

The
Sussex
Bird Report

1974



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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

NUMBER TWENTY-SEVEN, 1974

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Cover Drawing of Fulmar by Ian Willis

Published September, 1975

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THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1974

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The above list of Council Officers and Members shows all holding office at the 30th June, 1975

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Despite the somewhat gloomy prospects forecast by the pundits for 1974 it is encouraging to report that the effects felt by the Society were relatively minor and that its continued expansion has shown little sign of slowing down.

The Honorary Officers and Council of the Society during 1974 were Guy Mountford, O.B.E. (President), Mr. M. Shrubbs (Vice-President), Mr. D. G. Chelmeick (Secretary), Mr. C. F. Helyer (Assistant Secretary), Mr. A. J. Cooke (Treasurer), Mr. C. M. James (Recorder), Mr. W. Merritt (Assistant Recorder), Mr. S. Bayliss Smith (Editor), Mr. R. J. B. Jackson (Conservation Officer), Mr. R. F. Pidgeon (Press and Public Relations Officer), and Messrs. J. F. Cooper, B. A. E. Marr, S. J. R. Rumsey, R. J. Sandison, A. Simpson and Dr. A. B. Watson.

Mr. Jackson, our Conservation Officer, has decided to retire as have two of the Council's longest serving members—Mr. B. A. E. Marr (for many years Hon. Secretary of the Society) and Mr. R. J. Sandison. The Council extends its grateful thanks to all three for their loyal service.

The Society's unofficial helpers have once again proved invaluable to its day to day running and the Council would especially like to thank Mr. D. J. Taylor (Membership Secretary) and Mr. and Mrs. Simpson (Outings and Meetings Secretaries respectively). Miss Jean Stacey's assistance with routine handling of records has once again proved invaluable, as has that of Mrs. Norma Petrie Hay and Mrs. Iris Simpson for help in typing. Packing and sending out the Society literature is probably the most tedious and least appreciated of all the many aspects of the administration work of the Society and for many years Mr. Tom Palmer carried out this task almost single-handed. Falling health eventually compelled him to withdraw from active work in the Society, and the Council, in extending its warmest thanks to him for many years of loyal and virtually unnoticed service, decided to make him an Honorary Life Member—the first such honour in the Society's history. It is sad to record that only a few weeks after receiving this honour he died. His passing will be deeply felt by many Society members.

The Accounts for 1974 show a surplus of income over expenditure of £94 compared with £248 in 1973. Membership and subscriptions showed relatively small increases, but many items of expenditure increased substantially, particularly printing and postage charges. The surplus has been added to the General Fund which now stands at £958.

Conservation expenditure during the year amounted to £420, including £300 contributed to the warden's salary at Rye Harbour, L.N.R., together with further expenditure on the Chichester Harbour survey and preliminary expenditure on the preparation of artificial breeding islands. After adding film show profits, bank interest, etc., the balance on the Conservation Fund stands at £1,041.

At the Annual General Meeting two important resolutions were carried which may have profound effects on the Society. The first was the resolution to raise the subscription for ordinary members from £1.05 to £2.00 in view of the ever increasing costs. This will be implemented on 1st January, 1975 and it remains to be seen what effect this will have on membership. However, it is surely a tribute to the late Mr. R. E. Goddard and Mr. A. J. Cooke (past and present Honorary Treasurers respectively) that this is the first increase in subscription since the Society was formed in 1962. Let us hope that a further twelve years elapse before another increase is mooted.

The second resolution arose out of the increasing threat of egg collectors to bird conservation in the County and more particularly to the problem of infiltration of such elements into the Society. The resolution, proposed by Dr. M. Hollings and seconded by Mr. M. Shrubbs, sought to ban convicted egg collectors from the Society. Although the precise wording had still to be agreed, the resolution was accepted in principle and left to the Council to produce a suitably worded amendment to the Rules for adoption at the 1975 Annual General Meeting.

Under the leadership of its new Hon. Secretary, Miss Angela Brooks, the Junior Section has reached a record membership of 85. It has once again provided a varied programme of events for our younger members who also receive a regular newsletter filled with recent reports, competitions and even, on occasion, colour illustrations—excellent value for 25p. The Council would like to thank Miss Brooks and her team of outing leaders and helpers for all their efforts.

With its much larger circulation, colour illustrations are somewhat impracticable for the official Society Newsletter, but the excellent drawings provided by Mr. R. Greenhalf of Rye have more than compensated. Under the editorship of Messrs. R. F. Pidgeon and C. F. Helyer, the Newsletter has been both informative and entertaining. This is undoubtedly true if the response to the numerous competitions is anything to go by. The Council thank both Mr. Pidgeon and Mr. Helyer for their efforts and are further grateful to Mr. Pidgeon for maintaining our close liaison with the local press.

The standard of indoor meetings was maintained in 1974, as was the policy of visiting as many parts of the County as possible to give more members an opportunity of attending. At the Annual General Meeting our President—Guy Mountford, O.B.E.—gave an illustrated talk on the wildlife of the Indonesian sub-continent whilst lectures on the British scene ranged from a talk with the intriguing title of "Nature by Night" to a members' evening of competitions and slide selections which proved to be very popular and enjoyable. The provision of coffee at meetings once again proved a great success in maintaining a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and the Council would like to thank Mrs. Doris Kelly and her team of helpers for organising the refreshments.

The Society's Annual Joint Film Show with the R.S.P.B. in Brighton was left without an organiser only a few weeks before the event took place. Fortunately Mrs. Beryl James, wife of our Hon. Recorder, was able to take over. Mrs. James who is by no means a stranger to the trials and tribulations of organising such an event, assisted by her team of programme sellers, ensured that once again the evening was a great success. The Council would like to thank all concerned and especially Mrs. James for all their hard work.

A new venture in 1974 was a joint film show with the Wildfowl Trust held at the Assembly Rooms in Worthing in February. The two films "Land of the Griffon Vulture" and "Wealth of Wildfowl" proved most entertaining, and, despite being held mid-week, the event was very well attended. This show was the last to be organised for the Society by Mr. and Mrs. M. Cahill and the Council extends its sincere thanks to them for all their efforts in organising the film shows so successfully over the years.

The Council is pleased to report that Mr. H. Wheeler of Hove and Mrs. Davis of Southwick have agreed to take over the running of the future Brighton and Worthing shows respectively. We would like to thank them for their offer of help and wish them all success.

After a couple of years "in the doldrums" the Society's exhibition was given a new lease of life under the guidance of Mr. W. Lambert of Haywards

Heath. He, together with Mr. C. A. B. Steel of the Booth Museum of Natural History in Brighton completely reorganised the exhibition, updated the information and mounted it on purpose-built metal stands. The completed exhibition was first on show at our Dome Film Show where it attracted great interest and has since been exhibited at the Booth Museum and local libraries. The Council extends its grateful thanks both to Mr. Lambert and Mr. Steel for all their efforts.

As always the "fresh air" outings in the capable hands of Mr. A. Simpson were all very well attended. The aim has once again been to provide members with an opportunity of visiting as many different habitats as possible under the guidance of experienced ornithologists. The ever-increasing attendance is indicative of their success and to cope with this an experiment was made in 1974 of holding two outings in different parts of the County—Chichester Harbour and Glynde Levels—on the same day. The beginners one-day field courses have proved successful and appear to fill a need for our newly interested members. Three out-of-county events took place during the year. Firstly, the annual visit to Farlington Marsh for which we must thank Mr. and Mrs. D. Billet for all their help in making this outing so enjoyable. A coach trip to the New Forest once again provided members with an excellent day's birding and, still further afield, the four day trip to Northern Holland was a repeat venture, the success being due to the leaders—William de Jong and Cass and Christa Vanderwal. Thanks are extended by the Council to Mr. John Houghton for organising the coach arrangements and to all those who were kind enough to lead outings during the year.

1974 was the penultimate year of the Rook Survey, which may well prove to be the most successful survey ever undertaken by the Society. It involved a large number of members and has achieved to date almost 100 per cent. coverage of the county. Apart from normal duck and wader counts linked to national surveys the only other census being organised by the Society at present is the Nightingale survey, which commenced this year.

1974 proved to be a year of further consolidation rather than expansion in the field of conservation work; management continued at Charleston reedbed in the Cuckmere Valley and the Glynde scheme once again proved successful. Due to the exceptional rain towards the end of the year an attempt to carry out management at Stirrives reedbed in the Adur valley proved abortive, but the Council would like to thank all members who attended this and other Conservation outings.

In an attempt to inform more people of what we are trying to achieve by our conservation work members of the Society led a party of 38 members of the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation to observe the workings of the Glynde Scheme and the management of Charleston reedbed. The day proved to be a great success and an excellent exchange of ideas resulted.

Contributions towards the Local Nature Reserves at Rye and Pagham Harbour were maintained as in the past as was the Society's representation on the respective management committees. We would like to thank Dr. M. Hollings for his representation at Pagham and Guy Mountfort, O.B.E. and Mr. J. McTear at Rye.

As with any voluntary organisation, the Society views 1975 with some trepidations. In April, 1974 we reached an all time high of 1,350 members, but how will this be affected by the increase in the subscriptions? What will the recent draconian measures such as the increase in postal charges do to our activities? Obviously the answers to these questions are pure conjecture, but the need to maintain vigilance in the conservation of wild-life in Sussex is as great now as ever.

The Society needs your help both financial and personal to maintain and increase its efforts in this field so vital to the maintenance of diversity and interest in the rich landscape of Sussex.

D. G. CHELMICK, *Hon. Secretary.*

CONTRIBUTORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, 1974

We are grateful to the following observers for records, and we also wish to thank those observers who helped with the Society's breeding surveys. The names of those who helped with the Rook survey are marked with an asterisk.

J. H. Ainley	N. Buckthorpe	P. G. Davis
C. R. C. Albrecht	M. E. Buontempo	R. E. Davis
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MIGRATION

Regular observations of migration were made at Beachy Head by a number of observers and J. F. Cooper has provided a detailed summary of the records. N. Pinder has provided a similar summary of the birds at the Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve. Both these summaries have been used extensively in preparing the Report and have proved most helpful. We are very grateful for this assistance.

BREEDING SURVEYS

Two Society breeding surveys were continued in 1974. The Nightingale survey and the census of rookeries were both organised by W. Merritt.

B.T.O. NATIONAL CENSUS OF HERONRIES

All known heronries except Leasham were visited. We are grateful to the following observers for their assistance—
 D. R. Coda (Eridge), C. F. Helyer (Henfield), A. K. Hughes (Parham), I. Kraunsoe (Pagham), D. C. Lang (Fittle), J. Pelling (Fishbourne), F. C. Simmons (Wartling), J. McTear (Priesthaves & Westham).

ESTUARY COUNTS

These counts were continued in Chichester, Pagham and Rye Harbours, and counts in December and January were made along the whole County coastline. Counts were organised by M. Shrubbs, at Rye by N. Pinder and at Pevensey by J. McTear. All the records have been sent to the B.T.O. and a full account starts on page 52. We thank all the counters for their efforts. They were:—
 R. Batchelor, P. F. Bonham, J. Burfield, D. G. Chelmick, E. B. Coitiam, R. D. M. Edgar, Mrs. J. H. M. Edom, D. S. Flumm, F. J. Forbes, M. F. H. Gray, J. W. Houghton, S. W. M. Hughes, R. J. B. Jackson, C. R. Janman, A. R. Kitson, I. Kraunsoe, B. A. E. Marr, W. Merritt, C. E. Messer, J. McTear, T. W. Parmenter, Mrs. N. Petrie-Hay, R. F. Porter, M. Shrubbs, I. R. Willis, R. Williamson.

WILDFOWL COUNTS

R. Batchelor again organised the National Wildfowl counts. We are grateful to him for making the records available to the Society. Counters were:—
 Mrs. Meek (Darwell Res.), D. R. Coda (Glynde Levels), A. J. Cooke (Cuckmere Valley), J. Fowler (Chichester G.P.), D. C. Lang (Barcombe Res.), M. Banks, B. Hutton, J. McTear, C. Spooner and M. Spooner (Rye Harbour and Pett Level), Miss V. Maxse (Burton Ponds), C. E. Messer (Amberley/Pulborough Brooks), H. Mildenhall (Arlington Res.), R. Park (Swanbourne Lake), Mr. and Mrs. A. Simpson (Warnham Mill Pond, Knepp Lake), C. F. Tebbutt (Weir Wood Res.).

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1974

- 1. BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*).**—One at West Wittering on Nov. 17th (BAEM) and one at Arlington Res. on Dec. 27th (TG).
- 2. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*G. immer*).**—On Jan. 12th, there was one W. off Selsey Bill (MJWH, RJS) and on Apr. 28th, 2 were seen off Worthing (RJS).
Between Dec. 16th and the end of the year, one was recorded at Arlington Res. (many obs.) and on Dec. 30th, one was seen in Chichester Harbour (JHME).
- 4. RED-THROATED DIVER (*G. stellata*).**—In the early months, about 25 were recorded with the majority of the records from Rye Bay.
On Jan. 16th, one was found in a garden at Wannock, after a period of severe gales. This bird was later released in the Cuckmere Valley (PJW, VAW et al.) Between Jan. 27th and Feb. 3rd, one was recorded at Weir Wood Res. (MPL et al.) Between Sept. 29th and Oct. 1st, one was recorded at Arlington Res. (ERGA, PJW) and between Oct. 6th and the end of the year, about 25 were seen, mainly off Selsey Bill.

DIVER SPECIES (*Gavia* sp.).—All records of diver passage for April and May are shown under this heading. Some birds were specifically identified.

G. arctica G. immer G. stellata G. species	Selsey Bill		Beachy Head	
	Apr. 6th-May 25th	Apr. 5th-May 22nd	E	W
	1	1	51	—
	3	—	25	—
	23	—	145	—

The number of hours of sea watching at Beachy Head was not recorded and there was little systematic watching at Selsey Bill.
At Beachy Head, the peak passage of divers appears to have occurred on May 8th and 9th.

- 5. GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*).**—On Jan. 1st, 21 were counted in Chichester Harbour and on Jan. 21st, 21 were seen off Pett Level. On Feb. 24th, 19 were recorded at Thorney Island.
On Oct. 19th, 22 were seen off Pagham Harbour and on Nov. 10th, 17 were recorded at Pagham Lagoon.
There were records of inland wintering from 7 localities in the early months and from 3 localities in December. The numbers seen were small except for 20 at Weir Wood Res. on Dec. 11th.

In the breeding season, pairs were recorded as follows:—

Locality	No. of pairs	No. of pairs	
		Locality	Locality
Balcombe Lake	1	Lurgashall Pond	1
Burton Park	2	Marshfield	1
Chichester G.P.	18	Pett Level	2
Horsted Keynes	2	Perworth Park	2
Knepp Lake	2	Pond Leigh	1
		Rye Harbour G.P.	2
		Warham Mill Pond	2
		Weir Wood Res.	8

The 44 pairs in the table raised 56 young, a much better figure than the one in 1973, when 39 pairs raised 24 young.

- 6. RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. grisigena*).**—Between Jan. 15th and Feb. 21st, one was seen at Pagham Harbour (AJP, WWAP, JVS, RJS) and on Jan. 28th and 29th, one was recorded at Arlington Res. (AJC, JCSW).
On Oct. 29th and Nov. 2nd, a single bird was seen at Church Norton and Selsey Bill (GdesF, PD, DAG).

7. SLAVONIAN GREBE (*P. auritus*).—In January and February, up to 16 were seen in Chichester Harbour and up to 12 off Church Norton. There were no other records for these months from the coast but on Jan. 26th, 2 were seen at Arlington Res. On Feb. 23rd, one was recorded in this locality and during the month, one, which was still present in March, was first seen at Chichester G.P.

In March, up to 6 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and up to 30 off Church Norton. There was one off Ovingdean on Mar. 2nd.
In April, about 18 were seen in 9 localities on or off the coast. Included in these figures were 8 off Birling Gap on Apr. 12th.

One was seen at Chichester G.P. from May 1st to 7th (JVS et al).
On Sept. 7th, one was recorded at Weir Wood Res. (CFT) and one was seen off Church Norton on Oct. 12th.
Between Nov. 30th and the end of the year, up to 4 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and between Nov. 2nd and Dec. 29th, up to 13 off Church Norton. There were no further records for these months.

8. BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*P. nigricollis*).—In January, up to 3 were seen in Chichester Harbour, off Church Norton and in Pagham Harbour. Single birds were recorded in January at Chichester G.P. and in Pagham Harbour in February.
Between Aug. 9th and Sept. 22nd, one was seen at Chichester G.P. and one was recorded at Weir Wood Res. on Aug. 30th.

9. LITTLE GREBE (*P. ruficollis*).—In the breeding season, about 26 pairs and 22 young were recorded in 18 well distributed localities. Of these, 10 pairs were in the Rye Harbour LNR and 3 pairs at Chichester G.P. Elsewhere, no more than 2 pairs were seen in any one locality.
The main winter concentrations:—

53 in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 1st
20 in Cuckmere Valley on Jan. 1st
26 in Rye Harbour LNR on Jan. 1st
26 in Cuckmere Valley on Nov. 3rd
44 in Cuckmere Valley on Nov. 19th
51 in Cuckmere Valley on Nov. 22nd
35 in Cuckmere Valley on Dec. 4th

10. BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (*Diomedea melanophris*).—One in Chichester Harbour on May 10th (KS). This record has been accepted by Brit. B. and is the first for the County.

16. MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*).—On May 4th, there were 9 E. off Seaford Head (RB, DCL) and 4 E. off Beachy Head (ARK, MJR). On May 12th, there were 2 E. in Rye Bay (NP).
On Sept. 28th, one flew W. off Cuckmere Haven (GAS, RJS).

21. SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*).—One off Selsey Bill on Oct. 6th (ADH).

26. **FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*).—First seen at Beachy Head on Jan. 19th, when 40 were recorded. Subsequently there were records from all parts of the coast with the majority of the birds on or off the cliffs.

In March, at least 20 were present at Beachy Head. In April and May, 20 were seen at Seaford Head and on May 8th, 20 were recorded at Newhaven.

Although one was seen at Beachy Head as late as Oct. 28th, there is still no evidence of successful breeding.

27. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*). There were records for every month with the exception of December. The numbers in the first three months of the year were very small but between Apr. 14th and May 28th, there were 118 E. and 37 W. off Beachy Head.

In June, a single bird was seen off Bexhill on 23rd and in July there were records of about 13 birds. In August and September, small numbers were seen but in October, about 125 were observed with the majority off Beachy Head and Selsey Bill.

On Nov. 9th, there were 50 W. at Beachy Head and there was one off Selsey Bill on Nov. 24th.

28. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—There were many records from the coast and from at least 14 inland localities. Some birds were seen in the river valleys and small numbers visited the reservoirs.

At Chichester G.P., up to 66 were recorded in January and up to 23 in February.

Between Apr. 2nd and May 8th, there were reports of up to 90 on Bognor Pier, in the early evening. Between Apr. 7th and May 8th, up to 75 were observed, between Elmer and Arundel, when flying inland between 1945 hours and 2015 hours. It appears that Bognor Pier was used as a gathering place and that there were subsequent mass movements to tree roosts in the Arun Valley (GCE).

Up to 85 were seen in the Arun Valley in November and December and it is likely that roosting in trees also occurred, in these months.

In April, up to 36 were recorded on an electricity pylon, by the sea at Southwick and 25 were seen there on May 1st.

Analysis of all the records indicates that peak numbers may occur in April.

29. **SHAG** (*P. aristotelis*).—On Jan. 1st, one was seen off Beachy Head (JFC) and on Feb. 14th, one was recorded at Newhaven (DCL). On Apr. 15th, one was seen there (RB) and on Apr. 18th, there was one E. off Birling Gap. At Beachy Head, there was one E. on Apr. 30th (JFC), one W. on May 1st and 4 E. on May 2nd (JFC, PC, MJR).

In September, one found inland near Bognor on the 9th was subsequently released at Aldwick (WWAP) and on the 10th, one was recorded at Pagham (JVS). On Sept. 23rd, there were 2 at Arlington Res. (PJW). On Oct. 4th, one was recorded off Selsey (JVS) and in December, single birds were seen off Hove on the 2nd (GAS) and at Pagham Lagoon on the 24th.

30. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*).—All known heronries except Leasam were visited. The number of occupied nests was: Old Park Wood, Fishbourne, 31 plus 2 probably occupied; Pagham, 2; Parham, 40 plus 6 probably occupied; Henfield, 5 plus one probably occupied; Firle, no count due to disease which resulted in the deaths of at least 25 adults and sub-adults; Eridge, 10 plus 2 probably occupied; Priesthaves, 7 plus 2 probably occupied; Westham, one; Wartling, 7.

On Aug. 29th at Beachy Head, 4 flew S. and out to sea. On Sept. 13th, 5 flying NW. were recorded there.

35. **CATTLE EGRET** (*Babulcus ibis*).—One at Wittersham from Aug. 8th to 15th (KD, PTD, PJG et al). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

38. **BITTERN** (*Botaurus stellaris*).—One at Barcombe Res. on Jan. 6th (DCL).

40. **WHITE STORK** (*Ciconia ciconia*).—One at Adversane from mid-September to the end of the year (FWD, SWMH et al). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

42. **SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucorodia*).—One in the Rye Harbour LNR on May 10th (NP et al).

DUCKS.—The table below sets out the peak winter counts of the regular and common species at 13 principal wintering areas in the County for the winter, 1974-75; figures for the winter, 1973-74 will be found in S&BR, 1973. Once more we stress that the totals are intended only to facilitate comparisons and to show trends, not to give a total population figure.

All the records available to the Society have been used in compiling the table and the following species accounts in the systematic list are confined to records outside its scope and to records for 1974 unless otherwise stated.

PEAK WINTER POPULATIONS OF DUCK AT SELECTED LOCALITIES 1974/75

Locality	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Shoveler	Tufted	Pochard
Chichester Harbour	17	820	415	136		7	2
Chichester G.P.	215	120			186	182	200
Pagham Harbour	50	400	45	56	50	13	
Amberley/Pulborough	400	650	600	200	400	120	120
Knepp	120	1	275			24	24
Weir Wood Res.	103	16	63			290	140
Barcombe Res.	150	10	270		12	56	49
Glynde Levels	180	400	1250		25		
Cuckmere	68	65	20				
Arlington Res.	143	70	1200	4	60	50	80
Darwell Res.	196		25		188		84
Pevensay Levels	240	260	250	6	11	56	68
Rye Harbour	50	7	14	1	9	76	290
ANNUAL INDEX	1932	2819	4428	403	753	1062	1057

45. **MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—See table for winter populations. In the whole County, 8 broods totalling 65 young were seen.

46. **TEAL** (*A. crecca*).—See table for winter populations.

Between Apr. 13th and May 3rd, there were 26 E. off Beachy Head.

In the breeding season, pairs or single birds were recorded in 8 localities, in one of which a nest was found on May 8th.

In 1974/75, the peak count in Chichester Harbour on Nov. 16th, was the largest number yet recorded from this area. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

47. **GARGANEY** (*A. querquedula*).—First recorded on Mar. 4th, when 2 were seen at Rye Harbour. Between this date and May 8th, there were records from 5 localities with a maximum of 8 birds in the Rye Harbour area on Mar. 25th.

On Apr. 7th, there were 4 E. off Saltdean and on Apr. 28th and 29th, a total of 4 E. off Beachy Head.

Although there was no proof of breeding, records indicating this were received from 2 localities.

On July 24th, one was seen at Weir Wood Res., on Aug. 20th, 5 at Litlington and on Sept. 15th, 6 at Amberley.

49. **GADWALL** (*A. strepera*).—There were records from 9 localities. The monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
31	21	24	19	7	—	—	6	—	4	19	19

In the early months, up to 14 were seen at Arlington Res. and on Jan. 9th, 13 were recorded at Chichester G.P. Elsewhere, the numbers were small.

In April, 5 were seen at Chichester G.P., 6 at Rye Harbour and 2 in the Cuckmere Valley. In May, up to 6 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR and on May 4th, there were 2 E. at Beachy Head.

In August, 4 were recorded at Chichester G.P. and single birds were seen at Arlington Res. and Rye Harbour.

Between Oct. 26th, when 2 were seen at Chichester G.P. and the end of the year, the numbers seen were small, except for 15 in this locality on Dec. 1st.

50. **WIGEON** (*A. penelope*).—See table for winter populations. Was very scarce in Chichester and Pagham Harbours in 1974-75; the peak count of 415 in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 12th was less than half that of previous years. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

52. **PINTAIL** (*A. acuta*).—See table for winter populations. At Beachy Head, there were 2 E. on April 7th, one E. on May 2nd and 4 E. on May 7th. One was seen in Chichester Harbour on May 6th and on May 26th, there were 2 E. in Rye Bay.

A single bird was seen in the Rye Harbour area on July 27th and from Aug. 25th to 29th.

53. **SHOVELER** (*A. clypeata*).—See table for winter populations. At Beachy Head, there were 27 E. on Apr. 7th and 21 E. between Apr. 20th and May 4th. At Selsey Bill, there were 13 E. on Apr. 6th and 7th.

Although 4 were seen in one locality, in June and 5 in another, in June and July, there was no evidence of attempted breeding.

55. **SCAUP** (*Anhaya marila*).—At Arlington Res. one was seen on Mar. 4th and at Weir Wood Res., a single bird was recorded from Jan. 17th to Mar. 31st.

At Chichester G.P., one was seen between Jan. 24th and April 6th. Two were recorded there on Feb. 10th. Elsewhere, there was one off Selsey Bill on Jan. 9th, 2 in Pagham Harbour on Feb. 1st and one in Chichester Harbour on Feb. 9th. At Rye Harbour, up to 35 were seen in January, and up to 20 in February and March. One was recorded in Rye Bay on Mar. 17th and 27th.

On Apr. 5th, there were 15 E. off Selsey Bill.

Between Oct. 9th and 14th, a female was seen at Sidlesham Ferry. On Nov. 3rd, a male was recorded at Pett Level and on Nov. 22nd, 2 males and 2 females were seen in the Cuckmere Valley.

56. **TUFTED DUCK** (*A. fuligula*).—See table for winter populations. In the breeding season, there were records, some of which were incomplete, from 18 localities. There were no reports from some localities, including Petworth Park, where breeding occurred in other years.

Breeding by 55 pairs was recorded in 12 localities and 256 young were counted. The number of young in the Rye Harbour LNR, was not recorded and at Chichester G.P., the survival rate of the 175 young, was estimated at no more than 50%.

At Chichester G.P., 28 pairs bred, at Forest Mere, 4 pairs bred and at Rye Harbour LNR, 12 pairs were recorded. Elsewhere, no more than 2 pairs were recorded as breeding in any one locality.

57. **POCHARD** (*A. ferina*).—See table for winter populations. On May 3rd, there were 15 E. at Beachy Head.

Between June 1st and 8th, a male was recorded at Sidlesham Ferry, on June 14th, 8 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR, on June 17th, there were 2 males at Barcombe Res. and one at Weir Wood Res. and on June 24th, 10 were recorded in one locality in Chichester Harbour.

At Chichester G.P., a pair bred successfully and 6 young were reared (BJR, JVS). This is the first record of successful breeding, since 1960.

In July, up to 4 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR.

60. **GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*).—In the first three months of the year, up to 9 were recorded at Arlington Res., up to 4 at Barcombe Res., and up to 7 at Weir Wood Res. In the same period, 3 were seen at Chichester G.P. and there were records of single birds from Burton Pond in January and Pippingford Park in March.

In November and December, one was recorded at Arlington Res., one at Darwell Res. and up to 3 at Weir Wood Res. There were records of up to 7 at Chichester G.P. in November. On Nov. 30th and Dec. 1st, at least 2 were seen on floodwater at Amberley Wild Brooks.

In the winter of 1974/75, the peak count in Chichester Harbour was only 63 on Nov. 16th, an unusually early date for the maximum to occur. No counts were made by boat, however, so this species was possibly under-recorded. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*).—Between Jan. 6th and end of April, there were reports of about 13 birds. Eight of these were seen in localities on or near the coast. In addition, 2 were recorded at Arlington Res. and 2 at Barcombe Res.

At Chichester G.P., one was recorded from the beginning of the year and 2 were seen there from Feb. 13th to Apr. 28th.

On Apr. 6th and May 2nd, single birds flew E. off Selsey Bill.
Between Oct. 13th, when there was one W. off Selsey Bill and the end of the year, there were records of 4 birds, all from the coast.

62. **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*).—On Feb. 23rd, 100 were seen in Rye Bay and 4 were recorded there on Mar. 27th.

Between Apr. 12th and May 30th, there were 91 E. off Beachy Head with a maximum of 46 E. on Apr. 12th. On May 3rd, there were 18 E. off Selsey Bill.
Between Oct. 29th and Dec. 15th, up to 5 were recorded in Rye Bay.

64. **COMMON SCOTER** (*M. nigra*).—In February, up to 600 were seen in Rye Bay but elsewhere the numbers, in the first three months of the year, were insignificant.

At Beachy Head, where there was systematic watching, there were 9,556 E. between April 5th and May 27th with maxima of 2,956 E. on Apr. 12th and 1,585 E. on May 4th. This movement was also observed at Selsey Bill where a total of 1,192 E. was recorded between Apr. 6th and May 25th. At Lancing, there were 240 E. on May 3rd and at Seaford Head, 6,000 E. were noted in April and May.

In the second half of the year, 1,100 were recorded in Rye Bay on Nov. 30th but elsewhere the numbers were very small.

67. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*).—Was recorded in every month of the year. The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
24	38	19	32	35	16	12	24	12	15	26	24

At Beachy Head, there were 24 E. between Apr. 7th and May 11th.
In June, 7 were seen off Seaford Head. Up to 11 were recorded off Pagham Harbour between June 10th and July 25th.

Over the whole year, the majority of the records came from the western part of the County.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*).—In the early months, there were 25 off Ferring on Jan. 14th, 40 off Church Norton on Mar. 2nd, 29 off Ferring on Mar. 25th and 40 off Elmer on Mar. 30th.

On Jan. 26th, one was seen at Chichester G.P.
Between Apr. 10th and May 12th, there were 278 E. off Beachy Head with maxima of 95 E. on Apr. 12th and 41 E. on Apr. 28th. Some of the birds involved in this movement were also seen off Seaford Head and off Birling Gap.

On Nov. 2nd, there were 23 W. off Selsey Bill and 45 W. were recorded there on Nov. 30th. On this day, there were 26 W. off Pett Level.

In the winter of 1974/75, numbers in Chichester Harbour were very low, with a peak of 15 on Jan. 12th. No counts were made by boat, however, so that this species was possibly under-recorded. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

70. **GOOSANDER** (*M. merganser*).—Between Jan. 1st and Mar. 10th, 3 were recorded at Arlington Res., 3 at Barcombe Res., one at Chichester G.P., 8 at Darwell Res., 2 at Weir Wood Res. and one at Worthing. On Apr. 10th, 5 were seen off Seaford Head (RB) and on Apr. 28th, one flew E. off Birling Gap.
Between Oct. 24th and Dec. 2nd, one was seen at Church Norton and from Dec. 4th to 26th, one was recorded in the Lower Cuckmere Valley.

71. **SMEW** (*M. albellus*).—Between Jan. 6th and Mar. 13th, up to 3 were seen at Chichester G.P. and on Jan. 27th, one was recorded at the Crumbles, Eastbourne. Single birds were seen in March at Pett Level and in Rye Harbour LNR.

Between Nov. 3rd and 15th, one was present in the Cuckmere Valley and on Nov. 29th and Dec. 1st, one was seen between Amberley and Pulborough.

73. **SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna tadorna*).—On Feb. 17th, 20 were recorded at Wet Level in the Rother Valley.

Between Apr. 12th and May 15th, there were 56 E. and 12 W. off Beachy Head.

In the breeding season, pairs were seen inland at Aldsworth Ponds, in the Arun Valley, at Chichester G.P. and at Lidsay. An early brood was seen at Sidlesham Ferry on May 15th and on May 20th, a female with 9 young was observed at Swanbourne Lake, Arundel. On June 11th, a pair and 19 young were seen at Burpham.

At Chichester G.P., 28 young were seen in two localities and in Chichester Harbour, 77 young were counted in June and early July. In the Rye Harbour LNR, 3 pairs bred and 9 young flew. In the Cuckmere Valley, a single young bird was seen.

In January, February and December, up to 4 were seen at Weir Wood Res., but it is not known if these birds originated from a wildfowl collection. In the winter of 1974/75, there was a sharp drop in numbers in Chichester Harbour, with a peak count of 2,305 on Jan. 12th, compared with more than 3,000 in previous winters. In addition, this level was only maintained for a month and by early March, numbers were down to 1,500. In contrast there was a marked increase in Pagham Harbour with a record peak of 950 on Mar. 1st. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

75. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*).—Between Jan. 5th and Feb. 23rd, one was recorded at Amberley Wild Brooks and two were seen there between Mar. 16th and 23rd.

Between Mar. 16th and Apr. 9th, up to 3 were recorded at Glynde and 3 were seen at Newhaven on Mar. 26th.

On Mar. 13th, 6 were recorded at Winchelsea and on Mar. 30th, there were 5 W. at Pett. There was one E. at Rottingdean on Apr. 11th.

On Oct. 15th, there were 4 SW. over Arlington Res.
The possibility that some of the above records refer to feral birds must not be overlooked for 16 were seen at Rye Harbour at the end of May and 5 were resident there in the last two weeks in June.

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*A. albifrons*).—On Feb. 3rd, 9 were seen at Amberley Wild Brooks and 22 were recorded there between Feb. 10th and 24th (Many obs.).

78. **BEAN GOOSE** (*A. fabilis*).—On Oct. 14th, 10 were seen at Litlington (PIW).

GREY GOOSE SPECIES.—In the early months, there were 50 over Sidlesham on Feb. 16th and on Mar. 13th and 15th, large numbers were heard over Alfriston, at night.

On Oct. 4th, there were 25 N. in the Findon area and on Nov. 3rd, there were 7 S. at Beachy Head.

80. **BRENT GOOSE** (*Branta bernicla*).—All records refer to the dark-breasted race *B. b. bernicla*.
Details of the numbers recorded in Chichester and Pagham Harbours in the winter of 1973/74 were shown in the Report for 1973.

Between Apr. 5th and May 4th, there were 262 E. off Beachy Head with a maximum of 88 E. of Apr. 12th. Easterly movement of passage birds was also recorded off Selsey Bill, off Lancing, off Rottingdean, off Seaford Head and in Rye Bay. On Apr. 26th, a party of approximately 35 flew E. over Portslade, at night (OM). There were 7 E. off Beachy Head on May 11th and 2 E. as late as May 24th, in this area (BEC, JFC).

Return passage was first noted on Sept. 28th, when there were 2 W. off Selsey Bill. On Oct. 3rd, there were 3 in Pagham Harbour and on Oct. 6th, 100 W. off Worthing. On Oct. 8th, one was recorded off Beachy Head.

In the winter of 1974/75, numbers showed a marked drop in Chichester Harbour from the very high levels of 1973/74. However, about 5,000 were present from January to early March, with an absolute peak of 5,154 on Jan. 12th. Counts suggest a very poor breeding season in 1974. Thus in two sample counts, involving 500 birds in all, only one immature was detected. In contrast, a further increase was noted in Pagham Harbour, with a peak count of 700 on Feb. 1st. Altogether in 1974/75, the counts over the whole Harbour complex, from Pagham to Portsmouth, recorded totals of 2,473 in November, 9,579 in December, 10,447 in January, 9,161 in February and 6,965 in March. See pages 53,55 for the detailed counts.

82. **CANADA GOOSE** (*B. canadensis*).—Some sites where breeding occurred in other years, were not visited. Successful breeding was reported from the following localities:—

	Pairs	Pairs
Chichester G.P.	4	Knepp Lake
South Pond, Midhurst	1	Weir Wood Res.
Lurgashall	1	Plashett Park
Pond Leigh	2	Royal Greenwich Obs., Herismonceux
Coolham	1	Rye Harbour

No less than 85 young were reared by the 19 pairs at the above but it is not known how many pairs bred at Petworth Park.

On Aug. 29th, a flock of 187 birds was recorded at Arlington Res., and 215 were seen there on Oct. 22nd. At Petworth, 436 were counted on Sept. 9th. At Amberley Wild Brooks, 398 were seen on Sept. 29th and 325 on Nov. 30th. At Knepp Lake, 122 were recorded on Dec. 15th.

86. **BEWICK'S SWAN** (*Cygnus bewickii*).—In the Arun Valley, 32 were seen in January, 40 in February and 36 at the beginning of March. Thirty were recorded there on Mar. 9th.

On Jan. 5th, 4 were seen in Chichester Harbour and 14 at Witetrsham. In the Greatham/Amberley area, 14 were seen on Nov. 2nd and between this date and the end of the year, up to 46 were recorded. Elsewhere there were 2 at Chichester G.P. on Dec. 1st, 4 in Chichester Harbour on Dec. 14th, 4 in Pagham Harbour on Dec. 15th and one at Rye Harbour on the same day. On Dec. 19th, 11 were recorded over Northiam.

91. **BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*).—Although several birds were recorded during the breeding season, there was no evidence of attempted nesting. There were additional records spread over the rest of the year, of single birds, in about 10 localities.

At Beachy Head, single birds, which may have been on passage, were recorded on Aug. 5th and Sept. 10th, 11th and 17th. Three were seen there on Sept. 14th and two on Sept. 16th and Oct. 22nd. Elsewhere, there was one over Shoreham-by-Sea on Aug. 22nd and single birds were seen at Southsea on Sept. 22nd and at Alfriston on Oct. 3rd. Two were recorded at Worthing on Sept. 17th.

92. **ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD** (*B. lagopus*).—Some of the birds first seen in October 1973, were still present in the early months in 1974. On Jan. 26th, one was seen at Camber and in January and February, up to 3 were recorded from the Downs, between Arun and Adur. One was seen in this area in March and one was recorded near Alfriston on Mar. 19th and 23rd.

Although one was reported as late as early June, an adequate description of this bird was not received and in consequence the record must now be disregarded.

In October, there was a further influx, which in Sussex was on a larger scale than the one in the previous autumn. Although a single bird was seen at Rye Harbour on Oct. 9th, there were no further records until Oct. 22nd, when at Beachy Head, at least 15 arrived from the direction of the sea. Birds were not recorded elsewhere in the County on this day but between Oct. 23rd and 31st, there were reports of about 15 in all from coastal and downland localities between Beachy Head and Chichester Harbour. In addition, up to 3 birds were seen in the Rye area, in this period.

On Nov. 4th, 5 more birds arrived at Beachy Head from the direction of the sea and from early November to the end of the year, there were further reports, mainly from the Downs.

Some birds were still present in the early months in 1975.

93. **SPARROW HAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*).—There was evidence of successful breeding from 6 localities. In addition, there were breeding season records, mainly of single birds, from 20 localities.

There were many post breeding and winter records from well scattered localities.

95. **RED KITE** (*Milvus milvus*).—One at Petworth Park on Mar. 18th (RGMW).

98. **HONEY BUZZARD** (*Pernis apivorus*).—One at Beachy Head on June 10th (AD, PR).

99. **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*).—On Apr. 24th, a male arrived from the direction of the sea, at Beachy Head (DCSD, MJR) and on May 19th, a female was seen there (PJW, VAW). On May 28th, a female was recorded at Sidlesham and the same bird or another was seen there on June 3rd (MS). On June 1st and 2nd, one was recorded at Pett Level (AD, NP).

Between Aug. 18th and Sept. 8th, one was observed on the Downs near Worthing (many obs.) and another was seen in this locality on Aug. 28th (JGT).

On Sept. 11th, one was recorded at Rye Harbour (RRG, NP) and there were reports of single birds at Beachy Head on Sept. 14th, 17th, 18th, 19th and Oct. 5th (many obs.).

100. **HEN HARRIER** (*C. cyaneus*).—Many records were received and these are summarised under localities. Unless otherwise stated, the records refer to ring-tails.

Filsham, one on Nov. 17th. Horse Eye Level, a male on Nov. 23rd. East Hoathly, one on Oct. 23rd. Ashdown Forest, a male on Jan. 19th, two on Mar. 12th, single birds on Apr. 16th and Nov. 15th, a male on Dec. 1st.

Beachy Head, one which flew W. and out to sea on Jan. 27th, one on Apr. 13th, one from Oct. 9th to the end of the year. Two were recorded on several occasions in November.

Downs from Beachy Head to Ouse, one from Jan. 3rd to Mar. 27th, a male on Jan. 4th and two on Mar. 23rd.

Downs from Ouse to Adur, a male on Dec. 23rd to the end of the year. Plumpton, one on Feb. 2nd. Downs from Adur to Arun, up to 3 between Jan. 1st and Apr. 26th. A male on Jan. 10th and Mar. 2nd and up to two from Oct. 10th to the end of the year.

Amberley Wild Brooks, one on Jan. 1st, Feb. 24th and in December. Downs west of Arun, up to 2 from Jan. 3rd to Mar. 9th, one on Nov. 10th and 19th. Fontwell, one on Apr. 16th.

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*C. pygargus*).—Single birds were seen in Ashdown Forest on May 1st (PCB) and in the Adur Valley on May 9th (RAO).

103. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*).—On May 12th, one arrived from the direction of the sea at Beachy Head (JFC, ARK, MJR *et al.*) and on May 18th, one was seen at Rye Harbour (NP *et al.*).

On the return passage, there was one at Arlington Res. on Aug. 22nd and 23rd (MJR, PJW, VAW) and in September, single birds were seen on 14th near Steyning (BFF), at Brighton on 15th (TG), at Beachy Head on 15th and 16th (many obs.) and over Rye Bay on 18th (RRG, NP).

104. **HOBBY** (*Falco subbuteo*).—There were no records for April but between May 2nd and 27th, there were records from the coast, of the arrival of 6 single birds.

In the breeding season, there were records from 8 localities and there was evidence of breeding from 3 of these.

Between Aug. 25th and Oct. 1st, there were a number of records of single birds, from the coast.

105. **PEREGRINE** (*F. peregrinus*).—On Sept. 29th, one was seen at Northiam (JA). On Aug. 20th and Dec. 14th, single birds were recorded at Litlington (PJW).

107. **MERLIN** (*F. columbarius*).—In the early months, single birds were seen in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 1st and Feb. 23rd and at Sidlesham on Jan. 12th.

In September, there was one near Steyning on 14th, one at Saltdean on 22nd and one at Beachy Head on 30th. In October and November, there were reports of single birds from Beachy Head, Harrow Hill, Litlington and Pagham Harbour. In December, one was seen at Pagham on 14th, another in Chichester Harbour on 17th and one at Lewes on 19th.

110. **KESTREL** (*F. tinnunculus*).—In the breeding season, 62 pairs and a further 7 probable pairs were located. It is known that of these, 20 pairs raised at least 46 young. In addition, there were widespread reports, in the breeding season, of single birds and many birds were recorded in the winter months.

117. **QUAIL** (*Coturnix coturnix*).—A decrease in the number of records. Between June 25th and July 30th, about 9 were seen or heard on the Downs between Findon and Litlington.

120. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*).—In the early months, about 32 were recorded in 12 localities. Eight birds were seen on or near the coast and the others in 8 inland localities.

In the breeding season, single birds were seen in 4 localities but there was no information from some localities, where breeding had been established in other years.

Post breeding season and winter records were of 16 birds in 11 localities. At Beachy Head, passage birds were first seen on Oct. 6th, when 2 were recorded. No less than 7 were seen there on Nov. 16th.

126. **MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*).—A brood of 4 was observed at Earnley on Mar. 30th (HDM).

127. **COOT** (*Fulica atra*).—The monthly figures are tabulated below but as in previous years these are incomplete.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Arlington Res.	32	65	32	100	68	67
Chichester G.P.				420	330	230
Chichester Harbour	270	870			39	500
Knapp Lake	90					
Pett Level	300	400				
Rye Harbour	52		350			

131. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—On Feb. 15th, 2 were recorded at Pulborough and on July 18th, one was seen at Weir Wood Res. On Sept. 16th, two were observed over Lewes at 2200 hours.

In Chichester Harbour, two pairs were seen in the breeding season and as in 1973, two pairs attempted to breed in Pagham Harbour. One of these raised 2 young. In the Rye Harbour area, 2 pairs raised 4 young.

Totals of 1,424 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 1,177 on Feb. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed estuary counts.

133. **LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*).—In January, up to 10,000 were recorded at Glynde Levels, in February, at least 4,000 were seen there and on Mar. 3rd 3,500 were recorded. On Feb. 23rd, 2,000 were seen on Amberley Wild Brooks. There were breeding season reports from no more than 7 localities.

On June 25th, a post breeding season flock of 200 was recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR and in July and August, flocks of between 150 and 600 were reported from 10 localities. On Aug. 12th, up to 1,400 were seen on Glynde Levels.

In September, 800 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR, and there were reports of 500 at Beachy Head in September and October.

The wader count along the whole coast on Jan. 12th, 1975, which excluded such favoured areas as Amberley and Glynde, recorded 13,700 present.

134. **RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—In the breeding season, about 26 pairs were recorded but the information received was obviously far from complete. One pair bred successfully on the Downs (*per CEM*) and on July 23rd, a single bird was seen in another downland locality. Fifteen pairs bred successfully in the Rye Harbour LNR.

On Aug. 15th, 150 were seen at Shoreham-by-Sea and 220 were recorded there on Aug. 20th. On Sept. 8th, 300 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and 175 were seen in this locality on Sept. 9th.

In August, up to 10 birds were recorded at Arlington Res., and up to 16 were seen there in September. In addition, there were reports of 3 birds from Weir Wood Res.

Totals of 525 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 488 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*C. dubius*).—First recorded on Apr. 22nd, when one was seen at Arlington Res. Not more than 3 birds were recorded on spring passage and little information was received for the breeding season. Although breeding may have occurred in two localities, this was not proved conclusively.

On autumn passage at least 21 were seen between July 9th and Sept. 28th.

137. **KILLDEER** (*C. vociferus*).—One at Sidlesham Ferry on Mar. 30th (MS, VAS, JVS). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* and is the first for the County.

139. **GREY PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*).—Between Apr. 5th and May 9th, there were 42 E. at Beachy Head.

On Apr. 5th, 200 were seen in Pagham Harbour and 70 were recorded there as late as May 26th.

Totals of 1,101 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 882 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. The estuary counts also recorded a marked movement in February and an extraordinary total of 700 in Pagham Harbour in April. The February movement was also recorded by the counts in 1972/73. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER** (*P. apricaria*).—Details of the numbers seen along the coast on Jan. 12th, appeared in the Report for 1973. Additional figures for this month have been received and there were 100 on the Adur Levels on Jan. 9th. Up to 400 were seen at Winchelsea on Jan. 19th and 25th. On Feb. 2nd, 150 were recorded in Chichester Harbour.

In March, there were 500 at Pagham Harbour on 7th, 100 at Glynde Levels on 16th, 350, most, if not all of which, showed the characters of the race *alifrons*, at Sidlesham on 24th and 500 at Selsey on 31st.

In April, there were records from 5 localities with maxima of 250 at Horse Eye Level on 4th and 65 at Glynde Levels on 9th.

On May 6th, one was seen at Horse Eye Level and on May 12th, there was one at Pagham Harbour.

On Aug. 28th, one was seen at Sidlesham Ferry and 3 were recorded there on Aug. 29th.

In September, there were records from 6 localities with a maximum of 115, at Church Norton on 15th. In October, some were seen in 4 localities with up to 1,000 at Pagham Harbour on 15th.

Totals of 1,465 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 1,065 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline.

142. **DOTTEREL** (*Eudromias morinellus*).—On Aug. 18th, two at Beachy Head (SG, AQ). In September, one at Rye Harbour on 8th and 9th (PFB, DC, RRG, NP), 3 at Woodingdean on 10th (NAGL) and 2 at Beachy Head on 15th (JFC, DP, TP).

143. **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*).—During the gales in January, more than 100 were recorded when feeding, at the times of high water, on lawns adjacent to the promenade at Galley Hill, Bexhill.

On May 3rd and 4th, a total of 21 flew E. at Beachy Head. On May 4th, one was seen at Barcombe Res., and on May 5th, one was recorded at Arlington Res.

On July 28th, there was one W. at Arlington Res.

Totals of 276 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 271 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

145. **SNIPE** (*Gallinago gallinago*).—In the breeding season pairs or drumming birds were seen in 13 localities but some areas where breeding has occurred in the past, were not apparently visited.

The wader count along the whole county coastline on Jan. 12th, 1975, which excluded such favoured areas as Amberley and Glynde, recorded a total of 765 present.

147. **JACK SNIFE** (*Lymnocyptes minimus*).—There were records of up to 91 birds from 16 localities but because of duplication this figure may be on the high side. On Feb. 1st, 21 were seen at Thorney Island and 17 were recorded there on Mar. 1st.

The monthly figures were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	23	21	10	1	16	12	6

148. **WOODCOCK** (*Scalopax rusticola*).—On Jan. 1st, 9 were shot at East Hoathly but otherwise there were very few reports from outside the breeding season.

In the breeding season, there were records from at least 45 well distributed localities.

150. **CURLEW** (*Numenius arquata*).—Recorded in the breeding season in Ashdown Forest.

Totals of 1,614 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 1,105 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. The estuary counts noted a marked passage in early February (cf Grey Plover), with consistently high totals for each Harbour from Pagham to Portsmouth. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

151. **WHIMBREL** (*N. phaeopus*).—On Mar. 30th, one which may have wintered, was recorded in Pagham Harbour (MSA).

On Apr. 8th, 16 were seen off Newhaven and on Apr. 11th, there was one at Rye Harbour. Between Apr. 14th and May 15th, there were 163 E. at Beachy Head. The maximum there was 74 E. on May 2nd.

Between June 4th and 9th, one was seen at Rye Harbour and in this period, one was recorded in Pagham Harbour and 2 in the Cuckmere Valley.

In Pagham Harbour, 15 were recorded on July 2nd, 30 on July 11th and 50 from July 26th to Aug. 3rd. On Aug. 20th, 100 were seen in this locality. Elsewhere, the numbers seen in July and August were small, except for 36 in Chichester Harbour on Aug. 7th.

On Sept. 11th, 4 were recorded at Sidlesham Ferry and on Sept. 15th, there was one in the Rye Harbour LNR. There were no other records for this month. On Oct. 11th, 2 were seen at Rye Harbour.

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*).—In Pagham Harbour, up to 150 were recorded in January and up to 485 in February and March. On Apr. 2nd, 300 were seen there and 252 were counted on Apr. 5th. On Apr. 7th, 100 were recorded at Fishbourne.

On June 30th, at least 50 were seen in Pagham Harbour and the numbers there had increased to 165 by July 15th.

In August and September, larger numbers were seen with maxima of 200 at Pagham on Aug. 23rd and 1,000 in Chichester Harbour on Sept. 17th.

The estuary counts in Pagham, Chichester, Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours recorded very high numbers throughout the autumn to spring period, with totals of over 1,000 from September to the end of March. The highest count was 2,000 in October, which included 1,210 in Chichester Harbour. Flocks of this species probably move about over the whole of this estuary complex, where the monthly totals recorded were Sept. 1,064, Oct. 2,000, Nov. 1,380, Dec. 1,175, Jan. 1,465 and Mar. 1,353 on the 1st and 1,371 on the 29th; the last figure included a flock of 600 at Pagham Harbour, a very high count for this area. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*L. lapponica*).—At Beachy Head, 4,023 flew E. between Apr. 6th and May 15th. The maxima were 1,060 E. on Apr. 21st and 876 E. on Apr. 24th. This movement was also seen and reported by observers along the whole county coastline. There were reports of flocks resting in a few localities. On Apr. 27th, 400 were seen in Pagham Harbour and on Apr. 28th, 300 were recorded there. On May 3rd, there were 100 E. over Chichester G.P.

The numbers recorded in Chichester Harbour by the estuary counts in 1974/75 were very low, with a peak count of 755 in October, compared with a more usual peak of 1,000-1,500 in January. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

156. **GREEN SANDPIPER** (*Tringa achropus*).—Was recorded in every month, with the exception of May.

In the first three months of the year, 2 were seen at Arundel and 2 at Chichester G.P. In January, 2 were seen at Glynde and single birds were recorded at Ashling in February and in the Ouse Valley in March.

In April, 2 were recorded at Chichester G.P. and there were reports of single birds from Arundel, Plashetts Pond and Rye Harbour LNR.

Between June 10th and 28th, there were records of 9 birds in 4 localities but it is not possible to tell if any were summering.

On July 22nd, at least 9 were recorded at Chichester G.P. and on Aug. 27th, 14 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR. On Aug. 31st, at Selsey Bill, one flew S. unlit out of sight.

The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	6	Feb.	5	Mar.	3	Apr.	5	May	9	June	17	July	41	Aug.	29	Sept.	8	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.

157. **WOOD SANDPIPER** (*T. glareola*).—On May 18th, one was seen at Plumpton (RJL) and on May 26th, there was one N. at Selsey Bill (BAEM, IRW). On June 22nd, one was seen at Brightling (WM).

Between July 16th and Sept. 16th, about 23 were recorded. Some were seen inland and there were records from the coast, with a maximum of 4 in Chichester Harbour on Aug. 10th.

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*T. hypoleucos*).—Was not recorded in the first three months of the year.

In April, 2 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR on the 7th but for the rest of this month, the numbers were small except for 10 in Chichester Harbour on the 10th and 8 on the 17th. Passage birds were seen throughout May and there were many reports from the coast and from inland localities.

In June, 6 were seen in 5 localities, including 2 at Sidlesham Ferry on 14th.

Return passage appears to have started as early as July 6th, when 4 were recorded at Chichester G.P. On July 7th, 4 were recorded in Chichester Harbour.

Analysis of these records for the rest of July, for August and for September. 30th and Aug. 7th. In this period, there were counts of 22 between Bines Bridge on the Adur and Shoreham-by-Sea, 20 at Arlington Res., 15 at Weir Wood Res., 17 in Chichester Harbour and 16 at Shoreham-by-Sea.

On Sept. 11th, a group of 18, described by the observer as an excited migratory party was recorded at Arlington Res. and on Sept. 21st, 21, were seen in this locality. In October, about 14 were seen in 7 localities and on November 3rd, one was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley.

In December, single birds were seen at Glynde Levels on the 1st and 30th and in Chichester Harbour.

169. **KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*).—Between Apr. 28th and May 7th, 208 passage birds were recorded at Beachy Head, with maxima of 52 E. on Apr. 28th and 97 E. on May 2nd. On May 16th, there were 6 E. off Worthing.

Following a period of severe gales, 5 were seen at Weir Wood Res. on Sept. 8th (WHL).

In the winter of 1974/75, the numbers in Chichester Harbour were again high, with peaks of 900 on Nov. 16th and Feb. 1st. None wintered elsewhere along the county coastline.

170. **PURPLE SANDPIPER** (*C. maritima*).—There were records for the first three months of the year and for May. In January, 15 were seen at Newhaven and 27 were recorded there in February and March. Between May 21st and 24th, up to 4 were seen in this locality. Elsewhere, few were seen in the early months and the maximum was 14 in Pevensey Bay in January.

One was recorded at Selsey Bill on Sept. 21st but there were no further records until Oct. 20th, when 2 were seen at Newhaven.

Totals of 56 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 63 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

171. **LITTLE STINT** (*C. minuta*).—On Feb. 16th, one was seen at Rye Harbour (RT).

In May, 3 were seen in Pagham Harbour on the 5th and one on 7th, 8th and 25th. There were 2 in the Rye Harbour LNR on May 5th and one on May 11th.

One was recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR from July 6th to 29th and 2 were seen there on July 10th. A single bird was recorded in Pagham Harbour between July 26th and 28th.

In August, 8 were seen in 3 coastal and 2 inland localities.

In September, 10 were recorded in 5 localities, including 4 at Arlington Res.

A single bird was seen in Pagham Harbour on Oct. 27th, Nov. 16th and 17th.

173. **TEMMINCK'S STINT** (*C. temminckii*).—One at Sidlesham Ferry on Sept. 1st (MS, VAS).

175. **WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER** (*C. fuscicollis*).—One at Sidlesham Ferry from Aug. 24th to 26th (JGT). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

176. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*C. melanotos*).—On July 26th and 27th, one was seen at Chichester G.P. (many obs.). This bird was seen subsequently but the final date was not recorded. On Aug. 31st, one was recorded in Chichester Harbour (DSF, BAEM).

178. **DUNLIN** (*C. alpina*).—Between Apr. 6th and May 4th, there were 113 E. at Beachy Head.

There were many records from inland localities between Feb. 17th and May 21st and between July 26th and Oct. 12th. At Glynde Levels, 125 were recorded on Feb. 24th and 40 were seen there on Mar. 16th. At Arlington Res., 30 were seen on Sept. 6th and 30 were recorded at Amberley Wild Brooks on Oct. 12th.

Totals of 25,456 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 33,094 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

160. **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** (*T. macularia*).—One at Weir Wood Res. from Aug. 11th to 17th (MJH *et al.*). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*, and is the first for the County since 1908.

161. **REDSHANK** (*T. totanus*).—It is not possible to estimate with accuracy, the number of breeding pairs in 1974. Counts were far from complete and it appears that observers did not visit some localities where pairs bred in other years.

On July 4th, 310 were seen in Chichester Harbour and in August large numbers were recorded there with counts of 500 at the beginning of the month and 1,080 on the 31st.

Totals of 1,410 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 1,194 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*T. erythropus*).—Recorded in every month. In January, one was seen at Sidlesham Ferry. In February, 2 were seen there and one was recorded at Fishbourne.

In March, there were records of single birds from Arundel, Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour.

It is not possible to tell from the records when spring passage commenced but on Apr. 21st, a single bird was seen at Lordings Lock, Wisborough Green (FWD).

On June 17th, 5 were recorded in Chichester Harbour, 8 were seen there on June 24th and there were 3 at Sidlesham on June 25th.

In August, up to 57 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and there were 9 at Arlington Res. on 26th.

On Nov. 10th, 3 were seen at Dell Quay and there were records of wintering birds in December, from Chichester and Pagham Harbours and from Pevensey. The approximate monthly totals were:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1	1	5	10	2	14	2	82	11	4	3	5

165. **GREENSHANK** (*T. nebularia*).—Recorded in every month. From the beginning of the year until the end of June, the numbers recorded were small and not more than 4 were seen in any one locality.

On Apr. 27th, there were 2 E. at Beachy Head and on May 3rd, 2 were recorded at Arlington Res.

On July 26th, 7 were seen in Pagham Harbour but the numbers elsewhere, during this month, were small.

In August, there were many reports, with up to 10 in the Cuckmere Valley, 30 in Pagham Harbour and 38 in Chichester Harbour.

The numbers in September were much smaller, with a maximum of 8 on Sept. 1st in Pagham Harbour.

In October, about 12 were recorded and in November, there were records of 9 birds. In December, 2 were seen in Chichester Harbour and one at Pevensey. The approximate monthly totals were:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	2	4	3	7	11	5	18	94	28	12	9	3

179. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*C. ferruginea*).—One at Rye Harbour on May 11th was the only spring record.

Between July 27th and Sept. 15th, at least 32 were recorded with the majority in Pagham Harbour. This figure is probably on the low side for on Aug. 13th, 26 were seen in this area. One was observed at Arlington Res. on Aug. 17th.

On Aug. 18th, a party of 6 left Sidlesham Ferry in the evening, as though on migration.

181. **SANDERLING** (*C. alba*).—On Jan. 27th, 320 were counted at Climping and on Mar. 26th, 260 were seen there. On Mar. 16th, 100 were recorded at West Wittering.

At Beachy Head, there were 105 E. between May 3rd and 30th. On June 14th, 9 were seen at Rye Harbour and on June 17th, 14 were recorded in Chichester Harbour.

On Sept. 6th, a single bird was observed at Arlington Res. and 2 were seen there on Sept. 8th.

In November, 170 were seen at Elmer and on Dec. 2nd, there were 200 at Climping.

Totals of 780 on Dec. 14th, 1974 and 469 on Jan. 12th, 1975 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 54-56 for the detailed counts.

182. **BUFF-BREADED SANDPIPER** (*Tryngites subruficollis*).—One at Sidlesham Ferry on Sept. 9th and 10th (MS). This record has been accepted by Brit. B. and is the sixth for Sussex.

184. **RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*).—Recorded in every month. The monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
77	57	79	33	3	6	1	78	73	49	6	11

As in 1973, the bulk of the records were from the Chichester and Pagham Harbour areas but there were 40 at Amberley Wild Brooks on Feb. 28th and 22 on Mar. 2nd.

In Chichester Harbour, 50 were seen on Jan. 7th, 33 on Sept. 8th and 28 on Oct. 18th.

185. **AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).—In the early months, two were seen in Pagham Harbour between Jan. 6th and Mar. 9th. At Rye Harbour, one was recorded on Jan. 23rd and 10 on Mar. 27th. One was seen in the Cuckmere Valley on Mar. 28th.

On Apr. 21st and 29th, one was recorded at Rye Harbour and on Apr. 14th and 21st, one was observed in Chichester Harbour. On Apr. 28th, 5 were seen off Seaford Head and on Apr. 29th, 5 E. off Beachy Head. On May 19th, there were 3 E. there and on May 30th, one E.

On June 28th, one was seen at Arlington Res., and on July 2nd, one was recorded at Rye Harbour.

On Sept. 16th, 5 were seen clearly, by the light of street lights, over Lewes at 2230 hours (DCL).

Between Nov. 30th and the end of the year, 4 were recorded in Pagham Harbour.

187. **GREY PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—In the early months, one was seen at West Wittering on Jan. 19th and 20th (JGT *et al.*). On Feb. 3rd and 9th, one was recorded at Church Norton (CM).

In September, one was seen at Sidlesham on the 1st and two were recorded there between Sept. 5th and 9th (MS, VAS). Between Sept. 9th and 14th, one was seen at Bishopstone (AJC, TG *et al.*).

188. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*P. lobatus*).—On June 7th and 8th, one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR (NP *et al.*). On July 27th and 28th, one was recorded at Chichester G.P. (MC, RG, PM *et al.*).

189. **STONE CURLEW** (*Burhinus oedicnemus*).—In the breeding season, there were reports from 3 localities but breeding was not proved in any of these.

On May 25th, a single bird was seen on the Crumbles, Eastbourne and on Sept. 29th, one was recorded at Littleington.

193. **ARCTIC SKUA** (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—On Jan. 13th, one was seen off Hove (GAS) and on Feb. 24th, one was recorded at Church Norton (IG, CRJ).

In the spring, there was regular sea watching at Beachy Head and on 20 days between Apr. 12th and May 30th, there were 141 E. The maxima were 16 E. on May 2nd, 4th and 9th, 18 E. on May 3rd, 22 E. on May 10th and 10 E. on May 11th. Smaller numbers were recorded on passage off Selsey Bill, Worthing, Rottingdean, Newhaven and Seaford.

On Aug. 3rd, there was one W. off Eastbourne and one W. off Beachy Head. Between Aug. 10th and Oct. 26th, about 32 were recorded. All were off or by the coast with the exception of one seen at Portfield on Aug. 18th (MS, VAS). This bird arrived from N., departed SW. and was last seen soaring over Chichester.

194. **GREAT SKUA** (*S. skua*).—On Apr. 11th, one was seen off Rottingdean (AJC) and 2 were recorded off Seaford Head on Apr. 13th (RB). On Apr. 17th, there were 2 E. off Selsey Bill (BAEM, IRW) and on Apr. 18th, one E. off Birling Gap (BAEM). Three were recorded off Birling Gap on Apr. 28th (CFH, MJR).

In May, single birds were seen off Beachy Head on 7th and 8th (JFC, MJR), off Selsey Bill on 11th (many obs.) and off Seaford Head on 22nd (RB).

On Aug. 10th, one was seen off Selsey Bill (BAEM) and on Aug. 15th, there were 2 over Pagham Harbour (CRJ). Single birds were recorded on Sept. 2nd, at Pagham Harbour (MJWH), on Sept. 29th, off Beachy Head, on Oct. 5th, off Birling Gap (DAG) and on Oct. 6th, off Selsey Bill (DJH, RGM, GS).

195. **POMARINE SKUA** (*S. pomarinus*).—There were records of approximately 47 E. during the period of systematic watching at Seaford Head and Beachy Head, between May 8th and 17th. The maxima were 20 E. on May 10th and 14 E. on May 12th (many obs.).

On May 10th, there were 3 E. off Selsey Bill (BAEM).

198. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus marinus*).—Monthly maxima in the Rye Harbour LNR were:— Mar. 150, May 20, June 100, Aug. 220, Nov. 60, and Dec. 200.

At Shoreham-by-Sea, 300 were seen in Jan., 80 in Aug., 120 in Sept. and 300 in Dec.

In the Cuckmere Valley, 70 were recorded in January.

199. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*L. fuscus*).—In January and February, up to 20 wintering birds were recorded at Chichester G.P. and up to 3 were seen at Shoreham-by-Sea.

In March, April and May, about 15 passage birds were recorded from coastal and inland localities but there was a surprising lack of records for these months. In the Rye Harbour LNR, up to 15 immature birds were present in May and June.

At Shoreham-by-Sea, 60 were seen on July 30th, 10 on Sept. 12th and 120 were recorded on Dec. 7th. Elsewhere, there were 250 at Rye Harbour in September, 10 at Newhaven at the end of October and 190 at Sutton in December.

200. **HERRING GULL** (*L. argentatus*).—Monthly maxima in the Rye Harbour LNR were:—May 242, June 800, Sept. 500 and Nov. 100.

In the breeding season, 7 pairs raised young at Rye Harbour. There was evidence of nesting on buildings at Worthing, by a single pair, at Eastbourne, where 2 young were seen and at St. Leonards-on-Sea, by several pairs.

A single bird with yellow legs was observed at Deil Quay on Oct. 13th (RJB). Yellow legs are characteristic of the Mediterranean and Scandinavian races.

201. **COMMON GULL** (*L. canus*).—Very few records were received. On Apr. 5th and 6th, there were 65 E. at Selsey Bill.

On Dec. 7th, 100 were recorded at Shoreham-by-Sea and on Dec. 10th, more than 150 were seen at Newhaven.

In late May and June, 5 were recorded on many occasions, in the Rye Harbour LNR.

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL** (*L. hyperboreus*).—The adult seen at Hove and mentioned in the Report for 1973, was present in the same locality from the beginning of the year until Mar. 19th. It was recorded again from Oct. 4th to the end of the year (many obs.). Another adult was recorded at Hove on Mar. 2nd (GAS).

The immature bird seen in Shoreham Harbour and mentioned in the Report for 1973 was recorded in the same locality from the beginning of the year until Mar. 23rd (many obs.). An immature was seen at Worthing on Mar. 10 (DSF).

On Nov 3rd, an immature was seen at Langney Point, Eastbourne (RLKJ, DCCL, BAEM, RFP).

205. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*L. melanocephalus*).—Records are given under localities. Hove, one on Jan. 18th and one on Nov. 3rd. Selsey Bill, one on Jan. 12th and 26th. Southwick, one on Feb. 3rd. Pagham Harbour, one on Feb. 16th. Langney Point, one on Sept. 1st. Arlington Res., one on Sept. 18th., Cuckmere Haven, one on Dec. 4th.

The bird at Langney Point was described as a sub-adult and all the others as adults.

See also page 47.

207. **LITTLE GULL** (*L. minutus*).—As in 1973, was recorded in every month with the exception of January and December.

In February, single birds, probably all immature, were seen, on not more than one occasion, at Chichester G.P., Sidlesham, Newhaven and Rye.

On Mar. 25th, an adult was recorded at Sidlesham Ferry.

In April, about 8 were recorded from localities on the coast and one was seen at Chichester G.P.

On May 3rd, a very large influx commenced and between this date and May 19th, there were no less than 206 E. off Beachy Head. The maxima were 31 E. on May 3rd, 148 E. on May 4th and 15 E. on May 10th. The movement of these passage birds was also seen off Selsey Bill, where there were 22 E. on May 4th, off Seaford Head, where 144 were counted in the period to May 12th and in the Rye Harbour area, where 38 were recorded on May 4th. Some were seen inland and a party of at least 10 adults flew E. at Chichester G.P. on May 3rd. At Arlington Res., 10 were seen on May 4th.

Although the main passage ended by May 19th, a number of adults and immatures were recorded between this date and June 2nd. Single immatures were seen at Arlington Res. on May 20th and at Pagham Harbour on May 28th. In Chichester Harbour, up to 2 adults and 6 immature birds were recorded between May 25th and June 2nd.

At Chichester G.P., a number of immature birds summered and up to 7 were recorded between May 24th and Aug. 17th. In addition, an immature was seen at Arlington Res. on July 5th and one was recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR on July 27th.

In August, about 14 birds were recorded including 2 at Weir Wood Res. on the 30th.

In September, the numbers seen were small but there were 6 W. at Langney Point on the 1st.

On Oct. 1st and 8th, one was recorded at Chichester G.P. but there were no further records for this month. In November, 3 W. at Langney Point on the 3rd, was the only record.

The approximate monthly figures were as follows but it is probable that the one for May is on the low side.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	4	1	9	240	11	9	14	30	2	3	—

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*L. ridibundus*).—On Feb. 9th, very large numbers, estimated as being in excess of 30,000, were seen on flooded ground at Shoreham Airport. Further reports from this area, where large numbers of gulls are known to gather at times, would be welcome.

On Mar. 11th, 1,000 were seen at Weir Wood Res., and on Sept. 18th, 1,000 were recorded on the Downs at Southwick.

In the Rye Harbour LNR, 25 pairs attempted to breed but no young were raised. In Chichester Harbour, 139 nests were counted, in early June.

211. **KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*).—There were records for every month of the year, with the exception of December.

Off Beachy Head, 120 were recorded on Jan. 19th and between Apr. 5th and May 20th, there were 244 E. and 29 W. On Sept. 1st and 2nd, there were 70 E. and 41 W. Elsewhere the numbers seen were small.

212. **BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*).—Although there was one E. off Selsey Bill on Apr. 28th, there were no further records until May 3rd, when there was a marked influx. This coincided with the arrival, on a large scale, of Little Gulls. On this day, there were records from localities on the coast and inland. The details are as follows:—

Arlington Res.	1	Pett Pools	No.
Beachy Head	50E	Shoreham Harbour	6
Chichester G.P.	Many	Selsey Bill	44E
Knepp Lake	10	Southwick	2N
Langney	19E	Warnham Pond	14

At Chichester G.P., 21 birds were seen at 1130 hours and between 1700 hours and 1900 hours, parties of up to 50 at a time, moved away in an easterly direction. The numbers remaining there did not apparently decrease, due to new arrivals (JVS).

Records were numerous and widespread from May 4th to 19th, when the passage appears to have tailed off. An analysis of the records indicates that in this period, there was a peak movement on May 9th, although this was smaller than the one recorded on May 3rd. At Selsey Bill, there were 77 E. between May 2nd and 16th. At Beachy Head, 95 E. were recorded between May 3rd and 27th.

A single bird was seen at Chichester G.P. on June 22nd and between June 23rd and 28th, one was recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR.

Birds on return passage were first recorded on Aug. 5th, when 2 were seen off Eastbourne and 2 off Beachy Head. From this date until the end of the month, there were widespread records but the numbers were small except for 22 at Arlington Res. on Aug. 31st.

In early September, far more were recorded and there were numerous records for the month. In October, about 6 birds were seen and was last recorded on the 20th, when 2 were observed off Worthing.

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)**.—One at Pagham Harbour on May 11th (JB, CBC) and one at Pett Level on May 12th (AD). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

217. **COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*)**.—About 50 pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour but few young were raised.

In Chichester Harbour, more than 60 pairs attempted to breed and one pair may have done so at Pagham Harbour. At least one pair bred successfully at Chichester G.P.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (*S. hirundo/paradisaea*).—First recorded on Mar. 26th, when 4 were seen at Newhaven (AJC).

At Beachy Head, there were 5,409 E. between Apr. 12th and May 27th with maxima of 2,371 E. on May 3rd and 1,192 E. on May 4th. Between Apr. 21st and May 18th, there were 1,696 E. off Selsey Bill. Smaller numbers of passage birds were recorded elsewhere along the coast in Apr. and May. On May 3rd, 50 were seen at Arlington Res.

On Sept. 1st, 500 were recorded off Beachy Head and this was the maximum for the autumn passage. There were a number of records from inland localities including one of 22 SW. at Weir Wood Res. on Aug. 17th and another of 150 N. near Alfriston on Sept. 1st. There were 100 at Arlington Res. on Sept. 15th.

219. **ROSEATE TERN (*S. dougalii*)**.—On May 14th and 15th, one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR and 5 were recorded there on May 19th (NP, BJT). On May 18th, one flew E. at Selsey Bill (DSF, BAEM, IRW) and on May 26th, there was one E. at Beachy Head (BEC, JFC, MEN, AQ).

On Sept. 2nd, one was seen at Newhaven (AJC). On Sept. 9th one was recorded at Arlington Res. (PIW) and on Sept. 16th, there were 2 at Rye Harbour (CP, NP, TT).

222. **LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*)**.—First recorded on Apr. 10th off Rottingdean and on Apr. 11th, at Church Norton.

Between Apr. 12th and May 12th, there were 215 E. off Beachy Head. In the breeding season 50-70 pairs were present in Pagham Harbour and up to 90 pairs in all were recorded in two other localities.

On Sept. 8th, 2 were recorded at Arlington Res., but there were no other records of birds on autumn passage.

223. **SANDWICH TERN (*S. sandvicensis*)**.—One was seen at Southwick on Jan. 1st (MH) and on Jan. 19th.

There were 2 off Worthing as early as Mar. 17th but no more than 4 others were seen before Mar. 30th.

Between Apr. 6th and May 27th, there were 3,909 E. at Beachy Head with maxima of 447 E. on Apr. 28th and 358 E. on May 10th. Passage birds in smaller numbers were seen in other places on the coast. At Selsey Bill, there were 721 E. between Apr. 21st and May 25th and at Seaford Head, 585 E. between Apr. 15th and May 10th.

Up to 4 summered in Pagham Harbour. In the Rye Harbour LNR, 35 were seen on June 28th and on June 29th, 5 were recorded off Worthing. The numbers on passage in the autumn were small although there were 102 W. at Selsey Bill on Sept. 7th. Was last seen on Oct. 12th, off Selsey Bill.

232. **STOCK DOVE (*Columba oenas*)**.—There were breeding season records from at least 27 localities.

In January, a flock of 70 was seen at North Mundham and one of 100 was recorded near Glynde. In October, a flock of up to 300 birds was seen on the downs near Steyning.

234. **WOOD PIGEON (*C. palumbus*)**.—At Beachy Head, there were 600 E. on Apr. 5th and 1,500 W. on Nov. 17th. On Nov. 19th, 500 were recorded there.

235. **TURTLE DOVE (*Streptopelia turtur*)**.—First seen on Apr. 15th, in the Rye Harbour LNR and on Apr. 21st at East Grinstead.

On Sept. 17th, 100 were recorded at Earnley and 70 were seen at Sidlesham on Sept. 18th. At Beachy Head, 120 were observed on Sept. 15th and 70 on Sept. 16th. One was recorded there as late as Oct. 19th.

236. **COLLARED DOVE (*S. decacota*)**.—Although this species is still spreading, breeding has not yet been proved in some localities. It appears that the numbers are still increasing but there were no reports in 1974, of birds on the coast, indicating arrival from overseas.

On Feb. 21st, a flock of 200 was seen on the Downs at Shoreham-by-Sea and in September, flocks of 150 and 103 were recorded at Rottingdean and Slingfold respectively. A flock of 170 was seen near Brighton on Oct. 5th.

237. **CUCKOO (*Cuculus canorus*)**.—First recorded on Apr. 6th, near Burwash and on Apr. 9th, at Ashurst Wood and Chancetonbury Ring. At Beachy Head, was first seen on April 14th.

Very few were seen after the end of June.

Was last recorded on Sept. 9th, at Mallydams Wood.

241. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*).—Records were received for a total of 54 well distributed localities throughout the County. Six pairs are known to have bred. At least 6 birds were found dead; 4 of these were road casualties.

246. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*).—Although there were reports for a total of at least 62 well distributed localities, breeding was established in no more than 5 of these. In the Selsey Peninsula, was reported as being more numerous than in any year, since 1963. There were no records from the larger towns on the coast.

247. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*).—Was widely reported from about 73 localities. In about 12 of these, there was evidence of breeding. Some of the reports were of birds seen or heard in the winter months but it is not possible to tell if these were in potential breeding localities.

248. **LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*).—Two and possibly three pairs bred successfully in widely separated localities. For security reasons, the localities and names of the observers, are not being published.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*A. flammeus*).—Between Jan. 12th and Apr. 26th, about 13 were recorded in 9 localities; seven of these being on the coast and two on the Downs. On May 5th, a single bird was seen at Rye.

Between Aug. 19th, when one was recorded at Sidlesham, and the end of the year, at least 60 were seen in 30 localities on or near the coast or the Downs. Monthly totals were:—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	6	7	5	2	1	2	2	33	33	28

252. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).—First recorded on May 15th in Selhurst Forest and last seen on Sept. 2nd at Selham Common.

There were reports indicating breeding, from 17 localities but it appears that a number of suitable sites were not visited. Some of the sites, which were visited, held more than one pair.

255. **SWIFT** (*Apus aptus*).—First recorded on Apr. 30th at Chichester G.P. and at Rye Harbour LNR.

In the first week of May, few were recorded but on May 9th and May 10th, there was a marked influx. At Arlington Res., 100 were seen on May 11th, 500 on May 24th and 800 on May 31st.

On June 9th, 500 were recorded at Rye Harbour and 600 were seen there on July 1st. On July 4th, 300 were recorded in the area adjacent to Arlington Res.

Once again, large scale movements, which appear to relate to departure, were observed on or near the coast, at the end of July and in the first half of August. The details are as follows:—

Beachy Head	..... July 30th	..... 500 W.	Langney Point	..... Aug. 4th	..... 122 SE.
Beachy Head	..... Aug. 8th	..... 290 W.	Crowlink	..... Aug. 13th	..... 400
Beachy Head	..... Aug. 13th	..... 500 W.	Arlington Res.	..... Aug. 15th	..... 100
Beachy Head	..... Aug. 16th	..... 700 W.			

There were a number of coastal and inland records for the first three weeks of September. On Oct. 16th, a single bird was recorded at the Rye Harbour LNR.

258. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*).—In the breeding season, pairs or single birds, were seen in about 25 localities. There was evidence of successful breeding in no more than two of these.

On July 22nd, a single bird was seen on the beach at Beachy Head. There were numerous records, outside the breeding season, for 9 coastal and 30 inland localities.

261. **HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*).—On Apr. 9th, one was seen at the Midrips (NR). Between Apr. 20th and Apr. 28th, there were reports of single birds from Church Norton, Beachy Head and Hastings. On May 30th, one was seen at Rustington.

On Aug. 27th, one was observed at Lullington Heath and between Sept. 1st and 15th, there were records of single birds from Selsey, Lancing, Hove, Seaford Head, Beachy Head and Bexhill.

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*).—There were reports from about 90 well distributed localities. Some of these were on or near the coast.

263. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*).—In the breeding season, was reported from at least 52 well distributed localities. Some of the records relate to coastal areas in the western part of the county. There were many reports before and after the breeding season.

A single bird was seen at Beachy Head on Nov. 6th.

264. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*D. minor*).—Reports were received for 50 localities, a figure corresponding almost exactly to those for the two previous years.

On May 12th, a single bird flew W. over the cliffs at Beachy Head and on Oct. 15th, one was trapped there.

265. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*).—On Apr. 20th and 24th, one was seen at Beachy Head.

On Aug. 17th, one was recorded at Beachy Head and another was seen near Lewes on Aug. 25th.

Between Sept. 7th and 29th, at least 22 were recorded mainly from coastal localities. About 10 in all were seen in the Beachy Head area. On Oct. 2nd, a single bird was seen there.

271. **WOODLARK** (*Lullula arborea*).—At Beachy Head, one was recorded on Sept. 29th (PC), and in October, single birds were seen on the 6th (BAEM, RFP) and 26th (DSF).

272. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*).—At Beachy Head, 200 were seen on Oct. 24th and there were 260 N. on Oct. 30th.

273. **SHORELARK** (*Eremophila alpestris*).—One at Shoreham-by-Sea from Jan. 1st to Feb. 4th (CFH et al.). One at Camber on Oct. 26th (NR) and one at Beachy Head on Nov. 6th (DEL).

274. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*).—On Mar. 16th, one was seen at Chichester G.P. and one was recorded there on Mar. 27th. On Apr. 3rd, one was seen at Rye Harbour LNR, but at Beachy Head, was not recorded until Apr. 6th, when 2 arrivals were noted. Subsequently, birds on passage were widely reported and at Beachy Head, there were 80 W. on May 22nd.

There were breeding season records from a few well distributed localities but nesting by this species is obviously not recorded by some observers.

Large numbers were seen at the end of August at Fishbourne, where 5,000 roosting birds were recorded. Roosting by up to 300 birds was noted at Shoreham Airport.

On Sept. 14th, 35,000 were recorded at Beachy Head. Many of these flew S. and on Sept. 15th, there were at least 5,000 W. at Bexhill.

On Oct. 25th and 26th, 60 were seen at Beachy Head but there were few additional records for this month. In November, small numbers were seen in well distributed localities with a maximum of 20 at Pagham Harbour on the 17th.

For December there were an unusual number of records and the following were recorded:—

Date	Locality	Number	Date	Locality	Number
Dec. 1st	Pett.	3	Dec. 15th	Church Norton	1
1st	Church Norton	1	17th	Church Norton	2 (Min)
4th	Selsey Bill	1	18th	Windlessea	2 (Min)
7th	Lancing College	1	19th	Church Norton	2
8th	Altwick	1	21st	Church Norton	2
8th	Church Norton	5	22nd	Church Norton	3
8th	Playden	2	23rd	Church Norton	2
9th	Church Norton	3	27th	Church Norton	2
10th	Pett Level	2 (Min)	28th	Church Norton	1
14th	Church Norton	1			

276. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*).—On Apr. 5th and 6th, a single bird was recorded at Chichester G.P. but there were no further records until Apr. 13th, when 2 were seen at Pulborough.

At Beachy Head, was first seen on Apr. 23rd, when 3 arrivals were noted. On Apr. 27th and 30th, the arrival of 2 single birds, was recorded in this locality.

On May 7th, 100 were seen at Arlington Res.

Breeding was recorded in at least 10 localities but there was little or no information from some parts of the County. At Newhaven, a single nest was built on the cross-channel ferry, *Senlac*.

On the return passage, very large numbers were seen and at Beachy Head about 36,000 were recorded on Sept. 14th. Many were still present in late October and on the 26th, 250 were recorded there. In November, there were numerous records with a maximum of 20 at Rottingdean on the 17th.

In December, was unusually numerous and the following were recorded:—

Date	Locality	Number	Date	Locality	Number
Dec. 1st	Eastbourne	10	Dec. 9th	Pagham Harbour	4
1st	Pett	14	9th	Eastbourne	3
4th	Lancing College	3	15th	Ferring	1
8th	Pagham Harbour	6	16th	Arundel	2
8th	Pett	3			

277. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*).—First seen on Mar. 26th at Chichester G.P. when 2 were recorded but there were no further records until Apr. 5th, when 8 were seen there.

Once again, few colonies were counted in the breeding season but in the Washington/Sullington area, a count made on July 6th, showed that no more than 148 nesting holes were occupied. The observer (DSF), counted 1,551 occupied holes in this area in 1969.

On Aug. 23rd, 1,000 were recorded at Church Norton and 600 were seen at Beachy Head on Sept. 14th. Was last recorded at Beachy Head on Oct. 20th.

281. **HOODED CROW** (*Corvus corone cornix*).—On Mar. 5th and 10th, one was seen near Seaford. On May 5th, one was recorded at Beachy Head.

On Oct. 20th, one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR. On Nov. 17th, one was observed at Beachy Head and on Dec. 9th, one was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley.

282. **ROOK** (*C. frugilegus*).—In the third year of the Society's Survey nearly 600 rookeries were reported in the County, bringing the total for the 3 years to 761. Counts were received for 558 rookeries with a total of 13,135 nests. The following table gives the number of rookeries reported during the years 1972/74 for the various 10Km. National Grid squares of the County with the number of rookeries and nests in 1974.

Square	No. of rookeries 1972-1974	No. of rookeries 1974	No. of nests 1974	No. of rookeries 1972-1974	No. of rookeries 1974	No. of nests 1974
SZ 79	3	2	7	21	14	306
SU 70	7	5	159	1	1	53
SU 71	17	14	262	1	1	12
SU 72	0	0	0	37	29	1086
SZ 80	29	23	399	36	31	648
SU 81	45	45	902	12	9	237
SU 82	26	24	592	15	8	178
SU 83	8	4	143	0	0	0
SZ 84	5	5	197	6	5	258
SZ 85	39	36	717	32	28	796
SU 90	18	17	406	15	15	253
SU 91	10	6	108	14	11	168
SU 92	1	0	0	11	8	137
SU 93	33	26	322	7	7	56
TQ 00	14	14	437	8	5	424
TQ 01	14	11	134	11	5	0
TQ 02	5	2	16	6	5	66
TQ 03	10	5	167	6	2	106
TQ 10	22	15	299	7	2	66
TQ 11	25	9	160	7	2	238
TQ 12	9	8	181	4	4	182
TQ 13	5	5	157	5	5	205
TQ 20	25	22	436	4	3	131
TQ 21	11	4	99	4	2	69
TQ 22	8	5	110	6	1	16
TQ 23	19	15	419	0	0	0
TQ 30	24	23	479	0	0	0
TQ 31						

283. **JACKDAW** (*C. monedula*).—On July 8th, at least 530 were counted at a roost at Arundel Castle (GCE).

289. **BLUE TIT** (*Parus caeruleus*).—At Crowborough, 6 pairs raised 58 young, at Plumpton, 4 pairs 20 young and near Sheffield Park, 7 pairs 62 young.

On Sept. 19th, 22 flew NW. near Crowlink. At Beachy Head, 70 were seen on Sept. 20th, 90 on Sept. 29th, 80 on Oct. 5th and 70 on Oct. 14th.

293. **WILLOW TIT** (*P. montanus*).—Recorded in the breeding season from no more than 13 localities. This is a decrease compared with the figures for 1972 and 1973 but there is no real evidence that the species is decreasing. All records will be welcome.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*).—This species is now so numerous that some observers are no longer collecting records. The information received indicates another successful breeding season and there were reports of many family parties.

At Beachy Head, exceptional numbers were recorded in late autumn and early winter. No less than 65 were seen on Oct. 14th and 55 on Nov. 4th.

295. **BEARDED TIT** (*Panurus biarmicus*).—A pair bred successfully in one locality but there were no reports from another area, where birds had been seen in the breeding season, in the past.

In the early months, about 16 were seen in 4 localities.

In September, 12 were recorded in two localities, in October, 29 in three localities and in November, up to 54 in five localities. The numbers seen in December were small with no more than 6 birds in two localities. There were no records from the Beachy Head area.

299. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).—The records received indicate that this species may still be increasing.

At Plumpton, 24 young were produced from 8 nests, of which 5 were successful.

At Beachy Head, 150 were recorded on Sept. 30th and 50 on Oct. 2nd, 6th, 9th and 10th.

302. **FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*).—Between early January and the end of March, parties of more than 100 were seen in 8 localities. On Apr. 9th, 120 were recorded at West Chilton and on Apr. 15th, 150 were seen on Wolstonbury Hill. Between this date and Apr. 30th, 148 in all were seen in 7 localities.

On May 6th, one was recorded over Kingley Vale NNR, and another was seen at Horse Eye Level.

In the autumn, was first recorded on Oct. 2nd, when 3 were seen at West Chilton. Until Oct. 19th, the numbers were small but on this day many were seen on Glynde Levels. Between Oct. 25th and Dec. 4th, there were records from 8 localities. The numbers for the remainder of December were small, except for 130 at Weir Wood Res. on 29th.

304. **REDWING** (*T. iliacus*).—There were no records for January and in February there were records for no more than two localities, with reports of up to 120 between Feb. 5th and 19th at West Chilton and 50 at Chilly Farm on Feb. 24th.

On Mar. 15th, nocturnal passage on a large scale was reported from Alfriston and there was a similar report from Hove for Mar. 15th and 16th.

On Mar. 22nd and 23rd, up to 4 birds were seen in the Cuckmere Valley and 20 were recorded at Birling Gap on Mar. 27th.

On Apr. 2nd, 50 were seen at West Chilton and 70 were recorded there on Apr. 7th. On Apr. 3rd, 12 were counted at Slimfold and between Apr. 7th and 27th, there were reports, mainly of single birds, from 7 localities. Six were seen at Littleton on Apr. 23rd.

On Sept. 13th, one was seen at West Chilton (FWD) and on Sept. 30th, one was recorded at Beachy Head.

In October, very large numbers were recorded and at Beachy Head, 300 were seen on 9th and 1,500 which arrived from the direction of the sea and flew N., on Oct. 10th.

At Littleton, 150 were recorded on Oct. 13th.

The main passage appears to have occurred between Oct. 24th and 26th with reports of from 100 to 400 birds from 5 localities. At Plumpton, flocks totalling 2,500 flew W. on Oct. 24th and 25th. On Oct. 30th, there were 600 at Amberley Wild Brooks.

In November, there were reports of up to 600 from several localities.

In December, the numbers appear to have been small although one observer reported unusually large numbers at Wych Cross on Dec. 11th.

307. **RING OUZEL** (*T. torquatus*).—Was unusually numerous on spring passage for about 28 were recorded between Mar. 23rd and May 24th. The majority of the records were from localities on or near the coast but at least two birds were seen on the downs.

On the return passage, the numbers seen at Beachy Head were smaller than in any year since 1962. Between Sept. 5th and Nov. 16th, there were records from localities on or near the coast between Rye and Worthing. On Oct. 5th, 16 were seen at Beachy Head.

308. **BLACKBIRD** (*T. merula*).—At Plumpton, 41 young were produced from 35 nests, of which 12 were successful.

At Beachy Head, unusually large numbers were recorded in October and November. The maxima were 160 on Oct. 14th and 230 on Oct. 30th.

311. **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).—First recorded on Mar. 19th at Sidlesham and at Mount Caburn on Mar. 20th. The numbers seen on spring passage appear to have been small with maxima of 23 near Selsey on Mar. 24th and 17 on the Seven Sisters on Mar. 25th.

In the Rye Harbour LNR, 3 pairs raised 12 young and one pair bred successfully in another coastal area. Some localities where breeding occurred in other years, were not apparently visited.

On autumn passage, was first observed on July 27th at Beachy Head and this continued until Nov. 8th, when one was seen at Falmer. At Beachy Head, a maximum of 60 was recorded on Aug. 18th. Elsewhere, there were peaks of 35 at Shoreham Airport on Aug. 27th and 30 on the Seven Sisters on Sept. 10th.

317. **STONECHAT** (*Saxicola torquata*).—In January and February, no more than 9 birds were recorded in 6 localities.

In the breeding season, pairs or singing males were recorded as follows:—

Forest Mere	1	Lancing Clump	1
Chichester G.P.	1	Ditchling Com.	1
Woolbedding Com.	1	Plumpton	1
Found Com.	1	Bishopstone	27
Reyshort Com.	2	Ashdown Forest	4
Ambersham Com.	2	Seaford Head	2
Livingston Com.	1	Cuckmere Valley	2
Chisbury Ring	1	Crowlink/S. Sisters	1
		Jevington	7
		Beachy Head	1

On Aug. 21st, 30 were seen at Beachy Head and 50 were recorded there on Oct. 5th and 14th.

In December, about 39 wintering birds were seen in 18 localities.

318. **WHINCHAT** (*S. rubetra*).—On Apr. 20th, two were seen at Selsey Bill. Very few were recorded between this date and the end of the month. Between May 1st and 28th, there were reports, mainly of single birds, from about 15 localities.

Between Aug. 1st, when two were seen at Steyning and the end of September, there were numerous records from inland and coastal localities. The maxima were:—

Beachy Head	60	Sept. 14th	Downs near Steyning	70
Beachy Head	70	Sept. 16th	Pagham Harbour	50

On Oct. 1st, about 12 were seen at Beachy Head and there were records of about 12 others, between this date and the end of the month.

On Nov. 9th, one was seen at Arlington Res. and on the very late date of Nov. 28th, one was recorded at Pagham Harbour (WWAP, AW).

320. **REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).—On spring passage, was first seen on Apr. 10th in Rye Harbour LNR. At Beachy Head, was first recorded on Apr. 15th, when a single bird was seen.

In the breeding season, pairs or singing males were recorded at Wepham Down, Arundel on June 26th, in Ashdown Forest, Bayham and in Hoth Woods.

On the return passage, there were records from Aug. 13th, when one was seen at Beachy Head until Nov. 15th, when one was recorded at Possingworth Park, Blackboys (GM).

321. **BLACK REDSTART** (*P. ochruros*).—There were no records until Mar. 23rd, when 7 were seen at Beachy Head and single birds were recorded at Shoreham-by-Sea, Elmer, Selsey and Sidlesham. From this date until the end of the month, there were records, mainly of single birds, from 12 coastal and 3 inland localities. Nine were seen at Beachy Head on Mar. 24th and this was the maximum for the month.

Between Apr. 2nd and 18th, up to two were seen in 8 localities on the coast and in two, inland. A single bird was recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR on Apr. 24th and May 5th and one was seen at Selsey Bill on May 18th.

On May 27th, a breeding pair was observed near Newhaven and on June 4th, a male was heard singing in central Worthing. Between June 3rd and 27th, one was heard in Brighton. Evidence of breeding was not obtained in these towns but on June 11th, a nest containing 3 eggs, was located at Southwick 'B' Power Station. One young bird flew successfully at this site. On June 9th, a single bird was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR.

There were no records for July or August but on Sept. 14th, one was recorded at Beachy Head.

Between Oct. 9th and the end of the month, there were records of up to three birds from about 8 coastal and 5 inland localities. In November, was widely recorded on the coast and there were records of single birds from about 9 inland localities. In December, up to 2 were seen in 8 coastal and 3 inland localities.

322. **NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*).—The first year of the Society's survey resulted in records, for the breeding season, being received from 50 tetrads in West Sussex and 28 tetrads in East Sussex. Selected counts were as follows:—West Ashling 6, Harting-Nye Wood 6, Lodsworth 15, Kirdford-Balls Green 33, Ashington-Ashurst 13, Shaves Wood, Woodmancote 11, Park Wood, Poynings 7, South Street, Chailey 7, Abbots Wood, Arlington 6. Records of a further 110 singing males were received from 70 sites. More coverage is needed for the following 10K.m. National Grid squares.

SU80	SU90	TQ22	TQ33	TQ40	TQ42	TQ43	TQ52
TQ10	TQ13	TQ23	TQ33	TQ40	TQ42	TQ43	TQ52
TQ53	TQ60	TQ62	TQ63	TQ72			

324. **BLUETHROAT** (*L. svecica*).—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 5th (WM).

325. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—At Plumpton, 20 young were produced from 9 nests, 4 of which were successful (RJJ).

At Beachy Head, a maximum of 40 was recorded on Oct. 15th.

326. **CETTI'S WARBLER** (*Cettia cetti*).—Single birds were trapped at Littington on Sept. 19th, Oct. 6th and Oct. 15th (PIW, VAW *et al.*). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

327. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*).—First recorded on Apr. 12th, when single birds were seen at Beachy Head and Sidlesham Ferry. In the breeding season, there were records, mainly of single birds, from 23 localities. A number of suitable areas were not apparently visited.

At Beachy Head, 10 were recorded on Aug. 2nd and was last seen there on Oct. 6th, when 3 were present.

333. **REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).—First recorded on Apr. 10th, when single birds were seen at Patching and in the Rye Harbour LNR.

In the breeding season, there were reports of at least 343 pairs of singing males from localities west of the A24 (GCE *et al.*). There were very few breeding season records for East Sussex.

On autumn passage at Beachy Head, the maxima were 25 on Aug. 13th and 30 on Sept. 15th (GCE *et al.*). Was last recorded at Arundel on Oct. 19th, when one was seen.

337. **SEDGE WARBLER** (*A. schoenobaenus*).—First recorded on Apr. 3rd at Rye Harbour and on Apr. 10th at Bepton.

Was widely reported in the breeding season although the majority of the records were from West Sussex.

At Beachy Head, up to 10 birds were seen on three days in August but the numbers recorded there on autumn passage, were small. One was seen as late as Oct. 19th.

339. **MELODIOUS WARBLER** (*Hippolais polyglotta*).—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 28th (JFC, DEL, BW) and one there on Sept. 15th (JFC, DEL, AQ *et al.*).

340. **ICTERINE WARBLER** (*H. icterina*).—One at Selsey Bill on Sept. 14th (DCSD).

343. **BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*).—One was seen at Glynde on Feb. 26th but there were no further records until Apr. 1st, when one was recorded at Offham.

On autumn passage, exceptional numbers were observed at Beachy Head. The maxima were:—Sept. 10th, 14th and 15th, 200; Sept. 17th, 270; Sept. 19th, 250; and Sept. 28th, 200. On Oct. 2nd, 150 were recorded there and one was seen as late as Nov. 18th.

Elsewhere, in November and December, there were records of 7 birds in all from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hove, North Mundham, Rustington and Worthing.

344. **BARRED WARBLER** (*S. nisoria*).—One at Beachy Head on Sept. 20th (DEL, TP, BW) and one there on Oct. 9th (JFC, RH, DEL).

346. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*S. borin*).—One was seen at Beachy Head on Apr. 11th and one was recorded there on Nov. 5th. In this locality, there were records of at least 30 birds on 7 days between Aug. 6th and Sept. 15th and 3 were seen on Nov. 3rd.

Very few records were received for the breeding season and it appears that this species is under-recorded.

347. **WHITETHROAT** (*S. communis*).—Was first observed at Beachy Head on Apr. 14th, when 3 were seen. Was last recorded there on Oct. 7th.

At Beachy Head, a maximum of 65 was recorded on May 23rd and on the return passage, there were peaks of 60 on Aug. 13th, 100 on Aug. 28th and 60 on Sept. 10th.

There were many records for the breeding season but in some localities the numbers were small.

At Sidlesham, 8 pairs were located on a farm where none was present in 1973. In a part of Ashdown Forest, 23 singing males were noted and there were 10 pairs at Wales Farm, Plumpton.

348. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*S. curruca*).—On Apr. 8th, one was recorded at Liphook Golf Course. At Beachy Head, was first seen on Apr. 11th and there was a spring maximum of 8 on May 20th.

In the breeding season, was reported from 30 localities. At Wales Farm, Plumpton, at least 7 pairs bred.

At Beachy Head, the maxima on return passage were 35 on Aug. 19th, 40 on Aug. 31st and 35 on Sept. 17th. Was last recorded on Oct. 1st, when one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR, and on Oct. 2nd, when one was observed at Brighton.

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER** (*S. undata*).—Reports were received for 4 areas with a total breeding population of approximately 8 pairs.

On Mar. 31st, one was seen on Steyning Round Hill (CFH, BJS). On Oct. 28th, one was recorded on a common well away from the normal breeding areas (HTR) and in December, a single bird was seen, on three occasions, at Pagham Harbour (JWH, BJ, PJ, CRJ).

354. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).—Was first recorded on Mar. 26th at Chichester G.P. and on Mar. 27th at Beachy Head.

In the breeding season there were reports of pairs or singing males from a few localities but this species is obviously not fully recorded.

See also under Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff.

356. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*P. collybita*).—In January, one was seen at Chichester G.P. In February, up to 4 were recorded there and there were reports of single birds from Lancing and Lewes. Two were seen at Littlehampton on Feb. 22nd and 2 at Arundel on Feb. 28th.

On Mar. 2nd, one was recorded at Selsey, on Mar. 3rd, two were seen at Chichester G.P. and on Mar. 4th, there was one at Shoreham-by-Sea.

Arrivals were first seen on Mar. 19th, when there were reports from East Grinstead, Rye Harbour LNR and Shoreham-by-Sea.

There were few records for the breeding season.

In November, single birds were seen at Pagham Harbour, Seaford and Shoreham-by-Sea and there were reports of 2 birds from Arundel, Beachy Head and Chichester G.P.

In December, single birds were recorded in 9 localities and there were records of 2 at Chichester G.P. and Fairlight Glen.

WILLOW WARBLER/CHIFFCHAFF.—General migration data for both species are shown under this head. On spring passage, 11 were recorded on Mar. 23rd at Beachy Head and there were peak counts, in this locality, of 100 on Apr. 22nd and 70 on Apr. 29th. Arrival on a large scale was not noted in other localities but on Apr. 21st, 7 were seen to arrive from the direction of the sea, at Selsey Bill.

On the return passage, there were peak counts at Beachy Head, of 140 on July 24th and 30th, 350 on Aug. 17th and 300 on Sept. 10th.

357. **WOOD WARBLER** (*P. sibilatrix*).—Was not recorded at Beachy Head, in the spring.

In the breeding season, about 25 singing males were recorded from 11 well distributed localities.

On the return passage, one was recorded at Beachy Head on Aug. 6th and one was seen at Brighton on the same day. Between Aug. 20th and Sept. 16th, 5 single birds were recorded.

361. **PALLAS'S WARBLER** (*P. proregulus*).—At Beachy Head, one from Oct. 14th to 17th (MEC, RHC), one on Nov. 3rd (STG, AQ, BW) and two between Nov. 17th and 21st (AQ *et al.*). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.* Eight birds of this species have now been seen in the Beachy Head area.

362. **DUSKY WARBLER** (*P. fuscatus*).—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (JFC, DP, TP *et al.*). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* and is the first for the County.

363. **RADDE'S WARBLER** (*P. schwarzi*).—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (RHC, MEC *et al.*). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* and is the first for the County.

364. **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*).—Was widely reported in the breeding season but there is evidence that this species is not fully recorded.

At Beachy Head, 35 were seen on Mar. 24th and on Mar. 26th, at least 100 were recorded at Pagham Harbour.

In the autumn, 105 were recorded at Beachy Head on Oct. 1st, 120 on Oct. 10th and 200 on Oct. 18th.

365. **FIRECREST** (*R. ignicapillus*).—On Jan. 27th, one was seen at Pagham Harbour.

Between Mar. 17th and May 25th, at least 14 were recorded at Beachy Head. Elsewhere, there were records between Mar. 19th and Apr. 1st from one inland and 5 coastal localities. Most were of single birds.

In the breeding season, two singing males were recorded in the same general area, in which an adult was watched when feeding young in 1973.

Between Sept. 29th and Nov. 16th, there were numerous records for the Beachy Head locality. Almost 50 birds were trapped and ringed there and on Oct. 26th, no less than 10 were seen.

Between Sept. 22nd and the end of the year, there were additional records of up to 20 birds, from 6 coastal and 5 inland localities.

Several birds wintered at Pagham Harbour and there were records of single birds, in the second half of December from Brighton, Runcton, Shoreham-by-Sea and Sidlesham.

366. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*).—Although one was seen at Pagham Harbour on Apr. 20th, there were no further records until May 5th when single birds were observed at Arlington Res. and Horsham. At Beachy Head, was first recorded on May 12th.

In the breeding season, was reported from 21 localities. On the return passage, there were records from the coast from the end of Aug. to Oct. 15th, when a single bird was seen at Litlington.

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*).—In spring, 6, of which 5 were males, were recorded between Apr. 23rd and 27th.

On autumn passage, there were records on 19 days, between Aug. 18th and Oct. 1st, from the Beachy Head area. Six were recorded there on Aug. 31st. Elsewhere, about 24 were recorded from localities on or near the coast, between Aug. 20th and Sept. 29th.

371. **DUNNOCK** (*Prunella modularis*).—Ten nests at Plumpton produced 10 young.

373. **MEADOW PIPIT** (*Anthus pratensis*).—At Beachy Head, 150 arrived from the direction of the sea on Mar. 23rd and on Apr. 6th and 7th, 233 arrived at Selsey Bill.

There were breeding season records from Chichester Harbour, Cocking and Rye Harbour LNR. All breeding season records of this species would be welcome.

On Sept. 26th, 500 were observed at a roost at Arlington Res.

At Beachy Head, there were 100 E. on Sept. 12th, 29th and 30th.

374. **RICHARD'S PIPIT** (*A. novaeseelandiae*).—One at Beachy Head on Mar. 26th (RE).

375. **TAWNY PIPIT** (*A. campestris*).—At Beachy Head, there were records of one on Aug. 29th (ME), two between Aug. 30th and Sept. 2nd and one from Sept. 8th to the 14th (MEC, RHC). Single birds were recorded there on Sept. 2nd and 16th (TG) and on Sept. 29th (PC). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

376. **TREE PIPIT** (*A. trivialis*).—First seen on Apr. 10th at Woolbeeding Common and on Apr. 12th at Bayham, Itchingfield and Woodmancote.

In the breeding season, there were records from 29 well distributed localities. At Beachy Head, passage birds were recorded between Aug. 17th and Sept. 28th. The maxima were 80 on Aug. 17th and 90 on Aug. 18th.

379. **ROCK PIPIT** (*A. spinoletta*).—In the early months, there were records from Chichester Harbour, Cuckmere Valley, Lancing and Shoreham-by-Sea.

A single pair was seen at Seaford Head on Apr. 27th but there were no other records for the breeding season. All breeding season records would be welcome.

On Aug. 5th, one was seen at Arlington Res. and there were post breeding season or winter records from Church Norton, Cuckmere Haven, Eastbourne and Rottingdean.

380. **PIED WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla alba*).—Once again, there were reports of roosting by large numbers of birds. At Arundel, 100 were counted in September, 200 on Oct. 31st and 200 in December. At Litlington, 250 were recorded in September and October and at Thakeham, counts showed that about 600 were roosting in glasshouses on Nov. 30th and 1,000 throughout December. There was also a report of unknown numbers roosting in a shrubbery in Manor Royal, Crawley in early December.

Six birds showing the characters of the race *alba* were recorded from coastal or inland localities between Apr. 1st and May 15th. A pair, first seen on May 8th, bred successfully in the Cuckmere Valley (PIW).

381. **GREY WAGTAIL** (*M. cinerea*).—In the breeding season, pairs or single birds were recorded in at least 43 localities. There was evidence of successful breeding in 11 of these and in addition, a pair was seen carrying food, at a locality in Chichester Harbour, on June 24th.

Outside the breeding season, there were records from about 35 localities. At Beachy Head, 12 were recorded on Sept. 15th and up to 7 birds on three other days in this month.

382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL** (*M. flava*).—First recorded on Apr. 5th, when there was one N. at Selsey Bill and on Apr. 9th, in the Rye Harbour LNR. No less than 32 were seen in this locality on Apr. 13th.

Records for the breeding season were not complete and information was received about no more than 25 pairs in 9 localities. Some localities, where breeding pairs were seen in other years, were not apparently visited.

Autumn passage may have commenced as early as Aug. 5th, when 20 were recorded at Arlington Res. Between Aug. 20th and Sept. 28th, there were numerous records from inland and coastal localities. Three were seen at Arundel Castle on Oct. 3rd and on Oct. 7th, there was one at Sidlesham Ferry. The maxima on passage were 100 at Rye Harbour LNR on Aug. 27th, up to 200 at Sidlesham Ferry on Aug. 25th and 45 in Chichester Harbour on Aug. 31st.

Single birds showing the characters of the race *flava* were recorded at Barcombe Res. on May 7th, at Church Norton on May 15th and May 18th and at Beachy Head on Aug. 23rd.

A bird showing the characters of the race *feldlegg* was seen at Thorney Island on June 23rd (HMH). This record, which is the first of this sub-species for the County, has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

383. **WAXWING** (*Bombycilla garrulus*).—One on Nov. 17th at Pett (SJRR) and one at Camber Castle on Nov. 24th (many obs.).

384. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** (*Lanius excubitor*).—The records for the first part of the year are given under localities. Ashdown Forest, one on Jan. 4th (CFT) and Mar. 18th (MCH). Crowborough, one on Mar. 31st (APDC). Glynde, one on Feb. 3rd (DCL) and Mar. 23rd (RG). Hellingly, one on Feb. 15th and 16th (RED). Horse Eye Level, one on Mar. 3rd (DCL). Sidlesham, one on Mar. 13th (MS).

Between Oct. 3rd and the end of the year, single birds were seen in approximately 15 well distributed localities (many obs.).

388. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*L. collurio*).—One was seen at Birling Gap on Sept. 12th (MJR). Between Sept. 20th and 29th, one was recorded at Rye Harbour (RRG, JWH, WM, NP) and on Sept. 22nd, one was seen at Seaford Head (PC).

389. **STARLING** (*Sternus vulgaris*).—At Sidlesham, there were at least 2,000 E. on Oct. 30th. At Beachy Head, 15,000 were seen between Nov. 10th and 23rd. The numbers were described as exceptional and were the largest ever recorded in this locality. At Portslade, there were 4,000 W. on Nov. 21st. On Dec. 20th, 6,000 were recorded at Barcombe Res. and on Dec. 30th, 4,000 were seen at Arlington Res.

391. **HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).—On Jan. 27th, 4 were seen at West Marden and up to 2 were recorded in this locality between this date and Feb. 8th. On Feb. 14th, one was seen in Sheffield Park.

On Apr. 7th, one arrived at Selsey Bill (from W.) and settled in the trees for a short time (BAEM, IRW).

In the breeding season was recorded at Ardingly, Bignor Park, Horsted Keynes, North Chailey and Shermanbury.

On Dec. 12th, 8 were observed when feeding on beech mast at Blackboys (GM).

392. **GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*).—Thirteen nests at Plumpton produced 25 young; six nests were successful.

On Oct. 11th, a flock of 800 was seen on the downs near Steyning and at the end of October, 1,000 were recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR.

On Nov. 17th, there were 300 W. at Selsey Bill.
No less than 392 were ringed at High Hurstwood during the year.

393. **GOLDFINCH** (*C. carduelis*).—In January, up to 100 were recorded at Weir Wood Res. and on Mar. 9th, 500 were seen at Chidmere Pond.

At Plumpton, 14 nests, of which 6 were successful, produced 20 young.

On July 26th and in August and September, 100 were recorded at Rye Harbour. In August, 200 were seen at Angmering Park on the 9th, 100 at Glynde Levels on 12th and at least 300 at Coldwaltham/Watersfield Brooks on 28th. On Sept. 9th, there were 100 at Runciton and on Sept. 12th, 100 at Shoreham-by-Sea. In October, 300 were recorded in the Lullington Heath NNR and 200 were seen at Rye.

At Beachy Head, 500 were recorded on Oct. 11th and there were 1,500 W. on Nov. 17th.

394. **SISKIN** (*C. spinus*).—Between Jan. 1st and Apr. 2nd, there were records from 6 coastal and 21 inland localities. About 50 birds were seen at Amberley Wild Brooks, at Horsham and at Sheffield Park. These were the largest numbers recorded. In 11 of the localities, the birds were seen in gardens and in 8 cases the observers noted that nuts were taken as food.

On May 4th, there were 11 E. over the Rye Harbour LNR.

At Beachy Head, larger numbers than usual were recorded on autumn passage. The maxima were:—Sept. 22nd, 70; Sept. 28th, 60 and Sept. 29th, 85. Birds which were probably on passage were also seen at Aldwick, Litlington, Pagham Harbour and Rye Harbour.

Between Oct. 6th, when one was recorded at Rackham, and the end of the year, there were records from 3 coastal and 7 inland localities. The numbers were usually small, except for 60 at Horsham and 30 at East Grinstead. In 2 cases, birds were seen in gardens but only at Bexhill was feeding on nuts observed.

395. **LINNET** (*Acanthis cannabina*).—In the early months, there were records of 50 at Weir Wood Res. on Jan. 31st, 200 on the downs near Steyning on Mar. 16th and 80 at East Grinstead on Mar. 26th. Elsewhere, the numbers recorded were small.

At Beachy Head, there were 80 N. on Apr. 6th, and 100 N. on Apr. 15th. At Newhaven, there were 175 N. on Apr. 8th.

At Plumpton, 57 young were produced from 33 nests of which 14 were successful.

In early August, a roost was located near Billingshurst and on Aug. 7th, no less than 620 arrivals were noted there, in a period of 1½ hours. Roosting continued until at least mid September (SWMH).

A number of post breeding flocks were recorded and in August, 200 birds were seen at Southwick Hill, 400 on Glynde Levels and 500 at Cissbury Ring. In September, a flock of 200 was seen at Shoreham-by-Sea and in October, one of up to 800 birds was recorded at Cissbury Ring.

Passage birds in large numbers were recorded at Beachy Head with maxima of 200 E. on Sept. 30th, 1,500 on Oct. 9th, 500 on Oct. 11th and 200 W. on Nov. 17th.

The only report for December was one of 200 birds at Pagham Harbour on the 14th.

396. **TWITE** (*A. flavivox*).—In the early months, 30 were seen near Lancing College and on Mar. 9th, a single bird was recorded at Runciton (JVS). Other records were from localities on or near the coast.

On Oct. 5th, 4 were recorded at Rye and on Oct. 8th, 35 arrived from the direction of the sea, at Beachy Head. On Oct. 12th, there were 6 E. in this locality and on Oct. 22nd, 15 more arrived there.

Elsewhere the numbers seen were small, except for 100 at Camber on Nov. 3rd and up to 200 on the saltings there by the end of the year.

The approximate monthly totals excluding the Beachy Head records, were:—

Jan.	59	Feb.	63	Mar.	13
Oct.	12	Nov.	110	Dec.	244

397. **REDPOLL** (*A. flammea*).—In the early months, there were records from 10 localities. The numbers were mainly small but up to 300 were recorded at Copthorne from Mar. 4th to 9th.

Between Apr. 10th and May 9th, there were reports of birds on spring passage with totals of 35 N. at Beachy Head and 39 N. at Selsey Bill.

There were breeding season records from 9 localities but the numbers were generally small. About 10 pairs were seen in Ashdown Forest.

At Beachy Head, many were seen on autumn passage. The maxima were 200 on Oct. 5th, 300 on Oct. 13th, 200 on Nov. 6th and 200 on Nov. 10th.

Many were recorded between early October and the end of the year from well distributed localities throughout the County. On Oct. 6th, 250 were seen at Litlington and on Nov. 23rd, at least 200 were recorded at Darwell Res.

400. **SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*).—One at Beachy Head on June 13th (MEC, RHC). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

402. **SCARLET ROSEFINCH** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*).—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 1st (RHC, JFC, BW, PJW). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* and is the second for the County.

404. **CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*).—On July 25th, one was seen at Beachy Head (JFC) and on Oct. 5th, one was recorded at Petworth (OM).

407. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*).—At Plumpton, 29 young were produced from 16 nests, 7 of which were successful.

On Oct. 8th, 1,000 arrived from the direction of the sea at Beachy Head and on Oct. 13th, 250 did so. On Oct. 12th, 60 came in from the direction of the sea at Church Norton.

408. **BRAMBLING** (*F. montifringilla*).—In the early months, the numbers seen were very small but on or about Mar. 20th, there appears to have been an influx. Sixty were seen between this date and the end of the month at West Chiltington. On Mar. 21st, 50 were recorded at Horsham and on Mar. 23rd, 30 were seen at Beachy Head. On Apr. 5th, one flew NE. in the Cuckmere Valley.

In the autumn, was first recorded on Oct. 9th, at Beachy Head, when 4 were seen. From this date until the end of the year, about 140 were recorded from 5 localities.

410. **CORN BUNTING** (*Emberiza calandra*).—There were records for the breeding season from about 16 localities. Most of these were on the downs but some were from coastal areas in the east and west of the County.

On Apr. 12th, a single bird was recorded at Washbrook Farm, Hurstpierpoint and on June 6th, one was singing at Chichester G.P. This bird was not heard subsequently. There were 3 singing males at Wales Farm, Plumpton, during the summer months.

Outside the breeding season, there were records of up to 100 birds from the downs and from Rye Harbour LNR. On Mar. 31st, 50 roosting birds were recorded at Ditchling Common and on Oct. 26th, 70 were seen at Arundel.

415. **GIRL BUNTING** (*E. cirius*).—In the breeding season, there were records from Beachy Head, the Cuckmere Valley and Friston Forest. Elsewhere, there were reports of very small numbers from one locality by Chichester Harbour and from Lancing.

One observer (PJW) noted a marked increase in the number of breeding pairs and reported that several haunts, which had not held birds for several years, were recolonized.

Very few records were received for the winter months. On Jan. 4th, one was seen at Polegate. On Oct. 28th, a single bird was recorded at West Chiltington and on Oct. 31st, one was seen at Woodingdean.

416. **ORTOLAN BUNTING** (*E. hortulana*).—On Aug. 25th, one was seen at Beachy Head (TP) and on Sept. 15th, one was recorded there.

421. **REED BUNTING** (*E. schoeniclus*).—In the breeding season, 50 pairs were recorded at Rye Harbour and there were numerous reports from other well distributed localities. In May and June, 14 singing males were present in areas of gorse, in Ashdown Forest (PCB).

On Sept. 26th, more than 200 birds were counted in a reed grown ditch at Camber Castle but large numbers were not seen elsewhere in the autumn and winter months. A small number were seen in gardens and at bird tables, during the winter.

422. **LAPLAND BUNTING** (*Calcarius lapponicus*).—On Oct. 22nd, one was seen at Beachy Head (JFC).

423. **SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—In January, there were up to 7 at Camber and in February, 25 were recorded there. In the Rye Harbour LNR, 25 were seen in February and 3 on Mar. 6th.

In December, there were 4 at Camber and 3 at Rye Harbour.

425. **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*).—In the early months, 200 were recorded at Barcombe Res. on Jan. 3rd and 120 were seen there on Feb. 6th. In addition, there were records of flocks of up to 100 on the downs near Steyning, and at Horsham. At least 50 were present at Weir Wood Res. from the beginning of the year until April.

In the Great Wood at Coldean, Brighton, several hundred birds were recorded on Jan. 11th, when assembled at dusk, as though for roosting. The observer found difficulty in estimating the number present and further information from this locality would be welcome.

In the breeding season, there were records from 16 well scattered localities but no more than 5 pairs were seen in any one of these.

In October, a maximum of 300 was recorded at Beachy Head on 9th and on 14th, 150 were seen on the downs near Steyning.

In December, 160 were seen at Fisham and there were records of smaller numbers from other localities, including Weir Wood Res.

HYBRID MEDITERRANEAN/BLACK-HEADED GULL AT BEACHY HEAD

On November 4th, 1973, M. E. Nolan and A. Quinn saw for a short time at Birling Gap, a bird, which at first they thought was a Mediterranean Gull in sub-adult plumage.

The bird had a conspicuous white leading edge to the wing but the overcast sky at the time accentuated the whiteness of many gulls. In consequence, the observers considered that they were mistaken and that the bird was possibly a Black-headed Gull in abnormal plumage.

On November 11th, 1973, the same observers with J. F. Cooper and M. Eales were at Cow Gap, Beachy Head and saw the bird again. When first observed on this occasion, it was again identified as a Mediterranean Gull. A sausage shaped black mark behind the eye was conspicuous and the general white appearance and small black sub-terminal marks on the primaries were typical of Mediterranean Gulls approaching adulthood. The mantle and wing coverts, however, although paler than those of Black-headed Gulls were not as pale as those of Mediterranean Gulls. Once again the fairly conspicuous white leading edge to the wing was noted. The underwing was white as in Mediterranean Gulls and in fact all the other characteristics were very similar to those of the latter species, i.e. size, shape and shape of bill. Because none of the observers could recall seeing a Mediterranean Gull with a pale fore-wing, they considered that the bird was a hybrid. The basic characteristics proved to correspond very well with the description given by J. H. Taverner of a hybrid Mediterranean/Black-headed Gull at the Hampshire breeding site. (See Mediterranean Gulls nesting in Hampshire—*Brit. B.* Vol. 63, 1970, No. 2).

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1973 REPORT

30. **HERON**.—A pair bred successfully at Nuthurst.
 73. **SHELDUCK**.—On May 4th, 6 young were seen at Funtington.
 95. **RED KITE**.—One at Duncton on Aug. 11th (BJ, PJ).
 98. **HONEY BUZZARD**.—One at Beachy Head on Sept. 22nd (PC, DP, TP).
 102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER**.—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (BEC, JFC).
 103. **OSPREY**.—On Sept. 18th, two were seen in Chichester Harbour (RAC).
 125. **CORNCRAKE**.—One at Beachy Head on Oct. 15th (BEC).
 307. **RING OUZEL**.—For 18 were seen there on Apr. 21st—substitute one.
 322. **NIGHTINGALE**.—For Shaves Wood, Woodmancote substitute 14 singing males in western parts of Shaves Wood, Woodmancote.
 339. **MELODIUS WARBLER**.—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 1st (JFC, DEL).
 340. **ICTERINE WARBLER**.—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 23rd (JFC, DEL, JBW).
 416. **ORTOLAN BUNTING**.—One at Beachy Head on Sept. 15th (JFC, PC).
 423. **SNOW BUNTING**.—On Dec. 27th, there were at least 35 at Rye Harbour (CSJC).

SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1974

Compiled by P. J. Wilson

The total number of birds ringed in Sussex in 1974 topped 20,000 (20,695) for the second year in succession and the total number of species involved topped 100 (105) also for the second year running. This achievement is particularly noteworthy in view of the fact that the Filsham Ringing Group, who headed the totals in 1973, ringed less than a thousand birds in 1974 due to difficulties with access at their site.

Over half the grand total (10,496) in 1974 was ringed at Beachy Head. Beachy Head Ringing Group ringed over 7,000 birds, their best ever year. No less than 45 Firecrests were ringed in the Beachy Head area during 1974, as well as over 1,500 House Martins and over 1,100 Blackcaps.

However, the Beachy Head Ringing Group suffered a severe setback in April, 1975, when a wooden hut containing all their equipment was destroyed by fire, presumably by vandals. The loss to the group is estimated at over £350 and it is to be hoped that they will be able to raise enough money to finance their work in 1975.

The following list of recoveries is of particular interest, showing an unusually large scale movement of Tits in the late autumn, and demonstrating the effect that the very cold weather during October had on emigrating House Martins. This highlights an often overlooked source of information derived from ringing, namely the causes of deaths in birds.

In the case of the House Martins, from eleven recoveries, one was killed by a cat, one flew into a building and the other nine were found dead or dying as a result of the cold weather.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1974

Key to symbols and terms
 (Ring numbers are omitted)

Age	Manner of Recovery	
	caught or trapped and released with ring	shot or killed by man
1. Pullus (nestling or chick not yet flying)	v	+
2. Full grown but year of hatching quite unknown	x	x
3. Definitely hatched during current calendar year	()	()
4. Hatched before current calendar year: exact year unknown	/ ? /	/ ? /
5. Definitely hatched last calendar year		
6. Hatched before last calendar year: exact year not known		
J. This suffix indicates a bird still in juvenile plumage		

(Note: Even numbers indicate unknown age. Uneven numbers indicate known age)

Sex

♂ Male
 ♀ Female

Distance
 The distance is given in kilometres and directions are approximate

BIRDS RINGED IN SUSSEX

Water Rail	2	11.09.66	Chichester G.P. (CRG)
	x	09.03.74	Vinkeveen (Utrecht), Netherlands
House Martin	Six birds were recovered in France during the cold weather of late autumn. Five of these were ringed at Beachy Head and one at Shoreham, all in mid-autumn. There were also five recoveries from S.E. England, all in autumn		
Sand Martin	3	13.08.66	Chichester G.P. (CRG)
	v	16.05.68	Woumen (W. Flanders), Belgium. (Note reported until 1975!)
Rook	2	21.03.56	Burgess Hill (JAW)
	x	21.07.74	Burgess Hill
	This is the oldest recorded Rook in the BTO Ringing scheme		
Great Tit		17.10.69	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	2 ♀	07.04.74	Brugge (W. Flanders), Belgium
	v	29.09.73	Beachy Head (BHRG)
		24.01.74	Shoreham-by-Sea. 34km. WNW
Blue Tit	There were seven recoveries during late autumn and early winter all between 32 and 72 km. and all in a Westerly direction		
Bearded Tit	2 ♂	03.11.73	Filsham (FRG)
	v	28.05.74	Kleimeer, Koedijk, Netherlands
Song Thrush	2	13.10.72	Beachy Head (BHRG)
	+	07.01.74	Fundao (Beira Baixa), Portugal
Redwing	4	14.03.71	Plumpton (RJL)
	+	07.01.74	Grossetts, Italy
	5	28.01.73	Plumpton (RJL)
	+	04.03.74	Trigueros (Huelva), Spain
Blackbird	2	14.10.70	Beachy Head (BHRG)
	x	18.06.74	Troisvierges, Luxembourg
		24.03.71	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
		29.06.74	Blankenheim (Hallein, Sachsenhalt), E. Germany

BIRDS RINGED ELSEWHERE AND RECOVERED IN SUSSEX

These two birds were presumably in their breeding quarters when recovered

Species	Date	Sex	Location	Distance
Redstart	29.10.71	2 ♀	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	(21.02.74)	x	Issus, Montiscard (Haute Garonne), France	
Black Redstart	07.10.72	6 ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	28.12.74	x	Bechum (Munster in Nordhein, Westfalen), W. Germany	
	28.10.72	3 ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	11.05.74	x	Pittefaux, Wimerex (Pas de Calais), France	
	11.09.70	x	Plumpton (JAW)	
	07.10.73	x	Carvoeiro, Macao (Beira Baixa), Portugal	
	11.04.74	x	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)	
	13.06.74	x	Bützberg, Langenthal (Berne), Switzerland	
Robin	30.03.74		Presumably its breeding quarters	
	16.10.74		Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)	
	02.11.73	3	Wankum (Dusseldorf in Nordrhein, Westfalen), W. Germany	
	08.04.74	x	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	09.09.74	2	Gustrow (Schweirenin Mecklenburg), E. Germany	
	01.12.74	x	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	14.07.73	3	Trith-Saint-Léger, Valenciennes (Nord), France	
	03.09.74	x	Chichester G.P. (CRG)	
	27.07.69	3	Entracamento da Freira (Ribatejo), Portugal	
	09.06.73	v	Chichester G.P. (CRG)	
	30.08.71	3	Pottic Carr, Doncaster (Yorks.), 305km. N. (not reported until 1974)	
	17.05.74	v	Chichester G.P. (CRG)	
	06.10.71	3 ♂	Bardsey Island (Carnarvon), 350km. NW	
	18.04.74	4 ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	21.07.72	4 ♂	Marzy (Nieve), France	
	08.07.74	v	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	02.09.73	2	La Fougeraie, Sark (Channel Islands)	
	26.05.74	v	Litlington (PJW)	
	02.11.73	2	Maidford Wood (Northants), 170km. NW	
	11.10.74	v ♀	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	23.06.73	1	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	15.05.74	x	Marley (PGD)	
	12.08.73	x	Ajaccio, Corsica	
	20.06.74	v	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)	
			Shobden Wood, Leominster (Herefordshire), 270km. NW	
Starling	04.01.72	6 ♂	Plumpton (RJJ)	
	22.04.74	v	Magdeburg, E. Germany	
	23.12.73	2 ♂	Alfriston (PJW)	
	30.12.74	/?	Cerise, Alençon (Orne), France	
	07.03.73	♀	Marley (PGD)	
	11.11.73	v	Rixmansworth (Hertfordshire)	
	16.03.74	v	Marley (PGD)	
	25.07.73	1	Plumpton (RJJ)	
	25.11.73	/?	Beasain (Guipúzcos), Spain	
	29.07.73		Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)	
	15.10.74		La Linea de la Concepción (Cadiz), Spain	
	05.08.74	4 ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG)	
	00.12.74	x	Almadén (Ciudad Real), Spain	
	28.10.72		Marley (PGD)	
	17.03.74	v	Walton-on-Thames (Surrey), 40km. NNE	
	11.10.72		Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)	
	13.03.74	v	Epping (Essex), 105km. N	
	20.01.74	6 ♀	Steyning (JAN)	
	25.07.74	x	Skarrild (Jylland), Denmark	
Siskin				
Chaffinch				
Shag	26.07.74	1	Farne Islands (Northumberland)	
	06.10.74	v	Marley (PGD)	
			This bird landed in a garden in Marley, which is 35 miles from the sea. It was subsequently released at Frensham Pond, Surrey	
Razorbill	08.07.67	1	Skokholm (Pembrokeshire)	
	03.03.74	x	West Wittering, 320km. ESE	
	08.07.70	2	Skokholm (Pembrokeshire)	
	09.02.74	x	West Wittering, 320km. ESE	
	08.08.70	2 ♂	Skokholm (Pembrokeshire)	
			(Controlled Skokholm in 1971, 1972 and 1973)	
	21.02.74	x	West Wittering, 320km. ESE	
Swallow	19.08.73	3	Burton-on-Trent (Staffs.)	
	30.09.74	v	Shoreham-by-Sea (ABW), 230km. SSE	
	20.09.74	3	Wakefield (Yorks.)	
	30.09.74	v	Shoreham-by-Sea (ABW), 330km. SSE	
Sand Martin	20.07.73	4	Mourne Abbey, Malloy (Co. Cork)	
	10.09.73	v	Filsham (FRG), 645km. ESE	
	27.07.74	v	Mourne Abbey, Malloy (Co. Cork), 645km. WNW	
	21.08.74	3	Llangorse Lake (Brecon)	
	10.09.74	v	Chichester G.P. (CRG), 210km. SE	
Great Tit	31.05.73	1	Eprave (Namur), Belgium	
	03.03.74	1	Fairlight, Hastings (FRG)	
	31.05.73	1	Ostery (Middlesex)	
	16.09.74	v	Beachy Head (BHRG), 92km. SSE	
Reed Warbler	10.08.74	v	Wicken Fen (Camps.), Weight 11.7gms.	
	28.08.74		Steyning (PJC), 160km. SSW. Weight 15.0gms.	
Sedge Warbler	09.07.73	4	Silverdale, Carnforth (Lancs.)	
	29.07.73	v	Filsam (FRG), 430km. SE	
			(Not reported until 1974). Note the early departure	
	17.08.74	3	Pottic Carr, Doncaster (Yorks.)	
	24.08.74	v	Fishbourne, Chichester (CRG), 305km. S	
Blackcap	12.08.73	3J	Warsop, Mansfield (Notts.)	
	28.09.74	v ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG), 285km. SSE	
Starling	01.11.72	2	Kalmsout (Antwerpen), Belgium	
	00.01.74	x	Worthing (JAN)	
	06.11.72	3 ♀	Ekeren (Antwerpen), Belgium	
	02.01.73	x	West Chillington, Pulborough (FWD)	
	26.10.73	3 ♀	Ekeren (Antwerpen), Belgium	
Starling	25.11.73	+	West Chillington, Pulborough (FWD)	
Redpoll	20.08.74	3	Spurn (Yorks.)	
	08.10.74	v	Marley (PGD), 285km. S	
	13.10.74	2 ♂	Knarborough (Yorks.)	
	08.11.74	v	Marley (PGD), 330km. S	
	13.05.74	4	Wilton, Redcar (Yorks.)	
	04.11.74	v ♂	Beachy Head (BHRG), 435km. SSE	

ESTUARY COUNTS OF WADERS AND WILDFOWL IN SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE IN 1974/75

By M. SHRUBB

Regular counts of waders and wildfowl were made in three areas of Sussex for the Estuaries Survey in 1974/75, Chichester Harbour, Pagham Harbour and the Pett/Rye area. The last is now treated as one area as these observations have shown much interchange between Pett Level and Rye Harbour. The roosts covered and methods used in the western Harbours are given in *SxBR* 1965, 53; 1968, 70; 1971, 50-51. As is now usual the tables cover the winter of 1974/75 rather than a calendar year and counts from Langstone and Portsmouth Harbour, in Hampshire, are included to give a complete picture of the populations of this estuary complex, which the national Estuary Survey has shown to be one of the major estuarine areas of the British Isles.

Despite the generally poor weather of the winter most of the counts were made in fair conditions. But the Hayling Island part of Chichester Harbour proved a difficult area, with very high tides drowning important roosts on several occasions. This caused counters many headaches aggravated by disturbance from humans and an assortment of more interesting predators, notably Merlin, Sparrowhawk and Short-eared Owls. A very good series of counts was obtained from Pagham Harbour after the disappointing results of the previous season.

The results of the counts are set out in Table 1, wildfowl in the western Harbours; Table 2, waders in the western Harbours; Table 3, Rye/Pett Level. In addition two counts of waders were made along the whole county coastline, on December 14th and January 12th, the results of which are given in Table 4.

In general numbers of wildfowl and waders recorded by these counts were lower than in the previous two winters, except for the peak Dunlin count in Chichester Harbour, which was about the same, and the Lapwing count in January, which was rather higher. For this reason the January count along the whole county coastline was, paradoxically, the highest we have ever recorded, just over 56,000 waders, of which 24 per cent. were Lapwing and 58 per cent. were Dunlin. Comments on other species are included in the systematic list, which should be consulted in conjunction with these tables for all the information we have on waders and wildfowl in Sussex for this winter.

TABLE 1. WILDFOWL TOTALS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS IN 1974/75

Species	October 19th		October 20th		November 16th		December 14th	
	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.
Gr. Crested Grebe...	13	2 16 2	10 18 31 4	3 3 26 13				
Slavonian Grebe			2 1	5 1				
Black-necked Grebe		14	15	35				
Little Grebe	3 4 14 17		11 34 11	6 37 8				
Cormorant	5 36 53 2		6 48 45 3	5 44 32 8				
Mallard	39 187 43		16 132 25 12	72 365 53				
Teal	445 111 400		300 820 450 5	270 675 550				
Wigeon	2 27 1250		50 365 500	50 365 500				
Pintail	5 1 4		2 10	56 93 20				
Shoveler	50 8		17 14	14				
Scaup	1 18			100 3				
Tufted Duck	1			14 2				
Pochard	1			2 21 30 12				
Goldeneye	1		5 63 8 6	2 1 1				
Long-tailed Duck			1					
Merganser	1		4 6 49	5 5 69				
Shelduck	230 235 52		605 860 105 4	620 1255 226 11				
Brent Goose	6 277		3 220 2250	296 3705 5578				
Canada Goose	54		34	50				
Mute Swan	2 98		86	5 60 4				
Bewicks Swan								
Coot	155		260	835				

Species	January 12th		February 1st		March 1st	
	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag.	Chi. Lang. Port.
Gr. Crested Grebe	1 11 3 1		1 7 12	3 5 1 1		
Slavonian Grebe	1 1 3 3		1 9 3	2 2 2		
Bl-necked Grebe	23		2 24	11		
Little Grebe	9 27 10 10		6 47 11	5 42 11		
Cormorant	20 18 34 1		36 30 12	3 50 26 8		
Mallard	32 120 36		20 260 10 2	12 63 20 4		
Teal	150 325 550 15		95 440 150 16	31 115 52 28		
Wigeon	20 415 360		50 130	4 100 77		
Pintail	4 60 26		120 26	16 98 4		
Shoveler	10 17		40 24	13		
Scaup				2		
Tufted Duck	30		53	27		
Pochard	3		11 1	1 1		
Goldeneye	31 34 11		47 60 14	31 25 13		
Long-tailed Duck			1			
Merganser	6 15 35		8 14 32 5	12 10		
Shelduck	800 2305 475		350+ 2125 725 8	950 1455 640 12		
Brent Goose	450 5154 4843		700 5025 3136 300	530 4800 1635		
Canada Goose	33		41	30 4		
Mute Swan	67		25	70		
Coot	820		625	400		

TABLE 2. WADER TOTALS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS IN 1974/75

Species	September		October		November	
	15th Pag.	14th Lang. Port.	19th Pag.	12th Lang. Port.	16th Pag.	16th Lang. Port.
Oystercatcher	97	680	208	410	150	720
Lapwing	86	800	186	750	565	1050
Ringed Plover	326	46+	136	380	87	60
Grey Plover	230	355	206	920	207	595
Golden Plover	167	163	25	127	36	421
Turnstone	86	?	64	60	175	24
Snipe	2	35	17	75	2	285
Jack Snipe	430	1674	179	730	195	560
Curlew	9	10	1	1	1	1
Whimbrel	28	300	220	1210	8	630
Black-tailed Godwit	3	420	7	755	345	865
Common Sandpiper	6	13	280	1410	1	813
Redshank	419	2530	1	25	4	3
Spotted Redshank	5	130	3	29	6	3
Greenshank	15	2	950	14685	3280	900
Knot	553	50+	160	19600	13	30
Dunlin	1	?	1	1	13	235
Sanderling	1	20	98	3	13	10750
Ruff					6	

* There were 650 Curlew on Hayling Island on the 19th which should be added to this total.

? This means that the species was present but not counted.

Species	December		January		February	
	14th Pag.	14th Lang. Port.	12th Pag.	11th Lang. Port.	1st Pag.	15th Lang. Port.
Oystercatcher	136	876	170	590	75	620
Lapwing	255	1190	620	1430	1800	2375
Ringed Plover	97	159	165	175	61	74
Grey Plover	143	780	315	515	207	810
Golden Plover	280	185	365	365	150	569
Turnstone	89	33	60	43	24	42
Snipe	75	190	40	245	10	390
Jack Snipe	1	6	170	660	665	1400
Curlew	280	500	392	423	1	815
Whimbrel						1
Black-tailed Godwit	665	490	100	850	67	900
Common Sandpiper	2	473	380	504	165	635
Redshank	275	910	2	1	195	690
Spotted Redshank	1	3	2	2	3	906
Greenshank	3	1	3	2	1	2
Knot	235	149	8	420	900	270
Purple Sandpiper	5355	18465	3000	28640	3600	23000
Dunlin	45	20000	9420	22500	17500	12810
Sanderling			60	2	180	
Ruff	3	1	3	5	3	
Avocet						

* There were 645 Curlew on Hayling Island, which probably should be added to this total.

Species	March		April	
	1st Pag.	1st Lang. Port.	1st Pag.	26th Lang. Port.
Oystercatcher	107	560	156	190
Lapwing	556	1140	40	13
Ringed Plover	31	280	70	30
Grey Plover	194	95	4+	9
Golden Plover	70	1065	213	35
Turnstone	77	6+	19	70
Snipe	51	175	227*	
Jack Snipe	340	770	600	346
Curlew				
Whimbrel				
Black-tailed Godwit	450	460	443	9
Common Sandpiper	165	260	2	18
Redshank	437	1230	362	234
Spotted Redshank				
Greenshank				
Knot	2340	16415	16670	5200
Dunlin	1	30	200	475
Sanderling				
Ruff				

* These counts made on the 15th

TABLE 3. WILDFOWL AND WADER TOTALS AT PETT LEVEL AND RYE HARBOUR 1974/75

Species	19th Oct.		17th Nov.		14th Dec.		12th Jan.		1st Feb.		1st Mar.		26th Apr.	
	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.	Pag.	Lang. Port.
Red-throated Diver	2		3											
Great Crested Grebe	75	33	33	35	12	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Little Grebe	14	25	10	12	1	21	21	34	21	6	7	2	2	2
Cormorant	8		2											
Mallard	2		32	60	60	85	60	85	60	85	60	85	60	85
Teal	30	20	57	300	118	28	28	100	28	100	28	100	28	100
Gadwall	134		3		4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6
Widgeon	8		86	4	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1
Shoveler	2		2		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Tufted Duck	30	20	32	60	60	85	60	85	60	85	60	85	60	85
Pochard	134		3		4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6	4	6
Goldeneye	8		8		4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1	4	1
Common Scoter	1		1		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Eider	4		4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Shelduck	28		28		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Whitef. Goose	50		50		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Brent Goose														
Canada Goose														
Mute Swan	14		14		19	8	19	8	19	8	19	8	19	8
Bewick's Swan														
Oystercatcher	162	350	200	300	250	144	250	144	250	144	250	144	250	144
Lapwing	770	3800	2500	1200	800	1500	800	1500	800	1500	800	1500	800	1500
Ring Plover	54	61	33	20	20	37	20	37	20	37	20	37	20	37
Golden Plover	35	20	50	33	20	21	20	21	20	21	20	21	20	21
Golden Plover	45	40	60	54	60	67	60	67	60	67	60	67	60	67
Turnstone	550	410	800	200+	450	185	450	185	450	185	450	185	450	185
Snipe														
Curlew														
Whimbrel														
Black-tailed Godwit														
Common Sandpiper	35	56	47	36	37	16	37	16	37	16	37	16	37	16
Redshank	59	135	45	105	200	16	200	16	200	16	200	16	200	16
Spotted Redshank	40	120	150	130	130	30+	130	30+	130	30+	130	30+	130	30+
Dunlin														
Sanderling														

TABLE 4. SUSSEX COASTLINE WADER COUNTS 1974/75

Species	Chichester Harbour	Pagham Harbour	Climping	Goring/Worthing	Shoreham	Ouse/Cuckmere	Pevensey Bay	Pett/Rye area	Total
14th December, 1974									
Oystercatcher	875	136	182	29		550	2	200	1424
Lapwing	1190	255	640	1	50	24	8000	2500	13135
Ringed Plover	159	97	1	112			21	61	525
Grey Plover	780	143	59	54			15	60	1101
Golden Plover	185	280					850	150	1465
Turnstone	33	89	9	5			60	60	276
Snipe	190	75					650	14	929
Jack Snipe	1						3		4
Curlew	500	280				25	9	800	1614
Black-tailed Godwit	665								665
Redshank	473	2							475
Knot	910	275	10	22	100	22	24	47	1410
Purple Sandpiper	235								235
Dunlin	18465	5355	2	15	1000	20	19	45	25456
Sanderling	45		299	286		50	160	150	780
Total 49564									
12th January, 1975									
Oystercatcher	590	170	86	17		4	10	300	1177
Lapwing	1430	620	50	35		400	10000	1200	13700
Ringed Plover	175	165		46		32	48	33	488
Grey Plover	515	315				6	700		882
Golden Plover	365						112	54	271
Turnstone	43	60	1	1			480		1065
Snipe	245	40					8		765
Jack Snipe	7						14		15
Curlew	660	170				61	200	1105	950
Black-tailed Godwit	850	100							505
Redshank	504						18	36	1194
Knot	675	380	1	22	40	22	17	18	438
Purple Sandpiper	420								63
Dunlin	28640	3000	1	14	550	23	17	105	33094
Sanderling	60		25	254		65	390	130	469
Total 56181									

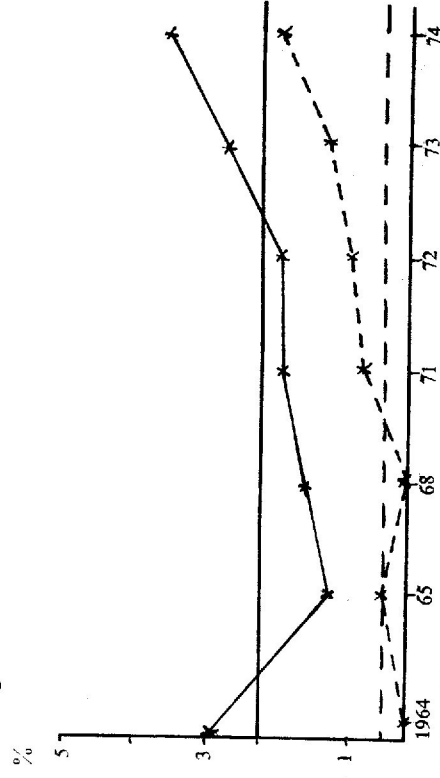
BIRD POPULATION TRENDS AS SHOWN BY RINGING

By J. F. COOPER

Nolan in "The Beachy Head Bird Report 1960-1970" produced histograms for 22 species of birds which were frequently ringed by the Beachy Head Ringing Group during the years 1961-1971. He did this by taking the total of the individual species ringed each year and then expressed this as a percentage of that year's ringing total. He also plotted, where possible, a curve of the B.T.O. Farmland Populations Index on to the histograms for comparison. His results showed that when a particular species has a successful breeding season not only is this reflected in a higher percentage of birds ringed in the autumn, but also by a corresponding increase recorded in the Farmland Populations Index the following summer. From these results, it was shown that ringing statistics could be used as a tool for monitoring trends in population levels.

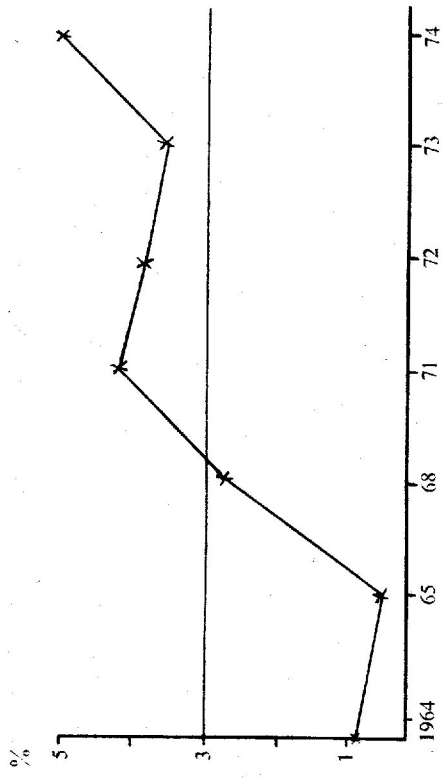
Since 1971, ringing has been continued by the Beachy Head Ringing Group on a more consistent level than previously, and virtually on a daily basis during the autumn. It is therefore now possible to assess changes in population levels with greater accuracy than previously. 21 species have been analysed using the same percentage system as Nolan. The Farmland Population Index curve has been omitted and replaced by a straight line representing the overall norm population (being the grand total of each species ringed between the years 1960-1974 as a percentage of the grand total of all birds ringed, omitting ringing by additional aids). The charts, where possible, show two similar species for comparison, one indicated by a straight line and the other by a broken line. As the percentages are for birds ringed in the autumns they chiefly show the success of that year's breeding season as the majority of the birds ringed are in their first year plumage.

I have commenced the charts in 1964 as by this year the Ringing Group was firmly based in Whitbred Hollow using the regular netting sites which are still being used.



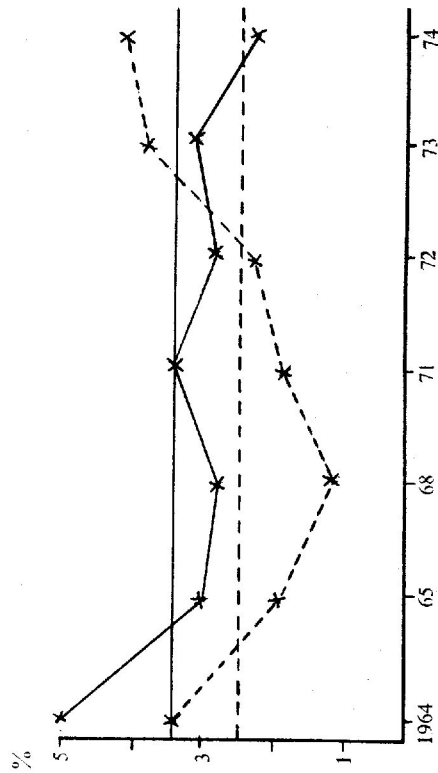
BLUE TIT (*Parus caeruleus*) ———
LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*) - - - -

These two species show a similar pattern with low numbers after the severe winters in 1962 and 1963. Since 1972 both have enjoyed good breeding success and mild winters. They are now at a high level well above their norm population.



WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*)

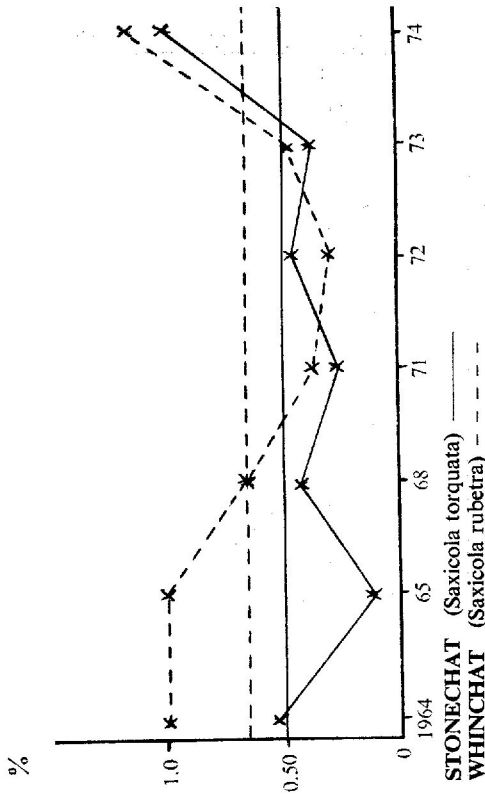
This illustrates how the Wren suffered in the severe winters of 1962 and 1963 and how quickly it was able to recover back to its norm. The last four mild winters have allowed the Wren to stabilise its position.



SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*)

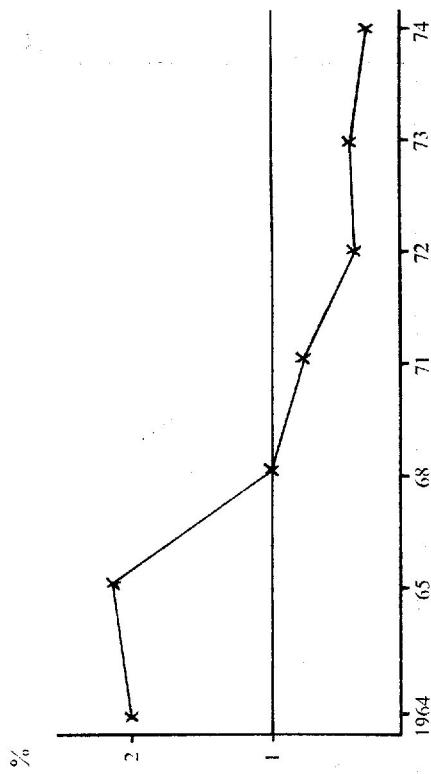
These two species followed the same pattern in the years up to 1971. Poor breeding seasons in the years 1964 to 1968 were followed by a small recovery to 1971 when both were virtually back to their norms. In the years 1972 to 1974, the Blackbird improved its position and in 1974 it was approximately 1/3rd above its norm while the Song Thrush showed a decline.



STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*)

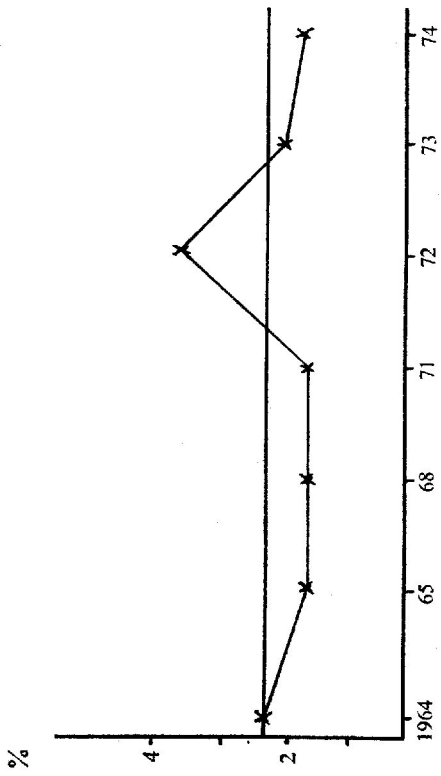
WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*)

Although these two species are classified in the same genus the Stonechat is a partial resident while the Whinchat is a true migrant. Therefore, a severe winter in Europe will affect the Stonechat's population while the Whinchat will be unaffected. The chart shows that after the cold winters in 1963 and 1964 the Stonechat population fell to its lowest level while the Whinchat population remained unchanged. Otherwise a similar pattern was followed by both species, declining in the early seventies but both rapidly recovering in 1974 after a highly successful breeding season.



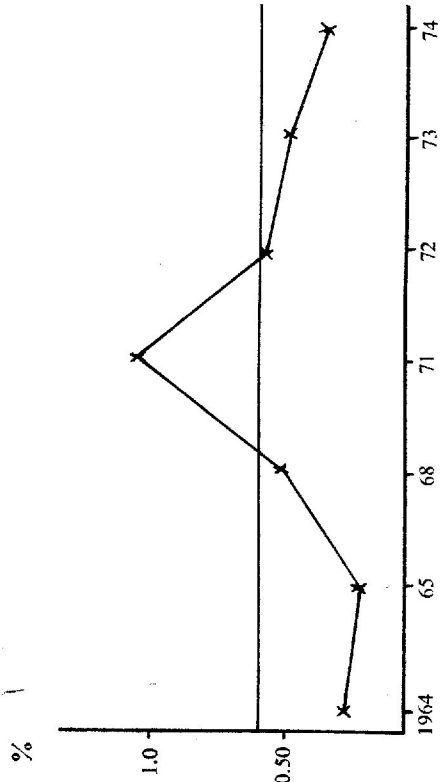
REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*)

Since the mid-sixties, the Redstart has been showing a rapid decline in its numbers to such an extent that the population has been reduced to only 25% of what it was a decade ago. The extending Sahara Desert due to serious droughts on its borders has been cited as the cause for the sudden decrease in a number of our summer visitors which pass through this region on their autumn passage.



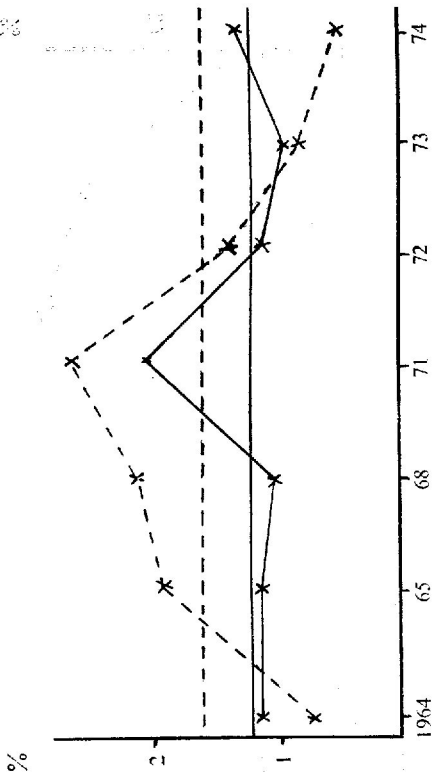
ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*)

The Robin shows a steady population with an increase noted only in 1972 and these numbers probably affected the 1973 level to a lesser extent.



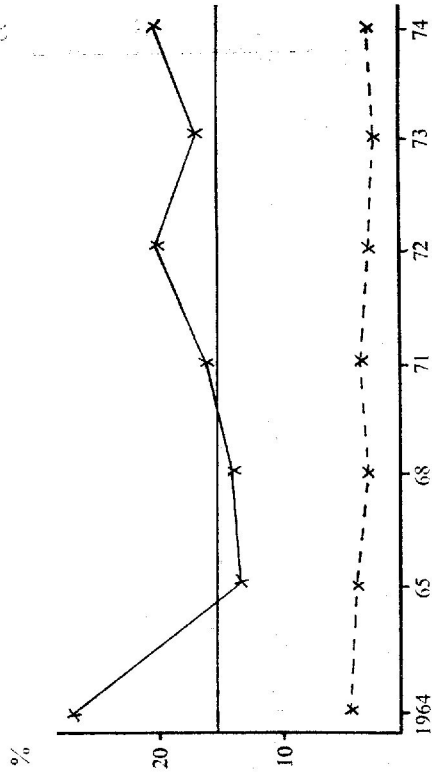
GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*)

This species increased in the late sixties reaching its maximum in 1971 when its population was approximately 100% above its norm. Since 1971, it has shown a decrease to a level in 1974 of only 50% of its norm.



REED WARBLER (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*)

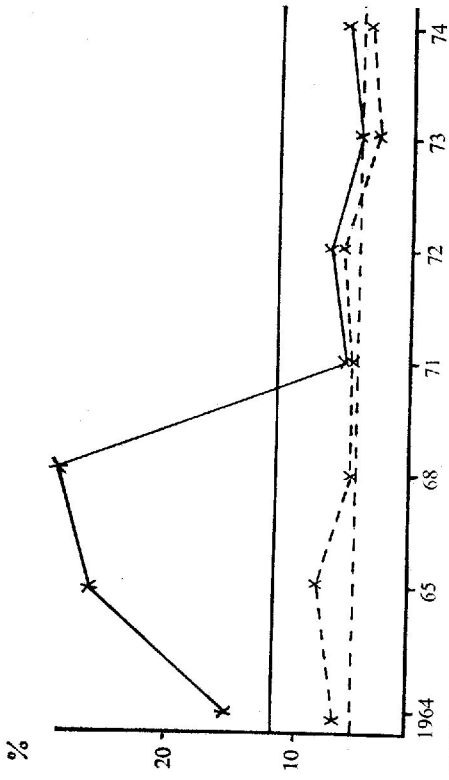
In the years up to 1973, these two species followed a similar pattern when they both obtained their peak populations in 1971. They then decreased rapidly in the years 1972 and 1973 to a position below their norms, this being more marked in the Sedge Warbler. In 1974 the Reed recovered its position while the Sedge showed a further decline and its current population is now only 1/3rd of its norm. This may be due to the fact that although both species winter to the South of the Sahara Desert their mode of migration is thought to differ. Ringing recoveries have shown that the Reed migrates in short stages while the Sedge does so in long flights, and is probably in a poorer condition than the Reed when it arrives in the drought areas bordering the edge of the Sahara. It may well be unable to cope as well as the Reed with this additional hazard.



BLACKCAP (*Sylvia atricapilla*)

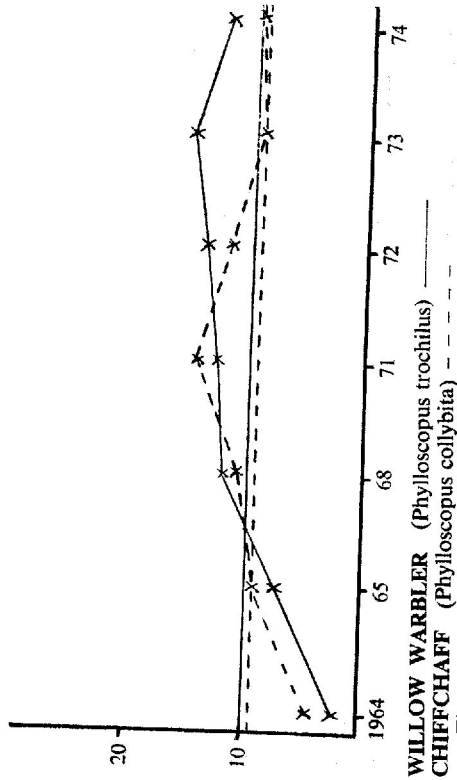
GARDEN WARBLER (*Sylvia borin*)

Both these species have maintained their population at a reasonably consistent level. No norm line has been drawn for Garden Warbler as there is very little yearly variation shown on the chart.



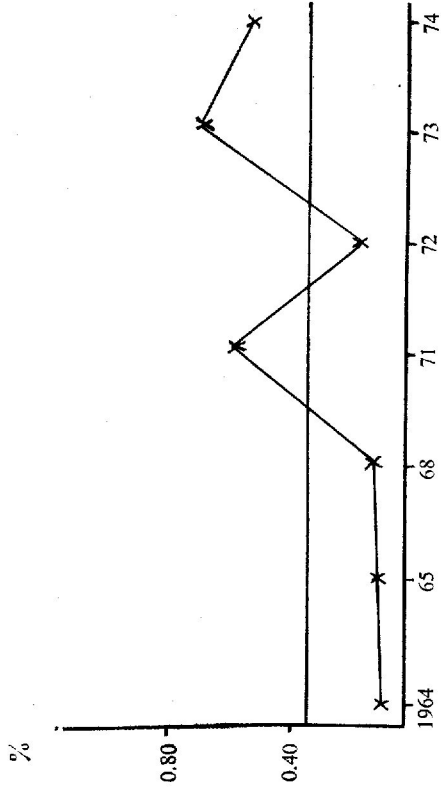
WHITE-THROAT (*Sylvia communis*) ———
LESSER WHITE-THROAT (*Sylvia curruca*) - - - - -

Little comment need be made on the Lesser White-throat population except that it is relatively stable and the 1974 numbers compared most favourably with its norm. In contrast the White-throat population has been very variably even prior to 1968. Up to 1968 at Beachy Head it was our most commonly caught bird, accounting for 15%-20% of the ringing total. A peak was reached in 1968 when 1 in every 4 birds ringed was a White-throat. In the spring of 1969, observers countrywide were remarking on the absence of this *Sylvia* from many of its usual sites. Our chart clearly shows that approximately only 1/5th of the 1968 numbers passed through on autumn passage in 1969, and once again the drought lands surrounding the Sahara have been blamed. In the years 1970-1974 no recovery in numbers has been recorded.



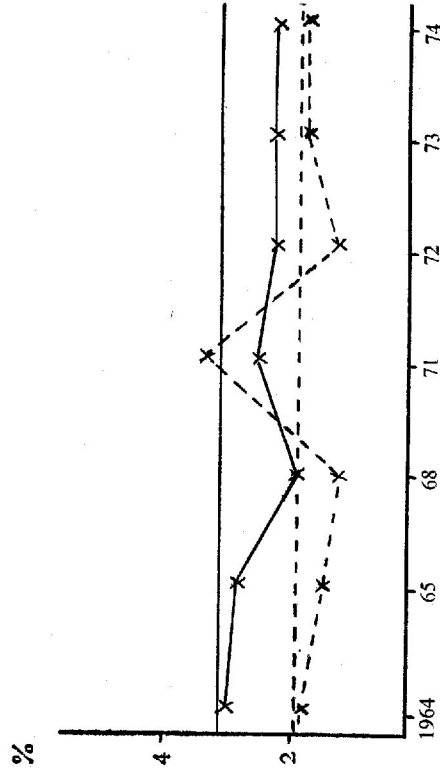
WILLOW WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trochilus*) ———
CHIFFCHAFF (*Phylloscopus collybita*) - - - - -

These two species, in the years up to 1971, both show a steady increase in their populations. Since 1972 the Willow Warbler's curve has levelled out while the Chiffchaff's curve has slightly fallen. The 1974 position is that the Willow Warbler population is now above its norm while the Chiffchaff is at norm.



GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*)

The years leading up to 1968 showed an exceptional small population due to the hard winter of 1963. Since 1968, the population has been very variable.



DUNNOCK (*Prunella modularis*) ———
BULLFINCH (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) - - - - -

These two species are common residents and their populations as judged by ringing have followed a similar pattern. Neither appeared to suffer as much as many other resident species in the severe winters of 1962 and 1963 but they fell to their lowest level in 1968 after what appears to have been a poor breeding season for these two species.

The charts show that the majority of resident species i.e. Blue Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Wren, etc., were severely hit by the hard winters of 1962 and 1963 but had all recovered by 1971 and their population level by 1974 were considerably above norm. By way of contrast, a number of common summer visitors, i.e., the Whitethroat, Redstart, Sedge Warbler, all of which winter south of the Sahara Desert, have suffered drastically since 1968. This sudden decrease in their numbers coincided with a drought in the area south of the Sahara. Summer visitors which have a more south-easterly migration route i.e. Lesser Whitethroat, Blackcap, have shown a very stable population during the period under review. It is intended to repeat the charts in 1979 in order to record any changes in the population numbers of the 21 species.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE STONECHAT IN SUSSEX OUTSIDE THE BREEDING SEASON

By S. W. M. HUGHES

The present day breeding distribution of the Stonechat *Saxicola torquata* in Sussex has been reported recently (Hughes and Shirubb, 1974). This paper describes the distribution of the species at other times of year and is based on an analysis of 1411 locality/week records received in response to requests for information made in the years 1967-1973.

According to Walpole-Bond (1938) autumn movements of Stonechats in Sussex start in mid-August. The emigration of birds that intend leaving is normally complete by the end of October but immigration of wintering birds continues into November. The return movements start in February. Thus to determine the distribution of the wintering population it has seemed appropriate to map the localities from which the species has been reported during the months of November to January inclusive.

The results (figure 1) have confirmed the mainly coastal distribution in winter, which Walpole-Bond described in 1938. However, they also show the species occurring on the Downs and in the river valleys, neither of which were mentioned specifically by Walpole-Bond as wintering areas. A detailed study of the records available suggest that the more exposed downland sites are abandoned in severe weather. At the coast, at apparently very suitable sites, there can be some movement during the winter months which seems unrelated to the prevailing weather. On the other hand there are some sites where a single bird, or possibly a pair, stay within a well defined area for several weeks.

The winter distribution differs markedly from the breeding distribution. In winter the species is distributed along the entire coastline and Downs; but it is strikingly absent from the interior, where in six winters there was a total of only 5 records, all of single birds, and all in the winters of 1968-69 and 1969-70. For breeding however, the species is largely concentrated in the eastern half of the County where the range includes an important inland population in Ashdown Forest.

An analysis of the records for the periods September-October and February-March produced an overall distribution, which was almost identical to that illustrated for the three winter months. The only differences were a few extra sites on the coast, sometimes in built-up areas, and a few additional sites in the interior near known breeding localities.

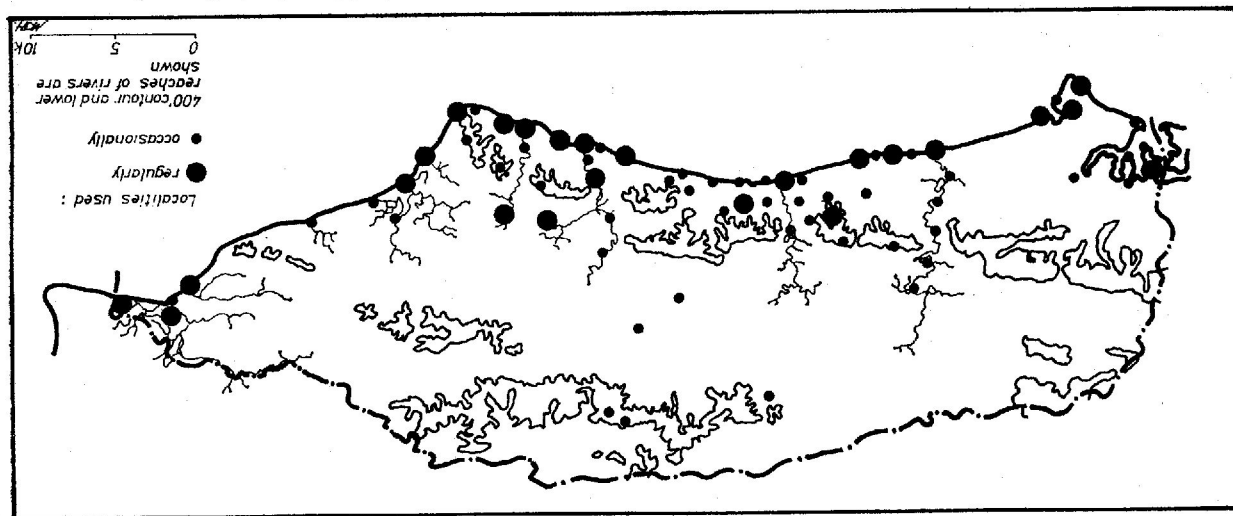


Fig. 1.—The distribution of the Stonechat in Sussex during the winter months (November to January).

In most years the species first appeared on the open downland in West Sussex (i.e. well away from the major breeding areas) and also in the river valleys in September, but the majority of the sightings for these areas were made in October. In February and March there were very few records for the Downs but several for the valleys. There was no evidence that the downland areas and river valleys were used more during the autumn and spring than in the winter.

At the coast the importance of Beachy Head and Selsey Bill for passage birds, particularly in the autumn, was very marked and it is considered unlikely that this is an artifact due to the extensive systematic observation that has taken place at both localities. The status of the species at Beachy Head at all seasons has been summarised recently (Quinn and Clement, 1972) and much information is also available for Selsey Bill in the 1960s (Selsey Bill Observatory Bird Reports, 1959-1965).

Walpole-Bond records Stonechats returning to their breeding territory in early February. In this recent study there was only one such report—a pair at Ambersham Common, which was first seen holding territory on February 9, 1969, and which subsequently bred there. However, there were two records of pairs on breeding territories in the interior in late February and four in early March. The main return to the interior appears to take place in the second half of March and this agrees with the information available for the breeding population at Beachy Head (Quinn and Clement, 1972).

In conclusion it seems that most birds breeding in the interior leave in October, some pairs moving slowly down the river valleys but most moving directly to the Downs and the coast. The return takes place in March. It is unusual for birds to be found at breeding sites or elsewhere in the interior during the period of November-January. The literature contains reports of a similar movement of inland populations in Hampshire (Cohen and Taverner, 1972), Kent (Harrison, 1953) and in Surrey where there are a few records of birds wintering in the county (Parr, 1972). P. G. Davies (Pers. Com., 1974) has made a special study of this species on the heaths of the Surrey/Sussex/Hampshire borders over many years and has never had a pair, or even a single bird, remain on a breeding territory throughout the winter months.

Most of the coastal and downland breeding populations in East Sussex also leave their breeding areas. For example, the winter population at Beachy Head rarely numbers more than six birds compared with a breeding population of 14-19 pairs. The timing and pattern of this movement cannot be determined because of the presence of immigrants from August onwards. Although ringing has shown that at least some first year birds from Sussex emigrate, the proportion that does so is unknown. The considerable decreases that occur in the Sussex breeding stock following severe winters supports the theory that the majority of the population remains in the County and the concept of relatively local movements is also supported by the high number of sightings of pairs at wintering localities. Certainly the species appears in September and October on the East Sussex levels and it is also well distributed in non breeding areas along the low lying stretches of coastline.

Finally, although there are a few sites where it is possible that pairs remain either on, or very near, a breeding territory, in general it can be concluded that the Sussex coastal population differs in this respect from other coastal populations. For example in the populations which have been studied in recent years in North Cornwall (Parrinder and Parrinder, 1945), Ayrshire (Phillips, 1967), and Jersey (Johnson, 1961), pairs were found to be resident and to establish winter territories which were merely extensions of their breeding territories.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the many members of the Sussex Ornithological Society who responded to the requests for information on Stonechats. I wish also to thank M. Shrubbs for his constructive criticism of the first draft of this paper, Mrs. E. Maltby for secretarial assistance and M. J. Helps for drawing the figure.

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THE RECOLONISATION OF SUSSEX BY THE TREE SPARROW

By S. W. M. HUGHES and F. W. DOUGHARTY

The Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* has had a chequered history as a breeding species in the British Isles. At the end of the nineteenth century it was well distributed, if somewhat local, over most of England except the extreme south west. However during the first half of the present century the species decreased throughout England and by the early 1940s it had become either a scarce breeder, or was totally absent, in some southern counties. In the late 1950s this situation was being reversed, and the species was increasing in numbers and recolonising counties from which it had been absent for up to 25 years.

By 1968 the Tree Sparrow was again widespread in most of England, although absent from Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and much of Hampshire and Sussex (Parslow, 1968). The species was still absent from Cornwall, Devon and Dorset in 1970 (British Ornithological Union, 1971), but the preliminary results from the British Trust for Ornithology Atlas project showed that the colonisation of Devon and Dorset had started by 1971 (B.T.O. News No. 52, June, 1972).

In Sussex we are fortunate in having a comparatively detailed record of the decline of the Tree Sparrow in the county up to 1935 (Walpole-Bond, 1938), and we also have an assessment of its breeding status during the post-war years up to 1961 (des Forges & Harber, 1963). This paper summarises the information available in these accounts and documents the subsequent spread of the species in the County during the 12 year period 1962-1973.

TABLE 1. Numbers of new Tree Sparrow breeding areas (tetrads) reported 1962-1973

No. of tetrads from which reported for the first time	1962/63	1964/65	1966/67	1968/69	1970/71	1972/73
	6	16	8	34	30	32

Pre-War Status

Walpole-Bond considered the Tree Sparrow to be one of the scarcest of Sussex breeding species and therefore described its distribution in some detail. He gave Horsham, Racton, and Findon as nineteenth century strongholds from which it had already disappeared in 1890. A colony at Camber Castle, known since 1870, had gone by 1917, and a particularly interesting cliff nesting colony of c.50 pairs between Black Rock and a point 2 miles east of Rottingdean, which had been known since 1900, had declined suddenly to one pair in 1933. Thus in 1935 Walpole-Bond knew of only two regular breeding colonies, both discovered in the 1920s, at Angmering (c.20 pairs) and East Guidedford near Rye (c.8 pairs). He also had records of occasional breeding from 21 other sites, some of which might have been found to be regular sites with better observer coverage. It is possible that there were a few other sites unknown to Walpole-Bond; for example one of us (FWD) has records of the species nesting at West Chiltington in 1939. However, it is unlikely that such records would alter substantially the tetrad (2km. x 2km.) distribution shown in figure 1a which has been compiled from Walpole-Bond's account.

Post-War Status

When the recovery started is not clear, but des Forges and Harber reported that by 1961 the numbers nesting in the County, although small, were definitely increasing. At that time the main breeding area was in the extreme east from the Kent border to Winchelsea. In addition there was a well established colony on Pevensey Levels which had been discovered in 1955, and there were also breeding records from Manhood End, Sidlesham, Shoreham, Ditchling, the lower Ouse valley and Beachy Head.

The breeding distribution during the years 1947-1961, based on the account of des Forges and Harber and the details available in the Sussex Ornithological Society files, is shown in figure 1b.

Distribution 1962-1973

The breeding records submitted by members of the Sussex Ornithological Society during the 12 year period 1962-1973 clearly demonstrate the re-establishment of the Tree Sparrow throughout Sussex. Unfortunately the pattern of recording suggests that most observers have reported the species only when it has been seen in an area for the first time and they have not followed up their observations in subsequent years. Consequently very little information exists on the development of individual colonies, but the spread of the species can be followed by mapping breeding records on a tetrad basis.

Table 1 gives the number of tetrads from which breeding was reported for the first time, in two year periods from 1962 to 1973, and it can be seen that in the first 6 years (1962-1967) there were reports from 30 new tetrads, thereby doubling the known distribution in 1961. Thereafter the rate of colonisation increased three fold, and there were records for 96 new tetrads during the 6 year period (1968-1973). Thus by 1973 breeding had been reported from 155 tetrads.

The known breeding distributions after the 1967 and 1973 breeding seasons are shown in figures 1c and 1d, respectively.

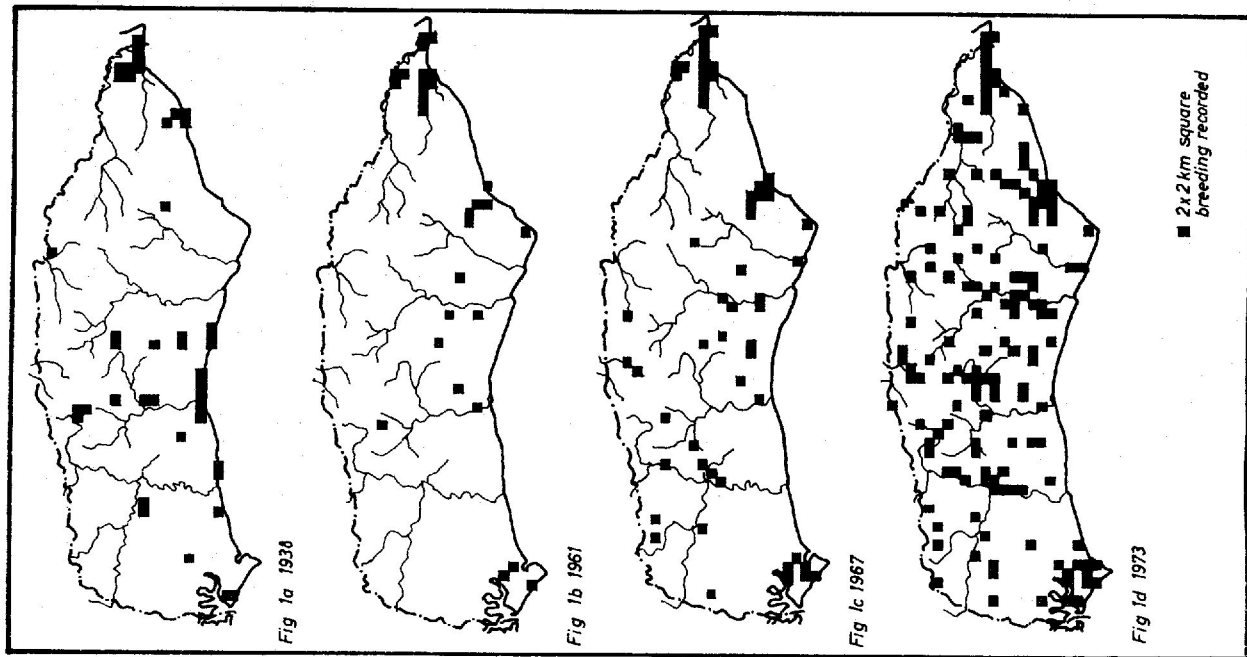


Fig. 1.—Tree Sparrow Breeding Records for Sussex

Examining the records in detail, it is apparent that in 1962 and 1963 the species continued to increase and spread on the Selsey peninsula and also in the Ouse Valley. Breeding was reported for the first time on the Downs, at Hollingbury and Stammer and the first records were received for the Arun Valley near Greatham. The colonisation of the Arun Valley proceeded rapidly in 1964/65, with the species being reported from several sites in the Pulborough area and also near Billingshurst. Elsewhere there were first reports from Northchapel and Blackdown in the north west, Pease Potage near Crawley, and Cross in Hand in central Sussex, and also confirmation of continued colonisations in the original areas in both the extreme west and east of the County. The first six year period ended with new sites being reported in 1966 and 1967 from Harting, Selham, Burgess Hill, Weir Wood Reservoir, Bayham and the Cuckmere Valley.

A detailed examination of the pattern of colonisation in the first six years and also in 1968 and 1969 showed a correlation between new sites and the main river systems. Thus in 1968-1969 there were 9 new sites in the Arun Valley—3 by the Adur—10 associated with the Ouse and Glynde—one in the Cuckmere Valley and two near the River Brede. This is not to suggest that the species gradually spread northwards along the river systems, but that following the establishment of a successful colony in a river valley it spread along the valley in any direction affording suitable new breeding sites. During this period there was also a noticeable increase in the population on Pevensey Levels which spread to neighbouring areas, e.g. Ninfield, Cooden, Bexhill and Pebsham. In addition there were three entirely new sites in the interior at Mayfield, Freshfield and Etchingham.

With the species becoming increasingly widespread the correlation between new colonisations and the major river systems became blurred by 1970/1971, but it was very noticeable that many new sites were associated with water, whether it be a lake, river, or very small stream. Exceptions were sites on downland at Woodingdean, Ditchling, Cissbury, Cocking and Bepton. During these years there were further extensions to both old and recently established sites, but there were also many new sites in Mid Sussex. Probably these, and many new sites recorded in 1972 and 1973 in the north east of the County, reflected increases in observer coverage rather than very recent colonisations. Elsewhere the records received for 1972 and 1973 pointed to the expansion of existing colonies and spread of the species from the known strongholds.

Nest Sites

Only a few observers have submitted details of the nest sites used by Tree Sparrows. However, it is obvious that 'Tit' nest boxes are used very widely and that this habit has been an important contributory factor in the spread of the species and acquiring information on its spread. As far as natural holes are concerned more than half of those reported in trees were in Willows *Salix* sp. which possibly explains the apparent correlation with river systems and other waters. Other tree species mentioned, in order of popularity, were Oak *Quercus* sp., Ash *Fraxinus* sp., Birch *Betula* sp., Elm *Ulmus* sp., Alder *Alnus* sp., Apple *Malus* sp. The use of holes in sand and gravel pits and chalk quarries was reported and also holes in wooden fences and concrete posts. There were two records of nesting in buildings, and one pair nested on an old barge moored near Chichester.

Records of 'open' or 'semi-open' nests were scarce; two records mentioned nests in dense thorn bushes; there was one in the base of a Magpie's nest and one in the midst of tangled barbed wire.

Conclusions

It is clear that during the 1960s the breeding status of the Tree Sparrow in Sussex changed from very local and rather scarce, to widespread and relatively numerous. This recolonisation, which probably started in the late 1950s, speeded up in the mid 1960s and is still continuing.

By 1973 breeding had been reported in each of the 10 km. squares comprising Sussex as shown in figure 1d. This figure should not be regarded as an accurate record of the breeding distribution in 1973, as it has been compiled entirely from casual observations. There can be no doubt that an organised breeding survey would show the species to be much more widespread. However, such a survey would be difficult to perform and it is hoped that this brief account will encourage members to pay more attention to the spread of the species to new areas and possibly study the development and fate of individual colonies in some detail.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the Hon. Recorder for allowing us access to the Society's files and M. Shrubbs for his constructive criticism of the first draft of the paper. We are also indebted to M. J. Helps for drawing the figure and Mrs. A. Simpson for secretarial assistance.

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