



Common Cranes at Wiston by Dorian Mason





Above

Yellow Wagtail at Cissbury by Dorian Mason

Left
Willow Warbler
at Cissbury by
Dorian Mason



A House Sparrow showing characteristics of Italian Sparrow seen in a West Tarring Garden

Aberrant House Sparrow by John Maskell



Robin at Upper Beeding by Wendy Ball



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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Front cover image: Wryneck near Cissbury by Russ Tofts Inside back cover: SDOS Area Map by Terry Hicks

Back cover: Sanderling by Janet Derricott

EDITORIAL

Another year on and our Society continues to flourish! Despite the harsh financial climate our membership numbers have remained at a high level and we have continued to provide a popular range of indoor meetings and field outings. We thank you all for your continuing support. There were some good birds in 2011 too as a read through Clive Hope's Birding Highlights will testify. For those of us lucky enough to see some of these birds there will be particular favourites. As a bird ringer I was delighted to find a Barred Warbler in our nets at Cissbury and I'm sure that our Chairman, Brianne Reeve would agree that breeding Little Egrets, just a short distance from her home, was pretty special!

In last year's editorial I outlined my enthusiasm for the natural history writer W. H. Hudson. Another national celebrity who lived locally and had a passion for nature was the actress Nancy Price. In the first decade or two of the 20th century Nancy was a star of the national stage; an A-list celebrity in today's terminology. Later on she appeared in films and even made some early television appearances. In 1930 she jointly formed, managed and directed a theatre company, The People's National Theatre. She was quite a prolific author and many of her books have her love of nature and birds as the intrinsic theme. I've tried a couple of them but I can't say that they are to my taste, being more in the "feathered friends" category than Hudson's acutely observed prose. However I'm sure they reached a very wide audience and she was no doubt instrumental in introducing many of her readers to a wider understanding of Nature.

In later life Nancy lived at High Salvington, above Worthing, and very close to the Downs. In the 1930's she fought a vigorous and effective campaign to prevent developers building on West Hill, behind High Salvington; an area called The Sanctuary and now encompassed by the South Downs National Park – a tribute to Nancy's foresight and determination. You will find a board explaining Nancy's campaign in the Honeysuckle Lane car park and further along the track is a memorial bench. In Beach House Park in Worthing Nancy persuaded the local council to erect a memorial to the service the Carrier Pigeons provided during the Second World War, the so-called "Warrior Birds". The memorial is still there; fenced off in the rock garden at the southern end but an explanatory board has been erected. Nancy was truly a remarkable lady. She died in Worthing in 1970 aged 90.

At the last AGM, (February 2012) we were delighted to welcome Peter Wyld on to Council who will provide I.T. Support. In particular Peter will look after our website and our Yahoo email group. There were no other changes to Council this year.

The photographers have again captured some wonderful shots of our local birds and I'm very grateful to them all for allowing them to be published. There is no doubt that they enhance the Report tremendously. John Reaney has once again produced some delightful illustrations which complement the narrative superbly. I would also like to thank Clive Hope for undertaking the mammoth task of compiling the Systematic List so effectively and to the writers of all the species accounts and articles, without which there would be no Report. Finally special thanks to Brianne Reeve and Val Bentley for undertaking the exacting task of proof reading so willingly. There'll still be a mistake or two to find – that's down to me!

Brian Clay

BIRDING HIGHLIGHTS 2011

January

Birds remaining from 2010 were the two Scaup at Widewater and 30 Waxwings in east Worthing. In a busy month for wildfowl and seabirds, three Water Rails were at Ferring Rife, 11 Velvet Scoter and 110 Red-throated Divers were off Widewater on 1st, a skein of 44 White-fronted Geese flew up the Adur Valley on 2nd, 1,950 auks and a drake Smew passed E on 3rd and 729 Razorbills plus three Long-tailed Ducks moved W. Two Blacknecked Grebes were on the sea at Worthing on 6th and 300 early Brent Geese flew E there on 8th. At Henfield Levels, ten Bewick's Swans and 850 Wigeon were in residence. A Great Northern Diver was on the sea at Worthing on 22nd. Four hundred Razorbills were off Widewater from 24th to 26th with 300 Gannets offshore on 27th. A Mandarin was at East Kingston on 28th and a Goosander off Worthing on 29th.

February

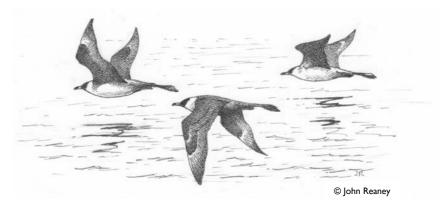
A total of 180 Cormorants flew W at Worthing on 6th and 130 Pintail were on Henfield Levels. A Lapland Bunting was found at Goring Gap on 12th. Fourteen Buzzards over Harrow Hill on 24th was the year's largest gathering.

March

Two superb Cranes appeared at Wiston on 7th and 8th. Our earliest Whimbrel appeared on 8th, Common Tern on 14th at the Marina and a Little Ringed Plover on 15th flew E at Worthing. Early migrating raptors were a Marsh Harrier over Wild Park on 12th and an Osprey over there on 26th. Up to 12 Mediterranean Gulls used the Goring Gap roost. Two Red-necked Grebes were off Worthing 26th-29th.

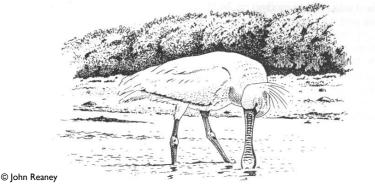
April

Mainly fine calm weather was the feature of this month. The earliest Little Tern recorded in our area passed Worthing on the 1st. A Hoopoe was in Hove on the 3rd. Thirty Waxwings also in Hove on 4th were the last of the year and a Wryneck was at Cissbury on 8th. A Fulmar ventured over Wild Park on 12th. Four Garganey passed Worthing on 15th. A Pied Flycatcher was found in Preston Park Brighton on 22nd and a Stone Curlew flew over Clayton Hill on 30th. A good showing of 28 Pomarine Skuas flew E along the coast on 28th and a total of 1222 Bar-tailed Godwits flew E in the month.



May

Continuing east to north-east winds meant another impressive 43 Pomarine Skuas passed Worthing on Ist when watchers saw four men rescued from a dinghy by a lifeboat after alerting the coastguard. Spoonbills flew E there on three dates early in the month when there were also I36 Whimbrel and 35 Little Terns on 3rd, 740 "commic" terns on 4th and four Avocets and 52 Little Gulls on 5th. A Great White Egret was next flying E on 8th. An Osprey was over Lancing on I Ith. A Balearic Shearwater moved W on 28th. 2224 Bar-tailed Godwits headed E in the month.



June

Our scarcer breeding birds generally had a fairly good year. Great Crested Grebes bred at Patching Pond. Six pairs of Little Egrets bred at a new site in the Adur Valley raising 16 young. Fourteen young Peregrines fledged from the six eyries in our area and eighteen young Barn Owls fledged. The local pair of Ravens raised four young. Turtle Doves remain scarce with no proven breeding. A lone Common Tern at Botolphs on 5th was unusual.

July

A dozen Quail were calling from three sites in the month. The peak of 17 Mediterranean Gulls flew west on 10th and 16 Manx Shearwaters went east on 18th at Worthing. Another Balearic Shearwater was seen on 28th.

August

Three Garganey flew W on 16^{th} at Worthing. An early male Hen Harrier was seen on the SDOS outing to Chantry Hill on 20^{th} and an Osprey was over Findon on the 21^{st} . A Wryneck was between Cissbury and No Man's Land from 22^{nd} to 27^{th} . Swallow passage got under way on 31^{st} with 1080 E at Worthing.

September

The year's only Honey-buzzard flew W over Ferring on 2nd and three Dotterel were on Chantry Hill on 3rd. Two Grey Phalaropes were at the Marina from 14th to 17th and an immature Sabine's Gull was there on 15th. Forty Yellow Wagtails were at Botolphs on this last date whilst at Sheepcote Valley there were 45 Wheatears and ten Whinchats. Fifteen Spotted Flycatchers were at Cissbury also on the 15th. Another three Garganey flew W at Worthing on 16th which was the peak day of the autumn for Swallow emigration. Cissbury hosted a Dartford Warbler from 23rd.

WEATHER SUMMARY - JANUARY to JUNE 2011

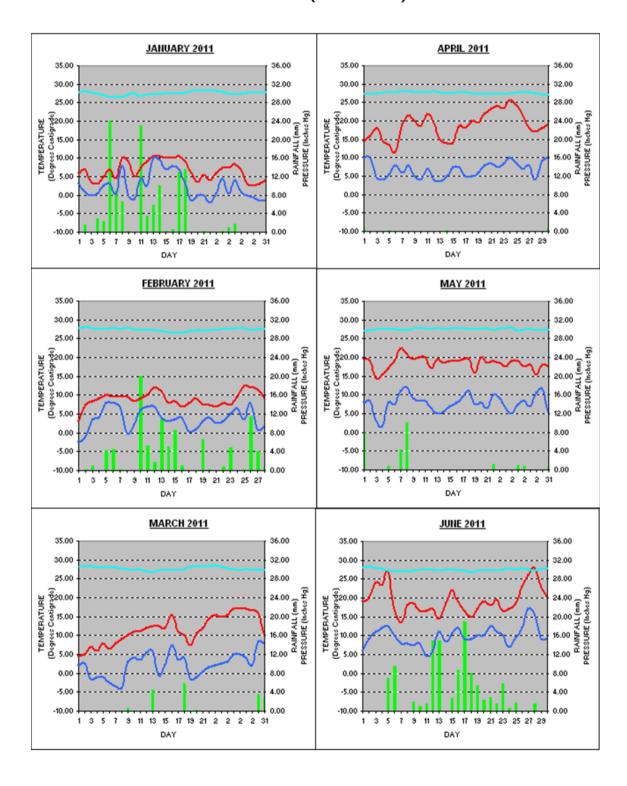
Rainfall is shown in green

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).



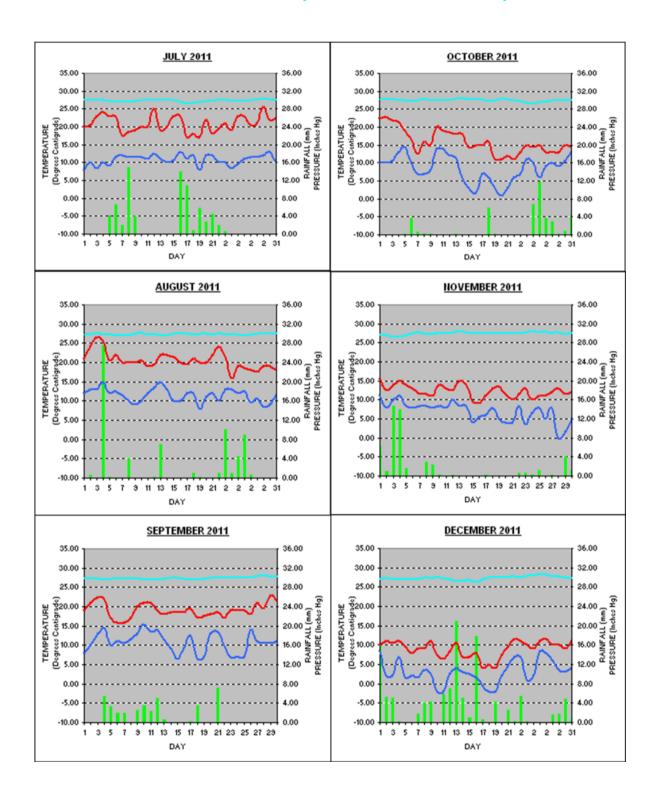
WEATHER SUMMARY (continued) - JULY to DECEMBER 2011

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



October

The year's last Hobby was seen on 6th at Steyning Round Hill and four ringtail Hen Harriers were hunting there on 20th. Another Sabine's Gull passed E at Worthing on 11th. Truleigh Hill held the autumn's peak of eight Ring Ouzels on 15th when the last Marsh Harrier of the year was over Wild Park. A Barred Warbler trapped at Cissbury on this date was our first for 52 years! Another rare warbler, a Pallas's Leaf, was found at Sheepcote Valley on 23rd. A very late Swift was over Ferring on 28th and on 29th four inaptly named Common Redpolls were at Sheepcote Valley. Next day a Snow Bunting was at West Worthing.

November

Two late Arctic Terns were in Shoreham Harbour on 9th and the last Wheatear was at the Marina on 11th. An impressive herd of 18 Whooper Swans flew W off Brighton on 12th. Two Snow Buntings began a lengthy stay near Widewater from 15th and on 24th one was on Wolstonbury Hill. A much rarer cousin, not seen in the area for over a hundred years in the shape of a Little Bunting, was trapped at The Mumbles, Steyning on 19th and stayed around for a week.

December

Six Short-eared Owls, part of an exceptional autumn influx, were at Beeding Brooks on 3^{rd} . Two Tundra Bean Geese were found at Henfield Levels on 4^{th} . A flock of 75 Corn Buntings at Devil's Dyke on 19^{th} was a good count.

A total of 211 species and two sub-species were recorded in the area in 2011.

Clive Hope



SYSTEMATIC LIST 2011

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 (SOS) (by courtesy of John Newnham) and covers species in Categories A and C of the British Ornithologists' Union (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 2010 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 circa 18,500 records from 180 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. Note that bracketed initials represent acceptance by the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) Records Committee.

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. Shoreham Adur and Lower Adur (combined) refers to the river and associated banks and saltings south of the A283 to the footbridge from Shoreham town to Shoreham Beach. Wild Park includes the whole of the Local Nature Reserve namely Hollingbury Camp, Woods, Golf Course and Moulsecoomb Wild Park. The Marina refers to Brighton Marina and the University to the University of Sussex. Other locations are referenced in the SDOS recording area index and map on the inside back cover of this report. The three main ringing sites in the area are identified as Ladywells (Coombes), The Mumbles at Steyning (formerly known as Strivens Reedbed) and Cissbury (North Scarp).

The following is a list of contributors who are members of the SDOS: T Allen, VP Bentley, S & N Biddulph, RC Bradbury, D Buckingham, B Clay, PJ Clay, C Corrigan, J Crix, J Derricott, B Easlea, J Feest, B Forbes, CJ Fox, D & P Green, M & P Hall, T & J Holter, CE Hope, RA Ives, L Keen, JM Maskell, D Mason, B Metcalfe, JA Newnham, B Reeve, S Simpson, DI Smith, MA Snelling, JC & JM Steedman, R Tofts, AB Watson, PJ Whitcomb, J Woolcock, CH Wright, CMV 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 (waders, Skylark, wagtails), D.Smith (Kittiwake, terns & skuas), M.Snelling (Parakeet to woodpeckers, crests and tits), P.Whitcomb (hirundines, flycatchers & chats), C.H.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,

MUTE SWAN Cygnus olor

Fairly common resident

Some monthly peak counts from selected sites were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Henfield Levels	41	37	40	-	١	١	10	4	1	١	8	29
Steyning Levels	11	10	9	-					ı		14	9
Lower Adur	7	3	2	-	-	-	13	-	4	-	4	
Shoreham Adur	15	3	5	6	4	25	18	18	5	3	-	5
Widewater	10	12	7	3	2	2	4	5	4	6	4	4
Beeding/Bramber	13	2	2	2	١	5	•	7	-	١	١	6

A count of birds from Betley (just to the north of our area) to Bramber on Jan 2^{nd} produced 71 but only three from Bramber to Shoreham.

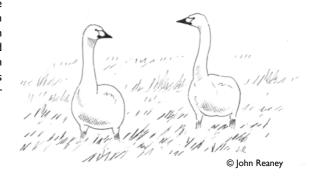
Pairs bred at Wiston raising six young, Brooklands with just one young, Southwick canal where two cygnets were seen and Widewater with also two cygnets recorded. Old Salts Farm held a pair but no young were observed.

Birds also reported from The Marina and Goring beach in Dec and passing Worthing beach on ten dates during the year, maximum 13 on Aug 14th.

BEWICK'S SWAN Cygnus columbianus

Scarce but regular visitor in varying numbers

A single bird was on the Adur at Upper Beeding on Jan 2nd. A maximum of ten frequented the Henfield and Steyning Levels between Jan 8th and Feb I 6th (four on this last date). One was near Woodmancote on Mar 22nd.



WHOOPER SWAN Cygnus cygnus

Very scarce winter visitor

Two flew W over Sheepcote Valley and a herd of 18 W off Brighton on Nov 12th (SOS)

TUNDRA BEAN GOOSE Anser fabalis fabalis

Very scarce winter visitor

Two were on Henfield Levels on Dec 4th. (SOS)

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE Anser albifrons

Scarce winter visitor

A single bird was on Henfield Levels on Jan 1st and there were 12 there on 8th. A skein of 44 flew north up the Lower Adur valley on 2nd.

GREYLAG GOOSE Anser anser

Uncommon but increasing introduced resident

Henfield Levels continues to hold the bulk of these geese. Maxima were: in Jan 145 on 9th, in Feb 20 on 8th to 21st, in Mar 100 on 2nd and in Oct 150 on 7th and Dec 200 on 4th.

Also 25 at Upper Beeding Mar 8th to 12th, one in Apr/May and 15 in Dec.

Pairs were present at Wiston pond, Beeding Brooks and Patching Pond in Apr. Two broods, each of four, were seen at Wappingthorn on May 14th.

One flew past The Marina on Mar 9th.

CANADA GOOSE Branta canadensis

Introduced resident increasing in area

Henfield and Steyning Levels accounted for the majority of the records. Maxima at the former were 55 on Jan 9th and at the latter 34 on 15th.

Six were at The Marina on Mar 9^{th} , six at Hove on Apr 9^{th} and seven at Wappingthorn on 17^{th} .

The only breeding record came from a golf course pond at Woodmancote but success is unknown.

Twenty flew over Sheepcote Valley on Oct 14th and in Dec 12 were at Upper Beeding.

BARNACLE GOOSE Branta leucobsis

Very scarce winter visitor and feral resident

Four on Henfield Levels on Jan 16^{th} and what may have been the same party were at Upper Beeding on Feb 21^{st} and Mar 12^{th} to 16^{th} . One at Hove on Apr 10^{th} and two flew past Worthing beach and The Marina on 30^{th} .

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	1	S	0	Z	D
East	304	541	1126	335	20		-	12	2	21
West	17	34	16	3	-		39	532	233	92

Peak days were 300 on Jan 8^{th} , 155 on Feb 6^{th} , 455 on Mar 26^{th} , 126 on Apr 1^{st} , 198 on Oct 15^{th} , 181 on 7^{th} .

At The Marina, 177 noted on three dates in Mar and at Hove 198 on two dates.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE Alopochen aegyptiaca

Very scarce visitor from introduced populations elsewhere in UK

Two on Steyning Levels on Jan 15th.

COMMON SHELDUCK Tadorna tadorna

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor - may breed

Monthly totals from Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Е	-	3	3	29	- 11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W	-	9	I	10	-	2	-	3	-	2	4	29

Two were on Henfield Levels in Jan and Feb. Two passed The Marina on Mar 6^{th} and 12^{th} and five were there on May 1^{st} .

MANDARIN DUCK Aix galericulata

Scarce introduced resident

A drake was on East Kingston pond on Jan 28th and one was at Coombes on May 21st.

EURASIAN WIGEON Anas penelope

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly totals from Worthing were:

		Jan	Feb	Mar	1	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Е		84	-	-		-	-	-	22	5	3	3
٧	٧	19	-	-		3	-	7	29	23	35	62

Up to 70 were counted off Widewater on Jan 1st. Steyning Levels held 35 on Jan 15th. The largest numbers were on Henfield Levels with 850 on Jan 16th falling to 20 on Feb 20th and Mar 2nd. Remaining records were 19 off Hove on Apr 2nd and seven off Ferring on Nov 6th.

GADWALL Anas strepera

Uncommon in the area

A single at Widewater on Jan Ist when there were four at Henfield Levels and birds present at Upper Beeding. Maximum count at the latter site was ten on 7th and there were also ten at Brooklands on this date. Thereafter smaller numbers noted at all the aforementioned localities until 30 at Henfield Levels on Mar 2nd. Six passed Worthing beach on Feb 19th and a total of five likewise in Mar and two in Apr.

No records between Apr 18^{th} and Dec 18^{th} when two at Henfield Levels on the latter date were the only late year reports.

EURASIAN TEAL Anas crecca

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor

Maximum counts from the main sites were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Oct	Nov	Dec
Henfield Levels	95	200	100	-	-	-
Widewater	15	6	22	-	I	2
Lower Adur	20	38	19	33	43	92
Upper Beeding	14	12	15	-	-	-

Worthing beach sea-watches produced 18 W in Jan, ten E and three W in Feb, 50 E in Mar, 21 E in Apr, 11 W in Aug, seven W in Sep, three W in Oct and 16 E and four W in Dec. Also reported from Ferring Rife (six in Jan and two in Feb), Brooklands (six in Jan and one in Oct) and Ladywells (six in Nov and two in Dec).

MALLARD Anas platyrhynchos

Common resident and winter visitor

Monthly maxima at the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Steyning Levels	-	2	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Henfield Levels	46	29	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Poynings	9	9	2	7	12	27	-	5	2	5	14	35
Newtimber Place*												
Lower Adur	8	5	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	6	2
Brooklands*	39	25	24	16	26	67	73	10	27	24	21	26
Widewater	6	П	7	6	-	ı	-	6	-	6	5	36
Shoreham by Sea	-	-	5	4	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-
Ladywells*	7	12	6	8	3	1	2	5	2	4	4	I

^{*}Broods of ducklings were noted at these sites as well as Clayton Mills, Coombes, East Worthing and Ferring Rife.

Other records came from Beeding Brooks, Upper Beeding, Ditchling Beacon, Shaves Wood, Wiston Estate, The Marina, Hove, Broadwater (Worthing), Sandgate Park, Old Salts Farm, Durrington, Spithandle Lane, Botolphs, Northbrook Farm (Worthing), Horton Hall (Golding Barn), Applesham Farm and Wappingthorn.

PINTAIL Anas acuta

Regular passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Henfield Levels held the only inland birds with maxima of 60 in Jan and a high count of 130 in Feb.

At Worthing beach one W in Jan, two E in Mar, two E in May and seven W in Dec. One flew E at The Marina on Apr 2nd and a pair E off Widewater on May 7th.

GARGANEY Anas querquedula

Scarce passage migrant

Four flew E at Worthing on Apr 15th and one on 18th. Three flew W there on Aug 16th and three W on Sep 16th.

SHOVELER Anas clypeata

Regular spring passage migrant and winter visitor in small numbers

Henfield Levels held 28 in Jan, 22 in Feb and 20 on Mar 2nd. There were three at Upper Beeding on Jan 22nd. Two were off Widewater on Mar 17th. Seawatches at Worthing produced 31 E in Mar (max. 12 on 29th), two E and seven W in Apr (max four on 10th) and nine E on May 1st. At The Marina 12 flew E on this last date and five E there on Apr 10th. At Hove there were three E on Mar 29th, six E on Apr 2nd and 14 E on May 1st. Finally four passed Lancing beach on 3rd. There were no autumn records.

COMMON POCHARD Aythya ferina

Regular winter visitor in very small numbers

Only noted regularly from Widewater and Brooklands. At the former site, monthly maxima were seven in Jan, three in Feb and two in Mar. At the latter, one in Mar, one in Nov and three in Dec. One was on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 12th and singles were at East Worthing (presumably on the sea) on Jul 31st (an unusual date) and passing W at Worthing beach on Dec 11th.

TUFTED DUCK Aythya fuligula

Declining winter visitor

Eighteen at Widewater on Jan 11th was the month maximum there. Brooklands held seven on 15th. Elsewhere one on the Adur at Shoreham on 12th, two at Henfield Levels on 16th, one at Wappingthorn on 22nd and one at Patching Pond on 24th. None noted in Feb. In Mar just one was seen flying down Ferring Rife on 7th but in Apr 23 at Wiston Pond on 3rd decreasing to 14 on 23rd and nine on May 21st. A pair were at Patching Pond from 27th and three (two males) there on 30th but no sign of breeding. Brooklands held two on Jun 11th and Aug 10th and eight on Sep 24th.

GREATER SCAUP Aythya marila

Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant

The two females on Widewater from 2010 remained there until Mar 14th with brief excursions to the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 12th, Brooklands on 28th and the Adur again on Feb 24th, 27th and Mar 8th.

COMMON EIDER Somateria molissima

Decreasing passage migrant and winter visitor

Jan records were three W at The Marina on 2^{nd} and two W there on 3^{rd} , 11 on the sea off Ferring on 4^{th} , two E at Widewater on 18^{th} , and three E and two W at Worthing beach in the month. Forty-one flew E there in Apr (max. 34 on 2^{nd}). Four males E off Hove on 2^{nd} . Two immatures were off Lancing beach on Jun 1^{st} and one was resting on the beach at Brooklands on Sep 7^{th} .

At Worthing beach two E and eight W in Sep and 15 E in Dec (max. ten on 25th).

LONG-TAILED DUCK Clangula hyemalis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Three flew W at Worthing beach on Jan 6th. Two offshore at Shoreham Harbour on Nov 7th flew off W (BFF).

COMMON SCOTER Melanitta nigra

Common passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

Monthly sea-watching totals from Worthing beach were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	22	2	111	1157	814	80	43	8	48	25	23	30
West	41	-	2	2	10	20	10	23	14	45	52	26

Peak days were Apr 19th with 440 and May 2nd with 264.

At The Marina, 118 E and 66 W in Jan, 142 E in Mar, 846 E in Apr (max. 460 on 19th), four E in May and nine in Nov. Small numbers noted also off Ferring (eight feeding off outfall of Rife on Jun 1st), Goring Gap/beach and Hove. Fifty-four logged off Lancing beach on five dates in May. Singles off Widewater in Nov and Dec.

VELVET SCOTER Melanitta fusca

Scarce passage migrant

A flock of up to 11 was on the sea off Widewater between Jan 1st and 18th. A pair was at The Marina on 3rd, singles off Worthing on 3rd and 17th, four off Brooklands on 28th and 20 at Goring Gap on 31st. Two flew E at The Marina on Mar 20th, and two likewise at Hove on Apr 18th with four more E at Worthing next day. Just singles E in May there on 2nd and 25th.

In Nov one E and one W and in Dec two W on 27^{th} , all at Worthing, were the only remaining records.

COMMON GOLDENEYE Bucephala clangula

Uncommon winter visitor

A female was on the Adur between the Rail and Tollbridges on Jan 1st. One E, one W and one offshore at Worthing on three different dates in Jan.

SMEW Mergellus albellus

Very scarce winter visitor

A drake flew E at Worthing beach on Jan 3^{rd} in the company of two Red-breasted Mergansers (CEH, DIS). Our first area record since 1999 when a flock of 15 flew W off Brighton Pier on Feb 26^{th} !

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	М	Α	М	1	0	N	D
97	138	22	24	2		2	22	75

Birds on passage there: in Mar 23 E, in Apr 22 E and May two E. At The Marina six W in Mar and four in Apr.

Birds visiting Widewater were five on Jan 14th, four on Feb 5th and up to eight in Dec (max on 4th). Two were reported from the Lower Adur on Nov 25th.

GOOSANDER Mergus merganser

Scarce winter visitor

A female close inshore at Worthing beach on Jan 29^{th} (RAI, DIS) and five females flew E at 0825 on Mar 17^{th} (DIS).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE Alectoris rufa

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

Double figure counts were of 18 at Lower Standean on Jan 19th, 35 at Ditchling Beacon on Aug 17th, 95 at Lower Standean on Sep 14th, 23 at Clayton Mills on Oct 13th, 28 at Lower Standean on Nov 2nd and 11 there on Dec 12th.

GREY PARTRIDGE Perdix perdix

Decreasing resident.

Twenty near Chanctonbury Ring on Sep 22^{nd} and 45 at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 31^{st} were the only records exceeding the seven seen on Stanmer Down on Jan 25^{th} .

A pair with at least six young at Applesham Farm on Jul 24th.

COMMON OUAIL Coturnix coturnix

Rare summer visitor.

The total of 51 records received was exceptional. The first were two at Foredown on Apr 29th. Four were at Cissbury on Jun 13th, six at Coombes on Jul 3rd, three at Perching Barn (near Perching Hill) on 15th and three at Steep Down on 21st/22nd. Others were at Stanmer Down, Ditchling Beacon, Clayton Mills, Thundersbarrow Hill, Steyning Round Hill, Edburton and No Man's Land.

COMMON PHEASANT Phasianus colchicus

Common introduced resident. Numbers augmented by captive bred stock.

Recorded in 43 out of the 94 tetrads in the SDOS area. Breeding confirmed in three of these and probable in 12 more. Highest counts were of a dozen or so at Worthing GC, near Worthing Crematorium, Ditchling Beacon, Steep Down and Lower Standean and 40 at Ladywells on Dec 22nd.

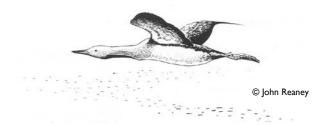
RED-THROATED DIVER Gavia stellata

Regular passage migrant and winter visitor

Monthly totals from Worthing sea-watches were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	1	S	0	N	D
East	355	42	18	27	9			I	I	20
West	89	38	5	-	-			I	3	76

Peak days there were Jan 6th with 140 E and 20 W and Dec 27th with 37 W and four E. Elsewhere 113 W (inc. a flock of 35) at The Marina and 110 W off Widewater on Jan 1st (inc. a flock of 45), 66 W and 16 E at The Marina on 2nd and 19 on 3rd there. In Mar, ten E at The Marina on 12th. Singles in Shoreham Harbour on Jan 21st and Mar 29th. Four flew E off Hove on Apr 1st. Single birds off Goring in Nov.



BLACK-THROATED DIVER Gavia arctica

Fairly scarce passage migrant, rare in winter

Monthly reported totals from Worthing were:

	J	F	M	Α	М	1	S	0	Z	D
East	-	ı	2	2	14		I	-	-	-
West	I	-	-	-	-		-	-	- 1	3

Single birds noted off The Marina on Jan 2^{nd} and Apr 30^{th} with two on Apr 19^{th} and May 1^{st} when also one E off Hove. One off Widewater on Feb 12^{th} and Dec 30^{th} . One E off Lancing on May 4^{th} .

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER Gavia immer

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One feeding offshore at Worthing beach on Jan 22^{nd} (JAN). One flew W there on Dec 3^{rd} and one flying E on 31^{st} which alighted on sea.

DIVER Species

Totals logged from Worthing in addition to the above were:

	J	F	Σ	A	Σ
East	- 11	-	3	6	3
West	4	-	2	-	-

LITTLE GREBE Tachybaptus ruficollis

Winter visitor and occasional breeder

Records were received from the following regular sites:

	J	F	M	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Lower Adur	7	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoreham Adur	4	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Brooklands	2	2	-	I	-	2	3	4	19**	7	5	2
Widewater	13	12	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	27	29
Newtimber Place	-	-	-	I	- 1	I	- 1	4*	2	2	3	2
Poynings												
Ferring Rife	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ı	-	-
Ladywells	2	2	4	I	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{*}pair with two young. ** inc. at least three young

One on Henfield Levels on Jan 2^{nd} , one on Wiston Pond from Apr 3^{rd} to 17^{th} , two on Steyning Levels on Nov 19^{th} and six at Old Salts Farm on Dec 22^{nd} .

GREAT CRESTED GREBE Podiceps cristatus

Common, mainly winter, visitor to the coast

Maximum numbers recorded offshore were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Worthing/Goring/Ferring	525	433	60	Ξ	2	-	ı	_	ı	8	27	62
Widewater/Lancing(on sea)	40	26	40	-	-	-	•	-	•	-	ı	I
Hove/Portslade	-	89	50	31	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
The Marina	-	-	39	2	-	-	•	-	-	2	-	-

A pair bred on Patching Pond raising two young.

One in the Lower Adur on Mar 7th and 15th, Sep 30th and Dec 27th.

RED-NECKED GREBE Podiceps grisegena

Scarce winter visitor

Single birds were offshore at Worthing beach and Ferring in Jan on three dates between 1st and 31st and in Feb on four dates between 6th and 28th. In March, one off Worthing on 13th with 38 Great Crested Grebes was disturbed by a Common Seal surfacing nearby. Two were present there on 26th and 29th.

In Dec, at the same location, one E on 1st and one on the high tide line on 11th.

SLAVONIAN GREBE Podicebs auritus

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

One was off Widewater and one on the sea at Ferring on Jan 7th, the former still present on 12th. All other records were from Worthing beach. In Jan one flew W on 10th and one or two were offshore on four dates in this month. In Feb one flew W on 6th and two were

on the sea on 28^{th} . Then singles were on the sea on Mar 3^{rd} and 12^{th} . At the end of the year one flew W on Dec 11^{th} .

BLACK-NECKED GREBE Podiceps nigricollis

Scarce passage migrant

Two were offshore at Worthing beach on Jan 6^{th} and one was reported from Widewater on 7^{th} . One in partial s/p off Worthing on Feb 28^{th} .

FULMAR Fulmaris glacialis

Common passage migrant nesting just outside the area

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were:

	J	F	M	Α	М	J	J	Α	S
East	Ι	ı	9	21	41	4		2	-
West	2	12	Ш	50	25	13	3	5	ı

Birds also noted from Hove on Mar 26^{th} (2), 28^{th} (2), Apr 2^{nd} (1), 23^{rd} (1) and 30^{th} (10), Goring beach on Apr 16^{th} (3) and 30^{th} (1), The Marina on 19^{th} (4), Hove on May 1^{st} (10) and singles on Lancing beach on 2^{nd} and 4^{th} .

One over Wild Park, two miles from the sea, was a surprise on Apr 12th (PJW).

SOOTY SHEARWATER Puffinus griseus

Very scarce autumn visitor

One flew W off Worthing beach on Oct 23rd (DIS).

MANX SHEARWATER Puffinus puffinus

Uncommon passage migrant and summer visitor

In Apr, three flew E at Worthing on 28^{th} ; in May, five W there on 23^{rd} ; in Jul, five W on 17^{th} followed by 16 E next day and lastly two W on 21^{st} .

BALEARIC SHEARWATER Puffinus mauretanicus

Rare summer visitor

Five records this year was above average although one was strictly outside the SDOS area! One W off Worthing on May 28th (IAN, RAI, DRM) and one E there on Jul 28th (DIS).

One was seen from a boat eight miles off Brighton on Aug 19th (SOS).

One flew W at Worthing on Aug 21st (DIS) and one W there on Oct 29th (RAI,).

GANNET Morus bassanus

Present offshore all year

Monthly totals of birds logged at Worthing were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	763	143	17	183	271	126	213	171	69	83	42	151
West	595	549	43	96	210	200	225	338	225	891	53	1052
Offshore	545	-	-	3	21	20	26	5	60	-	-	-

Maximum counts were on Jan 3rd with 374, 27th when 300 offshore, Feb 2nd with 175, May 16th 91, Jun 25th 86, Jul 17th 160, Aug 21st 83, Sep 28th 108, Oct 21st 530 and Dec 23rd with 529 when 74 off Goring beach were also reported.

One hundred were fishing offshore at Lancing on Jan 2^{nd} and at The Marina, 159 on Jan 3^{rd} was the month maximum (out of c.200) and in Apr there were 58 on 30^{th} with 57 on May 1^{st} and in Oct 50 on 23^{rd} . Smaller numbers were noted off Hove on several dates.

GREAT CORMORANT Phalacrocorax carbo

Common at coastal and some inland roost sites

Steyning Levels held 112 on Jan 3rd (roosting on electricity pylons) and on 6th 138 flew E in three hours at Worthing beach. This was followed by 95 W there on 8th. On 27th, 144 roosted on the outflow pipe at Brooklands at low tide. There were 37 at Goring Gap on 31st.

On Feb 6^{th} , 180 flew W at Worthing and on 8^{th} 116 flew W off Widewater. In Mar, 24 moved E at The Marina on 19^{th} and in Apr 18 off Hove on 3^{rd} was the month's maximum there. Thereafter, numbers were generally low till July when 21 were off Ferring on 29^{th} .

All counts were of single figures then until Sep 7th when 27 flew W at Worthing beach. On 15th, 25 over Ladywells was the month's peak. There were 14 at Widewater on 6th and 26th and 43 offshore at Worthing beach on 14th. Parties of five moving E over Wild Park on 16th and 19th were more unusual. In Nov, 12 at The Marina on 14th and the month's maxima were 51 E at Worthing and 61 at Steyning Levels on 19th. In Dec, 25 at Widewater on 15th. As usual single birds were seen away from the coast at other sites.

SHAG Phalacrocorax aristotelis

Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant

The Marina hosted three on Jan 1st then one on Apr 2nd, May 1st and Nov 14th.

Two were offshore at Widewater on Jan 7th, one flew W at Worthing on 28th and singles were offshore there on Jul 9th and 28th. In Nov two were on the sea there on 3rd and 4th and one flew W on Dec 1st. One was in Shoreham Harbour on 30th.

LITTLE EGRET Egretta garzetta

Increasingly common resident and passage migrant

Maxima per site were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Ferring Rife area	ı	•	2	- 1	2	2	6	-	26	23	1	-
Goring beach	-	•	-	- 1	-	•	•	-	14	5	-	-
Worthing	-	-	-	2	2E,IW		I	16E 12ob	15	9W	-	-
Widewater	12	1	4	3	I	4	7	7	8	4	6	5
Henfield Levels	2	-	2	- 1	-		-	-	-	-	-	1
Steyning Levels	ı	I	-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	1
Ladywells	- 1	3	-	_	I	3		10	14	2	3	- 1
Lower Adur	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3	3	2
Shoreham Adur	I	•	_	1	-	4	3	4	7	2	•	- 1

ob = On beach

Breeding occurred in the Lower Adur valley at a site first observed on Apr 16^{th} and the first nest was found on 17^{th} . Six nests produced a total of 16 young. The first of these left their nests on Jun 15^{th} . This represents the most successful breeding by the species in our area to date. The colony was in company with Grey Herons and within a rookery.

Thirteen were at Brooklands on Oct 13^{th} . One in a field nr Poynings cricket ground on Nov 5^{th} was a first for the tetrad. Four were at Old Salts Farm on Dec 22^{nd} .

GREAT WHITE EGRET Ardea alba

Rare vagrant

One flew E at Worthing beach on May 8th (DIS, RT, CEH). This bird was earlier reported from Rustington. It was briefly intercepted by a Great Skua but headed out to sea in a south-easterly direction.

GREY HERON Ardea cinerea

Fairly common resident

Single birds were the norm for much of the year at a multitude of sites. Seven were together on Henfield Levels at Rye Farm on Feb 20th.

The breeding season saw a new heronry established in the Lower Adur valley at Coombes. Three nests were built and two young seen in one of them. One was still in its nest on Aug 2^{nd} . The Wyckham Wood site near Henfield held two nests - success unknown. Reported to have bred in other tetrads – no details available.

Three flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 30th and a party of seven in formation passed E over West Worthing at 19:30 on May 25th. The remaining records of more than two birds represented by four at Broadwater on Jun 17th, three at Ferring on Sep 30th, five W at Worthing beach, including three far offshore, on Oct 27th, three at Waterhall on 31st and three at Henfield Levels on Dec 18th.

SPOONBILL Platalea leucorodia

Very scarce visitor

One reported at Shoreham on Mar 13th (SOS). One flew E at Ferring (11:25) and Worthing beach (11:35) on May 1st (CEH, DIS). Others passed Worthing on 2nd and at 09:50 on 5th (DIS).

HONEY-BUZZARD Pernis apivorus

Scarce migrant

One flying W over Ferring on Sep 2nd (JAN) was the only record for our area this year.

RED KITE Milvus milvus

Increasing but scarce visitor

Records are now received in almost every month of the year and monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	Σ	4	М	_	_	4	s	0	z	D
No. of birds	-	σ	10	23	3	6	_	2	4	4	2	•
No. of sites	Ī	3	9	16	2	6	I	2	3	3	2	-

They were all single birds except for two each at High Salvington and Worthing Tarring on Apr 24th, Lancing and Beeding Hill on 25th, Chantry Hill on Aug 20th and Sep 3rd and Harrow Hill on Oct 6th.

MARSH HARRIER Circus aeruginosus

Scarce passage migrant

Several early year records with one E over Wild Park on Mar 12^{th} , another at Portslade on Apr 3^{rd} , one N at Worthing beach on May 1^{st} and a female flying E there on 4^{th} which was also seen at Lancing beach.

Only two autumn records – an immature female at Chantry Hill on Aug 20th and the last, one over Wild Park on Oct 15th.

HEN HARRIER Circus cyaneus

Passage migrant and winter visitor

The only spring record was of a male at Steep Down on Mar 20th.

Another very early male was at Chantry Hill on Aug 20th while in Oct a ringtail was seen from Cissbury Ring on 14th, 22nd and 31st, a female was at Kithurst Hill on 21st, four ringtails were at Steyning Round Hill on 20th, with two there on 31st and one was at Ditchling Beacon on 30th. One was still in the Cissbury area on Nov 1st and the last was a female at Wolstonbury Hill on 18th.

SPARROWHAWK Accipiter nisus

Fairly common resident

Many more records are now being submitted and monthly totals were as follows:-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	Z	D
No. of birds	13	17	18	30	12	4	29	36	41	27	14	\Box
No. of sites	10	9	10	18	8	4	16	18	14	13	9	9

Threes were recorded at Ladywells on Jan 9th, Brighton Whitehawk on Feb 2nd, and Saddlescombe near Poynings on Jul 3rd, Ladywells on Aug 19th and Sep 3rd, Newtimber Hill also on Sep 3rd, Ladywells on Oct 3rd and Steyning Round Hill on 26th.

Confirmed breeding occurred in four tetrads including Shoreham Harbour and Whitehawk and probably in two more.

COMMON BUZZARD Buteo buteo

Increasing breeding resident and passage migrant

A huge number of records for this species with monthly totals as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
No. of birds	26	45	88	87	44	48	37	73	73	42	25	12
No. of sites	16	13	26	30	19	21	13	13	15	10	12	9

Largest daily maxima were 14 at Harrow Hill on Feb 24^{th} , nine at Washington on the same date, ten at Beeding Cement Works on Jul 15^{th} , 13 at Oreham Common on Aug 21^{st} when

also ten seen from Beeding Hill, nine at Chantry Hill on Sep 3rd and ten at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 8th.

There was only one confirmed breeding record but it was probable in 12 tetrads.

OSPREY Pandion haliaetus

Scarce passage migrant

One flew N chased by gulls at Wild Park on Mar 26th. A bird at Lancing on May 11th appeared to be in moult. The final record from Church Hill on Aug 21st was of another 'tatty' individual.

COMMON KESTREL Falco tinnunculus

Fairly common resident

Numbers of records were maintained at last year's levels with monthly totals as follows:

	J	F	М	A	M	J	J	A	S	0	Z	D
No. of birds	13	8	14	17	18	28	21	32	37	14	13	15
No. of sites	13	7	10	14	14	13	П	14	13	П	П	13

Breeding was confirmed at Washington, Sheepcote Valley and Chantry Hill, where six birds were seen on Sep 3rd, and in another tetrad with two more as probable.

MERLIN Falco columbarius

Scarce but regular mainly in autumn and winter

Early year records were from West Worthing on Jan 7th and Widewater on Feb 20th.

The next was a juvenile female at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 31st, then a male was seen at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 10th. In Oct, birds were reported from Cissbury on the 3rd and 14th, from Steyning Round Hill on 9th and 29th, Steep Down on 10th and Edburton on 17th. One flew E at Ferring Rife on Nov 3rd and in Dec one flew along the beach at Widewater on 4th and the last NE at Hove on 28th.

HOBBY Falco subbuteo

Regular passage migrant and summer visitor - has bred

One was seen at Ladywells on the early date of Apr 4th. Then one at Lychpole Hill on 26th and another at Ferring the following day.

Sightings by month were as follows:

4	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	3	3	5	3	6	I	2

Breeding was confirmed at one site. The last was reported from Steyning Round Hill on Oct 6th. This was the worst year for records since 1994.

PEREGRINE Falco peregrinus

Scarce breeding resident

Increasingly recorded especially in urban areas.

Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
No. of birds	15	12	19	18	27	25	17	21	П	9	16	12
No. of sites	6	5	П	7	10	9	7	7	8	5	8	4

One third of the sightings refer to a pair present on tall buildings in Worthing but with no evidence of breeding despite the records covering every month of the year.

Fourteen young fledged from the six eyries in our area.

WATER RAIL Rallus aquaticus

Regular winter visitor

Records were between Jan 1st, when three were in Ferring Rife, and Mar 11th involving singles at Ladywells, Cuckoo Corner, near the Sussex Pad by the Adur, The Mumbles and Brooklands with just one in the autumn on Nov 4th at Ladywells.

MOORHEN Gallinula chloropus

Common resident and winter visitor

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

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Brooklands	53	44	30	13	4	7	5	6	21	52	28	35
Newtimber Place	13	13	30	4	6	3	4	3	7	6	15	15
Poynings												

High counts came from Ferring Rife with 20 on Jan 1st and Sandgate Park with 11 on May 14th.

Breeding was confirmed in ten tetrads and probable in three more.

COOT Fulica atra

Common resident and winter visitor

Peak monthly counts from Brooklands and Newtimber Place were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Brooklands	116	70	32	17	12	23	45	70	101	74	83	74
Newtimber	10	8	9	3	4	7	4	4	6	6	6	6
Place												

Breeding was confirmed at these two sites.

COMMON CRANE Grus grus

Rare Vagrant

Two were found in a field at Wiston on Mar 7th and were also seen in the locality next day (several observers). These are the first for our area since one on the Adur levels near Small Dole in Nov. 1994.

OYSTERCATCHER Haematopus ostralegus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, scarce breeder

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

	J	F	M	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Worthing	-		+ 1	l +	31E	3W	8E	IE	-	5 +	13	2
beach			6E	45E	5W		4W	10W		3W		
			IW	I4W								
Goring	-	5	5 +	2W	-	-	I	-	I	4 +	2	-
Gap /beach			IW							2E		
Shoreham	3	2	5	4	3	6	3	2	4	2	-	3

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

The Shoreham records include a pair on a nest at the Adur which was seen with one chick on Jun 15^{th} . Twenty were on the beach at Ferring on Jan 15^{tt} and 4^{th} and one there on Jul 22^{nd} and 29^{th} . At the Marina there were two E and one W in April.

AVOCET Recurvirostra avosetta

Uncommon passage migrant

There were sightings of a single bird on the Adur at Shoreham on Jan 1^{st} , 4^{th} and 6^{th} . At Worthing beach a total of nine birds flew E on four dates, one on Mar 15^{th} and Apr 15^{th} , three on Apr 22^{nd} and four on May 5^{th} . Elsewhere there were two at Hove on Mar 29^{th} and five there on Apr 30^{th} , which were also seen on the same day at the Marina.

STONE CURLEW Burhinus oedicnemus

Rare passage migrant

One flew over Clayton Hill on Apr 30th (SOS).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER Charadrius dubius

Scarce passage migrant

One was seen in flight in good light heading E at Worthing beach on Mar 15th (DIS).

RINGED PLOVER Charadrius hiaticula

Common winter visitor and passage migrant, occasional breeder

Monthly peaks from the main sites were as follows:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Shoreham Adur	5	22	9	-	-	ı	-	24	15	25	-	30
Widewater	•	2	3	2	3	-	3	I	36	6	4	8
Brooklands beach	140	1	-	I	ı	·	-	33	223	-	-	110
Goring Gap	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	51	6	15	7	-
Marina	-	5	2	I	-	•	2	-	38	-	50	-
Worthing beach	20	-	2	4E	7E	•	-	28 +	63+	60	120	-
				6W				32W	I2E			
									IW			

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

One was at Ferring on Jan 1st and 26 were at Lancing on Jan 2nd. One was heard flying over Woods Mill on Apr 18th. A nest was monitored on the beach at Shoreham which unfortunately failed and there was also evidence of another. An occupied nest was recorded at Black Rock, Brighton on Jul 3rd. A pair with a chick was seen at Widewater on Jul 26th. Ten birds were at Shoreham Harbour on Oct 19th and 15 were on the shore at Kingston Gorse on Dec 31st.

DOTTEREL Charadrius morinellus

Scarce passage migrant

Three were seen at Chantry Hill on Sep 3rd (SOS).

EUROPEAN GOLDEN PLOVER Pluvialis apricaria

Fairly common winter visitor

One was at Shoreham Airport on Jan 1^{st} . At Worthing beach there was one E on Jan 6^{th} and seven W on 10^{th} . In March there was one at Sheepcote Valley on 2^{nd} and one N at High Salvington, Worthing on 27^{th} . The only other records were later in the year; two overhead at Cissbury Ring on Oct 14^{th} and one E at New Salts Farm on Nov 17^{th} .

GREY PLOVER Pluvialis squatarola

Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant

Monthly maxima at regular sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	Α	S	0	N	D
Shoreham Adur	5	4	2	•	-	1	•	5		10
Worthing	75	12	-	I + I2E	33E	3W	3W	5 + 6W	25	35
Goring Gap	-	3	19	5E	19E	-	-	I	2	IW
Ferring/Kingston	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

There were 22 E at the Marina on May Ist and three passing Lancing beach on 2nd plus two more on 4th. The Dec birds at Worthing/Kingston included a striking leucistic individual.

NORTHERN LAPWING Vanellus vanellus

Common winter visitor and declining breeder

Peak counts at the following sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
Shoreham	600	600	30	-	-	-	2	20	30	20	60	83
Adur*										0	0	0
Henfield	176	200	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Levels												

*Includes Airfield

Six were at Upper Beeding on Jan 7th and there were 51 at Beeding Brooks on 16th. Four flew W over Round Hill on Jan 31st. Single birds were at Broadwater on Mar 12th and

Castle Goring on 23rd. Display was observed at Henfield Levels on Mar 28th and at Cissbury on Apr 6th with further records from there on 7th and 20th. Five pairs were seen at No Mans Land on Apr 10th with display seen from two birds around the same area on 15th. Six were in territories at Chantry Hill on May 6th and two were at Kithurst Hill on 8th. On May 23rd a pair was seen in Durrington defending at least one chick against crows. Three were at Botolphs on Jun 6th and one flew calling over West Tarring on Jul 28th. At Cissbury Ring 18 were overhead on Oct 14th and eight flew over the same site on Nov 18th. In Dec one was at Upper Beeding on 7th, two at Highdown Hill on 14th, eight at Ladywells on 18th and one flew over Round Hill on 19th.

RED KNOT Calidris canutus

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

At Worthing beach 10 flew E between Apr 28th and 30th, rising to 15 on May 1st and 57 on 2nd with 20 on 7th. Over the same period at the Marina there were eight E on Apr 30th and nine E on May 1st and from Lancing beach there were 27 on May 2nd and 33 on May 4th. In Aug there was one W at Worthing beach on Aug 2nd and 14 E on 18th. One was on the Shoreham Adur on Dec 29th.

SANDERLING Calidris alba

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Maximum counts at the following sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Widewater	21	- 1	16	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Brooklands	19	-	-	102	-	-	-	2	50	-	13	80
beach												
Worthing	-	66	70	23+	52+	22E	5W	4E	9+	30	20	30
beach				77E	175E	2W		2W	ΙE	9W	80E	
				9W	48W				3W			
Goring	30	12	100	7	-	-	6	ı	- 1	6	13	6
Ferring /	100	-	56	-	-	-	-	10	6	-	-	30
Kingston												

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

One bird was at the Marina on Apr 19th, four juveniles were there on Sep 19th and one bird was there on Nov 5th. Peak day at Worthing beach in May was 2nd with 96 E.

PURPLE SANDPIPER Calidris maritima

Local winter visitor in small numbers

Peak monthly numbers at the Marina and Shoreham Harbour were:

	J	F	М	Α	1	0	N	D
Marina	6	21	20	-		-	17	-
Shoreham	-	-	I	-		-	-	2

One flew W at Worthing beach on Sep 9th and one flew W past Goring beach on Dec 2nd.

DUNLIN Calidris alpina

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Peak monthly totals at the main sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Ν	D
Shoreham Adur	45	48	15	-	-	-	-	2	11	5	5	15
Widewater	5	-	10		16	-		-	8	ı	-	
Brooklands beach	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	I	600
Worthing	680	7E	45	28E	4+ 39E 2W	6E 2W	3W	71W	5 HW	2 9W	200 14E	400
Goring	ı	ı	49	ı	-	-	-	-	•	2	8	-
Ferring/ Kingston	35	1	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

Two were on the river at Coombes on Jan 2nd and one at Henfield Levels on Mar 2nd.

JACK SNIPE Lymnocryptes minimus

Scarce winter visitor

One bird was at Coombes on Jan 9th and Feb 2nd. The remaining records were in Dec, single birds at Ferring Rife on 2nd, 8th and 15th and two at Coombes on 10th.

COMMON SNIPE Gallinago gallinago

Common but declining winter visitor

Maxima from the following were:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	1	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Shoreham Adur	62	93	-	-		4	-	45	101
Henfield Levels	8	4	12	-		-	-	9	7

At Brooklands there were two on Jan 10th, two on 27th and one on 28th. One was at Ladywells on Feb 2nd with a further record from there on Apr 14th. Three were at Ferring Rife on Feb 4th. One was flushed by a Hen Harrier at Kithurst Hill on Oct 21st and seven were at Shoreham Airport on 28th. Two were at Beeding Brooks on Nov 22nd.

WOODCOCK Scolopax rusticola

Winter visitor and uncommon passage migrant, may breed

Most records were from the first winter period. One was at Tottington Wood on Jan 8th. Two were at Broadwater on Jan 29th following a record on the 23rd. One was seen flying along a ride at Foredown on Feb 17th and one was at Cissbury on Feb 22nd. Three flew north at Saddlescombe on Mar 2nd with one there on 5th. At least one was flushed from cover at Woodmancote on Mar 22nd and one was seen flying at dusk at Mill Hill on Mar 25th. In Nov singles were at Southwick on 15th and at the Cissbury ringing site on 26th.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT Limosa limosa

Uncommon passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

Two were at Henfield Levels on Feb 27th and Mar 2nd and one bird was at Widewater on Mar 20th and 21st. Two flew W at Worthing beach on Jul 17th with three more W there on Aug 26th. One was feeding on the grass at Goring beach on Sep 18th.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT Limosa lapponica

Common passage migrant and occasional winter visitor

There were 1,222 E at Worthing beach on six dates between Apr 18th and 30th, max. 459 on 30th with one W on 29th. There were a further 2,224 E there up to May 8th, max. 760 on 2nd. At the Marina there were two E on Apr 2nd, 13 E on 30th and 113 E on May 1st. At Hove there were 17 E on Apr 30th and 87 on May 1st. At Lancing beach 341 were seen on May 2nd, 21 on 3rd and 16 on 4th. One was briefly on the beach at Goring on Apr 30th and one was on the Adur on May 2nd. Single birds W and one bird on the beach were at Worthing on three dates in Nov and one was at Goring Gap on Sep 16th.

WHIMBREL Numenius phaeopus

Common spring passage migrant

Passage at Worthing is shown thus:

	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
East	2	336	499	-	-	I
West	-	8	2	-	4	3

An early bird flew E at Worthing beach on Mar 8th (JAN, DIS, RAI) with one later in the month on 28th. Peak days were in early May with 85 on 2nd, 136 on 3rd, 92 on 4th and 78 on 5th. At Hove there were three on Apr 2nd, one on 9th, 25 on 22nd, ten on 30th and six on May Ist, all E. At the Marina there were was one on Apr 2nd, three on 19th, one on 24th, 40 on 30th and 56 on May Ist. Two birds were on the Adur on May Ist with three there on 4th and one on 15th. One was seen resting on the greens at Marine Parade, Worthing on 2nd during a period of strong ENE winds. Three were at Henfield Levels on 5th and five were seen over Wild Park on 14th.

EURASIAN CURLEW Numenius arquata

Common late summer passage migrant; uncommon otherwise

One on the Shoreham Adur on Feb 22nd. At the Marina on Mar 12th there were two N and four E and one on 25th. Four E calling at Goring beach on Mar 21st. In Apr at the Marina there were eight E on 2nd and one on 30th with one on May 1st. Passage past Worthing comprised 19 E and one W in Mar, 46 in Apr, including 36 on 15th, six E and one W in May, 15 W in Jun, seven W in Jul, two W in Aug, three W in Sep, two W in Oct, one E and three W in Dec. Two were at the Marina on Sep 15th. At the Adur there was one on Sep 30th and Oct 26th, then three on Nov 25th and two on Dec 27th.

COMMON REDSHANK Tringa totanus

Common winter visitor and occasional breeder

Peak counts from main sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Shoreham area	91	77	13	-			57	21	57	78	69	97
Widewater	3	2	5	-	2		-	-	-	- 1	4	- 1
Brooklands	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	I	-
Goring	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ı	7
Worthing	-	-	-	-	-	2E	-	-	-	3	10	9W
						IW					3E	

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

Two were at Old Salts Farm on Dec 22nd.

GREENSHANK Tringa nebularia

Uncommon but regular passage migrant

One bird flew E at Goring Gap and Worthing beach on Apr 21st and there was a sighting of one bird on the Adur at Shoreham on the same day. Two further birds flew E at Worthing beach on Apr 23rd and 30th. One bird was on the beach at Goring Gap on May 2nd. One flew N at Worthing beach on May 3rd and three flew E there on May 6th. The only autumn record was of a single bird at Goring beach on Sep 2nd.

GREEN SANDPIPER Tringa ochropus

Regular winter visitor in small numbers

One at Rye Farm (Henfield Levels) on Jan 2nd.

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	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
3	2	2	I	3	-	6	19	5	2	2	2

Single birds were recorded at Shoreham Airport on Jul 19th and W at High Salvington on Jul 21st. At Worthing beach there were three E on Jul 10th, one E on 23rd and three E on Aug 26th. There were three on the Adur on Sep 1st, one at Ferring on Oct 10th and one at Brooklands on Oct 16th.

TURNSTONE Arenaria interpres

Common passage migrant and winter visitor

Maximum counts at regular sites were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
Marina	-	10	27	16	10	-	-	1	34	ı	30	-
Shoreham Adur	25	-	47	2	-	-	-	27	18	12	21	22
Shoreham Harbour	20	20	10	-	-	-	-	-	25	14	1	,
Widewater	28	10	ı	-	14	-	-			4	9	38
Worthing Brooklands	8	-	-	I	-	-	-	3	11	1	1	4
Worthing	-	-	14	3+ 16E 10W	36E	4E	2W	-	4 7W	65	10 50E	3
Goring	-	7	54	54	-	-	4	19	14	22	8	4W
Ferring / Kingston	25	-	32	-	-	-	-	30	2	-	-	8

Numbers refer to birds on the beach unless flying E(ast) or W(est)

Four were at Hove on |an 1st and again on Feb 28th and 11 were at Southwick on |an 14th.

GREY PHALAROPE Phalaropus fulicarius

Scarce autumn and winter visitor

Two were at the Marina from Sep 14th to 17th (SOS).

POMARINE SKUA Stercorarius pomarinus

Regular spring passage migrant

It was a very good spring for sightings of this enigmatic species. All passage recorded was in an easterly direction. First of the year were two at Worthing beach on Apr 27th followed by 28 there on Apr 28th which included a flock of 14. Also in April singles passed Hove on 28th and 30th. Passage off Worthing continued with an excellent 43 on May 1st which included flocks of 13 and 11, and seven passed there on May 2nd with 12 on May 3rd. Numbers declined from the latter date with two on May 4th, two on May 7th and the last of the spring, one on May 8th. The month totals for Worthing beach were 30 E in April and 67 E in May.

Additionally two passed Lancing beach/Widewater on May 2^{nd} , one on May 4^{th} , and two on May 7^{th} . Some duplication of numbers between Worthing and Lancing beach may be likely. Two autumn records, both from Worthing beach – one E on Oct 24^{th} and an immature W on 28^{th} (DIS).

ARCTIC SKUA Stercorarius parasiticus

Regular spring and autumn passage migrant

There were two early winter records both from Worthing beach and involved singles E there on Jan 5th and 11th. The next sighting was not until March with perhaps a very early migrant E at Worthing on 28th. Not recorded again until singles E again at Worthing on the more typical dates of Apr 14th and 17th. Month totals of birds passing Worthing beach are summarised in the table below, which reveals yet another mediocre year for the species.

	J	F	Σ	Α	M	J	_	A	s	0	z	D
Е	2	-	ı	10	36	1	-	ı	-	3	-	
W	-	-	-	-	3	-	I	-	8	4	-	-

The peak day in spring was May 5th with nine E. Additional to the above was one E at Hove on Apr 17th, four E at the Marina on Apr 19th with a single there on Apr 30th and three E on May 1st. Lancing beach recorded two E on May 3rd. As the above table shows few were noted in the autumn months, the day maximum being three W at Worthing beach on Sep 21st. Last of the year were one W at Worthing beach on Oct 22rd and one E there on Oct 23rd.

GREAT SKUA Stercorarius skua

Regular passage migrant in small numbers

The early winter period produced four records, the first being one off Widewater on Jan Ist followed by singles E at Worthing beach on Jan 3rd and Jan 24th with two offshore there on Jan 27th. Not again recorded until Apr 6th with one offshore and one E at Worthing beach on Apr 9th. The summary of monthly totals at Worthing beach is as follows.

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
East	2	-	-	- 1	14	2	- 1	-	2	ı	-	-
West	2	-	-	- 1	-	4	-	- 1	-	2	-	-
Offshore	-	-	-	3	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-

As can be seen from the above table passage was, although marginally up on 2010, still unremarkable throughout the year and as in 2010 no day total exceeded three birds. The number loitering offshore into June and July is unusual.

Three were off Goring Gap on May 2^{nd} and one was off Hove on Sep 20^{th} . Last of the year was one E at Worthing beach on Oct 31^{st} .

MEDITERRANEAN GULL Larus melanocephalus

Increasing regular visitor throughout the year

Birds passing Worthing beach were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	Ι	1	28	56	12	3	4		4	3	_	I
West	6	9	3	15	14	7	38	-	13	14	6	16

Peak days were Apr 24^{th} when 15 flew E and seven W and Jul 10^{th} when 17 flew W. Other records were as follows:

One was in paddocks at Ferring on Jan 4th, one in Preston Park Brighton on 19th, one at Widewater on Feb 16th and Mar 19th, two on the Adur at Shoreham on Mar 3rd, up to twelve on the Goring Gap gull roost in Mar with two adults flying N there on 15th and one or two passing the Marina on 12th and 14th. In Apr, singles were at the Marina on 2nd, Ladywells on 3rd, two at Goring Gap on 9th and nine E there on 17th and four at the Marina on 19th. May records were one E at the Marina on 1st and two at Lancing beach on 4th.

Two E over Lancing on Jul 5th, one at Brooklands on 13th then ten roosting at Goring Gap again on Sep 16th and one at Widewater on 17th. Four were on the Goring roost on Oct 16th and two on 24th. Five on the beach there on Nov 21st. One was again at Widewater on Dec 2nd, in Shoreham Harbour on 8th, Brooklands on 15th and 28th, five at Goring on 18th, two in Shoreham Harbour on 20th and the month max. of 11 at Goring beach on 30th.

LITTLE GULL Larus minutus

Scarce visitor and passage migrant

Worthing totals were 15 E in Apr, max. seven on 2nd and 69 E in May, max. 52 on 5th. Two E at the Marina on Apr 19th.

Just two autumn records, one at West Worthing on Nov 9^{th} and a first winter bird in Shoreham Harbour on 14^{th} .

BLACK-HEADED GULL Larus ridibundus

Abundant passage migrant and winter visitor

Notable counts in Jan were of 120 on Steyning levels on 15th and 270 at Henfield Levels next day, 100 at Ladywells on 19th then 400 at Henfield Levels on 21st, 200 at Goring Gap on 23rd and 110 at Brooklands on 28th. In Feb, 120 on the Adur near the Tollbridge on 6th eclipsed by 1,800 on Henfield levels on 16th with 130 on the Shoreham Adur on 20th. There were 180 there on Mar 1st, 200 at Goring Gap on 9th and 15th and 330 flew E at Worthing beach on 17th (out of 553 in the month).

Two hundred were at Ladywells on Apr 4^{th} . A total of 340 E and 40 W at Worthing beach in April followed by 236 there in May of which 195 flew E.

Returning birds numbered no more than 55 at any site then until 150 on the Adur by the Tollbridge on Jul 15th and Goring beach held 136 on 17th. Brooklands hosted 172 on Aug 10th, 180 on the Adur again on 18th and inland at Round Hill there were 60 on 20th, 63 at Waterhall on 22nd and 95 at Clayton Mills on 31st. Sept saw 103 at Goring beach on 18th and 100 at Ladywells next day. In Oct 274 at Goring on 30th and 375 at Waterhall on 31st. Numbers were low at all sites in Nov and Dec with 150 at Waterhall on Nov 19th, 120 at Brooklands and 200 on the Adur at Shoreham on Dec 15th by far the largest congregations.

COMMON GULL Larus canus

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

Harrow Hill held 200 on Jan 27th and Clayton Mills 170 on 31st. Elsewhere 20 to 80 at half a dozen mostly downland sites. The Goring Gap roost numbered 450 on Feb 18th and this number was offshore at Worthing beach on 28th. The Adur at Shoreham held 700 on Mar 1st, 200 were at both Ladywells on 8th and at Steyning Bowl on 10th. The month maximum of 1,500 was counted on the Adur at the Tollbridge on 26th and there were 350 in fields being ploughed at Patching Hill/Michelgrove on 28th. Still 200 at Ladywells on Apr 14th and 36 flew E at Worthing beach in the month followed by 63 E there in May. The last spring bird was at Applesham Farm on May 21st.

A first summer bird appeared on Steyning Round Hill on Jul 13th. A slow autumn build up with 380 at Waterhall on Oct 31st the first sizeable count. Broadwater, Worthing and Park Brow, Findon held 150 on Nov 25th and Dec 6th respectively. Lastly 329 were at Goring beach on 18th and 100 at Waterhall on 29th.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL Larus fuscus

Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, small numbers breed

A scattering of records between Jan and Sep of between one and seven birds with Patcham Village a 'new' location. Three pairs bred on Hove Town Hall. Twenty in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 11th, 19 at East Worthing on Nov 18th, 12 at Goring beach on Dec 18th and 20 in Shoreham Harbour on 20th with very small numbers elsewhere.

YELLOW-LEGGED GULL Larus argentatus michahellis

Uncommon and local late summer and autumn visitor

Just two records. One on the Adur below the railway bridge at Shoreham on Mar 29^{th} and one at Brooklands on Sep 7^{th} .

HERRING GULL Larus argentatus

Common breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

Four hundred and sixty four records received from 94 sites and in 64 tetrads.

Confirmed breeding occurred in 22 of these and included West Blatchington Hove, Withdean, Whitehawk, Offington Worthing, Patcham, East Worthing, Lancing, West Tarring Worthing, Old Salts Farm, Mile Oak, Sheepcote Valley, Broadwater, three sites in West Worthing, Hangleton, Hollingdean Brighton, Goring and Durrington.

On Apr 24th, 520 were around a fishing boat offshore at Worthing beach. At Small Dole there were 330 on Jul 13th, at West Worthing 232 and in East Worthing 275 on Aug 2nd and 280 at Brooklands on 10th. An offshore count was made at Worthing beach on 19th of 1,200. The maximum at Ladywells this month was 700 on 24th. A thousand were loafing on ploughed fields at Findon Park Farm on Sep 22nd. In Oct, 350 on the Adur at Shoreham on 17th and 225 at Waterhall on 31st.

CASPIAN GULL Larus argentatus cachinanns

Rare winter visitor

Correction: The 2010 record should have been credited to the SOS.

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	М	Α	М	J	J	A	S	0	N	D
Shoreham Adur	I	43	20	8	2	3	I	3	5	70	-	16
Brooklands	_		ı	I	9	6	8	•	-	1	2	2
Goring Gap/beach	4	15	3	- 1	5	•	4	-	3	47	8	17
Widewater	3	2	I	-	-	I		-	-	-	I	-

A pair raised three young on a school roof in Spring St, Brighton. Two recently fledged young were at Shoreham Airport on Jul $26^{\rm th}$.

Sixty on Worthing beach on Jan 27th and 95 (c. two thirds were 2nd calendar year birds) there on Jul 2nd. At the Marina 30 on Oct 23rd and 43 on Nov 14th.

SABINE'S GULL Xema sabinii

Very scarce autumn migrant, mostly recorded after stormy weather

An immature bird at the Marina on Sep 15^{th} (SOS). One flew slowly E at Worthing beach on Oct 11^{th} (CEH).

KITTIWAKE Rissa tridactyla

Common winter visitor and passage migrant

First of the year was one W at Ferring on Jan 4^{th} . Many more Kittiwakes were recorded this year than in 2010. Major numbers were seen in January with 3,000 between Shoreham Harbour and Widewater on Jan 24^{th} and 2,000 in the same area on Jan 26^{th} . These feeding flocks had largely moved on by Jan 28^{th} . The monthly totals of birds passing Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
East	513	45	19	Ш	16	2	4	-	-	29	9	- 11
West	957	348	10	-	9	-	25	47	3	703	26	144

Peak movements were 314 E, 24 W on Jan 29^{th} , 163 W on Feb 13^{th} and 610 W on Oct 21^{st} . Miscellaneous records included 60 off East Worthing on Jan 27^{th} , 100 off Brooklands on Jan 28^{th} , a second calendar year bird at Brooklands on Mar 20^{th} , and six at the Marina on Apr 19^{th} .

SANDWICH TERN Sterna sandvicensis

Common passage migrant

First of the year were four E at Worthing beach on Mar 12th with three on the beach at Goring Gap and two E at the Marina on the same day. Apart from 17 E at the Marina on Mar 14th not again reported until three E at Ferring beach on Mar 24th. Single-figure day totals were then noted to Mar 30th, the exception being 29 E at Worthing on Mar 28th. The monthly totals for Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East			60	724	383	19	88	75	44	7	-	-
West		-		79	36	39	115	187	97	23	-	ı

Daily spring maxima were 210 E on Apr 2nd and 137 E on May 5th, and in autumn 27 W and eight E on Jul 29th, 41 W on Aug 6th and 22 W on Sep 9th.

Maxima reported at the Marina were 100 E on May 2nd and 165 E on May 19th. Regular observations off Hove produced a monthly maximum for April of 100 with a peak of 56 E there on Apr 21st. Miscellaneous spring records away from the well-watched sites included two E at Ferring beach on Apr 9th, 80 at Goring Gap on Apr 17th with 50 there on Apr 21st, and 26 on May 2nd. The late summer/early autumn roost again featured at the Goring Gap fields with 15 on Aug 14th, 24 on Sep 10th and 20 on Sep 16th reducing to 17 on Sep 18th.

Numbers declined rapidly from late September with no one day exceeding three birds apart from 12 W at Worthing beach on Oct 2nd. The last migrant was one E at the Marina

on Oct 23^{rd} . Last for the year however was a wintering individual W at Worthing beach on Dec 27^{th} .

A single inland record was received, of five in the Lower Adur valley on Sep 30th.

COMMON TERN Sterna hirundo

Common passage migrant

First of the year was an exceptionally early single E at the Marina on Mar 14th, probably our earliest-ever. Another early bird passed E off Worthing on Mar 25th. Not noted again until one E at Worthing beach on Apr 1st and two E at Hove on Apr 23rd. The monthly totals for Worthing beach are shown in the following table:

	J	F	М	Α	M	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D
East	-		I	206	211	2	17	11	5	2	-	-
West	-	-	-	ı	-		16	157	23	-		

Daily maxima were 74 E on Apr 19th, 201 E on May 3rd, and 145 W on Aug 13th. Two E at Worthing beach on Jun 4th included a very scarce 2nd calendar year individual. At the Marina 20 flew E on both Apr 30th and May 1st. Miscellaneous records include three at Ferring beach on Jul 29th with four there on Aug 31st and 20 'mostly east' at the Marina on Sep 18th. Last of the year was one in Shoreham Harbour on Oct 12th.

There were two inland records. A single was at Botolphs on Jun 5th and there were five in the Lower Adur valley on Sep 30th.

ARCTIC TERN Sterna paradisaea

Scarce passage migrant

The first specifically identified Arctic Terns of the year were three E at Worthing beach on Apr 29th and six E there on May 3rd on which date 13 passed Hove. These were the only spring records and not noted again until Aug 6th with a juvenile W at Worthing beach with another juvenile W there on Aug 16th. Juveniles were noted at the Marina with one on Sep 15th and 15, 'mainly juvs' there on Sep 18th. The month total at Worthing beach for September was one E and six W. Single juveniles were noted in Shoreham Harbour on Sept 21st and 30th. Last of the year were two juveniles at Shoreham Harbour on the late date of Nov 9th.

'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	Σ	A	M	J	J	Α	S	0	Z	D
East	•		ı	60	1642	2	9	12	24	ı	1	
West		,	-	-	-	-	44	280	222	-	,	-

As can be seen from the above table by far the most productive month was May whereas in 2010 the largest movements were in late April. Peak movements at Worthing were 740 E on May 4th, 348 E on May 5th, 78 W on Aug 26th and 67 W on Sep 17th. Away from

Worthing notable counts included 63 at Goring Gap on Apr 17^{th} , 16 E at Hove on Apr 30^{th} , 48 at the Marina on Apr 19^{th} and 60 at Lancing beach on May 2^{nd} .

LITTLE TERN Sterna albifrons

Fairly common passage migrant

First of the year was one E at Worthing beach on the very early date of Apr Ist, eighteen days earlier than in 2010 and probably the earliest for our area. Not again recorded until four at Goring Gap on Apr 17th and five E at Worthing beach on Apr 19th. The monthly totals from Worthing beach were 18 E in April and 169 E in May. Maxima were 24 E on May 2nd, 35 E on May 3rd, 26 E on May 4th and 30 E on May 5th. Records away from Worthing included 25 at Goring Gap on May 2nd (some of which may have been recorded at Worthing), 12 at Hove on May 1st, and seven at Lancing beach on May 2nd but no movement direction was noted for these three records. There were no autumn sightings. Last of the year were 21 E on May 8th.

BLACK TERN Chlidonias niger

Scarce but regular passage migrant

The following represent all records received. All were from Worthing beach. First of the year was three E on Apr 22nd after which one E on Apr 27th. In May two passed E on May Ist with one E on May 3rd, three E on May 4th and nine E on May 5th. There was just one autumn record of two E at Worthing beach on Sep 8th, the last of the year.

COMMON GUILLEMOT Uria aalge

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

In Jan 772 flew E and 49 W at Worthing beach, max. 765 E and 30 W on 31st. In Feb, 11 were logged. Singles were at Black Rock on May 1st and the Marina on 5th.

One off Worthing on Oct 29th, Nov 14th, 21st and 30th and one or two in Shoreham Harbour on Nov 7th, 14th, 17th, 28th and Dec 8th, 25th and 30th. Three were off Widewater on Dec 25th.

RAZORBILL Alca torda

Regular winter visitor and passage migrant

As has been the case in the last few years, this species was far more numerous than the previous one in our area. Worthing records were :

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	1	0	N	D
East	292	-	-	3	I	I		7	11	ı
West	785	51	-	-	-	-		9	-	-

Peak day was Jan 6th when 729 were logged.

There were 40 off Widewater on Jan Ist and 400 off there on 24th and 26th and 50 off Lancing beach on 27th. Two in the Marina on Jan 2nd and four on 3rd with one on Mar 7th and two on Apr 30th. One off Hove on Mar 26th.

AUK species

Reported from Worthing beach where monthly totals were:

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	A	S	0	Ν	D
East	4735	231	28	6	7	2	-	-	-	75	36	10
West	2221	1786	75	-	53	4	-	-	4	45	55	63

Peak days were Jan 3^{rd} when 1,950 flew E and 190 W and Feb 6^{th} with 880 W and 19 E. At the Marina 120 moved E on Jan 28^{th} .

FERAL PIGEON Columba livia

Common resident

Recorded in 46 tetrads; four in which it bred with nine more probable. Most regularly noted at four sites in Hove as well as Patcham and Whitehawk. Two hundred and forty seven records received.

STOCK DOVE Columba oenas

Resident and passage migrant

A noticeable increase in distribution seems to be apparent since records came from 48 tetrads with confirmed breeding in seven and probable in 13 more. No large assemblies noted other than 80 in No Man's Land in Mar, 150 at Mill Hill/New Erringham Farm on Apr 27th/28th and 40 at Steyning Round Hill in Oct.

No conspicuous autumn movements.

WOODPIGEON Columba palumbus

Abundant resident and late autumn passage migrant

Unsurprisingly, records came from 72 tetrads with confirmed or probable breeding in half of these. The only sizeable gatherings were 500 at Lychpole Hill on Jan 18^{th} , 385 at Newtimber Hill on Mar 5^{th} and 300 at Lower Standean on 8^{th} . Like the previous species no large autumn passage was observed as in recent years.

COLLARED DOVE Streptopelia decaocto

Common resident

Although recorded in 50 tetrads, confirmed or probable breeding only noted in 20, which considering the species is rather conspicuous, is a little surprising. No flocks exceeded the 26 at Portslade in Nov and the majority were of ten or less.

TURTLE DOVE Streptopelia turtur

Scarce summer visitor, declining

Records received from eight sites. The first was on the Adur Levels at West Mill Farm on May 24th. One at Waterhall on Jun 29th. Four singles in July between 13th and 27th at Small Dole, Ferring, Oreham Common and Woods Mill. The proximity of three of these may be significant. One at Broadwater on Aug 27th to 31st. Two at Upper Beeding on Sep 1st when also two at Broadwater, then the last for the year, one there on 12th.

CUCKOO Cuculus canorus

Fairly common summer visitor

There were 32 reports of Cuckoos in our area in 18 tetrads. The first sightings were both on Apr 17th at Oreham Common and Wappingthorn and there were four other April

records. Two birds were singing at Beeding Brooks on May 6th and three were recorded at Coombes on May 30th and Strivens Reedbed, Steyning on Jun 2nd. The only other record of multiple birds was of two heard at Devil's Dyke on Jun 1st. The two July records were both of immature birds - at Patching on Jul 14th and at Steep Down on July 22nd.

BARN OWL Tyto alba

Uncommon breeding resident

Birds were reported from twelve tetrads during 2011 and breeding was confirmed in seven of these. A total of eighteen young birds were seen at nests. However another nest contained six deserted eggs. In the first winter period birds were seen at Henfield Levels, Steyning Levels, Sompting and Henfield. During May one bird was seen at Stanmer Park and in the second winter period birds were recorded from Lancing, Rock Common near Washington, Beeding Brooks and Steyning Round Hill.

LITTLE OWL Athene noctua

Fairly common resident

There were sixteen reports this year from nine tetrads. Breeding was confirmed at one site but was also probable in one other area. In January birds were seen at Beeding Brooks, Wyckham Farm and Beeding Hill where, as well as Lower Standean, there were regular sightings throughout the year. The last bird seen during the year was at Henfield Levels on Nov 6^{th} .

TAWNY OWL Strix aluco

Fairly common resident

There were 48 reports of these widespread residents throughout the year. Confirmed or probable breeding was reported from seven locations. Most reports were of single birds calling but two birds were regularly heard at Cissbury. Fledged young were reported at three locations, Spithandle Lane, Charlton Court (Steyning) and Findon Park.

LONG-EARED OWL Asio otus

Scarce winter visitor and breeding resident

There were only four reports of these handsome birds during 2011. These came from only two locations and on one occasion two birds were seen. In the second winter period a grey morph bird was reported twice in the region of a traditional downland winter roost area.

SHORT-EARED OWL Asio flammeus

Migrant and occasional winter visitor

This was a good year for Short-eared Owls in our area. There were 24 reports from twelve tetrads. The first sighting was of two birds at Beeding Brooks on Jan 16th. In spring three separate birds were seen at Beeding Brooks, Ferring Rife and Lower Adur valley. From Oct 16th to Nov 6th individual birds were seen at six locations including two arriving from the sea at Worthing on Oct 19th. Then from Nov 12th several birds were regularly reported from Upper Beeding, Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels. The maximum count at Beeding Brooks was six birds on Dec 3rd. Steyning Levels hosted three birds on Nov 19th and Dec 21st and there were similar reports from Upper Beeding on Dec 10th and Dec 31st. During November single birds were also noted at Cissbury and Steyning Round Hill.

EUROPEAN NIGHTJAR Caprimulgus europaeus

Scarce summer visitor to our area

No records this year.

COMMON SWIFT Apus apus

Common summer visitor

2010 record: Delete eight birds over Wild Park on Oct 7th.

2011: The first Swifts seen in our area were three at Whitehawk and one at Wild Park on Apr 30th. During the summer they were reported from 55 tetrads and confirmed or probable breeding was noted in 22 of them. The only comments noted concerning comparisons with previous years related to a 'catastrophic decline in numbers in the High Salvington area' and 'seems scarce over the town this year' at East Worthing. During May there were 41 sightings and the highest number seen was 25 at Broadwater, Worthing on May 25th. In June there were very many sightings and the highest counts were 100 at Steyning Round Hill on Jun 29th, 40 at both Steep Down and Whitehawk on 1st, and 34 at Sheepcote Valley on 13th. The largest counts seen later in the year were 100 at Brooklands, on Jul 18th and 110 at West Tarring on Aug 2nd. After Aug 3rd small numbers of birds continued to be reported regularly until Sep 13th. A very late bird was seen on Oct 28th at Ferring, feeding over the village for at least 15 minutes.

COMMON KINGFISHER Alcedo atthis

Uncommon resident and winter visitor

During the first winter period single birds were recorded at Brooklands, Beeding Brooks and Ladywells. Birds were seen in seven tetrads during the year and there was no record of proved breeding. However ringing sessions at Ladywells confirmed that all of the five birds trapped during the year there were young birds. There were sightings from eleven locations from Aug 20th until Dec 29th. Most of these sightings were of singletons and included one near the Beeding Cement Works on Aug 17th that was dive-bombed by 70 young Swallows as it flew across the river. It dropped into the water tail first, recovered, and flew off! Two birds were seen on three occasions, at Widewater on Aug 23rd, at Beeding Brooks on Aug 30th and on the River Adur at Shoreham on Dec 4th.

HOOPOE Upupa epops

Rare migrant

Only one of these handsome birds was seen in our area this year. This sighting was at Hove on Apr 3^{rd} . (SOS)

WRYNECK Jynx torquilla

Scarce passage migrant

There was one spring sighting at Cissbury Ring on Apr 8th. In the autumn one bird was reported regularly in the Cissbury to No Mans Land area from Aug 22nd to 27th.

GREEN WOODPECKER Picus viridis

Common resident

These attractive birds were regularly reported from Jan Ist through to the end of the year. There were reports from 54 tetrads but in only eighteen of these were there records of confirmed or probable breeding, although they will probably have bred in many other areas. From the ringing reports ten birds were handled at Ladywells of which six were

young. At The Mumbles eight birds were caught of which five were in their first calendar year. At Cissbury both birds trapped were in their first calendar year.

GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos major

Common resident

There were very many sightings of these birds during the year from Jan Ist to Dec 29th. The reports came from 48 tetrads and in sixteen of these confirmed or probable breeding was recorded. At Coombes, the first juvenile appeared on Jun 20th. There was one record of a bird attacking a Blue Tit nest box and another of a bird trying to feed from a niger seed feeder. Ringing reports from Ladywells confirmed that ten birds were caught during the year of which three were young. At Steyning four birds were handled of which two were young and at Cissbury the two birds trapped were both in their first calendar year.

LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER Dendrocopos minor

Scarce resident

The only report of these birds came from High Salvington, Worthing. On Mar 1st a bird was heard calling from three different locations.

WOODLARK Lullula arborea

Scarce passage migrant

One flew over Wild Park on Sep 25th and one flew over Sheepcote Valley on Oct 14th.

SKYLARK Alauda arvensis

Common resident

On Jan Ist there were 200 at Ferring and 30 in a ploughed field at Henfield Levels. The first singing birds were recorded at Steyning Bowl on Jan 25th, Findon on Feb 17th and Truleigh Hill on 24th. There were 45 at Round Hill on Jan 30th and 26 at the same site on Mar 20th. There were 20 at Steep Down at the end of Mar and 22 at Ditchling Beacon on Apr 16th. Skylarks were recorded in 57 of the 94 tetrads in the SDOS area and breeding was confirmed in seven tetrads, at Steep Down on Jun 27th, Michelgrove on Jun 29th, Chantry Hill in Jun (two tetrads), Thundersbarrow Hill on Jul 10th, Coldean on Jul 15th and Round Hill on Jul 29th. At Sheepcote Valley there were up to 40 on several dates from Sep 15th to Nov 4th. Twenty birds were at Ashington on Oct 7th and there were a maximum of 65 at Wild Park in Oct. Twenty four were at Clayton Hill on Nov 10th and 22 at Skeleton Hovel (near Round Hill) on Nov 20th. There were around 50, including singing birds, in weedy fields at Round Hill on Oct 29th and 45 there on Dec 19th. Forty were at Lower Standean on Dec 12th.

SAND MARTIN Riparia riparia

Summer visitor and passage migrant

Very few spring migrants as usual, with three in off the sea at Worthing beach on Mar 25th and two at Wild Park on Apr 6th. Arrivals at Sandgate Park were 22 on Apr 6th with a maximum of 30 there, but no nesting records were received. Later arrivals included 20 N at Findon on Apr 17th and a single off the sea at the Marina on May 1st. Middle of the season were 30 at Botolphs on Jun 5th and some early downland passage noted at the end of the month. Monthly totals from Worthing beach were 12 in Jul and 22 in Aug, but

elsewhere counts hardly reached double figures, except for max 100 at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 15th, which was also the last date.

BARN SWALLOW Hirundo rustica

Common summer visitor

There were only two early arrivals – two at Foredown on Mar 24th and a single at Worthing beach on 28th. Many arrivals reported during Apr but 14 at Worthing beach was the only high count until a mini-influx on 30th with six at Clayton Mills, 12 at Hove, 23 at the Marina, and nine at Old Salts Farm. Findon Park recorded 21 on May 2nd. There were numerous nesting and fledged young reports from Beeding Hill, Coombes, Devil's Dyke, Findon, Foredown, Mile Oak, Newtimber, Patching, Saddlescombe, Wappingthorn, Washington, Waterhall, and Whitehawk. Doubtless bred elsewhere with birds noted in habitat. On Jul 1st 200 were at Ferring feeding on flying ants, and the only other high count during the summer was max 300 at Washington on Jul 30th. On Aug 17th 70, mainly juveniles, were above the Adur opposite the Beeding Cement Works and on 21st 80 were there. The first real indication of passage was 1,080 E at Worthing beach on Aug 31st, followed by 1,000+ at Ferring on Sep 2nd and 3,160 E at Worthing beach on Sep 16th. Other site peaks included 343 at West Tarring, 700 at Wild Park and 150 at Steep Down. Noted from a dozen sites in Oct then the last were three at Ferring Rife on Nov 6th and finally a single at Hove on Nov 9th.

HOUSE MARTIN Delichon urbicum

Common summer visitor

First arrivals were two on Apr 2nd at Upper Beeding followed by ones and twos from Coombes, Ferring, West Blatchington and Wild Park to mid month. A surprisingly small number were recorded into May, then with breeding colonies at Durrington, Findon Valley, Malthouse Meadow, Myrtlegrove Farm, Offington, Oreham Common, Saddlescombe, Upper Beeding, Wappingthorn, Blatchington Mill School and Stanmer village. Also reported during the breeding season from Cissbury, Sheepcote Valley and Woodmancote, with probable nest sites nearby. Autumn passage was slow to start with 120 at Ladywells on Aug 6th and 250 there on 31st. Then 1,000 at Cissbury on Sep 15th and 300 on the same day at Sheepcote Valley. The next day 600 E were over Worthing beach and another 1,000 at Washington on Sep 18th. An indication of the low numbers can be seen at Wild Park where 450 was the max. In Oct 500 at Washington on 1st was a good late count, followed by ten E at Ferring on 8th, 15 from Whitehawk on 13th and the last were six E at Worthing on 15th.

TREE PIPIT Anthus trivialis

Decreasing, formerly fairly common passage migrant

Just one spring record of a bird over Cissbury Ring on Apr 9th.

In the autumn, two there on Aug 20^{th} , six on 21^{st} and 12 on 22^{nd} . One over West Worthing on 20^{th} , three over Wild Park on 28^{th} and one at Beeding Brooks on 31^{st} .

In Sep, five at Cissbury on 1st, two on 2nd, one on 14th and two on 15th. The last for the year was one at Wild Park on 25th.

MEADOW PIPIT Anthus pratensis

Locally common resident and common passage migrant

Recorded in 42 tetrads. Three double figure counts in Jan were 16 at Ferring on 1st, 18 at Beeding Brooks on 16th and Steyning Bowl on 29th. At Sheepcote Valley 29 were noted on Mar 14th and 32 logged at Worthing beach in the month. In Apr, 12 over Wild Park on 4th and 18 on 7th with 20 at Edburton on 12th - an unremarkable spring passage.

Breeding was confirmed at three sites, Steep Down, Clayton Mills and Saddlescombe, and probable in four more.

Autumn passage commenced in earnest in mid September and continued until mid November. The following table lists totals for the main sites;

Sept	14 th	15 th	17 th	22 nd	27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th
- birds	87	190	42	200	220	60	108	90
- sites	3	3	2	- 1	2	- 1	I	- 1
Oct	st	3 rd	5 th	8 th	10 th	12 th	13 th	14 th
- birds	227	40	96	53	44	84	65	280
- sites	4	3	I	2	2	3	2	2

In addition, 45 were at Clayton Mills on Nov 10th.

Passage at Worthing beach totalled 198 E, 41 W and ten N in Sep (max. 108 on 29^{th}) and 300 E, 172 W and 44 N in Oct (max. 129 on 1^{st}). At Wild Park, 70 in Sep on 15^{th} and 97 in Oct in the month. All these figures are included in the table above.

ROCK PIPIT Anthus petrosus

Regular winter visitor, occasionally breeds

In Jan singles at the Marina and Ferring, two at Southwick and up to four at Shoreham Harbour. One at Worthing beach on Feb 28th then one at Shoreham Harbour on Mar 19th. Four flying over Cissbury Ring on Oct 10th were followed two days later by the same number at Shoreham Harbour. Singles there on 30th and at Worthing beach next day and again on Nov 4th. Then two at Shoreham on 7th and at the Marina on 14th rising to four on 21st with one at Worthing beach on 25th. Dec records were of one at Widewater on 2nd then two on 25th. The year ended with singles at Shoreham Fort and Lancing beach.

YELLOW WAGTAIL Motacilla flava

Rather uncommon spring but common autumn passage migrant

Spring migrants were recorded from four sites. The first of the year was one E at Worthing beach on Apr 6th with three N there on 25th, one N on May 1st and two N on 4th. At Goring Gap two flew in off the sea on Apr 17th, three on 21st and three on May 2nd. Three were at Lancing beach on May 2nd and one flew over Preston Park on May 4th. The first autumn migrants were three birds flying over Beeding Cement Works on Jul 15th. On the same day at Coombes ten were seen feeding in a field by the river and ten birds were later seen at Coombes on Aug 21st. There were 19 W at Worthing beach on Aug 28th and 15 at Botolphs on Sep 1st with 40 there on 15th. Nineteen were at Goring Gap on Sep 10th and 15 at Steyning Round Hill on the same day. Forty were seen at Cissbury on Sep 15th

with 20 there on Sep 23rd. There were eight E at West Tarring on Sep 30th. The only Oct record was of a single bird at Worthing beach.

GREY WAGTAIL Motacilla cinerea

Local resident and winter visitor; passage migrant

Monthly totals were as follows:

	J	F	M	Α	М	J	J	A	S	0	N	D
No of birds	4	5	4	3	-	ı	5	2	- 11	7	6	2
No of sites	4	2	2	2	-	- 1	3	2	9	5	5	2

Four birds were at King's Barn on Feb 16^{th} , which was the highest single total of the year. Three were at Steyning on Mar 26^{th} . There were two breeding records, at Newtimber Place on Jun 4^{th} and at Wyckham Farm on Jul 24^{th} where fledged young were seen. Three were seen flying W at Ferring beach on Oct 12^{th} .

PIED WAGTAIL Motacilla alba

Common resident

There was a small roost in a reed fringed ditch at Shoreham Airport on Jan 2nd and 37 were at Beeding Brooks on the same day. Ten were at Steyning Bowl on Jan 25th, 36 at Lower Standean on Feb 12th and 80 at Steyning on Mar 5th. Breeding was confirmed in five tetrads, at Cockroost Hill on Jun 12th, East Worthing on Jun 13th, Lychpole Hill on Jun 28th, Truleigh Hill on Jul 18th and Round Hill. A total of 549 E were recorded at Worthing beach between Sep 24th and the end of Oct including 80 E on Sep 29th, 110 E on Sep 30th and, in Oct, 121 E on 1s^{tt}, 92 E on 14th, 70 E on 15th and 39 E on 21st. In Brighton there were roosts of 110 on Oct 28th and 120 on Nov 28th. At Beeding Brooks 128 were seen going to roost in a small reed bed on Oct 1s^{tt} and there were 112 there on Dec 18th.

WHITE WAGTAIL Motacilla alba alba

Scarce passage migrant

One bird was at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 11th. An adult and a juvenile flew in off the sea at Worthing beach on Oct 1st. On Oct 29th what was probably the same bird was seen at Ferring and Goring Gap.

WAXWING Bombycilla garrulous

Rare winter visitor

Birds remained from 2010 into Jan at five sites. Thirty were at Brougham Road, East Worthing and one in Portslade on Ist, 35 at Tarring on 4th, four in Hove on 6th, 20 at Shoreham on 8th, one at Holmbush (Shoreham) on 10th and ten in Goring on 28th. None were reported in Feb. Birds then appeared in Brighton with five on Mar Ist remaining in the Park Crescent area until 24th with a maximum of 13.

Tragically, 13 were found dead outside the Shoreham Civic Centre on Mar 8th having apparently flown into the glass frontage of the building.

Newtown Road, Hove was the favoured locality from Mar 22^{nd} to Apr 4^{th} where between eight and 30 (these on the last date) were seen. Two were found dead there on Mar 28^{th} .

WREN Troglodytes troglodytes

Very common resident

The first of the most widely recorded species in the area (347 records) occurred in 68 tetrads and bred in 25 of these with probable breeding in a further 19.

The bird with atypical dark under-parts was again seen in Tarring between Feb 2nd and 25th. The highest count of the year was 43 at West Blatchington, Hove on Apr 6th.

Ringers at Ladywells trapped 25 young and 12 adult birds, those at The Mumbles 58 and 13 respectively and at Cissbury 34 and five.

DUNNOCK Prunella modularis

Very common resident

Found in 65 tetrads with confirmed breeding in 15 and probable in another 15, the 336 records showed a slight increase from last year. The regularly monitored sites of West

Blatchington (Hove), Round Hill, Waterhall, Patcham and Lower Standean accounted for the highest densities. These were typically between six and 27, the highest numbers occurring in Apr; this latter figure being noted at Hangleton on 4th. Ringing at the three main sites accounted for 53 young and 26 adult birds at The Mumbles, 39 young and 24 adults at Ladywells and 36 young and 12 adults at Cissbury.



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ROBIN Erithacus rubecula

Very common resident

The 418 records came from 67 tetrads of the 94 in the SDOS area. Confirmed as breeding in 27 of these and probably doing so in nine more.

High counts were of 23 at Whitehawk in Feb/Mar, 66 at West Blatchington, Hove and 34 at Patcham in Oct, 36 at Newtimber Hill and Waterhall in Nov and 35 at Withdean in Dec. The lowest numbers were noted in July suggesting autumn and winter immigrants swelling the population. Ringing at The Mumbles accounted for 66 young and 16 adults, at Ladywells 46 young and 19 adults and at Cissbury 56 young and 16 adults.

COMMON NIGHTINGALE Luscinia megarhynchos

Summer visitor and passage migrant

Six singing males were first noted on Apr 11th from the Oreham Common/Woods Mill area, and another at Edburton the next day. A thorough survey of the area on Apr 18th revealed 20 singing males from Bramlands Lane (Woodmancote), Clappers Lane (Fulking), Edburton, Oreham Common, Small Dole and Woods Mill. Another survey on May 9th recorded 23 singing males mainly from repeat sites, and included seven from Oreham Common. The Woods Mill maximum seemed to be four birds. Elsewhere there was one at Southwick on Apr 15th and another at Mill Hill a week later; then two near Steyning on May 14th and one at Ladywells on Jun 5th. One was ringed at Cissbury and two at The Mumbles.

BLACK REDSTART Phoenicurus ochruros

Regular spring migrant, winter visitor, has bred

There were fewer early wintering records this year and none at all during Feb. Singles were at the usual sites between Widewater and Goring Gap, and unusually one up river at Applesham Farm on Jan 9th, but unlikely to have been more than four birds involved in total. The first sign of passage was one at Steyning on Mar 15th, followed by singles at Ferring Rife and West Worthing. A singing male was by Shoreham Power Station on Jul 6th but no further news followed. Then there were no records until Oct, the normal passage/arrival of wintering birds. Two roof-top birds were at Hollingbury on 14th and another at Hollingdean on 17/18th. One stayed a week at Lancing from 24th. Thereafter about a dozen birds in total from the Marina, Hove Lagoon and the Ferring/Goring stretch. Garden visitors at the year-end were at Lancing and Southwick.

COMMON REDSTART Phoenicurus phoenicurus

Fairly common passage migrant, especially in autumn

Two early arrivals were at Wild Park on Apr 7th and another at Ferring on 11th. These were the only spring records. One at Harrow Hill on Jun 29th was perhaps a very early returning migrant. In the autumn Cissbury seemed to attract this species with regular counts of up to six and peak nine on Sep 2nd. Birds were ringed at Cissbury, Ladywells and The Mumbles. Smaller counts came from Beeding Brooks, Broadwater, Ferring, Newtimber Hill, Sheepcote Valley, Steyning Round Hill, Truleigh Hill and Wild Park, the last being at Ferring on Oct 3rd.

WHINCHAT Saxicola rubetra

Common passage migrant

Mill Hill recorded the first, a fine male, on Apr 21st and two males were on Hollingbury Fort on May 14th. Autumn passage began with two at Steep Down on Jul 22nd and five at Steyning Round Hill on 28th. Then mainly ones and twos through Aug from a dozen downland sites, including three at Sheepcote Valley on 19th and a peak of six at Cissbury on 21st. Numbers increased in Sep with max ten at Sheepcote Valley on 15th, six at Cissbury on 23rd, whilst the Wild Park autumn total was only 11. The latest were a single at Cissbury and four at Steep Down both on Sep 27th.

STONECHAT Saxicola torquata

Regular winter visitor and local breeding resident

A pair were present at Ferring during the first two months and the only other early year bird was at Sheepcote Valley on Jan 31st. A pair were at Sheepcote Valley in early Mar and likely migrants included birds at Canada Bottom (near Cissbury), Goring Gap and Steyning Levels. Breeding successes were Beeding Hill – one pr, Devil's Dyke – one pr, Steep Down – two prs and Steyning Bowl – one pr. In spite of this nesting, numbers reported in early autumn were no more than three at Cissbury, Coombes and Devil's Dyke. Hardly much of an increase, but four at Truleigh Hill on Sep 26th, five the next day at Cissbury and five at Steyning Round Hill on Oct 2nd were the highest counts. Max. at Sheepcote Valley was only three, and only two at Wild Park. Away from downland singles were at Brooklands and Ferring Rife, and a pair at Round Hill on Dec 19th.

SIBERIAN STONECHAT Saxicola torquata maura

Rare vagrant to Britain, mainly in late autumn

2001 record: A first winter male was at Sheepcote Valley between Oct 16-17th and is the first to be accepted for the SDOS area (SOS).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR Oenanthe oenanthe

Common passage migrant

Spring passage commenced with a male at Goring Gap on Mar 21st and a small flurry on 24th with ten at Kingston Gorse and three at Ferring Beach. Seawatching at Worthing beach recorded a total of 14 in Mar and six in Apr. A good sprinkle of birds from coast and downland continued with peak 11 at Ferring, six at Findon, eight at Goring and eight at Sheepcote Valley. First returning bird was at New Erringham Farm on Jul 28th. Then followed 30 entries for Aug and 40 in Sep, the pick of them being 14 at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 3rd, 15 at Kingston Gorse on Aug 24th, nine at Truleigh Hill on Aug 29th, 11 at Lower Standean on Sep 14th, 45 congregated at Sheepcote Valley on Sep 15th and 14 at Cissbury on Sep 23rd. Good numbers continued well into Oct and included six at Goring Gap and five on Worthing beach. The final birds were singles at Sheepcote Valley on Nov 4th and at the Marina on Nov 11th.

A male Greenland Wheatear was at Steyning Round Hill on Apr 15th.

RING OUZEL Turdus torquatus

Regular passage migrant

Six birds were seen on eight dates between Apr 6th and May 1st; up to three were at Cissbury between Apr 6th and 11th, and singles at Steyning Round Hill between Apr 10th and 15th, at Wild Park on Apr 20th and at Shoreham on May 1st. During the autumn a minimum of 17 birds were noted from seven sites on ten different dates. The only September record was one at Truleigh Hill on the 17th but between Oct 10th and 15th this site hosted the largest number when eight were recorded on the last date. Up to two were recorded at Cissbury between Oct 13th and 19th, two at Sheepcote Valley on the 15th, two at Steyning Round Hill on the 19th and singles at Ferring Rife on the 13th, at Wolstonbury Hill on the 18th and finally at Wild Park on the 24th.

BLACKBIRD Turdus merula

Very common resident

In keeping with the pattern of recent years this species was well recorded with observations coming from 71 of the 94 tetrads in the Society's recording area. Encouragingly there was some indication of breeding in nearly half of the area's tetrads. This was the last year of the national and county atlas survey but the first of the Sussex Winter Bird Survey so it will be interesting to see if this level of recording continues in future years. During organised winter surveys the highest count was 23 at West Blatchington on Jan 3rd. The same location produced the largest counts through the year with 52 on May 8th and 38 on Jun 6th. Blackbirds were recorded in all 12 BBS squares with the highest count for the two x 1km transects being 17 in both Portslade on May 17th and West Worthing on May 30th. Ringing at the three regular sites produced slightly higher numbers than 2010 with totals of 54 different birds at Cissbury, 92 at Ladywells and 105 at The Mumbles of which 31, 40 and 80 respectively were young birds.



Little Egret chicks at Coombes by Sue Miles



Little Egret with chicks at Coombes by Dorian Mason



Grey Partridge at Applesham Farm by Janet Derricott



Left

Spotted Flycatcher at Cissbury by Dorian Mason

Below

Kestrel By Dorian Mason



FIELDFARE Turdus pilaris

Common winter visitor

During the first winter period approximately 250 were noted from 21 different locations. The highest counts were 50 on the Henfield Levels on Feb 20th, 45 near the Clayton Mills on Jan 31st and 40 at Saddlescombe on Mar 17th. The last in the spring was one at Beeding Brooks on Apr 9th. During the autumn there was one at Truleigh Hill on Sep 26th, two at Wild Park on Oct 17th and 17 flew over Goring on Oct 28th. Thereafter recorded more regularly with the largest counts coming from the levels; at Beeding Brooks there were 270 on Nov 19th, 200 on the Nov 22nd and 120 on Dec 18th whilst 200 were counted on the Henfield Levels on Dec 7th.

SONG THRUSH Turdus philomelos

Fairly common resident

This species was again well recorded with sightings coming from 60 of the 94 tetrads containing land in the society's recording area and in 38 tetrads records included evidence of breeding. Like most common and widespread species many of these records came from the national or county surveys and Birdtrack lists. Song Thrushes were recorded in just seven of the area's 12 BBS squares, mostly in low numbers a maximum of eight being recorded for the two x 1km transects at Patcham on Apr 19th. The area's highest counts occurred in the autumn with 30 at Cissbury on Sep 15th and 25 at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 16th. Ringing totals from the three local sites were 29 different birds at Cissbury, 45 at Ladywells and 24 at The Mumbles, of which 20, 33 and 18 respectively were young birds.

REDWING Turdus iliacus

Common winter visitor

During the first winter period this species was recorded from 32 different sites and probably involved between 5-600 birds. There were no large flocks recorded and the largest counts, all of 50, were at Washington on Jan 30th, on the Henfield Levels on Feb 20th and at Wild Park on Mar 13th. The last two in the spring were at Devil's Dyke on Mar 20th. Three at Cissbury on Oct 9th were the first during the second winter period and although the species was recorded on a further 36 dates before the end of the year the numbers encountered were small. The highest counts were of 45 flying east near the Tollbridge on Nov 14th, 24 at Waterhall on Dec 29th and 20 on the Henfield Levels on Dec 20th.

MISTLE THRUSH Turdus viscivorus

Fairly common resident

Although fairly widespread, being recorded in 39 different tetrads and recorded in each month, the numbers, like recent years, were small. The only records involving more than five birds were at Ladywells with counts of six on Aug 24th, 12 on Sep 23rd and 11 on Dec 22nd, six at Michelgrove on Jun 29th and nine at Newtimber Place on Dec 4th.

CETTI'S WARBLER Cettia cetti

Very scarce resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

The initial report was of one at Cuckoo Corner Jan 2nd and again on Feb 19th. On Mar 20th possibly the same bird was near the A27-Coombes road junction. It was near the end of March before one was first reported from the more regular haunt at Beeding Brooks. Up to two were seen here until May 14th where they were thought to be breeding. At Saltings

Field (Beeding), Shoreham Airport and near Mill Hill, where one was singing at night, there were just three records from these favoured locations during the same period. From mid June until Oct 3rd single birds were heard regularly at Ladywells and four birds were ringed of which two were considered juveniles and one an adult bird. Single birds were still present at Beeding Brooks from early July until Nov 13th – the last record for the year.

GRASSHOPPER WARBLER Locustella naevia

Generally scarce passage migrant

Only recorded from three sites this year. In the spring a single was heard reeling at Henfield Levels on May 6th but not thereafter. Ringers recorded autumn movement at both the Cissbury and Ladywells sites. The first were at Cissbury on Jul 30th and Aug 6th followed by three singles at Ladywells between 15th and 31st August. This was the first time this species has been recorded in the Ladywells valley. Last for the year was another seen at Cissbury on Sep 1st.

SEDGE WARBLER Acrocephalus schoenobaenus

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

The first for the year was found at Beeding Brooks on Apr 9th followed by a count of seven on the Adur between Cuckoo Corner and Coombes on Apr 17th. On the 24th six were noted at Beeding Brooks and on May 4th another was at Henfield Levels and two near the Adur by the airport. A single bird at Broadwater on May 7th and another at Kithurst Hill the following day were clearly passing through. Elsewhere at more waterside locations in the Adur Valley singing birds indicated breeding activity although the only confirmed breeding record was near Coombes on July 9th. The presence of birds away from waterside locations indicates that return passage is underway so one at Sheepcote Valley on the early date of Jul 4th, another there on the 28th and one ringed at Cissbury on the same day is evidence that birds were on the move. In August single birds were ringed on two dates at Ladywells, with another at Cissbury and birds were also at The Mumbles, Ferring and Sheepcote Valley in the same month. In September The Mumbles and Sheepcote Valley held singles in the early weeks with the last at Wyckham Farm later that month on the 25th.

EURASIAN REED WARBLER Acrocephalus scirpaceus

Fairly common summer visitor

The first of the year was found at Shoreham Airport on Apr 4th. As well as more records from the Airport, Beeding Brooks and the River Adur at Shoreham also held early arrivals a few days later. From the 18th reports became more widespread including mostly singles at Ladywells, Ferring, The Mumbles, Beeding Brooks and Henfield Levels although one at Kithurst Hill on May 8th clearly had a bit further to go! As usual breeding season records came predominantly from the Adur Valley but birds were also present in the Wiston Estate, Ferring Rife Area and Horton Hall (Golding Barn). Although breeding was "possible" at a number of sites, confirmed breeding was only recorded at Horton Hall (Golding Barn), Ladywells and Coombes.

The first for the autumn at the Cissbury ringing site was in a net on an early date Jul 19th and most of the other autumn records also came from the ringers at Cissbury, Ladywells and The Mumbles. However one was near the Tollbridge on Aug 18th and another was at Sheepcote Valley the following day. At the very end of the same month three were at

Beeding Brooks and another was at King's Barn. The only September records came from The Mumbles and Ladywells with the last at the latter on Sep 23rd.

Both The Mumbles and Ladywells ringers caught their first birds on Apr 22^{nd} and their last on Sep 15^{th} – a remarkable coincidence! In total 70 different birds were handled at The Mumbles of which 18 were ringed in previous years and 29 were adults and 41 first years. The equivalent totals for Ladywells were 62 different birds, including nine from previous years, with 37 adult birds and 25 first year birds. At Cissbury five different birds were caught on autumn passage with one adult and four first year birds.

BLACKCAP Sylvia atricabilla

Common summer visitor, regular in winter

Throughout January, February and March wintering birds were visiting gardens and taking advantage of both natural and provided food. Up to two were seen at any one site in around 20 locations along the coast and inland in towns and villages. Singing males were heard from early Mar although some of these could well be wintering birds about to depart. However one singing at Woods Mill on March 28th may well have been an arrival. From Apr 3rd birds started to arrive at downland and woodland sites in small numbers with 10 at Ditchling Beacon on Apr 16th being the highest April count. During May, June and July breeding was confirmed at nine locations although another 33 records suggested probable breeding. The first significant count during August was of 20 at Cissbury on the 8th with numbers rising to 40 there by the 22nd and 55 on the 29th then 50 were at Ladywells two days later. By Sep 14th the count at Cissbury totalled 60 with 40 at Ladywells on the 23rd but in October the counts from observers were into single figures though ringers at Cissbury had 33 in the nets on Oct 4th. Throughout November just a sprinkling of records of single birds were received and in December birds were back in Goring and West Tarring gardens, remaining at the latter site until the end of the year.

Ringers at Cissbury enjoyed a much better year with 677 birds handled between Apr 20th and Nov 19th of which 608 were first year birds. The highest catch was on Sep 3rd when 97 were in the nets. At The Mumbles the total from Apr 2nd to Nov 5th was 417 handled including 377 juveniles. Peak catch was of 87 birds on Sep 15th. The team at Ladywells recorded a total of 285 different birds between Mar 30th and 28th November of which 50 were adult birds and 235 were juveniles. Their best day was Aug 31st when 43 birds were caught.

GARDEN WARBLER Sylvia borin

Fairly common summer visitor

The earliest arrival was found at Kithurst Hill on Apr 16th followed by an almost daily occurrence at other widespread locations including Clayton, Steyning, Small Dole, Ferring, Wild Park and Storrington. Confirmed breeding was noted by the ringers at Cissbury as well as observers at Clayton and Saddlescombe although birds singing or holding territory were also at The Mumbles, Findon and Wappingthorn. A single bird at Ferring Rife on Aug 2nd and another feeding with Willow Warblers and Whitethroats at Steepdown the next day were the early signs of autumn movement. Elsewhere in August birds were recorded in small numbers at Cissbury, Ladywells, Ferring, Goring Gap and Beeding Brooks with no more than three at any one location. There were just five records in September, of which three were from the ringing sites; the last for the year was ringed at Cissbury on Sep 29th.

BARRED WARBLER Sylvia nisorea

Very rare autumn migrant

One, a first year bird, was trapped at Cissbury on Oct 17th (VB, BRC, PJC). Our first record since one at the old Sanctuary on Aug 31st 1959.

LESSER WHITETHROAT Sylvia curruca

Fairly common summer visitor

An early arrival was found at Broadwater on Apr 10th but the main spring influx occurred from April 20th until the end of that month with records from a wide range of locations almost every day with no more than two at any one site. They were mostly noted in downland areas but were also found at Beeding Brooks, Henfield Levels and Ladywells. Most breeding season records were also from downland areas with just three confirmed breeding records from Ditchling Beacon, Steyning Round Hill and Edburton. The first significant autumn count was of six at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 3rd followed later that month by four at Sheepcote Valley on the 19th and 12 at Cissbury on the 22nd. A trickle of records continued into September with the last for the year at Saddlescombe on the 30th. At the ringing sites nine individuals were ringed at The Mumbles between mid June and mid September; all were first year birds. At Cissbury only seven birds were ringed between May 28th and Sep 24th of which four were adults and three were first year birds. No juveniles were ringed there this year. Ladywells ringed four birds between May 6th and mid September of which one was an adult and three were first year.

COMMON WHITETHROAT Sylvia communis

Common summer visitor

The first for the year was found at Sheepcote Valley on Apr 4th. Then from Apr 6th, with the exception of the 16th, there were daily reports throughout April. Most were of individual birds in the early weeks, and usually from downland locations, but reports also included Beeding Brooks, Northbrook Farm (Worthing), Ferring and Oreham Common. By the 17th 20 were counted at No Mans Land and just three days later 29 were present at Devil's Dyke. Field work for the Tetrad Atlas generated an impressive 32 confirmed breeding records for our area between May 11th and July 17th. As with the early sightings these were again in mostly downland sites but breeding was also established at Goring, near Coombes, Ferring, Small Dole, Old Salts Farm and Malthouse Meadow. During this period a count at Ferring totalled 28 on Jun 7th, 50 were in the No Mans Land area on Jun 20th and 35 were at Devil's Dyke a week later. Highest autumn counts were 200 at Steyning Round Hill on Aug 3rd, 70 at Sheepcote Valley on Aug 19th, and 60 at Cissbury on Aug 22nd, dropping to 32 at Wild Park by Aug 24th. At Ferring Rife 35 were present on Sep 1st and there were still 30 birds in Sheepcote Valley on Sep 10th but thereafter numbers quickly fell away with the last for the year at Goring Gap on Oct 3rd.

At the ringing sites 105 different birds were processed at Cissbury between Apr 24th and Sep 29th of which 84 were first year birds. The highest catch was eight on Aug 20th. At The Mumbles the totals amounted to 104 different birds with nine adults and 95 first year birds. The best day there was Aug 17th when 26 were in the net. Ladywells handled 43 different birds of which 34 were young birds. The peak total here was nine on Aug 24th.

DARTFORD WARBLER Sylvia undata

Scarce autumn migrant, rare winter visitor

An adult male was present at Cissbury Ring from Sep 23rd to Oct 21st.

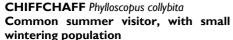
PALLAS'S LEAF WARBLER

Phylloscopus proregulus

Very scarce late autumn visitor
One at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 23rd (SOS).

WOOD WARBLER Phylloscopus sibilatrix Scarce passage migrant

No records received in 2011.





The year had barely started when one was seen at Ferring on Jan 1st followed by others at Beeding Brooks and West Blatchington in the next two days. Coastal locations predominated throughout January and February and all were of single birds apart from two in central Brighton on Feb 9th. Elsewhere one was noted as present all winter at Steyning sewage works. One in the nets at The Mumbles on Mar 12th and another singing at Sheepcote Valley two days later were probably arrivals. Counts increased slowly and became more widespread during March with three at Brooklands on the 21st, another three at Cissbury on the 28th with six at Ladywells two days later. There were 14 confirmed breeding records commencing at Ladywells in mid May and concluding at Fulking in mid July. In addition over 60 probable breeding records were received from across the SDOS recording area.

Counts remained modest throughout August until the 29th when 30 were at Brooklands with 20 at Ladywells and 21 at Beeding Brooks two days later. Peak counts remained similar until mid September when numbers at Cissbury increased from 30 on the 14th to 80 the following day with 50 at Brooklands also on the 14th. At Ladywells 80 were present on Sep 19th but numbers had dropped at Cissbury to 63 by Sep 24th and 40 were at Steepdown by the 27th. In October Cissbury, Ladywells and Brooklands continued to hold good numbers up to the 15th but thereafter numbers trickled along with no more than four at the favoured Brooklands location. The last for the year was on Nov 17th at Ferring.

At the ringing sites Cissbury processed 392 birds between Apr 20th and Nov 12th of which 349 were first year birds. Peak catch was 63 on Sep 24th. At Ladywells 215 birds were handled between Mar 22nd and Oct 20th of which 22 were adults and 182 were young birds with the peak catch of 61 on Sep 19th. Figures for The Mumbles between Mar 12th and Oct 29th were 155 in total with being 121 young birds. Top catch here was 25 on Sep 15th.

WILLOW WARBLER Phylloscopus trochilus

Declining summer visitor and passage migrant

Of the III records received for this species roughly 37 related to spring arrival (April), 64 to autumn departure (late July to early October) and just ten throughout the duration of the breeding season – May, June and most of July. The first for the year was in a West Tarring garden on Mar 29th with records occurring almost daily from Apr 2nd. Many of these were from coastal sites including Goring Gap, Ferring, Shoreham Airport, and

Brooklands. On Apr 30th one flew in off the sea at the Marina and another was seen to do the same by Worthing seawatchers the following day. Breeding was not confirmed at any location but singing males were heard at Whitehawk and Stanmer Down and birds holding territory were at Clayton Mills and Ditchling Beacon. Atlas surveys produced breeding season records at Upper Beeding, Westmeston, Chanctonbury, Foredown and Saddlescombe. The first of the autumn arrived at Ladywells on July 15th soon followed by arrivals at Cissbury, Steepdown and Goring Gap. By Jul 27th there were 15 at Ferring and Steyning Round Hill held 40 the following day. On Aug 5th a count of 35 was made at Goring Gap with 50 present at Cissbury the same day, increasing to 60 there by the 12th. By early September the Cissbury count had reduced to 24 and thereafter no more than eight were noted in any one location until the last at Whitehawk on Oct 3rd.

At the ringing sites Ladywell's ringers processed 64 different birds between Apr 4th and Sep 15th of which five were adult birds and 59 were first year birds. The peak catch of 16 occurred on Aug 6th. The Mumbles totals were 55 different birds between Apr 16th and Sep 10th of which seven were adult and 46 young birds with 11 on Aug 5th being the highest catch. At Cissbury, as in 2010, there were no spring or breeding season captures. Thus the total of 106 different birds arose between July 23rd and Sep 29th. Of these 101 were first year birds with the biggest catch being 19 on Aug 20th.

GOLDCREST Regulus regulus

Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor

There were regular reports of these diminutive birds throughout the year. Sightings came from 43 tetrads although confirmed or probable breeding was only noted in six locations. The largest numbers seen were ten at Wild Park on Oct 6th and eight at Brooklands on Nov 3rd. The three ringing locations handled 114 different birds of which 96 were young birds.

FIRECREST Regulus ignicabilla

Regular passage migrant in small numbers, occasionally winters

These striking birds were reported from 13 locations during the year. These sightings were almost evenly split between the first and second winter periods. There were no records between April and September. The ringing sites handled ten different birds of which nine were young birds.

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER Muscicapa striata

Common passage migrant and declining summer visitor

Spring passage was quite late, with the first bird at Clayton Mills on May 12th followed by singles at Charlton Court (Steyning), Washington and in a garden at West Worthing. The ringing stations produced six from Cissbury and three at Ladywells. This declining species has been affected by conditions in its wintering grounds in the Sahel and unfortunately there were no breeding records, but an encouraging number on autumn passage with in excess of 40 entries. These included 13 at Newtimber Hill on Sep 3rd and max 15 at Cissbury on Sep 15th. The autumn total from Wild Park was 17, with the last on Sep 30th.

PIED FLYCATCHER Ficedula hypoleuca

Regular but uncommon passage migrant

One in Preston Park Brighton on Apr 22^{nd} was our first spring record for some years. In Aug, one in Highdown Hill chalk pit on 19^{th} , one next day at West Tarring, Worthing and one at Truleigh Hill on 29^{th} .

LONG-TAILED TIT Aegithalos caudatus

Common resident

These charming birds were very well recorded during the year. They were seen in 53 tetrads and in 27 of these confirmed or probable breeding was observed. The highest counts this year were 21 at West Blatchington on Nov 1st and 20 at Brooklands on Nov 5th. The ringing sites handled 176 different birds and at least 65 of these were young birds.

BLUE TIT Cyanistes caerulus

Abundant resident

There were widespread and regular sightings throughout the year. They were reported from 66 tetrads although confirmed or probable breeding was only noted in 33 of them. At the ringing sites 805 different birds were handled of which 443 were young birds.

GREAT TIT Parus major

Very common resident

There were very many sightings of these birds throughout the year. They were reported from 62 tetrads and in 34 of these confirmed or probable breeding was reported. There were several double figure counts including 27 at West Blatchington on Jan 3rd, 25 at Newtimber Hill on Sep 3rd and 24 at Whitehawk on Oct 28th. The ringing sites handled 337 different birds and 197 of these were young birds.

COAL TIT Periparus ater

Fairly common but local resident

There were reports of these birds from 23 tetrads this year and confirmed or probable breeding was noted in six tetrads. Most reports were of one or two birds but five were seen at High Salvington on Jun 8th and four were noted at Washington on Feb 2nd.

MARSH TIT Poecile palustris

Fairly uncommon resident

There were only 15 sightings of these birds during the year. These sightings were in 10 tetrads. There were no confirmed breeding reports but pairs were present at Shaves Wood, at Washington and at Richardson's Wood (near Long Furlong) holding territories.

WILLOW TIT Poecile montanus

Rare and declining resident

No records received in 2011.

NUTHATCH Sitta europaea

Uncommon resident

Seven were recorded at Newtimber Hill in March, April and September. Breeding occurred there and at Washington and Church Hill. Two in April and up to three in the Goring Gap plantation in August (where they possibly bred) were the first for the observer there in 40 years and one was 'as close to the sea as a Nuthatch can get'.

All other records except one at St Ann's Well Gardens on Jul 10^{th} were from north of the A27. Three were ringed at The Mumbles and two at Ladywells.

EURASIAN TREECREEPER Certhia familiaris

Uncommon resident

As in 2010, reported from 25 localities with 63 records. Confirmed breeding in three – at Church Hill, Newtimber Hill and Coldean near Brighton and probable in two more: Ladywells and Cissbury. The area maximum day count of six was at Ladywells on Aug Ist. Birds were seen at Goring Gap and Hove Park, both unusual sites for the species.

Ringing totals were: Ladywells, 15 young and two adults, Cissbury four young birds, The Mumbles seven young and two adults.

JAY Garrulus glandarius

Fairly common resident and winter visitor

Reported in 50 tetrads but only confirmed as breeding in three and probably in seven more. The only double figure count came from Wild Park when ten on Sep 4th were noted underlining its status as widespread but not generally gregarious like other corvids.

MAGPIE Pica pica

Very common resident

With records from 66 tetrads and confirmed or probable breeding in almost half of these this corvid is second only to the Carrion Crow in general widespread distribution, not a situation that existed fifty years ago!

Largest groups were of 36 at Hangleton on Jan 10^{th} , 35 Whitehawk on Feb 2^{nd} , 26 Applesham Farm on May 21^{st} , 25 Mile Oak on Mar 22^{nd} and 24 Waterhall on Sep 19^{th} .

JACKDAW Corvus monedula

Very common resident

Reported from 80 sites in 60 tetrads, breeding was confirmed in 17 and probable in a further five. There were two really large concentrations witnessed. Between Jul 15th and Aug 24th, 1,200-1,500 roosted in a copse in Storrington. At Tottington Wood, 2,500 roosted with Rooks on Nov 29th.

ROOK Corvus frugilegus

Common resident

Birds were noted at 66 sites in 49 tetrads of the 94 in the SDOS area. Breeding was confirmed in 15 of these and probable in two others. At least 28 rookeries were found containing a minimum of 341 nests. This is a significant increase on last year partly no doubt due to increased observer coverage as part of the Atlas surveys.

Sizeable congregations during the year were 200 at Henfield Levels in Jan, 125 at Pangdean and 104 at Wick Farm (Westmeston) in June, 100 at Horn Lane (Woodmancote) in November, 500 at Tottington Wood and 100 at Park Brow, Findon in December.

CARRION CROW Corvus corone

Very common resident

A huge 438 records from 105 sites in 69 tetrads. Breeding was confirmed in 23 and probable in eight more.

There were parties of 25 to 50 at a handful of locations e.g Steep Down, Botolphs and Goring beach but generally seen in single figures.

RAVEN Corvus corax

Very scarce breeding resident

One in three sightings came from the area around Brighton. Mostly single birds but up to three together at Wild Park on Oct 24^{th} . The pair in our area raised four young but one was found dead near the nest site shortly after fledging. Many records come from within the territory of this family although five at Chantry Hill on Aug 2^{nd} are more likely to be from a site just outside our area.

COMMON STARLING Sturnus vulgaris

Abundant resident and winter visitor

The 320 records came from 57 tetrads. Breeding was confirmed in 21. Roosts at the two Brighton Piers held monthly maxima as follows:

	Jan	Feb	Oct	Nov	Dec
Palace	16,600	-	-	12,500	13,800
West	-	-	-	2000	2000

Other significant counts were 2,000 at Anchor Bottom on Feb 20th, 120 at Lower Standean on Mar 7th, 115 at Patcham on Jun 7th, 125 Mile Oak on 26th, 510 at Thundersbarrow Hill on Jul 10th, 300 at Ladywells on Aug 15th, 600 at Goring Gap on 18th, 120 Broadwater on 27th, King's Barn on 29th, 250 Durrington on Nov 3rd, 500 Clayton Mills on Nov 10th, 200 Portslade on 12th, 160 Ditchling Beacon on 16th, 282 at Findon Park on Dec 15th, 280 Round Hill on 19th and 300 Shoreham Harbour on 20th.

HOUSE SPARROW Passer domesticus

Very common resident

During January records were generally in single figures, though there were 40 at Ferring on Jan Ist, 16 at Durrington on 3rd, 30 at Washington and 29 at Patcham on 4th. Our Garden Birdwatch forms revealed a maximum of 20 in a shared garden in Shoreham during mid-January, reducing to 12 by the end of February. Gatherings between the Tollbridge and rail bridge numbered 23 on Feb 22nd and 16 on Mar 19th with another 22 between the A259 and the rail bridge. Twenty birds on 20th was the March maximum at Widewater; two days later 65 were counted in a tetrad at Mile Oak and on 24th there were 24 at Ferring Rife. A male showing plumage characteristics similar to Italian Sparrow, which had been recorded on several occasions in 2010, was seen for the first time this year on Mar 9th in a West

Tarring garden, and at the same site a male was seen entering a Swift nest box on 24th. Another pair availed themselves of a House Martin nest at Woodmancote. On Apr 14th a total of 106 were in the Mile Oak tetrad and 52 were found in a 1-km BBS square at Portslade. Signs of a brood being fed were recorded in the West Tarring garden from May 9th and the first juveniles there emerged on 23rd. Three adult birds were ringed at The Mumbles in early June. Numbers in the Mile Oak tetrad had risen to 120 on Jun 26th, with juveniles among them and on Jul 18th a flock of approx 60 was seen at West Mill Farm, Small Dole, which also included many young birds. During August 40 were in bushes at the western end of Widewater on 2nd, another 40 by cottages at Standean Farm on 15th and a total of 120 at Beeding Brooks on 27th. During November and December most reports were in single figures again, though a total of 39 was recorded in one hour of a Sussex Winter Bird survey at Portslade on Nov 11th, there were 25 between the A259 and the rail bridge at Shoreham on Dec 18th and 22 at Widewater on 30th.

TREE SPARROW Passer montanus

Very scarce former resident and passage migrant

No records were received in 2011.

CHAFFINCH Fringilla coelebs

Very common resident

Numbers in January and February were lower than in the last two months of 2010. Twenty-three were counted at Lower Standean on Jan 19th and 50 at Round Hill on 30th. The species was recorded widely but in no great numbers during the spring, with Atlas tetrad counts not often reaching double figures, though 23 were recorded at Ditchling Beacon on Apr 16th and the same number at Round Hill on 20th. The first confirmed breeding was on May 10th, when adults carrying food were noted at both Offington and Steyning Bowl; fledglings were seen at Clapham Wood on 23rd. Only eight new birds were ringed at Cissbury, though three of these were spring adult females with brood patches. At The Mumbles the annual total ringed was 106, though the majority of these were during the autumn and winter months, with 13 trapped during April-July, of which 11 were juveniles. Eighty-eight different birds were handled at Ladywells of which 58 were young birds. At both of these latter two sites winter feeding programmes are established. On Aug 6th parties of seven, six, nine and eight were included in a total of 37 counted at Newtimber Hill. Numbers were low again in the autumn and winter with 200 at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 15th being the only report over 40.

BRAMBLING Fringilla montifringilla

Regular passage migrant and uncommon winter visitor

There were low numbers again in 2011, with reports from five sites during the early part of the year. Two were seen at Coldean on Jan 10th, a female was seen regularly at Hove from Jan 12th to Mar 6th and two flew west over Hollingdean on Jan 25th; there were three records from Stanmer Park, with a maximum of four birds on Feb 16th, and at Sandgate Park birds were recorded during the first four months of the year, with three reported there in March and April. Autumn/winter reports numbered just three; singles at Sheepcote Valley and Broadwater (Worthing) on Oct 15th and Nov 5th, while two flew E at Goring on Oct 31st.

GREENFINCH Carduelis chloris

Very common resident

In January 16 were counted in a tetrad at Patcham on 4th, and 15 at Steyning Bowl on 25th. Thirty-five were seen in trees and shrubs at the southern end of Sea Lane Goring on 31st, possibly a pre-roost gathering, and there were totals of 19 and 33 at Patcham on Feb 7th and Mar 3rd. Twenty were in a garden at Woodmancote on Apr 1st. Sixty-five different individuals were trapped at The Mumbles, 40 of these attracted to the winter feeding programme between January and March; only a single bird in juvenile plumage was ringed. At Ladywells 56 individuals were trapped, of which 29 were young and 27 adult birds. Juveniles were recorded visiting a West Tarring garden several times during May and others were seen at East Worthing, Sompting and Sandgate Park in the same month. In the autumn 50 were seen moving E at Worthing beach on Oct 14th, but this was the maximum number seen at any one time. However, a Mill Hill garden was visited regularly by up to 16 at a time in October, 12 in November and 14 in December. Eleven on Dec 23rd was the monthly maximum at West Tarring, 12 were seen at Brooklands on 28th and the following day a Sussex Winter Bird Survey count at Northbrook Farm, Worthing found a total of 11.

GOLDFINCH Carduelis carduelis

Fairly common resident

During January, numbers seen were generally in single figures, though 30 were counted in the second hour of an Atlas timed tetrad count at Stanmer Down on 25th, a total of 28 were in the Whitehawk area of Brighton on Feb 2nd and 26 were seen by the Adur at Shoreham on 20th. At Ladywells 42 new birds were ringed during the year and only a single one of these retrapped. However at The Mumbles a total of 247 different birds were trapped, of which 224 were new and 23 had been ringed in previous years. Four of the spring retraps had been ringed in spring 2009 but had not been trapped during 2010. The first young birds were reported towards the end of May, at Storrington on 28th and at Findon Park on 29th. On Jun 23rd, four juveniles were seen in a West Tarring garden. Monthly maxima at Wild Park were 22 on Aug 25th, 26 on Sep 16th and 105 on Oct 15th, while at Sheepcote Valley the October maximum was 250 on 15th and flocks of 35, 45 and 130 were seen near Clayton Mills on 13th. Mid-October provided the peak counts not just at these sites but at Worthing beach where maximum numbers recorded in the Seawatching log during the autumn were 42 E on Sep 30th, 799 E on Oct 14th with another 690 E the next day, and 35 E on Nov 10th. Numbers were lower in the last two months of the year. In December a flock of 18 at Preston Park on 8th were trying to keep together in strong winds, and on 28th a flock of at least 30 was seen in trees and on feeders in Hove.

SISKIN Carduelis spinus

Fairly common passage migrant and local winter visitor

Though there was only one record from December 2010, there were a few more birds around at the start of 2011. Five individuals were ringed at The Mumbles between January and March, two were seen at Sandgate Park on Feb 28th, one at Woods Mill on Mar 1st, ten at Steyning on both 6th and 9th, and two flew E at Wild Park on 22nd. Apart from one report of a bird at Shaves Wood on Apr 28th, no more were seen until one at Stanmer Park on Aug 2nd. Twenty flew W, calling loudly, at Sheepcote Valley on Aug 20th. During September there were records from eight different sites, with a maximum of 30 at Truleigh Hill on 26th, 48 at Wild Park on 28th and 50 at Cissbury on 29th; at Worthing beach 230 flew E in one hour on 30th. In October, another nine individuals were ringed at Steyning

and monthly maxima from the regular sites were 159 E at Worthing beach on 14^{th} , 350 at Sheepcote Valley on 15^{th} , and 90 at Wild Park on 16^{th} . As in 2010 there was only one December report, of a single bird at Newtimber Hill on 4^{th} .

LINNET Carduelis cannabina

Locally common resident and passage migrant

There were 60 at Round Hill on lan 30th, and the same number at Sheepcote Valley the following day. The only flock reported in February was of 36 at Anchor Bottom on 24th, but 80 were in Sheepcote Valley on Mar 7th, and 95 at Steyning Round Hill on 20th. There were an estimated ten pairs at No Mans Land on Apr 17th and 30 pairs at Mill Hill on 24th. A total of 43 were found during an Atlas Timed Tetrad Visit at Chantry Hill on May 6th; on 13th 17 were recorded in a one km square BBS survey at Westmeston. Thirty were reported from Canada Bottom (near Cissbury) on May 24th, a flock of 23 in a weedy field at Steyning Round Hill on 27th and 35 in a field of oilseed rape at Ditchling Beacon on Jun 10th. The first juveniles were seen at Pangdean on Jun 19th. During July there was a flock of 140 with Greenfinches at the Beeding Cement Works on 15th, 50 at Steep Down on 22nd, and 25 at Ditchling Beacon on 30th. The largest August flocks reported were 200 at Golding Barn Upper Beeding on 2nd, 150 at Ditchling Beacon on 17th, and 120 at Beeding Hill on 21st. September flocks numbering over a hundred were seen at Steep Down, at No Mans Land and Park Farm, Findon where 200 were feeding in stubble and game cover on 22nd. On Oct 12th 90 were in fields north of East Kingston and on 14th the Worthing beach seawatching log noted 130 E in 3.1 hours. Forty were seen at both Sheepcote Valley and Round Hill in November; 50 at the latter site on Dec 19th was the final record of 2011.

LESSER REDPOLL Carduelis cabaret

Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor

There were no records for the first three months of the year, and just two from April, when two were reported at Cissbury on 9th and one at Wild Park the next day. It was not until Sep 30th that more were seen, with three at Worthing beach and two at Wild Park. However, there was an influx in October, and monthly maxima were 63 at Wild Park on 16th and 25 at Sheepcote Valley on 20th. In addition, between Oct 4th and Nov 22nd 50 were ringed at Cissbury, of which 40 were aged as first year birds, with a maximum of 27 on Oct 29th. Ten were also trapped at The Mumbles on the same day; all were first year birds. Two seen at Ditchling Beacon on 17th was the only December record.

COMMON REDPOLL Carduelis flammea

Rare winter visitor

Four were seen at Sheepcote Valley on Oct 29th (SOS).

COMMON CROSSBILL Loxia curvirostra

Scarce visitor, more common in irruption years

The first six months of the year brought two reports, of seven flying over Shaves Wood on Mar 22nd, and one flying W at Kithurst Hill on May 24th. A single bird flew over at Steyning on Jul 7th; the following day, 12 were at both Beeding Hill and Shoreham, and the same number were found at Wild Park on 31st. There were regular reports during August to October from Sheepcote Valley, Wild Park and Cissbury, where 20 on Sep 24th was the maximum. Birds were also seen or heard at Whitehawk, Lancing and Durrington. The final

records of the year were on Nov 2^{nd} , when five were seen at Wild Park and two flew over Swandean (Worthing).

BULLFINCH Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Fairly common resident

This species is widespread but unobtrusive and remains generally under-recorded. Until the end of April birds had been reported from 17 different sites across the area, mostly single birds, though there were a maximum of four at Sandgate Park in January. However, the species seemed to be faring well at the Steyning Ringing Group's two sites. At The Mumbles, 26 different birds were handled, one of which had been ringed at the site in 2010; of these 11 were adult birds and 15 first years. Forty-nine different birds were trapped at Cissbury, seven of which had been ringed at the site in previous years, including a female ringed as a juvenile bird in 2008 but not trapped again until July 2011. Of this total 14 were adult birds, with a male:female ratio of 50:50. The first juveniles ringed were at Cissbury on Jul 23rd and at The Mumbles on 27th. Successful breeding was also noted at Saddlescombe and Sandgate Park. It was doubtful whether the species bred at Wild Park, though later in the year a pair was seen on Nov 23rd.

SNOW BUNTING Plectrophenax nivalis

Scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

Individuals were reported from Tarring on Oct 30th and Wolstonbury Hill, Pyecombe on Nov 24th. Two were present on the beach at Lancing from Nov 15th until Dec 30th during which time they were fed with seed by SDOS President Bernie Forbes. Three were reported here on Dec 10th.

LAPLAND BUNTING Calcarius Iapponicus

Very scarce passage migrant and winter visitor

The only record was of an individual at Goring Gap on Feb 12th (SOS).

LITTLE BUNTING Emberiza pusilla

Rare vagrant

One was trapped at The Mumbles, on Nov 19th and remained in the vicinity until 26th when it was trapped again. (P|C et al) This appears to be the first area record since 1864!

YELLOWHAMMER Emberiza citrinella

Locally common resident

Recorded from a range of downland sites with winter/spring flocks including 50 at Steyning and Wappingthorn on Jan 22nd, 45 at Devil's Dyke on Jan 30th, 57 there on March 20th and 100 at Bevendean, Brighton on Feb 8th. In the autumn/winter there were 60 at Devil's Dyke on Dec 19th, 52 at Steyning Round Hill on Dec 30th with flocks between 20 and 30 at Clayton Mills and Findon Park.

There were 23 records of singing males. Breeding was confirmed at eight locations including Mile Oak, Cockroost Hill, Cissbury North Scarp, Patching, Small Dole with 13 on July 13th, Harrow Hill and Devil's Dyke.

Five were ringed at Cissbury, three of them first year birds.

REED BUNTING Emberiza schoeniclus

Locally common resident

Reported from at least 15 sites including Ferring Rife, Shoreham Airport, The Mumbles, Beeding Brooks, Highdown Hill, Brighton, Sheepcote Valley, Ladywells, Findon, Steyning Bowl, Henfield Levels, Clayton Mills, Wiston, Applesham Farm, Botolphs, Small Dole, Wild Park and Devil's Dyke.

Ringing results at The Mumbles recorded 136 different birds in 48 sessions of which 103 were new birds not previously ringed. Twenty of these were first year birds visiting the site for the first time in Nov and Dec. Ringing data from Ladywells recorded seven different birds, three of them first years, in 40 sessions.

Singing males or pairs were reported from seven sites including Ferring Rife, Henfield Levels, Ladywells, Beeding Brooks, Applesham Farm, Shoreham Airport and Small Dole. Breeding was confirmed at Wiston pond, Henfield Levels and Ferring Rife where adults were seen carrying food on May 15th and young were observed on June 29th. Birds visited the gardens of several members.

CORN BUNTING Emberiza calandra

Fairly common but local resident

Encouragingly, Corn Buntings were recorded from 32 sites spread through 24 tetrads and confirmed as breeding at Mile Oak, Cockroost Hill, Chantry Hill, Round Hill, Sheepcote Valley, Steep Down and Clayton Mills. Additionally birds probably bred at six other sites. Twenty were at Bevendean on Feb 8th, 65 at Steep Down on Mar 20th, 14 at No Man's Land on May 28th, 30 at Upper Chancton Farm (near Ashington) on Oct 7th and an impressive 75 at Round Hill on Dec 19th.

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ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS 2011

Helmeted Guineafowl

Between one and three at Ladywells from Jan 9th to Dec 31st.

Muscovy Duck

One at Widewater Jan 11th, Mar 22nd and Nov 21st.

Red-breasted Goose

An adult flew W at Goring beach on Apr 21st.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF SUMMER MIGRANTS 2011

	Arriva	al	Depa	ırture
Species	Date	Location	Date	Location
Garganey	Apr 15	Worthing beach	Sep 16	Worthing beach
Manx Shearwater	Apr 28	Worthing beach	-	-
Osprey	Mar 26	Wild Park	Aug 21	Findon
Marsh Harrier	Mar 12	Wild Park	Oct 15	Wild Park
Hobby	Apr 4	Ladywells	Oct 6	Steyning Round Hill
Whimbrel	Mar 8	Worthing beach	Aug 28	Worthing beach
Arctic Skua	Mar 28	Worthing beach	Oct 23	Worthing beach
Pomarine Skua	Apr 27	Worthing beach	Oct 28	Worthing beach
Sandwich Tern	Mar 12	Worthing beach	Oct 23	Brighton Marina
Common Tern	Mar 14	Brighton Marina	Oct 12	Shoreham Harbour
Little Tern	Apr I	Worthing beach	-	-
Black Tern	Apr 22	Worthing beach	Sep 8	Worthing beach
Turtle Dove	May 24	Adur Levels	Sep 12	Broadwater
Cuckoo	Apr 17	Oreham Common	Jul 22	Steep Down
Swift	Apr 30	Whitehawk	Oct 28	Ferring
Sand Martin	Mar 25	Worthing beach	Sep 30	Worthing beach
Swallow	Mar 24	Portslade	Nov 9	Hove
House Martin	Apr 2	Upper Beeding	Oct 15	Worthing beach
Tree Pipit	Apr 9	Cissbury	Sep 25	Wild Park
Yellow Wagtail	Apr 6	Worthing beach	Oct I	Worthing beach
Nightingale	Apr II	Adur levels	Sep 24	The Mumbles
Redstart	Apr 7	Wild Park	Oct 3	Ferring
Whinchat	Apr 21	Mill Hill	Sep 27	Steep Down
Wheatear	Mar 21	Goring Gap	Nov 14	Brighton Marina
Ring Ouzel	Apr 6	Cissbury	Oct 24	Wild Park
Grasshopper	May 6	Henfield Levels	Sep I	Cissbury
Warbler				
Sedge Warbler	Apr 9	Beeding Brooks	Sep 25	Wyckham Farm
Reed Warbler	Apr 4	Shoreham Airport	Sep 23	Ladywells
Lesser W'throat	Apr 10	Broadwater	Sep 30	Saddlescombe
Whitethroat	Apr 4	Sheepcote Valley	Oct 3	Goring Gap
Garden Warbler	Apr 16	Kithurst Hill	Sep 29	Cissbury
Willow Warbler	Mar 29	West Tarring	Oct 3	Whitehawk
Spotted Flycatcher	May 12	Clayton Mills	Sep 26	Truleigh Hill
Pied Flycatcher	Apr 22	Preston Park B'ton	Aug 29	Truleigh Hill

RINGING REPORT FOR 2011

This was an incredible year for local ringing. The total of 5,841 birds ringed was the second highest, beaten only by a total of 6,168 in 1981, and well above the average 2,692 for the years since the Society's inception in 1953. This reflected the national picture as preliminary reports predict that the national annual ringing totals for 2011 will be the highest since the start of the national ringing scheme. Presumably many species experienced a good breeding season. As usual most birds were trapped in mist nets and ringed as fledged birds but 193 (3.4%) of 11 different species were ringed as nestlings and most (80%) of these comprised either Blue or Great Tits ringed in nest-boxes. However, as usual, nestling ringing produced most of the Kestrels and owls ringed in the area during the year.

In keeping with recent years the Steyning Ringing Group (SRG) produced the highest numbers of birds ringed; the SRG's total of 4,100 formed 70% of the area's total. The group, including Phil and Brian Clay, Val Bentley, Ralph Hartfree, Matt Aeberhard and Tom Flower, was again successful at both of their sites with the mist-netting at Phil Clay's Mumbles reserve being the most productive with a total of 2,241. Phil's carefully maintained site continued to attract passage warblers and winter feeding supported large numbers of tits, finches and buntings. Over 70% of the 1,859 birds ringed on the northern slope of Cissbury were warblers with four species, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Common Whitethroat and Blackcap, dominating the catches. In the Ladywells valley the team, comprising John Newnham, John Crix, Janet Derricott, Chrissi White and Adam Webster had their best year to date ringing 1,602 birds. Here too Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs were caught in high numbers. Barrie Watson joined in the ringing at Ladywells on several occasions and he also ringed, with the help of John Holt, 139 birds to contribute to the grand total for the year.

Table A shows the numbers of each of the 54 species ringed in the area during 2011. Remarkably for 15 species, indicated with an asterix, an area record was either created or equalled. Two scarce birds were trapped; firstly a Barred Warbler at Cissbury on Oct 17th and a Little Bunting ringed at The Mumbles initially on Nov 19th. The latter was a new bird for area ringing whilst a Barred Warbler had previously been trapped at the Society's old "Sanctuary" on Aug 31st 1959. Once again a good number of Firecrests were trapped possibly representing individuals dispersing from nearby breeding sites. Call-back luring worked well for Lesser Redpolls at Cissbury but was of mediocre success for House Martins in Ladywells. On the downside no Marsh Tits were ringed; the last void year for this species was 1983.

Table A – List of Species ringed in 2011.

Sparrowhawk	4	Common Chiffchaff	*742	Spotted Flycatcher	10
Common Kestrel	5	Willow Warbler	225	Robin	209
Water Rail	*	Blackcap	*1335	Common Nightingale	3
Woodcock	*	Garden Warbler	50	Common Redstart	4
Wood Pigeon	3	Barred Warbler	*	Dunnock	161
Barn Owl	21	Lesser Whitethroat	20	House Sparrow	6
Common Kingfisher	5	Common Whitethroat	248	Grey Wagtail	I
Green Woodpecker	*18	Grasshopper Warbler	5	Chaffinch	*196
Great Spotted	*13	Sedge Warbler	15	Greenfinch	123
Woodpecker					
Magpie	2	Eurasian Reed Warbler	106	Goldfinch	*280
Jay	I	Nuthatch	5	Siskin	14
Jackdaw	3	Eurasian Treecreeper	*30	Lesser Redpoll	*61
Goldcrest	107	Wren	144	Bullfinch	68
Firecrest	9	Common Starling	20	Yellowhammer	5
Blue Tit	*686	Blackbird	205	Little Bunting	*
Great Tit	*285	Fieldfare	3	Reed Bunting	108
House Martin	12	Song Thrush	88		
Cetti's Warbler	*4	Redwing	14	Total	5841
Long-tailed Tit	152	Mistle Thrush	3		

Each of the ringing teams regularly report and discuss their activities on the Society's Yahoo group site and these details remain available for interested readers.

Recoveries and Controls

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) has continued to present both national and county ringing statistics and display a good selection of recovery information on their website (http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/ringing/publications/online-ringing-reports). Amongst the tables there will be other movements and recoveries from within our recording area but the following is a selection either from this website or reported by local ringers.

A **Greylag Goose**, ringed as an adult at Sevenoaks, Kent on June 26th 2007 was found dead at Horton Hill Farm, Small Dole on January 11th 2011. Although the movement was only 56 km SW this is the first ringing recovery of this species in our area. The **Egyptian Goose**, reported last year, ringed at Laleham in Surrey on July 19th 2009 and seen at Brooklands on August 27th 2010 was reported at Petworth on July 5th 2011. A **Shag**, ringed as a nestling on Herm (Channel Islands) in June 1992 was reported from Brighton (223 km NE) on February 14th 2011. Although this species is not particularly numerous in Sussex there have been 65 recoveries of ringed Shags in the county. A young male **Sparrowhawk** ringed at Ladywells in September 2010 was found concussed, next to a dead pigeon, in the stairwell of a block of flats in Sompting on June 21st 2011. After a night in the care of a local veterinary practice the bird flew off strongly back to the tree it was reported as nesting in.

Gulls have featured regularly in these reports and the gull cannon-netting programme which ran between December 1975 and November 1993 still provides recoveries, albeit in small numbers. The long and previously reported saga of **Black-headed Gull** (EP36792), ringed at Washington during the group's last local catch on November 27th 1993 and seen on several occasions in Denmark, the Netherlands and Dorset, was once again recorded at Radipole Lake, Dorset on January 15th 2011. Perhaps older was another **Black-headed Gull** ringed as a juvenile on the Sompting refuse tip on December 7th 1988 and killed by a collision with a car at Chessington, Surrey over 23 years later on December 28th 2011. A **Herring Gull** ringed at Hempsted, Gloucester on February 12th 2011 was seen on the River Adur, 179 km SE, on August 13th 2011; colour ringing of large gulls certainly is very productive in terms of plotting movements.

Three adult **Barn Owls** hatched from boxes in our area were retrapped having moved locally to breed, one of these was seven years old and still going strong. Two recoveries from the edge of our recording area were hatched near Arundel in 2010 with one found with a broken leg in March 2011 at Clapham, and a sibling drowned in a water trough during May 2011 at Patching.

Waxwings attract considerable attention and in irruption years are regularly seen in towns. A group in Scotland have been studying this species and two first year male birds ringed near Aberdeen in November 2010 were recovered in Hove; one by having a colour ring combination read in the field on April 2nd 2011 and the other being found freshly dead on April 26th.

Reed Warblers are amongst the passerines most regularly appearing in these reports and those tabulated below, in descending order of distance between ringing and second capture site, are fairly typical.



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21/08/2010	Juv	Rye Meads, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire	24/07/2011	Ladywells	107 km SSW
17/07/2011	Juv	Hilfield, Elstree, Hertfordshire	07/08/2011	Steyning	85 km S
16/08/2011	I st yr	Icklesham, East Sussex	20/08/2011	Steyning	69 km W
31/07/2010	I st yr	Queen Mary Reservoir, Surrey	15/08/2011	Ladywells	66 km S

With large numbers of **Blackcaps** ringed it is not surprising that several movements were recorded and all are shown in the following table. The first is the 14th Belgian ringed Blackcap to be found in Sussex and was ringed, coincidentally the same distance away as the second cited movement.

18/09/2010	I st yr M	Pepingen, Brabant BELGIUM	02/04/2011	Steyning	316 km W
17/09/2011	I st yr M	Warrington, Cheshire	01/10/2011	Cissbury	316 km SSE
30/07/2011	Juv M	Burnham Market, Norfolk	17/09/2011	Cissbury	243 km SSW
08/09/2007	I st yr M	Cissbury	31/07/2011	Rye Meads, Hoddesdon, Herts	103 km NNE
16/08/2011	I st yr M	Icklesham, East Sussex	20/08/2011	Cissbury	74 km W
05/09/2011	I st yr F	Icklesham, East Sussex	10/09/2011	Cissbury	74 km W
29/09/2011	I st yr M	Icklesham, East Sussex	04/10/2011	Cissbury	74 km W
19/08/2011	I st yr M	Ladywells	01/09/2011	Icklesham East Sussex	70 km E
27/08/2011	I st yr M	Icklesham, East Sussex	10/09/2011	Steyning	69 km W
09/09/2009	I st yr M	Icklesham, East Sussex	10/09/2011	Steyning	69 km W
06/08/2011	Juv F	Ladywells	23/09/2011	Beachy Head	42 km ESE
21/09/2009	I st yr F	Chesworth Farm, Horsham	23/07/2011	Cissbury	21 km S
30/07/2011	Juv	Cissbury	19/09/2011	Ladywells	6 km SE
20/08/2011	Juv M	Steyning	15/09/2011	Ladywells	6 km S

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

23/06/2011	Juv	Holyland, Pembroke	29/08/2011	Cissbury	327 km ESE
24/07/2011	Juv	South Marston, nr Swindon, Wiltshire	19/09/2011	Ladywells	129 km SE

A first year **Willow Warbler** ringed at Steyning on autumn passage on August 30th 2010 was controlled on August 18th 2011 at Belvide, near Brewood in Staffordshire. Although 239 km NNW of Steyning it is probable that this bird was starting a subsequent autumn migration. Very small birds have a low recovery rate and most movements, like all the above mentioned warblers, come from other ringers "controlling" ringed birds; this occurred with a **Goldcrest** ringed at Ladywells on November 6th 2010 and controlled at Duke's Warren in Surrey on New Years Eve also in 2010. Likewise three **Long-tailed Tits** ringed at Ladywells in the autumn of 2011 where controlled at The Mumbles, Steyning on November 19th, presumably all keeping together for their 6 km journey.

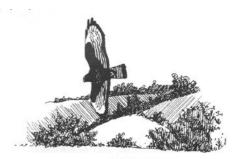
Eurasian Treecreepers also fall into this category, are thought to be fairly sedentary and are scarcely recovered, indeed fewer than ten have been recovered in Sussex. It is, therefore, unusual to receive reports of two Ladywells ringed birds, one being controlled at The Mumbles, Steyning and the second further afield at Plumpton, 18 km ENE. A **Blue Tit** ringed as a nestling at the same Plumpton site on an early date of April 16th 2011 was controlled at Steyning on November 19th whilst a Steyning winter ringed **Blue Tit** was at Warnham, West Sussex during a subsequent winter.

The longest recorded distance travelled was a male **Chaffinch**, ringed at Steyning on March 12th 2011, which flew into a window and died just over a month later on April 18th at Viuruniemi, Outokumpu in Finland some 2,193 km NE. This is only the second recovery of a Chaffinch from Finland from both our area and the whole county.

Two within county recoveries for **Reed Buntings** were received during the year and these are also shown in the following table.

15/07/2011	Juv	Icklesham, East Sussex	Steyning	12/11/2011	69 km W
27/02/2011	M bA	Steyning	Ladywells	28/11/2011	6 km S

The first was retrapped again in early 2012. There were other local recoveries involving Sparrowhawk. Blackbird, Robin, Wren, Chiffchaff and Greenfinch, 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.



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

John Newnham

Reference:- Robinson, R.A. & Clark, J.A.(2012) The Online Ringing Report: Bird ringing in Britain & Ireland in 2011 BTO, Thetford (http://www.bto.org/ringing-report, created on 15-March-2012)

LADYWELLS RINGING 2011

In his overall ringing report John Newnham cites 2011 as being an "incredible year", with 5841 birds ringed in the area vs. 4216 in 2010, a 39% increase. The Ladywells part of this story is:

	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
2010	35	1202	689	1891	54.0
2011	40	1602	1116	2718	68.0

Focussing on the 'average catch per session' metric for a moment, the increase from 54 birds per session in 2010 to 68 per session in 2011 is superficially a significant improvement in site productivity. However, the information that 2011 was both locally and nationally an exceptional year for ringing must be factored into this: for instance a 39% increase (reflecting the overall local picture) in the average catch per session between 2010 and 2011 should give us a 2011 average for Ladywells of 75 birds per session. And as the average we actually achieved was seven birds per session short of this it might almost be argued that we took a small step backward in site productivity terms.

In 2011 we ringed 38 different species, with Blackcaps (279), Blue Tits (239), and Chiffchaffs (204) taking the top three positions as far as volumes were concerned. The number of Blue Tits and Chiffchaffs ringed in 2011 was similar to the number ringed in 2010 but 279 Blackcaps in 2011 was a large increase over 2010's total of 153.

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 (BTO) Birdtrack database. His total for 2011 was 84 different species recorded in the valley. As in previous years the difference between the number of species observed and the number ringed clearly illustrates the importance of complementing the ringing activity with observation and recording.

2011 was a significant year on the education and training front for the Ladywells ringing team. In July the ringing team ran a stand at the South of England Agricultural Society's 'Connect with the Countryside' event, which is held annually at the South of England Showground. This involved finding a way of communicating at least something about birds and ringing to around 2,500 nine and ten year-old children who attended on the day. With stands provided by the likes of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the RSPB, the Environment Agency, and even the Countryside Alliance we were conscious that our own stand should be characterised by quality of presentation as well as the ruggedness necessary to withstand the onslaught of the two-and-a-half-thousand. The feedback we received indicated that we succeeded.

Much closer to the ringing team's educational objectives is that the Ladywells ringing site is mainly on Lancing College land and we have long hoped to find a way to involve Lancing College students in our ringing activities. There are numerous potential benefits for the college's older students - e.g. CV enhancement for sixth-formers intending to study animal science or conservation subjects at university - and also for the BTO which has an ageing ringer population and needs to recruit younger trainees. At the beginning of 2011 we met with Jonathan Gillespie, the college's headmaster, to discuss how we might proceed and were pleased at the enthusiastic support he showed for our initiative.

During the summer the college arranged for all members of the ringing team to obtain Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) clearance and in the Advent term we started working with Phillippa Faulkner, newly appointed Head of Biology, and college farm manager, Jon Hutcheon, to start involving students. A number of sixth formers were enthusiastic enough to join us for early starting ringing sessions that term and we gave several demonstrations to younger groups involved in Jon Hutcheon's farm project. This was a good beginning and, as I write mid-2012, I am hopeful that, by ensuring our ringing group remains as operationally flexible as possible, it is a beginning we can build upon over the next few years.

As far as our own education and training is concerned, John Newnham has maintained his very positive attitude towards taking on additional trainees. In July John took on Chrissi White's partner, Adam Webster, as a trainee. This brought the team up to two ringers with A permits and Trainer endorsements (John Newnham, Barrie Watson), a C permit ringer (myself), and three Trainees (Janet Derricott, Chrissi White and Adam Webster). And in grateful acknowledgement of her pivotal position in the team's relationships with our college and Applesham Farm ringing site landowners, and also the local birding scene as represented by the SDOS, we asked Brianne Reeve to join the Ladywells team as an honorary member.

Mention of Applesham Farm brings me to my 'last but not least' paragraph in which I'd like to record what a pleasure it is to receive visits during ringing sessions from Hugh or Christopher Passmore. We are not only grateful to Hugh for letting us operate on his land, but to both the Passmores for their continuing interest in our activities.

John Crix

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RINGING AT CISSBURY 2011

This year produced not only our first ever calling Nuthatch at the site, but one "rarity" and the highest number of birds ringed since 1993. Ringing activity commenced on Apr 20th with a preliminary session before the start of the Constant Effort Site (CES) period from May to August (for explanation, see 2010 Report). The weather was unseasonably warm and returning migrants among the 40 birds captured were Common Whitethroat, Chiffchaff and Blackcap; one of the latter species had been ringed as a juvenile at the site in July 2009.

The first CES session produced 25 birds, 19 of which were retraps. Of these, however, one was a Blackbird ringed as a second calendar year bird in May 2004, which had not been retrapped at all in the intervening time. The first juvenile to appear was a very young Longtailed Tit on May 14th, with juvenile Chaffinch, Robins and Blackbirds a fortnight later. Young of migrant species were found from the beginning of June; the first fledged Blackcap and Whitethroat on Jun 4th, with Chiffchaffs ten days later.

For the first year since ringing began at Cissbury in 1984, no adult Willow Warblers were on site in the spring, and no juveniles were found. The first individuals of this species encountered were on Jul 23rd with the arrival on return passage of ten first year birds all of which had completed their post juvenile moult. Another species lost to the site in 2011 was Marsh Tit. Although numbers ringed have been in single figures each year, none of this species were either caught or heard in 2011. Lesser Whitethroat numbers were also extremely low, with only seven different birds trapped. This equalled our previous lowest total of this species in 2005 despite 2011's much higher overall total of 1859 new birds compared with 1173 that year.

Faring somewhat better though was Song Thrush, with four juveniles ringed compared with none in 2011. Our Bullfinch population remained stable; seven adults of each sex were caught, with the oldest being a female ringed as a juvenile on Sep 27th 2008. Productivity was good and 35 juveniles or first year birds were ringed, starting with two very recently fledged young on Jul 23rd.

Totals of Four Main Passage Species (as percentages of total number of birds ringed)

Years	Blackcap	Chiffchaff	Whitethroat	Willow Warbler
2000-2004	25.5	13.7	6.9	6.8
2005-2009	30.6	15.9	5.0	5.8
2010	25.7	11.8	8.3	11.5
2011	34.9	20.9	5.4	5.7

Numbers of our four main passage species, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Whitethroat and Willow Warbler are shown above, as a percentage of the total number of new birds ringed. Three fewer August sessions and two additional September sessions were achieved in 2011, compared with 2010. Hence, as expected the relative abundance of Blackcap and Chiffchaff, whose main passage is in mid September, returned to a more usual level, as shown in the table below. Combined averages are shown for the years 2000-2004 and 2005-2009; totals for each individual year are given in the 2010 Report. For both Blackcap and Chiffchaff these percentages were the highest this century by a small margin.

The maximum daily "new bird" total for Blackcap was 84 on Sep 3rd and for Chiffchaff 58 on 24th.

Always interesting are recoveries, "our" birds which are found elsewhere, or controls, birds ringed elsewhere but trapped at Cissbury. With the Ladywells ringing site only 6 km away, inevitably there are movements along the Downs between the two areas, and a second calendar year Greenfinch ringed at Lancing on Jun 26th was controlled at Cissbury on Nov 22nd, while a juvenile Blackcap ringed at Cissbury on Jul 30th was trapped at Ladywells on Sep 19th. Three first year Blackcaps ringed at Icklesham (East Sussex) were

trapped at Cissbury between four and five days later. From further afield a Blackcap ringed on Sep 9th 2007 and not recaptured on our site was controlled at Rye Meads, Hertfordshire on Jul 31st, another ringed in Norfolk on Jul 30th, rather appropriately at Sussex Farm, was trapped at Cissbury on Sep 17th, and one ringed at Warrington on Sep 17th was controlled by us on Oct 1st. A Chiffchaff ringed as a juvenile in Pembroke on Jun 23rd was trapped at Cissbury on Aug 29th.

Retrapping of ringed individuals builds up information on their survival and evidence of their faithfulness to the site. Including the Blackbird mentioned above, during 2011 we caught 13 birds ringed in 2007 or earlier. Among these Blackbirds predominated, with one from 2004, three from 2006 and two from 2007. Apart from the oldest of these, all had been trapped at least once in subsequent years. A Robin ringed as a first year bird in October 2007 had been trapped in each intervening year, but a Song Thrush born and ringed in 2007 found its way back for the first time. There were recaptures of two Blackcaps ringed in 2006 and two from 2007, all of which had been seen regularly, as had a male Great Tit ringed in September 2007.

Residents ringed in small numbers were Kestrel (one), Green Woodpecker (two) Great Spotted Woodpecker (two), Treecreeper (four) and Jay (one). All of these were first calendar year birds; another Jay ringed in 2010 was retrapped on July 28th. An adult Woodcock on Nov 26th was only the second of this species ringed here, and is a wonderful bird to see at close quarters, with its all-round vision so apparent.

The group ringed the following summer visitors which do not breed at the site, namely two Grasshopper Warblers, two Sedge Warblers, five Reed Warblers, six Spotted Flycatchers, one Nightingale and two Redstarts. One of the Spotted Flycatchers was a returning adult found on May 14th, while the remaining five were first year birds ringed in September. The surprise bird of the year on Nov 12th was a first year Barred Warbler, a vagrant from Eastern Europe which should have been heading for East Africa.

One Goldcrest in juvenile plumage was ringed in July, but others of this species arrived as autumn visitors from mid September, with a total of 74 new birds, a continuing improvement on 34 in 2010, and just four in 2009. Firecrest numbers from the same three years were relatively stable at six, six and four respectively. Other autumn arrivals ringed were 50 Lesser Redpolls, including 27 on Oct 29th, four Redwings and two Fieldfares, the latter being a new species for the site.

The group carried out 36 sessions, the final one on Nov 26th, and an overall total of 1,969 different birds were handled i.e.1,859 new birds and 110 from previous years. Ringers operating at Cissbury during the year were Brian Clay, Phil Clay, Ralph Hartfree, and Val Bentley, with additional help from John Newnham, Tom Flower and Tom Simon. Changes to the ownership of adjacent fields before the start of the season looked likely at one stage to cause a problem with vehicular access to the site, but the new owners kindly allowed this to continue and we thank David and Caroline Harriott for permission to use the track. We also remain grateful to the National Trust and their Warden, Vic Oliver, for their permission to ring at the site and also their co-operation in adapting their management of the site to facilitate our ringing activities.

Val Bentley

WORTHING SEA-WATCHING REPORT FOR 2011

Introduction.

The sea between Worthing and Ferring was watched on 240 days with a total of 352 hours logged during 2011. This is just 16 days and, coincidentally, 16 hours less than 2010. Figures I and 2 portray the watching effort during the year and demonstrate, in keeping with other years, that the spring months were the best covered. However, it was during the main spring months of April and May that the recording of offshore passage was reduced by about a third on the long-term average. For all other months, except November, the 2011 watching was above the 33-year average. The following table shows the number of days with some recording and broadly matches the patterns shown in the figures.

	J	F	М	Α	М	J	J	Α	S	0	N	D	Total
Days													
Watched	20	14	25	28	20	13	23	22	21	24	13	17	240

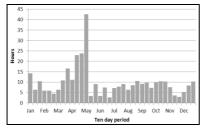


Figure 1:- The number of hours sea-watching at Worthing in 10-day periods during 2011.

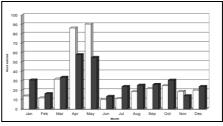
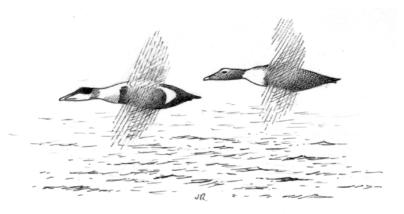


Figure 2:- The monthly effort for 2011 (black) compared with the average for 1978 –2010 (white).

Figure 3 below shows that the year was a good one with observers recording more birds for each hour watched in most months. Notably, and following the pattern of recent years, the winter months were far better than the long-term average and after a run of poor watching in May there was a clear improvement in 2011.



© John Reaney

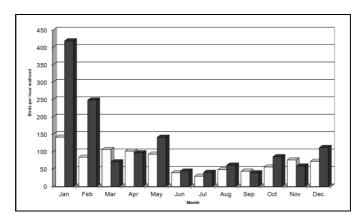


Figure 3 The monthly rates of passage of all non-passerines at Worthing in birds/hour watched, 1978-2010 average (white) & 2011 (dark).

The following table portrays the figures painted by Figure 3 and clearly shows how many birds were recorded in January. The total of 43,059 birds recorded is the eighth largest of the 34 years for which computerised data are held.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Hours watched	31	16	34	58	55	14	24	25	26	31	14	24	352
Total birds	12934	4074	2393	5589	7765	596	973	1556	1029	2627	835	2688	43059
Birds/hour	419	248	71	97	141	44	41	61	39	86	59	112	122

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:- C.E.Hope, R.A.Ives, D. Mason, J.A.Newnham, D.I.Smith and R.Tofts.

CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNT and DISCUSSION

The introductory tables and graphs clearly show that the most exciting watching occurred, as in recent years, during the winter and spring months. The fairly recent phenomena of large flocks of feeding divers, grebes, Gannets, cormorants, Red-breasted Mergansers, Kittiwakes and auks offshore and passing parties of the same species was seen again particularly during the first winter period. This increase over the past decade is clearly seen in Figures 4 and 5 which shows the number of birds recorded per hour of watching during the winters 1978-2011 for auks (Fig 4) and Gannets (Fig 5). Although the scales are different the pattern of a marked right sided bias is similar.

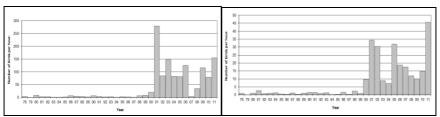


Figure 4 The winter rates of passage of auks in birds/hour watched, 1978- 2011.

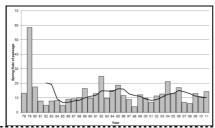
Figure 5 The winter rates of passage of Gannets in birds/hour watched. 1978- 2011.

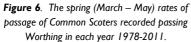
Peak counts for the regularly occurring species were 160 Red-throated Divers on Jan 3rd, 525 Great Crested Grebes on Jan 21st, 374 Gannets on Jan 3rd, 180 Great Cormorants on Feb 6th, 97 Red-breasted Mergansers on Jan 21st, 500 Kittiwakes on Jan 27th and 2,140 auks, including parties flying both east and westward, on Jan 3rd. Many auks remained unidentified but, in keeping with recent years, most of those which were close enough for identification were Razorbills with 729 on Jan 6th being the highest count. Presumably these large flocks were attracted by a good supply of fish and the same would attract more unusual species. Perhaps the most unusual was a male Smew on Jan 3rd, three Long-tailed Ducks on the 6th and a Goosander on the 29th. During the first winter period Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were both recorded on nine dates, Black-necked Grebes on two dates, Goldeneye on three dates and a single Great Northern Diver. Skuas were also present in January with a Great Skua seen on three dates and an Arctic Skua, an unusual winter species, on two dates.

March followed the same pattern as 2010 with little significant offshore passage recorded apart from a month total of 1,126 eastbound Brent Geese. Other wildfowl were only recorded in small numbers. On Mar 15th a single Avocet and Little Ringed Plover were seen and two days later a party of five red-headed Goosanders flew east. The first Sandwich Tern was noted on the 12th and thereafter 61 were recorded throughout the month. The first Common Tern, Northern Wheatears and Sand Martins were seen on the 25th, a Black Redstart on the 27th, the first Barn Swallow on the 28th and first Whimbrel on the 29th.

April started with an encouraging south-east wind blowing on the 2nd which produced the peak day for Sandwich Terns and 365 eastbound Common Scoters. Figure 6 below shows the passage of Common Scoter seen each spring fluctuates but, apart from 1979, the differences from year to year are fairly small and the "trend" line suggests a more long term rise and fall. Clearly April is the best month for watching passing flocks of Common Scoters as demonstrated in Figure 7, also below.







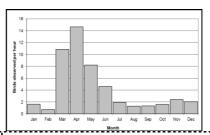


Figure 7. The monthly rate of observations of passing Common Scoters (1978-2011)

The following table, which has been presented for several years, shows the totals for 16 regularly recorded species seen during the two main spring months (with the average 1978-2010 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 *. Clearly it was a good spring for Bar-tailed Godwits, Whimbrel, and Pomarine Skuas; the last being the only species to record high numbers in both months. On the down side there were low numbers in both months of Divers, Brent Geese, Velvet Scoters, Dunlins, Sandwich and Black Terns.

	April Total	May Total	Apr/May max
Divers all	35 (59)*	26 (38)*	10 on May 5 th
Brent Goose	338 (519)*	20 (52)*	124 on Apr 1st
Common Scoter	1159 (1250)	824 (731)	440 on Apr 19 th
Velvet Scoter	4 (18)*	2 (8)*	4 on Apr 19 th
Sanderling	81 (84)	223 (295)	96 on May 2 nd
Dunlin	28 (93)*	35 (158)*	16 on May 2 nd
Bar-tailed Godwit	1223 (1243)	2229 (783)	760 on May 2 nd
Whimbrel	315 (268)	501 (213)	136 on May 3 rd
Pomarine Skua	30 (5)	67 (29)	43 on May 1 st
Arctic Skua	10 (31)*	39 (35)	9 on May 5 th
Great Skua	2 (9)*	14 (3)	3 on May 1 st & 2 nd
Little Gull	15 (42)*	69 (30)	52 on May 5 th
Sandwich Tern	803 (1404)*	419 (868)*	210 on Apr 2 nd
"Commic" Tern	270 (1161)*	1859 (2550)	740 on May 4 th
Little Tern	18 (84)*	169 (235)	35 on May 3 rd
Black Tern	1 (5)*	15 (34)*	9 on May 5 th

The table gives an indication of the passage of the more numerous species but it is often the unusual birds which generate "headlines". Amongst the now regular sightings of Little Egrets were single Spoonbills on May Ist and 5th and a Great White Egret on May 8th. Garganey were recorded on Apr I5th (4) and Apr I8th (1) and two Barnacle Geese occurred on the 30th. Arriving raptors are always exciting; only one Hobby and Peregrine were recorded but Marsh Harriers were seen on May Ist and 5th. Although there were no

major movements of Manx Shearwaters a single Balearic Shearwater was seen moving westward on May 28^{th} .

After the productive first period in May there was a dramatic reduction in effort (see Figure I) and, with the exception of Gannets, there were no movements of any size recorded through the late spring and summer. However, there were some interesting records; at least one Great Skua lingered offshore throughout the period, a Shag was seen on July 9th and 28th, 16 eastbound Manx Shearwaters on Jul 18th was the highest count in the year and single Balearic Shearwaters were seen on Jul 28th and Aug 21st. Westbound small parties of Garganey were seen on both Aug and Sep 16th and a Purple Sandpiper, not a commonly seen bird on a seawatch, was noted on Sep 9th.

Migrating passerines are often most obvious in the autumn; during 2011 numbers were not spectacular but the month totals recorded are shown in the following table. The best day for observing finches coasting was Oct 14th when 799 Goldfinches, 159 Siskins and 150 Linnets were counted.

	Aug	Sep	Oct		Aug	Sep	Oct
Sky Lark	-	4	48	Northern Wheatear	7	14	12
Sand Martin	22	6	-	Chaffinch	-	-	20
Barn Swallow	1187	3906	56	Greenfinch	-	-	50
House Martin	-	600	7	Goldfinch	-	42	1727
Meadow Pipit	-	249	530	Siskin	-	230	308
Yellow Wagtail	25	!	ı	Linnet	-	60	157
Grey Wagtail	-	2	3	Lesser Redpoll	-	3	15
Pied Wagtail	-	207	356				

During October small groups of wildfowl were noted moving westward with Brent Geese being the most obvious, the month total being 537. A notable westward movement of 520 Gannets and 620 Kittiwakes in just 11/2 hours watching on Oct 21st was the best day for common seabirds during the autumn. However the more unusual species were seen on other days with perhaps the prize being a Sabine's Gull on the 11th. A Sooty Shearwater on the 23rd, Balearic Shearwater on the 29th and Pomarine Skuas on the 24th and 28th were also noteworthy. November, often an exciting month, was clearly not so in 2011 as the sea was watched for just 14 hours on just 13 days; high points being two Shag offshore on the 3rd and 4th and the occasional record of a Black Redstart. Most of the regular wintering species had returned by early December although not in large numbers. Another Purple Sandpiper was recorded on the 2nd and on the 11th a Little Auk and both Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were seen. The period around Christmas, as seems typical, was the best for seeing passing birds when 529 Gannets were recorded on the 23rd and 378 on the 25th. The peak of 41 Red-throated Divers was seen on the 27th and single Great Northern Divers were recorded on both the 3rd and 31st, these being only the second and third seen during the year.

John Newnham

GARDEN BIRD SURVEY 2011

Thirty-one SDOS members submitted quarterly garden records during 2011, with an average of 28 each quarter. A total of 59 different species was recorded, seven less than 2010, and a return to similar numbers to those of the previous two years. No Bullfinches, Lesser Redpolls or Linnets were seen this year, while Cuckoo, Raven and Water Rail were additions to the garden list. It was decided that the possible male Italian Sparrow seen by John and Shena Maskell at the end of 2010 and beginning of 2011 was likely to be a hybrid.

Listed below are the most frequent garden visitors for each quarter

First Quarter (January - March 2011)

(20	Species 10 place in brackets)	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
=	Blackbird (I=)	100	8	1.88
=	Blue Tit (I=)	100	12	2.27
l=	Robin (I=)	100	2	0.89
4	Great Tit (5=)	97	17	2.72
5	Woodpigeon (4=)	93	6	0.97
6=	Dunnock (7=)	80	8	0.91
6=	Magpie (-)	80	23	0.90
8=	Chaffinch (10=)	77	10	1.28
8=	Greenfinch (9)	77	20	1.31
10=	Collared Dove (7=)	73	5	0.79
10=	Song Thrush (5=)	73	2	0.29
10=	Starling (-)	73	20	2.30

Thirty garden survey forms were returned and 48 different species were recorded, including the following which were only seen at a single site:

- Brambling (Martin Ford)
- Fieldfare (Brianne Reeve)
- Firecrest (John & Shena Maskell)
- Grey Heron (Marion Taylor)
- Mistle Thrush (John & Shena Maskell)
- Siskin (Brian Clay)
- Tawny Owl (Brianne Reeve)
- Water Rail (John Cooper)

This last species was recorded right at the end of 2010 but counted as the first recording week of 2011. It may have wandered in from a nearby pond and was seen under shrubs in John Cooper's front garden.

I am grateful for an explanation from Laurie Keen for the rather astonishing number of Magpies seen on 10^{th} Jan; a roost built up in his garden and reached a total of 23 before a

crow flew in to scatter them. The roost then re-established in nearby trees and increased to 36 individuals.

Wintering Blackcaps were recorded in 16 gardens (53%) compared with 21 and 11 in the same quarters of 2010 and 2009, but were only reported regularly in a few. Reed Buntings were seen by three observers and were regular visitors to Sheila Marshall's garden where she recorded a maximum of eight in late February. There were far fewer winter thrushes than in 2010 when heavy snow north of the Downs forced them to the coastal strip. Redwings were reported in nine gardens and Fieldfares only by Brianne Reeve.

Second Quarter (April - June 2011)

(20	Species O place in brackets)	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
I=	Blackbird (1=)	100	6	1.70
=	Blue Tit (I=)	100	10	1.65
3=	Robin (4=)	96	3	0.87
3=	Woodpigeon (8=)	96	10	1.96
5	Great Tit (3)	93	6	1.02
6=	Collared Dove (8=)	85	3	0.79
6=	Dunnock (4=)	80	4	0.82
8=	Goldfinch (4=)	81	10	0.90
8=	Greenfinch (8=)	81	14	1.33
8=	Starling (4=)	81	34	3.03

This quarter there were 27 members who submitted forms, and 47 different species were seen. The Greenfinch maximum of 14 was in Stanley Allen's garden, while the largest number of Starlings (34) was recorded by Stephen Simpson.

Blackcaps were recorded in a third of the gardens, mostly towards the start of the quarter, but both Brianne Reeve and Laurie Keen recorded them throughout, suggesting nearby nesting activity. The decline of the House Sparrow continued; in the same quarter in 2009 all but one garden recorded House Sparrow, in 2010 five gardens were blank, but this year they were missing from seven. Laurie Keen unearthed garden returns from 1987 and compared them to 2012, noting the loss of Starling, House Sparrow, Song Thrush and Greenfinch, while gaining Magpie, Long-Tailed Tit, Woodpigeon, Blackcap and Jay. An unusual record from the Titcomb's 10 x 10m garden on 6th Apr was of a pair of Mallard which stayed in the vicinity for a couple of days. Though not quite counting as a garden sighting, Shelia Marshall saw a Red Kite being chased by a gull over her back garden on 12th May.

Some of the species recorded in just one garden this quarter were:

- Cuckoo (Brianne Reeve)
- Grey Heron (Marion Taylor)
- Lesser Whitethroat (David Tomalin)
- Little Owl (Brianne Reeve)
- Redstart (Martin Ford)
- Red-legged Partridge (Martin Ford)

Song Thrush reports declined from 73% to only 22% of gardens between the first and second quarters, though Martin Ford saw an adult with four young in early June.



Third Quarter (July - September 2011)

Specie (2010	es place in brackets)	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
I	Blackbird (I=)	100	7	1.38
2=	Blue Tit (2=)	96	12	3.06
2=	Robin (2=)	96	4	0.66
2=	Woodpigeon (4=)	96	8	1.58
5	Collared Dove (7=)	89	7	1.09
6	Dunnock (6)	85	3	0.72
7=	Great Tit (4=)	81	7	1.1
7=	House Sparrow (10=)	81	30	3.48
9	Magpie (7=)	78	6	0.78
10	Greenfinch (7=)	74	17	1.41

There were again 27 recorders this quarter, and 42 different species seen. The maximum of 30 House Sparrows was in Reg Bradbury's garden during the last week of September. Laurie Keen's Blackcaps continued to visit, and he reported two juveniles as well as a singing male and a female. Cyril and Maureen Leeves noted a marked decline in the number of birds visiting their garden.

The more unusual species were:

- Firecrest (Brian Clay)
- Lesser Whitethroat (Martin Ford)
- Siskin (Audrey Wisdom)

Fourth Quarter (October - December 2011)

(20	Species 110 place in bra	ackets)	% of gardens used	Maximum number seen	Average seen per garden
I	Blackbird	(1)	100	6	1.22
2=	Blue Tit	(2=)	97	14	2.10
2=	Robin	(4)	97	4	0.70
2=	Great Tit	(1=)	97	4	1.06
5=	Dunnock	(5=)	86	4	0.62
5=	Woodpigeon	(5=)	86	8	1.41
7=	Chaffinch	(5=)	83	18	0.92
7=	Goldfinch	(5=)	83	40	1.61
7=	Magpie	(-)	83	5	0.95
10	Wren	(-)	76	2	0.27

In this final quarter 29 forms were returned, and 44 species noted. For the first time in the year Wren reappeared in the top ten, but Song Thrush was down to its lowest level of the year, recorded in only 5 gardens (17%).

Magpie and Wren returned to the leading ten, having dropped down the order in the last quarter of 2010, but Collared Dove and Greenfinch were less frequent. Brianne Reeve was the recorder of the maximum of number of Goldfinches, 40 during the week of 27^{th} Nov. In the week of 23^{rd} Oct, there was a maximum of 60 Starlings in Reg Bradbury's Lancing garden. Fieldfares were seen by Mary Darby and Shirley Downs, but only Hazel Jackson reported Redwing, just a lone bird in the final week of the year. Wintering Blackcaps were noted in six gardens, passage birds in two, while Laurie Keen's residents disappeared towards the end of October, though he saw three males visiting his bird bath together on 29^{th} Sep. Unfortunately, a Black Redstart in Peter Whitcomb's neighbour's garden stayed resolutely next door. Up at Mill Hill, a surprising garden first was a Raven, seen by Stanley Allen at the start of November, and heard nearby on several occasions as well.

For the fifth year running Blackbird was the only species noted at least once in each garden in each quarter. Other species remained generally at the same levels as the previous year, though the average number of gardens each quarter recording Greenfinch fell from 86% to 76%, those with Goldfinches from 84% to 74% and, more significantly, those reporting Song Thrushes from 62% to only 34%.

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

Val Bentley

FIELD OUTINGS 2011

The following field outings were held during 2011

Jan. 9th	Henfield Farmland and River Walk
Jan. 16th	Beeding Brooks
Feb. 27 th	Rackham Woods
Mar. 9th *	Knepp Castle
Mar.19th *	New Forest
Apr. I 7 th	Goring Seawatch
May ***	Three separate walks through Anchor Bottom
May 6 th	Nightingale Walk at Woods Mill
May 19th *	Dawn Chorus at RSPB Pulborough
May 21st	Anchor Bottom
June 5 th	Blackdown Hill
Jun. 18 th	Warnham LNR
Jul. 10 th	Cocking Down
Aug. 20th	Chantry & Kithurst
Aug. 26th	Pulborough Brooks for Waders
Sep. 3 rd	Adur Valley - river walk
Sep. IIth	Pagham, Sidlesham & Church Norton
Sep. I6th *	Cissbury for migrants
Sep. 20 th *	Burpham Triangle and The Burgh
Oct. 8 th	Climping Beach
Nov. I I th *	Burpham Triangle and The Burgh
Nov. 27 th	Fishbourne Creek & West Dean
Dec. 30 th	Seasonal Gathering along Shoreham Beach

^{*} indicates impromptu outings held in 2011

The SDOS Picnic was held at Coombes on July 17th

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 SDOS Yahoo Usergroup.

INDOOR MEETINGS 2011

The following indoor meetings were held during 2011.

January 11th RSPB in SE England - Sussex biased

by Chris Corrigan

February 8th AGM followed by Wetlands, Woodlands and Heathlands

at Pulborough Brooks

by Pete Hughes

March 8th Speaker cancelled therefore various short talks given

by Chris Wright, Dorian Mason, John Maskell, Clive Hope, and

Brianne Reeve

April 12th Bird Families of the World

by Graham St. John Smith

October 11th Conservation Work at Arundel Wetland Trust

by Paul Stevens

November 8th Speaker cancelled therefore binoculars tested and talks given

by Val Bentley and Barrie Watson

December 13th Members' Evening and Christmas Social

by Russ Tofts, Shena Maskell, Murray Brown, Wendy Ball

and Dorian Mason



Pied Wagtail by Janet Derricott

A GUIDE TO RECORDING BIRDS IN THE SDOS AREA

Clive Hope, SDOS Recorder

Please consider sending in some records at the end of the year, even if in the past you have not done so. You can submit your records by <u>one</u> of the following methods:

- Use recording forms for the SDOS area which are simple and self explanatory and which I am able to supply by post or by e-mail - see box at foot of this page.
- Send electronic records to the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) see 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

It's most important that all national rarities should be submitted to the SOS with a full description. Forms are available from D.Howey, 2 Portobello Cottages, South Coast Road, Telscombe Cliffs, BN10 7BD. But please also let me, as SDOS Recorder, know that the record is under consideration. The record will be confirmed the following year if necessary.

Remember, if in doubt, send it in! The Society will not mention the location of a breeding site or owl roost and confidentiality will be honoured.

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

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

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



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT- YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	2011	2010
RECEIPTS	£	£
Balance brought forward	4,419.53	4,186.15
Subscriptions* and visitors entry fee	1,998.00	1,780.00
* (2011: £1,518 + £480 [2012])		
(2010: £1,264 + £516 [2011])		
Sale of books, reports and car stickers	40.50	86.00
Net refreshment receipts	51.35	92.52
Net raffle receipts	161.00	144.55
Bank interest	1.57	1.44
Donations	-	11.00
	6,671.95	6,301.66
PAYMENTS		
Printing and art work	1,030.31	907.90
Postage and stationery	240.01	144.66
Hire of hall	-	210.00
Speakers fees	195.00	299.50
Insurance	102.38	99.79
BTCV membership	38.00	35.00
Gifts	-	40.00
Travel expenses	61.40	73.00
Donations transfer to Jubilee Account	72.30	-
Website registration	96.46	52.28
Computer/Projector equipment	-	20.00
Birdwatchers Year Book	14.50	-
Christmas Meeting Refreshments	118.99	-
Balance carried forward	4,702.60	4,419.53
	6,671.95	6,301.66

John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer) Dated: 12th January 2012

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: 27th January 2012

GOLDEN JUBILEE ACCOUNT

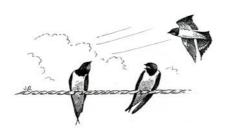
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

RECEIPTS	2011 £	2010 £
Balance brought forward	128.52	1,553.77
Sale of Jubilee book	-	50.00
Bank interest	-	0.55
Donations	255.54	174.20
	384.06	1778.52
PAYMENTS		
Anchor Bottom Benches	180.10	-
Donation to B.T.O. Tracking Project	-	1,650.00
Balance carried forward	203.96	128.52
	384.06	1778.52
John M Maskell (Hon. Treasurer)	Dated: 12	2 th January 2012

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: 27th January 2012



© John Reaney

SOCIETY OFFICERS

(Officers in post following the A.G.M. of 14th February 2012)

email: briannereeve@yahoo.com

President: Bernie Forbes 93 Wembley Avenue, Lancing BN15 91Y email: bernieforbes@talktalk.net

Tel: 01903 753876

Chairman: Brianne Reeve The Old Rectory, Coombes, Lancing,

Tel: 01273 452497 BN15 ORS

Field Officer: Dorian Mason Seagate, Florida Road, South Ferring, Worthing

Tel: 01903 700456 BN12 5PE email: dorianmason@sky.com

14 Laines Road, Steyning. BN44 3LL IT Support: Peter Wyld

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Membership Secretary: 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing BN14 7||

Shena Maskell email: 2maskells@tinyworld.co.uk Tel: 01903 200584

Newsletter Editor: Russ Tofts 283 South Farm Road, Worthing BN43 7TL Tel: 01903 207993 email: tarsigercyanurus | @btinternet.com

Recorder: Clive Hope 22 Upper West Drive, Ferring, Worthing

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Report Editor: Brian Clay Meghana, Honeysuckle Lane, High Salvington,

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Tel: 01273 845988 email: daisue@btinternet.com

Treasurer: John Maskell 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, BN14 7JJ

email: johnmaskell@tiscali.co.uk

Sunbeams, Green Road, Wivelsfield Green, Council Member: Audrey Wende

Tel: 01444 471359 Haywards Heath RH17 7QD email: mauwende@delta18.plus.com

Council Member: Helen Bryett Ship & Anchor Marina, Ford, Arundel

Tel: 01243 553165 **BN18 0BI** email: ysm36b@dsl.pipex.com

USEFUL ADDRESSES. TELEPHONE NUMBERS & WEBSITES

(correct as at 20/10/2012)

The SDOS website is at: www.sdos.org

Booth Museum of Natural History 194 Dyke Road, Brighton, E. Sussex, BNI 5AA Tel: 03000 290900 Access webpage via www.virtualmuseum.info/

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

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

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

Natural England Natural England (South East), Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, BNII ILD Tel: 0300 060 0300 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 http://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/p/paghamharbour/

Police Wildlife Officer Police advice is initially to ring 0845 60 70 999 (the main nonemergency 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 Regional Office. Ist Floor, Pavilion View, 19 New Road, Brighton, BN1 IUF 01273 775333

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

Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Lime Kiln Cottage, Rye Harbour Rd, Rye, E Sussex, TN31 7TU Tel: 01797 227784. www.wildrye.info

Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) Secretary: Val Bentley, Chetsford, London Road, Henfield. W. Sussex BN5 9|| Tel: 01273 494723. www.sos.org.uk

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

WADARS Rescue & Rehoming. Tel: 0300 30 30 999 www.wadars.co.uk

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Head Office Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, GL2 7BT Tel: 01453 891900 www.wwt.org.uk

<u>Arundel Wetland Centre</u> Mill Road, Arundel, W Sussex, BN18 9PB Tel: 01903 883355 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 the second Tuesday of the month. 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.

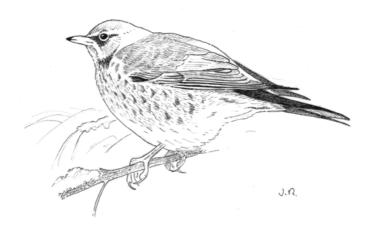
New members are very welcome. If you would like to join, please photocopy, complete and return the form below.

annual subscri Single Couple/Family Junior Life membersl Standing Orde	APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP join the Shoreham District Ornithological Society and enclose my/our ption of (please tick appropriate box): £12 [] £18 [] £5 [] nip terms on application to the Membership Secretary ers for regular subscriptions would be appreciated. Id 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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INDEX TO NOTABLE SITES IN THE SDOS RECORDING AREA

To locate a site (e.g Brighton Marina - code BM at TQ3303) find the Eastings, the first two numbers (33), along the bottom edge of the map. Then find the Northings, the last two numbers (03), along the left-hand edge of the map. The site code will be located near where the two grid lines intersect.

SITE	CODE	GRID	SITE	CODE	GRID	SITE	CODE	GRID
Anchor Bottom	AB	TQ2009	Hove Park	呈	TQ2806	Shoreham Harbour	SH	TQ2304
Applesham Farm	AF	TQ1907	King's Barn	KB	TQ1811	Spithandle Lane	Sp	TQ1514
Beeding Brooks	88	TQ1911	Kithurst Hill	Ā	TQ0812	St Ann's Well Gardens	¥×	TQ2904
Beeding Cement Works	ပ္ထ	TQ2008	Ladies Mile LNR	Σ	TQ3109	Stanmer Down	SD	TQ3411
Beeding Hill	H	TQ2109	Ladywells	La	TQ1906	Stanmer Park	SP	TQ3309
Blackpatch Hill	B	TQ0909	Lancing Ring	LR	TQ1806	Steep Down	St	TQ1607
Brighton Marina	ВМ	TQ3303	Lower Adur	≤	TQ1907	Steyning Bowl	SB	TQ1609
Brooklands	Ŗ	TQ1703	Long Furlong	5	TQ1007	Steyning Levels	SL	TQ1912
Castle Goring	ဗ	TQ1005	Lychpole Hill	3	TQ1507	Steyning Round Hill	SR	TQ1610
Chanctonbury Ring	S	TQ1312	Malthouse Meadow	Σ	TQ1605	Stretham Manor	SM	TQ2013
Chantry Hill	IJ	TQ0812	Michelgrove	Ξ	TQ0808	Sullington Warren	Su	TQ0914
Church Hill	ნ	TQ1108	III H III Σ	Ξ	TQ2107	Tegdown Hill	Тe	TQ3110
Cissbury	Ü	TQ1408	Myrtle Grove Farm	Ω	TQ0808	The Mumbles	Σ	TQ1811
Clapham Wood	Š	TQ1006	New Erringham Farm	Ш	TQ2108	Thundersbarrow Hill	Ŧ	TQ2208
Clayton Hill	ō	TQ3013	New Salts Farm	SZ	TQ2004	Tollbridge	٥	TQ2005
Clayton Mills	Σ	TQ3013	Newtimber Hill	ĭ	TQ2712	Tottington Wood	ž	TQ2112
Cockroost Hill	ပိ	TQ2408	Newtimber Place	ď	TQ2613	Truleigh Hill	Ļ	TQ2210
Cuckoo Corner	ပ	TQ2006	No Man's Land	ΣΖ	TQ1509	Wappingthorn	Ķ	TQ1713
Devil's Dyke	DD	TQ2511	Old Salts Farm	SO	TQ1904	Warren Hill	¥	TQ1113
Ditchling Beacon	DB	TQ3313	Oreham Common	8	TQ2214	Waterhall	×	TQ2909
East Kingston	¥	TQ0802	Pangdean	Pa	TQ2911	Widewater	*	TQ2004
Ferring Rife	Æ	TQ0802	Park Brow	BB	TQ1508	Wild Park	Š	TQ3208
Findon Park	£	TQ1309	Patching Pond	Ч	TQ0805	Windmill Hill	×	TQ2010
Flood Arch	Ā	TQ2004	Perching Hill	Ŧ	TQ2410	Wiston Estate	WE	TQ1512
Foredown	ß	TQ2507	Power Station	ĸ.	TQ2404	Wiston Pond	W	TQ1612
Golding Barn	GB	TQ2010	Rock Common	RC	TQ1213	Wolstonbury Hill	Wo	TQ2813
Golf Course - Worthing	ပ္ပ	TQ1406	Round Hill	RH	TQ2608	Woods Mill	Σ×	TQ2113
Goring Gap	99	TQ1001	Sandgate Park	Sg	TQ1014	Woodvale Cemetery	×	TQ3205
Harrow Hill	Ξ	TQ0809	Shaves Wood	SW	TQ2514	Worthing Crematorium	W	TQ1109
Henfield Levels	ř	TQ2014	Sheepcote Valley	S	TQ3404	Wyckham Farm	W	TQ1913
Highdown Hill	Ξ	TQ0904	Shoreham Adur	SA	TQ2104	Wyckham Wood	*	TQ1914
Hollingbury Fort	生	TQ3207	Shoreham Airport	Sa	TQ2005			
Hove Lagoon	로	TQ2604	Shoreham Fort	SF	TQ2304			

* Please note that the Index and Map are only a rough guide and not definitive. Also note use of both upper and lower case letters in the codes.



Above

Male Stonechat with Juvenile at Cissbury by Dorian Mason



Right

Whinchat at Cissbury by Dorian Mason



Above - Reed Bunting at Ladywells by Chrissi White

Above right – Barred Warbler at Cissbury by Val Bentley



Barn Owl at Long Furlong, Findon by Wendy Ball



Short-eared Owl at Upper Beeding by Michael Ball

Numatoh



Scaup at Widewater by Russ Tofts



Mandarin by Tricia Hall

SDOS RECORDING AREA MAP

