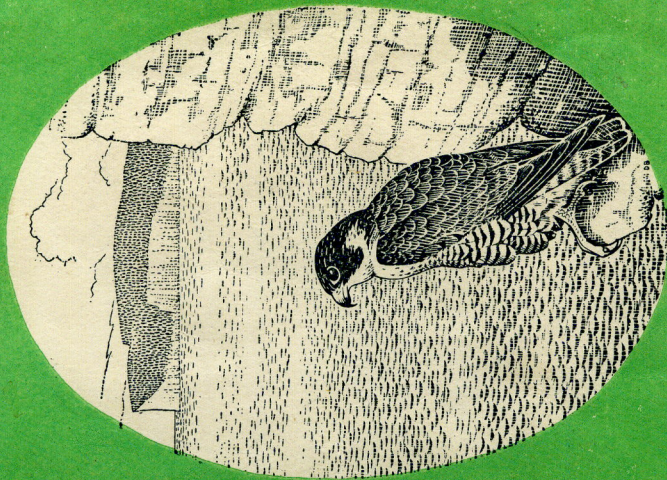


THE SUSSEX  
BIRD REPORT

1952



EDITED BY G. DES FORGES AND D. D. HARBER

PRICE: FIVE SHILLINGS

CHARLES CLARKE  
HAYWARDS HEATH LTD.  
PRINTERS

THE  
SUSSEX BIRD  
REPORT

1952

EDITED BY  
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AND  
D. D. HARBER

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\* Records from J. Shepperd indicated by initials "J.S."; from J. Stafford by use of full name.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### NOMENCLATURE

In previous Reports we have used the order of classification, name and serial number assigned to each species by the *Handbook* (with one or two exceptions only) and we have considered that this sufficiently fixed the species under consideration to obviate adding the scientific name as well. We have therefore observed the changes in the scientific names which constantly occur with the mildest interest. Such complacency has been short-lived! In the first place the B.O.U. have adopted the American order of classification which, broadly speaking, reverses the familiar order; and, secondly, the Editors of *British Birds* propose minor orthographic changes to many English names and more substantial changes to about 20 others.

We can certainly appreciate, and in most cases agree with, the alterations to the English names, but we express no comment on the new order beyond deploring its necessity. We are not, however, concerned with anything more than making sure beyond all possible doubt that our readers know the species we refer to and we shall therefore retain for the time being our old practice of using the order of classification, the English names and the serial numbers which appear in the *Handbook*. The exceptions we made before were to refer com- pendiously to the two subspecies of *Puffinus kuhlii*, for which the *Handbook* provides no English name, as Cory's Shearwater and to use "Sykes's Wagtail" for the mutant yellow wagtail form as a generally understood and conveniently short name where the *Handbook* allows no name. These we shall continue and should occasion arise we shall adopt the proposal of the Editors of *British Birds* to refer to the two subspecies of *Carduelis hornemanni* as Arctic Redpoll, there being no English name for the species in the *Handbook*.

### CANADA GOOSE

A breeding census is being organised by Mr. N. G. Blurton-Jones, Cherry Close, New Lane Hill, Calcot, Reading, for 1953 as an investigation sponsored by the British Trust for Ornithology. As this bird has so recently been admitted to the British List little or no published information about its status in Sussex exists. We would like to repair this omission and at the same time assist in the enquiry. We are therefore hopeful that any records of past or current breeding will be sent to us, or in the case of records for 1953, to Mr. Blurton-Jones who will send a questionnaire, seeking information also on habitat and nest-sites, to anyone who asks.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

We are glad to be able to record the names of yet more observers who have sent us records than for any previous year, although the total number of records has not greatly increased. We continue to tabulate all records of the slightest significance and condense that information very considerably in compiling the Report. We mention this point once more to indicate that it is not only the record which appears to be significant in itself that should be sent in. We would like to be able to deal with the distribution of breeding birds on a more extensive scale—particularly from areas inland. This sort of information is not of much value if it merely records that a bird is "commoner" or "scarcer" than last year. Ideally, it should be related to a defined area and the habitat at least briefly described. The observer can adjust the area and the number of species dealt with according to his inclination and time, but for the purposes of the Report the less common, but not rare, species would form the most interesting subjects.

## WILDFOWL COUNTS IN SUSSEX, 1952-1953

The counts for this season have followed the same general plan as last year. Complete counts should be available for the following areas:—Chichester Harbour, Chichester Gravel Pits, Pagham Harbour, Darwell Reservoir, Cuckmere Haven and Valley. Counts were started late in the season at the mouth of the Arun, and at Eridge Park. Counts were discontinued at Rye Harbour as they were found to be impractical. Walland Marsh had to be omitted as Mr. Cawkell was not free.

A summary of last year's work in Sussex is that though no very large numbers of wildfowl appeared to be present there was a marked peak in numbers in mid-winter. Smew, in small numbers, seem to be fairly regular at Darwell. Unfortunately, no counts have been carried out at Amberley Wild Brooks. It is evident from scattered reports that ducks are present there in the order of 500+, probably reaching the thousand mark not infrequently. Therefore, it is most important that this area should be covered and I do hope that someone will come forward to do this area next year. It is also very desirable for Walland Marsh and Lydd Gun Ranges and Pett Level to be counted. Counts are carried out on Sundays, once a month from July to April. I should be grateful if anyone able to help would write to me at 6 Argyle Road, Bognor Regis.

Finally, I should like to thank all those observers who have, by their regular counting, often in bad weather, made this Inquiry possible in Sussex.

JOHN REYNOLDS,

*Regional Organiser.*

## FURTHER NOTES ON THE DIARIES OF R. MORRIS

In the article on the Morris Diaries in the 1951 Report we stated that we hoped to publish some account of the material relating to migration which they contain. Unfortunately, as he himself not infrequently complained, Morris did not do much systematic work on this subject and in consequence his observations are scattered in a somewhat random fashion throughout the many volumes of the diary.

Morris spent the years 1880-1899 and 1917-1947 at Eastbourne, the intervening period being passed at Uckfield. It has seemed best, therefore, to divide the material into two sections, the first dealing with the two Eastbourne periods, and the second with the Uckfield one. Though most of this material relates to migration a few items of interest, not strictly concerned with this subject, have been included.

### 1. Eastbourne Material

It is of interest to compare some of this with records published in recent issues of the Report. It can thus be seen that some movements which have only lately been recorded in print were, in fact, noted by Morris many years ago, although observed by him only casually. All the following records come from the coast at, or in the immediate neighbourhood of, Eastbourne, except when otherwise stated.

Hooded Crow. On November 23rd, 1886, one flew in from the sea, being first seen far out.

**Starling.** On October 12th, 1896, a flock of c. 150 flew in from the sea. Wind NE.

**Chaffinch.** On October 17th, 1896, several small flocks came in from the SE over the sea. Several flocks were also passing over the town during the day. Wind light, northerly. On October 26th, 1929, between 11.0 a.m. and noon at the Warren (downs near Eastbourne) Morris saw numerous flocks of up to c. three dozen coming in from a southerly direction and continuing NW inland. A rather strong NW wind. Similar movements at similar dates were seen by Morris in this locality on several subsequent occasions.

**Tree-Sparrow.** On December 5th, 1921, Morris saw a flock of c. 300 on the outskirts of Eastbourne. This is an unusual number for Sussex.

**Swallow.** On September 13th, 1922, 3 flew in from the S at Langney Point; wind NW. On the morning of September 29th, 1922, in the same locality birds were continually coming in from the E and passing on in a north westerly direction.

**House-Martin.** On September 16th, 1891, at Paradise (downs near Eastbourne) there was a large northerly flight for about a quarter of an hour, 200-300 being counted in 3 minutes.

**Sand-Martin.** On July 26th, 1923, 6 flew in from the SE at Langney Point and "continued their flight over the Crumbles." Wind NW. On July 16th, 1937, 8 flew in from the S, over the sea, and continued on inland. Wind N-NW. **Swift.** In the evening of July 14th, 1886, several flew in from the sea, being first seen far out. On July 16th, 1937, 2 or 3 flew in from the S. Wind N-NW. **Nightjar.** One on the downs near Eastbourne on October 9th, 1929. This is a late date.

**Common Heron.** On June 18th, 1937, one flew in from the sea, being first seen far out.

**Gannet.** On June 6th, 1922, there was an adult off Langney Point: 3 (one an adult) were there on June 20th and quite a dozen (all adults except 2) on the 21st. This is particularly interesting as *A History of Sussex Birds* gives no records from mid-May till September 13th (except for one for June 10th, 1937, in Addendum II) and it has been suggested that its regular presence during these summer months in recent years has been due to breeding in the Channel Islands (which began during the 1939-45 War).

**Red-throated Diver.** Morris has a number of records for May, the latest date being May 25th (1922). *A History of Sussex Birds* gives no May records for the county and it is only recently that similar late dates have been recorded.

**Common Curlew.** The small westerly coastal movement of this species which has been recorded for June and July in recent issues of the *Report* was observed by Morris on July 14th and 15th, 1892, July 5th, 1898, June 30th, July 1st and 3rd, 1922, June 19th, 21st, 25th, 26th and 29th, 1923.

**Sandwich Tern.** Three at Langney Point on June 23rd, 1923. *A History of Sussex Birds* does not appear to accept any June records for this species except for a couple for 1937 (Addendum II). Of recent years such records have been regular.

## 2. Uckfield Material

Morris sometimes, though apparently by no means always, kept a record of birds, presumed to be on migration, flying over his garden. The notes are particularly detailed for the autumns of the years 1904-7. Nearly all relate to hirundine movements. The only other species which Morris records at all regularly in this connection is the Greenfinch. He records these as flying between NW and NE on various dates between late August and late October,

the numbers involved being quite small. On a few dates in this same period a small southerly movement was recorded. On several occasions, likewise between late August and late October, Morris gives a small northerly movement of Chaffinches. At least once he mentions a small southerly movement of this species (October 17th, 1905). Linnets, Skylarks and Meadow-Pipits were only recorded on very few occasions and as flying NE in September and October. Once (September 27th, 1905) a few Wagtails (presumed to be Pied) were observed flying SE.

The following are a selection from Morris's Swallow-House-Martin records. The month of September has been chosen since it covers the largest number of records.

**September, 1904.** A NE movement on 6 days; winds being northerly except for one day when there is stated to have been no wind. A southerly movement on 2 days; wind being NW one day and E the other. On one day (17th) the movement began by being SE, became E and finally NE, the wind meanwhile changing from SE to NE.

**September, 1905.** A movement between NW and NE on 12 days; winds being northerly except once SW, once E, and once nil. On one of these days (18th) some birds were also flying SE. A movement between SW and SE on 8 days. This movement was against the wind.

**September, 1906.** A northerly or north-easterly movement on 6 days (this being observed at Buxted on one occasion). Winds were NE on 4 occasions, SW on one and ESE on one. Southerly movements on 2 days (winds being NW and SW). Easterly movement on one day (wind E) and both E and W movements on one day (wind SE).

**September, 1907.** A movement between NW and NE on 9 days. One day some were also going E. Winds between NW and NE. A movement E on 4 days. Winds once NE, once slight and variable, once southerly and once SE.

It should be added that many of these hirundine movements, including the northerly ones, appear to have been on a considerable scale.

D.D.H.

## CORRECTION TO 1951 REPORT

In the list of those contributing records "F. Doolley" should be "F. Woolley."

## ADDITIONS TO 1951 REPORT

**HEN-HARRIER.** 273.—A male at Pagham on October 3rd (E.P.).

**BRENT GOOSE.** 312/313.—One at Pagham on October 13th (E.P.).

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE.** 370.—One injured in a field at Uckfield on December 14th had apparently hit an obstacle during dense fog the previous day (C.L.B-C.).

## CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1952

**HOODED CROW.** 2.—One at Southwick, February 6th-17th (J.M.T., C.M.V.). More autumn records than usual of late years; one at the Midrips on October 16th (K.E.I.B.); on the same date D.D.H. saw a party of 9 flying in a northerly direction over the Crumbles; one at Broomhill on the 18th; one flew in S to N at Langney Point on the 26th. Wind W; 10 at Broomhill on November 8th (D.D.H.) and lesser numbers there and at the Midrips and Wicks to the end of the year (R.B.B., R.L.D., D.D.H., G.P.); one at Pett Level on December 4th (D.D.H.); one at Shoreham on November 29th and up to 3 there during December (J. Stafford, J.M.T.); one on the downs above Steyning on December 26th (R.J.S.).

**CARRION-CROW.** 3.—A pair nested on a telegraph pole near the Midrips as has been the case previously (D.D.H.). c. 80 together at Norman's Bay on April 12th (L.P.A.).

**ROOK.** 4.—On April 3rd 2 flew in S to N near the mouth of the Cuckmere. Wind NW. On April 10th 2 flew in S to N at Langney Point. Wind SW, strong. On October 23rd 3 flew in S to N at Langney Point. Wind W. On October 26th 21 in all flew in SE to NW there. Wind W. In all cases the birds were first picked up far out at sea (D.D.H.). J.A. records a decrease in breeding population in the Rye area.

**STARLING.** 14.—The largest autumn immigration recorded for the county. Records given below are from Langney Point and D.D.H. unless otherwise stated and line of flight was from between S and SE to between N and NW, usually SE to NW, the birds going on inland.

October 9th—22. Wind WNW.

October 19th—44 at Brighton. Wind NE (L.P.A.).

October 21st—c. 250 in an hour-and-a-quarter. Wind NE.

October 23rd—5. Wind W.

October 24th—c. 100 in one party. Wind strong, SW.

November 2nd—c. 2,000 between 8.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Wind W.

November 6th—c. 20. Wind NW.

November 7th—c. 40. Wind NW.

November 8th—almost continuous arrival in parties of up to c. 50 between the mouth of the Rother and the Wicks, 11.0 a.m.-3.0 p.m. At the mouth of the Rother c. 500 came in between 11.0 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. Fewer were arriving in the afternoon. Wind NW, high.

November 9th—c. 3,400 between 7.45 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. A few were still arriving until 2.0 p.m. On the same day at Newhaven L.P.A. saw c. 300 come in. Wind NW.

November 12th—c. 780 in 3 hours. On the same day L.P.A. saw c. 35 coming in over Hove. Wind NW, veering N.

November 13th—c. 1,080 between 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m. Wind NW.

November 14th—c. 100 coming in over Hove (L.P.A.) and on the same day D.D.H. saw a continual westerly coastal movement at East Head, West Wittering, from 11.0 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Birds were arriving in parties of up to c. 100 from the direction of Selsey Bill and crossing over to Hayling Island, where, apparently, the movement was continuing almost due W along the coast. Wind NW, fog lifting.

November 18th—c. 120 in an hour-and-a-half. Wind northerly.

November 20th—2. Wind SE.

November 23rd—One.

The only outward movement recorded was at Langney Point on October 24th when 3 flew SE out to sea (D.D.H.).

**GREENFINCH.** 19.—On October 9th one flew in SE to NW at Langney Point, being first seen far out. Wind NW. On November 9th 5 flew S out to sea there. Wind NW (D.D.H.).

**GOLDFINCH.** 20.—A flock estimated at between 400 and 600 in a flux field at Rye Harbour during September (J.A., K.E.I.B.). Arrival from the sea, SE to NW, was observed at Langney Point on October 5th, 12; October 7th, a party of c. 30 and November 12th, 3. Birds flying S or SE out to sea there were 5 on October 16th, 17 on the 23rd, 2 on the 26th, 22 on November 2nd and 15 on the 6th. On October 16th and 23rd there was also a small westerly coasting movement there (D.D.H.).

**LESSER REDPOLE.** 25.—On October 26th L.P.A. saw 5 flying NW over the Cuckmere and on the 30th 17 NW-W over Brighton and 5 NW-W over Hove. Wind NW-W in each case.

**LINNET.** 30.—On October 5th 38 in all flew in from the SE at Langney Point. Wind NW. Birds flying S or SE out to sea there were 6 on October 15th, 21 on the 16th, 16 on the 21st and 26 on the 23rd when one also flew in S to N. A small westerly coasting movement also there on October 15th, 16th and 23rd (D.D.H.). On October 30th and November 3rd L.P.A. saw a small W passage over Hove, winds being NW.

**CHAFFINCH.** 40/1.—Early spring immigrants were a flock of c. 100, two parties of 3 and 3 single birds which flew in S to N at Langney Point on March 9th. Wind NW, mist had just lifted. During fog on March 11th one arrived from the sea there and made off to the N. In the autumn arrival from the sea, SE to NW, was seen at Langney Point November 2nd, 5 (wind W); 9th, 2 (wind NW); 12th, 7 in 2 hours (wind NW, veering N) and 18th, 12 in 1½ hours (wind northerly) (D.D.H.). L.P.A. records a small W movement over Hove on October 30th, November 3rd, 4th, 11th and 12th, and a similar movement over Hampden Park on November 8th. Wind NW in all cases.

**CIRL BUNTING.** 49.—Two pairs at least now established immediately N of Rottingdean where a male was first recorded in 1947 in the S.E. *Bird Report* (G.d.F.).

**LAPLAND BUNTING.** 58.—Three at the Midrips on September 18th (W.G.F.). Chestnut on the head and shoulder, some white or light colouring from the base of the bill and chin and a patch of white behind the ear covert; light-coloured bill, yellowish; backs well streaked with dark—general colour chestnut brown. Tail darkish brown, fairly light outer tail feathers.

**SNOW-BUNTING.** 59.—One in the middle of Ashdown Forest on September 20th (J.S.W.). Apparently the first inland record for the county. Twelve at the Midrips on November 8th (D.D.H.). One at Pagham on the 11th (B.M.). Two at Langney Point on the 12th and 13th and 2 on the Crumbles on December 2nd (D.D.H.). One on the downs between Chantoubury Ring and Steyning on November 23rd (C.A.G.).

**TREE-SPARROW.** 62.—Breeding range now includes Winchelsea where C.V.J. records 3 small colonies in the town and a fourth near the Railway Station. J.V.S. reports 4 present during May and June in the SW of the county but no proof of breeding.

**SKY-LARK.** 70.—On March 9th L.P.A. saw 2 fly in NE from the sea at Brighton. On October 4th D.D.H. saw an almost continuous W movement, lasting all the morning, along the coast at Broomhill. Most were flying over the sea parallel to the land and birds repeatedly flew out from the land and then along the coast in this way. Between October 5th and November 28th D.D.H. saw arrival from the SE at Langney Point, the only considerable number being c. 540 on October 11th between 3.40 p.m. and 4.40 p.m. He also saw a

very few fly out to sea, between E and S, in the same locality between October 16th and November 9th. L.P.A. saw a small NE-E passage over Hove, October 16th-21st, and a NW passage over Brighton and Hove, October 23rd-November 14th, with a peak on October 30th. He also records movements to the NE on December 4th and NW-W on the 15th, both during cold spells.

**TREE-PIBIT.** 75.—One at Handcross on March 17th (J.A.S.). The bird was heard. On August 21st, September 4th and 12th L.P.A. observed a small SE-E movement over Hove.

**MEADOW-PIBIT.** 76.—The first spring arrivals recorded were c. 60 which flew in to NE-N at Brighton on March 9th (L.P.A.). Arrival from the sea, SE to NW, at Langney Point on September 17th and 18th, October 2nd, 5th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 26th and 30th and November 2nd and 12th. Flight between S and SE out to sea there seen on October 10th, 17th, 24th and 30th, numbers being very small (D.D.H.). E-SE passage over Hove, September 13th-22nd and October 16th and 20th, with peak September 15th-17th. NW passage over Hove, October 5th-November 14th (L.P.A.).

**WATER-PIBIT.** 79.—On January 25th D.D.H. found one in the lower Cuckmere valley in the place where single birds have been seen during the two previous winters. Appearance the same as that of the bird described for December 28th in the 1950 Report, except that under-parts rather more streaked and eye-stripe less well defined. This bird was seen by D.D.H. on several occasions up to March 15th, being also seen by P.A.D.H. on February 24th. On November 20th, for the fourth successive winter, D.D.H. found a bird in the above locality. This was similar to the last in appearance and was seen on subsequent occasions in November and December. It was also seen by J.H.B. on December 7th.

**YELLOW WAGTAIL.** 88.—Only c. 20 pairs nested in the area of the Rye Harbour gravel pits and in mid-July only c. 6 pairs were occupied with second broods (D.D.H.). Over 100 in a roost in rushes at Thorney on August 30th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). A small NW movement over Hangleton on August 21st and 22nd; odd birds flying NW over Hove on September 5th and odd birds flying E there on September 15th and 17th (L.P.A.).

A mutant seen at Pett Level on April 13th is described as follows: "The crown was a very pale blue grey (the blue only being seen with a telescope and appearing to be confined to the tips of the feathers). This same colouring extended on to the nape hind neck and finally on to the top of the mantle, where it merged into the normal mantle of an adult male Yellow Wagtail. The area below the eye was also the same in colour. The ear coverts were no darker than the rest of the area. The supercilii eye stripe differed from the Yellow Wagtail in that it was a pale primrose yellow. The chin and throat were also a pale yellow and this merged into the sulphur yellow of an adult male Yellow Wagtail at the top of the breast. The bill, legs and the remainder of the bird did not differ from that of a normal male Yellow Wagtail." (E. Philp and P. S. Redman per *Brit. B.*)

On April 26th D.D.H. saw a variant female at the Pett Level pools: "White eye stripe and chin; some dark streaks on breast; rest of under-parts very yellow; top of head, nape and mantle dark greyish; a shade of blue on ear-coverts visible in certain lights." A typical male Yellow Wagtail was in attendance and driving away other males. This bird was still present on May 1st, when it was also seen by G.W.H.M.

A male Yellow Wagtail seen by J. A. on September 15th at Pett Level is described as "crown and nape bluish slate, marked white stripe above eye with dark line running through the eye; and below this a lesser white stripe; the under

parts yellow; back and mantle olive green; ear coverts a little paler than the crown and nape." This bird appears to have been a mutant of the Sykes's type by reason of the paler ear coverts and not a normal blue-headed wagtail.

**GREY WAGTAIL.** 89.—Single birds flying NE over the downs at Hangleton on September 4th and over Hove on September 12th (L.P.A.).

**PIED WAGTAIL.** 90.—Nine flew in SE to NW at Langney Point on October 5th, 4 S to N on the 16th, 6 (in 4 hours) SE to NW on November 2nd and one on the 9th. Two flew S out to sea there on October 15th and a few were coasting W on this date and E on the 21st (D.D.H.).

**WHITE WAGTAIL.** 91.—One at Pett Level on April 6th (L.P.A.); one at Pagham on the 10th (M.J.); 3 at Rye Harbour on the 17th, and one there on the 19th; one in the lower Cuckmere Valley on the 20th and 27th (D.D.H.).

**BLUE TIT.** 99/100.—One in weeds on the sea wall at the Midrips on November 8th; a high NW wind (D.D.H.).

**COAL TIT.** 101/2.—One on the Crumbles on October 22nd, after a strong SE wind, had distinctly greyish, not greenish, upper-parts. The whites of the plumage seemed very bright and the whole appearance was "cleaner" than usual. Presumably of the Continental form (D.D.H.).

**GREAT GREY SHRIKE.** 114.—One near Arundel, January 19th (F.P.) to February 28th (D.D.H.). One near Berwick Station on October 24th (L.A.C.).

**WOODCHAT SHRIKE.** 116.—On June 8th D.V.F., when driving near Seaford Head, noted a "smallest bird displaying a large amount of white in flight. It alighted on top of a roadside post where the following was noted: crown and nape chestnut; broad black patch through eye; upper parts black with brilliant white scapulars, tail black edged with white; under-parts white. Size about the same as Red-backed Shrike. It was seen to perch only on the tips of posts and finally on telephone wires."

**PIED FLYCATCHER.** 123.—No spring records and only 5 for autumn, August 8th-September 17th.

**GOLDCREST.** 126/7.—Two on downs near Eastbourne on April 9th, were extremely grey birds (D.D.H.). Only a very few single birds recorded for the coast in autumn.

**FIRECREST.** 128.—One was watched for some 10 minutes at close range on the Hyde, Arlington, on February 23rd (L.A.C.). One in the wood near the Belle Tout Lighthouse on October 5th (W.R.P.B.); one at Southwick on the 17th (J.M.T.); one at Pagham on November 23rd (K.B.); one at Ecclesbourne Glen on the 30th (H.A.R.C.). Descriptions of these birds have been given.

**CHIFFCHAFF.** 129/131.—There appears to have been an arrival along the whole Sussex Coast on March 9th, an early date. Records for that day were: 2 in coastal bushes at West Wittering (J.S.); one at Sidlesham (J.V.S.); one at Pagham (J.S.); one at the end of Brighton West Pier (C.M.J.); one at Ovingdean (G.d.F.); one at the end of Langney Point (D.D.H.). On March 10th there was one at Southwick (J.M.T.) and one singing at Fairlight (A.D.W.). One in a Bognor garden on December 29th. It did not appear to belong to any of the northern races as it was very olive-green on the back (J.R.).

**WOOD-WARBLER.** 135.—A pair near Handcross had young by May 28th (J.A.S.).

**BLACKCAP.** 162.—One singing at Brede on March 25th (K.E.I.B.). A.H.M. observed a pair prospecting for a nesting site on April 13th. On April 26th this pair had a nest with 3 eggs and 5 eggs were being incubated on May 7th.

**WHITETHROAT.** 163.—Two on the Crumbles on April 8th (D.D.H.) and one at Earham on the 10th (R.H.B.). By the 13th D.D.H. found that quite

a number had arrived on the downs near Eastbourne. One on Royal Parade, Eastbourne, on November 2nd (D.D.H.).

**FIELDFARE.** 173.—On November 12th one flew in SE to NW at Langney Point. Wind northerly (D.D.H.). Small NE movements over Hove on November 25th and December 8th (L.P.A.).

**MISSLE-THRUSH.** 174.—S.H.F. records a roost in a thorn hedge near Lewes which he believes was used only by birds of the year; counting only birds seen to arrive he found 12 at the end of June, a peak of 65 on July 20th, after which numbers dropped; 20 on October 1st and none on October 20th. In 1951 the highest count was 152 on July 15th; 50 on August 12th, and none after end of that month.

**SONG-THRUSH.** 175/7.—Several very grey birds appeared on the Crumbles on October 15th, as is usual about this date. A very grey bird in weeds on the sea wall at the Wicks on October 18th and one there on November 8th (D.D.H.).

**REDWING.** 178.—On March 9th a flock of c. 50 came due N up the valley from Rottingdean. At about a mile from the coast they dived into a thorn thicket, continuing on their way when flushed (G.d.F.). L.P.A. records a large W movement along Hove front during the night of November 7th; also small NW-W movements over Hove on October 17th and December 15th and small NE movements there on December 4th and 11th.

**RING-OUZEL.** 182.—One on the downs near Eastbourne on March 30th, an early date (D.D.H.). One on the sea wall, Midrips-Wicks, on April 10th (H.J.C.S.). One on downs near Eastbourne on April 13th (D.H.B., D.D.H.). 2, October 4th-11th, at Ovingdean (G.d.F.). One at Pagham on October 5th (H.P.M.). One on the Crumbles on November 6th (D.D.H.).

**BLACKBIRD.** 184.—Seven, all males, at the Wicks on November 8th. A high NW wind. On the 12th there was one skulking in weeds at the end of Langney Point and one flew in from the SE there, being first seen far out at sea, and landed on the beach. Both these were males (D.D.H.).

**WHEATEAR.** 186.—A male at Langney Point on March 5th. So far as could be ascertained by an almost daily watch, this bird stayed and bred there. Another male and a female, apparently paired, had arrived on the Crumbles by March 9th (D.D.H.). Arrival along the whole Sussex coast seems to have taken place March 8th-10th. On March 16th one left Langney Point and flew S out to sea until lost to sight. Wind SW (D.D.H.).

**WHINCHAT.** 197.—A rather late bird near Berwick Station on October 16th (L.A.C.).

**BLACK REDSTART.** 202.—The birds mentioned in the 1951 Report as wintering at the end of the year remained into 1952 and in addition there were: 2 at Peacehaven on January 26th; one at Seaford on February 17th (C.M.J.); 3 in the lower Cuckmere valley on January 30th (J. Stafford), only one having been recorded there in the 1951 Report. It is difficult, if not impossible, to separate wintering birds from spring arrivals in many cases, but the following may perhaps be ascribed to the latter: one between West Worthing and Goring on March 12th and 16th (W.M.W.); 2 near the Ouse 1½ miles NW of Lewes, March 14th-31st (S.H.F.); one at Camber on April 5th (H.A.R.C.).

On May 31st D.H.B. found a singing male in Elms Road, Eastbourne, and this was seen and heard on June 10th by D.D.H., who also found one (probably the same) singing near Eastbourne Station on June 24th.

Dr. N. F. Ticehurst has kindly furnished the following records for the Hastings area: one pair nested for certain on Castle Hill and reared at least one young one; there were 2 other singing males in St. Leonards and one,

possibly 2, more in Hastings, all in previously occupied territories being heard or seen by several observers between April 5th and July 20th; one pair nested on Pett Level.

The earliest date for autumn passage was August 30th when 2 again occurred near the Ouse 1½ miles NW of Lewes and stayed until November 3rd (S.H.F.). Four together were seen at Langney Point on October 22nd after a strong SE wind (D.D.H.). The only records of wintering at the end of the year were: 2 at Birling Gap on December 7th (G.A.S.) and one at Newhaven on December 14th (L.P.A.).

**NIGHTINGALE.** 203.—One on the Crumbles on April 8th (D.D.H.); one at Willington on the 9th (R.L.D.) and one near Arundel on the 10th. These dates suggest a somewhat earlier arrival than usual.

**ROBIN.** 207/8.—On March 9th one came in from the sea to the end of the Palace Pier, Brighton, and after resting, made off NE. Wind S-SE, misty (L.P.A.). On October 22nd, after a strong SE wind, there were 2 in weeds at the end of Langney Point and there was a noticeable increase in the numbers on the Crumbles (D.D.H.).

**SWALLOW.** 220.—One at Pett Level Pools on March 10th (A.H.M.B.); One April 27th, 2 flew S out to sea until lost to sight at Langney Point. Wind E (D.D.H.). Single birds flew in SE to NW there on June 25th, July 30th, November 7th and 8th (D.D.H.).

**HOUSE-MARTIN.** 222.—Three flew in SE to NW with Swifts at Rye Harbour on June 7th. Wind NW (D.D.H.).

**SAND-MARTIN.** 223.—A small westerly coastal movement at Rye Harbour, July 9th-17th. A few flying in SE to NW there on July 18th (D.D.H.). On July 26th E.G. saw c. 3,000 on the beach at Camber. At 7.45 a.m. on October 31st L.P.A. witnessed a W movement over Hove. It lasted 15-20 minutes and consisted of 8-10 parties of 10-20 birds. A late date.

**SWIFT.** 225.—On April 22nd single birds were seen at Apuldram (J.V.S.), East Grinstead (H.C.J.) and Eastbourne (D.D.H.). Mid-seasonal movements were again recorded from the coast. Records given below are from Langney Point and D.D.H. unless otherwise stated.

May 29th—11.0 a.m.-12.30 p.m. (B.S.T.), c. 300, SE to NW. Wind NW. June 2nd—10.05 a.m.-12.30 p.m., 19, S out to sea. Wind WSW, strong. June 6th—2, S. Wind W, strong.

June 7th—2.40 p.m.-4.20 p.m., c. 50, SE to NW at Rye Harbour, and on the same day at 3.15 p.m. A.D.W. saw a number fly in towards the NW over the cliffs at Fairlight. Wind northerly.

June 12th—3 ESE out to sea. Wind NE.

June 14th—10.25 a.m.-12.55 p.m., c. 220 flew in from between S and SE to between N and NW. Wind NW veering N, some mist, lifting.

June 15th—10.10 a.m.-1.05 p.m., c. 320 flew in as on previous day. Weather also similar.

June 18th—3.0 p.m.-4.30 p.m., 10 flew in from S and 12 flew SE out to sea. At Seaford Head on the morning of that day, 10.30 a.m.-11.30 a.m., c.30 flew S out to sea. Similar movements, both outward and inward, but on a very small scale were recorded for the rest of the month and for early July. On June 28th B.M. saw 2 fly S out to sea at Pagham. Wind SW. On July 18th, 11.0 a.m.-12.0 noon, D.D.H. saw c. 200 fly in SE to NW at the mouth of the Rother. Wind NW.

**NIGHTJAR.** 227.—On May 15th one flew in from the sea at Shoreham and landed exhausted on the shingle. Almost no wind, dense sea mist (J. Stafford). One on the Crumbles on August 6th (D.D.H.).



**HOOPOE.** 233.—An unusual number of records: April 9th, one near Hailsham (R.A.V.), 2 at Pett Level (R. Cooke) and one at Fairlight (per R. Cooke); April 10th, one at Rye Harbour; April 11th, one at Fairlight (per R. Cooke); April 12th, one at Sidlesham (J. Stafford, C.M.V.); It was still there next day (L.P.A., J.S.); one at the Midrips (H.J.C.S.); April 13th, one in a garden at Aldwick (W.C.H.), one at Ashington (J.T.); one on downs near Eastbourne (D.H.B.); April 14th, one at Pett (A.D.W.); April 18th, on this date one had been a week "in a Sussex garden near the sea" (Bernard D. Davis in *The Times* of April 23rd, 1952); April 30th, one at Fairlight (C. Gotts per A.D.W.); May 2nd and 4th, one at Sidlesham (J.V.S.), one at Cliffe End, Pett Level on the 2nd (J. Dennett per A.D.W.); May 3rd, one in the Lower Cuckmere valley (D.D.H.); May 7th, one in a garden at Iden (R. Cooke per D.D.H.); May 11th, one taken from a cat at Brighton (J. Stafford).

**GREEN WOODPECKER.** 235.—On October 15th one flew low SSE out to sea at Langney Point, being followed with glasses till lost to sight. Wind NW, slight mist (D.D.H.).

**YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO.**—242. On November 4th, an adult male which had received severe injury, probably due to colliding with a brick wall near where it was found, was picked up dead in Furness Road, Eastbourne. It was sent to E.S. who confirmed its identity by comparison with other skins and is now in his collection. Measurements—wing 154 mm.; tail 143 mm.; tarsus 24.5 mm.; bill 28 mm. Westerly gales occurred immediately before it was found. The first record for Sussex.

**SHORT-EARED OWL.** 251.—Two records for the early part of the year and 4 for autumn, one of which, August 17th, at Rye Harbour (L.P.A., C.M.J.) is an early date. All records are from the coast.

**PEREGRINE FALCON.** 259.—Young known to have been successfully raised at 3 nesting sites. On November 12th one flew in S to N at Langney Point, being first seen far out. Wind NW (D.D.H.).

**HOBBY.** 261.—One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 14th (D.D.H.).

**MERLIN.** 262.—The usual autumn and winter records, all from the coast. On October 23rd one flew in S to N at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

**KESTREL.** 263.—On July 30th one flew in from the ESE at Langney Point, being first seen far out. It alighted, and was unwilling to fly far. Two flew in there, SE to NW, on October 3rd and one S to N on October 23rd (D.D.H.).

**COMMON BUZZARD.** 269.—Two records for May for mid-Sussex, one of 2 birds together, and one for August near Rye.

**MONTAGU'S HARRIER.** 272.—A pair near Rye on April 29th and a female there on the 30th (E.G.). On June 6th a female flew in from the sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.). A male on East Sussex downs on June 13th (C.F.B.) and one in West Sussex on July 24th (W.K.L.). A male at Rye Harbour on August 24th (J.A.). A harrier presumed to be of this species near Rye on August 25th, 26th and 29th and September 18th (W.G.B.). A bird of the year at the Midrips-Wicks on August 30th (D.D.H.) and September 4th (L.A.C., D.D.H.).

**HEN-HARRIER.** 273.—Only records are: a male in Ashdown Forest on January 5th (M.S.); a female or immature at the Midrips on April 10th (J.H.B.); a female or immature in the lower Cuckmere valley on December 13th (D.D.H.).

**SPARROW-HAWK.** 277.—On June 21st one flew in S to N at Langney Point, being first seen far out. Wind SW. One also flew in there, S to N, on September 18th (D.D.H.).

**OSPREY.** 284.—One over Thorney on September 13th (D.F.B.). One off Bognor Regis on September 20th (J. O. Owens per *Brit. B.*). An immature at Manhood End on September 21st (L.P.A., J.S.). One flying in an easterly direction off Langney Point on October 16th (D.D.H.). One at Darwell Reservoir on October 26th and November 16th (G.A.S.).

**SPOONBILL.** 287.—Two at Pagham on May 18th made off to the E (J.D.W.). An immature at Manhood End (S.J.K.E., J.R.), Chidham and Thorney (L.P.A., G.H.C., G.D.F., C.W.G.P., E.J.E.S., J. Stafford), August 21st to September 10th. An immature in the lower Cuckmere valley on November 12th (D.G.N.) was last seen there on the 23rd (D.D.H.).

**COMMON HERON.** 289.—On September 6th L.P.A. saw 13 flying high NW over the Crumbles. The count of occupied heronries was Fishbourne 24 (D.C.); Ichenor none (D.C.); Parham 42 (D.S., V.M.); Henfield 3 (C.A.G.); Glynde 22 (D.S., V.M.); Eridge 31 (F.W.); Leasham 49 (J.A.).

**LITTLE EGRET.** 292.—One at Manhood End was first seen by S.J.K.E. on June 10th. Between June 13th and July 2nd it was not seen but it reappeared on the latter date and was then seen fairly regularly until September 1st. Many observers saw the bird, including G.D.F., D.D.H., G.W.H.M., C.W.G.P. and J.R.

This bird was a small edition of the Common Heron with long slender neck and pointed bill and it flew with neck drawn in and legs trailing.

Whole plumage white; two plumes from the back of the head. Bill and legs black; feet yellow. The bird was more wary than the Common Herons present on the same water. This is the first record for the county.

**GREY LAG-GOOSE.** 303.—One near Newhaven on March 5th (J. Stafford). A full description has been given.

**WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.** 304.—Eight at Pagham on January 5th and 28 there on the 6th (E. and I.F., M.G.); 12 flying from Sussex to Hants at North-Hayling on January 12th (K.B.); one at Glynde Levels on February 4th (A.H.W.S.); and one at Pett Level pools on February 10th (L.P.A., D.D.H.). Twelve on Laughton Levels on November 26th; 22 flying low over brooks above Hamsey on the 27th (S.H.F.); 9 on Laughton Levels on December 1st (J. Goldsmith per S.H.F.), all considered by S.H.F. as early for the district.

Seventeen at Pagham on December 7th (K.B., H.P.M.) and 30 there on December 19th (E. & I.F.); 2 at Pett Level on December 14th (H.A.R.C.).

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.** 307.—Only record is a party of 3 flying in N at Langney Point on November 19th (D.D.H.).

**DARK-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.** 312.—The following records are assumed to be of this sub-species. Very few at beginning of year, namely: 5 at Pagham on January 1st (P.R.M.) and 2 there on the 20th (M.G., P.R.M., J. Stafford). Seven near Pagham on October 2nd (E.P.) and present in diminishing numbers on various dates until the 15th when 2 were seen (E.J.E.S.). C. 20 flying W off Langney Point on November 13th and 17 there on the 30th; 14 in Pevensey Bay on the 28th (D.D.H.). On December 12th, 25 in Chichester Harbour (D.D.H.); on the 20th, 10 at Pagham and 12 there on the 28th (P.R.M.). Thirty-three in Rye Harbour on December 26th (E.G.).

**PALE-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.** 313.—One by itself identified at Pagham on October 19th (J. Stafford) and 23rd (J.V.S.).

**SHELD-DUCK.** 315.—Breeding status at Rye Harbour much as in 1951 (J.A., D.D.H.).

**MALLARD.** 317.—At the beginning of the year c. 600 at Pagham on January 6th (B.M.). From the autumn to the end of the year numbers were rather less than usual; at Darwell Reservoir 210 on November 16th was the largest number (G.A.S.).

**GADWALL.** 318.—Two at the Wicks on February 2nd (D.D.H.), one at Pett Level pools on March 8th (H.A.R.C.) and a drake at Rye Harbour on September 6th (J.A.).

**TEAL.** 319.—Numbers less than usual at the beginning and end of the year; at Darwell Reservoir there were c. 350 on February 24th (G.A.S.). In the breeding season birds were seen at Thorney, Manhood End and Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H.). On June 27th 4 flew in a westerly direction off Langney Point (D.D.H.).

**GARGANEY.** 322.—More on spring passage than have been recorded since 1948, including 9 on the Pett Level pools on March 14th (L.P.A.), this being also the earliest record, and 8 on Piddinghoe Pond on the 30th (L.P.A.). The only inland records are of 2 drakes at Wilting near Crowhurst on April 20th and 2 drakes and a duck there on the 29th (G.C.). Other records suggestive of breeding refer to a pair at Thorney on April 30th (D.D.H.) and a drake at Piddinghoe on May 10th (G.A.S.), whilst a pair had young at Rye Harbour on June 16th (J.A.). Pevensey Levels could not be visited during the breeding season owing to foot and mouth disease.

**WIGEON.** 323.—C. 500 on Amberley Wild Brooks on January 20th and c. 350 there on December 28th (B.M.). Numbers small at both ends of the year. On June 8th there was one at Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and there were 4 on Pett Level pools on August 4th (A.D.W.).

**PINTAIL.** 325.—Largest number c.80 on Amberley Wild Brooks on January 20th (B.M.); otherwise the only number over 16 recorded is 39 at Dell Quay on March 2nd (K.B.). Three at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 31st (D.D.H.).

**SHOVELER.** 326.—Largest numbers at the beginning of the year; c. 20 on Amberley Wild Brooks on January 20th (B.M.); 26 on Westbourne ponds on February 3rd (K.B.); 34 on the sea off East Head, West Wittering, on February 24th (L.P.A.). A pair attempted to breed at Manhood End (S.J.K.E., R.W.M.) and probably 2 pairs at Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). Five were present at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 26th and 31st (D.D.H.).

**COMMON POCHARD.** 328.—Rather more numerous this year. Seventy-five on Chichester gravel pits on February 3rd (P.R.M.); c. 70 on Pett Level pools on the 10th (L.P.A., D.D.H.); 62 on Pagham Lagoon on the 17th (M.G., B.M.); numbers then dropped off appreciably. One summered at Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.H.B., D.D.H.). Forty on Pagham Lagoon on December 7th (P.R.M.); 71 at Darwell Reservoir on the 14th (G.A.S.) and 52 on Piddinghoe pond on the same date (L.P.A.); c. 60 on Amberley Wild Brooks on the 28th (B.M.).

**FERRUGINOUS DUCK.** 329.—One on Pett Level pools on September 22nd and 2 at Rye Harbour on December 29th (J.A.). "Birds identified by white wing-bar seen in flight and when birds raised wings while on water, chestnut brown head and neck, amber back, very light eye and in the case of the Pett bird the white spot on the chin was observed. Birds viewed through X 25 telescope on water and through glasses in flight."

**TUFTED DUCK.** 330.—No record referring to breeding. Rather more than in recent years on Pagham Lagoon with a maximum of 45 on December 21st (B.M.). At Darwell Reservoir c. 20 was the largest number for either end of the year (G.A.S.). C. 30 on Amberley Wild Brooks on December 28th (B.M.).

**SCAUP-DUCK.** 331.—One or 2 at Rye Harbour from January 12th (H.A.R.C.) to March 20th (L.A.C.). One at Pagham on January 13th (B.M.). One near Piddinghoe on November 3rd (J. Stafford). Eight on Pett Level pools on December 4th (D.D.H.).

**GOLDENEYE.** 332.—Largest number at beginning of year was 36 in Chichester Channel on January 13th (L.P.A., C.M.J., J.S.). For the end of the year the largest number was 16 at Fishbourne on December 16th (P.R.M.).

**LONG-TAILED DUCK.** 334.—A female at Shoreham, chiefly on a lagoon near the rubbish dump, from January 28th (E.C.B., R.J.S.) to March 3rd (J.M.T.), being seen by many observers in the interval. A female on Pett Level pools on December 4th (D.D.H.).

**COMMON EIDER.** 337.—Two females off Langney Point during January, joined on the 31st by an immature male; last seen February 6th, unless the 2 females and an immature male flying in a westerly direction there on March 20th were the same birds (D.D.H.). One off West Wittering on January 13th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). A female close inshore off Camber on April 12th (H.A.R.C., H.J.C.S.). One off the Midrips on November 29th (H.E.A.). On December 7th an oiled female at Pagham (B.M.); on the 14th a female at the mouth of the Cuckmere (R.L.D.); on the 26th a female, apparently oiled, off Brighton (L.P.A., G.A.S.); on the 7th 4 females off Newhaven (J.H.B., D.D.H.) and lesser numbers (including an immature male) there later in the month (C.F.B. *et al.*).

**COMMON SCOTER.** 339.—Usual large numbers at both ends of the year in Rye Bay (J.A.). Despite daily watch, only one (oiled or otherwise disabled) seen there July 9th-18th (D.D.H.). L.P.A. records a big easterly movement off Newhaven on April 27th and May 4th. At the end of the year more than usual—c. 1,000 on December 30th—off Langney Point (D.D.H.).

**VELVET SCOTER.** 340.—C. 100 in Rye Bay on April 26th (D.D.H.). Two flying W off Langney Point on June 26th (D.D.H.). Two immatures on Piddinghoe pond on October 12th (C.M.J.) and December 18th (G.A.S.). Otherwise few recorded.

**GOOSANDER.** 342.—A brown-headed bird on the Cuckmere Old Channel on November 12th (D.G.N.) and 13th (D.D.H.).

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.** 343.—Only small numbers recorded which, however, were well distributed along the coast. Largest number: 12 in Chichester Harbour on January 13th (L.P.A.) and 13 there on December 27th (D.H.B., D.D.H.). There were 3 in Chichester gravel pits on December 19th (E.J.E.S.).

**SMEW.** 344.—More records than usual though no particularly hard weather. Unless otherwise indicated all records refer to "red-headed" birds. On January 7th 2 on Powdermills Reservoir (P.A.D.H.); on the 25th 3 on the Cuckmere Old Channel (D.D.H.); on the 26th and 27th one on Pett Level pools (H.A.R.C., A.D.W.); on February 10th 2 at Rye Harbour (J.A.); on the 16th and 22nd a drake and 2 others at Darwell Reservoir (R.L.D., E.P.T.); on November 30th 3 on flood water near Glynde (L.P.A.); on December 4th one at Rye Harbour gravel pits (J.A., D.D.H.); on the 14th 2 at Darwell Reservoir (E.C.B., G.A.S.); on the 15th a drake inshore at Rye Harbour (J.A.).

**CORMORANT.** 346/7.—On April 20th L.P.A. saw 2 with others on Seafood Head exhibiting "a large amount of white on head and neck in excess of that usually seen in this species." One at Knepp Lake on August 10th (G.A.S.).

**SHAG.** 348.—An immature off Newhaven, February 10th (C.F.B.) to 17th (L.P.A.); possibly also on January 20th (C.F.B.). An immature on Pett Level pools on February 16th and 21st (D.D.H.). One freshly dead, apparently shot, on Camber beach on October 18th (D.D.H.), and one off Pagham on December 26th (H.P.M.). Fully sufficient field notes supplied in all cases.

**GANNET.** 349.—Only records of interest relate to a first summer bird off Langney Point on various dates from June 1st to July 6th, probably a single individual which was seen with another first summer bird on June 18th. Others seen off Rye Harbour and Langney Point in July were all first summer birds except for one adult (D.D.H.).

**STORM-PETREL.** 350.—Three feeding off Langney Point after gales on November 1st and one there on the 8th in similar circumstances (D.D.H.). One over the Adur at Shoreham on November 3rd (J. Stafford).

**LEACH'S FORK-TAILED PETREL.** 351.—On October 26th one picked up exhausted in a churchyard at Whyke, Chichester (S.J.K.E.), and one seen on the same day at Manhood End in flight (J.S.). On October 31st one picked up dead near Horsham (D.L.D.) and on November 2nd one found dead at Cowfold (C.A.G.).

**MANX SHEARWATER.** 355.—On July 13th one flying E off Langney Point during a period of very strong SW winds (L.P.A.). "Black of upper parts contrasting with white under-parts in very marked degree." This appears to be the first July record for the county. One flying along the tideline at West Wittering on September 30th (W.R.P.B.).

**BALEARIC SHEARWATER.** 356.—One flying in a westerly direction off Langney Point during a westerly gale on September 3rd (D.D.H., *Brit. B.*, vol. xvi, p. 64).

**FULMAR PETREL.** 368.—Between April 20th and June 21st there are 5 records for the coast between Peacehaven and Langney Point. All are for single birds.

**GREAT CRESTED GREBE.** 370.—Westerly movements, comprising over 200 birds, off Pett Level during January (H.A.R.C., A.D.W.). Five at Darwell Reservoir on January 27th (D.D.H.); unusual inland in winter. Six breeding pairs on Chichester gravel pits (P.R.M.).

**RED-NECKED GREBE.** 371.—One at Pagham Lagoon on January 27th (J. Stafford). One, oiled, in summer plumage at Langney Point on September 17th. One close inshore in Chichester Harbour on December 12th (D.D.H.). **SLAVONIAN GREBE.** 373.—Two at Pagham, January 8th (M.G.) to February 2nd (B.M., P.R.M.). One in summer plumage off the mouth of the Cuckmere on April 3rd. One off Langney Point on October 12th (D.D.H.) and one at Newhaven on the 28th (A.H.W.S.). Three at Pagham on December 7th (H.P.M.).

**BLACK-NECKED GREBE.** 374.—C. 14 birds in all, including a party of 6 in Chichester Harbour on December 12th (D.D.H.).

**LITTLE GREBE.** 375.—Three on Powder Mills Reservoir on January 27th (D.D.H.); unusual inland in winter.

**GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.** 376.—One at Pagham on January 13th (M.G.) and 2 there on the 20th (B.M.). One recorded for Newhaven on various dates from January 11th (R.H.B.) to February 16th (C.M.V.). One dead at Rye Harbour gravel pits on March 10th (A.H.M.B.). One off Langney Point on November 18th (D.D.H.).

**BLACK-THROATED DIVER.** 378.—One off West Wittering on March 2nd (J. Stafford, C.M.V.).

**RED-THROATED DIVER.** 379.—One found alive at the Heritage Schools, Chailey, on January 31st (L.H.). May records were: 8 moving E off Newhaven on the 4th; one moving E off Brighton on the 8th; 4 moving E off Newhaven on the 11th (L.P.A.).

**WOOD-PIGEON.** 380.—On the afternoon of January 13th a careful estimate gave c. 2,000 in flocks on trees below Goodwood Racecourse (G.d.F., P.A.D.H.).

**TURTLE-DOVE.** 383.—One near Southsease on April 13th (A.M.D.); an early date.

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT.** 386.—Few on spring passage except c. 70 at Rye Harbour on May 1st. One at the same place on July 12th (D.D.H.). Autumn passage very small.

**BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.** 387.—Thirty or more at Thorney on February 24th (C.M.J.); presumably migrants as few or none seem to have wintered. Spring migration not observed elsewhere except for 6 on Pett Level on March 30th (H.A.R.C.) and 4 at Pagham on April 10th (M.J.). Three at Manhood End and 10 at West Wittering on June 19th (J. Stafford) and one at the Midrips on June 28th (D.D.H.). The first considerable number of autumn birds noted in Chichester Harbour were 170 at Thorney on July 12th (C.J.H.) but owing to the apparent dispersal of the birds, on most occasions, about the Harbour, the subsequent records indicate no clear picture. On July 20th and 27th there were c. 300 birds on Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); on August 21st c. 200 (J.R.) and on September 17th c. 250 on the mud flats (J. Stafford). Thereafter no records for the Harbour except for 3 at Manhood End on September 27th (J. Stafford).

A few autumn records, mostly of single birds, for the rest of the coast. On September 3rd 2 flew in from the SE at Pevensy Bay and continued inland (D.D.H.).

**COMMON CURLEW.** 388.—No large numbers recorded at either end of year. Two pairs reported on breeding ground in NW Sussex, one of which had young (R.S., M.W.). A westerly movement of odd birds at Langney Point on 5 dates from June 15th to July 23rd; during the same period odd birds flew in from S or SE there (D.D.H.). On June 18th 5 flying SW high over Glynde (L.P.A.).

**WHIMBREL.** 389.—One at the Midrips on June 28th. On July 3rd one flew in from SE at Langney Point, being first seen far out to sea; 5 on Rye Golf Links on the 12th; 5 flew S out to sea at Langney Point and 7 S out to sea at Beachy Head during a SW gale on August 9th (D.D.H.). One at Pagham on October 26th (C.M.V.).

**GREY PHALAROPE.** 400.—One at Rye Harbour on October 5th (J.A., E.G.) and one at Pagham on the 31st (C.J.H.); one at Southwick on November 5th (J.M.T.).

**RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.** 401.—Two on Pett Level pools, September 11th-16th (E.G., C.M.V. *et al.*). These birds were photographed. One at Pagham, September 15th-18th (M.G.). A drawing and description of this bird have been supplied. One on Hove bathing pool on October 5th (*Sussex Daily News* with photograph October 6th).

**TURNSTONE.** 402.—One at Rye Harbour on June 28th (C.M.J.). Three at Langney Point on July 23rd and 4 at Rye Harbour on the 26th (D.D.H.).

**KNOT.** 403.—July records are of 2 at the Midrips on the 17th and one at Rye Harbour on the 18th (D.D.H.) and 20th (A.D.W.). On September 6th 4 flew NE inland and 2 flew in from sea to work along coast at Langney Point (L.P.A.).

**DUNLIN.** 404/5.—On July 9th and 10th an increase in numbers at Rye Harbour (to c. 40) and Midrips-Wicks (to c. 60) where very few had summered (D.D.H.).

**CURLEW-SANDPIPER.** 406.—Only spring record; one at Rye Harbour on May 1st (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.). More autumn records than usual which, except as otherwise mentioned, are of single birds: at Manhood End on July 19th and 20th (K.B., C.J.H., C.W.G.P.); at the Midrips on the 26th and a different bird there on August 4th (D.H.B., D.D.H.); one (not necessarily the same) there on numerous dates until September 21st except for 2 there on the 20th (W.G.F.); at Thorney on September 7th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); 3 at Shoreham on September 15th (J.M.T., C.M.V.) to 21st (J. Stafford) and 2 there on the 28th (W.R.P.B.); 2 by the Cuckmere Old Channel, September 7th-20th (C.F.B., L.A.C.); at the Rother estuary on October 4th (D.D.H.); at Pagham on October 12th (M.J.) and 19th (J. Stafford) and at Shoreham on October 31st (R.J.S.).

**LITTLE STINT.** 407.—Four adults at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 31st (D.D.H.) followed by more records than usual for August, September and October. Largest number was 6 or 7 Midrips-Wicks, September 17th-21st (D.D.H., W.G.F.). One E of Newhaven on November 16th (C.M.V.) and probably the same bird there on the 23rd (C.M.J.).

**TEMINCK'S STINT.** 409.—One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 5th (D.D.H.). A full description has been given. The earliest autumn record for the county.

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER.** 413.—One at the Wicks, September 19th (W.G.F.) to 27th (L.A.C., D.D.H.) was seen in the interval by many observers and photographed.

The following description is based on notes made by G.d.F., D.D.H. and C.W.G.P.

In size was decidedly smaller than any of a score or so Dunlins which were in the vicinity but larger than Little Stints also present. On the ground had somewhat the shape of a Little Stint, being slimmer than a Dunlin, less hunched up and showing less belly and with the wings projecting some way beyond the tail. Bill short and black, appearing at certain angles very slightly decurved. Legs black. Plumage at first glance resembled Dunlin's but upper-parts had conspicuous "mottled," or "scaly," pattern due to buffish edgings to dark brown feathers. Head and breast buffish, latter noticeably streaked and with markings finishing abruptly giving American Pectoral Sandpiper appearance. Chin and throat whitish; rest of under-parts pure white. When preening the edge to the upper tail-coverts seen to be white with dark markings. In flight no white wing-bar but a quite plain greyish line across wing; tail somewhat pointed; central tail feathers dark, outer tail feathers greyish in contrast; whitish edge to upper tail-coverts. A short call on being flushed; krip or trip. In habit it was extremely tame and could be approached to within a few feet. It did not deliberately mix with other small waders.

The seventh British and the fourth Sussex record.  
**PURPLE SANDPIPER.** 415.—Twelve at Newhaven on November 23rd (C.M.J.) and 13 there on December 26th (R.H.B.), rather more than usual.  
**SANDERLING.** 416.—Numbers in the Rye Harbour-Camber area increased from 6 on July 9th to c. 30 on the 31st (D.D.H.).

**RUFF.** 417.—Three at Pett Level pools on February 10th (L.P.A.). One near Greatham Bridge on February 28th (D.D.H.). A male in mainly summer plumage at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 4th (K.E.I.B.) and 5th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.). The earliest autumn record for the county. Another there on the 13th, joined by a second on the 14th (D.D.H.). Normal numbers, August and September, the largest party being 5 at the Wicks on August 30th (D.D.H.) and the latest record being 2 at the Midrips on October 8th (D.D.H.).

**COMMON SANDPIPER.** 421.—Two by the Arun below Arundel on February 28th (D.D.H.); one at Manhood End on March 23rd (L.P.A.). Three at Langney Point on June 25th (D.D.H.). Autumn birds arrived in strength in mid-July, 15 being seen at Thorney on the 12th (K.B.) and 22 between Piddinghoe and Newhaven on the 13th (C.M.J.). On November 1st one at Piddinghoe (G.A.S.) and one at Pagham (J.R.); on the 16th one at Manhood End (E.I.E.S.) and again on the 22nd (J.S.) and December 14th (E.I.E.S.).

**WOOD-SANDPIPER.** 423.—Much commoner in autumn than usual. At the Wicks, 3 on August 16th (D.D.H.); 9 on the 17th (L.P.A., C.M.J.); at least 12 on the 23rd (L.A.C.); 5 on the 30th (D.D.H.). At Rye Harbour gravel pits, 2 on July 26th; 1 on the 31st (D.D.H.); one on August 4th (D.H.B., D.D.H.); 2 on the 15th and up to 3 there until the first week in September (J.A.); one on September 27th (L.A.C., D.D.H.). By the Rother, 6 on August 7th (J.A.). At Pett Level, 6 on August 3rd (A.D.W.). In the lower Cuckmere valley, 3 on August 15th (D.D.H.). At Thorney, 2 on August 16th, 3 on the 24th and 30th (K.B.); 2 or 3 thence onward to September 7th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); one September 13th (K.B.), 14th and 21st (R.W.C.).

**GREEN SANDPIPER.** 424.—One in Chichester gravel pits on June 8th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and 2 on the 22nd (L.P.A.). First autumn birds on July 11th, one at Rye Harbour gravel pits, and on 13th when c. 6 were seen at Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P., C.M.V.). Largest numbers were 12 at Thorney on July 26th (K.B., C.J.H.) and 15 on Rother saltings on August 7th (J.A.).

**BRITISH REDSHANK.** 428.—Thirty-two pairs raised young in the Rye Harbour-Rye Marsh area (J.A.).

**SPOTTED REDSHANK.** 431.—Two at Thorney on July 20th where one or 2 were present until September 7th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and one there on October 5th (L.P.A.). Six others recorded, mostly in ones, for the coast in autumn.

**GREENSHANK.** 432.—Few recorded in spring. First recorded in autumn on July 5th, one Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H.). On the 12th there were 14 at Thorney. Maximum number was of over 65 in a concentration at high tide at Thorney on September 5th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). C. 20 at Pagham on August 21st (M.G.).

**LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.** 438.—Two at Sidlesham on April 12th (J. Stafford, C.M.V.) and 13th (L.P.A.); one, calling, crossed Thorney in an easterly direction on April 30th (D.D.H.); 2 at Pett Level pools on May 4th (K.E.I.B.); 3 at Thorney on July 27th (C.W.G.P.) and one there on September 10th (C.R.T.).

At its principal station 4 pairs attempted to breed, 2 appear to have raised young and the other 2 laid twice (L.P.A., P.R.M. *et al.*). At its other station 3 pairs attempted to breed but none appear to have raised young, although one at least hatched in June (R.W.M.). On August 2nd one scrape here held 2 chicks and 2 addled eggs but even this late attempt came to nothing (S.J.K.E., P.R.M., J.R. *et al.*).

**KENTISH PLOVER.** 439.—A male in the lower Cuckmere valley on March 30th (D.D.H.).

**GOLDEN PLOVER.** 440/1.—C. 400 at East Head, West Wittering on January 13th and c. 200 there on February 22nd (L.P.A.). Three flew in from the S at Langney Point on March 9th (D.D.H.). Two of the Northern race in breeding plumage at Thorney on April 6th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and one of the Southern race there on April 30th (D.D.H.). One on the Seven Sisters on August 1st (D.D.H.) and a small party at Thorney on August 3rd (C.W.G.P.). On November 6th 2 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point (D.D.H.). In mid-

November c. 200 for 10 days 1½ miles NW of Lewes (S.H.F.); on December 4th c. 200 on Broomhill Level (D.D.H.).

**GREY PLOVER.** 444.—On June 7th one at the mouth of the Rother (D.D.H.). On November 30th one flying with Golden Plover at Glynde (L.P.A.). Wintering population at Pagham c. 60 (P.R.M.).

**DOTTEREL.** 446.—One at the Midrips, September 13th-19th (W.G.F. *et al.*).

**LAPWING.** 449.—On February 3rd c. 40 came in from the sea at Newhaven (L.P.A.). On November 28th one, and on the 30th 3 flew in from the S at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On December 7th 70-80 flew out to sea near Black Rock, Brighton (E.C.B.), and several flocks flew out to sea at Cuckmere Haven (C.M.J.).

**AVOCET.** 451.—On March 8th 4 flying low over the sea off Winchelsea Beach heading W turned S out to sea (H.A.R.C.). Three at Manhood End on May 17th (S.J.K.E.).

**BRITISH OYSTERCATCHER.** 452.—Three pairs attempted to breed at Pagham but without success (B.M.). A trio had 5 eggs in the Rye area on May 13th but were robbed (E.G.). At a second attempt 2 young were brought to the free flying stage (J.A., D.D.H.). In the same area a pair, having lost its first clutch, later raised one young (J.A., D.D.H.).

**BLACK TERN.** 462.—Three over the Cuckmere Old Channel on April 29th (A.H.W.S.). Four at Pagham on April 30th (E. & I.F.). Six at Pett Level pools and one at Rye Harbour on May 3rd (H.A.R.C.). One at Pett Level pools on May 4th (K.E.I.B.). One at Manhood End on May 16th (E.J.E.S.) and 17th (P.R.M.). About 35 recorded for the autumn, between August 1st and October 21st, the maximum number in one area being 19 at Pett Level pools on August 20th (A.D.W.). All records were from the coast, except for one or 2 birds on various dates from October 5th to 21st at Chichester gravel pits (E.J.E.S.).

**GULL-BILLED TERN.** 465.—On June 26th 6 were feeding for some hours off Langney Point and on July 4th one passed eastwards there very close in-shore (D.D.H.); *Brit. B.* vol. xlv, p. 371).

**SANDWICH TERN.** 467.—First seen on April 10th at Pagham (J.R.). A large eastward movement off Newhaven on May 4th (L.P.A.). As usual birds were present on the coast during the second half of June and July, most being c. 10 at Rye Harbour on June 28th (D.D.H., C.M.J.).

**ROSEATE TERN.** 468.—Three flying W at Rye Harbour on June 2nd. They were calling loudly (D.H.B., D.D.H.). One at Winchelsea Beach on July 16th and one, perhaps the same, later that day at Rye Harbour gravel pits and again on the following day (D.D.H.). One, again perhaps the same, seen at the ternery at Rye Harbour gravel pits on several dates between July 25th and August 10th (J.A.).

**COMMON TERN.** 469.—At Rye Harbour gravel pits c. 155 pairs attempted breeding and 80-100 young reached the free-flying stage (J.A.). At the Midrips 3 young were reared (D.D.H.).

**ARCTIC TERN.** 470.—Only record of interest, one at Langney Point on July 30th (D.D.H.).

**LITTLE TERN.** 471.—At the Midrips c. 12 pairs attempted to breed; at Rye Harbour c. 27 pairs (J.A.); and at Pagham Harbour c. 20 pairs (B.M.).

**LITTLE GULL.** 477.—A party of 5 (3 first winter, one second winter, one adult) off Broomhill on October 4th. Otherwise all records for Langney Point where there was an adult on October 10th, single first winter birds on October 16th, 17th and 19th and November 5th, and a party of 2 adults and a first winter bird on October 22nd (D.D.H.).

**BLACK-HEADED GULL.** 478.—On March 20th at Langney Point an almost continuous stream in small parties of up to 30 birds flew in from the S and continued NE along the coast (D.D.H.). On April 20th, 27th, May 11th and 25th L.P.A. observed an E passage of immature birds off Newhaven. C. 68 pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour gravel pits but were heavily robbed and hardly any young reared (J.A.).

**BRITISH LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.** 485.—One at Hove on January 4th (G.A.S.) and one at Brighton on December 27th (C.M.V.).

**ICELAND GULL.** 488.—An immature at Langney Point on March 13th (D.D.H.). "Rather smaller and slighter than a Herring Gull. Typical buoyant flight. Upper-parts mottled light brownish except for wing-tips which were nearly white. Seen only in flight with Herring Gulls."

**KITTIWAKE.** 489.—Single birds at Rye Harbour and Langney Point during June and July (D.H.B., D.D.H., P.A.D.H.).

**GREAT SKUA.** 491.—One found in a Seaford garden on January 17th which recovered sufficiently to fly away on February 16th (J.D.M.). Good views of one molesting Gannets off the mouth of the Rother on July 12th (D.D.H.). The first county record for this month.

**ARCTIC SKUA.** 493.—Records much as last year. Spring records are of one off the midrips flying E on April 27th (L.C.B.); 2 off Langney Point flying E. on May 2nd (D.D.H.); one there the following day (L.P.A.); and 2 immature birds off Newhaven flying E. on May 4th (L.P.A.). Autumn records are from July 15th to October 4th and refer to c. 13 birds.

**SOUTHERN GUILLEMOT.** 499.—One off Langney Point on June 25th (D.D.H.).

**LITTLE AUK.** 502.—One off Rye Harbour on December 15th (J.A.).

**SOUTHERN PUFFIN.** 503.—One off Rye Harbour on July 23rd (J.A.).

**CORN-CRAKE.** 504.—One at Sidlesham on August 19th (J.V.S.); one on September 3rd or 4th killed by telegraph wires outside Rye (J.A., E.G.) and one at Pett Level on September 16th (W.G.F.).

**COOT.** 511.—At Pagham wintering birds arrived earlier and were more numerous (c. 215 on November 30th) than usual (B.M.).

**QUAIL.** 520.—One calling in barley near Alfriston from July 6th to 10th and 2 there on the 8th (L.A.C.); one calling in mixed corn and vetch crop near Rottingdean from July 12th to 14th (G.d.F.) and one calling half-mile E of Winchelsea Station on July 21st and 22nd (E.G.).