

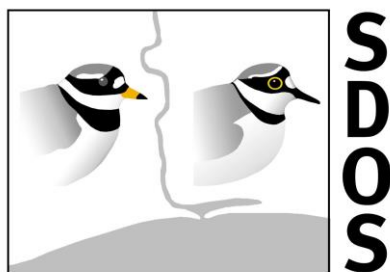
Shoreham District
Ornithological Society
Annual Report
2006



no. 54



Grey Heron, Red-breasted Merganser, Little Bittern (Dorian Mason)



ANNUAL REPORT 2006

CONTENTS

Editorial	2
John Stafford	2
Birding Highlights and Notes	5
Systematic List	9
Escapes and Feral Birds	57
Arrival and Departure of Migrants	58
SDOS Area Ringing	59
Sanctuary Ringing	65
Cissbury Ringing	68
Worthing Sea-watching	69
Field Outings	76
Garden Bird Survey	82
Indoor Meetings	84
A Guide to Recording Birds in the SDOS Area	87
About the SDOS / Membership Form	88
Society Accounts	89
Society Officers	91
Useful Addresses, Telephone Numbers, Websites	92
SDOS Recording Area: Index & Map.....	93
Index to Systematic List	95

front cover image: Little Gull (Keith Noble)

back cover: Black Redstart (Dorian Mason)

centre spread: Lesser Black-backed Gulls (Dorian Mason)

EDITORIAL

What a great publication this is! And here is no invidious blowing of my own editorial trumpet, far from that. No, it's just that in one moment of real clarity, while preparing this year's report for printing, I was struck by just how much effort and interest and commitment this document represents. Our annual report is a distillation of all the society's energies, a heady blend of our members' sea-watching, sky-watching, hedgerow-scouring, tree-creeping, bird-ringing, garden-feeding, indoor-meeting-organising-and-attending, field-outing-following-and-leading activities - all (hopefully more often than not) faithfully recorded for the benefit of friends and fellow enthusiasts and maybe grandchildren. All this and drawings and photographs too. So, with a slight nod in the direction of Walt Whitman's poetic style, I say again: what a great publication this is!

On the other hand, for one more used to the corporate environment, where you produce your year-end reports shortly after the end of the year or suffer the career-limiting consequences, the task of editing an annual report which appears ten months after the end of the year in question is a slightly odd experience. Not least among the issues is the fact that important events tend to take place while those ten months are drifting by and various elements of the report age gracefully in their oak barrels. This has very much been the case as 2007 has progressed - notably with the loss of John Stafford and also the Sanctuary he worked so hard to establish. Thus, despite this being the SDOS's 2006 annual report, I have no qualms about including Stanley Allen's affectionate memoir of John Stafford which follows this introduction, none either about including John Newnham's postscript to his Sanctuary report (see page 67) which effectively draws a line under ringing activities in that location.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this year's report.

John Crix, September 2007

JOHN STAFFORD 1921-2007

On 12th September 1959, the last day of the school holidays, Peggy and I and our three young sons decided to go on a circular walk round Shoreham. We came to what is now Adur Rec, but was then a large refuse dump, with pools of water. We saw two men with nets, and went as near as we could get to see what they were doing. One of them called to us, 'Would your boys like to see a rare bird?' Within seconds not only were we looking at a Bluethroat, which they had netted, but the big moment for one of the boys was when he was allowed to hold it. We were all thrilled but we left without finding out who the two ringers were.

Some considerable time later, we read of an RSPB afternoon lecture with slides, to be held in the old Shoreham Town Hall. Peggy and I went, and as soon as the lecturer was introduced, we both said, 'That's the man with the Bluethroat'. The handsome speaker was, of course, John Stafford, and that spellbinding lecture changed our lives, birdwatching became a passion for life. We found out after the lecture that John Stafford ran the local

Shoreham birdwatching society. We tried to join, however there was a long waiting list and it was eight years before we were able to become members!

No appreciation of John Stafford would be complete without reference to his epic struggle, aided by Catherine Biggs, with the then Brighton Water Company, to allow bird ringing to take place at the Shoreham Pumping Station site. After long and hard negotiations, the authority granted our Society a licence to use part of the site, which became known to all as The Sanctuary. Over more than 50 years thousands of birds were ringed here. (This is not the place to try and write the story of that historic work: perhaps someone will undertake the task in the future).



Stanley Allen and John Stafford - *Shoreham Herald*

In 1974 our family moved to Shoreham from Steyning, and found that the Staffords were close neighbours on Mill Hill. Our first visit to their magnificent home, with its stunning views of river, sea and Lancing College, was to a coffee morning held to raise funds for the local church. John's wife Patricia was the perfect hostess, John looked rather bored, and I introduced myself, with the Bluethroat link.

John immediately cheered up, and I am afraid that St Nicolas and its funds were somewhat forgotten in bird talk which enthralled me. It was later that John and I realised that we both got bored with prattle very easily, and also hated long Council and indoor meetings with too much waffle, as John used to say, 'and those seats get very hard!'

In 1978 we eventually joined the then Shoreham Ornithological Society and went to two or three meetings at the Huntingdon Hall in Buckingham Road. Just before I was due to go into hospital a year or two later, we were saddened to learn of a special meeting of the Society, with a proposal to wind it up due to various factors, mainly a drop in membership, and difficulties in finding a new venue for meetings. My hospital visit meant that I could not get to that vital meeting so I briefed Peggy to read a speech I had prepared, urging that the Society should continue. Next day, Peggy came to see me at the hospital and greeted me with, 'We won – and you are the Treasurer!' I think John was surprised by the enthusiasm to go on and when we met he seemed quite delighted that his inheritance, our Society, was so popular.

John had one big ornithological regret, which he talked to me about on several occasions. He was, in his own mind, and with keen observation, sure that he had seen the very rare Lesser Curlew, down on the mud in the Adur, but he said it would never be accepted, and I don't think he ever put it in to the SOS rarity committee.

John was not an easy man to know, he was, I think, basically rather a shy man, but once you got to know him there was a wealth of charm and gentleness and, of course, you could talk birds ad infinitum.

Like so many of our generation John had amassed a wonderful collection of birds' eggs, and had also inherited the collection of another well known local birdwatcher. I was invited to go and see them, and we spent several fascinating hours as John was making sure that all were properly identified and labelled. I am so glad that both collections are now installed at Brighton's Booth Museum.

In 1996 John decided to resign from his long and historic presidency of SDOS and I had the great privilege of succeeding him, as only the second president in 43 years. I shall always treasure the press photo which heralded the event (and accompanies this memoir): both of us looking slightly self-conscious, and by order of the press photographer of course, with binoculars hung round our necks. This picture is a memento of one of my most memorable meetings with this lovely man; Doctor, Athlete, Craftsman, and Bird Watcher; whose fame as such spread far beyond Shoreham and Sussex, and above all, who founded and nurtured a thriving Society which has given so much enjoyment and knowledge to so many of us.

If there are birds among the angels, you may be sure John will be watching them, and working out whether it is the 9th or 10th primary which determines the species.

Stanley Allen



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BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS AND NOTES 2006

It was inevitable that the year 2006 could not live up to its predecessor with few widely appreciated scarce birds on show and a rather poor spring and autumn migration for many species. However every year is different and for those intent on watching the sea in the spring and late autumn a major surprise was the unprecedented numbers of some sea-birds, particularly Storm Petrels. An amazing garden find and a long staying rarity in the shape of a Little Bittern in the spring would no doubt have attracted a large number of admirers had it been at a more accessible site. On the positive side also, some of our scarcer breeding birds did well. The highest temperature of the year was recorded on July 19th with 35 degrees plus and although a very dry summer, 34 inches of rain fell during the year, about 20% above the thirty-year average.

January began fine and dry and unseasonably mild and apart from one or two brief cold snaps remained that way for much of the month. Three Red-necked Grebes passed the Marina on 1st and two White-fronted Geese did likewise on 2nd. Six Bewick's Swans flew east off Ferring on 4th. Wintering birds included six Common Sandpipers at Beeding, Water Rails at Widewater and Cuckoo Corner, Shags and Purple Sandpipers at the Marina, a Black-tailed Godwit on the Adur saltings and one or two Jack Snipe at Ferring Rife. At the end of the month there were again large Auk movements offshore; over 1100 flew west off Worthing on 27th and 219 Cormorants gathered there on 29th.

February was dull and cold to begin with and sunny days were few until 8th. Rougher weather came in at mid-month and was followed by damp overcast days albeit less windy. Snow showers were logged on 23rd and chilly easterly winds prevailed till nearly the month end. Slavonian Grebes numbered nine off Worthing on 11th with still four next day at neighbouring Goring. The auk passage off Worthing continued with 1650 on 23rd and 1473 on 26th. Wildfowl on Henfield Levels included four Bewick's Swans and 44 Barnacle Geese. Four Woodcock were near Stump Bottom on the Downs, an Avocet graced Widewater from 20th and more expectedly two Green Sandpipers were on Steyning Levels. A Short-eared Owl was a welcome sight at Shoreham Airport on 24th and two Red Kites equally so over Brighton on 28th.

'Dry and sunny with cold NW winds' I logged for early **March**. Then rain and some fog till back to the cool bright days. Some easterly, with either a south or north element, then held sway till 24th. Thirty Golden Plover arrived from the sea at Ferring on 4th and 15 more at Worthing on 10th. A massive passage of Brent Geese on 13th totalled 6200 E at the Marina and was followed on the 24th by another 5500. Red Kites appeared at Edburton on 14th and Ditchling Beacon on 19th. The first Wheatears were on 15th. Other migrants this month were an early Yellow Wagtail at Stanmer on 21st, Sandwich Tern on 25th, the first Sand Martin and Swallow on 26th when a Scandinavian Rock Pipit was at Shoreham Fort and an Osprey over Sompting on 28th. Four Pale-bellied Brent Geese on 25th and 25 Mediterranean Gulls on 27th flew east at the Marina and a Cetti's Warbler was on Beeding Brooks. An amazing garden find was an adult male Little Bittern in Hove on 30th which remained until late April before re-locating to another garden in Southwick where it stayed till May 5th.

April came in with more spring-like weather but produced not untypical late snow (two inches in Storrington) on 10th with the anomaly of a Cuckoo calling down the road at Pulborough! South-east winds appeared on 15th, 21st and 24th. A drake Garganey was on Henfield Levels and a Ring Ouzel at Wild Park on 1st (with another at Cissbury on 10th) and an Osprey passed over Brighton on 3rd when 14 Common Buzzards were in the Chantry Hill area. Three Long-tailed Ducks were off Worthing on 4th and a Red-necked Grebe coming into summer plumage on 6th. The first Common Tern, later than last year, was seen on 8th. Flocks of Avocets passed the Marina on 15th (9) and 22nd (12). A party of eight Black-necked Grebes were also off the Marina on the former date. The first Nightingale was at Sheepcote on 14th and the first Cuckoo was heard at Wyckham Wood on 16th when a Swift was also seen; a Wryneck was found on Newtimber Hill next day. Sea-watching on 21st produced 50 Little Gulls and 12 Black Terns at the Marina and 60 Little Terns off Goring. On 24th, 2100 Bar-tailed Godwits were logged at the Marina. Raptors arriving were a Hobby on 23rd at Brighton, a Red Kite over Poynings on 29th and a late Merlin on 30th at the Marina. An Egyptian Goose began a lengthy stay at Brooklands.

May had fine and dry days with the wind in the east for the first four days of the month. Calm weather persisted though with some drizzle interspersed with warm sunny periods till mid-month. Unsettled and windy conditions followed from about 20th and continued until the month end. A Kentish Plover was found on Worthing beach on 2nd but didn't linger. One of the better sea-watching days of the spring occurred on 4th when 21 Pomarine Skuas, 30 Little Terns, two Velvet Scoter and a very late pair of Goldeneye along with smaller numbers of commoner species flew east off Worthing. Raptors showed up across the area with a Honey Buzzard over Brighton on 5th, an Osprey over Southwick on 9th, a Red Kite at Harrow Hill on 10th and a male Hen Harrier at Standean on 13th. A lucky few encountered a trip of 18 Dotterel on the Downs behind Rottingdean on 8th but three that appeared near Ditchling Beacon from 12th gave a wider audience much pleasure. Stormy conditions in the western Channel gave rise to the eponymous Petrels from 20th through to 28th with record numbers for our area of perhaps as many as 200 different birds passing west off shore. Also seen in this period were two Balearic Shearwaters and a Long-tailed Skua off the Marina. 1200 Herring Gulls on Henfield Levels on 29th due to these conditions were exceptional. A Cetti's Warbler was heard at Edburton on 31st.

June and summer at last with fine warm weather right through the month. Red Kites appeared in numbers over Tarring with four on 5th and Brighton with seven on 14th. Breeding birds in the area included five pairs of Little Egrets, 23 pairs of Herons, five pairs of Peregrines (a record) and one each of Black Redstart, Hobby and Raven. The latter had a most successful year raising six young.

July began with temperatures of 30 degrees and apart from some rain on 21st/22nd remained very warm and settled until near the end when a mixture was experienced. A Nightjar was heard at Edburton on several occasions and Quail were present at three downland locations. Three Avocets passed Ferring on 2nd. A Montagu's Harrier over the Downs at the eastern boundary of our area on 22nd was a good find and a Red Kite flew over Steyning Round Hill on 27th. Two Balearic Shearwaters passed west at the Marina on 29th.

It was locally showery but mainly fair in **August** and on 24th over an inch of rain fell. Another Kite was over Sheepcote on 7th and the year's only two Little Stints were on Ferring beach early on 18th. Another good garden find was a Wryneck in Southwick on 24th. The last Swifts were five over Hollingbury on 26th and next day a juvenile Montagu's Harrier flew over Brighton. Six more Balearic Shearwaters passed west at the Marina in the month. A Red-backed Shrike was in Sheepcote Valley on 30th.



© John Reaney

September was pleasant with warm sunny weather without the high temperatures of earlier. On 13th a thunderstorm deposited 0.75 in of rain. The year's only Curlew Sandpiper was on the Adur near the Airport on 6th and five Avocets flew east at Goring on 9th. Seventeen Balearic Shearwaters passed the Marina on 12th, a record number for the area when another Red-backed Shrike was found at Truleigh Hill. Hirundine passage was very poor with peak counts of only 300 Swallows at Goring on 23rd and 355 House Martins at Hollingbury on 21st. Pied Flycatchers peaked with three at their hot-spot, St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove on 20th. Ospreys passed over Brighton on 16th and 24th and the only reported Marsh Harrier of the year did likewise on the first date as did three Honey Buzzards between 17th and 24th. Twenty-four Balearic Shearwaters flew west at the Marina in the month including 17 on 12th. The third Red-backed Shrike of the autumn was on Whitehawk Hill on 30th through to Oct 1st. An exceptional 41 Little Egrets roosted near Lancing College.

More like April than **October**, this month was wet, windy and sunny. A record movement of Sooty Shearwaters occurred on 1st when 31 flew west at the Marina along with five Balearic Shearwaters. Yet again a Wryneck was in a garden, this time in Durrington, on 2nd. A high count of Stonechats was made at Truleigh Hill with 22 on 3rd rising to 32 by 26th. A Corncrake in Sheepcote Valley on 8th was the first for twelve years. A ringtail Hen Harrier stayed around the Chantry Hill area from 7th to at least 12th and nearby up to ten Buzzards were visible. Ring Ouzels were elusive but included up to 11 at

Truleigh Hill on 18th. The year's only Woodlark was in Sompting on 23rd. Next day a Yellow-browed Warbler was in Shepcote Valley. Another eight Buzzards were seen at Chanctonbury on 29th on which day the latest Willow Warbler for the area was trapped at the Sanctuary.

A real change to autumn with mist and lower temperatures occurred in **November** becoming quite wet late in the month. This is a good month to look for Little Auks and this year was no exception with perhaps ten or so being seen between the Marina and Ferring in the first fortnight. Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes were off Goring on 4th. A Short-eared Owl passed east at Ferring on 9th and a Snow Bunting came in off the sea at the Marina on 12th when there were also three Goosander offshore. The last Wheatear of the year was on Worthing beach on 14th. A Tree Sparrow was on a feeder in a garden at Small Dole on 22nd. In a year for good local finds a Yellow-browed Warbler in the SDOS President's Lancing garden on 24th added to the list. On 30th four Avocets passed Worthing.

December continued the wet and windy theme though it was not particularly cold. At the end it became quite dry but with strong winds. Nine Leach's Petrels passed the Marina between 3rd and 7th. A Short-eared Owl hunted the fields west of the Airport from 6th to 9th, an Iceland Gull was at the Marina on 11th and an Avocet appeared on the Adur on 12th. A very large count of Sanderling (300) was made at Goring/Ferring. Three Red-necked and three Slavonian Grebes flew west off the Marina on 30th.

A total of 208 species was recorded in 2006.

Clive Hope



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SYSTEMATIC LIST 2006

This systematic list of birds in the Shoreham district recording area is based upon records submitted by members of the SDOS together with additional records obtained from the database of the Sussex Ornithological Society (by courtesy of John Newnham).

In a few cases, where records are rather unusual in date or occurrence and the observer(s) are unnamed or unknown to us, I have, in my capacity as the SDOS's Recorder, taken a considered view and omitted them from the published report. Note that, especially with regard to sea-watch data, complete figures for the Marina were not received.

References to Worthing in sea-watch data include all sites between Lancing and Ferring unless separately identified. Lower Adur generally refers to the river and associated banks and saltings south of the A283 bridge. Wild Park includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulsecomb Wild Park. BTO census and survey data for Stanmer Park, Tegdown Hill, Whitehawk Hill and Warmdene, Patcham is included under these site names. Other locations are referenced in the SDOS recording area index and map towards the end of this report.

The following is a list of contributors; non-members of the SDOS are marked with an asterisk: SR Allen, VP Bentley, N Biddulph*, D Boddington*, RC Bradbury, GL Champion*, BR Clay, PJ Clay, J Crix, B Easlea, RJ Fairbank*, JA Feest, BF Forbes, J Ford, CJ Fox*, D Green, P Green, R Hartfree*, CA Holt, CE Hope, RA Ives*, P James, LR Keen, AR Kitson, R Knight*, JM Maskell, SP Maskell, D Mason, B Metcalfe, JA Newnham, K Noble, R Pawley, MG Prince*, B Reeve, R Rickard, RJ Sandison, DI Smith, M Snelling, SP Simpson*, GA Sutton*, A Thomas*, R Titcomb, R Tofts*, M Tucker, AB Watson, R Westwater, AD Whitcomb*, IJ Whitcomb*, PJ Whitcomb, HMV Wilsdon, TJ Wilson*, D Wood, C Wright, CMV Wright.

I am indebted to the following writers who have assisted with summaries for the systematic list: B.Clay (warblers), K.Noble (thrushes), R. Pepper (game birds), D.Smith (Kittiwake, terns & skuas), M.Snelling (Cuckoo to Skylark, Crows), P.Whitcomb (chats, flycatchers & crests), C.Wright (raptors).

Clive Hope

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

ad adult, **BBRC** British Birds Rarities Committee, **BBS** Breeding Bird Survey, **BTO** British Trust for Ornithology, **E** East, **f** female, **GC** Golf Course, **imm** immature, **juv** juvenile, **LNR** local nature reserve, **m** male, **mo** many observers, **N** North, **ob** on beach, **os** offshore, **pr** pair, **S** South, **SOS** Sussex Ornithological Society, **s/p** summer plumage, **W** West, **w/p** winter plumage, **yr** year, **Marina** Brighton Marina, **Sanctuary** Shoreham Sanctuary, **Pier** Brighton (Palace) Pier

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

Some monthly peak counts from selected sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Henfield Levels	62	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	33	65
Steyning Levels	18	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	16	26	15	16
Lower Adur	4	4	7	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	1	2
Shoreham Adur	1	22	-	-	-	-	60	-	44	-	12	-
Widewater	11	12	5	5	17	19	19	6	16	19	20	17
Brooklands	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3
Hove Lagoon	23	21	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	40	43	38

In addition, from one to four were seen at a handful of other sites including passing Worthing Beach and in Brighton Marina. Breeding pairs were three at Widewater raising 13 young, two on the Adur at Shoreham raising six young, and one at Brooklands with just one cygnet. Two juveniles were at Hove Lagoon in Oct.

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

The only records were of six flying east along the shore at Ferring on Jan 4th and seen heading towards Worthing Pier and three adults on Henfield Levels on Feb 18th with a family of four there on 22nd.

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

Two flew east at the Marina on Jan 2nd and two north at Shoreham Airport on Feb 22nd.

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

Recorded from five sites, Wiston, Beeding Brooks, Steyning Levels, Stretham Manor Henfield and Henfield Levels. The latter held the largest numbers with 48 in Feb and 40 in Apr. Ten were at Stretham Manor in Mar and six at Wiston in May. None reported after this at any site.

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

Mainly reported from Henfield Levels where there were 21 in Jan, 54 in Feb and 35 in Dec. Nine were in Stanmer Park on Jan 10th and seven in the Wiston Estate on May 3rd. Singles were seen off Worthing beach and five passed the Marina on Mar 23rd.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis***Very scarce winter visitor and feral resident**

In Feb, a flock of 44 on Henfield levels was thought to consist of feral birds from East Sussex., although one observer stated they behaved in a very wary manner. Nine flew east at the Marina on Mar 24th with Brent Geese.

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

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	-	116	4665	38	18	-	-	-	-	8	5	8
West	9	10	52	-	-	-	-	-	4	381	318	88

Record numbers of 6700 flew east at the Marina on Mar 13th and 5500 on 24th when the month's maximum of 3106 was logged at Worthing. 521 flew east off Widewater also on 13th. Small numbers were noted at other coastal sites. The last for spring were on May 13th and the first returning birds were four off Worthing on Sep 21st. One was on Widewater Oct 20-21st. Twenty-one were on fields at Goring Gap on Nov 30th and five remained until Dec 7th.

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

Four flew east at the Marina on Mar 25th. (IJV)

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiaca***Very scarce visitor from introduced populations elsewhere in Britain**

One was present at Brooklands from Apr 26th intermittently until Nov 16th. It was probably the bird that flew over Ferring beach on Nov 4th.

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

Approximately 73 were recorded. Monthly day maxima were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	1	4	5	8	-	2	4	-	-	3	7

No breeding records were received. The table includes birds passing east and west at Worthing beach and the Marina and one on Brooklands lake in Jul. The lack of inland (Adur valley and levels) records is disappointing.

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

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	1	-	2	/	-	-	6
West	36	-	-	/	67	6	-

EURASIAN WIGEON contd..

Elsewhere, six in Jan and eight in Feb at Shoreham, six in Jan, four in Mar and ten in Dec in the Lower Adur Valley and two on Henfield levels in Jan were all of the records for another poor year for the species.

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

Four were at Woods Mill and later Henfield Levels in Feb. Six flew east at Worthing beach on Mar 13th and 5 E there on 15th.

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

Numbers were up on last year with the following selected sites holding birds:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	-	60	-	/	-	-	-
Widewater	18	-	16	/	-	-	-
Lower Adur	42	105	18	/	11	55	104
Shoreham	56	-	-	/	-	-	51
New Salts Farm	20	-	1	/	-	-	-

A few were seen on sea-watches at Worthing and the Marina.

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

Monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Steyning Levels	2	23	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	7
Henfield Levels	-	17	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Lower Adur	15	6	9	-	-	-	-	-	2	15	37	46
Brooklands	102	56	30	49	34	43	61	45	27	19	34	39
Widewater	18	10	3	17	5	4	-	10	4	-	71	20

Breeding only reported from Brooklands where two broods totalling 14 young with two adult females on Apr 4th and at Ferring Rife where one brood of 12 young on Jul 3rd.

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

There were 26 on Henfield Levels on Feb 22nd and a pair at nearby Stretham Manor on Apr 3rd. At Worthing beach three flew E on Mar 13th and 16 E on 15th. In the autumn the only records were of two W at Worthing on Oct 11th and two there on Dec 20th.

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

A drake was seen near Stretham Manor, Henfield Levels on Apr 1st to 3rd and five flew E at the Marina on 21st.

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

All records were: two on Widewater from Feb 9th to Mar 1st, five on Henfield Levels Apr 1-3rd, eight E at Worthing beach in Apr and two W in Oct and one on the Lower Adur on Nov 19th.

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

Only recorded from Brooklands with monthly maxima as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
26	27	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6

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

Regularly recorded from Brooklands where the monthly maxima were :

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	6	6	1	1	1	6	-	1	2	-	-

The only other records were of five in the Wiston Estate on May 3rd and two W at Worthing beach on 23rd.

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

Only reported from Worthing beach as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
-	-	12E	10E +1os	8E 2W	-	-	-	-	-	3W +2os	-

LONG-TAILED DUCK *Clangula hyemalis***Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

Three were offshore at Worthing beach on Apr 4th and one was at the Marina on 30th.

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

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing Beach were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	8	5	290	672	1035	91	32	4	4	9	27	-
West	2	4	3	6	12	4	-	9	11	4	17	24

Peak counts were of 186 on Mar 24th, 157 on Apr 21st, 154 on 30th and 269 on May 28th. 187 flew east off Hove on May 2/3rd. Incomplete figures from the Marina are of 35 in Apr and 34 in May. Small numbers also noted from Brighton Pier and Widewater.

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

Nine (3,2,2,2) flew E at Worthing /Goring in Apr and two E in May. Two passed E off Hove on May 2nd. One was off Worthing on Nov 3rd.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula***Uncommon winter visitor**

A pair flew E at Worthing on the late date of May 4th and one was off the Marina on Dec 17th.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER *Mergus serrator***Common winter visitor**

As usual the largest numbers were seen on the sea between Worthing and Ferring. Since there is overlap and interchange between these sites the combined estimated totals are given:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
80	100	96	21*	-	-	-	-	-	2	154	237

* Birds flying east. A drake was present on and off at Widewater from May 14th to Jul 3rd (summer records are extremely rare) and a female was there on Dec 5th and 6th. From one to six were on Southwick Canal from Dec 11th to the month end.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser***Scarce winter visitor**

A male was off Ferring on Nov 9th (RW) and three birds were off the Marina on 12th (IJW).

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

Correction to 2005 report: Six have been recorded in the area since 1985.

2006: The female from 2005 was present on Brooklands from Jan 1st to Feb 11th and there was one again from Jul 16th to 28th.

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

Recorded from only eight sites, all on the Downs, with a maximum count of 13 in a single covey at Clapham Woods on Nov 18th. Multiple records, and the only other double figure count, came from Tegdown Hill where ten were found on Jul 1st and then lesser numbers daily for the next 12 days. Only four records were received during the period Apr to Jun but with no indication of breeding. Counts of ten and 13 could be the result of natural breeding or of released birds.

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

Records were received from 13 sites. There were no high counts during the first part of the year. Records were received from six sites during the breeding season and a pair with seven young was seen at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 5th. During the later part of the year there were counts of 17 at New Erringham Farm on Sep 12th, 12 on Mill Hill on Sep 20th, 16 on Beeding Hill on Nov 18th and 12 on Truleigh Hill on 28th.

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

There was a marked reduction in the number of records received compared with 2005. There were 13 records (31 in 2005) from only three sites: Ditchling Beacon, Steyning and Steyning Round Hill. It is impossible to say how many individuals were involved as none of the records had better than four-figure grid references but there were at least five. In 2005 there were six singing birds recorded in one day at Steep Down (Lancing) but no records were received from this site in the current year. The first bird was recorded at Ditchling Beacon on Jun 11th and the last was heard singing at Steyning Round Hill on Jul 12th.

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

34 records were received from 18 sites across the region. Apart from 158 reared birds counted at Clapham Wood on Nov 18th, only two counts were in double figures; ten on Worthing Golf Course on Jun 6th and 12 on Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st. Two pairs bred in Brighton Wild Park.

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

Monthly totals from Worthing sea-watches were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	19	60	5	5	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
West	84	126	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	13

The peak movements were on Feb 11th when 43 flew W and 18th when 64 did likewise. Up to six were offshore in the early months at Worthing, off Widewater and Shoreham Harbour and one or two in the latter months off Goring and Ferring.

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

Monthly reported totals from Worthing and the Marina were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing	1	1	3	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Marina	3	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	2	3

One was off Goring on Mar 13th and one flew E off Hove on May 3rd.

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

Singles flew W off the Marina on Jan 1st, 2nd and 14th. One was on the sea there on May 14th (IJW, ADW). Two were on Southwick Canal or in Shoreham Harbour from Dec 8th to 13th and one (a juvenile) remained until 28th (mo). A juvenile was on the sea at the Marina on 10th, one flew E there on Dec 29th and one W on 30th (IJW). Finally one was off Goring beach on 31st (RAI).

DIVER Species

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	8	16	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
West	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

Three flew W off Shoreham Fort on Jan 1st and 5 E there on Feb 4th.

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Winter visitor and occasional breeder

Records were received from the following regular sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lower Adur	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Adur Estuary	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brooklands	2	5	7	4	4	6	8	18	14	11	12	6
Widewater	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	8	9
Wiston Pond	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

Single birds were recorded at Stretham Manor Henfield, Brighton Marina, Southwick Canal, on a pond in a wood near Small Dole, New Salts Farm, Lancing and by the Cement Works, Beeding. Breeding occurred at Brooklands where three pairs were present. One pair had five young and a second pair had four young on Aug 17th.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*

Common, mainly winter, visitor to the coast

Maximum numbers recorded offshore were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Goring Gap	200	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	65
Worthing	50	73	10	39	14	3	-	1	-	-	46	40
Widewater	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoreham Harbour	15	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hove	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Palace Pier	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marina	6	310	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27

Inland, three were in the Lower Adur Valley on Mar 12th.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Scarce winter visitor

Three flew W at the Marina on Jan 1st followed by singles on 2nd and 3rd. One went E at Worthing on Mar 4th and there was one offshore there on Apr 6th in partial s/p. In Nov one was off Goring/Ferring on 4th. One flew W off Worthing on Dec 17th and three W at the Marina on 30th.

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

An exceptional run of records in the first winter period with one off Shoreham Power Station on Jan 1st, then nine off Worthing on Feb 11, still four off Goring on 12th and a single at Worthing on 25th. In Mar again four off Worthing on 4th decreasing to one by 16th and one at the Marina on 25th. Three offshore at Worthing on Apr 6th then one there on 8th and 21st and finally one at the Marina on 30th. The only late year records were of a single at the Marina on Nov 3rd and three W there on Dec 30th.

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

Flocks of eight on Apr 15th and of three on 22nd were off the Marina and two in full s/p were off Worthing on 16th. One was off Ferring on Nov 4th.

FULMAR *Fulmaris glacialis***Common passage migrant nesting just outside the area**

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	-	21	15	20	34	16	2	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	1	3	40	96	6	2	4	2	-	-	-

The first for the year was one off Ferring on Jan 1st. 23 noted off Brighton Pier on four dates to May and singles over Widewater and a mile inland at Southwick. In Aug one circled low over Goring on 10th. At the Marina, 54 logged in Apr, 68 on May 14th and 40 W per hour there on 24th. A blue morph bird was seen there on Dec 29th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER *Puffinus griseus***Scarce passage migrant**

Two flew E at the Marina on Sep 2nd. In Oct, 31 flew W there on 1st and one E on 19th and in Nov three flew W on 17th (IJW). These are the largest numbers to be recorded in the area in one year with those on Oct 1st as the highest day total. (This movement was mirrored at Selsey Bill.)

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

Five off the Marina on Apr 30th were the first for the spring. One E and nine W passed Worthing in May, five were off Brighton Pier in the same month and 20 W off the Marina on 22nd. Four noted W off Worthing in Aug/Sep.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER *Puffinus mauretanicus***Rare summer visitor**

All records were from the Marina. Two W May 22nd; two W Jul 29th, one W Aug 19th with two on 20th and one on 28th; two E and six W on Sep 2nd; 17 W including a flock of 12 on 12th, one W on 30th and five W on Oct 1st. (All IJW, ADW)

EUROPEAN STORM-PETREL *Hydrobates pelagicus***Rare mainly late summer visitor**

An exceptional influx to Channel waters in late May brought record numbers to our area. Approximate day totals were as follows:

Date (May)	20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th	27 th	28 th
Area total	10	7	15	5	105	32	8	26	11

Most birds were seen moving slowly west though some lingered offshore for long periods particularly on 27th and 28th. All sightings from 20th and 24th were from the Marina (IJW, ADW). In addition to that site, five flew W off Widewater on 25th (RJF) and one off Worthing (CEH), six to eight were off Worthing/Goring/Ferring next day (MP et al) when one passed E off Portslade (JG) and Widewater (RJF). On 27th 18 passed the Marina (IJW) and 14 flew W at Ferring with another 12 offshore there (MP). The 28th saw five pass the Marina (IJW), three Worthing (RAI) and nine Worthing/Ferring with two offshore there (MP et al). [One was seen from a fishing boat seven miles S of Shoreham on Jul 16th (BFF).]

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL *Oceanodroma leucorhoa***Rare late autumn visitor**

One flew W at the Marina on Dec 3rd, five on 5th and three on 7th (IJW, ADW).

GANNET *Morus bassanus***Present offshore all year**

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	40	427	82	63	80	43	55	60	63	24	23	40
West	128	219	119	46	333	51	105	29	211	111	203	56

The peak was of 153 W and 98E on Feb 12th. No complete monthly counts received from the Marina but seven were reported in Mar, 83 in Apr and eight in May.

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

A gathering of 218 about 250m offshore took place on Jan 29th at Worthing. Eighty were on the pylon roost at Steyning Levels on Feb 4th, the largest number for the year there. Forty-five were still off Worthing on 28th. In the second half year the maximum at Steyning was 29 on Sep 17th. Away from these two sites no group exceeded single figures other than ten at Shoreham Harbour on Dec 10th.

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

As usual, the Marina held regular birds from Jan through to May (maximum of seven) and again from Aug 31st to the year end when a maximum of ten were present. Single birds were noted in all months except Jun from Goring, Lancing, Southwick Canal and Worthing with four immatures at Shoreham Harbour on Oct 2nd.

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus***Rare vagrant**

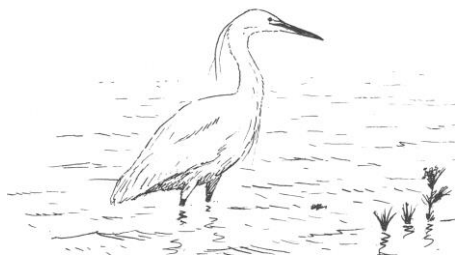
The appearance of an adult male in private gardens meant that it was only seen by a handful of observers. It was first discovered on Mar 30th in Hove where it remained until Apr 24th (P & D Cooper per BFF) and then moved to Southwick from 26th (per BFF) and another site on 27th to May 5th (L Mair). It was photographed (see inside front cover of this report). This record has been accepted by the SOS and BBRC.

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 :

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ferring Rife	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	6	1	-	-
Goring beach	1	-	-	-	1E	2	1	4	10	8W	1	1
Worthing	-	-	-	1E	6E5W	1W	-	1E	2	3	-	1
Widewater	6	5	4	4	1	7	6	6	10	5	3	2
Henfield Levels	1	1	3	5	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Upper Adur Levels	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Steining Levels	1	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Adur	-	1	-	1	1	1	1N	-	-	-	13 S	-
Shoreham Adur	1	4	1	1	-	-	1	-	17	13	1	1

Also one at New Salts Farm, Lancing in Mar and three at Old Salts Farm on Apr 9th and one W at the Marina on 30th. Breeding occurred again in the area with five nests in Jun. A roost near Lancing College held 41 birds on Sep 29th.



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

Twenty-three occupied nests were found in Wyckham Wood (Henfield). The maximum on the Adur at Shoreham were 11 on Feb 17th and eight were in the Lower Adur Valley on Jan 15th with seven there on Oct 8th. Away from the coast singles flew over Chanctonbury, Lancing Clump, and Hollingbury Camp, Brighton.

HONEY BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce migrant

An adult male flew over Hollingdean, Brighton on May 5th. In the autumn, a male was over the Marina on Aug 26th, and a juvenile over Hollingdean on Sep 17th with two juveniles over Hollingbury on Sep 24th (all ADW, IJW).

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Increasing but scarce visitor

Two flew NNW over Brighton on Feb 28th. Another was at Edburton on Mar 14th, one at Ditchling Beacon on 19th and one over Stanmer Wood on Apr 13th. At Woodmancote one was seen flying over Shaves Wood on 29th while over Harrow Hill on May 10th one was soaring with two Common Buzzards before drifting off NE. Four birds flew East over Tarring, Worthing on Jun 5th and seven flew west over Brighton on 14th. One went east over Steyning Round Hill on Jul 27th and the last for the year was one at Sheepcote on Aug 7th which departed NNW over Brighton.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

A poor year for this species with the only reports being single birds over Hollingbury Camp and flying west over Brighton on Sep 16th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor :

2005 error: Geltsdale is in Cumbria/Northumberland not Yorkshire.

2006: One south of Ditchling on Jan 7th was flying low over farmland adjacent to Pyecombe GC. The remaining spring records were from Steyning Round Hill on Apr 22nd and Lower Standean on May 13th when an adult male flew east. Autumn sightings were of a ringtail over game cover at Chantry Hill on Oct 7th and 12th and a large ringtail at nearby Kithurst Hill on Nov 19th.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

Very scarce spring and autumn visitor

A ringtail was seen at the edge of our area on the Downs near Falmer on Jul 22nd (ARK) and a juvenile flew over Hollingdean, Brighton on Aug 27th (ADW, IJW). These records have been accepted by the SOS.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident

Many sightings received including several from observers' gardens. Probable breeding took place in the Findon Valley, at West Worthing, Coombes and Brighton Wild Park (two pairs). Ringers at Shoreham Sanctuary handled three birds while at both Cissbury and the Mumbles, Steyning only one was trapped.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Reported with increasing regularity throughout the year. A maximum of five were at Chantry Hill on Feb 8th and Mar 29th with 14 recorded from the same site on Apr 3rd consisting of eight together and six others in view. Some may well have been migrants. The only confirmed breeding was at Clapham (Myrtle Grove Farm). Five birds were recorded at nearby Blackpatch Hill on Jun 10th and a similar number regularly at Steyning Round Hill. Six were at Harrow Hill on Sep 8th and ten in view between there and Chantry Hill on Oct 12th. Eight were at Chanctonbury Ring on 29th.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant

One was heading north over Sompting on Mar 29th and another flew west over Brighton on Apr 3rd. The only other spring sighting was of one that flew NW at Southwick on May 9th. In the autumn there were sightings on Sep 16th from Hollingbury Camp and flying west over Brighton (possibly the same) and a final record for the year was of a single flying east over the city on 24th.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Reported all year throughout the recording area. Bred or probably bred at Findon Valley, Tegdown Hill, Steepdown, Chantry Hill, Patching, Kithurst Hill, Castle Goring, Upper Beeding, Brighton Wild Park (two pairs), Lancing Clump, Shoreham Mill Hill, Patcham and Highdown Worthing. Additionally at Applesham, Coombes a nest-box held four chicks while in a tree-hole five small young were seen.

In the autumn four at Harrow Hill and six at Truleigh Hill were the largest groups.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter

As usual all sightings were of single birds. The first was at Lancing Widewater on Jan 13th and the next at Patching on 29th. A late arrival came in off the sea then flew west at Brighton Marina on Apr 30th. In the autumn one flew north at Goring Beach on Sep 15th. One was near Chantry Hill on Oct 12th and one at Mill Hill Shoreham on 28th, another at Wild Park on Nov 8th, one at Shoreham Airport on Dec 19th and the final bird was a probable female which flew over a Goring garden on 29th.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Regular passage migrant and summer visitor - has bred

The first birds reported were at Ladies Mile Reserve and Coldean, Brighton on Apr 23rd. The following table enumerates sightings for the area:

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
6	10	3	5	3	6	1

A pair probably bred north of the Downs. Three birds were seen at Chanctonbury Ring on Aug 25th. The last sighting was of a bird seen perched then flying from the Adur footbridge to the A 259 on Oct 30th.

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

Five pairs nested in the recording area and 11 young fledged. These may be the highest numbers of breeding birds ever recorded since even in the 1900s Walpole-Bond suggested a dozen pairs for the whole county with only a couple at inland sites. Away from the breeding areas two were on Steyning Levels regularly, and singles were at Findon Park Farm, Goring, Sheepcote Valley, Worthing beach, Widewater, Harrow Hill, Ferring and Hollingbury Camp.

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

Just four birds reported from as many sites and none between Apr and Oct. They were at Widewater from Jan 1st to Mar 26th and again there Nov 3rd to 28th, at Cuckoo Corner, Coombes on Jan 2nd, 10th and Dec 9th, at Ferring Rife on Jan 10th and on the Upper Adur Levels on Feb 12th.

CORNCRAKE *Crex crex***Very scarce passage migrant**

A juvenile was present in Sheepcote Valley on Oct 8th (IJW). This is the first since one at the same locality on Sep 17th, 1994. Record accepted by SOS.

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

The maximum counts from Brooklands were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
43	42	34	12	5	10	28	26	19	19	43	40

Other counts were of four at Shoreham and eight in the Lower Adur Valley in Jan, families with broods of three, three, four and two young in Ferring in Jul and five on Steyning Levels in Sep. Elsewhere one or two birds at a number of sites.

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

Peak monthly counts from Brooklands were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
132	95	69	45	44	67	150*	118	145	106	101	113

* Consisted of 100 adults and at least 50 young birds. Elsewhere six at Wiston Pond, four in the Lower Adur Valley and singles at Widewater were the only reports.

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

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

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing	-	2	15	12	14	4	2	5	-	6	50*	10
Adur	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	2
Goring	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	29	23

*50 on Nov 28th is an exceptional number for this site. Also reported from Widewater (1-2), Shoreham, Marina (8 max on Apr 30th) and Ferring beach (19 on Nov 28th were presumably some of those seen at Worthing). There were no reports of breeding this year.

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

One was at Widewater from Feb 20th to 27th. Nine flew E at the Marina on Apr 15th and 12 E there on 22nd. Three flew E at Ferring on Jul 2nd and five did likewise on Sep 9th. Four went W at Worthing on Nov 30th and finally one was on the Adur near Shoreham Airport on Dec 12/13th.

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

2005 error: 91 on the Shoreham Adur was in Aug not Jul.

2006: Monthly peaks from the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur*	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	32	42	39	83	63
Shoreham Beach	16	30	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Widewater	12	31	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	102	-	-
Worthing	-	20	-	-	5	12E	-	54	50	-	20	-
Goring Gap	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	131	76	-	2	47
Marina	75	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	58	-	35	-

*includes Airport. The pair at the Marina were incubating three eggs in May but subsequently abandoned the site due to excessive disturbance. Four were at Lancing Old Salts Farm in Apr and one in Jun. Eighty-two were counted on Ferring beach in Aug.

KENTISH PLOVER *Charadrius alexandrinus***Very scarce passage migrant**

A male was on Worthing beach on May 2nd. (SPS) This record has been accepted by the SOS.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus***Scarce passage migrant**

A trip of 18 (ten females and eight males) was seen on the Downs at Balsdean near Rottingdean on May 8th (GAS, ADW, IJW). Three were between Ditchling Beacon and Clayton Hill from 12th to 16th(AT). Records accepted by SOS.

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

Two were seen at High Salvington on Jan 28th. Thirty flew in off the sea at Ferring on Mar 4th followed by 15 at Worthing on 10th. In the autumn two were over Chantry Hill on Oct 13th. Singles were in the Lower Adur Valley and Airport on 19th and 30th. Thirty were at the former site on Nov 13th with 10 at the latter on Dec 12th. Thirty were reported from Worthing on Nov 28th and five on Dec 26th.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola***Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	33	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	15
Worthing	80	80	80	3	22E*	-	-	4	2	12	10	20
Goring Gap	160	14	148	-	-	-	-	10	14	21	85	73

*on 5th. One at Hove Lagoon on May 8th and up to 15 noted from the Lower Adur Valley in Dec.

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

2005 error: Delete 25 from Jul at Shoreham Adur.

2006: Peak counts at the following sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lower Adur	1270	910	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	157	573	653
Shoreham Adur	950	200	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	-	-
Airport	1000	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	160	600	900

200 were on Harrow Hill, Patching on Jan 30th.

Breeding pairs were: Steyning Round Hill - three, Lower Standean - two, Steyning Levels - one (two young), Kithurst Hill - one, Henfield Stretham Manor - six birds in early Apr.

RED KNOT *Calidris canutus***Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor**

One at Goring Gap on Jan 10th. Sea-watches at Worthing logged four E on May 12th and four E and one W on Aug 13th. One or two were on the beach at Goring/Ferring from Aug 25th to Sep 15th.

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

The Dec counts at Goring and Ferring are the largest since 1971. Monthly maxima:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lower Adur	-	11	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Widewater	66	3	36	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	22	60
Worthing	10	20	60	26	34	45E	2W	-	13W	20	45	30
Goring	70	-	180	40	-	4	-	12	-	20	28	230
Ferring	20	-	-	40	30	-	-	12	-	-	-	300

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

Two were on Ferring beach on Aug 18th (DRM) and two were on the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 7th (RJF).

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

One was on the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 6th.

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

Peak monthly numbers at Brighton Marina and Shoreham Harbour were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Marina	15	15	12	10	8	-	2	4	5	10	15	18
Shoreham	2	3	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3

Two were at Hove Lagoon on Mar 13th and four on Goring beach on 17th. The last two spring birds at the Marina were seen on May 19th. One was on Goring beach on Nov 11th.

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

2005 error: 41 on the Adur at Shoreham were in Aug not Jul.

2006: Maxima from regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham	25	150	144	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	194	317
Adur												
Widewater	60	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	250	200	100	-	3	-	-	-	10	-	100	200
Goring	240	-	120	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	60	180

Two were at the Marina on Sep 17th. Sea-watching at Worthing logged 82 E and 62 W in Apr, 39 E and 19 W in May and 60 W in Nov.

JACK SNIBE *Limnocyptes minimus***Scarce winter visitor**

One was at Ferring Rife on Jan 1st and 8th with two there on 27th and a single on Mar 4th. There were no autumn records.

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

Maxima from the following sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	34	6	2	/	-	37	93	272
Adur levels	-	-	20	/	2	-	-	-
Henfield Levels	9	15	18	/	-	-	20	30
Ferring Rife	1	-	-	/	-	-	6	7

Lower Adur in this table includes the Adur Saltings at Shoreham. Twenty-three were on Steyning Levels on Mar 4th with one there on 12th. One flew E at Worthing on 15th and one was at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 16th.

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

More records were received this year due to observers being out at dusk in suitable areas. Four were feeding in the Cissbury area near Stump Bottom on Feb 18th and two were there the next night. One was in Brighton at Waterhall and one on the seafront there on 27th. Four were flushed on Southwick Hill on Mar 5th and three at another downland site on 15th. One was on Hollingbury Camp on 25th. In the autumn one was at Ferring Rife on Nov 2nd and two flew over the observers at Truleigh Hill on 28th. Finally one was seen at Beeding Hill on Dec 17th.

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

The only record was of one on the Adur Saltings at Shoreham from Jan 2nd to Feb 12th.

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

Eighty flew E at the Marina on Apr 22nd and 2100 there on 24th. In Apr 41E and in May 214 E were logged at Worthing. One was on Goring beach on Sep 1st and one was on the Adur at Shoreham on Oct 7th and 8th.

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

Sea-watching totals in a poor spring for the species were:

	Apr	May	Jul	Aug
Marina	17	-	-	-
Worthing E	132	86	-	-
Worthing W	15	17	5	1

The peaks at Worthing were 36 on Apr 21st and 24 on May 2nd. Elsewhere one was by the Airport on Apr 19th and one or two off Hove. One flew over Southwick Hill on May 13th at 2200 hrs. There was one on the Adur from Jul 13th to 16th and two on Aug 5th. None reported after 21st.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Common passage migrant

Two moved E off Brighton Pier on Mar 16th, one off the Marina on 23rd and 11 at Worthing in the month with a maximum of six on 24th. One was inland on Henfield Levels on Apr 1st and just two E and two W at Worthing in the month followed by three W in May. Returning birds were 17 W at Worthing in Jun, seven W in Jul and seven W in Aug. One was on or by the Adur on Aug 28th, Sep 21st and Oct 7/8th and 26th. Two appeared on Ferring beach on Nov 10/11th. Further singles were in the Lower Adur Valley on Nov 13th to 19th and Dec 26th.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder

2005 error: 44 were on the Adur at Shoreham in Aug not Jul.

2006: Monthly maxima from the principal sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	91	105	31	/	71	69	118	122
Shoreham Adur	10	8	-	/	-	-	77	20
Goring	-	2	11	/	-	-	-	10
Widewater	6	4	2	/	-	29	3	-
Worthing	2	-	10	/	-	-	5	3

A pair bred on Steyning Levels raising at least two young.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Regular passage migrant

One flew E at Worthing on May 15th and one was at Shoreham Harbour on Jun 8th. There was one on the Adur near the Tollbridge on Aug 5th and two flew E at Worthing on 12th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

Two were on Steyning Levels on Feb 22nd and one on Henfield Levels on Mar 4th. Two were on the Upper Adur Levels at a different location on Apr 11th. Just one autumn bird - at Durrington on Sep 6th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common passage migrant and local winter visitor

The regular winter haunt of the Adur near the Cement Works again attracted up to six birds in Jan with just one in Feb. There was one at Brooklands on May 6th and one E at Worthing on Jun 3rd. Three were on the beach there on Aug 13th and one on the Adur at Shoreham on 26th rising to four on Sep 7th. One flew over Durrington on 20th. One was on Steyning Levels on Nov 19th and three back near the Cement Works on 28th with one remaining to the year end.

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

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	46	77	10	-	-	-	-	-	4	27	56	26
Shoreham Harbour/Beach	78	50	1	52	-	-	-	-	21	6	30	30
Widewater	30	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	20
Goring/Ferring	40	3	55	51	-	-	1	115	84	-	-	30
Worthing	-	4	20	13	5E 9W	-	4	-	30	50	2	5

The counts at Goring and Ferring in Aug appear to be record numbers for this site and date.

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

A record of a first year bird at the Marina on Jan 14th was unseasonal (IJW). Sea-watching at Worthing beach produced this species on only one day of the year, May 4th, when 21 passed east there in flocks of 17 and four. Brighton Marina recorded a spring total of 117, presumably all east and included flocks of 23 and 17 (possibly the same as at Worthing, above) but no dates were made available. Last there occurred on May 24th. Although anti-cyclonic weather conditions accompanied by south-easterly, southerly, or even light north-easterly winds seem best to catch up with this highly sought after species it still remains unpredictable in its appearances. Often a great deal of luck on the observer's part is required. The only autumn record was of a juvenile past the Marina on Sep 2nd.

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

First of the year was a dark-phase individual passing west off Brighton Marina on Apr 6th. Not noted again until one E there on Apr 15th. Worthing beach noted two E on Apr 20th and two E at Brighton Marina on Apr 22nd concluded the records for this month. A poor Apr for the species led into a dismal May. The peak day count at Worthing beach was 11 E on May 2nd otherwise noted there during the first ten days of the month in mainly low single figures. Widewater recorded two E on May 1st. The species was recorded on only nine days in May. The following table of monthly totals illustrates the paucity of this species during the year, especially compared with the numbers passing in 2005:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Marina	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	22	9	1	-
Worthing	-	-	-	2	18	-	-	4	5	2	-	-

A single flying over West Durrington on Jun 6th was an interesting record. The first passage birds of the autumn months were four off Goring beach on Aug 13th with possibly the same four passing east off Worthing beach on the same day. Brighton Marina recorded 12W on Sep 2nd and 10W there on Sep 3rd. Numbers during Sep and Oct reduced to the occasional single west from both of the major sites and at Brighton Marina on Oct 20th one flew in from the direction of the sea then flew inland. Last of the year was a juvenile offshore at the latter site on Nov 11th.

LONG-TAILED SKUA *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Rare vagrant

An adult flew east past the Marina on May 21st (IJW). Record accepted by SOS.

GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

No winter records were received this year. The first passage birds were singles east at Goring Gap on Apr 13th and at Worthing beach on Apr 14th and 20th. Noted more regularly during the first week of May although numbers were low and no one day produced greater than two individuals. After singles east at Worthing beach on May 12th and 15th birds apparently 'loitering with intent' were reported with two west and one offshore at Worthing on May 18th, and on May 20th at Brighton Marina five were offshore there. The observer commented "offshore, some waiting for Storm-Petrels!" which may well have been apt considering the unusual appearance of numbers of that species at the time. One flew east on May 22nd with two W there on May 27th. Reported monthly totals from both main sites are as shown in the following table and reveal a poor year generally for this species. A comparison with 2005 can be made when the totals at Worthing for Apr and May were 40 and 28 respectively:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Marina	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	3	18	1	-	-	-	1	1	-

Worthing noted one E on Jun 3rd. The only records for the later months were one W at Worthing beach on Oct 15th, and the last for the year there one W on Nov 10th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

Increasing regular visitor throughout the year

Similar numbers were recorded as for 2005. The approximate monthly totals are shown in the following table:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	2	35	22	25	3	65	-	1	3	8	7

Figures include birds logged on sea-watches at the Marina and Worthing. The peak movement at the former was of 25 on Mar 27th. The high count in Jul is mostly due to 50 on the beach east of the Marina on 5th. Singles were seen on the Adur at Shoreham in Jan and Jun and away from the coast the only records were of adults in Stanmer Park on Oct 31st, Nov 8th (two) and 30th.

LITTLE GULL *Larus minutus***Scarce visitor and passage migrant**

2006 was a rather poor year for this gull as shown in the following table of approximate monthly totals:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	17

Records from the first half-year all came from the Marina with 50 passing there on Apr 21st. Single immature birds loitered around Shoreham Harbour in Oct and Dec and 11W and ten E at the Marina on Dec 10th and 29th were the most seen in the late year period.

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

Ninety-three at Shoreham and 139 at Southwick were the largest counts in Jan; these were eclipsed by 2,000 at Kithurst Hill on Feb 5th. One hundred and fifty were at Widewater on 9th and 37 at Waterhall on 27th. In Mar 100 at West Worthing on 10th, 92 at Widewater and 85 at the Marina were the only significant numbers. No count then exceeded 35 at the Marina on Apr 28th through the remainder of the spring and summer until 142 reappeared at Goring Beach on Jul 11th (all but one adults) followed by 100 at Worthing on 20th and again on Sep 7th. The field roost at Goring Gap held 301 on Nov 11th and next day 150 were near the Sanctuary at Shoreham with 500 around the lock-gates at Shoreham Harbour in stormy weather on 24th. Brooklands held 250 on Dec 10th and 122 were on Widewater on 29th with up to 50 at several other downland and coastal sites.

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

Absent between May 15th and Jul 3rd. Largest counts were 300 at Goring Gap on Jan 14th, 600 at Saddlescombe near Poynings on 15th, 1600 at Southwick Beach on Mar 15th and 300-500 between the Sanctuary and Coombes on 29th. The last for spring were six at the Marina on May 14th. The first returning bird was at Worthing on Jul 4th. 550 had gathered at Shoreham on the Adur on Sep 21st. At least 1500 were at Kithurst Hill on Nov 19th and up to 600 remained in the Shoreham area through Dec.

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

Other than 30 at the Marina on Feb 26th, just five noted elsewhere in Jan/Feb. Sixty were at the Marina on Mar 18th and ten on the roost at Goring Gap on 26th with just one to five at eight sites, three of them inland. Three pairs nested on rooftops in Kemp Town, Brighton. Other Jun records were from Lancing Old Salts Farm and Goring. Three at Worthing on Aug 8, one at Brooklands on Dec 10th and 12 near the Tollbridge on the Adur on 25th completed the reports.

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

As usual only reported from the Marina and around the Adur at Shoreham. Six adults at the latter on Sep 21st were the largest group. Monthly totals were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham area	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	1	1	1
Brighton Marina	10	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	-	-	20

* 40 different birds Jul to Sep.

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

Many records received from all across the area. Three counts exceed four figures in the year. They were 2,500 at the Marina on Jan 28th, a remarkable 1,200 inland at Streham Manor, Henfield on May 29th (after stormy weather in the channel) and 3,500 at Shoreham Harbour along with large numbers of other gulls on Nov 24th (see Black-headed and Great Black-backed Gulls). Breeding occurred at many sites along the coast, including Worthing where first chicks noted on Jun 3rd, and Goring where in one location four pairs raised nine young (a 100% increase on previous years). Colour-ringed birds were noted on the Adur at Shoreham amongst 200 on Nov 26th.

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

An adult was at the Marina on Dec 11th (IJW). Record accepted by SOS.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus marinus***Common winter visitor and passage migrant, recent breeding resident**

Forty-five at Shoreham on Feb 6th was the only count in double figures until 15 at Worthing on May 20th. Two pairs raised three young each at Southwick. There were 37 W at Worthing on Jun 18th and 34 at Goring beach on 22nd. This increased to 49 by Jul 11th and 75 by Oct 31st. Twenty-one were at Brighton Marina on Sep 20th and the year's largest gathering, 250, was counted at Shoreham Harbour lock-gates on Nov 24th in stormy weather.

KITTIWAKE *Rissa tridactyla***Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

As usual most records of this species involved coastal movements. Numbers passing Worthing beach were similar to the low numbers of 2005, with the exception of peaks identified in Feb and Nov, as the following table shows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing E	16	293	15	6	19	3	18	-	1	-	1	3
Worthing W	8	-	3	5	20	-	-	-	2	-	264	8

Notable movements at Worthing beach were of 170 E in 2.6 hours on Feb 26th and 156 W in just 0.8 hours on Nov 30th. Additionally 58 E were noted there on Feb 25th and 48 W on

KITTIWAKE contd.

Nov 17th. Numbers passing Brighton Marina during the year closely mirrored the lower Worthing counts, with no number greater than 30 recorded on any day reported. Eleven were seen to follow a trawler off Shoreham Harbour on Dec 2nd, and at the same site the only oiled bird reported, an adult, was present on Dec 6th.

SANDWICH TERN *Sterna sandvicensis*

Common passage migrant

There were no early winter or late winter records although the trend to winter in very small numbers continued in the west of the county (pers. obs). The first passage migrants of the year were four E at Worthing beach on the slightly late date of Mar 25th with two in Shoreham harbour on Mar 26th. Maxima from Brighton Marina for Apr were 48 E on Apr 22nd and 39 E on Apr 15th with smaller numbers from other nearby sites in Brighton. The peak reported count there in May was 60 W on May 22nd and the maximum number reported passing E was just ten on May 14th, surely under-recorded. Monthly totals from Worthing beach are as shown in the following table:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	4	594	489	60	30	31	70	11	-	-
W	-	-	-	31	251	66	54	36	44	27	-	-

Peak movements in spring at Worthing beach were 182 E on Apr 21st, 133 E on May 2nd, and 105 E on May 4th. Passage numbers were significantly less than in 2005. Daily figures to the end of May were usually in double figures but seldom exceeded 30. Other counts were 68 E at Hove on May 3rd and 44 E there on May 2nd. During the summer months 21 were noted at Worthing beach on Jun 14th with 14 E and 13 W there on Jun 19th. No count exceeded 21 there in Jul. In that month 19 W on Jul 8th included one juvenile. The maximum for Aug was just 16 on Aug 17th. Again, small numbers roosted with Black-headed Gulls on the Goring Gap fields. Counts included 13 on Aug 19th, 26 on Aug 26th, and 24 on Sep 22nd with a late peak of 31 on Sep 25th. Passage numbers at Worthing beach in Sep remained very low. During Oct the latter site recorded single figures on most days in the first half of the month, with a peak of 15 W on Oct 12th. The last of the year was one on the Goring Gap roost field on Oct 22nd.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

Very scarce passage migrant

Two flew east at the Marina on Apr 24th and a single on May 12th (IJW).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant

Contrasting with 2005 there were no records during Mar. First of the year was one E at Brighton Marina on Apr 8th, where the maximum day count for the month was 27 E on Apr 15th. The Apr total at Worthing beach was 254 E with peaks of 124 E on Apr 15th and 122 E on Apr 21st. Sixty-four flew E past Widewater on May 4th and the only inland record of the year was of two flying upriver at Steyning levels on Apr 17th. During May very few were identified to species and are as usual recorded under 'Commic' (i.e. Common or Arctic) Tern. Just 16 were noted from Worthing beach in Jun, including nine on the beach

COMMON TERN contd.

on 25th. Jul fared little better there with a month total of just 20 E and five W whilst the Aug total was 40 E and 59 W, the peak day being Aug 13th with 58 W and 38 E. Forty were noted off Goring beach on Aug 6th and on Aug 31st six in Shoreham harbour were all juveniles. Worthing beach recorded 32 W on Sep 5th and 36 E on Sep 9th otherwise counts involved mainly single figures. In Oct, noted from Worthing beach on six days with a maximum of six on Oct 10th. Last of the year occurred at Shoreham harbour where two juveniles were present on Oct 18th. Juveniles reported on both Oct 26th and Oct 30th may relate to just one bird.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant

Brighton Marina recorded the majority of specifically identified Arctic Terns (as opposed to 'Commic Tern' see below) during the spring period. First of the year was 30 E there on Apr 16th and the peak day was 50 E on Apr 24th. None were reported from any other site during this period. First of the autumn was three W at Worthing beach on Jul 23rd and in Aug just one W there on Aug 13th. Two juveniles were off Goring/Ferring on Aug 24th. Just two were noted in Sep, one inside Brighton Marina on Sep 20th and one W at Worthing beach on Sep 29th. Worthing beach recorded three W on Oct 12th. Last for the year was a juvenile flying E at Brighton Marina on the late date of Nov 6th and mirrored the single at Shoreham harbour between Nov 3rd and Nov 7th 2005.

'COMMIC' TERN

Monthly totals of terns not specifically identified as either Common or Arctic Tern are shown in the following table of movements observed at Worthing beach:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	234	1500	25	4	9	4	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	24	5	1	113	6	-	-	-

Peak day movements at Worthing were 486 E on May 6th, 189 E on May 4th and 137 E on May 7th. No counts were received from Brighton Marina. As usual many fewer were noted during the autumn months. Peak day counts at Worthing beach were 43 W on Aug 26th and 39 W on Aug 25th. Just four E and three W passed there in Sep.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

First of the year was one W at Worthing beach on Apr 14th, after which not recorded again until Apr 20th with six E at the same site. Passage numbers were noticeably higher than 2005 during late Apr and early May. A healthy 60 passed E off Goring beach on Apr 21st with 22 E recorded on the same day (but different hours watched) from nearby Worthing beach. Day numbers then remained in single figures until early May when at Worthing beach there were 18 E on May 2nd and 30 E on May 4th. Spring passage finished abruptly as apart from four E at Lancing beach on May 4th there were no further records

LITTLE TERN *contd.*

for the period. The Apr and May month totals at Worthing Beach were 35 E and one W, and 59 E respectively. Seldom if ever recorded in any frequency after May, the only autumn record, and last for the year was three off Goring beach on Aug 12th.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce but regular passage migrant

Spring passage commenced with one E at Brighton Marina on Apr 16th, a week earlier than in 2005. Not recorded again until 12 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 21st, the peak spring count at that site. Few spring birds were noted at Worthing beach with none in Apr, and just singles passing E there on May 4th and May 14th ending a disappointing spring for the species. Not noted again until Sep 22nd with three E at Worthing Beach, then two off Goring beach on Sep 24th and one E at Worthing on Sep 25th. Brighton Marina recorded four on Oct 1st. Last of the year was a juvenile/first-winter individual frequenting Shoreham harbour between the exceptionally late dates of Oct 28-Oct 31st. These are the latest for the SDOS area.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

Low single figures offshore at Worthing, Shoreham Harbour and the Marina other than ten off Worthing on Feb 25th until May 7th at the Marina when the last spring sighting was made. Then just ones and twos from Sep 14th to the year end from the same locations plus Goring beach.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

Razorbills are distinctly more numerous than Guillemots in our area. Approximate monthly peak numbers of specifically identified birds off Worthing were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	22	4	3	2	-	-	-	1	1	21	11

Three were off Shoreham Harbour in Feb and one in Apr. There were four at the Marina on Mar 23rd and two off Southwick Beach on Nov 4th. The Nov total in the table includes 20 off Goring on 4th where there were also two on 6th and one on Dec 28th.

AUK species

As with the previous two winters large numbers of unidentified auks were present in Jan and Feb. 1,127 flew W in 75 mins off Worthing on Jan 28th and 400 moved E in 10 mins there on Feb 21st, followed by 1,650 (considered to be mostly Razorbills) moving E in under two hours on 23rd, 586 E on 24th and 1,473 E on 26th. Over 1,000 were noted in this period off Brighton Pier. In Mar the peak was 53 on 11th and in Apr just ten on 20th. Forty-three flew E off Hove on May 3rd and the last for the spring were five off Worthing on 18th. Next reported on Sep 29th and month totals at Worthing to the year end were Sep: 11 W, Oct: five E/five W, Nov: 28 E/152 W and Dec: four. No reports received from the Marina.

LITTLE AUK *Alle alle*

Scarce autumn and winter visitor

Six passed Worthing beach on Nov 2nd and between two and four on 3rd; birds moved in both directions so duplication is possible (DIS). On this day five flew E at the Marina and one was inside it but swam out at dusk (IJW). One was off Ferring on 4th (DIS). Further singles flew E at the Marina on 5th and on 6th one remained until 12th when it collided with a boat and injured a wing (mo). A second was present on 11th and 12th and one flew E on 26th (IJW).

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Common resident

Recorded from thirteen sites across the area. Regular monitoring logged from one to six at Patcham over the year, up to 37 at Stanmer Park Jan to Mar, 158 at Southwick in Jan, between eight and 216 in three different parts of Hove mainly during BBS transects, 300 in Shoreham in Nov, 21 and 55 in Portslade for two BBS counts, and similarly 30 and 21 in Worthing.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Declining resident and passage migrant

In the period Jan to Oct, birds were noted at 19 widely spread sites with maxima of nine at Brighton Cemetery in Jan and eight at Goring Gap in Mar. Two pairs bred at Wild Park and calling birds in the breeding season were heard at Goring Gap, Wyckham Wood (Henfield) and Applesham (Coombes). Autumn passage in Nov produced 40 at Wild Park on 4th and 25 at Clapham Woods on 18th. One or two Stock Doves were visitors to a garden in each of Steyning and Lancing through the year.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant

Significant counts were of 304 in Shoreham, 71 at Southwick and 52 at Stanmer Park in Jan, 100 at Kithurst Hill and 50 at Lancing Clump in Feb, 800 at Blackpatch Hill on Mar 15 and 70 at Mill Hill and 235 at Worthing with 66 at Portslade in Apr. Seventy-eight pairs bred at Wild Park. Forty-seven were at Tegdown Hill in Jul. Autumn passage commenced about Oct 29th with 885 over Hollingbury and 250 over Shoreham Sanctuary with a further 1,000 over Lancing Clump on 30th and 500 W at Worthing on 31st. 6,000 flew W at Worthing on Nov 1 in just over an hour in the early morning. A total autumn count for Brighton Borough was 55,000 passing through with a peak of 30,000 on Nov 2nd.

COLLARED DOVE *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident

A visitor to many members' gardens across the area. Double figure counts were only received as follows: Stanmer Park 13 and Southwick 15 in Jan, Hove 11 and Shoreham 23 in Feb, Old Salts Farm, Lancing 12, West Worthing 14 and Hove 14 in Apr. 16 were in Portslade, ten in Hove and 22 in Worthing in May and 28 at Lancing in Jun. These were all 2km transect records. 35 pairs bred at Wild Park. The grain silos at Shoreham Harbour attracted 40 in Sep and 55 in Nov. Finally there were 51 at New Salts Farm on Dec 2nd and ten at Brooklands on 10th.

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

Disappointingly few records were received. One was on Steyning Levels on May 13th and one was heard at Tottington Manor, Small Dole on Jun 15th. There were two at Tegdown Hill near Brighton on Jul 1st.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri***Very scarce introduced breeding resident**

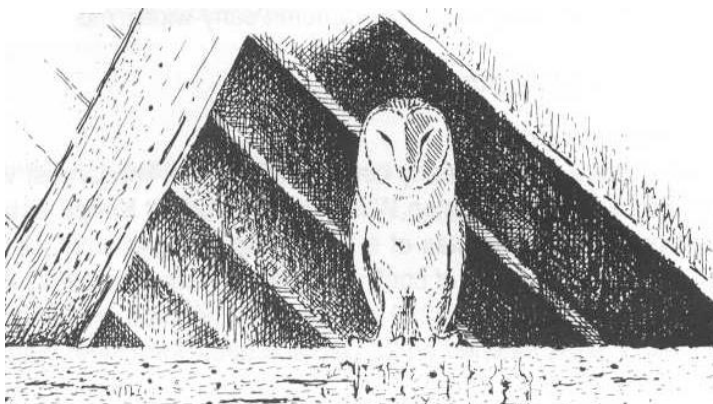
Two reports were of one at Westdene, Brighton on Oct 20th and one at Beeding Hill which flew N at dusk.

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

The first bird was heard at Wyckham Wood on Apr 16th, a typical date. From Apr 21st to Jun 18th a further ten birds were heard or seen, mainly singles but two were at Steyning Round Hill on May 3rd. Only one bird was reported in Jul, at Tegdown Hill on Jul 8th. Finally, a juvenile was seen at Cissbury Ring on Aug 11th.

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

Sadly, the first record was of a dead bird found on the ground at Worthing Golf Course on Jan 18th. On Feb 22nd one was seen at Steyning Levels and on twelve dates between Feb 27th and Apr 3rd birds were reported from either Shoreham Airport or nearby Lancing New Salts Farm. Normally one bird was seen but there were two at Lancing New Salts Farm on Mar 1st. Unfortunately, during this period another bird was found freshly dead in a shed at West Worthing on Mar 21st and a third was found dead on the ground at Shoreham Sanctuary on Apr 17th after long heavy rain. Six juveniles were ringed this year. In the second winter period single birds were seen at Shoreham Airport on Dec 12th and Dec 13th.



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LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua*

Fairly common resident

There were 11 reports of these birds covering nine locations. All but one of these reports were of singles. At Stump Bottom, near Steyning, it was noted on three occasions between Feb 18th and Mar 19th. In the summer period birds were seen at three sites and at one of these, at Applesham on Jun 11th, three young were seen in a nest box. There were a further three reports between Oct 29th and Dec 17th.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

There were 18 reports of Tawny Owls, mainly in the early or late winter periods. The three summer records were from Steyning, High Salvington and Ferring. At the latter site a pair raised young in the Sea Lane area. A dead bird was found in a garden at Coombes in Aug; birds were otherwise present there in Jan, Sep and Dec.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident

Surprisingly there were 34 positive sightings of these scarce birds during the year. At a regular downland roost one bird was seen on Jan 2nd but the maximum count there was eight on Jan 7th. In all, positive records were received from nine separate sites between Jan and May. Display was noted at two of these locations. Breeding at one site was suspected but not proved since a co-ordinated search of all nine sites to listen for young on Jul 1st produced negative results. In the second winter period two birds were seen at a regular downland roost on Oct 9th and this increased to five on Nov 25th. Finally two birds were seen at another site on Dec 16th.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

Between Feb 24th and Mar 4th there were eight sightings of one of these attractive birds, all in the Shoreham Airport, Lancing New Salts Farm area. The first bird seen in the second winter period was passing east along the coast at Ferring on Nov 9th. Subsequently a single bird was seen in the Shoreham Airport, Lancing New Salts Farm area between Dec 6th and Dec 9th.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Rare summer migrant

Between Jun 4th and Jul 17th churring was heard on most nights at Edburton.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor

The first reports were of single birds at both Worthing beach and Goring beach on Apr 16th. There were six other Apr records with a maximum of seven at Worthing on Apr 30th. There were records from several locations in May, normally of small numbers but there were 20 at Brooklands on May 6th, 27 at Upper Beeding on May 25th and 40 at Worthing beach on May 29th. The only large flocks in Jun were at Goring where there

COMMON SWIFT *contd.*

were 21 birds on Jun 5th, Shoreham where there were 35 on Jun 8th, and at Hove with 50 on Jun 15th. In Jul several larger flocks were noted at Tegdown Hill, Shoreham and Durrington, the largest being 50 at Durrington on Jul 19th. There were six Aug records, mainly of one or two birds but there were 15 at Hove Park on Aug 17th and the final report was of five at Hollingbury Camp on Aug 26th.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

There were regular reports in the period Jan 2nd to Mar 17th of birds in several locations. These were mainly singles but there were two by Shoreham Airport on Mar 2nd. Brighton Marina was the only location where birds were seen in summer, single birds on two occasions. There were 38 reports of one or two between Sept 8th and Dec 29th. The majority of these were from Brighton Marina, Brooklands, Shoreham on the Adur, Widewater, and Shoreham Fort. Two young birds were ringed in the Steyning Mumbles ringing sessions between Sep 23rd and Oct 7th and one adult female was ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary Dec 23rd. The final bird was seen at Coombes Cuckoo Corner, a regular site, on Dec 29th.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare passage migrant

This was another good year for this species in our area. Three were seen, the first being one at Newtimber Hill on Apr 17th, the only spring record. In the autumn one was seen in a private garden in Southwick on Aug 24th and finally one was again in a private garden, in Durrington on Oct 2nd.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident

Very regularly reported from many areas throughout the year. Multiple records were received from several sites including Stanmer Park, Cissbury Ring, Lancing Clump, Clapham Wood, Hollingbury Camp and High Salvington. At Shoreham Sanctuary four separate birds were ringed during the year, one young and three adults. One adult bird was also ringed at Cissbury Ring. Confirmed breeding was only reported at Findon Valley, Wild Park and High Salvington although it clearly bred in many other areas.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident

Many reports of these birds were received throughout the year. Sites from which multiple sightings were received included Cissbury Ring, High Salvington and Small Dole. Nest excavation was seen at High Salvington and Goring Gap and breeding was confirmed at Coombes (two young raised), Wild Park, St Anne's Well, Hove, and High Salvington, although they clearly bred in many other areas. During the year one adult was ringed at the Mumbles, Steyning, one adult and one young bird were ringed at Cissbury and two young birds were ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor***Scarce resident**

There were two records this year, both from Steyning. The first was in a garden there on Feb 9th. The other was from the Wiston Estate on May 3rd.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea***Rare passage migrant**

There was only one record this year. This came from Sompting Abbots where one bird was in song on Oct 23rd.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis***Common resident**

During the period Jan 3rd to Mar 29th the largest count was 73 birds between the river Adur and A23 on Jan 22nd. Other double figure counts were 20 in the same area on Feb 5th, 20 at Long Furlong, Findon on Mar 15th, ten at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 25th and finally 30 at Steep Down, Lancing on Mar 29th. During Apr and May the highest double figure counts were 15 at both Upper Beeding and Brighton Wild Park on Apr 28th and May 1st respectively. At Upper Beeding ten birds were seen on May 25th and at Lancing Clump there were ten birds on May 30th. The only confirmed breeding record was of 15 pairs at Brighton Wild Park although singing birds were reported in many sites during the breeding season. In Jun 50 were recorded at Lancing Steep Down and 13 were noted at Worthing Golf Course. The maximum number recorded in Jul was 17 at Tegdown Hill on Jul 8th. Flocks increased in the autumn/winter period with over 30 at Mill Hill, Shoreham, Goring beach, Hollingbury Camp, Cissbury Ring, and Brighton Wild Park. However the highest numbers recorded were 50 migrating at Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct 29th and at Kithurst Hill, Storrington where 80 were recorded on Nov 19th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia***Summer visitor and passage migrant**

One heading north up the Adur at Henfield Levels on Mar 26th was the first of only 19 recorded in the spring. It was followed by singles at Brooklands on Apr 4th, Worthing beach, the Marina, and two at Clapham (Myrtle Grove Farm) on 15th and other singles at the Marina on 17th and Worthing on 30th. Eleven were reported in May. No breeding reports were received. Birds moving east in Jul were ten at Goring, five at Worthing, 25 at Shoreham and 11 at Ferring Rife. In Aug 23 were over Coldean and Hollingbury, Brighton and in Sep seven were at Goring Gap on 8th and three at Hollingbury on 9th with two there on 16th, the last for the year.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica***Common summer visitor**

Steyning Levels saw the first of the spring on Mar 26th. From Apr 4th small numbers were reported at coastal and downland sites with 15 at Worthing beach on 8th, 17 at the Marina on 17th and 34 on 28th at Worthing (out of a month total of 102 there) as the only double figure counts. Peaks in May were 15 at Chanctonbury Ring on 1st and 40 at Goring beach and 22 at Worthing on 7th. Breeding records were five pairs at Highdown, six nests in

BARN SWALLOW *contd.*

stables at Steyning King's Barn, one nest in Greyfriars, Storrington, 'several' pairs at Patching in farm buildings with Jun birds also at Worthing GC (5), Lancing Old Salts Farm (4), Wiston Estate, Northbrook Farm (13), Applesham, Coombes where two broods were reared in a stable, Patcham and Westmeston. Forty-three were counted at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st. Fifty were over Benfield Valley, Hangleton on Aug 14th and 18th at Hollingbury on 27th. As usual migration was under way in earnest in Sep but with low month maxims of 242 at Hollingbury on 21st, 300 at Goring on 23rd and 200 at Worthing (out of 452) on 27th. Low totals were encountered in Oct with only 175 at Wild Park on 4th and 100 at Worthing on 9th as the highest counts. The last for the year were two at Brooklands on the early date of 24th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

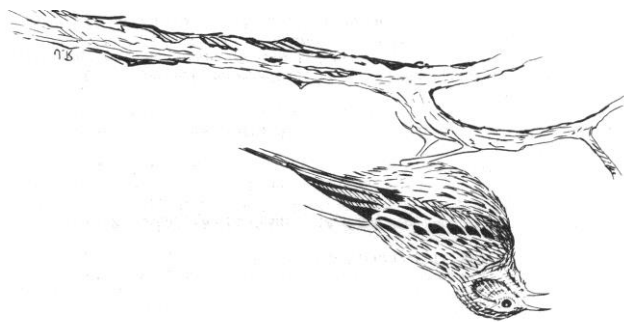
Common summer visitor

As with other hirundines, 2006 was a poor year for visible migration of House Martins. Only 32 were reported in spring with the first at the Marina on Apr 17th and 19 at Chanctonbury on May 1st the largest count. The breeding survey revealed 'several' pairs nesting on a housing estate in Durrington, one at East Worthing, eight in Neville Road, Hove, 13 at Newtimber Place, Poynings, 17 at Stanmer Park, 17 at Lancing College, eight at Mile Oak, Portslade, four at Myrtlegrove Farm, Clapham, one at Long Furlong, Findon, one in an artificial box at Steyning, two pairs at Patching, 2-3 pairs in Upper Beeding, and at least one at Hormare Crescent, Storrington – a total of at least 76 pairs. Autumn migration was noted from about Aug 26th with 130 at Hollingbury then 250 at Cissbury on Sep 12th and again on 26th, 100 at High Salvington on 14th and the autumn peak of 355 at Hollingbury on 21st. Few were reported in Oct with just singles after 24th until the last for the year at Wild Park on Nov 4th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant

One at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton on Aug 20th was the only record received.



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MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

Locally common resident and common passage migrant

Forty-eight on the Upper Adur Levels and 30 on Steyning Levels were the only double figure site counts in Jan although 19 were recorded between the A23 and the Adur during tetrad surveys. Thirty at New Salts Farm on Mar 9, 11 N at Worthing on 15th, 20 at Clapham and 72 at Hollingbury on 19th, 27 in Wild Park and 80 at Beeding Brooks on 25th and 28th respectively were mostly migrants. In Apr the maximum at Sheepcote was 32 on 17th when 14 flew in at the Marina. Breeding pairs were one in Wild Park and probables were at Upper Beeding, Westmeston and near Worthing GC. Twenty on Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st may well have bred in the area. Autumn passage in Sep included a maximum of 47 on 17th at Hollingbury, 100 E at Goring Gap on 23rd, 14 at Sheepcote next day and 20 E at Worthing on 25th. Numbers in Oct increased with 310 on 4th at Wild Park and 47 at Hollingbury on 8th when there were also 100 at Truleigh Hill, 150 W at Goring Beach in 1.5 hrs on 12th, and 64 E at Worthing on 15th (out of a month's total of 265), 45 at Wild Park on 18th and 70 at Goring on 26th. Twenty at Cissbury on Nov 7th and seven on Steep Down on 13th with just singles at three sites in Dec completed the year's reports.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

The Shoreham Fort and Harbour area accounted for the majority of reports. From one to six (on Feb 4th) occurred there between Jan 2nd and Apr 9th and again from Oct 3rd to Dec 22nd with three on Oct 24th as the maximum. Elsewhere, Goring beach on Mar 19th and Apr 16th and the Marina on Mar 23rd in the first winter period and Ferring, Widewater and the same other sites accounted for one or two from Oct 12th to Dec 21st.

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus littoralis*

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

One was again at Shoreham Fort on Feb 4th (RJF), Mar 9th and 26th (DIS) and again in the autumn on Nov 4th (RJF). These records have been accepted by the SOS. This is the most regular locality for this sub-species.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant

Eight were reported in spring with the first at Stanmer Park on Mar 21st. There were singles in at the Marina on Apr 15th and May 5th and five over Worthing beach - three on Apr 28th and singles on 30th and in May. Autumn passage commenced with one at Hollingbury on Aug 14th with 30 W at Brighton Pier and 70 at New Erringham Farm, Shoreham on 29th as the largest counts among nine other sites holding from one to six until ten that flew W at Ferring on Sep 15th. The peak at Hollingbury/Wild Park was five on 21st. There were ten near Cissbury on 26th and two at each of Worthing beach and Truleigh Hill on 30th, Oct 3rd and the last on the 8th.

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

Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No of birds	11	2	2	-	-	-	-	1	9	9	6	4
No of sites	8	2	3	-	-	-	-	1	6	8	4	4

No breeding records were received. All sightings were of single birds other than two flying high over Brooklands on Jan 10th and two by the Adur at the Cement Works on Nov 28th. A garden visitor to Steyning (Jan, Oct and Nov) and Shoreham (Dec).

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

In Jan 18 were at the Marina on 2nd, eight at Stanmer Park on 3rd and from one to five at six other sites. There were 40 in Stanmer Park at a pre-roost gathering on Feb 23rd, 20 at Shoreham Harbour on Mar 3rd and small numbers across the area at half a dozen other locations. A nest with young was found at Steyning King's Barn in stables but no other breeding records were received. Just one to three then until 31 again at Stanmer Park on Oct 2nd, 34 at Shoreham Airport on 7th, 25 at Goring on 12th, 19 at Hollingbury on 15th and passage at Worthing beach in the month totalling 22 on the beach, 45 E and 24 W (max. 21 on 13th). Sixteen were at Durrington on Nov 12th and 20 at West Worthing on 28th. A roost of 110 in the multi-storey car park at the Marina on Dec 6th was the year's largest count. One of the continental race *alba* (White Wagtail) was at Goring beach on Mar 19th.

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

Counts in Stanmer Park recorded maxima of 27 in Jan, 19 in Feb and 24 in Mar. Eleven were in Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on Mar 24th and 14th, ten and nine in two 1km transects as part of BBS surveys in Portslade, West Worthing and Upper Beeding in Apr. Breeding pairs were 74 in Wild Park. Over the year Ringers at the Mumbles (Steyning), Cissbury and Shoreham Sanctuary handled 27, 23 and 38 birds respectively - of which 16, 16 and 21 were young. Sixteen were at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st. Otherwise from one to eight recorded from a multitude of sites across the area including members' gardens. More specific breeding data would be welcome.

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

Distribution and population of the Dunnock is similar in many ways to the Wren although only in Stanmer Park, Tegdown Hill and at Shoreham Sanctuary did counts reach double figures (10, 12 and 10 were the maxima). Forty-nine pairs bred in Wild Park. Ringing at the Mumbles (Steyning), Cissbury and Shoreham Sanctuary involved 52, 42 and 40 different birds of which 32, 21 and 28 were young. As with Wren, from one to eight noted at many localities, members' gardens included.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula***Very common resident**

Most of the hundreds of records received were from BTO Birdtrack and Winter Atlas counts. One would assume those in double figures from Lancing, Shoreham and Stanmer Park bred in these areas. For such a common bird there were only two breeding records: 102 pairs at Wildpark and one pair at High Salvington. Ringing totals at the Shoreham Sanctuary were 131 which included 75 different birds (63 new and 12 retraps) of which 54 were young birds. At the Mumbles (Steyping) there were 68 handlings of 34 different birds, 27 being young birds.

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

First of the year was at Sheepcote on Apr 14th followed shortly by one at Woods Mill on 18th and others in a West Worthing garden on 22nd and Patcham on 29th. There was a distinct lack of records from breeding areas around Oreham Common, Small Dole and Woods Mill, with ones and twos in early May, and perhaps the only confirmed breeding were singing birds in Jun from Woods Mill. A young bird was ringed at the Sanctuary on Jul 29th.

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

Once again this species had many more sightings than Common Redstart but by local standards it was a poor year. Regular wintering haunts were at Ferring and up to two around the Shoreham Fort area. Singles just either side at Southwick Beach and Widewater could have been different birds. A singing male at Goring Gap on Mar 15th and one at Hollingbury hillfort on Mar 19th were the only new birds during what is normally the peak movement period. Breeding was strongly suspected at Southwick Beach with two singing males in Jun/Jul with at least one female present. A male at Coldean on Sep 10th proved to be the only passage bird, the big surprise being not one record received during Oct. Wintering birds were returning in early Nov at Ferring and Shoreham; one in Moulescoomb on Nov 21st and a new bird at Marina from Nov 30th.

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

A male at Ladies Mile LNR and a female at Coldean arrived on Apr 8th, followed by a male at New Salts Farm the next day. Then a gap until Apr 22nd with singles at Kithurst Hill and Ferring. Wick Farm, Westmeston produced two in Jun in a BTO Survey. Passage birds were from mid Aug at Cissbury and Westdene, Brighton. Highest count was three at Brooklands on Aug 22nd whilst the Wildpark total was only five singles to Sep 23rd. Two were ringed at Cissbury and Strivens Reedbed during Sep, and the last were at Mill Hill on Oct 15th and at Lychpole Hill on Oct 19th.

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

First arrivals were four on Hollingbury hillfort and two at Steyning Roundhill on Apr 22nd. The only other spring sightings were two at Shoreham Airport on May 3rd and one at Wolstonbury Hill on May 12th. Not surprisingly all the autumn records came from downland sites across the area, but numbers were well down. There were two at Harrow Hill and Wild Park end Aug, singles from seven sites, four at Sompting on Sep 7th and against the trend of low numbers were nine at Truleigh Hill on Oct 3rd.

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

With good numbers reported once again via the Winter Atlas and BTO, this species had slightly fewer records than last year, but the status remains stable. Wintering birds were present at five sites in the Adur Valley but also at Southwick, Stanmer Park and two other downland sites. Most were six on downland E of the Adur on Feb 5th. Migrants occurred from mid Mar at Wildpark, and possible breeding pairs were at Beeding Brooks and Patcham. The only confirmed breeding was at Steep Down where two pairs and newly fledged young were noted on Jun 10th; and at Cement Works where at least five juveniles joined with four adults on Sep 5th. Typical first autumn dates were from early Sep at Cissbury, Mill Hill and Wildpark. Unusual were 22 at Truleigh Hill on Oct 3rd and a record count of 32 there on Oct 26th, with still 16 there at the month's end. By comparison Cissbury only recorded ones and twos and the peak at Wildpark was four on Oct 29th. A pair were at Steepdown and Mile Oak in Nov, and wintering birds were two at Widewater to year end and singles at Goring Gap and Steyning Roundhill.

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

First of the year were singles at Ferring Rife and Goring Gap, and two at Wild Park on Mar 15th, then singles at five sites until the first mini-fall on Mar 25th with five at Worthing Beach and three at Toad's Hole Valley. Downland records were few and far between as arrivals continued through Apr with peaks of 20 at Shoreham on 15th and 11 at Marina on 22nd. The exceptions to the coastal bias were eight at Myrtle Grove Farm and ten at Steyning Roundhill. An early returning bird was at Patcham on Jul 13th followed by two males at Goring Beach on Aug 2nd. Autumn passage contained the usual mix of coastal and downland records, the peaks being 15 at Southwick Hill on Aug 22nd, 15 along the Downs on Sep 3rd and 16 at Goring Gap on Sep 7th. Very few were reported from Wild Park and no records were received at all from Sheepcote. Good numbers continued into Oct, with four at Cissbury and Widewater, and six at Truleigh Hill, and the last being one at Worthing beach on Nov 14th, a fortnight after all the other departures.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Regular passage migrant

This was not a good year for ouzel seekers, especially after the previous record-breaking autumn. Just two males were noted in Apr, at Brighton Wild Park on 1st and Cissbury Ring on 10th. An average Oct passage started with four in Sheepcote valley on 17th. Reports next day of 11 at Truleigh Hill and 10 at nearby Edburton Hill probably refer to the same birds. One was at Truleigh Hill on 20th and six on 27th. At Cissbury Ring there were three on 21st, six on 23rd and one on 29th. Single birds were at Ferring on 23rd and finally at Brooklands and West Tarring on 31st.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Very common resident

The total number of birds in twelve TQ20 tetrads surveyed in Jan and Feb for the Winter Atlas Pilot was 110, ranging from one in TQ20C (Shoreham town/Beach/Airport) to 40 in TQ20D (Old Shoreham/MillHill/Adur). Regular counts at Stanmer Park produced monthly maxima of 34 in Jan, 35 in Feb, and 29 in Mar - roughly 20% fewer than last year. Elsewhere outside the breeding season up to 15 were reported, including several counts of this number at Lancing Clump. The first transects in eleven Breeding Bird Survey squares recorded 115 birds, the second 125, as against 164 in ten transects last year. However, the Wild Park population rose by two pairs to 112. The numbers ringed and controlled were 41 at Cissbury and 45 at the Sanctuary, about 25% fewer than in 2005, and 53 at The Mumbles.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor

The numbers of birds were low this year. Between Jan 2nd and Mar 23rd there were nine records totalling 243 birds, of which 150 were at Harrow Hill on Jan 30th. From Oct 31st to Dec 9th seven reports totalled 158, 130 of these were at Preston Park early on Nov 2nd.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident

This species appears to be still in decline. It was not recorded in four of the twelve TQ20 tetrads for the Winter Atlas Pilot, nor by three of the eleven Breeding Bird Survey transects. The Winter survey found 26 birds in eight tetrads, including nine in TQ20D, north of Shoreham. At Stanmer Park, the monthly maxima were five in Jan and Feb, seven in Mar, against 12 and nine last year. The first BBS transects noted a total of 14, the second 13; last year there were 32. Wild Park held 13 pairs, two less than last year. At Cissbury 26 new birds were ringed and two controlled, and at the Sanctuary, 18 and two controlled - 30% down on last year. The Mumbles ringed 26 and controlled two. Otherwise most of the widespread records referred to one or two birds, with more at Tegdown Hill in Jul, up to seven, and at Hollingbury Camp in Oct, up to eight.

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

Between Jan 1st and Mar 26th when the last one was in song on Steyning Levels, only 138 were reported, and the largest counts were of 37 at Tegdown Hill on Mar 19th and 16 at Stanmer Park on 23rd. The first one of the autumn arrived early, at Portslade on Sep 29th, followed on Oct 16th by five at Cissbury, and small numbers moving west over Durrington at first light. Another 21 were noted until the early morning of Nov 2nd when 500 passed over Preston Park, 60 northwest over Wild Park, and 100 over Hove. Only 18 more were noted to the end of the year, including two ringed at Cissbury.

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

Again nearly all the reports from various sites through the year were of one or two birds. Only one was seen in twelve tetrads surveyed for the Winter Atlas Pilot, and four out of eleven Breeding Bird Survey transects found one bird each. Spring song was noted at High Salvington, Shoreham and Easthill Park Portslade. Single birds visited a member's garden in each of Shoreham and Lancing in Feb/Mar and May. One pair bred at Wild Park where the peak count was six on Oct 4, and a pair was seen feeding young at Shoreham on Jun 18. Much the highest counts were up to 19 at Tegdown Hill during Jul.

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

There was just one record from Beeding Brooks on Mar 28th this year followed by another close by on the Steyning Levels on Apr 8th. One was reported from Edburton (a new site) on May 31st. A female was ringed at the Sanctuary on Nov 29th and the same bird was later retrapped on Dec 27th.

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

Just one spring passage record came from Brighton Marina on Apr 21st. In autumn the only record was on Sep 30th when a single bird was at Hollingbury Camp.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus***Formerly fairly common summer visitor**

Although described above as fairly common in fact 2006 produced very few records for this species in our area. Ringing records from the Mumbles (Steyning) site have been included this year after several years' absence, and they have doubled this species' total. There were merely two records of single birds in Jun; from Ferring Rife and the Wiston Estate near Steyning. In late Jul and early Aug very small numbers of passage birds were caught at the Sanctuary (2), Cissbury (1) and the Mumbles (7). A single was found at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 2nd and the last of the year was one ringed at the Sanctuary on Sep 16th.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer visitor

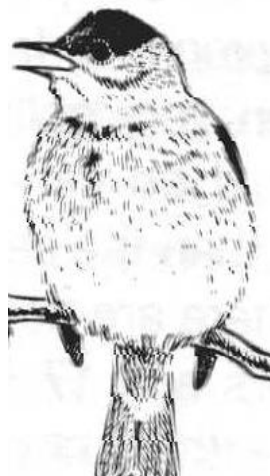
Four birds singing at the Sanctuary on May 7th started a modest sprinkling of spring records. Just two were at both Wild Park (Brighton) and Henfield Levels in late May and singles were noted on three dates in May and Jun at St Anne's Well (Hove). At Ferring Rife a succession of records from May 30th and throughout Jun was thought to involve around four breeding pairs although a single at Steyne Gardens (Worthing) on Jun 11th was clearly still on passage. Breeding was confirmed at the Sanctuary and the Mumbles (Steyning) but, as well as Ferring Rife, birds were also present at the Wiston Estate near Steyning and one was reported as "still singing" at Brooklands on Jul 6th. Apart from ten at Brooklands on Aug 22nd the majority of autumn passage records came from the Cissbury, Mumbles and Sanctuary ringing sites where grand totals for the year were seven, 58 and 52 respectively. Maximum number at the Sanctuary was 14 on Jul 15th and 14 at the Mumbles on Aug 26th. Last for the year were two at Coldean, Brighton on Sep 10th.

BLACKCAP *Sylvia atricapilla*

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

In the early months of Jan and Feb there were the now familiar and widespread reports, many from towns and gardens, of birds taking berries or artificial food. Most records were of single birds but up to three were seen at Steyning and four to five at Patcham. First song was heard at Durrington on Feb 18th. Records of singles at Hollingbury Camp and Brighton Wild Park on Mar 30th suggest migrant arrivals. Into early Apr and away from the gardens no more than two were recorded from additional sites such as Stretham Manor (Henfield), Coldean (Brighton), Lancing Clump, Applesham near Coombes and West Worthing. Breeding confirmation came from Wild Park Brighton (21 pairs) and the Sanctuary, Cissbury and Mumbles ringing sites. Probable breeders were three at Highdown although singing males were heard at other sites. May/Jun Breeding Bird Survey transects revealed two at Wiston Estate nr Steyning, three at Patcham, three at Upper Beeding and nine at Worthing Golf Course. The best visual record of autumn migration came from Hollingbury Camp with a maximum of 12 there on Sep 9th. The only other significant count was of 15 at Mill Hill (Shoreham) on Sep 24th. Ringing revealed the presence of greater numbers with 33 at the Sanctuary on Sep 9th, 34 at the Mumbles on Sep 10th and 67 at Cissbury on 12th. Annual ringing totals were Sanctuary 165, Mumbles 168 and Cissbury 317. From the second week of Oct, and away from the ringing sites, no more than two were seen at a time, mostly in towns and gardens. Last for the year was a female caught at the Sanctuary on Dec 23rd.

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GARDEN WARBLER *Sylvia borin*

Fairly common summer visitor

Apr records came from just two locations; St Anne's Well held one on 19th and two on 25th while one was at Worthing Golf Course on the 26th. Into May and records extended to Cissbury, Tegdown Hill and a single in a Goring garden. Breeding was confirmed with two pairs at Wild Park and also at Cissbury. Birds in the nets at the Mumbles and the Sanctuary in late Jul indicated return passage had begun and further captures throughout Aug and early Sep produced ringing totals of 18 and eight birds respectively. At Cissbury the total of 15 ringed birds included local breeding and juvenile birds. The best autumn count was nine caught at the Mumbles on Aug 12th with five at the Sanctuary on Aug 15th. Other Aug sightings of no more than two birds per site came from High Salvington, Patching and Hollingbury. Just one on Sep 12th at Sompting closed the account.

LESSER WHITETHROAT *Sylvia curruca*

Fairly common summer visitor

Within five days of Apr spring arrivals occurred at St Anne's Well (25th), Worthing Golf Course (26th), Wild Park (27th), then Cissbury and Waterhall and Coldean localities on the 29th. Into May and more records came from other widespread downland sites but breeding was only confirmed at Wild Park (one pair), the Sanctuary and Cissbury. During Jul the only observations were of up to two at Tegdown Hill. One in the net at the Mumbles on Aug 12th began the autumn records. Thereafter modest numbers, no more than four at a time, also passed through Hollingbury Camp, Coldean, Hollingdean, Cissbury and a Tarring garden. The last record was one at Wild Park on Sep 23rd. By far the best ringing total for the season was 35 at the Sanctuary with a maximum seven there on Aug 18th. Just ten were ringed at Cissbury and five at the Mumbles.

WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor

A watch at Mill Hill, Shoreham on Apr 10th was rewarded with a count of 8, the first for the year, and was followed by one Wild Park (Brighton) on 12th. Thereafter this species was soon widely reported with peak spring counts of 12 at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 22nd and 15 at Wild Park on Apr 27th. Probable or confirmed breeding records came from Wild Park (26 pairs), Ferring Rife (3 pairs), Steep Down, Lancing (c.6 pairs), Highdown (c.5 pairs), Long Furlong, Findon and the ringing sites at the Sanctuary, Mumbles and Cissbury. Breeding Bird Survey transects located possible breeding birds at Upper Beeding, Patcham, Worthing Golf Course and Wick Farm (Westmeston). Again only observations at Tegdown Hill produced Jul records with a maximum there of 22 on Jul 1st. Into Aug and first indications of return passage may have been 14 at Hollingbury Camp on Aug 5th. Largest counts of the autumn were 80 at Cissbury on Aug 15th with another 40 there on Aug 22nd and of 23 at Wild Park on Aug 26th. Ringers handled 51 birds at Cissbury, with 28 at the Sanctuary and 34 at the Mumbles. Best catches were 12 at Cissbury on Aug 15th, 11 at the Sanctuary on Aug 18th



Reed Bunting (Clive Cunningham)

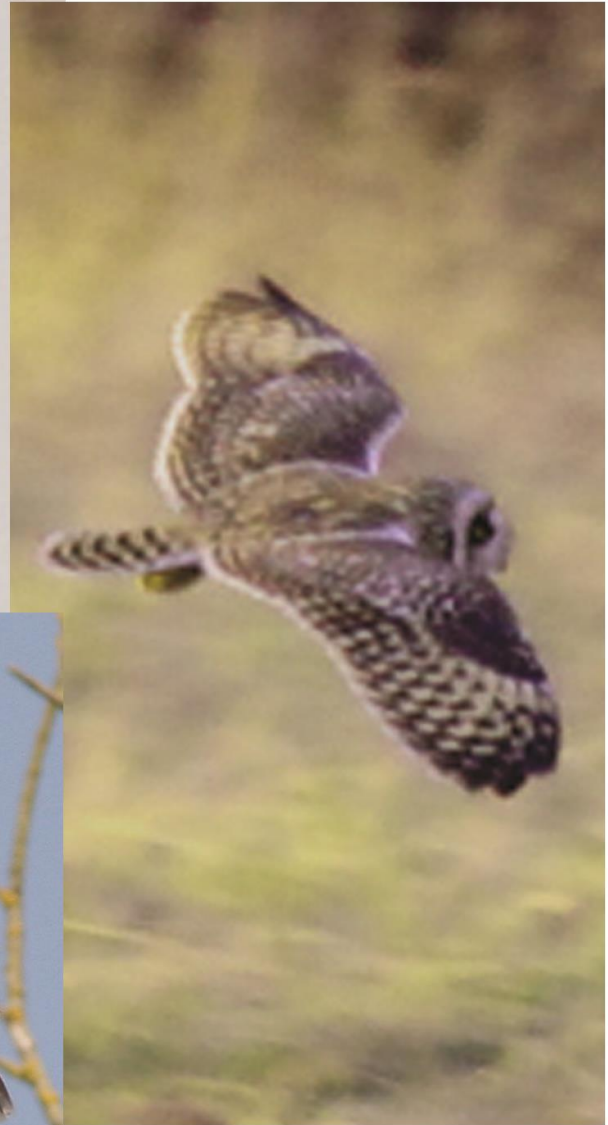


Whinchat (Keith Noble)



Dotterel (Charles Lowe)





Raven (Dorian Mason)
Kestrel (Dorian Mason)
Short-eared Owl (Clive Cunningham)

WHITETHROAT contd.

and 11 at the Mumbles on Aug 26th. Smaller numbers continued into Sep with the last counts of two at Sheepcote Valley and seven at Mill Hill on Sep 24th and one at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 30th.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor

Up to two were regularly recorded at Cissbury during late autumn and early winter 2005. A further single was seen on Jan 2nd and two were present on Mar 9th. There were no further records in 2006.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare autumn vagrant

There were two records in our area in 2006. One was in Sheepcote Valley on Oct 23rd (ADW, JYW) and one was in a Lancing garden on Nov 24th (BFF et al).

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

True to its status up to four were to be found during Jan and Feb at the expected sites such as Steyning Sewage Farm, Ferring Rife and Brooklands as well as the unusual such as one singing by the Brighton Centre on Feb 10th. By Mar wintering birds mingle with migrants but one flitting from bush to bush on Goring beach on Mar 10th was almost certainly an arrival. The spread of records increased though Mar and into Apr with records from 27 distinct localities, although with never more than single figures at any one site. The highest counts were six at Toads Hall Valley (Hove) on Mar 23rd and seven at Ladies Mile LNR on Apr 17th. Breeding Bird Surveys located up to four birds within eight different transects while breeding confirmation came from the Cissbury and Sanctuary ringing sites. Probable breeding was noted at the Mumbles and Highdown but other sites such as Tegdown Hill, Durrington, Lancing Clump and Hollingbury held birds throughout the breeding season. Around the last week of Aug return passage became evident and widespread. Sightings increased to a maximum of 22 at Wild Park on Sep 13th, 16 at Hollingbury Camp on Sep 20th with 25 at Brooklands and 24 at Cissbury on Oct 3rd. Peak days varied between the ringing sites; the Cissbury maximum was 31 on Sep 19th, at the Mumbles it was 31 on Sep 23rd whereas the best catch at the Sanctuary was 27 on Oct 12th. A pale bird which called normally was among 12 ringed at the Sanctuary on Oct 29th. Further captures continued here until Dec 9th when a bird ringed in Oct was retrapped. Singles were present at Wild Park, East Worthing and Portslade in Nov and early Dec and there were still six at the Sanctuary on Dec 23rd.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

Just one Mar record at Beeding Brooks on the 28th was the beginning of the spring arrival. Throughout Apr a small number of records of no more than five in one locality came from downland sites as well as St Anne's Well and West Worthing. Breeding confirmation only came from the Cissbury ringing site although other May records came

WILLOW WARBLER contd.

from Lancing Clump, where a single bird was present on three dates, Upper Beeding and Coldean. In Jun and early Jul further records came from the Mumbles and Tegdown Hill. At the Sanctuary the first for the year in a net on Jul 22nd indicated that return passage had commenced. Cissbury was the best place to witness the significant numbers with around 80 there on Aug 15th and 95 on Aug 22nd although Hollingbury Camp held 35 on Aug 26th. A further 30 were at Brooklands on Sep 5th. The best day totals for the ringers were 17 on Aug 15th at Cissbury, 30 on Aug 12th at the Mumbles and 11 at the Sanctuary on Aug 18th. Totals for the year were Cissbury 66, Mumbles 76 and Sanctuary 30. Apart from 30 at Brooklands on Sep 5th other Sep records were of no more than four together at five sites including a first-year bathing in a garden pool at Storrington. Last for the year was also a first-year, ringed at the Sanctuary, on what was the latest date for the SDOS area of Oct 29th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Regularly reported during the first two months with a maximum of nine twice from Stanmer Park and smaller numbers from Beeding Hill, Patcham, St Anne's Well Gardens, Shoreham and West Worthing. The only breeding records were pairs at Preston Park and Wild Park. A bird was visiting a suet feeder during the breeding season in a High Salvington garden, whilst other sightings came from Patcham, Portslade and St Anne's Well Gardens between May and Jul. Ringing totals were 40 handlings at the Sanctuary involving 26 different birds; 44 at Cissbury most of which were young birds; and seven ringed at the Mumbles. Autumn and early winter peaks were decidedly low, with maxima of eight at Wildpark on Oct 25th and six on two dates at the Sanctuary. The only Dec birds were one at Brooklands and two at the Sanctuary.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

In Jan there were singles in Hove Park, Stanmer Park and Worthing Crematorium. Probable migrants were one in holly at Hove Park Gardens on Mar 20th and another nearby on Apr 3rd. In the autumn singles were ringed at the Mumbles on Sep 16th and two at Cissbury on Nov 5th and 7th. A rather poor year for this species.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

There were no Apr sightings this year, the first being in St Anne's Well Gardens on May 7th and subsequently singles on May 17th and 21st. This well-watched urban park seems to attract flycatchers like no other area and significantly these were the only spring records for the area. First of the autumn were two at Steyning Roundhill on Aug 19th shortly followed by seven at Cissbury on Aug 22nd and six at Wolstonbury Hill on Sep 9th. Peak count was 11 at Cissbury on Sep 12th. Elsewhere there were records from Coldean, High Salvington, Mill Hill and Wild Park. The last was a single at Brooklands on Oct 3rd.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca***Regular passage migrant**

There were no spring sightings. Autumn records included singles at Patcham on Aug 14th and Coldean on Sep 17th. Peak count was at the Hove hot-spot, St Anne's Well Gardens, with three on Sep 20th and three again there on Oct 3rd.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus***Common resident**

Fifteen at Goring Gap on Jan 1st and a month maximum of 12 in Stanmer Park on 4th were the only double figure counts among twenty sites across the area in the first four months where these birds were noted. These included several in members' gardens on feeders. Breeding commences early so fledged young appear in May. Nine pairs bred in Wild Park, two at St Anne's Well Gardens, Hove (unsuccessful), a pair with six young were in Shoreham on 19th, a family group of nine were in Coldean on 28th and in Jun a pair with two juveniles was on a feeder on 13th at High Salvington. Autumn parties included 22 at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st, 14 at Hollingbury on Aug 26th, 17 at Mill Hill on Oct 22nd, 12 at Clapham Wood on Nov 18th and 15 at Shoreham Sanctuary on Dec 23rd. Ringing at the latter involved 34 different birds, at the Mumbles (Steyning), 22 birds and at Cissbury just four birds.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus***Abundant resident**

Stanmer Park counts again logged the highest numbers with 27 on Jan 4. This total remained virtually constant through to Mar 23rd. Other double figure counts were 13 in Southwick, 23 on the Downs between the Adur and A23, 13 at Beeding Hill, ten at Lancing Clump, 17 in one Hove tetrad, 24 and 25 in two others, 14 at Waterhall, 34 in a 2 x 1km transect in Hove, 25 similarly in West Worthing, 13 at Ladies Mile LNR and 12 at Patcham. These were all in the first six months. Breeding records were of 64 pairs in Wild Park, two in a garden at Coombes and one in High Salvington. The numerous nest boxes in use across the area obviously held many more but no specific data was submitted. Ringing totals were 134 new and 26 previously ringed birds at the Sanctuary, 242 new and 29 ringed at the Mumbles (Steyning) and 47 new and seven ringed at Cissbury. Autumn flocks were of 40 at Buckingham Road, Shoreham, 16 at Hollingbury, ten at Chanctonbury, 13 at Sheepcote Valley, ten at Clapham Wood and 11 at Goring.

GREAT TIT *Parus major***Very common resident**

Twenty-two on Jan 3rd at Stanmer Park with 14 there on Feb 10th, eight at Beeding Hill on 1st and ten at Lancing Clump on 28th were the early year maxima. In Mar the same sites held similar numbers and in Apr 11 were counted at Ladies Mile LNR on 23rd. Widely reported elsewhere in smaller numbers. Breeding records were of 47 pairs at Wild Park, three in a Coombes garden, one in a Goring garden and one in High Salvington. As with Blue Tit, nest box success across the area was not well reported. Ringing totals were 77

GREAT TIT *contd.*

new and 19 previously ringed birds at the Sanctuary, Shoreham, 93 new and 19 ringed at the Mumbles (Steyning) and 23 new and six ringed at Cissbury. From one to six at several sites exceptions being seven at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1, eight at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 24th and 12 at the Sanctuary on Nov 5th and also at Clapham Wood on 18th.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Fairly common but local resident

Stanmer Park registered a maximum of five on Feb 10th. A pair with three young was in High Salvington on Jun 15th. Other records of just one or two birds came from Hove, Patcham, West Worthing, Lancing Clump, Brooklands, Wild Park, St Anne's Well and Ferring. Just one was ringed at the Mumbles but at no other site.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

One was a first garden record in Westdene, Brighton on Jan 1st and there was one each at Sweet Hill, and Cissbury in Mar and May respectively with two at Findon Place on Jun 23rd and four in Clapham Wood on Nov 18th. Two young birds were ringed at Cissbury indicative of local breeding and one adult at the Mumbles.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea*

Uncommon resident

Singles reported from Small Dole at two sites, the Upper Adur levels, Stanmer Park and High Salvington in Jan, Feb and Mar. Two or three were calling in Clapham Wood on Mar 19th and two were near Myrtle Grove Farm on Apr 15th. A single was at Michelgrove on May 10th and one in a Shoreham garden on 21st. No records then until further singles at Wild Park, Cissbury and Sweet Hill (very scarce at all these sites) between Jul 27th and Oct 29th. Regularly reported from a Storrington garden.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER *Certhia familiaris*

Uncommon resident

Just single birds seen at Wild Park, Stanmer Park, St Anne's Well Gardens, Sullington Warren, Small Dole, Lancing Clump, Applesham, Preston Park (Brighton), Storrington, Cissbury and the Sanctuary. At the latter two sites single young birds were ringed suggesting local breeding.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Very scarce passage migrant

A female or first year bird was present in Sheepcote Valley on Aug 30th (DB) and a similar bird on Whitehawk Hill from Sep 30th to Oct 1st (NB). All records have been accepted by the SOS.

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

There were regular reports of small numbers in every month except Aug. Normally only one or two birds were reported but three were seen at Waterhall on Feb 27th and the same number was seen at Ladies Mile Reserve on Apr 23rd. The only breeding record was of two pairs in Wild Park. One young bird was ringed at Shoreham Sanctuary on Jun 25th and re-trapped on Jun 26th. Five birds were seen at Woods Mill on Jun 30th. The only large flock reported later in the year was eight at Clapham Wood on Nov 18th.

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

There were numerous reports of these birds throughout the year. Several large flocks were reported up until early May. These reports included 24 at Brighton Cemetery on Jan 2nd, and 28 at Shoreham on Jan 27th. Flocks of 22 on Jan 22nd and 27 on Feb 5th were reported on the South Downs near the river Adur and a flock of 20 was regularly reported at Lancing Clump. The only breeding record was of 40 pairs in Wild Park. Flocks reported later in the year were smaller. At Lancing Clump 20 were seen again on Aug 21st but this flock had reduced to ten by Dec 12th. The only other flock of over ten birds was at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st where 17 were seen.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula***Common resident**

The largest flock of the year was 500 seen at New Erringham Farm (Shoreham) on Jan 1st. On Jan 7th at Shoreham 51 were seen and 50 were seen on Jan 22nd on the South Downs near the river Adur. The only other flocks of any size in the first half of the year were 43 at Beeding Hill on Feb 1st, 32 at Upper Beeding on Apr 28th and 36 seen on the Wiston Estate on May 3rd and Jun 16th. No breeding records were received. There were only two large flocks later in the year. These were 115 flying high west over Brighton on Oct 8th and 95 at Clapham Wood on Nov 18th near a roost.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus***Common resident**

The only counts from rookeries this year were 45 to 50 at Wyckham Wood (Henfield), 12 in Ash Wood (Cissbury), which was an increase of two, and 25 in Findon Valley. The number of nests in this latter locality would appear to have greatly reduced. The largest flocks seen this year were 300 on South Downs near the River Adur on Jan 22nd, 117 at Beeding Hill on Feb 1st, and 300 at Kithurst Hill on Feb 5th and finally 140 at Shoreham Cement Works on Sept 24th.

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

There were very many records of this species throughout the year. Goring beach provided the largest flocks with 86 on Mar 26th, 116 on Jun 26th, 130 on Jul 11th and 132 on Dec 12th. Shoreham Airport was the only other site to rival these numbers with 95 on Sept 29th, although there were 55 at Upper Beeding on Apr 28th and 40 at Highdown on Nov 26th. The only breeding record was of 17 pairs at Wild Park.

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

The most successful year to date for the breeding pair in our area with six young fledged. However, apart from two birds seen at Cissbury Ring on Sep 12th and Sep 17th, all other records were of single birds. On Mar 23rd at Westmeston a bird was seen flying west. Later in the year birds were seen at Worthing on Oct 3rd, at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 8th and Wild Park also on Oct 8th where a bird was seen flying north.

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

Roosts at the two Brighton Piers held monthly maxima as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Palace	-	33,600	16,500	-	-	-
West	6,500	-	2,500	-	-	-
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Palace	100	450	8,100	10,900	24,200	35,700
West	-	3,500	7,650	700	6,000	-

Other large counts were 2,000 at Shoreham Airport on Jan 14th, 2,000 at Southwick Hill on Mar 11th, 1500 at the Marina on Oct 8th and 2000 there on Nov 10th. The largest count in Apr was 50 at Lancing Old Salts Farm, in May 68 in West Worthing and in Jun 117 again at the same Lancing site. Twenty-one pairs bred in Wild Park, Brighton but no other breeding records were received.

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

BBS counts in defined tetrads revealed that this species is still to be found in good numbers in many areas. Examples are 48 at one in Southwick, 103 in Shoreham, 67 at Old Salts Farm, Lancing and 70 in Portslade. The regularly monitored Stanmer Park, Patcham, Lancing Clump and Tegdown Hill produced maxima of 22, 8, 20 and 12 respectively in the period Jan to Jun. Two different parts of Worthing hosted 27 and 23 in 2 x 1km transects. Sixteen pairs bred at Wild Park and others were found nesting in Findon Valley (two), High Salvington, Shoreham (15 in four sites), West Worthing, Coombes (three) and Storrington. In Aug a roost at Goring held 200 but elsewhere no more than 22 at both Tarring and Lancing were noted through to the year-end. Twenty-five members (90% of participants) reported an average of seven birds from their gardens.

TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus***Scarce former resident**

One was seen on a feeder at Tottington Manor, Small Dole on Nov 22nd. There were no other records.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident

Counts in excess of 40 in the first half year came from a Shoreham tetrad on Jan 7th with 54 and Stanmer Park with 42 on 10th. Twenty-seven were at Tegdown Hill on Mar 19th. Forty-five pairs bred at Wild Park. Two pairs also bred at Coombes and one at High Salvington. Twenty-seven were at Clapham Wood in game cover on Nov 18th and the year's largest flock of 150 was at Kithurst Hill, Storrington on 19th. Ringing totals were 39 at the Sanctuary, 52 at The Mumbles, Steyning and 13 at Cissbury. A dozen members had Chaffinches as garden visitors averaging about three birds per garden.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

One (a male) in a Storrington garden on Jan 15th was the only record in the first winter period. Singles flew over Hollingbury Camp on Oct 8th and Goring beach on 12th. There were two over Wild Park on Nov 4th.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident

More records were received for this species than any other. No count exceeded the 30 at Ferring Rife on Feb 15th in the first period although birds were widespread in the area. Two pairs bred at Coombes and one at High Salvington. The late year flock at Shoreham Beach already held 100 on Sep 5th. Westerly passage at Worthing beach totalled 129 in Oct with a maximum of 70 on 27th. The Shoreham birds had increased to 350 by Nov 15th. This then further decreased to 180 by Dec 2nd. Inland, 30 were at Heath Common, Washington on 16th. The ringing totals were 107 at the Mumbles, Steyning but just six and three respectively at Cissbury and the Sanctuary. A common visitor to members' gardens – see Garden Bird Survey in this report.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common resident

This bird continues to be very well reported with numerous records for all months. High counts in the first half year were 28 at High Salvington on Jan 22nd, 24 in a Shoreham tetrad on Feb 25th, 22 at Easthill Park, Portslade on Apr 1st, 15 at Ladies Mile LNR on 23rd and the same at St Anne's Well Gardens on 27th. Three pairs bred at Wild Park and one each at St Anne's Well, Coombes, Goring and Durrington. In the second period, 21 at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st, 42 at Hollingbury on Aug 26th with 26 or more there on several other dates in the month, 20 at Harrow Hill on 30th. At Worthing beach 302 flew E and 33 W in Oct with a maximum of 97 on 15th when 70 E were noted in fifty minutes at Brooklands. Few noted in Nov but the largest Dec count was of 15 at the Sanctuary on 27th. Ringing totals were 165 at the Mumbles and 21 at the Sanctuary. Twenty-one members reported them from their gardens.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus***Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor**

Up to nine frequented a Storrington garden between Feb 2nd and Mar 8th and from two to eight were regular at St Anne's Well Gardens in Hove from Mar 6th to Apr 4th. There were two to four at Patcham in Mar and two at Lancing Clump on 29th. Parties of ten on Sullington Warren and Myrtle Grove Farm, Clapham were noted in Apr to the 10th and one at High Salvington and two over Wild Park also in this month. Autumn passage was poor with 20 at Cissbury, six at Hollingbury, seven E at Shoreham, a single at Brooklands and two each at Chantry Hill and High Salvington in Oct. The last was one at Wild Park on Nov 4th. Ten were trapped at the Mumbles during the year.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina***Locally common resident and passage migrant**

Flocks of 30 increasing to 150 at the Cement Works, Beeding, 40 at Shoreham by the Adur and 16 in a tetrad on the Downs between the Adur and A23 were the Jan high counts. In Feb there were 210 on Beeding Hill, 60 between Chantry and Harrow Hills and 32 on Mill Hill. Hollingbury Camp held 20 in Mar, 15 in Apr and eight in May. Thirty-one were logged in spring transect counts at Worthing GC, Upper Beeding, Patcham and Westmeston. Fourteen pairs bred at Wild Park. Passage at Worthing beach amounted to 49 E in Apr/May. There were 38 at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st. One to three birds visited a member's garden in Lancing between May and Jul and one or two did likewise in Steyning in Apr to Jun. Autumn flocks were 20 at Hangleton, 80 at Cissbury, 70 at Chantry Hill and 25 over Patching in Aug, 25 at Shoreham Harbour, 32 at Hollingbury in Sep and 120 by the Adur Tollbridge with 26 E at Worthing beach in Oct. Finally 50 were at Truleigh Hill on Nov 28th, the last record received for the year.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret***Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor**

Three were by Storrington Mill pond on Feb 15th, 11 at Clapham Wood feeding on swiped maize on Mar 19th and one over the Marina on Apr 22nd. Autumn records involved three at Hollingbury, three over the Sanctuary, six at Cissbury and three over Goring in Oct from the 7th to 31st and singles over Wild Park and Kithurst Hill on Nov 4th and 19th respectively.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula***Fairly common resident**

No large gatherings reported as usual with ten at Lower Standean on Jan 15th as by far the largest. Noted from seventeen sites in addition to five members' gardens. Two pairs bred at Wild Park and ringing totals of three, 26 and one from the Sanctuary, Cissbury and the Mumbles contained one, 12 and one young bird respectively suggestive of local breeding success.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis***Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

A male flew in off the sea at the Marina on Nov 12th.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella***Locally common resident**

The largest flocks or counts were 36 in a tetrad on the Downs between the Adur and A23 in Jan, 50 at Kithurst Hill, Storrington on Feb 5th and 25 at nearby Chantry Hill on 17th, 40 at Findon Park Farm on Mar 7th, 18 at Sullington Hill on 15th, a maximum of 17 at Stanmer Park on 22nd and 31 at Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st. One came in off the sea at the Marina on Apr 17th (most unexpected). Elsewhere small numbers from about sixteen downland localities. Breeding records were of three pairs at Steyning Round Hill, seven at Wild Park and four singing males at Highdown near Worthing. Six were trapped at Cissbury.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus***Locally common resident**

Again poorly reported with just three at Stanmer Park and Applesham near Coombes and one each at Brooklands, Sheepcote Valley, Henfield Levels and Hollingbury Camp. However six members noted one or two in gardens at Ferring, Lancing, Steyning and Shoreham between Jan 22nd and Apr 16th and ringers at the Mumbles, Steyning trapped 29 different birds through the year.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra***Fairly common but local resident**

Totals of 25 were noted in two different tetrads at Beeding Hill and on the adjacent Downs in early Feb. There were 11 in stubble at Steyning Round Hill on 8th and then from two to eight at sixteen widely scattered downland sites up to the end of May. Singing males were at Long Furlong (Findon), Shoreham Sanctuary, Lower Standean (2) and Steyning Round Hill (2). Twelve birds were on Steep Down north of Lancing on 31st through to Jun 5th. Sixteen on Tegdown Hill on Jul 1st and 12 at Truleigh Hill on Nov 28th were the only other double figure counts with others noted at seven sites.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS 2006**BLACK SWAN**

One was on Henfield Levels on Jan 6th.

MUSCOVY DUCK

One was on Widewater on Feb 4th.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE

One was in the Henfield Levels/Stretham Manor area between Feb 18th and Apr 8th and next day was seen at Wiston Pond.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUMMER MIGRANTS 2006

Species	Arrival		Departure	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Apr 1	Henfield Levels	-	-
Osprey	Mar 29	Sompting	Sep 24	Brighton
Hobby	Apr 23	Brighton	Oct 30	Shoreham
Whimbrel	Apr 15	Worthing	Aug 21	Worthing
Arctic Skua	Apr 6	Marina	Nov 11	Marina
Pomarine Skua	May 4	Ferring	Sep 2	Marina
Sandwich Tern	Mar 25	Worthing	Oct 22	Goring
Common Tern	Apr 8	Marina	Oct 30	Shoreham
Little Tern	Apr 14	Worthing	Aug 12	Goring
Black Tern	Apr 16	Marina	Oct 31	Shoreham
Turtle Dove	May 13	Steyning Levels	Jul 1	Tegdown Hill
Cuckoo	Apr 16	Henfield	Aug 11	Cissbury
Swift	Apr 16	Worthing	Aug 26	Hollingbury
Sand Martin	Mar 26	Henfield Levels	Sep 16	Hollingbury
Swallow	Mar 26	Henfield Levels	Oct 24	Brooklands
House Martin	Apr 17	Marina	Nov 4	Wild Park
Tree Pipit	-	-	Aug 20	Hollingbury
Yellow Wagtail	Mar 21	Stanmer Park	Oct 8	Ferring
Nightingale	Apr 14	Sheepcote	Jul 29	Sanctuary
Redstart	Apr 8	Ladies Mile NR	Oct 19	Lychpole Hill
Whinchat	Apr 22	Steyning Round Hill	Oct 3	Truleigh Hill
Wheatear	Mar 15	Ferring	Nov 14	Worthing
Ring Ouzel	Apr 1	Wild Park	Oct 31	West Tarring
Sedge Warbler	Apr 21	Coombes	Sep 16	Sanctuary
Reed Warbler	May 7	Sanctuary	Sep 10	Coldean Brighton
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 25	St Anne's Well Hove	Sep 23	Wild Park
Whitethroat	Apr 10	Shoreham	Sep 30	Hollingbury
Garden Warbler	Apr 19	St Anne's Well Hove	Sep 12	Sompting
Willow Warbler	Mar 28	Beeding Brooks	Oct 29	Sanctuary
Spotted Flycatcher	May 7	St Anne's Well Hove	Oct 3	Brooklands
Pied Flycatcher	-	-	Oct 3	St Anne's Well Hove

SDOS AREA RINGING REPORT 2006

During 2006 a total of 3604 birds were ringed in the area; a small reduction of about 6% on the total for 2005 and the eleventh highest annual total recorded. About 5.2% (187) of these were ringed as nestlings; this is remarkably consistent from year to year and, as usual, nestlings comprise a significant proportion of the Kestrels, Stock Doves and Barn Owls ringed in the area. The largest portion (ca 95%) was mist-netted and ringed as fledged birds.

As usual the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG), comprising Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, and Matt Aeberhard, contributed ca 65% of the area total of new birds ringed. Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve was the most productive site producing 1361 new birds and 487 retraps whilst the totals for Cissbury were 926 new birds and 300 retraps. The SRG's total was completed by 38 nestlings ringed by Chris Fox either at Wiston or Sompting. It was another good year at the Sanctuary where the author, helped by Judith Ballantyne, Pam Mears and John Crix ringed 1006 birds and caught a further 658 retraps. A further 13 birds were ringed in John Newnham's West Worthing garden. The grand total for the year was reached by 267, including many nestlings, ringed by Barrie Watson and John Holt.

Table A shows the numbers of each of the species ringed in the area during 2006. As the local ringing effort remains fairly constant and involves ringing at the same sites it is not surprising this table is similar from one year to the next. During 2006 there were no new species added to the area's ringing list and, unlike 2005, there were few records broken although the totals for Green Woodpecker, Cetti's Warbler and Siskin all equalled the previous best annual totals.

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2006

Sparrowhawk	3	Song Thrush	94	Coal Tit	1
Kestrel	5	Redwing	2	Blue Tit	477
Stock Dove	1	Mistle Thrush	3	Great Tit	230
Woodpigeon	5	Cetti's Warbler	1	Treecreeper	2
Barn Owl	6	Sedge Warbler	10	Jay	1
Little Owl	2	Reed Warbler	105	Magpie	1
Kingfisher	3	Lesser Whitethroat	49	Starling	24
Green Woodpecker	8	Whitethroat	111	House Sparrow	25
Great Spotted Woodpecker	4	Garden Warbler	39	Chaffinch	105
Swallow	57	Blackcap	639	Greenfinch	116
Pied Wagtail	4	Chiffchaff	439	Goldfinch	185
Wren	77	Willow Warbler	168	Siskin	10
Duncock	113	Goldcrest	54	Bullfinch	24
Robin	155	Firecrest	3	Yellowhammer	6
Nightingale	1	Spotted Flycatcher	5	Reed Bunting	26
Redstart	4	Long-tailed Tit	58	Total	3604
Blackbird	140	Marsh Tit	2		

Recoveries and Controls

At the time of writing recoveries or controls involving 40 birds were reported during the year. The following is a selection of the more interesting ones.

- 1) **Black-headed Gull:-** As years pass by the number of recoveries generated from the gull ringing study has diminished but in each year they have become more interesting. There were reports of nine birds during 2006. The long running saga of EP36792, initially ringed as an adult at Washington on 27th November 1993 and recorded on at least 28 occasions in Denmark and 14 occasions in Dorset, continues as it was seen again at Radipole Lake, Weymouth in January and February and in Denmark in March 2006. Likewise the story of EN32722 has been related in the past; initially ringed as an adult at Sompting refuse tip on 19th February 1986 it has been seen in Schleswig-Holstein between March and early September in five different years and when last seen 19½ years had passed since being ringed. Similarly bird EJ93821 was ringed as an adult at Sompting on 10th March 1982 and has been relocated in Munster, Germany in April 2000, April 2002 and May 2006 – 24yrs 78 days after being ringed. The following, in date order of ringing, are details of six birds which have not been recovered elsewhere since ringing:

27/01/1980	first year	East Worthing, West Sussex			
19/11/2006	field record	Tollensesee, Neubrandenburg, Germany	26 years 296 days	977km	ENE
08/11/1980	adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
13/04/2006	field record	Demene, Latvia	25 years 156 days	1864km	ENE
14/02/1981	adult	Southwick, West Sussex			
30/06/2006	killed by peregrine	Hassberg Seeseite, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany	25 years 166 days	831km	ENE
24/02/1982	adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
27/12/1984		Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
05/03/2006	freshly dead	Thames Ditton, Surrey	24 years 10days	62km	N

19/01/1991	first year	Washington, West Sussex			
28/06/2006	field record	Ruskenveense Plas, Hoogkerk, Groningen, Netherlands	15 years 160 days	538 km	ENE
25/01/1992	adult	Washington, West Sussex			
11/04/2006	field record	Rumbula, Latvia	14yrs 77 days	1742km	ENE

Four of these recoveries have been generated by observers reading ring numbers in the field and it is likely these birds are still alive. The first recovery listed just exceeds the previous British longevity record of 26¾ years¹ but has a little way to go to match the Finnish Black-headed Gull which lived for 30 years and 7 months². The second listed bird, however, may be older as this was ringed as an adult having hatched before the summer of 1979.

¹www.bto.org.uk/birdfacts/index.htm

²http://www.euring.org/data_and_codes/longevity-voous.htm

- 2) Common Gull:-** The sole recovery shown below is fairly typical in location but the age of the bird is noteworthy. The BTO suggest a typical lifespan for this species to be 10 years and records the oldest to be 22 years 6 months; this bird was at least two years old when ringed¹.

¹<http://www.bto.org.uk/birdfacts/index.htm>

23/11/1983	adult	Sompting, Worthing, West Sussex			
10/06/2006	found dead	Heiligenhafen, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany	22 years 200 days	860km	ENE

- 3) Barn Owl:-** This recovery was sadly typical for this species; found by the A27 at the Sussex Pad clearly killed by road traffic.

04/08/2005	first year female	near Henfield, West Sussex			
07/01/2006	found freshly dead	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex	156 days	9km	SSW

- 4) Reed Warbler:-** Most movements of this species come from the activities of ringers operating in reedy habitats and all five movement reported from 2006 are “controls”. Most were typical movements within Southern Britain but the bird from Leighton Moss was amongst the most northerly reported from our area.

04/09/2004	first year	Steyning, West Sussex			
20/05/2006	controlled	Thatcham, Berkshire	258 days	88km	NW

03/08/2005	juvenile	Farlington Marsh, Portsmouth, Hampshire			
10/06/2006	controlled	Steypning, West Sussex	311 days	51km	E
24/06/2006	ditto	ditto	325 days		
17/07/2006	juvenile	Leighton Moss, Lancashire			
26/08/2006	controlled	Steypning, West Sussex	40 days	402km	SSE
11/07/2006	juvenile	Icklesham, East Sussex			
22/07/2006	controlled	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex	11 days	68km	W
03/08/2005	first year	Icklesham, East Sussex			
11/06/2006	controlled	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex	312 days	68km	W

- 5) **Garden Warbler:-** The first recovery shown below is the first from this area to involve Scotland; all the previously reported movements of Garden Warblers have involved the United Kingdom with four from Sussex, 5 from other English counties and a single from Wales.

21/08/2005	first year	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
30/07/2006	controlled	Motherwell, Strathclyde, Scotland	343 days	604km	NW
22/08/2006	first year	Worplesdon, Surrey			
30/08/2006	controlled	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex	8 days	47km	SSE

- 6) **Blackcap:-** With good numbers ringed at all the local ringing sites it is not surprising to receive a reasonable collection of movements. The Blackcaps moving to the Netherlands and France are only the second reported from these areas from local ringing whilst that moving from France to Cissbury is a first for the area.

17/09/2005	first year male	Steypning, West Sussex			
10/08/2006	found dead	Newdigate, Dorking, Surrey	327 days	31km	N
11/09/2005	first year female	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex			
29/06/2006	found dead	Horley, Surrey	291 days	37km	NNE

17/09/2005	first year male	Cissbury, Worthing ,West Sussex			
25/10/2006	controlled	Vinkenbann, Vlieland, Netherlands	1 yr 38 days	450km	NE
24/09/2005	full grown female	Cissbury, Worthing ,West Sussex			
05/06/2006	found dead	Venton, Whiddon Down, Devon	254 days	244km	W
22/06/2006	juvenile	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
19/09/2006	controlled female	Villeton, Lot-et-Garonne, France	59 days	722km	S
03/07/2006	juvenile	Shereford, Fakenham, Norfolk			
10/09/2006	controlled	Steyning, West Sussex	69 days	228km	SSW
06/09/2006	first year female	Wimereux, Pas-de-Calais, France			
26/09/2006	controlled	Cissbury, Worthing ,West Sussex	20 days	140km	W

- 7) **Chiffchaff:-** The following three movements were reported in this year are of interest; the movement to France is the first Chiffchaff from local ringing to be recorded from France and the movement to Kent was remarkably fast. The last bird was ringed at the Sanctuary at 0800hrs and trapped in Sturry at 0730 the following morning.

19/09/2004	first year	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
03/10/2004	controlled	Saint-Froult, Charente-Maritime, France	14 days	545km	S
19/07/2006	juvenile	Pinley Abbey, Claverdon, Warwickshire			

29/09/2006	controlled	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex	69 days	182km	SSE
29/10/2006	first year	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
30/10/2006	controlled	Sturry, Kent	1 day	112km	ENE

- 8) Blue Tit:-** A fairly sedentary species thus the following is a fairly typical example of occasional movements recorded. A total of 21 recoveries have been reported in these reports from within Sussex and six from other English counties.

20/11/2005	first year	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
10/04/2006	found dead (freshly)	Twineham, West Sussex	141 days	14km	NNE

- 9) Great Tit:-** This also is usually a sedentary species thus the activities of the first reported bird is a little difficult to assess. The second is a more typical movement reported from local ringing. Previously reported movements from local ringing have included seven from within Sussex, one English movement outside Sussex and one from Germany.

30/03/2006	first year female	Landguard Point, Felixstowe, Suffolk			
03/06/2006	controlled	Cissbury, Worthing, West Sussex	65 days	167km	SW
17/06/2006	juvenile	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
23/09/2006	controlled	Steyping, West Sussex	98 days	6km	NNW

- 10) Starling:-** Although this is a remarkably long interval between ringing and recovery dates it can hardly be considered as a longevity record as only the skeletal remains were found under a floorboard!

29/08/1974	first year male	Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex			
01/11/2006	found dead	Chessington, Surrey	32yrs 64 days	56km	N

- 11) Goldfinch:-** Although not particularly noteworthy by themselves this pair of controls during the winter months at the same two sites is interesting.

13/03/2005	adult	Steyping, West Sussex			
13/02/2006	controlled	Hardham, Pulborough, West Sussex	337 days	17 km	WNW
24/12/2005	first year	Steyping, West Sussex			
31/12/2005	retrapped	Steyping, West Sussex	7 days		
11/02/2006	controlled	Hardham, Pulborough, West Sussex	49 days	17 km	WNW

Like previous years there were several local recoveries and birds retrapped in successive years at each of the regular ringing sites; many of these have been referred to in the regular bulletins posted by the ringing teams onto the Society's yahoo site during the year.

John Newnham

SANCTUARY RINGING REPORT 2006

This report on the activity at the Society's Sanctuary is based, as usual, on the records from the author's notebook and from the regular reports of the ringing activity. For the fourth year full details of the mist-netting sessions, often including analysis of historic data, were posted on the Society's yahoo group computer site; these reports remain available for members to review. There were 36 long visits to the Sanctuary for ringing which included at least one visit in each month except April. The monthly details are shown in the following table which also reveals November and December to be the most productive months with an average of 62 birds per session. For new birds the best period was the autumn and the fewer ringing session in August and September during 2006, compared with 2005, accounted for the small difference in the total of new birds trapped. During the summer ringing sessions started at 0600hrs, an earlier start than in previous years and as the autumn progressed sessions started at dawn. This year was the first since the mid-1960s that the author has had assistance on each of the ringing outings.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Sessions	1	2	1	0	2	3	5	3	4	7	3	5	36
New Birds	9	8	12	0	23	92	167	107	157	235	87	109	1006
Retraps	17	35	10	0	12	32	64	35	45	108	99	201	658
TOTAL*	26	43	22	0	35	126	232	142	202	343	186	310	1667

*TOTAL includes 'controls' and 'found dead' birds, not included in rows above

The total of 1667 birds trapped, of 31 different species, comprised 1006 new birds, 658 retraps and two controls (bird ringed elsewhere and subsequently trapped at the sanctuary). Although there were five fewer ringing sessions than during 2005 the variety of 31 species trapped was the same and the highest since 32 species were trapped in 1990.

Furthermore, with the exception of 2005, the number of ringing sessions and birds trapped were greater than years since the late 1970s and the 95 individuals caught on 23rd December was the largest catch for many years.

Summary of ringing effort and results of mist-netting for three periods of five years (1990 - 2004), 2005 and 2006:

	1990-94	1995-99	2000-04	2005	2006
No sessions/ year	14	17	22	41	36
Average catch	37	31	39	46	46
Year best	64	57	67	81	95

Once again some areas of coppiced Osiers became infested with aphids and, like previous years, attracted large numbers of warblers. Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps were the most numerous warblers trapped in the copse but the respective totals of 175 and 165 different individuals caught were marginally less than 2005. However, the peak of 33 Blackcaps trapped on 9th September was the largest number trapped in the copse in a day, marginally beating the 32 trapped on 19th September 2005. The 11 Common Whitethroats, from a total of 28, trapped on 18th August was also a record catch for this species but more modest numbers of the other warblers were caught with day maxima of 14 Reed Warblers, 11 Willow Warblers, 7 Lesser Whitethroats and three Garden Warblers. Aphids were present in the willows until late in December and probably accounted for the extraordinary numbers of Chiffchaffs which lingered on into the winter; twelve different individuals were trapped in December. The same conditions perhaps attracted a Cetti's Warbler, the third to be recorded in the copse and which remained from late November into 2007. Numbers of birds in the Sanctuary were influenced by the provision of peanut and seed feeders through the colder months; as well as tits it was pleasing to trap 21 Goldfinches, a species once abundant in the copse during the summer and autumn months but seldom caught in recent years.

Activity in the Sanctuary started considerably earlier in the year than usual with the first mist-netting session on the 14th January, this was the first time in over 25 years the author had set nets in the copse in January. The day was not very productive although three Green Woodpeckers caught together was a little unusual. Four ringing sessions were held in the early part of the year, each catching low numbers and a small range of different species. Unusual observations included a Water Rail noted on 22nd January, singles Bullfinch and Reed Bunting in February and regular observations of Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. The notebook entry for 5th March recorded that all the resident species were in good song.

Late March and April were poorly recorded but three Chiffchaffs had returned by 29th March. By 7th May several migrants were noted including four Reed Warblers, three Blackcaps, two each of Common and Lesser Whitethroat and a single Chiffchaff. On the same day two Buzzards, a species increasingly seen from the copse, were recorded. Throughout the late spring and summer the paths and nets rides required regular attention to cut back the energetic growth of brambles and other plants which catch and snare mist-nets. In late June there was a small collection of Pyramidal Orchids but, again, no sign of Bee-Orchids this summer. Early July brought an abundance of Marbled White butterflies but the only summer bird records of note included a singing Corn Bunting (another species which has declined in the area) on 8th July, a Little Egret on 15th July, one (of only two

Sedge Warblers) trapped on 22nd July, and, on 29th July, a Nightingale was trapped and the first of a small number of Yellow Wagtails flew over the copse.

By August many summer migrants are returning to southern latitudes; the peak of Willow Warblers, Garden Warblers and Whitethroats recorded passing through the copse was on the typical date of 18th August. Spotted Flycatchers occurred in the copse on 20th August and 9th September, this latter date coinciding with the peak of Blackcap passage and the re-occurrence of Chiffchaff amongst the species ringed. Also on the 9th September a Whimbrel and Grey Wagtail, the first of several in the autumn, flew over the copse. Whilst Blackcaps dominated the ringing totals in September it was Chiffchaffs which were most numerous in October. On several dates more than twenty birds were trapped with the peak of 27 occurring on the 12th. A very grey plumaged Chiffchaff, but with a typical call note, and a late Willow Warbler were trapped on the 29th. Visible migration over the Sanctuary was generally very poor during the autumn with no notable days of hirundine passage and few finch parties. The first Siskins and Redpolls were noted on 12th October whilst the first Redwings and Fieldfares occurred on the 12th November; numbers remained in single figures. The stocking of feeders brought large numbers of tits into the copse and this group comprised the largest portion of the catches during November and December; indeed on 5th November 58, from the total of 87 birds, were tits. A particularly good ringing day on 23rd December produced 95 birds; this was the highest catch ever recorded at the Sanctuary in December and the highest day total since 130 birds were trapped on 10th September 1989. Not only were a large number trapped on this date but the catch included 6 Chiffchaffs, 10 Goldfinches, and singles of Blackcap, Bullfinch, Kingfisher, Sparrowhawk and Great Spotted Woodpecker.

The planned conservation meeting with the Worthing Conservation Volunteers on the 3rd December was postponed into 2007 due to inclement weather. During the latter part of the year there were several changes taking place in the Sanctuary. Initially the keys to the gates were replaced and on 29th October a "For Sale" board appeared over the entrance gate. By early December a large fence had been erected in the compound of the pumping station and there was considerable activity from a range of different building and landscape contractors. We learned from the Water Authority that the Sanctuary was being sold, along with cottage and much of the surrounding land, but it was thought that the licence for the Society to continue using the copse would continue under the new owner.

As usual, the water authority staff have been helpful and often curious about the ringing activity, indeed on many ringing sessions we were joined by the young family members of the cottage residents. I would like to extend thanks to Barrie Watson, Judith Ballantyne, Pam Mears and John Crix who have helped with the ringing activity in the copse this year. 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

Post-script for 2007

The legalities of the sale of the water authority's non-operational land at the pumping station, including the Sanctuary, were finalised in early March 2007 and on the following day the Society received notice to leave the Sanctuary by September 2007. During January and February three ringing sessions took place and on 25th February a work party, including

a group from the Worthing Conservation Volunteers, coppiced the willow in preparation for the forthcoming season. Observations and ringing operations, which had been continuous since 1953, ceased at the Sanctuary from February 2007.

CISSBURY RINGING REPORT 2006

No preliminary netting session was undertaken this year, so we were straight into the first of our twelve Constant Effort Sessions (CES*) on 29th April, when we were delighted to have some migrant retraps turning up in the nets. Two Chiffchaffs, a Lesser Whitethroat and a Willow Warbler had safely made their return journey back to the site.

Two weeks later Garden Warbler N810663 returned. This remarkable individual was originally ringed on 1st May 1999 and was an adult bird then i.e. it was born in 1998 or before. It was recaptured twice in that year, but not after 30th May, three times in 2000 between 13th May and 11th June, three times in 2002 between 27th April and 25th May, twice in 2003 on 11th May and 12th June, only once in 2005 on 12th June and twice in 2006, on 13th and 15th May. This suggests that it sometimes may have been passing through the site and sometimes staying to breed. Whichever is the case, by May 2006 it was in at least its 9th year, an amazingly long life for a bird weighing about 15 grams.

Thirteen nets comprise our normal set up, of which nine are CES nets, so only 15 and 12 new birds on 3rd and 10th June respectively was rather disappointing, though we were encouraged to hear Garden Warblers, Whitethroats, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers singing nearby and on 3rd to see a Lesser Whitethroat busy feeding young near the table we use for ringing. The same day brought the first juveniles, with four young Robins, two at either end of the site. Five more juvenile Robins were the only youngsters the following week, but on 18th the first young migrants appeared, namely three Whitethroats and a Blackcap. By the end of August we had ringed 28 young Robins and 80 young Blackcaps, though some of these would have been on passage.

The 'star' Blackcap day was on 12th September when 62 of the 101 birds ringed were this species. Overall, of the final tally of 926 new birds, Blackcaps comprised 33.7% and Chiffchaffs 16.5% i.e. half our rings went on just two species! Beachy Head Ringing Station commented in their 2006 records that Blackcaps are comprising an ever higher proportion of the birds they ring at Whitbread Hollow.

Bluetits outnumbered Great Tits by 47 to 23 and more than twice as many Chiffchaffs (153) were ringed as Willow Warblers (62). This is a far cry from the years from 1984-1997 when generally Willow Warblers were much more abundant than Chiffchaffs at the site. Since then only in 1999 were there more Willow Warblers, but that was a poor year for both species.

There were a couple of interesting movements reported. A Blackcap ringed by us on 11th September 2005 was controlled at Derde Kroonspolder, Vinkenbaan (Netherlands) on 25th October 2006. A 'control' female Great Tit on 3rd June had been ringed at Landguard

Point, Felixstowe on 30th March. The Migration Atlas (British Trust for Ornithology 2002) suggests that females undertake longer journeys from their natal site than males, but this is still a rather long movement for this generally sedentary species. Maybe the proximity of the ringing site to the docks has some bearing on this. A Blackcap caught on 26th September bore a French ring, but details as to its provenance have yet to be received.

There were few of the specialities in 2006. Just two September Redstarts, both young females, and two Firecrests in November. Only seven Reed Warblers and one Sedge Warbler were trapped on passage in the early autumn.

We were able to continue ringing activity to late October and into November this year, which nearly doubled the number of Song Thrushes ringed for the year, as incoming birds joined the residents. Thirteen new Song Thrushes were caught on 29th October.

We failed in our bid to reach 1000 new birds for 2006, finishing at 926, but it was a sterling effort from the group, mainly Val Bentley, Brian Clay and Ralph Hartfree, with relief cover from Phil Clay who was persuaded to leave his Mumbles site when we were short staffed.

The most memorable day was 22nd July, though not from an ornithological point of view. After a sunny warm morning, storm clouds raced over the hill and Ralph and Val were desperately trying to get the final nets down in torrential rain, surrounded by forked lightning and deafening thunderclaps!

Val Bentley

*See 2004 SDOS Annual Report 2004, p61 or www.bto.org/ringing/ringinfo/ces/index for explanation

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT 2006

Introduction

The sea at Worthing was watched for 264 hours on a total of 214 days in 2006; a small decrease in the effort from 2005. Figure 1 shows that the spring months were, as usual, the best covered but observations were less than most years with no 10-day period achieving 25 hours of watching and with coverage on just 21 days in March, 19 days in April and 27 days in May. Like 2005, October was the best covered month in the autumn with records from 24 different days. The total hours watched ranked this year as the 17th highest since 1978. (range 692 hours in 1985 to 146 hours in 1979). Including 2006, the total number of hours of computed sea-watching information has just passed the 10,000 mark.

The pattern of watching, as shown in Figures 1 and 2 (following page), was similar to most 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 and 2005, shows a marked gap between the average effort and that for 2006 particularly in the three key spring months. Only in February, June, July and November did the watching exceed the previous 28 year average.

Figure 1 The number of hours sea-watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2006

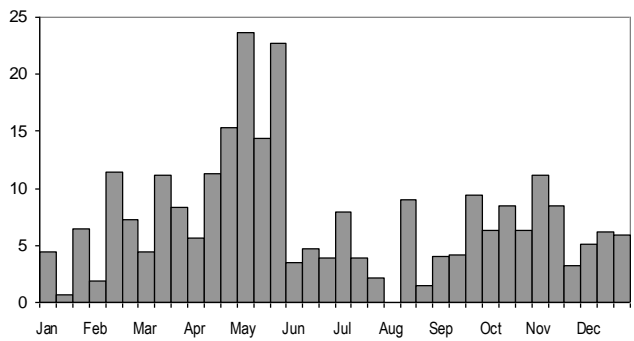
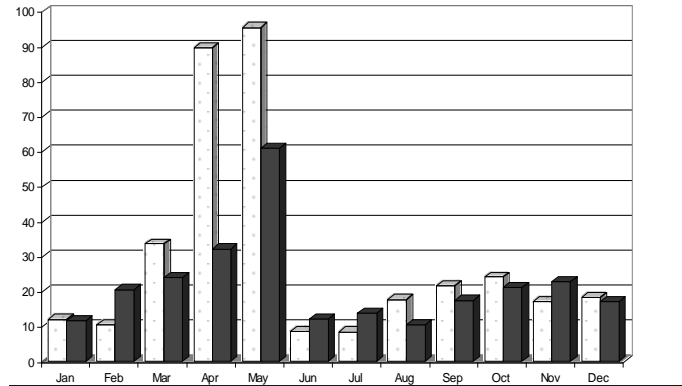


Figure 2 The monthly watching effort for 2006 (black) compared with the average for 1978-2005 (white)

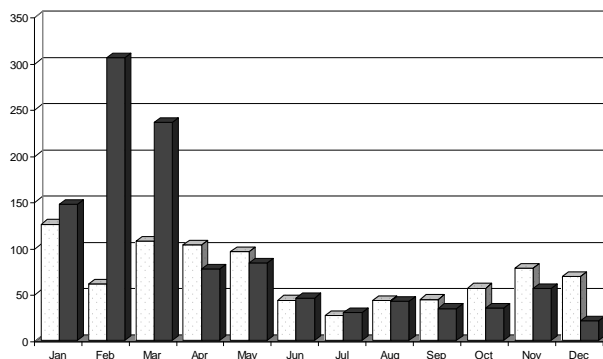


Remarkably the total number of birds recorded passing in the year differed from 2005 by only 300 birds and, with eight hours fewer recorded watching, the overall number of birds per hour logged was 98 (compared to 96 in 2005). Once again the following table and Figure 3 shows that the largest rates were recorded in the winter months with February being the most productive month. 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.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Hrs. watched	11.6	20.5	24	34.1	60.8	12	13.8	10.4	17.5	22.8	22.8	17.2	265.7
Total birds	1706	6275	5671	2678	5083	554	420	440	606	740	1287	365	25825
Birds/hour	147	306	236	79	84	46	30	42	35	35	56	21	97

The following plot compares the monthly rate of passage in 2006 (dark grey) with the average for the years 1978-2005 (pale) and shows the exceptional numbers of birds recorded during the first three months whilst the rest of year was at the average or below.

Figure 3 The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched 1978-2005 average (pale) & 2006 (dark).



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.Feest, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, J.A.Newnham, M.G.Prince, R.J.Sandison; D.I.Smith, and R.Tofts. Clive Hope's move from Storrington to Ferring undoubtedly helped to keep the "log" active.

Chronological Account and Discussion

In keeping with all the years since 2001 the above graphs and table show the early months of the year to be very productive. Once again movements of divers, Gannets, Kittiwakes and auks were the dominating species and the increased numbers of these, and feeding Great Crested Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers, were discussed in more detail in last year's report (*Shoreham District Ornithological Society Report* 53:71-76). The largest auk movements in 2006 were recorded in ENE or NE winds during watches of about two hours duration when 1127 flew west and 57 flew east on 28th January, 1650 flew east and 78 flew west on 23rd February and on 26th February 1473 flew east and 48 flew west. There were three other days when more than 330 birds were counted and observers noted that the majority of the birds identified were Razorbills. The highest count of Gannets was 251 on 12th February, of Red-throated Divers was 65 on 18th February and 170 Kittiwakes on 26th February. There were at least 200 Great Crested Grebes feeding offshore on 19th January and the maximum count of Red-breasted Mergansers was 100 on 11th February. A party of 218 Cormorants was fishing in a fairly compact flock on 29th January. Slavonian Grebes were seen on six dates in the first two months with a maximum count of nine on 11th February and a single Red-necked Grebe on 3rd March. Single Shags

flew east on 1st January and 12th February and the most unusual record for this period was a party of six Bewick's Swans which flew east on 4th January.

March is usually considered the first of the spring months and traditionally a period to look out for movements of wildfowl. The two most numerous wildfowl, Brent Goose and Common Scoter, were recorded with different patterns. The former were recorded in good numbers with a month total of 4665 east and a maximum of 3106 on the 24th whilst Common Scoter were less numerous with the total of 293 and a maximum of 186 also on the 24th. Figures 4 and 5 demonstrate the rates of passage in ten-day periods for these two species. Regular observers have frequently commented that scoters have been less numerous in recent years but Figure 4 suggests little change has occurred with late March and early April remaining the peak periods; the data suggest slightly more were recorded earlier during 1978-92 whilst in recent years more have been noted later in the spring. The figure clearly shows Common Scoters are seen most frequently in spring whereas Figure 5 shows the autumn and winter movements of Brent Geese. Figure 5 also clearly shows how the numbers of Brent Geese seen in each hour watched has increased in the middle and last portions of March.

Figure 4 The ten-day period rates of passage for Common Scoters for two periods (1978-92 and 1993-2006)

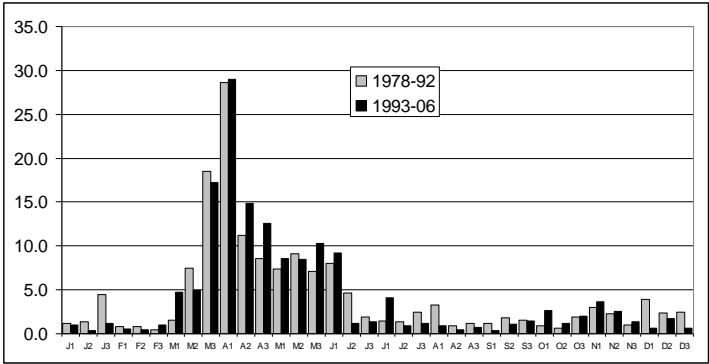
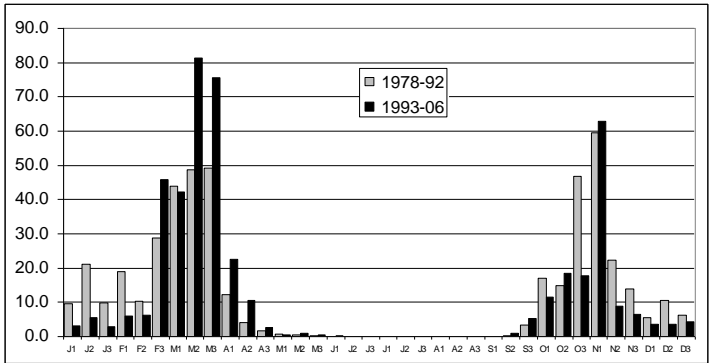


Figure 5 The ten-day period rates of passage for Brent Geese for two periods (1978-92 and 1993-2006)



March is also the month observers keenly look out for the first summer visitors. Various studies have shown a trend for these to be arriving earlier but in 2006 the first Wheatears (five) were not seen until the 25th and the only four Sandwich Terns of the month were seen on the same day. Highlights of the month included more Slavonian Grebes (up to four on three dates), six Gadwall on the 13th and a Purple Sandpiper on the 17th.

As usual the hours spent watching the sea increased through April and May and the total number of birds seen in May was second only to February, however, the season could hardly be considered a "vintage" spring. Indeed totals and peak counts were low as depicted in the following table of the regularly recorded species. The table shows the totals seen for the two main spring months (with the average 1978-2005 in brackets) and the peak count for these months (hours watched in brackets). Notably only four figures (in bold) exceeded the average and many totals were pitifully small.

	April Total	May Total	Apr/May max		April Total	May Total	Apr/May max
Divers all	10 (66)	4 (43)	3E on 30 th Apr (3.6hrs)	Pomarine Skua	0 (6)	21 (33)	21E on 4 th May (4.8hrs)
Brent Goose	38 (546)	18 (57)	36E on 29 th Apr (2.3hrs)	Arctic Skua	2 (32)	18 (38)	11E on 2 nd May (5.2hrs)
Common Scoter	648 (1325)	1047 (765)	269E on 28 th May (3.6hrs)	Great Skua	2 (7)	14 (3)	3 on 20 th May (2hrs)
Velvet Scoter	9 (20)	2 (9)	4E on 4 th Apr (1.2hrs)	Little Gull	0 (35)	0 (36)	-
Sanderling	27 (89)	129 (323)	34W on 28 th May (3.6hrs)	Sandwich Tern	625 (1487)	740 (939)	182E on 21 st Apr (4.1hrs)
Dunlin	108 (103)	58 (180)	53E on 30 th Apr (3.6hrs)	Commic Tern	488 (1203)	1525 (2794)	486E on 6 th May (4.4hrs)
Bar-tailed Godwit	43 (1324)	216 (887)	158E on 2 nd May (5.2hrs)	Little Tern	96 (90)	59 (269)	82E on 21 st Apr (4.1hrs)
Whimbrel	132 (260)	103 (228)	36E on 15 th Apr (4hrs)	Black Tern	0 (6)	2 (39)	singles 4 th and 15 th May

Regularly occurring gulls are not recorded with relish in the daily log with the exception of Mediterranean and Little Gulls. For the first year since a regular sea-watch log was started in 1978 no Little Gulls were recorded from Worthing beach. The following figures (6 and 7) show the spring passage rates of these two attractive gulls in ten-day periods. Figure 6 shows Mediterranean Gulls were barely recorded in the period 1978-87, a clear increase is demonstrated in the next ten year period which has continued into the last period. The data suggest Mediterranean Gull passage is more protracted than Little Gull and has two peaks. Little Gulls occur predominantly in the last period of April and early May and also show an increase in recent decades.

Figure 6 The ten-day period spring rates of passage for Mediterranean Gulls for three periods (1978-87, 1988-97 and 1998-2006)

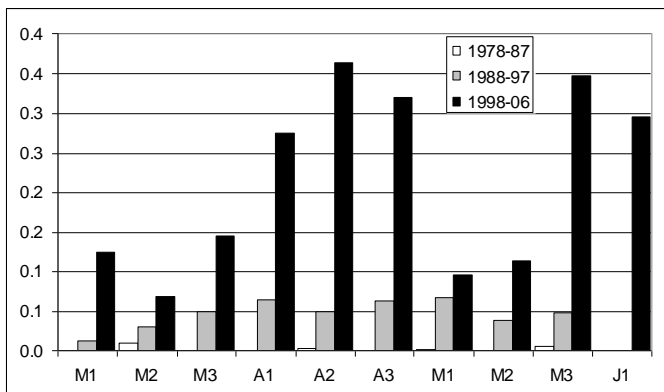
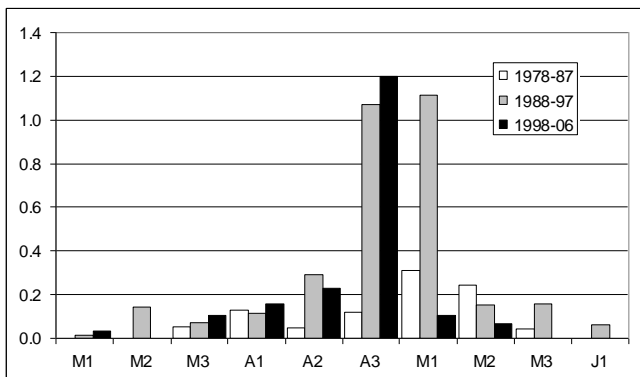


Figure 7 The ten-day period spring rates of passage for Little Gulls for three periods (1978-87, 1988-97 and 1998-2006).

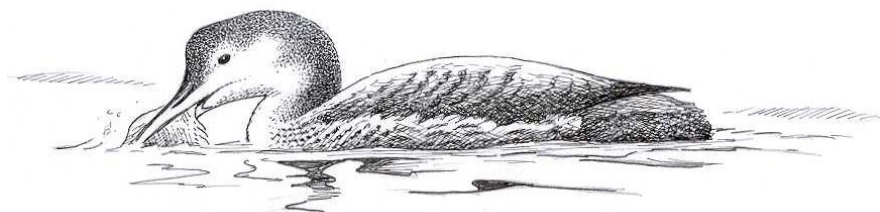


During the 93 hours of observation in April and May there were several interesting records. Four species of grebe were recorded; 31 Great Crested Grebes were still offshore on 22nd April, up to three Slavonian Grebes were seen until 21st April, two Black-necked Grebes on 16th April and a single Red-necked Grebe on 6th April. Shags were recorded on 4 dates in late April, three Long-tailed Ducks noted on 4th April and a late pair of Goldeneye flew east on 4th May. During the spring three Hobbys were seen arriving from the sea and a Mistle Thrush, a scarce sea-watch record, was recorded on 7th April. An adult male Kentish Plover was on the beach at Marine Gardens during the afternoon of 2nd May but was not seen by any of the regular observers. Perhaps the most interesting period of the spring was in late May when an extraordinary number of Storm Petrels were recorded from the south coast. Numbers from the Worthing area were notably lower than from other sites but on the 26th there were a minimum of six, the following morning 14 flew west and 12 were offshore and on the 28th May nine flew east and two were offshore.

During the summer months of June to August the number of hours watching the sea diminished. The pick of the records for this period were 27 late Sanderlings on 14th June; single Shags on 11th July and 1st August; three Arctic Terns on 23rd July; two Greenshanks on 12th August and mid-August high counts of 84 Turnstones and 158 Ringed Plovers.

Although the watching effort for the later autumn and early winter was comparable to most years the number of birds recorded in each of the months, as shown in Figure 3, was below average. The autumn passage of Brent Geese, shown clearly in Figure 5, was disappointing with month totals of 381 west in October and 318 west in November. Other wildfowl were equally scarce. More traditional sea-birds were not seen in large numbers either with peaks of Gannets being 122 on 30th September, of Kittiwakes being 156 west on 15th November and 86 auks west on 3rd November. At least six Little Gulls and seven Black Terns were recorded which was an improvement on the totals reached in the spring but fewer skuas were seen with just seven Arctic and two Great Skuas logged. Passerine movements can be impressive in the autumn but the sight of 500 Woodpigeons on the 30th October and 6000 flying west on 1st November were the only observations which could be described as notable. The peak number of Swallows was only 300 on 23rd September and the October total for Goldfinches and Greenfinches were 335 and 129 respectively. A Brambling flying west on 12th October and 285 Starling flying west on 4th November were more unusual. Amongst the low numbers of common birds were a scarcer species including five Avocets on 9th September, a Merlin on 15th September, a Peregrine on 22nd September and two Manx Shearwaters on 30th September. During November there were six Little Auks on the 2nd, with between two and four on the 3rd, a Velvet Scoter on the 3rd, a Red-necked Grebe on the 4th and a Purple Sandpiper on the 11th. By late December the flocks of birds feeding offshore had developed with peaks of 65 Great Crested Grebes on 21st December and 237 Red-breasted Mergansers on the 24th. The final exciting bird was a Great Northern Diver seen on the 31st.

John Newnham



© John Reaney

FIELD OUTINGS 2006

The now regular first outing of the year to the **Dungeness** peninsular took place on Sunday, January 15th. Thirty intrepid souls joined Dave Smith for the short walk down to the shore for a brief sea-watch in a howling south-east wind and looking out on a choppy sea. Amazingly it was possible to identify Gannet, Common Scoter, Brent Geese and several Red-throated Divers moving up and down the channel. An estimated 5,000 gulls were either feeding on the 'Patch' or loafing on the beach with numerous Kittiwakes amongst them. We moved to the new hides and car park at the ARC pit. Two fine Peregrine were sitting on the shingle giving us excellent views through the telescopes. A Goldeneye was feeding in front of the hides with Wigeon, Teal, Gadwall and Shoveler and a Kingfisher was perched on a teasel. We entered the main part of the RSPB reserve, took lunch and set off round the trails. A female Goosander on the water was just visible from the visitor centre. Two female Marsh Harriers put up a Sparrowhawk. We had calling Water Rail and Cetti's Warbler, Stonechat, Stock Dove and flyover Golden Plover. Three Red-crested Pochard (two male) showed really well. A few members of the group were lucky to see a Bittern climb up reed stems and fly lazily away. The main group had a close Slavonian Grebe, eight red-headed Smew (with a superb male), four female Goosander and 30+ Ruddy Duck. A brief stop at Scotney pit in the gathering gloom produced both Slavonian and Black-necked Grebes and another distant female Marsh Harrier sent us home happy.

There was another inclement day for the eleven members who joined Paul Stevens at **Shellness** on February 5th. We moved round to the Spit seeing Reed Buntings, Meadow Pipits, two ringtail Harriers and numerous Red-legged Partridge. Although the tide was well out Knot, Dunlin, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit were seen along the shoreline. Two Short-eared Owls perched in full view and a Rock Pipit was identified. We moved to Capel Fleet and took lunch at the Harty raptor watchpoint. It was immediately obvious that there was plenty of activity. We must have seen 20+ Marsh Harrier (juv, male and female), Hen Harrier, two male and 10+ ringtails, Short-eared Owl up to seven, two of which gave superb close flight views, and eventually a juvenile Rough-legged Buzzard was identified. To round off an excellent day some White-fronted Geese were among the Greylags, nine black-tailed Godwit flew over, two Merlin were seen along with many Kestrel and a juvenile Red-crested Pochard.

A cast of 22 joined Chris Wright for the outing to **Iping and Stedham Commons** on March 18th. In cold and windy conditions we headed for the trees and although close to the road we were able to locate several Coal Tits, Goldcrest, and one obliging group of Siskins. Even the Stonechats were keeping low to the ground but we managed to see a Kestrel and then we located two Woodlark in a field just off the Common. Two Dartford Warblers did show briefly as we headed back to the cars.

A sudden change in the weather forecast did not bode well for the outing to **Burton Pond** on April 23rd. Bernie Forbes and 19 members in winter plumage set off on the circular walk around the Pond and despite the conditions managed to find a good few birds. We started with a Grey Wagtail flying over the car park and Blackcap, Chiffchaff and

Nuthatch calling. A pair of Great Crested Grebes were courting on the Pond. Calling Bullfinch proved impossible to locate but pairs of Woodlark and Yellowhammer gave excellent views. A Little Grebe was found on Black Pond and Chingford held a few Teal and Gadwall. In the conifers Goldcrest and Coal Tit were singing and we could hear Reed Warbler at the Pond edge. A brief Common Whitethroat and a small flock of Linnet were out in the field while a few Redpoll were seen and heard, recognised by their chattering call. On one of the cleared commons we had close views of Tree Pipit and another pair of Woodlark. After lunch we moved to Lord's Piece but only added Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldfinch and a third pair of Woodlark. We finished with a stroll down the river from Greatham Bridge where we heard Sedge, Cetti's and Reed Warbler and a short squeal from a Water Rail. We all managed to hear a reeling Grasshopper Warbler but only one member managed to see it. We heard a Cuckoo and a close Whimbrel responded to Bernie's evocative whistle. As we left Swallows, House and Sand Martins were over the brooks hawking for insects.

Seventeen members joined John Newnham for the **Annual Seawatch** on April 30th. A light wind which varied between NW and E at the end of a quiet week was not the weather we had hoped for but in the circumstances a good variety of species were seen. Two Red-throated Divers, Brent Geese, Great Crested Grebes and unspecified auks were recorded along with several Gannet, Fulmar and Cormorant. Singles of Little Egret, Shelduck, Hobby, Yellow Wagtail and Sand Martin, four Swift and at last 20 Swallows were added to our list. A steady passage of Common Scoter, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit and Whimbrel were supported by four Mediterranean Gulls. Plenty of Herring gulls, a few Black-headed and Great Black-backed Gulls and just one Common Gull all passed by, while Sandwich Terns were regularly in view resting on buoys and fishing offshore and a few Common and Little Terns flew east. There were several members new to seawatching who learned a great deal both in using telescopes and getting onto birds at a distance. Thanks to Dave Smith for keeping the log.

With a discouraging forecast (and a shortage of birdlife on the recce) Brianne Reeve decided to relocate to Greatham Bridge for the **Dawn Chorus** outing on May 7th. The five members who braved the early start were rewarded with an excellent total of 45 species seen or heard. An immaculate Barn Owl came very near on several occasions and we were soon comparing the song of Whitethroat and Lesser Whitethroat at close quarters. It proved quite difficult to distinguish Song Thrush, Chaffinch, Dunnock, Robin and Wren from Blackcap and Willow Warbler with a weak Reed Bunting in the background. It was pointed out that birds of the same species rarely interrupt each other. Around one of the pools on the marsh Lapwing were protecting their young, Redshanks were calling and a group of three Dunlin were seen, while on the water were a Gadwall, Mallard and Shelduck. Through the tree-tunnelled walk a Tree-creeper entertained us while two Jays harshly announced their presence. Back out on the brooks we picked up a Cuckoo with its characteristically drooping wings in flight. Sedge and Reed Warblers gave us a chance to compare their songs and we saw Stonechat and Linnets. A Grasshopper Warbler reeled briefly but only one of us heard it and there was no sign of Nightingale, Cetti's or Garden

Warbler, all of which could be expected at this site. However it had been a good morning and we returned home well-satisfied.

An overcast and cool day greeted the 12 members who joined Chris Wright at **West Dean Woods** on May 14th. We struggled to make 40 species and the intended raptor watching was spoiled by poor visibility although we did manage Red Kite and Hobby to go with the expected Kestrels and Common Buzzards. In the woodland there were many Blackcaps and we also found Marsh Tit, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Nuthatch and occasionally Spotted Flycatcher. Amongst the numerous Goldcrest we were able to identify the rarer Firecrest and we heard Garden Warbler and Turtle Dove. On the way back to the car park the Little Owl was eventually located.

Bernie Forbes and Dave Smith met 14 members for an outing in the **New Forest** on June 4th. A nine kilometer walk from Shatterford car park was undertaken in a figure of eight. A Siskin was sitting in a pine tree by the car park and Curlews were displaying as we walked out onto the heath where Stonechats were attending to their young. A Honey Buzzard drifted over giving excellent views. In the forest several Redstart were calling and splendid males were seen. A pair of Garden Warbler was located on the edge of the woodland. There was a brief sighting of three Crossbill as they moved over the canopy but lower down several Treecreeper and Great Spotted Woodpecker showed well. A distant raptor was identified as a Red Kite. Whilst at lunch we saw more distant raptors which included Common Buzzard, another Honey Buzzard and two Hobby. Back in the woods Nuthatch and Sparrowhawk were added to our tally and eventually a pair of Spotted Flycatcher was located in the canopy. Returning across heathland further Hobby and Honey Buzzard were seen and Redshank calling and chasing each other, all quite difficult to get on to in the afternoon haze. Sadly no Dartford Warbler, Wood Warbler or Woodlark on this occasion.

A joint **Nightjar outing** with the SOS was led by Dave Smith and Dorian Mason on the evening of June 9th and was attended by no less than 47 people. We started with a short walk out on Waltham Brooks where the best birds were Barn Owl, Grasshopper Warbler, Pochard, Gadwall and Great Crested Grebe. Then we moved on to Lavington Common where, in the moonlight, four Nightjars were seen flying, the males showing well. Roding Woodcock also passed close overhead and a Tawny Owl called in the distance. Through telescopes it was possible to study Jupiter and two of its moons, an extra bonus to the evening.

Cissbury Ring was the venue for the outing on July 8th when 18 members joined Clive Hope in brilliant weather. As expected birds were not abundant but 24 species were seen or heard. Most appreciated were Little Owl, discovered in a distant oak tree, Common Buzzard, many Linnet and Whitethroat, two Kestrel and a second-year Mediterranean Gull. Sixteen species of butterfly were recorded with at least 50 Dark Green Fritillary and also a very small colony of the rare Frog Orchid was studied at close quarters.

The weather was anything but good for the visit to **Birling Gap** on August 19th. Brianne Reeve led nine members under the lee of the hill towards Horseshoe Plantation, having

judged that a sea-watch was out of the question. Luckily there were Stonechat, Willow Warbler and Whitethroat in the scrub and two superb Greenshank were heard and then seen. Soon we had added Spotted Flycatcher. Swallows, Linnets and Goldfinches. A Lesser Whitethroat was a good find and a Kestrel proved to be the only raptor of the day. Next came a noisy Green Woodpecker, a Chiffchaff and a Song Thrush ostentatiously attacking a snail. Above were all three hirundines and Swifts were swooping low around us. Two Whinchats were spotted amongst the Stonechat families as we returned across the cliff-tops. This was another good outing for butterflies: 15 species were recorded, including the delightful Silver-spotted Skipper, three different Blues and a very obliging Humming Bird Hawkmoth.

In view of the high tide prediction it was decided to move the Pagham meeting point on September 10th to **Church Norton** for the morning. Dave Smith led 29 members of the Shoreham and Sussex Ornithological societies and as we walked down to the shingle beach Great Spotted Woodpecker and Kestrel were seen. Among the waders three Curlew Sandpipers were picked out, several Sandwich Terns were roosting on the mud with at least three Mediterranean Gulls. A Sparrowhawk briefly disturbed the waders and the rising tide was pushing parties of Wigeon and Teal into view with a large flock of 97 Pintail counted. A few common Whitethroat and a single Whinchat showed well. Lunch was taken looking out over the harbour where 23 Knot, three Bar-tailed Godwit and a lone Golden Plover were roosting and a passing Whimbrel called as it flew north. On the new island 37 Little Egret were added to the record. Back at the Information Centre we walked towards Sidlesham Quay where a confiding Whimbrel was feeding in the vegetation. A Lesser Whitethroat put in a brief appearance as we moved to the Ferry pool. Despite the afternoon light Greenshank, Redshank and 14 Black-tailed Godwit were identified. A couple of soaring Common Buzzards drifted towards us and a Yellow Wagtail flew over us as we headed back to the car park.

Seventeen members gathered at the sea end of the lane to **Climping beach** on October 7th with Clive Hope as the leader. Good numbers of finches, pipits and a few Swallows were on the move heading west. Along the beaches and on the wires of the boundary fence we found at least seven Wheatears and more than a dozen Stonechats. Grasshopper Warbler and Chiffchaff were difficult to find in the scrub while a young Peregrine stooped at a flock of about 150 Linnets. Further raptors included possibly half a dozen Common Buzzards, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk. Three Brent Geese passed by over the sea and Redshank, Ringed Plover and Turnstone were seen near the shoreline. An obliging Grey Wagtail was admired in a small pool and Goldcrest and Great Spotted Woodpecker were glimpsed in the canopy. Although we were unable to locate the hoped-for Grey Partridges we were rewarded, on our return to the car park, by a Hobby that flew almost overhead.

A crisp, clear and thankfully sunny morning greeted the 25 people who joined Paul Stevens on November 19th for the combined outing with the SOS. We started at **Kithurst Hill** with numerous Yellowhammers and Chaffinches and made our way over to the area of maize normally frequented by finch flocks. Although there were many Meadow Pipits and Reed Buntings the lack of a really cold snap meant that this area was quieter than usual. However it was a good day for raptors with up to eight Common Buzzards, two

Sparrowhawks and five Kestrels. Best of all was a female Hen Harrier which showed on three occasions. After an early lunch we moved to **Waltham Brooks** and immediately picked up a large flock of Lapwing amongst which four Ruff could be identified. Three Snipe were seen in flight and two more Sparrow-hawks. We were unable to locate any winter thrushes and on the water the best bird was a male Pintail. Nevertheless a good count of 62 species had been seen or heard by the end of the day.

Twelve members joined Bernie Forbes for the outing to the **Arun Valley** on November 26th. The best thing that could be said for the near gale force wind was that at least it kept the rain away. As we set out a loose flock of 40 Fieldfare moved south and they were to be the only ones we encountered. To lessen the effect of the wind we walked north up the old canal towards Hardham where a few tits and crests were sheltering. Here we also found Goldfinch, Chaffinch and Greenfinch and then had good views of two Treecreepers. Redwings were mostly high up in the canopy and here viewing proved difficult. On the flooded north brooks a large flock of Canada Geese included a couple of Grey-lag and a smaller flock of Lapwing were noted. After lunch we moved out on to Waltham Brooks where Teal, Wigeon, Shoveler and Tufted Duck showed well. At least ten Stonechats were seen and a Sparrowhawk passed overhead. The squeal of a Water Rail was heard along with a brief snatch of Cetti's Warbler and small parties of Common Snipe were flushed as we made our way towards the sewage works. The strong wind was still making birding difficult but a small flock of Goldfinches were noted in the surrounding treetops. A male Grey Wagtail was feeding on one of the tanks and a calling Chiffchaff was hard to find in the thick hedge. Considering the conditions a good variety of birds had been recorded for the day.

The outing to **East Head** on December 2nd was the last in the long association between the SDOS and the SOS. The popularity of the walks and the stringent Health and Safety conditions imposed on leaders have meant that from 2007 the two Societies will be running separate programmes, but we shall continue to support each other, indeed many people are members of both Societies.

Chris Wright was the leader and the eighteen members sitting in the car park under a heavy shower would have been relieved to know that this was the last of the bad weather for the day. We set off to walk round the Head and soon found Oystercatchers, Great Crested Grebe, Redshank and Little Egret. Small flocks of Ringed Plover and Dunlin were ahead of us and an all too brief glimpse of a Little Stint. Out in the harbour we could see Red-breasted Mergansers and a Red-throated Diver. A Curlew flew over and two Knot and a Sanderling were among a group of Golden Plover with a few Grey Plover making it useful for comparison purposes. Small parties of Reed Buntings, Meadow Pipits and Skylarks were discovered in the dunes. As we rounded the point, a possible raptor turned out to be a Grey Heron! We headed back towards the car park with the tide falling and added another 30 Sanderling running along the shoreline in their characteristic way, Common and Mediterranean Gull and a few Cormorant. Back at the car park we scanned the huge flock of Brent Geese and eventually everyone had good views of the Black Brant. After lunch we headed towards Snowhill Marsh and added Teal, Wigeon, Mallard and

Lapwing. At the Marsh we picked out three Snipe and a few Black-tailed Godwit. More views of the Black Brant completed the day's entertainment.

Bernie Forbes arranged an impromptu pre-Christmas walk on December 23rd and nine members met at **Greatham Bridge** in bright sunshine. In the surrounding brooks there were hundreds of Wigeon and Teal with lesser numbers of Shoveler and Pintail, a sizeable flock of Lapwing and four Ruff. Just north of the bridge a family of four Bewick's Swans were feeding in a flooded pool. As we set out over the brooks two secretive Bullfinch and several Stonechat were seen. Reed Buntings were in the tallows and a small party of Fieldfare were enjoying the hawthorn berries. On the flooded brooks we added Gadwall, Tufted Duck and Pochard with a single Great Crested Grebe. A couple of Snipe were flushed and we heard two squealing Water Rail and a brief snatch of Cetti's Warbler. Around the sewage works at least six Chiffchaffs were feeding while Goldcrest, Great and Blue Tits were active in the hedgerow. Great Spotted and Green Woodpecker and Meadow Pipits were seen and heard. We moved to Rackham in the hope of finishing the outing with an owl or a harrier, or preferably both, but with the visibility deteriorating all the time the only birds that came out of the murk were the family party of four Bewick's Swans to bid us farewell.

Seventeen members braved the strong south-westerly wind for the **end of the year outing** to Forthaven on December 30th. Two shining Great Crested Grebes were picked out in front of the Lifeboat Station, with a delightful Little Gull surface-feeding nearby. This first winter bird later reappeared just off the harbour arm, giving us wonderfully close views as it showed its skill in dealing with the rough sea. Three Purple Sandpipers were also feeding on the groynes and were well watched. We headed to Widewater and immediately connected with a Water Rail just a few feet in front of our cars. There were also a group of nine Little Grebes lounging on the water. A quick look out to sea produced another Little Gull and a Common Scoter. At the western end of Widewater we added Redshank, two Little Egrets, Wigeon (in eclipse) and a Mediterranean Gull. A pair of Stonechats were in the Tamarisk with the Water Rail still showing as we left for our final stop between the Airport and the river. Looking along the riverbank we could see a flock of Dunlin, two Grey Plover and two Lesser Black-backed Gulls. Behind us on the Airfield were a large flock of Lapwing and a very nice group of eight Golden Plover. Only 24 species were seen on this outing but some excellent views in very good light gave us a superb finish to the year.

Nearly eighty different members have joined the outings, which accounts for over half our membership, a most satisfying statistic. Thanks to all the leaders and helpers for their sterling efforts covering the eighteen outings we have had this year.

Chris Wright

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2006



Records for birds seen in the gardens of 31 members were submitted for the year. A total of 57 species was recorded with records for the whole year being submitted in quarterly returns. The highest number of species recorded in a quarter was 27 in the Ford's garden at Ferring (01/01/06 – 01/04/06) with a similar number in the Maskell's garden in Worthing (02/04/06 – 01/07/06).

No species was recorded in every garden in every quarter although, as last year, Blackbird was recorded in all gardens except for the summer quarter (02/07/06 – 30/09/06) when just one garden failed to note its presence. As can be seen from the tables the other common garden birds were generally well recorded through the year.



Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Blackbird	100	18	4.3
Blue Tit	96.6	20	3.9
Robin	96.6	3	1.8
House Sparrow	89.7	17	6.8
Dunnock	86.2	4	2.0
Chaffinch	86.2	12	3.2
Collared Dove	86.2	26	4.1
Greenfinch	82.8	35	6.6
Wren	79.3	2	0.9
Wood Pigeon	79.3	11	3.6

Winter 2006 (01/01/06 to 01/04/06) - 29 gardens recording 47 species

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Blackbird	100	8	3.7
Blue Tit	96.4	9	3.5
Starling	92.9	71	14.9
Greenfinch	92.9	12	3.9
Collared Dove	92.9	11	2.9
Great Tit	92.9	10	2.5
House Sparrow	89.3	22	6.9
Chaffinch	85.7	7	2.4
Robin	85.7	4	1.8
Wood Pigeon	82.1	7	2.8
Dunnock	82.1	5	1.8

Spring 2006 (02/04/06 to 01/07/06) 28 gardens recording 48 species

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Blackbird	96	7	3.3
Greenfinch	92	23	5.4
Collared Dove	92	10	2.9
Blue Tit	88	18	4.5
House Sparrow	84	40	10.2
Wood Pigeon	84	13	2.7
Robin	84	3	1.3
Starling	80	52	13.0
Great Tit	76	8	2.0
Magpie	68	5	1.4

Summer 2006 (02/07/06 to 30/09/06) 25 gardens recording 37 species

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers
Blackbird	100	8	3.1
Robin	100	2	1.3
Blue Tit	96.7	15	4.7
Great Tit	86.7	4	1.8
Dunnock	86.7	4	1.7
Collared Dove	83.3	12	3.0
Greenfinch	80.0	30	5.1
Wood Pigeon	80.0	10	3.2
Starling	76.7	41	12.4
Chaffinch	76.7	12	2.2

Autumn 2006 (01/10/06 to 30/12/06) 30 gardens recording 39 species

Records for Song Thrush (23 gardens) were down on last year with a noticeable reduction in counts in the last two quarters. However Goldfinch (21 gardens) and Sparrowhawk continue to be well recorded. Goldcrest (13 gardens) and Coal Tit (8 gardens) counts were less than in the previous year while Bullfinch, maintaining a presence, appeared in five gardens. Long-tailed Tits maintained numbers of recent years.



As in other recent years winter visitors produced few records with Redwing (2 gardens), Siskin (3 gardens), Brambling (1 garden) and no records for Fieldfare.

For the summer migrants there were two records for Lesser Whitethroat and three gardens recorded Common Whitethroat. Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff were both recorded in ten gardens with Blackcap and Garden Warbler in 14 and two gardens respectively. The records for Blackcap include counts from eight gardens made during the months of January and February.

Counts for corvids were much the same as in previous years with Magpie being recorded in 23 gardens followed by Carrion Crow (22), Jackdaw (13), Jay (12) and Rook (6). Green Woodpecker and Great Spotted Woodpecker were both well recorded while one garden recorded Treecreeper and there were two records for Nuthatch. Other records received were Linnet (2 gardens), Heron (7), Moorhen (2), Grey Wagtail (3) and Reed Bunting (6).

Participants were : S. Allen, R. Bradbury, J. Carder, E. Chadwell, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, J. Ford, M. & P. Ford, V. Hancock, 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, G. & V. Tickler, R. Titcomb, D. Tomalin, H. Ward, R. Westwater, P. Whitcomb, C. Wingate & A. Wisdom

Martin Ford



all House Sparrows in this report are © John Reaney

INDOOR MEETINGS 2006

One of the most difficult jobs in this Society is deciding who the speakers will be for the following year. Chris Wright has taken on this unenviable task for several years and has given us a huge variety of lectures. These have taken us from the Arctic down to the Antarctic, from islands in the Mediterranean to those off New Zealand, from countries in Europe, Asia and the Americas to areas we know locally. In some cases the speakers are well-known to us, in other instances we have to hope they are as good as their write-up (by themselves!) indicates. Also it is surprising that a few speakers have not included many birds in their lecture to an ornithological society even though they have been well briefed on what we expect and that we are a knowledgeable audience. We are not very happy to be told, 'That is a Nuthatch,' with nothing added, slides need developing with some additional information. I would ask you to consider how we can judge whether a speaker knows and is enthusiastic about his subject and whether he/she has the ability to present it to a group of sixty plus people who have made the effort to come to the meeting expecting to be able to hear clearly and to see quality slides. We understand that we cannot hope to please everyone at every meeting. It would help if we could have some feedback and suggestions for subjects you would like covered or if you know of a reliable and interesting speaker. I think it can be claimed that we have had more successes than failures and this year has proved to be one of the successes.

Mike Mockler (January) is a much travelled man and superb photographer. His title, 'Toucans and Tigers' took us from Costa Rica to India. We were shown extraordinary toucans with tongue-twisting names, then the Motmots, Tanagers and Hummingbirds. The scenery in the Cloud Forest, open cattle country of the lowlands and the classical cone of the Arenal Volcano gave an indication of the mosaic of habitat which encourages such a

rich bio-diversity. Then he took us south to Brazil for more toucans and eagles. Finally we arrived at the Taj Mahal and heard tales of the tigers of Bandhavgarh National Park in India, in particular 'Charger' and his dynasty. He gives a lot of background information about the countries visited and has a good understanding of how to entertain an audience.

Richard Porter (February) has been a good friend to the SDOS over many years and he asked that this lecture should be given as a memorial to Mike Helps, another early supporter of the Society, who had died in 2005. Richard has written many bird books and for many years has had a particular interest in the Middle East and especially the island of Socotra, in the Gulf of Aden, 300 miles off the Yemen. There were atmospheric shots of the terraced areas of the mountains, wetlands and the coast and birds endemic to Socotra. He gave a stark warning that one oil disaster as caused by Saddam Hussein would mean that thousands of these birds would be lost forever. He spends a lot of his time training the Iraqis to carry on his work when he returns home. Richard has worked for birds and in the wider field of conservation for over forty years, dedicated to helping others understand the importance of protecting birds.

Brian Gallop (March) spent a fortnight in South-west Ireland and recounted his experiences for us. We were shown large rafts of Puffins, Guillemots and Manx Shearwaters and slides depicting the power and grace of Gannets. Brian obviously has a great admiration for the Arctic Tern which may travel 25,000 miles on its annual migration, yet it could live for 30-35 years. He talked about many of the Beehive huts and other primitive buildings found on the Dingle Peninsula. At Innisheer, where the fields are hand-scythed, Corncrakes and rare orchids flourish. And it did not rain once!

Keith Noble (April) followed the AGM with a relaxed, but always interesting, talk about the Adur Valley and his recent work for the RSPB which included showing over 30,000 people in London, Peregrines through telescopes. Keith's talks cover every aspect of natural history, obviously he derives great pleasure in discovering anything new along the Adur Valley (he has identified nine species of dragonflies), and produces stunning photographs to confirm his observations. Redshanks breed south of Stretham Farm and Lapwings too. Keith showed shots of Green and Common Sandpipers and the mass of Cormorants on the pylons usually with a lone Peregrine. Little Egrets featured, they are seen so frequently now in the valley, and some delightful views of Chiffchaffs. There was a brief visit to Cissbury to record the Stonechats with Dartford Warblers, Yellow Wagtail and tantalising Ring Ouzels. An impressive Osprey brought an appreciative murmur from the audience summing up the pleasure this talk had given. He is an all-round naturalist, with a deep knowledge which he is able to pass on to others. He is an example to us all in what he has recorded on his, and our, home-patch.

Brian Nobbs (October) is an excellent birdwatcher and talented photographer who has been a long-time volunteer for the RSPB. His talk was about some of the Reserves with which he has been involved over many years, starting in Kent where he lives. He showed the importance of the work done by volunteers to clear and improve habitats, something which is not always appreciated by the thousands of people who enjoy visiting the Reserves. He moved right across the country, taking us to the beautiful Dinas Reserve in

Wales with Pied Flycatchers, Grey Wagtails and Dippers and then up through England and into Scotland. His pictures were of a very high standard and he was one of those speakers who could have given a little more information about the birds he showed. His knowledge of so many different reserves proved that he had spent a great deal of his time furthering the work of the RSPB, as indeed he did with his lecture.

Gordon Langsbury (November). Gordon is one of our most frequent speakers, this time he was telling us about the 'Lapland Wilderness' using Norway, for the birds of the fiords and seashore, and Arctic Finland, for forest birds. Varangerenfiord is the farthest north one can go in Norway but it is worth it to see Arctic and Long-tailed Skuas and on the islands breeding Bar-tailed Godwit, Turnstone and Snow Bunting. Arctic Finland produced Red-necked Phalarope shining in their breeding plumage not to be outdone by the colourful Ruffs. He finished with superb views of owls: Tengmalm's, the Ural and the Great Grey, all spectacular in their own way with the muted browns and greys so typical of forest birds. Gordon's photographs are outstanding and together with his commentary his audience is given a vivid impression of the areas he has covered.

Terry Bond (December) was not known to us before he came to talk about the thirty-five autumns he has spent on the Scilly Isles but we should certainly be pleased to have him again. He showed the various forms of transport to get across to the Islands: the very small plane from St. Just, the helicopter and the ship, the Scillonian. He divided his talk by habitat, the rocky foreshore, sandy beaches and inland. He obviously knows the many islands very well and there were a lot of evocative views. We were not shown many photos of the rarities but we were treated to some good stories and members were laughing a great deal. Yellow-browed Warbler, American Night-hawk and Cory's Shearwater were all shown but so were some of the more common birds like Wheatears and Blackbirds. We learnt that there are no Woodpeckers or Long-tailed Tits on the islands. It was a relaxed but informative lecture which the audience of sixty-five enjoyed very much. An excellent end to our year with everyone leaving in a cheerful mood – what more can we offer as a Society?

My thanks go to all those members who help during our evening meetings but particularly to Maureen Leeves for organising the raffles which raise money towards paying for the hire of the Hall.

Shena Maskell/Brianne Reeve



© John Reaney

A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA **(a plea for more records from Clive Hope, SDOS Recorder)**

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 in the box 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; 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. But please also let me, as SDOS Recorder, know 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

SDOS recording forms are available from:
Clive Hope, 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, West Sussex, BN12 5RG
Please enclose an A4 sae with your request.

The boundaries of the SDOS recording area are shown on
the map on page 94

ABOUT THE SDOS / MEMBERSHIP FORM

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 a Tuesday evening. 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. Some previous issues of this report are also still available from the Hon Secretary for purchase by members or non-members. A members-only email discussion group has also been set up to keep all 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 photocopy, complete and return the form below.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP	
I/we apply to join the Shoreham and District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our annual subscription of (please tick appropriate box):	
Single	£12 <input type="checkbox"/>
Couple/Family	£18 <input type="checkbox"/>
Junior	£5 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life membership terms on application to the Membership Secretary	
Cheques should be made payable to SDOS	
Title	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Name/s	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	
Please send to Mrs Shena Maskell, SDOS Membership Secretary, 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 7JJ.	

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31/12/2006

	2006	2005
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	3,672.06	4,463.07
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,903.00	1,506.00
Sale of books, reports, cards, video hire and stickers	4.00	2.00
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	120.70	134.29
Bank interest	38.22	49.73
Donations	2.00	1.00
	<u>5,739.98</u>	<u>6,156.09</u>

PAYMENTS		
Printing and art work	603.78	1,732.40
Postage and stationery	191.29	170.10
Hire of hall	175.00	-
Southern Water Authority	4.00	4.00
Speakers fees	444.00	340.00
Insurance	173.90	173.58
BTCV Membership	35.00	30.00
First Aid Kit	7.95	-
Gifts	50.00	-
Travel expenses	20.00	-
Purchase of reference book	-	2.95
Refreshments	36.63	31.00
Balance carried forward	3,998.43	3,672.06
	<u>5,739.98</u>	<u>6,156.09</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 14 January 2007

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: 31 January 2007 - Carole Tucker and David Green of the SDOS

GOLDEN JUBILEE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31/12/2006

	2006	2005
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	2,081.08	1,997.63
Sale of pens	8.00	12.00
Bank interest	28.91	28.95
Sale of Jubilee book	372.50	42.50
	<u>2,490.49</u>	<u>2,081.08</u>
PAYMENTS		
Balance carried forward	2,490.49	2,081.08
	<u>2,490.49</u>	<u>2,081.08</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 14 January 2007

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: 31 January 2007 - Carole Tucker and David Green of the SDOS



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SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: Bernie Forbes 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, W Sussex, BN15 9JY,
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Coombes, Lancing, W Sussex, BN15 0RS Tel: 01273 452497
email: briannereeve@yahoo.co.uk

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Beeding, W Sussex, BN44 3TN Tel: 01903 814859

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BN43 6JA Tel: 01273 591120 email: terrance.hicks@talk21.com

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Report Editor (elect): John Crix 44 West Street, Shoreham-by-Sea, W Sussex,
BN43 5WG Tel: 01273 452875 email: john.crix@btopenworld.com

Other Council Members

Brian Clay

Mary Ferrier

Sanctuary Committee

John Newnham

Barrie Watson

USEFUL ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, WEBSITES

The SDOS website is at: www.sdos.org

Booth Museum of Natural History 194 Dyke Road, Brighton, E Sussex,
BN1 5AA Tel: 01273 292777 www.booth.virtualmuseum.info/

Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital Cow Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester,
W Sussex, PO20 7LN Tel: 01243 641672 www.brentlodge.org

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk,
IP24 2PU Tel: 01842 750050 www.bto.org

Chichester Harbour Conservancy The Harbour Office, Itchenor, Chichester,
W Sussex, PO20 7AW Tel: 01243 512301 www.conservancy.co.uk

Natural England (was **English Nature** now 'merged') Natural England (Sussex),
Phoenix House, 32-33 North Street, Lewes, E Sussex, BN7 2PH Tel: 01273 476595
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve Visitor Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham,
Chichester, W Sussex PO20 7NE Tel: 01243 641508

Police Wildlife Officer Police advice is initially to ring 0845 60 70 999 (the main non-emergency police contact number) to ensure appropriate routing of the call.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Head Office The Lodge, Sandy,
Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Tel: 01767 680551 www.rspb.org.uk

Regional Office 2nd Floor, 42 Frederick Place, Brighton, E Sussex, BN1 4EA
01273 775333

Pulborough Brooks Reserve Upperton's Barn, Wiggonholt, Pulborough, W Sussex, RH20
2EL Tel: 01798 875851 www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/p/pulboroughbrooks

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Rye Harbour Rd, Rye, E Sussex, TN31 7TT
Tel: 01797 227784 www.wildrye.info

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) Secretary: Richard Cowser, Beavers Brook,
The Thatchway, Angmering, West Sussex, BN16 4HJ Tel: 01903 770259
www.sos.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, Henfield, W Sussex, BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 492630 www.sussexwt.org.uk

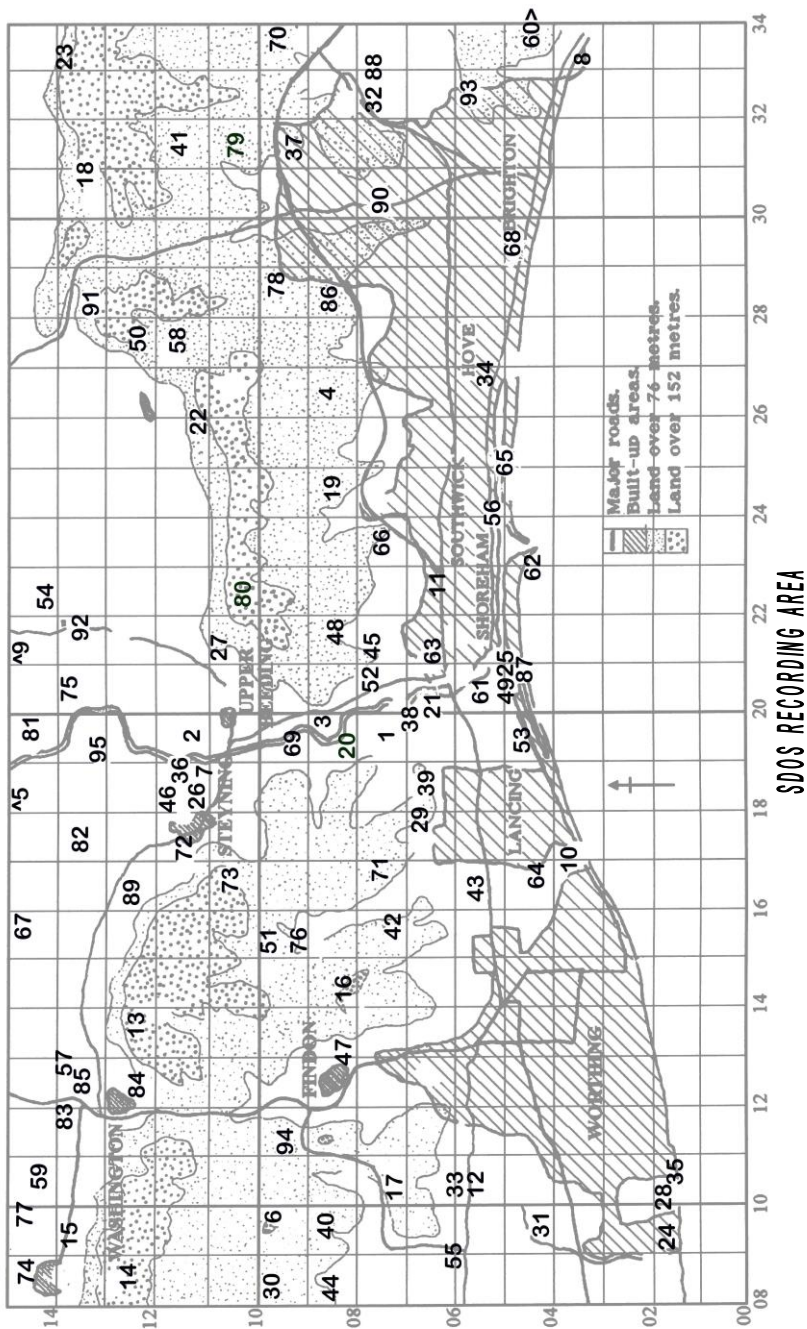
Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Head Office Slimbridge, Gloucestershire,
GL2 7BT Tel: 01453 890333 www.wwt.org.uk

Arundel Wetland Centre Mill Road, Arundel, W Sussex, BN18 9PB
Tel: 01903 883355 www.wwt.org.uk/centre/116/arundel

INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN THE SDOS RECORDING AREA

1	Applesham Farm	TQ1907	50	Newtimber Hill	TQ2712
2	Beeding Brooks	TQ1911	51	No Mans Land	TQ1509
3	Beeding Cement Works	TQ1908	52	Old Erringham Farm	TQ2007
4	Benfield Valley	TQ2608	53	Old Salts Farm	TQ1904
5	Bineham Bridge	TQ1915	54	Oreham Common	TQ2214
6	Blackpatch Hill	TQ0909	55	Patching Pond	TQ0805
7	Bramber Castle	TQ1810	56	Power Station	TQ2404
8	Brighton Marina	TQ3303	57	Rock Common	TQ1213
9	Broadmare Common	TQ2115	58	Saddlescombe	TQ2711
10	Brooklands	TQ1703	59	Sandgate Sand Pit	TQ1014
11	Buckingham Park	TQ2206	60	Sheepcote Valley	TQ3404
12	Castle Goring	TQ1005	61	Shoreham Airport	TQ2005
13	Chanctonbury	TQ1312	62	Shoreham Fort	TQ2304
14	Chantry Hill	TQ0812	63	Shoreham Sanctuary	TQ2106
15	Chantry Mill Pond	TQ0913	64	Sompting Brooks	TQ1604
16	Cissbury Ring	TQ1408	65	Southwick Canal	TQ2404
17	Clapham Woods	TQ1007	66	Southwick Hill	TQ2307
18	Clayton Hill	TQ3013	67	Spithandle Lane	TQ1514
19	Cockroost Hill	TQ2408	68	St Anne's Well Gdns.	TQ2904
20	Coombes	TQ1908	69	St Botolphs	TQ1909
21	Cuckoo Corner	TQ2006	70	Stanmer Park	TQ3309
22	Devil's Dyke	TQ2511	71	Steep Down	TQ1607
23	Ditchling Beacon	TQ3313	72	Steyning Mill Pond	TQ1711
24	Ferring Rife	TQ0901	73	Steyning Round Hill	TQ1610
25	Flood Arch	TQ2004	74	Storrington Mill Pond	TQ0814
26	Glebe Farm	TQ1811	75	Stretham Manor	TQ2013
27	Golding Barn	TQ2110	76	Stump Bottom	TQ1509
28	Goring Gap	TQ1001	77	Sullington Warren	TQ0914
29	Halewick Tip	TQ1706	78	Sweet Hill	TQ2809
30	Harrow Hill	TQ0809	79	Tegdown Hill	TQ3110
31	Highdown Hill	TQ0904	80	Truleigh Hill	TQ2210
32	Hollingbury Camp	TQ3207	81	Upper Adur Levels	TQ1914
33	Holt Farm	TQ1005	82	Wappingthorne	TQ1713
34	Hove Lagoon	TQ2604	83	Warren Hill	TQ1113
35	Ilex Wood	TQ1001	84	Washington Bostal	TQ1212
36	King's Barn	TQ1811	85	Washington Sandpits	TQ1213
37	Ladies Mile LNR	TQ3109	86	Waterhall	TQ2808
38	Ladywells	TQ1906	87	Widewater	TQ2004
39	Lancing Ring	TQ1806	88	Wild Park	TQ3207
40	Long Furlong	TQ0908	89	Wiston Pond	TQ1612
41	Lower Standean	TQ3111	90	Withdean Park	TQ3007
42	Lychpole Hill	TQ1507	91	Wolstonbury Hill	TQ2813
43	Malthouse Meadow	TQ1605	92	Woods Mill	TQ2113
44	Michelgrove	TQ0808	93	Woodvale Cemetery	TQ3205
45	Mill Hill	TQ2107	94	Worthing Crem.	TQ1109
46	Mumbles, The	TQ1811	95	Wyckham Farm	TQ1913
47	Nepcote	TQ1208			
48	New Erringham Farm	TQ2108			
49	New Salts Farm	TQ2004			

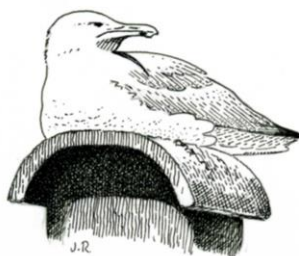
index numbers (left of each column) are marked on the
Recording Area map



INDEX TO SYSTEMATIC LIST

- Auk, Little 35
- Avocet 23
- Bittern, Little 19
- Blackbird 45
- Blackcap 47
- Brambling 55
- Bullfinch 56
- Bunting, Corn 57
 - Reed 57
 - Snow 56
- Buzzard, Common 21
 - Honey 20
- Chaffinch 55
- Chiffchaff, Common 49
- Coot, Common 22
- Cormorant, Great 18
- Corncrake 22
- Crow, Carrion 53
- Cuckoo, Common 36
- Curlew, Eurasian 27
- Diver, Black-throated 15
 - Great Northern 15
 - Red-throated 15
- Dotterel 23
- Dove, Collared 35
 - Stock 35
 - Turtle 36
- Duck,
 - Long-tailed 13
 - Ruddy 14
 - Tufted 13
- Dunlin 25
- Duncock 42
- Egret, Little 19
- Eider, Common 13
- Fieldfare 45
- Firecrest 50
- Flycatcher, Pied 51
 - Spotted 50
- Fulmar 17
- Gadwall 12
- Gannet 18
- Garganey 12
- Godwit, Bar-tailed 26
 - Black-tailed 26
- Goldcrest 50
- Goldeneye, Common 14
- Goldfinch 55
- Goosander 14
- Goose, Barnacle 11
 - Brent (dark bellied) 11
 - Brent (pale bellied) 11
 - Canada 10
 - Egyptian 11
 - Greylag 10
 - White-fronted 10
- Grebe, Black-necked 17
 - Great Crested 16
 - Little 16
 - Red-necked 16
 - Slavonian 17
- Greenfinch 55
- Greenshank 27
- Guillemot, Common 34
- Gull, Black-headed 30
 - Common / Mew 30
 - Great Black-backed 31
 - Herring 31
 - Iceland (Kumlien's) 31
 - Lesser Black-backed 30
 - Little 30
 - Mediterranean 29
 - Yellow-legged 31
- Harrier, Hen 20
 - Marsh 20
 - Montagu's 20
- Heron, Grey 19
- Hobby 21
- Jackdaw 53
- Jay 53
- Kestrel, Common 21
- Kingfisher, Common 38
- Kite, Red 20
- Kittiwake 31
- Knot, Red 24
- Lapwing, Northern 24
- Linnet 56
- Magpie 53
- Mallard 12
- Martin, House 40
 - Sand 39
- Merganser,
 - Red-breasted 14
- Merlin 21
- Moorhen 22
- Nightingale, Common 43
- Nightjar, European 37
- Nuthatch 52
- Osprey 21
- Ouzel, Ring 45
- Owl, Barn 36
 - Little 37
 - Long-eared 37
 - Short-eared 37
 - Tawny 37
- Oystercatcher 23
- Parakeet, Rose-ringed 36
- Partridge, Grey 14
 - Red-legged 14
- Peregrine Falcon 22
- Pheasant, Common 15
- Pigeon, Feral 35
- Pintail 12
- Pipit, Meadow 41
 - Rock 41
 - Scandinavian Rock 41
 - Tree 40
- Plover,
 - Golden, European 24
 - Grey 24
 - Kentish 23
 - Ringed 23
- Pochard, Common 13
- Quail, Common 15
- Rail, Water 22
- Raven 54
- Razorbill 34
- Redpoll, Lesser 56
- Redshank, Common 27
- Redstart, Black 43
 - Common 43
- Redwing 46
- Robin 43
- Rook 53
- Sanderling 24
- Sandpiper, Common 27
 - Curlew 25
 - Green 27

Purple 25	European 18	Warbler, Cetti's 46
Scoter, Common 13	Leach's 18	Dartford 49
Velvet 13	Swallow, Barn 39	Garden 48
Shag 18	Swan, Bewick's 10	Grasshopper 46
Shearwater, Balearic 17	Mute 10	Reed, Eurasian 47
Manx 17	Swift, Common 37	Sedge 46
Sooty 17	Teal, Eurasian 12	Willow 49
Shelduck, Common 11	Tern, Arctic 33	Yellow-browed 49
Shoveler 13	Black 34	Wheatear, Northern 44
Shrike, Red-backed 52	Common 32	Whimbrel 26
Siskin 56	Little 33	Whinchat 44
Skua, Arctic 28	Roseate 32	Whitethroat, Common 48
Great 29	Sandwich 32	Lesser 48
Long-tailed 29	Thrush, Mistle 46	Wigeon, Eurasian 11
Pomarine 28	Song 45	Woodcock 26
Skylark 39	Tit, Blue 51	Woodlark 39
Snipe, Common 26	Coal 52	Woodpecker,
Jack 25	Great 51	Great Spotted 38
Sparrow, House 54	Long-tailed 51	Green 38
Tree 54	Marsh 52	Lesser Spotted 39
Sparrowhawk 20	Treecreeper, Eurasian 52	Woodpigeon 35
Starling, Common 54	Turnstone 28	Wren 42
Stint, Little 25	Wagtail, Grey 42	Wryneck 38
Stonechat 44	Pied 42	Yellowhammer 57
Storm-petrel,	Yellow 41	



© John Reaney



Stonechat (Wendy Ball)



Water Rail (Dorian Mason)

