

SOS

The Sussex Bird Report

1965

SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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Ornithological Society

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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. The Sussex Bird Report and Quarterly Newsletters are issued free to members.

Full membership is one guinea per annum. There are reduced rates for additional members of a family, students and intermediate members all at 10/6. Junior members pay 5/- and members joining after the 1st July are entitled to reduced subscriptions. Further details of the Society and subscriptions may be obtained from: *B. A. E. Marr, 59 The Green, Southwick.*

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

Copies of Reports Nos. 15 and 16 (1962-3), 5/- post free and No. 17 (1964), 7/6d. post free may be obtained from: *A. B. Sheldon, 113 Holmes Avenue, Hove 4.*

CONTRIBUTIONS

These are welcomed from all observers but the decision on what shall be published rests with the Editorial and Records Committee. 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 *Brit. B.*, 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). In the case of sea-birds direction of movement, if applicable, should be given.
- (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.

THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

NUMBER EIGHTEEN, 1965

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THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1965

THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL

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M. E. Nolan, A. Quinn (Secretary).

COUNCIL CHANGES

At the Annual General Meeting of 26th February, 1966 the following Council Members retired: Dr. J. Stafford, the President; and Messrs. D. D. Harber, Hon. Recorder; R. H. Charlwood, Hon. Assistant Recorder; M. H. Port, Council Member. All the other officers and members of the Council were re-elected.

At the meeting tribute was paid to the valuable services rendered to the Society by the retiring members of the Council. On behalf of the Council and as a tangible record of their appreciation a presentation was made to Dr. Stafford. Mr. Harber had been connected with the Sussex Bird Report since 1948 and the Chairman of the meeting paid tribute to the work done for the Society both by Mr. Harber and by Mr. Charlwood. The Chairman said the Society owed much to Mr. Port for legal advice in the past and for drafting the Society rules and the Council was grateful for his offer of assistance in the future.

INTRODUCTION

The task of compiling the Report has increased to such an extent since the formation of the Society that the work can only be carried out speedily and effectively by a Committee. The Council approved the formation of an Editorial and Records Committee with this function and the overall responsibility for Society investigations.

This Committee consists of Messrs. M. Shrubbs (Chairman), G. R. Gervis (Secretary), Dr. M. Hollings and Messrs. B. A. E. Marr, R. F. Porter and A. B. Sheldon. Unfortunately, the Committee was unable to commence work until mid-March, hence the late appearance of this Report, which is regretted. It is hoped to achieve an August publication date in future years.

Several changes have been embodied in the Report. In particular, the results of the breeding surveys have been incorporated in the Systematic List. Yearly results will be published in a summarised form until each survey is completed, when a fully detailed analysis will be published. The Systematic List has been made more comprehensive with greater emphasis placed on the publication of breeding records and quantitative data. For certain common species the paucity of records will tend to give a false impression of status; it is hoped that observers will attempt to rectify this position. On the other hand, some species once considered uncommon are now recorded annually with such frequency that it is only practical to summarise the records rather than enumerate them individually, and to save further space acknowledgment of records is confined to unusual occurrences. For reasons of space, the list of members has had to be omitted. The Assistant Secretary will be pleased to provide an up-to-date list on request.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A minor landmark in the progress of the Society was reached in 1965 when for the first time membership exceeded 400. The annual increase is gradual, but encouraging, and reflects the increasing interest and concern in ornithology these days.

The Council at its meetings during the year under Dr. Holling's Chairmanship discussed a variety of subjects, ranging from field outings and indoor meetings, plans for surveys and enquiries, to watching the Rye Ternery, the Beachy Head Ringing Station, the Junior Section and an exhibition on "Ornithology in Sussex."

The improvement in the surplus shown by the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1965, is very largely due to the profit on the R.S.P.B. film show at The Dome, Brighton, on more ambitious lines than anything previously attempted by the Society. The Society is much indebted to Mr. J. E. S. Thompson for his very efficient organisation. The improved financial position is due to the fact that there have been no items of capital outlay in 1965. The Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year amounts to £81 7s. 7d., to which is

added the balance brought forward from 1964 of £167 4s. 3d., making £248 11s. 10d. the figure carried forward to 1966. In terms of cash the real surplus is in the region of £165. There is a tendency for expenses, particularly in respect of meetings, to rise very steeply and, in fact, the expenses for the year have increased by £75, of which less than half is covered by subscriptions arising from increased membership.

Progress at the Society's Beachy Head Ringing Station was very marked in 1965, when the total of birds ringed was not far short of 4,000. Sleeping accommodation continued to present problems, but these are being further investigated. An Icterine Warbler was trapped during one of the three organised outings to the Ringing Station during the autumn. On these members had excellent opportunities to study migrants in the hand and observe them being ringed, weighed and measured.

The Society's Junior Section (ages 10-14, inclusive) has had a successful year. Mr. Michael Helps, the Secretary, arranged several outings in the year which were well supported and produced some very interesting birds every time, while the members were, of course, able to attend the main meetings of the Society. Two Junior Section Newsletters were produced.

Breeding bird surveys on Great Crested Grebe, Stone Curlew, Wheatear and Stonechat have been successfully completed, and effort was concentrated in 1965 on Kestrel, Water Rail, Snipe, Redshank and Yellow Wagtail. The Scientific Sub-Committee also continued to arrange woodland bird counts, and the monthly wader-counts in Pagham and Chichester Harbours, with the annual count of waders along the whole Sussex coast. For reasons of time, the organisers of the migration watches were unable to continue these in 1965.

A successful exhibition entitled "Ornithology in Sussex," prepared by the Society's Council with considerable artistic help from Mr. I. R. Willis and photographs by Messrs. Ben Darby and C. G. des Forges, travelled round several libraries in West Sussex during the year and was responsible for attracting several new members.

Seven indoor meetings were held in 1965: four were in Brighton, and one each in Worthing, Chichester and Eastbourne. Films such as the R.S.P.B.'s "Return of the Osprey" and Walt Disney's "Water Birds" were seen, and speakers included Mr. R. E. Scott on "Dungess Bird Observatory," Dr. Minton on "Wader Studies on The Wash," Dr. Peach on "Birds of Spain and Portugal" and Mr. Walter Murray on "Birds of Shetland."

Thanks to the work of Mr. Clive Hope as an informal Field Outings Secretary, the Field Outing programme was considerably enlarged to allow for at least one per month in the autumn and it is hoped to continue them as frequently in the future. The winter and spring outings were to East Head, the Cuckmere and Pagham Harbour; in the latter part of the year besides Beachy Head there were trips to East Head again, to Thorney Island and finally to Weir Wood Reservoir.

At last we are having some success at Rye Harbour ternery, thanks to the Society's members who conscientiously watched over the ternery on weekends during the main part of the nesting season. About 70 pairs nested in two areas, and raised about the same number of young. This effort must be kept up in future years to ensure that the birds can maintain the success which they have needed for so long.

The Secretary would finally like to thank those who have helped in many ways to make 1965 such a successful year; his greatest thanks go to Mr. Tom Palmer, who tackled the unenviable job of addressing and packing all the literature sent to members.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Late Winter of 1964-5

As in 1963 and 1964 the first three months of 1965 were unusually dry with significant rainfall only between January 6th and 20th; January and February were dry and mild but for night frost in the first week of January and some snow on the 31st which did not lie.

Under these conditions wildfowl numbers in these months were, as in 1964, generally low particularly with such species as Wigeon and Teal which occur mainly on flood water. However, Tufted Duck were slightly more numerous than in 1964 as were Pintail with a flock of c.175 at Fishbourne on February 27th. Up to 8 Gadwall were present on Chichester G.P. and Smew occurred in four localities.

Few Grey Geese appeared. Whitefronts totalled only c.69 birds, with 38 at Glynde on January 23rd as the largest party, but small parties of Greylag were reported in January and March. A Barnacle Goose was seen at Pagham on January 19th. No Whooper Swans were recorded and Bewick's Swans were fewer than in early 1964 despite a herd of 23 at Knepp on January 4th. In contrast Brent Geese were abundant, the peak counts of c.2,000 in Chichester Harbour on January 31st and March 7th being even higher than 1964.

The two wader counts in the period were not very successful owing to low tides and poor weather conditions. No unusual wader flocks were reported but a Whimbrel was seen at Pagham on January 24th and Green and Common Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Little Stint and Ruff were wintering.

Perhaps also owing to the mild conditions few Fieldfares, Redwings or Bramblings were reported in January or February. Redpolls were scarce but flocks of Siskins were found in three areas, the largest being c.55 at Blackdown. A Blackcap and 2 Chiffchaffs were seen in January.

Some scarcer winter visitors were quite well represented. A Bittern was seen at Chichester G.P. on February 2nd and March 13th and 14th. Single Hen Harriers were present in two localities in January, as were Merlins, and Short-eared Owls wintered in four localities with 7 in the Rye area and 5 on Pevensey Levels being the largest numbers. Two Glaucous Gulls were reported, and there were Bearded Tits at Church Norton and the Crumbles in January and February and at Pett Level at the end of March. Twite were unusually widespread, the total of c.110 included 55 at Rye during January. More Snow Buntings were seen than in 1964 with up to 35 at Camber during January and February.

Rarities were few but a Red-crested Pochard was present at Burton Pond throughout the period, a Spotted Crane was seen on the Crumbles on January 2nd and the first Sussex Short-billed Dowitcher was found at Sidlesham Ferry on February 14th. Mediterranean Gulls were also reported from two areas.

No cold weather movements occurred before early March when a late cold spell developed with heavy snow on the 4th and hard frost until the 7th. Winds were NE. at this time and on the 4th a large W. movement of Fieldfares and Redwings, with smaller numbers of Lapwings and Skylarks took place along the coast. Fieldfares were moving at c.1,000 an hour and Redwings at c.1,200 an hour at Brighton where c.1,600 Linnets flew E. Many Fieldfares, Redwings and finches, particularly Bramblings, also moved to the coast. On March 6th and 7th, c.700 Bramblings were present in the Pagham/Selsey area. Mortality among some species may have been rather high; 2 Lapwings, 2 Golden Plovers, one Redwing, 3 Meadow Pipits, 2 Starlings, 2 Greenfinches, 51 Linnets and a Brambling were picked up dead at Sidlesham/Selsey on the 6th and 7th.

Spring Migration

The March cold spell ended on the 7th, the rest of the month being sunny and unusually warm with mainly light westerly winds. Except for some rain at the end of March this fine weather continued until April 9th, with easterly winds during the first week of April.

The influx of passerines on the coast during the cold weather dispersed by March 12th and with fine calm conditions prevailing, arrival of some summer visitors was markedly early. Garganey, Sand Martin, Wheatear and Chiffchaff arrived, as usual, in the second half of March, but Sandwich Tern on 11th and Common/Aretic on the 31st were rather early. Swallows were quite widespread by the 31st and Willow Warblers were more numerous than usual in early April. During the first week of April the first Whimbrel, House Martin, Redstarts, Nightingale, Grasshopper, Sedge and Garden Warblers, Whitethroats, Tree Pipit and Yellow Wagtails all arrived. Except for the last two, these were very early and a Nightingale on the 4th and Garden Warblers on the 7th are the earliest dates for the county. Three Hoopoes and a Bluethroat were seen during this week and a Pied Flycatcher on the 8th was the earliest county record.

Earlier, the peak of the usual March influx of Meadow Pipits occurred on the 27th and 28th, coinciding with the largest Wheatear movement. Six Firecrests in this period included one near Haslemere on April 2nd.

At sea there were fairly large Scoter movements in late March, but other sea-birds were scarce. Indeed, Scoter and tern species excepted, sea-bird movements throughout the spring were smaller than in many recent years with very few divers or Mergansers, and rather small numbers of Arctic Skuas. However, the totals of 7 Great and 12 Pomarine Skuas are unusual for Sussex and also at this time one Manx and 2 Manx/Balearic Shearwaters were seen. On April 20th, the first spring Black Guillemot for Sussex was recorded at Selsey Bill.

Heavy rain on April 10th heralded cold and rough weather from the west which persisted until the 30th. Movements were small except for the peak passage of c.2,800 Scoter E. off Beachy Head on April 24th and a total of c.1,000 Linnets W. there during the month. A few summer visitors continued to arrive with 2 more Hoopoes in mid-April.

The wind moved E. on April 30th, remaining there for the next two days, when the largest spring movements took place. Terns dominated the picture on May 1st. Some 740 Black Terns were seen, mainly at Selsey Bill and Chichester G.P., the largest movement ever recorded in the county, whilst c.2,670 Common/Arctic Terns flew E. off Selsey Bill and c.4,180 likewise off Beachy Head. Most Black Terns clearly moved inland from the coast, only 38 at Beachy Head compared with 342 at Selsey, many being observed to fly NE. at Chichester G.P. This movement also involved many wader species and the spring peaks of Sandwich Terns and Arctic Skuas. Rarer species included Great and Pomarine Skuas and a Roseate Tern.

May 2nd saw the first big arrival of chats and warblers including 33 Redstarts, 23 Grasshopper Warblers, 12 Sedge Warblers, 13 Blackcaps, 18 Garden Warblers, 250 Whitethroats, and 150 *phylloscopi* at Beachy Head. Another big arrival on the 9th involved the same species plus Whinchats and the largest, though still small, movements of Swifts and *hirundines* recorded at Selsey Bill or Beachy Head. First arrivals of Turtle Doves, Reed Warblers and Spotted Flycatchers also occurred in this period. May 1st/2nd and 8th/9th were both weekends but the records leave no doubt that the first fortnight of May was the busiest period of the spring.

A Wryneck at Selsey Bill on May 2nd and a very late Firecrest at Beachy Head on 9th were the only unusual species reported.

The second half of May and the first half of June were fine and warm with light variable winds often between S. and E. No large movements took place although there was a fair Scoter movement on May 22nd/23rd. An interesting variety of rarer species occurred and in May these were a Little Egret on 30th, Honey Buzzard on 29th, 2 Ospreys throughout the last week, Gull-billed Tern on 29th, Hoopoe on 16th, Golden Oriole on 29th, and a Serin on 15th. June rarities were Gull-billed Terns and a Red-necked Phalarope on 12th and 13th, Great Reed Warbler on 6th and a Golden Oriole on 29th and 30th.

The Breeding Season

The mild winter of 1964/5 again benefited the resident breeding species and further helped some of them to recover from the effects of the 1962/3 winter. Thus, breeding pairs of Great Crested Grebes, Herons, Redshanks, and Stonechats had increased. Stonechats were found in four areas uninhabited in the 1962-4 survey. The Woodland Survey revealed a continued increase in Wrens, mainly in the interior, marked increases of Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Long-tailed Tits and Goldcrests and small increases of Great Tits, Nuthatches and Mistle Thrushes. Other resident species showed little change and none a decrease. Kingfisher and Grey Wagtail populations had also improved but two species, Green Woodpecker and Woodlark had apparently made little recovery. Several observers commented on the continuing scarcity of Green Woodpeckers and only 4 pairs of Woodlarks were reported, with none in a part of St. Leonard's Forest where they were comparatively common in 1962. Of the summer visitors the woodland counts recorded more Blackcaps, other species showing little change except Nightingales, which were rather less common than in 1964.

Raptors did well. The Kestrel survey indicated a surprisingly large population and Hobbies were more numerous than in 1964. Buzzards and Sparrowhawks may be re-establishing themselves. Four pairs of Buzzards were present, one breeding successfully, and Sparrowhawks were recorded in more areas than 1964, although a genuine increase need not be involved.

Of the rarer species 7 pairs of Garganey were reported and a pair of Little Ringed Plovers attempted breeding. Quail were fairly widespread on the Downs, though less so than in 1964, and 4 pairs of Water Rails were found. Collared Dove records came from several new localities. Four pairs of Dartford Warblers were present raising at least 4 young. Tree Sparrows continue to spread in West Sussex with a total of c.40 pairs in five localities. Mention should also be made of the 5 pairs of Fulmars which were prospecting on the chalk cliffs. Pride of place, however, must go to the Golden Orioles which probably attempted breeding in the NW. of the county.

It is difficult to assess breeding success. The generally drier weather of May and June compared with 1964 must have benefited ground nesting species and what scanty data we have suggest that most other species had a fairly good year. The present breeding status of many species is imperfectly understood and more data on breeding birds would be welcomed.

Autumn Migration

The first species noted on return migration were waders in June and in the early part of the month Lapwing and Redshank were already returning to the coast. This was probably post-breeding dispersal rather than passage but, by the end of the month, Curlew, Green and Common Sandpipers, Spotted Redshank, Greenshank, Dunlin and Ruff had started moving, though in smaller

numbers than 1964. Two Avocets were recorded, at Pagham from 14th to 27th and at the Wicks on 23rd. Common/Arctic Tern passage also began early with flocks totalling c.280 at Selsey Bill and Pilsay on June 27th.

Except for a dry, sunny spell in the first 10 days the weather during July was poor, with constant westerly winds and high rainfall.

July movements were primarily of waders and Swifts. The first autumn peak of waders occurred from the middle of the month and included interesting visible arrivals on the coast of Lapwings, Turnstone, Whimbrel, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Dunlin between the 16th and 31st. Swift passage, which started in June, was marked, the largest movement at Beachy Head being on July 25th. Movement of most summer visitors did not start before the end of the month.

The persistent westerly weather of late July continued throughout August and September, winds were often strong and rainfall was again above average. Four short spells of easterly winds occurred between August 8th-14th, on August 27th, during September 13/14th and between September 17th-24th.

An Alpine Swift was seen at Beachy Head on August 7th. A large movement of chats, warblers, Spotted Flycatchers and Tree Pipits at the coast occurred in the first week of August, particularly on the 7th and 8th. Movements of these species continued strongly during August, particularly towards the end of the month, and in the first half of September. The largest movements occurred over August 28th-30th and September 5th-7th, the latter in the same period as the massive falls on the east coast. At Beachy Head falls in the first period included 55 Wheatears, 20 Redstarts, 35 Blackcaps, c.230 Whitethroats, c.200 *phylloscopi*, 20 Spotted Flycatchers, c.5 Pied Flycatchers and c.100 Yellow Wagtails on August 29th and, in the second, c.30 Whinchats, 17 Redstarts, 1 Nightingale, 15 Reed Warblers, 22 Sedge Warblers, c.110 Blackcaps, c.15 Garden Warblers, c.160 Whitethroats, c.50 Lesser Whitethroats, c.250 *phylloscopi*, and 48 Tree Pipits on September 5th. There were also very large falls on August 22nd, involving the same species, and of chats, especially Whinchats, on September 12th.

Rarer species associated with these movements were Bluethroats on August 28th and September 6th and 14th, Melodious Warbler over September 12th-14th, Icterine Warbler on September 5th (first county record), Barred Warbler on September 4th, Red-backed Shrikes on September 4th and 10th and Ortolans on September 4th/5th and 15th.

Passage of the common summer visitors continued until the end of September and small numbers of many species were quite general in the first half of October. The peak movements of Swallows and House Martins occurred between September 12th-13th and 23rd-29th; of Sand Martins on August 28th and September 23rd. There is an interesting difference of direction recorded in the movements at Selsey Bill and Beachy Head. At Selsey most were emigrating between SE. and SW. (c.21,700 out of c.27,900), at Beachy Head movement was almost entirely E. or W. with only 90 emigrating S. out of a total of c.91,700. Yellow Wagtail movement was marked from August 15th with the peak over 29th/30th.

Two Hoopoes were recorded in September when Wrynecks were unusually plentiful, 11 birds being seen in 4 localities; Ring Ouzels, to be such a feature of October, were recorded daily at Beachy Head during the month. Other September rarities were a Greenish Warbler on 17th, a Tawny Pipit on 22nd and another Red-backed Shrike on 28th.

The main passage of Meadow Pipits occurred in the second half of September. Again there were interesting directional differences between Selsey Bill and

Beachy Head, which the following totals show: Selsey Bill, W. 220, E. nil, SE/SW. 760, N. 14; Beachy Head, W. 1,000, E. 520, S. 90, N. 480. As usual some Grey and *alba* Wagtails were associated with this movement, the former in larger numbers than in 1964. Skylark and finch passage began at the end of the month, but the main movements were in October.

Raptors

Raptors provided an interesting feature of movements at Beachy Head in September. Some 30 individuals of 8 species, included 4 Buzzards, 5 Ospreys, and the unprecedented total of 6 Honey Buzzards together with Sparrowhawk, Montagu's Harrier, Hobby, Peregrine and Kestrel. Three other Buzzards were recorded on or near the coast during the autumn and between 4 and 6 Ospreys, an unusual number.

October

In contrast with September, October was very fine with constant E. winds from 3rd to 31st, except over the 14th/15th when it backed briefly SW. The early mornings were often misty but otherwise skies were clear and temperatures were higher than any period since early June.

The fall of migrants over 2nd/3rd was remarkable for unusual numbers of Ring Ouzels. At Beachy Head 150 were counted on 2nd and there were scattered records west to Selsey. The first arrivals of Fieldfares (apart from an exceptional bird on August 30th) and Redwings and in addition many Song Thrushes, Blackbirds and Robins were associated with this movement. Summer visitors included 14 Whinchats, 4 Redstarts, 17 Blackcaps, 2 Garden Warblers, 65 *phylloscopi* and 8 Spotted Flycatchers at Beachy Head. A Firecrest was seen there on 3rd and rather late Red-backed Shrikes occurred elsewhere on the 3rd and 4th. Ring Ouzels continued to be widely recorded over the next two weeks, maximum 16 at Woodingdean on the 12th.

A feature of the month was the number of late summer visitors recorded. Small numbers of many species were still moving through in the first half of the month and the last recorded dates for Sand Martin, Whinchat, Redstart, Grasshopper Warbler, Reed Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Garden Warbler and Tree Pipit were unusually late; Garden Warbler on the 21st is the latest county record. Other very late summer visitors were a Hobby on 31st, Black Tern on 30th, Little Tern on 14th and a Wryneck on 15th. A Tawny Pipit on 6th was our first October record in recent years and the second Sussex Yellow-browed Warbler was seen on 24th.

Finch passage during the month presented no unusual features, peak movements of the principal species, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet and Chaffinch occurring in the second half. As usual a few Redpolls, Bramblings and Siskins were also moving; c.15 Twite were seen at the Cuckmere between 20th and 24th. The main Skylark passage also took place in this period from about the 10th.

The most striking feature of the second half of the month was the widespread Bearded Tit invasion in southern England. The first in Sussex were 4 at Darwell on the 13th and by the 31st c.20 individuals had been seen at 6 localities. Birds were present for the rest of the year but total numbers are difficult to assess, with movement clearly continuing in November. At least 43 individuals were involved, in 8 localities—slightly fewer than in 1964.

Waders

Autumn wader passage was generally larger than 1964. Green and Wood Sandpipers, Spotted Redshanks, Little Stints and Ruff were all more numerous

and the wader counts revealed many more Lapwing, Curlew and Redshank. Increased passage of these three species probably reflects their further recovery from the 1962/3 winter. Rather more Oystercatchers, Ringed Plovers, Whimbrel and Black-tailed Godwits were also recorded in the counts, but fewer Turnstones and Bar-tailed Godwits than last year.

Seabirds

It was a poor autumn for seabirds with no notable movements and a scarcity of some species, particularly divers and Kittiwakes. The total of c.52 Arctic Skuas was about the average for recent years but the only other skua was a Great on August 30th. Little Gulls were fewer than in 1964 but included an unusual inland record on September 26th. Another Gull-billed Tern was seen in August and 4 more Roseate Terns in August and September, the last on September 30th, being the latest county record. Three Manx, 2 Balearic and one Manx/Balearic Shearwater were seen between August 21st and September 4th and 2 Sooty Shearwaters on August 28th.

The early Winter 1965/6

The fine weather of October broke on November 1st with a SW. gale and both November and December were unsettled, with short periods of dry weather and night frosts alternating with spells of rain. Rainfall was little above average but certainly greater than in the three previous years. Winds varied between SW. and NW. throughout.

The most important event in these months was the Waxwing invasion over the whole of Britain. In Sussex they were first recorded on November 14th and were widespread by mid-December. Most were seen in East Sussex, maxima 80 at Pett Level on November 28th and 130 at Groombridge from December 10th to 26th (these birds might have been just in Kent) but parties of 5-20 were general as far west as Bognor and Chichester.

In November 9 Ring Ouzels were recorded, the last on the 28th, the latest autumn passage record for Sussex, though winter records exist. The main arrivals of Fieldfares and Redwings took place in the middle of the month and Fieldfares particularly were abundant in some inland areas such as Charlton Forest. A Turtle Dove on the 7th was again a latest county record.

Siskins were reported from 6 localities in these months, with a maximum of 30 at Burton Park and Redpolls seemed rather more common than in the early months with c.112 in 5 localities. Bramblings were very scarce, only 6 birds being recorded after October.

In the wetter conditions in November and December, wildfowl numbers were slightly higher than in January and February when the largest flocks usually occur. Eight Gadwall were again present at Chichester G.P., also 7 Gooanders were seen and 2 Smew. In December 189 White-fronted Geese in 4 parties were seen, most noted as flying W., and Brent Geese were present in good numbers. The first in Chichester Harbour had been 8 on October 10th and by December 28th 500 were present. Six Whooper Swans were recorded at the end of December, during which month 3 parties of Bewick's Swans were present.

Wader populations revealed by the December count along the whole coastline were higher than 1964, particularly Oystercatchers, Bar-tailed Godwits and Purple Sandpipers. Green Sandpipers, Greenshank, Little Stint and Ruff were present during the month and 2 Avocets remained at Pagham from the 11th to 31st.

Rarer winter visitors were 4 Hen Harriers and 2 Merlins. Short-eared Owls were found in 7 localities and Twite were again numerous; the total of c.83 birds

in 4 localities, included 2 parties of 30.

During a spell of hard frost at the end of December a large movement of Lapwing to the S. and SW. was noted in East Sussex. No movement was observed at the west end of the county, nor were other species associated with it, though some of the geese and swans noted above were possibly involved.

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Wildfowl counters for 1965 season:

R. B. Barstow (Powdermill Res.), D. R. Coda (Glynde Levels), J. Fowler (Chichester G. Pits), T. C. Hale (Manhood-Fishbourne), E. S. P. Harrison (Cluckmere Valley and Seven Sisters), L. Holloway (Pagham Harbour), Miss V. Maxse (Burton Ponds), G. M. Moll (Knepp Lake and Warnham Mill Pond), G. Mountford (Possingworth Park), M. H. Port (Weir Wood Res.*), J. Kearney (Darwell Res.*), A. B. Sheldon (Amberley* and Pulborough Levels*).

*Priority Localities

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1965

Recoveries of birds ringed have not been cross-referenced to the Ringing Report. The wildfowl tabulation and Report on Wader Counts should be read in conjunction with the notes under individual species headings for a complete picture.

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. "s/p," "w/p"; summer or winter plumage.

Definition: Days obs., the number of days area was watched.

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER.**—One at Chichester G.P. on Mar. 6th; one flew W. off Selsey Bill on Mar. 7th and one on the sea there on Mar. 27th and 28th (BAEM, RPP, *et al.*). One off Brighton on Apr. 20th (LPA). Two in s/p flying E. off Birling Gap on May 1st (MJH, ARK, IRW). One in s/p flying E. off Black Rock, Brighton, on May 13th (MJH, IRW). Satisfactory details of birds identified in flight have been received.

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—One flew W. off Langney Point on Nov. 12th (DDH).

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER.**—C.200 close inshore off Pett Level on Feb. 7th (MJH, ARK, BAEM, IRW). Otherwise very few during the early part of the year.

DIVER SPECIES.—C.45 offshote between Pett and Rye on Jan. 3rd and 69 E. off Beachy Head and 20 W. off Selsey Bill on Jan. 31st. In February 41 E. off Beachy Head, and 52 E. off Selsey Bill on 6th. Movements in March, April and May were on a much smaller scale than in several recent years, with only 17 E. off Selsey Bill in 24 days observation and 43 E. off Beachy Head in 30 days observation. The largest spring movement was 36 E. off Shoreham on Mar. 6th.

In autumn small numbers off Selsey Bill between Oct. 2nd and the end of the year with 47 W. on Dec. 12th as the only definite movement. Only 5 off Beachy Head between Aug. 28th and Nov. 13th.

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE.**—During the first 3 months of the year up to 6 off Selsey Bill, 20 off Camber on Feb. 7th and 15 off Brighton on Mar. 15th. Although the Society's survey of this species was completed in 1964 a count was organised for the B.T.O. national census in 1965. Results of this earlier survey will be found on pages 32-33 of the 1964 Report. The 49 pairs in 1965 is an increase of 11 pairs over 1964. Chichester G.P. which hold nearly half the population showed an increase of 7 pairs. Twelve localities which might just have held breeding pairs were not visited in 1965; no grebes had been found there during the 1962-64 survey.

BREEDING PAIRS 1965

Locality	No. of pairs	Locality	No. of pairs	Locality	No. of pairs
Manhood End	0 (a)	Sheffield Park	0	Powdermill Res.	2*
Chichester G.P.	c.21	Wadhurst Park	1*	Tilgate	0
Burton Park	3	Darwell Res.	3	Hawkins Pond	0
Knepp	4	Peisworth Park	1 (c)	Coothurst	0
Warnham Mill Pond	2	Lurgashall Pond	1	Bayram Abbey	0
Barnhouse Pond	1	Shillinglee Park	1	Rye Harbour G.P.	2
Batcombe Lake	1 (b)	Stoughton Common	0	Lindfield Farm	0
Leigh Pond	1	Mill Pond, Crawley	1*	Powdermill House	0
Horsted Keynes	0	Erdesley Park	0	Newells Hole	0
Weir Wood, Res.	1	Ashburnham	0	Roost Hole	0
Maresfield Abbey	0	Buckhurst Park	0	Petlevel	1
				Total:	49

Key: (a) Dried out (d) 2 birds, not known if a pair * nest visible
(b) One bird—pair May 2nd pair
(c) Also a single bird

Note: Map refs.—Page 32, 1964 Report. Areas not visited in 1965 were: Plashett Park, Arundel Park, Crabtree Park, Rowland, Copthorne, Milton Mount, Warrington Pond, Garstons Farm Bolney, Tilgate, Buchan Hill, Forest Mere.

BREEDING SUCCESS 1965

Pairs reported	Pairs known to have raised young	Young recorded	Average brood size
49	24	54	2.25

One pair is known to have failed to hatch young. Other records were: in July, one on the sea off Selsey Bill on 15th and one off Camber on 17th and at the end of the year 11 recorded in 3 inland localities in November and December. Very few records from the coast with a maximum of 11 off Selsey Bill on Dec. 11th.

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE.**—One at Pagham on Oct. 18th (LGH) and one on Pagham Lagoon on Oct. 22nd (WWAP). One close in off Langney Point on Nov. 6th (DDH).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE.**—Singly at Shoreham Harbour on Jan. 5th, Pett Level from Jan. 10th to 31st, Pagham Lagoon from Jan. 19th to Feb. 7th and at Selsey Bill on Nov. 7th. Three off East Head on Dec. 28th.

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE.**—Two in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 10th. Singly at Newhaven Harbour on Feb. 6th, Chichester G.P. on Feb. 7th and Langney G.P. on Dec. 28th. Two at Thorney on Dec. 12th.

9. **LITTLE GREBE.**—Winter parties recorded in the first part of the year were 15 to 20 at Pagham Lagoon from January to March; 22 at Tide Mills, Newhaven, on Feb. 6th and 10 on the Cuckmere Old River on Mar. 9th. All breeding season records received are given. The number of pairs was Sidlesham Ferry, one; Severals, Church Norton, one; West Harting Pond, one with one chick on June 27th; Chichester G.P., c.3-5 on May 8th; Swanbourne Lake, one feeding young on Aug. 3rd; Darwell Res., 2 of which one certainly raised young; Rye Harbour G.P., 3-4 of which 2 raised young successfully; Knepp, one. At Pagham Lagoon 4 on Oct. 6th had increased to c.20 by Nov. 9th.

16. **MANX SHEARWATER.**—One flew W. off Beachy Head on Apr. 19th (LPA). One flew W. c.1 mile off Selsey Bill on June 26th (BAEM, RFP, IRW). One flew W. some way off Langney Point on Aug. 21st (DDH) and one flew E. c.1 mile off Beachy Head on Aug. 28th (ARK, RFP, IRW). One flew W. off Beachy Head on Sept. 1st (RB, BEC, MR, KV). Birds showing the characters of the race *mauretanicus* were one flying W. c.½ mile off Beachy Head on Aug. 22nd (ARK) and one flying E. off Langney Point on Aug. 29th (RHC). Sub-specific identification not possible with 2 flying E. together c.½ mile off Birling Gap on Apr. 17th (MJH, ARK) and one flying E. off Belle Tout on Sept. 4th (ARK, IRW).

21. **SOOTY SHEARWATER.**—Two flew W. off Selsey Bill at c.250 yds. on Aug. 28th (ETW). The second August record for the county.

26. **FULMAR.**—First recorded on Mar. 13th when one flew E. off Birling Gap (MJH). From then until the end of June one or two recorded regularly from several coastal localities between Selsey Bill and Eastbourne. 'Prospecting' recorded from two of these localities was probably connected with the small group of summering birds at Beachy Head. Five pairs on the cliffs there from May 15th to July 3rd were noted as brooding on 'nest' sites and displaying on these sites and the sea.

In the autumn one flew W. off Langney Point on July 17th and one off Holywell, Eastbourne, on Aug. 29th.

27. **GANNET.**—In 3 days observation at Selsey Bill in January, 5 flew W. and 2 E. Four flew W. off Brighton on Jan. 10th and one flew E. there on Mar. 31st. Small numbers only in the spring, with maxima of 9 E. off Beachy Head on Apr. 10th, 8 off Selsey Bill on Apr. 11th and c.20 off Worthing on Apr. 27th.

A number offshore at the end of June, mainly immatures but some first year. Up to 7 at several localities and 33 flew W. off Selsey Bill on the 26th. Small numbers only in the autumn with maxima of 35 W. off Beachy Head on Aug. 21st and 19 W. off Selsey Bill on Sept. 19th. In December, 8 off Langney Point on the 8th and 10 off Selsey Bill on the 10th.

28. **CORMORANT.**—Inland records were: up to 25 at Chichester G.P. on 3 dates in January, 3 flying W. over Ditchling Common on Nov. 30th and 2 to 3 in trees at Knepp on Dec. 10th.

29. **SHAG**.—One off Selsey Bill on Feb. 14th (HPKR, PGHF). Two flew E. off Beachy Head on Apr. 15th (MJH, ARK, IRW). One off Birling Gap on May 1st (many obs.). One off Brighton on Aug. 22nd (RFP). One or 2 off Beachy Head on 4 dates in September and one picked up exhausted at Belle Tout on Nov. 28th (many obs.). One at Newhaven Head on Nov. 21st (LPA). One on at Southwick on Nov. 27th (CMJ). One flying W. off Brighton and one on Hove Lagoon on Dec. 4th (RFP). One at Newhaven on Dec. 27th (DDH). Up to 2 regularly in the Pagham/Selsey area between Sept. 11th and the end of the year (many obs.).

30. **HERON**.—All known heronries were visited, the numbers of occupied nests were: Old Park Wood, Fishbourne, 26; Fynings Moor, Rogate, 0; Pagham, 5 or 6; Parham, 27; Henfield, 4; Firls, 5 or 6; Glynde, 1; Eridge Park, 8; Glyncigh, 4; Preisthaves, 3; Wartling, 0; Westham, 1; and Leasam, 10. The total of 94 to 96 occupied nests is an increase of 10 to 12 over 1964. Up to 7 juveniles were regularly present at Lurgashall Mill Pond towards the end of the breeding season.

There are a number of records which may relate to migration. In the spring, one came in from the S. at Brighton on Mar. 31st. One was seen by moonlight and heard on the night of May 14th flying in from the N. and departing S. at Belle Tout. One flew W. c. 4 mile off Brighton on June 23rd. In the autumn, one flew in from the SSW, past Holywell, Eastbourne, on Aug. 30th. Three flew E. off the Wicks and one flew out SSW, at Holywell on Sept. 1st. Thirteen flew S. over Pulborough on Sept. 27th and were watched until they had passed over the Downs (MMJ). At Beachy Head singles flew out S. on Aug. 24th and 30th and SE. on Sept. 19th and 28th.

32. **LITTLE EGRET**.—One at Cuckmere Haven on May 30th (CB, RHDY). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

38. **BITTERN**.—One at Chichester G.P. on Feb. 2nd (JVS) and one there on Mar. 13th (BM) and 14th (HPKR). One at Pond Leigh on Dec. 19th and 20th (JAW).

40. **WHITE STORK**.—One at Bodiam on Sept. 19th (MAS, PJS). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

42. **SPOONBILL**.—One at Northpoint Beach, Rye, from Aug. 19th until Oct. 1st, with 2 there from Aug. 21st to Sept. 13th (RHC, REG, DDH, DBO, *et al.*). They were considered to be birds of the year by RHC.

45. **MALLARD**.—On Feb. 6th, 320 at Selsey Bill. C.24 to 29 breeding pairs in the Selsey/Sidlesham Ferry area. No other breeding information. On Aug. 25th, c.500 at Rye Harbour G.P.

46. **TEAL**.—On Feb. 14th, 80 at the Midrips/Wicks. The very few breeding season records received were, a pair at Sidlesham Ferry throughout the season which apparently failed to rear young, a male at Barcombe Mills on May 30th and a female at Coates Common on June 5th. In July, 2 at Chichester G.P. on 3rd, 9 at Rye Harbour and 12 at the Midrips on 17th. Breeding records of this species would be welcome.

Ducks.—The table below sets out the recorded monthly maxima of the principal species at five of the most important wintering areas in the county. Chichester Harbour has been excluded since no figures are available for the whole area. The systematic list is largely confined to records outside the scope of this table.

MONTHLY MAXIMA OF DUCK AT SELECTED LOCALITIES

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Pagham Harbour	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	—	85	75	0	6	80	380	210
Teal	—	6	8	0	0	8	43	500
Wigeon	—	200	0	6	0	6	0	40
Chichester G.P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	400	150	70	350	175	220	380	200
Teal	80	46	55	0	15	10	4	0
Wigeon	80	6	0	0	0	8	4	0
Shoveler	73	28	28	2	0	0	0	0
Tufted Duck	235	175	95	7	32	105	150	0
Pochard	305	230	125	5	5	25	105	130
Ambney/Pulborough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	325	45	20	—	—	15	—	180
Teal	425	350	30	—	—	2	—	500
Wigeon	1170	900	25	—	—	0	—	1000
Pintail	16	0	0	—	—	0	—	15
Shoveler	14	0	0	—	—	0	—	22
West Wood Res.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	250	175	32	0	130	300	535	400
Teal	25	12	15	0	90	35	130	80
Wigeon	60	115	120	1	0	15	45	50
Tufted Duck	18	13	50	0	55	60	120	31
Pochard	75	22	12	2	0	14	60	100
Glynde Levels	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mallard	350	60	50	—	—	14	100	340
Teal	400	140	110	—	—	0	70	220
Wigeon	2000	220	380	—	—	0	340	2000

NOTE: A dash indicates that no information was available.

47. **GARGANEY**.—First recorded on Mar. 18th at Westbourne (AWF). Small numbers along the coast between Mar. 24th and Apr. 4th, with maxima of 8 at Manhood End on Mar. 24th and 5 at Pett Levels on Apr. 2nd. On May 1st 2 flew E. off Beachy Head and one likewise off Selsey Bill. In late May/early June, 4 pairs located on Pevensy Levels, one had 5 young on June 5th. Pairs were located in 3 other areas in May and June and a male was present at Chichester G.P. from May 27th to June 7th. Three autumn records only, one at Thorney on Sept. 30th (ABS) being the last.

49. **GADWALL**.—Wintering birds were present at Chichester G.P. at both ends of the year, with up to 8 from Jan. 1st to Mar. 7th and up to 8 from Nov. 6th to the end of the year (many obs.). Other records were; 2 at Pagham on Apr. 24th (WWAP); 4 flying W. off Birling Gap on May 8th, an unusual record (MJH, ARK, IRW); a male at Chichester G.P. on May 29th (BAEM) and one at Weir Wood Res. on Nov. 14th (MHP, GAS).

50. **WIGEON**.—On Feb. 6th c.60 at the Cuckmere and c.450 at Rye Harbour G.P. on Feb. 7th with 50 still present there on Apr. 6th. C.350 off the Seven Sisters on Mar. 9th. A drake at Swanbourne Lake on July 18th and from Aug. 3rd to 8th (RJL). One at the Wicks on Aug. 4th (RHC). Small autumn movements off Selsey Bill with 69 E. on Oct. 24th when also c.40 offshore, and 170 W. on Dec. 27th.

52. **PINTAIL**.—In the Rye area 5 at the Midrips/Wicks from Jan. 31st to Feb. 14th and 7 off Camber on Feb. 7th. In Chichester Harbour 39 at Fishbourne on Jan. 31st, up to 175 there during February and 17 still present on Apr. 4th. One flew E. off Beachy Head on May 1st.

53. **SHOVELER**.—On Apr. 4th 30 at the Wicks. Small E. movements along the coast between Mar. 13th and May 29th with maxima of 25 E. off Beachy Head on Mar. 13th and 15 E. there on May 1st. During the breeding season pairs recorded in 5 well separated localities without definite evidence of breeding, although at least one pair attempted to do so. In August 15 at the Wicks on the 11th and up to 9 at Church Norton throughout the month.

54. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD**.—A drake at Burton Pond from Jan. 7th to Apr. 18th (many obs.). It is not known whether this bird was an "escape."

55. **SCAUP**.—All records were: 8 E. off Selsey Bill on Mar. 28th (BAEM, RFP, *et al.*) and one W. off Rottingdean on Apr. 2nd (ARK). One at Weir Wood Res. from Sept. 12th to 19th (MHP, JAW). Four at Piddinghoe on Nov. 21st (BAG) and up to 4 in the Pagham/Selsey area at the end of the year.

56. **TUFTED DUCK**.—Up to 50 at Pagham in January and February; 100 at Burton Pond on Jan. 17th and 75 at Shillingee on Feb. 4th. One flew in from the S. at Cuckmere Haven on Apr. 2nd. A pair E. off Selsey Bill on May 29th.

BREEDING PAIRS 1965

Locality	Birds Present	Pairs certainly bred	Young recorded	Young reared
West Harting Pond	3 (253)	1	5	4
Chichester G.P.	15 (10,55)	4	21	14
Burton Pond	8 pairs		(not known)	
Warnham Mill Pond	9 (733)	2	6+	6
Darwell Res.	?	6	36+	35
Rye Harbour G.P.	c.13 pairs	8	?	broods by 8 pairs
Sharpthorne (TQ37316)	?	2	13+	?
TOTALS	..	23	59+	59+

In December, 62 at Pagham on 20th, in the Rye area 20 on Rye Harbour G.P. and 15 on Pett Level Pools on 28th.

57. **POCHARD**.—On Feb. 7th 250 at Rye Harbour G.P. Two females at Chichester G.P. on May 8th and one there on June 4th (BAEM, JVS). A pair flew E. off Beachy Head on May 12th (BAEM).

A number of July records indicated a fairly widespread and early autumn arrival. These were; 2 at West Harting Pond on 25th, 3 at Chichester G.P. on 17th, one at Knepp on 18th, a pair at Rye Harbour G.P. on 9th and 4 there on 17th.

Seven W. off Selsey Bill on Nov. 7th and 20 W. off Langney Point on Dec. 8th. On Dec. 28th 25 at Rye Harbour and 20 at Pett Level Pools. Very scarce at Pagham at both ends of the year, not more than 2 being recorded (WWAP).

60. **GOLDENEYE**.—Only small numbers along the coast in the first 3 months of the year with a maximum of 25 in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 17th. Inland, up to 4 at Weir Wood Res. until Mar. 14th; up to 3 at Darwell Res. until Apr. 29th when one still present (RVW) and one at Chichester G.P. Feb. 28th to Mar. 6th. An apparently healthy bird at Rye Harbour G.P. on May 30th (RHC).

Three E. off Langney Point on Nov. 3rd; one W. off Selsey Bill on Dec. 11th and 6 likewise on the 12th. Otherwise at the end of the year only 4 records for the coast with a maximum of 18 in Chichester Harbour on Dec. 11th. Inland singly at Knepp on Nov. 14th, at Pond Leigh on the 22nd and at Darwell on Nov. 17th to the end of the year.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK**.—All records were: 2 W. off Selsey Bill on Jan. 17th (MJH, BAEM, RFP, IRW); 3 E. off Seaford Head on Mar. 22nd (LPA); one E. off Selsey Bill on Oct. 31st (HPKR, ETW); one W. off Langney Point on Nov. 7th (DDH); 2 W. off Selsey Bill on Nov. 28th (HPKR). One at Hove Lagoon from Nov. 7th to 27th with 2 there on the latter date (CMJ, GAS). One at Pagham on Dec. 10th (WWAP).

62. **VELVET SCOTER**.—Very few recorded. In the early part of the year one off Selsey Bill on Feb. 6th and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on Feb. 7th. None recorded in Rye Bay although the area was searched. Two E. off Seaford Head on Mar. 22nd and 2 likewise off Beachy Head on May 12th. Two off Selsey Bill on Dec. 11th and 12th.

64. **COMMON SCOTER**.—Between January and March only small numbers offshore, maximum 100 off Selsey Bill on Feb. 6th.

SPRING MOVEMENTS TO THE END OF JUNE

Locality	March		April		May		June	
	Days Obs.	Peak	Days Obs.	Peak	Days Obs.	Peak	Days Obs.	Peak
Selsey Bill	8	99	8	186	8	398	7	94
Brighton	1	530	No records	—	1	127	6	80
Beachy Head	5	150	12	4335	13	1980	5	—

Notes for Peak values:
 Selsey Bill: 2347E on 1st, 130th on 27th, 500E on 27rd, 315E on 23rd
 Brighton: On 22nd
 Beachy Head: 2830E on 20th, 24th

NOTE: At Seaford Head, c.1,900 E. on Mar. 22nd.

From July movement showed no definite pattern though parties of up to c.50 were moving E. and W.

67. **EIDER**.—In the first 3 months of the year c.40, 8 adult males, along the coast. No April or May records. Three off Selsey Bill during June and July. None in August. One off Pett Level on Sept. 1st. None in October. During November and December, c.55, 5 adult males, along the coast. Largest flocks were 14 E. off Brighton on Mar. 14th and 17 at Newhaven on Dec. 26th.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER**.—On Jan. 17th, 30 W. off Langney Point and 78 likewise off Selsey Bill. Otherwise 40 in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 23rd was the largest number in the early months. Spring movements were small: at Selsey Bill 61 E. and 38 W. in 16 days observation in March and April. Two flying E. off Beachy Head on May 22nd (MJH, ARK, *et al.*).

A very unusual record of 4 together flying E. off Langney Point on July 17th (DDH). Autumn movements recorded only from Selsey Bill, 35 E. and 182 W. during November and December, with peaks of 36 W. on Nov. 27th and 25 W. on Dec. 12th. Largest flocks were: 20 in Pagham Harbour on Dec. 5th and 60 in Chichester Harbour on the 12th.

70. **GOOSANDER**.—Single birds at Darwell Res. from Jan. 1st to Mar. 12th (RVW, *et al.*); found shot at Balcombe Lake on Jan. 29th (G des F); at Rye Harbour G.P. on Nov. 20th (DCL); at Weir Wood Res. on Nov. 28th (ARK); at Chichester G.P. on Dec. 11th and 12th (BM, ETW). Two in Pagham Harbour on Nov. 22nd (LPA) and one there on Dec. 5th (BEC, PC). Two at Burton Pond from Nov. 28th to the end of the year (ETW).

71. **SMEW**.—A drake on Pagham Lagoon from Jan. 1st to Feb. 24th (CFH, CMJ, WWAP, *et al.*). Two at Burton Pond from Jan. 7th to 23rd (MJH, BAEM, GMM, IRW) with 6 there on the 31st (ETW) when one was also present at Lurgashall (ETW). A pair at Chichester G.P. from Feb. 12th to Mar. 11th (JVS, *et al.*). Single ducks off East Head on Nov. 21st (LGH) and on Glynde Levels on Dec. 26th (MJH).

73. **SHELDUCK**.—In January and March c.725 in Chichester Harbour and c.300 in Pagham Harbour in March. At Beachy Head 80 E. during 25 days observation in April and May. Fourteen E. off Brighton on June 3rd and 300 adults in Chichester Harbour on 13th.

Two pairs at the Lower Cuckmere on May 2nd. Inland a pair at West Harting Pond on May 18th, 2 pairs at Amberley on Apr. 11th and a single bird on June 12th.

Counts of young were: 73 in the Thorney/Chidham/Fishbourne area on July 18th, 30 in Pagham Harbour on Aug. 25th and 22 at Rye Harbour on July 26th. At Chichester G.P. 4 pairs hatched 24 young.

Small W. movements between July 24th and Nov. 7th in the Beachy Head/Langney Point area totalled 32 birds including 11 juveniles in August. One flew in S.-N. at Beachy Head on Oct. 9th. Up to c.400 in Chichester Harbour in December and c.160 in the Pagham/Selsey area on 11th.

75. **GREY LAG-GOOSE**.—Five E. over Eastbourne on Jan. 29th (MEC), 4 E. off Pagham (WWAP) and 2 E. off Rottingdean (ARK) on Mar. 4th. One at the Wicks on Mar. 28th (RHC). Two flew in from the SW. leaving E. at Beachy Head on Oct. 9th (MJH, RFP, IRW). One W. off Langney Point on Nov. 21st (DDH).

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**.—In January, one at Knepp Lake on 17th; 38 at Glynde on 23rd, 15 of which left NE.; 15 E. at Pagham on 28th; 6 at Pevensey and 5 at Pett on 31st when 2 NE. over Pilsley Island. One at the Midrips on Feb. 7th and one at Sidlesham Ferry on Mar. 6th and 7th.

In December, 17 W. off Selsey Bill on 12th; 34 E. at the Midrips on the 27th, c.118 W. off Selsey Bill on 27th and 20 W. at Hastings on 28th.

80. **BRENT GOOSE**.—Monthly maxima in Chichester and Pagham Harbours were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Harbour	c.2,000	c.800	c.2,000	8	c.100	c.500
Pagham Harbour	c.100	c.130	29	1	—	7

The figures for Chichester Harbour in January and March are by far the largest numbers in the county in recent years (see also S.B.R. 1964). The March count was made on the 7th when c.1,000 also spent the day in Langstone Harbour, Hants. (B.W. Reynard per BAEM), making a total of c.3,000 for the two harbours. One at South Heighton, 2 miles inland, on Mar. 20th (DCL).

In spring E. movement recorded along the coast between Feb. 25th and Apr. 1st totalled c.750 on 8 dates. Six flew E. off Worthing on May 2nd (RJS). In autumn, W. movement along the coast totalled 89 on 5 dates between Oct. 23rd and Dec. 28th.

One showing the characters of the race *hrota* at Pilsley on Jan. 31st (MJH, BAEM).

81. **BARNACLE GOOSE**.—One at Pagham on Jan. 19th (WWAP).

85. **WHOOPER SWAN**.—Four immatures at Pevensey Levels on Dec. 26th (DDH) and 2 at Pulborough on Dec. 27th (DRP).

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN**.—Up to 7 in the Amberley/Pulborough area from Jan. 3rd to Feb. 14th (many obs.); 3 at Chichester G.P. on Jan. 3rd and 31st (many obs.); 23 at Knepp on Jan. 4th (GMM, RJS); 4 at Lurgashall on Jan. 31st (ETW) and one at Danwell Res. on Feb. 17th (RVW).

At Darwell Res., one on Nov. 17th, 7 on Dec. 5th, 6 on Dec. 11th and one found dead on Dec. 18th (RVW). At Rye Harbour 13 flew NW. on Nov. 24th (RHC). Nine in the Amberley/Pulborough area from Dec. 11th to 28th (many obs.) and 5 on Glynde Levels from Dec. 11th to 30th (many obs.).

91. **BUZZARD**.—One at West Chiltington on Mar. 13th (FWD). Four pairs were present during the breeding season, one reared 2 young (ETW). Although the others were not proved to breed 2 pairs were seen displaying. Single birds were also present in 2 other areas. During September and October up to 3 adults present in another area where one had been seen in April.

In the autumn, one W. over Newhaven Head on Sept. 12th (LPA), one over Stammer Park on Sept. 16th (DCL), one picked up dead at the Lower Cuckmere on Sept. 26th (CEH, MAJ). At Beachy Head, 2 from the N. flew off W. on Aug. 30th, one from the NW. was last seen over the Head on Sept. 14th and one flew out S. on Sept. 19th.

93. **SPARROWHAWK**.—Recorded from more localities than in 1964 which may only indicate increased attention being paid to the species.

Eight pairs were proved to breed in 7 well separated localities. Of these 6 certainly reared young and one failed to do so. Brood sizes noted in only 2 cases (5 and 1). One nest was found containing 5 fertile eggs, 5 young flew. A further 10 pairs probably bred or attempted to, evidenced by display or food being carried. Other breeding season records came from 13 localities, in 7 of these birds were recorded more than once.

Outside the breeding season, records from a further 5 areas in the interior. Records suggesting passage at Beachy Head were one on Apr. 9th and single birds on 5 dates between Sept. 16th and Oct. 17th.

98. **HONEY BUZZARD**.—On May 29th one at Belle Tout was mobbed by Herring Gulls and flew out SW. at 0900 hrs. G.M.T. being watched out of sight. It was seen for c.8-10 minutes, closest range c.300 yds. for $\frac{1}{2}$ minute (ARK, RFP, IRW). Extracts from the description as follows:

"Slightly larger than Herring Gull. tail long, wings long, straight and broad and of even width along length. wing tips appeared to end in blunt point with fingered effect only noticeable at closest range. Head protruded more than Common Buzzard. Plumage, as far as could be seen in the bright light was dark brown. no light patches anywhere. Flight mainly gliding on flat and at times bowed wings. Never were wings held in 'v'. In open flight a series of deep wing beats interspersed with glides on flat, or occasionally bowed wings."

In the autumn an unprecedented total of 6, all in the Beachy Head area. Records, with extracts from the descriptions, as follows: One left S. over the Head at c. ¼ mile on Aug. 29th (RFP, IRW):

"A Buzzard type raptor but with longer tail than Common Buzzard and long, broad wings without noticeable fingering, tail and wings of even width along length. Plumage very dark above and pale brownish below. Flight a few deep flaps followed by gliding on bowed down wings."

On Sept. 11th one from the N. over Whitbred Hollow (RB, MR, KV) was seen a short time later, 1215 hrs. G.M.T. at c. 300 yds, over Bullock Down (ARK, IRW):

"A large Buzzard type raptor . . . Wings longer and narrower than Common Buzzard of even width (broad wings of even width ARK, IRW), tail long, narrow and darkish, no barring seen . . . Underparts fairly dark, contrasting with under wing overhead dark carpal patches immediately obvious; 2 or 3 dark bars on the under-wing formed continuous lines from body to wing-tips . . . Small pointed head protruded well on longish neck . . . Flight steady with deep wing-beats and a little gliding on flat wings, slightly bowed down."

Three together over Cornish Farm, 0930 hrs. G.M.T. at c. ¼ mile, on Sept. 12th, eventually flew out to sea (ARK, IRW):

"Large raptors with long, broad wings and long tails. Appeared all dark in good light. Flight typical, gliding and soaring on flat wings with occasional deep wing-beats. When heading out to sea were flapping the whole time with deep forward wing-beats. Distinguished from Marsh Harrier by continual gliding on flat not 'v' wings."

One flew S., over Belle Tout on Sept. 19th, 0555 hrs. G.M.T., first seen at c. 300-400 yds. (BAEM, RFP, IRW):

"Very much like Marsh Harrier in shape and build, having noticeably long wings and longish, narrow tail. Bird appeared all dark, observers could see no contrast between upper and underparts. When first seen was gliding with wings bowed down below level of body . . . bird flew out directly S. flapping continually with deep powerful wing-beats."

All the above records were submitted to Mr. P. J. Hayman, an authority on raptors, who considers they all clearly refer to Honey Buzzards. Mr. Hayman comments that, in an extensive study of Buzzards and Honey Buzzards on migration abroad, he has found that the Honey Buzzard is easily distinguished by its characteristic gliding attitude, with the wings bowed down below the level of the body. He has also found that the Honey Buzzard has a characteristic migration flight with deep continuous downward flapping, often on and on, but interspersed with glides and series of deep down flaps. This again is quite distinct from the migration flight of Buzzards, which drift, float and glide with far less flapping. These points are diagnostic differences between Buzzards and Honey Buzzards and are well brought out in the Beachy Head records.

99. MARSH HARRIER.—Two, possibly 3, in the Rye/Midrips area between Aug. 25th and Sept. 29th (BEC, RHC, DDDH, MEN, *et al.*).

100. HEN HARRIER.—Single birds at Beddingham Hill on Jan. 3rd (IRW); Blackdown on Feb. 13th (ETW); on the Downs behind Worthing from Nov. 13th to Dec. 24th (BM, RJS); at Amberley on Nov. 21st (PJO) and Dec. 5th (ETW); near Alfriston on Dec. 14th (SHF) and Pevensy Levels on Dec. 19th (BEC, PC, KV) and 27th (EJA, RB, KV).

102. MONTAGU'S HARRIER.—One at Sidesham Ferry on May 8th (MS). One flew in NW. at Beachy Head on May 29th (ARK, RFP, IRW). On the same day one was seen on the Downs near Steyning (BM). One, probably this bird, and considered to be a first summer male later seen in the Cissbury area

from June 29th to July 5th (REG, MAJ, HPKR). One on Pevensy Levels on June 5th (MJH, BAEM, RFP, IRW).

One at Beachy Head on Aug. 28th (RFP, IRW) and one flew out S. from the Head on Aug. 29th (BEC, SG).

103. OSPREY.—In May one at Chichester G.P. on the 20th (JVS) and 2 displaying there on the 23rd (MH), these remained in the area until the 29th (many obs.).

An unusual number in the autumn. Chichester G.P., one first seen on Aug. 15th (CFH), remained until Sept. 28th (many obs.). Pagham/Selsey, one on Aug. 25th at Pagham (WWAP, MS) and one off Selsey on the same day and Aug. 22nd and Sept. 4th (CMJ). Dell Quay, one on Sept. 3rd (MS). All these records may refer to the same bird, but 2 were possibly involved, the bird at Chichester G.P. being seen on each of the dates of the Pagham/Selsey observations. Greatham Bridge, one on Sept. 4th flew off towards Burton Park (CMJ). St. Leonard's Forest, one present in several localities between Sept. 27th and Oct. 19th (SWMH, WDH, ANHP, GNS, *et al.*). Pond Leigh, one on Sept. 19th (JAW), possibly the St. Leonard's Forest bird. Beachy Head area, one flying W. off Langney Point on Aug. 29th (RHC), one with a fish over the Head on Sept. 8th (BEC, AQ), one from the N. flew out S. on Sept. 19th (MJH, ARK, *et al.*), one in the area on Sept. 24th (ARK), one first seen far out came in from the sea on Oct. 3rd (DDDH, *et al.*). One flying W. off Ferring on Oct. 3rd (MAJ).

104. HOBBY.—Four pairs proved to breed, 3 pairs each raised 2 young. Pairs or single birds present in the breeding season in 9 other localities. Single records in 3 other areas in May and June may have been passage birds.

In the autumn 5 or 6 recorded from 3 coastal localities between Aug. 25th and Sept. 26th. One flew in SE-NW. at Selsey Bill on Oct. 31st (HPKR, ETW), a very late date.

105. PEREGRINE.—All records were: one at Glynde on Apr. 4th (DCL) and in September one just N. of Burpham on the 11th (FPP) and one flying W. at Beachy Head on the same day (BEC, PC, SG, AQ, KV).

107. MERLIN.—The bird in the Pagham/Sidesham area recorded in the 1964 Report was still present on Jan. 8th and what was probably the same bird was seen on Mar. 8th (MS). Two together at the Wicks on Jan. 21st (RHC). One flew N. over Sidesham Ferry on Oct. 9th (MS, RJS). One at the Wicks on Nov. 10th (RHC) and one at Amberley on Dec. 19th (PJO).

110. KESTREL.—Spring movements were: one flew in S-N. at Beachy Head on Apr. 10th, one in from SE. there on 23th and 2 in S-N. at Selsey Bill on May 8th. Autumn movements were: 2 out SE. at Selsey Bill on Oct. 10th, one likewise on 24th and one S. on Nov. 21st. At Beachy Head 5 flew out S. on four dates between Sept. 14th and 29th. One flew in from the S. at Holywell, Eastbourne, on Sept. 1st.

Breeding Survey

More information was recorded in 1965 compared with 1964 and there was no evidence of any change in status. All the records were plotted, as in 1964, on one-inch O.S. maps and are summarised below. Full details of the survey will be published in a separate paper on completion.

1965 RECORDS

Pairs proved to breed (a)	58	Pairs Probably Breeding (b)	61	Possible Breeding Pairs (c)	43
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NOTE: Categories (a) and (b) are the same as used in 1964; (c) consists of birds recorded in an area 3 times or less between April and end of July. They are largely single sightings which have not been followed up and have no obvious connection with the other categories. Further investigation of such records has frequently revealed breeding pairs.

BREEDING SUCCESS

Pairs proved to breed	58	Pairs known to have raised Young	43	Average Brood size	2.21 ±	Pairs known to have failed	4
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Six young birds were picked up dead after fledging, 3 of which were found drowned in a water tank. Exact details not recorded for 11 proven breeding pairs. Seven nests were investigated as follows:

Nests investigated	7	Total eggs laid	30	Average clutch size	4.3	Nests deserted	Nil.	Nests predated	1	Infertile Eggs	2	Young raised	22
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Three eggs were stolen from an otherwise successful nest; 2 young died before fledging.

POPULATION DENSITY

	Area Surveyed (square miles)	Number of Pairs	Square Miles per Pair
Coastal Plain	29	10	2.90
Downland	11	3	3.70
The Weald	43	14	3.07
	33.2	10	3.32
	79.5	18	4.40

Although the information is still insufficient to estimate the total breeding population the above form interesting comparisons between 5 areas which were fairly closely searched.

117. **QUAIL**.—No definite breeding records but birds were present in the following Downland localities in the summer and early autumn. Walderton Down; one on June 26th and 2 on July 1st (AWF). Cissbury; one picked up dead on June 4th (CMJ) and others calling throughout this month (MAJ). Shoreham; up to 4 or 5 calling behind the town from July 31st to Aug. 31st (FS, JMT). Upper Beeding; one calling on Aug. 23rd (FS). Southwick; up to 3 calling behind the town from July 4th to Aug. 17th (FS, GAS, JMT). Saddlescombe; one calling on June 11th (RFP, IRW). Patcham; 2 calling on June 27th (CFH). Newmarket Hill; one calling on May 14th and one seen on the 24th (NAGL). Lullington; one calling on June 27th (MJH).

In the autumn, one at Eastbourne on Aug. 20th (DDH), one at Beachy Head on Sept. 11th (MJH, RFP) and one at Sidlesham on the 14th (MS).

120. **WATER RAIL**.—None reported in the early months of the year. In the autumn 2 on the Crumbles on Sept. 19th and one at Belle Tout on the 26th.

Breeding Survey

Single birds recorded at Barcombe Mills on May 25th and in July at Fishbourne on 15th and Chichester G.P. on 18th. In the NW. 3 pairs present in one

locality and one pair in another. Although breeding was not proved birds were present all the season. One of these localities held a pair in 1964. None were found on the Levels during counts of other species.

121. **SPOTTED CRAKE**.—One at the Crumbles on Jan. 2nd (PJW, VAW). The ninth winter record for the county.

125. **CORNCRAKE**.—One at Beachy Head on May 9th (SG, MEN, KV). Single birds at Sidlesham on Sept. 19th (MS), Beachy Head on Oct. 3rd (BEC, PC) and Possingworth Park on Oct. 15th (GM).

127. **COOT**.—Only three counts of autumn or winter flocks were received. These were c.530 at Chichester G.P. on Feb. 6th, 43 at Weir Wood Res. on Sept. 15th and c.230 at Pett Level on Dec. 30th.

Waders

As in 1964 a series of monthly counts were organised in Chichester and Pagham Harbours, with a count along the whole coast on Dec. 11th. Full results of these counts are tabulated on page 55. The classified list is largely confined to records outside the scope of these tables which should be consulted in conjunction with the list for all the 1965 information.

131. **OYSTERCATCHER***.—During January and February up to 90 at Camber. C.700-1,000 at Pilsey on Feb. 7th. A total of 62 E. and 3 W. off Beachy Head in 25 days observation during April and May.

Breeding pairs were: Chichester Harbour, one probably bred at Chidham; Pagham Harbour, 2 attempted to breed unsuccessfully; Rye Harbour, 4 bred of which 2 were certainly successful; Midrips/Wicks, one bred successfully and 4 pairs were present on June 7th.

C.250 summered in Chichester and Pagham Harbours. During the early autumn, inland records were 12 at Weir Wood Res. on July 18th (CEH, MAJ) and one on Aug. 22nd (BEC). Five at Darwell Res. on Aug. 5th flew off WNW. (RVW). On the coast, 400 at Pilsey on Aug. 8th.

133. **LAPWING***.—During the cold weather movements on Mar. 4th, 160 W. in an hour at Brighton, 111 W. and 180 E. in 2 hours at Rottingdean and 115 out SE. at Newhaven. Large numbers were also moving W. at Pagham.

In the autumn, 13 in S-N. at Langney Point on July 16th and 43 SE-NW. at Rye Harbour on 17th. At Beachy Head, 5 flew N. on July 31st, 150 left the area to W. very high on Aug. 7th and a total of c.930 flew W. on Sept. 4th, 5th and 6th.

Counts at the end of the year were c.10,000-15,000 at Glynde (DCL) and c.4,000 at Pevensey Levels on Dec. 12th, c.5,000 on Pevensey Levels on 19th and c.20,000 flying S. there on 24th (KV).

There was a large cold weather movement in the E. of the county on Dec. 28th. The only exact count recorded was 300 W. at Hastings in 1½ hours, but hundreds were flying S. over Glynde Level and many parties of up to 50 flew SW. or W. at Rye. No movement observed at Sidlesham.

134. **RINGED PLOVER***.—Up to 70 at Shoreham during February. Breeding records from: Pilsey Island, 2 to 3 pairs bred; Chichester G.P., 3 or 4 pairs, 2 of which raised 4 young; Pagham Harbour, 6 pairs bred and some young were

*See also wader count tables page 55

successfully raised; Barcombe Mills, 5 birds displaying on May 23rd and 4 pairs present on the 30th. At least one of these definitely bred, one chick being seen on the latter date; Rye Harbour G.P., 14 to 16 pairs estimated, some young were raised, 4 being ringed. Midrips/Wicks; c.8 pairs. Cuckmere Haven; 3 birds displaying on Mar. 13th and a pair present on July 3rd.

Small numbers recorded inland in the autumn. Present at Weir Wood Res. on 7 dates between July 14th and Aug. 27th with a maximum of 13 on the latter date. Single birds at Darwell Res. on July 18th and Aug. 12th and 26th. On the coast, 35 at Brooklands, Worthing, on Nov. 24th.

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER**.—Single birds at Sidlesham Ferry on Apr. 1st (HDM) and May 2nd (LGH) and at the Lower Cuckmere on Apr. 2nd (RHC). One in Chichester Harbour on May 16th (BAEM). One pair attempted to breed apparently unsuccessfully though a nest with 4 eggs was found on May 16th. A single bird also present at another locality from June 27th to Aug. 12th.

In the autumn 2 at Thorney (PFW) and one at Weir Wood Res. (CEH, RJB) on July 27th; 3 at Weir Wood Res. on Aug. 1st (RHC); one flying W. at Beachy Head on Aug. 21st (ARK); and one at Rye Harbour on Aug. 25th (RHC).

139. **GREY PLOVER***.—One at Weir Wood Res. on May 13th (DBP). Inland records are very unusual. Summering birds in Chichester and Pagham Harbours totalled 21. In Pagham Harbour there were c.80 on Oct. 24th, c.55 on Nov. 5th and c.150 on Dec. 26th.

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER***.—The only counts in the early months were 61 near Scaford on Jan. 5th, 35 at Pagham on Mar. 7th and c.400 at Bracklesham on Mar. 28th. A few involved in the cold weather movements on Mar. 4th, maximum 20 flying SE. at Pagham. One at Sidlesham on May 14th (MS) and one flew in SW-NE. at Selsey Bill on the 29th (RJJ, BAEM). In December c.1,000 at Earnley (JVS), c.2,000 at Pagham (WWAP), c.600 at Mountney Levels (PC) and c.3,000 on Pevensy Levels (KV).

142. **DOTTEREL**.—Three near the Wicks on Sept. 1st and 2 there on the 8th which were almost certainly different birds (RHC).

143. **TURNSTONE***.—At Selsey Bill, 21 E. on 3 dates between May 1st and 15th, maximum 15 on the 1st. At Beachy Head, 3 came in from the S. and flew N. overland (watched out of sight) on Apr. 19th and 11 flew E. on Apr. 30th and May 1st. Six at Rye Harbour G.P. on June 6th and one flew in SE-NW. there on July 17th. One summered in Chichester Harbour. C.60 at Rye Harbour G.P. on Aug. 4th and c.80 at Bexhill on Dec. 14th.

145. **SNIBE***.—The only large flock recorded in the early months of the year was c.80 at Wiggonholt on Jan. 17th. One flew in from the S. at Rottingdean on Mar. 4th. Single birds at Beachy Head on 3 dates in August. In December, 300+ at Wiggonholt on 12th and c.40 at Newhaven and c.200 at Glynde on the 26th.

*See also wader count tables page 55

Breeding Survey

A total of 46 to 48 pairs ^{Present present.} found but some breeding areas were not searched. The full results are set out below; the figures for the Amberley/Pulborough marshes, the Adur and Pevensy Levels are based on single counts made in late May or June. No information on breeding success was recorded.

Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of Pairs	Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of Pairs
Amberley/Pulborough Marshes	All between Amberley-Pulborough E. of River	11-12	Pevensy Levels	Whepley-Horseye - White Dyke - Mansey Level/ Pevensy Haven Marshes E. of Pevensy-Borcham St. Road	5 0 16
Adur Levels	All from Shoreham Toll Bridge-Wyckham Farm	5	Broadhalfenny (SU 986176)		1
Lewes Brooks	C.2 square miles	3-4	Bowbush Pond		(1*)
Cuckmere Valley	All N. to Alfriston	2	Barcombe Mills		2
				* Drumming	46-48
				TOTAL	46-48

NOTE: Birds were looked for but not found in suitable areas round Chichester Harbour, Pagham/Selsey/Bracklesham, Rye Marsh and Harbour, the Midrips/Wicks and Harting.

147. **JACK SNIBE**.—All records were: single birds at Plumpton on Feb. 11th and Mar. 4th, Sidlesham Ferry on Feb. 20th, Shoreham on Mar. 6th, Pilsey on 7th and Chichester G.P. on 13th. Four in the latter locality on Mar. 27th, one remaining until Apr. 13th. One at Thorney on Apr. 4th and one on the Crumblies on 25th. In the autumn, single birds at Plumpton on Oct. 4th and Thorney on 10th. In December up to 5 on Glynde Levels. All records of this species would be welcome.

148. **WOODCOCK**.—No breeding records received. Information on the status of this species in the breeding season would be most welcome. Coastal records were, one at Selsey Bill on Mar. 7th and 3 at Beachy Head on the same day. Single birds also seen at Beachy Head on Mar. 14th, Apr. 3rd and Nov. 28th.

150. **CURLEW***.—C.250 at Pett Level on Feb. 7th and c.150 on Mar. 30th. On Feb. 13th, 44 flew out SW. at Newhaven. In March and April small movements noted at Selsey Bill, 19 E. and 5 W. in 16 days observation, and at Beachy Head 31 E. in 17 days observation. On Apr. 30th, 16 came in from the S. at Newhaven.

A pair again bred in the NW. of the county but the breeding position in Ashdown Forest was not investigated.

Small W. movements reported at the coast in June and early July involving 33 birds. Between Aug. 7th and Oct. 9th 51 W. and 7 E. at Beachy Head. Eight flew W. along the Downs on 2 dates in August and September. On Dec. 26th c.150 at Pett Level.

151. **WHIMBREL***.—One at Pagham Harbour on Jan. 24th (PJW, VAW). This is the first winter record for the county. First in the spring was one at

*See also wader count tables page 55

Pagham on Apr. 2nd (LGH), a very early date. Small movements at Beachy Head between Apr. 24th and May 15th, 54 E. and 6 W., maximum 34 E. on May 1st when 7 also E. off Selsey Bill. Eleven came in from the S. and flew E. at Rottingdean on May 10th and c.50 flew N. over Seaford on May 12th.

One summered in Chichester Harbour. One at Darwell Res. on July 15th (RVW). Small W. movements along the coast first noted on July 15th and one flew in SE-NW. at Rye Harbour on 17th. Between Aug. 7th and Sept. 18th 23 W. at Beachy Head and 23 flew out SW. at Selsey Bill on Aug. 6th. On Aug. 29th 55 in Pagham Harbour.

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT***.—In Pagham Harbour, up to c.20 on Feb. 18th, c.80 on Mar. 28th and 72 on Apr. 8th. One came in from the S. and flew NW. at Beachy Head on July 31st and 14 flew W. off Hove on Aug. 20th (GAS). Inland records were: one at Chichester G.P. on June 13th and Aug. 13th, one at Weir Wood Res. on Aug. 21st and 9 at Chichester G.P. on the 22nd (REG). At the end of the year, c.100 on Nov. 23rd and c.170 on Dec. 26th in Pagham Harbour.

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT***.—In the first 3 months of the year at Pilsey, c.310 on Jan. 31st and c.520 on Mar. 7th. On Apr. 30th 80 E. off Beachy Head and on May 1st 271 E. off Selsey Bill, 92 E. off Hove and c.810 E. off Beachy Head. C.25 summered in Chichester and Pagham Harbours and one in the Rye area, where 3 flew in SE-NW. on July 17th.

156. **GREEN SANDPIPER***.—In the first 3 months of the year 6 were recorded from 5 inland localities; in December 4 in 3 inland localities.

Very few on spring passage. Autumn passage first recorded on June 12th and continued until about Nov. 30th. Peak periods were the last week of July, 22 birds, and the third week of August, 30 birds. Monthly totals were:

Apr.	4	May	1	June	3	July	39	Aug.	50	Sept.	11	Oct.	10	Nov.	7
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157. **WOOD SANDPIPER***.—Four at Thorney on May 16th (BAEM). Autumn passage first recorded on July 17th when one at Arundel (RJI) and 2 at the Midrips/Wicks (IRW). Two flying W. at Beachy Head on July 31st (BAEM, IRW). From Aug. 1st to Sept. 20th c.17 recorded along the coast and 2 at Chichester G.P. on Aug. 29th.

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER***.—In February 2 at Annington on 24th and one at Fishbourne on 27th. Few recorded in April or May, but 8 in the first week of June suggested very late spring passage and included one at Sheffield Park on 2nd and 2 in from the S. which flew off E. at Brighton on 3rd. Autumn passage first noted on June 27th continuing until about Oct. 25th. Peak periods were the third week of July, 52 birds, and the third week of August, 41 birds. Most records from the coast, but recorded from 5 inland localities. Monthly totals were:

Apr.	3	May	9	June	23	July	82	Aug.	71	Sept.	26	Oct.	1
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*See also wader count tables page 55

161. **REDSHANK***.—Two flew in SE-NW. at Rye Harbour on July 17th.

Breeding Survey

Full results of the 1965 survey are tabulated below. The total of 118-123 pairs represents a small increase of c.5 pairs in those areas visited in 1964 and '65. The figures for the Amberley/Pulborough marshes, the Adur Levels and Pevensey Levels are based on single counts made in late May or June. June is possibly rather late to count breeding Redshank and these figures may, therefore, be rather low. No information on breeding success was recorded.

Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of Pairs	Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of Pairs
Chichester Harbour	Thorney Island Chidham Fishbourne Creek and S.F. Manhood End	c.10 1 c.8 2	Leves Brooks Cuckmere Valley Pevensey Levels	c.2sq. miles All N. to Alfriston	4-6 3
Selsey-Stidlesham Erly- Bracklesham	All suitable	c.19		Whelpley- Dyke Manxey Level/ Pevensey Haven Marshes E. of Pevensey-Bore- ham Street Road	3 0
Pagham Harbour	Marshes behind North Wall	c.10	Rye Marsh and Harbour	All area	9-10 15
Amberley/ Pulborough	All marshes Am- berley Pulborough E. of River	9	Midrips/Wicks	All area	3
Adur Levels	All marshes from Shoreham Toll Bridge to Wyck- ham Farm	14-16	Harting Chichester G.P. Barcombe Mills		4 1 3
TOTAL					118-123

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK***.—At the beginning of the year single birds wintering in Chichester Harbour, the Pagham/Selsey area and at Shoreham. Few spring records. Autumn passage first recorded on June 27th and continued until mid-November. Peak periods were the third week of August, c.51 birds, and the second week of October, c.55 birds, which included a flock of 52 at Thorney on Oct. 10th (ABS). Inland records were of 3 single birds at Chichester G.P. between Aug. 13th and Sept. 23rd and one at Glynde on Sept. 18th. Monthly totals were:

Apr.	3	May	1	June	2	July	3	Aug.	60	Sept.	16	Oct.	55	Nov.	5
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165. **GREENSHANK***.—In February one at Pilsey on 7th and one at Church Norton on 28th. In December one at Pagham from 3rd to 10th.

Spring passage from Apr. 4th to June 5th when 2 at Chichester G.P. Autumn passage from June 20th to end of November. Peak period was the second week in September, c.90 birds. Reported quite widely inland with records from Chichester G.P., Pulborough marshes, Lewes, Barcombe Mills, Weir Wood Res., Wilmington, Darwell Res., and Pevensey Levels. Monthly totals were:

Apr.	3	May	7	June	8	July	56	Aug.	85	Sept.	104	Oct.	56	Nov.	9
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*See also wader count tables page 55

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER.—One at Sidlesham Ferry from Feb. 14th to Mar. 15th (LGH, BAEM, RFP, MS *et al.*). This record is the first for the county and has been accepted by *Brit. B.* Full details have been retained on the Society's files.

DOWITCHER SP.—One at Chidham on Apr. 4th (RFP). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

169. KNOT*.—Many calling at Beachy Head at 2100 hrs. G.M.T. on Apr. 23rd. On May 1st, c.40 E. there and 27 E. off Selsey Bill. Three E. off Beachy Head on June 5th. One at the Wicks on June 9th, and single birds in Chichester and Pagham Harbours on 13th.

170. PURPLE SANDPIPER.—All records were: one at Pagham until Mar. 13th and up to 10 at Newhaven until April. Three at Goring on Oct. 31st and 2 there on Nov. 6th, one at Selsey on 7th. In December, one at Pagham throughout the month, one at Climping on 11th, 5 at Bulverhythe on 11th and 3 there on 14th, 10 at Newhaven on 11th and 8 there on the 30th.

171. LITTLE STINT*.—Two at Pilsey on Mar. 21st (MH). In July single birds at Rye Harbour on 21st (RHC) and Sidlesham Ferry on 31st (MS). Otherwise c.33 on autumn passage between Aug. 9th and Oct. 10th, all from the coast. One with an injured foot at Pagham from Dec. 1st to 20th (LGH, WWAP, *et al.*) and one at Pilsey on Dec. 11th (MH).

178. DUNLIN*.—At Pilsey there were c.12,000 on Feb. 7th and c.6,000 on Mar. 7th. C.2,000 at Fishbourne on Feb. 27th. One at Weir Wood Res. on Feb. 28th and 3 there on Mar. 20th. One came in from the S. at Selsey Bill on Apr. 19th and one likewise on May 9th. On May 1st, 23 E. there, with 5 the following day. On May 1st, 66 E. off Beachy Head and one at Weir Wood Res.; 3 E. off Beachy Head on May 2nd. Inland records in the autumn were one at Chichester G.P. on July 3rd, 11 at Weir Wood Res. on 27th and 5 on 31st. In the latter locality present on 10 dates in August, maximum 16 on the 23rd.

179. CURLEW SANDPIPER*.—No spring records. In July, one at Rye Harbour on 21st. Otherwise c.8 on autumn passage at the coast between Aug. 27th and Oct. 31st, including one W. off Langney Point on Sept. 14th.

181. SANDERLING*.—At the beginning of the year 48 at Climping on Feb. 14th and 20 at Camber on Mar. 30th. In the spring 51 E. at Beachy Head between Apr. 30th and May 2nd, most 42 on the 1st. At Selsey Bill 14 E. on May 1st with 4 the following day and 32 W. on May 9th. Six at Pilsey on June 13th and 2 in s/p W. off Selsey Bill on 26th. One at Weir Wood Res. on Aug. 1st (BEC, SG, AQ) the second inland record for the county.

184. RUFF*.—Recorded in every month of the year, monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7	35	53	36	8	1	3	10	95	20	2	15

Spring passage lasted from about Feb. 20th to May 16th with a maximum of c.45 at Manhood End on Mar. 24th (MS). One at the Wicks on June 30th.

*See also wader count tables page 55

Otherwise autumn passage first recorded on July 4th. Peak period was the first half of September with maxima of c.40 at Sidlesham Ferry on 3rd (MS), 17 at Chichester G.P. on 12th, and 23 at Glynde on 18th (DCL).

185. AVOGET.—In May one flew E. at the Wicks on the 2nd (EC) and one at Chichester G.P. on the 23rd (WWAP, JVS). One in the Pagham/Sidlesham area from June 14th to 27th (many obs.) and one at the Wicks on June 23rd (RHC). Two in Pagham Harbour from Dec. 11th to the end of the year (LGH, MS, *et al.*).

187. GREY PHALAROPE.—One on the sea close in off Langney Point on Nov. 1st (RHC). One at Pagham on Nov. 30th (WWAP).

188. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.—A male in s/p in a shallow ditch on Amberley Wildbrooks on June 12th and 13th (MJH, ARK, BAEM, RFP, AR, IRW). Full details, including sketches and photographs were received. This is the first June record for the County and there are only 4 previous spring records. Inland records are also most unusual.

One at the Wicks on Aug. 28th (HARC, MLRR).

189. STONE CURLEW.—Only 3 of the regular breeding areas reported on and, as in 1964, each held one pair.

193. ARCTIC SKUA.—First recorded on Mar. 27th when one off Beachy Head (MJH, ARK, IRW). During April and May 9 E. and 6 W. off Selsey Bill in 16 days observation and 23 E. off Beachy Head in 25 days observation. Peak movement was 8 E. off Selsey Bill and 10 E. off Beachy Head on May 1st. In June up to 3 off Selsey Bill between 16th and 27th and 4 E. together off Brighton on 23rd. One E. off Langney Point on July 1st.

In the autumn c.52 along the coast between Aug. 7th and Oct. 9th; the maximum on any day was 14 W. off Langney Point on Aug. 26th. One W. off Selsey Bill on Nov. 7th (CEH).

194. GREAT SKUA.—Seven E. off Beachy Head during the spring as follows: one on Apr. 10th (MJH, ARK, IRW), 2 on the 17th (MJH, ARK), 3 on May 1st (MJH, ARK, IRW), and one on the 23rd (MJH, ARK, BAEM, RFP, IRW), the latest spring record for the county. In the autumn, one W. off Selsey Bill on Aug. 30th (ETW).

195. POMARINE SKUA.—Three E. off Selsey Bill on May 1st (BAEM, HPM, RFP). On the 2nd a party of 6 off Birling Gap for about an hour, 2 of which eventually departed E. (BEC, MJH, ARK, AQ, IRW, *et al.*). Three E. together at Beachy Head on May 7th (ARK).

198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL.—Inland in the early months of the year single birds near Glynde on Jan. 23rd and at Barcombe on Feb. 20th, 2 flying E. over Haywards Heath on Feb. 3rd and 3 likewise on Mar. 4th. At the end of the year, c.200 at Brooklands Worthing was the largest concentration reported. Inland, one flying S. over Haywards Heath on Dec. 6th and one SW. there on the 13th.

199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.—During Jan. and Feb. a total of 15 recorded from 7 localities. Poor spring passage with only 15 E. and 6 W.

off Selsey Bill in 24 days observation between Mar. 13th and May 9th, and 20 E. off Beachy Head on Mar. 20th and Apr. 24th. In June 61 SW. off Selsey Bill on 19th and 21 W. there on the 26th.

During the period July to October 144 flew W. and 206 SW. in 38 days observation at Selsey Bill and 640 W. off Beachy Head in 58 days observation. On Aug. 15th c.600, mainly adults, at Chichester G.P. (BAEM, RFP). In December 9 birds recorded from 3 localities and a quite exceptional record of c.100 at Itchingfield, near Horsham, on the 26th (CMJ).

200. HERRING GULL.—A complete census of the breeding population was carried out. The estimate of the total population was c.790 pairs and full details will be found on page 56.

A well marked W. passage at Beachy Head in the early autumn with c.1,250 on July 31st and c.1,000 on Aug. 1st. The majority were adults. Similar movements were not recorded off Selsey Bill on these days although the area was covered.

201. COMMON GULL.—In spring E. passage of immature birds at Beachy Head, with c.3,000 on Apr. 17th and c.500 on May 2nd. Smaller movements continued throughout May. In the autumn, only small numbers off Selsey Bill and Beachy Head until October, but a flock of c.2,000, mainly adults, at Chichester G.P. on Aug. 15th (MJH, BAEM, RFP). On Oct. 9th c.400 E. off Selsey Bill.

202. GLAUCOUS GULL.—An adult flying over the Cuckmere on Jan. 5th (IRW) and an adult on Shoreham Beach on Mar. 14th (PC).

205. MEDITERRANEAN GULL.—A second-winter bird at Selsey on Jan. 10th (ARK) and an adult at Sidlesham Ferry from Feb. 20th to 28th (many obs.). A second-winter bird at Brighton on Jan. 23rd (MJH) and a near adult at Rottingdean on Mar. 4th (ARK). A near adult at Newhaven on Apr. 14th (RHC) and an adult at Sidlesham on the 21st (JVS). Three spring records from Beachy Head, single birds flying E. there on Apr. 10th, sub-adult, and May 8th, immature (MJH, ARK, IRW) and on May 29th, immature (ARK, RFP).

Two adults at Beachy Head in the autumn, flying W. on Aug. 8th (ARK, BAEM) and on Sept. 2nd (BEC). A first-winter bird at Porto Bello, Brighton, on Sept. 25th (ABS) and an adult at Sidlesham, following the plough with Black-headed Gulls on Oct. 14th and 19th (MS).

207. LITTLE GULL.—On May 1st, 3 E. off Selsey Bill and one at Chichester G.P. which was still present the next day. In the autumn single birds off Langney Point on Aug. 21st and at Porto Bello, Brighton, on the 29th. In September, 3 at Pett Level Pools and one at Camber on the 8th; single birds off Selsey Bill, Porto Bello, and Langney Point on the 18th and 2 off Selsey Bill the following day; one off Holywell on the 21st; one off Porto Bello and one off Southwick on the 25th; on the 26th one at Langney Point and one near Greatham Bridge (RJS), inland records are unusual. One off Langney Point on Nov. 20th.

208. BLACK-HEADED GULL.—One in complete s/p at Selsey on Jan. 9th. A roosting flight of c.5,000 at Brighton on Jan. 23rd (MJH). Spring passage at Beachy Head between Apr. 11th and May 12th with a total of 460 E., peak being 120 E. on Apr. 17th.

At Rye Harbour G.P. c.100 young were raised by c.300 pairs. On July

17th c.1,700 were present at Thorney. Up to 500 at Selsey during the autumn and c.500 E. there on Oct. 10th and up to c.1,000 there during December. Counts of the large wintering flocks elsewhere along the coastline would be welcome.

211. KITTIWAKE.—Between about Mar. 20th and May 30th c.49 E. and c.11 W. at the coast. One picked up dead at Lavington Common on May 9th (BAEM, RFP). C.15 offshore during June and 16 W. off Selsey Bill on June 26th. Autumn passage was also small with c.43 W. and 1 E. to the end of November. In December, 40 E. off Selsey Bill in one hour on the 5th and 14 W. there on the 12th.

212. BLACK TERN.—First recorded on Apr. 30th at Beachy Head. On May 1st a very large movement took place. At Selsey Bill, 342 flew E., mainly during the afternoon. During the same period, c.300 arrived from the W. at Chichester G.P. and departed NE. and c.70 flew E. over Pagham. Thirty E. off Ferring in an hour during the evening when there were also 27 at Burton Pond. Very few were noted at Beachy Head with only 20 flying E., but 9 came in from the SW. and 9 from the S. and departed N. very high. On May 3rd, c.100+ at Chichester G.P. Only c.10 other birds occurred in the spring and none after May 12th.

Single birds off Langney Point, flying E. on July 1st, and off Rye Harbour on the 17th. Between Aug. 8th and Sept. 28th small numbers at many places along the coast, with maxima of 7 off Langney Point on Aug. 14th and 16 at Pett Level on Sept. 12th. Inland recorded at Chichester G.P., Pond Leigh, Weir Wood and Darwell Res. One feeding off Selsey Bill on Oct. 30th (HPKR), a very late date.

215. GULL-BILLED TERN.—Single birds off Selsey Bill on May 29th (BK, JCR), June 12th and 13th (RJJ, HPKR). One off Langney Point on July 1st (DDH) and 5th (RHC) with 2 there on the 13th (DDH). One off Holywell, Eastbourne, on Aug. 20th (DDH). All these records have been accepted by Brit. B.

217. COMMON TERN.—C.47 pairs bred at Rye Harbour G.P. Breeding success was fairly good, most pairs bringing off some young. On July 17th 170 were present.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN.—First recorded on Mar. 31st when 2 E. off Seaford Head. Spring movement was largely concentrated in the period Apr. 30th to May 2nd. On May 1st, c.2,670 (out of a spring total of c.2,900) flew E. off Selsey Bill and c.4,180 (out of a spring total of c.4,680) likewise off Beachy Head. In June, c.170 in the Pagham/Selsey area and 110 at Pilsey on the 27th.

During August and September 530 W. at Selsey Bill in 20 days observation, peaks of 205 on Aug. 28th and 60 on Sept. 18th. At Beachy Head 1,155 W. between July 3rd and Oct. 9th in 50 days observation. Inland, a flock of 22 at Darwell Res. on Sept. 26th. One flying E. at Langney Point on Nov. 1st was the last recorded.

219. ROSEATE TERN.—One flew E. off Selsey Bill on May 1st (REG, BAEM, RFP). In July, one E. off Langney Point on the 8th (DDH), one W. there on the 11th (RHC) and 3 at Rye Harbour G.P. on the 21st (RHC). In August, single birds off Langney Point on the 11th (DDH) and flying W. off Selsey on the 30th (ETW). A juvenile off Langney Point on Sept. 18th (DDH) and an adult there on the 30th (RHC), the latest autumn date for the county.

222. **LITTLE TERN**.—First recorded on Apr. 24th at Beachy Head. Spring movements were very small with peaks of 40 E. off Selsey Bill and 14 likewise off Beachy Head on May 2nd. Breeding season records were: Chichester Harbour; c.20 adults fishing off Pilsey on June 27th probably came from the ternery in Thorney Channel and 2 pairs were feeding young at Thorney on Aug. 8th. Pagham Harbour; c.21-26 pairs, breeding success poor but a few young were certainly hatched. Chichester G.P.; a pair throughout June may have attempted breeding. Rye Harbour; c.10-11 pairs. Midrips-Wicks; 15 pairs some certainly rearing young.

Autumn movements very small; at Selsey Bill 50 W. in 9 days in August and none in September and only one recorded from Beachy Head. One in Seaford Bay on Oct. 14th (HJH), a very late date.

223. **SANDWICH TERN**.—One in Pagham Harbour on Mar. 11th (PC). In the spring, 520 E. off Beachy Head in 25 days observation between Mar. 27th and May 23rd with a peak of 133 E. on May 1st. No significant movement at Selsey Bill before May 1st when 140 E. with 150 E. the following day and very few thereafter. Small numbers along the coast throughout June with a maximum of 25 off Selsey Bill on the 20th.

In the autumn 66 E. and 122 W. off Selsey Bill in 28 days observation between July 3rd and the end of September. At Beachy Head, 74 E. and 215 W. in 47 days observation in the same period. Two at Pagham on Oct. 3rd were the last recorded.

224. **RAZORBILL**.—June records were one E. off Peacehaven and one off Brighton on the 23rd and 2 W. off Selsey Bill on the 13th. A partially oiled bird at Chichester G.P. on Dec. 16th (JVS).

227. **GUILLEMOT**.—One of the race *atige* found dead at Pagham on Jan. 22nd and Mar. 18th and an oiled bird there showing the characters of this race on Nov. 29th (WWAP).

229. **BLACK GUILLEMOT**.—An oiled bird off Selsey Bill on Apr. 20th (RJJ). The first spring record for the county. A full description has been provided.

232. **STOCK DOVE**.—Winter flocks recorded in the early part of the year were c.175 at Rye Harbour on Jan. 2nd, c.60 there on Feb. 7th and 10 on the Downs near Heighton on Jan. 5th where 120 had been present in late 1964. In the breeding season 14 recorded from 6 out of 19 woodland survey areas. Analysis of the figures suggests little change from 1964. Elsewhere birds recorded from Thorney Island, Chidham, Charlton Forest (30 on June 28th), Burton Park, Wiggonholt, Beeding Levels, Newtimber, East Dean in E. Sussex, Pevensey Levels, Hastings Cliffs with 10 pairs near Lover's Seat, and Rye Harbour (20 on June 6th).

234. **WOOD PIGEON**.—At Selsey Bill, 7 out SE. on Jan. 3rd and 3 out S. and 8 came in S-N. on Apr. 3rd. In June, 2 out S. there on the 19th, 2 out SW. on the 20th and 2 out S. on the 26th. In November, a flock of c.700 out SE. on the 13th and 9 likewise on the 14th when c.250 also came in S-N. and 120 flew NW. At Beachy Head, c.700 came in from the S. and departed NW. on Nov. 28th.

235. **TURTLE DOVE**.—First recorded on May 1st when one at Hammer Pond. Spring numbers at Selsey Bill and Beachy Head were small, with maxima

of 6 at Beachy Head on May 15th and 8 at Selsey Bill the next day.

In autumn, the maximum at Selsey Bill was 12 on Aug. 28th. At Beachy Head not more than 6 recorded on any day up to Oct. 3rd. One at Belle Tout on Nov. 7th (MHP), the latest autumn date for the county.

COLLARED DOVE.—Spring arrivals were: 7 in from S. at Belle Tout at 0530 hrs. G.M.T. on May 15th (RFP, IRW). Three flew N. over Selsey Bill at 0415 hrs. G.M.T. and 3 arrived from the S. there at 0440 hrs. G.M.T. on May 29th.

Recorded in breeding season from the following localities:—Selsey, c.15-20 pairs; Aldwick Bay, one pair in April; Bognor, one pair; Felpham, several pairs nested; Amberley, 3 on June 12th; Henfield, seen displaying over High Street; Bramber, one calling on May 9th; Burgess Hill, one in May and Sept.; Patcham, at least 15 pairs; Ditchling, one pair; East Grinstead, 2 calling; Plumpton, one pair; Seaford, 2-3 birds; Eastbourne, at least 5 pairs but probably more in view of autumn numbers at Beachy Head. No breeding season information was received from West Wittering where the species first bred in the county or for the Little Common/St. Leonard's and Littlehampton colonies.

Autumn and winter flocks are probably a good indication of the total population from nearby areas. Flocks of more than 10 were: 20 at Climping on Dec. 11th, c.12 at Steyning in December, c.30 at Seaford Golf Course on Oct. 21st and c.100 at Beachy Head on Oct. 24th.

A paper on the spread and distribution of this species will be included in the 1966 Report. Observers are requested to send in all records for 1966. Counts of the breeding pairs of an entire village or town would be very welcome.

237. **CUCKOO**.—A late bird at Sidlesham Ferry on Sept. 28th (HDM).

Owl Species.—Please note that all records are very urgently required.

241. **BARN OWL**.—Six breeding pairs recorded as follows: Old Park Wood, one; Harting, one; Pulborough, one, which probably reared young successfully; Worthing, one reared 3 young; Bishopstone, one with a nest of 3 eggs which was robbed; Horsebridge, one. Also present in the breeding season at Selsey, in 4 sites at Sidlesham, at Hunston where a pair seen on June 26th and at Ringmer where a pair present throughout the year. At other times of the year birds were recorded at Angmering, Knepp, Southwick, Lewes, Glynde and the Cuckmere Valley.

246. **LITTLE OWL**.—Breeding pairs recorded as follows: Sidlesham, at least 8 in the parish; Fontwell, one reared at least one young; West Chiltington, one; Ringmer, one; Bishopstone, 3, some of which certainly reared young. Also present in the breeding season at Charlton Forest (SU898148), Norton, near Fontwell, Ambersham Common and Beachy Head. None recorded from 19 woodland survey areas. Outside the breeding season recorded from West Wittering, Aldingbourne, Parham Park, Southwick, Cornish Farm at Beachy Head and Pevensey Levels.

247. **TAWNY OWL**.—Breeding pairs recorded as follows: Sidlesham, 4 in the parish, one reared 2 young; Aldwick, one; Pulborough, at least one; West Chiltington, one reared at least one young; Worthing, one; Horsham, 2 or 3; Stanmer Park, 3, all reared young; Ringmer, one; Bishopstone, one; Glynde, one reared 2 young; Alfriston, one reared 3 young and Westdean, E. Sussex, one reared 3 young. Also stated to be common in St. Leonard's Forest by SWMH and WDH. Elsewhere recorded from Church Norton, Selsey,

Blackdown, Kingley Vale, Iping Common, Eartham Wood a pair, Flexham Park, Southwick, Barcombe Mills and Beachy Head.

248. **LONG-EARED OWL**.—One at Beachy Head on Mar. 7th (BEC, SG, AQ, KV).

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL**.—Fairly widely recorded at both ends of the year. The largest numbers at the beginning of the year were up to 6 in the Rye area until Mar. 7th and 5 at Pevensey Levels on Feb. 21st and Mar. 12th. A late bird at Church Norton on May 12th.

One flew out SE. at Beachy Head on Sept. 12th. Most together at the end of the year were 5 at Chantonbury on Nov. 15th. Other inland records were: one at Duncton on Nov. 13th and 3 at Amberley Wildbrooks on Dec. 19th and 2 on 27th. Monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7	13	16	1	1	7	5	10	9

252. **NIGHTJAR**.—All breeding season records are given and all such records would be most welcome. On June 12th, 9 pairs estimated at Iping Common. A pair bred near Cissbury rearing at least one young. Two at Washington on June 2nd, a male at Worth Priory on June 27th and an injured bird at Selhurst Park on Aug. 10th.

255. **SWIFT**.—Spring arrival was first recorded on May 1st at Selsey Bill, Weir Wood Res., and Beachy Head. On May 29th, CMJ found 22 dead birds along a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile length of the Chichester by-pass by the gravel pits.

June departures were 2 S. at Selsey Bill on 19th, 150 SW. at Langney Point on 22nd and 15 S. at Selsey Bill on 26th. On Aug. 7th c.300 came in from the SE. and passed W. at Beachy Head and late birds there were 2 on Sept. 25th and one on the 27th.

256. **ALPINE SWIFT**.—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 7th (RFP, IRW). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* and is the fourth for the county.

258. **KINGFISHER**.—Only four recorded from the coast and 2 inland in the first 3 months of the year. One, possibly 2 pairs bred at Chichester G.P. and CRG ringed one adult and 10 first-winter birds there in August and September. Elsewhere in the breeding season, a pair at Fishbourne and single birds along the Arun near Arundel, at Burton Pond, in Worth Forest, at Balcombe Lake, Weir Wood Res., Littleton, Darwell Res. and Powdermill House.

In the autumn one came in from the W. and was watched flying out SW. until lost to sight at Brighton on July 23rd (RFP) and single birds flew W. at Selsey on Aug. 15th and S-N, over the Crumbles on the 29th. Otherwise between August and December c.20 recorded from 12 coastal and 4 inland localities. All records of this species would be welcomed.

267. **HOOPOE**.—In April single birds at Beachy Head on 3rd and 4th (TB, MJH, IRW), Manhood End on the 4th (ETW), Little Common on 6th (LEH) and Chichester G.P. on the 13th (JVS). One at Weir Wood Res. on May 16th (JDO). In the autumn single birds at Beachy Head on July 29th (TB), Chichester on Aug. 16th and 17th (DMJ), Bosham on Sept. 2nd (per HJAB) and Newhaven Tidemills on 23rd (BAG).

Woodpeckers.—Breeding season records of all woodpecker species would be welcome.

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER**.—One at Beachy Head on Apr. 5th and one trapped on Aug. 26th. Recorded in 10 out of 19 woodland survey areas with 36 contacts; analysis of the figures shows no change in status from 1964. AWF reported it scarce in Stansted Park during the year.

263. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER**.—At Beachy Head 2 on Apr. 11th, one coasting E. on Aug. 14th, and one on Sept. 16th and 28th.

The woodland survey figures indicate an increase over 1964 with 64 contacts in 13 out of 19 areas compared with 25 contacts in 6 out of 20 in 1964.

264. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER**.—During the breeding season single birds at Summersdale, Chichester G.P., Charlton Forest and a pair present at Cross-in-Hand. Outside the breeding season one at Newhaven Tidemills on Jan. 24th and one in Friston Forest on Oct. 13th.

265. **WRYNECK**.—One in Clapham Woods on Apr. 21st (MH), one at the Severals, Church Norton, on May 1st and 2nd (LGH, BAEM, *et al.*). Single birds recorded in one inland locality on May 26th and 27th and in another from July 31st to August 12th but there was no evidence of any attempt at breeding.

More autumn records than usual. One at Midhurst on Sept. 6th (JGH *et al.*) and one at Horsham on 7th (per SWMH). Two at the Severals, Church Norton, on Sept. 19th and 20th (GRG, LGH, BM, HPKR, ETW, *et al.*) and one still there on 26th (MS). In the Beachy Head area, 2 on Sept. 5th (DDH, IRW), one trapped on 7th (BEC, MEN), one unringed on 11th and 12th (BEC, AQ, MR, *et al.*), one trapped on 14th (DDH), two—one trapped—on 19th (BEC, PC, DDH, AQ, KV) and one on Oct. 15th (ARK), a very late date.

271. **WOODLARK**.—A party of 6 at Sidlesham from Jan. 21st to Mar. 7th were joined by 6 more on the latter date after the cold weather of Mar. 4th. The party of 12 remained until Mar. 12th (MS). Two flew W. at Rottingdean on Mar. 4th (ARK) and 2 likewise at Beachy Head on the 14th (BEC).

Three breeding pairs located on 2 of the W. Sussex commons and a pair in Charlton Forest. MJH searched an area of St. Leonard's Forest where several pairs were breeding in 1962 but located none. Not recorded in the woodland surveys. All breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

In autumn single birds at Church Norton on Sept. 28th (LGH) and Selsey Bill on Nov. 7th (PGHF, ETW). Three at Middleton-on-Sea on Oct. 5th (LGH) and 2 at Chichester G.P. on Dec. 27th (ETW).

272. **SKYLARK**.—Apart from small numbers in the cold weather movements of Mar. 4th and 5th little spring movement noted. Nine breeding pairs on 200 acres of farmland at Sidlesham and 4 pairs on 137 acres of farmland at Plumpton.

In the autumn numbers at Selsey Bill increased from c.10 to c.180 in October and to c.250 in December. Movements were 45 out SE/SW. and 24 in S-N. during October. At Beachy Head numbers in the area increased from c.20 to c.180 on Sept. 4th with further influxes of c.200 on Oct. 23rd and c.150 on Nov. 21st. Movements were 129 E., 9 W., 131 out S/SW. and 16 in S-N. between Sept. 21st and Oct. 31st.

274. **SWALLOW**.—First spring arrivals were rather early with records from 7 localities in the last four days of March. The largest spring movements were 260 S-N. at Beachy Head on May 1st and 80 S-N. at Selsey Bill on May 8th. In the autumn peak movements at Selsey Bill were 670 E. on Sept. 13th and c.12,700 out SE/SW. on 23rd; at Beachy Head c.30,000 W. on Sept. 12th and c.30,000 E. on 27th. On Sept. 11th c.4,000 flew S. over Possingworth Park in 1½ hours. See also table below.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN**.—One at Selsey Bill on Apr. 4th. No other April records. The largest spring movements were 8 S-N. at Selsey Bill and 40 likewise at Beachy Head on May 8th. A pair still feeding young at Plumpton on Sept. 28th. In the autumn peak movements at Selsey Bill were c.740 E. on Sept. 19th and c.1,420 out SE/SW. on 23rd; at Beachy Head c.8,000 W. on Sept. 12th and c.10,000 W. on 29th. One at Selsey on Nov. 28th (ETW). See also table below.

277. **SAND MARTIN**.—Small spring movements only at Selsey Bill and Beachy Head with maxima of 28 in S-N. at Selsey Bill and 50 likewise at Beachy Head on May 1st. At Chichester G.P. c.70 on Apr. 4th and c.100+ on 11th.

In June RFP counted c.100 birds at breeding colonies at Heath End sandpit and Midhurst Common, c.300 birds at Stedham Common and c.20 pairs at Nook Beach, Rye. Information about breeding colonies of this species would be welcomed.

In the autumn peak movements at Selsey Bill were c.3,680 W. on Aug. 28th and c.2,000 out SE/SW. on Sept. 23rd; at Beachy Head c.500 W. on Aug. 1st. One at Beachy Head on Oct. 17th. See also table below.

AUTUMN MOVEMENTS OF HIRUNDINES AT COASTAL STATIONS

	SELEY BILL		BEACHY HEAD	
	(Days obs. in Sept., 10 in Oct.)	(Days obs. in Aug., 11 in Sept., 11 in Oct.)	E. W.	S.
August				
Swallow	510	14	200	600
House Martin	270	—	—	—
Sand Martin	3680	184	—	500 40
September				
Swallow	717	188 16550	92	35000 30000
House Martin	1080	586 1848	—	1150 20000
Sand Martin	80	40 2148	—	800 800
October				
Swallow	—	4 1013	—	1030 600
House Martin	—	25 42	—	60 400
Sand Martin	—	—	—	—

(None seen moving N.)

278. **GOLDEN ORIOLE**.—A pair present in the NW. of the county during the breeding season probably attempted to breed. Single males also seen and heard near West Stoke on May 29th (HJAB) and at Earnley on June 29th and 30th (JVS, MS).

280. **CARRION CROW**.—In the spring at Selsey Bill, one out S. on Mar. 6th, 2 in SW-NE. on Apr. 18th and one S-N. on May 2nd. At Beachy Head, 7 out SW. on Apr. 16th and 2 out S. on the 18th.

281. **HOODED CROW**.—Single birds near Eastbourne on Jan. 4th (RG), at Sidlesham Ferry on Feb. 26th (MH) and at Selsey on May 30th which flew off NW. (RJJ, BAEM).

282. **ROOK**.—MS counted 1,340 occupied nests in 34 Rookeries in the parishes of Selsey, Sidlesham, Earnley, Wittering, Paghham, Hunston, Donnington and Birdham. Full details have been placed on the Society's files. Information and counts of Rookeries would be welcome.

283. **JACKDAW**.—A roost near Birling Farm, East Dean, contained c.350 birds in mid-April and c.800 on Sept. 24th (IRW). Between 1,000 and 1,300 in a roost at Possingworth Park during the last 2 weeks of October (GM).

288. **GREAT TIT**.—Analysis of the woodland survey indicated a small but general increase in numbers over 1964.

289. **BLUE TIT**.—Analysis of the woodland survey indicated no change in status from 1964. On Jan. 3rd c.150 on the cliff-top at Beachy Head. Autumn influxes there were c.100 at Belle Tout on Sept. 27th and up to c.45 during the first week of October; there was a general trend of movement E. Smaller influxes were c.40 on Oct. 24th and c.35 on Nov. 28th. At Selsey Bill c.45 were present on Oct. 2nd.

290. **COAL TIT**.—At Beachy Head, c.20 recorded between Aug. 30th and Oct. 5th.

293. **WILLOW TIT**.—Recorded in the breeding season from Iping Common, Blackdown, Hainaker, West Chiltoning, Westdene where a nest found on May 6th, and Worth Forest. Outside the breeding season recorded at Patcham, Balcombe, Weir Wood Res., and Newtimber Hill where there were 12 on Aug. 31st (RFP, IRW). All breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT**.—A marked increase recorded in the woodland survey with c.40 contacts in 7 out of 19 survey areas in 1965 compared with 14 in one out of 20 in 1964.

295. **BEARDED TIT**.—At the beginning of the year, 2 at the Severals, Church Norton, until Feb. 28th and one until Mar. 28th (many obs.). Up to 7 at the Crumbles until Feb. 3rd (RHC, PJW, VAW). Two at Pett Level on Mar. 30th (DE) with 4 there on Apr. 4th (RHC) and 2 still present on the 6th (JAW).

A considerable influx in the autumn, all records were: Severals, Church Norton, 2 on Oct. 16th and present until the end of the year with 4 from Dec. 11th (HPKR, ETW, *et al.*). Paghham, one on Oct. 15th increasing to 6 by Nov. 5th and 2 still present on the 23rd (WWAP). Chichester G.P., one on Oct. 18th and a steady increase to c.12 by Dec. 27th which remained until the end of the year (BM, JVS, *et al.*). Pond Leigh, 2 on Dec. 20th and 4 on the 25th (JAW). Newhaven Tidemills, 2 on Oct. 31st (RHC). Lower Cuckmere, 2 on Oct. 24th and 8 on 25th and 27th (RHC, GAS). Darwell, 4 on Oct. 13th flew off W. high when flushed (RVW). Pett Level, c.4 on Nov. 10th and 2 still present on the 28th (BEC, RHC, PC).

299. **WREN**.—Most observers record a continued recovery from the effects of the winter of 1962/63. Analysis of the woodland survey showed a considerable

increase on the Downs and in the Weald, except on the greensand belt where there was no change indicated. Elsewhere the figures suggested as much as a threefold increase in some areas compared with 1964.

301. MISTLE THRUSH.—At Selsey Bill single birds flew out S. until lost to sight on Mar. 13th and 14th. Analysis of the woodland survey suggests a limited increase; recorded in 17 out of 19 areas in 1965 compared with 9 out of 20 in 1964, although the increase in contacts was not very great.

A flock of c.250 at Cissbury on Aug. 28th (MAJ), flocks of this size are most unusual. Autumn movements at Selsey Bill were 15 W. and 7 out SW. on Nov. 28th; at Beachy Head an increase from c.25 to c.50 on Nov. 21st, only 5 there on Nov. 28th.

302. FIELDFARE.—On Feb. 21st c.500 at Chidham. A large cold weather movement on Mar. 4th with c.2,400 W. in 3 hours at Rottingdean, c.1,000 W. at Brighton in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour and many moving W. at Aldwick; on 5th 140 W. at Brighton in 2 hours. A flock of c.800-1,000 at Sidlesham on 6th. At Beachy Head an increase from c.12 to c.100 on Mar. 14th, when one out SE. at Selsey Bill, and a very late bird on May 2nd.

One on Pevensey Levels on Aug. 30th (KV), the earliest autumn record for the county; otherwise first recorded in the autumn on Oct. 3rd. In November c.100 on Rackham Hill on 12th, 42 W. at Selsey Bill on 13th and c.500 at Beachy Head on 21st, included 120 arriving from the SW.; only 20 there on 28th.

303. SONG THRUSH.—On Mar. 4th one came in from the S. at Brighton and odd birds were moving W. there on 5th with other *turdidae*.

In the autumn increases from the usual c.10 at Beachy Head to c.30 on Sept. 10th, c.40 on Sept. 25th, c.100 on Oct. 2nd and c.60 on Nov. 7th. On Oct. 5th an increase from c.2 to c.40 on Newtimber Hill.

304. REDWING.—During cold weather movements on Mar. 4th c.4,200 W. in 3 hours at Rottingdean and c.2,000 W. at Brighton in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour; many also moving W. at Aldwick. On the 5th c.100 W. at Brighton in 2 hours. One at Selsey Bill on Apr. 30th (HPM), a very late date.

First recorded in the autumn on Oct. 2nd, and 80+ at Magham Down on 9th. On Oct. 24th 50 came in from the sea at Beachy Head and c.100 there on Nov. 21st.

307. RING OUZEL.—Three at Hollingbury on Mar. 30th and one on the Downs at Harting on the same date. One at Selsey Bill on Apr. 4th. Four on 3 dates in April at Beachy Head.

Considerable numbers in the autumn. Apart from Beachy Head c.45 recorded between Sept. 18th and Nov. 4th. Maximum 16 at Woodingdean on Oct. 12th. At Beachy Head c.35 recorded between Aug. 30th and Sept. 29th, and on Oct. 2nd c.150 in the area, including a flock of c.70. On Oct. 3rd c.70 still present, decreasing to 25 on the 5th. Four records of 5 birds between Nov. 21st and 28th, when the last was seen at Beachy Head, a very late date.

308. BLACKBIRD.—On Feb. 21st c.100 at Chidham (RFP), see 1964 Report. A nest with young at Selsey on Feb. 25th, the young died before fledging. At Beachy Head c.70 on Jan. 23rd and c.45 on Mar. 7th; in the autumn there was an increase from c.30 to c.60 on Oct. 2nd. An influx of c.70 at Selsey Bill on Oct. 24th.

311. WHEATEAR.—First recorded at Beachy Head on Mar. 21st. Spring maxima were c.27 at Selsey Bill on Mar. 28th and c.45 at Beachy Head the same day.

Breeding was recorded only at Rye Harbour, where 11 pairs were counted on June 6th, and at the Midrips/Wicks, where there were 6 pairs. Absent from the chalk cliffs.

Autumn passage between July 29th and Oct. 24th with peaks of c.24 at Selsey Bill and c.30 at Cissbury on Aug. 29th and 60— at Beachy Head on Sept. 12th.

317. STONECHAT.—During the early part of the year up to 7 wintering in the Selsey area, 4 at Cissbury and 3 at Shoreham.

Although the breeding position was not fully investigated the records suggest a further increase over 1964 with records from at least 4 areas where there were none in that year. Breeding pairs were: Iping Common 3, 2 with young, May 26th; Newmarket Hill/Woodingdean 2 with flying young May 24th; Friars Bay/Newhaven Head 4; Seaford Head 2; Crowlink-Holywell 9; Fairlight 1 with young June 7th. None recorded on the Seven Sisters, Lullington Heath or at Jevington. G des F and DS found a female carrying food in a larch plantation in Worth Forest on May 30th and MJH records 3 other pairs in similar habitats in St. Leonard's, Worth and Brantridge Forests.

318. WHINCHAT.—One at Beachy Head on Apr. 25th was the first recorded. On May 2nd, 16 at Selsey Bill and c.25 at Beachy Head on 9th. No breeding season records, there have been none since 1961. Any such records would be most welcome.

Autumn passage between Aug. 4th and Oct. 17th with peaks at Beachy Head of c.33 on Aug. 28th, c.35 on Sept. 4th, c.50 on 11th and c.100 on 12th. Elsewhere, c.25 at Cissbury on Aug. 22nd and c.30 at Chidham and 10 at Selsey S.F. on Sept. 12th.

320. REDSTART.—First recorded were 2 at Selsey Bill and 3 at Beachy Head on Apr. 3rd. Spring maxima at Beachy Head of c.33 on May 2nd and c.20 on 9th.

The only breeding season records received were a pair with one young at Lynchmere Common on Aug. 17th; a pair in St. Leonard's Forest; 3 pairs in Worth Forest; at least 2 males singing at Bells Yew Green on May 23rd. In the Woodland Survey recorded only at Blackdown. All breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

Autumn passage between Aug. 1st and Oct. 24th with peaks at Beachy Head of c.20 on Aug. 29th, c.34 on Sept. 1st and c.85 on 12th.

321. BLACK REDSTART.—Between Mar. 21st and Apr. 6th c.30 recorded, including one ringed at Marley on Apr. 2nd and 8 at Beachy Head on 3rd. One at Beachy Head on Apr. 25th.

The only breeding season records received were of one or two birds at Beachy Head from May 22nd until July 31st (RFP, *et al.*), which did not breed. None at the 1964 Eastbourne site (RHC).

In the autumn 6 recorded between Sept. 26th and Oct. 24th. One at Ringmer from November until the end of the year.

322. NIGHTINGALE.—One at Church Norton on Apr. 4th (BM), the earliest record for the county. C.6 pairs bred in Harting parish. The Woodland

Survey indicated a decline over 1964; absent from 3 areas where present in 1964. The autumn maximum at Beachy Head was 7 on Aug. 14th. Last recorded on Sept. 5th.

324. BLUE THROAT.—One at Chichester on Apr. 4th (LGH, BM). One at Cissbury on Aug. 28th (MAJ). One trapped at Beachy Head on Sept. 6th (BEC, MEN, AQ) and one at Rye Harbour G.P. on Sept. 14th, in almost complete summer plumage and showing characters of the race *cyanecula* (CTB, KAC).

325. ROBIN.—Two showing the characters of the continental race *rubecula* trapped at Beachy Head on Mar. 28th and 4 likewise on Apr. 3rd.

In the autumn an increase at Beachy Head from c.15 to c.50 on Sept. 11th and 16th and up to 25 there until first week in October after which not more than 10. On Oct. 5th an increase from c.6 to c.25 at Newtimber Hill.

327. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.—One at Beachy Head on Apr. 4th (BEC, AQ, KV), the earliest spring record for the county. Influxes there were 12 on Apr. 25th, 23 on May 2nd.

Six breeding pairs at Beachy Head and singing males also recorded at Harting, one; Plumpton, one; Westmeston, one; and Duncton Hill, 3. Breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

One at Beachy Head on Oct. 3rd (many obs.), the third October record for the county.

332. GREAT REED WARBLER.—One at Selsey Bill on June 6th (HPKR). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

333. REED WARBLER.—Single birds at Selsey Bill and Beachy Head on May 2nd were the first recorded. C.20 pairs in 8 acres of reeds at Sidlesham, c.19 pairs at the Severals, Church Norton; 3 pairs only between Amberley and Pulborough on June 12th; 4 pairs only between Shoreham Toll Bridge and Coombes; 7 pairs between Beeding and Small Dole, E. of the Adur.

Autumn passage first noted at Beachy Head on July 31st with peaks of 15 on Sept. 5th and 7th. October records were: single birds at Beachy Head on 3rd, 5th and 6th, 2 at Selsey Bill on 2nd, 2 trapped at the Crumbles on 7th and one at Sidlesham on 12th.

337. SEDGE WARBLER.—One at Chichester G.P. on Apr. 1st (JVS). One at Pett Level Pools on Apr. 2nd (DE). Spring maxima were c.46 at Selsey Bill and c.12 at Beachy Head on May 2nd.

Ten pairs bred in 8 acres of reeds at Sidlesham and 8 at the Severals, Church Norton. A pair bred in a bramble filled ditch on the Downs N. of Cissbury (MAJ). In the autumn 1,149 ringed at Chichester G.P. between Aug. 5th and Sept. 21st (CRG); the maximum at Beachy Head was 22 on Sept. 5th. One at Possingworth Park on Oct. 17th (GM) was the last recorded.

339. MELODIOUS WARBLER.—One at Selsey Bill from Sept. 12th to 14th (BAEM, RFP, HPKR, ETW, *et al.*).

340. ICTERINE WARBLER.—A first-winter bird trapped at Beachy Head on Sept. 5th (BEC, DDH, AQ, KV, *et al.*). As this is the first record for the county extracts from the description are given:

Ad C ✓
"Upperparts: pale olive-grey head and mantle, somewhat yellow lower forehead. Rather indistinct pale yellow superciliary most obvious between bill and eye. Ear-coverts and cheeks somewhat paler and yellower than crown. Primaries dark brown, outer webs edged pale yellowish buff and with pale tips. Secondaries and tertiaries similar but more broadly edged yellowish-buff. Greater coverts paler than primaries but edged and tipped similarly. Pale panel on closed wing. Underparts: chin and throat pale yellowish, sides of upper breast tinged buffish, rest of underparts off-white heavily but unevenly marked with yellow, whitish on lower belly. Soft parts: tarsus, bluish; upper mandible dark horn slightly paler tip; lower mandible pinkish-yellow. Measurements: bill 15.5mm., tarsus 20mm. wing 75mm. Emargination on 3rd, 4th and slightly on 5th."

343. BLACKCAP.—A male in a garden at Worthing on Jan. 12th and 14th and again on Dec. 7th (DRP). Spring passage first recorded on Apr. 24th and the maxima at Beachy Head were 13 on May 2nd and 20 on 9th.

The Woodland Survey indicated a considerable increase, the species being about twice as numerous as Garden Warbler, whereas in 1964 it was less numerous.

Autumn passage from July 31st to Nov. 14th with peaks at Beachy Head of c.35 on Aug. 29th, c.60 on 30th, c.80 on Sept. 3rd, c.110 on 5th and c.120 on 6th and 10th. One there on Nov. 14th was the last on autumn passage.

344. BARRED WARBLER.—One trapped at Beachy Head on Sept. 4th (BEC, AQ, MR).

346. GARDEN WARBLER.—Two at Darwell Wood on Apr. 7th (RVW), the earliest record for the county. Peak of spring passage on May 2nd when 18 at Beachy Head and one at Selsey Bill. The Woodland Survey figures indicated no change in status compared with 1964.

Autumn peaks of 40 on Aug. 22nd at Beachy Head and 30 on Sept. 7th. October records were 2 (trapped) at Holywell and 2 at Beachy Head on 2nd, one at Beachy Head on the 3rd and 9th, and one at Seaford on the 21st (PCB), the latest record for the county.

347. WHITE THROAT.—One at Selsey Bill on Apr. 3rd and 2 at Beachy Head on 4th were the first recorded. Spring peaks were c.46 at Selsey Bill and c.250 at Beachy Head on May 2nd and c.300 at Beachy Head on 9th.

Autumn passage from July 25th to Oct. 5th with peaks at Beachy Head of c.340 on Aug. 15th, c.260 on 26th and c.160 on Sept. 5th. Elsewhere c.110 at Cissbury on Aug. 29th.

348. LESSER WHITE THROAT.—First recorded at Litlington on Apr. 16th. Few on spring passage; a total of 15 at Beachy Head on 4 dates between May 2nd and 16th. Four pairs bred there. Counts of breeding pairs of this species would be welcome.

Autumn passage from Aug. 1st to Oct. 5th with peaks at Beachy Head of c.95 on Aug. 28th and c.70 on Sept. 3rd. C.40 at Newtimber Hill on Aug. 31st.

352. DARTFORD WARBLER.—Four pairs present during the breeding season at a site occupied in previous years, at least 4 young were reared. Up to 4 present in another locality between August and October.

354. WILLOW WARBLER.—First recorded at Runcton on Mar. 26th. Present in greater numbers than usual in the Chichester area by Apr. 4th (BM). Spring maximum was c.40 at Selsey Bill on May 2nd.

355. **GREENISH WARBLER**.—One at the Crumbles on Sept. 17th (RHC). This record, the third for the county, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

356. **CHIFFCHAFF**.—One at Runcton from Jan. 14th to 31st (JVS) and one at Shoreham from Jan. 1st to Feb. 6th (CFH, JMT). Spring passage first recorded on Mar. 14th and peaks were c.52 at Selsey Bill and c.50 at Beachy Head on Mar. 28th. One at Langney Point on Nov. 2nd was the last recorded.

WILLOW WARBLER/CHIFFCHAFF.—In the spring peaks at Beachy Head of c.150 on May 2nd and c.100 on 9th. The autumn peaks at Beachy Head were c.210 on Aug. 8th, c.200 on 29th and c.250 on Sept. 5th. Numbers then dropped considerably but c.80 on Sept. 28th and c.65 on Oct. 2nd.

357. **WOOD WARBLER**.—In May single birds at Westdean from 6th to 16th, at Hove on 10th and 26th, Shoreham on 12th and Church Norton on 15th.

Breeding season records were one singing at Bells Yew Green on May 23rd and 3 pairs and 2 males in Worth Forest on June 7th. SWMH and WDH found only 2 males in an area of St. Leonard's Forest where 5 in 1964. In the Woodland Survey recorded from Summersdale, Blackdown, Rackham Woods, Flexham Park, Clapham Wood, St. Leonard's Forest and Crowborough, but only at Blackdown, where 41 contacts in 15 hours, was more than one to two singing males recorded. Breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

In August single birds at Beachy Head on 8th, 15th and 29th and one there on Sept. 5th.

360. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER**.—One at Horseshoe Copse, Belle Tout, on Oct. 24th (RHC, AQ, *et al.*). This is the second record for the county.

364. **GOLDCREST**.—In spring 14 noted at Beachy Head between Mar. 21st and Apr. 4th. All records indicate a general recovery in numbers from the effects of the winter of 1962/63 and analysis of the Woodland Survey figures also showed a considerable increase, with 49 contacts in 7 out of 19 survey areas compared with 20 in 4 out of 20 in 1964. Breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

The first at Beachy Head in the autumn were 2 on Sept. 20th with maximum numbers of 19 on 21st, 30 on Oct. 9th and 10th and 45 on 24th. Twelve at Selsey between Sept. 5th and Oct. 17th.

365. **FIRECREST**.—One at the Severals, Church Norton, on Mar. 20th and 3 on the 21st (MAJ, BAEM, *et al.*). Two at Beachy Head, on Mar. 28th (BEC, IRW, *et al.*). One ringed at Marley Common on Apr. 2nd (PGD) and one at Belle Tout on May 9th (BEC, AQ, *et al.*), the latest spring record for the county.

One at Belle Tout on Sept. 26th to 29th (BAEM, RFP, *et al.*). Singly at Beachy Head on Sept. 27th (DLC, ARK) and Oct. 2nd (RFP). One at Selsey Bill on Nov. 7th (HPKR, ARK, ETW). One at Belle Tout on Oct. 10th (MJH, RFP) and Nov. 14th (BEC, AQ).

366. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER**.—First recorded on May 9th, when one at Selsey Bill and 3 at Beachy Head. Very few breeding records received; all would be welcome.

In the autumn up to 20 at Beachy Head on 4 days in August and up to 20 on 3 days in September, peak 21 on the 28th. Up to 9 at Selsey Bill in period mid-August to September. Eight at Beachy Head on Oct. 2nd were the last recorded.

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER**.—One at Angmering on Apr. 8th (RML), the earliest county record.

In the autumn c.55 recorded between Aug. 7th and Oct. 4th, with peaks at Beachy Head of 7 on Aug. 28th, when 4 also at Cissbury, and 8 on Sept. 20th.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT**.—In March, c.190 at Beachy Head on 7th; 38 came in SE-NW, at Selsey Bill and 200 S-N, at Beachy Head on 27th and c.960 SE-NW, at Selsey Bill on 28th. Autumn movements were:

Days obs.	SELSEY BILL			BEACHY HEAD					
	E.	W.	SE/SW	N.	Days obs.	E.	W.	S.	N.
Sept. 11	0	220	763	14	27	520	1070	95	480
Oct. 10	0	6	118	3	11	40	10	50	30
Nov. 7	4	2	8	3	5	0	0	0	0

Peaks at Selsey Bill were c.650 out SE/SW, on Sept. 14th and 185 W. on Sept. 26th. At Beachy Head peak was 480 S-N, on Sept. 25th and 26th.

375. **TAWNY PIPIT**.—One at Langney Point on Sept. 22nd (DDH). One at Darwell Res. on Oct. 6th (RVW). This is the first October record in recent years, and only the second inland record for the county. Both records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

376. **TREE PIPIT**.—One at Selsey Bill on Apr. 3rd was the first recorded, and one flew N. there on May 29th (RJJ, BAEM).

In June 6 pairs in the Coates Common/Burton Park area on 5th, 4 pairs on Iping Common on 13th, 8 pairs in Worth Forest on 26th. Breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

In August peaks of c. 50 at Beachy Head on 14th and 22nd. In September a total of 90 W. there on 3 dates between 5th and 12th, and 30 E. on 14th, when also 14 out SE/SW, at Selsey Bill. One out SE. at Selsey Bill on Oct. 16th (HPKR) was the last recorded.

379. **ROCK PIPIT**.—Ten at the Cuckmere Haven on Jan. 1st, c.20 on Feb. 6th when also c.20 at Porto Bello, Brighton. One flew out SE. at Selsey Bill on Jan. 31st (BAEM) and 2 out S. there on Apr. 16th (MAJ, HPKR). A breeding survey was carried out along the cliffs by MJH, RFP and IRW with help from ARK. C.45 pairs were located and a special article appears on page 56.

Birds showing the characters of the race *littoralis* were singles at the Cuckmere Haven on Mar. 13th (MJH, ARK), Chidham on Mar. 21st (RFP) and Pett Level Pools on Apr. 4th (RHC).

Birds showing the characters of the race *spinolaetta* were singles at the Cuckmere on Jan. 5th and Feb. 27th (RHC, IRW), at Piddinghoe on Jan. 9th (IRW), at Sidlesham Ferry on Feb. 17th (RHC), at Chichester G.P. on Mar. 29th (JVS), at Pagham on Apr. 1st (WWAP) and at Rye Harbour on Dec. 30th (DDH).

380. **PIED WAGTAIL**.—A roost of c.70 at Warnham Mill Pond on Jan. 2nd (SWMH). The following were not sub-specifically identified: On Mar. 28th 3 came in S-N, and one left N-S, at Selsey Bill. Small autumn movements between Sept. 14th and Oct. 31st with peaks of 10 out S. and 18 W. on Sept. 19th and 24 out SE/SW, on Oct. 16th at Selsey Bill. At Beachy Head peaks were 25 E. on Sept. 27th and 5 out S. on Sept. 21st and 26th.

387. **GREY WAGTAIL**.—One flying NE. over Selsey Bill on May 29th (RJJ, BAEM). Breeding pairs recorded as follows: Lurgashall Mill Pond, one which raised young; Burton Park, one which raised young; Petworth Mill, 2 which raised young; Warnham Mill Pond, one which raised at least one young; St. Leonard's Forest, pairs at the Hammer Pond and Slaugham Pond possibly had young on May 29th; Darwell Res., one which raised 5 young nearby; single birds at Worth Priory on June 29th and Benhall Mill on May 3th.

In the autumn single birds at Selsey Bill on Aug. 30th, flying out S., and on Sept. 11th and 14th, flying E.; 2 W. there on Sept. 19th. At Beachy Head, single birds flying W. on 4 dates in August with 3 on 30th; one flew in SE-NW on 27th. In September 15 W. and 3 E. on 8 dates and 7 out SW. on 19th. In October singles in the area on 3 dates to the 16th. All records of this species would be welcome.

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL**.—First recorded at Selsey Bill and Beachy Head on Apr. 3rd. Spring movements at both stations were negligible with totals of 5 at Selsey Bill and 18 at Beachy Head.

Breeding Survey

Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of pairs	Area	Extent Surveyed	Number of pairs
Chichester Harbour		c.5			4-5
Amberley/Pulborough		1			13
Adur Levels		0			37
		35	Rye Marsh and Harbour		c.13
Lewes Brooks River Ouse		7+	Midrips/Wicks		2
Cuckmere		4	Barcombe Mills		1
		2	Darwell Res.		2
TOTAL					c.147

There is little information on breeding success but the species probably had a more successful season than in 1964. The figures for Amberley/Pulborough, the Adur Levels and Pevensey Levels are based on single counts made in late May or June.

Autumn movements at coastal stations were as follows:

Days Obs.	SELSEY BILL		BEACHY HEAD	
	W.	SW.	E.	S/SE. N.
Aug. 9	336	320	20	100
Sept. 11	60	38	27	5
			290	6
			10	0

Peaks were: at Selsey Bill, 270 W. and 158 SW. on Aug. 30th with c.80 in the area and c.75 in the area on Sept. 14th; at Beachy Head, 100 W. over Aug. 29th and 30th, and c.72 in the area on the 24th. The last was one at Beachy Head on Oct. 10th.

One showing the characters of the race *m.f. flava* at Whykhamp on May 7th (CFH).

383. **WAXWING**.—A large irruption started in mid-October and by the end of the month large numbers were recorded on the East Coast. By the second week of November birds were more widely reported and the first in Sussex were 6 at Beachy Head on the 14th. On the 15th, 12 arrived from the E. at Eastbourne and at Beachy Head there was one on the 21st, 5 on the 26th and 8 on the 27th. The first large flock was c.55 at Pett Level on Nov. 21st increasing to c.80 on the 28th which remained until Dec. 2nd. C.5-8 at Shoreham between Nov. 28th and Dec. 7th. Single birds at Pulborough and the Midrips on Nov. 28th. In December c.20 at Crawley on the 3rd; 5 at Lower Willingdon, 2 at Lewes and 2 at Lancing from the 5th to the 9th. Up to 18 in Eastbourne between the 6th and 8th and 2 at Hatfield during the second week of December. About the 10th flocks totalling c.130 at Groombridge. Up to 20 at Polegate between the 10th and 24th, 8 at Lewes on the 10th and 4 N. there on the 11th. Single birds at Robertsbridge on the 12th and 20th and at Chichester and Winchelsea on 13th when there were c.10 at East Grinstead. Four in Worth Forest on 19th, 3 at St. Leonard's between 20th and 26th, 10 at Rye on 21st remaining until the end of the month and 2 at Hailsham on the 21st. On the 24th 18 at Lower Willingdon and 3 there on the 25th when there were 4 at Bexhill. Fewer reported after the 26th when it appears that many of the flocks left prior to the onset of the cold weather. On the 27th 9 and 4 flew S. at Groombridge. Single birds at Polegate and Battle on 28th and at Crawley on the 29th.

Most records were from the E. of the county; only 5 reports, totalling some 15 birds, were received from West Sussex. Between the 10th and 26th Dec. when the peak numbers were recorded in the county it would appear that over 200 birds were present.

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE**.—Single birds at Beachy Head on Oct. 10th (RB, KV), at Eridge Park on the 29th (GP) and in Ashdown Forest on Nov. 12th and 14th (WD, RHC, EJW).

388. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE**.—One was seen in the interior of the county on June 27th.

Single birds at Selsey Bill on Sept. 4th (CMJ) and 28th (ADP) and at Falmer on Sept. 10th (NAGL). One at Cissbury on Oct. 3rd (MAJ) and one at Sidlesham on the 4th (MS).

389. **STARLING**.—On Jan. 1st 19 came in SE-NW. at Worthing. At Selsey Bill a total of 558 out SE/SW. on 3 dates in March and 21 out S. and 7 SW. between Apr. 16th and 19th.

In June c.17,000 roosting at Cissbury (MAJ, HPKR). In the autumn a total of 928 out SE/SW. at Selsey Bill between Sept. 24th and Nov. 30th with 60 flying in S-N. On Nov. 12th 14 flew in SE-NW. at Langney Point.

391. **HAWFINCH**.—The only records received were; one near Harting on Feb. 11th and an immature caught there on July 21st (GRG) and 13, including 5 or 6 juveniles, between Peasottage and Worth Priory on June 27th (IRW). All records of this species would be welcome.

392. **GREENFINCH**.—Two came in S-N. at Selsey Bill on Mar. 7th. Peak movements there in the autumn were 114 out SE/SW. on Oct. 10th and 170 W. on Nov. 28th. See also table of finch passage. On Nov. 13th c.1,000 at Wepham Down and c.550 near Cissbury on Dec. 7th.

AUTUMN FINCH PASSAGE

	SELSEY BILL			BEACHY HEAD		
	E.	W.	S.	E.	W.	S.
Greenfinch				Days obs.		N.
Oct.	10	95	15	11		
Nov.	7	9	220	5		
Dec.	6	—	64	—	} No movement	
Goldfinch						
Sept.	11	No movement		27	22	—
Oct.	10	4	30	11	1000	30
Nov.	7	21	120	5	No movement	350
Dec.	6	—	9	—		
Linnet						
Sept.	11	No movement		27	55	12
Oct.	10	10	297	11	200	30
Nov.	7	15	215	5	No movement	400
Dec.	6	—	12	—		
Redpoll						
Sept.	11	No movement		27	45	13
Oct.	10	9	9	11	65	100
Nov.	7	7	4	5	No movement	12
Chaffinch						
Sept.	11	No movement		27	3	5
Oct.	10	4	—	11	6	50
Nov.	7	21	12	5	—	—

NOTE: The directions S. and N. are used only to indicate emigration or immigration.

393. **GOLDFINCH**.—In May a total of 41 out S/SE. at Selsey Bill up to the 9th with 6 in S-N. on 8th; at Beachy Head totals of 220 W. and 70 E. up to the 15th with 2 in S-N. on 1st. The peak of autumn passage at Selsey Bill was c.410 out SE/SW. on Oct. 24th; at Beachy Head c.350 out SW. on Oct. 3rd with c.400 in the area on 9th and c.600 on 24th. See also table of finch passage.

394. **SISKIN**.—In the first three months of the year a total of c.95 recorded from 6 inland localities, including flocks of c.55 at Blackdown, c.20 at Duncton and 12 at Horsham.

In the autumn at Beachy Head a total of 54 W. between Sept. 5th and 20th, maximum 30 on 12th, and up to 10 in the area throughout the month. Five flew S. on Oct. 2nd and 15 in the area on 31st; in November 6 on 7th, 2 on 13th, and 4 on 28th. At Selsey Bill 4 came in S-N. on Nov. 13th. A total of c.53 inland between Sept. 9th and the end of year, including flocks of c.12 at Friston Forest on Oct. 3rd and c.30 at Burton Park in early December. Winter records of this species would be welcome.

395. **LINNET**.—On Mar. 4th c.1,670 flew E. at Rottingdean; on 7th 51 picked up dead after the cold spell, at Selsey Bill. In April a total of c.1,030 W. at Beachy Head in 12 days observation.

Peak movements in the autumn at Selsey Bill were c.405 out SE/SW. on Oct. 10th and c.670 likewise on 31st; at Beachy Head 400 out S. on Oct. 21st and c.1,500 in the area on 9th. See also table of finch passage.

396. **TWITE**.—Numerous along the coast at both ends of the year, monthly totals were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	83	18	40	2	16	42	54

The largest flocks in the early months were c.55 at Rye Harbour on Jan. 21st, 17 at Shoreham on Mar. 18th and c.20 at Sidlesham Ferry on Mar. 7th. On Apr. 4th there were 2 at the Midrips. At the end of the year the largest flocks were c.15 at Cuckmere Haven on Oct. 20th, c.30 at Selsey Bill on Nov. 14th and c.30 at the Rother Estuary on Dec. 28th.

397. **REDPOLL**.—On Jan. 23rd 35 E. at Beachy Head. Otherwise in the early part of the year only 16 recorded from 7 localities. Six E. and 3 came in S-N. at Beachy Head on Apr. 25th and one came in S-N. and one W. there on May 1st. One W. over Shoreham Harbour on May 14th.

In June one or 2 present at Darwell; breeding season records of this species would be most welcome. The largest autumn movements occurred in the first 2 weeks of October with peaks at Beachy Head of 25 E. on 4th and 75 W. on 10th; 30 flew E. at Ferring on Oct. 16th. See also table of finch passage.

At the end of the year a total of c.112 in 5 localities including flocks of 17 at Burton Park on Nov. 12th, 30 at Cross-in-Hand on 21st, 20 at Pagham on Dec. 10th and 30 in Eridge Park on the 16th.

400. **SERIN**.—A male at Selsey Bill on May 15th (BAEM). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

404. **CROSSBILL**.—All records were: single birds at Beachy Head on Aug. 8th and Chichester G.P. on 14th. Four at Kingsley Green on Sept. 2nd.

407. **CHAFFINCH**.—See table of autumn finch passage.

408. **BRAMBLING**.—In the early part of the year recorded only during the March cold spell when flocks totalling c.700 in the Pagham/Selsey area on 6th and 7th and c.12 at Southwick on the 7th. Five at Beachy Head on Mar. 21st and one there on Apr. 11th.

In the autumn recorded only at Beachy Head where up to c.25 in the area between Oct. 9th and Nov. 14th with 12 W. on Oct. 17th and 12 E. on the 23rd. At the end of the year 3 at South Chailey on Dec. 25th was the only record. Winter records of this species would be welcome.

410. **CORN BUNTING**.—On Mar. 7th c.350 at Selsey Bill and c.100 there on the 13th. On Apr. 16th one out S. there watched out of sight. A roost near Belle Tout held c.120 on Apr. 15th and 16th and c.40 on 18th. Very few breeding season records, all would be most welcome. Five breeding pairs on 200 acres of farmland at Sidlesham. On Aug. 4th c.18 singing males counted on the Downs between Fulking and Bushy Bottom (TQ227097) and several broods of up to 5 young being fed. Two singing males on Thorney Island. In the autumn the roost at Belle Tout held a maximum of c.120 on Oct. 16th. On Oct. 25th c.50 at Shoreham Sanctuary.

415. **CIRLBUNTING**.—Present at Aldwick, Steyning and West Dene throughout the year. In the breeding season 2 pairs at Selsey; 2 adults and 2 juveniles in the Findon Valley on Aug. 15th; a singing male at Lancing and a pair at Shoreham on June 2nd; 2 pairs at Beachy Head, one with young on Sept. 2nd. Two at Thorney S.F. on Sept. 12th. All breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

416. **ORTOLAN BUNTING**.—Single birds at Sidlesham on Sept. 4th and 5th (JVS, MS) and at Beachy Head on 15th (BEC, AQ).

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING.**—Two at Beachy Head on Oct. 17th (BAEM).

423. **SNOW BUNTING.**—In January c.35 at Camber on 21st and 31st (RHC) and one at Pett Level and 2 at Selsey on 3rd and one at Selsey Bill on the 10th. On Feb. 7th c.20 at Camber (ARK, BAEM, *et al.*) and one on Mar. 18th. One at Pagham on Mar. 14th.

On Nov. 10th, 7 at Camber increasing to 43 by the end of the year (RHC, DDH). Single birds in November and December at Pett Level, Beachy Head, Shoreham, Pagham and Selsey Bill. Inland c.9 on ploughed ground on the Downs at Harting on Dec. 2nd (GRG).

425. **TREE SPARROW.**—In the early months c.70 at Selsey Bill from January to March, c.70 at Beachy Head during January, 50-60 at Seaford Head on Feb. 2nd and up to 9 at Harting from Feb. 25th to Mar. 22nd.

Breeding pairs recorded as follows: Sidlesham c.15 in 5 small colonies, North Chapel 5 in one colony, Amberley/Pulborough marshes 18 in 3 colonies, West Chiltington one, Barcombe Mills 4 on May 30th, Pevensey Levels 19 in the E. half, Rye/Camber 18. Small colonies also recorded at Blackdown and the Ouse Valley and 8 birds at Selsey Bill on May 15th, one at Wilmington on the 25th and one at Peasportage on June 27th.

In October at Selsey Bill 125 W. and 50 out SW. on 31st; at Beachy Head 64 W. on 3 dates between 2nd and 16th, 60 out S. on 5th, when 40 in the area; numbers decreased to one in the area on Oct. 23rd.

ADDITION TO THE 1964 REPORT

265. **WRYNNECK.**—One at Thorney Island on Aug. 29th (CMJ).

SOCIETY INVESTIGATIONS, 1965

Details of the wader counts are summarised in a separate note. Summarised details of the breeding surveys and general information on the woodland survey are included in the Systematic List under the individual species headings.

BREEDING SURVEYS

The surveys of Kestrel, Water Rail and Redshank were continued and surveys of Snipe and Yellow Wagtail were begun.

Both the number of records received and the area studied have continued to increase most satisfactorily; in particular we have received much more comprehensive information from the major levels than in previous years. The levels have always been a problem and in 1965 a new approach was successfully tried in some places. Single counts over large areas, done by groups of observers working as teams proved effective. Such counts will not include every pair present, but are certainly the only practical method we have so far devised of obtaining comprehensive figures.

These surveys are not yet complete and are being continued. Although we now have four years' figures for Redshank, counts of this species can be combined with some of the others and it seems pointless to ignore it. As the number of records increases so does the number of observers. It is our pleasant duty to thank once again the many observers who have contributed and we must thank S. W. M. Hughes for his valued assistance in the organisation and collecting of Kestrel records in the Horsham area.

CONTRIBUTORS

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WOODLAND SURVEY

The aims and methods used in this survey were outlined in the 1963/4 Sussex Bird Reports. The survey continued to make satisfactory progress in 1965 with counts being made in 19 areas covering 8 habitats. Although 5 observers were unfortunately unable to continue counts begun in 1964, continuity was good and counts were started in 7 new areas.

The Records Committee feel that, rather than publishing year-by-year figures for the woodland survey, a full analysis and meaningful comparison can only be done when several years' results are available. Many factors are clearly influencing the bird numbers recorded—weather conditions, habitat type, time of day and stage of the season, for example. Also, the intrinsic differences in conspicuousness between species, and differences between methods of different observers are being considered. The elimination of juveniles from the figures has resulted, as expected, in a reduction of contacts for some species, particularly Blackbirds and Robins. A full report of the investigation will be made when adequate results are at hand.

The survey is continuing in 1966 when more new areas are being studied. We would like to thank the following contributors of counts in 1965:

H. A. C. T. Clark, F. W. Dougherty, G. R. Gervis, B. A. Goodchild, J. R. Harper, Dr. M. Hollings, S. W. M. Hughes, W. D. Hyde, B. Metcalfe, Mrs. M. E. Reader, D. J. Riley, R. J. Sandison, M. Shrubbs, E. T. Welland.

SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1965

Compiled by
A QUINN

The total of birds ringed in the county for the year was 16,750 of 91 species. Although this is apparently well below those of the previous two years most of the 17 ringers or groups operating in the county were well compensated with a fine crop of foreign recoveries. Of the year's total only 1,581 were pulli and it is of note that nearly all of these were ringed by only two ringers, namely P. G. Davis and Guy Mountford.

Among the more interesting species to be ringed were 2 Sparrowhawks, 2 Twice, and a Firecrest, by PGD; 6 Bearded Tits by RHC; 2 Wyrnecks by DDH, while at Beachy Head, Wryneck, Bluethroat, Barred and Icterine Warblers were ringed for the first time. In addition a total of 15 Common Sandpipers were ringed between the CRG and KV, the latter also trapped a Green Sandpiper.

I would be grateful if any ringers operating in the county who I have not been able to contact would send their county ringing data to me so that future reports can be as complete as possible.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1965

Key to symbols and terms
(Ring numbers are omitted)

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

Sex
 ♂—male
 ♀—female

Manner of Recovery
 v—caught or trapped and released with ring;
 +—shot or killed by man;
 x—found dead or dying;
 0—caught or trapped alive and not released or released but with ring removed.
 /?—Method of recovery unknown

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

Birds ringed in Sussex

Oystercatcher	fg. x	22.3.64 13.12.64	Newhaven, (RHC) West Wittering, 42m. W.
Swallow	juv. x	11.8.63 23.4.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) La Méritre, Maine et Loire, France
Sand Martin	ad. v. v.	15.8.63 19.7.64 14.8.64	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Kincraig, Inverness, 480m. NNW. Chichester G.P. (CRG)
	juv. v.	29.8.63 4.5.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) De Biankaart, Woumen, Belgium
	juv. v.	7.8.64 4.5.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) De Biankaart, Woumen, Belgium
	juv. x	9.8.64 16.4.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Doulon, Nantes, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. v	29.8.64 9.9.65	Pagham. (CRG) La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. v	6.8.65 4.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. v	7.8.65 5.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Artix, Basses Pyrénées, France
	ad. v	8.8.65 3.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. v	8.8.65 10.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. v v	8.8.65 13.8.65 3.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Chichester G.P. (CRG) La Chapelle sur Erdre, Loire Atlantique, France
	juv. x	29.8.65 11.9.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Urt, Basses Pyrénées, France
	juv. v	19.7.61 30.7.64	Washington (JS) Prudhoe-on-Tyne, Northumberland, 290m. N.

Blue Tit	1st W. /?	4.10.64 20.11.65	Eastbourne. (DDH) Dover, Kent. 50m. NE.
Bearded Tit	ad♀ v	25.10.65 13.5.65	Crumbles, Eastbourne. (RHC) East Kent. 50m. NE.
Redstart	1st W. ♂ +	28.8.65 19.9.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Miranda de Ebro, Burgos, Spain
	1st W. ♂ +	7.9.64 27.10.64	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Orgiva, Granada, Spain
	1st W. ♀ x	28.9.63 20.9.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Paderne, Algarve, Portugal
Robin	fg. x	25.9.64 ?1.66	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Linghem, Nr. Aire (Pas de Calais), France
Reed Warbler	1st W. x	21.9.65 c.30.11.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) St. Brevin-les-Pins, Loire Atlantique, France
	fg. +	20.7.63 5.9.65	Sidlesham, Selsey. (L & JW) Bustos Palhaca, Beira Litoral, Portugal
	fg. +	5.9.65 16.2.66	Eastbourne. (RHC) Carreiras, Nr. Aveiro, Beira Litoral, Portugal
Sedge Warbler	juv. x	28.8.64 10.6.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Stamullen, Meath, Eire
	juv. x	16.9.65 6.10.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Villénave d'Ornon, Gironde, France
Blackcap	fg. +	25.9.64 14.10.64	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Galdacano, Nr. Basauri, Vizcaya, Spain
	fg. /?	20.9.61 18.5.65	Eastbourne. (DDH) Wymondham, Norfolk. 130m. NNE.
Whitethroat	fg. +	19.9.65 20.10.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Setubal, Estremadura, Portugal
	ad. +	9.5.65 5.10.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Sargacal, Lagos, Algarve, Portugal.
	juv. +	12.9.65 17.10.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Olivais, Nr. Lisbon, Estremadura, Portugal
	1st W. x	22.8.65 Autumn '65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Allo, Navarra, Spain
	fg. +	22.8.65 5.9.65	Crumbles, Eastbourne. (RHC) San Sebastian, Spain
Lesser Whitethroat	fg. x	5.9.64 12.7.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Stratton St. Margaret, Swindon, Wills. 100m. WNW.
	fg. x	4.9.64 7.6.65	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Hambrook, Chichester. 50m. W.
	fg. +	16.5.65 11.4.66	Beachy Head. (BHRS) Roum, Sidon, Lebanon
	fg. x	22.8.65 6.11.65	Crumbles, Eastbourne. (RHC) Alexandria, Egypt. This is the first recovery of a British ringed Lesser Whitethroat from N.E. Africa.

Willow Warbler	fig. v	23.8.64 1.4.66	Crumbles, Eastbourne. (RHC) Anfa, Tripoli, Lebanon
Chiffchaff	pull.	6.9.65	Haslemere S.F. (Sussex). (PGD)
	fig. /?/	6.9.65	Calditos, Minhoc, Portugal
	fig. /?/	7.10.65 20.10.65	Crumbles, Eastbourne. (DDH) Madrid, Spain
Yellow Wagtail	fig. /?/	28.9.64 26.10.65	Shoreham-by-Sea. (DS) Zaratuz, Guipuzcoa, Spain
Starling	1st W. ()	15.9.65 9.10.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Porto da Carne, Nr. Guarda, Portugal
	fig. +	28.1.65 1.7.65	Haslemere S.F. (Sussex). (PGD) Giffhorn, Germany
	fig. x	6.2.65 8.5.65	Haslemere S.F. (Sussex). (PGD) Haren, Needeersachen, Germany.
	fig. +	5.1.63 1.11.64	Shoreham-by-Sea. (DS) Basseveldc, E. Flanders, Belgium
Greenfinch	fig. v	3.2.65 17.2.66	Eastbourne. (RHC) Leavenheath, Nyaland, Suffolk. 90m. NNE.
Goldfinch	fig. x	15.10.63 29.1.65	Marley Common. (PGD) Biscarrose, Landes, France
	juv. +	1.8.63 27.4.64	Shorcham-by-Sea. (DS) Sestao, Vizcaya, Spain
Linnet	fig. ♀ +	8.9.62 5.11.64	Sidlesham, Selsey. (L & JW) Sindères, Nr. Morcenx, Landes, France
	fig. ♂ +	12.9.64 9.10.65	Petworth. (L & JW) St. Geours de Maremne, Landes, France
Redpoll	fig. x	13.3.65 22.8.65	Nr. Haslemere (Sussex). (PGD) Killed by car between Darlington and Glasgow?
	fig. v	17.1.65 11.11.65	Nr. Haslemere (Sussex). (PGD) Wassenaar, Holland
	fig. x	5.11.64 17.2.65	Nr. Haslemere (Sussex). (PGD) Addlestone, Weybridge, Surrey. 22m. NNE.
Brambling	fig. v	17.12.62 21.2.65	Nr. Haslemere (Sussex). (PGD) High Wycombe, Bucks. 35m. N.
Reed Bunting	juv. v	28.8.64 17.10.65	Chichester G.P. (CRG) Hengistbury Head, Christchurch, Hants. 44m. E.

Birds Ringed Elsewhere and Recovered in Sussex

Teal	ad. +	5.12.64 11.11.65	Abberton Res., Essex Sidlesham. 115m. SW. (MS)
Herring Gull	pull. x	9.7.65 30.12.65	Newborough Warren, Anglesea Pagham Harbour. 220m. SE. (JVS)
Black-headed Gull	pull x	6.6.64 29.10.65	Horazdovice (Strakonice), Czechoslovakia Halmaker. (ML)

Swallow	juv. v	25.8.64 4.9.64	Slapton, Devon Manhood End. 120m. E. (CRG)
Willow Warbler	fig. v	24.7.65 16.8.65	Bamburgh, Northumberland Chichester G.P. 330m. S. (CRG)
Chiffchaff	fig. v	16.9.65 21.9.65	Dungeness, Kent Beachy Head. 33m. WSW (BHRS)
	juv. v	18.7.65 5.9.65	Winchester, Hants. Beauchy Head. 70m. ESE. (BHRS)
Starling	fig. v	12.2.63 2.1.65	Gravenhage, Holland Haslemere S.F. (Sussex). (PGD)

REPORT ON WADER COUNTS, 1965

By
M. STRUBB

The series of wader counts in Chichester and Pagham Harbours started in 1964 was continued in 1965. Except in January, counts were done monthly, with two counts in June. The roosts counted were the same as in 1964, i.e. in Chichester Harbour-Pilsey Island and Thorney Airfield, Thorney Deep, Chidham, Manhood End, fields along the west side of Chichester Channel and Fishbourne S.F.; in Pagham Harbour-shingle islands and beach at the mouth and fields at Church Norton.

Counts in Langstone Harbour, at Farlington, were discontinued in favour of trying to count roosts on the east side of Hayling Island. Hayling Island is, of course, also in Hampshire, but the birds roosting on the east side come mainly from Chichester Harbour and it was thus hoped to get more complete figures for this area. Unfortunately, however, we were unable to obtain access, a situation we are trying to rectify.

The same method of counting was used as in 1964, but counts on days with rather lower tides than "full springs" were unsatisfactory, for the waders were not always driven off the feeding areas on to the roosts. For this reason the February figures are very incomplete and we have now reverted to counting on the highest tides whenever possible. Fog and misty rain adversely affected the April and May counts and again these figures are probably incomplete; the November figures certainly are, with heavy rain all day only three roosts could be visited.

With poor counting conditions affecting the results it is difficult to comment upon the spring counts; movements suggested by the figures are possibly deceptive. There were some interesting records of summering waders in mid-June and, by the end of the month, return migration was again under way although on a less pronounced scale than in 1964. The autumn figures for Lapwing, Curlew and Redshank were much greater than 1964, probably indicating their continued recovery as breeding species. Autumn passage of most other species in 1965 seemed generally larger than 1964 but Turnstones and Bar-tailed Godwits and possibly Grey Plover are exceptions. The pattern of movement was much the same but peak numbers of some species, Oystercatcher, Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-tailed Godwit, Bar-tailed Godwit and Spotted Redshank were later and Redshank earlier.

Interesting species picked up by the counts were a Dowitcher in April and Avocets in June and December. Little Stints were again present in December. It is also of note that very few Knot have appeared in these counts since March 1964, and only one Curlew Sandpiper was recorded in 1965. The full counts are listed in Table 1.

Sussex Coast-line Winter Count, 1965

As in 1964 the December count included roosts along the whole Sussex coastline from Chichester Harbour to Rye. The roosts counted were the same, i.e. all in Chichester and Pagham Harbours, Climping, Shoreham, Newhaven/Cuckmere, Langney Point, Bulverhythe and Pett Level. Unfortunately two areas, Goring/Worthing and Rye Harbour could not be visited, but we have some figures for Rye Harbour for the end of December. The results of this count, with Chichester and Pagham Harbour repeated for the sake of completeness, are set out in Table 2, the Rye figures for Dec. 30th being shown separately.

Despite the incomplete figures, a much higher wader population was clearly present along the coast in December, 1965, than in December, 1964. Most species show an increase and numbers of Oystercatchers, Bar-tailed Godwits and Purple Sandpipers were double those found in December, 1964. Ringed Plovers, Golden Plovers and Knots were, however, fewer. With Golden Plover this must be largely fortuitous since this is not an estuarine or tide-line species. No Jack Snipe were found, nor any wintering Common Sandpipers or Spotted Redshanks; both these species were present in December, 1964. Finally it should be noted that the figures given in Table 2 in no way represent the total populations of Lapwing, Golden Plover, Snipe and Ruff likely to be present on the count date.

These counts are continuing in 1966 when it is particularly hoped to obtain comprehensive figures for January and February, which to date are lacking. We would once again like to thank the following for their most valuable help and co-operation with this project.

P. Clement, M. Goddard, R. E. Goddard, D. D. Harber, H. J. Harrison, M. J. Helps, J. A. Hicks, Dr. M. Hollings, L. G. Holloway, M. A. Jennings, A. R. Kitson, B. A. E. Marr, B. Metcalfe, R. F. Porter, R. J. Sandison, A. B. Sheldon, K. Verral, E. T. Welland, I. R. Willis.

TABLE 2
SUSSEX COASTLINE COUNT ON 11th DECEMBER, 1965

Species	Chichester Harbour	Pagham Harbour	Climping	Shoreham	Newhaven/Cuckmere	Bulverhythe	Pett Level	Rye Harbour	Approximate Totals
Oystercatcher	980	200	75	—	—	—	—	(64)	1260 (64)
Lapwing	1740	15	200	—	650	—	1750	—	4340
Ringed Plover	110	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	110
Golden Plover	375	50	6	—	—	—	(12)	—	430 (12)
Turnstone	30	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	30
Snipe	185	120	5	—	—	—	—	—	185
Jack Snipe	14	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	73
Curlew	1230	230	—	—	—	—	—	—	1500
Black-tailed Godwit	105	60	—	—	—	—	—	—	165
Bar-tailed Godwit	570	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	570
Redshank	1120	73	—	80	58	—	—	—	1330 (1)
Knot	18	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	18 (1)
Purple Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Stint	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanderling	7420	5000	380	4	93	—	—	—	12870 (8)
Ruff	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	455 (80)
Avocet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4

NOTE: Figures in brackets are for Dec. 30th not 11th. No waders were present at Langney Point although the area was covered.

TABLE 1
MONTHLY WADER COUNT TOTALS IN WEST SUSSEX IN 1965

Species	21 Feb.		21 Mar.		4 Apr.		16 May		13 June		27 June	
	Chi	Pag	Chi	Pag	Chi	Pag	Chi	Pag	Chi	Pag	Chi	Pag
Oystercatcher	7	—	680	110	33	145	260	76	205	41	220	43
Lapwing	155	—	20	—	21	10	49	—	570	79	320	105
Ringed Plover	27	—	4	—	3	25	35	200	24	12	9	6
Golden Plover	13	—	165	10	70	15	10	—	—	—	—	—
Turnstone	4	—	14	40	1	35	68	200	—	—	—	—
Snipe	1	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jack Snipe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Curlew	455	—	780	210	970	110	62	24	81	51	205	90
Whimbrel	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	10	—	—	—	—
Black-tailed Godwit	81	—	190	5	235	—	7	62	—	—	—	46
Bar-tailed Godwit	—	—	320	19	60	18	19	41	22	3	3	20
Green Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wood Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Redshank	77	—	310	50	345	12	55	—	165	4	760	35
Spotted Redshank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greenshank	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dowitcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knot	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Purple Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Little Stint	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunlin	—	—	2600	1190	505	750	635	150	12	—	60	50
Curlew Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanderling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruff	—	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Avocet	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Key: A dash indicates the area not covered. Chi—Chichester Harbour. Pag—Pagham Harbour.

A BREEDING SURVEY OF THE SUSSEX CLIFFS IN 1965

By
R. F. PORTER

Unfortunately, a feature so characteristic of Sussex as the cliffs have been rather neglected in the past regarding their breeding birds. It is obvious from the literature that the last time any serious investigation was made was in the mid-thirties, and a survey was therefore much overdue. The following summary of investigations, made in 1965, brings the picture a little more up to date.

During the late spring and summer of 1965 a survey of breeding birds and birds holding territories was made along the entire length of the Sussex cliffs. The survey was carried out by M. J. Helps, R. F. P. and I. R. Willis, with help from A. R. Kitson. The enquiry concentrated on two species, the Herring Gull, for which no accurate assessment of breeding strength has probably ever been obtained, and the Rock Pipit, the last census of which was in the mid-thirties.

Counts were done on 14 days between May 15th and July 3rd, and certain stretches of cliff were surveyed up to four times to ensure accuracy.

Results

Five species were found breeding on the chalk cliffs between Black Rock, Brighton and Eastbourne: Herring Gull, Jackdaw, Rock Pipit, Starling and House Sparrow. Two other species, Lesser Black-backed Gull (2 pairs) and Black Redstart (1 pair) were suspected of nesting. Five pairs of Fulmars were present at one locality during May, June and early July. They were kept under close observation but no proof of breeding was obtained.

Along the five-mile stretch of sandstone cliff between Hastings and Pett the only species surveyed were Herring Gull and Rock Pipit. The broken nature of parts of this stretch has enabled trees and shrubs to grow in places almost to the beach; here, species such as Robins, Blackbirds and Dunnocks occur but their numbers were not counted. Two pairs of Kestrels were suspected of breeding along this section of cliff.

Cormorants were not found breeding, although single birds were seen on several occasions. It is doubtful if this species has bred since the early part of the century, though information about this (Walpole-Bond) is unfortunately rather vague.

Numbers of Herring Gulls and Rock Pipits counted are given in the table below:

Sandstone Cliffs Hastings to Pett	Length of cliff (miles)	No. of visits	Rock Pipit		Herring Gull	
			Singing males/Prs.	Nests	Nests	Est. No. of Prs.
	5	2	3	371	No Count	371
Chalk Cliffs Brighton (Black Rock) to Newhaven	7½	3	8	30	80	35
	1¼	1	5	103	250	110
Seaford Head						
Seven Sisters						
(Cuckmere to Birling Gap)	2½	2	6	77	200	100
Beachy Head (Birling Gap to Holywell)	3¼	4	23	108	300	150
TOTALS			45	689		675

NOTE: Herring Gull—11 nests, 30 adults present and 12 pairs estimated at Rye Harbour.

At St. Leonards, roof-nesting Herring Gulls were estimated at 6 pairs in 1963; ** very general in 1964; no count for 1965 (W.P.W.).

200. HERRING GULL

With this species it was possible to count the actual number of nests and, for all except one stretch of cliff, the adult birds present were also recorded. As it is likely that not all the nests were located, the estimated number of breeding pairs is based on the counts of the nests and adults present.

Some 765 pairs were breeding along the cliffs. Although strictly outside the scope of this survey, c12 pairs were breeding at Rye Harbour and with the roof-nesting birds at St. Leonards the total breeding population for the county was estimated to be c790 pairs. The sandstone cliffs, where up until at least 1935 none had been recorded, now hold nearly half the county's breeding population. The last figure quoted for this stretch was 200 pairs in 1951, although 300 pairs were present in 1950. Walpole-Bond indicates the cliffs between Seaford and Beachy Head as being the stronghold of this species and states that at times these cliffs have held "perhaps as many as 2,000 couples." This number has only repeated in *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex*. In 1965 this stretch of cliffs held only some 360 pairs, and it is doubtful whether breeding ledges and slopes are available today for anywhere near a total of 2,000 pairs.

One nest was found on the beach at the foot of the cliff at the Seven Sisters, actually on the line of the highest tide. On May 22nd it held 2 eggs but its success was not followed up.

The first young Herring Gulls were recorded on May 29th, when 3 were seen at Seaford Head, and by late June most pairs had young.

379. ROCK PIPIT

Only singing males were counted, or birds that were obviously paired. When several visits were made to a particular stretch of cliff the counts were averaged, the individual counts not differing greatly. Much time was spent counting each section of the cliffs and as Rock Pipits are persistent singers it was felt that an accurate count of singing males was achieved on each visit. Females were also present with many of the singing males. The 1965 total of 45 pairs is the largest recorded along the Sussex coast, although it should be remembered that this is based on birds holding territories and not on nests found. The most recent comparative figure is 20 pairs in 1935 (Walpole-Bond), though in the following year the same author believed the number of pairs to be over 30. It was not until 1932 that this species finally re-established itself after being virtually absent from the Sussex coast for 40 years. This species was recorded breeding on the sandstone cliffs between Hastings and Pett for the first time in 1965, when 3 pairs were present.

References:

- J. Walpole-Bond History of Sussex Birds (1938)
C. G. des Forges and D. D. Harber A Guide to the Birds of Sussex (1963)
South Eastern Bird Reports 1945-1947
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NOTES FROM COASTAL STATIONS, 1965

BEACHY HEAD RINGING STATION

The area was covered very well in 1965, with observers present every week-end during the spring and continuously for periods of up to 3 weeks during the autumn. It proved to be the most successful year yet, both for birds recorded and numbers ringed.

A. R. Kitson and B. A. E. Marr were appointed additional members of the Committee during the year.

In the spring the Eastbourne Borough Council undertook a considerable amount of scrub clearance in the trapping area. Much breeding habitat was destroyed and possibly some nests of Stonechats and other species, and the Committee felt that in case of any future activities by the Council closer co-operation between the two bodies would be desirable. It was agreed that the Society would be informed of any further plans for the area.

As in previous years, the Society financed the year's ringing and we were very fortunate in receiving a set of Pesola spring balances from the Selsey Bill Bird Observatory. These were put to good use and nearly 2,000 migrants were weighed and measured. The year's ringing total was the highest to date. A significant contribution to this was made by our two most recently qualified ringers, Keith Verrall and Bob Batchelor, who would invariably have the nets set by 6 a.m. The best day was September 7th, when the two ringers present ringed 210 birds.

There were two interesting retraps during the year: a Nighthingale ringed on April 21st, 1962, was retrapped on May 9th, 1965, and a Grasshopper Warbler ringed on August 11th, 1963, was retrapped on April 25th, 1965.

The year's ringing total and grand total are set out below. The totals for Blackcap and Lesser Whitethroat represent approximately one quarter of an average year's total for the whole country.

	1.5.60	to	1.5.60	to	1.5.60	to	1.5.60
	31.12.65	1965	31.12.65	1965	31.12.65	1965	31.12.65
Partridge	1	1	273	68	28	28	28
Water Rail	1	1	39	15	20	4	24
Little Owl	1	1	39	3	366	106	106
Tawny Owl	1	1	80	32	30	5	5
Long-eared Owl	1	1	180	74	2	2	2
Green	1	1	5	1	2	2	2
Woodpecker	2	1	20	7	1	1	1
Wren	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swallow	134	49	293	60	1	1	1
House Martin	65	36	26	8	70	30	30
Sand Martin	15	1	105	47	193	100	100
Magpie	1	1	120	69	406	141	141
Jay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Great Tit	77	34	1	1	126	33	33
Blue Tit	193	54	1	1	8	8	8
Coal Tit	4	2	1341	476	136	54	54
Willow Tit	2	2	291	131	68	7	7
Long-tailed Tit	17	9	1808	872	2	2	2
Treecreeper	1	1	1	1	5	1	1
Wren	69	20	432	246	9	1	1
Mistle Thrush	41	18	474	224	1	1	1
Song Thrush	376	107	502	295	10	7	7
Ring Ouzel	27	11	28	18	10	10	10
Goldcrest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Firecrest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Grand Total: 8,626 of 66 species. 1965 Total: 3,530 of 52 species.

Unfortunately space does not permit the publication here of the year's results but the highlights are given in the Review of the Year and fuller details appear in the Systematic List.

SELSEY BILL

Half way through the year, the future of watching at Selsey Bill hung in the balance. The small band of observers who had been doing most of the regular watching since 1959 were finding the relentless pressure of building and holiday-making on the Bill was becoming intolerable during their weekend and occasional

B. E. COOPER and A. QUINN.

midweek observations. In the six years prior to 1965 this had nibbled away at the extensive areas of open land on the Bill-tip by the extension of holiday-camps and caravan sites, and the development of large housing estates. For these reasons they decided to move eastwards and watch the less crowded heights of Beachy Head.

Much to our pleasure and relief, however, the hut on the Bill-tip has continued to be used each weekend by two or three other observers, and although the lengthy periods of midweek observation of past years may not now be possible, it seems that regular weekend observations in spring and autumn are now assured in the future.

In the spring, one of the best on record, many interesting birds and movements were recorded despite, for the first time ever, a complete absence of midweek coverage in April and May. Autumn observations were maintained each weekend from early August until the end of the year, with a few longer periods in September. Details will be found in the Review of the Year and the Systematic List. The addition of Osprey, Short-billed Dowitcher (borrowed for a short while from Sidlesham Ferry), Wryneck and Wood Warbler to the Observatory's list in 1965 now brings the total of species recorded there to 229.

With the continuation of regular watching, it would assist the Society's Hon. Recorder if all records for Selsey Bill in the future, to facilitate the compilation of the summary for the Sussex Bird Report, could please be sent to: E. T. Welland at 12 Springfield, Elstead, Surrey.

B. A. E. MARR and E. T. WELLAND.

OBITUARY

Denzil D. Harber

Denzil D. Harber, whose death has occurred in a London hospital at the age of 57, the outstanding post-war figure in Sussex ornithology and seemed certain, granted a few more years, to leave his mark equally clearly on ornithology in general.

In his early days in Sussex, before spending several years abroad, he showed no particular interest in bird-watching, and it was not until just after the war, when he was now living in Eastbourne, that he came rapidly to the fore. For the first time since E. C. Arnold, Eastbourne began to figure in the bird journals, especially as a result of D.D.H.'s sea watches at Langney Point. And before long he was a familiar figure at the migration points all along the Sussex coastline, from Chichester Harbour to the Midrips.

At this time Sussex had no county bird journal, but this was remedied when, in 1948, D.D.H. joined Graham des Forges in the publication of an annual *Sussex Bird Report*, which he continued to edit and produce on his own after the withdrawal of Mr. des Forges in 1956. On the formation of the Sussex Ornithological Society, D.D.H., who had also succeeded Mr. des Forges as regional representative for the British Trust for Ornithology, agreed to the *Sussex Bird Report* becoming a society publication, and he himself was appointed county recorder. From the very first the *Sussex Bird Report* had set a notably high standard, which D.D.H. maintained uncompromisingly, and it was therefore no surprise when, in June, 1959, D.D.H. became a founder-member of the national Rarities Committee. He took over the onerous duties of secretary of the committee in 1963 and had produced the committee's latest report only a short time

before his death. It was also in 1963 that he and Mr. des Forges published *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex*, a feature of which was its very critical appraisal of past county records.

Mention must also be made of D.D.H.'s special review of *The Birds of the Soviet Union*, which appeared in *British Birds* in 1955 and demonstrated not only his linguistic abilities but also his remarkable capacity for work. In fact D.D.H.'s business life was organised so as to provide him with the maximum opportunity for bird study, in the field and on paper, as well as devoting time to his wife and sons. But although he travelled thousands of miles, here and abroad, and met many people, he was not an easy man to "know." The fact that in circles in which even acquaintances are on christian name terms he was invariably known as "D.D.H." is some indication of this. He did not suffer fools gladly; he was no respecter of reputations. He did not hesitate to speak his mind, and in what he said criticism always outweighed praise. With the result that he acquired a reputation for rejecting all records except his own!—a reputation which doubtless dissuaded many observers from submitting records in which they were not completely confident, and thus helped maintain that high standard of recording on which D.D.H. always insisted.

But his bark was worse than his bite. Much of his manner was due to a well-concealed shyness; and he could be a good companion, a well-informed conversationalist, and had a sharp sense of humour. He was an excellent field observer and this is mirrored, for example, in his *British Birds* note in 1962 on the Slender-billed Gull. In recent years he developed an interest in bird-ringing and had much to do with the establishment of the Beachy Head Ringing Station. His breach with the Sussex Ornithological Society, which led to him relinquishing the position of recorder, was mainly due to his undue concentration on rarities and migratory movements. He probably recognised this weakness, since he resigned rather than fight when his reign as recorder was challenged. For all his life he had been a fighter. When, suffering from cancer, he was told there was no hospital vacancy for him, he fought officialdom and won. And when death came, following an operation, it was only after a "tremendous struggle."

The sympathy of all Sussex bird-watchers will go out to his family in their grievous loss.

H.A.R.C.