

Shoreham and District
Ornithological Society
Autumn Newsletter
2020



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Editorial

Roger Smith

Dorian Mason's photograph on the front cover of a White Stork on a nest at Knepp captures a significant event, the first successful breeding of White Storks in the UK for 600 years. Yesterday (24th August) 22 were recorded circling over Rustington, presumably on their way to France and warmer climes for the winter. In early lockdown in April a pair arrived in Pulborough on a pool in the centre of the village and, alerted by a neighbour, I dashed down to the A29 bridge to see them.

There are several bird re-introduction schemes at present in southern England. At Poole Harbour a Western Ospreys scheme is progressing, although no release is planned this year because of poor breeding success in Scotland. Of the six White-tailed Eagles released on the Isle of Wight last autumn two have died, one remains and three are widely spread but expected to return as they mature. Seven more have been released recently.

The Great Bustard scheme on Salisbury Plain has now ceased releasing young birds. They started with Russian birds which had a strong migratory urge and tended to disappear, but a change to more sedentary Spanish stock has seen greater success and perhaps the establishment of a self-sustaining population. In the West Country. The Great Crane Project released about 100 Common Cranes between 2010 and 2015 on the Somerset Levels and pairs have now spread out and numbers are being maintained.

Some birders seem to be a bit sniffy about re-introduction schemes but in my view Storks, Eagles and, indeed, Beavers capture the public imagination in a way that Cirl Bunting re-introductions do not. Ultimately in one way or another the general public fund a lot of nature conservation and bringing the natural world to their attention through charismatic species can only be a good thing in my view.

Roger Smith

Ringling the Changes or 2B or not 2B

John Maskell

Regular readers of the Society's e-mail user group will know of the sterling work that is being done by the bird-ringing groups based at Cissbury Ring, Ladywell (Lancing College) and The Mumbles (Steyping) and I do not intend to detail their work here. However, it is always a cheery moment when one reads of the ringers' joy when one of "their" birds is re-caught or observed in another location, thereby contributing to the knowledge of bird movements.

To my eternal shame I ignored my first ringed bird, a Wren lying dead in a Worthing gutter some 40 years ago. Shena was keen to retrieve the ring but I overruled her on the grounds of "health and cleanliness", ours not the poor Wren's. This incident has been a recurring embarrassment ever since. How could I have been so short-sighted? Since then the only dead ringed birds that we've encountered have been a couple of Racing Pigeons. In both cases we were able to contact the owners, but they were less than appreciative of the information we gave them. It would appear that a Racing Pigeon that fails to reach its target is deemed a failure and, therefore, of no further interest. These incidents gave us an interesting insight into another aspect of avian pursuits.

Also discussed on the user-group were the various merits of small digital cameras. Indeed, many of these modestly-priced cameras are now able to produce good quality images and are in regular use by many of our members keen to permanently record and supplement their birding observations. My own pocket camera has recently been put to good use in recording rings on live birds.

A frowning Herring Gull standing sentinel on the roof of a house opposite my Mother's flat on the Isle of Wight last summer attracted my attention when I noticed that it was attending a nest. As a recent report indicated that breeding Herring Gulls are not well-recorded on the Island I determined to place a suitable entry on the BTO's Birdtrack system and back it up with a



confirmatory photograph. Despite my photograph being taken on a very grey day I noticed a metal ring and a yellow leg-ring 2B9B. Pleasingly the gull was seen supervising a chick on 6th June and was last noted on 17th July. Contacting John Newnham regarding my observation he recommended perusing the website

<http://www.cr-birding.org/colourprojects>

as this is an excellent starting point to search for colour-ringed birds. It was quite a revelation to discover how many such projects there are, and one needs to be quite diligent to narrow down the possibilities. Following up an e-mail link I was later contacted by the Secretary of the Isle of Wight Ringing Group who confirmed that 2B9B was ringed as an immature bird on 18th September 2013 after being caught by cannon netting at Lynbottom Tip on the Isle of Wight. Apart from my own observation of this bird the only other sighting so

far was also on the Island on 3rd October 2016 so this would appear to be a bird that regards Vectis as its home.

More recently, on 28th January, Shena and I photographed a green ringed Mediterranean Gull on the beach at Seaview, Isle of Wight and again the website recommended by John Newnham “delivered the goods”. Within 24 hours I’d received a reply from Camille Duponcheel in France and he supplied details of REX2. After being ringed in the Vendée, France on 29th June 2014 this gull has proved to be quite a wanderer and was recorded near Lisbon in February 2016 and then in Cornwall in October the same year. Four subsequent reports in the summers of 2017 and 2018 have noted the bird in the Pas-de-Calais and Maine-et-Loire areas of France so one wonders where it had flown between 27 May 2018 and our own observation this year. Intriguing “stuff”!



But for a real colour ringing challenge I leave you with this image of a group of Sanderlings on the beach at Ryde where no fewer than four individuals are wearing various rings and flags!



Many thanks to the Society's ringers for providing the stimulus for this short note and to John Newnham for his continued support and education.

The 'Scurvy Patch' - Where is it? A Shoreham history lesson.

Tim Holter

The Covid 19 pandemic since February has stopped me conducting my monthly Wetland Bird Surveys (WeBS) on behalf of The British Trust for Ornithology. I publish my survey reports on our User Group. My report



6. View East from near the bridge, c. 1875, showing oyster beds and shipping.

covers a wide area of the Adur Estuary from the harbour mouth to the Old Toll Bridge. A number of locations are referred to and recently I have been using the name Scurvy Bank for one of them. However, several months ago I was prompted to provide an explanation as members were not able to pinpoint this location. In the meantime, I discovered that my own understanding of the location's title was incorrect and the name should be Scurvy Patch. A little local history was also revealed.

Last Autumn I encountered John Pointing who was using this location title although, at the time, I misunderstood him as I was already familiar with the existence of the Scurvy Bank which appears on historic maps of Shoreham. He has since corrected me. John and his family before him have known the estuary for a long time. John was familiar with the Scurvy Patch as his late uncle lived in the Toll House on the east side of the Norfolk Bridge, the



This photo, taken from the tower of St. Mary de Haura Church, of the original Norfolk Bridge, the Scurvy Patch and Scurvy Bank shows the extent of the estuary prior to infilling to form the recreation ground.

opposite side of the river from the Scurvy Patch and saltmarsh area which has been in the RSPB reserve since 1987.

'The Scurvy Patch to which I refer is the bank which forms the riverbank edge of the RSPB reserve and the saltmarsh behind. The highest point, which is nearest the river and close to the Norfolk Bridge, is the last area of saltmarsh to be inundated by the rising water level on a spring tide; the last area of vegetation remaining on which waders often crowd together before most of that also floods on the very highest tides leaving a small island. This island near the Norfolk Bridge always remains above the high tide and has a conifer and a

deciduous bush growing on it which are often perching points for Reed Buntings and other small passerines.

I have not located a historic map where the Scurvy Patch area is specifically annotated but Victorian maps refer to a similar but larger bank of mud entitled Scurvy Bank lying to the north of the current A259 and Norfolk



Bridge, opposite the present day 'Ropetackle' site and next to the Adur Recreation Ground. In the nineteenth century one of the two channels of the river flowed along the Scurvy Bank's north western edge towards the Flood Arch and the present-day houseboat channel. John recalls from his childhood the remnants of this old river course being known as 'The Babbly'.

In Victorian times, from about 1860, the coming of the railway line resulted in a local boom in the oyster trade. There were numerous oyster beds constructed within the river both sides of the Norfolk Bridge and these

extended into the area between the Scurvy Patch and the causeway where remnants can be traced when the tide recedes within the present-day RSPB reserve. The oysters caught offshore were landed and stored in the beds prior to transport by rail to London. According to Henry Cheal's 'History of Shoreham' published in the 1920s the early 1900s saw the demise of this trade because the now larger motorised boats began to use other ports.

Cheal doesn't say much about events after the First World War so there has to be reliance upon personal recollections thereafter. The Duke of Norfolk was known to own large areas locally. It is believed he sold the Scurvy Bank area to a local benefactor who bequeathed it in perpetuity to the local community in memory of a son lost in the war. A bank was constructed between the railway and the Norfolk Bridge separating the area from the river. Through the 1920's, and decades beyond, this area was used as a landfill site where senior members of our society recall birding in the scrub within which 'The Babbly' had become a pond. Eventually the site was levelled and the purpose for which it was bequeathed was achieved. It became the present day Adur Community Recreation Ground. Unfortunately, due to landfill 'sharps' coming to the surface it cannot be used for sports purposes.

Besides being a medical condition caused by a diet deficient in vitamin 'C', a search of the internet reveals 'scurvy' as an adjective describing something which is contemptible, disgusting, worthless. Worthless is probably an apt description of a silted-up area of the river which was perceived to have no useful purpose. Our modern-day conservation mindset would not agree with that! Such a shame the recreation ground area does not duplicate the RSPB reserve on the opposite side of the road! We must be grateful a similar fate did not befall that area where I believe a marina had been proposed before it passed to the RSPB.

I am indebted to John Pointing for providing historic photographs and family recollections.

Editor's note – Captain Cook recommended eating Common Scurvy Grass *Cochlearia officinalis* to prevent scurvy, a disease prevalent amongst sailors in

the past. *Cochlearia officinalis* is a widespread salt marsh plant – might this indicate an explanation for these unusual names?

RSPB Adur Estuary Nature Reserve Update

Jess Aidley, Tony Benton, Tim and Jenny Holter,

In the last two issues we outlined our concerns at the increasing number of disturbance incidents within the RSPB Adur Estuary reserve and the historic lack of signage and information panels. An action plan to address these interrelated issues had been agreed with the RSPB.



When our Spring article was published, we believed we were making progress towards the erection of an information panel overlooking the reserve from

Coronation Green near Shoreham Town centre. However, we have been disappointed to now find there is no finance for this.

Covid 19 furloughing reduced Pulborough to a skeleton staff barely sufficient to look after their principal reserve. This meant we could not make headway locally, despite repeatedly observing a huge increase in water-based leisure activities on the Adur which impacts on the RSPB reserve. This year has seen a very large increase in the use of stand-up paddle boards (SUPS) due to their light weight making them easy to transport and launch. The SUPS craze has also been featured by national newspapers during lockdown and their local use on the 'Adur Water Park' has been promoted through social media sites. As a result of this escalating activity, RSPB signage as soon as possible is critical to the maintenance of this saltmarsh as an important and undisturbed roosting habitat; a wildlife sensitive area requiring exclusion from 'Water Park' activities.

To ease the pressure on Pulborough, John Oliver, Volunteer Manager and Julianne Evans, Reserves Manager have encouraged us as local volunteers to act as a task force to move matters forward, subject to their approval. We have gladly accepted this opportunity although the task is far from an easy one.

Tony has now obtained the reserve information panel, produced in 2018 and we are investigating the manufacture and funding of a suitable lectern to be mounted at Coronation Green, possibly with local assistance or sponsorship.

We have met to produce an overall plan of all the signage we believe is required to indicate to the general public and river users the presence and wildlife importance of the reserve. These will be strategically positioned to both deter intrusion across the reserve by watercraft and on foot and to educate on the birdlife of the area. The measures includes land-mounted signs, a further information panel and buoys. With no finance currently available from RSPB and an expensive signage project we will need to find some 'deep pockets' and prioritise the order in which signs and buoys are dealt with.

Jess is in touch with the Harbour Authority and houseboat contacts that may be useful. The action of other SDOS members has been helpful in enabling us to begin to foster positive relationships with estuary leisure activity stakeholders. We are tentatively working together to draft a Code of Practice that will hopefully meet the needs of both wildlife protection and river users. We are also progressing support from Natural England as the reserve is part of the Adur Estuary SSSI.

RSPB Volunteer Wardens:

SDOS Garden Birds 2019

Val Bentley

The number of members who send in records from their gardens in 2019 was slightly lower this year, at 24. I started to co-ordinate the SDOS Garden Bird Survey in 2009 and remarkably, 16 of the participants in 2009 are still taking part in 2019, so special thanks are due to Reg Bradbury, Brian Clay, Jay Cooper, John Cooper, Martin Ford, Clive Hope, Laurie Keen, Cyril & Maureen Leeves, Sheila Marshall, John & Shena Maskell, Anthony Robinson, John & Jeanette Simpson, Gordon & Vera Tickler, Rae Titcomb, David Tomalin and Peter Whitcomb. Looking at the list from 2009, I note that several were members who have sadly now passed away, Stanley Allen, Mike Hall, Brian Metcalfe, Roy Sandison and Jim Steedman. Other regulars who have joined since then and have taken part for several years are Val Bentley, Tony Benton, Paula Blake, John Feest, Janet Paterson, Marion Taylor and Martin Wilson, while taking part for the first time in 2019 was Jayne Rudge. There were 22 forms returned for the 1st, 2nd and 4th quarters and 20 for the 3rd.

I spent a few happy hours putting the weekly totals into a spreadsheet, which helps me make some sort of sense of the figures. It only takes one sighting of

a species in one quarter to “count”. The table below shows the 15 most frequently seen birds during the year, compared with the previous 3 years.

Top 15 Species

Species	Average % of gardens used each quarter	Overall position				Maximum number seen at one time (Observer & week)	Average number seen per week all gardens
		2019	2018	2017	2016		
Blue Tit	100	1	1=	2=	4=	21 (Blake 14 & 21 Jul)	2.21
Blackbird	98.8	2=	4	4	1	10 (Blake 5 May & 22 Dec)	1.68
Wood-pigeon	98.8	2=	1=	1	2	12 (Blake 22 Dec)	2.16
Magpie	97.6	4	6	7	9	6 (Keen 9 Jun & Marshall 2 Jun, 1 Sep)	1.04
Robin	96.6	5	3	2=	3	8 (Blake 5 May)	0.97
Great Tit	91.8	6	5	5	4=	11 (Blake 14 Jul, 22 Sep)	1.39
Dunnock	82.3	7	7	6	6	6 (Blake 8 Sep, Robinson 18 Aug)	0.95

Goldfinch	80.0	8	8	8	13	28 (Marshall 22 Dec)	1.96
House Sparrow	73.4	9	12	9	7=	49 (Maskell 10 Nov)	4.15
Starling	72.0	10	10	13	11	c60 (Jay Cooper 10 Mar)	3.32
Carrion Crow	71.9	11	9	10	12	5 (Keen 27 Oct)	0.51
Wren	67.3	12	13	11	10	5 (Blake 23 Jun)	0.47
Collared Dove	64.1	13	11	12	7=	6 (Blake 3 & 17 Nov)	0.46
Green-finch	60.6	14	16	16	14	12 (Bentley 12 Nov)	0.72
Herring Gull	57.1	15	15	14	15	11 (Feest 30 Jun)	0.81

I thought it would be interesting to go back to 2009 to see if there have been any major changes in the order of species at the top of the list, but discovered that back then I had summarised the results separately for each quarter and only for the 10 species seen the most. However, back then Greenfinch figured in the top 10 in each quarter, averaging out at 86% of gardens during 2009 placing the species just above Woodpigeon at 86.3%, whereas in 2019, Woodpigeon is 2nd equal, a leap from 7th in 2009, and Greenfinch languishes in 14th place. The decline in the Greenfinch population is due to the disease Trichomonosis and well documented, but not reflected in my own garden where the species is often the most numerous! The frequency with which Magpie is recorded increased steadily since 2016, only two of the four quarters of 2009 did it feature in the top 10.

There are only slight changes in order from 2018. As noted, Magpie stepped up a couple of places, probably not a welcome occurrence, Greenfinch showed a slight increase, edging into 14th, and knocking Long-tailed Tit down into the “also rans”

The most numerous species recorded in 2019 was House Sparrow with a total of 4,634 birds recorded, with Starling a little way behind at 2,623.



The “Also Rans”

Regularly recorded, but not in the top 15, were:

	Average % of gardens used			
Species	2019	2018	2017	2016
Long-tailed Tit	49%	62%	50%	37%
Chaffinch	47%	49%	53%	52%
Great Spotted Woodpecker	36%	41%	48%	38%
Chiffchaff	35%	24%	36%	26%
Song Thrush	34%	42%	39%	37%
Coal Tit	33%	35%	28%	20%
Goldcrest	33%	36%	35%	30%
Blackcap	33%	38%	32%	40%
Jay	32%	34%	31%	27%
Jackdaw	30%	28%	31%	18%
Sparrowhawk	28%	28%	22%	18%
Feral Pigeon	24%	27%	21%	21%

There is very little change here from the previous year. Long-tailed Tit was back to roughly the level of 2017 after a rise in 2018, and Chiffchaff recovered

from a low occurrence in 2018. It was a third year of decline for Chaffinch, and Song Thrush was at its lowest level since 2015.

Some Garden Highlights

First Quarter

There were 41 different species recorded. The only Reed Bunting of the year was in my garden in early March, Laurie reported a male Firecrest in five different weeks, Brian, John & Shena and Janet were visited by Redwings, a single Grey Wagtail frequented Marion's garden during January though was not seen again until November, and a real surprise for David was a Grey Heron perched on the ridge tiles of their house in Findon, especially as they have no pond! A Red-legged Partridge strutted around my garden briefly on 14th March. Wintering Blackcaps were seen in 10 gardens, with Brian, John & Shena and Rae seeing them regularly. The maximum seen was four (two pairs) by John & Shena in mid-February. Eleven gardens recorded Chiffchaffs – all were in March bar one, a single bird at Peter's in mid-February. The surprise of the century though was at Paula's in Henfield on 15th March, when she looked from her shed window towards her comprehensive bird feeding station and saw a female Lesser Spotted Woodpecker thereupon – she said she had never felt so frustrated not to have a camera to hand!

Second Quarter

Forty species this quarter, including a few Willow Warblers in April as they returned from their winter haunts, and were seen by Paula, John F, John & Shena, Marion and Peter. Two Garden Warblers were reported, one by John & Shena on two occasions, and another seen several times by John & Jeannette. The only Mistle Thrush sighting was by Paula, of a single bird during two consecutive weeks in April. John & Shena saw a Whitethroat, and Blackcaps were regular visitors to both Paula and Laurie, who reported six males on the 8th April.

Third Quarter

Down to 39 different species, but with youngsters around there were some good numbers of the more common ones. In the week of 14th July Paula counted 21 Blue Tits at her feeding station and John F reckoned that Starlings and House Sparrow numbers were about 50 apiece. During September Reg had up to 16 Goldfinches, while Laurie and John F tied for the most Long-tailed Tits counted - 19! Brian had two Willow Warblers in July, Reg saw a Whitethroat in August and a Spotted Flycatcher visited Laurie's bird bath four times between 7th and 12th September.



Fourth Quarter

There were 43 different species between October and December. It was John Cs turn to have a Grey Heron, and mine to have a Firecrest. Once again Brian and John & Shena saw Redwings, with Brian recording three in mid-November and eight in the first week of December. The highest number of Starlings was

50 at John & Jeannette's in October, and it must have been quite a challenge for John & Shena to count 49 House Sparrows in November!

December Blackcaps were seen by Brian, Clive, Laurie, John & Shena and Martin W.

In Summary

The gardens participating in the survey were distributed throughout the SDOS area. The locations were Brighton (2), Ferring (2), Findon (1), Goring (1), Henfield (2), High Salvington (2), Hove (1), Lancing (3), Rustington (1), Shoreham (6), Southwick (1), Steyning (1) and Worthing (1). The total of 51 different species recorded was two fewer than in 2018, though the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker is likely to be a first ever! Nine other species were seen in only one garden, Grey Wagtail, Mistle Thrush, Pheasant, Red-legged Partridge, Reed Bunting, Treecreeper, Moorhen, Spotted Flycatcher and Swift.

The BTO's national Garden Birdwatch results (*Bird Table Spring 2020*) are not quite identical to ours, with Great Tit in 5th place, while Magpie is down at 9th Jackdaw is 14th nationally, but 25th for SDOS, Coal Tit is in 12th place nationally but 21st for us; however, Herring Gull is 15th here, but right down at 33rd for the UK as a whole!

It has been 25 years since the BTO launched their Garden Birdwatch scheme, and their review of changes during this time brings home the losses of species such as Song Thrush and Greenfinch, which we have also seen, and increases in numbers of Wood Pigeons, Goldfinches and Nuthatches – though the latter species are hardly found south of the Downs, and hence only recorded in the gardens located in Findon, Henfield and High Salvington. And so near and yet so far – Peter saw a Black Redstart on a neighbour's roof on 20th October!

Many thanks to all those taking part in the SDOS Garden Birdwatch for their observations and comments.

Birding on Fuerteventura, Canary Islands

Roger Smith

The Canaries are volcanic islands in the Atlantic off the coast of southern Morocco. Lanzarote and Fuerteventura are the oldest and most eroded islands and the nearest to Africa whilst the largest island, Tenerife, remains a very active stratovolcano with the peak Mt. Teide at 3,718m (12,198 feet) being the highest mountain in Spain. There are other islands too. Visiting both Fuerteventura and Tenerife can deliver all the endemic species in the Canaries but here I am going to focus on Fuerteventura as the birding is quite straightforward and there is the opportunity to see both endemics and a number of desert species that are tricky to see in Spain or North Africa.

Fuerteventura is the second largest island of the Canaries after Tenerife and is about 120 km long with a maximum width of 30km (about 75 by 12 miles). It was originally a line of three stratovolcanoes but following uplift and erosion these have largely disappeared and the present landscape is of subdued hills with some more recent volcanic cones and lava flows. The most recent volcanic activity is within the last few thousand years. The island is arid and annual rainfall is generally considerably less than 250mm (10 inches). It is basically a Spanish desert out in the Atlantic with lots of sunshine and a pleasant climate in the autumn, winter and spring. A nice place to get away from winter's gloom for a package holiday with windiness the only downside (Fuerteventura means strong wind in Spanish).

I have been at both Christmas and in early spring (March). Although the island is about 100 km (70 miles) off the African coast there is nevertheless a seasonal spring and autumn passage and American birds turn up also from time to time. March was very pleasant but the resident birds were straightforward enough at Christmas too. You need a hire car to get to the best birding spots but like mainland Spain access to the countryside is fairly easy with good main roads and lots of dirt roads and tracks along river beds that can be navigated with a modicum of care. Because it hardly ever rains most of the tracks remain in

good condition and easily accessible for a car with normal ground clearance. There are also some good site guides with detailed maps and instructions for finding the special birds. These are much better than the vague lists of locations and everything that has been seen there over the last 50 years that we will have all wasted money buying. One of the books I used was Dave Gosney's 'Finding Birds in the Canaries'. On the front cover it says 'exactly where to go to find the best birds'. Exactness is what you need if you are guiding yourself.



Fuerteventura Chat – endemic to the island

The downside of island birding is of course low species diversity and Fuerteventura is no different in this respect. Most islands have lower species diversity than nearby continents and this tends to be expressed in two ways, a lower overall species count and a tendency for a bird group to be represented by only one, sometimes abundant, species. Thus on Fuerteventura there is only one Corvid, a local race of Common Raven, one tit, a Canaries version of African Blue Tit and one resident lark, Short-toed. Fuerteventura Chat is endemic to the island and Berthelot's Pipit is a Macronesian endemic. Along

with Houbara Bustard, Cream-coloured Courser, Egyptian Vulture, Barbary Falcon, Spectacled Warbler, Spanish Sparrow, Trumpeter Finch and a few others the bird assemblage includes a number of relatively easily seen species that would require much more effort in southern Spain or Morocco. Cory's Shearwaters can easily be seen from the shore or the ferry to Lanzarote and there is a selection of waders on the beaches. If we can leave the UK ever again Fuerteventura is a nice place for an off peak winter holiday package holiday.



Houbara Bustard near El Cotillo

The resorts are mainly on the east coast with Corralejo the main resort in the northern end of the island. Jandia is the resort at the southern end of the island with the airport developments in between. Corralejo has good access to the bird sites in the north and is a pleasant enough place, much smaller and less brash than the Costas or the Algarve. The architecture might reasonably be described as Spanish utilitarian but the town has a small attractive centre. Spanish Sparrows can be seen in the hotel gardens and Trumpeter Finch hunt

for seeds in the flowerbeds along the promenade. There are Whimbrel and Turnstones on the beach and Pallid Swifts fly screaming around the town.

I am not going to describe individual sites in great detail as they are well documented but I will flag up a few favourites. The gravel plains and riverbeds south of El Cotillo are good for Cream-coloured Courser and with a bit of luck you should be able to get the car alongside a Houbara Bustard. All over Africa bustards aren't much fazed by the steady approach of a car and Houbaras don't seem to be an exception.



African Blue Tit – the eastern Canaries form at Las Penitas

Further south, again in the west of the island, is the ancient capital of Betancuria. This is a small pretty village and you can see Monarch and other butterflies in the flower beds and we found a Southern Grey Shrike near the old well.

Down the road from Betancuria is a delightful little valley at Las Penitas. Here, I suspect we are in the magma chamber of an ancient volcano and gabbro boulders mantle the slopes. A little stream runs through tamarisk scrub to a small reservoir. There are Barbary Partridges in the boulder fields and more butterflies and dragonflies along the stream. An African Blue Tit appeared in a bush whilst I was there and an Egyptian Vulture flew over. It was an hour spent observing nature in winter sunshine in a desert oasis. My idea of a good holiday.

Elsewhere on the island there are reservoirs, salt pans, small fields and the barrancos (substantial rocky valleys and gorges) that are the typical habitat for Fuerteventura Chat. Once you have descended into a barranco finding this endemic is like locating a Common Stonechat – not a huge problem! Overall birding in Fuerteventura is generally easy; it is a desert with long views and the birds are out in the open. In winter, when it is cool they are also active for much of the day. Highly recommended for a DIY desert birding experience.

Lockdown, Birding and Well-being

Jenny Holter

We returned from a fabulous ‘trip of a lifetime’ to Costa Rica just as the worries about Coronavirus started to hit the headlines in the UK. With dire news from Italy, it was obvious where we were headed, and time to confront the restrictions we would be facing. At times of crisis you evaluate the things that are really important to you, so rather than stock up on loo rolls and hand sanitisers we dashed to Derbyshire and Oxfordshire for some precious days with children and grandchildren, in the knowledge it would be some time before we were able to see them again.

We returned to Sussex on Sunday 22nd March and enjoyed a glorious day out birdwatching at Pagham in warm sunshine, the reserve already quiet in terms of visitors, and savoured our last taste of freedom. That evening ‘lockdown’ was announced. Weeks of emotional turmoil were to follow, with an unhealthy addiction to news bulletins and daily press conferences, invoking

reactions of horror, dismay and escalating anxiety at ever increasing death tolls, with perceived danger and confusion at every turn.

I spent the first few days indoors, panicking every time Tim 'popped out' to the shops (seemingly oblivious to being classed as 'vulnerable' due to his age), cleaning door handles religiously and making my hands dry and sore from frequent handwashing. Glued to the TV or my phone, I quickly found myself increasingly anxious but also feeling physically uncomfortable from the lack of exercise with twitchy, restless legs and stiff back and shoulders. I felt like I had aged in days.

Birding proved to be my lifeline. The virus guidance was obviously curtailing our usual birdwatching excursions and limiting us to either viewing from the garden or daily exercise walks from home. However, we are very fortunate to live in central Shoreham, located in a prime area, with access on foot to a variety of habitats including coast, river, farmland and downland. The lockdown also coincided with the start of the spring migration season, so despite constraints we were able to add to our annual bird list and maintain this additional interest on our local walks. Here is our 'lockdown' diary:

Week 1

Lockdown began on Tuesday 24/3 and, in the garden, I spotted my first Blackcap of the year - two grey males in the rose bush at the front of the house. Perhaps I would have missed these if I had not been confined to the house?

After two days caged at home, on Thursday 26/3 we could bear it no longer and ventured across to the beach, hoping for Wheatears. No luck there, but as we returned, feeling somewhat disappointed, I put the bins up to a 'little brown job' flying into a bush in front of a block of flats. Imagine the jubilation when this turned out to be a newly arrived Black Redstart. Result!

On Friday, the entire population of Shoreham appeared to be out walking by the river. I have never seen it so busy as during lockdown and I felt very stressed. It was impossible to socially distance from so many walkers, runners

and cyclists coming from all directions, and I was on edge the whole time trying to avoid people. Many seemed to completely ignore the 2 metre distance rule. The streets around town also seemed very busy. although most people here were trying to cross the road or take a wide berth with a friendly smile. I resolved from that point on that I would stay home at weekends, leaving that time and space for those who were not furloughed and presumably were still working during the week.

Week 2

Tuesday 31/3 we set out early to avoid the crowds, and headed from home up to the downs, walking via Mill Hill nature reserve, through Erringham Farm then home. Although we had no new birds, this was a lovely outing following the weekend indoors, with the joyous song of skylarks filling the air and lifting our spirits. Bouncy Linnets were plentiful too and a Chiffchaff was in full song. My spirits soared with every step.

Wednesday 1st April we tried a new route along the river, past Lancing College to Lancing Ring, then home via Coombes Farm and the river again. There appeared to have been a 'fall' of Song Thrushes with at least ten seen in the paddocks. Once again we were serenaded by Skylarks, soaring up from the yellow rapeseed which glowed in the morning sun. And on the river, a boldly marked Shelduck was fairly unusual for this location, although obviously common elsewhere. The downs were beautiful and deserted, but the riverside stretch from the tollbridge was again ludicrously busy.

Friday 3rd April, back to the beach, walking across Ferry Bridge then on to Widewater Lagoon. How can it be so busy at seven in the morning? It appears everyone is trying to avoid the crowds...!

At least this time we did manage our Wheatear tick, seeing three gathered on the shingle, flying frequently up to the next set of grounds as people or dogs approached. A Sandwich Tern offshore, bill pointing downwards in characteristic feeding pose, was also a new tick for the year.



Week 3

On Monday 6th April the sun shone gloriously, and I relaxed out in the garden observing the wildlife, including a friendly Robin, House Sparrows gathering nesting materials and the shenanigans of a pair of Blue Tits who were building a nest in our box with camera. Suddenly my attention was caught by a melodic, descending song from the neighbour's fruit tree – Willow Warbler! Binoculars quickly came out, and we were eventually able to pinpoint the supercilium (eye stripe) and tell-tale pink legs, distinguishing it from the similar Chiffchaff. Our first of the year.



Tuesday 7th April and we were back again to Lancing Ring where we found Black Redstarts in the paddocks and Corn Buntings perched on the fence as we crossed the fields, calling out their distinctive 'jangly keys' tuneless song. A tiny Long-tailed Tit disappeared into the bramble with a mouthful of nesting material. As we joined the riverside path, a flurry of bird activity included good views of a Cetti's Warbler, a fleeting view of Water Rail descending into the ditch with legs trailing, and our first Sedge Warbler of the year.

On Wednesday 8th a couple of Swallows flew over - not our first, having had an unseasonal sighting at Abberton Reservoir with my brother on 1st January, but these were our first local birds. On Thursday 9th we were back to Mill Hill and beyond, returning via the river. The highlight from this trip was Common Whitethroat, obligingly poised at the top of a hawthorn bush and advertising its presence with its delightful scratchy scratchy song.

This felt a more positive week, we were getting into a good routine of early walks, our strategy of being out of the town and river areas by 8.30 meaning I could generally relax and enjoy the fresh air, scenery and wildlife. I had also resolved to spend less time on my phone and stop watching the news and absorbing every detail of virus information. The media reports and questions were becoming increasingly negative and political and adding to my confusion and anxiety. Absorbed in nature, for a few hours I could escape the monotony of it all.

Week 4

A repeat of previous routes to Lancing and the river at the start of the week included highlights of two Red Kites overhead and two Grey Partridge. In some ways it was interesting to repeat the same walks and note the small, seasonal changes in vegetation and birdlife. Tim certainly enjoyed this aspect, but personally I was beginning to miss being able to travel further afield and to see friends and family. Occasionally we would encounter someone we knew and hold a conversation across the road - or in the case of Rae Titcomb, from opposite sides of the tollbridge. How uplifting these brief moments of

normality were! I consider myself rather an introvert, but I have come to realise how important social contact is to me. Phone contact helps, but it is no replacement for spending time with others.

On Thursday 16th April, we guiltily drove the car for the first time in over four weeks on a short journey to Bramber and Beeding Brooks. These damp areas were full of Cetti's Warblers, bursting forth with their explosive song from almost every bush. With great patience, we were able to pinpoint our first Reed Warbler, which eventually worked its way to the top of a reed affording good views. Sedges in hedges were also showing well. Yellowhammers shone in the sun and we were thrilled to hear the iconic call of the Cuckoo at Bramber. Tim spotted the bird sitting in a distant tree, but as we watched it took off and flew towards us, enabling fantastic, close views. I was particularly struck by the white spots on the tail edges, which I had not remembered from previous sightings. A fabulous diversion from our usual routes – and at least we knew the car still worked.

Week 5

Although we were now into a pattern of regular walks to the same locations, we continued to see new and different birds each time. On Wednesday 22nd April, back at Mill Hill, we were tipped off to a singing Nightingale and stood for some time listening to this mesmerising and evocative song. This is not a site where these birds stay, lacking any damp areas and with quite high disturbance levels, but the bird did hang around for a few days, so others in our birdwatching group were able to also enjoy this iconic summer migrant.

The following day we headed towards Lancing yet again. Our new bird today was a Swift, passing overhead in rapid flight.

By now I was really starting to struggle with the constraints of lockdown. The countryside walks certainly helped, and it was great to be adding new birds to my annual list. By heading for the hills we were generally able to avoid the crowds and 'social distance' very effectively, and our walks filled the morning rather than just an hour, but that was helping preserve my sanity, and was not

in breach of the government rules, despite a suggestion that for most people an hour would be long enough for exercise. I'm afraid for me it wasn't. However, as the weeks went by, and the weather improved, even the remoter areas of countryside were becoming busier, making it more difficult to relax and enjoy some peace. On 'home' days I found it very difficult to stay positive, lacked motivation for the many household tasks that could have been occupying my time and was eating enormous quantities of chocolate! My sleep was also very erratic and I know I was becoming increasingly irritable and frequently feeling very low.

Week 6

To relieve my frustrations, we ventured further afield on Wednesday 29th April to a new location, walking along the beach as far as Brooklands Park. It was a chilly morning and we found a winter plumaged Bernie Forbes looking out over the sea, hoping for a rarity. Over the lake we were pleased to find both House Martins and Sand Martins hawking for insects. On the sea, there was a good movement of Sandwich Terns, but we noticed one bird which was smaller and darker, with some black on the wing tips- our first Common Tern. As we passed Widewater, three waders stood clustered together - a Dunlin, Whimbrel and Bar-tailed Godwit, all looking magnificent in colourful summer plumage.

Week 7

Back to Lancing Ring yet again on Tuesday 5th May, noting five Sandwich Terns tracking down the river, with an occasional plunge dive into the water. As we passed the foot of Shoreham airport Tim spotted a Whinchat sat atop a bramble bush, another new first sighting. We continued on the footpath to Lancing clump, where a Lesser Whitethroat was singing loudly but proving elusive in a flowering hawthorn. A Great-spotted Woodpecker drummed in some tall trees nearby. As I scanned the treetops, I was amazed to stumble upon a Hobby perched on a branch. I just managed to get Tim onto this before it was chased off by a couple of Magpies, but we both caught a glimpse of the distinctive red thighs as it flashed past and out of sight behind the copse.

A return visit on Wednesday 6th May, this time a socially distanced walk accompanied by a lonely friend, craving human company as much as I was. We were pleased to locate another newly arrived migrant – a Spotted Flycatcher found in a tree near Applesham Farm. Along the river we added Whimbrel, and several Ringed Plovers and Dunlin. Unusually a Great-crested Grebe was also upstream from the railway bridge.

By Wednesday 13th May lockdown was finally relaxed and Tim and I celebrated the first freedom the same way we had begun – with a glorious day at Pagham Harbour!

Our lockdown birdlist finished on 95 birds, demonstrating the rich variety of wildlife and habitats on offer around our local patch. More importantly, the search for birds had proved a valuable lifeline in maintaining some degree of physical and mental health during an extremely challenging time.

A Highland Diary: Birding highlights and ringing from the 1990s

Peter Whitcomb

These are selected extracts from notes sent to me by Pat French, who moved from Sussex to the outskirts of Newtonmore, near Aviemore after retiring from the Police. He recorded extensively for the BTO Nest Recording Scheme and later trained and became a successful ringer. We stayed with Pat and Ann a number of times. They also entertained and found birds for many of their friends in Sussex, including the Champions, Alf and Iris Simpson and Chris Bignal. Pat told me that in the early days before all his ringing involvement he was seeing between 160 and 185 species in a year. That included a few 'twitches' to see White-winged Black Tern, American Wigeon and Red breasted Goose.

The observations range across the months and capture some highlights of Scottish birding. Often the number and diversity of species described is amazing and the recollections are often thoughtful and informative. Don't miss the battle with the territorial Capercaillie in May 1990.

February 1990. We walked in Abernethy Forest on 16th and saw our first Scottish Crossbills of the year, and a female Capercaillie, but very little else on a six mile hike. On the 21st the first of our local Lapwings returned to the fields in front of the house, with numbers continuing to build up until they moved up onto the moorland to breed. On the 24th a Black Grouse flew low over the house while I was getting the coal in. The next day two Ravens flew by. On the 26th snow showers had returned and I drew the bedroom curtains back to find a flock of 51 Snow Buntings on the lawn and outside on the road! I found another flock of 20 later in the day up Glen Bancher just west of here. It was bitterly cold and I was able to walk amongst them. Their only interest was in trying to feed. On the 28th I walked up to the green bothy behind the house, in the snow, and saw 350+ Red Grouse, 3 White Hares and many Red Deer.

April 1990. We got up at 6am on the 1st and went to Kingussie Golf Course, 3 miles away, to see if the Black Grouse were lekking, and there were 8 males displaying. It is a sight I never expected to see – the males pair off and threaten each other, there being little contact and after a while the weaker bird moves out to the outside of the lek and the winner starts over again with another male. We found six females in the woods nearby. The lek goes on for about an hour or so mornings and late afternoons for about six weeks. On the 7th we went up to the Black Isle to visit a friend who had bought 200 acres of land which he is turning into a nature reserve. I helped put up 100 nest boxes and planted over 1000 trees in the few days we spent there. There was a burn on the outside of the property where five Dippers were seen, including a pair nesting by a waterfall. On the 14th I was joined by a friend from Tomintoul who wanted to see the specialities of the area. About 8 Slavonian Grebes were on a local loch and another 2 on a lochan. Ospreys nesting and a Black Grouse lek came into the itinerary. He wanted to see a Golden Eagle's eyrie but we were

unlucky as the nest was not in use. We did, however, find Capercaillie and Crested Tits in the wood, and a Peregrine and two pairs of Ring Ouzels on the way back.

May 1990. On the 1st walking the hills near Tomintoul we had Woodcock, Redstart, Ring Ouzel, Merlin, Hen Harrier and the closest Golden Eagle I have ever seen. My friend had put up an open barrel in one of his trees which was being used by a pair of Tawny Owls, with 2 chicks. On the 2nd I took Ann up to Glen Feshie to see if she could see a Capercaillie that I found a few days ago. My heart sank when we got there as there was no sign of the bird. It was a hot day and I was in shirt sleeves. I had left my camera and thumb stick outside the fence and we walked up into the wood to see if we could find it. It found me. I heard it come flying at me six feet up through the trees. Ann says she hasn't seen me run like that for years. I did not fancy that thing landing on my head and shoulders. I got through the fence just in time, but then risked another go, armed with camera and stick. It really gave me a hard time. I was trying to get up on a bank with the sun behind me, but I could not get around him. He was determined to keep the high ground and he was getting more and more angry. I had held him back with the stick for a while. I decided to retreat, but he came through the fence after me and I lost my stick and at one time had to grab its neck to keep it off. I realised I must not hurt it even though it had evil designs on me. I managed to grab a dead pine branch and held it down with that while I collected my camera and backed away. It took some time and distance to get away from it. It had a wicked looking beak and great big claws. I think it must have seen me as competition in its lekking territory.

May 1990. On the 21st we left for a holiday in the Outer Hebrides in the camper van. We had hundreds of Manx Shearwaters flying past and a great many auks and Gannets as we crossed to Barra. It's a lovely island covered in wild flowers, and of course, it has Corncrakes. We heard a lot, sometimes 4 or 5 calling together, but actually only saw 3. On South Uist I found a Wood Sandpiper on a small lochan. This was rare for me and I reported it to the local recorder. On another day we stayed on Balnaraid RSPB Reserve on North

Uist. I know the summer warden as he was at Insh Marshes in the winter. We had better views of Corncrakes here. One walked along a field as we parked and another two were chasing each other around the graveyard. Our last stop was Handa which is a fantastic island for birds: over 30,000 breeding pairs of Guillemots, plus Bonxies, Arctic Skuas, Razorbills, Puffins, Kittiwakes, Fulmars and gulls all breeding.

April 1994. Back home after an excellent trip to Israel, the first Wheatear arrived on the 1st and Lapwings looked as if they were starting to lay eggs. Being so cold the Spring migration here was a stop and start affair and late snow ruined the early Lapwing nesting. I have been out at 6.30am every morning since mid-month, mainly pegging the nests of the Black headed Gull colony up the back. I had guessed at 300 or so pairs but it was over double this. I also found two Ptarmigan nests at 2600 and 3100 feet so these took a while to check – both were successful. The nest boxes did better this year, all four Goldeneye boxes were used and three were successful. Redstarts used three boxes and a Tree Creeper used a tit box.

May 1994. I have had a very busy year with the Nest Recording Scheme. I had 370 last year which was the most for Scotland and 12th nationally, but this year I am near to 1200. I checked out a new area this year which were the trees between the fairways on the golf course. These held at least 40 nests including Wood Pigeon, Mistle Thrush, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Pied Wagtail and 5 Redpoll nests. I have been leading guided walks at Loch Insh on Thursday afternoons with sometimes up to 18 people. We have seen Wood Sandpipers and heard Spotted Crakes on the marshes this year.

August 1995. I am now a very active member of the Highland Ringing Group and I qualified for my 'C' permit which means I am now able to own mist nets and work on my own. The Group started cannon netting waders as soon as the birds return to the shores of the Moray Firth from their breeding grounds. Some good catches included 104 Oystercatchers, 31 Lapwing, 14 Redshank on

12th; and 21 Oystercatchers, 10 Goosanders, 2 Redshank and a Greenshank on 26th. Much is being learnt from our ringing.

November 1995. I caught 275 Meadow Pipits and 33 Twite in the garden, plus 2 Merlin which followed the pipits into the nets. One Merlin was an Icelandic bird, bigger and heavier than our own. I put up nets in my small local wood and the Scandinavian thrushes came to feed on the bumper Rowan berry crop, my totals were 70 Redwing, 28 Fieldfare, 12 Blackbird, and a Sparrowhawk and a Buzzard! I ringed about 400 Chaffinches and many of these must be Northern birds so I am looking forward, hopefully, to some recoveries from foreign parts.

December 1995. Our Redshanks breed in Iceland and we get recoveries from there and the Faeroes. We can assess their breeding success by the percentage of juveniles we catch in the winter. We re-trapped one bird for the 7th time since ringing started here in 1984. She will have made the journey between Iceland and the Moray Firth an amazing 23 times, covering at least 28,000km. An incredible feat across one of the nastiest sea crossings in the world. Our wintering Dunlin breed around the Baltic and northern Russia proved by recoveries from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Poland, Germany, and one ring was found in a pellet in a Peregrine nest near Archangel and another bird was caught near Murmansk.

April 1996. Nest recording again occupied a great deal of my time from April with all early starts and often out until dark. I ended the season with 502 records. The top scores were 262 Lapwing, 69 Oystercatcher, 64 Common Gull, 20 Swallow, 5 each Dipper and Pied Flycatcher, 4 each of Curlew and Snipe. New nests were a Collared Dove which nested in the garden and a Dotterel's that I found whilst hill walking. Three of the Goldeneye boxes were used but the Tit boxes along the River Alder were disappointing.

May 1996. Nearly all the Group ringing had finished by the start of April, except for a visit to the Solway by four of us on the 6th. We drove down on the evening, stayed overnight and caught 352 Dunlin and 80 Ringed Plovers. I

personally ringed over 100 Dunlin and about 20 Ringed Plovers. The Dunlin were especially interesting as there were birds of three different races – Arctica, Alpina and Schinzii. It was good fun trying to sort them out!

June 1996. Back home I was ringing everything I could catch. On the 12th I caught Twite, Redstart and Whitethroat in the garden. I had permission to put up nets in the local sewer bed and caught 80 Pied Wagtail, 20 Grey Wagtail, 20 Goldcrest, several Willow Warblers and a Chiffchaff, plus lots of Chaffinch and Meadow Pipits.

January 1997. Once again I had decided to channel most of my birding efforts into ringing which is now my main hobby. January weather allowed 20 days of mist netting and 3 days of cannon netting. I caught 360 in the mist nets which included 5 Twite, 5 Reed Bunting, 30 Redpoll, 31 Siskin, 8 Brambling and a Sparrowhawk. One of the Redpolls was a large darker bird and was probably the Greenland race. Unfortunately I overlooked one important measurement, that of the bill, so the record will not stand. On the 11th 60 Knot were ringed from the cannon net at Lossiemouth.

April 1997. I had a call from Kevin Shaw who runs Heatherlea Birdwatching Holidays at the Boat of Garten. He had damaged an achilles tendon and could not walk. He was desperate for someone to take over as Leader for a few weeks as he had full bookings for the whole summer. This started out to be for a few days and then went on for ten full weeks. It was difficult fitting all my other projects in. Most of the people were very nice, but of course they had paid to see all the Scottish specialities, and therefore the pressure was on me. I generally found it hard going with taking the fittest ones over the Cairngorms each week, and treks of three or four miles to find Ptarmigan and Dotterel.

July 1997. In the middle of the month I noticed lots of birds feeding on the local sewer beds. I got permission again to put up some nets and in a couple of weeks I caught 44 Grey Wagtail, 14 Pied Wagtail, 300 Willow Warbler, 33 Goldcrest plus the usual tits and finches.

September 1997. I was relieved to have finished my stint with Heatherlea and was able to catch up on a Constant Effort ringing visit on the 8th. I had missed the previous one through bad weather. This visit took six hours and 91 birds were caught including a Kingfisher – a ringing tick for me. The total also included 36 Siskin, 16 Bullfinch and 2 Sparrowhawk. It has been a good year for my Constant Effort Ringing Site. I caught 687 birds of 223 species, as opposed to 408 of 22 species in 1996. It was very pleasing to retrap 14 Willow Warblers, 2 Spotted Flycatcher and 2 Garden Warbler. I also caught a Norwegian ringed Garden Warbler.

December 1997. The wet and windy conditions had reduced the number of days for Group mist netting. On the 13th we had a good mixed catch at Buckie – 80 Dunlin, 19 Turnstone, 13 Redshank, 5 Curlew, 3 Purple Sandpiper and an Oystercatcher. The year ended with cleaning out all my nestboxes and writing up all my records. At the end of the year I found that I had ringed just over 6,000 birds of which 5,000 were in and around Newtonmore. 350 were waders with the Group.

Brianne Reeve: A Lifetime Love of Nature

Jenny Holter

As most of you will know, Brianne Reeve has recently stepped down from her role serving on the SDOS council after many years of tireless service. Many of us have benefited from her extensive knowledge and generous sharing of expertise, and I am sure most of us have no idea of the full extent of her contributions over the years, in a myriad of ways.

I have recently been reading the fascinating history of the society in 'Fifty Years of Birdwatching', with perspectives from key characters past and present (including Brianne!) In recognition of her important contribution, I thought it would be interesting to record her personal perspective and to discover

something of her own birdwatching journey and how that links with the Society's history and development over time. I had originally planned to interview Brianne but due to the Coronavirus restrictions that was not possible. However, I sent some questions to her and she has kindly sent her responses. This article draws on both the above sources, and you will see how her legendary knowledge, keen attention to detail and passion for the natural world continues to shine through...

When and how did you first become interested in birds?

I cannot remember a time when I was not interested in anything to do with natural history. I seemed to have an innate curiosity, which was odd because no-one else in my family showed any interest at all. In those days, identification guides were not readily available, and information was mainly derived from one's own observations, and from others more knowledgeable than oneself.

I come from a farming family; my father was a farm manager for a farm which is now entirely covered by Heathrow Airport. My grandfather moved out of London to become a market gardener in Middlesex, his wife, also from a farming family came from Dorset. I spent most of my childhood on the Middlesex farm, completely free to have the run of the large garden and even larger farm which also contained gravel pits, where Little Ringed Plovers nested.

This area became the subject of my 'thesis' when I went to the Froebel Maria Grey College in 1956-9. Even then it simply was not really acceptable that a girl should have a particular interest in birds and they had difficulty in finding anyone to mark it because no-one had opted to choose ornithology before!

Early on in my three year course I happened to go to the Festival Hall to see a film of 'Wild Spain' presented by Eric Hosking, our most well-known bird photographer at that time. As I was admiring the display of photographs after the film, I saw Eric a few yards away from me. I went up to congratulate him and at the same time asked if there was any possibility that he could let me have any photographs for my thesis, especially to do with flight, as I did not

own a camera. He was so kind and within a few days I received a generous parcel of all kinds of birds in flight, quite superb and perfect in black and white. I used them in my thesis and for years afterwards in my teaching and also in our own SDOS 'Fifty Years of Birdwatching'.

You are also known for your expertise and interest in other aspects of natural history, especially wild flowers? Which came first, birds or general nature?

During all this time I could see that I would learn more about birds if I understood the linkages between trees, flowers and insects. SDOS was very much just birds and I decided we needed to widen our knowledge because birds need insects, insects need flowers and trees, so each is as important to natural history as the other. I was mainly self-taught, but along the way I met some very wise people who shared their interests with me, which I was able to pass on to others during the outings I led.

When did you join the Society and how did your Role evolve?

In 1966 I happened to meet John Stafford, one of the original founders and first President of the Shoreham Ornithological Society as it was in those days, and during a conversation I discovered our common link with Eric Hosking. John knew him well and used to go on some of his expeditions in the dual capacity of doctor and birdwatcher. These included 'Wild Spain' and the film that I had seen in the Festival Hall so many years before, was shown in Shoreham Town Hall by Eric in 1959!

I joined the Society in 1966 and for the first time in my life really began to learn about birds. I became involved first of all with refreshments. In 1981 members were dropping and several Council members stood down. Following an extraordinary meeting Mike Hall became the new Chairman and Stanley Allen, Treasurer, later to become the second President. SDOS took on a new life and flourished with this great leadership. During this time I was elected on to the Council as a member and became Secretary in early 1990. In 2002 I seem

to have taken on the dual roles of Chairman and Secretary for seven years and then continued as Chairman until Audrey took over in 2018.

What achievements are you proud of from your time as Chair?

Definitely the 'Fiftieth Anniversary Birdwatching' book. I had to go to classes to learn how to use a computer, I had not ever learned to type let alone deal with IT. Fortunately Terry Hicks (newsletter editor) was an expert with IT and he was so good and patient with me. He was very badly dyslexic but I could cope with that and found it very interesting that he could do anything on a computer. He had to deal with me and a total lack of IT ability, but somehow it worked, and we were both very proud of the end result, printed in time to celebrate fifty years of birdwatching in this area of Sussex. Neither of us had any experience of writing a book but I knew what I wanted it to celebrate and by going back through endless members' lists and Reports, I contacted a huge number of people who were kind enough to respond with wonderful reminiscences and thrilled to take part in the history of the Society. I am amazed what a good read it is even today!

More recently, my involvement with people in Upper Beeding and Bramber has taken me in a different direction and has ended up with the inspiring work done by Nick Mills in opening up the western brooks to a new audience, with links to SDOS through this work. It has taken many hours of time, offering advice, attending meetings and leading walks but there is no doubt there are more people in the area taking a greater interest in what is on their doorstep.

There have been many changes to the local environment over the years. Can you recall a memorable local bird sighting?

I was at Cuckoo Corner at about 7pm in May in the early 1980s when I found a clearly exhausted small wader standing on the mud. It was beautifully marked with completely white underparts and strong streaking on the flanks, a shortish bill just decurved at the tip and a very obviously flattened head. Not a bird I had ever seen before. Even though it is forty years ago I can see it now as we stared at each other. It should have been a Snipe but the whole jizz was wrong.

In those days, I didn't have a camera, no mobile phones, no-one to verify the sighting and as the tide was advancing it wouldn't be there for long. I went home and looked it up in my Collins Bird Guide, a Broad-billed Sandpiper – but of course no-one would believe me and although I told one friend, I did not attempt to have the record accepted. But a little later that year I had booked a holiday to Sweden and the Arctic Circle. Just as I had seen it at Cuckoo Corner, here it was, just as close, but many hundreds of miles north on its breeding grounds. That is where my identification was confirmed!

What is your favourite SDOS location or walk you've led?

This has to be Anchor Bottom, the valley which runs down the north side of the Cement Works between Shoreham and Upper Beeding. It is always interesting at any time of the year and because I am not only pleased to see birds, I have the pleasure of finding the first and last orchids of the year, butterflies in abundance, very unusual and rare plants and numerous insects with strange sounding names.

The valley is known for sightings of Peregrine and Raven and these two species over the last 15 years have increased and recently, due to successful breeding, they have become almost common sightings in the wider area.

Migrants too are found in the spring including Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Lesser and Common Whitethroat, and Hirundines.

I discovered a vast number of Green-winged Orchids on the north facing slope at the eastern end of the valley and David Lang, who has written many books on orchids, told me it was a new and very important site. They are followed by Common-spotted, Fragrant, Pyramidal and Bee Orchids and the final delightful Autumn Lady's Tresses in August. Apart from orchids there are innumerable plants to identify, common chalk downland ones as foodplants for all the blue butterflies, and the very rare Red Star Thistle, which is not a friend to the cattle which graze the valley throughout the year. The thorns of the thistle can pierce even hard hooves.

The butterfly numbers are outstanding too: amongst others, Common, Adonis, Small and Chalkhill Blues literally swarm in this valley because all the different foodplants are here. Perhaps my favourite Anchor Bottom butterfly is the Green Hairstreak. There is a very small colony and if you are patient and there at the right time by that particular bush, it will appear and dance in front of you showing off the most amazing green enamel- coloured wings!

I have led countless walks in this valley since the 1970s and shared its delights with many SDOS members.

The only other outings which may match this are the dawn choruses I have led but in several different places. To be able to lead people into a small area and let them hear, at very close quarters, several Nightingales singing, and to identify all the songs of the other birds is a huge privilege. The wonderment on their faces says it all!

What are your hopes and / or concerns for the future of the Society?

We have always been known as a very friendly Society, we encourage people with little or no experience to join outings and send in records and particularly to get to know each other. For quite a few of those members who attend the Indoor Meetings it may be their only chance to meet like-minded people and it is important that it is a good social gathering too, which means an effort has to be made to talk with and include new members. It is very easy for older members to just chat with each other which I notice excludes less experienced people. I do realise we all lead very busy lives, much complicated by the coronavirus, but it is very easy to forget people who might need a cheerful telephone call or conversation. Everyone likes to be appreciated and encouraged.

Do you have any future bird related aspirations?

The only personal bird aspiration I have is very simple. I should love to be able to prove that the Swallows which have been coming to our stable for 44 years know exactly where they are and are generations of the same family. I know

they are, but they have never been ringed and so there is no actual proof, but if you saw how they announce their arrival to me you would not be in any doubt. I talk to them all the time, I am sure they know my voice and trust me. My recent experience with the little one which should not have fledged and nearly drowned also proves the point. It certainly knows me and is often in the stable on its own recovering its strength but with its siblings at night. How many people have had that experience of rescuing a bird, watching it being accepted back by the parent as it stayed where I had put it for three hours? Then the next day it stayed in one position at head height for seven hours, but importantly being regularly fed. One little Swallow, I wonder if it will make a successful migration and the return journey!

Is there a birdwatching character from the Society who especially influenced you?

Whilst I was at Teaching College in the late 1950s I met people who were able to identify birds by their song and the same was true with the older generation of SDOS members when I first joined, so it was with great satisfaction that I found I could pick up and identify birds by their song. Then in the late 1980s I was told I had a rare eye disease called Fuch's Dystrophy which meant I could go blind at any time. More incentive to listen and learn bird song.

I was extremely fortunate to be introduced to an amazing eye consultant who knew about Fuch's Dystrophy and transplanted corneas, thereby giving one the chance to see properly again. Since 2002 I have had three replacement corneas and to date almost perfect eyesight particularly in my right eye. I can look across the valley from my house and count the cars on the top of Anchor Bottom – miraculous! But because I knew I might go blind I learned to identify birds by their song, I drive along the road with my windows down and can identify any bird I hear singing or calling, very satisfying. We are all faced with different problems in our lives and I have always tried to accept what I have been given.

My thanks to Brianne for sharing these fascinating and inspirational memories, and her continuing interest in the world around us.

Species List for March to August 2020

Clive Hope

This report aims to list interesting species occurring in the SDOS area in the period under review. It mainly concentrates on first and last dates for migrants, unusual sightings or exceptional numbers of any species. Records have been extracted from members' submissions to the SDOS user group, the Worthing Birdlife blog and SOS website reports. Apologies for any omissions!

Late winter additions:

Rose ringed Parakeet	In Wild Park - One on 25 th Jan, two on 6 th Feb, one on 21 st Feb.
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March to May ('Spring under Lockdown')

Red-throated Diver	Small numbers on sea or passing in March and April
Black-throated Diver	Two flew E off Widewater on Apr 28 th
Great Northern Diver	One past Hove on Mar 7 th and one off Goring Gap on 9 th ; one off Goring Gap on Apr 30 th .
Great Crested Grebe	Low numbers off Goring and Ferring in March and April; two in May.
Slavonian Grebe	Two off Shoreham on Apr 22 nd .
Little Grebe	Very small numbers at Brooklands and Widewater.
Fulmar	A few sighted in March and April (single birds) offshore.

Gannet	c.30 regularly fishing behind trawlers; 335 flew E off Goring Gap on Apr 25 th
Great White Egret	One over Patching Apr 3 rd ; one Henfield Levels on 22 nd and one past Shoreham beach 23 rd .
Little Egret	Coombes and Henfield Levels breeding (low numbers this year).
White Stork	Four flew over Durrington/Salvington heading NE on Apr 15 th , Two over Lancing College on May 26 th .
Spoonbill	Four flew E off Brooklands beach on Mar 25 th , One flew over Highdown on Apr 10 th .
Brent Goose	Passage through March and April (low numbers).
Egyptian Goose	Three flew S over Goring Gap on Apr 7 th .
Shelduck	Two on Adur in April and a few passing east offshore; Two pairs nested at dew-ponds on the downs in the Lychpole Hill area and produced c.20 young.
Gadwall	Two Brooklands Apr 5 th .
Eider	Six E off Brooklands Apr 4 th , two E Goring Gap on 23 rd .
Common Scoter	Low Passage in March and April continued into May.
Velvet Scoter	Two flew E off Goring on Mar 23 rd ; 7 E off Worthing on Apr 5 th .
Red-breasted Merganser	On Widewater (5 on Mar 2 nd and 8 on 11 th) and a few off Ferring/Goring in April.
Quail	Four calling at Steep Down on May 25 th and one or two then till 30 th .
Red Kite	Passage (Ferring to Brighton) seen in March on many dates especially 25 th (15 E), 26 th (7 E) and in April (6 on 11 th) and May, 31 NE over Salvington on 10 th .
Hen Harrier	One on downs near Steyning in March; one No-man's Land Apr 7 th .

Marsh Harrier

One over Tarring on Apr 3rd and one Goring on 6th.

Osprey

One over Storrington on Apr 2nd and one over Shoreham on Apr 26th and again on May 8th which flew north.

Hobby

One Wild Park Apr 23rd.

Peregrine

Pairs seen in Worthing and Salvington.

Rose-ringed Parakeet

One in Worthing on Apr 16th.

Oystercatcher

Probably breeding in Shoreham, Up to 18 on Goring beach; One north of Brooklands May 2nd.

Avocet

One E West Worthing Apr 5th, 9 E past Brooklands beach 21st, 4 E Shoreham Beach 23rd.

Little Ringed Plover

One Sompting estate Apr 4th.





Ringed Plover

Just one or two on Ferring and Goring beach Mar 25th.

Grey Plover

27 at Goring Gap on Mar 2nd.

Red Knot

One at Flood Arch Shoreham on May 28th.

Sanderling

On Goring/Ferring beaches with 8 at end of May.

Purple Sandpiper

Up to 4 on Shoreham Harbour jetty until early April.

Snipe

A Shoreham Adur count of 90 on Mar 11th.

Black-tailed Godwit

One Widewater Apr 4th later moved to Adur; one Brooklands 8th.

Bar-tailed Godwit

One or two on Adur at Shoreham Apr 15th and 16th, 51 E Goring Gap on 24th, 4 on beach there 28th.

Whimbrel

One wintered at Shoreham; 45 E Goring on Apr 15th, 25 E Ferring and 6 on Adur at Tollbridge on 16th, 57 E Goring Gap 18th, 25 E Goring Gap 23rd, 20 on 24th, 69 E on 25th.

	Up to 7 at Shoreham on Adur on May 9 th and one there till 16 th .
Curlew	Two Adur saltings until April.
Greenshank	Two Adur saltings until April, 5 E off Worthing on 22 nd .
Common Sandpiper	One on Adur between Tollbridge and Cement works on Mar 11 th and Apr 15 th . one Brooklands Apr 16 th and May 2 nd .
Turnstone	70 Goring March and April till 21 st , 15 there on May 21 st .
Pomarine Skua	Two E off Goring Gap on Apr 25 th .
Arctic Skua	First was one off Brooklands on Mar 23 rd . April passage totalled 15.
Great Skua	In Apr, 23 recorded from Ferring/Goring including 16 E on 25 th
Mediterranean Gull	Peak of 48 on Goring Gap on Mar 2 nd . In Apr from 12 th and 24 th , a total of 477 logged flying E at various sites between Ferring and Shoreham with a peak of 290 past Shoreham beach on 23 rd .
Little Gull	Three E off Ferring on Mar 24 th . 22 E off West Worthing on Apr 5 th .
Kittiwake	A few noted in April on sea-watches.
Sandwich Tern	First seen Mar 3 rd ; In April c.800 logged flying E off Ferring/Goring/Worthing and in May c.60 likewise. One on the Adur and at Coombes fishing lakes on May 20 th and 21 st . c.200 flew E at Goring Gap on Apr 18 th .
Common Tern	One E on Apr 5 th (seen at several coastal sites).
Arctic Tern	
Little Tern	Four E off Ferring on Apr 17 th , 3 E Shoreham beach on 23 rd .
Cuckoo	One at Woods Mill on Apr 13 th , Bramber 16 th and later at Steyning SF, Adur levels.
	One on May 20 th at Ferring (rare here).
Barn Owl	One over the Ditchling Road, Brighton on Mar 25 th .

Short-eared Owl

Seen arriving from sea at Goring Gap and Shoreham on Apr 5th with another at latter on 11th. One flew E at Ferring on 18th.

Long-eared Owl

One arrived from the sea at Widewater on Apr 27th.

Swift

One over Goring Gap on the early date of Apr 10th, then two Lancing on 19th, Brooklands on 22nd and 20 Upper Beeding on 24th. Widespread in May.

Hoopoe

One at Goring on Apr 4th. Flying N at Kingston Gorse on May 4th and over fields near Lancing on 18th.

Sand Martin

Few records – noted at Steyning treatment works.

Swallow

One Sompting on Apr 5th was first apparently. Generally rather small numbers e.g. at Brooklands, Coombes, Ferring etc.



House Martin	Three Upper Beeding Apr 6 th , six at Brooklands on 27 th . 15 by Adur near Cuckoo Corner on May 15 th .
Tree Pipit	One at Ferring Rife on Apr 6 th .
Rock Pipit	One at Shoreham Harbour mouth in March.
Yellow Wagtail	Two Highdown on Apr 10 th ; Two Ferring on 12 th .
Grey Wagtail	A pair at Brooklands in April.
Nightingale	Two Steyning Rifle range Apr 7 th ; Mill Hill 22 nd , Edburton on 26 th .
Black Redstart	One at Goring Gap on Apr 1 st , female at Brooklands on 20 th , Widewater and Truleigh Hill on 26 th with 2 on 29 th
Whinchat	Seven between Apr 12 th and 26 th at Kingston, Highdown and Goring Gap. One at Shoreham Airport on May 1 st .
Stonechat	Four on Apr 6 th in Wild Park.
Wheatear	First were 2 on Mar 12 th at Goring Gap then large arrival on 16 th with at least 40 along the coast across our area. Another c.20 on 19 th . Four on Shoreham Beach on Apr 2 nd .
Ring Ouzel	Two at Cissbury on Apr 5 th and 12 th .
Mistle Thrush	Encouraging number of reports e.g. Findon, Salvington, Lancing and Cissbury. Bred at Lancing (two broods).
Cetti's Warbler	Two singing birds at Brooklands throughout; 4 there on Apr 17 th .
Grasshopper Warbler	One at Brooklands Apr 19 th .
Sedge Warbler	First were Ferring Rife and Adur valley Apr 6 th .
Reed Warbler	Two Brooklands Apr 17 th and 22 nd were first, 5 there on May 2 nd .
Blackcap	Seven in a Tarring garden on Apr 1 st .
Garden Warbler	One at Brooklands Apr 27 th was first.
Lesser Whitethroat	First were one at Highdown on Apr 15 th and 2 on 20 th there and Mill Hill. Several reports this spring in our area.
Common Whitethroat	First was in lower Adur Valley on Apr 8 th .

Chiffchaff

Two 'Siberian' and 7 nominate at Patching SF
on March 9th.



Willow Warbler

First at Brooklands Apr 3rd and a good arrival
on 6th there and at Ferring Rife.

Firecrest

One Cuckoo Corner on Mar 18th, 3 in Ilex
Way at NE corner of Goring Gap on 24th.

Spotted Flycatcher

Five High Barn GC on Apr 3rd.

Pied Flycatcher

One at Lancing clump on May 6th.

Marsh Tit

One at Cissbury on Apr 11th.

In Durrington Cemetery Apr 2nd and 4 at
Highdown on 8th.

Serin	One in Shoreham on Apr 16 th . One at Goring greensward on May 6 th and again on 8 th at Gap.
Siskin	30 E over West Worthing on March 27 th .
Crossbill	Two Angmering Park Est Apr 3 rd ; 10 flew E over Worthing on 10 th , 20 Patching Hill 19 th , 8 at Brooklands 22 nd . Eight E over Wild Park on May 13 th .
Corn Bunting	Away from Steep Down where resident, one Apr 7 th at Wild Park - (rare here and first since 2001); 10 near Lancing College 2 nd , 40 Monarch's Way (north of Cissbury) on 17 th 8 Southwick Hill 24 th .

June - into Summer with a surprise or two

Fulmar	Singles W past Ferring on 5 th and 6 th and E on 10 th .
Common Scoter	25 E past Ferring on 10 th .
Hobby	One Steep Down on 2 nd .
Spoonbill	One E over Goring Gap 4 th .
Cuckoo	One Goring Gap 4 th .
Nightingale	Two still singing Mill Stream Woods Mill on 5 th .
Red-footed Falcon	An immature male north of Portslade at Foredown Hill on 8 th to 10 th and a second bird near Beeding Hill from 9 th to 16 th
Swallow	Breeding at six sites in the Lower Adur Valley; one or two pairs in the Ferring/East Kingston area.
Swift	Good numbers in our area – doing better than Swallows apparently!
Ringed Plover	A pair probably breeding on a factory roof in the Shoreham area again.
Curlew	Nine flew W off Ferring between 18 th and 20 th .

Black-headed Gull

Increase in numbers on the Adur to 200 by 27th.



July – first signs of return migration!

Curlew

Five flew W off Ferring on 2nd.

Whimbrel

One flew W off Ferring on 2nd, one on the Adur at Shoreham on 18th. Three there on 21st. Twelve there on 22nd.

Oystercatcher

Pair bred on roof of Ricardo's at Shoreham (7th) raising 2 young.

Common Sandpiper

Four on 7th and 7 on 8th on the Adur near Cement Works.

Little Egret

Eleven on 7th at Coombes. 9 Ferring Rife on 16th.

Whinchat

Three Monarch's Way north of Cissbury on 22nd and Steep Down on 30th.

Barn Owl	One at Widewater on 17 th was probably a first for the site.
Willow Warbler	Four trapped at Ladywell and two Mill Hill on 18 th were first returning migrants. A huge arrival at Ladywell on 29 th with 100 present (90 trapped). Small numbers elsewhere.
Yellow-legged Gull	One Adur estuary on 19 th and subsequent sightings into August.
Wood Sandpiper	One briefly at Widewater early on 20 th .
Pied Flycatcher	One at Cissbury on 20 th .
Crossbill	38 flew E over Patching Hill on 23 rd and others passed over Cissbury on 26 th .
Nightingale	One Patching Hill on 23 rd and one trapped at Cissbury on 26 th .
Cattle Egret	14 near Henfield on 23 rd may have just entered our reporting area.
Garden Warbler	Three trapped at Ladywell on 29 th and one Ferring Rife on 30 th .
Hen Harrier	A female in the Steep Down/Annington area 27 th to 30 th was unseasonal.
Wheatear	One at Cissbury on 28 th .
Grasshopper Warbler	One trapped at Ladywell on 29 th .
Redstart	Two were at Cissbury on 30 th .
Hobby	One was near Cissbury on 30 th .
Greenshank	One back on the Adur at Shoreham on 31 st (and up to 3 in August).
Ring-necked Parakeet	One at Coombes on 28 th and 30 th .

August – migration now well underway

Cuckoo	A juvenile at Cissbury on 1 st .
Spotted Flycatcher	One trapped at Cissbury on 1 st . Two there on 8 th , 5 on Patching Hill on 9 th , 2 Goring Gap 16 th and 2 Findon Gallops on 20 th . Two Brooklands on 26 th . Four Steyning Round Hill on 27 th .
Common Sandpiper	10-12 along the Adur mostly north of the Toll-bridge on 3 rd and again on 25 th .

Wheatear	Ten counted just north of Steep Down on 1 st . Nine at Chantry Hill on 7 th . Twenty-five in the Truleigh Hill downland area on 13 th then c.50 Beeding Hill/Thundersbarrow Hill on 14 th . Six at Shoreham Fort and 4 at Ferring on 17 th . 12 Findon Gallops on 24 th .
Willow Warbler	Another 43 ringed at Ladywell on 3 rd . 15 at Brooklands on 18 th and 18 on 20 th when 20 at Cissbury.
Garden Warbler	Four trapped at Cissbury on 1 st and 3 at Ladywell on 3 rd . Two Brooklands on 25 th .
Linnet	A huge flock of 320 in the Chantry Hill dewpond area on 6 th
Green Sandpiper	Two in Ferring Rife on 7 th . One flew up from dewpond at Lychpole Hill on 9 th . One on the Adur north of Tollbridge on 12 th .
Mandarin	Two on Widewater 5 th – 10 th . One later found dead.
Pied Flycatcher	Three at Brooklands on 9 th then 1 each in Worthing and Lancing on 10 th . Another Brooklands on 13 th and 2 on 18 th there. One N end of Worthing GC on 20 th . One Brooklands on 23 rd and another on 26 th .
Swift	A few still present till 10 th .
Redstart	Two at Cissbury on 8 th . One Brooklands 13 th . Six Findon Gallops on 20 th and on 24 th . Three also at Cissbury on last date. Nine around fence-lines at Steyning Round Hill early on 27 th .
Black-tailed Godwit	Two on Adur at Shoreham on 9 th and one on 23 rd and 25 th .
Whinchat	Seven in the Truleigh Hill area on 13 th then c.25 Beeding Hill/Thundersbarrow Hill on 14 th . Seven at Findon Gallops 20 th . One or two at several other locations in the period.
Ring-necked Parakeet	One at Beeding and one at Coombes on 10 th .
Short-eared Owl	One near Truleigh Hill on 17 th .
House Martin	Twenty over Brooklands Lake on 19 th .

Chiffchaff	Twenty-five at Brooklands on 20 th .
Marsh Harrier	A male seen near No-Man's Land on 20 th .
Hobby	Three Findon Gallops and one No-Man's Land 20 th .
Hen Harrier	A ring-tail over Downs near No-Man's Land on 18 th and again on 24 th .
Yellow Wagtail	Three Cissbury on 20 th . Fifteen Findon Gallops on 24 th .
Tree Pipit	One Cissbury on 20 th and 2 ringed there on 23 rd were the first since 1985.
Blackcap	Thirty Cissbury on 20 th and 55 trapped there on 23 rd .
Golden Plover	Thirty flew high east over Worthing GC on 24 th .
Greenshank	Two on Adur at Shoreham on 23 rd .
Sanderling	Four on Adur on 25 th and 2 at Goring Gap on 26 th .
Ringed Plover	Ninety on Adur at Shoreham and forty at Goring Gap on 26 th .
Dunlin	Twenty RSPB Adur reserve on 25 th .
Sandwich Tern	Twenty-one RSPB Adur reserve on 25 th .
Common Tern	Two RSPB Adur reserve on 25 th .
Curlew Sandpiper	One on Adur opposite Airport on 25 th .
Corn Bunting	One by the Adur north of the Tollbridge on 26 th .
Yellow-legged Gull	One on the Adur at Shoreham and one at Brooklands on 26 th .
Knot	One on East side of Adur opposite Airport on 26 th .

Photograph acknowledgments

The source of photographs is often clear from the context or other attribution and those are not listed here. Note also that some of the bird photographs are illustrative; they may not be of the actual bird referred to in the account.

Front cover: White Stork - Dorian Mason

Page 17: Coal Tit – Paula Blake

Page 20: Blackcap – Paula Blake

Page 29: Northern Wheatear – Jenny Holter

Page 30: Sedge Warbler – Jenny Holter

Page 49: Black-tailed Godwit – Dorian Mason

Page 50: Greenshank – Dorian Mason

Page 52: Barn Swallow – Dorian Mason

Page 54: Grasshopper Warbler – Bernie Forbes

Page 56: Red-footed Falcon – Ron Bewley

Page 62: Red-footed Falcon -Dorian Mason

Page 62: Grey Wagtail – Ron Bewley

Page 63: Cattle Egret – Dorian Mason

Page 63: Green Woodpecker – Dorian Mason

Back cover: Corn Bunting – Dorian Mason

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