

Shoreham District
Ornithological Society
Annual Report 2005



No. 53



A juvenile Green Woodpecker and a male Great Spotted Woodpecker both ringed at the Sanctuary in 2005.

Pictures by John Newnham

Back Cover:
Long-eared Owl
by Dorian Mason



Grey Heron (Clive Cunningham)



Little Egrets (Clive Cunningham)



Great Cormorant (Clive Cunningham)



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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Front Cover image: Grey Phalarope by Clive Cunningham



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EDITORIAL

Since becoming the Editor last year, quite a few changes have happened in the taxonomy of the UK's birds. You will have noticed that in last year's report the order of the bird list had changed such as Swans being the first on the list, rather than Divers, and Ducks coming earlier in the list and so on. This year we are introducing other changes to come in-line with the new bird names and taxonomic order introduced by national bird organisations. We have followed the Sussex Ornithological Society in updating the bird names towards the British Ornithologists Union standards but with a small number of exceptions. This will make the transition a bit easier for us all as we get used to the new names.

2005 was an exceptional year for rarities in the SDOS area. Lots of records, of both dates and numbers, were broken in the year; you can find the full details in the Systematic List.

It's not always easy to make time to enjoy all that this area has to offer as there are so many good birding spots to get around to visiting, but we all have local patches or gardens where we can enjoy watching birds and watch the changing seasons. So whether you prefer seawatching, observing your garden birds or exploring the SDOS area we ask that whatever birding you like best, please do send us your records so that you can help contribute to our understanding of this fantastic place that we are lucky to know so well.

Thanks to John Reaney for the wonderful pictures that are drawn especially for the SDOS report. Thank you also to the photographers whose splendid photos have added colour to this report and thank you to the contributors of articles and writers of the species accounts that make this report possible.

Penny Green



BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES FOR 2005

January was generally a fine month with a windy spell soon after the start, but not really cold until about the 25th. The two Greater Scaup from 2004 remained at Brooklands and a Ruff was found near the Cement Works. A big seabird movement on the 2nd involved a record 1,150 Gannets, 1,300 Kittiwakes and a Great Northern Diver passing west off the Marina. Up to five Long-eared Owls were wintering at a downland site. Two Velvet Scoter passed the Marina on 8th and four more off Worthing on 30th. A Snow Bunting at Ferring and Goring Gap beach from 9th to 12th was a popular bird. Eleven Bewick's Swans were at Henfield Levels on 11th and Waxwings were seen near Shoreham and Moulescoomb on 15th and 28th. Large numbers of auks began appearing again offshore at Worthing late in the month.

February began cool and dry, was misty on 7th becoming quite windy (W6) on 10th then fine and cold with mostly dry weather till the month end. Red-necked Grebes were found off Worthing on 2nd and the next day a Woodcock passed the Palace Pier. Also on 3rd an Iceland Gull of the race known as 'Kumlien's Gull' (a first for Sussex) was found at the Marina and remained in the area, mostly around Roedean Golf Course, until March 21st. Another Waxwing flew over Lancing on 5th. Record numbers of auks were logged off the Marina on 9th (12,000) and several days had four figure counts to the 22nd. A Little Auk was seen off Worthing on 13th. Five hundred and fifty Gannets went east past the Marina on 22nd and 2,000 Brent Geese did likewise on 25th with 600 more on 26th. The WeBs count at Goring/West Worthing found 309 Red-breasted Mergansers on the sea there.

March was very cold early on but sunny warm weather came in on 16th. SE winds appeared on 21st then it was fine and warm from 26th to 28th but ending dull and damp. Returning Lapwings (800) flew in off the sea at Brighton on 3rd. Five Jack Snipe were found on the WeBs count at Henfield Levels and a Cetti's Warbler began a lengthy stay on Beeding Brooks. Shags numbered six at the Marina on 9th and a Scandinavian Rock Pipit was identified at Shoreham Fort on 12th when seven Slavonian Grebes were off Goring. A fall of 18 Wheatears occurred on the 15th at Southwick and a Stone-curlew, a rare bird in Sussex these days, was seen flying into mist at Roedean Bottom on the edge of the area on 18th. A Dartford Warbler was near there on 20th when our earliest ever Common Tern passed Worthing and two Garganey did likewise at the Marina, with three more on 23rd. An Avocet was off Worthing on 21st and three Black-necked Grebes at the Marina on 23rd. A very early Nightingale was heard in song near Steyning on 25th and Serins were flyovers at the Marina and Edburton on 26th and 28th. The first Red Kite of the year was over Brighton on this last date.

April had light southerlies early in the month but alternated with wet and windy conditions until mid month when light winds predominated going round to ESE from 19th to 23rd. It was dull and breezy again on 25th then light rain and southerlies returned from 26th to 28th. A wandering Glaucous Gull showed elusively at the Marina, Adur estuary and Brooklands from the 1st and there were four Black-necked Grebes

at the Marina on 3rd when 25 Mediterranean Gulls (out of a month total there of 120) passed off shore. One of the year's undoubted highlights was found on this day at the Adur Recreation Ground in the form of a beautiful Great Spotted Cuckoo. It moved to Brooklands until 9th and was enjoyed by many. The first Redstart and Cuckoo of the year also appeared in this period. Five Waxwings on 6th at Brooklands and a Spoonbill on 8th over there and later at Widewater kept the quality high. Two Red Kites and a Marsh Harrier were seen at Findon on 12th and Brighton on 17th respectively. Five Pied Flycatchers were found in the month with the first at Wild Park on 16th. Good seawatching at the Marina from 21st to 23rd produced day counts of ten Avocets, 370 Fulmars, 32 Arctic Skuas, 600 Sandwich Terns and two Roseate Terns. Worthing seawatchers logged 20 Velvet Scoter and two more Garganey by the month end. Two very early Honey-buzzards passed north over Brighton on 30th.

May had the hoped for SSE on 2nd backing round to north by 4th and becoming fine. Mid-month was grey, but settled weather returned later. On the 1st, 18 Black-tailed Godwits and 66 Whimbrel passed Worthing but next day seawatchers there and at the Marina were kept busy with 20 Black-throated Divers, six Garganey, 515 Bar-tailed Godwits, 28 Arctic Skuas, seven Great Skuas, 1,581 'Commic' Terns, 1,130 Sandwich Terns, 330 Arctic Terns, three Roseate Terns and 25 Black Terns. Inland a Hoopoe was found at Henfield Levels and a pair of Garganey at Wyckham Wood marl-pit. Red Kite sightings numbered six in the month, all north of the Downs, and four Hobbies were together at Henfield Levels. More sea-watching on 12th and 15th produced 670 Fulmars off the Marina (a new day record), 360 Gannets and eight Little Egrets there, two Avocets off Worthing and two Manx Shearwaters passing over Widewater. Spring totals of terns at the Marina were 6,400 Sandwich and 16,450 Commics. On the 21st a Gull-billed Tern was found at Widewater. It later moved to the Adur near the Tollbridge where it remained on and off until June 8th and was appreciated by many as it fed on the mud. A busy month ended with a Wryneck at Wood's Mill for a couple of days.

June started cloudy and breezy but fine and sunny spells took over with a cool NE wind. From 8th to 10th a warm period ensued and the rest of the month was fine and dry. The month got off to a cracking start when two gorgeous Bee-Eaters appeared in gardens in the middle of Shoreham. They only remained until the next day before heading west. Also on this day a Crossbill was briefly in Goring and three more paid a brief visit to the recorder's garden on 9th. A Honey-buzzard came in off the sea at the Marina on the afternoon of the 6th when a Red Kite was also over Steyning Round Hill. Three were seen at Wyckham Farm, Steyning on 8th. Another rarity in the shape of a Common Rosefinch was seen at Goring on 11th before also moving west. A Fulmar gave Hollingdean the 'once over' on 12th; another Honey-buzzard was seen there on 24th. Our breeding birds had mixed fortunes. There were 21 Heron nests at Wyckham Wood. Four pairs of Peregrines bred in the area and all fledged young. Unfortunately the Ravens weren't so lucky. Oystercatchers raised a family on a Shoreham houseboat and pair of Little Ringed Plovers took up territory at Sandgate. Lapwings bred at three sites successfully raising eleven young. Ringed Plovers bred at the Marina raising two young.

July provided some much wanted rain at the beginning and end, but was very warm throughout. Forty-five Crossbills flew over Southwick on 8th and 20 more over Hollingdean next day when a Little Egret took to roosting in the Pavilion Gardens in Brighton. The only summering Water Rail to be discovered was at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes whereas the only young Cuckoo seen was being fed at Wood's Mill. Twenty Yellow-legged Gulls gathered on Southwick Beach and six Balearic Shearwaters were seen off the Marina or Southwick between 25th and 31st. Four Curlew Sandpipers were reported from the Adur on the latter date, when a Honey-buzzard was recorded over Edburton.

August was dry and warm. Willow Warblers were on the move in numbers from the 6th with 45 at Cissbury (23 were trapped at the ringing site). Raptors then dominated the scene with three Marsh Harriers over Brighton. Eight Buzzards were together over Chantry Hill on 11th and five Hobbies at Horsebridge Common, Ashurst on 21st. Three Pied Flycatchers at St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove on 17th were a good local find and singles appeared there until early September. The peak Common Tern movement was 130 west off Worthing on 19th. Four juvenile Curlew Sandpipers were on the Adur near the Tollbridge from 21st through to September and the year's only Little Stint there on 26th.

September started very warm and sunny with a thunderstorm on 4th/5th plus half an inch of rain. Mid month saw a change to autumn weather with 4°C on 17th in the north of the area. The first of four Wrynecks in the month was at Cissbury on the 1st and a Red Kite at Edburton on 2nd. Honey-buzzards were over Brighton on 3rd and Sheepcote on 19th. Some peak autumn counts of common migrants occurred in the month with 15 Spotted Flycatchers at Cissbury on 4th, 57 Blackcaps caught there on 11th, 20 Whinchats at Sheepcote on the same day (though none anywhere after the rather early date of 19th), 30 Wheatears at Chantry/Kithurst on 13th and 28 on Worthing and Goring beaches on 16th. Three hundred and fifty Siskins flew over Sheepcote on 17th. Ospreys appeared at Brighton on 13th, in the Adur Valley on 16th staying to October, and Southwick Canal on 20th. The WeBs count on the Adur logged 16 Little Egrets, a record for the area. Four Merlins were reported in the month. Rarities in the form of a juvenile Sabine's Gull on Southwick Canal on 28th and a Richard's Pipit at Sheepcote on 29th (the first since 1956) were only seen by a couple of observers.

October had cool dry days until a downpour in the middle and on 24th/25th when 1.75 in of rain fell. Eight Common Sandpipers on the Adur near the Cement Works on 3rd were the maximum for the autumn. Large numbers ('1,000s') of hirundines were on the move along the coast on 5th. A few Black Redstarts appeared at mainly coastal locations from 8th. Forty-eight Golden Plover were on Steyning Round Hill from 9th to 15th. Chiffchaffs numbered up to 70 at Brooklands on 10th with 50 still there next day, and also in good numbers were Goldfinches with at least 1,500 logged flying east in the month at Worthing/Ferring. A Hen Harrier was on the Downs behind Worthing from 16th that had been ringed in Geltsdale. The WeBs count of Coot at Brooklands totalled a record 243. The 16th signalled the start of a remarkable passage of Ring Ouzels after a few early singles. Well over a hundred visited the area with the largest concentrations in the Cissbury/Lychpole Hill area with up to an amazing 65 on 19th, and at Sheepcote with 16 on 18th. The year's only Wood Lark was at the latter site on 19th; it then hosted a Grass-

hopper Warbler and a Yellow-browed Warbler on 22nd followed by a Dartford Warbler on 26th. Eight hundred Stock Doves passed over Brighton on 23rd. Seabirds stole the limelight late in the month with a juvenile Long-tailed Skua and two Pomarine Skuas, and a Leach's Petrel at the Marina on 30th.

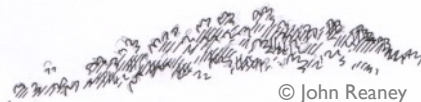
November experienced the highest and lowest pressures of the year (1,037mb and 987mb) within a three-day period between 22nd and 26th. There were thousands of Redwings over Brighton on 2nd and huge numbers of Wood Pigeons on 4th/5th with an estimated 175,000 over the city on the latter date. Strong onshore winds in the channel brought in five Grey Phalaropes to our area between 2nd and 19th with two at Brooklands on 12th. Also associated were an unprecedented 15 Leach's Petrels between 3rd and 11th and five Sooty Shearwaters all off the Marina, and another rarity in the shape of a Laughing Gull there on 3rd. A Sabine's Gull flew west there on 8th. Two Hawfinches over Cissbury on 4th and one at Findon next day were the year's only records. The third Spoonbill of the year was seen over Lancing on 7th when a Snow Bunting was seen at Ditchling Beacon (another was near Shoreham on 16th). Great Northern Divers flew west at the Marina on 8th and 11th and one was off Ferring on 19th. One hundred a forty three Cormorants were recorded going to roost up the Adur on 18th.

December was mixed; an inch of rain, a cold spell, heavy mists, bright sun and some frosts. New Year's Eve was a sunny and mild day. Three Little Auks passed the Marina over 2nd and 3rd. The presence of a Golden Pheasant on Beeding Brooks on 12th must have taken the finder by surprise. A family of Bewick's Swans returned to Stretham Manor on 13th and 22 Eider were off Goring on 17th. Other record highs for the area were the WeBs counts of Great Crested Grebes off Goring, 301, and Turnstones on the Adur, 101. Cormorants totalled 179 on 23rd in the Wiston and Beeding localities. The Brambling flock at Lee farm had re-assembled to 120 by 16th. Four Sandwich Terns were a surprise on the beach at Goring on 24th (our latest record). The year ended with yet another record. No less than 2,500, probably 3,000, Gannets in a feeding frenzy off Goring and Worthing over 26th/27th. Three Shags on 26th and three Goldeneye on 27th also passed there and a female Ruddy Duck was on Brooklands into 2006. Four or five Firecrests were wintering in the area.

A total of 210 species and three sub-species were recorded in the SDOS area in 2005.



Clive Hope, Recorder



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A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA

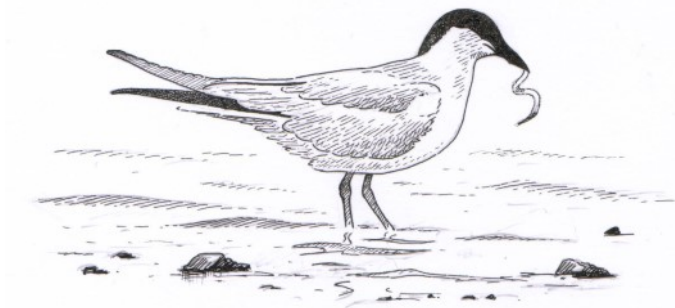
Please consider sending in some records at the end of the year, even if in the past you have not done so. You don't need to have a computer or use e-mail, although obviously if you do it helps. I can send anyone recording forms which are simple and self-explanatory. Please write to me if you want some, 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, 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5RG
Please enclose postage with your request.

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST FOR 2005

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.

SR Allen, VP Bentley, RC Bradbury, PM Brayshaw*, A Carter*, GL Champion*, R Chapple, BR Clay, PJ Clay, C Cockburn*, J Cooper, J Crix, B Easlea, RJ Fairbank*, JA Feest, BF Forbes, J Ford, CJ Fox*, D Green, P Green, R Hartfree*, JA Hobson*, CE Hope, RA Ives*, P James, JM Maskell, MJ Mason*, CW Melgar*, B Metcalfe, DK Newnham, JA Newnham, K Noble, RT Pepper, A Perrett*, DM Perry*, MG Prince*, RJ Sandison, DI Smith, M Snelling, JC Steedman, JM Steedman, P Thompson*, R Tofts*, M Tucker, AB Watson, AD Whitcomb*, IJ Whitcomb*, PJ Whitcomb, R Willows*, HMV Wilsdon, TJ Wilson*, C Wright. Also unnamed SOS contributors.

Abbreviations: ad = adult, BTO = British Trust for Ornithology, E = East, f = female, GC = Golf Course, imm = immature, juv = juvenile, m = male, mo = many observers, N = North, pr = pair, S = South, SF = Sewage Farm, 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.

References to Worthing in seawatching data include all sites between Lancing and 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.), D.Smith (Terns & Skuas), M.Snelling (Cuckoo to Waxwing, Crows), P.Whitcomb (Chats, Flycatchers & Crests), C.Wright (Raptors).



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

Some monthly peak counts from selected sites were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Henfield Levels | 38 | 38 | 52 | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 24 | 50 | 36 |
| Steyning Levels | 8 | 20 | 25 | - | - | - | 59 | - | 27 | 24 | 28 | 41 |
| Upper River Adur | 79 | - | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lower River Adur | 16 | 11 | 1 | 9 | 24 | 62 | 72 | - | 11 | 10 | 8 | 2 |
| Upper Beeding | 4 | 2 | 3 | - | 4 | 8 | - | 5 | 2 | - | 2 | 2 |
| Shoreham River Adur | 21 | 10 | 12 | - | 24 | 38 | - | 74 | 10 | 8 | 18 | 8 |
| Widewater | 30 | 20 | 14 | 21 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 12 | 31 | 10 | 12 |
| Brooklands | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 2 |

Some overlap in numbers and localities is inevitable in the above table. A total count of 92 was made between Bines Bridge and the A259 at Shoreham on Jan 2. At Hove Lagoon there were 19 on Sep 20, 32 on Oct 11, 39 on Nov 14 and 36 on Dec 10, and at Old Salts Farm 10 on May 1. Nine were in Brighton Marina on the 7th. Breeding success was noted at Patching Pond where five cygnets were seen, Steyning Levels with two pairs raising eight young and the Lower River Adur where a pair had three young. During the year ten were logged flying east and nine flying west at Worthing.

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

There were 11 birds on Henfield Levels on Jan 11, of which five were juveniles. At the end of the year a family party of two adults and two young were at Stretham Manor on Dec 13.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus***Rare winter visitor**

One of suspect origin was on Henfield Levels on Nov 6.

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

Recorded mainly from Henfield Levels/Stretham Manor and Upper Beeding/Beeding Brooks. There were 100 at the former site on Jan 11, apparently a record high, 20 in May including 2/3 goslings and just one in June. At the latter site between one and six were seen at the Fish Farm or Brooks on various dates. Ten flew east at the Marina on Apr 3. Twenty-one were counted on the Wiston Estate in Apr/May (where the species has previously bred). In the second year period, there were eight in November and six in December at Henfield Levels.

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

Counts at Beeding Fish Farm produced peaks of 80 in January, 20 on February, 10 in March and 50 in December. Elsewhere, there were 100 on Henfield Levels on Jan 11 with 15 there in February, 21 in the Wiston Estate in Apr/May and 57 at Shoreham Airport on Aug 23. Later in the year there were 83 at Edburton on Oct 22, 19 at Henfield Levels in November and 50 there, and 60 at Beeding Brooks, on Dec 3.

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE *Branta bernicla 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 |
|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | 24 | 20 | 504 | 1221 | 38 | 1 | - | - | - | 46 | 4 | 1 |
| West | 7 | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 816 | 114 | 3 |

No monthly figures are available from the Marina but high day counts were of 2,000 E on Feb 25 (a high number for so early in the year), 600 E on 26th and 200 E on Mar 21. One hundred flew high east over Sheepcote Valley on Apr 3. Passage was also noted off Hove with 152 E recorded over two dates and at Brighton Palace Pier with 137 over four dates. The first returning autumn birds were five at Southwick beach on Sep 25. Twenty five flew south over Brighton City on Oct 17 and five were on Widewater Lagoon on Dec 3.

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

One flew east at the Marina on Apr 22 (IJW), and one was in Shoreham Harbour on the mud by the sailing club on Dec 20 (PJ).

COMMON SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadorna***Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor – may breed**

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | - | 29 | 7 | 21 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| West | - | 7 | 8 | 29 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 | 7 |

Peak counts were 29 on Feb 7 and 18 on Apr 19. There were four at Beeding Fish Farm on Feb 10 and a pair on Henfield Levels on May 2 which may indicate a breeding attempt. They were also noted passing the Marina (max 6) and Palace Pier. The last spring sighting was of one in the Lower Adur Valley on May 30. No autumn records were received away from Worthing Beach.



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

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | 23 | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 17 | - | 5 |
| West | 39 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 6 | 78 | - | - |

Peaks were 49 on Jan 1 and 36 W on Oct 5. At Beeding Fish Farm there were 13 in January, two in February, at least three in March and 12 in December. Otherwise seven on the River Adur at Shoreham on Nov 22 and 13 at Widewater on Dec 31 were the rather low maxima amongst half a dozen other sites registering from one to four birds in a poor year for this species.

GADWALL *Anas strepera***Uncommon in the area**

Two flew west at the Marina on Jan 8 and eleven flew east at Worthing and five likewise at the Marina in April. Low numbers were recorded this year with no more than two together away from the coast at Beeding Fish Farm, Beeding Brooks, Widewater and Henfield Levels between Feb 17 and May 15 (surprisingly the last for the year).

EURASIAN TEAL *Anas crecca***Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

The River Adur Saltings held up to 44 in mid February and there were 24 at Beeding Fish Farm on Mar 13. Seawatching at Worthing accounted for 28 E during March and April, the last for the spring being seen on 3rd. Eight were at New Salts Farm (Lancing) on Sep 2 rising to 19 on Oct 10. Fifteen flew west off Worthing beach during September and October. Widewater hosted 52 on Nov 27 falling to 25 on Dec 27. A rather poor showing.

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 |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| R. Adur Saltings | 23 | 2 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 21 | 22 |
| Steyning Levels | - | 8 | 8 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Henfield Brooks | 2 | 18 | 12 | - | - | 20 | - | - | - | - | 26 | 2 |
| Beeding Fish Farm | 2 | 1 | 10 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Brooklands | 22 | 34 | 18 | 15 | 16 | 6 | 19 | 23 | 54 | 87 | 86 | 87 |
| Widewater | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | 9 | - | 19 | - | - | 14 |

Also recorded at Northbrook Farm (Worthing) with seven on May 1, Poynings Pond with five on Aug 26 and from one to three at numerous sites across the area. Only at Brooklands were young noted with ten recorded on Apr 28.

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

A pair on Jan 11 and two pairs on Feb 18, were on Henfield Levels. Thirty flying east at the Marina on Mar 21 and 17 E at Worthing beach during Mar/Apr constituted the spring passage. Just 5 W at Worthing during Sep/Oct were the only autumn birds.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce spring passage migrant

Two flew east at the Marina on Mar 20 and three on 23rd. One was on Henfield Levels on Apr 6 and two went east past Worthing on 30th. On May 2 a pair were flushed from the marl-pit at Wyckham Wood (Henfield) and six more flew east at Worthing the same day. Sixteen in a year is a better than average showing.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor

Wintering birds were one at Henfield Levels on Jan 11 and one at Beeding Fish Farm in February. Four were also there on Mar 13. Spring passage constituted 26 E at the Marina on Mar 21 when seven were also noted at Hove and ten at Worthing. Another 15 passed the latter site on Apr 2 with two more on the 22nd. The only late year record was of 7 W at Worthing beach on Oct 5. As with Wigeon and Teal reduced numbers were recorded during the year.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

Other than one on Widewater in November, only recorded from Brooklands where monthly maxima were as follows:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 25 | 24 | 27 | 1 | - | 1 | 2 | - | - | 2 | 8 | 15 |

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Declining winter visitor

The only records were from Wiston Pond where 12 were logged in two spring transects up to May 1, Henfield Levels with a pair on May 2 and Brooklands, where the monthly maxima were as follows:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 4 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 30 | 12 | 12 |

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

The two drakes from 2004 remained at Brooklands until Mar 12 when they had attained complete adult plumage. A single bird was on Widewater on 30th (RAI).

COMMON EIDER *Somateria molissima*

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

A single seen offshore at Shoreham Fort on Feb 5. Passage off Worthing beach was noted as follows:

Easterly movement also logged off Brighton Palace Pier with six on Mar 16 and Wide-

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 2 | - | 13 | 7 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 17 |

water had two on the same date. There were 22 on the sea off Goring beach on Dec 17 (one adult male) and three off Ferring on 22nd.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing beach were:

Nine were off Widewater on Jan 1 and twenty were noted off Goring on 31st and 12 on

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | 6 | 14 | 158 | 1027 | 767 | - | - | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 3 |
| West | 6 | 2 | - | 2 | 20 | 8 | - | 4 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 2 |

Feb 27. Totals received from Brighton Marina were of 80 on Mar 21, 93 on Apr 22 and 103 in May (two dates). Watches from Palace Pier, Brighton, logged 46 E to the end of April, 45 in May, 97 in June, five in July and five in November. A raft of 15 was off Wide-water on Sep 12.

VELVET SCOTER *Melanitta fusca*

Scarce passage migrant

January records were 2 E at the Marina on 8th and 4 E at Worthing on 30th. A further 20 moved east there in April, with a peak of 12 on 19th. The total for the Marina in the month was 40; also with a peak of 12 on 19th. Just one was noted in the late year period; 1 W off Ferring on Dec 15.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Uncommon winter visitor

All birds were seen moving west offshore and were singles off Worthing on Jan 9, Feb 22 and Nov 16 and off Goring on Dec 17 and three there, including an adult male, on 27th.



R E D -

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BREADED

MERGANSE *Mergus serrator***Common winter visitor**

As usual the largest numbers were seen on the sea off the coast between Worthing and Ferring; the following table shows the results of these counts:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 120 | 309 | 79 | 30 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 120 | 128 |

The February figure is for Goring/West Worthing and since 100 were on the sea off Ferring Rife on Feb 3, it is considered very probable that c.500 birds were present along the whole strip of coast. Easterly passage in the spring from the Marina noted 16 on two dates and 13 were logged off Hove on Mar 21. Worthing watches totalled 120 E during Mar/Apr.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis***Scarce visitor**

An adult female was on Brooklands from Dec 27 to 31 and into 2006 (BFF/DIS). This appears to be the first record for the area since Dec 25 1985.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa***Introduced resident. Status uncertain but numbers augmented by captive bred stock**

Recorded from ten sites on the Downs. The maximum count was 35 at Chantry Hill on Dec 18, almost certainly being released birds. The only other double figure count was 11 at Tegdown Hill on Jan 5. Although eight records were received from May to June, there was no indication of natural breeding. There were also a number of commendably honest records of unidentified Partridge species which were likely to be the commoner species and which would add a further two sites to the above and a count of 15 at Chanctonbury Ring on Nov 19.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix***Decreasing resident**

Seventeen records were received from 11 sites. During the breeding season there were nine records, mostly of pairs, from five sites. Two pairs were calling at Beeding Hill from the same location on Mar 27 and Apr 27. The maximum count was a covey of 47 filing across a rolled ploughed field on Oct 8. These were likely to have been captive bred. The only other double figure count was of 12 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 21.

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix***Rare summer visitor**

Thirty one records were received from the Shoreham District area (there were only 41 from the whole county during the same period). The first arrival was on May 29 at Steep Down (Lancing) from where most of the other records came and from where the maximum count of six singing birds on Jun 9 were heard. Three were singing at Thundersbarrow Hill on Jun 20. There was no positive evidence of any breeding. Singing birds were also heard at Steyning Round Hill, Beeding Hill and Chantry Hill. The last of the year was at Cissbury Ring on Aug 27.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus***Common introduced resident. Numbers augmented by captive bred stock**

Fifty eight records received from 27 sites across the region, all of them in small numbers with maxima of eight from Tegdown Hill, Worthing Golf Club and Stanmer Park. Two pairs bred at Brighton Wild Park. Pheasants may be common but they are doing their best to be noticed. A male was seen on the beach and groynes at Hove on Mar 17 and a female was observed swimming near the lock gates in Shoreham Hbr on Oct 11 and 12th. Melanistic birds were seen at Upper Beeding and Edburton.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus***Very scarce introduced resident**

A single record was received from Beeding Brooks on Dec 12 (JCS). This was the only county record for the year and considering the locality its origins are something of a mystery!

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

Monthly totals from Worthing seawatches were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | 17 | 4 | 5 | 10 | 19 | 5 | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| West | 11 | 11 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |

Other records included from Widewater, 5 W on Jan 1, four on 9th and 7 E on Dec 26 and from Brighton Palace Pier, 14 in February, two in March, four in November and one in December. An oiled bird was present in the Marina from Mar 9 to 11th. There were four off the entrance to Shoreham Harbour on Dec 23 and three at Goring Gap on 26th.

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

Totals for the first five months from the two main seawatching sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|------|
| Worthing | 1 W | 1 E | - | 6 E | 3 E |
| Marina | - | - | 1 E | 18 E | 48 E |

Two drifted close to the shore at Goring on Feb 9. The peak at the Marina was on May 2 when 20 were logged and elsewhere one was off the Palace Pier on 20th. At the end of the year one flew east off Worthing on Nov 16 and one was off Goring Gap on Dec 26.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER *Gavia immer***Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

Single first year birds flew west off Brighton Marina on Jan 2 and 8th. Adults in summer plumage moved east there on May 2 and 12th, and in November sub-adults flew west on 8th and 11th (all 1JW). One was off Ferring on Nov 19. (DIS)

DIVER Species

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | 6 | 3 | 13 | 12 | 5 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| West | 20 | 5 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |

Seven flew west off Shoreham Fort on Dec 29. No figures were received from the Marina.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder

Records were received from the following regular sites:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Lower River Adur | 4 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| R. Adur Estuary | 5 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |
| River Adur Levels | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 3 | - |
| Brooklands | 2 | - | 4 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 9 |
| Widewater | 5 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 6 |
| Wiston Pond | - | - | - | - | 5 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Breeding occurred at Brooklands where two pairs raised six young. One was seen at the Marina in May and one was on Southwick Canal on Dec 10.



GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*
Common, mainly winter, visitor to the coast
 Maximum numbers recorded offshore were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Goring Gap | 1 | 68 | 11 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 301 |
| Worthing | 40 | 97 | 15 | 15 | 6 | 8 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 88 | 20 |
| Widewater | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Shoreham Fort | - | - | 98 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hove | - | 20 | 50 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Palace Pier | - | 7 | 25 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Marina | - | - | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

The last spring record was on Jun 16 off Worthing. The Goring December count is by far the highest ever recorded for the area. Very small numbers were noted passing on seawatches.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*
Scarce winter visitor

Two were offshore at Worthing on Feb 2 with one still on 16th. Next day one was off Goring with other grebes.
 At the end of the year one was seen from Southwick Beach.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*
Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One on Jan 31 off Worthing beach was joined by two more birds by Feb 17 on which day three were also off Goring and one off Widewater. Two off Ferring on 19th were possibly from the same group. A count of seven off Goring on Mar 12 is the largest number at one site in our area since Jan 28 1987 (off Widewater). Two remained off Worthing until 18th and a pair was displaying off the Marina on Apr 7 and 23rd. Two present there on 29th were drifting east and one flew east the next day. At the end of the year one was off Goring beach on Dec 28. A good year for this species.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*
Scarce passage migrant

One or two were off Worthing on Mar 21 to 23rd and parties of three and four in summer plumage drifted east off the Marina on 23rd and Apr 3. One was again off Worthing on 30th.

FULMAR *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common passage migrant nesting just outside the area

The first records of the year were two at the Marina on Jan 14. Some large counts were

made there in April with 165 E on 17th and 370 E on 23rd with 670 E there on May 12 (a new area day record) and 74 on 15th. A dense raft of 165 on the sea off there on 29th was a most unusual sight. Passage at Worthing was as follows: Mar – 12 E and 9 W, Apr – 43 E and 20 W, May – 86 E and 35 W, Jun – 5 E and 6W. One flew over Hollingdean (Brighton) on Jun 12. Two were noted off Palace Pier (Brighton) on 14th with one there on Jul 22. In August, 2 E and 12 W were recorded at Worthing with the last there on 24th. Dark morph birds were off the Marina on May 14 and 24th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus*

Scarce passage migrant

In November, two flew west off the Marina on 3rd, two on 8th and one on 11th (IJW).

MANX SHEARWATER *Puffinus puffinus*

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor

Eleven flew west at the Marina on Apr 9 and four on May 15. At Worthing, one moved west on Apr 10, three on May 3 and three on 14th. Two flew over Widewater Lagoon on 15th and out to sea heading west (RB), a quite unprecedented occurrence. Singles were noted off Palace Pier on 19th and 24th.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus*

Rare summer visitor

There were 2 W off the Marina on Jul 2 and singles west off there and Southwick beach on 30th. On 31st another single flew east past Shoreham Harbour with a further single west at the Marina on Aug 23 (IJW). These records have been accepted by the SOS.

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Rare late autumn visitor

After one east off the Marina on Oct 30, no less than eight were seen at the same site on Nov 3 and six more on 8th with a further single on 11th (IJW). These coincided with the arrival of Grey Phalaropes in the area following strong onshore winds in the Channel. These sightings have been accepted by the SOS and constitute new record numbers for the area.

GANNET *Morus bassanus*

Present offshore all year

Monthly totals of birds moving (as distinct from assembling in a feeding flock) were as follows:

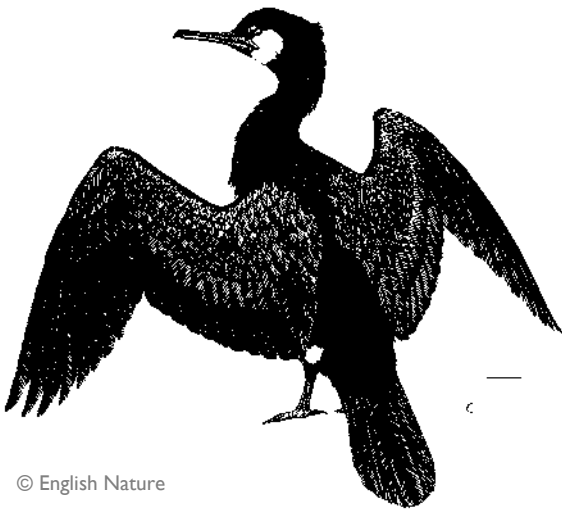
| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Worthing E | 82 | 184 | 90 | 226 | 285 | 17 | 2 | 27 | 5 | 23 | 2 | 20 |
| Worthing W | 308 | 74 | 80 | 61 | 118 | 27 | 7 | 88 | 70 | 722 | 34 | 428 |
| Marina E | - | 550 | 17 | 575 | 424 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Marina W | 1150 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Counts from the Marina are not complete but include the selected largest movements such as that on Jan 2 when a record movement of 1150 flew west and Feb 22 when 550 moved east, Apr 17 with 290 E and Apr 24 with 270 E and May 12 with 360 E. Birds were also recorded from Widewater and the Palace Pier. One was present on rooftops in Brighton again in the first half of the year. The largest gathering of this impressive seabird ever to be recorded in Sussex took place from Dec 26 to 27th when between 2500 and 3000 were present off Goring and Worthing as a spectacular fishing assembly. They appeared to move from the former site to the latter over the period presumably following a shoal of their prey.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common along the coast and at some inland roost sites

The largest numbers recorded were the roosting flight up the Adur Valley from Shoreham and Widewater to the Steyning Levels that steadily increased from 18 on May 30 (though none noted in June) to 60 on Jul 26, 106 on Sep 25, 120 on Oct 10 and finally the year peak of 143 (a new 'high') on Nov 18. Wiston Pond held 56 and 123 were at Beeding Brooks on Dec 23 suggesting a grand total of 179. One hundred and two flew south near the Sanctuary on 31st. Numbers off Worthing remained around the 30 mark for much of the year and small numbers were noted from numerous other sites.



SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant

One was off Brighton Palace Pier on Jan 17 and another was off Goring on Feb 9. The regular Marina birds were noted from 20th with six on Mar 9 and seven on Apr 10. One flew east off Worthing on 30th, the last date in spring. Two returned to the Marina on Sep 18 and one or two were seen on and off there until Dec 18. Singles were noted at Worthing on Oct 6, Shoreham Fort on Dec 3 and close inshore off Goring beach on 17th with two on 26th.

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

A large number of records in all months with maxima at the following sites being:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Ferring Rife | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - |
| Goring beach | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | - | 5 | 7 | - | - |
| Worthing | - | 1 | - | 1+4E | 1E | 1+1E | 3W | 4W | 5 | 5 | 1 | - |
| Widewater | 2 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7 |
| Henfield Levels | 1 | - | - | 4 | 4 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Upper Adur Levels | 3 | 2 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Beeding/Bramber | 1 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Steyping Levels | 3 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Steyping King's Barn | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lower River Adur | - | - | - | - | - | 7 | - | - | 1 | 2 | 2 | - |
| River Adur Saltings | 3 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | - | 7 | 12 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 2 |

Eight flew east at the Marina on May 15 in two flocks of four. Two passed Palace Pier on Jun 14. One was roosting by the main road near the Pavilion Gardens in Brighton on Jul 9 and three flew high over the city on 16th. One was at Brooklands on Aug 3, 14th and 20th. The September count at the River Adur Saltings (Shoreham) is the highest yet recorded.

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

Twenty-one occupied nests were found in Wyckham Wood (Henfield) but breeding success not recorded. A maximum of eight were on the River Adur at low tide on Jan 6 and nine were there on Oct 29. Up to four frequented Worthing beach in early October. Single birds seen away from the river valley were at Stanmer Park and over Cissbury Ring.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia***Rare visitor**

One flew over Brooklands on Apr 8 (JAF) and what was probably a different bird was seen at Widewater the same day (JAF). One flew over the riding stables at Lancing Old Salts Farm on Nov 7 (RB). These are the first records for the area since one on the River Adur on Jun 29 1987.

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus***Scarce migrant**

In the spring, two passed over Hollingdean (Brighton) on the very early date of Apr 30 (ADW, IJW, PJW) and singles arrived more typically at the Marina on Jun 6 (IJW) and over Hollingdean on 24th (IJW). One was seen at Edburton on Jul 31 (TJW). In September, single immatures were over Hollingdean on 3rd and east over Sheepcote on 19th (IJW). These records have been accepted by the SOS.

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

The earliest record was of one flying east over Brighton on Mar 28. One flew southeast at Findon on Apr 12 and another was seen over Cissbury Ring on 17th. One was reported by farm staff at Applesham on May 5 and the following day another flew west over Lancing. One flew east at Edburton on May 7 and another was over Stretham Manor on 8th. One flew east at Edburton on 30th and two were drifting west at Woods Mill the next day. One flew east at Steyning Round Hill on Jun 6 and three were following a forage harvester at Wyckham Farm on 8th. The only autumn record was of another at Edburton on Sep 2. Records of this species in our area appear to be increasing rapidly.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus***Scarce passage migrant**

A male was seen flying west at Brighton on Apr 17 and an immature female flew north over Worthing beach on May 7. Among fifteen autumn sightings at Brighton were three together on Aug 7 and a juvenile was seen flying west at Wiston Pond on 12th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus***Passage migrant and winter visitor**

Early year records were of singles at Lychpole Hill on Jan 1, Chantry Hill on 3rd and Tegdown Hill on 5th. A ringtail was at Edburton on 12th and one was seen from Goring on Apr 2. In the autumn numerous reports were received of a wing-tagged bird with a prominent cream crown and it was traced to Geltsdale in Yorkshire (DIS). The bird was first sighted on Oct 16 over Park Brow and subsequently from Cissbury, Stump Bottom and finally No Man's Land on Nov 21. A ringtail was at Beeding Hill on Oct 20 and a bird was reported from Southwick Hill on Nov 12. The final sighting of the year was of a ringtail over Brighton on Dec 9.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus***Fairly common resident**

Reported throughout the recording area with many garden visits. This species probably bred in Broadwater (Worthing), Upper Beeding, Clapham Wood, Stanmer Park, Sheepcote, West Worthing, Findon (two pairs) and Durrington. There were many sightings of one or two birds right up to the year end with nine seen flying high west over Brighton on Oct 2. At Shoreham Sanctuary ringers handled (with care) four birds that included three juveniles in 41 sessions, while at Cissbury three were trapped (two juveniles) in 26 sessions.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Reported in every month of the year. Probably bred at or close to Steyning, Chanctonbury, High Salvington (Worthing), Blackpatch Hill, Edburton, Findon and Chantry Hill. Seven birds were seen soaring together on Jan 3 over the ridge to the southeast of Lee Farm. The first spring passage over Brighton was of five on Feb 17 and a maximum of nine flew northeast there on Mar 9. In the autumn eight birds were seen over Chantry Hill on Aug 11. Subsequently up to four together were recorded there to the year end with three on Dec 31.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant

One flew north over Brighton on Mar 24 and another was circling over Beeding Hill on 26th. On the same day there was one soaring over High Salvington. These are all early records, the previous earliest being Apr 5 1999. One was over Hollingbury Camp on Apr 30 and another over Brighton Palace Pier on May 7. A late migrant flew north over Brighton on Jun 8. Autumn records were of a juvenile flying east over Brighton on Sep 13 and a bird first seen in the Lower Adur Valley on 16th was probably the same bird reported from Steyning Levels and Henfield Levels up to Oct 2. A bird flew west then north at Southwick Canal on Sep 20. The last report of the year was of a bird sitting on a fence post by the River Adur at Shoreham between the Tollbridge and the A27 on Oct 31, the latest date for the area.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Widespread over the recording area and reported throughout the year. Confirmed as breeding at Mill Hill (Shoreham), Wild Park (two pairs), Steyning Levels, Applesham (Coombes) where one pair had five young in a nest box and another had four young, all ringed, in a tree hole, Steyning Round Hill and Edburton. Probably also bred at the Cement Works, Findon Valley (two pairs), Michelgrove (Patching), Lancing Clump, Stanmer Park, Oreham Common, Woods Mill, Bramber, Chantry Hill, Castle Goring, Chanctonbury and Cissbury.

In the autumn five were seen over Edburton on Sep 2 and six at Park Brow on 4th.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter

All sightings were of single birds. The first was at Ferring Rife on Jan 19 and the next at the Cement Works on 29th. One was at Steyning on Feb 18 followed by records from Sheepcote Valley on Mar 5 and Edburton on 8th. A newly arrived female was seen on rocks at Widewater on Apr 10. In the autumn one was over Brighton on Sep 16 with another at Edburton the next day, one over Worthing on 20th and another at Devil's Dyke on 24th. One was seen over Lancing ring on Oct 13 and 22nd, one over Cissbury on 18th and at Stump Bottom then and on 20th. A bird flew high west over Brighton on 23rd and another over Worthing beach on Nov 22. In December records were of one at Brooklands on 8th, another at Chantry Hill on 18th and finally a female near Northbrook Pond in Durrington on 27th.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Regular passage migrant and summer visitor - has bred

The first report was at Brooklands on Apr 10. The table below details all sightings for the area:

A pair probably bred at Tottington Manor. Multiple sightings were of four at Henfield

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| - | - | - | 7 | 14 | 3 | - | 16 | 22 | 1 | - | - |

Levels on May 15 and five at Horsebridge Common (Ashurst), on Aug 21. The last record was of one over Bramber on Oct 1.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus***Scarce breeding resident**

Four pairs nested in the recording area, all fledging young successfully. Apart from sightings in the vicinity of the breeding sites two birds were reported throughout the year from Beeding Brooks while records were also received from Lee Farm (Patching), High Salvington (Worthing), Blackpatch Hill, Stanmer Park, Edburton, Sheepcote Valley, Park Brow, Cissbury, Waterhall (Brighton) and Brighton College.

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

There were 17 records all of single birds from five sites. The records from Brooklands (Worthing), Widewater, Cuckoo Corner and Shoreham Sanctuary came in both the early and late winter periods. A bird was nearly run over as it crossed the road at Kings Barn (Steyning) on Mar 14. Only two records were in the summer period; one was seen at Cuckoos Corner on Jul 10 and 19th.

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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 26 | 38 | 37 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 19 | 34 | 48 | 33 | 46 |

A total of 39 records were received from 18 sites throughout the region. Ten records came from Brooklands and ten from Upper Beeding Fish Farm but could this bias be due to observer activity? Records came from seven sites between April and July but only at Ditchling Beacon, where a pair raised two chicks, was there confirmation of breeding. Apart from those in the table above, the only double figure counts were 23 on Jan 2 and ten on Feb 17, both at Upper Beeding. The seasonal distribution of this species indicates that considerable migration takes place, presumably only at night as there are no records of movements.

COMMON 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 |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 80 | 60 | 40 | 29 | 25 | 64 | 113 | 96 | 154 | 243 | 239 | 146 |

The October and November counts constitute area record high numbers.

Records were received from eight sites, five of them during the breeding season. During the first winter period, apart from those shown in the table above, the only double figure count was of 20 at Upper Beeding Fish Farm on Feb 17. An early breeding record came from Brooklands where a bird was sitting on a nest on Mar 5. The only other confirmed breeding record was of another sitting bird at New Salts Farm on Apr 17. In the second winter period all the records came from Brooklands (see table) except for a count of 70 at Wiston Pond on Aug 6. As noted for the Moorhen, no movements were observed and these probably take place during the hours of darkness.

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

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing beach were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| East | - | 2 | 11 | 14 | 12 | - | 1 | - | 4 | 4 | - | - |
| West | - | - | - | 8 | 11 | - | 7 | 2 | 2 | 11 | - | - |

Maximum numbers at Goring and the River Adur at Shoreham through the year were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| R. Adur | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | 4 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Goring | 14 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | 30 | - | - |

A pair raised four young from a nest on a disused houseboat at Shoreham. One to three were noted at Brighton Marina and passing the Palace Pier in April and May. The October total at Goring was considered a good number for the site.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta***Uncommon passage migrant**

One flew east at Worthing on Mar 21. In April, one passed east at Palace Pier on 1st, 2 E at the Marina on 2nd and ten on 21st of which two were seen off Worthing. Next day a single passed Hove. The last for the spring were 2 E at Worthing on May 15.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedichnemus***Rare passage migrant**

One flew east at Roedean Bottom at the edge of the recording area in the afternoon of Mar 18. (SOS)

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius***Uncommon passage migrant, has bred**

A pair was seen at Sandgate Park (Sullington) on Jun 21 (ARK). A single was on the River Adur at Shoreham on Sep 12 (KN).

RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius hiaticula***Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder**

Monthly peaks from the main sites were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham River Adur | 66 | 19 | 15 | 2 | 5 | - | 91 | - | 81 | 135 | 305 | 3 |
| Shoreham Beach | 100 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 18 | - | - | - |
| Widewater | 25 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 6 | - | - | - | 41 | 2 | 90 | 5 |
| Worthing | 50 | 15 | 10 | 26 | - | - | 8 | 40 | 40 | 60 | 12 | - |
| Goring Gap | 12 | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | 87 | 50 | - | - | - |
| Marina | - | 2 | 2 | - | 3 | - | 2 | 73 | 50 | 70 | 39 | 57 |

A pair had a nest with three eggs at the Marina in early July and two chicks were seen there on Aug 6. Seawatching at Worthing logged 16 E and 7 W in April and 28 E and 4 W in May.

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

One was on the River Adur at Shoreham on Feb 3, three were reported from West Worthing on Mar 3 and one at Sheepcote Valley on Jun 6, a very unusual date and possibly the first for the area in this month. Two were at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 5 to 8th with one on 26th, 15 over Sheepcote Valley on 17th and a flock of 48 in winter wheat at Steyning Round Hill from Oct 9 to 15th. Six flew north and 2 E at Lancing Clump on Oct 13th and up to five were seen at Steep Down (possibly the same). Twenty-five were at Park Brow (Findon) on 22nd and four flew northeast over Shoreham Sanctuary on 23rd.

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

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham River Adur | 25 | 38 | 23 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 6 |
| Shoreham Beach | - | - | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | 100 | 18 | 30 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 12 | 5 | 94 |
| Goring Gap | 115 | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | 8 | 12 | - | - | 190 |

Seawatching at Worthing in April and May logged 16 E and 12W (8 E on May 12).

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus***Common winter visitor and declining breeder**

Peak counts at the following sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Henfield Levels | 4 | 160 | - | 2 | 5 | - | 3 | - | - | - | 9 | - |
| Steyning Levels | - | 10 | 1 | 14 | 15 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| Beeding | - | - | 150 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 151 | 200 |
| Coombes | 200 | 22 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 200 |
| Shoreham River Adur | 1039 | 648 | - | - | - | - | 25 | 70 | 102 | 309 | 254 | 800 |
| Airport | 730 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| High Salvington | - | - | 34 | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Eight hundred flew in off the sea at Brighton on Mar 3. Breeding was noted on Steyning Levels with six adults and nine chicks present on May 8. A pair had two well grown young in maize at High Salvington on 25th and a pair was nesting near Wyckham Wood (Henfield) on the rather late date of Jun 12. There were three pairs at Steyning Round Hill on May 29 and a pair on Harrow Hill (Patching) on Jun 8.

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

Nine flew east at Worthing on May 12 and 25 E there on Sep 16. No other records were received.

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

Monthly maxima at the main sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham Beach | 11 | - | 20 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 20 | - |
| Widewater | 40 | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 15 | 30 |
| Worthing | 72 | - | 16 | 53 | 18 | 24 | - | 5 | 10 | 20 | 40 | 15 |
| Goring | 11 | - | 15 | - | - | 12 | - | 12 | - | 50 | - | 80 |

Seawatching at Worthing produced 277 E and 50 W in April, 288 E and 31 W in May and 39 E in June. Twenty-two flew west during October and November. No figures were received from the Marina.

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

One was present on the Lower River Adur on Aug 26 (SRA).

CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea***Scarce passage migrant**

Four, presumably adults, were on the River Adur at Shoreham on Jul 31 (SOS) and four juveniles were near the Tollbridge on Aug 21 (SRA, IJW) reducing to two by Sep 2 (KN).

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima***Local winter visitor in small numbers**

Only recorded at Brighton Marina and Shoreham Harbour. Peak monthly numbers were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 18 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 6 | - | 1 | 2 | 8 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Shoreham | - | 2 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |

The last at the Marina in spring were five on May 13 and the first for autumn was one on Jul 19.



DUNLIN *Calidris alpina***Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Maxima from regular sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham River Adur | 281 | 413 | 300 | - | 14 | - | 41 | - | 34 | 28 | 150 | 320 |
| Widewater | 21 | 4 | 3 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - | - | 41 | 15 |
| Worthing | 400 | 200 | 150 | - | - | - | 1 | 20 | 20 | 9 | 100 | 30 |
| Goring | 12 | 176 | 119 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 4 | - | 14 |

Two appeared at Brooklands briefly on Jul 17 and there were two in the Marina on Mar 21 and four on Aug 28. Seawatching logged 110 flying west there on Apr 21 and 61 E on 30th. Worthing watchers logged 176 E and 7 W in April, 81 E and 6 W in May and 4 E in June. In the autumn, 195 flew east there in November (one normally would expect westerly passage at this time of year).

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax***Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

One was on the River Adur between the Cement Works and Tollbridge on Jan 1 remaining until 6th. A juvenile was at Widewater on Aug 23, four flew over Steep Down (Lancing) on Oct 13 and one was on Steyning Levels on Nov 27.

JACK SNIFE *Lymnocyptes minimus***Scarce winter visitor**

One was at Ferring Rife from Jan 1 through to Feb 19 with two there on Jan 17, Feb 3 and 19th. Five were recorded on Henfield Brooks in March on the WeBS count. One was again at the Rife on Apr 12. In the latter part of the year one was there on Nov 23 and 26th.

COMMON SNIFE *Gallinago gallinago***Common but declining winter visitor**

The largest numbers were recorded on the WeBS counts from the River Adur at Shoreham and Henfield Brooks:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| River Adur Estuary | 146 | 273 | 22 | 1 | 39 | - | 52 |
| River Adur Levels | - | - | 1 | 2 | 4 | - | 1 |
| Henfield Brooks | 31 | 35 | 24 | - | - | 3 | 12 |

There were six at Ferring Rife on Jan 30th and 12 at Upper Beeding on Dec 26. Drumming was heard at Steyning Levels on May 15.

WOODCOCK *Scolopax rusticola***Winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant, may breed**

Singles were recorded in Stanmer Park on Jan 28 and Feb 23. One off Brighton's Palace Pier on Feb 3 was very unexpected (RAI). In the autumn one was in Sheepcote Valley on Oct 17.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa***Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

There was one on the River Adur Saltings at Shoreham on Jan 8 and 21st. A flock of 18 flew east at Worthing beach on May 1 and one was on Shoreham Airport on Aug 4.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica***Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

A single bird was by the River Adur in Shoreham from Feb 3 to 5th and again on May 1. Seawatch totals from the Marina and Worthing were as follows (all birds flying east):

| | Apr | May | Jun |
|----------|------|-----|-----|
| Marina | 2474 | 968 | - |
| Worthing | 331 | 338 | 40 |

The day of peak passage was May 2 with 515 past the Marina and 157 at Worthing. One hundred and fifty were seen passing east off Palace Pier on 10th. The only autumn birds were singles at Goring Gap on Sep 22 and the River Adur Saltings on Nov 29.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus***Common passage migrant**

Seawatching totals were:

| | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 107 | 432 | - | - | - |
| Worthing E | 249 | 135 | 18 | - | - |
| Worthing W | 28 | 18 | 4 | 4 | 4 |

Peak days were May 1 with 66 E off Worthing and 22nd with 91 passing the Marina. Singles were on the River Adur at Shoreham and at Widewater on May 1. Twelve moved west at Shoreham beach on 7th. On 15th a flock of 21 flew northeast inland over Southwick Green and next day there were two near the Cement Works. One to four were noted in autumn from Jul 20 to Sep 7 on the River Adur and along the coast between Widewater and Goring.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata***Common passage migrant**

Two flew east at Widewater on Mar 31 and the month total at Worthing was just three. In April five moved east and 2 W there and in May 3 E. Returning birds were 8 W at Worthing on Jun 15, one at Cuckoo Corner on 29th and Jul 19. One flew west over Cissbury Ring calling on Aug 16 and singles also over Wild Park on Sep 2 and on the River Adur at Shoreham on 8th. Eight more passed over Cissbury on 17th. In October, three went east at Worthing on 6th and 3 W there on Nov 10.

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

Monthly maxima from the principal sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Lower River Adur | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 26 | 26 | - | 1 |
| Shoreham River Adur | 105 | 119 | 71 | - | 1 | - | 44 | - | 62 | 107 | 185 | 95 |
| Goring Gap | 8 | 6 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Widewater | 1 | 4 | 6 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 | 3 |
| Worthing | - | | 4(E) | 2 | - | - | - | - | 2 | 4 | 14 | 5 |
| Steyping Levels | - | - | - | 4 | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Three flew over Sompting on Mar 8 and there were three near Wyckham Wood (Henfield) on Jun 12. No evidence of breeding was obtained at any site.

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

No spring records were received this year. Three were by the Airport on Aug 17 and one on the River Adur Saltings on Sep 3. Four were in the Lower Adur Valley on 14th with two there on 23rd and one on 30th. Three again were there on Oct 10 and one was heard flying over Findon Park Brow on 16th.

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

Two were present at Stretham Manor (Henfield) from Jan 1 through to March. One was heard calling at night over Brighton on Aug 22, one was at Cuckoo Corner on Sep 2 and at the Cement Works on 13th. Two were on the River Adur at Shoreham on Nov 17.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos***Common passage migrant and local winter visitor**

The now favoured site of the river by the Cement Works hosted three from Jan 16 (one from the first) to Feb 24. These commuted down to Shoreham on occasion. One was on Widewater on Mar 21 and singles were recorded at Worthing beach on Apr 29 and 30; on the latter date also one was at Bramber and two on the Upper River Adur levels. One visited Brooklands on May 2. Two were back by the Cement Works on Jul 3 and one or two were noted at Worthing, Widewater and Steyping Levels to the end of the month. Six were on the River Adur on Aug 5 increasing to eight on Oct 3 with still six on 27th and four in November. Two remained in the vicinity of the Cement Works until Dec 24 and visited Shoreham on 27th.

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

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham River Adur | 59 | 44 | 26 | - | 20 | - | 26 | - | 22 | 39 | 28 | 101 |
| Shoreham Beach | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 32 | 60 |
| Widewater | 9 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14 | 7 |
| Goring/Ferring | 16 | 20 | 14 | 30 | - | - | - | 21 | 11 | 30 | - | 16 |
| Worthing | - | 2 | 12 | 20 | 6 | 2 | - | - | 30 | 16 | 1 | 4 |

The December count on the River Adur appears to be the highest recorded in the area. Some duplication between sites is very likely especially at Shoreham where birds move from the beach to river. Seawatching produced 19 E in March, 10 E in April and 44 E in May at Worthing. Six were at the Marina on May 7 and ten on Sep 18.

GREY PHALAROPE *Phalaropus fulicarius***Scarce autumn passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

An influx in November brought possibly five different birds to our area. The first was at the Marina on 2nd (IJV) and 3rd. A well watched and approachable bird delighted observers at Brooklands from 8th (BFF et al) remaining until 14th. It was joined by a second bird on 12th, shortly after one had been seen at Widewater (RJF), suggesting they were one and the same. Another was present at the Marina on 14th (IJV). One was also reported off Ferring on 19th (SOS).

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

All spring movements involved birds passing east. First of the year was 1 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 22 followed by one at sea two miles off Shoreham on Apr 24. After a single at the Marina on Apr 26, seven passed there on Apr 30. The Marina month total for April was 11. Also on Apr 30 there were 2 E at Worthing Beach, the only record at that site for the month. The Marina recorded 27 E on May 1, with 1 E at Worthing on the same day. Movement continued on May 2 with 29 E at the Marina and 15 E at Worthing Beach. No more were noted until May 12 when Brighton Marina recorded a superb 54 E including one flock of 13, and the highest day count of the spring. Numbers fell off from this date. There were 3 E at Worthing beach on May 13. The last of the spring was a single off Brighton Palace Pier on May 19, ending a very good spring showing of this species. Month totals for May were 159 at Brighton Marina and 20 at Worthing Beach. The only autumn records were of an immature east on Oct 21 and two immatures east on 31st off the Marina (IJV).

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

There was one early winter record, of a light-phase bird west at Worthing beach on Jan 2. Thereafter not again noted until the first passage birds of the spring, singles east at Worthing beach on Apr 17 and Apr 18. These first dates seem a little late compared with recent years. With the exception of 1 W at Worthing beach on May 12, all movements were noted east until late September. Monthly totals from the two main seawatching sites were:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 1 | - | - | 125 | 93 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 43 | 28 | - | - | - | 4 | 1 | - | - |

There were few days when double figures were reported, the exception being an impressive 32 at Brighton Marina and 14 at Worthing beach on Apr 23. Peak day in May was on 2nd with 28 at the Marina and nine at Worthing, the latter site also recording nine on May 1. The table above and selected day totals show late April and early May to be the optimum time to view numbers of this species. Singles passed Brighton on Jun 2 and Jul 27. Very few were noted in the autumn months. The first were singles east at Worthing beach on Sep 20 and Sep 27 followed by 2 W there on Sep 30. The last of the year was 1 W, again at Worthing on Oct 5, the only record for the month.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus***Rare passage migrant**

A pale morph juvenile flew slowly east past Brighton Marina on Oct 30 (IJW); this record has been accepted by the SOS. This is by far the least common of the Skuas to occur in the Recording Area and goes unrecorded in most years. To emphasise this point all of the regular observers at Worthing have yet to encounter one there in decades of seawatching.

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

There were two winter records, singles flying west at Brighton Marina on Jan 7 and Jan 21. The first spring passage bird was 1 E, again at Brighton Marina on Mar 26 and this was the only record for the month. This species was not noted again until 1 E at Brighton Palace Pier and 2 E at Worthing beach on Apr 18, after which it was recorded regularly at both Brighton Marina and Worthing beach to the end of the month. One was seen to fly east two miles off Shoreham Harbour on Apr 24. Monthly totals from the main seawatching sites were as follows:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Marina | 2 | - | 1 | 40 | 28 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worthing | - | - | - | 18 | 24 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |

The majority of birds were recorded flying east, with the occasional bird west although exceptionally Worthing noted 3 W on Apr 28. Major movements were 12 E at Brighton

Marina on both Apr 17 and Apr 24, highlighting particularly the last two weeks of April as the peak passage period for this species. Additionally the Marina recorded 7 E at on May 2. Maxima at Worthing were 6 E on Apr 26 and 7 E on May 2. The last of the year were 3 E at Worthing beach on Jun 3. Unusually, none were reported in either the autumn or late winter months.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Increasing regular visitor throughout the year

This was another good year for this species and the approximate monthly totals are shown in the following table:

| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 26 | 38 | 37 | 11 | 10 | 6 | 12 | 19 | 34 | 48 | 33 | 46 |

Additional to those shown in the table was a spring total of 120 recorded at Brighton Marina; the peak count of 25 E on Apr 3. This clearly shows the spring and early autumn peak with only small numbers recorded during other seasons. Away from Brighton Marina the highest counts were seven on the River Adur at Shoreham on Mar 19 and at Worthing on May 1. As usual most were seen at or near the coast except adult birds seen at Stanmer Park on Mar 18, at Chantry Hill on Sep 29 and at Edburton on Oct 29.

LAUGHING GULL *Larus atricilla*

Very rare vagrant

A first year bird was seen at Brighton Marina on Nov 3rd (IJV) in the period that brought Leach's Petrels and Grey Phalaropes into the area. This record has been accepted by the BBRC and is the first since one at Shoreham on Apr 6 1991.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus*

Scarce visitor and passage migrant

The following table of monthly totals from Brighton Marina and Worthing shows the clear passage period in April and May:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Worthing Beach E | - | - | 2 | 8 | 3 | - | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Worthing Beach W | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - |
| Brighton Marina E | - | - | 19 | 123 | 44 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Brighton Marina W | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Early in the year two flew west at Brighton Marina on Jan 8. The only records not included in the seawatching table were singles feeding offshore at Widewater on Jan 15, at Shoreham Harbour on Oct 11 and 30th, and at Palace Pier (Brighton) on Oct 26 where there were two on Nov 14.

SABINE'S GULL *Larus sabini***Rare mostly autumn visitor**

Singles seen at Southwick Canal on Sep 28 (ADW, IJW) and flying west at Brighton Marina on Nov 8 (IJW) were both juveniles and both, typically, appeared during strong winds in the autumn.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus***Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor**

Although there were several winter records, mainly generated from the BTO Birdtrack, there were few notable counts with the highest being 50 at Widewater on Jan 30, 80 at Upper Beeding on Feb 17 and 100 on the River Adur (Shoreham) on Mar 20. Spring coastal passage was, as usual, inconsistently recorded and the monthly eastbound totals at Worthing for the spring were:

| | Mar | Apr | May | Peak movement |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|------------------------|
| Worthing Beach | 282 | 379 | 800 | 524 on 1 May (13¾ hrs) |

Additionally there were 800 E at Brighton Marina on Mar 22 and Apr 23, and 270 W on Apr 9. The highest counts in the second half of the year were 800 at Goring beach on Aug 20 and 70 roosting at Brighton Marina on Nov 3. A leucistic individual was seen at Hove on Jan 7 and at Southwick beach on Jan 12. The same, or similar, individual returned to Shoreham Harbour in November where it was seen into the beginning of 2006.

MEW GULL/COMMON GULL *Larus canus***Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

The highest counts from the River Adur (Shoreham) were 1,000 on Feb 1, 900 on Mar 19 and 1700 on Mar 20.

Throughout the early portion of the year several flocks were noted feeding on farmland of which 1,500 at New Erringham Farm (Shoreham) on Jan 16, 1,000 at Patching Hill on Feb 26 and 300 at Golding Barn (Upper Beeding) on Feb 17 were the largest. Only at Brighton Marina were sizable numbers recorded on passage where 1,200 E on Mar 23, 1,000 E on Apr 10 and 1,100 E on Apr 21. There were no records between May 7 and Jul 22; thereafter there were few records with 260 at Cuckoo Corner (Coombes) on Dec 8 being the highest count.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus fuscus***Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, small numbers breed**

Although recorded throughout the year only small numbers were involved with just seven double figure counts. Most notable records were from Brighton Marina where 22 E on Apr 21, 45 on Jul 16 and 20, all juveniles, on Jul 26. Twenty-nine at Southwick beach on Jul 28 and 25 on the River Adur (Shoreham) on Sep 15 were the other high counts. Nesting was reported from Worthing and Brighton.



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YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus michahellis***Fairly common but local late summer and autumn visitor**

The following table, showing the highest counts at Shoreham/Southwick and Brighton Marina, reveals the usual summer peak:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|-----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Shoreham Area | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 7 | 13 | 14 | 2 | - | - |
| Brighton Marina | 6 | - | 2 | 4 | - | - | 11 | 10 | - | - | 4 | 5 |

The peak count on the River Adur (Shoreham) was 14 on Sep 15 but records from Southwick Beach, where the peak count of 13 occurred on Aug 11, suggested at least 20 different birds were seen in July. At Brighton Marina the highest numbers were also noted during the summer however, from this site there were notable records at other seasons including six on Jan 6, four on each of three days between Apr 20 and 24 which were considered as different birds and up to five recorded in November and December. Ten at Southwick on Dec 6, during an influx of Herring Gulls, was the only double figure count in the winter. Two at Small Dole on Jul 9 were the only inland records.

HERRING GULL *Larus argentatus***Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

The highest counts in the winter were 600 feeding offshore at Worthing with other seabirds on Jan 26, the same roosting at Brighton Marina on the same day and "1,000s frenzying" at Brighton Marina on Feb 8. Nesting was sporadically recorded from Worthing, Shoreham-by-Sea, Southwick, and Brighton. Observations from the Breeding Bird Survey revealed the species in eight squares with maximum counts of 104 and 80 in two Hove 1km squares and 88 in West Worthing. Notable non-breeding counts during the early summer from Brighton Marina were 255 on May 22, 355 on Jun 20 and 600 on Jul 6 whilst at Worthing 1000, mainly immatures, were feeding offshore on Jun 19. Inland there were 120 at Sandgate Park (Storrington) on May 3 and 600 near Small Dole on Jul 26. This species has been recorded increasingly feeding on agricultural land typified by records of 2,000 following the plough at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 27 and 1,000 doing the same at nearby Steep Down (Lancing) on Aug 29. Four figure counts during the autumn and winter were 1,000 at Brighton Marina on Nov 13 and 2,000 flew to roost at Shoreham on Nov 17.

ICELAND GULL *Larus glaucoideus***Rare winter visitor**

A second-summer Iceland Gull of the race known as Kumlien's was seen at sites between Hove, Brighton Marina, Whitehawk and Roedean between Feb 3 and Mar 21 (IJW et al). Initially it was encountered mainly at Brighton Marina but during March was most frequently seen on the Golf Course at Roedean. This, the first of this race recorded in the county, attracted considerable attention and was extensively photographed. It has been accepted by the BBRC.

GLAUCOUS GULL *Larus hyperboreus***Very scarce but regular winter visitor and passage migrant**

A second year bird was seen at Brighton Marina following a fishing boat into the harbour

on Apr 1 (IJW) and may have been the same individual seen on the River Adur Estuary at Shoreham-by-Sea on the 4th (PJ) and at Brooklands from the 4th to the 6th (mo).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, recent breeding resident

Although recorded in all months except August there were only a few large counts. The highest numbers were seen at Brighton Marina where there were 45 on Jan 4, 80 on Jan 6 and amongst the 50 noted on Nov 16 was a bird bearing a Norwegian ring; this was the fourth individual ringed in Norway and seen at Brighton Marina during the year. Elsewhere there were 34 at Brooklands on Feb 10 and 65 on the River Adur (Shoreham) on Nov 22. Breeding occurred at Southwick where two pairs each raised two young and in Brighton where five pairs nested successfully.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

As usual most of the records of this species were of coastal movements. The following table, showing the month totals at Worthing, show few were seen passing this site in 2005; however 200 were feeding offshore, in the company of other seabirds, on Jan 26.

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Worthing E | 53 | 51 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Worthing W | 23 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 39 |

The peak numbers recorded at Brighton Marina were 1,300 W on Jan 2, 300 W on Mar 12, 265 E on Apr 26, 430 E on May 12 and 610 E on May 15. There were several records of between 10 and 40 at Palace Pier (Brighton) during February and March.

LITTLE TERN *Sternula albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

Spring passage commenced with 1 E at Worthing beach on both Apr 17 and Apr 19, and two there on Apr 21 one of which flew west. Thereafter noted regularly during April and the first two weeks of May. The Worthing beach totals for these two months were 91 E and 4 W, and 31 E respectively. A combined April/May total of 316 was received from Brighton Marina with maxima recorded there of 79 E on Apr 30 and 63 E on May 2. Very few birds were recorded moving west during this period. This species is usually scarce during the remainder of the year but exceptionally there were no further sightings after May.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*

Very rare vagrant

One, thought by many observers to be in second summer plumage, was first reported at Widewater on May 21 (CWM et al). Presumably the same bird was seen off Worthing beach on May 22 (JAN) before relocating to the River Adur opposite Shoreham Airport on May 26 (RAI et al). It remained in the area until at least Jun 8, occasionally revisiting Widewater. This exceptionally rare vagrant to our Recording Area showed for long periods on the riverbanks, and was seen by many observers. It fed avidly on red rag-

worms and would take each to the river to wash it before consumption. Additionally it was at times reported from Shoreham Airport taking earthworms. The BBRC have accepted the record, only the third accepted record for the area. Previous records were at Shoreham on Sep 17 1950 and 1 E at Ferring on Apr 26 1984.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce but regular passage migrant

First of the year were 2 E at both Brighton Marina and Worthing beach on Apr 23. The Brighton individuals passed during the morning, as did one at Worthing, which was also noted passing Brooklands. The second Worthing bird passed during the afternoon. The next did not occur until Apr 30 with 10 E at Worthing and 1 E at the Marina. There were singles east at Worthing on both May 1 and May 2, and the spring peak occurred on May 2 at Brighton Marina with 25 E there. The Marina spring total was a healthy 92. Most unusually just a single was recorded during the autumn months, 1 W at Worthing beach on Sep 27.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant

There was one early winter record, of 1 W at Shoreham Harbour on Jan 6 (SOS). The first passage migrant of the year was 1 E at Worthing beach on Mar 14 quickly followed by 2 E there on Mar 15 and 2 E again on Mar 16. Widewater noted 1 E on Mar 18. Numbers rapidly increased from this date with 51 E at Worthing on Mar 21 and smaller numbers recorded there to the end of the month. Reversing the dominant easterly trend was an unusual movement of 45 W at Brighton Marina on Apr 9. There were 200 off Brighton Palace Pier on Apr 18, presumably moving east. Highlighting the customary April peak were 244 E at Worthing beach on Apr 20 with 400 E at Brighton Marina on the same day, and 600E at the latter site on Apr 22. Significant numbers continued to pass in the next few days when Worthing recorded 236 E on Apr 22 with 281 E on Apr 23, and 218 E on Apr 24. Numbers declined to the end of the month until a second peak in early May when the Marina reported 480 E on May 1 and a huge 1,130 E on May 2 (a new day record for the area). Worthing noted 294 E on the latter date. Passage numbers rapidly declined during May until a third peak manifested itself mid-month, with 146 E at Worthing on May 14 and at the Marina, 610 E on May 15. Detailed movements from Worthing beach are summarised in the following table of monthly totals:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| E | - | - | 114 | 1491 | 1029 | 18 | 32 | 31 | 28 | 11 | - | - |
| W | - | - | 45 | 99 | 158 | 32 | 8 | 35 | 58 | 4 | - | - |

The minimum spring total at Brighton Marina was 6,400. Notable spring records away from the main sites were small numbers at Widewater and Shoreham Beach, and an inland record of one over Lancing Clump on May 1. Eighteen feeding inside Brighton Marina on Apr 25 (IJW) was considered to be most unusual. As usual small numbers were noted in the summer months, and possible late migrants were 42 E and 14 W at Worthing beach on Jun 3. Five, including a juvenile and two ringed adults, were at Widewater on Jul 17. In contrast with spring, many fewer passage birds were noted in the autumn months with a peak of 33 W at Worthing on Sep 12. There were 20 with gulls

in fields at Goring Gap on Sep 16, and 25 on Goring beach on Sep 24. Single figure numbers were noted in early October and the last of the month were 2 W at Worthing on Oct 30. One at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 3 was possibly a late migrant. However, the one December record involved an unprecedented four adults on Goring beach on Dec 24 (DIS), which were disturbed by a dog and flew east. A trend is emerging for this species to winter in very small numbers along the South Coast, particularly within the Hayling Island/Chichester Harbour complex.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant

First of the year was 1 E at Worthing beach on Mar 20, the earliest date on record. Still very early was 1 E there on Mar 25 and 1 W on Mar 27. The April month total at Worthing beach was 480 E and 7 W, with maxima of 219 E on Apr 23 and 227 E on Apr 30. A significant 270 were most unusually seen feeding inside Brighton Marina on Apr 25 (IJW), and the same site noted 131 E on Apr 30. The May month total at Worthing was 213 E and 1 W with a maximum of 189 on May 2. The Marina recorded 390 E on May 15. Ten at Brighton Palace Pier on Jun 8 may have been late migrants. Very few were noted during the summer months with no day total exceeding five. First of the autumn were 1 W and 1 E at Worthing beach on Aug 2, and one at Shoreham Airport on Aug 4. Thereafter noted in very small numbers throughout September, mainly from Shoreham Harbour and Worthing beach, with no count exceeding ten. Singles were reported from the former site on Oct 11 and Oct 12 probably involving the same bird, and the last of the year was one at Brighton Marina on Oct 22. Birds not specifically identified as either Common or Arctic Tern are, as usual, included below under Commic (i.e. Common/Arctic) Tern, and this category again represents the higher totals. However it is worthy of note that more Common and Arctic Terns are being identified to species. With the occasional exception to the rule, again the vast majority of "Comemics" passing were most probably Common Terns.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Very scarce passage migrant

Brighton Marina recorded singles on Apr 22 and Apr 30, three on May 2 (all IJW) and again three on May 15 (CB, PJW, IJW). These have been accepted by the SOS. All moved east, and made a very good spring showing.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant

The first specifically identified Arctic Tern of the year was 1 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 2. Not recorded again until Apr 19 when 19 flew east close inshore at Hove. Unusually 12 were noted feeding inside Brighton Marina on Apr 25 (see also Sandwich and Common Tern above). Just 3 E were recorded for the month of April at Worthing Beach. The only three-figure movement was a huge 300 E at the Marina on May 2. The autumn months produced few records. Two juveniles were in Shoreham Harbour entrance on Sep 29, after which a single juvenile was recorded at this site on Oct 12 with two there on Oct 26. Single juveniles were reported at Southwick beach, Shoreham Harbour and Widewater between the very late dates of Nov 3 to Nov 7. It is likely that just a single individual was involved in all of these November sightings.

“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 and are shown in the following table:

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| E | - | - | - | 1504 | 1980 | 119 | - | 12 | 9 | - | - | - |
| W | - | - | - | 14 | 10 | 2 | - | 163 | 4 | 2 | - | - |

The minimum spring total at Brighton Marina was 16,451 with unspecified “very good numbers in April”. Again, a very high figure and this reflects the huge number of hours spent watching at this site during the spring months. Peak day counts at Worthing were 253 E on Apr 19, 779 E on Apr 23, and 1,581 E on May 2. Few were noted in autumn, the peak day count being 130 W at Worthing beach on Aug 19.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

In the early months 120 off Shoreham beach on Feb 14 and 150 at the Marina on the 20th were the maxima with small numbers along the coast at other sites until May 20 when the last was off the Palace Pier. In the second half of the year recorded from Sep 5 at the Marina but few others recorded until late December when 60 were logged at Shoreham on 23rd, being the highest count for the second half of the year.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

Much larger numbers than Guillemot were identified with 3,000 off the Marina on Feb 8 and 17th and 700 off the Palace Pier next day. Double figures then at regularly watched sites until Mar 23 when 200 were off the Palace Pier. The last for the spring were eight off Worthing beach on May 31. One was in the Marina on Sep 8 and then just singles were recorded to the year-end apart from three at Goring Gap on Dec 26.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Scarce autumn and winter visitor

One off Worthing beach on Feb 13 (JAN) in the first winter period and three at the Marina on Dec 2 with one the next day (IJW).

AUK species

There were again some very large counts of auks not specifically identified in the first two months with numbers exceeding 500 from Jan 26 at Worthing (considered to be mostly Razorbills) rising to over 1,000 by the month end. A massive 12,000 flew west at the Marina on Feb 9, another area record day figure, and 5,000 went east on 15th and 6,000 likewise next day there when 2,890 were also logged off Palace Pier. Eight thousand east on 22nd and 4,000 E on 24th at the Marina were other large counts and several other days counts reached four figures. Thereafter three figure totals to the end of March on a couple of days off Worthing followed by less than 20 in both April and May with just five in June. Very few were noted in the autumn and early winter period (Oct 15 to Dec 27).

FERAL ROCK DOVE *Columba livia***Common resident**

Regularly monitored at Stanmer Park, Warmdene (Patcham) and Tegdown Hill where numbers varied from two to 45, two to seven and 17 to 28 respectively. Two hundred and six were counted in part of Hove on two spring transects and 53 in another. Similarly 28 and 33 were noted in Portslade and Worthing. Twenty were at Lancing Clump on Oct 5, and 97 in a Hove tetrad on Dec 2 as part of the Winter Atlas survey. Elsewhere records of two or three at Findon, Cement Works (Shoreham) and Old Salts Farm, Lancing.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas***Declining resident and passage migrant**

Until the autumn, from one to four birds noted at about 20 sites. Breeding of single pairs occurred at Wild Park (Brighton), Wyckham Wood (Henfield), Applesham near Coombes, Woods Mill, Annington Hill Barn near Bramber, Wiston and Horsebridge Common (Ashurst). Six of these pairs nested in nest boxes provided for Owls and in one case an adult was found with a Barn Owl chick in a box! Two young were known to have hatched from another box. From Oct 18 large numbers were noted associating with Woodpigeons with 106 on 18th at Sheepcote Valley, 800 on 23rd, 500 on Nov 4, 300 on 9th all over Brighton and 220 also on 9th at Stump Bottom north of Cissbury. Twenty-two were at Mill Hill, Shoreham on 12th.

WOOD PIGEON *Columba palumbus***Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant**

In the early months, flocks of 200 were noted at Stretcham Manor (Henfield), the Lower Adur Valley and Sheepcote Valley and there was a maximum of 107 at Tegdown Hill and 83 at Stanmer Park. Elsewhere from 20 to 35 were at Upper Beeding, Old Salts Farm (Lancing), Portslade, Worthing GC, Northbrook Farm, Bramber and Worthing West. The only breeding records were from Wild Park with 71 pairs. Five hundred at Cissbury on Sep 29 signalled the usual autumn build up in numbers and migration got under way on Oct 23 with 573 at Wild Park and 10,000 flying mainly southeast over Shoreham Sanctuary. On Nov 4, 3,000 passed over Wild Park, 12,000 over Cissbury between 0730 and 1200 (some of which passed Findon Valley and High Salvington) and 10,000 over Goring. The next day, the unprecedented total of 175,000 moved south or southwest over Brighton and 10,000 southeast over the Sanctuary. A grand total of at least 275,000 for the period Oct 18 to Nov 12 were logged over Brighton. Ten thousand went south over Edburton on Nov 13. 'Thousands' passed down the Adur Valley at Upper Beeding on 24th. Only small numbers noted after then until the year-end.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto***Common resident**

The only double figure counts were as follows. There were 20 at Lee Farm (Patching) on Jan 3, 16 in Hove, 27 at Old Salts Farm, 21 at West Worthing and 31 at Portslade all as spring 2 km transects. Additional double figure counts included 28 at Wild Park on May 2, 60 at Southwick Beacon on Sep 22 and 15 at Lancing Clump on Oct 12. A regular garden visitor across the area but no breeding records submitted.

TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur***Scarce summer visitor, declining**

The first spring migrant boarded a fishing boat five miles from Worthing beach before continuing north to the coast on Apr 26. Two pairs arrived at Edburton on 30th and stayed until Sep 1 but breeding was not confirmed. Other single birds also came in on this day at New Salts Farm, Widewater and Worthing Beach. May birds were seen or heard at Wiston, Sheepcote Valley, Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels. One was 'purring' on Steyning Levels in June and there were 4 at Streham Manor on Jul 9. Another was heard at Wyckham Farm (Steyning) on 13th and seen at Wyckham Wood (Henfield) on 31st. One flew over Shoreham Sanctuary on Aug 21 and the last for the year was in the Seven Dials area of Brighton on Sep 24.

GREAT SPOTTED CUCKOO *Clamator glandarius***Rare vagrant**

One of the highlights of the spring migration, and indeed the year, in our area was found at Adur Recreation Ground on Apr 3 (DP). This handsome bird, considered to be a sub-adult, moved on 6th to Brooklands (CWM *et al*). It fed on the ground for most of its stay on the golf course, where it was admired by many observers. It remained in the area until Apr 9 when it flew off north (JAH). This record has been accepted by the BBRC. It is quite a coincidence that the last Sussex record of this species was found just north of Shoreham Airport on Apr 4, 1990.

COMMON CUCKOO *Cuculus canorus***Fairly common summer visitor**

Records were received from fourteen sites in spring/early summer up to Jul 5. The first was at Ditchling Beacon where one was seen near two Meadow Pits on Apr 5. Most of the records were of single birds but there were two birds in Wiston Village on May 17 and three birds on Beeding Brooks on May 18. Three birds were seen in August, before the final bird (presumably a juvenile) was seen on Aug 27 at Goring. The only positive breeding record was at Woods Mill where on Jul 5 a juvenile was seen being fed by an unidentified small bird.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba***Uncommon breeding resident**

Reported from four locations. One was seen roosting in a box at the old Cement Works (Upper Beeding) on Jan 29. At Woods Mill one entered the meetings room via the chimney on Feb 9. One was heard at Stanmer Park, near Brighton on Jun 8. The other sightings were at Beeding Brooks where two were seen on both Sep 25 and Oct 10. One was seen there on Oct 31 and finally three birds were seen there on Dec 12. Breeding sites for this species are treated as confidential by the SOS.

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua***Fairly common resident**

There were 19 reports of these birds, covering all months except September. All were singles except for reports of two birds at the Cement Works on Jan 29, Myrtlegrove Farm, Clapham on Nov 20 and Steyning Bowl on Nov 22. The other reports were from the Henfield area, Tegdown Hill, Stanmer Park Patching, Upper Beeding, and the area between Cissbury Ring and Steyning. There were no reports of breeding but several of the sightings are likely to relate to breeding individuals.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

Reported from many locations during the year. The only breeding records were at Hill Barn GC on Jun 11 where a family party was heard calling, at High Salvington where on Jun 19 two young birds were heard, and at Edburton where two juveniles were seen on Jul 1. Two pairs were heard counter calling at Chantry Hill on May 18.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident

A downland roost held five birds on Jan 2 but this was reduced to one on Jan 9. One individual was present there on May 1. During the summer at another downland site two recently fledged juveniles were heard calling on a number of evenings. One adult was also heard there on one occasion, and this or another adult was seen hunting on a further occasion at dusk. In autumn this roost contained 12 birds for a short period but this reduced to three by Dec 25.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

The first record was at Beeding Brooks on Mar 5, where pellets were analysed and found to contain the remains of three wood mice, one field vole, and two birds. At Sheepcote Valley migrant birds passed through on three occasions, on Mar 5 and Apr 16 in spring, and on Sep 18 in autumn. One bird roosted in Brighton Marina on Nov 20 and finally one was seen at Henfield Levels on Dec 4.



EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer migrant

There were no positive reports of these birds in 2005. Patching Hill, the site of last year's report, was visited on Jun 13 but nothing was heard.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor

The first sighting (one bird) was at Patcham on Apr 20, slightly later than the average arrival date. Thereafter birds were reported regularly through the summer. There was a steady arrival over an extended period, with the only double figure counts before May 9 being 43 at West Worthing and 17 at Portslade, both on May 1. Reported numbers became higher from mid-May to the end of May but the highest numbers reported in this period were groups of 20 or less. Breeding was reported from Limbrick Lane, Goring and Steyning – where 20 birds were present. High numbers were reported in early July. On Jul 7 there were 350 at High Salvington and 230 at Hove. On Jul 8 there were 300 at Woods Mill and 600 at Brighton. The highest counts thereafter were of 100 at both Steyning Round Hill and Goring on Jul 31 and Aug 1 respectively. Passage continued throughout August with the final bird being reported at Goring on Sep 2.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis***Uncommon resident and winter visitor**

In the period up to Mar 11, there were reports of single birds from ten locations, with two birds being noted at Brighton Marina and Widewater. One bird at Steyning was seen coming to a garden pond on at least five occasions. There were no further records until mid-July when birds were seen at Kings Barn (Steyning) and Cuckoo Corner (Coombes). A steady flow of records was received from August to the end of the year. The River Adur, Brooklands, Worthing, Shoreham Harbour, Brighton Marina, Widewater, Lancing and Cuckoo Corner featured regularly in these reports.

EUROPEAN BEE-EATER *Merops apiaster***Rare vagrant**

This was another unforgettable highlight in the spring migration. Two birds were seen in Shoreham gardens on Jun 1 (JAH et al). These beautiful birds remained until the following day and were greatly appreciated by many birders. Fortunately they could be seen well from an adjacent alley without causing any disruption to the residents. These are the first records for our area since one over Lancing in Sep 1958. They were subsequently seen in Hampshire and may have been the pair that later nested in Herefordshire (where the young were unfortunately taken by predators).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops***Rare passage migrant**

There were three reports of this handsome bird, although they probably relate to the same individual. One was seen late morning May 2 at Henfield Levels when it flew west over the River Adur (KN). Shortly afterwards it was seen at Wyckham Wood (Henfield). The final report was from Beeding Brooks on May 12, where one was seen perched briefly before flying off northeast (SOS).

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla***Rare passage migrant**

This was a good year for this rare migrant in our area. One bird was seen on May 22 at Woods Mill (per VB). It was reported again there in a garden on the next day. In the autumn birds were reported on no fewer than four occasions. The first was at Cissbury Ring on Sep 1 (AP). One was then seen at River Adur Tollbridge on Sep 9 (JC). A further bird was seen in Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11 (ADW/IDW) and finally one was seen at Steyning Round Hill on Sep 18 (BM).

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis***Common resident**

This bird continues to thrive in this area. Well over a hundred reports of sightings were received throughout the year. Multiple records were received from many sites including Stanmer Park, Upper Beeding,, Tegdown Hill, Patcham, Findon Valley, Warren Hill NT, Wiston Estate, Brighton Wild Park, Chanctonbury Ring, Clapham Wood, Cissbury Ring, Devil's Dyke, and Lancing Clump. Breeding was confirmed at Brighton Wild Park, and Clapham Wood. At Shoreham Sanctuary three individuals were caught (two adults and one juvenile). One of the adults had been ringed the previous year.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident

This is another species which appears to be doing well in this area. Nearly a hundred reports were received for the whole year. Birds were heard drumming from early January onwards into early May. There were several multiple sightings, especially at Warren Hill NT, where five were seen on Jan 5 and Feb 25. Breeding was confirmed at Brighton Wild Park where two pairs bred and St Anne's Well (Hove) where a pair bred for the first time and fledged one young. One young bird was ringed at Cissbury north scarp. At Shoreham Sanctuary seven birds were ringed including six young birds.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident

There were two records for this scarce resident this year. The first involved a male and a female seen at Warren Hill NT on Mar 21. The male was calling and drumming. Two birds were also seen at Lewes Road Cemetery (Brighton) four times during April.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant

One at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 19 (IJW) was the only record.

SKY LARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident

Ten at Bramber, 14 at Tegdown Hill, 20 at Coombes, 100 at Steep Down (Lancing) in stubble, 200 near the Cement Works (Shoreham) and 120 in an arable field at Stretham Manor (Henfield) were the largest gatherings in January. Few were noted in February but there were up to ten singing birds at the Cement Works, Golding Barn, Upper Beeding, Highdown, Beeding Hill, Wild Park (Brighton) and Stanmer Park in March and April. May counts in double figures were received from Upper Beeding (18), Worthing GC (11), and Wild Park (16). At least 25 were singing at Steep Down on Jun 2. There were no large autumn counts until 300 at Stump Bottom on Nov 9 followed by 100 in the Ditchling Beacon/Chatri area on 20th. In December there were 60 north of Halewick tip (Lancing) on 5th, 30 at Upper Beeding on 7th and 70 at Beeding Hill on 11th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

The first was one at Brooklands on Apr 1; then just 2 N at Cissbury on 5th and six at Worthing beach between 24th and 30th. One hundred and ten pairs were present at the Sandgate Park colony in June, the most for some years, but none at Washington Rock Common. August records were of 25 at Goring beach on 4th, five there on 19th and one at Worthing on 31st. The last were 15 at Shoreham Airport on Sep 2nd.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor

The first individual recorded was later than last year found at Edburton on Mar 28 followed by one at Stanmer Park on 30th and three at Brooklands on 31st. There were generally low numbers in April other than 12 at Edburton on 10th, 15 N at Wyckham Wood (Henfield) on 16th and 20 next day at Wyckham Farm (Steyning). A month total of 295 were logged at Worthing beach with peaks of 62 N on 24th, 90 on 25th and 115 on 30th.

and 199 likewise noted there in May (max 80 on 2nd). Breeding records were of six pairs at Edburton and two pairs at King's Barn (Steining) although breeding was also noted at a number of other sites without specific data. The peak autumn count at Wild Park was 200 on Sep 2, 1,000 flew east at Worthing beach on 20th and 291 were counted at Stanmer Park on 22nd. 'Thousands' passed east at Worthing on Oct 5 and 150 went south over Cissbury on 10th. In November, one was at Shoreham Fort on 17th, 2 E at Wide-water on 19th and the last for the year was at Hove seafront on 24th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor

Two at Patcham on Apr 4 were nearly two weeks ahead of the next at the same site. Small arrivals took place throughout the remainder of the month across the area. Spring passage was poor. Birds arrived at breeding sites in early May with six in West Durrington, and four in the Boxgrove area. At the month end 30 were collecting mud from the River Adur adjacent to the colony at Lancing College. Pairs nested in Bramber, North Farm (Findon) where 16 birds were noted in July, Myrtle Grove Farm (Clapham), and Patcham with a maximum of 23 seen on the 27th. Passage commenced in early September with 60 at Cissbury on 2nd. Parties of between ten and 60 occurred at several sites until the 24th when 4,000 passed through Sheepcote Valley with 1,000 over Wild Park on 30th. The first ten days of October witnessed the main general movements with totals of over 4,000 accumulated at mainly coastal sites, notably another 1,000 at Wild Park and similar numbers at Worthing beach. The last birds recorded were two at Steining on 27th.

RICHARD'S PIPIT *Anthus richardi*

Rare autumn migrant

One was seen in Sheepcote Valley on Sep 29 (ADW,IJW). This record has been accepted by the SOS. This was the first for our area since one at Hove Lagoon from Jan 25-29 1956.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant

One over Brighton College on Apr 16 was the only spring record. Twenty-five noted from Aug 15 to Sep 19 at Wild Park where the peak count was five on Sep 17. The only other record was of six at Edburton on Sep 2.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common resident and common passage migrant

The only double figure count in the early months was of 20 at Steining Levels on Feb 6. Passage was primarily noted from Wild Park (63 on two dates), Worthing beach (spring total of 154 N) and Brighton Marina where 300 flew in off the sea on Mar 26. Display was observed at Golding Barn (Upper Beeding), Steep Down (Lancing) and Blackpatch Hill north of Clapham. Autumn flocks comprised 70 at Kithurst Hill (Storrington) on Sep 13, 50 at Goring Gap on 24th, 60 at Wild Park on Oct 1 (out of a total of 660 between Sep 13 and Oct 30), 80 at Goring on 15th, 50 E at Sheepcote Valley on 17th and a total of 265 logged at Worthing beach on 11 dates in the month. Small numbers were reported again after Oct 22 with no more than eight at any location other than 20 on Henfield Levels on Dec 26.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus***Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds**

One or two were recorded from Goring, Worthing, Brighton Marina and Shoreham Harbour in the first winter period with none after Mar 22. One was at Southwick beach on Sep 16 and an individual was recorded there from Oct 2 to the year end. One or two were again at Shoreham Fort, Worthing Beach, Widewater, Palace Pier (Brighton) and Brighton Marina. There were four at Shoreham Harbour on Dec 14.

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus littoralis***Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant**

One at Shoreham Fort on Mar 12 (RJF).

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava***Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant**

In spring, three were at Stanmer Park on Apr 21, one at the Marina on 22nd, 12 at Worthing beach on 25th and two there and at the Marina on 30th where two were also present on May 1. Two were also at Lancing Clump on 4th and then one was at Beeding Brooks on May 18. Autumn passage was noted from Aug 8 through to Oct 9 with a maxima of 12 at Shoreham Sanctuary, Steep Down and Truleigh Hill in late August followed by 26 at Beeding Brooks on Sep 13, 20 at Edburton on 17th and similar numbers at Small Dole and Steyning Levels the next day. The last was 1 W over the Marina on Oct 9.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea***Local resident and winter visitor; passage migrant**

Just single birds were reported at eleven sites in the period from January to March. One was at Edburton on Jun 25 with two there later in the year suggesting a possible breeding attempt. No significant passage was observed with just one or two noted at 15 locations, including observers' gardens, between Aug 21 and Dec 22.



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PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba***Common resident**

January reports included 23 at Stanmer Park on 6th and 20 at King's Barn SF (Steyning) on 23rd. Forty were counted on a walk from Coombes to Lancing Ring on Feb 6 and a similar number at Durrington flying west from Centenary House on 8th. Up to ten were noted from many sites through to early April. A pair probably bred near St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) and another was feeding two juveniles at Edburton on May 8. The Durrington roost contained 20 birds on Sep 8 and there were 30 at Adur Recreation Ground on 12th. In Oct records included 32 W at Worthing beach on 2nd and 160 likewise at Sheepcote valley on 3rd. There was a total of 114 E at Worthing over four dates in the month and there was a pre-roost gathering of 80 at Holmbush on 27th. Sixty-three were on Goring beach on 28th. No more than nine were reported after this date from any site to the year-end. One of the continental race *alba* ('White Wagtail') was with several *yarelli* for comparison at Goring beach on Nov 23.

WAXWING *Bombycilla garrulus***Rare winter visitor**

Two reports for January were from near Erringham Farm (Shoreham) on 15th (SOS) and Moulsecoomb (Brighton) on 28th (RJF). One flew over Lancing calling on Feb 5 (BFF). Five were seen at Brooklands on Apr 6 (mo) and two were in a garden near Hollingbury (Brighton) on 10th (JC).

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes***Very common resident**

Regular counts at Stanmer Park varied between 20 and 30 through the year. Eleven were in Sheepcote Valley and ten at Tegdown Hill in April with 11 and seven in parts of Portslade and Hove respectively, and 14 at Worthing Northbrook Farm in May. Eighty-nine pairs bred in Wild Park; no other breeding records were received. Forty-three (28 young birds) were ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary in 41 sessions and 29 (26 young birds) were caught at Cissbury in 26 sessions. In September there were 14 at Tegdown Hill and 13 at Sheepcote. In November, eight were counted at Southwick Hill and six at Steep Down. Otherwise widely reported in small numbers across the area.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis***Very common resident**

Regular counts at Stanmer Park varied between ten and 14 through the year. Counts of between five and ten came from Tegdown Hill, Upper Beeding, Patcham, Old Salts Farm (Lancing), Westmeston, Worthing GC, Worthing West and Lancing Clump. Forty-nine pairs were recorded as breeding in Wild Park (59 in 2004). Ringing summaries from Shoreham Sanctuary and Cissbury were of 52 (39 young birds) from 41 sessions and 41 (21 young birds) from 26 sessions respectively. As with Wren, Hedge Accentor was a widely reported species.

ROBIN *Erathacus rubecula***Very common resident**

As expected, Robins were recorded all over the area. The regular counts at Stanmer Park varied between 19 and 29 through the year. Thirty at Washington Warren Hill in April and Sheepcote Valley on Oct 23 were the largest numbers at any site and most likely included migrants. Other double figure counts were of 12 at Worthing GC and 11 at Northbrook Farm (Worthing) both in May, 17 at Mill Hill (Shoreham) and ten on the Lower Adur Valley both in November. The only breeding records were from Wild Park where 101 pairs were logged.

Seventy-one were ringed at Cissbury (47 young birds) and 77 at Shoreham Sanctuary (56 young birds).

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos***Summer visitor and passage migrant**

A bird singing near a pond at Wyckham Farm on Mar 25 (RW) was a month earlier than any other records. This is the earliest ever for the SDOS area and the 2nd earliest for Sussex. A little later than the normal arrival time were two at Goring on Apr 25 and a single at Wild Park on 29th. Singing males at breeding sites included five at Oreham Common and singles at Small Dole, Steyning Levels, West Mill Farm and Woods Mill. The only autumn record was one ringed at Cissbury on July 30.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros***Regular spring migrant, winter visitor, has bred**

There were surprisingly few wintering records. One seemed to be regular at Southwick beach during February, whilst scattered singles in mid-March were likely to be migrants. These were from Hove Lagoon, Lancing Beach, Widewater and Wild Park. Another was at Sheepcote on Apr 9, then an adult male at Shoreham beach and the last spring record was in the centre of Brighton on May 1. First of the autumn was at Hollingbury Hillfort on Oct 8 and others followed at similar downland sites such as Cissbury and Steyning, as well as individuals in the coastal region. A surprise was one on roofs and in gardens at Hollingdean on Oct 29, and then two more singles elsewhere in Brighton in early November. Other singles were at Edburton, Mill Hill and Worthing Beach. Birds present into December were from Ferring Rife, Shoreham Fort (max two), Southwick beach (max four) and Widewater.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus***Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn**

Early birds were at Adur Recreation Ground on Apr 4, Patcham the next day and a female at Edburton Hill on 8th. Redstarts are not so often noted in spring, but further singles were at Brooklands, Cissbury, Patcham again and West Worthing. Autumn passage started early with one at Cissbury on Jul 31 and a couple in the same area on Aug 15. There were scattered singles as expected, but multiple sightings included five at Edburton Hill on Aug 31, a peak of four at Wild Park on two dates, five at Steyning Roundhill on Sep 13 and seven further west at Kithurst Hill on the same day. The peak at Sheepcote was six on Sep 17. The last were two at Cissbury, one at Tegdown Hill and one at Wild Park all on Sep 24.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra***Common passage migrant**

There were only seven spring records commencing with one in Stanmer Park on Apr 27 and others at Lancing Clump, Sheepcote, Truleigh Hill and Worthing beach during the next few days. Early August sees the start of autumn passage when up to three were at Findon, Lancing Down and Wild Park. Numbers picked up in September with a peak of 20 at Sheepcote on 11th, and other high counts of nine at Sompting Downs, ten at Toad's Hole (Hove) and eight at Kithurst Hill. The last date was Sep 19 with six at Small Dole and Steyning, and eight at Sheepcote.

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

This species is well represented in our area with over 100 records. In winter it is typical to encounter birds all the way up the Adur valley from Widewater and New Salts Farm up to the Cement Works and Coombes, to the Upper Levels and Beeding Brooks. The highest early year count was five at Beeding Brooks, but close behind were four from downland at Steep Down. As birds drifted away at the end of March, the breeding season produced pairs at Cissbury, Coombes, Steep Down, Steyning Roundhill, Tegdown Hill and Worthing GC. Ten at Steep Down on Jun 24 and eight at Cissbury gave some indication of success. In September small groups were at Goring Gap, Widewater and Wild Park, increasing as expected in October to peak 15 at Cissbury on 22nd but only five at Sheepcote on 17th. During the last two months birds were noted from different

sites including Beeding Hill, Devil's Dyke, Findon, Fulking and Southwick Hill as well as some of the more low lying areas of the Adur Valley.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

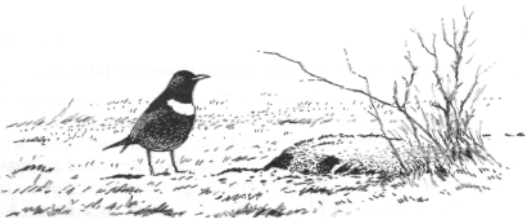
Common passage migrant

A fall of 18 on Southwick beach on Mar 15 was quite unusual for the first date of the year, and was also the peak spring count. More normal were singles the next day from Marina and Wild Park, four at Worthing beach and eight at Goring seen arriving in off the sea onto the beach. Peak counts from well-watched sites were eight from Goring and Widewater, six from Sheepcote and max ten at Wildpark, all these before the end of March. Many of the records for April came from downland sites such as Beeding Hill, Ditchling Beacon and Cissbury, but the highest count in this period came from Worthing beach with nine on 30th. There were a handful of May sightings including a possible Greenland race on 15th at Henfield Levels. Early autumn migrants turned up at five coastal sites from Jul 31 to Aug 6, but the main movement started with ten at Findon Park Brow and Wild Park in early September, followed by peaks of 30 at Kithurst Hill on 13th, and 28 between Goring and Worthing beaches on 16th. There were no totals from either Cissbury or Sheepcote, but at Wild Park there were 76 noted from Aug 21 to Oct 9. Rather unusual were three on rooftops in central Brighton on Sep 15. Elsewhere in September there were dozens of records sometimes into double figures, and from a variety of different habitats. Good numbers continued to be recorded into October from Cissbury and Steep Down, and from beaches between Shoreham and Worthing. The last records were of singles at Southwick beach on Nov 1 and another at Widewater on the very late date Nov 12/13.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Regular passage migrant

There were exceptional numbers from mid-October, especially in the Cissbury area, after an average showing in spring. Singles appeared at Sheepcote Valley on Mar 19 and 27th, and Worthing GC on 23rd. A male was at Cissbury on Apr 2, with two birds there on 22nd. The first autumn migrants were at Wild Park on Sep 21 and Sheepcote Valley on Oct 1. More singles followed at Cissbury on Oct 10, Brooklands on 14th and 15th, and Wolstonbury on 16th, when four were at Wild Park. Five were at Sheepcote Valley on 17th and a flock of 16 on 18th, when the total of 48 at Cissbury and the adjacent area from Lychpole Hill to Stump Bottom included 16 arriving from the northeast. Next day the total was 65! Not surprisingly this was another new record. Yew trees near the flint mines were often a focus, and other counts included 30 on 20th, 14 on 22nd, and 25 on Nov 1. Elsewhere, three were at Lancing Ring on 20th, three at Edburton Hill on 22nd, and singles there and at Wild Park and Steyning Levels on 30th. Two spent Nov 11 pulling worms from an Edburton lawn, two were at Thundersbarrow on 12th and the last at Cissbury on 19th.



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

Regular counts at Stanmer Park produced monthly maxima of 40 in January, 46 in February, and 34 in March and April, similar to last year. Twenty were at Golding Barn on Jan 20, 11 at Warren Hill on Feb 16 and 12 at Tegdown Hill on Apr 17. Other widespread reports in the first four months were of fewer than ten birds. Wild Park held 110 breeding pairs, showing a further small decline. Spring transects for the Breeding Bird Survey recorded 164 birds from ten sites, ranging from five at Upper Beeding to 34 at West Worthing. Considerably more birds than last year were ringed and controlled at Cissbury and the Sanctuary, 64 and 51 as against 25 and 38. The largest counts after the breeding season were of 36 at Stanmer Park in September, 14 at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 17, 22 in a BTO Atlas trial tetrad in Hove on Dec 2 and 19 at Golding Barn on 4th.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris***Common winter visitor**

Fair numbers were widely reported up to Mar 16, but there were few records in November and December. On Jan 1, 50 were at Lychpole Hill. Next day 400 were nearby at Stump Bottom, 200 at Old Erringham Farm, and 100 on Steyning Levels. Other January figures included up to 71 at Tegdown Hill, 50 at Henfield Levels and 22 at Stanmer Park. The February maximum was 70 at Stanmer Park, and also in that month 60 were noted at Annington and 50 at Upper Beeding. In March, 23 were still at Tegdown Hill on 6th, and the last spring record was of seven at Upper Beeding on 16th. The first of the autumn were 20 at Cissbury on Nov 1, and the largest counts were of 35 at Stretham Manor on Nov 21, 50 at Upper Beeding on Dec 17 and 25 at Chantry Hill on 31st.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos***Fairly common resident**

At Stanmer Park, the monthly maxima were 12 in January and February, nine in March and eight in April. There were eight at Brooklands on Apr 10, and a further 42 reports in the early months totalled just 73 birds. Breeding Bird Survey transects recorded 32 birds from nine sites, and 15 pairs were found in Wild Park. It was encouraging that 26 out of 31 members' gardens recorded the species. More were ringed and controlled than last year: 42 at Cissbury and 27 at the Sanctuary. Otherwise only small numbers were noted until Dec 29 when 30 were around Edburton. A pair bred and raised three young in January at the Pavilion Gardens (Brighton) - an extraordinarily early date.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus***Common winter visitor**

On Jan 1, 25 were at Lychpole Hill, and the last two of the spring were at Worthing on Mar 14. In between, the highest numbers were 60 in St. Mary's churchyard (Goring), on Jan 7, 100 at Clapham Wood on 22nd, 80 at Henfield Levels on 23rd, and 40 at Warren Hill on Feb 16. The monthly maxima at Stanmer Park were 26 in January, 52 in February, and 37 in March. The first of the autumn flew west on Oct 11 at Cissbury, followed by 30 there on 20th, 50 on 23rd, 160 on Nov 1 and 125 on 4th. On the nights of Oct 17 and 19th, hundreds per hour were heard calling at night over Brighton, and several thousand passed east at dawn on Nov 2, including a flock of 500. Wild Park's peak count was 57 on Nov 5, and 800 flew north above the mist over Brighton on 13th. Three were ringed at Cissbury and one at the Sanctuary. Only 17 more were noted after mid-November.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus***Fairly common resident**

Nearly all the reports from various sites through the year were of one or two birds, and the highest numbers were six at Steyning Round Hill and five at Tegdown Hill in September. There was little evidence of breeding, but song was heard at Highdown and Warren Hill in March, and three juveniles were seen at St. Anne's Well on May 17. Only one pair bred at Wild Park.

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

One was in song at Beeding Brooks in March and April. Further north in the Adur Valley near Wyckham Farm another was in song from April to June and was thought to have bred. One was still singing at this site on Nov 5.

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

There were no spring records this year but better numbers were found in autumn. Three were at Edburton on Aug 3 and Sep 7 with a single there on Sep 17. Singles were also reported on five dates between August and October from Stanmer Park, Sheepcote Valley and Cissbury Ring. Last of the year was one at Sheepcote on Oct 22, the latest record for the area.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***Fairly common summer visitor**

Ferring Rife hosted the first of the year where one was singing on Apr 24. Apart from a good count of 15 on Beeding Brooks on May 18 only St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) and Wild Park produced May records of just single birds. Again no breeding reports were received. Return passage began with a single at Patcham on July 28 but was quickly followed by another from Steyning Round Hill on July 31. August sightings came from Cuckoo Corner, where four occurred on Aug 13, and singles from Widewater and Mill Hill. Ringing revealed single juvenile birds at the Shoreham Sanctuary on both Jul 30 and Aug 10 and two birds at Cissbury on Aug 6. Final September records came from the Brighton area with singles at Wild Park and Sheepcote Valley until ten were present at Sheepcote on Sep 18.

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

The earliest record was of two at Woods Mill on Apr 17. One was found at Bond Street Laine Local Nature Reserve (Brighton) on Apr 30 and a count on the Steyning Levels the following day reached ten. Another count at Beeding Brooks on May 18 produced 20. The Adur Valley held most of the other spring records apart from one at Ferring Rife on Jun 9 and two at Sheepcote Valley on Jun 25. Breeding was only confirmed at Shoreham Sanctuary. Here a total of 37 young birds and 24 adult birds were ringed making a Sanctuary ringing total of 61 whereas Cissbury ringed a total of 11 birds during August and September. Apart from a single at Stanmer Park on Aug 9 and up to three on Mill Hill towards the end of August there were no other autumn records from any sites. As in 2004, both the Cissbury and Sanctuary ringing sites produced the final birds of the year on the same day; this time with singles on Sep 24.

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

Fat bars, seed feeders and winter berries attracted Blackcaps to gardens across our recording area during the early months. These were mostly single birds but up to three were noted at Patcham in February and four were at Stanmer Park at the end of March. Song was first heard on Feb 8 in Findon. Away from the gardens migrant arrivals were at Sheepcote Valley, Lancing Ring, Shoreham Sanctuary and Cissbury during the early days of April. Despite a wealth of breeding season records from across the district, confirmation of breeding only came from Wild Park (15 pairs), Cissbury (12 pairs, based on females with brood patches), Shoreham Sanctuary and Highdown. Otherwise the largest count was of 18 at Stanmer Park on April 18. Best autumn counts were of 30 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 17 with 26 at Wild Park on the same day; a total of 117 being counted here between Aug 31 and Oct 8. Highest single day catches for the ringers were 57 at Cissbury on Sep 11, and 32 at the Sanctuary on Sep 19. Ringing totals for the year were 307 at Cissbury and 177 at the Sanctuary. Apart from a female re-trapped at the Sanctuary on Dec 3 garden records once again predominated after mid-November. Up to two birds were seen at 11 locations until the end of the year.

GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin***Fairly common summer visitor**

Just a sprinkling of records for this species compared to its Blackcap relative. Newly arrived birds were found at Stanmer Park on Apr 15, Woods Mill on Apr 17 and at Patcham and again at Stanmer on Apr 21. St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) held four on Apr 25 and three on Apr 30. During May and June, in addition to these sites, records came from Wiston Estate (Steyning), West Worthing, Wild Park, Cissbury and Golding Barn. Breeding was confirmed at Wild Park (two pairs) and Cissbury (one pair). There were no sightings during July although at Shoreham Sanctuary the first of the year was caught on Jul 2. The total ringed at the Sanctuary was 16, with six on Aug 21 while at Cissbury 19 were ringed with five on Aug 6. The last at these sites were on Sep 10 and 11 respectively. Other autumn observations were up to two at Mill Hill, three at Waterhall and one at Sweet Hill (Patcham) in late August. Singles at Tegdown Hill on Sep 18 and Sheepcote Valley on Sep 28 concluded observations.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca***Fairly common summer visitor**

The well-watched Stanmer Park deserved the first record of the year on Apr 20 with the final days of April producing another sighting here on Apr 27 and singles in the urban parks of Bond Street Laines (Brighton) and St Anne's Well Gardens. Breeding season records of no more than two birds per locality came from Upper Beeding, Wick Farm (Westmeston), Patching Hill, Beeding Hill, Stanmer, Shoreham Sanctuary and Golding Barn. Probable or confirmed breeding occurred at Wild Park (one pair), Steyning Levels (one pair) and Cissbury (three pairs). As with Garden Warbler there were no records during July but again Stanmer saw the first of the return passage with six on Aug 9. Up to three were recorded at this and other sites during August and September, which prompted a comment of "poor" from a Wild Park observer. Other autumn observations came from Cissbury, Mill Hill, Toad's Hole Valley, Waterhall, Lancing Ring, Shoreham Airport and Tegdown Hill. The year ended as it began with the last record for the year on Sep 23 from Falmer. Ringing totals were seven at Cissbury and nine at the Sanctuary.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis***Common summer visitor**

There were many widely distributed records for this easily observed species. The first few days of April saw arrivals found at Sheepcote Valley and Cissbury. Records increased during the remainder of the month from predominantly downland areas but also other rural sites such as the Adur Valley as well as St Anne's Well Garden (Hove). May records were boosted by results from the BTO Breeding Bird Survey with valuable counts coming from transects surveyed at Northbrook Farm (Worthing), Worthing GC and Wick Farm (Westmeston) as well as the usual downland sites. Greatest counts in May were of nine at Sheepcote Valley, 30 on the top of Cissbury Ring and 20 on Steyning Round Hill. Probable or confirmed breeding occurred at Cissbury (two pairs), Highdown (three pairs), Wild Park (21 pairs) and Shoreham Sanctuary. The ringing total at Cissbury amounted to a lower 61 new birds whereas the Sanctuary improved on 2004 with 30 birds ringed. In August and September counts from the well watched downland sites were lower; the best were 25 on Cissbury Ring on Aug 15, 13 at Mill Hill on Aug 28, 16 at Wild Park on Sep 1 and 20 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 5 and again on Sep 11. Sheepcote also held the last two for the year on Sep 29.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata***Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor**

Cissbury was the local place to see Dartford Warbler in 2005. Apart from one seen between Roedean and the area boundary on Mar 20 and a single in Sheepcote Valley on Oct 26 all the other records came from or near Cissbury Ring. One spring record on Apr 22 heralded a succession of autumn and winter records commencing on Sep 2. A single bird was found on this date and then first one and then two birds were seen regularly from mid-October until the mid-December. A single was also seen in nearby Stump Bottom on Oct 16 with two there on Dec 11.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus***Rare autumn vagrant**

One was located at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 22 (ADW, IJW) and one was heard and seen briefly at the Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct 11 (JAN). These records have been accepted by the SOS.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix***Scarce passage migrant**

The one authenticated record came from Cissbury in early autumn when one was ringed at the Cissbury ringing site on Jul 30.

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita***Common summer visitor, with small wintering population**

Single wintering birds were found in a number of more sheltered sites particularly around towns and villages during January and February. Small numbers also frequented the Sewage Farm just north of Steyning where four were seen on Feb 19 including a grey bird thought to be of the *tristis* or *abietinus* race. From March the wintering population was boosted by new arrivals: one singing at Hove Lagoon on Mar 8 was thought to be an early migrant. The majority of records were of no more than one or two birds, the main exception being at Stanmer Park where nine were counted on Mar 29 and 11 the fol-

lowing day. Records came from 30 localities during the breeding season. Many repeat records from the same sites suggested breeding but confirmation was limited to Wild Park (15 pairs), Cissbury (one pair) and Shoreham Sanctuary. A bird present at the Fort and Coastguard Station (Shoreham) on May 22 was thought to be a late migrant. A total of 43 autumn records came from 22 locations with Brooklands being one of the most productive areas. Twenty-five were first seen there on Sep 28 with numbers staying around this level until 70 were counted on Oct 10 with 50 there the following day. Twenty were still present on Oct 23 – the last record for the site. Elsewhere 146 were counted at Wild Park between Aug 31 and Oct 29 with the highest daily total of 16 on Sep 17. The peak count was 40 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 24. Ringers at Cissbury caught 131 new birds with a peak number of 21 on both Jul 9 and Sep 17. At the Sanctuary 225 new birds were ringed with a maximum number of 37 also on Sep 17. The Sanctuary continued to harbour one or two birds into early December when two were ringed. Final records of wintering birds came from a Goring garden, Ferring Rife, Hollingdean and Steyning Sewage Farm where six were seen on Dec 18. Chiffchaffs were a visitor to at least seventeen members' gardens.



WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

A good range of early spring records began on Mar 25 with a single bird at Patcham. Arrivals were also found at the end of March at Shoreham Sanctuary, Brooklands and Stanmer Park with some of these sites holding up to three birds. During April the range of sites and the numbers increased with eight at Brooklands by Apr 10 and 12 at Stanmer by Apr 21. Although there were sightings from 13 different localities during the breeding season, breeding was confirmed at just two sites: Cissbury and Steyning Round Hill held one pair apiece. Nil returns came from Wild Park and Lancing Ring. The start of return passage was signalled by the first for the year in the net at the Shoreham Sanctuary on Jul 30. By Sep 24, 89 new birds had been caught here with a maximum of 18 on Aug 18. Cissbury caught an identical number of birds but the maximum catch here was 23 on Aug 6; the last for the season was also on Sep 24. Also on Aug 6, 45 were counted over the Cissbury scarp and on the Ring with another 45 there on August 15. Counts at other sites remained in single figures but regular counting at Wild Park produced a total of 86 between Aug 12 and Sep 13 with a maximum of just eight on Sep 1. Just singles at a number of sites remained into September until the final two were seen in Lancing on Sep 28. This species was recorded in 11 members' gardens.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

As usual there were many sightings of wintering birds from around the area, including eighteen members' gardens. The most regular came from the sewage works near Wyckham Wood with max of nine on Jan 7; and the same max in Stanmer Park. A flurry of migrant birds in March included peaks of four at Wild Park, nine at New Salts Farm and ten in Stanmer Park. Breeding was poorly reported with just two positive records of pairs near Preston Park and at Wild Park. Singing males were reported from Warren

Hill and other sites during May/June. Autumn records were unusually low, an indication being a max of only six at Wild Park on Oct 15 and ten from Stanmer Park on Sep 23. Smaller numbers were reported elsewhere, including parks and gardens well into December. Ringing details were 35 handlings at Cissbury in 26 sessions, max ten on Nov 4; and at Sanctuary 39 handlings in 41 sessions, max seven on Oct 29.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

Only one wintering bird was reported in Stanmer Park on Jan 7. This splendid little bird is at its best in the spring, and passage birds were recorded from a West Worthing garden on Mar 16 followed by other singles at Cissbury (singing), New Salts Farm, Patcham and Sheepcote where they were seen on 3 dates to Apr 11. First of the autumn were two at Edburton on Oct 8, then one at St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) on 12th and two at Wild Park on Oct 23. A single was ringed at Cissbury on Oct 15 and another was seen in the area on 22nd; and one ringed at Sanctuary on Nov 12. Wintering birds were one at Upper Beeding on Dec 26, one at Woodvale Cemetery on Dec 28 and 2-3 birds roaming an area of Hove including Hove Park, the Engineerium and Three Corner Copse for a week at the year end.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

This species is generally only sparsely recorded in spring and this year was no exception. The first was in St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) on Apr 25 and what may have been different birds during the next two days. In May there was another single at St Anne's Well Gardens, one at Wild Park and the last at Cissbury on 25th. Very good numbers occurred on return passage with numbers at a few sites reaching double figures. First of the autumn were at Cuckoo Corner and Small Dole in mid-August. Cissbury seemed to be the popular area with a max of 15 on Sep 4, and nine birds were ringed there during the season. Elsewhere there were ten at Edburton Hill and five at Patcham at the end of August; at Wild Park the total was 19 to Sep 22, with a peak of four on Sep 7. Ones and twos were recorded at other sites including Beeding Brooks, Goring Gap, Hove, Newtimber Hill, Sheepcote and Steyning. The last was at Bramber on Sep 24.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Regular passage migrant

A stunning male was flitting around the canopy at Wild Park on Apr 16, and another turned up two days later. Singles were seen at Patcham, Sweet Hill and St Anne's Well Gardens all on Apr 25. This latter site in Hove is a preferred 'hot spot' for this species with three on Aug 17 and singles on seven other dates to Sep 4. The Brighton area generally attracted most of the other autumn sightings from Devil's Dyke, Hove, Patcham, Sheepcote and Waterhall, the only record outside this area being the last one at Cissbury on Sep 17.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident

There were up to 16 at Stanmer Park, 12 at Tegdown Hill, eight at Stretham Manor (Henfield) and six at Kithurst Hill in January with smaller parties at half a dozen other sites. Rather lower numbers were recorded after this in the spring period but seven

pairs bred at Wild Park and fledged young were seen at St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove) in June. The presence of birds in April, May and June at Northbrook Farm (Worthing), Chanctonbury Ring, Cissbury, Upper Beeding, Bramber, Ditchling Beacon, Patcham, Golding Barn and Warren Hill (Washington) probably indicate breeding attempts. Some of the seventeen in Stanmer Park in July almost certainly must have bred. Twelve passed through a Goring garden in September and a flock of 20 was noted at Brooklands on Oct 23. In November, 14 were at Swandean Hospital grounds on 3rd and eight at Chanctonbury Ring on 19th. Up to five were recorded at several other sites to the year-end. Twenty birds were ringed at Cissbury in 26 sessions of which 15 were young and 53 were ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary in 41 sessions including 28 young birds.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident

As for the previous species largest numbers were noted at Stanmer Park (40 in early March) with 11 at Lee Farm, (Patching), 14 at Warren Hill (Washington), 12 at Upper Beeding and 11 at Stretham Manor as other early month maxima. In April, possibly as many as 40 were at Warren Hill (Washington), 34 in part of Hove (spring 2km transects) and 22 in West Worthing under similar circumstances. Breeding records were of 67 pairs in Wild Park, one in a Maybridge garden (Goring) and one at Salvington Lodge Hospital. Ten were at Lancing Clump on Aug 31 and a late month's maximum of 39 again at Stanmer Park. Birds were well reported across the area in parties of up to eight. Ringing at Cissbury and Shoreham Sanctuary produced 72 and 153 respectively of which 51 and 122 were young birds.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Very common resident

Again widely reported with regular monitoring at Stanmer Park, yielding counts of 17 to 25 through the year. Thirteen were logged at Northbrook Farm (Worthing) on May 1 (spring 2km transects) and in October there were maxima of eight at Sheepcote Valley and in November, six at Chanctonbury and eight in the Lower Adur Valley. Between one and five birds were recorded at many other localities. Breeding records were 49 pairs at Wild Park and one in a Goring garden raising three young. Ringing at Cissbury produced 50 new birds of which 33 were young in 26 sessions and at Shoreham Sanctuary 73 were trapped of which 55 were young. This was from 41 sessions.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Fairly common but local resident

The maxima at Stanmer Park where regular monitoring was carried out were seven in February and April. Up to four were noted at Washington Warren Hill, two at Findon and Bramber and just singles at Wick Farm (Westmeston), and birds were seen in 14 out of 31 members' gardens. A bird showing characteristics of the continental subspecies was seen at Brooklands on Oct 8 (CWM) with two there on 10th (BFF). Two were in a Goring garden on 15th (DIS).

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

Only found at Cissbury, where ringing of five birds indicated successful breeding (four young trapped), Washington Warren Hill, and Clapham Wood.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea***Uncommon resident**

All records were from either on or north of the Downs with the exception of Clapham Wood. Six at Washington Warren Hill in January and five in February were the largest groups. From one to three were noted at Bramber, King's Barn (Steyning), Patching Hill, Small Dole, Steyning town centre, Tegdown Hill, Westmeston, Cissbury Ring, Mytlegrave Farm (Clapham) and Storrington. Breeding occurred at Clapham Wood, Small Dole and Chanctonbury Ring though the outcome was not determined. All records of this species are required.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris***Uncommon resident**

Two or three were seen together at Warren Hill (Washington), Stanmer Park and Cissbury between Jan 5 and Jun 1. Food carrying was observed at Stretham Manor on May 15. Otherwise single birds noted from Goring Gap, Woods Mill, Wiston Estate, St Anne's Well Gardens (Hove), Tegdown Hill, Storrington and Hove Park. Ringing at Cissbury and Shoreham Sanctuary yielded four birds at each site with four and one young respectively.



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JAY *Garrulus glandarius***Fairly common resident and winter visitor**

There were regular reports of small numbers in the first quarter, the maximum being seven at Stanmer Park on Feb 23. Three pairs bred at Brighton Wild Park and at least two pairs bred at Warren Hill (Washington). In the autumn, four birds were ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary, of which three were young birds, and one adult bird was ringed at Cissbury. The maximum number of birds reported during the rest of the year was ten at Patcham and at Brighton Wild Park.

MAGPIE *Pica pica***Very common resident**

There were numerous widespread reports of these birds in small numbers throughout the year. This year no confirmed breeding reports were received. The largest number seen was at Brighton Wild Park where 40 birds were reported on May 2. At Swandean Hospital 18 birds were seen on Sep 26. Elsewhere the largest flocks were of between eight and 14.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula***Common resident**

The largest flocks reported in the first winter period were 40 at Swandean Hospital on Jan 5, 110 seen in East Worthing near the refuse tip on Feb 3 and 100 seen at Beeding Cement Works on Mar 5. The only breeding record was of two pairs in Brighton Wild Park. In the second winter period the only large numbers reported were 84 flying high west at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 23 and 100's in several flocks flying east over Beeding Brooks on Oct 31 and 1,000 in three noisy flocks, again flying east, at the same site on Dec 12.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus***Common resident**

Counts of nests at rookeries were as follows:- Findon 50, Findon Valley 102, Wappingthorn 12, Lancing College 15, Wyckham Wood 50+, Clapham Common 20; rookeries were also reported from Castletown and Ferring.

At Findon Valley the 30% reduction in nests may have been due to tree felling. The largest flocks reported during the year were 150 at Highdown on Feb 20, 170 at Myrtle-down Farm (Clapham) on Apr 5, and 45 at Stanmer Park on Aug 8.

CARRION CROW *Corvus corone***Common resident**

There were very many reports of these birds during the year from all parts of the region. Normally these reports related to one or two birds. The only breeding report was of 16 pairs in Brighton Wild Park. There was a convocation of 19 birds in a garden in Shoreham on Jan 28. Many reports were received of between 12 and 17 birds seen during transect counts but the only large flocks were at Lancing Clump where 40 birds were seen on Aug 31, and 50 were seen on Sep 8. The only other sizable flock seen was of 25 by the River Adur at Shoreham on Nov 19.

RAVEN *Corvus corax***Very scarce breeding resident**

A pair unsuccessfully tried to breed again at the Cement Works. Eggs were laid but human disturbance caused the adults to abandon the nest. One or two birds were reported during the year from several sites from Brighton to Storrington. They were seen most frequently in the Steyning to Cissbury area and at Edburton Hill. Three birds were seen at the Cement Works on Sep 3.

COMMON STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris***Abundant resident and winter visitor**

The estimated roost at Brighton Palace pier on Jan 5 was 9,000. Between Jan 17 and Jan 28 large flocks were seen at Hove Lagoon flying west from the overnight roost, the largest flock being about 4,000 birds. Subsequently, until the end of October, only small flocks were seen, the largest of these being 300 at Bramber on May 29. Confirmed breeding reports were only received from Brighton Wild Park where 20 pairs bred and Upper Beeding where young birds were seen. However, small flocks were seen on May 1 at several sites:- Patcham 74, Hove 121, Old Salts Farm (Lancing) 104, Portslade 62, and Upper Beeding 68. Flocks became larger in autumn until 800 were seen on Beeding Hill on Oct 29 and then the really large counts began. Brighton's West Pier held 14,500 on Oct 29, 6,500 on Nov 26, and 2,500 on Dec 22. Palace Pier held 21,000 birds on Dec 3 and 44,500 on Dec 31.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus***Very common resident**

The largest concentrations were in gardens at Goring and Lancing with maxima of 30 and 90 (two sites) respectively in January and February. Regular monitoring at Stanmer Park. Patcham and Tegdown Hill yielded counts of from 11 to 23 in the same period. Spring 2 km transects in Patcham, Hove, Lancing Old Salts Farm, Portslade and Worthing (West and Northbrook Farm) totalled 360. Fourteen pairs bred in Wild Park

and six at Maybridge (Goring) where eight juveniles present. The Goring Gap flock amounted to 150 on Jul 30 with many juveniles. In August there were 95 at Hove Lagoon and 20 at Lancing Clump. Twenty were by the River Adur at Shoreham in November. An average of between eight and 13 visited the gardens of 30 members across the year.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Scarce former resident

One was in game cover with other finches and buntings at Kithurst Hill on Jan 1. Five were at Tegdown Hill on Mar 6 and there was an unsubstantiated report of ten by the River Adur at Shoreham on Nov 17.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident

No groups or flocks of double figures were noted in the first half year apart from at Stanmer Park and Tegdown Hill where the maxima were 72 and 16 respectively and at Worthing GC and Northbrook Farm where spring transects logged 13 and 16. Forty-two pairs bred at Wild Park. Ringing at Cissbury and Shoreham accounted for 18 and 34 birds in 26 and 41 sessions. Twelve singing males were heard in a three mile walk near Steyning Round Hill on May 29. In the second half of the year there were 15 at Lancing Clump on Aug 31, 33 at Patcham and 29 at Sheepcote Valley in September and 50 at Steep Down (Lancing) on Oct 13. Thirty-six moved through Wild Park on Nov 5 and 50 were between Ditchling Beacon and The Chatri on 20th.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

There were only three records before October; three in Stanmer Park on Jan 6 (two on 14th) and two at Brooklands on Apr 6. Seventy flew over Sheepcote Valley on Oct 29, 12 likewise over Cissbury on Nov 1 and 30 over Brighton on 7th. Wild Park totalled ten for the autumn. Singles visited gardens at Preston Park (Brighton), Storrington and Hove also in November and there were five by the River Adur at Shoreham on 17th. A flock of 120 had reappeared in game cover between Lee Farm, Patching and Kithurst Hill on Dec 16.

SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Rare passage migrant

One came in off the sea at the Marina on Mar 26 (IJW) and one was at Edburton on 28th (TJW). Inland sightings are very unusual and this latter record constitutes the first for the area. These records have both been accepted by the SOS.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident

Seventy at Ferring Rife on Jan 1 was a high count for this site and the largest gathering anywhere until October. Other notable flocks were 20 at Upper Beeding on Jan 30 and up to 22 at Stanmer Park and 19 at Patcham through the year. Spring 2 km transect surveys registered 118 in total from Patcham, Hove, Lancing Clump, Portslade, Upper Beeding, Westmeston Wick Farm, Worthing GC, Northbrook Farm and West

Worthing. Thirty-six pairs bred in Wild Park. Ringing totals at Cissbury and Shoreham were of seven and just one. In the late autumn up to 500 gathered on Shoreham beach but elsewhere numbers were small though the species was very widespread visiting 80% of members' gardens.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common resident

Very well reported across the area possibly because of its conspicuous attractive appearance. Flocks were small but widespread with thirty at Upper Beeding on Jan 1 by far the largest in the period to July. Regular monitoring at Stanmer Park and Tegdown Hill noted up to 17 and 11. The spring surveys totalled just 25 from seven areas. Two pairs bred at Wild Park and juveniles were noted at Blackpatch Hill (west of Findon) in a charm of 30 birds and another at Newtimber Hill (Poynings) contained mostly these in a flock of 40. Late September saw a rise in numbers with 80 plus at Sheepcote Valley, 50 were at Cissbury on Oct 2 and 80 at Steep Down on 13th. Wild Park registered 66 on 15th and large coastal movement was observed at Ferring, Goring, Worthing and Brooklands from 5th to 28th with a grand total of over 1,500 flying east. The peak day was 14th with 510 in just half an hour. One hundred passed over the Sanctuary on 29th. No more than ten were seen at any of nine sites in November and December maxima were ten at Steep Down on 5th and 12 at Beeding Brooks on 12th. Ringers at Cissbury handled four birds but none were trapped at Shoreham. A visitor to 22 members' gardens preferring nyger seed and white sunflower hearts.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor

In January there were just two reports; three at Warren Hill (Washingdon) on 5th and six at New Erringham Farm (Shoreham) on 16th. A fairly good autumn commenced with 50 over Hollingdean (Brighton) on Sep 13. Three hundred and fifty passed over Sheepcote Valley on 17th when 42 were at Wild Park (out of 138 between 11th and Nov 5) and 25 over Mill Hill (Shoreham). Small numbers were noted at the Sanctuary, Cissbury, Goring, Bramber, Tegdown Hill, Durrington, Widewater, Worthing, Brooklands, Lancing Clump, New Salts Farm, Shoreham Fort, by the River Adur and Edburton up to the year end, no group exceeding six birds. No garden records were received this year.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and passage migrant

Thirty at Kithurst Hill on Jan 3 and 35 by the River Adur at Shoreham on Feb 27 were the largest flocks in the early months. The Downs at Ditchling Beacon and Tegdown Hill accounted for 14 and 22 on Apr 17 and on 21st the month maximum at Stanmer Park was 27. Worthing beach logged 85 E in the month, maximum of 45 on 24th. Spring transect surveys accounted for 37 at Portslade, Upper Beeding, Westmeston and Worthing GC. There were 16 in Wild Park on May 6 and six pairs in three miles near Steyning Round Hill on 29th. Just one was ringed at Cissbury. Fifty were on Harrow Hill on Aug 20 and 80 at Kithurst Hill on Sep 13. Small flocks were encountered at several downland sites with by far the largest being 50 at Ditchling Beacon on Nov 20, 50 at Windmill Hill (Upper Beeding) on Dec 7 and 250 at Chantry Hill (Storrington) on 18th.

TWITE *Carduelis flavirostris*

Scarce winter visitor

One at Widewater on Mar 1(JL). Record accepted by the SOS.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

One at Brooklands on Apr 10 was the only spring record. From Sep 24 (two at the Sanctuary) through to Nov 27 (when the last was at Shoreham Fort) a moderate passage was observed along the downs and coast. Peak numbers at Sheepcote were 120 on Oct 18 and other notable counts were 33 W over Cissbury on 18th, 10 E over Goring on 28th and 20 E over the Sanctuary on 29th. In November, ten were at Washington Warren Hill on 12th and 20 at Myrtlegrove Farm (Clapham) on 20th.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years

One in a Goring garden early on Jun 1 flew off west and three immatures were drinking at a garden pond in Storrington on 9th. Flocks of 30 and 15 flew west over Southwick Green on Jul 8 and were followed by 20 over Hollingdean (Brighton) next day.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Rare passage migrant

One at Goring Gap in the late morning of Jun 11 flew off west (DIS). This was the first record in our area since one was trapped near Brighton in 1869! This year's record has been accepted by the SOS.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident

Ones and twos at about twenty-five sites across the area were reported. Breeding was noted at Wild Park (three pairs). Ringing at Cissbury and the Sanctuary totalled 58 and 17 different birds respectively and since some were juveniles local breeding success was evident. Sixteen at Cissbury on Nov 1 suggest an influx had taken place. A party of six flew high northeast over the Sanctuary calling on 5th. There were ten at Edburton on Dec 2. Four gardens of SDOS members were visited during the year, the species showing a liking for the seedheads of small flowered, geraniums in particular.

HAWFINCH *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Rare passage migrant

Two flew east over Cissbury Ring on Nov 4. (BFF/DIS). One was present on a garden bird table in Findon for 30 minutes on Nov 5th (per MT).

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One on the beach at Ferring on Jan 9 moved to Goring Gap where it remained until the 12th. There was one at Ditchling Beacon Sussex Wildlife Trust reserve on Nov 7 and one on the beach at Shoreham Fort on 16th.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common resident

Tegdown Hill and Stanmer Park held up to 24 and 23 in the first three months of the year. Ten were on Beeding Hill on Jan 16 and in the Wiston Estate on Mar 10 and up to six at the Cement Works, Kithurst Hill, Ditchling Beacon, Highdown, Spithandle Lane (Ashurst), Golding Barn (Beeding), and Applesham (Coombes) in the same period. In April, Steyning Round Hill, Sheepcote Valley, Lancing Clump, Worthing, Bramber and the Lower River Adur also held one or two pairs. Spring transect surveys found them in Patcham (five), Upper Beeding (three), Westmeston (four), Wiston (two), Worthing GC (one) and Northbrook Farm (two). Nine pairs bred in Wild Park. Ringing at Cissbury produced ten in 26 sessions. Eight pairs were found in three miles around Steyning Round Hill on May 29 and there were eight at Wolstonbury Hill on Jun 10 and a similar number at Lychpole Hill on Sep 4. The largest parties followed with 25 at Cissbury on 7th, 35 at Kithurst Hill on 13th, 29 at Tegdown Hill on 18th, 18 at Devil's Dyke and 20 at Stump Bottom on Nov 20 and 60 at Edburton on Dec 29.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common resident

Rather sparsely reported this year compared to the previous species. Mainly one to three birds only were noted at sites in the Adur valley and on the Downs, the exceptions being six at Stanmer Park and four at Tegdown Hill in March, five on Steyning Levels through the year and at least 50 with other finches and buntings in game cover at Lee Farm (Patching) in late November and December.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Fairly common but local resident

January flocks were of 24 at Tegdown Hill, 60 at Beeding Hill, 90 near the Cement Works and 30 (possibly a part of the same) near New Erringham Farm (Shoreham). Twelve were on Ditchling Beacon in March and six at Stanmer in April. Breeding pairs were three on Steyning Round Hill, twelve (singing males) on Steep Down, one on Beeding Hill and one on Blackpatch Hill. One hundred and thirty at Steyning Round Hill in ripe corn on Aug 8 constituted the year's biggest gathering. Forty were at Cissbury on Dec 5 and 15 were recorded at Park Brow, Findon on 18th.



ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS FOR 2005

BAR-HEADED GOOSE

One at the Marina on May 15.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MIGRANTS IN 2005

| | Arrival | | Departure | |
|--------------------|---------|------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Species | Date | Location | Date | Location |
| Garganey | Mar 20 | Marina | - | - |
| Osprey | Mar 24 | Brighton | Oct 31 | Shoreham - Adur |
| Hobby | Apr 10 | Brooklands | Oct 1 | Bramber |
| Whimbrel | Apr 5 | Worthing | Sep 7 | Shoreham - Adur |
| Pomarine Skua | Apr 22 | Marina | Oct 31 | Marina |
| Arctic Skua | Apr 17 | Worthing | Oct 5 | Worthing |
| Little Tern | Apr 17 | Worthing | - | - |
| Black Tern | Apr 23 | Worthing | Sep 27 | Worthing |
| Sandwich Tern | Mar 14 | Worthing | Nov 3 | Shoreham Harbour |
| Common Tern | Mar 20 | Worthing | Oct 22 | Marina |
| Turtle Dove | Apr 26 | Worthing | Sep 24 | Brighton |
| Cuckoo | Apr 5 | Ditchling Beacon | Aug 27 | Goring |
| Swift | Apr 20 | Patcham | Sep 2 | Goring |
| Sand Martin | Apr 1 | Brooklands | Sep 2 | Shoreham Airport |
| Swallow | Mar 28 | Edburton | Nov 24 | Hove |
| House Martin | Apr 4 | Patcham | Oct 27 | Steyning |
| Tree Pipit | Apr 16 | Brighton | Sep 19 | Wild Park |
| Yellow Wagtail | Apr 21 | Stanmer Park | Oct 9 | Marina |
| Nightingale | Mar 25 | Steyning | Jul 30 | Cissbury |
| Redstart | Apr 4 | Shoreham | Sep 24 | Cissbury/Tegdown/ Wild Park |
| Whinchat | Apr 27 | Stanmer Park | Sep 19 | Sheepcote/Small Dole |
| Wheatear | Mar 15 | Southwick | Nov 13 | Widewater |
| Ring Ouzel | Mar 19 | Sheepcote | Nov 19 | Cissbury |
| Sedge Warbler | Apr 24 | Ferring | Sep 18 | Sheepcote |
| Garden Warbler | Apr 15 | Stanmer Park | Sep 28 | Sheepcote |
| Lesser Whitethroat | Apr 20 | Stanmer Park | Sep 23 | Falmer |
| Whitethroat | Apr 3 | Sheepcote | Sep 29 | Sheepcote |
| Willow Warbler | Mar 25 | Patcham | Sep 28 | Lancing |
| Spotted Flycatcher | Apr 25 | Hove | Sep 24 | Bramber |
| Pied Flycatcher | Apr 16 | Wild Park | Sep 17 | Cissbury |

RINGING REPORT FOR 2005

During 2005 a total of 3,837 birds were ringed in the area; a notable increase of 29% on the total for 2004 and the sixth highest annual total recorded. Less than 5% (188) of these were ringed as nestlings although these included a significant proportion of the Kestrels, Stock Doves and Barn Owls ringed in the area. More than 95% were, as usual, mist-netted and ringed as fledged birds.

In keeping with recent years the largest fraction (59%) was ringed by the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG) comprising Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, and Matt Aeberhard. The group's main sites produced similar numbers of birds with 1,173 new birds and 339 retraps caught on the northern slopes of Cissbury whilst at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve the totals were 1,043 new birds and 417 retraps. The SRG's total was completed by 50 pulli ringed by Chris Fox either at Wiston or Sompington. It was an excellent year at the Sanctuary where the author, helped by Judith Ballantyne, Pam Mears and John Crix ringed 1,174 birds (just one more than the team at Cissbury!) and logged a further 695 retraps. Just five birds were ringed in John Newnham's West Worthing garden. The grand total for the year was reached by 395, including many nestlings, ringed by Barrie Watson and John Holt.

With ringing activity at the same sites it is not surprising to see a similar list of species ringed; indeed like 2004 there were 47 different species trapped and the totals ringed are shown in **Table A**. The year however was remarkable for producing record numbers and the ten species which have equalled or exceeded previous annual totals are marked with ***. No new species were added to the area ringing list but only eight Water Rails and nine Wood Warblers have been previously ringed in the district.

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2005 (*** denotes highest number ringed in district).

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|-----------------|-------------|
| Sparrowhawk *** | 5 | Song Thrush | 103 | Blue Tit | 483 |
| Kestrel *** | 13 | Redwing | 4 | Great Tit *** | 236 |
| Water Rail *** | 1 | Sedge Warbler | 7 | Nuthatch | 2 |
| Stock Dove *** | 5 | Reed Warbler | 96 | Treecreeper *** | 13 |
| Woodpigeon | 4 | Lesser Whitethroat | 25 | Jay *** | 9 |
| Barn Owl *** | 23 | Whitethroat | 113 | Magpie | 3 |
| Kingfisher | 1 | Garden Warbler | 44 | Starling | 52 |
| Green Woodpecker | 5 | Blackcap | 628 | House Sparrow | 15 |
| GS Woodpecker *** | 10 | Wood Warbler *** | 1 | Chaffinch | 69 |
| Swallow | 30 | Chiffchaff | 465 | Greenfinch | 89 |
| House Martin | 69 | Willow Warbler | 212 | Goldfinch | 113 |
| Wren | 92 | Goldcrest | 62 | Linnet | 1 |
| Dunnock | 115 | Firecrest | 2 | Bullfinch | 82 |
| Robin | 188 | Spotted Flycatcher | 10 | Yellowhammer | 10 |
| Nightingale | 1 | Long-tailed Tit | 86 | Reed Bunting | 20 |
| Blackbird | 214 | Marsh Tit | 6 | Total | 3837 |

Recoveries and Controls

At the time of writing recoveries or controls involving just 22 birds were reported during the year. The following is a selection of the more interesting ones.

Sparrowhawk:- A young male ringed at the Sanctuary on Oct 9 met a fairly typical end by flying into a greenhouse in Shoreham just 105 days later on Jan 22 2005.

Black-headed Gull:- Although there were reports of nine locally ringed birds most were old, additional sightings of well reported birds seen at Danish breeding colonies. The other three reports were:-

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------|------|
| 07-Dec-88 | First year | Sompting, Worthing, W Sussex | | | |
| 24-Jul-04 | Dead | Warta, Lotz, Poland | 5708 days | 1324 km | 86° |
| 23-Jan 85 | Adult | Sompting, Worthing, W Sussex | | | |
| 18-Aug-04 | Dead | Norresundby, Jylland, Denmark | 7147 days | 953 km | 44° |
| 30-Dec-79 | First year | East Worthing, W Sussex | | | |
| 15-Mar-05 | Killed by corvids | Worthing, W Sussex | 9207 days | 3km | 309° |

The last of these was over 25 years old; typically this species will live about 6 years and the oldest recorded was 26¾ years (www.bto.org.uk/birdfacts/index.htm).

Herring Gull:- The sole recovery shown below was late being reported and at an unusual location for a locally ringed bird to be found:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---|-----------|--------|-----|
| 09-Sep-81 | Juvenile | Sompting, Worthing, W Sussex | | | |
| 15-Sep-03 | Found dead on beach | Dornumersiel, Aurich & Oldenburg, Germany | 8041 days | 614 km | 60° |

Dunnock:- This fairly sedentary and skulking species is seldom recovered far from the ringing site making the following of note.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------|------|----|
| 10-Sep-05 | First Year | Steyning, W Sussex | | | |
| 23-Nov-05 | Found freshly dead | Goring-by -Sea, W Sussex | 74 days | 10km | SW |

Reed Warbler:-The area's only recorded movement is very typical.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------|-------|------|
| 06-Sep-03 | First year | Shoreham Sanctuary, W Sussex | | | |
| 01-Aug-05 | Controlled female | Farlington Marsh, Hampshire | 695 days | 53 km | 270° |

Blackcap:- Three birds, all ringed elsewhere and subsequently re-caught at each of the local ringing sites, are fairly typical movements for this species.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------|----------|--------|------|
| 24-Jul-05 | Juvenile | Exelby, Bedale, N. Yorkshire | | | |
| 11-Sep-05 | Controlled | Cissbury, Worthing, W Sussex | 49 days | 388 km | SSE |
| 22-Jun-05 | Juvenile | Peterborough, Cambridge | | | |
| 03-Sep-05 | Controlled | Steyning, W Sussex | 73 days | 185 km | S |
| 21-Sep-03 | Female | Beachy Head, E Sussex | | | |
| 19-Sep-05 | Controlled | Shoreham Sanctuary, W Sussex | 729 days | 40 km | 287° |

Chiffchaff:- The following were the only two movements recorded in this year and show opposite movements along the coast during October.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------------------------|---------|-------|------|
| 05-Oct-05 | First year | Shoreham Sanctuary, W Sussex | | | |
| 15-Oct-05 | Controlled | Icklesham, E Sussex | 10 days | 68 km | 84° |
| 15-Oct-05 | First year | Filsham, Hastings, E Sussex | | | |
| 29-Oct-05 | Controlled | Shoreham Sanctuary, W Sussex | 14 days | 57 km | 269° |

Like previous years there were several local recoveries and birds re-trapped in successive years at each of the regular ringing sites; all help to build information on movements, population sizes and the biology of each species.

John Newnham



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SANCTUARY REPORT 2005

This brief report on the activity at the Society's Sanctuary is based on the records from the author's notebook and from the regular reports of the ringing activity. In keeping with recent years the copse was visited on about 60 days with 41 long sessions for mist-netting. For the third year full details of the mist-netting sessions, often including analysis of historic data, were posted on the Society's yahoo group and the tables and analysis can still be found on the group's computer site. Trapping started in the early summer but for the first year for two decades continued regularly until the end of the year. The 41 sessions were spread between May 22 and December 31 involving seven ringing trips in each of the months August to October, five in July and December, four in both June and November and two in May. Except for two, in mid-June and early August, all were conducted in the morning approximately between 0700 and 1300hrs. The total of 1,872 birds trapped, of 31 different species, comprised 1,174 new birds, 695 retraps and three controls (bird ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at the sanctuary). The variety of 31 species is the highest since 32 species were trapped in 1990, the number of ringing session is the most since the 52 outings in 1978 and the total number of birds ringed is the largest since the enormous total of 2,298 in 1977. The following table confirms this was a successful year for ringing at the Sanctuary with the highest number of birds caught in one session since 1990 and a notably raised average catch than experienced in the previous 15 years.

Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for three periods of five years (1990 -2004) and 2005:

| | 1990-1994 | 1995-1999 | 2000-2004 | 2005 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|
| No. of sessions | 14 | 17 | 22 | 41 |
| Average catch | 37 | 31 | 39 | 46 |
| Year best | 64 | 57 | 67 | 81 |

Like the previous three years large numbers of warblers were trapped and seemed to be most numerous in the areas of the copse where the coppiced osier had become infested with aphids. Both Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were ringed in record numbers; the total of 225 Chiffchaffs included a top day of 37 on Sep 17 and just two days later 32 Blackcaps, from a total of 177, were trapped. The total of 30 Whitethroats was only bettered by 33 in 1967 although day totals of nine have not been exceeded before. After a decline in the number of Reed Warblers in 2004 the number (57) trapped in 2005 was not far behind the peak of 66 trapped in 2002. Other species ringed in record numbers were Sparrowhawk (4), Great-Spotted Woodpecker (7) and Long-tailed Tit (53) whilst 61 new Great Tits and 137 ringed Blue Tits, although not record figures, were notable. Once again there was a dearth of graniferous species ringed although Chaffinch (32) was the best represented since 1986, the five Goldfinches were the first since 1998 and Bullfinches (17) returned to the copse in the late part of the year after a poor showing in recent years.

As usual there was little activity in the first few months and only nine visits were logged between January and April. A Water Rail was heard calling from the reed-bed on Feb 6 but the notebook for Feb 19 reads "Bleak, cold and no birds". The violets were in bloom by Mar 12 and the first two Chiffchaffs and a single Willow Warbler were heard on the 26th. A male Blackcap was holding territory on Apr 4 but it was not until May 8 that four were singing and the first Reed Warbler and Whitethroat was recorded. During the first ringing session on May 22 a Nightingale and two Lesser Whitethroats were heard singing on the hillside.

During the warm summer months the vegetation in the usually damp Sanctuary grows furiously and between late April and July the task of keeping paths and netting rides clear of the encroaching undergrowth is time consuming but critical if mist-netting is to continue without too many hitches. In mid-June a party of students from Chesswood Middle School in Worthing visited the Sanctuary to view the activities as part of the schools extra-curricular activities. Fortunes during the breeding season seemed fairly mixed with several pairs of Blackcaps and Reed Warblers nesting but Chiffchaffs, although singing throughout the early summer, were not very productive locally and in the early summer there were very few Blue and Great Tits in the Sanctuary.

The summer soon drifted into autumn; the peak passage of Willow Warblers occurred, predictably, in mid-August with 18 trapped on the 18th. On this same date one of the few Spotted Flycatchers were recorded and the year's only Turtle Dove was seen on Aug 21. Throughout the autumn the mist-netting kept everyone busy with good numbers of warblers, as mentioned above, but other noteworthy records included the first autumn Grey Wagtail on Aug 21, the first Siskins on Sept 17 and the first two Redpolls on Sept 24. Although some large movements of finches were recorded from coastal sites during the autumn the numbers seen from the Sanctuary were very modest. More unusual observations included a Common Buzzard on Oct 3, a flight of 32 Canada Geese moving northward on Oct 11 and 54 Brent Geese flying high and south over the copse on Oct 15. The scarcest bird in the year was a Yellow-browed Warbler which passed through the copse during the late morning of Oct 11. This bird called several times from a tall Weeping Willow but it did not show until it came to the edge of the willow, paused briefly and then flew into a holly tree on the hillside. From here it called twice again and was watched to fly out of the holly and disappear into the sycamores on the side of Mill Hill. This was a miserable view compared with the obliging individual which visited the Sanctuary on Oct 19 1985. Interestingly in 1985 the bird was recognised on the call and on that occasion it was calling from the very same holly tree this bird disappeared into. In 1985 the bird then came into the Sanctuary and spent time in one of the Weeping Willows.

On both Oct 23 and Nov 5 there were impressive dawn movements of pigeons viewed whilst the mist-nets were being erected; on both mornings approximately 10,000 Woodpigeons and several Stock Doves passed in south-easterly direction. In late October feeders containing peanuts and seed were put up in the copse to encourage the resident birds to remain and prolong the ringing season. These worked very well and contributed to high numbers of tits and a few more Chaffinches being caught. Chiffchaffs lingered on into December whilst there were still insects and aphids to be found. The ringing continued until the end of the year and the five December sessions produced 45

new birds and 145 retraps.

As usual the staff of the S.W.A. have been helpful and often curious about the ringing activity. I would like to extend thanks to Barrie Watson, Brian Clay, Judith Ballantyne, Pam Mears and John Crix who have helped with the ringing activity in the copse this year and to these and the Worthing Conservation Volunteers for helping with the maintenance tasks in the Sanctuary. Finally a special vote of thanks to John Crix who has kept the feeding station stocked up with seed and peanuts during the wet and cold days in winter.

John Newnham



WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2005

Introduction

The sea at Worthing was watched for 271 hours on a total of 233 days in 2005; a small rise in the effort for 2004. Figure 1 shows the spring months were, as usual, the best covered with observations on 25 days in March, 28 days in April and 29 days in May. October records were from 26 different days and this was the best covered month away from the spring. The total hours watched ranked this year as the 16th highest since 1978, the first year of computerised data.

The pattern of watching, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, was similar to previous years with the spring months being the time when observers were prepared to spend most time watching the shore. However the figure, like that shown for 2004, shows a marked gap between the average effort and that for 2005 particularly in the three key spring months. Only in January, February, June and October did the watching exceed the previous 27 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.

Figure 1:-
The number of
hours seawatching
at Worthing in 10-
day periods during
2005

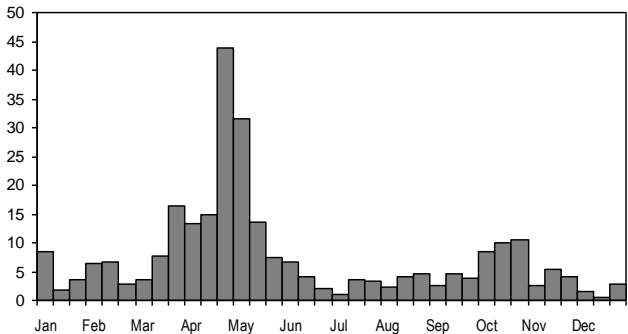
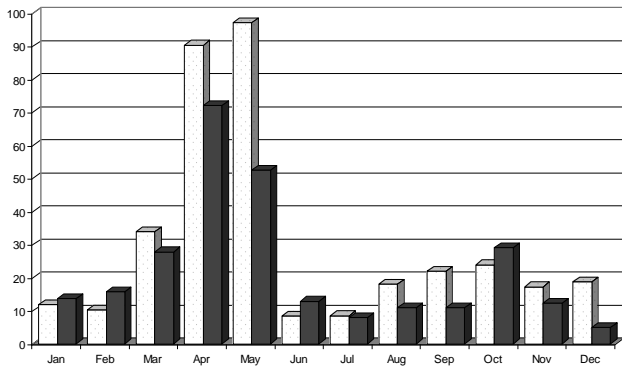


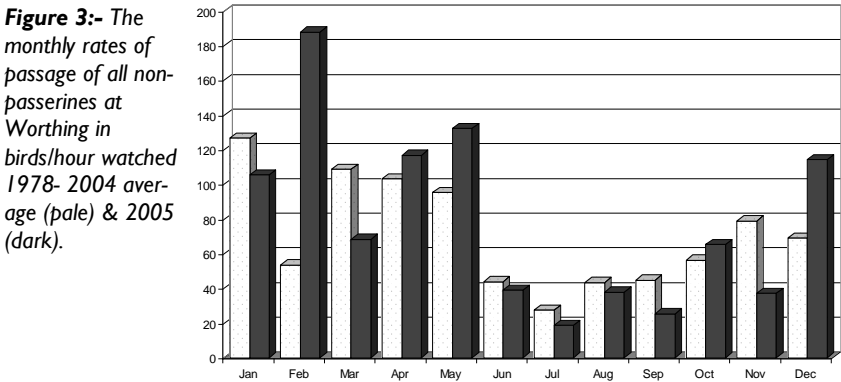
Figure 2:-
The monthly
watching effort for
2005 (black) com-
pared with the
average for
1978 –2004
(white).



During the year a similar number of birds were recorded to 2004 (26,347) and once again Figure 3 shows that a winter month, in this year, February, produced the most birds in each hour watched and this year May was the most productive of the spring months. 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 watched | 14 | 16 | 28 | 72 | 53 | 13 | 8 | 11 | 11 | 29 | 12 | 5 | 271 |
| Total birds | 1448 | 2969 | 1900 | 8421 | 6957 | 502 | 147 | 413 | 279 | 1903 | 456 | 571 | 25966 |
| Birds/hour | 106 | 188 | 68 | 117 | 132 | 39 | 19 | 38 | 25 | 65 | 37 | 114 | 96 |

The following plot compares the monthly rate of passage in 2005 (dark grey) with the average for the years 1978-2004 (pale) and shows the exceptional numbers of birds recorded in February and better than average months in April, May, October and December.



As usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing. The report however includes sightings 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:- M.N.Brayshaw, P.M.Brayshaw, A.Carter, R.Edney, J.A.Feast, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, J.A.Newnham, M.G.Prince, R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith, and R.Tofts.

CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT and DISCUSSION

Once again the previous graphs and table show that large numbers of birds were recorded in the winter months. In past decades this was often a very quiet season unless cold weather prompted movements of wildfowl. In recent winters larger numbers of seabirds have been recorded offshore and the early part of 2005 followed this pattern. The seabird species most frequently recorded passing the shoreline or feeding offshore were Gannets, Kittiwakes and auks. Early in the year 169 Gannets were noted on Jan 4 but the first large number of all these species was noted on Jan 26 when feeding parties included 150 Gannets, 30 Cormorants, 200 Kittiwakes and approximately 500 auks, most of which were Razorbills. Throughout February these species were still recorded regularly with a peak of 150 Gannets on the 1st and during a watch of about an hour on Feb 16 1,366 auks flew east and 46 were recorded flying westward. The annual changes in the rates of observation of auks, Gannets and Kittiwakes was shown graphically in 2002 (*Shoreham District Ornithological Society Report 50:62-63*) and these higher numbers continue. Figure 4 shows the winter rate of passage (birds recorded passing per hour watched in January, February and December) for all species and clearly shows more birds recorded in the past five years with rates between three and eight times those consistently noted in the 23 year period between 1978 and 2000. As mentioned before large flocks were noted feeding offshore, presumably attracted to shoaling fish which were not present in the past. The numbers of other feeding species has also risen; the maximum numbers of both Red-breasted Mergansers and Great Crested Grebes in each winter offshore at Worthing or Goring is shown in figure 5 (page 74) and these also show a clear increase in recent years.

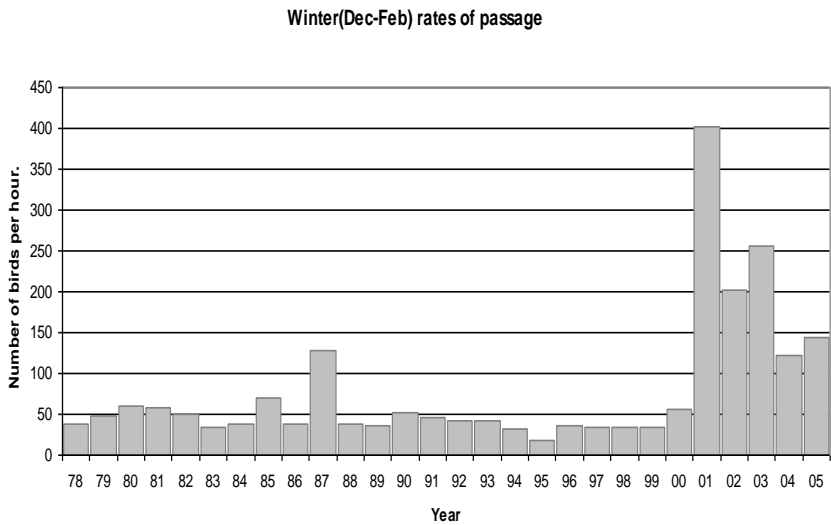


Figure 4:- The annual rates of passage of all species combined during the winter months (1978 to 2005)

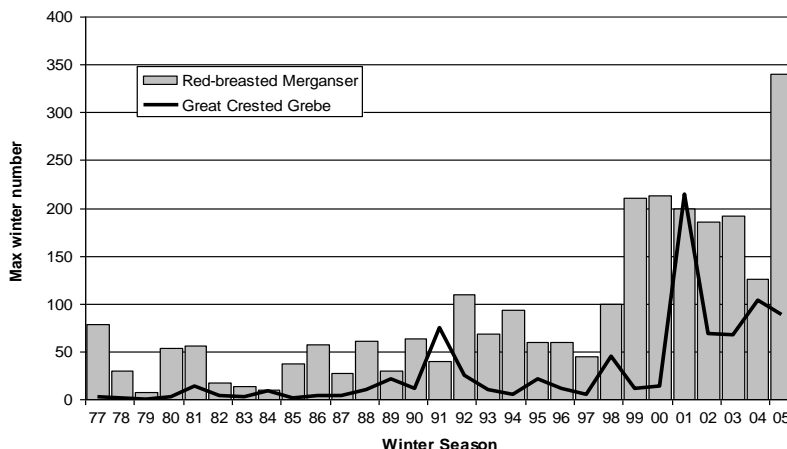


Figure 5: The maximum count in each winter season of feeding Red-breasted Mergansers and Great Crested Grebes at Worthing (1977 -2005).

The peak number of both Red-breasted Mergansers (309) and Great Crested Grebes (97) occurred on Feb 2. With the more common species were some more interesting birds; a pale phase Arctic Skua was seen on Jan 2, up to three Slavonian Grebes were seen on six dates in the first three months and Red-necked Grebes were recorded on two dates.

The first Sandwich Tern was seen moving eastward on Mar 14 and by the end of the month 114 had been recorded on 13 dates. A Wheatear was the next summer migrant to arrive on the 16th and the first of three March Common Terns was recorded on the 20th, an exceptionally early date. Figure 3 shows, however, March was fairly disappointing with low numbers of eastbound wildfowl seen; the best totals being 504 Brent Geese, 158 Common Scoter and 14 Pintail. Perhaps the highlights for the month were a Black Redstart noted on the 15th, two Black-necked Grebes on the 21st with one, possibly the same, on the 23rd, an Avocet on the 21st and two records of Peregrines over the beach.

Wildfowl numbers picked up in April with month totals of 1,221 Brent Geese (1,074 of which passed on the 3rd) and 1,034 Common Scoter (maximum of 206 on the 19th). Totals of scarcer wildfowl were 12 Gadwall, two Garganey and 20 Velvet Scoters. Waders were not particularly numerous with just 331 Bar-tailed Godwits and 277 Whimbrels recorded but Sanderling, usually a species seen later in spring, reached a peak of 205 on the 30th. The month totals for both Sandwich and 'commic' Terns were 1,590 and 1,518 respectively with the highest counts for both occurring on the 23rd. Thirty-six Little Terns were also recorded on 23rd April; this the highest day total for the entire spring for a species which seems to becoming less frequently seen on spring watches. Figure 6 (page 75) shows the spring rates of passage of Little Terns (birds seen in each hour watched) and, although there is a marked variation from year to year, the general trend, as shown by the five-year moving average line, is downward.

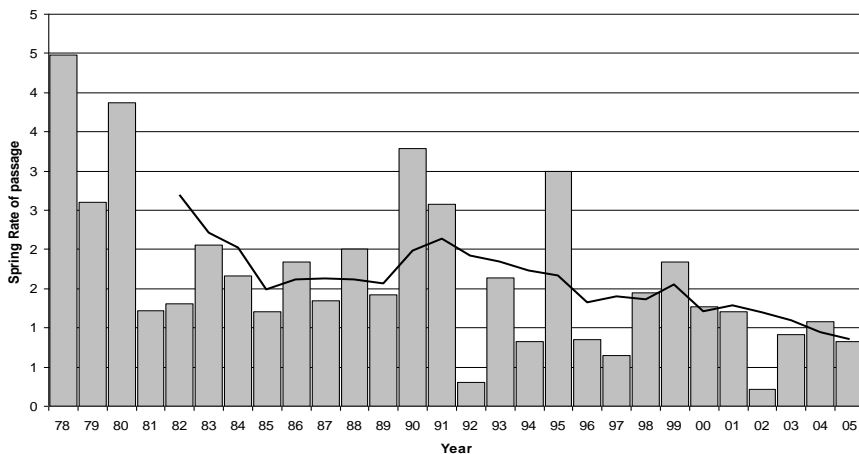


Figure 6:- The annual rates of passage for Little Terns during the spring months (1978 to 2005)

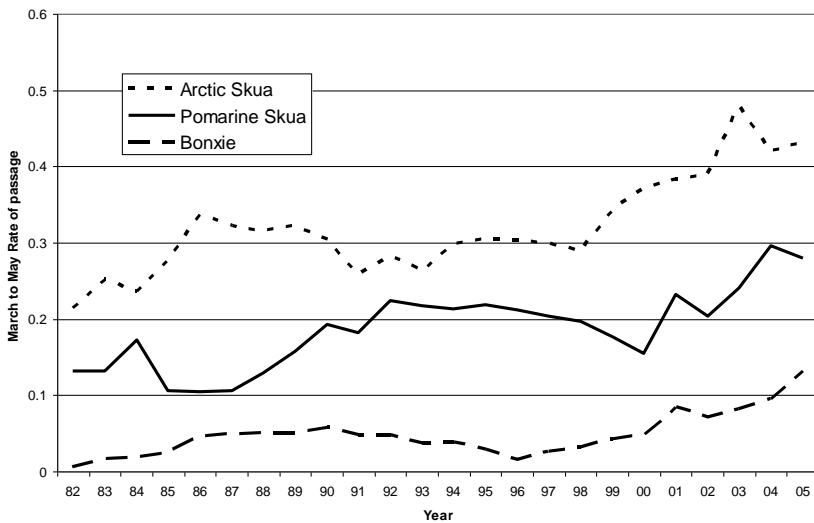


Figure 7:- The five year rolling mean spring rates of passage for three skua species at Worthing (1982-2005).



A Slavonian Grebe on Apr 8, a Manx Shearwater on the 10th and two Avocets on the 21st and month totals of 43 Arctic Skuas and 11 Mediterranean Gulls were perhaps the pick of the more unusual species. During April passerine movements were more obvious and notable were three Swifts arriving on the early date of the 24th, 115 Swallows moving north on the 30th when a Whinchat and Turtle Dove were also recorded.

Early May was well watched and the 13¾ hours watched during a light SW wind on the 1st was the best covered day in the year. The first two days of this month produced some interesting records including 18 Black-tailed Godwits and seven Mediterranean Gulls on the 1st and 1,583 'commic' terns and six Garganeys on the 2nd. The 2nd also produced the season's peak of eight Bonxies and 15 Pomarine Skuas; skuas were not particularly numerous in May 2005 but figure 7 (page 75) shows that the general trend for all three species has been to increase. The same figure shows observers are potentially more likely to encounter Pomarine Skua than Bonxie with Arctic Skua the most frequently seen. A Marsh Harrier arriving from the sea on May 7 and a Gull-billed Tern flying west in the late evening of 22nd were the most exciting records for the month. The Gull-billed Tern was presumably the same individual seen from Selsey Bill at the same time and the bird which remained on the River Adur at the end of the month into early June. Passage trickled on into early June with some unseasonable species being recorded. Five Red-throated Divers and six other diver species were most unusual for Jun 3, eight Great Crested Grebes were still offshore on the 6th and 24 Sanderling on the beach on the 15th. Throughout the month large numbers of Herring Gulls were present with over 1,000, mainly immatures, feeding over fish shoals on the 19th.

Figure 3 (page 72) shows June to September are the leanest months for sea-watchers in Sussex and 2005 was no exception. Notable records included a Hobby on both Aug 12 and 21, a Peregrine also on the 21st, a Merlin on Sept 20 and a Shag on Sept 28. There were no large movements of passerines seen; the best being a 1,000 Swallows during short watches on Sept 20 and Oct 5; 1,000 House Martins also on Oct 5 and 510 Goldfinches (out of a month total of 1274) on Oct 14.

Wintering birds started their return in October with Brent Geese recorded on 16 dates and a maximum of 205 on the 29th and the first Red-breasted Merganser recorded on the 6th. Throughout the year Little Egrets were regularly seen but during the autumn up to six were consistently seen feeding on the foreshore. Figure 3 (page 72) shows November 2005 was particularly quiet with a Black Redstart and a Merlin seen on the 22nd being the most interesting records. By Nov 19 there were 88 Great Crested Grebes gathered offshore and the count of Red-breasted Mergansers had increased to 64 by the 23rd. December would have also been considered uneventful had it not been for an amazing gathering of Gannets offshore over the Christmas period. On Dec 27 at least 2,500 were plunge diving at a range of 800-1,000m from the shore; this the largest number recorded from the Sussex coast and a spectacular sight enjoyed not only by the local birdwatchers but also by all walking along the promenade. Local residents noted similar numbers for several days and most were seen fishing during bright and sunny weather conditions with cool northerly winds. Four Sandwich Terns sitting on the beach on Dec 24 were unusually out of season.

John Newnham

INDOOR MEETINGS 2005

Our January speaker, Chris Cockburn of the RSPB, took us on a virtual tour of Langstone Harbour, via Aquatic, Mud and Saltmarsh habitats. Chris is the warden of this Hampshire Reserve and also here at Shoreham. He explained the ideal placement of the Harbour and its five islands on the north east Atlantic flyway between Siberia and Canada, providing abundant and diverse food supplies with desirable roosting and nesting sites. In his rich Devon voice he entertained us with many amusing incidents that befell him during his ringing work and five year management plan. His anecdotes of the Peregrine take-away bonanza, the Turnstones decorating his boat and Med gulls as exemplary parents made us all smile. One of our members helped him count the 4,587 Black-headed Gull nests, an interesting technique involving pasta shapes! Langstone Harbour is also of particular importance to Grey Plover (being used by over 1% of the world population), Dunlin, Red-breasted Merganser, the family dynamics of Brent Geese, Sandwich, Common and Little Terns. Little Egret night roosts have been counted at over 100.

In February, John Eyre, co-author of "Birds of Hampshire" and Chairman of Hampshire Ornithological Society, talked to us about a subject close to his heart, "Gilbert White and his Birds." Gilbert White was an 18th century Hampshire parson and wrote "The Natural History of Selborne." He used his observation of nature as seasonal indicators of the environment, to improve the lot of his parishioners. In fact it was said by James Fisher that Gilbert White was "The man who started us all birdwatching." Probably our first ecologist. John highlighted the 18th Century debate on whether all Swallows and Martins migrate, some believed they hibernated in the mud at the bottom of ponds! Gilbert White was in essence the first bird-recorder of Hampshire, noting "Song Thrushes come from the woods in troops, Woodlarks are common and Grey Partridge innumerable." No wonder he inspired the young Charles Darwin. White's house in Selborne, Hants is open to the public every day except Christmas day,

In March Stephen Knapp, once a Pagham Harbour Reserve Warden, now the intrepid project director of REGUA in south east Brazil, continued the account of his major conservation success which he first told us about in 1999. This coastal region has 250 Atlantic rainforest endemics, many of which appeared on our screen. In fact one slide of the Rio Antwren is the only photographic evidence in existence. Stephen introduced us to the idea of altitude migration. His PhD research was to study "The effects of altitude and seasonality on birds," as they move higher to breed and lower to winter. The reserve hosts tourists; more information can be obtained at www.regua.org. All profits generated go into conservation, research and community involvement projects. Perfect eco-tourism!

A well attended AGM in April enjoyed the hilarity of a Quiz provided by Audrey Wende. This was followed by Keith Noble's slides reminding us how much there is to appreciate in our own area. Val Bentley enlarged on her newsletter article on the Mumbles' Open Day where she had compared the weights of migrants to a 20p coin. Clive Hope encouraged us all to send in more records and hopes to develop a "Bird Info Grapevine" via the telephone to give more members the chance to see rarities. Dorian Mason wowed us all with his successful digipics. A good time was had by all.

In October it was time for our first illustrated talk of the autumn which was 'Baywatch' with Dylan Walker, a self-confessed whale and dolphin fanatic. Most of his work has been with 'The Company of Whales', crossing the deep waters of the Bay of Biscay on the P&O ferry 'The Pride of Bilbao'. He took us through cetacean identification with shots taken in the North Atlantic, St.Kilda, The Faroes, Skye, Mull and Iceland. We learnt that there are 85 possible species to be seen and that sea bird activity is a good indicator. Behaviour such as fluking, tail-slapping, spy-hopping, logging and bow-riding are all clues to the identification of these creatures from the deep. Fascinating!

In November 'Wildlife in the Western Isles' took us to the Outer Hebrides, in particular North and South Uist with Paul Stevens from our local patch. His outstanding photographs gave us a feel for the cool, clear air in landscapes without pesticide or chemical intervention. Everything flourishes under traditional farming methods; Orchids, Yellow Rattle, Corn Marigold and Corncrakes! A Ringed Plover laid eggs by the roadside; Puffins gathered Sand-eels and Common and Arctic Terns posed for photographs. Paul's patience was rewarded with close views of Otters in the seaweed fishing on the incoming tide. Bottle-nosed Dolphins played round the bows of passing ships. On Bass Rock, the symmetry of the Gannet colony made an excellent shot. Paul hopes to visit St. Kilda next, so no doubt he will pay us a return visit.

In December John Wyatt brought sunshine into our Christmas meeting, when he shared with us his vivid experiences in Oman. Indian and African birds use Oman as a motorway intersection and the service stations are the local sewage farms and the waste-disposal plant! The travelogue of forts, mosques, boat building, beehives, graves, desert and oasis set the scene for his stunning slides of birds. Thirty-three raptors are represented and 64 waders, including White-tailed Plover and Broad-billed Sandpiper. Sinbad the Sailor may well have seen some of the 35 species of gulls and terns as he set out from the dhow building port of Sohar. With 468 possible birds to see, John recommended January for the most equable climate. If you want butterflies and botany too, then September in Dhofar is well en'dhow'ed! The sumptuous El Bhustan Hotel near Muscat even boasts 360 species. Oman is a comfortable and peaceful Arab country which welcomes you.

Shena Maskell



FIELD OUTINGS 2005

An overcast, but thankfully, mild day greeted us for our usual winter visit to Dungeness on Jan 15. The seawatch failed to produce anything special on a rough sea but at the ARC pit excellent views were had of Slavonian and Black-necked Grebe with close comparison useful for the less experienced observers. Rafts of Ruddy Duck and several Goldeneye were also seen. Entering the RSPB reserve two Marsh Harrier were spotted by some members and soon a pair of Red-crested Pochard were showing on one of the small pits. Nearby two Bearded Tit were calling and were found feeding on the reed stems. Seven Whooper Swans could be seen feeding in the distant fields with a large flock of Ruff and good numbers of Stock Dove. On the way back to the car park several red-headed Smew were spotted along with another Slavonian Grebe and a calling Chiffchaff. After lunch we headed for Scotney gravel pit where, after a long search, the Lesser Scaup was located along with a pair of Greater Scaup, some more Ruff and Golden Plover, though no geese flocks were found. An excellent day as usual thanks to Bernie Forbes and Dave Smith.

Paul Stevens was our leader for the outing to Pagham Harbour on Feb 20 and soon had everyone on to a Spotted Redshank which could be closely compared with nearby Common Redshank. We walked to Sidlesham sewage works and were eventually rewarded with two Water Pipit and Grey Wagtail. Paul had thoughtfully carried a step ladder (!) to help those of lesser stature have a chance to see onto the revolving arms so good views were possible for everyone. The fields were full of Pied Wagtail. After lunch at Church Norton, and the tide being way out, it was still possible to pick out Dunlin, Turnstone, Oystercatcher, Knot, Grey and Ringed Plover. Skilled eyes identified Mediterranean, Common and Yellow-legged Gull. Black-tailed Godwit and a pair of Pintail were seen and a couple of Buzzard completed the day.

Our outing on Mar 12 was led by Chris Wright. We needed to wrap up well as it was very windy and cold but also clear and sunny. There was not a lot to see as we walked across the Tidemills at Newhaven but among the ten species found were Redshank, Stonechat, Dunlin and Curlew, like us, they were all keeping their heads down. We then drove round to the car park by the Hope Inn on the west side of Newhaven Harbour where we had lunch. Here we had excellent views of Fulmar against the cliffs. In some places the sea was breaking over the harbour arm but we made our way out to the end and were rewarded with Rock Pipit, three Purple Sandpiper and a very nice comparison of a Razorbill and a Guillemot at close quarters. It had been a good day out despite the rather unpromising start.

There was a large turnout for the outing to Burton Pond led by Bernie Forbes on Apr 10. With the weather set fair there were high hopes of finding Lesser Spotted Woodpecker around the chestnut trees but not for the first time our hopes were not realised. Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Willow Warbler and Goldcrest were calling and a few Swallows passed through. Buzzards were up in the thermals above the downland ridge. An elusive Wood Lark was eventually located feeding on the ground. Back at the car park a nice Nuthatch was seen and a Bullfinch heard. Grey Wagtail was calling by the old mill. We drove to Ambersham Common for lunch out on the heath where we were greeted by

both Dartford Warbler and Stonechat. Some members identified a passing falcon as an early Hobby. A singing Tree Pipit was hard to pick out in a conifer but Buzzards were performing well and also two Sparrowhawks were added to the list. No Lesser Spotted Woodpecker anywhere but both Great and Green were seen and heard.

John Newnham's annual spring seawatch was held on Apr 24. An east wind was forecast which was what was needed. However the recently refurbished shelter was burnt to the ground overnight and we were forced to relocate to Marine Gardens. The wind then moved to northeast and passage was slow. Sandwich Terns were occasionally joined by Little and Common Terns, several parties of Common Scoter passed by and then a group of five Eider. Waders were few and far between although a Whimbrel feeding on the shoreline was well watched. Gannets, Fulmars and gulls at least tested our identification skills, the best of the latter being a first year Mediterranean Gull. Hirundines were arriving steadily, the three Swifts were the first of the year for most of us. Linnets and Goldfinches were moving along the beach and a Yellow Wagtail was heard. Wheatears were sighted from time to time and a White Wagtail only stayed for a few seconds. Seventeen members had enjoyed this most sedentary of our outings but also possibly one of the most testing from the point of view of identification.

There was frost on the ground on the May 8 when Brianne Reeve led the Dawn Chorus outing at Wiston when only four members braved both the cold and the early start. Although it was so cold it was very bright and clear, the sun gave no warmth until 7.30am. However our efforts were well rewarded. We started with a good view of a male Bullfinch and the first Blackcap was followed by four more. Chaffinches were everywhere bursting with song. The first Nightingale very early on in the walk was a particular thrill but we were to be spoilt because we recorded six more singing as only they can on a perfect spring morning. There was even a Song Thrush doing a very good imitation of a Nightingale which might have been confusing if he had not been spotted on the recce! We were fortunate to be able to compare the songs of Blackcap and Garden Warbler and to prove identification with sightings. Two Cuckoos were easily picked out both by flight and call. Whitethroats were common but it was not until we returned to our cars that we were able to add Lesser Whitethroat to the final list of 30 species. It really had been worth the effort of an early start when everywhere was so quiet and we could just listen to the birds without interference from traffic and aeroplane noise.

A dull and windy day provided scant fare for the brave souls who visited West Dean Woods on May 14. Chris Wright and Bernie Forbes had to work hard to find Blackcap and Garden Warbler. We had several sightings of Common Buzzard and fleeting glimpses of other woodland species with the best of these being Marsh Tit and Turtle Dove. In these conditions West Dean is dark and dismal and not very bird-friendly.

Similar conditions greeted Bernie Forbes for the New Forest outing on May 22. However Dartford Warbler, Tree Pipit and Common Redstart were soon found and we eventually obtained excellent views of Wood Warbler. Hawfinch turned out to be the star bird of the day and four were seen at various locations. Crossbill were also seen in several places and a Tawny Owl was well watched before it moved off amongst the trees. The only raptors seen were Common Buzzard and Kestrel.

The evening walk for 'Birds of the night' was held at Ambersham Common on June 10. Dave Smith took us on a short walk where Stonechat, Dartford Warbler and Tree Pipit performed well for us. We then had good views of three displaying Woodcock. After a short while the first evocative sound of Nightjar became audible as the light faded. It is likely there were three males and some lucky members had brief glimpses of them before darkness fell.

Bernie Forbes and Chris Wright had arranged a new venue for most of us when we met at Cocking Hill on Jul 31. Although not the best of summer days a Tree Creeper in the car park set us off to a good start. A perched Common Buzzard gave everyone perfect views as we moved up the South Downs Way. A very smart Marsh Tit was seen with Nuthatch, Green and Great Woodpecker heard. Dave Smith was quick to spot a Hobby and we saw many Swifts in the sky above it. We had nine butterfly species including Silver-washed Fritillary and Marbled White and the Umbelliferae were covered in Ladybirds and Soldier Beetles. Two Raven called and were seen as we turned off the South Downs Way. Goldcrests and a Tawny Owl were heard in the woods and brief views of a Honey Buzzard produced much excitement. On our return journey a noisy family of Goldfinches drew our attention and a flock of gulls in one of the farm fields included a superb Mediterranean with Common, Lesser Black-backed and Black-headed.

Jim Steedman was the leader for the outing to Birling Gap on Aug 13. We started by looking out over the sea and identifying various gulls, a Whimbrel flew obligingly close to the shore and Swallows and two Swifts were feeding overhead before deciding to leave on their long journey south. Walking up the hill eastwards, close to the cliff and away from the noisy Jackdaws we found Linnet, Wheatear, Stonechat and Willow Warbler. Out to sea were a few Gannet and closer in Fulmar. It was a good day for butterflies with many Chalkhill Blues and fewer Common, but particularly pleasing were the good numbers of the rarer Silver-spotted Skipper taking minerals from cow pats and sheltering deep in the grass. Altogether fourteen butterfly species were recorded. Horseshoe Plantation only offered Willow Warblers high in the trees. Then it was time for lunch after which the weather deteriorated quite suddenly. On the way home we met rain which very soon became a deluge!

We had a very hot day for the outing to Selsey Westfields on Sept 3. Chris Wright was again the leader and we soon came across a few Wheatears, a single Whinchat and small parties of Yellow Wagtails moving through the area some of which were seen at very close quarters on the ground. There were large movements of Swallows and House Martins. A Herring Gull flock resting in a field contained several Yellow-legged Gulls. An unidentified bunting was particularly frustrating. The day proved to be good for raptors with plenty of Kestrel activity and the odd Sparrowhawk flew over. As soon as someone mentioned not seeing a Buzzard two Commons popped up followed by a superb Honey Buzzard being chased by another Common. Whilst taking lunch on the beach we saw more than 20 Mediterranean Gulls loafing offshore, passing Gannet, Sandwich Tern and three distant Common Scoter. A Peregrine passed overhead and a Hobby put in a brief appearance. The final raptor of the day turned out to be a Marsh Harrier. A Little Owl could just be seen roosting in an elm tree. Back at the Ferry we managed to see ten Curlew Sandpiper and a Spotted Redshank with a Greenshank on the Long Pool.

The birds were not so obliging on the walk from Washington Bostal on Oct 1. We started with a close Sparrowhawk and soon had several Common Buzzards and Kestrel. Red-legged Partridge and small groups of hirundines were seen but only a few members were able to get onto a dashing Hobby. We lunched at Chanctonbury looking east and were joined by two delightful Marsh Tits feeding delicately on a Burdock seemingly unaware of our group of seventeen people watching them. As we headed back to the cars a Chiffchaff showed well at the Dewpond and Goldcrest and Long-tailed Tits were working the hedgerows. The last bird to be recorded was another Hobby although not easily seen against the hills to the west. This is perhaps one of our longest and most testing walks both by distance and quite tough climbs along the Downland.

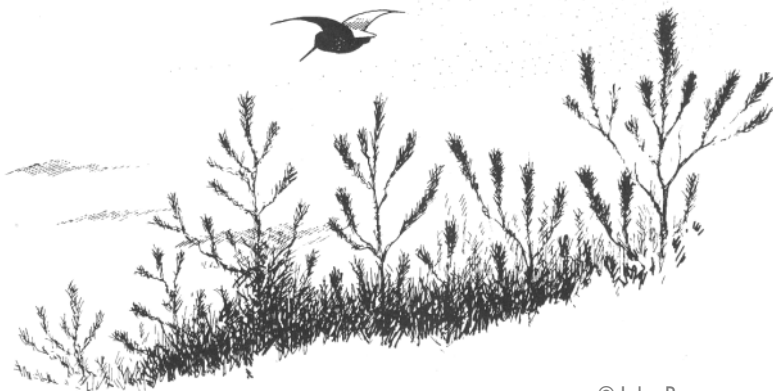
The long journey to Shellness on Nov 12 provided us with a much more rewarding day. The weather was unusually pleasant for this part of the country and although little was seen offshore all the common waders were feeding along the beach including Sanderling and Knot. Marsh Harriers were plentiful along the ditches and a male Hen Harrier passed close by. A hunting Merlin gave us a splendid display and a marauding Peregrine put up hundreds of Golden Plover. A late Wheatear was on the foreshore and we had good views of Reed Bunting and two Ruff as we returned to the cars for lunch. We moved to the new raptor watchpoint at Capel Fleet and were soon being entertained by countless Marsh Harriers and another Hen Harrier. A first winter Merlin sitting in a field tested our observation skills. As we walked across the road towards the Fleet a Green Sandpiper was flushed and also we had close views of Corn Buntings. We were delighted to see up to five different Short-eared Owls, two of which engaged upon a high aerial display. A Stonechat was added to the list on the way back to the watchpoint. When we arrived several local birders were studying a buzzard species. Eventually it took off in the gathering gloom and was identified as a Rough-legged Buzzard and this and a close Barn Owl provided a fitting end to an excellent day.

A large gathering greeted Bernie Forbes for the Arun Valley outing on Nov 20. We decided to make a start on the Downs as there was thick fog hanging in the river valley. We checked the maize fields above Lee Farm and were rewarded with several Brambling along with Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting, Corn Bunting and Sky Lark. A Common Buzzard was perched in a bush and a Peregrine flew north. Near the car park a Merlin dashed by and four Bullfinch were seen. We visited Pulborough RSPB reserve on Wigham Common to check for Crossbill (unsuccessfully) but we did find Coal and Marsh Tit, Goldcrest and Nuthatch. We decided to have lunch at Greatham Bridge. Six newly arrived Bewick Swans were feeding with a massive flock of Wigeon and smaller numbers of Teal, Shoveler and one or two Pintail. A few Fieldfare were in the surrounding copses and Stonechat were seen. As we walked down the riverbank a lovely Barn Owl was hunting low over the marshes and was seen carrying prey on at least three occasions. Cetti's Warblers were belting out their song and the squeal of the Water Rail was heard several times. A Jack Snipe was flushed and a large flock of finches in the streamside Alders included a couple of Siskin and a Redpoll among many Goldfinches. A close Kingfisher was diving for prey and as we made our way back to the car park we had further views of the Barn Owl and a pair of Treecreepers as they crept around a riverside willow.

Surprisingly bright weather greeted us for our Adur Valley outing on Dec 3. Keith Noble led us north from St. Mary's House (Bramber) towards the river. On the way an obliging Nuthatch was atop a holed Ash tree. Pairs of Kestrel and Stonechat and two Little Egret were seen, the first of several sightings of the latter species. A Common Sandpiper was next to be recorded and a Little Grebe on the river, and a Peregrine on a pylon north of the Cormorant roost. Heavy rain then intervened but in the subsequent sunny period 20 Goldfinches were seen feeding on teasels and two Goldcrests were hovering after tiny flies. Lunch was taken at Stretham Bridge as we dried out. Two Kestrels put up a Snipe and we saw some Fieldfare and a few Redwing. As we returned by the riverbank and across Beeding Brooks two distant flocks of Teal went up and 60 Canada Geese flew past. More Stonechat, a Green Woodpecker and a fine male Bullfinch were added to the list before we reached Bramber.

The traditional annual gathering at the Old Fort took place on Dec 31. In marked contrast to the previous day conditions were bright and breezy. Seventy-one Turnstone were found foraging along the tideline with the odd Rock Pipit and Pied Wagtail. Greenfinch and Meadow Pipits were higher up the beach. Two Purple Sandpipers feeding on the jetties were viewed at close range. An adult Mediterranean Gull could be picked out from the crowd feeding in the surf. We moved to Widewater and looking offshore we found two Great Crested Grebes and three distant Red-throated Divers flying east. A few Red-breasted Merganser and 13 Wigeon were on the sea. On Widewater itself two close Kingfisher gave everyone a treat and then a confiding Water Rail was located in the Tamarisk bushes and was twice seen swimming. Little Egret, Dunlin, Redshank and Ringed Plover were feeding on the lagoon. We ended the morning by Beach Green in a vain attempt to find Black Redstart. The end of another successful year with seventeen outings undertaken. Thanks to all leaders, helpers and members for taking part.

Chris Wright



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GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2005

Records for birds seen in the gardens of 31 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 (26/12/04 – 26/03/05), 29, was recorded in John Cooper's Steyning garden.

No species was recorded in every garden in every quarter although Blackbird was recorded in all gardens except for the summer quarter (03/07/05 – 01/10/05) when just one garden failed to note its presence. As can be seen from the tables the other common garden birds were well recorded through the year.

Most gardens recorded Song Thrush (26 gardens) at some time through the year. Goldfinch (22 gardens) and Sparrowhawk (20 gardens) were both well recorded. Goldcrest occurred in 18 gardens and Coal Tit in 14 gardens. The colourful Bullfinch, not a common bird in our area, appeared in four gardens.

As in other recent years winter visitors produced few records with Redwing (seven gardens), Fieldfare (two gardens), Brambling (one garden) and no records for Siskin.

Other migrants noted included single records for Spotted Flycatcher, Lesser White throat and Firecrest and two gardens recorded Common Whitethroat. Blackcap and Chiffchaff were both recorded in 17 gardens with Willow Warbler and Garden Warbler in 11 and five gardens respectively.

Green Woodpecker and Great Spotted Woodpecker were both well recorded while two gardens recorded Treecreeper and Keith Herbert noted Lesser Spotted Woodpecker in his Isfield garden.

Other interesting garden birds included two records for each of Linnet, Heron and Black Redstart. Corn Bunting and Reed Bunting were seen in one and three gardens respectively.

New birds to the recording gardens since 1999, when recording commenced in its present form, were Meadow Pipit (one), Grey Partridge (one), Crossbill (one) and Yellowhammer (one).

Participants were: S. Allen, 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, B. Metcalfe, C. Nichols, K. Noble, A. Robinson, E. Robinson, R. Sandison, J. & J. Simpson, J. & J. Steedman, M. Taylor, R. Titcomb, D. Tomalin, H. Ward, R. Westwater, P. Whitcomb, C. Wingate, & A. Wisdom.



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| Season | Top Birds | Percentage of gardens used | Maximum number | Average of maximum numbers |
|---|---------------|----------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Winter 2005 (26/12/2004 to 26/03/05) 29 gardens recording 49 species | Blackbird | 100 | 14 | 4.2 |
| | Robin | 100 | 4 | 4.2 |
| | Starling | 96.6 | 80 | 15.6 |
| | Blue Tit | 96.6 | 11 | 4.1 |
| | House Sparrow | 93.1 | 35 | 9.0 |
| | Great Tit | 89.7 | 6 | 2.0 |
| | Collared Dove | 89.7 | 14 | 3.1 |
| | Wren | 89.7 | 2 | 0.9 |
| | Greenfinch | 86.2 | 23 | 5.8 |
| | Dunnock | 86.2 | 4 | 1.9 |
| | Wood Pigeon | 86.2 | 10 | 2.9 |
| Spring 2005 (27/03/05 to 02/07/05) 28 gardens recording 43 species | Blue Tit | 100 | 10 | 3.9 |
| | Blackbird | 100 | 6 | 3.8 |
| | Starling | 96.4 | 40 | 11.8 |
| | Greenfinch | 96.4 | 11 | 4.4 |
| | House Sparrow | 92.9 | 20 | 8.1 |
| | Wood Pigeon | 92.9 | 6 | 3.3 |
| | Great Tit | 92.9 | 6 | 2.2 |
| | Collared Dove | 89.3 | 10 | 2.9 |
| | Dunnock | 89.3 | 6 | 2.2 |
| | Robin | 85.7 | 3 | 1.8 |
| Summer 2005 (03/07/05 to 01/10/05) 28 gardens recording 41 species | Blue Tit | 96.4 | 10 | 4.7 |
| | Blackbird | 96.4 | 9 | 3.9 |
| | House Sparrow | 96.4 | 35 | 12.7 |
| | Collared Dove | 92.9 | 15 | 3.8 |
| | Robin | 92.9 | 4 | 1.5 |
| | Great Tit | 89.3 | 5 | 2.1 |
| | Wood Pigeon | 89.3 | 7 | 2.6 |
| | Dunnock | 85.7 | 6 | 2.0 |
| | Greenfinch | 82.1 | 22 | 5.6 |
| | Chaffinch | 71.4 | 7 | 1.6 |
| Autumn 2005 (02/10/05 to 31/12/05) 29 gardens recording 46 species | Blackbird | 100 | 21 | 4.3 |
| | Robin | 96.6 | 3 | 4.3 |
| | Blue Tit | 93.1 | 9 | 4.7 |
| | Collared Dove | 89.7 | 24 | 4.6 |
| | Great Tit | 89.7 | 4 | 2.0 |
| | House Sparrow | 86.2 | 30 | 8.5 |
| | Dunnock | 86.2 | 4 | 1.9 |
| | Starling | 82.8 | 43 | 13.2 |
| | Wren | 82.8 | 2 | 0.96 |
| | Greenfinch | 79.3 | 25 | 5.5 |
| | Chaffinch | 79.3 | 7 | 2.5 |
| | Wood Pigeon | 79.3 | 12 | 3.8 |

Receipts and Payments Account For the year to 13 December 2005

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|
| | £ | £ |
| RECEIPTS | | |
| Balance brought forward | 4,463.07 | 3,964.12 |
| Subscriptions and visitors entry fee | 1,506.00 | 1,700.00 |
| Sale of books, reports, cards, video hire and stickers | 2.00 | 11.00 |
| Net raffle and refreshment receipts | 134.29 | 168.03 |
| Bank interest | 49.73 | 46.54 |
| Donations | 1.00 | 17.00 |
| | <u>6,156.09</u> | <u>5,906.69</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Printing and art work | 1,732.40 | 261.80 |
| Postage and stationery | 170.10 | 127.84 |
| Hire of hall | - | 425.00 |
| Southern Water Authority | 4.00 | 4.00 |
| Speakers fees | 340.00 | 280.50 |
| Insurance | 173.58 | 188.70 |
| BTCV Membership | 30.00 | 25.00 |
| Raffle prizes | - | 23.23 |
| Gifts | - | 10.00 |
| Donation to Albatross Appeal | - | 50.00 |
| Website registration | - | 34.05 |
| Purchase of reference book | 2.95 | 13.50 |
| Refreshments | 31.00 | - |
| Balance carried forward | 3,672.06 | 4,463.07 |
| | <u>6,156.09</u> | <u>5,906.69</u> |

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 7 January 2006

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. Dated 30 January 2006.
Carole Tucker and David Green of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society.

Golden Jubilee Receipts and Payments Account

For the year to 31 December 2005

| | 2005 | 2004 |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | £ | £ |
| Balance brought forward | 1,997.63 | 4,172.34 |
| Sale of pens | 12.00 | 4.00 |
| Bank interest | 28.95 | 39.18 |
| Sale of pictures | - | 50.00 |
| Sale of Jubilee book | 42.50 | 1,848.86 |
| | <u>2,081.08</u> | <u>6,114.38</u> |
| PAYMENTS | | |
| Postage | - | 60.64 |
| Book printing | - | 4,056.11 |
| Balance carried forward | 2,081.08 | 1,997.63 |
| | <u>2,081.08</u> | <u>6,114.38</u> |

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 7 January 2006

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. Dated 30 January 2006.
Carole Tucker and David Green of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society.



USEFUL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

WWT: *Head Office:* SLIMBRIDGE, Gloucs, GL2 7BT. '01453 890333;
fax 01453 890827

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

Sussex Wildlife Trust:

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

Pagham Harbour LNR:

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

English Nature:

Howard House, 31 High St, LEWES, E.Sx, BN7 2LU.
01273 476595; fax 01273 483063

Chichester Harbour Conservancy contact:

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

Booth Museum of Natural History:

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

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital:

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

Rye Harbour NR: Dr.Barry Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, WINCHELSEA,
E.Sx TN36 4LU. 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) 09068 700222

(Please report sightings on 01263 741140)

Birdline South-East 09068 700240

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

Rare Bird News 09063 888111

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

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

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

Birdnews: 01603 763388 e-mail info@birdnews.co.uk

or visit www.birdnews.co.uk

Birdcall (via Focalpoint): 07092 247392

or visit www.birdcallonline.com

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

Rare Bird Alert: '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.
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 '02077 049495; fax 02077 042767 or visit www.birdwatch.co.uk

Bird Watching (monthly): Apex House, Oundle Rd, PETERBOROUGH, PE2 9NP.
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.freemove.co.uk

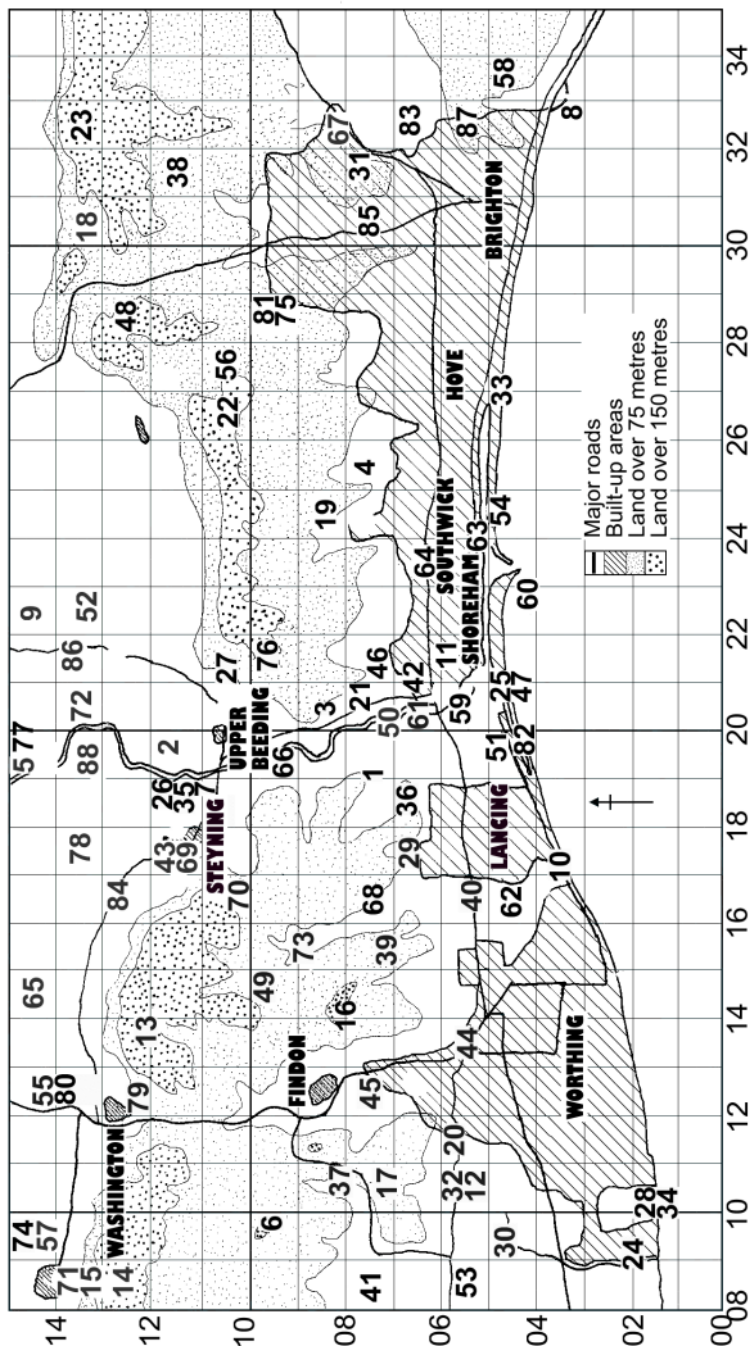
Rare Birds Weekly: Lee G.R.Evans, 8 Sandycroft Rd, Little Chalfont, AMERSHAM,
Bucks, HP6 6QL. '01494 763010 or visit www.uk400clubonline.co.uk

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

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

LOCATION INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY AREA

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| 2 Beeding Brooks | 4 | TQ1911 | 32 Holt Farm | | TQ1005 | 62 Sompting Brooks | 1 TQ1604 |
| 3 Beeding Cement Works | TQ1908 | 33 Hove Lagoon | 2 | | TQ2604 | 63 Southwick Canal | 2 TQ2404 |
| 4 Benfield Valley | TQ2608 | 34 Ilex Wood | 4 | | TQ1001 | 64 Southwick Hill | TQ2307 |
| 5 Bines Bridge | TQ1817 | 35 King's Barn | | | TQ1811 | 65 Spithandle Lane | TQ1514 |
| 6 Blackpatch Hill | 4 | TQ0909 | 36 Lancing Ring | | TQ1806 | 66 St Botolphs | TQ1909 |
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| 14 Chantry Hill | 4 | TQ0812 | 44 Muntham Park Crem. | | TQ1109 | 74 Sullington Warren | 4 TQ0914 |
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| 29 Halewick Tip | TQ1706 | 59 Shoreham Airport | 4 | | TQ2005 | Further notes relating to this list are given | |
| 30 Highdown Hill | TQ0904 | 60 Shoreham Fort | 2 | | TQ2004 | on page 71. | |



**SOCIETY OFFICERS
SDOS OFFICERS AS AT 1ST JANUARY 2006**

President

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Chairman of the Council and Hon. Secretary

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Terry Hicks

Membership Secretary

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Diane Hicks

Sanctuary Committee

Dr. John A. Newnham
Dr. A. Barrie Watson

Other Council Members

Shena Maskell
Dorian Mason



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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 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 | [] |
|--------|-----|-----|

Couple/Family £18 []

| | | |
|--------|----|-----|
| Junior | £5 | [] |
|--------|----|-----|

Life membership terms on application to the Membership Secretary

Cheques should be made payable to SDOS

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Name | |
| Address | |
| | |
| Postcode | |
| Telephone No | |

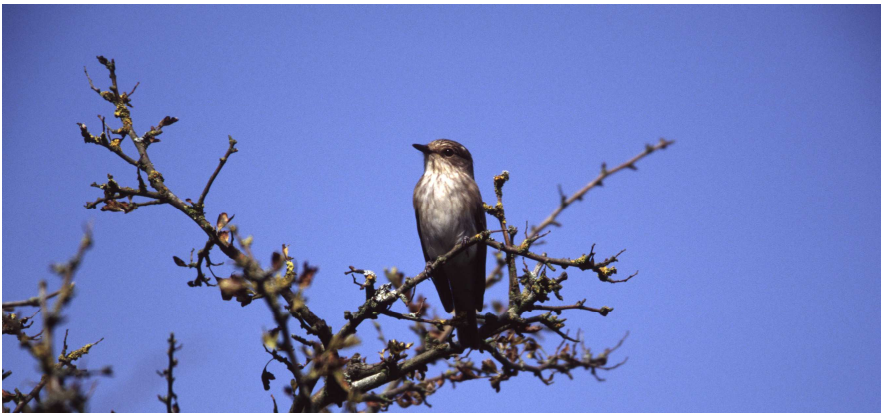
Please send to SDOS Membership Secretary, 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7JJ.



Long-tailed Tit (Keith Noble)



House Sparrow (Keith Noble)



Spotted Flycatcher (Keith Noble)



European Bee-eaters, Shoreham, June 2005 (John Maskell)



European Bee-eaters, Shoreham, June 2005 (John Maskell)



Ring Ouzel, Cissbury Ring, October 2005 (Clive Cunningham)



Great Spotted Cuckoo, Brooklands, April 2005 (Paul Marten)



Snow Bunting, Ferring Beach, January 2005 (Dave Green)



Gull-billed Tern, River Adur at Shoreham, May/June 2005 (Paul Marten)



Grey Phalarope, Brooklands, November 2005 (Clive Cunningham)



Glaucous Gull, River Adur at Shoreham, April 2005 (Dave Green)



Iceland Gull (Kumlien's race), Roedean, February/March 2005 (Dave Green)

