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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.": sewage farm. "E.": "W." etc.; cardinal points of the compass are intended only to give a general direction unless the context indicates otherwise. In particular this applies to birds going up or down the Channel and which are referred to as flying E. or W.

For details of the Sussex Ornithological Society and how to join please see page 58

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

NUMBER SEVENTEEN, 1964

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Published July, 1965

by

THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1964

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Scientific

Sub-Committee: D. R. Coda, D. D. Harber, M. Hollings, M. Shrubbs
(Secretary)

Beachy Head

Ringing Station: R. H. Charlwood, D. D. Harber, M. E. Nolan, A. Quinn
(Secretary)

(At the Annual General Meeting of 13th March, 1965, all the officers and members of the Council were re-elected).

INTRODUCTION

The work of the Society continues to increase and it is intended that this report will be an adequate record of all the various investigations being undertaken. This report is much the same length as the previous one but members will note that the price has been increased. Unfortunately it is no longer an economic proposition to publish a 60-page report at the same price as 10 years ago when the report was only one-third its present length. Costs continue to creep upwards, but the present price should cover printing and postage for several years. We are very grateful to Ian Willis for the new cover design. If it is possible to make the future contents as interesting as the cover it may well be possible to increase the report's circulation and offset rising costs.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Membership in the Society's third year continued to increase, and it is pleasing to be able to report that at 31st December it stood at a total of 377 members. This is fewer than hoped, but provided it can maintain a steady upward rise each year, the Society can continue to prosper.

At the second Annual General Meeting, on 21st March, 1964, the Honorary Officers and Members of the Council were elected as set out above. During the year the Council met three times under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hollings. Topics discussed included trying to reduce the disturbance to duck caused by shooting at Darwell Reservoir; the possibilities of establishing some form of wildfowl refuge in the Arun Valley; and the Society's Ringing Station at Beachy Head. The Society's allowance of £40 to the Ringing Station bought a varied stock of mist-nets which were put to good use in supplementing the numbers of birds trapped in the Heligoland Trap. More members were trained as ringers during the year.

The audited accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1964, show that the excess of Income over Expenditure for the year amounted to £12 8s. 5d., which added to the balance brought forward from 1963 brings the General Fund to £167 4s. 3d. at 31st December, 1964. The surplus is smaller than that in 1963, the increased expenditure reflecting the increased activities of the Society.

A Junior Section of the Society was instituted during the year, to cater for children in the 10-14 age group. Although many schools were sent full particulars, the response was disappointing, and even with the added inducement of an essay competition, there appeared to be little enthusiasm among children of this age. A better response is awaited in 1965, when it is also hoped that members with children of the appropriate age will persuade them to enrol in the Section. As a result of the naming of the Section, those aged 15-17 inclusive who were formerly "Junior Members" are now named "Intermediate Members".

The Scientific Sub-Committee continued their hard work on the Society's research and survey programme during the year. It is proposed to drop the special surveys on Great Crested Grebe, Stone Curlew and Wheatear in 1965 as their distribution is now fairly well plotted. For different reasons the survey on the Stonechat is also being discontinued. These species will be re-surveyed in future years. Several members joined in the woodland time-quadrats with great success and have said how interesting the work was. Counts of waders in Chichester Harbour were made at monthly intervals throughout the year and gave interesting results. Several interesting points arose from the Migration Watches and these may well form the basis of future work on the subject. Fuller details of these various surveys appear elsewhere in this report.

The Society held eight meetings in 1964; two in Brighton, and one each in Chichester, Horsham, Worthing, Haywards Heath, Hove and Hastings. The variety of places visited is part of the Society's policy to move about Sussex as much as possible to meet its members. "Iceland and some of its Birds" by Mr. Walter Murray was one of the most enjoyable talks we have had, illustrated by a superb collection of slides, and by far the most stimulating evening to date was spent listening to Dr. Maurice Burton's "Myth of the Phoenix". Dr. Hugh Boyd of the Severn Wildfowl Trust gave an entertaining account of "Wild Geese in Great Britain and Iceland", and on February 1st we packed 650 people into Hove Town Hall to see the R.S.P.B. film "Reserved for Birds", which helped the Society's funds.

The Field Outings, as always, were subject to the vagaries of the weather. Beachy Head Ringing Station saw bright, sunny days both on April 11th, when there were few birds to be seen or caught, and on August 23rd, when 70 were trapped. A pleasant day was had at Thorney Island on September 5th, but by complete contrast it poured with rain and blew a gale for the outing to Weir Wood Reservoir on December 13th.

The four Newsletters issued to members and the Press during the year gave news of the Society's activities and of the more exciting birds recorded during the year. The Council again wishes to express its gratitude to the Press for publicising the Society through the Newsletters.

The outstanding event of 1964 for Sussex ornithologists was the declaration of Pagham Harbour as a Nature Reserve. The Society is proud to have been actively associated with the Sussex Naturalists' Trust in thus saving the Harbour and its wildlife for posterity from future development, and hopes that this will only be the first such Reserve in the county. At the other end of the county the Rye Harbour Ternery again occupied the Society's attention, and two steps were taken in an endeavour to increase the success of the nesting Common Terns. An attempt was made to check the vegetation on the nesting islets, to help the birds, and a regular watch was organised during a series of weekends in the main part of the breeding season to attempt to prevent human interference with the colony. However, despite all these efforts, the colony had a very poor year. In 1965 we shall also pay attention to another gravel pit in the vicinity where another colony has been started.

The Secretary would like to thank all those who helped in many ways during the year and again in particular Mr. Tom Palmer, who addressed and packed all the literature sent to members during 1964.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The early months were again very dry and generally open and mild with the exception of a fall of snow on January 13th, which did not lie. As a consequence mortality amongst many species was low and these started the breeding season in better strength than twelve months earlier. On the other hand because of the dry weather there was again little or no flood water available for wildfowl and in consequence duck were generally rather scarce. Even on the reservoirs, numbers of Mallard, Teal and Wigeon were somewhat below average and Pintail and Shoveler were very scarce. Diving duck were also poorly represented and the peak of c300 Pochard at Chichester Gravel Pits was below that of recent years. However, Gadwall were unusually numerous (total numbers being nevertheless quite small) and such cold weather as there was brought in a fair number of Snaw. Not far short of 200 White-fronted Geese seem to have been present, c140 of these stayed for some weeks in the Sidlesham-Selsey area. A few Bean Geese again visited the county and Brent Geese were very numerous, the total of c1,500 in the Chichester Harbour area was far more than in any other recent year. Whooper and Bewick's Swans were also quite well represented.

March was also dry at first but about 4½ inches of rain fell in the third week. It was then mainly dry till May when heavy rain fell in the first and fourth weeks. Nearly 6 inches of rain fell in June but from the 20th a fine hot sunny period commenced. Earlier, the first week of April had been exceptionally cold with strong NE winds which had moved W on 7th predominating from this quarter till the end of May. Spells of easterly wind occurred in the periods April 25th-27th, May 12th-17th and 23rd-30th. Visible spring migration presented no

striking features, though the passage of Common/Arctic Terns at Selsey Bill was a good deal larger than that recorded in 1963. An unusual spring "invasion" of Little Bitterns took place over much of Britain and one of these birds turned up at Chichester Gravel Pits at the end of May and stayed there for a few days. About the same time a Marsh Warbler appeared at a coastal locality which is not being disclosed. Much rarer was a Great Reed Warbler trapped and ringed at Sidlesham on June 25th.

So far as breeding is concerned, many species appeared to have recovered or to be recovering from the effects of the severe winter of 1962/3. The *Survey of Woodland Birds* was particularly valuable in providing quantitative data from which to assess changes in breeding numbers. Results for 1964 are summarised on page 50. Of particular interest was the partial recovery of the Wren, especially near the coast, though to the north of the Downs the species was still very scarce. Blackbirds and Robins were probably back to full strength. Long-tailed and Marsh Tits were still rather scarce but Great and Blue Tits made a good recovery. Observations not connected with this survey indicated that the wet weather in May and June seriously affected some ground-nesting species and in particular Partridges and Pheasants seemed to have had a very poor season. In the river valleys the summer floods seriously affected Red-shanks and Yellow Wagtails. As in a number of other counties, numbers of Quail were considerably larger than usual though breeding results are not known.

Except for a short period of unsettled weather at the beginning of July, mainly dry, fine weather continued until November 13th, with occasional thunderstorms and one or two days of strong SW. winds in September and October. A White Stork was reported in the Pulborough area during July but will not be found in the systematic list since it seems evident that this was a bird known to have escaped from captivity which had previously appeared in other counties along the Channel coast. An unusually large influx of White-winged Black Terns took place in Britain, July to September, and we had two at Langney Point, September 12th-14th. We were fortunate also with Caspian Terns with one at Rye Harbour on July 19th and one off Langney Point on September 13th. The only rare waders recorded were Temminck's Stints at Newhaven and Sidlesham Ferry in August and a Great Snipe at Pagham on November 10th. This latter record was the only one for Britain in 1964. About four Tawny Pipits turned up on the coast in September. An Aquatic Warbler was ringed at Pagham on August 23rd and a Melodious Warbler was seen at Selsey Bill on September 13th. Other outstanding records were of a Red-necked Grebe at Camber in August, very early for Sussex, and c20 Spoonbills off Langney Point on September 1st.

The first half of October brought us a number of unusual species. A Richard's Pipit was present at Falmer, 8th to 11th. An Alpine Swift was seen at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton, on 11th and a Little Bunting was seen at Langney Point on 15th. At least six Bearded Tits were present on the Crumbles on October 14th and this was the first sign of a remarkable influx of this species into Sussex, an influx which was shared by other counties. Other commoner species unusually abundant in autumn were Twite and Redpolls. Visible migration of many passerines was much below normal, perhaps owing to the unusually fine weather. This may also be the reason why Little Gulls amongst other sea birds were again recorded only in very small numbers.

The dry weather finally broke on November 13th and a spell of unsettled westerly winds with a good deal of rain lasted until the 20th. From then till

the end of the year the weather was rather variable but generally drier than usual with some hard night frosts. Winds were mainly NW-NE. Numbers of wild-fowl towards the end of the year were average but there were fewer than usual on inland levels, owing to flooding there being erratic, and more on reservoirs and gravel pits, particularly at Chichester Gravel Pits, which continue to grow in importance as a wintering place for these birds. There were about c1,500 duck there at the end of the year, including 420 Pochard. A period of gales at the end of the year produced a Leach's Petrel on the somewhat unusual date of December 31st at Langney Point.

CONTRIBUTORS

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NOTE. Records from the Selsey-Severals area coming from many observers are given without observers' names unless important observations are involved. The same applies to records from Beachy Head.

Wildfowl counters for 1964 Season:

R. B. Barstow (Powdermill Res.), D. R. Coda (Glynde Levels), E. W. Deering (Manhood-Fishbourne), J. Fowler (Chichester 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 (Possingworth Park), M. H. Port (Weirwood Res.*), J. Reaney (Darwell Res.*), A. B. Sheldon (Amberley* and Pulborough Levels**).

* Priority Localities

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1964

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER**.—One on the sea off Lancing January 12th and 27th (F.S.). One on the sea off Langney Point on February 10th (R.H.C.). The only other records for the first half of the year are of single birds found dead at Selsey Bill on March 23rd and April 3rd.

One off Langney Point on November 8th (R.H.C.) and one off Newhaven Harbour on the 21st (I.R.W.). One off Selsey Bill on December 6th (B.A.E.M., H.P.K.R.) and one off Seaford Head on December 28th (R.E.G.).

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**.—No certain records.

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER**.—The latest May record was of one at Selsey Bill on the 17th.

On December 6th there were c.50 off Pett Level (R.H.C.).

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE**.—Breeding records will be found in the report on the breeding surveys on p. 32. A total of 32 ponds or groups of ponds were visited and 38 pairs were recorded.

One off Newhaven Harbour on May 12th (I.R.W.). One off there on July 24th and 28th (M.R.; I.R.W.).

On November 21st there were 14 at Weir Wood Reservoir (C.M.J.).

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE**.—A bird of the year at Northpoint Beach, Camber, on August 19th (R.H.C.) was also seen by J.L.F.P. on the 28th. The first county record for this month for nearly 100 years. There are no other records.

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE**.—The only record for the first part of the year was of one at Chichester G.P. on January 16th (N.F.S.).

During SW. gales there were 2 off Pagham Harbour on November 20th and 23rd, c.10 on December 8th, c.12 on 9th and c.7 on 10th (W.W.A.P.). The only other record is of one off Selsey Bill on December 13th.

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE**.—One at Weir Wood Reservoir on February 16th (R.I.S.). Inland records are unusual, particularly in winter. One off Newhaven Harbour on March 24th (L.P.A.) and one off Selsey Bill on April 5th (R.J.J.; B.A.E.M.). One at Rye Harbour on June 21st (many observers). An unusual date.

Up to 2 at Chichester G.P. August 17th-27th (J.V.S.).

One at Darwell Reservoir on October 24th (R.V.W.). Two off Church Norton on November 22nd (B.M.). During SW. gales there were 4 off Pagham Harbour on December 8th, 8 there on 9th and c.4 there on 10th (W.W.A.P.).

9. **LITTLE GREBE**.—Numbers at the end of the year at the usual coastal pools seemed to have improved considerably as compared with last year. Maximum recorded together being c.75 at Manhood End on November 8th (H.C.D.).

12. **LEACH'S PETREL**.—One not far out off Langney Point on December 31st (D.D.H.), after a period of gales.

16. **MANX SHEARWATER**.—One flew W. c. a mile off Selsey Bill on June 6th (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; D.M.P.; R.F.P.). The fourth county record for this month.

One in Newhaven Harbour, July 22nd-29th (A.R.K.; M.R.; I.R.W.).

MANX BALEARIC SHEARWATER.—Sub-specific identification was not possible in the case of the one flying W. c. a mile off Selsey Bill on August 30th (M.A.J.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.).

21. **SOOTY SHEARWATER**.—One flew W. c. 400yds. off Selsey Bill on August 6th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.; A.R.K.). Our first record for this month and the seventh for the county.

26. **FULMAR**.—W.P.W. saw one over the beach at St. Leonards on February 7th and found one dead there on the 26th.

Between April 3rd and June 30th a number were, as usual, seen along the coast, the most seen together being only 2.

In the autumn, one off Selsey Bill on July 12th, and in August 4 records of single birds there. One at Beachy Head on 30th.

27. **GANNET**.—January records are:—one off Brighton on the 19th (A.B.S.) and one off there on 26th (I.R.W.); 38 off Selsey Bill on five dates, the maximum being 19 W. on the 19th. One off Selsey Bill on February 23rd.

Records for the rest of the year were much as usual.

29. **SHAG**.—Only 5 were recorded along the coast in the first half of the year; one off Porto Bello, Brighton on January 25th-26th (A.R.K.; I.R.W.); one off Selsey Bill on March 22nd; one off Langney Point on April 5th (D.D.H.), and one there on May 3rd (K.V.). One flying E. off Selsey Bill on June 28th.

In August 9 were recorded along the coast including 4 at Selsey Bill.

The only records for the end of the year are of one at Selsey Bill on October 18th and November 8th, and one at Newhaven on December 13th (R.H.C.) and 25th (I.R.W.).

30. **HERON**.—All known heronries were visited, the numbers of occupied nests being: Fynings Moor, near Rogate, 2 (G.R.G.); Fishbourne, 24 (J.P.); Pagham, 3 (W.W.A.P.); Parham, 17 (T. Baker per A.K.H.); Henfield, 2 (C.A.G.); Firle Park, 5 (R.L.); Glynde, 2 (R.L.); Eridge, 9 (D.R.C.); Glyndle, 5; Priestshaws, 4; Westham, one (J.A.H.); Wartling, none (R.C.H.); Udimore, none (J.A.H.); Leasam, 8 (J.A.). This makes a total of 82 nests, an increase of seven on last year. The heromy at Udimore is now probably extinct. No new sites were discovered.

There were 15 at the Wicks on August 19th (R.H.C.). Unusually large numbers were also present at Weir Wood Reservoir in October with c. 30 on 17th (M.H.P.), c. 35 on 18th (C.E.H.), and 20 on the 26th (C.F.H.). On November 21st, 26 were counted there (C.M.J.).

The only movements suggesting migration recorded were at Langney Point, one E. on August 21st (R.H.C.) and at Selsey Bill, 5 SW. out to sea on September 6th, 2 E. on 21st and one S. on 27th.

[35. **CATTLE EGRET**.—One at Ford, December 14th-20th, being captured in a weak condition on the last date (B. Duffin, M. H. Terry, Major W. W. A. Phillips *et al.*). The identification has been accepted by *Brit. B.* This species is kept in captivity and the unusual date strongly suggests an escaped bird.]

37. **LITTLE BITTERN**.—A male first found by J.V.S. at Chichester G.P. on May 29th stayed until June 2nd and was seen by several other observers. This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*, and is the first record for the county since 1947.

38. **BITTERN**.—On February 24th one was seen at West Wittering by M.S., and what was no doubt the same bird was seen by T.G. at Itchenor Cross-roads on the same date.

42. **SPOONBILL**.—A loose flock of c.20 flew SW. c. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile off Langney Point on September 1st (R.H.C.). This is the largest single flock recorded for the county.

45. **MALLARD**.—No large numbers recorded, the most being at Chichester G.P. with c.600 on August 16th (B.M.) and September 20th (H.C.D.) and c.800 there on November 15th (B.A.E.M.).

46. **TEAL**.—On July 5th 2 flew in S-N. at Langney Point (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.). Much lower numbers were recorded at Amberley-Pulborough than of late with c.500 in February, and only c.230 at the end of the year.

47. **GARGANEY**.—First recorded in Spring on March 11th. Breeding may have taken place in 2 localities.

49. **GADWALL**.—Many more records than usual: at Chichester G.P. from January 1st-March 13th up to 3 (many observers), with 8 on January 3rd (C.F.H.) and 5 on February 17th (A.R.K.). Five there on April 1st (J.V.S.). Elsewhere, in January, 8 at Burton Pond on the 11th (R.F.P.) and 26th (M.H.P.); one at Wiston Pond on 16th (R.J.S.) and 2 at Weir Wood Reservoir on 18th (A.M.E.). Two on Pett Level Pools April 5th (R.H.C.), and 2 at Manhood End on the 27th (M.S.).

Four at Chichester G.P. on July 11th (A.B.W. *et al.*). One off Langney Point on August 31st (M.R.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir on 30th (J.A.W.), and 2 there on September 12th (M.H.P.; J.A.W.). At Chichester G.P. one November 17th-mid December with 6 on December 5th (J.V.S.) and 28th (C.E.H.). Eight at Darwell Reservoir on December 23rd (R.V.W.).

50. **WIGEON**.—On February 7th there were c.1,000 in the Pagham Harbour area (W.W.A.P.). On the 22nd A.R.K. estimated c.1,500 at Amberley. One at Rye Harbour G.P. on July 10th (A.R.K.). Three at Chichester G.P. on July 16th (J.V.S.). Only low numbers were recorded at the end of the year.

52. **PINTAIL**.—On January 5th there were c.50 at Amberley (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.O.). Only small numbers were recorded after that date.

One at Thorney Island on August 5th (J.R.H.; A.R.K.), 2 at Weir Wood on August 20th (B.A.E.M.).

At the end of the year c.50 at Manhood End on December 26th (M.S.). Only small numbers elsewhere.

53. **SHOVELER**.—No more than c.50 were counted at Amberley at the beginning of the year.

Two pairs were at the W. end of the county in June and July but there is no proof of breeding. At the end of August there were 14 at the Severals, Church Norton.

On December 31st there were 67 at Chichester G.P.

54. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD**.—A male at Chichester G.P. October 30th-November 28th (R.E.G.; D.L.; J.V.S.; A.B.W. *et al.*). A male at Burton Pond on December 26th and 28th (M.H.P.; G.A.S.; J.A.W.) may well have been the same bird. It was still present in the county early in 1965 and was probably an "escape."

55. **SCAUP**.—Numbers were small at both ends of the year. Inland records consist of one at Chichester G.P. on January 23rd (H.P.K.R.), and a male at Weir Wood Reservoir on January 26th and February 9th, 16th and 23rd (P.J.W.; V.A.W.).

56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—At the beginning of the year up to 150 at Weir Wood Reservoir was the maximum recorded.

Breeding took place at: Rye Harbour G.P. (3 or 4 pairs) (R.H.C.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.); Darwell Reservoir (4 pairs) (K.V.); Weir Wood Reservoir (2 pairs) (R.H.C.; D.D.H.; R.J.B.J.; B.M.); Mill Pond, Lurgashall (one pair) (E.T.W.); Chichester G.P. (3 pairs) (J.V.S.). Birds were present at 2 other areas but there was no proof of breeding.

At the end of the year there were c.150 at Pagham Harbour (W.W.A.P.).

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

At Chichester G.P. up to 4 in May, one on June 1st and 30th, and 2 on July 21st (J.V.S.). On June 28th one flew W. off Selsey Bill (many observers). One on West Harting Pond on July 17th (G.R.G.) and one at Thorney Island on 25th (R.F.P.). At Weir Wood Reservoir: one on June 21st and 24th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.; C.M.J.), and in July 4 there on 4th (C.M.J.) and 2 on the 16th (R.J.B.J.). One at Rye G.P. on June 28th (R.H.C.).

60. **GOLDENEYE**.—On January 3rd 20 at Manhood End (C.F.H.) and 17 near there on February 2nd (C.M.J.). Four at Weir Wood Reservoir on April 5th and 2 there on 8th (R.J.B.J.).

Two flew W. off Langney Point on October 31st (D.D.H.) and 2 W. there on November 5th (R.H.C.) and 19th (D.D.H.). Three flew E. off Selsey Bill on 8th. Other records much as usual.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—One off Porto Bello, Brighton, on January 25th (A.R.K.). On March 26th 6 (one an adult male) flew W. off Selsey Bill (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; R.F.P.; H.P.K.R.). One flew W. there on April 12th.

One on Pagham Lagoon November 16th and 18th, and another found freshly dead there on the latter date. Two off Pagham Harbour on 23rd (W.W.A.P.). One on Pagham Lagoon on December 27th (L.G.H.). Two on Knepp Lake on December 13th-23rd (G.M.M.). Inland records are rare in Sussex.

62. **VELVET SCOTER**.—Only small numbers recorded. No figures for Rye Bay. Most recorded were c.8 off Selsey on January 19th.

64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—During April a total of 3,300 flew E. off Selsey Bill on 22 days covered.

Four at Darwell Reservoir on September 21st (R.V.W.); c.400 off Langney Point on November 19th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.). Few recorded elsewhere but no figures for Rye Bay.

67. **EIDER DUCK**.—For January-March c.115 were recorded for the coast. This includes a total of c.15 adult males. The largest flock recorded was c.35 off Selsey Bill.

At Selsey Bill in April was recorded on most days with a maximum of 22 (3 adult males) on 25th. In May recorded on 3 dates with 5 (one adult male) on the 3rd.

Not recorded elsewhere in the county in April or May and there are no June records.

On July 27th, 3 flew W. at Selsey Bill; one at Newhaven on 28th (I.R.W.). Five (3 adult males) flew E. off Langney Point on August 13th (R.H.C.).

At Selsey Bill, 3 flew W. on September 27th, and in November maximum numbers there were 37 W. on 5th and 35 W. on 8th (9 adult males). Other than this a total of c.40 were recorded October-December for the county c.10 of these being adult males.

69. **RED-BREADED MERGANSER**.—During 22 days in April 134 flew E. and 32 W. off Selsey Bill, the largest daily total being 26 E. on 6th. One flew W. off Selsey Bill on July 25th (J.R.H.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.). Four at Church Norton on September 20th (H.C.D.). Otherwise records were much as usual.

70. **GOOSANDER**.—One at Darwell Reservoir on January 26th (K.V.). One at Pett Level Pools on February 29th (G.A.S.). Two at Weir Wood Reservoir on March 1st (M.H.P.; G.A.S.).

One flew E. off Langney Point on November 12th (R.H.C.) and one W. there on 19th (D.D.H.). One off Newhaven on 21st (I.R.W.). In December, one at Weir Wood Reservoir on 15th (B.M.); one at Exceat on the 27th (R.H.C.) and one at Chichester G.P. 25th-28th (C.E.H.; L.G.H.; A.B.W.).

71. **SMEW**.—At Chichester G.P. numbers fluctuated from 2-6 January 3rd-February 27th (many observers); one at Pett Level Pools on January 5th (M.H.P.; J.A.W.). At Weir Wood Reservoir 2 on January 12th (M.H.P.; G.A.S.; J.A.W.) and 3 on the 18th (A.M.E.). One at Darwell Reservoir on

January 18th (R.V.W.) and 2 at Burton Pond on the 26th (M.H.P.). One at Piddinghoe on February 19th (R.H.C.).

At the end of the year, there was one at Pagham Lagoon November 16th December 29th (W.W.A.P. *et al.*) and 2 at Thorney Island on December 6th (K.V.).

73. **SHELDUCK**.—Inland records are of one at Amberley on March 16th (C.M.J.), and one at Greatham Bridge on June 6th (C.E.H.) and 7th (M.J.H.; B.A.E.M.; I.R.W.). One at Darwell Reservoir on November 9th (R.V.W.).

A pair again nested in N.W. Sussex not far inside the county boundary. Apart from the usual breeding records a pair again bred successfully in the lower Cuckmere Valley (R.H.C.; I.R.W.).

On June 3rd, 15 flew E. until lost to sight at Chichester G.P. (R.H.C.; D.D.H.) and on June 28th c.50 flew S. out to sea at the Wicks (R.H.C.).

75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE**.—One at West Wittering on January 11th (M.S.). One flew W. off Cuckmere Haven on February 19th. Eight on Pevensey Levels March 6th-9th (R.H.C.). Four flew W. off Selsey Bill on November 8th (M.J.H.; H.P.K.R.; I.R.W.).

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**.—Up to c.140 in the Sidlesham/Selsey area throughout January and into early February; 35 flew E. over Sidlesham on March 13th (M.S. *et al.*). Two flew NE. over Selsey Bill on March 18th and 20 flew out SE. there on 19th. At Pagham Harbour 25 flew S. on January 3rd (W.W.A.P.); 32 present there on the 5th (H.P.K.R. *et al.*); c.200 flew E. there on February 29th (B.M.). Three flew W. over Chichester G.P. and there was one at Amberley on January 5th (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.O.), and on the same day there was one at the lower Cuckmere Valley (R.H.C.). On January 12th, 24 on Glynde Levels (R.B.); 25 flew W. over Weir Wood Reservoir on 26th (P.J.W.; V.A.W.); 3 on Pevensey Levels on February 3rd and 115 there on March 8th (R.H.C.). A rather large number for this month.

On November 19th, 2 flew E. off Langney Point (D.D.H.). In December, 7 over Ford Airfield and 9 W. off Selsey Bill on 19th (many observers). Fifteen over Goring on 20th (R.J.S.). Seven at Sidlesham and one at Chichester G.P. from 25th to end of the year (J.V.S.; M.S.); 9 at Pagham Harbour on the 28th (L.G.H.).

78. **BEAN GOOSE**.—Eight in the Sidlesham area during January and up to February 15th (M.S. *et al.*). On February 8th and on several dates up to 22nd, there were 8 in Arundel Forest, Patching (M.H.), possibly the same birds; 7 by Wiston Pond, March 9th-21st (R.J.S. *et al.*); 2 on Pevensey Levels March 6th-9th (R.H.C.).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.—The only records are: one lower Cuckmere Valley on January 5th (R.H.C.); 4 at Manhood End on January 8th and at Sidlesham on the 24th (M.S.).

80. **BRENT GOOSE**.—In Chichester Harbour there were c.1,500 off Pilsley Island on January 7th (R.H.C.). This is the largest number recorded for the county in recent years. Otherwise at the beginning of the year c.600-700 were present there (R.E.G.; M.H.P.; G.A.S.; J.A.W.). At Pagham only up to 16 were recorded. Elsewhere the species occurred along the coast but not more than c.50 were recorded together.

Between March 7th and April 9th E. passage was recorded along the coast between St. Leonards and Selsey Bill the largest number being c.200-250 off St.

Leonards on March 18th (W.P.W.).

On May 3rd there was one off Selsey Bill (many observers), and on the 9th one (no doubt the same) at Pagham Harbour (R.J.J.; A.R.K.; A.V.; I.R.W.).

On August 16th one flew W. off Langney Point (B.E.C.; P.C.; S.T.G.; A.Q.). This is the first record for this month. The possibility of this being a pricked bird cannot be overlooked.

Autumn arrival and passage was first recorded on October 10th with 25 W. off Beachy Head. Small W. movements along the coast continued until November 19th.

In December in Chichester Harbour c.600 on the 6th (R.E.G.; B.M.), and c.700 on the 28th (C.E.H.). Few recorded elsewhere.

PALE-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.—On January 7th there were 15 off Pilsey Island, and there were 3 off Cuckmere Haven on the 18th (R.H.C.).

85. WHOOPER SWAN.—Three in the Amberley/Wiggonholt area on January 3rd (B.E.C.; M.E.N.; A.Q.), and 18th (B.M.); with one there the next day (H.P.K.R.). Two there on February 22nd (A.R.K.), and one on March 1st (M.H.P.; J.A.W.). Elsewhere, 6 at Darwell Reservoir on January 5th (K.V.), and 2 at Glynde Levels on the 16th (D.D.H.). See also ringing report on p.39.

86. BEWICK'S SWAN.—In the Amberley/Pulborough area, 12 on January 5th (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.Q.), 10 on the 7th (R.H.C.), 11 on the 26th (C.F.H.; C.M.J.; B.M.), 14 on February 2nd (A.M.E.; C.M.J.; R.J.S.), 7 on 18th (B.M.), and 11 on March 1st (P.J.W.; V.A.W.). At Pagham Harbour, 12 on January 5th (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.Q.). Seven at Chichester G.P. on January 7th (J.V.S.), and 9 there on March 8th (D.C.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir January 12th-February 1st (A.M.E.; H.C.H.). Six at Darwell Reservoir on January 4th and 18th, one there on February 1st and 14 there on the 8th (R.V.W.). One between Rye and the Sussex/Kent border from February 16th-March 1st (D.B.O.).

Two at Amberley on December 26th (B.M.). On the 28th, 7 flew W. and one E. off Langney Point (R.H.C.).

97. BUZZARD.—One almost certain breeding record with birds seen in the same area on many dates between May and November and three birds, one being a juvenile in this area in September. In another area one or two birds were seen up to June 10th but not subsequently. However one was seen in this area towards the end of the year. Pairs were seen in four other areas in the interior of the county.

Three were seen together in the interior at the end of the year.

Other records are of single birds on or near the coast: one flew out S. at Cuckmere Haven on September 27th (G.A.S.); on October 3rd one at Selsey Bill was later seen at Pagham (L.G.H.; M.J.H.; R.F.P.). On December 6th one flew E. over Beddingham Hill (I.R.W.).

93. SPARROW HAWK.—Five pairs bred, apparently successfully in widely scattered areas. Birds were seen during the breeding season in 9 other localities.

99. MARSH HARRIER.—On May 18th one flew E. off Worthing Pier (R.J.S.). One on Pevensey Levels on September 27th (R.H.C.).

100. HEN HARRIER.—One at Sidlesham Ferry on April 11th (M.S.); one at Selsey Bill on October 25th (A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.). One near Patcham on November 21st (M.J.H.; I.R.W.). One at Eastbourne on the 25th (D.D.H.). One

over Beddingham Hill on December 6th (I.R.W.), and on the same day one at Selsey Bill (E.T.W.). One at Amberley on December 20th (M.H.P.; G.A.S.) and 29th (C.M.J.).

102. MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—A bird of the year at the Wicks on August 20th (D.M.B.; F.J.H.); one at Sidlesham the next day (J.V.S.).

103. OSPREY.—One flew E. over Pett Level on April 19th (M.J.C.; K.D.E.). One at Sidlesham on September 26th (G.R.G.; L.G.H.).

104. HOBBY.—Three pairs are known to have bred successfully, and birds were seen in 6 other localities during the breeding season.

One at the Midrips/Wicks on June 20th (A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.) and 28th (R.H.C.; K.V.).

105. PEREGRINE.—No breeding records. In January; one over Glynde Levels on 16th (D.D.H.), one at Cuckmere Haven on 25th (N.F.R.), and 26th (R.H.C.); one near Lewes on April 5th (A.B.S.); one at Manhood End on August 2nd (M.S.), and one at Friston Forest on 11th (M.R.).

107. MERLIN.—One at Rye G.P. on February 29th (G.A.S.). On September 26th one at Selsey Bill flew W. out to sea (many observers), while on the same day one was seen at Pagham (W.W.A.P.). On October 3rd one flew in N. at Langney Point (D.D.H.). The earliest county date for arrival from the sea in autumn. On October 18th one flew out S. at Selsey Bill. One in Pagham/Sidlesham area November 11th-December 16th (M.S.).

110. KESTREL.—Breeding records will be found in the report on the breeding surveys on p. 33. One flew in from the sea at Selsey Bill on July 25th, and one flew in likewise at the Severals, Church Norton on the 28th. These are the earliest dates for autumn arrival for the county but may relate to birds coming from the Isle of Wight. One flew in from S. at Selsey Bill on August 1st, and single birds came in likewise on August 9th, and October 3rd, and one in SW-NE. on 24th. Single birds flew out SE. on October 3rd and 4th, and November 28th, the latter date being the latest for departure out to sea for the county.

117. QUAIL.—Many more records than of late. Nearly all records were for the Downs between May 24th and August 5th. At least 3 summered between Wilmington and Littleton (R.H.C.; A.R.K.; M.H.P.; R.F.P.; G.A.S.). Between the Ouse and Cuckmere Rivers c.5 were present (many observers). One at Crowlink on July 3rd. Between Brighton and Falmer c.5 present (A.R.K.; N.A.G.L.). Between Steyning and Chantonbury Ring c.5 present (L.P.A.; C.A.G.; M.H.; R.J.S.). One at Streat on July 19th (A.B.S.).

120. WATER RAIL.—Records much as usual the largest numbers in autumn being 6 on the Crumbles on October 25th (R.H.C.) and 5 at Manhood End on November 8th (H.C.D.).

For suspected breeding records see report on the breeding surveys on p. 33.

125. CORNCRAKE.—One at Sidlesham on April 28th (J.V.S.); one near Lancing on July 15th (F.S.). One at Beachy Head on September 6th (M.E.N.; A.Q.), and one at Sidlesham on the 7th (M.S.).

127. COOT.—On September 20th R.J.B.J. counted c.350 at Weir Wood Reservoir. A total of 1,247 at Chichester G.P. on October 11th (M.H.).

Wader Counts.—A number of these were organised throughout the year for the Chichester Harbour and Pagham areas and there was a count for the whole coast of the county on December 20th. The complete results of these counts can be found on p. 41. Only the more significant figures are included under the species below.

131. OYSTERCATCHER.—Maximum numbers recorded at the beginning of the year were c.1,700 off Pilsey Island on January 7th (R.H.C.). There were c.160 in Pagham Harbour on March 29th and c.200 at the Rother Estuary on February 2nd (P.J.W.; V.A.W.).

One at Wadhurst on July 14th (R.C.). An unusual inland record.

Five pairs nested in Chichester Harbour (J.H.K.D.; M.S.). On July 19th T.G.W. found a nest in Pagham Harbour, but neither young nor adults were subsequently seen. Two pairs attempted to breed at Camber and at the Midrips/Wicks, and one, possibly two, at Rye G.P. (R.H.C.; D.B.O. *et al.*)

Towards the end of the year in Chichester Harbour maximum numbers were c.1,400 on September 20th, dropping to c.300 by December 20th. At Pagham Harbour maximum numbers were on October 25th with c.270, dropping to 140 by December 20th. At Climping 110 were counted on December 20th. At the Rother Estuary c.55 was the maximum number in December, rather less than usual.

133. LAPWING.—In the cold spell at the beginning of the year the usual westerly movement took place.

One flew in N. at Langney Point on August 13th and 2 flew S. there on the 15th (D.D.H.). Two flew in at Fairlight on October 4th and 13 on November 1st (G.R.H.; J.R.H.). At Selsey Bill, one in NW. on October 24th, and 2 in NE. on the 8th. These were the only records of autumn arrival.

In the cold spell at the end of the year a W. movement was again recorded.

134. RINGED PLOVER.—Twenty-four pairs bred, Rye Harbour-Wicks (D.B.O.). C.10 pairs attempted to breed in the extreme W. of the county, including 3 pairs at Chichester G.P. On August 23rd, c.143 in Pagham Harbour and on September 20th, c.279 in Chichester Harbour were the maximum recorded. On December 20th, c.200 were present along the coast.

135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.—One at the Midrips/Wicks April 13th and 29th (T.I.; C.A.T.). One at Weir Wood Reservoir July 12th (J.A.W.) and 28th (C.E.H.), and 2 there on September 12th (M.H.P.). Three at Pagham Harbour on July 4th (M.S.). One at Thorney Island on 12th and 2 there on 14th (R.E.G.; C.F.H.). One at Chichester G.P. on August 9th (D.J.), 22nd (A.A.) and 23rd (M.J.H.; R.F.P.). One at Newhaven on August 14th (I.R.W.) and on the same day one at Shoreham (C.F.H.). One at Aldwick Bay on September 2nd (W.W.A.P.).

136. KENTISH PLOVER.—One at Clymping Beach on March 30th (A.M.E.), 4, all males, at the Midrips on April 5th (R.H.C.). One at Chidham on July 19th (M.H.).

139. GREY PLOVER.—Maximum numbers at the beginning of the year were recorded on March 29th with c.400 in Chichester Harbour and c.75 at Pagham. On May 24th there were 36 at Pagham.

On June 28th c.190 in Chichester Harbour. Such a number has not been previously recorded in the county in June. C.900 there on September 20th,

this being the largest number recorded. At Pagham Harbour 35 on July 26th, with c.40 on September 20th and November 22nd. On December 20th, c.400 were counted along the coast, nearly all being in Chichester and Pagham Harbours.

140. GOLDEN PLOVER.—March 6th-9th there were c.700 on Pevensey Levels. On April 5th c.1,500 on the levels at Camber (R.H.C.). At Sidlesham from April 11th-15th in a flock of c.250 at least c.50 were showing the characters of the Northern race (J.V.S.). At Selsey Bill in the first week of April among c.1,000 birds a number were also showing the characters of this race.

August records are: one flew in N. at Langney Point on 13th (D.D.H.), 3 at Thorney Island on the 14th (A.R.K.), 5 at Sidlesham on the 15th (J.V.S.), one at Pagham Harbour on the 23rd.

On November 3rd one flew S. out to sea at Langney Point (R.H.C.), on December 20th 17 flew S. out to sea at Pett Level (R.H.C.; D.D.H.), while on 25th 6 flew S. at Newhaven (I.R.W.).

143. TURNSTONE.—On May 17th one flew in SW.-NE. at Selsey Bill. Two in Chichester Harbour on June 28th, on July 26th there were 46 in Chichester and 43 in Pagham Harbours. The largest number for the year was 230 at Pagham Harbour on October 25th. On December 20th c.144 were counted along the coast.

145. SNIPE.—In August, 7 flew in SE.-NW. at Langney Point on 13th (R.H.C.) and 2 flew out S. at Selsey Bill on 22nd. Two flew in S.-N. at Fairlight on October 4th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.).

146. GREAT SNIPE.—One at Pagham on November 10th (W.W.A.P.). This record, which is our first since 1950, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

148. WOODCOCK.—See ringing report on p. 39.

150. CURLEW.—A pair again bred successfully in the NW. of the county. A pair were present during the summer in Ashdown Forest and doubtless bred (D.R.C.).

Maximum numbers recorded at the beginning of the year were c.500 at Camber on January 4th (P.J.W.; V.A.W.), c.1,300 in Chichester Harbour on March 29th, and c.160 in Pagham Harbour on this date.

From July to the end of the year an average of c.1,000 birds were present in Chichester Harbour but in November a maximum of c.1,700 were seen. At Pagham Harbour c.320 on October 25th was the maximum recorded in the autumn.

On November 7th 31 flew out S.W. at Newhaven (C.E.H.).

151. WHIMBREL.—On May 3rd there were 16 at Darwell Reservoir (M.H.P.; G.A.S.). In early July there was one at Pagham Harbour on the 4th (M.S.) and 5th (M.H.), with one W. at Langney Point on the latter date (I.R.W.); c.180 at Chidham on the 26th (R.F.P.).

154. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT.—One at Newhaven Tide Mills on January 11th (I.R.W.). All other wintering records are for the W. of the county. In January there were c.20 at Pilsea Island on the 19th (M.H.P.) and in February c.30 at Manhood End on the 15th (B.M.). The largest numbers for March were c.50 at Pagham Harbour on the 16th (W.W.A.P.) and c.200 at Chichester Harbour on the 29th. Very low numbers in April and no May records.

On June 28th—76 in Chichester Harbour and by July 26th c.420. This number probably remained constant as c.450 were present at the end of September. On October 25th c.60 were present with c.150 there on November 22nd and c.120 on December 20th. No more than 13 were together at Pagham Harbour at the latter part of the year.

The only birds seen elsewhere in the county were 3 at Newhaven on August 15th (M.R.).

155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT.—Very few at the beginning of the year with hardly any spring passage noted. Numbers recorded on any one day at Selsey Bill were under 30.

The only large numbers were recorded as usual in Chichester Harbour with c.400 August/September, c.300 in October, but c.1,030 on November 22nd. Only 290 counted on December 20th with none seen elsewhere in the county on that date.

156. GREEN SANDPIPER.—Wintering birds were recorded during January at Amberley where there was one on 5th (A.Q. *et al.*), at Runcton where one was seen on the 12th, 17th, and 24th with 2 on 14th (J.V.S.) and on the 19th, one at Cuckmere Haven (R.H.C.). In February one was present at Runcton from 17th-20th (J.V.S.), and there was one at Pond Leigh on the 26th (J.A.W.).

There are only 2 records for March including 3 at Amberley on the 8th (R.J.S. *et al.*), and only 2 for April. On May 17th one flew in S.-N. at Selsey Bill and on the 24th there were 2 in Chichester Harbour, and on 26th one at Beachy Head. In June there were 2 at Sidlesham 28th-29th (M.S.) with 4 in Chichester Harbour on the 28th. At Runcton one on 4th June, 2 on 16th, 4 on 17th, 2 on 20-21st, and one 25th-27th (J.V.S.).

In autumn, July/October, c.50 birds were recorded the maximum numbers being 12 at Thorney Island, on August 8th (I.R.W. *et al.*), and 12 in Chichester Harbour on the 23rd.

Three at Darwell Reservoir on November 7th, 2 there on December 15th, and one on 23rd (R.V.W.). Four at Chichester G.P. November 1st and 15th (R.E.G.); and one at Runcton, November 30th, December 1st and 17th (J.V.S.).

157. WOOD SANDPIPER.—One at Thorney Island on June 28th (A.R.K.) is the latest June record for the county. There were no records prior to this date.

Between July 14th and September 2nd, c.14 birds were recorded, the most seen together being 4 at Thorney Island on July 14th (C.F.H.). Inland records are all for Wood Weir Reservoir; one on July 19th (G.d.F.; C.M.J.), 2 on August 19th (R.E.G.) and one on September 2nd (C.F.H.).

159. COMMON SANDPIPER.—Wintering birds at the beginning of the year were; one at Brooklands, Worthing, on January 1st and 2 in the Adur Valley on 30th (R.J.S.); one at Sidlesham Ferry on February 2nd (M.S.). The earliest spring records are of one at Selsey Bill on March 20th and 2 at Selsey Sewage Farm on 21st.

In June one at Rye G.P. on 21st (A.R.K. *et al.*), 3 at Darwell on the 28th (R.V.W.) and 3 in Chichester Harbour also on 28th, with one at Chichester G.P. on 30th (J.V.S.).

At the end of the year single birds were recorded in Pagham Harbour on October 25th, and in Chichester Harbour on November 22nd and December 20th.

161. REDSHANK.—For breeding records see the report on breeding surveys on p. 34. Some 65 pairs were recorded in 11 areas.

Maximum numbers recorded were 2,150 in Chichester Harbour on September 20th and c.2,000 there on October 4th (A.B.S.). There were c.950 along the Sussex coast on December 20th. See also ringing report on p.39.

162. SPOTTED REDSHANK.—The 1963 Shoreham bird stayed until February 18th (F.S.; J.M.T.). On January 11th 2 at Manhood End (M.S.). In March one in Chichester Harbour on the 29th and one at Selsey Bill 21st-23rd. In April one at Church Norton on 24th-25th (R.E.G.; C.F.H.), 5 in Chichester Harbour on 24th, and one in Pagham Harbour on 25th (R.E.G.; A.R.K.; M.S.; I.R.W.).

There are no May records and only 3 for June—on 28th one in Chichester Harbour and 2 at Midrips/Wicks (R.H.C.; K.V.), and on the 25th one at Thorney Island (B.M.).

During August c.50 birds were recorded along the coast and singletons at Weir Wood and Darwell Reservoirs.

In September one flew over the Crumbles on 13th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.); c.35 at Thorney Island on 26th (M.J.H.; R.F.P.), and c.37 there on October 11th (A.R.K.; R.F.P.); on November 11th, one at Pilsey Island (M.H.) and on the 22nd, 3 in Chichester Harbour. In December one at Dell Quay on 20th (R.J.B.J.), and one at Shoreham on the same date.

165. GREENSHANK.—Two at Manhood End on January 11th (M.S.) and one there on February 2nd (many observers). Three in Chichester Harbour was the most seen together in spring.

On June 28th 3 in Chichester Harbour, and one at the Midrips/Wicks (R.H.C.).

Between July 8th and 31st c.10 birds were recorded along the coast, excluding Chichester Harbour where there were 53 on 26th, this being the largest number recorded this year. From July 19th to 28th, one at Weir Wood Reservoir (C.E.H.; C.M.J.), and another there on August 2nd (M.H.P.) and 31st (C.E.H.; R.J.B.J.).

In November, 3 at Manhood End 5th-8th (H.C.D.; W.W.A.P.); 10 at Thorney Island on 10th (R.F.P.), and 3 in Chichester Harbour on the 22nd. One at Chidham on December 7th (L.P.A.).

169. KNOT.—On March 29th c.200 in Chichester Harbour and c.80 in Pagham Harbour. Four in Chichester Harbour on June 28th.

Two flew E. off Langney Point on November 3rd and one E. there on 5th (R.H.C.), with one E. at Selsey Bill on the 8th.

In December c.90 at Pilsey Island on the 6th; only 27 were counted along the coast on the 20th.

170. PURPLE SANDPIPER.—Up to 15 at Newhaven January-April. Only single birds elsewhere. Numbers at the end of the year were usually low.

171. LITTLE STINT.—One at East Head on January 18th (R.E.G.), and probably the same bird at Pilsey Island the next day (M.H.P.; G.A.S.). One in Chichester Harbour on March 29th.

Two at Sidlesham on May 21st (M.S.).

One, probably an early autumn arrival at the Midrips on June 28th (R.H.C.; K.V.). The latest record for this month.

One at Thorney Island on July 19th (M.H.). Between August 13th-September 26th c.17 were recorded for the coast, the most together being 5.

In October, 3 at Thorney Island on the 4th and 11th and one there on 17th,

18th and 25th (A.R.K. *et al.*); 3 at Manhood End on the 3rd (H.C.D.), and 2 there on 18th (M.S.); 2 at Pilsea Island on 22nd (M.H.), and 2 at Pagham Harbour on 25th. One at Pilsea Island on November 22nd (M.H.), and one at Thorney Island on December 20th (A.R.K.).

173. **TEMINCK'S STINT**.—One at Newhaven Tide Mills on August 21st (M.R.); one at Sidlesham Ferry August 24th-28th (W.W.A.P.; J.V.S.; M.S.).

178. **DUNLIN**.—Inland records were one at Rackham on January 11th (B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.); one at Darwell Reservoir, February 16th (K.V.) and March 22nd (R.V.W.). On March 1st there were 6 at Greatham Bridge and 4 at Amberley (M.H.P.). Maximum coastal numbers were c.2,000 at Pagham Harbour on March 29th (B.M.) with 3,000 at Chichester Harbour the same day and c.6,000 there on April 26th. At the latter locality there were 67 on June 28th.

On November 19th, c.75 flew W. off Langney Point in an hour (R.H.C.). At the end of the year there were c.2,800 in Pagham Harbour October/December, while in Chichester Harbour numbers rose from 4,000 on October 25th to 7,000 on November 22nd and 10,750 on December 20th. On that date c.13,000 were estimated for the whole of the county.

179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER**.—One at Pilsea Island on March 29th (M.H.). Between August 8th and October 22nd c.17 were recorded along our coast. One at Weir Wood Reservoir on September 24th (G.d.F.).

181. **SANDERLING**.—On April 26th c.300 in Chichester Harbour was the largest number recorded in spring.

One at the Midrips on June 20th (A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.) and 3 in Pagham Harbour on 28th.

On September 20th, 406 in Chichester Harbour. This appears to be the largest number recorded for the county. On December 20th there was a total of 420 birds along the coast.

184. **RUFF**.—One at Newhaven on January 5th (R.H.C.) and 13th (L.P.A.) and 10 there on 11th (I.R.W.) and 4 there on February 16th (R.H.C.; R.E.G.). One at Selsey S.F. on February 15th. At Manhood End there were c.46 on February 15th (B.M.), and c.40 on the 26th (M.S.), with 4 there on March 2nd (L.P.A.) and 3 there on 20th (N.F.S.). Three at Amberley on March 8th (M.H.; R.J.S.) while in the same month at Selsey Bill there were 3 on 21st, and 21 near there on 22nd, with up to 5 at the Sewage Farm till 28th.

In April, 5 at Selsey on the 2nd, 6 E. at the Severals, Church Norton, on the 5th, and 2 at Bracklesham on the 8th. There are no May or June records.

In July one at Sidlesham Ferry on the 8th (R.H.C.) and one at Thorney Island on 19th (R.F.P.) and 25th (R.E.G.; B.M.).

Between August 8th and September 19th, c.20 birds were recorded including one at Weir Wood Reservoir, August 31st-September 6th (many observers).

In October one at Rye G.P. on 3rd (J.B.). One flew W. at Selsey Bill on 4th, and 4 in Chichester Harbour on the 23th.

One at Manhood End on November 1st (R.E.G.), and one flew E. off Selsey Bill on 8th. One in Chichester Harbour on December 20th with 2 at Sidlesham on 29th (M.S.) and one at Cuckmere Haven and one at Newhaven on the 27th (R.H.C.).

185. **AVOCET**.—One at Church Norton on April 24th (C.F.H.) was seen by a number of observers up to 28th.

187. **GREY PHALAROPE**.—The only records, all for October, are; one at Selsey Bill on the 11th, and one there on 17th and 18th. This bird was trapped and ringed.

189. **STONE CURLEW**.—Breeding records will be found in the report of the breeding surveys on p. 34. All but 3 of the known breeding areas were visited and between 12-14 pairs were recorded.

193. **ARCTIC SKUA**.—Fewer records than of late. Between April 12th and May 18th—23 flew E. at Selsey Bill. The only other spring record is of 2 E. off Beachy Head on April 20th (L.P.A.). There are no June records.

In July 3 E. off Langney Point on 10th (R.H.C.) and one W. there on 22nd (M.R.); one off Newhaven on 29th (A.R.K.; I.R.W.), and one W.-SE. at Selsey Bill on 28th.

Between August 2nd and September 16th only c.16 were recorded along the coast, 8 of them at Selsey Bill. There are no October records. On November 15th 2 flew W. off Worthing (R.J.S.) and on November 19th one flew E.-W. over Black Ditch, Poling (1½ miles inland) (M.H.).

On December 12th at Selsey Bill during gales, 2 flew E.-S. and one flew W. there the next day (B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.). There are only 4 previous December records for the county.

194. **GREAT SKUA**.—One offshore at Selsey Bill on August 1st (M.J.H.; A.R.K.). One off Langney Point on August 23rd (G.A.S.).

195. **POMARINE SKUA**.—On May 9th 4 flew W. together at Selsey Bill (R.J.J.; A.R.K.; I.R.W.). One flew E. there the next day (many observers). Two flew W. there on August 13th (A.R.K.).

198. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—On February 1st c.200 flew SSE.-NNW. over Darwell Reservoir (R.V.W.). Three flew inland from SE. at Langney Point on October 25th (D.D.H.).

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL**.—One at Shoreham throughout January and February (F.S.; J.M.T.). On January 19th, 2 at Porto Bello Brighton (A.B.S.), and 2 W. at Selsey Bill on the same day. Two at Warnham on January 25th (C.M.J.). At Selsey Bill during March c.19 arrived S./SW. from the sea.

During August a total of 304 flew W. at Selsey Bill. On October 25th, 35 flew inland from SE. at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

In December; one at Piddinghoe on 6th and one at Newhaven on 25th and 31st (I.R.W.); 3 at Shoreham on 7th and 2 there on 9th, 10th and 17th (F.S.); at Selsey Bill one W. on 2nd, and 2 W. on the 19th.

200. **HERRING GULL**.—At Selsey Bill E. movements were recorded on most days, with c.380 on 19th-20th. Easterly movements were again recorded in April totalling over 700 birds. In May 270 flew E. there.

At least 5 pairs nested in the Rye area (R.H.C.; D.B.O.). Seven young not yet able to fly were seen on June 28th (R.H.C.). Usual breeding took place on houses at Hastings and St. Leonards (W.P.W.) and, of course, on the chalk cliffs.

201. **COMMON GULL**.—At Selsey Bill E. movements were again noted in the spring; in March maximum was of 50 in one day; in April over 700 passed E. In May a total of c.300 moved E. Most birds involved were immatures.

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL**.—One flew SW. at the Severals, Church Norton, on May 9th (R.J.J.; A.R.K.; A.V.; I.R.W.). This is the second May record for the county.

203. **ICELAND GULL**.—An adult at Langney Point on June 2nd (M.R.). This is the third county record for this month.

205. **MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—The first-winter bird present at Hove Boating Pool at the end of 1963 was still present on January 10th (J.M.T.), and was again seen on March 21st (G.A.S.). An adult at Porto Bello, Brighton, on January 12th (A.R.K.).

At Selsey Bill and the Severals, Church Norton, at least 4 different birds, 2 first-winter and 2 sub-adults, were seen between March 22nd and April 26th (A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; I.R.W. *et al.*).

An immature bird E. there on May 23rd (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.) was almost certainly one of the birds seen earlier.

On April 4th there was an adult at Porto Bello, Brighton (A.B.S.), and on April 5th one E off Worthing (R.J.S.).

On July 4th a first summer bird flew E. off Langney Point (R.H.C.), and on July 19th there was an adult at Porto Bello, Brighton (A.B.S.). An adult flew W. off Selsey Bill on July 26th (M.A.J.; B.A.E.M.), and an adult off there on November 15th (M.A.J.; B.A.E.M.; H.P.K.R.). A first-winter bird at Exceat on November 18th (R.H.C.) until December 6th (many observers). On December 13th there was a second-winter bird off Brighton (M.J.H.; A.R.K.).

207. **LITTLE GULL**.—One at Selsey Bill on January 5th (H.P.K.R.). An adult at Chichester G.P. April 21st-26th (J.V.S. *et al.*); an immature at Pilsea Island on April 26th (D.D.H.). One at Rye G.P. on June 20th-21st (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.).

In July 2 at Selsey Bill on 28th and another W. there on 29th.

Again scarce in autumn. There are c.8 records for August, including one immature trapped and ringed at Chichester G.P. 20th. This bird was there from 18th-26th. There are only 4 records for September, 4 for October, and 2 for November.

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL**.—R.H.C. estimates that c.200 young flew at Rye Harbour G.P. A pair attempted to breed in the W. of the county for the first time. See also ringing report on p. 40.

211. **KITTIWAKE**.—Hardly any spring or autumn passage recorded and few summering birds noted, not more than 10 recorded anywhere throughout the year.

212. **BLACK TERN**.—The only records for April are of one at Chichester G.P. on the 17th, with 2 there the next day (H.C.D. *et al.*). At Selsey Bill, 2 on 18th, with a total of 57 E. in May, the most being on the 24th with 17. Two at Rye G.P. on May 31st (M.H.P.; G.A.S.).

No June or July records.

Between August 4th and September 27th, c.65 birds were recorded, most being seen in August with 12 at Langney Point on 14th (R.H.C.) and 23rd (K.V.), 12 at Rye G.P. on 19th (R.H.C.), and 9 at Selsey Bill on 15th. The last bird seen was on October 4th at the Severals, Church Norton (M.M.J.).

213. **WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN**.—On August 12th one in winter plumage first found by M.R., was later seen by D.D.H. and early the next day

by R.H.C. at Langney Point. In the afternoon of August 13th a juvenile was present at Langney Point (R.H.C.; D.D.H.; M.R.); this bird was again seen by R.H.C. the next day. There is only one previous record for the autumn doubtless due to birds in winter and juvenile plumage being overlooked. Both these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN**.—One off Selsey Bill on April 19th (B.A.E.M.; E.T.W.); one there on May 21st (R.S.B.; I.R.W.) and 24th (R.J.J.; B.A.E.M.) and no doubt the same bird at Pagham Harbour on 25th (J.V.S.). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

216. **CASPIAN TERN**.—On July 19th K.V. saw one at Rye Harbour G.P. On September 13th one flew W. c. 300 yards off Langney Point (D.D.H.). These are the 4th and 5th records for the county and have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

217. **COMMON TERN**.—At the Rye Harbour Colony c.50 pairs attempted to breed but numbers soon dropped to about 10 pairs with few young reared (R.H.C.; B.A.E.M. *et al.*). At another G.P. in this area c.40 pairs were present and bred successfully (R.H.C.; D.B.O.). At a site in the west of the county 18 pairs attempted to breed (J.H.K.D.; F.P.P.; M.S.). See also ringing report on p. 39.

218. **ARCTIC TERN**.—On October 6th c.10 off Newhaven Harbour with one there on 13th (I.R.W.); one W. at Langney Point on October 23rd (R.H.C.).

219. **ROSEATE TERN**.—At Selsey Bill in May, one E. on the 18th (R.J.J.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; I.R.W.), and one E. on the 24th (M.J.H.; R.J.J.; B.A.E.M.; I.R.W.). One at Langney Point on June 1st (R.H.C.), and one at Newhaven on July 12th (M.R.). One flew W. off Selsey Bill on July 18th (J.B.C.; A.R.K.; R.F.P.).

222. **LITTLE TERN**.—At the Midrips/Wicks c.20 pairs attempted to breed, with c.8 pairs at the Rye Harbour area (D.B.O.). In Pagham Harbour c.16 pairs attempted to breed (T.G.W.; M.H.), and a similar number in Chichester Harbour (J.H.K.D., F.P.P.; M.S.).

223. **SANDWICH TERN**.—One at Pett Level Pools on March 29th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.). At Selsey Bill the maximum spring movement was 133 E. on April 18th.

On June 9th there were 12 off Pilsea (F.P.P.). Otherwise up to 5 birds were seen along the coast in June.

In autumn the maximum at Selsey Bill was 41 W. on August 30th.

226. **LITTLE AUK**.—One flew W. off Selsey Bill on January 19th (R.J.J.). One flew W. off Worthing on December 6th (R.J.S.).

230. **PUFFIN**.—Two flew W. at Selsey Bill on June 6th (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.). The first June record for the county in recent years. An immature off Langney Point on October 24th (D.D.H.). On December 27th a badly oiled bird was found near Newhaven (D.J.R.).

234. **WOOD PIGEON**.—On October 3rd H.C.D. found a nest containing 2 eggs at Harting. On November 28th a flock of c.500 at Beachy Head, many of which left S. (R.F.P.).

235. **TURTLE DOVE**.—In October, one at Sidlesham on 19th (M.S.); one at Beachy Head on 26th (B.E.C.); one on the Crumbles on November 1st (R.H.C.). The second November record for the county.

COLLARED DOVE.—Several birds were present throughout the year at Henfield where up to 24 were seen together in winter (P.M.B.; A.B.S.). It seems that birds have been present in increasing numbers there since 1962. One came in at Selsey Bill on May 16th (R.J.J.; A.R.K.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.), and 15-20 pairs were present at Selsey during the breeding season, but no further details are available (B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.). At Beachy Head seen on many dates during the breeding season with a maximum of c.80 there on October 10th. At Little Common up to 9 birds present in May (G.R.H.; J.R.H.). Elsewhere birds were present during the breeding season, with 2-3 pairs at Ferring (S.H.C.) and one at Aldwick Bay (W.W.A.P.).

Other records are: 6 at Rustington on February 16th (M.H.P.); 2 at Chichester G.P. (C.R.G.) and c.10 at Cakeham (C.M.J.) on August 15th; one in Eastbourne on September 3rd (H.D.); one at Fairlight on October 10th (G.R.H.); one at Seaford on October 31st (I.R.W.); one at Worthing at the end of the year (B.W.P.).

241. **BARN OWL**.—Six pairs known to have bred successfully in the county and birds were present in 11 other localities during the breeding season. More information relating to breeding would be welcome.

246. **LITTLE OWL**.—About 35 pairs were present during the breeding season, but success was established in only a few localities.

247. **TAWNY OWL**.—Pairs were recorded from about 20 localities.

248. **LONG-EARED OWL**.—A pair was heard calling at night in the interior of the county during the breeding season.

One at Beachy Head on September 24th and 25th (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; A.Q.; M.R.), and one on the Crumbles on the 25th (D.D.H.). These were no doubt migrants. One was caught and ringed at Beachy Head by R.B. and K.V. on November 15th.

They thus provided the first records relating to migration in Sussex for many years and the earliest recorded autumn date for this.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL**.—On January 1st, 2 at the Midrips (D.B.O.) and 2 on Pevensy Levels (R.H.C.). On January 5th, one at the Wicks (M.H.P.; J.A.W.) and one at Pagham Harbour (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.Q.). One at the Midrips on February 19th and April 25th (D.B.O.).

At Selsey Bill Sewage Farm area up to 8 in January, up to 6 in February and 9 there on 29th. In March, 6 at the beginning of the month decreasing to one by 31st. In April, 3 on the 6th, and one on the 18th.

Two at Sidlesham Ferry on September 14th (M.S.). One at Selsey Sewage Farm on September 19th, and then one or 2 there to the end of the year. In October, one at Rye G.P. on 1st (H.I.H.), and one at Beachy Head 10th-11th (S.T.G.; A.Q.); 5 at the Midrips on 25th (D.B.O.), 8 there on 26th and one there on December 4th. Three on Pevensy Levels on December 16th, and 2 there on 26th (R.H.C.).

255. **SWIFT**.—One over Pett Level on October 3rd (J.B.).

256. **ALPINE SWIFT**.—One at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton, on October 11th (M.J.H.). This is the third record for the county, and the first since 1925. It has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

258. **KINGFISHER**.—Only one definite breeding record, with possible breeding in 3 or 4 other localities. C.18 individuals along the coast towards the end of the year.

261. **HOOPOE**.—One at Church Norton, April 18th-22nd (H.C.D.; G.R.G.; L.G.H.; M.S.), and one at Fishbourne on April 22nd (M.S.). One below Cissbury Ring on April 30th (R.J.S.). One at the Severals, Church Norton, on May 2nd (A.R.K.; R.D.J.; I.R.W.). One at Chichester on May 11th (F.R.S.).

One on Pulborough Levels on July 20th (S.W.M.H.; M.M.J.). One at Worthing on August 19th (J.G.M.). One in Friston Forest in August 27th (M.R.), and for some days previously (*per* R.H.C.).

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER**.—Information received suggests some increase over last year.

263. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**.—In the autumn, one left SW. at the Severals, Church Norton, on August 22nd. One flew W. near the cliffs at Fairlight on September 26th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.), and between September 27th and November 1st there are 4 records for Beachy Head. On November 1st one flew N.W. over Selsey Bill with one at the Severals, Church Norton, on the 2nd and 28th.

265. **WRYNECK**.—One c.5 miles inland in West Sussex on May 31st (M.H.). One at Shoreham on August 15th (F.S.; J.M.T. *et al.*). One at the Midrips on September 4th (F.E.S.); one at Wilmington on September 22nd (R.H.C.).

272. **SKYLARK**.—On January 6th, c.80 flew W. off East Head in 2 hours (B.M.). On January 13th after heavy snow a continual W. movement was recorded over Newhaven (I.R.W.), Rottingdean (A.R.K.), and Worthing (M.H.), with c.150 flying out SW. at Rottingdean (A.R.K.). On January 20th, 10 flew in SE-NW. at Langney Point (R.H.C.).

There was no appreciable spring movement recorded.

On June 6th, 2 flew out SSE. at Selsey Bill, with 2 out SW. there on 7th. At Selsey Bill in October, c.60 flew in S-N. and 41 out SW/SE. There was a coastal movement involving 162 birds flying W. and 88 E. In November 59 out SW/SE. was the only movement recorded. On December 27th flocks c.50 flying E. all day over Cuckmere Haven and Newhaven, cold SE. wind (R.H.C.).

274. **SWALLOW**.—One at Pagham Harbour on March 10th (W.W.A.P.) and one at the Severals, Church Norton, on 21st.

At Selsey Bill in September, c.7,800 flew SE. on 13th, and c.15,600 out S. on 23rd, and c.7,000 SE. on 24th. At Beachy Head also in September, c.10,000 flew W. on 4th, c.5,000 W. on 24th, and c.1,000 ESE. on 26th. See also ringing report on p. 39.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN**.—One at Darwell Reservoir on March 27th and 29th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.).

Largest numbers in the autumn at Selsey Bill were in September with c.2,000 E. and c.2,300 out to sea on 23rd. At Beachy Head in September, c.3,000 flying W. on the 4th, c.4,200 ESE. on the 26th were maxima recorded.

277. **SAND MARTIN**.—One at Darwell Reservoir (R.V.W.) and one at Selsey Bill on March 21st.

In autumn at Selsey Bill maximum numbers were, c.1,600 out W/SW. on August 11th, and c.3,700 out S. on September 23rd, and c.1,250 out S. on the 24th.

For details of the roost and recoveries at Chichester G.P. see special note on p. 38.

281. **HOODED CROW**.—Only records are; one flew in from the sea S-N. at Selsey Bill on March 28th (M.J.H.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; E.T.W.; I.R.W.); one there on April 2nd (H.D.M.); one flew out SSW there on May 17th (A.R.K.; D.L.; B.A.E.M.; M.S.; E.T.W.).

283. **JACKDAW**.—At Selsey Bill, 2 flew out S. and one SE. on March 21st. Three flew out S. on April 9th, and in May, 4 flew out SE. on the 9th, and 5 out S. on the 18th.

286. **JAY**.—Only movements recorded, all for May were; 3 flew S. at the Severals, Church Norton, on the 9th; 4 flew N. over Selsey Bill on 10th; one flew S-N. there on 16th (R.J.J.; I.R.W.), and on 31st one flew NE. there.

288. **GREAT TIT**.—See ringing report on p. 39.

289. **BLUE TIT**.—On September 27th with an increase on the Crumbles 16 left flying high SW. (R.H.C.). On October 2nd, 12 flew E. at Newhaven (I.R.W.). At Beachy Head c.70 on October 31st (A.R.K.; M.J.H.; I.R.W.), and c.150 on November 22nd, this last number being the maximum for the autumn. See also ringing report on p. 39.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT**.—This species still seems to be scarce in some localities.

295. **BEARDED TIT**.—Two on the Crumbles on February 2nd (R.H.C.) were perhaps those recorded there the previous November.

More recorded in autumn than at any time since the species ceased to nest in the county c.100 years ago. At least 4 on the Crumbles on October 14th (D.D.H.). This is the earliest date for autumn arrival in Sussex. C.24 there on 17th, 13 of which later left N., flying high. Then 8 or 9 there until end of the year (R.H.C.). At least 4 at Pett Level pools on October 22nd (D.D.H.) and 8 there on 26th and 6 at Broomhill on the same date (R.H.C.). At the Severals, Church Norton, at least 6 on November 1st and then 2 until the end of the year (many observers). Two at Manhood End on November 21st (B.A.E.M.).

298. **TRECREEPER**.—Seems to be recovering and breeding in most areas, but still below average in some localities.

299. **WREN**.—Woodland counts indicated some recovery especially near the coast.

301. **MISTLE THRUSH**.—On November 8th, 4 flew in S-N. at Selsey Bill. 302. **FIELDFARE**.—Small W. movements during cold weather at East Head on January 6th (B.M.) and Aldwick Bay on 13th (W.W.A.P.).

On October 26th c.75 flew W. over Broomhill Levels during an hour (R.H.C.). See also ringing report on p. 39.

303. **SONG THRUSH**.—A cold weather movement of c.500 W. over Aldwick Bay on January 13th (W.W.A.P.).

Maximum number at Beachy Head was c.60 on September 13th. See also ringing report on p. 39.

304. **REDWING**.—Cold weather movements were recorded on January 6th, when c.200 flew W. at East Head in 2 hours (B.M.), and on January 13th, c.1,500 W. over Worthing (M.H.). On March 15th, a flock of c.150 at Selsey Bill, of which c.140 left NW.

There was another cold weather movement on December 27th, with parties of c.50 moving W. the whole day at Cuckmere Haven and Newhaven (R.H.C.) and several thousand birds moving W. over Rustington/Littlehampton (A.M.E.).

307. **RING OUZEL**.—One at Selsey Bill on April 1st, and from then until April 26th c.8 birds were recorded for the coast and Downs.

One at Beachy Head on August 16th-31st (many observers), this being the earliest date for August and the second county record for this month. At Beachy Head c.20 on September 6th (J.E.C.; R.H.C.) but from then until November 7th only c.15 birds were recorded along the coast and Downs.

308. **BLACKBIRD**.—On December 20th c.700 in an orchard at Chidham (R.F.P.). See also ringing report on p. 39.

311. **WHEATEAR**.—First recorded on March 8th at Sidlesham (M.S.). Maximum at Selsey Bill was c.72 on April 8th.

There are no November records. For breeding records see the report on breeding surveys on p. 35.

317. **STONECHAT**.—Breeding records are detailed in the report of the breeding surveys on p. 36. At least 35 pairs were found although certain areas were not covered.

320. **REDSTART**.—Maximum at Beachy Head was c.30 on September 5th. See also ringing report on p. 39.

321. **BLACK REDSTART**.—Only wintering records for the beginning of the year are of one at Southwick on January 10th; one at Shoreham Harbour, January 3rd to February 22nd; one at Lancing, January 12th to February 13th.

Between March 11th and April 19th, c. 18 were recorded for the coast. One at Darwell Reservoir on March 21st (R.V.W.).

A pair nested in Eastbourne having two broods of five young each. There was also another male singing throughout the summer in another part of the town (R.H.C.). A pair raised 2 young at Worthing (J.S.).

Three at Holywell, Eastbourne, on August 28th (D.D.H.).

Between September 14th and October 31st, c.8 birds were recorded along the coast.

There was one at Langney Point at the end of November (R.H.C.; D.D.H.); one at Cuckmere Haven on December 2nd (C.E.H.); one at Selsey Bill on November 22nd and 2 there on December 19th.

324. **BLUETHROAT**.—A first-winter bird was caught and ringed on the Crumbles on September 6th (R.H.C.); a male showing the characters of the White Spotted form was seen by W.W.A.P. at Pagham Harbour on the 7th.

325. **ROBIN**.—See ringing report on p. 40.

332. **GREAT REED WARBLER**.—One was trapped and ringed at Sidlesham on June 25th (J.W.). The third record for the county. It has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

333. **REED WARBLER**.—C.22 pairs bred at the Severals, Church Norton. In October, one at Chichester G.P. on the 3rd (C.F.H.); on the Crumbles, one trapped and ringed on 16th and another trapped and ringed there on 20th (D.D.H.); on the 21st D.D.H. retrapped the bird of 20th and R.H.C. trapped that of 16th. See also ringing report on p. 40.
334. **MARSH WARBLER**.—One was heard singing and subsequently trapped on the coast on May 30th, and was probably present from the 23rd. It was last seen on June 1st.
337. **SEDGE WARBLER**.—One singing at Chichester G.P. on March 31st (J.V.S.). The second record for this month.
C.6 pairs bred at the Severals, Church Norton. See also ringing report on p. 40.
338. **AQUATIC WARBLER**.—One was trapped and ringed at Pagham on August 23rd (S.B.; C.J.M.; P.J.S. *et al.*). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*
339. **MELODIOUS WARBLER**.—One at Selsey Bill on September 13th (M.J.H.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; M.S. *et al.*). The ninth record for the county.
343. **BLACKCAP**.—One at Shoreham on March 21st (C.F.H.) and one at Chichester G.P. on 22nd (M.H.).
In the autumn at Beachy Head maximum numbers were c.150 on September 5th, 7th and 22nd, with 54 trapped and ringed on the latter date. See also ringing report on p. 40.
346. **GARDEN WARBLER**.—One at Selsey Bill on October 3rd (C.F.H.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.), and one at Beachy Head on the 4th.
347. **WHITE THROAT**.—Maximum at Beachy Head was c.130 on August 23rd.
348. **LESSER WHITE THROAT**.—High numbers were recorded at Beachy Head with maximum of c.90 on September 4th.
352. **DARTFORD WARBLER**.—Two pairs were present at the beginning of the breeding season at the site where breeding took place in 1963; one pair brought off a brood, but there was no further sign of the other pair (M.H.P.; N.F.R.). One in another locality on November 11th (G.N.S.).
354. **WILLOW WARBLER**.—In March, one at Chichester G.P. on 27th (B.M.) with one at Runcion the next day (J.V.S.).
356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—One at Runcion on January 2nd and 5th, and February 6th (J.V.S.). Otherwise not recorded before March 21st.
Towards the end of the year; one at Beachy Head on October 31st (A.R.K.); one at Runcion on November 19th and December 22nd (J.V.S.); one at Shoreham on November 18th, 21st and 23rd (J.M.T.), with 4 different birds ringed there on December 6th, 13th, 23rd and 31st (J.S.). See also ringing report on p. 40.
364. **GOLDCREST**.—The only spring record is of one at Cuckmere Haven on March 27th (R.H.C.).
Between September 3rd and November 2nd, c.60 birds were reported for the vicinity of the coast including c.20 at Beachy Head on November 1st. There is no information as to breeding in the county.

365. **FIRECREST**.—One at Shoreham on March 21st (J.M.T.) and 23rd (F.S.). One at Belle Tout March 23rd to 30th with 2 there on 28th (A.Q. *et al.*).
Two at Beachy Head on September 3rd, 4 there on 4th, and 2 on the 6th (J.F.C.; M.E.N.). These are very early dates for autumn arrival. One there on September 21st (B.E.C.). One at Selsey Bill on November 1st (M.J.H.).

366. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**.—See ringing report on p. 40.

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—In spring, one at Beachy Head on April 19th and one on May 1st, a male at Washington on May 1st, and on the 9th one at Shoreham (J.S.), one at Sidlesham (M.S.) and 3 at the Severals, Church Norton.

Between August 4th and October 4th c.50 were recorded including 16 at Beachy Head on September 1st (J.F.C.; M.E.N.). One at Beachy Head on October 18th (B.E.C.; A.Q.); the latest date for the county.

371. **HEDGE SPARROW**.—On October 4th there were 29 at Fairlight (G.R.H.; J.R.H.) and 37 at Selsey Bill, with the same number at Selsey Bill on November 2nd.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—The largest movement in spring was recorded on March 28th with c.300 in S-N, at Selsey Bill.

In the autumn at Selsey Bill c.1,730 left SW/SE, most on the 20th with 440 out SW.

Maximum recorded at Beachy Head was on September 21st with c.500.

374. **RICHARD'S PIPIT**.—One was found by A.R.K. in a stubble field at Falmer on October 8th and subsequently seen by him and M.J.H. till 11th. This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

375. **TAWNY PIPIT**.—All records are for September; one on the Crumbles on the 3rd (R.H.C.) and a different bird there from 7th-11th (R.H.C.) which was also seen by D.D.H. and M.R.; one at Sidlesham on 2nd and 3rd (M.S.); one at Selsey Bill on 6th (M.J.H.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P. *et al.*). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

379. **WATER PIPIT**.—Birds showing the characters of this race were: one in the lower Cuckmere Valley from November 15th to the end of the year (R.H.C.; D.D.H. *et al.*); one at Newhaven Tide Mills on December 13th and 27th (R.H.C. *et al.*).

380. **PIED WAGTAIL/WHITE WAGTAIL**.—At Selsey Bill 2 flew in S-N on March 13th and 11 in S-N on the 27th. Two flew out S. at the Severals, Church Norton, on April 13th.

In the autumn between September 6th and November 1st 7 flew in S-N, and 58 flew out to sea at Selsey Bill, while 162 flew E. and 70 flew W. Small E. coasting movements were recorded elsewhere along the coast.

381. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—Still remains scarce with few birds recorded for the coast during the autumn. Two breeding records (S.W.M.H.).

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL**.—One at West Wittering on November 19th (C.F.H.), our third record for this month. See also ringing report on p. 40.

383. **WAXWING**.—Two seen by R.J.S. at Rustington on February 15th had apparently been there for some three weeks.

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE**.—One at Amberley on January 5th (B.E.C.; S.T.G.; M.E.N.; A.Q.) and 7th (B.E.C.) and February 2nd (A.M.E.). One was found freshly dead by H.K.B.O. at Horsebridge on March 19th.

One at Sidlesham on October 21st (M.S.); one at Beachy Head on October 31st (M.J.H.; A.R.K.) and was caught and ringed on November 1st. One at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton, on November 7th, and December 5th, 6th (M.J.H.) and 13th (M.J.H.; A.R.K.).

388. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE**.—One pair possibly attempted to breed in the county, but left after 3 weeks (D.J.R.). A female at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton, on August 26th and 27th, and a male there on September 2nd and 3rd (M.J.H.).

389. **STARLING**.—Cold weather movements were recorded on January 13th with 200-300 W. over Newhaven (I.R.W.) and many thousands W. over Aldwick Bay (W.W.A.P.). At Selsey Bill 725 flew SW. on January 19th, and c.1,000 E. there on March 1st. On April 5th, c.120 flew NE. over Beachy Head.

On October 2nd, 35 flew in N. at Newhaven (I.R.W.); on October 28th, 14 flew S-N. at Langney Point (R.H.C.) and on November 20th, c.30 flew in SE-NW. there (D.D.H.). On October 31st, c.30 flew out S. at Beachy Head (M.J.H.; I.R.W.).

At Selsey Bill, in September, 5 flew out SW. on 21st, 55 out S. on 23rd and one out S. on 27th. In October, a total of c.200 flew out to sea, and 140 flew in; on 18th a flock of c.2,000 flew W. In November, 136 flew out to sea on 1st, and a total of 115 out to sea in the rest of the month. Arrivals total c.310. See also ringing report on p. 40.

392. **GREENFINCH**.—Two flew out S. at Selsey Bill on April 25th. At Selsey Bill in October a total of c.400 flew out SE/SW. and 5 flew in S-N. On December 19th one flew in S-N. there.

393. **GOLDFINCH**.—At Selsey Bill, 4 flew out SSW. on February 2nd. In April/May a total of 110 flew out SE/SW. and 5 in S-N.

Between September 22nd and the end of November, c.1,320 flew out to sea there. One came in S-N. on December 19th.

Elsewhere, 8 came in S-N at Langney Point on September 24th (R.H.C.) with 7 in there on November 20th (D.D.H.). One flew in at Newhaven on November 15th (I.R.W.). Small coastal movements were also recorded. See also ringing report on p. 40.

394. **SISKIN**.—Three flew out S. at Selsey Bill on March 20th, with one out S. there on May 18th.

At Beachy Head, c.35 NE. on September 25th was the most recorded. One flew in S-N. at Selsey Bill on October 24th.

395. **LJINNET**.—At Selsey Bill, in April a total of c.500 left out to sea, and c.130 flew in. Two flew out SW. there on June 6th.

Between September 25th and November c.900 flew out to sea there with few arrivals.

Easterly movements were recorded for the coast during the autumn with a maximum of c.3,000 at Beachy Head on October 11th. There were also small W. coastal movements. See also ringing report on p. 40.

396. **TWITE**.—More records than of late; c.4 at Pilsea Island on December 28th (C.E.H.). At Bracklesham, c.35 on October 18th and 24th with c.30 on November 8th (B.M.). In the Selsey Bill area, a party of 45 on October 17th,

falling to 25 by 25th. In November, 14 flew E. on 1st there with 20 others present the same day; 25 there on 8th, and 20 on 15th. At Pagham Harbour, c.6 on November 11th (M.S.). Newhaven Tide Mills; in October 33 on 27th, with c.50 on the 28th (I.R.W.); and 24 on 31st (A.R.K.); numbers in November here were c.20 but there were c.50 on 27th (R.H.C. *et al.*); in December, c.20 on the 6th (P.C.; S.T.G.); 12 on 12th, 7 on 13th and 2 on the 15th (I.R.W.). At Cuckmere Haven; c.50 on October 24th (R.H.C.; R.E.G.); with 6 on November 25th and one 28th (R.H.C.). At Beachy Head; in October, one on 10th, with 8 on 18th (A.Q. *et al.*) and c.100 on 24th (R.H.C.). Seven at Pett Level Pools on October 22nd (D.D.H.). In the Rye Harbour, Northport Beach area, c.29 on October 22nd (D.D.H.) c.60 on October 26th (R.H.C.), and c.25 there on December 20th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.), c.30 at the Midrips on October 26th. One on Camber Sands December 1st (R.H.C.) and c.10 there on December 20th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.).

397. **REDPOLL**.—Up to c.35 at Darwell Reservoir in March, with c.20 there on April 4th (R.V.W.).

Many more records for the coast than usual in the autumn; at Selsey Bill, in September, 2 flew out SE. on 20th with 38 SW. and 14 out S. on 26th, 19 N. on 27th. In October 22 left S/SE., 35 flew E. and 56 W. and at the Severals, Church Norton, 3 flew N. on the 3rd, with 9 out S. and 21 N. on 18th. In November 5 out S. on 1st, 6 out SE. on 7th and 7 out S. on 8th, with one in SW-NE on 8th.

Elsewhere, in September, 9 flew W. at Newhaven on 21st (M.R.), and at Langney Point 2 E. on 24th, 12 in NE. on 26th, with c.100 over the Crumbles on 27th (R.H.C.); 18 flew E. at Fairlight on 26th (G.R.H.; J.R.H.) and on 27th there were c.150 at Beachy Head. In October, c.11 W. at Bracklesham on 24th (B.M.); 6 flew E. at Newhaven on 2nd and 27th (I.R.W.) with c.20 E. at Beachy Head on 31st (M.J.H.; A.R.K.; I.R.W.); c.50 over the Crumbles on 25th and at Langney Point, 4 E. on 12th, c.24 on 16th, and 2 out SE. on 31st (R.H.C.); at Fairlight, 6 E. on 11th and 24 E. on 31st (G.R.H.; J.R.H.). In November; 5 E. at Seaford Head on 1st, with 6 out S. the same day (I.R.W.), and 29 E. at Fairlight on the 1st (J.R.H.).

MEALY REDPOLL.—Birds showing the characters of this race were seen at Sidlesham by M.S. on October 19th, and at Warminghurst, Washington, by H.W.W. during November. Full details have been supplied.

401. **BULLFINCH**.—One flew in S-N. at Selsey Bill on March 28th (M.J.H.; B.A.E.M.; R.F.P.; I.R.W.).

404. **CROSSBILL**.—Six at Lavington Common on April 11th (L.G.H.); On January 26th, c.50 in Rewell Woods (M.H.P.; J.A.W.); in Arundel Forest 38 on January 19th (M.H.); and 22 there on February 8th (M.H.; R.J.S.). At Great-ham, 5 on February 9th (S.W.M.H.; W.D.H.; M.M.J.) and February 22nd, with 3 there on March 16th and 2 there April 16th and 26th; c.20 at Wiggonholt on February 22nd (C.M.J.); at Amberley one on January 5th (A.Q. *et al.*) and 10 there on March 1st (P.J.W.; V.A.W.); at Rackham, 3 on March 8th and one there on April 11th and May 2nd (M.H.); at Angmering, c.35 on February 9th (M.H.P.; J.A.W.), 10 at Wiston on January 10th (R.J.S.); 4 at Hayshott Common on March 1st (M.H.); from February 28th-March 6th, 4 at Horsham (C.M.J.). No evidence of attempted breeding.

On the coast—one at Church Norton on July 19th (D.L.); one over Eastbourne on July 1st (R.H.B.F.); 2 at Newhaven on July 13th; one E. over Selsey Bill on September 23rd; one flew SW. at Beachy Head on October 10th.

407. **CHAFFINCH**.—Small W. movements during cold weather at Aldwick Bay on January 13th (W.W.A.P.) and at Lancing on 24th (F.S.).

Very little visible migration recorded either in spring or in autumn. At Selsey Bill 2 flew in S-N. on April 11th and 15 flew in likewise on October 24th and 7 on November 8th. Only a few very small coastal movements recorded from elsewhere.

409. **YELLOWHAMMER**.—One flew in SW-NE at Selsey Bill on April 18th but this bird could well have come from the Isle of Wight.

410. **CORN BUNTING**.—On April 15th one flew SE. out to sea at Selsey Bill. This bird could also have ended up in the Isle of Wight.

420. **LITTLE BUNTING**.—One at Langney Point on October 15th (D.D.H.). This is the third record for the county and the first since 1906. It has been accepted by *Brit. B.* but in view of the rarity of this species in the county and the fact that it is a difficult one to identify in the field a description is given here.

"First seen flying with a Meadow Pipit and obviously much smaller than the latter. Perched on wire at close range it was seen to be decidedly shorter and slimmer than nearby Greenfinches but rather larger than a Goldfinch which was also present. At a distance of c. 20 yards the following particulars were recorded; crown chestnut, giving something of the impression of that of a Tree Sparrow. It was bordered by a fairly distinct blackish line. A chestnut patch at the side of the head, bordered on the ear covers by a not very long. Upper-parts brown with blackish streaks. Under-parts grey-white with thin black streaks on breast and flanks. Very short moulted stripe, not very long. Tail seemed relatively shorter than in Reed Bunting. When the bird flew the noticeable white outer tail feathers were seen. Under observation, mostly feeding on the ground, for about 15 minutes during which time it quite frequently gave a "wick" call, not very loud but high-pitched and quite distinct and unlike the call of the Reed Buntings (also present but not in association with this bird)."

421. **REED BUNTING**.—At Selsey Bill 14 flew SW on September 26th and 11 did so on October 17th. Small coasting movements also recorded there, daily numbers being under 100.

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING**.—One flying E and calling at Pett Level pools on October 22nd (D.D.H.).

423. **SNOW BUNTING**.—At Camber, 18 on February 29th (D.B.O.) and about the same number on March 8th (P.J.W.; V.A.W.). At East Head, 2 January 4th-20th (R.E.G.) and one, February 15th (B.M.) and 19th (R.E.G.). At Thorney, 2 on January 12th (K.V.).

One at Fairlight on September 26th (J.R.H.). The sixth county record for this month. At Camber, c.50⁺ on December 6th and c.45 on 20th (R.H.C.; D.D.H.). One at Seaford Head on October 11th (M.H.P.; G.A.S.). One at Newhaven on November 28th (M.J.H.; R.F.P.). At Newmarket Hill, Brighton, one on November 20th and 4 on 30th (N.A.G.L.). One flew S out to sea at Pagham on December 10th (W.W.A.P.). Two at Selsey Bill on 19th (B.A.E.M. *et al.*). One at East Head on November 1st and 7th (R.E.G.). One at Thorney on October 22nd (M.H.).

424. **HOUSE SPARROW**.—At Selsey Bill unusual numbers were seen to fly out to sea; 20 S. on March 16th, 6 SSW on 27th, 8 SW-SSW on April 11th, 3 SE. on 18th, 14 S. on May 9th and 14 S. on 17th. All these birds could have been making for the Isle of Wight.

425. **TREE SPARROW**.—The Sidlesham colony continued to increase, c.12 pairs being present (J.V.S.; M.S.). About the same number breeding at Great-ham (M.H.). A pair bred, unsuccessfully, at Cross-in-Hand (G.M.). It seems likely that 2 pairs bred at Fulking (A.B.S.) and about the same number at Blackdown (E.T.W.). One at Burgess Hill on June 13th (J.A.W.). Again no information from the usual breeding areas to the E. of the county.

During October a total of 210 flew E. at Selsey Bill on 3rd and 4th and c.1,000 flew W. there on 18th. C.65 flew out S. or SW. during the month there. At Beachy Head c.300 on October 18th was the maximum number recorded. Small E. movements elsewhere on the coast.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1963 REPORT

71. **SMEW**.—One, not 11, at Brooklands, Worthing, on February 24th (H.P.K.R.).

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL**.—Maximum at Selsey in late October and November was 12, not 8.

311. **WHEATEAR**.—One at Selsey Bill on November 30th (M.J.H.; I.R.W.).

333. **REED WARBLER**.—One at Pagham Harbour on November 2nd (P.C.; S.T.G.; A.Q.). The first November record for the county.

381. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—A breeding record for the interior of the county (S.W.M.H.).

REPORT ON BREEDING BIRD SURVEYS, 1964

By
M. SHRUBB
(Fairfields, Sidlesham, Sussex)

It is pleasing to report that once again a large number of records were received and sufficient information has now been forthcoming to make realistic estimates of the breeding population of Great Crested Grebe, Stone Curlew and Wheatear. Surveys on these species are being discontinued. The effects of the 1962/63 hard winter on the Stonechat makes it impracticable at the present time to attempt a realistic estimate of its breeding population. This is now abnormally low and seems likely to remain so for several years. Since this species distribution is now adequately mapped it has been decided to end this survey. The notes on these four species besides giving the 1964 records summarise the results of the period 1962 to 1964. These surveys, in particular the Stonechat, will be repeated at some future date when the current data will provide a valuable check for comparative purposes. Meanwhile breeding records where significant will be published in the systematic list.

We still lack adequate information for Water Rail and Redshank, and these surveys are continuing. In addition Snipe and Yellow Wagtail are being added in 1965. These four species often occupy the same habitat, which should ease the burden of fieldwork.

One new species, the Kestrel, was added in 1964 and the survey is being continued in 1965. A detailed account of the breeding status will be given at the conclusion of the survey.

I am greatly indebted to S. W. M. Hughes and the Horsham Natural History Society for their assistance in organising a Kestrel survey in the Horsham area. I would also like to thank all those whose records and enthusiasm made these notes possible, their names appear at the end.

5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE

In 1964, 32 ponds or groups of ponds were visited and 38 pairs of grebes were recorded. On the 30 waters visited in 1963 and 1964 an increase of about 6 pairs was noted. Decreases were noted in some areas, e.g.: Burton Park but this may only mean that a few pairs were overlooked.

Breeding Status

Summary of results 1962-1964

Locality	Map Reference	Number pairs		Locality	Map Reference	Number of pairs	
		1962	1963			1962	1963
Manhood End	SU 830011	1	0†	Crabtree Park	TQ 308375	1	(b)
Chichester G.P.	SU 875040	15	8-10 c14	Rowfant	TQ 316376	—	—
Burton Park	SU 975175	1	3	Copthorne	TQ 304387	—	—
Knepp	TO 158212	3	2	Milton Mount	TQ 295383	—	—
Warnham Pond	TO 170325	2	2	Warmingfold Pond	TQ 230250	—	—
Hammer Pond	TO 220290	1	0	Mill Pond, Crawley	TQ 245360	—	2
Barnhouse Pond	TO 211315	1	0	Garstons Farm,			
Balcombe	TO 315310	2	1	Bolney	TO 264223	—	—
Leigh Pond	TO 290215	1	1	Eridge Park	TO 565350	1	1
Horsted Keynes	TO 384290	2	2	Ashburnham	TO 690145	—	—
Weirwood Res.	TO 390346	1	2	Buckhurst Park	TO 497347	—	(c)
Maresfield Abbey	TO 462230	1	0	Powdermill Res.	TO 800195	—	—
Plashett Park	TO 465165	0*	0	Tilgate	TO 279345	—	—
Sheffield Park	TO 418240	0	0	Buchan Hill	TO 245343	—	—
Wadhurst Park	TO 630280	4	0	Hawkins Pond	TO 215292	—	—
Darwell Res.	TO 720210	1	1	Coolhurst	TO 195293	—	0†
Pea'rh Pk. (Main)	SU 970220	—	1	Forest Mere	SU 820299	—	—
Perworth Park	SU 964232	—	0	Bayham Abbey	TO 640367	—	—
Lurgashall Pond	SU 935260	—	1	Rye Harb. G. Pits	TO 935180	2	1
Shillinglee Park	SU 968312	1	1	Lindfield Farm	TO 384225	—	—
Arundel Park	TQ 018080	—	2	Powder Mill House	TO 740148	—	—
Slaugham Place	TQ 255275	—	0	Newells Farm	TQ 210270	—	—
Slaugham Common	TQ 248280	—	0	Roost Hole	TQ 205295	—	0*

Key: A dash indicates that the locality was not visited

* Has bred

† One bird

(a) Two birds (pair?)

(b) One pair left when main lake drained.

(c) One bird in May only.

(d) One pair 17/3 not found later.

(e) One probable pair.

The total of 46 ponds or groups of ponds listed probably includes all the principal breeding waters. Of these at least 29 held pairs at some time during the survey. There are a number of lesser ponds which have not been visited. Some of these have not held grebes in the past and many are probably too small to ever do so but it is possible that a few pairs have been overlooked.

Several ponds which held grebes in 1962 subsequently held none doubtless due to the hard winter of 1962/63. Thus on 18 ponds visited in 1962 and 1963, the population had fallen by 16 pairs (42%) in 1963. Of these ponds, 17 were visited in 1964 and an increase of 10 pairs over the 1963 total was noted, which indicates an excellent recovery.

In any attempt to assess the "normal numbers" the effects of the 1962/63 winter must be taken into account to avoid underestimation. When the species has fully recovered the breeding population may total 50-60 pairs.

BREEDING SUCCESS 1962-1964

Year	Pairs Reported	Pairs known to have raised young	Young reared	Average brood size	Pairs known to have failed
1962	42	12	20+	1.7+	1
1963	c34	22	40	1.8	0
1964	c38	12	32	2.6	1

NOTE: In addition the species did well in 1963 and 1964 at Chichester Gravel Pits; 1962 was probably a poor year there.

110. KESTREL

This was the only new species added to these surveys in 1964. An excellent start was made and records were received from all over the county. These were all plotted on 1 in. Ordnance Survey maps and divided into (a) pairs proved to breed, (b) pairs probably breeding, having been seen regularly in an area, or displaying, or birds seen carrying food, (c) groups of sightings, often by different observers, from the same general area including at least one sighting in May or June. The assumption was made that these records were connected and that the birds were possibly breeding. Some of the areas in which these groups were recorded in 1964 were areas where breeding was established in 1962 and/or 1963, (d) isolated sight records in May or June.

There is a risk of some duplication in certain areas but this has been eliminated as far as possible in the following table.

1964 RECORDS

Pairs proved to breed (a)	Pairs probably breeding (b)	Possible breeding pairs (c)	Single birds in May and June (d)
26	33-38	17-19	9

There remain a further 15 other groups of sightings and isolated sight records in March/April or July to September. At least 10 of which could refer to breeding birds.

BREEDING SUCCESS

Pairs proved to breed	Broods seen	Total young	Average brood size
26	19	42+	c2.25

It is suspected that one pair failed to rear any young. Only in one nest was clutch size known, 5 eggs, one infertile.

The information received in 1964 was insufficient to attempt any estimate of the population but it may be worth quoting some tentative figures of breeding densities from different habitats. By analysis, downland pairs were estimated at one per 6 sq. miles. An area in the Weald and another on the coastal plain that were fairly carefully searched held one pair per 3.4 sq. miles and one pair per 8 sq. miles, respectively.

The survey is being continued in 1965 when it is hoped more results will be forthcoming.

120. WATER RAIL

During the 1964 breeding season birds were located in 3 widely separated localities. Breeding was not proved but the records strongly suggest it took place. One site had been occupied in 1962, the other 2 were new localities. During the survey breeding has been proved or birds have been found present

in 6 or 7 widely scattered areas. Five of these are lakes or ponds and 2 are along streams in grass marsh. Information on the species is still urgently required before its status can be accurately assessed.

161. REDSHANK

The number of pairs in each locality from which records were received were: Selsey-Sidlesham Ferry-Bracklesham, 17. East Head, 1. Manhood End, 3. Thorney Island, 6. Fishbourne S.F.-Old Park Wood, 7 to 10. Harting, 6. Amberley Wildbrooks, 2. Greatham, 1. Lower Cuckmere, 2. Rye Marsh and Harbour, 11. Midrips to Wicks, 6, perhaps more since 12-15 estimated on June 20th. No pairs were found at Newhaven. No records were received from the Adur Valley, the Ouse Levels or Lavant, but in areas visited in both 1963 and 1964 an increase of 9 to 10 pairs was noted.

The heavy rainfall during the breeding season caused serious flooding in the river valleys and other marsh areas. The species had a poor breeding season and some pairs may have made no attempt to nest. J. Ashbee reported that while breeding numbers in the Rye area were still below average, non-breeding birds along the Rother increased from c.20 to c.50-60 during the season.

189. STONE CURLEW

Less ground was surveyed in 1964 than in 1963, and in particular the only work done between the Adur and the Ouse was in the Fulking area. All known breeding areas were visited except for 3 in West Sussex and a total of 12-14 pairs was recorded. The 3 areas not visited held a total of 5-7 pairs in previous years. Breeding success was recorded for 6 pairs; of these 5 raised 8 young and one pair lost a nest which was ploughed out.

Breeding Status

The species is confined to the Downs, with a pair perhaps regularly at the Midrips/Wicks. During this survey almost all the suitable terrain was searched in at least one year, and much of it in at least 2. Only 2 areas of significant size were not visited at all, these were between Brighton and the Ouse south of the A27, and around the Mardens and Compton in West Sussex. Pairs are thinly distributed along almost the entire length of the Downs with more pairs in West Sussex than in East. Twelve regular breeding areas were found and pairs bred, or probably bred sporadically in a further 8 areas.

TABLE 1: DISTRIBUTION AND PAIRS 1962-64

Region	Regular breeding areas		Regular areas visited		Number of pairs		Sporadic breeding areas		Number of pairs	
	5	4	4	5	62	63	64	62	63	64
Hants Border-River Arun								5	2+(0)1?	1+(0)
River Arun-River Adur	4	3	3	3	5	4	5	0	—	—
River Adur-River Ouse	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	(0)
River Ouse-Eastbourne	3	1	3	3	1	4	3-4	0	—	—
Midrips/Wicks	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	?
Totals:	12	8	11	9	13	15	13	8	4+(0)1?	1+(0)1+(0)

NOTE: Single birds denoted by () are only included where possibly breeding. Further 1962 records were received subsequent to the publication of the 1962 Report and these have been included in the Table.

Between 14 and 17 pairs were recorded annually during the survey but this is certainly less than the total population. In no year were all the regular breeding areas visited but the records show that these probably held 15 to 20

pairs each year. In the other areas, 2 of which may hold breeding pairs regularly, between one and 4 pairs occurred. It is likely, with such an elusive bird that some pairs were overlooked, although the species very low density and the large areas searched without result in any year suggest that few would be involved. From the information we have it seems reasonable to estimate the present breeding population at 20-25 pairs annually. No decline was detected during these surveys and the species would appear to be just maintaining its present breeding strength.

Walpole-Bond in 1938 estimated c.60 pairs breeding (*History of Sussex Birds*, volume III, pages 108-9). Although the steady encroachment of building in certain areas, e.g. around Brighton, may have contributed, the principal cause of the decrease has been the widespread conversion of the species downland habitat to arable farmland. Some pairs have evidently adapted to this change and now breed with varying success on arable farmland.

TABLE 2: BREEDING SUCCESS 1962-64

Year	Pairs recorded	Pairs known to have raised young		Young raised	Pairs believed to have raised young		Pairs known to have failed
		3	4		5	1	
1962	17	3	4	8	5	1	0
1963	15-16	4	6	8	1	1	0
1964	12-14	—	—	8	4	—	1

Nests have been found or suspected in corn (4), root fields (3), fallows (5), as well as in leys and young plantations (1). Its future on the Downs is now closely linked to arable farming methods, but as long as these provide sufficiently long periods without disturbance for eggs to be hatched, the species should continue to be able to breed successfully. Young Stone Curlews are fairly mobile soon after hatching and should be capable of avoiding many of the dangers inherent in farming operations.

311. WHEATEAR

Breeding records for 1964 came only from the shingle areas in the east of the county. None was found on the Downs, although all the 1963 breeding localities, amongst others, were visited.

Breeding Status

The principal breeding areas are now along the coast with most at the Crum-bles and between Pett Level and the Wicks. During the survey very few were found on the Downs, once the species' chief breeding area, and none was found on those parts of the chalk cliffs investigated.

The Wheatear, like the Stone Curlew, has been driven out of much of its downland habitat by the conversion to arable farmland, although a number of apparently suitable areas, remain as listed above. The disappearance of the Rabbit has possibly contributed to the Wheatear's decline, since Rabbit burrows provided many of its best downland sites. However, records from a similar habitat outside the county, where the species has markedly declined, but which has been unaffected by the decrease in Rabbits, tends to contradict this. No entirely satisfactory explanation for the Wheatear's present extreme scarcity on the Downs has emerged from this survey, but the species may now breed only sporadically there.

Walpole-Bond cited a number of other areas, e.g. the levels, as regularly holding a few pairs (*History of Sussex Birds*, volume II, page 83). These have not been properly investigated, but no Wheatears were reported during surveys of other species.

Evidently the present population is almost entirely confined to the coastal area in the east of the county.

BREEDING RECORDS 1962-1964

Locality	Number of pairs		Locality	Number of pairs	
	1962	1963		1962	1963
Chalk Downs Amberley Mount- Rackham Hill	5	0	Coastline Chalk Cliffs, Cuckmere Haven-Beachy Head	-	0
Cissbury-Chanctonbury- Steyning	0	2	Shoreham	1	1
A23-Ditchling Beacon	-	1	Newhaven Tidemills	-	1
Hollingbury	1	0	The Crumbles*	2	3
River Ouse-Cuckmere	-	1	Nook Beach to Rye Harbour	-	3
Crowlink	1	0	Rye-Camber	-	5
			Midrips-Wicks	-	c10

Key: * Whole area not searched.

— A dash indicates the area not visited.

NOTE: Two pairs bred near Horsham in 1962 and 1963. In addition to the above, areas searched without result were: Chalk Downs at Lullington each year, Hants border—Cocking, Heyshott Down—OS 954155, the Trundle, Edburton—Fulking—Poynings, A23-Ditchling Beacon in 2 years. In 1963 only Bowhill, Sullington Hill, Patching Hill, all between River Adur and A23, Mount Harry—Ashcombe Bottom—Buckland Bank. The Table probably includes most of the suitable breeding areas which remain.

317. STONECHAT

Nearly all the ground covered in 1963 was again visited in 1964. Records were also received from Fairlight, and additional areas of Ashdown Forest where all the heathland between Crowborough and the A22 has now been surveyed. The 1964 total of 21 pairs from areas visited in both 1963 and 1964 is an increase of c.6 pairs over the 1963 figure; a good recovery from the 1962/63 hard winter.

Breeding Status

The principal breeding areas are on the East Sussex Downs—east of the Ouse, in Ashdown Forest, with a few pairs regularly on certain of the West Sussex commons. Breeding is probably regular at Fairlight and may be more regular than indicated in some of the other areas listed. Stonechats have bred recently at West Wittering, Cissbury and Ditchling Common, but not during this survey. Suitable areas on the Downs were also searched each year without result.

The present breeding distribution is substantially the same as that outlined by Walpole-Bond in 1938 (*History of Sussex Birds*, volume II, page 99). It is possible that some decrease has taken place on the Downs and the species has certainly decreased on the inland commons. The hard winter of 1962/63 seriously depleted the breeding stock which may have already been at a low ebb after the cold spell in the 1961/62 winter (12 pairs at Lullington Heath in 1961 had vanished in 1962).

Taking into consideration these factors the total of about 30-36 pairs recorded in 1964 was almost certainly well below the "normal" level which may be as high as 80 pairs at times. It will be necessary to repeat this survey in a few years time to assess the species recovery and re-estimate the breeding population.

BREEDING RECORDS 1962-64

Locality	Number of pairs		Locality	Number of pairs	
	1962	1963		1962	1963
East Sussex Downs and Coastal Cliffs	-	1	Ashdown Forest	11	6
Porto Bello, Brighton	1	0	c1/3rd on east side Crowborough-A22 (includes above)	-	10-12
Telscombe Cliffs	1	1	West Sussex Commons	2	2(+13)
Newhaven Head (mostly 5 lords burgh*)	-	4	Iping/Stedham Pound	1	(13)
Ouse-Cuckmere (mostly 5 lords burgh*)	-	0	Ambersham	1	2
Cuckmere Haven	1	0	Others	(1 bird May)	1
Crowlink-	0	0	Cross-in-Hand	-	-
Seven Sisters	1	0	Worthledge Forest	1	1
Lullington Heath	-	(233)	Chailley Common	-	-
Jevington	-	2	Bury Hill	-	1
Belle Tout	-	2	Blackdown	-	(13 May)
Beachy Head	10	2	Selsey	1	0
Fairlight	-	1	Newhaven Tidemills	0	0
Between Birling Gap and Beachy Head	-	-	Breeds regularly	4-6 pairs	1

Key: A dash indicates the area was not visited

* Burnt out in 1964.

NOTE: In addition to above, areas searched without result were:- West Wittering, Harting Downs, Cissbury, A23—Ditchling Beacon, Mount Harry—Buckland Bank—Ashcombe Bottom, Ditchling Common, Amberley Mount—Rackham Hill.

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SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1964

Compiled by

DR. J. STAFFORD

The number of birds ringed in the year, 21,225, was close to last year's total. It was made up of 1,112 ringed as nestlings and 20,113 trapped as free flying. These comprised 100 different species, an increase of 9 on last year and 13 on 1962. This ringing was carried out by 18 ringers or groups of ringers working in the county. The Beachy Head Ringing Station in its first full year's ringing had a total of 2,288 of which 580 were Blackcaps. This is rather more than half the total number of Blackcaps ringed in the whole British Isles in an average year. In 1963 over 200 were caught and it will be interesting to see whether 1963-64 were exceptional years.

Apart from the ringing rarities of the Chichester Group, L.G.W. trapped a Great Reed Warbler—the fifth to be ringed in the British Isles; P.G.D. trapped

169 Redpolls and 40 Siskins; 9 Bearded Tits were trapped—6 by R.H.C. and 3 by D.D.H. Other unusual species trapped were one Shelduck, 2 Canada Geese, 7 Common Sandpipers by C.R.G., one Sparrowhawk by P.G.D., one Blue-throat and 5 Twite by R.H.C.

THE CHICHESTER RINGING GROUP

Autumn 1964 saw yet another successful season's work at Chichester report C.J.M., A.B.W., and S.B. The results of the Sand Martin ringing in general followed the pattern of previous years and far more birds of other species were caught. A considerable amount of weighing and measuring of migrants was carried out and about 245 moult cards were filled up. The total number of Sand Martins newly ringed was down on the previous year: 6,555 were trapped. Recoveries within the British Isles are too numerous to give in any detail. Foreign recoveries are given opposite. About 275 birds ringed at Chichester were recovered elsewhere and 250 ringed elsewhere were retrapped at Chichester. The most notable of these was N 71,052 ringed as an adult 15.8.63 and retrapped at Chichester 14.8.64 having been controlled at its colony, Kin-craig (Inverness) on 19.7.64; 455 miles NNW of Chichester. Fuller details of other recoveries will be given when the results are written up in detail.

Two real rarities were caught, an Aquatic Warbler at Pagham on 23.8.64 and a Little Gull at Chichester on August 20th. The Little Gull was only the second to be ringed in Great Britain. A Water Rail, Nightjar and 5 Kingfishers were other notable birds. Apart from the Sand Martins 2,779 other birds were ringed. The more important migrants were as follows:

Swallow	671	Reed Warbler	190
Sedge Warbler	1030	Whitethroat	42
Lesser Whitethroat	23	Willow Warbler	79
Chiffchaff	24	Yellow Wagtail	115

Three examples of unstreaked *Acrocephalus* warblers of dubious species were trapped: it is possible that one (or more) of these birds might have been a Marsh Warbler.

They would like to acknowledge all those who helped, in particular Mr. A. D. Heaver for the use of the office buildings as a base and all the ringers who helped in the work. Once again, Mr. N. F. Stewart coped with much of the paper-work.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1964

Key to symbols and terms

(Ring numbers are omitted)

Age	Manner of recovery
pull.—nestling or chick, <i>not yet flying</i>	v.—caught or trapped and released with ring;
juv.—young, <i>able to fly freely</i>	+—shot or killed by man;
1st w.—bird in its first winter;	0—found dead or dying;
fg.—full-grown (age uncertain);	o—caught or trapped alive and not released or released but with ring removed.
ad.—adult, at least one year old.	

Sex	Distance
♂—male	The distance is given in miles and directions are approximate.
♀—female	

Birds Ringed in Sussex

Mute Swan	fg. v	26.6.63 24.12.63	Shoreham-by-Sea, D.S. Nr. Alkmeat, Netherlands
	fg. x	15.8.63 15.5.64	Emsworth, Sussex/Hants, D.S. Hasun (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany
(These are the 3rd and 4th Mute Swans ringed in the British Isles to be recovered abroad. Many other recoveries showed movements in both directions along the coast and also to and from inland areas and the coast. These will be summarised in a future report.)			
Whooper Swan	juv. x	2.2.63 29.2.64	Shoreham-by-Sea, D.S. Burgsvik (Gotland), Sweden. (This is the first recorded movement of this species between the British Isles and Scandinavia).
Woodcock	fg. +	5.1.63 5.1.64	Bexhill, J.A.H. Paimpol (Côtes du Nord), France
Redshank	pull. v	3.7.63 19.1.64	The Wicks, D.D.H. Sittingbourne, Kent. 18m. N.
Common Tern	pull. x	11.7.57 12.6.64	Rye Harbour, D.D.H. Same locality
Swallow	juv. x	22.9.63 8.7.64	Sidlesham, L. & J.W. Invergourie, Angus. 405m. N.
Sand Martin	juv. x	3.9.62 23.7.64	Chichester G. Pits, C.R.G. Borkum, East Frisian Is., Germany
	ad. x	22.8.64 31.3.64	Chichester G. Pits, C.R.G. Djenane ed Dar, Algeria
	juv. v	9.8.64 18.8.64	Chichester G. Pits, C.R.G. La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France

There were numerous other recoveries of this species to and from all parts of the British Isles.

Great Tit	ad. ♀ 0	6.12.63 15.4.64	Wilmington, R.H.C. Brussegem (Brabant) Belgium. (Found nesting).
Blue Tit	fg. +	8.6.63 28.2.64	Marley Common, P.G.D. Chippenham, Wilts. 58m. W.
Fieldfare	fg. x	12.1.63 7.1.64	Burgess Hill, J.A.W. Nr. Ardino (Khaskovo), Bulgaria
Song Thrush	juv. +	7.6.64 26.9.64	Beachy Head, B.H.R.S. Hiersac, Charante, France
	pull. +	17.4.64 24.10.64	Haslemere (Sussex), P.G.D. Villareal, Spain
Blackbird	ad. x	3.1.63 13.4.64	Burgess Hill, J.A.W. Bad Oldesloe (Schleswig-Holstein), Germany
	fg. v	22.12.62 8.3.64	Nr. Haslemere, P.G.D. Basschaat, Belgium
Redstart	1st w. x	15.9.63 22.4.63	Chichester G. Pits, C.R.G. Talence, Bordeaux, France

Robin	fg. 25.2.63 O 13.3.64	Selsey, A.B.W. Gaubfird, Darlington, Durham. 270m. N.
	fg. 23.8.64 x 8.9.64	Beachy Head. B.H.R.S. Cersay, Deun Serres, France
Sedge Warbler	juv. 6.8.63 y 26.4.64	Chichester G. Pits. C.R.G. Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex. 95m. NE.
	ad. 15.8.64 y 16.7.64	Chichester G. Pits. C.R.G. Gosforth, Newcastle-on-Tyne. 290m. N.
	juv. 12.8.64 y 16.8.64	Chichester G. Pits. C.R.G. Chew Valley Res., Somerset. 85m. WNW.
	fg. 7.9.63 x 8.5.64	Eastbourne. D.D.H. Montdeville, Nr. Caen (Calvados), France
Blackcap	1st W. ♂ x 11.9.63 12.4.64	Beachy Head. B.H.R.S. Clergoux, Corrize, France
	fg. ♀ x 10.9.63 25.4.64	Burgess Hill. J.A.W. Brandon, Suffolk. 105m. N.
Chiffchaff	fg. 26.8.62 x 30.3.64	Fernhurst. P.G.D. Klinsea, Yorkshire. 125m. N.
Spotted Flycatcher	fg. 23.8.63 x 12.6.64	Eastbourne. D.D.H. Ahoghill, Ballymena (Antrim). 390m. W.
	fg. 15.6.64 x 13.9.64	Marley Common. P.G.D. Agambuja, Portugal
Starling	fg. 5.1.63 y 4.11.63	Shoreham-by-Sea. D.S. Knokke, Belgium
	fg. 15.1.60 y 2.11.63	Shoreham-by-Sea. D.S. Mendonck (East Flanders), Belgium
	fg. 1.1.63 x 15.4.64	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S. Dolice, Nr. Szczecin, Poland
Goldfinch	juv. 25.8.64 O 10.11.64	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S. Soussans, Nr. Margaux (Gironde), France
	juv. 30.8.61 x 7.11.63	Shoreham-by-Sea. J.S. Ondres (Landes), France
Linnet	fg. 30.8.63 x 12.3.64	Beachy Head. B.H.R.S. La Roche, Bredur, Murebeau, France
Birds Ringed Elsewhere and Recovered in Sussex		
Black-headed Gull	pull. 28.5.64 x 3.8.64	Castotice, Nr. Namest (Trebic), Czechoslovakia Hove. G.A.S.
Reed Warbler	ad. 1.8.64 y 28.8.64	Fishtoft, Boston, Lines. Chichester G. Pits. 152m. SSW. C.R.G.
Sedge Warbler	ad. 21.8.64 y 23.8.64	Before midday at Slapton, Devon 0600 hrs., Chichester G. Pits. 120m. W. C.R.G.
Yellow Wagtail	juv. 6.7.64 y 28.8.64	East Tilbury, Essex Pagham Harbour. 60m. SW. C.R.G.

Starting pull. 2.5.59 Pyarnu, Estonia
y 11.2.60 Sidlesham. J.V.S.

Linnet ad. ♂ 23.7.61 Swanscombe, Kent
+ 27.6.64 Shoreham. 60m. SW. J.S.

Ringers whose names do not appear on page 5:
Beachy Head Ringing Station Chichester Ringing Group
L. & J. Wellor

REPORT ON WADER COUNTS

By
M. SHRUBB

In December, 1963, a trial count of waders was made at the known high-tide roosts at Chichester and Pagham Harbours in Sussex and at Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island in Hampshire. The various harbours and associated estuaries form a large network on the boundaries of the two counties between which waders freely move. The object of the count was to try and get an accurate idea of the total population on the set date and estimate the possible wintering numbers. The roosts covered in Chichester Harbour were at Pilesea Island, Thorney Deep, Chidham—the fields along the west side of Chichester Channel, Manhood End and East Head. In Pagham Harbour roosts covered were on the shingle islands and beach at the mouth, fields at Church Norton and Sidlesham Ferry. Results obtained have been set out in Table 1.

TABLE 1:

HIGH TIDE WADER TOTALS IN WEST SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE ON 29th DECEMBER, 1963

Species	Chichester Harbour	Pagham Harbour	Langstone Harbour	Approximate Totals
Oystercatcher	425	125	145	695
Lapwing	250	—	165	415
Ringed Plover	63	5	35	103
Grey Plover	205	140	295	640
Golden Plover	42	—	4	46
Turnstone	92	90	62	245
Snipe	1	—	6	7
Curlew	495	?	805	1300
Black-tailed Godwit	130	—	195	325
Bar-tailed Godwit	930	63	730	1723
Common Sandpiper	1	—	—	1
Redshank	605	?	590	1195
Spotted Redshank	1	—	1	2
Greenshank	1	—	—	1
Knot	400	26	30	455
Purple Sandpiper	—	1	—	1
Little Stint	2	—	—	2
Dunlin	5650	4000	9700	19350
Sanderling	47	15	18	80
Ruff	—	—	1	1

Monthly Counts in Chichester and Pagham Harbours

In March, 1964, regular monthly counts were started at the known high-tide roosts in Chichester and Pagham Harbours as previously detailed. The one exception was East Head where no waders visited the area due to constant disturbance. It was hoped to continue the Hampshire counts but except for

Farlington this proved impossible. However, Farlington is one of the principal Langstone Harbour roosts so although the counts cannot be regarded as comprehensive they give some measure of wader population. The results, judged by previous isolated counts in the various harbours were better than expected. In particular the large number of waders present on June 28th indicated a most pronounced early return migration. Later in the autumn some other large totals were recorded and it will be interesting to see whether these were unusual or typical of what full coverage will produce in the future. Other interesting records were of wintering Common Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank and Little Stints and an early Curlew Sandpiper at Pilsea on March 29th.

It is unfortunate that the figures are not quite complete, one or two counts were missed at certain roosts and the Pagham figures were upset by considerable disturbance. Duplication was, as far as possible, eliminated; observers noting the times and direction of any movements to or from their areas during counts. The original method used was to count waders present at the roosts in the half-hour period immediately following the high-tide. This was found impracticable for several reasons and observers now watch and count over the whole high-tide period with particular emphasis on the rising tide. All the counts were carried out during spring tides, the highest in the month, and where possible the same observers counted the same area on each count. Unfortunately it was found that during some of the spring tides waders followed a different pattern of behaviour to the normal. This was particularly noticeable at Pilsea and made it difficult to obtain accurate figures. Full results of these counts have been included in Table 3.

TABLE 2:
SUSSEX COASTLINE COUNT ON 20th DECEMBER, 1964

Species	Chichester Harbour	Pagham Harbour	Climping	Goring/Worthing	Shoreham	Newhaven/Cuckmere	Langney Point	Bulverhythe	Pett Level	Rye Harbour	Approximate Totals
Oystercatcher	330	140	111	5	1	1	1	1	1	52	630
Lapwing	205	100	13	45	30	700	3	200	1	1	180
Ringed Plover	70+	1	16	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	420
Grey Plover	280	120	1	1	1	3	17	1	1	1	500
Golden Plover	72	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	145
Turnstone	63+	1	20	8	1	32	48	1	1	1	75
Snipe	39	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Jack Snipe	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1330
Curlew	1270	1	1	1	25	1	30	1	1	1	120
Black-tailed Godwit	120	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	250
Bar-tailed Godwit	250	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	950
Common Sandpiper	1	1	13	4	40	48	1	1	1	1	2
Redshank	835	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27
Spotted Redshank	20	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
Knot	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Purple Sandpiper	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Stint	1	1	2	120	300	90	1	1	1	1	13000
Dunlin	10750	1750	2	130	1	1	1	1	1	1	420
Sanderling	18+	1	200	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Ruff	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

TABLE 3: MONTHLY WADER COUNT TOTALS IN WEST SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE IN 1964

Species	26th July			28th June			25th October			20th September			23rd August			20th December			
	Chi	Pag	Far	Chi	Pag	Far	Chi	Pag	Far	Chi	Pag	Far	Chi	Pag	Far	Chi	Pag	Far	
Oystercatcher	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lapwing	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ringed Plover	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grey Plover	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Golden Plover	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turnstone	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snipe	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jack Snipe	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Sandpiper	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redshank	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spotted Redshank	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knot	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Stint	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dunlin	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sanderling	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruff	140	200	200	90	400	150	470	160	450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Key: * Denotes records from Sidesham Ferry only. A dash indicates the area not covered. Chi=Chichester Harbour, Pag=Pagham Harbour, Far=Farlington in Langstone Harbour.

Sussex coastline winter count

On December 20th, 1964, a count was organised along the whole Sussex coastline from Chichester Harbour to Rye using the same method as outlined for the monthly counts. The object of the count was to try and obtain some idea of the wader numbers, particularly Oystercatcher, Turnstone, Purple Sandpiper and Sanderling along the whole coastline in comparison with the harbours which were being regularly counted. Small flocks of various species occur in many places along the open beaches and smaller estuaries. The results were rather disappointing and although it is difficult with a coastline of some 90 miles to keep track of all the roosts waders use the impressions gained were of low numbers of waders being present.

The results of the count are set out in Table 2 and for the sake of completeness the Chichester and Pagham figures are repeated.

The monthly counts are being continued in 1965 when it is hoped to avoid some of the difficulties so far encountered. A further count along the whole coastline will also be carried out. We would like to thank the following for their hard work and willing co-operation.

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MIGRATION WATCHES IN 1964

By

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

In the 1963 Sussex Bird Report an account was given of a two-day migration watch organised by the Society to study the migration routes and density of movement of visible diurnal migrants in Sussex and Hampshire. During 1964, four more similar watches were arranged, the area of coverage being extended to include Kent and Surrey, and particular emphasis was placed on correlating movements recorded inland with those at the coast. Response to the watches was encouraging, and we received results from 20-30 localities on each day, except for the spring watches which were not so well supported owing to the rough and arctic weather—some observers even recorded snow! During this series of watches, by far the most support came from Sussex.

The table opposite, which includes the number of places covered for each of the 1963 and 1964 watches shows the approximate number of birds moving in the first three hours after dawn on each of the ten days of observation now completed. In the few places where observations were not carried out for this length of time, estimates have been made based on actual results. To obtain a total figure where individuals or flocks of a species were flying in opposite directions, the larger of the two directional totals has been taken.

The following accounts summarise the general trends that were indicated by each watch in 1964, and some of the highlights that occurred. For account of Watch No. 1 see *Sussex Bird Report*, 1963, page 47.

TABLE

LOCALITIES WATCHED, BIRDS MOVING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS ON TEN DATES IN 1963-4

Date	Localities watched Inland Coastal	No. of birds recorded moving Inland Coastal	General weather conditions
1963			
Oct. 19th	17 21	5,900 20,000	Wind variable SSE-SSW force 3-4, 7-8 oktas cloud, good visibility.
Oct. 20th	15 21	400 2,000	Wind SW f. 3-4, 8 oks. cloud, with drizzle.
1964			
Apr. 4th	4 8	200 100	Wind NE f. 4-6. Poor vis. Very cold.
Apr. 5th	8 8	500 1,400	Wind NE f. 4, 3-4 oks. cl.
Aug. 29th	14 11	800 2,800	Wind NW f. 3-4, 0-2 oks. cl., good vis., cool.
Aug. 30th	10 11	600 2,000	Wind N f. 2-3, 0-2 oks. cl., good vis.
Sep. 26th	16 10	3,200 25,800	Wind light SSW, 7-8 oks. cl., mod. vis., slight rain at dawn
Sep. 27th	15 13	4,200 8,500	Calm with fog in places at dawn, then light W wind, mod. vis.
Oct. 10th	10 7	1,100 2,700	Wind W f. 4, mod. cloud cover, mod. vis.
Oct. 11th	11 9	4,500 9,300	Wind W f. 1-3, mod. cloud cover, odd showers, good vis.

Watch No. 2—April 4th-5th, 1964

The purpose of a spring watch was to see if any movements took place inland which hitherto had not been recorded at the coast. These might take the form of return movement of wintering finches and thrushes eastwards to their breeding areas in central and eastern Europe, or cross-country arrivals of such species as Meadow Pipits and Linnets which come in across the English Channel at this time of year, sometimes in large numbers. The visible spring movements, however, tend to be less concentrated and smaller than those in autumn, and it was appreciated when this watch was arranged that it was likely to be a rather hit-and-miss one; as it transpired, cold blustery weather conditions reduced it to rather disappointing proportions.

After a week of such weather, the weekend continued with strong force 4 to 6 NE winds in all areas. On 4th steet and rain persisted until well into the day, visibility was very poor, and the temperature very cold. The 5th was rather a better day, and by mid-day most cloud had cleared to give a sunny, although rough and cold day.

No large movements of any species were recorded, and in fact no really worthwhile results can be arrived at owing to the small numbers of birds involved. Meadow Pipit was one of the more numerous species, and on 4th movement was predominately northerly or north-westerly, although no more than 25 were recorded flying in that direction in any locality; on 5th movement was more scattered, with the largest number 67 passing W. at Nursling, Hants. On 4th only 61 Linnets were recorded, with no noticeable trends, but on 5th there was an obvious easterly coasting movement, more birds being recorded between promontories than at them. The largest number was 124 E. at Fairlight, Sussex. Other species recorded, but whose movements were small and reveal no particular significance, included Rook, Skylark, *alba* Wagtail, Starling, Greenfinch and Chaffinch.

Watch No. 3—August 29th-30th, 1964

In late August, visible departures from the Sussex and Hampshire coast of Sand Martins, Tree Pipits and Yellow Wagtails reach their climax, and it was anticipated that a migration watch at this time should enable the Society to obtain a good idea of the departure pattern of these species. Unfortunately, as with the previous watch, the weather was not ideal, and with winds light and from between NW. and NE. on both days, there was little inducement for these diurnal migrants to move down to the coast prior to departure across the Channel.

Sand Martins on 29th were scarce, with no more than 130 recorded at any one locality, and movement was very diverse. On 30th there was a general westerly trend, with 250 being the most recorded, but these numbers are paltry by comparison with the size of movements recorded in favourable conditions (that is, opposing southerly winds) at this time of the year. Swallow numbers were also low, and there was no bias; a very few birds departed out to sea on each day.

Tree Pipits were not numerous and both inland and on the coast most were moving NW or W. Exceptions were over higher ground in the east, where at Hollingbury, Brighton, 40 + flew S., and at Beachy Head where 16 left to SW. It may well have been, however, that birds were moving at height in other localities, but were not heard or seen from lower points. Yellow Wagtails on 29th showed a distinct westerly movement, the largest number being 130 at Selsey Bill, and the only departure noted was of 11 at Portland Bill, Dorset; inland areas noted small movements towards the coast. On 30th movement was much more confused, and again emigration (30) was noted only at Portland Bill. Small numbers of other species were recorded moving on the two days, principally House Martins, Meadow Pipits and a few Grey Wagtails, but directions taken were rather diverse.

Watch No. 4—September 26th-27th, 1964

During this weekend, the 28 localities watched, over half of them in Sussex, recorded over 42,000 birds. Practically all were moving into the wind, a course which took them towards the southern half of the compass. The dominant group of species moving were hirundines.

Saturday, September 26th: Generally there was a rather calm start to the day, winds at most places being force two and under, with high cloud, moderate visibility, and slight rain at dawn at several localities, particularly the coastal ones. The wind over much of the area was light SSW/W., while in East Sussex it was S/SSE.

Of the 29,000 birds recorded up to 0830hrs. about 77% were hirundines, after this time, some three hours after dawn, movement at most places had dropped to a standstill. Of these 22,300 hirundines, over 95% were recorded from the high ground in East Sussex (Fairlight, Beachy Head, Seaford Head and Hollingbury) and there seemed to be a general split of about 44% Swallows, 55% House Martins, and less than 1% Sand Martins. Practically all were moving in an E/ESE. direction, with some small departure noted at Seaford Head, Beachy Head and Fairlight. To emphasise again the importance during this watch of the East Sussex high points, all between c.350 and 500 feet above sea-level, these four localities recorded 24,600 of the 29,000 birds recorded.

The other 6,700 birds moving other than hirundines were mainly Meadow Pipits, *alba* Wagtails, Goldfinches, Linnets, Redpolls, and a small sprinkling of Chaffinches. Meadow Pipits moving totalled 1,200, with departure noted at Selsey Bill, Beachy Head, and Fairlight, the highest number recorded being

at Beachy Head where over 500 were seen flying down towards the Head, presumably to depart. At inland points, small numbers (average 50-60) were noted to be passing in a generally southerly direction. At the coast movement other than departure was of birds coasting into the general direction of the wind. Much the same pattern of movement occurred with *alba* Wagtails of which c.250 were recorded, practically all for the coastal points. Linnet and Goldfinch movement was small, but again as with most species, the largest numbers were in East Sussex, and it took much the same pattern as that of the two preceding species. Redpoll movement, although small, was interesting, with southerly movement at four interior localities, the highest number being 16 at Kenley, near Croydon, Surrey. At the coast, however, practically all birds were moving east, with 15 at Fairlight, 44 at Whitebread Hollow (Beachy Head), 3 at Selsey Bill, and 36 ESE. at Belle Tout (Beachy Head).

Evening movement in the two or three hours before dusk, at the few places where such a watch was carried out, was interesting, with small numbers of Meadow Pipits, *alba* Wagtails, and finches passing south at inland points or towards the nearest headland at coastal points. These movements presumably bring about the headland build-up of birds anticipating departure at dawn.

Sunday, September 27th: This provided an interesting contrast to the previous day in that practically all low-lying areas were enveloped in thick mist for the first two or three hours after dawn. A number of observers gave up, but those who stayed the course observed some large movements between 0900-1100 hrs. after clearance of the mist, quite unlike the previous day's results when there was no mist to hold up proceedings and practically all movement was over by 0830 hrs. (NB: the figures given in the table do not take into account any movements later than three hours after dawn. This was the only day on which such a volume of late passage occurred). The mist did not affect those on the Downs, where birds were watched flying above the mist over the Downs and on towards the coast. The wind at fogless localities and later at low-lying places when the mist had cleared was between W. and WNW., and as was to be expected, practically all the 12,000 birds recorded were moving into the westerly quarter. At dawn and the half-hour following, several localities not affected by the mist had practically calm conditions, until about 0630-0700 hrs. In this hour or so immediately after dawn, there was a small S. or SE. movement particularly of hirundines, which stopped as soon as the wind increased from the west.

The hirundine movement on this day involved c.7,500 birds, with a much higher proportion of House Martins, comprising about 75%. The remaining 4,500 birds were mostly Meadow Pipits, *alba* Wagtails, and smaller numbers of Grey Wagtails, Chaffinches, and Siskins. Again a small Redpoll movement occurred, the most interesting feature of which was the total of 100 that passed east at Langney Point in mid-morning—contrary to the direction that most birds were taking. A highlight for coastal watchers was the Buzzard which flew out S. over the mouth of the Cuckmere.

Watch No. 5—October 10th-11th, 1964

Saturday, October 10th: This was an interesting watch, although numbers were well below expectation, for these two days should have produced our largest numbers of visible migrants. During the weekend, nearly 18,000 birds were recorded moving at twenty localities in the first three hours after dawn. Numbers moving at coastal localities were on average twice as heavy as those at inland ones. Movements were hampered by frequent showers, especially at the coastal stations, and the sparse covering of cloud probably did little to help, many birds

may have passed over high and unnoticed. Winds were moderate and pre-dominately westerly.

Some 3,800 passerines were recorded in the first three hours after dawn at 17 localities, and the direction of movement was mainly westerly or south-westerly. October movements are normally composed principally of finches, but on this watch Linnets constituted only 8%, Greenfinches also 8%, and Chaffinches and Goldfinches each 5% of all birds moving. Starlings, recorded mostly at inland localities, were moving predominately west, and constituted some 35% of the total movement; however, with this species, the possibility of post-roost movement cannot be eliminated. Small south-westerly and westerly movements of Meadow Pits (10%), Skylarks (2%) and *alba* Wagtails (1%) were in progress, whilst hirundines were, as to be expected, in low numbers with 4% Swallows and 1% House Martins of the total. Very little migration was noted, merely a few Linnets and Meadow Pits mostly from Selsey Bill, and involving not more than c.100 birds altogether. Apart from the basic component species of the movements, some other interesting birds included Tree Sparrows, with a total of 43 (20 of which departed out to sea from Selsey Bill), while 2 Ring Ouzels, 2 Grey Wagtails, 2 Siskins, and 2 Tree Pits passed W. or SW. at Beachy Head and at Fairlight a single Turtle Dove arrived from the NW.

Sunday, October 11th: This was much more up to expectations than the previous day, with some 14,000 birds on the move at the 20 localities in the first three hours after dawn. Very light westerly winds started the day at most places, but by mid-morning these had generally increased to force 4 and over. Cloud coverage was variable, but about 4 oktas seemed general. It was a rather cold day, with moderate visibility and the very occasional shower at dawn. Movement was again basically westerly/south-westerly, though with such light winds, in many places force one only, coastal localities were noting birds passing towards the nearest headland rather than directly into the wind.

The Beachy Head promontory produced the largest movements, especially of finches, and overall these formed a far greater proportion of the movement

Key to Localities covered during 1964 watches

Dorset	19	Marley Common	42	Beachy Head		
1	Portland Bill	20	Blackdown	43	Langney Point	
Hampshire	2	Matley Ridge	21	Amberley Mount	44	Fairlight Beacon
3	Nursling Common	22	Highdown Hill	45	Darwell Reservoir	
4	Needles	23	Worthing Seafrost	Kent		
5	Hurst Castle	24	Cissbury Ring	46	Dungeness	
6	St. Catherine's Point	25	Steyning Round Hill	47	Sutton Valence	
7	Needs Oar Point	26	Steepdown	48	Dead Man's Island, R. Medway	
8	Stone Point	27	Horsham	Surrey		
9	Hill Head	28	Lancing Beach	49	Riddlesdown, Purley	
10	Gilkicker Point	29	Shoreham Harbour	50	Kenley Common	
11	Farington Marshes	30	Truleigh Hill	51	Walton Heath	
12	Eastney Point	31	Hove Seafrost	52	Epsom Downs	
13	Butser Hill	32	Devil's Dyke	53	Chessington	
Sussex		33	Hollingbury	54	Fetcham Downs	
14	Harring Down	34	Coney Hill, Brighton	55	Stoke Water Mead- ows, Guildford	
15	West Wittering	35	Porto Bello	56	Hersham Sewage Farm	
16	Selsey Bill	36	Lewes	57	Weybridge	
17	Church Norton/ Pagham Harbour	37	Hindover Hill, Seaford			
18	The Trundle	38	Newhaven Head			
		39	Firle Beacon			
		40	Seaford Head			
		41	Seaford Hill			



LOCALITIES COVERED DURING 1964 MIGRATION WATCHES

than on 10th; 40% Linnet, 6% Goldfinch, 3% Greenfinch, and 2.5% Chaffinch, whilst no fewer than 68 Redpolls were seen. Once more Starlings, recorded mostly at inland spots, accounted for about 35% of the total movement, but again these may have been post-roost movements. Meadow Pipits, Skylarks and *alba* Wagtails between them formed only 5% of the movement, with smaller percentages of Siskins and Grey Wagtails. Highlights of the watch included a Black Tern flying N. at Kenley, Surrey, two King Ouzels arriving from W. at Fairlight, and the most exciting bird seen on any of the watches, an Alpine Swift flying over Hollingbury, Brighton.

Conclusions

The above summaries outline the general results from each of the four weekend watches arranged during 1964, a total of eight days' results. Broadly speaking, they achieved their object—to track movements of diurnal migrants across the Downs and compare coastal movements, particularly emigration, with those at inland observation points. In this respect, the main conclusion reached is one that was anticipated before embarking upon these and the earlier (October 19th-20th, 1963) watch; that coastal movements can be supported by inland movements, but that the latter are not to any extent concentrated, and at times can be confusing due not only to the more complex nature of the terrain but also to the possibility of confusion with post-roost dispersal. Various problems arise in interpreting the results, and these are being investigated.

Work is continuing on the accumulated data from the five completed watches, with a view to publishing more detailed results at a later date. Unfortunately due to other commitments neither of the organisers will be able to arrange any watches in 1965.

Finally, we should like to express our gratitude to the eighty or so observers who took part in the watches, unfortunately space does not permit individual acknowledgement. Their support and enthusiasm was very encouraging, and carefully sending in their results in the detailed form required made analysis so much easier. Despite various setbacks, they made valiant efforts in all weathers to keep the watches going, at ghastly hours of the morning, and in some instances, in almost birdless conditions. Our greatest thanks to them all for their stamina, their determination, and their co-operation.

SURVEY OF WOODLAND BIRDS, 1964

By

THE SCIENTIFIC SUB-COMMITTEE

This is a long-term project, based on a sampling technique, to study the bird populations of the Sussex Woodlands. We hope to estimate the numbers of woodland breeding birds, and to measure any changes that occur in the county.

No conclusions can be drawn from one year's figures, but certain features and problems have arisen from the 1964 counts, and merit comment. Many woodland species were, of course, badly affected by the 1962/63 winter and it is interesting to follow the signs of recovery of some of them. Probably the worst hit species were Green Woodpecker, Long-tailed Tit, Wren and Goldcrest; other tit species, Tree Creeper and Mistle Thrush were also badly affected. Without comparable counts for the years before the hard winter, exact assessments are not possible; but from general observations Wrens appear to have made some

recovery, especially near the coast and on the Greensand; elsewhere to the north of the Downs, however, they were still very scarce. The apparently low numbers of Tree Creepers may partly reflect the inconspicuous habits of the species. Long-tailed Tits remained very scarce and were only recorded in one area. Numbers of Green Woodpeckers, Coal and Marsh Tits, Mistle Thrushes and Goldcrests seemed low, although Green Woodpeckers and Goldcrests showed some recovery. By contrast, numbers of Blackbirds and Robins were very high, making these the commonest species in many areas counted. Chaffinches were generally numerous, though markedly fewer in some areas of the Weald.

One important purpose of the 1964 survey was to detect any weak points in the counting method. Any valid census method should (a) give consistent results with different observers, (b) be readily repeatable in future years and (c) enable numerical values to be given for species. The method used is that of Yapp (*Bird Study*, 3: 93-104 (1956)). *Birds and Woods*, O.U.P., 1962), and an account of this appeared in the 1963 Report. Analysis of the 1964 counts indicated that the method was being correctly applied, but a common error was the inclusion of juveniles in the counts, thus inflating the numbers of some species. The counts aim to assess the adult population only, and juveniles must, therefore, be excluded. The results obtained by different observers for similar habitats were found to be comparable; almost inevitably, two observers counting in the same area will obtain slightly different figures, but with fairly experienced observers the discrepancies should not be large in relation to other variables. It is important to follow the standard procedure so as to minimise these variables as much as possible, and particularly keep to a steady 2 mph (about one pace per second). Thus, counts in the afternoon, or in unsuitable weather such as strong wind, should be avoided. One factor that cannot be overlooked and for which it is very difficult to make allowance, is the differing conspicuousness of different species. Some inconspicuous birds, such as Tree Creeper and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, are probably underestimated: other species may be less conspicuous in certain habitats or at different periods. The problem of relative conspicuousness of different species may prove insoluble, but it should not distort comparative figures within the species.

We hope that the good start made in 1964 will be extended in future years to provide the essential data for success of the survey.

PAGHAM HARBOUR SUCCESS

By

B. A. E. MARR

In a county where almost weekly one reads or hears of another yachting marina proposed, or further caravan site enlargements, or housing development engulfing more of the Downs or woodlands, it is indeed encouraging to be able to report the setting aside of a large area in the county as a nature reserve. This is so in the case of Pagham Harbour, which was declared a local Nature Reserve by the West Sussex County Council in October, 1964.

Pagham Harbour has been renowned as being unusually prolific in bird-life for over a century, and in 1849 we find A. E. Knox in his "Ornithological Rambles in Sussex" referring frequently to the birds he saw in this "great salt lake," where "small vessels . . . cautiously thread their difficult way to deposit or receive a cargo of coals or corn at the hamlet of Sidlesham, which is seen rising, like a little Dutch village, from the flat shores in the distance." Knox

described it, then obviously little visited or disturbed, as "a favoured spot . . . where many rare birds have been obtained," Osprey, Spoonbill and Avocet being specifically mentioned.

In 1876 Pagham Harbour was sealed off at the entrance and reclaimed from the sea, the intention being to use the reclaimed land for agricultural purposes, but the great labour involved was to no real avail and one author describes the result as nothing but rank grass and thistles. There was a constant battle to keep the sea at bay; and on December 16th, 1910 it broke through and the harbour resumed its former general appearance. Since then the movements of the sea have played havoc with the entrance to the harbour, which has altered continually. At times there have been two entrances, but at present there is a single entrance on the east side met by a long shingle promontory stretching out from Church Norton. However, the interior of the harbour has altered little.

For many years, naturalists, particularly ornithologists, were perturbed at the increasing encroachment upon the Harbour of the caravan site on the eastern shore, and at the continued and alarming disturbance of the wildlife by holidaymakers with their cars, motorcycles, dogs, kites, transistor radios, and, most of all, their motor-boats behind which water-skiers were towed at speed round and round the Harbour at high tide. There appeared to be no end to the disturbance and despoliation to which the Harbour was being subjected, and one by one, the breeding species of birds were being ousted and vanishing—Oystercatchers had gone, Ringed Plovers were down to a few pairs, and Little Terns were having a severe struggle to find undisturbed areas where their nests and young would not be trampled on. But there seemed to be no organisation to take up the naturalists' plea, to try to save the Harbour before it was too late.

Then in 1961 the Sussex Naturalists Trust came into being, and one of their first tasks was to turn their attention to Pagham Harbour and see what was to be done. From gradual beginnings, their campaign to turn the Harbour into a nature reserve reached the stage early in 1962 where a report on the importance of the Harbour appeared requisite. A lengthy Report on these lines was prepared by the writer on behalf of the Trust and the Sussex Ornithological Society and brought to the urgent attention of the interested authorities. It was submitted to the County Council in June, 1962.

The declaration of the nature reserve in October, 1964, was the much-awaited outcome, and ensures that the area of the Harbour below high-tide mark will remain unaltered and undeveloped. Additional land around the Harbour is in the process of being added to the Reserve, by agreement with the landowners, and bye-laws in preparation will restrict the activities of the public to the extent necessary to permit the breeding birds more freedom from disturbance; an area of shingle, for example, will be fenced off in the summer of 1965 to give the Little Terns an opportunity to breed undisturbed. An annual winter lease of Pagham lagoon by the Trust also adds that area as a refuge for wintering wildfowl.

NOTES FROM COASTAL STATIONS, 1964

BEACHY HEAD RINGING STATION

The area was watched less frequently than in 1963, visits being made on 20 days in the spring and 45 in the autumn. During the year a committee was formed to run the station consisting of D. D. Harber (Chairman), A. Quinn (Secretary), R. H. Charlwood and M. E. Nolan. In the 5 years of regular cover

the annual ringing total has increased from 150 to 2,200 in 1964. This is largely due to the continued financial assistance given by the Society which enabled us to purchase a good number of mist-nets and a supply of rings. Up to 500ft. of mist-nets have been used in favourable weather and the recently modified Heigoland Trap accounted for 200 birds in 1964. The most productive day was on September 5th when the 3 observers present ringed 186 birds including 50 Blackcaps. During the year nearly a quarter of the birds ringed were this species! Ringing totals were:

*Turtle Dove	1	Song Thrush	123	Sedge Warbler	18	*Great Grey Shrike	1
*Long-eared Owl	1	Ring Ouzel	9	Blackcap	580	Starling	26
*Gr'n Woodpecker	1	Blackbird	82	Garden Warbler	80	Greenfinch	46
Swallow	58	Wheatear	8	Whitethroat	347	Goldfinch	109
House Martin	23	Stonechat	13	Lesser Whitethr.	115	Linn.	27
Sand Martin	12	Whinchat	22	Willow Warbler	45	*Redpoll	8
*Magpie	21	Redstart	46	Chiffchaff	65	Bullfinch	39
Great Tit	21	Black Redstart	2	Golderest	5	Chaffinch	40
Blue Tit	67	Nightingale	2	Spotted Flycatcher	15	Clrl Bunting	2
*Coal Tit	1	Robin	54	Pied Flycatcher	9	House Sparrow	3
Wren	22	Grassh'r Warbler	6	Hedge Sparrow	84	Tree Sparrow	1
Mistle Thrush	16	Reed Warbler	26	Meadow Pipit	6		
						Total:	2288

* Ringed for the first time.

Spring Migration

The first arrival of summer migrants occurred on March 22nd and included Wheatear, Chiffchaff and Black Redstart, the latter species being considerably more numerous than usual throughout the spring. The end of March also saw our first spring records of Firecrest with up to 2 on 5 dates. As in the past the largest falls of the spring occurred with SW. winds, rain and thick mist. In 1964 these falls occurred on April 19th and May 5th. Migrants involved on the first date included good numbers of *phylloscopi*, with 7 Grasshopper Warblers and similar numbers of Redstarts and Whinchats, also 5 other species of warbler including an early Lesser Whitethroat and a single Pied Flycatcher. Similar species including a second Pied Flycatcher were involved in the second fall.

Autumn Migration

The most interesting feature of the autumn was the extremely high number of Blackcaps. From the beginning of September until early October over 50 were present on no less than 17 days and up to 150 on 3 dates. The last record was of a single bird on November 1st. Numbers of other *sylvia* were also high with peaks of 90 Lesser Whitethroats on September 4th and 60 Garden Warblers the following day. Whitethroats were about average with a maximum of 130 on August 23rd. On September 4th 110 *phylloscopi* were recorded but as in 1963 their numbers, particularly in August, were disappointing. Chats and flycatchers were average with Redstart and Whinchat both around 30 strong on September 5th. There were only 2 Black Redstart records. Both Pied and Spotted Flycatchers reached their maximum in early September, the former with 16 on 1st and the latter with 20 on 5th. An early Ring Ouzel was first seen on August 16th—the earliest autumn record to date. The species reached a maximum of 20 on September 6th and was last seen on December 5th.

Unusual birds included a Long-eared Owl which gave the observers present the frustrating experience of watching it bounce from a mist-net half a dozen times—once or twice an observer was within inches of it before it escaped! This was put right on November 15th when one was found in the mist-net. Other

interesting birds were a Great Grey Shrike on November 1st (trapped), a Corn-crake on September 6th and a small run of Firecrests in early September with up to 4 in a day. Another feature of the autumn was the extremely high number of Collared Doves with up to 80 seen together in the area. On several occasions birds were seen in the outskirts of Eastbourne and it seems probable that there is now a breeding colony in the vicinity.

The autumn diurnal migration followed much the same pattern as that set in previous years, with the main movements of hirundines during September the actual peak being c.13,000 birds on September 4th. As usual the latter period of the autumn was dominated by pipit and finch movement, the outstanding feature of which was the number of Redpolls during September and October which reached a maximum of 150 on September 27th.

The area will probably be well covered in 1965 particularly during the autumn, when there will be two parties camping for some time. In addition to this our first trainee ringers are quickly gaining experience, two having obtained "C" licences and one an "A" licence. This we hope will help us to further extend our ringing activities. Finally we would again extend an invitation to any observers who wish to gain ringing experience or would like to regularly watch the area.

B. E. COOPER and A. QUINN.

SELSEY BILL

This, our sixth year of regular observations, proved to be one of the quietest, possibly due to a lack of continuous coverage during the more important spring and autumn periods. The Observatory was manned for a total of 157 days during the year, with watching at most weekends and for the following longer periods:— March 7th-31st, April 1st-15th, July 25th-31st, and August 1st-16th.

The winter months passed rather uneventfully, with no really hard spells. Red-throated Divers reached up to c.45 offshore in January, when our first winter Little Auk was recorded. Up to 8 Short-eared Owls frequented the ditches near the Sewage Farm and occasional Woodcock and White-fronted Geese were recorded. March saw the usual Meadow Pipit immigration, and the only large up-Channel diver movements, which occurred in the last week of the month; diver movements for the whole spring were rather disappointing, and only just over 180 flew east, far fewer than usual. Ruff numbers reached 21 at the end of the month, when the first Hooded Crow since regular observations began flew in from the SW on 28th, and a fine party of six Long-tailed Duck flew west on 27th. On the 23rd the first of eight sightings of Mediterranean Gulls was obtained, and by the end of the spring at least four different individuals had been recorded. Migrants started to appear towards the end of March—Black Redstarts, Wheatears, White Wagtails, *phylloscopi*, with Sand Martin and Swallow on 21st being a little earlier than usual.

April was very quiet, and sea-bird movements on the days of observation were particularly poor, as they always were in May, for example, only 23 Arctic Skuas passed east, the normal number being at least 50 or 60, and a mere 15 Fulmars passed west. There was a Hoopoe in the area on 18th, and the first of three Gull-billed Terns passed east on 19th. May brought another Hoopoe, on 2nd, 4 Pomarine Skuas and a Glaucous Gull on 9th, and a second Hoodie on 17th. Tern movements in the month were reasonable, and included 2 Roseates, whilst on 31st an unidentified egret flew in from the sea. A productive sea-watch on June 6th gave us our first Manx Shearwater, diver (unfortunately not identified) and Puffins (2) for the month.

Fine, clear weather throughout August and September enabled migrants to pass over unhindered, and there were few falls. A Melodious Warbler and a Tawny Pipit in September were the only rarities recorded, and passerine numbers were lower than usual. Diurnal migrants, however, were very plentiful, and finch and bunting movements in late autumn were on a large scale; for example, 136 Reed Buntings passed east on the two days 3rd and 4th October, and an unprecedented coasting movement of Tree Sparrows on October 18th involved over 1,000 passing west in a morning. The Bill's first Twite, a party of about 45, appeared on October 17th, and were present in reducing numbers for some weeks. The sea, however, was very unproductive during the whole autumn, and to again cite Arctic Skua as an example, only 13 were recorded as against the usual 40-60; two of these were in December, unusually late. Earlier, a Sooty Shearwater had been seen on August 6th, and 2 Pomarine Skuas on 13th; a particularly encouraging sign was a Kingfisher on November 21st, the first record for over two years. The years' ringing total of 200 included the Observatory's fourth Grey Phalarope. A Common Bird Census was carried out for the British Trust for Ornithology during the breeding season at the Severals; in the 25 acres, 23 species were thought to have bred, including 2 pairs of Dabchicks, 2 pairs of Turtle Doves, 22 pairs of Reed Warblers (but only 6 of Sedge Warblers), and 7 pairs of Reed Buntings; the area certainly justifies its owners' intention to maintain it as a Bird Reserve. Breeding pairs of Collared Doves in the village had increased from one pair in 1960 to at least 15-20 pairs in 1964.

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

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES DURING 1964

NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED DURING THE YEAR

A full list of Members as at December 31st, 1962, was published in the 1962 Sussex Bird Report, subsequent changes to December 31st, 1963, were published in the 1963 Report.

- Adsett, K. G., 45 Warren Drive, Crawley
I Afford, Miss P. M., Corner Cottage, High Beech Lane, Haywards Heath
Baggallay, Miss J., 15 Harold Road, Hastings
Bayliss-Smith, S., Richmond, The Vale, Ovingdean, Brighton 7
Bennett, E. H., 115 Shanklin Road, Brighton 7
Bennett, Miss V. M. K., 60 Marshall Avenue, Bognor Regis
Boddy, S., Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.
Boswall, J., Birdswell, Wraxall, Bristol
F Burgoine, Miss D., 41 Grosvenor Road, Chichester
Burgoine, Miss K., 41 Grosvenor Road, Chichester
Cooper, D. A. M., 4 Church Place, Pulborough
F Cormie, Mrs. J. G., Stamps Meadow, Boxgrove, Chichester
Cormie, Dr. J. G., Stamps Meadow, Boxgrove, Chichester
Cox, Miss N., 21 Harrington Villas, Brighton
Cranfield, Mrs. V., Little Tompsetts, Forest Row
Cummings, J. C., 42 Birling Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent
Cuthbert, J. J., 297 Seaside, Eastbourne
F Cuthbert, Mrs. J. J., 297 Seaside, Eastbourne

I Davis, Miss Y., 26 Dellney Avenue, Haywards Heath
 S Drake, Miss J. P., 35 Knightscroft Avenue, Rustington

Edwards, A. M., Tryfan, Burney Road, West Humble, Dorking, Surrey
 Elliott, A. E., Renscombe, Peacock Lane, Brighton 6

F Field, A. E., 14 North Road, Upper Portslade
 Field, Mrs. W. A., 14 North Road, Upper Portslade
 Freeman, M. S., The White House, 60 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex

Goodchild, B. A., 40 Valley Close, Newhaven
 Gordon-Smith, C., 10 Tudor Gardens, West Wickham, Kent
 I Greenhalf, Miss M. R., Bredon, High Beech Lane, Haywards Heath

Harding, Mrs. A., Alksford Farmhouse, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells,
 Kent

Harrison, H. J., 18 Chesterton Drive, Seaford
 F Harrison, Mrs. M. E., 18 Chesterton Drive, Seaford

Haward, E., Glenfields, 24 Claremont Road, Seaford
 Hemsley, R. L., 68 Dudley Road, Brighton 6

F Henderson, R. M., Lane End, Rectory Lane, Pulborough
 F Henderson, Mrs. R. M., Lane End, Rectory Lane, Pulborough

Holman, Mrs. E. M., 43 Grange Road, Lewes
 S Hopkins, G. R., 49 Rothesay Avenue, Greenford, Middx.
 I Hopkins, J. R., 49 Rothesay Avenue, Greenford, Middx.

F Howard, Mrs. O., Woodlands Farm, Warring, Nr. Hailsham

S Jackson, M. G., 30 Leahurst Court, London Road, Brighton 6
 Jennings, C. W., 8 Broadwater Road, Worthing
 Jones, Mrs. E. L., 5 Collinswood Drive, St. Leonards-on-Sea

Lanaway, R. J., 3 Wales Lane, Plumpton, Nr. Lewes
 Lisle, Mrs. M. P., Paddocks Farmhouse, Haywards Heath

F Lobb, Mrs. M., 5 Hawth Way, Seaford
 Lobb, R. E., 5 Hawth Way, Seaford

I Lobb, Miss S., 5 Hawth Way, Seaford
 Long, Miss D. G., 2 Park Lane, Aldingbourne, Chichester

McTear, J. P., 24 Meads Road, Bexhill
 Meadows, M. J., Ashtrees, Aldingbourne
 Mollison, J. E., 33 Redhill Drive, Brighton 5

F Pennington, Miss E., 2 Park Lane, Aldingbourne, Chichester

Reeve, Miss M. S., 15 College Road, North Bromley, Kent
 Reynolds, F. L., East Lodge, Furze Field House, Wineham, Nr. Henfield

I Robinson, M. C., Oatlands, Iford, Nr. Lewes

Sutton, J., Marsh View, Sea Road, Winchelsea

Terry, Miss K., Flat 1, Barrowfield Lodge, Dyke Road, Hove
 Thornton, Miss E. E., Martlet Cottage, Oakwood Road, Burgess Hill
 Toy, S. V., Lownead, Itchenor, Nr. Chichester
 Trott, D. C., "Avondene," WallSEND Road, Revensey

Underwood, Canon J. D., Warringham Vicarage, Warringham, Surrey

Watkinson, Mrs. M. E. A., Sandpit Cottage, Ditchling
 Watson, H. W. H., 21 Silverdale Road, Eastbourne
 Welsford, Miss M., Cooper's Spinney, Old Heathfield
 Wenborn, Miss J. K., Hunters View, 72 Dale Avenue, Hassocks
 Wilson, Miss J. M., Kendle Cottage, College Lane, Hassocks
 Wright, F. R., Whitfield, Hamsey, Nr. Lewes
 F Wright, Mrs. N. D., Whitfield, Hamsey, Nr. Lewes

F Family Member I Intermediate Member
 J Junior Member S Student Member

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Please inform the Hon. Assistant Secretary if your new address is not shown.

Cowlard, M. J., 35 Abbotsbury Road, Morden, Surrey
 Cooper, J. F., 18 Wybert Crescent, Wyberton, Boston, Lincs.
 Davis, Miss G., 23 Grosvenor Road, Seaford
 Dougharty, F. W., Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington
 Gregory, M. G., The Pines, 11 Wetherby Road, Knaresborough, Yorks.
 Griffiths, Miss C. P. S., Waterynch, Devonshire Avenue, Amersham, Bucks.
 Harber, D. D., 59 Eridge Road, Eastbourne
 Hicks, J. A., Staufen, 82 Barnhorn Road, Little Common, Bexhill
 Hudson, F. L., Fernleigh, Cross-in-Hand, Nr. Heathfield
 Jennings, M. A., 55 Pentland Road, Durrington, Worthing
 Larman, Miss A. G., Harting, Blackbridge Lane, Horsham
 Mead, C. J., c/o B.T.O., Beech Grove, Tring, Herts.
 Nolan, M. E., 238 Blythe Road, London, W.14
 Norman, Dr. M. A., 10 Priory Court, Stanford Avenue, Brighton
 Palmer, T., 9 Whitelot Way, Southwick
 Peppe, J. H. H., Axe Linkes, Buxted, Uckfield
 Pinker, B. W., Sycamore Cottage, 15 Fourth Avenue, Charmandean, Worthing
 Smith, Mrs. G. S., Cottage on the Green, Heyshott, Midhurst
 Stallworthy, Miss C. M., 23 Grosvenor Road, Seaford

RESIGNATIONS

Alison, R. G.
 Ashcroft, Miss J. M.
 Austen, Mrs. A.
 Beasley, J. E.
 Beech, Miss J.
 Beccing, W. E. J.
 Botting, J. G. G.
 Broad, J. G.
 Brown, Mrs. D. E.
 Brown, T. E.
 Burge, O. A.
 Butler, R. R. C.
 Campbell, A. G.
 Charman, W. J.
 Critchley, Mrs. G. A.

Davey, Miss T.
 Dixon, W. J. G.
 Dunkin, D. L.
 Gilbert, F. G.
 Graves, N. G.
 Grigg, C. A.
 Gush, G. H.
 Guyatt, A. E.
 Hale, Mr. & Mrs. C. H.
 Hall, H. J.
 Harcourt, Dr. R. B.
 Heath, Miss M.
 Jenkins, Maj. Gen. F. A.
 Jones, T. J.
 Keating, Miss H. M.

Lewis, R. S. E.
 Moore, Miss F. E.
 Penney, A. G. W.
 Pike, F. W.
 Pike, Mrs. K. M.
 Pike, Miss P. A.
 Quarterman, Mrs. K. N.
 Smith, Lt. Col. J. A.
 Smith, Mrs. M. T.
 Thorpe, E. P.
 Wachman, Mrs. D.
 Ward, E. J.
 Warden, D.
 Watkins, C.
 White, G. L.

We heard with deep regret of the death of one member during 1964:
 Brown, C. F., 17 St. Aubyns Road, Portslade

THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1962, the objects being:—

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

The Society is administered by a Council consisting of honorary officers and not more than six members. A scientific sub-committee is in charge of various research projects. A Quarterly Newsletter is issued free to members. Full details of the Society and how to join may be obtained from:—

The Hon. Assistant Secretary, M. A. Jennings, 55 Pentland Road, Durrington, Worthing.

MEMBERSHIP

Full Members	One Guinea per annum—reduced to 10s. 6d. if joining after 1st July (for the initial year of membership only).
Family Members	Additional members of a family living at the same address as a full member may pay 10s. 6d. Such members may attend meetings and outings but do not receive Newsletters or a copy of the Annual Report. Subscriptions reduced to 7s. 6d. if joining after July 1st (for the initial year of membership only).
Students	Students aged 18 to 21 pay a reduced subscription of 10s. 6d. Details of studentship should be given on application to join. Reduced to 7s. 6d. if joining after July 1st (for the initial year of membership only).
Intermediate Members	Aged 15 and under 18, 10s. 6d. per annum. Reduced to 7s. 6d. if joining after July 1st (for the initial year of membership only).
Junior Members	Aged 10 and under 15 inclusive, 5s. per annum. Operated as a separate junior section of the Society; details on application.

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

The Report is published annually and one free copy, bearing the date of the year for which membership is paid up, is sent to each member with the exception of Family Members. Copies of Reports 1948-1961 may be obtained from: D. D. Harber, 59 Eridge Road, Eastbourne at a cost of 5/- post free. Copies of Reports number 15 and 16 (1962 and 1963) may be obtained at a cost of 5/- post free from: A. B. Sheldon, 113 Holmes Avenue, Hove 4.