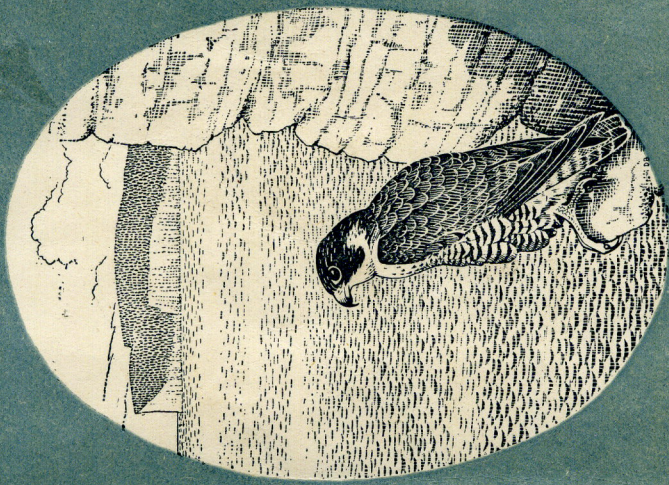


THE SUSSEX  
BIRD REPORT

1954



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

PRICE: FIVE SHILLINGS



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## THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

The first Sussex Bird Report covered the year 1948 and it now appears annually in May and reports on the previous calendar year. It is entirely supported by the proceeds of sales to subscribers, the number of which limits its size and determines the price.

We adopt the order and also the serial numbers used in the B.O.U. check-list (1952). The English names are in general those used in *British Birds* (vide Vol. XLVI, p.1.)

**Objects.**—The principal object is to record in a systematic order unusual occurrences, whether of birds rare at any time of the year or of commoner birds seen at unusual times of year or in unusual localities. In addition, records are published which give detailed information on migration, since relatively little is known on this subject, and counts of breeding populations and other work of a fairly exact nature.

A secondary object is to publish information on Sussex birds within the scope of the principal object mentioned above but not relating to the year of the Report and which has either not been published before or if published and accepted as correct seems open to doubt upon consideration of unpublished details. Generally, this information will come from unpublished diaries but it is perhaps worth adding that only the more important records of previous years will be dealt with. We should greatly appreciate the chance to see any diaries and similar material known to readers.

The Report is in no sense a guide to Sussex birds and it cannot be fully appreciated without a good knowledge of the subject or frequent reference to *A History of Sussex Birds* (1938). Considerations of space prevent us from taking a wider view of the function of county reporting.

**Contributions.**—We welcome contributions from all observers but reserve the right to decide what to include in the Report without explanation. All records are, however, kept on separate species-sheets and much which is not referred to in the Report may prove of value in years to come. Care is taken to assess the accuracy of records, but observers would greatly assist if they would particularly study the note on this subject which appeared on page 1 of *British Birds* Vol. xiv.

It is helpful if records are sent in periodically, but not more often than at 3-monthly intervals (except in the case of extreme rarities which should be reported immediately), but observers are particularly asked to avoid sending in a large volume of notes after the end of the year when the Report is being drafted. If periodic instalments are burdensome then observers are asked to send the bulk of their records along in November or December and then a supplementary sheet covering the last weeks or days of the year later. All records should be received by us not later than mid-February.

Many regular contributors do not normally send records unless specifically asked to do so by letter. The extra correspondence entailed for this reason—as well as in collecting the price of the Report—ought surely to be unnecessary!

**Abbreviations.**—"G.P.": gravel pits. "S.F.": Sewage Farm. "E," "W," etc.: cardinal points of the compass are intended only to give a general direction unless the context indicates otherwise. In particular this applies to birds going up or down the Channel and which are referred to as flying E or W.

# THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT 1954

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

OBTAINABLE FROM G. DES FORGES,  
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ADDITION TO 1953 REPORT

42. **SPOONBILL**.—The bird at the Midrips was first seen on May 11th (R. C. Holmes).  
171. **LITTLE STINT**.—One at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 6th (D.D.H.).  
179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**.—One at the Midrips on May 11th and 12th (R. C. Holmes).  
207. **LITTLE GULL**.—A first year bird at Hove on November 9th and one at Newhaven on the 14th (G.A.S.).

## WILDFOWL COUNTS, 1954-55

The following areas have been covered this season:—Pagharn Harbour, Chichester Harbour, Darwell Reservoir, Cuckmere, Eridge Park and Bayham Abbey (these are probably one "unit") and Amberley Wild Brooks. I am most grateful to all the observers who have sent in reports as they are seldom rewarded by large numbers of wildfowl.

There must be many small waters scattered through the county which hold small numbers of ducks. I should always be glad to receive information on such waters, with a view to including them in the existing count.

J. REYNOLDS,

*Regional Organiser.*

## THE SUSSEX RECORDS OF CORY'S SHEARWATER

In an article in *British Birds* in February, 1952 (Vol. xlv, pp.41-55); doubt is thrown upon nearly all the Sussex (and Kent) records of Cory's Shearwater because of the dates on which they occurred.

The first two Sussex records accepted by *The Handbook* are:

A bird of the Mediterranean sub-species picked up dead on the beach at Pevensy on February 21st, 1906.

A bird of the North Atlantic sub-species found dead on the beach at West St. Leonards on March 14th, 1914.

The author of the article referred to above, Mr. E. M. Nicholson, suggests that even these first two records in which the birds were obtained are of somewhat doubtful authenticity in view of the dates (February and March) and hints at the possibility of "humanly assisted" passages for these birds. The same criticism, incidentally, is made of the one record for Kent, a bird washed ashore alive at Dungeness on January 21st, 1901. But examples of other warm-water species have turned up on British coasts during the first three months of the year or in almost equally "unlikely" months. Running through the petrel-shearwater records given in *The Handbook* one at once notices, for example, Madeiran Fork-tailed Petrel, four records, one for October, two for November, one for December; Frigate Petrel, two records, one for November, one for January; Cape Verde Little Shearwater, two records, one for November, one for January; Audubon's Shearwater, one record, for January. Yet, so far as I am aware these records are not questioned on similar grounds.

In fact it seems significant that in the cases of these (and other) species all records have been either for winter or late autumn. This in itself would seem almost enough to rule out "assisted passage," for why should this operate *only* at such seasons? It is surely much more reasonable to suppose that precisely during these frequently stormy months of late autumn and winter, stragglers of such warm-water species get blown far off their courses by rough weather and may then turn up, often dead or exhausted, on our coasts. It seems more plausible to suppose that a bird should be carried great distances in severe gales rather than that it should travel somewhat shorter distances beyond its normal range of its own volition. It therefore seems reasonable to believe that Cory's Shearwater, like other similar species, occurs in the Channel at "unlikely" times as a vagrant.

Such a status for this species appears almost to be recognised by Mr. Nicholson himself. For he writes: "it is difficult to feel much assurance over the various sight records of occurrences farther up the Channel of this essentially warm-water species, which seems unlikely to occur otherwise than

as a vagrant east of Cornwall except possibly in late August and September." In actual fact the existing records from the Sussex coast are extremely few and hence fully in accord with the suggested status of vagrant in this part of the Channel.

This brings me to the last three records for the county which are all sight records. The first of these is accepted by *The Handbook* and was seen from a ship some way off Newhaven on September 21st, 1936. It might perhaps be the one record for the county which Mr. Nicholson, on the basis of his remarks quoted above, might consider "possible."

The last two records are of birds seen by me (one on each occasion) off Langney Point on October 15th, 1948 and November 19th, 1950. Since these two birds were accepted on the basis of the descriptions given by *British Birds* (xlii, p. 218 and xlv, p. 284), the latter when Mr. Nicholson himself was already editor-in-chief, and since they are now challenged on the *a priori* grounds which have just been dealt with, no further comment seems necessary, except perhaps to say that having since seen Balearic Shearwaters on various occasions I remain confident that the above birds were Cory's Shearwaters.

It remains to dispose of one more point made by Mr. Nicholson. He regards it as a "puzzling feature" that no further British specimens of Cory's Shearwater have been obtained for so long a period (since 1914). As two of the three specimens came from Sussex it may be of interest, by way of comparison, to point out that this is by no means a unique state of affairs. For instance four specimens of the Black Guillemot were obtained off Sussex between 1882 and 1898. Since then, for some 57 years, none, so far as I am aware, has been obtained here and only one (1950) seen, yet no one, I believe, has yet suggested that these 19th century birds had "humanly assisted" passages.

D.D.H.

## SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES ON THE DIARIES OF R. MORRIS

In the 1951 Report we indicated certain revisions of records published in *A History of Sussex Birds* (J. Walpole-Bond) and *The Birds of Eastbourne* (E. C. Arnold) which a study of the above diaries had, in our opinion, rendered necessary. We have since found two more such records which we had previously overlooked.

**Brent Goose.** *A History of Sussex Birds* gives very few records of this species from the interior of the county. All are of one or two birds only except for "about thirty seen fighting over Uckfield on February 2nd, 1901." The authority for this record is given as "R. Morris, 'Private Notes,'" but the diary, having stated that parties of two, about 20 and eight, "all flying at a great height," passed over, goes on to state: "the great height at which they flew rendered it impossible to be at all certain of the plumage but I presume that the largest party were Brent geese, and possibly the others were of the same, tho' the plumage seemed hardly dark enough." There is thus no evidence whatever that these were Brents and it is far more probable that they were grey geese.

**Bewick's Swan.** *A History of Sussex Birds* states that "on January 23rd, 1893, Mr. R. Morris thinks that he identified a 'Bewick' at Pevensey." From the diary it is evident that this bird was actually seen from the Crumbles and that the evidence for it being a Bewick's is negligible. The bird was only seen "flying high" and Morris writes; "it would be difficult for me to decide the exact species but I did not think it to be a very large bird; my opinion is that it was the Bewick Swan (*Cygnus Bewickii*) but it would be impossible for me to say with any certainty."

D.D.H.



## CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1954

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER**.—One in Newhaven Harbour on January 31st; one on the Ouse below Lewes on March 14th (L.P.A.). One at Pagham on December 12th (B.A.E.M., R.R., J. Stafford).

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**.—One in flight off W. Wittering on January 9th (C.M.J.); an oiled bird close inshore at Pagham on the 17th (A.A., C.R.T.) and one at Southwick from February 10th until it was killed (oiled) on the 27th (J. Stafford *et al.*). One off the mouth of the Cuckmere on March 1st (A.H.W.S.).

First seen at the end of the year on November 13th off Langney Point (D.D.H.) and then during December off-shore at East Head (L.P.A. *et al.*); Selsey Bill (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); Pagham (J.R., J.J.S.). Also one at Darwell Reservoir on December 19th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 24th (M.H.P.) and one in Newhaven Harbour from November 28th to the end of the year (C.M.J., G.A.S.).

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER**.—Besides the usual records for the species: One at the head of Glynde Reach on February 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one, dead, at Darwell on March 7th (G.A.S.) and one, oiled, there on April 4th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One, oiled, at Pond Leigh, March 24th-April 23rd (J.A.W.).

*May records:* one, oiled, on Pitdown Pond, 15th to 18th (R.S.); 2 flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere on the 9th; one on the 16th and one on the 23rd (L.P.A.); one off the mouth of the Rother on the 22nd (D.D.H.); 3 there on August 28th (D.D.H.).

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE**.—Inland records for winter months: 2 at Darwell Reservoir on January 3rd (G.A.S.); 4 there on the 27th (R.H.C.) and 2 there on February 7th (G.T.C., G.A.S.); one on Balcombe Lake on December 19th (L.P.A.). At least 5 pairs at Knepp on May 10th (R.J.S.).

*In Jute:* one off Rye Harbour on the 5th (D.D.H.); one off Thorney Island on the 6th (G.H.R.) and 3 there on the 19th (C.M.V.). On July 15th 3 in Chidham Channel (D.E.P.) and an immature in Thorney Channel on the 22nd (C.R.T.).

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE**.—One at Newhaven on January 30th and 31st (L.P.A.) and February 1st (R.H.C.). One at Aldsworth ponds on March 24th (G.H.R.).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE**.—More recorded than usual at both ends of the year. Single birds seen at the beginning of the year off Langney Point (R.H.C., D.D.H.); at Newhaven (L.P.A., C.M.J., H.P.M., G.A.S.); off Brighton (L.P.A.); at Southwick and Shoreham (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.) and in early March there were 2 off W. Wittering (H.P.M.) and 2 at Newhaven (A.H.W.S.). Most recorded at the end of the year were c. 6 off W. Wittering in late December (L.P.A. *et al.*)

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE**.—Much the same numbers as usual. One at Darwell Reservoir on March 7th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

9. **LITTLE GREBE**.—2 at Darwell Reservoir on January 3rd (G.A.S.) and one there on the 27th (R.H.C.). Several on the Ouse above Barcombe Mills at the beginning and end of the year as is usual there (S.H.F.).

12. **LEACH'S PETREL**.—One flying westerly 100-150 yards off Langney Point on September 24th. "A small, white-rumped petrel appearing larger and sturdier than a Storm Petrel. Upper-parts distinctly brownish, not black and with a lighter area along the wing-coverts. No white seen on either side of wings." A strong S.W. wind (R.H.C., D.D.H.). The 4th county record for this month.

26. **FULMAR**.—Records of single birds (once 2) between May 4th and June 15th flying along the coast between Langney Point and Peacehaven. On December 12th C.M.J. saw one flying E over Brighton front.

27. **GANNET**.—No records, as usual, for February and March and none for April. In May first recorded on the 20th and thereafter many recorded, much as usual.

28. **CORMORANT**.—11 at Darwell Reservoir on February 6th (F.W.). On December 26th 20 at Wiggonholt and Amberley (M.H.P.). About 30 non-breeding birds in Thorney Channel in April, May and June (C.R.T.). Birds with an unusual amount of white on the head and neck suggestive of the breeding dress of the Southern form were seen in coastal localities in January, February and March. As birds exhibiting an unusual amount of white have occurred regularly since a look-out was kept for them, we do not propose to publish such records in future unless further information is available as to the reliability of the field identification of the Southern Cormorant by this feature.

29. **SHAG**.—Up to 4 at Southwick at the beginning of the year. First seen, February 7th (J.M.T.); 2 of them died during this month, one oiled. One had been ringed as a young bird in the Farne Islands in July, 1953. Last seen, March 1st (R.R., J. Stafford). Single birds at Newhaven on various dates between February 7th and April 11th (L.P.A., C.M.J., G.A.S.) and 2 there on March 20th (C.M.J.). One near Palace Pier, Brighton, on February 21st (C.F.B.).

One on the Ouse north of Newhaven on September 18th and 26th (C.F.B.). One at Newhaven on various dates between October 31st to December 18th (C.M.J., G.A.S.) and 2 there on December 19th (C.M.J.). An adult at Langney Point on November 28th (after severe gales) and an immature there on December 1st (D.D.H.). An immature, apparently injured, at Pagham on December 5th (J.J.S.) and one there on the 28th (R.R.). This species has only been regularly recorded in the county since 1951, but may have previously been overlooked.

30. **HERON**.—On January 31st, during the cold spell, 2 flew in from the SE near the mouth of the Cuckmere (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

The number of occupied nests were: Fishbourne, 20 (R.M.C.); Parham, 39 (G.S.T.); Henfield, 4 (C.A.G.); Firle Decoy Pond, 2 (E.P.T.); Glynde, 19 (E.P.T.); Glyntleigh, 19 (R.H.C.); Eridge, 35 (F.W.); Great Park Wood, Udimore, 4 (J.A.); Leasham, 42 (J.A.). Great Park Wood, Udimore, which has not been used since 1947 is reported to have been re-occupied in 1951. In 1952 and 1953 there were 2 nests (E.M.C.).

On September 22nd one flew S till lost to sight at Langney Point (R.H.C.).

36. **NIGHT HERON**.—C.A.G. describes being shown one in the immature brown plumage in an alder hedge on the watermeadows near Lancing College, on December 12th. It appeared disinclined to move from the hedge and on the ground it appeared very tired and dejected. The possibility of its having come from Edinburgh Zoo cannot be overlooked (*vide Brit. B.* vol. xlvii, p. 353).

38. **BITTERN**.—One found dead at Pagham on February 2nd (per J. Stafford); one found in an emaciated condition near Warnham Pond on the 11th (D.L.D.); one found dead near the Adur at Shoreham on the 16th was seen by J. Stafford.

42. **SPOONBILL**.—One at the Midrips on November 8th (A. Bibby and Whitgift School Selborne Soc. per H.A.R.C.).



45. **MALLARD**.—Numbers everywhere quite low. At the new Weir Wood Reservoir, Forest Row, c. 200 on November 7th (G.A.S., R.J.S.) was the largest count for the end of the year.

46. **TEAL**.—Numbers also low. Most recorded were c. 400, Glynde level, on December 22nd (R.H.C.) and 300-400, Amberley Wild Brooks and Wiggonholt, on December 26th (M.H.P.). There were c. 30 on Weir Wood Reservoir, Forest Row, on November 7th (R.J.S.).

47. **GARGANEY**.—Between mid-March and mid-April 35-40 birds recorded from the coast and the levels. A few were recorded for May including a male on Swanbourne Lake, Arundel Park, on the 12th but in June there were only a pair at Darwell Reservoir (L.A.C.) and a female at Rye Harbour G.P. (R.H.C., D.D.H.). None found on Pevensey Levels during the breeding season (D.D.H.).

49. **GADWALL**.—One, Rye Harbour G.P. on May 16th (D.H.B., R.H.C.) and 3, Amberley Wild Brooks on December 5th (G.A.S.). Details of identification have been supplied.

50. **WIGEON**.—Largest numbers were 600-700 at Pagham on February 6th (M.G.) and c. 300 on Glynde level between February 13th and March 6th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). 2 males and 2 females at the Wicks on May 1st and 2 males and 4 females there on the 5th (D.D.H.). One at the Midrips on August 28th (D.D.H.) and one in the lower Cuckmere valley on the 30th (R.H.C.). On September 5th, 12, Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H.). C. 250 off the Seven Sisters on November 19th (D.D.H.).

52. **PINTAIL**.—No very large numbers. C. 30 in Chichester Harbour in January and February (L.P.A., D.F.B., G.H.R.); 11 in the lower Cuckmere valley on January 27th (D.D.H.); 18, Seaford Bay, on the 31st (L.P.A.) and c. 75 at the Midrips on March 14th (R.H.C., G.R.C., J.C.S.). A male at Thorney on June 6th (C.J.H., G.H.R.). Largest number at the end of the year was 25 off East Head, W. Wittering, on December 26th (L.P.A., C.R.T.).

53. **SHOVELER**.—Numbers much as usual. At Rye Harbour G.P. there were 3 drakes and 2 ducks on May 23rd (R.H.C.) and a drake there on June 4th. There were 2 birds there on July 24th (D.D.H.). There was a drake at the Wicks until May 26th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). At Thorney 2, probably 3, pairs bred. 2 nests were found and a brood seen (A.A., G.H.R., C.R.T.). One at Pett Level pools on August 12th (E.M.C.). A pair on Weir Wood Reservoir, Forest Row, on September 14th (E.R.G.K.).

55. **SCAUP**.—More about than usual at the beginning of the year (cold spell) at the western end of the county but numbers were small, 20 to 50 at Pagham between February 6th and March 7th (B.M. *et al.*) being the most recorded. One at Pett Level pools on October 18th (R.H.C.).

56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—150-200 at Pagham on February 6th (M.G.). The largest number at Darwell Reservoir at the beginning of the year was 22 on January 3rd (G.A.S.). There were c. 50 there on November 21st (G.A.S.). 2 pairs at Darwell during the breeding season and one nest found there (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

57. **POCHARD**.—Numbers lower than usual; maxima: 60, Piddinghoe pond on January 30th (L.P.A.); 50, Pett Level Pools on March 1st (E.M.C.); 40, Seaford Bay, January 31st (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

A pair at Thorney until May 16th (A.A., G.H.R.). A duck at Pett Level pools on the 23rd (G.d.F., D.D.H., C.W.G.P.) and one there on August 22nd (M.H.P., G.A.S.). 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on October 17th (M.H.P.).

60. **GOLDENEYE**.—Very much as usual but unusual localities include one on Hove boating Lagoon on February 8th and one at Darwell on November 21st and December 19th (M.H.P.).

62. **VELVET SCOTER**.—Few recorded except for c. 75 off Langney Point on November 30th after southerly gales (D.D.H.).

64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—Rather more than usual recorded from the western end of the county; c. 150 off Pagham on November 4th (M.G.) and c. 120 off Selsey Bill on the 29th (C.R.T.). Between June 6th and 29th a westerly movement was seen from Langney Point (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and Hove (G.A.S.).

67. **EIDER**.—Up to 5 off East Head, W. Wittering, between January 1st and February 14th (many observers). One at Pagham on February 7th (B.M.) and April 10th (J. Stafford, J.M.T.) and 21st (A.H.W.S.). 6 flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere on May 9th (L.P.A.). A female flying W off Langney Point on November 12th (D.D.H.); 2 first winter males off Selsey Bill on the 29th (C.R.T.) but apparently none wintering in the county at the end of the year.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**.—Only a few at the beginning of the year. Inland records are of one at Darwell on January 27th (R.H.C.) and one at Chichester G.P. on March 7th (A.A.).

One off Langney Point on May 8th (L.P.A.) and 3 flying E off the Wicks on the 9th (R.H.C.). A drake, able to fly only very short distances, summered, first at the Wicks and later at the mouth of the Rother (D.D.H.).

Large numbers were seen in Chichester Harbour, probably as a result of gales: 87 on November 26th (C.R.T.); 51 on the 28th (L.P.A., J.S.); c. 130 on December 18th (P.R.M.).

70. **GOOSANDER**.—Many more records than usual, no doubt the result of the cold spell. January 1st, 2 in Chichester Channel (P.R.M., J.R.); between January 12th and February 21st one at Manhood End (many observers); one, possibly the same, in flight over Thorney on January 31st (G.A.S.); on January 6th one at Pagham (A.A., C.R.T.) and on the 23rd (A.A.); 4 males there on February 4th (A.A.) and one on the 21st (R.J.S.); on the 14th 3 on the Arun near Tortington (F.P.); February 4th or 5th, one shot on the Adur and shown to J. Stafford; on the 7th one and on the 24th 2, Newhaven (R.H.C., C.M.J.); on the 21st 2 on the Ouse above Southsea (L.P.A.); on the 17th 3 off the Seven Sisters (R.H.C.); on the 28th 3, one, an adult male, the Midrips (R.H.C., G.T.C.).

From November 20th to the end of the year, one, lower Cuckmere (D.D.H. *et al.*); a male off East Head on December 27th (P.R.M.); one at Manhood End from December 27th to the end of the year (A.A., P.R.M., J.R., C.R.T.). Except where otherwise stated all records refer to "red-headed" birds.

71. **SMEW**.—This species was also much more plentiful than usual. At Manhood End varying numbers, at least 4 males and five red-headed birds involved, between January 24th and March 28th (S.J.K.E. *et al.*). At Pagham 3, January 31st-February 4th (A.A., B.A.E.M.) and 6 there (one drake) on February 6th and 7th (A.A., M.G.). On the Arun near Tortington, one on January 31st and 2 on February 14th (F.P.). At Wiggonholt one on March 21st (M.H.P., G.A.S.). At Southwick 3 on February 1st (B.A.E.M.) and 2 there on the 17th (J.M.T.). At Hove one at the Lagoon February 3rd-12th (C.F.B., M.H.P., R.J.S., G.A.S.) and 2 flying W off the front (G.A.S.). Off Brighton 4 on February 4th (A.A.B.). At Newhaven one, January 30th-February 4th (L.P.A., D.D.H.). At Piddinghoe one January 30th (L.P.A.)



and 3 there on February 13th and 14th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). At Southeast one on February 21st (L.P.A.) and one (an adult male) there on the 28th (C.F.B.). Lower Cuckmere one, January 31st-February 7th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). At Princes Park, Eastbourne, one, February 10th-16th (R.H.C.). At Powder Mill Reservoir 2 on January 24th (H.P.M.). At Wadhurst Lake 2 (one an adult male) on February 14th (G.P.). At Rye Harbour G.P. 8 on February 6th, 7 on the 7th (F.J.W.) and one on the 21st (R.H.C., G.T.C., J.C.S.). On December 10th, 2, Cuckmere Old Channel (D.D.H.) and on the 17th 2 off Manhood End (P.R.M.).

73. **SHELD-DUCK**.—One at Darwell on January 27th (R.H.C.), C. 700, East Head, W. Wittering on January 10th (D.F.B., G.H.R.) C. 45 at the Midrips on February 10th (F.J.W.). C. 300 at Pagham on the 22nd (C.R.T.). A pair raised 7 young at Chichester G.P. (A.A.). A pair probably attempted to breed again in the lower Cuckmere valley but left after extensive dredging operations (G.T.C.). A pair with 5 newly hatched young at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 14th (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**.—2 at Pagham on January 3rd (C.R.T.). 26 near Henfield on the 30th (R.R.). 25 in flight near Tunbridge Wells on February 2nd (G.P.) and 35 flying SW near Folkington on the same day (J.C.S.). 9 flying SW near Folkington on the 3rd (J.C.S.). 2 at Pagham on the 3rd and 7th (A.A.). 5 at Amberley Wild Brooks on the 7th (J. Stafford). C. 36 on Glynde Levels on the 13th (M.H.P.) and c. 70 there on the 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). An immature, rather late if not pricked, in the lower Cuckmere valley March 26th-28th (G.T.C., D.D.H., G.A.S.).

Five on Pett Level on November 20th, 2 at the Wicks on December 24th (R.H.C.) and 2 flying over Rye Harbour on the 27th (M.H.P.).

80. **BRENT GOOSE**.—All records relate to dark-breasted birds where sub-species could be determined. On January 3rd one off the Seven Sisters (D.D.H.) and 16 at Pagham (C.R.T.) with smaller numbers there until March 25th when there were 4 (H.P.M.). A few in Chichester Harbour in early January but 29 on the 31st (G.A.S.) and 38 on February 28th (C.R.T.). One at Newhaven on February 3rd and 4th (D.D.H.). One off Hove on the 2nd and about 18 flying E there on March 12th (G.A.S.). Up to 7 between Camber and the Wicks, February 10th-March 14th (several observers). One in the lower Cuckmere valley on May 26th was seen at close range by G.T.C. It flew strongly out to sea.

One at Pagham on November 4th (M.G.) and subsequently. Five there from December 24th to 31st (J.R.). One in Chichester Harbour on November 21st (G.C.H.) and up to 12 there in December (L.P.A., C.R.T. *et al.*). Sixteen in all flew westerly off Langney Point on November 10th (D.D.H.) and one on December 24th (J.C.S.).

85. **WHOOPER SWAN**.—On February 3rd 3 flying over Pagham (M.G.); on the 7th 2 immatures at Dell Quay (G.H.R., C.R.T.); on the 9th 3 adults at Pett Level (F.J.W.); on the 27th an immature at Pagham (A.A., D.F.B., G.H.R.).

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN**.—An immature in the lower Cuckmere valley on January 31st (L.P.A., D.D.H. *et al.*) and on February 1st and 2nd (G.T.C.). Three adults at Newhaven on the 7th (C.M.J.). February 10th-13th, 5, Rye Harbour G.P.-Camber (F.J.W.). One at the Midrips on the 14th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). On February 14th there were 8 at Pagham (B.A.E.M.) and there were 9 there, February 16th to March 14th (many observers) while on March 7th, 12th and 14th it was established that there were 4 more at Sidlesham (A.A., H.P.M.).

91. **BUZZARD**.—In addition to the pair which has nested in E. Sussex since 1945 or 1946 (Hastings and East Sussex Naturalist, vol. viii, p. 94) 3 pairs nested on an estate in N. Sussex where nesting has apparently occurred since 1950 (C.A.G., S.B.S.). A pair attempted to breed in a third area but without success (J.A.S.) and birds were reported from other localities.

99. **MARSH HARRIER**.—A female or immature at Sidlesham Ferry on April 5th (C.R.T.); one at Seaford Head on the 16th (W.R.P.B.) and one near the Midrips on August 29th (L.P.A.).

100. **HEN HARRIER**.—Records of 2 or 3 birds for the early part of the year and of c. 7 for its end. All were for the east of the county except one on downs N of Southwick on November 13th (C.F.B.).

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER**.—Only records; one at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 1st (L.A.C.) and an immature in the lower Cuckmere valley on August 28th (G.T.C., J.C.S.).

103. **OSPREY**.—One off Easbourne front flying W but mobbed by gulls turned S and flew out to sea on May 6th (R.H.C.); one at Pond Leigh on May 19th (C.M.J., A.H.W.S.). One over lake at Broadfield, Crawley, on various dates from August 22nd-September 3rd (I.K.H., G.R.); this bird appeared to visit other ponds centred around St. Leonards Forest and was last seen on September 30th (G.N.S.); one, possibly the same, at Shoreham on September 12th (C.F.B., J.M.T.).

105. **PEREGRINE**.—Five or six pairs recorded from the chalk cliffs during the breeding season.

107. **MERLIN**.—C. 5 for the first part of the year and c. 7 for its end, nearly all from the east of the county.

110. **KESTREL**.—Single birds flew in from the S or SE at Langney Point on September 17th and 22nd (R.H.C.) and at Winchelsea Beach on the 12th (L.P.A.). One flew S out to sea at Langney Point on October 21st (D.D.H.).

117. **QUAIL**.—Only recorded from 2 localities (in June); near Jevington (R.H.C.) and near Berwick (L.A.C.).

125. **CORNCRAKE**.—Single birds at Sidlesham on August 27th, 30th and 31st, September 9th and 18th (J.V.S.). One at Pett Level on September 18th (D.D.H.).

131. **OYSTERCATCHER**.—Apparently none bred successfully (A.A., E.M.C., D.D.H.).

133. **LAPWING**.—On January 7th 4 flew in from the sea SE to NW at the mouth of the Cuckmere and on the 8th G.A.S. saw 17 flying SE to NW over Hove front. There was a cold spell on the Continent at the time. On March 11th 6 flew in from the S at Crowlink (G.T.C.) and on the 14th 5 flew E past Langney Point some way out to sea (D.D.H.). The first summer flock of c. 20 was seen in the Brede valley on June 5th (D.D.H.). It appears to have been a favourable breeding season and large flocks were seen later including one "of tens of thousands" over Thorney on December 26th (C.M.V.).

134. **RINGED PLOVER**.—A pair bred and raised 3 young at Chichester G.P. (A.A., L.P.A., J.R.). On November 3rd 15, first seen very far out to sea off Langney Point, flew in from SE and then followed the coast in a westerly direction (D.D.H.).

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**.—At its first station 6 pairs attempted to nest. It is uncertain how many young reached the free-flying stage but possibly 6, mortality being greatest during the period immediately after hatching. First seen here on March 30th (A.A.) and last recorded on October 3rd (P.R.M.). At the second station one pair arrived but abandoned



the area in May, probably owing to flooding with salt water which also decreased nesting areas (A.A., L.P.A., P.R.M., J.R., C.R.T.).

**139. GREY PLOVER.**—Average numbers in Pagham and Chichester Harbours. May records include c. 100 off Thorney on the 19th (C.J.H.); c. 12 at Pagham on the 19th (C.M.J.); up to 6 on various dates between Rye Harbour G.P. and the Wicks (D.D.H.; *et al.*). There were 3 at the Rother estuary on June 2nd (D.D.H.) and one, Midrips Wicks, on the 6th (R.H.C.). On July 2nd one flew SW out to sea at Langney Point (R.H.C.), otherwise no early autumn records.

**140. GOLDEN PLOVER.**—Forty at W. Wittering on February 21st (D.F.B.); c. 90 at Thorney on March 21st (L.P.A.); c. 200, Broomhill level on January 24th (R.H.C.). At Thorney up to 10 birds of the Northern form were identified on various dates between March 21st and April 4th (L.P.A., D.F.B.). One near Hamsey, June 16th to 30th (S.N.F.). Apparently the first county record for this month.

A party of 12 flew westerly past Langney Point on August 12th (D.D.H.). C. 110 at W. Wittering on December 12th (G.H.R.).

**143. TURNSTONE.**—June records; 7, Rye Harbour G.P. on the 2nd (D.D.H.); 5 at Pagham on the 6th (G.A.S.); one at Langney Point on the 18th (D.D.H.) and 21st (C.M.V.); 2 at Thorney on the 19th (C.M.V.); 2 at Langney Point on July 23rd (D.D.H.).

**145. SNIBE.**—The cold weather at the beginning of the year adversely affected this species. On January 31st 2 flew in from the SE at Newhaven and one at Seaford (L.P.A.) and C.M.J. saw c. 8 flying W between Saltdean and the Cuckmere. One flying W off Brighton on February 2nd (C.M.J.); 2 found dead at Rottingdean on the 5th (G.d.F., P.D.U.).

Two at Thorney, where the species does not nest, on June 5th (C.R.T.). A very early return to the coast. On October 22nd one flew westerly off Langney Point during a small passage of waders (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

**148. WOODCOCK.**—One found dead at Rottingdean on February 5th (G.d.F., P.D.U.); one at Rye Harbour on the 6th (F.J.W.); one in a garden at Hove on the 14th (S.R.A.).

**150. CURLEW.**—Rather more than usual recorded. C. 500 in Chichester Harbour on January 11th (D.E.P.); 150-200 at Pagham in January and February (C.R.T.) and a maximum of c. 500 at Pett Level on March 10th (E.M.C.). Westerly passage was again noted, mainly at Langney Point, from June 13th onwards, only small numbers being involved (D.D.H.; *et al.*). On June 26th there were c. 50, Midrips-Wicks, which had not been seen in the area previously (D.D.H.). C. 300, Chichester Harbour, July 12th (D.E.P.).

Breeding birds were much disturbed by numerous fires and no details are available (R.S., M.W.).

**151. WHIMBREL.**—Maximum on May 9th when c. 150 at Thorney (C.R.T.) on which day also C.M.J. saw c. 20 flying E off Seaford. One, Rother estuary, on June 27th (C.M.V.) and a few there during July (D.D.H.). On August 7th a party of 5 flew S out to sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.). One at Piddinghoe on October 17th (L.P.A., R.H.C.).

**154. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.**—In Chichester Harbour c. 70 from January 24th to early April (D.F.B., C.R.T. *et al.*); on April 17th c. 130 (L.P.A.); numbers then dwindled and during May and June from one to 8 seen (G.H.R., C.R.T., C.M.V.); on July 4th, 60; on the 7th, 150; 30th, 307 (C.R.T.). In August numbers were usually under 200 (G.H.R., C.R.T.) and only one large count was made in September, on 5th, c. 300 (L.P.A.); under 10 in October (G.H.R.); November 14th, 35 (L.P.A.), 28th, 260

(C.R.T.); December 5th c. 350 (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.), 12th, 612 (C.R.T.); c. 600 on the 14th; c. 300 on the 17th (P.R.M.); c. 100 on the 28th (C.R.T.).

In other parts of the county, one, Southwick-Shoreham, February 1st to 20th (L.P.A., B.A.E.M., J.M.T.); one, Rye Harbour G.P., May 2nd (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); 7, Midrips, May 26th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one there, August 1st and 9 on the 8th (R.H.C.); one, Chichester G.P., September 2nd-14th (M.G.).

**155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT.**—Rather more common than usual early in year. In mid February c. 400 in Chichester Harbour (A.A., D.F.B., C.R.T.). During spring migration numbers were less than usual in the Rye area the maximum there being c. 30, mostly at the Rother estuary, on May 1st (D.D.H.). The maximum at Thorney was c. 80 in late April (K.B.). One June record of a bird flying W off Langney Point on the 6th (D.D.H.). On July 24th, 15 at Pagham (R.J.S.). Very few in autumn and at the end of the year.

**156. GREEN SANDPIPER.**—A number of wintering birds in January and February; Polegate S.F. (L.A.C.); Chichester G.P. (L.P.A.); Lindfield S.F. (A.H.W.S.); Southsea (L.P.A.); Rye Harbour (R.H.C.); Thorney (D.E.P.). Only spring records: 2 or 3 at Rye Harbour G.P. in April and May. In June 2 at Thorney on the 27th (L.P.A.) and one at Pett Level on the 23rd (R.B.B., G.P.). Autumn migration first recorded at Thorney on July 7th when 4 were present (C.R.T.); maximum there: 9 on August 8th (L.P.A., J.S.). Maximum at Rye Harbour G.P., over 7 on September 1st (R.H.C., D.D.H.). After October only one at Piddinghoe in mid November (S.H.F.) and 3 on Pevensey Levels on December 28th (R.H.C., J.C.S.).

**157. WOOD SANDPIPER.**—In spring one near Alfriston on April 20th (L.A.C.); one at Pagham on the 22nd (M.G.); one at Thorney on the 29th (M.G.). Only July records: one, lower Cuckmere, on the 10th (R.H.C.) and one at Thorney on the 31st (A.A.). In August and September up to 7 at the Midrips on September 1st (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one, Rye Harbour G.P. (R.H.C.); one, Sidlesham Ferry (L.P.A.); 2, Manhood End (C.M.J.); 3, Chichester G.P. (M.G.); one, Thorney (A.A., J.S.).

**159. COMMON SANDPIPER.**—Wintering birds: 3 at Fishbourne S.F. and along Chichester Channel, being last seen there on March 28th (A.A., L.P.A., D.F.B., G.H.R., C.R.T.); one, Sidlesham Ferry (A.A., C.R.T.); one at Darwell until at least the end of January (F.W.). 10 at Darwell on May 11th (R.H.C.). In July the first bird was recorded near Washington on the 6th (R.J.S.) and the most recorded for this month were 17 at Thorney on the 15th (D.E.P.). At the end of the year there was one wintering at Piddinghoe (J.C.S.); one at Sidlesham Ferry (J.C.S.) and one at Manhood End (A.A., P.R.M.).

**162. SPOTTED REDSHANK.**—Recorded for every month except December. One at East Head on January 31st (C.R.T.); one at Manhood End, February 28th, March 14th, April 15th (A.A., P.R.M., C.R.T.); one at Shoreham on February 7th (A.A., L.P.A.); one at Sidlesham Ferry on April 13th (C.R.T.); one, lower Cuckmere, on the 16th (W.R.P.B.); one at Thorney on April 25th and May 2nd (A.A., H.P.M., C.R.T.); one, lower Cuckmere, May 16th (L.P.A.); one at Thorney on June 27th (L.P.A.); one at the Midrips on July 11th (R.B.B., G.P.); one at Thorney on the 18th (A.A.).

There were 3 at Manhood End on August 28th and 2 at Thorney on the 29th (A.A., G.H.R.). In September there were up to 4 at Manhood End (A.A. *et al.*) and up to 3 at the Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C., D.D.H.). There were up to 4 at Manhood End during October and still 3 there on November 13th

(A.A., G.H.R., C.R.T.). One at Newhaven on October 2nd (C.M.J.) and one at Pagham the same day (A.A.). One at Thorney on November 28th (C.R.T.).

164. **LESSER YELLOWLEGS**.—On September 13th M.G. saw one at Sidlesham Ferry. Details will appear in *Brit. B.*

165. **GREENSHANK**.—None recorded for winter. First recorded in spring at Pagham on April 15th (G.H.R., C.R.T.). There was a spring maximum of 8 at Thorney on May 1st and 2nd (A.A., K.B.). In June one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 4th (R.H.C.); 2 at Thorney on the 6th (G.H.R.). In July 3 at the Midrips on the 11th (R.B.B., G.P.); 4 there on the 14th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Autumn passage was below average and the most counted at Thorney was 31 on August 29th (G.H.R.).

169. **KNOT**.—Very few recorded on spring passage. One, Midrips-Wicks, on July 11th, an early date (R.B.B., G.P.). Most on autumn passage: 34 at Pagham on August 26th (E.R.G.K.); 30 Rother Estuary-Wicks on the 28th (D.D.H.); c. 32 flying down Cuckmere valley on September 2nd (L.P.A.).

170. **PURPLE SANDPIPER**.—Up to 8 at Newhaven in the first part of the year and up to 10 there at its end (L.P.A., C.M.J. *et al.*). 12 at Bulverhythe at the end of the year (D.D.H.). Odd birds along the rest of the coast.

171. **LITTLE STINT**.—One at Manhood End on January 24th (L.P.A.). More spring records than usual: one at the Midrips on April 25th (D. E. Scott Robertson per H.A.R.C.); at Rye Harbour G.P.; one on April 24th; one on May 1st (D.D.H.) and 2nd (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); one on the 22nd (D.D.H.); 3 on the 23rd (L.A.C.) and 26th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one on the 29th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one on June 16th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.). 2 at Sidlesham Ferry on May 21st (A.A.).

One, Midrips-Wicks, on July 18th (R.B.B., D.D.H., G.P.), earlier by one day than the previous earliest autumn record for the county. C. 30 along the coast between August 2nd and September 28th.

173. **TEMINCK'S STINT**.—One at Rye Harbour G.P. was first seen by D.D.H. on May 1st and remained there until the 22nd being also seen by D.H.B., R.H.C., G.d.F., C.W.G.P., L.S., J.C.S. One at Darwell on May 11th (R.H.C., G.T.C.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on August 29th (L.A.C., R.H.C., G.T.C.). Full descriptions have been supplied.

178. **DUNLIN**.—In the Rye Harbour area 5 to 10 seen on dates between June 5th and 26th (D.D.H.); on July 5th c. 60 there and 50, Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.).

179. **CURLEW-SANDPIPER**.—Between February 14th (possibly January 24th) and March 20th, one at Manhood End (A.A., D.F.B., P.R.M., C.R.T.). One there on April 16th and 18th (P.R.M.). 2 at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 23rd (R.H.C., J.C.S.) and 2 the same day at the Midrips (L.A.C.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 26th (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

Although many more than usual in autumn first record not until August 21st, at Sidlesham (M.H.P.). From then until the 2nd week in October the maxima seen at any one time (and thus omitting many individuals) were: Pilsea Island, 2 (M.H.P., R.J.S.); Thorney, one (C.R.T.); Manhood End, 5 (L.P.A., P.R.M.); Pagham, 2 (G.A.S.); Sidlesham Ferry, 3 (A.A.); Shoreham, 12 (R.R.); Newhaven, 2 (C.M.J.); Rye Harbour, 5 (L.P.A.). One at Thorney on December 28th (C.R.T.).

184. **RUFF**.—Winter records at the beginning of the year: one at Newhaven on January 30th (G.A.S.) and 31st (L.P.A.); 3 at Fishborne S.F. on January 24th and 3 at Thorney on February 23rd (D.F.B., G.H.R., C.R.T.) where there were 9 on March 21st (A.A., L.P.A.), numbers dropping through March and

April to one on April 25th (A.A., G.H.R., C.R.T.). One at Shoreham on March 20th (R.J.S.). One at Manhood End on April 14th (C.J.H.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 24th (D.D.H.) and one there on May 12th (R.H.C.). One at the Midrips on May 1st (D.D.H.).

In autumn up to 9, Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.) and up to 5 at Manhood End (A.A.) and a few single birds along the coast. One at Thorney on December 12th (L.P.A.).

185. **AVOCET**.—On March 16th G.A.S. saw c. 25 flying low over the sea c. ½ mile offshore at Hove; the largest party recorded for the county. 3 at the Midrips on June 20th (R.B.B.); 2 there on the 26th (D.D.H.) and one on the 27th (R.B.B., G.P.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on September 1st (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and one there on October 13th (R.H.C.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on September 28th and October 2nd (A.A.). These appear to be the first October records for the county.

187. **GREY PHALAROPE**.—One, Winchelsea Beach, on September 28th (C.M.J., A.H.W.S.); one, Pett Level pools, on October 21st (R.H.C.) and 23rd (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one, near Newhaven, on October 4th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and one there on November 20th (D.D.H.) and 21st (K.J.F.); one at Shoreham, October 13th-16th (J. Stafford, J.M.T. *et al.*).

189. **STONE CURLEW**.—A pair raised at least one young near the Midrips (D.D.H.).

193. **ARCTIC SKUA**.—During the afternoon of May 9th L.P.A. saw 12 flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere and the same day R.H.C. saw 2 flying E off the Midrips. Records of 5 other birds flying E off the East Sussex coast during May. One off the Midrips on June 6th (R.H.C.) and an immature flying E off Langney Point on the 10th (D.D.H.). On the 12th D.D.H. saw 2 immatures off the mouth of the Rother while R.H.C. saw 3 there on the 16th. On July 24th D.D.H. saw 2 immatures off the Midrips. Some 20 birds recorded between August 14th and October 20th. All are for the coast between Hove and Rye Bay except for one at Pagham on October 2nd (A.A.).

194. **GREAT SKUA**.—A bird of the year flying W just offshore at Langney Point on September 24th. A strong SW wind (D.D.H.).

195. **POMATORHINE SKUA**.—On October 31st D.D.H. had good views of an adult of the pale form molesting Herring Gulls close in at Langney Point. The large size and twisted central tail-feathers were noted.

197. **IVORY GULL**.—An adult in the lower Cuckmere valley on November 19th (D.D.H.). "Compared with Black-headed and Common Gulls it was about the size of the latter. On the ground it had a rather peculiar puffed-out appearance. Whole plumage pure white. Legs short and black. Bill also seemed rather short. Its colour was not fully made out but there was some yellow on it. Eye appeared blackish." Eventually it left the other gulls and flew alone up the valley until lost to sight. There had been several days of variable wind with fog at night and many gulls were present.

198. **GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—Over 200 at Pett Level on September 10th (R.H.C.).

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—One or two wintering at Shoreham at both ends of the year (L.P.A., J.M.T. *et al.*). 2 at Seaford Head on June 18th (C.M.V.). 8 at Winchelsea Beach on December 5th (L.P.A.).

200. **HERRING GULL**.—On April 16th, 27th and 30th S.H.F. saw small parties of up to 20 passing E high up 4 miles N of Lewes. An unsuccessful breeding attempt was made at Rye Harbour G.P. (E.M.C.).

201. **COMMON GULL**.—A pair attempted to breed between the Midrips and the Wicks (D.D.H.).



202. **GLAUCOUS GULL.**—A bird of the year which frequented the area between Eastbourne Fishing Station and Pevensey Bay was first seen by D.D.H. on October 31st and last seen by J.C.S. on December 5th. A second year (all white) bird at Shoreham was first seen on December 19th and subsequently by many observers. It was rather smaller than usual for this species and was at first generally believed to be an Iceland Gull but D.D.H. (on December 26th) and L.P.A. (on the 27th) identified it as a Glaucous Gull and this view was subsequently accepted by other observers. D.D.H. describes it as having "both head and bill slightly larger than those of a Herring Gull; in flight an obviously bigger, heavier bird than a Herring Gull with broader wings; flight not buoyant like that of an Iceland Gull; no rapid wing action." It was still present at the end of the year. On December 27th a first winter bird was also present in the same locality (L.P.A., J. Stafford, C.M.V.). A first winter bird (perhaps the same) was seen by C.M.J. at Brighton Fish Market on December 31st. On December 22nd and 23rd J.V.S. saw an adult at Sidlesham.

**LITTLE GULL.**—Two first winter birds flying W together off Langney Point on January 28th during cold spell (D.D.H.). A first summer bird at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 2nd (D.D.H.). 3 adults flying W off Langney Point on August 12th (D.D.H.) and an immature there on the 14th (L.P.A.). On September 9th an adult there (C.M.J.) and an immature at Piddinghoe (A.H.W.S.). On the 16th an immature at Shoreham (C.M.J., J.M.T.) and an adult at Thorney (A.H.W.S.). An immature off Langney Point on October 21st, an adult there on November 6th and 7th, an immature and a second winter bird there on the 11th and an immature there on the 12th (D.D.H.). An immature off Shoreham during a gale on December 8th (J. Stafford) and one off Langney Point during a SW gale on the 9th (D.D.H.). An immature off Hove on November 28th and one there on December 3rd (G.A.S.). 2 at Seaford on December 28th (C.M.J.).

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—An E movement of small parties between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. 4 miles N of Lewes on March 10th, 16th, 20th and 24th and (heard calling) between 8 p.m. and 2 a.m. on March 20th and 24th (S.H.F.). On May 9th C.M.J. saw an E movement of immatures off Seaford. On May 20th between 11.5 a.m. and 12.15 p.m. D.D.H. saw c. 120 flying E close in at Langney Point. Of these 26 first flew in from the S. A similar E movement was seen by D.D.H. off Beachy Head on the 21st. All were immature birds so far as could be seen. Wind on both days NW with a slight mist.

C. 12 pairs attempted to nest at the Wicks (where there were islands due to an unusual amount of water) but the eggs were taken D.D.H. The colony at Rye Harbour G.P. had more success than usual—c. 30 pairs raising c. 60 young which were seen on the wing on July 18th (D.D.H.).

On July 10th, 11th, 15th, 18th and 25th S.N.F. saw a SW movement in parties of up to 30 birds 4 miles N of Lewes.

211. **KITTIWAKE.**—An immature was found dead in a field 1½ miles N of Lewes on February 6th (S.N.F.). As usual birds were present throughout the summer on the E. Sussex coast—most at Rye Harbour where numbers rose from 2 on May 15th (D.D.H.) to 30 on the 23rd (R.H.C.) and declined to c. 10 by late June (D.D.H.). All were immature. There were an adult and an immature at Pagham on June 6th (G.A.S.).

One at Manhood End on October 24th (L.P.A.). The gales in late November and early December brought many to the coast (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and there was one on flood water at Amberley on December 5th (G.A.S.).

212. **BLACK TERN.**—One at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 24th (D.D.H.) and 25th (F.W.). One flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere (R.H.C.) and

one at Shoreham on the 27th (J. Stafford). 3 at Thorney on May 8th (G.H.R.) and on the 9th there were 6 or 7 at Sidlesham (M.H.P.), 2 at Pond Leigh (nr. Burgess Hill) (A.H.W.S.), one at Piddinghoe (L.P.A.), one on Pevensey Levels (A.D.) and 15 in all flying E off the Wicks (D.H.B., R.H.C.). On May 10th there were 4 at Knepp Lake (R.J.S.) and on the 12th one at Rye Harbour ternery (R.H.C., G.T.C.). One there (D.D.H.) and one near Langney Point (L.P.A.) on the 22nd. 2 at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 4th (R.H.C.).

The first autumn bird was seen off Langney Point on August 7th (G.T.C., D.D.H.). On the evening of the 12th E.M.C. saw 40 in all flying W in 2½ hours off Pett Level. In addition during August and September along the coast (but mostly in the E half of the county) there are records of c. 24 birds. Only one bird in October (6th). Inland records are of one at Chichester G.P. on September 5th (J.S., L.P.A.) and 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 14th and 16th (E.R.G.K.).

On November 13th R.G. saw one over a flooded field near near Littleington. On November 20th D.D.H. saw one, no doubt the same, over the Cuckmere Old Channel and on the 21st L.A.C. saw it near Littleington. These are by far the latest autumn dates for the county.

217. **COMMON TERN.**—Two pairs unsuccessfully attempted to nest at the Midrips. At the Wicks, owing to flooded conditions, c. 20 pairs attempted to nest but without success. 150-200 pairs attempted to nest at Rye Harbour G.P. It is difficult to estimate the number of young raised but on July 24th over 100 able to fly were present and others unable to fly were on the islands. Even on September 1st a juvenile unable to fly and several others flying were present (D.D.H.). On June 27th G.d.F. and C.W.G.P. found a nest and eggs in Chichester Harbour.

219. **ROSEATE TERN.**—One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on May 15th (F.W.); one there on the 22nd (D.D.H.); 2 there on the 29th (R.H.C.); one there on June 12th (D.D.H.) and 2 on the 16th and 23rd (R.H.C.); one at the Rother estuary on July 14th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On July 11th one was fishing close in for over an hour at Langney Point (D.D.H.). Full descriptions have been given.

222. **LITTLE TERN.**—Seven pairs attempted to breed at Pagham Harbour (A.A.) and 4 pairs in Chichester Harbour (C.R.T.). Information from the Rye area incomplete.

223. **SANDWICH TERN.**—As usual a few (up to 4 together) at Rye Harbour and Langney Point during June and July (R.H.C., D.D.H.) in addition to spring and autumn passage.

224. **RAZORBILL.**—One off Langney Point on June 9th (R.H.C.) and 2 there on the 10th (D.D.H.).

226. **LITTLE AUK.**—One flying W off Langney Point during a strong SW wind on November 10th (D.D.H.).

227. **GUILLEMOT.**—One at Rye Harbour on June 4th and 6th; 4 flying E there on the 9th; c. 20 in an hour flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere on the 10th (R.H.C.); one flying W off Langney Point on the 13th (D.D.H.). One in Newhaven Harbour on July 18th (C.M.J.).

232. **STOCK DOVE.**—Between 11.15 and 11.45 a.m. on January 7th a party of c. 40, one of 3 and 2 single birds flew in SE to NW at the mouth of the Cuckmere. A cold N wind; some snow in night; cold spell on Continent (D.D.H.).

234. **WOOD PIGEON.**—On January 31st during the cold spell one and a party of 4 flew in from the SE at the Seven Sisters (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL.**—At least 3 in the Rye area during January

and February and 2 there during April; 4 at Amberley Wild Brooks on February 7th and March 7th and one there on April 4th (several observers).

Unusually numerous towards the end of the year; one at Rye Harbour on November 14th and up to 3 near there in December; one on Pevensey Levels on September 12th and 13th; one on the Crumbles on October 22nd and one there November 7th; one, lower Cuckmere, on November 20th; one, Newhaven, on October 17th; 3 at Amberley Wild Brooks on September 26th and in November; 2 there in December; one near Pagham Harbour on September 13th; 2 there on the 26th and subsequently; 4 there on October 16th and 7 on the 31st; up to 5 there in November and early December and one still there at the end of the year; one at Thorney in November and up to 4 there during December; one at East Head, West Wittering, on October 10th. Most of these birds were seen by a number of observers.

**252. NIGHTJAR.**—One on the Crumbles on September 28th, a rather late date (D.D.H.).

**255. SWIFT.**—The following June movements were observed at Langney Point:

3rd—10.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m. An almost continuous E coasting movement. Wind N.E., fresh; cold; low cloud.

6th—9.45 a.m.-12.15 p.m. 2 flew S out to sea. Fresh SW wind; cold and showery.

25th—10.45 a.m.-12.45 p.m. 39 in all flew SSE out to sea. Wind fresh; a fall in temperature. 3.0 p.m.-4.0 p.m. 6 flew S out to sea. Wind now stronger and with showers (all D.D.H.).

**261. HOPOE.**—Two on a lawn at Bexhill on April 24th (Mrs. McPherson per J.A.H.). One in a garden at Mayfield on May 5th (H.M.S.). One in the grounds of Lancing College in mid May (per J. Stafford). One in a garden at East Dean (E. Sussex) on May 18th (per Miss M. A. Ash). One flying E along the coast at Rye Harbour on May 19th (C.V.J.). On September 29th and 30th and October 1st and 4th there was one in a garden at Brighton (E.B.).

**265. WRYNCK.**—One at Folkington on May 24th and 25th (J.C.S.). One at Beachy Head on August 27th (D.D.H.); one at St. Leonards on the 28th (D. Brightmore per Dr. Monk); one near the Wicks on the 29th (L.P.A., R.H.C., G.T.C., J.C.S.).

**272. SKYLARK.**—W movements along the coast were recorded in the cold weather between January 27th and February 1st (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., C.M.J.). Between September 28th and November 15th L.P.A. observed a small W-NW movement over Hove and a few flying NE there on November 2nd and 8th. On October 2nd and 3rd D.D.H. saw a few flying S out to sea from Beachy Head and on the latter date R.H.C. saw some flying W along the coast at Langney Point. At Langney Point D.D.H. observed small SE to NW movements on October 8th, 9th, 14th and November 3rd, 13th and 14th, the largest being on October 8th (55 in an hour) and November 13th (38 in 1½ hours). He also saw a few fly S out to sea there on October 21st and November 5th.

**274. SWALLOW.**—One in the lower Cuckmere valley on March 28th (D.D.H., M.H.P., G.A.S.) and one at Sidlesham on the 29th (J.V.S.). On April 29th one flew SE out to sea until lost to sight at Langney Point and 2 did likewise there on May 12th. On May 13th 2 flew SE out to sea at the mouth of the Cuckmere. On June 17th one flew in S to N at Langney Point and 2 did the same on the 18th. One flew in there, S to N, on the 19th (R.H.C.).

On September 12th a party of 12 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point. Wind fresh, W. On the 16th, between 11.15 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., c. 90 flew

in SE to NW there. Wind strong, W. On the 17th between 10.40 a.m. and 12.0 c. 10 flew S out to sea there while c. 40 flew in SE to NW. Strong W wind (D.D.H.). On September 22nd R.H.C. saw c. 25 fly in from the S there and on the 28th D.D.H. saw many doing the same with wind moderate, W. On October 16th R.H.C. saw 12 fly in, likewise at Langney Point and 3 on the 19th. On October 2nd between 9.45 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. D.D.H. saw many, in an almost continuous stream, flying S out to sea at Beachy Head, having arrived from the E. Wind moderate, SW; mist had just lifted. On October 3rd he saw a similar movement there between 8.15 a.m. and 9.15 a.m. Wind moderate, SE; slight mist.

**276. HOUSE MARTIN.**—On June 3rd 5 were coasting E with Swifts at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On June 6th C.R.T. saw 200-250 over Chichester G.P. On the 11th one flew in SE to NW at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

On September 28th many were flying in SE to NW at Langney Point between 9.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. Wind W, moderate. On October 2nd and 3rd considerable numbers were departing with Swallows from Beachy Head (D.D.H.). On December 4th L.P.A. saw 2 flying W at Langney Point.

**277. SAND MARTIN.**—One at Fishbourne on March 21st (D.F.B.). C. 15 pairs again nested in pipes cemented in a concrete wall overlooking Chichester Canal (A.A.). On July 23rd 5 flew in S to N and 6 flew S out to sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On October 22nd L.P.A. saw 7 over Hove.

**280. CARRION CROW.**—A nest was again built on a pile-driver at the Midrips (D.D.H.).

**281. HOODED CROW.**—Only records—one at Norman's Bay on March 27th and one flying E along the coast at Seaford Head on May 16th (L.P.A.).

**282. ROOK.**—C.A.G. found a nest with young on April 9th, an early date. On November 3rd D.D.H. saw 3 fly in from the S.E. at Langney Point. Wind moderate, SW.

**301. MISTLE THRUSH.**—On January 31st, during the cold spell R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw one fly in SE to NW over the Seven Sisters. On February 2nd C.M.J. saw some flying W at Brighton. On October 3rd at 8.35 a.m. D.D.H. saw a flock of c. 50 flying high towards the E at Beachy Head. Wind SE, moderate.

**302. FIELDFARE.**—A cold weather movement W between January 27th and February 2nd between Hove and Seaford Head (L.P.A., C.M.J.). An E movement 4 miles N of Lewes, February 12th-14th and a N movement there, February 17th-20th (S.H.F.). On April 22nd A.H.M. saw c. 50 flying S near Ashurst and on the 23rd a small party roosted 4 miles N of Lewes, numbers increasing to c. 120 by the 28th but none by May 1st (S.H.F.).

On November 16th 3 flew in from the SE at Langney Point, landing on arrival. Fog in night, lifting. Wind W, but variable earlier (D.D.H.).

**303. SONG THRUSH.**—On January 31st, during the cold spell, there was an almost continuous W movement along the edge of the Seven Sisters and a few were flying in from the SE (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On the same day C.M.J. saw a W movement at Brighton and L.P.A. at Newhaven and Seaford Head and on February 1st R.H.C. saw some moving W at Newhaven. 10 were found dead at Rottingdean during the cold spell (P.D.U.). On October 9th with N wind and mist there was a marked increase on the Crumbles (D.D.H.).

**304. REDWING.**—A small NW movement over Hove, January 5th-8th (L.P.A.). W movements during the cold spell were recorded between Hove and the Seven Sisters, January 26th-February 2nd (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., C.M.J.). A N movement 4 miles N of Lewes, February 17th-20th (S.H.F.). One, "not dead more than a week," was found at Rottingdean on June 8th



(P.D.U.). One appeared on the Crumbles on October 9th during a marked increase in Thrushes and Blackbirds (D.D.H.). On November 16th, after a night of fog and variable wind, 2 at the end of Langney Point (D.D.H.). On December 29th M.G. saw a flock of c. 2,000 at Sidlesham.

307. **RING OUZEL**.—A female at Brighton on April 1st; a male near Afriston on the 21st (C.M.J.); one near Litlington on the 23rd (A.H.W.S.); a male at Dell Quay on the 25th (H.P.M.).

A party of 4 at Beachy Head on September 19th (D.D.H.); one on the Crumbles on October 26th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one on downs N of Southwick, October 20th–November 6th (C.F.B.).

308. **BLACKBIRD**.—On January 31st L.P.A. saw 2 come in from the sea at Newhaven and on the same day C.M.J. saw some flying W at Brighton (cold spell). On October 9th with N wind and mist D.D.H. noted a marked increase on the Crumbles.

311. **WHEATEAR**.—One at Langney Point on March 11th was stated by a workman to have been there since the 8th (G.T.C.). The latest autumn record was one at Pett Level on November 4th (D.D.H.).

317. **STONECHAT**.—On January 31st one flew in NW at Newhaven (L.P.A.). D.D.H. noted that there seemed no decline in breeding or visiting birds despite the cold spell and C.M.J. considers that numbers of both were actually larger than of late.

318. **WHINCHAT**.—One near Jevington on July 23rd (D.D.H.). The last recorded was one at Seaford on October 16th (C.M.J.).

320. **REDSTART**.—A pair present during summer near Lewes, about ¼ mile from where pair recorded breeding in 1953 (S.H.F.).

321. **BLACK REDSTART**.—In the first 2 months of the year birds were recorded from; Littlehampton, one (J.H.R.d.J.); Rustington, one (H.C.H.); Southwick, one (L.P.A., J.M.T.); Hove, one (G.A.S.); Seaford Head, 2 (L.P.A.) and Langney Point, 2 or 3 (D.D.H., J.C.S.). 3 on the Seven Sisters on March 24th (R.H.C.).

A pair again bred in central Eastbourne, young being fed on May 30th. D.D.H. saw 2 together near Beachy Head but not on subsequent visits. At Bexhill a pair twice nested near the site of last year's nest but unsuccessfully perhaps owing to disturbance by workmen (J.A.H.). Dr. N. F. Ticehurst informs us that he has only one record of nesting in Hastings, a pair rearing a brood in West St. Leonards.

On July 10th R.H.C. saw one at the mouth of the Cuckmere. Relatively few records for autumn and winter; one at Eastbourne on October 20th (D.D.H.); one 2 miles inland at Hove on the 25th (L.P.A.); an adult male at Pevensey Castle on November 6th (D.D.H.); one for several days in mid November 1½ miles N of Lewes (S.H.F.); one at Peacehaven on November 14th; one at Newhaven on the 28th; 2 adult males at Portslade on December 11th (C.M.J.); one at Langney Point in late December (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—On September 26th D.D.H. put one up on the Crumbles, the bird rising from almost beneath his feet. In flight the upper parts were dark except for the characteristic orange-red sides to the base of the tail, the lower half and a line down the centre of which were dark. The bird flew into thick cover and was not seen again. A strong SW wind.

325. **ROBIN**.—On November 16th there was one at the end of Langney Point. Wind N, slight but had been variable in night with fog lifting. On the 19th there was one in bushes at the edge of the cliff at Crowlink. Wind NW, fog lifting (D.D.H.).

333. **REED WARBLER**.—One on the Crumbles on October 11th (R.H.C.). A late date.

337. **SEDGE WARBLER**.—Towards the end of May C.M.J. found 3 pairs apparently engaged in nesting activities on the downs near Newhaven. On July 4th one was singing in a hedge above Findon, well away from water (L.P.A.). Up to 3 on the Crumbles during the first week of October; 2 there on the 11th and 12th and one on the 14th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). 2 at Pett Level pools on October 6th (D.D.H.).

343. **BLACKCAP**.—A female at Arundel on January 10th (R.J.L.). A male and a female at Shoreham on February 14th (J. Stafford).

347. **WHITETHROAT**.—One, Alexandra Park, Hastings, on March 25th (E.M.C.). A very early date. General arrival does not seem to have taken place until April 25th. One on the Crumbles on October 14th (D.D.H.).

356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—One at Wellingham, near Lewes, on February 28th (S.H.F.). In view of cold weather earlier in the month wintering may be doubted.

364. **GOLDCREST**.—One near the mouth of the Cuckmere on September 19th (D.D.H.) and a few along the coast during October and early November.

365. **FIRECREST**.—One at the Midrips on March 12th (C. Southernden per H.E.A.).

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—Two males on downs near Eastbourne (R.H.C.) and a pair at Shoreham (B.A.E.M.) on April 30th; a male at Arundel on May 2nd (R.J.L.); a pair near Steyning on the 31st (C.A.G.). About 12 birds for the coast for autumn nearly all between August 27th and September 5th, the last on September 19th.

371. **HEDGE SPARROW**.—One on the sea-wall at the Midrips on October 18th (R.H.C.) and one there on November 4th (D.D.H.).

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—A considerable NW movement over the coast between Newhaven and Seaford Head on January 31st. A few moving NW over Hove on February 1st (L.P.A.). Cold spell. Spring arrival from the sea was recorded along the coast between Langney Point and Hove from March 19th to April 7th but numbers were not large.

In autumn L.P.A. recorded NW passage over Brighton and Hove between August 25th and November 9th with most on October 7th. Also a NE movement over Hove on September 17th and 27th and November 2nd and 8th. On September 19th there was a large E movement along the Seven Sisters (L.P.A.). R.H.C. and D.D.H. observed arrival from the sea at Langney Point on various dates between September 17th and October 20th. A W coasting movement with some flying out to sea was also seen at Beachy Head on September 23rd, October 2nd and 3rd and at Langney Point on October 7th (D.D.H.). Arrival from the sea was also recorded in the W of the county; on September 29th R.J.S. saw 25–30 come in from the sea at Worthing and then fly E along the coast and on October 10th R.H.C. saw c. 40 fly in from the SE at Paghham between 11.30 a.m. and 1.0 p.m.

374. **RICHARD'S PIPIT**.—L.P.A. describes one on the Crumbles on September 18th; "a large, heavy, thrush-like bird, very active with a loud sparrow-like double 'rer-up' uttered in flight. Legs very long and thick; yellowish orange in colour; bill, thick and stout, darker on upper mandible. General plumage reminiscent of a Skylark. Upper-parts brown with dark streaks on back and crown giving a somewhat mottled appearance on back; dark stripe through and behind eye with a broad pale buffish stripe over eye (not extending to the nape) and to a lesser extent below it. A thin moustacial

streak darker than pale chin. Tail dark brown with outer tail-feathers broadly white. Under-parts buff, streaked dark brown on breast only, belly somewhat paler. Wings well marked; dark brown with feathers having pale buffish edges." A sudden change of wind to SE had taken place not long before and many Meadow Pipits were about. After about 15 minutes the bird moved off E.

**375. TAWNY PIPIT.**—One on the Crumbles for at least 3 hours on September 17th (D.D.H.). "Larger and longer-legged than a Meadow Pipit. A rather slim, long-tailed bird, distinctly wagtail-like in its movements. General sandy coloration, upper-parts darker than under-parts and with a tinge of greyish. Only slight, inconspicuous markings on upper-parts except on (closed) wings. Slight markings at sides of breast, under-parts otherwise unmarked. Conspicuous pale buffish eye-stripe. In flight outer tail-feathers seen to be paler than rest but not white. Legs flesh coloured. Characteristic single, loud, rather metallic call in flight." A strong SW wind. No Meadow Pipits about on the ground, though a few flying in from the sea. On September 26th D.D.H. found another bird in the same locality. This was likewise present for some hours and was later seen by R.H.C. and J.C.S., the former finding it still present the next day. D.D.H. describes it as: "like the last bird; except, generally somewhat greyer; forehead, crown and back with much more distinct, quite noticeable darker streaks and more streaks too at sides of breast. Typical call in flight—a loud 'Tcheuk.'" As before a strong SW wind with a few Meadow Pipits coming in from the sea.

**376. WATER PIPIT.**—One in the lower Cuckmere valley on March 19th (D.D.H.). The plumage resembled that of the bird(s) recorded here during the previous few winters but it is doubtful if this bird had wintered since careful search had been made without result on a number of previous occasions.

**380. PIED WAGTAIL.**—On October 2nd between 9.45 a.m. and 10.45 a.m. D.D.H. saw 10 in all flying W along the coast at Beachy Head and 3 fly S out to sea there. Wind moderate, SW. On November 3rd 2 flew in S to N at Langney Point. Wind NW (D.D.H.).

**WHITE WAGTAIL.**—Two at Thorney on April 25th (H.P.M.) and one, lower Cuckmere, on the 17th (G.A.S.).

**352. YELLOW WAGTAIL.**—Only c. 15 pairs bred in the vicinity of Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H.). At least one pair bred at Thorney (C.R.T.) and a pair nested at Fishbourne S.F. (M.G.).

One on Hove front on October 15th (G.A.S.); on the 17th R.H.C. saw one flying W along the Seven Sisters and L.P.A. saw one at Newhaven; on the 21st 2 near Rye (F.J.W.). These are late dates.

On April 25th R.H.C. saw one of the "Sykes's" variety at Chichester G.P. "Forehead, crown, nape, light blue, converging into green between nape and hind-neck. Blue descending a little way down ear-coverts and below eye. White eye-stripe."

**384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE.**—One on telephone wires near Fairwarp on January 2nd and 3rd (A.A.M.B.). One in Eridge Park on March 22nd (Mrs. L. Pett per F.W.). One on St. John's Common, Crowborough, on December 11th (A.A.M.B.). One near Camp Hill, Ashdown Forest, on December 25th (M.H.P.).

**388. RED-BACKED SHRIKE.**—A bird of the year in the lower Cuckmere valley on October 17th (L.P.A.). A late date.

**387. STARLING.**—On January 3rd a party of c. 20 flew in from the sea, SE to NW over the Seven Sisters and one of c. 50 flew in at the mouth of the Cuckmere on the 7th (D.D.H.). Cold spell on Continent. On the 8th L.P.A.

saw a party of 45 flying NW over Hove. During the cold spell, January 27th-31st, a W-NW movement was seen along the coast between Hove and the Seven Sisters (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., C.M.J.). March 9th-19th, an E-NE movement over Hove, winds being E (L.P.A.). On April 12th from the Royal Sovereign Lightship small parties were seen flying N from dawn to mid-day. Wind light and variable. On the 13th a similar movement was seen there. Wind N, light (A.G.S.).

A small NW movement over Hove, October 13th-November 16th (L.P.A.). Arrival from the sea, SE to NW, between the Wicks and Winchelsea Beach took place on October 30th, c. 130 coming in in 3½ hours. Wind W. A drop in temperature. Similar arrival was seen at Langney Point on November 2nd, c. 50 in an hour; 3rd, c. 160 in 2 hours; 6th, 4 in 2 hours; 11th, 6 in 3 hours; 14th, c. 420 in 2 hours; 16th, c. 180 in 1½ hours; 18th, one. (D.D.H.).

**390. ROSE-COLOURED STARLING.**—On May 13th R.G.M. had a view of one in flight on the N side of Pagham Harbour. "Bright pink back and rump, dark wings and tail and head... the black of the head covered the upper quarter of the back between the shoulders."

**392. GREENFINCH.**—On January 31st (cold spell) a party of 7 flew in SE to NW over the Seven Sisters (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

**393. GOLDFINCH.**—On January 31st R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw a few moving W along the Seven Sisters. On April 11th L.P.A. saw 2 fly in NE at Newhaven.

On October 8th 4 flew in SE to NW at Beachy Head. On the 30th there was a small W movement along the coast at the Midrips, most before 10.30 a.m. On November 3rd 2 flew in from the SE at Langney Point. On the 13th 2 flew S out to sea there and one flew in from the SE there on the 24th (D.D.H.). A flock of 400-500 on Pebsham Airfield on October 2nd (J.A.H.) and one of c. 700 near Newhaven on the 29th (S.H.F.).

**395. LINNET.**—On January 31st (cold spell) R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw an almost continuous W movement along the coast at the Seven Sisters. On February 1st R.H.C. saw some flying W at Newhaven. On April 4th G.H.R. saw a small S to N movement (involving some 50 birds) during the early morning at Thorney. On the 7th R.H.C. saw c. 20 in all flying E along the coast at Langney Point in the early morning. On the 11th 2 flew in NE from the sea at Newhaven (L.P.A.).

On October 2nd a party of c. 30 flew S out to sea at Beachy Head; 5 others broke away and returned. On the 3rd 11 flew out to sea there in an hour (D.D.H.). On the 20th R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw a few flying S out to sea and a few coasting W at Langney Point. On the 22nd R.H.C. saw 25 fly S out to sea there. On the 30th there was a W movement along the coast at the Midrips, almost continuous, 10.0 a.m.-10.30 a.m. and then only a few. Between November 3rd and 14th a few flew out to sea at Langney Point and a few flew in there and there was a small W movement along the coast (D.D.H.).

**400. SERIN.**—On November 2nd D.D.H. had good views for about 10 minutes of one at the end of Langney Point. "A very small finch, smaller even than Goldfinches when seen alongside these. Perched in silhouette the most striking features were the short, thick bill and the rather domed forehead and crown. Tail short and slightly forked. Upper-parts brownish, heavily streaked a darker colour. Under-parts less heavily streaked and with a yellowish tinge. Some greenish-yellow at sides of head. In flight showed striking yellow rump but no yellow at sides of tail. Flight very rapid and flight call a long twitter, something like 'perilouee'." It eventually flew off



inland with other small birds. The wind was N at the time but it had been SE during the night and there had been fog which had just lifted.

**404. CROSSBILL.**—About half a dozen at Handcross in mid January (J.A.S.). The birds at Haywards Heath (*vide* 1953 Report) remained in the Larch plantation during the first 3 months of the year, the most seen being 6-8 on March 21st. On April 2nd 2 males were singing but a week later the plantation was thinned and they were seen no more (E.R.G.K.).

**407. CHAFFINCH.**—On January 31st (cold spell) L.P.A. saw a few coming in NW from the sea at Newhaven and R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw some moving W along the Seven Sisters. On March 11th L.P.A. saw a party of 16 flying NE over Hove. On April 12th from the Royal Sovereign Lightship A.G.S. saw small flocks flying N from dawn to midday.

On October 3rd from the Royal Sovereign birds were seen coming in from the S and on the 7th large flocks were flying N there. Winds were S to SE on the first date and between NW and N on the second (A.G.S.). Between October 7th and November 15th L.P.A. saw birds flying W-NW over Hove, most being seen on October 11th. On the 8th 3 flew in S to N at Beachy Head. On November 10th 13 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point. On the 13th 15 flew in SE to NW there and 9 on the 14th. On the 17th 8 flew in from the SE in an hour at Beachy Head. One flew in from the SE at Langney Point on the 18th (D.D.H.).

**408. BRAMBLING.**—The flock of 100 or more (*vide* 1953 Report) remained in Maresfield Park during January. By March 2nd only 3 or 4 remained (H.A.B.). On March 25th D.D.H. saw a flock of c. 150 in Five Hundred Acre Wood, Ashdown Forest. Otherwise only small numbers were recorded at the beginning and few at the end of the year.

**410. CORN BUNTING.**—At least 2 pairs were again present at Rye Harbour during the breeding season (D.D.H.) and song was heard in 2 places between Rye and Camber (F.W.).

**415. GIRD BUNTING.**—S.H.F. notes an increase round Lewes, pairs being found in places where he had not seen the species in summer before. N of Rottingdean it is also gradually increasing in numbers, being in particular far more in evidence in winter (G.d.F.).

**422. LAPLAND BUNTING.**—The 2 at East Head (*vide* 1953 Report) were seen on several occasions up to January 31st (L.P.A., A.A., P.F.L.B., G.H.R., C.R.T.).

**423. SNOW BUNTING.**—C. 8 at Camber on February 14th (F.J.W.) and 6 there on the 28th (F.W.).

One at Pett Level on October 6th (D.D.H.). One at East Head on November 21st (C.M.V.), 27th (A.A.) and 28th (L.P.A., M.H.P., G.A.S.). One at Shoreham on December 11th (R.R., J. Stafford) and 3 at Camber on the same day (D.D.H.). 4 at Camber on the 25th and 27th (K.J.F.).

**425. TREE SPARROW.**—None seen during the summer at Sidlesham (J.V.S.). A pair nested in a nesting box near Shoreham (J. Stafford, J.M.T.). A pair on Pevensey Levels on June 3rd and c. 50 there on August 13th (R.H.C.). 2 pairs near Hamsey until June 22nd, not seen subsequently (S.H.F.).