

## RECORDING FOR THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

Consensus of information to date. 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* until 1948, when this publication ceased, and thereafter in the *Sussex Bird Report*. The most recent account is *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex* by G. des Forges and D. D. Harber (1963). Anyone wishing to find out what is known about the status of birds in the county should consult these works, and subsequent copies of this Report.

**Future Aims of the Society.** Much is still unknown and changes occur, sometimes quite suddenly. It is the task of the Society, through the Annual Report, to encourage research into the status of birds in Sussex, and to publish data relevant to this.

**Information wanted for the Sussex Bird Report.** This can be summarised under the following headings:

1. *Data that increase our knowledge of breeding species.* Even in those species apparently subject only to minor fluctuations, little is known of the total numbers of breeding pairs, or their distribution in different types of habitat. Systematic counts of breeding pairs in defined areas, and in different kinds of habitat, are welcomed and will normally be published. Such reports should, of course, be accompanied by information on the type and size of habitat. If these counts can be repeated annually for several years, their value is very greatly enhanced. Even more valuable is information relating to breeding species whose status in the county is uncertain, or believed to be changing. It is the task of the Society as a whole to organise breeding surveys of such species.
2. *Data that increase our knowledge of species which do not breed in the county, or of breeding species outside the breeding season.* Again, records should be based on counts or estimates of numbers of birds in a specified area, or flock sizes.
3. *Data relating to migration.* Many aspects of this are still imperfectly understood.
4. *Unusual occurrences.* Occurrences that on present knowledge are unusual or rare, concerning either species rarely reported, or records of commoner birds seen at unusual times of the year or in unusual localities.

**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. 55.

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.

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.

For details of the Sussex Ornithological Society and how to join please see page 61.

## THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT NUMBER SIXTEEN, 1963

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by

THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

PRICE: FIVE SHILLINGS

# THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1963

## THE COUNCIL AT 31st DECEMBER, 1963

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*Scientific Sub-Committee:*

D. R. Coda, D. D. Harber, M. Hollings, M. Shrubbs (Secretary).

(At the Annual General Meeting of 21st March, 1964, Messrs. M. A. Jennings and R. H. Charlwood were elected Hon. Assistant Secretary and Hon. Assistant Recorder respectively. Other officers and members of the Council were unchanged).

## INTRODUCTION

It is pleasing to be able to continue the publication of this Report on the more ambitious lines embarked upon last year and the continued support for the Society has enabled this edition to be considerably expanded. It is thus intended to give an adequate account of the Society's work during the year and to report in more detail on the data received from contributors. Various new features have been incorporated which it is hoped reflect these objectives. During the year R. H. Charlwood was appointed Hon. Assistant Recorder by the Council, to ease the extra work falling on D. D. Harber as a result of the increased flow of records. In the early part of the year *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex* by C. G. des Forges and D. D. Harber was published and has been well received. However it revealed serious gaps in our knowledge of breeding species and it is hoped that all those interested in this increasingly important sphere of ornithology will note the *Report on Breeding Bird Surveys* and the preliminary note on the *Survey of Sussex Woodland Birds* to be found in the following pages.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

The second year of the Society's life has been a very successful one, and although as anticipated a number of members left after the end of the first year, an initial "wastage" to be expected in a new body of this sort which covers such a wide area, membership climbed steadily again to reach 361 by the end of the year.

The first Annual General Meeting was held on 23rd February, 1963, at which the Honorary Officers were elected as set out above. The Council met on three

occasions under Mr. R. J. Sandison's Chairmanship, and discussed a wide variety of subjects. The Beachy Head Ringing Station was one such item and the Society made an allowance of £50 towards the cost of a Heligoland Trap and Ringing Hut. Details of the results achieved at Beachy Head appear on page 55. Unsuccessful attempts were made to have the Booth Bird Museum in Brighton improved and the water level in the ditches at Thorney Island lowered in the autumn to attract wading birds.

The draft Rules of the Society were approved by the first Annual General Meeting, and include provisions for reduced subscriptions for additional members of the family of an existing member living at the same address, and for students under 21, in addition to Junior Members aged 15 to under 18. The "Family Membership," which allows for attendance at Meetings and on Outings although not for receipt of an Annual Report or other literature, has proved to be popular.

The formation of the Scientific Sub-Committee changed slightly during the year when Mr. David Langford resigned on leaving the county, and his place was taken by Mr. Michael Hollings. The Committee made much progress during the year under its hard-working Secretary, Mr. Michael Shrubbs, who has been instrumental in mustering a most encouraging body of support for the breeding-bird surveys. It is in this field that the Committee has concentrated most of its effort, and the results of the investigation into the status of six species whose breeding distribution in Sussex is being carefully studied have been of great value.

Other studies organised by the Committee have included the commencement of regular counts of waders in Chichester Harbour and the adjoining Langstone Harbour (Hampshire), and a "pilot" Migration Watch one weekend in October, the forerunner of more regular watches of this nature, in an attempt to trace the movements across-country of the diurnal migrants whose movements at the coast are well-known through regular watching, but whose inland movements are not plotted. It is also hoped in 1964 to institute estimates of the population of the commoner species breeding in the county by the "time quadrat" method, some experimental counts having been tried by Committee members during 1963.

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1963, show an excess of Income over Expenditure for the year amounting to £77 15s. 11d., which added to the balance brought forward from 1962 brings the General Fund to £154 15s. 10d. at 31st December, 1963.

The Society held eight meetings in 1963, five in Brighton, one in Chichester, one in Haywards Heath and one in Hove. Films shown at these ranged from Heinz Seilman's unique "Woodpeckers" to the London Natural History Society's splendid "London's Birds." Mr. Jeffery Boswall tried gamely to describe "The Language of Birds" with a tape-recorder that wouldn't work, and Messrs. Marr and Sheldon gave a light-hearted account of "Migration in South-West Ireland." Hove Town Hall was booked on 19th January for a public showing of the R.S.P.B. film "Sea Bird Summer," and despite the appalling weather, nearly £30 was raised for the Society's funds.

Four outings were held during the year. Amberley Wildbrooks on 10th February was ruined by the weather, with a blizzard lasting most of the day and Dungeness on 20th April was similarly afflicted, with continuous pouring rain. Apart from the weather, however, the task of filling the coach to Dungeness was an uphill struggle, and it was far from full when it went; the difficulty seems to arise from the spread of members throughout the county, and the subsequent problems in reaching "collecting points." Thorney Island was bathed in sunshine, albeit windy, on 18th August and some 40 members had an enjoyable

day watching waders on the Deeps and in the Thorney Channel. Few birds were seen at Chichester Gravel Pits on 23rd November, although an enjoyable visit was made to Pagham Harbour afterwards.

Three Newsletters were issued to members and to the Press during the year and the local press have been very helpful in publicising the work of the Society. With regard to areas of outstanding natural importance in the county, we have now lost Manhood End, near Birdham, to a yachting marina. But Pagham Harbour is still safe, and it is hoped that before long the West Sussex County Council will be declaring it a Nature Reserve. The Rye Harbour ternery struggles on against increasing odds; the Society plans to take steps to improve the nesting islands in 1964 by removing surplus vegetation, having kept a watchful eye over the area in 1963.

Finally I would like to thank Mr. Tom Palmer for his great help in addressing envelopes for all the literature sent out to members during the year. I would like also to thank the numerous others who helped in so many different ways which made possible another year's encouraging progress.

#### REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The cold spell which began just before Christmas, 1962, continued throughout January and February although little snow and no rain fell during these months. Hard frost mostly persisted both night and day with perhaps some slight thaw about noon. As a consequence large numbers of birds of many species perished. Among those particularly hard hit were Little Grebes, Herons, Redshanks, Kingfishers, Wrens, Goldcrests and Grey Wagtails. Relatively few cold weather movements were recorded, most of these having already taken place in December. The cold, combined with the drought, drove many duck either down to the coast or out of the county altogether. Mallard left the interior for the coast, apart from some 500 at Weir Wood Reservoir. Teal mostly left altogether and Wigeon, though still well represented in the Amberley-Pulborough area, were unusually numerous on the coast. While Pintail largely stayed in the Amberley-Pulborough area, Shoveler mostly left the county. Diving duck were to be found almost exclusively in coastal waters. The largest flock of Eider on record for Sussex occurred off Selsey Bill in January. Goosanders were recorded in unprecedented numbers but Smew were less numerous than might have been expected. Whereas the numbers of duck were generally below normal, those of geese were much larger than usual and can be compared with those present in the similarly cold opening months of 1956. White-fronted Geese were particularly numerous, a rough estimate suggesting that c. 1,000 visited the county, about the same number as in early 1956. But the small parties of Bean Geese which occurred all along the coast had no precedent in 1956 or in any other year. Pink-footed Geese were also numerous and so were Brents. C. 40 Barnacle Geese, almost the same number as in 1956, were also recorded. Whooper and Bewick's Swans were also common though less so than in 1956. A few Bitterns turned up in a distressed condition on the coast.

The cold spell ended in early March and the end of this month and April were wet. Spring was again late and in SW. Sussex trees were not in full leaf until the second week in May. The first three weeks of May were dry and rather cold with often fresh westerly winds. Visible spring passage was on the whole poor, particularly so far as waders and terns were concerned, with numbers of e.g. Black-tailed Godwit well below normal. But this period brought us our rarest bird of the year, an immature Slender-billed Gull at Rye Harbour on

April 28th. This is the second British record of a species which has so far not been recorded here outside Sussex. On May 25th a fine, warm, sunny spell with occasional thunder storms set in with E. and NE. winds which lasted until June 14th. During this period a remarkable series of records of rarities relating to either south European or northern species, came from many parts of Britain, both Kent and Hants, having their share. Sussex, however, had nothing to show, no doubt owing to lack of observation.

As a consequence of the cold spell, many species, particularly, of course, those mentioned above, were very poorly represented during the breeding season, though others, such as the finches and buntings, did not seem to have suffered much. Breeding results seem in general to have been good.

After mid-June the weather was cooler and showery and this lasted, with westerly winds, until July 19th. A male Golden Oriole in the west of the county in early July may possibly have bred or attempted to do so. From July 19th to August 4th the wind was again in the E. and the weather fine and hot. After August 4th the wind was again westerly, often strong SW., with a good deal of rain and this lasted until September 11th. Passerine migration was on the whole below average but this period provided the only rare warbler of the year, a Melodious Warbler on the Crumbles on August 8th. Waders, apart from Black-tailed Godwits, turned up in moderate numbers. Unfortunately owing to the drying up of the Midrips-Wicks in recent years and the installation of the caravan site at Rye Harbour there are now few localities outside the Pagham and Chichester Harbour areas and the inland reservoirs where these birds can now be looked for with confidence. Darwell Reservoir had a Temminck's Stint in late August and early September and the Chichester Harbour area again distinguished itself with a Silt Sandpiper at Manhood End in early August. This is the second record for Sussex (the first being in 1962 in the same area) and the fourth for Britain. During this westerly spell there were three days with SE. winds, August 17th, August 29th and September 1st. The last few days of August and the first few days of September brought large numbers of migrants, including a number of rare ones, to the east coast of Britain. No large numbers were recorded in Sussex, though Black Terns were unusually numerous, but we had our share of the rarities in the shape of a Whiskered Tern at Darwell Reservoir on September 3rd. This was our first record and the only new species added to our list during the year. Pink-footed Geese again arrived extremely early, seven turning up at Midrips-Wicks on September 7th. Arrival on the east coast was unusually early this year.

Between September 11th and 23rd the wind was between SE. and NE. with mostly fine, sunny weather. Numbers of most migrants were still rather less than usual on the coast and the highlight of this period was the presence of at least two and probably three Goshawks at Beachy Head Kinging Station on 14th. Between September 8th and 16th three Tawny Pipits were recorded along the coast. From September 23rd to October 23rd the wind was generally westerly with some rain. The most striking feature of this period was the recording of all four species of skua at Selsey Bill on October 15th, an event without precedent so far as Sussex is concerned. In October also a considerable westerly passage of Eider was observed along the coast, the proportion of males being unusually large.

But the main ornithological happening of the whole year, not only for Sussex but for Britain as a whole, took place in the ensuing period of easterly winds which began on October 23rd and lasted until November 7th. On the night of October 29th-30th there was a very strong SE. wind. On the 30th there took place a remarkable invasion of Cranes. This occurred almost exclusively on the south

coast of Britain, and Sussex appears to have had more than any other county. How many we had cannot be stated with accuracy but it would seem that by November 4th, after which the last stragglers appear to have left, some 300 had visited the county. On November 1st and 2nd a Pectoral Sandpiper was present at Selsey Sewage Farm and it was no doubt during the same period that the Purple Heron which was found injured at Sidlesham on November 22nd first arrived.

After November 7th the wind was again westerly, mainly SW., often with rain, until November 30th. Grey Phalaropes and Little Auks were recorded in smaller numbers than in most recent years and Little Gulls were scarcer than usual throughout the autumn. On November 30th the wind changed to SE. and a fine spell with hard frost and light northerly winds set in and lasted until Christmas Day. This brought in a few hard weather wildfowl, including some White-fronted Geese, a party of eight Bean Geese and a few Whooper Swans. Numbers of most duck had reached a peak at inland localities in early December but flood waters were again low and the birds quickly moved out, few being present there at the end of the year. Our only Waxwing, a straggler from the hosts that had arrived earlier on the east coast, was recorded at Eastbourne on December 1st. From December 25th to the end of the year was a fine, mild SW. spell. The December wader count in the Chichester Harbour area revealed the presence of two Little Stints besides a record number of Bar-tailed Godwits, though relatively few Black-tailed. A Kentish Plover, our first for this month, was present on 1st and 14th. Chichester Harbour also held more Brent Geese than in any recent year.

#### CONTRIBUTORS

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R. B. Barstow	Miss R. E. Howard
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## CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1963

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER.**—As is usual only a few were reliably recorded and all these were for the first three months of the year; one in the Shoreham-Southwick area, January 20th-February 22nd (C.F.B., R.F.P., J.M.T. *et al.*); one, Cuckmere, February 9th (M.A.J., B.A.E.M.) while between January 23rd and March 8th W.W.A.P. found 5 dead, apparently from oiling, between Church Norton and Aldwick Bay.
2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—The only certain record for the early part of the year was of one dead at Pett Level on March 9th (J.R.H.). One off Langney Point on October 30th eventually flew off W (D.D.H.) and one there on November 25th (R.H.C.). One off Pilsea Island on December 1st (I.R.W.) and one off Selsey Bill on 8th.
4. **RED-THROATED DIVER.**—In the period January-March W.W.A.P. found 10 dead, apparently oiled, in the Pagham area. Towards the end of the year this species was commoner off Langney Point than has been the case recently at this time (D.D.H.).
5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE.**—Breeding records will be found in the report on the breeding surveys on p. 36. It will be seen that numbers were very considerably down as compared with 1962, no doubt as a result of the hard winter. On October 11th J.V.S. saw a pair with a young bird 2-3 weeks old at Chichester G.P. This is a very late date for breeding.
6. **RED-NECKED GREBE.**—The only record for the first part of the year was of a dead bird (oiled) near Pagham on February 15th (W.W.A.P.). Rather more than usual towards the end of the year; a bird of the year at Newhaven on September 28th and 29th (R.H.C., M.H.P., G.A.S.) and a similar (or the same) bird on the Cuckmere Old Channel on October 5th and 6th (J.W.C., I.R.W.). Two off Selsey Bill on October 6th (R.F.P., A.B.S.) and one there on 19th (R.J.J.). Two there on December 29th (E.T.W.). One in the Lower Cuckmere Valley on 7th (M.J.H., R.F.P., I.R.W.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on October 13th and November 17th (M.H.P., G.A.S., J.A.W.). This is only the third inland record for Sussex in recent years.
7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE.**—Only 3 were recorded in January-February, one of these apparently staying on into March. There were 2 records for April, one of these birds, in the Pagham area, staying on till the rather late date of May 5th (R.E.G., G.R.G., W.W.A.P. *et al.*). The only other records are for November-December and relate to not more than 2-3 birds in the extreme west of the county. All records were for the coast or its vicinity.
8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE.**—Only 2 were recorded in January-February and one in March. All were for the coast. Three off Selsey Bill on April 6th, 2 there on 7th and one on 18th (A.R.K., B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*). The only other record is of one at Pagham, December 5th-7th (G.R.G., W.W.A.P. *et al.*).
9. **LITTLE GREBE.**—Undoubtedly suffered severely during the cold weather at the beginning of the year. From January 1st to March 13th W.W.A.P. found 11 dead in the Pagham area. During the breeding season M.H. found it absent from several former breeding localities and numbers in autumn and winter were low—e.g. in 3 localities where nearly 80 had been recorded at that time in 1962 fewer than 20 were reported (M.S.).

- |                            |                    |                           |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| H. D. Marcuse              | D. Price           | M. H. Terry               |
| B. A. E. Marr              | A. Quinn           | E. P. Thorne              |
| Dr. R. G. Mayall           | J. Reaney          | C. R. S. Tordoff          |
| D. B. Maynard              | G. H. Rees         | Capt. G. C. Turner        |
| M. McVail                  | S. W. Rickards     | J. M. Twort               |
| C. J. Mead                 | R. C. Righelato    | E. M. Venables            |
| H. P. Medhurst             | H. P. Kay Robinson | C. M. Verrall             |
| B. Metcalfe                | J. E. Robson       | K. M. Veysey              |
| D. J. Millin               | N. F. Robson       | J. Warden                 |
| Dr. J. D. Mills            | R. L. Rolfe        | D. Washington             |
| G. M. Moll                 | Mrs. A. Röss       | Dr. A. Barrie Watson      |
| R. G. Newell               | R. J. Sandison     | E. T. Welland             |
| Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Newham  | R. E. Scott        | L. and J. Weller          |
| R. K. Norman               | J. T. R. Sharrrock | R. K. White               |
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| J. Pelling                 | D. Stone           | I. R. Willis              |
| F. P. Penfold              | D. Streeter        | R. J. Wilmshurst          |
| Miss F. Pillepick          | G. A. Sutton       | Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Wilson |
| Major W. W. A. Phillips    | R. G. Sutton       | T. G. Winter              |
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| R. F. Porter               | S. D. Taylor       | Cmdr. J. E. Woodward      |
| Dr. N. H. Pratt            | S. J. Teideman     | D. B. Wooldridge          |
|                            |                    | F. W. Woolley             |

NOTE: Records from the Selsey Bill—Several area coming from many observers are given without observers' names unless important observations are involved.

### Wildfowl counters for 1963-64 Season:

- R. B. Barstow (Powdermill Res.), J. W. Clark (Ashburnham Lakes), D. R. Coda (Glynde Levels), E. W. Deering (Manhood/Fishbourne), J. Fowler (Chiches-ter G. Pits), E. S. P. Harrison (Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters), L. Holloway (Pagham Harbour), B. A. E. Marr (Selsey Bill), Miss V. Maxse (Burton Ponds), G. M. Moll (Knepp Lake and Warnham Mill Pond), G. Mountfort (Possing-worth Park), M. H. Port (Weirwood Res.\*), J. Reaney (Darwell Res.\*), A. B. Sheldon (Amberley\* and Pulborough Levels\*).

\*Priority Localities

16. **MANX SHEARWATER**.—One off Langney Point on September 29th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One W. off Selsey Bill on November 17th c. 150 yards out (M.J.H., A.R.K., R.F.P., H.P.K.R.). One off there about a mile out on December 1st (M.A.J., E.T.W.). This is the first county record for this month.

**MANX, BALEARIC SHEARWATER**.—Sub-specific identification was not possible in the cases of the following records all of which are from Selsey Bill; one W. c. 14 miles out on April 17th; 2 W. c. a mile out on May 10th and one W. c. 14 miles out on 12th.

26. **FULMAR**.—Between March 22nd (Selsey Bill) and June 27th (Langney Point) a number were, as usual, recorded for the whole coast, from Pett Level westwards, the most seen together being 3. On May 28th S.H.F. saw two sitting together on the chalk cliffs which returned to the same spot when put up.

More autumn records than usual: one off Langney Point on July 31st; one at Beachy Head on August 19th (N.F.R.) and one at Holywell on 23rd (D.D.H.); single birds (possibly the same in each case) off Selsey Bill on August 18th, 19th, 22nd, 25th and 27th (M.S.A., P.B., S.D.T. *et al.*). One W. there on September 2nd.

27. **GANNET**.—A total of 22 flew E. at Selsey Bill on January 10th-11th (M.J.H., M.A.J., A.R.K.), an unusual number for this time of year. Records were otherwise much as usual, no large numbers being recorded.

28. **CORMORANT**.—On April 6th M.H.P. saw c. 50 at the roost in Arundel Park.

29. **SHAG**.—Fewer records than in recent years. In January one at Newhaven on 20th (R.H.C.) and 2 at Southwick on 22nd, which stayed until March 1st (J.M.T.). One off Selsey Bill on February 17th (M.A.J., B.A.E.M., R.F.P.). One at Hove, March 7th to April 10th (G.A.S.). A few off Selsey Bill in April and up to 8th May (A.R.K., B.A.E.M., I.R.W. *et al.*).

One off Seaford Head on August 18th (L.P.A.) and one seen off Selsey Bill on 15 days between July 7th and December 1st.

30. **HERON**.—All known heronries were visited, the numbers of occupied nests being: Fynings Moor, near Rogate, 2 (G.R.G.) (a new site); Fishbourne, 21 (J.P.); Pagham, one (W.W.A.P.); Parham, 11 (R.E.W.); Henfield, 3 (C.A.G.); Fife Park, 5; Glynde, none (E.P.T.); Eridge, 11 (D.R.C.); Glynleigh, 5; Priestshaws (a new site, an extension of Glynleigh), 8; Westham (a new site), one (J.A.H.); Warring, 2 (R.E.H.); Udimore, none (J.A.H.); Leasam, 5 (J.A.). This makes a total of 75 nests. Deducting 13 which were at sites either not known or not visited in 1962 we have a total of 62 as compared with 127 for that year—a decrease of over half, due no doubt to the hard winter in addition to the factors which have been operating over some years. It seems likely that a few more small heronries remain undiscovered.

At Selsey Bill one flew in from the S. on April 8th and one flew out SE. on 21st. On July 28th one flew E. far out to sea off Cuckmere Haven (R.H.C.). One flew out S. at Selsey Bill on September 23rd.

31. **PURPLE HERON**.—A first-year bird with a broken wing was found at Sidlesham on November 22nd. It had probably been in the area for at least a week and perhaps longer. It was kept for some time but died later (M.S.). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

38. **BITTERN**.—Occurred during the cold spells at both ends of the year; 2, Pagham Lagoon, January 12th (W.W.A.P.) and one there on 14th and 19th,

(W.W.A.P., H.P.K.R., A.B.W.); one near Newhaven on 24th (D.D.H.). One at Chichester G.P. on December 14th (G.A.S.); one at Burton (lower Pond on 26th (M.H.P., G.A.S., J.A.W.).

45. **MALLARD**.—A good breeding season in SW. Sussex (M.S.). Two pairs hatched young on the Downs near Beachy Head (T.B.). See also ringing report on p. 42.

46. **TEAL**.—The largest numbers recorded were for the end of the year: c. 1,500 at Amberley on December 8th (B.A.E.M.); c. 700 on Glynde Levels on November 6th (R.H.C.).

47. **GARGANEY**.—The first spring record was of a male at the Midrips on March 13th (R.H.C.). Once again the breeding situation was not investigated. No May records and only one for June.

49. **GADWALL**.—The only records for the opening months of the year were of up to 2 in the lower Cuckmere Valley, January 2nd to 10th (R.H.C., J.B.T., I.R.W.) and of one at Newhaven on 2nd (C.F.H., I.R.W.). One near Pulborough, March 23rd (B.M.).

More than usual towards the end of the year; one at the Wicks on September 14th (R.B.B., G.P.); one at Pett Level Pools, October 2nd (R.H.C.); 3 at the Severals, Church Norton, November 30th (B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*); one there December 21st-22nd (M.J.H., A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W.); one at Manhood End, November 27th (M.S.); 5 at Chichester G.P., December 8th and varying numbers there up to 29th, with maxima of 13 on 21st, 28th and 29th and 14 on 22nd (A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W. *et al.*). Not more than 10 had previously been recorded together in the county. Three on Wiston Lake, Steyning, December 10th (R.J.S.); 2 on Burton Lake, December 26th; 4 there 27th (G.A.S.).

50. **WIGEON**.—The cold weather early in the year drove many down to the coast; numbers in the Selsey-Pagham area in January being estimated at 3,000-4,000 (W.W.A.P., M.S.).

An unusual record of 2 off the Severals, Church Norton, on July 13th (M.S.). On November 8th c. 100 flew W. off Langney Point in c. 2 hours (D.D.H.). On December 8th, B.A.E.M. and R.F.P. estimated the numbers at Amberley to be 3,000-4,000.

52. **PINTAIL**.—The largest number recorded at the beginning of the year was c. 15 at Amberley and c. 50 at Pulborough on February 18th (A.B.S.). Similar numbers were recorded in this area towards the end of the year. One at the Wicks, July 29th and August 1st (I.R.H.).

53. **SHOVELER**.—C. 80, Amberley, April 7th-8th (S.R.S.).

One or two were present in the W. of the county up to May 19th. July records for both ends of the county suggest that breeding took place either locally or in a neighbouring county. Up to 18 at Thorney in August (B.A.E.M.). Numbers at the end of the year appeared to be small.

54. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD**.—A female at Arundel on March 3rd (J.R.) and probably the same bird at Chichester G.P., March 22nd-May 1st (J.V.S., A.B.W., *et al.*).

55. **SCAUP**.—Despite the cold weather, numbers at the beginning of the year were not large, most recorded being c. 150 off Bracklesham on February 2nd (J.R.) and up to c. 65 off Newhaven, January-March (D.D.H., I.R.W. *et al.*). A female at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 23rd (M.J.H.) and one there from May 11th (C.M.J.) to the end of the year (many observers).

56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—The largest number recorded at the beginning of the year was c. 250 off Pilsea Island on January 26th (A.B.S.).

Breeding took place at; Rye Harbour G.P. (2 pairs) (R.H.C.); Darwell Reservoir (4 pairs) (K.V.); Weir Wood Reservoir (2 pairs) (C.M.J.); Chichester G.P. (one pair) (J.V.S.).

There were 222 at Weir Wood Reservoir on October 13th (M.H.P.), an unusual number for this water.

57. **POCHARD**.—No unusual numbers recorded.

A pair flew W. off Langney Point on June 24th (R.H.C.). Three males at Chichester G.P. on June 4th and 2 there on July 17th (J.V.S.).

60. **GOLDENEYE**.—A good many occurred, mainly along the coast, during cold weather at the beginning and at the end of the year. Most recorded for the early part of the year were 66 off East Head on January 27th (G.A.S.) and 72 there on 31st (M.J.H.). These are the largest numbers to be recorded in the county. Most recorded for the end of the year were 34 in Chichester Channel on December 29th (M.J.H.).

One flying E. c. 200 yards off Selsey Bill on May 10th (M.J.H.). This is the first May record for the county.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—The only records for the beginning of the year were of 2 off Newhaven on February 3rd and 4th (L.P.A., M.J.H., I.R.W.) and 2 off Pett Level on January 27th (R.H.C.).

Two off Rottingdean on October 29th (L.P.A.). Up to 4 together in flight off Selsey Bill during November. A few more single birds for the coast, November–December.

62. **VELVET SCOTER**.—Few seem to have been present, though no figures are available for Rye Bay. Most recorded were 11 off Langney Point during December (D.D.H.).

64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—One at Weir Wood Reservoir on March 31st (R.V.W.), 5 there on April 11th (R.G.S.) and 12th (R.V.W.). Inland records are usually of single birds.

Numbers seem to have been small at both ends of the year though here again no figures are available for Rye Bay.

During April, the only month during which a daily watch was kept, c. 5,600 were recorded flying E. off Selsey Bill, the largest daily number being c. 1,000 on 8th. C. 850 flew E. off Beachy Head on April 21st (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), this being the largest daily total recorded elsewhere. C. 90 flew E. off Langney Point on June 13th (D.D.H.).

Autumn passage was recorded on a smaller scale with a maximum of c. 265 flying W. during 28 days of August off Selsey Bill.

67. **EIDER**.—C. 250 were recorded for January–February, including 114 off Selsey Bill on January 27th (R.F.P.)—the largest number for the county. The only adult male for this period was at Newhaven. March records relate to about 50 birds again including only one adult male (at Selsey Bill). In April–May, 96 flew E. and 76 W. off Selsey but some of these birds may have been counted more than once. Only very small numbers were seen elsewhere in these months. Eight flew E. at Selsey on June 7th. No July records.

A few, mostly single birds in August–September. An unusually large movement along the coast in October; on 12th 46 (12 males) E. off Worthing and 48

(14 males) W. there on 20th (R.J.S.); on 19th 11 (3 males) E. off Porto Bello, Brighton (A.B.S.); on 23rd 54 (32 males) W. off Langney Point and 15 (4 males) W. there on 25th (D.D.H.). No movement was recorded at Selsey Bill during October but there were 42 on the water there on 12th and smaller numbers later. In November a few, including c. 13 males were seen along the coast and there were c. 40 (30 of them males) at Selsey Bill on 2nd and 3rd and c. 90 there by 30th. There were still c. 60 (40 males) there on December 14th but numbers elsewhere in this month were very small.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**.—An unusual number of inland records; one at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 6th (R.L.R.); 5 at Southeast on January 13th and 9 there on March 3rd (K.V.); 4 on the Arun at Greatham Bridge on March 3rd (M.H.P.); one at Glynde on March 30th (M.J.H.). One at Darwell Reservoir on December 28th (K.V.).

During April, the only month in which a daily watch was kept, 267 flew E. and 81 W. off Selsey Bill, the largest daily number being 44 E. on 11th. No daily watch was kept there in the autumn but most, 117 W. and 22 E., were recorded in November with peak, 51 W., on 17th.

70. **GOOSANDER**.—At the beginning of the year even more were recorded than during the cold spell of early 1956, the total number amounting to c. 150, although some of these could, of course, have been counted more than once in different localities. Birds occurred along the coast, up river valleys and on such inland waters as were open. Most, c. 50, were seen at the mouth of Mill Stream, Burpham, on January 30th (F.P.P.). Other unprecedentedly large numbers were up to 29 (7 males) at Weir Wood Reservoir during March (M.H.P., G.A.S., R.V.W. *et al.*), and 16 at Southeast on January 13th (K.V.). Few were recorded in April. A pair flying W. off Selsey Bill on May 8th (M.J.H.).

The only records for the end of the year were of 3 flying W. close in off Langney Point on November 23rd (R.H.C.) and of one at Pagham on December 10th (W.W.A.P.).

71. **SMEW**.—Rather fewer than in 1956, only c. 80 being recorded during the cold spell early in the year. They occurred on the coast and wherever there was open water. Most seen together were up to 15, lower Cuckmere valley, January 2nd–4th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); 14 on Pagham Lagoon, on 5th (D.L.) and 11 at Brooklands, Worthing, on February 24th (H.P.K.R.). A few stayed on into March, the last being seen at Money Penny Pits, Rye, on 31st (R.E.S., *et al.*).

In December, 3 at Weir Wood on 15th (M.H.P., G.A.S.), one at Chichester G.P., 18th–22nd and 3 there on 29th (R.E.G., M.J.H., I.R.W. *et al.*); one at Darwell on 21st (R.V.W.), one at Pagham Lagoon on 27th (W.W.A.P.) and one at Pett Level Pools 27th (R.H.C.) and 30th (R.E.S.).

73. **SHELDUCK**.—During the January cold weather numbers at Pagham gradually increased from 100–150 on 2nd to c. 1,000 towards the end of the month. A good many were picked up dead (W.W.A.P.).

A pair nested in NW. Sussex, not far inside the county boundary. This is the furthest inland breeding record for the county. Two on Amberley Wild Brooks on May 26th (C.M.J.). A pair at Darwell on June 1st (K.V.). Apart from the usual breeding records a pair again bred successfully in the lower Cuckmere Valley (R.H.C., E.S.P.H.).

One at Weir Wood Reservoir on November 17th and one at Wiggonholt on December 26th (M.H.P., J.A.W.).

75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE.**—Five by the Adur at Coombes on January 21st (C.A.G.). Two at Weir Wood Reservoir on April 4th (R.G.S.). Two at the Midrips-Wicks on December 19th (D. Luckhurst per R.E.S.).

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—As was to be expected, a considerable influx took place during the cold weather at the beginning of the year. It is impossible to be precise as to numbers since some birds may well have been counted more than once but the following shows the approximate picture: *Chichester Harbour-Pagham Harbour*, c. 200 in early January (R.F.P., G.A.S. *et al.*) and c. 400, January 27th-March 6th (M.S.). *Amberley-Pulborough*, up to 18 in late January (M.H.P., A.R.K., A.B.S. *et al.*), numbers rising to 50-60 by the end of February (M.H.P., A.Q., S.R.S. *et al.*) and to 120-150, March 2nd-16th (B.A.E.M., B.M. *et al.*). *Steyning-Henfield*, c. 110 on January 8th (R.J.S.) and c. 80 on 21st (C.A.G.). *Shoreham-Lancing*, up to c. 100, January 6th-February 10th (C.F.H., F.S., J.M.T. *et al.*). *Hove-Brighton*, 80 W., January 1st (J.B.T.). 81 E., March 2nd (A.B.S.). *Burgess Hill*, c. 150 N. on March 4th (J.A.W.). *Sharpthorne*, c. 30 flying N. on January 1st and c. 150 N. on March 24th (J.E.R.). *Ouse Valley*, c. 150 between Lewes and the sea, January 3rd-7th (S.H.F.), otherwise up to c. 70 between Lewes and Barcombe on January March 3rd (D.D.H., F.P., G.A.S., I.R.W. *et al.*). One at Newhaven on March 27th (B.E.C.). *Cuckmere Valley*: February 2nd-March 2nd, up to c. 75 (L.A.C., A.R.K., I.R.W. *et al.*). *Beachy Head*, 28 E. on March 17th (J.F.C., M.E.N.). *Heathfield*, c. 90 in low flight on January 4th (per C.L.B.C.). *Pevensey Levels*, 14 on February 24th (R.H.C.). *Pett Level*, c. 125 on January 4th (R.H.C.) and 6th (D.D.H.). Then considerably fewer until February 27th when J.W.C. saw c. 75. *Broomhill-Midrips-Wicks*, January 4th, c. 70 (R.H.C.), 12th, 43 (R.E.S.).

The cold weather at the end of the year also brought some in: one W. off Selsey Bill and 12 NW. at Pagham (G.R.G.) on December 14th. 11 at Sidlesham on 19th and 15 there on 25th (J.V.S.), 2 flying W. at Porto Bello, Brighton, on 24th (A.R.K.), 7 in the Cuckmere valley on 27th (K.V., I.R.W.), and c. 50 there on 29th, 3 on Pevensey Levels on 30th (R.H.C.), one at Amberley on 29th (A.Q.), 31 over Runcton on 31st (J.V.S.).

78. **BEAN GOOSE.**—An extraordinary number of records; 2 on Broomhill Levels on January 4th (R.H.C.); 4, Bracklesham Bay, 11th-16th (M.A.J., R.F.P., M.S. *et al.*), and 6 there on 28th (M.S.); 2, Cuckmere Haven and 2, Newhaven, 20th (R.H.C.); 2, Lewes Brooks, 21st (M.J.H.); 3 at Newhaven on 24th (D.D.H.); 5 on Pevensey Levels on 27th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); 4, Ovingdean-Roedean, January 27th-29th and 5 there, February 4th-6th (B.A.E.M., M.H.P., G.A.S. *et al.*); 4 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on February 6th and 3 on Pevensey Levels on 24th (R.H.C.); 17 at Greatham Bridge on February 1st (M.H.), and in the Pulborough-Wiggonholt area until March 17th (M.H.P., J.R., R.J.S., G.A.S.).

On December 25th M.S. saw 8 at Sidlesham.

**PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.**—18 at Pett Level and 8 on Broomhill Level on January 4th (R.H.C.); 6 on Pett Level on 6th (D.D.H.); c. 60 on Pevensey Levels on 27th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one there on February 24th; 5 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on February 6th (R.H.C.); one at Newhaven on January 21st (M.J.H.) and 2 there on 26th (R.H.C.); 2 in the Adur Valley on January 31st (G.A.S.), February 2nd (M.H.P.) and March 3rd (J.R.); 17 in the Pulborough-Amberley area, January 27th (R.J.S.), February 25th (B.A.E.M.) and March 3rd (M.H.P.); 9 at Sidlesham, March 5th-7th (M.S.); c. 45 over West Wittering on January 6th (B.M.) and 8 flying W. at East Head on 26th (A.B.S.).

On September 5th 2 out of a party of 7 were shot at the Midrips-Wicks (D. Luckhurst per R.E.S.). Our second Sussex record for this month. On November 13th D.D.H. saw a flock of 46 flying W. off Langney Point. It may be noted that an unusually large arrival of these geese took place on parts of the East Coast during September.

80. **BRENT GOOSE.**—In Chichester Harbour the maximum number recorded at the beginning of the year was c. 500 on January 6th (B.M.). At Pagham up to c. 100 were present in January and February. Two dead, obviously shot, were found on January 21st. One man is said to have boasted of shooting 11 at a shot there! (W.W.A.P.). On Pett Level c. 110 on January 27th (D.D.H., R.H.C.) and February 24th (R.H.C.). Elsewhere the species occurred along the coast during the cold spell but not more than c. 40 were recorded together.

Between March 3rd and April 23rd E. passage along the coast was recorded at Seaford Head, Rottingdean and Selsey Bill, the largest number being c. 80 off Rottingdean on 5th March (L.P.A.).

Autumn arrival and passage was first recorded on November 9th at Selsey Bill and on a small scale throughout the month. On November 26th there were c. 500 in Chichester Harbour (R.E.G.) and by the end of the year 800-900 were present there (B.A.E.M., B.M. *et al.*), more than in any recent year. Elsewhere few were recorded in December.

**PALE-BREADED BRENT GOOSE.**—Eight on Pett Level on January 27th, 5 there on February 24th and one on March 24th. Four in the lower Cuckmere Valley on January 20th (R.H.C.). One at Pagham on January 27th (B.A.E.M.) and February 23rd (H.P.K.R.).

One at the Wicks on December 1st. One at Newhaven on 15th. Six at Cuckmere Haven on 29th (R.H.C.). One at Pagham on December 1st (B.M.).

81. **BARNACLE GOOSE.**—An influx almost equal to that of 1956. Twenty-five on Pett Level on January 4th (R.H.C.) and 6th (D.D.H.). Six on Rottingdean Golf Course on January 26th (M.H.). Eight on Shoreham Airport on February 13th (F.S., J.M.T.).

84. **MUTE SWAN.**—The largest flock recorded was of 95 on Hove Lagoon on December 28th (J.A.W.). One was sitting on a nest with eggs at Chichester G.P. on March 31st (T.G.W.). This is an early date.

85. **WHOOPEE SWAN.**—Three at Pagham on February 1st (M.H.). One at Fishbourne on February 3rd and 2 at Dell Quay on 22nd (S.P.E.). In the Amberley-Pulborough-Greatham area between January 19th and March 30th up to c. 20 were recorded (many observers). One was still present there on April 6th (A.M.E.). One frequented Swanbourne Lake, Arundel, January 29th-March 2nd (F.P.P., S.W.R., H.P.K.R.). Between January 24th and April 11th an immature (which was caught and ringed) was present at Shoreham. Between February 7th and 17th up to 10 were recorded there (C.F.H., M.A.J., F.S., J.M.T. *et al.*) and about the same number (perhaps the same birds) were seen further up the Adur Valley at Coombe, February 15th-18th (C.A.G., B.A.E.M., R.J.S. *et al.*). Thirteen near Lewes, February 2nd-March 3rd (G.d.F., M.J.H., A.R.K., F.P.). Three in the lower Cuckmere Valley on January 2nd; 4 flying N. over Eastbourne on 31st; 3 at the Midrips on February 13th (R.H.C.).

Four at Amberley on December 22nd; 6 flying E. over Pilsea on 31st (M.H.). Two at Amberley on 29th (A.Q.). Three in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 27th (K.V., I.R.W.).



86. **BEWICK'S SWAN**.—On January 6th a party of 42 flew low over Pett Level, eventually turning inland (D.D.H.). This is the largest party recorded for the county. Two at Darwell Reservoir on January 13th (J.R.). Two at Cuckmere Haven on 10th (J.B.T.). One at Newhaven on February 3rd (C.M.I.). One, perhaps the same, Lewes Brooks, February 24th-March 2nd (G.d.F., M.J.H., A.R.K.). Up to 16 in the Amberley-Pulborough-Greatham area, January 19th-March 31st (many observers). Five at Pagham, January 5th-17th (A.R.K., W.W.A.P., A.B.W. *et al.*). Eleven at Manhood End on 10th (C.F.H.).

91. **BUZZARD**.—The only records in any way suggesting breeding were of single birds seen in the same area on June 8th and June 23rd and of one in another locality on April 28th. Otherwise all records could well relate to passage or to wintering birds. There are two for March, one at Darwell on 17th (R.V.W.) and one for Bexhill on 30th (J.A.H.); then none till September when one near Seaford on 5th (R.G.N.), one perhaps the same, over Friston Forest on 7th (M.J.H.), 4 together over the Severals, Church Norton, on 20th (J.R.H.), one at Beachy Head on 22nd (J.F.C., D.D.H., M.E.N., A.Q.), one at Sullington on 29th (S.W.M.H., M.M.J.), one near Storrington on 29th (M.M.J.). These September records are, of course, most suggestive of passage. One near Pycombe on November 3rd (R.J.S.). There are 2 October records and one December record, all of single birds, for a possible nesting area in the W. of the county.

93. **SPARROWHAWK**.—Pairs bred, apparently successfully, in 11 widely separated areas and a number of single birds were seen elsewhere.

94. **GOSHAWK**.—An adult and an immature were seen in flight and at rest at Beachy Head on September 14th. A third, similar-looking bird, was also present but was only seen briefly in flight (M.E.N., A.Q.).

99. **MARSH HARRIER**.—On March 24th S.H.F. saw one in the Cuckmere Valley.

100. **HEN HARRIER**.—One at the Midrips-Wicks, January 27th and one at Camber, 4th. One, lower Cuckmere Valley, 2nd (R.H.C.), 4th (F.P., I.R.W.) and February 23rd (I.R.W.). One at Amberley, February 24th (M.H.P.) and March 27th (M.H.). One in the Sidlesham-Pagham area, January 7th-February 20th (W.W.A.P., M.S. *et al.*). One over Sullington Hill, October 12th (A.M.E.). One in the Selsey-Sidlesham area, October 31st-November 3rd (B.M., R.F.P., A.B.S. *et al.*). One in the lower Cuckmere Valley on December 29th (R.H.C.).

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER**.—One at Sidlesham on May 27th (M.S.). One at Beachy Head on September 1st (J.F.C., A.Q.).

103. **OSPREY**.—One at Beachy Head on September 3rd (M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Chichester G.P., September 14th to October 6th (J.V.S., A.B.W. and many other observers); 2 there on September 30th (R.H.C.).

104. **HOBBY**.—Seven pairs are known to have nested, 3 on the chalk and 4 on heathlands. Otherwise fewer recorded during the summer than in 1962.

105. **PEREGRINE**.—One at Glynde on January 6th (R.H.C.). One at Beachy Head on October 7th (B.E.C., J.F.C.). One at Selsey on October 17th. One in the lower Cuckmere Valley, November 1st to the end of the year (R.H.C., I.R.W.).

107. **MERLIN**.—In January one at the Midrips-Wicks, 6th-27th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One at Mile Oak on 18th (J.R.). One near Arundel on February

3rd (S.W.R.). One at Greatham Bridge on 18th (A.B.S.). One at Seaford Head on September 9th (M.H.P.). One on Pett Level on November 7th (D.D.H.). One at Sidlesham November 14th and 21st (M.S.). One near Harting on December 1st (G.R.G.). One in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 17th (I.R.W.). The absence of October records is most unusual.

110. **KESTREL**.—At Selsey Bill one flew in N. on April 12th and 3 in likewise on 17th. One flew out S. on May 26th. One flew in NW. at Langney Point on August 17th (D.D.H.).

117. **QUAIL**.—All records are for July—2 heard near Alfriston on 5th (M.J.H., A.R.K.); one heard at Sidlesham on 7th (M.S.); one heard at Falmer on 29th (A.R.K.).

119. **CRANE**.—The remarkable invasion of this species in late October and early November was almost entirely confined to the South Coast and was centred on Sussex and Hampshire, most birds being recorded in Sussex. Total numbers are very difficult to judge since these most conspicuous birds covered large areas during their stay and flocks broke up or joined up with others. The birds also had the habit of flying round in huge circles so that the same party would appear twice in the same locality within an hour, coming from the same direction on each occasion. The records which follow suggest, however, at least c. 220 visited the county and that possibly (though rather improbably) the number may have been as many as c. 450 while a reasonable estimate would be c. 300.

#### *Eastbourne-Lewes area.*

**October 30th.** At c. 11.0 a.m. a party of 22 flying E. at Beachy Head (T.B.). At c. 12.45 p.m. a party of 18 and one of 5 flew down the Cuckmere Valley and out to sea, S., at Seaford Head (R.H.C.). It seems very likely that the same birds were involved in both records.

**October 31st.** Between 4.0 p.m. and 5.0 p.m. one between East Dean and West Dean (J. Catford, P.D., C.F.H.).

**November 1st.** At 10.5 a.m. a party of 23 flying E-NE. from the lower Cuckmere Valley (I.R.W.). At 10.30 a.m. a party of 23 (no doubt the same) flying E. near East Dean and at 11 a.m. c. 18 in a freshly ploughed field between Friston and Jevington were soon joined by another party, presumed to be the 23 (P.D.). It seems quite likely that these 23 were the birds of October 30th which had returned from the flight out to sea. At 11.05 a.m. one came in from the W. at Cuckmere Haven and flew E. over the sea and at 11.45 a.m. another (immature) flew in from the W. and came down in the lower Cuckmere Valley (I.R.W.).

**November 2nd and 3rd.** A party of 36 arrived in the evening of 2nd and left early in morning of 3rd (R. T. Ball *per* G.d.F. and E.P.T.).

**November 3rd.** 9.45-10.15 a.m. a party of 12 over the Friston-Birling Gap area (E.H.). In the morning a party of 18 over Friston Forest and the Cuckmere. In the afternoon a party of 18 seen from Windover Hill flying over Glynde, Firle, Seaford and Eastbourne and last seen going towards Berwick (C.M.J.). At 2.15 p.m. a party of 18 (obviously the same) flying NE. at Beachy Head (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q. *et al.*).

**November 4th.** A party of 18 flying S. in late afternoon at Isfield. No doubt the 18 of the previous day.

#### *Adur Valley.*

**October 31st-November 2nd.** 22 (one a juvenile) between Henfield and Steyning (C.A.G., M.H.P., G.A.S., J.S. *et al.*).

- Pulborough-Amberley area.*  
**October 30th (about)-November 2nd.** A party of 16 on ploughed land at Pulborough (J.E.W.).  
**November 1st, 10,** Amberley Wild Brooks and 9 there on 2nd (F.P.P., A.R.).  
*Midhurst-East Harting area.*  
**October 30th.** At 4.0 p.m. a flock of c. 100 flying N. at Stedham (K.C.P.).  
**November 1st.** 33 came down for c. an hour in a field sown with autumn grain at East Harting (G.R.G.).  
**November 2nd.** C. 36 flew for some time between Harting and Midhurst and eventually flew off NE. (B.A.). It seems probable that the last two records relate to the same birds and it is quite likely that these were part of the flock of c. 100.  
*Sidlesham-Selsey area.*  
**October 30th.** A party of 12 and others making a total of 20+ in late afternoon at Sidlesham (M.S.).  
**October 31st.** A party of 12 (one a juvenile), later seen to fly E. out of sight and a party of 15 at Sidlesham (R.H.C., D.D.H.).  
**November 1st.** Party of 15 still present but eventually left NE. It contained 4 juveniles (M.S. *et al.*).  
**November 2nd.** Party of 17 watched for an hour in flight and eventually left NW. (S.T.G., J.R.H., M.S.). Also a party of 6 (M.S.). A juvenile in flight at Selsey Bill.  
**November 3rd.** At 8.0 a.m. a party of 21 arrived from the N. at Selsey and fed for 2 hours in fields, eventually flying SW. out to sea until lost to sight. About 2 hours later a flock of c. 57 arrived from N. and flew SSW. out to sea until lost to sight. In the evening a party of 12 in flight near Selsey S.F.  
 It seems likely that all or most of these Sidlesham-Selsey birds were part of the c. 100 at Stedham on October 30th.  
**120. WATER RAIL.**—Two were picked up dead at Pagham during the cold spell (W.W.A.P.).  
 The first autumn bird was seen on the Crumbles on September 25th (D.D.H.). Appeared to be less numerous than usual at the end of the year.  
 For a breeding record see report of the breeding surveys on p. 37.  
**121. SPOTTED CRAKE.**—One on the Crumbles on September 1st (D.D.H.); One at Thorney on 19th (J.B.). This was no doubt our share of the general influx which took place about this time.  
**122. CORNCRAKE.**—One flew in from the S. at Selsey Bill on April 29th, landing on arrival (M.J.H., A.R.K.).  
 One at Sidlesham on October 1st (M.S.).  
**126. MOORHEN.**—At Pagham W.W.A.P. found a few dead during the cold spell but considered that most survived. By the autumn numbers generally seemed to be normal.  
**127. COOT.**—At Pagham W.W.A.P. found 6 dead, January 12th-February 13th.  
 Two at the Midrips on April 27th were probably on migration (J.R.H.).  
 C. 1,250 at Chichester G.P. on December 21st (I.R.W.).  
**131. OYSTERCAATCHER.**—Maximum numbers recorded were c. 250 at the Rother estuary on February 24th (R.H.C.) and c. 500 at Pilsea on October 18th (M.H.).  
 Three pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour and two pairs at the Midrips-Wicks. Young were successfully raised by the last two (R.H.C.).

**133. LAPWING.**—A few began to return in the second half of February but most arrival was recorded in March.

The very scanty evidence available suggests that numbers of breeding birds were not greatly reduced and that the species had a good breeding season. No October or November movements were recorded from the coast which is unusual. The cold weather towards the end of the year brought the customary S. and W. movements.

**134. RINGED PLOVER.**—Between January 21st and February 11th W.W.A.P. found 6 dead, apparently of starvation, at Pagham. He noted that there were fewer than usual there at the end of the year. One at Amberley on February 18th (A.B.S.) which is unusual in winter. The maximum number recorded together during the year was c. 200 at Chidham on August 23rd (R.F.P.). C. 60 at Pilsea at high tide on December 29th (M.H., M.S.).

On August 28th in the late afternoon R.F.P. saw a party of c. 35 leave Pagham Harbour and, assuming V formation, fly high out to sea. A party of 9 behaved in the same way there at dusk on 29th.

See also ringing report on p. 40.

**135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.**—One at Darwell Reservoir on June 23rd (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One at the Wicks on August 1st (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir, on various dates from July 31st to August 28th (R.E.G., M.H., A.Q. *et al.*) and 2 there on August 5th (M.H.P.). One at Thorney on August 23rd (M.S.A., S.D.T.). One at Pagham on 29th (R.F.P.). One at Sidlesham Ferry, September 8th-17th (H.C.D., H.D.M., M.S. *et al.*).

**136. KENTISH PLOVER.**—One at the Midrips on April 21st (D.G.N.). One at Pilsea Island December 1st (A.R.K., B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*) and 14th, another being perhaps also present on the latter occasion (G.A.S.). There is no previous county record for this month.

**139. GREY PLOVER.**—W.W.A.P. found none dead at Pagham during the early months of the year. He saw c. 150 there on March 11th. Three at Sidlesham Ferry on June 20th (M.S.). Two at Pagham on July 21st (A.R.K.). The maximum number recorded together was 300-350 at Thorney-Pilsea on October 18th (M.H.). On December 29th there were c. 250 in the Chichester Harbour area and c. 140 at Pagham (*per M.S.*). On December 30th there were 22 at Rye Harbour (R.E.S.) rather more than is usual at that date.

**140. GOLDEN PLOVER.**—On March 3rd 8 flew S. from Selsey Bill and 8 flew in N. there on 7th.

One at Chidham on July 21st (B.A.E.M., R.F.P.), the earliest date for autumn arrival for the county. No big numbers recorded. A few left with Lapwings during the cold weather at the end of the year.

Birds showing the characters of the Northern race were recorded as follows; 2 or 3 at Sidlesham on April 3rd (M.S.), 5 on Applesham Farm, near Lancing on 19th (C.A.G.).

**143. TURNSTONE.**—W.W.A.P. considers that this species suffered very little at Pagham during the cold weather in January-February. He found only one dead there. The largest number recorded was c. 300 at Church Norton on April 27th (T.G.W.).

One flying W. off Hove on July 18th (G.A.S.). On November 24th 13, first seen far out at sea, flew into Pevensey Bay (R.H.C.). At the end of the year there were c. 90 in Chichester Harbour and about the same number at Pagham (*per M.S.*).

145. **SNIFE**.—Three pairs probably bred in the Wiggonholt-Pulborough area and 3 more at Amberley Wild Brooks (M.H.). The largest number recorded together was c. 400 on a ploughed field at Stoneham in the Ouse Valley on December 4th (S.H.F.).

146. **WOODCOCK**.—The cold spells brought birds to the coast at both ends of the year. Breeding numbers appeared to be normal.

150. **CURLEW**.—Between January 1st and March 7th W.W.A.P. found 14 dead, apparently of starvation at Pagham where he noted fewer than usual in autumn.

No one appears to have visited the usual breeding area but a pair bred successfully in a hitherto unrecorded area to the NW. of the county (G.R.G. *et al.*).

The usual small W. movement was recorded at Langney Point from June 11th and one flew in from the SE. and then continued W. there on 27th (D.D.H.). The largest number recorded was c. 1,000 at Chidham at high tide, August 11th-27th (R.H.C., D.D.H., R.F.P.). There were c. 550 in the Chichester Harbour area on December 29th (*per M.S.*).

151. **WHIMBREL**.—One at Thorney on June 30th (M.J.H.). C. 60 at Chidham at high tide on July 21st and c. 120 there on August 15th (B.A.E.M., R.F.P.), the latter being the largest number recorded together for the year.

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT**.—Only recorded in small numbers up to 14— in January and February. Not more than c. 100 recorded together (at Pagham) in March; not more than 60 together in April and no May records.

Three flying W. off Selsey Bill on June 7th. In July up to c. 250 in Chichester Harbour (B.A.E.M., R.F.P.) and c. 30 at Pagham (M.J.H., A.R.K.). Up to 300 were recorded in Chichester Harbour in August. No one seems to have investigated the position there in September-November but c. 130 were present on December 29th (*per M.S.*). Virtually all records for the year are from Pagham and Chichester Harbours.

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT**.—C. 350 at Pilsea on February 13th (B.A.E.M.). Up to c. 50 at Pagham, January-February (W.W.A.P.). C. 80 at Littlehampton on February 10th (A.B.S.).

Spring passage seems to have been on a smaller scale than usual with only c. 240 seen flying E. off Selsey Bill during 30 days of watching in April, most, c. 130, on April 20th. Otherwise the most seen in spring were 84 at Pagham on May 9th (C.F.H.).

Two flying W. off Langney Point on July 7th (D.D.H.). Numbers in autumn were small except for up to c. 200 at Chidham in August (R.F.P.). On December 29th c. 1,070 were counted in the Chichester Harbour area (*per M.S.*). This the largest number ever recorded in a single area in the county. There were 63 at Pagham on the same date.

156. **GREEN SANDPIPER**.—Wintering birds were recorded early in the year from East Head where 6 were seen in flight together by W.H.G. on January 19th. Such a party has not previously been recorded in Sussex in winter. From Shoreham-Lancing, one, January 15th-22nd (F.S.) and Hailsham, one on January 20th (K.V.).

One at Darwell on May 4th (R.V.W.). At Runcton, one on May 7th, 2 on June 9th and 12th, 4 on 21st and 3 on 24th and 27th (J.V.S.). One at Lewes

Brooks on June 30th (A.R.K.) and 3 at Thorney on the same day (A.B.S.). Autumn numbers were distinctly less than usual, c. 14 at Thorney on August 1st (R.F.P.) being the most recorded together.

November records were of one at Weir Wood Reservoir on 3rd (V.A. & P.J.W.), one at Sidlesham on 11th (M.S.), one at Selsey Sewage Farm, 16th and 24th (H.P.K.R.), one at Darwell on 17th (R.V.W.). But the only wintering birds recorded were one near Barcombe Mills and 2 at Ringmer (S.H.F.).

157. **WOOD SANDPIPER**.—One at Sidlesham on May 21st (M.S.) and perhaps the same one there on June 1st (H.P.K.R.). No other spring records.

Between July 13th and September 21st c. 12 were recorded for the coast, the most seen together being 4. The only inland record was of one at Darwell Reservoir on various dates in August (R.V.W.).

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER**.—None recorded for the early months of the year.

June records were of one at Sidlesham on 1st (H.P.K.R.), 3 at Darwell Reservoir on 1st, one on 15th and 7 there on 28th (K.V.), one at Burgess Hill on 3rd (J.A.W.), one at Chichester G.P. on 4th (J.V.S.).

One at Weir Wood Reservoir on November 9th and 24th (C.M.J.), one at Shoreham on 10th (F.S.). December records were of one at Brooklands, Worthing, to the end of the year (M.H., R.J.S.), and one at Fishbourne S.F. on 29th (M.J.H.).

161. **REDSHANK**.—This species undoubtedly suffered severely during the cold weather. W.W.A.P. found 60 dead birds at Pagham, January 11th-February 8th. Between February 1st and 7th R.H.C. saw c. 30 feeding on the beach along Eastbourne front.

For breeding records see the report of the breeding surveys on p. 37.

The largest number recorded together was c. 1,500 at high tide at Chidham on August 11th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On December 29th c. 600 were counted in Chichester Harbour (*per M.S.*).

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK**.—One at Shoreham, January 2nd-15th and perhaps the same bird there on March 5th (F.S., J.M.T.). One at Manhood End on January 5th (D.L.) and one at Pagham on 12th and 19th (D.L., M.S.).

On April 14th there was one at the Wicks (D.B.O.), one at Pagham (B.M.) and 2 at Dell Quay (R.K.W.). Up to 4 at Manhood End, April 20th-23rd and on May 13th (H.C.D., G.R.G.). One at Sidlesham Ferry, May 12th and 14th (M.S.).

One at the Wicks on June 12th (R.H.C.) and 22nd and 5 there on 30th (M.J.H.). Five at Thorney on June 30th (B.A.E.M.). These last two records no doubt relate to early return migration which has not been so clearly shown by previous Sussex records. Fifteen at Thorney on July 7th, c. 20 there on 14th, 18 on 19th and 20th and 9 on 28th (M.J.H., A.R.K., B.A.E.M., R.F.P.). No such numbers have previously been recorded in the county in this month. One at Chichester G.P. on July 30th (M.S.A., P.B., S.D.T.). Not more than c. 50 were recorded for the coast in August and September including 26 at Thorney on August 14th (M.H., R.F.P.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 30th (B.M.). One at Manhood End on October 6th (A.B.S.) and 10 at Thorney on the same date (G.R.G.). One at Shoreham on 23rd which stayed until the end of the year (C.F.B., F.S.). One at Pilsea on December 29th and 31st (M.H.).

**165. GREENSHANK.**—Two at East Head on January 19th (W.H.G.). Numbers in spring seem to have been small with not more than 3 seen together. One at the Wicks on June 12th (R.H.C.).

Two at Thorney on June 30th (M.J.H., B.A.E.M.). Between July 4th and 31st c. 13 were recorded outside the Chichester Harbour area. In the latter locality there was a maximum of 19 at Thorney (M.H.) and 31 at Chidham (B.A.E.M., R.F.P.) on July 21st, though some of these birds may have been counted in both localities. The largest number recorded for the autumn was 52 at Chidham on August 2nd (R.F.P.).

There were no November records but in December 2 were reported; one at Sidlesham on 7th (M.H.) and Pagham on 8th (N.F.R.) and one at Manhood End on 8th (M.S.) and 29th (R.J.S.).

**169. KNOT.**—The cold weather at the beginning of the year brought more than usual to the coast. Up to c. 30 together at Pagham in January-February and 8 found dead there, apparently from starvation, up to March 13th (W.W.A.P.). At Climping, 114 on February 27th (M.H.). Thirty in the lower Cuckmere Valley on January 2nd (R.H.C.). Thirty at Camber on February 18th (D.B.O.).

The most recorded together in spring were 27 at Rye Harbour on May 31st (D.B.O.). Three at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 12th (R.H.C.) and 2 there on 22nd (M.J.H., K.V.). One at the Wicks on July 3rd (R.H.C.). C. 100 at Pilsea on October 18th (M.H.).

In December 30-40 at Pagham on 21st (W.W.A.P.) and c. 400 Pilsea-Thorney on 29th (M.H.). The latter is the largest number to be recorded together in the county in recent years.

**170. PURPLE SANDPIPER.**—The largest number recorded was 15 at Newhaven, January-April.

**171. LITTLE STINT.**—The only spring records were of one at Sidlesham Ferry on May 20th and 2 there on 21st (M.S.).

The first autumn record was of one at the Wicks on July 21st (R.B.B., G.P.) and 25th (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and there was one at Shoreham on 31st (M.A.J., B.A.E.M., R.F.P.). Between August 1st and 17th September c. 25 were recorded for the coast, most, 9, being seen at Sidlesham on August 24th (H.C.D., G.R.G.). Two at Darwell Reservoir on September 1st (K.V., R.V.W.) and 4th (D.D.H., M.N., A.Q.). Two at Pilsea on October 17th (R.J.S.).

No November records but one at Pilsea on December 1st (M.H., B.A.E.M., M.S.), 2 there on 29th (M.H., M.S.) and one there on 31st (G.R.G.).

**173. TEMMINCK'S STINT.**—One at Darwell Reservoir on August 25th and September 1st (K.V., R.V.W.). Full descriptions have been recorded.

**176. PECTORAL SANDPIPER.**—One caught and ringed at Selsey S.F. on November 2nd was still present on 3rd (M.J.C., B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*). These are the latest dates for the county.

**178. DUNLIN.**—Between January 12th and February 11th W.W.A.P. found 15 dead, apparently of starvation, at Pagham including one which had been ringed in Sweden (for details see ringing report on p. 42). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on March 10th (R.V.W.), an unusual date for inland.

C. 50 at the Wicks on July 12th (R.H.C.).

C. 50 W. on November 17th was the largest autumn coastal movement recorded at Selsey Bill. At Langney Point c. 130 flew W. in 2½ hours on November 21st (D.D.H.) and c. 165 flew W. there on 22nd and c. 30 on 24th (R.H.C.).

**179. CURLEW SANDPIPER.**—No spring records.

Two at the Wicks on July 29th (J.R.H.). Otherwise only c. 12 were recorded, August 1st to November 3rd (the latter record being for Selsey S.F.), all from the coast.

**181. SANDERLING.**—One on Amberley Wild Brooks on February 18th (A.B.S.). This is the first inland record for the county.

**STILT SANDPIPER.**—One at Manhood End, August 7th-13th (R.H.C., D.D.H., M.S., J.V.S. *et al.*). For details of this record, the second for Sussex and the fourth for Britain, see *Brit. B.*, vol. 57, pp. 126-7.

**184. RUFF.**—Two at Pett Level on January 6th (D.D.H.). One at Seaford on 5th (J.R.W.). Up to 4 at Newhaven, January 15th-March 10th (D.D.H., M.J.H., J.R.W. *et al.*). One at Shoreham, January 1st-March 4th (M.J.H., F.S., J.M.T. *et al.*). Up to 3 at Pagham, January 2nd-March 2nd (G.R.G., W.W.A.P., M.H.P. *et al.*). One at East Head on February 13th and one at Wiggonholt on March 9th (B.A.E.M.).

The only spring records (and these may have related to one of the birds given above) was of one at Sidlesham on April 29th and one there on May 20th (M.S.).

One at Sidlesham on July 14th (R.E.G.). Between August 1st and September 21st only c. 16 were recorded, including one at Darwell Reservoir on August 25th (K.V., R.V.W.) and 27th (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

No October or November records but in December 4 at Amberley and one at Wiggonholt on 15th (M.H., B.A.E.M.) and one at Sidlesham on 28th (G.R.G.).

**185. AVOCET.**—One at Sidlesham Ferry on March 26th (G.R.G., A.B.W.). One at the Midrips on April 19th (N.H.P.).

One at Sidlesham Ferry, December 7th-9th (B.M., R.J.S., M.S. *et al.*).

**187. GREY PHALAROPE.**—One off Langney Point on November 21st (D.D.H.) and 2 there on 24th (R.H.C.). One at Selsey S.F., November 23rd-December 2nd (A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W.).

**189. STONE CURLEW.**—Breeding records will be found in the report of the breeding surveys, p. 38.

**193. ARCTIC SKUA.**—Between April 11th and May 26th 59 were seen flying E. along the coast, 47 of them off Selsey Bill.

An immature off Langney Point on June 20th (D.D.H.) and an adult there on 24th (R.H.C.). One off Seaford on 24th (L.P.A.). Two off the Midrips on July 14th (J.R.H.). One off Langney Point on 31st (R.H.C.).

One off Selsey Bill on July 7th and 3 or 4 off there during the rest of the month. From August to October c. 100 were recorded for the coast, most of them at Selsey Bill. In the latter locality there were also 6 on November 17th and one on 18th.

**194. GREAT SKUA.**—One off Beachy Head on April 15th (L.P.A.). One off Selsey Bill on 17th (R.M.L., R.F.P., I.R.W. *et al.*). Five E. there, April 20th-22nd. One E. there on May 5th (M.A.J., R.F.P., M.S. *et al.*).

Two off Selsey Bill on August 17th (B.A.E.M.). Single birds there on 18th (R.M.L., R.F.P., E.T.W.) and 26th (R.L.K.J., R.F.P.). One off Langney Point

on September 29th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One there on October 13th (D.D.H.). One off Selsey Bill on 15th (R.J.S.). One off Langney Point on November 2nd (D.D.H.) and one there on 10th (M.H.P., G.A.S.). One off Selsey Bill likewise on 10th (A.R.K., B.A.E.M., R.F.P. *et al.*). One there on December 1st (M.A.J., E.T.W.).

**195. POMARINE SKUA.**—All records are from Selsey Bill. One W. on August 25th (M.J.H., M.A.J., B.A.E.M. *et al.*). Immatures on September 1st (M.J.H., E.T.W., M.A.J.) and 14th. On October 15th 7 flew W. all close in, 2 of them over the land (R.J.S.). A large S. movement of skuas including many of this species had been observed on the E. coast the previous day.

**196. LONG-TAILED SKUA.**—One seen at a range of down to c. 50 yards off Selsey Bill on October 15th by R.J.S. who has given a detailed description from which the following is extracted; "hovering easily and skimming the surface for food as Black Terns are often seen doing . . . I was most impressed by the graceful, dainty and buoyant flight . . . quite unlike the previous 18 skuas that had passed through that morning . . . *Head.* Cap very dark and clean-cut at edges, leaving a white collar over the nape. Lower cheeks very light (no yellow seen). Throat and breast quite white, fading to dark ash under-parts. *Upper-parts.* Although uniformly brown, not very dark . . . with suggestion of darker brown to rear of trailing edges. Wings thinner and more slender than in Arctic. Slight white flash in region of carpal joint, noticed only because of close range. Mantle and tail, same grey-brown. *Under-parts.* Underwing . . . slightly lighter brown with similar very faint flash near carpal joint. *Tail.* Streamers very evident and appeared longer and spikier than any adult Arctic's." This is our first record since 1942.

**198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—C. 30 at Amberley on January 27th (M.J.H., A.R.K., B.A.E.M.). This is an unusual number for an inland locality in winter.

On April 7th 86 flew E. off Selsey Bill, the largest daily total for the month.

**199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—More recorded than usual in winter. Seven at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 6th (R.L.R.). Two off Selsey Bill on 11th. One at Broomhill Level on 13th and 3 off Hastings on 26th (R.H.C.).

In December 3 at Pett Level Pools and 7 at Camber on 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.) 5 at Shoreham on 7th and one still there on 31st (F.S.), 10 at Chichester G.P. on 28th (I.R.W.) and 25 at Selsey Bill on 8th and 4 there on 22nd.

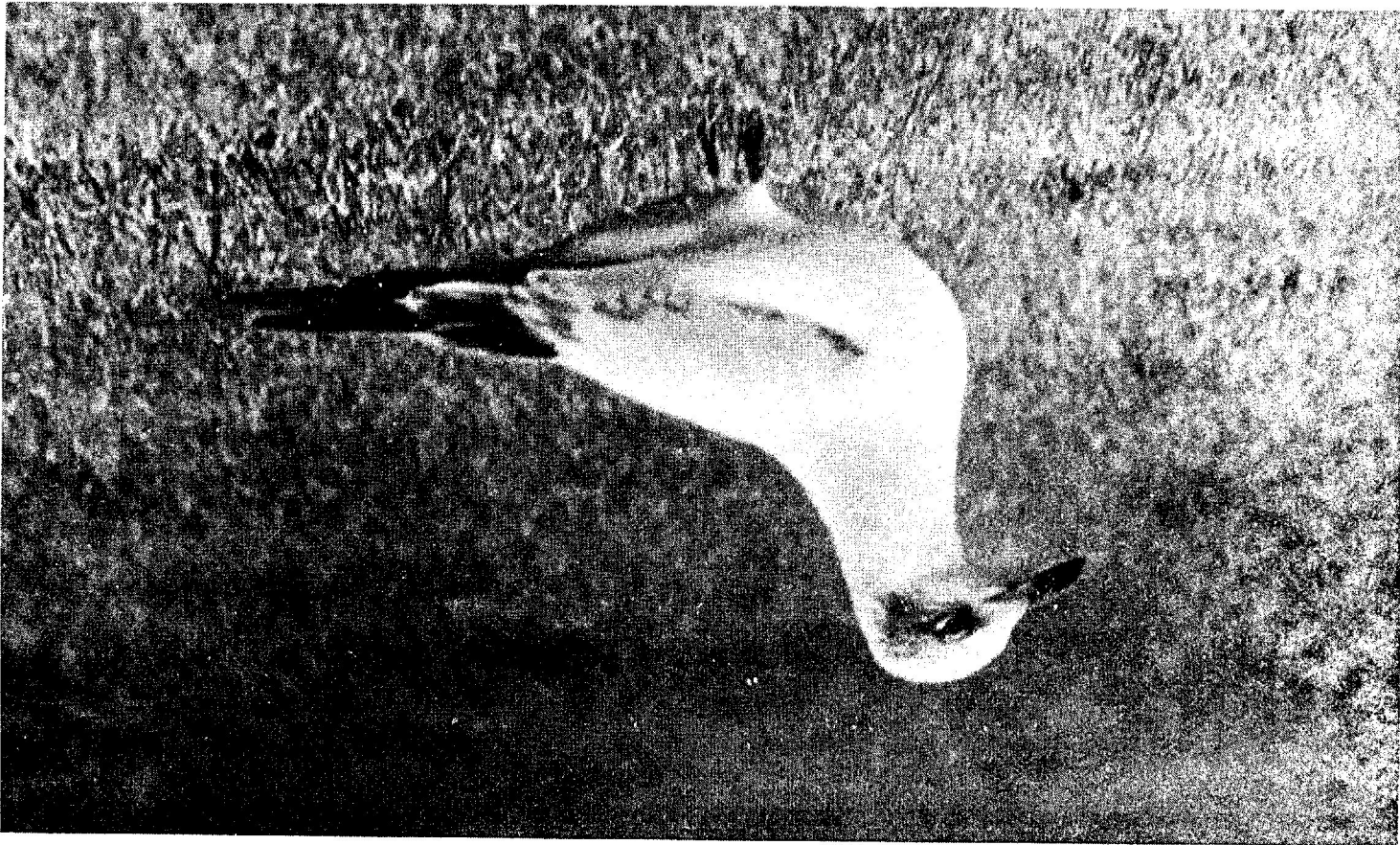
**200. HERRING GULL.**—Between February 11th and March 8th W.W.A.P. found 3 dead at Pagham.

Largest E. movements recorded at Selsey Bill were 144 on March 3rd and c. 100 on April 7th.

On May 18th D.D.H. found that 3 pairs had nests on islands in one gravel pit and one in another in the Rye area. This is the largest number of nests in this area in recent years. At least one pair raised young (K.V.). At least 6 pairs nested on houses at St. Leonards (W.P.W.).

**201. COMMON GULL.**—Between February 8th and March 7th W.W.A.P. found 7 dead at Pagham.

During a daily watch at Selsey Bill during April c. 2,200 flew E, most 7th-13th and 21st-27th.



Mediterranean Black-headed Gull at Hove Boating Pool  
(Photographed by R. H. Chartwood)

A pair bred successfully at the Midrips-Wicks (R.H.C.).  
An adult at Langney Point as early as June 15th (D.D.H.) though this could have come from the Dungeness area.

**SLENDER-BILLED GULL.**—A first year bird at Rye Harbour G.P. on April 28th (R.H.C.). For details of this record which is the second for Sussex and for Britain see *Brit. B.* vol. 57, pp. 81-2.

**205. MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—A second-winter bird at Exeat Bridge on January 4th (D.D.H.). An adult near Newhaven on 15th (M.J.H.). There are only 2 previous county records for this month.

A first year bird c. 50 yards off Selsey Bill on May 1st (M.A.J.).  
One at Southwick on July 8th (R.F.P.). An adult in almost complete summer plumage off Selsey Bill on August 6th (A.R.K.). An adult in winter plumage at Manhood End on 13th (R.J.J., A.R.K., R.F.P.). An adult off Selsey Bill on October 13th (M.J.H., A.R.K., I.R.W., R.F.P.). An adult at Camber on November 5th (K.D.E.).

A first year bird at Hove Boating Pool from November 17th to the end of the year (G.A.S and many others). This bird was successfully photographed by R.H.C. A second winter bird at Porto Bello, Brighton, on December 24th (A.R.K.). There is only one previous December record for the county.

**207. LITTLE GULL.**—No spring records but an immature, freshly dead, was found at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 12th by R.H.C.

Again a good deal scarcer than usual in autumn, 5 being recorded in August, c. 7 in September, 4 in October, and c. 5 in November. All these records are for the coast except for 2 immatures at Weir Wood Reservoir on August 28th (M.S.A., P.B., W.G.F., S.D.T.). This is only our second inland record in recent years.

On December 1st R.H.C. saw a party of 13 (all adults except for one first year bird) fly from the N. and then out over the sea wall at the Wicks. This is the largest party recorded for the county.

**208. BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—Between January 21st and March 11th W.W.A.P. found 19 dead at Pagham.

R.H.C. estimates that c. 300 young flew at Rye Harbour G.P.

**211. KITTYWAKE.**—At Selsey Bill 52 were seen flying W. during May, most, 10, on 6th. The largest daily totals of W. passage there in autumn were 95 on October 15th and 292 on November 17th.

**212. BLACK TERN.**—The only April records are of 2 E. off Selsey Bill on 23rd, and one E. there on 25th. In May c. 15 were recorded, most seen together being 6 at Chichester G.P. on 29th (A.B.W.). All June records are for 2nd when there were 3 at Rye Harbour G.P. (J.A.H.), one at Pett Level (J.R.H.) and one at Chichester G.P. (A.B.W.).

No July records. Between August 6th and September 30th c. 110 were recorded, most being seen on August 30th—c. 22 at Weir Wood Reservoir (B.M.); August 31st—14 off Selsey Bill; and September 1st—12 at Darwell Reservoir (K.V., R.V.W.), 4 off Langney Point (D.D.H.) and c. 16 off Selsey Bill.

In October 2 at Pagham on 9th (J.W.C.), one at Newhaven on 10th and 20th (I.R.W.), one off Langney Point on 13th and one there on 25th (D.D.H.). The last is a rather late date.

214. **WHISKERED TERN.**—On September 3rd D.D.H. watched an adult in winter plumage for c. half an hour at Darwell Reservoir. This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* but since it is the first for the county (and also the first sight identification of one in this plumage for Britain) a full account is given here. "Watched, often in the company of a Black Tern, through binoculars and telescope at ranges of mostly 30-100 yards. Distinctly larger than the Black Tern, particularly in length. Tail more obviously forked than that of the Black Tern, though not to the extent of that of a Common/Arctic Tern. Whole of mantle, wings, rump and tail pale grey. Forehead white and crown also white with some black markings apart from the back of crown which was black as were ear coverts. This black joined by grey of back at nape i.e. no complete white collar. Whole of under-parts white. No dark patches at sides of breast and no black or blackish anywhere else in plumage than as given above. No brown anywhere in plumage. Bill distinctly thicker and somewhat longer than that of Black Tern. Tip blackish and base dark reddish. Call "kiik" somewhat like one of calls sometimes heard from Black Tern. Flight that of a marsh tern but more vigorous than that of Black Tern. Kept to shallow end of reservoir and fed from surface of weed-covered water." The field identification of the marsh terns in winter plumage is discussed in the 1963 edition of *The Popular Handbook*. A fuller discussion will be found in *Brit B.*, vol. 53, pp. 243-252.

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN.**—One off Selsey Bill on August 26th (R.L.K.J., R.F.P.) and one, perhaps the same, there on 29th (A.A., R.L.K.J., R.F.P.). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

217. **COMMON TERN.**—Three pairs attempted to breed at the Midrips-Wicks (R.E.S.) and c. 100 pairs attempted to do so at Rye Harbour G.P. though with little success (R.H.C., R.E.S.).

A party of 15 flew W. off Langney Point on June 12th (D.D.H.).

218. **ARCTIC TERN.**—One at Langney Point on April 12th (J.R.H.). One at Langney Point on October 13th (D.D.H.).

**COMMON/ARCTIC TERN.**—A very late bird seen off Selsey Bill on November 23rd (A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W.).

219. **ROSEATE TERN.**—Two off Selsey Bill on May 7th and 2, perhaps the same, on 10th (M.J.H.).

One there on August 16th (A.R.K.) and one on 26th (R.L.K.J., R.F.P.).

222. **LITTLE TERN.**—Three off Selsey Bill on April 11th (C.M.J., B.A.E.M., R.F.P., I.R.W.). An early date.

C. 20 pairs attempted to breed at the Midrips-Wicks and 5 pairs at Rye Harbour (R.H.C.). Full data are not available for Pagham but not more than c. 6 pairs may have tried to breed there.

October records for Pagham are 7th, c. 3; 19th, 3; 20th, one (W.W.A.P.). The last is the latest autumn date for Sussex.

223. **SANDWICH TERN.**—The only March records were of single birds on 30th and 31st at Selsey Bill. During April, the only month during which a daily watch was kept, c. 1,070 were seen flying E. off Selsey Bill, highest daily total being 245 on April 17th and 257 on 20th. On May 25th 114 flew E. there. Up to 4 were seen together along the coast during June.

From the beginning of July to September 14th 838 were seen to fly W. off Selsey Bill (a daily watch was not kept), most, 320, on August 29th. One flying W. there on November 3rd (B.A.E.M., R.F.P.). The second November record for the county.

226. **LITTLE AUK.**—On November 21st 2 together and a single bird flew W. off Langney Point (D.D.H.).

227. **GUILLEMOT.**—Oiled birds of the Northern race were found dead at Pagham as follows; January 18th, one; 31st, one; February 8th, one; 15th, 2 (W.W.A.P.).

One showing the characters of the Northern race off Langney Point on November 30th (D.D.H.).

230. **PUFFIN.**—One flying E. off Beachy Head on May 19th (B.E.C., J.F.C.). One found dead at the Midrips on April 12th (J.R.H.).

234. **WOOD PIGEON.**—Considerable movements took place during the cold spell early in the year; c. 1,000 over Littlehampton on January 3rd made off W. (M.H.); thousands flying E. over Brighton on 6th (J.B.T.); c. 4,000 E. at Selsey Bill on 11th.

In the Harting area numbers appear to have been considerably reduced. Figures of "nest poking" from the local Pest Control authority show that whereas in 1962 a total of 572 nests were so dealt with, during the same period and for the same area in 1963 the number was 398 (G.R.G.). Huge numbers were, of course, shot during the cold spell.

Very little autumn movement was recorded.

235. **TURTLE DOVE.**—A freshly dead bird was found beneath telephone wires near Lewes on April 7th (S.H.F.). A very early date.

One at Sidlesham on October 31st (R.H.C., D.D.H.) was last seen on November 3rd (R.E.G.). This is the first county record for this month.

**COLLARED DOVE.**—Continues to spread as a breeding species in the Bexhill-Little Common area (J.A.H.) though no details of numbers are available. Seen on many dates from April onwards in the Beachy Head area with a maximum of 10 in autumn (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Continued to breed in Littlehampton though numbers apparently less there (M.H.). Three or 4 pairs bred at Selsey. In addition nesting was attempted at Ringmer (S.H.F.) and birds were seen at Lions Green (K.V.), Afriston (L.A.C.) and Cakeham (C.M.J.).

241. **BARN OWL.**—Nesting records of this species would be particularly welcome. Very incomplete evidence based upon birds seen hunting suggests that its numbers have declined.

246. **LITTLE OWL.**—The above applies also to this species.

247. **TAWNY OWL.**—Such evidence as is available suggests that this species was little affected by the cold spell and that it maintains its numbers in the county.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL.**—Fairly numerous during the cold spell; one at the Midrips on January 13th, 2 at Camber on 27th (R.H.C.); one at Shoreham on January 8th (F.S.) and c. 6 in the Shoreham-Lancing area, February 17th-18th (C.F.B., F.S., J.M.T.). Five at Littlehampton on February 3rd (A.R.K., M.J.H.). One at Pagham during January (W.W.A.P., H.P.K.R.). Seven at Selsey S.F. on March 17th. The latest spring record was of one in the latter locality on April 18th.

The first autumn record was of one at the Severals, Church Norton, on September 22nd. One at Seaford Head on October 6th (I.R.W.). Single birds at Beachy Head on October 13th and November 3rd (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). All other records for the end of the year relate either to the Selsey-Sidlesham area where up to 8 were present in late October and early November but only one

or 2 at the end of December, or to the Midrips-Wicks area where one was present in November-December (R.B.B., G.P.).

252. **NIGHTJAR**.—One on the beach at the Severals, Church Norton, on April 15th was a fairly early arrival.

Such evidence as is available suggests that this continues to be a fairly common and widely distributed breeding species in suitable localities. A pair bred successfully on the top of the Downs near Worthing (M.H.).

255. **SWIFT**.—The following summer movements were recorded at Langney Point; June 13th, party of c. 20 flew in N. against the wind; 16th, 5 in all flew in N. also against the wind (D.D.H.); 19th, 6 flew out SE.; 24th, 26 flew out SE. (R.H.C.).

258. **KINGFISHER**.—Very incomplete information suggests a big decrease in numbers following the cold spell. Several observers note that an odd bird was the only one recorded during the year. It is, of course, many years since anyone investigated the breeding of this species in the county and the above remarks are based almost entirely on birds seen outside the breeding season.

261. **HOOPOE**.—In April one shot at Cooper's Farm, Patching, on 6th (M.A.J., F.P.P.), one near Arundel on 12th (F.G.), one at Beachy Head on 15th (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), one at East Head on 19th (G.M.M.), one found dead at West Worthing on 22nd (*per* E.M.V.), one at Birdham Canal on 23rd (J.P.K.), one at the Devil's Dyke (C.F.H.) and 2 at West Dean (L.K.) on 25th. One near Hurstpierpoint College, May 5th-14th (J.B.T.).

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER**.—A marked decrease after the cold weather, at least in some areas. In the Findon Valley-Cissbury-Steyning area only one pair was located though the species had previously been quite common there. None found at Marley where one or 2 pairs bred regularly and a decrease noted in the Rye area. In West Sussex areas where at least 6 pairs bred in 1962 only 2 pairs and a single bird were found.

263. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**.—No apparent change in status according to reports received.

One flying W. near cliff edge at Fairlight on October 13th (J.R.H.).

264. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER**.—Very little information available as to any change in status after the cold weather. Still present in its usual haunts in the Findon Valley-Cissbury-Steyning area.

265. **WRYNECK**.—One at Sidlesham on April 22nd (G.A.S., R.G.S.). One at Mayfield on 26th (H.H.). One alongside the railway at Three Bridges on July 28th (D.J.M.).

One at Manhood End on September 15th (H.C.D., G.R.G., D.L., M.S., A.B.W.). One at Aldwick Bay on 17th (W.W.A.P.). One on the Crumbles on 25th (D.D.H.).

272. **SKYLARK**.—On January 1st, with severe weather, there was a continual W. movement recorded over Brighton (J.B.T.) and c. 1,200 NE-SW. over the Downs behind Worthing (M.A.J.). At Selsey Bill during April, 61 flew out to sea and 29 flew in.

Between September 15th and November, 159 flew out to sea and only 8 in from the sea at Selsey Bill, where there were also coastal movements of 114 E. and 120 W. At Beachy Head between September 23rd and November 9th, 54 came in from the sea, 75 flew E. while 49 moved W. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N.,

A.Q.). Small movements were recorded elsewhere on the coast. On October 26th R.V.W. saw a small W. passage at Darwell.

273. **SHORELARK**.—Three at the Midrips on January 13th and 27th, February 14th and March 13th (R.H.C.).

Two near Bracklesham on November 1st (B.M.).

274. **SWALLOW**.—One at Chichester G.P. on March 24th (R.E.G.).

The largest departure out to sea between S. and SW. at Selsey Bill was on August 30th when c. 1,000 left. There were c. 11,000 flying E. at Selsey Bill on September 12th, and on the same day c. 18,000 moved E. at Beachy Head. On October 6th, c. 10,000 flew W. at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

On December 1st there were 2 at Church Norton (B.M.). See also ringing report on p. 40.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN**.—One at Chichester G.P. on March 22nd (A.B.W.). An early date.

Largest movement at Selsey Bill in the autumn was on September 15th when 880 flew E. On the same day at Beachy Head c. 1,800 flew E. On October 7th, c. 4,000 moved W. there (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Two flew in NW. at Langney Point on November 23rd (D.D.H.).

On December 1st there was one at the Tide Mills, Newhaven (R.B.), and 3 at Church Norton (B.M.).

277. **SAND MARTIN**.—For details of the roost and recoveries at Chichester G.P. see special note on p. 52. On August 29th, birds roosting at the Severals, Church Norton, were estimated at 40,000.

Two at Paghham on October 19th, and one at Aldwick Bay on October 21st (W.W.A.P.). Two at Chichester G.P. on October 27th (H.C.D.).

278. **GOLDEN ORIOLE**.—A male was seen and heard at West Harting on July 7th (G.R.G., M.S.).

279. **RAVEN**.—One flew over Chichester Harbour on March 31st (S.R.S.).

281. **HOODED CROW**.—One on Camber Sands on January 4th (R.H.C.). One first recorded at Goring at the end of 1962 was last seen there on March 15th (R.M.L. *et al.*). Probably the same bird was seen at Worthing on January 30th and February 14th (J.F.D.).

One on Camber Sands on December 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

282. **ROOK**.—Ten came in from the sea at Langney Point and flew N. on April 22nd (R.H.C.).

At Selsey Bill in March a total of 14 birds flew out to sea SW-SSE., on 3 days. Three arrived S-N. on March 31st. In April, 18 arrived from the S. on 4 days and 9 flew S. out to sea. On May 8th 2 flew SSW. out to sea.

At Selsey Bill on October 19th, 4 flew S. and on 27th, 2 came in SW-NE.

283. **JACKDAW**.—One came in N. at Beachy Head on March 10th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

At Selsey Bill 4 flew out SW. on April 23rd. Arrivals were seen on March 30th, April 7th and 12th involving 9 birds.

See also ringing report on p. 41.

286. **JAY**.—A flock of 21 on the cliff edge at Fairlight on October 13th (J.R.H.). At Beachy Head 6 moved W. on October 6th and 18 moved E. on October 19th. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Parties of up to 11 seen flying W. over Ringmer October 10th-15th (S.H.F.). At Sidlesham, birds flying N-S. were, 11 on October 14th, 2 on 21st, and 3 on the 27th (M.S.).



289. **BLUE TIT**.—C. 130 at Beachy Head on October 6th was the largest number recorded there. C. 60 of these were moving W. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

A party of 9 came in from the W. at Belle Tout on October 26th (D.D.H.). At Selsey Bill between September 28th and October 21st c. 84 birds flew off between N. and W.

See also ringing report on p. 41.

290. **COAL TIT**.—Three near the cliff edge at Fairlight on October 13th showed the characters of the continental race (J.R.H.).

Seems to have been more severely affected by the winter than other members of the tit family. In the Rye area none of the usual breeding haunts held any birds, and the species was described as very scarce in other areas. Figures from West Sussex give the general impression of one pair occurring where there might have been 2-3 pairs in 1962. At Marley and Friston Forests however, numbers were found to be well up to strength.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT**.—Although there was a very marked decrease due to the severe winter, a recovery seems to have taken place, especially in the E. half of the county.

295. **BEARDED TIT**.—On January 8th there was one (a male) N. of Pagham Harbour (G.R.G., W.W.A.P.).

Two on the Crumbles on November 13th (R.H.C.).

296. **NUTHATCH**.—Two family parties in hangers on the Downs above Barlington on July 7th (M.H.P.). Appeared generally to have been little affected by the cold weather.

298. **TRECREPPER**.—Found very scarce by most observers in the county, though in the Crawley area they do not seem to have been much affected by the cold weather.

299. **WREN**.—Probably the most affected of all the common birds by the severe winter. All observers noted a great scarcity, but there was an increase after the breeding season, though numbers were nothing like up to normal. In 9 localities in West Sussex where 13 pairs nested in 1962 only 3 pairs and one male found (M.H.).

301. **MISTLE THRUSH**.—On October 6th, 100, of which 80 moved W., at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). On October 30th, there were c. 50 at Cuckmere Haven (R.H.C.). See also ringing report on p. 41.

302. **FIELDFARE**.—Cold weather movements were recorded on January 6th when c. 250 flew W. at Newhaven (A.R.K.), and large flocks moved W. over Brighton (J.B.T.). On the same day at Selsey Bill 152 flew W-E, and 7 arrived S-N. On January 13th parties of up to 75 moved W. the whole day in Rye Bay (R.H.C.).

Three flew in S-N. at Selsey Bill on October 27th.

See also ringing report on p. 41.

303. **SONG THRUSH**.—No evidence of any serious decline in breeding numbers. A good many along the coast at Langney Point, Eastbourne, and Belle Tout on October 25th (D.D.H.). Twelve at Langney Point on the 26th (R.H.C.). See also ringing report on p. 41.

304. **REDWING**.—Cold weather movements were recorded on January 6th, when large flocks moved E. over Brighton with one very large flock moving W.

(J.B.T.), and on the same day at Selsey Bill, 50 flew E. and c. 150 flew out S. On January 11th, 12 flew out SW. there.

On October 2nd there were 8 at the Wicks (R.H.C.). On November 29th 117 flew N. at Burgess Hill (J.A.W.). At Selsey Bill 4 flew in S-N. on October 20th.

See also ringing report on p. 41.

307. **RING OUZEL**.—Between April 12th and May 5th c. 11 were recorded from the coast and the Downs.

One was trapped and ringed at Beachy Head on August 29th (B.E.C., M.E.N., A.Q. *et al.*). This is the first county record for this month. Fewer than usual—only c. 20—were reported from mid-September to the end of October but November records were unusually numerous; one at Church Norton on 3rd (T.G.W.); one between Lancing and Worthing on 9th (D.C.); c. 20 at Beachy Head on 9th with 2 still there on 17th (B.E.C., M.E.N., A.Q. *et al.*).

308. **BLACKBIRD**.—No evidence of any decrease in numbers owing to cold weather.

The maximum total recorded at Beachy Head in spring was c. 30 on May 19th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

A considerable influx seems to have taken place in the second half of October; on 19th c. 250 in a small area near Amberley Castle (W.H.G.); on 25th a good many along the coast between Langney Point and Belle Tout (D.D.H.); on 26th and 27th 10 at Langney Point (R.H.C.); on 27th c. 40 at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Another influx was recorded towards the end of November with c. 80 at Cuckmere Haven on 17th (R.H.C.) and c. 40 at Beachy Head on 24th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

See also ringing report on p. 41.

311. **WHEATEAR**.—First recorded on March 16th with one at Newhaven (A.R.K.) and 5 at Camber (D.B.O.). About 75 in the Selsey area on April 2nd.

In November, 2 at the Cuckmere Haven on the 1st (I.R.W.), one near Sidlesham on 3rd (B.M.), one at Langney Point on 5th (D.D.H.) and 7th (R.H.C.), and at Selsey Bill on 10th.

One at Porto Bello on December 7th and 8th (M.J.H., A.R.K., R.F.P.).

For breeding records see the report on breeding surveys on p. 38.

317. **STONECHAT**.—Breeding records will be found on the report of the breeding surveys on p. 39.

318. **WHINCHAT**.—There are a number of late records. One at Langney Point on October 24th (R.H.C.). One on the Crumbles on 26th (N.F.R.). One at Selsey Bill 27th-29th (M.J.H., A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W.).

One between Goring and Ferring on November 2nd and 3rd (D.C.).

320. **REDSTART**.—A pair raised 4 young in a hole in a sandy bank behind a tennis court at Blackdown Common (I.G.W., P.M.B.)—an unusual site.

More numerous than usual in autumn at Beachy Head with c. 35 on August 29th and c. 20 on September 13th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

One flew in S-N. at Selsey Bill on September 21st.

One was trapped on the Crumbles on October 24th and another on 25th. One at Belle Tout on 26th (D.D.H.). At Selsey Bill one on 27th-28th (I.R.W. *et al.*) and in November one was present there 2nd-3rd (M.J.H., A.R.K., R.F.P., I.R.W.). Our second record for this month.

321. **BLACK REDSTART**.—No wintering records at the beginning of the year. First seen on March 17th when there was one at Darwell (R.V.W.), one at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), and one at Selsey Bill. Only 8 other birds recorded up to May 5th.

A female was seen at Brighton on June 8th (A.B.S.).

Between September 28th and November 27th, c. 14 were recorded including one by Goodwood Racecourse on October 19th (B.A.E.M.), and one at Hailsham October 26th to November 11th (K.V.).

In December single birds were seen at Winchelsea Beach, Porto Bello, Southwick, Shoreham and Lancing.

322. **NIGHTINGALE**.—On May 16th R.R.L. heard 14 singing over  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the "Bluebell Line." Scarcer than usual on autumn passage.

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—One at Thorney Island on September 20th (W.G.B., G.M.M., F.W.W.). A first winter male was trapped and ringed on the Crumbles on October 16th (D.D.H.). The latest autumn record for the county.

325. **ROBIN**.—One arrived from the sea at Selsey Bill on April 8th (M.A.J., R.F.P., I.R.W.).

A small influx at Holywell, Eastbourne, on August 28th. One trapped appeared to be of the British race (D.D.H.).

On October 26th-27th, there seems to have been a general influx with 4 at Langney Point and many on the Crumbles (R.H.C.), several at Holywell and Belle Tout (D.D.H.), 20 at Beachy Head (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), and at Selsey Bill between 26th and 29th there was an increase to between 23 and 43. See also ringing report on p. 41.

327. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER**.—One was caught and ringed at Beachy Head Ringing Station on October 6th (B.E.C., J.F.C., R.H.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). This record, our second for October, is the latest for the county.

333. **REED WARBLER**.—C. 16 pairs bred at the Severals, Church Norton. In October, 8 at Pett Level Pools on 2nd (R.H.C.), 2 at the Severals and one at Selsey Bill on 6th, 3 N. of Pagham Harbour on 7th (W.W.A.P.) and one at Beachy Head on 9th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

337. **SEDGE WARBLER**.—C. 7 pairs bred at the Severals, Church Norton, and 7-9 pairs did so at Selsey Sewage Farm.

The last record was one at Beachy Head Ringing Station on October 9th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

See also ringing report on p. 42.

339. **MELODIUS WARBLER**.—D.D.H. had good views of one on the Crumbles on August 8th. Since this species is now no longer on the list of rarities dealt with by *Brit. B.* a description is given here. "Upper-parts greyish brown. Under-parts yellowish. Yellowish eye-stripe. Typical long, broad, *Hippobais* bill, brownish on upper mandible and yellowish on lower. High forehead. Wings without pale mark, short and rounded, this being noticed both in flight and in relation to tail when closed." The eighth record for the county.

343. **BLACKCAP**.—A female was trapped and ringed at Burgess Hill on January 25th (J.A.W.).

Exceptional numbers at Beachy Head during September and early October with a maximum of c. 60 on September 10th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), when I.R.W. saw c. 20 in a small area of Friston Forest.

A female was trapped and ringed at Norton on December 22nd (A.S.C.). See also ringing report on p. 41.

346. **GARDEN WARBLER**.—Three at Beachy Head on October 6th and one there on 7th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Selsey Village on October 26th (M.J.H., R.F.P., I.R.W.). The latest date for the county. See also ringing report on p. 42.

347. **WHITETHROAT**.—Maximum recorded at Beachy Head were c. 100 on September 28th, numbers there being generally lower than usual (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Selsey Sewage Farm on November 4th (R.F.P.). Our fifth record for this month.

See also ringing report on p. 42.

348. **LESSER WHITETHROAT**.—Numbers in autumn at Beachy Head were perhaps even higher than in 1962. Maxima there were c. 20 on August 23rd and c. 30 on September 9th (B.E.C., A.Q. *et al.*).

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER**.—R.H.C. states that one pair seems to have bred successfully in the area where breeding took place in 1962. One was seen in another area on September 14th (D.J.M.).

356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—The first arrivals were recorded on March 12th, when there was one at Shoreham (F.S., J.M.T.), and one at Steyning Mill Pond (R.J.S.).

One at Beachy Head on November 9th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Runciton on November 7th, December 2nd, 3rd, 27th, and 31st (J.V.S.). One at Holywell, Eastbourne, on December 7th (N.F.R.), one (singing) at Spithurst on 12th (R.R.L.), one at Weir Wood Reservoir on 15th (M.H.P., G.A.S., J.A.W.).

See also ringing report on p. 42.

364. **GOLDCREST**.—After the severe winter a very marked decrease noted by all observers. In the Marley area where it is normally common none were found breeding and in fact for the whole county there is only evidence of two pairs nesting, though no doubt more than this did so.

Only two spring records for the coast.

In autumn between October 9th and November 3rd only c. 8 were recorded on the coast.

365. **FIRECREST**.—At Beachy Head two on November 3rd and 3 on 9th (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Wiggonholt Common on December 1st (C.M.J.).

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—In spring a male at Selsey Bill on April 27th-28th; a male at Beachy Head (J.F.C., A.Q.) and a male at Felbridge (G.C.T.) on 28th. One in Old Park Wood, Chichester Harbour (M.C.) and 2 at Sidlesham Ferry (M.S.) on 30th. One at Runciton on May 2nd (J.V.S.), and one at Church Norton on May 11th (R.J.J., N.H.P.).

Between August 9th and October 6th c. 60 were recorded.

371. **HEDGE SPARROW**.—Did not seem to be greatly affected by the severe winter, particularly in urban areas though numbers in woodlands were down. In autumn fewer than usual at Beachy Head (A.Q.) and on the Crumbles (D.D.H.).

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—The largest movement in spring was recorded on April 7th-8th when c. 900 flew in at Selsey Bill.

In autumn between September 2nd and November 23rd, c. 1,500 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill and c. 423 flew in there while c. 460 flew E-W. and c. 102 flew W-E. The period September 12th-23rd produced most movement with birds coasting E. or departing SE.

At Beachy Head c. 480 E. September 12th-13th and c. 600 E. on September 22nd, on which day c. 1,000 were present. On October 19th 90 flew W. there (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).  
See also ringing report on p. 42.

**375. TAWNY PIPIT.**—One at Seaford Head on September 8th (M.H.P.). One at Rye Harbour G.P. on 14th (K.V.). One at Langney Point on 16th (L.A.C.). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

**379. ROCK PIPIT.**—C. 35 at Pilsea Island on December 1st (M.J.H., A.R.K., B.A.E.M., R.F.P., I.R.W.).

**380. PIED WAGTAIL/WHITE WAGTAIL.**—Very little spring movement recorded.

Several observers regard this species as reduced by the severe winter. A roost at Udmore which normally holds up to 200 birds was occupied by about 60 this year.

In autumn at Selsey Bill between September 12th-October 31st, 253 flew out to sea, and 27 flew in there while 230 flew W. and 67 E.  
See also ringing report on p. 42.

**381. GREY WAGTAIL.**—Appears to have suffered badly from the severe winter. No breeding records were sent in and numbers on the coast in autumn much less than usual.

See also ringing report on p. 43.

**382. YELLOW WAGTAIL.**—The few breeding records received suggest a continued decline, particularly in the E. of the county. One flew NE. at the Severals on October 27th (M.A.J., B.A.E.M.). The latest date for October.

**383. WAXWING.**—On December 1st one was seen in Eastbourne (*per* R.H.C.).

**384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE.**—One in Ashdown Forest on January 9th (A.R.K.), and one there on March 17th (M.H.P., G.A.S., R.J.S.).

One at Beachy Head on November 3rd (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). One at Amberley Wild Brooks on 4th (M.H.).

One was seen just inside the county boundary near Charlwood (Surrey) on December 31st (R.J.B.J.).

**388. RED-BACKED SHRIKE.**—The only record is of one below Cissbury Ring on September 15th (R.J.S.).

**389. STARLING.**—The only cold weather movements recorded were on January 1st with c. 2,000 E-W. in 15 minutes over Worthing (M.A.J.) and 6 out S. at Selsey Bill on the 6th.

C. 60 flew out SE. at Langney Point on March 31st (K.V.). At Beachy Head E. movements were 40 on March 17th, 148 on April 13th, and 50 on 14th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). At Selsey Bill from March 3rd to May 19th, 988 departed out between SE-SW. while 33 arrived S-N.

Between September 14th and October 31st at Selsey Bill c. 2,800 flew out between SE-SW. with peak movement on October 26th when 1,200 flew out there. During this period only 64 arrived S-N. there. On October 20th 350 flew in N. at Fairlight (J.R.H.). On 24th c. 30 flew in N. at Langney Point (D.D.H.).  
See also ringing report on p. 42.

**392. GREENFINCH.**—At Selsey Bill between March 17th and May 7th 11 flew out to sea, while only one arrived S-N. The maximum autumn departure there was 250 flying S. on October 21st.

See also ringing report on p. 42.

**393. GOLDFINCH.**—At Selsey Bill 273 flew out to sea between April 13th and May 18th while 32 flew in there during the same period. Nine flew in S-N. on June 7th.

In the autumn between September 16th and October 31st, c. 3,650 flew out to sea. Peak movement was on October 21st when 1,020 left SE. No arrivals noted.

Elsewhere in autumn movements were mainly confined to coasting and were small except at Beachy Head on October 7th when 800 flew E. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.), and at Langney Point on October 24th when c. 750 flew E. in an hour (R.H.C.).

See also ringing report on p. 42.

**394. SISKIN.**—The largest parties recorded were of 40-50 at Amberley on March 16th (I.R.W.) and c. 50 at Balcombe on 31st (G.d.F.).

**395. LINNET.**—Between March 7th and the end of May c. 590 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill and c. 310 flew in there. At Beachy Head 50 flew in N. on April 2nd and 50 out S. on April 13th (A.Q. *et al.*).

Between September 3rd and November 17th c. 6,750 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill with the largest movement on October 19th when 3,760 left.

Elsewhere little movement was recorded.

**396. TWITE.**—At the Midrips c. 50 on January 13th and 15 on 27th. One at Cuckmere Haven on 2nd and 20th (R.H.C.). At Pagham Harbour 10 on January 5th (A.R.K.), 4 on February 1st, one on 20th (W.W.A.P.) and 4 on March 19th (A.R.K.).

Five at the Wicks on December 1st (R.H.C.).

**397. REDPOLL.**—At Beachy Head 15 flew in N. on October 7th on which day c. 65 were present; c. 40 there on 9th, 33 on 19th and c. 30 on 20th. A large proportion of these birds were coasting W. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

Fifteen flew in N. at Newhaven on October 9th. C. 60-70 at Marley Common on October 20th. Four in N. at Langney Point on November 23rd and 6 S. out to sea at Cuckmere Haven on 17th (R.H.C.). One flew out S. at Selsey Bill on November 2nd and 4 out there on 3rd.

**401. BULLFINCH.**—Incomplete information suggests a general increase by autumn.

**404. CROSSBILL.**—A pair tried to nest just inside the Sussex boundary near Liphook but without success. Birds had been present in the area from March 19th (P.G.D.). A small party on Midhurst Common until April 25th (J.I.M.H.). Six at Blackdown on October 19th (R.M.F.). Three on Duncton Common on July 6th (B.A.E.M.). Between 4 and c. 40 were seen almost daily until the end of February in the Earham-Midhurst area and a male and a pair there on March 21st (S.W.R.). Four at Stindon Bottom on April 15th (J.P.K.). C. 20 at Rewell Wood on August 9th (S.W.R.). Three in Arundel Forest on December 14th (M.H.). Five on Greatham Common on April 16th (C.M.J.) and 4 there on 19th (S.W.R.). Four at Wiggonholt on July 27th (R.E.G.). Several pairs engaged in courtship during March in Amberley-Parham area (B.M.). Up to c. 30 in Rackham Wood in March (R.E.G.), with 18 there, March 24th-April 12th and one on May 2nd (M.H.). Two there on December 15th (B.M.) Five at Storrington on June 16th (M.S.).

At Arlington L.A.C. saw a male and heard others on May 16th. A party of 9 flying N. over Lullington Heath on August 5th (R.J.W.). A male at East

Grinstead on January 6th (H.C.J.). Ten in Wadhurst Park on 27th (J.W.C.). A pair near Tunbridge Wells on July 4th (W.G.B.).

On the coast one at Selsey on July 21st and up to 3 there in September. Three flying W. at Aldwick Bay on August 28th (W.W.A.P.). Five flying W. at Sidlesham on November 23rd (M.S.). At Beachy Head c. 30 flying N. on August 11th was the largest number seen with birds present in the area on 11 other autumn dates, mostly moving N. or NW. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.).

**407. CHAFFINCH.**—Does not seem to have been generally affected by the cold spell and only in two areas, Rye and Findon Valley-Cissbury-Steyning was any decline noted.

C. 50 flying E. at Beachy Head on April 13th (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). This was the only movement recorded in spring.

Autumn movements recorded were also small. Between October 5th and November 23rd c. 80 flew out between SE. and SW. at Selsey Bill and there were small coasting movements there. Most recorded at Beachy Head on October 7th when c. 75 were present, c. 60 of them moving N. (B.E.C., J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Ten flew in N. at Langney Point on October 26th and one flew in NW. there on November 21st (D.D.H.). The latter is the latest date recorded for autumn arrival in the county.

**408. BRAMBLING.**—The cold weather at the beginning of the year did not bring large numbers into the county. There were c. 100 on Shoreham Rubbish Dump on February 23rd (R.E.G.) but otherwise no more than c. 50 were seen together anywhere.

On April 5th one flew in N. from the sea at Beachy Head. (J.F.C., A.Q.). See also ringing report on p. 42.

**409. YELLOWHAMMER.**—One flew out SW. at Selsey Bill on October 21st.

**410. CORN BUNTING.**—Between Sweet Hill and Newtimber Hill only 4 pairs were present where there are normally 10-15. But in other downland areas numbers seemed to be maintained.

**415. GIRD BUNTING.**—Breeding numbers remained the same in the Eastbourne area (D.D.H.). S.H.F. found much the same situation in the Lewes district.

**421. REED BUNTING.**—Birds flying out to sea between S. and SW. at Selsey Bill were 3 on September 22nd, 4 on October 21st and 2 on November 4th.

**422. LAPLAND BUNTING.**—One at Camber on December 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). One flying E. over the Crumbles on 12th and 3 at Beachy Head on 22nd (D.D.H.).

**423. SNOW BUNTING.**—One at Pett Level and 31 at Camber on January 4th (R.H.C.). C. 50 at the Wicks and c. 30 at Camber on 12th (P.J.G., R.E.S.). C. 60 at Camber on 27th and c. 55 there on February 14th. On January 27th c. 40 on Pevensey Levels. Two in the lower Cuckmere Valley on January 6th (R.H.C.) and one there on February 16th (J.R.W.). Three on Shoreham Rubbish Dump on January 17th (F.S.). One at Lancing on January 1st (M.J.H.). Five at Pagham on 4th (A.R.K., W.W.A.P.). At East Head up to 15 in January (W.H.G., M.J.H., B.M.) and up to 3 in February (R.E.G., J.R., A.B.S.). One at Bracklesham Bay on February 10th (M.J.H., A.B.S.).

One on a newly metalled ride near the entrance to St. Leonards Forest, October 29th-31st (W.H.G.). This is our fifth record for any distance inland,

One at Newhaven on October 30th (R.H.C.). Three at Beachy Head on November 9th (J.F.C., M.E.N., A.Q.). Two at East Head from November 24th to the end of the year (R.E.G., B.M. *et al.*). At Camber c. 30 on December 1st (R.H.C.), c. 35 on 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and 3 on 30th (D.B.O.).

**425. TREE SPARROW.**—A pair attempted to breed in a nest box at Little Common (L.E.H.). A pair probably bred at Greatham (G.d.F.). At Sidlesham one pair bred at last year's site and there was a new colony of 5 there (M.S.). The usual breeding areas to the E. of the county were not investigated.

Between September 18th and November 3rd 27 flew out SE. at Selsey Bill and there were small coasting movements there.

## ADDITIONS TO THE 1962 REPORT

**30. HERON.**—A new heronry at Priesthaves had three occupied nests (*per* J.A.H.).

**156. GREEN SANDPIPER.**—One at Newhaven on April 19th (L.A.C.).

**179. CURLEW SANDPIPER.**—One at Camber May 8th (L.A.C.).

**184. RUFF.**—One at the Wicks on May 3rd (L.A.C.).

**COLLARED DOVE.**—In a field near Hooe there were c. 20 on November 30th, c. 30 on December 3rd and 3 on 4th (L.A.C.).

## REPORT ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS, 1963

By

M. SHRUBB

(Fairfields, Sidlesham, Sussex)

Progress with these surveys was again very encouraging and a good deal of fresh ground has been covered as well as most of that covered in 1962. Our information on Great Crested Grebes is probably complete and sufficient information has been recorded for Stone Curlew, Stonechat and Wheatear to give a clear picture of their status and distribution as breeding birds in the county.

Some of these 6 species obviously suffered losses in the cold winter of 1962/63 and numbers of Grebes, Redshank and Stonechats were less than last year. Not much progress has been made with Water Rails and much still remains to be done with Redshanks, although some fresh information has been recorded. There are, of course, still some gaps to be filled with the other species, and for this reason the 1964 surveys are being continued with the same 6 species. Areas from which information is urgently required are listed under the species concerned. It is hoped that everyone who has helped so much in the past will be able to visit the same areas again, even if the 1963 results were negative. This will maintain the continuity of the census. This is especially important in 1964 to find out to what extent these species have recovered from the 1962/63 winter. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed and given so much help and information. Without their hard work these surveys would be impossible to carry out.

### 5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

Since the publication of the last report further information for 1962 has been received from 3 localities (Eridge Park, Camber Castle and Powdermill Pond, each place had one pair of grebes which raised a total of 7 young between them. This brings the 1962 total up to 42 pairs on 21 waters. The estimate of approximately 34 possible breeding sites was obviously too low and 42 ponds or groups of ponds were visited in 1963. However, 3 localities visited in 1962 were not re-visited in 1963, these were Lindfield Farm, Camber Castle, and Powdermill Pond. The total of 46 ponds, or groups of ponds, would appear to cover all the likely localities and the information received is therefore probably now complete.

A total of approximately 34 pairs was recorded from 18 of the 42 ponds visited in 1963, with 6 apparently unmated birds recorded on 5 other ponds. The remaining 19 ponds held no birds. Eighteen ponds were visited in both years, see below, and a decrease of 16 pairs was recorded. In 1963, a total of 40 young are known to have been raised by 22 pairs.

We would very much like to hear about any ponds not included below which hold breeding grebes.

#### 1963 BREEDING SEASON DETAILS

\* Denotes localities visited in 1962 and 1963. All other localities were visited for the first time in 1963.

Locality and Map Reference	Number of Pairs (one bird)	Observers
*Manhood End, SU 830011	8-10	M.S.
*Chichester G. Pits	3	J.V.S.
*Burton Park, SU 975175	2	B.A.E.M., M.J.H.
*Knepp Lake, TQ 158212	2	G.M.M.
*Wamham Mill Pond, TQ 170325	2	G.M.M.

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Locality and Map Reference	Number of Pairs (one bird at first, left later)	Observers
*Hammer Pond, TQ 220290	0	J.D.M.
*Barnhouse Pond, St. Leonard's Forest, TQ 211315	2	G.M.M., J.D.M.
*Balcombe Lake, TQ 315310	1	A.R.K.
*Leigh Pond, TQ 290215	2	M.S.
*Horsted Keynes Lakes, TQ 384290	1	J.D.M., J.W.C.
*Weirwood, TQ 390346	1	M.J.H.
*Abbey Lake, Maresfield, TQ 462230	0	J.D.M.
*Plashett Park, TQ 465165	0	J.D.M., J.W.C.
*Sheffield Park, TQ 418240	0	J.D.M.
*Wadhurst Park, TQ 630280	0	J.D.M., J.W.C.
	(either one pair or 2 unmated birds. No young seen)	
*Darwell, TQ 720210	0	J.D.M.
Petworth Park, Main Lake	1	J.D.M.
Petworth Park, SU 964232	0	M.J.H.
Mill Pond, Lurgashall, SU 935260	1	B.A.E.M., M.J.H.
Shillingee Park, SU 968312	1	A.R.K.
Arundel Park, Swanbourne Lake	0	J.D.M.
Slaugham Place, TQ 255275	2	J.D.M.
Slaugham Common, TQ 248280	0	J.D.M.
Crabbet Park, TQ 308375	0	A.R.K., D.J.M.
	(one pair at first, lake subsequently drained)	
Rowfant, TQ 316376	0	J.D.M., D.J.M.
Cophorne Lake, TQ 304387	0	D.J.M.
Milton Mount, TQ 295383	0	A.R.K.
Furnace Pond, Warminglid, TQ 230250	0	J.D.M., A.R.K.
Mill Pond, Crawley, TQ 245360	2	J.D.M., D.J.M.
Garston's Farm, Bolney, TQ 264223	2	J.D.M.
*Eridge Park, TQ 565350	1	R.P.
Ashburnham Lake, TQ 690145	0	J.D.M., J.W.C.
Buckhurst Park, TQ 497347	0	B.A.E.M., J.D.M.
	(one bird in May, none in June)	
Powdermill Pond, TQ 800195	0	B.A.E.M., J.D.M.
Tilgate Lake, TQ 279345	1	A.R.K., D.J.M.
Tilgate Lake, TQ 272343	1	D.J.M.
Buchan Hill Lake, TQ 245343	0	A.R.K.
Hawkins Pond, TQ 215292	0	J.D.M.
Coolhurst, TQ 195293	0	G.M.M.
	(one bird apparently unmated)	
Forest Mere, SU 820299	0	M.J.H.
Bayham Abbey, TQ 640367	1	B.A.E.M.
*Rye Harbour G. Pits, TQ 175935	1	R.H.C.

### 120. WATER RAIL

Only one breeding pair was located again this year, in the extreme west of the county (R.F.P.). Not much information has been recorded but a thorough search in the Amberley Brooks and the Adur Valley proved negative, as did both the areas where birds were heard during the summer of 1962.

A great deal of information is still needed to gain any realistic idea of the status of this species in the county: even if this information is only negative it will help to fill up the many gaps in our present knowledge.

### 161. REDSHANK

Information has been recorded from all the localities covered last year, except Glynde Level, and has also been recorded from a number of new areas. Totals for areas visited in both years show a decrease and totals seem low in other places, but the species would appear to have survived the cold spell reasonably well. The areas covered were as follows:

Selsey-Sidlesham Ferry-Bracklesham, 15 breeding pairs, a decrease of 5 pairs over 1962 (H.D.M.). Manhood End, 4 pairs (M.S.). Amberley Wild-

brooks, only 2 pairs (D.L.). Greatham-Wiggonholt, 2 pairs (M.H.). Adur Valley north to Wyckham Farm, 8 breeding pairs, a decrease of 5 pairs over 1962 (M.G.G.). Ouse Levels-Newhaven, only 5 pairs recorded and none at Newhaven where one or more pairs in 1962 (M.J.H., A.R.K., A.B.S.). Lower Cuckmere, 2 pairs (A.R.K.). Between Old Park Wood and Fishbourne Mill, 3 pairs (M.J.H.). Rye Marsh and Harbour, 7 breeding pairs, a decrease of 10 pairs over 1962 (J.A.). Harting, 4 to 5 pairs in 2 colonies (G.R.G.). Lavant, none (M.S.). Midrips-Wicks, 6 pairs (M.J.H., B.A.E.M.).

Not much information on breeding success has been recorded but where it has the species appears to have had a fairly successful year. Information is required from: Thorney, Arun Valley near Littlehampton, Pevensy Levels and Pett Levels. In addition any new information on inland colonies would be very valuable as our information on these is very scanty.

#### 189. STONE CURLEW

All the ground covered in 1962 was visited again in 1963 and several new areas were searched. A total of 15 pairs, possibly 16, was recorded with a record of a single bird in June which may have been one of another pair. The great majority of these birds, 13 pairs out of the 15, were breeding in arable farmlands, on fallows and leys and in corn and root crops, sugar beet being a fairly well favoured crop (F.P.P.). Unfortunately nests are difficult to find and too few are recorded in any year to give much idea of the possible effects of agricultural operations on breeding success, but to date in this census of those nests found all have been successful as far as is known. Results have been set out as last year since this is a convenient, if entirely artificial, way of presenting the information.

**Hants Border-River Arun.** About half this block was covered and 7, possibly 8, pairs were recorded from 4 localities. Not much information on breeding success was forthcoming, no nests being found, but one brood of 2 young was seen (E.W.D., J.H.K.D., G.R.G., S.W.R., M.S.).

**River Arun-River Adur.** Most of this block was covered and 4 pairs were located in 3 areas. Two nests were found, one of which was successful, raising 2 young, but results from the other are not known. Two other broods of young seen (C.A.G., M.G.G., S.F.K., F.P.P., M.H.P., R.J.S.).

**River Adur-River Ouse.** About half of this block was visited by (N.J.D., M.J.H., J.D.M., A.B.S.), but without result save a single bird seen in June by A.B.S. The pair located in this area last year was not found in 1963.

**River Ouse-Eastbourne.** All this block was covered and 4 pairs were found in 3 localities. No breeding information recorded (M.J.H., A.R.K., I.R.W.). This species also breeds in the extreme east of the county where a pair was found last year. The only information from this area is from B.A.E.M. who found none in one June visit.

Records are still needed from the Downs between Brighton and the River Ouse and some more help between Shoreham and Hove would be very useful.

#### 311. WHEATEAR

The main breeding areas are evidently on the shingle areas and sand dunes in the east of the county, where adequate coverage has given a good indication of the breeding population. Although much more Downland was covered than in 1962, reports suggest that relatively few Wheatears now breed there, and these only in very scattered pairs or colonies.

Breeding records came from the Chalk Downs where pairs were recorded only at, Wolstonbury Hill, a single pair, between Cissbury and Chanctonbury

2 pairs, and at Beddingham Hill where one adult male which probably had a mate held territory. Negative results were recorded from the following areas: Hants Boundary to Cocking, River Adur to A23, A23 to Ditchling Beacon (except Wolstonbury Hill), Rackham Hill, Amberley Mount, Sullington Hill, Patching Hill and the Downs between the Ouse and Cuckmere Rivers except at Beddingham Hill. Also none at Mount Harry, Buckland Bank, and Ashcombe Bottom. (N.J.D., M.G.G., M.H., M.J.H., A.R.K., J.D.M., R.J.S., I.R.W.). Along the Chalk Cliffs, the Cuckmere Haven, the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head were covered but no breeding pairs were found. (M.J.H., A.R.K., I.R.W.). The Shingle Areas and Sand Dunes held pairs at the following localities: The Crumbles, 3 (M.J.H., A.R.K.). Nook Beach, Rye, 3 (M.J.H.). Between Rye and Camber, 5 (M.J.H., A.R.K.). Midrips and Wicks, 10 to 12 (B.A.E.M., M.J.H.). Single pairs were also found at Shoreham raising 2 or 3 young and at Tidemills, Newhaven. Two pairs again bred in the Horsham area (T.J.C.).

#### 317. STONECHAT

All the ground covered last year was again visited and much new ground was reported on. The species was obviously affected by the cold weather but nevertheless managed to survive reasonably well. Breeding pairs were reported from the following areas: Commons near Midhurst, south of Haslemere and between Heyshott and Duncton, 3 pairs were again recorded from these commons and 2 other males were seen which did not appear to be paired. These birds were on Iping Common, 2 pairs and one male; Pound Common, one male and Ambersham Common, one pair which had raised 4 young by 31st May (P.G.D., M.H., M.S.). In addition a number of other commons in West Sussex were visited but no breeding pairs or birds were found. In Ashdown Forest the same area, on the east side which comprises about one third not two thirds of the forest as stated in 1962, was again searched and 5 pairs were found breeding with one more pair just outside this area. This is a decrease of 5 pairs over 1962 (D.R.C.). Elsewhere in this area no breeding information recorded, but B.A.E.M. saw a brood of 3 young.

The block of East Sussex downland between the Ouse and Cuckmere Rivers was thoroughly searched and 4 breeding pairs were located with at least 3 juveniles (M.J.H., A.R.K., I.R.W.). None were found at Lullington Heath (M.H.P.). A large area of suitable country near Jevington was visited 8 times between 20th March and 23rd June. Only 2 adult males were found, neither of which appeared to have a mate and no nests or young were seen (J.W.C.). Two pairs at Beachy Head (M.J.H.). In addition the species was looked for between the A23 and Ditchling Beacon (M.J.H.) and Mount Harry and Ashcombe Bottom (J.D.M.) and in the area of the Seven Sisters without success. Single isolated pairs were recorded at Cross-in-Hand (A.R.K.), Worthlodge Forest (A.R.K.), and Newhaven Head (M.J.H.). There were none at Selsey or Telscombe Cliffs where one pair was found in each place in 1962. The species also bred at Cissbury before 1962 but none were found in 1962 or 1963.

The main breeding strength would appear to be concentrated along the East Sussex Downs and in Ashdown Forest, the small numbers recorded in 1963 were obviously for the most part due to the severe winter.

Information is badly needed from the rest of Ashdown Forest to make the figures more complete. A number of pairs possibly breed on some of the commons and rough areas dotted over the county, although many such areas in West Sussex are not, in fact, suitable breeding sites. Details of any such pairs would be welcome.

## SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1963

Compiled by

Dr. J. STAFFORD

In this year 21,196 birds of 92 species were ringed in Sussex. Of these 20,898 were trapped and 298 ringed as nestlings. This was carried out by eighteen ringers or groups of ringers who sent their results to me so that this report might be compiled. No doubt this is not fully comprehensive but presents a fairly accurate picture of ringing activities in Sussex during the year. The increase in numbers is largely due to the activities of the Chichester Ringing Group, who accounted for over 10,000 birds, mainly Sand Martins, in six weeks of intensive ringing. The results are summarised in a separate note.

Another advance that should lead to interesting results in the years ahead is the establishment of a ringing station at Beachy Head. The Heligoland Trap was completed in time for the autumn migration, and recoveries reported below from the Station show how useful it should be in learning more of the movements of migrating birds along the Sussex coast.

Over 200 Blackcaps were ringed at Beachy Head in the autumn migration and 2 have already been recovered abroad. A Bluethroat was trapped and ringed at Eastbourne by D. D. Harber, who also had a Garden Warbler recovered in Africa, a "first" for this species in Africa, and a Pectoral Sandpiper was trapped and ringed at Selsey S.F. in the first few days of November.

Mute Swan recoveries will be summarised in a future report.

## SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1963

Key to symbols and terms  
(Ring numbers are omitted)

Age: pull.—nestling or chick, *not yet flying*;  
juv.—young, *able to fly freely*;  
1st W.—bird in its first winter;  
1st S.—bird in its first summer;  
fg.—full-grown (age uncertain);  
ad.—adult, at least one year old.

Sex: ♂—male  
♀—female

Manner of recovery: v.—caught or trapped and released with ring;  
+—shot or killed by man;  
x—found dead or dying;  
xA—found long dead  
/?—manner of recovery unknown.

Distance: The distance is given in miles and directions are approximate.

### Birds Ringed in Sussex

Species	Age	Sex	Date	Location
Ringed Plover	Pull.	x	29.5.58	The Wicks, Nr. Rye. D.D.H.
			1.3.63	Portchester, Nr. Fareham, Hants. 75m. W.
Swallow	Pull.	v	16.6.63	Wartling. D.D.H.
			22.8.63	Sandwich Bay, Kent. 45m. NE.

Species	Age	Sex	Date	Location
Jackdaw	fg.	+	18.10.62	Chichester. A.B.W.
			11.9.63	Southwick, Hants. 15m. W.
Blue Tit	fg.	x	22.12.62	Marley Common. P.G.D.
			22.11.63	Honiton, Devon. 110m. W.
Mistle Thrush	juv.	x	3.8.62	Marley Common. P.G.D.
			2.2.63	Olonne-sur-Mer, Vendee, France
	fg.	v	1.1.63	Marley Common. P.G.D.
			3.1.63	Ensworth, Hants. 17m. SW.
Fieldfare	ad.♂	+	4.1.63	Spithurst, Barcombe. R.L.
			15.1.63	Ondres (Landes), France
	1st W.♂	v	12.1.63	Spithurst, Barcombe. R.L.
			23.5.63	Lunner, Hadeland (Opland), Norway
	fg.	x	3.2.63	Burgess Hill. J.A.W.
			1.6.63	Adal, Nr. Hoefoss (Buskerud), Norway
	1st W.	+	30.1.63	Burgess Hill. J.A.W.
			29.4.63	Hankamaki, Rautalampi (Kuopio), Finland
Song Thrush	fg.	x	25.12.62	Spithurst, Barcombe. R.L.
			20.1.63	Kerlanan, Finisterre, France
	fg.	x	8.7.61	Marley Common. P.G.D.
			mid 2.63	Nr. Brest, Finisterre, France
Redwing	1st W.	x	23.12.62	Southwater, Nr. Horsham. M & B
			28.1.63	Gouville-sur-Mer, Manche, France
	ad.	x	3.2.62	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S.
			27.1.63	Southampton, Hants. 48m. W.
Blackbird	ad.♂	x	1.12.62	Mill Oak, Portslade. M & B
			25.3.63	Tummaske, Nr. Nortorf, Germany
	ad.♂	x	12.1.63	Burgess Hill. J.A.W.
			4.8.63	Svenarp, Glimakra (Kristianstad), Sweden
	1st W.♀	v	13.1.62	Spithurst, Barcombe. R.L.
			20.1.63	Inver, Co. Donegal, Eire. 425m. NW.
	ad.♂	+	30.1.60	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S.
			20.12.62	Biville, Manche, France
	1st W.♀	xA	15.1.61	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S.
			21.1.63	Ile de Croix, Morbihan, France
	1st W.♂	xA	23.12.61	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S.
			1.8.63	Tonsberg, Norway
Robin	fg.	x	18.8.63	Beachy Head, Eastbourne. B.H.R.S.
			13.10.63	Friston, Sussex. 4m. NW.
	fg.	x	9.9.62	Shoreham-by-Sea. M.G.
			2.9.63	Pagham, Sussex. 24m. W.
Blackcap	fg.♀	/?	11.9.63	Beachy Head, Eastbourne. B.H.R.S.
			15.10.63	Boliqueime (Algarve), Portugal
	fg.♀	+	10.9.63	Beachy Head, Eastbourne. B.H.R.S.
			19.10.63	Beshmezzin, Nr. Chickka, Lebanon

Garden Warbler	fg. +	23.8.62 9.5.63	Eastbourne, D.D.H. Melilla, Spanish Morocco. (First bird ringed of this species to be recovered in Africa).
	fg. +	15.8.63 3.10.63	Eastbourne, D.D.H. Valpacos (Tras os Montes), Portugal
	ad. x	30.5.60 30.4.63	Shoreham-by-Sea, I.S. Bexhill, Sussex. 34m. E.
Whitethroat	1st W. v	10.9.63 1.10.63	Beachy Head, Eastbourne, B.H.R.S. Gondomar (Douro Litoral), Portugal
Chiffchaff	fg. v	10.10.62 8.4.63	Beachy Head, Eastbourne, B.H.R.S. Skokholm, Pems. 245m. WNW.
Meadow Pipit	fg. x	30.8.60 24.4.63	Marley Common, P.G.D. Killiecrankie, Perthshire, Scotland. 400m. N. (only the 3rd or 4th long distance recovery N. of ringing place).
Pied Wagtail	juv. x	29.8.62 26.12.62	Chichester, A.B.W. Etrepigny (Eure), France. (Not received in time for last report).
Starling	fg. +	5.1.63 24.9.63	Shoreham-by-Sea, D.S. Wehl, Netherlands
	fg. v	15.1.60 2.11.63	Shoreham-by-Sea, J.S. Mendonck (East Flanders), Belgium
	fg. ♀ v	9.10.63 9.11.63	Beachy Head, B.H.R.S. Weybridge, Surrey. 52m. NW.
Greenfinch	fg. x	17.3.60 14.2.63	Eastbourne, D.D.H. Wally-Beaucamp, Nr. Monreuil (Pas de Cal- ais), France
	fg. ♂ v	7.3.62 16.1.63	Marley Common, P.G.D. Ashford, Kent. 70m. E.
	fg. ♂ v	12.1.63 7.5.63	Marley Common, P.G.D. Nr. Ryde, Isle of Wight. 25m. SW.
	fg. ♀ x	15.3.63 21.6.63	Marley Common, P.G.D. Nr. Grantham, Lincs. 120m. N.
Goldfinch	juv. x	4.8.62 20.5.63	Beachy Head, B.H.R.S. North Chailey, Nr. Lewes. 22m. NW.
Brambling	fg. ♀ x	22.12.62 17.2.63	Marley Common, P.G.D. Nr. Plouescat (Finisterre), France

#### Birds Ringed Elsewhere and Recovered in Sussex

Mallard	ad. ♀ +	21.10.61 19.1.63	Meeterkerke, West Flanders, France Sidlesham, J.V.S.
Dunlin	ad. x	19.7.53 31.1.63	Ottenby, Sweden Pagham, W.W.A.P.
Sedge Warbler	juv. v	21.7.63 21.8.63	Weston Turnville, Bucks. Chichester Gravel Pits. 65m. S. C.R.G.

Grey Wagtail ad. 29.6.62 Sleaford, Bordon, Hanis.  
v 21.1.63 Felbridge, Nr. East Grinstead. 35m. E.  
L. & J.W.

Correction to 1962 Report: The Ringed Plover recovered at Emsworth was ringed at The Wicks near Rye.

Ringers whose names do not appear on page 5:

Chichester Ringing Group Beachy Head Ringing Station  
C. J. Mead and S. Boddy

### SURVEY OF SUSSEX WOODLAND BIRDS

A preliminary note by  
M. HOLLINGS

As members of the Society know from Newsletter No. 10, a survey of woodland birds in Sussex has been planned, beginning in 1964. The project is based on a sampling technique and this article aims to provide some background information and to comment on some very preliminary results obtained from small-scale trials of the method during 1963.

There are many difficulties in estimating the numbers of birds in woodland and no method is wholly satisfactory. A technique recently described by Professor W. B. Yapp seems the most promising for our present purpose: it is an adaptation of a sampling method widely used by botanists, known as "Quadrat sampling." Although earlier attempts have been made to apply this directly to woodland birds, by attempting total counts of all the birds in a number of representative or "sample" areas in a larger wood, there are many shortcomings. One of the most obvious is the way that many species move out of the sample area as the observer moves in. However, by taking units of time during a walk, instead of areas of ground, many of the disadvantages can be overcome. Birds are often less disturbed by an observer moving steadily past them than by someone who stops and transfixes them with the beady gaze of a pair of 8 x 30s, and much of the identification during the walking counts can be done without binoculars, and often by ear. The observer divides his time into 10-minute units, and, walking slowly through the woodland at about 2 m.p.h., notes down every time he sees or hears a bird, making a tick in the appropriate column of his list. Each 10-minute unit is a "sample" of the population, and can be termed a "Time Quadrat." Use is made of whatever paths or rides are available to move easily through the wood, covering as much of the survey area as possible in the time. In a familiar locality, the temptation must be resisted to wander only in the "good" spots.

One of the difficulties with any method is to avoid listing the same individual bird twice, and here the observer must use his judgement: as several visits are made to each area, errors of this kind should tend to cancel out. A previously prepared record, or ruled columns in the field notebook, makes the field work easier. It is difficult to set precise limits as to how far away a bird can be accepted as a "contact"; one would normally omit any bird farther away than about 50yds., unless there are good reasons for including it. The nature of the terrain, of course, affects the working distance at which birds can readily be seen.



From the raw data, two important figures can be calculated for each species: the Percentage Frequency (P.F.) and the Relative Abundance (R.A.). The P.F. is the number of 10-minute samples containing that species as a percentage of the total number of samples. For this purpose, a sample is either "positive" or "negative," regardless of whether a positive sample consists of one or several contacts. The Relative Abundance of each species is the number of contacts of that species as a percentage of all the contacts. The P.F. assesses the density and distribution of each species, the R.A. compares the relative numbers of the different species. Taken together, these two indexes of population show whether any species is frequent or scarce, evenly or patchily distributed, and how its numbers compare with those of any other species. Comparison is possible between different areas in the same year, or between the same areas in different years.

Before considering some of the results obtained, a brief mention of the woodlands themselves may be useful. Deciduous woodland is the "climax" vegetation of much of Britain—that is, if the ground were left without interference by man, most of the country would eventually be clothed in forest, as it must have been a thousand years ago. One can see this process beginning even on the Downs, where an uncultivated area soon acquires scattered gorse and thorn bushes; later, a dense scrub develops, with any trees which have managed to outgrow it. However, very little natural regeneration of woodland occurs in Britain; most replanting is done by the Forestry Commission, whose plantations provide a wide variety of woodland habitats and are usually excellent sanctuaries for wild life.

Members of a woodland bird population can conveniently be divided into three categories: (i) breeding pairs, (ii) surplus or "reserve" non-breeders and (iii) passage or casual visitors. For the purposes of the woodland survey, birds of the third group are of least concern, and by making several visits to a wood, the majority of these transient individuals should be recognised. Some survey methods, such as the detailed mapping of singing males done by Enemar in Sweden, concentrate on the breeding pairs. The Time Quadrat method records both the breeding pairs and the surplus individuals; the importance of this second group amply justifies its inclusion in the Sussex survey, for it provides the replacements of losses among the established breeding pairs.

#### Preliminary Results

Counts were made between late April and early July, 1963, and all those tabulated (Table 1) were done between 0700 and 1100 hours G.M.T. Area (1) was Rackham Plantation, a mixed woodland on hilly ground overlooking Amberley Wildbrooks. It comprises blocks of young and of maturing pine, with areas of birch, oak, chestnut and other deciduous species. Extensive bramble forms the field layer below the closed canopy, and bracken grows freely in the clearings and under the pines. (2) Charlton Forest. An extensive Forestry Commission plantation, with the survey area covering c.25 acres of cleared ground, recently replanted with saplings, adjacent to c. 30 acres of dense pines, 10-15ft. tall, at the "thicket stage." (3) Clapham Woods. The sample area of c.40 acres of mixed dense woodland, with coppiced hazel shrub layer, and bramble field layer. (4) Rackham Hill; acombe of developing downland scrub—thorn bushes and gorse, with stunted trees, overlooking a long, grassy downland valley. (5) Stump Bottom, a downland hollow between Cissbury and Chanctonbury, with the survey area consisting of about 20 acres of downland scrub in a more advanced state—larger elder and hawthorn trees, with variable thorn, bramble and nettle undergrowth.

TABLE 1  
PERCENTAGE FREQUENCY (P.F.) AND RELATIVE ABUNDANCE (R.A.) OF SPECIES IN FIVE SUSSEX WOODLANDS

Species	Rackham Woods		Charlton Forest		Clapham Woods		Rackham Hill		Stump Bottom	
	P.F.	R.A.	P.F.	R.A.	P.F.	R.A.	P.F.	R.A.	P.F.	R.A.
Kestrel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-legged Partridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Farrigine	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pheasant	6.0	0.8	13.0	2.2	28.6	6.0	10.7	1.1	2.6	0.2
Stock Dove	4.0	0.8	6.7	1.1	—	—	25.0	1.7	26.0	5.0
Woodpigeon	44.0	10.2	20.0	6.6	43.0	16.6	21.4	2.6	18.0	1.5
Turtle Dove	7.0	0.9	6.7	1.1	—	—	3.5	0.2	46.0	12.2
Cuckoo	6.0	0.7	—	—	3.5	0.4	3.5	0.2	12.8	1.7
Nighthawk	—	—	6.7	1.1	—	—	—	—	7.7	0.6
Green Woodpecker	5.0	0.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.6	0.4
Great Spotted Woodpecker	11.0	0.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	1.0	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skylark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carriam Crow	5.0	0.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rook	8.0	1.2	—	—	7.1	1.7	32.0	5.0	44.0	8.7
Jackdaw	13.0	3.0	—	—	—	—	10.7	0.9	2.6	0.2
Magpie	2.0	0.2	—	—	—	—	46.4	18.8	—	—
Jay	12.0	1.7	—	—	10.7	1.3	3.5	0.2	—	—
Great Tit	22.0	3.5	6.7	1.1	35.7	4.7	—	—	2.6	0.4
Blue Tit	54.0	11.2	—	—	60.7	11.1	3.5	0.6	—	—
Coal Tit	40.0	7.2	—	—	7.1	0.8	—	—	5.1	0.4
Marsh Tit	16.0	2.5	—	—	25.0	2.5	—	—	—	—
Willow Tit	1.0	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nuthatch	15.0	2.1	—	—	14.3	2.5	—	—	—	—
Tree Creeper	3.0	0.2	—	—	14.3	0.8	—	—	—	—
Wren	2.0	0.4	—	—	3.5	0.8	—	—	—	—
Mistle Thrush	9.0	1.1	—	—	32.0	4.7	—	—	—	—
Song Thrush	12.0	1.8	—	—	10.7	1.7	—	—	—	—
Blackbird	39.0	6.9	33.0	6.6	32.0	6.0	53.5	3.2	2.6	0.2
Whinchat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.0	3.5
Wheatear	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.6	0.2
Nightingale	—	—	6.7	1.1	—	—	7.1	1.1	—	—
Robin	45.0	6.3	20.0	3.3	46.4	8.1	7.1	0.4	—	—
Grasshopper Warbler	—	—	13.4	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blackcap Warbler	19.0	2.1	33.0	5.5	10.7	1.3	—	—	5.1	0.4
Garden Warbler	10.0	1.2	6.7	1.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitethroat	18.0	2.6	73.0	16.3	7.1	0.8	14.3	2.6	2.6	0.4
Willow Warbler	36.0	5.6	73.0	20.9	17.9	3.0	32.0	2.4	46.0	5.4
Chiffchaff	3.0	0.5	20.0	3.3	17.9	2.5	—	—	33.0	3.5
Wood Warbler	3.0	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goldcrest	1.0	0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunnock	4.0	0.8	—	—	17.9	3.4	—	—	—	—
Spotted Flycatcher	—	—	13.4	3.3	—	—	—	—	18.0	1.5
Meadow Pipit	—	—	13.4	4.4	—	—	3.5	0.2	25.6	4.6
Tree Pipit	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Starling	21.0	6.4	—	—	7.1	3.0	21.4	8.6	15.0	1.5
Greenfinch	3.0	0.9	—	—	21.4	3.8	—	—	20.5	2.7
Goldfinch	8.0	1.8	—	—	—	—	17.9	1.9	7.7	1.0
Linnets	—	—	6.7	1.1	7.1	1.7	68.0	12.1	67.0	16.6
Siskin	1.0	0.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bullfinch	3.0	0.4	6.7	1.1	3.5	1.7	—	—	—	—
Crossbill	3.0	0.9	—	—	39.2	5.5	28.6	2.2	15.4	1.2
Chaffinch	40.0	7.5	27.0	8.8	7.1	0.8	35.7	3.2	54.0	7.7
Yellowhammer	3.0	0.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	36.0	4.5
Corn Bunting	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
House Sparrow	5.0	1.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of visits	14	—	2	—	5	—	4	—	5	—
Total Time (mins.)	990	—	150	—	280	—	280	—	390	—
Total contacts	840	—	91	—	235	—	464	—	516	—
No. of species	43	—	21	—	30	—	26	—	28	—

It must be emphasised that although there are insufficient data in the table for any general conclusions about the bird population to be drawn, all the areas were under more detailed observation, and some useful indications emerge of the effectiveness of the sampling method, and its application. At Rackham Woods, with 14 visits, every species seen in ordinary visits was registered in the counts, and the general estimates agree well with the distribution obtained from supplementary observations. Clapham Woods and Stump Bottom with 5 visits each, received rather inadequate coverage; both Green and Great Spotted Woodpecker were known to occur in or near the sample areas at Clapham, yet neither was fairly recorded during the actual quadrat counts. Rackham Hill, with 4 visits, received still less coverage, and Cuckoo, Magpie and Greenfinch were missed in the sample counts. Two visits only to Charlton Forest proved very inadequate: none of the Corvids was detected, and Coal Tit was missed in the thicket area. The Cuckoo was also missed, because the counts were done in June.

The data gathered so far suggests that the mature woodlands supported a lower density of bird numbers, but a greater variety of species (especially at the woodland edge) than did the more open or bushy types of woodland scrub.

Many of the text-book habitat preferences were maintained (this is important, for habits change with the years); thus, Woodpeckers, Titmice, Tree Creeper and Nuthatch were all restricted to more mature woodlands; Tree Pipit, Grasshopper Warbler to the areas with extensive field layer of bracken and bramble, with small saplings or scattered trees as song perches, as typically seen in an area that has been recently clear felled. The inclusion of Skylark, Partridge, Wheatear, Corn Bunting and Meadow Pipit is only technically correct, for they were registered on the woodland edge abutting on open farmland, and they were either using tree branches as perches or entering woodland clearings to feed. The Yellowhammer is, of course, equally at home in woodland clearings or downland gorse. The counts indicated that in the three areas where Blackcap and Garden Warbler occurred, the Blackcap was several times more numerous than the Garden Warbler; more detailed observations indeed confirmed this. Other differences suggested by the counts were, however, partly influenced by the behaviour or "conspicuousness" of the species: thus, in two survey areas the figures implied that the Nuthatch was much more numerous than the Tree Creeper; more detailed observation, however, suggested that it was only two or three times as numerous, but that its noisy behaviour tended to exaggerate its frequency in comparison with the less demonstrative Tree Creeper. There is some evidence that, for some species at least, conspicuousness may depend upon the density of the species—birds are more demonstrative when rivals are plentiful. Differences in conspicuousness inevitably affect any sampling method, tending to overestimate the more conspicuous and numerous species, and to underestimate those present in smallest numbers. The elimination of casual visitors from the lists is not always easy, especially as some passage migrants sing vigorously during their short stay. However, the April Siskins at Rackham were not seen subsequently, and the Whinchat and Sedge Warbler, seen at the end of June at Stump Bottom were evidently on early autumn passage.

Counts made at different times of the day or in different months emphasised different aspects of the woodland population: as expected, early morning counts were the most rewarding, both song and activity being at their maximum intensity. Although the volume of song on a fine evening was as great as early morning counts, evening counts registered fewer warblers and titmice and more thrushes—especially Blackbird, Song Thrush and Robin. One general difference consistently noted was that morning song was seldom suppressed by unfavourable

weather conditions, whereas evening song was markedly less in the cold, dull evenings that were so frequent in 1963. Afternoon counts gave very poor registration of most species, although some warblers were as much in evidence then as at other times.

Although several factors can thus affect the counts, the method seems, from these preliminary pilot trials, quite adequate to cope with the vagaries, provided several visits are made. Six visits, each of 2-3 hours, have given realistic estimates of populations, but 4 visits appear to be absolutely minimal. Morning counts gave the best results and evening counts were the next substitute, and by co-operative use of such counts by members of the Society, it is hoped to build up a quantitative picture over the next few years, of the numbers and distribution of species in Sussex woodlands.

## THE SUSSEX AND HAMPSHIRE MIGRATION WATCH

By

B. A. E. MARR and R. F. PORTER

On 19th and 20th October, 1963, a migration watch was organised in Sussex and Hampshire to study essentially the migration routes and density of movement of visible diurnal migrants which are at the peak of their passage at this time of the autumn. It should be stressed from the start that the watch was purely a pilot scheme, a forerunner it is hoped of other similar watches. For this reason a detailed analysis of the results has not been undertaken. The success of a venture such as this depends principally on the weather; the adverse conditions of the 20th October reduced movement almost to a standstill. On a bright clear day, however, birds are passing over at a high altitude and many are probably not recorded by the ground observer. Without radar coverage it is impossible to assess the true movement, and it should be noted that the results of a watch such as this will in certain weather conditions reveal only a small proportion of the total movement taking place.

For a pilot run the watch was a great success. The 19th was probably the best day in the whole autumn for observing passerine movements, particularly those of Skylarks, Meadow Pipits, Chaffinches and Linnets. What appeared to be unusual numbers of Jays were on the move, whilst along the coast there was an apparent widespread arrival of Black Redstarts. Those observers who broke away from their usual weekend routine of "doing" Pagham or Farlington and went up on to some inland hill were often more than rewarded at their new position, and it is surprising the number of interesting species that turned up in what are usually unwatched localities. The 20th was a miserable day, and most observers saw no movement at all. However, a few, especially to the extreme east and west of the area had very good movements—in some cases of similar proportions to those of the 19th.

A total of 40 sets of observations were received from the 60 or so observers who took part throughout the two counties, from Fairlight Beacon, Sussex, in the east to The Needles, Isle of Wight, in the west. In addition a set of observations was received from Portland Bill, Dorset, and John Parslow kindly consented to carry out observations at a radar-station within the area on the night of the 19th-20th. The bad weather on the 20th hampered movements so much that no correlation with ground watchers was worthwhile. In all 101 species were recorded, although not all were on passage.

Although the number of observers taking part was most encouraging even more will be needed in the future. It was found that large gaps occurred in the watch and correlation in such cases has obviously less value than between closely linked points.

#### Weather conditions during the weekend

During the night of 18th-19th October light mostly southerly winds prevailed over much of the two counties with increasing cloud and moderate visibility. By dawn on the 19th cloud had increased in most places to 7 or 8 oktas, giving excellent conditions for observing overhead passerine movement. Height of cloud above sea-level was mostly between 3-5000 feet. The wind at dawn varied somewhat throughout the two counties. Much of East Sussex had force 3-4 SSE. winds; the rest of the county and Hampshire had S. or SSW. winds. St. Catherine's Point, the southernmost extremity of the Isle of Wight, had SSE. winds. Visibility was moderate to good, at least 15 miles in most places. Cloud decreased in most places by midday and visibility also started to decrease slightly by early evening.

Slight drizzle occurred in most places during the latter part of the night of the 19th-20th and cloud increased again. By dawn it was raining in most places; the wind swung round to SW. or W. in all localities, visibility was down to 3 miles or less and much of the higher ground was shrouded in mist. This dull, rainy weather persisted for most of the remainder of the day.

#### Comments on selected species

As previously explained, it was not felt worthwhile undertaking a detailed analysis of the observed movements at such an early stage in the project. The notes on the following species represent some of the most interesting and in most cases were those species in which we were principally interested.

#### 272. SKYLARK

19th October: Movement was very interesting and was divided into several main flight lines. The largest of these was a movement of birds on a broad front traversing the Downs in a general south-westerly direction, avoiding the highest parts and concentrating in the valleys; e.g., at Hollingbury, Brighton, where 41 passed SW. 0715-0945 hrs. From the times of the movement, most of the birds had started their passage from the southern area of the Weald, as the movement recorded from observers on the Downs and valleys through the Downs started just after dawn, about 0700 hrs. and reached its peak about an hour or so later. The three points watched to the north of the Downs (Marley Common, Black Down and Horsham) recorded very little, indicating as stated that movement originated only just to the north of the Downs. Movement continued through the Downs for most of the morning, petering out by 1100 hrs. Most of the birds on reaching the southern escarpment of the Downs continued in a westerly direction, although in the region of the Downs to the north of Chichester birds turned south or south-west; at the Trundle for example, 47 passed SW. and 11 S. 0600-1015 hrs.

All this movement seemed to culminate in a large broad-fronted departure in the extreme west of Sussex, in the region of West Wittering, where birds arriving from the north or north-east (cf. The Trundle) were observed departing out to the south-west towards the Isle of Wight—273 SW. 0700-1100 hrs. What happened next? From the complete absence of birds at St. Catherine's Point it would appear that most birds were either remaining in the Isle of Wight or else

continuing on a broad front out from the south-west side of the island towards the French coast. At The Needles 10 flew out SW. which supports this contention, while 140 birds left to the W. (towards the Dorset coast).

The second, much smaller movement, was along the coast where birds were flying mostly in a westerly direction. At Fairlight in the east a few were seen to arrive from the S. or S.W., probably birds coasting from Dungeness, whilst further along the coast to the west birds were seen passing W. and occasionally departing out to sea to the S. or S.W.; this was especially noticeable at the minor promontories such as Newhaven (5 out S.) and Seaford Head (10 S. and 19 SW.). At places along the mid-Sussex coast movement was more confused, where birds from the southerly and south westerly movement through the Downs became mixed with those passing W., and several birds in this region were seen passing E. At Selsey Bill a small westerly movement low over the sea was observed, 21 passing between 0815 hrs. and 1120 hrs. These birds had probably started off from the Seaford Head-Beachy Head area, and were presumably destined for the Isle of Wight, to link up perhaps with the larger broad-fronted movement originating in the interior. At Matley Ridge, Hants., a small westerly movement was observed, and was perhaps of birds destined to depart in the west of England. At Portland Bill, 20 departed S. in the hour and a half after dawn.

20th October: Owing to the inclement weather at all stations, movement of Skylarks if at all was on a reduced scale and the highest number seen anywhere was 29 at Beachy Head passing W. Of the 132 recorded during the day, 21 passed S., 18 SW., 23 SSW. and 48 W., indicating again a basically westerly and southerly departure, although numbers are not high enough to warrant any firm conclusions.

#### 373. MEADOW PIPIT

19th October: Most movement was in a westerly direction, with small numbers departing from the coast out to sea. Westerly movement was in progress at Fairlight with c. 60 W. between 0615 hrs. and 1015 hrs., the peak being 0630 hrs. to 0715 hrs. Further west at Whitebread Hollow, Beachy Head, a similar number passed W. between 0645 hrs. and 0930 hrs., the peak being from 0715 hrs. to 0815 hrs., with c. 15 passing W. over the headland there. Movement was confused in the Seaford Head-Newhaven Head area. At Seaford westerly movement was greater, totalling 16 and 20 birds respectively. At Seaford and Newhaven, 27 left out to sea between ESE. and SE. Movement along the rest of the Sussex coast was westerly, the largest number recorded being 165 at Lancing, peak of 92 between 0615 hrs. and 0645 hrs. This movement was backed up by a generally southerly movement over the Downs; at Ditchling Beacon for example, 82 SW. and 33 SE.; Hollingbury 3 SE. and 2 S., Devil's Dyke 13 S., and similar small movements at Truleigh Hill, Cissbury and Highdown Hill. Passing further west, 79 left out to sea at Selsey Bill, while movements at West Wittering and along the Hampshire coast indicated departure across to the Isle of Wight, with a maximum of 68 going S., at Gilkicker Point. At St. Catherine's Point 4 left S. with 6 going E., and 2 W., and at The Needles, 4 left to the W. Many observers noted that birds were flying high, sometimes heard but not seen, and for this reason a true picture of the movement may not have been obtained. Movement was not confined to valleys, but was on a general front.

20th October: Movement was again in a mainly westerly direction, the largest numbers recorded being 23 W. at Fairlight and 21 W. at Stone Point.

### 393. GOLDFINCH

**19th October:** Trend of movement, as to be expected, showed a similarity to that of Linnets, except on a smaller scale. Largest movements were noted at Fairlight, c. 220 W.; Whitebread Hollow, Beachy Head, c. 400 W.; the headland there, c. 250 W. and 88 E.; Seaford Head, 100 E. with 17 leaving out to sea, and at Newhaven where 400 passed E. This demonstrates the tendency to follow the coast towards Beachy Head from both directions, with similar numbers arriving there in each direction. Movement through the Downs was predominantly southerly, and as with many species larger numbers were seen passing through gaps in the hills rather than over high ground. The largest number was 88 S., between 0630 hrs. and 0830 hrs., at Devil's Dyke. At Selsey Bill, c. 250 flew out S. to SSW. in the first two hours after dawn. In Hampshire, departure towards the Isle of Wight was recorded at Gilkicker, c. 150; Stone Point, 23; and Hurst Castle, 70, whilst on the island itself 116 passed W. at St. Catherine's Point with 40 E., with a small indefinite movement at The Needles.

**20th October:** Movement, as with so many other species, was small and indeterminate, but there was a general westerly trend, most birds being in the Beachy Head area. At Devil's Dyke where observations were carried out in the afternoon, a small southerly movement was noted between 1500 hrs. and 1600 hrs., probably birds destined for the coast to leave the next morning.

### 395. LINNET

**19th October:** Movement concentrated around headlands, where large emigrations were the order of the day. The total leaving the Sussex coastline amounted to well over 4000 birds, of which c. 3760 were observed departing at Selsey Bill, while nearly 5000 left the Hampshire coast.

On the Hampshire coast most birds were departing towards the Isle of Wight; at Gilkicker, 2800 SE.; Hurst Castle, 1280 SE.; Stone Point, 400 SW.; and Hill Head, 380 S/SW. However, on the island itself movements were small, and at St. Catherine's Point the largest movement was 210 E., with 40 departing out to sea, while at The Needles, 55 went E. and 28 W.—evidence of the great gap around the coast of the island in our watching coverage. Movements in the interior of Sussex and Hampshire were rather small, the highest number being c. 110 SW. at Ditchling Beacon, but the main trend was westerly or south-westerly; movement was not restricted to any valleys and the highest numbers were in fact recorded on the peaks and ridges. From the sets of observations from Brighton eastwards to Beachy Head the pattern showed an easterly stream towards Beachy Head, the numbers increasing as the headland was approached; for example, Portobello, 105; Newhaven, 890; and Seaford Head, 980; whilst from the E. of Beachy Head, at Fairlight, c. 940 flew W. towards the head. In all these cases movement was into the wind, but whether this was by choice or necessity to reach the headland is a matter of conjecture. Beachy Head presents a problem in the difficulty in seeing all movements that occur, for owing to the complex nature of the headland any departure is likely to be scattered. This probably accounts for only 170 actually seen departing, whereas 755 birds arriving along the coast from the E., cf. Fairlight, at Whitebread Hollow, and only 365 passing W. over the top of the headland. The peaks of movement at most places along the coast were soon after dawn, indicating that the birds had been in the area, ready to move, at first light.

**20th October:** Owing to the inclement weather, movements were too small and varied for any conclusions to be drawn.

### 407. CHAFFINCH

**19th October:** Principal movement recorded was a steady westerly passage through the Downs, with very small movements along the coast except in the extreme west where at West Wittering 86 flew W. and 29 SW.; movement there was of birds arriving from the NE. and the number seen was probably only part of a broad-fronted movement of birds departing to the Isle of Wight from this stretch of coast. This is borne out by the absence of any records from Eastney Point and Farlington to the west. The westerly movement referred to above was first noted at Hollingbury where 76 flew W. between 0815 hrs. and 1015 hrs., the peak being 52 from 0845 hrs. to 0900 hrs. Further west at The Trundle, c. 155 flew W., the peak there being 100 birds from 1000 hrs. to 1030 hrs.; the distance between these points is 27 miles. The peak of the West Wittering movement referred to was just a little later than this, being 1045 hrs. to 1100 hrs.

Continuing westwards along the Downs, at Butser Hill 109 birds, this number includes finches considered by the observer to be probably of this species, flew W., the movement being from 1000 hrs. to 1100 hrs. Butser is 11 miles WNW. of The Trundle. It was noted at most points that birds were following the line of the escarpment of the Downs, or avoiding the high ground by passing through the valleys. Coastal movements in Hampshire indicated a small departure towards the Isle of Wight, and also a westerly movement. However, on the island itself St. Catherine's Point recorded none, while at The Needles, 22 arrived from the E. and returned.

**20th October:** Passage was on a larger scale than most other species and despite the adverse weather conditions a quite sizeable westerly passage was observed. This was noted in particular on lower ground where conditions were clearer, much of the Downs being shrouded in mist, as at Horsham, 31 W.; Stone Point, 54 W.; and West Wittering c. 30 W. In the afternoon, when conditions became clearer, observers who were watching recorded again a westerly trend, the largest number being 37 at Amberley Mount between 1445 hrs. and 1545 hrs.

### Other species also moving

In addition to the five species commented on above, much useful information was gathered on the movements of Jays, *Alba* Wagtails, Swallows, Greenfinches and Starlings as well as on the first autumn arrival of Black Redstarts along the coastline. Redpoll movements were also of interest and details of these will be found in the systematic list. Such surprising incidental results as 5 Sparrowhawks in Sussex, 27 Kestrels (22 in Sussex), 6 Hawfinches on the move as well as the odd Siskin added to the interest.

### The future

Several problems arose out of this watch. For example, it would be interesting to know what happens to the birds of many species seen departing towards the Isle of Wight, but not subsequently recorded either arriving on the island or departing from it. More research is also needed into the probable evening build-up of numbers of migrants at the coast prior to autumn departure. The easterly movement of several species between the Brighton area and Beachy Head presents a problem. Along that stretch of coast the wind was east of south, and as is typical of visible diurnal migrants, movement was into the wind.

However, this movement took them towards Beachy Head, presumably their point of departure. It would be interesting to see what would have happened with a strong westerly wind.

In future it is not intended to publish in this report an account of each watch treating each of the more important species separately. The data will be presented in a more general form until enough is known about the movements of selected species when such movements will be analysed.

A full account of this first migration watch, in more detail than has been given in this paper, may be obtained from R. F. Porter, 15 Woodend, Surton, Surrey, and he will gladly provide details and instructions for future watches. Additional observers are urgently required.

## SAND MARTINS AT CHICHESTER, 1963

By

C. J. MEAD

S. BODDY and A. B. WATSON

In the last Sussex Bird Report an account of the successful Sand Martin ringing at Chichester Gravel Pits in 1962 appeared. In 1963 we formed a special ringing group to deal with this roost and any others that formed in the area. Luckily the roosting birds used the same reed-bed as in 1962 and we had an extraordinarily successful season catching over 10,000 Sand Martins.

It is intended that the Chichester Ringing Group should expand in 1964 and continue this work. We have decided to pay particular attention to the weights of the Sand Martins that we catch and also to attempt to catch and weigh numbers of warblers. In 1963, when we were undermanned, we managed to trap over 300 warblers: a re-trap of a Sedge Warbler is given on p. 42. A preliminary conclusion that may be drawn from our retraps of *Acrocephalus* warblers is that our Reed Warblers are more static than the Sedge: e.g.

	New Birds	Retraps
Sedge Warbler .. .. .	179	4
Reed Warbler .. .. .	78	17

As always there were many interesting birds at the Pits: perhaps the Osprey was the most exciting during our time there. A Hobby which remained "off-passage" at Chichester between the 25th August and 11th September fed on Sand Martins at dusk and dawn on most days. Its superb flying displays, as it plummeted through clouds of Sand Martins, were highlights of the autumn.

Our Sand Martin catching at dusk and dawn took precedence over watching or catching during the day. We trapped 9,786 new birds and 283 which had been ringed elsewhere. Nearly all these were caught at the main roost although visits were paid to three of the other roosts in the area. The numbers of Sand Martins in the area appeared to be very similar to the 1962 figures: however there may have been more on those days when huge numbers were present in the Selsey area. For instance on 29th August, c. 40,000 roosted at the Severalls and c. 20,000 left out to sea the next morning. We had a most auspicious start since the first Sand Martin to be ringed by the group: N 50,001 on 29th July, was retrapped at Rye Meads, near Hoddesdon (Herts.) on 24th August 72 miles NNE. of Chichester.

The two maps overleaf show (A) recoveries in Great Britain during 1963 of birds ringed at Chichester during 1962 and (B) the ringing localities of the birds retrapped at Chichester during 1963. Interesting comparisons may be made between these two maps and the one published last year of the ringing localities of the birds retrapped at Chichester in 1962. The 1962 map and map (A) are very similar. This indicates that juveniles (which make up 90% of our catch) return to the same general area in their first summer, and also that the intensity of ringing and its regional distribution were comparable between the two years. Thus the differences between maps (A) and (B) can logically be explained by the birds using the roost originating further to the west in 1963. We feel sure that detailed consideration of the origins of birds caught in other parts of south-east England would confirm that this seemed to happen elsewhere also. It will be most interesting to see what happens in 1964.

Apart from the recoveries marked on the maps and the foreign ones given in full below there were fifteen reports of 1963 birds later in the autumn still in Great Britain. Seven of these show movements of between 60 and 100 miles in the north-west quadrant. The only two other distant movements were:

Juv. 11.8.63. Chichester. v. roost 8.9.63 Stibbington (Hunts.) 118 miles N.  
Juv. 16.8.63. Chichester. v. roost 5.9.63 Llangorse (Brecks) 130 miles NW.

These should be considered together with two other juveniles ringed on 13th July at a colony near Romsey (marked by 42 on map (B)) which were retrapped at the end of July roosting in a colony at Wittering (Northants) 115 miles north. These puzzling recoveries would seem to give an indication of the extent that juvenile Sand Martins may wander north before emigrating.

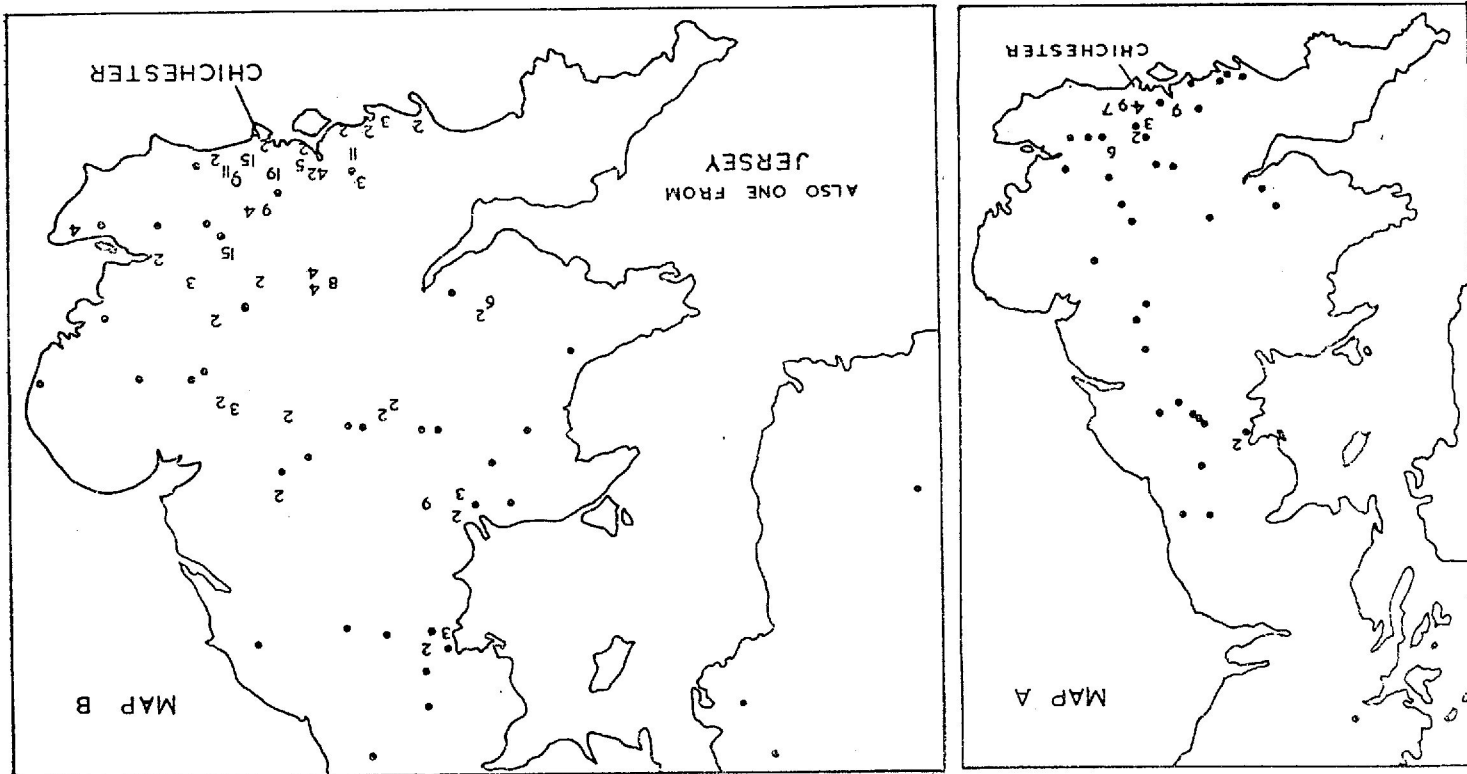
We were most surprised to find that some of the adult Sand Martins that we caught were moulting their primaries. The 25 records of this which we have show that it must be a normal, if rare, occurrence. Previously it was thought that hirundines postponed their post-nuptial moult until they had reached their winter quarters. We hope to investigate this in more detail during 1964, when we also hope to gather material for a parasitologist working on the ticks found on Sand Martins.

Full details follow of all recoveries outside England and Wales, and of an interesting 'double' recovery. The three Irish ringed birds are the first Sand Martins ringed in Ireland to be reported from elsewhere in Great Britain.

Ring No.	Age	Date	Place	Ad.—adult.	Juv.—juvenile.	Vector or co-ordinates
N 09.225 Dead (Wires)	Juv.	25.8.62 (7.5.63)	Chichester (Sussex) near Dax, France			43°38'N., 1°05'W.
AE 90.356 Caught	Juv.	29.8.62 (2.6.63)	Chichester Puebla del Rio, Spain			37°16'N., 6°04'W.
N 15.172 Found dead	Juv.	3.9.62 0.7.63	Chichester St. Ciers-sur-Gironde, France			45°18'N., 0°36'W.
N 09.576 v. colony	Juv.	1.9.62 16.6.63	Chichester Spean Bridge (Inverness)			450 miles NNW.
AE 78.664 v. roost	Juv.	15.8.63 6.9.63	Roscrea (Tipperary) Chichester			colony 330 miles ESE.
SC 28.814 v. roost	Ad.	24.5.62 1.9.63	The Maze (Down) Chichester			colony 335 miles SE.

THE RESULTS DURING 1963 OF RINGING SAND MARTINS AT CHICHESTER

MAP A: Recovery localities in 1963 of 1962 Chichester Birds  
 MAP B: Ringing localities of birds caught at the roost in 1963  
 Single birds are indicated by a solid dot otherwise the number of birds involved is shown by a figure



Ring No.	Age	Date	Place	Vector or co-ordinates
SC 52.635	Juv.	29.6.63	Toomebridge (Antrim)	colony
v. roost		18.8.63	Chichester	355 miles SE.
K 7296	Ad.	7.5.62	St. Ouen, Jersey	Passage
v. roost		27.8.63	Chichester	125 miles ENE.
N 15.423	Juv.	9.9.62	Chichester	105 miles NW.
v. colony		6.7.63	Redbrook (Monmouth)	
v. roost		2.9.63	Chichester	

These results would not have been possible if many other ringers throughout Great Britain were not ringing Sand Martins: their efforts and the help of the British Trust for Ornithology in providing free rings for Sand Martins are gratefully acknowledged. We should like to thank all the ringers who came to Chichester to work long hours and sleep rough. In particular we should like to thank R. G. Newell, R. L. Rolfe and P. J. Wilkinson for the longer periods they stayed at the roost, and N. F. Stewart for his invaluable help with the paper work. Any experienced ringers who might be able to help during 1964 should contact C.J.M. at the Ringing Office. Finally we should like to express our thanks to Mr. A. D. Heaver of John Heaver Ltd. for his kind permission to ring at the gravel pits and for the use of one of his buildings as a shelter and a store.

**Post Script: Chichester Sand Martin dies in sand-storm.** N 62.502 was found dead after a violent sand-storm at the Oasis of Djenane ed Dar (32° 01' N., 1° 15' W.) in the Algerian Sahara on 31.3.64. It was ringed as an adult at Chichester on 22.8.63 and is only the third British ringed Sand Martin to be reported from Africa.

## NOTES FROM COASTAL STATIONS, 1963

### BEACHY HEAD RINGING STATION

The year under review saw the most extensive coverage since regular watching was started in 1960. Observations commenced on 3rd March, and were made on 22 days during the spring, these being mainly on Sundays, but included two periods of 4 and 6 days respectively. During the autumn the area was visited on 51 days including a continuous period from 17th August to 15th September. In addition to this, observations were made for a further 6-day period in October, and on several weekends and all Sundays to the end of November.

As mentioned in the 1962 report, D. D. Harber obtained permission from the Eastbourne County Council for us to build a Helligoland trap in Whitebread Hollow. Due to generous grants of £20 and £50 respectively from the Eastbourne Natural History and Archaeological Society, and the Sussex Ornithological Society we were able to commence the erection of the trap in early June, the bulk of the work being completed in time for the autumn migration. During early August an excellent job was made, of what at first seemed the impossible task of renovating a hut in the Hollow by R. H. Chariwood and N. Robson, to whom we are very grateful. The hut is now used for storage of rings, mist nets and log books.

Unfortunately the trap was not as successful as hoped, the catch being only 150 birds. This was partly due to lack of birds in the immediate vicinity, and also to minor faults in the design which we hope we have now rectified. In

spite of the rather disappointing results from the Heligoland, more birds were ringed in 1963 than in any previous year, the total being over 1300 of 41 species. The majority were as usual caught in mist nets, but in addition to the trap, clap nets were also used. The most productive period for ringing was between mid-August and mid-September when over 1000 birds were ringed, and included in this period were the two most successful days, the 28th August and 10th September. On the former day 99 birds of 19 species, including 30 Whitethroats were ringed, and on the latter day 128 birds of 15 species including 39 Chiffchaffs, 29 Blackcaps, 25 Whitethroats and 12 Lesser Whitethroats were ringed. About two thirds of the birds caught during the year were of the following 5 species:— Whitethroat 293, Blackcap 225, Goldfinch 116, whilst both Chiffchaff and Willow Warbler were close to the 100 mark. Two Blackcap and a Whitethroat recovery are given on pp. 41-42.

#### Spring

The most striking feature of the spring migration reflected the severe effects of the preceding winter, in that migrating numbers of many species were much below average, *i.e.* Song Thrushes were reduced from a normal spring maximum of between 20 and 40 to a maximum of only 6. Significant decreases were also noted in numbers of Blackbirds, Robins, Stonechats, Hedge Sparrows, Wrens and Goldcrests. In contrast, however, numbers of migrant summer visitors were generally larger than usual, and the arrival dates of most species were little affected. The most interesting falls of nocturnal migrants noted during the spring occurred on 15th and 28th April, and were both associated with low mist, and a moderate westerly wind. In spite of poor coverage on the first date due to heavy drizzle, a Hoopoe was seen, Blackcap and Grasshopper Warbler were the first of the spring, and there was a fair fall of *phylloscopi*. The larger fall occurred on the 28th when 7 species of warbler were represented in varying numbers, with *phylloscopi* up to 100. Redstarts and Whinchats in fair numbers were also noted, with a Ring Ouzel and our first spring record of Pied Flycatcher. Sea watching was generally unproductive throughout the spring and no large diurnal movements developed, numbers of migrant Linnets and Goldfinches being lower than in all previous years except 1962.

#### Autumn

August began rather quietly, the largest falls occurring on 28th and 29th, being comprised mainly of Whitethroats, but also involved were large numbers of Redstarts and Spotted Flycatchers. A rather surprising record on the 29th was of a Tree Creeper, and the same day produced the first August Ring Ouzel for the county. The main feature of the autumn was the unprecedented number of Blackcaps during the last three weeks of September continuing into the first week of October. These reached a peak of 60 on 10th September coinciding with a rush of other nocturnal migrants including 150 *phylloscopi*, mainly Chiffchaffs and good numbers of Common and Lesser Whitethroats.

October and November in general followed a similar pattern to previous years with little in the way of large falls, but, as would be expected, thrush numbers built up to their autumn peak, and there were a few interesting records of late summer visitors. The beginning of November was perhaps the most interesting part of the whole autumn as regards unusual birds, the 3rd producing 19 Cranes, 2 Firecrests, a Great Grey Shrike, Short-eared Owl and 6 Ring Ouzels, whilst on the 9th there were 20 Ring Ouzels and 3 Firecrests. As in most previous years a good proportion of the more interesting species noted in the area were birds of prey, and this year 8 species were noted including Osprey, Montagu's Harrier and Hobby for the first time, but also a party of 3 Goshawks,

Buzzard, Peregrine, and the more usual Kestrels and Sparrowhawks. The year followed the previous pattern in that nearly all records of the rarer birds of prey were for the first half of September.

The sequence of visible and diurnal migration during the autumn may be summarised as follows. Most of August remained quiet, but indications that another invasion of Crossbills was in progress came with a record of 30 moving north on the 11th, and these preceded several other occurrences up to mid-September. Tree Pipit movement commenced on 18th, reaching the autumn peak of 80 west the following day. Diurnal migration really got under way during the last 3 days of August when the main movements of Swifts and Sand Martins were noted, but subsequent movements decreased until 12th September, when hirundines, now mainly Swallows, reached a peak of 18,000 and the autumn maximum of *flava* Wagtails occurred. The hirundine passage continued at a high level until mid-October by which time coasting movements of finches, mainly Goldfinches and Linnets were well under way. The most surprising feature of the autumn finch movements was the exceptionally large number of Redpolls which reached a peak of 65 on 7th October. Little diurnal migration was noted after the first week of November, and little in the way of significant sea-bird movement was noted throughout the whole autumn, although not a great deal of sea-watching was done.

In April, 1963, one of our group, John Cooper, who has put in much valuable work at Beachy Head married and moved to Lincolnshire making it impossible for him to continue regular watching. Due to this and other reasons it seems unlikely that the area will be covered as well in 1964. Any members of the Society who wish to obtain experience in ringing or would be interested in watching the area regularly would be warmly welcomed. Ringers or regular watchers would be able to gain access to the hut, either by contacting D. D. Harber, or by having a key to the hut cut. Consideration is now being given to the possibility of erecting another Heligoland Trap in the Hollow in 1965, but this and any other future developments will probably depend on any forthcoming help.

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

#### SELSEY BILL

The year 1963 will always be remembered by us as the year of the Cranes, and a fitting conclusion to the first five years of our watching at Selsey was the unprecedented appearance of flocks of these magnificent birds in late October and early November. Our hut is now four years old, much to our amazement for when we knocked it together in 1960 we scarcely believed it would last so long. The comings-and-goings of observers over the years rendered a new floor essential in the early autumn, but apart from that, and a remarkably steep-sloping horizon viewed from within, it still seems strong enough to withstand the frequent gales. The steady development of the tip of the Bill for housing estates has reduced our watchable area even more, and in addition to watching at The Severals, and mist-netting there thanks to the owner, Mr. Vernon Smith, we extended our area in the late autumn to the west of Selsey to include the West Beach area and the adjacent fields. Our total area, therefore, now includes the area to within about a mile and a half of the tip of the Bill on both sides.

The cold weather early in the year was notable for gatherings of duck offshore and geese in the West Beach fields in numbers higher than usual. Eider, for example, attained a peak of 114, and Scaup 33, and over 200 Whitefronts and 4 Bean Geese were recorded. The spring movements, possibly as a result of the hard weather, were late in getting under way, and in the whole spring the only reasonable period was in mid-April, when a large up-Channel movement

of divers, duck, skuas, including several Bonxies, and terns, principally Sandwich, took place. Other highlights of the spring included a Nightjar on the beach on April 15th, a Corncrake which flopped in from the sea and crawled under the hut, later to fly off westwards, on 29th, and a Stone Curlew on the Bill-tip early on the 16th. There were the usual occasional Mediterranean Gulls and Roseate Terns, but surprisingly, no Gull-billed Terns, which had been recorded annually since 1960.

The autumn started disappointingly, and August and September saw few "falls" of migrants and little moving at sea, although we recorded the largest hirundine movements since the Observatory opened—for example, over 20,000 Sand Martins departed to the south in the first few hours after dawn on 30th August. Oddities during these two months included 2 Gull-billed Terns, several Pomarine and Great Skuas, 4 Buzzards, soaring together over the Severals, and a "Ring-tail" Harrier which left out to sea on September 2nd. The highlight of October was the large skua movement on 15th, when no fewer than 20 passed down Channel—11 Arctics, 7 Pomarine, a Great and our first Long-tailed. Finch emigration was on a large scale, with a peak of nearly 4000 Linnets on the first day of the Migration Watch of 19th-20th. The first Cranes were to appear on 31st.

Cranes dominated the first few days of November, with over 120 being recorded of which flocks of 12, 21 and 57 actually left out to sea. The period in question was the most exciting ever at Selsey, for in addition to the Cranes, a Pectoral Sandpiper was trapped, a Hen Harrier was hunting in the vicinity for several days, there were up to 5 Short-eared Owls, 2 Curlew Sandpipers, 2 Black Redstarts, 2 Little Gulls, 3 Long-tailed Ducks, not to mention late Sandwich Tern, Redstart and Whitethroat, all in the first few days of the month. Sea watches continued to be productive until well into December, with several late skuas and shearwaters, Long-tailed Ducks and Slavonian Grebes. A Grey Phalarope was trapped at the Sewage Farm on 24th November.

Fuller particulars of the 1963 observations are contained in the Observatory's Report for the year, which includes articles on diver and Fulmar movements off the Bill during the last five years, and can be obtained from B. A. E. Marr, 59 The Green, Southwick, price 4/- (including postage).

B. A. E. MARR and R. F. PORTER.

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES DURING 1963

### NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED DURING THE YEAR

A full list of Members as at 31st December, 1962, was published in the 1962 Sussex Bird Report

Archard, Miss K. M., 12 Millcroft, Westdene, Brighton  
 Bagley, J. T. A., Kestrels, Holly Drive, Taddington, Littlehampton  
 Bird, Miss R., 3 Rixons Orchard, Horsted Keynes  
 Botting, J. G. G., 17 Windlesham Gardens, Brighton 1  
 F Botting, Mrs. V. D., 17 Windlesham Gardens, Brighton 1  
 Brogden, Mrs. E. M., School House, Dyke Road, Hove 4  
 Brown, T. E., 78 Waldegrave Road, Brighton 6  
 Burge, O. A., 440 Kings Road, London, S.W.3  
 Butler, R. R. C., The White House, Whitehawk Hill, Brighton

Capp, Miss K. K., 42 Exeter Street, Brighton 5  
 Charlwood, R. H., Post Cottage, Wilmington, Nr. Polegate  
 Clarke, P. B., Pipers, East Hoathly  
 J Clement, P., 27 Southbank, Long Ditton, Surrey  
 Collins, Dr. L. A., Rose Cottage, Alfriston, Polegate  
 Dougharty, F. W., Woodside, Harbolets Road, West Chiltington  
 Dunk, H. C., 24 Abbots View, Kings Langley, Herts.

Ellis, H. G., 4 Peel Road, Brighton  
 Emery, Miss S. P., 119 Cedar Drive, Parklands, Chichester  
 F Fowler, Mrs. E. J., 131 Parklands Road, Chichester

Gardner, Miss M. E., Hurston Warren, Pulborough  
 Gilbert, F. G., Nigeria, 17 Milton Avenue, Rustington  
 Graves, Mrs. E. A., 20 Court Farm Road, Hove 4  
 Green, N. G., 20 Court Farm Road, Hove 4  
 Green, Mrs. D. L., The Decoy Cottage, Poling, Arundel

Harcourt, Dr. R. B., 193 Hillbury Road, Waringham, Surrey  
 Hartnell, Mrs. H., Old Mill Cottage, Mayfield  
 F Heleyer, Mrs. F. M., 55 Bramble Rise, Westdene, Brighton 5  
 Heriot, Miss J. E., 2 Barrowfield Lodge, Hove 4  
 Hill, Rev. H. M., St. Philip's, Arundel  
 Hope, C. E., 29 Spring Plat, Pound Hill, Crawley  
 Hopkins, M. A., 49 Lindum Road, Worthing  
 Hughes, S. W. M., 37 Croft Way, Horsham

J Jackson, R. J. B., Winacres, Russ Hill, Charlwood, Surrey  
 Kay Robinson, H. P., 37 Eastcourt Road, Worthing

Lewis, R. S. E., 12 Stockbridge Road, Chichester  
 Lindsay, Miss L. M., Valley Cottage, Old Heathfield  
 J Lord, N. A. G., 4 Dawson Terrace, Brighton  
 Lorimer, Mrs. D. H., 8 Southway, Totteridge, London, N.20

Marchant, Miss E. C., Norton Lodge, Norton, Chichester  
 Martin, J. M., Gun Cottage, Horam  
 Martin, Mrs. E. S., Gun Cottage, Horam  
 Metcalfe, Mrs. E. H., 18 Newham Lane, Steyning  
 Morrison, Miss E. M., The Coppice, Upper Hartfield  
 Mosley, L., o.b.E., Alley Cottage, Mill Hamlet, Stilesham, Chichester  
 Murphy, Mrs. C., White Lodge, Copyhold Lane, Cuckfield

Park, D. R., 22 Haynes Avenue, Worthing  
 Peachey, B. C., 4 St. Nicholas Road, Portshead-by-Sea  
 Peppe, J. H. H., Flat 2, 75 Vicarage Road, Eastbourne  
 J Pinker, B. W., 15 Orchard Avenue, Worthing

Ramsden, Dr. W. M., Sanctuary, Alfriston, Nr. Polegate  
 F Ramsden, Mrs. M. J., Sanctuary, Alfriston, Nr. Polegate