

Shoreham District  
Ornithological Society  
Annual Report 2010



No. 58

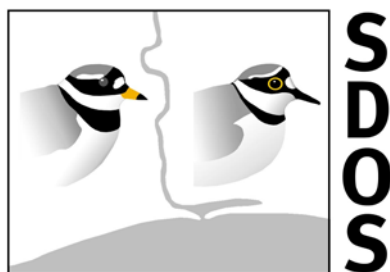


**Young Starling by Janet Derricott**



**Great Crested Grebe by Dorian Mason**

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# ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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*front cover image: Sparrowhawk by Dorian Mason*

*inside back cover: SDOS Area Map by Terry Hicks*

*back cover: Long-eared Owl by Wendy Ball*

## EDITORIAL

I've been a very keen reader of W. H. Hudson, the great natural history writer of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. So imagine my delight when I belatedly found one of his books that I hadn't read. I'd confused "Birds and Man" with "Men, Books and Birds" so I had particular enjoyment in reading the former recently. Hudson had strong associations with Sussex, especially with Shoreham and Worthing, and he is buried in Broadwater cemetery.

What I found particularly interesting in "Birds and Man", within his chapter on the Furze Wren or Dartford Warbler, was his predictions of imminent extinctions in the U.K. due to the activities of egg collectors. He talks in 1901 of recent extinctions of Ruff, Marsh Harrier and Honey Buzzard, probable imminent extinctions of Sea Eagle, Osprey, Kite, Hen Harrier, Montague's Harrier, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Dotterel, Red-necked Phalarope, Roseate Tern, Bearded Tit, Grey-lag Goose and Great Skua. He also mentions as "at risk" species such as Chough, Hobby, Great Black-backed Gull, Furze Wren and Crested Tit. He goes on to list "annual visitants" as he calls them, that he considered were deterred from breeding because of the activities of the shooting fraternity – Bittern, Little Bittern, Night Heron, Spoonbill, Stork, Avocet, Black Tern, Hoopoe and Golden Oriole.

Hudson was not pessimistic. He believed it would be "possible to find a remedy", particularly using legislation. He was active in the formation of the Society for the Protection of Birds (subsequently the RSPB) and was elected a member of its Council. While he would be no doubt saddened by the extent of current day habitat destruction and the difficulty of finding anywhere that is remote and tranquil in this noisy modern world, I'm sure he would have been delighted that his predicted declines have been reversed in so many species. I believe that Hudson would have wholeheartedly approved of a society like ours that does so much to promote and develop a local interest in birds.

Having issued pleas for new members to join Council, we were delighted to welcome at this year's A.G.M. (2011) Sue Miles as Hon. Secretary and Helen Bryett and Audrey Wende as Council Members. Although we now have a "full house" on Council we are still looking for people to assist with all aspects of the Society's activities, be it leading field outings, helping at indoor meetings, writing species' accounts for the Annual Report or assisting with the increasing and various aspects of the computerised side of the SDOS. If you can help do, please, come forward and let one of the Council Officers know (see list on page 83. We'd be delighted to hear from you.

I am once again delighted to include some wonderful photographs taken by our Members and thank the photographers for such inspiring images. Thanks also to Terry Hicks for the map of the SDOS area and to John Reaney once again for his delightful line drawings. Thanks also to all the contributors and particular Clive Hope and his assistants for compiling the Systematic List. Finally, particular thanks to Brianne Reeve and Val Bentley for proof reading the draft. However any remaining mistakes remain the Editor's responsibility!

Brian Clay

## **WEATHER NOTES AND BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS 2010**

### **January**

The hard weather early in the year produced a number of interesting birds and some large numbers of commoner species. These included the first Caspian Gull for the area at the Marina, a Great Northern Diver off Worthing and two Goosanders on the Adur on 5<sup>th</sup>, a Great White Egret flying past Widewater on 7<sup>th</sup>, two or three Bitterns at Coombes and Ferring, over 24 Woodlarks in the Southwick and Shoreham areas and five Woodcock at four sites. A Black-tailed Godwit moved between the Adur and Brooklands. Winter thrushes and buntings figured strongly with 400 Corn Buntings and 90 Yellowhammers at Beeding Hill on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> and 1000 Fieldfares at Botolphs and 500 Redwings at Ferring on 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **February**

A Great Northern Diver on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Red-necked Grebe on 10<sup>th</sup> and two Slavonian Grebes on 28<sup>th</sup> were seen off Worthing but little else of note in the month.

### **March**

Bewick's Swans on Henfield Levels peaked at 30. An Avocet passed Worthing on 18<sup>th</sup>. Brent Goose passage reached a maximum on 20<sup>th</sup> with 830 flying east. Another Great Northern Diver moved through on 23<sup>rd</sup> and on 24<sup>th</sup> two overshooting southern birds appeared briefly in the shape of an Alpine Swift at Anchor Bottom and a Hoopoe nearby at Coombes.

### **April**

A good seawatch on 2<sup>nd</sup> produced eight Arctic Skuas and 25 Barnacle Geese past Worthing. A drake Long-tailed Duck coming into summer plumage was off Ferring and Kingston from 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. Ospreys appeared at Brighton on 12<sup>th</sup> and Tarring on 17<sup>th</sup>. A redhead Goosander was off Goring on 18<sup>th</sup>. Wild Park hosted a Wood Warbler on 20<sup>th</sup>. The 24<sup>th</sup> saw four Avocets at Hove and the spring peak of 27 Mediterranean Gulls flew east on 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **May**

Two lovely Dotterel were found at Steep Down on 18<sup>th</sup> staying for three days and two Quail were heard in the area. A Honey Buzzard flew over Southwick on 23<sup>rd</sup> and a Balearic Shearwater passed Worthing on 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **June**

An early returning Osprey was reported from Sompting on 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **July**

Gulls were the only birds of note this month with the only Yellow-legged of the year at Worthing beach on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 Mediterranean passed there on 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **August**

Three Balearic Shearwaters were seen off Widewater on 7<sup>th</sup>. A Quail was calling at Chantray Hill on 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. An unusual flock of 12 Black-tailed Godwits flew up the Adur

on 21<sup>st</sup> during the Airshow at Shoreham. Ospreys showed up over Goring and Brighton at the end of the month.



### **September**

A busy month with both Little Stint and Curlew Sandpiper on the 1<sup>st</sup>, the autumn peak of 15 Redstarts and 50 Spotted Flycatchers at Cissbury on 3<sup>rd</sup>, a Nightjar at Woods Mill and an Osprey over Ditchling Beacon on 6<sup>th</sup>, three Wrynecks in the area between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, the only Pied Flycatcher of the year at Cissbury on 9<sup>th</sup> and a Lapland Bunting at Devil's Dyke on 12<sup>th</sup>. The elusive Lesser Spotted Woodpecker made its only appearance at Woods Mill on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **October**

A Honey Buzzard flew low over Ladywells on 4<sup>th</sup> when 50 Siskins were logged at Wild Park. Goldfinch passage in the month at Worthing/Ferring totalled 1417 with half of them on 12<sup>th</sup>. A few Ring Ouzels showed up at the usual spots between 12<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. A Dartford Warbler was near Cissbury on 21<sup>st</sup> when also a very tame Snow Bunting was found at Kithurst Hill on the edge of our area.

### **November**

A late Osprey was over Brighton on 3<sup>rd</sup> and another Snow Bunting appeared between Mill Hill and Beeding Hill on this date staying until 10<sup>th</sup>. Single Long-tailed Ducks were seen passing Worthing beach.

### **December**

Another very cold and snowy spell early in the month brought four Jack Snipe to Ferring Rife, a Great Northern Diver on 5<sup>th</sup> at Worthing and 42 Barnacle Geese passed Ferring beach on 6<sup>th</sup>. A record count of Great Crested Grebes totalling 1005 was made between Lancing and Kingston. Waxwings appeared from 11<sup>th</sup> and up to 50 were seen at east Worthing, birds remaining in the area through to 2011. A Bittern was near Lancing College on 13<sup>th</sup>. Forty White-fronted Geese appeared on Henfield Levels and 11 Scaup flew past Widewater on 24<sup>th</sup>. A site record of 252 Red-throated Divers was made at Worthing on 26<sup>th</sup>. The year ended spectacularly with a herd of 74 Bewick's and two Whooper Swans flying east along the coast on 31<sup>st</sup>.

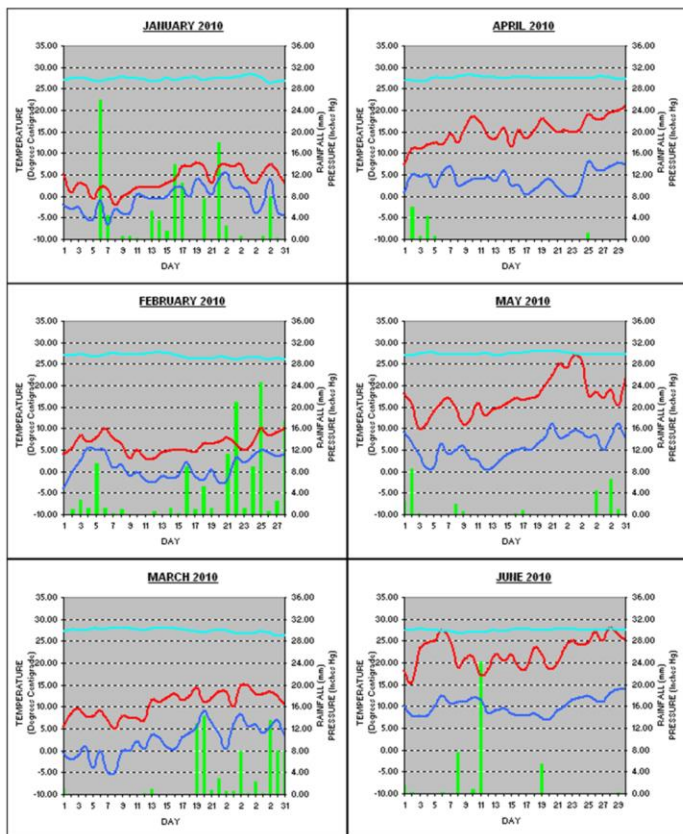
A total of 199 species and three sub-species were recorded in the SDOS area in 2010.

Clive Hope

# WEATHER SUMMARY - JANUARY to JUNE 2010

Rainfall is shown in green  
 Maximum temperatures are shown in red  
 Minimum temperatures are shown in blue  
 Maximum and minimum pressures are shown in turquoise

Total rainfall for 2010 was 876.60 mm (34.51 inches).



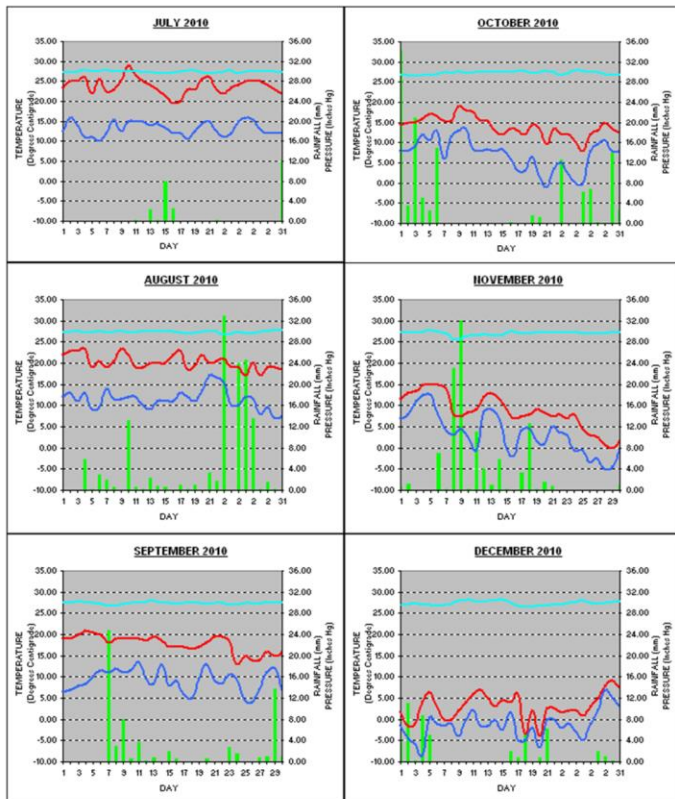
# WEATHER SUMMARY (continued) - JULY to DECEMBER 2010

Rainfall is shown in green

Maximum temperatures are shown in red

Minimum temperatures are shown in blue

Maximum and minimum pressures are shown in turquoise





## SYSTEMATIC LIST 2010

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 (and these are the great majority) obtained from the database of the Sussex Ornithological Society (by courtesy of John Newnham) and covers species in Categories A and C of the BOU checklist. Escapes are listed separately. The current status of each species in the **SDOS area** is highlighted after the name. The order in which the list has been compiled follows that of the 2009 Report. Records have been extracted from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Atlas surveys, Birdtrack, Breeding Bird Surveys (BBS) and Wetland Bird Survey (WeBs) data as well as individual observers' submitted information. No BTO Garden Birdwatch data is included as this was not forthcoming at the time of writing.

A total of 16598 records from about 160 sources were received that were relevant to SDOS. 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.

References to Worthing in sea-watch data include all sites between Lancing and Ferring unless separately identified. Note that, especially with regard to sea-watch data, complete figures for the Marina were not received. 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 Moulsecroomb Wild Park. The Marina refers to Brighton Marina, the University to the University of Sussex. Other locations are referenced in the SDOS recording area index and map towards the end of this report. The three main ringing sites in the area are identified as Ladywells (Coombes), The Mumbles at Steyning and Cissbury (North Scarp).

The following is a list of contributors who are members of the SDOS:

VP Bentley, N Biddulph, RC Bradbury, BR Clay, P Clay, J Crix, J Derricott, JA Feest, BF Forbes, D & P Green, MP & P Hall, J & T Holter, CE Hope, RA Ives, JM & SP Maskell, B Metcalfe, JA Newnham, R Pawley, B Reeve, SP Simpson, DI Smith, MA Snelling, R Tofts, AB Watson, AJ Wende, M Wilsdon, PJ Whitcomb, CH Wright.

I am indebted to the following writers who have assisted with summaries for the systematic list: V.Bentley (finches and sparrows), B.Clay (warblers), J.Newnham (thrushes), S.Simpson (Skylark, wagtails), D.Smith (Kittiwake, terns & skuas), M.Snelling (Parakeet to woodpeckers, crests and tits), P.Whitcomb (hirundines & chats,), C.Wright (raptors & Raven).

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, **WeBs** Wetland Bird Survey, **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:

	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
Henfield Levels	15	34	32	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	41	59
Steyning Levels	14	13	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	27	24	-
Lower Adur	6	-	4	-	5	-	-	6	3	5	6	-
Shoreham Adur	6	4	3	3	12	-	26	22	-	-	4	11
Widewater	7	4	4	4	4	4	4	12	9	8	8	8
Brooklands	2	-	-	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

In addition, 37 were counted between Bines Bridge and Bramber on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, the lowest total in 13 years of walking the river at New Year. Hove Lagoon held 18 in Nov and Dec. Between two and five were near Coombes and Upper Beeding from Jan to Apr. The latter site held 29 on Jun 20<sup>th</sup>. Breeding occurred in seven tetrads including Steyning Wyckham Farm, Widewater (two pairs) and Henfield Levels. One or two were noted at the Marina and up to three on seawatches at Worthing in most months during the year.

### **BEWICK'S SWAN** *Cygnus columbianus*

#### **Scarce but regular visitor in varying numbers**

Henfield Levels hosted a maximum of 28 in Jan and 30 in Mar with the last four there on 8<sup>th</sup>. These were a family, of which the two adults had been fitted with neck rings in Holland on Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 2008. On the last day of the year, an extraordinary movement was observed at Worthing and other points east when first, two flew W at 0930 to be followed at 1033 by a herd of 74 flying E (JAN,DIS). They consisted of mainly adults and were accompanied by two Whooper Swans.

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

Two flew E with the Bewick's Swans on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> (JAN,DIS).

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

In Jan, two flew W at Worthing on 9<sup>th</sup> and two flew over Hollingbury Hillfort on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Forty were on Henfield Levels on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> with 20 there on 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Maximum numbers were again on Henfield Levels with 128 on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 103 on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and just six on Mar 14<sup>th</sup>. The Nov count was of 90 and 260 were there on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Birds were also regularly recorded at Upper Beeding with 15 in Mar, ten in Apr and five young among adult birds there on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Thirty were noted on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>.

Probable breeding occurred in private woodland near Highdown. More records, of mainly two to four, came from Steyning Levels, over Cissbury, Patching Pond (an unusual locality), Wiston (up to eight), Woods Mill, University of Sussex (six), over Goring (five on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>) and Worthing beach.

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

As with the previous species, Henfield Levels held the bulk of the birds with 116 in Jan, 148 in Nov and 100 in Dec. Fifty-two were on Steyning Levels on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and 25 at Upper Beeding on 30<sup>th</sup> with 15 again at the latter on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>. Breeding occurred here as three small goslings were with two adults on Jun 21<sup>st</sup>. Elsewhere just two to four at various sites with six at Ladywells on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

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

Twenty-five flew E at Worthing on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> (CEH). In Dec two flew W at Worthing on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 42 W at Ferring on 6<sup>th</sup> (DIS). Four were on Henfield Levels on 28<sup>th</sup>. The two large flocks prompted speculation that they might be wild birds.

**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	/	S	O	N	D
East	337	210	1745	499	3		-	9	21	31
West	63	6	6	14	-		167	320	34	27

The peak movement was on Mar 20<sup>th</sup> when 830 flew E. At the Marina, 91 were noted on five dates in Feb, Mar and Apr. Five were on Widewater on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and two were on winter wheat at Goring Gap on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>. In Dec an adult with two juveniles was at Coombes on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Six flew over Henfield Levels on Mar 12<sup>th</sup> with two there on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Two over Sandgate Park, Storrington on Apr 15<sup>th</sup> and one on Brooklands from Jul 16<sup>th</sup> to Aug 26<sup>th</sup>. Three were seen by the Adur below Mill Hill, Shoreham on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**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	24	2	-	41	8			-	-	1	-	1
W	30	7	14	26	5			5	3	4	27	87

Peak days were Jan 8<sup>th</sup> with 23 W and Nov 29<sup>th</sup> with 22 W. The only inland records were of one at Wyckham Farm (Stevington) on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, two were below Mill Hill on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> and three at Brooklands on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

**MANDARIN DUCK** *Aix galericulata***Scarce introduced resident**

A male was on Patching Pond on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>, a pair were at Wiston Pond on Apr 4<sup>th</sup> and a male was in Sandgate Park, Storrington on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Monthly totals from Worthing were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	/	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
E	28	2	3os	6		-	9	-	-	17
W	312	7	-	-		8	105	47	87	820

Peak counts were 106 on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, 35 on Sep 26<sup>th</sup>, 38 on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> and 525 on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>. Two at Ferring Rife on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> were unusual for this site. The Adur held up to 200 birds at Shoreham in Jan and in Dec there were 60 near Mill Hill on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 120 at Upper Beeding on 30<sup>th</sup>. At Henfield Levels, 100 were counted on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> and at the end of the year 220 on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> reducing to 45 by Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Other counts were of 22 off Widewater and 114 off Worthing/Lancing on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. These figures represent something of an influx compared to recent years.

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

Three at Shoreham Harbour entrance on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> were unexpected; thereafter up to eight on the Adur between the rail and toll bridges until the 10<sup>th</sup> with three at Upper Beeding on 15<sup>th</sup>. Twenty were on Stevington Levels on 17<sup>th</sup> then none till 12 at Upper Beeding on Mar 6<sup>th</sup> and four there a month later. At Worthing beach 31 flew W and 6 E in Dec.

Brooklands hosted up to 12 in this month and on 2<sup>nd</sup> there were two at Southwick and on 3<sup>rd</sup> two on the Adur near Mill Hill.

# **EURASIAN TEAL** *Anas crecca*

## **Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor**

Counts from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	60	1	-	-	7	24
Widewater	4	13	19	-	6	20
Lower Adur	21	-	23	2	102	144
Shoreham Adur	66	50	-	-	20	20
Ferring Rife	8	-	-	-	2	9

There were 90 on Steyning Levels Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. Seawatches at Worthing produced small numbers in Jan and Feb then 26 E in Mar and the last of the spring on Apr 15<sup>th</sup>. Early returning birds in Aug were seven over Tarring in the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> and 22 W at Worthing during the month. Totals of 20, 16, 37 and 14 flew W there in Sep, Oct, Nov and Dec respectively. The Marina saw ten on Mar 17<sup>th</sup> and five on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>. There were up to four at Brooklands 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	6	6	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henfield Levels	19	24	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	122	43
Lower Adur	3	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	2	3	13	-
Brooklands	2	5	-	3	9	19	23	30	58	29	24	52
Widewater	6	2	14	5	3	-	-	4	6	2	4	7
Shoreham by Sea	8	2	4	2	4	-	-	7	-	3	-	-
Ladywells	10	10	6	6	1*	2	4	2	12	6	5	2
Upper Beeding	7	-	7	5*	3	6	-	2	20	-	10	-

A site in Poynings held 26 in Jan, 24 in Feb, 5 in Mar and 3 in Apr. There were three pairs on Ferring Rife in Mar and breeding there produced ten young. A pair were with eight young at Clayton Whitelands on Apr 16<sup>th</sup>. Also bred at Durrington, Wappingthorn (Steyning), Perching Sands Farm (Fulking), New Barn Copse (Washington), Woods Mill, Coombes, Poynings and the University of Sussex where 28 birds were counted on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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

A poor year with just 12 at Henfield Levels on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> after one at Upper Beeding on 15<sup>th</sup>. At Worthing nine W on 26<sup>th</sup>, five E and four W in Feb, four E in Mar then two W in Nov and 10 W in Dec. Two passing the Marina on Mar 17<sup>th</sup> were the only other records.

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

Five flew E at Worthing on Apr 11<sup>th</sup> and five again E there on May 22<sup>nd</sup> in company with seven Common Scoter.

**SHOVELER** *Anas clypeata***Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers**

On Jan 17<sup>th</sup> one on Steyning Levels, three on Henfield Levels and one at Beeding Brooks, the latter still present on Mar 6<sup>th</sup>. Three E at Worthing on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> and on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> then four on Apr 15<sup>th</sup> with two at Goring beach on 17<sup>th</sup>. Four E at Worthing on Jul 11<sup>th</sup>, an unusual date. In Dec one was on Brooklands on 7<sup>th</sup> and two at Upper Beeding on 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

One E and two W at Worthing in Jan. Otherwise recorded at Brooklands were singles in Jan and Mar and nine in Dec; five at Widewater and a single at Upper Beeding in Dec.

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

Wiston Pond held the majority of birds in the first eleven months with up to 12 in May. A pair on Patching Pond gave hope of breeding but no proof was forthcoming. Two were at Hove Lagoon on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>, then one to six at Brooklands through the year. Widewater hosted a maximum of 17 in Dec. At Worthing, four W and six E in Jan and three W in Nov. Two at Wappingthorn on Nov 25<sup>th</sup> and two by the Airport on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

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

In Dec a female on Brooklands on 21<sup>st</sup> was joined by two males on 26<sup>th</sup>. A single female was also present on Widewater from 22<sup>nd</sup>. On 24<sup>th</sup> a flock of 11 flew E off Widewater and another seven moved E off Worthing on 26<sup>th</sup>. By 31<sup>st</sup> two females were on Widewater.

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

Reported from Worthing beach as follows:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
3	5	10	17	1*	-	-	-	5	7	5	20

\* off Ferring.

Also five offshore at Lancing on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> had moved to Shoreham Harbour mouth on 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

An adult male attaining summer plumage was off Ferring from Apr 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> (CEH et al). One flew E at Worthing on Nov 4<sup>th</sup> and one off Brighton on 8<sup>th</sup>.

**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	9	13	147	998	391	61	61	46	17	51	28	14
West	9	9	2	8	-	-	2	33	9	16	12	20

Also 16 on the sea there on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Peak days were Apr 7<sup>th</sup> with 115 and May 8<sup>th</sup> with 121. Few reported from the Marina other than 40 which landed on the sea on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Two off Kingston Gorse and singles off Worthing in Jan. Just one E there in Apr, six E and one W in May and one W in Nov. Dec produced five flying E there on 22<sup>nd</sup> and a remarkable flock of 30 off Widewater on 30<sup>th</sup> reducing to 20 by 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

A female off Goring beach on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and one W off Worthing on 9<sup>th</sup>. In Dec two E and five W there in the month. One on the Adur by the Airport on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and two flew W off Widewater on 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

J	F	M	A	M	/	S	O	N	D
80	52	64	15	-		1	5	36	109

Birds on passage in Mar were 28 E and in Apr 40 E.

One was on Widewater on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and two were there from Nov 17<sup>th</sup> to Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Hard weather brought two drakes to the Adur between the rail and toll bridges on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> (BFF,DIS). A redhead moved W off Goring beach on Apr 18<sup>th</sup> (RAI) and there was an unsubstantiated report of one off Brighton on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>.

**RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** *Alectoris rufa*

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

Counts of 20 or more birds were made at Lower Standean on Jan 4<sup>th</sup> and Feb 5<sup>th</sup> and at Pangdean near Brighton on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 14 at Myrtlegrove Farm on 20<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere one to six at 16 sites along the Downs through the year until 42 at Lower Standean again on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> and 21 there on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>.

**GREY PARTRIDGE** *Perdix perdix*

**Decreasing resident.**

Becoming more widespread with one or two birds at Cissbury, Applesham, Myrtlegrove Farm, Shoreham Adur, Wild Park, Pyecombe GC, Anchor Bottom (Upper Beeding), Southwick Hill, Steep Down, Ditchling Beacon, Findon and Lower Standean. There were 14 east of the Cement Works on Aug 29<sup>th</sup>, seven on Edburton Hill on Sep 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, six at Stump Bottom on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and 16 at Steyning Round Hill on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**COMMON QUAIL** *Coturnix coturnix*

**Rare summer visitor.**

Two were calling at Steep Down and one near Lancing on May 20<sup>th</sup>. In June there was one at Ditchling Beacon on 9<sup>th</sup> and one near Cissbury on 12<sup>th</sup>. A calling male was at Chantry Hill from Aug 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON PHEASANT** *Phasianus colchicus*

**Common introduced resident. Numbers augmented by captive bred stock.**

Newtimber Hill, Pangdean near Brighton and Lower Standean held the majority of birds with maximum counts of 29, 62 and 14 respectively. Elsewhere widespread in small numbers.

**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	/	S	O	N	D
East	133	50	33	15	3		-	2	3	358
West	183	105	9	-	1		1	1	16	375

Monthly peak days were 66 on Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, 58 on Feb 12<sup>th</sup>, 16 on Mar 20<sup>th</sup> and 252 (165 W and 87 E including a group of 33 W) on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>. This last appears to be a site record day count. Six were on the sea off Goring on Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, two were off Brighton on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>, two off Lancing on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and 15 off Widewater on 24<sup>th</sup>. These were followed by 97 W there on 30<sup>th</sup> when there were also 20 off Goring which included a party of 18 feeding a few metres from the receding tide-line (JAN).

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER** *Gavia arctica*

**Fairly scarce passage migrant, rare in winter**

Monthly reported totals from Worthing were:



	J	F	M	A	M	/	O	N	D
East	3	3	-	4	1		1	3	3
West	-	-	-	-	2		1	-	5

In addition singles were feeding offshore on one day in Feb, four dates in May, two in Oct and one in Dec (off Kingston Gorse).

### **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** *Gavia immer*

#### **Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

Single birds were seen on the sea off Worthing on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> (DIS) Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> (CEH) and off the Marina on Mar 17<sup>th</sup> (SOS); one flew E at Worthing on 23<sup>rd</sup> (CEH). Others flew W there on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (DIS).

### **DIVER Species**

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	N	D
East	5	2	9	4	3		-	51
West	-	-	-	-	-		-	13

The maximum was 43 W on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **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	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	2
Shoreham Adur	3	8	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Brooklands	2	2	-	-	1	-	-	4**	7	9	2	3
Widewater	21	9	3	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	23	18
Wiston	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ferring Rife	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Ladywells	2	2	2	3	2*	3	1	2	1	-	-	11

\* plus six fledged young. \*\*pair with two small young

There were two on a pond in Poynings on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>.



**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
Worthing/Goring/Ferring	328	30	25	10	3	2	-	1	-	5	83	498*
Widewater(on sea)	30	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50*
Marina	5	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15

\* part of a record count for the SDOS area. An estimated 1005 were present between Widewater and Ferring on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> (JAN).

Also eight on Passie's Pond (Coombes) on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and a single on Brooklands from Apr 1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> (an unusual location). Patching Pond held a single bird on four dates between Mar 24<sup>th</sup> and Jul 5<sup>th</sup>. There were seven off Hove on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

Singles were off West Worthing on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, Feb 10<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, flying W on Dec 26<sup>th</sup> and offshore from 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

One off Ferring on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, two off Worthing on Feb 28<sup>th</sup> then another off Ferring in s/p on Apr 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>. Further singles off Worthing from then to 27<sup>th</sup>. In the late period, one was there on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, flying W off Ferring on Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, one off Widewater on 21<sup>st</sup> and two off both Worthing and Widewater on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> respectively.

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

Single birds were off the Marina on Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, off Worthing on three dates from Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and reported from Shoreham on Mar 13<sup>th</sup>. One was seen in the entrance to Shoreham Harbour on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

**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	-	8	5	36	20	4	-	2	3	-	-	-
West	-	20	30	160	25	7	-	14	3	-	-	-

At the Marina three noted on a single date in Mar and 13 in one day in Apr. One flew W over Wild Park on Apr 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Thirteen E (including a flock of 12 seen off Ferring in the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup> which were tracked along the coast) and six W were logged in Apr at Worthing and just singles noted there on May 9<sup>th</sup>, Oct 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

One passed Worthing on May 29<sup>th</sup> (RAI,DIS) three were seen from Widewater on Aug 7<sup>th</sup> (SOS) and one off Goring on 10<sup>th</sup> (BFF,DIS).

**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	85	78	42	156	169	81	129	144	47	130	3	291
West	513	128	18	145	65	29	82	301	358	396	165	109
Offshore	191	2	-	2	81	40	7	-	-	-	-	280

Day maxima were 22 on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 32 on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>, 16 on Mar 26<sup>th</sup>, 40 on Apr 30<sup>th</sup>, 42 on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 40 on Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, 71 on Jul 14<sup>th</sup>, 80 on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, 133 on Sep 20<sup>th</sup>, 213 on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, 128 on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 135 on Dec 27<sup>th</sup>. At the Marina, 38 were noted on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>. Birds feeding offshore included 80 off Worthing on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> and 150 off Widewater on 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

Inland congregations at Upper Beeding/Steyping Wyckham Farm totalled 109 on Jan 17<sup>th</sup> then 59 on 23<sup>rd</sup> reducing to six in Feb and just a couple in Mar. On the Adur at Shoreham there were up to 12 in the first three months. A count of 140 off Worthing on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> was the largest of the year there. No significant numbers anywhere else with eight at the Marina on Apr 17<sup>th</sup> and ten off Brooklands on Jun 21<sup>st</sup> as the maxima in the first half of the year. Eleven at the latter site on Aug 26<sup>th</sup> increasing to 40 by Sep 16<sup>th</sup>. Twelve off Ferring on 25<sup>th</sup> and 20 flew E at Worthing on 26<sup>th</sup>. On Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, 34 W and 20 offshore at the latter site. The maximum flying over Ladywells was 25 on 7<sup>th</sup>. In Nov numbers increased with 20 on Steyping Levels on 17<sup>th</sup> and in Dec 50 flew W at Worthing on 5<sup>th</sup>. The sea off Brooklands, including the sewage pipes and breakwaters, accounted for 102 on 30<sup>th</sup>. These had mostly appeared as one flock of 90 off Widewater.

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

As usual the Marina held regular birds from Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> to Apr 17<sup>th</sup> with a maximum of nine on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. One or two were intermittently off Worthing in these months. Two W there on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, one offshore on Sep 6<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> with two on 11<sup>th</sup>. One at the Marina on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> and one W at Worthing on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three again at the Marina 28<sup>th</sup>.

**EURASIAN BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris***Scarce winter visitor**

In Jan two or three birds were recorded in the SDOS area; one was found in a ditch at Coombes on 10<sup>th</sup> remaining until 14<sup>th</sup> (CHW, BR) and one was flushed from the south lagoon at Ferring Rife on 20<sup>th</sup> (MH, CEH). A bird returned to Coombes in Dec when one was seen walking in the road (!) near Cuckoo Corner and crossed into the Lancing College grounds on 13<sup>th</sup> (per BR). One flew up the river valley by the Cement Works on 15<sup>th</sup> (SOS).

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

Maxima per site were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ferring Rife	2	2	3	1	1*	2*	7	11	9	9	8	1
Goring Beach	-	-	-	1	-	1E	14	8	2	-	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	4	1	1	1	4	8	8	-	-
Widewater	-	1	2	3	2	3	13	4	4	-	2	1
Henfield Levels	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Steyning Levels	-	5	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ladywells		2	1	1	1	1	1	10	4	12	3	-
Lower Adur	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	-	1	2
Shoreham Adur	2	1	-	-	1	-	4	15**	6	2	2	2

\* Displaced from former roost by nesting Carrion Crows. \*\* Feeding as a loose flock near House-boats.

One flew W over Clapham Wood on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, there was one at Woods Mill on Apr 1<sup>st</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and one at the Marina on 24<sup>th</sup>. No confirmed breeding occurred in the area.

**GREAT WHITE EGRET** *Ardea alba***Rare vagrant**

One flew E past Widewater on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> (BFF, DIS). This bird had previously been seen at Climping and was later at the Pannel Valley near Winchelsea.

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

Sites recording more than single birds, most of which were in the Adur Valley, were Ferring Rife with three on Mar 1<sup>st</sup>, Shoreham with four on 14<sup>th</sup>, Henfield Levels with six on 20<sup>th</sup> and Worthing beach where two flew W in the month. Between four and six nests were occupied at Wyckham Wood near Henfield in Apr. Two were regularly present at Ladywells in May and Jun and three were logged at Worthing in the latter month.

Four flew W there high and distantly on Sep 25<sup>th</sup> giving rise to speculation as to their origin. There were four in the house-boat area of Shoreham Harbour on Oct 13<sup>th</sup>. Two seen at Newtimber Place, Poynings on 16<sup>th</sup> (a new site). Thereafter, from one to three at various Adur valley localities, Ferring Rife, over High Salvington, Lower Standean, Henfield Levels, Goring, and Clayton and Keymer Ponds.

## **HONEY BUZZARD** *Pernis apivorus*

### **Scarce migrant**

Just two records - One over Southwick on May 23<sup>rd</sup> (SOS) and the other low over Ladywells at 15:14 on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> (JAN, ABW, CWh).

## **RED KITE** *Milvus milvus*

### **Increasing but scarce visitor**

A similar number of records to 2009. First reported from Worthing Broadwater on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> then regularly from March to the end of June. Two were over Ladywells on Apr 24<sup>th</sup> and Woods Mill on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Four were over Hove on May 25<sup>th</sup> and the following day two were seen at Highdown near Worthing. One was at Harrow Hill on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> then late year records were from Worthing beach on Sep 26<sup>th</sup> and the final bird at Southwick on Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **MARSH HARRIER** *Circus aeruginosus*

### **Scarce passage migrant**

Two juveniles were hunting over game cover at Chantry Hill on Aug 11<sup>th</sup> and the next day two were hunting in tandem at nearby Harrow Hill. On Aug 15<sup>th</sup> a bird flew N at Wild Park. By 17<sup>th</sup> the birds at Chantry Hill had increased to three and remained until 27<sup>th</sup>. One was at the same site on Sep 9<sup>th</sup> and the last was from Sheepcote Valley on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **HEN HARRIER** *Circus cyaneus*

### **Passage migrant and winter visitor**

First reported from Ditchling Beacon on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. A male was at Washington on Mar 6<sup>th</sup> and the final spring record was of a ringtail at Wild Park on Apr 8<sup>th</sup>.

A good autumn commenced with a ringtail at Stump Bottom (nr Steyning) on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and there were two near Cissbury Ring on 18<sup>th</sup>, one remaining in the area until 22<sup>nd</sup>. Another ringtail was at Canada Bottom on 20<sup>th</sup>. Final reports were again from Stump Bottom of a ringtail with an adult male on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and a large ringtail there on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **SPARROWHAWK** *Accipiter nisus*

### **Fairly common resident**

Widely reported throughout our area. Birds carrying prey were at Brighton Withdean on May 7<sup>th</sup>, Durrington on 20<sup>th</sup> and at West Tarring, Worthing on Jun 6<sup>th</sup>, all likely breeding sites. The only known successful breeding was at Ladywells where at least two young were raised. During a prolonged spell of cold weather in December a female made a vain attempt to take a Common Sandpiper over the Adur on 7<sup>th</sup> while another succeeded in taking a Song Thrush at Goring on 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMON BUZZARD** *Buteo buteo*

### **Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant**

Two hundred and four records were received for this species and it was reported in 59 of the 94 tetrads in the area. Multiples commenced with fours at Steep Down on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>, Patching on 17<sup>th</sup> and Washington on 19<sup>th</sup>. In March, four were at Findon on 1<sup>st</sup> and Hollingdean on 15<sup>th</sup> and at the end of the month seven were at Myrtle Grove Farm, Clapham on 27<sup>th</sup>. Five were over Wiston Pond on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup> and on 4<sup>th</sup> four were over Clapham Woods and five at Truleigh Hill.

Four were over Myrtle Grove Farm on 8<sup>th</sup> and Woods Mill on 9<sup>th</sup>; next day six were at Ladywells. Later in April, four at Washington on 20<sup>th</sup>, six over Anchor Bottom on 23<sup>rd</sup> and five at High Salvington on 27<sup>th</sup>. In May four were at Ashington Upper Chancton Farm on 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten over Washington Refuse tip on 9<sup>th</sup> and 12 at Wiston Pond on the same date suggesting duplication of records.

Fours in June were at Steyning Bowl on 5<sup>th</sup> and Coombes on 29<sup>th</sup>. August produced five on 1<sup>st</sup> at Lower Standean, 12 on 12<sup>th</sup> at Harrow Hill, seven nr Cissbury on 14<sup>th</sup> with four at Blackpatch Hill (nr Clapham) and 11 at Stump Bottom on 18<sup>th</sup> and five at Ladywells on 30<sup>th</sup>. In Sept there were fours at the same site on 3<sup>rd</sup> and Washington on 5<sup>th</sup>, while 13 were in the Chantry Hill area on 9<sup>th</sup> and the year's maximum gathering of 20 at Edburton on 12<sup>th</sup>. Four at Brooklands were unusual on 30<sup>th</sup>. Four were again at Ladywells on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and Highdown on 9<sup>th</sup> followed by five at the former on 13<sup>th</sup> and four on 18<sup>th</sup>. Four tetrads contained breeding pairs and one was seen copulating south of the Cement Works on Mar 8<sup>th</sup> (BRR).

## **OSPREY** *Pandion haliaetus*

### **Scarce passage migrant**

No reports before April when one was over Brighton on 12<sup>th</sup> and another at West Tarring on 17<sup>th</sup>. A bird was reported at Sompting on Jun 30<sup>th</sup>. Records of returning birds were from Goring beach on Aug 27<sup>th</sup>, Brighton on 29<sup>th</sup>, Ditchling Beacon on Sep 6<sup>th</sup> and Brighton again on the late date of Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **COMMON KESTREL** *Falco tinnunculus*

### **Fairly common resident**

A slight decrease in the number of records (195). Before the breeding season three birds were seen on Henfield Levels nr Chates on Apr 5<sup>th</sup>. A brood of four were in a barn nest box at Applesham nr Coombes on Jun 9<sup>th</sup>. Three juveniles were seen with a male at Washington on Jul 4<sup>th</sup> and a party of four were in Anchor Bottom on 28<sup>th</sup> with the same number at Stump Bottom on Aug 18<sup>th</sup>. Two young birds were seen over Stanmer Down on 20<sup>th</sup> and groups of three were at Devil's Dyke on 31<sup>st</sup> and Steep Down on Sep 25<sup>th</sup>. A juvenile was ringed at Ladywells on 28<sup>th</sup> and four birds were at Canada Bottom on Oct 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **MERLIN** *Falco columbarius*

### **Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter**

Only two Jan records, the first at Ferring Rife on 6<sup>th</sup> seen chasing a flock of Skylarks and the other at Cuckoo Corner on 10<sup>th</sup>. Nothing then till Mar when the only other winter records came from Cissbury on 10<sup>th</sup> and West Worthing on 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the autumn, a probable male was over Goring on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, a bird was at Woods Mill on 21<sup>st</sup> and a female came in from the southeast at Ferring on 24<sup>th</sup>. One was at Steyning Levels on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, another at Stump Bottom on 16<sup>th</sup>, at Cissbury on 18<sup>th</sup> and Findon No Man's Land on 21<sup>st</sup> (probably the same bird on these last three dates). A male was at Sheepcote Valley on 20<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. The final report on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> was from Stump Bottom.



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

Only two April records, the first at West Worthing on 24<sup>th</sup> and the other at Beeding Hill on 28<sup>th</sup>. On May 6<sup>th</sup> three birds were circling together over Findon Church.

Sightings by month were as follows:

Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
2	7	4	2	5	10	5

The last record was from Sheepcote Valley on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.

**PEREGRINE** *Falco peregrinus*

**Scarce breeding resident**

Although birds are reported in every month of the year only nine fledged young were seen in our area. At Shoreham Power Station the nest box had to be removed for chimney maintenance. At another site it is suspected that the three or four young were predated by foxes. As this species is monitored throughout the county it would be of great assistance if the Recorder could be informed of any possible new breeding sites.

**WATER RAIL** *Rallus aquaticus*

**Regular winter visitor; may breed.**

In Jan, Feb and Mar, two at both Ferring Rife (last on Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>) and Ladywells and single birds at Henfield Levels, Cuckoo Corner, Shoreham Adur, Edburton and Old Salts Farm. Then none till one at Woods Mill on Oct 19<sup>th</sup> followed by one at Ladywells on 25<sup>th</sup>, one at Ferring Rife on Nov 1<sup>st</sup> increasing to two on 13<sup>th</sup>. One at Upper Beeding (remaining to Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>) and two at Woods Mill on 28<sup>th</sup>. One at Brooklands on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, one in central Brighton on 8<sup>th</sup> and singles at Cuckoo Corner, the Marina and Edburton to the 10<sup>th</sup>. Three were at Ferring Rife on 12<sup>th</sup> and one at Brooklands on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup>.

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

The maximum counts from two regularly monitored sites were as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brooklands	26	27	16	7	10	7	7	4	29	31	25	41
Ladywells	1	15	10	10	/	/	/	/	/	/	6	/

/ present but no numbers recorded.

There were 18 at Coombes on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>. Breeding occurred at many locations including Washington, Woods Mill, Ferring Rife, Brooklands, Coombes, Ashington (Upper Chancton Farm and Spithandle Lane), Durrington and East Kingston.

**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
53	31	23	15	18	15	24	31	68	69	94	110

One at Ferring Rife on Jan 21<sup>st</sup> was unusual since not normally seen at this site. Breeding occurred at Patching Pond (four young) and Brooklands.

Four on the Adur on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> were unexpected since the river was at high tide and fast flowing. One on the sea close inshore at Worthing beach on 12<sup>th</sup> in cold and snowy weather was a rare occurrence.

**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	-	16 +11E	16 E 10W	5E 10W	2E	2E 32W	2E 15W	-	1+2E	1	-
Goring Gap/ beach	13	19**	-	6	-	-	-	5	10	7	-	1
Shoreham / Lower Adur	1	3	-	-	2	6*	5	5	-	3	3	3

\* Two adults and four young on the roof of the old Parcel Force building from 9<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Seen regularly (now just three young) until Aug 10<sup>th</sup> on the nearby Adur mud.

\*\*Fifteen were feeding on flooded greensward. In addition to above, birds were logged passing Worthing.

One at Stanmer Down on Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> was most unexpected. Thirty were seen on the beach at Ferring on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15 were there on 4<sup>th</sup>.



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

One flew E at Worthing on Mar 18<sup>th</sup>. Four on the sea at Hove on Apr 24<sup>th</sup> flew off E and later passed the Marina.

**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	36	50	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	50	45	17
Widewater	1	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Brooklands beach	100	130	32	-	6	-	-	62	56	156	-	-
Goring Gap	2	20	3	-	-	-	-	288	216	130	1	1
Marina	60	-	11	-	-	-	-	40	-	70	26	25
Worthing beach	-	20	2	2	3E 1W		2E 2W	6E 11W	28	3	-	50

A pair was present on Brooklands beach in the spring but no chicks were seen this year.

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

Two were on Lancing Steep Down from May 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> (JAN et al).

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

Two were on Shoreham Airport on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and then one on the Adur nearby until 10<sup>th</sup>. Five at Upper Beeding on 4<sup>th</sup> and 20 reducing to 15 at East Kingston (near Ferring) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Thirty flew NW over Worthing on Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>.

One or two in the autumn at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on Sep 12<sup>th</sup> and Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.

One at Ferring Rife on Nov 20<sup>th</sup> and Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Sheepcote had 25 present on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. One over Portslade on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 15 at Upper Beeding on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ninety were near there in fields to south of Bramber on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Worthing logged seven E and eight W on three dates in the month.

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

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	I	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	16	18	2	-	-		-	-	3	6	10
Worthing	8	52	2	9E 1W	6E		3W	2	-	1	10
Goring Gap	1	45	20	2	-		-	-	-	-	2
Ferring	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	45	15

A single bird at Cuckoo Corner on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and one at Brooklands on 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **NORTHERN LAPWING** *Vanellus vanellus*

### **Common winter visitor and declining breeder**

Peak counts at the following sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	488	100	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	74	216	250
Shoreham Adur*	700	200	-	-	-	-	16	-	-	100	300	100
Henfield Levels	70	-	2	2	4	1	2	-	35	-	100	-
Steyping Levels	96	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	-

\* Includes Airfield.

Twelve flew over Broadwater on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> and there were 31 near Ferring Rife on 8<sup>th</sup> (decreasing to 20 on 16<sup>th</sup>). On 9<sup>th</sup> 200 flew NW over Goring Gap and 105 were counted in two hours at Worthing beach. Twelve were at Washington on 12<sup>th</sup>, 100 at Botolphs near Bramber on 16<sup>th</sup> (and on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>) and one at Fulking on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Five on Harrow Hill on Mar 27<sup>th</sup> looked candidates for breeding, three still being there on Apr 8<sup>th</sup>. Six were displaying over fields near No-Man's Land on 15<sup>th</sup> and two were at Durrington on 29<sup>th</sup>. A pair was reported to have bred at Durrington near the pond. In June, four at Westmeston Wick Farm on 26<sup>th</sup>.

At Foredown/New Barn, 110 on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>. In light snow on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>, 510 flew W at Worthing beach in 1.3 hours and 107 over Sheepcote Valley also on this date. The next day another 124 W at Worthing in heavy snow and 50 over Ferring Rife.

## **RED KNOT** *Calidris canutus*

### **Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor**

Goring beach held one on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> and 20 on Feb 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>. One was there on Apr 30<sup>th</sup>. Five tardy birds flew E at Worthing on Jun 5<sup>th</sup>. In Aug 14 flew W there between 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Four at Goring on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>, one at the Marina on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> and finally singles at Worthing on Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **SANDERLING** *Calidris alba*

### **Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Maximum counts at the following sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Widewater	5	20	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	-
Worthing beach	1	17	66	12	164 E 30W	6	-	40	60	-	4	15
Brooklands beach	30	100	106	-	-	-	-	-	12	35	-	-
Goring	10	80	12	1	-	-	-	100	20	35	-	1
Ferring	170	-	17	5	-	-	-	16	-	-	-	50

Other than a single in the Lower Adur on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> no records were received away from the above sites.

#### **LITTLE STINT** *Calidris minuta*

##### **Scarce passage migrant**

One was on Goring beach on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> (DIS) and one, a juvenile, was at Widewater on 17<sup>th</sup> (BFF).

#### **CURLEW SANDPIPER** *Calidris ferruginea*

##### **Scarce passage migrant**

One at Goring beach and later on field roost from Sep 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> (DIS).

#### **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	15	4	6	5		-	1	4
Shoreham	5	5	8	6		-	4	1

Three were on rock groynes by Hove Lagoon on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **DUNLIN** *Calidris alpina*

##### **Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

Peak monthly totals at the main sites were:

	J	F	M	A	M	/	A	S	O	N	D
Shoreham Adur	80	200	1	-	-		10	4	30	65	44
Widewater	-	150	-	-	-		-	2	-	-	40
Brooklands beach	550	800	260	-	-		1	9	56	-	3
Worthing	91	150	180	3E	18E 6W		13W	-	-	300	250
Goring	1	90	50	-	-		33	20	5	-	-
Ferring/Kingston	-	-	70	-	-		-	-	-	-	10

Singles at the Marina on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> and on horse fields by Ferring Rife on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

Recorded from seven sites during the year, the best showing for several years. The first was near Newtimber Hill (Poynings) on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, followed by one each at Cuckoo Corner and Ferring Rife on 7<sup>th</sup> then at Botolphs near Bramber on 10<sup>th</sup>. These three sites held single birds through to Mar 6<sup>th</sup> and two were on Henfield Levels on 14<sup>th</sup>. In Nov one returned to Coombes on 4<sup>th</sup> and one was at Woods Mill on 28<sup>th</sup>.

The cold weather brought a small influx with three at Ferring Rife and one on the Adur at Shoreham on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four were at the former site on 3<sup>rd</sup>, two at Botolphs and Coombes on 7<sup>th</sup> then singles at Ferring from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and Brooklands from 20<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Maxima from the following were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	/	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	8*	-	1	-		2	5	44	30**
Shoreham Adur	4	-	-	-		-	-	-	6
Henfield Levels	35	65	61	-		-	-	11	2
Ferring Rife	20	10	-	1		-	1	8	30

\* at Upper Beeding near footbridge over river. \*\* Botolphs nr Bramber.

Also up to five at Broadwater (Worthing) on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, seven at Edburton 7<sup>th</sup>, one at Brooklands on 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with two there on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>. With the onset of wintry weather late in the year birds appeared at a number of sites. There were 15 in Sheepcote Valley on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and one each at High Salvington and Worthing beach on 2<sup>nd</sup>. Three flew low over Hove on 17<sup>th</sup> and ten were at Brooklands on 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

In Jan one or two appeared at Ferring Rife on 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>, in Southwick churchyard on 14<sup>th</sup>, Old Salts Farm on 17<sup>th</sup> and Edburton on 31<sup>st</sup>. One was at the ringing site at Cissbury on Feb 9<sup>th</sup>; one at Washington Rock Common and another entered the kitchen of a house nearby on Mar 10<sup>th</sup>! Another was in long grass at Cuckmere Way, Brighton on 21<sup>st</sup>.

One was on the beach at Worthing on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> and one flew over Ferring on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Others were at West Blatchington Hove on 5<sup>th</sup> and at Edburton on 18<sup>th</sup>. A shoot at Applesham nr Shoreham on 18<sup>th</sup> flushed 18 birds from the wood.

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

One on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> (TH, JH) moved to Brooklands on 12<sup>th</sup> remaining to 17<sup>th</sup> (JAN). A flock of 12, seen from the airfield, flew up the Adur valley on Aug 21<sup>st</sup> (CEH).

## **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** *Limosa lapponica*

### **Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Seven flew W at Worthing on Jan 26<sup>th</sup>. One hundred moved E there on eight dates in Apr, max. 55 on 24<sup>th</sup>, and 46 E on eight dates in May, max. 16 on 7<sup>th</sup>.

One roosted with gulls on Brooklands GC on and off from Sep 16<sup>th</sup> to Oct 8<sup>th</sup> and one was in the Lower Adur from Sep 27<sup>th</sup> to Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. This may have been the same bird moving between sites. One (lame) bird at Goring beach on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and three there on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Three E and one W at Worthing in Dec.

## **WHIMBREL** *Numenius phaeopus*

### **Common spring passage migrant**

Passage at Worthing is shown thus:

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
East	377	173	-	4	-
West	14	2	1	8	8

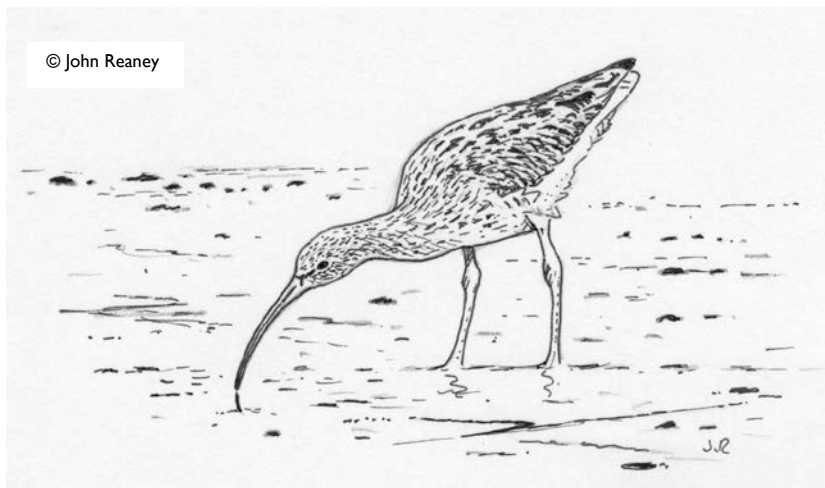
Peak days were Apr 17<sup>th</sup> with 83 and May 7<sup>th</sup> with 66. Up to ten on Goring beach in Apr and 13 E at the Marina on two dates in the month. Thirty-five passed Hove on 24<sup>th</sup> and four off Brighton on 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **EURASIAN CURLEW** *Numenius arquata*

### **Common late summer passage migrant; uncommon otherwise**

Singles on the Adur at Shoreham and Goring Gap in early Jan. One at the Marina on Mar 17<sup>th</sup>. Passage past Worthing comprised six E and four W in Mar, 12 E in Apr, three W in Jun, 36 W in Jul (max. nine on 2<sup>nd</sup>), two W in Aug, three W in Sep and five W on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. One in the Lower Adur on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>, two there on Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, one on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and three on 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

Peak counts from main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lower Adur	29	4	64	-	-	-	33	66	86	43
Shoreham Adur	20	10	7	1	1	23	-	20	12	22
Goring	1	9	5	-	-	1	-	2	1	-
Widewater	2	3	1	-	-	14	-	-	3	5

Singles at Ferring Rife on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> and Worthing beach at various dates in the month. Two on Henfield Levels on Mar 20<sup>th</sup> and five at Worthing on 13<sup>th</sup>. One over Sheepcote Valley on Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and Ferring Rife on 3<sup>rd</sup> with two there on 13<sup>th</sup>. Two on this date at Brooklands were unusual with three there on 26<sup>th</sup>.

**GREENSHANK** *Tringa nebularia***Uncommon but regular passage migrant**

In spring the only record was of two E at Worthing on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Two on the Adur at Shoreham on Jul 26<sup>th</sup> with one on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>. Also in August at Cuckoo Corner from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> and Sep 7<sup>th</sup>, and near the Cement Works on Sep 15<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

Henfield Levels held one on Jan 1<sup>st</sup> and Mar 20<sup>th</sup>. A dewpond at Coombes was an unusual location for one on Jun 29<sup>th</sup>. One or two were at Ferring Rife from Jul 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and again on Aug 11<sup>th</sup>. Further singles were found at Woods Mill and Edburton on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup> and Nov 28<sup>th</sup> respectively. This last coincided with colder weather and brought in three to Ferring Rife on 29<sup>th</sup>, two remaining to Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. One was at Brooklands on 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and on Henfield Levels on 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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

As usual, the Adur between Upper Beeding and the Tollbridge hosted birds as follows (maximum counts);

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	1	1	3	3	3	12	6	6	4	3

Singles were at Ferring Rife on Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> and Worthing beach on 24<sup>th</sup>.

One was at Widewater on Jul 16<sup>th</sup>, Ferring again on Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, the Marina on 14<sup>th</sup>, west at Worthing on Sep 8<sup>th</sup> and Brooklands on Dec 20<sup>th</sup>.

**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	7	12	70	-	-	-	-	20	27	20	32	10
Shoreham Harbour/Beach	9	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	18	-
Widewater	18	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	6	-	40	-
Worthing Brooklands	30	20	1	20	2	1	-	-	14	15	-	-
Goring/Ferring	-	45	47	35	-	-	7	42	92	40	35	30
Worthing	6	12	-	33	2	-	-	3	45	-	-	15

At the Marina, 12 on Apr 17<sup>th</sup> and 23 on 24<sup>th</sup>; then five on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, three on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 26 on Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. There were nine at Hove near the Lagoon on Dec 8<sup>th</sup> and 19 on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **POMARINE SKUA** *Stercorarius pomarinus*

#### **Regular spring passage migrant**

The following represents all the records for the year.

First of the year was on Apr 28<sup>th</sup> when three passed E at Worthing beach, five days later than in 2009. There were no further records until late singles E at Worthing on May 21<sup>st</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> with two E there on May 24<sup>th</sup>. There were no further sightings for the year, a very poor one for the species in our recording area.

### **ARCTIC SKUA** *Stercorarius parasiticus*

#### **Regular spring and autumn passage migrant**

There were no early winter sightings in 2010. First of the year were eight E at Worthing beach on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>, an early date for this number, and followed by one E there on Apr 3<sup>rd</sup>. Not recorded again at this site until Apr 18<sup>th</sup> when two passed E. The following table of monthly counts at Worthing beach reveals another poor year for sightings of this species.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	30	7	-	-	1	3	1	-	-
W	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	2	1	-

As the table above shows, lamentably few were noted in May and yet again during the autumn months. The peak day at Worthing in spring was Apr 24<sup>th</sup> with 11 E. The only record received from Brighton Marina was of three E there on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>. One was in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> and the last for the year was one W at Worthing beach on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **GREAT SKUA** *Stercorarius skua*

#### **Regular passage migrant in small numbers**

The early winter period produced three records, the first of the year being one E past both Goring and Worthing beaches on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> followed by two W at Worthing on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and one W there on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>. The first spring passage birds were one W at Worthing on Apr 5<sup>th</sup> with one E there on Apr 6<sup>th</sup>.

The summary of monthly totals at Worthing beach is as follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	1	-	-	6	3	-	-	1	1	2	-	1
West	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1
Offshore	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	-

As can be seen from the above table, passage was unremarkable throughout the year with no one day total exceeding three birds. Many fewer individuals were noted loitering off Worthing than in 2009, normally a feature of the spring months, but two were seen to do so during the autumn. Away from the Worthing beaches two flew E off Widewater and Shoreham Harbour on Dec 30<sup>th</sup> whilst one passed E off Worthing beach on the same day. After several years of above average numbers 2010 represented a return to the normal.

### **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	7	-	12	100*	7	3	10	-	-	4	-	5
West	1	-	4	40	3	-	95**	3	12	5	3	3

\* Peak day was Apr 28<sup>th</sup> with 27. \*\* Twenty on Jul 14<sup>th</sup>.

Ringed birds were identified at Goring Gap on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> (originally at Pas de Calais, then Folkestone) and the Adur at Shoreham on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (from Elle Estuary, Hamburg).

Birds were displaying on the Goring roost on Mar 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Twelve flew past the Marina together on Apr 17<sup>th</sup>.

Inland records were one at Applesham on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, Ferring fields on 18<sup>th</sup>, Goring Gap roost on 24<sup>th</sup> and Mar (see above), Old Erringham Farm, Shoreham on Mar 13<sup>th</sup>, Canada Bottom, Findon on Jun 22<sup>nd</sup>, over Ferring Rife on Jul 20<sup>th</sup>, Botolphs on Sep 19<sup>th</sup> and Stanmer Down on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **LITTLE GULL** *Larus minutus*

#### **Scarce visitor and passage migrant**

A poor year with few noted. Worthing totals were:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1	-	-	12	1	-	-	-	1	2	4	-

The peak day was Apr 24<sup>th</sup> when 47 flew E at the Marina and 12 at Worthing. The first record was in snowy weather on Jan 6<sup>th</sup> from Goring followed by others at Hove, Brighton, Shoreham-by-Sea and the last for the year from Shoreham Harbour when two in w/p were present on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>.



## **BLACK-HEADED GULL** *Larus ridibundus*

### **Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor**

Upper Beeding and Ferring Rife held 200 and 250 in Jan (2<sup>nd</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively) with 135 at the Marina on 24<sup>th</sup> and a massive count of 2000 at Henfield Levels on 25<sup>th</sup> followed by 150 at Stanmer Down on 28<sup>th</sup>. In Feb 375 at Coombes on 7<sup>th</sup> and 150 at Brooklands on 19<sup>th</sup> then 100 on Steyning Levels on 24<sup>th</sup>. Goring Gap hosted 280 on 28<sup>th</sup> rising to 368 on Mar 1<sup>st</sup>. Three hundred fed behind the plough at Mill Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 140 were at Brooklands on 14<sup>th</sup>. Passage at Worthing consisted of 86 E in Mar, 347 E and 92 W in Apr and 122 E and 38 W in May.

By Jul, returning birds built up to 143 on the Adur at Shoreham on 18<sup>th</sup> and 170 flew W at Worthing in the month. Three hundred circled over Washington on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> and 500 were counted at Worthing on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>. Numbers inland increased in the last three months. Oiled birds were noted at Goring beach on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> among a total of 300 when there were also 200 at Ladywells. Henfield Levels again proved attractive to the species with 950 there on 11<sup>th</sup>. There were 1000 at Bevendean, Brighton on Dec 25<sup>th</sup> and Brooklands held 228 on 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **COMMON GULL** *Larus canus*

### **Common winter visitor and passage migrant**

In Jan 200 on the Downs between the Adur and A24 on 21<sup>st</sup>, 185 at Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak on 23<sup>rd</sup>, 160 at Steyning Bowl on 30<sup>th</sup> then in Feb 150 at Lower Standean on 5<sup>th</sup>, 285 at Coombes on 7<sup>th</sup> rising to 500 on 24<sup>th</sup> and 690 at Goring Gap on 26<sup>th</sup>. On Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 700 feeding behind the plough at Mill Hill, on 22<sup>nd</sup> 720 at Goring Gap and in Apr 500 on the Adur between the rail and toll bridges on 1<sup>st</sup>. At Ladywells 180 on 18<sup>th</sup> on sheep pasture. Worthing beach logged 99E and two W in the month. The last for spring were 13 at Ladywells on May 10<sup>th</sup> then none until one there on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. By Oct 20<sup>th</sup> there were 200 at Canada Bottom, Findon but numbers were relatively small elsewhere with no flocks greater than 76 (Steep Down Dec 31<sup>st</sup>).

## **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** *Larus fuscus*

### **Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, small numbers breed**

Just from one to seven at several sites other than 21 on the Goring Gap roost (mostly *intermedius*) on Feb 24<sup>th</sup>. Birds with nest material seen at Withdean, Brighton on Apr 18<sup>th</sup>. A pair raised two young on Worthing Hospital and two pairs bred in the industrial estate near Brooklands. There were 17 on the Adur at Shoreham on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> and 54 there on 28<sup>th</sup> (mostly *intermedius*).

## **YELLOW-LEGGED GULL** *Larus argentatus michahellis*

### **Uncommon and local late summer and autumn visitor**

Only one record received - an adult feeding on Worthing beach in the presence of a Lesser Black-backed Gull on Jul 2<sup>nd</sup>.

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

Jan counts were 500 in East Worthing on 10<sup>th</sup>, 131 at the Marina on 24<sup>th</sup>, then 550 at Lower Standean on Feb 5<sup>th</sup> with 200 on the Adur at Shoreham on Mar 14<sup>th</sup> and the month max at Goring Gap of 74 on 24<sup>th</sup>. In Apr 101 in West Worthing on 11<sup>th</sup> and 120 at Bevendean, Brighton on 12<sup>th</sup> with 800 on the Downs at Steep Down on 19<sup>th</sup>.

May brought 170 to Applesham on 8<sup>th</sup> and 400 to Worthing on 27<sup>th</sup>. Many breeding records from the coastal towns with confirmed breeding in 18 tetrads. Large feeding groups were assembled in Jun with 650 and 420 off Goring beach on 5<sup>th</sup>. Similarly at Lancing 200 on 15<sup>th</sup> and at least eight nests in this area as well as around Alinora Avenue, Goring. No big numbers then until 350 at Ditchling Beacon on Aug 18<sup>th</sup> and 200 on the Adur on 29<sup>th</sup>. There were 160 at Pyecombe on Sep 5<sup>th</sup> and 100 at Devil's Dyke on 17<sup>th</sup>. Oct counts were 500 at Worthing on 6<sup>th</sup>, 215 at Lower Standean on 9<sup>th</sup>, 200 at Canada Bottom, Findon on 20<sup>th</sup> and 300 on the Adur on 31<sup>st</sup>. This last site held 350 birds on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. Smaller numbers were recorded all across the area throughout the year.

**CASPIAN GULL** *Larus argentatus cachinanns***Rare winter visitor**

One at the Marina on Jan 5<sup>th</sup> was ringed as a nestling in Poland on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 (PJW). The first accepted record of this subspecies in our area.

**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	20	50	1	-	-	-	4	20	-	50	130	65
Brooklands	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	1	2	10	-	-
Goring Gap/beach	-	5	2	2	2	-	-	4	52	31	94	10

Ringed birds on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and another there on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (both from Normandy). Forty at Kingston Gorse on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Twenty-six at the Marina on Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. Away from the coast, one at Upper Beeding and Steyning Wyckham Farm and three in the Lower Adur Valley. Pairs bred in Shoreham-by-Sea raising at least two young at each of two locations on factory roofs.

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

Another unexceptional year for this species. The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	16	1	31	19	5	-	-	1	19	46	51	36
West	149	32	1	11	-	-	-	1	3	120	69	13

Peak movements were 91 W and 14 E on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>, 3 W and 46 E on Oct 26<sup>th</sup>, and 103 W on 30<sup>th</sup>. Twenty were feeding offshore there on Dec 24<sup>th</sup>. Two were present at the Marina on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, two again (adult and juvenile) on Sep 14<sup>th</sup>, and three there on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **SANDWICH TERN** *Sterna sandvicensis*

#### **Common passage migrant**

First of the year was one E at Worthing beach on the early date of Mar 6<sup>th</sup>. Not again recorded until Mar 17<sup>th</sup> with seven at the Marina, after which day totals of less than 10 noted to 30<sup>th</sup> when 46 passed E at Worthing beach. 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	-	-	60	855	153	57	81	76	87	19	-	-
West	-	-	4	62	30	25	128	94	41	30	-	-

Daily spring maxima were 46 E on Mar 30<sup>th</sup> and 252 E on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, and in summer/autumn 45 W on July 24<sup>th</sup> and 26 E on Sep 13<sup>th</sup>. Away from Worthing beach, 30 were present off the Marina on Apr 26<sup>th</sup> and there were 20 at Goring beach on 28<sup>th</sup>. Six fed off Brooklands on Jun 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 31 in Shoreham Harbour on Aug 10<sup>th</sup> and 12 off Widewater on 11<sup>th</sup>. The late summer/early autumn roost again materialised on the Goring Gap fields with 32 on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, 36 on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 14 on Sep 20<sup>th</sup> reducing to nine on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. There was one inland record; two flying SE over Withdean Park on Sep 6<sup>th</sup>. As usual numbers declined rapidly from the end of September and the last of the year were three in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMON TERN** *Sterna hirundo*

#### **Common passage migrant**

First of the year was two E at Worthing beach on the Mar 30<sup>th</sup>, a fairly early date and 11 days earlier than in 2009. The species was recorded daily during the first week of April with no one day exceeding four birds. The monthly totals for Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	2	57	13	3	6	41	19	7	-	-
W	-	-	-	3	-	-	14	31	10	6	-	-

Generally day totals of less than 10 were noted, exceptions being 22 E on Apr 19<sup>th</sup> and 17 W on Aug 19<sup>th</sup>. Records from sites away from Worthing beach include three at Old Salts Farm on Jun 20<sup>th</sup>, six at Brooklands on 21<sup>st</sup>, and occasionally noted from the R. Adur and Shoreham Harbour with one on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, six on 6<sup>th</sup>, five on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>, six on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, and

one on 23<sup>rd</sup>. There was a single inland record of one over Broadwater on Aug 15<sup>th</sup>. The last for the year was one at Goring beach on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **ARCTIC TERN** *Sterna paradisaea*

##### **Scarce passage migrant**

The first specifically identified Arctic Terns of the year were 10 E at Worthing beach on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, with one E there on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and five E on Jul 31<sup>st</sup>. Not again recorded at Worthing until Sep 11<sup>th</sup> when two flew W, after which two passed E there on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and one E on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. Shoreham Harbour held two on Sep 10<sup>th</sup>, two on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, and the last of the year was a juvenile there on 6<sup>th</sup> plus a singleton E at Worthing on the same day.

#### **'COMMIC' TERN**

Records of terns not specifically identified as either Common Tern or Arctic Tern comprise this category. As usual the vast majority were thought to be Common Terns. The table of monthly counts from Worthing beach follows:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
E	-	-	-	1499	47	12	-	28	4	13	-	-
W	-	-	-	4	-	1	3	57	46	28	-	-

As can be seen from the above table by far the most productive month was Apr. The daily maximum at Worthing was 1136 E on Apr 24<sup>th</sup> on which day 480 passed the Marina. The highest day total during the autumn months was just 30 W at Worthing beach on Aug 27<sup>th</sup> and 27 W, 6 E there on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **LITTLE TERN** *Sterna albifrons*

##### **Fairly common passage migrant**

First of the year was one E at Worthing beach on the rather late date of Apr 19<sup>th</sup>, nine days later than in 2009. The monthly totals for April and May at Worthing were 24 E and one W for the former month and only five E for the latter, heavily down on 2009. Peak movements were just nine E on Apr 28<sup>th</sup> although the Marina recorded 31 on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, on which date six passed E at Ferring. Two were at Goring Gap on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Nationally this is a species of considerable conservation concern.

None were reported from May 22<sup>nd</sup> until one on Worthing beach on Sep 7<sup>th</sup>. The only other record and last for the year was one E at Worthing beach on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, a later than usual final date.

#### **BLACK TERN** *Chlidonias niger*

##### **Scarce but regular passage migrant**

First of the year was one E at Worthing beach, four off Brighton, and three presumably E at the Marina on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>. Sadly these were the only records for the spring months. However there were a number of sightings during the autumn (this species remains unrecorded in our area in some autumns). At Worthing beach two passed W on Sep 11<sup>th</sup> with one E there on 13<sup>th</sup>, after which all sightings came from Shoreham Harbour with two on 29<sup>th</sup>, five on 30<sup>th</sup>, three on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, and the last of the year, two there on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMON GUILLEMOT** *Uria aalge***Regular winter visitor and passage migrant**

Single birds were at the Marina on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, one to three off Worthing 13<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> and from Feb 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>. In Sep, one off Worthing on 5<sup>th</sup> and one in Shoreham Harbour on 29<sup>th</sup>; in Oct singles off Worthing 9<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**RAZORBILL** *Alca torda***Regular winter visitor and passage migrant**

Worthing records were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	13	33	-	1	-	-			2	2	1	10
West	58	137	5	-	1	2			4	7	9	4

Twenty-five off Widewater on Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>. One in Shoreham Harbour on Sep 27<sup>th</sup> and Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. On Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 40 off Widewater and one off Kingston Gorse.

**AUK species**

Reported from Worthing beach where monthly totals were:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
East	705	2520	20	-	1	-	-	-	5	18	8	545
West	1288	854	98	-	20	2	-	-	9	41	41	1257

Peak days were Jan 28<sup>th</sup> with 798, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> with 2075 and Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> with 900. Elsewhere 54 off the Marina on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>.

**FERAL PIGEON** *Columba livia***Common resident**

As in 2009, there were 230 at Cockroost Hill, Mile Oak, on Jan 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hangleton held 37 on 30<sup>th</sup> and in Feb 50 were at Pangdean, Brighton on 27<sup>th</sup>. Apr counts were 30 at West Worthing on 11<sup>th</sup>, 39 at Hove on 18<sup>th</sup> then in May 111 there on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 61 at the former site on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Patcham held 51 on Jun 1<sup>st</sup> and Hove 71 on 20<sup>th</sup>. West Blatchington, Hove was home to 58 on Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. Numerous smaller flocks were distributed across the area.

**STOCK DOVE** *Columba oenas***Resident and passage migrant**

Fifty were on the Downs between the A24 and the Adur on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>. In Mar, 180 at Edburton on 6<sup>th</sup> constituted the largest assembly of the year. Seven nests were found in Owl boxes. Autumn passage was small – just 40 over Wild Park on two dates in Oct with Woodpigeons.

**WOODPIGEON** *Columba palumbus***Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant**

On Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 1640 at Pangdean near Brighton and on Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 800 at Cuckoo Corner. Occurred in 64 of the 94 tetrads and confirmed as breeding in 13 of them with probable breeding in a further 17.

In Oct, maximum counts were 2000 over Wild Park and 600 over Ladywells on 25<sup>th</sup>, and in Nov 100 at Stump Bottom nr Findon on 6<sup>th</sup>. An unremarkable passage.

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

The largest count in Jan was of 38 at Mile Oak on 17<sup>th</sup>. In Apr 23 were at Portslade on 14<sup>th</sup> and in May 37 at Mile Oak on 15<sup>th</sup>. At the same site, 26 on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> and 33 on Dec 28<sup>th</sup>. Twenty at Round Hill, Devil's Dyke on Nov 20<sup>th</sup>. Widely distributed across the area but only confirmed as breeding in four tetrads out of the 54 that it was reported in.

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

Two pairs were present at Edburton from May 4<sup>th</sup> to Jul 10<sup>th</sup> but breeding success was unknown. One or two birds were reported on a number of dates from Woods Mill between May 25<sup>th</sup> and Sep 6<sup>th</sup>. A single bird was at Beeding Hill on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> and at Broadwater, Worthing on 8<sup>th</sup>.

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

One bird seen by the Adur, Shoreham on Apr 12<sup>th</sup> was the only record this year.

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

The first bird was heard at Steyning on Apr 13<sup>th</sup>. There were 39 other reports from 23 locations. Most records related to individuals but two birds were recorded from Oreham Common on May 30<sup>th</sup> and three were heard at Chancton Farm, Ashington on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>. One adult bird was ringed at The Mumbles, Steyning on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The last was recorded at Upper Beeding on Jul 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

There were thirteen sightings of birds this year, the first of which was seen at Broadwater, Worthing on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>. Others were reported hunting at two other sites in the first winter period but, sadly, one dead bird was found at Edburton on Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. This had been ringed in Steyning in July 2008. During the summer fourteen young birds were reported from six barn or tree box nests. On Nov 9<sup>th</sup> two birds were seen roosting at one of these nest sites. Unfortunately on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> three dead Barn Owls were found, one of which was a traffic victim.

### **LITTLE OWL** *Athene noctua*

#### **Fairly common resident**

Birds were seen at seven sites during the year. There were ten sightings in all and five of these were in the first winter period. Three young birds were reported from one nest site on Jun 5<sup>th</sup>. One bird was seen at a bird bath in a garden at Coombes on Jul 30<sup>th</sup>! At another site near Sompting one was seen sitting on a fence post in the sunshine at 9.30 a.m.

### **TAWNY OWL** *Strix aluco*

#### **Fairly common resident**

This species was reported from widespread locations during the year, the great majority north of the Downs. Several of these sightings were from gardens and on one occasion a bird flew about two metres over the heads of a couple eating dinner outside. One adult bird was ringed at Ladywells on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Two young birds were ringed at Ladywells on Jun 9<sup>th</sup> and chicks were heard at Hoe Wood, Woods Mill on Jul 20<sup>th</sup>. A dead bird was found at a cattle trough at Cissbury Ring on Jul 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **LONG-EARED OWL** *Asio otus*

#### **Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident**

There were six records during 2010 and five of these came from the vicinity of a traditional downland winter roost site. Three of the reports were in the first winter period and on one occasion two birds were noted. In the second winter period there were three reports of single birds.

### **SHORT-EARED OWL** *Asio flammeus*

#### **Migrant and occasional winter visitor**

Birds were seen at three locations during 2010. One bird was seen at Ferring Rife on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>. A bird was reported at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on four occasions between Sept 12<sup>th</sup> and Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, and finally, one bird was flushed by a dog at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>.

### **EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR** *Caprimulgus europaeus*

#### **Scarce summer visitor to our area**

There was one sighting this year. On Sep 6<sup>th</sup> one bird, presumably migrating, was flushed from a post early in the morning at Dragons Corner, Woods Mill.

### **COMMON SWIFT** *Apus apus*

#### **Common summer visitor**

There were very many reports from widespread locations. The first bird was noted on Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> in Central Brighton and there were twelve other April sightings of between one and four birds. There were many records throughout May although normally in small numbers. The largest flock noted was of 40 at Highdown near Worthing on May 26<sup>th</sup>. There were many reports on Jun 1<sup>st</sup>, including 20 which related to breeding locations although breeding was only confirmed in two tetrads. During June the largest flocks reported were 50 over Brighton on Jun 1<sup>st</sup> and 44 at Bevendean on 27<sup>th</sup>. In July 150 were noted flying over Cissbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 50 birds were reported over West Worthing on 13<sup>th</sup>. There were nine reports of small flocks in Aug the largest of which was 17 at West Tarring on 2<sup>nd</sup>. The final record was of eight birds over Wild Park on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **ALPINE SWIFT** *Apus melba*

### **Rare vagrant**

A bird was found at Anchor Bottom on Mar 24<sup>th</sup> (CHW, BFF) giving very close views at times. This bird may well have also been seen at Widewater and Climping although no records for these sightings have been submitted as yet.

### **COMMON KINGFISHER** *Alcedo atthis*

#### **Uncommon resident and winter visitor**

There were 24 sightings during the first winter period mainly centred on the River Adur or the near vicinity. Normally these sightings involved single birds but two birds were seen on five occasions. During the summer, two birds were seen at Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> and one at Woods Mill Lake on Aug 12<sup>th</sup>.

During the year two young birds were ringed at Ladywells and one adult and three young birds were ringed at The Mumbles. A further 25 birds were recorded at various locations, including Ferring Rife, Widewater and the Marina, from September to December.

### **HOOPOE** *Upupa epops*

#### **Rare migrant**

One of these handsome birds was watched at Applesham, near Coombes on Mar 24<sup>th</sup> (ABW). It was seen perched on fence posts and feeding on the ground. The coincidence of the date with that of the nearby Alpine Swift (see above) suggests a multiple arrival of southern European species.

### **WRYNECK** *Jynx torquilla*

#### **Scarce passage migrant**

Three birds were seen this year in three different locations. One was in Sheepcote Valley on Sep 4<sup>th</sup>, one was at Cissbury Ring between 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, and a further bird was seen in Wild Park on 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **GREEN WOODPECKER** *Picus viridis*

#### **Common resident**

There were again very many records of these attractive birds throughout the year from locations in 50 of the 94 tetrads in the SDOS area. The only references to breeding were from Wild Park where three pairs are thought to have bred, and two young were seen at Oreham Common on Jul 2<sup>nd</sup>. However Atlas surveys indicated confirmed breeding in seven tetrads and probable breeding in seven more. From the ringing returns three adult and three young birds were handled at Ladywells, and a further one adult and one young bird were ringed at The Mumbles, Steyning.

### **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos major*

#### **Common resident**

There were 183 reported sightings of these birds throughout the year. It is an increasing species and although there were only references to breeding in four tetrads, there were many reports of drumming and they probably bred in many locations. Three pairs are thought to have bred in Wild Park and two young birds were seen at Coombes regularly with their parents. Six birds were ringed at Ladywells, including one young bird. At The Mumbles, Steyning a further three birds were handled, one of which was young.

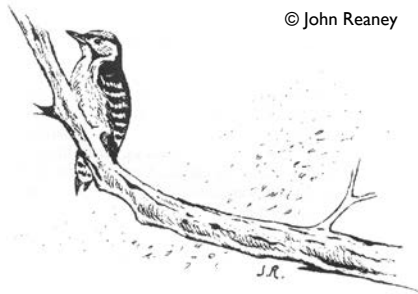


## **LESSER SPOTTED**

### **WOODPECKER** *Dendrocopos minor*

#### **Scarce resident**

Only one of these elusive birds was seen in our area this year. This was in trees above Woods Mill weir on Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>.



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## **WOODLARK** *Lullula arborea*

### **Scarce passage migrant**

Exceptional winter weather brought good numbers to the area. First were

four at Widewater and two at Goring beach on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> which remained until 9<sup>th</sup>. On the 8<sup>th</sup> two were at Shoreham Power Station, one each at Ferring and Broadwater and a party of twelve by the Adur at Shoreham near the Tollbridge which stayed till 10<sup>th</sup>. Five were in Portslade on 11<sup>th</sup> and the Adur birds, now numbering six, remained till 13<sup>th</sup>. The only spring record was of one in Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Two autumn migrants were noted - at Sheepcote Valley and Wild Park on Oct 5<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> respectively.

## **SKYLARK** *Alauda arvensis*

### **Common resident**

Jan records began on 6<sup>th</sup> with birds flying east and west at Worthing beach including 184 W and 28 E in just under two hours. A total of 300 birds were seen flying east in a number of groups at Widewater on 7<sup>th</sup> and 50 flew north from the sea at Ferring on the same day. A very large flock of c.2000 were near Cuckoo Corner on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Singing was first recorded at Steep Down on Feb 9<sup>th</sup> and subsequently at Goring Gap on 21<sup>st</sup> and then at Ferring Rife and Wyckham Farm on 27<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was confirmed in four tetrads, all in Jun, at Steyning Bowl on 5<sup>th</sup>, Steep Down on 7<sup>th</sup>, Durrington on 8<sup>th</sup> and Ferring also on 8<sup>th</sup>. A single bird was heard singing briefly at Steep Down on Sep 25<sup>th</sup>. A flock of 200 were at Stump Bottom on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and there were 500 at the same site on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. A total of 316 flew west at Worthing beach in just under two hours on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. At least 150 were seen feeding in stubble at Steep Down on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **SAND MARTIN** *Riparia riparia*

### **Summer visitor and passage migrant**

Three on Apr 1<sup>st</sup> at Cuckoo Corner were a fortnight ahead of the next at Sandgate Park. Very few others reported with just 17 the April total from Worthing beach. In June an excellent count was made of 98 nests in three colonies at Sandgate Park. Some early returning birds included 37 off Worthing on Jul 10<sup>th</sup> and a single at Edburton on 23<sup>rd</sup>. Low numbers from half a dozen sites during Aug then 30E at Goring beach on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> and 100 on Henfield Levels on 8<sup>th</sup>. The last were three at Shoreham Fort on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **BARN SWALLOW** *Hirundo rustica*

### **Common summer visitor**

Early arrivals in March were from five sites including the first on 21<sup>st</sup> at Brighton Pier and a returning nester at Edburton on 27<sup>th</sup>. There were dozens of BTO Birdtrack sightings during Apr but only one in double figures with 12 at Cockroost Hill on 25<sup>th</sup>. A good indication of the low numbers was the Apr total of 59 at Worthing beach on 16 dates. The

only significant count early year was 100 feeding after a small shower at Woods Mill on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Confirmed breeding occurred in 13 tetrads with probable breeding in seven more with the largest congregations around Findon and Pangdean, near Brighton. Ten flying out to sea at Widewater on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> were the first of the autumn departure. Some of the larger counts included 500 roosting at New Salts Farm on Aug 31<sup>st</sup>, 340 E at Goring on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>, 400 at Ferring Rife on Sep 13<sup>th</sup> and 1250 at Washington on 22<sup>nd</sup>. In Oct Worthing recorded 810 E on 4<sup>th</sup>, and later 100 on 16<sup>th</sup> with 41 at Sheepcote the same day. The last were two at Ferring on Nov 14<sup>th</sup> and a single E the next day at Widewater.

## **HOUSE MARTIN** *Delichon urbicum*

### **Common summer visitor**

Coastal arrivals were one at Shoreham Airport on Mar 17<sup>th</sup>, the earliest record for the SDOS area, then singles at Ferring and Worthing in early Apr. Nowhere near as many spring sightings as Swallow, and it was not until May that any significant numbers were seen – 50 at Oreham Common and 60 at Woods Mill. Breeding was confirmed at Ashington, three Brighton suburbs, Durrington, Findon, Hangleton, Newtimber Hill, Saddlescombe, Sompting, University of Sussex and Upper Beeding. At Ladywells 200 on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> was the month's maximum there, but most of the higher counts were in Sep with 750 at Wild Park on 15<sup>th</sup>, 550 at Washington on 21<sup>st</sup> and 1000 E at Worthing beach on 22<sup>nd</sup>. Late dispersal was evident with 300 on two dates in Oct at Ladywells and 1600 at Washington on 8<sup>th</sup>. The last were 10 at Wild Park on 13<sup>th</sup> and two at Goring Gap on 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **TREE PIPIT** *Anthus trivialis*

### **Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant**

No spring migrants were reported. In August, one at Cissbury on 10<sup>th</sup>, ten over Wild Park in the month (max. seven on 30<sup>th</sup>) and four near Ferring Rife on 25<sup>th</sup>. September accounted for the rest, with nine at Wild Park (max. eight on 12<sup>th</sup>), 13 at Sheepcote Valley (max. eight also on 12<sup>th</sup>), six at Cissbury on 9<sup>th</sup> and one each at Goring on 15<sup>th</sup> and Devil's Dyke Round Hill on 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **MEADOW PIPIT** *Anthus pratensis*

### **Locally common resident and common passage migrant**

Flocks of twenty or more occurred in Jan at Worthing beach, Ferring Rife, Broadwater, Widewater, the Lower Adur Valley and Shoreham Power Station. Forty were at Woods Mill on Mar 18<sup>th</sup> and 25 at Cockroost Hill on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>.

Adults carrying food for young were seen at Ditchling Beacon and Anchor Bottom. Breeding occurred at a number of downland sites. This was confirmed in two tetrads and probable in another seven.

Passage in Sep comprised over 200 passing Wild Park, 2000 plus over Sheepcote Valley, 266 at Worthing beach and many smaller flocks at a dozen other locations. In Oct 1000 over Wild Park, 214 past Worthing beach, 40 at Steep Down and 50 by the Adur at Shoreham. One hundred were at Stump Bottom on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and 20 to 40 at Sheepcote Valley, the Lower Adur, Edburton and Worthing beach in the month. At the latter, 93 flew W on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> out of a total of 118 noted in the month.

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

One or two at Shoreham Harbour mouth in Jan between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> with one, unusually, by the river between the rail and toll bridges on the latter date. One was at the Marina on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> and one again at Shoreham Harbour on Mar 14<sup>th</sup>.

In Sep one at Shoreham Harbour from 8<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> and in Oct from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>. Goring beach held one on 9<sup>th</sup>, the Marina one 10<sup>th</sup> and Worthing beach two on 31<sup>st</sup>. Two or three at Shoreham Harbour in Nov and Dec till 30<sup>th</sup>. In these months a single was at both Goring and Cuckoo Corner, two were at the Marina and Hove and finally one was at Worthing beach on 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

There were a few spring records. Two were at Cockroost Hill on Apr 27<sup>th</sup> and one was at Wild Park Apr 29<sup>th</sup>. A total of 11 birds were recorded at Worthing beach on seven dates between Apr 17<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup>. The first autumn bird flew over Wild Park on Aug 21<sup>st</sup>. Five were recorded at Lancing on Aug 30<sup>th</sup> and 10 flew south over Broadwater on 31<sup>st</sup>. In Sep there were nine at Woods Mill on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 13 at Botolphs on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 40 at Steyning Levels on 4<sup>th</sup>, eight at Golding Barn on 5<sup>th</sup>, approximately 30 at Henfield Levels on 8<sup>th</sup>, 12 flew west at Worthing beach on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10 were recorded at Cissbury Ring on the same day. Birds remained at Botolphs with 12 there on 19<sup>th</sup> and 15 on 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 10 with cattle at Long Furlong on 21<sup>st</sup>. The only records in Oct were from Worthing beach with sightings of a total of five birds flying E on three dates between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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	5	4	2	1	-	-	1	1	18	8	4	4
No of sites	5	2	2	1	-	-	1	1	7	7	3	4

No breeding records were received.

Most sightings were of single birds. The highest total was of 6, which may have been a family party, at Steyning on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>. Three birds were at Wild Park on Sep 10<sup>th</sup> and there were also three at Brooklands on Sep 27<sup>th</sup>. Two were recorded at Ladywells on Sep 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

Nine were at Cockroost Hill on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>, 50 at King's Barn on Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 11 at Lancing Beach on the same day and 13 at Cockroost Hill on 27<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was confirmed with recently fledged young at four sites in three tetrads, at Lychpole Hill on May 28<sup>th</sup>, Stanmer Down on Jun 14<sup>th</sup>, Coombes on Jun 29<sup>th</sup> and Beeding Cement Works on Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, these last two being in the same tetrad. 80 flew E at Worthing beach on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, 70 E on 12<sup>th</sup> and there were 50 E at Goring Gap on Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. Forty-one were seen in a field at Goring Gap on Oct 17<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Shoreham Harbour on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, 50 were feeding in a field at Portslade on

Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, 70 at Steyning on Dec 27<sup>th</sup> and 20 were feeding around grazing sheep at Steep Down on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

**WHITE WAGTAIL** *Motacilla alba alba*

**Scarce passage migrant**

One at Wild Park on Apr 20<sup>th</sup> was the only confirmed record.

**WAXWING** *Bombycilla garrulous*

**Rare winter visitor**

A welcome invasion of this attractive northern visitor occurred in December. It was first heard only at Shoreham-by-Sea on 11<sup>th</sup> but subsequently reported from a further 12 different sites through to the year end. At Broadwater there were 2 birds on 14<sup>th</sup>, West Tarring three on 14<sup>th</sup> rising to 50 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Brighton Stanford Road 16 on 18<sup>th</sup>, Portslade two on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup>, Goring 20 on 23<sup>rd</sup>, Brougham Road, Worthing (also at Brooklands) 24 on 24<sup>th</sup> to 57 on 31<sup>st</sup>, Hove 14 on 24<sup>th</sup> to six on 30<sup>th</sup>, Offington six on 25<sup>th</sup>, Sompting 14 on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, Brighton Borough three on 29<sup>th</sup> and High Salvington five on 31<sup>st</sup>.

**WREN** *Troglodytes troglodytes*

**Very common resident**

Recorded in 62 of the 94 tetrads of the SDOS area with confirmed breeding in 14 and probable breeding in a further 22. There were 308 records received. A black-bellied bird, first seen in 2009, again appeared in West Tarring, Worthing on Mar 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ringling at Ladywells, Cissbury and The Mumbles accounted respectively for 47 of which 29 were young birds, 23 of which 17 young and 46 of which 39 young.

**DUNNOCK** *Prunella modularis*

**Very common resident**

Recorded in 60 of the 94 tetrads in the area with confirmed breeding in nine and probable breeding in 19; 313 records received. The highest densities were in Mile Oak with 24 on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, Hangleton with 27 on Apr 24<sup>th</sup> and Patcham with 25 on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Ringling at Ladywells, Cissbury and The Mumbles accounted respectively for 57 of which 27 were young birds, 38 of which 21 were young and 65 of which 41 were young.

**ROBIN** *Erithacus rubecula*

**Very common resident**

Recorded in 62 tetrads with 20 confirmed breeders and 14 probable breeding; 361 records received. Large counts were 48 at Mile Oak on Jan 17<sup>th</sup>, 35 at Newtimber Hill on Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 33 at West Blatchington on Apr 12<sup>th</sup>, 37 at Patcham on Apr 18<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Hangleton on 24<sup>th</sup>, 43 at Saddlescombe on Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> and 53 again at Patcham on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ringling at the three main sites as listed above accounted for 53, 51 and 66 of which 29, 42 and 43 were young birds.

Opportunistic behaviour was shown by a bird at Rushfields Garden Centre at Poynings which hovered outside automatic doors until they opened and then entered cafe for crumbs! Aggressive behaviour shown by one which attacked and destroyed a Christmas Robin near Hove Lagoon.

### **COMMON NIGHTINGALE** *Luscinia megarhynchos*

#### **Summer visitor and passage migrant**

Singing males were reported from Apr 10<sup>th</sup> through into May. The first was at Woods Mill, with only one remaining to breed there. Seven were recorded at Edburton, three at Oreham Common, two at Westmeston with singles at Small Dole, Spithandle Lane and Wiston village. Two birds were ringed at Cissbury in Jul and the last record was of a bird croaking at Wild Park on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **BLACK REDSTART** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

#### **Regular spring migrant, winter visitor, has bred**

Over 70 records were received for this species. Early year numbers were mostly singles remaining for the period at Brighton Marina, Ferring, Goring Gap, Southwick and Widewater. A surprising number away from the coast were birds in a Portslade garden on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>, Adur Valley on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>, two in Brighton on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, and at Steyning Treatment Works and Whitehawk. Migrants were singles at Shoreham on Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>, Michelgrove on Mar 27<sup>th</sup> and Wild Park on Apr 10<sup>th</sup>. One recorded in central Brighton at end of Mar may have bred. An autumn migrant was at Goring Gap on Sep 12<sup>th</sup>, and another at Steep Down a month later. Wintering birds were reported from the usual sites with up to three at Worthing beach, two at Widewater and singles at Ferring, Shoreham Fort and Southwick. Inland were two at Steyning in Nov and at West Tarring in Dec.

### **COMMON REDSTART** *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

#### **Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn**

Relatively scarce in spring, but eight this year was a better than average crop. The first was at Malthouse Meadows on the early date of Apr 4<sup>th</sup>, then up to four at Ferring Rife, and singles from Broadwater, Goring Gap and Wild Park – all before Apr 20<sup>th</sup>. Cissbury and Lancing Clump recorded the first of the autumn passage in mid Aug. The peak count was 15 at Cissbury on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>. Elsewhere recorded from Beeding Hill, Broadwater, Edburton, Ladies Mile, Saddlescombe, Truleigh Hill and Wild Park (max three on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>). The last were a single at Ditchling Beacon on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and two at Cissbury on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>. Ringing records were singles from Cissbury and The Mumbles, Steyning.

### **WHINCHAT** *Saxicola rubetra*

#### **Common passage migrant**

There was only one spring sighting this year - at Goring Gap on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>. Two early returning birds were at Stump Bottom, Steyning on Jul 31<sup>st</sup>, followed by a handful of downland records in Aug. Peak counts were at Sheepcote Valley with 12 on Sep 9<sup>th</sup> with max. 25 on 12<sup>th</sup>. Other high counts included ten at Stump Bottom, nine at Clayton Windmills and seven at Chantry Hill. Noted elsewhere from mainly downland sites, also from Ferring Rife and Goring Gap. The last birds were five at Sheepcote Valley and four at Steep Down on Sep 25<sup>th</sup>, finally two at Wild Park on Oct 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **STONECHAT** *Saxicola torquata*

### **Regular winter visitor and local breeding resident**

Most of the sightings from Jan/Feb were coastal or from the lower Adur Valley, but all were ones and twos. The exceptions were singles from Steyning Bowl and Wild Park. Pairs seen in suitable habitat were at Beeding Hill and nearby Anchor Bottom, whilst others seen during the breeding season were from Ferring Rife, Sheepcote Valley and Steep Down. A comment about the latter site was that there were far fewer in that area, even though seven on Aug 18<sup>th</sup> suggested probable breeding. Later in the year confirmation of fledged young came from Beeding Hill and Cissbury. The peak autumn count was 12 at Steep Down on Sep 25<sup>th</sup>. Wintering birds were noted from about this time, with two birds resident at Wild Park for a month, max five at Cissbury and max six at Beeding Hill in Oct. End of year sightings were from Beeding Hill, Canada Bottom, Devil's Dyke, Ferring Rife, Sheepcote and Widewater, in ones and twos, similar to the first winter period.

## **NORTHERN WHEATEAR** *Oenanthe oenanthe*

### **Common passage migrant**

A sighting on Mar 15<sup>th</sup> at Steyning Treatment Works was the earliest for the submitter in 60 years of birding. Then followed a cluster of sightings on 18<sup>th</sup> with five at Southwick beach, two at Brighton Marina and singles at Worthing and Woods Mill. Ferring Beach seemed to be the popular arrival area with up to nine, whilst falls at Brighton Marina accounted for 10 on Mar 19<sup>th</sup> and seven at Sheepcote Valley on 21<sup>st</sup>. Arrivals continued into Apr with eight at Goring Gap on 20<sup>th</sup> and a similar number at Wild Park on 25<sup>th</sup>. May sightings came from Goring beach, Mill Hill, Steep Down and the last was a single at Wild Park on 26<sup>th</sup>. Two at Stump Bottom on Jul 31<sup>st</sup> were the first to return, followed by a glut of records during Aug/Sep from downland and from beaches. Highest counts were 12 at Ferring on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, 18 at Stump Bottom on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>, 17 at Wild Park on 7<sup>th</sup>, 25 along Shoreham Beach on 8<sup>th</sup>, 15 at Cissbury on 9<sup>th</sup>, and 13 at Ditchling Beacon on 13<sup>th</sup>. A fair number were recorded in Oct from Brooklands, Findon, Goring, Sheepcote, Shoreham, Wild Park and Worthing, but the last was a very late bird at Sheepcote Valley on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **RING OUZEL** *Turdus torquatus*

### **Regular passage migrant**

There were no spring records. Between Sep 23<sup>rd</sup> and Nov 6<sup>th</sup> at least 30 birds were recorded from ten, mainly downland, locations on 22 dates. With the exception of single birds at Wild Park on Sep 23<sup>rd</sup>, at Cissbury on Sep 27<sup>th</sup> and at Stump Bottom on Nov 6<sup>th</sup> the records were from October. Peak counts were three at Wild Park on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>, four at Cissbury on the 15<sup>th</sup>, eight at Sheepcote Valley on the 16<sup>th</sup> and three at Edburton on the 24<sup>th</sup>. One at Goring Gap on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> was the only coastal record and an unusual location for this species.

## **BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

### **Very common resident**

Like the past two years this species was well recorded with sightings coming from 67 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. Once again many of the records came from observers creating systematic lists of species in Birdtrack and from the national and county Atlas surveys. As the Atlas survey nears completion there were only 14 tetrads where timed visits were conducted; between 2 and 17 were encountered per hour during the winter (Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec) and 0 to 22 birds recorded in each hour

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 21 in Toad Hall Valley on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Although the species was considered as confirmed or probably breeding in 61% of the tetrads in which it was recorded there were no breeding counts from specific sites. There were 18 records involving more than 30 birds with the highest counts being 45 at Hangleton on Jun 13<sup>th</sup> and 44 at West Blatchington on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Ringing at the three regular sites produced totals of 47 different birds at Cissbury, 83 at Ladywells and 58 at The Mumbles of which 13, 23 and 39 respectively were birds hatched during the year.

#### **FIELDFARE** *Turdus pilaris*

##### **Common winter visitor**

During the first winter period over 3100 were noted from 42 different locations. Some of the highest counts were during extremely cold weather and included up to 1000 at Botolphs on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 500 at Goring Gap on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>. During January and February there were several three figure counts, the word “numerous” featured in many records and during the harsh weather the species was recorded regularly from urban locations. Numbers declined considerably during March; the species was noted on only seven days and the last in the spring was one at Newtimber Hill on Mar 23<sup>rd</sup>.

There were fewer records from second winter period; the first involved two flocks, each of between 10 and 12 birds, flying east over Ferring Rife on Oct 8<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter recorded on 12 dates in October, ten in November and, despite severe weather, only seen on seven days in December. The highest counts were 300 on the Steyning Levels on Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 125 at Edburton the following day and 250 at Botolphs on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

##### **Fairly common resident**

This species was again well recorded with observations coming from 61 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. Like other common and widespread species many of these records came from surveys and Birdtrack lists. Between one and three birds were seen during the few remaining winter timed visits for the Atlas but during the breeding season the species ranged, like 2009, between zero and six encounters per hour watched. In 2010 Song Thrushes were recorded in only six of the area's 11 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) squares; the highest counts of five being recorded for the two x 1km transects at Patcham and Worthing Golf Course in early June. Throughout the year there were just nine of the 240 records which reached double figures. The highest counts were 15 flying west at Worthing in severe weather on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, 16 at Newtimber Hill on Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 21 at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 16<sup>th</sup> and 21 very flighty individuals around yew trees at Patcham on 21<sup>st</sup>. Ringing at the three local sites produced 30 different birds at Cissbury, 21 at Ladywells and 36 at The Mumbles, of which 16, 10 and 21 respectively were young.

#### **REDWING** *Turdus iliacus*

##### **Common winter visitor**

During the first winter period, particularly during harsh weather, this species, like Fieldfare, was numerous and widespread. Records came from 59 different sites and probably involved nearly 2000 birds. The highest counts were 500 at Ferring on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> and 100 seen at Kingston Gorse, Goring Gap, Botolphs and central Brighton on dates between Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Although seen on 16 days during Mar the numbers were lower with 40 on the

Henfield Levels on the 12<sup>th</sup> being the highest count. The last and only April record was ten at Pangdean on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Four at Woods Mill (Henfield) on Oct 4<sup>th</sup> were the first of the autumn and thereafter recorded in small numbers (up to 30) on 16 days in October and ten days in November. With the onset of cold weather in December more were seen with observations on 21 different days from 25 sites. All the highest counts of the second winter period were in this month with 150 and 100 at Botolphs on 7<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> respectively and 110 at Round Hill, near Devil's Dyke on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **MISTLE THRUSH** *Turdus viscivorus*

##### **Fairly common resident**

Similar to 2009 this species was seen in 35 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area. Records were from each month but in keeping with recent years the numbers were small with the highest counts being 11 at Harrow Hill on Jun 14<sup>th</sup> and 8 at Ladywells on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was considered as confirmed or probable from nine locations. One singing from a television aerial in Goring on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> was the first record from this site since 1984.

#### **CETTI'S WARBLER** *Cettia cetti*

##### **Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

From mid March to early April reports of single birds were received from Ladywells as well as the regular haunts of Shoreham Airport and Beeding Brooks. Another was at Woods Mill on Apr 6<sup>th</sup>. Records continued throughout the breeding season with up to three singing birds on Beeding Brooks and one in the Mill Hill area. A pair at Edburton was seen with two fledged young on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. All autumn records were from Ladywells between Sep 22<sup>nd</sup> and Nov 15<sup>th</sup> where up to two remained vocal into late October.

#### **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** *Locustella naevia*

##### **Generally scarce passage migrant**

Four spring records this year. The first was one at Ferring Rife on Apr 8<sup>th</sup> and possibly the same one was still there on 21<sup>st</sup>. Another at Wild Park on 18<sup>th</sup> was followed by one at Southwick Hill a few days later on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Finally one was heard at Woods Mill on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. First of the autumn was one at Edburton on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>, with one at Wild Park on Sep 4<sup>th</sup>. Two were at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 8<sup>th</sup> followed by one there on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>.

#### **SEDGE WARBLER** *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

##### **Declining summer visitor and passage migrant**

Beeding Brooks produced the first for the year with one there on Apr 17<sup>th</sup>. One was ringed at Ladywells the following day although another was present. Subsequently migrants were at Wild Park on Apr 20<sup>th</sup> but thereafter breeding season records were predominantly from the lower Adur valley, Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels with the maximum being a count of 7 between Coombes and Cuckoo Corner on June 1<sup>st</sup>. No confirmed breeding records were received. None were caught at in passage at Cissbury but at The Mumbles three were ringed in late July and another at Ladywells on Aug 6<sup>th</sup>. Other autumn records were more widespread with three at Ferring Rife on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup> and eight at Sheepcote Valley on 12<sup>th</sup>. These were the last for the year together with one at Ladies Mile Reserve on the same date.





Goldfinch by Sue Miles



Stonechat by Tricia Hall



Snow Bunting at Kithurst Hill by Wendy Ball



Above - Jay at Cissbury by Val Bentley



Left - Black Redstart at Lancing Beach  
by John Maskell

Below - Grey Wagtail at Ladywells by  
Chrissi White



## **EURASIAN REED WARBLER** *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

### **Fairly common summer visitor**

After one at The Mumbles on Apr 22<sup>nd</sup> a more widespread arrival occurred on 24<sup>th</sup> with records from Beeding Brooks, Mill Hill and five at Ladywells. Migrants were noted at Mile Oak and Ditchling Beacon in mid May. Away from the Adur Valley concentrations, BTO Atlas work revealed three in the Wiston Estate and one at Spithandle Lane, Ashurst. Ferring Rife, Brooklands and Woods Mill also held singing birds. Regular observations at Ladywells produced the highest counts of 12 to 15 birds. Breeding was confirmed at Ferring Rife and Ladywells. A single at Wild Park on Jul 29<sup>th</sup> denoted that return passage was underway and five were ringed at Cissbury from mid August into late September. At The Mumbles 34 adult birds and 65 young birds were ringed with the highest catch being 20 on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. At Ladywells the totals were 35 adult birds and 32 young with a maximum of 11 on Jun 30<sup>th</sup>. Singles at Sheepcote Valley and Wild Park on Sep 12<sup>th</sup> concluded the year.

## **BLACKCAP** *Sylvia atricapilla*

### **Common summer visitor, regular in winter**

Wintering birds were recorded from the very first day of the year, mostly in ones or twos, right up to the middle of March. In all records were received from 17 sites and many of these are gardens where birds are visiting feeders or taking ivy and other berries from ornamental shrubs. By mid March arrival records tend to mingle with those departing winter visitors. One at Wild Park on Mar 18<sup>th</sup> was considered to be a first summer migrant as was one at Woods Mill on 27<sup>th</sup>. The most significant counts were of ten at Ladywells on Apr 18<sup>th</sup>, 12 at Patcham the same day and 11 at Stanmer Down on Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>. Breeding season records were widespread and mostly of singing males; 12 were counted in Clapham Wood on Apr 30<sup>th</sup>. Just four confirmed breeding records of fledged young were received from two sites, Ladywells and Patcham. No records were received between mid and late July and just small numbers were noted from the regular sites in August.

The increase in migrant numbers in September was picked up at the ringing sites with peak catches of 64 at The Mumbles on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>, 28 at Ladywells on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 42 at Cissbury on the 4<sup>th</sup>. In total Ladywells processed 153 different birds of which 37 were adults and 114 were young. The Mumbles managed 361 birds of which 22 were adults and 328 were young. Cissbury ringing totals were lower than usual due to ringers taking autumn holidays, thus only a total of 275 birds comprising 49 adults and 218 young. Sheepcote held 25 on Sep 8<sup>th</sup> while observers at Cissbury noted 20 on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> rising to 50 by the 9<sup>th</sup> with 30 on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 40 there on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 there two days later. Other early October counts were 14 at Wild Park on the 4<sup>th</sup>, with 20 at Ladywells and ten at Sheepcote Valley the same day. From November onwards wintering populations returned in ones and twos to the gardens and other more sheltered spots, twelve locations in all, with the last of the year at Steyning on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

## **GARDEN WARBLER** *Sylvia borin*

### **Fairly common summer visitor**

Highdown hosted the first of the year on Apr 15<sup>th</sup> with a single at Patching and two at Stanmer just a few days later. Although breeding was not confirmed, records were widespread during the breeding season. Small numbers were noted in mainly downland locations although four were counted on a BBS visit to the Wiston Estate on May 31<sup>st</sup> and a Tetrad Atlas count in Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> totalled seven. The first to be

ringed at Cissbury was on June 20<sup>th</sup> although birds were on site from May 15<sup>th</sup>. Overall five adult birds and seven young were ringed. At The Mumbles equivalent figures were four adults and ten young while at Ladywells single young birds were caught on July 30<sup>th</sup> and Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>. Away from the ringing sites the only other autumn records were of singles at Broadwater, also on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup>, another at Anchor Bottom the following day with the last at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **LESSER WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia curruca*

#### **Fairly common summer visitor**

After the first at Wild Park on Apr 14<sup>th</sup> and then Woods Mill the following day, there were almost daily reports until the end of the month. These were widespread and included coastal, downland and inland sites involving no more than two birds in any one location. From the beginning of May until early July birds were recorded throughout our area. Most of these observations were of single birds but four were counted in Wild Park on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and three were along Spithandle Lane, Ashurst on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was just one confirmed breeding record from Mill Hill. Only at Cissbury were any spring birds ringed with a maximum of four on May 15<sup>th</sup>. In total ten adult birds and five young were ringed. None were ringed at Ladywells but at The Mumbles eight young birds were ringed, mostly in mid August. For the remainder of the autumn Cissbury was the best place to observe the passage with six on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, another six on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> dropping to five by the 9<sup>th</sup>. Sheepcote Valley held four on Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>, at least one was at Ferring Rife on Sep 13<sup>th</sup> and finally two were at Broadwater on 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **COMMON WHITETHROAT** *Sylvia communis*

#### **Common summer visitor**

First arrival was one at Woods Mill on Apr 6<sup>th</sup> followed by another at Wild Park on Apr 10<sup>th</sup>. From Apr 18<sup>th</sup> onwards there was an almost a daily flow of records from mostly downland sites with peak counts of six at Stanmer Down on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, six at Ladywells on the following day, another six at Cissbury on the 27<sup>th</sup> and eight at Wild Park on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Far in excess of these totals was a count of 24 near Devil's Dyke on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. During the breeding season counts in excess of ten birds were made at 15 downland locations with 28 reports of confirmed breeding throughout our area. Devil's Dyke again produced one of the highest counts of the period with 27 noted on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Early autumn counts were 50 at Stump Bottom on Jul 31<sup>st</sup> and 13 at Lower Standean on Aug 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ringers at Cissbury processed 88 individual birds of which 31 were adults and 57 were young. At The Mumbles equivalent figures were 6 adults and 40 young with 15 ringed on Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. The Ladywells total was 23 ringed birds of which 15 were adults and 8 young. Lower Standean, Wild Park and Cissbury were again the places to observe autumn passage with 30 at Cissbury on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of August and 30 at Wild Park also on Aug 8<sup>th</sup>. Last of the year were singles at Ladywells and Cissbury on Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **DARTFORD WARBLER** *Sylvia undata*

#### **Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor**

One record this year of a single near Cissbury at Canada Bottom on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **WOOD WARBLER** *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

### **Scarce passage migrant**

Just one spring migrant this year, a single passing through Wild Park on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>. On return passage one was ringed at Cissbury on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> and another was there on Sep 9<sup>th</sup> moving through with Chiffchaffs.

## **CHIFFCHAFF** *Phylloscopus collybita*

### **Common summer visitor, with small wintering population**

The over-wintering birds at Ladywells were first noted in 2010 with one there on Jan 7<sup>th</sup> and up to five regularly thereafter until the end of February. A bird, first ringed in Jan 2009, was retrapped for the first time on Jan 27<sup>th</sup> suggesting a migrant wintering bird. Away from Ladywells, other wintering records came from Steyning, particularly the sewage farm, Beeding and Southwick. Arrival was first witnessed at Wild Park with four there on Mar 18<sup>th</sup> and two were at Ferring Rife the following day. Thereafter records were very widespread with generally no more than three in any one location and highest numbers being 16 found at Ladywells on Mar 23<sup>rd</sup> and six at Wiston Pond on Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>. From mid April onwards observers noted a mix of potential breeding birds and new arrivals. Although there were in excess of 150 breeding season records, most of these were of singing males. Confirmed breeding was only noted by observers at four sites; Ashurst, Mill Hill, Ladywells and Patcham.

Ringers at Ladywells processed 209 different birds which included 37 adult birds and 169 young. At The Mumbles equivalent figures were 148 different birds including 17 adult birds and 119 young. Totals were lower at Cissbury due to an absence of ringers at the peak time so just 121 different birds were processed comprising 15 adults and 99 young.

A scattering of records, all in single figures, continued throughout August until 30 were seen at Cissbury on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>. A few days later on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> the number there had increased to 50 and by the 9<sup>th</sup> a count of 100 was considered a "chronic underestimate". Numbers then dropped to 50 by Sep 24<sup>th</sup>. Elsewhere peak September counts were 60 at Ladywells and 46 at Devil's Dyke on the 17<sup>th</sup>, 39 at Sheepcote Valley on the 25<sup>th</sup>, 30 at Brooklands on the 30<sup>th</sup> with 24 at Wild Park the same day. Significant counts continued into October with Cissbury producing 50 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> rising to 70 by the 5<sup>th</sup> while Goring Gap held 35 on the 15<sup>th</sup>; 15 at Brooklands on the 17<sup>th</sup> was the last major count. Apart from one at Stump Bottom on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, November and December records reverted to coastal and valley locations with the last of the year at Ladywells on Dec 26<sup>th</sup>.

## **WILLOW WARBLER** *Phylloscopus trochilus*

### **Declining summer visitor and passage migrant**

The first arrival was found at Sheepcote Valley on Mar 21<sup>st</sup> followed two days later by a bird caught and ringed at Ladywells. With just one more March record on the 27<sup>th</sup> at Shoreham Airport, the bulk of the influx occurred from early April to early May with peaks of four at Pangdean on the Apr 7<sup>th</sup>, 15 at Ferring Rife on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 12 at Goring Gap on Apr 20<sup>th</sup>. Seawatchers at Worthing noted an incoming bird on May 9<sup>th</sup> when another was in a West Tarring garden followed by one more there on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Thereafter just a handful of records were received from mid May to the near the end of July with no breeding confirmation. Mostly singing birds were heard at sites such as Cissbury/Lychpole and downland areas around Brighton.

Birds back in Ferring Rife and West Tarring gardens on Jul 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> respectively confirmed return passage was underway. Ringers at The Mumbles caught their first bird of

the year on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, one of a total of 61 birds including three adults and 56 young. The Ladywells total was 11 adults and 28 young and at Cissbury four adult birds and 110 young. The highest catches at the ringing sites were 22 on Aug 7<sup>th</sup> at The Mumbles and 40 on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> at Cissbury whereas for observers the biggest counts were late August into early September. Ten were at Brooklands amongst Long-tailed Tits on Aug 26<sup>th</sup>, 15 at Ladywells and 20 at Wild Park on Aug 30<sup>th</sup>, with another ten at Wild Park and 15 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 1<sup>st</sup>. Seven in a copse at Ferring Rife on Sep 30<sup>th</sup> were the last for the year.

### **GOLDCREST** *Regulus regulus*

#### **Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor**

These attractive birds were seen at 36 different locations in our area during the year. Most sightings were of one or two birds. The largest parties seen were 12 at Washington on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> and eight at Brighton Racecourse on Oct 31<sup>st</sup>. There were only three breeding records, from Bramber, West Worthing and Woods Mill but singing birds were also heard at another four locations. The ringing summaries showed that 67 different birds were ringed during the year of which 63 were young birds.

### **FIRECREST** *Regulus ignicapilla*

#### **Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters**

Records of these handsome birds were only received in the periods Jan 1<sup>st</sup> to Mar 27<sup>th</sup> and from Sep 27<sup>th</sup> to Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Although most records came from the ringing sites, there were reports from twelve other sites during the year. All these records were of one or two birds. The ringing summaries showed that 13 different birds were ringed of which eight were young birds.



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### **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** *Muscicapa striata*

#### **Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor**

Just one spring record at Ladywells on May 20<sup>th</sup>. In August, first noted from the 6<sup>th</sup> at Coombes, then through the month with maxima of five at both Wild Park, on 18<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, and Cissbury on 30<sup>th</sup>. There were with six at Woods Mill and four at Ladywells on 25<sup>th</sup>. Single birds were seen at Lancing Clump, Patcham, Ferring Rife and Broadwater. September passage had peaks of eight at Washington on 1<sup>st</sup>, 50 at Cissbury on 3<sup>rd</sup>, ten at Edburton and four at Wild Park on 4<sup>th</sup> and 45 at Cissbury on 9<sup>th</sup>. One or two at ten other sites until the last at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>.

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

Just one record – at Cissbury Ring on Sep 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

The largest flocks of these charming birds during the first winter period were 22 at Stanmer Down on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 20 at Ladywells on Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, but several other flocks of between nine and 18 birds were recorded during this period. Atlas surveys indicated breeding was confirmed in 15 of the 51 tetrads in which the species was found and probable breeding occurred in nine more. The ringing summaries from Cissbury, The Mumbles and Ladywells show that 94 different birds were ringed of which 15 were young birds. In the latter part of the year there were fourteen reports of flocks of between ten and 20 birds.

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

There were many reports of these birds in every month of the year and from many different locations, in fact in 63 of the 94 tetrads in the area. Breeding was confirmed in half of these and probable in another nine. The ringing summaries from Ladywells, The Mumbles and Cissbury showed that a total of 739 different birds were ringed of which 495 were young birds.

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

Reports of these birds came from many different locations in every month of the year. Like the last species Great Tits had breeding confirmed in half of the 94 tetrads and probably bred in another nine. The largest number of birds reported was 39 at Washington on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, although reports of over 20 birds were also received from Newtimber Hill, Saddlescombe and Blatchington during the year. Ringing summaries from Cissbury, The Mumbles and Ladywells showed that a total of 289 different birds were ringed of which 167 were young birds.

**COAL TIT** *Periparus ater***Fairly common but local resident**

A total of 48 records were received from 18 locations in our area during the year. The only breeding records came from Tarring and West Worthing although probable breeding was also reported from Goring. All records received were of one or two birds apart from a family party of six birds seen at West Worthing on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

**MARSH TIT** *Poecile palustris***Fairly uncommon resident**

There were 14 reports of these birds from our region this year. These reports came from six locations. All these reports were of one or two birds. The only breeding record came from Woods Mill. Two birds were ringed at Cissbury this year and both were young birds.



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

No records received in 2010.

**NUTHATCH** *Sitta europaea***Uncommon resident**

Records came from about 25 sites and except for West Blatchington, (Hove), all north of the A27. These included Cissbury, Clapham Woods and Patching Michelgrove, all more southerly outposts. Four were in Sandgate Park Storrington (in Jan) and pairs were present at Washington, Wiston Pond, Woods Mill, Small Dole and Pyecombe. Fledged young were observed at Stanmer High Park Farm.

Three were ringed at Ladywells and two at The Mumbles.

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

As for the previous species, recorded from 25 locations with a similar distribution of records. One at Goring Gap on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> was the first for several years there. Fledged young were noted at Ladywells, Waterhall (Brighton) and Washington and a bird was seen entering a nest site at Spithandle Lane, Ashurst.

Ringling at Ladywells accounted for 13 birds, of which seven were young, The Mumbles 12, of which six were young and Cissbury five, of which four were young.

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

Recorded in 41 of the 94 tetrads in the SDOS area with confirmed breeding in just four of these and probable breeding in six more; 159 records received in total.

The only double figure counts were 11 at Newtimber Hill in Aug and ten at Wild Park in May.

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

The 362 records received show how conspicuous and widespread this species has become. It was found in 60 of the 94 tetrads of the area. Confirmed breeding occurred in 21 of these and probable breeding in nine more. The largest gatherings were at Mile Oak, Portslade with up to 35 present on several occasions but a dozen other sites regularly reported double figure counts.

**JACKDAW** *Corvus monedula***Common resident**

This corvid was found in 53 of the 94 tetrads, bred in ten and probably bred in ten more. The 245 records included 350 at Coombes on Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, 200 at Ladywells on Sep 3<sup>rd</sup> and a massive flock of 1200 at Tottington near Small Dole on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ROOK** *Corvus frugilegus***Common resident**

Rookeries were present in 13 tetrads in our area. A total of approximately 205 nests were found in 14 colonies. Assemblies exceeding 100 were 120 at Mile Oak on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 102 at Myrtle Grove Farm on Mar 24<sup>th</sup>, 170 at Steyning Bowl on Jun 5<sup>th</sup>, 220 at Findon on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 300 at Tottington, Small Dole on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

There were 100 on Lancing beach on Jan 12<sup>th</sup>, 112 at Worthing beach on Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 125 at Round Hill, Devil's Dyke on Mar 26<sup>th</sup> and 113 at Mill Hill, Shoreham on Jun 20<sup>th</sup>. Crows were found in two thirds of the area's tetrads and bred in 19 of these with probable breeding in eight more.

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

Most records came from within the territory of the pair that breed in our area but singles have been reported from Saddlescombe nr Poynings, Lower Standean and Chantry Hill and two birds were over Brighton Racecourse on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. The resident pair fledged three young. Since 2002 when breeding first took place 29 young have now fledged.

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

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

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Palace	23000	50000	8600	12000	8400
West	1500	-	-	-	300

The only other large gathering was of 2000 at Ferring on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>. Starlings were reported from 66 tetrads and breeding was confirmed in 22 of them.

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

During January there were 18 at Shoreham-by-Sea on 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 near the Adur at Shoreham the next day, 30 at Ferring Rife on 12<sup>th</sup>, the maximum for the month there, 46 at Patcham on 5<sup>th</sup>, 50 at a roost at Worthing beach on 13<sup>th</sup> and 58 at Mile Oak on 17<sup>th</sup>. The largest number noted in February was 52 at Portslade on 7<sup>th</sup> while on Mar 13<sup>th</sup> a total of 37 were seen in the same area and 30 were at Widewater on 14<sup>th</sup>. During 1km square BBS surveys in mid April totals of 22, 35 and 53 were recorded at Hove, Old Salts Farm and Portslade respectively. On Apr 14<sup>th</sup> 94 were found in a 2km square at Mile Oak; in the same recording area there were 109 on May 15<sup>th</sup>. An Atlas survey produced 29 in the first hour of a 2-hr survey at Ashington on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first fledgling was seen on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Portslade, and adults were seen feeding young at Ferring Rife on Jun 7<sup>th</sup>. On Jun 27<sup>th</sup> there were several families and small parties noted around Mile Oak, with a total of 58 counted

in the 2 km square. A flock of approx. 60 birds was seen feeding in a wheat field and on weeds along an adjacent gravel path at Ferring on Jul 8<sup>th</sup>, and on Aug 6<sup>th</sup> 17 were enjoying a bird bath in a garden at Coombes. During August and September larger groups were 50 at Goring Gap on Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, 56 at West Tarring on 29<sup>th</sup>, and at least 40 at the western end of Widewater on Sep 16<sup>th</sup>. The highest count in October was of 30 near the Adur on 31<sup>st</sup>, and during November 40 at Ferring Rife on 13<sup>th</sup> and 37 in bushes at the eastern end of Widewater were the largest groups seen. In December there were few records in double figures, though exceptions were 46 at Patcham on 13<sup>th</sup> and 65 at Mile Oak on 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **TREE SPARROW** *Passer montanus*

##### **Very scarce former resident and passage migrant**

No records were received in 2010.

#### **CHAFFINCH** *Fringilla coelebs*

##### **Very common resident**

Similar to the last two months of 2009, there were no large flocks reported during January and February. Thirty were feeding on weed seed near Coombes on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, 15 were seen at Washington on 8<sup>th</sup> and 35 near Devil's Dyke on 21<sup>st</sup>. During February 30 were reported at Beeding Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 42 at Lower Standean two days later. In a BTO Atlas timed tetrad visit at Pangdean on 7<sup>th</sup>, 15 were counted in the first hour and nine in the second. The ringing team at Ladywells trapped a total of 36 different birds during the year, of which 16 were young and 20 adults, while at The Mumbles 74 different birds were handled, with a maximum of ten on Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, though none were trapped between Apr 11<sup>th</sup> and Jul 2<sup>nd</sup>. During an early season 2-hr Atlas visit at Ashurst on Jun 2<sup>nd</sup> 17 were found in the first hour and 26 in the second. During September and October at Sheepcote Valley, small flocks were recorded, 25 on Sep 21<sup>st</sup>, and 35, 25 and 30 on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> respectively. The highest number recorded at Wild Park in October was 31 on 12<sup>th</sup>, considerably lower than the peak autumn passage of 84 in the same month last year. A total of 75 at Sheepcote Valley on Nov 5<sup>th</sup> was the highest number recorded at the site in 2010; the only other reports of large groups came from Round Hill Devil's Dyke, where there were 165 on Dec 12<sup>th</sup> and in ten minutes during the morning of Nov 20<sup>th</sup> waves of Chaffinches numbering approximately 250 passed low overhead, flying north. On Dec 31<sup>st</sup> a flock of about 65 were seen at High Park Farm Stanmer Down.

#### **BRAMBLING** *Fringilla montifringilla*

##### **Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor**

Following the very poor number of sightings at the end of 2009, the only records during the early part of the year were of three at Washington on Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and one seen south of Coombes on Jan 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The next report was not until Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, when two were noted at both Stump Bottom and Lower Standean. A few were recorded at Wild Park in October, with a maximum of five on both 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Autumn/winter reports came from only twelve sites, including two at No Mans Land Findon on Oct 21<sup>st</sup>, at Worthing beach on 25<sup>th</sup>, at High Salvington on Nov 10<sup>th</sup> and at Ferring Rife on Dec 4<sup>th</sup>, while the highest number seen was seven at Stump Bottom on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>.

## **GREENFINCH** *Carduelis chloris*

### **Very common resident**

The maximum numbers recorded in January were 20 at Ferring Rife on 12<sup>th</sup> and at Broadwater on 31<sup>st</sup>. During February 75 were seen at Lower Standean on 5<sup>th</sup> and 33 at West Blatchington on 12<sup>th</sup> and in March there were 28 at Patcham on 4<sup>th</sup>. Between Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and Apr 10<sup>th</sup> 70 different individuals were trapped at The Mumbles, Steyning, considerably higher than the 31 during the same period in 2009, but still not reaching the 2007 total of 95. The species was then absent from the site until Sep 1<sup>st</sup> and only three individuals were ringed between then and the end of the year. During BBS surveys in April, 11 were seen in 1km squares at both Northbrook Farm Worthing on 11<sup>th</sup> and West Worthing on 12<sup>th</sup>. In a 2-hr early breeding season Atlas tetrad survey a total of 19 was recorded at University of Sussex. The first young bird reported was at Sandgate Park on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Others were seen at West Tarring, West Blatchington, Hangleton and Patcham. In the autumn, though 30 were at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 18<sup>th</sup> and 27 at Washington on Oct 9<sup>th</sup>, numbers seemed generally low; only two were found on a visit to Brooklands on Sep 30<sup>th</sup>, usually a good location for the species and numbers were very low at Hove Lagoon with birds seen suffering from trichomonosis. Sites with winter numbers in double figures were Goring Gap where 36 were noted on Nov 14<sup>th</sup>, Shoreham Harbour which held 22 on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>, and Ferring Rife where 15 were seen on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis*

### **Fairly common resident**

During January, numbers seen were generally in single figures, though there were 25 at Sheepcote Valley on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>, a maximum of 25 at Ferring Rife on 12<sup>th</sup>, 11 at Coombes on 15<sup>th</sup> and 13 at Easthill Park (Portslade) on 16<sup>th</sup>. Fifteen were reported at Washington on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 20 at Lower Standean on 5<sup>th</sup>, and 16 at Coombes on 7<sup>th</sup>. At The Mumbles 207 different birds were trapped, approx two-thirds of these during the first three months of the year, and a third during the last three months. The first young bird reported was at Ditchling Beacon on Jun 15<sup>th</sup>, and two young were noted at West Tarring on 20<sup>th</sup>. On Jul 7<sup>th</sup> 30 were counted at Lower Standean, and the monthly maxima at Wolstonbury Hill and Wild Park were 40 on Aug 14<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 30<sup>th</sup> respectively. During September there were reasonable numbers at Sheepcote Valley with 30 on 2<sup>nd</sup>, 50 on 5<sup>th</sup> and 40 on 21<sup>st</sup>, and also at Wild Park where 27 were present on 1<sup>st</sup>, 20 on 12<sup>th</sup> and 18 on 30<sup>th</sup>. The Worthing beach Seawatching log reported a total of 1417 moving east in 26.5 hours between Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, with a maximum of 700 on 12<sup>th</sup>. At Ferring Rife on Oct 11<sup>th</sup> an estimated 300 moved east during the morning, on 12<sup>th</sup> a flock of 60 were seen at Steep Down and 170 were at Goring Gap on 15<sup>th</sup>. The October maxima at Sheepcote Valley and Wild Park were 70 on 20<sup>th</sup> and 71 on 12<sup>th</sup> respectively. Numbers were lower during November and December; 30 were seen at Sheepcote Valley on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, at least 20 were feeding on grain at Old Erringham Farm on 9<sup>th</sup>, 16 were at Lancing on 14<sup>th</sup>, 28 flew north at Patcham on Dec 13<sup>th</sup> and 12 were seen in a snow covered garden at Coombes on 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **SISKIN** *Carduelis spinus*

### **Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor**

The sole record from the start of the year was of a single bird at Wild Park on Mar 11<sup>th</sup>, disappointing after the good numbers at the start of 2009. The first autumn arrivals seen were two at Cissbury Ring on Sep 18<sup>th</sup>, and three were at Wild Park five days later; eight flew W over Cissbury Ring on Sep 24<sup>th</sup> and a flock of 35 flew west at the same site on 27<sup>th</sup>.

Groups were recorded on seven occasions in October at Wild Park, with a maximum count of 50 on 4<sup>th</sup>. Ten were at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, rising to 12 two days later. The Worthing beach Seawatching log only recorded the species on two occasions between Oct 4<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>; a single bird was noted on 12<sup>th</sup> and ten on 25<sup>th</sup>. November records were of small groups, four at Cissbury Ring on Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, two feeding with Goldfinches at Ditchling Rise, Brighton on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, and eight in a conifer at Ferring Rife on 29<sup>th</sup>. There was just one report in December, of a single bird at Brooklands on 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **LINNET** *Carduelis cannabina*

##### **Locally common resident and passage migrant**

At Worthing beach a total of 65 flew west on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, while the next day at Coombes 40 were seen feeding on weed seed. On Jan 10<sup>th</sup> a flock of 40 was noted at the River Adur footbridge at Shoreham and 20 were feeding in a stubble field in deep snow at Beeding Hill; a single flock of 300 was found at Coombes on 13<sup>th</sup>, the largest recorded in the early months of 2010. Later in January 75 were seen at both Round Hill, Devil's Dyke on 21<sup>st</sup> and at Steyning Bowl on 30<sup>th</sup>. Nine were feeding near the tideline close to a wader roost at Brooklands on Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 80 were in a weedy field west of Pangdean Farm on 14<sup>th</sup> and 20 were seen at Beeding Hill the next day. During the breeding season the species was widespread, with records mainly on the Downs, from sites including Anchor Bottom, Cockroost Hill, Findon, Mill Hill, Pangdean, Saddlescombe, Stanmer, Steep Down and Steyning Bowl, with the first juveniles recorded at Ditchling Beacon on Jun 15<sup>th</sup>. A male seen at Ferring Rife on three occasions in May and June was an unusual record for this site. During August 30 were at Ditchling Beacon on 18<sup>th</sup>, 80 at Coombes on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 40 at Steep Down the next day. Round Hill Devil's Dyke held a total of 110 on Sep 9<sup>th</sup>, while on 25<sup>th</sup> Steep Down had several small parties at different locations on the hill, with an estimate of 100 birds in total. During the final three months of the year, just two large flocks were reported; 300 at Cissbury Ring on Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, and 350 feeding on stubble at Steep Down on Dec 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis cabaret*

##### **Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor**

A single bird was seen at Cissbury North Scarp on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 20 were feeding on weed seed at Coombes on 7<sup>th</sup>, but these were the only records until two flew NW at Shoreham on Apr 16<sup>th</sup> and one was seen at Wild Park on 20<sup>th</sup>. The first autumn record was from Cissbury Ring on Sep 27<sup>th</sup>, where one was seen heading W. Single birds were reported again at Cissbury Ring on Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Ladywells on 7<sup>th</sup> and at Beeding Hill on 11<sup>th</sup>. A poor autumn was noted at Wild Park, where the maximum number was four on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. A total of 12 were trapped at Cissbury on four different occasions between Oct 19<sup>th</sup> and Nov 24<sup>th</sup>, with a maximum of six on Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>. Of these 12, eight were first year birds. There was only one December record, of a single bird flying east and calling, at Ferring on 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COMMON CROSSBILL** *Loxia curvirostra*

##### **Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years**

There were no records of this species in 2010.

## **BULLFINCH** *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

### **Fairly common resident**

There were reports for this species from 33 different sites, compared to 21 in 2009, though they are thinly spread. Three males were at Washington on Jan 8<sup>th</sup>, a male was seen in a West Worthing garden during hard weather on 9<sup>th</sup> and a pair was at Beeding Hill on Feb 17<sup>th</sup>. At Wild Park the species' usual habitat had been cleared and none were reported early in the year. However, a pair were seen at the site on Sep 1<sup>st</sup> so it is hoped they are still present there as a breeding species. The first juveniles recorded were at Newtimber Hill on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, and two were trapped at Ladywells on 30<sup>th</sup>. Sixteen different individuals were trapped at The Mumbles and 32 at Cissbury, where the first juveniles did not appear until Aug 7<sup>th</sup>. A bird ringed as a juvenile at the The Mumbles on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008 was controlled at Cissbury as an adult female on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **SNOW BUNTING** *Plectrophenax nivalis*

### **Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

A very tame first calendar year male was present on the edge of our area at Kithurst Hill on Oct 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> (DIS et al). One frequented the area between Erringham Farm near Shoreham and Beeding Hill from Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> (BR, CHW et al). It or another was reported at Truleigh Hill on 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **LAPLAND BUNTING** *Calcarius lapponicus*

### **Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor**

One at Devil's Dyke on Sep 13<sup>th</sup> (SOS) was the first in our area since November 1985 and part of an unprecedented national influx.

## **YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

### **Locally common resident**

Some large flocks appeared in hard weather in Jan with 90 at Beeding Hill on 10<sup>th</sup> and 80 at nearby Truleigh Hill on 21<sup>st</sup>. There were 15 on the Downs between the Adur and A24 and 17 at Round Hill, Devil's Dyke on the last date. In Feb 100 at Beeding Hill on 3<sup>rd</sup> and a single flock of 16 at Steep Down on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Findon held 11 on Mar 15<sup>th</sup> and 23 were at Devil's Dyke on 26<sup>th</sup> with 25 still there on Apr 26<sup>th</sup>. On Apr 29<sup>th</sup>, 13 were feeding on recently ploughed maize/game cover in Clapham Wood. Singing males or pairs were present at some 20 sites on downland and the river valley. Proven breeding occurred at Stanmer High Park Farm, Steyning Bowl, Findon Church Hill, Washington and Newtimber Hill.

Round Hill, Devil's Dyke held 41 on Sep 17<sup>th</sup>. In October, 12 were at Stump Bottom on 9<sup>th</sup> and 40 at Old Erringham Farm, Shoreham on 11<sup>th</sup>. Numbers at these two sites increased to 100 and 150 respectively. In November 69 were counted at the Dyke on 20<sup>th</sup> and 100 were at Stanmer Down on 25<sup>th</sup>. In December 90 were at Devil's Dyke on 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **REED BUNTING** *Emberiza schoeniclus*

### **Locally common resident**

As in 2009, numbers were generally small. Throughout the year just one to four were recorded at some 15 sites, though with six at Truleigh Hill and Shoreham Adur. The only double figure counts were of 31 trapped at The Mumbles on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, where out of a year

total of 157, 31 were identified as young birds, and 10 east of the Cement Works on Nov 19<sup>th</sup>. Breeding was confirmed at Henfield Levels and probable at Ferring Rife. Autumn passage was small with just two noted at Wild Park.

### **CORN BUNTING** *Emberiza calandra*

#### **Fairly common but local resident**

As with Yellowhammer, large flocks appeared in the Jan cold spell. An exceptional 400 were on Beeding Hill on 10<sup>th</sup> (the largest gathering of this species since 600 in the late seventies at Striven's Reedbed, Steyning), 80 at Truleigh Hill and 34 at Round Hill, Devil's Dyke on 21<sup>st</sup>. In Feb 60 noted at Old Erringham Farm, Shoreham on 9<sup>th</sup>. Numbers were back to normal soon after this with 12 at Applesham nr Coombes on Mar 24<sup>th</sup> and ten at Cockroost Hill on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>, by far the largest groups. This last was the only location with proven breeding although singing males and territorial birds were noted at some 17 mostly downland sites.

In the autumn and first winter period, three places hosted small flocks, namely Devil's Dyke Round Hill with up to 36, Stump Bottom with 50, Old Erringham Farm (Shoreham) with ten and east of the Cement Works with 25.

## **ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS 2010**

### **Helmeted Guineafowl**

Three at Ladywells nr Coombes from Feb 25<sup>th</sup> to Jul 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bar-headed Goose**

One on Henfield Levels on Apr 5<sup>th</sup> with Greylag Geese.

### **Muscovy Duck**

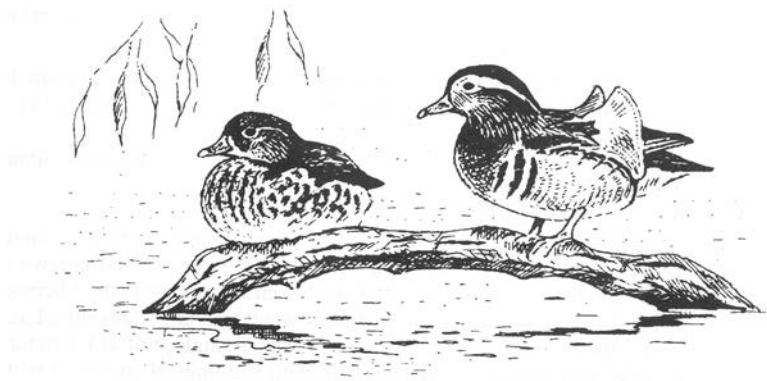
One at Widewater on Apr 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Spur-winged Plover**

One on Steyning Levels on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Australian Shoveler**

One at Brooklands on Jan 9<sup>th</sup>.



## ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUMMER MIGRANTS 2010

Species	Arrival		Departure	
	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Apr 11 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing	-	-
Osprey	Apr 12 <sup>th</sup>	Brighton	Nov 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brighton
Marsh Harrier	-	-	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sheepcote Valley
Hobby	Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	West Worthing	Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Sheepcote Valley
Whimbrel	Mar 20 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	Aug 26 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach
Arctic Skua	Apr 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Worthing Beach	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Worthing Beach
Pomarine Skua	Apr 28 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	-	-
Sandwich Tern	Mar 6 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	Oct 14 <sup>th</sup>	Shoreham Harbour
Common Tern	Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Goring
Little Tern	Apr 19 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Worthing Beach
Black Tern	Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing Beach	Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Shoreham Harbour
Turtle Dove	May 4 <sup>th</sup>	Edburton	Sep 6 <sup>th</sup>	Woods Mill
Cuckoo	Apr 13 <sup>th</sup>	Steyning	Jul 5 <sup>th</sup>	Beeding
Swift	Apr 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Brighton	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Wild Park
Sand Martin	Apr 1 <sup>st</sup>	Cuckoo Corner	Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Shoreham Fort
Swallow	Mar 24 <sup>th</sup>	Brighton Pier	Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	Widewater
House Martin	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	Shoreham Airport	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Goring Gap
Tree Pipit	-	-	Sep 17 <sup>th</sup>	Devil's Dyke
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mile Oak, Portslade	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Worthing
Nightingale	Apr 10 <sup>th</sup>	Wood's Mill	Aug 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wild Park
Redstart	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sompting	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Cissbury
Whinchat	Apr 20 <sup>th</sup>	Goring Gap	Oct 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wild Park
Wheatear	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Steyning	Nov 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sheepcote Valley
Ring Ouzel	-	-	Nov 6 <sup>th</sup>	Stump Bottom
Grasshopper Warbler	Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	Ferring Rife	Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Sheepcote Valley
Sedge Warbler	Apr 17 <sup>th</sup>	Beeding Brooks	Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Mile NR
Reed Warbler	Apr 24 <sup>th</sup>	Mill Hill	Sep 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ladies Mile NR
Lesser Whitethroat	Apr 14 <sup>th</sup>	Wild Park	Sep 17 <sup>th</sup>	Broadwater
Whitethroat	Apr 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wood's Mill	Sep 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Ladywells
Garden Warbler	Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	Highdown	Sep 8 <sup>th</sup>	Sheepcote Valley
Willow Warbler	Mar 21 <sup>st</sup>	Sheepcote Valley	Sep 30 <sup>th</sup>	Ferring Rife
Spotted Flycatcher	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Ladywells	Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	Sheepcote Valley

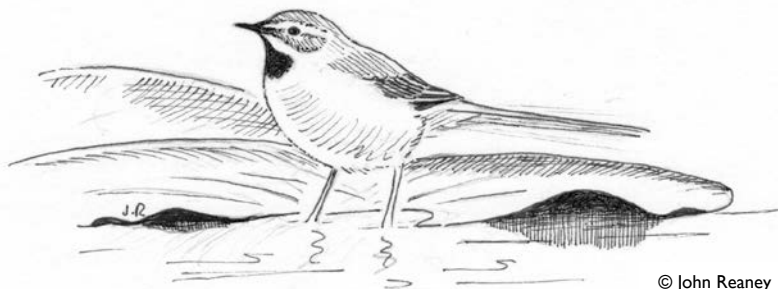


## RINGING REPORT FOR 2010

During the year 4216 birds were ringed in the area; this a small 5.4% increase from the 4001 ringed in 2009, the highest number ringed since 1993 and the fifth highest all time annual total. As usual most were trapped in mist nets and ringed as fledged birds. Just 118 (2.8%) of 12 different species were ringed as nestlings and most (81) of these comprised either Blue or Great Tits ringed in nest-boxes. However, nestling ringing produced most of the Kestrels and owls ringed in the area during the year.

As usual the work of the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG) produced the highest numbers of birds ringed; the SRG's total of 2980 formed 70.6% of the area's total (78.7% in 2009). The group, including Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, Matt Aeberhard, Tom Flower and Philip Baker, was again successful at both of their main sites with the mist-netting at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve being the most productive with a total of 1968. Like previous years, winter feeding attracted large numbers of tits and finches which produced some of the most interesting recoveries and the site remains attractive to a good range of warblers. Once again just over 1000 (1012) birds were ringed on the northern slope of Cissbury where three species, Common Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler and Blackcap, dominated the catches. In the Ladywell valley the team, comprising John Newnham, Pam Mears, John Crix, Janet Derricott and Chrissi White had their best year to date ringing 1202 birds. As well as the usual resident species in Ladywells there were some good catches of autumn migrants; no day being better than September 28<sup>th</sup> when 175 birds were trapped. Barrie Watson joined in the ringing at Ladywells on several occasions including, thankfully, September 28<sup>th</sup>. He also ringed 34 birds to contribute to the grand total for the year.

**Table A** shows the numbers of each of the species ringed in the area during 2010. Again no new species were added to the area's ringing list in the year but several species, Firecrest, Blue Tit, Eurasian Treecreeper, and Reed Bunting were ringed in record high numbers. The Wood Warbler, ringed at Cissbury on August 14<sup>th</sup>, was perhaps the most unusual species trapped during the year as only singles of this species have been trapped on ten previous years. The Common Cuckoo ringed at The Mumbles on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was only the 14<sup>th</sup> for the area and only 13 Grey Wagtails had previously been ringed before those caught at The Mumbles and Ladywells in 2010.



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**Table A – List of Species ringed in 2010.**

Sparrowhawk	3	Firecrest	13	Blackbird	145
Common Kestrel	9	Blue Tit	680	Song Thrush	80
Stock Dove	5	Great Tit	249	Redwing	24
Woodpigeon	7	Marsh Tit	2	Mistle Thrush	2
Collared Dove	1	House Martin	29	Spotted Flycatcher	5
Common Cuckoo	1	Long-tailed Tit	67	Robin	133
Barn Owl	12	Wood Warbler	1	Common Nightingale	2
Little Owl	3	Common Chiffchaff	466	Common Redstart	2
Tawny Owl	3	Willow Warbler	215	Duncock	122
Common Kingfisher	5	Blackcap	761	Grey Wagtail	2
Green Woodpecker	6	Garden Warbler	25	Chaffinch	114
Great Spotted Woodpecker	7	Lesser Whitethroat	23	Greenfinch	89
Magpie	1	Common Whitethroat	152	Goldfinch	196
Jay	8	Sedge Warbler	5	Lesser Redpoll	12
Jackdaw	1	Eurasian Reed Warbler	150	Bullfinch	40
Rook	1	Nuthatch	5	Reed Bunting	133
Carrion Crow	1	Eurasian Treecreeper	26	<b>Total</b>	<b>4216</b>
Goldcrest	67	Wren	105		

### Recoveries and Controls

The developments in the presentation of ringing information on the website of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) have continued. As well as seeing county ringing totals, an analysis and presentation of the more interesting county recoveries including those from the society's recording area, can be found at:-

<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports>

It is difficult to know how many movements and recoveries are reported from our area as some will be hidden in the analysis tables but it appears that at least 40 recoveries or controls were reported during 2010; the following describe these.

A first year **Egyptian Goose** ringed by Phil Belman, once an SDOS member, at Laleham in Surrey on July 19<sup>th</sup> 2009 was seen at Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 and then at Brooklands on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2010. This is the first ringing movement of this species recorded from our area. A **Gannet**, ringed as a nestling on Alderney (Channel Islands) on June 20<sup>th</sup> 2006 was found sick at Worthing on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Channel Islands have provided more recoveries of Gannets in Sussex (a total of 27) than other locations and past records include some from the same colony found in this area. Colour ringing can provide many recoveries as the ring sequence can often be clearly seen in the field. Hence it was discovered that one of the male nestling **Peregrine Falcons** ringed at Chichester Cathedral on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2005 was seen at the equally well known eyrie at Sussex Heights in Brighton on February 27<sup>th</sup> 2009 and March 1<sup>st</sup> 2010.

Due to the gull cannon-netting programme there have been more recoveries and controls from this species group than others. Although no long distance movements were recorded in 2010 an adult **Black-headed Gull**, ringed on the Sompting refuse tip on January 25<sup>th</sup> 1984, was seen at Warnham LNR on December 8<sup>th</sup> 2010 nearly 27 years after ringing. The national record for time between ringing and recovery for this species is 29 years and 19 days. The rise in numbers of **Mediterranean Gulls** in north-west Europe has been

associated with a large number of colour ringing schemes which have produced a number of local reports. A Mediterranean Gull in first winter plumage wearing ring Green 709 seen at Goring on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 was ringed at Pas de Calais on June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 and also recorded at Copt Point, Kent on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2009. An adult (green/white AAZE) seen on the River Adur on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2010, was ringed as an adult attending a nest in the large Elbe Estuary gull colony near Hamburg (745km to NE) where it was last seen during the summer of 2009. Another adult Mediterranean Gull (3P17), seen on the River Adur on July 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 was in its 9<sup>th</sup> calendar year and has a longer history. This bird was ringed as a nestling near Antwerp on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2002, it was retrapped in May 2004 and was seen in July 2004 at Blackpill, Glamorgan, at Le Portal, Pas-de-Calais in August 2005 and retrapped in Antwerp again in May 2006. A **Common Gull**, seen on the River Adur on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 had been ringed as a nestling at Vest-Agder, Norway on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2009; ringing has recorded seven Common Gulls moving between Sussex and Norway. Two **Herring Gulls** ringed at Pitsea Landfill site in Essex were found locally; a young bird ringed on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 was seen on Hove beach on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 and a second year bird ringed on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2009 was found freshly dead at Ferring on July 20<sup>th</sup> 2010. The rarest of the year's gull movements involved a **Caspian Gull** ringed as a nestling on May 21<sup>st</sup> 2009 at Babice, Poland and seen, in the field, at Brighton Marina on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 having travelled 1388 km west.

Smaller species are not so readily seen in the field or recovered dead. However, a **Barn Swallow** ringed as a nestling at Sompting Abbots School on June 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 was found freshly dead close to the ringing location on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2010. An adult **Robin** ringed at Cissbury on October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2007, was retrapped four days later and then not seen again until it was killed by flying into a window on March 7<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Wickford, Essex (106km NE). Local ringing has produced a few other recoveries of migrant Robins, most notably two from Denmark and one from the Netherlands.

Once again several movements of **Blackcaps** were reported which is not surprising in view of the large numbers ringed. All are shown in the following table:-

30/08/2010	1 <sup>st</sup> yr F	Steyning	07/09/2010	Icklesham (East Sussex)	69 km E
01/10/2006	1 <sup>st</sup> yr M	Cissbury	02/04/2010	Central Worthing	6 km S
26/09/2009	1 <sup>st</sup> yr M	Cissbury	23/05/2010	Hoddesdon (Herts)	130 km NNE
03/07/2010	Juv.	Cissbury	14/08/2010	Ladywells	6 km SE
07/09/2009	FG F	Worplesdon (Surrey)	25/09/2010	Steyning	46 km SSE
16/07/2009	Juv	Icklesham (East Sussex)	05/09/2009	Steyning	69 km W
11/07/2010	Full Grown	Cissbury	30/08/2010	Steyning	5 km ENE

Four recoveries for **Common Chiffchaff** were notified during the year and these are also shown in the following table.

29/09/2007	Full Grown	Cissbury	03/05/2010	Bradforads Farm (W Berks)	93 km NW
18/09/2009	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Ladywells	09/07/2010	Icklesham (East Sussex)	70 km E
18/07 & 15/08/2009	Juv	Cissbury	27/03/2010	Steyning	5 km ENE
03/10/2009	1 <sup>st</sup> year	Cissbury	16/06/2010	Gomshall (Surrey)	39 km N

Four **Long-tailed Tits** moved between each of the local ringing sites and the same number of **Blue Tits** produced movements of up to 18 km in Sussex. The provision of seed feeders during the winter at The Mumbles attracted large numbers of finches and buntings. A juvenile **Goldfinch**, ringed at Capel, Surrey on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2009 was controlled at The Mumbles on April 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 and a first year male **Siskin** ringed at The Mumbles on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 died by hitting a window in Dromore West (Sligo)(690 km WNW) on April 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. This is only the second recovery of this species from this area and the first from Sussex and third nationally to be recovered in Sligo. According to the BTO website there were fewer than five recoveries of **Bullfinches** in Sussex during the year suggesting that the SRG activities accounted for these as there were four local recoveries all of which involved the ringing at Cissbury. Like last year female **Reed Buntings**, initially ringed at Icklesham, were controlled at The Mumbles; an adult ringed on October 13<sup>th</sup> 2009 and first year ringed three days later were controlled on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2010 and March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010 respectively. Additionally a young female ringed at Steyning on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2009 was found freshly dead in nearby Upper Beeding on April 17<sup>th</sup> 2010. There were local recoveries for species (Blackbird, Song Thrush, Dunnock and Greenfinch) not hitherto mentioned and, like previous years, there were several birds retrapped in successive years at each of the regular ringing sites; many of these have been referred to in the regular bulletins posted by the ringing teams onto the Society's Yahoo site during the year.

Regularly updated information about the national ringing scheme can be found at <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/ringing-scheme>.

John Newnham.

**Reference:** - Robinson, R.A. & Clark, J.A. (2010) The Online Ringing Report: Bird ringing in Britain & Ireland in 2010 BTO, Thetford (<http://www.bto.org/ringing-report>, accessed on 17/05/2011)

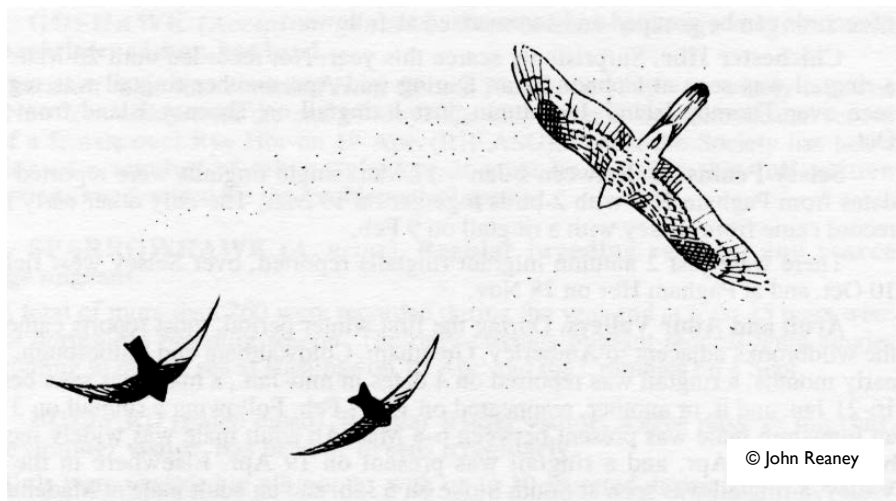
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## LADYWELLS RINGING 2010

Amongst the necessary ingredients in the recipe for a successful ringing site are good landlords, a good team of ringers, good habitat... and yes, a few birds to ring can also be helpful. In 2010 Ladywells made the transition from 'ringing site with potential' to 'successful site'. Here are the bare numbers which confirm this:

	no. of sessions	total New birds	total Retraps/ Controls	overall total	average catch per session
2008	29	600	537	1137	39.2
2009	33	764	645	1409	42.7
<b>2010</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>1202</b>	<b>689</b>	<b>1891</b>	<b>54.0</b>

In 2010 we ringed 42 different species, with Blue Tits (225 individuals ringed), Chiffchaffs (209) and Blackcaps (153) taking the top three positions as far as volumes were concerned.



At a session on April 30<sup>th</sup> Song Thrush was our 2000<sup>th</sup> bird since starting at the site. On the November 6<sup>th</sup> a first-year Robin was our 3000<sup>th</sup> bird.

This rapid progression from one millennial milestone to the next was in large part due to September being our most productive month ever. Four ringing sessions in that month produced 294 new birds, almost a quarter of the year's overall catch.

In addition to the ringing John Newnham ensured that we maintained previous years' practice of producing regular observation reports for the British Trust for Ornithology's Birdtrack database. His total for the year was 82 different species recorded in the valley. The difference between 82 species observed versus just 42 species ringed clearly illustrates the importance of complementing the ringing activity with observation and recording.

Notable amongst the 82 species were Honey Buzzard, Red Kite, Water Rail, Green Sandpiper, Kingfisher, Grey and Yellow Wagtail, Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Whitethroat, Brambling and Siskin. These appear in the systematic list species accounts elsewhere in the SDOS annual report.

Returning to the list of ingredients for a successful site, this is the place in which to highlight the ringing team's gratitude to its Lancing College and Applesham Farm landlords for their interest and encouragement throughout what was the fourth year of ringing operations in Ladywells. It was a pleasure to liaise with Hugh Passmore and Derek Cleaver on a regular basis during 2010. Also amongst our supporters were Pauline Bulman (Lancing College Bursar) who has overall responsibility for the college farm, and Christopher Passmore whose long term approach to farming has arguably been a key part of the 'good habitat' ingredient of the recipe.

Another of our strong supporters is Brianne Reeve whose network of friendships encompasses Hugh and Christopher Passmore, Derek Cleaver and Pauline Bulman and it is largely through these friendships that Ladywells was established as a ringing site back in 2007. When she comes to look back on her career as SDOS chairman Brianne must count the success of Ladywells as one of the highlights.

Moving on to the 'good team of ringers' element of the successful ringing site recipe, it is Chrissi White's turn to follow Brianne into the probably fairly embarrassing spotlight of this report. John Newnham and Barrie Watson bring innumerable decades of experience and expertise, and Janet Derricott and myself bring our growing experience, but probably mainly our organisational skills, to the mix. But Chrissi is in the spotlight because she is the only member of the team not enjoying the time-wealth luxury of retirement, is the only member who has to juggle a high pressure full-time job and setting up a home with the demands of ringing. Not only did she turn up for the great majority of the year's ringing sessions and help out with additional feeder filling visits but, condemned for some reason to live in Bognor Regis, she also has the longest journey of all of us.

Back in early 2007, when we had lost our Shoreham Sanctuary ringing site and were thinking of Ladywells as a possible replacement location, I had a car conversation with a member of the team who shall remain nameless (suffice to say we were going to check a Barn Owl box). I asked him to estimate the odds about Ladywells proving to be a worthwhile site which would support regular ringing. His response was a pessimistic 3:1 against. This conversation came to mind when, away from home on a Turkish ringing trip, I picked up my email and read the following paragraph in John Newnham's report for the September 17<sup>th</sup> 2010 session in which he, Chrissi and Barrie caught 47 new Chiffchaffs:

*"I had felt, and had noted in past reports, that Ladywells was probably not such a good location for passing migrants as the Sanctuary but with some of the recent catches I am seriously beginning to question this. With more than 50 years of ringing at the Sanctuary there were no days when this number of Chiffchaffs were trapped - the top four dates from the Sanctuary ringing are shown in the table below. (17/09/2005 - 37, 30/09/1989 - 34, 27/09/2003 - 32, 9/09/2004 - 30)."*

At the September 28<sup>th</sup> ringing session, where the total catch was 175 birds, John, Chrissi and Barrie caught a further 50 new Chiffchaffs.

In his autobiography top National Hunt racing jockey Mick Fitzgerald wrote that riding winners is one of the most satisfying experiences in life. Backing winners at 3:1 is pretty good too!

John Crix

## RINGING AT CISSBURY 2010

The first ringing visit of the year on Apr 29<sup>th</sup> was also the first of our Constant Effort Site (CES) sessions, where in 12 defined periods between the end of April and end of August we operate with a set number of nets and for the same length of time, and with restrictions on the number and frequency of additional sessions. Numbers captured during these sessions can then be compared on a year-to-year basis, without the inconsistencies of different amounts of effort on behalf of the ringing team. On this day we found a total of 52 birds, with seven returning Blackcaps, all of which had been initially caught in 2009, and a Whitethroat ringed as a 2<sup>nd</sup> year bird in 2008, retrapped once in 2009.

On the second visit on May 15<sup>th</sup> Phil Clay and Tom Flower found more returning migrants including four new Lesser Whitethroats, another 11 Whitethroats, two of which had been ringed at the site in previous years, and nine Blackcaps. They also captured an adult female Bullfinch which had been ringed as a juvenile at Phil's Steyning site on Aug 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008. Although the third CES session of the year only produced 21 different birds, the combined total to date stood at 126, whereas by the same date in 2009 only 74 birds had been trapped with Whitethroat numbers increasing from two to 12.



The year's first juvenile bird was a Robin on May 29<sup>th</sup>, juvenile Blue Tits and Great Tits were encountered from Jun 12<sup>th</sup>, Whitethroats on June 20<sup>th</sup> and Blackcaps on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, but the first juvenile Bullfinch and Blackbird were not found until Aug 7<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> respectively. These birds would all have been bred at or very near the site. There were no juvenile Song Thrushes ringed this year, though some first year birds were trapped in the autumn.

Once again our Bullfinch population was very healthy, with 32 different birds caught, seven adult males, eight adult females and 17 juveniles. Of the 15 adults, ten had been ringed in previous years, most in 2009, but two from 2008, including the Steyning bird. Sadly, an adult male which had been ringed as a second year bird on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 was found dead with an unringed male of the same species in a water trough at the site on July 24<sup>th</sup>.

Resident species trapped in small numbers were Great Spotted Woodpecker (one), Marsh Tit (two), Treecreeper (five, of which four were definitely juveniles), Jay (three) and Greenfinch (three).

We recaptured a few old friends. Resident species were a Robin ringed as a first year bird on Sep 9<sup>th</sup> 2006 and retrapped just once each subsequent year, two Blackbirds ringed as first year birds in 2005 with only three intervening recaptures and another which was first seen as a juvenile on Sep 11<sup>th</sup> 2004 but not retrapped at all until this year. An adult Song Thrush from June 2006 was retrapped in July this year, only its second recapture. A Jay aged as an adult when ringed on Sep 17<sup>th</sup> 2005 found its way into the net for only the second time on Jun 20<sup>th</sup>. Long-lived migrants were the Whitethroat mentioned above, a Garden Warbler ringed as an adult in May 2007, one Blackcap ringed as a juvenile (male) in September 2007, and another juvenile (female) from August 2006. Incidentally both these Blackcaps were on the site again in 2011.

While only one Willow Warbler with wholly juvenile plumage was found, passage of this species started in earnest in the middle of August, and comprised 40 of the 96 birds ringed on 14<sup>th</sup>, though only one was caught in September, on 4<sup>th</sup>. The maximum number of Blackcaps in a single day was 38 on Sep 4<sup>th</sup>, and of Chiffchaffs 20 on Sep 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The fortunes of the four main passage species, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler over the last eleven years are detailed below, as a percentage of the total number of new birds ringed. However, this is one occasion where latest addition to the table must be read with some caution, as the peak of Blackcap and Chiffchaff passage occurs in mid-September, when due to unavailability of ringers only a single visit with a reduced number of nets was made in the period Sep 5<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup>, which undoubtedly affected the relative totals of each species. However the total of 116 Willow Warblers was still the highest at the site since 1997.

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
2010	25.7	11.8	8.3	11.5

The group ringed a few passage species which do not breed at the site, namely five Reed Warblers, three Spotted Flycatchers, two Nightingales, one Redstart and one Wood Warbler, the first at the site since 2005 and only the fifth since 1992. Two of the Spotted Flycatchers were caught on Sep 29<sup>th</sup>, the latest date for this species in the 27 years of ringing activity at the site.

It was good to see that autumn Goldcrest numbers had recovered from the very low level in 2009, when there were only four new birds. This year 34 new birds were ringed, including two on Oct 9<sup>th</sup> which were both retrapped several times until the end of





Marsh Tit by Val Bentley

November. There were also five new Firecrests, two of which remained on the site for up to a month.

Other autumn catches included ten Redwing, our highest annual total, and 12 Lesser Redpoll; we only caught our first of this species in 2007 and just six had been ringed to 2009. Incoming Song Thrushes made up the bulk of the annual total for this species, with only eight different birds trapped between Apr 29<sup>th</sup> and Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, all of which were adults, but from Sep 28<sup>th</sup> to Nov 24<sup>th</sup> another 22 new birds were ringed, with no retraps during this period.

Our final session of the year was on Nov 24<sup>th</sup> when among the 51 birds trapped there were two female Blackcaps, male and female Firecrest, and a Blackbird ringed as a juvenile in July 2007, which had not been seen again since Oct 30<sup>th</sup> that year.

A total of 32 visits to the site were made, 1012 new birds were ringed and there were 358 retraps and one control, making a final tally of 1371 birds, slightly lower than in 2009. Ringers operating at the site during the year were Brian Clay, Phil Clay, Ralph Hartfree, and Val Bentley, with additional help from John Newnham, Tom Flower and Philip Baker. As always we thank the National Trust for their permission to ring at the site.

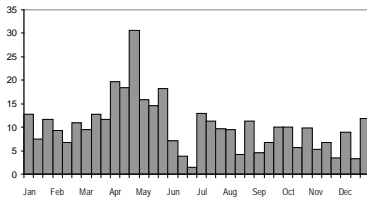
Val Bentley

## WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2010

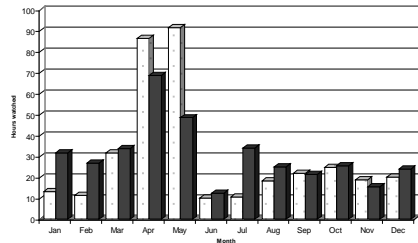
### Introduction.

The sea between Worthing and Ferring was watched on 266 days with a total of 368 hours logged. This is just two days more than in 2009 and three dates more than 2008 but the number of hours watched was, like last year, about 8% fewer. Clearly the length of each watch was slightly reduced. Figures 1 and 2 demonstrate, in keeping with other years, that the spring months were the best covered but both April and May were watched for fewer hours than the long term average. Conversely January, February and July were watched for more hours than usual with the remaining seven months showing average coverage. The following table shows the number of days with some recording and broadly matches the patterns shown in the figures.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Total
<b>Days Watched</b>	24	23	26	28	25	13	25	23	21	22	16	20	266

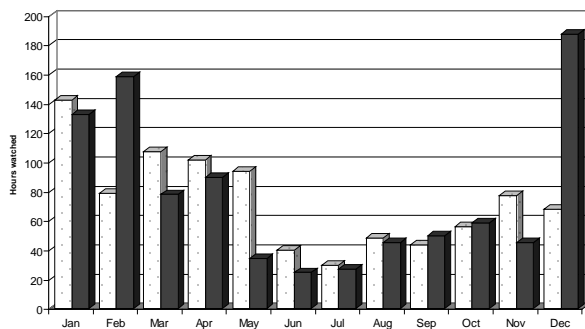


**Figure 1:-** The number of hours sea-watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2010.



**Figure 2:-** The monthly effort for 2010 (black) compared with the average for 1978-2009 (white).

Figure 3 shows that once again the numbers of birds recorded in the spring months was lower than expected with May being particularly poor and two of the winter months, February and December, showed the greatest positive deviation for the long term averages.



**Figure 3** The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched, 1978-2009 average (white) & 2010 (dark).

The following table reinforces the picture painted by Figure 3 and shows another mediocre spring and autumn with all three winter months, again by a large margin, being the most productive months in terms of numbers of birds seen in each hour. Like last year, the total of non-passerines recorded sits roughly in the middle of the order from the 33 years of computed data held. During the year the number of birds recorded in the sea-watch log passed the 1 million mark.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hours watched	32	27	34	69	49	13	34	25	21	26	16	24	368
Total birds	4200	4267	2636	6157	1671	310	919	1127	1064	1491	700	4498	29040
Birds/hour	132	159	78	89	34	25	27	45	50	58	45	187	79

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

## CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT and DISCUSSION

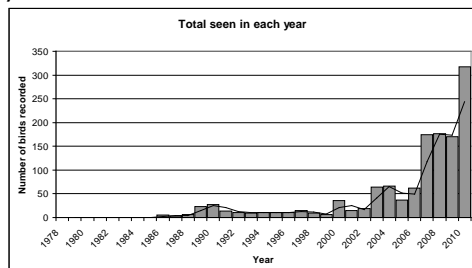
The foregoing tables and graphs clearly follow the pattern of recent years and show that the winter months were the most productive. The dominating species recorded in the winter are divers, Gannets, Kittiwakes and auks with grebes and Red-breasted Mergansers on the sea. The past few annual seawatch summaries have shown graphically the recent increase in the numbers recorded from these shores. Notable counts of auks during the early part of 2010 included a total of 798, mainly flying westward, on January 28<sup>th</sup> and 2075, mainly flying eastward, on February 1<sup>st</sup>. In keeping with recent years most identified auks have been Razorbills. The highest count of Gannets was 222 on January 29<sup>th</sup> and the same day produced the maximum count of 105 Kittiwakes. Most divers were identified as Red-throated Divers; the peak counts were 66 on January 1<sup>st</sup> and 58 on February 12<sup>th</sup>. There were 328 Great Crested Grebes offshore on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 140 Great Cormorants on the 15<sup>th</sup> and the highest count of Red-breasted Mergansers was 80 on the 25<sup>th</sup>. More unusual birds on the sea were singles of Little Gull, Great Northern Diver, Red and Black-necked Grebes on three dates and Slavonian Grebe on two dates.

The cold weather early in the year accounted for some small passerine movements with 212 Skylarks, 28 Meadow Pipits and 65 Linnets on January 6<sup>th</sup> whilst on the 9<sup>th</sup> there were 54 Fieldfares, 30 Redwings, 72 Skylarks and 2 Woodlarks. The harsh weather also induced a small movement of Northern Lapwings and wildfowl including two White-fronted Geese, a Common Goldeneye and two single Velvet Scoters.

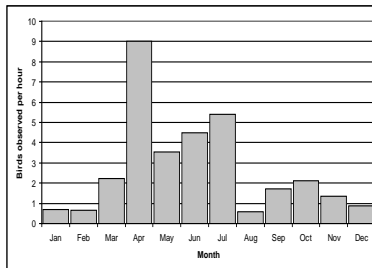
The first of only two March Northern Wheatears was recorded on the 18<sup>th</sup> and on the same day three Sandwich Terns were seen. A Black Redstart was seen on several days early in the month. Traditionally wildfowl movements can be good in March but in 2010 only Brent Goose, with a total of 1780 and a peak of 830 on the 20<sup>th</sup>, was noteworthy. A total of 16 Mediterranean Gulls was seen and other highlights in March included single

Peregrine Falcons on two dates, a single Avocet flying east on the 18<sup>th</sup> and an early Barn Swallow on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

During April 100 Mediterranean Gulls were recorded; this a new month record for this species in the Worthing area. Clearly this species is thriving, after all it is not too many years ago when this was a scarce species and records required a written description to be considered acceptable. The following figures (4 and 5) show the numbers recorded in each year and the rates of observations in each month.



**Figure 4.** The numbers of Mediterranean Gulls recorded passing Worthing in each year 1978-2010.

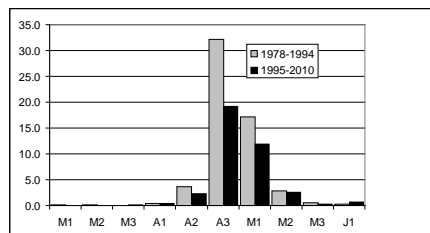


**Figure 5.** The monthly rate of observations of passing Mediterranean Gulls (1978-2010)

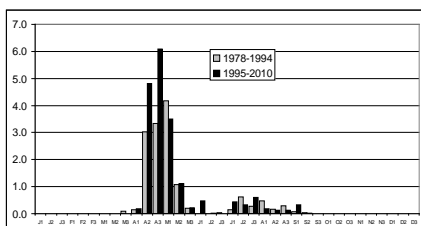
As usual the hours spent watching the sea increased through April and May with April not only being the best covered month in 2010 but also the month when most birds were seen. The figures for May were again very poor with no large movements recorded; the sum of only 49 hours watched reflected the local observers' pessimism. The following table shows the totals for 16 regularly recorded species seen during the two main spring months (with the average 1978-2009 in brackets) and the peak count for these months. Those counts with more than 30% above the long-term average are shown in bold whilst those showing less than 70% of the long term averages are shown in italics and marked with an \*. Once again far more significant reductions are noted with only the April totals for Whimbrel and Commic Terns being well above the average.

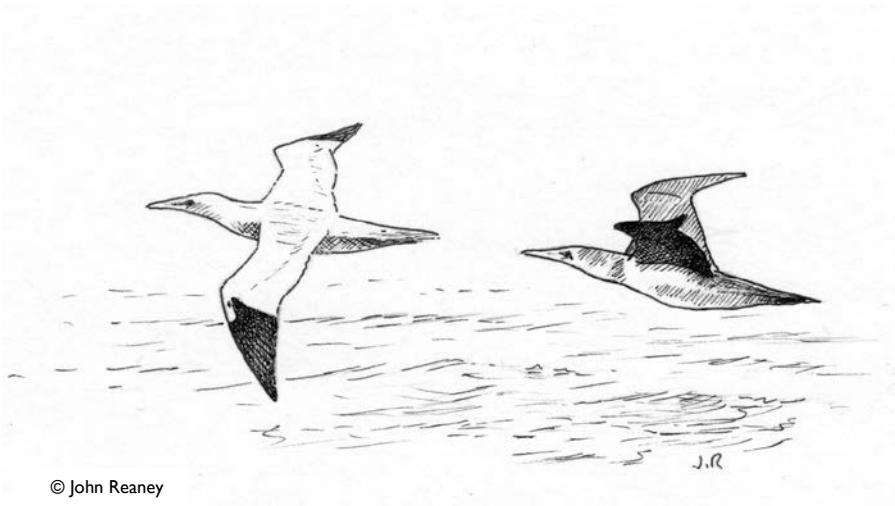
	<b>April Total</b>	<b>May Total</b>	<b>Apr/May max</b>
Divers all	23 (61)*	10 (38)*	5 on April 7 <sup>th</sup> .
Brent Goose	513 (519)	3 (53)*	238 on April 18 <sup>th</sup> .
Common Scoter	1006 (1258)	391 (742)*	121 on May 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Velvet Scoter	1 (19)*	7 (8)	3 on May 8 <sup>th</sup> .
Sanderling	22 (86)*	194 (298)*	48 on May 21 <sup>st</sup> .
Dunlin	3 (96)*	24 (162)*	6 on May 1 <sup>st</sup> .
Bar-tailed Godwit	100 (1279)*	47 (807)*	55 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Whimbrel	<b>391 (264)</b>	175 (215)	83 on April 17 <sup>th</sup> .
Pomarine Skua	3 (5)*	4 (29)*	3 on April 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Arctic Skua	30 (31)	7 (36)*	11 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Great Skua	7 (9)	3 (3)	3 on May 23 <sup>rd</sup> .
Little Gull	12 (43)*	1 (31)*	12 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Sandwich Tern	917 (1419)*	183 (889)*	252 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Commic Tern	<b>1573 (1148)</b>	61 (2628)*	1326 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .
Little Tern	25 (86)*	5 (242)*	9 on April 28 <sup>th</sup> .
Black Tern	1 (5)	0 (35)	1 on April 24 <sup>th</sup> .

In the report for 2009 the decline of Little Terns was shown; this year continues the trend. A different pattern is emerging for the two common wading species. At one time it was expected to see large parties of Bar-tailed Godwits moving eastward, particularly in north-east winds during late April. In recent years fewer birds have been seen and this is shown clearly in Figure 6. Conversely the numbers of Whimbrel recorded has increased in the spring but barely changed during the autumn (Figure 7).



**Figure 6.** The spring rates of passage of Bar-tailed Godwits in 10-day periods.





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November was unremarkable with a few parties of wildfowl moving westward and the arrival of most of the wintering species. A Long-tailed Duck on the 4<sup>th</sup> and a Velvet Scoter on the 14<sup>th</sup> were, perhaps, the pick of the month's records. Winter, however, came early and severely; the snow and unusually low temperatures prompted more movements in early December with further west bound movements later in the month. The month totals for those species typically seen during cold weather were 88 Common Shelduck, 842 Eurasian Wigeon, 37 Gadwall, 18 Greater Scaup, 7 Common Goldeneye, 15 European Golden Plovers and 644 Northern Lapwings. Skylarks (369), Meadow Pipits (118), Redwings (40) and Linnets (55) were amongst the smaller birds also seen trying to escape the deep freeze. Over the past few years the winter months have produced some of the most memorable sea-watching with some of the best records; the end of 2010 certainly maintained this trend. Some of the scarcer species seen included Great Northern Divers on two days, Red-necked Grebes on three dates and Slavonian Grebes on 4 dates but high counts of commoner species are often more thrilling and the peak counts this December included 416 Great Crested Grebes on the 26<sup>th</sup>, 35 Gannets on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 95 Great Cormorants on the 27<sup>th</sup>, 109 Red-breasted Mergansers on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 900 auks on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The most spectacular scene, however, for the author in the company of Dave Smith, was the sight and sound of 76 Bewick's Swans, accompanied by two Whooper Swans, flying eastward along the shoreline on the last day of the year.

John Newnham

## GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2010

Thirty-five SDOS members submitted quarterly garden records during 2010, with an average of 30 each quarter. A total of 66 different species was recorded, eight more than in 2008 and 2009. While no Black Redstart, Reed Warbler or Siskin were reported in 2010, additional species were Bullfinch, Coot, Lesser Redpoll, Linnet, Little Owl, Meadow Pipit, Rock Pipit, Spotted Flycatcher, Treecreeper, Waxwing and, currently under review by the British Birds Rarities Committee and a new species for the SDOS recording area if confirmed, a male Italian Sparrow which appeared 26 times in John & Shena Maskell's garden.

Another trend from previous years continued, with Blackbird for the fourth year in a row being the only species noted at least once in each garden in each quarter. Blue Tit again missed 100% attendance by being absent from one of the gardens during the July-September quarter.

Below are listed the most frequent garden visitors for each quarter.

### **First Quarter (January – March 2010)**

	<b>Species (2009 place in brackets)</b>	<b>% of gardens used</b>	<b>Maximum number seen</b>	<b>Average seen per garden</b>
1=	Blackbird (1=)	100	10	2.31
1=	Blue Tit (1=)	100	14	2.36
1=	Robin (1=)	100	4	1.10
4	Woodpigeon (6=)	97	17	2.72
5=	Great Tit (4=)	91	6	0.97
5=	Song Thrush (6=)	91	3	0.46
7=	Collared Dove (9=)	88	10	1.04
7=	Dunnock (4=)	88	5	1.16
9	Greenfinch (9=)	85	20	2.54
10=	Chaffinch (-)	82	30	1.42
10=	Wren (9=)	82	2	0.36

Starling dropped out of the top ten for this quarter in 2010 as the species was only recorded in 74% of gardens (86% in 2009), though the highest number seen on any one occasion was 44 in John & Jeannette Simpson's garden in January.

A total of 34 garden survey forms were returned and 51 different species were recorded, including the following nine which were only seen at a single site:

- Bullfinch (Jim & Judith Steedman)
- Chiffchaff (John Cooper)
- Coot (John Cooper)
- Kestrel (Brianne Reeve)
- Lesser Redpoll (Brianne Reeve)

- Linnet (Brianne Reeve)
- Little Owl (Stanley Allen)
- Mallard (John Cooper)
- Nuthatch (Brian Clay)

Wintering Blackcaps were recorded in 21 gardens (62%) compared with 11 in 2009, often with two seen at the same time, and Reed Buntings in five, including a pair seen together by Reg Bradbury on Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Winter thrushes were in much greater abundance than the previous year with Redwings reported in 74% of gardens and Fieldfares in 56%, though the vast majority of the records were from the early part of January when these species retreated south to avoid the deeper snow to the north of the Downs. Also during this period a flock of up to 200 mixed finches was feeding in a field to the south of Brianne Reeve's garden, and on several occasions moved into trees in the garden itself. This visiting flock comprised 30+ Chaffinches, 40+ Linnets with a few Lesser Redpolls, Greenfinches and a single Brambling.

### **Second Quarter (April - June 2010)**

<b>Species (2009 place in brackets)</b>		<b>% of gardens used</b>	<b>Maximum number seen</b>	<b>Average seen per garden</b>
1=	Blackbird (1=)	100	6	1.76
1=	Blue Tit (1=)	100	10	1.65
3	Great Tit (4=)	97	8	0.99
4=	Dunnock (7=)	93	5	1.08
4=	Goldfinch (10=)	93	5	0.93
4=	Robin (7=)	93	4	0.98
4=	Starling (4=)	90	40	2.86
8=	Collared Dove (7=)	90	4	0.83
8=	Greenfinch (4=)	90	15	1.76
8=	Magpie (-)	86	8	0.86
8=	Woodpigeon (10=)	86	13	2.08

This quarter there were 31 members recording, and 46 different species seen, one fewer than in 2009.

Towards the start of the quarter Blackcaps were still being noted by more than half the recorders, but only 42% reported visiting Song Thrushes. In the same quarter in 2009 all but one garden recorded House Sparrow, while this year five gardens were blank, and the species does not appear in the top ten.

The species seen in just one garden this quarter were:

- Garden Warbler (John & Shena Maskell)
- Kestrel (Brianne Reeve)
- Linnet (Brian Metcalfe)
- Mistle Thrush (Brianne Reeve)



- Nuthatch (Brian Clay)
- Redstart (Laurie Keen – his first spring record for many years)
- Red-legged Partridge (David Tomalin)
- Tawny Owl (Brianne Reeve)

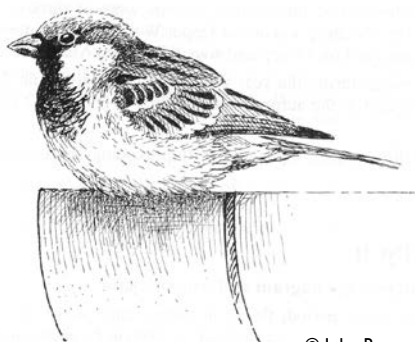
The Red-legged Partridge record was in fact of a pair which arrived in David Tomalin's garden at breakfast time on Good Friday and stayed around for half-an-hour.

During May and June a lot of nesting activity was noted; Blue Tits in a box with a camera in Martin Ford's garden laid ten eggs and fledged six chicks, while a Robin did the classic Robin trick of nesting in a watering can. A Wren nesting in Brianne Reeve's garden used the same site as in the previous two years.

### **Third Quarter (July – September 2010)**

	<b>Species (2009 place in brackets)</b>	<b>% of gardens used</b>	<b>Maximum number seen</b>	<b>Average seen per garden</b>
1	Blackbird (1=)	100	6	1.65
2=	Blue Tit (1=)	96	25	4.73
2=	Robin (3)	97	5	0.79
4=	Great Tit (4=)	92	5	1.14
4=	Woodpigeon (7=)	92	10	1.84
6	Dunnock (4=)	88	4	0.77
7=	Collared Dove (7=)	85	4	1.02
7=	Greenfinch (4=)	85	16	2.08
7=	Magpie (10)	85	5	0.78
10=	Goldfinch (-)	81	8	0.93
10=	House Sparrow (9)	81	56	3.85

There were 26 recorders this quarter, and 41 different species, two fewer than the previous year.



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Two gardens between them added the four new species to the year's list this quarter, namely Lesser Whitethroat and Spotted Flycatcher by Laurie Keen and Treecreeper and Yellowhammer, both single records from Brian Clay. Laurie told of an almost unbelievable ten minutes on September 7<sup>th</sup>, when he firstly saw a female Blackcap and a Chiffchaff at his garden bird bath, then Blue Tits, House Sparrows, a Dunnock, Robin and Blackbird arrived, followed by an immature Goldcrest, two Lesser Whitethroats, two male Blackcaps and the Spotted Flycatcher.

A dark brown bird with wagtail-like appearance which turned up briefly in Audrey Wisdom's garden on July 9<sup>th</sup> could not be positively identified; but Audrey thought it had similar characteristics to Tawny Pipit, though this would be not only an extremely rare bird for Sussex, but an unusual time of the year too.

#### **Fourth Quarter (October – December 2010)**

	<b>Species (2009 place in brackets)</b>	<b>% of gardens used</b>	<b>Maximum number seen</b>	<b>Average seen per garden</b>
1	Blackbird (1)	100	6	1.75
1=	Blue Tit (2=)	100	30	3.11
1=	Great Tit (4=)	100	7	1.23
4	Robin (2=)	96	6	0.95
5=	Chaffinch (-)	89	13	1.28
5=	Collared Dove (-)	89	8	0.93
5=	Dunnock (6=)	89	3	0.77
5=	Goldfinch (-)	89	16	1.14
5=	Woodpigeon (4=)	89	13	2.19
10	Greenfinch (8=)	86	18	1.18

In this quarter there were 28 garden forms received, and 50 different species recorded. Chaffinch, Collared Dove and Goldfinch crept into the leader board at the expense of House Sparrow, Magpie and Wren. New species for the year were a Rock Pipit seen by Laurie Keen, 2 Waxwings recorded by John & Shena Maskell during the week of Dec 19<sup>th</sup>, and their yet to be confirmed Italian Sparrow.

The only December Chiffchaff record was from Martin Ford, while wintering Blackcaps were seen in nine gardens. There were no reports of Fieldfares, though seven gardens recorded Redwings. Four Reed Buntings seen by Sheila Marshall on three consecutive weeks in December were the only records of this species in the quarter, and Bramblings were seen by John Ford and Janet & Gordon Paterson. A Sparrowhawk disturbed by Noranne Biddulph on Nov 7<sup>th</sup> left behind a headless, still twitching Collared Dove, and mention must be made of Reg Bradbury's 70+ Starlings during the week of Nov 28<sup>th</sup> - the only week in the quarter when he recorded any at all!

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, S Downs, J Ford, M & P Ford, C Hope, H Jackson, P Jemmett, L Keen, C & M Leeves, S Marshall, J & M Maskell, B Metcalfe, G Nicholls, J & G Paterson, B Reeve, A Robinson, L Robinson, R & A Sandison, J & J Simpson, S P Simpson, J & J Steedman, M Taylor, G & V Tickler, R Titcomb, D Tomalin, H Ward, R Westwater, P Whitcomb and A Wisdom.

Val Bentley

## FIELD OUTINGS 2010

The following field outings were held during 2010

<b>Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Henfield Farmland &amp; River Walk</b> Leader: Val Bentley & Nigel Parsons
<b>Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Beeding Brooks</b> Leader: Terry Goble
<b>Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Dungeness</b> Leader: Dave Smith
<b>Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Rackham Woods &amp; Waltham Brooks</b> Leader: Bernie Forbes
<b>Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>New Forest</b> Leader: Russ Tofts
<b>Apr. 25<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Goring Seawatch</b> Leader: John Newnham
<b>May 5<sup>th</sup> (Wed)</b>	<b>Nightingale Walk – Woods Mill</b> Leader: Val Bentley
<b>May 9<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Dawn Chorus – Pulborough Brooks</b> Leader: Brianne Reeve
<b>May 28<sup>th</sup> (Fri)</b>	<b>Anchor Bottom</b> Leader: Chris Wright
<b>Jun. 18<sup>th</sup> (Fri)</b>	<b>Wiggonholt Common for Nightjars</b> Leader: Dorian Mason
<b>Jul. 17<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Cocking Down</b> Leader: Bernie Forbes
<b>Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> (Fri)</b>	<b>Pulborough Brooks for Waders</b> Leader: Bernie Forbes
<b>Aug. 28<sup>st</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Cissbury Ring</b> Leader: Clive Hope
<b>Sep. 4<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Adur Valley Walk</b> Leader: Chris Wright
<b>Sep. 19<sup>th</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>N. Wall &amp; E. Side of Pagham</b> Leaders: Bernie Forbes & Dave Smith
<b>Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> (Sat)</b>	<b>Thorney Island</b> Leader: Clive Hope
<b>Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> (Sun)</b>	<b>Fishbourne Creek</b> Leaders: Bernie Forbes & Dave Smith
<b>Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> (Thurs)</b>	<b>Seasonal Gathering</b> 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. There are also several impromptu outings posted on the usergroup.

## INDOOR MEETINGS 2010

The following indoor meetings were held during 2010.

- January 12<sup>th</sup>**      **Birding the Arctic Circle**  
by Neil Glenn
- February 9<sup>th</sup>**      **AGM followed by A Study of Long-eared Owls  
in our Local Area**  
by Dave & Penny Green
- March 9<sup>th</sup>**      **Update on the Status of Peregrines in Sussex**  
by Phil Everett
- April 13<sup>th</sup>**      **Farming and Wildlife on the Norfolk Estate**  
by Dick Potts and Peter Knight
- October 12<sup>th</sup>**      **Pagham and Medmerry**  
by Adrian Thomas
- November 9<sup>th</sup>**      **Birding at Selsey and Pagham**  
by Owen Mitchell
- December 14<sup>th</sup>**      **Wild Spain: a Birdwatcher's Delight**  
by Shena Maskell and Bernie Forbes



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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 [www.sos.org.uk/general/2.html](http://www.sos.org.uk/general/2.html)
- iii. Send records on-line via one of the national surveys organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, in particular Birdtrack - see [www.bto.org](http://www.bto.org).

It's most important that all national rarities should be submitted to the SOS with a full description. Forms are available from P. N. Paul , Old Duford, Warnham, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 3RY. 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.

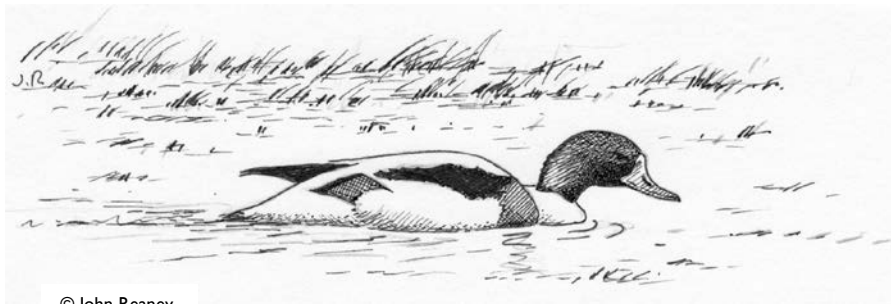
SDOS recording forms are available from:

Clive Hope 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, W Sussex, BN12 5RG

Tel: 01903 700498 email: [clivehope@btinternet.com](mailto: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.



© John Reaney



**Alpine Swift by Bernie Forbes**



**Little Egrets by Tricia Hall**

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT- YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	2010	2009
RECEIPTS	£	£
Balance brought forward	4,186.15	4,616.07
Subscriptions and visitors entry fees	1,780.00	1,838.00
Sale of books, reports and car stickers	86.00	2.00
Net refreshment receipts	92.52	89.53
Net raffle receipts	144.55	127.00
Bank interest	1.44	1.76
Donations	11.00	17.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,301.66	6,691.36
	<hr/>	<hr/>
PAYMENTS		
Printing and art work	907.90	787.02
Postage and stationery	144.66	224.29
Hire of hall	210.00	420.00
Speakers' fees	299.50	515.00
Insurance	99.79	99.79
BTCV membership	35.00	35.00
Gifts	40.00	9.98
Travel expenses	73.00	88.80
LEO nest baskets – donation	-	44.88
Website registration	52.28	10.33
Computer/Projector equipment	20.00	270.12
Balance carried forward	4,419.53	4,186.15
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,301.66	6,691.36
	<hr/>	<hr/>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011

### 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 & Helen Bryett

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE ACCOUNT**

### **RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010**

	2010	2009
RECEIPTS	£	£
Balance brought forward	1,553.77	1,839.35
Sale of Jubilee book	50.00	38.50
Bank interest	0.55	0.92
Donations	174.20	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,778.52	1,878.77
	<hr/>	<hr/>

#### **PAYMENTS**

John Stafford Prize	-	100.00
John Stafford Prize Printing & Art Work	-	125.00
SOS Avifauna Book Appeal	-	100.00
Donation to B.T.O. Tracking Project	1,650.00	-
Balance carried forward	128.52	1,553.77
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,778.52	1,878.77
	<hr/>	<hr/>

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)

Dated: 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011

#### **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 & Helen Bryett

Dated: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2011



## SOME SDOS COUNCIL OFFICERS



Russ Tofts  
Newsletter Editor



Dorian Mason  
Field Officer



Bernie Forbes  
President



Helen Bryett  
Council Member



John Maskell  
Hon. Treasurer



Shena Maskell  
Membership Secretary

## SOCIETY OFFICERS

(Officers in post following the A.G.M. of 8th February 2011)

**President: Bernie Forbes**

Tel: 01903 753876

93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing BN15 9JY

email: bernieforbes@talktalk.net

**Chairman: Brianne Reeve**

Tel: 01273 452497

The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing,

BN15 0RS

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## USEFUL ADDRESSES, TELEPHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

(correct as at 20/10/2011)

The SDOS website is at: [www.sdos.org](http://www.sdos.org)

**Booth Museum of Natural History** 194 Dyke Road, Brighton, E. Sussex,  
BN1 5AA Tel: 03000 290900 Access webpage via [www.virtualmuseum.info/](http://www.virtualmuseum.info/)

**Brent Lodge Wildlife Hospital** Cow Lane, Sidlesham, Chichester,  
W. Sussex, PO20 7LN Tel: 01243 641672 [www.brentlodge.org](http://www.brentlodge.org)

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

**Chichester Harbour Conservancy** The Harbour Office, Itchenor, Chichester,  
W. Sussex, PO20 7AW Tel: 01243 512301 [www.conservancy.co.uk](http://www.conservancy.co.uk)

**Natural England** Natural England (South East), Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road,  
Worthing, BN11 1LD Tel: 0300 060 0300 [www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/south\\_east](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/regions/south_east)

**Pagham Harbour Local Nature Reserve** Visitor Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham,  
Chichester, W Sussex PO20 7NE Tel: 01243 641508  
[www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/explore\\_west\\_sussex/wildlife\\_and\\_landscape/coastal\\_plain/pagham\\_harbour\\_local\\_nature.aspx](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure/explore_west_sussex/wildlife_and_landscape/coastal_plain/pagham_harbour_local_nature.aspx)

**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, Potton  
Road, Sandy, Bedfordshire, SG19 2DL Tel: 01767 680551 [www.rspb.org.uk](http://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](http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/p/pulboroughbrooks)

**Rye Harbour Nature Reserve** Lime Kiln Cottage, Rye Harbour Rd, Rye, E Sussex,  
TN31 7TU Tel: 01797 227784. [www.wildrye.info](http://www.wildrye.info)

**Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS)** Secretary: Val Bentley, Chetsford, London  
Road, Henfield. W. Sussex BN5 9JJ Tel: 01273 494723. [www.sos.org.uk](http://www.sos.org.uk)

**Sussex Wildlife Trust** Woods Mill, Shoreham Road, Henfield, W Sussex, BN5 9SD  
Tel: 01273 492630 [www.sussexwt.org.uk](http://www.sussexwt.org.uk)

**WADARS** Rescue & Rehoming. Tel: 0300 30 30 999 [www.wadars.co.uk](http://www.wadars.co.uk)

**Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)** Head Office Slimbridge, Gloucestershire,  
GL2 7BT Tel: 01453 891900 [www.wwt.org.uk](http://www.wwt.org.uk)  
Arundel Wetland Centre Mill Road, Arundel, W Sussex, BN18 9PB Tel: 01903 883355  
[www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/arundel](http://www.wwt.org.uk/visit-us/arundel)

## ABOUT THE SDOS / MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Shoreham District Ornithological Society (SDOS), based in Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was founded in 1953 making it 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 £2 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 our report are also available for purchase by members or non-members. Our 'User Group' is a members only e-mail discussion group which has been set up to keep all who wish to enrol, informed of the latest wildlife sightings in the area and other matters which may be of interest.

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

<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b>	
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	
Standing Orders for regular subscriptions would be appreciated.	
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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Please note that the index & map are only a rough guide and not definitive.

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



Left - Green Sandpiper at  
Ferring Rife by Clive Hope

Below - Moorhen by  
Jake Gearty



Below - Purple Sandpiper by  
Gareth Hughes







Corn Bunting by Wendy Ball



Yellowhammer by Wendy Ball

