

The
SUSSEX BIRD
REPORT
1962

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THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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C. E. HOPE

RECORDING FOR THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

Objects. Much research has been done into the status of birds in Sussex. *A History of Sussex Birds* by J. Walpole-Bond gave the results of this up to 1938. Subsequent developments were chronicled in *The South-Eastern Bird Report* and later (from 1948) when this publication ceased to appear, in *The Sussex Bird Report*. An up-to-date account of the known status of all species is given in *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex* by G. d. Forges and D. D. Harber (spring 1963). Anyone wishing to obtain a general picture of bird life in the county should therefore consult this work and not the annual bird report.

Information wanted for *The Sussex Bird Report* can be summarised under three headings:

(a) Data which increase our knowledge of a breeding species where its status in the county is not clear or is undergoing change. Such information is most valuable when based on breeding counts which are organised by the Society in respect of species which it considers as coming under one or other of these categories.

(b) Occurrences which on the basis of our existing knowledge are unusual or rare, whether these relate to birds rare at any time of the year or to commoner birds seen at unusual times of the year or in unusual localities.

(c) Data relating to migration, many aspects of which are still imperfectly known.

Such matters as bird behaviour and colour variation (albinism etc.) are not regarded as subjects for a county bird report but, if considered of interest, should be recorded nationally.

Contributions. These are welcomed from all observers but the decision on what shall be published rests with the Hon. Recorder. All records are, however, kept on separate species sheets and much that is not referred to in the Report may prove of value in the future. 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 pp. 557-560 of *British Birds*, vol. 35.

Entering up records involves a great deal of work which can be minimised if contributors observe the following rules:

(i) Records should be sent in periodically but not more often than at three-monthly intervals (except in the case of extreme rarities which should be reported immediately). 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. All records should be in not later than mid-February.

(ii) Records should be grouped under species (not, please, under outings made by the observer) and it is very helpful if species are given in the order and with the serial numbers used in the B.O.U. checklist (1952).

(iii) Records should be written (typed, if possible) on one side of the paper only, each species being followed by the observer's initials and separated from the rest by a space. This greatly facilitates cutting out and sticking in the records. In order to minimise the labour involved, records will not be acknowledged unless the Hon. Recorder wishes to raise some query with the observer. The names of all those sending in records will be included in the Report.

Abbreviations.—"G.P."; gravel pits. "S.F."; sewerage 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.

D. D. HARBER.

For details of the Sussex Ornithological Society and how to join please see inside Rear Cover.

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

NUMBER FIFTEEN, 1962

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1962

Edited by

A. B. SHELDON

Hon. Recorder: D. D. HARBER

INTRODUCTION

The Report this year appears under a new guise as a result of the formation of the Sussex Ornithological Society in February, 1962. After the inaugural meeting at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, membership increased rapidly and by the year end had reached three hundred and thirty three. The Chairman and Council were duly elected and relevant to the publication of this Report, D. D. Harber was elected Hon. Recorder and A. B. Sheldon Hon. Editor.

The *Sussex Bird Report* has been published annually since 1948 and Mr. Harber has been associated with it for the last twelve years, being the sole editor for the last five years. Prior to that he was joint editor with C. G. des Forges. Whilst through necessity the Report had to be highly selective in its contents, being solely financed by sales to subscribers, the high standard achieved due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Harber was much appreciated. The Society is fortunate on being able to call on his unrivalled knowledge of Sussex birds, despite his new and onerous task as Secretary to the British Birds Rarities Committee.

The Report continues on the same general lines as before but it is now possible to include various notes and articles of topical interest and give due space to the publication of special enquiries instigated by the Society. Besides the various additional features in the Report two changes call for special comment. The paragraph summarising results of the Wildfowl Counts has been omitted. Data from the counts has been incorporated in the classified records section of the Report and a list of counters will be found under the section of those who have contributed records. Thus the essential information will continue to appear but will be presented in a different manner. All those who contributed to make the scheme run so well in the past are thanked for all the hard work involved. It is to be hoped that even more people will be encouraged to participate in the future.

The second change concerns the cover. The familiar Peregrine has been replaced for a variety of reasons. Apart from any decision made by the Council there are now no nesting Peregrines in the County! Gerald Sutton suggested designs for the new cover and the society is indebted to him for his assistance.

As this Report goes to press the publication of *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex* by C. G. des Forges and D. D. Harber is awaited. This will provide an up-to-date assessment of the status of species occurring within the County. Also the case of the Hastings Rarities has at last been fully aired and now that the furore has died down the County list, though seriously depleted, is at least more truly representative. Events move so rapidly, however, that since 1960 a total of 10 species have been added to the list, no less than 4 of which occurred in 1962. It is encouraging to see included in this Report several breeding records of such species as Sparrowhawk, Hobby and Stone Curlew and it seems possible that the intensity of observation along the coastline is being off-set by increased numbers of observers turning their attentions inland.

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1962

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER**.—About 9 were recorded for the coast between January 12th and April 17th.
The only autumn record was of one off Pilsea Island on November 24th (G.A.S.).
2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**.—One off East Head on January 28th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One off Brighton on February 6th (L.P.A.). On May 27th one flying E. came down on the sea off Langney Point (D.D.H.). This is the latest spring record in recent years.
One off Worthing on December 25th (M.E.N.).
4. **RED-THROATED DIVER**.—Inland records were of one at Chichester G.P. on January 14th (B.A.E.M., A.B.S.) and one at Weir Wood Reservoir on 27th (D.D.H.).
One flying E. off Newhaven on June 4th (L.P.A.). The third county record for this month.
5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE**.—Breeding records will be found in the report on the breeding surveys on p. 23.
6. **RED-NECKED GREBE**.—One at Newhaven on January 2nd (M.J.H., A.R.K.) and 5th (A.R.K.). One at Thorney on 28th (L.G.H.). One at Pagham on February 5th and 21st (W.W.A.P.).
One at Pagham on December 7th and 8th (G.R.G., L.G.H.). One at Newhaven, 16th to 29th (C.F.B., B.M., J.R.W. *et al.*).
7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE**.—Three were recorded in January and 2 in March. Between April 4th and 26th c. 7 were recorded for the coast including 4 together off Selsey Bill.
Up to 2 off Pagham in November (J.R.H., W.W.A.P.) and 10 off East Head on November 25th (R.E.G.).
8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE**.—Only 3 were recorded, January-February. One off Seaford Head on April 23rd (T.B.S.). The only subsequent record was for December.
16. **MANX SHEARWATER**.—One flying W. c. 400 yards off Langney Point on June 19th (D.D.H.). The third county record for this month. One came in from the S. to c. 500 yards off Langney Point and then flew W. on July 21st (D.D.H.). The third county record for this month.
- MANX/BALEARIC SHEARWATER**.—In the cases of the following records exact sub-specific identification does not seem to have been achieved. All are from Selsey Bill. One flying W. c. ½ mile out on April 27th (R.M.L.); one flying S.W. c. 500 yards out on the same day (R.M.L., R.F.P.). One flying W. c. ½ mile out on April 30th (M.J.H., R.F.P., D.A.W.). One flying W. c. ½ mile out on June 18th (M.A.J.).
21. **SOOTY SHEARWATER**.—One flying S.E. c. 800 yards off Selsey Bill on September 20th (R.F.P., M.S.). "A large all dark shearwater with rather casual heavy flight . . . General coloration was very dark brown all over, no suggestion of under-parts being even slightly paler, whitish line on under-wing could be seen clearly." One flying E. c. 500 yards off Langney Point on October 20th (D.D.H.). "Excellent view in good light. A large shearwater with a rather heavy body and long, narrow wings. Coloration brownish black except for whitish area along under-sides of wings." These are the fifth and sixth records for the county.

26. **FULMAR**.—On February 17th I.R.W. found the oiled remains of one at Cuckmere Haven. Between April 8th (Selsey Bill) and June 12th a number were recorded as usual for the coast, the most seen together being 6.

Single birds were seen flying W. off Selsey Bill on August 8th and 16th (M.A.J., R.F.P.).

27. **GANNET**.—Two flying E. off Langney Point on January 3rd and 4 flying E. there on February 17th (D.D.H.). The usual records for the rest of the year.

28. **CORMORANT**.—On January 7th 53 were seen to fly in to a roost in Arundel Park near South Stoke (J. Arkell per *Brit B.*).

29. **SHAG**.—C. 16 were recorded from the coast, January-March. One was shot at Weir Wood Reservoir on March 18th in mistake for a Cormorant by the Water Bailiff who informed M.H.P. that it was one of a party of 6. This is only our second inland record.

Up to 4 together were recorded from the coast in April and May. Up to 3 together at Selsey Bill, July 28th-August 30th and up to 5 together there later in the year. In November-December single birds were recorded from Pagham and Seaford.

For another inland record see also ringing report on p. 27.

30. **HERON**.—All known heronries were visited except Wartling, the numbers of occupied nests being: Fishbourne, 37 (J.P.); Pagham, 5 (W.W.A.P.); Parham, 31 (R.E.W.); Henfield, 6 (C.A.G.); Firtle Park, 9; Glynde, none (E.P.T.); Eridge, 22 (E.B., D.R.C.); Glynleigh, 7; Udimore, none (J.A.H.); Leasham, 10 (J.A.).

On March 25th one flew out S.S.W. at Selsey Bill (B.A.E.M., A.B.S. *et al.*). On April 9th one flew S.W. out to sea at Worthing (R.J.S.). One flew S. out to sea at Selsey Bill on August 5th (B.A.E.M., R.F.P., A.B.S.).

35. **CATTLE EGRET**.—On April 27th there were 4 in fields N. of Pagham Harbour. The birds were first seen by Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Hatch and J. Fleming and later by W.W.A.P. On 29th one was seen in the same area (B.A.E.M. W.W.A.P., A.B.S.) and on 28th one was seen with cattle at Lancing (P. Elston per C.A.G.). These are the first records for the county. They have been accepted by *Brit. B.* which will eventually publish a full account since there are only 3 previous records for Britain.

38. **BITTERN**.—One at Sidlesham Ferry on January 1st (M.S.). One with a broken leg was found at Beddingham Court on 21st (per H.K.B.-O.). One at Pagham Lagoon on December 1st (W.W.A.P.).

45. **MALLARD**.—The results of the Wildfowl Counts show a noticeable influx in November in most localities with numbers otherwise much as in 1961 but tailing off in December.

46. **TEAL**.—The largest numbers recorded were c. 3,000, Amberley-Pulborough, on February 3rd (B.A.E.M.). The results of the Wildfowl Counts show numbers less than in 1961 for each count date with no marked building up at the end of the year.

47. **GARGANEY**.—No spring records earlier than March 17th. Only one record suggestive of breeding but this is probably because certain localities were not visited during the summer.

67. **EIDER**.—In January-March c. 60 were recorded from the coast and c. 80 in April-May. June records were of one at Newhaven on 4th (L.P.A.), 2 off Cuckmere Haven on 3rd (I.R.W.) and 29th (G.J.B.), 27 off the Seven Sisters on 29th (G.J.B.) and one off Pett Level on 11th and 30th (J.R.H.). There were up to 11 in the Pagham-Selsey area in July (various observers). There were about 2 in the latter area in August and up to 16 in September. C. 5 were present off Brighton and Hove, September 24th-end of October. Few were otherwise recorded in October. C. 100 were recorded for November-December. Only c. 14 adult males were recorded for the whole year.
69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**.—One (probably the same in each case) was seen off Selsey Bill on August 16th, 18th and 21st (many observers). There are only 2 previous county records for this month. Three flew W. there on September 30th.
70. **GOOSANDER**.—At Darwell Reservoir one on January 3rd (R.H.C.) and February 17th and 7 (2 of them adult males) on 25th (J.R.). Three there on March 11th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). At Weir Wood Reservoir, 4 on February 18th (M.H.P., R.J.S., J.A.W.) and on March 13th (H.C.J.).
Two at Weir Wood Reservoir, December 2nd-23rd (A.R.K., M.H.P. *et al.*).
One on the Adur near Lancing College on December 7th. On 30th there were 3 males at Pagham (W.W.A.P.) and one close in off West Hove (C.F.B.).
71. **SMEW**.—A male on Pagham Lagoon on December 24th (L.G.H.) numbers increasing to 5 (including 2 adult males) on 31st (W.W.A.P. *et al.*). One at Darwell Reservoir on December 24th (K.V.). One at Newhaven, December 27th-29th (R.H.C., M.J.H., I.R.W.) and one off Hove on 30th (J.R.).
73. **SHELDUCK**.—An unusual number of inland records. One at Amberley on January 21st (C.M.J.). Three in flight over Darwell Reservoir on May 20th (K.V.). Four juveniles at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 19th (J.A.W.).
Apart from the usual breeding records a pair was again present in the lower Cuckmere valley during the summer but there was no proof of breeding. A pair again bred successfully at Newhaven (I.R.W.).
75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE**.—One at Pagham on March 12th (W.W.A.P.). One at Newhaven, March 9th-25th (J.R.H., C.M.J., I.R.W. *et al.*).
On October 21st S.T.G. and A.Q. saw a party of 15 flying E. at Polegate. The birds were under observation for 3-4 minutes and eventually passed overhead c. 200 feet up. The distinguishing features were well seen. The only other October records for Sussex were in 1882 and 1961.
76. **WHITE FRONTED GOOSE**.—At Sidlesham the maximum number was c. 70, January 10th-14th, with smaller numbers there earlier. Twenty-three at Amberley on 13th (M.E.N., A.Q.) and 18 at Wiggonholt-Rackham on 14th (B.A.E.M.). One flying W. off Worthing on January 26th (R.J.S.). Nine on Glynde Levels on 14th (D.R.C.) and 25th (D.D.H.). One flying E. off Selsey Bill on March 11th (B.A.E.M.) and 2 flying E. there on 25th (A.B.S.).
On December 25th there were 10 at Pagham (L.G.H.) and 4 near Lancing College (J.B.T.). On 28th 9 were seen in flight off Lancing (F.S.) and on 31st a party of c. 30 flew W. over Horsted Keynes (J.E.R.).

49. **GADWALL**.—A pair on Pett Level pools on February 21st (F.J.W.). One flying close inshore at Pagham on March 31st (S.R.S.).
Two on Piddinghoe Pond on November 11th (K.V.). A male at Chichester G.P. on December 9th (B.A.E.M.) and 16th (R.E.G.).
50. **WIGEON**.—Over 3,000 were recorded in the Amberley-Pulborough area in February. One at Glynde on May 19th (D.V.F.). The Wildfowl Counts show a very marked influx in November almost everywhere but after that very little alteration to the end of the year without the usual December increases.
52. **PINTAIL**.—Up to c. 80, Amberley-Pulborough in January and February (S.T.G., B.A.E.M., A.B.S.).
A pair was present in the Pagham-Selsey area in late May (W.W.A.P. *et al.*) and there was a male at the Wicks on May 10th (R.H.C.) and 13th (R.B.B., G.P.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 20th (G.J.B.). A small E. movement off Langney Point on November 8th (D.D.H.).
53. **SHOVELER**.—Up to c. 100, Amberley-Pulborough, in February (B.A.E.M., A.B.S.).
On May 5th there was a pair on Pett Level pools and 2 males and a female at the Wicks (D.D.H.). A pair at the Wicks on May 10th (R.H.C.). A pair is known to have attempted to breed (apparently unsuccessfully), and another may have done so, in the west of the county where 2 other pairs also appear to have been present during the breeding season.
There were 67 at Chichester G.P. on December 24th. The Wildfowl Counts show smaller numbers than last year which remained steady after the November increase.
55. **SCAUP**.—Numbers along the coast were very small at both ends of the year. There was a male at Weir Wood Reservoir on November 18th (G.A.S., J.A.W.).
56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—Numbers were much as usual. Two pairs bred at Weir Wood Reservoir (M.H.P.) and one pair did so at a lake in Sheffield Park (R.H.C.).
57. **POCHARD**.—Totals obtained in the Wildfowl Count were well below those of 1961, with no indication of any build up after the November increase. One at Brookland's Pool, Worthing, on July 6th (R.E.G.).
60. **GOLDENEYE**.—Not more than 7 were recorded together at either end of the year.
61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—In the first 3 months of the year this species was recorded from Selsey Bill, Pagham, Worthing and Newhaven-Piddinghoe, about 10 birds being involved.
There was one at Chichester G.P. on March 31st and this was still there on April 25th (R.G.A., C.F.B., A.B.W.). Other April records were of one at Pagham on 9th (G.R.G.) and of one of the Newhaven birds which stayed until at least 22nd (R.H.C., C.M.J.).
The only records for the end of the year were of one flying E. off Langney Point on November 25th (D.D.H.) and of an adult male on Pagham Lagoon, November 11th-29th (G.R.G., W.W.A.P. *et al.*).
64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—Inland records were of an adult male (apparently oiled) on Knepp Lake on April 6th (G.M.M.), an adult male at Weir Wood Reservoir on April 8th and of an adult male there on July 13th (G.J.B.). There was also one at Darwell Reservoir on October 7th (J.R.).
A party of c. 30 summered in the Beachy Head-Pevensey Bay area (D.D.H.).

78. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.**—In good light in the early evening of September 1st a party of 5 flew low over Woodlands Farm, Wartling, going S. (D.D.H., O.H., R.G.H.). The distinguishing features were noted. This is the first September record for the county.

80. **BRENT GOOSE.**—As usual large numbers were recorded only at the extreme W. of the county where there were c. 250 off Pilsea Island on February 4th (D.D.H.) and c. 400 there on March 17th (G.A.S.). A flock of c. 400 (no doubt these same birds) flew E. off Selsey Bill on 25th (B.A.E.M., C.M.).

C. 600 were seen off Thorney Island on December 29th (A.R.K., B.A.E.M.). Elsewhere along the coast small numbers were recorded, January-March and November-December.

One off Brighton on May 7th (G.A.S.). One at the Wicks on June 28th (D.D.H.) could fly but did not go far.

On April 20th 11 of the Pale-breasted form flew W. low over Selsey Bill (A.A.K.L., B.A.E.M., C.M., P.J.T.). This is our first April record for this race.

On December 6th a party of 16 of the Pale-breasted form flew W. low overhead at Langney Point (D.D.H.). This is the largest party of this race recorded in Sussex.

81. **BARNACLE GOOSE.**—One at Pagham, March 18th-April 3rd was seen by many observers including W.W.A.P. and A.B.S.

These are very late dates for the South Coast and it is possible that the bird had escaped from captivity.

85. **WHOOPER SWAN.**—Five (3 of them immature) at Chichester G.P. on December 25th (L.G.H., A.B.W.).

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN.**—Nine (4 of them immature) were present in the Pagham-Sidlesham area, January 9th-March 25th (M.J.H., N.F.R., W.W.A.P., *et al.*). A similar, no doubt the same, party paid a brief visit to Chichester G.P. on February 4th (B.A.E.M.). Between January 13th and February 17th a party varying from 19 to 22 (but including only one immature) were present in the Amberley-Greatham area (S.T.G., C.M.J., A.B.S. *et al.*). One in the lower Cuckmere valley, March 22nd-25th (D.V.F., F.E.M., M.H.P. *et al.*).

On November 18th an adult flew W. c. 100 yards off Selsey Bill (A.R.K., B.A.E.M.). This is the earliest autumn record for the county. Four at Coldwaltham on November 25th (J.R.). Five (3 of them immature) at Pagham, December 2nd-26th (G.R.G., W.W.A.P., A.B.W. *et al.*).

91. **BUZZARD.**—Two were seen together in May but otherwise there are only a few records of single birds.

92. **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD.**—R.G. obtained a close view of one over the lower Cuckmere valley on October 22nd. He gives a full description. This is only our third record in recent years.

93. **SPARROWHAWK.**—The position of this species in the county is obviously not so bad as had been feared. Breeding was established in 4 widely separated areas and probably took place in another. In addition a number of single birds were seen elsewhere.

94. **GOSHAWK.**—One on the Crumbles on September 13th (R.H.C.). The description includes "slate blue upper-parts" from which it is evident that the bird was not of the nominate race. Unfortunately the colour of the crown was not noted.

99. **MARSH HARRIER.**—On May 13th R.B.B. and G.P. saw a male fly in from the E. at the Midrips and then go W. along the coast. That same day D.D.H. saw a female fly in from the S.E. at Langney Point and then follow the coast W.

100. **HEN HARRIER.**—The only record for the first part of the year was of one at the Wicks on January 18th (D.D.H.).

More were recorded towards the end of the year than has been the case for several years. One on Pevensey Levels on October 17th (D.D.H.). One at Sidlesham on 25th (J.V.S.). Possibly the same bird was in this area on November 17th and another was first seen there on 22nd. Both were still present on 25th and there was still one there on December 1st (B.A.E.M., J.R., M.S. *et al.*). One on the Seven Sisters on November 11th (L.R.W.). One at the Midrips-Wicks on 18th (C. S. Finbow per D.B.O.). One on downs near Steyning November 19th-21st (R.J.S., K.L.W.). One near Lullington on December 26th (M.H.P., G.A.S.).

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER.**—An adult male near Brighton on June 15th (R.G.A.).

103. **OSPREY.**—On April 17th M.J.H. saw one flying N. near Hollingbury. This is the only county record for this month. On September 9th one paid a short visit to Darwell Reservoir (J.R.).

104. **HOBBY.**—Four pairs are known to have nested and 9 other pairs were present during the summer and probably bred.

105. **PEREGRINE.**—No nesting records but a number of records of single birds. Except for one at Porto Bello, Brighton, on October 14th (A.B.S.) all come from the Pagham-Selsey Bill area. At Selsey Bill one flew in N. on April 1st (C.M., R.F.P., A.B.S.) and one flew W. on 23rd (several observers). One flew in N. on June 24th (A.B.S.). One was present on September 8th (several observers). One flew W. on November 11th (A.R.K., M.J.H., B.A.E.M. *et al.*). One off Pagham on October 14th (L.G.H.).

107. **MERLIN.**—Two were recorded in January and then none until September 8th when one was seen at Selsey Bill (A.A.K.L., C.M.). From then until November 11th only 5 were recorded including one which flew in from the S. at Holywell, Eastbourne, on October 5th and one which flew in from the S. at Langney Point on November 7th (D.D.H.). These are the earliest and latest dates for autumn arrival from the sea for the county. None were recorded in December.

110. **KESTREL.**—One flew S. out to sea at Selsey Bill on March 17th (B.A.E.M. *et al.*). Single birds flew in at Beachy Head on April 21st and 27th (B.E.C., J.C. *et al.*).

One flew in at Beachy Head on September 1st (S.T.G., A.Q.) and between September 15th and October 31st 7 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill while 4 flew in there, October 3rd-November 11th.

117. **QUAIL.**—On July 29th A.R.K. heard 2 calling from barley behind Brighton.

120. **WATER RAIL.**—A breeding record will be found in the report of the breeding surveys on p. 24.

121. **SPOTTED CRAKE.**—On November 14th W.W.A.P. had a good view of one in flight at Pagham Lagoon.

125. **CORNCRAKE**.—One was heard at Selsey Bill on April 24th (M.J.H., R.L.K.J., R.F.P.).
On August 26th D.D.H. put one up near the Long Man of Wilmington. One at Siddlesham on 28th (J.V.S.) and one there on October 2nd. One at Ichenor on 4th (M.S.).
126. **MOORHEN**.—Two at the Wicks on May 5th (D.D.H.) were probably on migration.
127. **COOT**.—Over 1,000 were recorded at Chichester G.P. at both ends of the year. Five at the Wicks on May 5th (D.D.H.) were probably on migration.
131. **OYSTERCATCHER**.—One at Darwell Reservoir on March 11th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). An unusual inland record.
Three pairs are known to have attempted to breed in the Rye area (D.B.O.) and a pair may have done so at Pagham (W.W.A.P.).
See also ringing report on p. 27.
133. **LAPWING**.—On February 25th c. 130 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill. On 7th 17 flew in N. at Langney Point (D.D.H.). During March arrival in small numbers was recorded along most of the coast. A few flew out from Selsey Bill in April.
On May 13th one flew in from the sea at Langney Point and on June 20th 2 flew in N. there (D.D.H.). Such May and June arrivals which have previously been recorded in Sussex on a number of occasions, are evidently linked with the early summer movement of Lapwings from Eastern and Northern Europe into Holland which has been recorded by Dutch ornithologists. A similar movement has also been recorded in East Anglia.
Otherwise autumn arrival from the sea was recorded between October 20th and November 18th. The latter date, when 3 flew in at Langney Point (D.D.H.), is the latest November date for the county for such arrival.
The December cold spell brought the usual large S. and W. movements.
See also ringing report on p. 25.
134. **RINGED PLOVER**.—More than usual occurred at Weir Wood Reservoir in September, most being 20 on 16th (G.J.B.).
See also ringing report on p. 26.
135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**.—One at the Midrips-Wicks on April 26th (D.B.O.). One at Selsey Bill on 24th (R.F.P., M.J.H., R.L.K.J.) and one there on May 9th (M.J.C.). One at Chichester G.P. (where none had been seen on previous visits) on July 7th (D.L.). One at Siddlesham Ferry on 22nd (M.S.). Up to 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir, August 3rd-23rd (G.d.F., J.A.W. *et al.*) and at Darwell Reservoir, August 9th-22nd (R.V.W. *et al.*).
136. **KENTISH PLOVER**.—A female at Pagham on March 22nd (W.W.A.P.). This is the earliest date for the county.
140. **GOLDEN PLOVER**.—On March 11th, in the early afternoon, 36 flew in N. at Langney Point (D.D.H.) and 35 did likewise at Selsey Bill (B.A.E.M. *et al.*). Six flew S. out to sea there on March 18th and a few flew in there on April 2nd and 7th (several observers).
There were 4 at Thorney on August 6th (R.E.G.).
142. **DOTTEREL**.—One was watched for about 15 minutes at close range at Pagham on August 30th (M.S.A., N.R.M., S.D.T.). A full description has been given.

143. **TURNSTONE**.—The first autumn birds were seen at Langney Point on July 26th. On 27th, one, first seen far out, flew in from the S. there and then turned E. along the coast (D.D.H.).
145. **SNIFE**.—On November 18th a party of 4 flew in S. to N. at Langney Point (D.D.H.). See also ringing report on p. 26.
148. **WOODCOCK**.—The cold spells at both ends of the year brought a number down to the coast.
150. **CURLEW**.—Three pairs attempted to breed in Ashdown Forest (R.H.C.). The usual small W. coastal movement was recorded from June 14th into July.
151. **WHIMBREL**.—By July 28th there were already over 50 at Pagham (H.C.D.). One there on November 4th (T.G.W.).
154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**.—In spring the largest numbers were again recorded from the Pagham area with a maximum of c. 250 on April 12th and only 8 remaining on May 10th (W.W.A.P.). In June there were 38 at Manhood End on 14th and 32 there on 16th and 28th (G.R.G.). There were 34 at Thorney on 30th, possibly including the same birds (D.D.H.). Three at Pagham on 21st (W.W.A.P.). Two at the Wicks on June 26th (D.B.O.) and 4 there on 28th (D.D.H.).
In August numbers at Thorney were unusually large. Between 14th and 29th G.R.G., A.R.K. and A.B.W. agree on a figure of c. 1,000 for several days and some figures (estimates) go higher than this. No more than c. 700 have previously been recorded together in the county. Elsewhere numbers were small but include 4 at Weir Wood Reservoir, August 26th-29th (D.V.F., C.M.J., H.C.J. *et al.*). One in flight off the Crumbles during cold weather on December 31st (K.V.).
155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT**.—The largest winter figure was c. 300 off East Head on February 4th (D.D.H.).
In spring unprecedentedly large numbers were recorded on E. passage along the coast. The peak figures were: April 27th; Selsey Bill, c. 3,200 during the day (many observers); Lancing, c. 1,000 (D.A.S.); Beachy Head, c. 2,000 (B.E.C., J.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). April 28th; Selsey Bill, c. 2,800 (many observers); Beachy Head, c. 3,700 (B.E.C., J.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). By the following day only quite small numbers were passing.
156. **GREEN SANDPIPER**.—Wintering birds were recorded only from Darwell Reservoir where there was one on March 11th (M.H.P., G.A.S.), 4 on November 24th and one on December 24th (K.V.).
The only spring record was of one which flew in N. at Selsey Bill on April 30th (M.J.H., R.F.P., D.A.W.). The only June record was of one at Thorney on 30th (D.D.H.). The maximum recorded for the autumn was c. 20 there on August 18th and 25th (G.R.G.).
157. **WOOD SANDPIPER**.—The only spring record was of one at Manhood End on June 2nd (D.L.). Between July 18th and September 8th c. 20 were recorded for the coast, most seen together being 6 at Thorney on August 4th (R.E.G.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on July 18th and 3 there on 25th (C.M.J.). Up to 2 there during August (many observers). One at Darwell Reservoir on July 27th (R.V.W.) and on August 15th (R.H.C., R.V.W.).
159. **COMMON SANDPIPER**.—At the beginning of the year one was wintering at Fishbourne S.F. (M.H.P., G.A.S.), one at Siddlesham Ferry (M.S.) and one at Shoreham (C.F.B., F.S., J.M.T.).

June records were of one at Sidlesham Ferry on 2nd (D.L.), one at Langney Point on 28th, one at Thorney on 30th (D.D.H.) and one at Manhood End on 30th (D.L.).

At the end of the year one was present at Shoreham up to November 5th (F.S.) and one at Sidlesham Ferry on 10th (B.A.E.M.). There were no December records.

161. REDSHANK.—On July 27th R.H.C. saw 4 fly in from the S. at Cuckmere Haven. One at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 23rd (G.J.B.). Winter records for so far inland are unusual. For breeding records see the report of the breeding surveys on p. 24.

162. SPOTTED REDSHANK.—One at Shoreham, January 1st-March 27th (C.F.B., F.S., J.M.T.). One at the Midrips on February 15th (R.H.C.). The only spring records were of one at Sidlesham on April 13th (G.R.G.), 3 at the Midrips-Wicks on 16th (D.B.O.) and one at Pagham on 20th (G.R.G.).

June records were of one at the Wicks on 28th and 2 at Thorney on 30th (D.D.H.). The only July record was of one at Thorney on 29th (G.J.B.). Between August 18th and November 11th c. 130 were recorded for the coast but this figure includes c. 50 at Thorney on September 13th (A.B.S.) and 34 at Manhood End on 22nd (D.L.), the latter figure probably including some from the former. These are the largest numbers ever recorded together in the county. This species was also unusually numerous at Weir Wood Reservoir where there were up to 10, August 12th-September 15th (many observers). There was one there on October 12th (D.D.H.). There was one at Powdermill Reservoir on August 20th (R.V.W.).

At the end of the year 8 were wintering at Manhood End (D.L.) and one at Shoreham (F.S.).

165. GREENSHANK.—One at Sidlesham Ferry on January 9th (D.V.F.) and no doubt the same bird at Pagham on February 4th (L.G.H.). One at Manhood End on 10th (B.A.E.M.) and on March 8th (R.F.P.).

One at the Wicks, June 20th (R.H.C.) and 28th (D.D.H.). C. 10 were recorded, July 9th-28th. The largest autumn numbers were at Thorney—55 on July 29th (R.E.G.), c. 60 on August 18th (G.R.G.) and 19th (A.R.K., B.A.E.M.) and 52 on October 6th (R.J.S.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry on November 25th (B.A.E.M.) and one at Manhood End during December (C.M.J., D.L.).

169. KNOT.—Ten at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 29th (R.H.C.). Two at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 7th (R.H.C.), one there on 9th (many observers) and 2 there on 12th (R.E.G.). There is only one previous inland record for the county.

170. PURPLE SANDPIPER.—On May 17th 3 flew in from the W. and alighted on the beach at Selsey Bill (R.J.S.). This is the first recent record suggesting spring passage. Other records were much as usual.

171. LITTLE STINT.—Two at Sidlesham Ferry on January 9th and one there on March 6th (M.S.). One at Pilsea on March 17th (G.A.S.). One at Shoreham, March 22nd-28th (T.P., J.M.T. *et al.*).

The only spring record was of one at the Midrips-Wicks on April 26th (D.B.O.).

In July 2 at the Wicks on 26th (D.B.O.) and 3 there on 29th (R.H.C.), one at Weir Wood Reservoir on 29th (G.d.F.) and one at Thorney on 29th (G.J.B.). Between August 14th and October 28th c. 20 were recorded for the coast and for Weir Wood Reservoir. One on Pilsea Island on November 24th (G.A.S.) and one at Newhaven on November 25th and December 8th (A.R.K., K.V.).

173. TEMMINCK'S STINT.—One at Thorney Island on September 8th (J.I.F.-L., D.I.M.W.).

176. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.—One at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 1st (S.G., A.Q.) remained until 7th, being seen by many observers including G.d.F. and D.D.H.). One at Newhaven on September 29th (M.H.P.) and 30th (R.H.C., D.V.F.). Both these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

178. DUNLIN.—One at Weir Wood Reservoir on November 11th and December 23rd (G.J.B.). This species is unusual so far inland in winter.

179. CURLEW SANDPIPER.—One at Lancing on May 7th (F.S.) and 2 at the Midrips on 10th (R.H.C.).

One at the Wicks on July 28th (D.D.H.) and 2 there on 29th (R.H.C.). The latter stayed on until August 4th (D.B.O.). Only 6 others were recorded for the autumn including one which stayed at Newhaven until November 3rd (R.E.G.).

STILT SANDPIPER.—One at Chichester G.P. was first seen by C.M. on September 1st and identified on 2nd by M.S. It remained until 7th and was seen by many observers, including R.H.C., G.d.F., D.D.H. and A.B.S. This record, which is the second for Britain and the first for Sussex, has been accepted by *Brit. B.* which published a full account on pp. 64-66 of Vol. 56.

184. RUFF.—Two on Glynde levels on January 13th (M.J.H.) and 25th (D.D.H.). At Amberley-Wiggonholt 3 on February 3rd, 8 on 11th, 11 on 18th (B.A.E.M., A.B.S.).

One E. at Selsey Bill on March 3rd and 2 W. on 31st (B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*). The only other spring records were 2 at Sidlesham on April 13th (H.C.D., G.R.G.) and one at Manhood End on June 3rd (J.T.R.S.).

One at Weir Wood Reservoir on July 22nd (G.d.F.) and one at Thorney on 29th (G.J.B.). Between August 12th and October 24th c. 40 were recorded including 15 at Thorney on August 25th (H.C.D., G.R.G.) and up to 3 at Weir Wood Reservoir. One at Newhaven on November 11th and 2 there on December 2nd (L.P.A.). Four at Sidlesham on December 4th (J.V.S.). One at East Head (R.E.G., B.A.E.M.) and 2 at Shoreham (C.F.B.) on December 29th.

185. AVOCET.—One flying E. c. 100 yards off Selsey Bill on April 19th (M.H.T.). Five flying along the shore line at Pett Level on 24th (J.R.H.). One at Chichester G.P. on September 24th (T.G.W.).

188. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.—A bird of the year, flying W., came down for a short time just offshore at Langney Point on August 26th (D.D.H.). This is the first county record for this month.

189. STONE CURLEW.—Breeding records will be found in the report of the breeding surveys on p. 24.

193. ARCTIC SKUA.—Fewer records than in recent years. Between April 11th and May 27 c. 37 were seen flying E. along the coast, most of them off Selsey Bill. One W. off Selsey Bill on June 3rd (J.T.R.S.). One E. at Hove on July 3rd (G.A.S.) and one off Langney Point on 14th (D.D.H.). A few seen off Selsey Bill, July 14th-29th. Between August 5th and November 3rd c. 20 were recorded along the coast, mostly off Selsey Bill.

194. GREAT SKUA.—An unusual number of spring records. On April 20th one off Seaford Head (M.H.P.) and 4 flying E. separately (and believed to be different birds) off Selsey Bill (many observers). One S.E. there on April 21st (R.E.G., M.A.J., B.A.E.M. *et al.*) and one E. there on May 1st (M.J.H., R.F.P.).

One attacking Gannets off Hove on July 22nd (G.A.S.). The second county record for this month. One flying E. off Selsey Bill on August 14th (M.J.H.). One close in off Cuckmere Haven on October 7th (I.R.W.). One partly oiled, at Pagham, October 11th to 18th (L.G.H., W.W.A.P., J.V.S. *et al.*).

195. **POMARINE SKUA**.—On May 6th 2 adults of the dark phase flying E. together c. 200 yards off Selsey Bill (R.F.P., A.B.S. *et al.*). An adult of the light phase flying W. c. 600 yards off Hove on May 16th (G.A.S.).
An oiled immature on the beach between Seaford and Newhaven on October 4th (B.A.E.M.).

199. **LESER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—Some unusual winter inland records. Four at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 14th (G.A.S.) and 3 flying S. at Horsham on 13th (C.M.J.). Six at Weir Wood Reservoir on December 7th (G.J.B.).

200. **HERRING GULL**.—W.P.W. records nesting on the flat roof of a house at St. Leonards. This is known to take place regularly in this area but a count of such nesting pairs would be welcomed.

201. **COMMON GULL**.—Two pairs attempted to breed, Midrips-Wicks (D.B.O.).

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL**.—An immature bird at Brighton on January 3rd (J.B.T.) and 15th (W.R.P.B.) and on March 3rd and 4th (R.G.A., A.R.K.). An apparently different bird there on April 4th and 5th (C.F.B.) and 21st (J.R.). An immature first seen on February 3rd (S.T.G.) remained in the Pagham-Sidlesham area until at least March 6th (M.S. *et al.*). An apparently different bird at Selsey Bill on March 31 (B.A.E.M., C.M., R.F.P.). An immature at Littlehampton on December 30th (R.J.O.).

205. **MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—Fewer recorded than in 1960 and 1961. A second-winter bird c. 40 yards off Selsey Bill on February 18th (B.A.E.M., A.B.S.). An adult in summer plumage close inshore there on April 17th (R.L.K.J., A.R.K.). A second summer bird c. 70 yards out there on June 24th (A.B.S.).
A first year bird at Porto Bello, Brighton, on September 15th (A.B.S.). All these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

207. **LITTLE GULL**.—An immature at Southwick on January 21st and February 11th (T.P.). One at Sidlesham Ferry on March 10th (R.F.P.). Two adults flying E. off Worthing on April 6th (M.A.J.). An immature at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 3rd (R.H.C.).
An adult at Langney Point on July 25th (R.H.C.) and a juvenile there on 27th (D.D.H.). The fifth and sixth county records for this month. This species was a good deal scarcer than usual in autumn, only c. 15 being recorded for the coast and its vicinity, August 2nd-October 28th.

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—C. 200 pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour G.P. but with little success (R.H.C.).
See also ringing report on p. 26.

211. **KITTIWAKE**.—An adult at Slaugham Pond on March 30th appeared tired (C.M.J.). A bird of the year flying W. at Langney Point on August 18th and perhaps the same bird flying W. off Holywell, Eastbourne, on 19th (D.D.H.). Other records much as usual, only small numbers being involved.

212. **BLACK TERN**.—April records are of one off Selsey Bill on 20th, one there on 23rd (several observers) and one at the Midrips-Wicks on 26th (D.B.O.). Between May 3rd and June 2nd only 6 were recorded, all for the coast except for one over Hailsham Common Pond on May 3rd (K.V.).

One E. at Selsey Bill on July 14th (M.A.J.) and 2 W. there on 28th (M.J.H., B.A.E.M.). Between August 8th and October 14th c. 60 were recorded, including birds at Weir Wood and Powdermill Reservoirs.

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN**.—One flying E. c. 50 yards off Selsey Bill on April 26th (R.L.K.J., R.M.L., R.F.P.). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

216. **CASPIAN TERN**.—On July 28th one was seen on a sandbank and in flight in Pagham Harbour at ranges of 250-300 yards (H.C.D., G.R.G.). This record, the third for the county, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

217. **COMMON TERN**.—At the Rye Harbour colony c. 300 were present on June 25th but probably only c. 100 pairs were attempting to breed. Some 50 young flew. A pair bred at the Midrips-Wicks (D.B.O.).

219. **ROSEATE TERN**.—One at Pagham on May 8th (J.C.).

222. **LITTLE TERN**.—One at the Midrips on April 9th (R.J.O.). This is the earliest spring date for the county. At the Midrips-Wicks 23 pairs bred and raised about 23 young. Seven pairs bred in the Rye Harbour area but raised no young (D.B.O.). N.F.R. estimated that c. 40 pairs attempted to breed at Pagham. At least one pair bred successfully in the Chichester Harbour area (G.J.B.).

223. **SANDWICH TERN**.—One flying W. off Selsey Bill on March 17th (R.G.A., A.R.K., R.M.L., *et al.*). The earliest spring date for the county. Other March records are of one at Pagham on 27th (W.W.A.P.), one at Hove on 28th (G.A.S.) and at least 3 in the Pagham-Selsey area on 31st (W.W.A.P. *et al.*).
Fewer than usual were recorded during the summer. An adult accompanied by a bird of the year at Pagham on July 28th (S.T.G.).

224. **RAZORBILL**.—Summer records are of one off Birling Gap on June 12th (C.M.J.) and 2 off Langney Point on 14th (D.D.H.).

226. **LITTLE AUK**.—One flying W. c. $\frac{3}{4}$ mile off Selsey Bill on November 3rd (M.A.J., A.R.K.). One flying W. off Pagham Harbour on 14th (W.W.A.P.). One flying W. c. 200 yards off Langney Point on 18th (D.D.H.).

227. **GUILLEMOT**.—A dead bird of the Northern race at Pagham on January 6th, another, oiled, there on March 9th and another close in there on 17th (W.W.A.P.).

230. **PUFFIN**.—Single birds off Selsey Bill on May 11th and 26th (A.B.S. *et al.*). On November 29th Mr. Hugget, a shepherd, picked up a juvenile, alive but exhausted, on the downs between Cissbury and Sumping and took it to R.P. It later died. It had probably been blown in by the gales of November 24th-25th.

234. **WOOD PIGEON**.—On April 23rd c. 40 flew in N. from the sea at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.C., S.T.G., *et al.*). At Selsey Bill between March 17th and May 20th c. 400 flew out between S.E. and S.W. on 12 days, early in the morning, and c. 60 flew in there on 6 days, most, 50, on April 23rd (many observers).
Virtually no autumn movement was recorded.

235. **TURTLE DOVE**.—The latest recorded was one at Beachy Head on October 14th (B.E.C., A.Q. *et al.*).

COLLARED DOVE.—Seems now well established in the St. Leonards-Little Common area. No figures are available for the number nesting but up to c. 40 have been seen together in winter and juveniles seen in summer (J.A.H., C.V.J., K.M.L.). Breeding also took place at Littlehampton where up to 30 were seen together in late summer (B.A.E.M., F.P.P.). At Selsey Bill one was seen carrying nesting material on April 24th but the nest was not found. Birds were seen here later and at Sidlesham and West Wittering but not more than 7 together (C.M.J., M.S. *et al.*).

Elsewhere one was seen at Exceat on April 22nd (R.H.C.), 3 at Moulsecoomb, Brighton, on May 20th (A.A.B.), 3 at Beachy Head on November 4th (J.F.C., S.T.G., A.Q.) and 2 at Seaford the week before Christmas (A.G.G.).

249. SHORT-EARED OWL.—One at Thorney on January 4th (J.R.). One there on April 11th (G.J.B.).

Between September 30th and November 25th c. 10 were recorded from the coast. One near Cissbury Ring on December 1st and 2nd (R.J.S.) and 3 N. of Pagham Harbour on 17th (W.W.A.P.).

255. SWIFT.—On April 23rd there were 21 at Weir Wood Reservoir (G.J.B.), an unusual number for such an early date.

On October 26th M.J.H. saw one flying round the tower of the Bill House, Selsey Bill. This is a very late date.

261. HOOPOE.—In April, one at Chichester G.P. on 22nd (M.H.P.), one at the Devil's Dyke on 25th (R.E.G.) and one at Folkington Manor on 27th (per C.L.B.-C.). One on Selsey Golf Course on May 5th (E.B.).

265. WRYNCK.—One in the same garden at Heathfield as in 1961, April 17th-May 1st, and heard again c. ¼ mile away on May 4th and 5th (C.L.B.-C.).

One at Whitbred Hollow, Beachy Head, on September 2nd (B.E.C., S.T.G., A.Q.) and one at another part of Beachy Head, September 4th and 5th (N.F.R.).

272. SKYLARK.—On January 1st, after snow the previous day, there was a continual W. movement recorded at Bexhill (W.P.W.), Eastbourne (D.D.H.), Brighton (R.E.G., M.J.H., J.B.T.), Shoreham (F.S.), Worthing (R.J.S.), Bognor (L.G.H.) and Pagham (L.G.H., W.W.A.P.).

At Selsey Bill during March 137 flew out to sea on 8 days and 27 flew in on 5 days and during April 86 flew out on 14 days and 10 flew in on 3 days. Similar arrival but very little departure was recorded elsewhere on the coast in these months.

Between September 27th and November 11th 214 flew out to sea and 25 flew in from the coast at Selsey Bill where there were also small coasting movements. Elsewhere on the coast it was mainly arrival from the sea that was recorded.

During the cold spell at the end of the year W. coastal movements were recorded but appear to have been on a smaller scale than those at the beginning of the year.

273. SHORELARK.—One at Littlehampton on January 9th (C.R.H., R.J.O.). Two at the Midrips on November 2nd (D.B.O.).

274. SWALLOW.—The largest departure out to sea (between S. and S.E.) at Selsey Bill was on September 14th when c. 12,000 left.

277. SAND MARTIN.—C.M. and A.B.W. estimate that c. 30,000 birds were using a roost at Chichester G.P. in the first week of September. (See also special ringing report, p. 27.).

278. GOLDEN ORIOLE.—A male was seen in a park in central Sussex on June 22nd (K.B.).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE.—An adult male was seen at Whitbred Hollow, Beachy Head, on October 5th (D.D.H.) and 6th (R.H.C.). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*, and thus is the second for Britain although, since a few of these birds have been imported in recent years, the possibility of the bird having escaped from captivity cannot entirely be excluded. But the coincidence of the dates with that of the Lundy bird of 1958 and with those of the arrival of a number of other American species in this country in 1962 suggests that this was a genuinely wild bird. This is, of course, the first record for the county. A full account will eventually appear in *Brit. B.*

281. HOODED CROW.—One at Goring, November 8th-December 18th (R.M.L.).

283. JACKDAW.—On March 4th 2, first seen far out, flew in N. at Selsey Bill (B.A.E.M.).

286. JAY.—On May 1st one flying S. high over Sidlesham came down on the beach W. of Selsey (M.S.).

289. BLUE TIT.—At Selsey Bill 2 flew out S. on April 10th, 5 on the 13th and 7 out S.S.W. on 22nd (many observers). See also ringing report on p. 26.

295. BEARDED TIT.—At least 3 (2 males and a female) at Pagham during March, the 2 males being last seen on 24th (F.P.P., N.F.R., W.W.A.P. *et al.*).

Nine seen at the Severals, Church Norton, on October 16th and 7 trapped there on 20th (P.J.D.). One at Pagham, October 22nd-December 25th (G.R.G., L.G.H. *et al.*). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

299. WREN.—Single birds flew in from the S. at Selsey Bill on October 6th and 29th (several observers).

300. DIPPER.—On December 29th one was seen by a pool on the River Dudwell near Old Heathfield (R.U.). An adequate description has been given but conditions of observation did not make it possible to determine the race. This is the sixth record for the county.

301. MISTLE THRUSH.—During a 5 hour watch at Fairlight Glen on October 20th J.R.H. saw 4 fly in N.W.

302. FIELDFARE.—Many were flying W. along the coast during the cold weather of January 1st.

On October 20th 4 flew in S. to N. at Selsey Bill (several observers).

303. SONG THRUSH.—During a 4 hour watch at Fairlight Glen on October 20th J.R.H. saw 8 fly in N.W.

304. REDWING.—On January 1st F.S. recorded a large W. cold-weather movement at Shoreham and W.W.A.P. saw a few flying W. at Pagham.

One on Hollingbury Hill on September 22nd (M.J.H.) was rather early. One flew in N. at Selsey Bill on October 13th (several observers) and on 20th J.R.H. saw 8 fly in N.W. at Fairlight Glen in 4 hours.

See also ringing report on p. 26.

307. RING OUZEL.—Between April 8th and May 3rd c. 12 were recorded. Autumn records were c. 60 between September 6th and November 11th.

308. BLACKBIRD.—One flew in from the S. at Selsey Bill on March 24th (B.A.E.M., C.M. *et al.*).

During a 4 hour watch at Fairlight Glen on October 20th J.R.H. saw 9 fly in N.W. See also ringing report on p. 26.



311. **WHEATEAR**.—The earliest spring record was for March 28th (I). One at East Head on November 4th (R.E.G.). One at Black Rock, Brighton, on December 8th and 10th (M.J.H.). For breeding records see the report of the breeding surveys on p. 24.

317. **STONECHAT**.—On November 22nd D.D.H. caught and ringed at Eastbourne a male which had a striking white rump (very obvious in the field). In the hand the rump and upper tail-covert feathers were seen to be pure white with rufous tips. The general coloration of the upper-parts was darker than of a typical male of the British race at that time of year.

Breeding records will be found in the report of the breeding surveys on p. 25.

318. **WHINCHAT**.—A male at Newhaven on October 27th (I.R.W.). A late date.

321. **BLACK REDSTART**.—Only 2 records of wintering birds, January-February. Only c. 6 were recorded, March 10th-May 11th.

A pair bred successfully at Eastbourne (B.E.C., D.D.H., A.Q. *et al.*). W.P.W. heard singing males in 2 localities at Hastings during the summer.

Between October 6th and November 18th only c. 7 were recorded. A bird at Newhaven and one at Seaford provide the sole December records.

322. **NIGHTINGALE**.—Very incomplete data suggest that this was a poor year for this species.

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—One on the Downs between Kithurst Hill and Harrow Hill on August 29th (R.J.S.). The second inland record for the county. One on the Crumbles on September 25th (D.D.H.).

325. **ROBIN**.—One showing very clearly the characteristics of the Continental race at Langney Point on May 3rd and a similar but different bird there on 6th (D.D.H.).

A small influx at Holywell, Eastbourne, on August 30th. Five that were caught and ringed appeared to be of the British race as did others seen. A similar influx at Holywell, the Crumbles and Langney Point on October 3rd also appeared to consist of birds of this race. But 3 caught and ringed on the Crumbles on October 9th showed the characters of the Continental form (D.D.H.). See also ringing report on p. 26.

326. **CETTI'S WARBLER**.—On October 9th D.D.H. caught and ringed one on the Crumbles. This bird, which was later seen and successfully photographed in the hand by R.H.C., has been accepted by *Brit. B.*, which will eventually publish a full account. This is the second record for Britain and the first for Sussex.

333. **REED WARBLER**.—See ringing report, p. 26.

337. **SEEDGE WARBLER**.—The last recorded was one on the Crumbles on October 10th (D.D.H.).

339. **MELODIOUS WARBLER**.—One was caught and ringed at Holywell, Eastbourne, on August 23rd (D.D.H.). One was seen at Selsey Bill on 26th (M.A.J., B.A.E.M., A.B.S. *et al.*). At Selsey Bill also one in a garden on September 27th (A.A.K.L., R.F.P.), one in the same garden on 28th (M.J.H.) and an apparently different bird later seen in another garden c. 200 yards away (A.A.K.L.). One again in the same locality as the first bird on 30th (B.A.E.M., A.B.S.). All these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.* Taking these September records as referring with certainty to not more than a single bird, we now have seven records for the county.

343. **BLACKCAP**.—In January a male was trapped and ringed at Shoreham on 13th (J.S.). A male was seen in an Eastbourne garden on 16th and a female was trapped and ringed there on 26th (D.D.H.). One in a garden at Fairlight, January 31st-February 7th (D.R.). All these birds must, of course, have survived the intense cold at the beginning of the year and the end of 1961.
344. **BARRED WARBLER**.—One at Selsey Bill, September 29th and 30th (A.R.K., B.A.E.M., A.B.S. *et al.*). This bird, which has been described in detail, is the fourth for Sussex.
346. **GARDEN WARBLER**.—One at Selsey Bill on October 6th and 7th (several observers) and one at Beachy Head on 7th (B.E.C., A.Q. *et al.*).
347. **WHITETHROAT**.—See ringing report on p. 26.
348. **LESSER WHITETHROAT**.—This seems to have been unusually numerous in autumn, at least on parts of the Downs. Thus on August 19th M.J.H. counted c. 30 at Hollingbury and in the Holywell-Beachy Head area B.E.C., A.Q. *et al.* noted unusually large numbers, particularly between August 19th and September 9th, with most, c. 15, on August 26th and September 1st, while D.D.H. trapped and ringed 16 between August 18th and September 2nd. Likewise in the Beachy Head area though in another locality, N.F.R. found this species about as common as the Whitethroat, September 4th-7th.
352. **DARTFORD WARBLER**.—A small colony bred successfully in the area where 3 pairs bred in 1961. No other breeding birds reported.
One at Langney Point on October 12th (R.H.C.) and one near Birling Gap on November 4th (I.R.W.).
354. **WILLOW WARBLER**.—See ringing report on p. 26.
355. **GREENISH WARBLER**.—One at Selsey on September 27th was watched for over an hour (A.A.K.L., R.F.P.). One on the Crumbles on October 19th (D.D.H.). Both these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.* and are the second and third for the county.
356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—Up to at least 2 (song being heard) at Shoreham, February 9th-20th (F.S., J.M.T.). The first spring arrival was recorded at Langney Point on March 10th (D.D.H.).
One singing at Chichester G.P. on November 9th (M.J.H.). One at Eastbourne on December 25th (D.D.H.).
364. **GOLDCREST**.—Single birds were seen to fly in from the sea at Selsey Bill on April 11th and 22nd and on October 20th, 23rd and 27th (several observers).
365. **FIRECREST**.—The only spring records were of one near Bishopstone on April 8th (I.R.W.) and of one at the Severals, Church Norton, on the same day (C.M.).
At Selsey Bill, one on September 26th, 2 on 27th, 4 on 28th and 2 on 29th and 30th (many observers). The only other records were of one at Sidlesham on October 1st (M.S.), 3rd and 4th (J.V.S.), one trapped and ringed at Beachy Head on November 11th and another seen there on 18th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N. *et al.*).
366. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**.—See ringing report on p. 26.
368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—In spring single males were seen in Ashdown Forest on April 22nd (J.A.H.), early May at Eastbourne (L.S.S.) and on May 7th at Sidlesham (J.V.S.).
Between August 22nd and October 7th c. 70 were recorded. One at Belle Tout on October 14th (D.D.H., A.Q. *et al.*) is the latest for the county.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—The largest movements were recorded on April 1st when c. 1,340 flew in at Selsey Bill (several observers) and 4th when c. 3,000 flew in at Beachy Head (B.E.C., A.Q. *et al.*).

In autumn between September 8th and November 17th c. 1,100 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill and c. 320 flew in there.

376. **TREE PIPIT**.—See ringing report on p. 26.

379. **ROCK PIPIT**.—On November 7th R.E.S. saw c. 30 at Northpoint Beach, Rye Harbour, an unusual number to be seen together.

WATER PIPIT.—One at Camber on January 18th in the same plumage and in the same place as that recorded there on November 4th, 1961 (D.D.H.). One at Pagham on March 25th (M.H.P., N.F.R., A.B.S. *et al.*) and April 8th (A.B.S.). A full description has been recorded.

380. **PIED WAGTAIL/WHITE WAGTAIL**.—Recorded spring movements were very small. In autumn at Selsey Bill between September 8th and November 10th c. 135 flew out to sea and 47 flew in and there were E. coasting movements. At Langney Point on October 14th birds were flying E. at the rate of c. 150 an hour (R.H.C.). E. movements were also recorded at Beachy Head, September 24th-October 19th (B.E.C., J.C., S.T.G. *et al.*).

381. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—A pair bred at Balcombe Railway Station (G.d.f.).

382. **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL**.—A bird with features corresponding to those of a female of this race at Selsey Bill on April 21st (B.A.E.M., M.A.J. *et al.*). A male at Pett Level on 24th (J.R.H.).

YELLOW WAGTAIL.—A pair with young out of the nest at Thorney on June 30th (D.D.H.). An early date. A considerable E. movement over Pevensy Levels between Wartling and Pevensy on August 27th (R.P.).

383. **WAXWING**.—One in a Brighton garden on January 9th and 10th (K.H.).

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE**.—One in Ashdown Forest on January 14th (C.M.J.). One there on December 1st (M.H.P.) and 12th (R.H.C.). A different bird in another part of the Forest on 16th (M.H.P., G.A.S., J.A.W.).

385. **LESSER GREY SHRIKE**.—One at Sidlesham on July 1st (J.V.S.) and 2nd (J.V.S., W.W.A.P.). This record, which is the second for the county, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

388. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE**.—A pair bred in the same locality in the N. of the county as in 1961 (G.P.). The only other records were of one at Piddinghoe on September 12th (I.R.W.) and one on the Crumbles on 13th (R.H.C.).

389. **STARLING**.—On January 1st after snow had fallen the previous day there was a considerable W. movement over Bexhill (W.P.W.), Eastbourne (D.D.H.), Shoreham (F.S.), Worthing (R.J.S.) and Pagham (L.G.H., W.W.A.P.). In late March and April a few were seen flying out to sea at Selsey Bill and on April 17th 19 flew in there.

Between September 14th and November 11th c. 960 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill (many observers). On October 21st 15 flew out S. at Porto Bello (Brighton) in an hour (A.B.S.). Recorded autumn arrival from the sea was much less than usual. On October 20th J.R.H. saw 135 fly in in 5 hours at Fairlight Glen. This was the largest arrival recorded anywhere! Arrival continued in November and its peak at Selsey Bill was on 18th when 40 were recorded.

See also ringing report on p. 26.

392. **GREENFINCH**.—At Selsey Bill 28 flew out to sea between April 17th and May 1st and between April 9th and 30th 74 flew in from the sea. The maximum

autumn departure there was 270 flying S. on October 2nd (many observers). See also ringing report on p. 26.

393. **GOLDFINCH**.—At Selsey Bill 174 flew out to sea between March 25th and May 20th while 108 flew in there during about the same period. In autumn 5 flew out S. there on September 13th while between October 2nd and November 25th c. 1,470 flew out to sea, c. 790 of them on November 4th. Only a very few flew in during this period (many observers). Autumn movements elsewhere were small and mainly confined to coasting.

See also ringing report on p. 26.

394. **SISKIN**.—One at Selsey Bill on August 13th (M.J.H., A.R.K.). This is an early date for arrival on the coast. On October 6th 6 flew out S.W. there (M.J.H., C.M.).

395. **LINNET**.—Spring movements, arrival from the sea, flight out to sea and coasting, were small.

On September 13th 10 flew out S. at Selsey Bill. Between October 2nd and November 25th c. 1,730 flew out to sea there, while a few flew in and there were small coasting movements. Movements elsewhere were mostly smaller still.

396. **TWITE**.—One at Cuckmere Haven on January 1st (R.H.C.).

Two at Newhaven on November 5th (J.R.). Up to 8 together at Pagham between November 14th and December 25th (L.G.H., W.W.A.P.). C. 50 at the Midrips on December 9th (R.H.C.). Two at Seaford on December 23rd (C.M.V.).

397. **REDPOLL**.—On October 6th c. 40 came in from the S. at Beachy Head and on 14th 6 flew in at Langney Point (R.H.C.) and one at Selsey Bill.

400. **SERIN**.—An adult male, which was singing, was watched at close range at Selsey Bill on August 30th (M.A.J.). This record, which is only our second in recent years, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

401. **BULLFINCH**.—The cold weather at the beginning of the year brought a number down to the coast line.

Very incomplete information suggests that at the end of the year this species was less numerous than of late.

404. **CROSSBILL**.—The largest invasion for many years. The first recorded were a party of c. 20 in flight over Aldwick Bay Estate, Bognor, on June 28th and there were 4 there on 30th (W.W.A.P.) and up to 12 there till mid-July. On June 29th and 30th D.V.F. found between 100 and 200 in Friston Forest and similar numbers were seen there on July 4th by R.H.C. and D.D.H. Fewer were recorded there later, though the birds may have by this time have dispersed over the whole area. C. 20 there on October 20th (M.H.P.) and 13 near Wilmington on December 25th (R.H.C.). On July 25th G.A.S. saw and heard 32 flying E.N.E. over Portslade. At the end of July there were c. 20 in Northpark Wood near Parham (J.W.C.). In July also there were 14 over Charlton Forest on 2nd and 35 at Arundel on 29th. Up to c. 50 were seen almost daily in the Cooking-Eartham area in August with rather fewer in September, fewer still in October and only 7 or 8 by December (D.L., S.W.R.). A few were seen in the Hove-Portslade area in September and October (G.A.S.), at Hollingbury between August 5th and October 13th (M.J.H.) and at Burgess Hill, August 5th-28th (J.A.W.). A few also were seen at Beachy Head, August 12th-October 13th (M.E.N., A.Q. *et al.*) and at Selsey Bill and Pagham, August 12th-October 28th (many observers). One was seen to fly S.W. out to sea at Selsey Bill on August 25th.

REPORT ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS FOR 1962

By

M. SHRUBB

(Fairfields, Sidlesham, Sussex)

Soon after the formation of the Society the Council established a Scientific Sub-Committee and its first project was the instigation of breeding bird surveys. These covered six species: Stonechat, Wheatear, Redshank, Great Crested Grebe, Water Rail and Stone Curlew. Generally response was good and the results received in respect of the last three species were sufficient to form a good idea of their true distribution within the county. Details of results so far, and the more important areas remaining to be covered will be found under the respective species headings. All those observers who contributed in 1962 are thanked for all the hard work they put into these surveys. Often the results achieved after all their efforts were unrewarding and negative but it is hoped that these observers will cover the same ground in 1963 and be helped by others so that a complete survey will be obtained. Observations each year over these areas are particularly important to maintain the continuity of the survey, especially with species like Stone Curlew which may breed sporadically in various localities.

Anybody interested in helping should contact myself at the above address. Full results for 1962-63 will be published in the next report.

5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

There are in the country approximately 34 waters which are probably suitable nesting sites for this species. This figure includes as one water several series of closely connected groups of lakes or ponds such as Chichester Gravel Pits. During 1962, 18 of these waters were visited and these held a population of 39 breeding pairs. They were distributed as follows:—

Chichester Gravel Pits, 15 (M.S.); Manhood End, one (D.L.); Burton Park, one (B.A.E.M.); Knepp Castle Lake, 3 (G.M.M.); Warnham Mill Pond, 2 (G.M.M.); Hammer Pond, St. Leonards Forest, one (M.J.H.); St. Leonards Forest (211315), one (M.J.H.); Balcombe Lake, 2 (J.S.D.); Leigh Pond, one (J.B.T.); Horsted Keynes Lakes, 2 (J.W.C.); Weir Wood, one (D.R.C.); Lindfield Farm, one (J.W.C.); Abbey Lake, Maresfield, one (H.A.B.); Plashett Park, 0, has held breeding Grebes recently (J.W.C.); Sheffield Park, 0 (R.H.C.); Wadhurst Park, 4 (J.W.C.); Darwell, one (R.H.C.); Rye Harbour Gravel Pits, 2 (R.H.C.).

The following ponds, or groups of ponds were not visited and I hope that all of them can be covered this coming season since it is hoped to do a complete census of the breeding population during the season. One or two brief visits by an observer living nearby who can get access to these localities, they are nearly all in private grounds, is all that is required.

Petworth Park	Staugham Place (2 nearby)
Mill Pond, Lurgashall	Crabbett Park (3 nearby)
Shillinglee Park	Furnace Pond, Nr. Warninglid
Arundel Park	Crawley, T.Q. 245360
	Bolney, T.Q. 264223
Eridge Park	Powdermill
Ashburnham Park	
Buckhurst Park	

407. CHAFFINCH.—Very little visual migration was recorded. See also ringing report on p. 26.

410. CORN BUNTING.—On March 25th one flew N. over the tip of Selsey Bill. Later one flew out S. there (B.A.E.M., A.B.S. *et al.*).

421. REED BUNTING.—One flew out S. at Selsey Bill on October 2nd and one flew out S.E. and one in N. there on 6th (several observers).

422. LAPLAND BUNTING.—At Beachy Head there were single birds on October 13th, 14th and 17th, 6 on November 11th and 4 on 18th (B.E.C., J.C., S.T.G., M.E.N., A.Q.). Three at Sidlesham on October 15th (M.S.). One at Seaford Head on December 3rd (L.P.A.).

423. SNOW BUNTING.—C. 50 in the Camber-Wicks area in January (D.D.H., R.E.S.) and smaller numbers there in February. One at Newhaven on February 11th (D.V.F.). One wintering at Paghams up to March 24th (W.W.A.P. *et al.*). A different bird there on April 27th (W.W.A.P.) and May 6th (G.R.G.). These are the latest spring dates for the county.

The first autumn record was for one at Newhaven on October 3rd which stayed on into November (many observers). Otherwise small numbers were recorded along the coast, October 7th–November 25th. On November 4th I.R.W. saw 2 fly S. out to sea from Beachy Head. One at Amberley on November 18th (G.A.S. *et al.*). This is only our fourth record for far inland. In December there were up to c. 100 at Camber (G.A.S. *et al.*), 5 at East Head (A.R.K. *et al.*), 12 at Thorney (L.G.H.) and one at Hove (J.R.).

424. HOUSE SPARROW.—On April 27th 5 flew S. out of sight at Selsey Bill (R.M.L., R.F.P. *et al.*) and on May 1st one flew out S. and 4 S.W. there (M.J.H.).

425. TREE SPARROW.—During January there was a flock of 400–500 in a Kale field at Shoreham (J.S.).

Three or 4 pairs probably bred at Sidlesham, one nest being found (J.V.S.). A pair bred at Hollingbury (M.J.H.).

On October 14th c. 75 an hour were moving E. during a 3 hour watch at Langney Point (R.H.C.). Between October 6th and 19th an E. movement was recorded at Beachy Head (R.H.C., S.T.G., A.Q. *et al.*).

ADDITIONS TO THE 1961 REPORT

86. BEWICK'S SWAN.—One in the lower Cuckmere valley on December 22nd (I. R. Willis).

212. BLACK TERN.—One at Pond Leigh on May 22nd (J.B.T.).

216. CASPIAN TERN.—One flying W. c. 400 yards off Langney Point on July 14th (D.D.H.). This record, which is the second for the county, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

339. MELODIOUS WARBLER.—One at Selsey Bill on August 12th (B.A.E.M., R.F.P., A.B.S.). This record, which is the fourth for the county, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

Additional ringing records for 1961 will be found in the ringing report, p. 25.

120. WATER RAIL

One breeding pair was located in the Adur Valley and they successfully reared at least 2 young (C.A.G., M.G.G.). This species was located in two other places in the county during the breeding season and these birds are being followed up this year.

Although this is our only breeding information, it is also the first breeding record for the county since the war. A number of inland localities hold this species during the winter, when they are possibly easier to observe. Although these are probably mostly wintering birds it is quite possible that one or two of these places are also breeding localities. Records of such inland wintering sites might well be useful pointers in locating more breeding pairs.

161. REDSHANK

Records have come from a number of marsh areas in the county and from one or two isolated colonies inland. The areas covered were as follows:—

Selsey-Sidlesham Ferry-Bracklesham, 20 pairs in 6 colonies (H.D.M., M.S.). Amberley Brooks, 4 pairs (D.L.). Adur Valley up to Wyckham Farm, 13 pairs in well scattered colonies (M.G.G.). Newhaven, one or more pairs (M.J.H.). Cuckmere, 2 or more pairs (M.J.H.). Glynde Levels, 7 pairs (M.J.H.). Lavant, 2 pairs (M.S.). Harting, 2 pairs (M.S.).

Unfortunately many important breeding areas were not covered at all in 1962 and information is badly needed from them to make our figures realistic. These areas are:—

Thorney Island, Pevensy Levels, Paghams Levels, Pett-Rye-Wicks area, Arun Valley near Littlehampton, and the Rother Levels. Isolated inland colonies occur here and there, such as those at Harting and Lavant, and we are also interested in such records as these.

189. STONE CURLEW

Approximately half the theoretically suitable territory for this species was covered in 1962. A total of 14 pairs and one bird were recorded. Much of the territory proved blank and at least four recently occupied sites did not have Stone Curlew. To balance this however, several known breeding sites and much possible breeding territory was not visited. Results to date were:—

Hants Border-River Arun. Seven pairs and one bird recorded (E.W.D., J.H.K.D., A.R.K., S.F.K., M.S.). One nest was found (J.H.K.D.) but no young were reported from this area, although several pairs probably raised young successfully and one pair is known not to have done so. River Arun-River Adur. Five pairs recorded (C.A.G., F.P.P., R.J.S.) of these 3 pairs each raised 2 young and one pair probably raised young successfully. River Adur-River Ouse. None behind Brighton, between the A23 and the Ditchling-Brighton Road. None found between the latter road and the Ouse Valley, but one pair was subsequently reported from here (per J.W.C.). River Ouse-Eastbourne. One pair reported (S.F.K., M.H.P., G.A.S.). One pair also reported in the extreme east of the county (R.H.C.).

Information is particularly required from the following areas:—
Behind Shoreham and Hove. Between Brighton and Lewes and behind Seaford.

311. WHEATEAR

Records from the Downs and Coast are so incomplete, only 7 pairs reported (M.J.H., A.R.), that to publish them in detail can only give a very misleading

impression of the birds' breeding status. The principal breeding areas of the species between Pett Level and the Wicks and the Downs along the coast were not covered at all in 1962. It is most essential that these areas are covered in 1963 if realistic figures are to be obtained. It is hoped to have some of this ground covered but I would be very glad of any information from these areas if anyone is willing to do some work there.

There was an interesting inland breeding record, such records are unusual in Sussex, 2 pairs bred successfully near Horsham (F.H.T.).

317. STONECHAT

The only areas fully covered with results, were:—Ashdown Forest, 11 pairs recorded in an area comprising about two thirds of the Forest (D.R.C.). Commons near Midhurst, south of Haslemere and between Heyshott and Duncton, only 3 pairs found on all this ground (P.G.D., R.H.J.N., M.S.). These commons were a pre-war breeding stronghold of this species, but now only one or two hold pairs. Most of these commons are possibly no longer suitable breeding sites, being very much overgrown, especially with birch scrub. Beachy Head, approximately 10 breeding pairs in the general area (A.Q. *et al.*). At Lullington Heath, where some 12 pairs were present in 1961, none were found in 1962 (M.H.P.). Single scattered pairs were recorded breeding at the following localities. Selsey Bill (M.J.H., M.S.), Telscombe Cliffs (M.J.H.), Newhaven Head (M.J.H.), Chalvey Common (A.A.B.), and a single bird was present at Cross-in-Hand during May (A.R.K.).

These are the only areas thoroughly covered so far and there are still several important areas to be covered, particularly along the Downs.

SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1962

Compiled by

Dr. J. STAFFORD

A total of 14,479 birds of 87 species were ringed during the year. Of these 502 were ringed as nestlings, the remainder being trapped. Twenty-one ringers or groups of ringers supplied their totals for this report and also their recoveries; which I feel gives a very complete picture of ringing results for the year.

Space does not allow the inclusion of species totals and individual totals but looking at ringing in Sussex as a whole it is outstanding that in a county with a long coast line with ideal sites for waders only 7 were ringed as adults and 5 as pulls. This I feel calls for a special effort during 1963 in wader trapping.

D. D. Harber ringed a Cetti's Warbler, the second only for the British Isles and the first for Sussex. He also ringed a Melodious Warbler which is still in the "Under One Hundred" list of birds ringed. R. J. Olliver ringed a Collared Dove and L. and J. Weller reared, ringed and released 86 Mallard.

Sand Martin ringing at Chichester Gravel Pits is the subject of a special report and Mute Swan ringing will be covered in a future Sussex Bird Report.

Selected list of Recoveries reported in 1962

Symbols and terms are used in the British Birds ringing report.

Birds Ringed in Sussex and Recovered Abroad

Lapwing	Pull.	x
	3.5.58	Sidlesham Ferry, A.A.
	2.1.62	Ernee (Mayenne) France
	21.5.61	Sidlesham Ferry, A.A.
	20.1.62	Pontonsc Adour (Lande) France
	+	

Species	Age	Date	Location
Shag	Pull.	2.6.61	Farne Isle, Northumberland
	x	25.3.62	Horsted Keynes
Oystercatcher	x	3.6.61	Heerenveen, Friesland, Holland
	x	9.1.62	Selsey
Snipe	Juv.	26.9.62	Zwarte Meer (Overijssel) Holland
	+	26.12.62	West Hoathly
Blackbird	Pull.	24.5.61	Yxsjöberg, Sweden
	v	19.1.62	Burgess Hill, J.A.W.
Greenfinch	1st W. ♂	4.11.61	Dungeness
	v	5.1.62	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
Goldfinch	x	5.11.60	St. Quentin, France
	x	25.8.62	Dell Quay, T.J.J.

THE CHICHESTER SAND MARTIN ROOST, 1962

By
C. J. MEAD

To understand how the results that follow were achieved one must go back to a circular issued to all British ringers in December 1959 announcing the start of the "Sand Martin Inquiry." A grant of £50 from the funds of the British Trust for Ornithology had enabled the Bird Ringing Committee to offer free rings for Sand Martins to ringers marking over 100 during the year.

Sand Martins were chosen as an "Inquiry" species since they were being caught in increasing numbers following the introduction of mist-nets, and it had become clear from the exchanges of birds between ringers that if more of them concentrated on this species a larger number of useful retraps would result. Since Sand Martins are communal in every stage of their life-history: moving, breeding, feeding and roosting together, they are an ideal subject for this type of study designed, as it is, to build up a detailed picture of their movements in Great Britain. The main feature of the first two years was the work of Romford Ringing Station on passage birds in Essex and of Mr. Winn trapping at a very large roost in Yorkshire. Their results showed that many interesting recoveries of birds ringed at colonies during the summer could be obtained from roost and passage trapping in the autumn, also that some of their birds would be retrapped in the colonies in the next season.

In 1960 and 1961 Dr. Barrie Watson caught some birds at a roost at Chichester, but many more appeared there in 1962 and we managed to catch 3,457 birds including 44 which had been ringed elsewhere; this total represents over 10% of the recoveries reported in Great Britain in 1962. The "Sand Martin Inquiry" has already amassed a wealth of data and the discussion which follows, whilst based on the Chichester results, owes much to the efforts of other Sand Martin ringers.

Not much is known about the Sand Martin's choice of roosting sites and even large roosts may be deserted in the middle of the migration for no apparent reason. On September 14th I watched the roost without attempting to catch any birds, because of the weather situation. The roost was, however, almost

Species	Age	Date	Location
Snipe	F.G.	14.10.60	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	+	24.12.62	Echevarria (Vizcaya) Spain
Redwing	F.G.	15.10.61	Selsey, M.J.C.
	?	12.3.62	St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte, France
Blackbird	1st W.	14.1.62	Portslade, C.M. and S.B.
	0	13.11.62	Borero Amozzano (Lucca) Italy
Robin	Ad. ♂	30.1.60	Shoreham-by-Sea, J.S.
	+	20.12.62	Biville (Manche) France
Whitethroat	Ad. ♂	6.12.61	Shoreham-by-Sea, J.S.
	xA	18.4.62	Jutland, Denmark
Willow Warbler	Ad.	21.7.61	Chailey, R.R.L.
	?	14.12.61	St. Cyr-sur-Loire, Nr. Tours, France
Tree Pipit	Juv.	6.8.62	Marley Common, P.G.D.
	?	28.9.62	Sacavem, Nr. Lisbon, Portugal
Starling	Ad.	1.9.62	Shoreham-by-Sea, D.A.S.
	?	22.9.62	Montforte de Lemos (Lugo) Spain
Goldfinch	Pull.	29.6.62	Marley Common, P.G.D.
	?	20.9.62	Beira Litoral, Portugal
Ringed Plover	1st W.	19.2.60	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	v	15.11.61	Nijlen (Antwerp) Belgium (only reported in 1962)
Black-headed Gull	Ad. ♂	27.2.62	Barcombe, R.R.L.
	?	16.11.62	St. Philbert, Nr. Monfort-sur-Risle, France
Blue Tit	Juv.	20.9.62	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	+	10.11.62	Pamona, Spain

Birds Ringed in Sussex and Recovered in Great Britain and Ireland

Species	Age	Date	Location
Ringed Plover	Pull.	12.7.62	The Wicks, Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	x	c26.1.63	Emsworth, Hampshire, 52 miles W.
Black-headed Gull	Pull.	2.7.58	Rye Harbour, D.D.H.
	+	26.7.62	Bexhill, Sussex
Blue Tit	Ad.	1.11.61	Selsey Bill, C.M. and S.B.
	+	23.9.62	Selbourne, Hants
Reed Warbler	1st W.	1.10.61	Selsey, R.F.P.
	+	27.3.62	Billingshurst, Sussex
Whitethroat	1st W.	7.12.61	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	v	27.2.62	Barcombe, Sussex, R.R.L.
Spotted Flycatcher	1st W.	18.8.62	Shoreham-by-Sea, D.A.S.
	v	2.9.62	Selsey, Sussex, M.J.C.
Greenfinch	1st W.	27.8.61	Beachy Head, A.Q.
	x	7.6.62	Beckenham, Kent
Chaffinch	F.G.	16.9.61	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	Found injured	5.7.62	Robertstown, S. Ireland
Greenfinch	1st W.	4.2.62	Portslade, C.M. and S.B.
	xA	21.5.62	Portsmouth, Hampshire
Chaffinch	F.G.	12.1.60	Burgess Hill, J.A.W.
	x	2.1.62	Hythe, Kent
Chaffinch	?	14.1.60	Eastbourne, D.D.H.
	v	15.3.62	Gravesend, Kent

completely deserted on September 15th. The records from Selsey Bill Observa-
 tory suggest that there is always a large roost in the Chichester area; or, since
 there were probably at least 5 in use in 1962 (at Sidlesham, Church Norton,
 Manhood End and 2 at Chichester), a series of smaller ones. It is hoped that the
 main roost will be found each year in the future.

The 1962 roost was in a bed of *Phragmites* seven to ten feet high and measur-
 ing eighty yards by twenty; this juts out from the Eastern shore of one of the
 gravel-pits by the Chichester by-pass. It is sheltered from the West by an
 island but has open water to the North and South. When the birds started
 coming in to roost, about half an hour before sunset, they formed large flocks over
 the pits and seemed to be feeding. After ten or fifteen minutes they began to
 fly low over the water towards and over the roost but not settling in it. After a
 few of these passes some birds alighted on the tops of the reeds, twittering
 excitedly and balancing with outstretched wings: sometimes only to take off
 again as the next wave of birds "beat up" the roost. Gradually more and more
 birds settled and the remnants of the flock flew more compactly. After flying
 very slowly low over the roost on the passes the flock spiralled dizzily in the air
 and swept low over the water before returning to the reed-beds. Eventually,
 either one of these slow passes would result in the landing of the whole flock,
 or they would swarm high in the air and plummet straight in. However, at this
 stage, the birds were not properly roosting; they had worked their way into
 the reeds so that very few could be seen from outside the roost but their continu-
 ous loud twittering and flurries of movement as latecomers dashed into the reeds
 showed they were very much awake. Not until it became too dark to read
 did this noise drop, quite abruptly, to about a tenth of its previous level and then
 gradually die away to an occasional subdued twitter throughout the night. In
 the morning none of the birds left until well after dawn when the great majority
 would erupt, almost simultaneously, from the reeds. Some left the area of the
 pits immediately, others remained to feed, a few even stayed in the roost until
 an hour after dawn.

The technique we used to catch the Sand Martins was designed to create the
 least possible disturbance. The nets were set along the East end of the roost and
 along a convenient, partly submerged, shingle spit along the Northern side.
 Everything would be made ready well before the first birds arrived to roost and
 the birds caught themselves as they came in to settle and were extracted by
 torchlight after the roost had quietened down. They were then roosted in
 bags or boxes overnight and released in the morning. This enabled us to
 catch large numbers of birds whilst disturbing very few, if any, from the roost
 the process. As well as the Sand Martins about 300 Swallows using the roost
 were caught and a number of warblers, tits, Kingfishers etc. during the day.
 Since this reed-bed is so conveniently situated we very much hope this will be the
 main roost in subsequent years.

The number of birds using the roost (see Table II) and the numbers seen
 leaving Selsey should show some correlation. Unfortunately coverage was not
 complete at either place but those days in the autumn when over one hundred
 Sand Martins were seen leaving out to sea at Selsey are as follows:

July	August	September
28	12	19
117	118	2
	c.2,600	1
	c.2,300	2
	120	14
	126	1,550

Taking the three main movements: the first corresponded to a big increase
 in the roost, the second time the numbers in the roost remained static and the
 third occasion left c.15,000 in the roost that evening which dropped to c. 300 on

the next evening when none left Selsey! Since the majority of these birds had left
 Selsey within two hours of dawn they must have roosted locally and in the
 first two cases, onward passage from further North must have replenished the
 roost. On September 15th the roost had presumably moved locally to Sidlesham,
 since there were still good numbers of Sand Martins in the area (see Appendix
 Table I). Only four birds were trapped at Selsey, one, AE 22.476, having been
 ringed near Kirkby Lonsdale (Westmorland).

Unlike many other small migrants (e.g. warblers, flycatchers and chats)
 which complete their migration in a few "long hops" of hundreds or even a
 thousand miles each, Sand Martins migrate in easy stages from roosting place
 to roosting place (perhaps in other colonies: see below). Retraps of our own
 birds showed an average stay of a week and there was one record of 22 days;
 table I shows a number of birds taking over a fortnight to move from roosts
 in the Midlands to Chichester and the exceptionally interesting recovery of
 N 11.009 (Appendix Table I) bears this out, taking thirty days from the Midlands
 to the Gironde via Chichester. The fastest recovery, N 11.069, taking 4 days from
 the same roost as N 11.009, probably represents a single "leg" on its migration.
 Numbers of non-breeding adults form small roosts at the beginning of the
 breeding season and they are joined by part of the early broods at the beginning
 of July: AC 20.764 (appendix Table I) shows one of these juveniles wandering
 before setting off on true migration. By the end of August migration is reaching
 its peak and during this period and the first part of September in 1961, an esti-
 mated million birds were using a single Fenland roost. The tables show this
 was also the peak at Chichester. Since 93% of the birds caught were juveniles
 it seems probable that the adults, obliged to stay later in the colonies, were not
 yet coming through in large numbers by September 10th which was the last
 important ringing day.

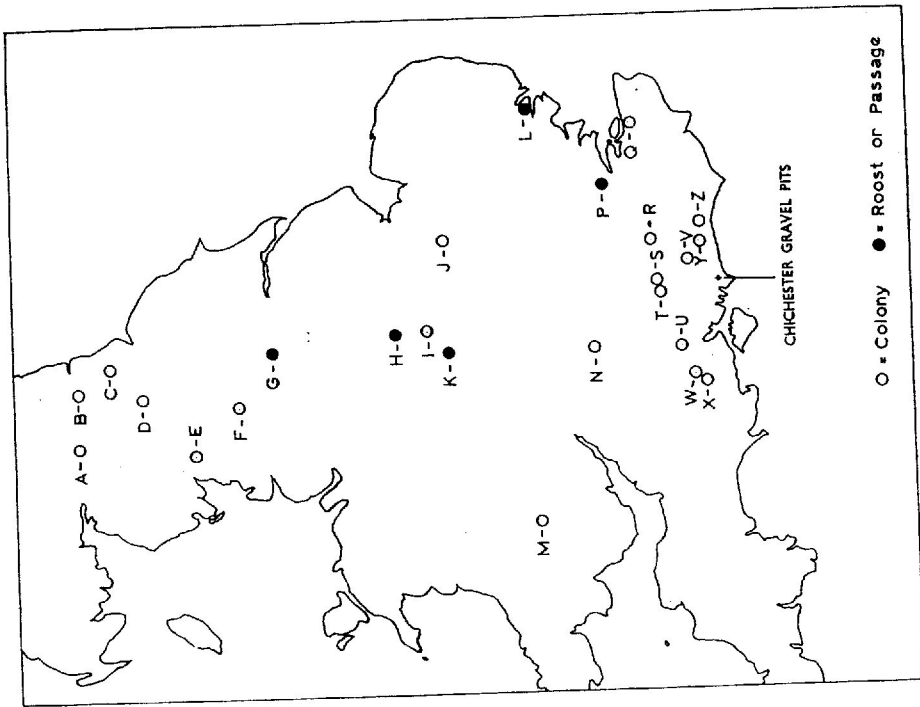
In considering the recoveries from birds ringed at the colony it must be
 remembered that migrating birds often spend the night in unoccupied holes of
 colonies on their way South. At Casbrook Common, one of my study colonies
 in Hampshire, on 28.7.62 I retrapped the following birds from other colonies;
 all obviously on migration:

AC 91.844	Jul. 1.7.62	Lipwood, Haydon Bridge (Northumberland)	275.S
AC 69.913	Jul. 8.7.62	Henberry, Macclesfield (Cheshire)	155.S
AC 27.557	Jul. 23.7.62	Dorchester (Oxfordshire)	46.S

In connection with the first of these it is interesting to note that AC 91.804 and
 N 02.827 (Table I) complete the triangle between Lipwood, Casbrook and Chich-
 ester!

This raises the problem of the direction of migration. Once out of the
 British Isles recoveries indicate a S.S.W. trend down the Biscay coast of France
 and then down the Mediterranean coast of Spain; there are no recoveries further
 South. However it is when considering movements within Great Britain that
 the results from Chichester are so interesting. Many Sand Martins are ringed
 in colonies in Kent and East Anglia yet there was only one retrap at Chichester.
 Of 350 birds ringed at Glasbury-on-Wye two were retrapped at Chichester and
 one each in Kent, Essex and Huntingdonshire, all very much to the East of
 Glasbury. There were seventeen recoveries from over 100 miles to the North
 or North-West of Chichester and one similarly from Selsey. This shows a
 distinct S.S.E. trend within the British Isles. This "dog-leg" migration brings
 the Sand Martins to the two narrowest places for their obligatory sea crossings
 of the English Channel and Mediterranean, also placing them in a good position
 to miss the Sahara by going down the Atlantic seaboard of North West Africa.

RINGING PLACES OF SAND MARTINS RETRAPPED AT THE CHICHESTER ROOST



- Key to Map:
- A Haydon Bridge
 - B Crawrook (2)
 - C Shincliffe
 - D Eggleston
 - E Kirkby Lonsdale
 - F Barden (2)
 - G Fairburn
 - H Attenborough (2)
 - I Rothley (2)
 - J Wittering (2)
 - K Hartshill (3)
 - L Holbrook
 - M Glasbury-on-Wye (3)
 - N Stanford (3)
 - P Elm Park
 - Q Dunkirk
 - Z Hurstpierpoint
 - R Betchworth
 - S Seale
 - T Wrecclesham (6)
 - U Ashley Common
 - V Petworth (2)
 - W Gorley (3)
 - X Ashley (2)
 - Y Storrington

() indicates the number of birds retrapped from the locality if this is more than one.

There are still a large number of gaps in our knowledge of the Sand Martin which it is hoped will be clarified by the Inquiry. It is intended that the Chichester roost will play its part in 1963 and I would like to get a team of ringers together to increase its contribution. I would be very glad to hear from anyone who is interested in helping.

Lastly my thanks are due to John Heaver Ltd, for their kind permission to trap at the roost and to Dr. Barrie Watson for inviting me to the roost and doing so much work there himself before he went on holiday.

TABLE I

1962 RECOVERIES OF SAND MARTINS AT THE CHICHESTER ROOST

N.B. Status: Juv.—Juvenile; Ad.—Adult; C, P or R indicate ringed at Colony, on Passage or at Roost. Vector: Distance (in miles) and direction of movement.

Ring No.	Date	Status	Place	RINGING DETAILS		RECOVERY DETAILS	
				Date	Vector	Date	Vector
AC 91.804	1.7.62	Juv.C.	Haydon Bridge (Northumberland)	30.8.62	290.SSE		
AE 54.027	21.7.62	Juv.C.	Crawrook, near Ryton-on-Tyne (Durham)	28.8.62	285.S		
AE 52.058	4.8.62	Juv.C.	Crawrook	31.8.62	285.S		
AE 64.875	19.8.62	Juv.C.	Shincliffe, near Durham	9.9.62	270.S		
H 94.812	11.7.62	Juv.C.	Eggleston, Barnard Castle (Durham)	12.8.62	260.S		
AE 22.476	See appendix below						
AE 75.458	13.8.62	Juv.C.	near Kirkby Lonsdale (Westmorland)	9.9.62	240.SSE		
AC 02.748	11.8.62	Juv.C.	Barden, Bolton Abbey (Yorks)	9.9.62	225.SSE		
AE 66.508	11.8.62	Juv.C.	Barden	29.8.62	225.SSE		
AC 29.694	9.7.62	Juv.R.	Fairburn, Castleford (Yorks)	19.8.62	200.S		
AA 81.621	4.8.62	Juv.R.	Attenborough (Nottinghamshire)	12.8.62	143.S		
AA 81.691	5.8.62	Juv.R.	Attenborough	25.8.62	143.S		
AE 49.697	9.8.62	Juv.C.	Glasbury-on-Wye (Radnorshire)	8.9.62	130.SE		
AE 49.753	23.8.62	Juv.C.	Glasbury-on-Wye	9.9.62	130.SE		
H 97.439	22.7.62	Juv.C.	Rothley (Leicestershire)	27.8.62	127.S		
H 97.470	24.7.62	Juv.C.	Rothley	12.8.62	127.S		
N 11.009	See appendix below						
N 11.050	16.8.62	Juv.R.	Hartshill, Nunceaton (Warwicks)	3.9.62	120.SSE		
N 11.069	17.8.62	Juv.R.	Hartshill	21.8.62	120.SSE		
AE 57.942	12.7.62	Juv.C.	Wittering, Soke of Peterborough (Northamptonshire)	25.8.62	120.S		
AE 59.735	17.7.62	Juv.C.	Wittering	31.8.62	120.S		
AE 40.496	27.7.62	Juv.R.	Holbrook, River Stour (Suffolk)	12.8.62	110.SW		
AE 63.147	25.7.62	Juv.C.	Dunkirk, near Canterbury (Kent)	9.9.62	80.VSW		
N 05.831	28.8.62	Juv.P.	Elm Park, Romford (Essex)	3.9.62	66.SW		
SC 13.986	13.5.62	Ad.C.	Stanford-in-the-Vale (Berkshire)	24.8.62	62.SSE		
SC 22.250	11.8.62	Juv.C.	Stanford-in-the-Vale	9.9.62	62.SSE		
SC 38.707	26.8.62	Juv.C.	Stanford-in-the-Vale	9.9.62	62.SSE		
H 90.067	29.7.62	Juv.C.	Ashley Common, Ringwood (Hants.)	2.9.62	44.E		
AC 77.239	See appendix below						
AC 77.203	2.6.62	Ad.C.	Gorley, Fordingbridge (Hants)	24.8.62	43.E		
AE 37.827	4.8.62	Juv.C.	Gorley	2.9.62	43.E		
AE 37.888	25.8.62	Juv.C.	Gorley	8.9.62	43.E		
AE 48.364	12.7.62	Juv.C.	Betchworth, Dorking (Surrey)	28.8.62	35.SW		
N 02.827	28.7.62	Juv.C.	Casbrook Common, Romsey (Hants.)	25.8.62	35.ESE		
AE 61.116	1.8.62	Juv.C.	Seale, Farnham (Surrey)	8.9.62	27.S		
AC 00.367	8.8.62	Juv.C.	Hurstpierpoint (Sussex)	1.9.62	26.WSW		
AE 61.002	27.7.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham, Farnham (Surrey)	30.8.62	25.S		
AE 61.212	16.8.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham	9.9.62	25.S		

NOTES FROM COASTAL STATIONS, 1962

BEACHY HEAD

Since 1960 our group of observers have been visiting the vicinity of Beachy Head during spring and autumn migrations, for the purpose of ringing, and recording migration through the area. To date observations have been restricted mainly to weekends, although occasionally they have been extended for longer continuous periods of up to two weeks. During 1962 the Head was visited on 20 days in the spring, and on 31 in the autumn.

So far mist netting has been our only method of trapping, and has proved most successful at Whitebred Hollow just East of the Head. Although ringing activities in spring met with little success this year, high numbers of birds were trapped during the early autumn. The most successful days were on 5th August, when 101 birds of 19 species were ringed, including 42 Willow Warblers, and 17 Whitethroats; and on 19th August, when 111 birds of 16 species, including 55 Whitethroats, and 19 Willow Warblers were ringed. A total of 554 birds of 35 species were ringed in 1962, but it is thought that with more prolonged coverage at favourable periods this figure could be greatly improved upon.

Falls of nocturnal migrants during spring 1962 were in general very poor, and with few exceptions, summer visitors were later than usual. There were however the usual diurnal migrations, among the most notable being a large Northerly movement of Meadow Pits on 1st April, and unusually heavy movements of Linnets during April and May. Finch movements in general were however, later this spring, and in the case of Goldfinch, numbers were noticeably lower than usual. Undoubtedly the most spectacular movement of the spring was the heavy up Channel passage of Bar-tailed Godwits, but apart from this the migration of maritime species was unimpressive.

The largest autumn falls of nocturnal migrants occurred in August, when numbers of Warblers, and in particular those of Willow Warblers, were frequently very high. From mid September Chiffchaff became the dominant species of warbler, and it was about this time that Ring Ouzels put in the first of their numerous appearances.

Apart from a large Westerly movement of Swifts on 19th August, very little diurnal migration was noted until mid-September, when the main body of Hirundines began moving. This was followed in early October by a large Easterly passage of Goldfinches, Linnets, and Tree Sparrows, which persisted throughout the month, and was the last significant movement noted.

The Sussex Ornithological Society has now given a grant to establish Beachy Head as a ringing station under its control, and, due to the efforts of D. D. Harber, permission has been granted by Eastbourne Council to erect a Heligoland Trap, and use a hut at Whitebred Hollow. In conjunction with this project it is hoped to cover the Head more intensively in 1963, and to man it daily between mid-August and the end of September.

B. E. COOPER, J. F. COOPER, M. E. NOLAN and A. QUINN.

SELSEY BILL

The area was manned at all weekends and on many other days during the migration seasons. Continuous periods of observation were achieved in April from 6th to 30th; on 17 days in May; from 4th to 23rd August and from 13th to 30th September. Some 65 observers visited the "observatory" and besides those staying in the area for weekends some 15 stayed for longer periods. The hut at the tip of the bill is still in use as a headquarters but in view of

AE 61.233	16.8.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham	1.9.62	25.S
AE 61.244	16.8.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham	3.9.62	25.S
AE 61.247	16.8.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham	2.9.62	25.S
AE 61.260	16.8.62	Juv.C.	Wrecclesham	30.8.62	25.S
AE 48.384	15.7.62	Juv.C.	Storrington (Sussex)	2.9.62	15.WSW
AE 61.095	28.7.62	Juv.C.	Petworth (Sussex)	8.9.62	13.SW
AE 61.100	28.7.62	Juv.C.	Petworth	1.9.62	13.SW

Appendix: Same symbols as above but ringing data on first line, recovery data on subsequent lines

AE 22.476	13.8.62	Juv.C.	near Kirkby Lonsdale (Westmorland)	250.SSE
AC 77.239	15.9.62	P.	Selsey Bill (Sussex)	3.SW
	2.6.62	Ad.C.	Gorley, Fordingbridge (Hants)	44.E
	29.7.62	C.	Astley Heath, Ringwood (Hants)	
N 11.009	16.8.62	R.	Chichester	120.SSE
	16.8.62	Juv.R.	Hartshill, Nuneaton (Warwicks)	430.SSW
	9.9.62	R.	Chichester	
	15.9.62	Found	Arès (Gironde) France—44°47' N 1°08' W	
AC 20.764	14.7.62	Juv.R.	Chichester	88.ENE
	23.7.62	C.	Littlebourne, Canterbury (Kent)	

There were also three local recoveries, one killed by a cat in Bognor about 10th September had been ringed on the 2nd; the other two were retrapped in a roost at Sidlesham on the 13th by L. and J. Weller: they had been ringed on the 1st and 3rd of September.

TABLE II

NUMBERS OF SAND MARTINS AT THE CHICHESTER ROOST, 1962

(a) Numbers of birds present (+ = minimum; + + = possibly twice as many)

(b) Numbers caught (— = no trapping done)

	JULY			AUGUST		AUGUST		AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
	13/14	14/15	12/13	18/19	19/20	18/19	19/20	21/22	24/25	25/26	27/28	1/2	8/9	28/29	2/3
(a)	c.1000	c.1000	c.1000	1000 + +	5000 + +	10000 + +	15000 +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	15000 +	20000 +	c.30000	28000 +	c.200
(b)	3	46	177	12	154	309	299	97	323	309	75	240	429	—	—
(a)	1000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	15000 +	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29
(b)	97	323	309	299	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75	75
(a)	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +	10000 + +
(b)	177	126	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309	309
(a)	9/10	14/15	15/16	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29	28/29
(b)	c.30000	c.15000	c.11	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200	c.200
	386	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

possible building operations a lease has been taken on an adjoining strip of land. This means that till mid-1965 some form of base at the Bill-tip will be in use. Increased spoilation of the area around the Bill-tip has made the accurate compilation of the "daily census" increasingly difficult and it has been decided to switch efforts in this aspect of the recording routine to the area some way from the east of the Bill-tip extending to the Church Norton Pools. The whole area being known locally as the Severals. Thus sea and visible migration watching will be concentrated at the Bill-tip and daily census work at the new area. Modifications have been made at the Selsey sewage farm which prevented the lower field from flooding and by May the field was quite dry and unsuitable for waders.

Results for the year under review were somewhat disappointing. In the Spring sea-bird passage was unexciting save for some very large movements of Bar-tailed Godwits. A few moderate falls of passerines also occurred. September brought some moderate drift movements of passerines and very large hirundine emigrations chiefly of Swallows. Again sea-bird movement was small and passerine emigration and immigration in the late Autumn was well below totals in the three previous years. This somewhat gloomy picture was enlivened by many occurrences of unusual migrants and five species of "Rarity Committee" standard were observed. A total of 696 birds were ringed, an increase of 167 over 1961. Since 1959 a total of 1,391 birds have been ringed either at the Bill-tip, Severals or Selsey Sewage Farm.

In order to facilitate the analysis of material it is hoped that all observers visiting this locality will send in any records to B.A.E. MARR, 59 The Green, Southwick.

B. A. E. MARR and A. B. SHELDON.

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(At the Annual General Meeting of 23rd February, 1963, Dr. J. Stafford was elected President, and Mr. M. Hollings was elected Vice-President. Other officers and members of the Council were unchanged.)

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A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF SUSSEX

G. Des FORGES and D. D. HARBER

This guide is intended to provide a summary of the information that is now available on the distribution and occurrences of birds in Sussex. It summarises the status and distribution of all birds which the authors admit to the Sussex List and also gives information under each species on migration. The authors, who have been responsible since 1947 for preparing an annual report on the birds of the county, had had a unique opportunity to assess the validity of all records affecting the county since that date. Records before 1947 have been scrutinised and a number of doubtful ones have been discarded. The book is up to date to the end of 1961.

A short chapter outlines the topography of Sussex and this is supplemented by a quarter-inch to the mile map prepared for the purpose and by a number of photographs of types of country.

Each species, so far as appropriate, is dealt with in the same manner and the information is assembled in the same order as follows:—

- (1) Status
- (2) Breeding Information
- (3) Numbers
- (4) Where in the county the species occur
- (5) Migrations

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- (b) To assist in the preservation of wild birds in Great Britain.
- (c) To encourage by the use of films, books, meetings, outings and other means (i) The study of birds in the field and ornithological science generally and (ii) the education of its members and the general public in ornithological science and the need for protection of wild birds and their habitats.

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