

# SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Autumn  
2007

## NEWSLETTER

### From Alaska to the Med

Our October speaker, Simon Curson, was an ecologist with West Sussex County Council until early 2006. Now he is self-employed, training professionals and amateurs in wildlife studies. One of his many volunteering experiences was as a Migration Assistant at Long Point Bird Observatory in Ontario. Long Point juts out twenty miles into Lake Erie and is a staging post for huge numbers of birds of all kinds. Since 1960 the Observatory has banded (ringed) more than half a million birds of 270 species! Come and hear about migration on a grand scale, and enjoy portraits of bright-coloured birds in the hand.

John Hobson, a former Sussex Bird Recorder, has travelled the World from his home in Storrington, often as an expert guide on cruises down South. In November he takes us instead to the far North and the spectacular wilderness of Alaska, for bears, Bald Eagles, and some of Long Point's migrant waders and wildfowl on their breeding grounds.

Then for something completely different, Andrew Cleave, a busy author and tour leader, with an MBE for services to environmental education in Hampshire, will show us the colourful birds around the sunny shores of the Mediterranean.

For our walks, we start up Cissbury with Clive Hope. If we are lucky there could be Ring Ouzels among the migrant thrushes, and if very lucky a Dartford Warbler with the Stonechats in the gorse. Late Swallows, passing pipits? What we can be fairly confident about are fine views and fresh air.

Paul Stevens leads us around Selsey Westfields where there will be a good chance of an interesting raptor or two. We should enjoy good views of Mediterranean Gulls, and a variety of waders and ducks on the Ferry Pool.

Later in November we explore the wet-

*Mediterranean Gull*

*Paul Stevens*

lands of the Arun with Bernie Forbes, looking for wintering wildfowl and snipe, Cetti's Warblers, Water Rail and the regular Barn Owl.

At West Dean Woods we shall be after Hawfinch, Crossbill, Firecrest and Hen Harrier - those would make a good day - as well as a wide range of other woodland birds.

To complete the year we gather at the Fort for our traditional festive meeting. We hope to find Purple Sandpiper and Black Redstart there, before visiting the Adur shores and Widewater for ducks, waders and gulls. Perhaps we'll see a Kingfisher; last year this outing produced Golden Plover, Water Rail and a smart young Little Gull.

*Meetings and Outings are organised by  
Chris Wright and Dorian Mason*

*Keith Noble, Newsletter Editor*

### INDOOR MEETINGS

Meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in St. Peter's Church Hall, West Street, Shoreham.

**Oct 9**

**Bird Ringing in Canada**

by Simon Curson

**Nov 13**

**Alaska-its Scenery  
and Wildlife**

by John Hobson

**Dec 11**

**Mediterranean Birds**

by Andrew Cleave

### FIELD OUTINGS

**Oct 20 (Sat)**

**Cissbury Ring (am only)**

Meet 09.30 in National Trust car park, OS 198, GR TQ139084.

Leader Clive Hope

**Nov 11 (Sun)**

**Westfields**

Meet 09.30 at Sidlesham Visitor Centre car park,

OS 197, GR SZ857965.

Leader Paul Stevens

**Nov 25 (Sun)**

**Arun Valley**

Meet 09.30 in Greatham Bridge car park, OS 197, GR TQ032163.

Leader Bernie Forbes

**Dec 2 (Sun)**

**West Dean**

Meet 09.30 in the SWT car park, OS 197, GR SU845152.

Leader Paul Stevens

**Dec 29 (Sat)**

**Seasonal Gathering (am only)**

Meet 09.30 in Fort Haven car park, OS 198, GR TQ233046.

Leaders SDOS committee

## **We went and saw...**

### **Goring Seawatch, April 29th**

The forecast soft Easterly was instead a rather cool NNE wind. By 0730hrs there were already seven members in the Alinora Avenue shelter, and 28 by 0830. When the last stalwarts left at 1230 the sun was streaming in and we were all very much overdressed.

I suspect that most regular watchers, asked which species would dominate a late April watch in a NE wind, would say Bar-tailed Godwits. Sure enough this species produced the largest numbers with lots of parties at all ranges and altitudes, and even birds on the beach for the photographers. The morning's total was about 700 godwits. With them were Whimbrels, often in mixed parties so differences in plumage and jizz could be seen. A few Knots, Oystercatchers and Sanderlings were the only other waders. Sandwich Terns were visible most of the time, but we saw no Little Terns and only a dozen or so Common Terns. Skuas are the group many turn out to look for in spring. Three Bonxies remained offshore and perhaps another three passed through, just two Arctic Skuas flew east, but as with most SDOS sea-watches, the three Pomarine Skuas waited until only seven of us remained. Views were not good in haze and glare but one had a superbly large tail, and was a lifer for at least one of us. Three Mediterranean Gulls and a Great Northern Diver flew by, about 70 Common Scoters and single figures of Red-breasted Mergansers, Shelducks and Brent Geese. Gannets and the occasional Fulmar were passing in the distance, on the sea were Great Crested Grebes and up to four Razorbills, and Swallows and single Sand Martin and Swift arrived.

*John Newnham*

### **Greatham Bridge, May 12**

Just four members met for the Dawn Chorus at 5.30am and by 8am we had recorded 36 species. Despite an early start, dreadful forecast and a strong southwest wind, it proved to be a very satisfying morning. A Shelduck flew over the car park as we were listening to Whitethroat, Willow Warbler and Cuckoo. Along the road we picked out songs of Dunnock, Chaffinch, Robin and Wren. Hearing a close Sedge Warbler, we climbed over the stile onto the brooks. Almost immediately we were rewarded with superb views of a hunting Barn Owl which came within 40 yards of us. The Sedge Warbler posed well too and a Heron flew in gracefully behind it. A sharp shower and the song of a Nightingale caused us to return to cover along the footpath on the other side of the road. This Nightingale was

faint but later one in full voice gave us a concert for at least ten minutes, beating even the powerful songs of the many Wrens we heard. Blackcap, Greenfinch, and an elusive Reed Bunting were added to the list and very fine views of a Treecreeper. On the pools east of the path were Dunlin, Redshank, Lapwings defending their patch, Coot and Pied Wagtail, with Swallows and Swifts overhead. We heard and saw a Great Spotted Woodpecker drumming and the Cuckoo circled us several times.

Suddenly on the path inches away from us a very wet female Pheasant came out of the undergrowth followed by her chicks; they could not have been more than a day old, a very pretty picture. On the way back the female was sitting in the middle of the path, amazingly well camouflaged, covering the young ones. Twelve ran off while she drew us away. Then the most extraordinary thing happened. Chris nearly had his hat taken off by a Barn Owl which flew in from the field carrying prey, and then uncharacteristically crashed into a branch before escaping into the open again!

*Brianne Reeve*

### **Blackdown Hill, May 20th**

Eleven members and two guests were in the National Trust car park for the first SDOS outing to this neglected corner of West Sussex. Blessed with warm sun and a light northerly wind, we started with a kettle of 7 Buzzards tumbling high in the thermals. During the day we had smaller groups at several points around the perimeter of Blackdown. Good numbers of Tree Pipits were showing off their singing and flying skills. We heard a very skulking male Redstart, and at least five singing Firecrests in the forest, upping our count this spring to 122 territories in West Sussex. A Nuthatch entertained us bringing food back to its nest hole and we heard plenty of seeping Treecreepers. A dashing Hobby was followed later in the day by a pair hawking insects out on the heath and sitting up in a pine for long 'scoping views. A singing Garden Warbler was hard to see, but a Woodlark in song-flight and later perched in a dead pine branch gave cracking views. We found a couple of Spotted Flycatchers and heard a hooting Tawny owl. White-throats and Stonechats were out on the heath with small parties of Linnets, and we heard and saw Bullfinches a few times. The best birds of the day were surely calling Crossbills, four including a juvenile or female which gave all the group brilliant telescope views. Back at the car park we found another pair of Spotted Flycatchers.

*Bernie Forbes & Dave Smith.*

### **Anchor Bottom, May 25th**

Chris Wright met 18 members at a new venue for our outings, Anchor Bottom, the beautiful valley which drops away to the west from Beeding Hill. A Whitethroat showed well, then a Corn Bunting in the telescopes; it sang for us too. A fine group of Swifts circled overhead. The scrubby bushes are nesting areas for Stonechat (a very smart male showed clearly), Yellowhammer, Chaffinch and Dunnock – we listened to its rather weak and scratchy song. The resident Peregrines gave two very brief views. The same was true of the Grey Partridges, shy birds at the best of times. However, as we all stood above the quarry, we had some superb views of the Ravens. This year five young have fledged; one disappeared soon after leaving the nest, possibly taken by a fox which is seen regularly hunting in the quarry. We located the other four and an adult and had good views through the 'scopes. The nest site looked too small to have sheltered five large young Ravens. Chris told the members the history of the site, its Ravens and Peregrines, and the negotiation which has to go on each year to help the birds' breeding success. There is a great deal of activity in the quarry from daily working, clay pigeon shooting and quad bike racing, so this requires some diplomacy from Chris on behalf of the SDOS and to the obvious benefit of the birds.

The Red Star Thistle, supposed to be locally rare, had 177 plants recorded in 2006. They were looking good for this year too. It was getting quite dark as we made our way back to the cars. A few people stopped at the bottom of Mill Hill to see the first of the Bee Orchids which had just started to flower, making a fine end to a very pleasant evening.

*Chris Wright*

### **Lavington Common, June 15th**

It was pleasantly warm and bright as we left the car park. Back markers heard a Marsh Tit and Paul spotted a Swift above us. We heard and had good views of a Tree Pipit, which took off and appeared to drop deliberately into a possible nest area. Song Thrush and Blackbird were calling strongly from trees skirting the edge of the heathland, with a Willow Warbler further away. Two Stonechats caught our attention, the male in superb breeding plumage. Dave Smith heard a Dartford Warbler call but we were unable to locate it.

On our way back to the car park we added Green Woodpecker, Yellowhammer and Chiffchaff to our list. We greeted Audrey and Maurice Wende, making our group up to 23. Across the road on the south side of the Common, Belted Galloway cattle are part of the conservation team, fine beasts doing a good job. It became much cooler as we

moved from the protection of the trees. We were beginning to think nothing would happen when there came the churr of a Nightjar and then a circling Woodcock squeaked; there may have been at least three Nightjars, and as many Woodcocks. Maurice became the star of the night when, just as the light was fading, he found a Nightjar on top of a dead tree, silhouetted against the sky. Everyone was able to see it before it flew.

*Dorian Mason*

### **Cissbury Ring, July 14th**

The blustery south-westerly which assailed 17 members and 2 visitors in the National Trust car park was soon forgotten as we began the steady climb up the sheltered eastern side of the Ring. Birds were never likely to be the highlights of the day but we heard or saw Yellowhammer, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, and Bullfinch. At least one Buzzard appeared several times. We realised there had been a very recent hatching of downland butterflies as we found Small Copper and Brown Argus basking together. These butterflies rely on the flora of the Ring and the other highlight of the day was the sheer variety of plants and flowers. By the end of our excursion 83 species had been recorded, an astonishing and fascinating list. At the top of the Ring we paused to search for one of the rarest plants, and found at least five Frog Orchids with signs of more to come. They are very insignificant and had only recently appeared at less than two inches high.

We moved round by the Rifle Butts to enter the Ring over a stile, having a fleeting glimpse of a moulting adult Raven. We added Green Woodpecker, a few distant Swifts, Linnets and a Stonechat to our bird list. After some brief sightings of Dark Green Fritillaries, we found a perfect example of this lovely butterfly nectaring on a Musk Thistle at very close quarters. A short detour off the Ring to a marvellous carpet of pink and unusual white Marjoram produced up to ten newly emerged Chalkhill Blues. On our way through the old flint mines, half the group enjoyed good views of more Fritillaries while the others watched three Buzzards searching for beetles on a chalky field. We found a Harlequin Ladybird. A fine female Brimstone and patches of Common Gromwell brought the totals of butterflies to 19, and plants to 83, with 26 bird species to complete a great natural history outing.

*Clive Hope*

### **Birling Gap, August 19th**

Three members were kind enough to brave the dreadful weather and head east in a wet north-west wind. It didn't

look as though we should be able to seawatch but with occasional shelter from the buildings and then using the fence rails to steady our binoculars we had quite a pleasing time, recording one Whimbrel, distant Gannets, Fulmars, and various gulls obligingly close for identification.

*Nightjar*

*Keith Noble*

Swallows and House Martins were making determined efforts to feed around the car park. There was no point in following the planned route to Horse-shoe Plantation or to take the cliff path, so we drove to Arlington Reservoir. At least we did see numbers of birds - masses of Swallows, Sand and House Martins were swooping high above us and very low over the water, giving us a good chance to pick out the differences in plumage and flight. Great Crested Grebes, three pairs each with a juvenile, were a pleasure to see. We heard a Chiffchaff call as it moved about in the bushes. One of several Grey Herons was forced to disgorge its catch when chased by a group of persistent Black-headed Gulls. There was a large number of Cormorants loafing on the nearest raft, and we watched a charm of Goldfinches and a Goldcrest before leaving as another downpour threatened.

*Brianne Reeve*

### **Pagham Harbour, September 16th**

Twenty-two members and guests gathered in autumn sunshine at Sidlesham information centre. To make our load lighter, Dorian Mason and Paul Stevens transported our lunch packs to Church Norton. As we walked around the back of the centre and down the old tram track to the ferry, we had stunning views of a young Peregrine beating up the birds over the harbour. In the creek was the controversial egret which caused a flap the previous week; it was a juvenile Little Egret. Out in the harbour were distant flocks of Teal and Wigeon with a few Pintail, and a fly

past of 19 Grey Herons as they rose up from a roosting site. When we arrived at the bank overlooking the Ferry, all the small waders left for the harbour; from fleeting rear views we picked out some Curlew Sandpipers by the white rumps. A Grey Wagtail flew over.

On the walk down the west side it was difficult to find any passerines and I think we only noted three Chiffchaffs all day. A few scruffy Red-legged Partridges lurked amongst the lettuce, and three Kestrels hovered. In the channels and creeks we had cracking views of Knot, Bar-tailed Godwit, a Greenshank and a small party of Great Crested Grebes. The Peregrine put on another show as it swept over the harbour.

With our lunch packs from Dorian's car we walked down to sit on the shingle spit between the old harbour entrances, watching the mudflats as the tide turned and filled the harbour. We counted hundreds of Dunlin, around 50 Knot and 2 Greenshanks feeding eagerly on the rising tide. A high Yellow Wagtail and a Whimbrel called, and a Wheatear flitted along the shore feeding in the tidewrack. On the way back we had great views of the lurking Whimbrel, 'scoped a very distant Buzzard, heard a hidden Cetti's Warbler and saw a few Sand Martins drift by. Some Black-tailed Godwits were feeding in the Ferry Pool, and seven Curlew Sandpipers were at the back, hard to identify against the afternoon sun.

*Bernie Forbes*

### **Mistle thrushes in St. Ann's Well Gardens**

In the Sussex Bird Report for 2002 the Mistle Thrush was recorded as an Amber-listed species of medium conservation concern. The SDOS Report for 2003 noted that for the first time in over twelve years of recording no Mistle Thrushes had bred in Brighton Wild Park, a site traditionally supporting up to twenty pairs. Subsequent Reports have requested more information about this attractive thrush, especially any breeding records. I begin with my records for 2005 and 2006, although it is only in this current year that I've paid special attention to difficulties facing Mistle Thrushes breeding in and around St. Ann's Well Gardens in Hove.

During the first months of 2005 a single Mistle Thrush was occasionally present in the park. Towards the end of April a pair seemingly took up nearby residence, but regrettably failed to distract my attention from a charismatic pair of newly arrived Great Spotted Woodpeckers. Thus during the second half of May I was very pleasantly surprised to find three juvenile thrushes foraging in the gardens. Clearly, the adult pair had successfully bred, most probably, I

thought, in a nearby side street or private garden, since I believed the numerous squirrels, Magpies and Crows, allied to the marauding woodpeckers, made their successful breeding in the park virtually impossible. Their far too exposed nests in high-up tree forks seemingly invite predation!

In mid-May I observed a pair of adults building in an elm directly opposite my flat in Brunswick Road. This is only some 600 yards from St. Ann's Well Gardens as the crow flies, perhaps an all too apt description of the distance! Presumably these were the park's successful adults attempting a second brood and according me very privileged viewing. On three consecutive mornings a Mistle Thrush was on the nest but on the third afternoon, 19<sup>th</sup>, the nest had been ransacked. I never identified the guilty party out of local cats, Herring Gulls, breeding Magpies, visiting Crows, but almost certainly not squirrels. After that, the thrushes vanished until November onwards when I had periodic sightings of a single bird in the park.

The New Year, however, began promisingly with a pair present throughout January, but then I had only odd sightings of a single bird until a pair appeared sometimes in May and June. No juveniles were seen and from July onwards only one bird was occasionally present. The year had not been good for the local Stormcocks.

slightly sloping, elliptical area of grass, some 70 by 90 yards, liberally scattered with trees. In mid-April, the thrushes began to build in a fork some 25 feet high in one of the trees, a Siberian Elm. I was dismayed because I thought the thrushes had no prospect of successfully breeding there, the only saving grace being that trees adjacent to the nest tree were sufficiently distant to prevent squirrels from jumping into it. Moreover, I saw that the Mistle Thrushes were not allowing even their cousins or larger birds, however harmless, to alight in their nest tree, a Blackbird and Wood Pigeon being peremptorily seen off.

On 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> April the thrushes were joined on the East Slope by a very confident male Redstart, my first for the gardens. As I could have missed this stunning visitor had it not been for the thrushes, they now became emphatically my favourite breeding birds in the park! On 19<sup>th</sup> I saw them mating eight times, one copulation immediately following the previous with the female shivering her wings after each mating in obviously irresistible invitation for the next.

The 20<sup>th</sup> April passed quietly with a thrush on her nest (the female does nearly all the incubation). Then avian drama began. On 21<sup>st</sup> I watched a Magpie in full retreat with a Mistle Thrush in close pursuit. During the morning of 22<sup>nd</sup>, while the female was on her nest, her partner nearby was noisily attacking a pair of protesting Magpies. When two more Magpies arrived as reinforcements, the undeterred thrush continued his lunging, jabbing assaults, eventually seeing off all four intruders. I was impressed! In the afternoon, watched by several on-lookers, both thrushes very noisily attacked and put to flight a lone Magpie, after which the female returned to her nest. Could the thrushes, I wondered, succeed in fledging young against all the odds? On that glorious Sunday afternoon children and adults played and lay all over the East Slope grass but the thrushes seemed almost to welcome human presence!

An incident next day was very spectacular. A squirrel busily inspecting the East Slope grass was suddenly chased by an Alsatian and made the big mistake of seeking refuge in the thrushes' nest tree. Pandemonium ensued. Though the incubating female stayed put, her partner relentlessly pursued and dive-bombed the hapless squirrel which jumped frantically from branch to branch but failed to evade the thrush's ferocious jabs. Adjacent trees were beyond its reach and at the foot of the tree the Alsatian patiently watched the commotion above. The frying pan or the fire? Since staying in the tree was painfully impossible, the squirrel braved a jump to the grass and somehow, pursued by the Alsatian, reached safety in a small

tree. Had a terrier been chasing the squirrel, I'm sure the rodent would not have survived. That evening I wrote in my diary "These Mistle Thrushes mean business!"

Humans became the problem next day when some young men played with a frisbee near the thrushes' nest tree. Once the frisbee hit the highest branches but the birds were unconcerned. In the evening the female was on her nest, as also early next morning on 25<sup>th</sup>. Curiously, just as I was leaving, the male aggressively saw off a Blackbird and Song Thrush, both harmlessly feeding on the grass some 25 yards from the nest tree. I'd never before seen such unwarranted aggression but did not give it a second thought. However, in the afternoon no Mistle Thrushes were to be seen: they had deserted their nest which nevertheless, appeared undisturbed and certainly not ransacked. But presumably the eggs had been predated by a Magpie or Crow or even by one of the woodpeckers. Just how do Mistle Thrushes ever succeed in fledging young?

For four days there was no sign of the thrushes and then both turned up on the East Slope for two days, making me think that they would, very unwisely, try to breed again in the park. Thankfully, I was wrong. One more sighting on 4<sup>th</sup> May was my last so far this year.

There is a gruesome epilogue. In mid-May I watched a Crow raiding a Magpie's nest in a Holm Oak adjacent to the park. An attendant Magpie made a great deal of noise but at no time attacked the Crow which flew onto a nearby lawn with a featherless nestling which it devoured, piece by piece, watched by the Magpie which had followed the Crow onto the lawn. All the while it kept a respectful distance of some 10 yards, apparently pretending to be only feeding. However, once the Crow had flown off, the Magpie immediately hopped up and closely examined the sacrificial site, after which it, too, flew away. Clearly, the Crow is King. At no time on the East Slope did I see a Mistle Thrush confront a Crow. Has any SDOS member witnessed such a confrontation and, if so, with what results? I wish I'd seen whether the thrushes had mounted a defence of their nest.

Are Crows the real villains as far as Mistle Thrushes are concerned? Is increasing predation a principal cause of their apparent decline in our region? I would be very interested to read other members' accounts of breeding Mistle Thrushes.

*Brian Easlea.*

*Mistle Thrush  
Reaney*

*John*

At the start of 2007 I resolved to keep a close watch on the park's Mistle Thrushes and was extremely pleased when a single bird was joined by a partner at the end of January. Thereafter, however, the pair disappeared until late in March, (after a failed breeding attempt outside the park?). They began to feed daily on the park's 'East Slope', a

## Newsletter Editor

We are very sorry to learn that Keith Noble, who edits the Newsletters, will be moving to Wales shortly. He has produced interesting and varied Newsletters enhanced by his own illustrations. Keith has a deep knowledge of this local area, but also from the many years he worked for the RSPB he has a great deal of useful information and contacts which have helped the Society. We shall miss his wise counsel, his fine photography and regular contributions to our meetings. We hope he and Alison will enjoy their new home, our good wishes go with them.

So we need a new Editor to produce the Newsletter three times a year. Keith says that if he can manage, anyone with just limited computer skills can do it. Please let me know soon if you are willing to consider this vacancy.

*Brianne Reeve*

## The 2006 Report

The Report will be available at the end of September almost three months earlier than in recent years. This is due to the determined efforts of our Editor John Crix, and Recorder Clive Hope. Thanks are due to all those who have made contributions covering seawatching, ringing, the Garden Bird Survey, species reports and field outings. You will be delighted by the choice of photographs and John Reaney's pen and ink drawings.

This Report continues the high standard we have come to expect and John Crix is to be congratulated. The Report will be given out at our first Indoor Meeting on October 9th. If you can help with the distribution to other members please let me know at the meeting or before by email or phone. This will reduce the Society's postage costs, now about 80p per Report, and enable us to

keep down subscription rates.

*Brianne Reeve*

## SDOS Website

The web site now has a new look so please visit the site at [www.sdos.org](http://www.sdos.org). With pictures kindly provided by Dorian Mason, the new look is part of an update that will soon include a map of the SDOS recording area showing birding sites. There is also a plan to add a list of birds seen in our area, together with notes of their status.

*Terry Hicks*

## SDOS Usergroup

The group has been active since February 2002, exchanging email messages of bird sightings, and some other matters of natural history interest. There have from time to time been issues about members having difficulty in "getting onboard" and messages not being delivered in a timely manner. But on the whole there is no doubt the user group has been a great aid for spreading news about bird sightings, ringing group reports, and other related topics. For this we thank those who steadfastly and repeatedly post messages into the group. It should also be said that we would like more members to post their sightings and points of interest so please have a go!

If you use email and would like to join the group, please contact Terry Hicks;

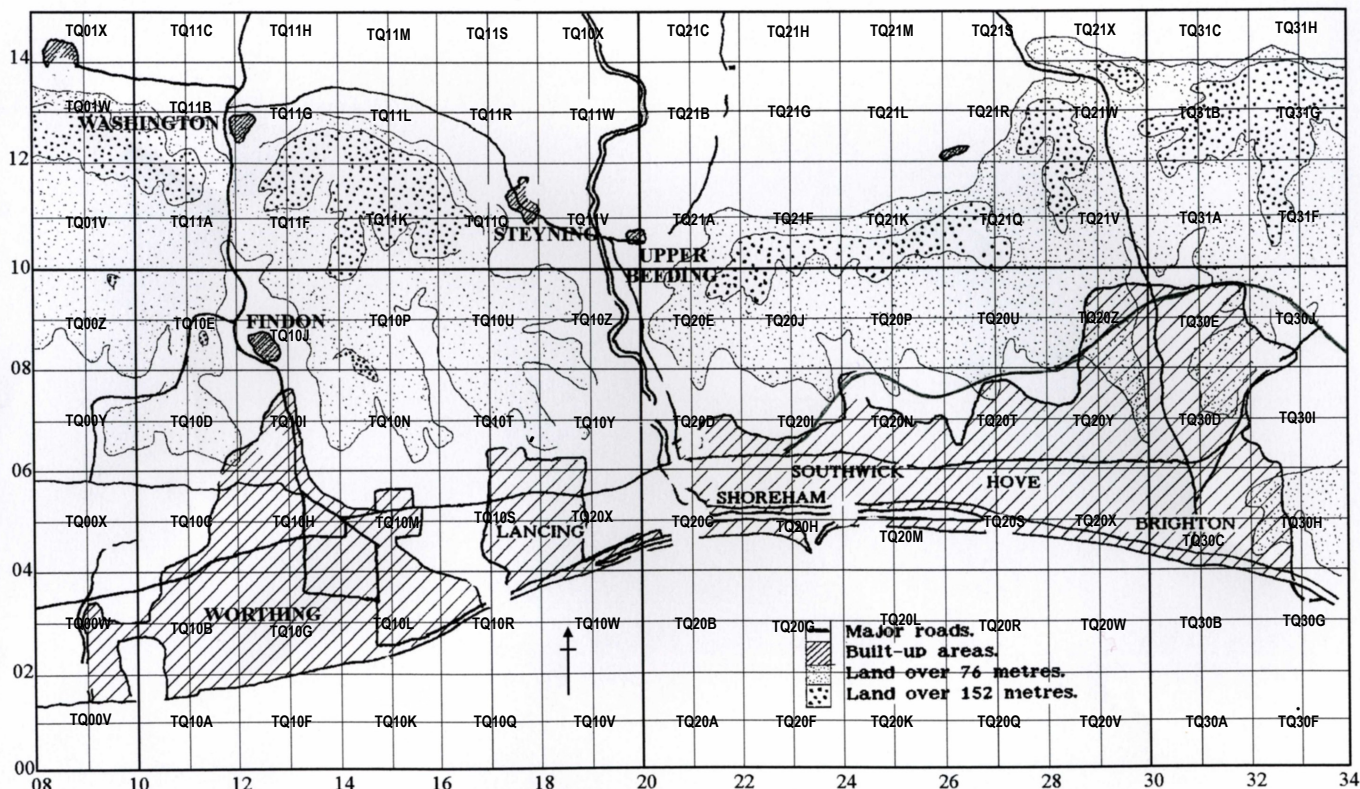
[terrance.hicks@talk21.com](mailto:terrance.hicks@talk21.com)

## Goodbye

I shall be at the October meeting just before Alison and I move to Brecon. I shall miss the SDOS meetings and outings and your good company. Thank you.

*Keith Noble*





## Bird Atlas 2007-11 and Sussex Tetrad Atlas

The BTO's fourth major Atlas study starts in November. The aim is to plot the distribution by 10km squares of Britain's bird species in both winter and the breeding season. The Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) sees this as an ideal way to repeat a countywide tetrad atlas: the results from 1988-92 are in 'Birds of Sussex' 1996.

The map above of our SDOS recording area shows tetrads, eg TQ10A, within 10km squares. Volunteers are needed to undertake Timed Tetrad Visits (TTVs) in one or more tetrads. This involves four sessions each lasting either one or two hours, during which all birds seen are recorded and counted. The TTVs should be done in Early

Winter (November/December), Late Winter (January/February), Early breeding season (April/May), and Late Breeding Season (June/July).

Some tetrads have already been allocated, including at least TQ00V,W,Z; TQ10E,G,J; TQ20D,E,I,J,P,X; TQ21Q. If you would be willing to take on one or more tetrads please contact the relevant SOS 10km Square Steward:

For TQ00 Richard Cowser  
cowser@btinternet.com,  
TQ11 David Buckingham  
davidbucks121@hotmail.com,  
TQ10 Dr John Newnham,  
jnewnham@bigfoot.com,  
TQ21 Val Bentley,  
chetsford@talk21.com  
The acting Steward for TQ20 and County Atlas Organiser is

Dr Helen Crabtree, 3 Myrtle Cottages, Ardingly Road, Cuckfield, RH17 5HD, hcrabtree@gmail.com.

Keith Noble will bring a map, and looks forward to offers of help at the SDOS meeting on Tuesday 9 October.

To supplement the information from TTVs, the Atlas will also use records submitted in the usual ways to SDOS, SOS, and Birdtrack. Please make a special effort to report the birds you see during the next four years.

There is much more information about the Atlas, and ways to contribute, at [www.birdatlas.net](http://www.birdatlas.net).



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