

*Shoreham District
Ornithological Society
Annual Report 2004*



No. 52

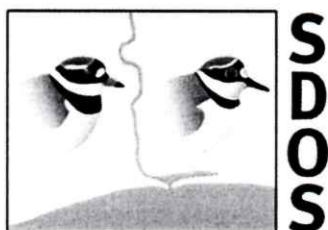


Common Tern – Dorian Mason



Redpoll–Dorian Mason

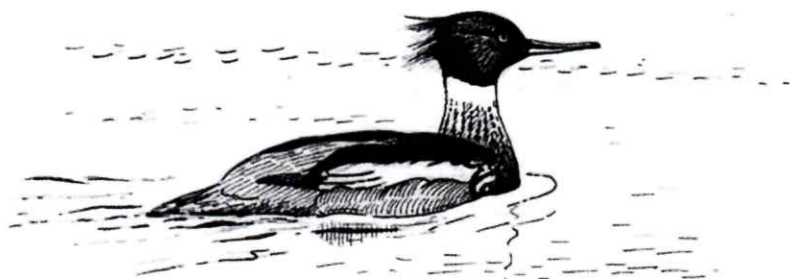
Front Cover Little Egret - *John Reaney*
Back Cover Kingfisher - *Dorian Mason*



ANNUAL REPORT 2004

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2004

Another year slips by and the SDOS keeps on improving. We have managed to produce this report with a fresh Editor, Penny Green, and new Recorder, Clive Hope; both jobs important to the society. Without their tireless work we would be unable to publish our annual report. We must recognise the sterling dedication of the retiring Editor Jim Steedman and Recorder Peter Whitcomb. They have worked behind the scenes for many years collating bird records and articles with the utmost efficiency. This result is a document worthy of a much larger organisation which gains respect for the SDOS both locally and nationally.

We are justifiably proud of what we can offer members in the way of outings to every part of Sussex and sometimes further afield, with leaders who are experienced birdwatchers but have the patience to teach those with little knowledge. Our days out in the field are well supported with some members attending many of the trips. We must have the right formula as we are still finding areas to see really excellent birds, informing and educating as we go along. Any one who has never been tempted to join one of the outings should not be put off by the size of the groups, many eyes scanning for different species makes life easier for the leaders.

Indoor meetings are much more difficult to please everyone, speakers are asked to come on the basis of what they write about themselves and therefore it is not always easy to judge their ability. However as attendance at these meetings has increased, with sixty plus as a good average, presumably we are finding a stimulating choice of subjects. This year the indoor programme once again has been first class with interesting and diverse speakers drawn from our own members, and professional people with subjects covering birding all over the world. I would like to thank every member for contributing to the running of our Society and especially to show my appreciation to all of you who help at the indoor meetings in making them a great success. Finally, well done to our committee members for the work they do, which often takes many hours of their time, but which is so important to the smooth-running of such an active Society. We know that without them the SDOS would not exist.

There are few if any new sites within the SDOS recording area that over the past decades have not been watched thoroughly, however there is still potential for finding out more information. I therefore urge anyone with the pioneering spirit to go out there and watch your own patch as often as possible. The more data we collate in the long term is useful in fighting any proposed future development which could endanger vital 'corridors' down which birds can travel. In our immediate vicinity we have issues with the future of Brooklands, Widewater and the Cement Works site to name a few. There were 190 species recorded in the SDOS area in 2004. No 'mega' rarities were recorded in the SDOS within the pages of this our 52nd report but you will still find a huge amount of data on many common and some scarce or even rare species as well as reminders of good sightings in 2004.

Bernie Forbes

EDITORIAL

Birding is great when the unexpected happens. You may have spent a couple of hours with nothing much happening when "Wham!" - the Big Event of the Day occurs (or sometimes two or three Big Events in as many minutes). Because people can enjoy birds in so many different ways, everyone's Big Events may be quite different. For a twitcher it may be the first-in-a-lifetime sighting of a new bird after a long, difficult journey; for the 'patch watcher' the appearance of a new bird on their patch; and for the garden bird-watcher the reappearance of a species not seen for years (if ever). For keepers of regular records, it may simply be the unexpected shift in an apparently regular annual cycle.

Nowadays, everyone can appreciate wildlife in many different ways, be it through arts like painting, sculpture and poetry, watching and listening to TV and radio documentaries, interactive computer activities and, of course, 'real-world' activities from ringing and sea-watching, to the studying and regular recording of everyday species - their nesting, breeding success, behaviour and population fluctuation in these uncertain times.

We are very lucky in the SDOS area for the varied environments that we have, a rich patchwork of important habitats for both birds and other wildlife. We should not take for granted the chalk grassland, the heathland, the floodplain grassland, the estuary, the vegetated shingle, the saline lagoon and the sea. Did you know that we have a Special Site of Scientific Interest, Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and Local Nature Reserves to help protect and raise awareness of the wildlife that surrounds us? These habitats are changing and perhaps we will see the changes happening more noticeably because of our proximity to the coast. Not enough people yet appreciate how records really can help to conserve species: birds, for example, are a great indicator of a changing environment. Records can help decide the most sympathetic management of a habitat, and building work can be done more sensitively with the knowledge that records provide. Records allow us to analyse how our environment is changing too. We can use "phenology" to look at the shifts and trends in nature in response to global warming: for example, birds now appear to be consistently nesting earlier than has been previously recorded. The arrival of new breeding species in the SDOS area, such as the Little Egret illustrated on the front cover of this report, perhaps reflects climate change, but only with detailed records can firm conclusions be reached.

This makes this Society's documenting of our local bird and other wildlife, both rare and common, so important. These annual reports embody much work by many individuals, both in reporting sightings and in producing the finished documents, and our thanks goes to all who have been involved producing this Report. Everyone concerned in its production hopes that you have a really good birding year in 2006 and we hope to receive all your records in due course!

Penny Green & Jim Steedman

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 2004

January was mostly fine and dry with light winds until late in the month. There were light snow showers on 28th and the brooks became frozen. The year began with six Shags at the Marina followed by eight Bewick's Swans at Henfield, and the customary Jack Snipe at Ferring Rife. The Lee Farm Brambling and Chaffinch flocks remained at around 200 and 400 birds with the last of the former seen in early March. Water Rails were at Sompting and Widewater, and one or two Hen Harriers at Chantry and Kithurst Hills. Sixteen Ruff joined the Bewicks (up to 19) in mid-month. The ASDA Pied Wagtail roost at Hollingbury held 236 birds on 18th. A Long-tailed Duck was off Brighton Pier on 26th when the year's main Auk movement was witnessed in the afternoon off the Marina; 11,500 birds were logged there and 225 Red-breasted Mergansers counted off Worthing/Ferring the next day.

February was windy early on but became settled again and mild. Late in the month it was cool with a northeast wind. A Dartford Warbler at Ditchling Beacon on 22nd was the first of about eight for the whole area in the year. Chiffchaffs were reported wintering at three sites.

March was mostly fine with a spring-like day on 16th, but becoming windy near the equinox. It was fine with light northeast winds later. A Slavonian Grebe was on the Adur and three off Shoreham beach on 2nd, when the first Wheatear appeared at Worthing beach. Eighty Eider passed the Marina on 3rd and the next Wheatear was at Brooklands on 4th. Two Cetti's Warblers took up residence on Beeding Brooks at this time and stayed until at least May. Three thousand Brent Geese moved east at the Marina on 18th and a Serin was seen at Ferring. Early Swallows appeared at Widewater, Stanmer and Steyning over this period. An early Hoopoe was at Beven-dean on 19th but did not linger, and a northern Chiffchaff was at Steyning on 27th. A Pale-bellied Brent Goose passed the Marina on 31st. Three Red Kites were recorded in the month.

April was cloudy and cool until 10th. Southeast winds (4/5) were noted on 1st to 3rd and again on 15th and 16th. It was warmer by 21st and fine through to the 28th. The month started with good seawatching at both the Marina and Worthing. At the former five Black-necked Grebes were seen on the 1st and two Garganey, 1,105 Scoter, ten Black-throated and 45 Red-throated Divers moved east and two Avocets west all on the 2nd. At the latter site 1,382 Scoter and three Slavonian Grebes were logged between 1st to 3rd. The first Osprey flew west at Worthing and Ferring on 1st. The peak count of Wheatears for the spring was 50 at Sheepcote on 16th. Two more Garganey passed Worthing on this day and also the first Swift (at Stanmer) was seen. The first Hobby of the spring was at Tegdown Hill the next day. On 21st a blue morph Fulmar was picked out of 145 in the day as well as 24 Arctic Skuas at the Marina. The only other Hoopoe of the year was in Storrington on 24th. On 25th, 24 Mediterranean Gulls and 66 Velvet Scoter moved east at the Marina with 19 and 23 respectively seen by the SDOS outing off Goring. Pomarine Skuas appeared from 21st (Marina) with 23 passing Worthing in the afternoon of 26th. This was the peak day for Little Gull passage with 105 E at the Marina.

May had misty starts with light winds generally, though stormy conditions appeared on 4th (SW6); then light northeast going round to southwest. On 1st a Marsh Harrier and an Osprey were in the Adur Valley. Next day 3,335 Commic Terns, ten Bonxies, 80 Pomarine Skuas and 140 Whimbrel passed the Marina with 1,500 Brent Geese. A White Stork also on this day was over West Hove GC and two Red Kites flew west at Wolstonbury Hill out of five for the area in the month. Eighty eight Manx Shearwaters and another 12 Bonxies were the most of both species for the year on 4th as were 315 Fulmars on the 15th all at the Marina. An oddity was a first summer Sandwich Tern off the Marina on 9th.

June was fine and warm until mid-month but became very unsettled thereafter. The area's highlight was the first confirmed breeding of Little Egrets with three young seen. Four pairs of Peregrines also fledged young and four pairs of Barn Owls raised at least 14 young. Nine Quail in the Sompting Downs and Steep Down area helped to make these the county's best sites for these shy birds. Two pairs of Great Black-backed Gulls bred in Southwick and four pairs in Hove. Encouragingly a Nightjar was on Patching Hill on 17th and was recorded again in July and that other local scarcity, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, was seen with two present in a Storrington garden on 18th. A Little Stint was found on Goring beach on 18th and 19th.

July started wet and windy with 2.25 inches of rain but reached 80°F. Another Lesser Spotted Woodpecker was seen, this time in Southwick, but little else of note.

August was warmer, still mostly dry in our area but some parts of Britain had exceptional rainfall. The year's maximum Whitethroat count was on 9th when 150 were estimated to be present at Sheepcote Valley. A flock of 18 Common Sandpipers at the Marina and ten on the Adur were the biggest groups of the year. The best day for Willow Warbler migration was 14th with 21 seen at Wild Park and 22 ringed at the Mumbles. Our only Wryneck of the year was in a Steyning garden on 20th and the Gannet that had spent much of the year in Kempton was over Sheepcote on 25th. A Marsh Harrier was over Hollingdean on 31st.

September was warm and sunny at first becoming wet and windy from 10th. Spotted Flycatchers reached totals of 30 and 32 at Cissbury and Chanctonbury on 1st. An Osprey on 2nd and Marsh Harrier on 5th were over Hollingdean and another Marsh Harrier at Lychpole on 5th. Crossbills were scarce this year so seven in Stanmer Park on 3rd were particularly welcome. Fifteen Whinchats at Sheepcote on 4th constituted the largest gathering of the autumn. Little Stint and five Curlew Sandpipers were on the Adur on 14th and 17th respectively. As always the biggest Swallow movements were around the equinox with 5,000 per hour passing through Sheepcote Valley on 25th. Meadow Pipts were also moving in strength at this time with 1,400 flying west on 24th there.

October was the wettest month for three years with seven inches of rain. A small tornado passed through the west of our area on 13th. An impressive Gannet movement on 2nd totalled 550 W at the Marina with 490 E there on 15th. At the same time Arctic Terns were noted with 52 W at the Marina being the most on 2nd. A very good autumn for Goldcrests kicked off with 40 at Cissbury on 3rd and 40 at Sheepcote valley on 13th.

A nice surprise was a Yellow-browed Warbler at Cissbury on 7th. Breeding hosted an Egyptian Goose on 8th and on this date 2,000 House Martins were over Sheepcote and the first Fieldfares of the autumn appeared at Stanmer Park. Redwing passage started in earnest on 9th and on the next day 10,000 passed west high over Sheepcote. The last Hobby was at Brooklands also on 10th and the last Wheatear at Wildpark on 14th. Large numbers of Blackcaps were ringed at Cissbury in this period with a massive 100 on 11th (out of a season's total of 304). A Great Grey Shrike was found on West Hove GC on 15th by one lucky observer. A late Turtle Dove was in a Durrington garden on 19th. Little Gulls were regularly seen at several coastal locations with a peak of 48 east at the Marina on 13th and eight appeared on Brooklands on 29th. Late Black Terns passed Worthing on 19th and 23rd. On the Downs, a Snow Bunting brightened up a morning on Truleigh Hill on 26th. Forty more Goldcrests with four Firecrests were at Goring Gap on 30th, and a Little Stint was on Worthing beach on 31st.

November was dry and fairly mild for the most part, but was chilly at night in mid-month. Five Scaup appeared at Brooklands and the two immature males stayed into 2005. The year's third Cetti's Warbler was ringed at the Sanctuary on 6th, the first there for 27 years! Woodcock in a Goring garden and Long-tailed Duck off Worthing kept up the interest and yet another Red Kite was noted. A huge Wood Pigeon movement on 11th involved 34,000 over Brighton followed by another 16,400 on 13th and 15,500 on 14th. Record numbers of Ringed Plovers (335 at Shoreham beach) and Red-breasted Mergansers (340 off Goring) were counted late in the month. A Goosander was off Worthing on 21st and the year's last and very late Sandwich Tern flew east there on 30th. On this date a lucky observer found a Waxwing in his Lancing garden, a foretaste of the biggest ever invasion of Britain by this species.

Dull and damp summed up much of December's weather but Christmas was frosty. A Goosander turned up on the Adur on 1st and 26 Whitefronts flew east off Brighton on 2nd. The only other Snow Bunting of the year was at Widewater on 6th. Six Waxwings were at Stretham Manor on 11th and 850 Kittiwakes moved east at the Marina on 12th and 19th. The year's tenth Red Kite passed over Steyning Round Hill on 28th. On 30th 1,000 Fieldfares were roosting at Park Brow near Findon.

Clive Hope



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A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA

Please consider sending in some records at the end of the year, even if in the past you have not done so. You don't need to have a computer or use e-mail, although obviously if you do it helps. I can send anyone recording forms which are simple and self-explanatory. Please write to me if you want some, my address is highlighted below.

Those species for which we particularly require more information are as follows. All breeding records are useful - nest box successes, Swallows in your garage etc. Little Grebe - all records away from Brooklands and Widewater; Great Crested Grebe - any inland sightings; Grey Partridge - all records; Oystercatcher in the summer months (June to August); Snipe especially from April to October; all records for Woodcock; Turtle Dove; Cuckoo; all Owl species; Nightjar; Lesser Spotted Woodpecker; Mistle Thrush; Bullfinch; Breeding records of Swallow; House and Sand Martins; Counts of Swifts; Pied Wagtail roosts in the autumn and winter; Song Thrush breeding records; and breeding season records of Reed Bunting.

It's most important that all national rarities should be submitted to the SOS with a full description. Forms are available from Christian Melgar, 36 Victoria Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1XB. 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.

Clive Hope



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SDOS recording forms are available from:
Clive Hope, Hillcrest, Byne Close, Storrington, RH20 4BS
Please enclose postage with your request.

The boundaries of the SDOS recording area are shown on
the map on page 86

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2004

This systematic list of birds in the Shoreham District recording area is based upon records submitted by members of the Shoreham & District Ornithological Society together with additional records obtained from the database of the Sussex Ornithological Society (by courtesy of Dr J. A. Newnham). The following is a list of contributors; non-members of the SDOS are marked with an asterisk.

S.R.Allen, V.Bentley, R.Bradbury, M.N.Brayshaw, P.M.Brayshaw, A.Carter*, J.Cooper, B.R.Clay, P.Clay, G.L.Champion, S.Denman, I.Ferguson*, B.F.Forbes, M & P.Ford, D & P.Green, D.Grimwood, R.J.Fairbank*, J.A.Feast, M.Hall, D.Harper, C.Holt, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, B.Kelley*, A.R.Kitson*, J.N. & S.P. Maskell, H & B.Metcalf*, J.A.Newnham, K.Noble, R.Pawley, R.T.Pepper, M.Prince*, B.Reeve, M.Russell, R.J.Sandison, D.I.Smith, J.C. & J.M.Steedman, Steyning Ringing Group, R.Tofts*, A.B.Watson, T.J.Wilson*, I.J.Whitcomb*, P.J.Whitcomb, C.H.Wright.

Abbreviations: ad=adult, BTO = British Trust for Ornithology, cf = compared with, E= East, f = female, GC= Golf Course, imm= immature, juv = juvenile, m = male, N= North, pr = pair, S = South, SOS = Sussex Ornithological Society, s/p = summer plumage, W= West, w/p = winter plumage, yr = year, Marina = Brighton Marina, Sanctuary = Shoreham Sanctuary, Pier = Brighton (Palace) Pier.

Note that especially with regard to seawatch data, complete figures for the Marina were not received.

Please note that we have changed the order of the systematic list, in line with national bird organisations. Please use the index on page 7 to find a specific species.

References to Worthing in seawatching data include all sites between the western boundary of Lancing along to, and including, Ferring unless separately identified. Lower Adur generally refers to the river and associated banks and saltings below the A283 bridge. Wild Park includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulscroomb Wild Park. BTO census and survey data for Stanmer Park, Tegdown Hill, Whitehawk Hill and Warndene, Patcham is included under these site names.

The following writers have assisted the Recorder with summaries for the systematic list to which he is indebted: B.Clay (Warblers), J. Newnham (Gulls), K.Noble (Thrushes), R. Pepper (game birds, Moorhen, Coot, Oystercatcher), D.Smith (Terns & Skuas), P.Whitcomb (Chats & Flycatchers), C.Wright (Raptors).



© John Reaney

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor***Fairly common resident**

Monthly peak counts from regularly monitored sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	38	63	37	-	18	-	-	-	21	29	49	39
Upper Adur	86	56	42	-	-	-	9	-	-	47	21	14
Lower Adur	5	9	7	4	-	60	-	70	17	17	9	23
Widewater	2	7	10	7	4	4	9	16	15	21	16	23
Upper Beeding	-	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
Brooklands	2	2	2	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	2	-

Nineteen were on the Steyning Levels in January and there were 16 at Hove Lagoon on Nov 28, and 25 there on Dec 22. Breeding was attempted at Upper Beeding, New Salt's Farm, Brooklands, Patching Pond (five young seen), Henfield Levels (broods of six and eight recorded), Widewater (broods of four and seven) and the Upper Adur where seven cygnets were seen. Small numbers were again noted on seawatches at the Marina and Worthing.

BEWICK'S SWAN *Cygnus columbianus***Scarce but regular visitor in varying numbers**

A herd of 19 on Henfield Levels on Jan 18 had built up from eight on 3rd and reduced to six by Feb 9. There was a family of six again there on Dec 16.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons***Scarce winter visitor**

Twenty six flew east off Brighton on Dec 2.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***Fairly scarce introduced resident**

Recorded inland from Henfield Levels and Wiston Pond. At the former site a peak of 63 on Feb 7. Breeding took place there with 12 goslings seen on May 22 and there were 20 present on Oct 15. At the latter site, 50 on Mar 25 and nine juveniles were recorded on Jun 12. Two flew west off Brighton on Mar 24 and two west off Worthing on Apr 28.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis***Introduced, increasing in area**

Largest monthly numbers at Beeding Fish Farm were:

Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	9	100	40	70

There were 50 at Wiston Pond on Mar 25 (cf. Greylag Goose) and 26 on Henfield Levels in March. Five flew east at Worthing on Apr 14. A pair bred on Henfield Levels and another on the Wiston estate. Otherwise 21 at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes on Oct 1, 13 on Steyning Levels in Dec and small numbers at about six other sites.

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla***Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	3	433	1141	9	-	-	-	2	208	366	3

No monthly figures are available from the Marina, but peak day counts were of 3,000 E on Mar 18 and 1,500 E on May 2. Eighteen on Henfield Levels on Jan 18 were an unusual sighting. Passage was also noted off Brighton's Palace Pier with 350 E on three dates in March and 60 E there on Apr 1, and off Widewater with 146 E on three dates in March and 256 E on two dates in April. Thirty five flew south over Sheepcote Valley on Oct 9. There were two on the Adur near the Tollbridge from Oct 17 to 20.

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla hrota***Rare passage migrant and winter visitor**

One flew east off the Marina on Mar 31 (IJV).

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca***Rare visitor from introduced populations elsewhere in UK**

One at Beeding Brooks on Oct 8 (PC).

SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna***Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Monthly seawatching totals at Worthing were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	-	12	84	45	-	-	6	-	15	49	3

Peak counts were 17 on Apr 12 and 23 on May 12 in the spring, and 11 on Oct 9 and 20 on Nov 9. No records were received from the Marina. Singles were noted on the Adur and Brooklands in February and March. There were two at Beeding Fish Farm and at Golding Barn on Mar 21. A pair may have bred on Henfield Levels but no young were recorded there. A young bird was seen at Brooklands on Jul 26, an adult was at Wide-water on Oct 12 and on the Adur at Shoreham on 20th.

MANDARIN *Aix galericulata***Rare in our area**

One at Sandgate Park, Sullington on Jun 5 was the only record.

WIGEON *Anas penelope***Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Monthly seawatching totals at Worthing were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
-	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	61	33	3

The peak was 43 on Oct 9. No records received from the Marina. One hundred and forty on Henfield Levels at one site and 60 at another on Jan 3 were the largest numbers inland in the first winter period and 75 at Wiston Pond on Dec 9 (a good site count) in the second. Elsewhere, at Widewater four on Jan 2, eight on Mar 29 then eight on Oct 3; up to eight on the Lower Adur in October and November, and at least six at Beeding Fish Farm in December.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Uncommon in the area

Wiston Pond held up to eight pairs in January and February with one pair possibly staying to breed. There were two pairs at Beeding Fish Farm in February increasing to three in March when there were six on Henfield Levels. Seawatching produced 8 E on Apr 2 at Worthing (out of ten in the month) and two at the Marina on 16th. A pair bred on Henfield Levels (success unknown). Six were at Brooklands on Sep 16, six again at Wiston Pond on Dec 9, and a single at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes on 12th.

TEAL *Anas crecca*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Thirty on Henfield Levels and 41 on the Adur Saltings in January rising to 63 at the latter locality in February were the early year maxima. There were 15 on Steyning Levels in early March. Other sites holding birds in this period were Widewater with five, and Upper Beeding with two. Seawatching from Worthing produced just 2 W in Jan, 2 E in Mar, 18 in April with a maxima of seven on the 1st and 2 E in May on the 3rd. No records were received from the Marina. In the latter half of the year, most were recorded from the Adur Saltings with maxima of 14 in October, 36 in November and 55 in December. Four were at Beeding Fish Farm on Nov 13. At sea, 11 in October and 16 in November were noted passing Worthing.



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MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos***Common resident and winter visitor**

Monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	20	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	13	24	19
Henfield Levels	40	4	17	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	5	6
Beeding Fish Farm	*	*	13	16	-	-	-	-	-	40	25	20
Brooklands	10	44	22	15	13	8	8	8	9	2	30	40
Widewater	3	6	3	1	-	2	4	5	1	-	10	2

* present but numbers not recorded.

Small numbers were seen as fly-overs at several sites inland (e.g. Stanmer Park, Ditchling Beacon, Tegdown Hill) in the early months. Seawatches accounted for 12 off Worthing in April with ten on 2nd and two more on May 31. Later in the year the biggest flock by far was of 76 at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes on Sep 24. There were also records from Patching Pond with eight on Dec 11, and Shoreham Airport with ten on 12th.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta***Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

The year commenced with 22 flying west off Widewater on Jan 2. Next were four at Henfield Levels on Feb 7 followed by a single bird that remained at Widewater from 10th to 25th. Seawatches at Worthing accounted for the remainder with 3 E in April, 3 E in September, 4 E in October and 6 W in December. No records were received from the Marina. A poor year.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula***Scarce spring passage migrant**

Two flew east at the Marina on Apr 2, and another two went east past Worthing and Widewater beach on 16th.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata***Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor**

There were 15 on Henfield Levels on Jan 3 and two at Wyckham Farm, Steyning on 4th. Seawatches at Worthing produced 3 E on Mar 31 and 35 in April, maxima of 19 on the 1st. Ten flew east at the Marina on 16th. In the latter part of the year two were at Brooklands on Nov 7, five flew west at Worthing on 8th and a female was on Wiston Pond on Dec 9.

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

Six to seven were at Widewater/Brooklands in January and February. One on the sea at Worthing on Nov 10 then one increasing to 22 at Brooklands from October to Dec 28.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula***Dedining winter visitor**

Wiston Pond was again the most favoured site with 19 in February, 26 in April and a pair plus two males in June. There were five at Beeding Fish Farm on Mar 7, two flew east at Worthing on Apr 16 and two were on Henfield Levels on May 2. In the autumn 26 was the maxima at Brooklands on Oct 22, decreasing to five by Dec 10. One flew east at Worthing on Nov 9.

SCAUP *Aythya marila***Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

A group of five consisting of an adult female and four first winter birds, at least two of which were males, was present at Brooklands from Nov 30 to Dec 21 when they were also seen over Shoreham Airport. Two males remained at Brooklands into 2005.

EIDER *Somateria molissima***Regular passage migrant and winter visitor**

Five flew east at Worthing on Jan 21 plus one offshore. Eighty passing east at the Marina on Mar 3 followed by two off Goring beach on Apr 18 and eight in the month off Worthing comprised the recorded spring passage. One was off Worthing on Jul 23, 20 E there on Oct 11 and finally 7 W on Nov 20.

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis***Rare passage migrant**

One was seen off Brighton's Palace Pier on Jan 26 (RAI) and a drake flew east past the Marina on Apr 26 (IJW). A female flew west past Worthing on Nov 10 and one flew east with Common Scoter there the next day. There was one at the Marina on Dec 11 (IJW).

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra***Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor**

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
18	5	105	2040	387	-	11	4	38	124	82	-

The peak movement was from Apr 1 to 3 when 1,382 moved east in 10.4 hrs watching. Monthly totals were not received for the Marina but 1,105 E on Apr 2, 80 E on 16th, 63 on Jun 4, one on the sea on Sep 6 and three on Oct 19 were logged there. Three hundred and eighty were noted passing off Widewater over four dates between Mar 19 and Apr 16, maxima 300 on Apr 2. Observations were also made from Brighton Pier (250 on Apr 1) and in the autumn at Hove Lagoon (50 W on Oct 10).

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca***Scarce passage migrant**

Seventy flew east at the Marina in April, peak 66 on 25th and 30 flew east at Worthing in the same month, with seven on the 15th and a flock of 23 on 25th. In the autumn, four passed Hove Lagoon with Common Scoter on Oct 10 and six went east at Worthing on 13th.

GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon winter visitor

A male was on Brooklands on Oct 19 and singles flew west at Worthing on Nov 8, 20 and 21.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator*

Common winter visitor

The largest number recorded offshore in the first half of the year between Worthing and Ferring was 225 on Jan 27. At Worthing, 129 E on Jan 18 in 0.3 hr was exceptional for the time of year. The same number moved east there in the whole of April, peak 44 on 3rd. One hundred and forty one flew east at the Marina in April, peak 69 on 15th. None were recorded in the SDOS area after Apr 16 until Oct 2. Then a gradual build-up took place with a county record off Goring beach of 340 on Nov 27. There were still at least 131 offshore in the Worthing/Goring area on Dec 14.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce winter visitor

Just two records. One on the sea off Worthing on Nov 21 drifted east and one seen flying north up the Lower Adur Valley on Dec 1 was found on the river between the Beeding by-pass and the South Downs Way footbridge on the 4th.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

Introduced resident, status uncertain

Widely recorded from 17 sites, mostly on the Downs. The maximum counts were 30 at Chantry Hill on Jan 4 and the same number at Kithurst Hill on Oct 1. The only other locations with double figure counts were Ditchling Beacon (15) and Tegdown Hill (11). The only breeding record came from Hillside Rd, Storrington where a female with eight chicks were seen walking on the road verge on Jun 30.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Decreasing resident

Only 12 records received from ten separate sites, with a maximum of 14 at Lee Farm, Patching on Jan 21. Five of these records were during the breeding season and a covey of five was flushed at Steep Down on Aug 8.

QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare summer visitor

Nine records, mostly of singing birds, were received from Sompting Downs and Steep Down, probably the best site in the county to find these birds. The only other record was of a single on Ditchling Beacon on 20 Jul. Records were received between Jun 13 and Aug 8, the latter was of a bird flushed and seen associating with a covey of five Grey Partridges.

PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus*

Common introduced resident

Widely reported throughout the area, largely as a result of data received from BTO Migration Watch and Birdtrack. All the records were of between one and ten birds with the exception of 100 at Kithurst Hill, certainly of birds reared and released for shooting. No positive evidence of natural breeding was presented. A cock bird took up residence in a conservation area at St Annes Well, Hove on Oct 29.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata***Regular passage migrant and winter visitor**

Monthly totals from Worthing were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	39	1	2	18	3	-	-	-	-	1	7	5
West	25	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	13

At the Marina there were counts of 90 E and 55 E on Feb 16 and 18, and 45 E on Apr 2. Fifty five flew west there on Dec 18. No monthly totals were submitted. Offshore birds were noted at Shoreham (three), Worthing (four) and off Widewater (two) in the first period and off the Marina, Goring (five), Southwick, Portslade, Ferring (three), Shoreham Harbour and Widewater in the second.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica***Fairly scarce passage migrant, rare in winter**

Monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing	2	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Marina	-	-	-	11	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

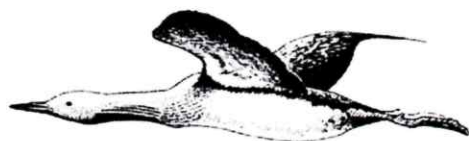
Ten flew east at the Marina on Apr 2. In addition a single was noted off Shoreham Fort on May 1 and in the autumn two were on the sea close in at Widewater on Nov 20 and one was off Ferring Rife on Dec 12.

DIVER Species

Totals noted from Worthing in addition to the above were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
5	2	3	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	5	8

No monthly figures were received for the Marina.



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

Records were received from the following sites:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Widewater	6	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Lower Adur	2	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	1
Brooklands	1	-	-	-	3	-	3	16	7	12	2	4
Wiston Pond	-	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	6

Breeding was confirmed at Brooklands with three pairs producing eight young.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus***Regular offshore**

Maximum numbers recorded offshore were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing	60	67	12	8	4	-	-	-	2	1	103	50
Widewater	4	5	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Shoreham	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Goring	18	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	31	26

Only very small numbers were noted passing on seawatches in addition to the above. The last spring sea record was on May 28 off Worthing. Unusually, a juvenile was seen on the Adur between the railway bridge and Tollbridge on Jul 23 and 24. Next were two on Sep 29 also off Worthing.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus***Scarce passage migrant**

Early March produced a s/p bird on the Adur and three off Shoreham beach/Widewater on 2nd with another single in s/p off Lancing on 4th. In April three (all in s/p) were off Worthing on 2nd, a s/p bird was off Widewater on 16th and a pair were displaying in the Marina on the same date. In November, one was offshore at Goring on 5th and Worthing from 20th to 27th.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis***Scarce passage migrant**

A flock of five were at the Marina on Apr 1 with one there next day. Two in s/p were offshore at Worthing in the evening of 15th.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis***Common passage migrant nesting just outside area**

Noted from Feb 16 to Sep 30. Blue morph birds flew east at the Marina on Apr 21 and 25th (IJW). Largest counts were from the Marina on Apr 25 with 145 and May 15 when 315 flew east. At Worthing, six recorded in March, 67 in April and 100 in May (peak 30 on 4th). Small numbers were also logged from Brighton Pier and off Widewater. Away from the immediate coast, one flew over Hollingdean on Apr 15 and another south over Brighton city on Aug 17.

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus***Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor**

Recorded from Brighton Marina and Worthing in spring. At the former site 88 flew east on May 4 and three did likewise at the latter on 9th and 31st. Singles noted off Brighton Pier on Jul 16, Aug 23 and Oct 21.

GANNET *Morus bassanus***Present offshore in most months**

Totals per month were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing	154	11	94	472	184	62	23	59	478	435	87	167
Marina	(12)	-	-	(8)	-	-	-	-	-	(1040)	-	-

Figures for the Marina are incomplete. The large number there in October consisted of 550 W on 2nd and 490 E on 12th. One was on rooftops in Kemp Town, Brighton on and off all year. It was also seen over Sheepcote Valley on Aug 25. Birds were observed off Widewater in January (10) and September (20); 50 were having their festive fare off Goring on Dec 25.

CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo***Common at coastal and some inland sites**

No exceptional numbers were recorded this year. Monthly figures from Worthing were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
16	46	17	53	39	2	2	5	27	19	55	75

The largest movement there was of 42 E on Apr 4. Otherwise small numbers mostly at the Marina, Goring Gap, Brooklands, Widewater (15 on Jan 9) and various sites on the Adur (18 below the footbridge on Nov 14). The pylon roost on Steyning Levels held 93 on Jan 3, 11 in February, 20 in March, 15 in October, 60 on Nov 14 and 15 in December.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis***Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant**

Six at the Marina on Jan 1 remained on and off until March, with three still there in May. Singles off Worthing beach on May 31, Nov 21 and 28, and at Goring Gap on Dec 11.

BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris***Very rare winter visitor**

No records received this year.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta***Increasingly common resident and passage migrant**

Recorded in all months. The maxima at favoured sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shoreham River Adur	4	3	2	2	-	-	9	11	8	13	7	6
Ferring Rife/ Goring beach	3	-	-	-	-	5	1	-	3	3	2	1
Widewater	1	2	3	5	-	-	10	10	2	3	3	8
Upper Adur	-	2	2	3	8	9	-	-	-	1	1	3

Singles were also seen at Brooklands and Stanmer Park, Brighton. Six singles flew east at the Marina in May, one of which was accompanying three Arctic Skuas on 11th. Three also passed Worthing on 12th. The event of the season in the SDOS area surely must be the first successful breeding by this species with four nests at one site. Three young were seen on Jun 19. The increase in numbers at Widewater and on the Adur at Shoreham in the second period presumably reflects this.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea***Fairly common resident**

Only 18 nests were occupied at Wyckham Wood, Henfield this year. Nine on the Adur between the footbridge and A259 in November were the most seen away from the breeding area. Singles at Stanmer Park in March, April and May were the only records away from the river valley.



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WHITE STORK *Ciconia ciconia***Very rare vagrant**

One was seen over West Hove Golf Course on May 2 (TJW). This record has been accepted by the SOS.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus***Increasing but scarce visitor**

The year started with probable migrants flying north at Hollingdean on Mar 7 and 10. Another flew west over Broadwater on Mar 11. Two birds were seen heading west at Wolstonbury Hill on May 2 and a single arrived from the south at Storrington on 14th circled and flew off southeast. Singles were at Hove on 19th and Brighton Marina on 21st. The last for the year were one flying west at Kithurst Hill on Nov 8 and one at Steyning on Dec 28. No wing-tagged birds were reported.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

The only spring record was of a female at Coombes just west of the Adur on May 1. Autumn records were of singles at Hollingdean on Aug 31 and Sep 5, at Lychpole Hill near Cissbury also on the latter date and Wild Park on the 24th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Ringtails were reported from Chantry Hill on Jan 3, two at Kithurst Hill on Feb 9 with a single on 29th, and another at Ditchling Beacon on Mar 5. There was then a single at Steyning Round Hill on Apr 16. In the autumn/winter a ringtail flew over Mill Hill, Shoreham on Oct 31, a male was at Standean Bottom on Dec 3 and finally there was one at Tegdown Hill on 14th.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident

Numerous reports received throughout the year from all parts of the area with several garden visits. Probably bred at Steyning, Sheepcote Valley, Stanmer Park, Kithurst Hill, Mill Hill Shoreham, Tegdown Hill, Findon (two pairs), Goring Gap, Upper Beeding, Wild Park and Ashurst. Additionally many single birds were reported throughout the season.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

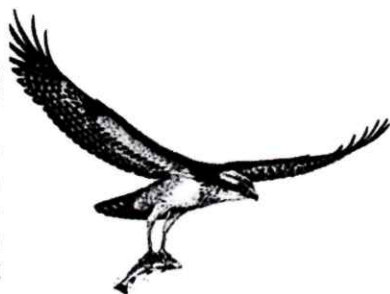
Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Reported in every month except July and from all over the recording area. Probably bred at or near to Harrow Hill, Chantry Hill, Patching, Ditchling Beacon, Findon, Tegdown Hill, Chanctonbury Ring and Steyning. Multiple sightings included five in January and seven in December at Harrow Hill and eight at Steyning in February. Autumn migration included 11 over the downs near Storrington in September and ten over Hollingdean in October.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant

Birds flying west along the tide-line at Ferring and Worthing on Apr 1 and 7 were the first of the year. A bird was widely reported on May 1 from the Adur valley to Worthing beach. Other spring records were from Wolstonbury Hill on May 8, Brighton Marina on 11th and a late migrant at Hollingdean on 31st. The two autumn records were of 1 E at Brighton Marina on Aug 23 and 1 W at Hollingdean on Sep 2.



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KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Reported in every month throughout the recording area. Confirmed breeding at Golding Barn near Beeding and Applesham near Coombes. Probably bred at or near to Washington Common, Henfield Levels, Ditchling Beacon, Tegdown Hill, Stanmer Park, Wild Park, Cissbury, Steep Down and Findon.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius***Scarce but regular mainly in autumn/winter**

A good number of records included early year birds at Kithurst Hill, three in Sheepcote Valley, Durrington, Edburton, Brighton Cemetery (an unusual urban record), Truleigh Hill, Worthing beach and Shoreham Harbour. Singles in autumn were at Broadwater, Brighton Marina, High Salvington, Cissbury Ring, Worthing beach, Ditchling Beacon, Widewater, Wild Park, Southwick Hill and finally Lychpole Hill near Cissbury on Dec 28.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo***Regular passage migrant and summer visitor – has bred**

The first sighting was from Tegdown Hill near Brighton on Apr 17. The table below details all records for the area:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	-	-	-	5	10	5	1	6	6	2	-	-

Although there was no confirmed breeding, birds were noted during the season at Edburton, Steyning and Standean Bottom. The last record was from Brooklands on Oct 10.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus***Stable breeding resident**

Four pairs nested in the recording area, all fledging young successfully. Most sightings were in the Brighton and Shoreham area but records were received from Worthing, Findon, Michelgrove, Tegdown Hill, Devil's Dyke, Henfield Levels, Kithurst Hill and Wild Park.

WATER RAIL *Rallus aquaticus***Regular winter visitor may breed**

Few records were received. They were of one in Cokeham reedbeds, Sompting from at least Jan 2 to 13, then one at Widewater on 25th. Heard calling at The Sanctuary in February and March. Three were on Steyning levels on Feb 29. There was one at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes from Sep 24 to at least Oct 10, and one at New Salts farm on Nov 1. Finally, one was again at Widewater on Dec 28.

MOORHEN *Gallinula chloropus***Common resident and winter visitor**

The WeBS' counts from Brooklands were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
27	28	16	16	9	9	12	18	15	43	50	39

Recorded from a total of eight sites throughout the region most regularly at Upper Beeding Fish Farm with a maximum there of 15 on Nov 13. Strangely, there were no records from there between Apr 8 and Nov 7, so no record of breeding. The only positive evidence of breeding was an adult with two juveniles at Sandgate Woods, Storrington on Jul 24 but they were also noted during the breeding season at Tegdown Hill and Ferring Rife. This widespread species is surely under recorded.

COOT *Fulica atra***Common resident and winter visitor**

The WeBS' counts from Brooklands were as follows:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
56	38	27	23	27	37	51	123	146	142	113	106

The only other records in the early winter period were from Golding Barn and Upper Beeding Fish Farm. Seven nests were being brooded in reeds around the island at Brooklands on Apr 24. There was an adult with eight young chicks on Poynings Pond on May 24 and four adults and a juvenile at Wiston Estate on Jun 12. In the second winter period records were again limited to Brooklands and Upper Beeding.

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus***Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder**

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing Beach were:

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	-	8	37	18	-	11	-	5	4	4	-

Only one record of eight on Apr 26 was received from the Marina and eight were flying eastwards over the sea at Widewater on Mar 26. Small numbers (one to four) were regularly recorded feeding at low tide in the Adur estuary in January and February and from July to the end of the year. An exceptional record was of 11 on Nov 14. At Goring Gap higher numbers were present, especially towards the end of the year, where the best counts were of 24 on Oct 17, and 28 on Oct 31. Breeding may have taken place locally as two adults with a juvenile, judged as 'probably not yet flying', were observed on Aug 16 on the Adur Estuary.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta***Uncommon but regular passage migrant**

Two flew west at the Marina on Apr 2 and again on 24th. Perhaps the same two went west at Worthing on 26th. A very poor showing.



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RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula***Common winter visitor and passage migrant; attempts to breed**

Monthly peaks from the main sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	78	28	-	-	-	-	-	24	46	32	31	15
Widewater	10	6	7	5	2	1	6	1	10	42	29	76
Goring Gap	-	16	1	-	-	-	-	77	69	44	-	4
Marina	72	-	-	-	2*	4	-	22	70	107	-	38
Worthing	10	-	-	16	10	-	-	30	5	10	50	20
Shoreham Adur	56	6	-	-	-	-	-	58	46	71	73	53

* breeding pair

There was one on Steyning Round Hill on May 9. One hundred and forty seven were counted around the houseboats at Shoreham on Aug 13. Three hundred and thirty five on Shoreham beach on Nov 22 was the largest site count in the area since 13th Feb 1989.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus***Very scarce passage migrant**

No records within our area this year. The popular bird at Springhead Hill in September remained tantalisingly outside our boundary.

GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria***Fairly common winter visitor**

One was heard at Cuckoo Corner on Jan 4, one was on Shoreham Airport on Feb 1, 32 flew north at Kithurst Hill on Mar 6 and there were eight at Widewater on 17th with 3 W at Worthing on 20th. Six flew west over Steep Down in the early hours on the unusual date of Jul 6, one was at Lancing Clump on Sep 2, and there were again two or three at the Airport from Oct 20 to Dec 12.

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

Monthly maxima at roosts were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur saltings	16	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	1
Goring Gap	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	47	-	9
Worthing	90	30	-	-	-	-	-	6	23	2	70	50
Shoreham Adur	17	28	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	14	20

Seawatching totals at Worthing were April 18 E, May 5 E. Thirty five flew east at the Marina on May 12.

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

Peak counts at favoured sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	150	-	-	-	-	23	38	-	-	1	-	130
Cuckoo Corner	1200	1000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	500
Steyning Levels	-	40	-	-	13	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Adur Saltings	300	296	-	-	-	-	40	75	78	221	194	151
Airport	202									191	183	1500

There were 150 in the Harrow Hill area on Mar 3. In the breeding season there were two pairs at Steyning Round Hill, five pairs at Wyckham Farm, Steyning which produced seven chicks, up to eight in Stanmer Park, Brighton and 14 on the Downs north of Brighton and single pairs at Henfield Levels, Cissbury and Ladies Mile Reserve. Additionally there were 200 in fields south of the A283 at Upper Beeding in December.

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

At Worthing, 37 E in April (max 25 on 26th) and 55 E in May (max 24 on 17th). No figures were received from the Marina. There were two at Shoreham on Oct 17.

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

Monthly peaks from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing	20	50	12	38	24	-	6	7	4	35	30	10
Widewater	49	-	37	5	-	-	-	-	-	35	10	30
Goring	-	-	80	12	-	61	-	20	8	100	-	84

Also 90 were at Kingston Gorse on Apr 7. Spring seawatching at Worthing yielded 177 E, 18 W in April (max 78 on 27th), 215 E in May (max 60 on 15th) and 9 E on Jun 7. In the second period of the year six flew east on Jul 29 and 40 W on Oct 3. No figures received from the Marina. On the Adur at Shoreham there was one on Aug 29, 29 there on Nov 15 and one in December.

LITTLE STINT *Calidris minuta***Scarce passage migrant**

One on Goring beach in full s/p with Sanderlings on Jun 18 and 19 (DIS). One on the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 14 (RJF) and one at Worthing beach on Oct 30 from 08:10 to 08:46 (AC).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*
Scarce passage migrant
 Five on the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 17 (RJF).

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*
Regular winter visitor in small numbers
 Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	11	10	10	10	5	-	2	2	5	8	18	20
Shoreham Fort	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1

Last bird at the Marina in spring was May 1 and first in autumn was on Jul 21.

DUNLIN *Calidris alpina*
Common winter visitor and passage migrant
 Peak counts from usual sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Adur Saltings	20	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	6	13	7
Goring	-	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	1	33
Worthing	500	300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	400	300
Lower Adur	33	120	40	-	-	-	5	18	-	45	142	40
Widewater	-	-	7	-	-	-	15	13	-	16	9	31

Seawatching from Worthing produced 232 E in April (max 134 on 29th), 147 E in May (max 48 on 10th), 31 W in September and 36 W in November. The only count received from the Marina was of 90 E on May 1.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*
Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant
 Sixteen were on Henfield Levels on Jan 3 and 4. One or two were recorded from the Adur at Shoreham and the Airport between Feb 15 and Mar 18. A single bird was noted in the same localities from Dec 21 to the year end.

JACK SNIFE *Limnocryptes minimus*
Scarce winter visitor
 Singles were at Ferring Rife from Jan 2 to 11, and at Widewater on 12th. One was again at the Rife in December.

SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago*
Common but declining winter visitor
 In January there were 15 on Henfield Levels on 10th and 110 around the houseboats at Shoreham on 15th. This was part of a total of 147 on the Lower Adur estuary in the

month reducing to 40 in February. Forty were at Steyning Levels on Mar 6. Away from the coast and river valley two were flushed in Wild Park, Brighton on 27th. In October, 36 were back on the Lower Adur with 59 in November and 53 in December. No more than seven were found on Henfield Levels in this period.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola*

Winter visitor and passage migrant; may breed

There were singles seen at Cissbury, Patching Hill and Shoreham in the first winter period. One was on Whitehawk Hill from Oct 29 to Nov 5. The species was a surprise garden find in Goring on Nov 10 and finally one was in Sheepcote Valley on 12th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Thirty flew east at Worthing on May 9, and 22 likewise at the Marina on 16th. One was on the Adur at Shoreham from Jul 9 to 26, and again on Sep 4 which was described as the long-billed race *limosa*.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Common passage migrant and irregular winter visitor

Seven flew east at Lancing on Apr 20. The month's seawatch total at the Marina was 2,543 and at Worthing 412 with a maximum of 218 on 25th. In May the totals were 758 and 253 respectively. One was seen off Brighton's Palace Pier on Jul 16 and there was one at Widewater on Oct 12.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Common passage migrant

Seawatching totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	158	140*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	257	122	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

*On the 1st. (NB the figures from the Marina are incomplete).

The first in spring were 7 E off Worthing on Apr 14. Three were on the Adur at Shoreham from 15th to 25th, one was on Henfield Levels on 24th and ten flew over Wild Park, Brighton on 27th. One was over Wolstonbury Hill, Pyecombe on Jul 8 and there were up to five on the Adur between Cuckoo Corner and the Tollbridge from Jul 20 to late August with one there on Sep 1, which was the last record for the area.

CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant

Three flew east in March and 8 E in April at Worthing. There was one on the Adur at Shoreham on Apr 15 and one at Sheepcote Valley on 16th. In June, a single at Goring beach on 17th was followed by 12 there on 20th with one over Lancing Clump on 18th. Two flew over Steep Down very early on Jul 6, one passed Brighton on 16th. Fourteen flew west at Worthing in the month (maximum ten on 24th). Finally four were logged off Worthing in Oct with three on 20th.

REDSHANK *Tringa totanus***Common winter visitor and occasional breeder**

Monthly maxima from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur Estuary	108	104	50	-	-	-	42	42	50	101	199	91
Goring Gap	31	22	14	-	-	-	-	-	12	24	16	11
Widewater	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	8	-	1	5	6
Worthing	3	-	-	-	2(E)	-	-	-	-	3(W)	8	-

Eight were noted near the Cement Works on Mar 8 but not subsequently. A pair were at Borrow Pit, Henfield Levels from Apr 10 to May 22 with four displaying there on Jun 6. A pair were on Wyckham Marsh, Steyning on Apr 26 and still present on Jun 13.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia***Regular passage migrant**

In April, 2 E at Worthing in the month and three on Henfield Levels on 24th. Two flew east at the Marina on May 1. One passed west at Worthing on Aug 14, there were two on the Adur at Shoreham on 16th (also on Sep 2) with three near the Cement Works on 28th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus***Regular winter visitor in small numbers**

Two birds were present on Steyning Levels and two on Henfield Levels near Stretham Manor from January to March, the latter remaining to Apr 10. One was also recorded at Rye Farm, Henfield on Apr 2. In the second period, one was at the Cement Works on Oct 17 with two there in December when two had returned to Henfield Levels. One was seen on Steyning Levels in November.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos***Common passage migrant occasionally winters**

Monthly totals for the area were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
All sites	1	1	1	12	35	1	7	57	6	4	5	5

Largest gatherings in spring were of ten at the Marina on Apr 23. In the autumn there were six near the Tollbridge on the Adur on Jul 25, five near the Cement Works from Aug 1 to 3, with four remaining to 29th, ten on the Adur by the Tollbridge and a flock of 18 at the Marina on the 9th. Three re-appeared at the Cement Works on Oct 3 increasing to five by Nov 13 and staying until early December.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres***Common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Maximum counts at the favoured sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Goring Gap	-	9	30	52	-	-	-	25	45	52	8	33
Widewater	50	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	55	17
Lower Adur	54	8	26	-	-	-	4	7	8	43	52	28
Worthing	7	6	8	60	-	-	-	22	-	6	10	5

Seawatching at Worthing produced 17 E in April and 40 E in May. In addition up to ten were seen on the beach at Hove Lagoon in November and six at Brighton Marina in December.

POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus***Regular spring passage migrant**

First of the year was 1 E at the Marina on Apr 21. This was followed by 23 E at Worthing beach in a light southeast wind on 26th, and comprised two late-afternoon flocks of 11 and 12, the latter group including a dark-phase individual. The April month totals were 24 E at Worthing beach and 11 E at Brighton Marina. Peak numbers were noted on May 2 with an excellent 80 E at the Marina and included flocks of 13, 12 and 11. On the same day 12 flew east past Worthing beach, interestingly in a light southwest wind; this species is usually associated with a wind direction from the east, ranging northeast to southeast. Impressive numbers passed both sites on May 16 with a single flock of 25 E at Worthing, presumably the same 25 as seen earlier in the day off Selsey Bill; & 27 E passed the Marina including a flock of 23. The May totals for Worthing and the Marina were 37 and 140 respectively and combined with the April figures made for a very good spring showing. There were no further records for the year.

ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus***Regular spring and autumn passage migrant**

First of the year were 2 E at Worthing beach on Apr 1, quickly followed by one off Widewater and 1 E at Worthing on Apr 2. Monthly totals from the two main seawatching sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	-	-	-	74	98	2	-	4	1	12	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	30	10	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

All movements east until October when mainly west. Peak counts at Brighton Marina were 24 E on Apr 21, 40 E on May 4, and 12 W on Oct 2. One was at Hove Lagoon on Sep 25. The last of the year and only record for the month was 1 E off Brighton Palace Pier on Nov 3.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua***Regular passage migrant in small numbers**

First of the year and the only winter record was 1 E at Brighton Marina on Jan 8. The first passage migrants were 7 E off Goring beach on Apr 18 and 4 E off nearby Worthing beach on the same day, some duplication of numbers could be involved. The monthly totals from the two main seawatching sites were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Marina	1	-	-	15	41	2	-	3	-	4	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	13	8	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

High day counts from Brighton Marina were 10 E on May 1 and 12 E on May 4; otherwise no day count from either site exceeded five individuals. The majority of late-year birds passed west. Last of the year was a juvenile which landed on an arm of Brighton Marina on Oct 23.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus***Scarce but regular visitor throughout the year**

This species was recorded in all months except June with most, as usual, being recorded passing the coast during spring. The approximate monthly totals were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly total	5	4	8	102	11	-	8	2	1	4	3	2
Inland	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-

The largest spring movements occurred in April when peaks were 24 E at Brighton Marina and 19 E in five hours at Worthing on 25 Apr and 20 E at Brighton Marina on the following day. The April total of eastbound birds recorded at Brighton Marina was 100 whilst 49 were recorded from Worthing. Records away from the coast and coastal plain were singles at Steyning Levels on Jan 1, at Kithurst Hill on Jan 2, at Truleigh Hill on Apr 11, at Michelgrove on Oct 24 and over Harrow Hill on Nov 14.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus***Scarce visitor and passage migrant, most numerous on passage in spring**

Although fewer than the record year in 2003, the total of 698 birds recorded in 2004 made this a good year for this species. The following table of approximate monthly totals shows the two clear passage periods:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Monthly total	46	1	6	251	126	-	-	-	-	263	5	-

Most were recorded at Brighton Marina with 45 on Jan 8, and month passage totals of 240 in April, 125 in May and 234 in October. During spring there were five days when more than 25 birds were seen with a peak of 105 E there on Apr 26. Totals at Worthing were smaller with 6 W in March, 42 E and 3 W in April and 9 E and 1 W in May. Although eight were at Brooklands on Oct 29 most of the autumn birds were seen off-

shore with peaks at Brighton Marina of 44 E on the 12th, 48 E on the 13th and 66 E on the 21st. The total seen at Worthing in October was 18 E and 20 W and the last were 5 W at Worthing on Nov 24. There were no records away from the coast.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Abundant winter visitor and passage migrant

The highest numbers were counted on Jan 17 during the Winter Gull Roost Survey (WinGS), details of this survey can be found on p69. Other three figure counts, not included in the WinGS, were 400 on flood water at Ferring on Jan 13 and 300 on the River Adur at Shoreham on Feb 15. The month total and peak movements during the spring sea-watching are shown in the following table:

	Mar	Apr	May	Peak movement
Worthing Beach	34	624	328	118 on 27 Apr (6 hrs)
Brighton Marina	-	680+	-	680 on 2 Apr

Thereafter records of 150 at Kithurst Hill on Oct 1 and 9 were the only three figure counts.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer

A total of 714 were recorded during the WinGS on Jan 17; details of these counts can be found on p69. Other notable counts included 500 on the River Adur on Feb 15, 450 at Cuckoo Corner on Mar 16 and 400 still on the River Adur on the 28th. There were 200 offshore at Worthing on Mar 24 and 1,250 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 2 was the only notable spring movement recorded. Just seven were recorded in May at Worthing with the last on the 11th. The first recorded in autumn was a single bird on the River Adur on Jul 23, thereafter there were merely ten records with 15 at Kithurst Hill on Oct 1 representing the highest number. An albino individual was seen at Shoreham-by-Sea on Mar 20; this is the third successive year that this, or a similar individual, has been recorded at this location in March.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus*

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor; small numbers (mainly immatures) summer and a few pairs breed

A total of five were recorded during the WinGS on Jan 17 revealing how scarce this species is during the winter months in this area. Details of these counts can be found on p69. All the notable counts for this species come from the River Adur and include 59, mainly intermedius, on Mar 13, 240 on Mar 20 and 155 on Jun 15. This last record was the largest June count in the county for this species in 20 years (Birds of Sussex). Breeding was reported at Worthing but after June records were of single birds on just 11 dates.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus*

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The total of 3,626 recorded during the WinGS was the highest coordinated roost count

from this area and probably reflects the growing population of roof top nesting gulls in the coastal towns. Details of these counts can be found on p69. Additional high counts were 900 on the River Adur on Mar 20, 600 loafing and feeding on pasture near Applesham on Sep 26 and 320 on the River Adur on Oct 20. Breeding was reported from Goring, Worthing and Brighton only although it is likely the species continued to nest in all the coastal towns. One observer commented that some reduction in Brighton may have occurred since protective measures had been introduced by some house owners.



YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus argentatus michahellis*

Fairly common but localised visitor, mainly in late summer and autumn

The following table, showing the minimum monthly totals and highest counts on the River Adur, reveals the usual summer peak. The highest count of nine adults and two in 1st winter plumage was on Aug 16.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
River Adur Shoreham	-	-	3	-	-	5	2	11	6	1	-	-

The only records away from the River Adur were singles on rooftops in Kemp Town on Mar 23 and a juvenile at Brighton Marina on Jul 5.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant; small numbers summer. Confirmed breeding for the first time in 2000

A total of only 33 was recorded during the WinGS; details of these counts can be found on p69. Other higher counts were 46 at Brighton Marina on Jan 4, 90 on the River Adur on Jan 30, 39 at Goring Gap on Feb 21 and 35 at Worthing on the 28th. On Apr 2 255, comprising mainly first and second year birds, flew east at Brighton Marina. For the first year two pairs bred successfully in Southwick and five pairs bred in Brighton. Throughout the summer adult birds were seen in Worthing but no nest was located. High counts in the second winter periods were 80 and 103 on the River Adur on Oct 20 and Dec 3 respectively and 33 roosting at Goring Gap on Oct 31.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant.

All the records were from the coast and the numbers involved during 2004 were notably lower than recent years. The smaller numbers are evident in the following table showing the monthly totals from the sea-watching at Worthing:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Worthing E	1	-	-	9	11	-	-	-	-	2	23	23
Worthing W	5	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	7	5	47

Larger numbers were, however, recorded from Brighton Marina with 145 E on Mar 3, 180 E on Apr 2, 400 E on Dec 12 and 450 E on Dec 19.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis***Common passage migrant**

First of the year was one at the Marina on the late date of Mar 28 and then 2 E at Worthing beach the next day, but soon building to 54 E at Worthing and 80 E at Marina on Mar 31. Main movements were again from the Marina and Worthing. Detailed movements from Worthing are as shown in the following table of monthly totals, illustrating the customary main passage during April:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	60	1721	327	25	17	19	22	6	1	-
W	-	-	-	61	98	16	10	27	39	3	-	-

Peak counts at Worthing were 362 E on Apr 3 and 256 E on Apr 2. Selected high day counts from the Marina were 80 E on Mar 31, 400 E on Apr 2, 330 E on Apr 3, and 635 E on May 2. Other significant counts were from Widewater with 150 on Apr 2 and 125 on Apr 16, presumably moving east but no direction given. A first summer flew east at the Marina on May 9, a most unusual time of year for a bird of this age. (IJW)

As usual small numbers were reported in mid-summer, noteworthy being 30 at Widewater on Jul 9 and 20 in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 27. Twelve were with gulls on the roost at Goring Gap on Sep 29. Light autumn passage continued into October but few individuals noted by now. The last and only November record was a very late bird on Nov 30 seen to fly east close inshore at Worthing and now exhibiting first-winter plumage (SRA/DIS/JS).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo***Common passage migrant**

First of the year was 1 E at Worthing beach on Apr 1, but few noted from that date to mid-month. Apart from 700 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 26 few birds were specifically identified as Common Tern, and many are included below under Commic (i.e. Common/Arctic) Tern. It is widely believed that the vast majority of "Comemics" passing in spring are Common Terns, and good views of close flocks appear to substantiate this theory. Other spring counts were 30 in Shoreham Harbour on May 1 with 59 E there on the same day. In autumn few recorded until Aug 23 when 800 flew east off the Marina with 380 E there on Sep 11 and 225 W on Sep 20. Only nine were noted in October, the last being three at the Marina on Oct 31.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea***Scarce passage migrant**

The first specifically identified Arctic Terns of the year were 30 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 21, and six were in Shoreham Harbour on May 1. There were no further spring records. In the late summer and autumn months, first noted at the Marina with five on Aug 23 and double-figure counts from this site were 20 W on Sep 20, 52 W on Oct 2, and 32 W on Oct 13. Otherwise mainly the occasional single noted from Worthing beach and Southwick beach during this period. The last for the year was a juvenile inside the Marina on Oct 31.

"COMMIC" TERN

Monthly totals of Terns not specifically identified as either Common or Arctic Tern are shown in the table below. Totals for all relevant months were available from Worthing beach only:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	-	-	-	575	1254	37	-	-	-	3	-	-
W	-	-	-	1	9	2	-	23	17	9	-	-

Selected high day counts from Brighton Marina were 1,400 E on May 1, an exceptional 3,335 E on May 2 and 800 E on May 18 with a May monthly total from the site of 8,660. At Worthing, peak day counts were 215 E on Apr 25, 387 E on May 1 and 226 E on May 2. As the above table shows few noted in autumn and the last of the year was 3 E and 7 W at Worthing beach on Oct 13.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

Spring passage commenced with 3 E at Worthing beach and one at Brighton Marina on Apr 16. Again, the peak movements were during the last week of April; the month total at Worthing beach being 70 E and 2 W, and included 22 E and 2 W on Apr 26. In May Worthing produced a total of 58 E which included 25 on May 9 and 20 on May 2. Selected high day counts from Brighton Marina were 42 E on Apr 26 and 48 E on May 1. None were reported in June and July, and the first returning bird was one at Lancing beach on Aug 3. The few autumn sightings were eight in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 27 and the last for the year, one off Worthing beach on Oct 5.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce but regular passage migrant

First of the year was 1 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 25, the only record for the month. A total of just three singles flew east at Worthing beach on three dates between May 1 and May 21, and at the Marina two flew east on May 2. A very poor spring showing at both sites. Encouragingly there were more autumn sightings, the first being two at Brighton Marina and 2 W at Worthing beach on Aug 12, followed by two again at the former site and 2 E at the latter on Aug 18. Five flew east at the Marina on Aug 23, and a single was present at Brooklands on 27th. The Marina recorded another five, this time west on Sep 18, and the only record for the month. Five were noted in Oct, 2 W at the Marina on 2nd followed by 1 W there on 3rd, and the last of the year were singles west at Worthing beach on 19th and 23rd.

GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

In Jan, 30 W off Widewater and 40 W off Worthing on 21st was followed by 82 E at the latter site on 27th bringing the month's total there to 145. Otherwise only small numbers (not exceeding three birds) through to the end of April. None recorded in May and just one in June at the Marina; then none until Oct 14. Between then and the year-end c.20 noted along the coast with a maximum of nine passing west at Worthing on Dec 24.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

As with the previous species no exceptional numbers recorded. Thirty five on the sea at Widewater on Jan 24 was the biggest group for the year. Two were off Brighton Pier on Mar 8 and one was there on Apr 1. A s/p bird was at the Marina on 29th. Another was off the Pier on Jun 11. Worthing's first half year total amounted to 21. One appeared at the Marina on Aug 12 and three were off Widewater on Sep 29. Worthing totals for October were six, November 69 (maximum 31 on 24th) and December 48 (max 40 on 19th). Small numbers were noted off Widewater, Goring, Shoreham Harbour entrance, off Ferring Rife (6) and the Pier.

AUK Species

Large numbers were logged in late January with 11,500 at the Marina in the afternoon of 26th and a month's total of 2,462 at Worthing (746 on 26th and a peak of 1,500 on 27th). Then only 22 there up to May 12 and none then until Oct 9. From this date until the end of November 100 recorded. Seven hundred and fifty flew west at the Marina on Dec 18 and there were a total of 118 (peak 55 on 19th) off Worthing in the month.

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Common resident

Largest counts were from Stanmer Park with 320 on Sep 2 and Brighton Marina with 100 on Dec 25. Regular monitoring at Warmdene, Patcham showed a population varying between two and 11 through the year. Similarly Tegdown Hill held up to 17. Twenty five were counted at the Cement Works near Beeding on Dec 18. No breeding records were received.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Dedining resident

Widespread reports across the area included 40 at Harrow Hill, Patching on Mar 3, 18 at Stanmer Park on 12th, 50 at Mill Hill, Shoreham on Apr 7 and 120 at Brighton in a pigeon movement on Nov 13. Probable breeding occurred at Wild Park, Cissbury and Shepcote Valley. A regular visitor to a Lancing garden.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident, common late-autumn passage migrant

Early year flocks were of 750 at Chantry Hill in January, 290 at New Salts Farm, Lancing and at least 600 at Poynings and about 120 at Upper Beeding in February. Smaller flocks of between 30 and 100 were noted at about a dozen other sites. Breeding obviously occurs throughout the area although specific success is seldom recorded. Flock sizes began to increase again from early September onwards and movement observed in late October with 200 at the Sanctuary and 348 at Wild Park passing west. These were eclipsed by massive numbers on Nov 11 when over 34,000 passed over Brighton followed by another 16,400 on 13th and 15,500 on 14th. An estimated 80,000 accrued in the autumn there.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident

A pair with nest and eggs was found at the Sussex County Hospital in Brighton in Janu-

ary. Thirty nine pairs were holding territories in Wild Park. At Warmdene, Patcham regular monitoring logged from two to six birds through the year and similarly Stanmer Park held two to 11 birds. Thirty six were at Brooklands on Nov 11. Elsewhere across the area just small numbers were noted at many sites including members' gardens.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

Scarce summer visitor, declining

The first were singles at Stanmer Park on Apr 16 and Tegdown Hill on 19th. One visited a garden in Southwick on May 2 and there were two on Henfield Levels on 22nd, one at Sheepcote on 25th and four at Stanmer on 29th when two also at Ditchling Beacon and four at Tegdown Hill. June records were at Applesham near Coombes, Chanctonbury Ring, Steep Down, Wiston Estate, Tegdown Hill and Fulking which may indicate breeding was attempted in these localities. Further sites in July were Steyning Levels, Wyckham Farm, Beeding Cement Works and Woods Mill. Thereafter there were just five single birds with the last, a juvenile with Collared Doves at Durrington on Oct 19.

CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus*

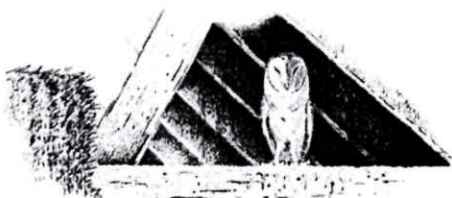
Fairly common summer visitor

Records received from 14 sites in spring/early summer, the first being at Wild Park on Apr 16, a typical date. All were singles except for two-three at Beeding Brooks and two at Applesham near Coombes. None seen or heard after Jun 18 until one at Ditchling Beacon on Aug 3 and the last at Sheepcote Valley on 25th.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Scarce breeding resident

One was at Shoreham airport from Jan 29 to Feb 13 with two there on Mar 31. These are a pair that have been resident at New Monk's Farm since 1995. A pair bred in a box at Edburton raising five young, another pair produced four young at Applesham near Coombes and a third pair also had four young at Ashurst making it a good year for the species. A single bird roosted at Steyning in November.



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LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common resident

Pairs were reported from Tegdown Hill, Applesham, near Coombes and Steep Down with three at the last site in June. Otherwise singles only at Stanmer Park, Ditchling Beacon, Henfield Levels, No-man's Land near Chanctonbury, Sompting Downs and Mill Hill, Shoreham where it was a garden visitor on three occasions.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

A pair raised two or three young in Sandgate Woods, Storrington. Probably also bred at Patching Hill, Clapham Wood, Stanmer Park, Patcham and Cissbury.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor - has bred

A downland roost held three birds in February and up to 10 in December.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

One at Beeding Brooks on Mar 2 and one at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 26 were the only spring records. In the autumn one flew in off the sea at the Marina on Oct 11, there was one on the golf course at Wild Park on 13th to 16th and another flew west at the Marina on Nov 11.

NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer migrant - possible occasional breeder

There were two males on Patching Hill on Jun 17 and Jul 6. (JAN)

SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor

The first was one at Stanmer Park on Apr 16, eight days before the next at Storrington. A more general arrival took place on 26th through to the month end with 210 N at the Marina on 27th and 66 N at Worthing in the period of which 39 were on 28th. Twenty were in a screaming party there on this day and 12 N at Wild Park were the first for the site this year. Thirty six were over Patcham on May 12. Small numbers were reported over the area in the month and throughout June with peaks of 18 at Fulking on 2nd, 25 at Cissbury on 12th, 16 at Steyning on 16th and 70 at Brooklands on 20th. Colonies were noted in Worthing at three sites in July, 100 were at Broadwater on 22nd and 50 at Woods Mill on 26th. By the month end 45 appeared over Shoreham. Very few thereafter; just single figure counts at Worthing, Brooklands and Sanctuary in August with September records being two at Cissbury on 1st, two at Broadwater on 2nd and singles at Stanmer Park on 3rd and the last at Wild Park on 20th.

KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Scarce resident and winter visitor

Between January and March birds reported from Widewater, Brooklands, Marina (three) and the Lower Adur valley (two). Then none until late July when two at Cuckoo Corner and two at the Sanctuary (both ringed). One returned to the Marina on 25th. In August, one ringed at Striven's reedbed, Steyning on 14th and one also at the Sanctuary on 29th. Well reported from September to the year-end in the Adur Valley, Brooklands, Widewater, Ferring Rife, Henfield Levels, Steyning (a garden visitor), Southwick Canal and Marina, involving ones and twos apart from the last site which held three in December.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

Rare passage migrant

One was present at Bevendean Farm, Brighton on Mar 19 (ARK), an early date, and another at Hamper's Lane, Storrington on Apr 24 (IF).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare passage migrant

One was photographed in a Steyning garden feeding on ants on Aug 20 (SOS).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident

Well over 100 reports received from across the area indicate how well this species is faring. Multiple records were of up to seven in Stanmer Park, four at Tegdown Hill, three at Warren Hill, Washington and two at Clapham Wood, Findon (where successful breeding resulted in two juveniles), Ditchling Beacon, Wild Park, Chanctonbury, Cissbury, Sandgate Woods near Storrington, Goring Gap and Upper Beeding. Most, if not all, of these probably indicated successful breeding since display, hole inspection etc. was frequently noted. In addition the species was recorded as a garden visitor for several observers. Five were ringed at the Sanctuary and one at Cissbury.



GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident

With over 60 widespread reports this species is not too far behind the previous in abundance. No reports specifically of juveniles this year so one can only surmise its breeding success. Particularly favoured sites are Warren Hill, Washington where six birds were noted in March with drumming recorded and West Durrington and Stanmer Park each with three on several dates through the year. This species is also increasingly seen coming to observers' gardens.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident – has bred

Just two records – two in a Storrington garden included a possible juvenile on Jun 18 (BK) and one at Southwick on two consecutive days in July(SOS).

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant

Autumn migrants were two west over Sheepcote Valley on Oct 9 and one the next day.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident

Early year flocks were of 50 at Annington, 30 at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes and 15 at Goring Gap and in February, 25 at Kithurst Hill near Storrington then 60 at New Erringham Farm, Shoreham on Mar 2. Singing was heard from Feb 22 at Poynings. This was followed by the presence of pairs or birds at many sites. These included Golding Barn, Beeding Hill, Upper Beeding, Kingston Gorse, Lower Adur Valley, Cissbury, Goring Gap (three pairs), Steep Down (15 birds), Ditchling Beacon (eight birds), Tegdown Hill (12 rising to 22), Wild Park (12 pairs), Stanmer Park (ten birds) and Applesham near Coombes (16). Autumn flocks were noted from early October. These included 12 at Kithurst Hill, 45, 48 and 55 over Wild Park on three dates, 15 near the Beeding Cement works, 40 increasing to 70 at Goring Gap, 20 E over the Sanctuary, 145 W over Sheepcote Valley, 110 at Chantry Hill and 20 at Golding Barn. Birds in full song continued to be heard at Lancing Clump and at two or three sites in the river valley. In November 200 at Sompting refuse tip on 5th was the most seen at one site. Eighty were then at Steep Down on 28th. Finally up to 50 were in the Lower Adur Valley near the Cement Works in December with small groups on the Downs.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and common passage migrant

One at Southwick beach on Mar 24 followed by one over Wild Park, Brighton on 31st were the rather late first dates. Just six over Goring Gap and three at Worthing made up the April coastal sightings. Forty were over Sullington Warren on 25th close to the breeding site at Sandgate Park. A maximum of 70 were noted at the latter in June. No records were received for Washington sandpits. Birds reappeared at or near the coast in July with 30 at both Sompting and Brighton Pier. No August records were received. In September, five were at Ditchling Beacon and Cissbury at the beginning and a month's total of 17 noted at Worthing.

SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor

Three early arrivals at Widewater, Stanmer Park and Steyning on Mar 16-18 were sometime ahead of the next small flurry which was from 29th through to Apr 3 at Brighton and Worthing. Thereafter very small numbers through the month with 112 logged at Worthing being the most notable. In May, another 78 were recorded there and 41 at Tegdown Hill in the same period. Again no breeding records were received. The first significant count of the autumn was from Wild Park on Sep 4 with 70 followed by 1,000 on 6th and 520 on 25th. Three hundred flew east along the scarp slope of the Downs at Mile Oak, Portslade on 19th and another 1,000 moved east there on 25th. On this latter date, an estimated 5,000 per hour moved through Sheepcote Valley. Worthing logged 244 in 14 hours watching in the month. October figures included 700 at the Cement Works, Beeding on 3rd, 1,000 past Goring Gap in under two hours on 9th and 560 E at Worthing on 11th, out of a month's total of 624. Groups of between 38 and 50 were at the Airport and Brooklands in mid-month. There were two November records; two at Worthing beach on 9th and the last for the year at Hove on 10th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor

One at Patcham on Mar 25 was the first. Small numbers only at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes and several Brighton sites were the pattern for April until 25 at Wild Park on 28th. Counts barely reached double figures in May and June although six pairs were nesting in Pyecombe. A pair at Myrtle Grove Farm, Clapham, one at Botolphs and three at Warndene, Patcham were the only other breeding records. Twenty five were on wires at Standean Bottom on Aug 26. Numbers at Whitehawk Hill totalled 77 in September (four dates) with 36 on 2nd the peak. Two thousand were logged at Wild Park on 6th, 1,500 S at Findon Valley on 18th and 1,500 also at Devil's Dyke on 19th with Worthing beach noting 100 W on 24th. In October 2,000 over Sheepcote Valley on 8th was considered late for so many birds but 300 next day over the Sanctuary emphasised the passage and there were 70 at Widewater on 17th. The last were two at West Worthing on 28th and a single at Widewater on 31st.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Fairly common passage migrant

As last year the first was one on Apr 1 over Brighton. One sang in Sheepcote Valley on 16th and four more in the month at Brighton and Worthing were the sum of the spring passage. Sixteen were logged at Wild Park in Aug and Sep with five on Aug 21 the maxi-

mum. One at Sheepcote on Sep 2 and four at Cissbury on 4th with another single at Sheepcote on Oct 9 completed another poor year for the species.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common resident and common passage migrant

Thirty at Henfield Strettham Manor on Jan 4 was the only double figure count until passage commenced. This was from Mar 17 when ten were logged at Widewater and 50 at Wild Park, with 35 on each of the 22nd and 26th also there. Peaks of 17 at Ditchling Beacon on 20th, 22 at Stanmer Park on 25th, 21 at Tegdown Hill on 28th and 13 N at Worthing beach on 29th followed by 30 at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 1 were the spring maxima at these sites. Birds were display fighting at Beeding and Golding Barn, Fulking and Blackpatch Hill in the breeding season and double figure counts from Tegdown Hill (maximum 17 on May 29) and Steep Down (15 on Jun 12) suggest strongholds at these sites. Smaller numbers were noted at several other sites particularly in and around the Adur Valley. Autumn passage may have commenced as early as the end of August but really began in mid September when 743 at Wild Park on 15th was the peak count there. Another 250 moved through there on 22nd and 1,400 flew west at Sheepcote Valley on 24th. In October, counts of 60 at Goring Gap on 7th, 85 N on 9th and 50 E on 13th at Worthing beach and 100 again at Goring on 30th were notable. Twenty at Sompting Refuse tip and ten at Whitehawk Hill on Nov 5, with a flock of 20 at Sheepcote Valley on 7th virtually completing the movement. In December the only birds reported were one or two in the Lower Adur and four at Tegdown Hill.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

Between one and three birds were noted from Shoreham Fort, Brighton Marina, Worthing Beach and Goring beach in the first winter period with the last sighting on Mar 18 at Goring. The only summer record was of one at the Marina. Similarly in the autumn and late winter period just one to three seen at the same locations. One considered to be probably of the race *littoralis* was present at Shoreham Fort on Sep 18.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant

All spring records were: two at Tegdown Hill on Apr 17, four there on 20th, one at Worthing beach 22nd and 2 N on 27th, one north at Brighton College on 28th, one north at Shoreham Fort on May 1 and one on Henfield Levels on 7th. More evident in autumn with 20 at Cissbury and 80 flying over Sheepcote Valley on Sep 3, 35 at Cissbury on 4th and 5th, 30 over Wild Park from Aug 21 to Sep 25, 10 W at Worthing beach on 19th and 12 at Lancing New Salts Farm on 23rd. The last were a single at Widewater on Oct 1 and two at Goring beach on 7th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Local resident and winter visitor; passage migrant

Single birds noted from Patcham, Stanmer Park, two sites in Durrington, Brooklands and Steyning SF. Pairs bred at the Marina and by the Adur at Shoreham and a bird was present in a Storrington garden in June. Just one or two were noted from late July by the Lower Adur and at Sheepcote Valley, the Sanctuary, a Shoreham garden, High Salvington, Wild Park, Brooklands, the Cement Works, Kempton, and Goring Gap through

to early October. Five heading east at Worthing beach on 10th was the most recorded in a rather poor autumn for the species. Other singles were seen at Mytlegrave Farm, Brighton Borough, Widewater and Buckingham Road, Shoreham which was a fatality. Three were at Brooklands on 20th. A handful of other scattered records till the last for the year at Upper Beeding on Dec 19.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Common resident

A roost at ASDA, Hollingbury on Jan 18 held 236 birds and another of 100 on 21st were seen leaving at the Marina. Elsewhere generally less than a dozen at any site but spread across the area from Stanmer Park, Patcham and Tegdown Hill in the north to Sheepcote, Widewater, Lower Adur Valley and Worthing beach near the coast. The maxima at the one exception to this total was 18 at Stanmer Park on Mar 2. No breeding reports received. There were 22 at the Adur Recreation Ground on Aug 8. In October some passage observed with a maximum of 59 E at Worthing beach on 11th, 14 on 16th at Stanmer, 32 at Brooklands on 17th and 20 in a weedy stubble field at Goring Gap with Skylarks on 23rd increasing to 40 on the nearby beach by Nov 5 and 50 on 11th. Also in November, a flock of 15 were going to roost at Beeding Brooks on 6th, there were 30 at Tesco's carpark, Durrington on 11th and similar numbers in Worthing town centre and the Cement Works on 19th and 30th respectively. In December there were 30 noted at Upper Beeding in a turnip field on 19th.

WAXWING *Bombus garrulus*

Rare winter visitor

One was perched in a Rowan tree in Lancing on Nov 30 (RB), another briefly in a garden there on Dec 1 (RB) and a group of six at Stretham Manor, Henfield on 11th (MR).

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident

Breeding pairs were: Cissbury - 2, Wild Park - 102. Regular counts at Stanmer Park through the year indicated around 30 birds constantly present, 34 were ringed at Cissbury between May 1 and Nov 7. At the Sanctuary, 55 were handled involving 34 'new' birds over a similar period.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident

Breeding pairs were: Cissbury - 3, Wild Park - 58. Regular counts at Stanmer Park indicated about 12 birds in the breeding season. Elsewhere there were 12 at Mill Hill on Nov 7. Otherwise very widely reported in small numbers. Thirty seven were ringed at Cissbury between May 1 and Nov 7. Handlings at the Sanctuary totalled 74 and involved 49 individuals, of which 41 were 'new'.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident

More records were received for the conspicuous and ever popular Robin than for any other species. As for last year, very evident at Washington Warren where there were at least 13 on Jan 15. Breeding records were of three pairs at Cissbury, one at Ladies Mile reserve and Warmdene, Patcham and 125 territories at Wild Park. Typically 24-30

noted at Stanmer Park through the year with a peak in September of 37. Other notable counts were of 20 at Mill Hill on Sep 26, ten at Lancing Clump on Nov 2, 20 at Whitehawk Hill on 5th and 27 at Mill Hill on 7th. Ringing totals were Cissbury – 64 between May 1 and Nov 7, and at the Sanctuary 56 'new' birds out of 86 handlings.

NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

There were about ten recorded in April and early May from Stanmer Park (the first on 23rd), Edburton, Woods Mill, Small Dole, Oreham Common, Steyning, Striven's reedbed, Waterhall (Brighton), and Fulking Downer's Vineyard. Probably bred at Oreham Common with three singing on May 19, Wood's Mill and Edburton. Autumn migrants at Sheepcote Valley were logged on three dates in August and two in September, the last on 4th.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochrurus*

Regular autumn/winter visitor, has bred

At least half a dozen birds were present during the first two months with singles from central Brighton, Ferring, Hove and the Shoreham area. Some of these lingered into March, when migrants overlap with winter birds. Freshly in were males at Goring and Widewater beaches from mid month, and a couple at Sheepcote at the end of the month. A singing male was recorded at Marina in February, but extensive searches in a number of previous breeding areas produced negative results. First of the Autumn was a single in a Lancing garden on Oct 24, followed by one in a Steyning garden, two at Patcham Sweet Hill, three at Widewater and singles at Mile Oak and Old Salts Farm – all during the next seven days. Few were noted during the last two months with a regular bird at Widewater, and others from Marina, Power Station and Worthing beach.

REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

First of the year was at Stanmer Park on Apr 20, then five singles all from the Brighton area to May 6 included two males at Wildpark and singles from Marina, Sheepcote and Warm Dene (Patcham). Regularly reported in autumn from Cissbury and Wildpark, where the peak was five on Sep 4 from a total of 19. Elsewhere ones and twos were from Chanctonbury, Mill Hill, Sheepcote, Stanmer Park and Whitehawk Hill. The last were at West Blatchington on Oct 7, Sheepcote on Oct 16 and one which lingered in a Brighton garden to at least Oct 20.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Common passage migrant

A very good Spring commenced with two at Sheepcote on Apr 16, then singles in April at Sompting and Stanmer Park. Most were in May with coastal birds at Ferring Rife, Marina, Shoreham Fort and Southwick beach; and others from downland at Stanmer Park, Tegdown Hill and Wildpark to May 15. An early migrant was at New Erringham Farm on Jul 27 almost a month before the next birds at Mill Hill, Westmeston and Wildpark. At the latter site there were only nine from Aug 21 to Oct 2, the lowest count for a number of years, but good numbers were recorded at Sheepcote, with a peak of 15 on Sep 4. Noted at half a dozen additional sites in September, the last was at Sheepcote on Oct 13.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquatus***Regular winter visitor and local breeding resident**

Mostly seen at coastal and lowland sites during the first three months at Adur Valley, Ferring, Henfield Levels and Widewater, but milder winters helped produce downland records from Ditchling Beacon, Golding Barn and Stanmer Park. Migrants were most noticeable on Mar 16 with ten at Sheepcote, six at Hollingbury hillfort and singles at Ferring and Widewater. Confirmed breeding was one-two pairs at Lancing Steep Down, Cissbury, Sompting Downs and Mossy Bottom (New Erringham Farm). The usual gatherings took place through September/October with good numbers at Sheepcote, with a peak of 15 on Oct 13; and at Cissbury with 11 on Oct 7. Other high counts included six near Kithurst Hill and four at Widewater and Wildpark. The majority of late year birds were from coastal sites and the Adur Valley and included a regular pair at Widewater, as well as occasional reports from downland at Lancing and Tegdown Hill.

WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe***Common passage migrant**

It seems to happen with regularity with this species, that the first sightings appear well in advance of the next. First were beach birds at Worthing and Brooklands on Mar 2 and 4 respectively. Quite an influx occurred on Mar 16 with 11 at Shoreham beach and 15 at Sheepcote as well as widespread but smaller numbers from both coastal and inland sites. There were 23 between Shoreham Fort and Widewater on Mar 28, but the peak count was much later with 50 at Sheepcote on Apr 16. This valley often gets high counts and it is interesting to report much fewer numbers from other regularly watched downland sites, i.e. peak four at Tegdown Hill, seven on Hollingbury golfcourse, only two at Ditchling Beacon and none at all reported from Cissbury. Spring migration continued through April with still 20 at Sheepcote on 29th and three singles in May from Worthing beach to 17th. A bird at Goring beach on Jun 19 was either a very late spring migrant or an exceptionally early returning bird. A smattering occurred from Jul 27 through August, with peak counts of 19 at Wildpark on 1st, 13 at Cissbury on the same day and 22 at Goring Gap on 28th which included three probable Greenland race birds. Reports came from Ditchling Beacon, Newtimber, Sompting Downs and Westmeston during this period. The total at Wildpark from Aug 21 was 68. In September the peaks were 28 at Sheepcote and 11 at Whitehawk Hill on 9th, and six at Cissbury on two dates. Late birds were singles at Widewater, Sheepcote and Worthing beach in October, the last was at Wildpark on 14th.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus***Regular passage migrant**

In a poor year, four were reported in spring, at Tegdown Hill on Mar 28 and Apr 19, Brooklands on Apr 4 and Hollingbury Camp on 20th. In autumn, singles were at Sompting and Wildpark on Oct 13, and two at Cissbury on 17th. The peak count at Sheepcote was five on Oct 9, and the last bird was seen there on Nov 11.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula***Very common resident**

Records from various sites in the early months were mostly of small numbers, but regular counts at Stanmer Park produced monthly maxima between 37 and 43. There were 25 at Tegdown Hill on Mar 28, and 40 at Sheepcote on Apr 13.

At Wildpark, 113 territories or singing males showed a further small decline. Of 49 nests at Hove Park and Brooklands, only 11 produced young. Between May and November, 29 new birds were ringed and nine retrapped from previous years at the Sanctuary, and 25 new birds were ringed at Cissbury, both fewer than last year. Stanmer Park's autumn maximum was 62 on Oct 16, an influx of 50 was noted at Brooklands next day, and 120 were at Sheepcote on Nov 3.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor

The largest flocks in the first part of the year were near Upper Beeding, 35 on the Brooks on Jan 12 and 40 at Golding Barn on Mar 7, and at Wolstonbury Hill, 50 on Mar 18. Monthly peaks at Stanmer Park were 19 on Feb 26, 24 on Mar 8. April records were of 20 at Harrow Hill on 12th, one at Cuckoo Corner on 14th and the last at Sheepcote on 29th. On Oct 8, 20 were at Stanmer Park and 30 at Hollingbury. Flocks were moving west with Redwings at Sheepcote, 150 on Oct 9, and 600 on 10th, when 40 were noted from the Sanctuary and 41 at Wildpark. After that, the largest count was only 30 at Chantry Hill on Oct 20, until 350 at Lychpole Hill on Dec 17, 100 at Botolph's on 18th, 110 on Henfield Levels on 20th, 230 at Coombes and 1,000 at Park Brow roost site on 30th.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident

Records from the same sites confirm that this species is much scarcer than Blackbird. The highest count in the early months was ten at Stanmer Park. Wildpark held 16 territories or singing males, and just nine of 25 nests at Hove Park and Brooklands produced young. Only ten were handled at the Sanctuary, but 39 new birds were ringed at Cissbury, including 11 on Oct 16. The highest counts in the later months were 19 at Wildpark and ten at both Mill Hill and Stanmer Park.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor

The largest flock early in the year was 35 at Beeding Brooks on Jan 12. Stanmer Park held up to 17 in February and March. The last reported were seven at Tegdown Hill and one at Ladies Mile on Mar 28. On Oct 3, 200 passed over Wild Park. There was a clear movement on Oct 9, including 97 at Wild Park and 700 W or NW at Sheepcote, and a huge passage of 10,000 W high over Sheepcote on 10th. Only small numbers were noted thereafter, with maxima of 12 at Henfield Levels on Dec 20, and 15 at Washington Warren Hill on 30th.



MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident

Noted from eight sites between April and June, and five more in other months. No more than four were seen together, except for eight at Tegdown Hill on Jun 18, 25 including young in a grazed field at Clapham on 27th, and 16 on Aug 9 and 23 on Sept 3 at Cissbury. As requested in the last Report, all records would be useful.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti***Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

Evidence of the expanding range of this species was at least two individuals present at Beeding Brooks between early March and the end of May. At the Sanctuary the second record for the site, a male, was trapped and ringed on Nov 6: the first was back in 1977.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia***Generally scarce passage migrant**

First recorded at Beeding Brooks with one on May 3, there followed singles on three more dates that month concluding with two there on May 20. In the autumn the only records of singles were from Sheepcote Valley on Aug 9 and 22, with one on the adjacent Whitehawk Hill on Sep 9.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***Local summer visitor and passage migrant**

Beeding Brooks produced the first record of a single on April 7. Later there were further singles at Broadwater and Ferring Rife on the 16th and 17th respectively, one at Shoreham Airport on the 22nd with two at Hollingbury the same day and one at the Marina on the 29th. Counts were of 12 on Beeding Brooks on May 3 and four at Ferring Rife on May 15. There were no spring records from any other sites. No breeding reports received. Autumn movement was first evident at Cissbury when two were ringed on Jul 24. There followed just one August (29th) record of two ringed at the Sanctuary. In early September one was at Ladies Mile reserve and up to two were at Sheepcote Valley. Two were ringed at the Sanctuary on Sep 11 followed by a sighting on Mill Hill the following day. Last for the year was another at Sheepcote on Sep 15.

REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus***Fairly common summer visitor**

The first was at Brighton Marina on Apr 10 followed later in the month by a single at the Sanctuary on 24th and two at the Mumbles on 26th. Highest spring count in May was of ten at Beeding Brooks on May 3 but smaller numbers were reported from Ferring Rife, St Anne's Well (Hove), Durrington Cemetery and Brooklands. Three to four pairs probably bred in the vicinity of the Sanctuary. One ringed at Cissbury on July 24 began autumn records with birds at the Mumbles, Sompting downs, a Steyning garden and Mill Hill in August and Brooklands and Sheepcote Valley in early September. Ringers had the final records: at the Sanctuary a bird was re-trapped on Oct 9, having put on just over two grams since its capture a week earlier, and a new bird was ringed at Cissbury the same day. Altogether a total of six birds were ringed at Cissbury between July and September and at the Sanctuary 40 were ringed between May 15 and October with the best catch being nine on Jul 17.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla***Common summer visitor, regular in winter**

Throughout the district a widespread wintering population was present in gardens, often eating berries or at feeders, from the New Year until the middle of March. No more than three were reported from any one location. Songsters were heard from the beginning of March and towards the end of that month birds were reported from non-wintering sites such as Tegdown Hill and numbers in Stanmer Park were increasing. On

April 4 the first birds of the year were reported from both Wild Park and the Sanctuary and thereafter spring records continued from a range of sites with the highest totals being 11 at Stanmer Park on April 25 and eight at Wild Park on the 28th. Breeding was estimated at five pairs at the Cissbury ringing site, 17 territories were held at Wild Park, between seven & 14



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were regularly counted at Stanmer Park and five singing males were at Goring Gap. Otherwise records in single figures continued to be widespread until the beginning of September. As migration commenced higher numbers were reported with Cissbury the prime site holding 35 on the 4th, 50 the next day, 100 birds ringed on the 11th, 59 ringed on the 25th and 25 seen on Oct 7. Elsewhere peak counts were of 14 at Sheepcote on Sep 9 and 13 at Wild Park on the 15th. Records continued to trickle until 6th November when one was ringed at the Sanctuary and the following day one was seen on Mill Hill while another was ringed at Cissbury. Apart from one at the Sanctuary on Dec 5 and at Stanmer Park on the 14th the final reports were from three gardens at the end of December. Ringing totals for the season were 160 at the Sanctuary and 304 at Cissbury.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor

Mid April witnessed the first arrivals with one at Stanmer Park on the 15th and again the following day with further arrivals by the end of the month at Wild Park and Brighton College. The spread of records extended in May to Maybridge (Goring), St Anne's Well, Upper Beeding, Cissbury and Ladies Mile Reserve and in June to Golding Barn (Upper Beeding). Specific breeding records were of three at the Cissbury Ringing Site and one at Wild Park. The Sanctuary tuned in to the autumn passage with its first handling of the year on Jul 24. From then there were just a sprinkling of records of one or two birds from the Sanctuary, Cissbury, Golding Barn, Wiston Pond, Sheepcote Valley, Wild Park and Stanmer Park, the most being five at Sheepcote on Aug 12 where the last one of the year was seen on Sep 8. Ringing totals for the season were eight at both Cissbury and the Sanctuary.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer visitor

BTO Migration Watch data boosted the spring records which began on Apr 19th with sightings at both Stanmer Park and Tegdown Hill close by. More records from the Brighton area as well as Cuckoo Corner and Wiston were received for this month. Reports of first singing birds were one at the Sanctuary, four at Steyning Levels and three at Henfield Levels all on May 1. Specific breeding reports were Cissbury Ringing Site - 1, Wild Park - 2, Sheepcote Valley - 1 but birds were also present at Mill Hill, Tegdown Hill, Stanmer Park, Ladies Mile reserve and Durrington Cemetery within the breeding season. Autumn dispersal was probably first indicated by two ringed at the Sanctuary on Jul 31 and the last capture for this species at Cissbury on Aug 7. Elsewhere most of the spring sites, with the addition of Sompting and Upper Beeding, witnessed the autumn departure. Peak numbers were five at the Wild Park on Sep 1 and another five at Cissbury Ring on Sep 4. Last for the year was one at Sompting on Oct 6. Ringing totals were 12 at Cissbury and nine at the Sanctuary.



Mute Swan – *Terry Hicks*



Pochard – *Terry Hicks*



SDOS Gull Count – *Shena Maskell*



SDOS Outing to Woolbeding Common – *John Maskell*



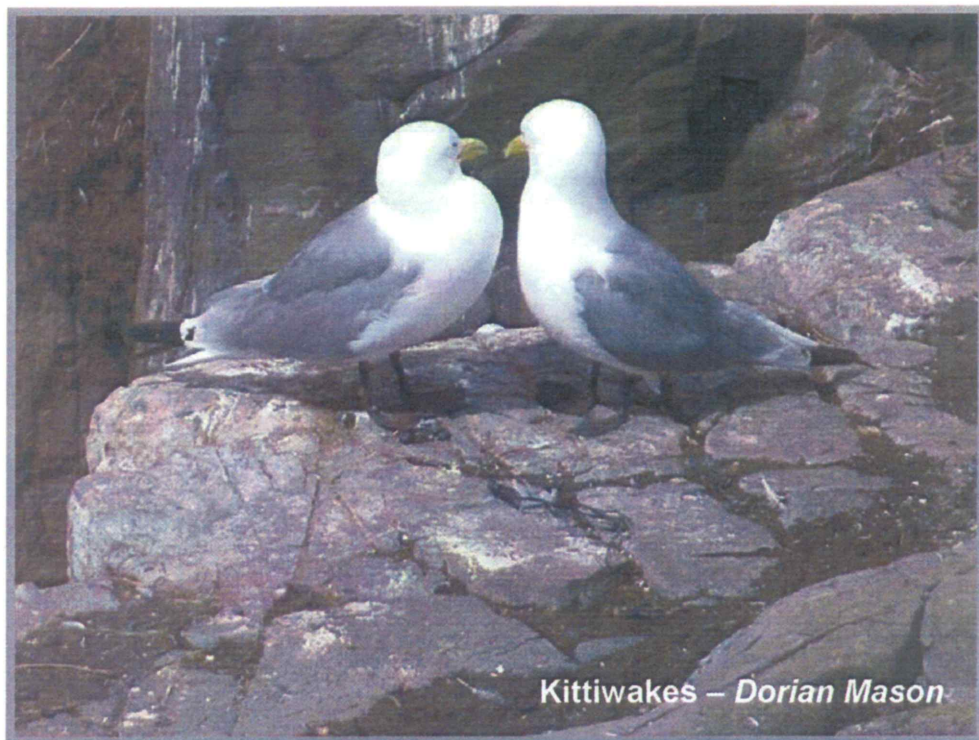
Ducks in fright! (mostly Wigeon) – though the raptor is not in view – *Roger Wilmshurst*



SDOS Outing to Adur Valley– *John Maskell*



SDOS Outing to West Dean Woods – *John Maskell*



WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor

Initially one was seen at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 9 but then this species was widely recorded within the next few days around Brighton at Stanmer Park, Tegdown Hill, Ditchling Beacon, St Anne's Well and Sheepcote Valley where up to four were counted. In the latter part of the month records spread to the west of our area including the Sanctuary, Beeding, Sompting, Shoreham Airport and Goring Gap. Highest counts were of 16 at Wild Park on Apr 24, with 20 there on May 1, and 15 at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 26. Noted as a garden visitor to Ferring in April and June. The wide distribution of records continued into the breeding season but breeding counts were only made at Cissbury with an estimated four pairs at the ringing site and 24 territories noted at Wild Park. However there were up to 12 at both at Stanmer Park and Tegdown Hill in May. Autumn movement was indicated by counts of 40 at Cissbury on Aug 4, 20 at Kithurst Hill the following day, where an adult was still feeding a full-grown juvenile, 150 at Sheepcote Valley on Aug 9 and 33 at Wild Park on the 21st. Movement continued to be reported into September with a further significant count of 40 at Cissbury on the 5th. By mid September records had ceased but two late birds were at Sheepcote Valley on October 13. Ringing totals for the season were 80 at Cissbury and 21 at the Sanctuary.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor

More records this year, all from the east of the area. Ditchling Beacon had the year's first record of a single on Feb 22 followed by another on Mar 13. Also in March Hollingbury camp hosted a single on 7th, a singing individual on 16th, a pair on 22nd and finally a single associating with Stonechats on Apr 16. In the autumn a single stayed at Brighton Wild Park from Oct 7 until Nov 6 and other was at Sheepcote Valley on Nov 3.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare autumn vagrant

One was just outside the southwest corner of Cissbury Ring on Oct 7 (CEH). This record has been accepted by SOS.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce passage migrant

Just one spring record of a singing male at Brighton Cemetery on May 14.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

Single wintering birds were seen on single dates from January through to early March in Shoreham, Broadwater, Brighton and Hollingbury. Three were at Glebe Farm, Steyning on Jan 25 and one was at the close-by sewage works on Feb 21. One was at Beeding Brooks on Feb 2. Patcham and Stanmer Park held singles throughout February and March but only at Stanmer did a noticeable rise in numbers take place towards the end of March with a maximum of nine on Mar 25. Elsewhere peak counts were of eight at Brooklands on Mar 21 and 12 at Wild Park on the 30th. Records were widely distributed through April but the only significant count was 18 at Stanmer Park on the 13th although two birds were still arriving from the sea off Worthing Beach on Apr 29. Breeding pairs were estimated at three within the Cissbury ringing site, 21 held territories in Wild Park

and up to 14 were regularly recorded in Stanmer Park and up to four were at Tegdown Hill although singing males were heard or seen at several other sites. The first large count of the autumn was of 20 at Cissbury on Sep 4 with 25 at Sheepcote Valley on the 10th. Mid month saw 64 at Wild Park on the 15th and 26 still there on the 19th when 30 were ringed at the Sanctuary. Cissbury ringers processed 35 birds on the 25th. Significant numbers continued into October with 40 at Cissbury on the 3rd, 30 at Sheepcote Valley on the 8th and 30 at Goring Gap the following day. As the month progressed Brooklands proved to be a favoured site with 20 there on the 10th and 14th decreasing to 12 on the 17th and 20th. As last year, birds continued to be present at Brooklands and also the Sanctuary through November and into December but the last was at Stanmer Park on the Dec 28. Ringing totals for the season were 181 at the Sanctuary and 197 at Cissbury. A bird showing the characteristics of either *tristis* or *abietinus* was present at Steyning on Mar 27 (ARK). This record has been accepted by SOS.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

The earliest record was of one at Tegdown Hill on Mar 24 with another at Stanmer the following day. The main run of records started on the 29th with one at Sheepcote Valley, extending in sequence over subsequent days to Wild Park, Annington, Cissbury, New Salts Farm (Lancing), Ditchling Beacon, Golding Barn, the Sanctuary and finally Patcham by mid-April. The maximum spring counts were of ten at Sheepcote on Apr 21 and of 20 in the ASDA bushes at Brighton Marina on Apr 29. One pair was reported breeding at the Cissbury ringing site, one to two were at Tegdown Hill on several dates and up to four were regularly present at Stanmer Park. Elsewhere in May/June most records were of singles with Sullington Warren and Fulking new sites for the year. "First returning juveniles" were observed at Goring Gap on July 23 but passage was only recorded in small numbers; the best being 21 seen at Wild Park on Aug 14 with 22 ringed at the Mumbles the same day, 16 ringed at Cissbury on 22nd and ten counted at Cissbury on Sep 3. Observations trickled into October with the last at Brighton College on the 18th. Ringing totals for the season were 52 birds at Cissbury and 19 at the Sanctuary.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Just one record in January, Warren Hill on 15th, was followed by four in Stanmer Park and one or two at four other sites in February. At the latter locality, two on Mar 1 increased to 9 on 12th. There were three at Brooklands on 2nd, three at Warmdene, Patcham through the month, three at Ditchling Beacon on 13th and a maximum of five at Warren Hill on 22nd. Up to 11 were counted in Stanmer Park in April with only two other site reports of one or two birds in the month. The count increased to 17 on May 3 at Stanmer with two at Tegdown Hill from mid April to the end of May. The maximum at Stanmer in June was 12 on 30th. There were no reports for July. Records were received from 25 sites in the second half of the year with some impressive totals. These included maxima of 40 at Cissbury on Oct 3, 20 at Goring Gap plantation on 9th and 16th, 40 at Sheepcote Valley on 13th, 22 at Wild Park on 15th, 40 in the whole of Goring Gap on 30th when there were also 30 at Brooklands and at least 15 to 19 at Whitehawk over 29th/30th. Twelve at St Anne's Wells Gardens, Hove on 31st was a good count for the site. Thirty five were ringed at The Sanctuary in 24 sessions between Aug 26 and Nov, and 61 at Cissbury between Sep 11 and Nov 7. Four were ringed at The Mumbles,

Steinying on Nov 2 and nine trapped at the Sanctuary on 6th. Thereafter between one and four were noted at seven sites with up to seven again at Stanmer Park on Dec 14. The last of the year were four at Warren Hill on 30th.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

Singles were noted in January/February at Hollingbury Camp, Steinying, in Hove and at Stanmer Park. March birds were seen at Worthing on 8th, a Southwick garden on 21st and Sheepcote Valley with two on 16th. This increased to five on Apr 3. None noted after 29th until the autumn passage which commenced with one ringed at Cissbury on Oct 9. Then reports received from a further 12 sites all in the coastal strip south of the Downs to the year end with peaks of four at Goring Gap and Whitehawk on Oct 30 with five at the latter on Nov 3. Otherwise just one or two birds involved including in a Southwick garden. Two were ringed at The Sanctuary, two at Cissbury and one at The Mumbles, Steinying.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

There were half a dozen Spring records all of single birds, most in May with the first on 14th, and an unwell bird at Cissbury on Jun 6. The only likely candidates for breeding were a singing male in a garden near Sandgate Park at the end of June and another at Fulking on Jul 24. Autumn passage commenced on Aug 7 with two at Cissbury, increasing to six on Aug 28; then 30 on Sep 1 when there were also 32 at Chanctonbury and 35 at the former location on Sep 3. These were by far the highest numbers recorded this year. At Wild Park the peak was only five from a total of 23. There were one to two birds from other areas including urban parks. Very few were ringed, just two at Sanctuary and three at Cissbury including one on the late date of Sep 18. Other late birds were at Brooklands on Sep 29, St Anne's Well Gardens the following day, and the last at Southwick Hill on Oct 5.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Regular passage migrant

The only two Spring records were at Sheepcote on Apr 21 and another in the bushes behind ASDA Marina on Apr 29. Normal return passage is consistent with early August and there were three at Sheepcote and others at Cissbury, Chanctonbury and St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove. This little urban park is regularly watched producing two on Aug 12, and singles on five other dates to the last on Oct 14. Elsewhere there were two in a Worthing garden in August and singles on two dates in September from Cissbury and Wild Park.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident

At Stanmer Park early month maxima were 11 on Feb 20 and 25 and there were 15 in Sheepcote Valley on Mar 13, but elsewhere no more than two were noted at any one site. This species starts nesting early so four pairs at Washington Warren Hill and one at Upper Beeding and another at Patcham were likely candidates. Numbers at Stanmer remained at 14 from March through to October. Three pairs bred at Cissbury and eight were holding territories in Wild Park as well as two at Tegdown Hill and one at Ditch-

ling Beacon. In June other possible breeders were at Chanctonbury, Applesham near Coombes, Steep Down and in the Sanctuary/Mill Hill areas. In August a party of 14 appeared in a Goring garden and the largest late year flock was of 40 at Brighton Woodvale Cemetery on Nov 4. Forty five were handled at the Sanctuary but only involved 17 different birds (all 'new'). Only six new birds were ringed at Cissbury.

MARSH TIT *Parus palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

One at Warren Hill in January and up to five at Michelgrove, Patching in February were the only ones reported before late April when two at Stanmer Park and one at Brighton College. One at Woods Mill, two at Cissbury (one definitely) and four at Chanctonbury in June suggest likely breeding. The only other sites were Wolstonbury Hill where one was seen in July and Findon North Farm with two in October. Four birds were ringed at Cissbury.

COAL TIT *Parus ater*

Fairly common but local resident

Most numerous in Stanmer Park where up to 16 noted in May but falling off to four in December. At Washington Warren Hill and Storrington just one or two birds reported on a number of dates through the year. Probably breeds on Sullington Warren. Elsewhere one at Goring in February, two in Steyning in March, one at Tegdown Hill in April and June and one at Lancing Clump in November.

BLUE TIT *Parus caeruleus*

Abundant resident

Numerous reports received from all over the area. BTO survey counts from several sites and other records indicate minimum number of probable breeding pairs as: Warren Hill - 5, Patcham - 2, Stanmer Park - 16, Tegdown Hill - 7, Whitehawk Hill - 1, Cissbury - 2, Wiston Pond - 4, Hove Park - 1, Three Corner Copse - 1 (5 fledged), Wild Park - 61 territories, Annington - 1, Ladies Mile reserve - 1, Storrington - 2, Sandgate Woods - 1. Ringing totals were 44 new birds at Cissbury between May and November and 107 handlings at the Sanctuary of which 64 were new birds. Largest counts were of 39 at Warren Hill on Mar 22 and Stanmer Park of 32 on several dates in the first half year, and 30 and 48 at these locations in the second.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Very common resident

Widespread reports received as for the previous species. Probable minimum number of breeding pairs were at: Patcham - 2, Stanmer Park - 11, Tegdown Hill - 6, Whitehawk Hill - 4, Cissbury - 2, Hove Park - 1, Three Corner Copse - 1 (4 fledged), Wild Park - 52 territories, Ditchling Beacon - 1, Wiston - 1, Ladies Mile reserve - 1 (2 juveniles seen). Ringing totals were 33 new birds at Cissbury and 69 handlings at the Sanctuary involving 43 new birds. Twenty seven at Stanmer Park in October was the largest site count. Lancing Clump had ten in November.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident

Breeding probably took place at Warren Hill (two pairs), Clapham Woods, Chancton-

bury, Michelgrove near Patching and Stanmer Park with courtship behaviour or nest building being observed. The species was also a regular garden visitor to Isfield and Storrington and once to Steyning.

TREE CREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Uncommon resident

A pair bred at Edburton and probably also in Stanmer Park and Warren Hill. No other records were received of more than a single bird. These came from Hove (St Anne's Wells), Sanctuary, Goring Gap, Tegdown Hill, Chanctonbury Ring, Henfield (Stretham Manor), and Cissbury where two birds were ringed. It was a garden visitor to Lancing and Upper Beeding in February and Storrington in July.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE *Lanius excubitor*

Rare winter visitor and passage migrant

One was seen on West Hove Golf Course on Oct 15 (TJW). This record has been accepted by the SOS.

JAY *Garrulus glandarius*

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

Two holding territories in Wild Park and a pair at Hove Park that raised three young were the known breeding records. Others likely to have nested were at Warren Hill, Stanmer Park, Fulking and Goring. A record count of 13 was noted at Wild Park on Sep 22 but these were considered to be local birds. Six at Goring Gap on Oct 30 may have been migrants as may single birds seen at a number of other coastal locations. One was ringed at Cissbury and two at the Sanctuary.

MAGPIE *Pica pica*

Very common resident

The regular winter roost at Wild Park held 255 on Feb 8. Forty pairs held territories there and a pair raised a family of four at Fulking. Breeding probably also took place at Stanmer Park (eight pairs), Tegdown Hill (five to eight pairs), Warren Hill (four pairs), Patcham (one to two pairs) and Ditchling Beacon (four pairs) with odd pairs spread across the area especially at Downland localities. A flock of 20 was noted at Lancing Clump on Nov 4.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula*

Common resident

Twenty two at Patcham, 32 at Stanmer Park, 44 at Upper Beeding (Golding Barn) and 20 on Beeding Hill were the first half year maxima. Four hundred were roosting at Wyckham Wood near Henfield on May 11. One pair bred at Wild Park and certainly at many other sites but no numbers were submitted. Two hundred flew east to join a much larger assembly near Tottington Woods on Nov 6 and a similar number were counted around the Cement Works on Dec 4.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Common resident

Counts of nests at rookeries were: Michelgrove, Patching – 23, Myrtle Grove Farm, Clapham – 120, Sompting – 20, Clapham (4 sites) – 60, Findon – 136, Upper Beeding – num-

ber unknown. Also bred in Stanmer Park where up to 40 birds counted in April and at Patcham. Two hundred and fifty on Henfield Levels in January, 49 at Tegdown Hill in June, 40 at Strettham Manor in November and 300 on Chantry Hill in December were the only large reported flocks.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone*

Common resident

Sixteen pairs bred in Wild Park and the species was widely reported from all over the area. The main concentrations, apart from a report of 250 at Poynings on Feb 22, was along the beaches and coastal strip with 50 at Hove in March, 90 at West Worthing in April and 52 at Goring in May being the largest gatherings.

RAVEN *Corvus corax*

Very scarce breeding resident

The pair bred again at the Cement Works. The first young bird to fledge was seen to be taken by a fox but the remaining four young fledged successfully. Most sightings throughout the year were from the area adjacent to Upper Beeding but records were received from Hollingdean, Ditchling Beacon and Wild Park in the east and Steyning, Washington Bostal and Sandgate Park in the west.

STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

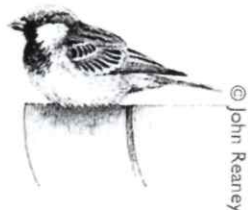
Abundant resident and winter visitor

There were 2,500 at Southwick Canal on Jan 21 and Brighton's West Pier was again used as a roost with 10,000 estimated there on Jan 30. At a regular feeding station in Goring 150 was the largest daily total to date in February. Flocks of up to 70 were noted at several places across the area through to the end of March. Thereafter no more than 30 or so were reported at any one site until mid October. Ten pairs bred at Wild Park but no other records received. Late autumn flocks were typically of 100 but 2,500 at Hove Lagoon on Nov 8, 400 in off the sea at the Marina on 9th and 10,000 estimated moving to roost at New Erringham Farm, Shoreham on Dec 9 with 1,000 in the Beeding and Henfield areas later in the month.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident

Other than 22 at Widewater in January, only ten or less were reported in the first half-year from most other widely spaced sites. The exception being a Goring garden/feeding station which attracted 40 birds in the early months increasing to 45 in July and 60 in August. One hundred and twenty were at Hove Lagoon on Jul 25 and 30 at New Erringham Farm, Shoreham on 27th. In November, 20 at Lancing, Lancing Clump and Tegdown Hill were the largest groups reported.



TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Scarce resident

There was one at Kithurst Hill near Storrington on Jan 2, two at Ditchling Beacon on Feb 15 and six at Tegdown Hill on Mar 20 with four there on 24th. There were again six at Tegdown Hill on Dec 14.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs***Very common resident**

A wintering flock of 400 was in the Chantry Hill/Lee Farm area in early January (see 2003 report). The maximum count at Stanmer Park in the first winter period was 44. Seventy six flew east at Wild Park on Mar 7 and 28 were at Tegdown Hill on 28th. Breeding records were of 35 territories in Wild Park, three pairs at Cissbury and singing males at Lancing Clump and Wiston Estate. The May counts at Stanmer and Tegdown Hill were 36 and 31 respectively. The ringing total of 39 at Cissbury between May and November was the largest ever for this species at this site. At the Sanctuary six new birds were ringed in 24 sessions through the year. Small numbers continued to be recorded at many sites the largest being in Stanmer Park with 47 in October. No migration figures were provided.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla***Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor**

The Lee Farm, Patching flock from 2003 remained at around 200 birds through January falling to 100 by the end of February and further to ten on Mar 6 the last date they were noted. Seventeen were on Tegdown Hill on 17th and there were singles at Cuckoo Corner and Ladies Mile reserve in early April. There were just three at Wild Park on Oct 9, two at Stanmer on 11th and singles at Goring Gap on 16th and at Brooklands on Nov 5 completing a poor autumn for the species.

SERIN *Serinus serinus***Rare passage migrant**

One was seen at Ferring on Mar 18 (DIS). This record has been accepted by the SOS.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris***Very common resident**

The regular wintering flock at Shoreham beach contained 100 birds on Jan 1 with 25 at Ferring Rife on 4th. Thirty were at Brooklands on Mar 2. Breeding records were of three nests in Hove Park and three in Three Corner Copse, Hove which produced nine juveniles in total (three nests of six failed); five nests at Brooklands produced 16 juveniles (eight nests of 13 failed); 38 territories were held in Wild Park. Three birds were ringed at Cissbury and one at the Sanctuary. The Stanmer Park counts stayed constant at around 23 for much of the year. By Oct 30 there were again 250 on Shoreham beach and 56 were noted at Widewater on Nov 14 when the former flock had decreased to 100.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis***Fairly common resident**

In January, 25 at Widewater on 20th and in Feb 23 at Upper Beeding on 29th were the largest flocks in the first winter period. Small numbers elsewhere and a very light spring passage. Breeding records were just of two holding territories in Wild Park though the summer maximum at Stanmer Park was 15 in June. Autumn flocks consisted of 40 at Ditchling Beacon, 30 on Henfield Levels and 60 on Mill Hill in September followed by 200 at Shoreham Beach on Oct 10. At Worthing 634 flew east on 11th, out of a total of 713 in the month. There were 45 at Brooklands on 17th and 60 at Whitehawk Hill on 30th on which date 220 passed Widewater in 45 minutes and Shoreham Fort with 105 E at Worthing on Nov 1 and 20 at Lancing Clump next day when eight were ringed at

Striven's Reedbed, Steyning. Few noted thereafter with the last report of four on Tegdown Hill on Dec 14 out of a month's total of 14 from three sites.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor

January records were only from gardens in Storrington and Steyning. Birds visited these through to Mar 21 when also noted from Isfield. Two at Warmdene, Patcham in late March and early April and one north at Wild Park on Mar 23 were the only other records before two un-seasonal birds at Cissbury on Jun 3. Next were three at Wild Park on Oct 6, two at Mill Hill on 10th, five more at Wild Park on 15th, three at Stanmer Park on 21st, three at Brooklands on 25th and finally three over the Sanctuary on 30th. A poor year.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and passage migrant

Seven reports of flocks of 25 to 50 from mostly Downland and river valley sites were received for January to March. This included 25 at Goring Gap which was noted as the first wintering there for several years. Spring passage at Worthing was poor with only 105 birds moving east. Thirteen were holding territories at Wild Park. Also in June there were eight at Stanmer Park, nine at Annington Hill, seven at Lion's Bank, Findon, 14 at Applesham, Coombes, six at Botolphs, four at Chanctonbury, seven at Steep Down, ten at Cissbury and up to 23 at Tegdown Hill. Autumn flocks appeared from Aug 5 when there were 50 at Chantry Hill increasing to 300 there by Sep 15, and at Steep Down with 100 on Sep 26. Passage was again light but in November 50 were on Sompting refuse tip on 5th and in Dec there were 80 near Windmill Hill, Upper Beeding on 19th and 35 at the Tollbridge by the Adur on 28th. A garden visitor to Lancing on several dates through the year.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One at the unusual location of Shoreham Fort on May 1 was the only spring record. All the autumn birds were in October with seven over Whitehawk Hill, 11 over Wild Park, three over the Sanctuary and singles at Stanmer Park, Brighton College and Goring Gap. Peak day was the 30th with nine birds at three sites.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years

A party of seven was between Mary Farm and Ridge Farm, Stanmer Park on Sep 3. There were single birds north at Wild Park and over Hollingdean on 5th and 9th respectively.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident

Recorded at 16 sites in the area during the year. Five pairs bred at Cissbury and three were holding territories in Wild Park. Three juveniles were observed at the Ladies Mile Reserve on Aug 8. Up to three at Warren Hill, Washington, Ladies Mile reserve and Michelgrove and six at Stanmer Park and Mill Hill were the biggest parties seen together. Otherwise one to two birds at the Sanctuary, Tegdown Hill, Worthing GC, Pyecombe,

Upper Beeding Golding Barn, Devil's Dyke, Kithurst Hill and Mill Hill. Noted as a garden visitor to Steyning and Storrington where they regularly come to feed on the seeds of small geraniums in June. Twenty five were ringed at Cissbury and four at Striven's Reed-bed, Steyning.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One at Truleigh Hill on Oct 26 and one at Widewater on Dec 6 were the only records.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common resident

Some good sized flocks were noted in January and February with 30 on Steyning Levels, 70 on Chantry Hill, 30 in bushes south of the by-pass bridge in the Lower Adur valley, 40 near Botolphs and 70 at Annington. Fourteen at Ditchling Beacon and 17 at Tegdown Hill with up to 23 at Stanmer Park in March continued an encouraging upturn for the species. Breeding records were of at least two pairs at Cissbury and ten territories in Wild Park; 25 were on Tegdown Hill on May 3, and 12 at Ditchling Beacon on 29th. Four birds were ringed at Cissbury. Late year flocks were of 90 along the South Downs Way between Chantry Hill and the edge of the recording area on Oct 26 and 30 at a pre-roost gathering with Corn Buntings at the Cement Works on Dec 9.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common resident

There were 40 with the mixed finch and bunting flock near Chantry Hill on Jan 3. In February, 20 were noted at Annington and in March, 25 at Brooklands. The species was a garden visitor to Ferring, Steyning (two gardens) and Lancing. A pair bred at Henfield Levels at Borrow Pit. Elsewhere small numbers recorded from the Adur valley levels and on the Downs. In October, 33 flew east at Sheepcote Valley on 9th and there were again 30 at Chantry Hill on 26th. Low numbers were found in December along the Adur and near the Airport.

CORN BUNTING *Miliaria calandra*

Fairly common but local resident of downland

Ditchling Beacon and Tegdown Hill remain as favoured sites with 40 at High Park Farm on Jan 25 near the former and up to 17 at the latter throughout much of the year. Away from the Downs proper a flock of 25 was using a wet set-aside at Annington in January. Other less usual locations were a Hove garden with one in January and again in March and at New Salts Farm, Lancing with two on Apr 30. Breeding records were of four singing males at Steep Down, at least two at New Erringham Farm, Shoreham, two at Steyning Round Hill, one at Botolphs, five along the South Downs Way near No-Mans Land and one at Mill Hill. There were 20 on Sompting refuse tip on Nov 5 and, the largest flock of the year, 70 near the Cement Works on Dec 9. Finally 30 flew off northeast at Lychpole Hill on 17th.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS FOR 2004

BLACK SWAN One at Widewater on Jan 15 later moved to the Adur at Shoreham where it remained from May 31 to Aug 23. It appeared at the Marina on 31st and was last seen on Henfield Levels on Dec 16.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 2004

	Arrival		Departure	
Species	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Apr 2	Marina	-	-
Osprey	Apr 1	Ferring	Sep 2	Hollingdean
Hobby	Apr 17	Tegdown Hill	Oct 10	Brooklands
Whimbrel	Apr 14	Worthing	Sep 1	Lower Adur
Arctic Skua	Apr 1	Worthing	Nov 3	Brighton Pier
Pomarine Skua	Apr 21	Marina	-	-
Sandwich Tern	Mar 28	Marina	Nov 30	Worthing
Common Tern	Apr 1	Worthing	Oct 31	Marina
Little Tern	Apr 16	Worthing	Oct 5	Worthing
Black Tern	Apr 25	Marina	Oct 23	Worthing
Turtle Dove	Apr 16	Stanmer Park	Oct 19	Durrington
Cuckoo	Apr 16	Wild Park	Aug 25	Sheepcote
Swift	Apr 16	Stanmer Park	Sep 20	Wild Park
Sand Martin	Mar 24	Southwick Beach	-	-
Swallow	Mar 16	Widewater	Nov 10	Hove
House Martin	Mar 25	Patcham	Oct 31	Sheepcote
Tree Pipit	Apr 1	Brighton	Oct 9	Sheepcote
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 17	Tegdown Hill	Oct 7	Goring Beach
Nightingale	Apr 23	Stanmer Park	Sep 4	Sheepcote
Redstart	Apr 20	Stanmer Park	Oct 20	Brighton
Whinchat	Apr 16	Sheepcote	Oct 13	Sheepcote
Wheatear	Mar 2	Worthing Beach	Oct 14	Wild Park
Ring Ouzel	Mar 28	Tegdown Hill	Nov 11	Sheepcote
Sedge Warbler	Apr 7	Beeding Brooks	Sep 15	Sheepcote
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 19	Stanmer Pk/Tegdown Hill	Oct 6	Sompting
Whitethroat	Apr 9	Sheepcote	Oct 13	Sheepcote
Garden Warbler	Apr 15	Stanmer Park	Sep 8	Sheepcote
Willow Warbler	Mar 24	Tegdown Hill	Oct 18	Brighton College
Spotted Flycatcher	May 14	Hove	Oct 5	Southwick Hill
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 21	Sheepcote	Oct 14	Hove

BAR-HEADED GOOSE One was grazing beside Wiston Pond on May 9.

EMPEROR GOOSE One was on Widewater on Apr 4.

COCKATIEL One was seen at Broadwater, Worthing on Jul 30.

ZEBRA FINCH One was in Sheepcote Valley on Apr 21.

RINGING REPORT FOR 2004

During 2004 a total of 2,969 birds were ringed in the area; a small increase of 9% on the total of 2,726 for 2003. As usual a small portion (6.5%) were ringed as nestlings and nearly 80% of this total of 194 pulli were ringed by Dr Barrie Watson and John Holt. Most birds (93.5%) were mist-netted and ringed as fledged birds.

Once again the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG), comprising Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, David King and Matt Aeberhard operating from their usual three sites, contributed the largest total. The *Constant Effort* ringing and trapping of autumn migrants on the northern slopes of Cissbury produced 1,093 new birds and 262 retraps whilst at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve the totals were 820 new birds and 259 retraps. The SRG's total was made up of 26 pulli ringed in Chris Fox's Wiston garden. It was another good year at the Sanctuary where the author, helped by Judith Ballantyne and Pam Mears, ringed 724 birds and retrapped a further 293 birds. Additionally 64 birds were ringed in John Newnham's West Worthing garden. The grand total for the year was reached by 242, mainly nestlings, ringed by Barrie Watson and John Holt.

With similar ringing activity to recent years it is not surprising that a similar number of different species were ringed. The annual totals for the 47 different species ringed in 2004 are shown in **Table A**. The totals for Barn Owl and Nightingale are the highest recorded in the area although eight Nightingales were also ringed in 1994. No new species were added to the area ringing list but two species were trapped only for the second time. A Woodcock trapped at Cissbury followed one ringed at the Sanctuary in 1982 and no Cetti's Warbler has been trapped in this area since one at the Sanctuary in the autumn of 1977.

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2004

Sparrowhawk	2	Blackbird	153	Marsh Tit	5
Kestrel	2	Song Thrush	98	Coal Tit	4
Woodcock	1	Redwing	3	Blue Tit	287
Stock Dove	2	Cetti's Warbler	1	Great Tit	132
Woodpigeon	1	Sedge Warbler	14	Treecreeper	7
Collared Dove	1	Reed Warbler	135	Jay	6
Cuckoo	1	Lesser Whitethroat	30	Magpie	1
Barn Owl	11	Whitethroat	129	Starling	38
Kingfisher	5	Garden Warbler	24	House Sparrow	1
Green Woodpecker	5	Blackcap	594	Chaffinch	55
G S Woodpecker	1	Chiffchaff	439	Greenfinch	33
Swallow	22	Willow Warbler	115	Goldfinch	15
Wren	98	Goldcrest	99	Bullfinch	37
Duncock	129	Firecrest	5	Yellowhammer	4
Robin	167	Spotted Flycatcher	5	Reed Bunting	2
Nightingale	8	Long-tailed Tit	42	Total	2969

Recoveries and Controls

At the time of writing recoveries or controls involving 35 birds were reported during the year. The following is a selection of the more interesting ones.

Black-headed Gull:- There were recoveries involving seven different birds of which four were additional observations of birds previously reported. The saga of EP36792, originally ringed at Washington refuse tip in November 1993, continues as it was seen at Radipole Lake, Weymouth in January 2004 and was back in Sjaelland, Denmark by 24th April 2004. The other three reports were:-

25-Nov-89	Adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
14-Aug-03	Dead	Sjaelland, Denmark	5010 days	961 km	56°
14-Feb 81	Adult	Southwick, West Sussex			
23-Mar-04	Dead	Canterbury, Kent	7713 days	109 km	65°
29-Dec-84	Adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
15-Jun-93	Killed	Kylahti Polvijarvi, Kuopio, Finland	3090 days	2228 km	54°

The last of these has taken over ten years to report, no doubt the finder may have been reluctant to report the find as the gull was poisoned to protect the "crop" on a Finnish fur farm.

Common Gull:- There were two recoveries, both elderly birds, to add to those plotted in the *Sussex Bird Report* 46:pp120-122.

06-Dec-80	Adult	Worthing Beach, West Sussex			
01-Jul-03	Road casualty	Luolavuori, Turku, Finland	8242 days	1773 km	53°
09-Feb-83	Adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
12-Nov-03	Controlled	Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire	7581 days	85 km	346°

Herring Gull:- One ringed at Sompting Refuse tip in February 1982 was found injured in Brighton in May 2004.

Barn Owl:- Few Barn Owls have been reported in previous years; this unfortunate young individual was found without a wing on the airport and was thought to have been involved in a strike with an aircraft.

15-Jul 03	Pullus	Brinsbury, West Sussex			
21-Jan-04	Found dead	Shoreham Airport	190 days	22 km	South

Reed Warbler:- Although there is nothing particularly unusual about the site of these recoveries two reveal rapid movements in an unexpected direction for the autumn.

29-Jun-02	Adult female	Steyning, West Sussex			
21-May-04	Found dead	Eastbourne, East Sussex	692 days	45 km	ESE
24-Jul-04	Juvenile	Steyning, West Sussex			
29-Jul-04	Controlled	Worplesdon, Surrey	5 days	47 km	NNW
15-Sep-04	Juvenile	Icklesham, East Sussex			
17-Sep-04	Controlled	Steyning, West Sussex	2 days	69 km	W

Blackcap:- Additional to those detailed below there were movements recorded in Sussex between the Shoreham Sanctuary (01-Sep-01) and the Mumbles, Steyning (10-Jul-04); Steyning (17-Aug-02) and Uckfield (12-May-04) and Steyning (04-Sep-04) and Icklesham (09-Sep-04). Note the dates for this last mentioned movement were only five days apart and, coincidentally, the same site in Surrey controlled birds from both the Mumbles and the Sanctuary.

23-Aug-04	Juvenile male	Catterick Garrison, North Yorkshire			
25-Sep-04	Controlled	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex	34 days	400 km	167 deg
06-Sep-03	First year male	Shoreham Sanctuary			
20-Apr-04	Controlled	Sandwich Bay Estate, Kent	227 days	126 km	68 deg
04-Jul-04	Juvenile	Shoreham Sanctuary			
02-Sep-04	Controlled male	Worplesdon, Surrey	60 days	54 km	335 deg

Chiffchaff:- The following was the only movement recorded in this year.

03-Jul-04	Juvenile	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex			
21-Sep-04	Controlled	Icklesham, East Sussex	80 days	74 km	East

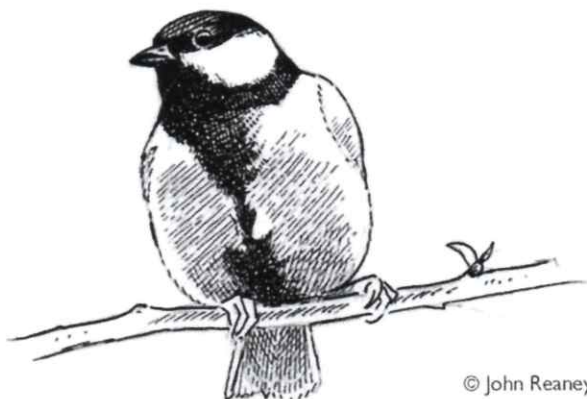
Blue Tit:- This usually sedentary species produced two movements within Sussex as follows:

05-Oct-02	First year female	Mumbles, Steyning, West Sussex			
04-Feb-04	Found dead	Horsham, West Sussex	488 days	17 km	North
29-May-04	Pullus	Friars Gate, Crowborough, East Sussex			
09-Oct-04	Controlled	Shoreham Sanctuary, West Sussex	133 days	41 km	227 deg

Great Tit:- Two juvenile birds ringed at the Sanctuary June and July 2004 were subsequently controlled at the Mumbles in July and October respectively.

Like previous years there were several local recoveries and birds retrapped 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.

John Newnham



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STEYNING RINGING GROUP REPORT FOR 2004

Mumbles

Only 12 ringing sessions were held at the Mumbles during the year, but the numbers of birds captured remained high. No sessions were held during "winter" months, at either end of the year.

Most of the work through January and February was the usual cutting and pollarding, but at the end of the year I embarked on an ambitious project to abandon the recently installed, but already rotting, board walk along my strip of Strivens Reedbed and instead raise the level of the ground using old railway engine clinker, more on that next year.

Val and Ralph came along on four sessions apiece. However, most ringing sessions were accompanied by Matt Aeberhard who gained his "C" permit at the end of the year after two years intensive work, with the help of other trainers and his own enthusiasm. Dave King, for so long a reliable stalwart of the group and operator of chainsaws, moved higher up onto "A" permit status at the beginning of the year. Whilst doing most of his ringing on or around Ashdown Forest where he works, he still found time to help fill in with the CES and with the Management work.

The Open Day was held on 4th September, when the full team turned out with Barrie and Ann Watson also in attendance to help with demonstrating, extracting and so on and so forth. The day was one of the best yet, both with numbers of visitors and birds, the latter totalling 110 captures of which 95 were new birds.

The year's analysis:

	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	totals
Sessions	1	1	3	2	3	2	12
New	26	99	205	162	239	89	802
Retrap	14	10	49	64	59	67	281
Total	40	109	254	226	298	156	1083

Of the highlights, the totals included one Sparrowhawk, three Kingfishers, two Redwings, eight Nightingales from two pairs, but only eight Sedge Warblers were caught during the year compared with an unprecedented 160 new Blackcaps and with Chiffchaffs on a high on 84. An October session brought the first Mumbles Firecrest.

A once regular breeder Turtle Dove was possibly heard and seen on 10th July, and on the 24th two Peregrines were overhead, a Nuthatch was heard the same day. A Spotted Flycatcher was about on 6th August.

Feeders were erected at the usual sites in October, which for the final session of the year in October added eight Goldfinches to the totals.

Phil Clay

Cissbury

Once again the bonfires were burning brightly during the cold winter months as we continued our battle to keep the undergrowth in check. Four or five clearance sessions enabled us to just break even or even gain ground on the rapid growth. The volume of chain sawing is now starting to reduce and the site is becoming more manageable with loppers and bowsaws.

The ringing began, as usual, in May when once again we attempted to achieve 12 ringing sessions by the end of August at roughly ten day intervals. With a smaller number in the group, and allowing for holidays and other family events, this is not always easy. But with David King's help, who was prepared to come all the way down from Ashdown for a 05:45 start, we made it once again! The reason for the 12 sessions is to comply with what the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) call Constant Effort Session (CES) ringing. This "constant" effort means we can more gain benefit from comparing the ringing data from year to year than if the ringing sessions were carried out entirely at random. 2004 was our 13th year of CES ringing and proved to be one of our best.

The overall figures hide mixed fortunes. Adults of resident birds were in good numbers overall during the breeding season but Dunnocks and Blackbirds were scarcer whereas more Chaffinches were present. Adult migrants were around in reasonable numbers with more Chiffchaffs, eight being the highest ever recorded, but few Garden Warblers, just two this year, although in a couple of years in the past they have been absent altogether. The number of both resident and migrant juveniles caught was above average. Of the residents Blue Tits and Chaffinches did well but just one juvenile Bullfinch was the lowest ever. By contrast three juvenile Yellowhammers was a record! Winner of the migrant productivity class was Chiffchaff with 36 young being a site record. They were closely followed by Whitethroat; a total of 45 being the best since 56 in 1992, our first year of CES ringing. Overall a grand total of 398 birds were recorded, beaten only by 413 in 2000. A good year!

After August we continued to ring as and when we could and managed a further seven sessions until early November. We always hope for the spice of a rarity to enliven proceedings but although there was nothing exceptional, Cuckoo, two Firecrests and three Spotted Flycatchers enlivened proceedings. Best of all was a superb Woodcock, flushed from one of our tracks and into a net on 7th November. However bird of the year award must go to the humble Chaffinch whose numbers shot up from an annual average of around 15 to an astonishing 46! More evidence perhaps that Cissbury is becoming a woodland, rather than a scrubland, site.

The Chaffinch success story nicely leads me on to mention briefly that discussions opened up in late 2004/early 2005 between ourselves and the National Trust, by whose kind permission we are allowed to ring, on their future management plans for the Ring, particularly the north-easterly slope. The Trust view the managed scrub of our ringing site as the model they would like to achieve for the whole slope but resources as ever are the problem. Initially, to keep new growth in check, they plan to introduce trial grazing during the winter of 2005/06 when it won't interfere with our ringing and progress from there. We'll keep you informed!

Brian Clay

SANCTUARY REPORT 2004

This brief report on the activity at the Society's Sanctuary is based on the records from the notebooks of Dr Barrie Watson and the author. The copse was visited on about 60 days with 24 long sessions for mist-netting. For a second year the details of several of the short visits and all of the mist-netting sessions were posted on the Society's Yahoo group and the tables and analysis can still be found on the group's computer site. As usual trapping was confined to the summer and autumn months with the 24 sessions spread between 15th May and 6th November. There were five ringing trips in each of the months July, September and October and all, except one in September, were conducted in the morning (usually 0700 to 1300hrs). The total of 1,018 birds trapped, of 27 different species, comprised 724 new birds, 293 retraps and one control (bird ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at the sanctuary). The following table, which is extended from recent years, shows this was a successful year for ringing at the Sanctuary with the highest number of birds caught in one session since 1990 and a similar average catch to 2003.

Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for 1989 - 2004:

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

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
No sessions	13	18	21	17	20	22	27	24
Average catch	25	34	30	34	36	41	43	43
Year best	46	55	61	55	49	79	74	80

Like 2002 and 2003, good numbers of Warblers were trapped although Willow Aphids did not appear on the coppiced osier until late in the autumn. Again both Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were ringed in large numbers; the totals of 128 ringed Blackcaps and 158 Chiffchaffs are second only to the totals achieved in 2003. However, after two good years for Reed Warblers only 38 individuals were trapped possibly reflecting the deteriorating quality of the *Phragmites* reed in the copse. Goldcrest numbers were unusual for the Sanctuary and the annual total of 29 was the second highest behind the 57 trapped in 1975. Once again there was a dearth of graniferous species ringed with Chaffinch (eight) and Greenfinch (one) being the only examples.

As usual there was little activity in the first few months and only eight visits were logged in my notebook between January and March. On 11th January a work party of seven Worthing Conservation Volunteers and six ringers coppiced the overgrown Hazel and Elder patch on the south side of the copse. The area certainly looked very bare afterwards but by the autumn there was already significant growth. It should become a

more productive area in the Sanctuary in the next few years. By late January the copse was flooded and this attracted a Water Rail which could be heard but never seen. Violets were in bloom on 15th February but no true signs of spring were recorded until the first Chiffchaff and two Brimstones were seen on 21st March. Four Chiffchaffs were singing on 28th March and thereafter the arriving migrants were recorded with Blackcap on 4th April, Willow Warbler on 19th April and both Reed Warbler and Whitethroat on the 24th.

The breeding season seemed fairly successful with several pairs of Chiffchaffs, Blackcaps and Reed Warblers nesting. The Kestrel nest box was empty when checked on 7th May but by early July a pair of Sparrowhawks were feeding recently fledged young. On 13th June, a rather late date, a pair of Peregrines were displaying over the copse. Records of interest during the summer included ca 100 Swifts feeding over the copse during a heavy rain shower on 17th July; two young Badgers briefly seen in the mid-morning on 24th July; a partial albino Reed Warbler trapped also on 24th July and both Mistle Thrush and Reed Bunting (scarce species now) recorded on 26th August.

On most Sundays in the summer months a large car-boot sale gathered in the fields just to the west of the copse but did not cause any problems with the ringing activities although the annual R.A.F.A. display on 29th August was certainly very noisy. A Kingfisher was recorded on this date and the first autumn Grey Wagtail on the 4th September. Like the autumn of 2003 few diurnal migrants were recorded passing overhead; the first 12 Redwings were noted on the 12th October and at least 40 Fieldfare flew northeast during a brief visit on 10th October. Finches were very scarce with no notable Goldfinch movements noted with just single Siskins on 15th and 30th October and the only three Redpolls also on the 30th. Single Firecrests were trapped on 17th October and 6th November and a Cetti's Warbler, only the second for the copse and first since 1977, was also ringed on the 6th. Chiffchaffs lingered on into the late autumn as up to four could be found regularly feeding in the tall weeping willows in November. The last, with a Blackcap, was recorded on 5th December.

The copse remained very dry throughout the autumn and the lawn of the Pumping Station degenerated further into a rough nettle patch. No Bee Orchids were found again this year, just a few Pyramidal Orchids and on 14th August there were 40 spikes of Autumn Ladies Tresses. The dry conditions helped on 14th November when the annual cutting and clearing of the Osier took place. Not only were the usual Willow patches coppiced but also a portion of the reedbed was cut and raked by the Worthing Conservation Volunteers. This coppicing programme produces a vigorous growth of young Willow which is attractive to aphids.

Access to the sanctuary remained difficult with large security notices being posted in early January. The gates remain padlocked and the area was regularly patrolled by security guards. In the late part of the year new tenants were grazing their horses in the pasture on the south side of the copse and Mark and Lorna (with their enormous Rottweillers) moved away from the cottage. I would like to express the society's thanks to them and to the staff of Southern Water for their help and co-operation throughout the year. I also thank the Worthing Conservation Volunteers and members of the society for their help in the conservation work and thank Dr Barrie Watson, Judith Baker and Pam Mears for help with maintenance and the ringing activities.

John Newnham

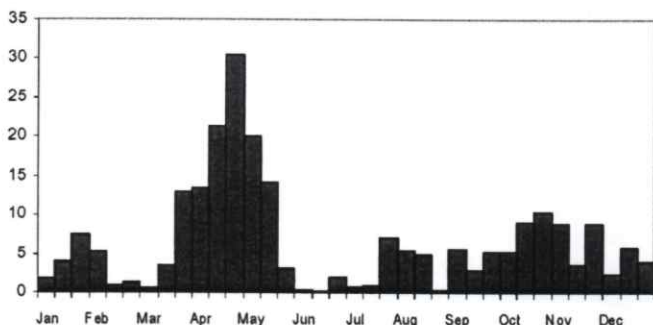
WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2004

Introduction

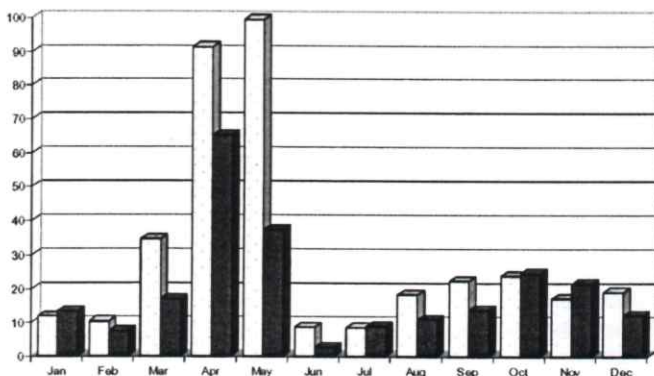
The sea at Worthing was watched, albeit on some days for a very short time, on 210 different days in 2004; a decrease of 18% on the 256 days recorded in 2003 but similar to the effort of 2002. Observers produced records for 28 days in April, 25 days in November and 23 in May whilst, at the other end of the spectrum there were just five days with records in June and eight in July. The total hours watched (234) showed a 25% reduction from the 310 hours recorded in 2003. Computerised sea-watch data are available since 1978 and for these 27 years the hours watched in 2004 was ranked 17th; conversely there were 10 other years when less hours were spent sea-watching.

In keeping with recent years the watching effort from Worthing was overshadowed by that from Brighton Marina in the east and Selsey Bill in the west. The pattern of watching, as shown in the following graphs, was similar to previous years with the spring months being the time when observers are prepared to spend most time watching the shore. However the figure shows a marked gap between the average effort and that for 2004 particularly in the three key spring months and the 37 hours recorded for May watching was the lowest for the 27 years. Only in January, October and November did the watching exceed the previous 26 year average and once again the watching effort in the last third of the year was more consistent due to the regular early morning watches done by Alan Carter.

The number of hours watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2004



The monthly effort for 2004 (black) compared with the average for 1978-2003 (white)

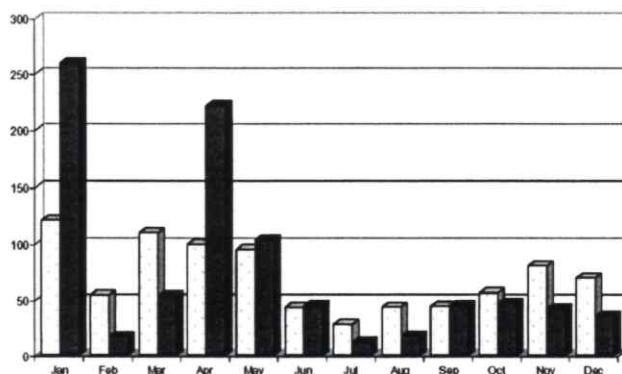


With fewer hours watched predictably fewer birds were recorded with the total of 26,347 non-passerines showing a 23% reduction on that for 2003. Once again January produced the most birds in each hour watched but both April and May produced more birds and better rates of passage than 2003. As usual these 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	13	7	17	65	37	3	9	11	14	25	22	12	234
Total birds	3452	127	911	14429	3868	117	105	192	624	1168	917	437	26347
Birds/hour	260	17	54	222	104	45	12	18	45	47	43	36	112

The following plot compares the monthly rate of passage in 2004 (dark grey) with the average for the years 1978-2003 (pale) and shows, like last year, the exceptional numbers of birds recorded in January. In spring March was poor, the rate of passage in April was over twice the average and, despite a poor effort, May reached 100 birds per hour. From summer until the end of year only September matched the average for the previous years.

The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched 1978-2003 average (pale) & 2004 (dark)



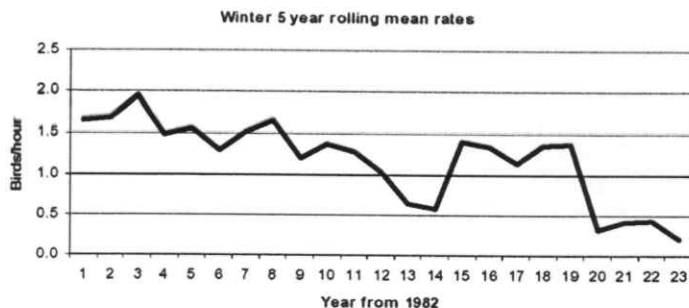
During 2004 a daily log was used for the better days during the spring and, as usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing. The report, however, includes observations from other sections of Worthing's foreshore and from Goring and Ferring beaches. Occasional records were gleaned from the Society's "Yahoo" group e-mails but often these lacked details of times, flight directions and only recorded some of the more interesting species. 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:- S.R.Allen, M.N.Brayshaw, P.M.Brayshaw; A.Carter, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives; J.A.Newnham; K.Noble, M.G.Prince, T.K.Rackstraw, R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith; J.C.Steedman and R.Tofts



CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT and DISCUSSION

The above graphs show that large numbers of birds were recorded in the winter months. Once again auks were numerous offshore. The highest counts were 700 E on 26th January and on the 27th when 1,500 moved west in two hours watching during NE3-4 winds. Interestingly the early morning observations on this date suggested a predominantly east movement (82) of mainly guillemots whilst between 10-11:30hrs the majority were Razorbills and moving west. The appearance of large numbers of auks in the winter is a fairly new phenomenon (SDOS 50:62) and the rate of 84 birds/hour, although the lowest of the past four years, is still four times greater than any year prior to 2001. The movements of other species were not notable as only 16 Kittiwakes were recorded in January, a total of 72 divers (mainly Red-throated) and the peak movement of Gannets, a species also recorded in higher numbers in recent winters (SDOS 50:63), was 78 E on 26th January. Waders were regularly recorded on the beach with a maximum of 500 Dunlin on 10th January and 90 Grey Plovers on the 17th. Offshore there were 61 Great-crested Grebes on 27th January with 67 noted on 15th February whilst numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers were 225 on 27th January and 126 on 28th February. Five Eider flying east on 21st January were the most unusual birds recorded during the winter. This species was once regularly noted offshore but, as the following graph suggests, the numbers have slowly been diminishing.

Eider:- 5 year rolling means of winter (Dec-Feb) rates of passage at Worthing.



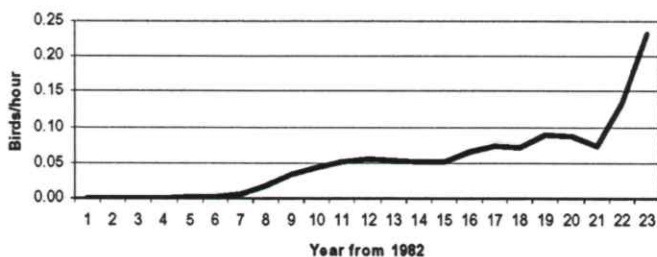
March is often a good month with large numbers of wildfowl noted moving eastward; this year the month was very disappointing. Both the figures for effort and rates of passage for March, shown above, were well down on the averages and only on the last day of the month was there any notable passage. This day produced 263 (out of a month total of 433) Brent Geese, 51 (out of 105 total) Common Scoter and 54 (out of 60) Sandwich Terns. The first Wheatear was on the beach on the 16th, the first Mediterranean Gull was recorded on the 23rd and the first two Sandwich Terns were not recorded until the 29th. More unusual were a Merlin which flew north off the sea on the 13th and two Peregrines which flew east on the 30th.

In stark contrast April was the most watched month, produced more than four times the number of birds than any other month and accounted for more than half the years total of non-passerines recorded. Amongst the large numbers of commoner species were three Slavonian Grebes offshore on the 2nd, an Osprey on the 7th, two Black-necked Grebes on the 15th, two Garganey on the 16th, two Avocets on the 26th and a Hobby on the 27th. The month totals for the more numerous species were 1,141 Brent

Geese, 2,040 Common Scoter and 1,782 Sandwich Terns. Wading species were less numerous with only 414 Bar-tailed Godwits and 257 Whimbrels. On 25th April the annual Society sea-watch outing was convened at Goring Gap; participants were not disappointed as 19 Mediterranean Gulls and 23 Velvet Scoters were recorded amongst a good selection of other species. Skuas, a group of species eagerly anticipated on sea-watches, were not numerous and seen in fewer numbers than other sites with just 30 Arctic Skuas (maximum of 7 on the 16th), 24 Pomarine Skuas of which 23 occurred on the 26th and 13 Bonxies with a maximum of four on the 18th. The month total of 53 Mediterranean Gulls is the highest recorded from Worthing and the following figure shows the rate of passage of this species in spring continues to grow in line with the continuing expansion of the population in north west Europe.

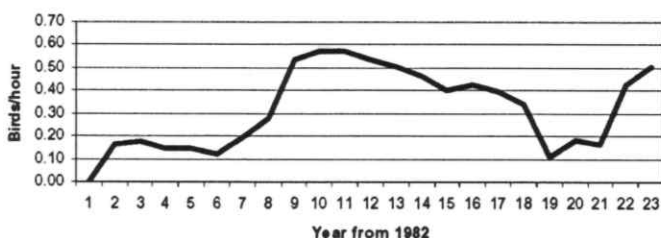
Spring 5 year rolling mean rates

Five year rolling mean spring (March- May) passage rates for Mediterranean Gulls



Spring 5 year rolling mean rates

Five year rolling mean spring (March- May) passage rates for Little Gulls



A similar plot for the equally attractive Little Gull shows this species is beginning to increase again; 45 were recorded during April but only ten during May. May started with promise as a light southerly wind on the 1st produced 167 Bar-tailed Godwits, 387 Common/Arctic Terns, an Osprey and the first of just three spring Black Terns. This last species continues to be declining as a spring passage bird (SDOS 51:63). On the 2nd May the tern passage continued but also 12 Pomarine Skuas were seen. Thereafter the month was again rather an anticlimax. A party of 25 Pomarine Skuas, initially seen off Selsey Bill, were seen on the 16th. Other highlights included a total of six Manx Shearwaters and a Shag on the 31st.

Sea-watching from late May until late September can be very quiet and many of the hours logged are periods of sitting on the beach enjoying the summer weather or, for the brave hearted, following a sea-water swim. The birds tend to be few and are invariably terns, waders or Gannets; 50 of this last species were offshore on 26th June but

more unusual was an Eider on 23rd July and two Black Terns on 12th and 18th August. Gannet numbers increased in September when 111 were recorded flying east on the 11th and 166 flying west on the 28th. The first autumn Brent Geese were recorded also on the 28th but no significant westward movement was recorded as meagre month totals of 177 in October and 351 in November indicate.



In settled weather in late September and October some impressive passerine movements can be recorded. At Worthing these movements are never as spectacular as at sites such as Beachy Head and the autumn 2004 was not notable with the highest counts on 11th October when, in one hour, 560 Swallows and 634 Goldfinches were seen. During October up to four Little Egrets were seen on the beach and often flew past the observers, single Black Terns were recorded on the late dates of the 19th and 23rd, two single Merlins were recorded on the 13th and 30th and a Little Stint was seen on the 30th. A very dark Buzzard was an unusual sea-watching sight on 9th November and equally surprising was a Goosander sitting on the sea, well apart from the Red-breasted Mergansers, on the 21st and single Long-tailed Ducks, possibly the same individual, on the 20th and 21st.

In the late autumn there were some high counts of Great Crested Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers feeding offshore, the maximum number of grebes was 103 on 24th November and up to 150 mergansers were recorded in both November (18th) and December (14th). There were two single Slavonian Grebes recorded in November and Shags seen on both 21st and 28th November. By the standards of recent winters few auks were recorded by the year's end with the December total of 11 Guillemots, 48 Razor-bills and 118 auk spp.

John Newnham

GAZETTEER NOTES

On the Gazetteer of notable sites in the SDOS area provided on page 86, 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

2004 WINTER GULL ROOST SURVEY (WinGS)

The results from the Shoreham area

Since 1953 the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has organised a decadal count of wintering gull roosts. Initially this enquiry only involved inland roost sites but in 1983 the counts were extended to include coastal locations. The complete exercise, usually completed in January, was repeated in 1993 and the third full national count was planned, a year later than expected, for January 2004. To achieve the best results a coordinated survey of both coastal and inland sites needs to be arranged. For the Shoreham area this was accomplished by a string of observers spread out at intervals along the coast during the afternoon and evening of Saturday January 17th. Dr Barrie Watson looked at the only non-coastal roosting sites in our area (the Adur estuary and Shoreham airfield) but no gulls were located and as the chosen day was bright with a light northerly wind all the gulls roosted offshore. Observers were asked, where possible, to identify each species, if this were not possible to assign birds to either small spp (Black-headed and Common Gull) or large spp, and finally, in fading light, to merely count all gulls.

Table 1 shows the results of counts from East Preston to the West Pier, Brighton; this covers most of the coast within the Society's recording area. The coast east of the West Pier was not counted.

Coastal strip	BHG	CG	HG	LBBG	GBBG	Small spp.	Large spp.	Gull spp.	Total
East Preston to Ferring Rife						5600	1400		7000
Ferring Rife to Ilex Trees	140	165	150	1		3944			4400
Ilex Trees to George V Ave	660	248	360	3	13	2670	60		4014
George V Ave to Worthing Pier			1140		4	1831			2975
Worthing Pier to Brooklands	574	46	860		16	220			1716
Brooklands to Widewater	1075	16	19			20			1130
Widewater to Shoreham Hbr	20		260	1					281
Shoreham Hbr to Hove Lagoon	1252	78	837			508	666	1870	5211
Hove Lagoon to Hove Lawns	333	17					25		375
Hove Lawns to Brighton West Pier	2726	144					106		2976
Total	6780	714	3626	5	33	14793	2257	1870	30078

Table 1. Winter Gull Roost counts from sections of coast East Preston to Brighton West Pier.

Clearly the largest concentrations were just west of the recording area off the greensward at Kingston Gorse, with progressively smaller numbers recorded in sectors going east until Shoreham Harbour. Most gulls were on the sea quite early in the afternoon and there were few skeins of small gulls moving off the land. The only appreciable number of small gulls arriving at dusk occurred over Goring Gap and settling just east of the Ilex plantation whilst observers watching the more urbanised areas noted a late influx of Herring Gulls, presumably coming from the roof tops where they are busy defending territories. This stretch of coast held 31% of the 98,000 gulls recorded roosting in Sussex.

The results for past surveys have been tabulated in the *Sussex Bird Report* (Newnham 1984, de Potier and Yates 1994) and although the boundaries are not quite the same, Table 2 shows the totals for the ca 30km of coastline of TQ00 – TQ20 (approximating the coast of the SDOS recording area excluding the coast east of West Pier but including a few kilometres westward of the Ferring Rife).

	BHG	CG	HG	LBBG	GBBG	Small spp.	Large spp.	Gull spp.	Total
1983 (Newnham 1984)	35882	5853	1177	6	298	8598	455	0	52269
1993 (de Potier and Yates 1994)	19663	2958	1244	19	576	1568	1931	0	27959
2004 (Newnham in litt)	6800	791	3779	5	35	16774	2257	1870	32311

Table 2 Winter Gull Roost counts for TQ00 – TQ20 for 1983, 1993 and 2004.

Table 2 shows the overall figures, the 2004 total being slightly greater than that in 1993 but only 62% of the large numbers recorded in 1983. Notable changes included a marked decrease in the number of Black-headed and Common Gulls, an increase in the number of Herring Gulls presumably as a result of the expansion of the roof nesting colonies, and a lack of black-backed gulls, in particular the Great Black-backed Gull. Nobody spotted a Mediterranean Gull although Dave Smith watched an interesting bird which was probably a hybrid Black-headed x Mediterranean and at least three observers recorded Black-headed Gulls with a full summer hood. Bance (2003) described how the largest inland roosts are found in stormy weather and past records show how windy conditions encouraged gulls to roost in the Adur valley. All the gulls on January 17th 2004, in this area, were roosting offshore. Presumably the next census will be in January 2013 or 2014.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the following who volunteered to count a section of the coast: Brian Clay, Martin and Pauline Ford, Clive Hope, Darrin Madgin, John and Sheena Maskell, Dave Smith, Barrie Watson and Peter Whitcomb.

References

- Bance, P 2003. The Bewl Water Gull Roost 2002. *Sussex Bird Report* **55**: 199-203.
 de Potier, A and Yates, B J 1994. Gulls roosting in Winter in Sussex in 1993. *Sussex Bird Report* **46**: 123-125.
 Newnham, J A 1984. Gulls roosting in winter in Sussex in 1983. *Sussex Bird Report* **36**: 64-68
 John Newnham

Indoor Meetings 2004

Our first speaker of the year was Jim Weston who came to us in January with a fascinating account of his Atlantic Odyssey Expedition Cruise in 2003. Led by Hadoram Shirihihi and Tony Marr and travelling from Ushuaia, Argentina to Ascension Island, South Atlantic between March 14th and April 12th, the group had compiled a very impressive list of birds and mammals. Jim took us on a journey visiting many islands around the Antarctic Peninsula and Weddell Sea, South Orkneys, South Georgia, Tristan da Cunha, Inaccessible Island, St. Helena and Ascension Island. Needless to say his bird list made us both admiring and jealous at the same time. It included many kinds of Penguins, Albatrosses, Petrels, Shearwaters, Prions, Terns and Gulls all with delightful descriptive names like Chinstrap, Shy and Soft-Plumaged, an endless list! Whilst Jim was able to recount some of the trials and tribulations of such a trip, these were far out-weighed by the pleasure he had obviously experienced.

Brenda Holcombe paid us a return visit in February with another island hopping adventure. This time it was the sub-Antarctic islands of New Zealand which she had visited with her husband who plans all their tours. She entertained us with a wide-ranging talk on the natural history of the islands and their many endemic species. Albatrosses included the Southern Royal, which has been known to live to 50 years old. Many New Zealand birds would be easily identified by any of us. There are about a dozen different Shags, Oystercatchers Black and Pied, Stilts Black and Pied and large numbers of waders very similar to those we see here. Then there are those we would not recognise Keas, Kakas, Wekas, Tuis and Pukekos! In the North Island they visited the small island of Tiritiri Matangi which is predator-free in an attempt to re-establish native species like the Saddleback, Kakaho and the flightless Takahe. It all adds up to the fact that our first two speakers were making a very good case for visiting the Southern Hemisphere.

It seemed appropriate to include a member of the RSPB's investigation team in our programme after our unfortunate experience with the breeding Ravens in 2003. So it was that Mark Thomas arrived to speak to us in March. His talk was of great interest to the audience and provoked much discussion. Although most of the serious wildlife crimes, involving gamekeepers and egg collectors, are not in our local area it is sad to hear that practices such as liming still take place in the British Isles. Mark spoke about the assistance the RSPB receives from Police Wildlife Liaison Officers and he made the point how this varies from one area to another.

After the business of the AGM our President, Bernie Forbes, decided he would test our knowledge of bird song. This was perfectly reasonable as he spends a good deal of time on outings getting us to listen and try to memorise specific songs as well as distinguishing the difference between Goldcrest and Firecrest, and the defiant sounds put out by the various Tits. Then there are the calls emitted by Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler..... The trouble is we may have been able to have a go at the songs or calls out in the field but it is quite a different matter to be sitting in doors with no helpful habitat around us. By the end we were all convinced that Bernie was very good at bird song identification, but of course he did have all the answers written down too!

Our Autumn programme began in October with a talk on the Natural History of the South Downs by author and naturalist Patrick Coulcher. Patrick showed a huge number of slides of birds, butterflies and flowers. He obviously has a vast knowledge of his subject but one should always be slightly wary that perhaps there are quite a few people in your audience who are knowledgeable too because we did spot a few errors in identification. His slides were excellent, some were not his own but when questioned on this he did acknowledge other photographers. Patrick's fast-moving style was popular with some of our members and a return visit was requested.

Ecotours in Eastern Europe was the first ever presentation given by Balazs Szigeti in November. John and Shena Maskell have worked with Balazs for some while and had helped him prepare his lecture. It was also the first time we saw the use of a lap-top as a projector which gave incredibly good full screen size pictures. Balazs talked very gently but with great enthusiasm about Transylvania and the Delta in Romania. There were superb slides of male and female Dotterel with their young and he described seeing over a hundred Chiffchaffs drinking together at a small lake. From where he lives he can watch Black Woodpecker, Long-eared Owl and Hawfinch from his window. The overall impression is that there are marvellous unspoiled places to visit, with birds in vast numbers which are easy to see. We were very impressed.



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To end the year a large audience of 73 (50% of the membership) greeted Peter Hughes, RSPB Warden of the Pulborough and Amberley Reserves. Peter's talk was entitled 'Cows, Ducks, Snails and Water' and gave us a good insight into the behind the scenes management that is necessary to keep this large Reserve in running order. He talked about the control of water levels where ditches had to be cleared carefully in short stretches to protect rare snails. Grazing cattle were also a very important management tool. Gentle flooding of the area was required but unfortunately as soon as the River Arun bursts its banks all the small mammals are destroyed. This is bad news especially for Short-eared and Barn Owls. Peter also told us about the nationally important numbers of various duck species that occur on both the Reserves and offered hope that sympathetic management would improve the chances of breeding waders in the future.

Once again our thanks go to all those who help at the indoor meetings but particularly to Diane and Terry Hicks who provide the refreshments so cheerfully and to Maureen Leeves who raises a significant amount of money for SDOS with the varied raffles she produces through the year.

Chris Wright

Field Outings 2004

As usual we started the year with a visit to Dungeness on January 11th led by Bernie Forbes. The seawatch produced several Guillemot, Razorbill, Red-throated Diver, Common Scoter, Little Gull and Mediterranean Gull. At the ARC Pits there were many Ruddy Duck, two Smew, Slavonian Grebe and Goldeneye. The RSPB Reserve offered little apart from another Slavonian Grebe. At Scotney the best bird was a ring-tailed Hen Harrier drifting over the reeds in the afternoon sunshine. A further stop at Northpoint GP produced two Goldeneye and a Long-tailed Duck. Finally at Pett Level we had close views of three Snow Bunting, a Shorelark, a Red-necked Grebe and a dozen Ruff. A very rewarding day to start the year.

A cold wind greeted the 14 members who joined Chris Wright for a walk on the Downs Link at Henfield on February 21st. Luckily it remained dry and bright and a Nuthatch showed well. Among the 40 species recorded were winter thrushes, a lovely male Pintail, Snipe, Kingfisher and several Bullfinch.

Bernie Forbes led the popular outing to West Dean woods on March 13th. Singing Marsh Tit and calling Brambling were a good start to the day. Siskin and Willow Tit soon followed. Raptor interest was provided by many Common Buzzard, Kestrel, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, ring-tailed Hen Harrier and two Red Kite. To round off the day two Brambling were among the Chaffinches at Staple Ash Farm.

John Newnham did a splendid job for the annual sea watch on April 25th at Goring. He found up to 19 Mediterranean Gull, 23 Velvet Scoter, four Shoveler, four Teal and many small flocks of Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit. Two Wheatear were on the beach and other species noted were Little Gull, Fulmar, many Common Terns and a few Sandwich and Little Terns.

The Dawn Chorus outing planned for May 2nd at Greatham Bridge was unfortunately a complete washout although one or two intrepid members still turned up.

Luckily conditions were much improved for Brianne Reeve's outing to Lancing Ring on May 16th. Up to seven Chiffchaff were recorded along with a few Whitethroat and five Blackcap, plus a Sparrowhawk. Butterflies seen included Holly Blue, Small Copper and Wall Brown and floral interest was provided by a fantastic display of hundreds of Early Purple Orchids in the woodland.

The outing to the New Forest was held at Fritham on May 23rd. As usual Bernie Forbes managed to locate Redstart, Wood Warbler, Spotted Flycatcher and Woodlark. We had good views of Garden Warbler, Cuckoo and Dartford Warbler. Regular sightings of raptors included Common Buzzard, Sparrowhawk, Peregrine, Hobby, Red Kite and a probable Honey Buzzard. A Little Egret looked out of place in the Forest - it just shows how widespread they now are.

Dave Smith led the walk to Ambersham common on June 12th. Among the 44 species recorded were at least three Hobby, six Tree Pipit, a Woodlark with young and several Dartford Warbler. Kestrel, Sparrowhawk and at least ten Common Buzzard were noted. A Golden-ringed dragonfly was an interesting find as this species is restricted to southern heathlands.

The evening outing on July 2nd started at Greatham Bridge. Bernie Forbes led us out on to Waltham Brooks where Barn Owl and Peregrine were soon picked up. Plenty of hirundines and Swifts were feeding over the reeds. We moved on to Lavington Common where a short walk turned up Dartford Warbler and Stonechat. Soon two or three Woodcock were roding and the evening was completed with a stunning display by a male Nightjar with two females close by.

It was a hot and sultry day for the downland walk at North Stoke on July 31st led by Chris Wright. Many Common Buzzard were seen with up to five in the air together. Kestrels were hunting over the stubble and a Peregrine was seen. It was good to hear Corn Bunting frequently. Willow Warbler and Whitethroat were heard and seen in the hedgerows with calling Bullfinch and singing Goldfinch. Two Hares were seen and the deep blue of the wild Cornflowers showed up well in the stubble.

Chris Wright was again the leader for the outing to Birling Gap on August 25th. A fine, calm day started with a sea-watch which produced only Fulmar, Common Tern and Little Egret. We embarked on a circular walk via Belle Tout and back through Horsehoe Plantation. It was a good day for hirundines and in and around the scrub there were many Whitethroat, Stonechat and Wheatear. We also found Blackcap, Willow Warbler, three Whinchat and a Peregrine. Adonis and Chalkhill Blue butterflies were in good supply and we managed to see a Silver-spotted Skipper, two Clouded Yellows and two Painted Ladies. After lunch we moved on to Shooter's Bottom where we had excellent views of at least ten Yellow Wagtail, three Redstart and three Lesser Whitethroat. Some members called into Arlington Reservoir on the way home to be entertained by a Black Tern.

Dave Smith led our joint outing with the SOS to Pagham on September 12th. The bushes in the car park revealed a Spotted Flycatcher and several Chiffchaff. Spreading out to 'scope the Ferry Pool in strong, blustery winds we managed to find Curlew Sandpiper, Common Sandpiper, two Ruff, two Avocet and many Dunlin, Black-tailed Godwit and Teal. A walk down the west side of the harbour produced Great Crested Grebe, Common Buzzard, plenty of Grey Plover and four Sandwich Tern. Small flocks of Wigeon, Teal and a few Pintail were added to the list. A Little Tern was fishing and a Water Rail briefly gave good views. A Grasshopper Warbler was flushed and most of the group at least had flight views. On the way back to the Visitor Centre for lunch some members saw a Kingfisher. There were plenty of Swallows but just the odd Sand and House Martin feeding above us and a Whimbrel passed overhead. At Church Norton after lunch the main objective was to seek shelter from the ever-increasing wind. However we were able to pick out roosting Terns which included 20 Sandwich, two Common and two Little which gave good opportunities for comparison. Up to four Mediterranean Gulls were seen, along with close views of Knot and another Curlew

Sandpiper. Those with the sharpest eyes also recorded Firecrest, Pied Flycatcher, Great-spotted Woodpecker and a few Common Whitethroat. A very good list in poor birding conditions.

The intended outing to Chantry Hill on October 23rd had to be cancelled due to torrential rain. A blessing in disguise as it turned out that a shoot was taking place that morning so the birds would have been disturbed more than usual.

Winter bird watching is usually good at Shellness and the outing on November 27th led by Chris Wright was no exception. With the weather mild and calm we were soon seeing Sanderling and Turnstone along the tide line when a Short-eared Owl appeared carrying prey. There were large rafts of Wigeon on the sea and a Black-throated Diver flew past. Marsh Harriers were quartering the banks of the dykes and a party of wild-fowlers caused many Red-legged Partridge to seek cover on a large earth bank. Huge flocks of Oystercatcher, Knot, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit and a few Ringed Plover were roosting on the Spit. Lunch was taken on the mound beside the Harty Ferry road where a Merlin, Hen Harrier and up to 12 Marsh Harriers were recorded. Despite our best efforts we were unable to round off a good day's birding with our main target - Rough-legged Buzzard. Still there's always next year!

Paul Stevens did a fine job on the Arun Valley outing on December 5th. He managed to find an elusive Bewick's Swan and we had excellent views of Peregrine and Common Buzzard. Fieldfare were prominent in the trees and two Nuthatches displayed themselves for everyone to see. As the light faded we tried hard to locate harriers and owls. Paul did spot a Hen Harrier drop into the reeds, then a late Buzzard and a Short-eared Owl showed in the gloom and a Tawny Owl was calling from the woodland as we headed back to the cars - a fitting end to the day.

The annual gathering at Fort Haven was held on December 28th with our past President, Stanley Allen, in attendance. The cold wind did not deter 22 members who were rewarded with views of several Guillemot, Great-crested Grebe and at least five Red-throated Diver plus a few Gannet. Five Turnstone were on the beach and a single Rock Pipit flew by. We moved to the Adur Recreation Ground car park from where we could see four Little Grebe and a crouching Snipe. Thirty Linnet were feeding on the salt marsh and a Kingfisher was sitting in the sun, occasionally moving its position on the wooden supports below the railway bridge, as it searched for fish in the river. Hundreds of Lapwing on the airfield were accompanied by a lone Ruff. A final call at Brooklands gave us 22 Pochard and two first year male Scaup, plus a few Tufted Duck, more Little Grebe and a Grey Wagtail.



© John Reaney

There were 16 outings arranged in 2004 and I am very grateful to all the leaders for their time and shared birding knowledge and to all those members who supported the leaders by their attendance, in all kinds of weather, on these enjoyable occasions.

Chris Wright

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2004

Records of birds seen in the gardens of 29 members were submitted for the year. A total of 62 species was recorded with records for the whole year being submitted in quarterly returns. Most species in a quarter, (26/09/04 – 25/12/04), 28, were recorded in Pat and Clive Hope's Storrington garden and in the quarter (28/03/04 – 26/06/04) in Christine Nichol's Steyning garden.

No species was recorded in every garden in every quarter. However, most gardens recorded Blackbird, Collared Dove, Blue Tit and Robin regularly throughout the year. Dunnock, Greenfinch and Great Tit maintained a good presence in most recording gardens while Starling and House Sparrow numbers appear to be steady at present with a maximum count of 120 for Starling and 42 for House Sparrow.

With most of our gardens located along this southern coastal strip there were few records of winter visitors such as Redwing (three gardens only), Siskin (three gardens only) and, indeed, no records for Fieldfare.

Other migrants included single records for Common Whitethroat, Reed Warbler and Turtle Dove, with two records for Firecrest. Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were recorded in 15 and eight gardens respectively. Blackcap was noted in 15 gardens, 12 of these gardens recording this bird in the months of December, January and February.

Reg Bradbury was fortunate to record Black Redstart and Waxwing in his Lancing garden, while Stanley Allen, in Shoreham, had several visits from a Little Owl. John Ford recorded a single Tree Sparrow at Steyning. Single records were received also for Kingfisher and Raven, both in Steyning gardens, by Keith Noble and Christine Nichols respectively.

Song Thrush, although appearing intermittently, was recorded in 23 gardens through the year. Sparrowhawk, was recorded in 15 gardens.

Eleven gardens recorded Green Woodpecker with 14 recording Greater Spotted Woodpecker. There were three records for Nuthatch.

Corn Bunting was recorded in one garden and Reed Bunting in four gardens. Two very interesting sightings were received, one, from Shoreham, being a bird which appeared to match the description of a Black Headed Bunting and another, from Hove, of two birds which appeared to match the description for Pine Bunting. Unfortunately, these two sightings have not been ratified.

The tables below show the top birds recorded in each quarter and indicate how these are related to the percentage of gardens used and the maximum number of these species recorded.

Martin Ford

Participants were : S. Allen, C. Allistone, R. Bradbury, E. Chadwell, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, S. Denman, J. Ford, M. & P. Ford, V. Hancock, K. Herbert, C. & P. Hope, H. Jackson, L. Keen, C. & M. Leeves, J. & S. Maskell, C. Nichols, K. Noble, A. Robinson, E. Robinson, R. Sandison, J. & J. Simpson, J. & J. Steedman, M. Taylor, R. Titcomb, D. Tomalin, P. Whitcomb, C. Wingate and A. Wisdom.

Season	Top Birds	Percentage of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Winter 2004 (28/12/03 to 27/03/04) 26 gardens recording 47 species	Collared Dove	100.0	20	4.5
	Blackbird	100.0	8	4.2
	Robin	96.2	3	1.9
	Blue Tit	92.3	10	3.5
	Starling	88.5	120	18.0
	Dunnock	88.5	4	1.9
	Great Tit	84.6	5	2.2
	Wood Pigeon	84.6	6	2.6
	Greenfinch	80.8	28	5.9
	Chaffinch	80.8	8	2.6
Spring 2004 (28/03/04 to 26/06/04) 24 gardens recording 47 species	Blackbird	100.0	5	3.6
	Blue Tit	95.8	8	3.4
	Robin	95.8	4	1.7
	Collared Dove	95.8	12	3.4
	Wood Pigeon	95.8	10	2.8
	Starling	91.7	61	13.6
	Dunnock	91.7	3	2.0
	Greenfinch	91.7	12	4.8
	House Sparrow	83.3	30	9.3
	Chaffinch	83.3	13	2.5
	Great Tit	83.3	7	2.1
Summer 2004 (27/06/04 to 25/09/04) 23 gardens recording 43 species	Blackbird	100.0	12	4.3
	Blue Tit	95.7	12	5.2
	Robin	95.7	4	1.7
	Dunnock	91.3	4	1.7
	Collared Dove	91.3	17	3.7
	Great Tit	87.0	4	2.1
	Greenfinch	87.0	16	5.0
	Wood Pigeon	87.0	6	2.3
	House Sparrow	82.6	42	11.7
	Starling	78.3	100	14.9
Autumn 2004 (26/09/04 to 25/12/04) 27 gardens recording 46 species	Robin	100.0	2	1.4
	Blackbird	96.3	9	4.0
	Blue Tit	92.6	9	4.3
	Starling	88.9	50	15.7
	Greenfinch	88.9	25	6.5
	Collared Dove	88.9	19	4.5
	Chaffinch	85.2	10	2.3
	Wood Pigeon	85.2	8	2.3
	House Sparrow	81.5	30	10.7
	Magpie	81.5	6	1.8

Receipts and Payments Account

For the year to 31 December 2004

	2004	2003
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	3,964.12	3,940.94
Subscriptions & visitors entry fee	1,700.00	1,323.00
Sale of books, reports, cards, video hire & stickers	11.00	13.00
Net raffle & refreshment receipts	168.03	134.71
Bank interest	46.54	34.39
Donations	17.00	29.30
	<u>5,906.69</u>	<u>5,475.34</u>

PAYMENTS

Printing & art work	261.80	602.35
Postage & stationery	127.84	175.17
Hire of hall	425.00	-
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	280.50	383.00
Insurance	188.70	186.20
BTCV Membership	25.00	25.00
Raffle prizes	23.23	18.00
Gifts	10.00	117.50
Donation to Albatross Appeal	50.00	-
Website registration	34.05	-
Purchase of reference book	13.50	-
Balance carried forward	4,463.07	3,964.12
	<u>5,906.69</u>	<u>5,475.34</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 15 February 2005

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.

BAKER TILLY, Chartered Accountants, BRIGHTON

Dated: 17 February 2005

Golden Jubilee Receipts and Payments Account

For the year to 31 December 2004

	2004	2003
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	4,172.34	1,938.45
Donation	-	2,000.00
Sale of pens	4.00	42.00
Bank interest	39.18	31.43
Sale of pictures	50.00	30.00
Sale of Jubilee book	1,848.86	370.00
	<u>6,114.38</u>	<u>4,411.88</u>
PAYMENTS		
Postage	60.64	-
Golden Jubilee book ISBN Registration	-	70.50
Picture framing	-	44.04
Artwork for Golden Jubilee book	-	125.00
Book printing	4,056.11	-
Balance carried forward	1,997.63	4,172.34
	<u>6,114.38</u>	<u>4,411.88</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 15 February 2005

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.

BAKER TILLY, Chartered Accountants, BRIGHTON

Dated: 17 February 2005



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TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2006

JANUARY			FEBRUARY			MARCH		
Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
1 Sunday	11 55 6.3	*****	1 Wednesday	00 57 6.8	13 16 6.7	1 Wednesday	00 00 6.7	12 13 6.9
2 Monday	00 23 6.5	12 42 6.4	2 Thursday	01 43 6.7	14 02 6.6	2 Thursday	00 38 7.0	12 57 6.9
3 Tuesday	01 11 6.5	13 31 6.4	3 Friday	02 29 6.5	14 50 6.3	3 Friday	01 20 6.9	13 40 6.7
4 Wednesday	02 00 6.4	14 20 6.2	4 Saturday	03 16 6.1	15 40 5.8	4 Saturday	02 03 6.6	14 24 6.4
5 Thursday	02 50 6.2	15 12 6.0	5 Sunday	04 07 5.7	16 35 5.4	5 Sunday	02 47 6.1	15 10 5.8
6 Friday	03 44 5.9	16 08 5.7	6 Monday	05 05 5.2	17 41 4.9	6 Monday	03 33 5.6	16 01 5.3
7 Saturday	04 42 5.6	17 10 5.4	7 Tuesday	06 15 4.8	19 01 4.7	7 Tuesday	04 26 5.0	17 03 4.8
8 Sunday	05 45 5.3	18 20 5.1	8 Wednesday	07 37 4.7	20 22 4.7	8 Wednesday	05 36 4.6	18 29 4.5
9 Monday	06 54 5.1	19 32 5.0	9 Thursday	08 50 4.8	21 27 4.9	9 Thursday	07 09 4.4	20 02 4.5
10 Tuesday	08 03 5.1	20 39 5.1	10 Friday	09 47 5.0	22 15 5.1	10 Friday	08 33 4.5	21 10 4.7
11 Wednesday	09 04 5.2	21 36 5.2	11 Saturday	10 31 5.2	22 54 5.4	11 Saturday	09 30 4.8	22 32 5.3
12 Thursday	09 56 5.3	22 24 5.4	12 Sunday	11 08 5.4	23 28 5.6	12 Sunday	10 11 5.1	23 02 5.3
13 Friday	10 40 5.4	23 06 5.5	13 Monday	11 40 5.6	23 59 5.7	13 Monday	10 45 5.4	23 03 5.6
14 Saturday	11 20 5.5	23 43 5.6	14 Tuesday	*****	12 10 5.7	14 Tuesday	11 15 5.6	23 32 5.8
15 Sunday	11 56 5.6	*****	15 Wednesday	00 28 5.9	12 39 5.8	15 Wednesday	11 43 5.8	*****
16 Monday	00 17 5.7	12 30 5.6	16 Thursday	00 57 5.9	13 09 5.8	16 Thursday	00 00 5.9	12 11 5.9
17 Tuesday	00 50 5.7	13 02 5.6	17 Friday	01 26 5.9	13 39 5.8	17 Friday	00 27 6.0	12 40 6.0
18 Wednesday	01 23 5.7	13 35 5.6	18 Saturday	01 57 5.8	14 11 5.7	18 Saturday	00 56 6.0	13 10 6.0
19 Thursday	01 56 5.6	14 08 5.5	19 Sunday	02 30 5.6	14 46 5.5	19 Sunday	01 27 5.9	13 43 5.9
20 Friday	02 30 5.5	14 43 5.3	20 Monday	03 07 5.4	15 27 5.3	20 Monday	02 00 5.7	14 19 5.7
21 Saturday	03 06 5.3	15 22 5.2	21 Tuesday	03 51 5.1	16 18 5.0	21 Tuesday	02 37 5.5	15 01 5.4
22 Sunday	03 47 5.2	16 06 5.0	22 Wednesday	04 48 4.9	17 27 4.8	22 Wednesday	03 23 5.2	15 54 5.1
23 Monday	04 35 5.0	17 01 4.8	23 Thursday	06 04 4.7	18 54 4.8	23 Thursday	04 22 4.9	17 05 4.9
24 Tuesday	05 34 4.8	18 09 4.8	24 Friday	07 33 4.9	20 18 5.1	24 Friday	05 43 4.7	18 36 4.9
25 Wednesday	06 45 4.8	19 26 4.9	25 Saturday	08 49 5.2	21 25 5.6	25 Saturday	07 15 4.9	20 01 5.2
26 Thursday	08 00 5.0	20 38 5.2	26 Sunday	09 49 5.8	22 20 6.1	26 Sunday	08 31 5.3	22 07 5.7
27 Friday	09 06 5.3	21 40 5.6	27 Monday	10 41 6.3	23 08 6.6	27 Monday	10 31 5.9	23 00 6.2
28 Saturday	10 04 5.7	22 34 6.1	28 Tuesday	11 28 6.7	23 54 6.9	28 Tuesday	11 22 6.4	23 48 6.6
29 Sunday	10 55 6.2	23 24 6.4				29 Wednesday	*****	12 08 6.7
30 Monday	11 44 6.5	*****				30 Thursday	00 32 6.9	12 52 6.9
31 Tuesday	00 11 6.7	12 30 6.7				31 Friday	01 14 6.9	13 34 6.9

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 26 March to 28 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex
Times and heights are approximate only

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2006

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

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 26 March to 28 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 2006

JULY			AUGUST			SEPTEMBER		
Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
Saturday 1	03 30 5.3	15 55 5.3	Tuesday 1	04 08 5.2	16 31 5.2	Friday 1	04 55 4.9	17 22 4.8
Sunday 2	04 10 5.1	16 36 5.1	Wednesday 2	04 49 5.0	17 15 5.0	Saturday 2	05 59 4.7	18 34 4.6
Monday 3	04 53 4.9	17 21 4.9	Thursday 3	05 39 4.8	18 08 4.8	Sunday 3	07 22 4.7	20 01 4.7
Tuesday 4	05 41 4.8	18 12 4.8	Friday 4	06 41 4.7	19 15 4.7	Monday 4	08 48 4.9	21 20 5.0
Wednesday 5	06 37 4.7	19 09 4.8	Saturday 5	07 56 4.7	20 30 4.8	Tuesday 5	09 57 5.4	22 21 5.6
Thursday 6	07 38 4.7	20 10 4.8	Sunday 6	09 10 4.9	21 40 5.1	Wednesday 6	10 52 5.9	23 13 6.1
Friday 7	08 42 4.8	21 10 5.0	Monday 7	10 15 5.3	22 39 5.5	Thursday 7	11 41 6.4	23 13 6.1
Saturday 8	09 42 5.1	22 06 5.2	Tuesday 8	11 10 5.8	23 31 5.9	Friday 8	00 00 6.6	12 26 6.8
Sunday 9	10 36 5.4	22 58 5.5	Wednesday 9	11 59 6.2	*****	Saturday 9	00 45 6.9	13 10 7.0
Monday 10	11 26 5.7	23 46 5.8	Thursday 10	00 19 6.3	12 46 6.5	Sunday 10	01 29 7.0	13 53 6.9
Tuesday 11	*****	12 14 6.0	Friday 11	01 05 6.6	13 32 6.7	Monday 11	02 14 6.8	14 37 6.7
Wednesday 12	00 34 6.1	13 01 6.3	Saturday 12	01 51 6.7	14 17 6.8	Tuesday 12	02 59 6.5	15 22 6.3
Thursday 13	01 20 6.2	13 48 6.4	Sunday 13	02 36 6.7	15 02 6.6	Wednesday 13	03 46 6.0	16 09 5.8
Friday 14	02 07 6.3	14 35 6.4	Monday 14	03 23 6.4	15 49 6.3	Thursday 14	04 38 5.5	17 04 5.2
Saturday 15	02 55 6.3	15 24 6.3	Tuesday 15	04 12 6.1	16 39 5.9	Friday 15	05 41 5.0	18 13 4.8
Sunday 16	03 45 6.2	16 14 6.1	Wednesday 16	05 06 5.6	17 35 5.4	Saturday 16	07 04 4.6	19 43 4.5
Monday 17	04 37 5.9	17 08 5.8	Thursday 17	06 09 5.2	18 42 5.0	Sunday 17	08 36 4.6	21 09 4.6
Tuesday 18	05 34 5.6	18 07 5.5	Friday 18	07 26 4.9	20 02 4.8	Monday 18	09 47 4.8	22 09 4.9
Wednesday 19	06 39 5.3	19 13 5.3	Saturday 19	08 50 4.8	21 20 4.8	Tuesday 19	10 36 5.1	22 53 5.2
Thursday 20	07 50 5.1	20 23 5.1	Sunday 20	10 00 5.0	22 23 5.0	Wednesday 20	11 14 5.4	23 28 5.4
Friday 21	09 02 5.1	21 30 5.2	Monday 21	10 54 5.2	23 11 5.2	Thursday 21	11 46 5.6	23 58 5.6
Saturday 22	10 07 5.2	22 30 5.3	Tuesday 22	11 36 5.4	23 50 5.5	Friday 22	*****	12 15 5.8
Sunday 23	11 02 5.4	23 20 5.4	Wednesday 23	*****	12 12 5.6	Saturday 23	00 27 5.8	12 43 5.9
Monday 24	11 48 5.5	*****	Thursday 24	00 24 5.6	12 44 5.8	Sunday 24	00 55 5.9	13 10 6.0
Tuesday 25	00 04 5.5	12 29 5.6	Friday 25	00 55 5.8	13 14 5.9	Monday 25	01 23 5.9	13 39 5.9
Wednesday 26	00 43 5.6	13 05 5.7	Saturday 26	01 25 5.8	13 42 5.9	Tuesday 26	01 53 5.9	14 08 5.8
Thursday 27	01 18 5.7	13 40 5.7	Sunday 27	01 54 5.8	14 12 5.9	Wednesday 27	02 24 5.8	14 40 5.6
Friday 28	01 52 5.7	14 13 5.7	Monday 28	02 24 5.8	14 41 5.7	Thursday 28	02 58 5.6	15 16 5.4
Saturday 29	02 25 5.6	14 45 5.7	Tuesday 29	02 55 5.6	15 13 5.6	Friday 29	03 38 5.3	15 58 5.1
Sunday 30	02 58 5.5	15 18 5.5	Wednesday 30	03 29 5.4	15 48 5.3	Saturday 30	04 28 5.0	16 54 4.8
Monday 31	03 31 5.4	15 53 5.4	Thursday 31	04 07 5.2	16 29 5.1			

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 26 March to 28 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex

Times and heights are approximate only

NO COPY/DIGIT

TIDE TABLES FOR SHOREHAM-BY-SEA 2006

OCTOBER			NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.	Day and date	Morning Time m.	Afternoon Time m.
1 Sunday	05 35 4.8	18 10 4.6	1 Wednesday	07 04 5.2	19 35 5.3	1 Friday	07 41 5.6	20 10 5.6
2 Monday	07 02 4.7	19 41 4.7	2 Thursday	08 10 5.6	20 36 5.7	2 Saturday	08 40 5.8	21 07 5.9
3 Tuesday	08 28 5.0	20 59 5.2	3 Friday	09 06 6.1	21 29 6.2	3 Sunday	09 33 6.1	21 59 6.2
4 Wednesday	09 36 5.5	22 01 5.7	4 Saturday	09 55 6.4	22 18 6.5	4 Monday	10 21 6.2	22 48 6.3
5 Thursday	10 30 6.1	22 52 6.2	5 Sunday	10 40 6.7	23 03 6.7	5 Tuesday	11 07 6.3	23 33 6.3
6 Friday	11 18 6.5	23 39 6.7	6 Monday	11 24 6.7	23 48 6.7	6 Wednesday	11 51 6.2	24 03 6.3
7 Saturday	*****	12 03 6.9	7 Tuesday	*****	12 08 6.6	7 Thursday	00 18 6.2	12 34 6.1
8 Sunday	00 24 6.9	12 46 7.0	8 Wednesday	00 32 6.5	12 50 6.3	8 Friday	01 01 6.0	13 17 5.8
9 Monday	01 07 6.9	13 29 6.9	9 Thursday	01 16 6.2	13 34 6.0	9 Saturday	01 44 5.8	14 00 5.5
10 Tuesday	01 51 6.8	14 12 6.6	10 Friday	02 02 5.8	14 20 5.5	10 Sunday	02 28 5.5	14 45 5.2
11 Wednesday	02 35 6.4	14 56 6.1	11 Saturday	02 51 5.4	15 11 5.1	11 Monday	03 14 5.2	15 32 4.9
12 Thursday	03 22 5.9	15 42 5.6	12 Sunday	03 46 4.9	16 10 4.7	12 Tuesday	04 04 4.9	16 25 4.7
13 Friday	04 13 5.4	16 36 5.1	13 Monday	04 53 4.7	17 23 4.5	13 Wednesday	05 00 4.7	17 25 4.6
14 Saturday	05 14 4.9	17 44 4.6	14 Tuesday	06 10 4.6	18 41 4.5	14 Thursday	06 02 4.7	18 29 4.5
15 Sunday	06 35 4.6	19 13 4.4	15 Wednesday	07 20 4.7	19 46 4.6	15 Friday	07 03 4.7	19 30 4.6
16 Monday	08 06 4.5	20 39 4.5	16 Thursday	08 14 4.9	20 34 4.9	16 Saturday	07 58 4.8	20 23 4.8
17 Tuesday	09 16 4.8	21 38 4.8	17 Friday	08 56 5.1	21 14 5.1	17 Sunday	08 46 5.0	21 10 5.1
18 Wednesday	10 04 5.0	22 21 5.1	18 Saturday	09 33 5.3	21 49 5.4	18 Monday	09 29 5.2	21 52 5.3
19 Thursday	10 41 5.3	22 55 5.3	19 Sunday	10 06 5.5	22 23 5.6	19 Tuesday	10 11 5.4	22 34 5.6
20 Friday	11 12 5.5	23 26 5.6	20 Monday	10 39 5.7	22 57 5.7	20 Wednesday	10 50 5.6	23 14 5.8
21 Saturday	11 42 5.7	23 55 5.7	21 Tuesday	11 12 5.8	23 31 5.8	21 Thursday	11 31 5.8	23 55 5.9
22 Sunday	*****	12 10 5.9	22 Wednesday	11 47 5.8	*****	22 Friday	*****	12 12 5.9
23 Monday	00 25 5.9	12 39 5.9	23 Thursday	00 08 5.9	12 24 5.8	23 Saturday	00 38 6.0	12 55 6.0
24 Tuesday	00 55 5.9	13 10 5.9	24 Friday	00 46 5.9	13 03 5.7	24 Sunday	01 22 6.1	13 40 5.9
25 Wednesday	01 26 5.9	13 42 5.8	25 Saturday	01 28 5.8	13 46 5.6	25 Monday	02 09 6.0	14 28 5.8
26 Thursday	02 00 5.8	14 16 5.7	26 Sunday	02 16 5.6	14 36 5.4	26 Tuesday	02 59 5.9	15 20 5.7
27 Friday	02 38 5.6	14 56 5.4	27 Monday	03 09 5.4	15 33 5.3	27 Wednesday	03 54 5.7	16 18 5.5
28 Saturday	03 22 5.4	15 42 5.2	28 Tuesday	04 11 5.3	16 40 5.1	28 Thursday	04 54 5.5	17 24 5.4
29 Sunday	03 16 5.2	15 41 4.9	29 Wednesday	05 22 5.2	17 53 5.2	29 Friday	06 01 5.4	18 34 5.3
30 Monday	04 23 5.0	16 56 4.8	30 Thursday	06 34 5.4	19 05 5.4	30 Saturday	07 10 5.4	19 45 5.4
31 Tuesday	05 44 5.0	18 19 4.9				31 Sunday	08 16 5.5	20 50 5.5

Note: Times shown are for British Summer Time from 26 March to 28 October, and Greenwich Mean Time otherwise.

Tidal predictions for Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. Times and heights are approximate only. COPY RIGHT.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

RSPB: *Head Office:* The Lodge, SANDY, Beds, SG19 2DL. Tel: 01767 680551
Regional Office: 2nd Floor 42 Frederick Place, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 4EA.
Tel: 01273 775333

Brighton Members Group Leader: Marion Couldery, 81 Hove Park Road,
HOVE, BN3 6LN. Tel: 01273 555750

Local Reserve: Upperton's Barn, Wiggonholt, PULBOROUGH, RH20 2EL.
Tel: 01798 875851

BTO: *Head Office:* The Nunnery, THETFORD, Norfolk, IP24 2PU.
Tel: 01842 750050 fax: 01842 750030

Regional Representative: Dr Barrie Watson, 83 Buckingham Rd, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA,
W.Sx, BN43 5UD. Tel: 01273 452472

SOS: *Secretary:* Richard Cowser, Beavers Brook, The Thatchway, ANGMERING,
West Sussex, BN16 4HJ. Tel: 01903 770259

WWT: *Head Office:* SLIMBRIDGE, Gloucs, GL2 7BT. Tel: 01453 891900
Fax: 01453 890827

Local Reserve: Mill Road, ARUNDEL, W.Sx, BN18 9PB.
Tel: 01903 883355; fax 01903 884834

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, HENFIELD, W.Sx, BN5 9SD.
Tel: 01273 492630; fax 01273 494500

Pagham Harbour LNR:

Information Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7NE.
Tel: 01243 641508

English Nature:

Phoenix House, 33 North Street, LEWES, East Sussex, BN7 2PH
Tel: 01273 476595; fax 01273 407930

Chichester Harbour Conservancy contact:

Anne de Potier, Harbour Office, Itchenor, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7AW.
Tel: 01243 512301

Booth Museum of Natural History:

194 Dyke Road, BRIGHTON, E.Sx, BN1 5AA. Tel: 01273 292777

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital:

Penny Cooper, Cow Lane, Sidlesham, CHICHESTER, W.Sx, PO20 7LN.
Tel: 01243 641672

Rye Harbour NR: Dr. Barry Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, WINCHELSEA,
E.Sx, TN36 4LU. Tel: 01797 223862

Police Wildlife Liaison Officer:

Police advice is initially to ring 08456 070 999 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) Tel: 09068 700222

(Please report sightings on Tel: 01263 741140)

Birdline South-East Tel: 09068 700240

(Please report sightings on Freephone Tel: 08000 377240 or 07626 933933)

Rare Bird News Tel: 09063 888111

Met.Office: Weathercall national 7-day weather forecast: Tel: 09068 500400

Weathercall local 7-day forecast for Sussex, Surrey & Kent : Tel: 09068 500402

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

Birdnews: Tel: 01603 763 388 e-mail info@birdnews.co.uk

or visit www.birdnews.co.uk

Birdcall (via Focalpoint): Tel: 07092 247392

or visit www.birdcallonline.com

Birdcall (via Birdguides): Tel: 0800 919391 or visit www.birdguides.com

Rare Bird Alert: Tel: 01603 456789

USEFUL WEBSITES

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

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

Shoreham District Ornithological Society (SDOS): www.sdos.org

Bird Guides: www.birdguides.com (Has national rare bird sightings)

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

Kent Ornithological Society: www.kentos.org.uk

Focalpoint: www.birdcallonline.com (Has rare bird news)

Birdline SE: www.southeastbirdnews.co.uk

WSCC: www.westsussex.gov.uk

ESCC: www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk

General Portal (i.e. starting point for national & international sites):
birding.start4all.com

BBC online weather centre: www.bbc.co.uk/weather (also has tide tables for many birdwatching sites along the south coast)

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

BIRDING PUBLICATIONS

British Birds (monthly): The Banks, Mountfield, ROBERTSBRIDGE, E.Sx, TN32 5JY.
Tel: 0580 882039 or visit www.britishbirds.co.uk

Bird Watch (monthly): Solo Publishing Ltd, 3D/F Leroy House, 436 Essex Rd, Islington LONDON, N1 3QP Tel: 020 77049495; fax 020 77042767 or visit www.birdwatch.co.uk

Bird Watching (monthly): Apex House, Oundle Rd, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 9NP.
Tel: 01733 898100; fax 01733 466843 or visit www.birdwatchingmagazine.co.uk

Birding World (monthly): Stonerunner, Coast Road, Cley next the Sea, HOLT, Norfolk, NR25 7RY. fax 01263 741173 or visit www.birdingworld.freeserve.co.uk

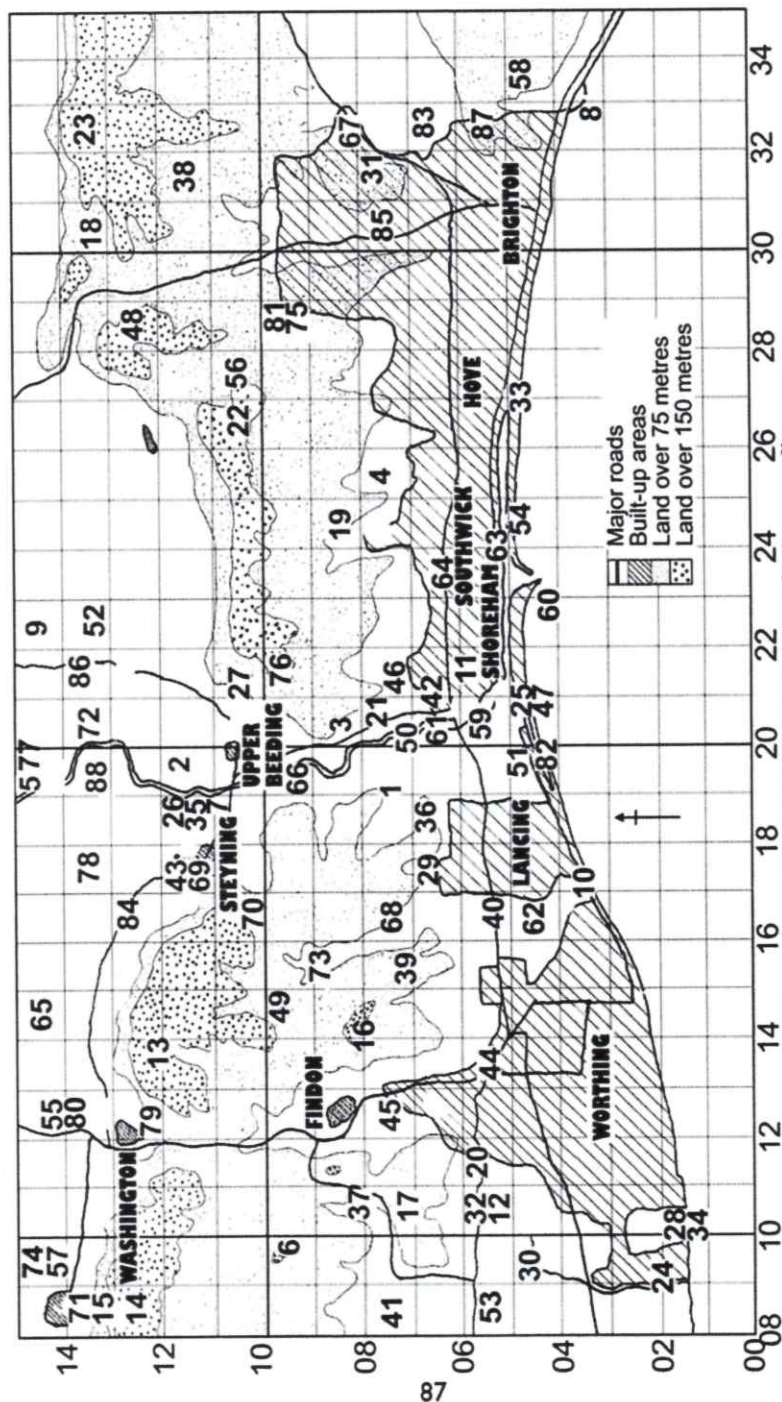
Rare Birds Weekly: Lee G.R.Evans, 8 Sandycroft Rd, Little Chalfont, AMERSHAM, Bucks, HP6 6QL. Tel: 01494 763 010 or visit www.uk400clubonline.co.uk

Birds Illustrated (quarterly): Buckingham Press, 55 Thorpe Park Road, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LJ. Tel: 01733 561739

Birdwatcher's Yearbook and Diary (annual): Buckingham Press, 55 Thorpe Park Road, PETERBOROUGH, PE3 6LJ. Tel: 01733 561739

LOCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AREA

1 Applesham Farm	TQ1907	31 Hollingbury Camp	TQ3207	60 Shoreham Fort	TQ2004
2 Beeding Brooks	TQ1911	32 Holt Farm	TQ1005	61 Shoreham Sanduary	TQ2106
3 Beeding Cement Works	TQ1908	33 Hove Lagoon	TQ2604	62 Sompington Brooks	TQ1604
4 Benfield Valley	TQ2608	34 Ilex Wood	TQ1001	63 Southwick Canal	TQ2404
5 Bines Bridge	TQ1817	35 King's Barn	TQ1811	64 Southwick Hill	TQ2307
6 Blackpatch Hill	TQ0909	Ladies Mile LNR	TQ3109	65 Spithandle Lane	TQ1514
7 Bramber Castle	TQ1810	36 Lancing Ring	TQ1806	66 St Botolphs	TQ1909
8 Brighton Marina	TQ3302	37 Long Furlong	TQ1006	67 Stanmer Park	TQ3309
9 Broadmare Common	TQ2115	38 Lower Standean	TQ3111	68 Steep Down	TQ1607
10 Brooklands	TQ1703	39 Lychpole Hill	TQ1507	69 Steyning Mill Pond	TQ1711
11 Buckingham Park	TQ2206	40 Malthouse Meadow	TQ1605	70 Steyning Round Hill	TQ1610
12 Castle Goring	TQ1005	41 Michelgrove	TQ0808	71 Storrington Mill Pond	TQ0814
13 Chandonbury	TQ1312	42 Mill Hill	TQ2107	72 Stretham Manor	TQ2013
14 Chantry Hill	TQ0812	43 Mumbles, The	TQ1811	73 Stump Bottom	TQ1509
15 Chantry Mill Pond	TQ0913	44 Muntham Park Crem.	TQ1109	74 Sullington Warren	TQ0914
16 Cissbury Ring	TQ1408	45 Nepote	TQ1208	75 Sweet Hill	TQ3009
17 Clapham Woods	TQ1107	46 NewErringham Farm	TQ2108	Tegdown Hill	TQ3110
18 Clayton Hill	TQ2914	47 NewSalts Farm	TQ2004	76 Truleigh Hill	TQ2210
19 Cockroost Hill	TQ2408	48 NewTimber Hill	TQ2712	77 Upper Adur Levels	TQ1914
20 Cote Street	TQ1106	49 No Mans Land	TQ1509	78 Wappingthorne	TQ1713
21 Cuckoos Corner	TQ2006	50 Old Erringham Farm	TQ2007	79 Washington Bostal	TQ1212
22 Devil's Dyke	TQ2511	51 Old Salts Farm	TQ1904	80 Washington Sandpits	TQ1213
23 Ditchling Beacon	TQ3313	52 Oreham Common	TQ2214	81 Waterhall	TQ2808
24 Ferring Rife	TQ0901	53 Patching Pond	TQ0805	82 Widewater	TQ2004
25 Flood Arch	TQ2004	54 Power Station	TQ2404	83 Wild Park	TQ3207
26 Glebe Farm	TQ1811	55 Rock Common	TQ1213	84 Wiston Pond	TQ1612
27 Goding Barn	TQ2110	56 Saddlescombe	TQ2711	85 Withdean Park	TQ3007
28 Goring Gap	TQ1001	57 Sandgate Sand Pit	TQ1014	86 Woods Mill	TQ2113
29 Halewick Tip	TQ1706	58 Sheepcote Valley	TQ3404	87 Woodvale Cemetary	TQ3205
30 Highdown Hill	TQ0904	59 Shoreham Airport	TQ2005	88 Wyckham Farm	TQ1913



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

SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2005

President 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 9JY Tel: 01903 753876 email: bernieforbes@btopenworld.com	Mr Bernie Forbes
Chairman of the Council & Hon. Secretary The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 0RS Tel: 01273 452497 email: briannereev@yahoo.com	Mrs Brianne Reeve
Hon. Field Secretary and Meetings Secretary 6 Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3TN Tel: 01903 814859	Mr Chris Wright
Treasurer 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7JJ email: jmaskell@wsqfl.org.uk	Mr John Maskell
Hon. Recorder Hillcrest, Byne Close, Storrington, West Sussex, RH20 4BS Tel: 01903 744489 email: clive.hope@virgin.net	Mr Clive Hope
Hon. Report Editor 10 Westmoreland Walk, Shoreham, West Sussex, BN43 5FX Tel: 01273 464784 email: penny@daveandpen.co.uk	Mrs Penny Green
Newsletter Editor 19 Roman Road, Steyning, West Sussex, BN44 3FN Tel: 01903 814083 email: noble@karg.freereserve.co.uk	Mr Keith Noble
IT Consultant 7 Berberis Court, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 6JA Tel: 01273 591120 e-mail: terrance.hicks@talk21.com	Mr Terry Hicks
Sanctuary Committee Dr John A Newnham Dr Barrie Watson	
Other Council Members: Mrs Diane Hicks Mrs Shena Maskell email: ecotours@tiscali.co.uk	

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 our 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 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 (please tick appropriate box):

Single	£12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Couple/Family	£18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Junior	£5	<input type="checkbox"/>

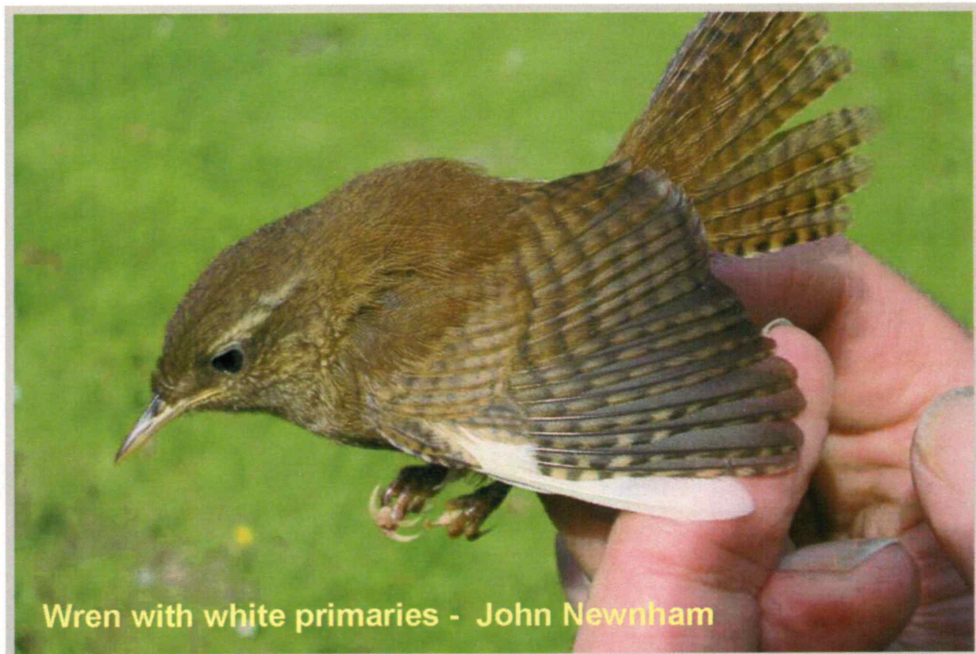
Life memberships available upon application

Cheques should be made payable to SDOS

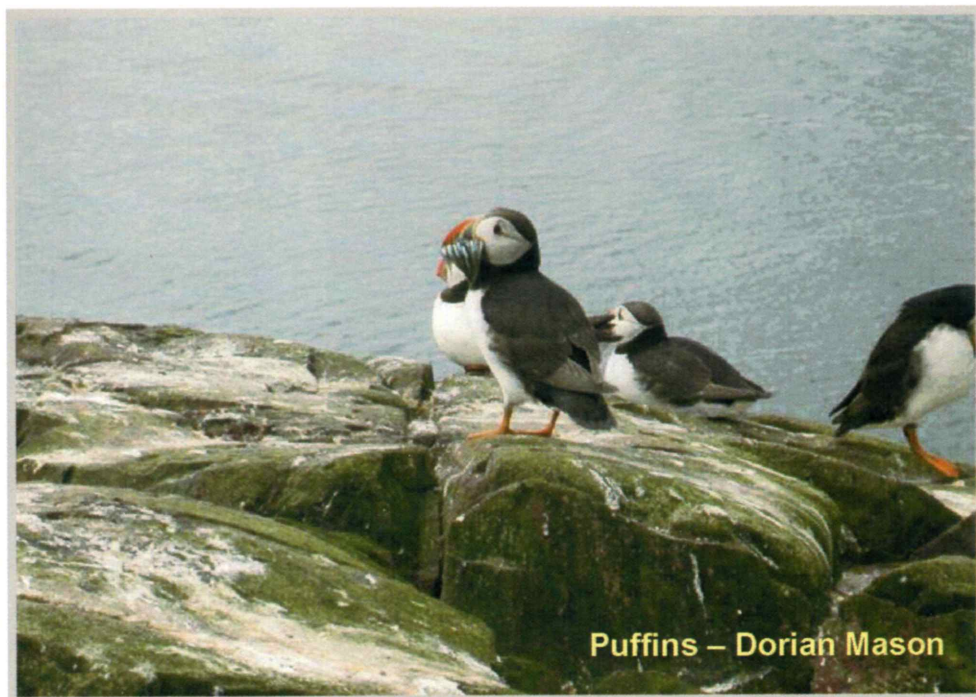
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Name	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone No	

Please send to SDOS Membership Secretary, 7 Berberis Court, SHOREHAM-BY-SEA, West Sussex, BN43 6JA.



Wren with white primaries - John Newnham



Puffins – Dorian Mason

