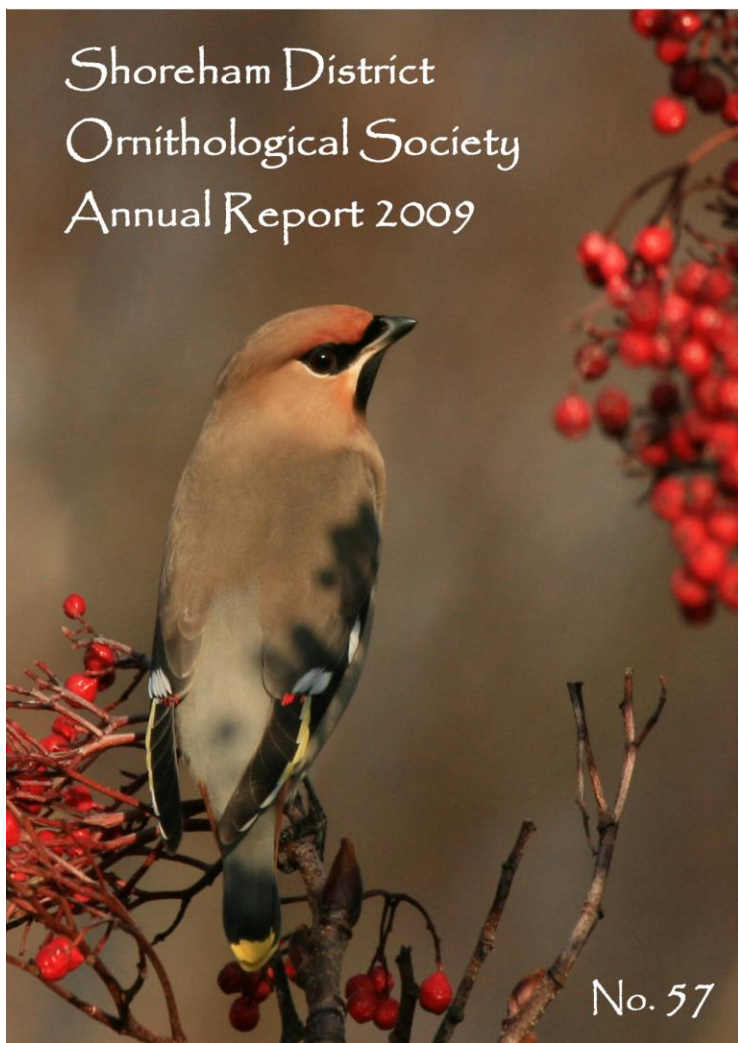


Shoreham District
Ornithological Society
Annual Report 2009



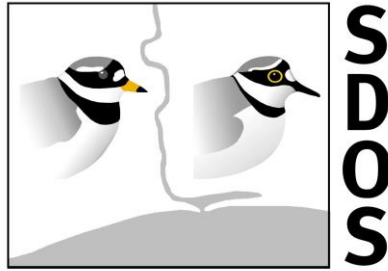
No. 57



Sandwich Tern by Dorian Mason



Glossy Ibis at Ferring Rife by Tricia Hall



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

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front cover image: Waxwing by Wendy Ball
inside back cover: SDOS Area Map by Terry Hicks
back cover: Wheatear by Dorian Mason

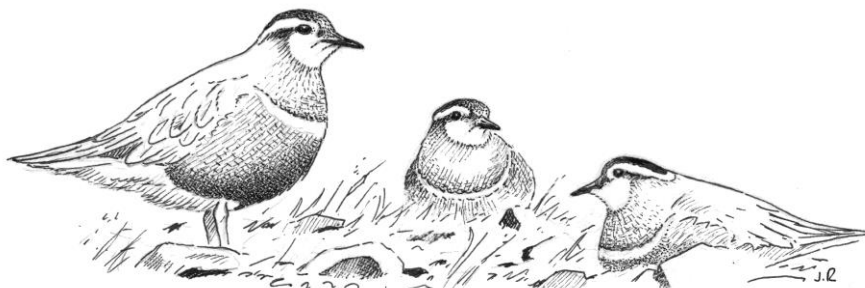
EDITORIAL

Once again I have been able to assemble a Report that just fits within our limit of about 90 pages. Beyond that and we move into a more expensive binding process that will increase our costs significantly. To allow a bit more space for photographs that do so much to enhance our report you will now find the summaries of the Field Outings in the Newsletter, although a list of the outings that were held is still towards the back of the Report. This year I'd like to particularly thank all the contributors; Clive Hope and his team for pulling together the Systematic List; John Newnham for the Seawatching Report and for summarising the ringing, John Crix and Val Bentley for the ringing site summaries and Val again for taking on the analysis of the ever-popular Garden Bird Survey. Last but, certainly by no means least, I thank Brianne Reeve for undertaking the proof reading.

Whilst on the surface we hope that the indoor meetings and field outings run smoothly, and certainly the attendances and feedback that we get seems to suggest so, below the surface there is quite a large amount of furious paddling against the tide! One element of the tide is the passing of the years. A number of your committee have been in post far longer than the five years our constitution sets as the maximum tenure and they urgently want to take a break. Others, like me, are now on a second term and would rather give way to new blood with enthusiasm and fresh ideas to move our Society forward through the 21st century. A number of posts on Committee are potentially available and we would particularly welcome those who may have served on committees in similar organisations. However, I don't want to over-emphasise that point. If you are keen to see our Society continue please do offer your services. You can approach any current officer either at an indoor meeting or field outing or alternatively contact them direct – names and addresses are listed at the back of this Report. The new committee will take effect from next February's A.G.M. so you have a little time to gather your energies. We look forward to hearing from you – your Society needs you!!

Once again we are indebted to the photographers for such inspiring images, Terry Hicks for both of the maps and to John Reaney for his superb line drawings.

Brian Clay



© John Reaney

WEATHER NOTES AND BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS 2009

January

After a mild Christmas at the end of December, we had a cold start to the year. As the pressure dropped, there was a sprinkling of snow, though not enough to make a snowball. Then we had a really cold spell with freezing fog in the evenings and through the night. In the middle of the month it rained and rained but after a month and a half of dry weather, it certainly brought the average rainfall up to some normality.

A female Long-tailed Duck was off Hove Lagoon on the 1st and a Goosander flew down the Adur on 4th. Two Black-necked Grebes passed the Marina on 6th and a Red-necked Grebe was there on 15th. Waxwings appeared in Brighton on 9th and 26th. A juvenile Iceland Gull attracted much attention during a lengthy stay from 27th in the Southwick area.

February

After the rain, came the snow and the whole country had its share. The snow showers were mixed with freezing conditions and also rain. The first half of the month followed this pattern. The latter part of the month was dry with some sunny days but mainly overcast with high pressure over the southern part of the country. Large counts of Fieldfares followed the cold weather with 500 near Ferring on 3rd and 300 next day at Botolphs. The best showing of Waxwings occurred from 10th with ten in the Goring/Durrington area until at least 25th. Two Avocets were on the Adur on 16th.

March

This month came in like a lamb but then changed and became like a lion for a few days, after which we enjoyed lovely sunny days, with only a little rain and crisp nights. After the 12th, we had no rain until the later part of the month. The total rainfall was under 50mm, which gave us 83.64% of the 30 year average rainfall. Twenty Garganey passed the Marina on 18th. Long-tailed Ducks were off West Worthing and the Marina on 23rd/24th.

April

The month started with the sun shining and not as folklore says: "April showers". That did not change until the second and third week, when 38mm of rain was recorded. The month ended reasonably warm. The highest temperatures were recorded during the wettest parts of the month. Not seen by any locals, a Hoopoe was at Patching on 14th. A Black Kite flew north over Lancing on 15th, our first for eight years.

May

This month was very up and down. Apart from the dryness in the middle of the month there did not seem to be a pattern to the weather, which was very changeable. The rain overnight on the 25th was a great relief to the gardens around the area. The month finished on a very warm note – well over 20°C.

Three Dotterel at Chantry Hill on 5th and 6th were appreciated but where were the photographers? A most unusual visitor was a Lady Amherst's Pheasant that appeared in the Anchor Bottom and Beeding Hill area on 7th to 11th - origin unknown. The year's only Spoonbill flew high over Ferring on 14th.

June

June began as May left off, dry and warm. As the month progressed, we had a real taste of summer, which continued throughout the month, with only 51% of the average rainfall. The humidity was extremely high. The second Black Kite of the year was over Steyning Round Hill on 11th.

July 2009

The first few days followed June's summer spell, then we experienced a very wet time. Even when it was wet the usual July temperatures held sway. There were some very spectacular thunderstorms mid-month but in fact there were very few days when there was no rain. Pressure over the month was very steady and over 200% of the 30 year average rainfall was recorded.

A fine adult male Red-backed Shrike was found at Cissbury on 14th. A Honey-buzzard was over Steyning Round Hill on 4th.

August

The majority of the month was what one enjoys as a normal English summer. Mid-August was very dry. The beginning of the month was the warmest, while the latter part experienced the coolest temperatures, pressure again remaining fairly constant.

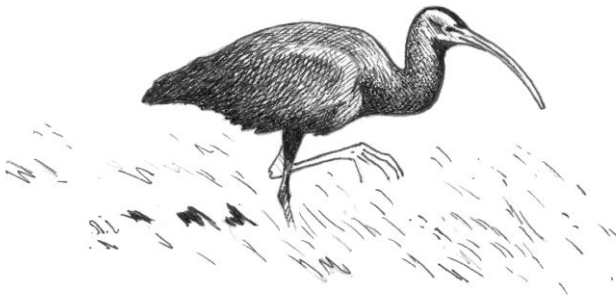
A Wryneck at Findon on 9th was a nice find.

September

Again, September was a very dry month, receiving even less rain than the previous month. On Tuesday 22nd, the sun crossed the celestial equator, indicating the beginning of Autumn in the Northern Hemisphere. On the whole we had what might be considered a satisfactory summer. The year's only Balearic Shearwaters were seen off Worthing on 2nd. On 14th a Red-necked Grebe passed Worthing beach. Next day a Corncrake was picked up dead at the Marina. Up to three Wrynecks were in Sheepcote Valley in the month. The Steyning ringers caught their first Yellow-browed Warbler on 23rd.

October

Pressure during the month was very constant, only varying by 30mb. Two spells of rain were recorded. The only autumn Pomarine Skua was off Widewater on 6th. A Sooty Shearwater passed Worthing on 27th. Ferring Rife hosted a Glossy Ibis on 30th and 31st.



November

The month started with the wet weather and winds as had been forecast. On the night of the 13th, there were warnings of strong winds and torrential rain but it was not as devastating as 1987. There is not a great deal to say about November, except very, very wet and windy. In total, we had over 330% of the 30 year average rainfall. It was quite a surprise to wake up some mornings when it wasn't raining!!

On the whole, it was very mild for the time of the year but we were prepared for a drop in the temperature in December. On 29th six Leach's Petrels passed Widewater in the afternoon, part of an influx to South West England.



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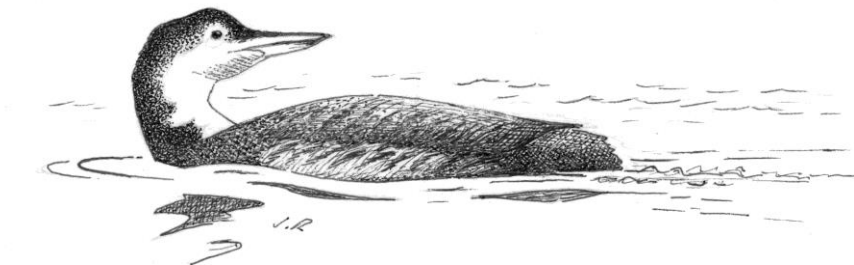
December

The start of the month was so different to the end of November. Some evenings were quite cool while during the day we enjoyed sunshine. As the first week of the month went on, the Met men and women were beginning to get frustrated, telling us about one warm front following another. Overnight on the 17th we had 3 inches of snow. The snow stayed and with the drop in temperatures we had very difficult conditions underfoot, as the ice, especially on the roads, didn't seem to melt during the day. This weather was one week too early for Christmas. Christmas morning was a beautiful sunny morning and it stayed remarkably mild to the end of the month but with a large amount of rain recorded.

A Great Northern Diver was off Worthing from Christmas day for three days.

The total rainfall for 2009 was 1064.25mm (41.90 inches), which is 146.23% of the average for the previous 30 years.

Clive Hope



© John Reaney

SYSTEMATIC LIST 2009

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

In a few cases, where records are rather unusual in date or occurrence and the observer(s) are unnamed or unknown to us they have been omitted from the published report. Note that, especially with regard to sea-watch data, complete figures for the Marina were not received.

References to Worthing in sea-watch data include all sites between Lancing and Ferring unless separately identified. Lower Adur generally refers to the river and associated banks and saltings south of the A283 to the Tollbridge. South of this is usually referred to as Shoreham Adur. Wild Park includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulsecomb Wild Park. 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 who are members of the SDOS:

SR Allen, VP Bentley, N Biddulph, RC Bradbury, J Crix, B Easlea, JA Feest, BF Forbes, CJ Fox, T Freed, T Goble, D Green, P Green, MP Hall, P Hall, DGC Harper, J Holter, CE Hope, RA Ives, R Knight, JM Maskell, SP Maskell, B Metcalfe, JA Newnham, R Pawley, B Reeve, SP Simpson, DI Smith, MA Snelling, JC Steedman, JM Steedman, R Tofts, M Tucker, R Westwater, PJ Whitcomb, M Wilsdon, CH Wright.

I am indebted to the following writers who have assisted with summaries for the systematic list: B.Clay (warblers), T.Goble (gamebirds), J.Newnham (thrushes), D.Smith (Kittiwake, terns & skuas), M.Snelling (Parakeet to woodpeckers), P.Whitcomb (hirundines, pipits & chats.), C.Wright (raptors), V.Bentley (finches), M. Hall (tits, Treecreeper, Nuthatch & buntings).

Clive Hope

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

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

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

Some monthly peak counts from selected sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Henfield Levels	22	6	22	-	-	7	-	-	13	36	17	27
Steyning Levels	5	5	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	15	25	27
Lower Adur	9	11	6	7	29	29	16	8	19	3	4	3
Shoreham Adur	6	13	9	7	18	33	50	-	-	3	-	3
Widewater	14	12	5	5	11	3	7	7	17	9	8	8
Brooklands	5	5	3	2	2	7	7	3	4	4	2	-
Hove Lagoon	20	19	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

On Jan 4th, 77 were counted on the Adur Levels or on the river, 63 of them north of Stretham Manor, five between Stretham and Bramber and nine between Bramber and Shoreham (A259). Breeding occurred at Widewater (five cygnets), the Marina (nest c/w six eggs), Upper Beeding, Brooklands (five cygnets), Henfield Levels (five cygnets) and Shoreham Adur (pair with seven cygnets near footbridge).

As usual, small numbers were recorded on seawatches at Worthing with nine W in Jan, four W in Mar, two E and seven W in Apr and one W and three offshore in Sep.

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

There were four on Beeding Brooks and eight on Henfield Levels on Jan 24th reducing to three at the latter site on Feb 17th. Six flew S over Storrington on Feb 6th.

Seven again at Henfield Levels in Dec from 5th to 12th consisting of two adults and five juveniles then just three adults there on 26th.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus Cygnus***Very scarce winter visitor**

On Nov 6th three adults flew W along the low-tide line at 0820 (JAN).

Four birds, probably adults, flew SE there on Dec 28th (DIS).

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

Two flew high E on Jan 9th between Woods Mill and Truleigh Hill. Four were on Henfield Levels on Dec 6th.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser***Uncommon but increasing introduced resident**

There were 40 at Upper Beeding in Jan and 43 at Henfield Levels rising to 200 in Feb. In Apr, five were on the Wiston Estate and 11 at Horton Hall, Small Dole. Breeding recorded at Upper Beeding with ten goslings present on Jul 10th. At this site, numbers increased to 53 in Nov. Henfield Levels held 160 on Dec 20th, the peak late year count.

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

Upper Beeding held the bulk of the records in the first half of the year with 40 in Jan, 15 in Feb, 30 in Mar, eight in Apr and three in Jun. The only breeding record came from Horton Hall near Small Dole where six in Jun included fledged young. There were 66 at Sandgate Park, Storrington on Sep 20th. Twenty-eight were on the Adur at Shoreham on Oct 31st. Nov maxima were of 90 at Upper Beeding and in Dec, 150 on Henfield Levels.

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

The only record was of one flying NE with Canada Geese at Southwick on Jun 14th.

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

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	1650	303	260	235	1	-	-	-	-	77	2	13
West	1	8	23	2	-	-	-	-	4	356	44	43

The peak movement occurred on Jan 31st when all 1650 passed E, an exceptionally early date for such a number. This was reflected at Widewater, Shoreham Fort and Southwick. The only records away from here were of small numbers passing the Marina in Apr with 31 on 11th as the maximum and in Dec, six rested on the fields at Goring Gap on 31st.

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

Monthly totals from Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	3	4	18	-	-	-	11	2	-	2
W	4	-	4	18	16	-	-	5	8	22	3	47

No breeding records received.

Two flew south over High Salvington on Dec 24th.

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

Just small numbers (two to twelve) noted in Jan and Feb at Steyning Wyckham Farm, Shoreham Airport, Cuckoo Corner (Coombes), Shoreham Adur and Henfield Levels. Thereafter only recorded from Worthing beach with just two E in Apr. In the autumn there, ten E and 82 W in Sep (max. 41 on 16th), three E and 27 W in Oct, 30 E and 12 W in Nov and seven E and 429 W in Dec (max. 346 on 2nd). Henfield Levels held up to 350 in Dec (8th) and there were 13 at Cuckoo Corner (Coombes) on 22nd.

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

Six at Henfield Levels on Feb 1st, two near Stretham Manor on 11th and three at Upper Beeding on 23rd when two also at Southwick. A pair were at the first site on Mar 13th. Two flew past the Marina on Apr 16th and two passed Worthing on 23rd. Thirteen noted off Worthing between Aug and Dec, max. six W on Dec 20th. Two at Upper Beeding on 22nd.

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

Counts from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Dec
Henfield Levels	-	420	-		90
Widewater	17	9	2		-
Lower Adur	48	53	2		85
Shoreham Adur	18	16	2		-
Ferring Rife	8	-	-		4

Sea-watches at Worthing produced 19E and six W in Jan, three in Feb, 23 E in Apr with the last for the first half-year on 18th, then four on Jul 12th, 18 E and 28 W in Sep, three E in Oct and 71 W in Dec.

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

Monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Steyning Levels	39	6	12	-	5	-	-	-	-	5	3	-
Henfield Levels	7	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	45	47
Lower Adur	4	2	5	5	26	13	2	10	4	/	-	27
Brooklands	26	22	11	18	-	34	33	12	10	11	11	12
Widewater	20	-	6	5	7	4	-	-	-	1	22	-
Shoreham by Sea	12	/	/	1	5	2	-	-	-	-	2	-
Ladywells	-	5	8	4	4	2	5	2	-	2	4	10

/ = present but no count made.

Breeding took place at: Ladywells (4 y), Washington Rock Common (3y), Brooklands (2y), Poynings Pond (4y), Lower Adur (12y), Shoreham Adur (15y & 13 y), Patching Pond (10y in two broods).

PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

As with Teal, the largest gathering was on Henfield Levels on Feb 17th when 140 were counted. Steyning Levels held 16 at this time. Numbers fell quickly to just a couple at the former site by Mar 13th. Five passed the Marina on Apr 6th. Small numbers were logged off Worthing from Sep 16th to Dec 12th. There were 20 at Henfield Levels again in the last month.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

Scarce spring passage migrant

An excellent passage noted at the Marina with 24 E in Mar and six E in Apr, the peak being 20 on Mar 18th. Just two E at Worthing on Apr 11th and one W there in the autumn on Aug 26th.

SHOVELER *Anas clypeata*

Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

There were just five at Henfield Levels in Jan and two on Steyning Levels in Feb. A single female was on Brooklands at both ends of the year. At Worthing beach, 15 flew W on Feb 15th, 14 moved E there in Mar and eight in Apr. In Dec, 20 W on 2nd out of 27 in the month were logged there. Thirty were at Rye Farm, Henfield Levels on 26th.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

Five at Brooklands from Jan 6th to Feb 11th and one at Widewater at both ends of the year were the only records.

TUFTED DUCK *Aythya fuligula*

Declining winter visitor

As with the previous species, few birds were seen. At the former regular site of Brooklands only one or two in Jan, Mar and Sep. Two were on Patching Pond in Apr and May but no breeding took place. The Wiston Estate held 17 on Apr 22nd and four on Jun 2nd. Four on Henfield Levels on Dec 8th with Wigeon were unusual.

COMMON EIDER *Somateria mollissima*

Decreasing passage migrant and winter visitor

Reported from Worthing beach as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
-	-	14	1	-	-	7	-	-	-	3	-

Seven were seen from a boat three miles off Ferring on Jul 1st and may have been those logged flying E at Worthing on 5th.

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

A female just offshore at Hove Lagoon on Jan 1st. One off West Worthing on Mar 23rd and Apr 5th. One flew E at the Marina on 24th.

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

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing Beach were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	16	21	89	1335	493	3	44	16	32	69	-	26
West	9	-	3	2	-	-	7	15	-	17	3	78

Peak count was on Apr 10th with 453.

Spring totals from the Marina were;

M	A	M
105	4821	887

Peaks were of 830 E on Apr 24th and 269 on May 20th.

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

At the Marina 125 were logged in Apr (max. 34 on 7th) and 31 passed Worthing in the month. One flew E there on May 20th. In the autumn one E and three W at Worthing in Nov.

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

One flew W at Ferring on Oct 31st.

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

As usual the largest gatherings were on the sea between Worthing and Ferring. The estimated totals were:

J	F	M	A	M	/	O	N	D
60*	34	11	12	-		15W	16	61

* off Worthing on 9th; there were 48 off Ferring on 3rd. Also up to eight off Widewater in Jan and Feb and five in Southwick Canal on Feb 10th. Passage at Worthing consisted of 11 E in Mar, 26 E in Apr and one in May; four at the Marina on Apr 6th. Nineteen flew W off Worthing in Oct, 40 in Nov and 12 in Dec. Seven (three males) were on Widewater on Dec 9th.

GOOSANDER *Mergus merganser*

Scarce winter visitor

A redhead flew S down the Adur valley on Jan 4th (JAN). Two redheads were on Widewater on Nov 24th sheltering from high winds (DIS) and probably the same two birds circled Brooklands on Dec 8th before flying off N (JAN).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa*

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

Red-legged Partridge records were generally of just a few sightings throughout the early part of winter until the end of spring. The exceptions were counts of between high twenties to mid-thirties at three different sites, Chantry Hill, Lower Standean and Washington all during January. In early May a record of 26 again at Chantry Hill was exceptional. During June most records were of one or two birds with the highest count being five at Lower Standean. During the later summer months there were few records although numbers were higher. The only records came from Lower Standean one each in July and August of 11 and 16 birds respectively.

Comparatively large totals were later recorded at Lower Standean of 215 and 315 birds, the first record being in September the larger total in October. These were certainly released birds given the timing and sudden nature of the rise in totals. Towards the end of the year totals at Lower Standean fell again to around 30. Elsewhere only small numbers were recorded.

GREY PARTRIDGE *Perdix perdix*

Decreasing resident.

There were only a few records of Grey Partridge during the start of the year with a total of five at New Erringham Farm and eight at Steyning Round Hill and then records of one at Beeding Hill and 1-2 in Anchor Bottom in March. During April there was a considerable rise in the records of pairs of birds from a number of different locations. During May three records of pair(s) of birds came from Chantry Hill, although a record of eight, noted as four pairs at Steyning Round Hill was exceptional. There were only a couple of records of a few birds during the summer months, three at Golding Barn being the highest total in August. The number of records submitted remained low until the end of the year, although numbers of sightings were a little higher with a total of fourteen at Cissbury Ring during September. At the end of the year six birds were at Findon Park Brow.

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

Rare summer visitor.

The first records of the year were of single birds towards the end of May and these were continued through the summer, records coming predominantly from Lancing, Steep Down and Edburton. Quails are shy and secretive birds and the number of single birds being recorded by song reflects this. The last was again of a single bird calling from Edburton in August.

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

Small numbers were recorded from a number of locations throughout Jan, a total of 13 at Myrtle Grove farm being the highest total on 14th. The pattern of records was similar throughout Feb, with 12 birds recorded at Steep Down being the highest total on 4th. Throughout the year most records were of small numbers of birds, the exception being 26 on Sep 26th at Ditchling Beacon. The last record received for the year was typically of two birds at Upper Beeding.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae*

There was one record of a cock Lady Amherst's Pheasant in Anchor Bottom on May 7th (BR) and at Upper Beeding Bostal on May 9th to 11th (Maasz). This introduced bird is confined to only a few sites in the South of England and has recently been found to be declining.

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

Monthly totals from Worthing sea-watches were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	O	N	D
East	284	49	10	43	1		2	5	31
West	186	9	-	-	1		5	16	129

Marina records were 18 W on Jan 6th and 172 in Apr. One to four were noted off Widewater in Jan and five on Feb 2nd. Two inland records were unusual. There was one on Steyning Levels on Jan 31st in an oiled condition and in Dec, one flew north over floods near Stretham Bridge on 4th.

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

Monthly reported totals from Worthing and the Marina were:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	O	N	D
Worthing	1	-	-	6	2		1	5	-
Marina	-	-	1	97	6		-	-	-

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

One on the sea off West Worthing from Dec 25th to 28th (DIS, RAI).

DIVER Species

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	N	D
East	24	14	-	14	6		1	4
West	173	-	-	1	1		3	8

LITTLE GREBE *Tachybaptus ruficollis***Winter visitor and occasional breeder**

Records were received from the following regular sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Lower Adur	6	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Adur Estuary	2	1	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Brooklands	5	4	-	-	-	3	3	2	8	9	5	2
Widewater	17	15	13	3	-	1	-	-	1	2	11	14
Wiston	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferring Rife	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Ladywells	3	3	2	1	4*	1	1	2	-	1	-	-

* adult plus three fledged young. One on Patching Pond on Dec 14th was unusual as rarely recorded from there.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus***Common, mainly winter, visitor to the coast**

Maximum numbers recorded offshore were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Goring Gap	12	2	3	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	14	-
Worthing	342	55	20	9	8	3	1	1	2	6	65	250
Widewater	4	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoreham Harbour	*	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marina	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* present but no count given.

The Jan count at Worthing established a new record for the area with the majority between Marine Gardens and Worthing Pier. The 12 at Goring were counted on the same day giving a combined total of 354. At Patching Pond, a single on Feb 26th, then two with a nest on Mar 18th which was empty in May but an adult and a well-grown juvenile present at site on Jun 1st and remained until Jul 8th. One at Brooklands on Oct 15th was unusual.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena***Scarce winter visitor**

One was at the Marina on Jan 15th. One flew W past Worthing beach on Sep 14th and an immature was close inshore there on Dec 27th.

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

Two flew W at Worthing on Jan 11th and there was one offshore there on Mar 19th and 24th. Singles were off the Marina on Apr 6th, 9th and 15th. In Nov, one on 6th at Worthing and one on 27th at the Marina. One or two remained off Worthing between Dec 15th and 20th and one flew E there on 31st.

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

Two birds were seen swimming W at the eastern edge of the area at 1100 on Jan 6th and passed the Marina at 1300. Four in s/p drifted E there on Apr 14th.

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

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	9	4	7	103	40	7	1	6	5	-	-	-
West	1	3	17	121	93	6	4	13	9	-	-	-

At the Marina, at least 53 logged in Apr, max. 38 on 16th. A blue-phase bird flew E there on 21st. Fifty seen on two dates in May, max. 37 on 13th. Birds occasionally seen over the coast roads e.g one NE at Shoreham-by-Sea on Jun 13th. The last for the year was one W off Widewater on Nov 29th.

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

One flew W c 400m off Worthing at 0857 on Oct 27th (CEH).

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

In Apr, one flew E and four W (these on 27th) at Worthing with two off Goring on 19th. A new day record set on May 16th when 216 flew W in 2.2 hours off Worthing in SSW force 5 winds. In the month 20 E and 81 W noted at the Marina (max. 79 on 16th). Eight flew W off Worthing on Jun 21st, two W on Jul 19th, one W on Aug 27th and two E and three W in Oct.

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

The only record this year was of two W at Worthing beach on Sep 2nd (DIS).

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

Six were seen in the afternoon of Nov 29th flying W off Widewater (SOS). This was part of an exceptional movement mainly witnessed at Portland Bill in Dorset.

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

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	322	44	14	231	180	83	85	93	542	268	32	95
West	116	69	45	142	297	39	149	217	424	684	38	281

Day maxima were 400 on Jan 8th, 36 on Feb 1st, 21 on Mar 8th, 45 on Apr 10th, 80 on May 14th, 24 on Jun 21st, 103 on Jul 19th, 102 on Aug 26th, 317 on Sep 18th, 206 on Oct 6th, 59 on Nov 1st and 150 on Dec 23rd. Smaller numbers were seen off Shoreham Harbour, Widewater and the Marina where 87 noted on May 13th.

GREAT CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Common at coastal and some inland roost sites

Very large numbers were seen in Jan with 1000 off the Marina on 14th and 450 off Worthing next day. The former were noted as not feeding but present as a single huge flock on the sea before flying off SW. Those off Worthing comprised 250 feeding and the remainder moving off E. On 18th 253 were logged flying W there. Between 310 and 480 were still offshore in this area over the next two days. The pylon roost at Steyning Wyckham Farm held a maximum of 97 in the month reducing to 49 in Feb. Thereafter no large numbers noted anywhere. In the autumn 54 E at Worthing on Aug 23rd and 92 at Upper Beeding on Oct 4th were the highest counts. There were up to 28 roosting offshore at Brooklands in Oct/Nov/Dec. Twelve at Widewater on Dec 12th and Henfield Levels held 33 on 20th.

SHAG *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant

Only recorded from the Marina between Jan and Apr with just one or two birds. In Aug, singles at Shoreham Harbour and Goring Gap. Five singles logged at Worthing in the remaining months with two on Dec 25th.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

Increasingly common resident and passage migrant

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

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ferring Rife	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	2	18***	14	1
Goring beach	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	3	-	10	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	3	31*	6	10	2
Widewater	2	1	3	3	4	1	4	5	4	6	3	4
Henfield Levels	11	7	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Beeding Brooks	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	1
Steyning Levels	-	3	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Adur	1	3	-	-	2	2	-	5	22	30**	2	9
Shoreham Adur	8	2	1	1	1	1	-	6	13	10	3	3

* all feeding along low tide line – an exceptional count.

** roosting at Lancing College.

***flew from beach to Rife roost.

Three nests were present in Wyckham Wood near Henfield but breeding success is unknown. However the good numbers in Sep and Oct in the SDOS area suggests positive results. Fourteen were seen at Ashurst Horsebridge Common on Nov 28th.

One flew over Wild Park on May 19th and on Sep 19th. One went over Cissbury Ring on Jul 16th.

GREY HERON *Ardea cinerea*

Fairly common resident

Although fairly widespread in the area, particularly the Adur valley, no more than four were seen at any one location away from the breeding site. Only five occupied nests were found at Wyckham Wood near Henfield, a marked downturn on previous years. An adult with three juveniles seen in trees near Ferring on June 21st were intriguing.

GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*

Rare vagrant

An immature bird appeared in Ferring Rife on Oct 30th (BBRC record) and 31st (MPH, PH, CEH) but flew off late morning to the NE.

SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

Very scarce visitor

One flew high NW over Ferring at 0720 on May 14th (CEH)

HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

Scarce migrant

Single birds were reported from Steyning Round Hill on Jul 4th and Steyning Bowl on Aug 1st and 8th (ARK).

BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*

Rare vagrant

Last recorded in our area in 2001. One was flying N over Lancing on Apr 15th (BFF) and another over Steyning Round Hill on Jun 11th (ARK, MDMH). These records accepted by SOS.



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RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

Increasing but scarce visitor

A huge increase in the number of records. First seen were three together at Hollingdean (Brighton) on Mar 22nd closely followed by two at Worthing Offington on Mar 24th. One was being mobbed by corvids at Southwick Hill on 27th while another was over Storrington next day. One was W of Worthing on Apr 1st and one at the Marina on 2nd. One at Edburton on 4th, two over Brighton on 6th and one at Cissbury on 14th and 18th. On 19th singles were at High Salvington, Upper Beeding and West Worthing. One was at Steyning Round Hill on 26th, Edburton on 28th and Myrtle Grove Farm next day. Three flew NE over Lancing on May 24th with the same number reported from Goring and two at Southwick. One recorded on 26th at Cissbury, No-Man's Land and Edburton. Three flew E at Hollingdean on 30th and another three next day at Anchor Bottom (Beeding) when seven were seen passing over Edburton, two at Wolstonbury Hill and singles at Saddlescombe

Farm, Upper Beeding Cement Works and Hollingdean. June records were all singles – Hollingdean on 1st, Sheepcote Valley on 6th, Findon Canada Bottom on 11th and Steyning Round Hill on 13th. A bird with worn plumage was at Lancing Steep Down on Jul 2nd and the final record for the year was over Edburton on Aug 16th (the tenth report from this site in the year).

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

Scarce passage migrant

First reported from Lychpole Hill on Apr 22nd. The only other spring record was from Chantry Hill on May 7th. Later in the year a male was recorded at Wild Park and Hollingdean on Aug 12th. At Ferring Rife a bird was being mobbed by corvids on Sep 6th. Last record was a bird flying W at Washington on 24th.

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

Passage migrant and winter visitor

First sightings were on Feb 4th when a male was at Steepdown and a ringtail over Steyning Bowl. Singles were at Findon North Farm on 15th, Steyning Round Hill and Botolphs near Bramber on 20th. In April, one at Findon Valley on 21st and a female at Steyning Round Hill on 23rd. Later a ringtail was in the Steyning Bowl area on the unusual date of Jul 4th/5th. Last for the year was a ringtail flying E at Ladywells on Nov 2nd.

SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter nisus*

Fairly common resident

This species was widely recorded throughout the year. At both ends reported from Golding Barn at Upper Beeding. Probable or confirmed breeding occurred at Pyecombe Wolstonbury Hill, Clapham, Wild Park, Upper Beeding, Ladywells and Durrington. Birds were trapped at Steyning (three adults) and at Ladywells (one young ringed) where two males were found in the same mistnet on Oct 26th.

COMMON BUZZARD *Buteo buteo*

Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

Another well recorded species. Four were at Michelgrove on Jan 3rd and Myrtle Grove Farm nearby on 14th. Mill Hill held five on 17th while four were over Clapham Wood on 21st and Chantry Hill on 24th. Numbers at Michelgrove increased to eight on Feb 8th with four over Findon North Farm on 10th, six at Lychpole Hill on 21st when four were over both Truleigh Hill and Newtimber Hill. Five were soaring at Mill Hill on Mar 6th and four at Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on 24th. There was a 'kettle' of seven at Edburton on Apr 11th and five at Findon Valley on 16th. The second largest group of the year was of 12 near Steyning Round Hill on May 9th. Four were at Steyning Bowl on 21st and at Pangdean near Brighton on 24th. On Jun 4th, four were at Long Furlong and on Jul 18th at No-Man's Land. August counts were of eight at Lychpole on 3rd, five at Ladywells on 13th, six at Steyning Round Hill on 22nd, five at Clayton Windmills on 27th and four at Lancing clump on 30th. On 31st the year's highest count of 15 were over Findon No-Man's Land. September saw four at Chantry Hill on 8th, six at Harrow Hill on 12th, ten at Edburton on 20th, five at Cissbury and seven at Washington on 24th. Six were over Ladywells on Oct 12th and in Nov four were at Pangdean on 5th and Golding Barn, Upper Beeding on 7th.

The only confirmed breeding was from Lychpole Hill (two pairs), Ladywells, The Ham (Applesham Farm), Clapham Woods and Highdown.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

Scarce passage migrant

An early bird was seen at Hollingdean on Mar 16th. There was one over Hove on 27th and another over Brooklands on 31st. In April, singles were over Wild Park on 5th and Worthing on 17th. Returning birds were recorded at Edburton on Jul 26th, No-Man's Land on Aug 31st and Brighton seafront on Sep 6th.

COMMON KESTREL *Falco tinnunculus*

Fairly common resident

Records suggest this species is more widespread than before. Breeding was confirmed at Wild Park (three pairs), No-Man's Land, Woods Mill, Newtimber Hill, Upper Beeding Golding Barn, Portslade Foredown/New Barn and Ladywells.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter

January records were from Upper Beeding on 4th, Worthing beach on 10th, a Ferring garden (!) date unknown, Beeding Hill on 13th, Wild Park on 25th and Mill Hill on 30th. A female was reported from Lychpole Hill and Stump Bottom on Feb 22nd. Other reports were from High Salvington on Mar 17th and the Marina on Apr 6th and 15th. Later in the year single birds were at Beeding Hill on Nov 7th, Chantry Hill on 29th, Wiston Village on Dec 13th and finally Findon Park next day.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Regular passage migrant and summer visitor - has bred

The first bird was reported from Ditchling Beacon on Apr 12th with arrivals at Worthing beach on 19th and 26th. Sightings by month were as follows:

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
3	12	4	5	8	5	1

The last of the year was at Applesham on Oct 10th. A disappointing number of records after last year's high total.

PEREGRINE *Falco peregrinus*

Scarce breeding resident

A further decline in breeding success with only eight young fledged in our area. Disturbance in 2008 may have contributed to this. However, birds are reported throughout our area and intruders are often chased away from established breeding territories. New breeding sites are at a premium and any tall building is worth keeping under observation.

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

A slight increase on 2008 with eight sites returning records. Again one at Widewater from Jan 1st to Mar 12th. This bird did not return in the autumn/winter. Also in Jan were one or two at Cuckoo Corner, Ferring Rife and Beeding Brooks. The first of these may have been that at Ladywells in Feb. One was at the Flood Arch at Shoreham on Mar 25th. None then until Nov when one at Ferring Rife on the 1st, two at Brooklands on 17th followed by one or two in Dec at these sites plus Henfield Levels, Cuckoo Corner (two), and Steyning Levels.

No breeding records.

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

A dead bird picked up at the Marina on Sep 15th.

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

The maximum counts from Brooklands were as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
40	27	16	9	6	9	6	5	9	22	31	32

Good numbers also noted at Shoreham-by-Sea with 26 and Upper Beeding with 11 both on Jan 2nd, Ladywells with 20 on Feb 11th, Washington with eight on Apr 8th (of which six were juveniles) and 16 in this area on Oct 1st. Breeding also occurred at Ladywells (up to ten young noted in three different broods), Coombes (two juvs), Sandgate Park Storrington (four young from two pairs), Ferring Rife (four pairs each with three young in June) and Brooklands.

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

Peak monthly counts from Brooklands were as follows

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
81	55	21	16	18	29	33	36	39	50	51	36

The only other double-figure count was ten at Upper Beeding on Feb 16th. Otherwise up to five there at both ends of the year. Breeding occurred at Henfield Levels (two young seen), Patching Pond (two young), Storrington and Brooklands (at least 15 fledglings noted in mid June).

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

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

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing beach	2	3	-	10	4	2E	16	3	4	2	-	2
Goring beach	-	30W	-	5	2	-	-	12	14*	26*	26*	2
Shoreham Adur	24	2	3	2	2	2	-	3	3	6**	6**	4

*On Gap roost. ** on Shoreham beach.

Also reported from the Marina, Hove, Southwick, Widewater and Ferring. No breeding records received.

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

Two on the Adur at Shoreham on Feb 16th. Totals of six and ten flew E at the Marina on Apr 6th and 18th respectively.



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

Monthly peaks from the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur*	21	25	/	-	-	-	-	58	42	60	38	64
Widewater	22	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	51	41
Brooklands beach	28	35	-	1	-	3	-	-	88	72	173	36
Goring Gap	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	87	102	75	56	55
Marina	-	40	2	2	18	-	-	28	80	65	-	-
Ferring beach	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	-	-	-

/ = present but no count submitted.

Passage in May and June noted at Worthing with totals of 74 E and 11 W.

Two pairs nested on Southwick beach. The first pair had four young but none survived; the second pair raised two young successfully having at one point crossed the road! This was apparently due to protection and vegetation in the breeding area – an encouraging result.

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Scarce passage migrant

Three were present (all females) on Chantry Hill on May 5th and 6th. (SOS)

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis apricaria*

Fairly common winter visitor

Two flew W at Worthing during snowy weather on Feb 2nd and two were at Canada Bottom, Findon on 10th. Singles were at Shoreham on the Adur, Lychpole Hill and Stump Bottom between 15th and 28th. One flew over High Salvington on Mar 18th and 28th. In Oct, one flew over Cissbury and Ladywells on 2nd and a flock of nine passed over Wild Park on 12th. There were 50 in a field near Botolphs church on Dec 22nd.

GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	23	10	-	-	-		-	1	5	14
Worthing	10	/	-	4	2		3	15	15	80
Goring Gap	20	2	-	-	-		-	-	35	34
Ferring	40	-	-	-	-		6	-	-	-

/ = present but no count submitted.

Surprisingly, there were no records for March or from May 16th until Sep 16th!

NORTHERN LAPWING *Vanellus vanellus*

Common winter visitor and declining breeder

Peak counts at the following sites were:

	J	F	M	/	S	O	N	D
Lower Adur	488	650	-		109	-	170	138
Shoreham Adur	600	700	-		/	131	600	880
Henfield Levels	100	600	18		-	-	90	400

/ = present but no count submitted.

Cold weather movements were of five W at Worthing on Jan 5th, two in off the sea at the Marina and six over Wild Park next day followed by 13 over Broadwater, Worthing on 7th. In Feb, 101 flew W over Worthing and 155 in 30 mins over Ferring on 2nd. Fifty-three were at the latter site next day and 50 at Steepdown on 4th.

Breeding pairs were four at Steyning Round Hill and three at Chantry Hill – success unknown. In Dec, further hard weather saw 87 fly W at Worthing beach and Goring Gap on 18th, 64 passed W at the Marina on 19th and 24 moved W over Portslade on 19th/20th. Forty were on Beeding Brooks at this time.

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

One was on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 11th and Feb 2nd. One flew E at the Marina on May 13th and four likewise at Worthing on 30th. Singles were on the beach at Goring Gap on Aug 27th and the Marina on Sep 20th. There was one at Worthing on Dec 19th.

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

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Widewater	60	14	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	84
Worthing beach	-	-	24	26E	139E*	12E	4W	14E	-	-	3	5
Brooklands beach	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	37	80	-
Goring	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	/	6	-	12	52
Ferring	30	-	60	10	-	-	-	-	-	80	2	-

* in 6.7 hrs on May 13th. Also eight at the Marina on this date.

/ signifies present but no count submitted.

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

Peak monthly numbers at Brighton Marina and Shoreham Harbour were:

	J	F	M	A	/	O	N	D
Marina	10	5	15	4	-	-	12	16
Shoreham	8	9	8	-	-	-	5	3

/ = present but no count submitted.

There were no records away from these two sites.

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

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	380	150	-	-	-	-	-	35	37	3	45	130
Widewater	4	-	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	/
Brooklands beach	22	350	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10	92	350
Worthing	350	10	2	12	27E	6E	14W	2	2	18	12	150
Goring	30	/	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	-	134	75

Also recorded at the Marina but not inland.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax***Scarce passage migrant**

One on Henfield Levels on Dec 27th.

JACK SNIPE *Lymanocryptes minimus***Scarce winter visitor**

Only recorded from Ferring Rife and Henfield Levels with one to three (on 10th) in Jan at the first site and five at the second on 18th. Two were at Henfield still on Feb 22nd and Mar 15th. In Nov, one at Ferring on 5th and one at Henfield on 25th.

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

A welcome increase in records with reports from thirteen sites albeit hard weather driven birds.

Maxima from the following were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	/	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	9	155	-		-	-	-	-
Henfield Levels	16	29	29		2	-	15	50
Ferring Rife	13	12	-		-	-	1	5

There were 22 on Steyning Levels on Dec 22nd. Three flew N at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th. Elsewhere one or two at Pangdean (Brighton), Beeding Brooks, Ladywells, Steep Down, West Durrington, Wild Park, Broadwater (Worthing) and Old Salt's Farm, Lancing all in Jan/Feb or Nov/Dec when displaced by hard weather.

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

Other than five at a downland site near Brighton on Dec 11th, just singles at Ashurst Calcott Wood, Wild Park, Old Salt's Farm, near A27 at Downslink, and Highdown in Jan/ Feb followed by others in May at Clapham Woods and High Salvington (where local breeding likely). In Dec again singles at Wild Park, Sheepcote Valley, Ferring Rife and Michelgrove.

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

Spring passage at Worthing and the Marina comprised 149 E and 1593 E in Apr (max. 440 on 24th) and 44 E and 136 E in May. One on the Adur at Shoreham on May 13th. In Sep, two W at Worthing on 15th and one roosting with Oystercatchers at Goring Gap on 22nd.

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

Spring passage at the Marina and Worthing is shown thus:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Marina	539	6	-	-	-
Worthing E	165	55	-	-	-
Worthing W	23	8	1	7	3

Birds flew over Wild Park on Apr 18th and May 4th. Two birds on the Adur at Shoreham on May 6th and one on 13th, two there on Jul 22nd and one from Aug 7th to 22nd. One there on Oct 3rd and 31st was unusually late for this locality.

EURASIAN CURLEW *Numenius arquata*

Common late summer passage migrant; uncommon otherwise

One or two at Old Salt's Farm Jan 7th to 9th, on the Adur from 29th to 31st and singles past Worthing beach on 1st and 31st. One at West Worthing on Mar 15th and one past the Marina on Apr 13th. In Apr six E and in May two E and four W at Worthing. One again on the Adur at Shoreham on May 2nd. Late summer movements at Worthing comprised 18 W and two E in June, max. ten W on 21st, and 34 W and two E in July, max. nine W on 19th. One or two on the Adur at Shoreham from Jun 27th through to Dec 13th. Just four E and seven W at Worthing between Sep 2nd and Dec 22nd.

COMMON REDSHANK *Tringa totanus*

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder

Peak counts from main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	6	6	1	11	-	-	-	3	-
Shoreham Adur	13	90	2	-	13	-	30	29	11
Goring	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	5	-
Widewater	3	3	3	2	-	-	2	2	2

The only other record was from Henfield Levels with a single bird on Mar 6th and 13th.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Uncommon but regular passage migrant

Two flew N at Shoreham Fort on Mar 21st. There was one on the Adur at Shoreham on Sep 6th and unusually, one on the beach at Ferring on Oct 14th.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

Singles at Upper Beeding on Jan 2nd and in Ferring Rife on Feb 2nd and 3rd. One below Coombes on Sep 28th.

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

Common passage migrant and local winter visitor

The Adur between Upper Beeding and the Tollbridge attracted birds through the year as follows (maximum counts);

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
9	-	8	7	-	-	2	9	8	6	6	4

One at the Marina on May 13th. Singles flew W at Worthing beach on Jul 22nd, Aug 2nd and 17th and one in Ferring Rife Sep 19th to 22nd.

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

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	65	45	-	22	-	-	-	24	30	-	-	5
Shoreham Harbour/Beach	200	20	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	16	45	13
Widewater	35	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	6	28
Worthing Brooklands	1	24	-	8	5	-	-	-	3	19	37	8
Goring/Ferring	/	/	2	1	1	-	-	42	65	-	45	1
Worthing	15	6	-	19	13	-	7W	28	-	40	5	2

/ = present but no count submitted.

One hundred and sixty-one flew E at Worthing on Feb 28th in 1.9 hrs. There were 22 on rocks inside the Marina on Mar 31st, 13 there on Aug 14th and 23 on Oct 4th. At Southwick beach 26 were foraging along the tideline during a storm on Nov 14th.

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

Again there were no early winter records. The first of the year was on Apr 23rd when one passed E at Worthing beach, three days earlier than in 2008. Another flew E there on Apr 24th with four E there on Apr 30th, one E on May 4th and two E on May 9th. Brighton Marina recorded a total of 21 E during April, max six E on Apr 24th and during May noted 29 E, max 14 E on May 13th. Both Worthing beach and Brighton Marina observers commented "a poor spring". Last of the year and the only autumn record was an adult E, close inshore at Widewater on Oct 6th (BFF/DIS).

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

First of the year was a single E at Brighton Marina on Apr 6th with three E there on Apr 16th. Worthing beach recorded seven E on Apr 10th. The majority of spring birds were noted passing east off Brighton Marina, the April total there being 188 E max 31 E on Apr 30th and in May a total of 103 E passed there. The following table of monthly totals at Worthing beach reveals a poor year there for sightings of this species

:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	22	14	-	-	1	1	2	-	1
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	1	-

As the table above shows few were noted in the autumn months. Two late year records were received, both from Worthing beach with an unaged bird W there on Nov 12th and the last of the year, a juvenile E there on Dec 6th.

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

There were no records prior to April in 2009 and the first of the year was two E at Worthing beach on Apr 9th, with one E and three offshore on Apr 10th. Loitering birds were frequently noted offshore there with up to four recorded on a further nine days in April and six days in the first two weeks of May. This continues a trend first noticed in 2007. Brighton Marina recorded a total of 58 E in April, max 11 E on Apr 23rd, and a May total of nine E. The summary of monthly totals at Worthing beach is as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	-	-	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	-
West	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	4	2	-
Offshore	-	-	-	22	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

By far the highest day total here was 15, 11 E and four offshore on Apr 24th. The peak day in autumn was Oct 6th, with one E and three W. A party of five, one adult and four juveniles passed E close inshore at Worthing on Nov 1st, on which day one flew E past Widewater. The last of the year was an exhausted bird on the beach at the Marina on Nov 24th.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus***Increasing regular visitor throughout the year**

Birds passing Worthing beach were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	5	1	2	77	3	1	1	-	-	5	1	4
West	1	2	1	14	2	1	16	1	7	14	3	1

The maximum was 16 on Apr 13th.

Totals past the Marina were:

J	F	M	A	M
1	-	46	396	12

The maximum was 85 E on Apr 26th, a new site record. Five (four juveniles) were there on Jul 11th. One with a green ring was seen at Worthing beach and Brooklands (beach) in Feb. Inland records of singles came from Edburton, High Salvington, Devil's Dyke Round Hill and Stump Bottom. Three were in Stanmer Park on Nov 23rd.

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

Monthly totals (eastbound unless stated) at the two seawatch localities were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Worthing	3	3	-	90	-	-	-	-	1W	3W	1	2E1W
Marina	-	-	-	289	36	-	-	-	-	-	10W	-

A good passage in Apr at both sites, peaks being 86 at Worthing on 10th and 70 at the Marina on 6th and 51 on 16th. The only other report was of one seen from Brighton Pier on Feb 4th.

BLACK-HEADED GULL *Larus ridibundus*

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Large counts in Jan were 1000 on 8th along the shoreline on Ferring beach with a concentration near the Rife outflow, 600 on Henfield Levels on 18th and 1200 at Horton Hall, Small Dole on 30th. In Feb, 310 were near Cuckoo Corner on 13th, 560 on the Adur between the Rail and Tollbridges on 25th when 400 on Southwick beach rising to 500 next day. This was eclipsed in Mar when 1400 were counted there on 11th. Apr saw 1900 fly E past the Marina in the month with 350 on 13th as the maximum day count. May counts were small with no more than 25 (Worthing 24th) noted on any day. Forty-five were on the Adur at Shoreham on Jun 21st and 40 at Worthing on Jul 3rd. Numbers increased by Aug when 550 were on Goring Gap on 12th rising to 730 after ploughing on Sep 28th. In Oct, surprisingly low numbers with the highest count of 70 at Ditchling Beacon on 17th. Nov picked up again – 300 on Ferring beach and 155 at Brooklands on 21st and 630 at Henfield Levels on 25th. Dec peaks were 150 at Brooklands on 16th and 300 on Steyning Levels on 22nd.

COMMON GULL *Larus canus*

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Jan counts were of 500 at Ferring beach and 550 at Goring Gap, 303 at Horton Hall, Small Dole and 265 on Chantry Hill. In Feb, Steep Down held 500 but the really large gatherings were of 2500 in fields north of the old Sanctuary and 1600 on Southwick beach on 24th/25th. On Mar 6th, 3000 were estimated feeding on Mossy Bottom fields near Mill Hill. Lower Standean, Steyning Bowl, Sompting and Durrington all had assemblies of over 100 in the early months. Flocks dispersed in early Apr when passage got underway. The total for the Marina in this month was 7454 with 979 moving E there on 24th. The last nine birds were seen on May 17th on the Adur at Shoreham. The first returning were two at Patcham and three at Worthing beach on Jul 5th. Only 14 birds were noted until Oct 8th when 48 were on Goring Gap. November saw a rise in numbers again with 1150 at Cuckoo Corner on 21st, 250 at Stump Bottom next day and 100 W in an hour at Worthing beach on 25th. December flocks were 155 at Lower Standean on 4th, 350 at Cuckoo Corner on 5th and 130 at Applesham near Coombes on 13th.

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

Fifty reported from Shoreham on Jan 2nd were by far the largest gathering until 27 at Hove Lagoon on 23rd and 19 on the Adur at Shoreham on Feb 3rd. Thirteen sites registered from one to four in Apr and ten had one to six (at Brooklands) in May. Two pairs bred in Vere Road, Brighton, a pair bred near Brooklands on a factory roof, a pair fledged three young in Kemp Town, Brighton and two pairs nested in Lansdowne Road, Worthing. A colour-ringed 2nd calendar year bird (from Belgium) was seen at the Marina on Sep 30th. Small numbers until 17 on the Shoreham Adur on Dec 12th followed by 189, mostly *intermedius*, there on 24th.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL *Larus argentatus michahellis***Uncommon and local late summer and autumn visitor**

Maximum numbers from the two regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham area	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	2
Brighton Marina	1	5	-	-	-	-	6	3	-	1	-	-

A first winter was at Hove Lagoon and Southwick beach end of Jan into Feb. One was at West Worthing on Mar 24th. A juvenile was reported from Ditching Beacon on Jul 7th.

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

Significant counts in Jan were of 400 on Southwick beach on 15th, 350 at Hove Lagoon on 25th when 542, mainly first winter birds, were at Goring Gap and 230 at Portslade-by-Sea. In Feb, 300 were on Southwick beach on 2nd and 450 on the Adur at Shoreham on 8th. The former site held 500 on Mar 10th and West Worthing 340 on 24th. Numbers dropped in Apr such that only Portslade, the Shoreham Adur, Lancing beach and Worthing Borough registered more than 100 each. Nesting occurred in these localities as well as in Patcham (Carden industrial estate and elsewhere), Broadwater, Black Rock, Hangleton (Hove), Mile Oak, Shoreham-by-Sea, Brooklands Industrial estate on factory roofs and in Steyning. On May 29th, 1500 were feeding on the beach in front of Marine Gardens, Worthing. By Aug, 450 were back on the Adur at Shoreham remaining until Sep and increasing by Oct to 900. In stormy weather on Dec 2nd, 3000 were roosting around the lock-gates at Shoreham Harbour. (See note in ringing report regarding individuals at the University and on the Adur).

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

A juvenile on Hove Lagoon remained in the area west to the Harbour entrance from Jan 27th until Feb 16th (SOS et al). A first winter was on the Adur opposite the Airport at Shoreham on Mar 29th (RJF).

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

Peak counts from the following main sites were

:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	52	30	9	10	3	-	-	-	10	31	85	86
Marina	75	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Goring Gap/beach	10	18	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	92	28	51

Two pairs raised four young on the roof of St Peter's House in Brighton.

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

There was one on Brooklands lagoon on Jan 14th. The monthly totals from Worthing were

:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	32	32	-	11	17	-	-	-	-	13	-	3
West	214	8	19	5	7	-	-	-	-	6	51	13

One hundred were offshore at Worthing on Jan 15th feeding over a shoal with many other seabirds. In Apr the peak count at the Marina was 14 on 21st but 299 flew E there on 24th. Twelve flew W off Widewater on Nov 29th.

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

First of the year was one on the Goring Gap field roost with two E and two W at Worthing beach on the rather early date of Mar 13th. Not recorded again until Mar 20th when two flew E at Worthing where small numbers noted to the end of the month. In April distinct peaks occurred Apr 6th to 11th and Apr 16th to 24th, after which daily totals lessened to mainly low double figures. Far fewer birds were recorded throughout May. Peaks at Brighton Marina were 64 E on Apr 11th, 134 E on Apr 16th, and 461 E on Apr 24th. A first year bird flew E there on Apr 30th. Additionally 102 passed E off Hove on Apr 24th. The monthly totals for Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	-	-	16	1155	229	132	61	56	58	14	-	-
West	-	-	4	133	83	47	96	50	109	3	1	-

Peak spring movements were 299 E on Apr 24th, 152 E on Apr 6th, and 193 E on Apr 10th. As usual low numbers were recorded in the summer months, the maximum being 32 E at Worthing on Jun 6th and 21 W there on July 26th. The now regular late summer/early autumn roosts on the Goring Gap fields commenced with 14 on Aug 4th increasing to 27 on Aug 17th, a peak of 55 on Aug 31st, reducing to 27 on Aug 17th. Just five remained there on Sep 28th. Peak westerly movement at Worthing beach in autumn occurred during the

first ten days of Sep and included 32 on Sep 2nd and 45 on Sep 3rd. Numbers between one and six were noted on 12 dates in Oct. The only Nov record and last for the year was one W at Worthing beach on Nov 21st. There was one inland record. Two flew W one mile from the coast at Ferring on Aug 5th.

Miscellaneous reports included 12 in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 27th and 12 were reported "Lower Adur Valley" on Sep 21st.

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

Common passage migrant

First of the year was one at Brighton Marina on Apr 6th with two E at Worthing beach on Apr 11th and one at Widewater on Apr 14th. Thereafter low numbers noted as is shown below in the monthly totals from Worthing beach:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	28	20	8	4	3	23	1	-	-
W	-	-	-	8	2	2	6	29	27	1	-	-

No day count of greater than ten was received between Aug and Sep with most birds as usual from the above two main sites. The occasional singleton was noted in Shoreham harbour with three juveniles there on Sep 17th. Only two Oct records were received, both singles at Worthing beach with one W on Oct 6th and the last of the year was one E there on the rather early date of Oct 7th.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Scarce passage migrant

The first specifically identified Arctic Terns of the year were eight E at Worthing beach on Apr 15th, also the month total for this site and 18 days earlier than in 2008. A total of 69 flew E at Brighton Marina in April, the peak count being 26 E on Apr 24th. During May small numbers noted occasionally with the month maximum at Brighton Marina being 36, and the peak day was May 10th with 19 E. A first year bird flying E there on May 13th was a very scarce record. None were specifically identified at Worthing during May. Not noted again until Aug 23rd with one W at Worthing beach and three were in Shoreham harbour on Aug 27th. Numbers between one and four were recorded on six dates in Sept, mainly from Worthing beach although a juvenile was present inside Brighton Marina on Sep 20th, and was the last of the year. Again there were no late Oct/early Nov records.

'COMMIC' TERN

Records of terns not specifically identified as either Common Tern or Arctic Tern comprise this category and as stated in previous Annual Reports, the majority are thought to be Common Tern. Reported in 2009 from just the two main seawatch sites in the recording area. Brighton Marina recorded 1152 E on Apr 30th and the month total for May here was a huge 7255 E with maxima of 3519 on May 10th and 1855 E on 13th May. The table of monthly counts from Worthing beach follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	137	545	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	7	-	4	28	46	-	-	-

The peak day at Worthing was May 13th with 516 E. As can be seen from the above table autumn was unremarkable with a maximum of 22 W at Worthing beach on Sep 1st.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Fairly common passage migrant

First of the year was one E at Worthing beach on Apr 10th, five days earlier than in 2008, and followed by four E there on Apr 16th and one E at Brighton Marina on the same date. April totals were Worthing beach, 70 E max 56 E on Apr 24th and Brighton Marina, 121 E max 83 E also on Apr 24th. The Marina total for May was 101 E max 88 E on May 13th but Worthing recorded just ten E and four W, the majority of which were again on May 13th. The following represent all of the remaining records for the year. Two passed E at Worthing beach on Jun 30th, two E there again on Aug 22nd, and the last of the year was four patrolling Ferring beach on the early date of Aug 23rd.

BLACK TERN *Chlidonias niger*

Scarce but regular passage migrant

Generally a poor year for this species with just one outstanding May day. The following represents all the records received. First of the year was three E at Brighton Marina on Apr 24th with just one further singleton there in that month. This site however recorded 72 during May, an excellent 71 of which flew E on May 13th. The sole Worthing beach record and last of the year was one E there on Aug 23rd.

COMMON GUILLEMOT *Uria aalge*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

After singles off Worthing on Jan 1st and 9th, 15 were on the sea off Shoreham Harbour on 15th. Next day, three were off Worthing beach, two off Widewater and one fishing around Worthing Pier. From then until the end of the month, seven more flew W off Worthing. Three were at the Marina on 24th and one or two at Shoreham Harbour and up to four off Lancing beach in the last week. Singles in Feb and May (none in Mar/Apr) at Widewater and Worthing. In Oct, just one or two there and one in the Marina. Nov was blank and Dec records were just of singles on three dates off Worthing.

RAZORBILL *Alca torda*

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

Worthing records were :

	J	F	M	A	M	/	O	N	D
East	9	3	-	-	2		5	-	1
West	30	7	-	-	3		-	-	1

Other birds were off Widewater, Lancing beach, Lower Adur Valley and the Marina.

AUK species

Only reported from Worthing beach where monthly totals were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	6671	207	8	3	9	-	-	-	2	14	4	41
West	1916	1132	9	6	3	-	-	2	3	17	4	802

FERAL PIGEON *Columba livia*

Common resident

In Jan, there were 230 at Mile Oak, Portslade on 11th and 75 at Hangleton on 24th. By Apr the former site held 84 on 5th and fifty were in Worthing on 9th with 101 in Hove on 26th. Steep Down hosted 40 on May 19th, two 1km transects in West Worthing 55 on 23rd and similarly Hove 59 next day. By June, the Mile Oak aggregate was 74, Worthing 60 and Hove 121. Large flocks on arable at Lower Standean numbered 220 on Sep 5th and 165 were at Mile Oak. Flocks of 50 or less were scattered throughout the area.

STOCK DOVE *Columba oenas*

Resident and passage migrant

The maximum counts in the first half year were of 21 at Lower Standean and 20 at Shoreham on Jan 2ⁿ, with the same number at Findon North Farm on Feb 10th. Thereafter up to six at about 20 sites through to July when 12 on Hollingbury GC on 26th. Breeding occurred at Steyning Wyckham Farm, Ladywells (two owl box pairs) and several other probable locations where pairs were present for extended periods.

Autumn movements were noted at Wild Park on Nov 4th to 7th when 45 moved S with Woodpigeons. A count of 170 at Coombes on Dec 13th was exceptional.

WOODPIGEON *Columba palumbus*

Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant

Reported from every tetrad in the recording area and breeding in ??? . An estimated 2500 were around Cissbury Ring on Jan 11th and 3000 feeding on *brassicas* being grazed by sheep at Steyning Bowl on Feb 4th. In the autumn the Oct month maximum at Ladywells was 300 on Oct 26th and at Wild Park 925 on 28th. Large westerly movements in Nov when following noted from two main sites:

	Nov 2 nd	5 th	6 th	7 th
Worthing/Goring/Ferring	1000	3000	1000	-
Brighton/Wild Park	830	2720	2980	26000*

* Over Brighton Borough.

Findon No Man's Land held 500 On 12th and a further 1000 flew W at Worthing beach on 30th. In Dec, 1500 were at Coombes near Shoreham on 13th.

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

Generally small numbers from many sites with the highest counts being 50 at Mile Oak, Portslade on Jan 14th and 39 at grain silos at Shoreham Harbour on Oct 1st.

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

First recorded from Edburton on the early date of Mar 29th. Two pairs remained in this area throughout the breeding season but with no proof of success. After one at Truleigh Hill on May 10th, one landed on the breakwater at the Marina exhausted on 13th. Others were singles at Clayton Windmills, Woods Mill, Sheepcote Valley, Applesham near Coombes, Small Dole (Truleigh Sands) and Truleigh Hill between May 20th and Jul 10th with the last at Tottington, Small Dole on Jul 15th.

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

Three records were received. Single birds were seen flying at the Marina on Jan 15th and by St Peter's Church, Brighton on Jun 21st. Later in the year two birds were seen flying into trees at Worthing Bowling Club on Sep 28th.

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

The first bird was heard on Apr 12th at Devil's Dyke. There were 22 further reports, involving 13 locations, most of which related to single birds. However three birds were noted at Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on May 6th and two birds were reported there again on May 29th. Two birds were also reported at Upper Beeding on Apr 19th. There were six June records, the last on Jun 28th, which was the final report of the year.

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

Forty reports were received from 19 sites, the first of which was on Jan 1st. Fourteen of these were in the first winter period and mainly involved single birds, although three were seen at Beeding Brooks on Jan 18th. There were regular reports during the spring and summer and there were positive breeding records from seven sites. Twenty young were seen. In the second winter period six reports were received, the last of which was on Dec 20th.

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

There were eighteen records this year. Most reports were of single birds although two were noted at Upper Beeding on May 4th. Regular sightings were reported at several locations during the summer but no confirmed breeding record was received. The last sighting was on Dec 14th.

TAWNY OWL *Strix aluco*

Fairly common resident

This species was regularly reported from widespread locations during the year. Most reports related to single birds but three were noted at Washington on Nov 8th. There was only one confirmed breeding report, from New Erringham Farm on Jun 1st, although they will have bred in many other locations in our area.

LONG-EARED OWL *Asio otus*

Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident

Twelve sightings of these birds were reported during the year. Eight of these reports were during the first winter period, between Jan 1st and Mar 1st and involved three locations. All but one of these reports related to single birds but on Mar 1st, at a traditional downland roost there were two birds. During the second winter period there were four reports between Nov 22nd and Dec 14th. These involved two locations and two birds were reported on each occasion.

SHORT-EARED OWL *Asio flammeus*

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

In the first winter period, between Jan 3rd and Apr 22nd there were seven reports. Four of these were at Beeding Brooks where between one and three birds were seen during January. Single birds were seen on two occasions in Sheepcote Valley and one bird was also seen at Bramber on Apr 22nd. In the second winter period single birds were reported at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 13th and at Lancing on Nov 2nd.

COMMON SWIFT *Apus apus*

Common summer visitor

Correction to 2008 report: The record of 100 at Wild Park on Sep 16th is erroneous and should be deleted.

2009: There was only one April sighting this year, at Clapham, but there were reports from many areas in May. All but four of these sightings involved less than ten birds but on May 20th twelve birds were reported in Shoreham. The largest flocks seen this month were 26 at West Worthing on 23rd and 17 at Worthing Beach on 31st. There were very many reports during June, involving probable nesting activity at several locations including, among others, Brighton, Broadwater, Shoreham, West Worthing, Goring, Sullington Warren. The largest flocks seen in June were 250 at Findon on Jun 6th, 200 at Edburton on Jun 21st and 72 at Worthing Beach on Jun 30th. During July the largest flocks reported were 150 at Long Furlong, Findon on 4th and 70 at Applesham on 13th. The largest August flock was 130 at Sheepcote Valley on 4th. There were two September sightings including the last report from Steyning Round Hill on 17th.

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

There were 33 sightings in the first three months of the year from at least ten locations, mostly from the coast and river valleys. All but two of these sightings related to single birds. At Shoreham two birds were seen on Jan 2nd and Feb 25th.

Between April and August the only reports were from Ladywells, Woods Mill, the Marina and Widewater. The majority of these came from Ladywells where two young birds were

ringed during trapping sessions in August. In all five adult birds were ringed during the year at Ladywells and a further three adults were ringed at Strivens Reedbed, Steyning. There were at least twenty sightings between September and December and most involved single birds, although two birds were seen at Ladywells on Sept 5th and at Upper Beeding on Oct 17th.

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

Rare migrant

One of these striking birds was seen and photographed at Coldharbour Lane, Patching on Apr 14th. (SOS)

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Rare passage migrant

One bird was seen at Muntham Court, Findon on Aug 9th. Probably a further three birds were seen in Sheepcote Valley between Sept 10th and 25th.

GREEN WOODPECKER *Picus viridis*

Common resident

There were very many records of these birds from widespread locations throughout the year. The only positive breeding records were from Wild Park, Brighton where three pairs bred, Coombes and Sandgate Park, Storrington, although these birds will have bred in many other locations. In all fifteen different birds were ringed during the year. Nine of these were at Ladywells, five were at Strivens Reedbed, Steyning and one at Cissbury.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident

There were very regular reports of these birds during the year from many locations. It is an increasing species and although breeding activity was only reported from a few locations including Wild Park, Brighton where three pairs bred, successful breeding will have occurred in very many other locations. A total of twelve different birds were ringed during the year. Seven of these were at Ladywells, four were at Steyning and one was at Cissbury.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER *Dendrocopos minor*

Scarce resident

The only record this year was of a bird calling for several minutes near Hillbarn Golf Club on Jan 8th.

WOODLARK *Lullula arborea*

Rare passage migrant

Just one record - one flew NE over Wild Park on Oct 13th.

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident

Jan flocks were of 50 at Patcham on the 1st, 35 at Beeding Hill on 10th, 37 at Mile Oak on 11th, 67 at Chantry Hill on 24th and 45 at Horton Hall near Small Dole on 30th. On Feb 2nd, 257 flew W and 24 E at Worthing in a cold weather movement. Forty remained at Sompting on 10th on autumn sown cereal and 50 at Beeding Hill on 22nd and again on Mar

2nd but reduced to 20 by 16th. Small numbers at several sites other than 31 on Steep Down on Apr 6th and 36 on May 19th. Thirty pairs bred at Wild Park - the highest number recorded there. At Steyning Bowl, 37 were counted on 14th. Myrtle Grove Farm held 39 in a tetrad on Jun 10th. Autumn passage at Wild Park recorded 37 on Oct 13th and 45 next day. Steep Down held 51 on 25th and Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak 30 on 31st. In Nov, there were 39 at Devil's Dyke Round Hill on 6th, 36 at Mile Oak on 7th and 20 at No-Man's Land on 12th. The largest flock of the year, 400, appeared at Steyning in an oilseed rape field on Dec 20th.

SAND MARTIN *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

Two at Sandgate Pit on Apr 4th were not only the first of the year, but a whole month earlier before the next sightings at Shoreham Beach. There were no breeding records submitted. Five feeding over a rape field at Chantry Hill on Jul 7th were early migrants followed by a dozen records of similar small numbers through July. Very few noted in Aug but peak 100 at Chantry Hill on Sep 8th. Max counts at other sites included 20 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th and 12 at Wild Park on Sep 13th. Last were two at Worthing Beach on Sep 18th.

BARN SWALLOW *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer visitor

Typical early records were from Mar 24th of ones and twos from Brighton, Edburton, Henfield Levels, Patching, Widewater, Worthing and University of Sussex. A trickle of small numbers continued through Apr with 30 at Worthing and a peak 58 on May 4th from same site. BTO Birdtrack records for May were numerous from scattered sites, both coastal and inland but confirmed breeding was low. Between one and three prs bred at the following sites: Broadwater, Clayton, Findon, Fulking, King's Barn Steyning, Lychpole Hill, Old Salts Farm, Pangdean, Patcham Court Farm, Patching, Pyecombe, Sompting, Washington, Westmeston, and West Worthing.

There was a feeding flock of 80 over barley fields at Steyning Bowl in early Jul, but no larger counts during Aug. Some significant movement occurred on Sep 8th with 1000+ at Goring Gap and hundreds from Chantry Hill, Ferring Rife and High Salvington. It wasn't until Sep 20th that larger numbers occurred with 6000E at Worthing, which was by far the largest count of a generally poor autumn. Oct numbers included 114 at Washington on 6th, five W 286E at Worthing on 9th, 108 max at Wild Park on 9th and what was thought to be the last on 25th at Steep Down. However a rare Dec sighting was a single flying up-river at Upper Beeding on 11th.

HOUSE MARTIN *Delichon urbicum*

Common summer visitor

First were four at Brooklands on Apr 10th followed by similar numbers at Marina on 13th and at Upper Beeding on 14th. With only eight Apr records and not many more in May it was a poor spring passage, with peak of only 25 at Ladywells on May 25th. Occupied nests were from Lancing College, Tower's School (Upper Beeding), Bramber, Findon Valley, Patching and Pyecombe but many other sightings in suitable habitat may have indicated additional breeding. A flock of 100 remained all day at Ladywells valley on Aug 4th but no other high counts until 350 at Sheepcote on Sep 11th and 500E at Worthing Beach on 15th.

Most of the high counts at end Sep came from Worthing Beach with max 1000E on 20th. Other counts were 500 at Cissbury and 450 at Wild Park on 25th, and 400E at Ladywells on Oct 2nd. Last was a single at Steep Down on Oct 25th.

TREE PIPIT *Anthus trivialis*

Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant

Spring passage involved single birds between Apr 13th and May 13th from seawatching sites at Marina and Worthing. A singing male was at Findon on Jun 6th. Most of the autumn passage from Aug 8th was recorded from Cissbury and Wild Park but in much lower numbers than usual. Four at Cissbury on Aug 27th was the peak count and three the highest from Wild Park, whilst singles were also at Ditchling Beacon, Sompting and Lower Standean. The last were two at Cissbury on Oct 2nd.

MEADOW PIPIT *Anthus pratensis*

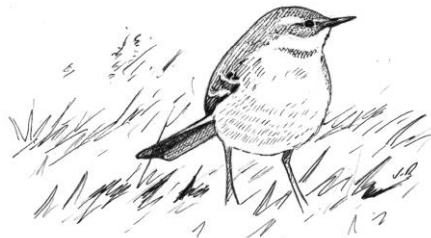
Locally common resident and common passage migrant

BTO Birdtrack records accounted for almost all the 30 records for Jan and whilst numbers were quite low it was interesting to note that by far the majority came from lowland and coastal areas. In Feb some movement produced two high counts of 80W at Worthing Beach on 2nd and 60 at Ferring Rife the following day. Smaller numbers moved through Wild Park and in off sea at Marina and Worthing during Mar. A good number of breeding indicators in Apr came from Chantry Hill, Clayton Windmills, Goring Beach, Hangleton, Lychpole Hill, Mile Oak, Small Dole and Steep Down. Confirmed breeding was at Anchor Bottom (three pairs), Pyecombe, Storrington and Wild Park. An early gathering was 45 at Zion Hill, Mile Oak on Jul 12th, but higher counts came much later with 175E at Worthing Beach on Sep 18th, 145 at Hangleton on 19th and 190 at Wild Park on 20th. Even higher were 232E on Oct 8th and 253E on 9th at Worthing Beach. A feeding flock of 75 was flushed by a Peregrine at Lower Standean on Oct 4th, and 50 in a brassica field at Findon on 13th. Counts in the latter two months came from scattered localities but barely reaching double figures.

ROCK PIPIT *Anthus petrosus*

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

A rather poor year with ones and twos along the coast between Marina and Ferring during Jan/Feb. There were no sightings at all during Mar, but one seen at Marina on May 10th may have bred there. The coastal beach areas produced most of the records from Oct-Dec and repeated the low counts from earlier in the year.



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YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant

Seven flew N at Worthing beach in Apr with five on 13th. Two were at Upper Beeding on May 4th. In Aug, one at Worthing on 9th then 12 below Lychpole Hill on 28th and three at Sompting and 16 W at Worthing on 29th. Seven were around Cissbury and 15 at Sompting on

31st. The largest gathering was of 90 birds again at Botolphs on Sep 1st with smaller numbers remaining for a few days. From one to eight were at five sites on 4th/5th and 7th before 12 at Steyning on 11th. Another large group were the 52 with cattle on Blackpatch Hill on 12th. Just eight were seen over Wild Park in 'a poor autumn' there between 16th and 20th. Eighteen passed Worthing beach in the month. The last bird was over Goring on 30th.

GREY WAGTAIL *Motacilla cinerea*

Local resident and winter visitor; passage migrant

Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
No of birds	18	6	-	1	-	6	1	5	20	20	6	9
No of sites	12	5	-	1	-	4	1	3	13	13	5	7

Although present in the central areas of Brighton and Hove in Jun and Jul, no evidence of breeding recorded. Wild Park reported an autumn total of 13 and Worthing beach just three E and two W.

PIED WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba*

Common resident

There were 100 in a roost at South St, Worthing on Jan 10th. In Feb, 25 noted at Steyning treatment works on 9th, 40 at Cuckoo Corner on 13th and 45 on 25th. This species was recorded in 61 of the 94 tetrads occupying the SDOS land area. Breeding occurred in 11 (and probably one other) of these covering Findon (Nepcote Green), Shoreham Adur, Steyning Bowl, Storrington, Findon Long Furlong, Findon Valley, Pyecombe, Fulking, Steyning King's Barn, Myrtle Grove Farm (Clapham) and Lychpole Hill. Autumn movements/flocks were of 170 at Upper Beeding on Oct 19th, 146 E at Worthing beach on 8th and from 19 to 37 at five other sites. In Dec, 80 were roosting at Steyning on 24th.

WHITE WAGTAIL *Motacilla alba alba*

Scarce passage migrant

One at Widewater on Mar 14th. Three immaculate adults feeding on the bowling green at Marine Gardens, West Worthing on Apr 6th.

WAXWING *Bombicilla garrulus*

Rare winter visitor

Three in Blaker's Park, Brighton on Jan 9th then four in Preston Park on 26th. On Feb 10th 'some' Waxwings were sighted near Goring Station (*pers comm. from Mrs P Ford.*). Next day ten were located there feeding in *malus* trees on fruit next to the Mormon Chapel. They remained in the area or at Hurley Road, Durrington until 25th and then at Highdown Gardens next day remaining until Mar 2nd. Meanwhile three were in Brighton at Hollingdean from Feb 17th to 26th with brief excursions to Preston Park and Hollingbury and again at the latter on Mar 27th. Two flew E over High Salvington on 13th. Five were seen by Goring station again on Mar 31st which could well have been different birds in view

of the long absence. The best showing of this attractive visitor for many years, they were deservedly popular since they were so approachable giving photographers a bonanza.

WREN *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident

Reported from 62 tetrads with confirmed breeding in five and probable in a further 25. Large counts came from Hove Hangleton with 28 on Apr 4th and Patcham with 27 on 9th and Upper Beeding 28 on May 4th. Eighty-nine pairs bred in Wild Park. Ringing totals from Ladywells were 39 of which 26 were young; from Cissbury there were 29 of which 25 were young and from The Mumbles, Steyning 59 of which 42 were young.

DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident

As with Wren a widespread breeding resident occurring in 63 tetrads. Seven held confirmed breeders and a further 20 probably did. Thirty-six were counted in Patcham on Jan 26th and Hove Hangleton on Mar 1st. Forty-three pairs bred in Wild Park. The Mumbles, Steyning ringing summary: 82 different birds (70 new and 12 ringed in previous years) of which 58 were young. Ladywells ringing summary: 50 different birds (33 new and 17 ringed in previous years) of which 21 young. Cissbury ringing summary: 52 different birds (39 new and 13 ringed in previous years) of which 36 young.

ROBIN *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident

The third in the trio of abundant residents, Robins were found in 67 tetrads. High counts were 30 in Shoreham on Jan 2nd, 31 Mile Oak on 14th, 47 at Hangleton on Sep 19th, 57 Patcham Oct 10th and 50 at West Blatchington on Nov 2nd. Confirmed breeding was shown in 24 tetrads and probably in 12 more. Wild Park held 103 pairs. Ladywells ringing summary: 54 different birds (44 new and ten ringed in previous years) of which 35 young. The Mumbles, Steyning ringing summary: 85 different birds (76 new and nine ringed in previous years) of which 72 young. Cissbury ringing summary: 60 different birds (54 new and six ringed in previous years) of which 44 young.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Summer visitor and passage migrant

First reported from Oreham Common on Apr 12th with singles at Sheepcote Valley and Upper Beeding next day. Two were present at Woods Mill at each of two different sites between 15th and 23rd and again on May 3rd when also three opposite reserve. Other singles at Pyecombe GC on Apr 20th and Edburton at two sites on 23rd and May 3rd. Fulking also held singing birds on these dates. A complete survey of the Henfield/Wineham/Edburton area on the latter date found a total of 29 singing males, the highest figure here in 11 years. It should be noted that some of this extended beyond the SDOS area. Six were singing at Edburton on Apr 25th, two at Edburton Sands on 26th and one at Frogshole on Henfield Levels on 26th. In May, one at each of two other sites in Small Dole on 3rd. The last heard singing was at Woods Mill on May 30th. One young bird was trapped at Steyning on Jun 27th.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Regular spring migrant, winter visitor, has bred

With multiple records and repeat sightings the number of wintering birds for the first period were probably around eight birds present. Singles in Jan were from Lancing Beach Green, Marina and Shoreham Harbour, and two birds stayed well into Feb at Widewater. Singles in Feb/Mar were from Brooklands Beach, Hove Lagoon and Portslade. Inland migrants were at Lychpole Hill and Sheepcote in Apr. An unusual summer record from Clayton Windmills was on Aug 16th, whilst more normal migrants were around in Oct at Cissbury and Wild Park, and one in a Steyning garden on Nov 4th. Two birds were at Worthing Beach in Oct, with one staying until Nov and three at Lancing Beach Green during Nov with two staying through Dec. Singles elsewhere during last two months were from Brooklands Beach, Ferring, Goring, Hove Beach, Marina, Portslade/Southwick, Shoreham Beach and West Worthing. Other records were in Round Hill area, Brighton on Nov 17th and in a Worthing garden on Dec 30th.

COMMON REDSTART *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

Just two spring records - one in off the sea exhausted at Worthing Beach on Apr 6th and one at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 13th. Two early returning birds were at Wild Park on Jul 21st where the autumn total was only 13. In Aug a scattering of mainly ones and twos at downland sites, with six at Cissbury on 27th. This continued into early Sep, but higher counts came from max 12 at Sheepcote on 15th and five at No Man's Land on 19th. The only Oct record was one at Wild Park on 10th.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

Common passage migrant

Always quite scarce in spring, the year was typical with the first at Worthing Pier on Apr 12th, an early date, followed by two at Chantry Hill on May 7th, three at Ferring Rife on 9th and one at Scare Hill, Patcham on 22nd. A decent autumn started with two at No Man's Land on Aug 8th, four at Sheepcote on 28th, and four again at Pyecombe GC on 31st. Six at Wyckham Farm on Sep 1st followed by double figures on five dates at Sheepcote, peaks being 15 on 10th and 30 on 24th. Other counts came from a cross section of the area's habitats at Cissbury, Clayton windmills, Ferring Rife, Lower Adur, Mile Oak, Steyning Roundhill, and Wild Park. The last were a party of 12 at No Man's Land on Oct 10th.

STONECHAT *Saxicola torquata*

Regular winter visitor and local breeding resident

The whole of the Adur valley and Ferring Rife held most of the wintering birds during Jan/Feb, but proving it was a reasonable winter to survive, there were also records for the Downs at Beeding Hill, Chantry Hill and East Brighton. Most of these records were ones and twos, the peak being four at Chantry Hill on Jan 24th. March produced just one sighting at Sheepcote, where a pair were in suitable habitat in Apr. Family parties were seen in Jun from Lychpole Hill and Steyning Bowl, whilst possible breeding at Edburton and Steep Down. These numbers reflect the National decline. Highest count of the autumn was only seven at Sheepcote on Sep 27th, possibly indicating a poor passage or a poor breeding season elsewhere. Four was the peak count in Nov/Dec at Mile Oak, and the general pattern of sightings for early year continued but with new sites recorded at Chanctonbury, Saddlescombe and Wild Park.

NORTHERN WHEATEAR *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Common passage migrant

As usual a flood of incoming migrants for Mar, the first being a pair at Goring Gap on 13th followed by eight on the beach at Worthing the next day and six at Widewater. Seen almost daily into Apr from numerous sites, the peak was ten at Widewater on Apr 2nd. On the Downs three were at Clayton windmills, four at Worthing GC and seven at Sheepcote, and a late flurry with 14 at Chantry Hill on May 7th. A very early returning bird was by the river at Henfield Levels on Jul 3rd, the next being a month later at Fulking. Most of the autumn records came from downland where the two peaks were 11 at Clayton windmills on Aug 14th and 16 at Lower Standean on Aug 31st. Peaks at other Wheatear 'hot-spots' were low, with six at Wild Park on Sep 20th and only three at Sheepcote. Beach sightings were scattered along the coastline with seven at Brooklands on Sep 17th and ten at Worthing on 18th. Ten at Widewater on Oct 1st was a good late season count, and others were at Brighton Black Rock, Cissbury, Findon, Goring, Shoreham Harbour, Steyning Levels and Worthing, and the last was at Washington on 24th.

RING OUZEL *Turdus torquatus*

Regular passage migrant

Just two were seen during the spring; singles in Findon Valley (Worthing) on Apr 18th and at Sheepcote Valley (Brighton) on the following day. The species was also scarce in the autumn with one at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th and up to two at Cissbury on four dates between Oct 10th and 17th.

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

Very common resident

Like 2008 this species was well recorded with records coming from 73 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. The unusual plethora of records came mainly from the national and county atlas survey in which timed encounters with the species ranged from 0 to 30 birds per hour during the winter (Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec) and 0 to 20 birds during the breeding season (Apr/July). Predictably Blackbirds were recorded in all 11 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) squares with the highest count for the two x 1km transects being 25 in northwest Durrington on Apr 13th. Interestingly, the species was not recorded during a late spring BBS count at Wiston and other observers commented on surprisingly low numbers. The regular breeding survey in Wild Park (Brighton) found a total of 113 pairs. The highest counts not found in formal surveys were 52 at Mile Oak (Portslade) on May 4th and 38 at Patcham (Brighton) on Jan 26th. Ringing at the three regular sites produced slightly higher numbers than 2008 with totals of 51 (Cissbury), 68 (Ladywells) and 83 (Mumbles) different birds of which 29, 35 and 48 respectively were young.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Common winter visitor

During the first winter period approximately 1100 were noted from 20 different locations. The highest counts were 500 at Ferring on Feb 3rd, 300 near Botolphs church on 4th and 129 counted during "Atlas" work at Myrtle Grove Farm (Clapham) on Jan 14th. During a snow storm on Feb 2nd 120 flew west over Ferring whilst at Worthing there were 116 W and three E in a two hour period. Despite the cold weather the latest record was a flock of



Fieldfare in a Ferring Garden by Clive Hope



Redwing at Upper Beeding by Wendy Ball



Mostly Sanderling at Ferring by Clive Hope



Left - Waxwing at Goring
by Dorian Mason

Below - Male
House Sparrow
by Dorian Mason

Below - Immature Red-backed Shrike
at Devil's Dyke in 2008
by John Maskell



Right - Male Red-backed Shrike
at Cissbury
by Bernie Forbes



70, feeding with Starlings on the Henfield Levels, on the relatively early departure date of Mar 13th.

Four were at Cissbury on Oct 13th and thereafter recorded on four October days with maxima of 10 at both Wild Park (Brighton) on the 17th and at Ladywells on the 26th. During the second winter period, which also included some severe weather in December, the species was recorded in 14 different locations with the highest counts being 200 on the Henfield Levels on Dec 11th and 70 at Stump Bottom on Nov 22nd.

SONG THRUSH *Turdus philomelos*

Fairly common resident

This species was again well recorded with sightings coming from 59 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. Like most common and widespread species most of these records came from the national and county atlas survey in which timed encounters with the species ranged from 0 to 14 birds per hour during the winter (Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec) and 0 to six birds the breeding season (Apr/July) counts. Song Thrushes were recorded in nine of the area's 11 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) squares but in low numbers with a maximum of five being recorded for the two x 1km transects. The only local breeding season survey was at Wild Park (Brighton) where 14 pairs were found; this being considered a stable number. With the exception of 25 at Sandgate Park (Storrington) on Jan 11th all the highest counts occurred in October with 25 at Wild Park on the 15th, 43 there on the 17th and 20 at Cissbury on the 15th. Ringing total from the three local sites were 27 (Cissbury), 26 (Ladywells) and 31 (Mumbles) different birds of which 17, 9 and 26 respectively were young.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

Common winter visitor

During the first winter period this species was recorded from 35 different sites and probably involved about 1000 birds. Observed on 34 dates during January and February the peak numbers were 200 at Ferring on Feb 3rd, 120 in Ladywells on Jan 20th, 90 on the Henfield Levels on Feb 17th and 84 near Poynings on Jan 31st. Redwings were only seen on three March dates with five at Wild Park (Brighton) on the 20th being the last of the spring. Two at High Salvington (Worthing) on Oct 1st were the first of the autumn but there were no further records until two were seen at Wild Park on the 12th and thereafter there were sightings on a further ten October dates. Most were flying westward with a clear peak on the 17th when 410 at Wild Park, 105 at Cissbury and 47 at Ditchling Beacon. Hundreds were heard calling from the night sky over Brighton on Oct 28th but, although recorded from 18 locations during November and December, the numbers were generally low with peaks of 50 at Warren Hill (Washington) on Nov 25th and 35 at Wild Park on Nov 4th.

MISTLE THRUSH *Turdus viscivorus*

Fairly common resident

The 73 records show this species was seen in 33 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. Records were from each month but numbers were small with the highest counts being 15 near Poynings on Jan 31st and nine at Washington on Sep 27th. Breeding was confirmed from just five locations and at Wild Park (Brighton) where a single pair bred the observer commented "getting scarce here".

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Records this year spanned from February until early October then one in Dec with no more than two per day at any one location. Beeding Brooks continues to be the most favoured/best recorded location with nearly 75% of the records coming from that area. In spring singles were also noted at King's Barn near Steyning, on the Downslink path near Erringham Farm, New Salts Farm, Lancing and Ladywells.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER *Locustella naevia*

Generally scarce passage migrant

The only spring record was of one singing in Beach House Park, Worthing on Apr 15th. One was ringed at The Mumbles on Aug 1st. Other single autumn records in August and September came from the more typical sites of Steyning Round Hill, Sheepcote Valley, Wild Park and Edburton, with two at Sheepcote on Sep 10th. One by the river at Shoreham on Sep 21st was the last of the year.

SEDGE WARBLER *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Formerly fairly common summer visitor

Beeding Brooks held the first two of the year on Apr 13th and one was still there a week later. The Adur Valley remained the only location where early spring arrivals were noted with more at Beeding and others at Coombes and The Mumbles into early May. There were no confirmed breeding records in our area, but birds were present in the Adur Valley from Coombes to the Henfield Levels during late May and June. The best evidence of autumn migration came from The Mumbles where seven birds were ringed on seven dates between Aug 8th and Sep 23rd. Apart from one caught at Cissbury on Aug 12th the only other sightings were at Sheepcote Valley with two seen in August and the last of the year there on Sep 27th.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Fairly common summer visitor

First for the year were six found at Beeding Brooks and one at New Salts Farm, Lancing on Apr 13th. Thereafter counts of up to five were recorded in the lower Adur area until early May. There were no confirmed breeding records but May counts along the streams at Ladywells indicated at least 12-14 singing birds and counts in the same month made at Beeding Brooks revealed up to 20 birds. Away from the Adur the only other locations where this species was recorded were Ferring Rife (4), Woods Mill (1), St Anne's Well gardens (1) and central Brighton (1). At Ladywells the ringers ringed or retrapped 24 different birds between May 15th and Sep 14th while at The Mumbles the equivalent total was 70 birds between May 4th and Sep 12th.

Whilst recently fledged birds were in the reed beds at Ladywells on Aug 4th, a single caught at the Cissbury ringing site on the 8th was clearly on the move. Up to three were also present at Sheepcote Valley on three dates in August and September and one was at Brooklands on Sep 3rd. The final record was of two at Clayton on Sep 29th.

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

There were 21 winter records, mostly of single birds visiting gardens and other more urban areas in January and February, but there were two at Mile Oak on Jan 4th and three at Goring on Feb 21st. There were no records at all in early March but one was singing at the University of Sussex on the 16th to the 24th. One at Ladywells on Mar 31st was thought to be an arrival and thereafter records became more widespread as birds returned to breeding sites. Despite a large number of breeding season records from nearly 60 sites, observers were only able to confirm breeding at five locations: Ladywells, Horton Hall near Small Dole, Pyecombe, West Worthing and The Mumbles. Highest count during this period were 15 at Steyning Round Hill on May and an estimate of 23 breeding pairs at Wild Park was the “most in recent years”.

At the ringing sites 53 different birds were handled at Ladywells with 373 at The Mumbles and 377 at Cissbury. Best catch at The Mumbles was 87 on Sep 12th while Cissbury managed 62 on Sep 22nd. Elsewhere peak autumn movements were 21 at Wild Park on Sep 10th and 25 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th increasing to 30 the following day. Observers at Cissbury noted 35 on Sep 12th with 40 there on the 19th. The last substantial count of the year was 33 at Mill Hill on Sep 27th. From the last week of October onwards to the end of December no more than two were seen from twelve more urban and predominantly coastal locations.

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

Two golf courses, Worthing and Pyecombe, attracted single early arrivals on Apr 17th and 26th respectively. Another was singing in a Goring garden on Apr 22nd. There were no confirmed breeding records but singles were recorded from mainly downland locations during May and June. For the first time in many years none were recorded at St Anne's Well gardens. Noted as an irregular species in the valley, just one was ringed at Ladywells on Aug 13th. Highest total for the year was at The Mumbles when nine were ringed on Aug 15th. Sep 5th produced the last of the year at both The Mumbles and Cissbury ringing sites but singles were seen later that month at Wild Park with the last there on the 24th.

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

Between Jan 15th and 17th one was present in the King Alfred area of Hove. What may have been the same bird moved to Hove Lagoon as one was noted there on Feb 20th. More typical records commenced on Apr 13th with the first two of the spring at Sheepcote Valley. Over the next few days the spread of records increased to include Durrington, Steyning Levels, Henfield Levels, Upper Beeding and Wild Park. The only confirmed breeding record received was at Anchor Bottom although a higher number of records were received throughout the breeding season with the greatest count being six at Upper Beeding on May 4th. Maximum ringing catches were of no more than four at both The Mumbles and Cissbury.

Over 50% of the autumn sightings came from the Sheepcote and Wild Park area of Brighton with ten being the highest count at the former site on Sep 11th. Apart from singles at Ferring Rife and Ladywells, Cissbury produced the other records with the last of the year there on Oct 1st.

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Common summer visitor

Atlas work has almost trebled the numbers of records for this species. Earliest sightings were of a single on Steyning Levels on Apr 4th with one at Hollingbury golf course the following day. From Apr 11th onwards records were widely distributed throughout our area, many from Atlas counts. Breeding confirmation achieved in 11 widely distributed tetrads with probable breeding registered in 17. Highest numbers were 14 at Applesham on Apr 26th and 19 at both Southwick Hill on May 3rd and Wild Park on May 10th. At Cissbury 57 birds were either ringed or retrapped, with 28 at The Mumbles and five at Ladywells neatly reflecting the different habitats at each site. The first of the Ladywells captures was not until Aug 13th indicating that autumn dispersal was underway. Highest autumn counts at Sheepcote Valley were 35 on Aug 19th and 30 on Sep 12th. Peak count at Wild Park was of 12 on Aug 22nd with the observer noting a "poor autumn". The final record came from Mill Hill at Shoreham on Sep 27th.

YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER *Phylloscopus inornatus*

Rare autumn vagrant

One was caught and ringed at The Mumbles on Sep 23rd. There were no other records.

WOOD WARBLER *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce passage migrant

Brighton was the favoured location for three spring records. One was heard trilling near 'the dewpond' in Wild Park on May 4th and another was seen in the same area a few days later on the 9th. Last for the spring was one at Preston Park on May 14th. There were no autumn records.

CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Wintering birds in general favoured the more coastal and sheltered locations of Ladywells and Brooklands with no more than two noted during Jan and early Feb although two were inland at Beeding Brooks on Jan 10th. One was singing by the West Pier at Brighton on Feb 13th and perhaps the same bird was in song in the West Pier/ Grand Hotel area on Mar 5th. Certainly two in the Tamarisk at Widewater on Mar 17th were thought to be newly arrived. From the middle of March birds were noted at more inland locations such as Wild Park, Sheepcote Valley and Warren Hill as breeding sites were repopulated. Records during the breeding season were widespread and in May, June and July birds were present in nearly 50 tetrads in our area. Highest counts were of 24 in Wild Park and 14 at Saddlescombe. However there were only seven confirmed breeding records and of these five were from Ladywells, including two very recently fledged in mid August. The other breeding confirmations were from Offington and Long Furlong. Totals for the year at the ringing sites were 71 at Ladywells, 213 at The Mumbles and 234 at Cissbury.

The highest daily catch was of 53 at Cissbury on Oct 3rd but observers noted at least 60 there on Sep 17th, 28th, and Oct 1st rising to 70 the following day. Other autumn records were widespread with the most notable being from Sheepcote Valley which held 50 on Sep 11th and 30 on the 27th. From mid October sightings reduced to single figures and from early November until mid December the majority of records were from Brooklands and Ladywells with the last at Ladywells on Dec 24th.

WILLOW WARBLER *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

Four locations shared the honours for the first sightings on April 4th; West Tarring, Steyning Levels, Findon Valley and Hangleton. By Apr 13th records were more widespread with first birds for the year in the nets at both The Mumbles and Ladywells ringing sites. The nearest our area got to confirmed breeding was a “probable” holding territory at Clayton. However birds were present at 15 locations throughout our area in May and June. The totals from the ringing sites were Ladywells 14, The Mumbles 55 and Cissbury 71 although the number of adults in the catches at each site was seven, eight and nine respectively, highlighting the passage of juvenile birds through The Mumbles and Cissbury. Two or three birds calling in the Tamarisk bushes at Worthing Beach on Jul 27th signalled the start of a good number of autumn records. Cissbury held the highest numbers during August with 20 there on the 12th and ten on the 22nd but there were 12 at Ladywells on the 29th. In September more coastal locations attracted eight to Ferring Rife on the 5th and ten to Brooklands on the 8th. The last significant count of the year was 20 at Wild Park on Sep 11th but the final bird of the year was found at Cissbury on Sep 25th.

GOLDCREST *Regulus regulus*

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

On Jan 2nd, 20 were counted in a tetrad in Shoreham-by-Sea. This was by far the largest of the year since elsewhere through the year just one to five at 35 sites spread across the area other than eight at Offington on Apr 16th. Birds were holding territories at five locations but fledged young were only seen at West Tarring on Jul 28th. Ringing totals at the three sites were: Ladywells 14 (ten new) of which one young; The Mumbles 11 (eight new) of which six young; Cissbury just four of which three were young birds.

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapilla*

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

Singles at St Anne's Well, New Salts Farm and Shoreham were the first half year records between Feb 23rd and Mar 15th. Between Sep 11th and Dec 1st (when one trapped at Ladywells) 13 were noted at eight sites. Four were trapped at Cissbury (all young birds).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa striata*

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

The first was at the Marina on May 13th with another at St Anne's Well next day. Ferring Rife, West Worthing, Woods Mill and Long Furlong, Findon saw singles up to Jun 4th. One at Sheepcote on Jul 18th was presumably an early returning bird with others following at Michelgrove, Ladywells, Wild Park, and Moulsecomb in Aug. Sep saw ten at Sheepcote

on 11th and one to four at thirteen other locations to the month's end. The last bird was at Washington on Oct 2nd.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Regular passage migrant

Restricted to four sites and single birds only all between Sep 9th and 21st. These were St Anne's Well, Sheepcote Valley, Stanmer Down and Cissbury Ring.

LONG-TAILED TIT *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident

In January, flocks of 30 were recorded from Ladywells and Shoreham by Sea and 21 from Upper Beeding. The species was recorded from 51 tetrads (54% of the SDOS recording area total), with confirmed breeding in 11 and probable in 18.

Later in the year maximum counts were from a Ferring garden backing onto the Rife with 35 on Nov 21st. There were also flocks of 20 plus at Ladywells.

BLUE TIT *Cyanistes caeruleus*

Abundant resident

Reported from 66 tetrads, 70% of the total in the SDOS recording area.

Breeding was confirmed in 28 tetrads with six more reporting probable breeding.

GREAT TIT *Parus major*

Very common resident

Reports were received from 64 tetrads (68% of the SDOS recording area total).

Confirmed breeding was reported from 22 tetrads with a further ten recording probable breeding. Early in the year 29 were reported from Upper Beeding, 20 from Stanmer Park, 19 from Patcham and then 21 from Hove, Hangleton. In Mar the monthly maximum at University of Sussex was 16. During Aug 40 were counted at Storrington Sandgate Park whilst at the end of the year the biggest flock was 20 in a Ferring garden. At Wild Park, Brighton 44 pairs bred - the lowest total for seven years.

From the ringing sites, at the Mumbles, Steyning, the yearly summary was 188 different birds whilst at Ladywells it was 84 and at Cissbury the total was 33.

COAL TIT *Periparus ater*

Fairly common but local resident

This species occurred in 18 tetrads which represents 19% of the total in the SDOS recording area. Breeding was confirmed in two Tetrads with a further three reporting probable breeding. Most reports were of one or two birds with six at Offington, Worthing in Jan and eight at Storrington in June.

MARSH TIT *Poecile palustris*

Fairly uncommon resident

Records were received from 14 tetrads (15% of the SDOS recording area total).

Most involved one or two birds with three at Patching, Michelgrove on Dec 27th.

There were no sightings from the coastal strip.

WILLOW TIT *Poecile montanus***Rare and declining resident**

There was just one record for this species. Three were reported from Poynings on Jul 10th. There were no records in 2008.

NUTHATCH *Sitta europaea***Uncommon resident**

Reported from 27 tetrads (29% of the SDOS recording area total).

Confirmed breeding was recorded in one tetrad with probable breeding in four.

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

Records were received from 17 tetrads (18% of the total in the SDOS recording area). But none were confirmed as breeding or even probable breeding. However one was recorded singing in the breeding season at Storrington, whilst in July one was reported as in nesting habitat at Highdown. Throughout the year the species was recorded from a variety of habitats including downland, river levels and the ringing sites at the Mumbles and Ladywells.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio***Very scarce passage migrant**

An adult male was found at Cissbury on Jul 14th (MT) and remained to the delight of many observers until 16th.

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

From one to five at a myriad of sites across the area, exceptions being ten at Wild Park on Apr 15th, six there on Aug 31st, eight at Brighton Cemetery on Sep 30th, six at Patcham on Oct 10th and ten at Ladywells on 19th. No proven breeding records received.

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

Very well recorded with counts exceeding 20 on 21 occasions. These were at Upper Beeding, Mile Oak, Patcham, Hangleton, Wild Park, Applesham, Brighton Cemetery, Portslade, Beeding Hill and Coombes. Breeding definitely occurred at Wild Park (37 pairs), Broadwater, Mile Oak and Hangleton.

JACKDAW *Corvus monedula***Common resident**

Significant counts were 316 flying W over Washington on Jan 4th, 99 at Poynings Badgers Wood on 31st, 160 at Upper Beeding on Feb 3rd, 300 at Steyning Round Hill on Mar 13th, 80 at Coombes on May 14th, 100 at Ladywells on Jun 23rd, Jul 1st and Aug 13th and 200 there on Oct 8th, 115 at Pangdean near Brighton on Nov 5th and 503 at Coombes on Dec 13th. Breeding occurred at Southwick Hill, Horton Hall near Small Dole, Findon, Clayton Windmills, Mill Hill, Clapham and Myrtle Grove.

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus***Common resident**

Large counts in the early months were of 200 on Henfield Levels on Jan 16th and 254 at Chantry Hill on 24th. In Feb, 100 were at Beeding Hill on 20th. Twenty-one rookeries were noted totalling at least 418 nests, the largest being 105 at Myrtle Grove. No count was provided for five of these.

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

Gatherings exceeding 50 were noted on eleven dates through the year. Goring green/beach held 124 on Jan 13th. One hundred were in the Lower Adur valley on Jul 15th and at Mile Oak on Nov 7th. Nesting occurred at a dozen locations with 19 pairs in Wild Park.

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

Records came from about fifteen locations through the year all between Brighton and Chantry Hill, Storrington and doubtless pertained to the same group of birds. No more than three were seen together and these were all at Beeding Hill near to the breeding site. The pair in the Cement Works quarry fledged two young.

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

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

	Jan	Oct	Nov	Dec
Palace	31500	8000	17200	31100
West	3500	2500	1500	2000

There was a new splinter roost at or near Regency Square, near the West pier holding 1000 birds in Jan and 2500 in Feb. Other notable counts in the first half year were 700 on Henfield Levels on Jan 16th, 1005 at Chantry Hill on 24th and 500 at Henfield again on Mar 13th. Breeding occurred at many sites resulting in young birds seen at Brighton central, Goring, Hangleton, Worthing beach, Mile Oak, Durrington, Goring Gap, West Tarring, Patcham, Steyning Bowl, Malthouse Meadows, Sompting, Steep Down, Broadwater, Offington, Black Rock, Coombes, Lancing beach, Old Salts Farm, Pyecombe and Portslade Fore Down. In Nov, 600 were feeding on the Goring Gap fields of newly emergent winter cereal.

ROSE-COLOURED STARLING *Sturnus roseus***Rare vagrant**

A juvenile was present at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th and 12th. (SOS)

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

On Jan 10th the mass roost on the northern edge of the M&S car park at Holmbush held at least 250 birds. This had been continuous since early Nov 2008. During winter Atlas surveys, 61 were counted in two hours at Upper Beeding on Jan 2nd, 75 at Mile Oak on

11th and 54 at Hangleton on 24th, more encouraging numbers than those encountered in similar surveys in early 2008. Forty were seen in an industrial area west of Hove Lagoon on 29th and 57 at Patcham on 26th. There were still 75 at Mile Oak on Feb 25th. During a breeding season Atlas survey there were 73 at Mile Oak on Apr 5th, which had increased to 95 by Jun 1st and on a separate visit there on 28th a total of 128 were found. In a BBS count 68 were at Northbrook Farm (Worthing) on Jun 21st. Seventy-eight were seen at Lancing Beach on Jun 8th and 30th, and 120 at Southwick Beach on Aug 18th. There were no winter Atlas surveys carried out in November and December, but other records were of 60 at Hangleton on Nov 21st, 39 at Mile Oak on 30th, and 25 at Portslade on Dec 29th.



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TREE SPARROW *Passer montanus*

Very scarce former resident and passage migrant

A single bird was seen at Patcham on Jan 1st, but all other records came from the Truleigh/Beeding Hill area where the maximum number was five at Beeding Hill on Jan 9th. There were sightings of two or three at seed feeders there on several occasions in RSPB organised surveys during the rest of Jan and Feb. Three were still present on both Mar 2nd and 7th, but the last record was of an individual on 16th. There were no further reports from the remainder of the year.

CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident

The largest flock reported during January was of 100 at Chantry Hill on 21st; in February 45 were at Lower Standean on 1st, 20 were feeding in a muddy horse paddock at Sompting on 10th and 36 were at Mile Oak on 25th. The ringing team at Ladywells trapped a total of 42 different birds during the year, with a maximum of six on Oct 19th and Dec 1st, while at the Mumbles 47 different birds were handled, both totals broadly similar to 2008. The highest number recorded at Wild Park in September was 21 on 29th, the peak autumn passage at this site being 84 on Oct 10th. No large flocks were noted during the last two months of the year, with maximum counts in November of 22 at Lower Standean on 9th, 25 at Stanmer Down on 11th and 29 at Saddlescombe the following day.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

In January a single bird was at St Anne's Well Gardens on 7th, seven were seen at Chantry Hill on 8th and another was reported on Henfield Levels on 11th. Numbers at Chantry Hill fluctuated, with 50 on Jan 11th, 20 seen feeding on a dung heap on 18th and 24 found in an Atlas timed tetrad visit on 24th. One adult was trapped and ringed at Steyning on Mar 23rd. A late flock of c.50 near Bramber on Apr 13th was noteworthy. The birds were feeding with other grain loving species, e.g. Corn Buntings. The first autumn sighting came from Wild Park where one was seen on Oct 15th, followed by two on 17th, and two also flew over Edburton that day. The only subsequent records were of another single bird at Wild Park on Nov 2nd and two at the same site on 5th.

GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident

Twenty-three were seen in the first hour of an Atlas survey at Worthing on Jan 7th, and similarly 21 at Hangleton on 24th. There were also 23 at Lower Standean on 2nd and 39 at Mile Oak on 14th. During early breeding season Atlas tetrad surveys in April totals of 24 were recorded at Hangleton, Mile Oak and Broadwater. Thirty-four pairs bred in Wild Park, six more than in 2008 and nine more than in 2007. However, at the Steyning ringing site only 49 different birds were trapped, of which 16 were young birds. This was considerably fewer than in 2007 and 2008 when the totals were 119 and 88 respectively. Ten new birds were ringed at Ladywells and six at Cissbury. In the autumn a loose flock at Upper Beeding on Nov 7th comprised about 40 birds, mostly perched on overhead wires, 70 were seen on the beach at Shoreham Harbour on 13th, and the November maximum at Ferring Rife was 30 on 21st. In December the only records in double figures were of 12 at Brooklands on 8th and 20 at Patcham on 11th.

GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Fairly common resident

During January, numbers seen were mainly in single figures, apart from 20 at Shoreham on Jan 2nd, ten at both Ladywells on 13th and Cuckoo Corner on 20th. During Atlas surveys 12 were counted at Chantry Hill on 24th, and 24 at Horton (Upper Beeding) on 30th, all of which were recorded in the second hour. There were 20 at Sheepcote Valley on Feb 13th, 33 at Mile Oak on 18th and a monthly maximum of 20 at Ladywells on 26th. Wild Park held two breeding pairs, the same number as the previous year. A group of 20 were near the Adur at Shoreham on Jun 21st and there were 30 on Henfield Levels on Sep 5th. The September maximum at Wild Park was 24 on 17th, and at Ditchling Beacon two flocks comprising 30 and 135 birds were noted on 26th. The Worthing Beach seawatching log recorded excellent numbers in October; a total of 2710 were seen in 38.8 hours, with a maximum of 1232 flying E on 14th. In November 30 were seen at Ferring Rife on 11th, and 50 flew by Worthing Beach on 21st, of which 30 went E and 20 W. As at the start of the year, no large flocks were seen in December, with 13 at Applesham on 13th and ten at Ladywells on 24th being the largest groups reported. The ringing team at Ladywells trapped nine different birds, compared with 30 in 2008, but at Steyning 164 individuals took advantage of the winter feeding provided, 23 more than in the previous year.

SISKIN *Carduelis spinus*

Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor

A group of 30 was noted in Sandgate Park on Jan 11th and 24th, and three were at Stanmer Park on 26th. Five were seen at High Salvington on Feb 1st, and 20 were still at Sandgate Park on 20th but the only spring record at Wild Park was of one on Mar 21st. In comparison with 2008, numbers reported in the latter part of the year were much lower this year. The first autumn bird was at Cissbury on Sep 24th, and two were also seen there on 26th. The species was recorded at Wild Park on 13 days in October, with a maximum of eight on 13th, and four flew E past Worthing Beach on 17th. There were only a few reports from November, of two flying W at Lancing on 2nd, five flying E at Goring on 4th, and five at Wild Park on 7th. At Steyning a total of 23 different individuals were trapped, 22 during January to March, with a maximum of 13 on Mar 14th, while a first year bird ringed at the site on Dec 5th was the final record of the year.

LINNET *Carduelis cannabina*

Locally common resident and passage migrant

On Jan 11th there were 33 in an Atlas tetrad survey at Mile Oak, all in the second of the two hours; similarly 130 were found at Clapham on 14th, though these were all in the first hour. At Cuckoo Corner a flock of 200 were seen on Feb 13th, and there were 70 at the same site on 25th. Wild Park had 16 breeding pairs, two more than in 2008. At Chantry Hill during May there were 30 on 7th, and a large loose, very mobile flock of about 100 on 23rd. On Jun 4th 28 were counted in the second hour of an Atlas survey at Long Furlong and 11 were feeding around a quarry at Washington the next day. Twenty were seen at Canada Bottom (Findon) on Jul 15th. In September 50 were at Chantry Hill on 8th, 27 at Wild Park on 19th and two flocks totalling 72 birds at Ditchling Beacon on 26th. A total of 267 flew E at Worthing Beach in 3.9 hours on Oct 9th, 55 went E over Wild Park the same day, and a single flock of 700 birds was at No Man's Land on 10th. Later in the month, at least 200 were seen in undersown stubble at Steep Down on 25th and a weedy field at Pangdean held 240 birds on Nov 5th. Only a maximum of 12 were reported from No Man's Land in December, and just one large flock which was of 150 birds at Steep Down on 13th.

LESSER REDPOLL *Carduelis cabaret*

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

There were three records in the first two months of the year, of single birds at Lower Standean on Jan 2nd, at Woods Mill on 8th and at Sandgate Park on Feb 20th. A female seen at St. Anne's Well Gardens on May 5th and 15th was a first for the site and the first May bird in the SDOS recording area since 2004. It was Oct 15th before more were seen, with one at Wild Park on that date and three at the same site on 17th, when there were also two at High Salvington, three at Cissbury Ring and two flying E at Worthing Beach. Nine were seen at Wild Park on Oct 26th and 15 were counted there on both Nov 6th and 7th. Thirty were at Coombes on 24th. Two flew over Ladywells on Nov 2nd, and three first year birds were trapped, two at Cissbury on Oct 25th and one at Steyning on Dec 5th. The final report was of three at Michelgrove on Dec 27th.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years

There were no reports until July, but 25 flew E along the Downs ridge at Frieslands (Washington) on 5th. A larger group of 57 flew E at Ditchling Beacon on 9th, 50 were seen there again on 10th, while at Hollingbury GC 12 flew E on 16th and 23 on 30th. After two in flight at Goring on Aug 8th, there were no more sightings until two flew over Cissbury Ring on Sep 28th. It was a good autumn for this species at Wild Park, where there were reports on six separate days in October, with 23 flying E and six W on 12th being the maximum noted. Five flew W over Ladywells on Oct 26th, and three were heard at Southwick the same day. A group of four flying W at Wild Park on Nov 5th was the final sighting of the year.

BULLFINCH *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Fairly common resident

Reports for this species came from only 21 sites throughout the recording area during the year. One pair bred at Wild Park, and other individuals seen during the breeding season were at Westmeston, Pyecombe, Hangleton, Findon Valley, Patching, Sandgate Park, Cissbury, Steyning, Upper Beeding and Woods Mill, where a pair was seen on Jun 14th.

Four were seen at Cissbury on Oct 19th, six were seen there on 29th and at least ten were seen on Henfield Levels on Dec 11th. A total of 18 were ringed at Steyning of which 16 were young birds, and at Cissbury 35 different individuals were trapped, 24 young birds and 11 adults, five of which had been ringed the previous year.

YELLOWHAMMER *Emberiza citrinella*

Locally common resident

There were good counts during the early months with 30 on Jan 1st at Patcham, 23 on Jan 14th at Myrtlegrove Farm, Clapham and at least 40 on Jan 29th at Beeding Hill. There were two reports of single birds near the coast at Shoreham-by-Sea on Jan 2nd and Feb 2nd. By Feb 24th numbers rose to 51 at Beeding Hill and on Mar 6th 60 were recorded at Golding Barn, Upper Beeding. There were still 50 present on Mar 16th at Beeding Hill. After this numbers declined during the breeding season. Pairs or singing males were recorded at 32 sites with several locations noting six pairs. Seven pairs were reported at Wild Park, Brighton and eight at Findon, Canada Bottom. Nest building was observed at Washington, whilst breeding was confirmed at Pyecombe and Findon. Peak counts at the end of the year were 29 on Nov 5th at Pangdean and 48 on Nov 6th at Devil's Dyke.

REED BUNTING *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Locally common resident

In the early months reports were received from 13 sites but with one exception noting only single birds or groups of less than ten. The exception was the Mumbles, Steyning where 34 were ringed on Feb 28th. Ringing totals for this site reached 97 individuals over the course of the year. During the breeding season two birds were noted on suitable habitat at Woods Mill whilst a pair was on territory at New Salts Farm. Pairs or singing males were reported from Coombes, Beeding Brooks and Upper Beeding. The only site where breeding was confirmed was Ferring Rife on May 24th. Later in the year small numbers were noted at a variety of sites including river valleys, levels and downland. The peak count was of ten on Dec 13th at Steep Down.

CORN BUNTING *Emberiza calandra*

Fairly common but local resident

During Jan there were good counts with 20 at Mill Hill, Shoreham-by-Sea, 21 at Beeding Hill, 25 at Patcham and 28 at Mile Oak, Portslade. In Feb counts increased to 30 at Beeding Hill whilst 40 were recorded from Steyning Round Hill. By Mar the count at Beeding Hill had reached 40. On Mar 6th 60 were present at Golding Barn, Upper Beeding. Pairs or singing males were observed at 11 sites with singing first noted on Feb 2nd. Birds on territory were reported from seven sites including 12 at Steyning Bowl and ten at Steep Down, Lancing. Breeding was confirmed from six sites. After the breeding season there were three flocks in double figures, 17 on Aug 31st at Westmeston, Heathy Brow, 16 on Nov 7th at Mile Oak and 20 on Dec 13th at Steep Down.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS 2009

Helmeted Guineafowl

Up to 15 present all year in woods/fields near Edburton.

Muscovy Duck

One at Widewater Jan 16th and Mar 21st.

Marbled Duck

One was photographed (see below) on Widewater on Apr 28th – presumably an escape?

Grey Goose sp

Three offshore at Worthing beach on May 1st and 31st and one there on Dec 3rd.

Yellow-billed Cardinal

One in Hove on Apr 18th.

Australian Shoveler

One at Brooklands on Dec 22nd.

Lanner Falcon

One at Michelgrove on Dec 27th.



Marbled Duck – image provided by John Coit

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUMMER MIGRANTS 2009

Species	Arrival		Departure	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Mar 17 th	Marina	Aug 26 th	Worthing beach
Osprey	Mar 16 th	Hollingdean	Sep 6 th	Brighton
Marsh Harrier	Apr 22 nd	Lychpole Hill	Sep 24 th	Washington
Hobby	Apr 12 th	Ditchling Beacon	Oct 10 th	Coombes
Whimbrel	Apr 6 th	Marina	Oct 31 st	Shoreham Adur
Arctic Skua	Apr 6 th	Marina	Dec 6 th	Worthing beach
Pomarine Skua	Apr 23 rd	Worthing beach	Oct 6 th	Widewater
Sandwich Tern	Mar 13 th	Goring gap	Nov 21 st	Worthing beach
Common Tern	Apr 6 th	Marina	Oct 31 st	Worthing beach
Little Tern	Apr 10 th	Worthing beach	Aug 31 st	Worthing beach
Black Tern	Apr 30 th	Marina	Aug 23 rd	Worthing beach
Turtle Dove	Mar 29 th	Edburton	Jul 15 th	Small Dole
Cuckoo	Apr 12 th	Devil's Dyke	Jun 28 th	Upper Beeding
Swift	May 1 st	Clapham	Sep 17 th	Steyping Round Hill
Sand Martin	Apr 4 th	Storrington	Sep 30 th	Worthing beach
Swallow	Mar 24 th	Sussex University	Dec 11 th	Upper Beeding
House Martin	Apr 10 th	Brooklands	Oct 31 st	Worthing beach
Tree Pipit	Apr 13 th	Worthing beach	Oct 2 nd	Cissbury
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 13 th	Worthing beach	Oct 2 nd	Goring
Nightingale	Apr 12 th	Oreham common	Jun 27 th	Steyping
Redstart	Apr 6 th	Worthing beach	Oct 10 th	Wild Park
Whinchat	Apr 12 th	Worthing pier	Oct 10 th	No Man's Land
Wheatear	Mar 13 th	Goring Gap	Oct 31 st	Worthing beach
Ring Ouzel	Apr 18 th	Findon Valley	Oct 17 th	Cissbury
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 15 th	Worthing	Sep 21 st	Shoreham Adur
Sedge Warbler	Apr 13 th	Beeding brooks	Sep 27 th	Sheepcote Valley
Reed Warbler	Apr 13 th	Beeding brooks	Sep 29 th	Clayton
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 13 th	Sheepcote Valley	Oct 1 st	Cissbury
Whitethroat	Apr 4 th	Steyping Levels	Sep 27 th	Mill Hill
Garden Warbler	Apr 17 th	Worthing GC	Sep 12 th	Cissbury
Willow Warbler	Apr 4 th	West Tarring	Sep 25 th	Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	May 13 th	Marina	Oct 2 nd	Washington
Pied Flycatcher	-	-	Sep 21 st	Hove St Anne's Well

RINGING REPORT FOR 2009

Throughout 2009 the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) commemorated the centenary of national ringing. As part of this celebration, there was more reference in the media to the important population and migration monitoring which is learned from ringing. Indeed the features on the television Spring and Autumn Watch programmes massively enhanced the interest in ringing and increased the enquiries to the BTO about training to ring birds. Regularly updated information about the national ringing scheme can be found at <http://www.bto.org.uk/ringing/index.htm>.

Locally during the year 4001 birds were ringed in the area; this is a large increase from the 2557 ringed in 2008, the highest number ringed since 1993 and the sixth highest all time annual total. As usual most were trapped in mist nets and ringed as fledged birds. Just 104 (2.6%) of 11 different species were ringed as nestlings and most of these comprised either Blue or Great Tits ringed in nest-boxes. Preliminary national figures for 2009 give a total of about 857,000 ringed of which nearly 150,000 (17.5%) were ringed as pulli. The same source gives the 2009 Sussex total in excess of 73,000 showing local ringing only comprises a little more than 5% of the county total.

The large local increase is entirely due to the work of the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG) which increased their portion of the area's new birds ringed to 78.7%. The group, including Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, Matt Aeberhard, Tom Flower and Philip Baker were successful at both of their main sites. Mist-netting at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve was the most productive with a total of 2008. Here winter feeding attracted large numbers of tits and finches whilst the site remained attractive to both breeding and migratory warblers. Val Bentley masterminded the trapping on the northern slope of Cissbury where just two species, Blackcap and Chiffchaff, comprised more than half of the total of 1140. In the Ladywells valley the team, comprising John Newnham, Pam Mears, John Crix, Janet Derricott and, at the end of the year, Chrissi White, ringed 776 birds. Barrie Watson often joined in the ringing at Ladywells and also contributed 87 birds to round off the grand total for the year.



Table A shows the numbers of each of the species ringed in the area during 2009. Although no new species were added to the area's ringing list in the year no fewer than eight species, Stock Dove, Yellow-browed Warbler, Chiffchaff, Long-tailed Tit, Great Tit, Treecreeper, Siskin and Reed Bunting were ringed in record high numbers. The Yellow-browed Warbler, ringed at the Mumbles on September 23rd, was only the second ringed in the area and was therefore the most unusual species trapped during the year.

Table A - List of Species ringed in 2009

Sparrowhawk	4	Redwing	20	Blue Tit	558
Kestrel	5	Grasshopper Warbler	1	Great Tit	267
Stock Dove	6	Sedge Warbler	11	Nuthatch	1
Woodpigeon	4	Reed Warbler	77	Treecreeper	18
Barn Owl	13	Lesser Whitethroat	29	Jay	3
Tawny Owl	1	Whitethroat	84	Magpie	1
Kingfisher	7	Garden Warbler	36	House Sparrow	1
Green Woodpecker	11	Blackcap	787	Chaffinch	87
Great Spotted Woodpecker	9	Yellow-browed Warbler	1	Brambling	1
House Martin	35	Chiffchaff	512	Greenfinch	62
Wren	109	Willow Warbler	139	Goldfinch	169
Dunnock	143	Goldcrest	22	Siskin	23
Robin	175	Firecrest	5	Redpoll	3
Nightingale	1	Spotted Flycatcher	3	Bullfinch	48
Blackbird	183	Long-tailed Tit	165	Reed Bunting	82
Song Thrush	78	Marsh Tit	1	Total	4001

Recoveries and Controls

Some of the developments on the BTO website include the presentation of ringing information and the more interesting county recoveries can be found at http://www.bto.org.uk/ringing/ringinfo/recovery_summaries.htm. Many of the local movements are hidden in the plethora of tables presented on this site.

A total of at least 35 recoveries or controls were reported during 2009; the following describe these.

The gull cannon-netting programme, although undertaken many years ago, continues to provide information. At least four **Black-headed Gulls** ringed locally between 1986 and 1991 were recorded in 2009, two with about 23 years between ringing and recovery dates and both approaching the national longevity record of 27 years. The protracted saga of EP36792, originally ringed as an adult on November 27th 1993 at Washington and later colour ringed in Denmark, continues. Since being ringed this gull has been recorded in Denmark during 15 different springs and during eight winters at Radipole Lake, Dorset, with additional sightings in the Netherlands (2) and Germany (1). During 2009 EP36792 was again seen in both Denmark and Dorset. A **Common Gull**, bearing a coloured ring and seen on the River Adur on April 15th 2008, was ringed as a nestling in Korsor, Denmark the previous spring. The colour-ringing study of **Herring Gulls** in Falmer generated another sighting at a Gloucester rubbish tip (187 km NW) and a young Herring Gull, ringed in Scarborough, North Yorkshire in March 2007, was seen at Lancing (378 km S) on July 2nd 2009. **Great Black-backed Gulls** ringed on the Channel Islands have been recorded previously in our area; a nestling ringed on Herm in July 2001 was found long dead at Shoreham (213 km NE) in June 2009. Other seabirds, apart from gulls, do not often appear in these reports thus it is of interest to note a **Guillemot**, ringed as a nestling near Helmsdale, Highland Region in June 1998 was found dead at Brighton (841 km SSE) on January 19th 2009.

Stock Dove is another species which does not frequently feature in these accounts thus included is one shot at Fulking in August 2009 having been ringed as a nestling just 7 km away at Ashurst two months earlier.

A first-year female **Blackbird** ringed on September 14th 2002 at Cissbury was found freshly drowned nearby on August 13th 2009 and was amongst the oldest recoveries for this species reported in 2009. Perhaps more interesting was a second year male Blackbird ringed at Christianso, Bornholm, Denmark in October 2006 and found unwell at Findon (1152 km WSW) in November 2008. *The Birds of Shoreham* (1988) notes 11 foreign movements of this species but most originated from ringing during the 1950s and 1960s. The local recovery of a **Song Thrush** in Steyning during March 2009, over 3½ years after being ringed as a juvenile, has also been cited by the BTO as a recovery with a notable time lapse recorded between ringing and recovery.

Warblers, as noted in previous reports, have a very low recovery rate but are ringed in high numbers and tend to be caught again by ringers at other sites (controlled is the official term used). Rather belatedly reported was a first year **Sedge Warbler** ringed at Steyning on August 2nd 2003 and controlled at the Lac de Grand Lieu, Loire Atlantique, France (438 km SSW) just five days later. No fewer than nine movements involving **Blackcaps** were reported and these are best summarised in the following table, sorted by ringing date. The first has also taken a long while to be reported and is remarkably similar to a recovery reported during 2008 involving the same two locations. The last appears to be the most exciting.

17/09/2004	1 st yr F	Steyning	18/07/2007	East Bedfont (Greater London)	62 km N
09/09/2006	1 st yr M	Cissbury	04/04/2009	Queen Mary Reservoir (Surrey)	62 km N
15/09/2007	1 st yr F	Cissbury	17/07/2009	Given Dale (North Yorkshire)	376 km N
26/07/2008	Juv.	Cissbury	06/06/2009	Steyning	5 km ENE
13/09/2008	1 st yr M	Cissbury	10/04/2009	Fareham (Hampshire)	57 km W
16/07/2009	Juv	Icklesham (East Sussex)	05/09/2009	Steyning	69 km W
29/08/2009	1 st yr M	Ladywells	06/09/2009	Icklesham (East Sussex)	70km E
31/08/2009	Ad f	Whitlingham (Norfolk)	22/09/2009	Cissbury	229 km SSW.
23/09/2009	1 st yr M	Steyning	03/10/2009	Villeton (Lot-et-Garonne) France	727 km S

Chiffchaff is the second most numerous warbling species to be ringed locally and during the year a small series of five movements were reported which are shown in the following table.

14/07/2007	Juv	Steyning	29/04/2009 & 23/05/2009	Plumpton (East Sussex)	16 km E
18/08/2009	1st year	Cissbury	06/09/2009	Icklesham (East Sussex)	74 km E
12/09/2009	Juv	Wraysbury GP (Slough)	03/10/2009	Cissbury	66 km S
12/09/2009	1st year	Queen Mary Res. (Surrey)	19/09/2009	Steyning	60 km S
07/10/2009	Full grown	Icklesham (East Sussex)	09/10/2009	Cissbury	74 km W

A **Long-tailed Tit** ringed in October 2008 at Cissbury was controlled in Ladywells a year later and a **Blue Tit**, ringed in Gomshall, Surrey in August 2009 was controlled at the Mumbles (38km SSE) 51 days later. The provision of seed feeders during the winter at the

Mumbles has successfully attracted large numbers of finches and buntings and arguably the area's most unusual recoveries stem from ringing these graniferous species. An adult male **Siskin** ringed on February 21st 2009 was controlled in Bin Forest, Aberdeenshire (750km NNW) on April 12th 2009; this is the first time this species has appeared in this section of the local report. A young female **Reed Bunting**, initially ringed at Icklesham, East Sussex on October 9th 2008 and controlled at the Mumbles (69 km W) on February 21st 2009, is the fourth English movement noted for this area but the first foreign recovery was an adult female ringed at the Mumbles on April 13th 2009 and controlled on August 5th 2009 at Vauville, Manche, France (176 km SW).

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

John Newnham

LADYWELLS RINGING 2009

One way to assess the ringing effort at Ladywells in 2009 is to note that the team ringed 27% more birds than in 2008, handled 20% more retraps, ran 13% more sessions and managed an 8% increase in the average number of birds per session. But by way of illustrating the double-edged nature of all statistical analysis it is possible to show that an average of four people involved for at least five hours in each of 2009's 33 ringing sessions meant an overall time investment of 660 person-hours to catch and process just under 1400 birds - i.e. just over two birds per person-hour.

Whether one's statistical glass is half full or half empty the numbers remain important. In 2009, for example, they prompted us to open one new net ride, close another less productive one and also successfully experiment with *playback luring* House Martins. There is, of course, a natural satisfaction to be gained from making best use of our time but there is also a scientific dimension: an objective to obtain the best possible sample of the various species populations at various times of year in our small patch of West Sussex, in the knowledge that once included in the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) database this information forms a useful part of the overall bird-life picture for the United Kingdom and Europe.

This is also the context for the important observation reports submitted to the BTO's Birdtrack system after each ringing session (and also some of our visits to top-up seed feeders). It is perhaps not too fanciful to characterise Ladywells as a form of bird observatory: throughout the year we monitor movements and populations through the ringing work and monitor and record the overall presence of species through the Birdtrack observations. Regardless of whether this might be a realistic analogy, the fact is that we logged 79 different species in 2009 - including Hen Harrier, Hobby, Water Rail, Cetti's Warbler, Raven, Common Crossbill and Reed Bunting. Science aside, bird watching in the valley on a warm day, sipping coffee sat at the ringing table, is a very pleasant and productive pastime.

Due to the enthusiasm of Lancing College's farm manager - Derek Cleaver - his colleagues in the college's woodwork department, and the children in a special needs class he looks after, we have also extended our activities to monitoring nesting and breeding success. By the end of 2009 we had 23 small nest boxes and two A-frame Barn Owl boxes in place. This is a developing area of our work and we live in hopes that in 2010 a peek inside the A-frames will reveal a family of owls rather than the interesting, but ultimately rather disappointing, pair of Stock Doves which was the case in 2009.

In our 2008 report I suggested that by being open to visitors wishing to learn more about ringing and providing a site which accepted trainees, the Ladywells ringing operation was in a small way developing into something of a resource within the UK's Ringing Scheme. This continued in 2009. Janet Derricott, our established trainee, was joined by Chrissi White who was accepted as a trainee towards the end of the year. Thus 2009 closed with John Newnham, with some help from Barrie Watson, being responsible for two trainees plus Pam Mears and myself who, with our 'C' permits, are at an intermediate stage in our development as ringers. Looking back to nearer the beginning of 2009, it was a tribute to John's training skills that he was able to head off to Australia for much of February and March and leave Pam and myself to run the ringing. I don't think we made any significant mistakes - but we were grateful to Barrie for popping down to the valley to provide support at various times.

Finally, there was the anecdotal side of ringing at Ladywells in 2009. This is probably best documented in the feedback reports produced after each ringing session - but clicking back through these I was reminded of: one of Derek's lambs demolishing one of John N's treasured old mist nets; sunny mornings watching corvids and raptors dog-fighting; the morning I woke up team members' wives and partners to get everybody out for an ad hoc ringing session and we only caught 20 birds; the mud-caked state of Chrissi's jeans after her first session, when she discovered that streams and well springs are a big feature at Ladywells; Pam's patent handwarmers; Janet patiently painting numbers on nest boxes; Barrie Watson's chocolate biscuits...

... well not quite finally because, as with previous years' reports, I'm reserving this final paragraph to express the Ladywells ringing team's great thanks to the Lancing College authorities (particularly Pauline Bulman, the college bursar), Derek Cleaver and Hugh and Christopher Passmore who continue to let us mist-net in Ladywells and take an interest in what we do. Thanks to these good people we have an excellent and still developing woodland/stream/meadow ringing site down in the pleasant valley where the Lancing College and Applesham farms have their boundaries.

John Crix

RINGING AT CISSBURY 2009

The first ringing session of the year was carried out on 18 April, and started quietly, with just 17 birds in the nets. Eight were retraps, including three Blackbirds which had survived several winters, the oldest originally ringed as a second year female on 30th June 2001, and hence nine years old. A returning Chiffchaff was the only migrant species caught that day, though Blackcap, Common and Lesser Whitethroats and Willow Warblers were all heard singing, giving hope of a better ringing season than 2008.

On the second visit on 2nd May, more returning migrants were found, including a Willow Warbler and Whitethroat both ringed two years earlier, and three Blackcaps, the oldest being four years old and another which had been ringed on the Isle of Wight in 2006 but had also passed through Cissbury in both the spring and autumn of 2007. A retrapped Song Thrush was at least seven years old and during the next session on 16th May another Song Thrush turned up, which had been ringed in 2005 as a second-year bird, but had not been seen in the intervening three years.

As the breeding season got fully under way, the first juvenile birds were found on 13th June, comprising six Blue Tits, five Blackcaps, four Whitethroats, two Lesser Whitethroats, two Robins and one each of Chiffchaff and Dunnock. On an early July session, of 54 birds caught, 44 were juveniles, including the first of 14 young Blackbirds and the first of the four juvenile Treecreepers ringed during the year.

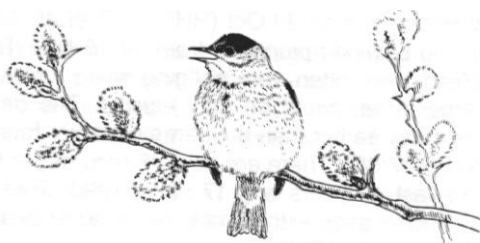
Some of our longer-lived individuals which were recaptured were a male Blackcap ringed as a juvenile at the site on 6th August 2005, a male Blue Tit ringed as a second-year bird on 12th June 2005, a male Dunnock first seen as a young bird on 7th August 2004, and a female Long-tailed Tit ringed as an adult in May 2004, hence a minimum of six years old.

The site at Cissbury is surprisingly good for that often overlooked species, the Bullfinch, and during 2009 35 different individuals were trapped, of which 6 were adult males, 5 adult females and 24 were first year birds. The first juvenile was not caught until 1st August, and some still retained predominately juvenile plumage until mid-October.

Passage birds started moving through the site in early August, with 15 of the 52 new birds caught on 8th being Willow Warblers, with a similar number (17 of 47) on 12th. Another 11 were ringed on 22nd August, but Blackcap took over as the main passage species, the birds noticeably gaining weight as they laid down fat stocks for their migration. On one September day, the lightest Blackcap was 15.3g while the heaviest weighed over half as much again at 24.3g.

Towards the end of September, while Blackcaps continued to make up the bulk of the passage birds, Chiffchaffs also started to arrive with 59 of the former and 38 of the latter species respectively in a total of 107 new birds on 22nd.

The fortunes of the four main passage species, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler over the last ten years are detailed below. As the total number of birds ringed each year fluctuates, the figures shown are the percentage for each species of the yearly total of new birds ringed. These



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show an increase in relative numbers of Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs over the ten years, while Whitethroats and Willow Warblers declined slightly over the same period.

Year	Blackcap	Chiffchaff	Whitethroat	Willow Warbler
2000	31.2	12.2	7.4	9.0
2001	20.5	9.1	6.4	8.5
2002	26.0	12.0	6.9	4.6
2003	21.9	17.0	6.6	6.9
2004	27.8	18.0	7.3	4.8
2005	26.7	11.4	5.2	7.6
2006	33.7	16.5	5.3	6.7
2007	30.5	18.2	3.2	5.2
2008	30.1	13.2	5.0	4.3
2009	32.1	20.4	6.2	4.8

Four Firecrests were ringed this year, a good total for this species. The first was on 26th September; another from 20th October was still at the site on 1st December. However, Goldcrest numbers were extremely low at only four birds, in comparison with the 2008 total of 50. Since 1985 only 1991 yielded fewer Goldcrests; only one individual was ringed that year, a staggering fall from 201 in 1990 and 251 in 1989.

Species ringed in small numbers were Garden Warbler (6), Great Spotted Woodpecker (1) and Marsh Tit (1), all breeding on the site or nearby, while Reed Warbler (3), Sedge Warbler (1), Spotted Flycatcher (2) were passage birds.

Autumn visitors ringed were two Lesser Redpoll on 25th October and eight Redwing during two mid November sessions. Twelve new Song Thrushes were ringed after mid October, the last on 1st December.

A final total of 1481 birds (29 different species), including retraps, was a considerably better reward than the 824 (24 species) in 2008, though 30 visits were made compared with 22 the previous year. However some of the additional sessions were operated with fewer nets. Ringers operating at the site during the year were Brian Clay, Phil Clay, Ralph Hartfree, Val Bentley, John Newnham, Tom Flower and Philip Baker. Grateful thanks as always to the National Trust for permission to ring at the site.

Val Bentley

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2009

Introduction.

The sea between Worthing and Ferring was watched on 264 days with a total of 398 hours logged. This is just one day more than in 2008 but the number of hours watched was 39 fewer than in 2008. Figure 1 shows that the spring months were, as usual, the best covered but without the exceptional spring peak shown in most years. Figure 2 shows, like the past few years, the watching in all months except the spring (March – May) and August was equal or greater than the average for the years 1978 – 2008. The following table shows the number of days with some watching and, as expected, matches the peaks and troughs shown in Figure 1.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
Days Watched	27	16	17	28	26	17	23	17	21	26	18	28	264

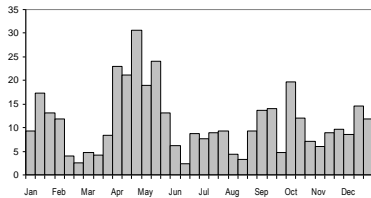


Figure 1:- The number of hours sea-watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2009.

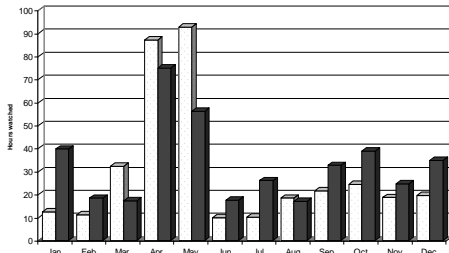


Figure 2:- The monthly effort for 2009 (black) compared with the average for 1978 – 2008 (white).

Figure 3 shows that once again the numbers of birds recorded in the spring months was lower than expected with March producing only 31% of the average number of birds seen over the preceding 31 years. April and May fared little better with 60% and 54% respectively. Indeed only in January and February were the numbers of birds recorded greater than the long term averages.

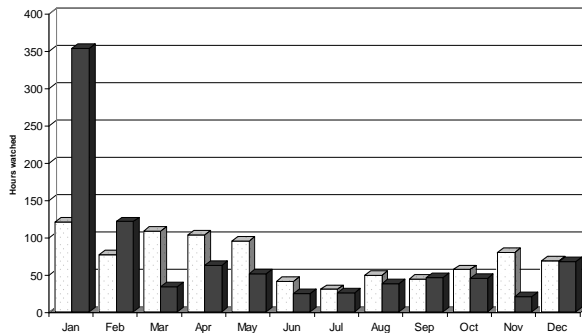


Figure 3 The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched, 1978– 2008 average (white) & 2009(dark).

The following table reinforces the picture painted by Figure 3 and shows another mediocre spring with January, by a large margin, being the most productive month in terms of numbers of birds and being responsible for the overall total of birds logged in the year exceeding that in 2008. Indeed the overall total recorded in 2009 was the 16th highest in the 32 years of computed data held.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hours watched	40	18	17	75	56	17	26	17	33	39	25	35	398
Total birds	14035	2224	579	4673	2873	418	656	642	1486	1738	505	2338	32167
Birds/hour	354	121	33	62	51	24	25	38	46	45	21	67	81

As usual, most observations took place from the shelter opposite Marine Gardens, West Worthing or from Goring and Ferring beaches where Dave Smith and Clive Hope regularly watched. As before 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:- J.A.Feest, C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, J.M.Maskell, S.P.Maskell, J.A.Newnham, D.I.Smith, R.Tofts, M.Tucker and R.Westwater.

CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT and DISCUSSION

The foregoing tables and graphs clearly show that January and February were the most productive months in the year. Presumably large shoals fish occur at this time of year off this portion of the Sussex coast attracting high numbers of seabirds. Auks were the most numerous with 2456 on January 11th and 1068 on February 13th being the highest numbers. On some occasions rafts were seen feeding offshore and the ca 500 on January 15th were considered to be mainly Razorbills. The fluctuating numbers of auks recorded off the Sussex coast was discussed by David Howey in the 2007 Sussex Bird Report (pp241-247) and Figure 4 shows this but also clearly demonstrates that large number of auks seen from this part of the coast is a feature only of the past decade and the graph suggests a decline since 2001.

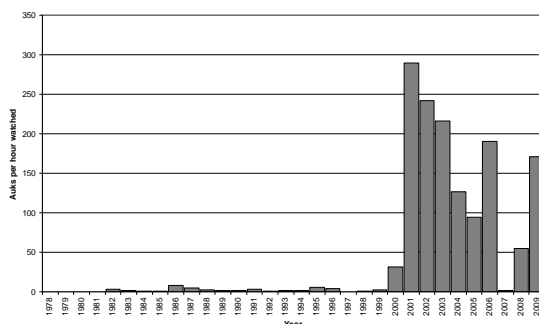


Figure 4 The combined January and February rates of passage of auks at Worthing in birds/hour watched, 1978- 2009.

A similar picture is shown if Figure 4 were plotted for Gannets or Cormorants and both of these species were recorded in high numbers in early 2009 with 400 Gannets offshore on January 8th and ca 450 Cormorants on January 15th. Divers were also seen on most watches with a maximum of 184 on January 13th. Most of those identified were Red-throated Divers and Figure 5 shows this was the second best recorded January and February since 1978 but, unlike some other species groups, diver numbers have not increased dramatically in recent years.

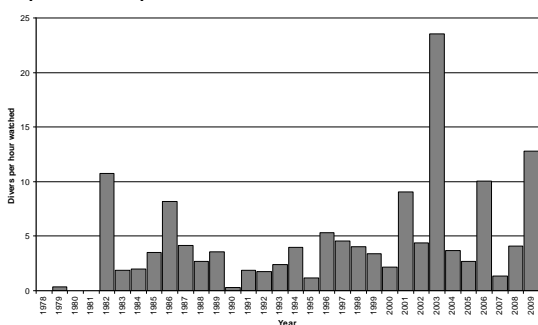
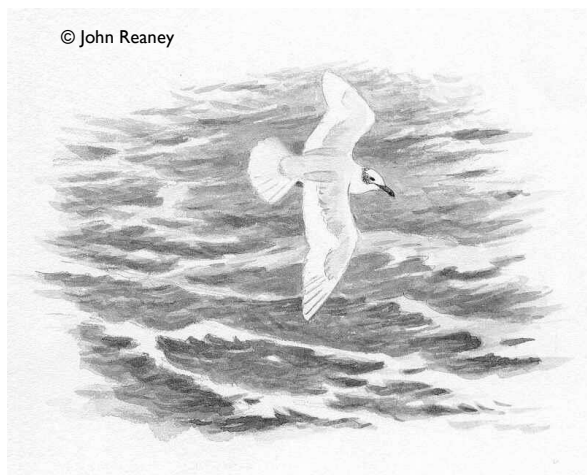


Figure 5 The combined January and February rates of passage of all divers at Worthing in birds/hour watched, 1978- 2009.

Good fish stocks also attract flocks of feeding grebes and ducks. In this report for 2005 it was shown that the numbers of both Great Crested Grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers found during the winter was increasing. The former was recorded in a record high number in 2009 when 354, mostly between Marine Gardens and Worthing Pier, were seen on January 14th but in recent winters the number of mergansers has fallen with 60 on January 9th being the highest noted. Kittiwakes, often associated with other seabirds, were not

particularly evident with 100 feeding offshore on January 15th being the best count.



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Cold weather and snow prompted a small “cold-weather” movement on February 2nd when 100 Lapwings, 2 Golden Plovers, 257 Skylarks, 86 Meadow Pipits and 116 Fieldfares were seen moving westward. These figures are really insignificant compared with those seen during harsh weather movements twenty or thirty years ago. Throughout the winter wading birds were

regularly seen on the shore and often noted flying to roost; perhaps the most unusual observation being 161 Turnstones, in three flocks, going east on February 28th. Two huge

flocks of Brent Geese, comprising 700 and 450 birds, were part of an early eastward movement of this species on January 31st. No particularly rare species were seen in this period but a Merlin on January 10th, Slavonian Grebes on two dates and Little Gulls on three days were noteworthy.

Traditionally the spring is the most exciting season for sea-watching from the Sussex shore and March is considered the start of this period. Although the first Sandwich Terns were recorded on March 13th, eight Wheatears were on the beach the following day and a Long-tailed Duck was feeding offshore on the 23rd the month generally was not one to be remembered. Indeed Figure 3 suggest this month challenges November as the month with the greatest reduction of birds recorded compared with the average.

As usual the hours spent watching the sea increased through April and May with April being the best covered month in 2009 and, next to January, the month when most birds were seen. The figures for May were poor and perhaps the less said about May 2009 the better. The following table shows the totals seen for the two main spring months (with the average 1978-2008 in brackets) and the peak count for these months. Those counts with more than 10% above the long-term average are shown in bold whilst those showing less than 90% of the long term averages are shown in italics and marked with an *. The mediocrity of the spring is evident and each of the displayed species showing marked reductions in May.

	April Total	May Total	Apr/May max
Divers all	64 (61)	<i>11 (39)*</i>	13 on April 10 th .
Brent Goose	<i>237 (520)*</i>	<i>1 (54)*</i>	38 on April 5 th .
Common Scoter	<i>1337 (1258)</i>	<i>493 (742)*</i>	453 on April 10 th .
Velvet Scoter	31 (19)	<i>1 (8)*</i>	17 on April 7 th .
Sanderling	<i>27 (86)*</i>	<i>185 (299)*</i>	149 on May 13 th .
Dunlin	<i>30 (96)*</i>	<i>27 (163)*</i>	13 on May 13 th .
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>155 (1280)*</i>	<i>47 (807)*</i>	47 on April 24 th .
Whimbrel	<i>188 (264)*</i>	<i>63 (215)*</i>	51 on April 16 th .
Pomarine Skua	<i>6 (6)</i>	<i>3 (30)*</i>	4 on April 30 th .
Arctic Skua	<i>22 (31)*</i>	<i>14 (36)*</i>	8 on May 10 th .
Great Skua	27 (10)	<i>2 (4)*</i>	15 on April 24 th .
Little Gull	90 (43)	<i>0 (31)*</i>	86 on April 10 th .
Sandwich Tern	<i>1288 (1420)</i>	<i>312 (890)*</i>	299 on April 24 th .
Commic Tern	<i>181 (1149)*</i>	<i>572 (2629)*</i>	516 on May 13 th .
Little Tern	<i>70 (86)*</i>	<i>14 (243)*</i>	56 on April 24 th .
Black Tern	<i>0 (5)*</i>	<i>0 (35)*</i>	

Although some species, like Mediterranean Gull and Great Skua, were seen in larger numbers than in past years the trend for others continues downward. It is noteworthy that no Black Terns were recorded in spring and the number of Little Terns, a species causing concern amongst conservationists, continues to decline as shown in Figure 6.

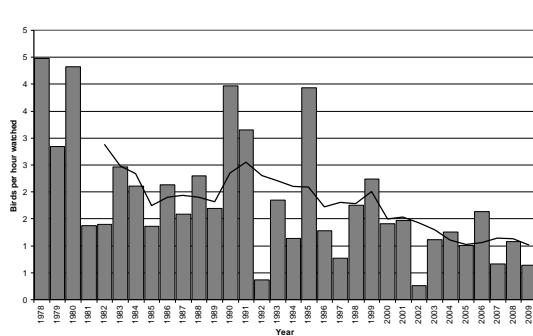


Figure 6:- The spring (April/May) rate of passage and five-year moving average of Little Terns at Worthing 1978-2009.

Perhaps the most memorable aspect of the spring sea-watch in 2009 was on May 16th when a local record of 216 Manx Shearwaters flew west in just over two hours of watching. Other highlights were few and far between; a Long-tailed Duck on April 5th and a north bound Hobby on May 24th. Even passerine numbers were relatively low but a Tree Pipit flying north on April 13th and a Stock Dove on the shingle on May 13th both constituted unusual sightings from the beach. A male Redstart was watched by many observers arriving from the sea on April 6th; it was clearly very weak as the bird paused and sat on the sea on several brief occasions but just as it approached the shore it was taken by a Lesser Black-backed Gull and finally made landfall in the beak of the gull.

The figures and tables show that the sea was watched regularly, albeit for short periods, throughout the summer and early autumn. There were few surprises recorded but three Great Crested Grebes were still on the sea on June 2nd, a Peregrine was recorded on July 3rd; a Yellow-legged Gull was seen at Goring on August 14th and a Garganey flew west on August 26th. Emigrating passerines were obvious in September when over 7700 Barn Swallows and 2700 House Martins were seen along with strikingly smaller movements of wagtails, pipits and Wheatears. However, some interesting sea-birds were seen as two Balaeric Shearwaters flew west on the 2nd, a Shag flew west on the 3rd and a Red-necked Grebe was seen on the 14th. A count of 317 Gannets on September 18th was the highest number for the later months of the year. The increase in Gannets observed offshore has already been referred to with particular reference to the winter but Figure 7 shows this rise to occur throughout the year but less markedly during the spring and early summer. One local observer commented during one watch that is unusual, even on a short watch, not to record this species.

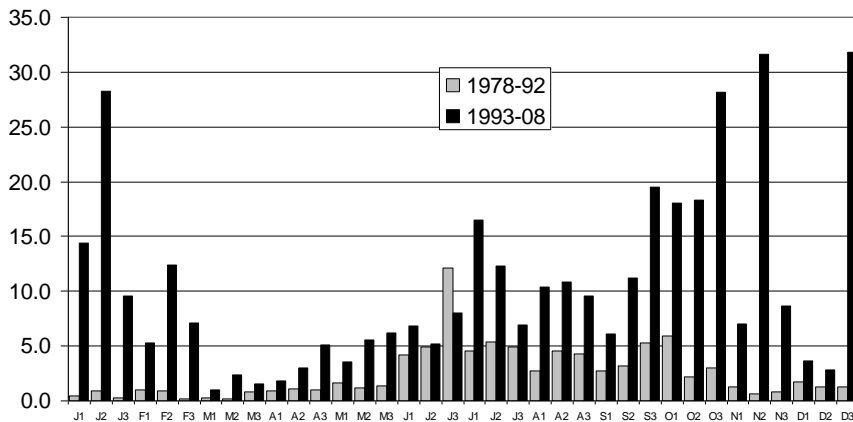
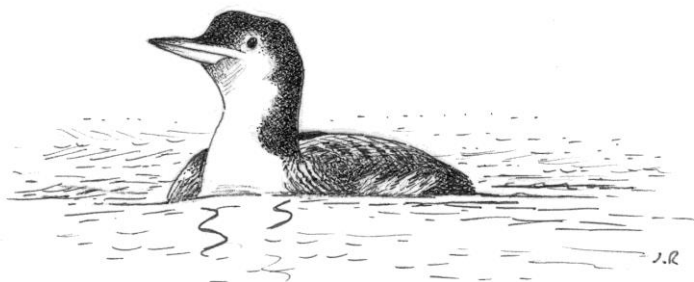


Figure 7:- The rates of passage of Gannet in ten-day periods for the years 1978-92 and 1993-2008.

A Shag on the 21st and Sooty Shearwater on the 27th were the best birds during an indifferent October for seabird passage but this month is often, like September, excellent for observing coastal movements of passerines. Goldfinches were the most numerous and on eight mornings between the 7th and 18th a total of 2698E and 12W were seen with a maximum of 1232 on the 14th. Two Black Redstarts on 25th October were notable and one was on the beach at Worthing on November 6th. A one hour watch on this date was quite interesting as 1000 Woodpigeons flew west, a Slavonian Grebe was on the sea, a tight flock of six Little Egrets flew over a group of four feeding on the beach and a small group of three Whooper Swans flew silently westward low over the tide-line. Velvet Scoters were recorded on three November dates and a late Sandwich Tern was noted on the 21st but otherwise the watches were fairly quiet. A small westward movement of marsh ducks on December 2nd included 338 Wigeon, 12 Pintail and 20 Shoveler. However, despite cold weather and snow during the month there were no really large numbers of birds but rewards for braving the cold included up to two Slavonian Grebes seen on four dates, a Shag and Great Northern Diver on Christmas Day, a Red-necked Grebe on the 27th and four adult Whooper Swans flying south-east on the 28th.

John Newnham



GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2009

Thirty one SDOS members submitted quarterly garden records during 2009 and there was a total of 58 different species recorded, the same number as in 2008.

Another trend from previous years continued, with Blackbird for the third year in a row being the only species noted in each garden in each quarter. Blue Tit narrowly missed achieving the same feat by being absent from just one garden in the final quarter of the year.

Below are listed the most frequent garden visitors for each quarter

First Quarter (January – March 2009)

Species		% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
1=	Blackbird	100	8	2.19
1=	Blue Tit	100	6	1.76
1=	Robin	100	4	1.06
4=	Dunnock	93	4	1.08
4=	Great Tit	93	4	0.97
6=	Song Thrush	86	2	0.42
6=	Starling	86	33	2.42
6=	Wood Pigeon	86	16	2.55
9=	Collared Dove	83	7	1.29
9=	Goldfinch	83	12	1.67
9=	Greenfinch	83	20	2.19
9=	Wren	83	2	0.31

There were a total of 29 gardens where 45 different species were recorded, including nine which were only seen at a single site:

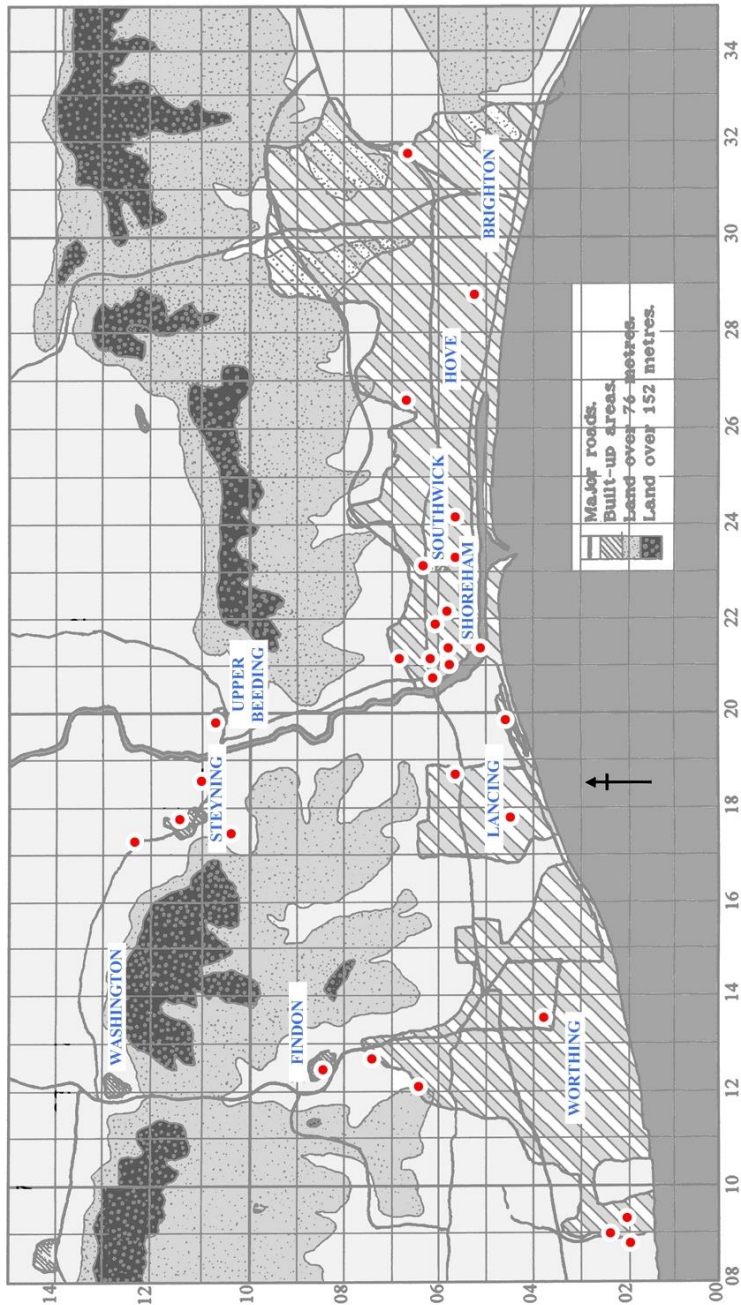
- Common Gull (G Nicholls)
- Firecrest (M & P Ford)
- Grey Wagtail (John Cooper)
- Mallard (John Cooper)
- Merlin (R Westwater)
- Mistle Thrush (S Allen)
- Moorhen (John Cooper)
- Siskin (L Keen)
- Tawny Owl (J & S Maskell)

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Wintering Blackcaps were recorded in 11 gardens, Reed Buntings in six, Redwings in three and Fieldfares in two. Of the more unusual visitors, Firecrest was recorded in the week of 22nd February and Merlin in the week of 11th January, both in Ferring, while the Siskins were regular visitors from 4th January to 15th March, with a maximum of four in early March.

Garden Bird Survey – Locations of Participating Members (n.b. locations based on 2008 submissions)



Second Quarter (April - June 2009)

	Species	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
1=	Blackbird	100	6	1.87
1=	Blue Tit	100	12	1.72
3	House Sparrow	97	15	2.09
4=	Great Tit	93	6	1.00
4=	Greenfinch	93	9	1.85
4=	Starling	93	28	2.77
7=	Collared Dove	90	10	1.02
7=	Dunnock	90	5	1.06
7=	Robin	90	4	0.84
10=	Goldfinch	86	6	1.01
10=	Wood Pigeon	86	12	2.25

Again there were 29 members recording, and 47 different species, four more species than in 2008.

The percentage of gardens visited by Wrens dropped from 83% to 66%, while those in which Song Thrush was recorded reduced from 86% to 38%. House Sparrow was recorded in all but one of the gardens in this quarter, while between January and March the species was seen in 23 of the 29 gardens.

The more unusual species seen this quarter were:

- Brambling during week 2 (M Ford)
- Garden Warbler (J & S Maskell)
- Kestrel (M Taylor)
- Nuthatch in five of the weeks, maximum of two (B Clay)
- Redstart during week 1 (N Biddulph, S Marshall)

Third Quarter (July – September 2009)

	Species	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
1=	Blackbird	100	5	1.44
1=	Blue Tit	100	40	5.07
3	Robin	97	3	0.72
4=	Dunnock	93	5	0.82
4=	Great Tit	93	9	1.10
4=	Greenfinch	93	15	1.84
7=	Collared Dove	86	8	0.99
7=	Wood Pigeon	90	10	1.70
9	House Sparrow	81	40	3.49
10	Magpie	70	5	0.71

There were 30 recorders this quarter, and 43 different species as in the previous year.

Starling and Goldfinch just dropped off the leader board by only being seen in 67% and 61% of the gardens respectively during July to September.

New species added to the year's garden list this quarter were:

Lesser Whitethroat, seen on two occasions (M & P Hall)

Reed Warbler (B Metcalfe)

Whitethroat (M & P Hall and B Metcalfe)

Yellowhammer, two in the first week (B Clay)

Fourth Quarter (October – December 2009)

Species		% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
1	Blackbird	100	68	1.54
2=	Blue Tit	97	14	2.51
2=	Robin	97	3	0.81
4=	Great Tit	83	7	1.17
4=	Wood Pigeon	83	18	1.91
6=	Dunnock	80	4	0.9
6=	House Sparrow	80	30	2.82
8=	Greenfinch	77	16	1.81
8=	Magpie	77	10	1.03
8=	Wren	77	2	0.30

In this quarter there were again 30 garden forms received, and 40 species were recorded, with a Black Redstart seen by Roy Westwater during the week of 25th October being the only new species for the year.

During December a total of ten Blackcaps were seen in seven gardens. Redwings were seen in six, but no Fieldfares were reported.

Thank you to all the following who submitted their quarterly returns on which the above is based: S Allen, N Biddulph, R Bradbury, J Carder, B Clay, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, J Ford, M & P Ford, M & P Hall, C & P Hope, H Jackson, L Keen, C & M Leeves, S Marshall, J & S Maskell, B Metcalfe, G. Nichols, A Robinson, L Robinson, R Sandison, J & J Simpson, J & J Steedman, G & V Tickler, R Titcomb, D Tomalin, H Ward, R Westwater, P Whitcomb and A Wisdom.

Val Bentley

FIELD OUTINGS 2009

The following field outings were held during 2009

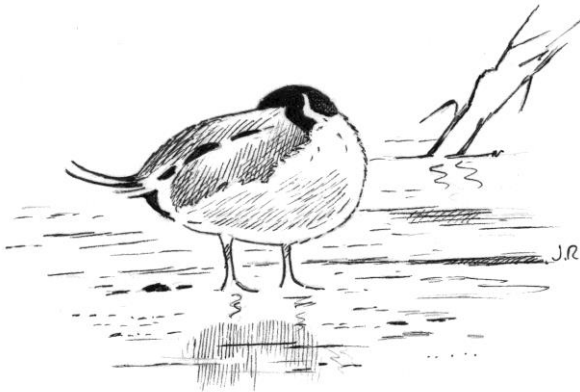
Jan. 11th (Sun)	Downs Link/Upper Adur Leader: Val Bentley
Jan. 18th (Sun)	Beeding Brooks Leader: Terry Goble
Feb. 8th (Sun)	Dungeness Leader: Dave Smith
Mar. 15th (Sun)	East Head & Snowhill Marsh Leader: Paul Stevens
Mar. 22nd (Sun)	New Forest Leader: Russ Tofts
Apr. 26th (Sun)	Goring Seawatch Leader: John Newnham
May 9th (Sat)	Greatham Dawn Chorus Leader: Brianne Reeve
May 29th (Fri)	Anchor Bottom Leader: Chris Wright
Jun. 12th (Fri)	Pulborough Brooks for Nightjars Leader: Dorian Mason
Jul. 18th (Sat)	The Burgh area Leader: Bernie Forbes
Aug. 2nd (Sun)	Cissbury Ring Leader: Clive Hope
Aug. 21st (Fri)	Pulborough Brooks for Waders Leader: Bernie Forbes
Sep. 6th (Sun)	Pagham Harbour Leader: Dave Smith
Sep. 19th (Sat)	Birling Gap Leader: Brianne Reeve
Oct. 11th (Sun)	Climping Leader: Clive Hope
Nov. 15th (Sun)	Shellness Leader: Paul Stevens
Dec. 5th (Sat)	Adur Valley Walk Leader: Chris Wright
Dec. 29th (Tues)	Seasonal Gathering Leaders: SDOS Committee

Full details of all field outings are published annually in a Programme of Events. Summaries of each outing appear in the Newsletters.

INDOOR MEETINGS 2009

The following indoor meetings were held during 2009.

January 13th	Birds in a Sussex Landscape by Mike Russell
February 10th	Blue Sleeves – A Hen Harrier's Story by Lucy Stenbeck
March 10th	Vive la Difference by Dominic Couzens
April 21st	AGM followed by Butterflies and Moths of Sussex by Michael Blencowe
October 13th	The Art of Birds by Steve Cale
November 10th	The Search for the Sylvia By David Cottridge
December 8th	Members' Evening and Christmas Social



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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 one 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.
- ii. 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, The Penthouse, 19, Broadway Court, Brighthelm Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8JT. 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.

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31/12/2009

	2009 £	2008 £
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	4,616.07	3,972.33
Subscriptions and visitors entry fee	1,838.00	2,049.00
Sale of books, reports and car stickers	2.00	71.50
Net refreshment receipts	89.53	68.74
Net raffle receipts	127.00	94.00
Bank interest	1.76	38.24
Bank error	-	21.00
Donations	17.00	120.30
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,691.36	6,435.11
	<hr/>	<hr/>
PAYMENTS		
Printing and art work	787.02	764.48
Postage and stationery	224.29	144.27
Hire of hall	420.00	210.00
Speakers fees	515.00	425.00
Insurance	99.79	99.79
BTCV membership	35.00	35.00
Gifts	9.98	37.50
Travel expenses	88.80	103.00
LEO nest baskets – donation	44.88	-
Website registration	10.33	-
Projector equipment	270.12	-
Balance carried forward	4,186.00	4,616.07
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,691.36	6,435.11
	<hr/>	<hr/>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 6th January 2010

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have examined without carrying out an audit, the above receipts and payments account and compared it to the accounting records of Shoreham District Ornithological Society. We believe that the above receipts and payments account is a fair reflection of the activities of the organisation for the period concerned.

David Green & Carole Tucker

Dated: 15th January 2010

GOLDEN JUBILEE ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31/12/2009

	2009 £	2008 £
RECEIPTS		
Balance brought forward	1,839.35	2,028.29
Sale of Jubilee book	38.50	15.00
Bank interest	0.92	33.56
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,878.77	2,076.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>
PAYMENTS		
John Stafford Prize	100.00	100.00
John Stafford Prize Printing & Art Work	125.00	137.50
SOS Avifauna Book Appeal	100.00	-
Balance carried forward	1,553.77	1,839.35
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,878.77	2,076.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 6th January 2010

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

In accordance with instructions given to us, we have examined without carrying out an audit, the above receipts and payments account and compared it to the accounting records of Shoreham District Ornithological Society. We believe that the above receipts and payments account is a fair reflection of the activities of the organisation for the period concerned.

David Green & Carole Tucker

Dated: 15th January 2010

SOCIETY OFFICERS

(Officers in post following the A.G.M. of 21st April 2009)

President: **Bernie Forbes** 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing, W Sussex, BN15 9JY,
Tel: 01903 753876
email: bernieforbes@talktalk.net

Chairman: **Brianne Reeve** The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing, W Sussex, BN15 0RS
Tel: 01273 452497
email: briannereeve@yahoo.com

Field Officer : **Dorian Mason** Seagate, Florida Road, South Ferring, W Sussex, BN12 5PE
Tel: 01903 700456
email: dorian_mason@tiscali.co.uk

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

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

Newsletter Editor: **Russ Tofts** 283 South Farm Road, W Sussex, BN43 7TL
Tel: 01903 207993
email: tarsigercyanurus1@btinternet.com

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

Report Editor: **Brian Clay** Meghana, Honeysuckle Lane, High Salvington, W Sussex, BN13 3BT
Tel: 01903 602439
email: brian.clay@ntlworld.com

Secretary (Currently Vacant): **Mary Ferrier**

Treasurer: **John Maskell** 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, W Sussex, BN14 7JJ
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, BN1 5AA Tel: 01273 292777 www.booth.virtualmuseum.info/

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

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

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

Natural England 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 non-emergency police contact number) to ensure appropriate routing of the call.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Head Office The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Tel: 01767 680551 www.rspb.org.uk
Regional Office 2nd Floor, 42 Frederick Place, Brighton, E Sussex, BN1 4EA 01273 775333

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

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

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) Secretary: Nigel Bowie, 55 Rochester Street, Brighton, E. Sussex BN2 0EJ 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

WADARS Rescue & Rehoming. 01903 217788 or 200506 enquiries@wadars.co.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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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, 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 for purchase by members or non-members. A members-only email discussion group has also been set up to keep all who wish to enrol informed of latest wildlife sightings in the area and other matters that may be of interest.

New members are very welcome. If you would like to join, please photocopy, complete and return the form below.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I/we apply to join the Shoreham District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our annual subscription of (please tick appropriate box):

Single £12 []

Couple/Family £18 []

Junior £5 []

Life membership terms on application to the Membership Secretary

Cheques should be made payable to SDOS

Title	Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms
Name/s	
Address	
Postcode	
Telephone	
Email	

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

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- 3 Beeding Cement Works TQ1908
- 4 Benfield Valley TQ2608
- 5 Bineham Bridge TQ1915
- 6 Blackpatch Hill TQ0909
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- 9 Broadmere Common TQ2115
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- 93 Woodvale Cemetery TQ3205
- 94 Worthing Crem. TQ1109
- 95 Wyckham Farm TQ1913

*index numbers (left-hand numbers)
are marked on the Recording Area
map*

