

THE SUSSEX  
BIRD REPORT

1958



EDITED BY D. D. HARBER

PRICE: FIVE SHILLINGS



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has either not been published before or if published and accepted as correct seems open to doubt upon consideration of unpublished details. Generally, this information will come from unpublished diaries but it is perhaps worth adding that only the more important records of previous years will be dealt with.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

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

## CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1958

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER.**—One in Chichester Harbour on January 18th (A.Y.N.) and one there on March 10th (L.P.A.). One in Shoreham Basin between January 26th and February 9th (C.F.B., M.H.P., *et al.*). One off Worthing Pier on April 2nd (R.J.S.). One off Langney Point on 5th (D.D.H.). Two off Lancing on 14th (R.J.W.). No records for the latter half of the year.

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—One at Pagham on February 9th (M.H.P.). One off Worthing on April 3rd (R.J.S.).  
One off Holywell, Eastbourne, on October 22nd (D.D.H.). One off Newhaven on December 24th (L.P.A.).

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER.**—One, slightly oiled, was found dead in a stream at Laughton on January 26th (H.R.J.). There were only 2 records for May, the latest being for 20th.

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE.**—Inland records for both ends of the year, the most then recorded being 5 at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 12th (H.C.J.) and 12 there on December 14th (M.H.P.).

At Chichester G.P. a nest was being built as early as February 3rd though it was not completed (A.B.W.). A pair bred successfully at Rye Harbour G.P. (D.D.H., B.A.E.M.).

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE.**—One in Pagham Harbour on January 12th (M.S.) and one off East Head (West Wittering) on 26th (L.P.A.).

A bird of the year at Pett Level pools from September 21st to October 26th (many observers). One on Pagham Lagoon on October 10th (W.P.W.) and 12th (A.B.W.).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE.**—The bird at Weir Wood Reservoir recorded in the 1957 Report was still present on January 5th (A.H.W.S.). Up to 3 were seen together off the coast in the first and last quarters of the year. In April there were 4 off Hove on 4th (G.A.S.), 2 off Shoreham on 7th (B.A.E.M.) and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on 19th (D.D.H.).

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE.**—Up to 2 together off the coast at both ends of the year.

One in complete summer plumage on Balcombe Lake on May 19th (D.J.C.) was seen there by G.J.B. and D.D.H. until 24th. There are no previous county records for these dates. One at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 30th (M.H.P., G.A.S.) and September 7th (R.J.S.).

12. **LEACH'S PETREL.**—One flying E. c. 200 yards off Newhaven on November 12th. Owing to light conditions colour could not be seen and identification was based on flight and shape (L.P.A.). The observer has had previous experience of this species.

14. **STORM PETREL.**—One feeding for c. 7 minutes off Langney Point, 300-400 yards out, on June 8th (L.P.A.).

16. **BALEARIC SHEARWATER.**—One flying W. c. 600 yards off Langney Point on September 7th. "Dark brown upper-parts; under-parts lighter brownish except for centre of belly which was pale. Size as Manx Shearwater." (L.P.A., D.D.H., A.B.S.).

26. **FULMAR.**—As usual a number of records for the coast between Langney Point and Hove between April 23rd and June 22nd, all of single birds. One off Langney Point on August 24th (A.B.S.)

27. **GANNET.**—No records for January. One off Seaford Head on February 26th (L.P.A.) and one off Langney Point on 27th (D.D.H.). Two were seen in March. For the rest of the year rather fewer than usual were recorded.

29. **SHAG.**—Up to 5 in Shoreham Basin and on the neighbouring coast between January 26th and April 12th were seen by many observers. One off East Head, West Wittering, on January 18th (G.d.F., D.D.H.). One in Newhaven Harbour on February 9th (J.H.B.) and 22nd (C.F.B.). Up to 6 there in March and 2 on April 5th (C.M.J.). One at Porto Bello (Brighton) on March 26th and 2 at Seaford Head on 22nd (A.B.S.).

One off Beachy Head on May 21st (R.H.C., G.T.C.). The second county record for this month. A first summer bird off Langney Point on August 6th (D.D.H.) and perhaps the same bird off Seaford Head on 9th (L.P.A.). There are only 2 previous county records for August.

30. **HERON.**—On February 16th R.H.C. saw one flying W. far out off Langney Point.

All known heronries were visited, the numbers of occupied nests being: Fishbourne 20 (S.J.K.E.); Parham 36 (R.F.T.); Henfield 6 (C.A.G.); Fittle Park 2 (E.P.T.); Glynde 11 (E.P.T.); Eridge 32 (M.E.); Glyneleigh 16 (J.A.H.); Udimore 9 (J.A.H.); Leasham 14 (J.A.).

31. **PURPLE HERON.**—One seen at a range of c. 100 yards standing amongst short vegetation at Chichester G.P. on May 18th. "Compared with a nearby Heron it was smaller in size with a very slender, snake-like neck. The lack of a high forehead accentuated the length of the bill. The top of the head was black, a little darker than the greyish black of the mantle. The side of the neck was rufous, while a dark line divided this from the creamy-buff of the front of the neck. A similar dark line extended from behind the eye to the crown, across the rufous brown sides of the head, contrasting with the pale chin. The mantle and wings were dark grey, almost blackish grey. There was a chestnut tinge to the feathers of the lower mantle . . . No clear view of the under-parts was obtained" (L.P.A.). On June 18th one was seen at very close range standing in thick aquatic vegetation at Rye Harbour G.P., only its head and neck being visible. "The neck was very long and slender, its sides rufous with some black markings. The top of the head was black. Almost immediately the bird flew up and, after circling, made off. In flight at close range the upper surface of the wings and the back appeared dark grey with the primaries blackish. At some distance the upper-parts seemed almost uniformly dark. The under-parts were not so well seen but their general coloration was chestnut. In flight the coiled neck protruded more prominently than that of a Heron, and the legs seemed relatively longer and the general build slighter" (D.D.H.). The absence of a crest in both these birds together with the other details suggests that they were in second summer plumage.

32. **LITTLE EGRET.**—One was seen near Rye on May 16th and on several days subsequently (*Brit. B.*, vol. LI, p. 250). The fourth record for the county.

41. **BLACK STORK.**—One which was first seen at Stone Cliff (Kent) on August 7th moved from there via Icklesham to Iden where it stayed until September 14th (*Brit. B.*, vol. LI, p. 444). In the latter locality it was seen by many observers, including C.W.G.P.-E., G.d.F. and D.D.H. The latter noted that the head and neck were distinctly brownish with some brownish in the black of the mantle. Legs and bill yellowish, bill with reddish tip and reddish at joint of leg and on feet. The only purplish noted was below the eye. The above

suggests that the bird was moulting from 1st year to adult plumage. This is the first county record of this species.

42. **SPOONBILL**.—One at Manhood End on April 12th (J.B., P.M.B.). Three flying W. over Hove front on September 18th (G.A.S.).

43. **MALLARD**.—As in 1957 the largest numbers were recorded at Chichester G.P. where up to 870 were present in August and September.

46. **TEAL**.—The largest numbers were recorded from the Amberley-Pulborough floods where at least 1,000 were present in mid-February (B.A.E.M., A.Y.N.) and on December 26th (B.A.E.M.).

47. **GARGANEY**.—Recorded in the usual coastal localities in spring from March 23rd, the most recorded being 6 off Cuckmere Haven and Seaford Head on that date (R.H.C.). No proof of breeding but it is probable that this occurred in 3 localities.

49. **GADWALL**.—The 3 at Chichester G.P. recorded in the 1957 Report stayed on into February (many observers) and a male was last seen there on May 11th (A.B.W.). On January 22nd a party of 10 was seen at Pagham (W.W.A.P.), the largest so far recorded for the county. One at Glynde Level on February 26th (R.H.C., G.T.C.). A pair at Pett Level on March 26th (A.B.S.).

The only record for the end of the year was of one at Pagham on November 2nd (M.D.F.).

50. **WIGEON**.—Large numbers, up to at least 2,000, were recorded in the Amberley-Pulborough area throughout February (P.R.M., A.Y.N., *et al.*) and as late as March 20th (A.B.S.).

A pair at Pett Level pools on May 1st and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on 22nd (D.D.H.). A male, first seen on May 24th (L.P.A.) summered at Chichester G.P. (S.J.K.E., M.S., A.B.W. *et al.*).

Three at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 20th and 4 at Chichester G.P. on August 24th (L.P.A.). C. 730 at Amberley on December 31st (W.G.B.).

52. **PINTAIL**.—The largest number recorded was c. 100 at Amberley-Pulborough in the second half of February (P.R.M., A.Y.N.).

53. **SHOVELER**.—Between 50 and 90 were recorded in the Amberley-Pulborough area on several dates in February (P.R.M., A.B.W. *et al.*), and there were c. 70 there on November 13th (B.A.E.M.).

A pair bred successfully at Thorney (A.B.S.) and a pair was present at Rye Harbour G.P. in summer though no young were seen (D.D.H.).

54. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD**.—The female at Chichester G.P., recorded in the 1957 Report, was seen there at intervals until February 27th (W.P.W. *et al.*) and again on March 20th (A.B.S.). A female on Pagham Lagoon on January 23rd and February 16th (W.W.A.P.) was no doubt the same as there is evidence that other diving duck moved from Chichester to Pagham at times during the cold weather and the Chichester bird was often absent.

A female at Chichester G.P. from December 6th (D.L.) to the end of the year (many observers). The fourth occasion on which this species has been recorded in the county.

55. **SCAUP**.—The birds at Chichester G.P. recorded in the 1957 Report stayed on into April, most (19) being present in mid-February while only 6 were left on April 27th. A male, able to fly, summered there (S.J.K.E., P.R.M., A.B.W. *et al.*). A male at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 19th and a female

there on March 16th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). The latter stayed until April 20th (D.J.C.).

A male was seen in the Rye Harbour—Pett Level area on various dates between May 10th and July 20th (L.P.A., D.D.H. *et al.*).

A male at Weir Wood Reservoir on October 5th (A.H.W.S.) and 12th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—Over 200 on Pagham Lagoon during a cold spell on January 24th (W.W.A.P.).

A pair bred successfully at Rye Harbour G.P. (L.P.A., D.D.H.). The first breeding record for that area. Two pairs bred successfully at Weir Wood Reservoir and 3 pairs at Darwell Reservoir (M.H.P.). A pair summered at Knepp Lake but there was no proof of breeding (R.J.S.).

Up to c. 120 at Chichester G.P. in December (P.R.M., A.Y.N. *et al.*).

57. **POCHARD**.—The largest number recorded at the beginning of the year was c. 210 at Chichester G.P. on February 10th (A.B.W.). About the same number were present there in December (P.R.M. *et al.*). Three drakes at Weir Wood Reservoir on June 29th (G.J.B.).

60. **GOLDENEYE**.—Not more than 22 were recorded at either end of the year in Chichester Harbour. One in Pagham Harbour as late as April 26th (A.A.).

One, apparently unable to fly, summered at Darwell Reservoir, being still present in October. One, able to fly well, at Rye Harbour G.P. on September 27th (W.J.V.), 28th (R.E., M.C.P.) and 30th (R.H.C.). The first county records for this month. One at Thorney on October 18th (D.L.) and 5 at Pett Level pools on 25th (R.H.C.).

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—The 2 at Pett Level pools recorded in the 1957 Report remained until January 8th, then one stayed until driven away by ice on 22nd (E.M.C.). The bird at Pagham stayed until January 17th (W.W.A.P.). One at Chichester G.P. on January 2nd (P.R.M.) and 14th (J.V.S., W.P.W.). One off East Head, West Wittering, on January 19th (P.R.M.) and a party of 9 there on 26th (L.P.A.), the largest recorded for the county. One there on February 17th (A.B.S.). No records for the end of the year.

64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—The bird at Chichester G.P. recorded in the 1957 Report was still present on March 20th (W.P.W.). A female at Darwell Reservoir on March 15th (M.H.P., R.J.S., G.A.S.).

67. **EIDER**.—More recorded than ever before. In the early months of the year birds were present at East Head, West Wittering, Church Norton—Pagham, the mouth of the Arun, Newhaven, Langney Point, Cooden, and Pett Level—Midrips. Numbers varied from one to 16 except in the case of Pagham where there were c. 70 on January 19th and c. 50 on February 23rd (M.S.) and Langney Point where there were c. 70 on February 5th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.) and c. 60, February 9th-21st (D.D.H.). No such flocks have been previously recorded in the county. Most birds had left by the end of April but there was one at Pagham on May 4th (L.P.A. *et al.*) and one to 3 at Langney Point throughout this month (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

One at Pagham on June 29th (M.S.). At Langney Point numbers increased from 8 on June 1st to 17 by 25th (L.P.A., R.H.C., D.D.H.). There were 22 on July 1st (D.D.H.) but 17 again on 3rd and 18 on 6th (L.P.A., D.D.H., A.B.S.). By July 17th only 12 remained and D.D.H. was informed by a fisherman that some had been shot by some youths a few days previously. Eleven or 12 were



recorded until August 17th after which numbers fell to 2 or 3 while one was present throughout September. All these summering birds appeared to be immature.

Apart from a few August records (and one for September) from the Cuckmere area and the Midrips, which probably related to birds which had summered, no more were recorded until October 19th. From then until the end of the year c. 25 were recorded for the coast, the most together being 15 (6 of them adult males) off Langney Point on November 7th and 9th (D.D.H.). Apart from these only c. 7 adult males were recorded, in the early part of the year.

**69. RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.**—Numbers small at both ends of the year. The only May record is of one off Hove on 10th (G.A.S.). On June 28th A.A. saw a party of 5, both in flight and on the water, at Pagham. One which was unable to fly summered at the Midrips, being later found dead (D.D.H. *et al.*). One in the lower Cuckmere and its vicinity which was first seen on July 26th (L.P.A.) was also, apparently, unable to fly.

**70. GOOSANDER.**—The bird at Chichester G.P. recorded in the 1957 Report was last seen on March 23rd (B.A.E.M., J.M.T.). One, Pett Level pools, on February 2nd (J.A.H.).

One on Piddinghoe pond on April 16th (R.H.C.); the latest spring date for the county.

One on a small lake at Ardingly College on November 30th (G.J.B.) and one off East Head the same day (B.A.E.M.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 6th (H.C.J.) and 7th (G.J.B.). One at Chichester G.P. on December 6th (D.L.) and 7th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

**71. SMEW.**—The bird at Weir Wood Reservoir recorded for late December in the 1957 Report remained there until March 4th (H.C.J.) and a male was also present on February 2nd (M.H.P.). One at Manhood End on January 31st (D.L.).

No records for the end of the year.

**73. SHELDUCK.**—Inland records were of one on Glynde Level on January 29th (D.D.H.), up to 4 on Amberley Wild Brooks in February (D.D.H., B.A.E.M. *et al.*), one there on December 26th (M.H.P., G.A.S.), and 3 at Weir Wood Reservoir on April 16th (G.J.B.). The largest number recorded was c. 1,200 off East Head, West Wittering, on January 2nd (P.R.M.).

A pair again bred successfully in the lower Cuckmere valley (R.H.C.).

On February 23rd 7 flew W. off Shoreham (A.B.S.); on April 22nd 2 flew W. off Bulverhythe (J.A.H.); on 29th 25 E. off Worthing (R.J.S.) and on 30th 9 E. off Birling Gap (D.D.H.). On May 10th 5 flew E. off Littlehampton (R.J.O.) On September 23rd 9 flew E. off Lancing (B.A.E.M.). On November 5th 9 flew W. off Langney Point (R.H.C.) and on December 18th 2 flew W. there (D.D.H.).

On July 23rd 10 young were ringed at Pagham by Bryanston School N.H.S. One was recovered at Penarth Head, Glam., on September 15th. Another was recovered at Fort-Mahon-Plage (Somme) on September 18th.

**76. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—On January 4th 36 flew W. low over the Rother estuary (D.D.H.). Six or 7 on Glynde Level on January 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On 29th 50 were put up there and flew in the direction of the Cuckmere (D.D.H.) where they were seen by R.H.C. and G.T.C. Previously, on 22nd and 24th, there had been c. 70 in the lower Cuckmere valley (D.D.H.). On the night of January 30th E.M.C. heard many calling over Fairlight. In the Amberley-Pulborough area there were c. 40 on January 12th (P.R.M. *et al.*).

On February 5th 52 were present there (A.B.W.), on 8th 90 and on 9th 112 (P.R.W., A.B.W.), with 115 on 15th (P.R.M.). Numbers then fell to 76 on 16th (L.P.A.) on which day c. 80 were seen in flight over Fairmile Bottom by C.M.J. By March 4th only 5 were seen at Pulborough (M.H.P.). On March 8th a large party were heard calling in the evening, in a snowstorm, between Frant and Tunbridge Wells (G.P.).

No records for the end of the year.

**78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.**—Six on Glynde Level on January 8th (D.D.H.).

**80. BRENT GOOSE.**—C. 280 were counted in Chichester Harbour on February 9th (C.R.T.) and March 10th (L.P.A.) and rather lesser numbers on other dates. Elsewhere numbers were small in January and February, most, c. 35, being seen at Pagham (W.W.A.P.). In March and early April a small E. passage was seen along the coast.

No autumn birds were seen until early November and from then until the end of the year numbers were very small, not more than 16 being seen together.

Birds of the Pale-breasted form were more common than usual and were recorded as follows: one at Pagham, January 3rd-13th (W.W.A.P., J.R.) and 2 there on 19th (A.A.); 2 in Chichester Harbour on 18th (A.Y.N.); one at Pett Level on 12th (R.B.B.); one flying low over Eastbourne on 20th (D.D.H.); 2 with dark-breasted birds at the Midrips on February 27th (R.H.C.) and March 1st (D.D.H.).

**82. CANADA GOOSE.**—Birds were recorded in a number of localities throughout the year but there was little to suggest that any of them were truly feral, e.g. of 2 seen by D.D.H. at Rye Harbour in May one had a yellow plastic ring on one leg and a blue one the other.

**83. RED-BREASTED GOOSE.**—On February 8th P.R.M. saw one among the White-fronts at Amberley and it was seen again the following day by him and by A.B.W. (*vide Brit. B.* vol. L1, p. 192). It remained for several days being seen by a number of observers, including A.R.M.-B. and D.D.H. It was last seen on February 17th by A.B.S. who discovered it independently. The first record for Sussex and the 15th for Britain.

**84. MUTESWAN.**—The largest number recorded was 141 between Pulborough and Coldwaltham on November 16th (P.R.M.).

**86. BEWICK'S SWAN.**—Two on Coldwaltham floods on February 2nd (P.R.M.).

**91. BUZZARD.**—Single birds were recorded from 6 localities and 2 together from 2 others. No evidence of successful breeding.

**95. KITE.**—On March 29th K.G. watched for several minutes one soaring N.W. over Wadhurst and noted the deeply forked tail and the light patch on the under-side of the primaries.

**99. MARSH HARRIER.**—One flying N. in the lower Cuckmere valley on April 4th (J.H.B.), and one at Pagham on 13th (A.A., R.J.O.).

One at the Midrips on August 26th (A.H.W.S.) and 31st and, apparently, the same bird, on October 26th. A different bird at Rye Harbour on September 21st (R.H.C.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on November 17th and 18th (M.S.) and, one, no doubt the same, at Pagham on December 26th (L.P.A.) and 27th (M.J.C.).

**100. HEN HARRIER.**—Remarkably few records and none for the Rye-Wicks area where they are normally regular. A male in Ashdown Forest on



February 2nd (M.H.P.). One, Amberley Wild Brooks, on 23rd (L.P.A.). One flying W. over Hove front on March 21st (A.B.S.).

One near Cissbury Ring on December 6th (R.J.S.).

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER**.—One over downs near the Cuckmere on April 19th (R.G.) and one there on 29th (R.H.C., G.T.C.). A male at Ashurst on 27th (C.A.G.). A male at the Midrips on June 6th (R.E., W.J.V.).

An immature male at Pett Level on July 10th (D.D.H.) and a similar, if not the same bird, at the Midrips-Wicks, August 7th-26th (D.B.O. and many observers).

103. **OSPREY**.—One was first seen at Darwell a few days prior to September 9th and one was seen there regularly until October 5th (R.H.C., D.D.H. *et al*) while 2 were seen together there on September 13th, both being immature (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One at Dell Quay, September 10th-20th, 2 being seen in this locality also on 13th (per S.J.K.E.). One at Chichester G.P. on 14th (P.R.M.) was perhaps one of these.

104. **HOBBY**.—Young were successfully raised in 3 localities.

107. **MERLIN**.—Three reported from the coast, March-April and one from Ashdown Forest on February 16th (V.A.G.).

C. 10 were recorded from the coast in autumn including single birds flying in from the sea at Holywell, Eastbourne, on October 9th and at Belle Tout on 24th (D.D.H.). One over the Coldwaltham floods on December 13th (R.J.S.).

108. **RED-FOOTED FALCON**.—An adult male was seen by G. Campbell and his family near Seaford on May 4th. "Plumage slate grey all over except for the bright rust colour under vent region . . . red feet, legs and eyes." It was watched hunting and hovering down to c. 10 yards.

110. **KESTREL**.—On April 3rd one flew in high from the sea at Shoreham and on 7th one flew E. c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile out there (B.A.E.M., R.J.W.).

On October 1st one flew S. out to sea at Langney Point (R.H.C., G.T.C.) and on 24th one flew S. over Hove front (G.A.S.).

117. **QUAIL**.—One calling near Lullington on June 30th (R.J.W.). One calling on downs above Old Portslade, June 20th-28th, being seen on the latter date (M.H.P., G.A.S.). On July 5th L.P.A. heard one c.  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from this site. One calling in a cornfield near Hove on July 2nd (A.B.S.). One calling at the Midrips on 8th (R.B.B.).

121. **SPOTTED CRAKE**.—One at Sidlesham on April 10th (J.V.S.). A full description has been given.

125. **CORNCRAKE**.—One at Earnley on August 30th (M.S.). One at Sidlesham on September 6th (J.V.S.). One there on 12th and 14th and one at North Marden on October 4th (M.S.).

131. **OYSTERCATCHER**.—High tide figures at the Rother estuary were 196 on January 4th (E.M.C.) and c. 250 on February 22nd (D.B.C.). C. 55 non-breeding birds summered there (D.D.H.).

Three pairs bred successfully, Midrips-Wicks; at least 2 pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour (D.D.H.).

On July 30th, during a period of strong W. winds, there was a party of 17, apart from local birds, at the Midrips and a similar party of 28 there on August 2nd. Nine flying W. off Holywell, Eastbourne, on 7th (D.D.H.) and 16 W. off Langney Point on 10th (A.B.S.). On August 16th a party of 47 at the Midrips which left on being put up (D.D.H.).

At the end of the year there were c. 160 at the Rother estuary (R.H.C.) and c. 500 at the mouth of Chichester Harbour (B.A.E.M.).

133. **LAPWING**.—During the cold weather, January 21st-24th, the usual W.-S.W. movement was recorded from a number of localities and a similar, smaller movement during the February cold spell.

On July 16th a party of 16 flew in N.W. from the sea at Rye Harbour (D.D.H.). On October 18th 2 flew in S. to N. at Lancing Beach (B.A.E.M.) and on 24th 38 flew N.W. over Hove front (G.A.S.).

134. **RINGED PLOVER**.—One or 2 pairs bred at Chichester G.P. On August 22nd 4 flew S.W. out to sea at the Midrips (R.H.C.).

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**.—Two pairs were present in the usual breeding locality but there is no evidence of successful breeding. At the second, newer, site 3 young were hatched at a second attempt (D. Timmins *per* G.D.F.).

Two at the Midrips on April 3rd (A.Y.N.) but otherwise no migrants other than those probably belonging to the breeding population were recorded.

139. **GREY PLOVER**.—C. 30 at Pagham on June 15th (A.A.). C. 15 on Pilsea Island on July 20th (G.A.S.). C. 400 at East Head on October 14th (P.R.M.).

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER**.—The largest number recorded was c. 2,000 above West Wittering on March 10th (L.P.A.).

Of c. 160 near the Midrips on April 4th several were of the Northern race (L.P.A.). A party of 10 of the Northern race at Pagham on 14th (W.W.A.P.).

142. **DOTTEREL**.—A party of 5, which later flew off E., at the Midrips on August 20th (M.H.P.). Two paid a brief visit there on 21st (D.B.O.).

143. **TURNSTONE**.—Eight summered at Langney Point (L.P.A., D.D.H., A.B.S.). C. 50 at Pilsea Island on July 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

145. **COMMON SNIPE**.—A small W. movement over Eastbourne on January 22nd during a cold spell (D.D.H.).

One at Nook Beach pools, Rye Harbour on May 7th (D.D.H.). Apparently the latest spring date for a migrant for the county.

150. **CURLEW**.—Three pairs in the usual breeding locality during summer.

As usual small numbers were seen flying W. at Langney Point and at Hove from June 21st and in July. C. 20 at Pett Level on July 2nd and c. 50 there on 5th (D.D.H.).

151. **WHIMBREL**.—One seen and heard over Chichester Channel on April 5th (R.J.S.). The earliest spring date for the county.

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**.—In the Chichester Harbour area the maximum monthly numbers were: 197 on January 31st (D.L.); c. 400 on February 4th (C.R.T.); March-April, c. 20; 98 on May 23rd; 65 on June 14th; 48 on July 20th (D.L.); c. 200 on August 3rd (L.P.A.); 400-500 in the second half of September (several observers); c. 450 on October 12th (R.J.S.); c. 250 on November 1st (D.L.); c. 270 on December 7th (L.P.A.). Up to c. 400 in meadows N. of Pagham Harbour in mid-February (M.D.F., W.W.A.P.). These may well have been the Chichester Harbour birds. C. 60 at Pagham at the end of the year (L.P.A., M.J.C.).

Elsewhere one at Pett Level on February 1st (D.D.H.) and one at Camber on 27th (R.H.C.). There is only one previous winter record for the county apart from the Chichester-Pagham area! Up to 8 together were seen in the Pett



Level-Wicks area between April 4th and May 4th, and up to 9 there between July 28th and September 21st. In the evening of August 17th a party of 10 flew W. over the outskirts of Eastbourne (D.D.H.). One at the Midrips on November 11th (R.B.B., G.P.) and December 28th (A.B.S.).

**155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT.**—In Chichester Harbour maximum numbers were c. 330 on February 9th (C.R.T.) and c. 250 on December 30th (C.J.H.).

Few recorded on either migration. C. 22 at Pilsa on July 20th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One flying over the downs near the Cuckmere on 24th (R.H.C.).

**156. GREEN SANDPIPER.**—Four recorded in January-February and the same number at the end of the year. The only record certainly relating to spring migration is of one at Church Norton on April 30th (T.B.S.). Then no records until June 29th when there were 5 at Thorney (D.L.). The earliest July record was for 5th when there were 2 at the Wicks (D.D.H.).

**157. WOOD SANDPIPER.**—No spring records. The only July records were of one on 5th at the Wicks and apparently a different bird there on 23rd (D.D.H.). C. 20 recorded, in August-September, including a party of 8 at the Midrips on September 4th (C.W.G.P.-E., G.d.F.). One at Thorney stayed on into October, being last seen on 12th (R.J.S.).

**159. COMMON SANDPIPER.**—Two by the Cuckmere at Littleington on January 18th (L.A.C.). One at Manhood End on February 9th (D.L.) and March 1st (C.F.B.).

The only June record was of one at Thorney on 29th (D.L.).

One at Fishbourne S.F. on October 26th (M.H.P.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on November 16th (M.S.). One at Piddinghoe pond on November 1st (G.A.S.) and December 26th (A.B.S.). One at Merton, Chichester, on December 6th (R.J.O.). One at Manhood End on December 13th (D.L.).

**161. REDSHANK.**—On July 26th, after a night of strong wind and rain, there was a flock of c. 170, apart from local birds, at the Midrips (D.D.H.). It had not been present the previous day. There were still c. 100 present on 28th and c. 30 on August 3rd (D.B.O.). A party of 3 flying W. off Holywell, Eastbourne, on August 7th (D.D.H.).

**162. SPOTTED REDSHANK.**—One at Shoreham on January 2nd (G.A.S.) and February 22nd and 23rd (L.P.A., B.A.E.M.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on 27th (R.H.C.).

Single birds at Manhood End, March 30th-April 20th (several observers), at Sidlesham Ferry on April 18th (M.S.), at Thorney on 20th (L.P.A.), and at the Midrips on April 3rd, 4th and 13th (L.P.A., A.Y.N., A.B.S.) with 3 there on 11th (D.D.H.). No May records.

One at the Midrips on June 22nd (D.B.O.). Between July 20th and the end of October c. 50 were recorded for the coast, including a party of 20 at Thorney on October 11th (B.A.E.M.). One there on December 28th (L.P.A.) and one at Shoreham on 8th (J.M.T.).

**165. GREENSHANK.**—One at Thorney on February 4th (C.R.T.). Relatively few in spring.

One at the Midrips on June 18th (D.B.O.) and one at Manhood End on 29th (A.A., R.J.O.). First recorded in July on 5th when there was one at the Wicks (D.D.H.). On September 28th there were 30-40 at Thorney (D.L., B.A.E.M.).

**169. KNOT.**—The largest number recorded was c. 120 at East Head, West Wittering, on December 28th (B.A.E.M.).

One at the Midrips, June 18th-29th (many observers) and up to c. 50 there in early September.

**171. LITTLE STINT.**—One at the Midrips on May 7th, one at Rye Harbour G.P. on 22nd (D.D.H.) and one at Pagham on 27th (A.H.W.S.).

One at the Midrips, July 25th-30th (D.D.H., D.B.O.). In August, September and October only c. 25 were recorded, most of them from the Midrips.

**178. DUNLIN.**—On October 18th B.A.E.M. saw c. 138 fly W. and 3 fly in from the S. at Lancing Beach.

**179. CURLEW SANDPIPER.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry on May 10th (C.F.B.) and 18th (M.S.) and 2 there on 24th (D.L.). Two at Pagham on 27th (A.H.W.S.).

Three at the Midrips on June 29th (L.P.A., M.H.P.) and one there on July 5th (D.D.H.). Otherwise the only autumn records were of c. 10 in this locality in August and of 2 at Sidlesham Ferry in early October.

**184. RUFF.**—One on Glynde level on January 8th (R.H.C., G.T.C., D.D.H.) and 3 there on 11th (D.D.H.). One at Amberley on February 16th (L.P.A., A.A., B.A.E.M.). One at Thorney on February 4th (C.R.T.). One by flood water near Henfield on February 28th (R.J.W.).

In March there were 5 at Thorney on 1st and 3 on 9th (C.R.T.) and one at Chichester G.P. on 23rd (B.A.E.M.). Four in April and 6 in May from the coast.

In July, one at the Midrips, 15th-28th (D.D.H., D.B.O.) and one at Sidlesham Ferry on 27th (M.S.). During the rest of the autumn less than 20 were recorded, nearly all singly. All were from the coast except for one near Boreham Street (R.H.C.) and one by the Greattham floods (M.M.H.) both on August 24th. One at Thorney on December 7th (L.P.A.) and 2 on Glynde level on 19th (D.D.H.).

**185. AVOCET.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry, April 15th-20th (S.G., M.S., T.G.W.). One at the Midrips on June 22nd (D.B.O.). In December, one at Manhood End on 6th (*The Field* of December 18th), 13th and 14th (D.L.) and one at Pagham on 7th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

**186. BLACK-WINGED STILT.**—On September 15th J.H.B. had good views from a train of one, both on the ground and in flight at a small pool near Norman's Bay. Single birds were seen in 2 localities near Rye on various dates between September 20th and October 5th, 2 being seen together on 2 occasions (*Brit. B.*, vol. LI, p. 443). One of these birds, by the Camber road, was seen by many observers, including G.d.F., D.D.H. and C.W.G.P.-E., and photographed by G.d.F.

**187. GREY PHALAROPE.**—One off Shoreham on October 6th (B.A.E.M.). One there, November 14th-December 5th (J.M.T. *et al.*).

**189. STONE CURLEW.**—The evidence suggests that a pair again bred at the site in the extreme E. of the county.

On December 1st F.P.P. saw 12 on the downs near Burpham. This is a very late date for such a party.

**193. ARCTIC SKUA.**—Four were recorded from the coast between April 23rd and May 19th. One off Hove on June 25th (G.A.S.).

In July one at Langney Point (L.P.A.) and one off Brighton (G.A.S.) on 13th. One off Hove on 26th (G.A.S.). Only one August record and only 6, September 3rd-October 2nd.



194. **GREAT SKUA**.—One off Brighton on January 5th (L.P.A.). One molesting Herring Gulls off Birling Gap on April 30th. It was flying E. (D.D.H.). The third spring record for the county.

An immature off Langney Point on September 7th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One there on 29th (R.H.C.).

198. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—Winter inland records are one at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 16th and 3 at Darwell Reservoir on 23rd (G.A.S.); one at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 14th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—Two at Shoreham and one at Hove in January and 5 at Shoreham on December 21st.  
An influx was again observed in February when there were 8 at Pagham on 15th and 22 there, apparently all Scandinavians, on 16th (W.W.A.P.).

200. **HERRING GULL**.—Two pairs attempted to breed on an island at Rye Harbour and one pair raised 2 young there on a second attempt (D.D.H.). On December 28th C.M.V. saw an adult with yellow legs at Southwick.

201. **COMMON GULL**.—A pair raised one young at the Midrips (D.D.H.) and another nested unsuccessfully there (R.H.C.).  
On November 11th B.A.E.M. found in Thorney Channel an injured bird which had been ringed as a nestling at Langenwerder, Poel Island, Mecklenburg, Germany, on July 1st.

203. **ICELAND GULL**.—An immature which was first seen by B.A.E.M. at Hove boating pool on January 24th remained in the area until mid-June and returned again on September 24th (M.H.P.) to stay till the end of the year, retaining throughout the period a limp in its left leg. It was seen by many observers, a number of whom are familiar with the species and hence a description here seems unnecessary.  
On December 8th and 9th B.A.E.M. saw a first winter bird on a rubbish dump at Hawkenbury, near Tunbridge Wells, just inside the Sussex boundary. "About the same size as Herring Gulls . . . fairly uniform pale grey-brown plumage . . . primaries which extended well beyond the tail were a pale brownish-white colour. In flight primaries and secondaries showed up much paler than the rest of the wings . . . Wing beats rather faster than those of Herring Gulls."

205. **MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—An adult at Southwick was first seen by B.A.E.M. on February 5th and subsequently by other observers there and at Brighton (C.M.J.) until March 26th. An adult at Rottingdean on October 12th (C.M.J.). The descriptions coincide with those of the birds seen in other years by the same observers.

207. **LITTLE GULL**.—Fewer records than usual. An adult at East Head, West Wittering, on March 29th (A.B.S.). A first summer bird at the Midrips on May 7th and one at Pett Level pools on 14th (D.D.H.). An immature at Langney Point on June 22nd (L.P.A.). The latest June date for the county. Two second summer birds at Langney Point on August 9th (D.D.H.). Only one recorded in September, one in October and 2 in November.

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—At Rye Harbour ternery 155 pairs nested. Unfortunately most nests had to be destroyed to make room for the terns. But a good many remained and others nested again at other pits. D.D.H. ringed 41 young and many flew unringed. One of the young ringed was recovered at Dolgelly (Merioneth) on October 16th and another at Mira (Beira Litoral), Portugal, in December.

211. **KITTIWAKE**.—As usual a few in summer between Hove and Rye Harbour. On November 12th L.P.A. saw a large E. movement off Newhaven. A dead adult at Darwell on December 15th (D.L.).

212. **BLACK TERN**.—Spring passage was confined to the period May 2nd-5th, when birds were seen at Weir Wood and Darwell Reservoirs and along the coast. Numbers were small except on 4th when B.S.M. saw c. 100 flying W. in Rye Bay in 2 hours in the early morning and c. 20 at the Midrips. One at Weir Wood Reservoir on June 8th (G.J.B., V.A.G.).

No further records until August 3rd. Between then and October 14th (when P.R.M. saw one over the Pulborough floods) 80-90 were recorded.

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN**.—One feeding from the surface for a few minutes just off shore at Langney Point on July 20th (D.D.H.). "Stout, all-black bill, short tail, stocky build. Otherwise as Sandwich." Wind had changed from E. to W. overnight.

217. **COMMON TERN**.—One ringed as a nestling by D.D.H. at Rye Harbour on July 11th, 1957, was killed at M'Bour, Senegal, on March 27th.

Only c. 150 pairs nested at Rye Harbour G.P. and they raised very few young owing to the islands being flooded by heavy rains. One or two pairs raised young at the Midrips (D.D.H.).

219. **ROSEATE TERN**.—Two at Rye Harbour ternery on June 20th (R.H.C., G.T.C.) and one there on July 20th (L.P.A., R.H.C., G.T.C.).

223. **SANDWICH TERN**.—One off West Wittering on February 23rd (C.M.J.). One off Langney Point (D.D.H.) and one off Hove (G.A.S.) on March 27th. Four flying E. off Hove on 28th and one there on 29th (G.A.S.). There are no previous county (or British?) records for February and only one previous county record for March.

The usual coastal records for June and July.

226. **LITTLE AUK**.—On January 6th one was picked up alive in Slindon High Street and taken to Bognor Museum (per M.D.F.).

One on the sea off Newhaven on November 12th (L.P.A.). One which was found alive in a school playground at Nyewood, nr. Bognor, on December 15th, was brought to S.J.T.

235. **TURTLE DOVE**.—One at Seaford Head on April 6th (L.P.A.). The earliest spring date for the county.

237. **CUCKOO**.—On April 27th R.H.C. found a Meadow Pipit's nest with 2 Cuckoo's eggs at Darwell Reservoir.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL**.—C. 15 reported, January-April.

One at Beachy Head on August 27th (R.H.C.) and one at the Midrips-Wicks on 31st (G.P.). C. 20 were recorded, September-December, including one which flew in N. from the sea at Lancing Beach on October 21st (B.A.E.M.) and one on Bognor Pier on November 2nd (M.D.F.).

252. **NIGHTJAR**.—One on the Crumbles on October 12th (D.D.H.). The latest autumn record for the county.

255. **SWIFT**.—On July 13th a good many, in parties of up to c. 50, flew S.W. out to sea at Langney Point during a S.W. gale. Some were also flying in from the sea (L.P.A., D.D.H., A.B.S.).

259. **BEE-EATER**.—On September 19th, R.J.W., who knows the species well, saw and heard one at a distance of c. 20 yards in his garden at North Lancing.

He gives a full description. Earlier this month Bee-Eaters were seen at Gibraltar Point (Lincs.) and in Leicestershire.

**261. HOOPOE.**—More records than for any other recent year. On March 24th one at Hailsham (H. White per A.E.G.); on 28th one on the cliff edge at Rodean (A.C.). On April 20th one flying E.c. 100 feet up at Balcombe (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.-E.); on 24th one near Rye (D.D.H.); on 25th one at Mill Hill, Shoreham (per J.M.T.); on 27th one at Apuldram (S.J.K.E.), one at Donnington (R. Southby per S.J.K.E.) and one at Bognor (M.D.F.); on 29th one at Pagham (G.J.B.); on 30th one flying N. at Ovingdean (G.d.F.). In May one on Camber sandhills on 1st (D.D.H.); one at Rottingdean on 4th and subsequently (M.V. et al.); 2 together and a single bird (in different areas) at Hove in the week beginning May 4th (R. Lodge per L.P.A. and L.E.G.); one at Sedlescombe on 13th (Mr. and Mrs. G. Walker per J.T.); one in Stanmer Park, Brighton, on 14th (A.A.B.); one at Wisborough Green on 19th (A.E.O.).

On July 13th, during a S.W. gale, one paid a brief visit to a small garden in central Eastbourne (R.H.C.). In August one at Friston, 17th-30th (R.F.P.G.); one at Peacehaven on 22nd (G.N.S.); one at Eastbourne on 27th (B.E.C.); one at High Salvington, August 28th to September 5th (R.J.S.). In September one at Shoreham on 3rd (J.M.T.); one at Bognor, 7th-11th (M.D.F.); one at Peppering, nr. Arundel, on 8th (F.P.P.); one at Goring on 9th (J.R.A.); one at Cooden Beach on 14th (W. A. Smith per R.C.H.); one at Ferring on 15th (G. T. Alderton per J.H.B.). One near Sidlesham on October 26th (R.J.S., G.A.S.).

**265. WRYNECK.**—One by the Adur at Shoreham on April 10th (R.J.W. et al.), one on the Seven Sisters on 12th (B.A.E.M.) and one at Saltdean on 24th (G.N.S.). One at Sidlesham on September 8th (J.V.S.).

**272. SKYLARK.**—The usual weather movement during cold spells January 22nd-24th and February 26th.

A small E. movement off Southwick and Hove, March 25th-April 2nd (G.A.S.). One flew S. out to sea at Langney Point on March 27th (D.D.H.) and 3 did the same at Shoreham on April 10th (B.A.E.M.). A small arrival N.W. from the sea was seen at Langney Point on March 30th and April 7th (L.P.A.) at Shoreham on 8th (B.A.E.M.) and at Hove on 18th and 22nd (G.A.S.).

From October 7th to November 5th birds were seen flying in from the sea between the Wicks and Lancing, the movement being small except on October 18th. A few were seen to fly out to sea during the same period and there were also W. movements.

**273. SHORELARK.**—Two at the Midrips on October 26th (R.H.C.).

**274. SWALLOW.**—One at Patching pond on March 28th (A.H.M.) and one at Chichester G.P. and 2 at Hunston on 30th (D.L.).

**277. SAND MARTIN.**—One trapped at Petworth on July 16th by J.S. had been ringed in the Camargue on April 17th.

**279. RAVEN.**—On October 9th one flew in from the S.E. at Holywell, Eastbourne, being first seen some way out to sea (D.D.H.).

**282. ROOK.**—On November 7th 2 flew S.S.E. out to sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.). Apparently the first record of visible autumn departure from the county.

**283. JACKDAW.**—On October 18th 5 flew in from the S. at Lancing Beach, 4 going W. and one E. (B.A.E.M.).

**284. MAGPIE.**—On February 16th a party of 15 flew in from the sea at the mouth of Pagham Harbour being first seen c. 200 yards out and coming straight in (M.S.).

**286. JAY.**—A number of records suggestive of, or obviously relating to, migration. It may be remembered that a migratory movement was recorded in the autumn of 1957. One at Sidlesham (where it does not breed) on March 21st (J.V.S.); one near the sea at Selsey on April 21st (M.S.); one in a cove at Shoreham flew N. on 23rd (B.A.E.M.); one at Sidlesham on 29th (M.S., J.V.S.); parties of 4 and 3 flying S.E. there on 30th (J.V.S.) and on the same day 2 in gorse near the edge of the cliff at Beachy Head and one in similar gorse near Belle Tout (D.D.H.). On May 2nd 2 flying N. over Hove front (G.A.S.) and 2 in gorse near the cliff edge between Belle Tout and Birling Gap (D.D.H.); 2 at Lancing clump on 8th (B.A.E.M.). On May 9th at 9.20 a.m. a party of 14 flew in over the cliff edge E. of Belle Tout and after resting briefly on trees flew N. A little later 5 were seen in the cove near Belle Tout and these flew high E. until out of sight (D.D.H.). On 11th one flew high W. over Pagham Harbour and later 6 flew E. there (A.A., R.J.O.) and there was one at Sidlesham (J.V.S.). On May 21st at about 9.0 a.m. 2 flew in from the direction of the cliff edge at Beachy Head and went N.E. (D.D.H.). On 27th a party of 3 and a single bird flying S.E. at Sidlesham (J.V.S.). One in a wood at Shoreham on June 4th (J.M.T.).

**288. GREAT TIT.**—On January 29th D.D.H. trapped and ringed a bird of the Continental race at Eastbourne. "Bill obviously smaller and sligher than that of the British race—many of which I have handled. Length of bill 9.5 mm.; width at nostrils, 4.0 mm." There is only one previous definite record of this race for the county. One ringed by D.D.H. at Eastbourne on November 3rd, 1957, and still present there on 28th was found dead at Maidstone, Kent, on March 5th. One ringed at Hampden Park by J. Platt on November 26th, 1957, was re-trapped at Dungeness on March 27th.

On April 4th 2 flew S. out to sea near Belle Tout (D.D.H.) and on 7th 4 flew E. high over Shoreham E. Breakwater (B.A.E.M.). On 30th there were 2 in the cove near Belle Tout and one in bushes near the cliff edge there (D.D.H.).

**289. BLUE TIT.**—One ringed at Southwick by B.A.E.M. on November 16th, 1957, was found dead at Polegate about May 28th. On April 2nd 3 flew E. along Hove front (G.A.S.); on 3rd 2 flew E. over Shoreham E. Breakwater (B.A.E.M.); on 11th 4 flew E. along Hove front (G.A.S.). An adult trapped and ringed by D.D.H. at Eastbourne on April 18th was retrapped at Dungeness Bird Observatory, Kent, on September 26th and identified as of the Continental race (wing 71 mm.). One ringed at Shoreham by J.S. on September 1st was recovered at Petersfield, Hants., on October 19th.

**294. LONG-TAILED TIT.**—On August 24th M.M.H. saw one with the head "pure white save for a suggestion of dark below the cheek" on Bury Hill.

**298. TRECREEPER.**—On September 27th D.D.H. ringed a bird of the Northern race which was trapped among bushes a few yards from the cliff edge at Holywell, Eastbourne. "Upper-parts noticeably pale with large, almost white, blotches on mantle and wings, the result being a pattern quite distinct from that of the British race. Head with white lines and white eye-stripe. Underparts appeared pure white but on close inspection extreme tips of feathers of flanks and under tail-coverts were seen to be very pale brownish. Wing 60 mm. and so a female." The observer had handled 2 birds of the British race previously and has handled another since. The first record of this race for the county.



301. **MISTLE THRUSH**.—Six flying W.-N.W. over Hove front on October 6th (G.A.S.).

302. **FIELDFARE**.—The usual W. weather movement along the coast during the cold weather of January 22nd-24th and February 26th. On January 24th a party of c. 75 flew S. out to sea at Brighton (C.M.J.).

On October 18th many small parties were moving W. at Sidlesham (J.V.S.) 24th and February 26th, but mostly small.

On March 26th there were c. 10 in bushes near the cliff edge at Belle Tout. E. wind and mist (D.D.H.). In the early morning of April 1st one flew in S. to N. over Shoreham E. Breakwater (B.A.E.M.).

On October 19th there were a good many on the Crumbles (D.D.H.).

304. **REDWING**.—Cold weather movements were similar to those of the Fieldfare. On March 9th there was a W.-N.W. movement at Seaford Head (L.P.A.) and a W. movement at Southwick. A few W. there on April 4th and 5th (B.A.E.M.). On April 1st 8 flew in S. to N. over Lancing Front and 40-50 flew in likewise there on 9th (R.J.W.).

On October 17th R.H.C. saw c. 200 in bushes at Cow Gap, Beachy Head, and, in the evening, B.A.E.M. heard birds calling over Shoreham and also in the evenings of 18th and 19th. On the 18th J.V.S. saw a W. movement in parties of up to c. 100 at Sidlesham. On November 16th J.M.B. saw a continuous trickle of small parties flying N.W. near Stoughton.

307. **RING OUZEL**.—One on the Seven Sisters on April 12th (B.A.E.M.). One at Camber on May 1st (D.D.H.) and one at Lancing Clump the same day (R.J.W.).

The only autumn record was of one at Sidlesham on September 9th (J.V.S.).

308. **BLACKBIRD**.—Birds were heard calling over Shoreham in the night of October 18th (B.A.E.M.) and there were many on the Crumbles on 19th (D.D.H.).

311. **WHEATEAR**.—No records until March 23rd and a big arrival all along the coast on 26th.

317. **STONECHAT**.—An arrival took place on March 26th when there were 4 at Rye Harbour (A.B.S.), c. 12 near Belle Tout, several at Beachy Head and several on the Crumbles, a number of the males appearing very clean and bright with unusually prominent white rumps (D.D.H.).

A number of breeding records including at least 4 pairs in Ashdown Forest.

320. **REDSTART**.—A female at Bognor on March 30th (W.W.A.P.).

321. **BLACK REDSTART**.—One at Newhaven on January 25th. One at Seaford Head on February 26th (L.P.A.). One at Southwick on February 1st and a pair there on 17th and subsequently (C.M.J., J.M.T. *et al.*).

Spring passage was first recorded on March 26th when there were 4 at Rye Harbour, one at the Midrips (A.B.S.), one at Langney Point, one at Belle Tout (D.D.H.) and 3 at Beachy Head (R.H.C., D.D.H.). From then until April 29th c. 35 were recorded, one of these being seen near Weir Wood Reservoir on April 4th (K.J.F.).

The two previous nesting sites at Eastbourne seem finally abandoned owing to building operations but a pair bred successfully at a new site there (R.H.C.).

Only 3 were recorded in autumn, October 25th-November 17th and none in December.

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—Of 3 at Pett Level, April 1st-13th, 2 were males of the White-spotted form (*Brit. B.*, vol. LI, p. 205). A young male of this race was seen at Church Norton on April 21st (M.D.F., M.H., W.W.A.P., V.Z.W.). "White spot surrounded by a bright blue area on the throat." White-spotted Bluethroats were recorded in other counties about this time.

A female or immature on Shoreham rubbish dump, first seen by M.H.P. on September 11th was also seen on the following day by R.J.S. and G.A.S. "Chestnut patches at base of tail, whitish eye-stripe but no blue colour on throat spot."

325. **ROBIN**.—One ringed by D.D.H. at Eastbourne on February 26th was found dead at West Hoathly on April 22nd. On March 26th a remarkable influx of pale-breasted birds, no doubt of the Continental race, took place along much of the coast; 2, Midrips-Wicks and 4, Rye Harbour G.P. (A.B.S.); some along the coast at Norman's Bay and Pevensey Bay (P.R.); 5 at the end of Langney Point, several in the Crumbles bushes, c. 10 near Belle Tout (D.D.H.); 2 at Porto Bello, Brighton (A.B.S.). Smaller numbers were also recorded on the coast on March 27th and 28th. Many occurred at Dungeness Bird Observatory (Kent) at this time and one ringed there on 27th was recovered in South Norway on April 26th.

327. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**.—One was flushed at very close range in a field at Sidlesham on October 3rd (B.A.E.M.). The latest autumn date for the county.

327. **SEDGE WARBLER**.—One seen and heard at close range at Chichester G.P. on March 30th (B.A.E.M.). The earliest spring date for the county. Two on the Crumbles on October 12th (D.D.H.).

338. **AQUATIC WARBLER**.—One watched at close range for, intermittently, 10-15 minutes at Sidlesham Ferry on September 21st (M.S.). "The head pattern was very conspicuous with a broad pale yellowish-buff band over the crown bordered on either side with a heavy black stripe and a pale yellow eye-stripe. The ground colour of the bird was yellowish buff and it appeared very yellow in flight. The upper-parts were boldly streaked with heavy black stripes. The under-parts, which were rather paler than the upper-parts, had a few dark pencillings, visible at close range but faint, round the base of the throat and upper-breast." Rump not seen. Several Sedge Warblers were present for comparison.

339. **MELODIOUS WARBLER**.—On August 17th D.D.H. trapped and ringed one at Holywell, Eastbourne. It was not seen in the field, being found in the net and flying off to cover when released. "In the hand the most noticeable features were the large, wide bill and, when the mouth was open, the orange gape. Legs and feet greyish with a faint bluish tinge. Upper-parts greyish brown; under-parts pale yellow. An obscure pale yellowish supercilial stripe. Wing 65 mm.; 2nd primary shorter than 5th. Had a certain general resemblance to a Willow Warbler but was distinctly larger and more heavily built. When released it gave a short, harsh, unwarbler-like call." One was trapped the same day by Portland Bird Observatory (Dorset), weather conditions being the same in both localities, calm at first and then a very slight S.W. wind. A ridge of high pressure had crossed the coast.

347. **WHITETHROAT**.—One in weeds at the end of Langney Point on July 18th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One ringed at Burgess Hill on September 5th by

J.A.W. was recovered at Boticas, Portugal, about September 21st. One on the Crumbles on November 16th (A.B.S.). The latest autumn date for the county.

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER**.—One near Church Norton on January 31st (R.J.W.) and February 2nd (L.P.A.) and one, no doubt the same, near the same locality on April 26th (M.S.). One c. 2½ miles from the site of the bird mentioned in the 1957 Report on November 16th (R.H.C.).

356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—None recorded until the considerable passerine arrival of March 26th. At Holywell, Eastbourne, where trapping took place almost daily, August 22nd-September 11th, the first Chiffchaff was caught on August 29th and they were relatively scarce, as compared with Willow Warblers, until September 5th when only Chiffchaffs were caught and after this date they heavily predominated (D.D.H.).

364. **GOLDCREST**.—One on Palace Pier, Brighton, on March 24th (A.B.S.). On 26th there were c. 20 near the Belle Tout (D.D.H.) and 3 at Lancing Clump. C. 30 in the latter locality on 27th and c. 100 there on April 20th (R.J.W.). Odd birds were reported along the coast up to April 23rd.

In autumn a few were seen on the coast, October 11th-25th.

365. **FIRECREST**.—More spring records than in any previous year. On March 26th one at Cow Gap, Beachy Head (R.H.C., G.T.C.), 2 near Belle Tout and one near the end of Langney Point. The latter bird stayed until 28th (D.D.H.). On 29th 2 at Newhaven (C.M.J.). On 30th 2 at Shoreham (J.M.T.). In April one at Lancing Clump on 2nd and 4th (R.J.W.); 3 near Cuckmere Haven (S.F.K.), one at Shoreham (J.S.), one at Pagham (M.S.) and one at Sidlesham on 6th; 2 at Sidlesham on 8th (M.S.); one at Shoreham on 9th and another there on 10th (J.S.); one at Lancing Clump on 10th (R.J.W.); one at Burpham on 13th (F.P.P.); one at Eastbourne on 14th and 15th (L.M.P., P.A.P.); 3 together at Lancing Clump on 17th (R.J.W.); one at Holywell, Eastbourne, on 20th (D.D.H.); one at Ovingdean on 27th (G.d.F.). The previous latest spring date for the county had been April 13th (1904).

Only autumn record: one in Ashdown Forest on December 7th (S.F.K.).

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—On April 20th, one at Shoreham (J.M.T.). On 22nd one at Sidlesham (M.S., J.V.S.), one at Shoreham (J.M.T.) and one at Mile Oak (G.A.S.). On 28th one at Sidlesham Ferry (M.S.). On 30th one at Lancing Clump (J.M.T.) and one at Burgess Hill (J.A.W.).

Between August 30th and September 23rd c. 15 were recorded, all for the coast except for one at Eartham on September 5th (D.L.) and one at Burgess Hill, 6th-11th (J.A.W.).

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—Birds were seen flying in from the sea, March 25th-April 29th, but numbers were very small.

In autumn arrival from the sea, again on a small scale, was recorded between September 18th and November 3rd. Birds were seen flying out to sea at Shoreham on October 6th and 9th and on November 1st and 3rd (B.A.E.M.).

379. **WATER PIPIT**.—One on Shoreham Beach on March 27th and one at the Midrips on April 13th (A.B.S.). One there on April 19th (D.D.H.). This is the latest spring date for the county. These birds were of Rock Pipit size with dark legs, noticeably white outer tail-feathers, grey head with white

eye-stripe, upper-parts greyish brown, under-parts unstreaked or almost so and pinkish. The bird on the 19th gave short snatches of song.

387. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—Two flying E. at Langney Point on March 30th (L.P.A.). One flying E. at Shoreham Breakwater on April 2nd (B.A.E.M.).

In September one or 2 flying E. at Shoreham and Hove 3rd-4th and a few flying W. there later in the month (B.A.E.M., G.A.S.). On October 9th 2 flew S. out to sea at Shoreham Breakwater (B.A.E.M.).

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL**.—One at Rye Harbour G.P. on March 31st (A.B.S.).

On August 28th c. 20 flew E. over Hove front (G.A.S.) and on 29th, just before dusk, parties amounting to several hundreds flew W. at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On September 3rd 47 flew E. over Lancing Beach (B.A.E.M.) and c. 20 E. over Hove front (G.A.S.). One in the lower Cuckmere valley on October 22nd (R.H.C.). The latest October date for the county.

383. **WAXWING**.—Seven at Crowhurst, January 1st-5th (B.S.M.). Six at Prince's Park, Eastbourne, on 25th were seen by J. Parsons, a Corporation workman, who gave an excellent description to D.D.H. Three at Willingdon on March 2nd (C.M.) and 2 at Hotham Park, Bognor, on 9th (M.D.F.).

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE**.—One on the Crumbles on April 12th (A.E.B.).

386. **WOODCHAT SHRIKE**.—A bird of the year in a large garden at Portslade, October 7th-9th (B.A.E.M., M.H.P., G.A.S.). Full details have been given and include "cold brown above, spotted with white; under-parts whitish . . . whitish mark at base of leading primaries . . . some whitish or grey on scapulars . . . rump whitish buff . . . a little larger than Red-backed Shrike."

388. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE**.—A male near the beach at Selsey on April 20th (T.G.W.). A description has been given of this bird which was watched at ranges of 7-8 yards. The earliest fully authenticated date for the county.

389. **STARLING**.—Westerly movements were recorded on the coast during the cold weather of January 22nd-24th. A first winter bird ringed by D.D.H. at Eastbourne on February 4th was recovered at Knokke-sur-Mer, Belgium, on November 14th.

On March 31st c. 25 flew in S. to N. at Hove and on April 6th c. 15 flew in S.W.-N.E. there (G.A.S.). Between April 2nd and 11th B.A.E.M. saw birds flying E. at Shoreham.

Little visible migration was recorded in Autumn. On October 18th a few small parties flew in S.E.-N.W. at Holywell, Eastbourne, and on 23rd a party of c. 20 flew in likewise at Beachy Head (D.D.H.). On November 11th c. 40 flew in from the S.E. at Pett Level and 3 at the Midrips (R.H.C.).

392. **GREENFINCH**.—A first winter male ringed at Shoreham on February 13th by J.S. was found dead at Colchester, Essex, on April 23rd. On October 14th 6 flew in S.E.-N.W. at Langney Point (R.H.C.).

393. **GOLDFINCH**.—On April 3rd 2 flew in S. to N. at Southwick Beach (B.A.E.M.). Between April 22nd and May 5th a small E. movement was recorded at Hove (G.A.S.) and the Beachy Head area (D.D.H.).

Between October 9th and 29th and on November 19th an E. movement was recorded at Southwick (B.A.E.M.) and Hove (G.A.S.).



395. **LINNET**.—Between March 30th and May 5th small numbers were seen arriving from the sea or moving along the coast, mainly E., at Shoreham (B.A.E.M.), Hove (G.A.S.), and in the Beachy Head area (D.D.H.).

On October 1st 2 flew S. at Langney Point (D.D.H.). On 7th 20 and on the 14th 4 flew in S. to N. at Shoreham Breakwater (B.A.E.M.). On 23rd, between 9.15 and 10.0 a.m. c. 235 came from between W. and N.W. and flew out to sea between S. and S.E. at Belle Tout while c. 20 flew in N.W. there. On 24th, between 8.45 and 9.30 a.m. c. 100 flew out to sea there (D.D.H.).

396. **TWITE**.—Up to 8 at Shoreham, January 1st-February 2nd (D.D.H., R.J.S., G.A.S.), c. 35 there on February 5th, and c. 30 there on March 2nd (R.J.W.). One near Pagham on January 23rd (W.W.A.P.). Two at the mouth of the Cuckmere on 29th (R.H.C.). One at the Rother estuary on January 9th (D.D.H.), 23 there on February 22nd and 6 there on March 19th (D.B.O.).

397. **LESSER REDPOLL**.—A few N.W. over Seaford Head and the Cuckmere on February 26th (L.P.A.). One flying E. over Shoreham Breakwater on October 30th, 12 N.E. over Shoreham on November 3rd and 4 E. over Southwick on 4th (B.A.E.M.).

404. **CROSSBILL**.—In July, 5 in Charlton Forest on 10th and then many small parties there with a maximum of 15 on 18th (D.L.); on 12th 2 parties of c. 13 each seen in flight near Stoughton (J.M.B.) and 4 parties amounting to c. 60 birds in Ashdown. Forest but only 2 birds there on 13th (V.A.G.). The only August record is of 2 in Charlton Forest on 6th (D.L.). Between September 21st and 27th up to 5 were seen daily at Crowborough (D.R.C.). On October 31st 6 at Earham. In November, 6 in Charlton Forest on 13th and 25th (D.L.). A flock of about 2 dozen in Angmering Park from early November to the end of the year. In December, c. 12 at South Stoke on 20th and c. 7 at Lee Farm, Angmering, about the same time (F.P.P.).

407. **CHAFFINCH**.—A few flying W. at Eastbourne during the cold weather of January 22nd (R.H.C.).

Easterly movements, with a few birds flying in N. or N.E. from the sea, were recorded on the coast between March 29th and April 15th.

A party of 30-40 flying W. at Sidlesham on October 18th (J.V.S.). A few flying in N.W. at the Belle Tout on 19th (D.D.H.). C. 155 W. and N.W. at Hove in the early morning of November 9th (G.A.S.).

408. **BRAMBLING**.—One near Belle Tout on April 17th was the last recorded in spring (D.D.H.). Four or 5 single birds flying N. at Burgess Hill on October 24th (J.A.W.).

421. **REED BUNTING**.—A female found dying at Shoreham by J.S. on July 17th had been ringed at Dungeness on September 9th, 1957.

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING**.—One seen and heard near the Rother estuary on January 16th (D.D.H.). One at the Midrips on February 27th (R.H.C.).

One heard flying E. over Thorney on October 15th (B.A.E.M.) and one seen and heard at Camber on November 15th (D.D.H.). The observers are familiar with this species.

423. **SNOW BUNTING**.—As usual up to c. 30 at Camber or the Midrips-Wicks from the beginning of the year to early March (R.H.C., D.D.H., *et al.*). Two there on March 22nd (H.A.R.C.). Two at Newhaven Harbour on January

25th (L.P.A.). C. 50 on ploughed land at Coombes, in the lower Adur Valley, on March 12th (C.A.G.). One near Cissbury Ring on March 23rd (R.J.S.).

One at the Midrips, September 13th-23rd (D.B.O. *et al.*). The earliest autumn record for the county. C. 30, Rye Harbour-the Midrips, November 11th to the end of the year (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One on Beachy Head on November 26th (R.H.C.).

425. **TREE SPARROW**.—A party of c. 80 at Sidlesham on March 4th (M.S.) and c. 100 on the downs N. of Portslade on March 21st and 22nd (G.A.S.). Apart from the Rye area breeding was established on Pevensey Levels, at Street (D.D.H.) and at Manhood End where a pair nested in an old barge (D.L., A.B.W.). A pair was seen at Sidlesham in May and June (M.S.) and there were 4 at Fulking on May 31st (A.B.S.).