



**Guidelines**  
**for the**  
**Submission of Records**

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition: December 2004

**[www.sos.org.uk](http://www.sos.org.uk)**

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It is now eight years since the publication of the first issue of the Sussex Ornithological Society's "Guidelines for the Submission of Records", written by my predecessor, Robin Pepper. Since then a number of changes have occurred which have prompted the writing of a second edition. There have been changes to the Systematic List by way of both species' names, categories of scarcity and additions. The Society now has a web site and it was thought these the Guidelines should be published there. The Society's stock of copies is depleted and a re-print was considered necessary so that all new members can be provided with a copy. The opportunity has also been taken to revise some sections.

The sentiments expressed by Robin Pepper in the first issue still apply, of course. Bird watching is fun but can be more rewarding if it has a purpose. It is hoped that the information and guidance provided in these Guidelines will help members, both old and new, to enjoy their birding more and to find a rewarding purpose in recording their sightings and submitting them to the Recorder for the benefit of the county data bank of ornithological information, and for posterity.

I am grateful to members of Council and the Scientific and Records Committees for their help and guidance in the preparation of this edition. Any errors or omissions are entirely mine; the buck stops here.

John Hobson  
Hon. Recorder  
December 2004

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### 1: INTRODUCTION

If you are a new member, or a visitor to our website, **WELCOME** to the Sussex Ornithological Society.

Collecting records is one of the core activities of any ornithological society and we are therefore keen that all members, and visitors to the county, send records of their observations to the Recorder. The purpose of these notes is to encourage more people to become involved and to highlight the kind of records that are suitable for holding in the Society's archives.

All Records received are computerised. The Society has a powerful computer, using the CoBRA data recording system, that can deal with and hold large volumes of information. In excess of 700,000 records are currently held in the database. These cover all recorded species for all years since 1989 and, for some species, years back to 1968. 59,000 new records were added for 2003 alone.

You can either submit your records electronically on a disc, or on paper (Section 4 explains each of these options). If the bird you have seen is scarce, or out of season, then a description may also be required. Section 9 describes which species need a description to accompany the record, and Sections 7 and 8 describe how to write a description. Don't be put off by this. The vast majority of records will be accepted without the need for a description - it's only if you have seen something really unusual that we will need a description of it from you.

### 2: WHY ARE RECORDS REQUIRED?

The annual Sussex Bird Report is compiled from the many observations submitted. It is the only up-to-date account of the county's avifauna with data on occurrence, distribution, populations, breeding success and unusual records. It augments and updates the information on the county's avifauna contained in the Society's publication, the *Birds of Sussex* (James, 1996). Together, they are valuable sources of information for general reference and are dependent on the amount and accuracy of reports received from birdwatchers in the county.

Records provide information on the numbers and distributions of birds breeding in or visiting the county. This information is important because:

- 1) baseline information can be generated against which future changes in populations can be matched. Changes in the distribution of a species may be the most sensitive measure of changes in population numbers;
- 2) the habitat preferences of a particular species can be identified and this knowledge can be applied for the conservation of that species;
- 3) the relative values of sites of conservation importance can be assessed from a knowledge of their bird fauna;
- 4) valuable information can be provided in response to Planning Enquiries to assess the environmental impact of proposed land-use changes; and
- 5) distribution maps for a species can be matched to land use.

### 3: WHAT IS A RECORD?

A record is a statement of the details of an observation of one or more birds of a particular species.

Every record must contain four key pieces of information:

- species name
- number seen\*\*
- date of the (first) observation
- precise location of the site, by name and an appropriate **OS Grid Reference** (*see Section 4 below*).

Without any one of these, the information has little value and cannot be used.

Additional useful information could include:

- age and sex, with number in each category
- breeding status (**C**onfirmed or **P**robable) and success, with number of young
- date of subsequent and last observation(s)
- direction of flight, with number in that direction
- NOTES on interesting features of the record

\*\* Use only one number: terms like “many”, “numerous” and “more than usual” have no meaning to computers. If a range is given the lower number will be selected.

## 4: SUBMITTING RECORDS

### 4.1 WHICH RECORDS?

**ALL Records** are required of

- (1) **red-listed** and **amber-listed** species (these are highlighted in the Systematic List).
- (2) **exceptionally early or late migration dates**, for which a written description may be required.
- (3) **species rare, scarce or unusual in Sussex** and
- (4) **all National rarities considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC)**.

There are also:

- (5) **less scarce species** — see below.

Species in (3) and (4) above are known as **DESCRIPTION SPECIES** and are identified by the letter **D** in the Systematic List in Section 9. Records of these should be submitted as **WRITTEN DESCRIPTIONS** on the Society's Scarce Records form, which can be downloaded from Section 11. All such descriptions should be sent to the Recorder as soon as possible after the observation and not directly to BBRC—the Recorder will forward them as appropriate.

(5) **less scarce species**. Reporting requirements for some less scarce species may not be so clear cut. With the decline in numbers and ranges of many common species in recent years it is becoming increasingly important to be able to monitor the health of all bird populations, particularly of declining or threatened species. What were once common may soon become even scarcer. Furthermore, with the increasing number of requests for data from Environmental Consultants etc. concerned with land-use changes, even records of common species at the 6-figures grid reference level are becoming increasingly important. Therefore, while it may be impractical to record every common bird seen, some measure of judgement is necessary—**if in doubt, send it in** (with as much detail as possible)!

### 4.2 METHODS of RECORDING & SUBMITTING OBSERVATIONS

Records may be submitted to S.O.S. in one of three ways:

- (1) **ON DISC OR ELECTRONICALLY** by using one of the SOS's inputting systems, "Cobr-aid" or "Record Capture" (Microsoft Excel), available from the Recorder. Both systems guide you through how to complete your records.

Such records should be sent either on disc or as a 'zipped' attachment to an email direct to the IT Manager, John Newnham (email address: [jnewnham@bigfoot.com](mailto:jnewnham@bigfoot.com)) for direct transfer into the CoBRA database.

It is essential that electronic records are submitted **as soon as possible after the end of the year**, and certainly not later than 28<sup>th</sup> February, to facilitate the production of the annual Sussex Bird Report within the Year.

- (2) **IN MANUSCRIPT** on one of the SOS recording forms: Ordinary Records form or Scarce Records form. These may be obtained either (a) from the Recorder, or (b) copied from the S.O.S. website (section 11 of these Guidelines). In order to ease the task of inputting such records they should be sent to the Recorder **regularly, at preferably quarterly intervals**, NOT all at once at the end of the year.

When submitting **records in manuscript**, always observe the following, please:

- 1) Use the S.O.S. Ordinary or Scarce Records forms available as above.
- 2) Enter **ALL OBSERVATIONS FROM ONE SITE TOGETHER**, sorted by species.
- 3) Enter the **SITE NAME**, but only use site names that are shown on the OS map (preferably 1:25,000 or the OS Street Atlas of 5.52 cm to 1 km (1:18,116) scales) and avoid unpublished local or generic names.
- 4) Enter a **GRID REFERENCE, preferably to 6-figures** of the 100 m square in which the bird was seen. This is most important for single bird and breeding record observations.  
For counts in larger areas, and for fly-by records, a 4-figure reference may be more appropriate. Six-figure references should be avoided for large areas, particularly for the central point, as they imply precision to 100m. Also, entering only one 6 figure reference for a batch of records from, e.g., a morning's walk or a longish transect, should also be avoided.  
If either the grid reference is not given or the site name is not recognised, the record may not be useable.
- 5) The computer recognises each species by its **SPECIES' CODE** (euring number). It helps us to enter the data into the computer if you include this number for every species reported. They can be found in either the Systematic List in Section 9 below, recent Sussex Bird Reports, or the Birdwatcher's Yearbook published by Buckingham Press. They are the only form recognised by the computer.

An example of a completed Ordinary Record Form is given below.

- (3) **ON-LINE RECORDING.** In addition to the above methods of submitting records, advances in Information Technology and increasingly popular use of the Internet are making direct submission of records On-Line attractive. No doubt, there will be further developments in due course which will improve upon existing systems and make it easier for anyone to submit records via the Internet. At present, the following methods are available:
- 1) **S.O.S. web site:** Records submitted by e-mail to the S.O.S. web site via <sightings@sos.org.uk> are automatically forwarded to the Recorder. All such records should state the full name, postal address and 'phone number of the observer. Records without these details may not be accepted. All such observations are then entered to the S.O.S. database by the Recorder because there is no direct interface between the web site and the database. However, the development and introduction of an On-Line reporting facility is a future possibility and this will be announced via the web site.
  - 2). **Birdtrack** In 2004, the British Trust for Ornithology introduced BIRDTRACK (a development of the former Migration Watch system) as a nationally available on-line procedure for submitting any ornithological observations. Use of this procedure is open to anyone connected to the Internet. It contains built-in procedures for inhibiting the attentions of hackers, for preventing corruption by viruses, etc. and for validating submissions. Periodically, compilations of records can be downloaded to clubs and societies, of which S.O.S. is one.

**An example of a completed Ordinary Record Form.**

**SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE  
RECORDS FORM**

**SITE DETAILS**

	Site Name	Grid Ref **
A	Garden, The Nest, Woodland Close	AB 125 455
B	The Square, Anytown	AB 1255 600
C	Pagham Hbr, North Wall	SZ 8797
D	The Severals, Church Norton	SZ 8794
E		

**OBSERVER'S DETAILS**

Name	A.N.Other
Address	The Nest, Woodland Close
	Anytown
Post Code	AB12 3CD
'Phone	01234 567890
e-mail	another@myserver.co.uk

\*\* Please enter **6-fig OS Grid Ref.** when ever possible, either here or in NOTES, and submit Scarce or Rare species on a separate Scarce Record Form.

**Site order priority, Please**

SITE LETTER	SPECIES NAME	SPEC CODE	DATE	NUMBER of BIRDS	NOTES of INTEREST (+ 6 fig. Grid Ref. IF different from above)
A	Spotted Flycatcher	1335	05.05. 04	2	Pair prospecting nest site
B	Pied Wagtail	1020	10.05. 04	2	1 male + 1 female carrying food
C	Spotted Redshank	0545	11.05. 04	1	In breeding plumage
C	Greenshank	0548	11.05. 04	3	
D	Reed Warbler	1251	15.05. 04	3	Singing males in reed bed
D	Sedge Warbler	1243	15.05. 04	2	Singing males in scrub around reed bed
D	Little Grebe	0007	15.05. 04	2	Pair with nest, 1 bird sitting on

Please return records quarterly, if possible, or otherwise not later than 31st January of the following year.

## 5: RECORDS from IMPORTANT SITES

Organiser's at the following sites collate all records for their sites and may prepare annual reports of the birds seen there. Therefore if you see anything interesting, unusual numbers, unusual or Scarce or Rare species at these sites tell or send your record direct to the site co-ordinator, otherwise to the Recorder (preferably on S.O.S. Ordinary Records forms). If in doubt about whether the record is required by the site have a word with the site organiser who may also prefer them in a format different from the S.O.S. format. They will sort them, to avoid duplication, and combine them with other records before submitting them to the Society's IT Manager. However, any record of a **RARE, SCARCE or UNUSUAL SPECIES** seen at these sites which requires a description must be sent separately to the Recorder on the appropriate form (*see Section 6 below*).

These sites are:

- Ashdown Forest
- Bewl Water
- Chichester Harbour
- Filsham LNR
- Newhaven West Pier
- RSPB Pulborough Brooks
- Pagham Harbour LNR
- Rye Bay Ringing Group
- Rye Harbour LNR
- Weir Wood Reservoir
- WeBS (Wetland Bird Survey) records
- Seawatching records

*(Current names and addresses of site organisers or co-ordinators are given in Section 10).*

## 6: RARE, SCARCE AND UNUSUAL BIRDS.

**Birds which are rare or scarce in Sussex**—as defined in the Systematic List (Section 9) with a letter **D**—are those for which a description is required. This should be submitted on the Society's SCARCE RECORDS FORM, available either from the Recorder or copied from the website ([www.sos.org.uk](http://www.sos.org.uk)). They will be considered by the SOS Records Committee for acceptance before publication.

**Birds which are rare Nationally** are considered by the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC) for acceptance and publication in 'British Birds' ('BB'). Species which are omitted from the Systematic List are likely to fall into this category. Descriptions for these species should be submitted on a Scarce Records Form to the Recorder and NOT direct to BBRC (so that the Society has knowledge of the event for its own records). The Recorder will then forward them to the BBRC for consideration.

**Records of exceptionally early or late migration dates** should also be submitted. A description may be required. Arrival and departure dates of migrants are published in the annual *Sussex Bird Report*.

**Birds which are either feral or escapes** from captivity and correspondingly unusual or scarce should always be recorded. A description is not normally required for these (but one might be requested if identification or origin is problematic).

**Descriptions** should be sufficiently detailed both to identify the bird to the species claimed and also to eliminate any similar, confusion species (with which it should be compared). It should be based on notes taken and any sketches made at the time (a photocopy of which could be appended to the record), NOT after referral to a field guide (*see Section 7 below: Description writing*).

All scarce bird descriptions and records for review are circulated to members of the Records Committee by the Assistant Recorder. The Records Committee consists of six members, with expert knowledge of the county's birds, who advise the Recorder. They may, at times, ask advice of others who have more knowledge of some rare species. Records will only be accepted if five (or four if one member abstains on, e.g., one of his own records) of the Committee agree that the description is adequate. The criteria used are necessarily strict to maintain the credibility of the Annual Report and the data bank. The Recorder makes the final decision based on advice from the Records Committee. Records may be reviewed at a subsequent date if new information becomes available.

## 7: DESCRIPTION WRITING

### 7.1 Who should write the description?

It should normally be the responsibility of the initial finder(s) to submit a description of a scarce species. In practice, however, it happens too frequently that no description is submitted for birds seen by large numbers of observers either because the finder is not a member of the SOS, or is not willing to perform this task or later observers may think that ‘someone else has done it’.

It should be regarded as an obligation by all observers, of whatever experience, that they submit a description of a scarce bird. The Recorder would rather have several descriptions of the same bird than none at all.

### 7.2 What should be included in the description?

Descriptions must be as full as possible, based on observations made at the time. They should, preferably, be submitted on the Society’s form. This should ensure that all the necessary information is given.

The front of the form requires details of the species claimed, the date of observation, the exact location, and the name, address and telephone number of the observer. In addition, the following additional information should be given: the time of day, visibility, direction of the light in relation to the observer, distance from the bird, optical aids used, whether it was photographed or ringed, the presence of other observers, and comments on previous experience of this and similar species.

The reverse of the form is for the description. This should start with a brief account of the circumstances leading up to the discovery, including details of the habitat occupied. An overall impression of the type of bird, its general coloration and size, and its jizz, should follow with, if possible, details of other birds present against which it was compared.

The amount of detail in the description will depend largely on the species and its distinctiveness. For national rarities only a complete description will be sufficient. As many notes as possible made at the time of observation, and a sketch with the main features indicated, should be used to compile the account. It is probably best to start with the head, beak and eyes and then work towards the tail. It helps to be familiar with the correct names for different parts of the bird and its feather tracts but always describe what was seen and state if any features could not be observed. If possible, take a photograph and submit a copy with the record. Include as many points as possible from the following checklist:

size	type	habitat	general coloration
behaviour	flight	calls	eye and eye stripe
forehead	crown	lores	chin
nape	mantle	rump	throat
breast	belly	wing bars	primaries
secondaries	coverts	tail	under tail coverts
legs	stance	gait	beak colour and size

Details of behaviour, particularly feeding, can be very useful and any calls heard should be described in detail. Flight behaviour and appearance in flight may also be crucial to making a positive identification.

A sample description of an accepted record—exactly as received by the Recorder—is included below to illustrate the amount of detail desired. Note, however, that it is not complete as it lacks any mention of wings or tail and the description of the bird in flight is incomplete. As it was not seen to fly, this should have been mentioned. All these details would be required by BBRC.

Records may not be accepted for various reasons. However, this does not necessarily imply that the Records Committee considers the identification was incorrect. It is more likely that the reason was insufficient detail to identify adequately or distinguish the species claimed from a related form. In such cases the Recorder is reluctant to ask for further details once the observer has consulted the guidebooks, as it is then too easy to “remember” what was not initially recorded.

## 8: EXAMPLE of a DESCRIPTION

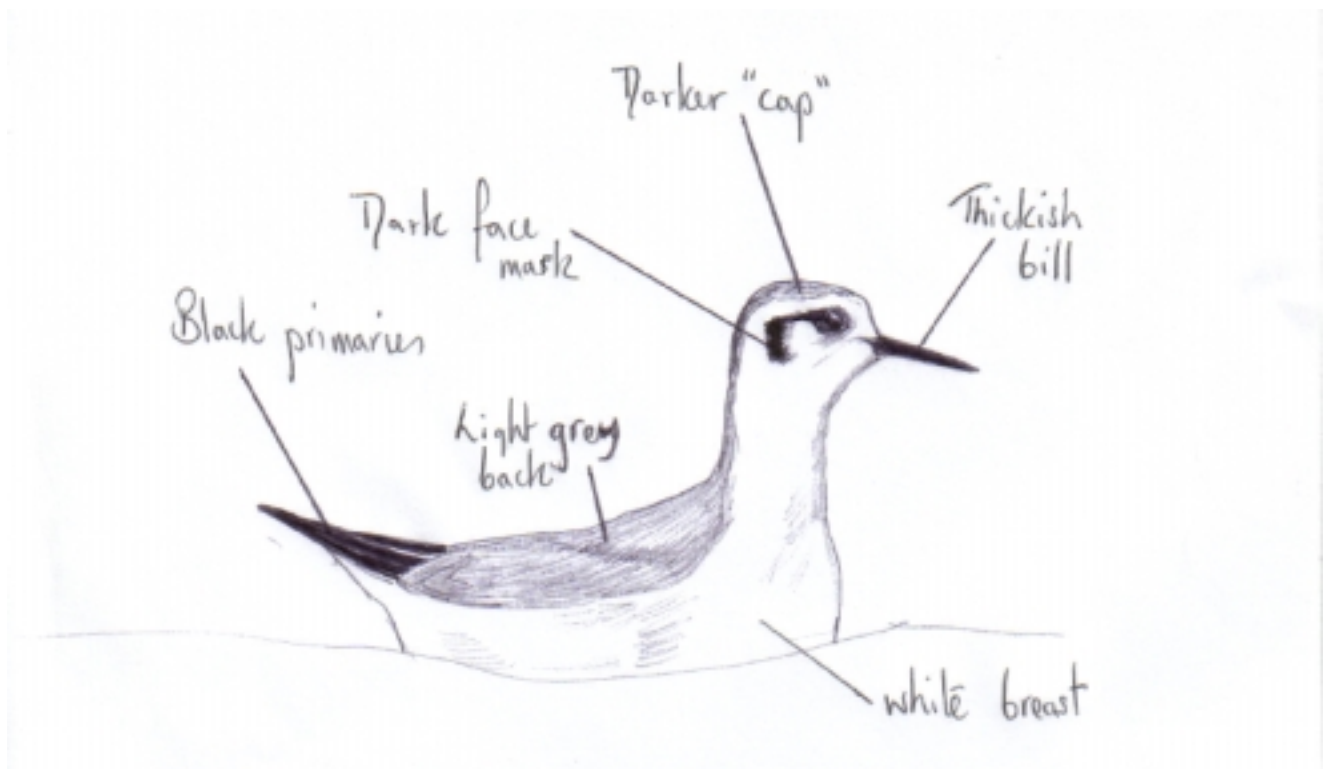
### Grey Phalarope: submitted by Roger Suckling.

While watching autumn passage waders from the hide overlooking Ferry pools, Sidlesham, mid afternoon on 7 Sept 1995, I was fortunate to witness a brief visit by a Grey Phalarope. My attention was drawn to the bird when I heard a sharp high pitched almost shrill call as it flew down to near the middle of the main pool. It had a rather fluttering erratic flight.

Immediately the bird landed, it began feeding by moving its head from side to side picking invertebrates off the water surface. It was an adult in winter plumage. I enjoyed good views with my telescope for about 6 or 7 minutes before the bird flew off in the direction of Pagham Harbour.

The bird's hind neck, mantle, scapulars and coverts were a pale uniform grey. The underparts, rest of the neck and the head were a clean white, except for a black mark around the eye and a particularly noticeable black 'oval' patch behind the eye. The bill was black and fairly short - certainly considerably shorter and thicker than that of the Red-necked Phalarope, which I have observed in Iceland. The overall impression was of a slightly stockier less delicate wader than the Red-necked Phalarope. It was none-the-less full of 'nervous energy'.

This lone phalarope was clearly driven off the sea by very strong southwesterly winds. According to the Meteorological Office, there was a record-breaking area of low pressure over Great Britain that day. The winds were accompanied by frequent heavy rain showers.



## 9: SYSTEMATIC LIST for SUSSEX

As at 1st July 2004

This List includes all species on the Sussex List for which Records are required, including all county **Description Species** that are considered by the Society's Records Committee. It excludes all escaped and some feral species.

Species which are National rarities considered by BBRC are not included but can be found in such publications as the Birdwatcher's Yearbook published by Buckingham Press.

In this list, the following categories are used:

**A.** **ALL** records are required, with details of:

- What:** species, race;  
**Where:** site name and OS grid reference;  
**When:** date, time;  
**How many:** number(s).

The value of the record will be enhanced by a few extra details, e.g.:

- Sex & Age:** should be recorded, if possible;  
**Departure date:** if present for more than a single day;  
**Flight direction:** during migration and cold weather movements;  
**Breeding status:** is particularly valuable (*see B below*).

**B.** **BREEDING** evidence and success is always required.

This should be categorised as:

**S = POSSIBLE:** one or more birds seen in possible nesting habitat or singing male (or breeding calls) in breeding season

**P = PROBABLE:** pair seen in suitable nesting habitat or permanent territory presumed (song or other territorial behaviour on at least 2 occasions a week or more apart), or courtship, visiting probable nest site, agitated behaviour of adults, nest-building in breeding season

**C = CONFIRMED:** occupied nest, distraction display, carrying faecal sacs or food, fresh eggshells, recently fledged or downy young—if possible, the record should give the number of these.

It is not necessary to search for nests.

It should be remembered that at the beginning of the season migrating males might sing for a short while and then move on. Later still, family parties may be recorded—if possible, the numbers of adults and juveniles should be given.

**C.** **COUNTS** of birds seen in unusual numbers should always be reported. The actual number that becomes significant depends on the species, the site and the time of year. Counts will mostly be made after the breeding season but numbers of breeding birds are equally valuable. When a site is visited on several occasions, a report of the **MONTHLY MAXIMUM COUNT** is usually sufficient for species that are continually present. Changes in numbers that illustrate movements or migration should also be included.

**D.** **DESCRIPTION SPECIES** are those that are scarce at the county or national level for which a written description is required. In addition, depending on the circumstances, a description may be required for some other species.

**E.** **EARLY** and late dates should be recorded for summer and winter visitors and passage migrants.

**M.** **MOVEMENTS** recorded at any time of the year should be reported. They may be associated with seasonal migration, climatic change or changes in the food supply.

**R.** **ROOSTS:** any communal roosts should be reported giving as much detail as possible of the number of birds involved and the period over which the site is used.

**S.** **SITES** that are visited regularly (at least monthly): records of the commoner species can be used to provide information on their status within the county. The maximum number seen at any one visit in each month of the year should be recorded, giving the date and where possible any details of sex and age. It may be necessary to estimate numbers, in which case accuracy should be as high as possible but, more importantly, the same method should be used for each count and as often as possible carried out by the same observer. For example, if a transect is used, the same route should be followed each time and at the same pace and time of day. In this way the results will be comparable from year to year and changes are more likely to be a true reflection of changes in status. During the breeding season, the maximum number of pairs nesting or territories held should be recorded

in one month only to avoid duplication. Evidence of breeding success can be noted with the date of observation. Details of the habitat types and area need be recorded once each year at the first visit.

In the following Systematic List, species which are Red-listed are highlighted in **red** and those which are Amber-listed, in **yellow**. Description species are shown in **bold** type and as Category **D**.

### THE SUSSEX SYSTEMATIC LIST

Code number	Species	Category	Comments
0002	Red-throated Diver	A	D required for inland records
0003	Black-throated Diver	A	D required for inland records
0004	<b>Great Northern Diver</b>	<b>D</b>	
0007	Little Grebe	BCS	
0009	Great Crested Grebe	BCS	
0010	Red-necked Grebe	A	D required for inland records
0011	Slavonian Grebe	A	
0012	Black-necked Grebe	A	
0020	Fulmar	BCS	
0036	<b>Cory's Shearwater</b>	<b>D</b>	
0040	<b>Great Shearwater</b>	<b>D</b>	
0043	<b>Sooty Shearwater</b>	<b>D</b>	
0046	Manx Shearwater	A	D may be required
00462	<b>Mediterranean /Balearic Shearwater</b>	<b>D</b>	
0052	<b>British Storm-Petrel</b>	<b>D</b>	
0055	<b>Leach's Storm-Petrel</b>	<b>D</b>	
0071	Gannet	CM	
0072	Cormorant	BCMRS	
0080	Shag	A	D required for inland records
0095	Bittern	A	D may be required
0119	Little Egret	A	
0122	Grey Heron	BCS	
0124	<b>Purple Heron</b>	<b>D</b>	
0134	<b>White Stork</b>	<b>D</b>	
0144	Spoonbill	A	D may be required
0152	Mute Swan	BCMS	
0153	Bewick's Swan	A	
0154	<b>Whooper Swan</b>	<b>D</b>	
0157	<b>Bean Goose</b>	<b>D</b>	Races <i>rossicus</i> and <i>fabilis</i>
0158	<b>Pink-footed Goose</b>	<b>D</b>	
0159	White-fronted Goose	A	D required for Greenland White-fronted Goose
0161	Greylag Goose	BCS	
0163	Snow Goose	A	D may be required
0166	Canada Goose	BCS	
0167	Barnacle Goose	A	
0168	Brent Goose	CMS	Including Pale-bellied race
0168.02	<b>Black Brant</b>	<b>D</b>	
0170	Egyptian Goose	A	D may be required
0171	Ruddy Shelduck	A	D may be required
0173	Shelduck	BCMS	
0178	Mandarin	BCS	
0179	Wigeon	CMS	
0180	<b>American Wigeon</b>	<b>D</b>	
0182	Gadwall	A	
0184	Teal	BCS	
0184.01	<b>Green-winged Teal</b>	<b>D</b>	
0186	Mallard	BCS	
0189	Pintail	BCMS	
0191	Garganey	A	
0194	Shoveler	BCS	
0196	Red-crested Pochard	A	D may be required
0198	Pochard	BCS	
0200	<b>Ring-necked Duck</b>	<b>D</b>	
0203	Tufted Duck	BCS	
0204	Scaup	A	

0206	Eider	A	
0212	Long-tailed Duck	A	
0213	Common Scoter	CM	
0214	Surf Scoter	D	
0215	Velvet Scoter	A	
0218	Goldeneye	A	
0220	Smew	A	
0221	Red-breasted Merganser	CM	
0223	Goosander	A	
0225	Ruddy Duck	A	
0231	Honey Buzzard	D	
0239	Red Kite	A	
0243	White-tailed Eagle	D	
0260	Marsh Harrier	A	D may be required
0261	Hen Harrier	A	
0263	Montagu's Harrier	D	
0267	Goshawk	D	
0269	Sparrowhawk	BCMS	
0287	Buzzard	A	
0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	D	
0301	Osprey	A	
0304	Kestrel	BCMS	
0309	Merlin	A	
0310	Hobby	A	
0320	Peregrine	A	
0358	Red-legged Partridge	BCS	
0367	Grey Partridge	A	
0370	Quail	A	
0394	Pheasant	BS	
0396	Golden Pheasant	A	
0407	Water Rail	A	
0408	Spotted Crake	D	
0421	Corncrake	D	
0424	Moorhen	BCS	
0429	Coot	BCS	
0433	Common Crane	D	
0450	Oystercatcher	BCS	
0456	Avocet	A	
0459	Stone Curlew	D	
0469	Little Ringed Plover	A	
0470	Ringed Plover	BCS	All inland records
0477	Kentish Plover	D	
0482	Dotterel	D	
0485	Golden Plover	CEMS	
0486	Grey Plover	CMS	All summer records
0493	Lapwing	BCMS	
0496	Knot	CEMS	
0497	Sanderling	CMS	
0501	Little Stint	A	
0502	Temminck's Stint	D	
0507	Pectoral Sandpiper	D	
0509	Curlew Sandpiper	A	
0510	Purple Sandpiper	A	
0512	Dunlin	CMRS	
0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	D	
0517	Ruff	A	
0518	Jack Snipe	A	
0519	Snipe	BCMS	
0529	Woodcock	A	
0532	Black-tailed Godwit	A	C from Pagham & Chichester Hbrs
0534	Bar-tailed Godwit	A	C from Pagham & Chichester Hbrs
0538	Whimbrel	A	
0541	Curlew	BCMS	
0545	Spotted Redshank	A	
0546	Redshank	BCS	
0548	Greenshank	A	
0553	Green Sandpiper	A	

0554	Wood Sandpiper	A	
0556	Common Sandpiper	CEMS	
0561	Turnstone	CMS	All inland records
0564	Red-necked Phalarope	D	
0565	Grey Phalarope	D	
0566	Pomarine Skua	D	D NOT required on spring passage
0567	Arctic Skua	A	
0568	Long-tailed Skua	D	
0569	Great Skua	A	
0575	Mediterranean Gull	A	
0578	Little Gull	A	
0579	Sabine's Gull	D	
0582	Black-headed Gull	BCMS	
0589	Ring-billed Gull	D	
0590	Common Gull	CMS	
0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	BCMS	Including Scandinavian <i>L.f.intermedius</i> D required for Baltic Gull <i>L.f. fuscus</i>
0592	Herring Gull	BCMS	Including Yellow-legged Gull <i>L.a.michahellis</i>
0598	Iceland Gull	D	D required for Kumlien's Gull <i>L.g.kumlieni</i>
0599	Glaucous Gull	D	
0600	Great Black-backed Gull	BCMS	
0602	Kittiwake	BCMS	All inland records required
0611	Sandwich Tern	BCEMS	All inland records required
0614	Roseate Tern	D	
0615	Common Tern	BCMS	
0616	Arctic Tern	A	
0624	Little Tern	BCEMS	All inland records required
0627	Black Tern	A	
0634	Guillemot	A	
0636	Razorbill	A	
0638	Black Guillemot	D	
0647	Little Auk	D	
0654	Puffin	D	
0665	feral Rock Dove	CS	
0668	Stock Dove	BCMS	
0670	Woodpigeon	BCMS	
0684	Collared Dove	BCS	
0687	Turtle Dove	BCEMS	
0712	Ring-necked Parakeet	A	
0724	Cuckoo	BES	
0735	Barn Owl	A	
0757	Little Owl	A	
0761	Tawny Owl	A	
0767	Long-eared Owl	A	
0768	Short-eared Owl	A	
0778	Nightjar	A	
0795	Swift	BCEMS	
0831	Kingfisher	A	
0840	Bee-eater	D	
0846	Hoopoe	A	D may be required
0848	Wryneck	A	D may be required
0856	Green Woodpecker	BCS	
0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker	BCS	
0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	A	
0968	Short-toed Lark	D	
0974	Woodlark	A	
0976	Skylark	BCMS	
0978	Shore Lark	D	
0981	Sand Martin	BCEMRS	
0992	Swallow	BCEMRS	
1001	House Martin	BCEMRS	
1002	Richard's Pipit	D	
1005	Tawny Pipit	D	
1009	Tree Pipit	BCEMS	
1011	Meadow Pipit	BCMS	

10142	Rock Pipit	A	
10143	<b>Scandinavian Rock Pipit</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>A. petrosus littoralis</i>
10140	<b>Water Pipit</b>	<b>D</b>	
1017	Yellow Wagtail	BCEMRS	D for all sub-species/races
1019	Grey Wagtail	BCMS	
1020	Pied Wagtail	BCMS	Including White Wagtail <i>M.a.alba</i>
1048	Waxwing	A	D may be required
1050	<b>Dipper</b>	<b>D</b>	
1066	Wren	CS	
1084	Dunnock	CS	
1099	Robin	CS	
1104	Nightingale	BES	
1106	<b>Bluethroat</b>	<b>D</b>	
1121	Black Redstart	A	
1122	Redstart	BES	
1137	Whinchat	BES	
1139	Stonechat	BCMS	
1146	Wheatear	BCEMS	Including Greenland Wheatear <i>O.o.leucorrhoea</i>
1149	<b>Desert Wheatear</b>	<b>D</b>	
1186	Ring Ouzel	A	
1187	Blackbird	CMS	
1198	Fieldfare	CEMS	
1200	Song Thrush	BCMS	
1201	Redwing	CEMS	
1202	Mistle Thrush	BCMS	
1220	Cetti's Warbler	A	D may be required
1236	Grasshopper Warbler	A	
1242	Aquatic Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1243	Sedge Warbler	BCEMS	
1250	Marsh Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1251	Reed Warbler	BCEMS	
1256.01	Sykes's Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1259	Icterine Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1260	Melodious Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1262	Dartford Warbler	A	
1273	Barred Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1274	Lesser Whitethroat	BES	
1275	Whitethroat	BES	
1276	Garden Warbler	BES	
1277	Blackcap	BES	All winter records
1298	Pallas's Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	<b>D</b>	
1308	Wood Warbler	A	
1311	Chiffchaff	BCEMS	All winter records required; required for all eastern forms
1312	Willow Warbler	BCEMS	
1314	Goldcrest	BCMS	
1315	Firecrest	A	
1355	Spotted Flycatcher	BCEMS	
1343	<b>Red-breasted Flycatcher</b>	<b>D</b>	
1349	Pied Flycatcher	A	
1364	Bearded Tit	A	
1437	Long-tailed Tit	BCS	
1440	Marsh Tit	BCS	
1442	Willow Tit	BCS	
1461	Coal Tit	CS	
1462	Blue Tit	CMS	
1464	Great Tit	CMS	
1479	Nuthatch	BCS	
1486	Treecreeper	BCS	
1508	<b>Golden Oriole</b>	<b>D</b>	
1515	<b>Red-backed Shrike</b>	<b>D</b>	
1520	Great Grey Shrike	A	D required for Southern Grey Shrike
1523	<b>Woodchat Shrike</b>	<b>D</b>	
1539	Jay	BCS	
1549	Magpie	BCS	

1559	<b>Chough</b>	<b>D</b>	
1560	Jackdaw	BCS	
1563	Rook	BCMRS	
1567	Carrion Crow	BCMS	
1567.01	<b>Hooded Crow</b>	<b>D</b>	
1572	Raven	A	D may be required
1582	<b>Starling</b>	CRS	
1591	<b>House Sparrow</b>	CRS	
1594	<b>Rosy Starling</b>	<b>D</b>	
1598	<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	A	
1636	Chaffinch	CMS	
1638.	Brambling	A	
1640	<b>Serín</b>	<b>D</b>	
1649	Greenfinch	BCMS	
1653	Goldfinch	BCMS	
1654	Siskin	A	
1660	<b>Linnét</b>	BCMS	
1662	<b>Twite</b>	<b>D</b>	
1663.01	<b>Common Redpoll</b>	<b>D</b>	<i>C. flammea</i> (formerly Mealy Redpoll)
1663	<b>Lesser Redpoll</b>	BCMS	<i>C. cabaret</i>
1666	Common Crossbill	A	
1679	<b>Common Rosefinch</b>	<b>D</b>	
1710	<b>Bullfinch</b>	BCS	
1717	<b>Hawfinch</b>	A	
1847	<b>Lapland Bunting</b>	<b>D</b>	
1850	<b>Snow Bunting</b>	A	
1857	<b>Yellowhammer</b>	BCS	
1858	<b>Cirl Bunting</b>	<b>D</b>	
1866	<b>Ortolan Bunting</b>	<b>D</b>	
1874	<b>Little Bunting</b>	<b>D</b>	
1877	<b>Reed Bunting</b>	BCRS	
1882	<b>Corn Bunting</b>	BCRS	

**Descriptions are required** for all unusual sub-species or races, (i.e. other than the normal occurring form in the county). This includes the following:

Baltic Gull (*L.f. fuscus*); 'Caspian Gull' (*L. cachinans*); 'Kumlien's Iceland Gull' (*L.g. kumlieni*); 'Scandinavian Rock Pipit', (*A.p. littoralis*)

**Descriptions are NOT required** for records of: -

Pale-bellied Brent Goose,  
 Scandinavian Lesser-Black-backed Gull (*L.f. intermedius*),  
 Yellow-legged Gull (*L. (a.) michahellis*),  
 White Wagtail (*M.a. alba*),  
 Greenland Wheatear (*O.o. leucorrhoa*).

Note: records of *O.o. leucorrhoa* will be published as "showing the characteristics of the Greenland Wheatear", unless identification is proven by trapping & measuring.

## 10: USEFUL ADDRESSES

as at December 2004

- Recorder:** Mr John A Hobson,  
23 Hillside Road, STORRINGTON, RH20 3LZ  
email: jahobson23@tiscali.co.uk
- Assistant Recorder:** Mr Tim Parmenter  
22, The Kiln, BURGESS HILL, RH15 0LU  
email: t.parmenter@nhm.ac.uk
- IT Manager:** Dr John A Newnham  
Walton House, 61 Grand Avenue, WORTHING, BN11 5BA  
email: jnewnham@bigfoot.com
- S.O.S. Website:** [www.sos.org.uk](http://www.sos.org.uk)
- BTO Regional Representative:** Dr Barrie Watson  
83, Buckingham Road, SHOREHAM-by-Sea, BN43 5UD  
email: abwatson@mistral.co.uk
- Arundel WWT:** Mr. James Sharp  
The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust,  
Mill Road, ARUNDEL, BN18 9PB
- Ashdown Forest Organiser:** Mr David King,  
The Ashdown Forest Centre, Wych Cross, FOREST ROW, RH18 5JP
- Bewl Water Organiser:** Mr Phil Bance,  
Littlecote, Crowborough Hill, CROWBOROUGH, TN6 2EA
- Chichester Harbour Organiser:** Miss Anne de Potier  
The Harbour Office, Itchenor, CHICHESTER, PO20 7AW  
email: [anne@conservancy.co.uk](mailto:anne@conservancy.co.uk)
- Filsham LNR Reserve Manager:** Mr Ian Standivan  
7 College Road, BEXHILL on Sea, TN40 1TG  
email: ian@iandel.freeserve.co.uk
- RSPB Pulborough Brooks Warden:**  
Mr Tim Callaway,  
Upperton Barn, Wiggonholt, PULBOROUGH, RH20 2EL  
email: tim.callaway@rspb.org.uk
- Pagham Harbour LNR Manager:** Mr Rob Carver,  
Pagham Harbour LNR, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, CHICHESTER, PO20 7NE  
email: pagham.nr@westsussex.gov.uk
- Pannel Valley, Pett (Rye Bay Ringing Group) Organiser**  
Mr. Phil Jones  
Elms Farm, Icklesham, WINCHELSEA, TN36 4AH  
email: phil@wetlandtrust.org
- Rye Harbour LNR Manager** Dr Barry Yates,  
2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, WINCHELSEA, TN36 4LU  
email: yates@clara.net
- Weir Wood Reservoir Organiser** Mrs Barbara Mortlock,  
37 Barnmead, HAYWARDS HEATH, RH16 1UY
- WeBS Counts Co-ordinator** Mr Chris Lowmass  
Owls, 33, Barn Close, SEAFORD, BN25 3EW
- Sea-watch Records Organisers:**

**Selsey Bill** Mr. Barry Carter  
130, Gainsborough Drive, SELSEY, PO20 0HH  
email: bjc@selseypc.net

**Worthing** Dr. John Newnham  
Walton House, 61 Grand Avenue,, WORTHING, BN11 5BA  
email: jnewnham@bigfoot.com

**Brighton Marina** Mr. Ian Whitcomb  
99, Barnett Road, BRIGHTON, BN1 7GJ  
email: ianwhitcomb@hotmail.com

**Newhaven West Pier** Mr Ewan Urquhart,  
The Old House, Church Street, KINGHAM, Oxon., OX7 6YA  
email: [chats@themail.co.uk](mailto:chats@themail.co.uk)

**Splash Point, Seaford & Seaford Head** Mr. Dick Gilmore  
Flat D, 2 The Boundary, SEAFORD, BN25 1DG  
email: dick@gilmorebr.freemove.co.uk

**Bexhill & Hastings** Mr. Ian Standivan  
7, College Road, BEXHILL-on-Sea, TN40 1TG  
email: ian@iandel.freemove.co.uk

If the Organiser for any site is not known, send records to the Recorder.

## **11: RECORDING FORMS**

*Forms for Ordinary Records and Scarce Records, which can be downloaded from the web site, are shown below.*



**SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE  
SCARCE RECORDS FORM**

Record No.: .....

**SPECIES:**.....

Species No.: .....

Number of birds:

Age/Sex:

for SOSRC / BBRC  
(delete as appropriate)

**PLACE:**

Grid reference (6 figs if possible, please):

**DATE:**

Times:

Dates of earlier/later sightings:

Total duration:

**OBSERVER (BLOCK CAPITALS):**  
(please include full initials)

Postal Address:

Post code:

Telephone No.:

e-mail address:

**Other Observers:**

Who found it?:

Who first identified it?:

Who else is reporting it?:

Was it photographed?:

Photographers:

Was it trapped for ringing?:

Ringer:

If dead, is it preserved?:

Where?:

Binoculars used:

Telescope used:

Distance from bird:

Weather conditions:

Light in relation to Observer:

Previous experience of species:

Experience of similar species, that day:

previously:

Do you wish to be notified of acceptance or non-acceptance?: YES/NO

If Yes, please attach a 2nd class stamp ----->loosely here

JAH.16.05.2001

**SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY RECORDS COMMITTEE – SCARCE RECORDS FORM**

**DESCRIPTION:** Include an account of the relevant circumstances of the observation and a detailed description of the bird based on notes taken at the time of the observation and before reference to books. Attach original field notes, sketches and photographs, if available.

The description should cover as many of the following features as possible:- size, type, general coloration, habitat, behaviour; bill, eye, eye ring & stripe(s), lores, forehead, crown, nape, mantle, rump, tail; chin, throat, breast, belly, undertail coverts; tertials, primaries, primary extension and overlap with tail, secondaries, coverts and wing bars; legs, stance, gait; flight and calls. Attach extra sheets as necessary.

.....

.....  
Is this record 100% certain?:

.....  
Any who disagree?:

.....  
Signature:

.....  
Date submitted:

