

The
Sussex
Bird Report

1975



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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT
NUMBER TWENTY-EIGHT, 1975

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Cover drawing of Woodcock roding by Ian Willis

Published October, 1976

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THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT, 1975
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- Programme:* A. Simpson, Mrs. I. Simpson, S. A. Allwood

The above list of Council Officers and Members shows all holding office at the 30th June, 1976.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1975

The beginning of 1975 witnessed a period of uncertainty in the Society's activities. The first ever increase in the subscription took effect from the 1st January and also, in the early part of the year, changes were made to our conservation policy. Doubt and uncertainty were expressed on how the membership would take the changes but it is encouraging to report that these moves have strengthened the Society both financially and politically.

The Honorary Officers and Council of the Society during 1975 were Guy Mountfort, O.B.E., President; Mr. M. Shrubbs (Vice-President); Mr. D. G. Chelwick (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 of Sussex Bird Report); Mr. H. Wheeler (Press and Public Relations Officer) and Messrs. J. F. Cooper, R. J. B. Jackson, C. Messer, T. Parmenter, A. Simpson and Dr. A. B. Watson. At the Annual General Meeting the post of Honorary Conservation Officer was left vacant. The Council at its first meeting co-opted Mr. A. Simpson into the role. This left a vacancy on the Council which was filled by the co-option of Mr. J. Houghton.

Mr. D. G. Chelwick, our Honorary Secretary, has decided to retire after five years very active service on the Society's behalf. The success of a Society such as this depends very heavily on the energy, enthusiasm and expertise which its principal officers bring to its affairs. That the Society is successful is evident, we think, from this report and the Council wish to record that this success is due in large measure to David's unstinting efforts on the Society's behalf. Not only has the Society administration run smoothly under his management, which is of the first importance, but he has made an invaluable contribution to the development of its policies during his term of office, particularly in the field of conservation. It is, therefore, pleasing to record that we shall continue to work closely with him in the future, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sussex Trust's Scientific Committee. Meanwhile the Council must thank him, not only for ourselves, but also on behalf of the Society, for five years very hard and generous work on our behalf. We are glad to report that a worthy successor has been found in Mr. P. Martin. He is the Education Officer with the South East Regional Office of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds based in Brighton and we hope his appointment will further cement the Society's already excellent relations with the latter organisation.

As in previous years the work of the Society would not have been possible without the assistance of its non-elected helpers. The Council would especially like to thank Mr. D. J. Taylor (Membership Secretary), Mrs. Iris Simpson (Meetings Secretary) and Mr. J. Houghton (Outings Secretary). Mrs. Simpson has once again provided invaluable help with typing as has Mrs. Norma Petrie-Hay.

We are greatly indebted to Miss Jean Stacy for continuing to handle the filing of our bird records. This task is approaching brooding proportions, involving sorting and filing contributions from, for the last report, nearly 400 observers, and is carried out with unfailing efficiency and dispatch. The Council can only record our gratitude for her efforts and those of all our un-elected helpers and stress to members how much the Society depends on the work and time contributed by a few people. A great loss to the Society during the year was Tom Palmer who for many years dealt with the packing of our literature. He died on April 4th just eight days before the Annual General Meeting which would have made Mr. Palmer an Honorary Member—the first in the Society's history.

At the Annual General Meeting an important resolution was passed strengthening the Council's power regarding expulsion of members from the Society. This was in response to the motion passed in principle at the A.G.M. 1974 to ban convicted egg collectors from the Society. The Council sincerely hopes that it will never have to invoke the powers but in these days when the 'Magpie' instinct attracts such a high financial reward we must maintain our vigil to ensure that such elements do not infiltrate the Society.

From a financial point of view the year has been most satisfactory. The accounts show a surplus of income over expenditure of £665 compared with £94 in 1974. This was due to the increase in the subscription and the very gratifying fact that in spite of these increases membership fell by a net 5%. Certain expenses increased substantially, notably printing and postage and, but for the increase in subscription, the accounts would have shown a deficit.

The funds of the Society at 31st December totalled £2,476, made up of £1,623 on General Fund and £853 on Conservation Fund, full details being shown in the notes on the accounts. Costs continue to rise and it is difficult to make any predictions for 1976, but it is hoped that there will again be a surplus of income over expenditure though probably less than in 1975. We would like to thank Mr. Brian Short for his work in auditing the accounts for the year.

As mentioned above the Society took a major step forward in refining its conservation policy. Realising that our independent contribution to conservation in Sussex must always be circumscribed by our limited financial means, the Council decided to make a grant of £500 out of our small surplus funds to the most important county conservation body, the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation. One of the objects of the Society is to assist in the preservation of birds in Great Britain and the Council believes that providing ornithological data as needed and financial support when possible to the major conservation body in its county of operations is one of the best ways of achieving this objective. It is proposed in future to make further use of our surplus funds by similar grants to other bodies.

It is noted, however, that one of our major items of expenditure in the past, to the Rye Harbour L.N.R., has been reduced from £300 to £25 in 1975. This was done as a matter of policy and the East Sussex County Council have now accepted the responsibility for the warden's salary, to which our contribution was paid. Since the Reserve is a Statutory L.N.R. set up by the County Council, this is clearly the only proper way for the warden to be employed.

We also continued with a number of conservation projects. During the year two islands have been constructed and moored at Arlington Reservoir. The planned maintenance of Strivens reedbed continued with reed cutting taking place at two meetings.

The Glynde flood scheme was again operated and the flooding was completed by the end of the year.

None of these conservation activities can be successful without assistance from the members and the Society thanks all those who helped in this practical way.

The Junior section of the Society continues to thrive under the leadership of Miss Angela Brooks, its Hon. Secretary. Membership very nearly reached 'the magic ton' with 99 on the books towards the end of the year. Its programme of events proved as varied as ever and its newsletter informative with some fine illustrations. The Council would like to thank Miss Brooks and the outing leaders for providing so much scope for our young ornithologists.

The official Society newsletter has once again been in the capable hands of Messrs. R. Pidgeon and C. F. Helyer. The Council would like to thank both Mr. Pidgeon and Mr. Helyer for their efforts; Mr. R. Greenhalf of Rye for providing the illustrations and finally you, the members for so often providing the articles.

The range of the Society's indoor meetings has once again been wide and varied but alas attendance has by no means lived up to the quality of the speakers. However, the Annual General Meeting was as well attended as ever, members no doubt largely attracted by the prospect of hearing another lecture on 'far away places with strange sounding names' from our President, Guy Mounifort, O.B.E. This year Mr. Mounifort's talk was on 'Wildlife in Malaya and Australia' and was enjoyed by all.

The Council would like to thank Mrs. Doris Kelly and her helpers for providing the refreshments at meetings.

The Society's two fund-raising film shows met with mixed success in 1975. The first show was held in Worthing as a joint venture with the Wildfowl Trust. Unfortunately the weather for the evening was against us and less than half the tickets were sold. Fortunately our annual film show with the R.S.P.B. in Brighton proved a great success. The Council would like to thank Mrs. B. Davies and our Hon. Press and Public Relations Officer, Mr. H. Wheeler, for organising the Worthing and Brighton shows respectively. It would also like to thank all the programme sellers and helpers who made both shows possible.

At the Dome Film Show in October, members had another opportunity to inspect the Society's exhibition. Under the guidance of Mr. W. Lambert of Haywards Heath the exhibition has been the Society's 'shop window' in many of the libraries of West Sussex over the past year and has attracted much interest. The Council is grateful to Mr. Lambert for all his efforts.

A new venture in fund raising was tried in May when the President and his wife were hosts at a Garden Party in the grounds of Possingworth Park. Both the setting and the arrangements were perfect but, alas, the weather proved far from kind and curtailed some of the plans. Nevertheless, the event made a profit of £78 for the Society and we would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Mounifort most sincerely for giving up so much of their time and privacy to the day.

Support for the outdoor meetings showed no sign of abating and during the year many of the popular Sussex birdwatching sites were visited. The annual winter excursion was made to Farlington Marshes where acquaintances were renewed with Mr. and Mrs. Billett who as usual provided an interesting day's bird watching for members. Coach trips to venues outside the county gave breadth to the programme and Staines Reservoir, together with Windsor Great Park in January, Thursley Common in the Summer, and Slimbridge in the late Autumn were visited. The Society's colours were unfurled in Majorca in the Spring when ten members spent a week in the north of that delightful island. That the visit was so successful was due in no small measure to the unstinting help given by Eddie and Pat Watkinson, the R.S.P.B. representatives in Majorca. Beginners outings continued during the year and were undoubtedly a useful exercise. Finally thanks are due to those who led outings and by so doing helped to maintain this vital aspect of the Society's work.

1975 saw the completion of the Rook Survey which has proved one of the most successful surveys in the Society's history. Thanks to the efforts of many members almost every rookery in Sussex has been plotted and counted. This information provides the first comprehensive data for the distribution of this

bird in the County and will be invaluable in future years for measuring changes in the population of this important indicator species. The other major census during the year was the continuation of the Nightingale survey. A great deal of new information has come to light which should stand the Society in good stead for the intensive national survey of the species in 1976.

One of the Society's major sources of data on migration, namely the Beachy Head Ringing Group, suffered a major tragedy in the early part of the year when the hut which housed all their equipment was destroyed by fire. Almost everything was lost and at one time it looked as though a complete suspension of operations would be necessary. The Council is glad to report that its grant of £155 enabled the group to continue ringing work almost immediately.

The beginning of this report stated that the Society commenced the year with an air of uncertainty which has proved quite unfounded. Membership is being maintained and the increased revenue has given us a degree of financial freedom. It is good to know also that, through our grants, more of our money is working directly for conservation. Unfortunately the problems of the latter do not diminish but become more acute and the Society is constantly looking for new ways of using its resources to the best possible advantage for bird watchers and, above all, birds in Sussex.

M. SHURUBB, *Chairman of the Council*

POSTSCRIPT

Since the presentation of the Council's Report in April last we have sadly to record the death of Mr. D. J. Taylor, the Membership Secretary.

It was in 1967 when Society membership reached the 500 mark that Mr. Taylor volunteered to undertake the duties of Membership Secretary. By 1970 membership had doubled, and today it stands at a figure of about 1,400.

The volume of correspondence resulting from this steady increase in membership has been very considerable, and Mr. Taylor, unobtrusively but with meticulous care and attention to detail—and with unfailing courtesy—has carried out his task and rendered an invaluable service to the Society.

We wish to pay the warmest of tributes to him for his splendid contribution, and we are grateful to have found in Mr. J. Trowell of Hastings a worthy successor to this important office.

CONTRIBUTORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, 1975

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.

G. R. Adams	P. C. Bance	J. Bodle
C. R. C. Albrecht	G. J. Barker	Miss P. M. Bond
*J. S. M. Albrecht	R. Barrett	*P. F. Bonham
*T. P. K. Allan	*R. B. Barstow	J. L. Boulton
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D. J. Apps	Beachy Head Ringing Group	P. Brown
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R. A. Apps	*M. Bearn	M. E. Buontempo
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*E. R. G. Arthur	Miss A. Bennett	P. W. Burness
R. F. Arthur	R. M. Billings	A. R. J. Burrin
J. Ashbee	*Miss R. Bird	*J. W. A. Calver
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 *P. B. Clarke
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 *R. Merritt
 *W. Merritt
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 *O. Mitchell
 G. Moll
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 *R. J. B. Jackson
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 *Mrs. P. Nightingale
 M. E. Nolan
 *D. B. Nye
 Mr. and Mrs. O'Neill
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 R. C. Overton
 *Mr. and Mrs. Owden
 R. A. Owen
 *Mrs. K. A. Page
 *R. Page
 *Miss L. Palfrancan
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 Mrs. V. A. Wilson
 *G. W. Wood
 *Miss V. E. Wood
 *Mr. Woodland
 L. F. Woolliard
 S. J. Woolner
 Miss E. M. Wright

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MIGRATION

Regular observations of migration were made at Beachy Head by a number of observers and J. F. Cooper has again provided a detailed summary of the records. N. Pinder has provided a similar summary of the birds at the Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserves, and I. Kraunsoe has done the same for the Pagham L.N.R. All 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 1975. The census of Rookeries was completed and the results forwarded to the B.T.O. National census. The Nightingale survey was continued. Both were organised by W. Merritt.

B.T.O. NATIONAL CENSUS OF HERONRIES

All known heronries were visited. We are grateful to the following observers for their assistance:—

D. R. Coda (Eridge), C. F. Green (Leasham), C. F. Helyer (Henfield), A. Isted (Parham), I. Kraunsoe (Pagham), D. C. Lang (Firle), J. Pelling (Fishbourne), F. C. Simmons (Wardling), J. McTear (Priesthwaite and Westham).

ESTUARY COUNTS

These counts organised by R. F. Porter, were continued in Chichester and Pagham Harbours from October 1975 to March 1976, and along the whole of the county coastline in December 1975 and January 1976. All records have been sent to the B.T.O. and a full account appears on page 49. We thank all the counters for their efforts. They were as follows:—

At Chichester and Pagham Harbours—M. Boxall, K. Burn, P. Clements, E. B. Cottam, Mrs. J. H. M. Edom, D. S. Flumm, M. J. Hay, J. W. Houghton, C. R. Janman, A. R. Kitson, I. D. Kraunsoe, L. B. & M. V. Manser, B. A. E. Marr, P. Martin, C. & L. Mayhead, D. A. & T. W. Parmenter, Mrs. N. Petrie-Hay, R. F. Porter, R. J. Senior, M. Shrubbs, C. R. & J. M. Tubbs, J. R. Willis, R. Williamson. On Sussex Coastline—F. Banks, R. Batchelor, P. F. Bonham, A. Davis, B. F. & F. J. Forbes, B. Hadden, S. W. M. Hughes, T. Hutchinson, J. McTear, C. E. Messer, N. Pinder, P. Rouse, C. Spooner, E. Spooner, P. J. Wilson.

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:—

D. R. Coda (Givande Levels), A. J. Cooke (Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters), D. C. Lang (Barcombe Res.), J. McTear (Pevensey Levels), Miss V. Maxse (Burton Ponds), C. E. Messer (Amberley/Pulborough Brooks), H. Mildenhall (Arlington Res.), R. Park (Patching Pond and Swanbourne Lake), Mr. & Mrs. A. Simpson (Knepp Lake and Warnham Mill Pond), C. F. Tebutt (Weir Wood Res.).

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1975

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*)**.—See under Diver Species below.

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*G. immer*)**.—Between Jan. 1st and Mar. 1st, one was recorded at Arlington Res. (many obs.) and between Jan. 2nd and 4th, one was seen in Chichester Harbour (BAEM, JHME, DCL). On Mar. 4th, there were 2 E; off Selsey Bill (PD). On Oct. 17th, one was seen off Cuckmere Haven (PJW).

4. **RED-THROATED DIVER (*G. stellata*)**.—In the early months less than 10 were recorded. Between May 20th and June 6th, one in winter plumage, was seen on the sea, off Beachy Head.

In November and December, about 8 were recorded.

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

	Selsey Bill		Beachy Head	
	Apr. 12th-May 24th	Feb. 2nd-May 25th	Feb. 2nd-May 25th	W
<i>G. arctica</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>G. immer</i>	1	—	29	1
<i>G. stellata</i>	—	—	—	—
<i>G. species</i>	13	—	36	—
			(plus 1 E. on June 1st)	205

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)**.—At the beginning of the year very few were reported from the coast, the highest number being 10 around Thorney Island on Jan. 4th. At the end of the year numbers were higher, there being 24 at Pagham on Nov. 2nd and off Pilsey Island 28, Lancing I, Roedean 12 and Pett 40 on Dec. 20th.

Records were received of birds wintering at 6 localities in the early months but only from 3 at the end of the year. These included 30 at Weir Wood on Jan. 4th, 25 and 22 at Chichester G.P.s on Nov. 9th and Dec. 14th respectively and 9 at Darwell Reservoir on Dec. 14th.

The results of the 1975 breeding season census on May 31st and June 1st are given on pages 80-2. Very few details of breeding success were submitted but 22 pairs are known to have raised 45 young.

All records of this species at any season will be very welcome.

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. griseigena*)**.—On Sept. 10th and 20th, one was seen at Arlington Res. (PJW, VAW). In October, single birds were recorded at Rye Harbour on the 6th (PC), off Church Norton on the 15th (JCSW) and at Chichester G.P. on the 20th and 22nd (JVS).

In December, one was seen at Arlington Res. on the 21st (MJR) and another was observed off Pett Level on the 28th (AD).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE (*P. auritus*)**.—In January and February, up to 8 were seen in Chichester Harbour and up to 6 off Church Norton.

In March, one was observed in Chichester Harbour and 2 off Church Norton. There were no further records for this month. On Apr. 12th, 3 were seen off Beachy Head and on Apr. 30th, 2 were recorded there. On Apr. 19th, one was seen off Selsey Bill and 2 off Brighton.

On Oct. 10th, 2 were seen off Church Norton but there were no further records until Nov. 22nd, when 4 were recorded there and one, which was seen again on Nov. 30th, at Chichester G.P.

On November 29th, 7 were observed off Church Norton and in December, up to 40 were seen there. Elsewhere, one was recorded off Selsey Bill on Dec. 6th and on Dec. 20th, one was seen off Roedean, 5 off Lancing and 3 in Chichester Harbour.

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*P. nigricollis*)**.—In January and February up to 3 were seen in Chichester Harbour. In March and the first two weeks in April, one was seen in Pagham Harbour and off Church Norton.

On Sept. 13th and 17th, one was observed at Arlington Res. Between Sept. 16th and Oct. 26th, one was seen at Chichester G.P.

9. **LITTLE GREBE (*P. ruficollis*)**.—In the breeding season, there were reports from about 13 localities and in some of these, more than one pair was seen. As in 1974, the majority of the pairs were at Rye Harbour and at Chichester G.P., 3 pairs were recorded. The main winter concentrations were:—

25 in Cuckmere Valley on Jan. 24th
62 in Cuckmere Valley on Feb. 1st
20 in Cuckmere Valley in Nov. and Dec.
20 in Bishopstone/Newhaven locality on Nov. 16th
25 in Pagham Harbour/Sidlesham Ferry location in Nov. and Dec.
33 in Chichester Harbour on Nov. 15th

16. **MANX SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus puffinus*).—In the Spring, unusually large numbers were seen off Beachy Head. On Apr. 28th, there were 2 E. On May 8th, 64 E. On May 9th, 126 E., and between May 10th and 15th, 10 E. (many obs.).

21. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*P. griseus*).—On Aug. 24th, 3 W. were recorded at Beachy Head (JFC). On Sept. 27th, 4 W. were seen off Langney Point (RFP).

26. **FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*).—First seen at Beachy Head, on Jan. 12th, when 40 were recorded. On Jan. 26th, 52 were counted there and on May 5th, 25 pairs including a "Blue Fulmar," were seen on the cliffs between Birling Gap and Cow Gap. No eggs were seen on May 31st, when a check showed that some birds were still on the ledges.

There were numerous records from other parts of the coast in the spring and summer months and 3 were seen at Beachy Head, on Aug. 31st.

On Dec. 28th, 45 were present off the cliffs at Beachy Head. This is the earliest date of return to the cliffs, ever recorded in Sussex.

27. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*).—Was recorded in every month, except December. At Beachy Head, there were 253 E. between Mar. 2nd and May 31st with a maximum of 39 E. on May 10th.

Elsewhere, the numbers were small, except for 50 in Rye Bay on Sept. 3rd and 33 W. off Langney Point on Sept. 14th.

28. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—There were many records from the coast and from at least 13 inland localities.

On Jan. 8th, 70 were recorded over Arundel and in January, February and March, up to 70 were seen on Bognor Pier.

On Oct. 13th, 50 were observed over Yapton and on Oct. 27th, 35, which may have roosted inland, flew out to sea at Climping.

On Nov. 21st, 33 were recorded at Rye Harbour and on Dec. 13th, 31 were seen at Southwick. On Dec. 28th, there were 24 E. off Brighton.

29. **SHAG** (*P. aristotelis*).—On Jan. 26th, one was seen on the cliff at Beachy Head (JFC) and on May 12th, 2 E. were recorded there (DSF, MJR, NAGL).

On Feb. 21st, 2 were seen at Glynde (PCB) and on Aug. 19th, one was observed at Arlington Res. (PIW).

Single birds were seen off Selsey Bill on Aug. 30th (MJWH), Sept. 13th (BAEM, IRW) and Nov. 8th (MJWH, RJS). On Nov. 24th, one was recorded at Southwick (PB, RFP) and on Dec. 15th, one was seen at Brighton (PB).

30. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*).—All known heronries were visited. The number of occupied nests was:—Old Park Wood, Fishbourne, 33 plus 4 probably occupied; Pagham, one; Parham, 39 plus 9 probably occupied; Henfield, 5; Knepp, several but count incomplete; Firle, count incomplete but one observer reported that all visible nests were occupied; Eridge, 11 plus 4 probably occupied; Priesthaves, 8 plus one probably occupied; Westham, one; Wartling, 5 plus 2 probably occupied; Leasam, 23 plus 16 probably occupied.

On Sept. 6th, one flew SSW. and out to sea at Selsey Bill.

31. **PURPLE HERON** (*A. purpurea*).—One at Pett Level on Apr. 26th (PFB, RRG, NP) and one at Weir Wood Res. on July 8th (CEH, CRJ). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

36. **NIGHT HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).—One at Rye Harbour from Sept. 2nd to 4th (GHB, KAS, SJW). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

38. **BITTERN** (*Boutaurus stellaris*).—One at Pett Level on Dec. 7th (AD, IPR).

40. **WHITE STORK** (*Ciconia ciconia*).—The bird mentioned in the Report for 1974, was present in the Adversane area from the beginning of the year, until Feb. 16th (FWD, SWMH, KN). One at Saltdean on May 26th, was last seen near Southsea on June 1st (JMD, DCL). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

42. **SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucorodia*).—One at Pett Level on Mar. 23rd (AD). One at Sidlesham Ferry on June 9th and 10th (CRJ, MS). One at Rye Harbour on Aug. 17th (JWH) and the same or another at Pett Level on Sept. 9th (AD).

45. **MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—See table for winter populations and pages 52-3 for the detailed counts along the whole county coastline.

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

In the breeding season, two pairs bred successfully and adults were seen in 4 other localities.

For details of the counts in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour see pages 52-3.

A bird showing the characters of the Green-winged race *carolinensis* was seen in the Cuckmere Valley on Mar. 21st and 22nd (MJR, PJW). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

47. **GARGANEY** (*A. querquedula*).—First recorded on Mar. 1st, when one was seen at Pagham Harbour. Between this date and the end of May, there were records of 11 birds in 6 localities. No more than 3 birds were seen at one time.

At Beachy Head, there were 2 E. on May 8th.

Although there were no records of breeding, the presence of single birds in late July at Chichester G.P. and Rye Harbour LNR, indicate that this may have been attempted.

There were records in August, of single birds, in 4 localities and at Rye Harbour, one was recorded on Oct. 12th (PR).

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.
13	10	19	10	1	1	3	12	15	3	16	21

In the early months, 9 were recorded at Chichester G.P. and 7 at Rye Harbour. In April, 4 were seen at Arlington Res.

In August, 7 were recorded at Rye Harbour and in September, 13 were seen there. In November, 14 were reported from Chichester G.P., and in December, 6 were seen there and 7 at Rye Harbour. The numbers elsewhere, were small.

PEAK WINTER POPULATIONS OF DUCK AT SELECTED LOCALITIES
1975/76

Locality	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Shoveler	Tufted	Pochard
Chichester Harbour	281	1075	467	146	8	26	6
Chichester G.P.	107	110		61	120	61	135
Pagham Harbour	170	450	49	140	4	46	30
Amberley/Pulborough	120	420	250	2	9	2	2
Knepp	168	12	115	1		14	18
Weir Wood Res.	200	74	47			47	80
Barcombe Res.	200	10	45		22	200	150
Glyndo Levels	230	190	1750		17		
Cuckmere	123	69	78	2	2	5	1
Arlington Res.	129		790		39	54	35
Darwell Res.	100		31			134	48
Pevensey Levels	182	200	230	7	9	42	42
Rye Harbour	60					112	250
ANNUAL INDEX	2070	2610	3852	359	230	743	797

50. **WIGEON** (*A. penelope*).—See table for winter populations and pages 52-3 for the counts in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour.

52. **PINTAIL** (*A. acuta*).—See table for winter populations.

On May 9th, a male was seen at Arlington Res. and on May 17th, a pair was recorded in another locality. On June 21st, a male was recorded in Chichester Harbour and during the summer, an injured bird was seen at Sidlesham Ferry.

For details of the counts in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour see pages 52-3.

53. **SHOVELER** (*A. clypeata*).—See table for winter populations.

At Beachy Head, there were 2 E. on May 4th, 4 E. on May 8th and one E. on May 9th.

In the breeding season, birds which may have been paired, were seen in 4 localities. In one of these, where two 'pairs' had been seen, a female with 4 young birds were recorded on June 9th.

55. **SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*).—At Chichester G.P., one was seen from Jan. 26th to Mar. 1st. On Feb. 6th, 2 were recorded at Sidlesham, on Feb. 11th, one was seen at Pagham and on Mar. 8th, one was observed at Sidlesham Ferry.

Between Jan. 31st and Apr. 24th, one was recorded at Arlington Reservoir. On Aug. 19th, one was seen at Arlington Res. (PJW).

In late November and in December, 2 were recorded at Chichester G.P.

On Dec. 14th and 22nd, one was recorded at Northpoint, Rye and on Dec. 29th and 30th, up to 2 were recorded at Swanbourne Lake, Arundel.

56. **TUFTED DUCK** (*A. fuligula*).—See table for winter populations. In the breeding season, there were records, some of which were incomplete, from 28 localities. At least 42 pairs are known to have bred in 9 localities and about 254 young were counted. At Rye Harbour, a single brood was seen and at Chichester G.P., the survival rate of the 200 young was estimated at no more than 50%.

On May 27th, 19 males and 14 females were seen on the two lakes at Petworth Park but the number of young, in this important area, was not recorded.

57. **POCHARD** (*A. ferina*).—See table for winter populations.

Although there were no records of breeding, there were a considerable number of records for late May, June and July. Some are tabulated below.

May 24th	Rye Harbour	Two males and one female
May 24th	Pagham Harbour	One male
May 30th	Chichester G.P.	15 males and 2 females
June 13th	Chichester G.P.	20 males
June 15th	Weir Wood Res.	4 males and one female
June 21st	Aldsworth Pond	One male
June 29th	Chichester G.P.	8 males
July 8th	Barcombe Res.	Two
July 28th	Rye Harbour	Seven

On Nov. 9th, there were 20 E. off Beachy Head.

60. **GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*).—For details of the numbers seen in the early months, in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour, see pages 52-3 in the Report for 1974.

In the first three months of the year, 2 were seen in the Adur Valley, up to 4 at Arlington Res., one at Barcombe Res., 3 at Burton Pond, one at Chichester G.P., 2 in the Ouse Valley and 2 at Weir Wood Res.

On Apr. 12th and 13th, 2 were recorded at Chichester G.P. and on Apr. 12th, one was observed at Weir Wood Res.

In November and December, there were records of up to 2 birds from Arlington Res., Barcombe Res., Bewl Bridge Res., Chichester G.P. and Weir Wood Res.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour in November and December, see pages 52-3.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*).—Between Jan. 1st and Mar. 1st, one was observed in Chichester Harbour and on Jan. 25th, one was recorded at Pett Level. On Apr. 12th, one was seen off Selsey Bill.

On the very unusual date of July 10th, a male in summer plumage, was observed at Chichester G.P. (JVS).

On Nov. 8th, there were 6 W. off Selsey Bill (MJWH, RJS) and on Nov. 10th, one was seen off Langney Point.

Between Nov. 30th and the end of the year, there were records of about 6 from the coast and of one from Barcombe Res.

62. **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*).—In January, one was seen in Rye Bay and in March, one was recorded off Pett Level.

Between Apr. 22nd and May 17th, there were 22 E. off Beachy Head with a maximum of 10 E. on Apr. 29th.

On Nov. 9th, 4 were seen off Beachy Head. In December, 4 were recorded off Pett Level and 4 were seen in Chichester Harbour. Elsewhere, smaller numbers were recorded in the winter months.

64. **COMMON SCOTER** (*M. nigra*).—On Jan. 25th and 26th, 150 were seen in Rye Bay but elsewhere only small numbers of wintering birds were recorded, in the first three months of the year.

At Beachy Head, there were 4174 E. between Mar. 1st and June 8th with maxima of 470 E. on Apr. 19th and 486 E. on May 10th. At Selsey Bill, where watching was not on such a systematic scale, 638 E. were recorded between Mar. 29th and May 24th. The maxima were 275 E. on Apr. 27th and 115 E. on May 10th.

In August and September, there were records from a number of coastal localities including Seaford, where 20 W. were recorded on Aug. 4th, and Selsey Bill with 20 on Sept. 2nd and Langney Point with 67 W. on Sept. 20th.

In November, 20 W. were recorded off Langney Point on the 8th and 50 off Hove on the 23rd. In December, 20 off Pett Level and a similar number off Church Norton, were the maximum numbers.

67. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*).—Was not recorded between May 14th and Oct. 12th. The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	2	10	5	9	—	—	—	—	36	89	87

In late April and the first half of May, there were 8 E. off Beachy Head.

On Oct. 21st, there were 13 W. off Beachy Head and on Nov. 8th, 21 W. off Langney Point. On Nov. 8th, 40 W. and 7 E. were recorded off Selsey Bill.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*).—Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour, in the first three months of the year, were shown in the Report for 1974.

At Beachy Head, 116 E. were recorded between Apr. 6th and May 15th, with a maximum of 21 E. on Apr. 28th. In April and early May, there were records from other coastal localities, including Selsey Bill but as at Beachy Head, the numbers were small, compared with those of other years.

On Aug. 9th, a single bird was seen in Chichester Harbour but there were no further records until Oct. 11th, when one was recorded off Selsey Bill. Small numbers were recorded from other localities in late October, November and December.

See pages 52-3 for the detailed counts along the whole county coastline.

70. **GOOSANDER** (*M. merganser*).—On Mar. 8th, one was seen at Chichester G.P.

In December, single birds were recorded at Arlington Res., Chichester G.P. and Weir Wood Res. Two were seen at Bewl Bridge Res. on Dec. 13th.

71. **SMEW** (*M. albellus*).—On Jan. 4th, one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR and on Feb. 26th, one was recorded near Amberley. There were no other records.

73. **SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna tadorna*).—Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour in the winter of 1974/1975, appeared in the Report for 1974.

In the early months, there were records from a number of inland localities including Arlington and Weir Wood Reservoirs, where single birds were seen, Amberley Wild Brooks, where 12 were noted and Arundel, where 2 were recorded.

In the breeding season, there were records from Chichester Harbour, where 67 young were counted in one locality and 48 in another and from the Pagham Harbour/Sidlesham Ferry area, where 135 young were seen on July 1st. At Chichester G.P., 15 young were observed and near Arundel, one pair together with 2 young was recorded. In the Cuckmere Valley, at least 2 pairs were seen with a minimum of 13 young and at Pett Level, one pair was present with 9 young. Young birds in small numbers, were recorded at Rye Harbour, at Rye Marsh and by the Rother at Rye.

In November, single birds were recorded at Arlington and Weir Wood Reservoirs. In December, one was seen at Darwell Res.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour in the winter of 1975/1976, see pages 52-3.

75. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*).—On Feb. 11th, 11 were observed at Arlington Res., on Apr. 26th, one was recorded at Rye Harbour and on May 24th, 6 were seen there.

On May 4th, there was one E. at Beachy Head and on May 10th, 3 E. were seen there.

It is probable that some of the records relate to feral birds.

76. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*A. albifrons*).—On Feb. 22nd and 26th, 2 were seen near Amberley, on Mar. 3rd, 20 were recorded near Emsworth and on Mar. 8th, 80 were seen over Northiam.

On Nov. 9th, 75 were seen over Lewes and on Dec. 7th, 14 were recorded near Pulborough.

GREY GOOSE SPECIES.—On Feb. 15th, there were 25 E. off Rottingdean and on Mar. 9th, 54 E. were recorded at Beachy Head.

In October, there were 9 W. over Pagham Harbour on the 21st and in November, two flocks totalling 53, were seen over Southwick on the 8th and there were 3 W. off Langney Point on the 9th.

In December, 12 were recorded over the downs near Steyning on the 6th and there were 6 S. at Shoreham-by-Sea on the 26th.

80. **BRENT GOOSE** (*Branta bernicla*).—All records refer to the dark-breasted race *B. b. bernicla*.

Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour in the early months, appeared in the Report for 1974.

At Beachy Head, a total of 388 E. was recorded between Mar. 1st and Apr. 28th, with a maximum of 180 E. on Mar. 1st. Easterly movement on a smaller scale, was seen off Worthing on Mar. 2nd and 9th, off Southwick on Mar. 2nd and off Pett Level on Apr. 6th.

Return passage, as in the previous year, was first noted on Sept. 28th, when 12 were seen in Chichester Harbour. There were no further records for September and in October, the numbers were small.

In November and December, very large numbers were recorded in the western part of the County. The numbers of juvenile birds, seen in the flocks, indicated a highly successful breeding season, compared with a very poor season, in 1974.

In the winter, counts over the whole Harbour area, from Pagham to Portsmouth, revealed that unprecedented numbers were present. The totals were: November, 12,415; December, 13,822; January, 12,463, February, 11,432 and March 5,218. For full details of the counts see pages 51-3, and 56.

82. CANADA GOOSE (*B. canadensis*).—Successful breeding was reported from the following localities:—

	Pairs		Pairs
Sidlesham Ferry	1	Knepp Lake	4 (est.)
Chichester G.P.	3	Weir Wood Res.	1
Forest Mere	2	Chalvington	1
Swanbourne Lake, Arundel	1	Plashett Park	4 (est.)

At Knepp Lake, 23 young birds were seen and at Plashett Park, 15 were recorded. It is not known how many pairs bred at Petworth Park.

In late August, 64 birds were recorded at Chichester G.P. and in September there were reports of 63 from Sidlesham Ferry and up to 240 at Arlington Res. On Sept. 20th, 123 were observed over West Chiltington.

In the last three months of the year, 57 were recorded at Chichester G.P., up to 300 in the Amberley/Pulborough area, 85 at Knepp Lake, 186 at Arlington Res. and 120 at the Royal Greenwich Observatory, Herstmonceux.

84. MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*).—In February, a flock of 26 was seen at Amberley Wild Brooks and one of 34 at Thorney Island. In March, 48 were recorded in this locality.

At the beginning of June, 40 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR and in July, 38 were observed at Littlehampton Harbour.

Up to 72 were seen in the Cuckmere Valley in December.

85. WHOOPER SWAN (*C. cygnus*).—One at Rye Harbour from Dec. 14th to the end of the year (MJSH, NR).

86. BEWICK'S SWAN (*C. bewickii*).—In the Arun Valley, 45 were seen in January, 54 in February and 30 on Mar. 9th. On Jan. 28th, 10 were recorded at Wittersham and 23 were seen there on Feb. 2nd. At Barcombe Mills Res., 7 adults together with 3 juveniles, were present on Mar. 22nd.

On Oct. 25th, one was reported from the Arun Valley, in November, at least 15 were present and in December, a maximum of 57 including 13 juveniles, was recorded in the area.

Elsewhere, there were 3 in the Cuckmere Valley and 3 in Chichester Harbour in November. In December, 2 were seen at Horsham, 2 at Arlington Res., one at Darwell Res., 6 at Nutbourne and about 30 at Wittersham.

91. BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*).—Once again, several birds were seen during the Spring and Summer but there is no evidence of attempted breeding. There were a few reports, mainly of single birds, in the winter months.

At Beachy Head, single birds were recorded on Aug. 31st, Sept. 5th and Oct. 17th. Elsewhere, 2 were seen at Sidlesham on Sept. 6th, a party of at least 4 near Lewes on Sept. 13th and one at Arlington Res. on Sept. 17th.

92. ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*B. lagopus*).—Some of the birds first seen in October 1974, were still present in the early months of 1975.

Between Jan. 1st and the end of March, 3 were reported between Beachy Head and Cuckmere, 5 between Cuckmere and Ouse, 2 between Ouse and Ovingdean and two between Arun and Adur. Two were seen at Alfriston on Apr. 16th and one was recorded there on Apr. 26th.

In addition to the above, one was seen on Jan. 16th at Cocking Down, one between Rye and Appledore on Mar. 28th and two near Duncton on Apr. 8th.

Once again there appears to have been an influx in October but this was obviously on a smaller scale than in 1974. On Oct. 12th, a single bird was recorded at Beachy Head and between this date and the end of the year there were records of a single bird between Beachy Head and Cuckmere. In addition, two were recorded between Cuckmere and Ouse and one between Adur and Arun.

93. SPARROW HAWK (*Accipiter nisus*).—In the breeding season, there were records from at least 40 localities. Juveniles were seen in no more than 3 of these but adults with food were observed in some others.

There were a large number of post breeding season and winter records from well distributed localities.

94. GOSHAWK (*A. gentilis*).—An unusual number of records. At Sidlesham, one was seen on Sept. 23rd (MS). At Beachy Head, a female was recorded on Oct. 17th (JFC, RH) and between Oct. 28th and Nov. 9th, a male was present in the area (many obs.). On Nov. 11th, one was recorded at Alfriston (PJW).

95. RED KITE (*Mitvus milvus*).—One in the Cuckmere Valley on Mar. 16th (ARK).

99. MARSH HARRIER (*Circus aeruginosus*).—On Apr. 24th, one was seen at Pagham Harbour (JB, TPD) and on May 25th, one was recorded at Sidlesham (MS).

On June 11th, one was observed near Hailsham (MJR). On Sept. 17th, one was seen at Sidlesham (MS) and on Sept. 22nd, one was present at Beachy Head.

100. HEN HARRIER (*C. cyaneus*).—Many records were received and these are summarised under localities.

Rye Harbour, one from Nov. 7th to Dec. 30th. Ashdown Forest, a male from Jan. 13th to Mar. 23rd and a male from Nov. 23rd to Dec. 26th. Alciston, one on Jan. 21st. Hellingly, one on Apr. 9th. Arlington, one on Oct. 10th.

Downs from Beachy Head to and including Cuckmere Valley. One from Jan. 1st to Feb. 24th, one on Apr. 1st and one from Apr. 20th to May 10th. In addition, a male on Apr. 30th and a male from Oct. 12th to Nov. 8th, one from Oct. 15th to Dec. 8th.

Alfriston area and downs from Cuckmere to Ouse. One from Jan. 1st to early March. A male on Jan. 16th and Mar. 7th, one from Oct. 18th to end of the year; two on Nov. 11th and a male on Dec. 7th.

Glynde locality including the downs near Mount Caburn. A male on Jan. 5th and Feb. 5th, one on Nov. 8th.

Downs from Ouse to Adur. A male from Jan. 16th to Mar. 7th and one on Mar. 8th, one on Nov. 23rd.
 Downs from Adur to Arun. One on Mar. 9th, a male on Oct. 10th and Nov. 2nd, one from Oct. 12th to Nov. 16th.
 Brighton, one on Nov. 8th. Pagham Harbour, one on Nov. 21st and 22nd. Bishopstone, one on Dec. 6th. Amberley Wild Brooks, one on Dec. 24th and 30th. Sutton, one on Dec. 13th and 17th.

102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*C. pygargus*).—A male at Seaford on May 28th (VAW).

103. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*).—In May, one was recorded at Crawley Down from the 2nd to the 8th (per RFP) and single birds were seen at Darwell Res. on the 4th (RE et al.), in St. Leonards Forest on the 11th (BJ, PJ) and in Chichester Harbour on the 20th and 23rd (JHME). On June 10th, one was seen at Arlington (PD) and on June 22nd, one was observed at Weir Wood Res. (ARJB, RAO).
 On Oct. 18th, one was recorded in Chichester Harbour (ARK, PM, RFP, IRW).

104. **HOBBY** (*Falco subbuteo*).—First recorded on Apr. 20th, when a pair was seen in East Sussex and a single bird at Horsham.

In the breeding season, there were records from 8 localities but breeding was proved in no more than 2 of these.

In September, there were records, mainly of single birds, from 2 coastal and 5 inland localities. On Oct. 3rd, one was seen at Sinfold.

105. **PEREGRINE** (*F. peregrinus*).—On Apr. 10th, one was recorded at Alfriston (PJW).

In September, single birds were seen at Shoreham-by-Sea on the 11th (JAN), at Beachy Head on the 13th (DC, DAP, TWP, BW) and at Alfriston on the 18th (PJW).

107. **MERLIN** (*F. columbarius*).—Between Jan. 1st and Mar. 17th, there were records of 5 birds, mainly from the downs. One of these was found dead at Stoughton having entangled itself in a roll of sheep wire netting (RCL). On Apr. 6th, one was seen in the Midrips/Wicks area.

Between Sept. 21st and Dec. 15th, at least 8 were recorded, all from localities on or near the coast. Included in this figure is a single bird which arrived from the direction of the sea at Newhaven on Oct. 5th and another which flew E. at Langney Point on Nov. 9th.

110. **KESTREL** (*F. tinnunculus*).—In the breeding season, approximately 50 pairs were located and of these, 20 pairs raised at least 31 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*).—Between June 14th and July 24th, about 12 were seen or heard on the downs, from Arundel to Eastbourne.

120. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*).—In the early months about 15 were seen in 11 localities, including Beachy Head.

In April, 6 were recorded in 5 localities, including one on passage at Beachy Head, on the 17th.

There were very few breeding season records and birds were seen in no more than 5 localities.

At Beachy Head, one was recorded on Oct. 11th and there were records for most days until Nov. 16th.

Small numbers wintered in about 15 localities.

121. **SPOTTED CRAKE** (*Porzana porzana*).—On Feb. 16th, a freshly killed bird was found at Amberley Wild Brooks (FD, BJ, PJ). On Aug. 25th, one was seen in Chichester Harbour (BAEM, RFP).

125. **CORNCRAKE** (*Crex crex*).—On Sept. 12th, one was seen in the Rye Harbour LNR (BWR) and on Oct. 21st, one was recorded at Beachy Head (JFC, TP).

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

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Arlington Res.	67	67	61	133	62	75
Chichester G.P.	202	180	146	250	1279	165
Chichester Harbour.	820	625	400	113	891	200
Pett Level.						250
Rye Harbour.						250

131. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—Details of the numbers seen, in some localities, in the early months, appeared in the Report for 1974.

In the breeding season, a single pair was recorded in Chichester Harbour, up to 7 pairs, of which 3 were seen with young, were observed in Pagham Harbour and 3 pairs, which nested without success, in the Rye Harbour area.

On Aug. 16th and 23rd, a single bird was seen near Amberley.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour from October 1975 to March 1976 and for the detailed counts along the whole coastline, see pages 53-5.

133. **LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*).—Details of the numbers seen in coastal areas, in the early months, appeared in the Report for 1974. Some large flocks were seen elsewhere, including one of 500 in the Adur Valley in January and another of 3,000 by the Adur at Henfield on Feb. 2nd. On the same day, 3,000 were recorded at Glynde and on Mar. 5th, 7,000 were seen on Glynde Levels.

In the breeding season, there were reports from 17 well distributed localities. In late August, flocks of between 600 and 800 birds were recorded at Beachy Head, Shoreham Airport, the downs near Steyning and in Chichester Harbour.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour from Oct. 1975 to Mar. 1976 and for the counts along the whole coastline, see pages 53-5.

134. **RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—In the breeding season, about 37 pairs were recorded and some juveniles were seen. There were no breeding season records, from inland localities.

In late August, 296 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and 175 at Shoreham-by-Sea. In September, 185 were counted at Shoreham-by-Sea and 230 in Chichester Harbour. In October, up to 130 were recorded at Ferring.

Totals of 676 on Dec. 20th, 1975 and 761 on Jan. 17th, 1976 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 53-5 for the detailed figures.

135. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*C. dubius*).—First recorded on Apr. 25th, when one was seen in Pagham Harbour. On Apr. 30th, one was recorded at Arundel and on May 8th and 9th, one was seen in the Cuckmere Valley.

There were no records for the breeding season.
Between July 18th and Sept. 28th, about 12 passage birds were seen in 4 coastal and 2 inland localities.

136. **KENTISH PLOVER** (*C. alexandrinus*).—One at Shoreham-by-Sea on Aug. 3rd and 4th (RFP *et al.*). One at Rye Harbour on Aug. 26th (NP) and one there from Sept. 8th to 15th (PFB, PG, NP).

139. **GREY PLOVER** (*Pluvialis squatarola*).—Between May 8th and 10th, there were 6 E. at Beachy Head but there were no further records of birds on spring passage, from this locality.

On May 10th, 60 were seen in Pagham Harbour but elsewhere, the numbers in April and May, were small.

In June, 8 were recorded in Chichester Harbour on the 1st and 10 in Pagham Harbour on the 22nd.

In July, up to 15 were seen in Pagham Harbour.
In August, there were records of 45 in Pagham Harbour and 155 in Chichester Harbour.

On Sept. 6th, no less than 1,132 were observed in Chichester Harbour and 355 were seen there on Oct. 3rd. On Sept. 21st, 2 were recorded at Arlington Res.

Totals of 1,150 on Dec. 20th, 1975 and 2,175 on Jan. 17th, 1976 were recorded by counts along the whole county coastline. See pages 53-5 for the detailed figures.

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER** (*P. apricaria*).—Details of the numbers seen along the whole coastline on Jan. 12th, appeared in the Report for 1974.

On Feb. 2nd, 56 were seen in the Henfield Levels and during the rest of this month and in March, there reports of from 100 to 500 birds from Bracklesham, Glynde, Horse Eye Level, Pagham Harbour and West Wittering.

On Mar. 1st, 11 were seen at Amberley Wild Brooks and in April, there were records until the 23rd, when one was seen at Glynde. The maximum for this month was a party of 200 at Horse Eye Level on the 12th.

On May 4th, 14 were seen at the Midrips and on June 13th and 21st, one was observed at Sidlesham Ferry.

There were no records for July but on Aug. 2nd, one was recorded at Beachy Head and another was seen in Pagham Harbour. Between Aug. 5th and the end of the month there were records from 4 localities including 72 on Glynde Levels on the 23rd and 40 in Pagham Harbour on the 24th.

In September, there were records from 5 localities with 257 in Pagham Harbour on the 30th, as the maximum.

For details of the counts along the whole coastline, see pages 53-5.

142. **DOTTEREL** (*Eudromias morinellus*).—One at Pagham Harbour from Sept. 6th to 10th (many obs.).

143. **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*).—Details of the numbers seen along the whole coastline in January, appeared in the Report for 1974.

In the Rye Harbour area, 3 were seen on June 12th and in July there were records of, at least, 18 birds.

On July 18th, 2 were recorded at Arlington Res. but there were no other records from inland localities.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour and for the counts along the whole coastline see pages 53-5.

145. **SNIPE** (*Gallinago gallinago*).—In the breeding season, pairs or drumming birds, were seen in 15 localities. Some localities where breeding occurred in other years, were not apparently visited.

For the detailed counts along the whole county coastline, see pages 53-5.

147. **JACK SNIPE** (*Lymnocyptes minimus*).—There were records of about 76 birds from 9 coastal and 6 inland localities. Most of the reports were from the western part of the County.

The approximate monthly figures were: —

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	23	20	8	—	—	—	—	1	9	10	3

148. **WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax rusticola*).—One at Beachy Head on Sept. 28th, an early date. At Seaynes Hill 18 were flushed during a shoot in Jan., otherwise only small numbers reported during the winter months. During the breeding season roding birds reported from about 50 well-distributed localities. A review of records received in recent years appears on pages 53-5.

150. **CURLEW** (*Numenius arquata*).—Recorded in the breeding season, in Ashdown Forest and there was evidence of breeding in another area.

At Beachy Head, a total of 27 flew E. on spring passage.

On Aug. 12th, 635 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and on Sept. 6th, 987 were seen there, when roosting.

For the detailed counts along the whole county coastline, see pages 53-5.

151. **WHIMBREL** (*N. phaeopus*).—On Jan. 19th, in February and on Mar. 8th, one was recorded in Pagham Harbour (MSA, JWH, MS). Two were seen in this locality on Mar. 31st (CM).

On Apr. 13th, one was recorded in Chichester Harbour but there were no further records until Apr. 18th, when 12 were seen in Pagham Harbour.

At Beachy Head, 2 were recorded on Apr. 19th and 180 were seen there on spring passage. The maxima were:—Apr. 25th, 30 E. and Apr. 28th, 70 E.

In June, there were records from 5 localities with a maximum of 8 at Rye Harbour on the 20th. In July and August, was widely reported with a maximum of 25 in Chichester Harbour on July 22nd and 32 on Aug. 10th.

In September, there were records from 7 localities including one of 4 in Pagham Harbour on the 27th. In this area, one was seen on Oct. 9th and 15th.

154. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*).—Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour on Jan. 12th and Feb. 1st, appeared in the Report for 1974. In late February and in March, up to 500 were seen in Pagham Harbour and 222 were counted there on Apr. 6th. On Mar. 31st, 140 were recorded at Fishbourne.

On June 30th, 20 were observed at Sidlesham Ferry and on July 5th, at least 100 were seen in Pagham Harbour. In August, 110 were recorded there and up to 400 were seen in Chichester Harbour.

For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour in September and for the detailed counts, see pages 53-5.

155. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*L. lapponica*).—Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour in January and February, appeared in the Report for 1974.

At Beachy Head, there were 2,628 E. between Apr. 22nd and May 20th, with a maximum of 1,133 E. on Apr. 27th. This movement was seen off other localities along the whole coastline. At Selsey Bill, there were 155 E. and off Hove, 135 E. on Apr. 26th. At Rye Harbour, 230 were recorded on Apr. 27th.

In June a few birds were seen at Rye Harbour but until early September, the numbers were very small. For details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour in September and for detailed counts, see pages 53-5.

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

In the first three months of the year, there were records of 14 birds in 8 localities and in April, 10 were seen in 7 localities.

In June, one was seen at Chichester G.P. on the 13th and 27th. Two were observed there on the 29th.

In July, about 26 were recorded in 9 localities and in August, 46 in 14 localities.

In September, about 25 were seen in 10 localities. This figure includes a flock of 9 observed at Pett Level on the 12th.

In October, there were records of single birds in 7 localities and 2 were seen at Rye Harbour.

In November and December, single birds were recorded in 5 localities.

The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
6	12	5	10	—	5	26	46	25	9	2	3

157. **WOOD SANDPIPER** (*T. glareola*).—On May 17th and 18th, one was seen at Sidlesham Ferry (MS).

Between July 29th and Sept. 4th, at least 19 were recorded with the majority on or near the coast.

One was observed at Sidlesham Ferry on Oct. 26th (MS).

159. **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*T. hypoleucos*).—Recorded in every month with the exception of November.

In early January, on Feb. 21st and on Mar. 5th, one was seen at Glynde. On Jan. 28th, one was recorded at Arundel and one was observed in Chichester Harbour in the winter months.

In April, one was seen at Arundel on the 5th and 6th but there were no further records until the 17th, when single birds were seen in the Cuckmere Valley and at Chichester G.P. The numbers during the rest of this month were small but in May, there were numerous records from coastal and inland localities.

In early June, single birds were recorded at Arundel, Chichester G.P. and Pagham Harbour. On June 29th, 2 were seen at Sidlesham Ferry.

Return passage appears to have commenced on or about July 10th and from this date until the end of September, the records were numerous and widespread. On Aug. 12th, 40 were recorded at Arlington Res., on Aug. 17th, 25 were seen at Beachy Head and on Aug. 21st, 25 were observed in Chichester Harbour.

In the first two weeks in October, there were records of approximately 11 birds from 5 localities.

On Dec. 21st, 2 were recorded at Steyning.

161. **REDSHANK** (*T. totanus*).—In the breeding season, there were reports from at least 12 localities but there was no information from some others, where nesting birds had been recorded, in other years.

There were numerous post breeding season and winter records and for details of the counts along the whole coastline, see pages 53-5.

162. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*T. erythropus*).—Recorded in every month. In January, February and March, 2 were recorded in the Sidlesham Ferry/Pagham Harbour area and up to 3 were seen in Chichester Harbour. One was observed at Bracklesham Bay on Feb. 1st.

In the first three weeks in April, there were reports of single birds from 7 localities and on Apr. 30th, at least 8 were seen on Horse Eye Level.

In May, 11 were recorded including 6 E. off Worthing on the 7th.

On June 13th, 7 were seen at Sidlesham Ferry and a similar number in Chichester Harbour. In the last week of June, 2 were seen at Sidlesham Ferry and one in Chichester Harbour.

In July, single birds were observed in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour but there were no further records.

In August, there were records from 7 localities. In Chichester Harbour, 15 were seen on the 10th and at Weir Wood Res., 2 were recorded on the 31st.

In September, 5 were seen at Rye Harbour, 4 at Pett Level, one at Shoreham-by-Sea, 3 in Pagham Harbour and 30 in Chichester Harbour.

In October, one was observed at Bishopstone and 2 at Sidlesham Ferry. In November, 3 were recorded at Pevensey, 3 at Sidlesham Ferry and at least one in Chichester Harbour.

In December, 14 were recorded in Chichester Harbour, one at Pevensey and 3 at Sidlesham Ferry. The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	6	5	15	11	14	2	50	43	3	8	18

165. **GREENSHANK** (*T. nebularia*).—Recorded in every month. From the beginning of the year until almost the end of April, the numbers were small.

At Amberley Wild Brooks, 3 were recorded on Apr. 27th and at Beachy Head, there were 2 E. on Apr. 28th, 2 E. on May 9th, one E. on May 10th and 6 E. on May 16th. In the Cuckmere Valley, 8 were seen on May 8th and 9th, and three on May 19th. Off Worthing, there were 4 E. on May 7th and at Horse Eye Level, 5 were observed on May 9th.

In June, single birds were seen at Arlington Res., in Chichester Harbour, in the Cuckmere Valley and up to 3 were recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR.

In the first part of July, the numbers seen were small but on July 24th, 18 were observed in Chichester Harbour. On Aug. 9th, 52 were recorded at Rye Harbour and during this month and in September, up to 40 were seen in Chichester Harbour. There were many records of smaller numbers, from other localities.

Small numbers were seen in October, November and December. The maxima were:—Pagham Harbour, 4 on Oct. 7th and 3 on Oct. 15th and 20th; Rye, 2 on Oct. 7th; Chichester Harbour, 5 on Dec. 20th.

169. **KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*).—At Beachy Head, there was one E. on Apr. 28th and 12 W. on May 17th. Elsewhere, small numbers were recorded in May, with 20 at Pagham Harbour and 38 at Rye Harbour as the maxima.

In June, there were records of small numbers from 6 localities with a maximum of 5 in Pagham Harbour on the 28th.

In August and September was reported from a number of coastal localities including Rye, where 167 were seen on Sept. 12th and 127 on Sept. 15th. For details of counts along the whole county coastline, see pages 53-5.

170. PURPLE SANDPIPER (*C. maritima*).—There were records from the beginning of the year until May 12th and from Sept. 20th to the end of December. In January and February, up to 23 were recorded at Newhaven and up to 20 were seen there from the beginning of March until May 12th. At Ferring, 14 were seen on Jan. 12th and at Hastings, 10 were recorded on Mar. 6th.

Although one was seen at Pett Level on Sept. 20th, there were no further records until Oct. 13th, when 3 were observed at Rye Harbour. In November and December, up to 23 were seen at Newhaven, 14 at Climping, 8 at Ferring and 10 at Hastings.

171. LITTLE STINT (*C. minuta*).—On Feb. 1st, one was seen at Bracklesham Bay (RFP).

In May, 2 were recorded at Church Norton on the 18th and 2 at Sidlesham Ferry on the 23rd. One was seen at Rye Harbour on May 26th and 27th and one in the Cuckmere Valley on June 3rd.

There were no records for July.

In August, single birds were seen at Arlington Res. and in the Cuckmere Valley. At Pett Level, up to 15 were recorded, at Rye Harbour, up to 6 were seen and at Sidlesham Ferry, up to 11 were reported. Most of the records were for the last week in the month.

In September, up to 20 were seen at Pett Level and up to 12 at Rye Harbour. In addition, one was seen at Shoreham-by-Sea, up to 5 at Weir Wood Res., up to 3 at Arlington Res. and up to 7 in the Pagham Harbour/Sidlesham Ferry area. Most of the records were for the early part of the month.

On Oct. 4th and 6th, 2 were recorded at Sidlesham Ferry and on Oct. 10th, one at Arlington Res. There were no subsequent records.

173. TEMMINCK'S STINT (*C. temminckii*).—Between Mar. 19th and Apr. 9th, one was present in Chichester Harbour (RAC) and on May 8th, one was seen in the Cuckmere Valley (MJR).

Between Aug. 25th and Sept. 2nd, one was recorded at Pett Level (many obs.) and from Sept. 23rd to Oct. 21st, on was seen at Sidlesham Ferry (many obs.). From Dec. 20th to the end of the year, one was present in Chichester Harbour (RAC).

The records for Mar. 19th and for the end of December are the earliest and latest for the County.

176. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*).—One at Pett Level from Aug. 28th to Sept. 7th (many obs.). A different bird at Rye Harbour LNR on Sept. 21st and 22nd (AD, PFB, NP).

178. DUNLIN (*C. alpina*).—Details of the numbers seen in Chichester Harbour and Pagham Harbour, in the early months, appeared in the Report for 1974. In January, February and March, there were many records from inland localities but only small numbers were seen inland in the autumn and early winter months. At Glynde Levels, 70 were recorded on Jan. 2nd and in the Cuckmere Valley, 52 were seen on Mar. 21st. In the Henfield Levels, 40 were recorded on Feb. 2nd and in Amberley Wild Brooks, 80 were seen on Mar. 1st, 40 on Mar. 9th and 100 on Mar. 26th. In Amberley Wild Brooks, 20 were seen on Apr. 14th.

In August, up to 3 were recorded at Arlington Res. and in September, up to 4 were seen there. In September and October, 2 were observed at Weir Wood Res. and on Nov. 2nd, one was seen at Darwell Res.

For details of the counts along the whole coastline see pages 53-5.

179. CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*).—In May, a single bird was seen in the Sidlesham Ferry/Pagham Harbour area on the 4th and 8th. Three were recorded there on May 11th.

On July 30th, in August and on Sept. 13th, 2 were recorded in the Rye Harbour area.

At Pett Level, there were many records for the period Aug. 25th to Sept. 16th with maxima of 37 on Sept. 2nd, 35 on Sept. 6th, 40 on Sept. 7th and 25 on Sept. 12th.

At Weir Wood Res., one was seen on Aug. 28th and at Arlington Res., two were recorded on Sept. 12th. In the Cuckmere Valley, one was observed on Sept. 23rd and at Shoreham-by-Sea, there were records from Aug. 30th to Sept. 22nd with maxima of 5 on Sept. 5th and 9 on Sept. 6th.

On Aug. 29th, 6 were seen on the beach at Ferring; and between Sept. 13th and 28th, up to 3 were observed at Chichester G.P.

In the Sidlesham Ferry/Pagham Harbour area there were records from Aug. 2nd, when 8 were recorded until Oct. 18th, when 2 were seen. The maxima were:—Aug. 30th, 16, Aug. 31st, 18 and Sept. 6th, 17. Ten were recorded as late as Oct. 4th.

181. SANDERLING (*C. alba*).—Details of the numbers seen along the whole coastline on Jan. 12th, appeared in the Report for 1974.

At Selsey Bill, 90 E. were recorded between Apr. 26th and May 16th and at Beachy Head, 57 E. were seen between Apr. 28th and May 18th.

In late July, up to 43 were seen at Rye Harbour and 100 were recorded there in August. In Chichester Harbour, 253 were counted on Aug. 25th. On Aug. 26th, one was seen at Arlington Res. but all other records for the whole year were from coastal localities.

For details of the numbers seen along the whole coastline on Dec. 20th see pages 53-5.

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

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
46	44	44	33	3	2	15	28	27	13	15	23

In January, 17 were seen at Amberley Wild Brooks and 28 at Bracklesham. In February, 25 were reported from Amberley Wild Brooks and a similar number was recorded there in March. In April, 12 were observed in this locality and 19 in the Rye Harbour LNR.

In June, 2 were seen at Sidlesham Ferry and in July, 7 in Chichester Harbour. In August, 10 were recorded in Chichester Harbour and in September, 7 at Rye Harbour and 9 at Pett Level. In October, 13 were observed at Sidlesham Ferry and in November, 14 in Chichester Harbour. In December, 8 were seen at Sidlesham Ferry and 15 in Chichester Harbour.

185. AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).—Between early January and Mar. 2nd, up to 3 were seen in Pagham Harbour. On Mar. 29th, one was recorded at Bishopstone and on Apr. 30th, one was seen over Horse Eye Level.

On May 17th, 3 were reported from Bishopstone. On May 18th, 3 were seen in the Cuckmere Valley and on the same day, there were reports of 6 in Pagham Harbour and of 2 in the Pett Level/Rye Harbour area. On May 29th, 2 were seen at Sidesham Ferry and on June 1st, 4 at Fishbourne.

Between July 10th and 14th, 2 were seen at Rye Harbour.
Between Dec. 19th and 27th, 2 were recorded in Pagham Harbour.

189. STONE CURLEW (*Burhinus oedicnemus*).—On May 18th, one was seen at Sidesham.

In the breeding season, there were reports from 4 localities. In one of these 2 adults together with 2 young, were seen.

190/191. COLLARED or BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE (*Glaucolanius pratina-cola* or *nordmanni*).—One at Selsey Bill on Sept. 3rd (GJB). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

193. ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—At Beachy Head, 163 E. were recorded between Apr. 18th and May 18th. The maxima were 29 E. on Apr. 28th and 24 E. on May 10th.

Between Apr. 12th and May 11th, 11 were seen off Selsey Bill and there were records of birds on spring passage from Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, Peacehaven and Seaford Head.

On June 8th, one was seen off Church Norton.

On July 1st, one was observed off Littlehampton and between July 25th and Oct. 6th, about 44 were recorded off localities along the whole coastline. This figure includes at least 7 off Climping on Aug. 14th and 8 W. off Langney Point on Sept. 27th.

194. GREAT SKUA (*S. skua*).—On Apr. 5th, one was seen off Newhaven (AJH).

At Beachy Head, there was one E. on Apr. 19th, 2 E. on Apr. 21st, 1 E. on Apr. 24th, one E. on Apr. 26th, 2 E. on Apr. 28th, one E. on May 1st, 2 E. on May 8th, one E. on May 12th and one E. on May 13th.

In addition to the above, a single bird was recorded off Birling Gap on Apr. 15th (PGL) and there was one E. Off Seaford Head on Apr. 20th (DCL). One was seen off Rottingdean on May 15th and 22nd (AJC).

On Aug. 31st, there was one E. off Beachy Head (JFC, TP), on Sept. 27th, one W. off Langney Point (RFP) and on Oct. 6th, one E. off the Seven Sisters (AJC). On the last mentioned date one was seen off Church Norton (OM).

195. POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*).—Between Apr. 28th and May 15th, there were 76 E. off Beachy Head. The maxima were Apr. 28th, 37 E. and May 10th, 19 E. (many obs.).

On Aug. 31st, 2 E. were recorded at Beachy Head (JFC).

198. GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).—At Rye Harbour, 120 were recorded on June 27th, 130 on Aug. 13th, 50 on Oct. 17th, 160 on Dec. 16th and 200 on Dec. 20th.

At Shoreham-by-Sea, 123 were seen on Feb. 1st, 60 on Aug. 18th, 85 on Sept. 19th and 100 on Dec. 20th.

At Beachy Head, there were hundreds W. in the late afternoon on Oct. 15th.

199. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*).—In January, February and early March, there were records from 6 localities. On Jan. 4th 13 were recorded at Weir Wood Res. and in February, some were seen there. Numbers elsewhere were very small.

On Mar. 23rd, 60 were recorded at Cuckmere Haven and on Mar. 29th, 20 were seen at Rye Harbour.

In the breeding season, a pair nested on a roof at St. Leonards-on-Sea and raised one young bird.

In the autumn and early winter, the numbers seen were unusually small with a maximum of 25 at Bishopstone on Oct. 8th. A few wintering birds were recorded, mainly on the coast.

200. HERRING GULL (*L. argentatus*).—At Beachy Head, 139 pairs were present in the breeding season and at Rye Harbour, about 25 pairs attempted to breed. In addition, 2 pairs nested on the roofs of buildings at Eastbourne and nesting was attempted on roofs at Hove.

Near Lewes, at least 7 pairs held territory in the breeding season on the face of a chalk pit and one young bird was seen. This site, where the conditions made observation difficult, is more than 5 miles from the sea.

Between Aug. 4th and Dec. 2nd, single birds with yellow legs were seen at Chichester G.P., Newhaven, Pagham Harbour, Saltdene and Shoreham-by-Sea. Two were recorded at Shoreham-by-Sea on Sept. 1st. Yellow legs are characteristic of the Mediterranean and Scandinavian races.

201. COMMON GULL (*L. canus*).—In January, a flock of 1,500 was seen on the downs at Hove and in February, flocks of between 90 and 200 were recorded at Newhaven, Runciton and Shoreham-by-Sea.

On Mar. 8th and 9th, 120 were seen at Sutton and on Apr. 3rd, 100 were observed at Winchelsea.

At Beachy Head, some, of which the majority were immature, were seen on spring passage. The maxima were:—

April 28th.....225 E May 9th.....350 E May 10th.....205 E

On May 12th and 16th, 10 were recorded in the Rye Harbour LNR and up to 35 were seen there in June.

On Aug. 1st, 50 were seen at Rye Harbour and on Aug. 23rd, 250 were observed on the downs at Hove.

In October, flocks of 300 were seen at Shoreham-by-Sea and on the downs near Steyning.

In November, 500 were recorded on the downs and there were reports of 100 at Newhaven and Bishopstone. A flock of 300 was seen in the Cuckmere Valley on Dec. 12th.

202. GLAUCOUS GULL (*L. hyperboreus*).—The adult seen at Hove and mentioned in the Report for 1974 was present in the same locality from the beginning of the year until Mar. 17th. It was recorded again from Sept. 29th to the end of the year (many obs.).

On May 8th, a first year bird was recorded at Beachy Head (JFC, MJR) and on Sept. 14th, one, in second year plumage, was seen at Langney Point (RFP).

205. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*L. melanocephalus*).—Records are given under localities. Unless otherwise stated the birds were adult. Hove, one on 30th and Feb. 21st. Beachy Head, a first year bird on May 8th and 9th and another first year bird on May 20th; one on Aug. 13th. Pilsey Island, one on Nov. 22nd. Pett Level, one on Aug. 31st and Sept. 20th. Rye Harbour, one on Sept. 20th. Worthing, one on July 27th.

207. **LITTLE GULL** (*L. minutus*).—There were no records for the first three months of the year or for December.

On Apr. 13th, 2 were seen at Chichester G.P. and on Apr. 20th, one at Sidlesham Ferry. At Beachy Head, there were 136 E. between Apr. 23rd and May 18th. The maxima were:— Apr. 28th, 55 E. and May 10th, 46 E.

On May 10th, 12 E. were recorded at Selsey Bill and at Rye Harbour there were records for 16 days during the month with maxima of 5 on 5 days. Almost all the birds at Rye Harbour were immature. On May 18th, a single bird was recorded at Chichester G.P. and at Arlington Res. 3 were seen on May 21st.

Once again, a number of immature birds appear to have summered, for in June, about 13 were seen in 5 localities including Chichester Harbour and Rye Harbour. Maxima of 5 were recorded in these two localities.

In July, a single immature bird was seen at Sidlesham Ferry and 3 immatures were recorded in Chichester Harbour.

In August, there were records of 5 birds from 4 localities including Weir Wood Res., where one was seen. In September, about 8 were recorded in 5 localities with records from Arlington Res. and Barcombe Res.

On Oct. 4th and 5th, one was seen off Selsey Bill and on Oct. 30th and 31st, one was recorded at West Wittering. On Nov. 1st, one was seen off Langney Point.

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*L. ridibundus*).—Some large flocks were reported but from some localities, where birds in large numbers have been seen in other years, there were no reports.

In January, a flock of 5,000 was seen at Newhaven and one of 2,000 at Goring-by-Sea. In February, 2,000 were seen on the downs at Southwick.

In November, 2,000 were recorded at Selsey Bill and 1,000 were observed on the downs at Portshead. In December, flocks of 1,000 were seen at Bishopstone and 2,000 at Weir Wood Res.

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

On Jan. 25th, there were 30 E. off Church Norton.

At Beachy Head, a total of 388 E. was recorded in the Spring, with a maximum of 125 E. on May 10th.

On Sept. 20th, there were 38 W. off Langney Point and in November, 38 W. were seen at Selsey Bill on the 8th and off Beachy Head, 140 E. on the 23rd.

212. **BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*).—Was not recorded until May 9th, when single birds were seen at Arlington Res., in the Cuckmere Valley and off Beachy Head.

On May 10th, 3 were seen at Chichester G.P., 5 E. off Selsey Bill and 23 E. off Beachy Head.

Between May 12th and 16th, the numbers recorded were very small but on May 17th, 6 E. were seen off Birling Gap and a few in other localities.

Between May 18th and June 1st, there were numerous records, mainly from the coast, but on most days the numbers were small. The maxima were:—

May 18th	Chichester G.P.	..... 12	May 18th	Rye Harbour LNR	.. 7
May 18th	Beachy Head	..... 15 E.	May 21st	Littlehampton	..... 13 E.

Between June 8th and 12th, up to 7 were seen at Rye Harbour LNR, and from June 11th to July 9th, there were records of a single bird at Chichester G.P., of 2 in Chichester Harbour and of 2 in Pagham Harbour.

Between Aug. 7th and Oct. 6th, there were many records, mainly of small numbers, from coastal and inland localities. The maxima were:—

Aug. 17th	West Wittering	..... 20	Sept. 9th	Pagham Harbour	..... 20
Sept. 1st	Entrance to Chichester Harbour	..... 20	Sept. 20th	Langney Point	..... 16 W.
			Sept. 27th	Pagham Harbour	..... 15

213. **WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN** (*C. leucopterus*).—One at Chichester G.P. from Aug. 24th to 30th (MIWH, RJS, JGT) and one at Pett Level pools on Aug. 29th and 30th (PFB, PJG, DBR). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

215. **GULL-BILLED TERN** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*).—One at Rye Harbour on Aug. 24th (NP). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

217. **COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*).—About 40 pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour but the number of young birds which flew, is not known. At Chichester G.P., 3 juveniles flew, in early July and in August a pair was seen when feeding another young bird.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (*S. hirundo/paradisaea*).—First recorded on Apr. 14th, when 2 were seen at Rye Harbour.

At Beachy Head, was recorded from Apr. 21st and between this date and May 20th, 10,691 E. were counted there. The maxima were:—

May 1st	..... 2155 E.	May 9th	..... 979 E.	May 10th	..... 2990 E.
May 12th	..... 905 E.	May 15th	..... 1021 E.	May 18th	..... 816 E.

Easterly movement was seen off other coastal localities and on May 10th there were 523 E. off Selsey Bill, between 0600 and 0900 hours.

On Aug. 24th, 400 were seen off Ferring and on Aug. 25th, 200 were recorded in Chichester Harbour. At Beachy Head, large numbers were seen on autumn passage. The maxima were:—

Aug. 23rd	..... 160 W.	Aug. 24th	..... 300 W.	Aug. 30th	..... 300 W.
Sept. 1st	..... 200 W.	Sept. 3rd	..... 450 W.	Sept. 4th	..... 238 W.
Sept. 6th	..... 100 W.				

There were many records from other localities in August and September.

On Oct. 4th, 36 W. were recorded off Selsey Bill and on Oct. 11th, one was seen there. On Oct. 14th, 4 E. were recorded off Langney Point.

219. **ROSEATE TERN** (*S. dougallii*).—On May 19th, 2 E. were seen at Beachy Head (JFC). On May 22nd, a single bird was recorded off Selsey Bill and on May 24th, a different bird was seen at Church Norton (MS).

On June 28th, one was seen in Chichester Harbour (MSA).

222. **LITTLE TERN** (*S. albifrons*).—First recorded on Apr. 16th, at Pagham Harbour, when 7 were seen and on Apr. 17th, at Rye Harbour LNR when one was present.

235. **TURTLE DOVE** (*Streptopelia turtur*).—On Apr. 21st, one was recorded at West Chiltington and on Apr. 24th, 2 were seen on the downs near Steyning. In the breeding season, there were records from 12 localities.

On autumn passage, the numbers seen were small, except for 30 near Steyning on Aug. 10th. At Beachy Head, was last recorded on Oct. 19th.

COLLARED DOVE (*S. decacoto*).—Although this species is so numerous, there were very few reports for the breeding season.

In October, in the Beachy Head area, small flocks were seen when associating with large flocks of Wood Pigeons. In the same month, a flock of several hundred birds was recorded at Sidlesham and in the winter, there were records of up to 250 roosting together in the Shoreham-by-Sea area.

237 **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*).—First recorded on Apr. 12th at Westdean and on Apr. 15th at Weir Wood Res.

At Beachy Head, was first heard on May 31d. A maximum of 7 was recorded there on May 16th; 4 of these arrived from the direction of the sea. Was last recorded on Sept. 13th at Beachy Head.

241. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*).—Records were received from at least 65 well distributed localities.

A few pairs are known to have bred and in at least 6 cases birds were killed on the roads.

On Oct. 14th, one, which died within two hours, was found in a garden by the beach at Shoreham-by-Sea. When compared with specimens in the British Museum, it was found to resemble those from Belgium and Northern France. It was darker than a typical British bird but not dark enough for the Dark-breasted race.

246. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*).—There were reports from about 53 localities and breeding was established in six of these.

247. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*).—Was widely reported from at least 67 localities and there was evidence of breeding in 11 of these.

In the coastal towns, several pairs were recorded in Brighton and 6 in Eastbourne.

248. **LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*).—Two pairs bred successfully in areas where breeding had previously been recorded. In two other areas, single birds were seen, in the breeding season.

In one locality where breeding had occurred in the past, roosting birds were seen in the first three months of the year and in November and December.

A single bird was recorded at Alfriston on Oct. 15th.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*A. flammeus*).—Between Jan. 1st and the end of April, at least 47 were recorded in 16 coastal and inland localities.

In May, one was seen in Pagham Harbour until the 6th, one was recorded at Shoreham Airport on the 14th and one in a downland locality on the 23rd and 31st.

Single birds were seen at Arlington Res. on Aug. 12th and 17th and near Rottingdean on Aug. 23rd.

In the last 4 months of the year, about 30 were seen, in 15 localities.

The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
23	35	27	13	3	3	5	10	22	17

Between Apr. 25th and May 19th, there were 295 E. off Beachy Head with maxima of 97 E. on Apr. 28th, 50 E. on May 10th and 69 E. on May 18th.

In the breeding season, 150 were seen in Pagham Harbour on May 24th and at least 130 in June. The number of young which reached the free flying stage in this locality, is not known but at another site, 2 young hatched.

On Aug. 24th, 200 were seen off Ferring. One was recorded in Pagham Harbour on Oct. 10th.

233. **SANDWICH TERN** (*S. sandwichensis*).—First recorded on Mar. 8th, when there were 3 E. and one W. off Selsey. There were no further records until Mar. 22nd when 2 E. were recorded off the same locality.

At Beachy Head, there were at least 3,675 E. on spring passage, with maxima of 796 E. on Apr. 28th and 384 E. on May 10th. At Selsey Bill, 561 E. were counted between Apr. 12th and May 24th. Easterly movement was observed off other localities along the coast.

In the Rye Harbour LNR, there were records for 13 days in June with maxima of 15 on the 7th and 15 on the 22nd.

In August and September, passage on a small scale, mainly in a westerly direction, was noted off several coastal localities.

On Oct. 8th, 2 were seen at Church Norton and one off Selsey Bill. One was recorded at Church Norton on Oct. 11th.

On Dec. 18th, one was seen at Hove Lagoon (JAN).

226. **LITTLE AUK** (*Plautus alle*).—On Feb. 1st, one which had died a short time before, was found at Pagham Harbour (CRJ).

On Nov. 9th, one E. was recorded at Beachy Head (ARK).

227. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*).—On May 4th, 2 were seen off Beachy Head and on May 8th, 10 E. were recorded there.

Between Aug. 2nd and Nov. 18th, there were 7 records of single birds from the coast.

230. **PUFFIN** (*Fratercula arctica*).—On May 4th, one W. was recorded off Selsey Bill (BAEM) and on May 8th, one E. was seen off Beachy Head (JFC, MJR).

AUK SPECIES.—Off Beachy Head, 211 E. were recorded in the Spring, with a maximum of 123 E. on May 10th.

Off Rye Harbour LNR, 20 E. were seen on Nov. 23rd.

232. **STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*).—In January, flocks of 500 were seen on the downs at Seaford and near Amberley. In November, one of 400 was recorded near Firle Beacon.

In the breeding season, was reported from 13 localities including Beachy Head, where some pairs nested in the cliffs.

234. **WOOD PIGEON** (*C. palumbus*).—Movement on a large scale was recorded at Beachy Head. The details are as follows:—

Oct. 19th	1400	Oct. 30th	5000
Oct. 22nd	1500	Oct. 31st	5000 S. & out to sea
Oct. 25th	4000 E.	Nov. 2nd	3000 SE. & out to sea
Oct. 26th	1000	Nov. 4th	2500
Oct. 27th	1000	Nov. 5th	3500
Oct. 29th	15600 E.		

On Oct. 27th, there were 3,900 E. over Southwick and more than 1,500 over Climping.

252. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).—First recorded on May 10th when one was observed on the beach at Church Norton and last seen on Aug. 2nd, at Chichester G.P.

There were breeding season records from about 27 localities and it appears that once again, some suitable sites were not visited by observers. Some occupied sites held more than one pair.

255. **SWIFT** (*Apus apus*).—First recorded on Apr. 26th at Lewes and on Apr. 28th at Beachy Head. On Apr. 29th, was recorded at Chichester G.P., Littlehampton, Pagham Harbour and Pett Level.

On May 11th, arrival on a large scale was observed at Sidlesham and on May 16th, at Beachy Head, 915 arrived from the direction of the sea and flew E. No less than 1,500 were recorded at Arlington Res. on the same day.

In June, there were 300 E. at Beachy Head on the 22nd and 300 were seen at Pagham Harbour on the 28th. Of the latter, 100 flew SE. and out to sea.

Parties of 200 were recorded at Beachy Head, Lewes and Shoreham-by-Sea in July and on Aug. 6th, there were 450 W. in the last mentioned location. There were a number of records for September. On Nov. 2nd, one was recorded at Sidlesham Ferry (MS) and the same or another at Sidlesham on Nov. 3rd (CRJ).

258. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*).—In the breeding season, pairs or single birds were seen in about 19 localities. There was evidence of successful breeding in 6 of these.

There were many records for the months outside the breeding season from inland and coastal localities.

261. **HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*).—Between Apr. 18th and 26th, there were reports of single birds from Angmering, Beachy Head, Hankham and Lewes. On Apr. 22nd, two were seen at Wych Cross and on May 11th, one was seen at Church Norton.

On June 8th, one was observed at Heathfield.

On Sept. 8th, one was seen between Lullington and Alfriston.

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*).—There were reports from about 80 well distributed localities. Some of these were near the coast.

263. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*).—In the breeding season, there were reports from about 35 localities but observers did not apparently visit some, where pairs had bred successfully, in other years.

On Sept. 13th, there was one E. at Selsey Bill and single birds were recorded at Beachy Head on Oct. 20th, 25th and 27th and Nov. 2nd. The bird seen on Oct. 27th appeared to have arrived from the direction of the sea.

264. **LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*D. minor*).—Reports were received for 36 localities compared with 50 localities in the previous year.

265. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*).—On Apr. 19th, one was seen at Long Furlong (DJM).

At Beachy Head, about 9 were recorded between Sept. 1st and Oct. 9th. Elsewhere, two were seen at Pagham Harbour and one at Rye Harbour, in the first week in September.

271. **WOODLARK** (*Lullula arborea*).—One W. at Beachy Head on Apr. 23rd (JFC, DSF, ARK).

One N. at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (JFC, DP, TP) and one at Alfriston on Oct. 27th (PJW).

272. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*).—In January, a flock of 300 was seen near Lewes and another of 800 at Seaford.

In October, a flock of 500 was recorded on the downs at Shoreham-by-Sea and in November, a flock of 300 was observed on the downs near Steyning.

274. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*).—First recorded on Apr. 1st at Fernhurst and on Apr. 2nd at Barcombe Mills. There were no further records until Apr. 9th. During the rest of this month and in May, only small numbers of passage birds were seen in most localities but at Beachy Head, 500 were recorded on May 11th. Of these, 300 arrived from the direction of the sea.

Once again, there were relatively few reports for the summer months but several observers mentioned a decrease in the number of breeding pairs, compared with those of other years.

In August and early September, roosting by large numbers was recorded at Fishbourne, and smaller numbers roosted in other localities in the western part of the County.

On Sept. 20th, very large numbers were seen in coastal areas. Most observers reported that birds flew E. but at Beachy Head where at least 10,000 were seen, some flew S. and others W. Movement on a large scale continued until the end of September and on a reduced scale in October.

Between Nov. 1st and 12th, a few birds were seen in well distributed localities but there were no reports for the rest of the month or for December.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*).—On Feb. 1st, one was seen near Petworth (DWB).

On Apr. 13th, one was recorded near Maresfield, on Apr. 14th, one at Burwash and on Apr. 15th, there were records from 5 localities.

For the rest of April and for early May, the numbers seen were small but on May 11th, 590 were recorded at Beachy Head. Of these 390 arrived from the direction of the sea. On May 17th, large numbers were observed in the Lower Cuckmere Valley and 200 were seen at Arlington Res. In the Rye Harbour LNR, 100 were recorded on May 23rd.

Reports for the breeding season were conflicting but the limited evidence available indicates a decrease in the number of pairs, compared with other years.

At Beachy Head, the numbers seen on the return passage were not as large as those recorded in the autumn of the previous year. The maxima were:—

Sept. 20th	15000	Sept. 23rd	5000
Sept. 21st	5000	Sept. 30th	5000
Sept. 22nd	4000		

On Oct. 14th, 500 were seen at Pagham Lagoon but the numbers recorded for the rest of this month and in early November, were small. Was last recorded on Nov. 16th when one was seen at Beachy Head.

277. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*).—Single birds were seen at Rye Harbour LNR on Mar. 31st and at Chichester G.P. on Apr. 6th.

The numbers recorded on spring passage were small except for 90 at Arundel on Apr. 18th and 60, which arrived from the direction of the sea, at Beachy Head, on May 11th.

In the breeding season, a pair nested in a drainage hole by Chichester Canal and young birds were heard calling there. At Northpoint, Rye, 20 pairs attempted to breed but there were no records of counts at colonies in other localities.

In late August and September, large numbers were seen and there were records of up to 2,000 at Rye Harbour LNR and up to 1,000 at Chichester G.P.

In the first three weeks in October, there were records from 7 localities. In November, single birds were seen at Rye Harbour on the 6th and at Church Norton on the 16th.

278. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*).—One NW. at Beachy Head on May 16th (DSF, ARK).

280. **CARRION CROW** (*Corvus corone corone*).—Between May 3rd and 20th, a total of 26 arrived from the direction of the sea, at Beachy Head.

281. **HOODED CROW** (*Corvus corone cornix*).—On Mar. 25th, one was seen near Falmer and on May 1st, one was recorded at Beachy Head.

Between Oct. 19th and Dec. 21st, one was seen on the downs near Steyning.

282. **ROOK** (*C. frugilegus*).—The fourth and final year of the Society's survey coincided with the National B.T.O. census of rookeries. Coverage was excellent and a total of 18,181 nests was reported from 761 rookeries. A detailed account of the breeding population and distribution for the period 1972-1975 is given on pages 00. Counts of nests for the twenty-one largest rookeries were:—

	Square	Nests	Square	Nests
Hambrook	SU 792071	116	Alciston	TQ 495055
Oakhurst	SZ 843963	143	Jford	TQ 408073
Sennicott	SU 828073	205	Piddington	TQ 432034
Chilgrove	SU 825145	226	Eastdean	TV 556970
Bognor	SU 935002	112	Folkington	TQ 561046
West Chiltington	TQ 089164	129	Hellingly	TQ 579132
Greatham	TQ 035153	146	Hankham	TQ 623057
Sompting	TQ 163063	189	Stone Cross	TQ 613062
Dial Post	TQ 158200	105	Herstmonceux	TQ 656118
Patcham	TQ 299089	106	Sedlescombe	TQ 777186
Edburton	TQ 214114	128		

286. **JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*).—Between late August and early November, there were records, mainly of single birds, from localities where this species is not normally seen and some observers saw birds, which appeared to be on passage.

At Beachy Head, there were records for 26 days between Aug. 26th and Nov. 7th. The maxima were:—

Sept. 27th	23 E.
Oct. 5th	15
Oct. 12th	16
Oct. 22nd	10

292. **MARSH TIT** (*Parus palustris*).—There were records from no more than 9 localities and in most of these, the numbers recorded were very small. All records of this species would be welcome.

293. **WILLOW TIT** (*P. montanus*).—In the breeding season was recorded from at least 18 localities.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*).—Although there were reports of winter parties at both ends of the year, few were recorded in the breeding season.

295. **BEARDED TIT** (*Panurus biarmicus*).—In the early months, at least 11 were seen in 5 well distributed localities.

There were no reports to indicate that breeding was attempted although a single bird was seen, in one locality, on May 31st.

Between July 20th and the end of the year, about 10 were recorded in 3 localities.

299. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).—Between Sept. 21st and Oct. 17th, large numbers were seen at Beachy Head. The maxima were:—

Sept. 21st	100	Sept. 22nd	75	Oct. 2nd	100	Oct. 6th	80
Oct. 7th	120	Oct. 9th	60	Oct. 16th	60	Oct. 17th	50

302. **FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*).—Between early January and the end of March, parties of more than 100 were reported from 9 localities.

In the first three weeks in April, there were records from 13 localities. Most flocks were not as large as those seen in the early months but 100 birds were recorded in the Cuckmere Valley on Apr. 10th and a similar number at Lower Beeding on Apr. 13th.

On Apr. 30th, a single bird was seen on the downs near Steyning and on May 19th, one was observed in the Rye Harbour LNR (NP).

On Sept. 7th, one was seen at Beachy Head (RFP) but there were no further records until Oct. 8th when 40 were reported from Mayfield. Between Oct. 9th and 12th, there were reports of about 50 birds, in all, from 8 localities.

At Beachy Head, 230 were recorded on Oct. 18th, 100 on Oct. 27th, 300 on Oct. 30th and 400 on Nov. 2nd.

In November and December, most observers reported small numbers but 450 were seen at Eridge Park, 300 at Amberley and 100 at West Chiltington.

304. **REDWING** (*T. iliacus*).—In the first two months of the year, there were reports from no more than 7 localities. The numbers seen were small, except for 500 at Sutton End on Jan. 12th, 300 at West Chiltington on Feb. 5th and 100 at Crawley on Feb. 23rd.

In March, there were reports of 200 at Horsham, 200 at Sutton End and 300 at West Chiltington. Smaller numbers were seen in 10 other localities.

In April, 200 were recorded at Waldron in the first half of the month and there were other records of about 150 birds in all, from 8 localities. On Apr. 17th, two were seen at Beachy Head and two in the Cuckmere Valley. At Beachy Head, an injured bird, first recorded on Apr. 25th, was still present in early May. A single bird was recorded at Church Norton on Apr. 27th.

On Sept. 20th, one was seen at West Chiltington and one was recorded at Church Norton on Sept. 29th. On Oct. 8th, 12 were recorded at Beachy Head, a similar number at Mundham and others on nocturnal passage were heard at Shoreham-by-Sea. On Oct. 9th, 50 were seen at Littleington and nocturnal passage was recorded at Brighton. On Oct. 10th, there were reports of large numbers at Barcombe and of 100 at Amberley.

On Oct. 18th, 250 were recorded at Beachy Head and 200 were seen there on Oct. 28th. Elsewhere, the numbers in the second half of October were small except for 100 seen near Steyning on the 24th.

In November and December, there were reports from 11 localities and the maximum numbers recorded were as follows:—

Nov. 13th	West Chiltington	250	Nov. 24th	Brighton	70
Nov. 27th	West Chiltington	300	Dec 9th	Amberley	400

307. **RING OUZEL** (*T. torquatus*).—On Mar. 17th, one was seen near Alfriston and between Apr. 12th and May 13th, there were records of a further 11 birds. Five of these were seen at Beachy Head on Apr. 22nd.

On the return passage, the numbers seen were small. Between Sept. 13th and Nov. 11th, there were records from 3 coastal and 3 inland localities. On Oct. 13th, 8 were recorded at Beachy Head.

308. **BLACKBIRD** (*T. merula*).—At Beachy Head, the maxima recorded in the autumn were:—Oct. 10th, 40; Oct. 17th, 45 and Oct. 25th, 50.

311. **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).—First recorded on Mar. 22nd, at Shoreham Harbour and on Mar. 26th, at Beachy Head and Pagham.

On May 11th, 38 were seen at Beachy Head. This was the maximum recorded there in the spring. On the same day, a party of 11, which appeared to be of the race *leucorhoa*, was present at Sidlesham.

On June 1st, one was seen at Selsey Bill and on June 11th, one was observed at Sidlesham Ferry.

In the breeding season, a pair, which appeared to be resident, was recorded in one locality on the coast.

On July 13th, a single bird was seen on the downs near Lewes but there were no further records of return passage until Aug. 5th, when 2 were seen at Pagham. There were many records for August and September with a maximum of 40 at Beachy Head, on Sept. 18th. In October, some were seen and one was present at Shoreham-by-Sea on Nov. 3rd.

317. **STONECHAT** (*Saxicola torquata*).—In January and February, there were reports of at least 73 from 35 localities.

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

Thorney Island	1	Castle Hill, Rottingdean	2
Bracklesham	1	Beddingham	1
Pagham Harbour	1	Bishopstone	1
Selsey Bill	1	Norton Top, Bishopstone	1
Ambersham Common	1	Cuckmere Valley	1
Elbridge	1	Friston Forest	1
Littlehampton Golf Course	1	Beachy Head	20
Long Furlong, Patching	1	Ashdown Forest	3
Cissbury Ring	1	Hornshurst Wood, Rotherfield	1
Lancing Clump	1	Old Lodge Warren, Rotherfield	1
Shoreham-by-Sea	1	Normans Bay	1
Devils Dyke	1	Rye Harbour	1
Mannings Heath	3		
St. Leonards Forest	1		

At Beachy Head, 45 were recorded on Oct. 9th, 50 on Oct. 11th and 32 on Oct. 18th.

In November, there were reports of 66 in 26 localities and in December, of 62 in 28 localities.

318. **WHINCHAT** (*S. rubetra*).—On Apr. 20th, one was recorded at Beachy Head and one in the Rye Harbour LNR. Between this date and the end of the month at least 10 were seen on the coast and in 2 inland localities.

In May, 11 were seen at Beachy Head and 12 at Sidlesham Ferry on the 11th. On May 18th, 30 were recorded at Beachy Head. Passage continued until the end of the month for single birds were seen at Littlehampton on the 28th and Rodmell on the 31st.

On July 11th, one was seen at Ferring but autumn passage, which was particularly well marked, may not have started until early August. In August and September was widely reported from inland and coastal localities. At Beachy Head, 28 were recorded on Aug. 30th and 30 were seen there on Sept. 18th. On Aug. 30th 40 were recorded on the downs near Steyning.

In the first half of October, there were records of from one to six birds, from 9 localities. On Oct. 22nd, one was recorded at Sutton, on Oct. 25th, one near Steyning, on Oct. 27th, one at Hamsey and on Nov. 1st, one at Jevington.

320. **REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).—On Mar. 23rd, one was seen at Chidham but there were no further records until Apr. 17th, when 3 were recorded at Rye Harbour. Between this date and May 18th, there were records of about 38 birds, mainly from the coast. At Beachy Head, 12 were recorded on May 11th. There were breeding season records from Ashdown Forest, Linchmere Common, Mark Cross, Rotherfield and St. Leonard's Forest but the numbers were small.

On the return passage, one was seen at Brighton, as early as July 16th. There were further records for the period between Aug. 10th and Nov. 3rd.

321. **BLACK REDSTART** (*P. ochruros*).—Between Jan. 1st and the end of March, there were records, mainly of single birds from about 17 coastal and 2 inland localities. It is not possible to establish the commencement of spring passage but on Apr. 17th, 7 were seen at Rye Harbour and on Apr. 19th, 7 at Beachy Head. A few other birds, which were apparently on passage, were recorded elsewhere in April and May, mainly on the coast.

In the breeding season, a pair was observed at Brighton and another near Newhaven but no young birds were seen. At Southwick A Power Station, a pair raised one young bird and at least two other birds were seen in the same locality. On May 23rd, a singing male was present at Eastbourne.

On Sept. 28th, one was seen at Amberley and in October, there were numerous records from coastal and inland localities, involving at least 50 birds.

In November, about 10 were recorded in 6 coastal and 3 inland localities. About 5 were recorded in December, of which 4 were on the coast.

322. **NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*).—In the second year of the Society's breeding survey, records were received from 46 tetrads in West Sussex and 26 tetrads in East Sussex; of these 22 in West Sussex and 14 in East Sussex were new to the survey. Only one record was reported east of a line from Tunbridge Wells to Eastbourne.

Selected counts were as follows:—Harting 5, Sutton 5, Lodswoth 8, Balls Cross Kirford 33, West Chiltington 5, Brooks Green 7, Shaves Wood, Woodman-cote 7, Park Wood, Poynings 8, Lullington Heath-Charleston Bottom 8, Abbots Wood-Milton Hide 11, Chiddingfold-East Hoathly 6. Records of a further 61 singing males were received from 44 sites.

So far, the survey has located a minimum of 325 singing males. If dusk to dawn counts could be carried out in late May, a figure in excess of 500 pairs could well be obtained.

324. **BLUETHROAT** (*L. svecica*).—One at Beachy Head on May 18th (many obs.). This bird was of the red-spotted form.

325. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—At Beachy Head, the maxima in the autumn were:—Oct. 16th, 50; Oct. 17th, 50; Oct. 21st, 30 and Oct. 25th, 45.

326. **CETTI'S WARBLER** (*Cettia cetti*).—One at Beachy Head on May 3rd (MEC, RHC) and one at Litlington on Sept. 16th and 19th (PIW).

In West Sussex, a pair bred successfully at a site where this species had not previously been recorded (RSC, DCG *et al.*)
All these records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

327. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*).—First recorded on Apr. 17th, at Beachy Head.

In the breeding season, there were records from 26 localities but some suitable areas were not apparently visited.

At Beachy Head, the numbers seen on return passage were unusually small. Was last recorded there on Sept. 30th.

333. **REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).—First recorded on Apr. 26th, at Church Norton.

In the breeding season, one observer (GCE) estimated that there were at least 470 pairs or singing males in localities west of the A24. This compares with an estimated figure of 408 pairs in the same localities in 1974. The apparent increase is attributed to better coverage of some areas in 1975.

Once again, there were few breeding season records from East Sussex. At Beachy Head, 30 were recorded on Aug. 10th, 40 on Sept. 2nd and 15 on Sept. 6th. Was last recorded there on Oct. 21st.

337. **SEDGE WARBLER** (*A. schoenobaenus*).—First recorded on Apr. 12th at Rye Harbour.

Was widely reported in the breeding season although, as in 1974, the majority of the records were from West Sussex.

At Beachy Head, 30 were seen on Aug. 10th, 20 on Aug. 11th and 15 on Aug. 17th. Was last recorded there on Sept. 28th. On Oct. 6th, one was seen at Church Norton.

338. **AQUATIC WARBLER** (*A. paludicola*).—One at Litlington on Aug. 30th (PIW). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

340. **ICTERINE WARBLER** (*Hippolais icterina*).—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 27th (JFC, DEL, JBW).

343. **BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*).—In localities on or near the coast, about 6 were recorded in January, and in February 3 were seen.

In March, 4 were reported and between Apr. 6th and 9th, 3 were seen in other localities.

At Beachy Head, was recorded from Apr. 19th with a maximum of 20 on May 18th.

There were breeding season records from no more than 6 localities.

At Beachy Head, the maxima on the return passage were:—Sept. 11th, 100; Sept. 13th, 160; Sept. 19th, 150; Sept. 22nd, 200 and Sept. 30th, 120. On Nov. 16th, 3 were recorded there.

In December, single birds were seen at Hassocks and Northiam.

344. **BARRED WARBLER** (*S. nisoria*).—At Beachy Head, single birds were recorded on Aug. 29th (PH, JBW), Sept. 6th (many obs.) and between Sept. 13th and 17th (many obs.).

346. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*S. borin*).—First seen on Apr. 18th, at Beachy Head and on Apr. 19th, at Fernhurst. At Beachy Head, 38 were recorded on May 11th and 35 on May 18th.

In the breeding season, there were reports from about 20 localities.

The maxima recorded on autumn passage at Beachy Head, were as follows:—Aug. 10th, 20; Aug. 15th, 25; Aug. 26th, 25; Aug. 28th, 30 and Sept. 11th, 20. Was last seen there on Nov. 2nd.

347. **WHITETHROAT** (*S. communis*).—Was first recorded at Beachy Head and in the Cuckmere Valley on Apr. 20th.

At Beachy Head, 180 were seen on May 18th and small numbers of passage birds were observed in other localities.

There were breeding season reports from, at least, 27 localities. In some of these, the numbers were small but up to 40 pairs were located, in the Beachy Head area.

At Beachy Head, 50 were seen on Aug. 13th and 24th, 60 on Aug. 25th, 50 on Aug. 27th and 30 on Sept. 6th. Was last recorded there on Oct. 30th, when a single bird was seen.

348. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*S. curruca*).—First recorded on Apr. 21st, at Beachy Head but very few were seen there, on spring passage.

In the breeding season, there were reports of at least 45 occupied territories in 21 localities.

At Beachy Head, the maxima on the return passage were:—Aug. 14th, 60; Aug. 24th, 60; Aug. 25th, 60; Sept. 6th, 80; Sept. 7th, 50; Sept. 17th, 40. Was last recorded there on Oct. 15th.

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER** (*S. undata*).—In the breeding season, there were reports from 4 areas but the total number of pairs is not known.

On Feb. 8th, a single bird was seen at Sidlesham Ferry (ARK) and in November one was observed in a downland locality, from which there have been no other reports in recent years (IRW, JR).

354. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).—On Apr. 2nd, one was seen at Pagham Harbour and on Apr. 6th was recorded at Beachy Head and Chichester G.P. At Beachy Head, 120 were seen on Apr. 18th, 100 on Apr. 19th, 110 on May 11th and 200 on May 18th. Elsewhere, 80 were seen in the Cuckmere Valley on Apr. 17th but in other localities, the number of passage birds was small.

As in 1974, there were a few reports for the breeding season.

The return passage commenced before the end of July for at Beachy Head, 200 were recorded on the 26th, 120 on the 28th and 100 on the 29th. In August 90 were seen there on the 6th, 400 on the 10th, 250 on the 11th and 150 on the 12th. On Sept. 11th, 60 were recorded in this locality.

356. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*P. collybita*).—In January and February, single birds were seen in 9 localities and there were records of two birds in two others. In the first week of March, there were reports of single birds in 7 localities and two were recorded in two others.

It is not possible to discover when passage birds first arrived for relatively few records were received for the latter part of March.

A few breeding season records were received but like some others, this species is not fully recorded.

366. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa striata*).—First recorded on Apr. 27th at Crowlink and on May 2nd at Rye Harbour.

At Beachy Head, was first seen on May 3rd and 50 were recorded there on 18th, 35 on May 19th and 10 on June 1st.

There were breeding season records from 19 localities but this species is obviously not fully recorded. All reports of breeding would be welcome.

There were numerous records of birds on return passage. Single birds were seen at Arlington Res. and Worthing on Oct. 7th, Shoreham-by-Sea on Oct. 11th and Beachy Head on Nov. 5th.

368. **PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hypoleuca*).—In the Spring, 13 were recorded between Apr. 19th and May 31st. Of these, 9 were seen at Beachy Head. One male was seen in an inland nature reserve between May 4th and June 8th but there was no report of breeding.

At Beachy Head, peak numbers on return passage were recorded between Aug. 1st and 15th. In this period, no less than 50 different birds were ringed and observers estimated that 150 were seen between these two dates. Was last recorded there on Oct. 21st.

Elsewhere, at least 70 were seen in 17 localities on or near the coast and there were reports of single birds from 7 inland localities.

370. **RED-BREADED FLYCATCHER** (*F. parva*).—One at Church Norton on Sept. 27th and 28th (many obs.).

373. **MEADOW PIPIT** (*Anthus pratensis*).—Between Mar. 29th and Apr. 5th, arrival from the direction of the sea was observed at Beachy Head, Lancing and Selsey Bill.

At Beachy Head 35 pairs were located in the breeding season and there was evidence of breeding in at least 8 other localities.

At Beachy Head, 2,000 were recorded on Sept. 29th. Of these, 600 flew W. and there were 500 W. on Oct. 1st, 300 W. on Oct. 6th and 100 W. on Oct. 7th.

375. **TAWNY PIPIT** (*A. campestris*).—One at Horse Eye Levels on Apr. 30th (DSF, MJR). At Beachy Head, one on Aug. 27th, one on Aug. 31st and three on Sept. 17th (RHC). These records have been accepted by *Brit. B.*

376. **TREE PIPIT** (*A. trivialis*).—On Apr. 11th, one was recorded at Rye Harbour LNR and on Apr. 16th, one arrived from the direction of the sea at Beachy Head.

In the breeding season, was recorded from 13 well distributed localities but observers did not visit some where breeding had occurred in other years.

Autumn passage appears to have commenced on or about Aug. 17th. The numbers seen were small and was last recorded on Oct. 10th at Beachy Head.

379. **ROCK PIPIT** (*A. spinoletta*).—In the early months there were records from Barcombe Res., Chichester Harbour, Pagham Harbour and Selsey Bill.

In the breeding season, 8 pairs were located on the cliffs in the Beachy Head area and there were records from Cuckmere Haven and Rottingdean

There were post breeding season and winter records from localities along the chalk cliffs, from Chichester Harbour, Climping, Hove, Pagham Harbour and Shoreham Harbour.

On the return passage, the peak numbers at Beachy Head were as follows:—Sept. 19th, 70; Sept. 22nd, 80; Sept. 29th, 80; Sept. 30th, 240; Oct. 4th, 100; Oct. 6th, 60; Oct. 7th, 50.

In November and December, single birds were seen in 6 localities and 2 were recorded at Chichester G.P.

357. **WOOD WARBLER** (*P. sibilatrix*).—At Beachy Head, 3 were recorded on May 11th, one on May 18th and one on May 31st.

In the breeding season, pairs or singing males were recorded in 8 well distributed localities but it appears that this species is not fully reported.

On Aug. 8th, 2 were seen at Beachy Head and on Aug. 24th, one was observed at Rye Harbour. There were no other records of birds on autumn passage.

360. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*P. inornatus*).—One at Thorney Island between Jan. 10th and Apr. 26th (RAC *et al.*). One at Westdean between Mar. 28th and Apr. 20th (GRA, BIS *et al.*).

One at Litlington on Oct. 16th (PJW, VAW) and one at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (many obs.).

361. **PALLAS'S WARBLER** (*P. proregulus*).—One at Beachy Head on Nov. 2nd (JFC, DAP, TWP). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.*

364. **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*).—There were very few records for January, February and December and in the breeding season there were reports from no more than 5 localities. This number of reports cannot indicate the true position and all records for the breeding season and winter months will be welcome.

On Mar. 22nd, 35 were seen at Beachy Head and 40 were recorded there on Apr. 12th. Between Mar. 15th and Apr. 20th, there were reports of passage birds in 6 other coastal localities. At Rye Harbour, 70 were recorded on Apr. 17th.

At Beachy Head, unprecedented numbers were seen in the autumn. The maxima were:—

Sept. 28th	100	Oct. 9th	80	Oct. 25th	300
Sept. 29th	170	Oct. 14th	250	Oct. 27th	260
Sept. 30th	100	Oct. 16th	180	Oct. 28th	120
Oct. 2nd	100				

Between Oct. 7th and Nov. 10th, there were reports of other passage birds from Lewes, Pagham Harbour, Rye Harbour and Southwick.

365. **FIRECREST** (*R. ignicapillus*).—In January and February, there were records of single birds in 4 localities and of two birds in 3 other localities.

Between Mar. 1st and May 4th, about 50 were seen at Beachy Head with maxima of 4 on Apr. 1st and 4 on Apr. 27th. Elsewhere, at least 20 in all, were seen in March, in 8 coastal and 3 inland localities. In April, at least 18 were recorded in 9 coastal and 2 inland localities. The totals for these two months may have been in excess of the figures given.

Although a single bird was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley on May 4th and one was seen at Brighton on May 12th, there was no evidence of breeding, other than the presence of two birds near Pulborough on Aug. 25th.

Between Sept. 28th and Nov. 16th, about 46 were recorded at Beachy Head with a maximum of 5 on Oct. 22nd. Elsewhere, about 6 were seen in October, 2 in November and 2 in December.

On Feb. 1st, a bird showing the characters of the race *litoralis* was seen at Selsey (DSF, BAEM, RFP) and on March 17th, two were recorded at Arlington Res. (MJR). One was seen there on Mar. 19th (MJR). A single bird showing the characters of the race *spinolletta* was seen at Rye Harbour on Apr. 9th (NP) and another was recorded in Chichester Harbour on Nov. 15th (MSA).

380. PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*).—Roosting by large numbers was recorded at Arundel, Crawley, Cross-in-Hand, Eastbourne, High Hurstwood, Patching, Shoreham-by-Sea and Thakeham. The largest numbers were at Arundel, where 270 roosting birds were seen in January and February and at Thakeham, where 1,000 were observed in glasshouses in the same months. In October, 300 roosted in a reed bed at Fishbourne.

A single bird showing the characters of the race *alba*, was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley in the second half of April and there were records of single birds from this locality in May and early June. A single bird showing the characters of this race was seen in the Midrips/Wick locality on Apr. 19th and there were two records of single birds from other localities in May.

381. GREY WAGTAIL (*M. cinerea*).—In the breeding season, pairs or single birds were recorded in, at least, 52 localities. There was evidence of successful breeding in 9 of these.

Outside the breeding season, there were records from 45 localities including Beachy Head, where 7 were seen on Sept. 13th, 6 on Sept. 17th and 10 on Sept. 21st.

382. YELLOW WAGTAIL (*M. flava*).—On Mar. 22nd, one was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley but there were no further records until Apr. 15th, when one was seen at Worthing. At Beachy Head, was first recorded on Apr. 20th and 29 birds were seen there on spring passage.

In the breeding season, was recorded in 7 localities but observers may not have visited others where breeding was possible.

On Aug. 18th, 100 were seen in the Rye Harbour LNR and there were numerous records from other localities for the rest of this month and for September.

Between Oct. 1st and 15th, there were records of 38 birds from 4 localities. On Oct. 30th, one was seen at Slimfold and on Nov. 1st, one was recorded at Beachy Head.

383. WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*).—Two at Mannings Heath on Feb. 15th (JLB) and one in St. Leonard's Forest on Mar. 8th (RFA). One at Beachy Head on Nov. 16th (PC).

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*).—Between early January and Apr. 20th, single birds were recorded in 12 well distributed localities (many obs.). On Oct. 16th and 19th, one was observed at Beachy Head and on Oct. 25th, one was seen at Pagham Harbour. Between Nov. 2nd, and the end of the year, there were reports of single birds from 6 localities (many obs.).

388. RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*L. collurio*).—On Oct. 5th and 6th, one was seen near Birling Gap (many obs.) and on Oct. 8th one was recorded at Rottingdean (AJC).

One, showing the characters of one of the *eastern red-tailed races*, was seen at Sidlesham Ferry between Mar. 1st and Apr. 20th (PC, JGT *et al*). This record has been accepted by *Brit. B.* with the proviso that it may have been an escape.

389. STARLING (*Sternus vulgaris*).—At Beachy Head, 700 were recorded on Jan. 26th, 3,500 on Feb. 2nd, 400 on Feb. 16th and 600 on Mar. 8th. Elsewhere, 15,000 were seen at Barcombe Mills Res. on Jan. 3rd and 5,000 were recorded at Portslade on Jan. 9th.

There was no more than a single report for the breeding season. This indicated a drastic decline in the breeding population in one locality at Sidlesham.

In August, 2,000 were observed at a roost on the downs near Shoreham-by-Sea. In the same locality, 1,000 were recorded in September and many flocks were seen in November on route to a roosting site.

At Beachy Head, 700 arrived from the direction of the sea on Oct. 26th but the numbers seen there in the autumn were small when compared with the numbers recorded in other years.

391. HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).—On Jan. 1st, 6 were seen at Sheffield Park and on Feb. 2nd, one was recorded at Sedgewick.

In the breeding season, was recorded at Bignor, Litlington, Roundhurst, Slimfold and Sutton.

On Oct. 26th, one was observed at Beachy Head and in December, two were seen at Blackboys and one at Weir Wood Res.

392. GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*).—In January, a flock of 500 was recorded on the downs at Seaford and in February, one of 200 was seen near Cissbury Ring.

In September, a flock of 600 was seen on the downs at Southwick. In October and November, up to 800 were recorded at Rye Harbour and in December, a flock of 250 was observed at Kithurst Hill.

On Oct. 12th, there were 80 E. at Beachy Head.

393. GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*).—There were very few reports for the early months and 50 at Thakeham on Feb. 2nd was the maximum number recorded.

Arrival by at least 100, from the direction of the sea, was recorded at Selsey Bill on Apr. 26th and at Beachy Head, where arrivals had previously been noted, there were 117 W. on May 3rd.

Very few reports were received for the breeding season and it is obvious that this species is not fully recorded.

In September and October, there were reports of flocks of from 100 to 300 from 10 coastal and inland localities.

A few birds were recorded in November and December.

394. SISKIN (*C. spinus*).—Between Jan. 1st and Apr. 28th, when one was seen at Beachy Head, there were reports from 16 localities. The numbers in most of these were small but in January, 40 were seen at Rackham and a similar number in Ashdown Forest. On Mar. 23rd, 100 were recorded in Stanstead Forest.

In the autumn, was first recorded on Sept. 13th, at Beachy Head and on Sept. 28th, 25 were seen there. On Sept. 15th, two were observed at Uckfield.

In the last three months of the year, there were records of flocks of up to 75 birds from 15 localities.

In the early months, there were reports from 3 localities of birds visiting gardens and feeding on nuts. On Nov. 25th, several were seen in a garden at Wych Cross.

395. LINNET (*Acanthis cannabina*).—In early January, a flock of 190 was seen in the downs near Bignor. On Jan. 21st, a flock of 1,000 was recorded in the Cradle Valley at Seaford and on Feb. 3rd, one of 100 was present at Barcombe Mills Res.

In April, there were 25 N. at Selsey Bill on the 11th and 240 arrived from the direction of the sea on the 26th. On May 1st, 20 S. were recorded in this locality.

In October, large numbers were seen and the details are as follows.

Oct. 5th	Beachy Head	150 W.	Oct. 21st	Beachy Head	3000
Oct. 12th	Beachy Head	700 E.	Oct. 23rd	Beachy Head	1000
Oct. 13th	Beachy Head	100 E.	Oct. 27th	Shoreham-by-Sea	250
Oct. 18th	West Wittering	120			

396. TWITE (*A. flavirostris*).—Between Jan. 1st and 4th, 30 were recorded in Chichester Harbour, 25 in Pagham Harbour and 20 at Rye Harbour. There were no further records for the early months.

On Oct. 6th, one was seen at Beachy Head and on Oct. 16th, 3 were observed in the Cuckmere Valley.

In November and December, small numbers were recorded with maxima of 50 at Shoreham-by-Sea and 30 at Rye Harbour LNR.

The approximate monthly totals were:—

Jan.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
75	4	63	75

397. REDPOLL (*A. flammea*).—In the first four months of the year there were reports of small flocks and single birds from 11 localities predominantly in the north of the County.

95 birds were recorded moving northwards at Selsey Bill on Spring passage between Apr. 26th and May 15th.

Breeding season records involving at least 50 and possibly as many as 100 pairs were received from 16 localities with the largest concentration coming from Ashdown Forest and the north-eastern part of the County. This could reflect either a general increase in the breeding status or greater observer coverage.

Autumn passage was first noted at Beachy Head on Sept. 22nd and continued until Nov. 5th with peak numbers of 150 westward on Oct. 7th, 230 on Oct. 8th, 150 on Oct. 9th and 200 on Nov. 4th. Movements of 200 and 170 were reported on Oct. 11th and 12th respectively at Shoreham-by-Sea.

In the early winter months records were recorded from 13 well distributed areas but as at the beginning of the year individual flocks did not exceed 60 birds.

400. SERIN (*Serinus serinus*).—One at Beachy Head on Apr. 19th (RHC) and one there on May 11th (ARK, MJR). One at Cuckmere Haven on Apr. 26th (DSF). These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

404. CROSSBILL (*Loxia curvirostra*).—On June 29th, one was seen near Heathfield and on July 18th, 4 were recorded at Arundel. On Aug. 9th, 2 were observed at Patching and 7 were seen in Friston Forest on Oct. 3rd.

407. CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).—In January, a flock of 200 was seen near Lewes and on Mar. 30th, one of 150 was recorded in the Cuckmere Valley. On Oct. 12th, there were 100 N. at Beachy Head but this was the only record of passage birds from this locality.

In late October and early December, a flock of up to 200 was recorded on the downs near Steyning.

408. BRAMBLING (*F. montifringilla*).—On Jan. 9th, three flocks totalling 1,100 birds, flew N. at Blackboys. A fourth flock of 400 birds alighted in the locality and some were still present on Jan. 20th (GM).

On Jan. 20th, several were seen at Lancing Clump and between this date and Mar. 31st there were records from about 13 localities. In most of these, the numbers were very small but 150 were recorded near Falmer on Feb. 9th, more than 100 at Nutley on Mar. 19th and at least 300 at Isfield on Apr. 19th (DCL).

On Oct. 9th, one was seen at Litlington and at Beachy Head there were records for 9 days between Oct. 12th and Nov. 2nd. The maxima were:—Oct. 18th, 25 N. and Oct. 25th, 30 N. Elsewhere, a single bird was seen at Chichester G.P. in November and December. In addition, 2 were recorded at Sidlesham and one at Saltdean.

409. YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—In January, a flock of 70 was seen at Beachy Head, one of 300 at Seaford and another of up to 400 near Lewes. In the breeding season, about 70 pairs were located in the Beachy Head area.

At the end of October, a flock of 80 was seen near Steyning and in December, 200 were recorded in the same locality. On Dec. 4th, a flock of 80 was observed at Sidlesham.

410. CORN BUNTING (*E. calandra*).—There were breeding season records from at least 21 localities. Most of the birds were on the downs but there were reports from coastal areas in the east and west of the County. Six singing birds were recorded during the summer months from localities by the Chichester-Bognor Road.

In January, a flock of 400 was seen at Seaford and one of 300 on Glynde Levels. In March, 500 were observed at a roost at Steyning.

In late August, a flock of 250 was recorded at Shoreham-by-Sea and in November and December, a flock of 200 was seen at Pagham Harbour. In November, a flock of 200 was observed at Rye Harbour and in December, 400 roosting birds were recorded at Steyning.

415. CIRC BUNTING (*E. cirius*).—As in 1975, there were breeding season records from Beachy Head, Cuckmere Valley and Friston Forest. Very small numbers were reported from one locality by Chichester Harbour and from Lancing. All reports for the winter months were for Beachy Head and localities in or adjacent to the Cuckmere Valley.

421. REED BUNTING (*E. schoeniclus*).—In the breeding season, was reported from 8 well distributed localities but this species is obviously not fully recorded. For example, there were very few records from Pagham Harbour.

In the winter months, 30 were seen at Rye Harbour LNR on Nov. 30th but elsewhere, the numbers were small. A few birds visited a bird table at Goring-by-Sea at both ends of the year but there were no other reports of this.

423. SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—In the early months, up to 4 were seen at Camber in January and one at Arlington Res. on Apr. 11th.

On Oct. 18th, one was recorded at West Wittering. On Oct. 23rd, one was observed on the downs near Wilmington and on Oct. 26th, one was seen at Rottingdean.

219. **ROSEATE TERN**.—For 5 at Rye Harbour on May 19th, read 3.
 256. **ALPINE SWIFT**.—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 25th (DSF). This record was accepted by *Brit. B.*
 302. **FIELDFARE**.—One at Littleington on Sept. 14th (PJW).
 375. **TAWNY PIPIT**.—One at Rye Harbour on Sept. 16th and 17th (PFB, CP, NP). This record was accepted by *Brit. B.*
 382. **YELLOW WAGTAIL**.—For one of the race *feldlegg* at Thorney Island on June 23rd, read July 23rd.
 400. **SERIN**.—One at Selsey Bill on May 25th (BAEM). This record was accepted by *Brit. B.*

SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1975

Compiled by P. J. Wilson

The total number of birds ringed in Sussex in 1975 reached a new peak of 24,103 birds of 108 species. It is very gratifying to note that 8 separate totals were received which topped 1,000. In view of the massive increase in ring prices it will be interesting to see if this trend is continued into 1976!

Despite the large total for 1975 there are still ringers who do not submit details of their activities, and of those submitting some only do so after several reminders. I now have a list of over 30 ringers operating in Sussex. To avoid unnecessary wastage of time and postage every year will all ringers please forward their yearly totals and any interesting recoveries, as soon as possible in the New Year, to me at "Downside," North Road, Alfriston, Sussex.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1975

Key to symbols and terms

(Ring numbers are omitted)

	Age	Pullus (nestling or flying)	chick	not yet	ring	Manner of Recovery
1.				v	+	caught or trapped and released with ring
2.					x	shot or killed by man found dead or dying
3.					()	caught or trapped alive and not released, or released but with ring removed
4.					/?	method of recovery unknown
5.						exact year not known
6.						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

In November, there were records from the Crumbles, Eastbourne and from Rye Harbour LNR, where 9 were seen on the 23rd. A similar number was recorded there in December and one was reported from Chichester Harbour on Dec. 20th.

425. **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*).—In the early months, there were records from 11 localities. The majority of the flocks did not exceed 40 birds but one of 100 was seen at Beachy Head and another of this size, on the downs near Brighton. A flock of 150 was recorded at Cissbury Ring.

In the breeding season, there were records from at least 21 well distributed localities but the total number of birds seen was relatively small. Some of the information received indicates that breeding may be restricted by a lack of suitable nesting sites. In one area, nests were built in the nests of the Carrion Crow and Magpie. Next boxes were occupied in at least 3 localities.

On Oct. 12th, there were 300 E. at Beachy Head and on Oct. 19th, 500 were recorded there. Between the last mentioned date and the end of the year, there were records from at least 13 localities. In some of these, large numbers were seen. At Sutton, 400 were recorded and a flock of 450 was observed near Newick. Three observers reported that flocks were feeding on Fat Hen (*Chenopodium album*). This plant is grown in some localities as cover for the Pheasant.

ESCAPES

In addition to the birds listed under the heading "Classified Records" there were several reports of birds of other species which were considered to have escaped from captivity or which had intentionally been released into the wild. Although lack of space precludes mention of these species in the present Report, the details are retained in the files of the Society. Reports of escaped birds and of those released into the wild are always welcomed. When a suitable opportunity occurs the records will be summarised and published in a future Report.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1973 REPORT

38. **BITTERN**.—One at Chichester G.P. on Dec. 7th (DJM).

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1974 REPORT

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**.—One at Darwell Res. on Dec. 6th (JCC, RFP).

94. **GOSHAWK**.—One on the downs near Steyning on Nov. 17th (BFF, FJF, RK).

100. **HEN HARRIER**.—One at Charlestown Bottom on Oct. 26th and one at Windover Hill on Nov. 10th (PJW).

107. **MERLIN**.—One at Windover Hill on Jan. 21st (PJW).

125. **CORNCRAKE**.—Two at Southwater on Oct. 1st (LRC).

133. **LAPWING**.—6,000 at Alfriston on Feb. 16th.

140. **GOLDEN PLOVER**.—For 100 on Glynde Levels on March 16th, read

200. **BLACK TERN**.—For one at Arlington Res. (in table) on May 3rd, read 61 and for 22 there on Aug. 31st, read Weir Wood Res.

BIRDS RINGED IN SUSSEX

Mute Swan		The oldest birds reported were 12 and 15 years
Snipe	2	02.03.74 Chichester G.P. (CRG)
	x	02.11.75 Bredstedt, W. Germany
Common Tern	1	10.07.66 Rye Harbour (BAEM)
	x	25.04.71 Noirmoutier (Vendee), France. (Not reported until 1975)
Wryneck	2	17.08.74 Beachy Head (BHRG)
	v	26.06.75 Fritzar-Homburg (Kassal), Hessen, W. Germany. (Presumably its breeding quarters)
Swallow		One bird was recovered in Belfast and one in Derbyshire
House Martin		There were recoveries from Essex, Cambridgeshire, Hampshire, Lancashire and Northumberland
Redwing	4	29.11.74 Lewes (RJL)
Ring Ouzel	x	25.08.75 Kosula, Tuusniemi, (Kuopis), Finland
	+	17.09.75 Beachy Head (BHRG)
Blackbird	3	17.10.75 Allos (Basses Alpes), France
	x	24.10.74 Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	x	16.04.75 Dronton (Ijsselmeer Polder), Netherlands
	x	24.12.74 Plumpton (RJL)
	x	18.04.75 Hooghalen, Netherlands
	2	30.10.74 Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	x	22.04.75 Oldembryt (Overijssel), Netherlands
	x	08.12.74 Lewes (RJL)
Stonechat	3	7.05.75 Sudlohn (Munster), W. Germany
	x	26.09.75 Beachy Head (BHRG)
Robin	3	26.10.75 Santa Coloma de Queralt (Tarragona), Spain
	x	08.08.71 Beachy Head (BHRG)
Reed Warbler		St. Martin des Pailheres (Var), France
	x	10.02.75 There were recoveries from Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Somerset, Hertfordshire, Lincolnshire and Dorset
Sedge Warbler	3	15.08.73 Filsham (FRG)
	v	18.08.73 Filsham
	+	10.08.74 Torrelavega (Santander), Spain (Not reported until 1975)
	3	28.08.75 Chichester G.P. (CRG)
	x	(23.09.75) Le Havre, France
		There were also recoveries from Sussex, Dorset, Berkshire, Devon and Hampshire
Blackcap	3	07.10.73 Shoreham-by-Sea (JAN)
	v	27.04.75 Schutzen Halberstadt, E. Germany
	2	28.09.74 Beachy Head (BHRG)
	x	29.06.75 Edinburgh (Midlothian). 620 km NNW
Willow Warbler	2	11.09.73 Littleton (PJW)
	/?	7.04.75 Rabat, Morocco
	3	29.08.70 Beachy Head (BHRG)
	x	(04.04.75) Talsint, Haut Atlas, Morocco
	x	17.08.74 Beachy Head (BHRG)
Chiffchaff	+	29.09.75 Oued Laov (Tetuan), Morocco
	2	10.09.74 Chichester G.P. (CRG)
Pied Wagtail	v	06.04.75 Nr. Tottus, Devon. 205km. WSW
	6	30.01.75 Thakeham, Storrington (ABW)
	x	18.07.75 Baigedie, Loch Leven, Kinross. 610km. NNW
Yellow Wagtail	3	17.09.73 Filsham (FRG)
	+	08.04.75 Tinejad, (Ksares Souk), Morocco
Starling	5	20.03.74 Plumpton, nr. Lewes (RJL)
	x	(31.03.75) Waandenburg (Gerderland), Netherlands
	+	10.02.73 Pebsham, Bexhill-on-Sea (FRG)
	+	01.07.75 Reusel (Noord Brabant), Netherlands
	2	23.12.73 Alfriston (PJW)
	/?	30.12.74 Cerise, Alencon (Orne), France
Greenfinch	5	20.01.74 Storrington (ABW)
	x	07.06.74 North Walsham, Norfolk. 240km. NNE

Goldfinch	3j	30.08.75 Shoreham-by-Sea (JAN)
	x	27.10.75 St. Michel de Castelart (Gironde), France
Linnet	4	23.08.73 Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	()	31.07.75 Ondarria (Vizcaya), Spain
Redpoll	4	31.07.75 Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	x	01.12.75 Chaillevette (Charente-Maritime), France
	2	06.10.74 Beachy Head (BHRG)
	x	Wharsted, Ipswich, Suffolk. 150km. NNE
	2	02.07.75 Littleton (PJW)
	x	06.10.75 Mol (Antwerpen), Belgium
House Sparrow	3	24.11.75 Littleton (PJW)
	v	03.08.73 Old Portsmouth, Hampshire. 85km. W
	v	19.01.75

BIRDS RINGED ELSEWHERE AND RECOVERED IN SUSSEX

Black-headed Gull	5	06.06.74 St. Quentin-en-Tourment (Somme), France
	v	03.11.75 Fairlight (FRG)
Swallow		There were 2 birds from Hampshire and 1 from Surrey
Sand Martin		There were controls from Berkshire (4), Hampshire (3), Wiltshire (2), and singles from Eire, Yorks, Salop, Dorset and Surrey
Blackbird	4	01.11.71 Edgerton, Huddersfield, Yorks.
	v	29.04.75 Filsham (FRG). 345km. SE
Reed Warbler	4	07.06.75 Grouville Marsh, Jersey, Channel Islands
	v	27.06.75 Chichester G.P. (CRG)
		(A late date for an adult to be moving)
		There were also controls from Hants. (4), Kent (3), Essex (2), Norfolk (2) and singles from Yorks, Dorset, Herts, Suffolk and Cambs
Sedge Warbler	2	23.08.74 Corsept (Loire Atlantique), France
	v	09.08.75 Filsham (FRG)
		There were also controls from Herts. (3), Hants, Notts, Yorks, and Northumberland
Lesser Whitethroat	3	27.07.75 Ecton, Northampton
Willow Warbler	4	31.08.75 Shoreham-by-Sea (JAN). 160km. SSE
	v	07.05.72 Bamburg, Northumberland
Chiffchaff	2	24.04.75 Shoreham-by-Sea (JAN)
	v	Kiezenamer Duinen (Noord Holland), Netherlands
	v	18.04.75 Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
	4	05.07.75 Sagerton, Carew, Pembrokeshire
	v	20.09.75 Filsham (FRG). 380km. ESE
Goldcrest	3	17.10.73 La Fougere, Sark, Channel Islands
	v	09.10.75 Littleton (PJW)

COASTAL COUNTS OF WADERS AND WILDFOWL IN SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE IN 1975/76

R. F. PORTER

This is the thirteenth year of the Society's Survey of the wader populations of Chichester and Pagham Harbours, and the sixth year of the all embracing Estuaries Enquiry. Six complete counts in the two main harbours were made between October 1975 and March 1976, and a partial count in September 1975. In addition waders were counted along the whole of the Sussex coast in December 1975 and January 1976.

Close co-operation was maintained with our colleagues in the Ornithological Section of the Hampshire Field Club so that all the counts were made on simultaneous dates in neighbouring Langstone and Portsmouth Harbours. We would, once again, like to thank Messrs. D. F. Billett and D. J. Steventon for allowing us to publish counts from these two areas.

The Birds of Estuaries Enquiry sponsored by the RSPB, Wildfowl Trust and BTO and organised by the latter, has provided vital information on the bird populations of these threatened habitats throughout Britain and Western Europe. The Report for 1973/74 (the latest available at the time of going to press) sets down the background information against which we can assess the wader and wildfowl populations in our own county. Table 1 shows the peak winter counts for 1975/76 (between November and February) for selected species in Sussex (whole coast, Pagham and Chichester Harbours), and compares these with the total wintering population in Western Europe as revealed by the Enquiry.

The International Waterfowl Research Bureau has defined an estuary or any wetland as being of international importance if it holds

- (1) 1% or more of the West European wintering population of any species of wader, duck or goose.
- (2) 10,000 ducks
- (3) 20,000 waders.

Though it may be unwise to compare species counts of one season's duration with those of the West European population, a comparison of this nature does reveal the importance of our Sussex harbours and coastline. In 1975/76 they were internationally important for the reasons indicated below:

Chichester:- Shelduck, Dark-bellied Brent Goose, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Black-tailed Godwit, Dunlin and Sanderling, all of which exceeded 1% of the West European population. In addition it held over 20,000 waders.

Pagham:- Grey Plover, which exceeded 1% of the West European population.

The following species almost assumed international status in the two harbours:

Chichester:- Teal, Curlew, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank.
Pagham:- Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Ringed Plover.

Collectively the whole Sussex coast (including the Estuaries) were important for all the above mentioned species, but in particular:

Grey Plover	(7.25%)
Ringed Plover	(3.8%)
Sanderling	(3.9%)
Dunlin	(2.2%)

Numbers in parenthesis are the percentage occurring of the West European wintering populations.

The results of the 1975/76 Surveys are set out in tables 2, 3, 4 and 5. Table 2 shows the wildfowl counts in the West Sussex/East Hampshire Harbours; Table 3 the waders in these two harbours, and Table 4 gives the results of a count in Chichester Harbour in September. In addition the two counts of waders made along the whole coastline are given in Table 5.

Whilst the tables speak for themselves, it seems worth commenting on the excellent Teal numbers which were nearly twice normal level, the January Grey Plover count in Chichester Harbour which is the highest ever recorded there, and the exceptional numbers of Ruff in February and March. There was one slightly worrying aspect, and that was the continual decline throughout the season of roosting Dunlin in Chichester Harbour. This may have been due to disturbance or birds roosting on new sites which were not located—but whatever the reasons the situation will be watched closely next year.

Brent Geese

Dark-bellied Brent Geese have steadily increased in numbers in Chichester and Pagham Harbours in recent years. Together with Langstone and Portsmouth, this complex now holds a winter population of over 13,000. Twenty-five years ago it was a noteworthy occasion to see a flock of Brent in Sussex.

Brent Geese arrived in Chichester (and Langstone) Harbour much earlier than in previous winters, with a count of 5,122 on the 22nd November, 1975; the previous highest November count being 2,200 on the 25th November, 1972, but usually less than 500 are present in this month. A peak of 6,345 was reached on the 17th January, 1976. This represents approximately 6% of the world population, which has been steadily increasing in recent years. It is the second highest peak winter count in Chichester Harbour, the previous highest being 7,390 in February 1974.

It is also worth commenting that though there was fluctuation in the number occurring in each of the four harbours, the overall population between mid-November and February remained reasonably constant between 11,400 and 13,800. A single Red-breasted Goose was with them for much of this period.

The majority of birds were juveniles, and this indicates that the species had a good breeding season on its high arctic nesting grounds. Age counts of over 1,500 birds made by Mrs. J. H. M. Edom, B. A. E. Marr, I. R. Willis and R. F. P. indicated that between 62-69% were in their first year, which is the highest juvenile percentage observed in the Harbour. Because the channels are comparatively narrow it is unlikely there was any bias due to juveniles being closer in (and therefore more easily distinguished) and adults further out. Mortality during the winter was low, and only 5 reports were received of Brent Geese found dead in Chichester Harbour; 4, probably all 5, were juveniles.

There is one worrying aspect of this dramatic increase in Brent Geese, and that is their movement away from the intertidal mud, where observations have shown that they feed largely on green algae (or the grass *Puccinellia maritima* on the edge of the salt marsh), onto the neighbouring fields. During the winter 75/76 geese moved onto grass meadows in November, and by February over 25% were feeding on the fields—almost all on grass. Table 6 gives full details. No complaints were received from farmers, but there were rumours of concern over geese grazing off the early bite of grass and thus reducing its availability for cattle. The Society will be watching developments closely next winter.

Acknowledgements

Those responsible for undertaking these wader and wildfowl counts are acknowledged on page 8. I would, however, like to pay particular thanks to A. J. Prater and Michael Shrubbs for commenting upon the first draft of this paper and the latter for organising the counts in Sussex until 1974/75, when I took over.

References

Sussex Bird Reports to 1974.
 A. J. Prater, Birds of Estuaries Enquiry 1973-74.

TABLE 1 The West European wintering population of commoner wildfowl and waders in Sussex with details of their winter status in Chichester and Pagham Harbours and the whole Sussex Coast.

	West European wintering population		Peak winter counts in Sussex localities 1975/6 and % compared to W. European wintering population.		
	Pagham Harbour	Chichester Harbour	%	Whole Sussex Coast	%
Mallard	100000	170	.02	281	.03
Teal	150000	199	.13	1075	.7
Wigeon	400000	49	.01	467	.12
Pintail	50000	100	.2	146	.29
Shelduck	1250000	600	.48	2540	2.03
Brent Goose (dark-bellied)	110000	1030	.94	6345	5.77
Oystercatcher	560000	170	.03	1126	.2
Ringed Plover	20000	140	.7	363	1.8
Grey Plover	50000	302	1.00	1799	6.00
Turnstone	?	206	?	140	548
Curllew	150000	311	.2	976	.65
Black-t-Godwit	40000	61	.15	412	1.00
Bar-t-Godwit	90000	16	.02	737	.82
Redshank	1250000	300	.24	1039	.83
Knot	600000	4300	—	20927	1.7
Dunlin	1200000	—	—	170	587
Sanderling	150000	—	—	—	1.13

- Notes: 1. N.C. = No count.
 2. The West European population of Dark-bellied Brent Goose fluctuates annually and the figure given is that for 1975/76.
 3. The West European population of Ringed Plover is provisional because of the numbers that occur on beaches and therefore are massed by the international counts. It is for this reason that it has not been possible to arrive at a figure for Turnstone.
 4. The Sanderling wintering total for West Europe is based on provisional 1975/76 information (per A. J. Prater).
 5. All other West European wintering totals are from 1973-74 report of Birds of Estuaries Enquiry.

TABLE 2. WILDFOWL TOTALS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS IN 1975/76

	October 18th		November 22nd		December 20th						
	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.					
Gr. Crested Grebe...	22	13	3	36	9	24	1	13	42	27	1
Slavonian Grebe...	1	17		27		25		42			36
Black-necked Grebe	12	52	11	28	101	21	2	21	84	16	
Little Grebe		43	59	1	34	32	5	2	43	24	5
Cormorant	65	198	38	37	281	30	4	10	217	30	27
Mallard	200	657	302	450	655	400	15	210	972	425	4
Teal	33	11	1507	21	149	1820	300	49	405	316	230
Wigeon	31	41	7	100	3	7	7	90	72	41	6
Pintail	3		6	4				8	73	2	
Shoveler											
Scaup	15			7	25			46	16		5
Tufted Duck				17	6	85	11	30	134	120	21
Pochard			4								
Goldeneye				11	5			67	9	1	
Long-tailed Duck											
Eider	10			1	9	17		3	23	47	
Red-b. Merganser...	220	790	140	300	1362	285	7	410	1853	926	11
Shelduck	55	215	234	400	5122	6478	425	690	5800	5692	1640
Brent Goose				40	6	1		1			5
Canada Goose	4	54	12	3	47	10	32	3	57		34
Red-breasted Goose											
Mute Swan											
Bewick's Swan				591			2	6	910	94	
Coot	2	113	27	10	32	20		6	21	15	
Heron											

TABLE 2. WILDFOWL TOTALS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS IN 1975/76

	January 17th		February 14th		March 20th				
	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.			
Gr. Crested Grebe...	7	23	17	2	16	22	5	15	1
Slavonian Grebe	7				5	2	3		
Black-necked Grebe	21	101	3	40	1	24			
Little Grebe	8	54	31	7	16	35	5	29	69
Cormorant	99	232	40	76	170	188	32	37	86
Mallard	199	1075	467	61	53	999	263	39	55
Teal	467	339	54	4	20	146	62	2	20
Wigeon	3	116	45	4	1	50	13	4	2
Pintail	1	6	48	19					
Shoveler					3				1
Scaup	15	2	14		11	3			26
Tufted Duck	21	94	58	32	17	5	134	12	5
Pochard					1	112	39	26	1
Goldeneye	16	6	1		3	1	4		5
Long-tailed Duck									
Eider	3	20	61	20	4	27	36	6	5
Red-b. Merganser...	370	2443	910	229	600	2540	1416	166	500
Shelduck	1030	6345	4749	337	800	6160	4062	410	2020
Brent Goose									751
Canada Goose									1273
Red-breasted Goose	10	80	31		6	54	3		6
Mute Swan									16
Bewick's Swan									
Coot	6	1158	22	20	8	18	8	30	6
Heron									16

TABLE 3. WADER TOTALS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS IN 1975/76

	October 18th		November 22nd		December 20th							
	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.	Pag. Chi. Lang. Port.						
Oystercatcher	145	913	889	406	151	741	1147	449	114	1126	1213	377
Lapwing	550	1505	334	141	300	1092	882	80	300	347	351	25
Ringed Plover	185	327	390	158	4	115	95	103	99	243	131	144
Grey Plover	235	1239	631	17	112	747	428	137	198	913	657	100
Golden Plover	12	354				945	141			4	184	8
Turnstone	213	63	39	3	161	55	101	30	128	133	35	98
Snipe	40	262	105	7	77	77	110	11	52	41	61	9
Jack Snipe												
Curllew	100	992	996	490	77	730	853	248	126	645	988	260
Whimbrel												
Black-tailed Godwit	50	262	247	493	3	280	324	500	19	318	651	98
Bar-tailed Godwit	6	585	558	640	3	432	737	41	300	715	342	5
Redshank	200	2506	675	640	300	1039	262	41	240	927	170	140
Spotted Redshank	1	4			3	5			14	14	1	
Greenshank					8				5	5	1	
Knot	10	1	339		572	1059	120		1	400	1165	1260
Dunlin	2270	24835	18300	5500	3770	20927	33400	12330	3600	20585	13603	8150
Sanderling												
Ruff	1	34			28				3	43	9	
Avocet												

TABLE 6. To show number and % of total population of Brent Geese feeding on grass/winter wheat in Chichester Harbour, Winter 1975/76.

	1975			1976		
	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March
Total Count	215	5122	5800	6345	6160	3300
Number in fields feeding on grass/winter wheat	—	100	360	959	1723*	386
%	—	2%	6%	15%	28%	12%

* 350 of these feeding on winter wheat; all other birds in fields were feeding on grass.

AN ANALYSIS OF THE SPRING SEA-WATCHES AT BEACHY HEAD, SUSSEX

By J. F. COOPER

Spring sea-watches at Beachy Head have taken place annually since 1960. During the early years, watching was chiefly at weekends and often only for an hour or so but since 1972 far more intensive watching has taken place and accurate timing of these watches has been made.

TABLE 1

Number of hours spent sea-watching at Beachy Head in the years:—

1972	243 hours	1973	259 hours	1974	199 hours	1975	211 hours
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Histograms on selected species have been drawn to illustrate the peak movement period for these species. These histograms have been split into 6 ten day periods between the 1st April to 30th May and the total number of each species considered for each period between the years 1972 to 1975 inclusive have been divided by the total number of hours spent watching during each period.

Majority of the birds seen passing out to sea during the Spring are moving East and it can be assumed that all the species in this paper are moving East unless otherwise stated. Several of the species considered are not in the true sense sea-birds but have been included as good numbers are seen moving. No discussion has been attempted of the arrival of passerine type birds and a number of other species have been omitted as they are only recorded in very small numbers.

DIVERS

A large percentage of Divers seen are not specifically identified and are listed under Diver Species.

BLACK THROATED DIVER (*Gavia arctica*)

Not specifically identified in the early years but it is now identified annually in small numbers and has been seen in the four Spring months of March to June. Since 1971, a total of 285 have been identified of which 131 were seen during the period 21st April to 30th April and 114 between the 1st to 10th May.

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*Gavia immer*)

Since 1960, eleven Great Northern Divers have been identified and since 1971 it has been recorded annually. It's been seen between the 10th March to 28th May with six of these being seen in the month of May. This species is probably not as scarce as these records suggest as virtually every year a number of probabilities are seen.

RED THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*)

This species has been recorded annually up to the 8th June. During the years 1971 to 1975 inclusive, a total of 147 Red Throated Divers were positively identified. 54 of these were seen during the period 21st April to 30th April and 62 between the 1st to 10th May.

DIVER SPECIES (*Gavia sp.*)

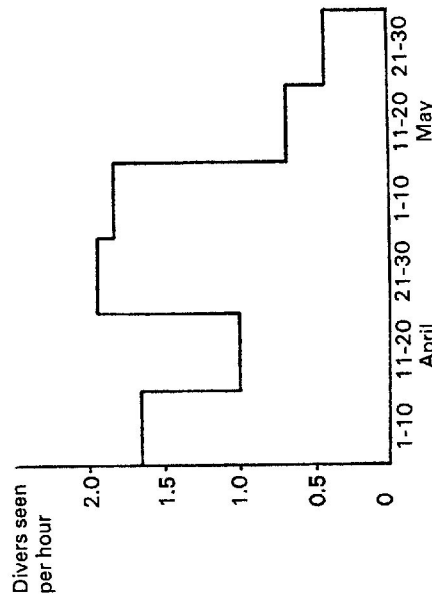
Divers have a prolonged passage with reasonable movements recorded in all months from January to May. Very little sea-watching is performed during the months of January to March and therefore the majority of these early movements are missed. Even so a number of these have been seen and the following are examples of some of these early movements.

31st January, 1965	69 Divers moved East
February, 1965	45 Divers moved East on two different dates
28th March, 1968	100 Divers moved East

Virtually all the Divers that have been identified during January to March have been Red Throated Divers.

April and May have produced the bulk of the records due to the more consistent watching at this time of the year. During the Springs 1972 to 1975 inclusive, a total of 1,245 Divers have been recorded and this averages to 311 divers per Spring. This total would of course be increased if more serious watching was performed during the early months of the year.

TABLE 2
Numbers of Divers seen moving per hour during 6 ten-day periods:—



This histogram clearly shows that the diver passage is a prolonged movement with virtually no defined peak period.

SLAVONIAN GREBE (*Podiceps auritus*)

This species of Grebe is the only one recorded on the Spring sea-watches with any regularity although other Grebes are occasionally seen. Even so, the Slavonian Grebe is seldom recorded on more than a few occasions each Spring with the exception being in 1971. Between the years 1960 to 1965 none were recorded but it has been seen annually since 1968. Excluding 1971, a total of 48 were recorded in the seven years.

In 1971, an exceptional passage occurred when 64 were seen between the 7th March to 6th May with the largest flock of 17 present on the 13th April.

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*)

Only recorded on three occasions during the 1960's and all in April and referred to 4 birds. Since 1971, it has been seen annually with four records in 1972 with as many as 84 being seen on the 28th May. Our best year was in 1975 with seven sightings between the 28th April to 15th May. The 8th and 9th May produced the maximum numbers with 64 being seen on the 8th while on the evening of the 9th a total of 126 were seen including a flock of 80.

More intensive sea-watching in recent years is partly the reason for the increase in records although it would be surprising if there was an annual movement of Manx Shearwaters past the Head when one considers its breeding range. These large movements probably occur in certain weather conditions which encourages them to move further East up the Channel than normal.

GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

The Gannet is a regular feature of the Spring sea-watches although it is chiefly only recorded in small numbers with the overall daily maximum occurring on the 24th April, 1971 when 60 were seen.

To give some indication of the numbers seen during a Spring, a total of 1,016 Gannets were recorded during the years between 1971 to 1975 which averages to 203 per year.

The Gannet is recorded on virtually all the sea-watches during the Spring and there is no consistent peak passage period.

SEA DUCKS

There are four species of sea ducks which annually pass the Head in small or reasonable numbers. Their annual numbers fluctuate greatly from year to year and although the time spent watching per year may account for some of this fluctuation in certain years, it is not the chief factor influencing the numbers seen passing. In 1974, a total of 10,557 sea ducks were seen in 199 hours of watching, while in 1975 only 4,327 were seen in 211 hours. In 1975, less than 30% of the 1974 totals were seen and all four species were also down by approximately this same percentage.

TABLE 3
Numbers of sea ducks seen in the years:—

	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Velvet Scoter	42	8	30	7	39	161	91	26
Common Scoter	22102	14561	5930	13446	6429	12122	10161	4174
Eider	97	23	23	54	77	45	26	10
Red-breasted Merganser	477	59	119	572	130	260	279	117

Quinn in the "Beachy Head Bird Report 1960-1970," has suggested that fluctuations of this kind indicates a preference for the sea ducks to follow the continental coast in certain weather conditions and it does seem that this could be the explanation.

VELVET SCOTER (*Melanitta fusca*)

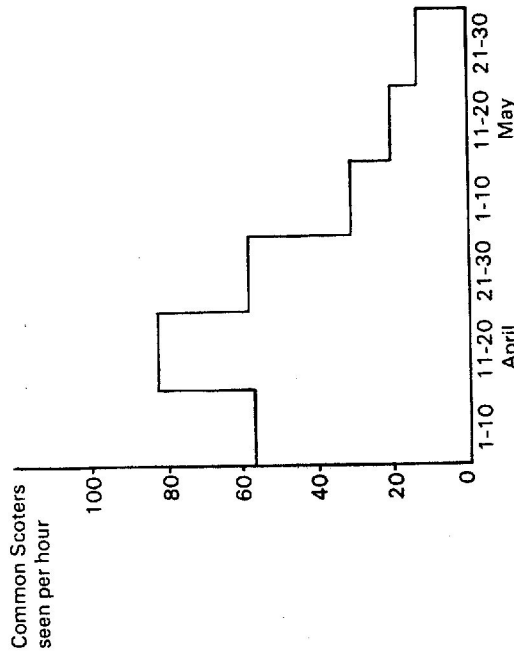
The frequency with which this duck is seen increased in recent years due to more intensive sea-watching but there are yearly fluctuations as already discussed.

The chief period that the Velvet Scoter is seen moving is during mid April but reasonable numbers can pass well into May. Our best year to date occurred in 1973 when a total of 161 were seen with the overall daily maximum also coming in this year with 46 on the 12th April.

COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*)

The Common Scoter is virtually seen on all the Spring sea-watches with the maximum number seen on a day occurring in 1968 and 1969 when 12,000 plus moved on the 7th April, 1968 and 7,100 on the 15th April, 1969.

TABLE 4
Numbers of Common Scoter seen moving per hour during 6 ten-day periods:—



This histogram illustrates that good numbers of Scoter are passing during the first period of April and they reach their peak during the second period. After this, the numbers seen passing decreases in a constant reduction of approximately 50% from one period to the next.

EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*)

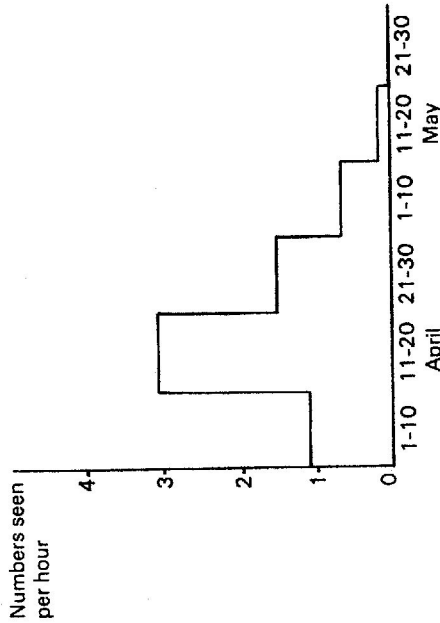
Small numbers of Eider are seen annually with the overall daily maximum occurring on the 17th April, 1968 when a total of 54 were seen. The peak period of movement is usually between mid April to early May although there are a number of March records.

RED-BREADED MERGANSER (*Mergus serrator*)

Reasonable numbers of Mergansers are seen moving and the largest single movement seen was on the 15th April, 1968 when 234 birds moved East. The peak movement period is very similar to the Common Scoter, as shown in Table 5, with the peak period coming in mid April.

TABLE 5

Numbers of Red-breasted Mergansers seen in 6 ten day periods:—



BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*)

In recent years, Brent Geese have been wintering in far larger numbers in West Sussex and Hampshire and this has been the chief factor in the increase in the numbers moving past Beachy Head when they return to their breeding grounds in the Spring.

72% of our sightings come from the month of March and if allowance is made for the lack of sea-watching in this month then this percentage is far higher. The largest single movement occurred on the 16th April, 1968 when a total of 215 birds were seen and our latest date was on the 24th May, 1974. On the 26th March, 1961, a single pale breasted race (*Branta b. hrota*) was identified.

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*)

Although the Whimbrel has been recorded as early as the 6th April they are not usually recorded moving until mid April onwards and this movement extends into May. The peak passage time is at the end of April and largest single movement was on the 19th April, 1969 when 250 birds moved East. During the eight Springs between 1968 to 1975 2,440 Whimbrel were seen and this averages to just over 300 birds per Spring.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*)

Late April is the time for the spectacular sea passage of the Bar-tailed Godwit as Table 7 shows when thousands can be seen passing on a single day. The largest movement occurred on the 27th and 28th April, 1962 when 5,700 Godwits were seen.

Numbers do vary from year to year but this can be accounted for as in some years large movements are missed due to lack of watching. In 1975 for instance, the largest movement was on a day of thick sea-mist and although over 1,000 Godwits were still seen many must have been missed.

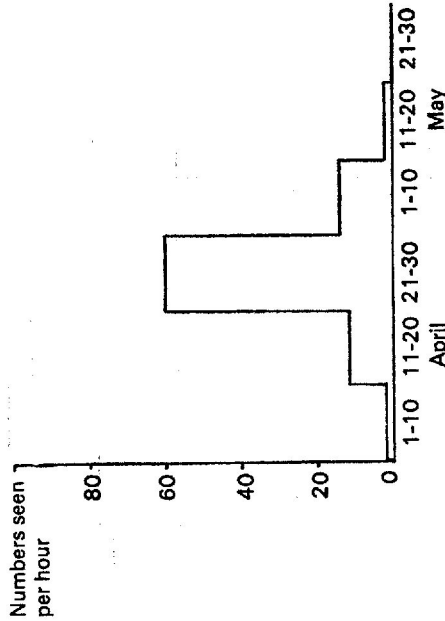
TABLE 6

Numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits seen in the years:—

1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
4310	3279	7485	4125	2639

TABLE 7

Numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits seen in 6 ten-day periods:—



AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*)

This attractive wader has been recorded annually from the Headland since 1967 with the exception of 1969 and 1975. The maximum number seen on any one day is 23 on the 13th April, 1971 but daily numbers are usually below 10.

A grand total of 137 Avocets have been seen on 13 dates between the 24th March and 7th June. Nine of these dates were in May and June and if one considers that the Dutch and Havergate breeding birds have arrived at their breeding sites by mid-April, one must wonder where the birds seen from Beachy Head are moving to.

SKUAS

Three species of Skuas are regularly seen on the Spring sea-watches as shown in Table 8.

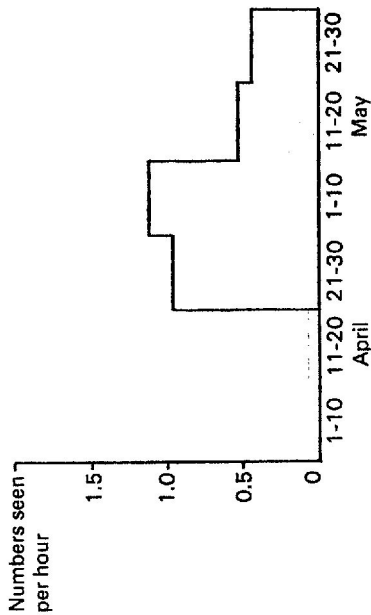
TABLE 8

Numbers of Skuas seen in the years:—

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Arctic Skua	33	22	34	99	61	62	63	238	163	144	161
Great Skua	6	1	—	9	10	13	7	9	19	5	12
Pomarine Skua	15	13	13	2	1	29	86	38	7	45	76

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*)

TABLE 9
Numbers of Arctic Skuas seen in 6 ten-day periods:—



The histogram shows that movement does not commence until the last period in April with the peak coming in early May. The passage continues throughout May with 12% of the birds passing during the last ten days of May.

Many of the Arctic Skuas pass by in ones and twos with the occasional small party numbering up to 6 birds but larger parties than this are never seen. Compare this with Pomarine Skua.

GREAT SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*)

Small numbers of Great Skuas pass annually usually in ones or twos with the majority of the records coming during the period mid to late April although odd birds still pass in May. The Spring passage past Beachy Head is always very small as shown in Table 8 and it is probable that the majority of these Skuas arrive in their Northern breeding grounds direct from the Atlantic and not using the Channel-North Sea route.

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*)

The Spring movement of Pomarine Skuas past Beachy Head was first noticed in May, 1965 and since that year this passage has been recorded annually. The period of movement is usually shorter than that of the other two species of Skuas with early May being the critical period although they have been seen into June.

An article in *British Birds* states that this species of Skua has been recorded moving in all winds with the exception of North West winds although the majority move when the wind is in the South to South East quarter.

Annual fluctuations in numbers seen since 1965 has been considerable as shown in Table 8, but it should be stressed that the Pomarine Skua moves at any time of the day, often when there is virtually no other movement taking place, and it is therefore probable that a number of parties are missed.

The daily maximum seen was on the 5th May, 1971 when a total of 65 were seen including a single flock of 23 birds. As already stated, flocks of Arctic Skuas have never exceeded 6 birds while flocks of Pomarines often exceed this, with a flock of 23 being our largest.

LITTLE GULL (*Larus minutus*)

In the "Beachy Head Bird Report 1960-1970," it was considered that the Little Gull was an unusual passage migrant with just a few birds being seen on the Spring sea-watches and there were no records between 1960-1966.

During the Springs of 1971 and 1972 an increase was noted with 28 Little Gulls being recorded on 10 dates in 1972. 1973 saw another increase when a total of 70 were seen including 31 on the 26th April.

A further increase in 1974 and 1975. In 1974, a total of 211 birds was recorded with the maximum being seen on the 4th May when 148 were recorded. 1975 continued the trend of good numbers when 138 were seen.

The peak passage period of the Little Gull is during the period 25th April to 10th May although there are a few records outside these dates.

In recent years the Little Gull has been seen moving in far greater numbers in the Channel than when observed only a decade ago. It is most unlikely that this movement was missed in the earlier years and it is probably therefore that the Little Gull has increased as a breeding species in the Baltic region and this would account for the dramatic increase in the numbers seen moving East past Beachy Head during the Spring. Most birds seen at this time of the year are adults in full breeding plumage.

KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)

Small numbers of Kittiwakes are seen on virtually all the Spring sea-watches with the peak passage period coming in May.

The passage of 1975 was typical with a total of 388 birds moving East on 32 dates. The daily maximum of 125 occurred on the 10th May. There is also a small Westerly passage seen, for example in 1975, when 36 birds were recorded moving in that direction.

TERNs

TABLE 10

Numbers of Terns seen in the years:—

	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
Black Tern	25	36	29	95	49
Common/Arctic Tern	2620	5413	9316	5411	10691
Little Tern	265	206	356	215	295
Sandwich Tern	2932	3460	4465	3973	3675

BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*)

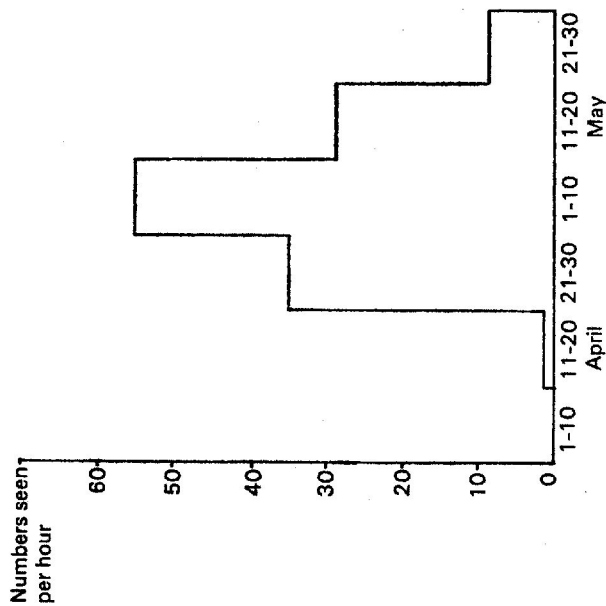
Black Terns are associated with South Easterly winds in early May and therefore the annual numbers tend to fluctuate from one year to the next according to the weather conditions prevailing at this time of the year. All our records are from the period 24th April to 27th May and the daily maximum occurred on the 3rd May, 1974 when 50 were seen.

COMMON/ARTIC TERN (*Sterna hirundo/paradisaea*)

Separation of these two similar species of Tern is not usually possible at Beachy Head and they are therefore considered together.

TABLE 11

Numbers of Common/Arctic Terns seen moving per hour during 6 ten-day periods:—



Virtually no movement of note takes place until the last period of April when good numbers then pass. The peak period of passage is early May although good numbers are still passing in mid-May but they soon fade away after this.

Our earliest Spring date was on the 25th March with our largest single movement on the 1st May, 1965 when 4,189 were seen. The average daily maximum per year is usually in the region of 2,000 birds.

ROSEATE TERN (*Sterna dougalli*)

There has been only seven sightings of the Roseate Tern from Beachy Head during the Springs under review and these occurred between the dates 17th April to 26th May.

It may be argued that the identification of this Tern out to sea is difficult but many of the Common/Arctic Terns do pass reasonably close for this species to be recognised and it is therefore far more likely that the Roseate Tern only very rarely comes as far East as Beachy Head.

LITTLE TERN (*Sterna albifrons*)

The Little Tern is far less plentiful on the Spring sea-watches than the Common/Arctic or Sandwich Terns but if one considers the size of the breeding population of the Little Tern in this Country compared with these other two species then it is of no surprise that it is not as common.

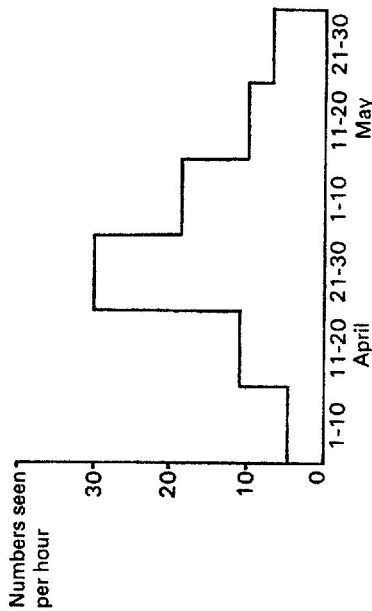
It has been recorded from the 12th April although it is usually recorded from the 20th April onwards. The maximum number seen on a day was 107 on the 30th April, 1973 and the end of April or early May is the peak passage period.

SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*)

This is invariably the first Tern to pass the Head in the Spring and has been recorded from the 24th March.

TABLE 12

Numbers of Sandwich Terns seen moving per hour during 6 ten-day periods:—



The histogram shows that the Sandwich Tern passage is more prolonged than that of the Common/Arctic Tern and also the peak passage period is earlier than that of the Common/Arctic Tern, coming during the last period in April. There is also less of a yearly variance in the numbers of this tern seen per year.

Sandwich Terns are a feature of the Spring sea-watches from early April to late May. Our largest movement seen was on the 18th April, 1968 when a total of 1,086 birds was recorded. Many of these terns pass very close to the shore and they usually move closer than do the Common/Arctic Tern.

AUKS

Three species of Auks have been identified during the Springs, Puffin, Guillemot and Razorbill. The Puffin has only been recorded on three occasions and all in May. The nearest breeding sites of the Puffin are many miles to the west of Beachy Head and it is therefore not too surprising that the Puffin is so scarce as far east as Beachy Head during the Spring. Both the Guillemot and the Razorbill are identified annually although the majority of the Auks seen are not identified specifically and are recorded under Auk species.

TABLE 13

Numbers of Razorbills and Guillemots identified and Auk species seen in the years:—

Razorbill	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	Total
Guillemot	10	28	15	9	3	65
Auk Species	10	1	7	3	12	33
	44	132	83	121	220	600
	64	161	105	133	235	698

During the above years, twice as many Razorbills were identified as Guillemots, and due to the scarcity of Puffins from the Head virtually all the unidentified Auks are either Razorbills or Guillemots.

90% of the Auk passage is during the month of May and the daily maximum was on the 10th May, 1975 when 123 were seen. A small percentage of the Auks seen are moving west.

Conclusion

It has been shown that many thousands of sea-birds pass up the English Channel during each Spring to their northern breeding grounds. In an average year, as many as 30,000 plus birds excluding gulls, may be seen during April and May. From experience, the most important time for observing sea passage is between the hours of 08.00 to 10.00 hours and generally the afternoons are the quietest times but there are exceptions to this rule.

Consistent watching from Selsey Bill, Beachy Head and Dungeness have shown that individual birds or flocks can be seen from all three localities as they move east up Channel. Parties of Pomarine Skuas have been timed moving between Beachy Head and Dungeness and on average it takes them 79 minutes to cover the 56km. separating the two localities.

It should be stressed that the sea-bird passage can be seen from other coastal points other than those localities already mentioned and any suitable site should prove to be rewarding for those who are prepared to watch from one point on a consistent basis.

References

Davenport, D. L. "The Spring passage of Pomarine Skua." *British Birds* 68: 456.
Quinn & Clement "The Beachy Head Bird Report 1960-1970."

THE WOODCOCK IN SUSSEX

A review of recent records

by S. W. M. HUGHES

The distribution and status of the Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* in Sussex prior to 1935 has been described by Walpole-Bond (1938) and Alexander (1945). Since then the only information published has been a brief summary of the position in 1961, provided by des Forges and Harber (1963). This paper describes the present day distribution and status of the species, based on information available for the period 1962-1975.

BREEDING DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

Methods and Definitions

Information Sources. No formal breeding survey has been organised but each year since 1966 the Sussex Ornithological Society has encouraged its members to report all sightings of Woodcock in the County at any season and particularly records of roding birds. Thus much of the information used in the preparation of this paper has come from uncoordinated casual observations. To these have been added the results of my own systematic searches of several areas in the north west of the County and the records of four other observers who during the 1973-1975 breeding seasons have visited areas, mainly in East Sussex, for which little information existed previously.

Where special efforts have been made to improve coverage, priority has been given to tetrads consisting of more than 25% woodland (as shown on the latest ordnance survey map available in 1972) which are described hereafter as *more heavily wooded* areas. Areas having less than 25% woodland are described as *less heavily wooded*.

The records contributed by Sussex bird watchers have been supplemented by a limited amount of information from ten game-keepers in widely scattered parts of the county.

Breeding Season

For the purpose of this study the breeding season has been taken as March to July inclusive, although breeding activities can start in February and sometimes continue into August (Shorten 1974).

Evidence of Breeding

Confirming breeding by finding the eggs or young of this secretive species is extremely difficult and the presence of adults during the breeding season cannot be relied on to indicate breeding, as insufficient is known about movements in spring and summer. It has therefore been necessary to rely mainly on records of roding birds. Although it is known that this activity, in itself, cannot be guaranteed to indicate breeding, nesting females have never been found in an area where roding has not been observed (Shorten 1974).

There is evidence that some birds may start to rode in their winter quarters, before leaving for their breeding grounds (Alexander 1946). Thus records of roding in March have not been used in the preparation of the breeding distribution map.

The term *roding paths* has been adopted to describe the areas over which birds have been seen roding. It is not intended to imply consistency in the route of the actual flight path.

Mapping

The tetrad (a 2 x 2 km. square formed by the even numbered lines of the National Grid) has been used as the most suitable unit to illustrate the breeding distribution.

Duration of Study

The adoption of the tetrad unit for mapping a county the size of Sussex has given rise to coverage difficulties in some areas. Thus it has been necessary to use information acquired over a period of 10 years (1966-1975) to determine the breeding distribution; a longer period than would normally be desirable for this purpose.

RESULTS

Coverage

Despite the lack of a formal survey information has been obtained from all parts of the County. Over most parts the coverage has been good, except in the extreme east where it has been patchy. Table 1 includes details of the number of Sussex tetrads in each 10km. square (column 2) the number from which Woodcock have been reported (columns 4, 7 and 9), and the number containing apparently suitable habitat and where improved coverage may have resulted in the species being located (columns 5 and 8).

Sussex spans 56 10km. squares, or part squares, which contain 1034 tetrads. It has been estimated that 503 of these contain potentially suitable breeding habitat. Of this total 346 have been visited, giving approximately 68% coverage. As has been mentioned previously special efforts have been made to visit the *more heavily wooded* tetrads and when calculated on the basis of these areas alone the coverage achieved has been slightly higher at 69%.

Distribution

The present day breeding distribution is illustrated in Figure 1. Woodcock have been reported from 310 tetrads involving 37 of the 56 10km. squares. As might be expected the distribution resembles closely the distribution of the Sussex forests and major woodlands, although as indicated in Table 1 (column 7), the species also occurs in *less densely wooded* areas.

From the topographic viewpoint the distribution may be said to consist of two blocks. The first comprises the woodlands of the north-west of the County, stretching from the Hampshire and Surrey borders south to the western River Rother and east to the River Arun. Also included in this block are the West Sussex Commons and the forests on the West Sussex Downs. The second block consists of the forest ridges of East Sussex, which project approximately 8 miles into West Sussex, and a large area of the central Weald. Separating these two blocks is an arrow shaped area which stretches southwest from Horsham to Billingshurst and then southeastward to Hurstpierpoint. In this area the species is very local and where it does occur the numbers are low.

In the far east of the County the distribution appears to be more fragmented. This may be only partly due to inadequate observer coverage, as the species has been found to be absent from many of the larger plantations of mature conifers that occur in this area. Elsewhere in the County the species is absent from all the major river valleys and occurs in only one locality south of the Downs, i.e. between Arundel and Patching.

Status

An accurate assessment of the size of the breeding population cannot be attempted because of the limitations of the available roding data and our lack of knowledge concerning the relationship between numbers of roding birds and breeding pairs. The records do however show that in the absence of any major change of habitat, the species occurs in the same areas annually. Furthermore in the larger areas of woodland which support several roding birds there appears to have been very little annual variation in numbers. Thus in the absence of any marked changes in numbers it has been possible to calculate the total number of known roding paths for each 10km. square over the 10 year period. These figures are given in Table 1 (column 10). In the few areas where variations have occurred average figures have been used when compiling Table 1.

It must be emphasised that the totals given for known roding paths almost certainly err on the low side of the true totals, due to the inadequacies of observer coverage, the difficulties of assessing the numbers of roding paths in the larger areas of woodland and a deliberate policy of averaging or under-estimating whenever in doubt.

With the exception of the totals for the squares to the east of TQ 51 and 52, where coverage has certainly been less thorough than that for the remainder of the County, it is felt that the figures given are sufficiently reliable to allow an assessment of comparative roding densities per 10km. square. These are illustrated in Figure 2, all densities being related to the highest total which has been found in SU 91.

Despite the shortcomings of the data, it is considered that the actual numbers of roding paths in each 10km. square (Table 1, column 10), particularly when considered in relation to the coverage achieved, may be of some value in view of the absence of any other numerical data on this species for the County as a whole. Thus the total of 514 roding paths, although almost certainly an underestimate, can serve as a base line for similar investigations in the future.

TABLE 1. Numbers of Sussex tetrads in which Woodcock present, or possibly present in breeding seasons (1966-1976), also cumulative number of known roding paths.

10 km. Square (1)	No. of tetrads per 10 km. sq. (2)	Tetrads more than 25% wooded			Tetrads less than 25% wooded			Total no. of tetrads containing Woodcock (9)	Total no. of known roding paths (10)	
		Woodcock present (4)	Woodcock poss. present* (5)	No. (6)	Woodcock present (7)	Woodcock poss. present* (8)	No. (6)			
										No. (3)
SU72	7	3	1	4	2	3	2	0	3	5
SU71	16	10	4	14	3	0	0	0	6	8
SU70	15	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
SZ79	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SU83	7	5	3	8	0	0	0	0	3	4
SU82	25	16	14	22	2	2	2	2	16	26
SU81	25	13	11	22	2	2	2	2	13	19
SU80	25	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
SZ89	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SU93	9	9	2	11	3	0	0	0	2	6
SU92	25	15	10	25	4	1	1	1	14	27
SU91	25	20	19	39	5	4	4	4	23	61
SU90	25	5	4	9	1	0	0	0	5	7
SZ99	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO03	12	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	4	4
TO02	25	15	5	20	3	1	1	1	8	17
TO01	25	3	3	6	1	1	1	1	9	14
TO00	25	7	6	13	1	1	1	1	7	12
TO13	19	6	2	8	1	0	0	0	3	6
TO12	25	5	2	7	1	0	0	0	3	4
TO11	25	4	2	6	1	0	0	0	3	4
TO10	22	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
TO23	25	16	10	26	3	0	0	0	11	19
TO22	25	11	11	22	0	0	0	0	16	30
TO21	25	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	3	4
TO20	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO33	25	20	17	37	2	2	2	2	20	35
TO32	25	11	9	20	1	1	1	1	18	38
TO31	25	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	7
TO30	22	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO44	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO43	25	13	13	26	0	0	0	0	16	30
TO42	25	12	10	22	2	2	2	2	17	26
TO41	25	4	4	8	1	1	1	1	9	13
TO40	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV49	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO53	25	15	14	29	1	1	1	1	17	21
TO52	25	13	8	21	3	3	3	3	19	28
TO51	25	13	7	20	2	2	2	2	8	8
TV50	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TV59	13	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
TO63	19	15	8	23	1	1	1	1	9	12
TO62	25	15	9	24	4	4	4	4	10	10
TO61	25	12	4	16	6	5	5	5	10	10
TO60	21	10	0	10	4	0	0	0	4	4
TV69	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO73	2	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
TO72	23	13	4	17	9	0	0	0	4	4
TO71	25	16	11	27	10	9	9	9	5	5
TO70	8	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	1
TO82	19	10	1	11	9	7	7	7	2	8
TO81	24	6	2	8	4	4	4	4	2	2
TO80	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO92	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TO91	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR02	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TR01	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	1034	369	230	665	102	80	55	310	514	

*Numbers of tetrads in which better coverage may have shown Woodcock present during the breeding season.

More detailed information has been forthcoming in the last ten years for a number of localities which, for a variety of reasons, have been watched more thoroughly than is usual in the course of normal casual observations. For some, information is available for more than one year. The numbers of roding paths in these localities are given in Table 2 and the density of these paths has been calculated per 100 hectares. Also included in the table are estimates of breeding pairs for a few estates. These have been provided by gamekeepers and utilise breeding information in addition to observations of roding.

It must be emphasised again that the data presented in Table 2 are all derived from estimated totals and areas, and should not be considered as more than a rough estimate of the densities for the localities concerned. Nevertheless the information presented suggests that a density of 2 roding birds per 100 hectares is a typical figure for the *more densely wooded* areas, irrespective of the exact features of the habitat.

In some localities, which seem particularly favoured, the density may be as high as 4, and occasionally even higher in areas having a high percentage of scrub woodland (e.g. 3 pairs in 14 hectares at Wych Cross in 1973). Several of the samples listed in Table 2 comprise large tracts of coniferous plantations and the density in these areas has usually been less than 2 and in such habitats on the chalk in West Sussex it has been even lower, at less than 1 per 100 hectares.

TABLE 2. Densities of Roding Woodcock in Sussex woodlands:—

Locality	10 km. Sq.	Year	Approx. Size of area in hecets.	No. of roding paths	Density per 100 hecets.
Rogate Common	SU72	1967	450	5	1.1
Stansfield Forest	SU71	1973	400	2	0.5
West Dean Woods	SU81	1966	600	5	0.8
Leonfield Estate	SU92	1974	400	10*	2.5
Charlton Forest	SU81-91	1963	800	6	0.75
Charlton Forest	SU81-91	1966	800	5	0.6
Charlton Forest	SU81-91	1972	800	4	0.5
Open Winkins—Red Copse, East Dean	SU91	1966	400	4	1.0
Stein Farm—Oxen Down, East Dean	SU91	1966	300	5	1.7
Lamb Lea—Tegleuze, East Dean	SU91	1967	200	3	1.5
Ambersham Common	SU91	1968	300	6	2.0
Ambersham Common	SU91	1974	300	6	2.0
Lavington and Duncton Commons	SU91	1967	200	4	2.0
Eartham Wood	SU91	1970	400	3	0.75
Houghton Forest	SU91	1973	500	7	1.4
Barlavington—Coates Common	SU91	1973	600	12	2.0
Rewell Wood	SU90	1971	200	5	2.5
Angmering Park	TQ00	1972	500	6	1.2
Angmering Park	TQ00	1975	500	10	2.0
Wiggoaholt Common	TQ01	1971	300	4	1.3
Wiggoaholt Common	TQ01	1972	300	4	1.3
Wiggoaholt Common	TQ01	1973	300	4	1.3
Wiggoaholt Common	TQ01	1975	300	3	1.0
Flexham Park	TQ02	1967	400	6	1.5
The Haven, Billingshurst	TQ02	1967	250	4	1.6
Roman Woods, Rudgwick	TQ13	1975	150	4*	2.6
St. Leonards Forest	TQ23	1970	400	4	1.0
St. Leonards Forest	TQ23	1975	400	6	1.5
Worth Forest	TQ33	1968	200	3	1.5
Balcombe†	TQ32-33	1975	1600	20	1.25
Horsted Keynes	TQ32	1975	100	4	4.0
Chailey	TQ32	1974	70	4*	5.7
Borde Hill, Haywards Heath	TQ32	1974	90	2*	2.2
Plushett Park	TQ41	1974	240	6*	2.5
Ashdown Forest	TQ43-42	1973	300	12	4.0
Broadwater Forest	TQ53	1968	450	9	2.0
Average density =					1.7

* number of breeding pairs estimated by gamekeepers based on roding observations and definite breeding information.
† large sample area consisting of small woodlands interspersed with farmland.

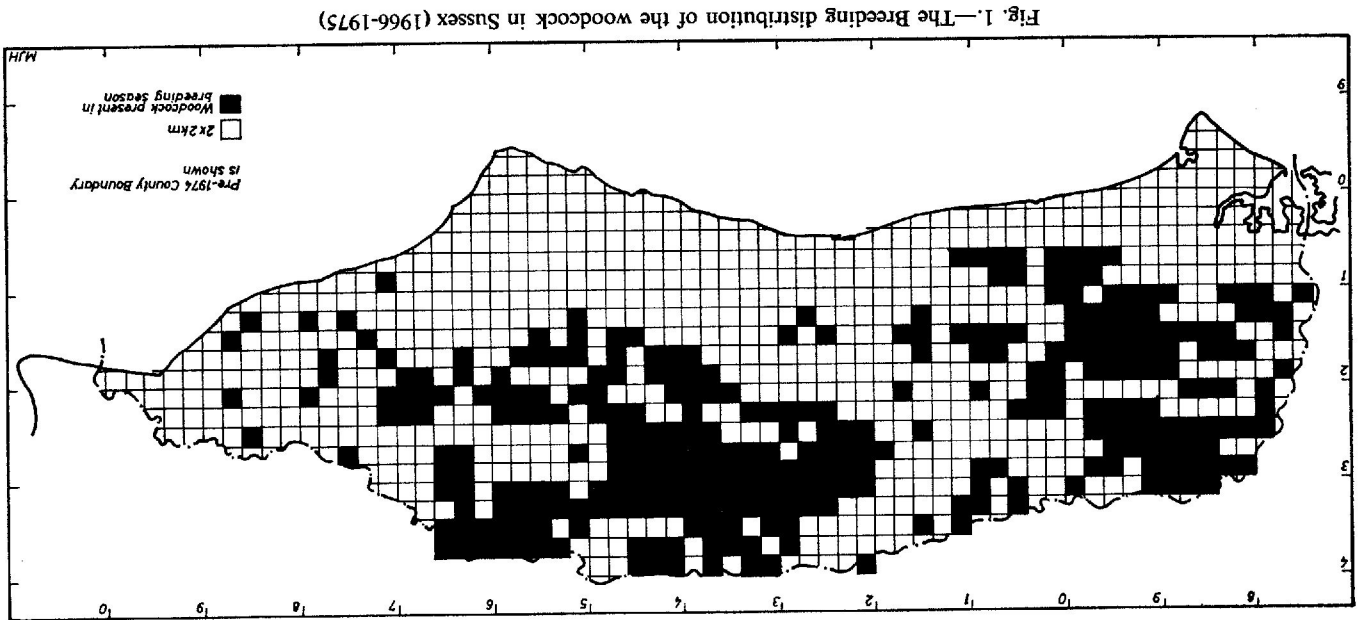


Fig. 1.—The Breeding distribution of the woodcock in Sussex (1966-1975)

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OUTSIDE THE BREEDING SEASON

Methods and Definitions

The summaries presented in this section are based mainly on information abstracted from the Sussex Ornithological Society files for the years 1962-1975 inclusive, which has been analysed on a 10km. square basis. This information has been supplemented by observations made by ten gamekeepers and a small number of land owners. For the purpose of this study the winter months have been defined as November to February inclusive.

RESULTS

Post breeding season records

It can be seen from Figure 3 that roding activity declines rapidly during July and as might be expected the number of records for the species decreases dramatically. Nevertheless, it is still surprising that in 15 years only 16 records have been submitted for the last fortnight of July and the month of August. Of these, 10 have been from known breeding areas and have included two sightings of adults with flying young in the first week of August. The remaining 6 records have been of single birds, and include 3 in the upper Cuckmere Valley and one in the Arun Valley at Pulborough, which suggest post breeding dispersal.

Autumn passage and winter distribution

The general paucity of records continues in September. There are 8 records (11 birds) for the interior but all but one have come from breeding areas. At the coast, there have been records of presumed early migrants at Belle Tout on September 16th, 1972, and at Beachy Head on September 28th, 1975. In October inland records are still few but there have been 9 records (13 birds) at the coast suggesting small movements. Single birds have been seen flying in from the sea both at Beachy Head and Selsey Bill and further evidence of movement during this period is provided by the occasional record for the open downland between Brighton and Shoreham.

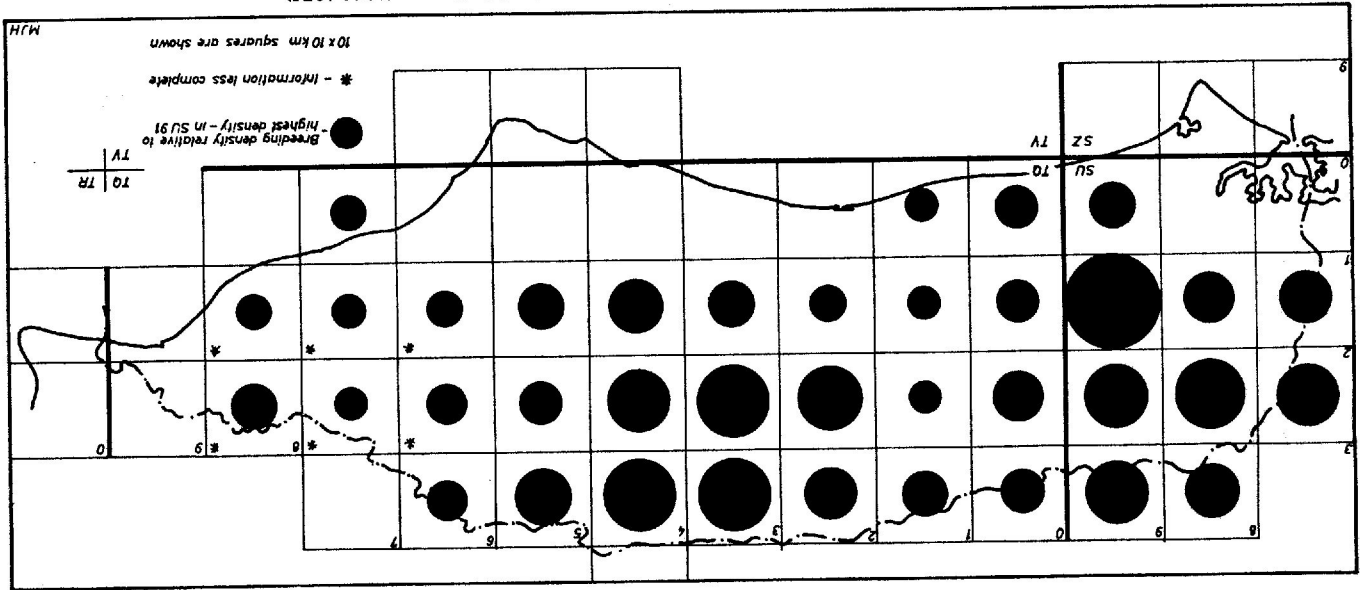
There is considerably more information available for the winter months, (129 records involving 213 birds). Although the information is still sparse compared with that available for the breeding season there have been records for each 10km. square illustrating the widespread distribution of the species during the winter months.

Just under half of the total records have been for birds on or near the coast and of these 45% have been seen in the month of January and are clearly related to severe weather conditions inland. At this time of year the species is sometimes found in built up areas along the coast and there have been records for the urban areas of Hove, Brighton and Eastbourne either in late December or January.

The majority of the records for the coast between Seaford Head and Eastbourne have occurred in November suggesting that this may be the main passage month. A similar pattern cannot be detected in the records for Selsey Bill, but a high proportion of the records for open downland have also occurred in November.

Inland the species is widespread, and a detailed examination of the records, and the more general information received from other sources, shows that it is much more catholic in its choice of habitat during the winter months and occurs in many areas of woodland from which it is absent during the breeding season. There appears to be no part of the interior from which the species is absent during the winter and it occurs regularly in the woodlands on the coastal plain south of the Downs.

Fig. 2.—Relative densities of roding woodcock per 10 km² in Sussex (1966-1975)



Winter Status

At the coast the species is usually seen singly, although there have been occasional records of 2 and 3 birds in relatively small areas. Exceptionally a party of 7 was seen at Sidlesham during a cold spell in January 1962 and during the 1962-1963 Winter approximately 8 remained in the Aldwick-Pagham area for several weeks. More recently 6 were flushed from Glynde Levels in December 1968.

Gamekeepers have confirmed that the species is widespread during the winter months being seen regularly on shoots and it is clear that the Society's records for the interior give a completely false impression of the true numbers present in Sussex woodland at this time of the year. However this is to be expected due to lack of coverage and lack of deliberate disturbance by birdwatchers. A limited amount of information for four areas in the north west of the county suggests that densities of 1 or 2 birds per 100 hectares are quite usual. Furthermore several keepers have reported spontaneously influxes of birds prior to hard weather, for example 14 were flushed from c.150 hectares of woodland at Rudgwick in January 1975 where only two had been seen on a shoot during the previous week. Another interesting record, possibly due to a similar influx, was of 10 feeding on Bignor Hill in February 1972.

Other figures available from single shoots include 11 shot at Pelsham in January 1973; 9 shot at East Hoathly and 18 flushed at Freshfield on single days in January 1975. It is not known if these figures have been reported because they were unusually high, but they should be compared with season average bags of 20 from 1000 acres (c.400 hectares) and 14 from 13,000 acres (c.5060 hectares) for the Leconfield and Duke of Norfolk's estates at Petworth and Arundel respectively. At Borden Hill Estate, Haywards Heath, a season's bag of 12 (1948-1949) from 228 acres (92 hectares) is still considered to have been exceptional.

It should be noted that all the single shoot figures quoted have occurred in the month of January and might therefore be related to hard weather influxes. It is also of interest that the numbers of casual records reported by members from the interior in the month of January has been treble that for any other winter month.

Spring passage

There have been a few records for Beachy Head and the Downs near Brighton which suggest that the return passage starts in February. In March there has been a marked increase in records involving the entire coastline and also the Downs. These records show two small peaks which occur in the first ten and last ten day periods of the month. Passage continues on a smaller scale in April but during the period under review there have been no records suggesting passage in May.

CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

Breeding distribution and status

Walpole-Bond (1938) referred to the Woodcock in Sussex as having a *more or less general distribution* except that it was not known to nest on *real down country*. Although generally distributed he indicated that the detailed distribution was very patchy and the species was found mainly in the forests and larger woods. A few pairs also nested on the heathy roughs in the forest areas.

Alexander (1945), reporting the findings of the 1934-1935 national enquiry conducted on behalf of the British Trust for Ornithology, concluded that the species bred *regularly in considerable numbers* in the Sussex Weald, and to a lesser extent on the chalk areas. Specific reference was made to regular nesting near Petworth, Haywards Heath and Withyham, and occasional nesting near Billingshurst, Forest Row, Isfield, Sedlescombe, Ashburnham, Guestling and Wadhurst. The species was reported to be absent from low lying marshy areas near Pevensey and Rye and low ground in the Adur Valley, also from the upland chalk areas of the Downs and the coastal belt south of the Downs between Brighton and the Hampshire border. The map provided by Alexander also differentiated between the breeding density of the central Weald and two areas of East Sussex, north west of Hailsham and Bexhill-Hastings where the species was described as *breeding frequently or regularly in small numbers*.

Comparison of these early descriptions with the present day distribution (Figure 1) shows that they have many features in common and there can have been few changes in distribution during the last forty years. The most obvious change has been the marked expansion into the downland forestry plantations in West Sussex between the Hampshire border and the River Adur. The present day patchy distribution in the east of the county is in keeping with Alexander's patchy distribution in these areas but there can be little doubt that this has been accentuated in the present day assessment by poor coverage. Alexander did not mention any lesser distribution in the western Weald which might coincide with the present day gap between the two major population blocks. He did however mention *only occasional breeding* near Billingshurst, thus the present day picture may not represent a real change of status in these areas. This point requires more detailed investigation.

Coming to any conclusions concerning changes in breeding numbers is impossible in view of the lack of definite information for any period. Walpole-Bond quoted an observer who in 1871 estimated 150-200 pairs in 12 parishes in East Sussex. Also an Ashburnham keeper is said to have known of 17 nests in one year, and 12 were found in one season at Bayham Abbey. Walpole-Bond did not know of any area in which the species bred in such numbers in the 1930's. Alexander concluded that the species bred freely in the Weald, especially at Balcombe, Worth and Tilgate Forests for which he had two independent estimates of 50-100 pairs per year (2.8-5.6 per 100 hectares). More recently a figure of 31 roding paths has been reported for the Crawley-Handcross area in 1949. Today these areas are still some of the best in County for the species and the present day information suggests that the number of roding paths in the large area mentioned by Alexander is now nearer 45-50 (2.5-2.8 per 100 hectares).

Alexander also mentioned a density of 6 pairs to the square mile (2.3 pairs per 100 hectares) at Fernhurst. This is similar to the best present day estimate of roding paths in this area (see Table 2—Leconfield Estate 2.5 per 100 hectares) which is also one of the best in the County.

Winter distribution and status

It is not known what proportion of the Sussex breeding stock is resident and although the species is also thought of as a winter visitor there is little hard evidence to suggest that large numbers of immigrants are involved. Alexander (1946b) studied the movements and winter distribution of the species in detail and concluded that in many areas, including Sussex, local movements of the breeding stock particularly to moult in early autumn, contributed very largely to the widely held view of a large scale arrival of winter visitors in October and November.

Nevertheless as has been mentioned previously small movements do occur at the coast. Furthermore influxes certainly occur inland but these are invariably associated with severe weather in northern counties. Influxes at the coast are always associated with severe weather in the interior and may well consist largely of resident breeding birds.

Walpole-Bond (1938) did not attempt to describe the distribution of the species during the winter months, but he made it clear that during the autumn-spring period the species was *much more widely diffused*, being found in places where it did not nest. He had never heard of more than 24 being killed on a day shoot and 120 birds in a season on a single estate was regarded as exceptional.

Alexander (1946c) confirmed that the species was *plentiful* in the Sussex Weald during the winter months. He quoted an average season's bag for an estate in the north west of the county as 36 with a best day of 22. In another area of 500 acres (202 hectares) of woodland the annual bags varied between 5 and 15 and a third area of 700 acres (283 hectares) the average was 9 (1928-1934) and the highest annual total 18 (1931-1932). In the south east an estate of 9,000 acres (3,644 hectares) had an average bag of 47 (1836-1934) with a best annual total of 159 (1866-1867); a second area had an average of 4 (1930-1934).

It is clear that there has been no appreciable change in distribution outside the breeding season, although locally there have been variations due to changes in habitat. From the sporting information given by Alexander it is tempting to speculate that there may have been a drop in wintering numbers, however in view of the considerable fluctuations that occur due to weather conditions and the many other factors involved, the data available are totally inadequate for any conclusions to be drawn.

Autumn and spring passage

In Walpole-Bond's opinion autumn passage started in mid-October and continued into mid-winter. This generalisation still holds true today but des Forges and Harber (1963) quote an early passage bird at the Crumbles on September 30th, 1959 and details have already been given of two September records in recent years.

Walpole-Bond considered that in the spring local breeding birds had returned by the third week in March, whereas true passage migrants only started to arrive in the third week of March and this movement continued throughout April into May. Winter visitors were thought to have left by the end of March.

Records in recent years have confirmed that woodland not used for breeding has been vacated by the end of March and as breeding activities have often started several weeks earlier in other areas this supports the notion that the birds seen in non-breeding woodlands are probably winter visitors. Reference has been made previously to two apparent peaks in March numbers at the coast and these might relate to the return movement of local birds followed later by true passage migrants as described by Walpole-Bond.

Quinn and Clement (1972) reviewing the records for Beachy Head for the period 1960-1970 have shown that, although there have been no more than 6 records in any one year, the bulk of the records over the 10 year period have occurred in the months of March and November. These findings cannot be confirmed for the coastline as a whole because the total figures, unlike those for Beachy Head alone, are distorted by hard weather movements to the low lying areas of coastline in December and January. The records for open Downland have however shown small peaks in March and November.

In this context it has also been interesting to examine records kept over the period 1961-1975 for an area of woodland at West Chilington which is not used for breeding (F. W. Dougharty per comm.). Out of a total of 73 records, mainly of single birds, approximately 40% have occurred in November and December, and there has been a definite peak of c.20% in March, equalling the combined totals for January and February. At this locality a bird was found dead on March 9th, 1965, which had been ringed in Sweden in August 1958 and which was presumably a passage, or wintering, bird returning north. This is the only recovery in Sussex of a bird ringed abroad. If foreign birds comprise more than a small proportion of the wintering population, the lack of other recoveries amongst the substantial numbers that must be shot in Sussex during the season is rather surprising.

MISCELLANEOUS BREEDING SEASON OBSERVATIONS

Rodding

The earliest date on which roding has been recorded in Sussex in recent years has been February 6th, 1975, when a bird was seen and heard making both the croak and the *tis-sik* call in an area of woodland north of Haywards Heath (des Forges 1975). The only other fully substantiated early record has been of a bird at Rewell Wood on February 24th. Both of these records were from established breeding areas and it seems likely that more intensive observations in February would almost certainly result in additional early records.

A total of 569 other records received during the period 1966-1975, in which birds have been specifically reported as roding, have been analysed in 10 day periods (two 11 day periods have been used to account for the 31 days in March and May). The results of the analysis are shown in the histogram (Figure 3). It can be seen that there have been several records of roding in early March and the numbers show a peak between mid-May and mid-June, before rapidly declining in July. There have been records of single birds roding at East Dean on July 23rd, 1966, and Old Heathfield on July 24th, 1975, which are late dates for this activity.

The *Handbook* (Witherby *et al.*, 1940) refers to roding taking place in the British Isles from late February to July 20th and mentions two conspicuous peaks of activity corresponding to two broods. Today it is generally accepted that insufficient is known about the purpose or significance of roding to draw firm conclusions or correlations with any particular aspect of breeding activity. The Sussex records do not show an early peak, as might be expected, to coincide with the peak laying period (in late March-early April) described recently by Morgan & Shorten (1974). However this may just reflect a lack of observer activity in Sussex woodland at this time of year. Furthermore the evidence for the species being double brooded in the British Isles is not conclusive (Shorten 1974). If it is normally double brooded the analysis of first egg dates carried out by Morgan & Shorten (1974) would be expected to have shown two definite peak laying periods. The analysis does however confirm the lengthy breeding season, which conforms closely with the documented roding period. In this respect the Sussex records, with observer activity high in late spring and early summer, shows accurately the rapid decline in roding activity which occurs during July.

Unfortunately the Society's files contain only 10 records of nests. Those for which dates are given include one in the last week of March, 3 in the first 10 days of April, one in early May, one in mid-May and one on June 1st. There is a record of a nest at Brede High Wood in July, but the exact date is unknown. An additional, very early, nest is recorded in the literature (des Forges 1975). All

these records conform to the laying dates published by Morgan & Shorten (1974) and show no correlation with the pattern of roding records (Figure 3). The known clutch sizes were 5 of 4 eggs and 2 of 3 eggs.

There are 11 records of young birds but the amount of detail given varies. Chicks have been reported from the end of March (when a brood of 4 was seen at Roman Woods, Rudgwick in three inches of snow on March 31st, 1975), to June 22nd. Adults with flying young have been reported on May 20th, July 8th and 30th, and August 8th. These data although interesting are too few to allow comment except that the July and August records again illustrate the duration of the breeding season of this species and provides additional argument but not proof for the species being double brooded.

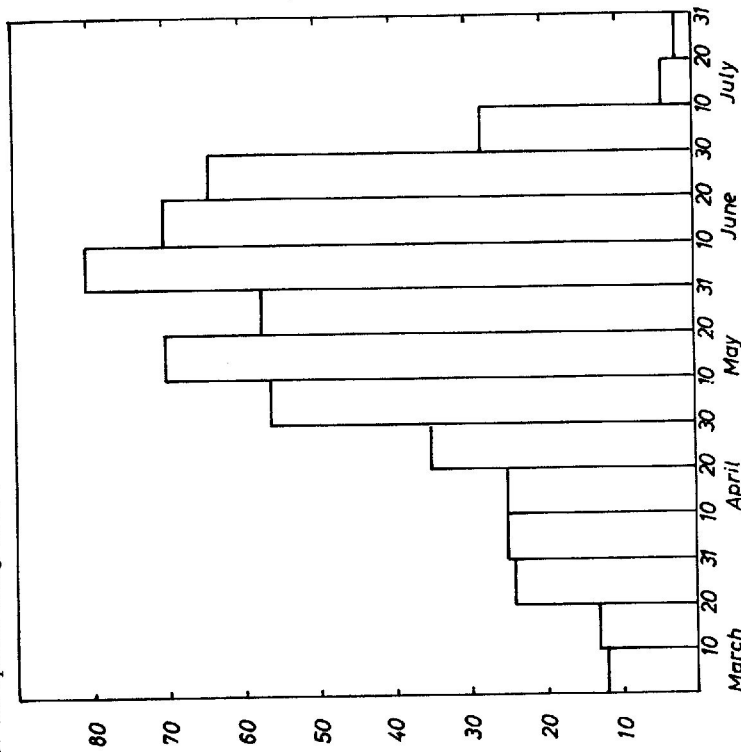


Fig. 3.—Cumulative totals of records of roding woodcock in Sussex (1966-1975)

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I also wish to thank M. Shrubbs and G. des Forges for their valuable criticism of an early draft of this paper, M. J. Helps for drawing the figures and Mrs. A. Simpson for secretarial assistance.

SUMMARY

This review of recent Sussex records has shown that in the breeding season the Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* is widely distributed in the interior of the County and the forestry plantations on the West Sussex Downs west of the River Adur, but absent from the major river valleys and the coastal plain between Brighton and the Hampshire border. A tetrad distribution map has shown that the species is associated mainly with the forests and major woodlands although it does occur occasionally in some of the less wooded district.

The density of roding paths varies throughout the County and this has been illustrated by mapping the number of known paths per 10km. square. More detailed information has been calculated for 28 sample areas, which have produced densities of roding birds ranging from 0.5 to 5.7 (average 1.7) per 100 hectares. The highest densities have been found in mixed woodland, particularly that having a substantial proportion of scrub, whilst the lowest figures have come from large coniferous plantations and particularly those on the Downs.

Outside the breeding season the species is more widespread and has been reported from all parts of the County, including open downland and woodland in the interior which is not frequented during the breeding season. As well as being resident the species is usually thought of as a winter visitor, however the recent evidence for this has been sparse and it seems doubtful that immigrants comprise more than a small proportion of the wintering population.

Recent records have however confirmed some movement at the coast particularly in October-November and again in March-April but the number of birds involved has been small. Influxes of birds into the interior, associated with bad weather in northern counties, have also been documented as have small influxes at the coast, particularly in January, when the weather conditions in the interior of the county have been particularly severe.

The roding data and limited breeding information that have been submitted in recent years have confirmed the prolonged breeding season of the species but have not provided any additional evidence concerning the possibility of the species being double brooded.

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THE 1975 CENSUS OF THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE IN SUSSEX

By S. W. M. HUGHES

During the past century the Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus* has been exposed to a markedly changing environment, both in terms of man's attitude to the species and changes in available habitat. Persecution of the species for its plumage was brought to an end in the early 1900s and this protection resulted in an immediate increase in numbers. The species has also benefited greatly from the many new waters that have been created since the 1930s as a result of gravel, sand and clay extraction.

Today the Great Crested Grebe is threatened, albeit more subtly than in the past, by agricultural and industrial pollutants and the many pressures associated with man's increased recreational activities e.g. fishing, sailing, powerboating, etc. There is therefore a continuing need to monitor the size of the population and to continue to increase our knowledge and understanding of both the species and its environment.

Method

National censuses have been carried out previously in 1931 (Harrison and Hollom, 1932) and 1965 (Prestt and Mills, 1966). The 1975 census, which was organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, was intended to be broadly similar to that conducted in 1965, but for the first time an attempt was made to extend the work to cover as much of Europe as possible. The primary objective was to determine the number of adults bird, and as non breeders are known to move from one water to another, all counts were to be made on a single weekend—May 31st and June 1st, 1975.

The information required for the census was minimal. Observers were asked to complete a simple record card for each water, giving the map reference, the total number of adult birds actually counted, an estimated total allowing for birds thought to be out of sight, a brief description of the type of water and details of its usage. Breeding information was also requested but this was not an essential requirement of the census.

In Sussex arrangements were made for 31 observers to visit, as a first priority, inland waters (or groups of gravel pits) from which the species had been reported at least once, at any time of year, since 1947. Observations were also to be made in Chichester and Pagham harbours. As a second priority observers were encouraged to visit any other waters which might possibly support the species.

Results

Of the 53 waters chosen for priority coverage, 50 were visited on the appointed weekend. In addition there was excellent coverage of both Chichester and Pagham harbours. A total of 130 birds were counted on 26 inland waters and it was estimated that another 7 were sitting on nests, or otherwise hidden from the observers. A further 8 birds were found in the harbours. Details of the counts and the estimated totals are given in Tables 1 and 2.

A more detailed examination of the census returns showed that breeding was either proven or suspected at 22 waters. At Chichester gravel pits there were 18 breeding pairs and the other 21 waters supported 30 breeding pairs. Thus of the estimated total of 145 birds only 96 were breeding.

The three waters not visited were Pitdown Pond (TQ445223), Money Penny G. P.'s (TQ944210) and Barnhouse Pond (TQ212315). It is unlikely that birds were present at the first two sites but a pair may have been missed at Barnhouse Pond in St. Leonard's Forest. Negative reports were received for 30 additional waters listed in Table 3.

Discussion

In the 1965 census 91 birds were counted at 20 waters, and the estimated total was 101, of which 96 were thought to have been breeding.

The 1975 census, following slightly better coverage, has shown a 45% increase in the population of adult birds. The size of the breeding population has however remained steady, and the increase in numbers has been due entirely to non breeding birds, the majority of which were present either at Weir Wood and Arlington reservoirs or in the coastal harbours.

Data on breeding habitats and water usage collected during the census are currently being analysed and will be presented at a later date as part of a more detailed study of the status of the species in Sussex. It is however already clear that the breeding status of this species should be monitored carefully over the next 10 years as environmental pressures increase.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to the following observers who assisted in the census: J. Ashbee, P. C. Bance, Miss R. Bird, J. Bodle, T. P. Dale, P. D. Daughtrey, D. C. S. Davies, A. Dawnay, Mrs. J. H. M. Edom, G. des Forges, C. E. Hope, J. W. Houghton, W. D. Hyde, A. G. Isles, I. S. Isles, R. J. B. Jackson, Miss M. M. Jennings, D. C. Lang, M. P. Le Grys, J. P. MacTear, W. Merritt, A. L. Norman, W. Penfold, Miss C. L. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. A. Simpson, Miss J. Stacey, Miss E. M. Scott, M. Shrubbs, J. Willshire and P. J. Wilson. I also wish to thank Mrs. E. Maltby and Mrs. A. Simpson for secretarial assistance.

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TABLE 1. GREAT CRESTED GREBE CENSUS—COUNTS ON WATERS WHERE SPECIES FOUND IN 1975

Water	Map Ref.	C	E	Water	Map Ref.	C	E
Shillinglee	SU968312	3	5	Ifield	TO245360	2	2
Petworth Park	SU964237	6	6	Horsted Keynes	TO382289	2	2
Lurgashall	SU970220	1	1	Horsted Keynes	TO385292	2	2
Burton Pond	SU935260	4	4	Maresfield	TO463299	1	1
Chingford Pond	SU975175	1	2	Sheffield Park	TO417236	2	2
Chichester G.P.'s	SU970172	1	2	Barcombe Reservoir	TO428142	3	3
Warnham	TO880850	38	38	Barcombe Reservoir	TO566350	2	2
Knepp	TO171325	2	2	Arthington Reservoir	TO535075	6	6
Buchan Hill	TO158216	5	6	Arlington Reservoir	TO715213	1	2
Pond Leigh	TO244345	1	2	Powdermill Reservoir	TO800196	1	2
Fen Places	TO290215	1	2	Rye G.P.s	TO934185	7	7
Weir Wood	TO358368	30	30	Pett Level	TO900150	2	2
Balcombe	TO395348	2	2	Pagham Harbour	SZ270965	4	4
	TQ315311	2	2	Chichester Harbour	SU779031	2	2
				Chichester Harbour	SU745025	2	2

Total number counted (C) = 138
Estimated total (E) = 147

TABLE 2. GREAT CRESTED GREBE CENSUS—WATERS WHERE THE SPECIES IS SOMETIMES PRESENT BUT NONE FOUND IN 1975 CENSUS

Water	Map Ref.	Water	Map Ref.	Water	Map Ref.
Miland	SU831262	Hawkins Pond	TQ216292	Lindfield	TQ384227
Forest Mere	SU820299	Slaughtam	TQ255275	Buckhurst	TQ497347
Betworth	SU982236	Slaughtam	TQ247282	Plashett Park	TQ467165
Parham Park	TQ058145	Newells	TQ209270	Berwick	TQ525076
Swanbourne Lake	TQ017080	Boiney	TQ264223	Bayham	TQ640366
Coolhurst	TQ195292	Crabbett Park	TQ308375	Wadhurst	TQ633280
Tilgate	TQ379245	Rowfant	TQ316376	Powdermill House	TQ742147
Hammer Pond	TQ220290	Cuttinglye	TQ347393	Crumbles G.P.s	TQ636022

TABLE 3. GREAT CRESTED GREBE CENSUS—MISCELLANEOUS WATERS VISITED DURING 1975 CENSUS WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS

Water	Map Ref.	Water	Map Ref.	Water	Map Ref.
Childmere	SU790036	Slaughtam	TQ248285	Sheffield Park	TQ415241
West Harting	SU781219	Tilgate	TQ278340	Sheffield Park	TQ417240
Rake	SU815268	Tilgate	TQ272343	Sheffield Park	TQ420240
Perrinurst	SU878282	Milton Mount	TQ293383	Plashett Park	TQ462165
Chitthurst	SU845238	Roost Hole	TQ205297	Plashett Park	TQ464165
Parchung Pond	TQ088037	Horsted Keynes	TQ383290	Herstmonceux	TQ648105
Parham Park	TQ059139	Horsted Keynes	TQ392295	Ashburnham	TQ685143
Wiston Pond	TQ164126	Horsted Keynes	TQ393296	Ashburnham	TQ693146
Warmingtd	TQ230250	Copthorne	TQ304387	Ashburnham	TQ697149
Buchan Hill	TQ243341	Sheffield Park	TQ415238	Powdermill House	TQ735147