

THE SUSSEX
BIRD REPORT

1956



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has either not been published before or if published and accepted as correct seems open to doubt upon consideration of unpublished details. Generally, this information will come from unpublished diaries but it is perhaps worth adding that only the more important records of previous years will be dealt with.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

OBTAINABLE FROM D. D. HARBER
1 GORRINGE ROAD, EASTBOURNE

The following have contributed records:—

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| L. P. Alder | Cmdr. C. V. Jack |
| A. Allen | C. M. James |
| S. R. Allen | Miss D. James |
| J. Ashbee | H. C. Jones |
| H. E. Axell | S. F. Knight |
| A. D. Bailey | D. Langford |
| G. S. Bailey | B. A. E. Marr |
| Miss J. Barclay | H. P. Medhurst |
| Mrs. K. E. I. Barham | P. R. Mills |
| A. A. Barnard | Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Newham |
| R. B. Barstow | Miss M. G. Newman |
| Dr. H. A. Baylis | R. Norman |
| D. F. Billett | R. E. Nunmerley |
| Miss J. M. Blair | R. J. Oliver |
| Miss P. M. Bond | E. A. Packington |
| W. R. P. Bourne | W. D. Park |
| W. B. Breed | G. Peate |
| B. T. Brooker | F. P. Penfold |
| C. F. Brown | Mrs. L. Pett |
| *E. M. Cawell | Miss B. M. Pettit |
| H. A. R. Cawell | E. J. Pilcher |
| S. H. Chalke | J. L. L. Pilkington |
| R. H. Charlwood | Miss F. Pillepick |
| G. T. Charter | D. E. Pomeroy |
| R. J. F. Child | M. H. Port |
| Dr. L. A. Collins | G. H. Rees |
| W. E. Collins | B. W. Renyard |
| F. T. Connew | J. Reynolds |
| R. P. Cordero | A. Robson |
| *E. M. Cubison | R. Ruston |
| Dungeness Bird Observatory | R. J. Sandison |
| S. J. K. Eames | A. R. Sankey |
| M. Ellis | M. Shrubbs |
| R. D. English | T. B. Silcocks |
| D. T. Eitlinger | R. Slater |
| Miss A. Fawcett | G. N. Slyfield |
| I. J. Ferguson-Lees | M. S. J. Snoxell |
| G. des Forges | S. R. South |
| K. J. Foster | Miss J. V. Stacey |
| D. V. Freshwater | Dr. J. Stafford |
| R. M. Fry | A. H. W. Stokes |
| S. H. Fuller | R. C. Stone |
| R. Gilbert | G. A. Sutton |
| F. Gowan | E. P. Thorne |
| Mrs. A. Grasemann | Mrs. J. Tressell |
| S. Greenwood | Lt. R. F. Tuck |
| C. A. Grigg | J. M. Twort |
| The Viscount Haisham | Mrs. A. Vaughan Thomas |
| Mrs. J. Hamilton-Harris | C. M. Veasey |
| D. D. Harber | R. K. White |
| E. S. P. Harrison | Miss W. P. White |
| C. J. Henty | J. A. Wiggell |
| J. A. Hicks | C. V. Williams |
| H. C. Holme | R. J. Wilmshurst |
| J. C. Holt | E. J. Wiseman |
| M. M. Hutchinson | Miss W. M. Woodruffe |
| | A. G. Wootton |

* Records from E. M. Cawell are indicated by "E.M.C."; from E. M. Cubison by the use of his name in full.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

It is my intention to continue the Sussex Bird Report on the same general lines as in the past, when G. des Forges was my colleague. I am, however, making one minor change. The number of those contributing records has now increased to such an extent that some two pages are needed for a list of names and addresses. This does not seem justified in view of the limitations imposed by financial considerations on the length of the Report as a whole, and I am therefore omitting the addresses henceforth. Should any reader wish to contact any contributor I will, of course, be glad to assist.

I feel that I must bring the following matter to the attention of readers. A number of the more unusual records given in the present issue of the Report were sent by the observers concerned to *British Birds*. At the time of writing (March 19th, 1957) some have been in the hands of the Editors of this publication for over a year, but I am not aware that any observer has yet had any indication as to acceptance or rejection. Certainly I, despite repeated requests, have been unable to elicit from the Editors of *British Birds* any information on the subject, though it was long ago agreed that editors of county reports are entitled to this. As a result of this lack of information it has been necessary to devote a good deal of space in the present Report to descriptions which are quite unnecessary here if they are to be repeated later in *British Birds*.

D.D.H.

ADDITIONS TO 1955 REPORT

75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE**.—On February 26th R.H.C. saw 3 in a field between Winchelsea and Rye which flew off out to sea. Later he saw 9 fly in and come down at the Midrips and 3 on Broomhill Level. "Very large geese. Off-white forewing and large-looking head seen when flying. Pink feet. Orange bill with white tip. A few dark spots on the lower breast."

788. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE**.—An immature near Norman's Bay, October 15th-26th (N. Freer-Ash). This bird was trapped and photographed in the hand and a full description recorded which, together with the photograph, fully establishes its identity. There is only one later record for the county.

798. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—12 at Darwell on November 13th (G.A.S.).

CORRECTION TO 1954 AND 1955 REPORTS

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL**.—The white gull which was first recorded at Shoreham December 19th, 1954, and which was believed to be a second year Glaucous must now be regarded as doubtfully of this species. By the end of 1956 little change of plumage had taken place though C.M.V. reported that "the scapulars and to a slightly smaller extent the upper wing-coverts were at last colouring (ashy-buff) sufficiently to be noticeable in flight." James Fisher, who saw the bird on September 3rd, 1956, considered it to be an "albino (or rather 'dilute') Herring Gull, hatched in 1954 (possibly 1953 but less likely)" and gives its size as "apparently exactly the same as Herring Gull." However, it does not appear that any other observer shares this opinion and there is general agreement that the bird is decidedly larger and more heavily-built than a Herring Gull, while C.M.V. states that it has dominance over birds of the latter species when scavenging. It is suggested that it may be an albino Greater Black-back or a Glaucous/Herring Gull hybrid.

SUSSEX WILDFOWL COUNTS, 1956-57

The number of areas counted regularly has been increased this season by the addition of Pett Level and Pevensy Levels. Counts have been continued at Pagham Harbour, Chichester Harbour, Chichester Gravel Pits, Cuckmere, Darwell Reservoir, Weir Wood Reservoir, Powdermill Reservoir and Amberley Wild Brooks. An offer to count on the Glynde Levels would be appreciated. The "levels" only hold duck when there are flood waters on them; at such times they can be very productive, probably partly by attracting wildfowl from their regular haunts.

The organisation of counts in Chichester Harbour has been taken over by Mr. P. R. Mills. To him, and all other counters, I should like to extend my thanks for all the hard work they have done.

JOHN REYNOLDS,

Regional Organiser.

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1956

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER**.—An unusual number at both ends of the year. One off East Head, West Wittering, January 4th-February 22nd. By the last date it was badly oiled (P.R.M., R.R., R.J.W. *et al.*). One, badly oiled, at the Midrips on January 28th (I.J.F.L.). One, slightly oiled, at Rye Harbour G.P. on February 4th and found dead there in March. One, slightly oiled, on the pond in Prince's Park, Eastbourne, on February 12th (D.D.H.). One on the Arun near Burpham, 5 miles from the sea, on 28th (F.P.P.). One, slightly oiled, at the Midrips on March 15th (D.D.H.). One dead at Church Norton on 18th (B.A.E.M., R.R.). One recently dead at Thorney on April 1st (D.F.B., G.H.R.). One in Thorney Channel on April 15th (D.F.B.) and May 3rd-7th (R.H.C.).

The remaining records are all for November: one off Pett Level on 1st (R.H.C.); 2 together off Beachy Head on 4th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.); 5 in all passed there on 5th and 3 on 7th (R.H.C.); one there on 10th (D.D.H.); 2 (one of them injured and seen in the hand) at South Lancing on 6th (I.M.T.); one, slightly oiled, at the Midrips, 8th-22nd (R.H.C., D.D.H., G.P. *et al.*); one off Langney Point on 14th (R.H.C.); one off Brighton (M.H.P., G.A.S.); and one off East Head, West Wittering (L.P.A.) on 25th.

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**.—One at Newhaven on February 23rd (D.D.H.) and one (probably the same) on the Ouse near Piddinghoe on 26th (S.R.A.). One off the mouth of the Cuckmere on April 1st (M.H.P.). No autumn records.

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER**.—Inland records are: one on Glynde Reach, c. 6 miles from the sea, on February 8th (D.D.H.); one at Darwell Reservoir on 12th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); 3 on the Ouse between Southeast and Lewes on 19th (C.M.J.).

C. 9 recorded in May, 4th-29th. On June 2nd L.P.A. saw one on the sea off Langney Point, the first county record for this month.

One off Hove on August 15th (G.A.S.) but otherwise none until October 5th.

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE**.—C. 8 recorded inland, mainly at Darwell and Weir Wood Reservoirs, in January and February.

A pair successfully raised 2 young at Rye Harbour G.P. (R.H.C., D.D.H.), the first definite breeding record for this locality.

On November 15th c. 150 off Pett Level and c. 50 off Broomhill (R.H.C.). C. 8 again recorded inland in December.

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE**.—One on Pagham Lagoon on January 22nd (A.A., R.J.O.). One off Brighton on February 10th (L.P.A.), one off Langney Point on 22nd (D.D.H.) and one in Seaford Bay on 25th (B.A.E.M., R.R.). One at Newhaven on November 4th (C.M.J.) and one off Brighton on 9th (R.J.S.).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE**.—Recorded in Chichester Harbour up to March 11th, most (5) on January 1st (D.F.B., G.H.R.). Only c. 3 from the rest of the coast during the early part of the year, the latest being one off Newhaven on March 25th (B.A.E.M.).

One off Newhaven on November 4th (C.M.J.) and one off Langney Point on 25th (D.D.H.). C. 13 in Chichester Harbour on December 29th (B.A.E.M.).

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE**.—C. 5 recorded from the coast in February. One at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 7th and 10th (J.R.) and one at Pett Level on 16th (J.B.). No other records for the latter part of the year.

9. **LITTLE GREBE**.—C. 9 recorded inland in January and February and 4 there in December.

16. **MANX SHEARWATER**.—One flying W c. 400 yards off Langney Point on June 4th (R.H.C.), the first county record for this month.

One off Langney Point on September 9th (L.P.A., M.H.P., G.A.S.).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER.—One flying W 500-600 yards off Langney Point on August 18th. "About size of Manx; upper-parts dark brown; under-parts greyish brown, palest on belly" (D.D.H.). The fifth record for the county.

19. **GREAT SHEARWATER**.—One flying W c. 300 yards off Langney Point on June 4th. "A good deal larger than Manx Shearwater though there were no birds near for comparison. Upper-parts brown with a U-shaped white rump. Also perhaps a white patch on the primaries but of this I could not be certain. The most outstanding point about the bird was the very white throat and neck contrasting sharply with the dark brown cap. The white seemed to reach high up the neck to the nape, making the brown cap look surrounded with white. Under-wing white with brown edges. Brown mottling on axillaries. White of neck continued down the breast which was white, getting dark at tail which was brown" (R.H.C.). A strong W wind with rain. The first county record for this month.

26. **FULMAR**.—One off Beachy Head on April 1st (R.H.C.) and 3 other records for this month from the chalk cliffs. Between Langney Point and Hove single birds were recorded on many occasions and 2 together twice, May 5th-July 7th. One off the mouth of the Rother on June 28th (C.M.J.). One flying E off Hove on September 14th (G.A.S.) and one flying W off Langney Point on 15th (L.P.A.). One off the Wicks on October 26th (R.H.C.).

27. **GANNET**.—No records prior to May but after this numbers were much as usual. The most recorded together were c. 80 off Shoreham on October 6th (B.A.E.M.).

28. **CORMORANT**.—As usual a good many recorded inland, including a roost of c. 30 between Burpham and South Stoke on February 12th (F.P.P.).

29. **SHAG**.—An immature at Southwick on January 5th (R.J.W.). One at or near Newhaven, January 15th-March 11th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). On February 26th L.P.A. saw 4 off Brighton.

An immature at Langney Point on August 24th (D.D.H.). The second county record for this month. An immature near Brighton on October 14th (L.P.A.). One off Shoreham on November 4th (B.A.E.M.). One off Brighton on 25th (G.A.S.). One at Newhaven on December 26th (R.P.C.).

30. **HERON**.—On April 1st one flew in from the SW at Beachy Head (R.H.C.).

All known heronries were visited except Fishbourne. The numbers of occupied nests were: Parham 40 (R.F.T.); Henfield 6 (C.A.G.); Firlie Decoy Pond 2; Glynde 19 (E.P.T.); Glynleigh 15 (R.H.C.); Udimore 5 (J.A.H.); Leasham 35 (J.A.); Eridge 37 (A.G.).

On June 24th one, first seen very far out, flew in from the S at Langney Point and then followed the coast NE (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.). On September 30th a party of 3 was seen from a boat c. 2 miles SSE of Shoreham to come in from the S and to make land near Lancing (S.R.A.).

32. **LITTLE EGRET**.—One at the Midrips-Wicks on May 19th was watched for about an hour at ranges down c. 100 yards. "Pure white plumage, crest, black bill and legs (feet were not noticed as light was unfavourable each time it flew), small size (much smaller than adjacent Herons . . .). Heronlike flight and feeding methods" (D.T.E.). The observer has seen the species abroad. The second record for the county.

38. **BITTERN**.—One at the Midrips on January 29th (H.E.A., H.A.R.C.). One on Glynde Level on February 18th (L.P.A.). One found dying on a small frozen pond near Storrington on 25th (A. P. Spencer per B.A.E.M.). One near Greatham Bridge on February 18th (A.A., R.J.O.) and March 7th (M.M.H.). One dead at Chichester G.P. on 10th (B.A.E.M.). One dead at Fishbourne on 17th. This bird had been found starving at Birdham about February 20th and had been fed, ringed and released (per *Brit. B.*).

42. **SPOONBILL**.—On March 25th 2 came from the W, circled over Pett Level and then made off over Winchelsea (R.H.C.). One, apparently an adult, at Pagham on September 16th (S.G.).

45. **MALLARD**.—No flock of more than c. 550 birds reported. At Weir Wood Reservoir c. 300 were present as early as August 20th (R.J.W.).

On March 30th 2 pairs were put up from low vegetation on the top of the downs nearly 2 miles from the nearest water in the Cuckmere valley. This confirms information previously received that several pairs nest regularly in this area (D.D.H.).

46. **TEAL**.—Up to c. 500 recorded in several localities at both ends of the year. As usual a number of records of birds on the sea, the largest party being c. 50 off Broomhill on October 30th and November 26th (R.H.C.). A pair off the mouth of the Rother on May 5th (D.D.H.). Three there on June 1st and apparently present in the area till July 7th (K.E.I.B.). On September 2nd 5 flew W off Langney Point (D.D.H.).

47. **GARGANEY**.—One at the Wicks on March 10th (E.M.C., R.H.C.). Subsequently only c. 12 were recorded, all in March or April except for a male at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 3rd (R.J.W.), 2 males there on June 28th (D.D.H., C.M.J.) and a pair at Thorney on May 1st (R.J.W.).

49. **GADWALL**.—A male at Chichester G.P., March 3rd-17th, was seen by many observers. A female at Thorney on March 17th (D.F.B.).

On October 12th R.D.E. saw 3 on the Pett Level pools. On December 9th there were 2 at Piddington (R.H.C.) and on 27th 2 on Pulborough Levels (M.H.P.).

50. **WIGEON**.—Maximum numbers for the beginning of the year were: c. 1,200 between Greatham and Wiggonholt on January 27th (D.D.H.); c. 1,000 flying W at Pagham in the evening of February 1st (M.S.); c. 800 at Pett Level on February 26th (J.A.H.) and 27th (E.M.C.).

A drake on Knepp Lake on May 13th (R.J.S.), one at Manhood End on 21st (S.J.K.E.) and one at Thorney on 30th (R.H.C.). A female at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 9th (D.D.H.) and 14th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.).

August records are: one at Pett Level on 4th (M.H.P.); 5 at the Midrips on 5th (L.P.A.); 5 at Pagham on 31st (A.A.). The largest numbers at the end of the year were c. 300 on Glynde Level on December 22nd and c. 450 on Pulborough Level on 27th (M.H.P.).

52. **PINTAIL**.—The largest counts at the beginning of the year were c. 80, Amberley-Wiggonholt, on February 9th (D.D.H.), and c. 65 at the Midrips on 21st (M.E.). The latest spring record was of a pair off the Seven Sisters on April 20th (R.J.W.).

Two at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 19th (D.D.H.) but otherwise none until September 29th at Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.). Few recorded at the end of the year.

^{53.} **SHOVERLER**.—C. 100 off East Head, West Wittering, on January 4th (R.R., R.J.W.). C. 40, Amberley-Pulborough, on 8th (L.P.A.) and 27th (D.D.H.). On 15th, 43 at Thorney (L.P.A.). February and March numbers were less than these. On April 1st there were 34 at the Wicks (E.M.C., I.J.F.L.). No evidence of breeding, though records for 3 localities in May and for one in June. No large numbers at the end of the year.

^{54.} **RED-CRESTED POCHARD**.—A pair at Chichester G.P., first seen by D.L. on February 12th, remained until March 18th, being seen by many observers including I.J.F.L. and D.D.H. While there can be no certainty that these were not escapes it seems quite likely that they were wild birds, perhaps driven from some North Sea or Baltic locality by the intense cold. The third record for the county.

^{55.} **SCAUP**.—Few until the February cold spell when there was a party of 300-350 between the Rother estuary and the Midrips, February 5th to 26th (L.P.A., E.M.C., *et al.*) and one of 60-70 in Seaford Bay which stayed with decreasing numbers until March 26th (many observers) while smaller numbers occurred elsewhere along the coast. The latest spring date was April 21st when L.A.C. saw one at Rye Harbour G.P.

On October 6th there was an adult drake on Weir Wood Reservoir (M.H.P., G.A.S.). The fourth record for the interior. Only one other was recorded in the latter part of the year.

^{56.} **TUFTED DUCK**.—Most were recorded after the cold spell where there were up to c. 170 on Pagham Lagoon in early March (B.A.E.M., M.H.P., G.A.S., J.M.T.) and c. 200 at Chichester G.P. on 18th (I.J.F.L., D.D.H., D.L.).

Three pairs summered at Darwell (B.T.B., *et al.*) but no evidence of breeding. Two pairs bred at Weir Wood Reservoir and had 9 young on August 5th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). A drake summered on Balcombe Lake. A female at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 5th (R.J.W.) and a male at Pett Level on 28th (R.H.C.). A male at Rye Harbour G.P. on various dates between June 29th (K.E.I.B.) and July 28th (D.D.H.). On August 10th 2 flew E off Langney Point (R.H.C.).

Largest numbers at the end of the year were c. 110 at Darwell Reservoir on December 2nd and c. 100 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 1st and 29th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

^{57.} **POCHARD**.—Maximum numbers at beginning of the year: c. 165 at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 2nd (P.R.M., J.R.); c. 100 at Darwell Reservoir on February 19th (R.H.C.); c. 75 on Wiggonholt floods on January 27th (D.D.H.).

A drake at Sidlesham Ferry on June 14th (J.V.S., M.S.). A female summered at Weir Wood Reservoir (R.J.W.).

Maximum numbers at end of year: c. 110 at Darwell Reservoir on December 30th and c. 100 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 1st (M.H.P.).

^{60.} **GOLDENEYE**.—Most recorded in Chichester Harbour where there was a loose flock of c. 40 on March 5th (G.H.R.) and 7th (D.D.H.). This is the largest flock ever recorded in the county. Otherwise during the first 3 months of the year birds occurred along the coast, some miles up rivers (during the cold spell) and on Weir Wood and Darwell Reservoirs but not more than 6 together.

The latest spring bird was a male at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 23rd (K.E.I.B.) except for a disabled bird which remained in the lower Cuckmere

valley or its vicinity until June 17th when R.H.C. and G.T.C. found it unable to fly.

October records are: 2 flying W off Hove and one on Hove Lagoon (G.A.S.) and one flying W off Shoreham (B.A.E.M.) on 27th; one off Broomhill on 30th (R.H.C.); 3 on Pett Level pools (D.D.H.) and one off Langney Point (R.H.C.) on 31st. Few recorded at end of year.

^{61.} **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—The bird present at the end of 1955 stayed in the lower Cuckmere valley until January 22nd (R.H.C., L.A.C.), while the 2 in Chichester Harbour were last seen on 8th (B.A.E.M., R.R.).

An immature off Langney Point on October 28th (D.D.H.) and one in flight at the Midrips on November 10th (H.A.R.C., W.D.P.). One at Shoreham from December 1st (C.F.B.) to 9th (J.M.T.). One at Manhood End on December 30th (C.M.J.).

^{62.} **VELVET SCOTER**.—Most recorded were c. 200 between Pett Level and the Rother estuary, April 11th-May 6th (B.A.E.M., R.N., R.R., R.J.W.). The latest spring record was of one flying E off Langney Point on May 29th (R.H.C.). On July 15th one flew W there (D.D.H.) and there were 5 off the Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.).

^{64.} **COMMON SCOTER**.—E.M.C. found surprisingly few in the Rye Bay area in the first 3 months of the year but large numbers were recorded there later: up to c. 1,000 throughout May (D.D.H., M.S.J.S.); up to c. 400 in June (K.E.I.B., D.D.H., C.M.J.); c. 3,000 on July 15th (R.H.C.); a flock of c. 2,000 on August 4th (D.D.H.); c. 1,200 in October (R.H.C.). Birds were seen flying E off Langney Point on June 28th and again on July 15th (D.D.H.).

^{67.} **EIDER**.—The 23 at Langney Point reported in December, 1955, increased to 25 by January 8th. With the cold spell only 3 were left on February 12th and one on 29th (D.D.H.). This bird (an adult male) remained until April 1st and odd birds were seen in the same locality until 22nd (R.H.C., D.D.H.). At Newhaven numbers increased from one on January 1st to 6 on February 19th and 4 were recorded there until April 2nd (L.P.A., C.M.J., *et al.*). At Shoreham one was seen on April 17th (R.J.F.C.). At Pagham one throughout January but on February 26th a flock of c. 40 was present (R.P.C., W.D.P.). No flock as large as this has been previously recorded in the county. An oiled bird at Pagham until April 1st (D.L. *et al.*). At East Head 2 in early January and then one until March 11th (many observers). Amongst all these only 2 adult males were recorded, at Langney Point.

On June 9th there were 2 (one an immature male) at Langney Point. These stayed until 22nd when 6 (3 immature males) were present. On 30th there were 8 (4 immature males) but by July 7th only 2 (one immature male) and these stayed until 23rd (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H.). One flew W at Langney Point on August 11th (D.D.H.). There are no previous county records for June, July or August.

A pair off Langney Point on September 29th (L.P.A., M.H.P., C.M.V.). One on November 4th on the Cuckmere Old Channel, an unusual locality but the bird appeared disabled in some way (C.F.B., L.A.C.). Otherwise c. 13 were recorded for the coast from late October to the end of the year.

^{69.} **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**.—Most at the beginning of the year were 38 off Seaford on February 25th (B.A.E.M., R.R.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on 15th and on March 21st (R.J.W.) and 3 at Powdermill Reservoir on March 4th (J.A.H.).

On July 19th M.S. saw 2 in flight at Pagham and on August 23rd B.A.E.M. saw 2, possibly the same, in flight off Shoreham. Descriptions have been given in each case. C. 60 at the end of the year in the entrance to Chichester Harbour (B.A.E.M.).

70. **GOOSANDER**.—Only one in January—at Pett Level pools (R.H.C., D.D.H. *et al.*) but with the cold spell birds occurred all along the coast, up river valleys and on Darwell Reservoir. C. 38 were recorded in all, up to 5 being seen together. Most occurred in February but on March 3rd there were 2 on Knepp Lake (R.J.F.C.) and one in the lower Cuckmere valley (R.H.C.); on 11th 2 in flight at Seaford (H.P.M.); on 25th one at Rye Harbour G.P. (R.H.C.).

In December: 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 1st (M.H.P., G.A.S.); one at East Head (P.R.M., G.H.R.) and a male on the Adur above Beeding (C.F.B.) on 2nd; one at Darwell Reservoir on 30th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

71. **SMEW**.—None before February but the cold spell brought records of c. 100, including c. 20 males, from the coast, river valleys, gravel pits and reservoirs. Most, over 30, were reported from Chichester G.P. and Manhood End, 22 being seen together in the latter locality in early February (S.J.K.E.). Most seen together outside this area were 11 at Rye Harbour G.P. on March 3rd (D.D.H.). C. 50 stayed on into early March, the latest date being 18th when I.J.F.L. and D.D.H. saw one at Chichester G.P. No records for the end of the year.

72. **SHELDUCK**.—C. 1,200 on Pilsa sands on January 8th (G.H.R., R.R.). On 31st 14 flying W off Brighton (R.J.S.). On February 1st 40 in all flying W off Shoreham (B.A.E.M., R.R.) and on 2nd c. 50 off Langney Point (D.D.H.). These movements coincided with the beginning of the cold spell. One at Darwell Reservoir on February 26th (R.H.C.). On March 25th 5 flew E off Newhaven (B.A.E.M., R.R.).

Two in the lower Cuckmere valley in May (R.H.C.).

Birds flying W along the coast towards the end of the year were: 4 off Shoreham on October 27th (B.A.E.M.); one off Langney Point on November 3rd (D.D.H.); 4 off there on December 15th (R.H.C.).

73. **GREY LAG-GOOSE**.—On February 9th 6 on Wiggonholt floods (D.D.H.). On 22nd 6, perhaps the same, flew in from the W and landed near Shoreham (B.A.E.M.). On 25th (D.L.) and 26th (M.S.) 2 at Pagham. On March 3rd 6 at Hove Level (L.P.A.) and 14 on Glynde Level (C.M.J.). Adequate descriptions have been given.

74. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**.—C. 40 in all were recorded, January 11th-22nd, from Pulborough (B.A.E.M., R.R., R.J.W.), Bramber, Glynde Level (R.J.W.), the lower Cuckmere (R.H.C.) and Langney Point (D.D.H.). With the February cold spell numbers greatly increased and though it is of course not always possible to be sure that the same birds were not counted more than once the figures suggest that c. 1,000 visited the county during this period. Records come mainly from the coast and from levels (including Amberley-Pulborough) but on February 19th there were 2 at Darwell Reservoir (R.H.C.) and 9 at Weir Wood Reservoir (R.J.W.). The largest numbers come from Chichester Harbour, c. 250 in all, Glynde Level, a flock of c. 120, and Pett Level where in the late afternoon of February 25th over 300 were present (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.), the largest flock recorded in the county for many years. Most were reported in February, particularly on 25th and 26th, but c. 350 were reported in March on 18th of which month L.P.A. saw c. 120 on Glynde Level and R.H.C. at least 50 in the Rye area. The only records later than this are of 2 birds, perhaps pricked, which were still present at Rye Harbour G.P. on March 25th.

At the end of the year one near Steyning on December 20th (R.R.) and 13 over Chichester Channel on 23rd (L.P.A.).

GREENLAND WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—On January 27th D.D.H. watched an adult of this race for a long time in excellent light on Wiggonholt floods. "Upper-parts strikingly dark—seen from behind it was at first taken for a Bean Goose; barring on under-parts very thick and largely confluent; bill bright orange yellow." The first record for the county.

LESSER WHITE-FRONTED X WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—An apparent hybrid between these species was seen on February 25th just across the Hampshire boundary. It later flew into Sussex (Keith Shackleton in *Brit. B. Vol. XLIX* p. 229).

75. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE**.—In January one on Glynde Level on 11th (R.J.W.) and one in the lower Cuckmere valley on 22nd (R.H.C.). In February 15 at Rye Harbour (L.P.A.) and 3 in the lower Ouse valley (C.M.J.) on 19th; one in the lower Cuckmere valley on 24th (D.D.H.) and 25th (M.H.P., G.A.S.); 18-20 on Pett Level in the late afternoon of 25th (R.H.C., H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.) and c. 6 there next day (E.M.C.). In March a flock of over 100 on Pevensey Levels on 1st (D.D.H.) and 3rd (L.P.A.), the largest recorded for the county. On 10th a flock of 60-70 was still present in the same locality (L.P.A., D.D.H.). A bird, no doubt pricked, remained in the lower Ouse valley till May 13th (many observers).

A party of 6 off the mouth of the Rother on November 21st (D.D.H.). 80. **BRENT GOOSE**.—In January up to 26 in Chichester Harbour and 2 at Pagham (J.V.S. *et al.*). With the February cold spell numbers greatly increased and in this month and in early March c. 500 were recorded, most from Chichester Harbour, where the maximum number was over 200 on February 18th (C.M.J.) and 22nd (R.J.W.) and from Pagham Harbour where the maximum was c. 180 on 25th (D.L.). Elsewhere the largest flock was c. 40 at Pett Level on 26th (J.A.H.).

Between March 10th and 21st an E movement was seen off Hove (G.A.S.) and Langney Point (D.D.H.). April records are few and only of single birds. On May 4th 2 in Emsworth Channel (B.W.R.) and on 22nd 2 at Pagham (R.K.W.), perhaps the same birds and possibly pricked.

The first autumn record was of one at the Midrips on October 11th (D.D.H.). On October 31st birds were seen flying E as follows: Shoreham Beach—5 (R.R.); Hove—5 (G.A.S.); Langney Point—10 (R.H.C.); Rye Bay—11 (D.D.H.). The movement was still continuing on November 1st with 2 flying E of Langney Point (D.D.H.) and 5 off Broomhill (R.H.C.). Otherwise records for the last 3 months of the year relate mainly to single birds though on December 2nd P.R.M. and G.H.R. saw 83 off East Head, West Wittering. On December 22nd M.H.P. saw one on Glynde Level, an unusual inland locality.

PALE-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.—At Pett Level 7 on February 18th (G.P.) and 10 on 27th (E.M.C.). At East Head one on December 2nd (P.R.M., G.H.R.) and 22nd (J.S.).

81. **BARNACLE GOOSE**.—At least 14 on Pett Level on February 19th (L.P.A.). On 25th numbers rose there from 8 in the early morning to 23 in the late afternoon (H.A.R.C., R.H.C., I.J.F.L., D.D.H.). In the early morning of 26th there were 26 on Pett Level, 17 of which later flew to East Guldeford with White-fronts (E.M.C., I.J.F.L.). On 25th and 26th there was a single bird, reluctant to fly, at Jury's Gap (I.J.F.L.). On 26th G.A.S. counted c. 20 and R.J.W. 27 on Glynde Level. From times given these must have been quite distinct from the Pett Level birds. No such numbers as these have been recorded in Sussex before and all previous records have been for the coast.

82. **CANADA GOOSE**.—Up to c. 40 in the Amberley-Pulborough area in February. No doubt these were from Petworth where 41 had been counted

the previous November. On February 18th 2 over Glynde Level (M.H.P.). On April 21st 5 at Wiston Lake (C.A.G.). On May 2nd (D.D.H.) and 3rd (R.J.W.) one at Pett Level pools. It had a pink ring on one leg. One off Langney Point on 2nd (R.J.W.). In early October one spent 2 or 3 weeks with chickens in a meadow at Sidlesham (J.V.S.).

84. **MUTE SWAN.**—The largest flock recorded was of 60 birds at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 2nd (D.D.H.).

85. **WHOOPER SWAN.**—The first was seen at Rye Harbour G.P. on February 4th (D.D.H.) but most records are for the second half of the month. In all 40-50 were recorded, the majority being for inland localities, only c. 16 coming from the coast. The largest party was of 17 at Darwell Reservoir on February 19th (R.H.C.). March records are: one at Manhood End on 25th (L.P.A.); 2 on Glynde Level on 11th (L.P.A.) and 17th (D.D.H., C.M.J.); 8 on Eridge Park lake, 13th-23rd (M.E.); an immature at Rye Harbour G.P. which stayed in the neighbourhood throughout March and April (several observers) and was last seen on May 2nd (D.D.H.). This bird which appeared quite uninjured gives us our first records for April and May.

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN.**—The first were seen on February 5th when there were 26 on the sea off Broomhill (R.H.C.) and 12 at Wiggonholt (M.H.P., R.J.S., G.A.S.). The former is the largest party recorded for the county. Birds were subsequently seen at Chichester Harbour, Pagham, Walderton, Amberley-Pulborough, Steyning, in the Ouse Valley, on Glynde Level, in the Cuckmere valley, over Eastbourne, on Pevensey Levels, at Darwell Reservoir, Bulverhythe, on Pett Level, at Rye Harbour G.P. and the Midrips-Wicks. The total approaches 150 but though obvious duplications have been avoided this figure probably still includes some birds counted twice. Most occurred in February but over 30 were recorded in March. April records are: 3 in the lower Ouse valley, 2nd-15th (C.M.J.); 19 on Pett Level on 1st (E.M.C. I.J.F.L.), some being subsequently seen there (and on 2nd at Rye Harbour G.P. and the Midrips) in decreasing numbers; 11, 6th-20th and 2, 21st-29th (R.H.C., D.D.H. *et al.*). The last is the latest spring date for the county.

On November 25th C.M.J. saw 8 at Weir Wood Reservoir and later in flight over Horsted Keynes. This is the first county record for this month. One on Glynde Level on December 24th (D.V.F.) and 27th (R.H.C.) and 2 at Wiggonholt on 27th (M.H.P.).

91. **BUZZARD.**—Single birds were seen in 7 localities and there is one breeding record; a pair raised 3 young in N Sussex (S.F.K.).

92. **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD.**—On November 3rd one flew low over Beachy Head from the W, being mobbed as it passed by Lapland Buntings (R.H.C., G.T.C.). On 4th it was again found in the same locality and very close views obtained on the ground and in flight. Eventually it flew SE out to sea until lost to sight (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.). Full notes were taken which include: white tail with dark terminal band; breast dark except for upper-breast which, with throat, was white; under-side of wings dirty white with dark tips to primaries and at least some secondaries and with very distinct dark carpal patch. Head pale. On one occasion D.D.H. saw "rough" outline of whole of legs when these were briefly dropped in flight. Rest of plumage and shape much as in Common Buzzard but glided with wings held straighter. Our first record for some years.

99. **MARSH HARRIER.**—One at Pagham on August 12th (J.R.). One at the Midrips on September 23rd (G.P.). One at Rye Harbour on October 2nd (D.E.P.).

100. **HEN HARRIER.**—The usual 2 or 3 in the Rye-Wicks area at both ends of the year. One in St. Leonards Forest on January 21st and one in Ashdown Forest on February 4th (J.S.). A male in Ashdown Forest on March 4th (R.H.C.) and 29th (D.D.H.). Three other March records for East Sussex.

On October 27th one flew SW out to sea until lost to sight near the Midrips (D.D.H.). On November 3rd an immature male flew SE out to sea from the Crumbles (L.P.A.). Three other November-December records for East Sussex and 3 for West Sussex.

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER.**—One flying W c. ¼ mile off Hove front on May 15th (G.A.S.).

An adult male, Midrips-Wicks, on August 4th (D.D.H., M.H.P., G.A.S.). Between August 5th and 17th an immature was seen on a number of occasions near Beachy Head by several farm workers, 2 of whom gave an excellent description to D.D.H. An immature, Midrips-Wicks, on September 13th (C. M. Perrins *per* D.B.O.).

103. **OSPREY.**—One at Darwell Reservoir on May 16th (B.T.B.). One near Barcombe Mills on October 6th (S.H.F.).

104. **HOBBY.**—On May 26th one flew low over the beach from the sea at the Midrips and continued N inland (D.D.H.). At least 4 pairs are known to have nested. On October 6th one flew SW from Hove front, turning W when c. 400 yards out (G.A.S.).

105. **PEREGRINE.**—On November 28th an immature male came in from the sea and made off inland at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

107. **MERLIN.**—C. 11 recorded in the first part of the year, the latest on April 21st. All are for the coast between Shoreham and the Kent boundary except for one 4 miles N of Lewes on February 17th (S.H.F.) and one on Glynde Level on March 11th (L.P.A.).

Single birds were seen to fly in from the SE at Langney Point on October 19th (D.D.H.) and 27th (L.P.A.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on 28th (R.J.W.). Otherwise c. 8 were recorded for the coast, October 3rd-November 16th. The only December record was of one at East Head, West Wittering, on 2nd (P.R.M., G.H.R.).

108. **RED-FOOTED FALCON.**—On May 31st an adult male was shot on Thorney Aerodrome by a corporal in the R.A.F. The wounded bird was seen and identified on June 5th by R.H.C. who noted the slate grey plumage, red legs, rufous under tail-coverts, etc. The bird was later removed by the R.S.P.C.A. in whose hands it died.

110. **KESTREL.**—One flying E out at sea off Langney Point on March 30th (D.D.H.).

One flew in from the S at Beachy Head on October 7th (R.H.C.). One flew in from the S and then W along the coast at Shoreham on 6th (B.A.E.M.).

117. **QUAIL.**—One seen on downs behind Litlington on May 10th (R.J.W.). One calling near Newhaven on June 10th (L.P.A.). One calling at Ovingdean on 25th (G.d.F.).

One at Sidlesham on September 7th (J.V.S.).

120. **WATER RAIL.**—On October 8th one was picked up alive in Kingston Lane, Shoreham (C.A.G.), and one was seen, in the early morning, on the pavement of London Road, Brighton (H.A.R.C.).

125. **CORNCRAKE.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry on April 29th (M.S.). One trapped and ringed in a Shoreham garden on May 4th after dense sea mist (J.S.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry on August 24th (J.V.S.) and one there on September 10th (M.S., J.V.S.).

127. **COOT**.—Numbers at Darwell Reservoir rose from c. 100 on September 21st (J.A.H.) to c. 450 on December 30th (M.H.P., G.A.S.), the latter being the largest number recorded anywhere during the year. At Weir Wood Reservoir there were c. 85 on October 6th and c. 280 on December 29th (M.H.P.).

131. **OYSTERCATCHER**.—On March 4th A.F. saw 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir, an unusual inland locality.

In the Rye area 3 pairs attempted to breed, one pair raising one young bird and another 2 (J.A.). A pair unsuccessfully attempted to breed at the Midrips (D.D.H.). A pair laid 3 eggs at Pagham (A.H.W.S.).

High tide numbers at the Rother estuary were well above average towards the end of the year, rising from c. 130 on October 11th to 163 on December 20th (D.D.H.).

133. **LAPWING**.—On January 9th after snow in night there was a W coastal movement at Angmering (H.C.H.). On February 1st, with the beginning of the cold spell, many hundreds were flying down the Cuckmere valley and out to sea (D.D.H.). On 26th c. 45 flew in from the sea there (R.H.C.). On March 1st 37 flew in N in an hour at Langney Point (D.D.H.) and 96 did so at the entrance to Chichester Harbour in 2 hours (G.H.R.). On 2nd 20 flew in N at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

On June 23rd a party of 6 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point, being first seen very far out (D.D.H.). On 27th 4 flew in NW at the Rother estuary (K.E.I.B.). Arrival from the sea as early as this has not been previously reported. It was not recorded again until October 27th when 12 flew in from SE at Cuckmere Haven (R.H.C.) and 2 at Shoreham (B.A.E.M.). On 28th 6 flew in at the latter locality (B.A.E.M., R.R.) and on November 1st c. 20 flew in at Langney Point (D.D.H.) and 81 (in an hour) at Broomhill (R.H.C.).

134. **RINGED PLOVER**.—At Weir Wood up to 3 together were seen in May and up to 8 in August and early September (many observers). Two pairs attempted to breed at Chichester G.P. (P.R.M.).

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**.—At the usual site only 2 pairs were present and only one young bird appears to have flown (several observers). A pair hatched 3 young at a new site (F.P.P.) and another raised 3 young in an entirely new locality (R.J.W.).

An immature at Littlehampton on August 11th and 2 there on 12th (R.J.O.). An immature at Sidlesham Ferry on 19th (M.S.) and an immature at Thorney on 29th (R.H.C., J.S.).

136. **KENTISH PLOVER**.—One at Thorney on March 25th (R.P.C., W.D.P.). The latter observer was previously familiar with the species.

139. **GREY PLOVER**.—Up to c. 80 at Pett Level during the February cold spell (E.M.C.), an unusual number for East Sussex.

On June 1st a party of 7 flew out to sea at the Rother estuary (K.E.I.B.) and on 10th 6 flew W off Langney Point (R.H.C.). One at the Midrips on June 17th (R.B.B.) and 21st (D.D.H.). On July 2nd c. 65 at Pilsea Island (R.H.C.).

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER**.—No flock of more than c. 300 reported at either end of the year.

Two adults at West Wittering on July 25th (G.A.S.) and 2 adults at the Midrips on 28th (D.D.H.).

143. **TURNSTONE**.—The largest flock reported was c. 200 at Pilsea Island on April 1st (G.H.R.). Two summered at Rye Harbour (K.E.I.B.) and the first autumn immigrants were seen in this area on July 19th (D.D.H.). Eight at Pilsea Island on July 2nd (R.H.C.) and 3 at Pagham on 8th (G.A.S.).

148. **WOODCOCK**.—In February, during the cold spell, one flying over Shoreham on 3rd and one in a field near there on 15th (B.A.E.M.); one in the lower Cuckmere valley on 24th; one in a ditch near Rye on 25th (D.D.H.). On March 30th C.M.J. saw one on the cliff top at Newhaven.

150. **CURLEW**.—The most recorded were c. 500 at Pett Level on February 26th (H.A.R.C., I.J.F.L.).

At least 2 pairs bred in the usual locality but results are not known.

The early W movement recorded annually in recent years was first observed on June 10th when 3 passed Langney Point (D.D.H.). It was subsequently recorded there in this month and in July (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H.) and also off Hove (G.A.S.) and at the Rother estuary in June (K.E.I.B.). A few were also seen flying E at Langney Point during this period. On June 28th c. 40 at Pett Level (D.D.H., C.M.J.). On July 8th c. 150 at Pagham (R.J.S., G.A.S.) and on 22nd c. 380 at Chidham (R.R.).

151. **WHIMBREL**.—The largest flock recorded was one of c. 130 flying E off Peacehaven on April 25th (D.D.H.). On June 10th one flew W at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On October 7th 4 flew W off Beachy Head (R.H.C.).

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**.—In Chichester maximum monthly numbers are: c. 170 on January 1st (M.H.P., G.A.S.); 143 on March 17th; 53 on April 29th (D.F.B.); c. 60 on May 6th; 8 on June 27th (R.H.C.); c. 50 on July 8th; 180 on 22nd (R.R.). There are no figures for September and only inadequate ones for October and November. On December 14th S.J.K.E. saw 45 there.

Elsewhere, 5 at the Midrips-Wicks on March 29th (I.J.F.L.) and up to 6 there in early April (E.M.C., D.D.H. *et al.*). One on Glynde Level on April 1st (L.P.A.). One at the Midrips-Wicks on April 20th (D.D.H.). One there on May 24th (D.D.H., M.N.) and 28th (R.H.C.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 24th-30th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.). One at the Midrips on July 22nd (R.B.B.) and up to 2 there in August. On August 22nd B.A.E.M. saw a party of 20 flying E close in off Shoreham.

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT**.—C. 30 at Rye Harbour on February 25th (D.D.H.), an unusual winter number for this area due no doubt to the cold spell. C. 20 at Littlehampton on 4th (R.J.O.). The largest numbers in Chichester Harbour were c. 150 on March 1st (G.H.R.) and c. 120 on December 2nd (G.H.R., P.R.M.).

The largest spring flock at the Rother estuary was one of 83 on May 1st (K.E.I.B.). One there on June 9th (D.D.H.) and 26th (K.E.I.B.). Ten at Chidham on July 22nd (R.R.).

156. **GREEN SANDPIPER**.—Eight recorded in January and February and one in December. Four birds for March and c. 8 for April but none for May. One at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 23rd (K.E.I.B.) and 5 there on 29th (M.E.). One at Thorney on 27th and 8 there on July 9th (R.H.C.). Rather less than usual in autumn.

157. **WOOD SANDPIPER**.—One at Thorney on May 30th (R.H.C.).

The first autumn birds were 6 at Sidlesham Ferry on July 14th (M.S.). Four at Rye Harbour G.P. on 15th and one at Thorney on 16th (R.H.C.). C. 25 recorded in August and September (up to 12th) including a party of 15 at the Midrips on September 3rd (R.B.B., G.P.). All records are for the coast except for one at Darwell Reservoir on September 2nd (M.H.P.).

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER**.—The birds present at the end of 1955 at Newhaven and Manhood End stayed on into 1956. On January 18th one by the Adur N of Bramber (R.R., R.J.W.).

One at Rye Harbour on June 1st and 6th (K.E.I.B.). One at Thorney

on June 27th and 28th (R.H.C.). At least 40 at Pagham Harbour on August 12th (J.R.).

No records of wintering birds at the end of the year.

161. **REDSHANK**.—R.R. records c. 460 at Chidham on July 22nd.

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK**.—One at Littlehampton on January 14th and February 14th (R.J.O.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on March 4th (M.S.) and one at Manhood End on 8th (B.W.R.) which stayed until about mid-April. Up to 2 at Thorney, April 15th-May 30th (D.F.B., R.H.C. *et al.*). One at the Midrips-Wicks on many occasions, April 15th-May 28th (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H. *et al.*).

One at Ryē Harbour G.P. on June 25th (K.E.I.B.). Two on July 1st at Thorney (C.J.H.) where the maximum was 5 on August 8th and 22nd (R.H.C.). During August and September birds were recorded at the Midrips (2), Ryē Harbour (one), Piddinghoe (2) and Shoreham (one). On September 2nd R.H.C. saw one near Boreham Street, c. 4 miles from the sea.

One at Shoreham, November 11th-17th (C.F.B., M.H.P., J.M.T.). One at the Midrips on December 2nd (R.H.C.) and 20th (D.D.H.).

165. **GREENSHANK**.—One at Pett Level on February 1st (E.M.C.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on March 12th (J.V.S.).

Few recorded in spring and only in ones and twos.

One at the Midrips-Wicks on June 17th (R.B.B.) and 21st (D.D.H.). One at Manhood End on 24th (D.L.). One at Thorney on 27th (R.H.C.). Three at Manhood End on July 8th (D.L.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on 14th and 6 flying SW there on 20th (M.S.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir, 17th-29th (B.M.P.). Four at the Midrips-Wicks on 19th (D.D.H.). The largest number recorded was 41 at Chidham on July 22nd (R.R.). Up to 2 recorded in August and September at both Darwell and Weir Wood Reservoirs. The latest record was on one in the lower Cuckmere valley on November 16th (D.D.H.).

169. **KNOT**.—At the beginning of the February cold spell small parties were recorded feeding on masonry uncovered at low tide, like Purple Sandpipers, at Langney Point, Seaford (D.D.H.) and Brighton (C.M.J.). Up to 200 at Pett Level during February (R.H.C.) and c. 300 either there or at the Rother estuary (according to the state of the tide) between March 15th and April 1st. This is the largest flock recorded in recent years. Only c. 100 were left by April 20th and only 10 by 28th (D.D.H. *et al.*). C. 200 off Thorney on April 1st (G.H.R.) and 8th (L.P.A.). Spring passage was recorded at Ryē Harbour up to June 17th (K.E.I.B.). The only July record is of 2 at East Head, West Wittering, on 25th (G.A.S.).

170. **PURPLE SANDPIPER**.—The largest number for the year was 17 at Bulverhythe on March 14th (I.J.F.L.). Birds wintered there at both ends of the year and at Newhaven and there are winter records for Brighton, Hove and Littlehampton.

171. **LITTLE STINT**.—One at Widewater, South Lancing, April 24th to May 2nd (J.M.T. *et al.*). One at Ryē Harbour G.P. on May 17th and 19th. One there, June 2nd-8th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry on June 24th (M.S.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 6th (M.H.P.) and 4 there on September 7th and 8th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). Otherwise c. 32 were recorded for the coast between August 27th and October 14th, c. 26 of them during the first 10 days of September. The most seen together were 9 at the Wicks on September 10th (H.E.A.).

173. **TEMINCK'S STINT**.—One at Ryē Harbour G.P. on July 15th (R.H.C.). The observer who is familiar with the species has given a full description.

176. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER**.—One at Sidlesham Ferry on October 7th (S.F.K.), 13th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and 14th (G.d.F. *et al.*). This bird which was lame in one leg was successfully photographed by the last mentioned observer who in any case was previously familiar with the species. A description seems therefore unnecessary though one has been recorded.

178. **DUNLIN**.—During a big arrival of passerines on October 27th at Shoreham Beach B.A.E.M. saw many coming in from the S or SE in ones and twos with Starlings and either flying W or going inland with the Starlings.

179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**.—One at the Wicks on May 13th (R.H.C.). On July 29th 3 or 4 at Sidlesham Ferry (M.H.P., M.S., G.A.S.). C. 25 were recorded in August and September, including 11 at Pagham on September 14th (J.R.). All were for the coast except for one at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 8th (H.A.B., G.S.B., A.D.B.).

181. **SANDERLING**.—The largest number recorded was c. 210 at Littlehampton on January 14th (R.J.O.). C. 90 at the Rother estuary as late as May 28th (R.H.C.) and a few there in June until 17th (K.E.I.B.). One there on July 19th (D.D.H.). C. 75 at East Head, West Wittering, on July 25th (G.A.S.).

184. **RUFF**.—One on Amberley Wild Brooks on January 8th (L.P.A.). A party of 3 on Glynde Level on 13th, one there on February 29th (D.D.H.), March 11th (C.F.B.) and April 1st (D.D.H.). One at Shoreham, February 5th-March 1st (C.F.B., J.M.T. *et al.*). Two at Manhood End on February 5th (D.L.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on 29th (J.V.S.) and up to 4 there between March 11th and April 22nd (L.P.A., M.S. *et al.*). Up to 12 at Thorney between March 17th and April 29th (D.F.B., G.H.R., B.A.E.M. *et al.*). One or 2 between Ryē Harbour and the Wicks, March 25th-April 29th (R.H.C., L.A.C., D.D.H.). The only May records are of one of the Wicks on 6th (L.A.C.) and of one at Sidlesham Ferry on 18th (M.S.).

In autumn between August 22nd and September 4th c. 13 were recorded for the coast and one, on September 1st (M.H.P., G.A.S.), for Weir Wood Reservoir.

185. **AVOCET**.—One at Sidlesham Ferry on April 22nd (M.S.) and 24th (A.A., J.V.S.). One at Manhood End on May 21st (S.J.K.E., J.L.L.P.).

On September 2nd a party of 8 at the Midrips flew off towards Lydd. Some time later 2 (presumably different birds) flew in from the W (L.A.C., K.J.F.). These 2 remained until September 6th (D.D.H., M.S.J.S. *et al.*).

189. **STONE CURLEW**.—Single birds were seen or heard at Ryē Harbour in the evenings of April 28th and 29th, May 14th and 24th (K.E.I.B.).

193. **ARCTIC SKUA**.—On January 1st L.P.A. saw an immature skua, considered by him to be of this species, c. 50 yards off the Palace Pier, Brighton. C. 20 were recorded, mostly flying E, on the coast between Hove and the Rother estuary, April 22nd-June 8th, 13 of them in May.

The only July record is of 2 flying E off Hove on 5th (G.A.S.). C. 30 were reported in August and September, all between Shoreham and the Wicks except for one at Pagham on August 31st (A.A.). One off Langney Point on October 7th (D.D.H.). An immature, the size of which could be judged as it was chasing a Common Gull, off Hove on November 2nd (G.A.S.). On December 30th L.P.A. had close views of an adult of the pale form at Norman's Bay.

198. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—The largest number recorded was c. 265 on Pett Level on October 20th (R.H.C.). At Darwell Reservoir 2 were seen on February 12th, c. 12 on September 2nd and one on December 30th (G.A.S.). The inland status of this species needs clarification. On April 1st S.H.F. saw a SE movement 4 miles N of Lewes.

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—One wintering at Shoreham at the beginning of the year (J.M.T. *et al.*). One of the Scandinavian race at St. Leonards, February 6th-8th (J.A.H.). The first definite spring migrants were 3 (one of them a Scandinavian) at the Midrips on March 15th (D.D.H.) and c. 18 at Shoreham on 20th (B.A.E.M.). On 29th 132 flew E in 6 hours between Langney Point and Cuckmere Haven (B.A.E.M., R.R.).

Two adults and 2 immatures at Shoreham on June 18th. An immature and an adult, the latter of the Scandinavian race, at Hove on 25th (G.A.S.). A Scandinavian at Chichester G.P. on July 8th (R.J.S., G.A.S.). This appears to be the first county record of this race for July.

201. **COMMON GULL**.—An E movement off the Seven Sisters on March 25th (D.D.H.) and off Langney Point (D.D.H.) and Shoreham (B.A.E.M.) on 30th. On April 29th c. 70 flew E off Langney Point in an hour. Only 3 of them were adults (D.D.H.).

203. **ICELAND GULL**.—On April 16th B.A.E.M., who had seen this species before, saw one in flight at close range at the Seven Sisters. "Apparently quite white. About the size of a Herring Gull . . . the bill was, if anything, smaller than a Herring Gull's." On April 20th R.J.W. saw what was no doubt the same bird in the same locality. When perched by a Herring Gull "it appeared a little smaller . . . the wing tips which extended beyond the tail were white. At close range plumage speckled with grey-brown but appeared white in flight. Bill rather more slender than that of Herring Gull, pink or yellowish and dark at tip."

205. **MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—An adult in summer plumage first seen by C.M.J. at Brighton on March 10th was seen by him, C.F.B., B.A.E.M., J.S., G.A.S., J.M.T. *et al.* on a number of occasions at Brighton and Hove up to 25th. What was no doubt the same bird was seen at Piddinghoe on April 2nd by C.M.V. Details supplied include jet-black head with black extending well down back of neck; white around eye; bill noticeably stout and rich red; whole upper surface of wings very pale grey except for primaries which are described as "white" and narrow band of white across tips of secondaries. Under-side of wing entirely white. About size of Black-headed Gull but folded wings clearly shorter.

On July 22nd C.M.J. saw an adult between Ovingdean Gap and Rottingdean. It had been ringed on the left leg and was in almost complete summer plumage. On 27th an adult, apparently not the same as it was well advanced towards winter plumage, was seen by him in the same locality. Legs were not seen. C.M.J. saw an adult in the same area on August 6th and one was seen nearer Brighton by G.A.S. on 15th and by M.H.P. on 16th.

207. **LITTLE GULL**.—An adult off Lancing on January 12th (R.J.W.) and an immature at Newhaven on 14th (C.F.B.). An adult at the Wicks on March 30th and an immature at the Midrips on April 8th (R.H.C.). A second-summer bird off Langney Point on 27th (D.D.H.). A first-summer bird at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 26th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.) and 28th (R.H.C.). A different one there, June 3rd-6th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.). An immature at Sidlesham Ferry on 14th (M.S.).

An adult at Shoreham on July 30th (R.J.F.C.). This bird, which is only our second for July, was no doubt blown in by the great gale of the previous day. An adult at Hove on August 2nd (G.A.S.); one at Newhaven on 4th (C.M.J.), one off Langney Point on 18th (L.P.A.) and 19th (D.D.H.). Between September 2nd and December 9th 13 were recorded, 8 of them in the former month. All were on the coast except for an immature at Weir Wood Reservoir

on September 1st and 2nd (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and an adult in a ploughed field near Hunston on 5th (A.A.).

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—C. 100 pairs attempted to nest at Rye Harbour G.P. but were much persecuted by boys and many left the area though 26 pairs nested again at the ternery (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.). J.A. states that 21 young eventually flew.

209. **SABINE'S GULL**.—On September 2nd a bird of the year was seen on mud at Shoreham by E.J.P. who was without binoculars but who had excellent views for 10 minutes in good light at ranges of 8-20 feet. The editor has seen his notes and sketches made at the time and these leave no doubt as to the correctness of the identification. "Extremely tame—great difficulty in making the bird fly. Size about 2 inches shorter than Black-headed Gulls close by . . . Bill shortish and black—downcurved at tip. Obvious white forehead and pale patch extending over eye. Eye black. Head-crown and nape and whole of back a warm brownish grey, conspicuously barred at close range . . . In standing position showed a white shoulder spot, closed wings brown grey and black primaries. Wings projected slightly beyond noticeably *forked* tail. Tail and rump white . . . broadly banded with black . . . When bird raised its wings the pattern was very conspicuous and neat." Here follows a drawing showing the black on the primaries, the white triangle and the brownish grey of the rest of the wing. "No dark band completing 'W' pattern as in juvenile Kittiwake. Legs black or dark slate colour."

211. **KITTIWAKE**.—C. 5 summered in the Rye Harbour area (K.E.I.B., D.D.H.) and one or 2 at Langney Point (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Birds of the year appeared early; single birds at Langney Point on August 16th and 19th (D.D.H.); one off Brighton on 18th; one at Piddinghoe pond on 19th (C.M.J.). An immature dead at Darwell Reservoir on November 4th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

212. **BLACK TERN**.—One flying E off the Wicks on April 15th, an early date. One flying E off the Cuckmere on 22nd (R.H.C.). One at Rye Harbour G.P., 28th and 29th (R.H.C., L.A.C., M.E.). Two, Midrips-Wicks, on May 20th (R.B.B.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on 28th (R.H.C.).

On July 20th 5 adults flew E in an hour off Langney Point (D.D.H.). An adult at Rye Harbour G.P. on 24th (R.H.C.). In August c. 20 were recorded, including 8 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 11th and in September c. 110, c. 100 of them in the first 9 days of this month. The largest numbers recorded were: c. 30 flying E off Langney Point during the afternoon of September 1st (L.P.A.); 16 at Thorney on 3rd (R.H.C.); 14 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 7th (J.R., G.A.S.). Two were reported in October, the latest off Brighton on 20th (C.M.J.).

213. **WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN**.—On June 15th G.A.S. saw one flying W c. 350 yards off Hove. Visibility was very good. "Head, under-parts and back jet black, rump and tail white. Wings whitish with some dark marks on primaries and on inner wing."

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN**.—One feeding close in at Langney Point for c. 10 minutes on June 23rd. One feeding there similarly for c. 15 minutes on 24th. One flying E close in there on 29th and 2 similarly on 30th (D.D.H.). One flying E close in there on July 28th (L.P.A.). Two at the Wicks on September 3rd (H.E.A., H.G. Alexander *et al.* per D.B.O.). In all cases the short, stout, all-black bills were clearly seen, as also the stocky shape and the slightly forked tail. All were in adult summer plumage except for the birds of September 2nd in which the crown and forehead were white, the back of the head alone being dark. In the case of the first 2 records the characteristic call, less rasping than that of the Sandwich Tern, was heard. The other birds were silent except for

those at the Wicks which gave "an odd, almost wader-like 'pee,'" described by H. G. Alexander as "the typical note in the bird's winter quarters."

217. **COMMON TERN.**—On June 9th 280 nests were counted at the Rye Harbour ternery. But despite protection from human interference which this year was for the first time complete, the bad weather had a disastrous effect on breeding and only 60-70 young flew (J.A.). The evidence suggests that at least one pair bred in the extreme W of the county.

Between August 5th and 8th up to 12 Common/Arctic Terns were seen together at Darwell Reservoir and up to 3 at Weir Wood Reservoir. All that were positively identified were of this species (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One found dead by C. M. Perrins at Rye Harbour G.P. on September 12th had been ringed as a Nestling in the East Frisian Islands the previous July 2nd (per D.B.O.). Between November 1st and 7th 5 single terns, belonging to either this species or the next, were seen off the coast between Langney Point and Shoreham.

218. **ARCTIC TERN.**—Records are confined to the period August 6th-12th.

219. **ROSEATE TERN.**—One at Rye Harbour G.P. for c. 3 hours on May 28th (R.H.C.). The observer, who is familiar with the species, has given a description.

222. **LITTLE TERN.**—One seen at close range at Pagham Harbour on April 10th (S.R.S.). The earliest spring record for the county.

In the Rye area bad weather wiped out the young of the few pairs breeding, though one young bird seems to have flown (J.A., D.D.H.). Four pairs nested in the Pagham Harbour area but the result is not known (S.J.K.E.). The evidence points to c. 15 pairs nesting in the Chichester Harbour area where some young seem to have been raised (B.W.R.).

223. **SANDWICH TERN.**—One at Pett Level on April 6th (D.D.H.); 2 flying E off Langney Point on 7th (R.H.C.); one off Hove on 8th (G.A.S.). Up to 7 at Rye Harbour during June and early July (K.E.I.B., D.D.H., C.M.J.). Up to 10 at Langney Point during June (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Up to 4 off Hove in June (G.A.S.).

On July 12th 22 paid a brief visit to Rye Harbour (K.E.I.B.). One over Thorney on 16th (R.H.C.). The first birds-of-the-year were seen on July 28th, one at Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H.) and one off Langney Point (R.H.C.).

224. **RAZORBILL.**—One flying W off Langney Point on July 22nd. On October 26th 45 flew W there in an hour (D.D.H.). On 31st 2 off Shoreham (R.R.). On November 1st 30-40 off Newhaven (R.J.W.). On December 23rd J.A.H. found one dead on Down Barn Farm, Battle, c. 5 miles inland, following SW gales. This is the first inland record for a good many years.

226. **LITTLE AUK.**—On October 27th one was seen at close range in flight and on the sea off Pagham (R.R.). The observer who had seen the species the previous year gives a description.

227. **GUILLEMOT.**—On April 12th D.D.H. had a close view of one of the Northern race in summer plumage close in under Beachy Head. The back appeared virtually black and the head but little lighter. On October 24th C.M.J. saw one of the Northern race close in off Brighton. He noted the black back and the thick band across the breast. These are respectively the latest spring and earliest autumn records of this race for Sussex.

230. **PUFFIN.**—On August 21st an adult was found alive on the beach at Pevensey Bay. It died soon afterwards and was brought to D.D.H. by Inspector Peacock of the R.S.P.C.A. No signs of oil. One off Langney Point on November 7th (D.D.H.).

232. **STOCK DOVE.**—On June 15th a party of c. 40 and another of 15 flew W at Rye Harbour (K.E.I.B.).

234. **WOOD PIGEON.**—On April 5th 2 flew in S to N from the sea at Hove (G.A.S.).

237. **CUCKOO.**—One on the Crumbles on September 21st. On 23rd one at Pevensey Bay (D.D.H.) and one at Fairlight (H.A.R.C.).

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL.**—In January 2 at Bracklesham Bay (R.J.W.) and one on Pevensey Levels (R.H.C.). None recorded in February. In March 4 for the coast. In April 2, the latest on 15th at Pett Level (L.P.A.).

One on Pevensey Levels, August 8th to 10th (D.J.). Otherwise c. 5 for the coast, September 5th-November 15th and one on Earnley Marshes on December 7th (J.V.S.).

255. **SWIFT.**—One at Norman's Bay on April 14th (L.P.A.), the earliest authenticated record for the county. On June 4th 4 flew S out to sea at Langney Point (R.H.C.) and on 17th c. 12 flew in from the sea there. During the great SW gale of July 29th a party of c. 20 flew SE out to sea there (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Three at the Midrips-Wicks on September 23rd (G.P.).

259. **BEE-EATER.**—On May 8th one flew low in front of a car driven by Mrs. L. A. C. between Lewes and Uckfield. The blue-green sheen of the wings and the projecting tail-feathers were distinctly seen. The observer saw the breeding birds of the previous year.

261. **HOOPOE.**—One on Shoreham Rubbish Dump on April 14th (J.B., I.J.F.L.). One at Sidlesham on 17th (M.S.). One in a park at Portslade on 19th (G.A.S.). One at Bishopstone on 22nd (C.M.J.). On May 2nd one in a chalk pit near Ditchling Beacon where it stayed for 3 days (E.A.P.). One at Bishopstone on 6th (D.V.F.). One on a lawn at Bexhill on June 26th (Mr. and Mrs. N. Blackburne per H. J. Sargent of the Bexhill Museum).

An unusual number in autumn: one in gardens at Lewes, July 29th-August 14th (S.H.F., J.H.H., F.P.); one at Shoreham, August 2nd-3rd (J.M.T.). One in a garden at Fairwarp, nr. Uckfield, on 23rd (A.R.). One in gardens at Rottingdean, August 25th-September 2nd (C.V.W.). On September 8th D.V.F. saw one within a few miles of Newhaven which, he understands, was present for about a week before and a week after this date. One in a garden at Hailsham on 9th (H.). One in a garden at Worthing, September 9th-12th (A.V.T.). At least 2 near Isfield on 16th (F.T.C.).

265. **WRYNECK.**—One in gardens at Ferring, September 2nd-7th (S.H.C.).

272. **SKYLARK.**—On January 9th, after snow in night, a few were coasting W off Shoreham Beach (B.A.E.M.) and at Angmering, where also a party of c. 100 flew out to sea (H.C.H.). On February 2nd at the beginning of the cold spell small parties were flying in from the SE all day at Langney Point. A few landed but most turned W (D.D.H.). On the same day C.M.J. saw many flying W at Brighton. On 10th many flying W between Hastings and Rye. On 27th a small E-NE movement over Brighton (L.P.A.). During March a few flew in from the S or SE at Langney Point (D.D.H.) and Hove (G.A.S.) On April 10th 2 flew in S to N at Lancing (R.J.W.).

From October 6th to November 15th arrival from the sea, usually with flight N or NW inland, was repeatedly recorded, mainly between the Kent boundary and Shoreham. Numbers were small or moderate except on October 27th when a big arrival took place, R.H.C. counting c. 210 an hour between 8.30 a.m. and 1.15 p.m. at Beachy Head and B.A.E.M. nearly 2,000 between 6.40 a.m. and 12.40 p.m. at Shoreham Beach. This movement was also observed at Pagham where R.R. saw 35 fly in during a watch of 2 hours, at Hove (G.A.S.) and near Rye (D.D.H.). During the same period both E and W coasting movements were recorded. Departure out to sea was reported at

Shoreham on October 14th (B.A.E.M.) and at Beachy Head on 21st and on November 7th (R.H.C.) but very few birds were involved.

273. SHORELARK.—The 3 at the Midrips-Wicks at the end of 1955 were last recorded on February 5th (H.E.A., K.E.I.B., E.M.C.), but one was still present on March 3rd (D.D.H.).

One at Pagham on November 12th (J.V.S.).

274. SWALLOW.—Two at Weir Wood Reservoir on March 31st (R.H.C.). On May 6th one flew S out to sea at Shoreham (B.A.E.M.). One flew in from the S at Beachy Head on June 23rd (R.H.C.).

A few flew in from the SE at Langney Point on July 23rd (R.H.C.), and October 4th and 20th (D.D.H.), and at Shoreham on September 4th (B.A.E.M.) and October 18th (J.M.T.).

276. HOUSE MARTIN.—On June 20th 22 in all flew in SE to NW in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

Arrival of small numbers from the sea with flight N or NW inland was recorded at Langney Point on October 21st (D.D.H.), at Hove on September 24th (G.A.S.), at Shoreham on September 4th and October 6th (B.A.E.M.).

277. SAND MARTIN.—One flew in SE-NW at Langney Point on June 23rd (R.H.C., D.D.H.). A small E movement at Hove on July 6th (G.A.S.) and at Langney Point on 21st (D.D.H., C.M.J.). On 21st also P.R.M. saw c. 175 at Chichester G.P. On 24th 20 in all flew in S to N at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

On October 21st B.A.E.M. saw 5 flying W at Shoreham.

278. GOLDEN ORIOLE.—L.P. describes a male present in her garden at Wadhurst for c. 2 hours on May 20th. During this time it sang frequently "a beautiful flute-like whistle of two notes or possibly three, with great carrying powers, this was interspersed with a low warbling song . . . when disturbed a harsh jarring note." It was difficult to see as it kept well up in oaks except in brief flights when the following points were noted: "In size it appeared between Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush . . . head, neck and mantle yellow . . . yellow under-parts, black tail and wings. The tail fairly short, seeming cut off very straight at the end." Our first fully authenticated record since the war.

280. CARRION CROW.—A pair again attempted to nest on a pile-driver at the Midrips (D.D.H.). A pair nested in the "basket" of a tide-mark by the lower Rother (K.E.I.B.).

281. HOODED CROW.—Four at the Wicks on January 5th, 3 there to March 3rd (D.D.H.) and one at the Midrips on 10th (E.M.C., R.H.C.). One at Shoreham on April 30th and May 1st (J.M.T.). No records for the end of the year.

282. ROOK.—A few pairs attempted to nest on cranes on Newhaven coal wharf (C.M.J.).

Single birds flew in from the S or SE at Beachy Head on October 7th and 27th (R.H.C.) and at Seaford Head on 28th (L.P.A.). At Broomhill a party of 12 flew in on November 1st. At Beachy Head 3 flew in on 3rd and a party of 40 on 7th (R.H.C.).

286. JAY.—One on the S boundary fence of Camber Golf Course on May 22nd (R.N.) was no doubt a migrant.

289. BLUE TIT.—On October 21st during an early morning movement of passerines 6 flew W over Shoreham Beach (B.A.E.M.).

301. MISTLE THRUSH.—Some flying W over Rye Harbour on February 19th (L.P.A.).

302. FIELDFARE.—On January 9th after snow in night R.J.O. counted over 1,000 in c. 2 hours flying W or NW at Littlehampton; H.C.H. noted a W movement at Angmering and L.P.A. saw a few moving NE over Hove. On

February 1st with the beginning of the cold spell all local birds left the Ouse valley 4 miles N of Lewes moving off SE (S.H.F.). That day at Cuckmere Haven many were flying S or SE out to sea in the morning and some at Newhaven in the afternoon while many were flying E along the coast (D.D.H.). Flight out to sea was also recorded the same day at Pett Level (E.M.C.) and Shoreham (R.R.) while L.P.A. saw a SE movement over Hove and C.M.J. an E one at Brighton. W coasting movements were seen at Brighton on 2nd (C.M.J.), at Hove on 10th (many), between Hastings and Rye Harbour on 19th (many) (L.P.A.), along the Seven Sisters on 23rd (D.D.H.). At least 30 at North Marden on May 2nd (R.H.C.).

On October 26th several parties flew W along the coast at the Wicks. On 27th 4 flew in from S at Beachy Head (R.H.C.).

303. SONG THRUSH.—A W movement over Hove on February 10th and 19th (L.P.A.).

On October 7th a party of 10 flew in from S at Beachy Head and there were 16 in the wood near Belle Tout (R.H.C.). On 9th there were c. 20 on the Crumbles where there had been only one or 2 previously (D.D.H.).

304. REDWING.—On January 9th after snow in night there was a W movement along the coast at Hove (L.P.A.), Angmering (H.C.H.) and Littlehampton (R.J.O.). A few took part in some of the February Fieldfare movements and many in that of 10th.

On October 7th a party of 11 flew in from the S at Beachy Head and there were 16 in the wood near Belle Tout. A small W coasting movement at the Wicks on 26th (R.H.C.).

307. RING OUZEL.—One N of Brighton on April 29th (A.A.B.). One at Beachy Head on May 3rd (D.D.H.).

One at Beachy Head on October 10th. One at Pagham on 17th. One on the Crumbles on 19th and 2 there on 20th (D.D.H.). On 21st, 3 in the lower Cuckmere valley (L.P.A.), 16 at Beachy Head (R.H.C.) and 14 (10 in one bush) at Fairlight (H.A.R.C.). Five at Beachy Head on 27th (R.H.C.).

308. BLACKBIRD.—On February 2nd at the beginning of the cold spell 2 flew in from the SE at Langney Point while a third was taken by a Peregrine before reaching land (D.D.H.).

On October 9th there were c. 100 on the Crumbles where only a few had been present 2 days before (D.D.H.).

311. WHEATEAR.—One at Beachy Head on November 5th (R.H.C.).

317. STONECHAT.—One or 2 nesting pairs recorded from the downs and 2 from Ashdown.

318. WHINCHAT.—One at Beachy Head on April 12th (D.D.H.), a rather early date. One at Manhood End on July 29th (G.A.S.) was presumably on early migration.

320. REDSTART.—A male at the Wicks on March 30th (R.H.C.). A pair nested in an old wall in N Sussex (C.F.B.).

321. BLACK REDSTART.—The bird wintering at Newhaven at the end of 1955 stayed on into 1956. The only other January record is of one at Galley Hill, Bexhill, on 6th (D.D.H.). In February one at Southwick on 2nd (G.A.S.) and one at Hastings on 5th (R.H.C.). In March 18 were recorded, including a party of 4 at Beachy Head on 25th (D.D.H.). Three recorded in the first few days of April.

Two pairs bred at Eastbourne, one raising 4 young (E.M. Cubison) and the other 3 young in one brood and one in another (R.H.C.). Birds were present at 2 sites at Hastings during the breeding season (D.D.H., W.P.W.). One at Portslade on June 7th (G.A.S.).

One at Pevensy Levels on September 12th (L.A.C.) but otherwise autumn records are confined to the period October 10th-28th, when 9 were reported, except for one 4 miles N of Lewes on November 6th (S.H.F.). The only later record is of one at Selsey on December 9th (T.B.S.).

322. **NIGHTINGALE**.—One on Crowlink on September 23rd (C.M.V.), a late date.

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—A female at the site of the old Tide Mills at Bishopstone on September 2nd was first seen by D.V.F. and subsequently by A.A.B., C.M.J., J.T. *et al.* Drawings and descriptions have been supplied and include the orange red sides to the base of the tail, the broad, pale eye stripe, the speckling on the upper breast, etc. This species was reported elsewhere on the South Coast that day.

338. **AQUATIC WARBLER**.—One at Thorney on September 5th (R.H.C.). "The back and mantle were very heavily streaked dark, on a brown background, and continued down over rump, seen when flying. A pale buff line ran over forehead and crown, with a black line each side. A pale buff line over eye. Throat and breast very pale cream, with pale buff under tail-coverts. No speckling on breast. Legs light skin-coloured."

343. **BLACKCAP**.—One at Beachy Head on November 10th (D.D.H.).

347. **WHITETHROAT**.—One at Shoreham on October 13th (J.M.T.).

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER**.—One in a Worthing garden c. 400 yards from the sea in a built-up area on October 19th (W.M.W.). One on the Crumbles on 28th (D.D.H.). These records suggest that breeding may still be taking place somewhere in the county.

354. **WILLOW WARBLER**.—A very big arrival took place April 13th-15th along the coast (D.F.B., D.D.H., C.M.J. *et al.*).

356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—One at Shoreham, November 16th-19th (C.F.B., J.M.T.).

364. **GOLDCREST**.—The first coastal record for the autumn was on September 18th when several were present on the Crumbles (D.D.H.). Others were recorded between the Midrips and Sidlesham until about mid-November, the largest number being c. 20 on the Crumbles on October 16th. On October 3rd one flew in from over the sea near the Midrips and made off NW inland (D.D.H.).

365. **FIRECREST**.—At Shoreham 3 or 4 were seen between March 3rd and April 1st (B.A.E.M., R.R., J.M.T. *et al.*). One at Mile Oak, nr. Southwick, on March 11th (L.P.A.). One in Eridge Park on 31st (M.E.).

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—A male in an Eastbourne garden on April 14th (D.G.N.), the earliest record for some years. A male in a Littlehampton garden on 16th and 17th (A.R.S.). A female at Goring on 19th (G.N.S.). A male at Ovingdean on May 1st (G.d.F.). A male at Burgess Hill on 4th (J.A.W.).

At least 3 between August 10th and 27th. In September c. 30 were recorded, c. 20 of them in the first 10 days of this month, in both coastal and inland localities.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—During the February cold spell 36 flew in from the S and SE at Brighton on 2nd (R.J.S.) and c. 300 flew W at Bexhill on 19th (J.A.H.).

Arrival from the sea was recorded between Langney Point and Peacohaven, March 27th-April 14th.

Between September 16th and 26th an E coasting movement was observed at Langney Point and Beachy Head (D.D.H.) and in the Brighton-Hove area (C.M.J., G.A.S.). A W coasting movement was noted, October 3rd-23rd, between the Wicks and Shoreham. Arrival from the S or SE usually with flight inland was recorded between Langney Point and Shoreham, October 4th-

November 12th (R.H.C., D.D.H., B.A.E.M., G.A.S.). Flight out to sea was only recorded on October 7th, at Beachy Head (R.H.C.), and 21st, at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

374. **RICHARD'S PIPIT**.—One which frequented a grassy area by Hove Lagoon was first seen by G.A.S. on January 25th. It remained to 29th, being seen by G.d.F., M.H.P., R.J.S. and also by D.D.H., who had seen the species before. G.d.F. describes it as "in bulk . . . twice as large as nearby Meadow Pipits; relatively longer tail and legs. Fairly bulky (not streamlined). Upright carriage; striding gait; frequent wagtail-like runs . . . General shade paler than Meadow Pipit. Back moderately streaked. Under-parts buff, darkest on breast. Flanks a little darker and warmer than belly. A circle of streaks below throat extending to chest, not very conspicuous. No stripes otherwise on under-parts. White outer tail-feathers very conspicuous. Eye-stripe (not white) formed by darker line through eye and trifle darker crown. Legs pale yellowish." The call which D.D.H. heard almost every time the bird was put up was a rather harsh, distinctly sparrow-like "chirrup."

375. **TAWNY PIPIT**.—Two on Camber sandhills on September 3rd and 5th and one there on 6th (M.S.J.S.). One on the Crumbles on 4th (D.D.H.). One on Hove front early on 10th (G.A.S.). Two near Camber Castle on 22nd (R.C.S.). Full descriptions have been supplied in each case and include: large size, slimmess, long legs (yellowish in the birds at Camber sandhills and the one on the Crumbles, pale pinkish in the rest), general sandy colouration, upper-parts being darker than under-parts and uniform or only slightly marked except on closed wing, under-parts unmarked or with faint markings at sides of breast, noticeable pale eye-stripe, creamy or pale buff, outer tail-feathers pale or whitish. The Hove bird only called once and no clear impression was gained but the typical call was noted in the other cases and variously described as "utterly different from Meadow Pipit's, much louder and more like Yellow Wagtail's" (R.C.S.), "Tehenk" (D.D.H.) and "tchuck, uck, unck and similar notes" (M.S.J.S.). An unusual number of Tawny Pipits was recorded on the South Coast in September.

379. **WATER PIPIT**.—One at Rye Harbour G.P. on March 10th and 18th (R.H.C.). On April 2nd one at Bishopstone (C.M.J., C.M.V.) and one at Chichester G.P. (B.A.E.M.). One at Shoreham rubbish dump on 6th (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.). Full descriptions have been given including dark legs, noticeable whiter outer tail-feathers, grey head with striking white or whitish eye-stripe varying degrees of pinkish on unstreaked breast.

380. **PIED WAGTAIL**.—On March 30th 2 flew in NNE from the sea at Newhaven Breakwater (L.P.A.).

On September 21st 5 in all flew E along the coast at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On October 14th 6 flew E at Shoreham (B.A.E.M.). Otherwise birds were recorded coasting W between Langney Point and Shoreham, October 4th-November 11th. Arrival from the S was recorded on the same coast, October 6th-November 5th, and flight out to sea on October 7th and 21st. In all cases numbers were very small.

WHITE WAGTAIL.—C. 18 were recorded, April 14th-May 21st, all for the coast except for one at Weir Wood Reservoir on May 6th (R.J.W.).

387. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—Single birds flying W at Camber on September 8th (M.S.J.S.) and at Beachy Head on October 14th (R.H.C.).

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL**.—On May 13th one flew in S to N at Shoreham Beach (B.A.E.M.). C. 15 pairs bred at Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H.). Four pairs bred at Thorney (R.H.C.).

On August 8th 2 flying E along the coast flew S out to sea at Widewater, Lancing. One at Shoreham on October 21st (R.J.W.), a late date.

Two variant males were recorded: one of the "Sykes's" type at Thorney on April 26th (R.H.C.). "Forehead, crown and nape light blue. Light blue ear-coverts, not darker than crown. White eye-stripe running over eye and reaching end of ear-coverts. Chin off-white." One at Rye Harbour G.P. was first seen by C.M.J. on May 9th and later by K.E.I.B. and D.D.H. This bird, which was mated to a normal female Yellow Wagtail, nested in the same field as did the very similar bird(s) recorded in 1949 and 1950. "Crown, forehead, ear-coverts and nape pale bluish-grey, darker than in usual 'Sykes's' variant but apparently lighter than in normal Blue-headed. White eye-stripe very slight and mainly behind eye." (D.D.H.).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL.—A male in the lower Cuckmere valley on April 28th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). "Forehead, crown and nape were of a distinctly bluish grey. Pure white supercilary stripe. Ear-coverts dark grey (darker than crown), chin pure white."

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE.—One in Ashdown Forest on March 4th and one, perhaps the same, in another part of the same locality on 31st (R.H.C.).

386. WOODCHAT SHRIKE.—On September 12th an immature by Shoreham railway bridge (B.A.E.M., R.R., J.M.T.) and another c. a mile further inland (B.A.E.M., R.R.). Very detailed descriptions have been given which include: size, apparently slightly larger than Red-backed Shrike, general grey-brown appearance, the second bird being much greyer than the first, in flight a narrow white bar across base of primaries, rump pale greyish (in first) or off-white (in second), pale patch on scapulars. Both birds were very tame. Neither had been ringed. Immature Woodchats occurred elsewhere on the South Coast during the autumn and one of these, at Dungeness, had been seen both in the field and in the hand by B.A.E.M. and R.R. about a fortnight previously.

389. STARLING.—On February 2nd at the beginning of the cold spell B.A.E.M. saw many flying SE to NW over Southwick Station and J.M.T. saw 50 fly in from the sea there while at Brighton, C.M.J. saw a very large W movement. A few were passing W over Hove on 10th (L.P.A.). In March 2 flew in S to N at Langney Point on 1st and 4 on 4th (D.D.H.) and one flew in at Shoreham Beach on 30th (B.A.E.M.).

Autumn arrival from the sea with flight N or NW inland was first recorded on October 7th when 11 came in at Langney Point (D.D.H.). It continued on occasions until November 15th, being mainly recorded on the East Sussex coast, where W coasting movements were also reported during this period. By far the largest arrival took place on October 27th. On this day D.D.H. saw many flying NW over Rye and East Guldeford Level. At Beachy Head R.H.C. saw c. 2,300 come in between 7.15 a.m. and 1.45 p.m. At Hove G.A.S. saw c. 1,100 flying W between 7.0 a.m. and 7.50 a.m. At Shoreham Beach B.A.E.M. saw c. 8,400 arrive between 6.40 a.m. and 12.40 p.m. At Pagham R.R. saw c. 180 fly in in 2 hours. On November 2nd S.H.F. saw a large W movement which lasted until about 2.0 p.m. 4 miles N of Lewes.

392. GREENFINCH.—On February 2nd at the beginning of the cold spell a few small parties flew in from the S.E. at Langney Point and then continued W along the coast (D.D.H.). In the early morning of May 13th K.E.I.B. saw 2 fly in N from the sea at the Rother estuary.

On October 27th and 28th and on November 3rd a few flew in from the S or SE at Beachy Head (R.H.C.).

393. GOLDFINCH.—Between April 29th and May 13th B.A.E.N. saw a few flying E in early morning at Shoreham Beach. On April 29th 2 flew in from the SE at Pett Level (R.H.C.) and on May 3rd 3 flew in S to N at Beachy Head (D.D.H.).

On October 7th R.H.C. saw c. 200 in all flying E at Beachy Head and on 14th B.A.E.M. saw c. 225 flying E at Shoreham Beach. At Beachy Head 10 flew in from the S on October 27th and 75 from the SE on 28th (R.H.C.). At Shoreham Beach 5 flew in from the S or SE on 27th (B.A.E.M.). The only records of flight S or SE out to sea were of 12 on November 3rd and 8 on 4th at Beachy Head (R.H.C.).

394. SISKIN.—On October 27th 2 flew in from the SE at Beachy Head, being seen and heard at close range (R.H.C.).

395. LINNET.—Many flying W at Hastings on February 19th (L.P.A.). Between April 9th and 25th arrival from the sea and an E coasting movement were recorded on several occasions, Pett Level to Brighton (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., B.A.E.M.). On May 13th 4 flew in from the SW at Shoreham and eventually made off NE (B.A.E.M.).

Between October 7th and November 7th coasting movements with departure out to sea and also arrival from the sea were recorded, Beachy Head to Shoreham Beach (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., B.A.E.M., R.R.).

396. TWITE.—Two in the lower Cuckmere valley on November 13th (R.H.C.) and 15th (D.D.H.).

404. CROSSBILL.—A party of 7 in Ashdown Forest on July 7th (H.P.M.) and 7 (perhaps the same) in almost exactly the same place on November 18th (R.H.C.). A flock of c. 30 flying W at Kingsley Green on July 24th (M.M.H.). C. 3 dozen in larches at Haywards Heath on November 3rd (C.M.J.). These birds were subsequently seen by other observers and gradually decreased in number, only c. 14 being present on December 29th (D.D.H.). Two at East Grinstead on December 31st (R.E.N.).

407. CHAFFINCH.—A small W movement over Hove on February 10th (L.P.A.). Between March 6th and 31st an E coasting movement was recorded, Langney Point to Shoreham (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H., G.A.S.), most being c. 620 in an hour at Shoreham on 25th. On 24th and 25th S.H.F. saw a SE movement 4 miles N of Lewes. Arrival of small numbers from the sea was recorded on a few occasions in March and on April 1st. In the early morning of May 13th K.E.I.B. saw one fly in from the sea at the mouth of the Rother.

Autumn arrival from the sea was recorded, October 7th to November 14th, with by far the largest numbers on October 27th. On that day D.D.H. saw parties flying NW in the Rye area, the movement continuing at the Midrips in the afternoon. At Beachy Head R.H.C. counted c. 3,000 coming in from the SE or S between 7.15 a.m. and 1.45 p.m. At Shoreham Beach B.A.E.M. saw c. 320 come in between 6.40 a.m. and 12.40 p.m. At Pagham c. 105 flew in during 2 hours (R.R.).

408. BRAMBLING.—The most recorded were 70-80 at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 21st (M.H.P.) and up to c. 300 at Seaford, February 11th to 26th, during the cold spell (B.A.E.M., J.S. *et al.*).

On October 27th R.H.C. counted 15 amongst Chaffinches coming in from the sea at Beachy Head. On 28th L.P.A. saw 3 flying NW at Seaford Head. On November 2nd D.D.H. saw 2 fly in from the SE at Langney Point.

410. CORN BUNTING.—Between April 6th and August 4th D.D.H. heard song in a number of localities between the Midrips and Winchelsea Beach.

415. **CIRL BUNTING.**—Up to 20 in Littlehampton sand dunes, January 9th-February 22nd (R.J.O.).

421. **REED BUNTING.**—Two at the end of Langney Point in the early morning of April 19th (D.D.H.). On October 14th 18 in all flew E during a coasting movement of passerines at Shoreham (B.A.E.M., R.R.).

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING.**—Twelve at the Midrips on October 11th. One there on 31st (D.D.H.) and on November 15th. Three flying W at the Wicks on December 2nd (R.H.C.) and one flying W at the Midrips on 20th (D.D.H.). Up to 15 at the Rother estuary, November 8th to December 2nd (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One flying W at Pett Level on November 15th (R.H.C.).

One on the Crumbles on November 6th (D.D.H.). At Beachy Head up to c. 40 (mostly in a stubble field) between October 27th and early December when the field was ploughed and numbers fell to 6 on 25th (R.H.C. *et al.*).

Two at Seaford Head on October 28th (L.P.A.) and one there on November 16th (D.D.H.). Four in the lower Cuckmere valley on 13th (R.H.C.).

One at Thorney on October 7th (L.P.A.). Two at East Head, West Wittering, on December 29th (B.A.E.M.). Though a number of the above birds were seen well on the ground, the terrain (e.g. stubble) rendered this impossible in many cases and most were identified in flight by observers familiar with the calls. This species was recorded in a number of localities on the South Coast in the latter part of the year.

423. **SNOW BUNTING.**—The flock of c. 40 in the Camber area at the end of 1955 remained until March 4th, the birds, or some of them, often visiting the Midrips-Wicks where 3 were seen on March 18th (many observers). The 2 birds on the Crumbles at the end of 1955 were last recorded on January 26th (D.D.H.) and the Cuckmere bird of 1955 on March 4th (R.H.C.). One at Norman's Bay on March 10th (L.P.A.). Up to 4 on Littlehampton sand dunes, January 29th-February 22nd (R.J.O.). From one to 2 at Pagham (no doubt the 1955 birds) until March 3rd (many observers). One at East Head, West Wittering, February 12th-18th (C.M.J., B.A.E.M., R.R.) and 3 there on 22nd (R.J.W.).

One at Pett Level on October 26th. Sixteen at Camber on November 6th (R.H.C.). Then up to 14 there and at the Midrips-Wicks until December 2nd. One on the Crumbles, November 5th-25th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Up to 4 at Beachy Head, November 3rd-28th, and 10 there on December 23rd and 25th (R.H.C. *et al.*). One at Seaford Head on October 28th (L.P.A.). One flying E at Shoreham Beach on November 4th (B.A.E.M., R.R.). One at Pagham on 11th (D.L.). Three at East Head on 4th (L.P.A., P.R.M.).

425. **TREE SPARROW.**—The party of c. 30 at Weir Wood Reservoir reported in 1955 was still present on January 21st (M.H.P.).

Several pairs again found nesting on Pevensey Levels though the area was not properly searched (D.D.H.). Two between West Dean and Littington on June 23rd (R.H.C.). Two pairs breeding at Iford (L.P.A.). Six pairs attempted to nest at the site N of Lewes where breeding took place in 1955. They were disturbed by an alarm gun set up to scare pigeons and did not breed (S.H.F.). A pair was present at Shoreham in May but nesting was not established (J.M.T. *et al.*). Two at Sidlesham on May 13th (J.V.S.).