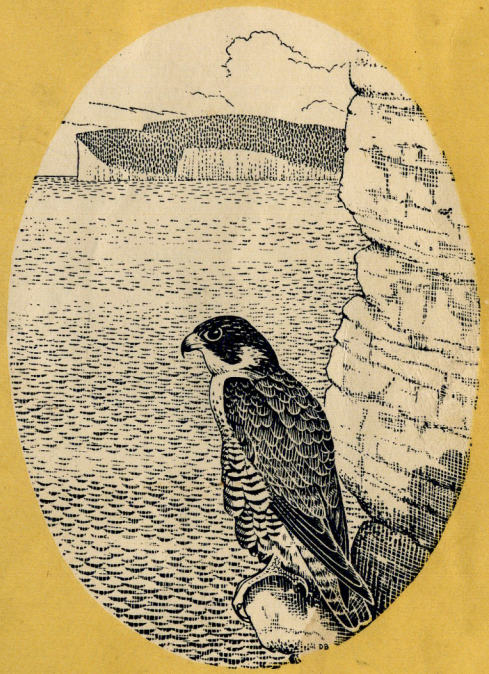
Shoreham Ornithological Society.

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

1955



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.l.).

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has either not been published before or if published and accepted as correct seems open to doubt upon consideration of unpublished details. Generally, this information will come from unpublished diaries but it is perhaps worth adding that only the more important records of previous years will be dealt with.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 XLV.

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.

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1955

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

OBTAINABLE FROM G. DES FORGES,
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SUSSEX WILDFOWL COUNTS 1955-56

Since the Wildfowl Counts were started in 1947 the number of waters regularly counted throughout the county has steadily increased. Counts were started in Sussex in 1951-52, and most of the *obviously* important waters have been counted since then. I suspect that the most serious omissions at present are those areas subject to periodic and extensive flooding. As Amberley Wild Brooks (counted since 1953-54) has yielded some very high numbers, I should be most grateful to receive any offers to count the Glynde and Pevensey Levels.

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the success of investigations of this type depends on *regularity* of observation. Counters are frequently disappointed by low numbers of wild fowl, but low and nil returns are just as important as those obtained on the " good " days when many birds are seen. I should like to thank all the observers who are making the inquiry possible.

This season counts have been continued at Pagham Harbour, Chichester Harbour, Chichester Gravel Pits, Cuckmere, Darwell Reservoir and Amberley Wild Brooks. In addition two more large waters have been counted for the first time—Weir Wood Reservoir and Powdermill Reservoir.

JOHN REYNOLDS,

Regional Organiser.

"MOTTLED" ROOKS

Mr. B. L. Sage is studying a rare plumage variation in rooks in which the feathers show a varying amount of pale ash. (See Bull BOC 76 p.25). He would be grateful if anyone coming across specimens would send them to him at 11 Deepdene, Potter's Bar, Middlesex.

ADDITIONS TO 1954 REPORT

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—One at Pagham Harbour on April 4th (P.F.L.B.).

29. **SHAG.**—One at the entrance to Shoreham Harbour on March 6th (C.F.B.).

187. **GREY PHALAROPE.**—The bird at Newhaven was first seen on October 2nd (C.M.J.).

255. **SWIFT.**—One at Ardingly, September 29th to October 1st (R. J. Wilmshurst).

CORRECTIONS TO 1954 REPORT

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—The 2 at Pagham were seen by A.A. on January 3rd and 7th, not February 3rd and 7th.

139. **GREY PLOVER.**—The c. 100 at Thorney were seen by C.J.H. on April 19th, not May 19th.

173. **TEMMINCK'S STINT.**—The initials L.A.C. after the bird at Rye Harbour, G.P., on August 29th should be L.P.A.

179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER.**—The bird of August 21st was seen at Shoreham, not Sidlesham.

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1955

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER.**—Only records are of a recently dead bird at Rye Harbour G.P. on February 5th (D.D.H.); one off Pilsea Island on February 20th (L.P.A., C.R.T.); and one off Brighton on March 14th (L.P.A.).

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—One in Newhaven Harbour on January 2nd (L.P.A., C.M.J.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on January 5th and 9th (D.D.H., C.M.J.). One in Chichester Harbour on January 22nd, 23rd and 30th (B.A.E.M., G.H.R., R.R., G.A.S., C.R.T.).

One in Thorney Channel on May 8th (L.P.A., T.F.K., M.H.P., R.J.S.) and 22nd (L.P.A.).

One off Langney Point on October 27th (D.D.H.). One about 2 miles off-shore from Shoreham on October 30th (S.R.A.). One at Dell Quay on December 21st (P.R.M.).

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER.**—Inland records are: One at Burton Mill on January 13th (F.A.H., H.C.H.); one at Darwell Reservoir on March 5th (F.W.) and 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one on Lurgashall Mill Pond on March 30th and 31st (P.M.B.); and one at Chichester G.P. on December 18th (P.R.M.).

The latest spring bird was seen flying E. off Langney Point on May 28th (D.D.H.) and the earliest autumn record is of one seen a mile off-shore from Cuckmere Haven on August 18th (S.R.A.). Very few off the E. Sussex coast in December (D.D.H.).

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE.**—Inland records for winter months are: Four on Slaugham Mill Pond at the beginning of the year (J.A.S.); 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 5th; and one at Darwell Reservoir on February 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

On June 13th 3 in Thorney Channel (R.H.C.) and on July 29th 6 in Chidham Channel (A.A.).

One at Darwell Reservoir on December 11th (G.A.S.) and 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 22nd (J.R.).

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE.**—One, presumably the same bird, at Southwick and at Hove Lagoon from January 11th (R.J.W.) to February 15th (J.M.T.) between which dates it was seen by a number of observers including C.M.J. and J.S. One on February 6th at East Head, West Wittering (E.R.G.K.). One on February 19th at Cuckmere Haven (L.P.A., M.H.P., G.A.S.). One, perhaps the same bird as the last, on February 20th and 27th at Newhaven (C.M.J.).

One off Langney Point on October 12th and one there on November 2nd (D.D.H.). Three off Seaford Head on October 23rd and 2 there on the 30th (L.P.A.).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE.**—At the beginning of the year varying numbers given for Chichester Harbour, the largest being 16 on January 30th (P.F.L.B.). Elsewhere c. 8 individuals recorded to April 9th, the latest date for a bird which had been at Piddinghoe Pond since the end of January (L.P.A., C.A.S., M.H.P., *et al.*).

The first autumn record was of one seen off Langney Point on October 20th (D.D.H.) and the rest were for Chichester Harbour except for one off Brighton (L.P.A.).

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE.**—In the first 3 months of the year about a dozen birds recorded, the latest being for April 6th (C.J.H.).

On July 16th one in mainly winter plumage was seen at Rye Harbour G.P. (H.A.R.C., D.D.H., I.J.F.L.), the earliest autumn record for the county. On July 21st a second bird had joined it and both were seen on various dates up to July 30th (H.A.R.C., D.D.H., I.J.F.L.). On August 18th 2 were seen in Rye Harbour G.P. but showing more summer plumage than the July birds. These remained till the end of August and one at least till September 21st (D.D.H., I.J.F.L.). Other August records are of one at Darwell Reservoir on the 14th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one at Piddinghoe Pond on the same day (C.M.J., A.H.W.S.); 2 in summer plumage off Thorney on the 20th (G.H.C.) and one in Chichester G.P. on the 21st (R.J.S.). After September there are only 3 records.

9. **LITTLE GREBE.**—There are 4 winter records for inland localities: One at Burton Park on January 2nd (M.H.P., G.A.S.); 3 at Darwell Reservoir on February 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one there on December 11th (G.A.S.); and 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 24th (R.H.C.).

16. **MANX SHEARWATER.**—On October 27th D.D.H. saw one flying W. c. 300 yards off Langney Point.

26. **FULMAR.**—Five records of single birds from May 6th to June 20th between Brighton and Langney Point.

27. **GANNET.**—Distribution of records for the various months of the year followed the usual pattern except that fewer birds were seen than in an average year. As usual none was recorded in February but there were March records which are unusual; one off Brighton on the 11th (R.J.S.) and 4 off the Seven Sisters on the 23rd (D.D.H.). No April records.

28. **CORMORANT.**—At the beginning of the year numbers in Chichester Harbour were very small, 15-20 (C.R.T.). During the year birds were recorded inland at Shillinglee Lake, Knepp, Maresfield Lake, Powdermill Reservoir and Weir Wood Reservoir.

29. **SHAG.**—One at Newhaven on various dates between January 16th and March 27th (L.P.A., C.F.B., R.H.C., C.M.J.) and an immature there on December 27th (L.P.A., G.A.S.).

30. **HERON.**—All known heronries were visited. The numbers of occupied nests were: Fishbourne 13 (R.M.C.); Parham 42 (G.S.T.); Henfield 8 (C.A.G.); Firle Decoy Pond 3 (E.P.T.); Glynde 23 (E.P.T.); Glyndleigh over 34 (F.A.B.); Eridge 36 (L.P.); Udimore apparently none (J.A.); Leasham 35 (J.A.).

38. **BITTERN.**—On February 6th one on the levels below Pulborough (G.H.R., C.R.T.). In the first week in March one with an injured wing was found in a school playground at Hampden Park, Eastbourne (*per* Miss M. A. Ash). One at Pagham Harbour on March 19th (M.G.) and 20th (R.R.).

On August 6th one at Pett Level Pools and for a few days thereafter (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.). The first August record for the county.

42. **SPOONBILL.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry between June 13th and 15th (D.L., A.B.W.).

45. **MALLARD.**—No exceptional numbers. At Weir Wood Reservoir 60-80 on February 5th but a maximum of c. 350 there at the end of the year (M.H.P.). The largest number at Pagham was c. 200 on December 24th (J.R.) and at Darwell Reservoir c. 350 on December 8th (J.A.H.). On the sea there were c. 350 off the Seven Sisters on December 31st (L.P.A.) and c. 200 off Langney Point on December 30th (D.D.H.).

46. **TEAL.**—Largest numbers on Amberley Wild Brooks were c. 400 in late January and February (B.A.E.M., M.H.P.). 200-300 on Beckley Decoy Pond on February 6th (J.A.H.). On Glynde Level c. 400 on February 27th (L.P.A.). At Darwell Reservoir c. 200 on February 20th (M.H.P.).

Records of birds on the sea are: c. 100 off the Seven Sisters on January 9th and c. 50 there on March 6th (R.H.C.); c. 12 off Newhaven on March 27th and 8 there on April 11th (C.M.J.).

At the end of the year numbers were smaller than at the beginning but c. 400 at the Wicks on December 22nd (D.D.H.).

47. **GARGANEY.**—First spring record on March 16th when a pair was seen at Sidlesham (J.V.S.) and a total of 25-30 birds was recorded including 6 c. 100 yards offshore from Newhaven on March 25th (A.A.B.).

No summer records add to known breeding areas and no evidence of successful breeding. None found in June on Pevensey Levels (D.H.H.). C. 9 birds recorded in August and September, the last on September 11th at Pett Level pools (M.H.P.).

49. **GADWALL.**—More records than usual. A male on Amberley Wild Brooks on February 6th (R.R.). One at Pagham Harbour on March 13th (B.A.E.M., R.R.). A male at Pett Level pools on April 6th (D.D.H.) and 9th (F.W.). What was probably this same bird was seen at Rye Harbour (G.P.) and later at the Wicks on April 23rd (D.D.H.).

One at Darwell Reservoir on August 14th and a pair there on November 13th and December 11th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). Three on Glynde Level on December 24th (G.A.S.).

50. **WIGEON.**—Maximum numbers occurred in February; c. 1,000 on Amberley Wild Brooks (G.H.R., C.R.T.); c. 350 at Pagham Harbour (B.M.); c. 700 on Glynde Level (L.P.A.).

May records are of 10 at Rye Harbour (G.P.) on the 4th and 9 there on the 7th (D.D.H.) and 3 at Thorney on the 9th (L.P.A.). August records are of one on Pett Level pools on the 21st (H.A.R.C.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 27th (R.H.G.) and one at Manhood End on the 30th (J.R.).

Maximum numbers at the end of the year were c. 600 in Chichester Harbour on December 18th (L.P.A.); c. 800 between Amberley and Pulborough on December 29th (R.R., R.J.W.); c. 300 on Glynde Level on December 24th (G.A.S.) and c. 200 at the Wicks on December 22nd (D.D.H.).

At Weir Wood Reservoir the maximum numbers were c. 75 on March 20th and 16 on December 4th (R.J.W.). At Shillinglee Lake there were a few on January 24th (R.M.F.).

52. **PINTAIL.**—Large numbers in the Amberley-Pulborough district at the beginning of the year; on January 23rd c. 165 (R.J.S.) and on February 13th over 100 (M.H.P.). The only other count of over 50 was at the Midrips-Wicks on March 13th (H.E.A.).

Three at the Wicks on September 29th (D.D.H.). No large numbers at the end of the year.

53. **SHOVELER.**—On January 22nd c. 60 in Thorney Channel (L.P.A.) and on February 6th 40-50 on Amberley Wild Brooks (G.H.R., C.R.T.). Elsewhere numbers were quite small.

During the breeding season birds were observed in only 3 of the known breeding localities and no evidence of young being raised.

Few at the end of the year.

55. **SCAUP.**—Few recorded. One at Pett Level pools on October 15th and one flying W off Langney Point on the 19th (D.D.H.).

56. **TUFTED DUCK.**—Largest numbers were recorded at Weir Wood Reservoir; c. 100 on February 5th and 10th (M.H.P., G.A.S., E.P.T.); c. 60 on September 17th (M.H.P.) and c. 50 on October 15th (M.H.P.) and December 4th (R.J.W.). At the beginning and end of the year the number at Darwell Reservoir was c. 50 (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

Six on Pett Level pools on May 30th (C.M.J.). A pair on Maresfield Park lake on May 31st and June 1st but not seen subsequently (H.A.B.). One on Chichester G.P. on July 24th (A.A.) and 3 on Thorney Island on July 26th (D.J.M.). The first autumn birds at Weir Wood Reservoir were seen on August 20th (H.A.B., G.S.B., A.D.B.).

57. **POCHARD.**—Maximum numbers: c. 140 at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 12th (D.D.H.); c. 50 at Darwell Reservoir on February 20th (M.H.P.) and c. 30 at Chichester G.P. on March 4th (R.M.C.).

During August one at Chichester G.P. on the 1st (P.R.M.) and one at Pett Level pools on the 11th with 6 there on the 24th (D.D.H.).

At the end of the year c. 100 at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 10th (M.H.P.) and 24 at Pett Level pools on December 22nd (D.D.H.).

60. **GOLDENEYE.**—Recorded at the beginning of the year in numbers of up to 5 along the coast except at Chichester Harbour where the maximum count was 28 on March 20th (P.R.M.). Inland there were 2 at Darwell Reservoir on January 16th and 29th and March 16th (M.H.P., G.A.S., F.W.); one on Glynde Level on January 26th (D.D.H.); one at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 5th (R.J.W.) and 2 there on April 2nd (M.H.P.).

A pair at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 23rd and a female there on the 30th (D.D.H.).

Three at Pett Level on October 29th (D.D.H.). Numbers small at end of the year with inland records of one at Pond Leigh, near Burgess Hill, on December 16th (J.A.W.) and 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir during December (J.R.).

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK.**—One which in due course proved to be an immature drake was first seen on the Cuckmere Old Channel on October 28th by J.D.M. and subsequently by many observers until the end of the year. Two in Emsworth Channel on December 18th (L.P.A.) and, probably the same birds, an immature male and a female at the mouth of Chichester Harbour on December 27th (D.F.B.).

62. **VELVET SCOTER.**—Largest number recorded was 50+ off Pett Level on October 2nd (C.M.J.).

64. **COMMON SCOTER.**—Though it is far commoner off the E of the county c. 200 were seen off Peacehaven and c. 200 off Roedean on March 27th (C.M.J.) and up to 200 off Hove during April (G.A.S.). Up to c. 50 in Rye Bay in July (R.H.C.) and c. 80 flying E off Langney Point on July 24th (D.D.H.).

At the end of the year there were c. 800 off the Midrips on November 21st (H.E.A.)—the largest party recorded—and 88 off Selsey Bill on November 19th (B.L.S.).

67. **EIDER.**—No records for the beginning of the year but larger numbers in December than hitherto. The first appeared in November when there was one off Brighton on the 19th (C.M.J.). Up to 5 together (probably the same birds) were seen off the coast between Newhaven and Hove in late November and December (L.P.A., C.M.J., G.A.S. *et. al*). On Novmember 26th there was a party of 12 flying W off Pett Level and on the 30th 6 off the Midrips (D.D.H.). On December 16th a party of 7 flew W off Cuckmere Haven (D.D.H.) At Langney Point there were 10 on December 17th (L.P.A.) and numbers increased until by the end of the year there were 23 there (D.D.H.). There was one at Pagham on December 26th and 29th (L.P.A., J.R.) and 2 off East Head, West Wittering, December 27th-31st (J.R.). The only adult males recorded were 2 among the birds off Langney Point.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.**—The largest number was over 60 off East Head, West Wittering, on January 30th (B.A.E.M., G.H.R., R.R., C.R.T.).

A brown-headed bird at Pagham in July was last seen on the 27th but opinions were divided as to whether it was incapacitated (A.A., D.J.M., M.H.P.).

First autumn records were of one off Langney Point (D.D.H.) and of one off Shoreham (B.A.E.M., R.R.) on October 22nd. Largest numbers towards the end of the year were 30-40 off East Head and 20-30 at Pagham in late December (J.R.).

70. **GOOSANDER.**—The bird on the Cuckmere Old Channel recorded in the 1954 Report was last seen there on January 25th (L.A.C.). There were 2 at Manhood End, January 2nd-30th (A.A., B.A.E.M., *et. al.*) and 3 (one an adult male) at Sidlesham Ferry on January 16th (C.R.T.), 3 at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 5th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry, November 6th-December 4th (L.P.A., M.H.P., J.V.S., *et al.*). On December 9th one flying W together with a Merganser came down briefly on the sea off Langney Point (D.D.H.). On December 11th there was one at Darwell Reservoir (M.H.P., G.A.S.). Unless otherwise stated all were brown-headed birds.

71. **SMEW.**—All records for the year are: 2 at Chichester G.P. on January 16th (F.A.H., H.C.H.); one in the lower Cuckmere valley, January 23rd-February 5th (R.H.C., J.D.M.); 3 at the Wicks on January 29th (R.H.C.) and one at the Midrips on February 19th (D.D.H.); 2 drakes at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 29th (M.H.P.), 2 brown-headed birds there on February 5th (M.H.P., G.A.S.), up to 4 (one adult male) there February 27th-March 6th (E.R.G.K., M.H.P., G.A.S., R.J.W.) and one there March 20th-21st (R.J.W.); one on Chalvington, pond on February 14th (L.A.C.); 3 at Darwell Reservoir on January 29th (F.W.) and an adult drake there on February 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one near Pulborough on February 13th (B.A.E.M., R.R.); on February 19th one on Burton Park lake (E.F.) and one at Piddinghoe (M.H.P.) which was also seen on the 20th (C.M.J.); up to 5 (including 2 drakes) at Manhood

End between February 17th and March 5th (S.J.K.E.). Unless otherwise stated all were brown-headed birds.

73. **SHELDUCK.**—Largest numbers recorded were c. 500 at Thorney on April 11th (G.H.R.) and c. 100 between Camber and the Wicks on February 19th (D.D.H.).

Birds flying W along the coast noted off Langney Point on November 15th (11); 17th (6) and December 9th (12). On November 17th 2 were also seen flying E. Birds probably temporarily resting whilst en route were 5 on the Cuckmere Old Channel on November 3rd (D.D.H.).

75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE.**—On January 16th L.P.A. describes 2, flying E just off the Palace Pier, Brighton, as " large with a heavy-looking head and neck; forewing appearing pale grey; head and neck same shade as body which was darker than rear edge of wing.

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—On January 8th there were 12 off East Head, West Wittering (M.G.) and 3 on Amberley Wild Brooks (R.R.), and there were 2 on February 6th near Pulborough (G.H.R., C.R.T.). On January 13th 37 flew in from the sea at Langney Point from the SE (D.D.H.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on January 23rd and 4 there on the 30th (L.A.C.); one on Hooe Level on February 26th (L.P.A.).

On March 23rd, from the Seven Sisters, D.D.H. saw c. 20 and then 2 lots of 4 flying E. A strong S-SE wind.

On November 19th there were several on Henfield Level (C.A.G.).

78. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.**—Four flying W. off Langney Point on October 22nd (D.D.H.).

80. **BRENT GOOSE.**—In Chichester Harbour numbers increased from c. 20 in early January (G.A.S.) to c. 40 on the 30th (B.A.E.M., G.H.R., R.R., C.R.T.); at Pagham from 3 or 4 (A.A.) to 10 on the 30th (B.M., M.H.P., G.A.S.). In the first area numbers fell to c. 30 during February (C.R.T.) but were maintained at Pagham (G.A.S., R.J.S.). At the Midrips there were 12 on January 22nd (C. Southerden *per* H.E.A.), 6 on the 29th (H.E.A., H.A.R.C.), 5 on the 30th (L.A.C.) and one on February 6th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). Single birds occurred in the Cuckmere valley between January 19th (D.D.H.) and February 6th (L.A.C.); near Bishopstone on January 25th and on Glynde Level on January 26th (D.D.H.), an unusual inland record. On January 29th 7 flying E. off Newhaven (R.J.S.); on February 23rd 8 flying E. off Winchelsea Beach (D.D.H.) and on March 23rd 16 flying E. off Peacehaven (L.P.A.). The last record may relate to return migration and the following April records probably do; one at Thorney on the 3rd (M.H.P.); 2 at the Midrips on the 9th (D. C. H. Worsfold *per* H.A.R.C.) and 2 on Camber Sands on the 11th (L.A.C., F.W.) and 14 flying E. off the Midrips on the 21st (R.R.).

Fourteen flying E. off Hove on November 15th (G.A.S.); 2 flying E. off Langney Point on December 13th and 5 flying W. there on the 18th (D.D.H.); 2 at Pagham on December 26th (L.P.A.).

82. **CANADA GOOSE.**—Five on Shillinglee Lake on April 8th (R.M.F.).

84. **MUTE SWAN.**—Forty on Darwell Reservoir on December 11th (M.H.P.).

85. **WHOOPER SWAN.**—Nine on Burton Park Lake on February 19th (E.F.) and one in the Cuckmere valley above Exceat on March 19th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN.**—On January 26th and 28th 8 adults and 8 first-year birds on Glynde Level (D.D.H.) and one there on February 12th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). Six on Amberley Wild Brooks on February 16th (J.S.) and 14 there on the 19th (R.J.W.). One near Iford on February 13th (L.P.A.). One at Darwell Reservoir on February 20th and 5 there on March 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One on Pett Level Pools on March 19th (R.H.C.) and 25th (L.P.A.), 5 there on April 2nd (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.) and 3rd (R.B.B.) and one there and one (perhaps the same) at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 9th (F.W.).

91. **BUZZARD.**—A number of records covering much of the W. and N. of the county but no nest in use was recorded though 2 records suggest that young had been successfully raised.

99. **MARSH HARRIER.**—One, a uniformly dark bird, at Pett Level on August 27th (D.D.H., I.J.F.L.) and a similar or the same bird near Cuckmere Haven on the 28th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). A different bird at Sidlesham Ferry on the 31st (R.H.C.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on September 23rd (M.E.) and one flying W. under Seaford Head on October 23rd (L.P.A.).

100. **HEN HARRIER.**—As usual 2 or 3 in the Rye-Midrips area at the beginning and end of the year. In February, one near Wartling on the 26th (D.J.) and one near Southease on the 27th (C.M.J.). On March 12th one at Pagham (D.G.N.) and on the 13th one at Buxted Park (R.S.).

On December 6th a male, Broadwater Forest (G.P.), and on the 24th one on Glynde Level (G.A.S.).

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER.**—One on Broomhill Level on April 17th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and probably the same bird at Rye Harbour on the 20th (D.D.H.). One on Downs near Cuckmere Haven on April 20th and one there on May 14th (J.S.).

One at the Midrips on September 7th (J.R.).

103. **OSPREY.**—One at Pagham on May 22nd (J.L.F.). On August 28th one came in from the sea at Bishopstone and was later seen near Piddinghoe (C.M.J.). One off Thorney Island between August 20th and September 10th was seen by many observers.

104. **HOBBY.**—Probably had a more successful season than usual. One pair nested in a park where none known to have nested for 50-60 years and 2 other pairs occupied sites apparently not previously known. All reared young. In addition birds were seen at previously known sites.

On October 6th an immature bird, apparently coasting W. came down on the beach at Langney Point. There was a strong N.W. wind (D.D.H., C.M.J.).

107. **MERLIN.**—Four records from the coast for January-March. About 10 birds recorded, September-December, all for the vicinity of the coast except for one at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 17th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and one near Ripe on November 2nd (L.A.C.). On October 22nd one flew in S.S.E. to N.N.W. at Brighton (G.A.S.).

110. **KESTREL.**—One flying W. some way out off Langney Point on March 27th (R.H.C.).

117. **QUAIL.**—Heard near Litlington on May 30th (R.H.C.), near Alfriston between July 5th and 17th (L.A.C.) and on the night of July 9th-10th near Beachy Head (F. R. Smith *per* I.J.F.L.).

121. **SPOTTED CRAKE.**—One on the Crumbles on March 16th (D.D.H.).

125. **CORNCRAKE.**—One calling on the edge of Chailey Common on June 7th (J.A.W.). At Sidlesham 2 on August 23rd and 26th and one on the 29th and on September 1st (J.V.S.).

127. **COOT.**—c. 300 at Darwell on December 8th (J.A.H.).

133. **LAPWING.**—On January 2nd 10 flew in from the S.E. at Newhaven (L.P.A.). During the cold weather in February many flew S. out to sea; on the 17th c. 150 at Seaford Head, on the 18th c. 180 from Langney Point; on the 19th " numerous small parties " between Camber and the Wicks (D.D.H.). Some little W. movement noted on February 19th between Camber and the Wicks (D.D.H.) and on the 21st at Brighton (C.M.J.), but an E. movement over the sea off Brighton, February 21st-25th (small parties of up to 16) (R.J.S.). On the 25th parties of 3 to 40 passing N. all day near Uckfield (M.G.N.).

On July 9th 16 flew in from the S. at Rye Bay and 43 in all at the Midrips (R.H.C.). On July 10th 28 came in from the sea at Seaford Head (C.M.J.). On October 22nd c. 125 flew in from the S. at the Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.)

and a few flew in at Brighton (G.A.S.) and Shoreham (B.A.E.M., R.R.). On the 23rd C.M.J. saw c. 35 flying N.E. at Newhaven. On November 15th 6 and on the 17th 2 flew in S.E. to N.W. at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

134. **RINGED PLOVER.**—Two pairs bred at Chichester G.P. (J.R.). At Weir Wood Reservoir one to 4 birds seen on various dates from August 20th to December 25th (many observers).

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.**—At its first station it appears that 3 pairs nested and hatched young but how many flew is not known. None appear to have bred at the second station where an early pair soon left (S.J.K.E.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry on April 16th (P.R.M.). One at Thorney on July 12th (R.H.C.). One to 3 at the Midrips-Wicks between July 30th and September 4th (H.E.A., R.H.C., D.D.H.). One with Ringed Plovers at Langney Point on October 2nd (D.D.H.).

136. **KENTISH PLOVER.**—One at Newhaven on April 18th (A.A.B.). A full description and a drawing have been supplied.

139. **GREY PLOVER.**—On January 24th c. 200 on a flooded field at Earnley and 400-500 there on February 5th (J.V.S.). On June 23rd one at the Rother Estuary (P.F.L.B., D.D.H.). A different bird at the Midrips on July 21st and 23rd (D.D.H.). Twenty on Pilsea Island on June 16th (R.H.C.) and 21 there on July 24th (M.H.P.). Wintering birds in usual strength except that there were more than usual in the Rother estuary-Wicks area from October onwards with a maximum of 32 on October 15th (D.D.H.).

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER.**—After a snow storm on January 4th over 330 counted in half-an-hour flying S.W. over Bognor (A.A.). During cold weather a few flew S. out to sea at the Midrips-Wicks on February 19th (D.D.H.) and there were over 800 on Hooe Level on the 26th (L.P.A.). One at the Wicks on May 11th (D.D.H.). One at Sidlesham on August 26th (J.V.S.).

More than usual at the end of the year in the extreme W. of the county, the weather still being open; c. 300 at East Head, West Wittering, on December 10th (C.J.H.) and 200-300 at Sidlesham from the 14th onwards (J.V.S.).

142. **DOTTEREL.**—One at the Wicks on May 11th (D.D.H.).

143. **TURNSTONE.**—June records: Three at the Rother estuary on the 2nd and 2 there on the 11th (D.D.H.). July records: One at the Rother estuary on the 23rd (D.D.H.); 6 at Thorney on the 23rd (G.A.S.) and 20 there on the 26th (D.J.M.); 8 at East Head on the 24th (D.J.M.); 2 at Langney Point on the 26th (D.D.H.); 30 at Pagham on the 27th (D.J.M.); 5 at the Rother estuary on the 27th (D.D.H.).

On October 11th there were 110 at Galley Hill, Bexhill (J.A.H.).

150. **CURLEW.**—No particularly large numbers observed at either end of the year. Whilst young were evidently hatched by one pair in the N.E. of the county (R.S.) evidence for a complete statement of breeding success is lacking.

The early movement of some birds in July noted as in previous years, the earliest evidence being of birds calling as they passed over Haywards Heath on the 5th and 14th (E.R.G.K.).

151. **WHIMBREL.**—One or 2 throughout July, Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H., I.J.F.L.) and 2 at Pagham on July 2nd (R.J.S.).

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.**—The most interesting feature was the large number seen in winter in Chichester Harbour. On January 23rd and February 20th L.P.A. estimated that there were c. 400 birds—more than were seen at the end of 1954. At the end of March numbers were not above 260 (L.P.A., A.A.). Thereafter 36 on May 9th (L.P.A.); 98 on June 16th (R.H.C.); from July 10th numbers remained at c. 20 until August 5th when there were 208 (C.R.T.). Something approaching this number seems to have been more or less maintained until November 20th when L.P.A. counted c. 170. During December there were 30-40 present (L.P.A., J.R.).

Elsewhere in the county not more than 5 birds were seen together and records fell between August 24th and September 17th apart from one at the Wicks on April 11th (L.A.C., M.H.P.).

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT.**—Less than usual on spring passage but wintering and autumn numbers about average. June records are of 2 at the Rother estuary on the 2nd and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 18th (D.D.H.). July records are of 9 at Pagham on the 2nd and 5 there on the 9th (M.H.P., R.J.S.) and 4 at Rye Harbour G.P. on the latter date (R.H.C.); 12 in Chichester Harbour on the 24th (M.H.P.).

156. **GREEN SANDPIPER.**—A number recorded in winter at both ends of the year. Seven individuals on various dates before the end of February and 5 in December. These records come from inland as well as coastal localities. Three birds for March and 9 for April, but no May or June records. July records are for the 2nd onwards. The largest number recorded together was 12 on August 21st on a cress bed near Chichester (R.J.S.).

157. **WOOD SANDPIPER.**—No spring records. The first autumn record is of one at Thorney on July 25th (R.H.C.) and in all c. 20 birds were recorded, all for coastal localities except for one at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 14th, 20th and 21st and September 12th (J.R., *et al.*), and 2 there on the 17th and 18th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). The largest number in one area was 6 at the Midrips-Wicks on August 20th (D.D.H.).

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER.**—The birds present at the end of 1954 at Piddinghoe, Sidlesham Ferry and Manhood End stayed on into 1955. At the end of the year there was one wintering near Newhaven (C.M.J.) and 2 at Manhood End (A.A.).

Unusually few on spring migration (R.H.C., D.D.H., I.J.F.L.).

Autumn migration was first observed on July 6th when there were 2 at Rye Harbour G.P. (I.J.F.L.). On July 29th there were at least 15 in ditches around Shoreham lagoon (R.J.S.) and on August 15th 25-30 at the Midrips-Wicks (I.J.F.L.).

161. **REDSHANK.**—On August 12th a party of 6 flew S out to sea at Langney Point at a considerable height (D.D.H.).

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK.**–In January one at Thorney on the 8th (C.R.T.) and 2 there on the 23rd (L.P.A.); one in the lower Cuckmere valley on the 9th (L.A.C.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 15th (D.D.H.) and 2 there on the 30th (L.P.A.); and one at Birdham on the 29th (M.G.).

In spring only one individual reasonably separable from wintering birds occurred—on April 10th and 16th at Sidlesham (L.P.A., P.R.M.).

In autumn first recorded on July 23rd at Manhood End (A.A.) and Thorney (2) (M.H.P.). During August and September birds occurred at Thorney, where the maximum number on September 5th was variously given as at least 8 (B.A.E.M.), 9 (R.R.) and 11 (R.J.W.); Shoreham (one); Chichester G.P. (one); Midrips-Wicks (2 on various dates); Cuckmere (one) and Manhood End (2). In October one was still present at the Midrips on the 15th (D.D.H.) and one remained at Thorney until the 30th (G.A.S.). The birds at Manhood End reached a maximum of 4 in October and there was still one there on November 23rd (C.M.V.).

165. **GREENSHANK.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry on March 6th (L.P.A., C.R.T.). Few recorded in spring, the maximum being 5 at Thorney on May 9th (L.P.A.). One at Thorney on June 1st (R.H.C.).

The first autumn record is for July 6th when I.J.F.L. saw one at Rye Harbour G.P. No particularly large gatherings at high tide recorded for Chichester Harbour, the largest being of 42 at Chidham on September 18th (C.R.T.). More than usual at the Midrips-Wicks in late August and early September with a maximum of 16 on September 6th (J.R.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 14th (J.R.) and 27th (E.R.G.K.) and 2 there on September 1st (J.R.). Two at Thorney on December 18th (L.P.A.).

169. **KNOT.**—Few recorded in spring. July records are of 2 at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 13th (D.D.H.) and 3 there on the 16th (I.J.F.L.) and subsequently 4 at Pilsea Island on the 24th (M.H.P.). Over 60 at high tide at Rye Harbour G.P. on August 31st (D.D.H.) and c. 150 there on September 4th (R.H.C.).

170. **PURPLE SANDPIPER.**—At the beginning of the year up to 8 at Brighton and 4 at Hove and up to 6 at Brighton at the end of the year. Otherwise usual wintering numbers at Newhaven and Bulverhythe.

171. **LITTLE STINT.**—Three in May; one on the 1st at Rye Harbour G.P. (R.H.C.); one on the 28th near Camber (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.) and one on the 31st at the Midrips (R.B.B., G.P.).

One at the Midrips on July 21st and 23rd (D.D.H.) and c. 15 between August 1st and October 16th including one at Weir Wood Reservoir, September 16th-18th (G.A.S., *et al.*).

176. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER.**—One September 6th. J.R. found one at the Midrips and later the same day it was also seen by several visitors from Dungeness Observatory, two of whom had previous experience of this species. The following points are taken from the descriptions given: slightly larger than a Dunlin; bill slightly decurved and relatively short, greyish brown with yellow at base; legs yellowish; chest band easily seen, even in flight, contrasting with white belly; " back a beautiful mottled golden-orange until at close range when patterning of feathers could be closely seen "; 2 white Snipe-like stripes on back; in flight no noticeable wing bar and pattern of rump " rather like Ruff but with much darker centre "; at rest wings slightly longer than tail; call " a kind of ' crick ' with emphasis on ' r.' "

178. **DUNLIN.**—In June there were c. 20 in the Rye area on the 2nd, less than 10 there on the 23rd and 9 in the Midrips-Wicks area on the 26th (D.D.H.). On December 10th C.J.H. estimated c. 3,500 on Pilsea Island.

179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER.**—One at Thorney, March 13th-April 11th (A.A., M.H.P., *et al.*). One on Pilsea Island on May 3rd (B.W.R.) and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 8th (R.H.C.). In June, one on Thorney Island on the 1st and 2 on Pilsea Island on the 16th (R.H.C.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 18th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.).

One at the Midrips on July 23rd (D.D.H.) and c. 25 individuals were seen subsequently up to October 2nd including 6 at the Midrips on August 31st (D.D.H.) and one at Weir Wood Reservoir between September 16th and 28th (H.A.B., G.A.S., *ey al.*).

181. **SANDERLING.**—July records are: 18 at the Rother estuary on the 21st and 26 at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 23rd (D.D.H.); c. 50 on Pilsea Island on the 24th (M.H.P.).

182. **BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER.**—One at the Midrips was seen on September 17th by R.H.C. and I.J.F.L. and subsequently by many observers up to October 2nd. Details will appear in *Brit. B.* The third record for the county.

184. **RUFF.**—Two at Thorney on January 23rd (L.P.A.), 3 there on February 20th (C.R.T.) and 4 on March 13th and 20th (C.R.T.). There were 3 there on April 11th (G.H.R.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 12th (A.H.W.S.); 2 at Newhaven on the 16th (M.H.P.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 15th (R.H.C.).

As usual a number along the coast in autumn from August 9th to October 15th and one at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 20th and 21st (E.R.G.K., *et al.*). One on Thorney Island on December 18th (L.P.A.).

185. **AVOCET.**—One flying NW near Barcombe Mills on March 23rd (S.H.F.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 28th (R.H.C.) and 29th (H.A.R.C.). One at Pevensey Bay on June 2nd (S.G.). Two at Shoreham, July 22nd-August 28th (J.S., *et al.*).

187. **GREY PHALAROPE.**—One on the sea just off Shoreham Beach on October 22nd (B.A.E.M., R.R.). On November 9th one at Newhaven (V.G.) and one at Southwick (J.M.T.). One just off Langney Point on November 13th (D.D.H.). One at Manhood End on November 22nd (S.J.K.E.).

187. **STONE CURLEW.**—An autumn gathering on the Downs above Lancing comprised c. 50 birds between October 9th and 19th (B.A.E.M., J.S.).

190/1. **PRATINCOLE/BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE.**—A bird seen briefly in flight at the Midrips on August 21st by J. W. Donovan and others was a pratincole but was not more precisely identified. Details will appear in *Brit. B.*

193. **ARCTIC SKUA.**—One off Saltdean on April 24th (C.M.J.). One at Rye Harbour on May 4th (F.J.W.) and one in Rye Bay on the 8th (R.H.C.). An immature off Langney Point on June 17th (D.D.H.) and 3 immatures off the mouth of the Rother on the 23rd (D.D.H., P.F.L.B.). Two off the mouth of the Rother on July 6th (I.J.F.L.). One in Rye Bay on 24th (R.H.C.). One off Langney Point on the 29th (D.D.H.). Some 12 birds recorded between August 6th and October 8th. All are for the coast between Langney Point and Rye Bay except for one at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 12th (J.R.). It appeared uninjured and flew strongly. This is only the fourth inland record for the county and the first since 1896.

194. **GREAT SKUA.**—On December 18th one found dead, in good condition, on Newhaven East Beach (C.F.B.).

195. **POMARINE SKUA.**—On November 11th D.D.H. saw one of the pale form flying W. off Langney Point. The projecting central tail-feathers were not present but it was identified by its large size (could be compared with Herring Gulls and Gannets) and by the very extensive area of white on both sides of the wing extending almost to the wing tips. There was a strong S. wind.

198. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—At the end of the year about 40 were wintering in the area of Galley Hill (Bexhill) but in early December a flock of c. 220 arrived for a few days. They roosted separately from the local birds (J.A.H.).

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—As usual one or 2 at Shoreham at both ends of the year (R.J.S., J.M.T.). One on January 30th between St. Leonards and Bexhill (R.H.C.). On February 6th there were 5 at the Pett Level Pools, at least one being of the Scandinavian race (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL.**—The white bird at Shoreham recorded in 1954 remained throughout the year. By December it had undergone little, if any, change of plumage which is surprising. It has been suggested that this bird may be in fact an albino Great Black-backed Gull. A similar or, perhaps, the same white bird was seen off Brighton on March 24th (L.P.A.) and in the Lower Cuckmere valley on March 26th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and April 8th (L.P.A.) but the Cuckmere bird may have been a different individual since J.M.T. saw the Shoreham bird on March 26th at Shoreham. The first winter bird at Shoreham recorded in 1954 was seen there by R.R. on January 2nd. Likewise the 1954 adult at Sidlesham was seen there and at Earnley between January 6th and 15th by J.V.S. On January 20th D.D.H. saw a first winter bird at Seaford. An immature was seen by C.M.J. at Piddinghoe Pond on the early date of September 4th and (apparently the same bird) at Newhaven on October 9th and 23rd. An immature, Midrips-Wicks, on November 21st (H.E.A., K.E.I.B.). On December 9th D.D.H. saw a first winter bird at Langney Point.

203. **ICELAND GULL.**—On May 13th L.P.A. saw a first-year bird at Porto Bello, Brighton. "Size rather less than that of Herring Gull. Head small and bill slender, less stout than in Herring Gull; dark area on upper mandible about half length of bill at tip. Legs pinkish and shorter than in Herring Gull."

205. **MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—On August 3rd a second summer bird was watched at close range for about 25 minutes at Langney Point by D.D.H. (See *British Birds*, vol. xlviii, p.547).

207. **LITTLE GULL.**—An immature at Hove on February 5th (R.J.S.) and 18th (G.A.S.). An immature bird was seen at Rye Harbour G.P. by D.D.H. and others on various dates between May 11th and June 18th, this last being the latest June date for the county. On May 28th R.M.C. saw 2 immatures there. An immature at Thorney on May 8th (L.P.A., M.H.P., R.J.S.).

An immature at Thorney on September 4th (A.A., P.R.M.). An adult at Pagham on October 19th (A.H.W.S.). An immature at sea one to two miles

off Shoreham on October 30th (S.R.A.). and one at Seaford on November 9th (J.S).

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—C. 100 pairs nested at Rye Harbour G.P. (I.J.F.L., D.D.H.). On July 13th D.D.H. saw over 60 young on the wing while others unable to fly could be seen on the islands.

211. **KITTIWAKE.**—On March 23rd during a S. gale parties of up to 30 were flying E. off the Seven Sisters (D.D.H.). Birds summered as usual on the E. Sussex coast, particularly in the area of Rye Harbour G.P., where the largest number recorded was 30 on June 22nd (C.M.V.). One adult was recorded there and 2 at Langney Point, the rest being immatures. An immature near the mouth of the Adur on May 25th (R.J.S.).

212. **BLACK TERN.**—Few records for spring; one at Pett Level Pools on May 1st (L.A.C.) and 3 at Rye G.P. (R.H.C.); one at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 2nd (D.D.H.) and one there on the 18th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.). Return passage began early; an adult at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 13th; a juvenile there from the 21st to the end of the month (D.D.H.); 2 at Thorney on the 25th (R.H.C.); on the 30th an adult at the mouth of the Rother and 3 flying W. off the Midrips (R.H.C.); on the 29th D.D.H. saw an adult and 2 juveniles flying E. off Langney Point and on the 31st R.H.C. and D.D.H. saw at least 6 there. Records of c. 12 birds for August, c. 10 for September and c. 6 for October, the latest being for October 9th. All for the coast or Chichester G.P.

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN.**—On May 29th 2 flew slowly E. just off shore at Langney Point. On July 29th 3, also only a few yards out, passed E. there (D.D.H. *British Birds*, vol. xlviii, p.511). One at the Midrips in the evening of August 15th (I.J.F.L. Ibid. p.512).

217. **COMMON TERN.**—A count at the Rye Harbour ternery on June 11th by I.J.F.L. and N. Orr gave a total of 203 nests with eggs. The first young bird was seen on the wing on July 9th and on the 16th c. 100 were flying. By August 6th 201 chicks had been ringed of which only 3 were afterwards found dead. A further 7 chicks were ringed on August 20th and it is probable that few remained unringed (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.). A few pairs nested, less successfully, at other pits at Rye Harbour. Two or 3 pairs tried to breed at the Midrips and one young bird was raised (D.D.H.).

218. **ARCTIC TERN.**—Only record of interest, one at Langney Point on July 29th (D.D.H.).

219. **ROSEATE TERN.**—One off Langney Point during a W. gale on June 12th and one there on July 31st. The first had a completely black bill and pink under-parts while the second had a black bill with a red base and had lost the pink (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On June 26th D.D.H. saw 2 at the Rye Harbour ternery. The under-parts still had some pink and the bills were still all black. On July 6th I.J.F.L. saw one there; on the 9th one flying E. of the Wicks and on the 30th 2 off Nook Beach, Rye Harbour (R.H.C.).

222. **LITTLE TERN.**—On May 22nd A.H.W.S. saw one at Pond Leigh, near Burgess Hill, 10 miles from the sea. Apparently no young were raised at Rye Harbour and only one at the Midrips (D.D.H.). No information regarding breeding from Pagham. A rather late bird off Langney Point on October 12th (D.D.H.).

223. **SANDWICH TERN.**—E. passage was observed off Shoreham, April 18th-28th with most on the 25th, c. 160 in 6 hours (R.R., R.J.W.). The usual June and July records for Langney Point and Rye Harbour. Three off East Head on July 26th (D.J.M.).

226. **LITTLE AUK.**—One flying W. c. 50 yards off Bishopstone beach on October 23rd (C.M.J.); one flew in from the S.W. and alighted on the sea off Langney Point on the 26th (D.D.H.); on the 30th one was found alive in a stack-yard at Hooe and taken to the Eastbourne R.S.P.C.A. It was seen by D.D.H. before it died the following day. On the 31st one flew in from the W. and alighted briefly on the sea off the end of Newhaven West Breakwater before flying off E. (B.A.E.M., R.R.). There had been a N.E. gale on the

21st. The only previous October record for the county was for October 31st, 1912. On December 18th L.P.A. found one under the west sea wall at Thorney.

227. **GUILLEMOT.**—On September 25th C.M.J. saw one, apparently not oiled or injured, on the river just N. of Newhaven.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL.**—In the early months of the year there were one at East Head (West Wittering), up to 4 at Thorney, up to 4, Sidlesham-Bracklesham Bay, 3 on Amberley Wild Brooks, one on the Crumbles, 2 on Pevensey Levels and 2 near the mouth of the Rother. One, lower Cuckmere, on May 7th, and one on Pevensey Levels on May 21st (R.H.C.). Between October 22nd and the end of the year c. 22 were recorded between Newhaven and the Wicks, including 9 on Pevensey Levels on December 27th (R.H.C.).

259. **BEE-EATER.**—One at North Lancing on June 6th (R.J.S.). On June 12th 3 were seen in central Sussex (E. A. Packington *per British Birds*). On July 31st 5 were seen in a sand-pit about 2 miles from this locality by Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Kimmins and Miss M. Songhurst. Subsequent investigations (involving many observers) established the fact that 3 pairs had attempted to nest in this sand-pit. One nest had been accidently destroyed, but, thanks to the assistance of the R.S.P.B., the other pairs succeeded in raising young, 4 from one nest and 3 from the other. When these were all on the wing 13 birds were present in the locality, where they were last seen (about a mile from the nesting site) on September 24th. On September 17th S.H.F. saw 9 about 8 miles from the nesting site. This is not only the first breeding record of the species for Sussex but the first successful breeding for Britain. A full account is given in *Bird Notes* (published by the R.S.P.B.), Vol. 27, No. 2, pp. 34-43.

261. **HOOPOE.**—One at Float Farm, Udimore, on March 28th (F. Osborne in *The Sussex County Magazine*). One at Manhood End on March 31st (per S.J.K.E.) and April 1st (J.R.). One at Chichester G.P. on April 3rd (per S.J.K.E.). One at Steyning on April 22nd (C.A.G.). One at Rotherfield on April 23rd (Mrs. A. S. Vernon-Williams per G.P.). One at Eastbourne on April 30th (E.M.C.) and one on the same date by the road between Pett Level and Fairlight (I.J.F.L.).

265. **WRYNECK.**—One singing at Bodiam on April 23rd (J. Boswell per Dr. J. Monk) and one in a garden at Burpham on September 9th (F.P.P.).

272. **SKYLARK.**—On January 14th C.M.J. saw some fly in from the S-SW at Brighton and L.P.A. saw c. 100 flying E-SE over Hove. It was thawing after snow the previous day. On January 15th some were flying in SE to NW at Langney Point and on the 16th there was a similar movement at Brighton (L.P.A.). On February 21st, during another thaw after snow D.D.H. observed a W movement over Eastbourne and L.P.A. an NW one over Hove which continued on the 22nd.

On October 22nd R.H.C. saw c. 100 flying in from the SE-S at the Midrips-Wicks between 9.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.; D.D.H. saw c. 100 fly in in a similar manner at Langney Point, 11.45 a.m.-1.15 p.m.; G.A.S. saw c. 100 fly in SE-NW at Brighton 2.0-4.0 p.m.; B.A.E.M. and R.R. saw some coming in from the SE at Shoreham during the afternoon. The wind was NNE and there had been a gale the previous day. On October 23rd L.P.A. saw a similar arrival from the sea at Seaford Head. On October 29th birds were arriving from the SE and flying NW all the morning up to about 1.0 p.m. between the Wicks and the Rother estuary (D.D.H.). On October 30th some were flying in SE to NW at Langney Point (D.D.H.) and a S to N movement was seen from a boat c. 1½ miles off Shoreham (S.R.A.). On November 2nd 3 flew S out to sea at Langney Point and on November 15th 2 flew in S to N there (D.D.H.).

273. **SHORELARK.**—Two at the Midrips on November 20th (Dr. and Mrs. J. Monk, per H.E.A.) and 3 there on the 21st (H.E.A., K.E.I.B.). Subsequently 2 were seen there until December 22nd when 3 were again present. These were still there at the end of the year (I.J.F.L., D.D.H.).

274. **SWALLOW.**—One at Eastbourne on March 26th (M. N. Harber), 2 at the Seven Sisters on 27th (R.H.C.), one between Storrington and Amberley on the 30th (G.P.). On October 15th R.J.S. saw 4 fly in from the SE at Hove.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN.**—One at Pett Level on March 27th (R.J.S.).

277. **SAND MARTIN.**—Began to assemble in the Camber-Wicks area rather earlier than usual. On July 21st there were some hundreds in the area, apparently moving slowly E. Wind N. On the 22nd there was an E movement at Langney Point and on the 23rd there were many hundreds on the Camber sands and flying E between there and the Wicks. Wind E (D.D.H.). On August 27th many, probably several thousand, were roosting at dusk at the Pett Level pools (I.J.F.L., D.D.H.).

281. **HOODED CROW.**—Three at Shoreham refuse dump on January 17th (C.A.G.) and one at the Wicks on the 29th (H.A.R.C.). One flying E at Pett Level on November 23rd (J.A.W.); one at the Midrips on the 26th and 5 at the Wicks on November 30th and December 22nd (D.D.H.).

282. **ROOK.**—On March 27th 4 flew in from S at Langney Point (R.H.C.). On April 1st one flew in SE to NW there. Wind NE (D.D.H.). Three flew from SE at the Wicks on October 22nd (R.H.C.); 2 flew in SE to NW over Seaford Head on the 30th (L.P.A.); one flew in from the sea, S to N, at Newhaven on the 31st (B.A.E.M., R.R.); 5 flew in S to N at Langney Point on November 15th (D.D.H.).

288. **GREAT TIT.**—L.H. reports a poor breeding season at Ditchling, some having clutches of only 4 eggs and only a few surviving out of each brood. No second broods. She suggests that this was due to lack of caterpillars owing to bad weather in June.

289. **BLUE TIT.**—On October 22nd one on the seawall at the Midrips, wind NE, strong with heavy showers (R.H.C.). The breeding results at Ditchling were similar to those given for the preceding species (L.H.). On October 27th D.D.H. saw 2 at the end of Langney Point which left during the morning. Wind N, rain in night.

301. **MISTLE THRUSH.**—On January 16th 3 flew in SE to NW, Palace Pier, Brighton (L.P.A.). At 2.30 p.m. on October 29th D.D.H. saw 14 fly in SE to NW at Pett Level. Wind NW, moderate.

302. **FIELDFARE.**—On January 14th with snow on the ground but a thaw beginning D.D.H. saw a large and almost continuous E movement all the morning across the lower Cuckmere valley and L.P.A. witnessed an E-SE movement all day over Hove, while C.M.J. saw a big E movement over Brighton. On January 15th there was a similar movement over Hampden Park (L.P.A.). From January 30th to February 2nd there was an E movement 4 miles N of Lewes, most of the local birds going with it (S.H.F.). On February 19th (snow on ground, freezing) many were moving W along the coast between Camber and the Wicks (D.D.H.). On the 20th C.M.J. saw many flying W or NW between Brighton and Peacehaven and B.A.E.M. saw some flying W over Southwick. On the 21st with snow on the ground but thawing and an SE wind there was a big, almost continuous E movement all the morning and the early part of the afternoon at Eastbourne (D.D.H.). at Brighton some were flying E but others SW in the morning and very many flying E in the afternoon (C.M.J.); at Hove L.P.A. records many flying W-NW all day with a few in the afternoon going E-SE; at Shoreham and Southwick there was a considerable ENE movement (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.); at Worthing some were flying E, the wind being N (A.H.M.). On February 22nd there was a lesser ENE movement at Shoreham and Southwick (J.M.T.) and an E movement at Brighton (C.M.J.), while L.P.A. saw a few flying W-NW over Hove. On the 23rd there was an N movement 4 miles N of Lewes (S.H.F.).

On October 22nd between 9.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. 55 flew in from the S-SE at the Midrips-Wicks and c. 30 were flying W along the coast (R.H.C.).

303. **SONG THRUSH.**—On January 14th a few were moving E over Hove (L.P.A.). On February 19th a few were moving W along the coast with Fieldfares between Camber and the Wicks (D.D.H.). On October 29th at 2.30 p.m. 8 flew in SE to NW at Pett Level together with Mistle Thrushes (D.D.H.).

304. **REDWING.**—This species is recorded as taking part in most of the cold weather movements of Fieldfares given above though usually in lesser numbers. One at Shoreham on April 27th (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.).

307. **RING OUZEL.**—One at Beachy Head on April 14th (D.D.H.) and one at Hove on the 23rd (S.R.A.). Two on the Crumbles on October 4th and one at Beachy Head on the 12th (D.D.H.).

320. **REDSTART.**—On March 27th 2 between Friston and Jevington (A.H.P., J.P.) and one at Crowlink (R.H.C.); one at Ferring on the 30th (S.H.C.). These are somewhat early dates.

321. **BLACK REDSTART.**—No records for January and only 2 for February. Records of 11 for March, all from the coast except for one which stayed nearly a week in a garden at Steyning (C.A.G.). No certain evidence of breeding at Eastbourne though one or more present all summer near old nesting site where building work was taking place (E.M.C.). In Bexhill J.A.H. was unable to find any birds at the former nesting site which was also affected by building operations. On May 28th R.M.C. heard one singing near Hastings Castle. Records of 3 birds from the coast between October 20th and November 12th and of 3 1½ miles N. of Lewes in the last week in October (S.H.F.). The only December bird recorded was one at Newhaven.

322. **NIGHTINGALE.**—One at Killinghurst Park on April 8th (J. Cooper per P.M.B.) and one at Beachy Head on the 9th (D.D.H.).

333. **REED WARBLER.**—One on the Crumbles on October 4th (D.D.H.).

337. **SEDGE WARBLER.**—Several seen in spring and summer in the locality near Newhaven mentioned in the 1954 Report (C.M.J.). Six at Pett Level pools on October 9th (R.H.C.).

343. **BLACKCAP.**—A female in a garden at Seaford, December 12th-19th (R.M.S.).

347. **WHITETHROAT.**—One at Beachy Head on October 12th (D.D.H.).

364. **GOLDCREST.**—In the early morning of October 23rd D.D.H. saw one fly in from the sea NE inland at Langney Point. Wind NE, slight, some mist.

365. **FIRECREST.**—One at Newhaven on March 25th (A.A.B.); one in a garden at Shoreham, March 31st-April 3rd, and another there on April 1st (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.); one in the lower Cuckmere valley on the 1st (A.A.B.) and one there on the 8th (L.P.A.); one at Ovingdean on the 2nd (G.de.F.); one at Sidlesham on the 3rd and 6th (J.V.S.); one near Birling Gap on the 5th (C.V.J.) and one all that day at Langney Point (D.D.H.). One on the Midrips and one at Camber on November 6th (R.H.C.); 2 on the Downs N of Portslade on 8th (G.A.S.). Descriptions have been given in all cases.

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER.**—On April 24th one near Burpham (D.J.T.) and one in the lower Cuckmere valley (L.P.A.). Records of about 8 between August 13th and September 19th, all for the coast except for one at Uckfield on August 13th and another there on the 20th (R.S.).

372. **ALPINE ACCENTOR.**—One, Telscombe Cliffs on April 24th (G.des F., C.M.J., S.B.S.). *Vide Brit. B.*, col. xlviii, pp. 373/4.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT.**—Very few recorded arriving from the sea in spring. The autumn movements on the coast were much as usual.

376. **TREE PIPIT.**—On October 12th L.P.A. saw 3 flying S-SE over Roedean.

379. **WATER PIPIT.**—One at Langney Point on March 22nd and one in the lower Cuckmere valley on the 23rd (D.D.H.). Both were in summer plumage with vinous throat and breast. The white outer tail-feathers and other typical features were noted.

ROCK PIPIT.—On October 22nd 2 flew in from the S. and landed on the beach, Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.).

380. **PIED WAGTAIL.**—On March 13th one flew in to the N.-N.E., Palace Pier, Brighton, and on the 18th 2 flew in N.-N.W. at Porto Bello, Brighton (L.P.A.). On October 9th between 8.45 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. 5 flew E. along the coast at Langney Point. Wind S.E. On the 12th between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. a few were coasting E. at Beachy Head. Wind W. (D.D.H.). A few were seen flying in from the sea at Langney Point and Seaford Head in late October and on October 30th S.R.A. saw some flying N. from a boat about 1½ miles off Shoreham. On November 20th one flew in from the S at Langney Point and on October 23rd one flew S.E. out to sea there (D.D.H.).

WHITE WAGTAIL.—A few recorded from the coast between March 27th and April 27th. An adult male at Shoreham on September 10th (C.M.J.).

381. **GREY WAGTAIL.**—Early on October 9th 2 flew E. along the coast at Langney Point. Wind S.E. (D.D.H.).

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL.**—C. 15 pairs bred at Rye Harbour G.P. In the second half of June a count was made on about half the area of Pevensey Levels, including the localities usually most favoured by this species, and only about 25 pairs were found (D.D.H.).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL.—A male in a flock of male Yellow Wagtails at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 20th (D.D.H.).

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE.**—One on St. John's Common, Crowborough, on January 11th (A.A.M.B.). One in Maresfield Park on January 30th and February 1st (*per* H.A.B.). One on Ambersham Common, near Midhurst on April 11th (B.M.).

389. **STARLING.**—On January 14th with snow on the ground but with a thaw many were moving E. across the lower Cuckmere valley. Wind E. (D.D.H.). On the same day L.P.A. saw an N.E.-E. movement over Hove and on the 15th he saw a few moving in the same direction over Hampden Park. On February 20th during a cold spell a few were flying W. over Brighton (C.M.J.). On the 21st J.M.T. saw some moving E.N.E. over Shoreham and Southwick while B.A.E.M. saw a few flying W. there and C.M.J. reports a similar movement from Brighton, but at Hove L.P.A. saw large numbers flying S.E. until 9 a.m. and a large N.W. passage all day. On the 22nd a few were moving E.N.E. at Shoreham and Southwick (J.M.T.) and on the 26th there was a S.E. movement at Hove (L.P.A.).

Autumn arrival from the sea was first recorded on October 22nd when R.H.C. saw c. 1,850 arrive from the S. or S.E. between 9.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. at the Midrips-Wicks. Most continued on inland though some turned to follow the coast W. Between 11.45 a.m. and 1.15 p.m. c. 320 flew in S.-S.E. to N.-N.W. at Langney Point where arrival was still taking place in the afternoon (D.D.H.). That same day G.A.S. saw c. 20 flying N. over Brighton Front. Similar movements but on a smaller scale were recorded subsequently up to November 17th. Most were from the E. Sussex coast but c. 20 flew in at Shoreham on October 29th and 14 at West Wittering on November 13th (B.A.E.M.).

392. **GREENFINCH.**—On March 27th there was an E. movement along the coast at Worthing. Wind N. (A.H.M.). On October 12th a few were coasting W. at Beachy Head; on the 13th there was a similar movement along the Seven Sisters and on the 15th at the Midrips (D.D.H.). On October 28th 2 flew in from the S.E. at Langney Point, landing on arrival (D.D.H.).

393. **GOLDFINCH.**—On January 14th there was a continual E. movement in small parties across the mouth of the Cuckmere. Snow on ground but thaw had started in night. Wind E. (D.D.H.). A few small parties moving W. along the coast up to about 10 a.m. on October 5th at the Midrips (D.D.H.). On the 9th c. 12 came in from the S., flying towards land. Seen from a boat c. 1½ miles off Southwick (S.R.A.). One flew in S. to N. at Newhaven on the 31st (B.A.E.M.).

395. **LINNET.**—On March 27th there was an E. movement along the coast at Worthing (A.H.M.). On April 2nd there was a similar movement along the Seven Sisters and 2 flew S. out to sea there (D.D.H.). On the 17th L.P.A. noted an N.E.-E. movement at Seaford Head.

A few small parties moving W. along the coast at the Midrips up to about 10 a.m. on October 5th. On the 9th between 8.45 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. c. 100 reached Langney Point along the coast from the E. Most continued W. along the coast but 19 flew S. out to sea. Wind S.E. On the 12th between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. there was an almost continuous W. coasting movement at Beachy Head. Slight W. wind with low fog. A smaller movement W. along the Seven Sisters on the 13th (D.D.H.). On October 23rd 162 flew in from the sea flying W.-N.W. over Seaford Head and on the 30th there was a small N.-N.E. passage from the sea there (L.P.A.).

397. **LESSER REDPOLL.**—Two flying S.E. over Roedean on October 14th and odd birds flying N.E. there between October 24th and November 25th. One flying N.W. at Bracklesham Bay on November 13th and 2 flying N.W. at Chidham on the 20th (L.P.A.).

404. **CROSSBILL.**—C. 6 in Laughton Wood on January 26th (S.H.F.).

407. **CHAFFINCH.**—On October 22nd at the Midrips-Wicks between 9.45 a.m. and 1.30 p.m. R.H.C. saw c. 1,300 fly in from the S. or S.E. About half turned W. to follow the coast, the rest continued inland. A few were arriving at Pett Level in the afternoon. At Langney Point, between 11.45 a.m. and 1.15 p.m., D.D.H. saw c. 240 fly in from between S. and S.E. to between N. and N.W. A similar movement was observed from Eastbourne pier by L.P.A. and in the afternoon L.P.A. and D.D.H. saw a smaller arrival at Langney Point up to 4.3 p.m. That same day G.A.S. saw 3 flying N. over Brighton Palace Pier and B.A.E.M. saw 6 fly in S.E. to N.W. at Shoreham Beach. On October 23rd between 10.30 a.m. and 2.15 p.m., L.P.A. saw c. 1,200 fly in from the sea at Seaford Head to between N.N.E. and N.W. D.D.H. saw a few fly in at Langney Point on October 26th and 28th and at Pett Level on the 29th. On the 30th L.P.A. saw c. 390 fly in N.W. from the sea at Seaford Head and S.R.A. saw a party of c. 24 flying N. c. 1½ miles out to sea off Shoreham.

408. **BRAMBLING.**—On October 22nd c. 10 flew in with Chaffinches, Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.) and on the 23rd a few were coming in at Seaford Head, likewise with Chaffinches, and flying N.W. (L.P.A.). On the 30th S.R.A. saw some flying in S. to N. from a boat c. 1½ miles off Shoreham. Otherwise not many were recorded at either end of the year.

410. **CORN BUNTING.**—A roost of c. 30 in the Camber sandhills on December 22nd (D.D.H.).

415. **CIRL BUNTING.**—The increase noted in 1954 around Lewes was not maintained (S.H.F.).

421. **REED BUNTING.**—In the early morning of October 23rd there was a party of 4 at the end of Langney Point. Slight N.E. wind, some mist. (D.D.H.).

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING.**—One flying E. along the coast at Langney Point on November 17th. Identified by its characteristic " Ticky-tick " call, known to the observer (D.D.H.).

423. **SNOW BUNTING.**—Seven at Camber on February 2nd (F.J.W.) and 5th (D.D.H.) and one there on March 19th (F.W.).

Two at Camber on October 29th (D.D.H.) and one at East Head on the 30th (A.A., B.A.E.M., *et al.*). One flying N.W. at Roedean on November 1st (L.P.A.). Three at Newhaven (C.M.J.) and two at East Head (B.A.E.M., R.R.) on the 13th. One on the downs near Kingston on the 20th (B.M.). From November 26th to the end of the year a flock varying from c. 30 to at least 42 in the Camber-Rye Harbour area (D.D.H., C.M.J.). Two on the Crumbles from December 14th to the end of the year (D.D.H.). One at the mouth of the Cuckmere on December 29th (D.D.H.) and 31st (L.P.A.). Three at Pagham on December 4th (A.A., R.J.S.), 2 there on the 11th (B.A.E.M.) and one, December 21st-29th (J.R.).

424. **HOUSE SPARROW.**—Some local breeding colonies 4 miles N. of Lewes were seen in April to be suffering from swollen eyes causing blindness and subsequent death. Probably 25 per cent. of the birds in each colony died, all examined being females. By August infection had disappeared. Very few young were produced by the affected colonies which were adjacent (S.H.F.).

425. **TREE SPARROW.**—A pair nested unsuccessfully in a very dense thorn tree at Sidlesham (J.V.S.). Two pairs bred in an overgrown quickset hedge N. of Lewes, not far from where birds had been seen the previous summer. C. 8 young flying in early July. Apparently no second brood (S.H.F.). During June D.D.H. found 3 colonies of about 2 pairs each with the birds feeding young in or just out of the nest in 3 widely separated localities on Pevensey Levels, where in the same month he saw 2 birds in another part of this area and a family party in yet another. No news of any change in the main breeding area of the species in the county, around Rye.

On November 13th E.R.G.K. saw a flock of 25-35 at Weir Wood Reservoir, near East Grinstead. There are relatively few records from so far inland.