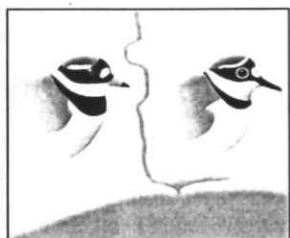


# **Shoreham District Ornithological Society**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2002**

**No 50**





# **SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2002**



<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Editorial.....	2
Birding Highlights and Notes for 2002.....	3
Index to Systematic List .....	5
A Guide to Recording Birds in the SDOS area.....	6
Systematic List for 2002.....	7
Escapes and Feral Birds in 2002.....	50
Arrival and Departure of Migrants in 2002.....	52
Ringling Report for 2002.....	53
Steyning Ringling Group Report for 2002.....	56
Sanctuary Report for 2002.....	58
Worthing Sea-watching Report for 2002.....	60
Indoor Meetings 2002.....	65
Field Trips 2002.....	66
Garden Bird Survey Autumn and Winter 2002/2003.....	68
Society Accounts.....	70
Tide Tables for 2003.....	71
Useful Addresses, Telephone Numbers and Websites.....	74
Map of SDOS Area and Gazetteer.....	76
Society Officers and Annual General Meeting.....	78
Personal Checklist 2004.....	79

## EDITORIAL

As I write this, I am conscious that every member will know by now that with the turn of this year (2003), we complete the first half-century of our history as a Society. But I am equally conscious that, in another fifty years, these words may be read with the same awed fascination with which we read the first-ever Reports of the Shoreham Ornithological Society (as it was then known). How birding has changed in since those days. Our predecessors would probably have been amazed by some of today's technical equipment, gadgetry, field guides and other bird-watching paraphernalia, as they would by the ready availability of 'instant' information, via pagers, mobile 'phones and the internet. How might it change in a further half-century? Pretty obviously, by then there will be binoculars and telescopes with built-in high-quality digital solid-state video-recording equipment, so that we can instantly record what we are seeing, and there ought then to be no arguments with records committees as to what was actually seen. But what else? The first (probably!) computerised video identification field guide on a 'palm' computer was demonstrated at this year's Rutland Bird Fair. In fifty years' time the use of miniaturised versions of these gadgets may be commonplace, but will these developments be advantageous to birding or will more and more dependence on such devices mean the loss of a lot of the fun, to say nothing of the personal expertise?

From reading those early Reports it seems to me that the one over-riding lesson we should learn from them is that we should make the most of our common birds NOW. Today's 'dirt birds' (to quote the derogatory expression of a tour leader we once had on an overseas holiday) may well be tomorrow's rarities. We may well speak one day of Sussex Yellowhammers in the same hushed tones as we now do of our long-lost Cirl Buntings, of nesting Lapwing as we do of the Stone Curlew or Corncrake. True, there have been gains as well as losses. The idea in 1953 that Little Egrets would regularly grace the Adur and Widewater, and that Collared Doves would be ten-a-penny in our gardens would have seemed laughable. But let's now seek out, record and celebrate, not just the ultimate rarities but also the flash of our Kingfishers, the churr of our Nightjars, the antics at the bird table and feeders, and the spectacle of the massed flights of waders and wildfowl. Even watching and recording the simple ebb and flow of the bird populations throughout our changing seasons may be a matter of envy in 2053.

It is true that many things have changed within this Society history but some have not. Its longevity is due in no small measure to the comradeship amongst its members, some of whom give up much time to undertake the various tasks involved in its running. Among those are the various contributors to this Report, and I must thank each and every one of them on your behalf. As usual, special thanks are due to Peter Whitcomb, our Recorder, who wrote most of the lengthy species accounts. This time he was helped by Clive Hope, who contributed much of the Finches and Buntings section, for which both Peter and I are very grateful. Without John Reaney's brilliant illustrations, this Report would be much the poorer, and finally special thanks should go to Brianne, our Chairman/Secretary who contributes so much to the smooth and efficient running of your Society in countless ways. This year, though dogged by serious illness, she has taken on the onerous task (with my fellow co-Editor, Terry) of producing the book celebrating our Golden Jubilee. Brianne, Terry and I hope that you will really enjoy reading it, and all your birding, in 2004!

Jim Steedman

## BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 2002

On the first two days of January diligent seawatching from the Marina logged huge numbers of passing seabirds – on 1<sup>st</sup> there were 388 Cormorants, 16 Shag and 125 Red-throated Divers; and on the following day a record count of Gannets with 885 moving east and 1500 offshore, 4 'blue morph' Fulmars and a phenomenal auk count of 6930. Auk counts were so high for the entire month that the total of 32,364 was probably the highest ever recorded for Sussex. Large numbers of Cormorants continued until 5<sup>th</sup>. In spite of some fairly icy conditions there were very few significant records of winter species. At Worthing another record count of 400 Cormorants went west on 26<sup>th</sup>. The Marina recorded peak Kittiwake passage of 2200 westward on 21<sup>st</sup> amongst a huge monthly total of 12,000. On 28<sup>th</sup> a Ruddy Shelduck, presumed feral, took up residence on Wide-water and stayed until mid Mar. Three Great Northern Divers passed the Marina on 29/30<sup>th</sup>.

On March 7<sup>th</sup> two Red Kites went over Old Erringham Farm and 6 others were recorded from other sites before the end of the month. An albino Common Gull was an identification puzzle at Airfield on 19<sup>th</sup>. The month ended with a string of good birds from the Marina with two Long-tailed Ducks going east and a record 8 summer-plumaged Black-necked Grebes on 24<sup>th</sup>, then 3 Garganey flying east on 25<sup>th</sup> and a high count of 38 Velvet Scoters on 29<sup>th</sup>.

April is one of the main months for seawatching and almost exclusively the most exciting sightings came from the Marina. Two more Garganey went east on 7<sup>th</sup>, and the peak Common Scoter passage was 1600 on 17<sup>th</sup>. Seabird movement continued with high counts of 134 Little Gulls on 21<sup>st</sup>, peak Mediterranean Gull count of 15 on 28<sup>th</sup>, and on 30<sup>th</sup> almost 400 Fulmars were recorded and 38 Manx Shearwaters flew west. A Blue-headed Wagtail, rare in our area, was a good find at Shoreham Harbour on 25<sup>th</sup>. Some of the scarcer breeding birds recorded in the area were 3 pairs of Peregrines, 1 pair of Long-eared Owls, 1 pair of Ravens and 4 pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls.

May started with the usual run of incoming migrants, but a Merlin at Lychpole Hill on 1<sup>st</sup> was quite a late date. On 3<sup>rd</sup>, also a late date for such a high count, were 70 Wheatears at Sheepcote amongst which were many of the Greenland race. On 6<sup>th</sup> a Hoopoe was at Long Furlong, Findon and on the same day the peak Pomarine Skua passage occurred with 32 from the Marina including a flock of 10. A Rustic Bunting, the first of two rare buntings to be found in our area, was located near the dewpond above West Hove Golf Course, and stayed until the following day. With May generally being the favoured month for migration, the 12<sup>th</sup> was the day to have been at the Marina. Amongst a varied tally were 3 Little Ringed Plovers, a Nightjar in off the sea, 4 Black Terns amongst 1000+ mixed terns and peak counts of Whimbrel and Sanderling. The next day 382 Fulmars flew east and 3 Roseate Terns went past the Marina. There were good numbers of Hobby reported from around the area. On 17<sup>th</sup> a Worthing seawatch had over 100 Knot and, continuing the seabird passage, 2 Long-tailed Ducks in breeding plumage passed the Marina on 26<sup>th</sup>.

A good spring record for the species was a Curlew Sandpiper at Shoreham on June 7<sup>th</sup>. In a rather quiet month the only other birds of note were a Red Kite at Chantry Hill and the first Quail of the year calling near Cissbury on 30<sup>th</sup>. July was the peak time for Manx Shearwater passage with 57 on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 69 on 3<sup>rd</sup>, both in strong SW winds. On July 4<sup>th</sup> a leucistic Great Black-backed Gull was at the Marina and stayed for a few days.



It is strange that in mid-summer the first wintering birds return – 3 Purple Sandpipers at the Marina remained until September when others turned up to join them.

On August 10<sup>th</sup> a Wood Sandpiper flew through Sheepcote and a Kentish Plover was located on Goring Beach. This bird was ringed in the Netherlands, and stayed until the next day. Five Marsh Harriers flew west over Brighton on 17<sup>th</sup> and were part of an autumn total of 24 there. A Quail was at Clayton on 18<sup>th</sup> and others at the end of the month from Findon and Steyning downland. Also on 18<sup>th</sup> were 51 Crossbills flying north at Sheepcote. Wrynecks showed briefly at Sheepcote on 24<sup>th</sup> with another at Three Corner Copse on 28/29<sup>th</sup>. The second rare bunting of the year was an Ortolan that was found at Stump Bottom on 26<sup>th</sup>, and the next day a Little Stint was on Widewater.

No real rarities occurred during September; the month was really quite quiet for what is often one of the better months to see scarcer migrants. Early in the month there were a maximum of 35 Whinchats at Sheepcote and the number of Little Egrets remained at 6, giving good close views to birders and passers-by alike for most of the month at Widewater. The 11<sup>th</sup> was the first big day of Swallow movement with 20,000 passing Widewater, followed by 30,000 passing east over Brighton and good counts at Sompting and Worthing on 14<sup>th</sup>, and then the largest count of 50,000 over Brighton on 20<sup>th</sup>. In between a Wryneck gave close views near Wyckham Farm and a Honey Buzzard flew over Cissbury on 19<sup>th</sup>. House Martins numbered 15,000 over Brighton on 21<sup>st</sup>.

If September was disappointing for those wanting to observe scarcer migrants in our area, October was even worse! The month was dominated by high counts of common migrants. Wagtails featured early on with a peak of 25 Grey Wagtails at Sheepcote on 5<sup>th</sup> which was part of a good autumn there totalling 237. Pied Wagtails peaked with a high count of 250 moving east there on 12<sup>th</sup> amongst an autumn total of 1,700. Persistent logging of migrants at Sheepcote produced 7 Tree Sparrows on 13<sup>th</sup>, and on the 17<sup>th</sup> an amazing day with 3 Woodlark, 395 Skylarks, 1500 Chaffinch, 1 Hawfinch and 620 Jackdaws. On 19<sup>th</sup> an even higher number of migrant Jackdaws at Sheepcote totalled 1,100 and is probably the highest number ever recorded in Sussex. Late in the month there was a Whinchat at Steyning Roundhill and the only rarity – a Sooty Shearwater off Shoreham on 30<sup>th</sup>. On the last day of the month 3 Short-eared Owls took up residence on Beeding Brooks.

Items of interest during November were 11,000 Wood Pigeons over Brighton on 4<sup>th</sup>, an Egyptian Goose on the Adur at Shoreham on 7<sup>th</sup> and a Dartford Warbler stayed for about a week on Hollingbury hillfort. A record count of Red-breasted Mergansers off Worthing on 10<sup>th</sup> totalled 129 flying west and 125 offshore, and a Yellow-browed Warbler was in a Goring garden on 13<sup>th</sup>. A Great Northern Diver stayed for a lengthy period in Southwick Canal, a Little Auk was seen off Goring and the Ruddy Shelduck returned to both Brooklands and Widewater where it stayed until the end of the year. Other birds found this month and staying until the end of the year were a Lesser Whitethroat in a Worthing garden, the first wintering record for the county, and 3-4 Short-eared Owls graced Beeding Brooks giving much enjoyment. All this proved that November is not such a dull month at all!

The main highlights of December were 3 Red Kites seen during the month from Brighton, Ditchling Beacon and Storrington. Some of the peak wildfowl counts included 90 Greylag Geese at Henfield Levels on 14<sup>th</sup> and 26 Bewick's Swans there on 31<sup>st</sup>.

Peter Whitcomb

# INDEX TO SYSTEMATIC LIST

Auk, Little	31	Red-necked	8	Tree	36	Common	30
Avocet	21	Slavonian	9	Meadow	36	Little	30
Blackbird	39	Greenfinch	47	Plover, Golden	21	Roseate	30
Blackcap	42	Greenshank	25	Grey	22	Sandwich	29
Brambling	47	Guillemot	31	Kentish	21	Thrush, Mistle	40
Bullfinch	49	Gull, Black-headed	28	Little Ringed	21	Song	40
Bunting, Corn	50	Common	28	Ringed	21	Tit, Blue	44
Otolan	50	Glaucous	29	Pochard	15	Coal	44
Reed	50	Great Black-backed	29	Quail	19	Great	45
Rustic	50	Herring	28	Rail, Water	20	Long-tailed	44
Buzzard, Common	18	Lesser Black-backed	28	Raven	46	Marsh	44
Honey	17	Little	27	Razorbill	31	Treecreeper	45
Chaffinch	47	Mediterranean	27	Redpoll, Lesser	49	Turnstone	26
Chiffchaff	42	Yellow-legged	28	Redshank, Common	25	Wagtail, Grey	37
Coot	20	Harrier, Hen	17	Redstart, Black	38	Pied	37
Cormorant	10	Marsh	17	Common	38	Yellow	36
Crane, Common	20	Hawfinch	49	Redwing	40	Warbler, Dartford	41
Crossbill, Common	46	Heron, Grey	11	Robin	38	Garden	42
Crow, Carrion	49	Hobby	19	Rook	46	Grasshopper	40
Cuckoo	32	Jackdaw	45	Ruff	24	Reed	41
Curlew	25	Jay	45	Sanderling	22	Sedge	41
Diver, Black-throated	7	Kestrel	18	Sandpiper, Common	26	Willow	43
Great Northern	8	Kingfisher	33	Curlew	23	Wood	42
Red-throated	7	Kite, Red	17	Green	25	Yellow-browed	42
Dove, Collared	32	Kittiwake	29	Purple	23	Wheatear	39
Stock	31	Knot	22	Wood	26	Whimbrel	25
Turtle	32	Lapwing	22	Scaup	15	Whinchat	38
Duck, Long-tailed	16	Linnet	48	Scoter, Common	16	Whitethroat, Common	41
Tufted	15	Magpie	45	Velvet	16	Lesser	41
Dunlin	23	Mallard	14	Shag	10	Wigeon	13
Duncock	37	Mandarin	13	Shearwater, Manx	9	Woodcock	24
Egret, Little	11	Martin, House	35	Mediterranean	9	Woodlark	34
Eider	15	Sand	35	Sooty	9	Woodpecker,	
Fieldfare	40	Merganser,		Shelduck	13	Great Spotted	34
Firecrest	43	Red-breasted	16	Shoveler	15	Green	34
Flycatcher, Pied	44	Merlin	18	Siskin	48	Lesser Spotted	34
Spotted	44	Moorhen	20	Skua, Arctic	26	Woodpigeon	31
Fulmar	9	Nightingale	38	Great	27	Wren	37
Gadwall	13	Nightjar	33	Pomarine	26	Wryneck	34
Gannet	10	Nuthatch	45	Skylark	34	Yellowhammer	49
Garganey	15	Osprey	18	Snipe, Common	24		
Godwit, Bar-tailed	24	Ouzel, Ring	39	Jack	24		
Black-tailed	24	Owl, Barn	32	Sparrow, House	47		
Goldcrest	43	Little	32	Tree	47		
Goldeneye	16	Long-eared	33	Sparrowhawk	18		
Goldfinch	48	Short-eared	33	Starling	46		
Goosander	17	Tawny	33	Stint, Little	23		
Goose, Brent	12	Oystercatcher	20	Stonechat	39		
Canada	12	Partridge, Grey	19	Swallow	35		
Egyptian	13	Red-legged	19	Swan, Berwick's	11		
Greylag	12	Peregrine	19	Mute	11		
White-fronted	12	Pheasant	20	Swift	33		
Grebe, Black-necked	9	Pigeon, Feral	31	Teal	14		
Great Crested	8	Pintail	14	Tern, Arctic	30		
Little	8	Pipit, Rock	36	Black	30		

## 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 2002

This systematic list of birds in the Shoreham District is based upon records submitted by the following members, together with additional records from non-members (marked \*) from the SOS database courtesy of John Newnham:

S.R. Allen, C.L. Barnard, V. Bentley, L. Brigginsshaw, C. Brooks\*, A. Burtenshaw\*, G.L. & M. Champion, B.R. Clay, R. Dray\*, B. Easlea\*, R.J. Fairbank, B.F. Forbes, M. & P. Ford, D. Grimwood, D. Harper, J.C. Holt, K. Hearne, T. Hicks, C.E. Hope, F.W. Howard, R.A. Ives, L.R. Keen, A.R. Kitson, J.N. & S.P. Maskell, H. & B. Metcalfe, J.A. Newnham, K. Noble, C. Piper, B. Reeve, A. Robinson, R.J. Sandison, R. Simpson, D.I. Smith, J.C. & J.M. Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, P. Thompson\*, J. Underwood, A.B. Watson, A. Wende, R. Westwater, A.D. Whitcomb\*, I.J. Whitcomb\*, P.J. Whitcomb, C. Wright.

Abbreviations: ad = adult, BBRC = British Birds Rarities Committee, CW = cement works, E=East, etc, f = female, GC = golf course, ha = hectare, imm = immature, juv = juvenile, m = male, (m.o.) = many observers, NC = not counted, 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 = Aldrington Basin & Southwick Canal, the Sanctuary = Shoreham Sanctuary.

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

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

#### **Regular passage migrant and winter visitor**

Some considerable totals are shown in the monthly figures below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	509	161	319	105	32	-	-	-	-	2	152	377
Worthing	37	-	9	4	5	-	-	-	-	5	18	39

High counts at Marina included 125E on Jan 1, 6W/79E on Jan 12 and 92E on Mar 17. Max counts at Worthing were 10E/5 offshore on Jan 8 and 1W/11E on Dec 26. Elsewhere along the coast there were reports in winter of small numbers on the sea from the Shoreham/Widewater area and from Ferring/Goring where the max was 15 offshore on Jan 8.

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

#### **Fairly scarce passage migrant**

Monthly counts from Marina were 2 on two dates in Jan; 4 on 3 dates in Mar; 19 on 6 dates in Apr; 20 on 8 dates in May; 23 on 8 dates in Nov and 2 dates in Dec. The peaks





were 8E on Apr 21, 8E on May 6 and 6E on Nov 20. Others were 1 off Ferring on Jan 1 and 1E at Worthing on May 6.

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

**Rare visitor, 1-2 most years**

An excellent number of sightings. Early year at Marina there were 1W 1E on 2 dates in Jan; 1E in Mar then 2E 1W on 3 dates in May (all IJW). A juvenile showed well on Southwick Canal from Nov 24-29 (mo). Late-year birds passing Marina were 2 singles E in Nov and 1E 1W on Dec 6 (IJW).

**DIVER Species**

Day counts of unidentified divers included 31E at Marina on Mar 15 and 60E there the following day. Totals are recorded below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	44	26	141	14	9	-	-	-	-	-	11	16
Worthing	32	-	2	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	14	27

Additionally 4 birds passing Ferring on Jan 16 were 'probably red-throated'.

**0007 LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

**Mainly winter visitor, occasional breeder**

Early-year birds were present at 6 sites. In Jan up to 5 were on the Adur at Coombes, and a single was at Widewater; 2 wintered at Marina into Feb, whilst 4 were at Southwick Canal in mid Feb. A single was on Beeding fish farm on Mar 1. Two prs bred at Brooklands, each raising 1 young. Birds were present in all months of the year there, max 10 on Oct 7. Singles were noted in autumn from Steyning Levels and Widewater, with wintering birds congregating from mid Nov with max 5 from Widewater, 4 at Brooklands and 1 at Adur Saltings and Marina.

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

**Regular offshore for most of year**

Passage totals from Marina and Worthing offshore counts are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	47	93	58	29	16	-	-	-	-	-	10	125
Worthing	418	-	44	26	30	2	-	-	-	3	11	237

High counts in Jan were 60 off Widewater on 6<sup>th</sup>, then 120 at Goring on 8<sup>th</sup> and a record count of 214 there on 11<sup>th</sup>. These flocks soon dispersed with 50-60 off Ferring and Goring a week later, and just 30 off Worthing on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Small numbers were seen offshore from various coastal sites through to May, and even a few in Jun. Returning birds were turning up in small numbers from mid Oct but there were no significant counts until 69 off Worthing on Dec 21 and similar numbers on 28<sup>th</sup>. During this period Marina recorded its peak passage count of 27E on Dec 10. Birds occasionally ventured up river as far as Tollbridge, but there were no true inland records.

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

**Rare winter visitor and passage migrant**

All records were as follows. From Marina 1E on Jan 4, 1E on Jan 14, 2W on Jan 19, 1W

on Jan 20 and 1W on Jan 26. Then 1W on Feb 3 and 1E on May 12. Late-year sightings were 1E past Marina on Dec 10 and 2 off Shoreham on Dec 29.

**0011 SLAVONIAN GREBE** *Podiceps auritus*

**Fairly regular winter visitor offshore**

A rather poor year with a single off Worthing in Jan, and singles off Widewater in Mar. Few were noted from Marina seawatches with 1 in Mar, 4 in Apr and 1 in May, and there was also 1 off Goring in Apr. Late-year records were 1 offshore at Worthing on Dec 10 and just singles on 2 dates in Dec from Marina.

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

**Rare spring/winter visitor**

Sightings outnumbered the previous species and were predominantly from the Marina, excepting 2 off Widewater on Mar 1 (RAI). A good run of summer plumaged birds commenced with 2E and 1 offshore on Mar 16, the latter remaining until the following day. On Mar 24 there was a wonderful sight of 8 birds on the sea – a record SDOS count – eventually moving off E. Late-year singles were seen offshore at Marina on Nov 19 and Dec 11 (all IJW)

**0020 FULMAR** *Fulmaris glacialis*

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

The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	359	135	1057	1793	1793	49	40	-	15	-	75	394
Worthing	2	-	7	26	118	-	3	-	8	-	-	1

Those from Marina included blue morph birds with 4E on Jan 2, 1E on Mar 5, 1E on Apr 7, 1W on May 26 and 2E during Dec. Peak counts there were 170E on Mar 17, 22W/197E on Apr 7 and a high 382E on May 13. Worthing's peak was also on the latter date with 6W/41E. Casual sightings were noted from off Goring and Widewater. Records of inland birds are unusual and 1 noted circling over houses in Hollingdean on May 22, Jun 12 and Aug 8 could conceivably have been the same bird.

**0043 SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

**Rare autumn visitor**

1 was 10 miles offshore at Shoreham on Oct 30 (BFF).

**0046 MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER** *Puffinus yelkouan*

**Rare autumn visitor**

**2001:** Two off Widewater on Aug 12 (FWH) were part of the unprecedented summer influx of this species into Sussex.

**0046 MANX SHEARWATER** *Puffinus puffinus*

**Fairly uncommon passage migrant**

1E at Marina on Apr 6 was well ahead of the main passage, which commenced from Apr 26. Peak counts were 38W on Apr 30 and total of 1E 89W in Apr; 45W in May, 6W in Jun and 108E 51W in Jul. Highest counts at Marina were 15W 42E on Jul 2 and 13W 56E the next day. A scattering of birds were noted off Shoreham and Worthing in Apr/May.

0071 **GANNET** *Sula bassana*

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

The spectacular numbers attracted by shoals of sprats at the end of 2001 continued unabated for the first few days of Jan. At Marina there were 450 offshore 770E on 1<sup>st</sup> and an area record count of 1500 offshore 885E on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The full monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	8168	81	335	772	1123	202	1121	103	3	459	340	504
Worthing	1145	-	-	41	305	2	33	8	77	88	139	95

Other peaks at Marina were 540W 19E on Jan 13, 232E on May 13, 35W 235E on Jul 3 and 300W on Jul 30. At Worthing the high count was 600 on Jan 20, mostly drifting W whilst feeding. There were numerous reports of small numbers along the coast from casual sightings. Of interest was the rooftop bird in Kempton which was seen throughout the year.

0072 **CORMORANT** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

**Common at coastal and some inland sites**

Similarly to the previous species, there were unprecedented numbers in early Jan, including 388W past Marina on 1<sup>st</sup>. Also 300 were feeding off Shoreham and 30 off Ferring. Counts from the main seawatching sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1927	NC	NC	NC	NC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	738	NC	121	8	39	2	14	4	16	11	16	40

High numbers continued from Marina for 2 weeks with counts 100 offshore 280W on 5<sup>th</sup> and 170W on 13<sup>th</sup>. Counts elsewhere included 183W off Southwick on 13<sup>th</sup>, 160E at Worthing on 19<sup>th</sup>, 300 off Shoreham on 25<sup>th</sup>, and an area record count of 400W at Worthing on 26<sup>th</sup>. Roost counts on pylons in Upper Adur were 60 on Jan 19, 112 on Sep 13, 56 on Nov 11 and 94 on Nov 26. More normal numbers were recorded from around the area including roosting birds on Adur Saltings, birds fishing in Canal, 2 over Wildpark in Nov and 10 off Goring in Dec.

0080 **SHAG** *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

**Fairly uncommon winter visitor**

Up to 5 were regular in and around the Marina during Jan/Feb, and numbers there increased with passing birds, max 11W 5E on Jan 1 and 10W on Jan 21. The following tables show offshore and passing bird monthly peaks:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	67	6	1	6	6	1	2	1	2	9	7	1
Worthing	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

Singles were noted at Worthing on 3 dates in Jan, and off Shoreham towards the end of Jan culminating in 6 on Jan 31. A bird in Marina on Jun 20 was colour ringed. Other birds recorded during the latter part of the year included one off Widewater in August, one on the Canal in November, and 1-2 around Harbour entrance during second half of December.

0119 **LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

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

Becoming increasingly regular with 140 records and recorded in every month of the year. It is very difficult to ascertain how many birds were involved, but probably 6-8 in the first half of the year and over two dozen during the second half. Ones and twos were noted from Bramber, Ferring Rife, Goring, Henfield Levels, Lower Adur and Widewater in Jan/Feb, with max 4 at Steyning in Feb/Mar. Noted at seawatching sites in Apr/May. An increase in numbers commenced from early Aug with 6 on Adur Saltings, 4E at Worthing and later 6 again at Widewater. A total of 22 birds were seen from Worthing in the autumn. During Oct/Nov almost all the birds centred around the Shoreham/Widewater area with max 6 on the Adur on Nov 3. At this time 3 were seen at roost at New Salts Farm. Inland records increased with 3 at Steyning Levels at end Nov. The Dec max was 6 at Coombes on Dec 26/27.

0122 **GREY HERON** *Ardea cinerea*

**Fairly common resident**

Early-year peak counts were 6 at New Salts Farm and 10 roosting on Adur Levels in Jan, and 8 on Henfield Levels in Feb. It is strange to relate 26 prs bred at Wyckham Wood yet on the majority of occasions the reports for the entire Adur valley were less than the aforementioned numbers! Small numbers were noted from seawatching sites and 2 flew NE over Wildpark in Sep. Of interest was a bird calling at night from Hollingdean on Oct 6.

0152 **MUTE SWAN** *Cygnus olor*

**Fairly common resident**

Most of the larger herds early year concentrated on the Steyning Levels area with max 73 on Jan 1, 59 on Feb 16 and 65 during Mar. Elsewhere there were up to 11 on Widewater, 7 in Lower Adur and 5 resident at Marina. A good number were recorded at seawatching sites as shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	12	1	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	2	5	2	-	-	-	21	11	2	3

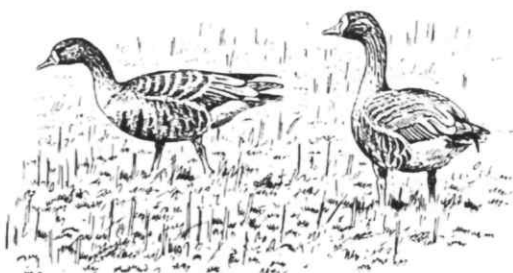
Breeding reports included a pr with 10 cygnets at Widewater, 1 pr Brooklands, 1 pr nr Tollbridge, and 1 pr Upper Beeding fish farm. Post-breeding gatherings included 46 nr Tollbridge in July and 30 at Henfield Rye Farm in Nov, with 39 there in Dec. Much smaller numbers at scattered sites were reported around the recording area. These small numbers were confirmed at Brooklands where there were only 3 counted in Nov, a decline from an average of 25 from 1998.

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

**Scarce but regular winter visitor**

Three adult birds remained in the Henfield/Steyning Levels area until Mar 2. They were joined for 1 day by 6 new birds on Jan 9, and again with an additional 4 on Feb 24. First returning visitors were 4 in the same area on Nov 7 recorded until Nov 23, and were possibly the same 4 were seen on Beeding Brooks on Dec 6. Two were on Upper Adur Levels on Dec 11, then increasing to 20 on Henfield Levels on Dec 27 and finishing the year with a total of 27 including 3 juvs.





0159 **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** *Anser brachyrhynchus*

**Rare winter visitor**

Six flew E over Sheepcote on Oct 7.

0161 **GREYLAG GOOSE** *Anser anser*

**Fairly scarce introduced resident**

Most of the early-year counts came from Henfield Levels with max 33 in Jan, 42 in Feb and 30 in Mar. Others in this period were 2 at Wyckham Farm on Feb 16 and 12 on Wiston Pond on Mar 9. From Marina 10 were noted on 4 dates in Mar, 16 from 4 dates in Apr and 2 in May. Fly-overs were also recorded with 5NE at Wildpark on Apr 1 and 3E at Shoreham on Apr 14. Breeding prs were 1 with 3 juvs on Henfield Levels and 2 prs at Wiston Pond rearing 12 juvs. A single was seen on Adur Saltings in Sep and again in Dec. Counts of 20 at Henfield Levels on 2 dates in Nov increased to max 90 on Dec 14.

0166 **CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

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

Henfield Levels were frozen over in early Jan and the counts were low with 23 in Jan and 11 in Feb. On Mar 23 5E went past Marina and 3W over Sheepcote. Seawatches at Marina also accounted for 9 during Apr, with peak 6W on 18<sup>th</sup>. Noted from Widewater and Woods Mill during the breeding season, but the only confirmation was 1 pr rearing 5 juvs on Wiston Pond. There were 2E over Lychpole Hill on May 29. Wintering numbers at Henfield Levels peaked at 360 on Nov 2 and elsewhere 23 were on Beeding Brooks on Nov 4.

0168 **DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE** *Branta bernicla*

**Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Early-year sightings away from main seawatching sites were singles at Ferring and Shoreham, and 7 passing Ferring. At Marina some movement was noted on 8 dates in Jan, the full monthly totals being:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	73	564	6416	1241	5	-	-	-	-	17	644	112
Worthing	8	7	831	15	5	-	-	-	78	716	2684	31

Peak counts at Marina were 350E on Feb 1, followed by many high counts in Mar including 1879E on 15<sup>th</sup>, 624E on 29<sup>th</sup> and 966E on 31<sup>st</sup>. High count at Worthing was 10 off-shore 563E on Mar 30. The first returning birds were 6 off Widewater on Sep 21. Late-year peaks were 286W/17E at Worthing on Oct 31, and 466W at Marina on Nov 10. Lingering birds included 1 feeding on grass at Brooklands, and also a group of 12 there in

Nov 6<sup>th</sup> on Airfield in Dec and an unusual inland record of 1 at Henfield Levels on the WEBS count for Nov.

**PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE.** 1 flew W on Nov 8 (IJW) and 3 were reported from the Airfield area on Dec 20 (SOS).

**0170 EGYPTIAN GOOSE** *Alopochen aegyptiacus*

**Fairly scarce visitor from introduced populations**

Two were on the Adur at Shoreham on Nov 7 (BM).

**0173 SHELDUCK** *Tadorna tadorna*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Coastal movement was recorded at the main seawatching sites as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	4	-	47	49	36	-	-	-	-	-	2	121
Worthing	8	-	10	5	24	-	-	-	-	28	43	49

Peak counts at Marina were 11E on Mar 15 and 18W/6E on Dec 9, and at Worthing 35W on Nov 11 and 35W/2E on Dec 8. Early year 2 birds were present on Brooklands and Widewater, and a single on Hove Lagoon. Inland there were 5 on Henfield Levels on Feb 2 and Mar 2 and a pr prospecting opposite Cement Works in Apr. Also in Apr were 4 at Ferring on 24<sup>th</sup>. A juv over Wildpark on Aug 16 was unusual. Singles probably relating to the same bird were reported with regularity from Brooklands and Widewater from Oct-Dec, and 1-2 were present on Steyning Levels at end of Dec.

**0178 MANDARIN** *Aix galericulata*

**Still rare in this area**

1 at Storrington in July was the only record.

**0179 WIGEON** *Anas penelope*

**Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant**

A flock of 200 were on Henfield Levels on Jan 8 but were not reported subsequently.

Passage was recorded as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	76	-	25	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	68	177
Worthing	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	368	155	256

Max counts included 107W/6E from Worthing on Oct 7; 188W/43E at Worthing and 140W/43E off Goring on Oct 10; on Nov 10 were 60W at Marina and 102W at Worthing; and on Dec 8 were 69 at Marina and 150W at Worthing. Other records included many heard at night at Hollingdean in Mar, and late-year peaks at Henfield Levels were 24 in Nov and 16 in Dec.

**0182 GADWALL** *Anas strepera*

**Uncommon in the area**

Regularly reported early year from Widewater with a pr on Jan 6, then max 3 until Jan 24. These 3 birds were also seen at Brooklands during this period. Also in Jan was a party of 4 with Teal nr Tollbridge on 9<sup>th</sup>, then 2 on Henfield Levels on Mar 2. Seawatching figures were typically low with 3E at Marina in Jan, 5E at Worthing and 2E at Marina in

Mar, and 2E at Marina in Apr. Birds were totally absent until Oct when 1-2 were at Widewater in mid-month. Max count at Henfield Brooks was 6 in Nov. Seawatching numbers increased with totals at Marina of 2E in Nov and 20E in Dec with max 13E on Dec 11.

0184 **TEAL** *Anas crecca*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Up to a dozen or so were reported early year from the Adur and off Widewater, but more-thorough WEBS counts revealed max 103 in Lower Adur in Jan and 100 at Steyning Levels. The seawatching figures were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	-	104	38	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	178
Worthing	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	4	28	8	221

Max counts from Marina were 75E on Mar 29 and a good movement on Dec 8 with 109W from Marina and 208W at Worthing. 2m were at Beeding Brooks in Jun and again in Oct, with late-year peaks there of about 200 on Dec 31. Other late-year counts included 28W at Goring Gap on Oct 31, max 50 at Adur Saltings in Dec and 50 from Henfield Levels on Dec 16.

0186 **MALLARD** *Anas platyrhynchos*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

Most of the significant peak counts are shown in the table below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	42	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	38	26
Angmering Decoy	79	57	48	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	NC	NC
Brooklands	83	64	34	30	28	24	38	72	30	30	45	38
Henfield Levels	55	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	32	14
Widewater	18	8	6	4	3	8	6	8	10	7	12	18

Elsewhere there were up to 9 early year at Patching Pond, but no breeding was confirmed there, or at the Beeding Fish Farm or Woods Mill where birds were present. The only successful breeding was at Ferring Rife where 1 pr raised 8 young. Small numbers were noted from seawatching sites in Apr/May, and again in Oct/Nov.

0189 **PINTAIL** *Anas acuta*

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

The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	6	-	97	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	7
Worthing	2	54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7-	7	4

Max counts were 39E at Worthing on Mar 23 and 68E at Marina the following day. Elsewhere there was a drake at New Salts Farm on Jan 3, and good numbers on Henfield Levels with 7 in Feb and max 24 on Mar 2. In the autumn there were 3W at Goring Gap on Oct 31 and 1E over Hollingdean on Nov 3. In late Dec small numbers were at Henfield and Steyning Levels.

0191 **GARGANEY** *Anas querquedula***Scarce passage migrant**

After last year's glut of records, back to more usual numbers with 3E at Marina on Mar 25 and 2E on Apr 7.

0194 **SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata***Regular winter visitor**

In Jan the records spanned various areas with 3 at Brooklands, max 25 on Henfield Levels and 13 on Steyning Levels, and also 1-3 on Widewater. Most had dispersed by end Jan, with just 3 on Upper Adur Levels on Feb 16. Seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	100	40	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Worthing	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-

Main movement occurred on Mar 29 with 73E at Marina and 19E at Worthing.

0198 **POCHARD** *Aythya ferina***Regular winter visitor in small numbers**

The favoured areas of Brooklands and Widewater were well watched and produced the following max monthly counts:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	13	10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	16	14
Worthing	40	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	18

Other records were 2E at Marina on Jan 3, 1 at Beeding Fish Farm on Mar 1, 20 off Ferring on Mar 23 and 1E at Marina on Dec 11.

0203 **TUFTED DUCK** *Aythya fuligula***Declining winter visitor**

Much reduced numbers were recorded. At sea max counts were 3E at Worthing in Jan whilst at the Marina there were 2E in Mar, 3E in Apr and 4E in May. At Brooklands the max counts were Jan - 3, Apr - 3, Jun - 1 and Sep - 2. Larger numbers were 7 at Henfield Levels in Jan and 46 on Wiston Pond on Mar 9. At Wiston there were 7 prs in May, but the only confirmed breeding was at Sullington where 5 young were seen in Jun. Late-year counts were 2 at Henfield Brooks in Nov, 8E at Marina on Dec 11 and 1W at Worthing on Dec 15.

0204 **SCAUP** *Aythya marila***Scarce winter visitor**

The only records were from the Marina with 1E on Mar 29 and 6E the following day.

0206 **EIDER** *Somateria mollissima***Regular and passage migrant and winter visitor**

1-2 lingered on the sea off Ferring/Goring and off Widewater early year, but most were recorded on seawatches as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	4	-	68	44	2	-	1	-	-	5	-	53
Worthing	2	2	26	3	3	-	-	-	26	43	5	51



Spring counts were quite low, with 27E at Marina on Mar 30 and 22E at Worthing on Mar 17 being the max counts. Higher numbers passed through late year with 40E at Worthing on Oct 18, and a flock of 45 offshore from Widewater on Nov 11. Smaller flocks persisted on the sea off Lancing and Worthing in Dec. An oiled bird was retrieved at Shoreham Beach in Jun and taken to RSPCA, and a drake was close in on the sea at Shoreham on Jun 14, and maybe the same bird on rocks inside the Marina on Jul 7.

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

**Rare winter visitor**

There were six birds all in spring from Brighton Marina as follows: 2 singles E on Mar 24, 2E on Apr 17 and 2E on May 26 (all IJW).

**0213 COMMON SCOTER** *Melanitta nigra*

**Common passage migrant**

Relatively small numbers early year included 30 off Widewater in Jan. Monthly totals from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	29	32	4303	3939	2441	173	75	32	-	106	246	194
Worthing	3	2	239	211	596	62	71	-	2	34	121	35

Max spring counts at Marina were 1407E on Mar 13, 824E on Mar 30 and 1600E on Apr 17. Good counts continued well into May, and even 133E on Jun 8. Peak Worthing count was 149E on Apr 28. Elsewhere small numbers were recorded on the sea off Goring and Shoreham Beach. Unusually 1 was on the Adur near airfield on Jul 22 (RAI).

**0215 VELVET SCOTER** *Melanitta fusca*

**Fairly regular passage migrant**

Good numbers from seawatching sites are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1	-	77	75	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	20
Worthing	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3

From Marina the peaks were 38E on Mar 29, 25E on Mar 30 and 28E on Apr 21. Casual sightings included 1 off Shoreham on Sep 24 and 1W there on Dec 2.

**18 GOLDENEYE** *Bucephala clangula*

**Regular winter visitor in small numbers**

In spite of colder weather in early Jan there were very few around. At Brooklands 2f turned up for a couple of days and 2 were reported on the sea off Widewater from Feb 12-14. Seawatching produced 2E at Marina on Mar 25, 1W at Worthing on Nov 1 and 1W at Marina on Dec 8.

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

**Common winter visitor**

Early-year flocks were regular offshore at Ferring, Goring and Worthing peaking at 50 in Jan, but max count 158 off Worthing on Mar 3. Passage and offshore totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	19	12	52	153	7	2	-	-	-	1	113	30
Worthing	333	16	282	31	2	-	-	-	17	43	513	981

Passage counts from Marina included highs of 32E/2W on Apr 17, 36W on Nov 10 and 60W on Nov 24. Late-year peaks at Worthing included an area record day count of 129W/125 offshore on Nov 10 and 192 offshore on Dec 21. Up to 18 were present on Canal in Jan, and 13 there in Feb; and smaller numbers on Widewater and offshore there in Feb/Mar. Late-year counts from Ferring/Goring area included 41W on Oct 31 and peak 40 offshore on Dec 12; also 10E off Widewater on Dec 31.

**0223 GOOSANDER** *Mergus merganser*

**Rare winter visitor**

After some lean years a smattering of sightings. A redhead was on Upper Adur Levels on Jan 3 and a fine drake was inside the harbour at Marina the following day. Another flew E there on May 12.

**0231 HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

**Very scarce passage migrant, mainly in autumn**

One flew S at Cissbury Ring on Sep 19 (SOS).

**0239 RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

**Increasing**

With almost a dozen records, this was a good year for this species. First were 2 at Old Erringham Farm on Mar 7, then 1 at Storrington on Mar 24. A wing-tagged 2cy bird flew E along the coast at Brighton on Mar 24 being seen over the town, Sheepcote, Marina and Roedean. Next day an untagged adult flew in-off the sea at the Marina and flew N up Sheepcote Valley; it was one of five incoming migrants logged along the South Coast same day. One at Steyning on Mar 31, and two untagged ads flew N over Hollingdean on Apr 16, approached from the sea. Next was 1 over Chantry Hill on Jun 19. There were no more records until Dec with 1W over Brighton on 15<sup>th</sup>, 1 at Ditchling Beacon on 18<sup>th</sup> and 1 over Storrington on 24<sup>th</sup>.

**0260 MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

**Scarce passage migrant**

First of the year was 1W at Sheepcote on Jul 14. Next were 5W over Brighton on Aug 17, an imm f at Chantry Hill on Aug 26 and 1-2 there until Sep 8. A noteworthy total of 24 birds flew over Brighton between Aug 11-Sep 9. Others in Sep were 1 at Wiston Pond on 10<sup>th</sup> and maybe the same bird at nearby Steyning Roundhill the next day; 1NW at Southwick on 15<sup>th</sup>, and 1E at Waterhall on 16<sup>th</sup>.

**0261 HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

**Passage and occasional winter visitor**

**2001:** 1 at Cissbury on Oct 10.

**2002:** Early in the year birds were very thin on the ground with 1m at Steep Down in Jan and an ad f and imm m at Chantry Hill on Feb 28/Mar 1. In Apr a male bird flew over a ploughed field at Cissbury on 2<sup>nd</sup>, being mobbed by Crows and Lapwings, and an adult female flew over Hollingdean on 21<sup>st</sup>. In the second half of the year, a ringtail was at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 29, then 1N at Wildpark on Oct 19 and a female at Chantry Hill on Oct 26. This latter area had up to three ringtails during Nov 2, seen going in to roost on 11<sup>th</sup>. Others recorded were one at Slonk Hill on Nov 10 and a male at Steyning Roundhill on Nov 30.

0269 **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

**Fairly common resident**

Amongst the numerous reports from all around the area were a good proportion of garden sightings. These included a male seen killing a magpie in a Shoreham garden, and another which took a blackbird, and others at Goring, Upper Beeding and Worthing. Probable breeding was Findon - 2 prs, Goring Gap - 1 pr, Sanctuary - 1 pr and Wildpark - 1 pr but many more single birds were reported during the season. Migrants included a few birds coming in off sea at Marina in Apr/May, and on Apr 15 a total of 15 birds flew W or NW over Brighton. Later in the year 14 were logged going E over Brighton on Aug 18 and others were noted there and over Sheepcote into Sep.

0287 **BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

**Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant**

This species is steadily becoming the most reported raptor for the area with sightings in all months except Nov. During the first 3 months noted from the usual downland sites in the west of our area with birds displaying at Clapham Woods and Washington Bostal. Confirmed breeding was 4 prs but it is likely that double this figure is more an accurate reflection of numbers. This is born out by reports of display and talon grappling, a larger percentage of sightings during Apr/May and many other sightings away from the western area from places like Newtimber, Standean, University of Sussex and Ditchling Beacon. Migration was noted in spring from Brighton with a total of 34 between Mar 25-May 3, max 8NE on Mar 25 and 9NW on Apr 16. There were 12 in the Chantry Hill area on Jun 12. Autumn 'movements' were logged from Brighton with a total of 50 between Aug 16-Sep 23, max 10W on Sep 1. Highest late-year counts were up to 8 around Harrow Hill in Dec.

0301 **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

**Scarce passage migrant**

A good year with 7 recorded as follows: 1N over Hollingdean on Apr 17, 1 over Mill Hill on Apr 22, 1SW over Worthing and heading strongly out to sea on May 31; 1W over Hollingbury GC on Aug 11, 1W over Hollingdean on Aug 20, 1W over Malthouse Meadow, Sompting on Aug 21 and finally 1W over Hollingbury GC on Aug 31.

0304 **KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

**Fairly common resident**

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 1, Findon - 2, Highdown - 1, Sheepcote - 1, Shoreham fly-over - 1 in nestbox, Storrington - 1, Wildpark - 2, Woods Mill - 1 in owl nestbox, and Woodvale Cemetery - 1. Reported from many other areas. One was seen feeding on a wood pigeon at Patching, but not seen to make the kill. In winter reported occasionally hunting along coastal sites such as Shoreham Fort and Widewater, and additionally seen at seawatching sites in small numbers.

0309 **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

**Scarce but regular mainly in autumn/winter**

During the first 3 months singles seen at Cement Works, Chantry Hill, Lancing, Sheepcote, and Sompting. A late migrant was at Lychpole Hill on May 1. An encouraging number of records in autumn, from Aug 28 through to Dec may well have included some duplication, but included birds from Chanctonbury, Chantry Hill, Durrington, Lancing,

Offington, Old Erringham Farm (mobbing a Peregrine), 5 dates at Sompting, Stump Bottom, Sullington Hill, twice at Widewater, Wildpark, and Worthing Beach. A good year.

0310 **HOBBY** *Falco subbuteo*

**Regular passage migrant, has bred**

A good number recorded, with the first on the early date of Apr 9 at Brighton Racecourse. The table below shows the monthly totals around the whole area:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	-	-	-	7	18	6	3	25	30	3	-	-

Reported on a number of occasions in the Tegdown Hill/Standean area in May, and probably bred at two sites further west. Interesting behaviour was 1 hovering over linseed crop at Chantry Hill in Sep. The last was over Brighton on Oct 7.

0320 **PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

**Stable breeding resident**

Four prs bred in the area with mixed fortunes. In Brighton a pair raised 3 juveniles on the West Pier. With the demise of the pier during 2003 it is hoped they will return to the nestbox on Sussex Heights. The new nestbox on Shoreham Power Station was used and it is believed 2 young fledged there. The third site had the nest unfortunately destroyed by rockfall at the egg-laying stage. A site to the north of the area fledged at least 1 young. Sightings were considerable from the vicinity of these breeding prs, and elsewhere at Chantry Hill, Cissbury, Harrow Hill, Henfield Levels, Pyecombe, Standean, Steep Down and Steyning. One was observed hunting auks at sea of the Marina on Dec 19.



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

**Introduced resident, status uncertain**

2001: 70 at Lower Standean on Dec 31

2002: Only noted from four sites during the year. One seen at Wildpark Ladiesmile reserve in Mar and a pr there in Apr, but thought not to have bred. Prs were seen at Beeding Hill and Lower Standean during the breeding season. Coveys of up to 37 birds were noted around the Clayton Windmills area during Sep.

0367 **GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

**Decreasing resident**

Probably bred at Beeding Hill, East Brighton GC, Mill Hill and Sompting Downs. Others were reported from Steep Down and at Steyning Roundhill, where a covey of 13 in Sep was the most seen there for quite a few years. None were seen at all year at Goring Gap, once a stronghold for this species.

0370 **QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

**Rare summer visitor**

A rather poor year with 1 at Cissbury on Jun 6, 1 at Clayton Windmills on Aug 18, and 1 for a few days in the Stump Bottom area at the end of Aug.



0394 **PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

**Common introduced resident**

This species continues to be under-reported with less than a dozen reports submitted. Two prs bred at Wildpark, and noted in two other areas during the breeding season. Of note was 1 with a large gull flock in fields in Lower Adur in Oct, and a white male seen at Clayton in Nov.

0407 **WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Regular winter visitor, may breed**

Early year 2 noted from Cuckoo Corner and Ferring Rife, and singles from Brooklands and Sanctuary. None recorded during the breeding season. Late-year reports were from Beeding Brooks and Sanctuary.

0424 **MOORHEN** *Gallinula chloropus*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

Present all year at Brooklands with peak counts including 14 in Jan, 16 in Mar and 19 in Nov. Noted only in small numbers from Adur Estuary, Angmering Decoy, Henfield Brooks and Patching Pond. The only confirmed breeding was at Little Paddocks Pond, Ferring where 1pr raised 5 young.

0429 **COOT** *Fulica atra*

**Common resident and winter visitor**

Regular only from Brooklands where the monthly peak counts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Brooklands	63	58	24	30	30	45	63	76	90	91	44	34

Breeding at Brooklands was thought to be 4 prs, though success was uncertain. Elsewhere bred at Airfield and Wiston Estate raising 3 and 4 young respectively. Unusually 1 was sitting on rocks with Purple Sandpipers at Marina on Jan 12. Others were reported from Angmering Decoy, Beeding Fish Farm and Patching Pond.

0433 **COMMON CRANE** *Grus grus*

**Rare visitor**

An adult flew in off the sea at Roedean Mar 28 (IJW). It flew N up the Valley, circled, then gained height and drifted off high E at 1.55-2.10 pm.

0450 **OYSTERCATCHER** *Haematopus ostralegus*

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

Early-year beach counts were quite low with 6 at Goring Gap in Jan and max 20 at Ferring on Jan 23. The seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	21	67	91	81	88	-	-	2	-	50	35	17
Worthing	5	26	32	-	34	2	7	3	-	4	5	-

Max counts at Marina were 26E on Mar 28, 25W on May 2 and 26E on May 12. Elsewhere noted as singles in the Lower Adur area during summer. The autumn max was 50 at Marina on Oct 27 and a fairly regular 2-3 birds late year from Adur Saltings.

0456 **AVOCET** *Recurvirostra avocetta*

**Uncommon, but regular passage migrant**

Only small numbers were seen. All records were in Mar, the first being 1E on 24<sup>th</sup> at Marina. Totals were 9 at Marina and 3 from Worthing, which included 1 on 30<sup>th</sup> that spent long periods sitting on the sea before flying E.

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

**Very scarce passage migrant in area, has bred**

The only record was 3E past Marina on May 12.

0470 **RINGED PLOVER** *Charadrius hiaticula*

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

Peak beach counts from the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	10	29	25	-	-	-	-	51	9	10	-	-
Lower Adur	14	-	14	-	-	-	-	120	145	131	114	89
Marina	60	13	15	2	2	-	-	-	50	87	69	-
Widewater	16	12	14	4	4	3	6	6	50	23	-	3
Worthing	25	15	10	-	10	2	-	100	20	15	30	65

Genuine passage is difficult to record with so many birds present along the coast. At Worthing there was a total of 11E in Mar, and 76E 12W in May; Marina had 12E in Apr and 4E in May. The only proven breeding was a pr at Marina who nested late in the year with 3 juvs seen in late Jul.

0477 **KENTISH PLOVER** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

**Rare passage migrant**



A juvenile was at Goring Beach on Aug 10-11 associating with Sanderling and Ringed Plover (CEH et al). It bore a colour ring on its left leg (white 5K) and was traced back to the Netherlands where it was ringed as a pullus at Zonniemaire, Zeeland in May. It was controlled again in the Netherlands on Jul 11 before moving to the UK.

0485 **GOLDEN PLOVER** *Pluvialis apricaria*

**Fairly common winter visitor**

There were very good numbers and widespread records at both ends of the year. During the first few days of Jan there were 3 at Upper Beeding, 20 at Steep Down and up to 70 on Steyning Levels. In Lower Adur there were 6 nr Tollbridge on Jan 22 and presumed the same group also on Feb 17. Autumn passage commenced with 2 over Wildpark on Aug 24, the first recorded there for many years, then 5 at Steyning Roundhill and 5N at Sheepcote in Sep. V-formation flocks were noted in Oct with 15 over Hollingdean, 11 at Sheepcote and 8 over Chantry Hill. Feeding flocks were up to 40 at Chantry Hill and 7 at Airfield in second half of Oct. Nov records included small numbers at Adur, Goring Beach, Henfield Levels and Worthing Beach; and resident flocks in Dec came from Steyning Levels, max 13 on 15<sup>th</sup> and up to 8 in Airfield area.

0486 **GREY PLOVER** *Pluvialis squatarola***Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Monthly peak counts at beach and estuary are shown in the table below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring	105	154	57	-	-	-	-	16	16	56	-	-
Lower Adur	15	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	2	7	20
Worthing	65	45	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	118	85

Smaller numbers were found at Ferring in Jan, 1E at Sheepcote on Sep 28, and 1-2 in the Widewater area late year. Passage counts are shown in the next table where the peak Marina count was 53E on May 12:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	5	64	171	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	-	58	-	-	-	3	4	3	-

0493 **LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus***Common winter visitor but declining breeder**

Cold weather brought flocks to Henfield Levels with max 500 in Jan and 1000 in Feb, but also some movement out to sea from Marina with 23S on Jan 3 and 65S the next day. Smaller flocks of 200 were from Goring Gap and up to 600 on Adur Saltings in mid Feb. Efforts to record nesting/summering birds were undertaken by SOS and included many birds present from downland sites within our area. Definite breeding prs were at Coombes - 4, Highden Hill - 1, Long Furlong - 1, Lower Standean - 1, Steep Down - 1 and Sullington Hill - 3. Many others were seen displaying from other areas and it is quite likely birds bred at Chanctonbury, Chantry Hill, Cissbury/No Man's Land, Highdown and Upper Beeding. Birds were recorded in varying habitats of spring barley, kale, rough ground, set-aside and recently ploughed land. On Apr 6 six were seen nr Cissbury mobbing a passing Hen Harrier!

Flocks during the second half of the year commenced with 100 at Cuckoo Corner in late Jun, then no counts until Sep with scattered flocks of 100+ from a number of sites. Peaks included 232 at Adur Saltings and 300 there in Oct, 413 at Airfield and 400 at Henfield Levels in Nov. Numbers increased dramatically in Dec to max 1000 on Henfield Levels, 949 in Lower Adur and 350 on Beeding Brooks.

0496 **KNOT** *Calidris canutus***Regular passage migrant**

There were no records during the first 3 months. Seawatching numbers in spring were average with 16E on 2 dates in Apr and 171E on 8 dates in May from the Marina; and 145E at Worthing in May. Peaks were concentrated on May 16/17 with 60E and 61E at Marina and 104E at Worthing on 17<sup>th</sup>. Returning singles were noted on the Adur from Aug 19, increasing to 2 in Sep. Others in autumn were 4 at Widewater on Aug 29, 1 at Goring Beach in Sep and 1 at Tollbridge in Oct. 1-2 remained on Adur Saltings from Nov 27 to year end.

0497 **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba***Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Good numbers were counted at the main beach areas, with maximum totals as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Ferring	20	-	20	-	1	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
Goring	33	148	84	40	-	-	-	5	-	50	80	-
Lancing	4	-	14	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	26
Worthing	10	2	40	-	10	-	-	10	5	-	8	30

Peak figures from Marina were 94E on May 12, and totals of 49 in Apr and 167 in May. At Worthing passage totals were 21 in Apr and 138 in May.

0501 **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minutas*

**Scarce passage migrant**

The only record this year was 1 on Widewater on Aug 27.

0509 **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

**Scarce passage migrant**

Rarely recorded in spring, so 1 nr Airfield on Jun 7 was noteworthy. A single was in the Adur Saltings area on 4 dates from Aug 14-Sep 17 and may relate to the same bird throughout the period.

0510 **PURPLE SANDPIPER** *Calidris maritima*

**Scarce winter visitor**

Max counts at the 2 main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	11	10	10	9	8	-	3	3	3	4	9	12
Shoreham Hbr	6	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	5

The last date at Marina was 3 on May 19 and the first returning birds were 3 on Jul 22. Those seen around Shoreham Harbour were often reported associating with Turnstones.

0512 **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Totals at the seawatching sites include beach counts at Worthing as well as passage birds:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	275	85	275	-	-	-	-	-	221	-
Worthing	16	60	77	-	187	-	11	30	15	-	761	970

Peaks were 104E at Marina on Mar 15 and 236E there on May 12. At Worthing max counts were 152E on May 12 and 323W on Nov 10. The high counts for Dec included max 300 on the beach on 14<sup>th</sup>. Maximum gatherings at other sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	45	200	-	-	-	-	-	94	7	40	412	87
Goring	213	218	251	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	-
Widewater	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	70	21	-	-
Tollbridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	94	47	41	82	443

The only inland birds were 2 on Henfield Levels, with Lapwings, on Nov 23.

0517 **RUFF** *Philomachus pugnax*

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

A single was reported from Adur on Sep 15 and another nr Tollbridge which remained from Sep 26-29, then 2 there on Oct 1. At Worthing Beach 1 was disturbed by a dog walker on Oct 9.

0518 **JACK SNIPE** *Lymnocyrtes minimus*

**Winter visitor in small numbers**

One at the northern end of Ferring Rife was reported regularly from Jan to Mar 14, and singles were seen there and on Beeding Brooks in Dec.

0519 **SNIPE** *Gallinago gallinago*

**Common winter visitor**

Monthly peaks at the main wintering sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Estuary	35	4	54	-	-	-	-	-	4	11	54	23
Ferring Rife	15	20	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Henfield Levels	5	24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	28
Steyning Levels	-	6	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100

The peak of 100 was logged on Dec 11. Other records included 1 over a Worthing garden in Sep, 1 over Wildpark in Nov, and 4 at New Salts Farm in Dec.

0529 **WOODCOCK** *Scolopax rusticola*

**Winter visitor and passage migrant**

Another rather lean year for this species with no definite wintering birds reported. One flew N up the railway line at Preston Park on Jan 25 and another was at Newtimber Hill on Mar 18. In freezing conditions 1 flushed from footpath at Stump Bottom on Dec 10.

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

**Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor**

All records were from the latter half of the year. The first was 1W at Marina on Jul 7 then 1 up-river at Coombes on Aug 10. Passage was noted in Sep with 4 at Widewater on 10<sup>th</sup>, 37W at Worthing on 14<sup>th</sup> and 2W there on 19<sup>th</sup>. The last were 2 on Adur Saltings on Dec 20.

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

**Common passage migrant and regular winter visitor**

First of the year was a single on Mar 25 from Marina. The full monthly totals are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	2	437	2141	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	16	395	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Peak counts from Marina were 177E on Apr 17, 249E on May 7, 610E on May 8 and 200E on May 9. Max at Worthing was 124E on May 8. In the autumn 2-3 were present on Widewater from Sep 7-29, and singles noted from Adur Saltings spasmodically from Sep 17-Dec 27.



0538 **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Common passage migrant**

The seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	210	664	13	-	-	-	1	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	4	105	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

First were 13E at Marina on Apr 10. Peak counts there were 101E on May 7, 99E on May 8 and 158E on May 12, two of these days coinciding with the main godwit movement. Elsewhere there was 1 at Widewater on Apr 19 and 4E nr Airfield on Apr 25. Two were inland on Upper Adur Levels on May 4 and 2 near Tollbridge on May 17. Sightings away from spring were rather sparse with 1 on the Adur on Aug 5, 1W at Broadwater on Aug 18 and 1W at Marina on Oct 14.

0541 **CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

**Common passage migrant**

Small numbers occurred on seawatches from Mar 15, the peaks at Marina being 21W on Jun 10, 10W on Jun 12, and at Worthing 10W on Jul 31. One on fields at Goring Gap on Oct 24 was reported as unusual from that site. Late-year records were 4W at Marina and 7W on 3 dates at Worthing during Nov, and 3E 1W at Marina in Dec.

0546 **REDSHANK** *Tringa totanus*

**Common winter visitor**

Roost counts from the major sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Estuary	79	86	116	-	-	-	-	-	69	105	176	116
Goring Gap	14	6	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	16

Additionally, small numbers were recorded from seawatching sites during Mar/Apr and in Dec. Elsewhere there were singles up river at Wyckham Farm and at Hove Lagoon in Jan, 12 on the beach at Worthing on Mar 16 and small numbers from Ferring and Widewater.

0548 **GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia*

**Regular passage migrant**

Seawatching at Marina produced only 4E on 3 dates in May. Three were on Henfield Levels on May 17 and singles were by Tollbridge in Aug and at Widewater and Adur during Sep. Presumably this latter bird remained in the area for a period with regular sightings continuing to Oct 8.

0553 **GREEN SANDPIPER** *Tringa ochropus*

**Regular winter visitor**

Wintering birds were 1-2 in the Henfield/Steyning Levels area in Jan/Feb. Numbers increased there to max 4 on Mar 30 and Apr 4, and still 3 on Henfield Levels on May 17. One on a downland dewpond at Cissbury on Jun 19 was unusual, as was 1N at Sheepcote on Aug 10. Other passage birds were noted at Steyning Levels and flying over Sheepcote Valley. From Nov until the end of the year several were seen frequently on Henfield Levels.

0554 **WOOD SANDPIPER** *Tringa glareola*

**Scarce passage migrant**

1 flew N calling over Sheepcote Valley on Aug 10.

0556 **COMMON SANDPIPER** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Common passage migrant, occasionally winters**

Winter birds were 2 at Cement Works, 1 at Steyning Levels and 1 at Beeding Brooks in Jan, and 2 on Lower Adur in Feb. Passage birds were at Marina on the typical date of Apr 23, 1 at Brooklands on Apr 25 and 1 passing Worthing on Apr 29. A total of 36 were logged at Marina in May, max 8 on both 8<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. Singles were on Wiston Estate and Widewater during May. Autumn saw much reduced numbers compared to recent years with max 6 on Adur on Aug 3 and a similar number at Coombes on Aug 21. Others were noted from the beaches at Goring and Worthing, 1N over Lancing Clump and 2 at Marina. One at Stretham Manor on Dec 21 was unusual.

0561 **TURNSTONE** *Arenaria interpres*

**Passage migrant and winter visitor**

Peak early-year beach count was 39 at Shoreham on Feb 10, and the monthly peaks from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Estuary	6	39	2	-	-	-	-	-	14	4	63	9
Goring	-	3	14	30	-	-	-	40	42	44	-	-
Widewater	-	10	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18

Passage birds were noted from Marina with 7 during Apr and 124 in May, max 63E on 12<sup>th</sup>. Slightly smaller numbers were logged at Worthing. Other counts were received, particularly from beach and harbour areas, and these included 24 nr Brooklands in Oct and 10 on Southwick Beach in Nov.

0566 **POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

**Regular spring passage migrant**

First of the season was a light phase bird with massive spoons at Marina on Apr 21 followed by 2 other singles in Apr, then a total of 48 over 9 dates between May 2-28. Peak day was May 6 with 32E at Marina during the afternoon inc a flock of 10, and 6 passed Southwick during the same period. At Worthing the total for May was 8 with max 5 on 12<sup>th</sup>, and also 1E off Widewater on 17<sup>th</sup>.

0567 **ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

**Regular spring and autumn passage migrant**

The only bird early in the year was 1E at Marina on Jan 30. Passage started on Apr 1 with 12E, typically all dark phase. The monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1	-	-	136	112	2	6	-	-	4	6	-
Worthing	-	-	-	5	18	1	1	-	1	4	2	-

Birds were logged at Marina on 19 days in Apr and 24 days in May, the peaks being 24E on Apr 17 and 27E on Apr 27. Max counts at Worthing were 5 on 2 dates. Also off Widewater on Apr 2 and 2 off Goring on May 9. Of special note were 2 birds circling

high over Sheepcote Valley on Aug 29 then drifting E. Almost without exception the movement in spring was E, but late-year totals were 9E and 7W.

# 0569 **GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

## **Regular passage migrant in small numbers**

Recorded in all months except mid-summer. The monthly seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	3	2	2	36	6	-	-	-	-	7	3	3
Worthing	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-

Max counts at Marina were 6E on Apr 26 and 8E on Apr 28. One was seen offshore from a fishing boat at Shoreham on Oct 30 and 1E off Widewater on Dec 31 was watched attacking a large gull.

# 0575 **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** *Larus melanocephalus*

## **Regular passage migrant and increasing winter visitor**

Now recorded with regularity in every month of the year. The wintering ad seems to have deserted the Harbour area, but others were noted passing and at roost from Airfield, Marina and Worthing. Seawatching totals were as follows:



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	8	4	30	56	17	2	2	-	2	7	4	3
Worthing	1	-	1	2	2	3	9	1	-	1	-	1

Birds were reported from many sites and a cross-section of these included 2 ads at Southwick Canal in Jan, and 6 there at end Feb; 3 ads in a field at Mill Hill also in Feb; 1 over Sanctuary in Mar; 3 ads on the downs in Mar; a handful from the Ferring/Goring Beach area; 1 over Broadwater in Jul; 1 fresh juv at Sheepcote in Jul; 1 ad at Chantry Hill in Nov; and lastly singles on 3 dates around Shoreham Harbour in Dec, including 1 heading for a fishing boat well offshore.

# 0578 **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

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

Seawatching from Marina produced good counts spread over the usual spring passage but additionally at both ends of the year. The monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	32	15	90	211	5	-	-	-	-	89	236	5
Worthing	-	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	10	78	3

Early-year passage was mainly ones and twos, with max 15E on Jan 3 and 9W on Feb 4. There was also 1 at Widewater on Jan 20. Easterly spring movement commenced with 3 on Mar 15, then peaks 42 on Mar 17, 53 on Apr 17 and 134 on Apr 21. Good movement occurred in Oct/Nov in both directions, with Marina peaks 17W 19E on Oct 15, 49W on Nov 10 and 44E on Nov 12. At Worthing a high proportion of the 74W total on Nov 10 were first yr birds. In spite of these large numbers very few were reported elsewhere with just singles at Hove and Shoreham during Oct.

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

**Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Early-year roost counts included 215 at Hove Lagoon and 350 on the Adur in Jan. Higher than usual counts were from the Marina with 1000 on Jan 31 and similar numbers on Mar 31. Where passage counts were logged the first movement at Marina was 300E on Mar 9, then 1200E on Mar 21 and 1000E on Mar 24. At Worthing the monthly counts were Mar - 165, Apr - 23, May - 332 and Jun - 23. Swarming ants attracted 200 at West Worthing in Jul and also 100 over Sanctuary. 500 were at Sheepcote on Jul 19. Low-tide roost counts for Adur Saltings included 132 on Sep 17 and 230 on Nov 27. The only other significant counts were 60 at Rye Farm, Henfield on Nov 4.

0590 **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

**Common winter visitor**

Good numbers were recorded early year. On Jan 19 700 were by the Tollbridge and 110 behind Mill Hill on Feb 17. Winter flocks away from the coast also included 400 at Findon on Feb 20 and 5000 in the Blackpatch/Harrow Hill area on Mar 27. Nearer to the coast were 5000 at Southwick Beach on Mar 3, 1100 by Tollbridge, including an albino bird, on Mar 11, then 1000E at Marina on Mar 11 and 500 on fields at Goring Gap on Mar 21. Very few records were received for the period May-Nov.

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

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

Early-year reports were few, but did include 2 *intermedius* race birds at Shoreham Harbour for several days at the end of Jan. Worthing seawatches totalled 7 in Mar on 3 dates. Urban breeding details included Hove - 1 pr, Brighton College - 2 pr and Shoreham - 1 pr. Others were noted from central Brighton and West Worthing during the breeding season. There were 6 imm and sub adults at Cissbury on May 22, and 2 over Maybridge on Aug 18. Low tide counts around Shoreham were generally low, with max 12 on Sep 17. The highest late-year count was 15 at Henfield Levels on Nov 11.

0592 **HERRING GULL** *Larus argentatus*

**Common, expanding breeding population**

High numbers were seen on the sea off Worthing early year, peaking at an approx 4000 on Jan 19. There were no urban nesting counts from the main areas, except for 1 pr at Swandean Hospital and 2 prs at Shoreham. However, a good indication of local breeding was 260 juvs at Marina in Aug, and counts of many hundreds during Apr-Aug from Marina, Southwick Beach and West Pier. Inland were 300 at Rock Common in Apr and 30 loafing nr Cissbury in May. Counts at Adur Saltings ranged from 180 in Sep to peak 500 in Nov, but apart from 850 at Marina there were few other counts of more than 100.

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

**Regular autumn flock**

Winter records were 1 at West Pier on Jan 7, 2 roosting at Marina on Jan 20 and another there on Feb 2. Next was 1 ad at Tollbridge on Apr 28. The usual flocks in Lower Adur valley commenced with 1 on Jul 22 soon increasing to 5 on 26<sup>th</sup> and peak 18 on Sep 7. A juv was noted at Sheepcote on Aug 10, whilst up to 10 were seen in the Coombes area in mid Aug. A 1<sup>st</sup> cal yr bird was resident at Marina from Oct 2 to year end, and joined by 2 further birds on Oct 22, and max 4 on Nov 14.

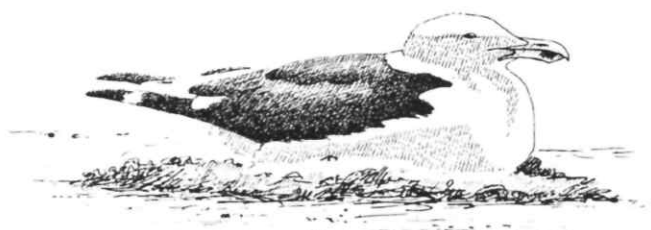


0599 **GLAUCOUS GULL** *Larus hyperboreus*

**Rare winter visitor**

A 2<sup>nd</sup>-winter was at the Marina on Mar 8-9 (IJW et al).

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



**Fairly common winter visitor**

The only notable count during 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year was 60 at Marina on Jan 27. Probably as many as 4 prs bred in Brighton with 8 juvs associating with parents in Aug. A leucistic bird was seen for a few days at Marina in early Jul. Roost counts at Adur Saltings in Sep were 33 on 2<sup>nd</sup> increasing to 66 on 17<sup>th</sup>, and 170 in Lower Adur on 28<sup>th</sup>. The highest late-year counts were 220 at Marina on Nov 11 and 82 on Adur on Nov 27. Also noted on seawatches in low numbers. The only inland record was 10 at Henfield Levels on Nov 11.

0602 **KITTIWAKE** *Rissa tridactyla*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Not surprisingly most records were from the 2 main seawatching sites, monthly totals are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	12363	761	905	1224	1726	11	327	4	3	79	803	508
Worthing	1543	7	-	4	21	-	6	6	2	2	23	17

Peaks at Marina were 930E on Jan 2, 970W on Jan 20, 2200W on Jan 21 and 760W on Jan 26. Other high counts were 1000 off Shoreham on Jan 18 and a constant stream of passing birds at Worthing totalling 1000W on Jan 20. The total for Jan must be one of the highest recorded for the area.

0611 **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

**Common passage migrant**

First of the year was 1E at Marina on Mar 9 a week ahead of the next. Full monthly totals from the seawatching sites are shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	444	2549	2185	143	319	40	NC	6	2	-
Worthing	-	-	84	270	1049	17	36	12	79	5	1	-

Peak day-counts at Marina were 178E on Mar 30, then the main movement with 470E on Apr 17 and 400 E on Apr 21, and still regular passage through into May with 295E on 12<sup>th</sup>. Worthing's peaks were 31W 117E on Apr 28 and 166E on May 12. Other records were 1 heard at night from Hollingdean and occasionally small numbers ventured a short



way up the Adur during the summer. Many late records during Oct are shown in the table and the last were 1W at Worthing on Nov 1 and 2E at Marina on Nov 9.

0614 **ROSEATE TERN** *Sterna dougallii*

**Very scarce passage migrant, usually in spring.**

At the Marina there were 3E on May 13 (two of which were later seen passing Seaford) and a flock of 4E the next day (IJW).

0615 **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

**Common passage migrant**

First arrivals were 3E at Marina on Mar 30. Full monthly totals from seawatching sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	3	1370	1890	-	31	4	5	26	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	3	7	-	2	-	2	-	-	-

Peaks at Marina were both in light SE winds and were 1005E on Apr 17 and 934E on May 12. Most of Worthing's counts are included under 'commic' tern. Unusual were an ad and juv flying ENE over Hollingdean on Sep 2. Much lighter movement was noted in autumn along the coast, and there were more during Oct than in Sep. Last birds were 5E at Marina on Oct 15 and 2W 1E there on Oct 16.

0616 **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

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

Birds close enough for identification included the first from Marina on Apr 17 and monthly totals of 3 in Apr, 127 in May, peak 88E on Apr 21 and 46E on May 12. Worthing noted 9E on May 11 and 1E on Jul 15. The last bird of the year was unusual in that it flew W past Marina on Oct 22, along the beach, but then inland over central Brighton!

**COMMIC TERN**

Birds not attributed to either Common or Arctic Terns are listed in the following table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	546	1422	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	29	619	-	9	24	2	-	-	-

These included 485E at Marina on Apr 21 and 554E on May 16. At Worthing the peak was 203E on May 12.

0624 **LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

**Fairly common passage migrant**

First at Marina were 1W 22E on Apr 17, then peaks of 62E on Apr 21 and 46E on May 12. At Worthing 20 were logged on 5 dates in May. Singles were seen on the Adur in May and Widewater in Jul.

0627 **BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

**Regular passage migrant**

A light passage was noted during the typical period from Apr 21 to May 20. Totals at Marina were 14, peak 5E on May 16; and 4 at Worthing.

0634 **GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge*

**Regular winter visitor**

Offshore birds in small numbers were seen from Ferring, Marina and Worthing during 1<sup>st</sup> week of Jan. Larger movements included 1000E off Goring on Jan 8 and 370W at Widewater on Jan 22. Other movements are included under 'auk sp'. Offshore birds peaked at 50 at Worthing on Jan 22, but generally lingering numbers were low with reports from Ferring and off Widewater in May, and mainly from Worthing area Oct-Dec, including a few beach corpses.

0636 **RAZORBILL** *Alca torda*

**Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

Early-year peak was a group of 300 offshore at Shoreham on Jan 8 and again on Jan 18. A sprinkling of single-figure counts were noted elsewhere in Jan, and also Goring and Worthing in Apr/May, Palace Pier in Jun, Worthing in Oct-Dec and Marina and Widewater in Nov.

0647 **LITTLE AUK** *Alle alle*

**Very rare autumn migrant**

One off Goring Gap on Nov 11 was the only record this year (CH)

**AUK Species**

Many thousands of mixed Guillemot/Razorbill were recorded in winter months, where the staggering total at Marina included 1000 offshore 5930E on Jan 2, 1500 offshore 1575E on Jan 4 and 2130W 250E on Jan 20 in rain. The peaks at Worthing were 1700W on Jan 19 and 2000 offshore on Jan 20. Elsewhere there were 1000E at Goring Beach on Jan 8. Passage continued well into spring as shown below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	32364	1047	49	144	287	9	3	-	-	88	321	4115
Worthing	5173	10	-	-	10	-	-	-	5	-	12	258

First autumn birds were 2W at Worthing on Sep 25. Late-year peaks from Marina were 615E on Dec 15 and 310W 180E on Dec 26. The peak count of 163 from Worthing was also on Dec 26.

0665 **FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia*

**Common resident**

There were no counts received from the regular sites.

0668 **STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas*

**Common resident**

The only early-year flock were 25 feeding in cereal field at Park Brow on Feb 20. Three prs bred at Wildpark, a slight decline, and prs also present at Golding Barn and Woods Mill. Reported as 'just about hanging on' at Shepcote, with max 7 on Oct 11. Large numbers were logged over Brighton with Wood Pigeon movement, totalling 1035 between Nov 3-8. This movement also noted from Marina with 29W there on Nov 4.

0670 **WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus*

**Abundant resident**

Early-year feeding flocks included 150 at Passmore's Farm in Jan, 35 nr Passies Pond in

Feb and a circling flock of 3000 at Ladiesmile on Mar 5. Spring migrants were 240 in off sea at Marina on Mar 28. Wildpark had a count of 68 breeding prs. One ad bird was ringed at Sanctuary in Aug. Early-winter movement commenced on Oct 28 with 150 over Steyning Roundhill and the first of many at Sheepcote. Wildpark recorded 182 on Nov 2 and 310 on Nov 9. A massive total of 28,700 was logged at Sheepcote between Oct 28 and Nov 9, with max 11,055W on Nov 4. Others were 2500 on Henfield Levels on Nov 10, 850W at Marina on Nov 16 and a late-year roost of 400 at Wildpark.

0684 **COLLARED DOVE** *Streptopelia decaocto*

**Common resident**

Prs were reported from Brooklands and Warren Hill, but the only breeding count came from Wildpark where the 37 prs showed a slight increase. Passage was noted at Sheepcote in the autumn, max 40E on Oct 6.

0687 **TURTLE DOVE** *Streptopelia turtur*

**Summer visitor, probably declining**

This species seems to be hanging on in our area and all records should be submitted. First of the spring was 1 at Tegdown Hill on Apr 21 followed by singles at Ditchling Beacon and Woodvale Cemetery at end Apr and Oreham Common in May. Regular reports came from 4 areas, hopefully indicating breeding – Cissbury, Henfield Levels, Lower Standean/Tegdown Hill area and the University of Sussex. Others were noted from Coombes, Steyning Roundhill and Steep Down in late spring. One came in off the sea at Worthing on May 18, whilst autumn passage was poor with 1 only from Wildpark and Truleigh Hill and 2 from Sheepcote, where the last bird was seen on Oct 3.

0724 **CUCKOO** *Cuculus canorus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

Like the previous species, the cuckoo has declined, but for once a fair number were heard and reported in the spring. First arrival was at University of Sussex on Apr 5, then others at Wildpark on Apr 14 and Henfield Levels the next day. Three areas had regular reports – Cissbury, Lower Standean and Storrington. Birds seen once and probably just passing through were from Patching Hill, Sanctuary and Wiston. Juvs were reported from a Shoreham garden in Jun and at Chanctonbury in Jul. Few were noted in autumn, singles at Findon Valley and Lancing in Aug, 1N at Marina on Oct 1 and a juv at Whitehawk Hill from Oct 19-24.

0735 **BARN OWL** *Tyto alba*

**Scarce winter visitor and possibly resident**

**2001:** 1 at Coombes on Jul 6

**2002:** Probably 2-3 birds were seen during end-Jan/Feb period from Airfield, Sanctuary and Upper Beeding. Nestbox success was from Coombes and Edburton, both rearing three fledglings. Roosting birds were also found at barns in the Ashurst and Edburton areas. The only late-year bird was 1 at Lychpole Hill in Oct.

757 **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

**Fairly common resident**

Regular sightings were from Cement Works, Cissbury, Edburton Hill, Findon Valley, Henfield Levels, New Erringham Farm, and Golding Barn. With prs noted from nearly

all of these sites, breeding was assumed. Others were recorded from Beeding Brooks, Fulking, Lower Standean, Myrtle Grove Farm and Waterhall.

0761 **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

**Fairly common resident**

Reported from only 4 sites – Cissbury Ring where birds were recorded on 6 dates between Jun-Oct, 3 reports from Goring Gap, and singles reported during the breeding season from Bramber and Steyning.

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

**Scarce winter visitor**

Two downy juveniles were seen at a downland site in Aug and birds were seen again there in Nov. A migrant was at Sheepcote on Sep 11.

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

**Migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Spring migrants were well reported, the first being 1 in off the sea at Marina on Mar 25. On 29 March birds were seen flying out to sea at both Marina and Worthing. Another came in off sea at Marina on Apr 18 and 1W at East Brighton GC on Apr 20. The first autumn arrival was at Portslade on Sep 25, followed by 1 in off sea at Worthing on Oct 18. Three were at Beeding Brooks on Oct 31 (JS), and up to 4 remained in the area until the end of the year giving many people much pleasure. The only other report was 1W at Goring Gap on Nov 18 heavily mobbed by crows.

0778 **NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

**Rare summer migrant, formerly bred**

One flew in off the sea at the Marina on May 12 (ADW, IJW). This is the 6<sup>th</sup> record for the site!

0795 **SWIFT** *Apus apus*

**Common summer visitor and passage migrant**

First arrivals were 2 in off the sea at Marina on Apr 17, a week ahead of a little flurry on Apr 25 with 10 at Marina and singles at Shoreham and Steyning. Local birds were back in Hollingdean by May 1 and larger numbers included 50NW at Hollingbury Camp on May 3 and 80 there on May 15. Others were noted at Broadwater, Henfield and Worthing. Other breeding counts were received from Maybridge, Portslade, Storrington and Worthing. The largest counts were a screaming party of 290 in Hove on Jun 10, 190 over Standean on Jun 18 and a large movement of 1000NW over Hollingdean on Jun 27. Early departure was shown by 1000+E over Brighton on Jul 13, 600NW at Sheepcote the next day and 200 over Steyning on Jul 16. Other counts included 250 at Broadwater on Jul 30 and 1100NW at Wildpark on Aug 6, with smaller numbers the next day. The last there were on Aug 19, but others still trickled through from Goring and Worthing in late Aug, then 1 at Sompting on Sep 2 and the last of Ladiesmile on Sep 21.

0831 **KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

**Scarce resident and winter visitor**

Singles were seen early year from Brooklands, Cuckoo Corner and Upper Beeding. In Feb most were reported as singles from Chantry Lane Pond, from near Wyckham Wood

and Lower Adur. A few more records in the breeding season were encouraging with definite breeding at Coombes, and probably at Steyning Levels and Upper Beeding where sightings of 2 birds were recorded. A single was seen in the Clayton area in May. Most of the reports were from Sep-Nov where birds were seen regularly in Lower Adur, and extended out to Brooklands, New Salts Farm and Widewater. Two birds wintered inside Marina, whilst others were seen regularly from Adur Saltings, Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels in Dec.

**0848 WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*

**Rare passage migrant**

A good autumn for this species. First were 2 at Sheepcote on Aug 24, and another there on Sep 2. Another single spent two days at Three Corner Copse, Hove on Aug 28-29 (CAH et al), and a different bird was present there on Sep 8 (JCH). Last was a single seen very close at Wyckham Farm on Sep 15 (BM).

**0856 GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

**Common resident**

Widespread across the area with confirmed breeding prs as follows: Cissbury - 1, Durrington - 1, Findon - 2, Lancing College - 1, Storrington Heath - 1, Sullington Warren - 1, Wildpark - 1, and Woodvale Cemetery - 1. Many other reports came from over a dozen additional sites.

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

**Common resident**

Early-year reports were from about a dozen scattered sites. Confirmed breeding locations were Findon - 2 prs, Goring Gap - 1 pr, Michelgrove - 2 prs, Storrington Heath - 2 prs, Washington Common - 1 pr, and Wildpark - 1 pr. Probably bred at Cissbury, Newtimber Hill, Upper Beeding and Wiston Estate. In the second half of the year reported from 6 different sites and also a number of migrant birds passing through at the Coast. These included a total of 11 logged flying N at Sheepcote between Aug 28-Oct 9, 1E at Worthing on Sep 14; 1 in off the sea at Marina (first site record) on Oct 16 and 1 at Whitehawk Hill on Oct 24.

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

**Scarce, has bred**

One seen at Henfield Levels on Jan 2 was followed by 1 calling at Highdown Hill on Mar 24, then 1 on the old railway line at Henfield Levels on Nov 23. This species remains scarce in our area. Maybe some vigilance will turn up a breeding pair from sites such as Henfield or Woods Mill.

**0974 WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*

**Rare passage migrant**

The only record was 3 flying W during a large finch movement at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 17 (IJW).

**0976 SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

**Common resident**

Some large flock counts occurred early year with 100 in ploughed stubble at Coombes on Jan 1, and a high count of 450 at Steep Down the following day. A smaller flock was at



Chantry Hill, again feeding in stubble on Jan 9. Song was first noted on Feb 24 with 7sm at Mill Hill, and 10 nearby at Beeding Hill in Mar. At Worthing singles were noted on seawatches on Mar 16 and 23. Confirmed breeding counts included Blackpatch Hill – 6 prs, Chantry Hill – 6 prs, Ditchling Beacon – 1 pr, Goring Gap – a decrease to 3 prs, and Wildpark – an increase to 12 prs. Probably bred at other downland sites such as Chancetonbury, Cissbury, Clayton, Sompting and Upper Beeding. Autumn movement was noted from Wildpark with 280 from Sep 24-Nov 16, max 45 on Oct 11; at Sheepcote where the autumn total was 1400, max 395W on Oct 17; 95W over Hollingdean on Nov 4 and 10E from Worthing Beach on Nov 9.

0981 **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

**Summer visitor and common passage migrant**

Very few reported in spring. The first was at the breeding site at Sandgate Park on Apr 1. Fly-overs were noted from the downs in late Apr and 6 at University of Sussex on May 10. At Worthing 11 came in off the sea on Apr 29. Approx 80 prs bred at Sandgate Park but none from Rock Common. Fifty came in off the sea at Marina on Jul 6 and similar numbers there the next day. Early passage included 50NW at Hollingdean on Jul 11 and 300NW at Sheepcote on Jul 14. Main passage was noted in Sep from Wildpark and Worthing in generally low numbers, the exception being 4000E over Brighton on Sep 17.

0992 **SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

**Common summer visitor**

First arrival date was 2 at University of Sussex on Mar 28 followed by singles at Ladiesmile, Mill Hill and Whitehawk on Apr 1. There were many scattered records during Apr in low numbers, the only significant figure was 200 in off the sea at Marina on May 14. Records continued into Jun but there was not one confirmed breeding reported! Heavy passage was witnessed during Sep the first large count being 20,000E during the afternoon of Sep 11 at Worthing, and 15,000E at Brighton the following day. Peak at Wildpark was 3800 on 13<sup>th</sup>, then 30,000E over Brighton on 14<sup>th</sup> and well over 7000 from Worthing the same day. On Sep 19 over 40,000E at Brighton was followed by the highest count of the autumn 50,000 on 20<sup>th</sup>. The next day many thousands were noted from Beeding Hill, Ladiesmile and Worthing. As usual, good numbers continued well into Oct for example 350 at Worthing on 7<sup>th</sup> and 70 at Brooklands on 18<sup>th</sup> and smaller numbers elsewhere. Recorded in Nov from Hove Lawns, Marina, Whitehawk and Worthing, the last being 2E at Widewater on 16<sup>th</sup>.

1001 **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbica*

**Common summer visitor**

Two early arrivals were at Marina on Mar 29 and at Steyning on Apr 4. The main arrival was not until the end of Apr but generally the numbers were quite low, the exception being 100 in off sea at Marina on May 14. Breeding was disappointing with just 4 prs at Hove, 5 prs Mile Oak, about 6 prs Myrtle Grove Farm and 2 prs Steyning. Birds were noted at Patcham but no counts were received from the colony there. First departure was 100E at Sanctuary on Sep 5 and larger numbers occurred from Sep 14 with 600E at Sompting and 5800 travelling E behind the beach at Worthing. During the next week many thousands were recorded from Brighton, Clayton, Wildpark and Worthing culminating in a peak count of 12,000E over Brighton on Sep 26. Fewer than normal lingered into Oct with 50 at Goring Gap on 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 at Worthing on 18<sup>th</sup> and the last were 12 at Cissbury Ring on 19<sup>th</sup>.

1009 **TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

**Fairly common passage migrant**

A very poor spring with just 2 birds recorded at Sheepcote and Woodvale Cemetery both on Apr 25. Return passage commenced with 1 at Lancing Clump on Aug 16 and 2 there on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Only 8 were seen in autumn from Wildpark, max 5 on Sep 13, and small numbers were reported from mainly downland sites. Prolonged visits to Sheepcote produced a total of 90 up to Oct 1, with max 12 on Sep 19. The last recorded was at Stump Bottom on Oct 5.

1011 **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

**Locally common resident**

Breeding birds were displaying early year from Cuckoo Corner and Golding Barn areas, but very few were reported until the main spring passage in Mar. At Wildpark 100 went through on 15<sup>th</sup> and smaller numbers there until 30<sup>th</sup>, whilst a few came in off sea at Worthing during this period. Parachute display and probable breeding prs included Beeding Hill - 2, Cuckoo Corner - 1, Ditchling Beacon - 2, Fulking - 1, Golding Barn - 1, Steep Down - 2 and Wolstonbury - 1. Flocks moving along the downs were noted from Lower Standean and Steyning in mid-Sep, and a considerable movement on Sep 21 with 200 at Stump Bottom, 220 over Wildpark and 500E at Worthing Beach. Peak counts came a little later from Sheepcote with 750 on Sep 28 and 550 on Oct 6, from an autumn total of 8000. Other high counts in Oct included 200 from Cissbury on 1<sup>st</sup>, 80 at Wildpark on 11<sup>th</sup> and 160E at Worthing on 13<sup>th</sup>. Very few were recorded towards the end of the year, with a flock of 30 at Upper Beeding in November and a few remaining along beaches during December.

1014 **ROCK PIPIT** *Anthus petrosus*

**Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds**

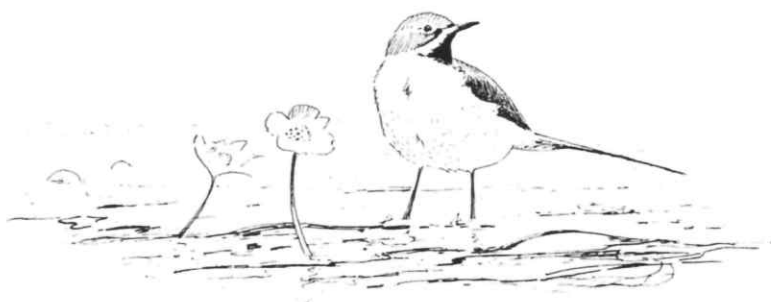
Seen regularly only from Marina with 2 there during the winter months and 1 pair raising 3 juvs in summer. There were two on Goring Beach on Jan 12, one of which showed characteristics of 'littoralis' subsp. Ones and twos were recorded from Jan to Mar from beaches at Goring, Shoreham, Widewater and Worthing. Unusual was 1N inland at Sheepcote on Sep 24 and another in same direction on Oct 1. Beach birds were noted from early October to the end of the year in similar numbers to the first winter period and from the same sites.

1017 **YELLOW WAGTAIL** *Motacilla flava*

**Common passage migrant**

The first migrants were 1 over Whitehawk on Apr 4 followed by singles at Goring on Apr 13/14 and at Widewater on Apr 16. Records from Marina included 6 in off sea on Apr 18 and 10 on May 2, whilst 4 were recorded from Worthing in May. High autumn totals started with a smattering at Lancing Clump and Wildpark from mid-Aug. Later, larger flocks included 12 at Clapham on Aug 31, and similar numbers at Coombes on Sep 7 and Adur Rec on Sep 13. Higher still were 29 at Sompting Brooks on Sep 14 and 110E at Sheepcote on Sep 3 where the overall autumn total was 590. There were still 15 at Goring Gap on Sep 24 and the last were singles at Ladiesmile on Oct 5 and Beeding Hill on Oct 6.

A bird showing characteristics of Blue-headed Wagtail *Motacilla flava flava* was seen at Shoreham on Apr 25 (RAI).



**1019 GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea***

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

Early-year records were mainly as singles from Brooklands, Cement Works, Goring Gap, Hove and Steyning. Pairs were present in the breeding season at Brooklands, Woods Mill and Central Brighton. Autumn passage was extremely high and commenced on Aug 26 with 2 over Sheepcote. An autumn total of 237 was logged from the same site with max 25E on Oct 5. Much smaller numbers occurred from a wide area, and included many notable urban counts, in particular 9 at Pavilion Gardens, Brighton on Oct 2. Very conspicuous late in the year, many were known to be wintering in Brighton and there were regular sightings at Brooklands, Marina and Worthing.

**1020 PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba yarrelli***

**Common resident**

Breeding prs were from Clayton, Lower Standean, Michelgrove and West Durrington. Feeding flocks included 20 at Steyning Sewage Works and 27 on Hove rugby pitches in Feb/Mar as well as scattered reports of smaller numbers elsewhere. Some heavy autumn passage was noted, first from Worthing Beach with 19 in Sep and 65 in Oct, peak 52E on Oct 1; then at Sheepcote an autumn total of 1763 with max 150E on Oct 4 and 250E on Oct 12. The regular roost at the Marina held 120 on Oct 31 (but no counts were made at the peak time) and others included 40E at Mill Hill late pm on Nov 1.

There were three records of White Wagtail *Motacilla alba alba* all from Sheepcote on Apr 3, Sep 18 and Sep 26.

**1066 WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes***

**Very common resident**

Well reported from around the area, in particular from Warren Hill, and at Wildpark where there were 113 prs breeding, a big increase on previous years. At Cissbury 2 prs bred and 38 birds ringed between Apr 27 – Oct 19. Higher numbers were trapped at Sanctuary with 60 handlings involving 38 different birds, max 7 on Sep 22. Other records included max 25 at Sheepcote on Oct 7 and 1 on the beach at Worthing on Oct 18.

**1084 DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis***

**Very common resident**

Breeding counts submitted were 46 prs at Wildpark and 4 prs from Cissbury. Ringing totals were 47 new birds at Cissbury and 42 handlings at Sanctuary. The only significant counts were from Sheepcote with 100 there on Oct 4 and 70 on Oct 7.

1099 **ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Very common resident**

Breeding counts were 7 prs at Cissbury, 12 prs at Warren Hill and 148 prs at Wildpark. At Three Corner Copse, Hove, 6 nests were monitored with 3 failing and 3 fledging 15 juvs. Ringing at Sanctuary involved 75 handlings involving 56 different birds, max 7 twice in June. At Cissbury there were 85 new birds ringed, max 15 on Sep 28. The peak count at Cissbury indicated some autumn arrivals and there was a peak of 60 at Sheepcote a few days later.

1104 **NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

**Passage migrant, occasionally breeds**

First arrivals were singles at Woods Mill and University of Sussex on Apr 23. A week later there were 3 singing on Oreham Common, followed by 2 at Edburton and Small Dole. Another was seen at Sandgate Wood in May. Probable breeding was 3 prs at Oreham Common and 2 prs at Woods Mill. In the autumn 15 migrants were logged at Sheepcote between Jul 26-Sep 20.

1121 **BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

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

No birds were reported from the usual coastal sites during the first two months. The first arrival was at Marina on Mar 5 closely followed by others at Southwick Beach, another at Marina, a pr on Shoreham Beach and singles at Preston Park and Sheepcote Valley, all during Mar. Autumn migrants were singles from Wildpark, Marina, Brighton Seafront and Hove at end Oct. Scattered reports continued through Nov with birds at Airfield (inside a craft fair marquee!), Broadwater, Steep Down and Worthing, up to 4 from Marina, 1 in a Findon garden for 2 days, 3 at Widewater and 2-3 from Southwick and Shoreham Beaches. The latter sites had maybe as many as 6 birds on Nov 30, with 4 in early Dec and 1 remaining to year end. The only other wintering bird was at Worthing in Dec.

1122 **REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

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

**2001:** First was at Hangleton on Apr 1.

**2002:** First arrivals were at Shoreham Beach and University of Sussex on Apr 16. Others followed from Fulking, 2 from New Salts Farm and Whitehawk. One was ringed at Cissbury on Aug 24, where there were regular sightings until Oct 1, max 7 on Sep 1. Totals from Sheepcote were 48 to Oct 3, peak 8 on Sep 8, and 15 at Wildpark to Oct 7. Elsewhere there were 3 at Stump Bottom at end Aug, 3 at Lower Standean in mid-Sep and many singles from a variety of sites. Last birds were at Brooklands on Oct 11 and 1 from Ferring on Nov 6 is awaiting confirmation from SOS for such a late date.

1137 **WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

**Common passage migrant**

A good spring for this species commenced with 1 at Lancing Clump on Apr 22, then 5 at Sheepcote on Apr 25 and others from Wildpark the next day. Two more were at Hollingbury hillfort and max 8 from Sheepcote on May 3. Others in May were seen at New Salts Farm and Lower Standean, and a late male at Wildpark on Jun 23. First returning bird was at Goring Beach on Aug 10, followed by 1 at Mill Hill on Aug 16. Whilst only 9 were recorded in autumn from Wildpark, other sites fared much better with max 10 at

Sompting Brooks and 6 at Three Corner Copse at end Aug; 15 at Steep Down on Sep 2. The same day the peak count of 35 came from Sheepcote, where 320 bird days were recorded. Good counts came from New Salts Farm, 12 at Cissbury on Sep 21 and 8 at Upper Beeding the same day. The last was a single at Steyning Roundhill on Oct 28.

1139 **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*

**Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds**

Reported in the first two months from Airfield, Beeding Brooks, Coombes, Steep Down and Widewater. There was very little evidence of movement in Mar with just 2 birds at Goring Beach and 2 at Wildpark. Confirmed breeding was Beeding Hill – 3 prs, Sheepcote – 3 prs, Steep Down – 4 prs and West Hove GC – 1 pr. Family parties were noted from most of these sites from Jun. Others seen in the breeding season were from Cissbury, Steyning Roundhill and Wolstonbury. Many were reported during Oct/Nov period with max 21 at Sheepcote on Oct 3 and smaller numbers from Cissbury, Steyning Roundhill and Wildpark. Up to 4 were regular at Widewater at the year's end.

1146 **WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

**Common passage migrant**

First arrival date in our area was Mar 15 with 3 at Ferring, 2 at Hollingbury Camp and 2 at Widewater. Rather low numbers were seen during the next few weeks with low peaks of 5 at Marina and Worthing. In late Apr seen from Pyecombe and Lower Standean. A noteworthy count of 70 came from Sheepcote on May 3, a late date for such a high count, and included many Greenland-race birds. A single at Goring Beach on Jun 8 may have been a late incoming bird, or a very early departing one. Autumn passage started as a trickle, with birds from late Jul at Chantry Hill, Ferring, Tollbridge and Wildpark. Slightly higher numbers included 10 at Chantry Hill and 8 at Stump Bottom at end Aug, but high numbers did not materialise anywhere. Wildpark had an autumn total of only 45, the max at Sheepcote was 11 on Sep 8 and 6 at Worthing Beach on the same day signified a poor autumn for this species. The highest day count was 12 at Cissbury on Sep 19. Ones and twos continued into Oct from Mill Hill, Marina, Stretham Manor, Wildpark and Worthing Beach, and the last was at Shoreham Fort on Oct 26.

1186 **RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

**Regular passage migrant**

A poor spring with singles at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 15 and at Whitehawk Hill on Apr 1. First of the autumn were 3 at Sheepcote on Sep 19 where the passage was heavy into mid-Oct, peak counts being 30 on Oct 10, 40 on Oct 11 and 22 on Oct 12. Other sightings in Oct were 12 at Whitehawk Hill on 12<sup>th</sup>, 6 on 3 dates at Cissbury, 1 from Brooklands on 2 dates, 1 from Benfield Valley and the last clacking from a berry-rich thicket at Brooklands on Nov 3.

1187 **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

**Very common resident**

A pr in Pavilion Gardens, Brighton had young in the nest on the early date of Mar 18. Other breeding counts included Cissbury – 6 pr and Wildpark – 132 pr, and at Three Corner Copse where monitoring showed a high percentage of failure, with 30 nests only producing 25 young from 9 nests. There were many other records from around the area, particularly from Warren Hill and from coastal bushes at Goring and Brighton. Ringing totals were 44 from Cissbury and 46 from Sanctuary. Visible migration was observed at



Sheepcote with up to 50 most days in Oct, max 100 on 16<sup>th</sup>. High counts elsewhere were 35 at Cissbury on Oct 19, 76 at Wildpark on Nov 2 and 50 at Stump Bottom on Dec 10, the latter two in association with winter thrushes.

**1198 FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

**Common winter visitor**

Very few noted in Jan but there were flocks of 20 at Michelgrove and 500 at Henfield Levels in early Feb. In Mar there were flocks of up to 50 at Clayton, Ditchling Beacon and Upper Beeding. The last was a single bird feeding on the cricket pitch at Lancing College on Apr 14. First of the autumn was 1 at Lancing Clump on Oct 18 and 17 at Sheepcote and 8 at Cissbury the following day. There were many records during the last two months. The larger populations concentrated on Henfield Levels and Stump Bottom where the peaks were 1000 and 400 respectively. Other high counts came from Beeding Brooks and Steyning Roundhill.

**1200 SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

**Fairly common resident**

Even earlier than blackbird, a pr was feeding young in Pavilion Gardens on Mar 11. Other breeding prs were at Brooklands - 5, Cissbury - 4, Sanctuary - 2, Wildpark - 15, and at Three Corner Copse poor success followed the pattern of blackbird with 8 nests failing out of 10, and producing only 7 young. Ringing totals were mainly during autumn with 28 at Cissbury and 10 at Sanctuary. The only high counts in autumn were 40 at Cissbury on Oct 19 and 44 at Wildpark on Nov 2. Elsewhere a scattering of records in small numbers.

**1201 REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

**Common winter visitor**

Early-year flocks included 11 at Ladiesmile and 100 at Edburton, but no records anywhere during Feb. Migrant flocks in Mar peaked at 100 on 21<sup>st</sup> at Sheepcote and smaller flocks from Standean, Wildpark, Withdean and University of Sussex, where that last was seen on Apr 14. Typical dates for first arrival were singles over Hove on Oct 6 and at Wildpark the next day. Numbers were quite low until Oct 31 when an estimated 2400 flew over Sheepcote, then 43 at Wildpark, 50 at Henfield Levels and 40 at Ladiesmile, all in early Nov. Late-year peaks were 200 at Henfield Levels on Dec 15, 100 at Stump Bottom on Dec 10 and 50 on Beeding Brooks on Dec 6.

**1202 MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

**Common resident**

Very few reports early year, with max 10 at Michelgrove in Feb. Breeding counts were: Cuckoo Corner - 2 prs, Easthill Park - 1 pr, Preston Park - 1 pr, St Anne's Well Gardens - 1 pr and Wildpark - 2 prs. Probably bred at Clayton, High Salvington and Patching Hill, though under-reported generally. Coastal sightings with birds flying N included 2 over Mill Hill on Aug 16, 5 on 3 dates over Sheepcote between Sep 30-Oct 12, and 2E over Hollingdean on Nov 5. A flock of 28 was reported at Blackpatch Hill on Aug 31.

**1236 GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

**Generally scarce passage migrant**

None at all in spring. A poor autumn included 1 at Wildpark on Sep 12 and a total of 6 seen at Sheepcote where coverage was only casual.

**1243 SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

Singles were reported in Lower Adur on Apr 8-9 but then none until 1 at Whitehawk Hill on Apr 21. Quite low numbers followed with max 6 nr Airfield on Apr 25 and 4 sm at Ferring Rife on May 3. Birds present in breeding season were from Cement Works and New Salts Farm but no positive breeding records received. A late migrant was at Wildpark on Jun 8. First returning migrants were 5 at Sheepcote on Jul 26 and double figures there on 2 dates in Aug. Four were ringed at Sanctuary in the autumn. Late birds were at Ladiesmile on Sep 28 and at Goring Gap on Sep 30.

**1251 REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

First arrivals were 2 at New Salts Farm on Apr 20 followed by singles at Airfield, Sanctuary and Woods Mill during the next week. Singing birds also noted from Rock Common and Teville Stream, Brooklands in Jun, also at St. Anne's Well Gardens and Wildpark. Ringing totals were 6 at Cissbury from Aug 24-Sep 21; and 99 at Sanctuary from Jun 1-Sep 25, max 10 on Sep 5. Generally poorly observed elsewhere in autumn with max 12 at Sheepcote on Sep 8 and the last at Cissbury and Ladiesmile on Sep 21.

**1262 DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*

**Autumn migrant, increasingly recorded in winter**

A single bird was present on Hollingbury Camp from Oct 9-16 (PJW).

**1274 LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

**Fairly common summer visitor**

Two at Wildpark on Apr 14 were a week ahead of other arrivals at Sanctuary and Whitehawk. A very good number of breeding reports were received including: Cement Works - 2 prs, Cissbury - 4 prs, Findon - 1 pr, Henfield Levels - 1 pr, Lower Standean - 2 prs, Mill Hill - 2 prs, Steyning Levels - 3 prs, Wildpark - 3 prs and Woodvale Cemetery - 2 prs. Others were reported from gardens and other sites during May-Jun. Ringing results were 21 birds from Cissbury and 9 at Sanctuary. Autumn passage was poor with no records of double figures. Max counts were 6 at Mill Hill on Aug 28, 5 at Wildpark on Aug 27 (where the autumn total was only 15) and 5 at Sheepcote on Sep 12. Most birds had departed by early Sep but 3 at Malthouse Meadows on Sep 26 were the last. An extraordinary record of one in a Worthing garden on Nov 17 (KCH) remained on and off until the year's end and is the first wintering record for Sussex.

**1275 WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

**Common summer visitor**

First few arrivals included an early bird at Sheepcote on Apr 4, followed by 1 at University of Sussex on Apr 9 and 1 at Wildpark on 14<sup>th</sup>. Generally spring passed by with low numbers, the only high counts early on being 9 at Whitehawk Hill on Apr 21 and 21 at Wildpark on Apr 27. Breeding prs were Cissbury - 8, Goring Gap - 2, Lower Standean - 6 and Wildpark - 25. At Sheepcote 40 were counted on May 3 with a good proportion breeding. There were many others reported during the breeding season. At Cissbury 58 new birds were ringed, max 13 on Aug 24 but at Sanctuary only 13 were trapped, the majority being juvs. Typically autumn movement began in mid-Aug with 100 at Sheepcote on 16<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere peaks included 20 at Wildpark and 25 each at Cissbury and

Three Corner Copse. The autumn total at Wildpark was a paltry 145. Last dates were generally around mid-Sep, with singles at Ferring Rife and Mill Hill on 21<sup>st</sup>, but a really late straggler was at Brooklands on Oct 17.

**1276 GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin***

**Fairly common summer visitor**

This species is either being under-recorded or possibly in decline. First was at University of Sussex on Apr 17 where 5 more singles were noted before the next at Wildpark on Apr 27. Breeding counts received were 2 prs at Cissbury, 1 pr Lower Standean and 1 pr at Wildpark, and spring sightings were recorded at only two more sites. Ringing sessions at Cissbury totalled 11 new birds and at Sanctuary, just 13 during autumn. Reported from 7 sites in autumn with totals of only 3 at Wildpark and 9 at Sheepcote proving what a poor year it was generally. The last was at Ladiesmile on Sep 8.

**1277 BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla***

**Common summer visitor, regular in winter**

Numerous records of wintering birds included many from gardens in Brighton, Findon, Lancing and Worthing, and in Steyning 2-3 regular in one member's garden. One in West Worthing was feeding on seed and nut feeders. First migrants were probably singing birds at Sandgate Park on Mar 24 and 2 at Goring Gap on Mar 29. Although well reported during passage there were no significant counts.

Breeding prs were Cissbury - 10, Goring Gap - 4, Lower Standean - 3, Sheepcote - 2, and Wildpark - 18. Ringing numbers were quite high with 220 new birds at Cissbury, max 58 on Sep 14, and 138 handlings at Sanctuary, max 24 on Sep 22. As usual, most of the autumn passage concentrated in the 2 weeks in mid Sep. Peak at Mill Hill was 11 on 9<sup>th</sup> and at Wildpark was 19 on 10<sup>th</sup>. A late flurry at Sheepcote on Oct 20 produced 15 and ones and twos continued at Brooklands, Goring Gap and Whitehawk into Nov. Recorded at 9 different sites in Dec with some gardens attracting more than one bird.



**1308 WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***

**Fairly scarce passage migrant**

Singles were trilling in spring, the first at University of Sussex on Apr 23, followed by others in early May from Wildpark and Woodvale Cemetery. In the autumn singles were seen twice at Wildpark on Aug 17 and Aug 26, and 1 in a Hollingbury garden on Aug 18.

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

**Very scarce autumn visitor**

One in a Goring garden on Nov 13 was the only record (DIS, RAI).

**1311 CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita***

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

**2001:** Additional December birds from a Brighton garden and Stretham Manor.

**2002:** Rather fewer early winter records than usual, with 3 from Steyning and singles from East Worthing, Edburton, Marina and Worthing. First migrants were at Sheepcote, accompanied by 2 Firecrests, on Mar 12 followed by others at Cissbury, Ladiesmile and Shoreham. Good numbers were reported from around the region, the highest count being 14 at Patching Hill on Apr 19. Breeding prs were Cissbury – 1, Lower Standean – 2 and Wildpark – 12, but probably bred elsewhere, indicated by many reports of singing birds in Apr/May. At Cissbury 101 new birds were ringed, max 23 on Sep 21 and at Sanctuary precisely the same number, max 17 on Sep 22. Autumn passage was above average, notably a total of 307 at Wildpark from Aug 2-Nov 9, and high day-counts of 50-60 from Brooklands, Cissbury and Sheepcote during the first fortnight of Oct. Numbers at Brooklands remained high with 25 still there on Oct 21, 8 on Oct 24, and up to 6 presumed wintering well into Nov. Few were noted late winter with singles from Brooklands, Sanctuary, Steyning sewage farm and Upper Beeding.

### 1312 **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

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

First arrivals were singles at Wildpark on Mar 27 closely followed by others from Broadwater, Sanctuary and Whitehawk. Main arrival seemed to be later with 6 at Sheepcote on Apr 13, 6 at Patching Hill on 19<sup>th</sup> and a definite fall on 20<sup>th</sup> with 30 at New Salts Farm and Whitehawk Hill. A late flurry on May 3 produced 15 at the Marina. Breeding prs were Cissbury – 3, Lower Standean – 1 (possibly 2), and Woodvale Cemetery – 1. At Wildpark none bred there for the first time since records were produced. Ringing summaries were 39 at Cissbury and 34 at Sanctuary where most were juvs with max 11 on Aug 11. Return passage started early with Sheepcote peak count of 45 on Aug 6, 25 at Lancing Clump and 35 at Wildpark on Aug 13, and 30 at Cissbury and Sheepcote on Aug 29. Other high counts were noted from Chantry Hill and Three Corner Copse. A sprinkling of records continued into Sep with 2 at Newtimber Hill on 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 at Golding Barn on 19<sup>th</sup> and 8 at Clayton on 27<sup>th</sup>. The very last was at Sheepcote on Oct 19.

### 1314 **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

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

There were no sightings during Jan, then 2-3 at Warren Hill during Feb/Mar where it is likely a pair bred. Other confirmed breeding were prs at Broadwater and Preston Park, and may also have bred at Steyning. Two in a Storrington garden were watched feeding on aphids on Sep 14. Very poor numbers were reported in autumn. At Wildpark the total from Sep 11-Nov 24 was only 85, peak a low 9 on Nov 11; and at Sheepcote the peak was only 10 on Oct 14. Brooklands fared better with max 20 on Oct 21, the same day as 7 were at Whitehawk Hill. Small numbers were reported late year from Golding Barn, Spithandle Lane, Steyning, Stretham Manor and Warren Hill.

### 1315 **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapillus*

#### **Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters**

This was a really good year for this engaging little bird. Early winter saw the only record at Upper Beeding churchyard. Spring migrants commenced with 1 at Wildpark on Mar 4, then 8 on 3 dates at Sheepcote, 1 at Duke's Mound, Brighton seafront and 2 at Goring – all these during Mar. In Apr 2 were at Whitehawk and 1 was ringed at Cissbury. At Cissbury 2 more were seen in Sep/Oct and another ringed. In Oct regularly seen at Whitehawk and Sheepcote where the latter site recorded 41 bird days throughout the pe-

riod, with max 12 on Oct 10. Singles were found wintering in St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove as well as 1-2 around central Brighton.

**1335 SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

**Fairly common summer visitor and passage migrant**

First arrival was at University of Sussex on May 8 and others followed at Ladiesmile, Lower Standean and Sheepcote. It is pleasing to report that 2 prs bred in the area – at Chantry Lane, Storrington and at Michelgrove. Autumn passage was early as usual with good numbers in particular at Cissbury and Sheepcote in Aug, peaks 8 and 12 respectively. Others noted from Edburton, Sanctuary, Sompting Brooks, Wildpark, Worthing etc. The last were on Sep 21 from Cissbury, Ferring and Ladiesmile.

**1349 PIED FLYCATCHER** *Ficedula hypoleuca*

**Regular passage migrant**

**2001:** 2 in a Storrington garden on Aug 22. The bird at Ferring on Apr 1 is the earliest for Sussex.

**2002:** Just 4 singles in spring, the first on an extremely early date of Apr 4 from a Brighton park, followed by others at Marina, University of Sussex and Whitehawk. A poor autumn followed with just 1 seen at Wildpark, and others from Cissbury, a Hollingbury garden, Ladiesmile, Three Corner Copse and Worthing. The only numbers of note were a total of 7 from Sheepcote including the last on Sep 23.

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

**Common resident**

Well reported from around the area, particularly from members' gardens, and including birds now feeding regularly on peanut holders. Early-year feeding flocks were 14 at Broadwater and 12 at Edburton. Breeding records were Cissbury – 2 pr, Lancing College – 1 pr, Sanctuary – 2 pr, St Anne's Well Gardens – 1 pr, Warren Hill – 1 pr and Wildpark – 6 prs. Ringing activities produced 17 birds at Cissbury and 87 handlings at Sanctuary, max 15 on Aug 7. In autumn an increase in numbers reported from a Maybridge garden and noted at Sheepcote where this species is uncommon. In late autumn flock-counts included 40 at Chanctonbury, 18 at Wildpark and 15 at Swandean Hospital.

**1440 MARSH TIT** *Parus palustris*

**Fairly uncommon resident**

Two were trapped at Cissbury during the year and were the only breeding pr. Others were noted during the breeding season from Clapham Woods, Spithandle Lane, Warren Hill and Wolstonbury; and later in the year from Edburton Hill and Michelgrove.

**1461 COAL TIT** *Parus ater*

**Fairly common resident**

Visits to gardens were well reported early year. Probably bred at Warren Hill and Patching. A bird of the continental race *ater* was seen at Sheepcote on Sep 17 (IJW). One at Brooklands was reported as unusual on Oct 29, but was not the migrant subspecies.

**1462 BLUE TIT** *Parus caeruleus*

**Abundant resident**

One was seen in Jan using a House Martin nest to roost. Breeding prs were Cissbury – 2 and Wildpark – 50; also high counts came from Warren Hill during the breeding season.



Ringling data was 45 new birds at Cissbury and 109 handlings at Sanctuary, peak 16 on Jul 27. Widely reported during the latter half of the year, though the only double figure counts were from Sheepcote in Oct and Warren Hill in Dec.

1464 **GREAT TIT** *Parus major*

**Very common resident**

Noted from about a dozen sites during the year, but the only confirmed breeding counts were Cissbury – 1 pr and Wildpark – 44 prs. Ringling totals were 24 new birds at Cissbury and 33 handlings at Sanctuary.

1479 **NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea*

**Uncommon resident**

Reported regularly from only 3 sites – Michelgrove/Patching area, Spithandle Lane and Warren Hill, but no breeding confirmation received. Seen also at Bramber, Chanctonbury Ring and Sandgate Park. A young female trapped at Sanctuary on Jul 14 was the first there for over 50 years.

1486 **TREECREEPER** *Certhia familiaris*

**Uncommon resident**

Reported early in year from Warren Hill, where a pair together in Apr probably indicated breeding. Two birds were ringed at Sanctuary on Jul 21 and Sep 14. Small numbers noted from a Steyning garden in Sep; singles at Goring Gap and Wildpark during Oct; and others at end of year from Beeding, Chanctonbury, Stretham Manor and Warren Hill.



1539 **JAY** *Garrulus glandarius*

**Fairly common resident and winter visitor**

Only a smattering of records from 6 sites during spring, including 1 in a Shoreham garden in Apr. Two prs bred at Wildpark, and may have bred at Woods Mill. Further reports from gardens were received, including 3 visiting a West Worthing garden between May 6-20, and later in the year from Mill Hill and St Anne's Well Gardens. One at Sanctuary on Jun 1 was reported as unusual there. There was the typical usual increase in the numbers of records during the autumn from Cissbury, Goring Hall, Henfield, Steyning Roundhill and Sheepcote. Late-year sightings were from Broadwater, a Shoreham garden and Warren Hill.

1549 **MAGPIE** *Pica pica*

**Very common resident**

There were widespread records during the first few months, including a gathering of 11 in Buckingham Road, Shoreham in Mar. Wildpark accounted for 44 prs breeding and single prs from a number of sites. Two were ringed at Cissbury in early summer. Larger numbers late year included 30 feeding at Southwick Hill in Sep and a roost count of 120 in Nov from Wildpark. Probably the first recorded migrants were 10W at Sheepcote on Oct 19. Of interest was a bird with semi-leucistic appearance at Shoreham during Nov.

1560 **JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula*

**Common resident**

Several flocks were seen following plough in the Beeding Hill area in Mar, and a dozen

were at Warren Hill. Proliferous at Cement Works but no counts were received, although a group mobbing a buzzard there in Apr was of interest. A pr bred at Wildpark for the first time. The only local gathering was 25 at Newtimber Hill in Sep, though doubtless there were many more unreported. Autumn passage was nothing short of phenomenal, with 620W from Sheepcote on Oct 17 and a record count of 1100W on Oct 19. The latter movement was also noted from Wildpark with 17 overflying. A flock of up to 15 was present at Golding Barn chalkpit in Dec.

1563 **ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus*

**Common resident**

**2001:** Correction: 127 prs breeding in Findon Valley. Also flock 400 at Chantry Hill on Jul 15.

**2002:** Some diligent counting of rookeries produced the following breeding prs: Castle-town - 35, Clapham Woods - 48, Edburton - 81, Findon - 140 in 7 rookeries, Michelgrove - 26, Myrtle Grove Farm - 136, Old Grays Wood (Harrow Hill) - 35, Storrington - 7, Upper Beeding - 59 in 2 rookeries, Westmeston - 11, Wyckham Wood - 52. Two singles were seen in off sea, 1 at Marina on Mar 27 and another at Worthing 2 days later. Large flocks were noted from the Golding Barn area in Sep.

1567 **CARRION CROW** *Corvus corone*

**Common resident**

Feeding flocks of up to 30 were around the Widewater area early year, and 30 at Southwick Green, with 41 at Hove Lagoon in Mar. Largest count was 93 by Ilex Grove on Mar 16. Breeding counts were 31 prs between Brighton and Portslade and 20 prs at Wildpark. In mid-summer 48 were at Hove Lagoon and a pre-roost gathering at Wildpark numbered 75 in Sep. One flew in off sea in a gale at Marina on Oct 15 and a few days later 60 flew high W at Sheepcote as part of a large corvid movement.

1572 **RAVEN** *Corvus corax*

**Very scarce breeding resident**

A pr bred at Cement Works fledging 2 young. This may well be the first breeding for the area, certainly since the 1870's. One or both birds were noted from the Beeding area and at times seen giving aerobatic displays. Birds were recorded well away from the area and were not necessarily the local breeders. The first site record for Marina was 1E on Mar 9 and there were 3 records from Lower Standean. At Hollingbury Camp 2 flew W on May 2 and 1W the next day. Another flew E at Marina on Jul 17 and in Oct birds were noted twice from the Brighton area.

1582 **STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

**Abundant resident and winter visitor**

Up to 3000 were at New Salts Farm on Jan 3 and 100 were at West Worthing in Mar. 32 prs bred at Wildpark. High counts later in the year included 3000 at West Pier in Jun and a similar number at New Salts Farm in Dec. In between were probable migrant flocks with 1050W at Sheepcote on Oct 17 and 640W there on Oct 19; 3000W at Hollingdean on Nov 3, 5000W there on 4<sup>th</sup> and 4000W on 5<sup>th</sup>. The only other significant flock was 450 on Henfield Levels on Nov 23.

1591 **HOUSE SPARROW** *Passer domesticus*

**Very common resident**

Again widely reported across the area with maxima in first half of year of 26 in centre of Brighton in Jan, 30 at Widewater in Mar and 16 at Wildpark in May. In addition, a maximum of 229 from 21 gardens were recorded in the survey in the first half of the year. The only breeding pairs reported were 16 at Wildpark. The largest flocks recorded in the second half of the year inc 250 at Southwick, 65 at Sompting in Aug, 35 at Clayton in Sep and 70 at Shoreham Harbour all in Oct. Over 300 in total were seen in 21 gardens in the second half-year.

1598 **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

**Scarce resident**

Eleven flew E over Shepcote Valley between Oct 13-21. A single bird was at Mill Hill on Nov 2 and another over the Marina on Nov 17, the first site record.

1636 **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

**Very common resident**

No flocks were recorded early in the year but small numbers were reported from many sites the largest being 9 at Washington Warren Hill on April 12. Only two were ringed at Cissbury, on May 11. A total of 14 (of which 9 were 'new') were trapped at the Sanctuary in 7 out of 22 sessions between Jun 8 and Sep 22 with a max of 6 on September 5. There were 48 breeding pairs were Wild Park. Autumn migration saw 1500W over Shepcote Valley on October 17, just 2 at Worthing Beach on November 9 and 40 at Hollingbury Camp on November 13. Fifty were at Lambleys Farm, Sompting Downs on December 18. Very few reports were received other than from members' gardens where a total of between 50 and 80 were seen through the year.

1638 **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

**Regular passage migrant**

The only Jan record was of a female in a Steyning garden on 6<sup>th</sup> followed by 2 at Wyckham Farm in Feb and a single at the Marina on Mar 29. Autumn records commenced with an early bird at Shepcote on Sep 28. The max count was 75W over Shepcote on Oct 17 with a further 53 over Brighton up to the 31<sup>st</sup>. There was one at Lancing Clump on Oct 18. Just five were seen after this to the year-end with the last at Beeding Brooks on Dec 21.

1649 **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

**Very common resident**

There were 20 in a Steyning garden on January 13. A wintering roost in Brighton's Old Steine contained 30 on February 14 and 40 on March 8. Apart from 8 in the Ilex Walk area of West Worthing on March 16, just singles noted from several sites, but the status of this species as a common garden visitor was confirmed with grand totals of between 100 and 135 reported from 20 or 21 gardens through the year. There were 29 breeding pairs at Wild Park. None were trapped at the Sanctuary. There were 150W over Shepcote Valley on October 17. The flock at Shoreham Fort contained 30 birds on October 29 with 15 being recorded there at the end of the year. There were 30 at Brooklands on December 11, 20 back in the Old Steine, Brighton on the 15<sup>th</sup> and finally 35 in Steyning on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

1653 **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

**Fairly common resident**

Well reported throughout the year. In the early months, up to 30 at Widewater, up to 22 in a Steyning garden, 10 at Wiston Pond and 1-5 birds at half a dozen other sites including about 7 coasting at Worthing Beach on three dates. Other garden records totalled a maximum of 37 from 7 sites. Breeding prs were Wild Park - 4. None were trapped at the Sanctuary. From Sep 5 through to the end of Oct, flocks of 30+ were noted at the Sanctuary, Mill Hill, Newtimber Hill, Ladies Mile Reserve Wildpark, Golding Barn, Sullington Hill, Old Erringham Farm (Shoreham) where there were 100 on Oct 9, and Brooklands.

Passage observed at Sheepcote Valley with 430 W on Oct 17, 350 E on Oct 11 and 290 E on 19<sup>th</sup>. Also at Worthing Beach with 425 E between Oct 6 and 18 max 315 E in 1½ hrs on Oct 7 and 26 E between Nov 9 and 16. 257 noted at Wild Park in Oct, max of 80 on 19<sup>th</sup>. Other Nov maxima were 40 at Brooklands on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 20 E at Goring gap and 16E at Maybridge on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 15 at Widewater on 24<sup>th</sup>. Reports for Dec came from Steyning and Ferring with 5 and 8 and five gardens across the area, three of which in Steyning and Hassocks had totals of 32 birds.

1654 **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

**Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Recorded at Wiston Pond, Steyning and Storrington in the first half of the year with 10 on Feb 16 at the first site, 11 at the second and a max of 6 on Feb 24 at the last with at least one on peanuts. A smaller autumn passage than last year commenced with 6 at St Anne's Wells Gardens (Hove) on Sep 30. Largest numbers were recorded at Wildpark and Sheepcote with 35 and 290 (max 110 on 17<sup>th</sup>) respectively in Oct. The only other double-figure count came from Warren Hill, Washington where there were 10 on Dec 2. Otherwise up to 8 were seen at Cissbury, Steyning, Goring Gap, Storrington, Brooklands, Broadwater, Beeding Brooks and the Marina between Oct 1 and end of year. Those at Steyning and Storrington were using garden feeders.



1660 **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

**Locally common resident and passage migrant**

**2001:** A flock of 60 in the Lee Farm area on Jan 6.

**2002:** 30 at Wild Park on Jan 10 and 40 at Beeding Cement Works on Mar 5 plus singles at Widewater and Kithurst Hill were the only early-year records away from Worthing Beach where 12E between 23 and 30 Mar. Number of sites increased in Apr to 13. 46 at Wildpark on 7<sup>th</sup>, 80 at New Salts Farm on 9<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Hollingbury Camp on 18<sup>th</sup> preceded breeding records.

Breeding prs were Patching Hill - 1, Ladies Mile Reserve - 1, Wild Park - 10. Five prs were seen Apr 22 at 5 sites between Clayton and Standean. Almost certainly bred at Cissbury where 6 on 27<sup>th</sup> and 12 nearby at Stump Bottom on May 22. 5E/4W Worthing Beach in Apr and 2E/4W in May. None trapped at Sanctuary since 1990 (cf. other

finches and buntings). Post-breeding flocks included 50 at Harrow Hill on Aug 11, 20 at Devil's Dyke on 12<sup>th</sup>, 115 at Wildpark on 24<sup>th</sup> and 50 at Myrtlegrove Farm on 31<sup>st</sup>. On Sep 2, 82 were counted in Wildpark and 250 at Chantry Hill on 22<sup>nd</sup> followed by 400 at Stump Bottom feeding in fields on Oct 1, then flocks of 30 plus at Myrtlegrove Farm, Blackpatch Hill (50), Widewater (60), Beeding Hill (110) and Steep Down through to 16<sup>th</sup>. A large passage noted on Oct 17 with 1000W at Sheepcote Valley. Thirty at Fore-down, Portslade, 50 at Goring Gap and 100 at Steyning Round Hill completed a notable month for the species. The only other records were from Worthing Beach where 9 in Oct and 7 in Nov.

**1663 REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea***

**Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

A better year with five in spring (Preston Park and Worthing Beach) between Apr 22 and May 31 and autumn passage from Oct 17 to Nov 30 totalling at least 240 birds. Maxima at Sheepcote were 80 W on Oct 17, at Hollingdean 50 W on Nov 3 and at Wildpark 12 on 9<sup>th</sup>. Also there were 10 at Cissbury on Oct 19 and 15 at Brooklands on 31<sup>st</sup>. Small numbers seen at Lancing Clump, a Storrington garden (2 dates), Mill Hill, Shoreham Sanctuary and Worthing Beach (2 dates). Two were seen with Siskins at Warren Hill on Dec 2 and the last were 4 at Beeding Brooks on Dec 6.

**1666 COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra***

**Scarce visitor, more common in eruption years**

Not recorded before July when there were 2N over Wildpark on 24<sup>th</sup>. Good numbers from Aug 10 through to Sep 26 with 210 logged over Brighton with max of 51N on Aug 18 and 36E on Sep 2. Also 10 W at Sompting on Aug 28 and 20 S at Cissbury on 31<sup>st</sup>. There were 12 NE at Shoreham Sanctuary on Sep 1 with others heard flying over. Another 18 went N over Mill Hill on Nov 9, 16 over Wildpark on 17<sup>th</sup> with a further 7 there on Dec 3.

**1710 BULLFINCH *Pyrrula pyrrula***

**Fairly common resident**

Mainly pairs or single birds seen at 17 sites throughout the year between Mar 13 and Dec 22. Maxima were of 7 at Wild Park on Aug 31, 6 on Henfield levels on Nov 4 and 8 at Woods Mill on Nov 10. 31 new birds were ringed at Cissbury between Apr and Oct but none were trapped at the Sanctuary; the first time since ringing started there in the 1950s. Few breeding reports were submitted; only at Cissbury – 7 pairs and Wildpark – 1 pair.

**1717 HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes***

**Very scarce passage migrant**

The only record, as in 2001, was of 1W over Sheepcote Valley during a large finch movement on Oct 17 (IJW).

**1857 YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella***

**Locally common resident**

40 plus in the Chantry Hill/Lee Farm area on Jan 1 was the largest early-year gathering. This was followed by 28 at Harrow Hill on Jan 9, 3 at Steep Down on Feb 3 and 20 in the Lower Adur at 3 sites in Mar, then 1-3 birds at 4 Downland localities in Apr. 9 prs bred at Wildpark. 10 were at West Hove GC May 10. None were ringed at the Sanctuary. 1-4



birds were at 6 Downland sites plus 10 at Lower Standean in Aug/Sep. Small numbers persisted to the end of the year with a maximum of 15 at Steyning Round Hill on Dec 7.

**1866 ORTOLAN BUNTING** *Emberiza hortulana*

**Very scarce passage migrant**

One was at Stump Bottom on Aug 26 (RAI). This is the first record in the area since one near Hollingbury GC in 1994.

**1873 RUSTIC BUNTING** *Emberiza rustica*

**Extremely rare passage migrant**

A male was an impressive find nr the dewpond by West Hove GC on May 10 (TJW et al). It remained until next day and was seen by many observers. It the first record in the SDOS area and only the third record for Sussex since 1962.

**1877 REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

**Locally common resident**

The only records in the first quarter were of over 50 in the Chantry Hill/Lee Farm area with other Buntings on Jan 1 and 1-2 in a Steyning garden later in the month. 7 prs were counted on Steyning levels on Apr 14. None ringed at the Sanctuary since 1991. No breeding records, with just 2 singles seen in the Adur valley before Oct. Sheepcote Valley reported an excellent autumn with 111 in Oct of which there were 40E on 4<sup>th</sup> and 31W on 17<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere they continued to be rather scarce up to early Dec with no more than 4 seen at any one location, all of which were in or near the Adur valley. Twelve were in damp stubble at Upper Beeding on Dec 28.

**1882 CORN BUNTING** *Miliaria calandra*

**Fairly common on downland but local and thought to be in decline**

**2001:** 26 at Lower Standean on Dec 31

**2002:** As with Reed Bunting and Yellowhammer, the largest Jan flock was in the Lee Farm area with 35 on 1<sup>st</sup>. A massive 60 were at Park Brow, Findon on Feb 20. A good distribution of downland records involved up to 6 birds at about eleven sites. At least 20 singing males were recorded, with still 2 heard on Aug 4 at Chantry Hill. Breeding prs were Mill Hill - 1, Steyning Round Hill - 1. None trapped at the Sanctuary since 1990. In the last quarter, 4 were at Ditchling Beacon on Sep 19, 16 at Stump Bottom on Oct 5 and 30 at Steyning Round Hill in Nov and Dec.

## ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS FOR 2002

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>Whooper Swan</b>   | The feral bird again present intermittently in the Adur Valley.  |
| <b>Black Swan</b>     | Reported from Henfield/Steyning Levels in Feb, and Lower Adur valley throughout the year.  |
| <b>Barnacle Goose</b> | 1 at Henfield Levels on Jan 13.  |
| <b>Ruddy Shelduck</b> | 1 at Adur Saltings on Jan 28, moving to Widewater for most of a prolonged stay until Mar 22. Noted from Brooklands on Mar 3. Re-appeared at both Brooklands and Widewater from Nov 22 until end of year. |
| <b>Cockatiel</b>      | 1 at West Worthing flying over garden, calling constantly, on Dec 3.   |

## UNSUBSTANTIATED RECORDS FOR 2002

A number of relatively significant species were published through websites and various sources, but unverified by the SOS. They are included here to perhaps jog memories and to remind members that all sightings are gratefully received and should be submitted through the proper channels.

<b>Leach's Petrel</b>	1 off Worthing on Sep 19
<b>Black Stork</b>	1 over Chantry Hill on Sep 7
<b>White Stork</b>	1 over Worthing on Sep 25
<b>Taiga Bean Goose</b>	2 on Henfield Levels extended dates to Dec 31
<b>White-fronted Goose</b>	26 on Henfield Levels on Dec 31
<b>Honey Buzzard</b>	1 at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 25
<b>Red Kite</b>	1 at Hill Barn, Worthing on May 25
<b>Quail</b>	1 at Steep Down, Lancing Jun 10.
<b>Corncrake</b>	1 calling in an oil seed rape field Chantry Hill on Aug 4.
<b>Puffin</b>	1 off Widewater on Aug 20.
<b>Bee Eater</b>	1 for half an hour in a Goring garden on Jul 24.
<b>Hoopoe</b>	1 at Benfield Valley on Apr 30.
<b>Wryneck</b>	1 at Worthing on May 11.



**Rose-coloured Starling** 1 at West Pier on Jun 18.

## ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS

**Squacco Heron** An old record of one at Brighton on 29 Apr 1951 has been reviewed by the BBRC and as it did not meet the present-day criteria, is therefore considered to be no longer acceptable.

**Apologies** to L.R.Keen for somehow missing all his records from the data. These have been input a second time and added to the main database which holds the entire members' records each year.

# ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 2002

Species	Arrival		Departure	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Mar 23	Marina		
Osprey	Apr 17	Hollingdean	Aug 31	Hollingbury Camp
Hobby	Apr 9	Brighton racecourse	Oct 7	Brighton
Whimbrel	Apr 10	Marina	Oct 14	Marina
Common Sandpiper	Apr 23	Marina*	Sep 10	Marina*
Arctic Skua	Apr 1	Marina	Nov 21	Marina
Sandwich Tern	Mar 9	Marina	Nov 9	Marina
Commic Tern	Mar 30	Marina	Oct 24	Marina
Little Tern	Apr 17	Marina	Jul 2	Widewater
Black Tern	Apr 21	Marina		
Turtle Dove	Apr 21	Tegdown Hill	Oct 3	Sheepcote
Cuckoo	Apr 5	Sussex University	Oct 24	Whitehawk
Swift	Apr 17	Marina	Sep 21	Ladies Mile
Sand Martin	Apr 1	Sandgate Park	Sep 21	Worthing Beach
Swallow	Mar 28	Sussex University	Nov 16	Widewater
House Martin	Apr 20	Patcham	Oct 19	Cissbury
Tree Pipit	Apr 25	Sheepcote/ Woodvale Cemetery	Oct 5	Stump Bottom
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 4	Whitehawk	Oct 6	Beeding Hill
Nightingale	Apr 23	Sussex University/ Woods Mill	Sep 20	Sheepcote
Redstart	Apr 16	Shoreham/ Sussex University	Oct 11	Brooklands
Whinchat	Apr 22	Lancing Clump	Oct 28	Steyning Roundhill
Wheatear	Mar 15	Ferring/ Hollingbury Camp	Oct 26	Shoreham Fort
Ring Ouzel	Mar 15	Hollingbury Camp	Nov 3	Brooklands
G/Hopper Warbler	-	-	Oct 1	Sheepcote
Sedge Warbler	Apr 8	Airfield	Sep 30	Goring Gap
Reed Warbler	Apr 20	New Salts Farm	Sep 21	Ladies Mile
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 14	Wildpark	Sep 26	Malthouse Meadows*
Whitethroat	Apr 4	Sheepcote	Oct 17	Brooklands
Garden Warbler	Apr 17	Sussex University	Sep 8	Ladies Mile
Wood Warbler	Apr 23	Sussex University	Aug 18	Hollingbury
Willow Warbler	Mar 27	Hollingbury Camp	Oct 19	Sheepcote
Spotted Flycatcher	May 8	Sussex University	Sep 21	3 sites
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 4	Brighton park	Sep 23	Sheepcote

\* Also wintering records

## RINGING REPORT FOR 2002

During 2002 a total of 2719 birds were ringed in the area; this represents a 23% increase from the previous year. Although there are twenty years with higher totals since 1953 this year's effort is comparable to that recorded in recent years. As usual a small fraction were ringed as nestlings, with the total of 207 being similar to the 205 in 2001 and typically comprising mainly tits ringed in nest boxes. The remaining 92+% were mist-netted and ringed as fledged birds.

The Steyning Ringing Group, operating from their usual three sites, contributed two thirds of the areas ringing totals. The numbers ringed at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve at Steyning (866) and on the north slopes of Cissbury (871) were comparable. A Grey Wagtail ringed at the Mumbles was the most unusual bird to appear on the area's ringing list, although Nightingales, a Redstart and three each of Firecrest and Spotted Flycatcher were noteworthy. The group's local total was completed with 74 nestlings ringed by Chris Fox in the Wiston area. The total of 647 ringed at the Sanctuary by the writer was the highest for more than a decade and included the first Nuthatch ringed and recorded at the site. The year's total was reached by 261, 105 of which were nestlings, ringed by Barrie Watson and John Holt.

Sparrowhawk	2	Blackbird	145	Marsh Tit	2
Kestrel	1	Song Thrush	59	Coal Tit	1
Stock Dove	2	Redwing	1	Blue Tit	350
Woodpigeon	2	Sedge Warbler	9	Great Tit	124
Barn Owl	2	Reed Warbler	150	Nuthatch	1
Kingfisher	4	Lesser Whitethroat	35	Treecreeper	3
Green Woodpecker	4	Whitethroat	100	Jay	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	2	Garden Warbler	28	Magpie	2
Swallow	27	Blackcap	453	Starling	90
Grey Wagtail	1	Chiffchaff	250	Chaffinch	42
Wren	101	Willow Warbler	96	Greenfinch	21
Dunnock	109	Goldcrest	51	Goldfinch	96
Robin	187	Firecrest	3	Siskin	1
Nightingale	2	Spotted Flycatcher	3	Bullfinch	40
Redstart	1	Long-tailed Tit	84	Reed Bunting	30
				Total	2719

The above table shows the numbers of the 45 different species ringed. There is, in most species, a remarkable similarity to the numbers ringed in recent years and, as emphasised in previous reports, notable changes are usually more reflective of alterations in ringing activity rather than fluctuations in bird populations. It is gratifying to note that the rise in the numbers of Song Thrushes and some of the finch species ringed has been sustained this year and both Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs, species deemed to be doing well by most national indicators, have risen again.

The following is a selection of the more interesting movements reported during the year, several refer to movements from previous years. It is of interest that of the 20 re-

coveries and controls considered to be of interest 13 were either sight recordings or reports from other ringers.

**Sparrowhawk:** After reporting last year that few Sparrowhawks have been recovered another local recovery follows, this surviving several years before becoming a victim to road traffic.

30-Aug-96	First year F	Mumbles, Steyning			
04-Mar-02	Road casualty	Upper Beeding, Sussex	2012 days	0 km	0 deg

**Kestrel:** The following falcon, although an adult, did not survive long after ringing.

04-May-02	Adult male	Cissbury, Worthing, Sussex			
30-Jun-02	Found dead	Worthing, Sussex	57 days	4 km	221 deg

**Kentish Plover:** This bird, originally found by Clive Hope feeding on the beach at Goring on 10th August and also seen on 11th August, was seen closely when roosting at high tide when details of a colour ring could be read. The following is copied from an e-mail from Pim Wolf, the Dutch ringer:- "White Left 5K was ringed as a pullus on 30 May 2002 at de Slikken van Bommenede, Zonnemaire, Zeeland, The Netherlands (51.45 N : 03.59 E). It was also seen at de Plaat van Oude Tonge, Bruinisse, Zeeland, The Netherlands (51.40 N : 04.09 E) on 11 July 2002 before moving to Britain".

**Black-headed Gull:** As years pass the numbers of recoveries from the gull studies continue to decline with just 6 different birds being reported during the year. These were singles from Essex, Dorset, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and the Czech Republic. The last is slightly unusual and others show the longevity of this species. The three most notable are listed below:

27-Nov-93	Adult	Washington, West Sussex			
16-Mar-94	Controlled	Damhussoen, Sjaelland, Denmark			
19-Apr-95	Controlled	Utterslev Mose 11, Copenhagen	1013 km	58 deg	
27-Mar-96	Controlled	Christianshavns, Vold, Copenhagen	1012 km	58 deg	
30-Mar-98	Controlled	Utterslev Mose 11, Copenhagen			
23-Dec-01	Sight record	Radipole Lake, Weymouth, Dorset	2948 days	149 km	258 deg
05-Nov-78	Adult	Worthing, West Sussex			
31-May-00	Sight record	Griend, The Netherlands	490 km	57 deg	
28-Apr-02	Sight record	Midsland, Terschelling, The Netherlands	8575 days	479 km	53 deg
02-Feb-91	Adult	Washington West Sussex			
20-Apr-01	Dead	Karvina, Ostrava, Czech Republic	3730 days	1348 km	95 deg

**Common Gull:** The following is the only report of a this species in 2002 and, although not unusual in location and date, it met its demise in nets set to protect crops.

09-Dec-89	Adult	Sompting Tip, Worthing			
15-Jul-99	Found dead	Ontojarvi, Kuhmo, Oulu, Finland	3505 days	2271 km	49 deg



**Herring Gull:** The individual reported last year, a juvenile ringed 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 Mar 2001, was found dead on Shoreham beach on 9th Sep 2002. Two others were found in Sussex both ringed as juveniles at Sompting, the first ringed on 2nd Dec 1981 and found injured, and subsequently died in care, near Eastbourne and the second ringed on 9th Dec 1989 and found dead at Burgess Hill on 25th Jun 2002.

**Reed Warbler:** The only, and fairly typical, movement noted in 2002 is as follows:

08-Sep-01	Juvenile	Mumbles, Steyning, Sussex			
29-Jun-02	Controlled	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	294 days	60 km	349 deg

**Garden Warbler:** Although this is the least frequently ringed of the common Sylvia warblers the following is the 11th recovery reported in the past 50 years from a total of nearly 1000 ringed. This is roughly the same number as for Lesser Whitethroat but 5 times that reported for Whitethroat. Blackcap with the highest number ringed (8000+) has produced, with the four for 2002, approximately 60 recoveries or controls.

17-Sep-00	First year	Shoreham Sanctuary, Sussex			
14-Jun-02	Killed by hitting conservatory window	South Molton, Devon	635 days	253 km	274 deg

**Blackcap:** The four controls all involve movements within Sussex; the table shows the ringing date and site on the left.

27-Aug-00	Icklesham, East Sussex	27-Apr-02	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex
13-Jun-01	Weir Wood Reservoir, Sussex	28-Sep-02	Mumbles, Steyning, West Sussex
07-Jul-01	Mumbles, Steyning, West Sussex	25-May-02	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex
20-Jul-02	Mumbles, Steyning, West Sussex	25-Aug-02	Shoreham Sanctuary, West Sussex

**Chiffchaff:** As well as the movement, detailed below, from Hereford a juvenile ringed at the Sanctuary on 22nd July 2001 and subsequently controlled at the Mumbles on 15th Sep 2001 was reported too late for inclusion in last year's report.

28-Jun-02	Juvenile	Much Markle, Hereford & Worcester			
21-Sep-02	Controlled	Cissbury, Worthing, Sussex	85 days	194 km	130 deg

**Reed Bunting:** Only three Reed Buntings have been previously recovered from this area, two of these coincidentally, in 1978 and 1982, were from Banbury in Oxfordshire.

16-Nov-02	Juvenile	Mumbles, Steyning, Sussex			
11-Jan-03	Controlled	Stoke Lane, Guildford, Surrey	56 days	44 km	337 deg

Additional a Long-tailed Tit ringed at the Sanctuary on 18th Sept 2002 and a Blue Tit ringed just four days later were both controlled at the Mumbles on 5th October; presumably both being involved in a foraging tit party moving up the Adur Valley. Like previous years there were several local recoveries and birds re-trapped in successive years at each of the regular ringing sites; all help to build information on movements, population sizes and the biology of each species.

This, the 50th report on ringing in the area and the 33rd penned by the author, follows a similar pattern to most of those presented previously. The publication celebrating the Society's Golden Jubilee includes a review of 50 years of ringing in the Shoreham area which thus places these annual reports into context.

John Newnham

## STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 2002

### Mumbles

Feeding-station netting is now a regular winter occupation at the Mumbles. With the new Niger seed it's much more fun and rewarding catching Goldfinches, than the hoards of tits that we used to get. I separate all the feeders over different parts of the patch, placing Niger feeders in two places and two ordinary seed feeders elsewhere, with a couple of peanut feeders located well away to distract, and reduce, the catch of the Parus contingent. This also theoretically spreads the risk of Sparrowhawk attack, hopefully. With a varying number of ringers in attendance we can also put up more or fewer nets at the other feeding sites, to accommodate. As a result, 95 Goldfinches were trapped, with only a small proportion (21) being retrapped, unlike the tit situation with 116 new Blue Tits and 75 retraps (this is the whole-year figure, not just feeding-station sessions). These four early winter sessions accounted for 171 new birds, and included a Siskin, one of the few ever caught at The Mumbles.

The first spring session was on 18<sup>th</sup> May, when 31 birds were caught. A total of 21 sessions were completed at The Mumbles, during which 854 birds were ringed and a further 419 birds were handled as retraps, while two birds were controlled, as having being ringed elsewhere.

The notable birds that were ringed were as follows: 4 Kingfishers, 4 Green Woodpeckers, 1 Great Spotted Woodpecker, 2 Sparrowhawks, and 1 Redwing. A Grey Wagtail was the first to be trapped since the days in the 1970s, when we were ringing in Strivens Reed Bed. Two Nightingales were also caught, as was a first Coal Tit.

One great disappointment during the year occurred when the four acres of ground over which we gain access to The Mumbles came up for sale. The agent had thought that it would fetch about 10 to 15 thousand pounds and I had hoped to purchase it to safeguard the access and hopefully prevent any "unsuitable" use next to the reserve. That was not to be: after an unofficial telephone auction by the agents it went for a ridiculous £40,000, bearing in mind it was the old rubbish tip for Steyning. However after a few altercations with the new owner (who intends to use it for quad biking!) all has settled down and we still have permission to cross.

We held an Open Day on 7<sup>th</sup> September when 60 birds and the ringing group entertained SOS members and some locals, with a typical variety of species and a walk round the site. A few sundry birds were noted on the ringing sessions with a Nuthatch on the week before the Open Day; Nightingales were calling on a number of occasions and may have bred. A Turtle Dove was also heard on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and again on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. For the last session of the year on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, it was back to the feeders, and on that day 99 birds were caught, of which 61 were new birds, Reed buntings being the most numerous species caught.

### Cissbury

Armed with bow-saws, bill-hooks and loppers we set forth in the winter months to undertake the winter maintenance. Most of the major structural work on the site had been completed in previous years thanks to David King and his chain-saw. However, although David can fell a mature sycamore in a matter of minutes, it can take many hours to cut it up and dispose of all the branches. This has meant that in previous years there has not been enough time to properly maintain previously cut areas. Last winter, without whole trees to tackle, we were able to concentrate on thinning and pruning the remaining shrubs. This not only keeps the bushes within netting height but the thinning also allows light

between them too, encouraging the birds to fly between, rather than over the top of the shrubbery. One legacy of the mature Sycamore and Ash are the hundreds, even thousands, of saplings. Although they are easy to cut and useful to get the bonfire going, it is an annual chore to keep them under control.

Ringing began as usual with a trial session in April before Constant Effort Site (CES) netting began in May. Again we were successful in achieving all 12 scheduled ringing sessions at 10-day intervals between May and August. In the first months of the CES ringing (May and June) the catch of adult migrants was back to the higher levels of 1997-2000, 2001 being interrupted by Foot and Mouth. In particular we recorded our highest numbers ever of Whitethroat and Blackcap with totals of 17 and 19 respectively. Unfortunately the resident species let the side down with the poorest total of adults in the 11 years of CES ringing. Nearly all the residents showed a decline apart from Long-tailed Tit, with Bullfinch and Dunnock showing the most significant drop. Overall numbers of adults in the remaining two months, July and August, were very similar to previous years. There were few variations in the individual species totals too although Bullfinch numbers were higher, suggesting they may have been elusive rather than absent earlier in the season.

The catch of juveniles in May and June is always a bit variable but we can be fairly sure that these are local birds rather than the invaders that arrive in July and August. There may have been fewer adult Dunnock caught but they produced 10 youngsters, the third-highest total catch in eleven years. With 10 young Robin also caught this was one of our better years for resident breeding success in the early months. Totals of juveniles for July and August were almost identical to the long-term average for this period giving a better than average overall performance for residents. Indeed totals of 17 young Blue Tits and 24 Robins were all time bests. I wish the same could be said for the migrants but here the picture was rather bleak. Excluding the Foot and Mouth year the totals were the second worst ever. Notable disasters are Willow Warbler, down from 64 in 1992 to 13 in 2002, and Whitethroat down from 56 to 12 for the same two years. All warblers showed a decline but for Blackcap (28 captures) the decline was marginal and for Chiffchaff the 11 captures was only slightly down on previous years but well up on the 1992 total of 3! Clearly many factors are at work, some global, some local such as the maturing woodland on much of the hillside, and others are the variability of each breeding season due to the weather and the availability of food.

At the end of the CES period, ad-hoc ringing continued when ringers could be mustered on favourable days until mid-October. Thrush and 'crest totals were lower due to fewer autumn sessions and an earlier finish to the season, but one spring and 2 autumn Firecrests are always a joy to see in the hand. One Kestrel, only I think our second capture on the site, a Redstart and 3 Spotted Flycatchers added spice to our usual Cissbury fare. Overall we achieved a grand total of 871 new birds ringed and 356 recaptures.

Observations are very much pot luck and usually increase when there are few birds to ring! To our regular raptors we now add Buzzard and Peregrine. A Quail called from below our ringing table on 30<sup>th</sup> June. The sound of Cuckoo and Turtle Dove accompanied our spring and early summer sessions, to be replaced by Tree Pipit calls in August and September. The autumn also brings the finches; Redpoll and Crossbill being duly noted in the log. Recorded numbers were low however which perhaps suggests a need for hearing aids rather than an absence of birds!

Thanks are due as always to the National Trust for allowing us permission to ring on the Cissbury site.

Phil and Brian Clay



## SANCTUARY REPORT 2002

Fifty years ago the first Society report regarding the Sanctuary started:

"For the information of those members who have not yet visited it, the Sanctuary lies at the foot of the Downs along the Steyning — Shoreham road and is the land owned by Brighton Corporation for the Waterworks and Pumping Station. Though of only about two acres, it contains a considerable variety of habitat, attractive to many species of birds."

The same report went on to list the species considered as residents, summer visitors, winter visitors, passage migrants, occasional visitors and flying over species. Twenty-three species, including three pairs of Nightingales, were recorded as nesting in the area. After a run of 50 reports on this local patch there have been many changes and in each of the formerly listed categories there have been gains and losses. Indeed Nightingales have not bred for over 40 years. The resident Mistle Thrushes, Starlings, Reed and Corn Buntings and the humble House Sparrow are now seldom seen; Nightingale and Turtle Dove have disappeared from the list of summer visitors whilst Yellow Wagtail and Swallows have not bred for many years. Amongst those listed as winter visitors both Goldcrest and Green Woodpecker would now be considered residents along with Long-tailed Tit and Sparrowhawk which both occurred in the 1953 "occasional visitor" bracket.

Over the last half century the format and content of each report has changed and has, in recent years, become less detailed. This perhaps reflects the difficulties members now have in gaining access to the site and the fewer visits recorded to the copse. Like most of the recent years this brief review is based on records from the notebooks of Dr Barrie Watson and myself. In keeping with the pattern for recent years, the copse was visited on about 60 days with 22 longer sessions for mist-netting. Trapping sessions were concentrated between 1st June and 8th October and all except three took place during the mornings. The total of 902 birds, of just 21 different species, were trapped and comprised 647 new birds, 254 retraps and one control (i.e. a bird ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at the sanctuary). The following table, which is extended from recent years, shows this was the most successful year for ringing at the Sanctuary since 1990.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Number of sessions	19	19	9	13	16	14	16	16	13	18	21	17	20	22
Average catch	50	52	31	32	31	37	38	27	25	34	30	34	36	41
Year best	135	94	56	53	49	70	66	55	46	55	61	55	49	79

### *Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for 1989 - 2002*

The better ringing numbers were, in part, due to an impressive infestation of aphids feeding on the coppiced osier on the north side of the copse. The single mist net passing through this site captured over a third of the total birds caught and when compared with other net sites this ranged between 3 and 12 times more productive.

Little activity occurred in the first few months, at times the water levels were high prohibiting easy access but on more than one occasion when the levels were lower the water flow was noted to be "upstream" from the high river levels. Whether saline water was involved is unclear. In late January a Barn Owl was seen hunting the rough pastures surrounding the horse paddocks and occasionally a Water Rail was heard squealing. By

late February the violets were in flower and both elder and willows held advanced shoots. The first real signs of spring were noted on 17th March when 3 Chiffchaffs were singing and the centre of the copse glowed with flowering Marsh Marigolds. The first Willow Warbler was



singing on 29th March during a gardening session when all the winter trimmings were burnt and the first Blackcap was in song the following day. By 24th April there were two pairs each of Blackcaps, Lesser and Common Whitethroats established and the first Reed Warbler was recorded. At the same time the paths were showing early signs of overgrowing and despite extensive work they needed further clearing in mid-June.

Later than usual, the first ringing session occurred on 1st June when young birds were already in abundance as 23 out of the 37 birds trapped were juveniles. A Grey Wagtail and a Jay on this date were both unusual records for the copse. On most visits in the mid-summer a family of foxes would be encountered and at least 2 Roe Deer were regularly disturbed from the copse. Most breeding warblers seemed to do fairly well as good numbers of Reed Warblers and Chiffchaffs were trapped and the year provided a record number of Blackcaps trapped; the maximum of 24 on 22nd September however would have involved mainly migrants. A Nuthatch, trapped on the hillside on 14th July was the first to be recorded in the Sanctuary and this no doubt reflects the maturing woodland habitat at the site. During the summer a handful of spikes of Bee Orchids were found but the crop of Autumn Ladies Tresses was disappointing.

Twelve Crossbills flew NE over the copse on 1st September and on the 3rd a Grey Partridge, the first for many years, was heard calling. An eventful day on the 5th brought two Spotted Flycatchers and another Crossbill flew over the nets whilst a Pheasant flew through one of the new nets and four Roe deer narrowly missed destroying a line of mist-nets. Strong winds in late October brought down one of the tall weeping willows but by this time the copse was beginning to return to its usual winter desolation. The usual chores of osier coppicing were conducted throughout November and December. Bird life by late autumn had declined with 2 chiffchaffs remaining until 9th November, a small number of Redpolls and Redwings noted in the month and the occasional call of a Water Rail from the flooded reed and willow patches.

Access to the sanctuary remained difficult with the gate to the private waterworks road remaining locked and the gate being surrounded by discarded rubbish. Once again some of the padlocks, including the pedestrian gate, were changed during the year. 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. Although Mr Schultz had retired from the water employment some years ago he remained in residence in the cottage until January 2002 but thereafter the cottage remained unoccupied for the remainder of the year offering the water authority an opportunity to upgrade and modernise their property. I also thank Dr Barrie Watson and Judith Baker for help with maintenance and the ringing activities.

John Newnham

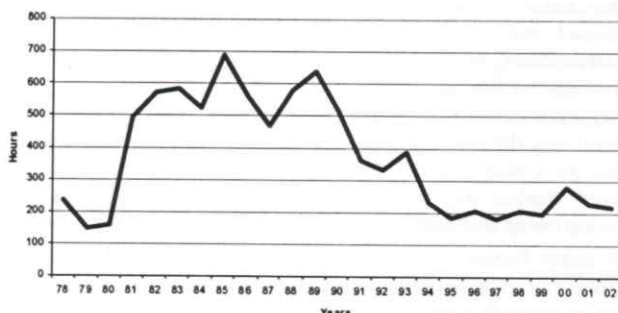


## WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2002

### Introduction

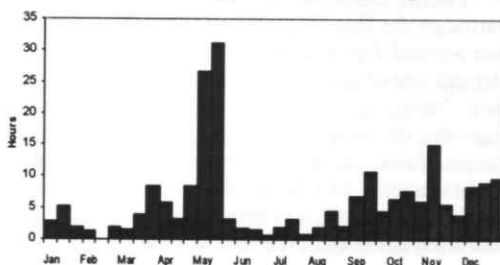
The sea at Worthing was watched on 204 different days in 2002 with the total of 216 hours recorded being similar to the 229 hours of watching in 2001. This maintains the levels of observation comparable to that in the latter half of the 1990s as shown in the following figure of the hours watched for the twenty-five years for which computerised data are held.

*Annual totals of hours of seawatching at Worthing (1978-2002)*

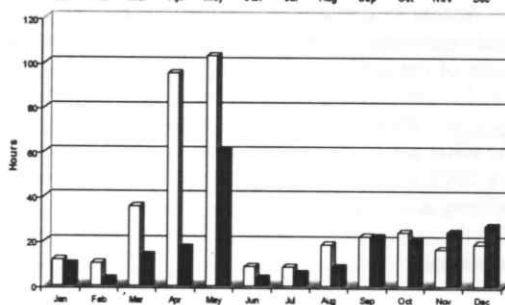


Once again the watching effort from Worthing was overshadowed by that from Brighton marina (558 hours) in the east and Selsey Bill (963 hours) in the west. With relatively few hours spent watching in March and April the spring months were not as dominant as usual with 43% of the logged hours being between March and May. Watching in the last third of the year was more consistent due to the regular early morning watches done by Alan Carter since his retirement. The following figures, similar to those produced in recent years, shows the marked reduction in effort during the early spring and records just November and December with more hours logged than the average for the previous 24 years.

*Number of hours watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2002*



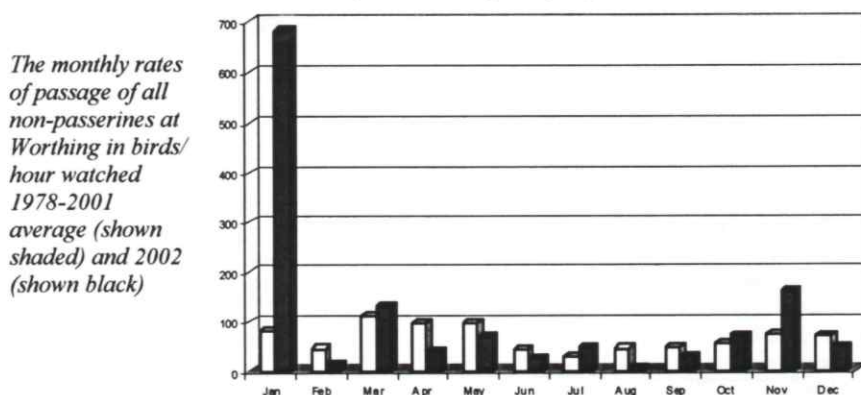
*The monthly effort for 2002 (shown in black) compared with the average for 1978 - 2001 (shown in white)*



Although the watching effort was similar to the previous year there were nearly 14,000 birds fewer recorded moving offshore. A mediocre spring when only 41 and 68 birds were seen per hour during April and May respectively coupled with a tenth of the number of auks recorded in December were the main factors. As usual these figures and the following table excludes birds recorded feeding offshore and 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	9.7	3.1	13.7	17.4	60.9	3.6	5.7	8.4	22	20.2	24.5	27	216.2
Total birds	6633	41	1771	719	4111	91	270	77	624	1441	3970	1359	21107
Birds/Hour	684	13	129	41	68	25	47	9	28	71	162	50	98

The following plot compares the monthly rate of passage in 2002 (black) with the average for the years 1978-2001 (hatched) and shows, like last year, the exceptional numbers of birds recorded in both winter periods and a poor spring.



For the first year for many no daily log was used during the spring but, as usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing. In spring several watchers were present but particular thanks go to the following observers who have contributed records which form the basis of this report: P.M. Brayshaw, A. Carter, S. Cross, J.A. Feest, M.P. Hall, C.E. Hope, R.A. Ives, J.A. Newnham, M.G. Prince, R.J. Sandison, D.I. Smith, and R. Tofts.

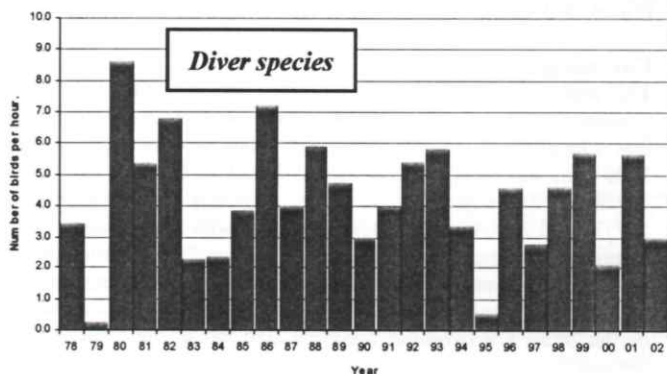
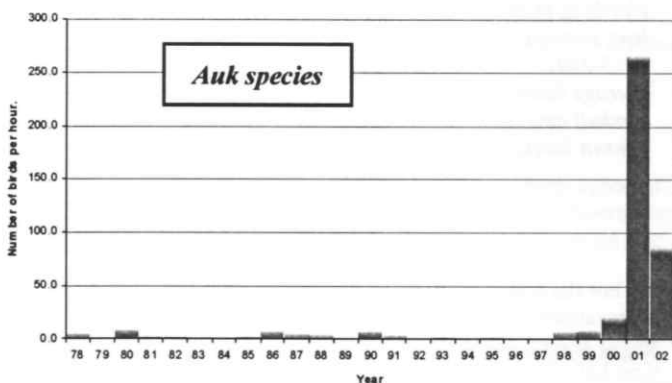
### Chronological account

The year started with some impressive watches with high numbers of Great Crested Grebes, Gannets, Cormorants, Kittiwakes and auks seen offshore. The first indication that a large number of seabirds were gathering offshore was seen on 8th January when 1000 auks and 60 Kittiwakes moved E and 70 Gannets passed W in just over an hour's watching. These numbers were later surpassed as the January total for auks was 1196E, 1877W and 2100 offshore seen on 8 dates with a maximum of 2000 on the 20th. Where identified the observers felt Razorbills outnumbered Guillemots. For Gannet the equivalent statistics read 277E and 868W on 8 dates with a maximum of 600 also on the 20th and for Kittiwakes 73E and 1470W on 9 dates with the maximum of 1000 also occurring on the 20th. The two-hour watch on 20th January in a moderate SW wind was memorable and the note against the record for Kittiwake reads "Constant stream moving slowly

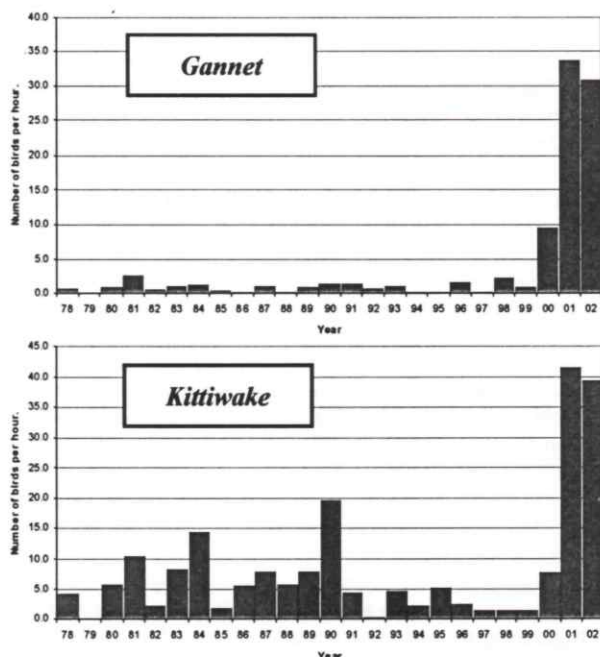
W and feeding as going; all ranges; very few tarrocks - like gannets number more estimate than count as sea alive with sea-birds". Many thousands of Herring Gulls were milling over the fish shoals in association with the other species on 19th Jan and the peak count of Great Crested Grebes reached 214 on 11th whilst over 400 Cormorants were recorded on the 26th. Despite an obvious plethora of food the January peak of Red-breasted Mergansers was only 50 and there were only 69 sightings of divers. The numbers of all species declined in February but with only 3 hours' watching the effort was not truly representative of the month and it is likely some good movements were missed.

Winter sea-watching is not a new activity in this area but the wealth of some seabirds certainly has been a feature of the past few years. The following series of graphs show the winter (January, February and December combined) rates of observation in each of the years for which computerised data is held. Although the scales are very different with a thirty-fold difference between auks and divers some interesting patterns emerge and confirm that both auks and Gannets have been seen during the past two to three winters in previously unrecorded numbers. Kittiwakes also have been recorded at twice the rate previously documented but divers, although very variable, have, if anything, shown a small decrease in rate of passage. The reason presumably lies in the availability of suitable food and it would appear that the Sussex coast is supporting shoals of fish available to these species.

*The annual winter rates of passage of auks and divers seen at Worthing in birds/hour watched in January, February and December (1978- 2002).*



*The annual winter rates of passage of Gannets and Kittiwakes seen at Worthing in birds/hour watched in January, February and December (1978- 2002).*



The first of three January observation of Shag (only 5 during the entire year) was on the 8th, a Slavonian Grebe was offshore on the 9th, the first of the year's 19 Mediterranean Gulls was recorded on the 12th and both a Pomarine Skua and Bonxie added quality to the numbers of birds seen on the 20th.

After an interesting winter the spring was amongst the worst on record and the absence of birds is clearly reflected in the effort made by observers. Only on 14 days was the sea watched in March, 16 in April and in May there were 9 days with no records. Highlights were few and far between and include three Avocets in March, a Short-eared Owl which flew south on 29th March and a Rook, a rare species on a Worthing sea-watch, flew NE on the same day. A brief period of E wind in mid-May at least provided most observers an opportunity to catch up with some of the typical spring species. Unusually the overall totals were low in all groups; in most years the weather conditions may produce small numbers of one group but better numbers of others. Although ca 1000 Common Scoter were recorded the maximum was a mere 149 on 28th April and just 5 Velvet Scoter were recorded. Other wildfowl numbers were low with the "peak" of 140 Brent Geese on 31st March from a total of 838 and only a few marsh ducks were seen which included 5 Gadwall, an unusual sea-watch species, in March. Waders numbers too were very low with the maximum of 124 Bar-tailed Godwits seen on 8th May and the total of 109 Whimbrel included a maximum of just 39. Seabirds too were hard to find as the totals for the season were divers (22), Manx Shearwater (4), Arctic Skua (23 - with just 5 in April), Pomarine Skua (8), Bonxie (2), Sandwich Terns (1291 - 69 in March, just 211 in April and a maximum of 166 on 12th May), Commic terns (ca 700 with maximum of 203 on 12th May), Little Terns (22 - with none in April); Black Tern and Little Gull (5 each). No doubt more would have been recorded if more hours watching was



reported but sea-watching was generally very disappointing in the spring throughout the county.

The summer months are times for enjoying other attributes of the beach and sea and, in most years, few hours are watched. During June 3 Mediterranean Gulls passed E on the 1st and two Great Crested Grebes were still fishing offshore on the 16th. Unusual sighting in July included an adult Little Gull on the 18th and 9 sightings of Mediterranean Gull including 4 on the 20th. A Mediterranean Gull and Little Egret were the only notable birds in 7 hours of August watching.

By September visible migration is again well underway and usually, at this season, passerines clearly outnumber the more tradition sea-watching species. Massive hirundine movements can be seen but often numbers observed over the sea are just a fraction of those moving along the coastal plain or over the Downs. Peak numbers this autumn were 1634E in 1.3 hrs on 11th September and 2000 on the 21st. On the former date an estimate of 10,000E per hour viewed passing E over the coastal plain at Widewater demonstrates how few, on some occasions, are seen over the sea. Amongst the Swallows a Great Spotted Woodpecker flew E on the 14th. Of the total 28 Little Egrets seen in the year 17 were recorded in September and other unusual records included a Merlin on the 9th and 37 Black-tailed Godwits moving W on the 14th with another 2 on the 19th. The first Red-breasted Mergansers were recorded on the 15th and the first returning Brent Geese on the 23rd.

October is also a month for observing passerine movement but the totals of 425 Goldfinches, 173 Meadow Pipits and 62 Pied Wagtails were well below some other years. Brightening the watching was a Ruff on the 9th, 10 Little Gulls being blasted eastward in a severe gale on the 15th and the first diver on the 31st.

A Black Redstart was on the beach in early November and whilst the last Sandwich Tern was seen on the 1st the same day produced the first winter Goldeneye. Perhaps the most interesting sea-watch of the year occurred on 10th November when in a soft SW wind and rain the westward movement included 2477 Brent Geese, 323 Dunlin, 74 Little Gulls, 60 Gannets 7 divers and 2 Bonxies and a good assortment of other wildfowl and waders. The end of the year was fairly quiet with 208 Teal and 150 Wigeon seen on 8th December, Velvet Scoters recorded on both the 14th and 15th, three Little Gulls seen during December and the highest auk number being 163 on the 26th.

John Newnham

## GAZETTEER 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 (1995 Report, 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.

Jim Steedman



## INDOOR MEETINGS 2002

Ian Rumley-Dawson paid us a return visit in January. On this occasion his subject was Butterflies and Moths. The twin dissolving projector system again proved very effective and most members seemed quite happy with an occasional non-birding talk. For the butterfly enthusiast it would have been nice to have had more species of local interest included.

Also paying a return visit was Gordon Langsbury, who entertained us in February with his talk *Islands Apart – Lesbos and Gotland*. Gordon's photographs are always superb and his keen observation and brilliant close-up images make him a leader in his field.

A new face for most of us was that of Colin Shawyer who came to us in March with the fascinating subject *Focus on Owls* in the UK. Colin is the author of three books on the Barn Owl and is Director of Conservation and Research at the Hawk and Owl Trust. He demonstrated his vast experience and left us begging for more. Colin visited our area on several occasions between 2000 and 2002 as he was engaged by the developers of the former Cement Works site in mitigation schemes for Peregrine and Raven. He also arranged for the installation of Barn Owl boxes in 2002 throughout the Adur Valley.



After the April AGM Keith Noble brought us up to date with his wanderings in his entertaining talk entitled *At Home and Away*. The *Away* leg involved Keith's recent trip to Africa, and nearer to home his Steyning garden and the Adur Valley provided us with some memorable images. Keith's excellent photographs of birds and other wildlife are a constant reminder of what can be found in our local area.

After the Summer break we were visited by Mike Read in October with a talk entitled *In Darwin's Footsteps*. This took us from Ecuador to the Galapagos Islands – a fascinating part of the world and Mike's usual high standard of photography was again evident.

A change of speaker for November brought Graham Smith to us to talk on *South American Bird Families*. Although a stranger to many Graham is one of our members and is much travelled in Argentina, Terra del Fuego and Peru, and he gave us an excellent talk despite a loss of power to the projector in mid-session. This necessitated a very long interval and Graham was forced to abbreviate the second part of his talk. In the circumstances he did remarkably well and was able to give us a very good insight into most of the bird families in this part of the world.

To round off the year John Wyatt came to us in December with an appropriately entitled talk *Santa's Home Patch*. John had been in hospital the previous week and I understand was taken ill again shortly after his visit to us so we were lucky to have him in such good form. His subject covered the various habitats and flora and fauna of Finland. John's talks are deliberately not too complex and are lavishly illustrated. A splendid end to a year in which we had several record attendances.

Many thanks to Brianne, Diane and Terry for their fine efforts in providing refreshments throughout the year, and to all those volunteers who helped with the catering and washing-up.

Chris Wright

## FIELD OUTINGS 2002

The year began with a joint outing with the SOS to Dungeness on 13<sup>th</sup> January. Bernie Forbes and Richard Ives assisted the group of 30 in dull and overcast conditions. Just visible on the sea were Gannets, the occasional Auk, Red-throated Diver and Kittiwake. The Burrowes and ARC Pits can normally be relied upon to turn up some good birds and we were rewarded with a Black-throated Diver, 5 Goosander (3 male), several Smew (1 male), Goldeneye, a pair of Long-tailed Duck and many Ruddy Duck. In the RSPB Reserve the party was split into two groups. Best birds were Bearded Tits for one group and a Bittern in flight for the other. Both groups had Slavonian Grebe and 17 Smew (2 males). Dengemarsh produced excellent views of 5 Whooper Swans, and in fading light brief views of a Bittern were obtained by the few members who persevered to the bitter end at Castle Water.

Sunny and mild conditions greeted the 19 members who joined Dave Smith for a walk round East Head and Snowhill Marsh on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. A Chiffchaff greeted us in the car park and up to 2000 Brent Geese were still present. After a while everyone got onto a Black Brant. Two Water Rails also showed well and the supporting cast included Slavonian Grebe, Greenshank, Black-tailed Godwit, 3 Sanderling and 2 Little Stint.

The popular outing to Burton Pond on 7<sup>th</sup> April proved just that with 37 people attending. The cold east wind but welcome sunshine produced Blackcap and Sand Martin, and Bernie Forbes managed to find his usual Little Owl. Common Buzzards were displaying over the Downs. Later at Ambersham Common we had good views of Woodlark and Dartford Warbler. Many Siskins were still in the treetops with a few Redpoll, and a large puddle produced excellent views of Yellowhammer and 2 Bramblings. Crossbills were more elusive but were heard and seen briefly.

Ten members joined John Newnham for the Goring seawatch on 28<sup>th</sup> April in a Force 6 south-westerly that made identification very difficult. Several Fulmars were recorded, along with parties of Common Scoter, many Sandwich Terns and a few Common Terns, one or two Auks and a few waders. A Great Skua sat offshore for a while and 3 Arctic Skuas were seen by most people, although 2 Manx Shearwaters were only picked up by John. Twenty-four Swallows were noted.

Bernie Forbes was joined by 20 members for the walk around West Dean on 19<sup>th</sup> May. A south-westerly wind and warm conditions produced singing Turtle Dove from the car park while Yellowhammer, Linnet, Blackcap and Siskin were seen and Firecrest and Grasshopper Warbler were heard. At least 10 Common Buzzards were observed including one very pale bird, and there were lengthy if distant views of a Red Kite. On the way back to the Car Park near Staple Ash Farm 2 Turtle Doves were seen along with Bernie's usual Little Owl.

For the New Forest outing a new venue was tried and 24 members met Bernie Forbes at Cadmans Pool on 26<sup>th</sup> May. Underfoot conditions were damp to say the least and one or two detours were required along with some hazardous river crossings. Most of the forest's special birds were seen including Wood Warbler, Common Redstart, Woodlark and Spotted Flycatcher, plus Cuckoo, Little Egret, Common Buzzard, Peregrine and several views of the day's star birds, 2 Honey Buzzards.

Despite another change of venue for the nightjar outing on 28<sup>th</sup> June the result was again slightly disappointing. Twenty-one members joined Bernie at Ambersham Com-



mon where we had good views of Dartford Warbler, Stonechat, Tree Pipit, Linnet and Yellowhammer. Several Woodcock were roding but in the cool conditions only two Nightjars were heard.

The solid heavy cloud and strong chilly breeze rather spoilt Jim Steedman's butterfly walk at Cissbury Ring on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Six members managed to see only small numbers of 9 species including Dark Green Fritillary and Marbled White, the two target species, and birds recorded included Whitethroats, Yellowhammers, Skylarks, Linnets and a Green Woodpecker.

Brianne Reeve led a combined outing with Butterfly Conservation to Lancing Ring on 14<sup>th</sup> July. Eleven SDOS members were rewarded with 20 bird species being seen or heard. A Lesser Whitethroat was the star performer. Fifteen butterfly species were recorded along with over 30 species of flowers.

Just 9 members braved Beeding Hill on 25<sup>th</sup> August in relatively poor weather conditions. Chris Wright struggled to find Bullfinch, 6 Lesser Whitethroat and a Spotted Flycatcher. At the top of Anchor Bottom, the party managed to see a good variety of Downland butterfly species after a careful search.

Fourteen members joined Chris for the outing to Birling Gap on 29<sup>th</sup> September. It was sunny and warm if you could avoid the strong southeast wind. Forty bird species were recorded including 3 Peregrines and we had stunning close views of 2 Firecrests. Twelve butterfly species were noted including 20 Clouded Yellows.

Chris was again the leader for the attempted outing to Pagham and Church Norton on 27<sup>th</sup> October. A short walk was undertaken in gale force winds during which no notable birds were found in the 20 species recorded.

Conditions had greatly improved when 9 members joined Richard Ives for the outing to Shellness on 24<sup>th</sup> November. The weather was mild with long sunny intervals, the occasional shower and little wind. At least 60 species were recorded including several Marsh and Hen Harriers, Peregrine and Merlin, 12 Bewick Swans, male Eider, Little Auk, Black Redstart, Little Owl and up to 9 Short-eared Owls.

The final walk of the year was held on 31<sup>st</sup> December when Stanley Allen led about 20 members around Fort Haven and Widewater on a thankfully dry, mild and relatively wind-free, though rather dull and gloomy morning. Three Purple Sandpipers were seen at the Fort, together with Rock Pipit, Turnstone, Pied Wagtail, Cormorant and a flock of Greenfinches. At Widewater there were 4 Little Grebes and a Little Egret on the Lagoon, and a wide variety of birds were spotted on or over the sea including Great Skua, 2 Red-throated Divers, 9 Great-crested Grebes, 3 Gannets, 9 Eider, 4 Wigeon, and 10 Red-breasted Mergansers, while the beach held Grey Plover, Turnstone, 14 Sanderling, Stonechat and Meadow Pipit, plus a hovering Kestrel nearby. An excellent end to the year.

Thanks as usual to all the leaders and those SDOS members who participated.

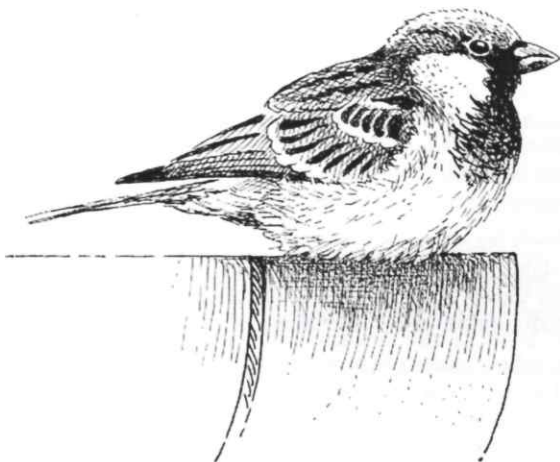
Chris Wright



## GARDEN BIRD SURVEY - 2002

Records of birds seen in the gardens of 27 members were submitted for the year. A total of 68 species was recorded, with records for the whole of the year being submitted in quarterly returns. Most species in a quarter (30/06/02- 29/09/02), 29, were recorded in Graham Smith's Henfield garden.

With mild and sometimes wet winter months few northern visitors were recorded with just two gardens recording Redwing. Birds added to the garden records since 1999 were Lesser Whitethroat, Pied Flycatcher and Reed Warbler. Other sightings included



Black Redstart (in 1 garden), Spotted Flycatcher (3), Common Whitethroat (2), Firecrest (2), Tawny Owl (1), Redpoll (1), Common Redstart (1) and Grey Wagtail (2).

Collared Dove and Blackbird were consistently the most common species seen, with Starling, Blue Tit, Dunnock, House Sparrow and Greenfinch always in the top ten. Robin, Chaffinch, Wood Pigeon and Great Tit were in the top ten for three out of four quarters. Wren, Magpie, Carrion Crow and Song Thrush all maintained a steady presence in most gardens throughout the year.

There were healthy records for the following species, Chiffchaff (in 15 gardens), Blackcap (14), Goldfinch (14), Long-tailed Tit (18), and Coal Tit (9).

Green Woodpecker was recorded in 8 gardens, Greater Spotted Woodpecker in 9 gardens and Nuthatch in 4 gardens.

The tables on the opposite page show the top birds recorded each quarter and relate to the percentage of gardens used and the maximum number of these species recorded.

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

Martin Ford

Season	Top birds	Percentage of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
<b>Winter 2002</b> (20/12/2001 to 30/03/2002)  23 Gardens 49 species recorded	Collared Dove	100.0	14	3.5
	Blackbird	100.0	8	3.7
	Robin	100.0	3	1.8
	Starling	95.7	71	13.8
	Blue Tit	95.7	8	3.7
	Dunnock	95.7	4	2.2
	House Sparrow	87.0	22	9.1
	Greenfinch	87.0	22	5.7
	Chaffinch	87.0	15	3.5
	Wood Pigeon	87.0	12	3.5
<b>Spring 2002</b> (31/03/2002 to 29/06/2002)  23 Gardens 52 species recorded	Collared Dove	100.0	11	3.3
	Blackbird	100.0	6	3.6
	Starling	95.7	40	13.2
	Blue Tit	95.7	8	3.6
	Wood Pigeon	95.7	5	2.4
	Dunnock	95.7	4	2.3
	House Sparrow	91.3	27	10.0
	Greenfinch	91.3	15	4.5
	Great Tit	91.3	5	2.4
	Chaffinch	78.3	8	2.5
	Robin	78.3	4	1.6
<b>Summer 2002</b> (30/06/2002 to 21/09/2002)  23 Gardens 49 species recorded	Blackbird	100.0	10	4.3
	Collared Dove	100.0	9	3.3
	Dunnock	100.0	6	2.5
	Robin	100.0	4	1.8
	Blue Tit	95.7	10	5.0
	Wood Pigeon	95.7	6	2.0
	House Sparrow	91.3	42	13.1
	Greenfinch	91.3	19	5.1
	Starling	87.0	82	16.4
	Great Tit	87.0	6	2.3
<b>Autumn 2002</b> (29/09/2002 to 21/12/2002)  24 Gardens 46 species recorded	Collared Dove	100.0	23	5.5
	Blue Tit	100.0	9	4.8
	Blackbird	100.0	7	3.4
	Robin	100.0	2	1.6
	Starling	87.5	100	15.9
	House Sparrow	87.5	35	10.8
	Great Tit	87.5	7	2.2
	Dunnock	87.5	4	1.8
	Greenfinch	83.3	16	5.6
	Chaffinch	79.2	10	2.5
	Wren	79.2	2	1.0



## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

**For the year to 31 December 2002**

	2002	2001
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Balance brought forward	4,709.65	4,453.30
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,083.50	1,511.50
Sale of books, reports, cards and stickers	12.50	2.00
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	110.37	70.87
Bank interest	46.82	80.81
Donations	-	14.00
Donations for Golden Jubilee	2000.00	-
Sale of computer	50.00	-
	<u>8,012.84</u>	<u>6,132.48</u>
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
Printing	938.10	371.44
Postage and stationary	153.61	179.91
Honorarium payment	-	25.00
Hire of hall	-	315.00
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	436.20	234.98
Insurance	165.00	262.50
Purchase of computer equipment	349.99	30.00
BTCV Membership	25.00	-
Transfer to Jubilee account	2,000.00	-
Balance carried forward	3,940.94	4,709.65
	<u>8,012.84</u>	<u>6,132.48</u>

John M. Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated 25<sup>th</sup> January 2003

### 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: 28th January 2003

# TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2004

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 28 March to 31 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 2004

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 28 March to 31 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

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

Times and heights are approximate only.

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# TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2004

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 28 March to 31 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.  
 Total predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.  
 Times and heights are approximate only.

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**RSPB: Head Office:** The Lodge, SANDY, Beds, SG19 2DL. ☎ 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](mailto:info@birdnews.co.uk)

or visit [www.birdnews.co.uk](http://www.birdnews.co.uk)

**Birdcall** (via Focalpoint): ☎ 07 092 247 392

or visit [dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/close/xdu72](http://dialspace.dial.pipex.com/town/close/xdu72)

**Birdcall** (via Birdguides): ☎ 0800 919 391 or visit [www.birdguides.com](http://www.birdguides.com)

**Rare Bird Alert:** ☎ 01 603 456 789

## USEFUL WEBSITES

**Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS):** [www.susos.org.uk](http://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](http://www.streetmap.co.uk), so that location map for any site can be displayed (and printed).

**Bird Guides:** [www.birdguides.com](http://www.birdguides.com). National rare bird sightings.

**Hampshire Ornithological Society:** [www.hants.gov.uk/hos](http://www.hants.gov.uk/hos)

**Kent Ornithological Society:** [www.kentaccess.org.uk/kos](http://www.kentaccess.org.uk/kos)

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

**Birdline SE:** [www.southeastbirdnews.co.uk](http://www.southeastbirdnews.co.uk)

**WSSC:** [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

**ESCC:** [www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk](http://www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk)

**General Portal** (i.e. starting point for national & international sites):  
[birding.start4all.com](http://birding.start4all.com)

**BBC online weather centre:** [www.bbc.co.uk/weather](http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather)

**Meteorological Office weather maps:** [www.findafishingboat.co.uk/Weather.htm](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.birdingworld.freemove.co.uk)

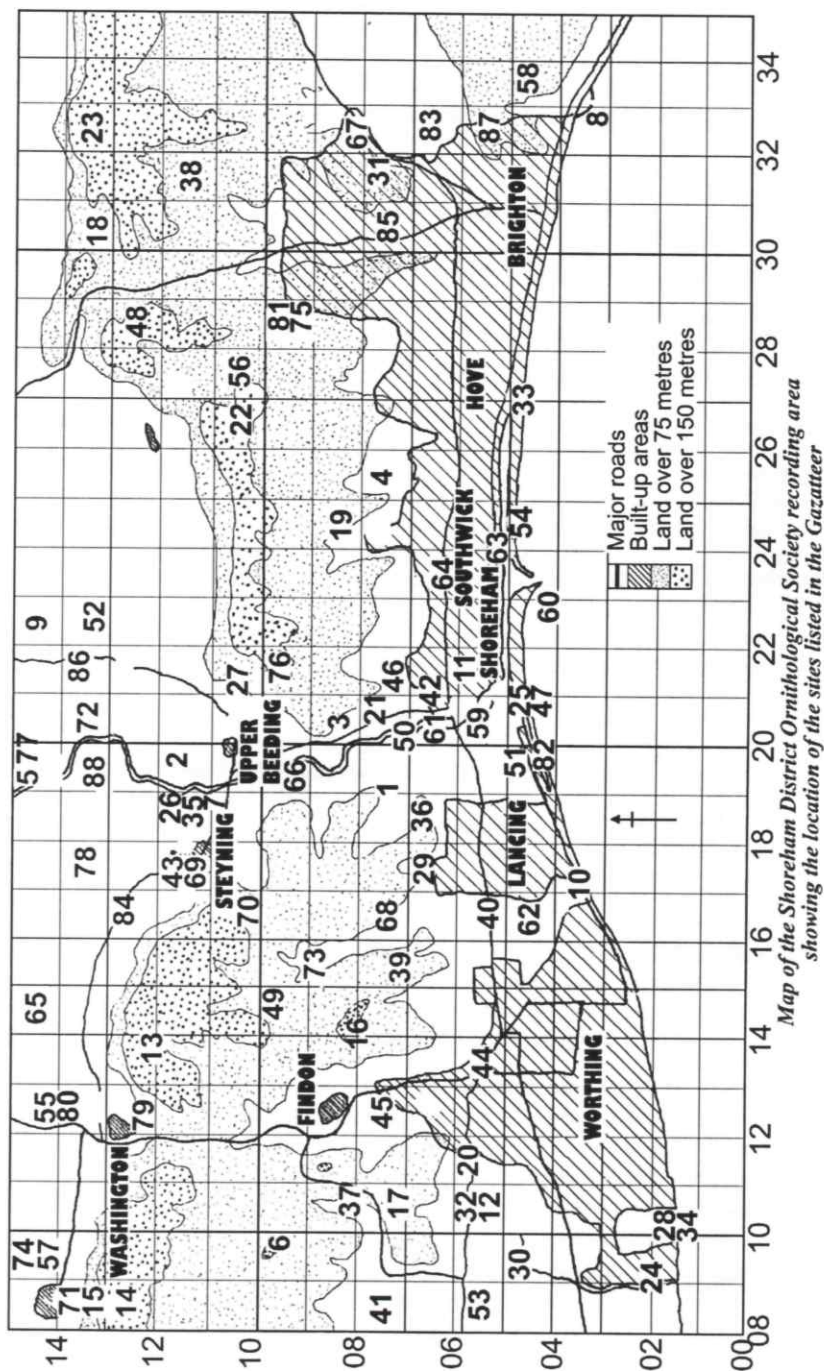
**Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary** (annual): Buckingham Press, 55 Thorpe Park Road,  
PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LJ. ☎ 01733 561 739

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 updated Yearbook is even better than its predecessors, being better organised and with some useful new sections. They now also publish the excellent new quarterly magazine **Birds Illustrated**.

# 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 Soringham 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 Bobbys	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 Sleep Down	TQ1607
9 Broadmore Common	TQ2115	39 Lychpole Hill	4 TQ1507	69 Steyning Mill Pond	TQ1711
10 Brooklands	4 TQ1703	40 Malthouse Meadow	TQ1605	70 Steyning Round Hill	4 TQ1610
11 Buckingham Park	TQ2206	41 Michelgrove	4 TQ0808	71 Strorning Mill Pond	TQ0814
12 Castle Goring	TQ1005	42 Mill Hill	TQ2107	72 Streham Manor	TQ2013
13 Chancinbury	TQ1312	43 Mumbles, The	TQ1811	73 Stump Bottom	4 TQ1509
14 Chantry Hill	4 TQ0812	44 Muntham Park Crem.	TQ1109	74 Sullington Warren	4 TQ0914
15 Chantry Mill Pond	TQ0913	45 Nepcote	TQ1208	75 Sweet Hill	TQ3009
16 Cissbury Ring	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 Clayton 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 Cote 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 Patching Pond	TQ0805	83 Wild Park	5 TQ3207
24 Ferring Rife	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 64





SOCIETY OFFICERS  
SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1ST OCTOBER 2002

**President**

Mr. Bernie Forbes

**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**

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**Sanctuary Committee**

Dr. John A. Newnham

Dr. A. Barrie Watson

**Other Council Members**

Mrs. Diane Hicks

Mrs. Shena Maskell

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.

# PERSONAL CHECKLIST FOR 2004 (with systematic-list page numbers)

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Red-throated Diver	7						
Black-throated Diver	7						
Great Northern Diver	8						
White-billed Diver							
Little Grebe	8						
Great Crested Grebe	8						
Red-necked Grebe	8						
Slavonian Grebe	9						
Black-necked Grebe	9						
Fulmar	9						
Cory's Shearwater							
Sooty Shearwater	9						
Manx Shearwater	9						
Mediterranean Shearwater	9						
Storm Petrel							
Leach's Petrel							
Gannet	10						
Cormorant	10						
Shag	10						
Bittern							
American Bittern							
Little Bittern							
Night Heron							
Squacco Heron							
Cattle Egret							
Little Egret	11						
Great White Egret							
Grey Heron	11						
Purple Heron							
Black Stork							
White Stork							
Glossy Ibis							
Spoonbill							
Mute Swan	11						
Bewick's Swan	11						
Whooper Swan							
Bean Goose							
Pink-footed Goose							
White-fronted Goose	12						
Grey lag Goose	12						
Snow Goose							
Canada Goose	12						
Barnacle Goose							
Brent Goose	12						
Red-breasted Goose							
Egyptian Goose	13						

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Ruddy Shelduck							
Shelduck	13						
Mandarin	13						
Wigeon	13						
American Wigeon							
Gadwall	13						
Teal	14						
Green-winged Teal							
Mallard	14						
Pintail	14						
Garganey	15						
Blue-winged Teal							
Shoveler	15						
Red-crested Pochard							
Pochard	15						
Ring-necked Duck							
Ferruginous Duck							
Tufted Duck	15						
Scaup	15						
Eider	15						
Long-tailed Duck	16						
Common Scoter	16						
Surf Scoter							
Velvet Scoter	16						
Goldeneye	16						
Smew							
Red-breasted Merganser	16						
Goosander	17						
Ruddy Duck							
Honey Buzzard	17						
Black Kite							
Red Kite	17						
White-tailed Eagle							
Marsh Harrier	17						
Hen Harrier	17						
Montagu's Harrier							
Goshawk							
Sparrowhawk	18						
Common Buzzard	18						
Rough-legged Buzzard							
Osprey	18						
Kestrel	18						
Red-footed Falcon							
Merlin	18						
Hobby	19						
Gyr falcon							



Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Peregrine	19						
Black Grouse							
Red-legged Partridge	19						
Grey Partridge	19						
Quail	19						
Pheasant	20						
Golden Pheasant							
Water Rail	20						
Spotted Crake							
Sora Rail							
Little Crake							
Baillon's Crake							
Comcrake							
Moorhen	20						
Coot	20						
Common Crane	20						
Little Bustard							
Great Bustard							
Oystercatcher	20						
Black-winged Stilt							
Avocet	21						
Stone-curlew							
Collared Pratincole							
Oriental Pratincole							
Black-winged Pratincole							
Little Ringed Plover	21						
Ringed Plover	21						
Killdeer							
Kentish Plover	21						
Lesser Sand Plover							
Greater Sand Plover							
Dotterel							
American Golden Plover							
Golden Plover	21						
Grey Plover	22						
Sociable Plover							
Lapwing	22						
Knot	22						
Sanderling	22						
Semipalmated Sandpiper							
Little Stint	23						
Temminck's Stint							
Least Sandpiper							
White-rumped Sandpiper							
Baird's Sandpiper							
Pectoral Sandpiper							
Curlew Sandpiper	23						
Purple Sandpiper	23						
Dunlin	23						
Broad-billed Sandpiper							

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Stilt Sandpiper							
Buff-breasted Sandpiper							
Ruff	24						
Jack Snipe	24						
Snipe	24						
Great Snipe							
Long-billed Dowitcher							
Woodcock	24						
Black-tailed Godwit	24						
Bar-tailed Godwit	24						
Whimbrel	25						
Curlew	25						
Upland Sandpiper							
Spotted Redshank	27						
Redshank	25						
Marsh Sandpiper							
Greenshank	25						
Lesser Yellowlegs							
Green Sandpiper	25						
Wood Sandpiper	26						
Terek Sandpiper							
Common Sandpiper	26						
Spotted Sandpiper							
Turnstone	26						
Wilson's Phalarope							
Red-necked Phalarope							
Grey Phalarope							
Pomarine Skua	26						
Arctic Skua	26						
Long-tailed Skua							
Great Skua	27						
Mediterranean Gull	27						
Laughing Gull							
Franklin's Gull							
Little Gull	27						
Sabine's Gull							
Bonaparte's Gull							
Black-headed Gull	28						
Slender-billed Gull							
Ring-billed Gull							
Common Gull	28						
Lesser Black-backed Gull	28						
Herring Gull	28						
Yellow-legged Gull***	29						
Iceland Gull							
Glaucous Gull	29						
Great Black-backed Gull	29						
Kittiwake	29						
Ivory Gull							
Gull-billed Tern							

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6	Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Caspian Tern								Sand Martin	35						
Lesser Crested Tern								Crag Martin							
Sandwich Tern	29							Cliff Swallow							
Roseate Tern	30							Swallow	35						
Common Tern	30							Red-rumped Swallow							
Arctic Tern	30							House Martin	35						
Sooty Tern								Richard's Pipit							
Bridled Tern								Blyth's Pipit							
Little Tern	30							Tawny Pipit							
Whiskered Tern								Olive-backed Pipit							
Black Tern	30							Tree Pipit	36						
White-winged Black Tern								Meadow Pipit	36						
Guillemot	31							Red-throated Pipit							
Razorbill	31							Rock Pipit	36						
Black Guillemot								Water Pipit							
Little Auk	31							Yellow Wagtail	36						
Puffin								Grey Wagtail	37						
Pallas's Sandgrouse								Pied Wagtail	37						
Feral Pigeon	31							Waxwing							
Stock Dove	31							Dipper							
Woodpigeon	31							Wren	37						
Collared Dove	32							Dunnock	37						
Turtle Dove	32							Alpine Accentor							
Ring-necked Parakeet								Rufous Bush Chat							
Great Spotted Cuckoo								Robin	38						
Cuckoo	32							Thrush Nightingale							
Yellow-billed Cuckoo								Nightingale	38						
Barn Owl	32							Bluethroat							
Snowy Owl								Black Redstart	38						
Little Owl	32							Redstart	38						
Tawny Owl	33							Whinchat	38						
Long-eared Owl	33							Stonechat	39						
Short-eared Owl	33							Wheatear	39						
Nighthawk	33							Pied Wheatear							
Swift	33							Black-eared Wheatear							
Alpine Swift								Desert Wheatear							
Kingfisher	33							Rock Thrush							
Bee-eater								White's Thrush							
Roller								Ring Ouzel	39						
Hoopoe								Blackbird	39						
Wryneck	34							Black-throated Thrush							
Green Woodpecker	34							Fieldfare	40						
Great Spotted Woodpecker	34							Song Thrush	40						
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	34							Redwing	40						
White-winged Lark								Mistle Thrush	40						
Short-billed Lark								Cetti's Warbler							
Crested Lark								Grasshopper Warbler	40						
Woodlark	34							Savi's Warbler							
Skylark	34							Aquatic Warbler							
Shore Lark								Sedge Warbler	41						

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Paddyfield Warbler							
Marsh Warbler							
Reed Warbler	41						
Great Reed Warbler							
Booted Warbler							
Icterine Warbler							
Melodious Warbler							
Dartford Warbler	41						
Subalpine Warbler							
Sardinian Warbler							
Barred Warbler							
Lesser Whitethroat	41						
Whitethroat	41						
Garden Warbler	42						
Blackcap	42						
Greenish Warbler							
Pallas's Warbler							
Yellow-browed Warbler	42						
Hume's Leaf Warbler							
Radde's Warbler							
Dusky Warbler							
Western Bonelli's Warbler							
Wood Warbler	42						
Chiffchaff	42						
Willow Warbler	43						
Goldcrest	43						
Firecrest	43						
Spotted Flycatcher	44						
Red-breasted Flycatcher							
Collared Flycatcher							
Pied Flycatcher	44						
Bearded Tit							
Long-tailed Tit	44						
Marsh Tit	44						
Willow Tit							
Crested Tit							
Coal Tit	44						
Blue Tit	44						
Great Tit	45						
Nuthatch	45						
Wallcreeper							
Treecreeper	45						
Penduline Tit							
Golden Oriole							
Isabelline Shrike							
Red-backed Shrike	49						
Lesser Grey Shrike							
Great Grey Shrike							
Woodchat Shrike							
Jay	45						

Species	Page	1	2	3	4	5	6
Magpie	45						
Nutcracker							
Chough							
Jackdaw	45						
Rook	46						
Carrion Crow	46						
Hooded Crow							
Raven	46						
Starling	46						
Rose-coloured Starling							
House Sparrow	47						
Tree Sparrow	47						
Chaffinch	47						
Brambling	47						
Serín							
Greenfinch	47						
Goldfinch	48						
Siskin	48						
Linnet	48						
Twite							
Lesser Redpoll							
Common Redpoll	49						
Common Crossbill	49						
Parrot Crossbill							
Trumpeter Finch							
Scarlet Rosefinch							
Bullfinch	49						
Hawfinch	49						
Black-and-white Warbler							
Blackpoll Warbler							
White-throated Sparrow							
Dark-eyed Junco							
Lapland Bunting							
Snow Bunting							
Yellowhammer	49						
Cirl Bunting							
Rock Bunting							
Ortolan Bunting	50						
Rustic Bunting	50						
Little Bunting							
Reed Bunting	50						
Pallas's Reed Bunting							
Black-headed Bunting							
Corn Bunting	50						
Northern Oriole							
.....							
.....							
.....							
.....							
.....							



## Index to Personal Checklists

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....
- 5.....
- 6.....

**Notes:** The species listed in the foregoing checklist, which also acts as an index to the Systematic List descriptions given on pages 7 to 50, correspond to all those that are recognised by the Sussex Ornithological Society as having occurred in Sussex in the wild or in a feral state. Thanks are due to the SOS for providing this information, which is based on the Checklist published by the Society in 2003, to which reference should be made for more-detailed information regarding occurrence and status.

\*\*\* Yellow-legged Gull is not yet recognised as a full species.

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## EDITORIAL NOTES

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

I have already thanked John Reaney, our illustrator, in my Editorial, for his contribution to this and to previous Reports, but I feel I must say another thank-you here. John has contributed much to Sussex birding over the years since the early days of this Society, but he is so modest that this contribution may have gone somewhat unnoticed. We are extremely lucky that each year, this distinguished professional bird illustrator and member of the Society of Wildlife Artists draws several new pictures especially for our Report, and now, due to his kindness and that of the Sussex Ornithological Society, we can also reuse some of his illustrations that have illuminated the Sussex Bird Reports in the past. This year 16 of his beautiful drawings (3 specially drawn) grace this Report.

Our Society is doubly lucky that, in Richard Ives we also have a gifted amateur artist, who over the years has produced for us a veritable portfolio of pictures that have enhanced not only our previous Reports but also our regular Newsletters. Though his talents are nowadays mainly directed to editing and illustrating the SOS Newsletters, we've used his drawings for our publications over and over again, some of them many times.

After much consultation with Members I have decided to make virtually no changes to the Report this time, apart from extending the checklist to cover all the recorded Sussex species. As always, if you have any suggestions for further improvements or come across any mistakes in the Useful Information section or elsewhere, please let me know.

Jim Steedman

## 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 complete and return the joining form below. Some previous issues of this report are also still available from the Hon Secretary for purchase by members or non-members.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/we apply to join the Shoreham and District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our annual subscription of £10 Single, £15 for a couple or family, and £4 for a Junior.

Cheques should be made payable to SDOS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Names.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Tel No .....

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



Cover photograph of Willow Warbler  
by Stanley Allen