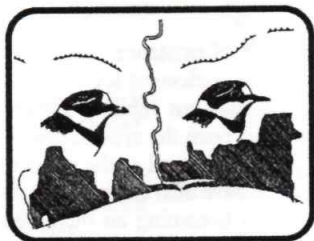


Shoreham District Ornithological Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2001



No 49



SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2001

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EDITORIAL

With the dawn of 2003, this Society reaches its fiftieth year of existence. Birding has changed greatly in so many ways since 1953, and many of these changes are featured in the special publication that we are producing to commemorate our Jubilee. However, one unchanging feature since the inception of this Society has been the appearance of an Annual Report, recording sightings in the local recording area. As well as the many rarities that have turned up over the past fifty years, most reports have also attempted to chart the changing state of our more-common species, and this is becoming an increasingly important function as so-called (by some) 'dirt birds' disappear from countryside and gardens. The failure in the past to record accurately numbers of those once-common species such as House Sparrow and Starling, now under threat, should remind us that keeping records of all species are important, if we are to leave an accurate record for those celebrating our centenary in 2053.

Apart from the new cover, there is only one serious change from the content of previous Reports (though I have also somewhat revamped Richard Ives' original map of the SDOS Recording Area and the accompanying Site Gazetteer). As well as the now-usual alphabetical index to the Systematic List provided on page 8, this year, I have provided a Personal Checklist for the coming year and have also incorporated into this another Systematic List index. For easy access, this checklist is located at the rear of the Report. The 220-odd species thought most likely to be seen in the SDOS area are listed (this will doubtless cause some controversy – is a Whooper Swan more likely to be seen than a Hoopoe, for example?) Because the list also has to contain all the species recorded in 2001, there are inevitably some birds listed that would be unlikely to make many birders' 'Top 220'. It would be nice to extend the list considerably to include other species that are relatively common elsewhere in the UK but rare in Sussex, but due to limitations of space I have been unable to (but I have left plenty of room for 'write-ins'!) If this new feature is popular, perhaps we can extend this next time. Hopefully, using the checklist will enable you to keep a permanent reminder of your year's birding that will provide a useful reference in the years to come.

It can be argued that the Annual Report is no place for personal checklists, tide tables, lists of useful addresses, etc. I personally do not see the point of a document that many members may only look through once and then consign to a dusty shelf (or worse!), perhaps to be referred to again 'once in a blue moon' at best: I feel it should help each and every member with their birding throughout the coming year in as many ways as possible. Which is what Humpty Dumpty might have said when asked to define his meaning of the word 'Report'!

My usual thanks are due to the many people who contribute so generously with their time and expertise to produce this report, and especial thanks this year to Ian Whitcomb who helped our Recorder, in a more than usually hectic year for him, by writing some of the species reports and tables.

Terry and I are once again indebted to our two artists, John Reaney and Richard Ives, and we join with all our contributors in hoping that all our Members enjoy a really satisfactory SDOS Golden Jubilee Year.

Jim Steedman



BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 2001

The year was affected by the outbreak of Foot and Mouth, where many of the downland areas became out of bounds to walkers and bird-watchers owing to the county restrictions enforced for much of the late spring and summer. Some of the regular monthly counts were abandoned but judging by the numbers of bird records received many of the sites were able to be visited. There were no restrictions to either Sheepcote Valley or Wildpark LNR but some of the downland areas to the west of our recording area were affected. There were also no restrictions to any of the coastal sites.

January started with some accurate counts of some of the wildfowl on the Upper Adur levels, though the milder weather meant few notable records. A Pale-bellied Brent Goose was found in fields at Goring Gap and during the first week a high count of 400 Canada Geese on Henfield Levels and the regular Jack Snipe at Ferring Rife were noted. A single wintering Ruff was on Henfield Levels mid-month and an unseasonal Pomarine Skua went E at Marina. At the end of the month there was a considerable movement of auks, with about 8000 in two days at Worthing, and another Pomarine Skua and 700 Razorbill off Marina.

Another Pale-bellied Brent Goose was with Brents in the Harbour on Feb 12 and on the same day the first Scandinavian Rock Pipit was found at Marina. Others were seen there on 23rd and then two from Feb 25 into Mar. Significant records were few and far between but a record count of 196 Red-breasted Mergansers were off Worthing on 24th.

March brought a few sightings of Ravens to the area. At Marina 210 Pintail, a site record, flew E on 6th followed by the first Sandwich Tern arrival the following day. Mandarin Ducks are pretty scarce in our area and a pair turned up on Sandgate Pit on 11th but unfortunately did not stay. March 16 was a good place to be sea-watching at Marina with high counts including 253 Shoveler, 14 Garganey and 365 Sanderling. The next day 4 Avocet were seen feeding near the Tollbridge, a bird usually encountered on sea-watches. The Marina peak for Avocet was 13E on 26th, and other good records there at the end of the month were a Little Ringed Plover and 1533 Common Scoter on 27th and a Sussex record of 232 Eider moving east on 28th.

With some of the area suffering restricted access it was no surprise that most of the April highlights came from the Marina, where many hours were brought rewards of good birds and record day-counts. On 2nd there were 9 Velvet Scoter E and 4 Garganey, and on 17th a Red Kite was seen over Southwick. Yet another record of 5 Pale-bellied Brent Geese went past Worthing on 22nd, the same day as a high passage of Fulmar and the first

Pomarine Skuas of the season were logged at Marina. On 24th the Marina watchers counted a Sussex record 363 Little Gulls as well as a Grey Phalarope, 30 Bonxies and 27 Arctic Skuas! A Puffin went E there on 26th, a summer plumaged Black-necked Grebe on 29th and an Osprey in off the sea on 30th. There were two more seen at Marina in May, and also of note was a total of 7 Roseate Terns in spring, much due to the increase in number of hours watched.

May was a typical migration month with some good records, but rather few passerines of note. On the 1st a Montague's Harrier was seen at Marina and on 6th a Wood Sandpiper, quite a rarity in this area, was flushed from a small pond at Waterhall. On 7th an adult male Montague's Harrier came in off the sea at Marina and a high count of 253 Whimbrel passed there. An even higher total of 323 Whimbrel went past on 8th, the same day as a Red Kite was seen near Ditchling Beacon. Another scarce wader for the area was a Little Stint at Shoreham on 12th and a real rarity in the form of a Caspian Tern went E at Worthing. On 13th a record 92 Pomarine Skuas were logged at Marina and 112 Knot at Worthing. Another Red Kite was seen at Storrington the same day. On 20th an Iceland Gull was watched at West Pier, Brighton and two more Puffins were seen from Marina at the end of the month.

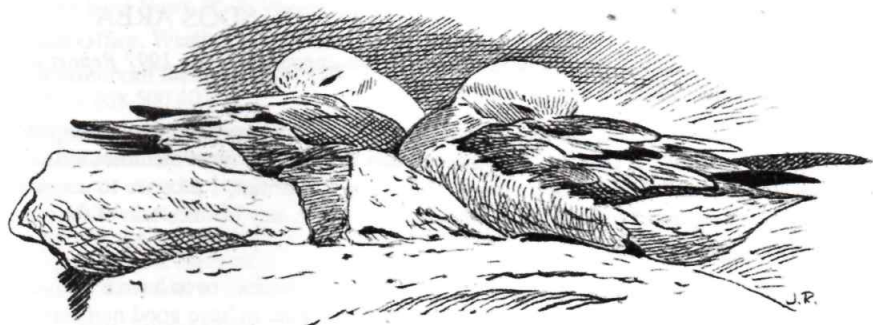
Significant breeding records for the area included 2 pairs of Peregrines, and Great black-backed Gulls were proved to be nesting in central Brighton, having been suspected of breeding the previous year. Two juvenile Little Grebes near Sanctuary may also have indicated breeding. Species not reported as breeding were Grey Wagtail, Hobby, Black Redstart and not surprisingly, Lesser-spotted Woodpecker. It is, of course, possible that all these breed or attempt to, and it was encouraging to receive a report of a hunting Long-eared Owl during the breeding season. With the increase in numbers, maybe one year will find us with Little Egrets nesting.

Some warm weather predominated June, the highlights were a wing-tagged Red Kite which lingered over Hollingbury golf course on 3rd and the same day a female Red-backed Shrike was found at Three Corner Copse, Hove. The resident male Dartford Warbler has long gone from Hollingbury Camp, but one was seen on the golf course there on 14th. The first Quail was heard at Steep Down on 18th.

On July 3 the first Balearic Shearwaters of the season were seen from Marina and a high total of 68 were then logged into August, the max being 11W on Aug 12. July 8 saw 87 Manx Shearwaters passing Marina and yet another Red Kite was seen flying E at Steyning Round Hill the same day. Quail were being regularly heard and an estimated max of 4 were at Steep Down on 24th.

Early August produced nothing of note but in the second half of the month there was a number of good records. On 18th a Melodious Warbler was found at Sheepcote, which stayed until 20th but proved extremely elusive for its entire stay. Aug 19 saw an Osprey flying W along Brighton seafront and a Sooty Shearwater went past Marina. The next day an adult Dotterel flew E at Steyning Round Hill and on 24th a Wryneck spent a couple of days at Sheepcote Valley. A Tawny Pipit flew over Hollingbury Camp ahead of a storm on 25th and a Wood Sandpiper was a good bird at Sheepcote on 27th.

September started with 2 Honey Buzzards flying over Hollingdean. Continuing the raptor theme, a Montagu's Harrier was seen near Ditchling Beacon on 7th and another Honey Buzzard was over Wildpark on 8th. Further Honey Buzzards were noted at Ferring on



15th and one flew NE at Hollingbury Camp on 22nd. Curlew Sandpipers peaked with 5 on Adur Saltings on 16th. Ospreys were seen with one at Adur valley on 20th and probably the same bird at Henfield Levels on 22nd, and another went E at Worthing on 30th. Migration of smaller birds included a Wryneck at Sheepcote on Sep 24 and a large movement of 300 Siskins E on the same day.

In October strong onshore winds brought a collection of good birds on 6th. At Marina there were 3 Sooty Shearwaters W, an unseasonal Pomarine Skua there and a Grey Phalarope flew W along Brighton seafront. Also on 6th were 3 Woodlarks over Waterhall. The next day produced a Leach's Petrel which flew slowly W past Marina. Another interesting day was 13th with 2 Dartford Warblers at Marine Gate, a Hawfinch at Sheepcote and a massive movement of Jackdaws there. Also on 13th was a Pectoral Sandpiper which joined a Little Stint on a small flood near Botolphs. At Sheepcote a first for the SDOS was a Siberian Stonechat which was found on 16th, staying for a second day. The end of the month saw a peak in the numbers of Ring Ouzels reported.

The highlights for November were spaced over a short period of just a few days. Sea-watching on 9th produced a Grey Phalarope at Marina and a Long-tailed Duck was at Widewater. On 10th there was a brief Snow Bunting at Marina and a huge Wood Pigeon passage of 35,000 westwards along the coast. An odd record on 12th was a Bearded Tit seeing flying low over Hollingbury Camp.

December saw one of the most exciting months of the year. On 1st another unseasonal Pomarine Skua went W past Marina and on the following day there was a Sussex record day total of 29 Shag there. Winter groups of Purple Sandpipers are a regular feature at Harbour and Marina and peaked at Marina on 8th with 13 birds. This species is sometimes taken for granted but they give a lot of pleasure by allowing relatively close approach. Mid-month 15 White-fronted Geese arrived for a stay at Henfield Levels and a Red Kite was seen there on 18th. This site also produced a Taiga Bean Goose on 22nd. The 23rd saw the start of an amazing period along the coast stemmed from huge shoals of sprats. On this day a Cormorant flock of 95 birds was seen off Worthing. On 24th and 25th there was a huge westerly passage of Gannets passing Marina. As the shoals moved westward so the high counts continued. Auks in particular had spectacular totals at all the sea-watching sites, peaking with 1000 Razorbill at Goring on 27th and 2500 at Worthing. Gannets fished in quite close, Kittiwakes and Cormorants too and the month ended with approx 10,000 Herring Gulls off Ferring on 30th.

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 of a large flock coming in off the sea (pigeons do migrate, especially in November) - in both cases send in the record.

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

It's most important that all national rarities should be submitted to the SOS with a full description. Forms are available from 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

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

The boundaries of the SDOS recording area are shown on the map on page 77.

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2001

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

S. R. Allen, P. M. Brayshaw, D. Buckingham, G.L. & M. Champion*, B.R. Clay, B. Easlea, R. J. Fairbank*, A. R. Fenton, B. F. Forbes, K. B. Gillam*, K. Hearne, M. J. Helps*, P. K. W. Herbert, C. Hope, R. A. Ives, L. R. Keen, A. R. Kitson*, E. Martin*, J. N. & S. P. Maskell, B. Metcalfe, J. A. Newnham, K. Noble, C. Piper, B. Reeve, R. J. Sandison, R. Simpson, D. I. Smith, G. St J. Smith, J. C. & J. M. Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, P. Thompson*, J. Underwood, A. B. Watson, R. Westwater, A. D. Whitcomb*, I. J. Whitcomb*, P. J. Whitcomb, M. Wilsdon and C. Wright.

The recorder especially thanks John Newnham for supplying additional records from the SOS database.

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, NC = no count, 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-watching sites unless separately identified. '**Adur**' refers to the river and associated mudflats between the foot-bridge and Shoreham Flyover. '**Wildpark**' includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely, Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulsecoomb Wildpark.

002 RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 656 | 561 | 564 | 163 | 24 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 150 | 764 |
| Worthing | 14 | 17 | 2 | 8 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 127 |

At Marina the peak counts were 17W/101E on Jan 12, 116E on Jan 18, 118E on Feb 26, 13W/69E on Feb 28, 126E on Mar 27 and 97W on Dec 28. The only other significant counts were 35 off Goring on Dec 17, and 20 off Ferring and Widewater at this same period.

0003 BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

Fairly scarce passage migrant

The table below shows the monthly counts :

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 19 | 62 | 41 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| Worthing | - | - | 1 | 14 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 |

INDEX TO SYSTEMATIC LIST

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|----|
| Auk, Little | 34 | Slavonian | 10 | Pintail | 16 | Swallow | 38 |
| Avocet | 23 | Greenfinch | 50 | Pipit, Rock | 39 | Swan, Berwick's | 13 |
| Blackbird | 43 | Greenshank | 27 | Tawny | 39 | Mute | 13 |
| Blackcap | 46 | Guillemot | 34 | Tree | 39 | Swift | 37 |
| Brambling | 50 | Gull, Black-headed | 30 | Meadow | 39 | Teal | 15 |
| Bullfinch | 51 | Common | 31 | Plover, Golden | 23 | Tern, Arctic | 33 |
| Bunting, Corn | 52 | Great Black-backed | 32 | Grey | 23 | Black | 33 |
| Reed | 52 | Herring | 31 | Little Ringed | 23 | Caspian | 32 |
| Snow | 52 | Iceland | 31 | Ringed | 23 | Common | 32 |
| Buzzard, Common | 20 | Lesser Black-backed | 31 | Pochard | 17 | Little | 33 |
| Honey | 18 | Little | 30 | Puffin | 34 | Roseate | 32 |
| Chaffinch | 50 | Mediterranean | 30 | Quail | 21 | Sandwich | 32 |
| Chiffchaff | 46 | Yellow-legged | 31 | Rail, Water | 22 | Thrush, Mistle | 44 |
| Coot | 22 | Harrier, Hen | 19 | Raven | 49 | Song | 43 |
| Cormorant | 12 | Marsh | 19 | Razorbill | 34 | Tit, Bearded | 47 |
| Crane, Common | 22 | Montagu's | 19 | Redpoll, Lesser | 51 | Blue | 48 |
| Crossbill, Common | 51 | Hawfinch | 52 | Redshank, Common | 27 | Coal | 48 |
| Crow, Carrion | 49 | Heron, Grey | 13 | Spotted | 27 | Great | 48 |
| Cuckoo | 36 | Hobby | 20 | Redstart, Black | 41 | Long-tailed | 48 |
| Curlew | 27 | Jackdaw | 49 | Common | 41 | Marsh | 48 |
| Diver, Black-throated | 7 | Jay | 49 | Redwing | 44 | Tree creeper | 48 |
| Great Northern | 9 | Kestrel | 20 | Robin | 41 | Turnstone | 28 |
| Red-throated | 7 | Kingfisher | 37 | Rook | 49 | Wagtail, Grey | 40 |
| Dotterel | 23 | Kite, Black | 19 | Ruff | 25 | Pied | 40 |
| Dove, Collared | 35 | Red | 19 | Sanderling | 24 | Yellow | 40 |
| Stock | 35 | Kittiwake | 32 | Sandpiper, Common | 28 | Warbler, Dartford | 45 |
| Turtle | 35 | Knot | 24 | Curlew | 25 | Garden | 45 |
| Duck, Long-tailed | 17 | Lapwing | 24 | Green | 27 | Grasshopper | 44 |
| Tufted | 17 | Linnet | 51 | Pectoral | 25 | Melodious | 45 |
| Dunlin | 25 | Maggie | 49 | Purple | 25 | Reed | 44 |
| Duncock | 41 | Mallard | 16 | Wood | 27 | Sedge | 44 |
| Egret, Little | 13 | Manderin | 15 | Scaup | 17 | Willow | 46 |
| Eider | 17 | Martin, House | 39 | Scooter, Common | 17 | Wood | 46 |
| Fieldfare | 43 | Sand | 38 | Velvet | 18 | Wheatear | 42 |
| Firecrest | 47 | Merganser, | | Shag | 12 | Whimbrel | 26 |
| Flycatcher, Pied | 47 | Red-breasted | 18 | Shearwater, Balearic | 11 | Whinchat | 42 |
| Spotted | 47 | Merlin | 20 | Manx | 11 | Whitethroat, Common | 45 |
| Fulmar | 11 | Moorhen | 22 | Sooty | 11 | Lesser | 45 |
| Gadwall | 15 | Nightingale | 41 | Shelduck | 15 | Wigeon | 15 |
| Gannet | 12 | Nightjar | 37 | Shoveler | 16 | Woodcock | 26 |
| Garganey | 16 | Nuthatch | 48 | Shrike, Red-backed | 49 | Woodlark | 38 |
| Godwit, Bar-tailed | 26 | Osprey | 20 | Siskin | 51 | Woodpecker, | |
| Black-tailed | 26 | Ouzel, Ring | 43 | Skua, Arctic | 29 | Great Spotted | 38 |
| Goldcrest | 47 | Owl, Barn | 36 | Great | 29 | Green | 37 |
| Goldeneye | 18 | Little | 36 | Pomarine | 28 | Lesser Spotted | 38 |
| Goldfinch | 50 | Long-eared | 36 | Skylark | 38 | Woodpigeon | 35 |
| Goose, Bean | 14 | Short-eared | 36 | Smew | 17 | Wren | 40 |
| Brent | 14 | Tawny | 36 | Snipe, Common | 26 | Wryneck | 37 |
| Canada | 14 | Oystercatcher | 22 | Jack | 26 | Yellowhammer | 52 |
| Greylag | 14 | Partridge, Grey | 20 | Sparrow, House | 50 | | |
| White-fronted | 14 | Red-legged | 21 | Tree | 50 | | |
| Grebe, Black-necked | 10 | Peregrine | 21 | Sparrowhawk | 19 | | |
| Great Crested | 10 | Petrel, Leach's | 11 | Starling | 50 | | |
| Little | 10 | Phalarope, Grey | 28 | Stint, Little | 24 | | |
| Red-necked | 10 | Pheasant | 22 | Stonechat | 42 | | |



One at Shoreham Hbr on Jan 13 was the only record during the first winter period. At Marina 122 were logged between Mar 9 and May 19, making it one of the best spring's ever for this species. The peak counts were 8E on Mar 27, 32E on Apr 22 and 10E on May 15. At Worthing the first and last dates were Mar 27 and May 20, the peak counts being in Apr with 9E on 22nd and 4E on 25th. Compared to the previous species, typically very few were seen in the latter part of the year. In addition to those in the table, 3 were seen from Goring during Dec.

0004 GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer*

Scarce winter visitor and rare passage migrant in spring although has increased in recent years

An increase in sea-watching produced the best year to date with birds recorded on at least 20 dates during the year. There now appears to be a small wintering population in the extreme west of the county and so some duplication may be involved in the winter months. Most were seen from the Marina and were young birds.

First of the year was at the Marina with 1 on sea then E on Jan 9 (KBG, ADW, IJW). This followed by 4 birds logged there during Feb with 1W on Feb 5, 1E on Feb 24 and 2E on Feb 26 when 185 other divers flew E same day (all IJW). Adults in breeding plumage passed there with 1E on Mar 21, 1E on Mar 27 and 1E on Apr 18 whilst another flew W into the bay but continued W on Apr 26 (all IJW). Non-breeders flew E on May 4 with possibly the same offshore there on May 4-5 (both ADW, IJW). Elsewhere, there was 1E past Southwick Beach on Apr 22 (TJW) and 1E at Worthing on May 8 (JAN).

The records for the second half of the year were all from Marina with the first of the autumn on the sea on Oct 8 being the earliest ever in the Area. Others were offshore on Nov 11-14, 1E on Dec 16, offshore on Dec 21 and 1W on Dec 24. Finally 3 single juvs flew W close inshore on Christmas Day and occurred during a large W movement of auks, Kittiwakes and Gannets (all IJW). All accepted by SOS.

DIVER Species

Peak counts at Marina included 57W/6E on Jan 28, 1W/66E on Feb 26 and 3W/39E on Dec 19. Peaks at Worthing were 31W on Jan 28 and 25E on Dec 19.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 250 | 286 | 156 | 61 | 26 | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | 162 |
| Worthing | 31 | 25 | 2 | 15 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 50 |

0007 **LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder

Generally milder weather early year produced quite low counts from scattered sites. These were from Cuckoo Corner, the Adur near Wyckham Wood, Brooklands and Sanctuary but the preferred site was Southwick Canal where up to 4 were seen in early Feb. In Mar 1 flew in off sea to land in Harbour mouth. Possible breeding was at Sanctuary where 2 juvs were seen in Jun. Other birds noted in breeding season were at Sandgate Park and Wiston Pond. Autumn gatherings took a liking to Brooklands with peak of 5 on Sep 16 and Oct 29. Late year 3-4 were also at Cuckoo Corner and Widewater and 2 wintered at Marina during Dec.

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

Regular offshore for most of year

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 67 | 90 | 100 | 15 | 18 | - | - | - | - | - | 14 | 67 |
| Worthing | 18 | 20 | 37 | 25 | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | 47 | 694 |

The above totals feature birds offshore as well as passage, particularly from Worthing. Peak counts at Marina were 1W/22E on Feb 27 and 31W on Dec 25. At Worthing the offshore counts for Dec included 659 on 19 dates, with peak 114 on Dec 29. Elsewhere there were small numbers early year off Widewater, peak 9 on Jan 19, and a few off Goring in spring. Resident offshore flocks seemed to grow from 40 at Goring Gap on Nov 20, and stayed relatively constant into Dec, then increasing to 95 there on Dec 17 and 100+ on Dec 30. Small groups were spread along the coast at this time from Ferring, Lancing, Widewater and Worthing.

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

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

Most of the records were from Marina with singles in Jan, Mar and Apr, then 2 dates in Nov and 3 dates in Dec. Others were close inshore at Goring on Nov 29, and also seen at Worthing. Another was off Widewater on Dec 12 and at Goring where possibly the same bird was noted on Dec 13 and 16, drifting off Worthing on the last date.

0011 **SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

Regular winter visitor offshore

Monthly totals from the Marina were Jan - 2, Mar - 6, Apr - 2, May - 1 and Dec - 6, peak counts being 2W/1E on Dec 19 and 3W on Dec 25. Elsewhere there were 5 offshore at Worthing on Feb 3 and singles offshore on Feb 18, Apr 4, Dec 15 and Dec 18, with 2 offshore together at Goring Gap on Dec 13.

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

Rare winter visitor

Just one was seen, in breeding plumage off the Marina on Apr 29 (ADW). The SOS no longer requires descriptions for this species.

0020 **FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common passage migrant, nests just outside area

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 861 | 460 | 1410 | 1797 | 2100 | 16 | 140 | 537 | 30 | - | 41 | 178 |
| Worthing | 2 | 2 | 45 | 162 | 66 | - | - | 13 | - | - | - | 2 |

Peak counts at Marina were 300E on Mar 20, 315E on Mar 27 and 442E on Apr 22. Even the reduced autumn movement showed a predominantly eastern direction.

0043 **SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

Rare autumn visitor

One flew E past Marina on the early date of Aug 19 (IJW) and later in the autumn there were 3W at Marina on Oct 6 (IJW). All were seen during strong onshore winds and have been accepted by the SOS.

0046 **MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

Fairly uncommon passage migrant

All records came from Marina where there was a 25% increase in numbers compared to 2000. The monthly totals and direction of movement are shown in the table below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina East | - | - | 1 | 25 | 7 | 38 | 64 | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Marina West | - | - | - | 15 | 6 | 2 | 148 | 14 | - | - | - | - |

The first was on the early date of Mar 31. Unsuitable winds in spring resulted in lower numbers with peak counts being 7W on Apr 9 and 6W on May 17. In June birds were logged on just 6 dates with a max of 19E on 28th. The largest numbers were seen slightly later than usual in July with the best movements being 87W in 4hrs on 8th, 21W on 10th and 9W/53E on 13th. Despite the large influx of the next species few were seen during August and the last of the year was 5E on 19th. Virtually all were seen during moderate to strong SW winds.

0046.01 **BALEARIC SHEARWATER** *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Very scarce summer passage migrant

Some very high numbers were recorded. At Marina a total of 68 were logged between Jul 19 and Aug 19, with max counts 7W on Aug 7, 9W on Aug 8, 11W on Aug 12 and 8W on Aug 19 (IJW et al). Others included 2 feeding close inshore at Southwick on Aug 6 (ADW, IJW) and 1 off Widewater the same day (BFF); another lingered off Southwick on Aug 8 (IJW). Some sea-watching from Widewater produced 1 on Aug 6, 5 on Aug 7, 2W/6E on Aug 9 and 2 on Aug 19 (BFF, RJF, DIS); and others were 6E off Shoreham on Aug 9 (SRA) and 1 off Worthing on Aug 19 (RAI).

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

Rare vagrant

One flew E at Marina on the unusual date of Apr 24 (IJW) but has not been submitted to

the SOS. A more typical record concerned one that was seen moving slowly E off Brighton during strong onshore gales on Oct 7 (IJW) and accepted by the SOS.

0071 GANNET *Morus bassanus*

Regular offshore in most months, usually peaking in spring

The year started with a single bird seen on a Kemp Town (east Brighton) roof which stayed on and off during the year, but especially from May and into 2002. It is presumed to be the same bird which inhabited a rooftop in Seaford, and was seen a number of times along the seafront and once over Elm Grove in central Brighton. A group of 200 were feeding off Ferring/Goring on Jan 22, and 50 were off Widewater on Feb 14. The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| Marina | 488 | 298 | 623 | 2113 | 1747 | 751 | 1676 | 4834 | 475 | 1018 | 340 | 3235 |
| Worthing | 24 | 27 | 48 | 300 | 238 | 5 | 31 | 253 | 492 | 306 | 45 | 1656 |

Peak counts at Marina were 7W/323E on Apr 22, 378E on Jul 17, 875E on Aug 2 in rain; 9W/500E on Aug 19, 485E on Oct 7, 875W on Dec 24, 990W on Dec 25, and 800W on Dec 28. Peaks at Worthing were 300W on Sep 30, 274W/7E on Oct 7 and 920W/80E on Dec 28. The high figures from Christmas Eve were attracted by a huge sprat shoal which gradually moved westwards, hence 300 feeding off Southwick on 24th, 400 off Shoreham on 27th, masses off Worthing on 28th, 200 there on 29th and 200 off Ferring on 30th. Also reported at other times of the year off Palace Pier and Widewater.

0072 CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common at coastal and some inland sites

Early-year roost counts from Steyning Levels pylons were 48 on Jan 1 and 47 on Feb 13. Generally small numbers were reported, the most being 20 passing Widewater on Feb 17. A total of 22 were logged at Worthing during May, max 11 on 13th, but Marina birds were not submitted. Smaller numbers were seen on Worthing sea-watches during Jul to Oct but increasing to 48 during Nov, peak 31 on 21st. Late-year roost counts at Steyning Levels were 85 on Nov 5 and 82 on Dec 15. Unprecedented numbers arrived in Dec, presumably attracted to the sprat shoals. The first were 57 off Worthing on Dec 15, then 70W at Marina on 20th and 75W the next day. On 23rd there were 1W/176E at Worthing including a remarkable flock of 95, and on the same day 130E at Marina and 86 off Widewater. On 28th there were 75W/204E at Worthing and 185W at Marina, with the peak count of 146W/219E at Worthing on 29th. The Worthing total for Dec was 1211 comprising 338W/702E and 171 offshore.

0080 SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Fairly uncommon winter visitor

A very good year for this species. Up to 3 relatively tame juvs were present at Marina from Jan-Mar and another juv was at Harbour at end of Jan. Passage birds were logged at Marina with 7 in Apr, 4 in May, 4 in Aug, 2 in Sep, 1 in Oct, 60 in Nov inc max 8W/7E on 18th, and 129 in Dec including a Sussex record day-count of 29W on 2nd. Juvs were again present at Marina and Shoreham from Jul to Sep. It was strange not to report high numbers with the aforementioned sprat shoals and apart from high passage counts the only others were 7 off Widewater on Dec 13, 4 offshore at Shoreham on Dec 27 and even smaller numbers at Goring and Worthing.

0119 **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

Once a rare vagrant, now annual in area

This species continues to be well reported with about 70 records. None at all were reported in Jan/Feb and just 1 flying up-river at Shoreham on Mar 14. In early May a resident bird was seen on Adur and another near Wyckham Wood. Sea-watching produced 2E at Marina on May 3, 1W on May 5, 2E on May 6 (also logged at Southwick) and 1W on May 7. Higher numbers were semi-resident from 6 at Lower Adur valley on Jul 12 and multiple records from that area into Aug/Sep, but no counts more than 6 on Aug 12. An egret sp flew E over Hollingdean on Aug 2, and then 2W were at Widewater on Aug 6, and 1W at Marina on Aug 10. Away from the lower Adur there were max 5 on Steyning Levels in Aug, 2 seen feeding along the tideline at Goring Gap on 3 dates in Sep, and 2NW over Sheepcote on Sep 22. A single bird was seen on Widewater at end of Sep and was regularly seen until year end. There were 2 more at Goring roosting in a cereal field on Oct 28 and 1 from Ferring Rife on Oct 31. During Nov up to 4 were on Henfield Levels, staying into Dec; 3W at Marina on Nov 20 and 2 at Ferring Rife right at the year end.

0122 **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident

Very low numbers, mainly singles, were reported from around the area from Jan to Mar. Recorded in fair numbers on sea-watches with 3 in Mar at Marina, 1 at Worthing in Apr, and 10 at Marina in May and 1 at Worthing. Breeding at Wyckham Wood were 24 prs. A group of 5 flew over Cissbury Ring on Jun 9, and 3 more went N over Marina on Jul 26, with further singles there in Aug. Lower Adur counts for Nov/Dec rarely moved above 8 and may be indicating a poor breeding season, and smaller numbers were generally reported throughout the Adur valley at this time. Two birds were seen at dusk at Widewater on Dec 14.

0152 **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

Fairly common resident

The wintering population at both ends of the year seems to be around the 100 mark. On Jan 1 a survey of the length of the Adur produced 95 on Upper Levels and 6 on Lower Levels. Counts at Henfield Levels peaked at 77 on Jan 14, 84 on Jan 27 and 74 on Feb 17. Early nesting was shown by a sitting bird near Bramber on Feb 25. Other breeding prs were 1 at Adur Saltings, 2 at Brooklands, 1 at Chantry Mere, Sullington, and 1 at Widewater. Summer flocks started to build up in July with up to 48 by the Tollbridge on 12th, and moving north to Henfield Levels with varying numbers from 36 to 70 in Oct/Nov. Some duplication is possible but the 100 figure again looked accurate with up to 56 on Steyning Levels in Dec and smaller numbers at Brooklands, Hove Lagoon and Widewater. In spite of a large number of records, this species seems to be overlooked! Sea-watching records at Marina were 6W on May 30, 6E on Jul 1, 2W on Sep 18, 2E on Nov 12 and a total of 2W/9E on 5 dates in Dec; at Worthing 2E on May 9 and 2W on Nov 3. At Wildpark 4 flew over on Dec 16.

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

Scarce but regular winter visitor

7ad and 1imm were first noted at Steyning Levels on Jan 27. Whilst counts varied from 6 to 9, this herd remained throughout Feb. Late year there were 3 ad on Henfield Levels from Nov 3 to Dec 15. Additionally 2 imms were noted on Nov 11.

0157 **BEAN GOOSE** *Anser fabalis*

Very rare winter visitor

One of the race '*fabalis*', also known as Taiga Bean Goose, was present on Henfield Levels from Dec 22-23 (ARK et al). It has been accepted by the SOS. None of the previous records in the Area were assigned to race.

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

Rare winter visitor

A group of 12 birds were around Stretham and Henfield Levels from Dec 15 to at least 26th.

0161 **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

Fairly scarce introduced resident

Variable numbers were present early year around Henfield Levels area with 5 on Jan 1, peak 50 on Jan 7, then 35 on Jan 13 and finally 15 on Feb 11. Marina produced 6E on Feb 27, 1W on Mar 8, 6E on Mar 29 and 5E on April 27. This last flock was recorded flying through the Solent earlier the same day. Unusually there were 2E over Wildpark on Apr 14. A dozen were feeding in a field at Beeding Hill on Sep 24. Numbers ranging from 20 to 36 were at Henfield or Steyning Levels from Oct 21 to year end.

GREY GOOSE SP

From Marina were 2 flocks of unidentified grey geese – 4E on Apr 26 and 2W on May 3.

0166 **CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

Introduced, increasing in area, now breeding

The only high count of the year was 400 on Upper Adur Levels on Jan 7. The next highest was 50 on Henfield Levels a week later. Peak late-year count was 35 at Henfield Levels on Dec 19. In between, this species was rarely reported from inland sites. Small numbers were noted from sea-watching sites from Apr to Jun, the peak being 6W/3E at Marina on May 3.

0168 **BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

The monthly sea-watching totals were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 247 | 2170 | 8401 | 1177 | 189 | - | - | - | 42 | 16 | 508 | 23 |
| Worthing | 9 | 26 | 363 | 305 | 31 | - | - | - | 40 | 103 | 152 | 278 |

Peak counts at Marina were 1760E on Feb 27, 1117E on Mar 27 and 2600E on Mar 28. Autumn passage is often less protracted than in the Spring. Peaks were 320W at Marina on Nov 11 and 221W at Worthing on Dec 30. Single birds were noted on Widewater beach on Oct 29 and at Shoreham on Dec 31.

0168 **PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla hrota*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

There were nine birds reported, an excellent showing. The first was seen in fields at Goring Gap on Jan 1 (DIS) and later departed W. On Feb 12 one was with 16 Dark-bellieds

at Shoreham Hbr (BFF). On Apr 22 a party of five flew over Goring Gap (RAI) and then E past Worthing (JAN). Singles then flew E past Marina on May 9 and Nov 12 (both IJW).

0173 SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Apart from ones and twos at Lower Adur, Brooklands and Widewater, the vast majority of the records came from the main sea-watching sites as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 21 | 17 | 38 | 87 | 99 | - | - | 3 | - | - | 51 | 48 |
| Worthing | - | 8 | 3 | 21 | 36 | - | - | - | 7 | 18 | 41 | 41 |

The peaks were 5W/18E at Marina on May 3 and 14W/9E on Nov 10. The peak at Worthing was 16W on Dec 7. The only inland sightings were 3 on Henfield Levels and 2 on nearby Steyning Levels both in Feb. At Widewater a resident pair during Dec were seen coming to feed on bread.

0178 MANDARIN *Aix galericulata*

Rare introduced visitor

A pair were at Sandgate Park pit on Mar 11. The last record was in 1996.

0179 WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

Small numbers were in the area from the New Year, peaking during the next fortnight. Max counts were 200 on Upper Adur Levels on Jan 7 and 325 on Jan 13 on Henfield Levels. Very few lingered into Feb. Monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 60 | 32 | 52 | 19 | - | - | - | - | 55 | - | 120 | 350 |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | 42 | 4 | 49 | 81 |

Peak day-counts at Marina were 35E on Mar 28, 73W on Nov 10 and 199E on Dec 16. Max at Worthing were 35W/14E on Nov 9 and 50W on Dec 11. Elsewhere there were 13 on the sea off Goring on Sep 24, 2 on Widewater on Oct 29 and a small flock off Shoreham on Dec 12.

0182 GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Uncommon in the area

The usual scattering of low numbers included 2 at Brooklands in Jan and 4 on Henfield Levels in Feb. Marina sea-watching totals were Feb - 2, Mar - 5, Apr - 11 and May - 5 and smaller numbers at Worthing in Apr and Dec. The only high count was 24 on Steyning Levels on Dec 25.

0184 TEAL *Anas crecca*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

A New Year's Day count recorded 385 above Bramber with most around Wyckham Wood. These numbers dropped to 145 on Henfield Levels on Jan 13, 100 on Steyning

Levels on Jan 27 and 120 at Henfield Levels on Feb 11. Sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 27 | 9 | 126 | 48 | 2 | - | - | 3 | 13 | 3 | 11 | 13 |
| Worthing | 3 | - | 17 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 5 |

There were 7 at Old Salts Farm on Aug 30. Late-year numbers were low with peak 60 at Steyning Levels on Dec 25, and small flocks elsewhere at Adur Saltings, Lower Adur and Henfield Levels.

0186 **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common resident and winter visitor

New Year counts included 30 on Henfield Levels and 55 close by near Wyckham Wood. Later in Jan, counts at Lower Adur were much lower but there was a peak of 107 at Brooklands on Jan 14, then diminishing but still 50+ remaining into Mar. A small number were also on Widewater, and on sea-watches, where the peak at Marina was 4 on Mar 25. Seven prs bred at Brooklands. Late-year counts included 94 at Brooklands and max 44 at Lower Adur both in early Nov. The peak at Henfield Levels was only 16, whilst even smaller numbers were reported from Patching Pond and Widewater. Late-year sea-watching produced max 5 at Worthing in Nov and 6 at Marina in Dec.

0189 **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

Regular winter visitor at coastal and inland sites

Early inland counts were low at Henfield Levels, just 11 on Jan 13, but increasing drastically to 180 on Feb 11. The only other records were from sea-watching sites:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 14 | 47 | 345 | 7 | - | - | 7 | - | 16 | - | - | 2 |
| Worthing | 15 | 18 | 2 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 10 |

These included a max 210E at Marina on Mar 6 which was a new record day-count there. The only inland late-year record was 3 on Upper Adur Levels on Nov 28.

0191 **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula*

Scarce passage migrant

The best year to date with at least 23 birds seen on 5 dates in spring all from the sea-watching sites. First seen on Mar 16 when there was a record 14E at Marina. On Apr 2 there were 4E past Marina and 2E past Worthing with another 2E there on Apr 30. In May, 2E at Marina on 2nd and a drake flew E, W then E again off the Marina on 13th. Typically there were no autumn records.

0194 **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata*

Regular winter visitor

About 20 were in the Henfield Levels area in Jan and 9 were noted off Widewater on Jan 16. Sea-watching produced the highest number with monthly counts at Marina - Jan - 14, Feb - 12, Mar - 341, Apr - 76 and May - 18. These included yet another record Marina count of 253E on Mar 16. Others were reported from Adur, off Goring Beach and Worthing, and inland a pr were on Wiston Pond in Nov and a peak of 22 on Upper Adur Levels in Dec.

0198 **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

The main concentration early year was at Brooklands where the peak count was 58 on Jan 19, reducing to 36 on Feb 11 then quickly dispersing. Small numbers were seen from Marina during Feb/Mar. Returning birds were noted at Brooklands with 4 on Nov 4, but site preference changed with 18 at Wiston Pond in Nov, and peaks of 30 at both Widewater and Brooklands. Worthing produced 8W on Nov 5 and Marina 1W on Dec 24.

0203 **TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula*

Declining winter visitor

This species is being recorded less frequently in our area. Early year there were just max 3 at Brooklands and Henfield Levels, with none at all at Widewater. A single male remained at Brooklands into May. The only breeding was at Wiston Pond where 10 were noted on Jul 27. Max 7 at Brooklands in Oct and no records late year from either Henfield Levels or Widewater. The only high count was 34 from Wiston Pond on Nov 15. Very small numbers were noted from the two sea-watching sites at both ends of the year.

0204 **SCAUP** *Aythya marila*

Scarce winter visitor

All the records were fly-pasts at sea-watching sites: at Marina 1E on Mar 23, 5E on Mar 27 and 1E on Apr 24; at Worthing the same bird on Apr 24 and 1E on Dec 11.

0206 **EIDER** *Somateria mollissima*

Regular and passage migrant and winter visitor

A small group of 3F and 1-2M were reported on the sea from 4 sites during Jan. The sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 47 | 26 | 338 | 66 | 10 | - | - | 6 | - | - | 2 | 9 |
| Worthing | - | - | 10 | 4 | 10 | - | - | - | 9 | - | - | 18 |

These included 52E on Mar 7 at Marina and a Sussex record passage of 232E there on Mar 28. Small numbers lingered off Goring and Widewater.

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

Rare winter visitor

The only record was 1 at Widewater on Nov 9 (RAI).

0213 **COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant

The sea-watching figures below reflect passage in all months of the year:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 87 | 247 | 3254 | 3174 | 2341 | 78 | 410 | 484 | 37 | 41 | 298 | 365 |
| Worthing | - | 3 | 347 | 344 | 194 | 56 | 12 | 9 | 23 | 18 | 92 | 24 |

The peak counts at Marina were 259E on Mar 21, 1533E on Mar 27, 330E on Mar 28, 549E on Apr 2 and 457E on Apr 22. The total on Mar 27 was the 2nd highest ever at Marina. Passage continued well into May this year with peak 208E on 23rd, and an un-

usually late movement of 222E on Jul 17. Late-year totals were much lower with peak 10W/46E at Worthing on Nov 10 and 54E at Marina on Dec 15. Casual sightings of small groups on the sea came from Goring, Shoreham and Widewater.

0215 VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Fairly regular passage migrant

A very good year shown in the sea-watching table below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 1 | - | - | 19 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 9 |
| Worthing | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 4 |

Peak counts at Marina were 9E on Apr 2, 7W on Apr 30, 7E on Nov 11 and 6E on Dec 15; peak at Worthing was 4E on Dec 23.

0218 GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

All records were as follows: 1W at Marina on Jan 18; 1 on sea at Widewater on Feb 17, 1E at Marina on Feb 24, an early returning bird on Shoreham Adur on Sep 12, 1f W at Worthing on Nov 9 and 2W there on Dec 8, 1W at Marina on Dec 11 and finally 2W at Worthing on Dec 23.

0221 RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Common winter visitor

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Marina | 86 | 29 | 71 | 159 | 14 | - | - | - | - | - | 19 | 56 |
| Worthing | 80 | 386 | 552 | 83 | 10 | - | - | - | - | 6 | 102 | 1188 |

Most of the early-year totals at Worthing were flocks congregating offshore rather than passage birds. Peak counts were 196 on Feb 24, which was the highest-ever count recorded, and 100 on 2 dates in Mar. Up to 90 were off Goring at end Mar. Smaller numbers at Brooklands, Shoreham Harbour and Widewater indicated mild conditions. All counts at Marina were passage birds, the max being 60E on Apr 22. Late-year records commenced with 4W at Worthing on Oct 6. Offshore birds peaked in Dec with 186 at Goring on 16th and 150 at Worthing on 21st.

0231 HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Very scarce spring and autumn passage migrant

2000: One seen over Whitehawk Hill on Jun 27 (IJW) and a juv that flew ENE over Hollingdean on Sep 11 (ADW, IJW) occurred before the record influx and were omitted from the 2000 Report. Both accepted by the SOS.

2001: Even after the exceptional influx in 2000, it was still an excellent year for this species with six records, all during September. Unless stated otherwise, all have been accepted by SOS. Two adults flew W together over Hollingdean on Sept 1 (ADW, IJW), a mottled juvenile flew N over Hollingdean on Sept 8 (ADW, IJW), a different juvenile was seen over Wild Park on Sept 9 (ADW, IJW), a dark juvenile flew over the Marina on Sept 10 (ADW; not submitted to SOS), one over Ferring on Sept 15 (RJS) and finally another dark juvenile circled Hollingbury Camp before flying off NE on Sept 22 (IJW).

0238 **BLACK KITE** *Milvus migrans*

Very rare vagrant

2000: One drifted NW over Hollingdean, Brighton on the afternoon of 16th June (ADW, IJW), helped across the English Channel by a SE breeze and a spell of very hot weather. It has been accepted by BBRC and is the first authenticated record in the area since 1980, oddly perhaps, it is the first June record for the county.

0239 **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

Rare vagrant

This species is being seen ever more frequently in the area although some duplication of records is likely. All records were as follows:

Southwick Hill on Apr 17 (DS), SE over Ditchling Beacon on May 8 (AJH) and E over Storrington on May 13 (CEH). A bird with white wing-tags spent an hour around Hollingbury before departing E on Jun 3 (PT, ADW, IJW) and was seen again flying W over North Brighton on Jul 22 (ADW, IJW, PJW). One flew E over Steyning Round Hill on Jul 8 (BM) and at the end of the year a single flew W over Henfield Levels on Dec 18 (RAI) and there were two seen at Stanmer Park the same day (SOS).

0260 **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

In the spring, two were seen to fly in off the sea at Marina on May 3 and May 5. An imm went S nr Steyning on Jul 29, which was followed by another imm E at Tottington Manor on Aug 13, another flew W at Lancing Clump/Blackpatch Hill area on Aug 21 and there were a total of 7 fly-overs at Brighton during Sep/Oct.

0261 **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

Passage and occasional winter visitor

A rather poor year with only 2 records – 1m at Cissbury Ring on Oct 6 and a ringtail flying W at Tottington Manor on Nov 15.

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

Very scarce spring and autumn migrant

2000: The record of 1N over Brighton on Apr 27 was erroneous.

2001: An excellent year with four birds recorded. A first-summer male flew in off the sea at Brighton Marina on May 1 (KBG, IJW) and was quickly followed by an adult male in off the sea at the same location on May 7 (ADW, IJW). In autumn, a juvenile was followed by bicycle as it flew E along Brighton seafront on Aug 29 (KBG) and lastly a female was seen flying W along the Downs near Ditchling Beacon on Sep 7 (IJW). All accepted by the SOS, except the bird on Aug 29, which was not submitted.

0269 **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident

A good number of records throughout the year in spite of F&M access restrictions. Breeding was proved at Findon Valley – 2 prs, and single prs at a mature seafront garden in Hove, Sanctuary, Steyning by-pass and Wildpark. Probably bred at Cissbury, Ferring, Goring Gap, Patching Hill and West Worthing. Birds were seen to fly in off the sea at Marina on 4 dates in Apr/May, and departing migrants seen there and at Ferring in the Autumn.

0287 **COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Recorded in all months of the year and a continuing number of sightings of two birds or more indicates a stable breeding population to the west of the area. There were regular sightings over downland sites like Chantry/Harrow Hill, Cissbury/Findon Valley and at Washington. Max count was 12 in the Blackpatch Hill area on Aug 21, and 8 nearby on Aug 29. Thirty birds were logged flying over the Brighton area during Sep/Oct with a peak count of 7E on Sep 22. Other probable migrants were noted from Ferring and Newtimber. Late-year birds were at Clapham Woods, Findon and the Wiston Estate.

0301 **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant

Another good year with at least six recorded. All the spring records were from the Marina where singles flew in off the sea on Apr 30 (ADW, IJW), May 1 (KBG, IJW) and May 23 (IJW). There were none until Aug 19 when one flew W along Brighton Seafront (ADW, IJW). In September, sightings from the Airport on 20th, Adur on 21st and Henfield Levels next day could relate to the same bird (RAI, GSJS). The last of the year flew E at Worthing on Sept 30 (JAN).

0304 **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Numerous records from across the area. Breeding was confirmed at Cissbury and Findon Valley - 2 prs and Wildpark - 3 prs, and single prs at a nestbox under the Adur A27 fly-over, High Salvington and Storrington. Regularly sighted during the breeding season at half a dozen other areas. At the Marina one flew in off the sea on Mar 13 followed by another in Apr and 4 in May. Worthing also recorded 1 in off the sea on May 9. Further coastal records were from Marina and Widewater from June to Aug.

0309 **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular in autumn/winter

An extremely good year. Early-year birds were at Shoreham Adur in Jan; Falmer and Lancing in Feb and 2 in off sea at Marina in Mar with another at Shoreham. Two early migrants were seen in Aug, at Blackpatch Hill on 21st and Cissbury on 27th. There were 6 records in Sep from Broadwater, Harrow Hill, Hollingbury, Steyning Round Hill and Worthing beach. Next was a single at Southwick Hill on Oct 1 but then no more until Nov, with 1W at Hollingdean on 5th and 1 at Lancing Clump on 13th. Wintering birds in Dec were from Broadwater, Cement Works, Fulking Downs, Lower Standean and 2 at Steep Down.

0310 **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

Regular passage migrant, has bred

The monthly totals particularly from inland were slightly down on account of the Foot and Mouth restrictions to access:

First of the year was on Apr 28 at Wildpark, closely followed by 1 at Worthing the next day observed catching an incoming swallow. The May total was mainly from coastal sites with 5 at Worthing and smaller numbers from Goring and Widewater. At the Ma-

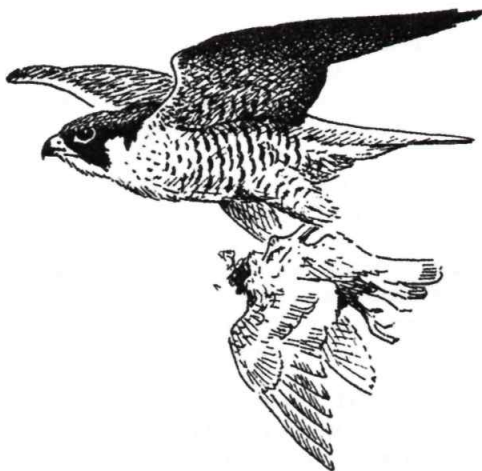
| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| - | - | - | 3 | 34 | 4 | - | 9 | 33 | 5 | - | - |

rina 14 flew in-off the sea between Apr 30 and May 22 with a max of 3 on May 4. The remainder were from downland and other inland sites. The first departure bird was at Wolstonbury Hill on Aug 4. By far the majority of autumn birds were from the Brighton area, with 32 logged during Sep-Oct, the last being at Hollingbury GC on Oct 10.

0320 PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Low, but stable breeding resident and occasional visitor

The area's two breeding pairs each raised two young. Of interest was the nesting activities at the nestbox on Sussex Heights which was recorded on webcam. The first egg was laid on Mar 24 and the clutch of 3 was complete by 30th. All 3 hatched but one died and was fed to the surviving chicks. The new nestbox at Southwick Power Station was used regularly during the year with up to 3 birds throughout, but no breeding took place here. Birds were regularly noted on sea-watches at Marina. A surprise for the observer was one that landed on a garden shed in Shoreham in Feb. Away from breeding sites birds were seen from Ditchling Beacon, Goring Gap, Newtimber, Hollingbury, Sheepcote, Steyning Round Hill and Worthing Beach, and in Dec one hunted over Henfield Levels on a number of occasions.



0358 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Common introduced resident

Sparsely recorded this year with just 2 at Coombes on May 3, 7 at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 25 and a single at Wildpark on Dec 9.

0367 GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Fairly common resident

Regular visits to Goring Gap produced a noticeable decline, a covey of 6 in Jan being the only record. Small numbers were noted at Steep Down and Chantry Hill during the breeding season. A covey of 11 was in north fields, Wildpark in May. Post-breeding coveys were 15 at Three Corner Copse, Hove in Aug-Sep (and 13 still present in Dec), 12 at Steyning Round Hill in Aug, 40 at Stump Bottom on Nov 4, and small numbers at Mill Hill and Sompting in Dec.

0370 QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare but regular summer visitor

A good year with the following records: the first was at Steep Down on June 18, increasing there to at least 2 by mid-July and max 4 on 24th. Others were at Beeding Hill on Jul

1, Steyning Round Hill on Aug 15 and Lancing Clump on Sep 27. Unusually 1 was reported at Lancing Clump on Nov 15.

0394 **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident

Unusually 1 found in urban Brighton on Feb 27. Under-reported as usual with sightings from Cuckoo Corner, Spithandle Lane and Steyning Round Hill. The only breeding counts were pairs at Deneway and Wildpark.

0407 **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

Regular winter visitor, may breed

Early-year singles were reported from Cuckoo Corner, Henfield Levels, Sanctuary and Steyning Levels, the last on Apr 8 at Cuckoo Corner. Squealing heard at Sanctuary Oct/Dec. The only other late-year birds were 2 at Ferring Rife from Nov 11 to year end.

0424 **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident and winter visitor

Regularly noted from Brooklands with max 14 on Jan 14 and at least 2 prs breeding there. Present Jan/Feb at Henfield Levels with max 15 on Jan 13. Noted elsewhere in the breeding season from Cuckoo Corner and Spithandle Lane but the only confirmed breeding was at Clayton Pond. Small numbers recorded late year from Henfield and Steyning Levels, Lower Adur and Patching Pond, and peak 14 at Brooklands on Nov 4.

0429 **COOT** *Fulica atra*

Common resident and winter visitor

In Jan only a single bird remained on Widewater. There were average counts at Brooklands where the peak of 74 on Jan 14 reduced to 38 in Feb. Up to 5 prs bred there and on Teville stream, and producing monthly peaks of 42 in May, 67 in June and 86 in Sep. Reported from only 2 sites late year with max 5 on Patching Pond and max 92 on Nov 4 at Brooklands.

0433 **COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus*

Rare visitor

2000: The bird that flew in off the sea at Ovingdean on Nov 7 was outside the recording area.

0450 **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

Monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 27 | 23 | 53 | 105 | 102 | - | 3 | 65 | - | 75 | 15 | 24 |
| Worthing | - | 2 | 3 | 7 | 53 | - | 6 | 17 | - | 12 | 32 | 4 |

Peak Spring counts at Marina were 16 on Mar 27, 17 on Apr 2 and 19 on May 20. This species is rarely reported in larger numbers and 26 on Aug 11 was overshadowed by an all-time site record 75E on Oct 8. Early-year beach counts included a peak of 24 at Goring Gap and 3-4 from Shoreham Fort and Southwick. Smaller numbers were reported from Adur Saltings and Widewater during the year. Late-year peaks were 22 at Goring Gap in Oct and 18 at Worthing Beach in Nov.

0456 **AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

Uncommon, but regular passage migrant

More generally noted as fly-pasts in spring, it was therefore satisfying for the observer to note a feeding party of 4 near the Tollbridge on Mar 17 (JS). The first passage birds were 2E at Marina on Mar 2, then 13E on Mar 26. Totals thereafter were 4 in Apr on 2 dates and 22 in May on 4 dates, with peak 9E on 12th. Elsewhere there were 6E seen at Worthing and then Southwick on Apr 14.

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

Scarce summer visitor and passage migrant, has bred

One flying E past the Marina on Mar 27 was the only record for the whole year.

0470 **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; attempts to breed

Max roost counts from the major sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Goring | 26 | 43 | 26 | - | - | - | - | 55 | 76 | 45 | 3 | 6 |
| Lower Adur | 91 | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 93 | 160 | 81 | 60 |
| Marina | 70 | 52 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 2 | - | - | - | 60 | - | - |
| Widewater | 24 | 14 | 14 | 6 | 10 | 5 | - | - | - | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| Worthing | 9 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 90 | 80 | 65 | 3 | 35 |

There were 5 or 6 prs at Widewater during the breeding season but it is doubtful if any were successful. At Marina 2 prs bred, 1 of them eventually raising 3 young after several attempts. A few were noted on sea-watches, peak counts being 33E on May 9, 30W on Sep 27 and 53W/38E on Nov 11 at Worthing, and at Marina there were 12E on May 2.

0482 **DOTTEREL** *Charadrius morinellus*

Rare passage migrant

Only one was seen, an adult flying E over Steyning Round Hill on Aug 20 (ARK). Accepted by SOS.

0485 **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fairly common winter visitor

Around 30 were on Upper Adur Levels on Jan 1 but dwindled rapidly to only 4 on 13th and just 2 on Henfield Levels in early Feb. Marina recorded 2E in Jan, 10W/1E in Feb and 71E in Mar, with max 49 on 21st. There were 3 overhead at Sanctuary with Lapwings on Feb 18. In the autumn there were 20 moving S at Broadwater on Aug 24 and singles over Blackpatch Hill, Hollingdean and Steyning Round Hill. The last were 2 at Steep Down on Dec 31.

0486 **GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

The main roost counts are shown below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Goring | 80 | 194 | 145 | - | - | - | - | 15 | 38 | 44 | 83 | 98 |
| Lower Adur | 29 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16 | 9 |
| Worthing | 15 | 60 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 60 |

Passage was noted from Mar 21 with 14E at Worthing. Peak days at Marina came a little later with 89E on Apr 1, 101E on May 9 and 91E on May 10. Worthing's peak was 95E on May 13. The full monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 40 | 150 | 314 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Worthing | - | - | 14 | 5 | 270 | - | - | 3 | - | 5 | 10 | - |

0493 **LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

Common winter visitor but declining breeder

Early-year counts in the Adur Valley included peaks of 500 at Upper Beeding, 1000 on Henfield Levels and 600 around the Airfield. These flocks were dispersing by late Feb when there was only 20 in Lower Adur Valley and 60 at Long Furlong on Mar 1. Breeding prs were Chantry Hill - 5, Steyning Round Hill - 2 and Wiston Estate - 3. May also have bred at Castle Goring, Chanctonbury and Highdown Hill. A dozen were on Shoreham Adur on the early date of June 28, and 24 on nearby Widewater on Sep 4. Larger flocks commenced on Sep 16 with 250 on Henfield Levels but no increase subsequently to year's end. The largest late-year flock was 500 near Cuckoo Corner on Nov 4. There were 46 roosting in a cereal field at Findon on Dec 19.

0496 **KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

Regular passage migrant

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 7 | - | 31 | - | 169 | - | - | 3 | - | - | 24 | - |
| Worthing | - | 35 | - | - | 141 | - | - | - | - | - | 19 | - |

Peak counts were 112E at Worthing on May 13 and 45E at Marina on May 7. Very few noted elsewhere, though a single bird frequented the Adur Saltings to Tollbridge area from Jan to Mar, and 1 was at Widewater on Aug 28.

0497 **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year beach counts came mainly from Goring Gap with max 130 on Jan 12, 79 on Feb 11 and 125 on Mar 10. Others were 70 at Worthing on Mar 23 and 19 at Widewater on Mar 26. The sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 505 | 43 | 484 | - | - | - | - | - | 23 | - |
| Worthing | - | - | 58 | 17 | 484 | - | - | 5 | 22 | 5 | 15 | 20 |

Peak counts from Marina included 365E on Mar 16, 130E on Mar 21 and 83E on May 13. Worthing's peaks were 80E on May 9, 104E on May 10 and 92E on May 13. Autumn beach counts commenced with 10 at Worthing on Aug 19. At Goring late-year peak was 87 on Oct 26 but reducing drastically to 12 in Nov and only 3 in Dec. Other flocks were 6 at Widewater beach and 20 at Worthing, both in Dec.

0501 **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

Scarce passage migrant, occasional winter visitor

Quite a scarce bird in recent years. All records were of singles: May 12 at Shoreham

Adur, Sep 18 near Tollbridge, Sep 19 on Worthing Beach and again on 21st and 30th, and finally Oct 13/14 in flooded field at Botolphs.

0507 PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Rare autumn vagrant

A juvenile was a good find on a small flood on Beeding Brooks on Oct 13 (KN et al) and showed well there until next day. It has been accepted by the SOS and is only the second to be recorded in the area, the first being on the Adur in 1970.

0509 CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*

Scarce passage migrant

The first was on Aug 28 on Adur Saltings, and then 2 on the beach at Ferring on Sep 15. A number were reported below the Railway Bridge at Shoreham, with a max count of 5 juvs on Sep 15, 1-3 from Sep 17-20 and lastly a single on Oct 7.

0510 PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

Scarce winter visitor

Monthly peaks at the two main sites were:

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

There were also 4 on Southwick Beach on Mar 21. The last date at Marina was May 19, and the first arrivals on Jul 26. These two were present throughout Aug-Sep. The highest count was 13 on Dec 8.

0512 DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Early-year peaks included 300 at Worthing on Jan 28, 760 at Shoreham Adur on Feb 2 and 500 at Goring Gap on Feb 11. There were still 175 present at Goring on Mar 10 but much smaller numbers elsewhere. Monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 77 | 89 | 473 | - | - | 6 | 4 | 10 | 362 | 109 |
| Worthing | - | 10 | 82 | 18 | 216 | - | - | 23 | 13 | 27 | 256 | 64 |

Peaks at Marina were 75E on Mar 21 and 120E on May 2. The maximum count at Worthing was 49E on May 11. Small numbers were noted on Widewater in May. In Sep, 80 were on Shoreham Adur on 16th but numbers were slow to build. At Goring the 90 on Nov 11 decreased to 85 in Dec, whilst at Shoreham Adur the peak of 27 on Dec 16 coincided with the highest count at Worthing of 200 on the same day. Late-year birds also included 1 at Widewater in Dec and 1 NE over Steep Down on Dec 31.

0517 RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

There was a single on Henfield Levels on Jan 13. In the autumn 1 or 2 remained in the Shoreham Adur/Tollbridge area from Sep 27 to Oct 6.

0518 **JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

Winter visitor in small numbers

A single bird was at Ferring Rife during Jan and another was at Steyning Levels on Feb 3. Late-year birds were at Lancing on Dec 23 and again at Ferring Rife on Dec 30. This was a rather poor showing considering the habitat at the Rife was reported as improving.

0519 **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

Common winter visitor

Early-year birds were noted at Ferring Rife from Jan 1 with a peak of 11 on 22nd, a max of 8 at Henfield Levels on Jan 14, and on the same day a good roost count of 144 at Adur Saltings. In Mar there were 7 at Goring Gap, and 30 in a damp plough on Wiston Estate on Apr 7. None were reported during the summer. A single was on Lower Adur on Sep 16, followed by a peak of 24 on Nov 4. Other high counts were 11 at Botolphs in Oct, 30 at Henfield Levels in Nov and 20 on Upper Adur at the end of Dec. Others included 5W at Worthing Beach on Nov 3, and small numbers from Ferring Rife, Lancing Clump and Steyning Levels.

0529 **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant

The only records were 1 in Wildpark on Nov 9 and 1 at Sanctuary on Dec 23.

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

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

A good inland record was 1 on Henfield Levels on Feb 11. A flock of 5 flew E at Marina on May 2. Singles were then reported feeding on the mudflats at Shoreham on Jun 1, Sep 16 and Sep 22.

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

Common passage migrant and regular winter visitor

Some notable high counts are reflected in the monthly sea-watching totals below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 7 | 2512 | 2590 | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | 25 | 507 | 99 | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | - |

The first were 25E at Worthing on Mar 21. Peak passage occurred at the end of Apr, with 22nd producing 1323E at Marina and 242E at Worthing, and on 24th there were 863E at Marina and 110E at Worthing. Other high counts at Marina were 613E on May 8 and 485 the following day. Elsewhere there were 3 in sp on Shoreham Adur on May 2 and casual passage was reported from Ferring and Shoreham during May. In the Autumn up to 3 on 3 dates to Oct 7, 1 at Lower Adur in Sep and 3 at Worthing Beach on Sep 30.

0538 **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

Common passage migrant

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

First at Marina were 17E on Apr 21. Peaks there were 235E on May 7, 323E on May 8

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | - | 315 | 1387 | - | 22 | 31 | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 35 | 374 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

(the highest day-count from this site) and 224E on May 10. The latter date also produced Worthing's peak of 110E. Small numbers were recorded elsewhere, with 3N at Brooklands on Apr 24, 1-2 around Airfield, 1 at Goring Gap, 3 at Ferring – all in early May. In Aug there were 1-2 by the Tollbridge between 5-6th and 1W at Widewater. The last was 1 at Goring Beach on Oct 7.

0541 **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant

Small numbers were encountered on sea-watches from Feb to Jun, with max at Marina being 21E on Mar 16. Inland singles were calling at Perching Hill, Fulking and Cissbury Ring in July. Two singles went past Marina in Aug, and 1 in Sep remained around the Tollbridge mid-month, whilst another was at Cissbury on 21st. The last were 4W at Worthing on Nov 30.

0545 **SPOTTED REDSHANK** *Tringa erythropus*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One flying W past Marina on Aug 10 (IJW) was followed by a bird on the Adur on Aug 28-29 (SRA, BFF). Another was on the Adur from Oct 2-6 (ADW et al). Three in one year is an excellent showing.

0546 **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

Common winter visitor

The monthly max counts from the only two regular sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Goring Gap | 15 | 12 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 4 |
| Lower Adur | 128 | 136 | 9 | 2 | - | - | 50 | - | 96 | 86 | 152 | 77 |

Winter counts elsewhere were extremely low. Widewater had max of 4 in Nov, and Brooklands had 3 and Hove Lagoon 2, both in Dec. Main sea-watch passage was on May 9, with 63E at Marina and 10E at Worthing. Small numbers occurred in Aug and Nov. There were no records for the Adur Valley above Bramber.

0548 **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

Regular passage migrant

A small but regular passage at Marina included 2 in Mar, 1 in Apr, 15 in May and 1 in Jul. Peak was 5E on May 9. Worthing recorded 5 in May, with a peak of 4E on 7th. An overhead bird was at Lancing Clump on Aug 17. Other records were 2 at Tollbridge on Aug 19, 4 at Widewater on Oct 26, 2 there in Nov, and 1 in Lower Adur on Nov 17.

0553 **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

Regular winter visitor

Early in the year there were a max of 2 on Henfield Levels on Jan 1, with only 1 to Feb 11. Next was a single on Ferring Rife on Aug 20, than a max of 2 on Henfield Levels from Nov 24. These are rather smaller numbers than usual.

0554 **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*

Scarce spring or autumn passage migrant

A new pond at Waterhall, north Brighton produced its first wader on May 6 (HVMW)

and one was at Sheepcote Valley crouching in a rain puddle from nearby scrambling bikes before flying off N on Aug 27 (ADW, IJW). These are the first records since 1991.

0556 COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common passage migrant, occasionally winters

Wintering birds were seen at both ends of the year. On Jan 1 two were seen, 1 at Cuckoo Corner, with another up-river at Coombes. Another was noted in the same area on Feb 18. By far the largest number were on sea-watches:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | - | 9 | 81 | - | 1 | 27 | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Max counts at Marina were 17 on May 7 and May 22. There was a single on Shoreham Adur in May. Autumn numbers peaked here with 16 on Jul 12 but apart from this date, numbers were well down on normal, with 4 in Lower Adur on Sep 7 and 1 at Steyning Levels on Sep 16. Wintering birds were again present, the first near the Cement Works on Nov 11 and up to 3 in that area during Dec.

0561 TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Early year produced average beach counts, with a regular 20 at Goring from Jan to Mar, about a dozen between Shoreham and Widewater, and a max of 15 at Southwick in Mar. The sea-watching totals were:

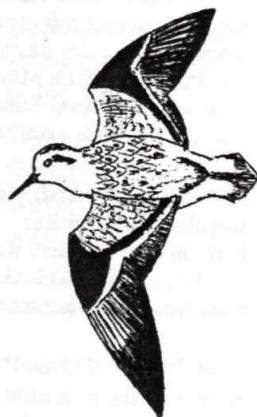
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | - | - | 221 | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | 35 | - | 11 | 124 | - | - | - | 5 | 2 | 18 | - |

Peak count was a high 106E at Marina on May 9. Peaks at Worthing were 35E on Feb 10 and May 8. In May a flock of 20 was at Shoreham east breakwater. Birds returned early with 4 at Shoreham Adur on Jul 10 and 12 at Shoreham Harbour in Aug. The peak at Goring was 34 on Sep 16, reducing to 23 in Nov and almost absent in Dec. Late-year birds were scattered along beaches, but generally in small numbers from Brooklands and Widewater, with a single on Hove Lagoon on Dec 21 and a peak of 27 at Shoreham also in Dec.

0565 GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Very scarce autumn and rare winter visitor

One flew W past Brighton Seafront on Oct 6 (IJW) but has not been submitted to SOS. Another circled the entrance of the Marina before flying off W on Nov 9 (IJW), this being accepted by SOS.



0566 POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Regular spring passage migrant, rare at other times

An interesting year with above average numbers seen in Spring. In addition, there were a handful of unusual sightings outside the main migration period and these have been accepted by SOS. The monthly totals from the two

sea-watching sites are shown in the table below:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 172 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 |
| Worthing | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 52 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

A 2nd-winter flew E at Marina on Jan 12 (KBG, IJW), and was followed by a juvenile harassing Kittiwakes there before flying off E on Jan 25 (IJW).

First of the spring were on cue with 3E at Marina on Apr 22. On Apr 24, a large male E at Marina had been seen earlier passing through the Solent in Hants. Periods of NE winds during May produced large numbers of this species. At the Marina peak movements were 18E on 3rd, 21E on 9th and 92 on 13th. Also, one flew W past Marina on May 16. Thereafter just ones and twos were recorded, with the last 2E on May 23. At Worthing the first of the year was 1W on May 6. Also recorded on four other dates during the month with 5E on 9th, 6E on 10th, 12E on 12th and lastly 28E on 13th.

Four were seen later in the year, all from Marina as follows: an ad/sub-ad flew E on Jul 10, a juv E on Oct 6, a juv W on Dec 1 and finally another ad/sub-ad W on Dec 28 (all IJW).

0567 ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant

A good number of single birds were seen early in the year. There was one offshore at Widewater on Jan 7, then 1E at Marina on Jan 27, Jan 30, Feb 1 and Feb 10. Another on Mar 28 was probably an early passage bird. The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | 2 | - | 201 | 104 | 3 | 14 | 49 | - | 14 | 2 | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 19 | 29 | - | - | 1 | - | 2 | - | - |

All the high counts this year were in Apr, starting with 15E on 22nd and peaking with 27E on 24th, 33E on 25th and 28E on 29th. Counts were almost daily through to the end of May. Of interest was 1 at Marina which turned inland to fly NE over Roedean on Apr 27. The peak count at Worthing was 8 on Apr 25 and May 10. All the birds seen in Jul and most of those in Aug were flying E. The peak autumn day was Aug 19 with 1W/10E in rainy conditions at Marina. Away from the main sites individuals were seen off Palace Pier on Oct 30 and Widewater on Dec 13.

0569 GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

Similar numbers to the previous species were recorded in early year. In Jan there were 3E past Marina on 2 dates and 1E on Feb 6. Another went E off Widewater on Feb 13. A trickle of early passage birds went through Marina from Mar 13, and then Apr 2. The complete monthly totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 3 | 1 | 1 | 118 | 12 | - | - | 3 | - | 6 | 6 | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 22 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |

These included the largest passage recorded in Sussex, with 30E at Marina on Apr 24: this included 10 in 10 minutes. Other high day-counts were 24E on Apr 25 and 11E on

Apr 29. On Apr 22 the same totals of 15E were logged at both Worthing and Marina. Small numbers were noted off Goring and Shoreham during this period. Apart from a couple of exceptions all records through the year from Marina were of birds flying E. On Oct 1 one was watched attacking a Great-crested Grebe off Brighton, which managed to survive by diving.

0575 MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Regular passage migrant and increasing winter visitor

A max of up to 5 roosted at Marina from Jan-Mar. Other early-year birds, mainly adults, were seen at Goring, Shoreham Adur, Southwick Beach and Worthing. The full sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 6 | 8 | 19 | 42 | 27 | - | 5 | 4 | - | - | 3 | 7 |
| Worthing | - | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |

At Marina the peak count during Apr was 7E on 4th, and the total was achieved on 18 dates. Elsewhere there were 4 ads on the Shoreham Adur on Mar 19, with 1-2 still present during Apr and up-river as far as Cement Works. Ones and twos lingered along the coast at Goring, Southwick and Worthing in May/June, but generally much smaller numbers were reported. There were no counts received for late year from the roost at Southwick, but up to 3 roosted at Marina throughout Dec.

0578 LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Regular on spring/autumn passage, occasional winter visitor

January produced a mini-influx, with 3 at Marina on 1st, 4 offshore and 2E the following day, and 3 on 3rd. On the 4th there was 1W at Worthing and another at Marina. The first passage birds were 2E on Mar 9, the monthly totals being:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 10 | - | 17 | 558 | 43 | - | 1 | - | - | 17 | 7 | 1 |
| Worthing | 1 | - | - | 56 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |

Peak counts at Marina were 91E on Apr 22, which by all accounts was a pretty high total, but on 24th there was a Sussex record count of 363E there. Another 97 flew E on 25th. The peak at Worthing was also on the 24th with 43E there. At Shoreham beach there were 3 on May 15 and unusually 1W at Marina on Jul 12. The autumn peak at Marina was 9W on Oct 15.

0582 BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

The only significant early-year counts were 300 at Sanctuary water-meadows on Feb 10 and 710E at Marina on Feb 14. The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | 1073 | 5110 | 350 | NC | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | 238 | 190 | 1096 | 5 | 140 | - | - | 10 | 45 | - |

During the spring the species was not consistently counted at Marina, but peak days were 1700E on Mar 12 and 815E on Mar 22. The peak at Worthing was 326E on May 8.

Elsewhere very few flocks were noted above 70 anywhere in the area, the exception being 100 at Southwick Beach on Mar 21. Uncounted flocks were reported late year from Cuckoo Corner and Upper Beeding.

0590 **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor

Counts were intermittent at Marina but early-year peaks included 600E on Jan 25, 1200E on Feb 27, 1500E on Mar 30 and 1000E on Apr 25. The only other significant count during this period was 500 on Sanctuary water-meadows on Feb 10. Virtually absent from the middle part of the year, the first flock-count for the autumn was 300 at Findon Valley on Aug 18. There were very few counts received late year, with just 300 at Cissbury in Nov and 750 at Lower Adur in Dec.

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

Common in winter, now breeding in small numbers

The year started with an inland single at Henfield Levels on Jan 12. Small numbers were regularly reported from Brooklands and Shoreham Adur, with a max of 15 by the Sailing Club on Feb 27. An estimation of breeding prs was 6 for Brighton, 2 from Hove, 2 in Shoreham and perhaps as many as 10 prs at Worthing. Low counts came from assorted sites from Aug to Dec, the max being 6 at the Tollbridge on Sep 7.

0592 **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

Common, expanding breeding population

Although widespread along all coastal towns, this species is greatly under-recorded. Counts included 50 on Shoreham Adur in Apr and similar numbers at Brooklands. A ringed bird was noted at Shoreham on May 13 with yellow ring 'A' on right leg. Inland were 50 on downland crops at Steyning on May 26. Breeding prs included 4 at Ferring, 3 at Goring, 24 at Shoreham, 13 at Southwick, 54 at Portslade, 160 in Hove, but no counts from Brighton or Worthing were submitted. Good numbers were feeding offshore, with 2000 off Marina on Jun 17, a similar number on Jun 30 and 3000 on Jul 9. A count of 210 juveniles inside the Marina on Jul 26 gave some indication of breeding success nearby. Late-year birds offshore, attracted by shoals of small fish, were 700 off Worthing and an estimated 10,000 off Ferring on Dec 30. An albino was seen at Marina in May and a leucistic bird was seen on several occasions in the Brighton area during the summer.

0593 **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus argentatus michahellis*

Regular autumn flock

The only early-year record was 2 on Shoreham Adur on Jan 5. In June, single adults were at Marina (where they are unusual) and the Tollbridge. Others were noted on Adur and West Pier in Aug. The usual numbers remained near the Tollbridge, with 18 ad and a 1st winter on Sep 4, and peaking at 22 birds on Sep 18. There were still 18 on Oct 2 and 16 on Oct 6, the last was 1 at Shoreham on Oct 18.

0598 **ICELAND GULL** *Larus glaucoides*

Rare winter visitor

One was reported from the West Pier on May 20 (IK). This has been accepted by the SOS.

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

Fairly common winter visitor

A leucistic 3rd cal yr bird was around the Marina area from Apr 29 to at least May 15. It was then seen on the Adur on May 20-24 and again on Jul 15. Observers should note that it was seen again in 2002 and bears a close resemblance to a Glaucous Gull. In central Brighton, three pairs bred successfully and raised a minimum of four young. This is the first confirmed breeding in the area. One of these pairs was the same as that which had *presumably* bred at the same site in 2000 and 1999 (pair with fledged young but actual nest not seen). Breeding was *proven* in Sussex for the first time in 2000 (at Hastings).

The Jersey-ringed 'orange C' bird was seen on the Adur on Sep 16.

0602 **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Some considerable movement occurred early in the year, with a Jan total of 2833 at Marina including a peak of 30W/340E on 22nd. The complete monthly totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|------|------|
| Marina | 2833 | 1369 | 2283 | 1338 | 2162 | 109 | 739 | 1778 | NC | 228 | 1623 | 3597 |
| Worthing | 192 | 2 | 9 | 20 | 33 | - | - | - | 2 | - | 46 | 1707 |

Other high counts at Marina were 344E on Feb 10 and 500E on Mar 20. Westerly passage commenced in Jul, with a peak of 380 on 8th. Numbers drastically reduced during Sep/Oct but picked up in the last two months. Marina peaks then were 427W/64E on Nov 25, 700W on Dec 25 and an all-time record high count of 1200W on Dec 28. This latter date gave Worthing its peak count of 950, and there were 400 off Ferring on 30th.

0606 **CASPIAN TERN** *Sterna caspia*

Rare vagrant

On flew E past Worthing at 1602hrs on 12th May (PMB). It has been accepted by BBRC and is the third record for the area, the others being in 1996 and 1981.

0611 **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant

Early passage started with 1E at Marina on Mar 7, and 5 the following day off Shoreham. The monthly sea-watching totals at the main sites were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | 853 | 4001 | 2798 | 185 | 290 | 467 | 105 | 112 | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | 88 | 665 | 1135 | 11 | 8 | 112 | 66 | 6 | - | - |

High counts at Marina were 514E on Mar 27, 558E on Apr 23 and 503E on Apr 24. The peak at Worthing was 188 on Apr 22. Other records included a roost of 8 on the beach at Shoreham and a single in fields at Goring, both in Mar. Casual sightings elsewhere were 80 off Shoreham on Apr 24 and 149 off Widewater on May 6. Predominantly western movement in autumn was quite low with no 100+ counts anywhere. The last main movement at Marina was 1W/43E on Oct 7 and the last birds were 5W/4E on Oct 15.

0614 **ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougalli*

Very scarce passage migrant

With increased coverage it was not surprising that this scarce species was picked out

amongst the many 'commic' Terns heading up-channel. The spring total of 8 individuals is the best yet. At the Marina there were 2E on May 11 (IJW) with 3E there next day, 2 at 0847hrs (ITB, ADW, IJW et al) and 1 at 0940hrs (ITB, ADW, IJW) with a small commic tern flock. This last individual also flew E past Worthing at 0910hrs (DIS) whilst another bird flew E there at 1759hrs same day (MPH). Other singles flew E past the Marina on May 15 (ADW, IJW) and May 23 (IJW). All these records accepted by SOS.

0615 COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant

The first bird of the year was at Marina on Mar 27. At Marina, birds were logged as 'commic' despite a large percentage being specifically identified. Autumn passage saw good numbers well into Oct with 3W at Marina on 12th being the last to depart.

0616 ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Noted on passage but rarely split from Common Tern

Good numbers were identified this year. The first was 1E at Worthing on Apr 14 and Marina's first was not until Apr 21. Peaks there were 82E on May 10 and 235E on May 11. Monthly totals at Marina were 65 in Apr, 377 in May, 14 in Aug and 30 in Oct. Few were ascribed to Arctic elsewhere: these included 2 passing Widewater on Aug 9, 1W at Worthing on Oct 7 and the last of the year at Harbour on Oct 24.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN *Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*

An unusually early bird was 1E at Worthing on Mar 27. The monthly totals below reflect some of the highest passage ever seen in the area:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | - | 4991 | 13411 | - | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | 1 | 1032 | 3671 | - | - | 117 | 7 | 1 | - | - |

At Marina the peaks at the end of April were 1553E on 24th, 1466 on 25th and 1007E on 27th. Peak at Worthing was 12W/693E on Apr 24. Further high counts came from a four-day period in May - at Marina 1219E on 10th, a massive 4720E on 11th, 1700E on 12th and 2396E on 13th. Worthing's corresponding totals were 357E, 1005E, 779E and 1105E. Autumn passage was negligible, the last being 1W on Oct 8.

0624 LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

The monthly sea-watching totals were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | - | - | - | 95 | 188 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 32 | 123 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

First arrivals were 2E at Worthing on Apr 14. Peak days at Marina were 44E on Apr 27, 43E on May 11 and 44E on May 13. Peak at Worthing was 53E on May 13. The only returning birds noted were 3W at Marina on Aug 20.

0627 BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Regular passage migrant

A better year than of late. The first were 7E on Apr 24 from Marina. Monthly totals

there were 12 in Apr, 71 in May, 6 in Aug and 8 in Oct, with peaks on consecutive days in May of 15 on 11th, 15 on 12th and 26 on 13th. Worthing's peak count was 9E on May 12, from a total of 12. Returning singles were seen off Widewater and Worthing in Aug, 4E at Worthing on Aug 19, 1 at Shoreham on Sep 30 and the last 2W at Marina on Oct 10.

0634 GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor

For most of the sea-watching records see under 'auk sp' totals. Small numbers were noted offshore or passing close enough to be positively identified from most coastal sites. There were 291W at Worthing on Feb 3. A downy juv was on the sea at Southwick on Jun 26. Slightly higher numbers were seen late year with 15 offshore between Harbour and Widewater on Dec 13. This group remained in the vicinity, peaking at 20 on Dec 29.

0636 RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

For most of the sea-watching records see under 'auk sp' totals, the exception being 700 off Marina on Jan 29. A few were noted in Apr/May period, 6 on the sea off Widewater being the highest count. Others close enough to identify were seen from Sep 12, with 1E at Goring. A steady increase in lingering birds became evident, with 20 off Shoreham on Dec 11, 40 there on 12th and 50 off Lancing on 24th. On 27th about 1000 were offshore at Goring and 2500 were counted off Shoreham. Worthing recorded 800W on this day. There were still 500 off Shoreham on 29th and 70 off Southwick on 30th.

0647 LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Very rare autumn migrant

Strong N winds during November produced some huge movements up the East Coast and a few were forced further south into the English Channel. Eighteen were seen at the Marina. One lingered inside the Harbour Entrance from Nov 11 to 13 (IJW et al) whilst all the others were seen flying past as follows : 9E on Nov 11, 2E on Nov 12, 4E together on Nov 13, 1E on Dec and finally 1W on Dec 30 (all IJW). Elsewhere, singles flew W past Ferriering on Nov 10 (RAI), E past Worthing on Nov 11 (MGP), with another there next day (JAN). All accepted by SOS.



0654 PUFFIN *Fratercula arctica*

Very rare spring migrant

Singles flew E past Marina on Apr 26 and May 26 (both IJW). Both accepted by SOS.

AUK Species

There were some amazingly high passage counts recorded from the Marina in the first few months. From Jan 1, with 8W/445E, the numbers increased to 737W/105E on 9th and then building to 1490E on 12th, 2550E on 15th and the peak of 4040W/458E on 28th. Nearly 8000 birds moved on the two days Jan 28/29. The same peak movement was witnessed at Worthing with 2283W/70E on Jan 28. The peaks in Feb were 713W/1321E on 3rd and 1830E on 9th. Late year also hit high figures with 80W/2445E at Marina on Dec 20, 4190W there on Dec 24 and 5000W on Dec 25. Shoals of sprats attracted huge num-

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|
| Marina | 24757 | 9404 | 2272 | 224 | 575 | 6 | 17 | 35 | - | 5 | 2420 | - |
| Worthing | 2382 | 72 | 55 | 3 | 36 | - | - | - | - | - | 59 | - |

bers further along the coast, coinciding with Marina's peak of 6900W on Dec 28. At Worthing an estimate 1000 were offshore on Dec 27, plus as many moving E and W. These rafts were close in and comprised a high proportion of Razorbills. The next day saw 3400W/1022E at Worthing and 1477 at Goring. Feeding birds were present until Dec 30. Sights of such numbers and so close in are unprecedented in the SDOS area.

0665 FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Common resident

Flock counts received included 60 near Cement Works on Jan 5 and 200 at Sompting Refuse Tip on Dec 18. Late breeding was noted at Brighton Station with a juv in the nest on Nov 28. There were no attempts to count the West Pier roost in the winter.

0668 STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Common resident

Noted around Golding Barn in Jan. Breeding prs were Wildpark - 4, Wiston - 1 and Withdean Woods - 1. A small population is resident around the woods beside Preston Park Station with 20+ roost counts on several occasions. Reported elsewhere at Ditchling Beacon, Sheepcote and Woods Mill in small numbers. During the Wood Pigeon movement in Oct, 20 they were noted in mixed flocks at Worthing on 29th and 5S the following day.

0670 WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident

Early-year records included roost counts at Wildpark of 500 on Jan 12 and 242 there on Feb 13. Other counts were 75 in off the sea at Marina on Jan 28 and 65 at Withdean Woods on Jan 31. Breeding prs were 68 at Wildpark and 12 at Withdean Woods. The first of the autumn movements was noted on Oct 28 with 370 at Worthing and 866 at Wildpark. The following day 1280 moved over Worthing. A massive westerly movement occurred over Brighton between Oct 27 and Nov 10 with a max count of 35,000 on Nov 10. Other counts included 300 birds feeding in maize at Washington in Nov, 1000 eating Holm Oak acorns at Goring Gap and 650E at Mill Hill in Dec. A late-year roost of 5000 came from Stanmer Park on Dec 23.

0684 COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident

Very much under-recorded during the year. Breeding counts were 68 prs at Wildpark and 4 prs at Brighton Deneway. The only significant count received was 84E at Sheepcote on Oct 19.

0687 TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Summer visitor, probably declining

The first arrivals were at Upper Beeding and Sheepcote on May 25. Other spring records were 2 at Wildpark on Jun 8 and further reports from Beeding, Sheepcote and Woods Mill. Two were at Cuckoo Corner in Jul, but there seemed no regular sightings to indi-

cate breeding anywhere. Return passage commenced with 1 at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 14, followed by singles at Sheepcote and Wildpark. The last was 1 at Cissbury on Sep 10.

0724 CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

Once a common summer visitor

First arrivals were 1 at Wildpark on Apr 27 then 1 in off sea at Marina on May 1. Others were noted during May at Cissbury, Henfield Levels, Waterhall and Wildpark. Two were at Steep Down on Jun 5 and others in mid-summer were at Cissbury and the Toll-bridge. The only returning migrant was 1 at Woods Mill on Aug 12. A very poor year.

0735 BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Scarce winter visitor and possibly resident

The only records received were 1 at Oreham Common on May 13 and presumably the same bird at nearby Woods Mill on Jun 1.

757 LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common resident

Scattered reports from a number of sites gave indication of probable breeding at Canada Bottom, Golding Barn, Mill Hill/New Erringham Farm, Steep Down and Tottington Manor. Seen elsewhere out of the breeding season at Stretham Manor and unusually at Goring Gap.

0761 TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

Heard calling only at Goring/Maybridge area, Preston Park/Withead area of Brighton and, for the first time for a number of years, at Wildpark.

0767 LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor

A road casualty was found in Brighton on May 26. One watched hunting in June may have been a local breeder. There were no reports of winter roosts.

0768 SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor



The first was 1 at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 26, then 1N at Broadwater on May 4. One was at Roedean on Oct 20 and a bird seen at Beeding Brooks on Nov 5 was probably the same as that seen by Stretham Manor on Nov 11.

0778 **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

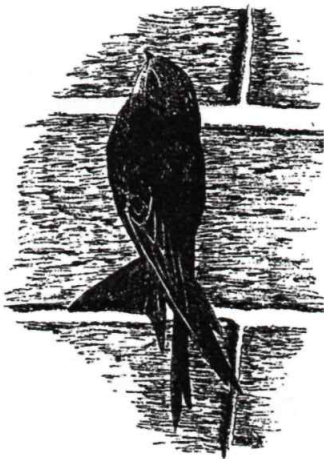
Rare summer migrant, formerly bred

The recent run of churring birds at Sullington Warren was continued with 1 on May 29. Unfortunately it was not heard subsequently.

0795 **SWIFT** *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant

First of the year was on the very early date of Apr 12 at Sompting Brooks (SOS) and, if confirmed by SOS, will be the earliest for the SDOS area. More-normal arrival of singles was noted from Apr 24 at Goring, Hove, Marina and Worthing. Local birds arrived at Hollingdean on May 9 and a movement of 600N was seen at Sheepcote on May 17. Other flocks were 200 at Three Corner Copse, Hove on May 30, and 1000 in off the sea at Marina in only 2 hours the following day. Nesting birds were confirmed at Sompting, Steyning and Storrington and urban counts in Jun/Jul from Brighton, Shoreham and Worthing areas indicated good numbers present. Downland flocks were seen in Jul with 50 at Chantry Hill, 100 at Fulking and 1000 at Ditchling Beacon on 20th. From the Marina a mid-season movement was noted on Jul 19 with 80 in off sea. Many birds had departed before the end of Jul, the last few flocks passing over Brighton and Worthing Beach in late Aug, and the last sighting being 1 at Steep Down on Sep 1.



0831 **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident and winter visitor

There was a substantial increase in the number of sightings but unfortunately no indication of breeding in the area and no records at all between Mar and Jul. Early-year singles were reported from Brooklands and Lower Adur. Three were seen at Woods Mill in Aug, 2 in Lower Adur (where most of the sightings came from) and Widewater in Oct and 2 at Upper Beeding in Nov. Elsewhere singles were noted late year from Ferring Rife, Henfield Levels, Marina, Patching Pond and Strivens Reedbed/Steyning Levels. A surprise was 1 which flew across in front of a car on the bypass at Mile Oak on Sep 7.

0848 **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*

Rare passage migrant

In the autumn, two singles spent a few days at Sheepcote Valley from Aug 24 and from Sep 24 (both ADW, IJW et al).

0856 **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

Common resident

Breeding prs were: Cissbury (3), Ferring Rife, Findon Valley (3), Goring Gap, High Salvington, Newtimber, Patching Hill, Small Dole, Waterhall, Wildpark (2), Withdean Woods, and Woodvale Cemetery. There were many other sightings from around the area, none more unusual than 1 at Marina on Mar 24!

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

Common resident

Confirmed breeding prs were: Cuckoo Corner, Goring Gap, High Salvington, West Durrington and Wildpark. Probably bred at Cissbury, Spithandle Lane, Woods Mill and Wyckham Wood. A likely migrant flew N up Sheepcote Valley on Sep 28. Further records from around the area were received, including birds reported as scarce in the locality from Broadwater and New Erringham Farm. Birds were also noted at Sanctuary late year, and a regular garden visitor to peanut feeders in Upper Beeding.



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

Scarce, has bred

The only record was 1 drumming at Hamper's Lane, Storrington.

0974 **WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant

Three flew W over Waterhall on Oct 6 (MW)

0976 **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident

Early-year flocks were reported from Lower Adur and Upper Beeding, and the largest count was a flock of 50, mainly in stubble, between Lancing Clump and Steep Down on Feb 18. Where access was possible, breeding prs were Ditchling Beacon (4), Ferring Rife (2), Goring Gap, Highdown (3), Lower Adur (3), Sheepcote, Steep Down (20), and Wildpark (10). Passage total at Wildpark was 585 from Sep 28 to Nov 17, with a peak of 62 on Nov 11. Late-year flocks were 35 at Chantry Hill in Oct, 60 at Harrow Hill and 40 at Steep Down in Nov, and late-year peaks in Dec included 200 at Cement Works, 400 at Coombes and 450 at Steep Down.

0981 **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and common passage migrant

First arrivals were 2 at Marina on Mar 17, with 50 there on Mar 24. Small numbers were noted on sea-watches at Worthing. Breeding counts were 60 prs at Sandgate Park and 30 prs at Rock Common Sandpit. Paltry numbers were noted in autumn, the last being 1 at Woods Mill on Sep 21.

0992 **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor

The only March arrivals were 2 at West Pier on 24th, followed by 1 at Tottington Manor on 30th and another at Shoreham Adur on 31st. There were generally very low numbers reported during Apr, the peak arrivals being 47 at Worthing on 29th, and then 400 at Marina on May 10. Few breeding records were received: these included barn nesting at Upper Adur and Warren Hill, and 3 prs, all double brooding, at Mannings Farm. Autumn

movement started with 24 at Lancing Clump on Aug 21 and 30E at Worthing Beach on Aug 27. The largest movements occurred in Sep with 5000E at Airfield on 20th and a minimum estimate of 75,000E over Brighton on 21st. Migration continued well into Oct including 100 at Waterhall on 6th, 77 at Worthing on 7th and 14W there on 21st. The last were at Airfield and Cuckoo Corner on Nov 4.

1001 HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbica*

Common summer visitor

Sparsely reported in spring, the first were 6 at Worthing on Apr 25, and birds were already investigating artificial nests in Steyning by Apr 27. Urban breeding records seem to be in decline, the colony at old Patcham was not counted and the only nesting was 2 prs at Steyning and 3 prs at West Durrington. Autumn movement was very low. At Wildpark, the autumn total was 5488 from Aug 25 to Oct 14, with a peak of 2000 on Sep 17 and Sep 22. Flocks of a few hundred were noted in Lower Adur and Upper Beeding in early Sep, and similar numbers were along Lancing seafront on Sep 18. In Oct there were 20 over Waterhall pond on 6th, 3 at Shoreham Fort on 21st and 5W at Worthing Beach also on 21st. A very poor year indeed.

1005 TAWNY PIPIT *Anthus campestris*

Very scarce visitor, mostly in autumn

One flew N over Hollingbury Camp ahead of rain on Aug 25 (PJW). Accepted by SOS. This species has become very scarce in recent years.

1009 TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Fairly common passage migrant

First of the year was at Hollingdean on Apr 10. The next didn't turn up until May, with 1 at Wildpark on 2nd and 1 at Three Corner Copse on 3rd. The peak spring count at Marina was 4 on May 10. Autumn passage included max 18 at Sheepcote on Aug 18 and 20 at Cissbury on Aug 24. The Wildpark total spanned just a few days, with only 11 from Aug 23-27. A trickle of birds continued into Sep at Cissbury and Hove, and the last was at Sheepcote on Oct 27.

1011 MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common resident

Spring movement was typified at Marina with passage in off sea from Mar 14 with 400, followed by 500 on 16th and 375 on 23rd. During this period movement was also noted at Goring Gap and Wildpark, and there was 50 at Shoreham Harbour on Apr 1. Displaying birds were recorded at Findon Park, Steep Down, Wildpark and Widewater. Confirmed breeding was 6 prs at Cissbury, 10 prs in the vicinity of Ditchling Beacon, and single prs at Beeding Hill, Shoreham Adur and Upper Beeding. Autumn flocking commenced with 65 at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 5. Movement continued on and off until end Oct with peak counts 190 at Wildpark on Oct 5 and 150 at Steep Down on Oct 10. Total at Wildpark was 1292 from Sep 11 to Oct 28, and 106 were logged in Oct at Worthing Beach. Groups of 20+ were noted late in year from Harrow Hill and Three Corner Copse.

1014 ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

Fewer than normal beach counts in Jan included 1 at Goring, max 3 at Shoreham and 1 at Worthing. Two were seen at Worthing in Mar and birds were more regularly seen at

Marina with a resident pr raising 2 broods. Late-year counts were again low with up to 3 in the Shoreham Fort/Harbour area. These were the lowest counts for a number of years.

1014.03 SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Very scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

Up to three were identified at Marina in late winter. One on Feb 12 was followed by a different bird on Feb 23. This was joined by another on Feb 25 and both present to Mar 14 (KBG, ADW, IJW et al). All three accepted by SOS.

1017 YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Common passage migrant

First to arrive was at Goring Gap on Mar 16 and another at Marina the following day. Very few others were noted, just ones and twos from Shoreham Fort, Widewater, Wildpark and Worthing to May 13. Autumn passage commenced with 1 over Golding Barn on Aug 19, followed by 12 at Cissbury on 24th and 20E at Worthing on 27th. Flocks of 30 were around cattle in the Beeding/Thundersbarrow Hill area on Sep 1-2. Peaks at Sheepcote were 100E on Sep 15 and 80E the following day, whilst at Wildpark only 19 were totalled during autumn. A handful of birds were seen at end Sep, and the last were 2 over Maybridge on Oct 19.

1019 GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Noted on passage, may breed, regular in winter

2000: 1 pr bred at Woods Mill raising 3 young.

2001: There were numerous reports from across the area of this attractive species. Noted regularly early in year from Brooklands and also from the sluice on west side at Shoreham, Henfield Levels and Woods Mill. Probably bred again at Steyning millpond but no other breeding records were received. In Jun one flew SE over High Salvington. First of the autumn movement was at Sanctuary on Aug 25. The peak autumn count at Sheepcote was 10E on Sep 15, whilst the total at Wildpark was only 7 from Sep 4 to Oct 12. Smaller numbers were from Brooklands, Cuckoo Corner, Durrington, Ferring Rife, and High Salvington. During Nov/Dec seen at Cement Works, Henfield Levels, Steyning, Storrington and Westdene. Urban records at this time were from central Worthing and at Brighton where birds were seen almost daily over the city, involving up to 3 birds.

1020 PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Common resident

All the early-year records were from beach localities, with a max 25 at Shoreham Fort and also a 250 roost count from Marina on Jan 9. Breeding prs were at Highdown, High Salvington, West Durrington and at Tottington Manor where 1 pr had three broods. Apart from 20 at Highdown Hill in Oct, late-year counts were again almost exclusively from beach sites, with small numbers at Widewater and Worthing and a peak 25 at Goring Gap. There was a roost count of 100 at Lyons Farm centre, Broadwater on Nov 7.

1066 WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident

Unusually 1 flew in off the sea at Marina on Mar 23. Breeding prs reported were Cuckoo Corner - 15, Deneway - 9, Wildpark - 84 and Withdean Woods - 16. At Cissbury 20 new birds were ringed and at Sanctuary there were 39 handlings involving 27 different birds.

1084 **DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident

Widely reported away from the coast, the breeding prs included Cissbury - 3, Deneway - 4 and Wildpark - 43. The Cissbury ringing tally was 25 new birds and at Sanctuary there were 62 handlings involving 44 different birds, with a max of 8 on Jul 1.

1099 **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident

A tired migrant flopped into the sea just short of the Marina arm on Mar 23, but made it safely to the shore. Breeding counts were Cissbury - 3, Cuckoo Corner - 13, Deneway - 14, Three Corner Copse - 4, Warren Hill - 7, Wildpark - 129 and Withdean Woods - 14. A pair used an open-fronted Schwegler nestbox in Upper Beeding. Ringing records were 37 new birds at Cissbury and 82 handlings at Sanctuary which included 42 new birds, with a max of 9 on Nov 4.

1104 **NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Passage migrant, occasionally breeds

The first was at Woods Mill on Apr 27. Probably bred there and at nearby Oreham Common where at least 6 singing males were counted on May 13. A migrant was seen moving N at Tottington Manor in May. Autumn passage was low with 1 at Shepcote on Jul 29 followed by 4 more there during Aug, and a juv at Cissbury on Aug 18.

1121 **BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Regular autumn/winter visitor, has bred



About a dozen birds were reported early in the year with up to 3 in Jan at Marina and a peak of 4 at Shoreham Beach on Feb 15. Elsewhere a male was regularly seen at Widewater, 2 at Southwick and singles at Hotel Metropole, Palace Pier and Worthing Beach. Migrants included 4 at Shoreham Beach from Mar 15 and a total of 5 at Marina from Mar 12 to Apr 13. Others were reported to end of Mar from Wildpark, Woodvale Cemetery and Worthing. A singing male was at Marina on Apr 12. There were no reports of

breeding in central Brighton. Also of note was a male at Shoreham Fort on the unusual date of Aug 27. Fewer birds were seen late in year with 1-2 birds in Shoreham area, max of 2 at Marina and 1m at Cement Works.

1122 **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

There were just 2 spring records, at Shepcote on Mar 31 and Goring Gap on Apr 13. Lower than average numbers were reported in autumn. There were singles at Cissbury from Aug 18, with max 3 on 27th, and small numbers from Findon, Hove, Golding Barn and Goring Gap. Peak at Shepcote was 6 on Sep 25 and a total of only 6 were at Wildpark from Aug 27 to Sep 24. A female was trapped at the Mumbles on Oct 13 during a

ringing demonstration. Other late birds were 1 at Marine Gate on Oct 14, 1 at Mill Hill on Oct 20 and 2 in a Steyning garden on Oct 27/28.

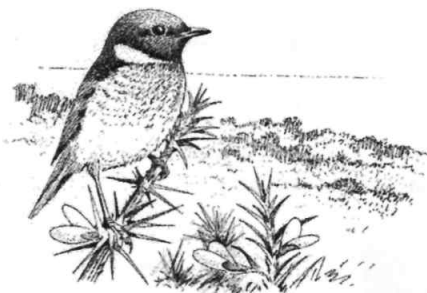
1137 WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Common passage migrant

First to arrive were on the early date of Apr 13 with singles at Marina and Sheepcote. Like the preceding species few others were seen in spring, just repeat singles at the previous sites in May and others at Three Corner Copse and Wildpark on May 11. Return passage commenced from Aug 15 with 1 at Fulking. Widely reported through Aug and Sep, the peaks being 25 at Sheepcote on Aug 26 and 14 at Three Corner Copse on Aug 28. At Wildpark there was a rather poor total of 12 from Aug 24 to Oct 13. Additional Oct birds were 5 at both Coombes and Steyning Levels on 6th; 1 at Sompting on 12th, which stayed until 18th, and a very late bird at Steep Down on Nov 11 was the last (JS).

1139 STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds



A pair at Widewater were regularly reported during the first three months. Up to 6, including 2 prs, were at Stump Bottom on Jan 6, 3 were seen on Steyning Levels on Jan 27, and 2 prs at Steep Down on Feb 18. Singles were also noted early year from Airfield, Chantry Hill, Coombes and Stretham Manor. Breeding prs were Airfield - 1, Sheepcote - 1, Steep Down - 5 and Three Corner Copse - 2. Probably bred at Cissbury, Lower Standean and Mill Hill where birds were seen during the breeding season. Max autumn counts included 10 at Three Corner Copse, 14 at Steep Down and 22 at Sheepcote in Sep, and 12 at Sompting refuse tip in Oct. Widely reported from Oct with most from Adur Valley, but also 6 at Widewater, up to 4 at Goring Gap, 2 at Ferring Rife and Findon, and a single at Marina, not one of the typical winter sites for this species.

1139.01 SIBERIAN STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata maura/stejnegeri*

Very rare vagrant

A first-winter male was at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 16-17 (ADW, IJW et al). It has been accepted by BBRC and is the first record for the area.

1146 WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant

With most summer visitors being reported in low numbers in spring, this species proved the exception. Some large falls occurred, the first being 50 at Shoreham Harbour on Mar

8, and dozens along beach sites on Mar 16. Most arrived during the next few days – on 17th there were 70+ at Goring Beach, 60 between Widewater and Worthing, 120 at Marina (many seen flying in off sea), 100 at Sheepcote and 30 at Southwick. On 18th there were 47 at Widewater, 25 at Goring Beach and smaller numbers along beaches, and on 19th there were 53 on the beaches between Ferring and Goring, and 75 at Sheepcote. Numbers then dropped, but there were still 11 at Goring Gap on Mar 27, 21 at Marina on Apr 1 and 16 at Goring Gap on Apr 13. Late arrivals continued into May, and the last was 1f at Cissbury on Jun 5.

First autumn bird was at Waterhall on Jul 28 but the peak period was from mid-Aug with high counts: 10 at Fulking on 15th, 20 at Steyning Round Hill on 20-22nd, 12 at Cissbury on 24th and 12 at Steep Down on Sep 1. The Wildpark total was 46 from Aug 24 to Oct 10, peak 15 on Aug 29, but there were no records submitted for Sheepcote. Good numbers continued well into Sep with 20 at Beeding Hill on 16th and 5 at Steyning Round Hill on 28th. Late birds were 1 at Goring Gap on Oct 20, 1 at Worthing on 21st, 1f on Hollingbury hillfort on 28th and 2 at Shoreham Fort on 29th.

1186 RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Regular passage migrant

It was a poor spring for this species with just two records both in late Mar: at Wildpark on 24th and at Sheepcote Valley on 27th. The autumn fared slightly better with the first in a Hollingdean garden on the early date of Sep 9. Others were at Sompting on Oct 12, Wildpark on Oct 20, Mill Hill on Oct 20-21, whilst 32 were logged at Sheepcote Valley during the autumn, with a peak of 15 on Oct 28.

1187 BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Very common resident

This common species was widely reported early in the year and into the breeding season. Breeding prs included Cissbury - 7, Deneway - 14, Three Corner Copse - 11, Wildpark - 124 and Withdean Woods - 11. There were no significant counts during autumn/winter, just 18 in Wildpark on Oct 13.

1198 FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor

During the first winter period the only sizeable flocks were 100 at Chantry Hill on Jan 15 and 500 on Steyning Levels on Jan 27. There were only 4 birds in Feb, at Golding Barn, and none at all in Mar. Typical autumn dates were a single at Sanctuary on Oct 27, and some visible movement the following day with uncounted flocks over Beeding Hill, 192W at Wildpark and 150E at Sheepcote. Good numbers were present in Nov with 100 at Beeding Brooks and 100+ on 2 dates at Steyning Levels. The last were 50 on Henfield Levels on Dec 24.

1200 SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident

Small numbers were reported from around the area throughout the year. Breeding prs were Deneway - 1, Goring Gap - 5, Warren Hill - 1, Wildpark - 28 and Withdean Woods - 1. A detailed study at Three Corner Copse in Hove revealed 3 nests fledging 12 young, but a further 11 nests failed. Ringing records were 16 new birds at Cissbury and

10 new birds at the Sanctuary. One or two autumn gatherings included 32 at Wildpark on Oct 13 and 20 at Mill Hill on Oct 21, and there were 2E at Worthing Beach on Oct 29.

1201 REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor

Relatively low counts were made during the first winter period. Twelve were at Golding Barn on Jan 7, 100 at Steyning Levels on Jan 14 and a heavy night movement over Hollingdean on Mar 22. One at Small Dole was heard singing from a hedge for ½ hr on Mar 18. First of the autumn was a single at Wildpark on Sep 26, then 3 there on Oct 19 and 8 at Mill Hill the following day. Very few significant flocks were encountered later, with peaks of 30 at Steyning Levels on Nov 11 and 50 at Storrington on Dec 6, in what was a very poor year generally.

1202 MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Common resident

Very much an under-recorded species, with only a handful reported early in the year. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 2, Deneway - 1, Goring Gap - 2, High Salvington - 1, Patching Hill - 1 and Wildpark - 4. A flock of 20 was recorded at Cissbury on Jun 5. Unusually, one was seen to fly up from the beach at Marina on Jul 12. Post-breeding flocks included 11 at Kithurst Hill in Jul and 22 at Cissbury in Aug.

1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Generally scarce passage migrant

In spring, reeling birds were recorded at Sheepcote on Apr 13 and at Shoreham on Apr 28. Autumn passage was noted with singles at Sheepcote on Aug 26, at Three Corner Copse on Aug 28 and Sep 3, and a late bird seen well on Hollingbury Camp on Oct 13.

1243 SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Fairly common summer visitor

First arrival was on the early date of Apr 2, singing near the Airfield, and is the earliest ever for the SDOS area. Another was at Cuckoo Corner on Apr 8, then 2 at New Salts Farm. Probable breeding, with counts of singing males, were Cement Works - 1, Ferring Rife - 6, and Tollbridge - 6. Another singing bird was at Goring Gap on Jun 2, singing from a holm oak. A returning bird was on the downs near Steyning on Jul 16. Peak count at Sheepcote was 15 on Aug 26, and there were 6 at Ferring Rife, but otherwise the autumn passage was poorly observed, and only 1 bird was ringed at Cissbury and none at Sanctuary.

1251 REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer visitor

Two were seen near Airfield on Apr 25 but most arrivals were seen from mid-May at Sanctuary. Others were 3 at Hollingbury Camp on May 25, 1 singing in a holm oak at Goring on May 30 and 1 at Cissbury on Jun 9. Probable breeding prs were Ferring Rife - 3, Tollbridge - 4 and at Sanctuary, where there was a total of 75 handlings involving 16 ad and 36 young birds, with a max of 10 on Jul 29. May have bred at Woods Mill and also in a new reed area at Rock Common. Autumn passage was extremely poor with 4 at Brooklands in Aug and singles in Sep at Cissbury, Golding Barn, Three Corner Copse and Wildpark, and the last was at Goring Gap on Oct 10.

1260 MELODIOUS WARBLER *Hippolais polyglotta*

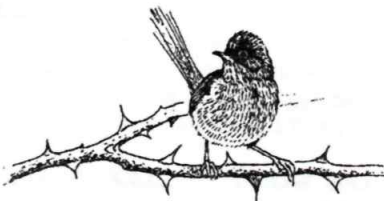
Very scarce visitor, mainly in autumn

A 1st-year bird proved elusive at Sheepcote Valley on Aug 18 and 20 (ADW, IJW et al). Accepted by SOS. It was part of a small national influx at the time and is only the second record for the area, following the first adjacent to the Airfield on Sep 21, 1994.

1262 DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Autumn migrant, increasingly recorded in winter

One was on Hollingbury GC on Jun 14. Others seen in the Brighton area were 2 at Marine Gate on Oct 13 and 1 at Sheepcote on Oct 27-28. Another was associating with Stonechats at Widewater on Oct 29 and 1 was at Steep Down on Nov 11. A bird found dead in Hove during Nov was taken to Booth Museum. A very good year.



1274 LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer visitor

First were singles at Durrington on Apr 22 and at Three Corner Copse the following day. Regularly watched areas like Sheepcote and Wildpark reported lower than normal numbers in spring. Breeding prs were Cement Works - 1, Cissbury - 2, Patching Hill - 1, Sandgate Park - 1 and Wildpark - 2. Ringing numbers were low with 9 new birds at Cissbury and 10 handlings at Sanctuary. In autumn the peak counts were 9 at Three Corner Copse on Aug 16 and 7 at Mill Hill on Aug 27. The last was 1 seen at Goring Gap on Sep 25.

1275 WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor

An early arrival was at Sheepcote on Apr 10 followed by 2 at New Salts Farm on 16th. High counts during spring included 20 at Three Corner Copse on Apr 28, 19 at Wildpark on May 12 and 10 at Sheepcote on May 13. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 3, Ferring Rife - 4, Goring Gap - 4, High Salvington - 1, Mill Hill - 2, Steep Down - 15, West Durrington - 2 and Wildpark - 25. Ringing counts were 30 new birds at Cissbury and 15 handlings at Sanctuary. Autumn peaks included 50 at Sheepcote on Jul 29, 20 at Three Corner Copse on Aug 10 and 20 at Cissbury on Aug 24. The Wildpark total was 159 from Jul 27 to Oct 3, with a max of 32 on Aug 27. Generally by far the most were recorded in Aug, with very few lingering into Sep.

1276 GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor

An extremely early record was at Ferring on Apr 1 which is by far the earliest ever for SDOS and would equal the earliest ever in Sussex if accepted. The next was at the more usual time of May 3 at Marina and 1 at Wildpark the next day. Probably bred at Ferring Rife, Wildpark and Woods Mill. There were no confirmed breeding at Cissbury where 8 new birds were ringed to Aug 4, and an identical number were ringed at Sanctuary. Few were encountered in autumn with scattered singles at Mill Hill, Golding Barn and Sanctuary; max 4 at Ferring Rife in Aug and the last were 2 at Goring Gap on Sep 25.

1277 BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

Less than a dozen were reported overwintering in Jan/Feb, mostly as singles but 2 in a Hollingdean garden and at Steyning. Ivy berries ripen to their liking during Feb, and this seems to be their main diet at this time of year. The first arrivals were singing birds at Sanctuary on Apr 1 and 1 at Wildpark on Apr 7. Others soon followed, with a max of 11 at Wildpark on Apr 28. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 5, Deneway - 2, Goring Gap - 4, High Salvington - 4, Patching Hill - 3, Wildpark - 22 and Withdean Woods - 1. Ringing numbers were good, with 100 new birds at Cissbury to Oct 6 and 49 handlings at Sanctuary, max 8 on Jul 29. Autumn passage was quite low, the only high counts being 10 at Three Corner Copse on Sep 13, 12 at Wildpark on Sep 15 and 22 at Sheepcote on Sep 24. Late migrants were probably 6 at Goring Gap on Oct 25 and 1 ringed at Sanctuary on Nov 4. Late-year numbers were lower than usual with only 9 birds recorded at 5 sites.

1308 WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Fairly scarce passage migrant

The only record was 1 singing at Three Corner Copse on Apr 28.

1311 CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

Very few were recorded in Jan and none at all in Feb. From 3 birds at Steyning Levels on Jan 14 one was possibly an *abietinus* ssp (ARK). First migrant birds were 5 at Sanctuary and 1 at Wildpark on Mar 13, followed by singles at Goring and Hove. Some of the higher spring counts included 12 at Widewater on Mar 17, 9 there on 18th, and 10 at Ferring on Apr 1, and good counts of incoming migrants at Marina were 17 on Mar 17 and 25 on Apr 1. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 1, Deneway - 1, Lancing Clump - 1, Wildpark - 18 and Withdean Woods - 2, but no breeding at Goring Gap. Ringing numbers were 36 handlings at Sanctuary and 43 new birds at Cissbury. Some good autumn movement included 50 at Cissbury Ring on Sep 10, 30 at Brooklands on Sep 14 and a couple of counts of 12 at Goring Gap. Total at Wildpark was 290 from Jul 27 to Nov 7, with a peak of 21 on Sep 21. There were still 20 at Brooklands on Oct 18 and only a handful to end Oct/early Nov. The only wintering birds were 1 at Wildpark on Nov 26 and another probable *abietinus* ssp again on Steyning Levels on Dec 2.

1311.01 SIBERIAN CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*

Very rare autumn passage visitor

One at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 21 (IJW) was not submitted to SOS.

1312 WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Common summer visitor and passage migrant, possibly declining

First arrivals were at Goring Gap, Marina and Sheepcote on Mar 31, followed by 15 at Marina the following day. There were less than average numbers during Apr. At Goring a few passage birds passed through but none stayed to breed and elsewhere the breeding prs must have been an all-time low - Cissbury - 1, Durrington - 1, Lancing Clump - 1 and Wildpark - 2. A rather odd bird was seen and videoed at Cement Works in Jun which had a dual Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff song. Ringing records echoed the general low numbers, with 40 new birds ringed at Cissbury and only 21 handlings at Sanctuary. Autumn numbers were also down, the only high counts being 30 at Lancing Clump on Aug

21 and 15 at Ferring Rife on Aug 23. The Wildpark total was 84 from Aug 1 to Sep 15, max 16 on Aug 3. There were just 10 records for Sep, the last being recorded at Goring Gap on 24th.

1314 GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Sparsely reported early year with small numbers in Jan at Deneway, Sanctuary and Withdean Woods. A small fall was noted on Mar 17 with 10 at Goring Gap and 20 in off sea at Marina. A few were seen during the breeding season from Cuckoo Corner and Warren Hill. The only confirmed breeding were single prs from the north of Brighton at Deneway, Preston Park and Withdean Woods. Ringing records were 10 in autumn from Cissbury and 8 handlings at Sanctuary. Apart from 20 recorded at Goring Gap on Oct 20, there were surprisingly few other reports, the peak of only 6 at Wildpark reflecting a poor autumn.

1315 FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

Early-year wintering birds were up to 2 in Woodvale Cemetery during Jan. March migration commenced with 1 at Three Corner Copse on 17th, 1 at Portslade on 20th and 1 in off sea at Marina on 23rd. Four were seen at Sheepcote from Mar 23 to 30th when a pr were seen. Continuing a site monopoly, others in the Brighton area were 1 at Wildpark on Mar 24 and 3 at Duke's Mound (just west of Marina) on Apr 1. Autumn birds were 1 at Cissbury on Sep 14, 1 at Brooklands on Oct 2 and 1 at Goring Gap on Oct 17. Sheepcote recorded 5 during Oct. The bushes at Duke's Mound proved a favourite habitat with 2 on Oct 20 and singles during Dec.

1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant

There was a fair number of spring sightings, mainly singles, from May 2 at Goring Gap, Lancing Clump, Sheepcote, Storrington and Wildpark. The only likely breeding was 1 ad and 2 juv near Fulking on Jul 27. Returning birds were first noted on Aug 14 with 3 at Woods Mill. Other counts included 4 at Small Dole on 22nd, 14 at Cissbury on 24th, 5 at Findon Valley on 27th and 9 at Three Corner Copse on 28th. The total at Wildpark was only 14 from Aug 18 to Sep 22. Passage continued into Sep with ones and twos at Cissbury, Golding Barn, Mill Hill and Steyning, and the last were 6 seen at Hollingbury on Sep 24.

1349 PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Regular passage migrant

A report from Ferring on Apr 1 has yet to be confirmed by SOS. Rather sparsely recorded in autumn, all records being as follows: 1 at Tottington Manor on Aug 14, singles at Sheepcote on Aug 18, Aug 21 and Sep 22, 1 at Wildpark on Aug 23, 2 at Cissbury on Aug 24 and 1 at Wildpark on Sep 22.

1364 BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

Extremely rare visitor to our area

A strange record of 1W completely out of normal habitat over Hollingbury Camp on Nov 12 (PT).

1437 LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident

Some encouraging winter flock numbers included 11 in Lower Adur, 11 at Sandgate Park and 14 at Steyning Round Hill. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 2, Cuckoo Corner - 1, Deneway - 1, Preston Park - 1, St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove - 2, Wildpark - 6. Good numbers were ringed with 19 at Cissbury and 28 at Sanctuary. Late-year flocks included 10 at Golding Barn and 20 at Brooklands in Sep, 12 at Goring Gap in Nov and 14 at Broadwater in Dec. Up to 4 were noted regularly coming to peanut feeders during Dec from a garden in West Worthing.

1440 MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

This species is either declining or is under-reported. All records were: 3 at Highdown in Jan and 6 at Patching Hill in Feb. None at all were reported during the breeding season, although a family party was seen at Small Dole in Aug. Cissbury had 2 singles on Sep 22 and Oct 6; 1 was at Strivens Reedbed on Oct 13 and late-year birds were reported from Michelgrove and Highdown Hill.

1461 COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Fairly common resident

Another under-reported species with just ones and twos sighted at Withdean Woods in Jan, Spithandle Lane in Mar, Goring Gap and Small Dole in Nov and from Broadwater in Nov/Dec. One of the Continental race *ater* was seen on Brighton Beach on Nov 17 (ADW, IJW). It is the first record of this race since the influx in Sep 1996.

1462 BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Abundant resident

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 4, Deneway - 7, Wildpark - 55 and Withdean Woods - 2. Ringing records were 43 new birds at Cissbury and 60 handlings at Sanctuary.

1464 GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Very common resident

A winter count at Withdean Woods produced a total of 14, but as with the previous species sightings are sparsely reported. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 2, Deneway - 4, Wildpark 44 and Withdean Woods - 3. Ringing records were 15 new birds at Cissbury and 22 handlings at Sanctuary.

1479 NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident

Poorly reported generally from only 8 sites, with probable breeding at Spithandle Lane, Patching and Warren Hill.

1486 TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Slightly more reports than Nuthatch and presumed reasonably common in suitable habitat. One was ringed at Cissbury. One at Goring Gap on Sep 11 was reported as unusual, but although at the right time of the year, was not identified as a Short-toed. One was seen at Wildpark on Dec 8.

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

Rare vagrant, formerly bred.

A female was present at Three Corner Copse, Hove on Jun 3 (CAH). The late spring date is typical and has been accepted by SOS.

1539 **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

There were a good number of records from around the area, with 5 at Cuckoo Corner on Apr 8 and 12 at Wildpark on Apr 12 the only multiple sightings. Breeding prs were Wildpark - 2 and Withdean Woods - 1. Visits to gardens were reported in autumn from Shoreham and Worthing.

1549 **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

Very common resident

A leucistic bird was still present around the Shoreham area in early Jan. Early-year roost counts at Wildpark were 255 on Jan 12 and 155 on Feb 13. A dozen were seen at Cuckoo Corner in Apr. Breeding prs were Deneway - 3 and Wildpark - 46. Another high roost-count at Wildpark was 252 on Dec 9.

1560 **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

Common resident

Early-year flock-counts included 20 at Golding Barn on Jan 7 and 200 at nearby Beeding Hill on Jan 14. The only breeding reported was 2 prs nesting in chimneys at a hospital at High Salvington. There was a high flock-count late in year of 130 at Steep Down, but this was overshadowed by 520W at Sheepecote on Oct 13, which is probably the largest movement recorded in the SDOS area. The same day saw 5 at Wildpark which were noted as probable migrants.

1563 **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident

Rookery counts were Clapham - 39, Clayton - 39, Coombes - 11, Findon Valley - 254, Patcham - 24, Storrington - 15, Upper Beeding - 12 and Wyckham Wood - 20. The only large flock was 200 at Highdown Hill on Dec 23.

1567 **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

Common resident

There were some high flock-counts on Goring Beach in Mar with 120 on 16th and 190 near Marine Crescent on 25th. On the first date a bird was noted with wholly white inner wings and brown primaries. Smaller flocks were along at Widewater beach at this time. At Marina 11 flew in off sea on Apr 12. Breeding prs included Deneway - 1, Wildpark - 18 and Withdean Woods - 2. Further beach counts were 52 at Hove in Jul and 116 at Goring on Oct 30.

1572 **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

Formerly a breeding resident, rare but increasing numbers in Sussex of late

1-2 birds were seen in spring at Coombes and Mill Hill. Single birds were noted during the summer at Beeding Hill and Thundersbarrow Hill, and a pair seen in the same area on Nov 24.

1582 **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Early-year gatherings included 1000 at Golding Barn in Feb and the same number at dusk at Southwick Beach in Mar. Breeding prs were Deneway - 4, Wildpark - 32. Foraging flocks were noted at Beeding Hill and Widewater, but the largest was 500 at Steep Down in Jun, and 400 at Devil's Dyke in Nov. At Marina 2800 flew in off sea in late morning on Nov 10. Other Nov flocks were 400 at Cissbury and 1000 at Steep Down. Attempts to count the vast West Pier roost were 20,000+ on Dec 19 and up to 50,000 on Dec 31.

1591 **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident

Widely reported from across the area early year but with no significant flock counts. Breeding prs were Clayton - 1, Deneway - 3, and Wildpark - 13. Post-breeding flocks were low, the highest being 45 in tamarisks at Widewater in Oct.

1598 **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

Scarce resident

A flock of 5 were in a maize field at Stretham Manor on Dec 26, these being the first reported from a once regular site since 1996.

1636 **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident

Widely reported early year but with very few significant flocks, 20 at Spithandle Lane being the largest on Mar 28. Breeding prs were Deneway - 1, Goring Gap - 10, Wildpark - 42 and Withdean Woods - 1. Ringing numbers were low with 9 new birds at Cissbury and 10 handlings at Sanctuary. Migrants were logged at Worthing with 60W on Oct 29, and the peak late-year count was 35 at Washington Bostal on Nov 11.

1638 **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

Regular passage migrant

Good numbers were recorded on autumn passage. The first were 2 at Wildpark on Oct 12 and 2S at Strivens Reedbed the next day. Peak counts from regularly watched sites were 13W at Wildpark on Oct 28 and 15E at Sheepcote on Nov 11. Elsewhere there were 17W at Hollingdean on Nov 10 and singles at Brooklands and Lancing Clump in Nov.

1649 **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident

There was a flock of 70 at Swandean hospital in Jan. Breeding prs were Cuckoo Corner - 1, Deneway - 4, Goring Gap - 8, Wildpark - 34 and Withdean Woods - 2. A feeding flock on the beach at Shoreham Fort ranged between 200 on Oct 7 to peak at 240 on Nov 18. The only other high count was 80W at Worthing Beach on Oct 29 where movement was noted, with totals of 92 in Oct and 8 in Dec.

1653 **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common resident

Early-year flocks were noted at Golding Barn and Widewater, and up to 25 feeding regularly on niger seed in a Worthing garden most of the year. Breeding prs were Deneway -

2, Sheepcote - 1 and Wildpark - 5. Flocks of 30+ were present at Clapham, Lower Adur, Beeding Hill, High Salvington and Steyning Round Hill in Sep. Movement in Oct included 70E on 2 dates at Goring Gap and 126E on 3 dates at Worthing, with a max of 96 on 28th. The peak at Wildpark was 42 on Oct 24 and smaller numbers were recorded from numerous sites in Nov, but very few in Dec.

1654 **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Very few were seen early year, the only count being 20 at Storrington on Mar 30. Autumn passage was higher than usual. Small numbers were seen from Sep 15 at Wildpark and then Sep 20 at Broadwater and Cissbury. The peak occurred on Sep 24 with 300E at Sheepcote, where the full autumn total was 1600. The peak at Wildpark was a little later with 45 on Oct 10, and the total there was 306 to Nov 26. Smaller numbers were logged at Brooklands, Goring Gap, Sanctuary and Steyning Round Hill, and at Worthing Beach where there were 10E on Nov 17.

1660 **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and passage migrant

As with the preceding species, virtually absent during first 2 months. Spring movement was relatively low with 16 in off the sea at Goring Gap on Mar 16 and a total of 2W/28E at Worthing Beach in Apr. At Hollingbury Camp there were 26 on Apr 15 and a flock of 100 at Chantry Hill on May 27, with a similar-sized flock at Coombes on Jun 5. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 8, Steep Down - 5 and Wildpark - 2. Post-breeding flocks included 20 at Widewater in Aug, 50 at Cissbury in Sep and 80 at Steep Down in Oct. A flock of 120 was at Goring Gap for a week in Oct, where additionally there was 80E on Oct 17. Other flocks were 75 in stubble at Harrow Hill and a peak 56 at Wildpark, both in Oct, and 60 at Steep Down in Dec.

1663 **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

There were no early-year records. Autumn passage commenced with 3 at Brooklands on Oct 19 and 12E at Sanctuary on Oct 20. The autumn total at Wildpark was 89 from Oct 13 to Nov 14, with a peak of 24 on Oct 24. Movement was minimal elsewhere with small numbers at Brooklands and Sanctuary again, also at Ferring Rife, Mill Hill, High Salvington and Goring Gap.

1666 **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce visitor, more common in eruption years

All records were during the typical late-summer period. These were: 2N at Hollingdean on Jul 7; 4E at Sheepcote on Jul 29 and 11 others there on 3 days to Sep 22; 3NE at Lancing on Aug 25; 4N at Mill Hill on Aug 27 and 9E same day at Hollingdean; 1mE at Hollingdean on Aug 28 and the last 3E there on Sep 22.

1710 **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrula pyrrula*

Fairly common resident

Generally low numbers were reported early in the year. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 4, Deneway - 1, Findon Valley - 1, High Salvington - 1, Sandgate Park - 2 and Wildpark - 2. Good numbers were trapped at the ringing stations, with 28 new birds at Cissbury and

12 handlings at Sanctuary. Birds were also reported from Golding Barn, Woods Mill and Cuckoo Corner, and the max count was 4 at Stretham Manor in Dec.

1717 HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Very scarce passage migrant

The only record was of one briefly at Sheepcote Valley before flying off SE on Oct 13 (ADW).

1850 SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One was at the Marina on Nov 10 before flying off inland (IJW).

1857 YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common resident

There were a few flocks encountered in Jan at Cement Works, Lower Adur and Stump Bottom. At Marina 1 flew in off sea on Feb 19, an unusual record. The largest early-year flock was 20 at Spithandle Lane in Mar. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 8, Ditchling Beacon - 6, High Salvington - 2, Patching Hill - 3 and Wildpark - 10. Very few late-year flocks were reported, the only significant numbers being 12 at Washington Bostal in Nov and 15 at Cement Works in Dec.

1877 REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

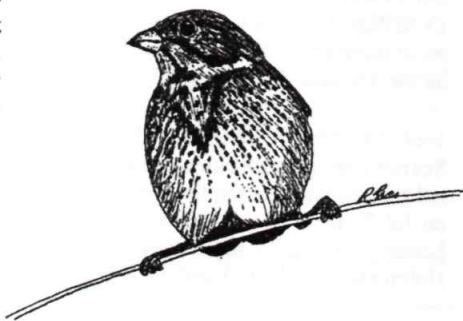
Locally common resident

Early-year flocks included 15 near Cement Works on Jan 3 and 35 in Lower Adur valley on Jan 5. There were no records submitted of breeding birds. Small flocks included 10 at Old Salts Farm in Aug and a total of 27 migrants at Wildpark between Oct 5 and 28, the peak being 5 on 12th. The largest flock was 30 at Cement Works on Dec 2. Others were seen late in the year in small numbers from Sompting Tip and other downland sites.

1882 CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Fairly common on Downland but local and in decline

Sizeable flocks early year were 20 at Cement Works on Jan 3 and a pre-roost gathering of 53 at Chantry Hill on Jan 24. During the breeding season, with many areas out of bounds, there were still singing males in abundance. Approx counts were Beeding Hill - 2, Chanctonbury - 1, Chantry Hill - 3, Cissbury - 2, Findon - 4, Kithurst Hill - 1, Mill Hill - 3, Sheepcote - 5 (but thought not to have bred), Steep Down - 10 and Steyning Bowl - 1. Autumn gatherings included 6 at roost at Coombes in Sep, 20 at Mill Hill in Oct, 6 at Canada Bottom in Nov and 20 at Cement Works and 12 at Sompting Tip in Dec. Some migration occurred with 4 at Wildpark on 2 dates in Oct and 1 over Hollingdean with a finch movement on Nov 10.



ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS IN 2001

Whooper Swan An adult feral bird was present on and off all year on Henfield Levels
Black Swan 1 at Tollbridge May 24; on Wiston Pond Jul 27; at Henfield Levels on 2 dates in Nov

Snow Goose 1 ad white phase NE over Worthing on May 8 (RAI, DS)

White fronted Goose 1 at Brooklands Apr 8

Egyptian Goose One noted on Henfield Levels in Nov was considered to be an escape (SOS).

Muscovy Duck 1 at Rock Common Jun 24

Harris Hawk 1 nr Cement Works mobbed by crows Apr 2; another W at Marina May 5



EDITORIAL NOTES

On the Gazetteer of notable sites in the SDOS area provided on page 76, the numbers given in **bold italics** indicate sites which have been described in some detail in the series of articles entitled 'Know Your Area Better' that have appeared in previous Reports. These articles were as follows:

- 1 'Sompting Brooks' by Paul Brayshaw (pages 60 to 61).
- 2 'The Lower Adur' by Bernie Forbes (1996 Report, pages 58 and 59).
- 3 'Hollingbury Camp' by Peter Whitcomb (1997 Report, pages 69 to 71).
- 4 'The North and West' by Bernie Forbes (1999 Report, pages 69 to 71).
- 5 'Around Brighton' by Peter Whitcomb (2000 Report, pages 72 to 74).

A quick look through the list of sites that have not yet been covered indicates that there is room for quite a number of future articles along the same lines, so if you feel that you can write a similar piece about any group of these sites for inclusion in a future Report, please let me know. Please also let me know if you have any suggestions for further improvements to the Report, or if you come across any mistakes in the Useful Information section or elsewhere.

Finally my special thanks to the SOS for allowing us to reproduce some of John Reaney's wonderful drawings (those on pages 3, 5, 9, 36, 38, 42 and above), which have appeared in past SOS Reports. John also drew the Great Northern Diver on page 1; all the remaining excellent pictures are by Richard Ives.

Jim Steedman

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 2001

| Species | Arrival | | Departure | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| | Date | Location | Date | Location |
| Garganey | Mar 16 | Marina | | |
| Montagu's Harrier | May 1 | Marina | Sep 7 | Ditchling Beacon |
| Osprey | Apr 30 | Marina | Sep 30 | Worthing |
| Hobby | Apr 28 | Wildpark | Oct 10 | Hollingbury GC |
| Whimbrel | Apr 21 | Marina | Oct 7 | Goring Beach |
| Common Sandpiper | Mar 9 | Henfield Levels | Oct 16 | Cuckoo Corner |
| Arctic Skua | Mar 28 | Marina | Dec 12 | Widewater |
| Sandwich Tern | Mar 7 | Marina | Oct 15 | Marina |
| Commic Tern | Mar 27 | Marina/Worthing | Oct 24 | Shoreham Harbour |
| Little Tern | Apr 14 | Worthing | Aug 20 | Marina |
| Black Tern | Apr 24 | Marina | Oct 10 | Marina |
| Turtle Dove | May 25 | Beeding/Sheepcote | Sep 10 | Cissbury |
| Cuckoo | Apr 27 | Wildpark | Aug 10 | Woods Mill |
| Swift | Apr 24 | Goring/Hove/ Marina | Sep 1 | Steep Down Worthing |
| Sand Martin | Mar 17 | Marina | Sep 21 | Woods Mill |
| Swallow | Mar 24 | West Pier | Nov 4 | Airfield/Cuckoo Corner |
| House Martin | Apr 25 | Worthing | Oct 21 | Shoreham Fort/ Worthing |
| Tree Pipit | Apr 10 | Hollingdean | Oct 27 | Sheepcote |
| Yellow Wagtail | Mar 16 | Goring Gap | Oct 19 | Maybridge |
| Nightingale | Apr 27 | Woods Mill | Aug 18 | Cissbury |
| Redstart | Mar 31 | Sheepcote | Oct 28 | Steyning |
| Whinchat | Apr 13 | Marina/Sheepcote | Nov 11 | Steepdown |
| Wheatear | Mar 8 | Shoreham Harbour | Oct 29 | Shoreham Fort |
| Ring Ouzel | Mar 24 | Wildpark | Oct 28 | Sheepcote |
| Grasshopper Warbler | Apr 13 | Sheepcote | Oct 13 | Hollingbury Camp |
| Sedge Warbler | Apr 2 | Airfield | Aug 26 | Sheepcote |
| Reed Warbler | Apr 25 | Airfield | Oct 10 | Goring Gap |
| Lesser Whitethroat | Apr 22 | Durrington | Sep 25 | Goring Gap |
| Whitethroat | Apr 10 | Sheepcote | Oct 3 | Wildpark |
| Garden Warbler | May 3 | Marina | Sep 24 | Goring Gap |
| Willow Warbler | Mar 21 | Goring/Marina/ Sheepcote | Sep 24 | Goring Gap |
| Spotted Flycatcher | May 2 | Goring Gap | Sep 24 | Hollingbury |
| Pied Flycatcher | Apr 1 | Ferring | Sep 22 | Wildpark |

RINGING REPORT FOR 2001

During 2001 a total of 2212 birds were ringed in the area; this represents a 16% reduction from the previous year and, with the exception of the low total of 1760 in 1991, is the smallest number ringed since 1973. As usual a small fraction were ringed as nestlings with over half of the total (205) comprising tits ringed in nest boxes. Thirty four nestling Blackbirds, 14 Song Thrushes and 20 Swallows were the other main species ringed as nestlings and all this years Linnets were ringed in the nest. The remaining 91% were mist-netted and ringed as fledged birds. The Steyning Ringing Group, operating from three sites, maintain their predominance but in contrast to recent years their main effort was at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve where the total of 1071 included 3 Kingfishers, 4 Green Woodpeckers, in excess of 100 Reed Warblers, Blackcaps and Willow Warblers and the area's only Redstart. This last bird was conveniently caught during a ringing demonstration for members of both the Sussex and Shoreham District O.S. Restricted access due to Foot and Mouth curtailed activity at Cissbury where the total of 503 was less than half of the total for 2000, nevertheless a good selection of warblers were ringed during the autumn including 100 Blackcaps. The groups local total was completed with 59 nestlings ringed by Chris Fox in the Wiston area. The total of 434 ringed at the Sanctuary by the author was remarkably similar to recent years and included highlights of 3 Sparrowhawks, a Nightingale and 41 different Long-tailed Tits. A further 25 birds were ringed in John Newnham's West Worthing garden. The final total was reached with Barrie Watson's 120, most of which were ringed as nestlings.

| Species | No. | Species | No. | Species | No. |
|----------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|---------------|------|
| Sparrowhawk | 5 | Redwing | 2 | Great Tit | 139 |
| Woodpigeon | 1 | Sedge Warbler | 8 | Treecreeper | 12 |
| Kingfisher | 3 | Reed Warbler | 149 | Jay | 2 |
| Green Woodpecker | 4 | Lesser Whitethroat | 25 | Magpie | 1 |
| Grt Spotted Wdpecker | 3 | Whitethroat | 83 | House Sparrow | 1 |
| Swallow | 20 | Garden Warbler | 34 | Chaffinch | 56 |
| House Martin | 1 | Blackcap | 249 | Greenfinch | 16 |
| Wren | 87 | Chiffchaff | 145 | Goldfinch | 47 |
| Dunnock | 125 | Willow Warbler | 187 | Linnet | 5 |
| Robin | 147 | Goldcrest | 23 | Bullfinch | 38 |
| Nightingale | 2 | Long-tailed Tit | 74 | Yellowhammer | 5 |
| Redstart | 1 | Marsh Tit | 2 | Reed Bunting | 15 |
| Blackbird | 149 | Coal Tit | 3 | | |
| Song Thrush | 63 | Blue Tit | 280 | Total | 2212 |

The above table shows the numbers of the 40 different species ringed. The changing numbers reflect changes in ringing activity more than changes in bird populations thus falls in numbers of Blackcaps and Goldcrests, typically species ringed in large numbers at Cissbury, is compensated by an increase in species associated with the reed and willow of the Mumbles. It is pleasing to see a rise in the numbers of Song Thrushes and some of

the finch species.

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) **Sparrowhawk:** Although 46 sparrowhawks have been ringed in 21 different years few have been recovered thus the following, albeit short distance is only the second recorded for the area.

20-Aug-00 First year F Mumbles, Steyning

30-Apr-01 Freshly dead Barcombe, near Lewes, East Sussex 253 days 22 km 85 deg

2) **Black-headed Gull:** Reports of 11 different birds were received during the year; two recovered in Worthing during the late winter; one in Northumberland in January; two from the USSR in April and June; singles from Belgium, Netherlands and Schleswig-Holstein and three from Denmark which included an individual which had been sighted at 5 different sites in the vicinity of Copenhagen over an 11 year period.

3) **Herring Gull:** Just one bird was reported; an individual ringed as a juvenile on the refuse tip at Small Dole on 18th Oct 1981 and sighted near Rotterdam, The Netherlands in May 1997, on several dates in 2000 and in May 2001.

4) **Reed Warbler:** The first bird reported, and affectionately named "Arnie" after the Arnheim ring he wore, was present in the sanctuary until late July; he was always caught in the same mist-net on the west side of the copse, presumably the net running through his territory. The second bird shows early autumn dispersal in a NE direction.

7-Jul-99 Adult M Oostkapelle, Ipenoord Zeeland
The Netherlands

3-Jun-00 Controlled Shoreham Sanctuary 973 days 1503 km 207 deg

21-Jul-01 Juvenile Mumbles, Steyning

31-Jul-01 Controlled Burnham Market, Norfolk 10 days 241km 17 deg

5) **Willow Warbler:** This years single recovery suggests this bird may have done better to have moved south rather than northwards and perhaps avoiding capture only a day

15-Sep-01 First year Mumbles, Steyning

16-Sep-01 Killed by cat Storrington, West Sussex 1 day 11 km 289 deg

after being ringed.

6) **Starling:** The ringing details for this bird arrived with a brief apology for the delay in reporting! Although this bird was less than two years old the ring was thin and worn requiring replacement. The *Birds of Shoreham* (1988) plotted the movements of Starlings and the map shows 5 other registrations from this area but there have been no other distant Starling movements from our area since this

4-Jun-74 Nestling Batnyava, Lithuania

13-Mar-76 Controlled Shoreham sanctuary 648 days 1673 km 270 deg

publication.

As in previous years there were several local recoveries including a Chiff-chaff and a Lesser Whitethroat both ringed at Cissbury and subsequently trapped at the Sanctuary and a Blackcap ringed at Cissbury and caught the following summer at the Mumbles. 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

SANCTUARY REPORT 2001

In keeping with the reports for the past few years this brief synopsis is based on records from the notebooks of Dr Barrie Watson and myself. Like recent years the copse was visited on about 65 days with 20 longer sessions for mist-netting. Trapping sessions took place between 19th May and 25th November with two days, both in August, when nets were set during the afternoon. Although afternoon ringing was a regular activity during the 1970s and 1980s opportunities have been limited in recent years with one session in June 1996 being the only other such outing in the past decade. The total of 684 birds, of 27 different species, were trapped and comprised 434 new birds, 248 retraps and 3 controls (birds ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at the sanctuary). The following table shows how similar both effort and results have been for the past few years.

| | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 |
|-----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| No. of sessions | 19 | 19 | 9 | 13 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 16 | 13 | 18 | 21 | 17 | 20 |
| Average catch | 50 | 52 | 31 | 32 | 31 | 37 | 38 | 27 | 25 | 34 | 30 | 34 | 36 |
| Year best | 135 | 94 | 56 | 53 | 49 | 70 | 66 | 55 | 46 | 55 | 61 | 55 | 49 |

Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for 1989 - 2001

The effects of the wet previous autumn continued through the early months of 2001 as both the copse and surrounding fields remained flooded; indeed several of the net rides were impassable until early May. Although a period in February was settled with the highest atmospheric pressure recorded since 1979 there was more rain in March and meteorologists declared this to be the wettest 12 month period since records started in the mid 18th century. The high water levels prohibited most of the winter maintenance activities but some of the osiers on the north side of the copse were heavily pruned in March. The flooded meadows attracted parties of gulls and waders with 500 Common Gulls mixed with 300 Black-headed Gulls on 10th February. Three Golden Plovers, amongst a flock of 250 Lapwing, circling over the copse on 18th February provided an unusual sights for the sanctuary. A Water Rail was seen or heard on several occasions until 10th March and a Little Grebe was seen on 7th January. This last species was evidently present, although seldom seen, throughout the spring as two juveniles were seen in mid-June.

The first Chiffchaff was seen on 22nd March but a misty and mild morning on 1st April produced the only notable arrival of migrants as at least 15 *phylloscopus* warblers, in-

cluding 3 Willow Warblers, and 3 Blackcaps were seen flitting through the emerging elder and willow bushes. The first Lesser Whitethroats and Reed Warblers were recorded on 29th April but it was not until May that other summer species were recorded.

Foxes had been evident throughout the early months and during May two pairs, each with a family of cubs, were near the copse. Other mammals were regularly sighted, the most notable being Badger, Grey Squirrel and Roe Deer, the last disturbed from the copse on most visits and these prompted mist-nets to be set higher than ideal after one leapt through the bottom two panels of a mist-net in July. The bed of Iris were in bloom in mid-May but of more botanical interest were Cowslip and 8 spikes of Bee-orchid flowering on the lawn. Later in the season the Autumn Ladies Tresses were numerous, Brookweed flowered and Deadly Nightshade reappeared once again after an absence of several years.

Breeding fortunes of birds seemed mixed; the positive reports being the breeding of Little Grebes, good numbers of young Moorhens and two Sparrowhawks fledged. On the down side there were no Willow Warblers and the local *Paridae* fared poorly as only one nest-box produced young and in mid-June, a period when young Blue and Great Tits are usually numerous, no young tits were trapped. In contrast the Long-tailed Tit population was the highest recorded and this turned out to be the species most trapped with 109 handlings involving 46 different individuals. Twenty eight different individuals were trapped on 22nd August. One Long-tailed Tit was at least six years old, another four years and two had survived at least two years no doubt helped by the recent succession of mild winters.

Trapping amongst the hawthorn and elder on the lower slopes of the hillside restarted in 2000 and throughout this season this continued. The hillside nets accounted for 220 birds, about a third of the total and particularly raised the totals of *Sylvia* warblers caught. In past years these nets would have trapped species such as Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Linnet and Goldfinch, all absent from this year's sanctuary ringing list.

A Tawny Owl was seen in mid May, a male Nightingale was trapped on 23rd June and an early Greenshank flew over the copse on 7th July. By late July there were the usual signs of emigration as 8 Willow Warblers were trapped on 31 July and parties of Swifts were heading rapidly westward. August, often the busiest month for ringing, was poorly recorded and September seemed uneventful with poor weather coinciding with planned mist-netting days. Later in the autumn small parties of Redpolls and Siskins were often seen but never alighted in the copse. Water Rails were back by 27th October, a day when a Kingfisher and the first Fieldfares were recorded and a Chiff-chaff lingered until 7th November. A Woodcock was flushed from under dense hawthorn on 23rd December but on most visits during December the copse seemed deserted.

The water levels remained low until the end of the year although the streams appeared to fill when the tide in the river was high. The drier terrain allowed access to the overgrown osier beds which had escaped coppicing in the previous winter and by mid-December most of the osiers in the sanctuary had been tackled.

Access to the sanctuary remains difficult with the gate to the private waterworks road remaining locked and padlocked gates reducing movement into and around the copse. 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 and Judith Baker for help with maintenance and the ringing activities, and Val Bentley for help with a mornings ringing.

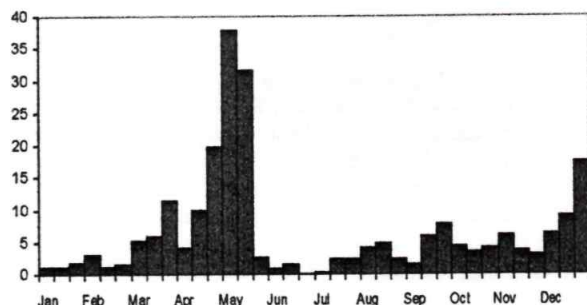
John Newnham

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2001

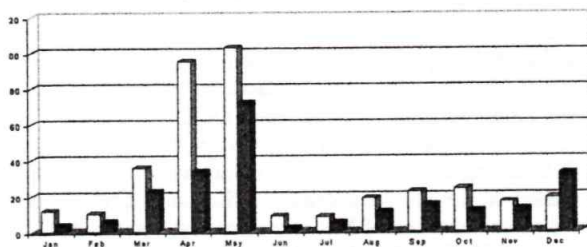
Introduction

The increase in sea-watching noted during 2000 was not sustained as the 229 hours of watching in 2001 returned to the approximate level of the years 1994-99 (see figure of annual effort in 2000 report). In keeping with recent years, however, the watching effort from Worthing was overshadowed by that from Brighton marina. The spring months were, as usual, the most eagerly watched with 56% of the logged hours being between March and May, however nearly 20% of the watching occurred in November and December. The following figures demonstrates this effort clearly.

Number of hours watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2001



Monthly effort for 2001 (black) compared with the average for 1978-2000 (white).



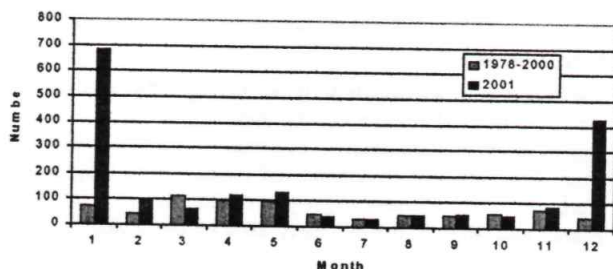
Despite fewer hours watched there was a further marked increase in the number of birds recorded with a significant increase in the overall numbers of birds seen in each hour watched. The large numbers of birds recorded offshore during the winter offset the mediocre spring passage and produced an overall rate for 2001 over twice that of the few years in the late 1990s. 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.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-------------|------|-----|------|------|------|-----|-----|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Hours | 3.7 | 5.8 | 22.4 | 33.7 | 72.0 | 2.3 | 5.0 | 11.2 | 15.2 | 11.8 | 12.8 | 32.6 | 228.5 |
| Total birds | 2517 | 601 | 1468 | 3992 | 9429 | 90 | 147 | 545 | 769 | 527 | 1110 | 13766 | 34961 |
| Birds/hour | 680 | 104 | 66 | 118 | 131 | 39 | 29 | 49 | 51 | 45 | 87 | 422 | 153 |

The following plot compares the monthly rate of passage in 2001 (black) with the average for the years 1978-2000 (hatched) and shows the exceptional numbers of birds recorded in both winter periods, a poor March and slightly better than average April and

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

1978-2000 average (hatched) and 2001 (black)



May.

In keeping with previous years a daily log was passed around the observers for the period 13th April until 23rd 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 spring 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.Brashaw; A.Carter, S.Cross, M.P.Hall, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives; J.A.Newnham; M.G.Prince, R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith; and R.Tofts

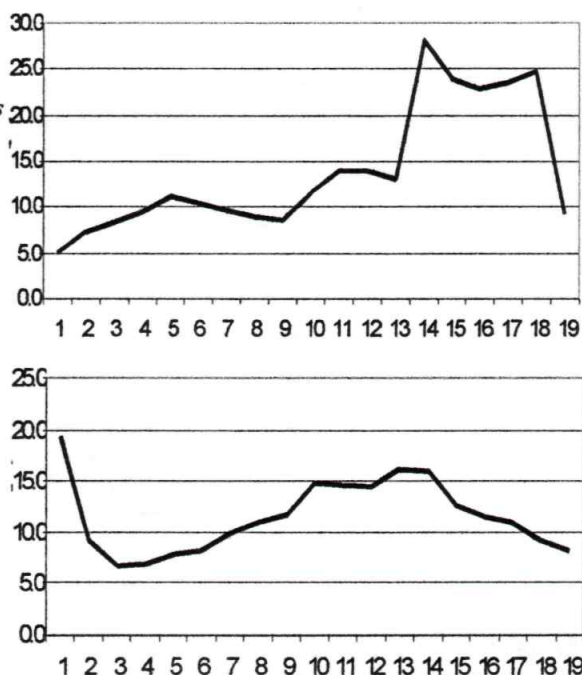
Chronological Account

The year started in a quiet way with highlights being a single Little Gull on 4th January and an obliging Black Redstart seen on the beach on several days until March. A gathering of 150 Kittiwakes were offshore on 14th January but not until later in the month were any larger numbers of birds seen. On 28th January, in just 1.5 hours watching during a bright sunny morning with a light NE wind there were 2283 auks flying W with a further 70E; during the same watch 31 divers moved W. On 3rd February 291 Guillemots also passed W close to the shore and 5 Slavonian Grebes were feeding offshore. The first of the years collection of Mediterranean Gull records occurred on 10th February, an unusual party of 35 Knot flew E on 22nd and the peak of 196 Red-breasted Mergansers occurred on the 24th.

The first Sandwich Tern was seen on 9th March and by the end of the month 88 birds had been recorded, the peak of 74 occurring on the 27th. The first Wheatear was not recorded until the 16th but a substantial fall was recorded on the 17th with at least 30 on the beach and 20 on the following day. There were a few waders moving east but March is generally a month predominated by wildfowl movements and these were poor. Only 344 Brent Geese (peak 95 on 9th) and 334 Common Scoter (peak 131 on 27th) with a handful of other ducks were seen. The following figure shows that the number of scoters recorded in each hour of watching has been declining over the past few years whereas the numbers of Brent Geese recorded during the Spring had, until this year, been maintaining a high level.

Two Garganey on 2nd April and a Slavonian Grebe on the 4th were the only notable records in early April; indeed the watching in this period was so mundane that the annual log was not started until 13th April. Six Avocets brightened the watch on the 14th but for much of this time a blustery west to north-west wind did nothing to encourage watching. The Society's annual outing on 22nd April fortunately coincided with the wind moving to a southerly point; the eleven members who braved the cool wind enjoyed a steady pas-

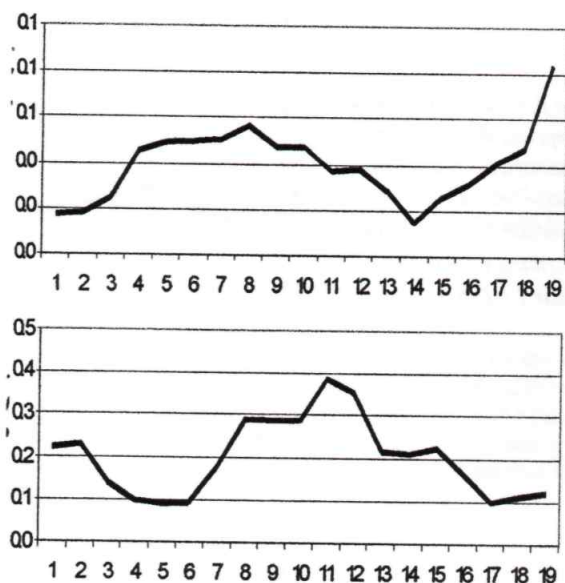
The five-year rolling means of spring (March-May) rates of passage of Brent Goose (above) and Common Scoter (below) at Worthing (1978-2001). (Year 1 = 1982)



sage of typical species and views of 5 Arctic Skuas, 10 Little Gulls and 5 Brent Geese of the pale bellied form. The month peak of Fulmars (89) and Gannets (115) also was seen on this morning and at least 10 Bonxies were seen. This species has been more frequently encountered over the past few years as shown in the following figure. The following few days were interesting with reasonable numbers of skuas and terns seen, the spring peak of 43 Little Gulls passed on 24th, a day when 2 Gadwall and a Scaup were recorded. April finished with the winds returning to the west before backing to the north and in the few hours watched an incoming Hobby, which successfully chased and caught an unfortunate Swallow, was the only record of note.

"Appalling cold conditions" were the welcoming notes from the log for 1st May; thereafter the NE airstream continued until 9th May but a few terns and waders were recorded particularly on days when the strength of the wind eased. More Hobbys were seen arriving on the 6th and on the 8th, a Great Northern Diver and 2 Velvet Scoters flew E and an adult white phase Snow Goose was seen to come in from the SW. Slacking winds and warmer air certainly improved the watching over the next few days as Pomarine Skuas appeared (peak of 28 on 13th) and the number of Common Terns increased with day totals of 1005, 779 and 1105 seen between 11th and 13th May. A ring-tail harrier, thought most likely to be a Hen Harrier, passed E on 11th and a Caspian Tern, the best bird of the spring, was seen in the mid-afternoon on the 12th. Several Roseate Terns were seen from Selsey Bill on the morning of 12th May, one of these passed Worthing in the morning and another in the late afternoon. Despite a good passage of terns only 12 Black Terns were seen and the following figure shows how the rate of observation for this species has been falling over the past decade.

The five year rolling means of spring (March-May) rates of passage of Great Skua (above) and Black Tern (below) at Worthing (1978-2001). (Year 1 = 1982)



After 14th May the number of hours of observation dropped and with unfavourable winds few birds were seen. The earlier figures reveal the small amount of watching during the summer but a brief evening watch on 16th July produced 6 westbound Mediterranean Gulls. During August observers at most of the regularly watched sites saw several Balaeric Shearwaters but, probably due to few hours of watching, only one was seen from Worthing on 19th August, a day when at least 150 Gannets, 4 Black Terns and an Arctic Skua also passed. Both September and October were quiet with highlights in September of a Little Stint on the beach between the 19th and 30th, a single Little Gull on 21st and an Osprey and Merlin seen on 30th. During October over 280 Gannets were recorded on the 7th and at the end of the month there were 1280 Woodpigeons, 60 Chaffinches and 80 Greenfinches flying west in the first hour of light on 29th.

Cold northerly winds introduced November and with these came reports of large numbers of Little Auks moving past the North Sea coast. Only two single birds, however, were seen from Worthing on 11th and 12th November. The strong, and cold wind, on the 9th induced a small movement of Brent Geese, a single Goldeneye and the autumn peak movement of 222 Dunlin. Although Velvet Scoters and a Red-necked Grebe were seen in November the most memorable sea-watching of the year was in December.

There were signs early in the month that more birds were offshore when 172 auks flew W during a brief watch on 7th Dec but fairly soon the numbers of birds fishing offshore reached high numbers with 57 Cormorants on 15th and counts of 186 Red-breasted Mergansers and 56 Great-crested Grebes on 16th. With these were more unusual species such as Slavonian, Red-necked Grebe and both Red and Black-throated Divers. After the Christmas period there were thousands of birds to be seen offshore; although auks were by far and away the largest group there were also extraordinary numbers of Cormorants (maximum of 365 on 30th), Gannets (maximum of 1000 on 28th), Great-crested Grebes

(114 on 29th) and Kittiwakes (950 on 28th). The plethora of birds prompted notes such as "Personally, (DIS) not seen such unprecedented numbers of large auks on the sea or moving east. Many rafts were close, & comprised totally of Razorbills – only one Guillemot identified. Sadly no smaller auks seen! Choppy conditions, but 1000 auks estimated on sea with some huge rafts. Several feeding 'melees' of birds heading slowly west, very close inshore, & following what appeared to be sprat shoals (Cormorants surfacing with small silver fish)".

And for the following day:-

"More Guillemots than 27th, estimated at 8% of total, the remainder being Razorbills. After 12.15 walked W along the seafront, auks still streaming E. Interestingly, at Goring up to 11.15 most auks were moving W, then a dramatic change in direction with the majority moving E for the next hour. This coincided with the tide beginning to leave the exposed beach. Most probably some duplication of numbers?"

Several observers commented how difficult it was to get an accurate count and watched the frantic feeding frenzies recalling images from the recent televised natural history of the oceans "The Blue Planet". A local fisherman reported large shoals of both young Herring and Mackerel coming inshore and shoaling near the surface apparently to get sunlight. This clearly rendered them more available to seabirds. The "glut" had been increased by recent legislation which enforced increased mesh size of fishermen's nets allowing these smaller fish to avoid capture. The fisherman also noted that the profusion of small fish attracted larger numbers of other, predatory, fish species and he, like the seabirds, enjoyed the abundance.

John Newnham

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 three newsletters a year as well as this annual report. A members-only e-mail discussion group has also been set up to keep all those members who wish to enrol, informed of latest wildlife sightings in the area and other matters of that may be of interest.

New members are very welcome. If you would like to join, please contact the Hon Secretary, from whom back issues of this report are still available for purchase by members or non-members.

INDOOR MEETINGS 2001

The book entitled "Henfield Bird Report 2000" was launched in November 2001 and Mike Russell came to talk to us about it in January. Mike had won a Millennium Fellowship Award to join a conservation project in the Czech Republic in 1998, and one of the terms of this award was that he should contribute something to the local community on his return, based on his recent experiences. Although Henfield did not have the same problems as the Czech Republic it did need to try to maintain its rural identity and protect the diversity of wildlife within the area. So Henfield Birdwatch was born and with the help of SWT colleagues and many people in Henfield a survey was done from Jan 1st to Dec 31st 1999. The aims were to provide a base for future surveys that also could be used for Planning and Development issues, at the same time involving many in the local area to make regular records of a particular area. The result is a book of great interest, with photographs, drawings, tables and maps which are a credit to all those who contributed to it.

David Harper was the speaker in February. He is known as an expert on many sides of birding but in particular for his studies of the Corn Bunting and the Robin. We were treated to a fascinating lecture on "Corn Buntings and other birds," by one of our own members, who has detailed records and extensive knowledge to show the status of the birds in the past and now. There were charts and graphs all simply explained by David and he included very interesting accounts of some of the work being done on Christopher Passmore's farm at Applesham above the Adur valley. This information underlined how well farmers and wildlife can live together to the advantage of everyone. David can be relied on to give a thought provoking talk as the questions at the end of the meeting showed.

In March Kevin Briggs' talk was called "Ring, Tag and Telltale". Kevin does research for the BTO on the breeding of Ringed Plovers and his talk introduced us to the Lune Valley in north-west Lancashire. He started by showing the geography of the area and how much agricultural practices had degraded the land in recent years, and that flooding scours the river making great differences to the way in which wildlife use the area. We were shown excellent slides of Oystercatchers and Goosanders with their crèches of young birds as well as the Ringed Plovers. It was obvious that Kevin knows his subject and the area he is studying and understands its needs for birds.

The April meeting began with our AGM, and this time it was followed by our Treasurer, John Maskell. He showed a map of the world indicating the journey he and Shena had taken in 1999 and 2000. It was a brave venture and a planning nightmare but they managed to cope taking hand-luggage only! We were shown the Far East with the many changing scenes involving people and temples, the effects of the monsoons, the River Kwai and the overloaded trains. Then down to Australia and Perth where they wrote a letter to the paper complaining about the number of dogs chasing incoming migrants on the local beach. They took the four-day train ride right across Australia, only causing a minor delay to its journey by being led too far by an interesting bird! It was probably a good idea to move on to New Zealand which they enjoyed enormously, exploring the whole country whilst delivering camper vans from place to place. They saw a tame, hand-reared, one-legged Kiwi, the destructive Kea that loves to attack parked cars and the eerie sounding Kakapo and there were the Royal Albatrosses and Yellow-eyed Penguins at Dunedin - any wonder they hope to return there one day. Finally to the Cook

Islands, where they saw one of the world's rarest flycatchers and added a special tick for Chicken where it is a wild bird!

To start the Autumn programme Steve Webster came to tell us about some of the SWT reserves. We were told about Malling Down, so close to Lewes yet rich in rare downland plants, especially orchids, a superb site for all the Blue butterflies as well as offering a safe breeding area for many Warblers and other birds. Filsham Reedbed is on the furthest eastern boundary of Sussex where the Trust is carrying out restoration work to improve the area for regular breeding birds like Bearded Tit, Water Rail and Warblers. The reedbeds are also the habitat for the unusual Frogbit and insectivorous Bladderwort. Marehill Quarry is one of the Trust's reserves which is not open to the public for safety reasons as well as to prevent disturbance. It had been very difficult to keep out persistent vandals who were on the point of destroying a rare bat colony. Steve has a demanding job as he oversees the management of SWT reserves but he gave us proof that our subscriptions are put to good use.

Tim Loseby's talk in November featured the birds in his garden. He had bought his house with specific thoughts about the suitability of the area for birds. Before filling the house with furniture he started to dig a pond! The results were amazing and rewarding and he proceeded to tell us about the astonishing number and variety of birds he saw, and usually photographed visiting that pond or the various food stations. The first half of the talk ended with a mouth-watering slide of a Hawfinch down at the pond. After the interval he showed us some unusual slides of young birds, back views of which could baffle the observer, including Bullfinch and Goldfinch. All the slides were taken only a few yards from his house. It was an impressive and thought-provoking evening as the subsequent questions showed. The fifty members had enjoyed the talk and learned a few tips on garden bird-watching.

The final talk of the year was by Wendy Dickson, Brighton born but now living in a lighthouse at Unst on Shetland. However her chosen subject was about New Zealand and a trip she made in 1998 covering most of the country. At first the weather was not helpful, the west coast suffering torrential rains causing devastating floods. However by the time she reached Bluff in the far south and made the crossing to Stewart Island the weather had improved. On Ulva, a predator-free zone, Wekas were common and Kaka-pos clambered about in the trees. There were signs that Kiwis were present but to actually see one she made a special night trip to a beach for the unforgettable sight of a Kiwi digging into the sand as it searched for food. Then she flew up to North Island, visiting several Reserves including a very special, again predator-free one, Tiritiri Matangi, an island just north of Auckland. This place offered a feast of birds, the best part being that Wendy found a Takahe for herself, one of New Zealand's rarest birds. This was an exhilarating talk with some very good slides, but those of lesser quality always had a good story behind them and there is no doubt the 51 members listening were impressed by the variety and interest New Zealand has to offer -- if only it was not such a long way to go!

Brianne Reeve



FIELD TRIPS 2001

The year's programme was severely disrupted by the Foot and Mouth outbreak that left many sites out of bounds from March to mid-Summer.

The year had started with a visit to West Itchenor, Snowhill Marsh and East Head on 28th January. On a spring-like morning 10 members led by Bernie Forbes were greeted by Great-spotted Woodpecker and Grey Wagtail in the car park at Itchenor. Only a few waders were seen including Bar-tailed Godwit but there were many Red-breasted Mergansers in the channel. A Peregrine was perched on a post. On the way to Snowhill Marsh two Little Owls were seen and at Snowhill good views of Greenshank and Snipe were enjoyed. Around East Head 9 Little Stints were well watched and there was a distant Slavonian Grebe. On the return walk to Itchenor, Peregrine, Merlin and Common Buzzard were observed.

For the following weekend's visit to Dungeness the weather had reverted to a more wintry pattern. Dave Smith led this joint outing with the SOS. On the sea were many Guillemots, a few Razorbills and several Red-throated Divers. The RSPB Burrowes Pit was graced by a first-winter Glaucous Gull and a Slavonian Grebe, with many Ruddy Ducks, a few Goldeneye and a Smew also present. A Peregrine flew over. There were six Whooper Swans on the ARC Pit and a Great Northern Diver and several Smew at Lade. The flock of White-fronted Geese were seen at Scotney on the homeward journey.

The proposed outings to Burton Pond and West Dean Woods inevitably fell victim to the ongoing restrictions, so it was a relief to be able to join John Newnham for the Goring Sea-watch on 22nd April. There was a steady flow of Whimbrel, several Great Skuas, and a few Arctic Skuas. There were many Common Scoters, a few Common and Sandwich Terns, and also a few black-throated divers. Of particular note were five Pale-bellied Brent Geese.

Jim Steedman led the outing on 19th May to the alternative venue of Abbots Wood, as Rewell Wood was still out of bounds. Up to 8 Nightingales were heard, along with two Garden Warblers and Cuckoo. Two Turtle Doves were seen well.

The restrictions were lifted just in time for the visit to the New Forest on 10th June. This year's trip, led by Bernie Forbes, was to the Pig Bush area. Most of the usual species were seen including several Woodlarks, many Redstarts and a few Tree Pipits. Several Spotted Flycatchers were observed and a few Dartford Warblers and eventually a Wood Warbler. Raptors numbers up to 5 Hobbies and many Common Buzzards. Other species included Cuckoo, Siskin, Snipe and Garden Warbler, but the main feeling was one of relief to be out in the field again.

The following week's evening outing to Coates Common was not as successful as had been hoped for. Little Owl and Woodlark were seen, but although both Woodcock and Nightjar were heard no views were obtained.

Jim Steedman again led the outing to Cissbury Ring on 7th July, where we were greeted by a Common Buzzard almost over our heads. Good numbers of butterflies were present, including Ringlet, Marbled White, Large and Small Skipper, with a few Gatekeepers and up to forty Dark Green Fritillaries.

The weather on 19th August was very unsuitable for the visit to Beeding Hill led by Chris Wright. The best and virtually the only birds seen were Lesser Whitethroat, Bullfinch and Reed Warbler.

Peter Whitcomb stepped in to lead the visit to Grove Ferry and Oare Marshes on 9th September and we were soon enjoying good views of two Temmincks Stints. Later we were able to see Greenshank, Garganey, Water Rail and many Ruff, while a few Yellow Wagtails were out in the fields with the cattle. Raptor interest was provided by Peregrine and Hobby. At Oare Marshes we added Bar-tailed Godwit and Curlew Sandpiper to the list.

Peter was again the leader for the annual Birling Gap visit on 23rd September. The 44 species seen would have been better but for the cold north wind that persisted all day. However a Short-eared Owl got things moving and there were good numbers of Gannets offshore along with a few Sandwich Terns. The many Stonechats present indicated a good breeding season and Whinchats outnumbered Wheatears. Chat Vale provided a glimpse of Redstart and a few Blackcaps, and in the shelter of Belle Tout Wood a Spotted Flycatcher was enjoyed, while Hobby and Peregrine were also seen.

Dave Smith led the meeting to Pagham and Church Norton on 7th October. We were greeted by a flock of 100 Pintail over the information Centre but the undoubted highlight was the Wryneck at the Severals that provided Dave with a remarkable hat-trick. Yes, this was the third year running that Dave had found Wryneck on this outing. A Merlin dashed overhead and those who were able to keep it in view saw it take a finch. A Spotted Flycatcher and an elusive Firecrest were seen around the churchyard at Church Norton, and back at the Ferry Pool were Greenshank, Sloveler and 4 Little Stints.

Although quite mild, it was dull, drizzly and breezy for the visit to Pulborough Brooks led by Chris Wright on 25th November and, after spending some time around the RSPB visitor centre it was decided not to walk round the Reserve but to decamp to Amberley Wildbrooks. Most agreed that it was an enjoyable walk but it was just a pity that the target species did not show up. However, birds seen included Bullfinch, Lesser Redpoll, Snipe, Little Egret, Fieldfare, Redwing and, all too briefly, Hen Harrier, but not an Owl in sight.

The traditions year-end walk on 31st December was led by Chris Wright in the absence of Stanley Allen who was unfortunately indisposed. This outing attracted the largest turnout of the year but probably the fewest birds. On a bright and cloudless but bitterly cold morning, sea-watching from Shoreham Fort provided excellent views of Razorbills and Guillemots as well as of two Gannets fishing. After stopping near the Footbridge, we finished the outing at a partly frozen-over Widewater where 27 Pochard showed well.

So, for one reason or another, 2001 was not a vintage year but hope springs eternal and we continue to expect the unexpected. Thanks again to all leaders and members for attending throughout the year.

Chris Wright

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY : AUTUMN AND WINTER 2001 - 2002

Records from 24 gardens were submitted for the Autumn and Winter periods, 2001 - 2002, with a total of 57 species being noted. Most species, 32, were recorded in Graham Smith's garden at Henfield followed by 31 in John Cooper's Steyning garden. Once again the winter weather proved to be generally mild and consequently few winter visitors were recorded with only one garden recording Fieldfare and one recording Redwing. However, there were five records for Siskin.

Chiffchaff records were slightly down while those for Blackcap remained similar to those for winter 2000-2001. Goldcrest was attracted to far fewer gardens for this winter with the number of records being almost halved. Coal Tit maintained a steady presence with

appearances in eleven gardens, while 14 gardens were graced by visits from Long-tailed Tits and 13 gardens recorded Goldfinch.

Of the corvids which took advantage of members' gardens, records for Carrion Crow and Jackdaw remained much the same while those for Jay dipped down compared to last year. However, Magpie records increased as a percentage of gardens visited and it is now joint tenth in the list of top ten garden birds. The only record for Rook was in Roy Sandison's Findon garden. Green Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch all maintained numbers similar to last year with Great Spotted Woodpecker being seen in eight gardens.

It is encouraging to note the presence of Song Thrush, either singly or in pairs, being recorded in the gardens of 19 members. Sparrowhawk has become regular garden visitor and was noted in the gardens of nine members often in the act of catching prey.

Other interesting observations include single records for Reed Bunting, Treecreeper, Little Owl, Garden Warbler and Stock Dove, with two records each for Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail and Tawny Owl.

| Top Birds | Percentage of gardens used | Maximum number | Average of maximum numbers |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Collared Dove | 100.0 | 15 | 4.3 |
| Blue Tit | 100.0 | 8 | 4.3 |
| Blackbird | 100.0 | 8 | 4.0 |
| Robin | 100.0 | 3 | 1.8 |
| Starling | 95.8 | 130 | 25.9 |
| Duncock | 95.8 | 4 | 2.3 |
| Wren | 95.8 | 2 | 1.0 |
| Wood Pigeon | 91.7 | 12 | 3.8 |
| Great Tit | 91.7 | 6 | 2.4 |
| House Sparrow | 87.5 | 28 | 12.3 |
| Greenfinch | 87.5 | 22 | 7.3 |
| Chaffinch | 87.5 | 15 | 3.8 |
| Magpie | 87.5 | 5 | 1.9 |

A new bird to the garden list was a Red Legged Partridge in Keith Herbert's Isfield garden. This brings the total of species recorded in members' gardens since 1999 to 79.

House Sparrow returned to the top ten list of birds recorded in members gardens while Greenfinch dropped down to joint tenth with House Sparrow, Magpie and Chaffinch. Wood Pigeon was recorded in 22 out of 24 gardens and thus moved up to eighth position.

As for the previous year there were four birds that appeared in all gardens, these were Collared Dove, Blue Tit, Blackbird and Robin.

The table shows the top birds recorded in member's gardens and relates to the percentage of gardens used and the maximum number of these species recorded.

Participants were : S. Allen, C. Allistone, R. Bradbury, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, S. Denman, A. & L. Fenton, M. & P. Ford, K. Herbert, C. & P. Hope, L. Keen, C. Leves, J. & S. Maskell, C. Nichols, A. Robinson, R. & A Sandison, J. & J. Simpson, G. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, R. Titcombe, M. Taylor, P. Watson, P. Whitcomb, and C. Wingate.

Martin Ford

SOCIETY OFFICERS
SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1ST OCTOBER 2002

- 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 : BN1 7GJ
- Hon. Report Editors**
Mr. Jim Steedman
Tel: 01 903 814 923 e-mail: jim.steedman@virgin.net
18 Manor Road : UPPER BEEDING : West Sussex : BN44 3TJ
- Mr. Terry Hicks
Tel: 01273 591120 e-mail: terrance.hicks@talk21.com
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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year to 31 December 2001

| | 2001 | 2000 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| RECEIPTS | £ | £ |
| Balance brought forward | 4,453.30 | 3,849.65 |
| Subscriptions and visitors entry fee | 1,511.50 | 1,215.00 |
| Sale of books, reports, cards and stickers | 2.00 | 58.00 |
| Net raffle and refreshment receipts | 70.87 | 82.66 |
| Bank interest | 80.81 | 98.45 |
| Video hire | - | 6.00 |
| Donations | 14.00 | 20.00 |
| | <u>6,132.48</u> | <u>5,329.76</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Printing | 371.44 | 212.73 |
| Postage and stationary | 179.91 | 169.73 |
| Honorarium payment | 25.00 | - |
| Hire of hall | 315.00 | 80.00 |
| Southern Water Authority | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Speakers fees | 234.98 | 375.00 |
| Insurance | 262.50 | - |
| Purchase of computer equipment | 30.00 | 35.00 |
| Balance carried forward | 4,709.65 | 4,453.30 |
| | <u>6,132.48</u> | <u>5,329.76</u> |

John M. Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 18th January 2002

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: 21st January 2002

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2003

| JANUARY | | | FEBRUARY | | | MARCH | | | APRIL | | |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Day & date | Morning Time m. | Afternoon Time m. | Day & date | Morning Time m. | Afternoon Time m. | Day & date | Morning Time m. | Afternoon Time m. | Day & date | Morning Time m. | Afternoon Time m. |
| We 1 | 09 51 5.9 | 22 21 6.0 | Sa 1 | 11 20 5.9 | 23 46 6.0 | Sa 1 | 10 27 5.5 | 22 52 5.7 | Tu 1 | 00 06 5.8 | 12 20 5.8 |
| Th 2 | 10 42 6.1 | 23 10 6.2 | Su 2 | ***** | 12 01 6.0 | Su 2 | 11 08 5.8 | 23 30 5.9 | We 2 | 00 37 6.0 | 12 50 5.9 |
| Fr 3 | 11 29 6.1 | 23 56 6.2 | Mo 3 | 00 25 6.1 | 12 39 6.0 | Mo 3 | 11 45 5.9 | ***** | Th 3 | 01 06 6.0 | 13 19 6.0 |
| Sa 4 | ***** | 12 13 6.1 | Tu 4 | 01 01 6.0 | 13 15 5.9 | Tu 4 | 00 04 6.0 | 12 17 6.0 | Fr 4 | 01 34 6.0 | 13 48 5.9 |
| Su 5 | 00 39 6.1 | 12 56 6.0 | We 5 | 01 35 5.9 | 13 49 5.8 | We 5 | 00 35 6.1 | 12 48 6.0 | Sa 5 | 02 02 5.9 | 14 17 5.8 |
| Mo 6 | 01 21 6.0 | 13 37 5.8 | Th 6 | 02 09 5.8 | 14 23 5.6 | Th 6 | 01 05 6.0 | 13 18 5.9 | Su 6 | 02 32 5.7 | 14 48 5.6 |
| Tu 7 | 02 02 5.8 | 14 18 5.6 | Fr 7 | 02 43 5.5 | 14 58 5.3 | Fr 7 | 01 35 5.9 | 13 48 5.8 | Mo 7 | 03 04 5.5 | 15 22 5.4 |
| We 8 | 02 43 5.5 | 14 59 5.3 | Sa 8 | 03 19 5.3 | 15 36 5.1 | Sa 8 | 02 05 5.7 | 14 20 5.6 | Tu 8 | 03 39 5.2 | 16 02 5.1 |
| Th 9 | 03 25 5.3 | 15 42 5.0 | Su 9 | 03 59 5.0 | 16 20 4.8 | Su 9 | 02 37 5.5 | 14 54 5.3 | We 9 | 04 23 5.0 | 16 52 4.9 |
| Fr 10 | 04 10 5.0 | 16 30 4.8 | Mo 10 | 04 47 4.7 | 17 15 4.6 | Mo 10 | 03 13 5.2 | 15 33 5.0 | Th 10 | 05 18 4.7 | 17 59 4.7 |
| Sa 11 | 05 00 4.8 | 17 25 4.6 | Tu 11 | 05 48 4.6 | 18 27 4.5 | Tu 11 | 03 56 4.9 | 16 24 4.7 | Fr 11 | 06 34 4.6 | 19 24 4.7 |
| Su 12 | 05 59 4.7 | 18 29 4.5 | We 12 | 07 03 4.5 | 19 45 4.6 | We 12 | 04 52 4.6 | 17 32 4.5 | Sa 12 | 08 00 4.7 | 20 44 5.0 |
| Mo 13 | 07 02 4.7 | 19 34 4.6 | Th 13 | 08 16 4.7 | 20 52 4.9 | Th 13 | 06 10 4.5 | 19 00 4.6 | Su 13 | 09 13 5.1 | 21 47 5.5 |
| Tu 14 | 08 03 4.8 | 20 33 4.8 | Fr 14 | 09 16 5.0 | 21 46 5.3 | Fr 14 | 07 37 4.6 | 20 19 4.9 | Mo 14 | 10 11 5.6 | 22 40 6.0 |
| We 15 | 08 57 5.0 | 21 24 5.1 | Sa 15 | 10 06 5.4 | 22 32 5.7 | Sa 15 | 08 46 5.0 | 21 08 5.9 | Tu 15 | 11 01 6.2 | 23 27 6.5 |
| Th 16 | 09 44 5.2 | 22 09 5.4 | Su 16 | 10 51 5.9 | 23 16 6.2 | Su 16 | 09 41 5.5 | 22 08 5.9 | We 16 | 11 48 6.6 | ***** |
| Fr 17 | 10 28 5.5 | 22 52 5.7 | Mo 17 | 11 33 6.3 | 23 58 6.5 | Mo 17 | 10 28 6.0 | 22 53 6.4 | Th 17 | 00 11 6.8 | 12 33 6.9 |
| Sa 18 | 11 09 5.8 | 23 33 6.0 | Tu 18 | ***** | 12 15 6.5 | Tu 18 | 11 12 6.5 | 23 36 6.7 | Fr 18 | 00 56 7.0 | 13 17 7.0 |
| Su 19 | 11 50 6.0 | ***** | We 19 | 00 40 6.7 | 12 58 6.7 | We 19 | 11 55 6.8 | ***** | Sa 19 | 01 39 6.9 | 14 03 6.8 |
| Mo 20 | 00 14 6.2 | 12 31 6.2 | Th 20 | 01 22 6.7 | 13 41 6.6 | Th 20 | 00 18 6.9 | 12 38 6.9 | Su 20 | 02 24 6.7 | 14 49 6.5 |
| Tu 21 | 00 57 6.3 | 13 14 6.3 | Fr 21 | 02 06 6.6 | 14 26 5.4 | Fr 21 | 01 01 6.9 | 13 22 6.8 | Mo 21 | 03 11 6.2 | 15 39 6.1 |
| We 22 | 01 40 6.3 | 13 58 6.2 | Sa 22 | 02 52 6.3 | 15 15 6.1 | Sa 22 | 01 45 6.7 | 14 07 6.6 | Tu 22 | 04 02 5.7 | 16 35 5.5 |
| Th 23 | 02 25 6.2 | 14 44 6.1 | Su 23 | 03 42 5.9 | 16 09 5.8 | Su 23 | 02 30 6.3 | 14 55 6.1 | We 23 | 05 01 5.2 | 17 42 5.1 |
| Fr 24 | 03 13 6.0 | 15 36 5.8 | Mo 24 | 04 40 5.4 | 17 16 5.2 | Mo 24 | 03 20 5.8 | 15 50 5.6 | Th 24 | 06 15 4.8 | 19 05 4.8 |
| Sa 25 | 04 06 5.8 | 16 33 5.6 | Tu 25 | 05 51 5.0 | 18 37 4.9 | Tu 25 | 04 18 5.3 | 16 57 5.1 | Fr 25 | 07 42 4.7 | 20 29 4.8 |
| Su 26 | 05 07 5.5 | 17 40 5.3 | We 26 | 07 16 4.9 | 20 03 5.0 | We 26 | 05 32 4.9 | 18 23 4.8 | Sa 26 | 09 00 4.8 | 21 35 5.0 |
| Mo 27 | 06 17 5.3 | 18 56 5.2 | Th 27 | 08 35 5.0 | 21 14 5.2 | Th 27 | 07 03 4.7 | 19 35 4.8 | Su 27 | 09 58 5.0 | 22 32 5.3 |
| Tu 28 | 07 32 5.2 | 20 12 5.2 | Fr 28 | 09 38 5.3 | 22 09 5.5 | Fr 28 | 08 25 4.9 | 21 02 5.1 | Mo 28 | 10 42 5.3 | 23 02 5.5 |
| We 29 | 08 42 5.3 | 21 19 5.4 | | | | Sa 29 | 09 25 5.1 | 21 53 5.4 | Tu 29 | 11 18 5.5 | 23 35 5.7 |
| Th 30 | 09 43 5.5 | 22 15 5.7 | | | | Su 30 | 11 11 5.4 | 23 33 5.6 | We 30 | 11 50 5.7 | ***** |
| Fr 31 | 10 35 5.7 | 23 03 5.9 | | | | Mo 31 | 11 48 5.7 | ***** | | | |

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 30 March to 26 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2003

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 30 March to 26 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Times and heights are approximate only.

COPY RIGHT.

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2003

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 30 March to 26 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

RSPB: *Head Office:* The Lodge, SANDY, Beds, SG19 2DL. ☎ 01 767 680 551

Regional Office: 2nd Floor 42 Frederick Place, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 4EA.

☎ 01 273 775 333

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

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

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

☎ 01 798 875 851

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.

☎ 01 273 494 723

WWT: *Head Office:* SLIMBRIDGE, Gloucs, GL2 7BT. ☎ 01 453 890 333;

fax 01 453 890 827

Local Reserve: Mill Road, ARUNDEL, W.Sx, BN18 9PB.

☎ 01 903 883 355; fax 01 903 884 834

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

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

☎ 01 273 492 630; fax 01 273 494 500

Pagham Harbour LNR:

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

243 641 508

English Nature:

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

☎ 01 273 476 595; fax 01 273 483 063

Chichester Harbour Conservancy contact:

Anne de Potier, Harbour Office, Itchenor, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7AW.

☎ 01 243 512 301

Booth Museum of Natural History:

194 Dyke Road, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 5AA. ☎ 01 273 292 777

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital:

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

☎ 01 243 641 672

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

E.Sx, TN36 4LU ☎ 01 797 223 862

Police Wildlife Liaison Officer:

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

OTHER TELEPHONE NUMBERS (All charged at Premium Rate)

Birdline (National) ☎ 09 068 700 222

(Please report sightings on ☎ 01263 741 140)

Birdline South-East ☎ 09 068 700 240

(Please report sightings on Freephone ☎ 08 000 377 240 or 07 626 933 933)

Rare Bird News ☎ 09 063 888 111

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

Weathercall local 7-day forecast for Sussex, Surrey & Kent
☎ 09 068 500 402

To obtain bird news on a mobile phone, contact:

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

or visit www.birdnews.co.uk

Birdcall (via Focalpoint): ☎ 07 092 247 392

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

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

Rare Bird Alert: ☎ 01 603 456 789

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

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

Bird Guides: www.birdguides.com. National rare bird sightings.

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

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

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

Birdline SE: www.southeastbirdnews.co.uk

WSSC: 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

Meteorological Office weather maps: www.findafishingboat.co.uk/Weather.htm

BIRDING PUBLICATIONS

British Birds (monthly): The Banks, Mountfield, ROBERTSBRIDGE, E.Sx,
TN32 5JY ☎ 0 580 882 039 or visit www.britishbirds.co.uk

Bird Watch (monthly): Solo Publishing Ltd, 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex Rd, Islington
LONDON, N1 3QP ☎ 02 077 049 495; fax 02 077 042 767 or visit www.birdwatch.co.uk

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

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

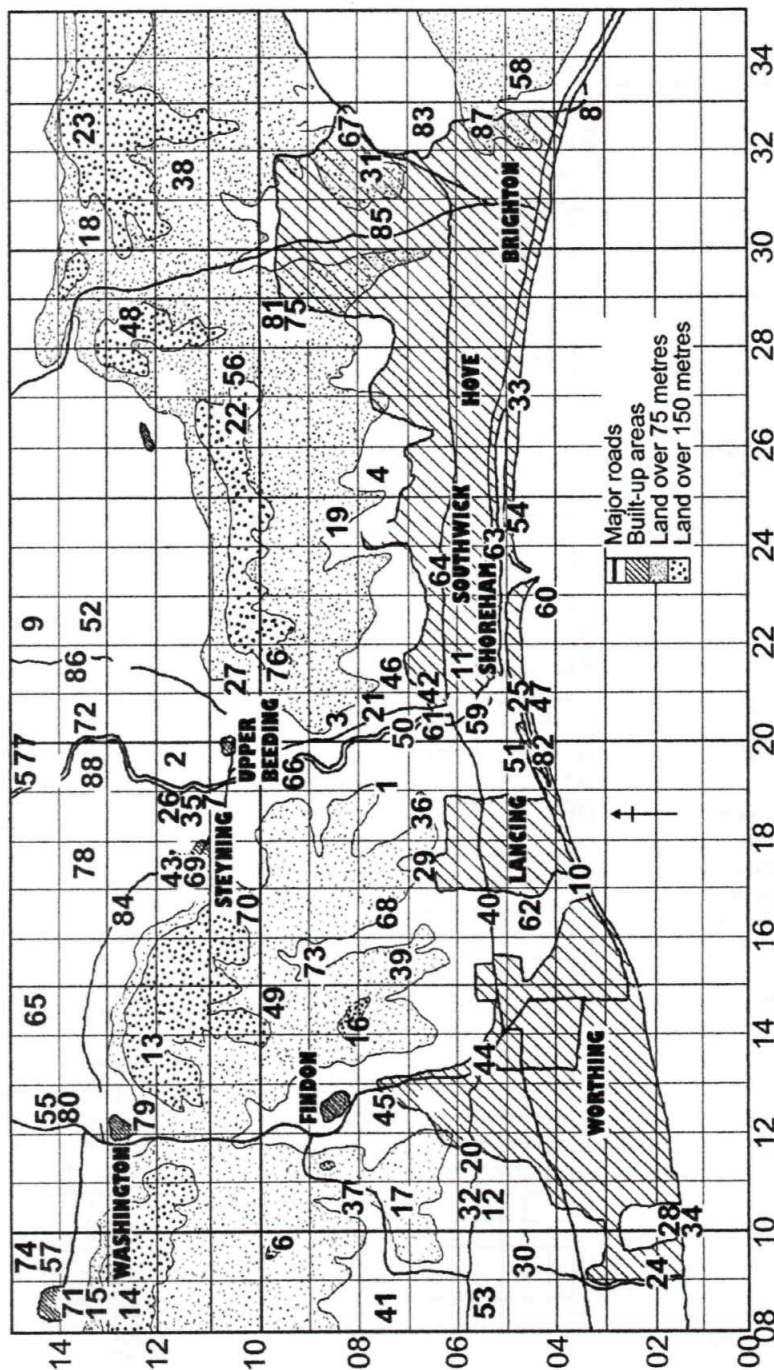
Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary (annual): Buckingham Press, 55 Thorpe Park Road,
PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LJ. ☎ 01733 561 739

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 *Bird Watching* for many years, and the new Yearbook is even
better than its predecessors, better organised and with some useful new sections.

LOCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AREA

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|----------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|----------|
| 1 Applesham Farm | TQ1907 | 31 Hollingbury Camp | 3 5 TQ3207 | 61 Shoreham Sanctuary | TQ2106 |
| 2 Beeding Brooks | 4 TQ1911 | 32 Holt Farm | TQ1005 | 62 Sompfing Brooks | 1 TQ1604 |
| 3 Beeding Cement Works | TQ1908 | 33 Hove Lagoon | 2 TQ2604 | 63 Southwick Canal | 2 TQ2404 |
| 4 Benfield Valley | TQ2608 | 34 Ilex Wood | 4 TQ1001 | 64 Southwick Hill | TQ2307 |
| 5 Bines Bridge | TQ1817 | 35 King's Barn | TQ1811 | 65 Spithandle Lane | TQ1514 |
| 6 Blackpath Hill | 4 TQ0909 | 36 Lancing Ring | TQ1806 | 66 St Bobolchs | TQ1909 |
| 7 Bramber Castle | TQ1810 | 37 Long Furlong | TQ1006 | 67 Stanmer Park | 5 TQ3309 |
| 8 Brighton Marina | 5 TQ3302 | 38 Lower Standean | 5 TQ3111 | 68 Steep Down | TQ1607 |
| 9 Broadmore Common | TQ2115 | 39 Lychpole Hill | 4 TQ1507 | 69 Slayning Mill Pond | TQ1711 |
| 10 Brooklands | 4 TQ1703 | 40 Malthouse Meadow | TQ1605 | 70 Slayning Round Hill | 4 TQ1610 |
| 11 Buckingham Park | TQ2206 | 41 Michelgrove | 4 TQ0808 | 71 Sbrington Mill Pond | TQ0814 |
| 12 Castle Goring | TQ1005 | 42 Mill Hill | TQ2107 | 72 Strettham Manor | TQ2013 |
| 13 Chandonbury | TQ1312 | 43 Mumbles, The | TQ1811 | 73 Stump Bottom | 4 TQ1509 |
| 14 Chantry Hill | 4 TQ0812 | 44 Muntham Park Crem. | TQ1109 | 74 Sullingbn Warren | 4 TQ0914 |
| 15 Chantry Mill Pond | TQ0913 | 45 Nepcole | TQ1208 | 75 Sweet Hill | TQ3009 |
| 16 Cissbury King | 4 TQ1408 | 46 New Erringham Farm | TQ2108 | 76 Truleigh Hill | TQ2210 |
| 17 Clapham Woods | TQ1107 | 47 New Salts Farm | 4 TQ2004 | 77 Upper Adur Levels | TQ1914 |
| 18 Claybn Hill | TQ2914 | 48 Newfimer Hill | TQ2712 | 78 Wappingthorne | TQ1713 |
| 19 Cockroost Hill | TQ2408 | 49 No Man's Land | 4 TQ1509 | 79 Washington Bostal | TQ1212 |
| 20 Cole Street | TQ1106 | 50 Old Erringham Farm | TQ2007 | 80 Washington Sandpits | TQ1213 |
| 21 Cuckoo Corner | TQ2006 | 51 Old Salts Farm | TQ1904 | 81 Waterhall | TQ2808 |
| 22 Devil's Dyke | TQ2511 | 52 Oreham Common | TQ2214 | 82 Widewater | 4 TQ2004 |
| 23 Ditchling Beacon | TQ3313 | 53 Pachting Pond | TQ0805 | 83 Wild Park | 5 TQ3207 |
| 24 Ferring Kite | 4 TQ0901 | 54 Power Station | TQ2404 | 84 Wisbn Pond | TQ1612 |
| 25 Flood Arch | TQ2004 | 55 Rock Common | TQ1213 | 85 Withdean Park | TQ3007 |
| 26 Glebe Farm | TQ1811 | 56 Saddlescombe | TQ2711 | 86 Woods Mill | TQ2113 |
| 27 Golding Barn | TQ2110 | 57 Sandgate Sand Pit | TQ1014 | 87 Woodvale Cemetery | TQ3205 |
| 28 Goring Gap | 4 TQ1001 | 58 Sheepcote Valley | 5 TQ3404 | 88 Wyckham Farm | TQ1913 |
| 29 Halewick Tip | TQ1706 | 59 Shoreham Airport | 4 TQ2005 | | |
| 30 Highdown Hill | TQ0904 | 60 Shoreham Fort | 2 TQ2004 | | |

Further notes relating to this list are given on page 53



Map of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society recording area
showing the location of the sites listed in the Gazetteer

PERSONAL CHECKLIST FOR 2003 (with systematic list page numbers)

| Species | Page | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--------------------------|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Red-throated Diver | 7 | | | | | | |
| Black-throated Diver | 7 | | | | | | |
| Great Northern Diver | 9 | | | | | | |
| Little Grebe | 10 | | | | | | |
| Great Crested Grebe | 10 | | | | | | |
| Red-necked Grebe | 10 | | | | | | |
| Slavonian Grebe | 10 | | | | | | |
| Black-necked Grebe | 10 | | | | | | |
| Fulmar | 11 | | | | | | |
| Cory's Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Sooty Shearwater | 11 | | | | | | |
| Manx Shearwater | 11 | | | | | | |
| Balearic Shearwater | 11 | | | | | | |
| Mediterranean Shearwater | | | | | | | |
| Storm Petrel | | | | | | | |
| Leach's Petrel | 11 | | | | | | |
| Gannet | 12 | | | | | | |
| Cormorant | 12 | | | | | | |
| Shag | 12 | | | | | | |
| Bittern | | | | | | | |
| Night Heron | | | | | | | |
| Little Egret | 13 | | | | | | |
| Grey Heron | 13 | | | | | | |
| Mute Swan | 13 | | | | | | |
| Bewick's Swan | 13 | | | | | | |
| Bean Goose | 14 | | | | | | |
| White-fronted Goose | 14 | | | | | | |
| Grey lag Goose | 14 | | | | | | |
| Canada Goose | 14 | | | | | | |
| Brent Goose | 14 | | | | | | |
| Shelduck | 15 | | | | | | |
| Mandarin | 15 | | | | | | |
| Wigeon | 15 | | | | | | |
| Gadwall | 15 | | | | | | |
| Teal | 15 | | | | | | |
| Mallard | 16 | | | | | | |
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