



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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front cover image: Long-tailed Tit (Dorian Mason) inside front cover: Outdoor Meetings (John Maskell) back cover: Iceland Gull (Keith Noble) inside back cover: SDOS Area Map (Terry Hicks)

EDITORIAL

This year, from amongst the several jewels in the SDOS's crown, I have chosen to train a spotlight on the society's multifaceted programme of field outings. In 2007 we had 18 outings, visiting an impressively diverse selection of places and habitats - see Chris Wright's report which follows. The 2007 field outings represented an exceptionally strong programme and, in fact, delivered even more than was promised due to the addition of an evening outing and also a visit to the new Ladywells ringing site, after the schedule was initially published.

Over three-quarters of our membership joined in at least one field outing. This statistic is indicative of the popularity of the outings programme and is, in some senses, its own vote of thanks to those who put significant effort into the overall planning and into leading the individual outings. The combination of knowledge, expertise and time freely given by all our outing leaders and their helpers - and also, in my experience, the truly friendly atmosphere encountered on these excursions - is one of the reasons our society is still running so successfully since it was started in 1953.

As far as this annual report is concerned: my thanks to everyone who has contributed. My hope is that, like the field outings programme and many of the society's other activities, you'll notice that the report just goes on getting better year by year.

John Crix, August 2008

FIELD OUTINGS 2007

Adur Valley

For our first outing of the year on January 7th Keith Noble led a party of 15 for the Adur Valley walk, leaving Woods Mill in a dull drizzle, past the Sewage Works along the footpath towards the Downslink. The tall, thick hedges still held plenty of sloes and haws with many Redwings and, later, Fieldfares taking advantage of the fruits. A Grey Wagtail flew over (on the return journey one posed for the telescope). Two male Bullfinches gave fleeting glimpses until one was seen glowing against a dark bush, then hovering to show its white rump.

Reaching the Downslink we turned towards Henfield onto the footpath overlooking the Levels where we had good views of twelve adult and two young Bewick's Swans on the shallow water with about 20 Greylags and 100 Lapwings. A Little Owl was flushed from a tree as we walked by.

We returned to the Downslink and went towards the Adur seeing many more winter thrushes, a party of Long-tailed Tits and a Treecreeper. After lunch at Stretham Bridge just six people headed up the windswept river bank past Wyckham Wood with the rookery and heronry. A Bewick's Swan family, the two adults either side of their young, gave us a

dramatic fly-past. We 'scoped a male Kestrel, warm colours in the afternoon light and later saw one swoop into rough ground, then rise up carrying prey. The outing finished with calls of Great Spotted Woodpecker and Nuthatch back at Woods Mill. Thanks to the Sussex Wildlife Trust for the use of their car park.

Dungeness

Just one week later a small group of six members met Dave Smith for the outing to Dungeness. On a wonderful, clear, crisp morning the seawatch began by the power station and produced, in just under an hour, 60+ Red-throated Divers, six Gannets, one Kittiwake and a line of Common Scoters. By the fishing boats more Red-Throated Divers and 200-300 Great-crested Grebes spread over a huge area. In the car park a female Black Redstart gave a good show

Moving to the gravel pits in the RSPB reserve Goldeneyes, Ruddy Ducks and Lesser Blackbacked Gulls were all observed with three female Goosanders. The stars were the Smewwith more than a dozen seen, including five magnificent males. Continuing north another Red-throated Diver showed well and Cetti's Warblers and Bearded Tits were heard but not seen. However there were five harriers through the day, four Marsh and one Hen (a ringtail). On the way home we tracked down the group of c.130 Bewick's Swans north of Lydd, a wonderful sight. A short stop at Scotney produced a final Marsh Harrier and one of the few waders seen all day: a Redshank.

Ferring Rife

Clive Hope led the outing to Ferring Rife and Goring Gap on February 4th. There were 25 members who started by studying the shore and sea at the 'block' in fine but rather chilly conditions. A selection of waders was picked out: Redshanks, Dunlins, Sanderlings, Grey and Ringed Plovers, Turnstones and Oystercatchers. Good views of Red-breasted Mergansers and Great Crested Grebes were had through the telescopes. Eight, then a further two Brent Geese were seen flying east.

Walking up the western side of the Rife, Little Egrets and a brief glimpse of a Water Rail in flight were the highlights. There was no sign of any snipe species on the water meadows. On the eastern side a pair of Stonechats on brambles were watched for some while. Passing through Ferring village to the fields on the western side of Goring Gap, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were added. A total of 41 species was logged.

East Head

Paul Stevens met 18 members in the car park at East Head on March 3rd. There had been heavy overnight rain but the weather turned out to be perfect for birdwatching. Before everyone had gathered the Black Brant was picked out in the flock of Brent. Starting onto the 'Head' with a rising tide, Skylarks were singing and very large flocks of Oystercatchers, Grey Plovers, Ringed Plovers, Redshanks, Curlews, Sanderlings and Dunlins gave superb views as they were moved around by the incoming tide. It was a good opportunity to test

one's skill in flight identification. In the harbour Slavonian Grebes and divers and a Longtailed Duck were seen but were either distant or elusive. Great Crested Grebes and 14 Red-breasted Mergansers were more obliging.

After lunch in the car park it was decided to find the Black Brant which would be a new bird for many. It was more difficult than anticipated but eventually not one but two were found and everyone saw them clearly.

On to the marsh where a Greenshank stood next to a Redshank for easy comparison. The more one looked the more Snipe seemed to appear, good numbers. A Chiffchaff was briefly spotted and Grey Partridge heard, a fly-over Goldcrest, odd pairs of Stonechats and plenty of Meadow Pipits. An excellent day.

Burton Pond

The ever-popular outing to Burton Pond was led by Bernie Forbes on April 22nd with 21 members joining the group. Willow Warblers and Blackcaps were singing and the weak call of a Bullfinch was also heard. A drumming Lesser–spotted Woodpecker focussed everyone's attention and very soon a stunning male was located reasonably close by, allowing the group time to see it well. This is never an easy bird to find so the views were particularly satisfying.

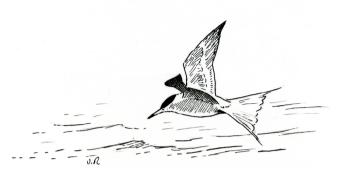
A single Common Whitethroat was singing and then another competing with a Blackcap. Common Buzzards were widespread up in the thermals. A Firecrest in full song was seen in the canopy and comparison with singing Goldcrest could be made. Calling Nuthatches, Coal Tits, Great and Green Woodpeckers were added to the list as was a fine singing Woodlark

After lunch the group moved to Greatham Bridge for a change of habitat. Singing Sedge, Reed and Cetti's Warblers, plus Reed Buntings and Stonechats were recorded. At one time there were seven Common Buzzards and three Sparrowhawks using the thermals. The first Hobby of the year was a bonus, two were hawking insects over the brooks. At the end of the day 70 species had been logged.

Goring Seawatch

On April 29th John Newnham's Goring Seawatch from the Alinora Avenue shelter attracted 28 members, most of whom had to brave the cool/cold NNE wind. Seawatching can be unpredictable and even frustrating but regular watchers would expect Bar-tailed Godwits to dominate a late April watch with wind from the NE direction. There were lots of parties at all ranges and altitudes and even feeding on the beach. The total for the morning was about 700 godwits. With these were Whimbrels, often in mixed parties so the differences in plumage and jizz could be seen. The only other waders were Oystercatchers, Knot and Sanderlings.

Although Sandwich Terns were visible most of the time other tern species were poorly represented with about a dozen Common Terns and no Little Terns.



© John Reaney

Many people like to see skuas in the spring - Bonxie was regularly seen as three birds remained offshore and another three passed through, just two Arctic Skuas flew E but the three Pomerine Skuas were only seen by seven members who had stayed to the end of the watch. Three Mediterranean Gulls and a Great Northern Diver, about 70 Common Scoters and single figures of Red-breasted Mergansers, Shelducks and Brent Geese were recorded. Gannets and the occasional Fulmar passed in the distance. On the sea were Great Crested Grebes and up to four Razorbills. Swallows and a single Sand Martin and Swift were seen arriving.

On this our most sedentary outing a large number and variety of birds had provided a very different exercise in identification skills.

Ladywells Valley

On May 6th an extra outing was added to our programme so that members could go to the Lancing College/Applesham Farm site at which John Newnham had been ringing, with the kind permission of the owners, since March (see also the Ladywells ringing report on page 68). By the time 16 members were taken down to the site in the Ladywells Valley John and Pam Mears had erected 16 mist nets, the WSW wind was not too disruptive as several rides were well protected. John led us through the site, explaining about the mist nets and the preparation that had been done before our arrival.

He told us he had just ringed a Chiff/Willow, he could not initially decide which it was as its features were indeterminate. He had heard a bird singing the song of both Willow Warbler and Chiffchaff, both elements very clear. He did not see the bird but heard this rendition more than a dozen times and then an hour later caught the 'odd' Willow Warbler.

(note: Probably the same bird was heard in a member's garden one mile north of Ladywells shortly after John had released the ringed bird. There have been records of Chiff/Willows singing near the Cement Works for more than four years. All fascinating information.)

John and Pam then demonstrated ringing a Blackbird, Wren, Willow Warbler (weighing the same as a 50 pence coin) and a male and female Greenfinch. All the time they were recording weight, sex, wing lengths, etc, as well as selecting the correct-sized ring for each bird.

Leaving the ringing table we walked on to land owned by Christopher and Hugh Passmore who have shown great interest in, and cooperated with, the ringing programme. We were shown the broodpatch on a Long-tailed Tit and had good views of a Blackcap. On our tour we heard Reed Warblers on the reeds in the stream, Rooks, Chaffinches and Dunnocks, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, House Martins and Jackdaws and had a fine sighting of three Sparrowhawks together in the sky.

Our group had spent an unusual morning learning about ringing and could now visualise the site from which John sends in his weekly reports. It is obvious that a great deal of patience and determination is required for ringers to be successful.

Greatham Bridge - Dawn Chorus

Just four members met Brianne Reeve at Greatham Bridge on May 12th for the Dawn Chorus at 5.30am and by 8am 36 species had been recorded. An early start, dreadful forecast and a strong southwest wind was not the best recommendation but it proved to be a very satisfying morning.

A Shelduck flew over the car park as we were listening to Whitethroats, Willow Warblers and a Cuckoo. We walked along the road picking out the songs of Dunnocks, Chaffinches, Robins and Wrens. A Sedge Warbler could be heard close by, as we climbed over the stile onto the brooks. Almost immediately we were rewarded with superb views of a hunting Barn Owl which came within 40 yards of us. The Sedge Warbler posed well too and a Grey Heron flew in gracefully behind it. Although we had not gone very far it was obvious the wind was going to make hearing anything very difficult, a sharp shower and the song of a Nightingale made the choice for us and we returned to take cover along the footpath running north on the other side of the road.

The Nightingale was not in strong voice but later at the other end of the path we had one which was in full voice and gave us a concert for at least 10 minutes, beating even the powerful songs of the many Wrens we encountered. Blackcaps, Greenfinches and an elusive Reed Bunting were added to the list and very fine views of a Treecreeper.

Out on the pools to the east of the path were Dunlins, Redshanks, Lapwings defending their patch, Coots, Pied Wagtails and Swallows and Swifts overhead. Twice we heard a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming and it was seen once.

The Cuckoo circled us several times and again we had brief views of it. Suddenly on the path inches away from us a very wet female Pheasant came out of the undergrowth followed by her chicks, they could not have been more than a day old. On the way back the female was sitting in the middle of the path, amazingly well camouflaged, covering the young ones: twelve ran off whilst she drew us away from them. At this point the most extraordinary thing happened: Chris nearly had his hat taken off by a Barn Owl which flew in from the field on our left carrying prey and then uncharacteristically crashed into a branch before escaping into the open again, surely a most unusual occurrence?

It really had been a very pleasant walk in the shelter of the trees, we had seen so many of the birds well and heard a great number so we returned to our cars feeling the effort had been very satisfying.

Blackdown

Bernie Forbes led the outing to Blackdown on May $20^{\rm th}$ with 11 members and two guests. A calm and fairly sunny day produced seven Common Buzzards up in the thermals and soon the first of a few Tree Pipits were displaying. A male Redstart was singing but proved almost impossible to view.

During the walk several singing Firecrests were located. A Nuthatch was at its nest hole and Treecreeper calls could be heard. A Hobby dashed past and later a pair were hawking insects and then were 'scoped in a pine tree. A Garden Warbler showed briefly but excellent views were had of singing Woodlarks while two Spotted Flycatchers flew off. A Tawny Owl hooted and Common Whitethroats and Stonechats were out on the heath while Linnets and Bullfinches were seen fleetingly. Calling Crossbills soon attracted attention and four were seen, all apparently juveniles, one of which was 'scoped. Back at the car park two more Spotted Flycatchers were found high up in the canopy

Anchor Bottom

An evening outing to Anchor Bottom was arranged for May 25th when Chris Wright met 18 members at Beeding Hill car park. From the car park a Whitethroat was showing and a Corn Bunting was 'scoped. A group of Swifts was circling overhead and in the scrubby bushes were Stonechats, Yellowhammers, Chaffinches and Dunnocks. Two brief views of the resident Peregrines were less than expected and no sign of Grey Partridges (shy birds possibly alert to so many people in their area). However the stars of the show were the Ravens with four juveniles and an adult bird well watched. The renowned flora of Anchor Bottom caused a lot of interest especially the Green-winged Orchids and the Red Star Thistle.

Lavington Common

For the annual Nightjar outing on June 15^{th} Dorian Mason decided to go directly to Lavington Common. On a pleasantly warm evening a Marsh Tit was calling and a Swift flew

over. A Tree Pipit was well watched, Song Thrushes and Blackbirds were calling with Willow Warblers a little more distant. Two Stonechats showed well but the attendant Dartford Warbler could not be located. As this part of the walk was completed Green Woodpecker, Yellowhammer and Chiffchaff were added to the list.

On the south side of the common it was much cooler and there was more wind but eventually the churr of a Nightjar and squeak of a Woodcock were heard almost simultaneously and three of each species were recorded. The evening was made when Maurice Wende spotted a Nightjar at the top of a dead tree, a wonderful sight silhouetted against the night sky.

Cissbury Ring

Chris Wright led the outing to Cissbury Ring on July 14th. The walk up the eastern side of the Ring protected the group from the blustery south-west wind and produced Yellowhammers, Common and Lesser Whitethroats, Blackcaps, Chiffchaffs, Bullfinches and Common Buzzards.

It was soon clear that many downland butterflies had hatched. A Small Copper and a Brown Argus perched on the same grass blade which made a superb picture and it was pleasing to see Ringlets and Marbled Whites. The butterflies are present due to the rich variety of plants: 83 species were identified, including at least five Frog Orchids during the walk

As the Ring was reached a moulting adult Raven flew over and Green Woodpecker, Swift, Linnet and Stonechat were added to the bird list. A perfect example of a Dark Green Fritillary was studied as it nectared on a Musk Thistle. Just off the Ring a carpet of pink (and the more unusual white) Marjoram held at least six newly emerged Chalkhill Blue butterflies. Looking down from the Ring we saw three juvenile Common Buzzards searching for beetles in a chalky field. As the car park was reached a pristine female Brimstone butterfly was spotted bringing the day count to 19 species with 26 bird species, an acceptable total for this time of the year.

Birling Gap

August 19th was a dreadful day but three stalwart members joined Brianne Reeve despite the weather. From the car park a seawatch was attempted in very wet drizzle. One Whimbrel, Fulmars, Jackdaws and a variety of gulls were close enough for identification, even some distant Gannets could be seen and on the seashore below was one Little Egret and a Grey Heron. Swallows and House Martins were making determined efforts to feed around the buildings.

As the weather deteriorated it was decided that Arlington Reservoir might offer a little more shelter. There were good numbers of birds though not a great variety. Masses of Sand Martins, Swallows and House Martins swooped high above us and very low over the surface of the water, a good chance to pick out the differences in flight and plumage. It was

a pleasure to see three Great Crested Grebes, each with two very loud, demanding young. Several Grey Herons were around the edges of the reservoir, one forced to disgorge its catch as it was chased by a group of persistent Black-headed Gulls. The large number of Cormorants on the nearest raft were doing nothing and going nowhere. As more rain threatened it was time to go home only slightly cheered by a charm of Goldfinches and a Goldcrest in a pine as we left.

Pagham

Bernie Forbes and Dave Smith led 22 members round Pagham and Church Norton on September 16th, a pleasantly warm and sunny day. A young Peregrine set things off to a good start as it chased birds in the harbour. An egret which had been causing some controversy was identified as a Little Egret. Although fairly distant, Teal, Wigeon and Pintails were watched in the harbour and 19 Grey Herons rose from their roosting site. A Grey Wagtail flew over the pumping station but the walk down to Church Norton only produced Chiffchaffs, Red-legged Partridges and three Kestrels. In the channels and creeks Knot were watched with a few Bar-tailed Godwits, a lone Greenshank and a small party of Great Crested Grebes.

Lunch was taken overlooking the mudflats where hundreds of Dunlins, at least 50 Knot and two Greenshanks were found. A Yellow Wagtail called and a Wheatear flitted along the shore. The characteristic call of a Whimbrel was heard and seen through the telescope on the return journey. A Cetti's Warbler was heard and a few Sand Martins passed overhead. Back at the Ferry Pool seven Curlew Sandpipers were picked out against the afternoon sun and several Black-tailed Godwits were feeding there too.

Cissbury Ring

A large group which in the end totalled 28 met at Cissbury Ring in sunny and warm conditions on October 20th. The leader, Clive Hope, took most of the party to the ringing station where birds seen in the hand were male and female Redpolls, Long-tailed Tits, also a Blackbird, Robin, Blue Tit and Dunnock. Several of the group had not seen ringing in action and were impressed by how small the birds are when seen at such close quarters. Thanks to Val Bentley for taking the time to show members this activity.

Also seen from here were Peregrines, Sparrowhawks, Kestrels and Stonechats. On the main walk round the Ring, going east from the car park and then out to the Rifle Butts, over the top and down the steps on the western side, a further 16 species were added including Jay, Goldfinch, Wren, Greenfinch, Stock Dove, Chiffchaff, Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker, Chaffinch, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, and Common Buzzard with Redwing flying over. A few butterflies were still about including three Small Coppers and a single Common Blue, Meadow Brown and Red Admiral.

Westfields

Thirteen members joined Paul Stevens on November 11th for the outing to Westfields in cool and windy conditions. The Ferry Pool only produced Shelducks, Teal and a few Brent Geese. On the road to Westfields a Snipe was flushed and in the fields a large flock of Lapwing and about 120 Golden Plover were roosting. The Sewage Works yielded a solitary Grey Wagtail with plenty of Pied, the odd Stonechat and many Meadow Pipits.

Wind and some rain meant only Skylark and Common Buzzard were added to the list on the walk to the sea where the only bird identified over lunch was a Gannet. The weather improved on the return trip and a scan of the flocks of gulls produced several Mediterranean Gulls. The large numbers of Golden Plovers were seen well and both Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers were recorded along the way. Finally a smallish raptor, picked up in flight and then sitting on a fence, turned out to be a Merlin providing a good finish to the day.

Greatham Bridge, Rackham, North Stoke

After meeting at Greatham Bridge on November 25th Bernie Forbes relocated the 14 members to Rackham where two hours were spent in the woodland. Two Grey Wagtails were seen from the car park and small parties of tits were moving through the trees with one Chaffinch and at least six Siskins at the top of the alders. Also spotted were Marsh and Coal Tits with two Great Spotted Woodpeckers. A Treecreeper and a Nuthatch was



calling, contrasting with the harsh call of a Jay as it flew through the trees. Looking out flooded the hundreds of Wigeon and Teal could be seen along with lesser numbers of **Pintails** Shovelers. **Thirty** Golden Plovers passed overhead. Large numbers of Lapwings were amongst the ducks and two Black-tailed Godwits were picked up when the flock was disturbed, as were Greylag and Canada Geese.

The next stop was on the Downs above North Stoke, viewing a ringtail Hen Harrier on the way and a couple of Corn Bunting as they flew over, while a Barn Owl was hunting along the track. Lunch was taken near The Burgh with several sightings of the ringtail Hen Harrier, good numbers of Skylarks, a couple of Stonechats, Wood Pigeons with a few Stock Doves. Many Common Buzzards were in the thermals and a Sparrowhawk flashed by.

Finally back to Greatham for a late walk along the riverbank with plenty of Fieldfares overhead and a few Redwings while Stonechats and Reed Buntings were sitting up on the small bushes. Several Water Rails were heard squealing and a blast from a Cetti's Warbler rang out. Whilst watching a Jay in the hedgerow attention was diverted to a close Shorteared Owl which took off with prey pursued by two Carrion Crows. Eventually the owl decided to swallow the prey before dropping into the grass to digest its meal. A memorable finish to an excellent outing.

West Dean

It is very unusual to have to cancel an outing but the persistent heavy rain forced Paul Stevens to abandon the visit to West Dean on December 2nd.

Seasonal Gathering - Forthaven and Widewater

Twenty-five members met for the seasonal gathering at Forthaven on December 29th. Gloriously sunny weather with a strong west wind and a convivial atmosphere was unfortunately not matched by the quality of the birding. No sign of the Glaucous Gull (though seen later in the day), just a few Turnstones and Oystercatchers on Kingston Beach, a Kingfisher flashed by. At the harbour arm no Purple Sandpipers could be found amongst the Turnstones, two each of Greenfinches and Rock Pipits were meagre fare.

Moving to Widewater at least produced a few Little Grebes, three Red-breasted Mergansers, a single Redshank and a glimpse of the Water Rail. Two Stonechats and several House Sparrows boosted the numbers, with two Teal. A small party of Ringed Plovers was all the beach had to offer. From the car park a Kingfisher was seen and then heard calling. During the outing two foxes were seen blatantly sun-bathing, ignoring the people nearby! Thanks to the Council members who gave their time for this last outing of the year.

Chris Wright

WEATHER NOTES AND BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS 2007

January started rather windy and wet but not particularly cold. There were storm force winds on the 18th and then a change to colder weather with a heavy snowfall on the 24th and some brighter days to finish the month. The only Bewick's Swans in our area were a regular herd on the Henfield Levels with up to 23 present. This was also the main area for Fieldfares with 250 spread over the Levels. The Great Northern Diver from 2006 stayed on at Southwick Canal to the 27th and the only Red-necked Grebe of the winter was there on the 20th. An Iceland Gull passed Ferring on the 5th.

February began with misty days and was a wet month generally but often sunny from mid month. Two Slavonian Grebes were off Goring from the 4th to the 7th. One of the few rare birds of the year was a Yellow-browed Warbler found in a Southwick garden on the 25th that remained until April.

March had SE winds on the 4^{th} and some spring-like days from the 6^{th} . It was windy on the 17^{th} for a day or two but then returned to warmer weather. A high count of 282 Pintail was on Henfield Levels on the 2^{nd} . An Iceland Gull was found on the Adur on the 11^{th} and stayed to the 28^{th} .

April was one of the best months of the year with long periods of sunny weather - most untypical. Moderate SE winds on the 20^{th} . Four Egyptian Geese landed on Goring beach on the 4^{th} to the surprise of the observers. Twenty-two Eider on the 15^{th} off Worthing were welcome. There was a good passage of Bar-tailed Godwits continuing into May. South-east winds over the 20^{th} to the 22^{nd} brought Pomarine and Arctic Skuas with 269 Little Gulls.

May by contrast was wetter than average and unsettled. A pair of Black-necked Grebes were off Goring on 5th. A Ruddy Duck appeared on Brooklands from 13th staying until July. Also on this day a Kentish Plover showed briefly on the Adur. An adult Long-tailed Skua passed Ferring on 23rd but was only seen by one observer (not this one!).

June was again a wet month and disappointing. We fared rather better though than the flood-affected areas of the West Country.

July provided us with some decent days but notched up another high rainfall with twice the average. Quail put in an appearance on Steep Down and later Steyning Round Hill. Our scarcer breeding birds had a good year with three pairs of Little Egrets which possibly may have bred. Five pairs of Peregrines raised 12 young, ten pairs of Barn Owls produced 30 young and the Ravens reared five young.

August A week of sunny weather followed by low pressure with some rain then back to fine again till the 14^{th} after which cloudy and cool and more rain. Pied Flycatchers were found at five sites from the 16^{th} and the first of five autumn Ospreys was noted from the 22^{nd} at Shoreham.

September was mixed but had a sunny and dry spell till mid month.

October was often bright and cool after a misty start. Over 1000 Gannets passed Worthing on the $28^{\rm th}$. The expected large movements of Woodpigeons began on the $18^{\rm th}$ with the biggest numbers in the first week of November. One or two Ring Ouzels were at Cissbury and elsewhere in the second half of the month.

Work on the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Atlas of wintering birds began in **November.** The month started with light winds mainly from the W or NW. Around the 10th they had strengthened and over the next few days provided an influx of seabirds from the North Sea where conditions had been far more severe. Fifteen Pomarine and 21 Arctic Skuas flew W on the 11th as well as hundreds of Gannets and Kittiwakes and several Little Auks. Two Sooty Shearwaters were seen off Goring mid month. Well watched Long-tailed Ducks on Brooklands and Hove Lagoon from the 18th through December provided a year tick for many observers as did a Snow Bunting at Ferring for a couple of days from the 20th.

December was another mixture of windy days interspersed with a few fine ones in mid month and cool easterlies later. The month finished with a calm spell. A Short-eared Owl was on Beeding Brooks and an immature Glaucous Gull joined a very approachable Little Auk on Southwick Canal in mid month.

A total of 197 species was recorded in the SDOS area in 2007.

Clive Hope

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2007

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). This includes records obtained from the BTO's Birdtrack and Atlas survey (which began in November 2007) as well as the long running WeBs counts.

In a few cases, where records are rather unusual in date or occurrence and the observer(s) are unnamed or unknown they have been omitted from the published report. Note that, especially with regard to seawatch data, complete figures for the Marina were again not received. Records with the observer's initials in parenthesis have been accepted by the SOS Records committee.

References to Worthing in seawatch 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 Moulsecoomb Wild Park. BTO census and survey data for Stanmer Park and Tegdown Hill 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 as at 12/07 are marked with an asterisk: M Aeberhard*, SR Allen, S Ash*, G Atkinson*, J Baker*, E Barber, C Barfield*, S Bayley*, N Bayly*, T Beecher*, VP Bentley, A Benton*, N Biddulph, R Borwick*, RC Bradbury, P Brayshaw*, C Brooks*, R Browne*, S Carter*, GL Champion*, C Chapman*, J Chattaway*, BR Clay, PJ Clay, P Cole*, K Cooper*, J Cowser*, H Crabtree*, N Crabtree*, J Crix, J Day*, B Easlea, R Edney*, D Elliott*, N Ellis*, G Evans*, RJ Fairbank*, JA Feest, BF Forbes, T Forbes*, J Ford, CJ Fox*, T Freed*, W Fuller*, A Gardiner*, A Giacomelli*, T Gibson-Poole*, J Glover*, J Gowers*, D Green, P Green, C Greenfield*, A Guest*, S Haffenden*, D Harper, R Hartfree*, J Hawtree*, R Hitchen*, J Hobson*, J Holt*, CA Holt*, CE Hope, A House*, D Howey*, D Hughes*, R Hughes*, R Ingram*, R Iredale*, RA Ives*, R Jackson*, P James, BD James*, S Johnson*, D Jones*, J Julyarski*, J Kelsall*, G Kennett*, J King*, AR Kitson, R Knight*, D Lang*, A Macey*, JM Maskell, SP Maskell, D Mason, P Mears*, B Metcalfe, D Mutters*, JA Newnham, K Noble, G Osborne*, E Outhwaite*, A Parfitt*, P Paul*, R Pawley, C Pennells*, M Pierce*, D Plummer*, A Podmore*, C Poole*, M Prince*, N Ratclife*, B Reeve, G Roberts*, M Roberts*, J

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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, **km** kilometres, **LNR** local nature reserve, **m** male, **Marina** Brighton Marina, **mo** many observers, **N** North, **ob** on beach, **os** offshore, **Pier** Brighton (Palace) Pier, **pr** pair, **S** South, **Sanctuary** Shoreham Sanctuary, **SOS** Sussex Ornithological Society, **s/p** summer plumage, **W** West, **w/p** winter plumage, **yr** year, **WeBs** Wetland Bird Surveys

entries marked ** and printed in italics are still awaiting SOS Records Committee ratification at time of publication

MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor Fairly common resident

Monthly peak counts from selected sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Henfield	71	69	56	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	76	31
Levels												
Steyning	15	13	24	-	4	6	8	-	9	15	10	17
Levels												
Lower	5	4	13	-	26	47	21	22	14	5	2	10
Adur												
Shoreham	7	7	- 11	3	18	53	5	-	6	4	12	7
Adur												
Widewater	20	17	15	3	14	12	12	6	12	14	16	16
Brooklands	3	3	3	2	2	6	0	2	3	3	3	3
Hove	35	20	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	37	34
Lagoon												

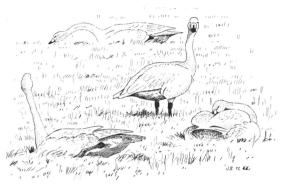
Mute Swan contd.

It should be noted that some duplication in the peak counts table is inevitable owing to birds moving between adjacent sites. A total of 87 were counted on Jan Ist in the Adur valley north of Bramber but only three south from Bramber to the A259 at Shoreham. Twelve flew W and three E past Worthing beach on seawatches during the year. Three breeding pairs produced 15 young, of which all but one apparently survived.

BEWICK'S SWAN Cygnus columbianus

Scarce but regular visitor in varying numbers

A herd of 23 was present on Henfield Levels from Jan 1st to 6th that included nine juveniles. This decreased to 14 from 7th to 24th with just ten on Feb 17th, the last date they were recorded.



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GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

Introduced resident increasing in area

Up to 100 were on Henfield Levels/Beeding Brooks in Feb with 32 in Mar. Three were at Bramber on Apr 28th, one at Wiston on May 1st and four at Upper Beeding in June and July. One hundred and seven were counted at Henfield Levels in Oct, 168 in Nov and 135 in Dec.

CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis

Introduced resident

Twenty-six at Beeding Fish Farm on Jan 15th were the largest assembly until 112 were counted on Henfield Levels on Nov 11th. This had fallen to 32 in Dec. No breeding records were received. Between one and eight birds were noted at about a dozen scattered sites including eight E at Worthing beach on June 22nd.

BARNACLE GOOSE Branta leucopsis

Very scarce winter visitor and uncommon feral resident

A single bird was present at Henfield Levels in Nov and Dec.

DARK-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE Branta bernicla bernicla

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
East	8	718	481	698	44	-	-	-	3	10	22	- 11
West	45	23	5	46	-	-	-	-	38	480	536	32

Maximum numbers in spring there were 205 on Feb 17th, 266 on Mar 11th, 223 on Apr 20th with the last four on May 6th. Twenty flew east at the Marina in Mar and 126 in Apr. In the autumn the first arrivals at Worthing were 35 west on Sep 27th followed by peaks of 213 on Oct 13th and 159 on Nov 4th. One hundred and nine passed the Marina on Oct 13th and 11 on Nov 14th. Single birds were noted at Shoreham (Fort, Adur and Airport) and at Goring Gap on winter wheat.

PALE-BELLIED BRENT GOOSE Branta bernicla hrota

Rare passage migrant and visitor

One was seen off Worthing beach on Dec 5th. (RAI)

EGYPTIAN GOOSE Alopochen aegyptiaca

Very scarce visitor from introduced populations elsewhere in Britain

One remained at Brooklands throughout the year. On Apr 4th, four were seen flying east far out off Ferring/Goring at 0859 but returned to land on the beach at 0910. They consisted of three adults and a very pale first year bird. They were seen again on Worthing beach on 8th. (DIS, RAI et al)

COMMON SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor - may breed

Monthly day maxima were as follows:

J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
9	4	2	10	7	4	П	10	8	4	26	4

No confirmed breeding records were received although there were five pairs on Henfield Levels on Apr 1st. The Nov figure in the table includes 25 that flew west at Worthing on 10th. Records came from several Adur valley sites with just a single at Brooklands also on Nov 10th.

MANDARIN DUCK Aix galericulata

Scarce introduced resident

The nest of one of these birds was found in an owl box in Wiston and contained five infertile eggs.

EURASIAN WIGEON Anas penelope

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	-	-	-	3	ı	-	-	I	9
West	9	-	-	-	41	67	41	32	63

Peak days were Aug 22nd with 25, Sep 27th with 50, Oct 13th with 21 and Nov 5th with 23. Up to four were on the Adur at Shoreham in Jan and Feb and three at Henfield Levels with one at Widewater. One on Brooklands on Sep 18th was very unusual for the site but two were there in Dec. Late in the year 23 were at Henfield Levels on Dec 9th with one on Hove Lagoon on 16th and five seen near Mill Hill on 26th.

GADWALL Anas strepera

Uncommon in the area

Henfield Levels held two pairs on Feb $13^{th}/14^{th}$, 14 on Mar 2^{nd} and three pairs on Apr 1^{st} . Two flew E at Worthing on Mar 16^{th} . Two were at Steyning Levels on Apr 24^{th} and five on the upper Adur Levels on Jun 4^{th} . The last for the year was one flying W at Worthing on Nov 11^{th} .

EURASIAN TEAL Anas crecca

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

The following sites recorded maxima as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	1	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	10	-	-		4	ı	-
Widewater	-	-	-		-	3	3
Lower Adur	57	30	- 1		5	10	3
Shoreham	91		-		•	31	33

Seawatches at Worthing logged just eight in Jan, three in Mar, 16 E and 42 W in Aug (max. 27 W on 22nd), 39 W in Sep (max. 30 W on 27th), three E and six W in Oct, two E and five W in Nov and two E and one W in Dec

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos

Common resident and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	Α	Σ	J	J	A	s	0	N	D
Steyning Levels	22	14	23	-	1	1	-	1	2	2	-	6
Henfield Levels	5	16	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	32
Lower Adur	33	8	4	4	12	3	3	2	2	4	26	3
Brooklands	45	32	23	20	24	28	64	51	40	8	45	40
Widewater	28	12	19	3	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	6

Breeding occurred at Sandgate Park, Storrington (one young on Apr 4th), Ladywells (eight young), Ferring Rife and Patching Pond (two pairs with eight young). From one to ten birds were noted at numerous other sites across the area apart from 56 at Sussex University on Nov 12th.

PINTAIL Anas acuta

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Floodwater on Henfield Levels attracted 47 on Jan 4th increasing to 282 by Mar 2nd, a very good count for our area. By contrast there were a maximum of ten there in Dec. A total of 34 flew E and 11 W at Worthing over the year with a maximum of 12 on Nov 6th.

GARGANEY Anas guerquedula

Scarce spring passage migrant

The only records were of one E at the Marina on Apr 4^{th} and a pair flying E at Worthing on 22^{nd}

SHOVELER Anas clypeata

Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor

At Henfield Levels there were up to six until Mar 2^{nd} , then 15 on 11^{th} and eight in Nov. Elsewhere only reported from Worthing with just five E in spring, four in Aug and eight in Dec (max. of six on 3^{rd}).

COMMON POCHARD Aythya ferina

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

Only recorded from Brooklands with monthly maxima as follows:

I	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
	8	27	ı	-		•			•	2	2	8

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula

Declining winter visitor

Irregularly recorded from Brooklands where the monthly maxima were:

J	F	Σ	A	Σ	J	J	A	s	0	Z	D
I	-	-	-	3	-	3	-	-	5	3	2

Six on Henfield Levels on Feb 18^{th} , a single at Sandgate Park, Storrington, seven on the Wiston Estate in June and two W at Worthing on Nov 8^{th} were the remaining records.

COMMON EIDER Somateria molissima

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Reported from Worthing beach as follows:

J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
-	- 11	-	24	16			-	2		5	3

A flock of 22 on the sea on Apr 15th later flew off E (and were noted off Dungeness). The May peak was of eight E on 6th and a male was offshore at Widewater on 17th. A single bird was in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 29th.

LONG-TAILED DUCK Clangula hyemalis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

A well-watched female appeared initially at Widewater, then moved on to Brooklands from Nov $18^{\rm th}$ to $27^{\rm th}$ and again on Dec $7^{\rm th}$. What many believe to be a different bird was at Hove Lagoon from Dec $3^{\rm rd}$ into 2008. Two flew W at Worthing on Nov $19^{\rm th}$ and three E on $20^{\rm th}$ followed by two E on Dec $16^{\rm th}$ and one W on $18^{\rm th}$.

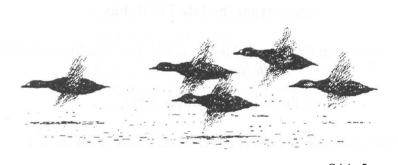
COMMON SCOTER Melanitta nigra

Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

Monthly seawatching totals from Worthing Beach were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
East	14	6	17	576	375	91	78	28	13	23	56	П
West	3	6	-	3	40	-	18	19	33	7	90	7

The peak was of 111 on Apr 21st. At the Marina, 96 were logged in Apr on three dates. Three were on the sea at Widewater on Feb 13th and four likewise at Hove on Jun 3rd.



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VELVET SCOTER Melanitta fusca

Scarce passage migrant

Singles flew E on Feb 2^{nd} , Apr 17^{th} and 20^{th} off Worthing with four E there on Nov 26^{th} , two W on Dec 7^{th} and four offshore on 27^{th} .

COMMON GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula

Uncommon winter visitor

Two females flew W at Worthing on Nov 27^{th} and two males were on the sea off Ferring later that day.

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER Mergus serrator

Common winter visitor

Maximum counts per month on the sea between Worthing and Ferring were:

I	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
ĺ	108	136	125	16	I	0	0	0	0	12	63	234

Widewater held up to seven in Mar, five in May, two or three in Nov and nine in Dec though different birds were involved at other dates in this month. One was on the Adur at Shoreham on May 7th. Passage off Worthing was also noted with 17 flying E in Apr and 135 W in Nov and 31 W in Dec.

GOOSANDER Mergus merganser

Scarce winter visitor

Singles were reported on the sea at Goring Gap on Apr 9^{th} (SOS) and flying W there on Nov 25^{th} (RAI).

RUDDY DUCK Oxyura jamaicensis

Scarce visitor

A male was on Brooklands intermittently from May 13th to Jul 3rd.

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE Alectoris rufa

Introduced resident. Status uncertain but numbers augmented by captive bred stock.

Recorded from 15 sites with double figure counts from Kithurst Hill, Storrington (12), Stanmer Park (16), Washington (26) and Chantry Hill, Storrington (22) and Thundersbarrow Hill (15). There were three pairs in the Tegdown Hill area on Apr 28th. Otherwise just one to three at the remaining downland and Adur valley locations.

GREY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

Decreasing resident.

A welcome increase with records obtained from 21 sites. Coveys of eight at Truleigh Hill in Jan, six at Findon Park Farm in Mar, three pairs at Beeding Hill in May, 20 at Clayton windmills and 18 at Clayton Whitelands in Sep, 16 at Steyning Round Hill and 20 at Washington Oct, 11 at Steep Down in Nov and 34 at Steyning Round Hill, ten at Cissbury and 24 at Washington in Dec. Elsewhere one to five at Upper Beeding, Applesham Farm, Lychpole Hill, Lancing College, Stump Bottom and Patcham.

COMMON QUAIL Coturnix coturnix

Rare summer visitor.

One was at Steep Down from Jun 7^{th} to 10^{th} and again from Jul 31^{st} to Aug 11^{th} when two were present. Three were singing at Steyning Round Hill on Jul 28^{th} with two still there on Aug 13^{th} . One was in a field north of Mill Hill, Shoreham on Jul 10^{th} .

COMMON PHEASANT Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident. numbers augmented by captive bred stock.

Numerous reports were received from sites all across the area including members' gardens. The only large concentrations reported were 52 at Stump Bottom on Jan 27th, 12 at Badger's Wood, Poynings on Mar 5th, 16 on Worthing Golf Course on Apr 23rd, 12 at Washington on Sep 18th and 17 there on Dec 1st, 30 at Ladywells on Nov 11th and 20 there on Dec 15th and 45 at Findon North Farm on Dec 12th. Eclipsing all of these were 68 at Clapham Woods on Dec 21st.

RED-THROATED DIVER Gavia stellata

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly totals from Worthing seawatches were as follows:

	J	F	Σ	A	M	J	J	A	s	0	Z	D
East	3	14	15	3	2	-	•	•	2		42	70
West	14	ı	2		-	-	-		ı	ı	43	28

Birds were seen on the sea in Jan, May, Nov and in Dec when a maximum of 13 occurred on the 22^{nd} . This coincided with the year's largest movement of 29 flying E.

BLACK-THROATED DIVER Gavia arctical

Fairly scarce passage migrant, rare in winter

Monthly reported totals from Worthing were:

	J	F	M	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
East	-	ı	-	2	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	I	ı
West	I	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-

Single birds were noted on the sea on three dates in Apr and again in Nov with a group of six off Ferring briefly on 27^{th} . Two were off Worthing on Dec 26^{th} .

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER Gavia immer

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

The juvenile from 2006 was again on Southwick Canal from Jan 18th to 27th and two were there on Mar 22nd (SRA). One off Ferring on Mar 23rd drifted E but was present next day (CEH, DIS). It or another was there on Apr 9th. One flew W off Ferring with a Redthroated Diver on Nov 28th (CEH).

DIVER Species

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
East	-	9	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6
West	9	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	9

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

Winter visitor and occasional breeder

Records were received from the following regular sites (monthly maxima shown):

	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Lower Adur	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	3
Adur A259-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4
A27												
Brooklands	6	7	5	5	5	3	5	5	5	12	16	18
Widewater	8	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	9
Wiston Pond	-	-	-	-	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-

One built a nest at Lancing College but failed. Breeding was successful at Brooklands where two or three pairs raised a total of between two and five young. Other records were from Ferring Rife in Sep, Stretham Manor and Wyckham Farm in Nov and Southwick Canal in Dec.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podicebs cristatus

Common, mainly winter, visitor to the coast

Maximum numbers recorded offshore between Worthing and Ferring were:

								0		_	0
J	F	Σ	A	Σ	_	_	Α	s	0	Z	D
51	30	22	10	12	2	ı	1	-	8	48	309

Two were off Brighton on Jan 28th and four were there on Feb 6th with singles on three dates at the Marina in Apr and one in Dec when four were off Black Rock. An unusual record was one at Henfield Levels on Feb 17th. A pair was on Patching Pond on May 16th but no breeding took place.

RED-NECKED GREBE Podiceps grisegena

Scarce winter visitor

One reported from Southwick Canal on Jan 20^{th} . In Nov there was one off Goring beach on 13^{th} and one off Worthing on 27^{th} and one again off Goring on Dec 22^{nd} .

SLAVONIAN GREBE Podicebs auritus

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Eight were seen during the year with the first off Worthing on Jan 4^{th} . Two were off Goring beach from Feb 4^{th} to 7^{th} with another on 8^{th} . One was off the Marina on Apr 5^{th} . In the autumn singles were off Brighton on Nov 19^{th} and Worthing on 24^{th} to 26^{th} with another from Dec 22^{nd} to 26^{th} .

BLACK-NECKED GREBE Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant

One close in off Goring beach on Feb 8^{th} and two in s/p off Ferring on May 5^{th} that drifted east.

FULMAR Fulmaris glacialis

Common passage migrant nesting just outside the area

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	-	12	-	35	41	9	I	-	-	-	-	-
West	-	7	3	27	52	20	3	Ш	-	-	-	

Forty-eight were logged at the Marina on three dates in Apr, with a max. of 40 on 30th.

SOOTY SHEARWATER Puffinus griseus

Scarce passage migrant

**Singles flew W off Worthing on Oct 28th and E off Goring beach on Nov 13th and 15th (all DIS).

MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus buffinus

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor

At Worthing beach, five flew E and two W on Apr 30th when three were also seen from the Marina. In May, 13 E and two W noted on four dates at Worthing, max. seven on 2nd. Singles W there on Aug 14th and Sep 21st were the only other records.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER Puffinus mauretanicus

Rare summer visitor

One flew E off Worthing on May 29th (DIS, RAI). **Two flew W there on Aug 18th (DIS).

GANNET Morus bassanus

Present offshore all year

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	Σ	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	7	19	7	72	242	78	179	95	70	102	28	109
West	15	22	7	106	153	115	211	541	475	1519	1778	1070

The largest day movements in the first half year did not exceed 54 but there were 98 on Jul 17th, 266 on Aug 18th, 200 on Sep 21st, 1026 on Oct 28th and in Nov, 652 on 10th of which 500 were offshore, 372 W next day, 589 W on 17th, 201 W on 19th in an hour, and in Dec, 320 W on 24th and 442 W on 25th. Also noted from the Marina, off Hove Lagoon, Widewater and Shoreham Fort.

GREAT CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Common at coastal and some inland roost sites

The Steyning Levels roost contained 28 birds on Jan Ist with the birds next to floodwater under the pylons at midday. Not until Jul was this figure exceeded, 64 being there on 31st. This increased to 79 by Aug 29th then tailed off to 23 on Dec I Ith. Associated with these were 35 flying S soon after dawn at Ladywells on 22nd. Numbers off Worthing were unexceptional until Dec 26th when 267 were counted from Heatherstone Road, East Worthing. These remained next day in three large tight groups close inshore. Small numbers were reported all over the area with several seen flying over the Downs.

SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant

As usual the only site reporting more than one bird was the Marina with three on Jan 13th and four on Feb 3rd. Away from there, singles at Southwick on Jan 1st, 14th and Feb 10th, Worthing on Jan 26th and Widewater on Mar 19th, one at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 19th, Southwick on Dec 14th and East Worthing on 27th comprised the remaining records.

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	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Ferring Rife	I	-	8	I	I	2	I	3	6	-	I	-
Goring beach	1	_	1	1	1	-	1	7	13	3	1	1
Worthing			ı	1	4E		3	2	1		2	-
Widewater	2	4	3	4	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	
Henfield Levels	2	2	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	I	4
Lower Adur		I	2	I	-	I	7	I	4	6	2	2
Shoreham Adur	3		2	I	I	2	I	17	31	2	4	2
Lancing Old Salts Farm	2	1		4		Ī		1				-

One over Wild Park on May 26th was the first record for the site. Three pairs may have bred in the SDOS area. The Aug count for Shoreham includes 13 roosting together at high water near the Airport. The large number logged in Sep were roosting by Lancing College on 9th and seen to arrive between 1940 and 2000. Eleven were counted between the Marina and the edge of the area on Nov 1st.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea

Fairly common resident

A reduction from last year with only 14 or 15 occupied nests in Wyckham Wood nr Henfield. Ten flew N at Worthing Beach on Aug 2^{nd} and there were eleven at Brooklands on Dec 26^{th} . Up to five were in the Lower Adur Valley in the latter part of the year. Otherwise one or two reported from about twenty sites across the area.

RED KITE Milvus milvus

Increasing but scarce visitor

The first birds of the year were over Steyning on Feb 2nd and 4th. These were followed by one at Lower Standean on 26th. One was viewed from a garden in Upper Beeding on Mar 9th and others from Steyning on 14th, 20th and 26th. Next was one over Patching Pond flying W on Apr 9th with another over Steyning Round Hill the same day.

One circled over Benfield Valley, Hangleton on 15th and next day two were over Cissbury Ring with further singles on 17th at Lancing, 18th at Steyning, 27th at Goring and 30th at King's Barn. Five records were received for May; from Findon Long Furlong on 1st, Wolstonbury Hill, Pyecombe on 3rd, Ditchling Beacon on 6th, Cissbury Ring on 23rd and Wild Park on 24th. One drifted E over Upper Beeding on Jun 10th. Late year reports were from Cissbury again on Aug 28th, Washington Newham Copse on Sep 21st and finally from Sussex University on Nov 21st where a bird was mobbed by Rooks.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

Scarce passage migrant

An improvement on 2006 with seven records. The first two sightings were on seawatches at Ferring on Apr 28th and May 11th. Two reports came from Lancing on Aug 7th and a further two from Cissbury on 10th. Finally a bird was seen at Beeding Brooks on 29th.

HEN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

Passage migrant and winter visitor:

The first records for the year came from Patching Harrow Hill on Feb 6th and Mar 6th with another at Kithurst Hill on 21st. One was over Goring on Apr 7th. In the autumn one was at Kithurst Hill on Oct 27th, another at Steep Down on Nov 28th while in Dec birds were seen at Steyning Round Hill on 10th and 13th, Cissbury on 12th, Findon Park Brow on 16th and finally over Steyning Brooks on 29th.

SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

Fairly common resident

Regularly reported throughout the year all across the area. Birds bred at West Worthing, Coombes, Storrington, Sussex University, Wild Park (two pairs), and Clapham Myrtlegrove Farm. A garden visitor to several members' gardens.

COMMON BUZZARD Buteo buteo

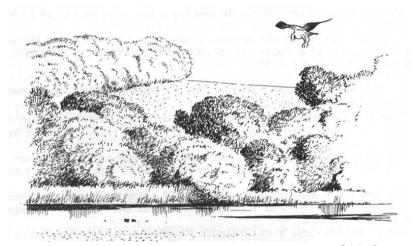
Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Good numbers seen all year long. Five were over Steyning Bowl on Jan 15th with seven seen from Cissbury Ring and Truleigh Hill on Mar 26th, some possibly on migration. Six were soaring at Wild park on Apr 7th and five were over Patchng Pond on 9th with six at nearby Michelgrove on 18th. In May five each were over Steyning Round Hill on 15th and Harrow Hill on 20th. Breeding was probable at Washington Bostal (two pairs), Poynings Badger's Wood Farm, Kithurst Hill, Fulking, New Erringham Farm, Michelgrove and confirmed at Clapham Myrtlegrove Farm. Seven birds were at nearby Blackpatch Hill on Aug 24th and five over Cissbury on 31st. In Sep, 11 were over Sompting Downs on 5th and ten over Truleigh Hill on 18th. Eight were over Chanctonbury Ring on Oct 19th, nine at Kithurst Hill on Nov 23rd and five at Michelgrove on Dec 28th.

OSPREY Pandion haliaetus

Scarce passage migrant

The only spring sighting was from Worthing Pier where a bird was moving north on May 5th. In the autumn there were five reports on Aug 22nd of a bird moving between Shoreham and Ferring. Another was at Shoreham on 25th with another at Goring Beach on 30th. At the Marina, birds were reported on Sep 3rd and 25th with another at Goring Gap on 30th. The final bird of the year was over Mill Hill on Oct 4th.



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COMMON KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Fairly common resident

Reported throughout the recording area. Pairs bred at Wild Park (two), Steyning Downs, near the Cement Works, Applesham Coombes, Woods Mill, Edburton and Cissbury Ring (two). Also probably bred at Sussex University, Tegdown Hill and Newtimber Hill. The largest autumn groups were six at Steep Down on Jul 22nd, five at Newtimber Hill on 24th and five at Stretham Manor on Nov 23rd.

MERLIN Falco columbarius

Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter

A bird was at Shoreham Airport on Jan 27th while one arrived from the south during a seawatch at Ferring on May 6th. One at Shoreham Airport on 14th (a late date) may have been this bird. In the autumn, a female was by the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 13th and on 19th one killed a Collared Dove at High Salvington in mid-air. A male was at New Erringham Farm on 26th while another was at Cissbury on Oct 5th. One was chasing a Skylark at Brighton Cemetery on 24th and another seen off Worthing beach on Nov 22nd. One was at Steyning Round Hill on Dec 13th with the bird exhibiting an unusual undulating hunting pattern. The final sighting was from Devil's Dyke on 28th.

HOBBY Falco subbuteo

Regular passage migrant and summer visitor - has bred

The first bird of the year was over Goring Beach on Apr 27th. Next day one was at Ladies Mile Reserve and another flew N at Worthing beach. Sightings for the year by month were:

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
4	13	3	3	2	6

The last for the year was over Mill Hill on Sep 29th.

PEREGRINE Falco beregrinus

Scarce breeding resident

A continuing success story with five pairs breeding in the SDOS area and 12 young fledged. The first report was from Henfield Levels on Jan 21st. Other records received were of singles at Cissbury on Mar 26th, Worthing beach on Apr 14th and Wild Park on 17th. Two birds were feeding on a kill at Steyning Round Hill on Apr 21st and a single flew N at West Worthing on Jun 3rd. Two were at Steep Down on Jul 16th, one was at Sompting on Aug 23rd, another at Worthing beach on 26th and one E at Broadwater on Sep 12th. East of Steep Down three were on fence posts on Oct 14th, one was feeding on a kill at Stump Bottom on 19th and perhaps the same at Cissbury next day. In Dec one at Chanctonbury Ring on 1st, one at Beeding Brooks on 13th and one at Cissbury on 16th.

WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus

Regular winter visitor; may breed.

The pattern for this species remains remarkably constant with again just four sites producing records. The regular Widewater bird was present from Jan 1^{st} to Feb 20^{th} and then from Oct 28^{th} to Dec 22^{nd} . One was by Shoreham Airport on Jan 2^{nd} and 21^{st} .

Ferring Rife held two on Feb 1^{st} with one seen on 4^{th} . In Mar one was at Cuckoo Corner on 13^{th} and 30^{th} . In Dec one was at Ferring Rife on 26^{th} and one was in the Lower Adur Valley on 28^{th} .

MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

Common resident and winter visitor

The maximum counts from Brooklands were as follows:

J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
37	23	16	9	7	3	6	3	18	19	32	40

At Ladywells, six from Mar 24th to Jun 23rd then singles to Nov when four on 3rd increasing to six on 24th and then till the year end. Breeding occurred there, at Stanmer Pond (four young seen), and at Upper Beeding where five juveniles present in Oct. Certainly breeds at many other sites although no specific data received.

COOT Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts from Brooklands were as follows:

ĺ	J	F	M	Α	Σ	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
ſ	116	54	92	36	32	44	64	71	81	98	105	106

Many of these will have been birds bred at the site. Elsewhere a pair raised one young at Patching Pond. Other records were of 14 at Rye Farm, Henfield Levels in Mar and from one to four in the Lower Adur Valley, Wiston Estate, Upper Beeding Fish Farm and Lancing Old Salts Farm. One heard calling in flight at night over Lychpole Hill on Mar 7th.

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	Σ	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Worthing	13*	-	-	16E	6E	7E	3	12E	•	15	14	6W
				4W	27W	IW	16W	5W			3E	
Adur	6	4	4	2	- 1	ı	5	5	5	6	5	5
Goring	20	50	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	3

^{*} counted along seven km of beach on 13th; also 19 in a further six km to Ferring on same date. Thirty-nine were on rocks near the Marina on Jan 13th, four on Apr 14th and six on May 13th. One or two there in Nov/Dec. One pair bred at Shoreham raising three young.

AVOCET Recurvirostra avosetta

Uncommon passage migrant

One was on the Adur by Shoreham Airport on Mar 2nd and 3rd and it or another was there on 26th. Three flew E at Worthing on Apr 21st, one E on May 1st and two W on 15th. In Nov one passed W there on 4th and landed on the beach at Ferring where it remained for at least an hour.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

Scarce breeding summer visitor and passage migrant

One was in Sandgate Park, Sullington on Apr 6^{th} but flew off W. One flew E at Ferring beach on 16^{th} .

RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

Monthly maxima from regular sites were:

	J	F	Σ	Α	Σ	J	J	A	s	0	z	D
Shoreham	-	-	П	2	3	П	4	50	95	45	68	20
Adur												
Shoreham	25	-	-	2	4	2	5	-	-	10	15	ı
Harbour/												
Beach												
Widewater	40	40	4	4	4	3	-	3	32	40	30	80
Worthing	3	14	-	4	3	3	24	35	40	25	20	10

Goring	10	3	-	•	•	-	-	60	•	20	•	I
Marina	56	-	8	2	2			55	-	38	45	-

A pair raised one young at Shoreham Harbour and another did likewise at Widewater. Forty-five were on Ferring beach on Sep 4th. Eighty were on the beach at Brooklands on Sep 9th and 100 were there on Dec 26th.

KENTISH PLOVER Charadrius alexandrinus

Very scarce passage migrant

**An adult was on the east bank of the Adur opposite the airport in the evening on May 13th but flew off with Ringed Plovers (CWM).

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Fairly common winter visitor

All records were: one on Goring beach on Jan 10^{th} with two there on 29^{th} . One W at Worthing on Feb 22^{nd} and six E there on Apr 21^{st} . Five N over Steyning Round Hill on Sep 11^{th} , ten E over High Salvington on 26^{th} and singles at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 8^{th} , Goring Gap on 15^{th} , on the Adur at Shoreham on 21^{st} with one at Cuckoo Corner on Nov 9^{th} (with Lapwings). In Dec one flew W at Worthing on 25^{th} and 30 W there on 30^{th} .

GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
Shoreham	22	24	30	-	ı	-	-	-	-	5	П	21
Adur												
Worthing	130	24	-	25E	20E	-	-	4W	6	35	17	120

The Jan figure (on 13th) from Worthing covered seven km of beach from defined grid references. A further 46 birds were counted in 6 km to the west as far as Ferring.

NORTHERN LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Common winter visitor and declining breeder

Peak counts at the following sites were:

t countries ac												
	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	Α	s	0	Z	D
Henfield	50	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Levels												
Lower	1030	554	-	-	-	-	-	50	64	282	157	100
Adur												
Shoreham	-	70	1	-	1000*	-	80	-	60	120	60	150
Adur												
Airport	1100	850	-	-	-	-	-	5	70	150	1200	2200
Steyning	23	3	10	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Levels	1	ĺ										ĺ

^{*} This figure was counted between the A27 and A259 on May 29th and is an unprecedented number for the time of year (SRA). Some duplication in the first three sites is possible

owing to the wider coverage given to the WeBs counts. Five on the beach at Goring Gap on Jan 25th were most unusual having arrived from the north. There were 20 at Horton Hall nr Small Dole on Mar 15th and four at Chantry Hill on 22nd. One or two pairs were present at Findon, No-Man's Land, Ladywells, Applesham Farm, Harrow Hill, Storrington Barn's Farm and Cissbury Ring with six pairs at Chantry Hill all in May and three pairs at Steyning Downs in Jun but no young were reported. One young was seen on Steyning Levels on Jun 5th and two with adults at Lower Standean on Jul 7th. There were 100 at Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak on Dec 12th, 30 at Upper Beeding on 15th and 120 at Washington Highden Hill on 27th.

RED KNOT Calidris canutus

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

Twenty on Goring beach on Feb 13th was the largest count of the year. One was on Widewater on Mar 17th and 18th then ten on Ferring beach on Apr 14th. Twelve flew E at Worthing in Apr and May. One or two were seen on the Adur in Aug, Sep and Oct. Six flew E and ten W at Worthing in Aug and one was at Goring on Oct 15th. Finally on Dec 15th eight were on the Adur between the Rail and Toll bridges.

SANDERLING Calidris alba

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly maxima at all sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Shoreham Beach	35	•	25	ı	-	-	ı	·	ı	•	·	-
Widewater	100	27	48	-	-	-	-	-	I	15	60	35
Worthing	300	10	70	54	63	17	30	30	20	110	72	35
Goring	20	-	13	65	30	-	-	30	-	-	-	-
Ferring	130	40	-	-	-	50	-	-	3	-	7	-

There were 35 on the beach at Brooklands on Sep 5th.

CURLEW SANDPIPER Calidris ferruginea

Scarce passage migrant

A juvenile on the Adur at Shoreham from Sep 22nd to 27th was the only record.

PURPLE SANDPIPER Calidris maritima

Local winter visitor in small numbers

Peak monthly numbers at Brighton Marina and Shoreham Harbour were:

	J	F	M	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	z	D
Marina	-	-	3	-	5	•	-	ı	-	3	6	4
Shoreham	3	2	3	-	-		-	-	-	ı	5	5

Extreme dates were May 13th and Aug 26th.

DUNLIN Calidris albina

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Maxima from regular sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Shoreham	296	600	3	I	9	2	10	13	28	40	100	30
Adur												
Widewater	50	40	1	2	22	Ι	-	-	6	-	-	130
Worthing	220	150	-	27	35	-	I	20	5	7	250	500
Goring	350	200	Ī	-	-	•	-	-	38	-	-	-

There were also 200 roosting on the beach at Brooklands on Nov 25th.

JACK SNIPE Lymnocryptes minimus

Scarce winter visitor

Two were on Henfield Levels on Jan 21^{st} , the only birds reported in the first winter period. In Dec, one was well watched at Widewater on 21^{st} and again on 23^{rd} . There was one at Ferring Rife on 22^{nd} and 24^{th} .

COMMON SNIPE Gallinago gallinago

Common but declining winter visitor

Maxima from the following sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	1	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur*	291	195	6		37	42	3
Henfield Levels	20	10	13		-	-	-
Ferring Rife	Ī	-	-		-	I	10

st This includes the Adur at Shoreham. One was at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 10^{th} and there was one at Ladywells on Dec 22^{nd} .

WOODCOCK Scolobax rusticola

Winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant, may breed

Two flew over Lychpole Hill on Mar 7th. One was found in Portslade on Apr 17th whilst conducting BBS transects. In Nov, one was flushed at Hollingbury Camp on 16th, one was near Mill Hill on 18th, two others were flushed at Shoreham Fort on 19th and one likewise at Ladywells on 20th. The last was at Cissbury on Dec 16th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Some passage off Worthing in Jul with seven, 17 and four all flying W between 4^{th} and 28^{th} . Seven flew E there on Aug 27^{th} . Five were over the saltings at Shoreham on Nov 25^{th} but flew off W. A single bird was on the Adur on Dec 7^{th} .

BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

After one on the Adur on Mar 22nd and 23rd, a good spring passage got under way in Apr with totals from Worthing of 3255 E and 8 W with a peak of 1470 on 28th. At the Marina,

156 were noted on 30th. In May a further 621 E and 31 W were logged at Worthing and two were by Shoreham Airport on 5th. One was on Widewater on Jun 10th. There was one in s/p at Goring on Aug 6th, two in Shoreham Harbour on 23rd and four W at Worthing on Sep 21st. Singles were on the Adur from Oct 5th to 25th and flying W at Shoreham on 13th when it or another appeared at Goring Gap. The last two flew E at Worthing on Nov 14th and 26th.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Common passage migrant

A better year saw the following totals logged at Worthing:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Е	261	248	-	6	- 1	-
W	9	10	2	27	5	26

Peak days were Apr 30th with 83, May 3rd with 153 and Sep 1st with 25. Birds flew over Sheepcote Valley (two on Apr 24th), and Hollingbury (one on 29th). Sixteen were seen passing the Marina on two dates. Singles were on the Lower Adur on Jul 23rd and from Aug 4th to 10th.

EURASIAN CURLEW Numenius arquata

Common passage migrant

The year began with one or two on the Adur from Jan Ist to Feb 18th ranging from the Saltings at Shoreham to Cuckoo Corner. Further single birds appeared in this locality sporadically from Apr 14th through to May 24th and again from Jun 10th in every month until Dec 9th with two or three there from Oct.

Movements at Worthing were as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Е	-	3	5	5	-	36	-	1	-	2	-	-
W	3	-	-	-	2	38	106	8	5	ı	4	-

The peak day was Jul 5th with 43 flying W.

COMMON REDSHANK Tringa totanus

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder

Monthly peak counts from regular sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower	91	96	5	- 1	30	40	66	110	30
Adur*									
Goring	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Widewater	3	I	2	-	-	-	2	4	3

^{*} includes Shoreham Adur for these figures. There were three pairs on Steyning Levels on Jun 5^{th} exhibiting agitated behaviour indicative of possible breeding. Two were in Ferring Rife on Dec 22^{nd} , an unusual occurrence.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

Regular passage migrant

A poor year with just two flying E at Worthing in spring (Apr 14th and May 3rd) and singles on the Adur at Shoreham on Oct 5th and, unusually, Dec 12th.

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochropus

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

A very poor showing with just one recorded at Westmeston Wick Farm on Jun 23rd and one on Henfield Levels in Nov.

COMMON SANDPIPER Actitis hypoleucos

Common passage migrant and local winter visitor

As in the past few years, birds were regularly to be found on the Adur in the vicinity of the defunct Cement Works. Thus from one to three were reported near there from Jan Ist to Mar 23rd and on Jun 8th. Three flew E at Worthing on Apr 28th, two were in the Wiston Estate on May Ist, one was at Brooklands on 8th, two at the Marina on I3th and one by Ferring Rife on Jun 2nd. In the second half-year, an exhausted bird was in Waterhall Car Park on Jul 12th, a roost by the Cement Works held 16 on Aug I3th, two were on Goring beach on 22nd, three were in Shoreham Harbour on 23rd with two nearby at the Fort on Sep I8th to 23rd. There were still eight near the Cement Works on Oct I4th with seven there on Nov 3rd and six on I5th.

TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	A	S	0	Z	D
Shoreham Adur	1	6	20	20	-	-	-	ı	31	5	84	73
Shoreham	105	16	25	-	-	-	-	ı	11	8	10	40
Harbour/Beach												
Widewater	29	9	6	I	I	-	-	-	-	15	17	2
Goring/Ferring	31	35	7	40	-	-	-	20	42	42	10	2
Worthing	20	24	4	15E	32E	9E	24	42	-	20	12	50
				38W	17W							
Marina	•	-	7	12	-	2	-	6	-	Ξ	2	•

None were recorded between Jun 9th and Jul 25th.



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POMARINE SKUA Stercorarius pomarinus

Regular spring passage migrant

No early-winter records were received this year. The first of the year was on Apr 20th when three flew east at both Ferring beach and Worthing beach - on a day that produced south-east winds, which brought a notable variety of species and numbers passing, in particular Little Gull. Thereafter all spring passage followed in an easterly direction and continued on Apr 21st with two passing Goring and one passing Worthing. The early run continued with five past Worthing on Apr 22nd. Last of the month was three which passed both Goring and Worthing on Apr 29th. Unusually this year there were no further sightings until May 13th when two passed Brighton Marina. A single was noted off Worthing beach on May 15th with two passing on May 16th and constituted the last of the spring passage.

The late autumn months were unprecedented for a species seldom recorded at this time of year. Freak weather conditions prevailing in the North Sea shortly beforehand are thought to have been the catalyst and, together with numbers of other seabirds the species provided a 'bonanza' for local seawatchers. The first was a juvenile off Ferring beach on Nov 10th (DIS,CEH). Next day a total of 15 flew W and four E off Worthing beach (DIS et al). Another single passed Goring beach on 19th (DIS). Thus the autumn tally exceeded that of the spring.

ARCTIC SKUA Stercorarius parasiticus

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant

First of the year was a single off Brighton Marina on Apr 8th. Not recorded again until Apr 20th, when 11 passed E off Worthing beach and 14 flew E there on the following day. Low numbers were seen daily here until the end of the month. May was unexceptional with the species passing mainly E and in numbers from one to four on 19 days of the month. Last of the spring was one reported as being off Ferring on Jun 4th. A better year though than the dismal 2006, as is illustrated by the following table of monthly totals from Worthing beach:

Arctic Skua contd.

	J	F	М	Α	M	_	J	A	S	0	Ν	D
East	•	-		39	27	2	•	1	-	I	4	-
West	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	10	3	-	44	-

August, September and October were unremarkable with the occasional count of one or two from Worthing beach and a peak of six passing west on Aug 18th. However, and most unusually (see also Pomarine Skua above) many more birds than usual were recorded from Worthing in November, particularly between 10th and 22nd. The peak count was 21 W, one E on Nov 11th with between one and eight noted on a further eight days. Last of the year was an unaged bird found on the grass at Hove Lagoon, on Christmas Day. The observer noted "close approach possible" indicating that it was probably sick, injured, or exhausted. Caution should always be taken if attempting to rescue any skua, even if it does appear moribund!

LONG-TAILED SKUA Stercorarius longicaudus

Rare vagrant

A superb adult flew east at Ferring beach at close range on May 23rd (RAI). SOS has accepted the record. A long awaited sighting for at least one local seawatcher!

GREAT SKUA Stercorarius skua

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

Again no early-winter records were received. First of the year was one E at Worthing beach on Apr 5th. The next sighting was again one E at Worthing on Apr 14th with one offshore there on Apr 15th; on which date one passed E off Ferring. Due to a number of probable long-staying 'loafers' offshore, exact monthly spring totals are difficult to assess e.g. between Apr 18th and Apr 30th up to three were noted off Worthing on a daily basis (as opposed to birds on passage). The seawatch log shows a single offshore on ten dates in May between 1st and 19th, which could conceivably have involved the same bird. However one there on May 29th, given a ten-day gap, may well have been different. The following totals from Worthing beach reveal a better year all-round for sightings of this species than in 2006, although some duplication between loitering and passage birds cannot be ruled out:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	A	S	0	Z	D
East	-	-	-	24	-	2	-	ı	ı	ı	ı	-
West	-	-	-	-	1	Ι	-	-	I	-	8	-1
Offshore	-	-	-	17	9	Ι	-	-	-	-	-	-

As can be seen above peak spring passage occurred during April with a maximum of 11 E on Apr 28th. Additionally Brighton Marina reported two on May 13th. One was noted from a fishing boat three miles off Lancing on Jun 7th. Other records for this month were from Worthing beach with one offshore on Jun 11th and two E on Jun 14th. One flew W there on Sep 21st. Not noted again until Nov 11th when two were on the sea at the mouth of Shoreham Harbour. One flew W past Worthing on Nov 13th with an impressive (for the time of year) seven W there on Nov 18th (see also Pomarine and Arctic Skua). Last of the year and the only December record was one W, again past Worthing beach on Dec 9th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus

Increasing regular visitor throughout the year

Birds passing Worthing beach were;

	J	F	Μ	Α	M	J	J	A	S	0	z	D
East	-	4	ı	51	13	15	2	-	3	2	-	2
West	2	-	3	29	5	10	12	3	3	6	5	2

Elsewhere approximate monthly totals were:

J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
5	4	10	26	-	2	8	1	2	4	7	6

This includes 17 at the Marina in Apr, up to three at Stanmer Park in Nov/Dec and two or three at Shoreham on several dates.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

Scarce visitor and passage migrant

Approximate monthly totals were:

J	F	M	Α	Σ	_	J	Α	s	0	z	D
2	-	2	268	-	-	-	2	13	36	37	•

A winter-plumaged adult was on the Adur near Steyning on Mar 27^{th} . The large count in Apr was due to a spectacular passage from 20^{th} to 22^{nd} of 264 passing E off Goring/Worthing. Several passed over the fields at Goring Gap. In Oct, a flock of 25 was feeding offshore at Widewater on 29^{th} . A much better year!

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

High counts in the early months were of 180 at Brooklands on Jan 7th, 183 at the Marina on 13th, 664 at Goring beach on 20th and 150 on the Adur at Shoreham on 28th. There were 120 on Mill Hill on Feb 18th, 300 at both Lancing Clump and at Coombes on Mar 3rd and 170 at the Marina on Apr 5th with 159 logged as flying E at Worthing during Apr. Numbers remained low then until 200 at Ladywells on Jul 28th. Autumn movements at Worthing included 165 W in Aug. There were 106 in Preston Park, Brighton on Nov 1st, 93 at Washington on 17th, 100 at Sussex University on 24th and the same at Brooklands on 25th. In Dec the only large congregation was of 800 on the Adur between the Rail and Toll bridges on 15th.

COMMON GULL Larus canus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Substantial gatherings in the first half-year were 1400 at Shoreham Mill Hill on Jan 23rd, 900 on the Adur between the Rail and Toll bridges until 30th and 700 on Goring beach on 20th. Southwick Beach hosted 1100 on Mar 5th increasing to 1600 by 19th, 500 were at Ladywells on 11th and 350 at Steyning Round Hill on 14th. Numbers fell away rapidly after this with the maximum in Apr being 46 at the Marina on 5th and just 23 E at Worthing between 21st and 30th. May records were 30 at Worthing on 1st and ten on the Adur on 3rd. Four in the Lower Adur Valley on Jun 9th were unusual as the species is normally absent in the early

summer. Returning birds appeared from Jul 1st but no group exceeded 12 until 100 at Washington on Nov 11th, 60 at Fulking on 25th, 120 near Cissbury on Dec 11th and 150 at Findon North Farm on 12th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, small numbers breed

Records were received for twenty locations. These were each for less than ten birds other than at Lancing Old Salts Farm in Apr and Goring Gap in Dec. Breeding occurred at Brighton College (two nests), near St Peter's Church, Brighton, University of Sussex (one nest but unsuccessful) and probably in Portslade, West Worthing, Old Salts Farm and near Preston Park.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL Larus argentatus michahellis

Uncommon and local late summer and autumn visitor

Monthly maxima from the Shoreham area were;

	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
I	-	1	2	-	-	-	2	5	4	ı	ı	2

One was on Southwick Canal on Jan 21st and another on the nearby beach on Sep 6th with one at Hove on 10th. The Marina hosted one on Nov 1st.

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The year's largest count was of 850 on Southwick Beach on Mar 22nd. At least 20 pairs nested on the University of Sussex. Two pairs bred in Western Road, Shoreham raising five young and two pairs had nests on roof-tops in West Worthing. Many others obviously bred in the area but no specific data was received.

ICELAND GULL Larus glaucoides

Rare winter visitor

**An immature flew W past Ferring beach on Jan 5th (CEH). An immature was found on the Adur between the Rail and Toll bridges on Mar 11th (RJF) and remained in the area until 28th (mo).

GLAUCOUS GULL Larus hyperboreus

Rare winter visitor

A well-watched first winter bird was present on Southwick Canal and in Shoreham Harbour from Dec 11th into 2008 (PJ et al).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus marinus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, recent breeding resident

Recorded in all months with 60 on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 28th as the largest gathering. Forty-one were at Goring Gap on Dec 21st. No breeding records were received. Inland and away from the river seen at Sompting, Hollingbury and the University of Sussex.

KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

First of the year was one inside Shoreham Harbour on Jan 7th, and one flew past Brighton Marina on Jan 27th. As usual the majority of records involved birds passing offshore, and in general few were noted at Worthing beach and Brighton Marina during the first ten months of the year. However the year would have remained unremarkable in terms of numbers were it not for the events of November and December, as revealed in the following table of monthly totals from Worthing beach:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	12	3	-	12	4	4	4	-	-	9	10	19
West	14		-		10	1	ı	9	9	11	2260	949

The first indication of large numbers was of 400 off Shoreham Harbour on Nov 10th with 500 there on Nov 11th. Meanwhile Worthing beach recorded 232 W on Nov 10th and a staggering 1,599 W in just 4.9 hours on Nov 11th. Lesser peaks off Worthing were 106 W on Nov 13th and 189 W on Nov 19th. Remarkably a second surge occurred in late December with peaks at Worthing of 130 W on Dec 22nd, 108 W on Dec 24th, and a significant 623 W in just 1.8 hours on Christmas Day. The high November numbers occurred at the same time as unusual numbers of other seabirds (see Pomarine Skua). As speculated under that species the explanation may well have been the freak weather conditions prevalent in the North Sea at the time. There were no inland records.

SANDWICH TERN Sterna sandvicensis

Common passage migrant

Passage of this species normally commences in March, in small numbers. Unusually no records were received for this month. First of the year was one W at Goring beach on Apr 1st followed by another E at Brighton Marina on Apr 5th. Numbers from this site and Worthing beach built up from Apr 12th with 36 E on that date at Worthing and 30 E at Brighton Marina on Apr 14th. Otherwise noted in consistent low double figure numbers during most days of the month and this pattern continued in lesser numbers through May. The monthly totals from Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	A	S	0	N	D
East	-	-	-	960	434	190	37	109	52	25	2	-
West	-	-	-	59	101	84	117	251	78	16		

Peak movements were 203 E on Apr 21st and 114 E on Apr 28th. The maximum count at Brighton Marina was 48 E on Apr 30th. One was on the R. Adur between the A27 and A259 on May 13th. As usual small numbers were reported during the summer months and the peak movements were 55 E and three W off Worthing on Jun 1st, presumably still spring migrants, and 41 W, 37 E on Aug 23rd. The trend to roost in the Goring Gap fields continued during late summer, with counts of 31 on Aug 12th rising to 49 on Aug 22nd and reducing to 33 on Aug 31st. Numbers not exceeding a dozen were reported from a number of coastal sites during August and September. Shoreham Harbour has also established a small roost with 24 there on Sep 16th, 17 on Sep 23rd and increasing to a healthy 31 on Oct 3rd. Worthing recorded 44 W on Sep 27th. Notable October counts

were 22 on Southwick beach on Oct 3rd (see Shoreham Harbour count above), 14 in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 8th, 37 at Brighton Marina on Oct 13th with 13 on Oct 17th. After this date singles only reported for the remainder of the month. Last of the year were two E at Worthing beach on Nov 5Th.

COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo

Common passage migrant

First of the year were two E at Goring Gap on Apr 9th, one day later than in 2006. The peak for the remainder of April was nine E and two W at Worthing beach on Apr 28th, where the month total was just 19 E and two W. During April recorded from several other coastal sites with no count greater than six. During May again few were identified to species thus the majority are shown under 'Commic' Tern. The month total for May at Worthing was 47 E and one W. June fared better than May with a total 109 E and 16 W at Worthing, with a peak of 60 E on Jun 9th, possibly late migrants. Recorded solely from Worthing beach in July, with a month total of 28 W and one E. Greater numbers were noted from this site during August with a month total of 26 E and 639 W, peaks being 154 W on Aug 18th, 150 W on Aug 22nd, and 212 W on Aug 24th. One was noted from Shoreham Airport on Aug 12th, the same day as one was with Sandwich Terns on the Goring Gap fields. Brighton Marina recorded 40 on Aug 21st, on which day ten were on Southwick beach. Regularly noted in September in almost exclusively single figure numbers from several sites, although notable was 82 E and 46 W at Worthing beach on Sep 1st (where the month total was 102 E and 60 W); additionally 14 were in Shoreham Harbour on Sep 18 reducing to six on Oct 1st. Noted on just six further days in October from two sites. The Shoreham Harbour maximum was four on Oct 3rd and only three W were noted at Worthing beach during the month including the last of the year, one W there on Oct 31st.

ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

Scarce passage migrant

The first specifically identified Arctic Terns of the year were three E at Worthing beach on Apr 30th after which just four E there on May 3rd and six E on May 4th. Not recorded again until late summer with one W at Worthing on Aug 13th and two on the beach there on Aug 19th. One was in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 15th and two juveniles were on nearby Southwick beach on Aug 21st. Recorded from Shoreham Harbour on seven dates in the second half of September with a maximum of seven on Sep 17th. Most records refer to juveniles. Four were on Southwick beach on Sep 18th. Worthing recorded only one for this month, passing W there on Sep 10th. A single juvenile was noted in Shoreham Harbour between Oct 1st and Oct 5th, after which three juveniles were present there on Oct 8th and four on Oct 9th, reducing to two on Oct 10th. After a one month gap a juvenile appeared again at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 9th and remarkably two were well-reported there on Nov 10th and Nov 11th. The latter date is thought to be the latest for this species in the recording area.

'COMMIC' TERN

All records for 2007 came from the seawatch log at Worthing beach. Monthly totals of terns not specifically identified as either Common or Arctic Tern are as usual included in the following table of month totals from Worthing:

	J	F	Σ	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	Z	D
East	·	•	1	398	809	16		664	12	ı	ı	ı
West	-	-	-	4	3	-	25	754	32	-	-	

Peak day movements during an unexceptional spring were 99 E on Apr 30th and 464 E on May 5th. Peaks during the autumn months were 507 E, 134 W on Aug 23rd and 132 E, 51 W on Aug 30th. As the above table shows, the month totals for August reveal a significant and puzzling easterly movement during the period, at a time of year when typically the majority move in the traditional westerly direction.

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons

Fairly common spring passage migrant

First of the year was not until Apr 16th when one passed W at Ferring beach and not noted again until nine flew E past Worthing beach on Apr 21st. Brighton Marina recorded four E on Apr 30th. The April month total at Worthing beach was 34 E and four W, with a peak of 15 E on Apr 30th. This site recorded a total of 35 E and 13 W during May with a maximum of 12 only on May 6th. The three autumn records were of three E at Worthing on Aug 23rd with one W there on Aug 24th, and the last of the year was one Lower Adur Valley on Sep 16th. A poor showing, but of a species in national decline.

BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Scarce but regular passage migrant

Recorded on only two days in spring and four days in autumn, the following represent all records for the year. The first of the year were four E at Worthing beach on Apr 21st. One flew E past Worthing on May 30th. Two were observed feeding in Shoreham Harbour mouth on Aug 15th. Singles passed W at Worthing beach on Aug 18th and Aug 20th. The last of the year was one, again feeding at the mouth of Shoreham Harbour on Aug 25th, and an early date for the final record. Particularly in spring, Black Tern is becoming more elusive and unpredictable than the enigmatic Pomarine Skua

COMMON GUILLEMOT Uria aalge

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

One was on the sea at Widewater on Jan 30th. One or two were seen offshore at Worthing beach on eleven dates between Feb 16th and Jun 2nd and seven dates between Sep 19th and Dec 21st. There were seven sightings of single birds from the Marina between Oct 17th and Dec 18th. The remaining records were from Widewater again on Nov 13th and Southwick beach with two on Nov 15th and one on 16th.

RAZORBILL Alca torda

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

As in previous years, Razorbills appear to outnumber Guillemots in our area. Worthing records were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	3	ı	-	15	7	I	-		I	2	40	- 11
West	4	ı	ı	-	-	4	-		ı	26	15	66

Maximum counts were of 43 on Nov IIth and 55 on Dec 25^{th} . Ten were off the W arm of the Marina on Nov I3th and there were 27 other birds logged there through the year. Eight were in Shoreham Harbour on I4th and most unusually one was on the Adur by the Norfolk Bridge on 25^{th} .

AUK species

Worthing seawatches recorded the following totals:

	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	17	36	2	3	13	-	-	-	-	7	203	39
West	9	8	-	I	7	-	-	-	30	32	224	18

Sixty-five flew W and six E off Shoreham Fort on Jan 28th.

LITTLE AUK Alle alle

Scarce autumn and winter visitor

Early Nov is a good time to await the arrival along our coast of this visitor from Arctic waters. An unknown observer photographed one (and published pictures) allegedly flying north over fields on the downs near Brighton on Nov 5th. Storm blown sea-birds can appear anywhere! Two flew W on Nov 10th at Ferring beach (CEH, DIS) and three flew W off Worthing on 11th (mo) with one the following day past Goring beach (BFF, DIS). One was well-watched on Southwick Canal from Dec 12th to 24th and afforded excellent views at times down to a few metres but could be elusive. (PJ et al)

FERAL PIGEON Columba livia

Common resident

Largest counts were of 98 at the Marina on Jan 27^{th} , 108 at Preston Park (Brighton) Apr 12^{th} , 190 in Hove on 29^{th} and 99 there on Jun 3^{rd} and 150 in Portslade on Dec 16^{th} .

STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Declining resident and passage migrant

Records were received from 32 sites across the area. These mainly were of one or two birds but up to eight were noted at Poynings Badger's Wood Farm in Jan, three at Washington in Feb and Sep, four at Sussex University and three each at Hollingbury Camp and Upper Beeding in Apr, three at Oreham Common in Jun, 16 over Hove Cemetery in Oct, 23 at Coombes and 35 at Coldean in Nov and eight at Stump Bottom in Dec when there were also four again at Washington. Pairs bred at Wild Park, Annington nr Bramber using an owl box, Ashurst (Horsebridge Common) where two young were reared also in an owl box, Highdown, Goring Hall Hospital and Wiston (again using an owl box). Calling birds were heard at Washington Warren Hill and Ladywells.

WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus

Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant

Amongst the hundreds of reports for this widespread and probably increasing species were 200 at Ladywells in Jun. Otherwise records were all of less than a hundred until autumn migration was underway. Eighty pairs bred at Wild Park, the most ever recorded. The first movements were noted in Oct with 145 W at Worthing on 18th and 870 at Washington and 1425 at Hollingbury Camp on 20th. Four hundred flew W at Goring in 20 minutes on 24th followed by 6650 over Brighton and 11600 over Goring/Ferring on 30th. Another 8500 passed W there on 31st. In Nov, 1120 on 2nd and 1840 on 3rd moved W or SW over Brighton with a further 850 over Worthing on the latter date. Other than 325 at Beeding Hill on 25th and 856 counted during the winter Atlas survey on Dec 22nd in the Woods Mill area numbers were back to normal at other sites to the year-end.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Common resident

This was another very widely reported species. Double figure counts were 12 at Brooklands in Jan, 23 in West Worthing ten in Hove, 29 in Portslade and 22 at Old Salts Farm all in Apr and counted at BBS transects. There were 20 at Ferring Rife in Sep and 18 in West Worthing on Nov 26th with 20 at Southwick Hill and 15 in Steyning in Dec. Thirty pairs bred in Wild Park.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

Scarce summer visitor, declining

All records were: one at High Salvington on Apr 30^{th} , one at Tegdown Hill from May 1^{st} to 6^{th} with one at Sussex University on 2^{nd} and two at Woods Mill on 20^{th} . One was at Lower Standean on Jun 10^{th} and another at Poynings Badger's Wood Farm from 25^{th} to Jul 9^{th} with the last at Southwick Hill on 24^{th} .

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET Psittacula krameri

Very scarce introduced breeding resident

Records came from three sites: High Salvington (Worthing), Southwick and Hove each of single birds between Mar 5^{th} and Dec 10^{th} . That at Hove was a male seen on bird feeders between Mar 15^{th} and Apr 20^{th} . Possibly only two birds were involved in these sightings.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

Fairly common summer visitor

Records were received from twenty-four locations during spring and summer - an encouraging number of sightings. The first two birds were found on Apr 14^{th} - a typical date - at Sullington Warren and Tegdown Hill. Most records were of single birds but two birds were noted at Southwick Hill and Spithandle Lane, Ashurst in Apr and in May two were seen at Beeding Brooks. Regular reports were received up to Jun 8^{th} but only four birds were noted subsequently. The final report was of a juvenile at Ladywells, near Coombes on Sep 2^{nd} .

BARN OWL Tyto alba

Uncommon breeding resident

This was a very good year for Barn Owls in our area. Forty reports were received, with an encouraging number of breeding records, and only two fatalities (one a road casualty near the Sussex Pad, Shoreham). In the first winter period one or two birds were regularly reported from the Shoreham Airport area and two were noted at Wyckham Farm, Steyning on Feb 10th. There were positive breeding records from ten sites, producing at least 30 young. Many of these sites involved first use of a Barn Owl nest box. There were seven reports of birds during the autumn and second winter period – all of single birds. The last was reported at Beeding Brooks on Dec 30th.



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LITTLE OWL Athene noctua

Fairly common resident

Birds were reported from 14 sites during the year. Most reports were of single birds but two birds were noted at Upper Adur Levels on Jan 30th. At Beeding Hill three birds were found on Jan 27th and six on May 23rd (three calling pairs). The only confirmed breeding record was at Upper Beeding where one young bird was seen on Aug 24th. There were two Dec records - one at Wild Park, Brighton (which was the first seen there in ten years) and at Michelgrove, Patching on Dec 28th.

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco

Fairly common resident

There were reports from 21 locations during the year. Several reports were of two birds and two of three birds. The only confirmed breeding report was of two young seen at New Erringham Farm on Jul 13th. However there will have been successful breeding at very many other locations in the region. The one fatality noted was at Findon by the A24 on Apr 29th.

LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident.

This year's records were all from the general area of a known downland roost. On Feb I st seven birds were present and four were still there on Mar 5^{th} . One or two birds were recorded in early Apr and one was calling there on May 2^{nd} . No further records were received until Dec I 2^{th} when seven birds were reported in the area.

SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

In the early winter period a bird was regularly reported hunting in the Shoreham Airport area. It was last reported on Apr 16th. One spring migrant was reported at Brighton Marina on Apr 14th. Another migrant was noted at Cissbury Ring on Sep 28th and in the period Oct 10th to Nov 30th single birds were reported at Shoreham Harbour, Shoreham Beach, Brighton (west of Racehill) and Brighton Wild Park. In the late winter period a single bird was seen several times at Beeding Brooks between Dec 11th and Dec 31st and one was south of Chanctonbury Ring on 12th.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europaeus

Rare summer migrant

No reports of Nightjar were received this year for the SDOS recording area (note that Lavington Common, mentioned in the Field Outings report, is outside this area).

COMMON SWIFT Abus abus

Common summer visitor

The first record this year was of an early bird at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 11th. Two further birds were reported on Apr 20th and by the end of April a further 44 more were seen. There were many May records and the largest number was of 100 feeding before an approaching rainstorm at Brighton College on May 27th. At Worthing Beach 67 were counted on May 31st and there were 40 over Crown Road, Shoreham on May 17th. Swifts were recorded regularly in June and the largest flock was of 30 at Cissbury Ring on Jun 3rd. The only nesting report was from Shoreham. On Jul 23rd a flock of 230 flew north-east over Goring and 80 birds were noted over Worthing on Jul 19th. There were thirteen reports during August with the largest flock being 130 over Shoreham on Aug 1st. The final report was of one bird over Brighton on Oct 1st.

COMMON KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

During the early winter period thirteen reports were received – mainly of single birds. Two birds were recorded at Strivens Reedbed, Steyning and at Shoreham on the Adur River. During May to July single birds were reported from Woods Mill, Ladywells, near Coombes, and East Worthing. There was also a record of a bird flying near Highdown, Worthing on Jun 27th. During the autumn and second winter periods there were many records of one or two birds at coastal and river valley locations. Three birds were recorded in this period at Brighton Marina on Nov 21st.

WRYNECK lynx torquilla

Rare passage migrant

Only one bird was seen in our area this year. This was found at Shoreham near the footbridge over the Adur River on Aug 27^{th} . It did not reappear on subsequent days.

GREEN WOODPECKER Picus viridis

Common resident

There were very regular reports throughout the year from many areas. Normally these were of single birds but there were four at each of Washington, Sussex University and Moulsecoomb and three at Ashington, Coombes, Findon North Farm, Steyning, Clapham Wood and Waterhall in the late winter months.

Three pairs bred at Wild Park, Brighton and juveniles were recorded in Findon Valley, Coombes (two seen), Hollingbury Golf Course and Benfield Valley, Hangleton. However these birds will have bred at many other locations in the region During ringing sessions at Strivens Reedbed, Steyning, Ladywells, near Coombes and Cissbury North Scarp a total of nine birds were ringed, including six young birds.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos major

Common resident

These birds were extremely well reported throughout the year. Most reports received were of one or two birds but at Warren Hill NT, Washington six birds were recorded on Feb 5th and at Ladywells, near Coombes a further six birds were noted on Jun 2nd. Four were at both Applesham (Coombes) and Clapham Wood in Nov/Dec. There were many reports of successful breeding. The ringing reports from Strivens Reedbed, Steyning, Ladywells (near Coombes) and Cissbury North Scarp confirm that a total of nine birds were ringed at these locations, including three young.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos minor

Scarce resident

Unfortunately there were no reports of these attractive birds in our area this year.

WOODLARK Lullula arborea

Rare passage migrant

There was only one record this year. This came from Brighton Wild Park where one bird was seen on Nov 5th.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis

Common resident

These birds were extremely well reported this year. During the period Jan 1st to Mar 31st the only large counts were of 40 birds at Steep Down on Feb 4th and 70 at Cissbury Ring on Feb 6th. During April and May the highest counts were of 60 at Steep Down on May 9th, 35 at Cissbury Ring on May 30th, 31 at Findon on May 4th and 25 at Storrington on Apr 24th. During the summer months very many singing males were reported, although the only confirmed breeding report was from Brighton Wild Park where 19 pairs bred. However

they will have successfully bred at very many other locations. Amongst several double figure counts reported during October to December were 20 at Hollingbury on Oct 18th, 25 at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 25th, 21 at Brighton Wild Park on Oct 31st , 53 at Coombes on Nov 24th, 200 at Steyning Round Hill on Dec 13th and 39 at No-Man's Land and 40 at Steep Down on Dec 20th.

SAND MARTIN Ribaria ribaria

Summer visitor and passage migrant

First of the year were ten at Sandgate Park on Apr 6th but no subsequent records were received from this former breeding site. Next were 25 in off the sea at Worthing on 10th but very few others were noted. Autumn passage commenced with four at Brooklands on Jul 3, 16 off Worthing beach on 9th and eight at Cuckoo Corner on 17th. At Worthing the total Aug count was 99, maximum 46 E on 24th. Smaller numbers were seen at Goring, Mill Hill and Wild Park through to Oct, with the last two at Worthing on 17th.

BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

Common summer visitor

An early bird flew N at Clayton on Mar 3rd and apart from a dozen at Sompting in mid Mar there were mainly singles reported up to Apr 10th when 20 came in off the sea at Worthing. A late flurry occurred on May 25th with 50 N at Worthing. Although widely reported across the area and from suitable farms and barns the only breeding records were six pairs at King's Barn stables and two broods each of four young reared at Coombes. Numbers passing through started to build up at the end of Aug with 200 at Ladywells near Coombes and 380 at Wild Park. In Sep 350 flew E at Ferring on 6th and a maximum of 3000 E at Worthing on 30th with 350 E there next day. A good number were being seen during Oct with the last singles on Nov 3rd and 4th at Worthing beach.

HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbicum

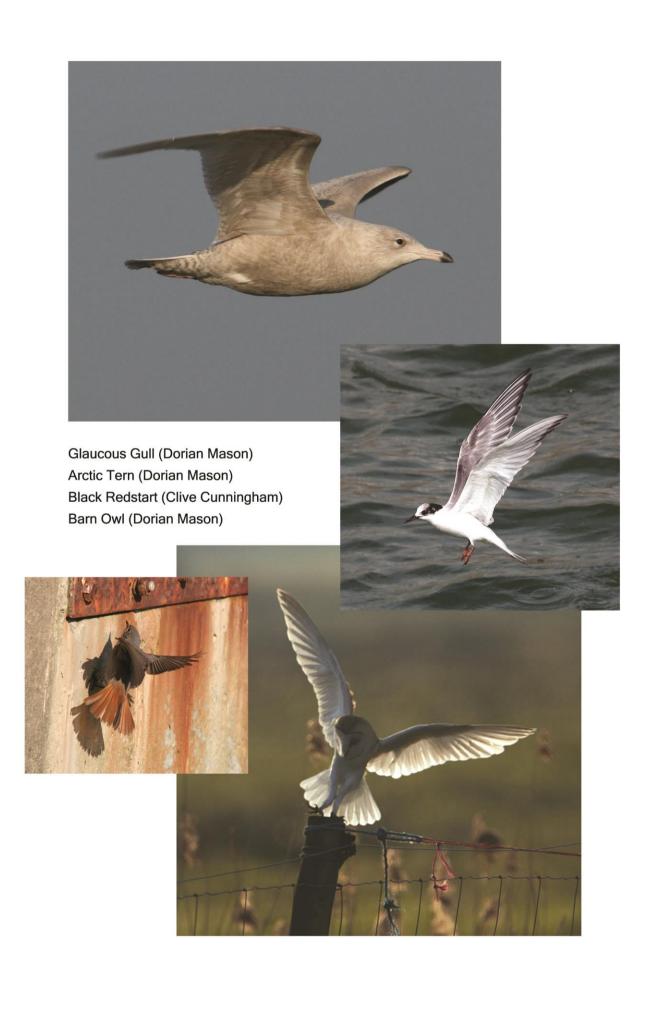
Common summer visitor

First arrival was at Worthing on Apr 4th followed by singles at Hove, Lancing College, Sheepcote and Storrington up to 24th. Others were reported into May but in low numbers, maximum only 13 at Ladywells on 20th. Noted during the breeding season from Clapham, Cuckoo Corner, Fulking, Ladywells and Patching. As with Swallow there were few confirmed as breeding, the only ones being at Coombes and Sompting. Sixty at New Salts Farm on Aug 23rd signalled the start of return passage, then peaks of 500 at Ladywells on Sep 8th, 600 at Wild Park on 11th, 500 at Cissbury on 15th and 550 S over Mill Hill on 23rd. Unusually there were 40 N at High Salvington on 28th. In Oct, peaks were 230 at Cissbury on 1st, 90 at Wild Park on 5th and 120 at Goring Gap on 6th. The last was at King's Barn on 29th.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant

It is usual for our area to record low numbers of this species in spring and 2007 was no exception with the only birds being a single at Cissbury on Apr $16^{\rm th}$ and another at Worthing beach the next day. First of the autumn passage was a single at Cissbury on





Long-tailed Duck (Charles Lowe)



Red-breasted Mergansers (Clive Cunningham)





Stock Doves (Maureen Leeves)



Jack Snipe (Dorian Mason)

Aug 9^{th} well ahead of three at Wild Park on 25^{th} . There were eight further records from Cissbury, one from Clayton and one from High Salvington. The last were singles at Wild Park on Oct 4^{th} and Goring Gap on 6^{th} .

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis

Locally common resident and common passage migrant

Early year flocks were from Cissbury/Steep Down and the Lower Adur. In Mar the only passage was of five at Worthing beach on 23rd and 20 over Wild Park on 24th, whilst others were in song and displaying from Beeding Hill, Lower Adur and Shoreham Fort. Confirmed breeding included Beeding Hill – one pair, Cissbury – three pairs, Goring Gap – two pairs, Newtimber Hill – one pair and Steep Down – three pairs. Probably bred at Benfield Valley, Ditchling Beacon, Tegdown Hill, Worthing GC and Sussex University. Autumn counts commenced with 60 at Cissbury on Sep 18th and peaks from other well watched sites included 38 at Wild Park on 29th and 140 E at Worthing beach on Oct 1st. A flock of 40 came in off the sea at Goring Gap to feed in fields on Oct 6th, the same site recording the peak of 203 E on 15th. There was still some passage along the coast at Goring and Worthing at the month end. Winter period flocks were small and from scattered areas mainly in the Adur Valley but none at all from downland.

ROCK PIPIT Anthus petrosus

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

In Jan singles were noted from regular coastal sites at Shoreham, Southwick and Widewater. At the Marina, the first record was not until Mar and repeated sightings from there in Apr may have indicated breeding. Considerably more records were received from Sep onwards from the Marina and Black Rock beach in the east through to Shoreham and Southwick, and to Goring beach in the west. Although counts rarely exceeded six, there were numerous sightings.

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK PIPIT Anthus petrosus littoralis

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

One was identified on the beach at Shoreham Fort on Feb 18th and another there on Oct 28th (both RJF).

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant

There were six spring records with the first at Lychpole Hill on Apr 2nd followed by others at Worthing beach on 10th, Goring on 26th and Southwick on 28th. Two flew N at Worthing on May 1st. Autumn passage commenced with singles by the Adur at Shoreham and over Wild Park on Jul 28th. In Aug, six passed over Hollingbury from 25th, three were at Cissbury on 27th, eight at Goring beach on 30th and ten flew E and three W at Worthing in the month. The fields west of Ferring Rife attracted eight rising to 12 between Sep 8th and 10th and further singles were seen at five other sites in the month with four at Shoreham beach on 17th and four passing Worthing. The last were singles at Cissbury, Worthing and Goring from 6th to 8th of Oct.

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

Local resident and winter visitor; passage migrant

Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
No of birds	7	3	2	-	2	-	2	-	9	16	15	10
No of sites	6	3	3	-	2	-	1	-	8	14	13	9

As can be seen with nearly as many sites as birds no single locality held more than the odd one or in just a few cases two (Brooklands, a Steyning garden, Ferring beach, Coombes and near Mill Hill). No breeding records were received.

PIED WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

Common resident

The Marina car-park roost held 290 on Jan 21st, the largest gathering of the year in the area. Twenty-two were in Palatine Park, Durrington on 28th and 12 at Shoreham Harbour on 30th with 20 there on Mar 9th. Numerous reports received of from one to five across the area through the year but no breeding records. Numbers increased in Oct with 50 on fields at Goring Gap on 5th and 56 next day most of which departed E. The roost in Montague St, Worthing had re-assembled by 14th with 160 birds present. This built up to 250 by Dec 5th. There were 14 on Southwick Beach on Oct 26th and 17 in Preston Park, Brighton on 31st. Passage at Worthing beach totalled 39 E and 5W in the month and 103 flew E at Goring on two dates. Sixteen were at Applesham (Coombes) on Nov 24th and the same number at Washington Highden Hill on Dec 27th.

WREN Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident

Counts at regular sites produced maxima of 25 at Sussex University, 12 in West Worthing, 13 in Portslade and 10 in Upper Beeding in Apr. Ninety-one pairs bred at Wild Park. There were 12 at Tegdown Hill on May 3rd and 14 at Washington on Nov 19th with 20 at Sussex University next day. Seventeen were counted in Clapham Wood on Dec 12th. Otherwise all records were of from one to eight at a multitude of sites. Ringing at Shoreham Sanctuary, the Mumbles, Ladywells and Cissbury yielded 2,27,24 and 31 different birds respectively during the year. Of these, young accounted for 0,13,10 and 21 of those trapped.

DUNNOCK Prunella modularis

Very common resident

Fifteen in Benfield Valley, Hangleton on Apr 8th was the largest count anywhere in the year. Many records received with singing males noted at half a dozen sites including four at Beeding Brooks on Jul 8th. Forty-six pairs bred at Wild Park and one at Woods Mill. Ten were in Preston Park, Brighton on Oct 3rd, 19 at Sussex University on Nov 12th and 20 in the Cissbury area on Dec 11th. Ringing at Shoreham Sanctuary, the Mumbles, Ladywells and Cissbury yielded eight, 40, 34 and 64 different birds respectively of which 0,16,14 and 36 were young ones.

ROBIN Erithacus rubecula

Very common resident

Completing the trio of very common birds the Robin was the most reported species in our area. The maximum counts from Sussex University were of 24 on Apr 30th and 36 on Nov 12th. Tetrad counts of 14 at Coldean, Brighton and 22 at the University were the highest in May. One hundred and forty two pairs bred in Wild Park but no other breeding records were submitted in spite of many singing birds all across the area. Thirteen at Westmeston, 24 in Preston Park and 17 at Washington, 36 at Sussex University were the above average counts in Oct and Nov with 30 around Steyning on Dec 13th and in the Mill Hill area on 26th. All other reports were of between one and six birds. Ringing reports from Shoreham Sanctuary, the Mumbles, Ladywells and Cissbury accounted for three, 50, 40 and 83 birds of which 0. 35, 21 and 53 were birds born in 2007.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE Luscinia megarhynchos

Summer visitor and passage migrant

A singing bird was at Woods Mill on Apr 16th, with others there and at nearby Oreham Common during the next four weeks. One was singing at Edburton on Apr 29th and others at Small Dole village and the adjacent industrial site on May 7th. Probably breeding were three pairs at Oreham Common and two pairs at Woods Mill. (Although largely outside the SDOS area, of interest is an estimate of 17 in the area bounded by Henfield, Wineham and Edburton made on May 17th.) Three were trapped at the Mumbles on the widely different dates of Jun 17th, Jul 14th and Aug 18th.

BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochruros

Regular spring migrant, winter visitor, has bred

In Jan there were singles at Shoreham Fort, Southwick and Widewater and a male was near Ferring Rife during the first week of Feb. Later at least two birds were at Shoreham and Ferring into Mar, and the only spring bird at the Marina was on Apr 5^{th} . A singing male was reported on four days at the end of Apr at Southwick Power Station. First of the autumn was inland at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 8^{th} , followed by a total of up to six birds present at the aforementioned sites until the year end.

COMMON REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

One joined the dawn chorus at suburban Patcham on Apr 11th, followed by males at St Anne's Well Gardens on 17th to 19th. In May one was seen arriving from the sea at Ferring on 5th and a first year male was trapped at Ladywells on 20th. Over a dozen were seen during Aug from Cissbury and Wild Park with maximum counts occurring on the same date of 25th. Others were at Blackpatch Hill, Ferring Rife and Steyning Round Hill. Cissbury and Wild Park sightings continued into Sep with a peak of four at Cissbury on 5th and three at Wild Park on 16th. One visited a member's garden in Ferring on 30th. The last were two at Cissbury on Oct 3rd. With 30 records compared to Black Redstart's 38. 2007 could be considered a good year.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant

As with Redstart there can be no better sight than male Whinchats in their spring attire. First was at Wild Park on Apr 22nd, then one at Tegdown Hill on May 3rd followed by one at Goring Gap on the late date of May 25th and even later at Highdown Hill on Jun 6th. Early return passage commenced on Aug 1st at New Erringham Farm and a little later a peak of five at nearby Beeding Hill and three at Cissbury. Maximum counts were eight at Truleigh Hill on Aug 19th and eight at Hollingbury hillfort on 25th, with five still there next day. Others were seen from Benfield Valley, Clayton windmills and Harrow Hill. Sightings up to the end of Sep included five at Steep Down on 22nd and the last were singles at Cissbury on 28th and Devil's Dyke on 30th.

STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

Regular winter visitor and local breeding resident

The species is always well represented in the area with in excess of 100 records. Early year wintering birds, mostly ones and twos or pairs, were from coastal sites such as Ferring Rife, Southwick and Widewater; from New Salts Farm and the Adur Valley; from the Downs at Beeding, Steep Down and Truleigh Hill. Strangely only a pair at Truleigh Hill were reported in Mar. Confirmed breeding was at Upper Beeding - a pair with two young, Beeding Hill - one pair, Bramber – one pair raised five young, Cissbury - three pairs and Steep Down - one pair. Others were seen during the breeding season at Tegdown Hill and Truleigh Hill. Good numbers were noted in autumn from mid Aug with peaks of 15 on three dates at Cissbury, nine at Hollingbury hillfort on Oct 3rd and lower figures from Clayton, Devil's Dyke, Fulking and Steyning Round Hill. There was some return to coastal areas in Oct/Nov with birds at Ferring Rife, Hove seafront and Shoreham/Widewater area, but birds also remained on downland at Bevendean, Cissbury and Golding Barn. In Dec there were four at Cockroost Hill (Mile Oak); pairs at Clapham Woods, New Salts Farm, Shoreham, Southwick and Widewater and singles at Beeding brooks.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

Common passage migrant

First of the year were singles at Worthing beach on Mar 14th, Goring Gap on 17th and Ferring on 26th. Next were three at the Marina and eight at Shoreham on 27th. Then followed numerous records from scattered areas with maximum counts of 15 at Goring Gap and 11 at Worthing beach on Apr 10th and 12 at Shoreham Beach on 14th. Typical of downland sites at this time were just two at Wild Park on two dates in Mar and similar numbers at Cissbury and Tegdown Hill into May. Possible Greenland race bird was at Steep Down on May 19th and a late migrant or perhaps a breeding bird was at Shoreham Beach on 31st. An early return was noted at Waterhall, Brighton on Jul 29th, followed by 100 plus records from across the area in Aug/Sep, with peaks of eight at Steep Down and Steyning Round Hill, 11 at Southwick beach on Sep 3rd, nine at Wild park on 15th and nine at Southwick Hill on 16th. The highest count was 28 between Shoreham Fort and Widewater on 22nd whilst the Sep total from Worthing beach was 20. Birds were seen well into Oct, the last being two at Ferring Rife on 24th, two at Southwick on 26th and the final single at Shoreham Beach on Nov 3rd.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

Regular passage migrant

There were three spring records. One was on Lychpole Hill near Cissbury on Apr 12th, three were on Cissbury Ring on 19th with one still present on 21st and one was at Applesham near Coombes on 30th. Cissbury again attracted returning autumn birds with one on Sep 12th and 17th. Two appeared on Hollingbury hillfort on Oct 3rd (and 4th) with a female in an observer's garden at Sweet Hill, Patcham the same day which remained until 7th. Also on 3rd a male was in the wood at Cissbury perched on a dead tree and another at Malthouse Meadow. The remaining birds were all at Cissbury between 4th and 25th and involved four or five different individuals with a maximum of three on 15th.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

Very common resident

More records were received than for any other species. Notable counts were of 23 in West Worthing on Apr 13th, 32 at Sussex University on 14th, 20 at Preston Park, Brighton on Oct 31st, 66 at Washington on Nov 17th with 64 there on Dec 15th, these latter months almost certainly including continental immigrants. Ringing at the four regular sites produced totals of four (Shoreham Sanctuary), 48 (Mumbles), 63 (Ladywells) and 74 (Cissbury) different birds of which 0, 27, 19 and 37 were young. One hundred and eleven pairs were estimated to have bred at Wild Park and 16 pairs held territories at Goring Gap.

FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Common winter visitor

The main wintering flocks were to be found on the Adur levels between Henfield and Steyning. On Jan Ist 250 were counted with 60 of these near to Stretham Manor. Twenty-three were on Lychpole Hill on 3rd and 30 at Badger's Wood, Poynings on Feb 19th. One hundred were counted on Apr 6th on Henfield Levels near the old railway line. No more were reported until Sep 29th when 25 appeared at Cissbury. In Oct 282 were counted over Hollingbury and 78 at Cissbury on 19th. There were 30 at Swandean Hospital, Worthing on 29th and 200 at Beeding Brooks on Nov 22nd with 50 at Steep Down on 27th. Elsewhere just small numbers at a dozen sites around the area.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

Fairly common resident

A good number of records were received, almost all of one or two birds but five were at Washington on Feb 10th, four at Patcham and six at the University on Apr 10th and the same at Preston Park on 12th. Breeding records were of 14 pairs in Wild Park and five at Goring Gap. Ringing at Ladywells involved five young and three adults, at Cissbury 37 young and 23 adults and at the Mumbles, 20 young and six adults. In Sep, 20 at Cissbury on 28th and in Oct, 18 at Hollingbury on 4th were presumably migrants.

REDWING Turdus iliacus

Common winter visitor

A much wider distribution than Fieldfare saw birds reported from all over the area albeit in small numbers. Best counts came again from the Adur levels in Jan when 250 were noted on Ist with 15 at Stretham Manor. The last for the first winter period were three at Barn's Farm, Storrington on Mar 25th. Sep records were of one to three at High Salvington on 27th to 29th. Oct saw the main arrival as usual with 35 at Cissbury on 13th and 15 at Hollingbury on 18th. In Nov, 43 were at Waterhall on 10th and ten at Washington on 24th but an increase there to 57 in Dec on 15th. Elsewhere up to eight birds at about 25 sites. Eight were trapped, seven of them at Cissbury.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

Fairly common resident

Two pairs bred at Wild Park and one each at Sussex University, St Anne's Well Gardens (unsuccessful) and Tegdown Hill. Two members reported birds in their gardens in Steyning and Southwick. The only flock in double figures was of 17 at Cissbury on Aug 30th.

CETTI'S WARBLER Cettia cetti

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The female that was caught at the Sanctuary in the final days of 2006 was retrapped again on Jan 28th. Elsewhere at least three individuals were noted, some singing, in the Beeding Brooks/Bramber/Steyning levels area between February and June. In late April and May up to two were present in the New Salts Farm/Airport area.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

Generally scarce passage migrant

Spring records of reeling birds came from Cissbury on Apr 16th and Mill Hill on Apr 22nd. These locations were also the favoured sites for return passage. A single was at Mill Hill on Aug 19th and an adult was ringed at Cissbury on Sep 15th. Away from the Downs, another was well seen skulking in a Goring Gap ditch on Aug 26th.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Fairly common summer visitor

There was a much better volume and spread of records this year compared to 2006. First reports of passage birds commenced on Apr 23rd with a singing bird in a Goring garden, followed closely by birds at St Anne's Well and Bramber. During the breeding period the Lower Adur Valley held at least three singing males and up to three were present around Beeding. A single was at Ferring Rife on May 24th and a bird was singing at the Pavilion Gardens, Brighton on Jun 15th. There were few records of return passage. Two were present in the Lower Adur Valley on Aug 4th/5th and one was ringed at The Mumbles on Aug 18th, where just four were ringed in total. The last of the year, and the only one ringed at Cissbury, was there on Aug 25th.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Fairly common summer visitor

The last four days of April saw early migrants at St Anne's Well, Bramber, Old Salts Farm and Cuckoo Corner, in that order. Breeding records were well distributed within suitable habitat throughout our area. Largest counts were from Ladywells (10), Beeding Brooks (8) with juveniles ringed at both The Mumbles and Ladywells. Other localities holding smaller populations were Woods Mill, Wiston Estate, Steyning Levels and Ferring Rife. However one singing at Brighton College on Jun 15th was clearly still on its way in! The arrival of birds at the Cissbury ringing site indicates that return passage is underway. The first was ringed on Aug 4th and thereafter Brooklands, Mill Hill, the Airport and Ladywells saw small numbers passing through with no more than four at any site. One visited a Steyning garden on Aug 5th and Sep 9th. The last for the year was a single at Cissbury on Sep 25th.

BLACKCAP Sylvia atricapilla

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

Perfect evidence of the wintering habits of this species came from a Steyning garden where a bird visited a nyger feeder regularly from Jan Ist all winter until Apr Ist. Wintering records, mostly from the BTO Garden BirdWatch, were received from all parts of our area but numbers never exceeded two birds at any one location. The first song was heard at High Salvington on Mar 13th with another singing at Wild Park on Mar 25th. One at Sullington Warren on Apr 2nd was the first of the year there and thereafter numbers started to build. The best breeding season counts were of 13 at the University of Sussex on Apr 30th with 11 there on May 1st and an estimate of 18 pairs thought to have bred at Wild Park. Between three and six individuals were noted at The Mumbles, Sandgate Park, Coldean, Cissbury, Ladywells, Tegdown and Hollingbury with smaller numbers elsewhere. luveniles were ringed at all three ringing sites. First double figure numbers of the autumn were ten at Cissbury on Aug 27th followed by 12 seen on the 30th. At Hollingbury maximum numbers were of 11 on both the 2nd and 8th of September. However ringing gives an indication of the substantial numbers passing through with peaks at The Mumbles of 36 on Sep 8th and at Cissbury of 69 on both Sep 15th and 23rd. Numbers dwindled throughout October and by early November Garden BirdWatch and BTO Atlas recorders were again noting ones and twos in many urban locations until the very end of the year.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin

Fairly common summer visitor

Cissbury witnessed the first arrival with a single there on Apr 20th. Within a few days singles were also present at St Anne's Well, Patcham, West Tarring, Tegdown Hill and the University of Sussex. During May and June single birds were reported from Oreham Common, Durrington, Upper Beeding, The Mumbles, Cissbury and Devil's Dyke with two on the Wiston Estate and up to three at Ditchling Beacon. One bird in a Steyning garden on Jul 16th and the first of the year at Ladywells on Jul 27th indicated that autumn dispersal had begun. Surprisingly the maximum autumn numbers were just three ringed at Cissbury on Aug 4th and two at The Mumbles on both Jul 28th and Aug 18th. Elsewhere all other reports were of single birds from downland sites such as Mill Hill, Cissbury, Hollingbury

and Wild Park as well as coastal localities such as St Anne's Well and Goring, with the last of the year at the latter site on Oct 15th.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

Fairly common summer visitor

Cissbury was the site of the first spring sighting on Apr 12th, and soon after birds were widespread at all regular downland sites as well as Beeding Brooks, Brooklands, Oreham Common and Woods Mill. No more than four were recorded at any one location, with three at Cissbury on both Apr 16th and 20th, four singing males at Wild Park on 21st, three at Hollingbury on 22nd and at Beeding on 28th and another three at the University of Sussex on May 2nd. Two pairs bred in the Lower Adur Valley along the Downs Link path. An adult was seen carrying a caterpillar at Woods Mill on Jun 11th and two recently fledged juveniles were ringed at Cissbury on Jul 7th. During autumn passage modest numbers were reported from the main downland locations although one was in a Ferring garden on Sep 10th. By far the best count was ten at Cissbury on Aug 30th. After four at Hollingbury on Sep 13th, Cissbury continued to produce records during late September with the final two there on Oct 3rd.

COMMON WHITETHROAT Sylvia Communis

Common summer visitor

Regular watching at Hollingbury Camp produced the first of the year on Apr 6th and then demonstrated the steady build-up of numbers throughout April with two on 15th, four on 21st, six on 22nd and 13 or more on the 29th. Elsewhere widespread records were mostly from downland areas with the best count being 30 on a linear transect on the Downs near Storrington. Other significant counts were of 15 on the Steyning Downs on Apr 28th and the same number at Cissbury the following day. Best breeding evidence was of juveniles ringed at the three ringing sites of Ladywells, Mumbles and Cissbury although a count on Jun 7th suggested 26 pairs bred at Wild Park and three pairs in the Lower Adur Valley along the Downs Link path. An individual singing in a Goring garden on Jun 2nd was thought to be either a late arrival or a failed breeder. Throughout August counts into double figures were made at the best migration spots. The top spot was Cissbury with observers recording 20 on Aug 2nd, 15 there on 16th increasing to 30 by 27th but down to ten by 30th. Significant, but lesser numbers were at Ferring Rife, Mill Hill and Hollingbury. Into September and apart from four at Mill Hill on the 2nd and two at Ferring Rife on the 4th, all remaining records were from Hollingbury Camp and Cissbury with the last at Cissbury on Oct 3rd.

DARTFORD WARBLER Sylvia undata

Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor

There were no records of this species in 2007.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER Phylloscopus inoratus

Rare autumn vagrant

One was found in a private garden, usually in an ornamental blue conifer in Phoenix Crescent, Southwick on Feb 25th and remained until Apr 1st. This is the first spring record for the area. It was very obliging, was extensively photographed and gave good views to the many observers who came to see it (P| et al).

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Scarce passage migrant

A single at Myrtlegrove Farm (Clapham) on Aug 24th was the only record this year.

CHIFFCHAFF Phylloscopus collybita

Common summer visitor, with small wintering population

More records were received for this species than any other warbler, no doubt due to its year-round presence and its distinctive song. Winter haunts were mostly singles at the Sanctuary, Poynings, Brighton Cemetery, Brooklands, Ferring Rife, Wyckham Wood and Steyning Sewage Farm where one, which showed characteristics of the tristis race, was present on Feb I Ith and three were seen on Feb I6th. A minimum of eight were feeding and singing along Ladywells stream on Mar 11th - the best early spring count. Towards the end of March Garden BirdWatchers, particularly along the coast, were still recording arrivals, while other birds were establishing breeding territories. From April through to June an analysis of the records reveals 44 sites throughout the SDOS area where Chiffchaffs may well have bred. Highest counts were 17 at Wild Park, five at Coldean, seven at both Woods Mill and Hollingbury, six at both Ladywells and the University of Sussex and ten at Small Dole. Some evidence of autumn dispersal was the presence of single birds in gardens in Hove and Worthing during August. However peak passage occurs during September and regular counts by a single observer at Hollingbury showed a steady increase. Five were present on Sep 8th increasing to 15 on Sep 16th and then a maximum of 33 on Sep 22nd followed by a decline to 11 by Sep 29th. Higher counts by various observers at Cissbury saw numbers increase from five on Aug 30th to 70 on Sep 17th and 60 there the following day. At the Cissbury ringing site numbers peaked on Sep 29th with 91 individuals recorded that day. The only other counts into double figures were 14 ringed at The Mumbles on Sep 16th and 30 at Brooklands on Sep 18th with the best of single figure being eight at Ladywells on Sep 8th. The last big count was of 20 birds at Cissbury on Oct 5th and thereafter just ones and twos continued to trickle through into November, often seen in gardens. The only December records were of single wintering birds in central Brighton on 13th and at Wild Park on the 30th.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

The first of the returning birds was seen at Hollingbury Camp on Apr 6th followed by one at Portslade the following day. During the first half of April birds were recorded from several other sites with the most being three on Apr 14th at the University of Sussex and seven at Hollingbury Camp two days later. Six were at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 24th. However at a number of these sites, such as Worthing and Shoreham gardens and Ladywells, birds were just passing through. In the latter part of April and throughout May and June small numbers were present throughout the district with the best May/June counts being just four at Coldean on May Ist and three at Tegdown Hill the same day. An interesting bird singing both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler songs was present in a Coombes garden from May 6th to 8th and near the Cement Works from 9th to Jun 15th. A recently fledged brood of four ringed at Cissbury on June 17th were almost certainly local and a juvenile was also in the net at The Mumbles on Jul 7th. Otherwise there was no

confirmed evidence of breeding. At Ladywells six birds on Jul 28th were the first in the valley since the spring signifying that autumn passage was underway. Shortly after 30 were counted at Cissbury on Aug 2nd, 20 were feeding amongst Wild Parsnip on Blackpatch Hill on Aug 24th and 48 were at Hollingbury the following day. On Aug 30th Chiffchaffs accompanied 20 Willow Warblers on Cissbury and by Sep 2nd numbers at Hollingbury had reduced to 13. The last record of the year from an SDOS member was of one singing at Wild Park on Sep 13th but contributors to the BTO's BirdTrack and Garden BirdWatch projects continued to record single birds within our coastal area until Oct 8th. A bird showing some characteristics of Chiffchaff, including dark legs and drab plumage, was ringed at Ladywells on May 20th. Its song also included some variations on a Chiffchaff theme.

GOLDCREST Regulus regulus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Records received from about sixteen sites across the area including members' gardens in the first three months each of just one or two birds. Pairs were establishing territories at Small Dole and West Tarring. In Apr and May, an increase in numbers with six at Coldean, five at Sussex University and three at Preston Park, Brighton as well as pairs at Tegdown Hill and High Salvington where food carrying was observed on May 15th. Singing males at Woods Mill, West Worthing and Highdown Hill, with juveniles at the latter site in Jun. Ringing sites trapped a total of 43 birds of which 32 were fledged this year. The maximum was 11 at Cissbury on Sep 29th. Autumn migrants included ten at Brooklands and 15 at Cissbury on Oct 22nd. Five were in Brighton Cemetery on Nov 3rd and up to eight at Washington in the month. Dec records came from three sites in Hove, three in Worthing, two in Washington, Ashurst (five on 16th), No Man's Land (five on 20th) and Ladywells where four were present on 22nd.

FIRECREST Regulus ignicabilla

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

Just one spring record of two at Michelgrove on Apr 6^{th} that were in a possible breeding area. Five were trapped at Cissbury in the autumn with two on Oct 27^{th} as the peak day. The only other birds were singles at Brighton Cemetery on 24^{th} , Hove Park on 30^{th} and Preston Park on Dec 7^{th} .

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicaba striata

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

A better year with eleven spring records. These were from Cissbury on May 6th (the first), St Anne's Well Gardens (three dates), East Worthing (three dates), Ladywells (trapped on 20th), Waterhall (Brighton), Kithurst Hill, Goring Gap (two on 26th) and another trapped at Cissbury on Jun 2nd. Birds in Jul at East Worthing and Cissbury may have been early migrants. The main passage as usual was from about Aug 20th and involved 35 birds in the month with maxima of eight at Cissbury and four at Hollingbury on 25th. Another 21 were logged in Sep with five at Hollingbury on 2nd and twos and threes at five other sites. The last were singles by the Adur at Shoreham on 2nd and a late bird at East Worthing on 22nd.

PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca

Regular passage migrant

A male in an apple tree in a Patcham garden on Apr 26^{th} was a nice surprise with one nearby in Withdean on May 7^{th} . St Anne's Well Gardens scored with one on Aug 16^{th} and there was one in a West Worthing garden on 19^{th} followed by one in West Tarring on 25^{th} . One was trapped at Cissbury on the same day. Another garden visitor was in West Worthing on 26^{th} and the last at Cissbury on 27^{th} .

LONG-TAILED TIT Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident

The first record of 2007 was on New Year's Day in Henfield, with a flock of five noted. The largest recorded winter flock was of 18 birds at Stanmer Park, but smaller flocks were recorded at several sites regularly. Early spring saw an increase in the numbers of pairs recorded and on Apr 9th a pair was observed at Small Dole with nesting materials. Throughout May adults were recorded with fledglings with one pair attempting to raise nine young in St Anne's Well Gardens (noted May 26th). During the latter part of spring and early summer larger groups were recorded, presumably family groups. Numbers ranged from six to 15 and were recorded from a wide range of sites. During autumn 12 birds were noted at Swandean Hospital (Sep 10th) and 20 at Washington (Sep 29th). Longtailed Tits began to associate with other species in mixed flocks as winter approached and a record at Beeding Bostal observed them associating with Blue Tits at the end of Sep. Nov 17th seemed an exceptional day for the species with 46 and 29 recorded at different sites on Chanctonbury Ring. The year closed with more regular flocks of between three and 22 (at Sussex University) recorded at various sites throughout the SDOS region.

BLUE TIT Cyanistes caerulus

Abundant resident

The frequency and variety of reports reflected the abundance of this species with many records throughout the year. At Woods Mill birds were recorded singing on May 20th and at Beeding Brooks singing was recorded on Jul 8th, possibly attempting a second brood? At Wild Park it was reported that there were 65 pairs that had bred by May 2nd. By Sep reports indicated that Blue Tits were merging with other species with records on the 28th of Blue Tit associating with Long-Tailed Tits in the Lower Adur Valley. Ringing at The Mumbles produced 125 birds throughout the year with a maximum of 31 trapped on New Year's Eve. Of the birds trapped slightly more young were caught than adults with a ratio of 66:59. Ladywells recorded 98 birds with a maximum of 48 on Nov 17th. Unusually they recorded more adults than young with a ratio of 36:59. Cissbury managed 49 birds with a maximum of ten on Oct 6th with a ratio of more than twice the amount of young at 34:15. Good numbers were recorded for the BTO Atlas in Nov and Dec with 42 on Dec 15th at Small Dole as the biggest count.

GREAT TIT Parus major

Very common resident

There were regular reports of this species from all areas of the SDOS region throughout the year. On May 2nd it was reported that 51 pairs had bred in Wild Park.

A pair were observed using a nest box in High Salvington on May 7th and later the same month singing males were heard at Beeding Brooks and also young heard on May 22nd. On Jun 6th juveniles with their parents were reported at High Salvington. Ringing efforts produced 96 birds at The Mumbles with 23 retraps and a ratio of 49 young to 41 adults. Ladywells caught 45 birds and Cissbury 44 throughout the year. As for the last species the BTO Atlas counts in Nov and Dec were productive, the highest number being 22 at Coldean on Nov 25th.

COAL TIT Periparus ater

Fairly common but local resident

There were regular recordings of small numbers and single birds throughout the year. In mid-Mar pairs were noted gathering nesting materials at West Tarring and singing at Sandgate Park. Family groups appeared during June with parties of four at High Salvington and in a West Worthing Garden. During the rest of summer and autumn mainly single birds were noted, particularly at High Salvington and Preston Park in Brighton. Three unusual records concerned birds at Ferring Rife (Apr 24th), Goring (Aug 4th) and Findon Valley (Oct 15th) where Coal Tits are seldom recorded. BTO Atlas workers found them at ten sites in Nov and Dec with maxima of four at Washington and Sussex University.

MARSH TIT Poecile palustris

Fairly uncommon resident

The earliest record of Marsh Tits was during March, but a party of four were observed at Michelgrove on Apr 6th. A juvenile ringed at Cissbury during July indicated some breeding success. Regular reports of small parties continued to be recorded throughout the winter months, particularly at Washington, Michelgrove and Chanctonbury.

WILLOW TIT Poecile montanus

Rare resident

Only two records were received during 2007. Both were in May, at Newtimber Hill and at the Wiston Estate.

NUTHATCH Sitta europaea

Uncommon resident

Nuthatches were observed regularly during January at Badger's Wood farm with a maximum of three at any one time. There were mostly single birds seen at other sites although a group of four (and another heard) were observed at Washington Warren Hill in early February. One was a regular visitor to a garden in Steyning in Feb and Mar. Singing males were heard throughout June and at High Salvington an adult bird was taking food from a feeder, possibly to feed its young. A family was seen at Warren Hill on June 11th, confirming some breeding success. Throughout the rest of the year small numbers, mainly singletons were regularly recorded, with Chanctonbury Ring, Badger Wood Farm (Poynings) and Washington providing the majority of the records. The BTO Atlas counts in Nov and Dec yielded records from ten sites with six at Ashington and five at Wiston as the highest counts.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER Certhia familiaris

Uncommon resident

There were sporadic reports of mainly single birds throughout the winter months up until the first weeks in April. A maximum of four birds were trapped at Ladywells on Apr 24th, believed to be two pairs. Two young birds were ringed at the Mumbles during Jun, indicating some breeding success. The following months saw mainly single birds reported, although two were retrapped at Ladywells on Dec 15th and at least three birds, possibly five were observed at Warren Hill on 18th.

JAY Garrulus glandarius

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

There were very regular reports throughout the year from many locations. Most of these records were of one or two birds and the largest flocks reported were ten at Ladywells, near Coombes on Apr 15th and seven at Goring on Apr 9th with six at Ashington in Dec. The only breeding report received was of two pairs at Brighton Wild Park. Three juveniles were seen at Sandgate Park, Storrington on Jun 10th. Two adult birds were ringed at Ladywells and one juvenile was ringed at Strivens Reedbed, Mumbles.

MAGPIE Pica bica

Very common resident

There were many reports of these birds from numerous locations throughout the year. Most of these reports related to small numbers of birds but flocks of ten or more were recorded at Lancing Clump, Washington, University of Sussex, Patcham, Mill Hill, Preston Park, Findon Valley , Tegdown Hill and Lancing College. The largest flocks seen were 20 at Lancing Clump on Feb $7^{\rm th}$ and Apr $14^{\rm th}$, and 19 in a Hove garden on Nov $22^{\rm nd}$ with counts of up to 33 in BTO Atlas tetrads in the last two months of the year. Forty-one pairs bred at Brighton Wild Park. The only juveniles reported were one at Beeding Hill on May $17^{\rm th}$ and two at University of Sussex on Aug $3^{\rm rd}$.



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JACKDAW Corvus monedula

Common resident

Most of the records received were of small numbers of birds but larger flocks were seen at several locations. A flock of 100 was regularly reported from Washington, and 80 were regularly seen at Ladywells. Flocks of over 50 were also reported at Hollingbury Camp, Southwick Hill and Brighton Waterhall. Over 300 were at Applesham (nr Coombes) and at Mill Hill in Nov/Dec. These numbers were dwarfed by a huge flock of 1000 flying to roost

at Beeding Brooks on Dec 31st. Two pairs bred at Brighton Wild Park and 18 seen there on Oct 30th were thought to be probable migrants.

ROOK Corvus frugilegus

Common resident

The only sizeable rookeries reported this year were of 13 nests at Ladywells, nine nests at University of Sussex, and 75 at Findon Valley. At least two nests were also seen at Ferring. The largest flocks reported were 188 at Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak on Feb 16th, and 70 at Clayton Whitelands. Flocks of between 40 and 57 birds were also reported at Applesham, Clapham, and Lower Adur Valley. A tetrad count produced 220 in the Mill Hill area on Dec 26th. An odd-looking bird was reported at Harrow Hill, Patching which had a silver-grey back, very washed out grey wings and tail, fading to white at the tips.

CARRION CROW Corvus corone

Common resident

There were very many records of this species throughout the year. Several large flocks were seen, the largest of which was 124 at Goring Beach on Apr 28th. There were 75 at Sullington Warren on Jan 20th and flocks of between 50 and 54 were seen during the year at Coombes, Brooklands, Beeding Brooks and Lancing Beach. One hundred and sixty were counted in a tetrad in the Mill Hill area on Dec 26th. The only breeding report was of 18 pairs at Brighton Wild Park.

RAVEN Corvus corax

Very scarce breeding resident

The pair in our area raised five young although one was lost shortly after fledging. Two birds were reported from Findon Valley on Feb 13th with a single at Stump Bottom the same day. One was at Michelgrove on Apr 6th with another at Tegdown Hill on 28th. One was over Wild Park on May 23rd, one at Cissbury on Jul 14th with another there on Oct 2nd and three on 5th.

COMMON STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

Abundant resident and winter visitor

Roosts at the two Brighton Piers were not counted regularly as in the past. The only figures submitted were as follows: Palace Pier; 14000 in Feb, 20800 in Nov and 32800 in Dec. West Pier: 9000 in Nov and 7500 in Dec. The only other counts exceeding 100 were 700 at Small Dole on Jan 20th, 300 on Henfield Levels on Feb 16th, 160 at Hollingbury in Sep, 300 by the Adur and 200 at Beeding Hill in Oct, 200 at Bevendean in Nov and 250 at Chanctonbury in Dec. Nineteen pairs bred in Wild Park.

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Very common resident

Prior to the breeding season, the only groups of more than ten reported were 28 at Brighton Marina on Jan 13th and 20 at Mill Hill on Feb 25th. The BBS counts have considerably enhanced the recording of this species since 2004 and in one-km squares at Hove, Portslade and Lancing there were 38, 43 and 46 birds respectively, though numbers

were generally less than in 2006. At regularly monitored sites the maximum counts were five at Patcham on Apr 10th, 12 at University of Sussex on May 2nd and 11 at Tegdown Hill on both Apr 14th and May 3rd. Fourteen pairs bred at Wild Park. Single birds were ringed at the Mumbles and at Ladywells. The largest flock seen during the year was 90 at Goring Gap on Aug 8th. The highest November and December numbers were 15 at Coldean on Nov 12th, 30 at Washington on Dec 9th, 27 at Steyning on 13th and 28 at Widewater on 23rd. An albino was present in High Salvington for much of the year.

TREE SPARROW Passer montanus

Scarce former resident

No substantiated records were received for this species this year.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

Very common resident

No large flocks were reported during Jan and Feb, with 18 at Brooklands on Jan 7th being the maximum for this period. During the breeding season BBS squares at Upper Beeding, Northbrook Farm (Worthing) and the Wiston Estate recorded ten, eight and six birds respectively. April maxima were 20 at Benfield Valley on 8th and 29 at the University of Sussex on 14th. Twenty-nine were recorded again at the University on May 1st and 6th, the same number at Coldean on the same dates, and there were 16 singing at Goring Gap on 26th. Wild Park held 45 breeding pairs. There were few reported during Aug, though 16 were seen at Ladywells on 4th and 25th. The Sep-Oct maxima at Hollingbury Camp were six on Sep 13th and 16 on Oct 8th. Ringing totals were similar to those of 2006 with five at the Sanctuary in January and Feb, 11 at Ladywells from Apr-Dec, ten at Cissbury and 54 at the Mumbles. There was an easterly movement of 20 in 30 minutes on Oct 11th at Worthing beach, but the monthly total for the site was only 29 in nearly 30 hours watching. During Nov there were 26 at Washington on 24th, 30 at University of Sussex on the same day and in Dec 45 near Cissbury on 11th, 59 at the University on 12th, 32 at Washington and 49 at Small Dole on 15th, 20 at Ladywells on 18th and 15 at Clapham Wood on 21st.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

A single bird in an East Worthing garden on Jan 8th and 15th was the only report until Oct, when one was seen at Cissbury on several dates between 13th and 23rd. East Worthing was visited again by an individual on five occasions between Nov 26th and Dec 24th. Single birds were also reported at seven other sites, and there were three at Kithurst Hill on Nov 14th, six at North and Park Farms (Findon) on Dec 12th to 14th, two at Badger Wood Farm (Poynings) on 24th and two at Hove from 26th to 31st, which appeared to be one male and one female.

GREENFINCH Carduelis chloris

Very common resident

There were 12 at Brooklands on Jan 7th and in Brighton on Feb 25th, but otherwise there were no counts above ten during Jan and Feb. The BBS surveys produced one km square

totals of ten in West Worthing, nine in Hove, 13 in Portslade, 12 at Worthing Golf Course and 16 at Northbrook Farm (Worthing), with an average per square of just over seven. There were 25 pairs at Wild Park, a maximum of 20 at University of Sussex at the end of Apr and ten singing males at Goring Gap on May 25th. Ringing totals were slightly higher than in 2006, with 119 at the Mumbles (107 in 2006) and 13 at Cissbury (six in 2006). Five were trapped at Ladywells. During Aug a flock of 26 was seen in a hedge in Upper Beeding on 20th, and 30 were noted at Malthouse Meadow on 23rd and 28th. Thirty flew E in 2-3 hours of seawatching at Worthing on 13th. Later in the year, just two more substantial flocks were reported, 150 at Shoreham Fort on Oct 30th and 100 at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 13th, though these could well have been the same birds.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis

Fairly common resident

Small flocks of ten were seen at Upper Beeding on Jan 15th and over Victoria Park (Worthing) on Feb 1st. The maximum number seen at any one time in the BTO Garden Birdwatch was seven at Sompting on Mar 26th. During the breeding season there were 12 pairs at Wild Park, and BBS records showed an average of three birds per 1km square, with a maximum of eight in a square in West Worthing, where a very young bird was seen on feeders on May 27th. On the Downs flocks built up during August, with 55 at Truleigh Hill on 7th, 80 at Beeding Hill on 9th and 30 at Cissbury Ring on 10th, including an albino individual. At Worthing beach there was a passage of 120 E on Oct 5th, 180 E in just 20 minutes the following day, 155 in 30 minutes on 11th and a maximum of 290 in 1.5 hours on 14th. On 19th 154 flew E and another 199 on 21st. Inland a large flock of 125 was noted at Cissbury in Oct, but otherwise just smaller groups were seen, with 16 at Preston Park on Dec 13th, 13 together on feeders in Hove on 15th, and 24 at West Worthing on 19th which were gathering to roost in a roadside tree. Also on this date 67 were counted at Thundersbarrow Hill. On 26th, 32 were at Mill Hill.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor

In the first part of the year there were just two records, a single bird at Hollingbury Camp on Mar 24th and one flying E on the same day in the same area. The next sighting was not until Sep 18th when one was seen and heard over Southwick. Eight flew E at Southwick ten days later and groups of four were at Cissbury on Oct 1st and at Coombes, Patching and High Salvington on 3rd. Also on 3rd 30 flew E in one hour at Worthing beach. Eleven were counted at Hollingbury Camp on Oct 4th and 27th, where the month's maximum was 21 on 8th. Ten flew over a Goring garden on Oct 14th and 15 were around Shoreham Harbour on 24th. Twenty were seen at Sandgate Park on Nov 24th, four at Michelgrove on Dec 12th and five at Ferring Rife on 26th.

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Locally common resident and passage migrant

Eight were noted at Widewater on Jan 20^{th} and a larger flock of 40 at Cissbury on Mar 24^{th} . Monthly maxima for April at Hollingbury Camp and Benfield Valley were 21 on 15^{th} and 25 on 22^{nd} respectively. On Apr 21^{st} 23 were counted flying E in just over six hours at

Worthing beach. A BBS count revealed 40 birds in a one km square at Wick Farm (Westmeston) on May 5th, 20 were found in a linear transect at Cissbury on 30th and there were 14 pairs breeding at Wild Park. Downland flocks in August included 60 at Ditchling Beacon on 10th, 95 at Cissbury on 16th and 60 at Benfield Valley on 28th. In December there were 30 at Steyning Round Hill on 1st, 55 at Cockroost Hill on 23rd and 150 at Findon Park Farm on 13th, the largest flock of the year.

LESSER REDPOLL Carduelis cabaret

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

There were no records of this species until early Oct when 40 were counted flying E at Worthing beach on 3rd. Fourteen flew E at Goring beach on 8th and five were seen on the same day at Hollingbury Camp, where the month's maximum was 12 on 19th. Two adults and two young birds were trapped in the same net at Cissbury on Oct 20th, probably from among the group of 15 seen by other observers there the same day. A single bird was at Ladywells on Nov 3rd and the final report was of one flying E at High Salvington on 22nd.

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Fairly common resident

Two males and a female were seen on Jan 1st at Stretham feeding on ash keys, and another female was noted further south. A male was singing at Woods Mill on Apr 16th, a pair was at the same site on May 23rd, and just one pair was confirmed as breeding at Wild Park with another along the Downs Link path in the Adur Valley. The unobtrusive nature of this species is indicated by the ringing totals at the Cissbury site, where between May and Nov 37 different individuals were trapped, 29 new birds and eight ringed in previous years, with 17 adult and 20 young birds being handled. Later in the year two pairs were reported from Henfield Levels on Nov 24th and six individuals at Michelgrove on Dec 14th. Ten were counted in a BTO Atlas tetrad on 22nd in the Truleigh Hill/Small Dole area.

SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One was by the Bluebird Café at Ferring beach from Nov 20^{th} to 22^{nd} but remarkably elusive. There were two on the Downs on Fulking Hill at 0900 on 25^{th} .

YELLOWHAMMER Emberiza citrinella

Locally common resident

In Jan, there were 15 feeding in a rough grass and weedy field at Botolphs near Bramber on 1st and 45 were counted at Stump Bottom on 27th with 20 there on Feb 1st. Small parties of from one to five were noted at many sites up until the end of Apr. In May, ten were on Tegdown Hill on 3rd and seven pairs bred at Wild Park. Seven were in Westmeston Wick Farm on 5th and eight at Cissbury on 30th both sites undoubtedly holding breeding birds. Also in this category were four on Patching Hill and Findon, three on Highdown Hill, the same on Beeding Hill, where a pair were feeding young in Jun, and single pairs on Mill Hill, Chanctonbury, Steep Down, along the Downs Link path by the Adur and Lower Standean. In addition Ditchling Beacon held singing males throughout Jul. Four were near Clapham Wood in this month. A flock of ten were at Upper Beeding on Sep 24th and the month

maximum in Oct at Hollingbury was 12. Two were trapped in the autumn at Cissbury. The largest end of year counts were of 40 at Upper Beeding on Nov 9th, 30 at Cissbury on 29th and 20 at Mile Oak on Dec 16th.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

Locally common resident

No group of more than three was noted from any, bar one, of the reported fourteen sites in the year although a 'small flock' was with Yellowhammers in the Lower Adur Valley on Mar 23^{rd} . The only locations indicative of breeding were Ferring Rife (one pair), Steyning (Strivens Reedbed) and the Lower Adur Valley (three pairs). Twenty were trapped at The Mumbles during the year with ten on Feb 18th. A visitor to three member's gardens in Steyning, Upper Beeding and Lancing included a pair at the latter site using a feeder until lun 2^{nd} .

CORN BUNTING Emberiza calandra

Fairly common but local resident

Truleigh Hill was the mecca for pre-roost gatherings with 98 on Feb 3rd. Stump Bottom held 24 on 1st. A linear transect count at Lower Standean of 35 and 12 at Steep Down on May 9th gave a good indication of where breeding strongholds lie. Elsewhere singing males were in evidence at Beeding Hill (three), New Erringham Farm, Tegdown Hill, Steyning Downs, Ridge Farm (Sussex University), Cissbury, Ditchling Beacon, Harrow Hill, Westmeston Wick Farm and Chantry Hill. In Sep, 30 were on Steyning Round Hill and 32 on Beeding Hill and in Nov, 14 were at Kithurst Hill and 12 at Washington Rock Common. The maximum Dec count was again at Steyning Round Hill with 40 on 24th.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS 2007

No reports received this year.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUMMER MIGRANTS 2007

	Arrival			Departure		
Species Date		Location	Date	Location		
Garganey	Apr 8 th	Marina	-	-		
Osprey	May 5 th	Worthing Pier	Oct 4th	Shoreham		
Marsh Harrier	Apr 28th	Ferring	Aug 29th	Beeding Brooks		
Hobby	Apr 27 th	Goring beach	Sep 29th	Mill Hill		
Little Ringed Plover	Apr 6 th	Sandgate Park	-	-		
Whimbrel	Apr 9 th	Worthing beach	Sep 30 th	Worthing beach		
Arctic Skua	Apr 8 th	Marina	Nov 30 th	Worthing beach		
Pomarine Skua	Apr 20 th	Ferring	Nov 19th	Goring beach		
Sandwich Tern	Apr 5 th	Marina	Nov 30 th	Worthing beach		
Common Tern	Apr 9 th	Goring Gap	Oct 31st	Worthing beach		
Arctic Tern	Apr 30 th	Worthing beach	Nov II th	Shoreham Harbour		
Little Tern	Apr 16 th	Ferring	Sep 16 th	Lower Adur		
Black Tern	Apr 21st	Worthing beach	Aug 31st	Worthing beach		
Turtle Dove	Apr 30 th	High Salvington	Jul 24th	Southwick Hill		
Cuckoo	Apr I4th	Sullington Warren	Sep 2 nd	Ladywells		
Swift	Apr IIth	Hollingbury	Oct Ist	Brighton		
Sand Martin	Apr 6 th	Sandgate Park	Oct 17th	Worthing beach		
Swallow	Mar 3 rd	Clayton Halfway	Nov 30 th	Worthing beach		
House Martin	Apr IIth	Worthing	Oct 31st	Worthing beach		
Tree Pipit	Apr 16 th	Cissbury	Oct 6 th	Goring Gap		
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 2 nd	Lychpole Hill	Oct 8th	Goring beach		
Nightingale	Apr 16 th	Woods Mill	-	-		
Redstart	Apr II th	Patcham	Oct 3 rd	Cissbury		
Whinchat	Apr 22 nd	Hollingbury	Sep 30 th	Devil's Dyke		
Wheatear	Mar 14 th	Worthing beach	Nov 3 rd	Shoreham Beach		
Ring Ouzel	Apr I2 th	Lychpole Hill	Oct 25 th	Cissbury		
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 16 th	Cissbury	Sep 15 th	Cissbury		
Sedge Warbler	Apr 23 rd	Goring	Aug 25 th	Cissbury		
Reed Warbler	Apr 27 th	St Anne's Well Hove	Sep 25 th	Cissbury		
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr I2 th	Cissbury	Oct 3 rd	Cissbury		
Whitethroat	Apr 6 th	Hollingbury	Oct 3 rd	Cissbury		
Garden Warbler	Apr 20 th	Cissbury	Oct 8th	Goring		
Willow Warbler	Apr 6 th	Hollingbury	Oct 8th	East Worthing		
Spotted Flycatcher	May 6 th	Cissbury	Oct 22 nd	East Worthing		
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 26 th	Patcham	Aug 27 th	Cissbury		

SDOS AREA RINGING REPORT 2007

During the year 2907 birds were ringed in the area. Although this is a notable reduction of nearly 20% on the total for 2006 it is above the average (1953-2006) area total of 2638 birds ringed each year. Only a small portion (4.2% or 123) of these were ringed as nestlings; this low figure is remarkably consistent from year to year but nestlings comprised a significant proportion of the Kestrels, Peregrine, Herring Gulls and Barn Owls ringed in the area. As usual most were trapped in mist nets and ringed as fledged birds.

In keeping with recent years the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG), comprising Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, Matt Aeberhard and Tim Senington, contributed the largest portion with ca 72% of the area total of birds ringed. Mist-netting on the northern slope of Cissbury was very productive with a total of 1205 birds ringed. The autumn was particularly busy when large numbers of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were trapped. At Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve the total of 933 included many finches and the area's only Reed Buntings. John Newnham's team, which included Pam Mears and John Crix, experienced a different year! Prior to leaving the Sanctuary in March a total of 34 birds were ringed; thereafter ringing took place in the Ladywells valley where 472 birds were ringed. A further 11 birds were ringed in the author's West Worthing garden. The grand total for the year was reached with 267 birds, including many nestlings, ringed under Barrie Watson's guidance and included John Holt, the "Barn Owl team" and a researcher from Sussex University working on Herring Gulls.

Table A shows the numbers of each of the species ringed in the area during 2007. During the year no new species were added to the area's ringing list but a record number of Barn Owls were ringed and the total for Green Woodpecker equalled the previous best annual total. The Barn owls were all in nest boxes, and include four instances of first use of a site.

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2007

•	•	•			
Sparrowhawk	2	Blackbird	165	Long-tailed Tit	74
Kestrel	9	Song Thrush	90	Marsh Tit	- 1
Peregrine	1	Redwing	8	Blue Tit	289
Herring Gull	59	Grasshopper Warbler	- 1	Great Tit	191
Stock Dove	1	Sedge Warbler	5	Treecreeper	9
Woodpigeon	6	Reed Warbler	61	Jay	3
Barn Owl	34	Lesser Whitethroat	15	Starling	22
Kingfisher	2	Whitethroat	49	House Sparrow	7
Green Woodpecker	8	Garden Warbler	19	Chaffinch	75
Great Spotted Woodpecker	6	Blackcap	512	Greenfinch	136
Swallow	7	Chiffchaff	312	Goldfinch	152
Wren	75	Willow Warbler	119	Redpoll	4
Dunnock	106	Goldcrest	43	Bullfinch	35
Robin	165	Firecrest	5	Yellowhammer	2
Nightingale	2	Spotted Flycatcher	4	Reed Bunting	14
Redstart	- 1	Pied Flycatcher	- 1	Total	2907

Recoveries and Controls

The total of 12 recoveries or controls reported during 2007 was notably fewer than the 40 received during 2006. The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) is concerned that reporting rates of birds found bearing a ring have been falling in recent years and are investigating ways to reverse this trend.

In recent years the huge numbers of recoveries generated from the gull ringing programme has been declining. The long saga of a **Black-headed Gull** (EP36792), initially ringed at Washington on November 27th 1993, later had White JYY added and has gone to and fro between Denmark and Radipole Lake, Dorset has been related before. During 2007 this bird was recorded at Amsterdam on February 2nd and at Radipole just six days later on the 8th. The only other recovery of this species involved a bird ringed in its first winter at Sompting on December 21st 1983 and found freshly dead at Griend, Netherlands on June 16th 2004, aged 21yrs. A **Herring Gull** ringed in its first winter at Worthing on November 26th 1978 was found freshly dead near Rugby, Warwickshire on February 21st 2007. With over 28 years between ringing and recovery this has outlived the 19 years life expectancy quoted by the BTO's BirdFacts (http://www.bto.org.uk/birdfacts/index.htm#) but falls several years short of a Dutch Herring Gull which was recovered nearly 35 years after ringing (http://www.euring.org/data_and_codes/longevity.htm).

A **Barn Owl**, ringed at Sidlesham on June 3rd 2005 was found dead in North Lancing, some 36 kilometres from its natal site, on March 26th 2007. Few **Woodpigeons** are ringed in the area and the only two previous recoveries had involved birds shot locally. A young bird ringed at the Shoreham Sanctuary on September 3rd 2005 met this same fate, however, this was 291 kilometres away in Eure, France on January 10th 2007.

Although warblers have a very low recovery rate they are ringed in high numbers and tend to be caught again by ringers at other sites (controlled is the official term used). An interesting selection was again reported during 2007. A Reed Warbler trapped in Ladywells on May 20th had been previously ringed as an adult at Litlington, East Sussex on July 27th 2002. Blackcaps occur in large numbers on the slopes of Cissbury in the autumn; one ringed as a first year male at Arreton, Isle of Wight on September 23rd 2006 was controlled at Cissbury, presumably on passage on April 21st 2007 and again on September 8th. Another Blackcap, ringed as a first year female at Cissbury on September 1st 2007, was controlled at South Foreland (Kent), 126 kilometres ENE just 8 days later on the 9th. Two Chiffchaffs, ringed in September 2006 were controlled the following spring, presumably on passage on both occasions. An adult ringed at the Shoreham Sanctuary on September 9th 2006 was controlled at Cissbury on May 5th 2007 whilst a first year bird ringed at Cissbury on September 12th 2006 was controlled at Portland Bird Observatory (Dorset) on April 3rd 2007. The final warbler movement involved a Willow Warbler ringed at the Shoreham Sanctuary on August 27th 2005 and found dead in North Yorkshire, presumably on or near its breeding territory, on June 20th 2007.

Most **Blue Tits** remain fairly sedentary but on several occasions local ringing has demonstrated small movements like the first year bird ringed at the Shoreham Sanctuary on November 5th 2006 and found freshly dead at Hurstpierpoint (just 13 kilometres away) on February 17th 2007.

Like previous years there were several 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. The most interesting being the story of **Garden Warbler** (N810663) which was originally ringed at Cissbury as an adult on May 1st 1999 and subsequently retrapped on 14 occasions over seven different years. The presence of an incubation patch strongly suggested the individual was a breeding female. Most retraps of this bird were during the late spring or early summer but in 2007 she was not captured until July 31st, a gap of eight years and 91 days since being ringed and a new British longevity record.

For those interested in or would like to learn more about ringing visit: http://www.bto.org/ringing/index.htm .

John Newnham

LADYWELLS RINGING REPORT 2007

The beginning of the Ladywells story is a little difficult to identify, but it may be that this occurred on a damp Monday at the end of February 2007, a week or so before the new owner of the Shoreham Sanctuary gave the SDOS notice to quit. On this grey Monday Barrie and Anne Watson, John Crix and Derek Cleaver (Lancing College farm manager) were down in Ladywells valley, struggling with soggy ground and recalcitrant aluminium ladders, installing two Barn Owl boxes provided by the college. It's likely that uncertainty about the Sanctuary was very much in the air, certainly something prompted Barrie to draw attention to the reed fringed stream running through the valley and comment that "putting a few nets up sometime" might be productive.

Less than a month later (24^{th} March) John Newnham filed his first SDOS email user group report from Ladywells:

"...with the kind permission of Lancing College (and help of Derek Cleaver, the farm manager) and Hugh Passmore of Applesham Farm we have started ringing operations in Ladywells Valley. This is a private and quiet valley between Lancing College and Applesham Farm with a south bank of fairly mature wood. One sheep walk has a good understory of hawthorn, bramble and holly to act as background to mist nets. The valley is grazed by sheep and a reed fringed stream runs through the grazed meadows. At the west end of the valley a pond has been created with surrounding willow and reed - this has many features similar to the habitat at the Sanctuary and may be a focus for migrating warblers during the migration seasons."

"John Crix, Pam and Robin Mears, and myself met at 0730hrs to have our first ringing session at this site. Ringers will know how difficult it is starting at a new site or the first

session in a new season and I had forgotten the pains of trying to erect mist-nets in new areas. After 2.5 hours the four of us had managed to string an impressive line of seven 18 metre nets along a fairly broad path but the wind blew the nets like spinnakers and the tension on the guys was enormous. Around the pond it was a little more sheltered and here we strung five nets. By this time Barrie Watson had joined us but by the time we had put these up it was time to start packing up! I rather thought we would be scoring a "duck" but this was not so as Pam ringed a small number of resident species."

"There were at least two Chiffchaffs singing; Great Spotted Woodpecker was heard drumming and Green Woodpecker heard calling. Both Kestrel and Buzzard were seen and the Rookery contained eight nests. However, most of the time we were too busy to spend time birdwatching."

The ringing site spans Lancing College and Applesham Farm land and its existence is the product of a web of contacts and friendships and the raw enthusiasm of those determined that ringing should continue in the Shoreham area. Strands of this web include: Lancing College's lively farm project and the energy Derek Cleaver brings to this; Christopher and Hugh Passmore's strong concern for natural history and the overall environment, as expressed in the way they run Applesham farm; the energy and determination of the ringing team and its various advisers and helpers including Barrie Watson, Janet Derricott and Robin Mears. And last, not least, there has been the strong 'enabling' contribution of the SDOS's chairman, Brianne Reeve, who lives on the ringing site's doorstep and has long-standing friendships with Christopher and Hugh Passmore, Derek Cleaver and Pauline Bulman who is Lancing College's Bursar.

In terms of ringing productivity the weeks and months following the site's start-up were patchy. Factors in this were the learning curve of where best to site nets, the wet summer, and access problems due to the Foot and Mouth outbreak. There also arose some concern that the topology of the site means it will not attract the originally hoped-for volumes of migrating warblers. Overall statistics for 2007 are 22 sessions with 474 new birds and 251 retraps - an average of 33 birds a session. Of the 22 sessions, six yielded less than 20 birds. Such low volumes can be frustrating given the number of hours spent onsite each session and the work involved in setting up the nets - it is also important to bear in mind that volume data collection is a key element of the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Ringing Scheme.

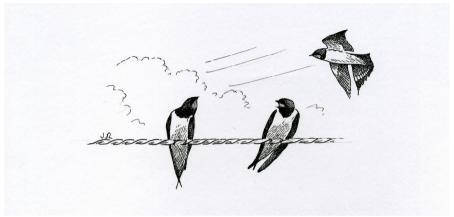
On a much more positive note, the last five ringing sessions of the year (between 17th Nov and 30th Dec) produced 152 new birds and 164 retraps - an average in excess of 60 birds a session. Thus John Newnham was proved correct in his prediction that "Ladywells could be a cracking winter ringing site".

The valley is also a beautiful and productive location in which to watch birds, not just net and ring them. The ringing team logs regular BTO Birdtrack records of species variety and numbers present at the site. By the end of 2007 72 different species had been recorded through this mechanism.

In summary, in March 2007 considerable goodwill and energy brought the site into existence and nine months later the ringing team had started getting to grips with how to operate it effectively and identifying the best things it could contribute to the overall body of ornithological data. A good start, one which might be termed the "end of the beginning".

[Note that full reports of all 22 ringing sessions, including details of interesting birds seen, are still available on the SDOS website: www.sdos.org]

John Crix



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CISSBURY RINGING REPORT 2007

The usual group of Brian and Phil Clay, Ralph Hartfree and Val Bentley carried out the bulk of the ringing at Cissbury, but were joined a couple of times by John Newnham, avoiding Ladywells during a temporary foot and mouth scare, and by Phil's trainee, Tim Senington.

The first visit to the site was made on April 21st, when we made an excellent start with 25 new birds, 14 retraps and one control, a Blackcap which had originally been ringed at Haseley Manor, Arreton, Isle of Wight on September 23rd 2006. It was retrapped again at Cissbury in early September, but not between these two dates. The Constant Effort Sessions commenced on May 5th and in this and the previous session there were a total of eight Blackcaps which had been ringed in previous years, the oldest being at least four years old. The following week female Long-tailed Tit 8M7945 turned up; her first encounter with us was in October 2002, so she was now into her sixth year. Not making an appearance until July was our oldest Blackbird of the year CF32003, ringed in 1998, thus a minimum of nine years of age. One of the delights of ringing is finding such long-lived individuals who have managed to survive all the perils of being a bird, such as poor weather, lack of food, exhausting migration journeys, deliberate killing by man and hungry predators.

The end of May and early June was quiet from a ringing point of view, though Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap and Garden Warbler were all singing near our table. Robins were the first to produce young, with two being caught on June 2^{nd} ; on 17^{th} juvenile Blackcaps, Dunnocks, Blue Tits, Whitethroats and Song Thrushes were ringed, a young Great Spotted Woodpecker was trapped on July 7^{th} , but the earliest juvenile Blackbirds did not turn up in the nets until 28^{th} .

Blackcaps started moving through by the end of August and Chiffchaffs in mid-September. During the whole of September, of 544 new birds, 229 were Blackcaps and 121 were Chiffchaffs, with the highest daily total of any single species being the 87 Chiffchaffs ringed on September 29th.

The only other control of the year was a Chiffchaff, ringed at the Sanctuary on September 9th 2006, which was caught at Cissbury on May 5th 2007. We also received details from the BTO of a control from 2006, a young Blackcap bearing a French ring, caught at Cissbury in September 2006, originally ringed at Wimereux, Northern France, just 20 days earlier.

The number of new birds ringed in the year was 1205, with 341 retrapped, compared with totals of 926 and 300 in the previous year, though only two additional sessions were carried out. Chiffchaffs showed the largest increase in numbers, from 153 to 219 (43%), while the additional number of Blackcaps ringed roughly mirrored the total increase in captures.

Of the passage species, we had just a single Sedge Warbler, seven Reed Warblers, three Spotted and one Pied Flycatcher, including one of each on August 25th, five Firecrests, four Redpolls, which were the first since 1997 and coincided with the SDOS visit on October 20th, seven Redwings, and a single Grasshopper Warbler, the first since 2000.

However, the highlight of the year was the return again of female Garden Warbler N810663 (see SDOS Annual Report 2006) in at least her 10th year, and establishing a national longevity record for this species of 8 years, 2 months and 30 days. Assuming this bird has followed the migration pattern of other members of her species to sub-Saharan Africa, she will have flown a minimum of 60,000 miles.

Val Bentley

WORTHING SEAWATCHING REPORT 2007

Introduction

The sea at Worthing was watched on 292 days amassing a total of 407 hours; this being a notable 54% rise on the watching in 2006. This was the eleventh most watched year since a regular log was started in 1978 and the best since the 550 hours watched in 1990. Figure I shows that the spring months were, as usual, the best covered but observations continued later in the year with all months, except September, being watched more than the 1978-2006 average.

The following table showing the number of days with some watching suggests only February and March were not covered well.

J F M A M J J A S O N D Total Days Watched 24 18 17 26 30 29 28 24 23 23 25 25 292

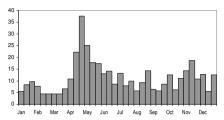


Figure 1:- The number of hours seawatching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2007.

Figure 2:- The monthly watching effort for 2007 (black) compared with the average for 1978 –2006 (white).

Although the watching effort increased considerably during 2007 the total number of birds recorded only increased by 22%. The following table and Figure 3 show a notably different pattern to recent years with poor numbers recorded in the first winter period, another mediocre spring but higher numbers of birds recorded in the second portion of the year with some remarkable watches occurring in November. As usual these figures and the following table excludes birds recorded feeding offshore and the large numbers of passerines which can be seen moving along the coast, particularly in the autumn months.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hours watched	24	17	15	71	60	36	31	29	21	30	44	31	407
Total birds	215	962	571	7693	3788	978	1106	3674	1235	2420	5880	3070	31592
Birds/hour	9	58	37	109	63	27	36	126	60	81	135	100	78

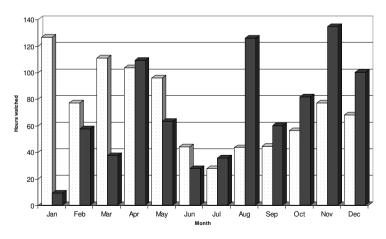


Figure 3:- The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched 1978- 2006 average (pale) & 2007 (dark).

As usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing. The report however includes more sightings from other sections of Worthing's foreshore in particular from Goring and Ferring beaches where Dave Smith and Clive Hope regularly watched. 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:- P.M.Brayshaw, R.Edney, J.A.Feest, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, D.R.Mason, J.A.Newnham, M.G.Prince, R.I.Sandison; D.I.Smith, and R.Tofts.

Chronological Account and Discussion

After a run of several years with interesting winter movements the sea was particularly quiet in the early months of 2007. This is evident from the figures and tables above and is entirely due to the lack of large numbers of divers, Gannets, Kittiwakes and auks offshore.



© Mary Ferrier

The combined totals for January and February were just 21 divers, 63 Gannets, 30 Kittiwakes and 70 auks. Presumably, however, there were fish offshore as 51 Great Crested Grebes were recorded on January 27th with 108 Red-breasted Mergansers on the same day and 136 mergansers on February 3rd. Scarcer species seen offshore included up to three Slavonian Grebes on four dates in February, a Black-necked Grebe on February 8th and a Shag on January 26th whilst passing was an immature Iceland Gull on January 5th, a single Little Gull on January 26th, eight Mediterranean Gulls on four dates and a Velvet Scoter on February 2nd. Peak counts of waders on the beach were 350 Dunlins on January 7th, 300 Sanderlings on January 10th, 130 Grey Plovers on January 13th and 35 Turnstones on February 13th.

On February 17th 205 Brent Geese flew east but wildfowl movements are found more typically in March. However, not so in 2007 as only 590 Brent Geese were recorded during the month with a modest peak of 266 on the 11th. Likewise the total of Common Scoters was a pitiful 17 and, with the exception of Red-breasted Mergansers, all other wildfowl totals were in single figures. For the first year since 1979 no Sandwich Terns were

recorded in March with the first seen on April 5th. The first Wheatears were noted on the beach on March 14th. A Great Northern Diver seen offshore on Mar 23rd and 24th was probably the most interesting bird of the month.

As usual the hours spent watching the sea increased through April and May with April being not only the best covered month in 2007 but also the month when most birds were seen. May, however, was generally poor. The following table shows the totals seen for the two main spring months (with the average 1978-2006 in brackets) and the peak count for these months. Those above the long-term average are shown in bold.

	April Total	May Total	Apr/May max
Divers all	10 (63)	4 (41)	2 on 5 th Apr
Brent Goose	744 (528)	44 (56)	223 on 20 th Apr
Common Scoter	579 (1302)	415 (774)	III on 21st Apr
Velvet Scoter	2 (19)	0 (8)	singles only
Sanderling	114 (86)	87 (316)	63 on 29 th May
Dunlin	41 (102)	75 (175)	35 on 21st May
Bar-tailed Godwit	3263 (1280)	652 (863)	1470 on 28 th Apr
Whimbrel	270 (256)	258 (223)	153 on 3 rd May
Pomarine Skua	13 (5)	3 (32)	5 on 22 nd Apr
Arctic Skua	39 (30)	29 (37)	14 on 21st Apr
Great Skua	24 (6)	I (3)	13 on 28 th Apr
Little Gull	268 (34)	I (34)	146 on 20th Apr
Sandwich Tern	1019 (1457)	535 (931)	203 on 21st Apr
Commic Tern	426 (1178)	870 (2750)	464 on 5 th May
Little Tern	38 (89)	48 (261)	15 on 30 th Apr
Black Tern	4 (5)	I (37)	4 on 21st Apr

The table shows the spring was excellent for Bar-tailed Godwits and Whimbrels and April was good for skuas but observed tern passage, like the wildfowl earlier, was below average. These two months always produce something out of the ordinary and 2007 was no exception from this viewpoint. Perhaps the most intriguing was the sighting of four pale geese flying east at great range on April 8th; fortunately several minutes later they returned westward and sat on the foreshore - now they were clearly Egyptian Geese and one of the party with very pale plumage. Raptors always add interest to a seawatch and included a Peregrine on April 14th, Marsh Harriers on April 28th and May 11th, an Osprey on May 5th, a Merlin on May 6th and at least five arriving Hobbys. Also noteworthy were records of a pair of Garganey on April 22nd, two Black-necked Grebes on May 5th and spring totals of 22 Manx Shearwaters, six Avocets and six Golden Plovers. Although large numbers of Little Gulls have been recorded regularly in spring from East Sussex watch points the numbers recorded on April 20th and 21st (103) was exceptional for this area. Likewise the number of observations of Mediterranean Gulls continued to rise and the April and May totals of 80 and 29 respectively contributed to a record year for this species. The rarest birds occurred in the late spring and were both single birds flying east; an adult Long-tailed Skua on May 23rd and a Balearic Shearwater on May 29th.

Figure 2 on page 72 shows that the remainder of the year, with the exception of September, was watched more than usual and Figure 3 on page 72 shows that rates of passage, particularly in August and November, rewarded the observers. The summer is often quiet but there were regular records of terns, waders and Mediterranean Gulls. Gannets were usually seen offshore with 266 on August 18th being the highest count. Return wader passage was interesting with 74 Curlews seen in June and 106 in July. A total of 35 Black-tailed Godwits, usually a scarce species on a seawatch, were seen in July and August. Tern numbers are seldom of the magnitude of spring watching with peaks of 78 Sandwich Terns on August 18th, 507 "commic" terns, all flying eastward, on the same day and 212 Common Terns flying west on August 24th. Ospreys on August 22nd and 30th were the raptors recorded in this period and two Balearic Shearwaters were seen flying westward on August 18th.

Although Worthing is far from an ideal location for observing passerine diurnal passage it is possible to see reasonable numbers flying along the shoreline during September and October. During 2007 the peak movements were 3000 Swallows east in I hour on September 30th, 203 Meadow Pipits and 64 Pied Wagtails east in a similar time on October 15th and 13th respectively. The October total for Goldfinches was 1316E and 60W whilst 43 Siskins and 44 Redpolls were noted. At the end of October impressive early morning movements of Woodpigeons were recorded with 11,600 W on the 30th and 8,500W on the following day.

An early Red-throated Diver in the second winter period was seen on September 19th, the first Red-breasted Merganser on September 27th and, although single birds were seen earlier, the first small party of six Great-crested Grebes on October 21st. Seabird passage was fairly quiet at this time with no notable numbers of terns, skuas or wildfowl although a Manx Shearwater on September 21st was interesting and westward movements of 200 Gannets on the same day and 1026 on October 28th were noteworthy.

The pace picked up considerably in November and this month produced the highest rates of passage for the entire year. Watching was clearly interesting as the 44 hours notched up was the most hours recorded in November since the resumption of detailed seawatch records in 1978. Perhaps the most exciting morning was on the 11th when during five hours watching there was always something to be seen; the day's totals included highlights of 19 Pomarine and 22 Arctic Skuas, three Little Auks, a Sooty Shearwater, 372 Gannets and 1599 Kittiwakes. Little Auks also occurred on the 10th and 12th, a Pomarine Skua was also seen on the 10th and the month total for Arctic Skuas was 48. There were several days when good numbers of Gannets, Kittiwakes, auks and divers were seen and amongst several interesting sightings were 32 Little Gulls on the 1st, an Avocet on the 4th, two late Sandwich Terns on the 5th, single Red-necked Grebes on the 13th and 27th, two Long-tailed Ducks on both the 19th and 20th, 4 Velvet Scoters on the 26th and two Goldeneyes on the 27th.

Although early December started fairly quietly by mid-month there were days of reasonable offshore movements and counts of birds feeding offshore. Again species such as Great Northern Diver, Slavonian and Red-necked Grebe, Long-tailed Duck and Velvet Scoter were recorded. Red-breasted Mergansers reached their peak count of 234 on December 22nd and 309 Great-Crested Grebes were counted on the 26th.

No very large numbers of divers or auks were recorded although there were 42 Redthroated Divers on December 22nd and 55 Razorbills on the 25th. The Christmas period was the best for Gannets and Kittiwakes with 343 and 444 of the former species being noted during short watches on the 24th and 25th respectively whilst the same figures for Kittiwakes were 118 and 623.

John Newnham

BRIGHTON HERRING GULL COUNT COMPARISONS 2000-2007

The last organised gull count was in May-June 2000. With new nests observed in recent years, and with the distinct possibility of an increase in numbers, I checked out roads near me in Hollingdean and also on my route to Preston Park Station. Streets in central Brighton were not checked on this latest survey. The count in 2007 was from 16 June-7 July and included only roofs with young birds.

Roads in	Nests 2000	Nests 2007
alphabetical order		
Balfour Road	0	2
Barnett Road	7	5
Bates Road	1	1
Clermont Terrace	0	1
Dudley Road	2	3
Harrington Road	1	2
Hertford Road	П	6
Hollingbury Place	1	2
Hollingbury Rise	1	4
Hollingbury Road	2	4
Hollingdean Terrace	8	8
Merevale flats	0	1
Preston Drove	0	1
Roedale Court flats	I	I
Roedale Road	0	1
Stanmer	1	4
Total	36	46

Birds originally nested in Barnett and Hertford Roads, the core of nesting birds came from these two roads. The high number of nests in Hollingdean Terrace is attributed to the road being double in length. It is interesting to see birds moving into other streets, due to many house owners objecting to noisy and messy gulls and taking steps to make their chimneys unsuitable (ie wire mesh and spikes). In spite of this a number of people regularly attract gulls by putting out food.

The majority of nests are placed on rooftops of older houses which have two rows of three chimneys. Two nests are on flat attic extensions, and two new nests are on different shape chimneys on Hollingdean Estate flats. Overall there was an approx 28% increase.

I have no proof of Lesser Black-backed Gulls nesting in the area covered above, but of note were a number of sightings of a pair close to Preston Park railway station during the breeding season in 2007 (adjacent to Clermont Terrace, above).

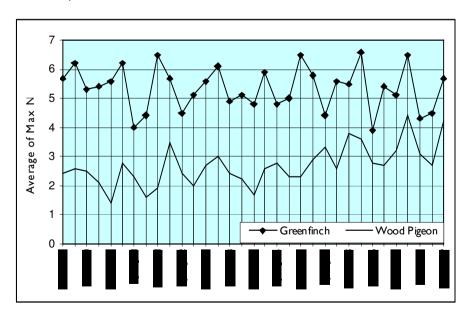
Peter Whitcomb

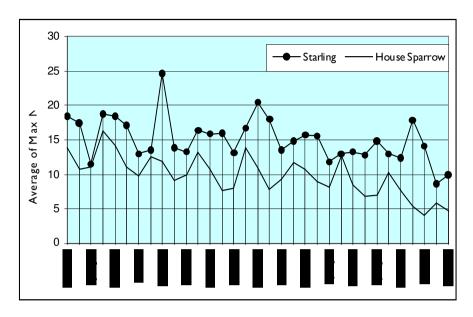
GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2007

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 28 in John Cooper's garden in Steyning (31/12/06-30/03/07) and (30/09/07-29/12/07).

The only species to be recorded in every garden in each quarter was Blackbird while Blue Tit was present in all gardens except for two during the summer quarter (01/07/07-29/09/07) and one in the autumn quarter (30/09/07-29/12/07).

The following graphs show the fortunes of some of the more common birds which have been recorded in our gardens since the autumn of 1999, the average of max. numbers are plotted against each quarter of the year. Since the commencement of the survey in this format there appears to be a noticeable decline in the numbers of House Sparrows being recorded whereas Woodpigeon numbers appear to be slowly rising. These graphs compare well with those produced by the BTO showing the present national trend for these two species.





Goldfinch (27 gardens) was well recorded while Song Thrush (21 gardens) and Wren (25 gardens) kept up good numbers. Long-tailed Tit (14 gardens) and Coal Tit (11) are maintaining a good presence but records for Goldcrest (8 gardens) show a reduced recording rate.

Sparrowhawk, recorded in 19 gardens, was the only raptor to be noted during the year.

Six gardens recorded Redwing but there were no records for Fieldfare or Siskin. Mistle Thrush was recorded in two gardens.

Of the summer migrants there were records for Chiffchaff (15 gardens), Willow Warbler (8), Common Whitethroat (2), Lesser Whitethroat (1), Pied Flycatcher (1) and Garden Warbler (3). Blackcap was recorded in eight gardens and all of these included probable over wintering birds noted between November and February.

Four gardens were fortunate to record Grey Wagtail while Pied Wagtail was noted in eight gardens. Great Spotted Woodpecker (13 gardens) and Green Woodpecker (15) both maintained a good presence but Nuthatch was recorded in just one garden.

Magpie was widely recorded (30 gardens) with Crow (22), Jackdaw (13), Rook (5) and Jay (12) generally maintaining numbers of previous years.

A new record for this garden bird survey was a Little Egret in John Cooper's Steyning garden.

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum numbers	Average of				
			maximum numbers				
Blue Tit	100	14	3.7				
Blackbird	100	10	3.6				
Robin	93.5	4	1.7				
Greenfinch	90.3	40	6.3				
Great Tit	90.3	5	1.9				
Collared Dove	87.1	14	2.9				
Chaffinch	87.1	8	2.7				
Woodpigeon	83.9	12	4.2				
House Sparrow	80.6	22	5.2				
Dunnock	77.4	4	1.6				

Winter 2007 (31/12/06 to 31/03/07) 31 gardens recording 43 species

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of
			maximum numbers
Greenfinch	100	9	4.2
Blue Tit	100	8	4.0
Blackbird	100	8	3.5
Starling	93.3	50	14.0
Robin	93.3	3	1.8
Great Tit	90.0	6	2.7
Collared Dove	90.0	6	2.2
Woodpigeon	86.7	12	3.0
House Sparrow	86.7	10	4.0
Dunnock	83.3	4	1.8

Spring 2007 (01/04/07 – 30/06/07) 30 gardens recording 44 species



© John Reaney

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum Number	Average of maximum numbers
Blackbird	100	6	3.6
Blue Tit	93.1	10	3.7
Great Tit	93.1	6	2.5
Woodpigeon	93.1	6	2.6
Robin	93.1	3	1.3
Collared Dove	89.7	6	2.4
Greenfinch	86.2	12	4.4
Dunnock	79.3	5	1.7
House Sparrow	75.9	28	5.7
Chaffinch	72.4	6	1.8

Summer 2007 (01/07/07 to 29/09/07) 29 gardens recording 43 species

Top Birds	% of gardens used	Maximum number	Average of maximum numbers					
			maximum numbers					
Blackbird	100	10	4.6					
Blue Tit	96.7	17	4.0					
Robin	96.7	2	1.2					
Collared Dove	93.3	13	3.0					
Great Tit	90.0	6	2.0					
Magpie	90.0	4	1.9					
Dunnock	86.7	4	1.6					
Starling	80.0	34	9.7					
Chaffinch	80.0	7	2.2					
Woodpigeon	76.7	13	4.1					

Autumn 2007 (30/09/07 to 29/12/07) 30 gardens recording 42 species

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, S. Marshall, 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 & A. Wisdom.

Graphs by Brian Clay.

Martin Ford

INDOOR MEETINGS 2007

Another year of seven lectures with an individual approach by each speaker. Attendance at the meetings has increased yet again this year, with an average of 60 members at each. The SDOS Council is grateful for this excellent level of support and is always pleased to receive ideas for future talks.

David Lang started the year with his talk on <u>Tiree and Ardnamurchan</u>. David showed the famous, vast white beaches of Tiree, the long views illustrating the huge, wild habitat and the even more well known machair which is so rich in flowers. This is the area where terns and waders nest in their hundreds but, as David is a botanist, in particular an orchid specialist, we were treated to some of the plant specialities. The names conjure up the magic of the area: Corn Marigold, Frog, Lesser Butterfly, Pyramidal Orchids and Bog Asphodel (the latter causing brittle bones in sheep if they eat too much of it). We were told that the Golden Eagle is being superseded by the Sea Eagle. Although Razorbills, Guillemots and Fulmars featured they are not there in great numbers as there are not many cliffs for seabirds to nest. On the sea Manx Shearwaters and Eiders can be found and sometimes sightings of Minke Whales. Inland at higher levels Ptarmigans and Mountain Hares blend in to their background at all times of the year. David is very keen on the solitude of the north-west coast and all it has to offer.

In February **Dave Hassell** came with his wife to show us <u>British Seabirds</u> and to talk about the wild places whence they come before they reach our coastline. He had magnificent slides mainly taken in Unst, in northern Scotland. Arctic and Common Terns, Black-headed, Common, Herring, Lesser and Great Black-backed Gulls often taken at the nest showing eggs and young. There were pictures of Bonxies which prey on Puffins and Shearwaters, Red-throated Divers, Gannets, Shags, Eiders and Fulmars, Razorbills and Guillemots. Dave then focussed on a particular aspect such as an egg tooth, the type of foot, the colour of the eye, the darker colour of the head of a male Black-headed Gull compared to the female, adding interesting information with each new slide. Dave showed the knowledge he has acquired simply by his keen observation and detailed photography.

In March **Ralph Todd** gave us the evocative title of Where the Waters Roar and the Vultures Soar which took us first to Iceland and then, by contrast, down to the Pyrenees. Iceland is a surprising island with many waterfalls, some very large, and dramatic scenery. It does not have large numbers of birds but they are interesting. Red-necked Phalaropes are easily approached, Arctic Skuas with their piratical behaviour of chasing other sea-birds forcing them to disgorge or drop their food and the strange sight of Arctic Terns nesting in the middle of Reykjavik. Then we travelled a long way south to the French/Spanish border to see the effect of new technology on the age-old migration routes taken by birds. There were harrowing pictures of Cranes having to cope with the endless lines of wind farms on the ridges of the mountains. They are not the only birds to be disconcerted by the noise and height of these turbines. On a happier note we saw close pictures of Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes. Ralph's photographs were well presented and he took time to describe the views he was showing or to add interesting information about the birds.

April 24th was our AGM and was followed with a talk by Shena and John Maskell. Shena talked about the various places she has been as a co-leader for birdwatching tours. She showed excellent photographs of birds in Transylvania, Hungary and Romania and gave a lot of extra information on each picture with fluency, knowledge and huge enthusiasm. Bernie Forbes has now joined the team so there was also information about forthcoming tours in which they would both be involved. After the break John took over to tell us about a school in Kenya which has links with the Broadwater school in which he teaches. First, events were organised for the children at the Broadwater school to raise money to go to the Kenyan school for a project run by a friend of John's. Then he and Shena decided they would combine a visit to Kenya with a working visit (one week) to the school so that they could show the children in England how their money was used. It was quite obviously a poor area with no electricity and very little reliable water but the pictures showed all the children neatly dressed in their school uniform and a pride in their country and respect for their flag. It was a brave effort by the Maskells which seemed to be much appreciated. John's talk ended with pictures of their tour of some National Parks, one in a great crater. They saw the big five animals of Africa and there were many exciting birds.



Simon Curson started the second half of our lecture programme when he came to us in October with the subject <u>Bird ringing in Canada</u>. He had worked as an ecologist for West Sussex County Council but also had many experiences as a volunteer, one of which was as a Migration Assistant at the Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario. Long Point juts out 20 miles into Lake Erie and therefore attracts huge numbers of migrating birds of all kinds. Since 1960 over half a million birds of 270 species have been banded (ringed) at the Observatory. Simon had spent seven months (April-November) at various ringing stations around Long Point sometimes working from dawn to dusk handling up to 500 birds. Some of these were retraps, one of which gave rise to an incredible story: As Simon checked the retrap record he realised he was holding a bird ringed by his older brother two years previously and another brother had ringed the same bird in the previous year! To our eyes the birds he showed us were very brightly coloured, the Indigo Bunting was stunning as

was the Kingfisher with an extraordinary top-knot. Simon is interested in everything to do with wildlife, now he leads walks in Dorset, Hants, and Sussex on the identification of birds, flowers, insects and mammals.

John Hobson, a former Sussex Bird Recorder, has travelled the world, sometimes as an expert guide on cruise ships. In November he took us to the far north and the spectacular wilderness of Alaska for Polar Bears, Bald Eagles and the breeding grounds of some of those Long Point migrant waders and wildfowl. There were views showing desolate scenery. fjords and islands. Birds included King, Steller's and Common Eider, Kittiwakes with either red or yellow legs, Common and Brunnich's Guillemots, Upland and Semipalmated Sandpipers and the fact that he saw 22 Snowy Owls in one session - almost a common bird in this area. In addition to the birds John had spectacular views of whales: Sperm Whales can be identified by the 45 angle of its water spout and there were Humpbacked too. The shots of Polar Bears and a Wolf were very distant but evocative. John is a speaker with years of experience and is able to impart a great deal of information.

Our final speaker of the year was **Andrew Cleave** with the subject <u>Mediterranean Birds</u>. Andrew had been to us in 1986 to give a talk on <u>Birds of the Coast</u> and he has not lost his ability to interest an audience. His delivery was excellent, he was able to judge from the reaction to his admirable slides how much further information to give. Most of the photographs were taken using the car as a hide, a well-known way of getting close to your subject and causing very little disturbance. The colours of a Bee-eater and a Roller were outstanding with the light enhancing every detail. Red-backed and Woodchat Shrikes were featured and one surprising picture showed a shrike on its most delicate nest of lichens which melded into the branch of the tree even though the bird was on the nest. The vote of thanks given at the end of the talk summed it up very well: "It was jam-packed with everything a birdwatcher would want to see and hear".

Brianne Reeve

A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA

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 can submit your records by <u>one</u> of the following methods:

- i. Use recording forms for the SDOS area which are simple and self explanatory and which I am able to supply by post or by e-mail see box at foot of this page.
- Send electronic records to the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) see http://www.sos.org.uk/records/index.php
- iii. Send records on-line via one of the national surveys organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, in particular Birdtrack or the current Atlas - see http://www.bto.org.uk/.

Those species for which the SDOS particularly requires 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, BNII IXB. 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.

SDOS recording forms are available from:
Clive Hope 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, W Sussex, BN12 5RG
Tel: 01903 700498 email: clivehope@btinternet.com

Please enclose an A4 sae with your request if you need paper forms.

The boundaries of the SDOS recording area are shown on the map on the inside back cover of this report.

ABOUT THE SDOS / MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Shoreham District Ornithological Society (SDOS), based in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was founded in 1953 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 j	oin the Shoreham District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our									
annual subscri	ption of (please tick appropriate box):									
Single	£12 []									
Couple/Family	£18 []									
Junior	£5 []									
	nip terms on application to the Membership Secretary									
Cheques shou	ıld 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, We	est Sussex, BN14 7JJ.									
i										

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31/12/2007

	2007	2006
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	3,998.43	3,672.06
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,672.00	1,903.00
Sale of books, reports, cards, video hire	60.00	4.00
and stickers		
Net raffle and refreshment receipts	137.39	120.70
Bank interest	55.28	38.22
Donations	83.12	2.00
	<u>6,006.22</u>	<u>5,739.98</u>
PAYMENTS		
Printing and art work	800.58	603.78
Postage and stationery	236.10	191.29
Hire of hall	175.00	175.00
Southern Water Authority	-	4.00
Speakers fees	427.00	444.00
Insurance	173.59	173.90
BTCV Membership	35.00	35.00
First Aid Kit	-	7.95
Gifts	64.50	50.00
Travel expenses	39.00	20.00
Purchase of reference book	83.12	-
Refreshments	-	36.63
Balance carried forward	3,972.33	3,998.43
	<u>6,006.22</u>	<u>5,739.98</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer) Dated:18 January 2008

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: 13 March 2008 - Carole Tucker and David Green

GOLDEN JUBILEE RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31/12/2007

		2006
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	2,490.49	2,081.08
Sale of pens	2.00	8.00
Bank interest	41.97	28.91
Sale of Jubilee book	32.50	372.50
	<u>2,566.96</u>	2,490.49
PAYMENTS		
SDOS Bench	513.67	-
Donation	25.00	=
Balance carried forward	2,028.29	2,490.49
	<u>2,566.96</u>	<u>2,490.49</u>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 18 January 2008

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: 13 March 2008 - Carole Tucker and David Green

SOCIETY OFFICERS

President: <u>Bernie Forbes</u> 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, W Sussex, BNI5 9JY, Tel: 01903 753876 email: bernieforbes@talktalk.net

Chairman: Brianne Reeve The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing, W Sussex, BN15 ORS Tel: 01273 452497

email: briannereeve@yahoo.com

Field and Meetings Secretary: <u>Chris Wright</u> 6 Shoreham Road, Upper Beeding, W Sussex, BN44 3TN Tel: 01903 814859

IT Consultant:: <u>Terry Hicks</u> 7 Berberis Court, Shoreham-by-Sea, W Sussex, BN43 6JA Tel: 01273 591120 email: terrance.hicks@talk21.com

Membership Secretary: <u>Shena Maskell</u> 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, W Sussex, BN14 7JJ email: 2maskells@tinyworld.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: <u>Brian Clay</u> Megahana, Honeysuckle Lane, High Salvington, W Sussex, BN13 3BT Tel: 01903 602439 email: brian.clay@ntlworld.com

Outings Organiser: <u>Dorian Mason</u> Seagate, Florida Road, South Ferring, W Sussex, BN12 5PE Tel: 01903 700456 email: dorian_mason@tiscali.co.uk

Recorder: Clive Hope 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, W Sussex, BN12 5RG Tel: 01903 700498 email: clivehope@btinternet.com

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

Secretary: Mary Ferrier 63 Connaught Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, W Sussex, BN43 5WL Tel: 01273 452706 email: mlferrier@hotmail.com

Treasurer: John Maskell 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, W Sussex, BN147JJ email: johnmaskell@tiscali.co.uk

USEFUL ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS, WEBSITES

The SDOS website is at: www.sdos.org

Booth Museum of Natural History 194 Dyke Road, Brighton, E Sussex, BNI 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 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 http://www.sussexwt.org.uk/reserves/page00024.htm

Police Wildlife Officer Police advice is initially to ring 0845 60 70 999 (the main nonemergency police contact number) to ensure appriopriate 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, BN 1 4EA 01273 775333

<u>Pulborough Brooks Reserve</u> 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: Nigel Bowie, 55 Rochester Street, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 OEJ 01273 571266 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 http://www.wwt.org.uk/centre/116/arundel.html

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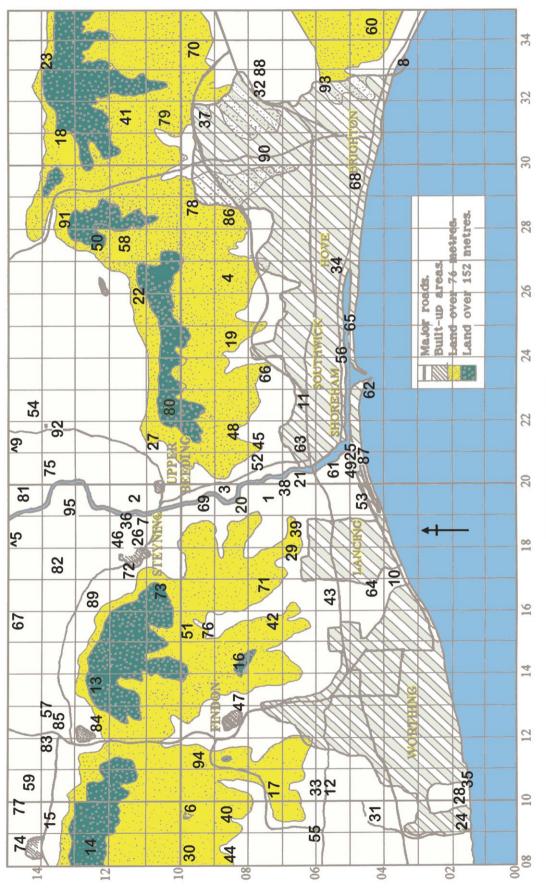
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SDOS RECORDING AREA

