthing on 3rd and a Sabine's Gull was off the Palace Pier on 9th. Late migrants included a Yellow Wagtail on 13th and a Garden Warbler on 21st. SE gales on 28th produced a high count of Gannets and 2 Leach's Petrels off Brighton, 3 Sooty Shearwaters off Worthing and a Pomarine Skua at Goring. On 31st 4 Storm Petrels and another Leach's were at the Marina.

Normally a quiet month, November produced a string of interesting records. On 1st a Scaup went west at the Marina and the next day 2 more Storm Petrels were off Brighton. A Water Pipit was found at Steyning Levels on 4th then strong southerly winds gave Worthing a record count of 654 Kittiwake on 5th. Another record count, of Dunlin, occurred at Worthing on 7th, plus a Lapland Bunting at Goring and a Crane in off the sea at the Marina. On 9th a Great White Egret was off the Marina and southerly gales gave a high count of 83 Little Gulls on 11th. A very late Wheatear was still around on 21st.

Wet and mild weather continued into December, and although lower temperatures, snow and frost eventually arrived at the and of the month, all the highlights were from the coast. Two Grey Phalaropes were around the Marina on 1st. Another was at Worthing on 1st and maybe the same bird at Widewater from 16th to 17th. A Swallow at the Marina on 1st was the latest date ever for the area. On 1st a Sooty Shearwater flew west at Marina followed the next day by a juvenile Long-tailed Skua, the first ever for Dec in Sussex. On 31st a flock of 15 Pale-bellied Brent Geese went west at Marina and landed at Shoreham giving the SDOS Field Outing and a few local birders a chance to see the largest flock recorded in Sussex. A Pomarine Skua was off the Marina same day. Away from the coast 3 Tree Sparrows were behind Sompting all month.

The annual thank-you must again go to the seawatchers at Brighton Marina who combined to re-write the record books on many occasions. They also managed to be in the right place at the right time for rarities such as Great White Egret, Montagu's Harrier

and Crane, and the very long hours of endurance spent sitting on the Marina arm paid dividends that some of us can only read or dream about.

Peter Whitcomb

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 or 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 John Hobson, 23 Hillside Road, Storrington, RH20 3LZ. 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

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2000

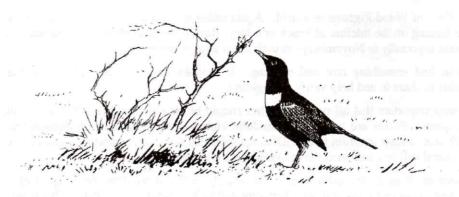
This systematic list of birds in the Shoreham District is based upon records submitted by the following (non-members are marked*):-

S.R. Allen, I. Barnard*, V. Bentley, R.C. Bradbury, P. Brown*, A. Burtenshaw*, Rev B. Carter, G.L. & M. Champion, B.R. Clay, J. Cooper, S. Denman, B.F. Forbes, N. Gearty*, K.B. Gillam*, K.C. Hearne, P.K.W. Herbert, C. Hope, R.A. Ives, L.R. Keen, A.R. Kitson*, C. & M. Leeves, B. Metcalfe, J.A. Newnham, C. Nichols, C. Piper, G. St.John Smith, R.J. Sandison, D. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, P.Thompson*, A.B. Watson, R. Westwater, A.D. Whitcomb*, I.J. Whitcomb*, P.J. Whitcomb, and C. Wright.

The recorder especially thanks John Newnham for supplying additional records from the SOS database with relevant records from C. Brooks, J. Curson, R.J. Fairbank, 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, offs = offshore, 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

Ones and twos noted early in the year off Ferring, Goring and Widewater. The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	494	603	88	174	9	2	-		-	4	90	833
Worthing	2	11	3	14	2	-	-	-	-	-	6	17

These include high counts at Marina of 136W/4E on Feb 2, 1W/189E on Dec 17 and 6W/147E on Dec 20. Also of note were 2E there on Jun 1, the first record for that month. A juv was also reported off Widewater on Jun 11. Noted end Dec at Goring with max 6 offshore on 27th. See also under diver sp.

0003 BLACK-THROATED DIVER Gavia arctica

Fairly scarce passage migrant

From the Marina the records were 1W on Feb 17, 1E on Mar 24, then total 49 in Apr and 13 in May. Peak count was 14E on Apr 14, the highest day count from this site. Worthing produced 1E on Apr 29 then a further 6 to May 14. The only late-year record was 1E at Marina on Dec 19.

0004 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER Gavia immer

Rare visitor, 1-2 most years

A good year with all sightings from the Marina as follows: 1 on Jan 5, 1 1stW on Jan 22, 1 on the sea off east arm on Apr 18, 1 1stS on May 18, 1 on the sea off west arm on Nov 21, 1 juv on Nov 28 and 2 on sea on Dec 26 (all IJW).

DIVER Species

The monthly seawatching totals for unidentified divers were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	65	56	6	46	11	-	-	-	-	1	28	91
Worthing	5	9	9	22	7	-	-	-	-	1	3	24

Peaks at the Marina were 22W/5E on Jan 20 and 22W/8E on Dec 27. The peak at Worthing was 3W/7E on Dec 16.

0007 LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder

In Jan singles were seen in Harbour and Canal, max 6 at Brooklands and max 4 inside the Marina. Next were 1 at the Sanctuary on Mar 1 and ad birds at Brooklands and Rock Common in Apr/May. The only positive breeding was 1 pr at Wiston Pond with 3 noted in Apr and 11 in Aug. Birds returned to Brooklands with 3 in Aug and max 5 in Oct. Smaller numbers were at Cuckoo Corner and Widewater late year.

0009 GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus

Regular offshore for most of year

Monthly totals of passage and offshore birds were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina			26			7	-	1			10	31
Worthing	16	25	44	34	20		-	-	-	-	14	29

These rather low totals include a peak 20E at the Marina on Feb 20 and offshore totals at Worthing reaching 11 on Mar 12. Also in Mar small flocks on the sea off Southwick and Widewater, and 10 off Goring. There were no breeding records.

0010 RED-NECKED GREBE Podiceps grisegena

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

All sightings as follows: 1 offs Marina on Jan 6; 1 Canal on Jan 8; 1W Marina on Feb 2; 1pr displaying off Marina Mar 21-23; 5 offs Marina on Mar 24; 2 offs Marina Mar 27; 1E Marina on Apr 2; 1E Goring beach on Apr 3 and presumed same at Worthing same day; 1 offs Marina on Apr 7-8; 2 offs Marina on May 11; 1E Marina on May 12. In the autumn 1 offs Marina on Sep 14 and 1W there on Dec 26. Possibly this latter bird also noted at Goring and Worthing the same day. These sightings probably constitute the most birds seen in a year in our area.

0011 SLAVONIAN GREBE Podiceps auritus

Regular winter visitor offshore

A good number were found. In Jan - 3 off Marina and 1 off Widewater; Feb - 1E Marina and 1 off Southwick; Mar - passage off Marina and Worthing and 1 off Goring; Apr - 4 passage birds off Marina, 2 at Worthing; May - 5 on the sea off Marina, 1E there; Dec - total of 9 from Goring, Marina and Worthing.

0012 BLACK-NECKED GREBE Podiceps nigricollis

Rare winter visitor

At the Marina the records were 1W on Jan 21, 1 on Feb 2, 1 on Apr 1, 2 on sea off west arm on Apr 8 and 1 on May 10. There were 2 birds off Southwick on Apr 8 which were different to those at the Marina (KBG, IJW).

0020 FULMAR Fulmarus glacialis

Common passage migrant, nests just outside area The monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	375	245	328	1557	1480	57	15	103	40	50	55	409
Worthing	2	3		132		2	4	3	6	-	-	2

Some of the higher day-counts at the Marina included 157E on Apr 7, 166W/243E on Apr 17, 177E on May 3, 266E on May 26 and 25W/114E on Dec 31. Peak at Worthing was 18W/14E on Apr 25. Sightings away from the sea were 1E

along Basin Road South, Southwick in Feb, 1 SE at Sheepcote in Jun and 1W there on Sep 1. The only other records were singles off Widewater in Aug.

0043 SOOTY SHEARWATER Puffinus griseus

Rare autumn visitor

The first were 3W at Marina on Sep 6 (IJW), then 2 off Worthing on Oct 3 and 3 on Oct 28 (JAN). The latter date also had 1 off Southwick (SOS). Next was 1W at Marina on Nov 11 (IJW), 1 off Shoreham Beach on Dec 5 and lastly 1W at Marina on Dec 19 (IJW). Those with initials accepted by SOS.

0046.01 MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER Puffinus yelkouan Rare autumn visitor

Accepted records were 1E at Marina on Jul 14 (IJW), 1 on Aug 2 (KBG) and 1W on Sep 18 (IJW).

0046 MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus puffinus

Fairly uncommon passage migrant

The monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	28	123	66	35	2	-	-	2	-
Worthing	-	-	-	4	4	-		aga	1	3	44.18	

The first was on the early date of Apr 1. Peak counts at Marina were 21E on May 18, 13W/21E on May 27, 23W/26E on Jun 22 and 20E on Jul 14. Peak at Worthing was 4E on Apr 30.

0052 STORM PETREL Hydrobates pelagicus

Rare vagrant

There were 4W off Brighton on Oct 31, then 1W on Nov 1 and another on 2nd (IJW). All accepted by SOS.

0055 LEACH'S STORM PETREL Oceanodroma leucorhoa Rare vagrant

2 were off Brighton on the afternoon of Oct 28, and a single W on Oct 31 (both IJW). Accepted by SOS.

0071 GANNET Morus bassanus

Regular offshore in most months, usually peaking in spring

The monthly seawatching totals were:

ATT- ADA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	947	548	78	1246	1119	504	847	965	830	1136	631	1227
Worthing	71	9	11	372	220	64	76	77	272	532	95	387

These high figures included Marina peak counts 2W/233E on Jan 24, 102W/85E in SW gales on Jun 22, 20W/350E in SW winds on Aug 26, 554W in SSE gale on Oct 28, 310W in S gale on Nov 11 and 478E in NE winds on Dec 26. Peaks at

Worthing were 119W on Apr 21, 258W on Oct 28 and 156 offs on Dec 25. Counts elsewhere included 300 off Widewater on Aug 25 and 150 at Goring on Dec 25.

0072 CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Common at coastal and some inland sites

A high count of 60 at Brooklands on Jan 27, and 33 there on Mar 13. A flock of 10E passed Marina on Feb 5 and on 9th a high day total of 75W was probably a food-related movement. Also 60W there on Feb 17. Roosts inland at Wyckham pylons were 85 on Feb 13, 78 on Mar 11 and 106 on Sep 13. Small numbers noted on seawatches and inland overflyers were seen at 5 sites. Late year there were 10E off Widewater on Dec 21.

0080 SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Fairly uncommon winter visitor

The only early-year birds were max 2 at Marina on Jan 8 and 1 offshore at Southwick on Feb 23. Passage birds were logged at Marina from Aug, with monthly totals Aug - 52, Sep - 97, Oct - 6, Nov - 6, Dec - 6. Day counts included 16W/1E on Aug 28, 7W/13E on Sep 2, 14W/13E on Sep 6 - a SDOS record high count, and 17W on Sep 8. Small numbers were noted on Worthing seawatches. 1-2 birds were at Marina from Dec 3, with a tame 1st yr bird present the whole month. There was also 1 offshore at Harbour on Dec 11.

0104 NIGHT HERON Nycticorax nycticorax

Rare Vagrant

1 at Marina on May 12 is only the second official record for SDOS (KBG) and has been accepted by SOS. The first record was at Woods Mill also in May.

0111 CATTLE EGRET Bulbulcus ibis

Rare vagrant

1 at Henfield Levels on 1-2 Jan. Re-located near Rye Farm on 7th and remained in the area until about 9th (SRA, BFF, SOS). 1 flew E along the coast on 7 May, seen by 2 observers at Worthing (JAN, DS) then at Marina (IJW). It was later seen at Cuckmere. Both accepted by BBRC.

0119 LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta

Once a rare vagrant, now annual in area

Early year there were 1-3 at Ferring Rife from Jan 1 to at least Feb 27 when 3 were seen to fly to roost there. A single was at Coombes on Jan 5 and at Adur Saltings on Apr 25. Marina seawatching produced 1E on Apr 22, 2E on Apr 27, 1E on Apr 30, 1W on May 9 and 1E on Dec 12; and at Worthing 1E on Apr 30, 2E on May 6, 2E on May 7, 1E on Sep 19, 1E on Oct 5 and 1W on Nov 26. A flock of 7W off Goring on Aug 6 was a record count.

Birds then were regular around Adur Saltings area with a single on Jul 20, then 2 at end July peaking at 3 during Aug/Sep. Two remained during Oct and a single

into Nov/Dec. Elsewhere there were 2 at Brooklands on Aug 14 and max 3 at Widewater on Sep 7. Up river a single was resident around Steyning, Bramber and Henfield Levels from Sep 11 to Nov 13. There was 1W at Sheepcote on Nov 5. Two were noted in the Coombes/Botolphs area between Nov 26 and Dec 24.

0121 GREAT WHITE EGRET Egretta alba

Very rare vagrant

1 passed Marina on 9 Nov (SOS) and is the first for the area. Accepted by BBRC.

0122 GREY HERON Ardea cinerea

Fairly common resident

Most of the sizeable counts were from the Adur valley, with 19 prs breeding at Wyckham Wood. Overflying birds were regularly reported from seawatching sites but of interest were 2 birds in off the sea on May 8, 4 on May 6 and 1 on May 22. Urban overflyers were noted from Brighton, Durrington, Stanmer Park, Swandean and Wildpark. A single bird favoured the fish in a pond in urban Brighton at Preston Park, and was reported on numerous occasions throughout the year.

0152 MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor

Fairly common resident

Early-year herds were quite low, with peak 26 at Brooklands on Jan 9 and Mar 7, and counts at Upper Adur Levels peaked 48 in Jan and 28 nearby at Wyckham Level in Feb. 1 at Brooklands had a pale green 4ac ring. Small numbers were noted off Marina and Worthing mostly during Apr. Breeding prs were 5 at Brooklands including 2 with second brood, and 2 prs on Henfield Levels raising 11 young. Prs were present in Apr at Adur Saltings, Patching Pond and Upper Beeding but breeding was not confirmed. Late-year peaks included 86 on Adur on Aug 29 and max 40 at Widewater in early Oct.

0153 BEWICK'S SWAN Cygnus columbianus

Scarce but regular winter visitor

18 were at Henfield Levels on Jan 1, decreasing to only 6 between 2-7th. 15 ads and 3 juv were present there on 8th then fluctuated between 5 and 13 until Feb 19 and still 3 remaining until Mar 4. The only late winter birds were 2 at Lower Adur on Dec 16 and 4 ads on Henfield Levels on 24th.

0159 WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Anser albifrons

Rare winter visitor

Probable wild birds were 15 at Upper Adur Levels on Jan 1 (RAI).

0161 GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

Fairly scarce introduced resident

Peak count at Henfield Levels was 9 on Jan 2 and still 6 around on Mar 4. Feral birds bred with 2 prs at Wiston Pond and 1 pr near Stretham Manor. I overflew

Preston Park on Mar 17, the first known record for this site. High counts late year were 36 at Henfield Levels on Nov 26 and 50 on Upper Adur Levels on Dec 16.

0166 CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis

Introduced, increasing in area, now breeding

The only large group early year were 80 on Henfield Levels on Feb 12. Seawatching produced a number of records with 1-3 on 7 dates between Mar 13 to May 31 at the Marina and similar numbers at Worthing on 2 dates in May. Two prs bred at Wiston Pond. Birds were seen at Patching Pond in Mar but breeding was not confirmed. Flyovers were noted over Sompting Downs and Cissbury mid year. A large count of 300 were on Lower Adur Levels on Dec 16.

0168 BRENT GOOSE Branta bernicla

Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

The monthly totals at the two main seawatching sites were:

-	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	120	1229	10003	1660	53	-	-	-	8	139	1909	363
Worthing	38	86	1376	833	21	3	-		32	90	1530	44

Some extremely high day-counts occurred in Mar from the Marina with 2174E on 21st, 1950 on 22nd and a Sussex record of 4500 on 24th. These coincided with the highest Worthing counts. Late year there were peak counts on Nov 7 with 1431W at Worthing, 1566W at the Marina and 600W at Goring Gap. A number of inland records included 25E over Hollingdean on Sep 26, 6 over Wildpark on Sep 30 and a single a long way inland at Henfield Levels on Dec 16 and 24. There were 8 feeding in a wheat field at Goring Gap on Dec 28.

Pale-bellied Brent Goose

An excellent spring record at Marina was 1E with dark-bellieds on Apr 2 (IJW). On Dec 31 a flock of 14 resided around Adur Saltings. The 4 ad 10 juvs were believed to be the largest flock of this subsp for the SDOS area (SRA, DS).

0170 EGYPTIAN GOOSE

Alopochen aegyptiacus

Introduced and rare visitor

A flock of 8 were around the Henfield Levels area on Jan 1 and 7 on Jan 8 (SOS).

Two were below Bramber on Nov 11 (ARK). The origin of these birds is uncertain.



Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

There was 1 off Southwick on Jan 16. Monthly seawatching totals were as follows:



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	24	8	33	172	69	2	-	2	-	5	30	174
Worthing	2	5	10	91	24	-	6	-	2	4	28	34

Peak count was on Apr 30 with 14W/25E at Worthing and 16W/27E at the Marina. Other highs were 27W at Worthing on Nov 7 and 32W/1E at the Marina on Dec 27. Also 4W at Goring in Nov and 17 off Widewater on Dec 17. Of interest was a single on Brooklands lake in Oct and 5 inland at Steyning Levels on Dec 9.

0179 WIGEON Anas penelope

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year peak was only 40 at Henfield Levels in Jan. Others in Jan were 10W at Ferring and max 12 at Adur Saltings. The seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	27	3			-				16	5	4	336
Worthing	•	-	-	-	-	-	-			-	81	28

Peaks at Marina were 70E on Mar 24 and 229W/13E on Dec 20. Late year there were 70 off Worthing on Nov 7, max 250 on Beeding Brooks on Nov 19 and max 80 at Lower Adur Levels on Dec 16.

0182 GADWALL Anas strepera

Uncommon in the area

There were 20 at Henfield Levels on Jan 1, then 10 offs at Southwick on Jan 31 which then flew W. Prs noted at Henfield Levels and Wiston Pond during the breeding season. Marina seawatches produced small monthly totals – Jan - 2, Feb - 3, Mar - 5, Apr - 4, May - 1, Sep - 2, Dec - 19, the peak being 8E on Dec 24.

0184 TEAL Anas crecca

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

A high winter count of 105 were near Rye Farm on Jan 2, and smaller numbers there and on Adur Saltings during Jan/Feb. 4 prs were present on Henfield Levels and 2 prs Wiston Pond in Mar, but none were confirmed as breeding. Seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	3	79	48	7	-	4	-	-	-	39	91
Worthing	-	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	13	17

Peak counts at Marina were 30E on Mar 21 and 32 on Mar 24. Small numbers were noted off Widewater and at Brooklands in Dec, and inland, 80 were on Henfield Levels on Dec 24.

0186 MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos

Common resident and winter visitor

Small numbers noted at Adur Saltings, Widewater and at both seawatching sites. 3 prs bred at Brooklands, with 1 raising a second brood in late Jun. Late-year

records included max 46 at Adur Saltings on Nov 25 and double figures on a number of occasions at the two seawatching sites.

0189 PINTAIL Anas acuta

Regular winter visitor at coastal and inland sites

5 were on Henfield Levels in Jan, increasing on the floods to 30 during Feb. At Ferring there were 2W on Feb 3. The main seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	4	7	2	-		-			7	10	24
Worthing	-	-	4	5			-		-	1	29	27

The only late-year birds were 3 on Henfield Levels on Nov 28 and 24 there on Dec 9, and peaks of 25W at Worthing on Dec 10 and 16E at Marina on Dec 20.

0191 GARGANEY Anas querquedula

Scarce passage migrant

6 drakes and a female were on the sea off Southwick on 16 Mar (IJB, IJW). Birds at Marina were 1E on 16 Mar, 2E on 23 Mar, 2E on 24 Mar and 1E on 23 Apr. At Worthing there were 2E on 13 May and 2W on 16 Sep. A much better year after none at all in 1999.

0194 SHOVELER Anas clypeata

Regular winter visitor

Early year there were small numbers on Henfield Levels with max 20 on Feb 13. Seawatching totals were at the Marina — Mar - 76, Apr - 28, Nov - 10, Dec - 4, peak 28E on Mar 22. At Worthing they were Apr - 6, Dec - 19, peak 12E on Dec 24. 1 pr were at Wiston Pond in Apr but did not stay, and 3m were at Brooklands on Apr 22. Late-year birds were 10 at Beeding Brooks on Nov 19 and 12 at Henfield Levels in Dec.

0198 POCHARD Aythya ferina

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

The monthly maxima at Brooklands were Jan - 41, Feb - 33, Mar - 1, Jun - 1, Dec - 45. Only present at Widewater late winter with 2m on Nov 22 and max 11 in Dec. The only other records were 1W at the Marina on Nov 22 and 6W there on Nov 28.

0203 TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula

Declining winter visitor

Much reduced numbers recorded at Brooklands with max only 11 on Jan 27, and none at all from Widewater all year. Small numbers were recorded on seawatches. Prs bred at Chantry Pond and Wiston Pond. The highest count of the year was a paltry 20 at Henfield Levels on June 3.

0204 SCAUP Aythya marila

Scarce winter visitor

The only record was 1W at Marina on Nov 1 (IJW).

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	74	26	54	35	8	-	-	-		10	54	55
Worthing	9	-	10	24	8	4	-		30	5	70	5

There were 20 off Shoreham on Jan 13. Spring passage was generally poor with peak 23 at the Marina on Mar 22 and 8 at Worthing on Jan 15. On Nov 5 substantial passage was noted with 40E at the Marina and 66E at Worthing.

0212 LONG-TAILED DUCK Clangula hyemalis

Rare winter visitor

1f on sea off Southwick on 11 Jan. Next was a flock of 3E on 10 Mar at Marina. 2E with Brent Geese off Goring on 22 Mar and the last 1E with Common Scoter at Marina on 20 Apr.

0213 COMMON SCOTER Melanitta nigra

Common passage migrant

Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	92	65	774	5313	2159	99	126	32	24	76	126	148
Worthing	2	6	49	1273	377	4	4	2	14	41	87	21

Peaks at Marina were 591E on Apr 1, 748E on Apr 2, 1200E on Apr 7 and 533E on Apr 29. Highest count at Worthing was 260 on Apr 30. Small numbers were reported on the sea off Ferring, Palace Pier and Widewater. Unusually 1 was on the Canal on Nov 23.

0215 VELVET SCOTER Melanitta fusca

Fairly regular passage migrant

4 were offs at Southwick on Jan 30. Marina seawatching details were 3E on Mar 24, 11E on Apr 2, 7 more in Apr, then 13E on 27th and 10W/10E on May 6. At Worthing there was 1E on Apr 2, 2W on 3rd, 5E on 22nd and 2E on May 7.

0218 GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

A poor year with 1E at Worthing on Mar 22, 1f on Henfield Levels on Nov 25-26, and ones and twos were noted on 4 days at the Marina and Worthing from Dec 18.

0221 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator

Common winter visitor

Small numbers were offshore along the coast in Jan and building up to max counts of 146 at Worthing in Feb and 213 there on Mar 12. At Goring 40 in Jan built to 60 in Mar, with smaller groups off Southwick and Widewater. The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina East	20	19	74	348	21	(1175)	_	-	-	1	10	16
Marina West								-				
Worthing						-	-			7	108	1076

The totals at Worthing include both passage and offshore birds. Peak passage occurred on Apr 1 with 149E at Worthing and 7W/53E at the Marina, and 75E there on Apr 7. Late-year counts included up to 3 on Widewater, and max 200 off Goring and Worthing at end Dec.

0223 GOOSANDER Mergus merganser

Rare winter visitor

1f flew south at Upper Adur on 1 Jan. Another female was on Wiston Pond on 13 Feb. 1f on the sea off Worthing on 30 Mar and another there from 26-30 April.

0225 RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis

Rare winter visitor

If or juv at Wiston Pond on Sep 30 (ARK).

0231 HONEY BUZZARD Pernis apivorus

Rare vagrant

September 2000 brought an unprecedented influx into England. Migration from Scandinavia brings no more than a handful of annual sightings but this phenomena gave birders their best ever chance of seeing migrant The East coast were Honey Buzzards. reporting dozens mainly from Sep 20. By the 23rd over 200 reports gave the indication of a huge passage and they began filtering down to the SE and into our recording area. visits to the trig point at Hollingbury Camp gave one of the best vantage points. In a wide arc covering downland between Devil's Dyke, Clayton, Standean, Ditchling Beacon and the downs behind Stanmer Park to Woodingdean and Brighton Racehill, the following totals were seen:



25 th Sep	26 th Sep	27th Sep	28th Sep	29th Sep	30 th Sep	1st Oct
2	7	6	8	15	31	1

Most of these were dark plumaged juvs, but one or two adults were also logged. It was exciting to see close birds, and to see the effect they had on the gull population as they soared leisurely over urban areas, sometimes in singles, sometimes 2 or 3 together (IJW, ADW, PJW). These totals will undoubtedly

include a few birds just outside the recording area from the sector near Lewes and behind Woodingdean, but the majority would be true area birds.

Elsewhere in the SDOS area the sightings were: 1 at Southwick on Sep 23 (BFF), 1 Upper Beeding (JCS) same date; 1S then E Golding Barn on Sep 24 (JCS, CW); 3 separate birds off Worthing on Sep 27 (JAN); 2 Mill Hill on Sep 29 (SRA); 2 different birds Shoreham on Sep 30 (SOS), also 1W over JCS's house at Upper Beeding and 1W Steyning Roundhill (RAI); 1 Worthing beach on Oct 1 (JAN); 2 Falmer University on Oct 4 (SOS).

Putting all this into some perspective, up until this occurrence there had only been 11 acceptable records from 1978 to 1998.

0239 **RED KITE** Milvus milvus

Rare vagrant

The first was at Westmeston on Apr 23 (SOS). Then 1NE at Sanctuary then went E over Mill Hill on May 1 (JAN), and 1 nr Cissbury on Jun 8 (SOS).

0260 MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

Scarce passage migrant

1f went E at Broadwater on May 5. Birds in off the sea at Marina were 1 on May 11 and 2 on May 12. Most of the autumn birds were on downland sites from Aug 4 to Sep 23 at Chantry Hill, Cissbury (twice), Hangleton and Steyning Roundhill. The last was 1 juy which flew out to sea at Worthing on Oct 2.

0261 HEN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

Passage and occasional winter visitor

The only regular early sightings were from the Chantry Hill/Harrow Hill area with up to 3 birds present during Jan/Feb. In Nov there were ringtails at Steyning Roundhill and Chattri (nr Standean).

0263 MONTAGU'S HARRIER Circus pygargus

Scarce spring and autumn migrant

Spring passage birds were as follows: 1N over Brighton on Apr 27 (IJW), 1 off Marina on May 6 (KBG) and 1NE at Goring Gap on May 23 (RCB, DS).

0269 SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

Fairly common resident

There were dozens of early-year records, these including up to 2 visiting a Worthing garden on over 100 occasions. Breeding prs were — Benfield Valley - 1, Findon Valley - 1, Goring Gap - 1, High Salvington - 1, Steyning Roundhill - 1, Wildpark - 2. There were many other sightings during the breeding season. At the Marina there was 1W in Sep and 2 in Oct. At Hollingbury Camp there were 5 on Sep 7 and probable migrants included 6E on Sep 21 and 3E the following day.

0287 BUZZARD Buteo buteo

Scarce but increasing resident and passage migrant

Many reports from around the area in all months of the year. Most were from

downland sites particularly from Chanctonbury, Chantry Hill, Patching and Steyning. On Jan 8 there were 6 spiralling together at Harrow Hill. 3-5 prs probably bred. Urban overflyers were reported from Brighton/Hove areas on over a dozen occasions. A bird reported at Blackpatch Hill on Sep 13 was noted as a pale individual with white upper tail coverts and base of tail. Multiple sightings included 4 over Storrington on Aug 23 and 5 at Cissbury on Sep 17. Migrants seen during the Honey Buzzard influx included 3E at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 26, 4 the following day and 7 at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 30.

0301 OSPREY Pandion haliaetus

Rare passage migrant

Sightings were 1N at Brighton on May 20, 1W at Hollingdean on Sep 17, 1S at Preston Park on Sep 21 and 1E viewed across the downs from Hollingbury Camp on Sep 22.

0304 KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Fairly common resident

Widely reported from around the area. Breeding prs noted as follows — Castle Goring - 1, Cissbury - 1, Findon Valley - 2, Washington - 1 and Wildpark - 2. There were many more noted during the breeding season from 15 other sites.



0309 MERLIN Falco columbarius

Scarce but regular in autumn/winter

All the records were: Jan - singles at Adur Levels, Henfield Levels, Mill Hill, and at least 2 birds in the Chantry Hill area. Feb - 1 at Harrow Hill. Mar - 1 in off sea at the Marina, 1 at Hollingbury Camp. Apr - 1 in off sea at the Marina, singles at Broadwater and Stump Bottom. 1E at the Marina on Aug 26 was unusually early. Oct - 1 at Hollingbury Camp, 2 at Sheepcote, 1 at Steyning Roundhill. Nov - 1 north Brighton. Dec - 1 at Chantry Hill, Marina and Sompting. A good showing.

0310 HOBBY Falco subbuteo

Regular passage migrant, has bred

The earliest-ever 'official' arrival date for Sussex was at Lancing on Apr 3 (SOS). Monthly totals for the whole area were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	-	-	7	13	7	3	8	24	3	muit M	-

In the breeding season noted at Calcot Wood and Storrington where breeding was confirmed. The last was on Oct 5 at Henfield Levels.

0320 PEREGRINE Falco peregrinus

Scarce but increasing resident and winter visitor

Only about 50 records this year of a species which is becoming more frequent and

sightings are perhaps being taken for granted. 2 prs bred in the area. A box erected on the new Shoreham power station had caused some interest but visits were not regular. For part of the year a 3rd year bird was inhabiting the cliffs behind the Marina, and on a number of occasions 2-3 birds were seen either hunting or flying together.

0358 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE Alectoris rufa

Common introduced resident

40 were at Lower Standean in Jan. Other counts were 2 at Ladies Mile, Patcham and 2 at Cissbury both in Mar. 1 pr bred at Golding Barn raising 7 young. May have bred nr Kithurst Hill with 6 there in May and 14 in Nov. Others were 6 at Chanctonbury and 8 at Patcham.

0367 GREY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

Fairly common resident

Breeding prs were Goring Gap - 7 and Cissbury - 1. The numbers fluctuated drastically prior to breeding at Goring Gap, with travellers taking up residence and disturbing the birds. There were none reported all year from Sheepcote or Wildpark maybe for the same reason. Coveys noted late year were 14 at Halewick Lane, 12 at Coombes and 8 at Stump Bottom.

0370 QUAIL Coturnix coturnix

Rare but regular summer visitor

The only record was 1 flushed by a dog at Lancing Clump on Sep 28 (RAI).

0394 PHEASANT Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident

The pre-breeding count at Wildpark was 1m 4f on Mar 11, and 1 pr bred there. An albino was seen at Cissbury on May 13. The only other records of this underreported species were 10 at Kithurst Hill in May and 20 roosting in hawthorns at the Sanctuary in Nov.

0407 WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus

Regular winter visitor, may breed

Just 1 at Beeding Brooks in Mar was the only early-year record. From Nov singles reported from Beeding Brooks, Ladywells and Strivens Reedbed, and 1-2 at the Sanctuary. Unusually, none were reported from Ferring Rife all year.

0424 MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak counts at Brooklands were 8 in Jan and 9 in Feb. On Henfield Levels there were 40 on Feb 5 and up to 5 at Beeding Brooks. Some interesting records included 1 inside the Marina at end Mar, 1 in the grounds of a Brighton nursery on Apr 1 and another in a Brighton park on Apr 3, neither of which had any ponds or water! The only confirmed breeding was 1 pr at Brooklands raising 3

young, but may have bred at Beeding Brooks and Small Dole. The only late-year count was 52 on Wiston Pond on Aug 31.

0429 COOT Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Some unusually sparse counts this year. At Brooklands the peaks were 63 on Jan 18 and 57 on Feb 9, reducing to 30 in Mar. 7 prs bred there. Surprisingly the only other record was 2 at Upper Beeding in Feb!

0433 COMMON CRANE Grus grus

Rare visitor

1 seen from the Marina in off sea and over Ovingdean on Nov 7 (IJW). This sighting was just within the recording area, and has now been accepted by the SOS.

0450 OYSTERCATCHER Haematopus ostralegus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

The roost at Goring Beach had 20 birds on Jan 30 and 30 on Mar 20, whilst at Adur Saltings the peak was 11 in Feb. The monthly seawatching table was as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina					112							
Worthing	6	19	10	80	55	-	2	19	16	43	19	-

High counts included 30E at Marina on Mar 21, 8W/25E there on Mar 9 and 22E at Worthing on Oct 7. Noted at Hollingdean calling at night in Jul and on 2 other occasions. Late-year roosts at Goring peaked at 34 in Dec.

0456 AVOCET Recurvirostra avocetta

Uncommon, but regular passage migrant

First of the year at Marina were 2E on Mar 12 followed by peak counts 11E on Mar 21 and 17E on May 5. Totals there were — Mar - 20, Apr - 3, May - 24. At Worthing the same peak of 14E on May 5 and monthly totals of Apr - 1, May - 15, Sep - 5 and Nov - 4.

0469 LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

Rare passage migrant. Once bred.

A better year, with birds at Sheepcote on Apr 1 and Apr 13; at Worthing with 1E on May 2, 1W on May 3 and 2E on May 14; and 1N at Sheepcote on Jul 20.

0470 RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; attempts to breed

This species is familiar along the beaches of the area, and some of the peak gatherings are shown on the following table:

The state of	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	-	16	-	-	1	-		79		68	-	66
Brooklands	13	14	-	-	-	-	-	150	-	-	-	1
Goring	40	-	-	16	-	-	12	133	119	-	47	59
Marina	66	42	4	4	-	-	-		82	-	-	-
Shoreham	250	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	-
Widewater		11	11	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	17	-
Worthing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-	-	70	70

Additionally, passing birds were noted at Worthing with peaks 35E on May 5 and 40W on Aug 24. The only proven breeding was at Southwick Beach with 1pr laying 3 eggs, but 1-2 prs noted at the Marina in Apr and 2 juvs at Goring Beach in Jul. 1N at Hollingdean on Aug 17 was unusual.

0485 GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Fairly common winter visitor

Early year there were up to 4 around the Airfield area in Jan/Feb. Migrants were noted at Steyning Roundhill in Sep, 4 parties over Sheepcote in Oct (max 10W on 6th) and 1 over Cissbury on Oct 8. Late-year birds included 20E at Marina on Dec 22, 1E there on 25th and 27th and 12 on the Airfield on 23rd.

0486 GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

The beach count at Goring peaked at 170 on Jan 1. Elsewhere there was max 20 in Feb on Adur Saltings and 14 at Brooklands Beach. The seawatching totals were

at the set in	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	4	73	846		-				-	
Worthing	-	25	32	23	266	-	-	14	-	6	11	12

Peaks at Marina were 88E on May 5, 316E on May 10 and 152E on May 11. Peaks at Worthing were 32W on Mar 22 and 84E on May 5. The only regular counts late year came from Goring where there were peaks of 101 in Nov and 138 in Dec.

0493 LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Common winter visitor but declining breeder

Winter flock counts were quite low, with peaks reaching max 1000 at Henfield Levels on Jan 2 and 850 at the Airfield on Feb 20; also 80 at Goring Beach on Jan 30. Probable breeding prs were from Canada Bottom, Lower Standean, No Man's Land, Park Brow and 3 prs at Steyning Roundhill. Early autumn flocks included 100 at Highdown Hill in Sep and a scattering of overflyers from Beeding, Marina and Wildpark. Reported as unusual from Goring Beach on 3 occasions in Nov. Winter movement was typified by 150NNW at Hollingdean on Nov 13, 94E at Marina on Dec 21 and 65N over Brighton on Dec 25. In Dec unusually absent from Henfield Levels, but peaks elsewhere included 500 at the

Airfield on 5th, 200 at Beeding Brooks on 18th and 128 at the Sanctuary on 31st. Small numbers were noted from both seawatching sites in Dec.

0496 KNOT Calidris canutus

Regular passage migrant

Birds in Mar included 1 at Goring Beach on 3rd and 4 at Widewater on 22nd. Passage in May from the Marina included a high count of 166E on 5th in a month's tally of 261. The May total at Worthing was 86. Singles were on the Adur Saltings from mid Aug increasing to 7 on Sep 12 and max 11 in Dec. There were 2E at Worthing in Sep and 5 passing the Marina in Dec.

0497 SANDERLING Calidris alba

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year beach counts included 42 at Brooklands and 40 at Goring in Jan; 20 at Shoreham in Feb; and peaks of 60 at Goring, 36 at Brooklands and 23 at Widewater in Mar. Smaller numbers were from Southwick and Worthing. The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina					358			-				4
Worthing		-	18	169	329	9	-	3	5	24	25	2

These figures include a day count of 503E at the Marina on Mar 21, a record count for the SDOS. Other peaks were 3W/61E on May 6 and 74E on May 8. Worthing's highest totals were 75E on May 5 and 5W/51E on May 7. Beach counts at Goring had monthly peaks of June - 28, Jul - 7, Sep - 7 and Dec - 52. Other high counts late year came from Brooklands with 30 in Aug and at Widewater with Aug - 30 and Dec - 53.

0501 LITTLE STINT Calidris minuta

Scarce passage migrant, occasional winter visitor

A good winter record was 1 at the high-tide roost with other waders at Worthing on Dec 24 (JAN).

0509 CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant

A small group were seen almost daily on Adur Saltings from the initial 2 on 29 Aug, peaking at 4 on 2 Sep and remaining until 7th.

0510 PURPLE SANDPIPER Calidris maritima

Scarce winter visitor

The monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	7	9	10	8	5	-	2	2	2	6	11	13
Southwick	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-
Shoreham Hbr	2	6	2		-		-	-	-	5	5	7

The count of 13 on Dec 1 is believed to be the highest count for the Marina. This species continues to do well in our area and is adding a lot of pleasure to winter birdwatching.

0512 DUNLIN Calidris alpina

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year flocks included 250 at Shoreham Fort on Jan 6, 370 roosting at Worthing beach on Jan 15 and 250 roosting at Goring on Jan 30. Seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	35	30	431	-	3	12	29	-	193	9
Worthing	775	370	73	56	343	H-DANIE	2	55	6	27	949	509

Most of the Worthing totals were for beach roosts, but the exception was 611W on Nov 7 which is the highest day passage count for SDOS area. The peak passage at the Marina was 141E on May 6 and 141W on Nov 7 (just a coincidence). Small numbers noted from Brooklands, Ferring and Widewater beaches. 7N at Beeding Hill on May 11 was a good record for the time of year. Late-year inland records were up to 7 at Henfield and Steyning Levels, remaining for a few days at the end of Nov. Adur Saltings counts were curiously absent for most of the year, except 56 on Dec 5.

0517 RUFF Philomachus pugnax

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

2E passed Widewater on Mar 18. In the autumn 2 were on Henfield Levels on Sep 30 and 1 at Beeding Brooks on Nov 19.

0518 JACK SNIPE Lymnocryptes minimus

Winter visitor in small numbers

A single was at Ferring Rife on Jan 1, where this site held a max 4 on Jan 27. A single stayed into Feb until 19th. Elsewhere there was 1 near Wyckham Farm on Jan 2.

0519 SNIPE Gallinago gallinago

Common winter visitor

1-2 were on Ferring Rife in Jan, increasing to 6 on Feb 6. Fair numbers were recorded in Mar, with 40 at Henfield Levels on 4th and 54 the same day at Botolphs in a set-aside. There were still 48 there on the 11th. At Sheepcote 3 were flushed on 24th, and in Aug there was a total of 12 there, with max 7. Similar numbers were at Airfield in Sep. Late-year totals included 30 at Henfield Levels on Oct 7, 85 at Shoreham Adur on Nov 12 and 80 on Adur Levels on Nov 16.

0529 WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola

Winter visitor and passage migrant

2 separate birds were at Wildpark on Mar 18, 1 flushed from allotments, the other

from Hollingbury Camp. A bird in Wildpark on Dec 2 was probably wintering there.

0532 BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

Considered quite a scarcity in our area, so 5E at Worthing on Apr 30 was a good record.

0534 BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

Common passage migrant and regular winter visitor

The monthly seawatching totals were:

T SELF	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	TILL.			2936				-	4	-	-	-
Worthing		-	2	377	1722	-	-	-	2	2		-

The first were 16E at Marina on Mar 13. In Apr the highest day counts were 1290E on 27th and 719E on 29th; and in May 507E on 1st and 1905 the following day. Peaks at Worthing were 387E on May 2 and 502 on May 3. Other records were 30E at Palace Pier on Jun 8 and 4 at Goring Gap on Sep 18.

0538 WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Common passage migrant

Passage first noted with 1E at Worthing on Apr 2. Full monthly seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-		674			4	-	-	-	
Worthing	10.31			192	145		5	1	1	1	-	-

High counts at Marina were 3W/98E on Apr 26, 164E on Apr 29 and 169E on May 6. Peaks at Worthing were 3W/39E on Apr 30 and 1W/43E on May 1. Away from main sites were 4 off Lancing Beach on Apr 16, 2 in fields at Goring on Apr 29 and 3 there on May 6, 1E at Southwick on Jun 18, 1 heard over Brighton on May 8 and Aug 19, 12 at Goring Beach on Aug 20 and the last was at Worthing on Oct 8.

0541 CURLEW Numenius arquata

Common passage migrant

Seawatching totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	4				2	39	7	2	-	-	9	-
Worthing	-	-	3	38	-	1000	2	-	-	3	8	-

Peaks were quite low, with 11E at Marina on Feb 27 and 22E on Apr 1. The peaks at Worthing were 12E on Apr 8 and Apr 29. Overflying birds were seen at Hollingdean in Mar, Cissbury in Oct and Scare Hill in Dec. There were also 2W off Goring on Nov 7.

0546 REDSHANK Tringa totanus

Common winter visitor

Generally small numbers recorded during first half of the year from coastal sites and seawatches. Peak was 24E at Worthing on May 11. 1 heard at night at Hollingdean in Jul. Late-year peaks included max 149 at Adur Saltings on Nov 25, but very few there in Dec. Max count at Goring Beach was 15 at end of Nov.

0548 GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

Regular passage migrant

The first was 1 heard over Brighton on Apr 14. Seawatching produced good numbers with May 5 giving a record day count of 35E at Marina including a flock of 29, and 11E at Worthing. Smaller counts were noted Apr 30 - May 11. Returning birds noted at Sheepcote with 1N on Jul 16, 1 at Adur Saltings the next day, and singles on 5 other dates there to Sep 11. A single was seen at Henfield Levels on Sep 30 and Oct 5, and the last was 1W at Widewater beach on Oct 12.

0553 GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochropus

Regular winter visitor

Peak count was 5 around Stretham Manor on Jan 2, and 2 remaining until mid Feb. The only other early-year bird was on Broadmere Common in Feb. First returning bird was 1 at Steyning Levels on Jul 21. In Aug there were 2 at Sheepcote and Wildpark, then singles on Steyning Levels on Sep 30, Oct 29 and Nov 4.

0556 COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos

Common passage migrant, occasionally winters

First of the year was 1 at Marina on Apr 8. Monthly totals there were Apr - 15, May - 68, Jul - 15, Aug - 18 and Sep - 2, with peaks of 12 on the beach on May 5 and also 12 on May 7. Worthing accounted for 8 during May. Other spring migrants were 3 at Steyning Levels on Apr 29 and 1 at Sheepcote on May 5. Returning birds were 1 at Adur Saltings on Jul 2 with numbers increasing there to 6 on Jul 29 and 8 on Aug 3, and 1-2 well into Sep. Autumn birds were also noted from Brooklands, an overflyer at Hollingdean, Sheepcote and Widewater. A wintering bird was first seen nr the Cement Works on Nov 9 and again on 27th, then at Coombes on Dec 20 and at Cuckoo Corner on Dec 31, all presumed the same bird (RAI, ARK, JCS).

0561 TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Noted from along the coast in all months of the year except Jun/Jul. Largest counts early year were 40 at Goring beach on Jan 1, 38 at Southwick beach on Feb 23 and 23 in Harbour in Jan. Seawatching totals at the Marina were Apr - 6, May - 129, Sep - 9, peak 35E on May 6; and at Worthing Mar - 55, Apr - 50, May - 71, Sep - 4, Oct - 18, Nov - 6, Dec - 6, peak 37E on May 6. Late-year counts included 31 in Harbour on Oct 31, 30 at Lancing beach on Oct 28 and max 30 at Goring in Nov.

0565 GREY PHALAROPE Phalaropus fulicarius

Rare vagrant

There were 2W at Marina on Dec 1 (KBG, IJW) and 1 off Worthing Beach on Dec 13 (JAN). Another was found at Widewater Lagoon on Dec 16 and staying until the next morning (SRA, BF, DS, ABW et al).

0566 POMARINE SKUA Stercorarius pomarinus

Regular spring passage migrant

A juv 1stw bird flew W at Marina on Jan 5 and has been accepted by SOS (IJW). First passage of the spring was on Apr 27 with a flock of 11 included in the day total of 29 at Marina. The monthly totals there were Apr - 51, May - 71. The next highest count was 22E on May 1, and there were 3 other day counts in double figures. The peaks at Worthing were 17E on Apr 30 and 13E on May 1. In the autumn 1 ad was at Goring beach on Oct 28 (CH), and a 3rdw flew E at Marina on Dec 31 (IJW).



0567 ARCTIC SKUA Stercorarius parasiticus

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant

First of the year was 1E at Marina on Mar 25. Then followed these monthly totals:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	1	295		3	4	_	17	14	11	5
Worthing	-	-	-	45	25	-	-	-	2	8	1	-

The largest counts at Marina were in Apr with 29E on 16th, 67E - a record spring count on 17th, and 29E on 27th. Late-year peaks were 1W/6E on Sep 6 and an identical count on Nov 11.

0568 LONG-TAILED SKUA Stercorarius longicaudus

Rare passage migrant

1E with Arctic Skuas at the Marina at 6.54pm on 9 May (IJW). A juv was on the sea off the west arm of the Marina on 20 Dec (IJW). This is believed to be the first record in Sussex for this month.

0569 GREAT SKUA Stercorarius skua

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

1E at Marina on Apr 9 was the first, and monthly totals were recorded as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	52	5	-	1	2	2	3	3	3
Worthing	-	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	1

Peak was 20E on Apr 17, the highest day total for the SDOS area. Also 6E the following day. 1 on Nov 11 appeared directly over Brighton then W over the Marina, and also of interest was a pale-plumaged bird E at Worthing on Dec 24.

0575 MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus

Regular passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

Most of the records came from the seawatching sites, the monthly totals being:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	4	4	46	5	7	4	1	1	-	2	6
Worthing	-	-	5	18	9	-	2	1	-		3	1

Peak counts were 8E at Marina on Apr 7 and 7E at Worthing on May 7. Semiresident birds included 2 ads early year at Marina and a 2nd yr bird in addition at end Feb. 3 ads roosted at Southwick on Jan 2. The area's largest group counts came from this roost with 11 on Feb 27 and a Sussex record of 21 ads on Mar 11. High numbers continued to Mar 18. Other birds noted early year were an inland bird feeding on winter wheat at Chantry Hill on Jan 19; 1 ad was at Adur on Feb 27, then 3 in this area in early Mar increasing to 6 ad on Apr 8. Also 1 ad at Brooklands in Mar.

Passage birds apart, the species is virtually absent during the breeding season and local birds were not noted again until two 1st yr birds at Widewater on Oct 14, and the same number at the Marina at the end of Oct. Here the max of 4 was recorded in Nov/Dec. Southwick recorded 2 on Nov 11 then up to 6 different birds until the year end. 1-2 were around the Shoreham area throughout Dec, and singles were seen at Goring Beach twice and in Preston Park.

0577 FRANKLIN'S GULL Larus pipixcan

Rare vagrant

A 1st summer went E at Worthing Beach on May 6 (DS). Details sent to BBRC and record awaiting ratification.

0578 LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

Regular on spring/autumn passage, occasional winter visitor

The monthly seawatching figures from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	4	66	22	-	-	-	-	15	131	67
Worthing	- 1	-	-	2	8	-	-	-	-	2	47	5

First of the year were 2E at Marina on Mar 22, and peaks there were 14E on Apr 1, 83W on Nov 11 in a southerly gale - a record late-year count, and 22W on Nov 22. At Worthing the max count was 38W on Nov 5. Other records were 4 at Lancing Beach on May 6, singles there on Nov 12, 3W at Palace Pier on Nov 22 and 1W at Goring on Dec 26.

0579 SABINE'S GULL Larus sabini

Rare passage migrant

1 juv at Palace Pier on Oct 9 has been accepted by SOS (KBG).

0582 BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

There were 2000 on Henfield Levels on Jan 1, the only inland record received! Other early-year counts were low with 50 at Widewater and Lower Adur, but 2500 were at Southwick beach on Feb 28. An albino was on the Adur on Mar 4 (ABW). Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	8153	4176	461	-		-			780	
Worthing	-	-	206	1797	1264	12	56	80	-	80	173	-

Peaks at Marina were 2638E on Mar 12, 1500E on Mar 24 and 1200E on Apr 29. Max count at Worthing was 10W/705E also on Apr 29. The only significant late-year count was 500 at Goring Gap on Nov 12.

0590 COMMON GULL Larus canus

Common winter visitor

Many high roost counts were from Southwick early year, with 4000 on Jan 16 and peak 5000 on Mar 19. An albino was seen at Southwick on Feb 26 (IJW). Marina seawatching produced monthly totals of Mar - 2000, Apr - 12000, Dec - 1050, with peaks 2000E on Mar 21 and 5000E on Apr 2 and 7, these being record counts for the Marina. Apart from 1 ad at Chantry Hill in Jul there were no inland reports. Small numbers were at Goring, Southwick and Widewater in late summer, and 512 were on the Adur on Oct 22.

0591 LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus

Common in winter, now breeding in small numbers

Regular reports of 1-4 early year from Brooklands, Goring Gap, Shoreham and Widewater. 2-3 prs attempted to breed in Hove, and 4 roosting at Adur Saltings in May could have indicated local breeding. Seawatching totals at Worthing were Apr - 12, May - 14, and 12 ads were at Marina on Jul 5. Late-year counts included 5 at Goring Gap in Nov, and 1-2 regular on Adur Saltings in Nov/Dec. Birds reported as 'intermedius' race were 1 at Ferring Rife on Jan 30 and 4 ad at Goring Gap on Oct 13.

0592 HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Common, expanding breeding population

There were 500 offs at Marina on Feb 25, 40 at Small Dole on Mar 31 and 1000 off the Marina on May 31. Breeding prs according to the SOS Survey were Brighton - 249, Shoreham - 2 and Worthing - 578, but with Hove details missing this data is incomplete. Summer counts included 1300 on the beach at Worthing on Jun 18 and 350 juvs at the Marina on Jul 25. Inland were 1000 following the plough at Findon on Sep 20 and 950 at Shoreham Adur on Oct 26. A roost of 700 at the Marina on Dec 31 was a high count for this site. Of interest was a juv at the Marina on Oct 14 ringed at Orfordness as a pullus, and a leucistic bird on the Adur on Nov 26, looking not unlike an Iceland Gull.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL Larus cachinnans

Regular autumn flock

Unseasonal were 1 at Widewater on Jan 1 and 2 at Mill Hill on Mar 18. 1 ad was at Goring Beach on Jun 21, then followed the usual autumn gatherings on the Adur. The regular ad returned on Jul 2 staying into Oct, preferring the Saltings. There were 10 on Jul 21, increasing to a peak of 37 (including 29 ad) on Aug 2. High counts continued through Aug, then declining to 22 on Sep 16, 7 on Oct 15, and 1-2 into Nov, the last on 26th. Other birds were 1 ad on Harbour arm at Shoreham on Nov 3 and unusually 1 at the Marina on Dec 4 and again on 8th.

0598 ICELAND GULL Larus glaucoides

Rare winter visitor

1 at Marina on Feb 19 and Apr 21 (KBG). Both have been accepted by SOS.

0600 GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus marinus

Fairly common winter visitor

50 were roosting on Adur Saltings on Feb 5. 1 was seen on the rooftops at the Council Works, Hollingdean in Mar, and at the Marina in Apr. 1 pr bred in Brighton with both ads and juv seen in Jul, and more than likely a second pr attempted to breed (IJW). Birds also noted during the SOS Gull survey in Brighton and Shoreham. The bird ringed in Jersey (Orange ring C) was again present at Marina from Sep 8-Nov 11. A flock of 107 were on Worthing beach on Oct 7 and smaller numbers Sep-Nov from Marina, Widewater and Worthing.

0602 KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

2 oiled birds were at Southwick Beach in Jan. Monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina												
Worthing	57	18	6	139	34	3	-		4	20	674	149

First main movement at the Marina was 180E on Jan 7, followed by peaks of 575E on Jan 24, 384W on Feb 6, 575W on Feb 18, 415W on Feb 19, 302E on Feb 27 and 400E on Dec 31. Worthing counts included a record day count of 654W in strong S/SE winds on Nov 5. Roost counts at the Marina in Aug/Sep reached peak 56 on Aug 26, and included a bird ringed in France. Inland records were 1 at Mill Hill on Mar 18 and 2 which flew in off the sea for 3/4 mile at Goring and then out again on Dec 25.

0611 SANDWICH TERN Sterna sandvicensis

Common passage migrant

As usual a trickle of birds from Mar 21, then 99 on 24th, before the peak counts in Apr. All the monthly seawatching totals are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	201	3509	1122	162	296	352	329	19		
Worthing	-	-	9	1371	875	79	136	39	154	35		-

Peak counts at Marina were 302E on Apr 2 and 393E on Apr 7. Peaks at Worthing were 1W/165E on Apr 30 and 143E on May 6. Roosting birds were noted in Aug from Adur Saltings and Widewater. Peak autumn counts were 50W at Marina on Sep 22 and 31W at Worthing on Oct 3. Late birds included 3 at Goring on Oct 4, 1 at Worthing on Oct 7 and the last at the Marina on Oct 18.

0614 ROSEATE TERN Sterna dougallii

Rare passage migrant

1 ad was at Marina on Sep 18 (IJW) and has been accepted by SOS.

0615 COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo

Common passage migrant

1E at the Marina on Mar 24 was the earliest ever for the SDOS area, followed next by a handful on Apr 1. Monthly totals of identified birds were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina			1	54	5	2	32	231	615	3	-	-
Worthing	d Uh	-			188	1	9 20		7	2	-	-

Spring peak was 188E at Worthing on May 7; and the autumn peak was 172W/42E on Sep 6 at Worthing. Away from the main seawatching sites were 1 off Widewater on Apr 13, 1 in the Southwick gull roost on Jul 28, and 4 off Southwick on Sep 7. The last were 2W at Goring Gap on Oct 6 and 1E at the Marina on Oct 11.

0616 ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

Noted on passage but rarely split from Common Tern

Identified birds were noted at the Marina with 28 in Apr, 27 in May, 2 in Aug and 23 in Sep. The first were 2E on Apr 14, and the peak was 24E on May 6. The last were 3W on Sep 22. At Worthing there was 1E on Apr 17 and a total of 7 during May.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN Sterna hirundo/paradisaea

Most of the reports of seawatching sites referred to Common/Arctic (Commic) Terns, the monthly totals being:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		-	1553	6177	5	14	48	39			-
_	_								4	-	-
		Jan Feb		1553	1553 6177	1553 6177 5	1553 6177 5 14	1553 6177 5 14 48	Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep - - - 1553 6177 5 14 48 39 - - 532 2336 14 33 11 19	1553 6177 5 14 48 39 -	

First at both sites were 3E on Apr 1. Peaks at the Marina were 531E on Apr 28, 1877E on May 6, 1020E on May 7 and 1058 on May 8. At Worthing the peaks were 249E on Apr 30 and 878 on May 7. The last were 2 at Worthing on Oct 10.

0624 LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons

Fairly common passage migrant

The monthly seawatching totals were as follows: At the Marina – Apr - 93, May - 186 and Jul - 2; and at Worthing – Apr - 96, May - 124 and Aug - 1.

The first date was Apr 16 at both sites. Peaks at Marina were 41E on Apr 30, 58E on May 5 and 53E on May 6. Similarly at Worthing, 31E on Apr 29 and 50E on May 5. The only autumn record was 1E with Sandwich Terns off Widewater on Sep 20.

0627 BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Regular passage migrant

First of the spring were 2E at Worthing on Apr 28. Peak date was May 6 with 17 off Lancing, 15E at Marina and 5 at Worthing. Monthly totals at the Marina were May - 64, Jun - 1, Sep - 1; and at Worthing May - 15 and Sep - 5. A bird was present on Brooklands Lake from Oct 2-6.

0634 GUILLEMOT Uria aalge

Regular winter visitor

For most records see under auk sp. Closer birds identified included singles around the Marina and offs at Goring and Shoreham. 60 were noted from a boat off the Marina on Feb 20. Most of the records at the Marina and Worthing were late-year birds with monthly totals of Nov - 24, Dec - 192; and Nov - 1, Dec - 21 respectively. On Dec 27 singles were noted off Goring and Widewater.

0636 RAZORBILL Alca torda

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

In Jan there were 10 offs at the Marina on 16th and singles on other days. Numbers increased to c.100 on Feb 22 and 38 seen from a boat off the Marina on Feb 20. Other early-year birds were seen off the Palace Pier and Shoreham, and 1 found on Hove Lagoon was taken into care by the RSPCA. There were 22 off Widewater on Feb 17 and 3 singles off Worthing in Apr. Late-year totals at the Marina were 8 in Nov and 245 in Dec, and included a peak of 8W/109E on Dec 27. On this day, birds were also seen off Goring, Widewater and Worthing.

0647 LITTLE AUK Alle alle

Very rare autumn migrant

1W at Worthing on Oct 28 and 1 off Worthing on Dec 31 (JAN). Both accepted by SOS.

AUK Species

The monthly seawatching totals were:

P. Sand	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	19240	21437	34	201	231	10	8	-	7	109	489	6546
Worthing	324	70	-	4	22	-	-	-		15	64	172

Some remarkable day-totals were achieved at the Marina mainly during the winter months. These included 195W/4500E on Jan 24 - a record high count for SDOS, 3276W/9E on Jan 31, 3795E on Feb 2, 2450E on Feb 17 and the peak late-year count of 250W/1121E on Dec 31. The year total of 48,781 birds is a Sussex record. High totals are usually reflected by the conditions, but the winds

were variable being NE2 on Jan 24, SW4 on Jan 31, NW1 on Feb 2 and SSE6 on Dec 31. In Jan a SW7 gale only produced 270 auks. The peak at Worthing was 210 on Jan 22.

0665 FERAL PIGEON Columba livia

Common resident

100+ were noted from the Cement Works at various dates through the year, but there were no counts for the roost at the West Pier.

0668 STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Common resident

6 were seen to fly to roost at Woodside, Wildpark on Jan 30, and 45 were at Lower Standean on Feb 12. Breeding prs were Toad's Hole, Hove - 3, Sheepcote - 2 and Wildpark - 4, and probably bred at Golding Barn, Kithurst Hill and Lower Standean. 30 were in stubble at Harrow Hill in Oct, 6 in off sea at the Marina on Nov 7 and 18W there on Dec 15. Other late-year counts were 30 in Hove on Nov 13 and 48 at Steyning Levels on Nov 25.

0670 WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus

Abundant resident

There was a roost count of 97 at Wildpark on Jan 30 and the largest early-year flock was 220 at Lower Standean on Feb 12. The only breeding count was 66 prs at Wildpark. Significantly high passage counts were around the area in autumn. The first were 700E at the Marina on Oct 26. Next were 1100W at Sheepcote and 356 at Wildpark on Nov 4. A huge estimate of 12,500 mostly SW was an impressive sight at the Marina on Nov 8, and also 1100W there on Nov 10. During the next week were 1580 over Sheepcote, 455 at Withdean and 625 over Preston Park. 250 were in fields in Lower Adur on Nov 27, then 650 at Chattri on Dec 3 and finally 310W at the Marina on Dec 15.

0684 COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Common resident

Breeding prs were Goring Gap - 5 and Wildpark - 33. Gatherings in the late half of the year were 30 in stubble at Goring Gap in Sep, 50 at New Salts Farm in Nov and 95 at Southwick on Nov 7.

0687 TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

Summer visitor, probably declining

The first was 1 at Golding Barn on Apr 23, and 2 there on 27th but breeding was not confirmed. At Worthing 1 in off sea on May 13 and other birds noted at Cement Works, Cissbury, Fulking and Kithurst Hill where they may have bred. Noted in early autumn at Harrow Hill and Mill Hill, where the last was on Sep 4.

0712 RING-NECKED PARAKEET Psittacula krameri

Scarce introduced resident

The small colony based in Hollingbury Woods is now assumed extinct as there have been no recent records.

0724 CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

Fairly common summer visitor

After a couple of lean years, the sound of the Cuckoo returned to a number of sites. First date was Apr 23 with birds at Cissbury and Golding Barn. Noted from 6 further sites in May/Jun. Seen regularly around Cissbury so may have bred there. 1NW at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 1 was an exceptionally late date.

0735 BARN OWL Tyto alba

Scarce winter visitor and possibly resident

A single bird was resident around the Airfield from Feb 10-Mar 21. Birds which may have indicated breeding nearby were noted near Ditchling Beacon on May 6 and at the Airfield on Jun 22. These were the only records of this attractive owl.

757 LITTLE OWL Athene noctua

Fairly common resident

Only about 2 dozen records were received with not one proven pr breeding. Birds seen regularly, and probably bred were 2 prs at Lower Standean and single prs at Golding Barn, Henfield Levels and New Erringham Farm. Outside the breeding season noted from Annington, Chantry Hill, Edburton, Harrow Hill, Hollingdean, Upper Adur, Waterhall and Westmeston. 1 reported from a Findon garden in Oct.

0761 TAWNY OWL Strix aluco

Fairly common resident

Breeding occurred at Cissbury, Ilex Wood Goring and Varncombe Hill. Probably bred at Broadwater, Durrington and Withdean where birds were heard calling. Also seen outside the breeding season at Ditchling Beacon and Worthing.

0767 LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

Scarce winter visitor

No reports this year.

0768 SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

1 was present on Beeding Levels from Jan 7-21. 2 were at the Airfield and Monk's Farm area from Feb 10-12, and a single there on Mar 18 and Apr 8. A migrant flew W at Ferring on Mar 13.

0778 NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europaeus

Rare summer migrant, formerly bred

1 in off the sea at the Marina on May 8. 1, possibly 2, were at Patching Rough on the western boundaries of the recording area in Jul. Unusually 1 took up residence in a Findon garden nearly all day on Aug 20 before being disturbed by a cat at 6.00 p.m.

0795 SWIFT Apus apus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

First were 2 at New Salts Farm on Apr 26, then 2 at Upper Adur on Apr 29 and the main arrivals were particularly noticeable on May 5 with 160 in off sea at the Marina and 60 at Broadwater. Breeding prs were Bramber - 8, Shoreham - 6, Steyning - 4 and Storrington - 3. There were no counts from Brighton but screaming parties included 100 on May 26 and 250 at West Hove in Jun; 200 over fields at Cissbury on Jun 3; 200 at Sheepcote on Jun 8 and 300 at Hollingdean on Jun 25. Early passage birds were 2000W at Hollingdean on Jun 26 and 3000 there on Jul 7 and 700NW on Jul 16. Large numbers of 1250NW at Sheepcote on Jul 16 continued the theory of an early return of failed breeders. Movement was also noted in Jul from Broadwater, Steyning and Worthing. Very few late birds were recorded, just 1 at Brooklands on Sep 4 and 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 25.

0831 KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

Scarce resident and winter visitor

Dozens of records were received but not one between Apr and Jun. 1-2 were noted at either end of the year generally around Airfield, Lower Adur, Saltings and the Sanctuary. Single birds were also seen at Ferring Rife in Jan; Brooklands and Teville stream in Jul/Oct/Nov; and Henfield and Steyning Levels in Oct/Nov.

0848 WRYNECK Jynx torquilla

Rare passage migrant

1 stayed for a day in a Steyning garden on Apr 15 (SOS). Another was briefly at Sheepcote on Aug 27 (IJW).

0856 GREEN WOODPECKER Picus viridis

Common resident

Confirmed breeding was 1 pr Cissbury, 2 prs Findon Valley, 2 prs Wildpark and 1 pr Woodvale Cemetery. Probably bred at Goring Gap, and recorded in the breeding season at 8 sites. Reported during the winter months at 9 further sites.

0876 GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopus major Common resident

Breeding prs well reported as follows — Edburton - 1, Goring Gap - 1, Kithurst Hill - 1, Preston Park - 1, Small Dole - 2, Varncombe Hill - 1, Warren Hill - 2, Wildpark - 2, Wiston - 1, Withdean - 2. Also noted at Cissbury on 3 occasions and out of the breeding season from Brooklands, Findon Place, Sanctuary and Strivens reedbed. A possible migrant flew in from S at Sheepcote on Aug 21 (IJW).

0887 LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopus minor Scarce, has bred

The only records were 1m at Wiston village on Feb 24 and 1 in Park Crescent, Brighton on May 16.

0974 WOODLARK Lullula arborea

Rare passage migrant

An unusual record of a flock of 10 in thick fog at Palace Pier on Jun 5 (RAI). More normal were 1W at Wildpark on 26 Sep and 1E, calling, at Sheepcote on Oct 9.

0976 SKYLARK Alauda arvensis

Common resident

By far the largest numbers were 200 on Beeding Brooks on Feb 5, also a flock of 42 at Foredown Hill on Feb 20. Singing males and breeding counts were received from over a dozen areas, the main sites being 20 prs on the downs between Patcham and Southwick; 10 prs at Wildpark; 8 prs at Chantry Hill and 7 prs at Devil's Dyke, Ditchling Beacon and Goring Gap. Autumn movement was typified by a rather low 120 total at Wildpark from Sep 30 to Oct 24; peaks of 80 at Sheepcote on Oct 5 and Nov 3; 40 in off sea at Marina on Nov 7 and 90W there the next day. Few other passage or late-year records were received.

0981 SAND MARTIN Riparia riparia

Summer visitor and common passage migrant

The first arrival was 1 in off sea at Worthing on Mar 23. A rather poor spring followed with no further birds until 3 at Goring Gap on Apr 3 and 10 at Palace Pier the next day. 40 were at Sandgate Pit on Apr 29 but no breeding counts were confirmed. A probable early return of failed breeders was noted in Jul, with 12 at Wildpark and 50NW at Sheepcote on 14th, 200NW at Hollingdean on 16th and others at month end from Goring and Worthing. The peak autumn count was 500 at the Airfield on Aug 25, and smaller numbers at Brooklands and Steyning Roundhill, the last being on Sep 7.

0992 SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

Common summer visitor

First were 3 at Cissbury and 23 in off sea at Worthing on Apr 3. Others soon followed at Brooklands, High Salvington and Wildpark. There were no significant counts, the highest being 30 at Wildpark on May 6. Breeding prs reported were Benfield Barn - 1, Edburton - 2, Mannings Farm, Steyning - 6 and Patcham - 2. Autumn passage commenced with 500 at Hollingdean and 300 at the Airfield on Aug 25 and 1000 at Sheepcote on Aug 30. There were numerous counts of 1000+ this year, the peak figures being 5000E at Sheepcote on Sep 10, 2000E at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 26 and 1500E at Worthing on Sep 30. Smaller flocks continued into Oct with 100 at Goring Gap on 5th, then in Nov with 3 at Widewater on 4th, 4 at Sheepcote on 5th, singles at Goring and Worthing on 7th, 2E at Hove on 17th, 1W at Marina on 21st, and a really late bird at Marina on Dec 15 (PB) was the latest ever for the SDOS area by one day.

1001 HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbica

Common summer visitor

First was a single at Wildpark on Apr 19, then 3 the following day at Upper Beeding and 4 at Lychpole Hill on 21st. Breeding was reported at Frant Road,

Hove - 5 prs, Mile Oak - 7 prs and Patcham - 2prs. 300W at Sheepcote on Jul 29 signalled the first autumn movement, then low numbers generally through Aug. In Sep the peak day-counts from around the area were 800N at Sheepcote on 3rd, 600 at Steyning Roundhill the same day, 2000 at Cissbury on 17th, 400 at Wildpark on 23rd, and 1000E at Worthing Beach on 30th. Smaller flocks still noted in Oct from Lower Adur on 13th, Benfield Valley and Goring Gap on 14th, and the last at Wildpark on 24th; with finally 1 on Nov 3 at Sheepcote.

1005 TAWNY PIPIT Anthus campestris

Rare vagrant

1 ad at Steyning Roundhill on Aug 22-23 (ARK). Record sent to SOS.

1009 TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

Fairly common passage migrant

First migrant was 1 over Wildpark on Apr 1, and 4 others noted there in the spring. The Marina recorded just 1 single off the sea on May 9. Returning birds first recorded at Sheepcote on Aug 11, with 17 there on 30th, and autumn counts of 43 in Aug, 7 in Sep and 12 in Oct. Good numbers were also recorded at Wildpark with autumn total of 47, peaking at 16 on Sep 30. Just over a dozen other birds noted, and the last was on Oct 19 at Sheepcote, the latest-ever date for the SDOS area.

1011 MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis

Locally common resident

A flock of 45 was at Sheepcote on Jan 25. Peak spring passage was 50 at Wildpark on Mar 21, where the spring total was 200. At Goring Gap 40N on Mar 22 and 50N the next day, but totals at the Marina and Worthing beach were low. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 10, Highdown Hill - 1, Stump Bottom - 1 and Wildpark - 1. Others probably bred at Beeding Brooks, Fulking, Golding Barn and Steep Down. Autumn movement was quite heavy at times. Wildpark recorded 974 from Sep13-Oct 24, with peaks of 143 on Sep 23 and 167 on Oct 1. First large flock at Chantry Hill was 80 on Sep 14; then 630W at the Marina and 90 at Cissbury on Sep 17; 200 at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 25 and 170E at Worthing Beach on Sep 30. Small flocks continued through Oct with peaks of 150 at Goring Gap on 13th, and 90 at Sheepcote on 22nd. Late-year birds were on the beaches at Widewater and Worthing in Nov.

1014 ROCK PIPIT Anthus petrosus

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

In Jan, counts of singles were at Goring, Marina, Shoreham and Widewater, increasing to max 4 at Shoreham and 2 at the Marina in Feb. 1 pr bred at the Marina raising 3 young. There was 1N at Sheepcote on Sep 16 and then regular at the aforementioned sites with max 7 at Marina in Oct and max 2 at Widewater and Worthing. Of interest were 2 migrants at Marina on Nov 7 sighted at distance and watched coming in off the sea.

A Scandinavian Rock Pipit (ssp. a.p. littoralis) was at Goring Beach associating with Wheatears on Apr 3 (DS).

1015 WATER PIPIT Anthus spinoletta Scarce winter visitor

1 was at Steyning Levels on Nov 4 (IJW).

1017 YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

Common passage migrant

First was 1 in off sea at the Marina on Apr 8, followed by others at the Airfield and Wildpark on 14th. The peak count at the Marina was 10 on Apr 23, peak 3 at Worthing Beach on May 6, but very few were noted elsewhere. A displaying male was at Sheepcote on Jun 8 but had moved on the next day. First of the autumn was 1 at Edburton on Aug 11. Some very high peak counts included 85 at Sheepcote on Aug 30, 63 there on Sep 11 and 100 at Chantry Hill on Sep 14. Much smaller counts were from Brooklands pitch and putt, Cissbury, Durrington, Findon Valley and Wildpark. The autumn total at Wildpark was 44 with a small group associating with meadow pipits on the GC during the last week up to Oct 8. The last was 1E at Goring Gap on Oct 13.

1019 GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

Noted on passage, may breed, regular in winter

In early year recorded regularly at Brooklands, Preston Park, Steyning and Upper Beeding. Confirmed as breeding at Steyning Millpond. The autumn passage was noted from Aug 24 with 2 at Sheepcote. Monthly totals there were Aug - 9, Sep - 25, Oct - 4, peak 9 on Sep 11. Flyovers were noted from 6 sites including 3 on 2 dates at Cissbury and total 5 at Wildpark. 2 seen in Brighton town centre during Oct, and others to year end from Brooklands, Cuckoo Corner, Steyning Levels, Steyning (west) and Upper Adur Levels.

1020 PIED WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

Common resident

Early-year roost counts included 223 at a Shoreham superstore on Feb 14, 75 at Lyons Farm, Worthing on Feb 12 and 70 at the Marina on Feb 19. A reedbed roost at Steyning Levels contained 40 birds in Mar. Breeding prs were Durrington - 1, Marina - 4, Preston Park - 1 and Sheepcote - 1. Movement was noted at Hollingbury Camp and Worthing in autumn, but the peak was 100 at Goring Gap on Oct 13.

There were a few records of White Wagtail (ssp. m.a.alba). In spring the first was at Benfield Valley on Mar 14, then 1 at Sheepcote on Apr 1 and another there on Apr 5. 1 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 21 was possibly the first for the site. In the autumn a 1stw was at Brooklands on Sep 1 and another on Sep 21. Possibly the same was recorded at Widewater on Oct 14, and 1 at Southwick on Nov 7 may also have been the same bird.

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1066 WREN Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident

Breeding counts were 5 prs at Cissbury, 8 prs at Kithurst Hill and 87 prs at Wildpark. 44 were ringed at Cissbury from Apr 23 to Nov 4.

1084 DUNNOCK Prunella modularis

Very common resident

Breeding counts were 6 prs at Cissbury and 60 prs at Wildpark. 41 birds were ringed at Cissbury from Apr.

1099 ROBIN Erithacus rubecula

Very common resident

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 3, Golding Barn - 6 and Wildpark - 110. At Cissbury 55 were ringed, with a max 10 on Apr 23.

1104 NIGHTINGALE Luscinia megarhynchos

Passage migrant, occasionally breeds

Singing birds first noted at Sandgate Park on Apr 23 and Wiston village on the following day. Others were heard at Ditchling Beacon, Henfield Levels and Lychpole Hill but there were no breeding reports from around Woods Mill and other areas where they have occurred in the recent past. At Cissbury 2 were ringed on Apr 30, 2 heard in May, another ringed on Sep 2 and 1 seen on Sep 17. Birds were quite regular in Aug at Sheepcote with a max of 5 on 29th, and also in Aug there was 1 at the Marina on 11th.

1121 BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochruros

Regular autumn/winter visitor, has bred

The regular winter sites held good numbers. Up to 5 birds present at Southwick Beach from Jan-Mar, and were probably too far east to have overlapped with the 1-2 birds at Shoreham Fort. Only 1 bird was seen at the Marina early in the year, but others were in central Brighton and West Worthing. Migrants in Mar included 1 at Hove, 1 at Lancing College and 3 at Sheepcote. Up to 3 were noted in early Apr at the Marina, another in urban Brighton and 1f at New Salts Farm.

A bird probably bred in central Brighton, and was heard singing in May and seen in Jun. This site was not the same as those mentioned earlier. A juv was at Widewater in Aug. Migrants noted in Oct were from Chantry Hill, Marina, Sheepcote and Steyning Roundhill. Wintering birds noted at the same sites with up to 4 at both Marina and Southwick, 2 at Worthing Beach and 1 at Widewater.

1122 REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

First was 1m at Goring Gap on Apr 8 followed by singles during next week at Anchor Bottom, Sheepcote and Wildpark. 1m in off sea at Marina on Apr 19. Rather low numbers were reported in autumn. Peak at Golding Barn was 3 on Aug 31 and similar numbers at Cissbury and Steyning Downs. At Wildpark the

total from Aug 27 to Oct 3 was only 11, and very few were noted from Sheepcote. Other Oct birds were at Goring Gap, a Hangleton garden and Maybridge. An unusually late bird was around Halewick Lane/Steep Down area from Dec 7-15 and is thought to be the first record for Dec in Sussex (SRA, BFF, etc).

1137 WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant

Scarce in spring this year with just 2m at Hollingbury Camp on May 5 and 1 at Sheepcote the next day. Returning migrants were first noted on Jul 8 at Sheepcote. Totals there were excellent with monthly figures of Aug - 134, Sep - 109 and Oct - 10, and peaks of 30 on Aug 23 and 27, and 20 on Sep 20. Peak counts elsewhere included 7 at Wildpark on Aug 27, 10 at Cement Works on Aug 29, 5 at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 3, 20 on Steyning Levels on Sep 23, and 4 at Cissbury on the same date. Many smaller numbers reported from downland sites, mostly in Aug, but some delaying their departure until Oct. These included 3 at Chattri on 1st, singles at Blackpatch Hill and Chantry Hill on 4th, 1 at Coombes on 8th and 2 at Lower Adur on 13th.

1139 STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

1-2 reported early year from the Airfield, Botolphs, Cement Works, Goring Gap, New Salts Farm and Upper Beeding. A regular haunt is Henfield Levels/Stretham but 1m on Mar 5 was the only record all year. Some of the breeding prs reported were Anchor Bottom - 2, Mill Hill - 1, No Man's Land - 1, Sheepcote - 1 with 2 broods, and Steep Down - 1. Others probably bred at Cissbury and Findon. Group counts in autumn included 6 at Cissbury on Sep 23, max 15 at Sheepcote in Oct and 14 at Steyning Roundhill on Oct 26. Smaller numbers reported from a dozen sites, including Hollingbury Camp where the species has declined both in numbers and in length of stay. In the late winter period prs were regular only at Sompting and Widewater.

1146 WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

Common passage migrant

Earliest was 1 at Widewater on Mar 9, then 5 at Sheepcote on 10th, and 15 there on 13th. Arrivals at Goring Beach were late with the first on Mar 30 and peak 12 on Apr 3. Unusually 2 were recorded in Preston Park, an urban setting. Other peak counts were 20 at Sheepcote and 12 at Worthing Beach both on Apr 3, and 20 at Sheepcote on May 6. If was seen on territory at Southwick but breeding was not proven this year. First returning bird was 1 at Ferring Beach on Jul 30 and 1 at Sheepcote the next day. Many dozens were reported during Aug and peaks at the main sites were Airfield - 15, Chantry Hill - 5, Goring Gap - 5, Steyning Roundhill - 30 on Aug 22, Wildpark - 10 and Worthing Beach - 6. Birds were still around during Oct with 8 at Wildpark on 1st, singles at Goring Gap, High Salvington and Truleigh Hill on 3rd, 1 at Widewater on 4th, 1 at Ditchling Beacon on 17th and finally a very late bird at Marina on Nov 21 (KBG).

Birds showing characteristics of the Greenland race (ssp. o.o. leucorhoa) were 2m 3f at Hollingbury GC on Apr 24 (J. Curzon) and 3 at Cissbury on Sep 17 (CH).

1186 RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

Regular passage migrant

A good number of spring birds were in the area. At Hollingbury Camp the first was 1m on Mar 31, followed by 1f on Apr 1, and 4 on Apr 4, 1f on golf course on Apr 5 and 1 on Apr 13. At Sheepcote 1m on Apr 5, 1f on Apr 8, 3m on Apr 12, 1 pr on Apr 13 and 2m on Apr 16. In the autumn 1m was an early arrival at Sheepcote on Aug 30. 6 were seen there during Oct and 2 in Nov. Similar numbers were at Wildpark, and there was 1 in a Hove garden on Oct 8 and 1 ringed at Cissbury on Nov 4.

1187 BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

Very common resident

An early nester at Edburton had fledged young on Apr 11. Other breeding prs were Cissbury - 4 and Wildpark - 123. In Nov flocks of up to 30 were noted at Fulking, Kithurst Hill and Lower Adur valley. 31 were ringed at Cissbury during the year.

1198 FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Common winter visitor

Low numbers were generally reported. The early winter period included 150 on Henfield Levels on Jan 2 and smaller numbers at Beeding and Steyning Levels and Golding Barn. Flocks of 100 were noted on Apr 4 at No Man's Land and Stump Bottom. The first late-year birds were 2 at Wildpark on Nov 4, these unusually being the only sightings there. The largest count of the year was 400 on Henfield Levels on Nov 25. Flocks of 200 were twice seen in the Adur valley, but elsewhere totals included 100 at Steyning Levels and 60 at Chantry Hill in Dec.

1200 SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

Fairly common resident

Nesting prs were Cissbury - 1, Goring Gap - 4 and Wildpark - 14. At Cissbury 12 were ringed during the year. Late-year migrants were 1 in off sea at Worthing on Nov 7 and 17 at Blackpatch Hill on the same day.

1201 **REDWING** Turdus iliacus

Common winter visitor

The only significant totals around early year were 130 on Henfield Levels on Jan 15 and 30 at Lower Standean on Feb 12. Up to 10 were resident in Preston Park during Jan. Passage birds noted in small numbers at Sheepcote and West Worthing, and a night movement noted at Southwick on Mar 23. 1 bathing in a puddle at Goring Gap on Apr 25 was a very late date. First of the autumn were 19 at Wildpark on Nov 4, but low numbers recorded thereafter. The highest flock counts were 50 at Henfield Levels in Nov, and smaller flocks at Beeding Brooks and Steyning in Dec.

1202 MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

Common resident

The only breeding prs reported were Easthill Park - 1, Goring Gap - 1 and Wildpark - 5.

1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

Generally scarce passage migrant

There were no records for the spring. At Sheepcote there were singles on Aug 7, Aug 8 and Sep 1. At Cissbury 1 was ringed on the late date of Oct 8.

1243 SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Fairly common summer visitor

First noted on Apr 19 at the Airfield, and 5 there on Apr 26. Other spring birds seen at Goring Gap and Wildpark. Breeding was reported from Ferring Rife of 3 prs, and may have bred on Beeding and Steyning Levels. Returning birds noted from Jul 25 at Sheepcote, with monthly totals of Jul - 31, Aug - 114, Sep - 107 and the last on Oct 2. Peaks there were 27 on Aug 31 and 24 on Sep 10. Singles were ringed at Cissbury on 3 dates. Seen at 4 other sites in Aug/Sep.

1251 REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Fairly common summer visitor

First were 3 at the Airfield on Apr 26. 2 were ringed at Cissbury in the spring, but apart from breeding birds no others were reported. Prs were Beeding Brooks - 1 and Ferring Rife - 4. Out of season was 1 singing in Ilex Wood, Goring on Jul 1. At Cissbury a total of 21 were ringed, max 7 on Sep 10. Good numbers were seen at Sheepcote with 56 in Aug and 15 in Sep. Peak was 13 on Aug 11, with the last on Oct 21. Elsewhere there were 7 at Shoreham Adur on Aug 20 and a couple at Wildpark in Sep.

1267 SARDINIAN WARBLER Sylvia melanocephala

Very rare vagrant

A male was found behind Roedean School late on Apr 20, and again early next morning before it flew into the grounds of the school and was not seen again (IJB, IJW). This is the 4th record for Sussex and the first for the SDOS. Accepted by BBRC.

1274 LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

Fairly common summer visitor

First were on Apr 23 at Wildpark and Cissbury, where 18 were ringed during the season. Next were singles at Goring Gap, High Salvington and Shoreham. Breeding prs were the Cement Works, Cissbury, Highdown Hill, Lancing Clump, Mill Hill and 3 prs at Wildpark. Probably bred elsewhere with sm reported from Golding Barn, Goring Gap, Harrow Hill, Henfield Levels and Rock Common.

First of the autumn passage was at Sheepcote on Jul 26 where the monthly totals were low — Jul - 4, Aug - 10 and Sep - 3. Wildpark fared slightly better but with a peak of only 4 on Aug 27 and still a low total of 39 from Jul 14 to Oct 1. Cissbury recorded even less, and others were noted from Edburton, Golding Barn, Henfield Levels, Lancing, Mill Hill and Steyning Roundhill.

1275 WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis

Common summer visitor

First was 1 at Sheepcote on Apr 12, then 1 at Wildpark on 18th and at a scattering at 4 sites on 19th. High tallies in spring were 20 at Wildpark on Apr 25 and 17 at Kithurst Hill on Apr 29. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 7, Durrington - 3, Ferring Rife - 3, Goring Gap - 1, Highdown Hill - 10, Mill Hill - 2, Sheepcote - 6 and Wildpark - 24, plus singles from 6 other sites. Total ringed at Cissbury was 81 to Sep 30, max 15 on Aug 12. Sheepcote totals were Jul - 220, peak 65 on 29th; Aug - 426, peak 70 on 28th; Sep - 150, peak 34 on 9th. Lower totals included 35 at Findon on Aug 10, peak 28 at Wildpark on Aug 27, and 15 at Cissbury on Sep 1. Last were 1 at Sheepcote on Oct 2 and 1 at Blackpatch Hill on Oct 4.

1276 GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin

Fairly common summer visitor

The first were at Ilex Wood, Goring with 1 singing and 2 more seen on Apr 24, with 1 staying for 3 days. Breeding counts were Cissbury - 3 prs and Wildpark - 1 pr. Also noted in spring at Kithurst Hill and West Hove GC. Cissbury ringed a total of 22 during the season with max 7 on Aug 12. Lower than average numbers noted at Sheepcote with total 14, and Wildpark with total only 4. Late dates included 1 at Sheepcote on Oct 21 and 1 ringed at Cissbury on Nov 4.

1277 BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

Nearly 20 were wintering at 12 sites around the area, mostly reported from gardens. Probably the first migrant was 1 at Broadwater on Apr 1. Others noted soon after at Bramber, Goring, Hangleton, Sheepcote and Wildpark. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 7, Goring Gap - 5, Highdown Hill - 3 and Wildpark - 19. Noted during the breeding season at 10 further sites. Cissbury ringed a total of 341, with high day-tallies of 93 on Sep 10 and 65 on Sep 17. Elsewhere the autumn passage was recorded as 'very low' from Sheepcote and a total of only 135 at Wildpark. Peaks were 17 at Wildpark and 18 at Mill Hill in Sep. Late-year wintering birds totalled 14 from 9 sites.

1308 WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Fairly scarce passage migrant

1 at Wildpark on May 6 was the only record.

1311 CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

About a dozen wintering birds reported from scattered localities in Jan/Feb. Peak migrant passage included 4 at Airfield on Mar 4, a regular 2-4 at Goring Gap

from Mar 15, 7 at Sheepcote on Apr 5 and 12 at Wildpark on Apr 8. Breeding prs were Beeding Brooks - 1, Benfield valley - 2, Bramber - 5, Cissbury - 3, Goring Gap - 3, Highdown Hill - 1, Wildpark - 14 and Wiston village - 6. Autumn migrants noted from Sep 1 with 15 at Brooklands, and 25 there on 21st. Total at Wildpark was 306 from Jul 27 to Oct 27, peak 23 on Sep 26. At Cissbury the total ringed was 146, high numbers 27 on Sep 10 and 31 on Sep 17. Birds noted at Goring Gap through Oct and the last there were 2 on Nov 10. Birds wintering were from Beeding Brooks, Brooklands, Goring Gap, Durrington, the Sanctuary, Widewater, Wildpark, and a max of 5 at Steyning Sewage works on Dec 30.

1312 WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

An early bird at Goring Gap on Mar 11 would be the earliest ever for SDOS and is awaiting confirmation from SOS. More-normal arrivals were 5 at Sheepcote on Apr 5 and a couple at Brooklands and Marina on 6th. A more widespread arrival was mid-Apr with max 20 at Sheepcote on Apr 16. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 2, Wildpark - 4 and Wiston - 3. Noted in the breeding season at 4 other sites but did not breed at Goring Gap for second year running. At Cissbury 98 were ringed, max 29 on Aug 5 and 45 seen there on Aug 11. Other high autumn counts in Aug were 41 at Sheepcote on 7th, 45 there on 9th, and 40 at No Man's Land on 10th. Monthly totals at Sheepcote were Jul - 31 and Aug - 215. The peak at Wildpark was only 21 on Aug 27, where a poor autumn was reported. Smaller counts were from Brooklands, Goring Gap and Mill Hill. Most birds had departed by mid-Sep, and the last were singles at Cissbury and Upper Beeding on Sep 30, 1 at Golding Barn on Oct 1 and finally 1 at Sheepcote on Oct 6.

1314 GOLDCREST Regulus regulus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Very few noted early in year. Birds were seen in gardens at Hangleton and Steyning. The peak at Ilex Wood was 6 on Feb 18. Spring migrants peaked with 15 at Sheepcote on Mar 2, and also 15 there on Mar 22. Positive breeding counts were Kithurst Hill - 1 pr, Preston Park - 1 pr and Warren Hill - 2 prs. In the autumn a total of 68 were ringed at Cissbury from Aug 12-Nov 7, max 14 on Nov 4. Elsewhere the totals were 130 at Sheepcote in Oct, peak 20 on Oct 21; 105 all autumn at Wildpark, peak 15 on Oct 4; 10 at Brooklands on Sep 21; and 20 at Goring Gap on Oct 18. 1 was seen on Southwick beach on Oct 22. Wintering birds were very few, seen in gardens in Brighton and Hangleton, and none at Wildpark during Dec.

1315 FIRECREST Regulus ignicapillus

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

A good year with all the records as follows — 1 in Brighton in Feb; 1 at Sheepcote on Mar 31 and Apr 5; others in Apr included 1 at Goring Gap, 3 at Hollingbury GC and 1 ringed at Cissbury; unusually 1 on Aug 27 in Hove; 1 in a Storrington garden in Sep; about a dozen at Sheepcote in Nov; 1 late migrant at

Sheepcote on Dec 5 and wintering birds at Preston Park and West Worthing in Dec.

1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

Singles were at Hollingbury Camp and Sweet Hill on May 6. Only 3 others in spring but a mid-summer bird at Edburton on Jul 20 was probably an early migrant. None were ringed at Cissbury and only 8 sightings there in Sep. Elsewhere there were average numbers with 10 at Wiston Pond on Aug 19, 10 at Findon Valley on Aug 27 and 4 at Varncombe Hill on Sep 9. The Wildpark total was 33 from Aug 20 to Oct 10, peak 6 on Sep 5. Fewer numbers were at Cuckoo Corner, Mill Hill, Sanctuary, Sheepcote and Steyning Roundhill. The last was 1 on Oct 19 at Sheepcote, the latest date for the SDOS area.

1343 RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER Ficedula parva Very rare autumn migrant

1 was seen near the new dew pond at Wildpark on Sep 13 (PT), but may not have been submitted to SOS.

1349 PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca

Regular passage migrant

There were no records for the spring. In Aug 1 was ringed at Cissbury on 5th and singles noted at Brooklands, Hangleton and Woodvale Cemetery. The last was seen at Sheepcote on Sep 4.

1437 LONG-TAILED TIT Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident

Noted from 3 gardens early in year, including birds feeding on bread and quiche at Hangleton! Breeding records were Broadwater - 1 pr, Cissbury - 5 prs, Goring - 1 pr, St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove - 1 pr, Warren Hill - 1 pr and Wildpark - 10 prs. Probably bred in at least 3 other reported areas. Post-breeding flocks noted from most of the above sites and additionally at Beeding Brooks, High Salvington and Mill Hill. 19 were ringed at Cissbury including a max of 13 on Oct 15.

1440 MARSH TIT Parus palustris

Fairly uncommon resident

1 at Bramber in Jan was the only early-year record. 1pr bred at Cissbury, and 3 were ringed and up to 5 seen between Apr and the end of Aug. Others noted in the breeding season at Harrow Hill, Kithurst Hill and Wiston village. Late year, 2 were seen at Steyning Roundhill at the end of Oct.

1442 WILLOW TIT Parus montanus

Fairly uncommon resident

Reported only from the Steyning area where 1pr may have bred (ARK). Also noted in a Steyning garden in Feb (John Cooper).

1461 COAL TIT Parus ater

Fairly common resident

1 at Goring Gap in Mar was reported as unusual for the site. Probable breeding was from Kithurst Hill, Warren Hill and Withdean. Noted between Oct and Dec at Broadwater. This species continues to be under-recorded particularly around the NW of the area.

1462 BLUE TIT Parus caeruleus

Abundant resident

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 2 and Wildpark - 58. The total ringed at Cissbury was 29.

1464 GREAT TIT Parus major

Very common resident

Breeding was reported with 1 pr at Broadwater, 5 prs at Cissbury, 2 prs at Devil's Dyke, 49 prs at Wildpark and 6 prs at Wiston. 32 birds were ringed at Cissbury during the season.

1479 NUTHATCH Sitta europaea

Uncommon resident

Records were received from Chanctonbury Ring, Edburton, Kithurst Hill, Michelgrove, Small Dole and Warren Hill.

1486 TREECREEPER Certhia familiaris

Uncommon resident

Seen twice at Goring Gap early year. Noted from Mar at Henfield Levels, Small Dole, Warren Hill and Wiston Pond where they probably bred. There were no records from Cissbury. Late year there were two urban sightings from gardens in Brighton and Shoreham.

1515 RED-BACKED SHRIKE Lanius collurio

Rare vagrant, formerly bred

1m was found at New Erringham Farm on Jun 7 (SRA).

1523 WOODCHAT SHRIKE Lanius senator

Rare vagrant

1 found at Sheepcote on the east slope on Jun 13 and remaining until 15th (IJB, IJW) and has been accepted by SOS. An extension to 17th on East Brighton GC (SRA) has yet to be ratified.

1539 JAY Garrulus glandarius

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

Well reported from around the area. Confirmed breeding was Preston Park - 1 pr and Wildpark - 2 prs. There were no obvious migrants in the autumn.

1549 MAGPIE Pica pica

Very common resident

Roost counts at Wildpark were 168 on Jan 30, 220 on Mar 3, 200 on Nov 8 and a record high 265 on Dec 12. This site has held well-known high concentrations, and is likely to be one of the largest roosts in the UK. A leucistic bird was seen on a number of occasions at Goring in Mar. 46 prs bred at Wildpark. Cissbury ringed 1 bird on Jun 24. Small flocks were noted from Durrington and High Salvington.

1560 JACKDAW Corvus monedula

Common resident

Larger gatherings included 75 at Lower Standean on Feb 12 and 400 at Upper Beeding chalk pits on Mar 4. Breeding prs were central Brighton - 6, Hove - 2, and Wildpark - 1. The pr at Wildpark were the first for over 15 years. Probable migrants were 16SW at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 14, 107NW at Sheepcote on Oct 19 and 55E the same day at Hollingbury. In Nov there were counts of 50 at Cissbury and 30 at the Cement Works.

1563 ROOK Corvus frugilegus

Common resident

The only feeding flocks reported all year were 110 nr Foredown Hill in Feb and 70 on Henfield Levels in Apr. Rookery counts were Clayton - 30, Findon Valley-116 in 7 rookeries, Harrow Hill - 24, Patcham - 30, Pyecombe - 15, Michelgrove - 20 and Myrtlegrove Farm - 66.

1567 CARRION CROW Corvus corone

Common resident

At the Marina were 8 in off sea on Jan 13 and 5 flying out on Mar 23. There was a roost of 77 at Wildpark on Jan 30 and 100 on GC there on Apr 22. Breeding prs were urban Brighton west to Portslade - 26 and Wildpark - 18. Larger groups were 200 at Golding Barn on Jul 16, 36 at Hove beach on Sep 9, and 121 at Goring on Sep 12, increasing there to a peak 206 on Nov 12.

1572 RAVEN Corvus corax

Extremely rare visitor



1 at Cissbury on 5 Aug (VB) and 2W over Hollingbury Camp on 29 Sep (ADW, IJW). The only other recent records were in 1977 and 1996.

1582 STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Early-year feeding flocks included 4000 at Henfield Levels on Jan 1, 3000 on the Airfield on Jan 3 and a very conservative 10,000 at the West Pier roost also on Jan 3. There were 1000 in 2 flocks at Chantry Hill in Feb. The only breeding count was 20 prs at Wildpark. In Oct there were 2000 at Sheepcote on 22nd; in Nov were 700 at Cissbury on 4th and 115 in off sea at Marina on 7th; and in Dec the highest counts were 4000 at Hangleton on 6th, 2000 at Shoreham Beach on 15th and 1000 on the downs at Fulking on 29th.

1591 HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Very common resident

12 prs bred at Wildpark. A few small flocks noted, the largest being only 30 at Upper Beeding on Oct 7, typical of this species being under-reported although widespread in many areas.

1598 TREE SPARROW Passer montanus

Scarce resident

In our Garden Bird Survey, reported from Hove and Steyning in Jan/Feb, and at Rustington in Aug. A flock of 3 were found feeding in stubble around the Halewick Lane/Sompting Tip area on 7th Dec and at least 2 still present on 17th. A flock of 8 were seen at Scare Hill, Patcham on 26th Dec.

1636 CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

Very common resident

In Jan there was a peak garden count of 9 at Findon Valley and 40 at Goring Gap on 16th. At Lower Standean a flock of 68 on Feb 12. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 1, Highdown Hill - 17, Small Dole - 2 and Wildpark - 39, plus single sm from many other areas. 9 were ringed at Cissbury. Late-year flocks were 75 at Blackpatch Hill, 25 at Kithurst Hill and 60 at Sheepcote - all in Nov.

1638 BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

Regular passage migrant

A rather poor year perhaps indicating the milder conditions. There were 2 in a Storrington garden on Mar 5. The only Wildpark record was 1 on Sep 30. On Oct 6 there was 1 at Edburton and 3 at Goring Gap feeding with goldfinches in sycamores. Sheepcote recorded singles on Oct 13 and on three dates in Nov.

1649 GREENFINCH Carduelis chloris

Very common resident

There was a roost of 63 at Wildpark on Jan 30, and a flock of 55 near Storrington in Apr. Recorded in small numbers from Worthing beach spread across 6 months. Breeding counts were 6 prs at Goring Gap and 34 prs at Wildpark. Post-

breeding flocks included 80 near Standean on Aug 31 and 45 at Goring Gap on Sep 11. 3 were ringed at Cissbury. The only other flock counts were 25 at Widewater and 60 at High Salvington, both in Nov.

1653 GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis Fairly common resident

Early-year flocks included 20 at Golding Barn, 40 at Widewater and 55 at Lower Standean. Worthing seawatches produced 30E on Apr 30 and a total of 40 for May. Breeding prs were Golding Barn - 2, Kithurst Hill - 4 and Wildpark - 3. Only 1 bird was ringed at Cissbury in Sep. Good numbers occurred in the autumn, notably 150 at Sheepcote on Sep 11, 100 on thistles at Chantry Hill on Oct 4 and 100W at Worthing on Oct 6. Goring Gap recorded 80E on Oct 13, and the next day 140 were at Mill Hill. Smaller flocks were noted at Cissbury, Kithurst Hill, Widewater and Wildpark. In Dec a West Worthing garden was twice entertained by up to 10 feeding on peanuts and black sunflower seeds.

1654 SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

The only roving flocks were 20 at Wiston Pond on Feb 17 and 4 at Warren Hill in Mar. Migrants were few in spring with 1N on Mar 18 and 6E on Mar 21 at Wildpark, 2 arrivals in full song at Brooklands on Apr 4, and 3E at Worthing on Apr 30. Autumn movements were poor with 3 at Cissbury on Sep 17 and thereafter only small numbers of overflying birds around the area including a max of 12 at Sheepcote and 7 at Hollingdean, both on Oct 21. 1m made a visit to a garden in Shoreham on Oct 12. Late-year sightings were 1 over Hove on Nov 14 and 9 at Beeding Brooks on Dec 3.

1660 LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Locally common resident and passage migrant

There were no reports from Jan/Feb. Passage noted at Worthing beach with a peak of 53E on Apr 8 and Apr 29. Birds returning to breeding areas were 19 on Hollingbury Camp on Apr 8 and peak 36 there on 29th, these dispersing eventually to just 5 breeding prs around the Wildpark area. Other prs were Cissbury - 8, Highdown Hill - 5 and Kithurst Hill - 9. Post-breeding flocks were 63 at Ditchling Beacon in Jun, 50 at Cissbury in Jul and 250 at Sheepcote on Aug 30, and increasing to a huge 400 on Sep 11. 4 were ringed at Cissbury. Other flocks in Sep included 50 at Goring Gap, 80 at Patcham, 500 at Steyning Roundhill, and 100 at Widewater, but only 36 max at Wildpark. There were 130 at Steep Down on Oct 5, 86 at the Chattri on Nov 5 and the only late-year flock was 40 at Findon No Man's Land on Dec 27.

1663 REDPOLL Carduelis flammea

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

There were no reports for early winter or spring. First of the autumn were 9 over Wildpark on Sep 10, followed by a further 14 total to Dec 12. Sheepcote totals were Oct - 40, Nov - 9, with a max of 15 on Oct 17. Other records were 6 over

Cissbury on Oct 8, 1 at Chantry Hill on Oct 18, 3N at Worthing beach on Oct 26 and 1 there on Nov 10.

1666 COMMON CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra
Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years
A lean year with just 2N at Sheepcote Valley on 11 Aug.

1710 BULLFINCH Pyrrula pyrrula

Fairly common resident

Up to 3 noted early in year from Cissbury, Golding Barn, Goring Gap, Sweet Hill, Upper Beeding, Wildpark and Wiston village. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 7, Golding Barn - 1, Henfield Levels - 2, Steyning - 1, Varncombe Hill - 1 and Wildpark - 4. Noted from five other areas out of the breeding season.

1847 LAPLAND BUNTING Calcarius lapponicus
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
1W along Goring Beach on Nov 7 has been accepted by SOS (DS).

1850 SNOW BUNTING Plectrophena nivalis Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor The only record was 1 at Toad's Hole, Hove on Nov 13 (SOS).

1857 YELLOWHAMMER Emberiza citrinella

Locally common resident

Early-year flocks in double figures were reported from Botolphs, Cissbury, Lower Standean and Steyning. The largest group was 30 at Devil's Dyke on Apr 1. Breeding prs were Beeding Hill - 2, Cissbury - 6, Devil's Dyke - 2, Highdown Hill - 5, Patching Hill - 1, and Wildpark - 10. Others probably bred at Golding Barn, Fulking, Kithurst Hill and Sompting. 7 were ringed at Cissbury, an increase caused by a change of pasture to arable. Post-breeding flocks at Wildpark often congregate around the allotments and GC fringes, but have generally dispersed by Oct. Late-year flocks were 12 at Chantry Hill on Oct 4, increasing there to a max 50 on Nov 8, and 6 at Lower Adur on Nov 27.

1877 REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

Locally common resident

Largest flocks were on a flooded set-aside at Steyning with 15 on Jan 5 increasing to max 20 on Mar 4. Smaller numbers noted from Lower Standean. Breeding prs were Ferring Rife - 2, Henfield Levels - 4, Passies Pond - 2 and Steyning Levels - 1. Overflying migrants were noted on 3 dates at Wildpark in autumn, and 1 at Goring Gap on Oct 13 was reported as unusual there. Larger numbers were recorded at Sheepcote with max 16 on Oct 13, and monthly totals of 83 in Oct and 25 in Nov. Late-year flocks included 14 at Chantry Hill in Nov and 30 at Coombes on Dec 9.

1882 CORN BUNTING Milaria calandra

Locally common on downland

Early-year gatherings of 20+ were at the Airfield, Cissbury, New Salts Farm. Steyning Levels and Stump Bottom. The biggest flocks were of 60 between Chantry and Harrow Hills on Feb 19, feeding in stubble fields with larks and other buntings. 1 was in a Steyning garden on Feb 27 and a flock of 35 were at the Sussex Pad on Mar 27. Breeding was widespread with c35 prs from western and central downland areas. No prs bred at Sheepcote but the peak flock count was 31 in Sep. Other late-year flocks were 10 at Applesham, 10 at Steyning Levels, 27 at Steep Down, 15 near the Cement Works and 5 at Sompting.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS IN 2000

Chukar Partridge 12 at Lower Standean on Jan 10.

Cockatiel 1 at New Salts Farm on Apr 23 and 1 at Marina on Sep 17 and Oct 8.

Red-billed or Silky Starling 1 ad on Goring garden on Feb 1.

White Pelican 1 on river at Bramber to the surprise of observers on Aug 31 before flying off south.

Whooper Swan A single feral bird was reported on a number of occasions from Henfield Levels and Upper Beeding in Jan, Feb, Jul, Sep, Nov and Dec.

White-fronted Goose A feral bird paired with a Greylag Goose on Wiston Pond.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO THE 1999 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

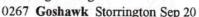
Recent BBRC decisions and confirmation of records accepted by the Sussex Ornithological Society are listed below:

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



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



EDITORIAL NOTES

Once again, could I please remind those members who do not send in records that if they did so this Report might be even more comprehensive than it is. Although it is very exciting to observe and send in records of rare exotic migrants it is, as Richard Ives wrote as Editor of the 1991 Report, equally important that we really know "what is going on in our local area. The population counts of Dunnocks, Robins and Rooks may not be very inspiring but it does show that this Society is blessed with those willing to put in vast amounts of time actually logging our less exciting species. It is only through knowledge of what is happening to our common birds that we can argue our corner whatever "development" in whatever guise is raised on the local agenda." We need more members to send in these "commonplace" records – did nobody else see a Coot in our area besides those at Brooklands and the two I recorded at Beeding?

Could I also ask you, even if you do send your records for our area (with those for the rest of Sussex) to the SOS Recorder, to also send copies of these directly to Peter. Although the SOS kindly pass on their computerised records of reported sightings that relate to the SDOS recording area, their criteria for entering records onto the computer sometimes differ from ours. Consequently, some sightings that the SOS may not consider of sufficient importance to computerise, from the County point of view, might well be significant to our own recording area, and if these are not reported directly to Peter, we would otherwise not know about them.

We have retained the innovations that we introduced in last year's Report: hopefully, this time the Tide Tables are entirely correct. Please let me know if you spot any mistakes in the Useful Information or elsewhere, so that I can rectify these in time for the 2001 Report. Please also let me know if you have any suggestions for further improvements. I could, for example, modify the Index to the Systematic List so that it could also act as a check-list (or several check-lists) for your annual sightings. Would you like this? I would be most grateful for any feedback, both positive or (dare I say it) negative!

Jim Steedman

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 that 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.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 2000

Species	Date	Arrival	Date	Departure
Garganey	Mar 16	Marina & Southwick	Sep 16	Worthing
Osprey	May 20	Brighton	Sep 22	Hollingbury Camp
Hobby	Apr 3	Lancing	Oct 5	Henfield Levels
Whimbrel	Apr 2	Worthing	Oct 8	Worthing
Common Sandpiper	Apr 8	Marina	Sep 24	Airfield
Arctic Skua	Mar 25	Marina	Dec	Five records
Sandwich Tern	Mar 21	Marina	Oct 18	Marina
Commic Tern	Mar 24	Marina	Oct 11	Marina
Little Tern	Apr 16	Marina & Worthing	Sep 20	Widewater
Black Tern	Apr 28	Worthing	Oct 6	Brooklands
Turtle Dove	Apr 23	Golding Barn	Sep 4	Mill Hill
Cuckoo	Apr 23	Cissbury & Golding Barn	Oct 1	Hollingbury Camp
Swift	Apr 26	New Salts Farm	Sep 25	Hollingbury Camp
Sand Martin	Mar 23	Worthing	Sep 13	Wildpark
Swallow	Apr 3	Cissbury &Worthing	Dec 15	Marina
House Martin	Apr 19	Wildpark	Nov 3	Sheepcote
Tree Pipit	Apr 1	Wildpark	Oct 19	Sheepcote
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 8	Marina	Oct 13	Goring Gap
Nightingale	Apr 23	Sandgate Park	Sep 17	Cissbury
Redstart	Apr 8	Goring Gap	Dec 15	Sompting
Whinchat	May 5	Hollingbury Camp	Oct 13	Lower Adur
Wheatear	Mar 9	Widewater	Nov 21	Marina
Ring Ouzel	Mar 31	Hollingbury Camp	Nov 7	Sheepcote
Gr/hopper Warbler	WIT JULY	and the most of	Oct 8	Cissbury
Sedge Warbler	Apr 19	Airfield	Oct 2	Sheepcote
Reed Warbler	Apr 26	Airfield	Oct 21	Sheepcote
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 23	Cissbury	Oct 1	Wildpark
Whitethroat	Apr 12	Sheepcote	Oct 4	Blackpatch Hill
Garden Warbler	Apr 24	Goring Gap	Nov 4	Cissbury
Willow Warbler	Mar 11	Goring Gap	Oct 6	Sheepcote
Spotted Flycatcher	May 6	Hollingbury Camp & Sweet Hill	Oct 19	Sheepcote
Pied Flycatcher			Sep 4	Sheepcote

SDOS recording forms are available from: Peter Whitcomb, 99 Barnett Road, Brighton, BN1 7GJ Please enclose suitable postage with your request.

Refer to pages 71 and 83 for the boundaries of the SDOS recording area

RINGING REPORT FOR 2000

A total of 2631 birds were ringed in the area during the year 2000, which is a remarkably similar figure to that achieved in the past few years. Figure 1, which shows the total numbers of birds ringed locally since the foundation of the Shoreham Ornithological Society in the early 1950s, demonstrates this clearly and also indicates a lower level of ringing in recent years than in the 1980s when catches at the Society's Sanctuary were higher and a large ringing study of gulls on the local refuse tips was in full swing.

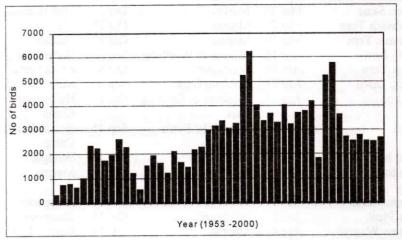


Figure 1: The annual Ringing totals for the Shoreham area 1953 -2000.

As usual only a small percentage of the total were ringed as nestlings: this years 193 (7.3%) comprised of mainly four species, Swallows (25), Blackbirds (37), Blue Tits (51) and Great Tits (55). The remaining 92.7% were mist-netted and In keeping with the past few years the Steyning ringed as fledged birds. Ringing Group, operating from three sites, ringed about 75% of the area's total. Cissbury was their most productive site where Brian and Phil Clay, Val Bentley, David King and Ralph Hartfree caught 1104 birds, which included the area's only Cuckoo, Ring Ouzel, Grasshopper Warbler, Firecrest and Pied Flycatcher. Additionally a healthy number of warblers were caught during the autumn. At the Mumbles reserve Phil Clay's total rose to 817, which included 4 Sparrowhawks, 3 Kingfishers and a Water Rail and the group's local total was completed with 67 nestlings ringed by Chris Fox in the Wiston area. There was nothing outstanding amongst the 423 birds ringed at the Sanctuary and John Newnham's contribution was completed with 34 birds ringed in his West Worthing garden. Barrie Watson, helped by John and Charlie Holt, ringed 186 birds, of which 108 were nestlings and included a Barn Owl.

Table A shows the numbers of the 46 different species ringed. The numbers fluctuate slightly from year to year but for a second successive year there was a healthy rise in the numbers of both Robins and Wrens caught. Blackbirds, a species nationally in decline, also increased by 57% from 1999. Garden Warbler, Blackcap and Chiffchaff numbers increased notably but Lesser Whitethroats were fewer. The species on the 'Red List' of Conservation Concern showed further declines as numbers of Song Thrushes, Linnets and Bullfinches fell and not a single Spotted Flycatcher was ringed. However, the re-appearance of Yellowhammers and Reed Buntings amongst the totals is welcome.

Species	No	Species	No.	Species	No.
Sparrowhawk	august 15	Song Thrush	41	Blue Tit	283
Water Rail		Grasshopper Warbler	1	Great Tit	167
Woodpigeon		Sedge Warbler	19	Treecreeper	1
Collared Dove		Reed Warbler	122	Jay	2
Cuckoo		Lesser Whitethroat	22	Magpie	2
Barn Owl		Whitethroat	107	Starling	16
Kingfisher		Garden Warbler	35	House Sparrow	4
Green Woodpecker		Blackcap	553	Chaffinch	36
Great Spotted Woodpecker		Chiffchaff	225	Greenfinch	18
Swallow	2	Willow Warbler	157	Goldfinch	10
Wren	8	Goldcrest	89	Linnet	4
Dunnock	11	Firecrest	1	Bullfinch	43
Robin	15	Pied Flycatcher	1	Yellowhammer	7
Nightingale		Long-tailed Tit	73	Reed Bunting	22
Ring Ouzel		Marsh Tit	3	n vil gamba	
Blackbird	15	Coal Tit	3	Total	2631

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2000

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 following is the only recovery reported this year but is remarkable in that the bird was at least 23 years old and the ring was still readable through binoculars or telescope.

5 Nov 1978	Adult	Worthing Beach			
31 May 2000	In field	Griend, The Netherlands	7878 days	468km	55deg

2) Song Thrush: The following recovery is fairly typical for autumn ringed Song Thrushes in Britain. Despite nearly 3000 Song Thrushes being ringed in this area recorded movements are few with previous ones coming from France, Portugal, Heligoland and Norfolk.

10 Oct 1996	First year	Mumbles, Steyning			
7 Jan 1999	Found Dead	Mesnil-au-Val. Manche, France	819 days	166km	211deg

3) Sedge Warbler: The control reported below is the eighth distant recovery reported from the Shoreham area ringing effort and second from France (last in 1983). The others were from Tayside, Manchester, and four other more-southerly English counties.

17 Aug 1993 First year Mumbles, Steyning
28 Aug 1998 Controlled Oudalle, Seine-Maritime, France 1837 days 160km 160 deg

4) Reed Warbler:- In keeping with most recorded movements of Reed Warblers this years collection were all generated by ringing controls. Most movements from this area, like the third, come from other sites in southern England. The foreign controls are the first for our region since 1993, the German bird also being a first for our district, with the previous foreign movements being recorded to France, Spain, Portugal and Morocco.

16 Aug 1997	First year	Mumbles, Steyning			
15 Apr 2000	Controlled	Pancas, Estremadura, Portugal	973 days	1503 km	207 deg
14 Aug 1999	First year	Mennewitz, Halle, Germany			
5 Sep 1999	Controlled	Cissbury, Worthing	22 days	859 km	263 deg
21 Aug 1999	First year	Mumbles, Steyning			
3 Jun 2000	Controlled	Queen Mary Res., Surrey	287 days	60 km	349 deg

5) Blackcap: By comparison with the previous species the collection of recoveries for this year was rather mundane, lacking the exciting foreign movements of Blackcaps reported in recent years. Additionally a juvenile was ringed at Cissbury in July 1999 and controlled at the Mumbles in May 2000.

29 Aug 1998	First year F	Cissbury, Worthing			
1 May 2000	Controlled	nr Stevenage, Hertfordshire	611 days	115 km	10 deg
6 Sep 1998	First year M	Cissbury, Worthing			
18 Jul 2000	Controlled	Plumpton, East Sussex	68 days	21 km	80 deg

6) Chiffchaff: In recent years this species has been thriving and larger numbers have been ringed. Although, being a tiny species, the recovery rate is small there have been twenty-four movements reported since 1986. This year's single recovery from East Sussex is therefore a poor showing.

5 Sep 1999	First year	Mumbles, Steyning			
5 Apr 2000	Hit window and died	Battle, East Sussex	213 days	55 km	213 deg

The Birds of Shoreham (1988) listed the better recoveries from Spain, the Canaries and from Manchester in January; subsequently Chiffchaff movements have come from Senegal, Morocco, Spain, Denmark, Clwyd and twelve different

English counties south of Nottinghamshire and Cheshire with five, like this year, coming from East Sussex.

As in previous years there were several local recoveries including a young female Kestrel which was ringed at the Mumbles in September 1997 and found dead in a water trough at Steyning in August 2000. Likewise, at all the sites many birds were retrapped in successive years and all help to build information on movements and population sizes.

John Newnham

STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 2000

A total of 18 ringing sessions were held at The Mumbles during the year and 21 at the Cissbury site.

The sessions panned out during the year as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cissbury		-		2	2	4	3	3	4	2	1	-
Mumbles	1	1	1	-	1	1	2	3	4	3	1	1

The respective monthly ringing totals were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cissbury	-	-	-	47	31	57	110	163	578	81	37	-
Mumbles	121	40	12	-	6	48	44	147	272	108	14	5

These figures reflect the abundance of bird life at the sites very nicely. At Cissbury, for instance, when the summer migrants arrive to nest there is always a lot of jostling for territory, so a lot of birds are caught in the first sessions. Then they settle down for a while whilst they are brooding. At the same time the first youngsters from the residents start to appear, but not until July do the majority of the young fledge.

For the Mumbles, the totals were given a kick-start by way of a netting session at the feeding station, the figure of 121 new birds in January including 65 Blue Tits, all caught in the space of a couple of hours! (How many Blue Tits do you reckon visit your bird feeders?).

September totals are always boosted by the autumn migration, the peak passage at Cissbury being recorded on 10th September with 94 Blackcaps netted.

At Cissbury some of the oddities and highlights included two spring Reed Warblers, a Pied Flycatcher, one Cuckoo, and 15 Goldcrests on the 4th November, with a Garden Warbler on the same day, somewhat behind schedule. One Grasshopper Warbler put in appearance on the 8th October. It's very nice to see one occasionally, as it was a Ring Ouzel on the 4th November. Nightingale had 2 visits, one in spring, on the 30th April, and one in the autumn, on the 2nd of September.

The Mumbles collection included the best bird on the 8th July when a Water Rail jumped into a net in the reed bed. Other than that, this site always dishes up (if you'll pardon the expression!) things like: Sparrowhawk (4), Kingfisher (3), Green Woodpecker (2) and Jay (2), plus two Nightingales. Of the "regulars" at the site Blackcaps were plentiful here also, with 141 ringed in the year.

For the "locals" at Cissbury, the "Constant Effort" results showed that all things were very equal, with no major downturns or rises in the population levels. Apart from Blue Tits, that is, which suffered a set back from Great Spotted Woodpecker predation and desertion and as a result no young at all were raised in the nest boxes. Hopefully things will have been corrected in time for 2001, with steel-plated holes provided on the new batch of boxes that are planned.

As regards migrants, adult Whitethroats were on the increase, but only fledged a similar number of young as the previous year; conversely, fewer adult Blackcaps present raised nearly double the number of young. Willow Warblers were also more numerous, with the highest number of adults returning in the spring since 1993, and raising the highest number of young since 1992, as this table shows.

Year	19	992	19	993	19	94	19	95	19	996	19	997	19	98	19	999	20	000
Adult/Juvenile	Ad	Juv																
Whitethroat	9	56	5	19	5	13	16	26	21	16	17	31	8	13	9	33	14	31
Blackcap	8	38	14	25	16	15	17	15	10	11	21	33	12	63	26	37	16	69
Willow Warbler	8	64	14	41	6	17	4	34	9	48	9	47	8	34	10	34	13	54

At the Mumbles, sight records included 2 Green Sandpipers on the 13th August and a Hobby on the 20th August. Cissbury was a bit more exciting with Marsh Harrier, Buzzard and Peregrine all showing up, a single Golden Plover, and three Curlew on the same day. House Martin migration peaked on 17th September with an estimated 2000 passing over.

The Open Day at the Mumbles proved popular again, when some 60 SDOS and SOS members were shown round the reserve and could see birds in the hand.

With thanks to the National Trust and its warden Vic Oliver for their cooperation, and to SEEBOARD for the use of their road at the Mumbles on the Open Day.

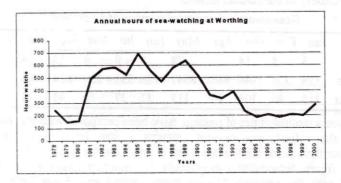
Phil Clay

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2000

Introduction

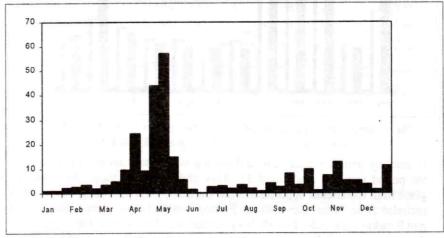
Twenty-three years ago I penned the first of this series of reports of the offshore movements noted from the local shores; in 1978 the report was based on 175 hours of watching in the first 5 months of the year. Despite the passage of more time than birds the enthusiasm of the group remains and testament to this is the

increase in hours watched during the year 2000. The total of 284 hours of watching revealed a 45% increase on that recorded in 1999 and the upward inflection is clearly shown in the following graph.



Annual sea-watching effort 1978 -2000

In keeping with recent years, however, the watching effort from Worthing was overshadowed by that from Brighton marina where the team logged an impressive 989 hours. As usual, the major sea-watching effort was recorded during the spring (March to May) with 61% of the logged hours being between March and May. The following figure demonstrates this clearly and shows the usual variable amount of observations during the autumn and winter.



Number of hours watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2000.

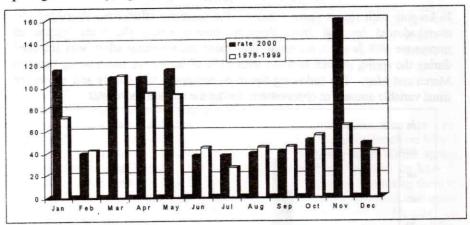
With more hours watched there was a marked increase in the number of birds recorded and a significant increase in the overall numbers of birds seen in each

hour watched; the rate for 2000 being just 4 birds short of 100 compared with a rate in the 60s for the past years. 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	8	18	78	78	5	9	8	15	19	24	17
Total birds	518	320	1946	8461	8947	186	331	299	614	966	3787	823
Birds /hour	115	40	108	109	115	37	37	39	41	51	160	48

In recent years monthly rates of passage have been compared with previous years. Although this reflects year-on-year changes, it may be more meaningful to compare the figures for 2000 against the average for the years 1978-1999. The following figure demonstrates graphically the monthly trends in 2000 (black) compared with the previous 22-year mean (white) and shows better rates of passage in January, April, May and, most notable, in November.

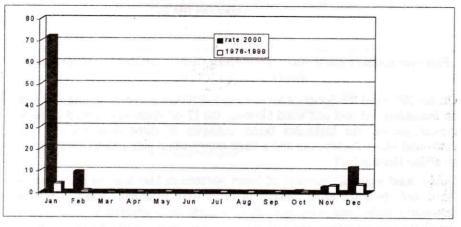


The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched. 1978-1999 average(pale) & 2000(black).

In keeping with previous years a daily log was passed around the observers for the period from 1st April until 31st 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. and M.B. Brayshaw; D. Broadbent, A. Carter, S. Cross, R. Edney, R.A. Fuller, M. Hall, C.E. Hope, R.A. Ives, M.P. Lawlor, J.A. Newnham, M.G. Prince, R.J. Sandison, D.I. Smith, and R. Tofts

Chronological Account

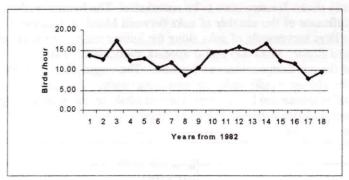
Short daylight hours and inclement weather often discourage winter observations but a few hours spent watching the sea in this season can often be rewarding. This is the season when auks and divers are most frequently recorded offshore. and when huge numbers have been recorded at sites like Brighton Marina and Seaford Head, where longer hours of watching take place. Even at Worthing the small watches produced 67E in 30 minutes on 15th January and 138E in 40 minutes on 22nd January. The following figure, representing just Worthing's data and plotting the rates of auk passage for 2000 compared with the mean of 1978-1999 clearly shows January 2000 to be remarkable. The figure also demonstrates the insignificance of the number of auks between March and October. Twenty years ago large movements of auks along the Sussex coast were unknown (1986) Sussex Bird Report 39:81-87) and it appears, particularly from data from other sites, that the numbers continue to increase. The origin of these birds and the reasons for change would make an interesting study. Also increasing are the numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers recorded offshore; this winter's high counts were 146 on 23rd February and 213 on 12th March.



The monthly rates of passage of auks at Worthing in birds/hour watched 1978-1999 average(pale) & 2000 (black)

As usual the number of hours watched gradually increased during March. The first Wheatear was noted on the 19th and there was a reasonable movement of eastbound wildfowl. The month total of 1376 Brent Geese included 633 on 24th March, a Goldeneye and Long-tailed Duck (both the only records for the spring) passed east on the 22nd and a red-head Goosander was recorded offshore on 30th. The first Sandwich Tern was seen on 22nd but early terns were fewer than 1999. Slavonian Grebes fed offshore on several days and a Red-necked Grebe was recorded on 3rd April.

April began encouragingly with the 1st producing 400 Brent Geese, 257 Common Scoters, 116 Sandwich Terns and the first Common Terns of the spring. Throughout the month there were steady movements of skuas and terns noted without any remarkable days being recorded. The number of waders seemed low, with month totals of Bar-tailed Godwits and Whimbrel being only 377 and 192 respectively. Bar-tailed Godwits occur mostly in settled weather with northeasterly winds and although these conditions occurred the number of Bar-tailed Godwits recorded in recent years seems to be falling as hinted in the following plot.



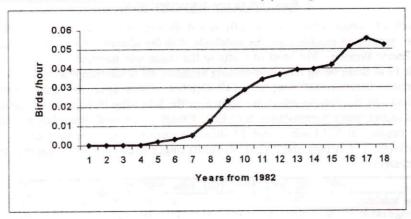
Five-year rolling mean of rates of Bar-tailed Godwits passing Worthing during April and May 1978-2000

On the 30th April the Society's annual sea-watch outing met at Goring and with an increasing and cool east wind blowing, the 12 members saw a good range of typical species, the highlights being examples of three skua species, four eastbound Manx Shearwaters and a large snowy white gull which was felt to be an albino Herring Gull.

Unlike most years the numbers of hours watched in May was no more than in April and about the same number of birds were recorded. Early May was reasonably settled and some interesting watches were enjoyed but later in the month the weather turned cool and wet with plenty of north and westerly winds, a weather pattern set to stay for much of the summer. Early May produced a sprinkling of Pomarine Skuas, 14 Avocets passed on the 5th and Little Ringed Plovers were separated from the other passing waders on both the 2nd and 14th. An interesting gull showing many features of Franklin's Gull passed the beach on 6th May and the following morning a Cattle Egret flew east with a party of Blackheaded Gulls, to be seen later at Brighton and in the Cuckmere valley. Two ringtailed harriers were seen arriving one on 11th and another on 23rd May. The only cetacea recorded in this year were 3 Bottle-nosed Dolphins, which drifted slowly westward on the 5th.

During the spring Mediterranean Gulls were recorded regularly with several days of one or two but 7 of various ages were recorded on 7th May. The growth of the

population of Mediterranean Gull in North-western Europe has been well documented and with a substantial numbers now breeding in the Netherlands it is not surprising that birds are seen on passage passing this coast. It is pleasing to show this from the Worthing data and the following figure demonstrates this was a most unusual bird to record on a sea-watch twenty years ago



Five-year rolling mean of rates of Mediterranean Gulls passing Worthing 1978-2000.

Later in the year sea-watching effort is more variable and in many years does not live up to the spring watching. This pattern seemed to be followed during June, July and August, and despite 2 Garganey on 16th September and 5 Avocets on the following day. September too was rather slow. With an enormous influx of Honey Buzzards into Britain it was not surprising to see 3 individuals battling south-westward on 27th, with another bird also going out to sea on 2 Oct: during the same morning a Marsh Harrier took the same route. From mid-October the weather turned very wet and often windy: with this inclement weather came more shearwaters than usual, as both Manx and Sooty were recorded. Gannets too were moving westward in large numbers with 107 on 23rd and 258 on the 28th. The unsettled weather continued into November when two days early in the On 5th November there was a huge Kittiwake month proved interesting. movement seen along the south coast: the watchers at Worthing counted 654 with 70 Gannets and 38 Little Gulls during the same period. Two days later the wind turned to a cooler north-westerly and the autumn's largest movement of wildfowl was recorded. During a period in the middle of the day 1431 Brent Geese, 75 Common Scoters, 70 Wigeons, 23 Pintails and 27 Shelducks passed westward. Waders too were clearly moving, as parties of Dunlins, totalling 611 in all, were arriving from the south-east and 4 more Avocets were recorded.

At the end of the year Gannets were still regularly seen offshore with counts of up to 150 over the Christmas period. Likewise auks and Red-breasted Mergansers were back with 80 of the former recorded during a short watch on New Year's

Eve and 200 Mergansers counted on 24th December. Up to 3 Slavonian Grebes, a single Red-necked Grebe and a Goldeneye were also seen during the festive period. A Black Redstart, first seen in mid-November and usually seen on the boulders at Wallace Avenue, remained until the end of the year.

John Newnham

SANCTUARY REPORT 2000

This brief annual account of the activities at the society's Sanctuary is, as usual, based mainly on records from my notebook with the addition of some notes from Dr Barrie Watson. The level of visits to the copse was maintained at about 60, with 17 of these being long mist-netting sessions; all of the trapping was done in mornings between 12th May and 14th October. Once again the crude annual statistics of the ringing effort are shown in the following table and comparison with recent years demonstrates very little change. The total, including the nest box ringing, of 613 birds of just 23 different species trapped, comprised of 457 new birds, 154 retraps and 2 controls (birds ringed elsewhere and trapped at the sanctuary).

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No.of sessions	19	19	9	13	16	14	16	16	13	18	21	17
Average catch	50	52	31	32	31	37	38	27	25	34	30	34
Year best	135	94	56	53	49	70	66	55	46	55	61	55

Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for 1989-2000

In January the road to the pumping station was used for illegal dumping of refuse and subsequently the gate at the entrance to the approach road remained locked. Additional access problems occurred in the spring when the padlock on the gate to the southern portion of the copse was changed. There was little of ornithological note in the early part of the year and most trips to the copse were involved with maintenance. The rotation of cutting back willow continued with areas on both the north and west side of the copse being cleared. The winter was again mild; Violets were in bloom and frog spawn was found in two streams on 20th February. By mid-March the centre of the copse was brilliant yellow with Marsh Marigolds in bloom and the first pale yellow Brimstone butterfly was on the wing. A Peregrine and 150 Wood Pigeons on 12th March were the only ornithological records of note.

A Swallow flew north over the copse on 2nd April and again butterflies were in more evidence as Brimstone, Orange Tip, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock were seen. By early May most of the common migrants had arrived with at least one singing Reed Warbler and Whitethroat, 2 Lesser Whitethroats and 3 each of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs. A Red Kite, undoubtedly the bird of the year, flew NE of the copse and drifted out of sight over Mill Hill on 1st May, being pursued by crows and Jackdaws.

On 28th May the society's programme listed a field meeting at the copse but extremely cold (2°C), strong north-west winds with squally showers and an inch

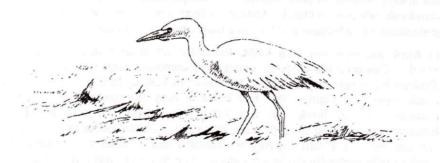
of overnight rain meant mist-netting was impossible. The 4 members who turned up decided to return home early!

The summer and early autumn were unremarkable and slipped by quickly. In early July mist-netting resumed amongst the hillside scrub after a break of many years and by October 84 birds had been trapped there and no doubt helped augment the total of Blackcaps ringed. It is a sad reflection when the notebook contains few records of once common migrants; the only Cuckoo recorded appeared on 27^{th} July and just one Spotted Flycatcher was seen on 13^{th} September. After last year's poor season the Autumn Lady's-tresses fared better with emergent spikes first noted on 27^{th} July, hundreds of spikes on 23^{rd} August but all gone by 3^{rd} September. Brookweed was found flowering and fruiting in more areas than in 1999.

Further major clearance of the scrub under the electricity wires took place in September and, as last year, the west boundary ditch was dredged on two occasions, thankfully after most of the Reed Warblers had left. The autumn, however, will be remembered for the heavy rainfall across the country and many parts of Sussex, particularly the rivers Ouse and Uck, were flooded after precipitation exceeding 6 inches in a single day. The copse too became flooded and by 14th October several of the paths and netting rides were under water bringing the mist-netting to an abrupt end. This situation remained until the end of the year, making it impossible to conduct the routine winter tasks. The high water levels however may have been responsible for the regular sightings of Kingfishers and up to 2 Water Rails were present from mid-November. A Chiffchaff was calling on 16th December and a Snipe, the first for several years, rose from the centre of the copse on the 31st.

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

John Newnham



INDOOR MEETINGS 2000

The Indoor Programme started with a trip to Antarctica by one of our members, Cliff Walder. In December 1999 we had been taken to the Arctic, so this was at the opposite end of the world. We saw Cliff in all kinds of situations a much younger man might have blanched at! Although the ship they travelled on was luxurious there seemed to be a great deal of very cold-looking water, which had added significance when we were shown pictures of people transferring from luxury boat to very small rubber dinghies to be taken ashore! Here of course were the rewards, a mass of King Penguins or Rockhopper Penguins and Blackbrowed Albatrosses flying overhead. They experienced bad weather between the Falklands and South Georgia but nevertheless added more exciting species to their lists: Snowy and Wilson's Petrels, Adele and Chinstrap Penguins and the Wandering Albatross — a feast for any birdwatcher.

In February Alf Simpson came to tell us about the SWT (now National) Reserve at Ebernoe, for which he is responsible and which he knows so well. He had indicated that he would not talk about birds very much, and only two were shown, but he held our interest throughout as he outlined the history of how the Reserve was established and the vast amount of work done by the regular volunteers. It was particularly interesting to hear about the restoration being done to the ancient monument within the Reserve, the Brick Kiln. Furnace Meadow had been carefully grazed with both sheep and Dexter cattle, which resulted in a mass of flowers that brought many butterflies, much appreciated by individuals and groups visiting the site. Members were encouraged to see Ebernoe for themselves, as an outing had been arranged to take place during March.

Andrew Cannon drew our largest audience of the year when he came from the BTO in March to speak on the Garden Bird Survey. He is heard on the Radio and seen on TV and was an excellent, lively and humorous speaker using a good selection of slides and graphs to encourage us to record our garden birds. One slide shown was of his first day at work, staring at the computer and wishing he could be outside looking at birds! But on the serious side he suggested that the GBS helped to monitor bird populations and to note significant changes that are not always obvious without year-on-year comparisons. The Garden Birdwatch Handbook, which is written by Andrew, is clear, concise and most readable. His enthusiasm was infectious and he was a most convincing speaker.

In April, following our 46th AGM, Richard Ranft made a welcome return to SDOS. This time his excellent slides were combined with CD recordings to illustrate his lecture on Bird Song. He started by playing us a very unusual bird mimic from New Guinea, that had learnt to copy the sounds made by men repairing a nearby house. It was difficult to believe that such sounds of hammering and sawing could be made by a bird! Later he told us of mimicry by common birds: a Robin copying a Chaffinch and a Blackbird irritating the neighbours by pretending to be a car alarm. Also he proved that different parts of

the country have definite accents, playing us comparisons of Chaffinches from Norfolk, Devon and Wales to prove the point. Much of his talk was about Ludwig Koch, the first true recorder of bird song, who went into the countryside in a huge van, which had to be precisely balanced so that the discs he was making from the hot wax were level. It was impossible not to admire the tenacity and dedication resulting in those early bird recordings. This was a truly fascinating evening making us feel we must pay closer attention to bird song.

Wild West Wales was the title of Dennis Bright's talk in October. He gave graphic details of how he took some of his really superb slides, for example, lying in the water to get close-up shots of a Dipper. Common birds featured on posts and wires, Yellowhammer and Stonechat showing every perfect feather and colouring. There was an incredible shot of a Red Kite directly overhead, backlit, the kind of picture photographers dream about! He moved from the Brecon Beacons across to the beauty of the Welsh coast with more memorable slides of sea-birds including Guillemots and Fulmars, and then a quick trip to Skomer with views of massed Bluebells, comical Puffins and Manx Shearwaters. Members enjoyed this talk and asked a lot of questions at the end.

Another person we are always pleased to welcome is Brenda Holcombe and her husband, Tony, organiser of the tours they make. Forty-nine members managed to get to this November meeting despite the A27 being closed in several places due to excessive flooding. There was chaos on parallel roads and the journey from Worthing took 2 hours. Brenda told us of their visit to Alaska, its Wildlife and Wilderness, including some hairy breakdowns in hire vehicles when the spare wheel was not the right size! She showed slides of breathtaking scenery and close-up shots of Terns and Bald Eagles. There were amazing views of Dolphins, Whales, Grizzly Bears, Moose and Wolves. This was a record of an early summer visit to the far north of the U.S.A. Alaska includes the Prjbilof Islands where Brenda seemed to risk her life for some of the cliff-top shots of breeding birds like the Auklets and Puffins. We were also treated to some of the first wild flowers of the Alaskan summer. It was all very tempting; Brenda brings her subject to life in a fascinating lecture.

The last talk of the year was given by David Tipling who has written a book on "Top Birding Spots in Britain", from which he has constructed an interesting lecture. He has travelled extensively and is very knowledgeable, leaving us in no doubt that, although we may already know a few of the places he mentioned, there were plenty more to be found in his book! He is very experienced and has had many articles in a variety of journals and magazines and his photographs are published worldwide. It was a good end to the year allowing members to make hopeful plans to travel to new places in 2004.

As always I should like to thank DIANE and TERRY HICKS for their reliable, efficient and cheerful support in providing the refreshments at all the Indoor Meetings.

Brianne Reeve

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FIELD TRIPS 2000

On an overcast but thankfully dry day on 30th January Dave Smith led 12 members through Goring Gap and around Ferring Rife where good views were had of two Jack Snipe in flight, two Little Egrets, Kingfisher, 3 Redwings and a few Goldfinches. Offshore there was an Eider and a few Mergansers, and along the beach 170 Grey Plover, 200+ Dunlin, 40 Ringed Plover and 15 Sanderling.

The weather was not as kind for the proposed outing to Standean on 12th February although one intrepid member did join Peter Whitcomb at Ditchling Beacon car park. The rain did not relent and the walk was cancelled, leaving a somewhat bedraggled leader to make the best of his way home.

The outing to Ebernoe Common on 25th March, led by Leonard Manns, did not produce the early migrants we had hoped for, but the 30 species seen included Green and Great-spotted Woodpeckers, Mistle Thrush, Marsh Tit and Bullfinch. Leonard also found an Adder for those members brave enough to approach it.

Luckily there were no Adders on show for Brianne Reeve at Levin Down on 15th April but the weather again intervened. Brianne repeated this outing on 16th August and a report of that visit appears later.

Fourteen members turned out for the Goring Seawatch on 30th April when John Newnham had dry though cool and overcast conditions. The light wind was from an easterly direction and increased to a Force 4 as the morning wore on. This may have accounted for the fact that the best birds were recorded after several members had left. It is extremely difficult to connect a field outing with a good seawatch but this was one of the better ones. Nearly all the birds were moving east and included 4 Manx Shearwaters, 5 Pomarine Skuas, 2 Arctic Skuas, 2 Great Skuas, 200 Common Scoter, 100+ Commic Terns, 40+ Sandwich Terns, 10 Little Terns, 40 Bar-tailed Godwits, 20 Whimbrels, a few Gannets and Fulmars and an all-white Herring Gull.

The New Forest outing was enjoyed by 10 members who joined Bernie Forbes at Telegraph Hill on 11th June. During the circular walk birds seen included several Tree Pipits and Redstarts, a few Hobbies and Spotted Flycatchers, several Common Buzzards, a pair of Dartford Warblers, a few Woodlarks and Wood Warblers, a Cuckoo and a Nightjar, together with some close views of Hawfinches. Most members went home via Shatterford, where stunning close-up views of a female Red-footed Falcon rounded off an extremely enjoyable day.

Richard Ives led the Nightjar outing to West Dean Woods on 7th July. Only 5 members turned up - the others must have known something as there was nothing about - nothing singing, nothing flying (unless you count the Red Arrows - perhaps they frightened everything else off!)

Brianne Reeve's return visit to Levin Down on 16th August did not yield many birds other than Sparrowhawk, Bullfinch and Chiffchaff, but 16 species of butterfly were recorded, including 40 Clouded Yellows (2 of the *helice* variety).

For the outing to Grove Ferry and Oare Marshes on 20th August, Richard Ives was joined by 10 members and 84 species were observed. At Grove Ferry, Turtle Doves were numerous and the water meadows held several species of wader including Ruff, Greenshank, Wood Sandpiper, Whimbrel, and both Green and Common Sandpipers. The few passerines were mostly Whitethroats and Reed Warblers, and a Bearded Tit was heard. No Hobbies were seen, the only good raptor being a Peregrine. At Oare Marshes in the afternoon there were also good wader numbers, mostly Snipe and Black-tailed Godwits. Sanderlings were seen moving along the shore and large flocks of Common Terns were heading inland. A distant Marsh Harrier was seen hunting on the Isle of Sheppey.

On a very warm late summer's day, Dave Smith led 11 members round Pagham Harbour on 10th September. Dave felt that the 69 species seen was a low count for the time of year but nevertheless they included some good birds. The initial walk around the harbour wall to Sidlesham Ferry produced Whitethroats, Lesser Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and Blackcaps, a Whimbrel and a Greenshank, and 20 Little Egrets. At the Ferry there were 10 Curlew Sandpipers, 2 Little Ringed Plovers, 3 Ruff, a single Greenshank, Green and Common Sandpipers, 150 Teal, Shelduck, Lapwing and a Yellow Wagtail. On the walk to Church Norton, 2 Whinchats and a Chiffchaff were seen, and in the harbour were 5 Knot, 100 Wigeon, 3 Great Crested Grebes and good numbers of Grey Plover, Turnstone, Curlew, Dunlin, Redshank and Oystercatcher. A Common Buzzard circled over the North Wall and in the warmth of the day there were over 1000 Swallows, 50 Sand Martins and 20 House Martins. The highlight of the day (for the second year running on this outing) was the obliging Wryneck at the Severals.

Just 3 members joined Chris Wright for a walk from Steepdown to Cissbury on 30th September. A mild cloudy day with bright intervals and heavy showers produced just 30 species but thanks to Phil Clay and Val Bentley at the ringing station the following species were seen in the hand - Chiffchaff, Whitethroat, Dunnock, Wren, male and female Goldcrest, male and female Blackcap and Reed Warbler. At the same time the day's star bird, a Honey Buzzard, passed overhead (Val was collecting from the mist-nets at the time and missed it!) Although you do not get a Honey Buzzard on a field outing very often, it should be noted that there were many other sightings of this species around this time.

Peter Whitcomb was accompanied by 7 members for the outing to Seaford Head and the lower Cuckmere on 15th October when a total of 53 species were seen. It was a dull day, cold at first but luckily only a light wind. A pair of Black Redstarts showed well at the old Coastguard Cottages and at the stream just past the cottages a Kingfisher was seen catching and eating a small fish. A good count of 14 Little Egrets were seen in the valley and a Kestrel was observed stooping at a large raptor which was probably a Saker Falcon.

On a very windy and occasionally rather wet day 5 brave souls joined Clive Hope on Thorney Island on 11th November. Members walked down both sides to the security fence and back and did well to record 60 species, including 15 Pintail, 2

Eider, 15 Red-breasted Merganser, 4 Goldeneye, 4 Greenshank. 4 Bearded Tit, 2 Grey Wagtail and 12 Little Grebe.

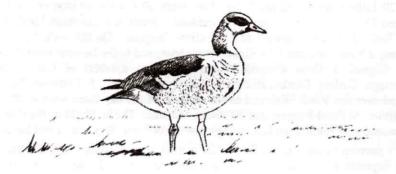
Another dull and very windy day greeted the 10 members who joined Stanley Allen for the Adur Walk on 31st December. At various stops between Forthaven and the airport 2 Purple Sandpipers, 2 distant Gannets, several Dunlin, Grey Plover, Turnstone, Ringed Plover and a Knot were seen but the undoubted highlight was the 14 Pale-bellied Brent Geese (4 adults and 10 juveniles) that gave excellent views on the beach by the Yacht Club. A fine finish to the year.

Many thanks to all leaders and members for your attendance.

Chris Wright

ILLUSTRATIONS

My special thanks to both of this year's illustrators, who kindly provided the excellent drawings that grace this Report. John Reaney drew the Honey Buzzard



on page 1,the Ring Ouzel (page 6), the Raven (page 47), the Cattle Egret (page 65) and the Egyptian Goose on this page, and Richard Ives drew the Osprey on the cover and page 19, the Egyptian Geese (page 13), the Honey Buzzard (page 17), the Pomerine Skua (page 27), the Black Kite (page 51) and the Great Spotted Woodpecker (page 73).

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2000 - 2001

Records from 29 gardens were submitted for the autumn and winter periods, 2000 - 2001, with a total of 62 species being noted. Most species, 35, were recorded in John Cooper's Steyning garden, with 28 being recorded by Graham Smith at Henfield and 27 in the Denman's, Ford's and Sandison's gardens respectively.

With the very wet and generally mild weather few winter visitors were attracted to the gardens. Just four gardens recorded Redwing, two recorded Black Redstart and a single Siskin record was received. Sylvia Denman in Hove noted Ring Ouzel in October and a single Waxwing on the 15th March.

Two gardens recorded Little Owl and there was a single Tawny Owl record. Sparrowhawk appeared in 14 gardens and Graham Smith was visited by a Peregrine on New Years' Eve.

Among other interesting observations for the period were single records of Yellow Wagtail, Redpoll, Kingfisher and Treecreeper. John Cooper 'weighed in' with the heaviest record with visits from a Mute Swan.

House Sparrow dropped out of the top ten list of birds recorded based on the percentage of gardens used, although the average of the maximum numbers of Sparrows recorded was slightly up on last winter. Great Tit replaced the House Sparrow in the list.

Generally, numbers for the top ten listed birds remained the same or slightly increased over last winter.

The table shows the top ten listed birds and relates to the percentage of gardens used and the maximum number of these species recorded.

Top Ten Birds	Percentage of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Collared Dove	100	13	4.9
Blue Tit	100	10	4.9
Blackbird	100	8	4.5
Robin	100	4	2.0
Greenfinch	96.6	32	7.7
Dunnock	96.6	5	2.4
Wren	96.6	2	1.3
Great Tit	93.1	4	2.1
Starling	86.2	100	24.1
Chaffinch	86.2	6	2.7

Participants were: S. Allen, C. Allistone, E. Chadwell, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, S. Denman, B. England, A. & L. Fenton, M. & P. Ford, K. Herbert, C. Holter, C. & P. Hope, H. Jackson, L. Keen, C. Leeves, J. & S. Maskell, P. Mulcock, C. Nichols, A. Robinson, R. & A. Sandison, J. & J. Simpson, G. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, M.Talbot, and M. Taylor.

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 — AROUND BRIGHTON

This article describes the birding sites to the eastern end of the SDOS recording area around Brighton.

Brighton Marina

Free parking is available at the Marina multi-storey car park or a short stay is possible in the ASDA car park. A short walk to the west arm takes you past a small beach to the west, and a bay inside the Marina. In rough weather the spray makes the walk onto the arm impractical, but the gulls feeding on the surf can be viewed safely. In winter look for Little or white-winged gulls. Ringed Plovers and Rock Pipits are resident and attempt to breed most years. Purple Sandpipers take up residence from September to April and are best looked for on the seaweed-covered ledges, the groynes to the west, inside the Marina or on the outermost rocks at the east entrance to the harbour.

Seawatching is best undertaken from this west arm. Pick your time of year for what interests you. In the winter there can be impressive movements of auks, interspersed with Kittiwakes, Gannets or divers. In March huge flocks of Brent Geese are a marvellous sight, and Teal, Scoter and other wildfowl start to move through. April and May have a greater variety with an easterly passage of seabirds and waders - Bar-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel, Knot, etc and sometimes in mixed flocks. Skuas can come by quite close or even overhead, flurries of terns and flocks of Scoter. There is lots to look for and not only that but incoming passerines such as Meadow and Tree Pipits, Yellow Wagtails, Swallows and Swifts. Wheatears will often rest on the arm or beaches before moving off inland. It's the surprises which often make a visit truly worthwhile - an incoming Osprey, perhaps a Nightjar or a Montagu's Harrier coming in off the sea skimming the waves, or a close flock of elegant Avocets. Even in the summer when it quietens down, there can be shearwaters or skuas going past if luck is with you. Autumn seawatching does not match the numbers that pass in the spring, but could still make a visit worthwhile.

Inclement weather or cold conditions can sometimes bring seabirds inside the Marina during the winter. Little Grebes and Guillemots in particular can be seen dodging between the boats, and even Coot, Moorhen, Kingfisher and Scaup have been noted. Rarer grebes, a Little Auk or two and the long-staying Black Guillemot of a few years ago, have all turned up. Around the Marina generally look for Black Redstart and Shag. The undercliff behind ASDA has bushes which often attract warblers in Spring. These same bushes held a Pallas's Warbler in November one year. Peregrines occasionally sit on a vantage point on the cliffs.

Sheepcote Valley

Only a short distance from the Marina. There are various parking areas here, much depending on how long you intend to stay. Safest is probably the car park



by the Sports Pavilion in East Brighton Park at TQ340039. The crescent-shaped plantation on the SE side is where the Pallas's Warbler was found in Nov 1997 and a Hume's Leaf Warbler inhabited the bushes surrounding the tennis courts! Walking northward up the valley there are good areas for migrants around the hedges around Whitehawk Football club pitch and the caravan site. The eastern slope can be worth a scan. Two Woodchat Shrikes have been found here.

Next up the valley are a series of flat levels, which were bulldozed in as landscaping to cover over an old waste tip. Waders and Yellow Wagtails can call in on the shallow pools that appear from time to time. The light scrub and buddleia bank support a host of breeding birds, and migrants include Wryneck (almost annual), Whinchat and Firecrest. Finally the top section contains a semi-circular 'bowl' with gorse and

scrub. Stonechat and Linnet nest here as well as some of the summer migrants like Whitethroat. Motor biking has unfortunately driven away nesting birds like Grey Partridge and Corn Bunting, but they still may be encountered at times. This is the main area for Wheatears, Whinchats and Ring Ouzels. Parking at the top end can be on the verge of Wilson Avenue or at the small car park by Brighton Racecourse at TQ345055.

This valley has regular overflying migrants, so look out for incoming birds like an early Swift, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo or hirundines. In the autumn a host of birds come through and quite large numbers of pipits, wagtails and finches can be seen at times. Raptors too have put in an appearance but you may well have to be very patient or just lucky!

Wildpark and Hollingbury Camp

This area was fully covered in detail in the 1997 Report. Since the article was written the area has become a Local Nature Reserve. Oddly some of the breeding birds have diminished slightly and the only colony of parakeets is no longer. The area is important for viewing overflying passage migration as typified by the raptors at the end of September in this Report - see species reports for Honey Buzzard, etc. Main access is from the official Camp car park on the Ditchling Road at TQ324085 or in the lay-by by the entrance to the Golf Clubhouse at TQ315078.

Lower Standean

This interesting area is suited for the birdwatcher who likes rambling and other wildlife as it is hilly and has a wide selection of downland plants and butterflies. Access can be from the Ditchling Beacon or from the lay-by just off the Brighton

by-pass at TQ303095. The road leading up through the valley is narrow and has few parking spaces.

At the southern end, the footpaths lead near Scare Hill and to the Chattri monument. Flycatchers like the gardens surrounding the Indian memorial. Buzzards frequent this area all year and in winter Hen Harriers and Merlin are fairly regular. Tree Sparrows have recently been seen in the field edges by Mid Down House. Other residents here are Little Owl, Stonechat, Woodpeckers and various partridges. The farmland and cattle fields can contain finch flocks particularly in winter when Bramblings can join in with the commoner finches, Corn Buntings and Yellowhammers. Mixed flocks of Fieldfare and Redwing can be usually seen in good numbers in winter seeking out fallen hawthorn berries or using the same trees to roost.

The fields on the northern slopes, especially around TQ3112 and west of Ditchling Beacon are often haunts of Quail. They seem to like fields sown with Flax. Rarities in the general area have included Red Kite and Red backed Shrike. Plenty of paths criss-cross the area, or it can be viewed simply by walking up the road leading to the Standean Farm. An interesting circular walk starting from the southern end can take you along the ridge by the Chattri, round through Standean Farm, and back down the road.

Stanmer Park

Not an area known to be particularly walked by birdwatchers, but the woodlands do have breeding Nuthatch, Tree Creeper and Goldcrest. Most of the Park is on the borders or just outside the SDOS recording area. Away from the crowds and dog walkers the pleasant valleys north of Stanmer village and the University look ideal for Red Kite. The park is most definitely under-watched, as are other areas along the Downs generally, like Devil's Dyke, Clayton and Wolstonbury - all within easy reach of Brighton and Hove. Why not give them a try? Somebody has to see that passing Raven or maybe discover a new Dotterel field!

Peter Whitcomb

PAT MULCOCK - AN APPRECIATION

Pat Mulcock, who died in August of this year at the early age of 57, made a contribution to Sussex natural history out of all proportion to the short time that she and her husband Chris lived in Sussex. Besides the work that she did for the SDOS, both as Report and Newsletter Editor and as a council committee member, she produced the Newsletter for the Friends of Pulborough Brooks RSPB Reserve for some time and both she and Chris worked as volunteers on the Reserve. She was also Organiser of the Annual Conference for the Sussex Ornithological Society. As a member of the Sussex Branch of Butterfly Conservation, she not only did valuable survey work for the Branch but also always contributed promptly and positively when asked to supply articles for its Newsletter. She will be greatly missed by all of us.

SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1st OCTOBER 2001

President

Mr. Stanley R. Allen

Chairman of the Council and Hon. Secretary

Mrs. Brianne Reeve

Tel: 01 273 452 497

The Old Rectory: Coombes: LANCING: West Sussex: BN15 0RS

Hon. Field Secretary

Mr. Chris Wright

Tel: 01 903 814 859

6 Shoreham Road: UPPER BEEDING: West Sussex: BN44 3TN

Treasurer

Mr. John M. Maskell

Hon. Recorder

Mr. Peter J. Whitcomb

Tel: 01 273 500 416

99 Barnett Road: BRIGHTON: East Sussex: BN1 7GJ

Hon. Report Editors

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Mr. Terry Hicks e-mail: terrance.hicks@talk21.com Tel: 01 273 591 120

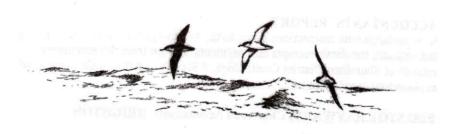
7 Berberis Court : Shoreham By Sea : West Sussex : BN43 6JA

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 2000

	2000	1999
RECEIPTS	£	£
Balance brought forward	3,849.65	3,829.49
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,215.00	1,053.00
Sale of books, reports, cards and stickers	58.00	26.00
Net raffle and refreshment receipts		
(including barbeque)	82.66	54.61
Bank interest	98.45	87.20
Video hire	6.00	2.00
Donations	20.00	28.00
	5,329.76	5,080.30
PAYMENTS		
Printing	212.73	81.55
Postage and stationary	169.73	165.02
Secretary's expenses	my litter 6 . each	month out, al.
Hire of hall	80.00	60.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	375.00	301.50
Sundries	the contract of	14.58
RSPB - re Bird Race	-	500.00
Purchase of computer	35.00	85.00
BTO Membership		19.00
Balance carried forward	4,453.30	3,849.65
	5,329.76	5,080.30

John M. Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 8th February 2001

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: 12th February 2001

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Note: I imes shown are for British Summer Time from 31 March to 25 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 ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

RSPB: Head Office: The Lodge, SANDY, Beds, SG19 2DL. 201767 680 551 Regional Office: 2nd.Floor 42 Frederick Place, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 4EA. 201273 775 333

Brighton Members Group Leader: Colin Upton, 2 Montford Close,

SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, BN43 6YP. 2 01 273 593 938

Local Reserve: Upperton's Barn, Wiggenholt, Pulborough, RH20 2EL, 201798 875 851

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

₱ 01 842 750 050 fax: 01 842 750 030

Regional Representative: 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 9JJ. 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. 啻 01 903 883 355; fax 01 903 884 834

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

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

2 01 273 492 630; fax 01 273 494 500

Pagham Harbour LNR:

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

English Nature:

Howard House, 31 High St, LEWES, E.Sx, BN7 2LU 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. 20 01 273 292 777

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital:

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

Rye Harbour NR: Dr. Barry Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, WINCHELSEA, E.Sx, TN36 4LU 201797 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) 2 09 068 700 222 (Please report sightings on **2** 01263 741 140)

Birdline South-East 2 09 068 700 240

(Please report sightings on Freephone 208 000 377 240 or 07 626 933 933)

Rare Bird News @ 09 063 888 111

Met.Office: Weathercall national 7-day weather forecast: 20 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: Birdcall (via Focalpoint): © 07 092 247 392 or visit dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/close/xdu72

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. For full information by e-mail or otherwise, a small subscription must now be paid.

Pagham Harbour: www.btinternet.com/~friendsofpaghamharbour Lawrence Holloway's excellently planned and maintained website.

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

Kent Ornithological Society: www.kentos.org.uk

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

BIRDING PUBLICATIONS

British Birds (monthly): The Banks, Mountfield, ROBERTSBRIDGE, E.Sx, TN32 5JY 20 580 882 039 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

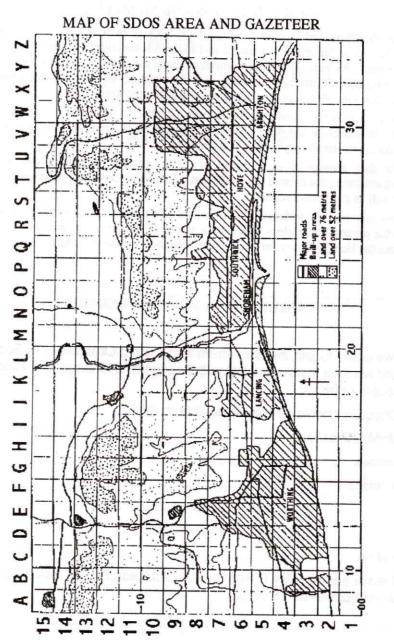
Bird Watching (monthly): Apex House, Oundle Rd, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 9NP 201 733 898 100: fax 01 733 466 843

Birding World (monthly): Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the Sea, HOLT, Norfolk, NR25 7RY. fax 01 263 741 173 or visit www.birdingworld.freeserve.co.uk

Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary (annual): Buckingham Press, 55 Thorpe Park Road, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LJ. © 01733 561 739 The responsibility for this publication has now passed from its founder John Pemberton, to Hilary (designer and publisher) and David (editor) Cromack. David has been well known as Editor of the magazine Bird Watching for many years, and the new Yearbook is even better than its predecessors, better organised and with some useful new sections.

I OCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AREA

LOCATION IND	EX 101	NOTABLE SILES IN	SHUKE	TAM DISTRICT ORBI	I II OF O	LOCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SHES IN SHUKERAM DISTRICT ORMITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND	Ç
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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 £10 single or £15 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