

The
Sussex
Bird Report

1976



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Cover drawing of Sardinian Warbler by Ian Willis

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THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT 1976

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- Programme:* J. Houghton; Miss M. Jennings; R. Page; Mrs. I. Simpson

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1976

Mr. M. Shrubbs, our Vice-President, has decided to retire after being involved with the Society since its inception in 1962. He was a member of the first Council, Secretary of the Scientific Sub-Committee in 1963 and 1964, Recorder from 1965 until 1971, and Vice-President since 1973.

It is difficult to assess the immense influence that he has had on our Society and on birdwatching in general in the County. His great field ability, personal contribution to survey work and records, incisive mind, clear objectives and outspoken convictions have been an integral part of the Society in all its roles. Together with these attributes, his knowledge of all aspects of conservation and his appreciation for detail, both in administration and field work, have insured the high standards that the S. O. S. strives to maintain. Those who have relied heavily on his expertise to carry the banner of Sussex ornithology will, I am sure, wish to join the Council in extending their great thanks for his inestimable contribution to our Society.

Two other stalwarts of Council have also decided to retire this year. Again, dedication and high standards have been the hallmark of their work. Mr. S. Bayliss Smith took on the Editorship of the Bird Report in 1969, and since then has been responsible for this important and time-consuming part of the Society's work. Mr. C. James became a member of Council in 1965 and in 1972 took on the arduous, and often nerve racking job, of Recorder. Since then he has scrupulously monitored the heavy load of records, his many years of ornithological experience in Sussex ensuring the high standards expected in this important post.

Both have been involved with the members of the Records and Surveys Committee in the collection of material for the Sussex Bird Report. The energies of these committees and members who contribute to the Society's records and surveys deserve our thanks. In particular we are grateful to Miss Jean Stacey who undertakes the onerous task of filing all the Society's records.

The Report for 1975 contained details of all classified records received during the previous twelve months, a summary of bird ringing activities in the County and a selected list of recoveries, detailed figures of coastal counts of waders and wildfowl, an analysis of Spring sea-watches at Beachy Head, two papers on the Woodcock in Sussex and the 1975 Census on the Great Crested Grebes.

Some idea of the diversity of the Society's surveys can be gauged from the following examples:-

- (a) The third year of the Nightingale Survey revealed that the population of this species exceeds that in any other county.
- (b) Work was begun on an Ornithological Register of some 175 sites which should provide useful data for planners and conservationists alike.
- (c) The routine work of counting wintering wildfowl and waders, and heronries continued.

- (d) Time was found to conduct special surveys of Harting Down and Iping Common for WSCC and support given to private surveys of redpoll, reed warbler and sedge warbler.

This fact-finding role has been backed up by very real conservation effort, both practically and financially. From time to time work-forces are needed for a variety of projects to improve areas for wildlife. These projects stimulated by our Society or by other conservation groups, are organised and implemented by the Conservation Officer—Mr. A. Simpson. This year these have included the starting of the Pett Level Pool Project. The very hot summer created unforeseen difficulties but these were overcome and the scheme proved successful with waders and terns using the area for feeding and resting mainly during the migration period. Working parties at Pagham cleared the centre of the tern island, thus providing improved nesting areas for little terns, and conservation work was also carried out at Thorney Island and at the Glynde flood scheme area.

The hard work of the volunteers, who were so ably co-ordinated by Mr Simpson, is greatly appreciated, certainly by the Council and, one assumes, by the wildlife that benefits from their work.

The Society also recognizes the importance of landholding for nature reserves, and also the immense cost of acquisition and running of these reserves. So, when surplus funds become available, donations are made to other conservation bodies and conservation projects. This year such donations have included

£300 to the Sussex Trust for Nature Conservation
£170 to the R. S. P. B. Reserves Appeal
£350 for the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve
£200 for the Pagham Harbour Interpretative Centre

As indicated by the above grants, the financial situation for 1976 was satisfactory, although, as anticipated, the surplus of income over expenditure was substantially less than in 1975. Membership showed a small net increase, and income from other sources was higher, but expenditure, particularly on printing, continued to rise. After deducting other items as shown in the accounts there was a surplus of £269 against £665 the previous year. After adding this surplus and transferring £300 to the Conservation Fund the General Fund stood at £1,092.

This transfer to the Conservation Fund, together with income from other sources made possible the grants outlined above. A total of £1,073 was allocated from the Conservation Fund during the year, and the balance of this fund stood at £824 at the end of the year.

The Treasurer, Mr Cooke, who is responsible for the admirable control of our finances reports that although it is difficult to make predictions for 1977, it is hoped to show a small surplus subject, of course, to the level of inflation and other factors outside the Society's control.

The membership of the Society remained between 19-1400 during 1976 and Mr. J. Trowell is to be congratulated on his first year as Membership Secretary and thanked for dealing so efficiently with his duties.

Interesting our membership in the environment is an important part of the Society work and it is also important that this should include a clearly educative element to create an aware membership and one that operates sensibly in the countryside. To this end the Society arranges field trips for beginners and experienced alike. These are organised by Mr. J. Houghton and Council would like to extend their thanks to him and his helpers for the excellent programme of events, and also to thank all those who so ably led the outings throughout the year. These took place in many diverse districts within the County, and outside too, but with emphasis on visiting new venues particularly those inland to give rest to the well worn paths of the South Coast. Several new woodland areas were visited and coach trips made to Stodmarsh in Kent and the London Reservoirs. A small party of members visited Norfolk and Northumberland last Spring which proved a more than adequate substitute for the proposed Dutch trip that unfortunately had to be cancelled. Not only do these trips help to strengthen members' interest in the countryside, but are also of great importance to creating expertise which can be used to advantage in the Society's survey and recording work.

Unfortunately, the indoor aspect of the Society's work has not been well supported by the membership, and the attendance at lectures has decreased. This has been evident over the last few years and therefore this aspect of the Society's activities will receive careful thought during the next year. However, the efforts of Mrs. Simpson and her Committee in arranging talks and allied activities are greatly appreciated and have included subjects ranging from the fascinating Galapagos Islands to the equally interesting topic of wader watching. The work of Mrs. D. Kelly and helpers who provide refreshments at these meetings is also greatly appreciated.

The Society's two fund-raising films again have been varied in their success. The Worthing show—a joint venture with the Wildfowl Trust—was as previously marred by bad weather and very poor attendance. However, the Brighton show, with the R. S. P. B., was well attended and Council would like to thank Mr. H. Wheeler for organising the S. O. S. contribution to this event. Thanks must also go to the Society members who helped with programme selling and who also manned the Society's display, which has been up-dated by Mr. C. Messer.

Up-to-date information on birds, reports of the Society's activities, and members' articles have been this year dealt with by Mr. P. Bonham, the Editor of the Newsletter. This publication is a most important vehicle for keeping members in touch with current activities and the Editor, contributors, and those who provide photographs and illustrations, in particular, Mr. R. Greenhalf, are to be thanked for their efforts.

P. MARTIN

Honorary Secretary

CONTRIBUTORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, 1976

We are grateful to the following observers for records, and we also wish to thank those observers who helped with the Nightingale survey.

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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. I. Kraunsoe has provided a similar summary of the birds at the Paghams Nature Reserve. Both these summaries have been used in preparing the Report and have proved most helpful. We are grateful for this assistance. The number of hours spent sea-watching at Beachy Head during the Spring was as follows: February 3½ hours; March 29½ hours; April 179 hours; May 143½ hours.

BREEDING SURVEY

The nightingale survey organised by W. Merritt was continued.

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 (Wartling), J. McTear (Priesthawas and Westham), A. and I. Simpson (Knepp Lake).

ESTUARY COUNTS

These counts organised by R. F. Porter were continued in Chichester and Pagham Harbours from July 1976 to March 1977, and along the Sussex Coastline in January and February 1977. All records have been sent to the B. T. O. and a full account appears on pages 00-00. We thank all the counters for their efforts. They were as follows:-

At Chichester and Pagham Harbours—Miss H. J. Beck, M. R. Boxhall, K. F. Burn, Miss D. J. Burton, P. Clement, R. D. M. Edgar, Mrs. J. H. M. Edom, D. S. Flumm, Mrs. S. C. Fry, M. J. Hay, C. R. Janman, A. R. Kitson, I. D. Kraunsoe, B. A. E. Mart, Mrs. G. D. Marriott, P. Martin, C. and L. Mayhead, Mrs. A. Moore, D. A. and T. W. Parmenter, Mrs. N. Petrie-Hay, R. F. Porter, J. Reaney, R. J. Senior, R. Tite, C. R. and J. M. Tubbs, R. Williamson.
 Sussex Coastline—F. Banks, R. Batchelor, P. F. Bonham, A. Davis, B. F. Forbes, R. Greenhalf, B. Hadden, T. Hutchinson, R. Knight, J. P. McTear, C. Mead, C. E. Messer, D. Okines, G. Palmer, R. J. Sandison, C. Spooner, P. J. Wilson.

WILDFOWL COUNTS

D. W. Codd organised the National Wildfowl counts. We are grateful to him for making the records available to the Society and for preparing the table of peak winter populations of duck at selected localities. Counters were:-

D. R. Coda (Glynde Levels), D. W. Codd (Warnham Mill Pond), A. J. Cooke (Cuckmere Valley and Seven Sisters), R. Harris (Darwell Res.), C. E. Hope and R. J. B. Jackson (Weirwood Res.), D. C. Lang (Barcombe Res.), P. Martin (Amberley and Pulborough Wildbrooks), Miss V. Maxse (Rye Harbour and Pevensey Levels), D. R. Park (Swanbourne Lake), R. Porter (Chichester and Pagham Harbours), Mr and Mrs A. Simpson (Knepp Lake), Miss C. Taylor (Powdermill Res.), J. Willsher (Arlington Res.).

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1976

1. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia arctica*).—One present off Thorney Island on Feb. 22nd (MSC) and one found dead at Rottingdean on Mar. 13th (AJC). One W. at Langney Point on Nov. 16th (MJR) and one at Pett Level on Dec. 22nd (HHG).

For spring passage see under Diver species below.

2. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (*G. immer*).—One off Thorney Island on Dec. 4th (ARK).

3. **RED-THROATED DIVER** (*G. stellata*).—During the first half of the year recorded up to May 22nd, at least 20 different birds being seen.

This is in addition to those on spring passage and listed under Diver species below. Single birds were recorded inland from Barcombe Res. and Chichester G. P.

First recorded in the second half of the year on Oct. 29th. 19 different birds were seen including a single bird which spent at least 5 weeks on Arlington Res.

DIVER SPECIES (*Gavia sp.*).—Spring diver passage with all birds moving E. was recorded from Selsey Bill and Beachy Head as follows:

	Selsey Bill	Beachy Head
<i>G. arctica</i>	4	16
<i>G. immer</i>	2	—
<i>G. stellata</i>	4	28
<i>G. spectes</i>	22	320

A small number of divers were also seen moving W. off Selsey Bill. The main movement off Beachy Head occurred between Apr. 28th and May 2nd and although numbers were higher this year than in recent years this may be accounted for by the additional hours spent sea-watching from this locality.

5. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*).—At the coast during the early part of the year up to 49 were off Pett on Jan. 18th and 26 off Thorney Island on Jan. 21st. During the breeding season pairs were recorded as follows:

Chichester G. P.	18	Sheffield Park	1
Horsted Keynes Lakes	1	Petworth Park	4
Knepp Lake	3	Darwell Res.	2
Powdermill Res.	1	Weir Wood Res.	1
Burton Ponds	3	Eridge Park	1
Warnham M. P.	1	Pett Pools	1

Very few details of breeding success were submitted but 17 pairs are thought to have raised 41 young.

All records of pairs seen during the breeding season would be most welcome.

6. **RED-NECKED GREBE** (*P. griseigena*).—Single birds seen at Rye Harbour on Jan. 18th and 25th (MK, RSK) off Hove on Jan. 31st (DAP) and in Pagham Harbour on Dec. 18th (MJWH, RJS).

7. **SLAVONIAN GREBE** (*P. auritus*).—During January and February up to 22 were recorded from Church Norton and at least 8 in Chichester Harbour. Single birds were also seen at Pett Level on Jan. 18th, 2 off the Cuckmere Valley on Feb. 9th and at Arlington Res. on Mar. 21st.

During April, 15 were recorded on passage at Beachy Head with a maximum of 11 on Apr. 10th.

In December up to 10 were recorded off Church Norton, 4 in Chichester Harbour and one off Rottingdean on the 11th.

8. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** (*P. nigricollis*).—One at Sidlesham Ferry between Feb. 6th and Mar. 14th and single birds at Church Norton on

Feb. 29th and at Chidham on Mar. 1st. In the Autumn one at Arlington Res. on Sept. 18th, and one at Weir Wood Res. on Oct. 9th. 3 off Pilsey Island on Dec. 18th.

9. **LITTLE GREBE** (*P. ruficollis*).—Maximum numbers seen during the first three months of the year were as follows: Chichester Harbour 101, Pagham Harbour 21, Adur 8, Newhaven 14 and Cuckmere 18.

During the breeding season pairs were reported from the following localities:

Westbourne	2	Knepp Lake	1	Severals	1
Powdermill Res.	3	Swanbourne	1	Somerset Pond,	1
Forest Mere	3	Lake	1	Goring	4
Darwell Res.	1	Chichester G. P.	4	Milland	3
Warnham M. P.	1	Pett Levels	1	Burton Ponds	3

All records during the breeding season are required.

Maximum numbers seen from September to the end of the year were 30 in Chichester Harbour and 25 in Pagham Harbour.

14. **STORM PETREL** (*Hydrobates pelagicus*).—One W. off Selsey Bill on Oct. 15th (MS). Our first record since 1969.

16. **MANX SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus puffinus*).—At Beachy Head 2 E. on May 21st and 3 E. on May 25th, one E. off Brighton on June 1st and single birds W. off Selsey Bill and Beachy Head on Oct. 2nd.

A bird showing the characters of the race Balearic Shearwater (*P. mauretanicus*) moved W. off Selsey Bill on June 19th (BAEM).

21. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*P. griseus*).—Single birds moved W. off Langney Point on Sept. 11th (JFC, BAEM, RFP) and off Newhaven on Oct. 23rd (PJ).

26. **FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*).—Recorded from the beginning of the year from the cliffs between Hastings and Rottingdean.

During the breeding season at least 14 were present at Hastings, up to 50 at Beachy Head, 8 at Seaford Head and up to 40 at Newhaven. There was also a scattering of records from other cliff localities. The first definite proof of breeding was obtained for the County and 3 chicks were seen on the cliffs.

Recorded from Beachy Head during the Autumn on 9 dates and one was found dead at Brighton on Oct. 6th.

27. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*).—Small numbers recorded virtually throughout the year with the exception of the winter months.

During the Spring a total of 215 E. and 30 W. off Beachy Head with a maximum of 40 E. on May 25th. Smaller numbers were reported from Selsey Bill.

An exceptional movement occurred on Sept. 18th when a total of 800 passed W. off Beachy Head during a period of two hours. This is the County's largest single movement. On Oct. 2nd 200 passed W. off Selsey Bill.

28. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Recorded in every month of the year. Good numbers seen at several roosts with up to 100 on Bognor Pier during January and February and at least 80 there in December. A roost at Fairlight produced 52 birds in September while 110 were seen flying towards the Arundel roost in January and 116 in December.

29. **SHAG** (*P. aristotelis*).—Probably as many as 24 different birds were recorded in the County with single birds present at Newhaven between January and March and again between October and December. Most of the birds were seen during the winter months although there were 3 adults E. off Beachy Head on June 10th (ARK).

30. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*).—The following are details of the heronries that were visited.

Old Park Wood, Fishbourne. 33 nests with probably a further 4 nests, Pagham 2 nests, Parham 42 nests with probably a further 6 nests, Wyckham Wood, Henfield 4 nests with probably a further 3 nests, Knepp 8 nests, Buxted Park probably one nest, Firls 35 nests, Wartling 4 nests, Eridge 11 nests with probably a further 2 nests, Leasam 39 nests.

No counts were received from the Westham and Priesthaves heronries. Anyone interested in counting the Wartling site should contact the organiser. There may be an additional heronry in the Leonards Lec area near Lower Beeding, Horsham and any observer who discovers this heronry is asked to contact the organiser with full details.

During the Spring, 3 birds were seen to arrive from the direction of the sea at Beachy Head and a party of 5 was recorded moving high over Eastbourne in a westerly direction on Oct. 18th.

32. **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*).—One seen on Thorney Island on four dates between May 31st and June 8th (JSA, JTS) and single birds at Sidlesham Ferry on June 5th and 19th (CRJ), Cuckmere Valley on July 5th (LR) and Chichester Harbour on July 31st (RFP). Probably three different birds involved.

These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

38. **BITTERN** (*Botaurus stellaris*).—One was seen at Pett Level on Feb. 15th and 22nd and on Apr. 9th (JA, MJSH, MM *et al*).

One watched flying NW. over the Downs at No Mans Land on Nov. 7th (MD) and one at Filsham Reed Bed on Dec. 10th (HHG).

40. **WHITE STORK** (*Ciconia ciconia*).—Single birds seen at Beachy Head on June 3rd (RHC), Horsham on June 11th (PJAW) and at Pett Level on July 11th (PR).

These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

45. **MALLARD** (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—See table for winter populations.

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

A pair bred successfully rearing 6 young. Recorded during the breeding season in two other localities.

47. **GARGANEY** (*A. querquedula*).—First recorded on Mar. 22nd when 2 were in the Cuckmere Valley. Between this date and the end of May it was recorded from ten localities with a maximum of 6 at Rye Harbour on Apr. 7th. 10 were recorded moving E. off Beachy Head during the Spring.

Recorded from two localities during June and July but breeding was not proved. During the Autumn it was recorded from five localities with a maximum of 5 at Chichester G. P. on Aug. 16th. Last recorded from Bewl Bridge Res. on Sept. 10th.

49. **GADWALL** (*A. strepera*).—See table for winter populations.

Recorded in June and July from Chichester G. P. but breeding was not proved. At the Arundel Wildfowl Reserve 3 feral pairs reared 24 free flying young and a feral population has built up in this area.

50. **WIGEON** (*A. penelope*).—See table for winter populations.

A drake was present at Chichester G. P. on May 8th.

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

A drake was present on Thorney Island during June and July.

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

56 birds were recorded moving E. of Beachy Head during the Spring. A pair bred, raising two young, at one locality where two other drakes were also present. Pairs were recorded at three other localities during the breeding season.

54. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*).—There was a female at Chichester G. P. on Feb. 1st (BS) and one at Darwell Res. on Sept. 12th (MEN, AQ). In December there were drakes at Bewl Bridge Res. on the 5th (PCB) and Darwell Res. on the 13th (RGH), and a pair at Bewl Bridge Res. on the 24th (PCB).

The possibility of escapes cannot be ruled out.

55. **SCAUP** (*Aythya marila*).—One at Rye Harbour on Jan. 11th. Off Pett Levels there were 4 on Jan. 18th, 12 on Feb. 1st, 9 at the end of the month, and 13 on Mar. 7th. Off Newhaven there were 7 between Feb. 7th and 18th with one staying until Mar. 8th and off Thorney Island one on Mar. 20th. At Beachy Head 5 moved E. on Mar. 11th, 4 E. on Apr. 21st, and one E. on May 7th.

Two were present on Arlington Res. on May 11th.

Only a single record received for the latter part of the year when one was present off Newhaven between Nov. 21st and Dec. 5th.

56. **TUFTED DUCK** (*A. fuligula*).—See table for winter populations. During the breeding season pairs were recorded from the following localities:

Westbourne	3	Warnham M. P.	8
Barcombe Res.	1	Chichester G. P.	30
Petworth	1	Glynde	1
Pevensy Levels	1	Petworth Park	23
Burton Ponds	12	Darwell Res.	1

PEAK WINTER POPULATIONS OF DUCK AT SELECTED LOCALITIES 1976/77

Locality	Mallard	Teal	Wigeon	Pintail	Shoveler	Gadwall	Tufted	Pochard
Chichester Harbour	250	1379	460	215	46	47	1	5
Pagham Harbour	152	220	170	260	41	14		
Amblercy/Pulborough	228	390	344	52	142	9	17	
Knapp	180	6	22		2			
Weir Wood Res.	150	40	120		2	150	330	
Barcombe Res.	102	64			3	53	77	
Glynde Levels	125	270	1250		17			
Cuckmere	73	52	14		8			
Arlington Res.	250	1	1000		67	8	30	
Darwell Res.	239	36	43	1	7	149	35	

Between Mar. 15th and May 22nd a total of 90 moved E. off Beachy Head and there was also a flock of 54 E. there on Oct. 17th. These totals are not included in the monthly totals.

A flock of 27 birds was present during the summer months at Fair-light Cove.

69. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*Mergus serrator*).—Maximum counts in Chichester Harbour were 27 on Feb. 14th and 67 on Dec. 4th. At Beachy Head a total of 323 moved E. between Mar. 15th and May 8th with a maximum of 42 E. on Apr. 22nd.

Two were present at Weir Wood Res. on Feb. 1st and one on the 10th. There were two on Petworth Park Lake on Jan. 10th.

One was seen off Langney Point on June 20th and one was present in the Pagham/Church Norton area from July 13th to Aug. 1st.

52 moved W. and 5 E. off Selsey Bill on Nov. 28th.

70. **GOOSANDER** (*M. merganser*).—Between January and March up to 3 recorded from Chichester G. P., 4 from Weir Wood Res., 3 from Arlington Res., 2 from Barcombe Res., 3 from Glynde Levels, 2 from Normans Bay, 2 from Bewl Bridge Res. and 3 from Darwell Res. One also moved E. off Langney Point.

One was on Pett Level Pools from Nov. 21st to Dec. 4th, with two there on Dec. 5th. Single birds in December at Weir Wood Res. on the 4th, Church Norton on the 12th and at both Arlington Res. and Barcombe Res. on the 20th.

71. **SMEW** (*M. albellus*).—There were 3 at Chichester G. P. on Jan. 31st. In February, recorded singly there until 24th with 4 on the 21st. One or two were at Sidlesham Ferry between 2nd and 22nd, and there were singles at Weir Wood Res. on 8th and 13th with 2 on the 10th. Single birds also seen at Darwell Res. on the 1st, Eridge Lake on the 24th and 2 at Burton Ponds on the 8th. At Pett Level Pools there were 2 on the 1st and one on the 6th and 8th. There were also 2 at Rye Harbour on the 1st and one on Mar. 20th. On Pagham Lagoon, 3 were present on Feb. 15th and, at the end of the year, one on Dec. 30th and 31st.

73. **SHELDUCK** (*Tadorna tadorna*).—The chief winter populations are concentrated in Pagham and Chichester Harbours. For full details refer to Coastal counts of Waders and Wildfowl in this and earlier reports. The maximum numbers seen in these localities were as follows:

Pagham Harbour 600 on Feb. 14th and 660 on Nov. 20th.

Chichester Harbour 2,540 on Feb. 14th and 832 on Dec. 4th.

Inland records from the early months of the year came from the Reservoirs and the Amberley and Arundel areas.

During the breeding season, 85 young in 14 broods were counted in one area of Chichester Harbour and 68 young in 8 broods in another area. There was also an inland breeding record near Arundel.

75. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*Anser anser*).—Two were seen at Weir Wood Res. on Jan. 31st and one was present near Eastbourne between Mar. 13th and 30th.

At Beachy Head, 3 moved W. on Apr. 10th and one E. on Apr. 19th. Seven present at Rye Harbour on June 15th probably belonged to

Forest Mere	5	Wellingham, Ringmer	1
Milland	1	Bewl Bridge Res.	1
Pett Pools	1		

Of the above 90 pairs, 56 pairs are thought to have raised 207 young. All breeding season records together with numbers of young would be welcome.

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

During June present at Pett Pools, Chichester G. P. and Arlington Res. but breeding not confirmed.

60. **GOLDENEYE** (*Bucephala clangula*).—Recorded up to Apr. 19th and again from Oct. 31st at 28 different localities.

In Chichester Harbour, the maximum count during the early part of the year was on Feb. 14th when 112 were seen while in the later part of the year there were 50 on Nov. 20th.

61. **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*).—19 were recorded on the sea at various localities between January and March with up to 5 off Church Norton during January and 4 off Newhaven during February and March. Single birds were present on Chichester G. P. between Jan. 24th and Apr. 22nd and at Barcombe Res. in January.

Between Nov. 21st and the end of the year there were 4 records all from coastal sites.

62. **VELVET SCOTER** (*Melanitta fusca*).—Small numbers recorded from the Rye and Pett areas between January and March and again in December. Maximum of 20 on Feb. 14th. One present on Thorney Channel on Jan. 3rd and 5 there on Jan. 7th.

Between Mar. 20th and May 23rd a total of 289 moved E. off Beachy Head with a maximum of 110 E. on May 2nd.; 31 were seen moving E. off Selsey Bill during the Spring.

A single bird was recorded on the unusual date of July 23rd off Brighton and 11 moved W. off Ferring on Oct. 31st.

64. **COMMON SCOTER** (*M. nigra*).—During the first three months of the year the maximum counts were off the Pett area with a flock of 1,000 on Feb. 14th and 300+ on Feb. 21st. There were also 150 off the Cuckmere on Jan. 9th, with smaller numbers recorded from various other coastal localities.

Between Feb. 8th and June 10th 20,184 moved E. off Beachy Head which is the second highest number yet recorded. Largest movements occurred on Apr. 29th with 3,126 E. and on May 1st with 2,135 E.

Smaller movements were also recorded off Selsey Bill and Hope Gap. In August and September small numbers were recorded from Pett and Langney Point and from October to December the largest numbers were again recorded from Pett where 300 were present during December.

67. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*).—Recorded from sixteen coastal localities during the year and the monthly totals were as follows:

Jan. 22	40	Mar. 22	49	May 22	54	July 20	50	Sept. 5	54	Nov. 3	34
Feb. 4	40	Apr. 22	49	June 22	54	Aug. 5	50	Oct. 5	54	Dec. 3	34

the semi feral population in Kent and some of the above birds may well have been semi feral birds.

76. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (*A. albifrons*).—On Jan. 27th, 7 were present at Sidlesham Ferry and on the 31st 5 passed W. over Church Norton. During February, 12 moved NE. over Sidlesham Ferry on the 6th and 8 S. over Pagham Harbour on the 8th. On the 14th and 15th, 3 were seen at Thorney Island and there were 13 at Glynde Levels on the 13th.

During December, 9 flew W. over Rye Harbour on the 13th and 21 were present at Amberley on the 16th. On the 21st, one was at Bracklesham and on the 23rd one flew W. over Selsey. Six were at Bishopstone on the 26th while at Arlington Res. on this date 28 moved over W. Presumably this same party of 28 were the birds present on Glynde Levels on the 27th when 6 were also seen at Rye.

78. PINK-FOOTED GOOSE (*A. brachyrhynchus*).—Three S. over Littleington Reed Bed on Jan. 31st (ARK) and 20 W. over Eastbourne on Dec. 30th (PJW).

79. BEAN GOOSE (*A. fabilis*).—Sixteen were present on Amberley Wildbrooks on Feb. 14th and 21st (MSC) with 4 still there on Feb. 22nd (DMC, DAP, BS).
Fourteen at Sidlesham on Dec. 24th (MS).

GREY GOOSE SPECIES—Between Jan. 3rd and Mar. 25th there were seven sightings of unidentified Grey Geese, the largest party being seen at Pett Level on Mar. 21st when 36 were reported.
Between Oct. 26th and Nov. 20th there were three records.

80. BRENT GOOSE (*Branta bernicla*).—As with Shelduck, the main population is concentrated in the Pagham and Chichester Harbours. The maximum numbers recorded at either end of the year in these localities were as follows:

Pagham Harbour	Jan. 17th	1,030	Dec. 4th	550
Chichester Harbour	Jan. 17th	6,345	Nov. 20th	5,505

At Beachy Head a total of 2,887 moved E. between Feb. 8th and May 29th with a maximum of 1,318 on Mar. 15th.

Inland records came from Arlington Res. where 10 were seen on Jan. 18th with single birds there on several other dates and one at Barcombe Res. on Feb. 6th.

An immature bird spent the summer on Stakes Island and was joined by a second bird on June 29th.

The return passage was recorded from Sept. 19th.

82. CANADA GOOSE (*B. canadensis*). The maximum wintering numbers were as follows:

Chichester G. P.	65	Amberley	420	Warnham	45
Knepp	85	Arlington	215	Darwell	14
Rye L. N. R.	21				

In the breeding season pairs were recorded as follows:

Chichester G. P.	Pairs	5	Mannings Heath	Pairs	1
Weir Wood Res.	1	1	Petworth Park	24	
Coolham	1	1	Plashett Park	1	
Firle Park	1	1	Knepp	5	
Swanbourne Lake	1	1	Sheffield Park	1	
Broadbridge Heath	1	1	Herstmonceux	1	
Ashburnham Lakes	2				

84. MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*).—Maximum counts were from the Rother Valley with 99 on Dec. 5th, Chichester Harbour with 80 on Jan. 17th and Amberley with 75 on Dec. 24th. For the second year running a pair on Patching Pond produced a white cygnet.

85. WHOOPER SWAN (*C. cygnus*).—One present at North Point Beach, Rye Harbour from Jan. 18th to Feb. 15th (HHG, RSK, JET *et al*).

86. BEWICK'S SWAN (*C. bewickii*).—In the early months recorded up to Mar. 15th Maximum counts were from the Rother Valley with 43 on Feb. 19th and from the Arun Valley with 92 on Feb. 28th. There were also 31 at Pett Levels on Jan. 20th, 5 on Chichester G. P. on Jan. 31st and 2 there on Feb. 1st and 7 at Darwell Res. on Feb. 1st. Single birds were seen in the Cuckmere Valley on Jan. 17th and 18th and at West Wittering on Feb. 25.

In the latter part of the year recorded from Nov. 7th, again chiefly from the Rother and Arun Valleys, the maximum being on Dec. 24th when 58 were present in the Arun Valley. There were also 12 at Sidlesham Ferry on Dec. 12th, 5 at Darwell Res. on Dec. 13th, 28 at Rye Harbour on Dec. 16th and 10 on Chichester G. P. on Dec. 29th. A single bird was present on Arlington Res. on Nov. 27th.

91. COMMON BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*).—Three reports of single birds seen during January and February and during April single birds were recorded from nine localities. One pair was present during the breeding season and three single birds were present in other areas.

Good numbers recorded during the Autumn and seen at nine localities during August, fourteen during September and thirteen during October. There were approximately 46 different birds seen in the County during the Autumn. At Beachy Head recorded on twelve different dates including at least 4 on Oct. 4th. Several birds were watched departing S. out to sea.

Two records for November and one seen at Wepham Down on Dec. 6th.

92. ROUGH-LEGGED BUZZARD (*B. lagopus*).—From Jan. to Mar. 29th recorded from five areas with 4 at Glynde Levels on Feb. 15th. A very pale bird was present on the Downs near Alfriston from Jan. 1st to Mar. 14th.

One present at No Mans Land on Oct. 31st and one at Steyning during the first half of December.

93. **SPARROW HAWK** (*Accipiter nisus*).—During the breeding season birds were reported from 27 localities in West Sussex and 17 localities in East Sussex. Eight pairs were proved to have bred. Outside the breeding season it was reported from 9 localities.
94. **GOSHAWK** (*A. gentilis*).—An adult female at Beachy Head on Oct. 1st (JFC, TWP).
95. **RED KITE** (*Milvus milvus*).—One over Hastings on Apr. 4th (AD) and one at Chantconbury Ring on May 9th (RW).
96. **BLACK KITE** (*Milvus migrans*).—One near Herstmonceux on Nov. 13th (MEC, KJC). This record has been accepted by Brit. B.
98. **HONEY BUZZARD** (*Pernis ptilorvus*).—Three different birds at Beachy Head as follows: Sept. 26th departed S. out to Sea (PC *et al*), Sept. 28th moved W. (JBW), and Oct. 24th departed SW. (JFC, DAP, BJS).
99. **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*).—A male at Hunston on Apr. 10th (MJH). A female arrived from the sea at Beachy Head on Apr. 19th (TWP *et al*) and another female arrived from the sea there on May 7th (NAGL). A female at Sidlesham on May 9th (MK, MS). A male at Church Norton on Sept. 1st (MJWH) and immatures at Beachy Head on Sept. 18th (JFC, BEC, MJR) and at Sidlesham on Sept. 25th (MS). One at Cissbury on Oct. 1st (BFF).
100. **HEN HARRIER** (*C. cyaneus*).—Recorded from ten localities during January, five during February, ten during March and eight during April. Approximately 20 different birds seen with 3 together at the Midrips on Apr. 17th and 2 there on Jan. 11th. Recorded from one locality during August, two in October, seven in November and three in December. Probably 9 different birds involved.
102. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*C. pygargus*).—A female at Beachy Head on May 27th (PC) and a juvenile which arrived from the sea there on Aug. 24th (JFC, RH).
103. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*).—Single birds seen at Arlington Res. on May 5th (CFW), Pagham Harbour on May 13th and 25th (MJH, NH, PH) and Ashdown Dorest on June 10th (AJA). Present at Weir Wood Res. between Aug. 28th and Oct. 3rd with 2 recorded on six dates and 3 together on Aug. 30th. (Many Observers). One at Arlington Res. on Sept. 5th (SWMH, CFW), at Beachy Head on Sept. 19th (NAGL) at Thorney Island on Sept. 20th (IRW) and at West Wittering on Sept. 24th (SC). There was one present in the Cuckmere Valley and at Arlington Res. from Sept. 20th to 26th (PJW, VAW, *et al*) and one at Beachy Head on Oct. 18th (JFC, RME, RH).
104. **HOBBY** (*Falco subbuteo*).—First recorded on Apr. 28th and during the Spring it was recorded from nine inland and eleven coastal

localities.

Present during the breeding season at nine sites and at least 2 pairs were successful.

Seen during the Autumn at five inland and ten coastal localities and was last recorded on Oct. 16th from Beachy Head.

107. **MERLIN** (*F. columbarius*).—Between January and April single birds were recorded as follows: Cuckmere Valley on Jan. 9th, Alfriston on Mar. 6th and again in the Cuckmere Valley on Apr. 22nd. These three records may all relate to a single wintering bird. Two were present at the Midrips on Mar. 7th.

Recorded in the Autumn from Sept. 21st when a male was present at Litlington. At least 3 different birds seen at Beachy Head between Sept. 26th and Nov. 11th and on Oct. 3rd, one moved S. out to sea. Single birds present at Wilmington between Oct. 11th and 13th and in the Sidlesham/Pagham Harbour area between Oct. 25th and Nov. 30th with a second bird on Oct. 29th. Also seen at Cissbury on Nov. 8th, Rye Harbour on Nov. 15th, Cradle Valley on Nov. 27th, Church Norton/Selsey area between Dec. 20th and 29th and at Falmer on Dec. 22nd.

110. **KESTREL** (*F. tinnunculus*).—During the breeding season 56 pairs were reported of which 16 pairs raised 41 young including one pair which raised 5 young.

11 were present in Chichester Harbour on Mar. 23rd while 5 birds were seen arriving in from the sea at Beachy Head and one at Selsey Bill between Apr. 19th and May 6th. Birds departing S. out to sea were recorded from Selsey Bill on May 23rd, Pett Level on Sept. 8th and Beachy Head on Oct. 3rd.

15 were present at Amberley Mount on Nov. 5th and a similar number in the Cissbury Ring area on Nov. 13th.

117. **QUAIL** (*Coturnix coturnix*).—On the early date of Feb. 8th one was seen at Southase (GC). Between May 23rd and July 27th, 12 were recorded from nine localities. One was present at Telscombe during late September.

119. **COMMON CRANE** (*Grus grus*).—One near Crowborough on Apr. 16th (JWH).

This record has been accepted by Brit. B. Our first accepted record since 1963 which was the year of the invasion.

120. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*).—36 wintering birds were reported from 19 localities.

During the breeding season it was recorded from Thorney Deepes, Sompting, Newnich Place and Eridge Park.

127. **COOT** (*Fulica atra*).—Maximum numbers seen were as follows:
 Darwell Res. 158 during January Rye Harbour 250 during October
 Chichester Harbour 400 during February Pett Level 285 during December

131. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—The maximum counts at the beginning of the year were 542 at Chichester Harbour and 170 in Pagham Harbour in February, and in January 137 at Climping

and 381 at Rye. Full details in 1975 Report—pages 49-56. Inland the only record was one at Weir Wood Res. on Jan. 31st.

21 pairs bred or attempted to breed: 3 pairs in Chichester Harbour (all successful); 12 pairs at Pagham Harbour (raising 22 chicks); 6 pairs at Rye (probably 5 successful).

At the end of the year maximum counts were 252 in Pagham Harbour and 1,887 in Chichester Harbour both in October, 300 at Rye in November and 210 at Climping in December. See pages 56-57 for systematic counts in Chichester and Pagham Harbours.

133. LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*).—Over 25,500 recorded on counts made in January of which 20,040 were on the coastline count of the 17th. See also 1975 Report—pages 49-56. Largest coastal counts in this month were at Chichester Harbour (2,225), Cuckmere Haven (2,000), Pevensey (12,000) and Rye/Pett (2,515). Inland flocks of 1,000 were seen at Denton, 1,450 at Barcombe and 1,500 at Tangmere. 7,500 present at Glynde on Feb. 29th.

No cold weather movements of consequence were noted.

At least 157 pairs recorded in breeding season from twenty two areas but coverage rather scanty. Selected counts: 40 pairs South Stoke area, 40 pairs Rye Harbour, 17+ pairs at Pevensey and 12 pairs at Bracklesham.

Flocks in the Autumn and Winter smaller than at the beginning of the year with 1,500 at Rye/Pett in November, 1,200 at Denton and 2,000 along the Adur between Steyning and Shoreham in October.

For details of numbers seen at Pagham and Chichester in Autumn and Winter see pages 56-57.

January and breeding season counts of this species would be particularly welcome.

134. RINGED PLOVER (*Charadrius hiaticula*).—The maximum counts at the beginning of the year were 363 in Chichester Harbour and 140 in Pagham Harbour on Jan. 17th whilst the coastline count on that date produced a total of 761, (see also 1975 Bird Report pages 54-55).

During the breeding season about 57 pairs were recorded (3-4 pairs from inland sites). No records received from two localities which held 8 pairs last year. At Pagham about 25 pairs had 40 nests (some double brooded) and hatched 108 chicks. In Autumn maximum counts were 170 at Shoreham in September and 600 in Chichester Harbour in October.

For full Autumn/Winter counts for western harbours see pages 56-57.

135. LITTLE RINGED PLOVER (*C. dubius*).—First recorded on Mar. 16th at Sidesham Ferry, with other March records from Pagham Harbour and Eastbourne. During Spring passage about 13 were recorded from six localities.

Present in the breeding season at three sites and young almost certainly raised at one.

In Autumn, a minimum of 15 recorded from seven localities, with 4 at Chichester G. P. on several dates during August and September and a maximum of 5 at Arlington Res. on Aug. 7th where it was last recorded on Sept. 24th when 2 were present.

139. GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*).—The maximum count at the beginning of the year was on Jan. 17th when the coastline total was 2,175 of which 1,799 were in Chichester Harbour. See also the 1975 Bird Report pages 49-56.

On Spring passage, the maximum recorded was 50 at Chidham during May. In June and July small numbers from Chichester and Pagham Harbours totalling about 12 birds. Peak Autumn passage was in September when the huge total of 2,383 occurred in Chichester Harbour on the 25th. For full details of Autumn and Winter counts in the western harbours see pages 56-57.

Inland records from Weir Wood Res. on Mar. 4th, Chichester G. P. on Apr. 3rd and Arlington Res. on Dec. 19th.

140. GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. apricularia*).—A total of 2,049 were seen on the coastline count on Jan. 17th and together with inland records for January and February suggest the wintering population was in excess of 3,300 but coverage was not complete.

Early April records include 400 at Pevensey on the 3rd and 150 at Glynde on the 7th; the last seen on Spring passage was a party of 25 in the Crowlink/Seven Sisters area on May 14th. None recorded in June and the only July record was 6 in Chichester Harbour on the 31st. In August seen at three localities, the majority at Pagham where 75 were present on the 19th.

Autumn and Winter observations were patchy but 830 at Chichester and Pagham Harbours on Dec. 4th.

142. DOTTEREL (*Eudromias morinellus*).—The only Spring record was 3 on the Downs between Alciston and Fife on May 14th (PJW, VAW).

In the Autumn a party of 6 (3 adults and 3 immatures) at Birling Gap on Aug. 28th and 29th with 4 there on the 30th and 1 on the 31st. Another bird present on Sept. 18th and 19th (many observers).

143. TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—The coastline count on Jan. 17th produced a total of 548. For details see the 1975 Report pages 49-56.

Recorded from January to May and July to December from about twelve coastal localities. Excluding Chichester and Pagham Harbours the maximum observed was 300 at Rye Harbour on Aug. 3rd and 200 at Pett Level on Nov. 24th.

Inland recorded only from Arlington Res. with single birds on Apr. 24th, May 1st and Sept. 1st with 2 on July 24th.

The only June record was from Chichester Harbour when 5 birds were seen.

Details of counts in the western harbours in Autumn and Winter appear on pages 56-57 but notable were those at Pagham with 461 in October and 386 in December.

145. SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*).—During the first three months counts of over 50 together were received from thirteen localities and the largest count was from Glynde with 750 on Feb. 29th.

A complete survey of Pevensey Levels in June located 27 pairs. Records of drumming males were reported from Glynde (2), Sutton End

(5), Amberley (2), Old Lodge Warren, Crowborough (2), Sheffield Park (2), Berwick (6), Bewl Bridge Res. (1), Hellingly (1), Panel Sewer (1) and Tillington (1).

All records of drumming birds are required.

In Chichester Harbour the maximum count was 341 on Oct. 23rd. For full details of counts in western harbours see pages 56-57.

147. JACK SNIFE (*Lymnocyptes minima*).—There were records from twelve coastal and nine inland localities and the approximate monthly figures were:-

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
19	25	17	2	3	18	16

Once again the most important localities were Chichester Harbour and Pevensey Levels.

148. WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*).—Widespread breeding season reports of roding birds were received from West Sussex involving 52 birds in twenty seven localities and in East Sussex 14 birds in six localities.

Small passage movements occurred in February with 7 birds reported from five coastal localities and in November with 4 birds reported from three coastal localities.

150. CURLEW (*Numenius arquata*).—The coastline count on Jan. 17th produced 1,337; for full details see the 1975 Report—pages 49-56.

Recorded from two sites in the east of the county during the breeding season. Details of Autumn and Winter counts from the western harbours appear on pages 56-57 but notable was the count of 1,842 in Chichester Harbour in September.

151. WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus*).—First recorded on Apr. 11th at Pagham Harbour, Beachy Head and Pett Level. Passage at Beachy Head was the largest recorded when a total of 960 moved E. during the Spring with peaks of 488 on Apr. 19th and 155 on Apr. 22nd. April and May records were received from four inland localities.

In June summered at Pagham (2) and Chichester Harbour (10). Regularly recorded in Autumn from July to September, with 236 in Pagham and Chichester Harbours on July 31st. Last seen at Pagham on Oct. 19th.

154. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*).—The maximum recorded at the beginning of the year was 486 in March in Chichester and Pagham Harbours. Further details in the 1975 Report, pages 49-56. The largest numbers seen on Spring passage was 400 at Pagham Harbour on Mar. 27th with 236 in Chichester Harbour on Apr. 14th.

Recorded at inland sites with one at Chichester G. P. from Apr. 18th to 22nd; one at Arlington Res. on Apr. 29th; 2 at Weir Wood Res. on Aug 2nd and at Amberley on Oct. 31st.

The only summering birds were 15 at Chichester Harbour and 14 at Pagham Harbour all seen in June.

During the Autumn the maximum number seen was 1,106 in Chichester Harbour in September, whilst the peak wintering figure from

Chichester and Pagham Harbours was 674 in December; for full details see pages 56-57.

155. BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*).—Maximum of 706 recorded in Chichester Harbour in January. Further details in the 1975 Report pages 49-56.

Up-Channel Spring passage observed at Selsey, Southwick and Beachy Head. At this last locality a total of 6,449 passed E. between Feb. 29th and May 15th, the majority between Apr. 20th and 29th.

It was recorded inland from Weir Wood Res. with 3 on Apr. 25th and at Hurstmoor where 15 flew NE. on May 3rd. Three summered in Chichester Harbour. Full details of Autumn and Winter counts in western harbours appear on pages 56-57 but of note were 1,581 in Chichester Harbour in September and 743 there during December.

156. GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*).—Recorded from twenty five inland and ten coastal localities during the year.

The following are the monthly totals reported and care has been taken to eliminate duplication:-

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
10	10	12	22	3	4	18	40	25	7	5	10

The largest Autumn parties were 12 at Chichester Harbour in July and 12 at Chichester G. P. and 9 at Bewl Bridge Res. in August.

157. WOOD SANDPIPER (*T. glareola*).—About 9 recorded between July 14th and Nov. 3rd. This is much lower than any year since 1967. The majority of birds were recorded during August and the last seen was at Newhaven between Oct. 23rd and Nov. 3rd. (LAC, MHC, DAN).

159. COMMON SANDPIPER (*T. hypoleucos*).—Recorded throughout the year and seen at twelve coastal and seventeen inland localities. The table below is the aggregate of the maximum monthly counts from each locality and illustrates the main periods of passage.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	2	1	4	33	2	100	132	40	6	4	1

During the Spring the largest party recorded was 12 at Arlington Res. on May 5th. In the Autumn the maximum count was 61 at Chichester Harbour on July 31st but other observations of ten or more were as follows:

Chichester G. P.	13 on Aug. 12th	Weir Wood Res.	10 on Aug. 21st.
Bewl Bridge Res.	13 on Aug. 22nd	Arlington Res.	15 on Sept. 1st
Pett Level	13 on Sept. 18th		

161. REDSHANK (*T. totanus*).—The Sussex coastline count on Jan. 17th produced a total of 1,503, of which 1,028 were in Chichester Harbour. See also the 1975 Report pages 49-56.

A complete survey of Pevensey Levels in June located 29 pairs. Elsewhere there were 33 pairs reported from nine localities but records were incomplete. In the Houghton/South Stoke area there were 10 pairs present. All breeding season records are required for this species.

Autumn and Winter counts were carried out in the western harbours when 2,676 were present in Chichester Harbour on Sept. 25th and over 1,500 in November and December. Full details appear on pages 56-57. Other maximum counts in the Winter months were: Pagham 490 (Nov.), Goring 50 (Feb.), Adur 180 (Feb.), Newhaven 32 (Nov.), Cuckmere 23 (Jan.), Pevensey 28 (Jan.), Pett/Rye 51 (Jan.), Amberley 20 (Feb.), Glynde 55 (Feb.) and Houghton 50 (Nov.).

162. SPOTTED REDSHANK (*T. erythropus*).—Recorded throughout the year and seen at eight coastal and four inland localities. Approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11	14	11	5	2	23	7	25	51	11	9	8

The Estuaries Survey (see the 1975 Report pages 49-56, and this report pages 56-57) indicates that up to 6 wintered in Chichester Harbour and the largest number counted was 43 in this harbour on Sept. 25th.

Inland records were from Bewl Bridge Res with 2 in August, Littleton one in August, Steyning 4 in October and Weir Wood Res. with one in March and April.

165. GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*).—Recorded throughout the year and seen at ten coastal and five inland sites; approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
7	3	9	5	21	4	78	60	115	45	6	2

Once again wintering records were all from Chichester Harbour which also produced the largest count of 83 on Sept. 25th. For further details of counts in the western harbours see the 1975 Report pages 49-56 and this report pages 56-57. Recorded at six inland sites with 15 at Bewl Bridge Res. on May 7th.

169. KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—The maximum counts at the beginning of the year were 800 in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 2nd and 780 there on the 17th. Further details in the 1975 Report pages 49-56. Elsewhere recorded on the coast at Pagham, Newhaven, Cuckmere, Langney Point, Pett and Rye during the Winter, Spring and Autumn but numbers very small, the maximum being 13 at Langney Point on Dec. 12th and 8 at Pagham on May 30th.

June records were from Chichester Harbour (up to 4), and Pagham Harbour (up to 3). Inland Records were from Glynde with 3 on March 21st and 4 on Apr. 3rd, Arlington Res. with one on Sept. 6th and Bewl Bridge Res. with one on Jan. 30th and 2 on Sept. 10th. The maximum at the end of the year was 438 in Chichester Harbour on Dec. 4th. For full details of Autumn and Winter counts there see pages 56-57.

170. PURPLE SANDPIPER (*C. maritima*).—The coastline count on Jan. 17th produced a total of 49 (see the 1975 Report page 55 for details). The maximum winter count at Newhaven, the only locality where this species was regularly recorded, was 25 in February and December. Last seen there in Spring on May 19th and first seen in Autumn on Oct. 16th.

Elsewhere records were Selsey one in May, Pagham one in January, Littlehampton 14 in April, and one in November, Ferring 5 in January, 4 in March and one in December, Langney Point one in February, Pevensey 21 in January, Bexhill one in January, St. Leonards 7 in December, Hastings 12 in February, 3 in March and 2 in November and at Rye Harbour with one in January.

171. LITTLE STINT (*C. minuta*).—Recorded in all months of the year with the exception of January. Most observations were in August and September. The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	1	1	1	2	3	6	14	18	3	1	1

The February record referred to one bird in Chichester Harbour on the 25th (BFF, OM) and the March record to a bird on flooded land at Eastbourne (JFC, RH, JBW). The April and May records refer to birds at Rye and Pagham with the 3 in June at Pagham on the 20th.

Generally a poor Autumn for this species and was recorded from ten localities (3 inland) with a maximum of 5 at Pagham in July 4 at Chichester G.P. in August and 4 at Pett Level in September.

In November and December a single bird was present in Chichester Harbour.

173. TEMMINCK'S STINT (*C. temminckii*).—The bird present in Chichester Harbour at the end of 1975 remained until Feb. 15th (RAC, MJWH, JHM, RJS *et al*).

This is the first time that this species has wintered in the County.

176. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*).—One at Pett Level on Sept. 12th and 13th (NAJH, DJWS, GAS).

178. DUNLIN (*C. alpina*).—The coastline count on Jan. 17th produced a total of 24,441. For full details of this and counts in the western harbours at the beginning of the year see the 1975 Report pages 49-56. Large counts during the early part of the year, excluding Pagham and Chichester Harbours, included 1,000 at Ferring on Jan. 24th and 1,250 at Shoreham on Jan. 3rd.

Seen regularly at eight inland sites particularly during Spring, Autumn and Winter, the maximum being 20 at Weir Wood Res. on Jan. 30th, 20 at Brede Levels on Feb. 15th and 40 at Amberley Wildbrooks on Nov. 24th.

The maximum counts at the end of the year were 26,090 in Chichester Harbour in November and 6,950 at Pagham Harbour in December. Full details appear on pages 56-57.

179. CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*).—Fewer recorded than in 1975 and only seen during the Autumn from four coastal and two inland localities between July 16th and Oct. 23rd, the chief influx being at the end of August and early September.

On the coast present at Pagham Harbour/Sidlesham Ferry between July 16th and Oct. 23rd with an overall maximum of 5 seen there. A single bird was present at Cuckmere Haven on Aug. 15th and birds present at Pett Level between Aug. 23rd and Sept. 12th with a maximum

of 12 on Sept. 7th and 8th. Two were seen at Rye Harbour between Aug. 3rd and Sept. 8th.

Inland up to 3 at Arlington Res. between Aug. 20th and Oct. 7th, also up to 3 at Weir Wood Res. between Aug. 28th and Sept. 10th.

181. SANDERLING (*C. alba*).—The coastal count of January 17th produced a total of 587, probably a fair indication of the County's winter population. For full details see the 1975 Report page 55. As usual most were recorded from Chichester Harbour, Climping, Goring/Ferring and Rye and the largest counts were 250 in Chichester Harbour on Sept. 18th, 247 between Littlehampton and Goring on Dec. 29th and 120 at Rye Harbour on Aug. 3rd.

During the Spring migration a total of 34 flew E. at Beachy Head between Apr. 19th and May 29th.

Inland records were from Chichester G. P. with 5 on May 22nd and Arlington Res. with one on Aug. 13th and 8 on Sept. 2nd.

Counts at the end of the year in the western harbours are given on pages 56-57.

184. RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*).—The approximate monthly totals are given below. The figure in parentheses is the number of localities in which it was recorded.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
22	469	407	31	13	1	10	30	64	95	6	33
(3)	(11)	(6)	(7)	(3)	(1)	(3)	(5)	(7)	(2)	(3)	(4)

From this table it can be seen that there was a large influx into the County during February and March, which was concentrated on the Selsey peninsula. The main flock of 320 remained in the Sidesham Ferry area from Feb. 14th to about the 25th, after which it broke up later to reconstitute in March when 290 were recorded at Chichester G. P. on the 20th on which date 370 were also recorded in the general Pagham area. As there is a possibility of duplication, the Chichester G. P. totals have not been included in the above table. After Mar. 20th the numbers greatly declined.

Recorded from six inland localities during this period with flocks of 34 at Glynde in February and 30 at Weir Wood Res. in March.

The only June record was one at Pagham Harbour on the 20th.

Much smaller numbers seen during the Autumn but flocks of 60 at Chichester Harbour and 35 at Pagham Harbour in October.

185. AVOCET (*Recurvirostra avosetta*).—Wintering birds were recorded only at Pagham Harbour/Siddlesham Ferry area with one or 2 present from the beginning of the year up to Feb. 29th, with 4 between Jan. 31st and Feb. 21st. Present again at the end of the year with one bird from Dec. 13th and 3 from Dec. 21st to the end of the year. There was also one at Rye on Dec. 29th.

Records suggest that during the Spring passage (February to May) a minimum of 39 birds passed through the County. One flying North at Amberley on Feb. 14th (PDD) was the only inland record. On the coast, one present at Siddlesham Ferry between Apr. 15th and 18th and 2 from May 26th to 29th. At Southwick 8 were seen flying E. on Apr. 22nd

and this same party were still moving E. 55 minutes later off Beachy Head, where 2 flew north-east on April 26th. 5 present at Newhaven from April 24th to 26th were probably the same birds that were seen flying east at Beachy Head on 27th. Two flew East at this locality on Apr. 29th with a further 7 East on May 23rd. At Rye a single bird was present on Apr. 20th and 2 at Newhaven on Apr. 28th. Nine were at Pett Level on May 5th and one at Chichester G.P. on June 12th.

187. GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*).—One on the sea off Selsey Bill on Oct. 23rd (ARK, BAEM, TWP, RFP).

188. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE (*P. lobatus*).—The only record was of a first winter bird on the Severals, Church Norton between Oct. 26th and 30th (CRJ, MS, JVS *et al*).

189. STONE CURLEW (*Burhinus oedicnemus*).—Single birds in the Cuckmere Valley on May 18th (PJV) and at South Stoke on Aug. 4th (CEM).

3 pairs present during the breeding season. At least one pair was successful rearing 2 young.

193. ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—During the Spring recorded from four localities between Apr. 18th and May 29th. At Selsey Bill a total of 31 moved E. during this period and at Beachy Head 207 moved E. with maxima of 53 E. on May 2nd and 22 E. on May 5th and 15th.

During the Autumn recorded from eleven localities between Aug. 1st and Nov. 28th with a maximum on Sept. 11th when 30 moved W. off Langney Point. On Sept. 10th 2 were watched crossing the Downs moving in a SW. direction.

194. GREAT SKUA (*S. skua*).—Single birds moved E. off Beachy Head on Apr. 12th, 13th, 29th, May 2nd and the 4th

On Aug. 4th one E. off Pevensey Bay, one W. at Langney Point and one E. at Selsey Bill on Sept. 11th. One W. off Beachy Head on Sept. 18th and one E. off Selsey Bill on Nov. 28th.

195. POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*).—An exceptional Spring with a total of 152 E. of Beachy Head between Apr. 19th and May 15th. Maxima of 28 E. on May 6th, 75 E. on May 7th and 25 E. on May 15th. (Many observers). Other records included 6 E. off Southwick on May 6th (RFP) and 2 E. off Selsey Bill on May 2nd (BAEM, PM). During the Autumn one was seen at Pett on Sept. 24th (PJV, VAW) and one at Beachy Head on Oct. 1st (ARK, BAEM).

198. GREATER-BLACK BACKED GULL (*Larus marinus*).—120 present in Pagham Harbour on Sept. 19th and 120 adults roosting at Hove on Oct. 21st. Up to 150 were present in the Cuckmere Valley from October to December. Along the River Adur up to 282 were counted on Nov. 13th of which only 5 were immatures.

At Beachy Head 400 moved W. with the large passage of Gannets on Sept. 18th and 200 W. on Sept. 19th.

199. **LESSER-BLACK BACKED GULL** (*L. fuscus*).—Between January and early March reported from eight localities. On Feb. 2nd, 18 were at Chichester G. P. while on Jan. 18th a bird in the Cuckmere Valley caught a Kingfisher which it swallowed whole.

A pair nested successfully on a roof top at St. Leonards-on-Sea.

During October to December there were reports from three localities including 80 at the Tidemills in October and 32 at Pett Level in December.

200. **HERRING GULL** (*L. argentatus*).—20 pairs bred at North Point producing 12 flying young and 8 pairs bred at Beddingham Chalk Pit. Also bred at Beachy Head, Hove, Eastbourne and Lewes Chalk Pit.

Yellow-legged birds belonging to the Mediterranean and Scandinavian races were seen during the year at four localities.

201. **COMMON GULL** (*L. canus*).—During January and March the maximum numbers seen were on the Downs behind Hove and Shoreham with 800 in the latter area on Mar. 25th. A count in the Cuckmere Valley during this period produced 350 birds and there were 225 at Barcombe Res. At Bewl Bridge Res. 150 were present at the roost on Feb. 5th.

202. **GLAUCOUS GULL** (*L. hyperboreus*).—The adult at Hove mentioned in the 1975 Report stayed until Feb. 7th. A first Winter bird present in the Shoreham/Southwick area between Jan. 25th and Feb. 8th (RFP) and a second Winter bird at East Worthing on Mar. 24th (CEM). At Beachy Head, a second Winter bird moved E. on May 9th (BAEM, RFP). An immature bird in the Winchelsea/Rye area between Dec. 5th and 17th (RK, DJP).

205. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*L. melanocephalus*).—A ringed bird present at Hove Lagoon on Jan. 4th (BJ, CMJ, PJ) and sub adults at Pagham on Jan. 10th (BAEM) and at Selsey Bill on Jan. 31st (MSC, RG, CL).

At Beachy Head, 2 adults moved E. on Apr. 18th (many observers), one sub adult on Apr. 19th (DSF, MJR), one adult E. on Apr. 20th (JFC, DSF) and 4 adults E. on Apr. 24th (many observers).

There was a sub adult at Sidlesham Ferry on Apr. 25th (MD) and 2 adults at Southwick on Apr. 29th (RFP). A first year bird was present at Selsey on May 29th (MJWH, RJS). From July 18th to Aug. 1st an adult was present at Chichester G. P. (BS) and there was a sub adult at Selsey Bill on Aug. 21st (BAEM, RFP). A sub adult was present at Pett Level from Sept. 15th to Oct. 3rd (PFB, AD) and there was also a sub adult at Lancing on Nov. 6th and 7th (JAN, RFP). Finally an adult was again present at Hove Lagoon from Dec. 18th to 28th (DAP, TWP).

207. **LITTLE GULL** (*L. minutus*).—During the first six months of the year recorded between Feb. 2nd from Lewes Rubbish Dump and June 15th at Church Norton and all told from eleven localities.

The chief movement observed was from Beachy Head when a total of 349, chiefly adults, were seen moving E. between Apr. 21st and May 16th with maximums of 45 E. on Apr. 29th, 53 E. on Apr. 30th and 115 E. on May 1st.

Recorded again from Aug. 9th when 2 moved E. off Seaford. Single birds recorded in late August from the Cuckmere, Pett-Level and Church Norton. Only one record for September of a single bird off Langney Point, and 28 at Pett on Sept. 28th.

During October seen at six localities with the maximum on Oct. 3rd with 12 W. off Langney Point and 20 at Beachy Head. Last seen on Nov. 6th off Selsey Bill.

208. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*L. ridibundus*).—The breeding colony in Chichester Harbour had greatly increased and although no precise count made an estimate of 900+ birds were present in the colony during May.

At Weir Wood Res. 2,000 were present in January when 1,600 were roosting at Bewl Bridge Res.

211. **KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*).—Recorded virtually throughout the year. On Feb. 22nd 76 E. off Selsey Bill while at Beachy Head a total of 520 moved E. between Feb. 8th and June 10th with a maximum of 204 on May 15th.

Breeding for the first time in the County was confirmed when 4-5 nests were discovered and at least 2 young were hatched.

On Sept. 22nd 137 moved W. off Beachy Head and on Oct. 31st 54 were present at Newhaven. At Selsey Bill a total of 124 W. in two hours on Nov. 6th.

212. **BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*).—Spring: Recorded from Apr. 22nd with one at Selsey Bill. The peak passage occurred on May 5th and 6th; on the 5th there were 11 at Arlington Res., 32 at Chichester G. P., 3 at Weir Wood Res. and 39 moved E. at Beachy Head. On the 6th there were 3 at Newhaven and 109 moved E. at Beachy Head. Only small numbers seen after this with one at Rye Harbour on July 1st.

Autumn passage recorded from Aug. 4th when 4 were present at Chichester G. P. Small numbers seen at seven localities during the month. Small numbers recorded from a number of localities during September and October and was last recorded from Nutbourne Marshes on Oct. 19th when 4 were seen.

217. **COMMON TERN** (*Sterna hirundo*).—4 pairs bred at Chichester G. P. and reared at least 9 young.

Approximately 40 pairs bred in Chichester Harbour and good breeding success was achieved.

At the Rye Harbour Reserve 32 pairs with eggs but all the clutches were taken.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN (*S. hirundo/paradisaea*).—Recorded from Apr. 11th. Systematic counting of the Spring passage at Beachy Head produced 10,265 birds moving E. Peak passage coincided with the Black Terns on May 5th with 3,365 E. and on the 6th when 1,360 moved E.

During the Autumn recorded up to Oct. 25th. Maximum recorded was on Sept. 11th when 129 moved W. at Langney Point

222. **LITTLE TERN** (*S. albigrons*).—First recorded on the early date of Apr. 4th at Selsey Bill and Pagham Harbour. On the 5th 2 were present at Pilesey Island.

Between Apr. 21st and May 29th a total of 270 moved E. at Beachy Head with a maximum of 52 E. on May 5th and 69 E. on the 6th. 80 moved E. off Selsey Bill on May 1st.

During the breeding season it was recorded as follows:

Rye Harbour Reserve 8 pairs rearing 14 young.

Pagham Harbour up to 75 pairs and in July 125 juvenile birds were seen.

Chichester Harbour up to 100 pairs with good breeding success obtained.

Ten were present at Seaford Head on Sept. 18th and was last seen at Church Norton on Oct. 18th.

223. **SANDWICH TERN** (*S. sandvicensis*).—First recorded at Thorney Island with 2 on Mar. 20th. At Beachy Head a total of 4,491 moved E. between Apr. 3rd and June 10th with maximums of 416 E. on Apr. 14th and 387 E. on May 1st. Birds were also recorded moving E. during the Spring from Selsey Bill and at Brighton.

A breeding colony first established in 1975 in Chichester Harbour continued to increase with approximately 35 pairs breeding. This colony is the first breeding record for the County.

On July 27th one was heard calling at 20.55 hours above the Downs behind Brighton and one moving S. low over Newmarket Hill on Aug. 23rd.

Small numbers moving W. from several localities during the Autumn. The largest movement seen was at Beachy Head with 200 W. on Sept. 5th. On Oct. 2nd, 13 were observed in a field near Newhaven and last seen at Chichester Harbour on Oct. 19th.

224. **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*).—Recorded from six localities including one in Chichester Harbour on July 25th.

At Beachy Head, 23 different birds seen during the Spring with a maximum of 10 on May 25th.

227. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*).—Recorded from eight localities but only a single bird identified on the Spring sea-watches at Beachy Head.

230. **PUFFIN** (*Fratercula arctica*).—Single birds seen at Lancing on Apr. 2nd (BFF) and at Beachy Head on Apr. 30th (MJR).

AUK SPECIES—At Beachy Head a total of 129 unidentified auks moved E. during the Spring with a maximum of 23 on May 15th.

232. **STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*).—Reported from thirty different breeding sites with 6 pairs in Arundel Park and 10 pairs on the Downs at Cissbury. Breeding season coverage was incomplete.

During April there was a flock of 238 at Amberley, in September 300 were on the Downs between Burpham and Amberley Mount while in November 400 were present at Beachy Head and 300 in the Cissbury Area.

234. **WOOD PIGEON** (*C. palumbus*).—Flocks of 1,000+ were reported from Maynards Green, Fife Beacon, Bewl Bridge, Shoreham, Newhurst and Wivesfield. Autumn movements from Beachy Head were as follows: Oct. 27th 1,000 SE., Oct. 30th 2,200 SE., Oct. 31st 6,500 SE., and Nov. 4th 2,000 SE. No repeat of the exceptional numbers seen last year.

235. **TURTLE DOVE** (*Streptopelia turtur*).—First recorded on Apr. 23rd from Rye Harbour. Seen at numerous localities during the breeding season with 10 pairs present in Arundel Park/South Stoke area, 12 pairs at Cissbury and 10 pairs at Wepham Down/Perry Hill.

During the Autumn recorded up to Oct. 29th when a first year bird was trapped at the Shoreham Sanctuary. Maximum numbers seen were 110 in the Cissbury Area on Aug. 30th and 70 feeding in the stubble at Arlington on Sept. 9th.

236. **COLLARED DOVE** (*S. decacoto*).—During January and March up to 300 birds were using the roost at the Shoreham Sanctuary. In November, 220 were present at Itchenor and in December 200 were present at South Stoke and 150 at Lower Prestwood Farm.

A single bird came in from the sea at Southwick on Apr. 29th.

237. **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*).—First recorded from Horsham on Apr. 8th and from Lychpole on Apr. 13th. First heard in many areas on Apr. 18th.

In the Shipney Reedbed four pairs of Reed Warblers were hosts to young Cuckoos and at Storrington a cuckoo's egg was found in a Robin's nest.

Last recorded from Weir Wood Res. where an adult was present on Sept. 23rd.

241. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*).—During the breeding season single birds or pairs were reported from the following locations: Bosham, Bignor, Patching, Whatlington, Itchinor, Duncton, Slinfold, Crowhurst, Sidlesham, Burton Park, Copsale, Beauport Park, Racton, Plaistow, Wilmington, Seddlescombe, Felpham, Little Bognor, Amberley, Wadhurst, Sutton, Cross In Hand, Arundel Park, Ewhurst Green, Storrington, Netherfield.

246. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*).—During the breeding season reported from 40 different locations.

247. **TAWNY OWL** (*Sirix aluco*).—There were widespread breeding season records from fifty four sites. In addition 65 birds were recorded in the Burwash/Brede area on the nights of May 19th and 20th.

248. **LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*).—Far more numerous this year than in recent years. Between January and March recorded as follows:

Downs near Steyning, 9 seen in one area and 3 in another area.

2 present at Balsdean; Barnham 5 roosting; 2 at Pevensey Bay and one found dead at Arlington.

April—single birds seen at Arlington, Newmarket Hill and Thorney Island.

One pair bred successfully rearing three young in one locality.

Single birds present at Beachy Head on Sept. 17th and Oct. 29th to 31st and at Alfriston on Oct. 24th. In December one heard calling at High Hurstwood.

249. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*A. flammeus*).—Approximate monthly totals of birds seen:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
22	11	14	5	6	25	9	21

Included in the above totals were 9 present in Chichester Harbour on Jan. 17th, 6 in the Sidlesham/Pagham Harbour area during January and February and 5 at Rye Harbour on Dec. 30th.

It was considered that during September and October ten different birds passed through Beachy Head and one arrived in from the sea on Apr. 12th and one moved S. out to sea on Oct. 30th.

On May 1st one on the Ouse Levels and on May 7th 2 present in the Balsdean area.

252. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*).—First recorded on May 9th at Iping Common. Records of probable and proved breeding were received from twenty seven localities involving about 58 pairs of which only 8 pairs were received from seven localities in East Sussex.

255. **SWIFT** (*Apus apus*).—First recorded from Apr. 30th with 2 at Chichester G. P.

During June 400 were present at Wepham Down on the 5th and 600 moved W. at Beachy Head on the 10th. In July there were 400 at Maynards Green on the 24th, hundreds moving SW. at Beachy Head and over Cissbury on the 30th and 700 at Beachy Head on the 31st. There were also 400 here on Aug. 13th.

More October records than normal with single birds present at Worthing on the 1st, Denton on the 3rd, Beachy Head on the 8th, 20th and 28th, Weir Wood Res. on the 16th, Amberley on the 17th, Lewes on the 21st and finally at Normans Bay on the 30th (RKH).

258. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*).—During the breeding season it was recorded from twenty nine localities.

260. **ROLLER** (*Coracias garrulus*).—One at Charleston Bottom on July 12th (AJC).

This record has been accepted by Brit. B. and is the fifteenth record for the County.

261. **HOOPOE** (*Upupa epops*).—Single birds seen at Chichester G. P. on Apr. 4th (AS, IMS, RJS), at Church Norton on Apr. 10th and 11th (CMJ, CRJ), at Shoreham Airport on Apr. 21st (per KMRB), at Beachy Head on May 2nd (STG, AQ) and at Barns Green on May 23rd (HO). One pair bred successfully rearing one young and another bird heard calling in a second locality during the breeding season. There have been only five previous acceptable records of breeding the last being some years prior to 1908.

262. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*).—During the breeding season there were records from sixty nine localities but breeding records were incomplete.

263. **GREAT-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*).—During the breeding season reported from fifty five localities including a number from coastal sites.

264. **LESSER-SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*D. minor*).—During the breeding season reported from thirty five localities. Outside the breeding season recorded from the following coastal sites, Pagham, Church Norton, Sidlesham, Ford, Goring and Worthing.

265. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*).—One seen in Pippingford Park on May 2nd and a single bird present at Alfriston between June 21st and Sept. 11th.

Very numerous during the Autumn with three distinct falls. The first occurred between Aug. 21st and Sept. 6th with single birds at Shoreham Sanctuary on the 21st, at Sidlesham on the 27th, at Eastbourne and near Midhurst on the 30th to Sept. 2nd, at Mannings Heath on Sept. 4th and at Church Norton, Crawley Down and the Severals on the 5th. At Beachy Head during this period virtually recorded daily with 5 on Aug. 24th, 5 on Aug. 29th and 3 on Sept. 4th.

The second fall was between Sept. 12th and 22nd with single birds seen at Church Norton, Pett Level, Ditchling Beacon, Climping and at Crawley. Again seen almost daily at Beachy Head with 6 present on the 17th.

The third fall was between Sept. 24th and Oct. 4th, with single birds present at East Hoathley, Woodingdean and Shoreham and on four dates at Beachy Head with 3 on Sept. 26th. Also recorded from Beachy Head on five later dates with the last being on Oct. 24th. One was also seen at East Hoathley on Oct. 20th and 21st.

It was considered that at least forty different birds were seen at Beachy Head of which fourteen were trapped and not one was re-trapped.

271. **WOODLARK** (*Lullula arboræa*).—One at Runcton on Oct. 9th (JVS).

Once again no reports during the breeding season; it was last recorded during this season in 1971.

272. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*).—Flocks of 100 were present at Sidlesham and Fife Beacon in January. In October, 500 were present in the stubble at Beachy Head on the 10th and 300 on the 17th. In November, 200 were seen at Cissbury on the 4th, 200 at Amberly Mount on the 5th and 300 at Beachy Head on the 27th.

During December 250 were present at Denton Hill and 300 at Newhaven.

274. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*).—First recorded on Mar. 28th with one at Felpham Beach, and on Apr. 2nd with 2 at Chichester G. P. No large numbers reported on Spring passage. During the breeding season

it was reported that because of the exceptional summer pairs were having trouble building their mud nests and young dying in the nest. 6,000 were seen moving S. on Sept. 19th at Beachy Head, 11,000 there on the 20th with 4,000 on the 21st.

During November recorded from a number of localities and last seen on Dec. 1st at Crowhurst.

276. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*).—First reported from Chichester G. P. on Apr. 14th and from Beachy Head on the 15th. No large numbers recorded during the Spring and breeding season records were conflicting, with a decline in some areas but in other areas there were good successes.

It was considered to be a poor Autumn passage at Beachy Head which probably suggests a poor breeding season. The peak passage coincided with that of the Swallow with 7,000 on Sept. 19th 6,000 on the 20th and 5,000 on the 21st all from Beachy Head. Very good scattering of November records with 2 at Eastbourne on 27th and a very late bird seen near Seaford on Dec. 16th.

277. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*).—First reported on Apr. 1st with 8 at Chichester G. P. and on the 2nd at Thorney Island. On May 13th 40+ were seen along the River Rother. Poorly reported during the breeding season.

During the Autumn, 500 were present at Rye Harbour on July 27th and thousands recorded at Pagham Harbour on Aug. 7th and 8th. Up to 3,000 per day at Rye Harbour between Aug. 30th and Sept. 1st.

Six were present at Shoreham Sanctuary on Oct. 27th, 2 at Chichester G. P. on the 29th, one at Beachy Head on the 30th and last seen in the Cuckmere Valley on the 31st.

278. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*).—One at Chancetonbury Ring on May 9th (CJB) and a male present at Balsedean on June 21st (GAS).

279. **RAVEN** (*Corvus corax*).—One present at Beachy Head from Apr. 10th to the end of the year (IRW *et al.*). On Sept. 18th a single bird was watched flying E. out to sea at this locality and it was watched until out of sight still heading towards Hastings (BEC, JFC).

Two birds were released at Pippingford Park during August.

281. **HOODED CROW** (*Corvus corone cornix*).—Single birds present in the Cuckmere Valley during January and February, at Lancing Rubbish Tip on Feb. 14th, at Mountfield on Feb. 21st, in the Chancetonbury area between Feb. 21st and 25th and at Steep Down between Mar. 8th and 18th.

On Oct. 31st one moved W. over Pett Level Pools, one on the Downs near Streyning on Nov. 7th and one at Church Norton on Nov. 15th. One came in from the direction of the sea at Fairlight Glen on Nov. 17th.

282. **ROOK** (*C. frugilegus*).—It is hoped to publish a full report of the recent census in next year's report.

During the Spring a total of 12 birds arrived in from the direction of the sea. On Oct. 30th 33 arrived in from the direction of the sea. These

records were from Beachy Head. Counts of all rookeries in dead elm trees are required.

286. **JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*).—On May 7th a party of 4 departed N. at Beachy Head.

292. **MARSH TIT** (*Parus palustris*).—Recorded during the year from eighteen localities but records far from complete.

293. **WILLOW TIT** (*P. montanus*).—Recorded from seventeen localities during the breeding season but as with the previous species records were incomplete.

294. **LONG-TAILED TIT** (*Aegithalos caudatus*).—Nine pairs bred along the Bluebell Railway line and family parties were recorded from ten other localities. Very few noted during the Autumn at Beachy Head and it was suspected that this was one of the species which suffered in the long hot summer.

295. **BEARDED TIT** (*Parurus biarmicus*).—A single bird at Pagham Harbour on Jan. 6th with 2 at Church Norton on Feb. 20th. One at Chichester G. P. on Feb. 28th and a pair present at Rye Harbour on Apr. 9th.

During the breeding season 2 pairs bred in one locality rearing 4 young.

On Sept. 23rd 2 at Rye Harbour, and on Oct. 26th 5 were at the Severals with 3 there the next day. At Fishbourne 2 were seen on Oct. 30th while the following day 4 departed North out of Strivens Reed Bed. Two were present at Church Norton on Nov. 27th.

299. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*).—During the breeding season along five miles of the Bluebell Railway Line 36 pairs were counted with a further 20 pairs close to the line.

During the Autumn the maximum count at Beachy Head was 100 on Oct. 16th.

302. **FIELDFARE** (*Turdus pilaris*).—During January and February 400 were present at Amberley Mount and 300 at Northiam. During January, 500 were at the roost at Alfriston with 600 at the roost at Arlington in February.

A scattering of April records and on May 1st 3 at Lychpole Hill, 5 at Abbots Wood and 2 at Beachy Head with one here on the 2nd.

A very poor Autumn and not recorded until Oct. 8th when flocks totalling 231 arrived near Pippingford Park in an hour. On Oct. 14th 400 were present at the Adur Levels and 500 were here in December when 400 were seen at Amberley Wildbrooks.

303. **SONG THRUSH** (*T. philomelos*).—Maximum Autumn counts from Beachy Head were as follows: Oct. 20th 100, Oct. 22nd 100 and Oct. 31st 100.

304. **REDWING** (*T. iliacus*).—During January 200 were using the Alfriston roost and in March there were 200 in the roost at Shoreham. During

the last week of March, 500 were noted at Northiam and 400 at Tanners Manor. Scattering of records for April with one at Shoreham on the 25th and recorded up to the 30th from Beachy Head. First noted during the Autumn on the late date of Oct. 9th when 10 were seen at Amberley Mount. Otherwise very low numbers recorded with 175 at Beachy Head on Oct. 31st.

During November and December, 200 were present in the Cissbury area and there were also 200 at Amberley Mount in December.

307. RING OUZEL (*T. torquatus*).—First seen on Mar. 28th with one at Church Norton. During April a minimum of 13 birds were recorded from three localities with a maximum of 6 at Cissbury on Apr. 28th. On May 1st, 3 were at Beachy Head, 3 at Cissbury and 2 near Lewes.

During the Autumn recorded between Sept. 12th and Nov. 13th when one was at Pagham Harbour. At Newmarket Hill about 30 recorded between Oct. 1st and Nov. 10th with a maximum of 12 on Oct. 25th. On Oct. 26th a flock of 15 was present at Lullington Heath.

Very good numbers seen at Beachy Head with 45 on Oct. 23rd, 130 on Oct. 25th, many of which arrived at 10.00 hours, and 75 on Oct. 29th.

Small numbers were recorded from twelve other areas.

308. BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*).—Maximum number recorded from Beachy Head was 100 on Nov. 13th.

311. WHEATEAR (*Oenanthe oenanthe*).—Recorded from Mar. 20th with one at Thorney Island and on the 21st single birds were present at Beachy Head and Church Norton. On Apr. 1st good numbers were recorded from a number of localities with 35 at Climping, 19 at Beachy Head, 15 at Selsey Bill and 14 at Goring Gap.

During the breeding season pairs were recorded from the Crumbles, on the Downs near Cissbury, at Sidlesham and 3 pairs were successful at Rye Harbour.

Between Aug. 21st and Aug. 29th very good numbers were recorded in the County with 150+ per day at Beachy Head up to 30 at Cissbury and 25 in the Sidlesham area. Good scattering of November records with one at Littlehampton until Nov. 17th and single birds at Rye Harbour on Nov. 20th and 27th.

Birds showing the characteristics of the Greenland Race (*O. o. leucorrhoea*) were as follows: one trapped at Ashcombe Farm on May 7th and 2 seen at Rottingdean on Oct. 30th.

317. STONECHAT (*Saxicola torquata*).—In the breeding season pairs or singing males were recorded from seventeen localities but records are incomplete. All records for May to July are required. During the Autumn 60 were present in mid-October at Beachy Head.

This species appeared to have had a poor breeding season. At Beachy Head where up to 17 pairs regularly bred only a few young were seen and the majority of birds ringed during the Autumn were adults whereas normally they are first year birds.

318. WHINCHAT (*S. rubetra*).—Spring passage was not recorded until May 1st when 2 were seen at Sidlesham. Only a small passage noted with

a maximum of 6 at Beachy Head on May 6th. Recorded from eleven localities during the Spring.

A male was present during the breeding season in one suitable locality.

Good numbers were noted during the second half of August and coincided with the Wheatear passage. On Aug. 19th 28 were present in the Cissbury area and on the 21st 75 were at Beachy Head, 12 at Pagham and 22 at Cissbury as well as smaller numbers at other localities. On Aug. 30th many were recorded on the Downs at Ditchling Beacon and there was also 80 at Beachy Head.

Smaller numbers seen during September. At Cissbury 30 were seen on the 7th and 27 on the 25th. 14 were in the Sidlesham area on the 16th and 22 at Beachy Head on the 20th.

Good scattering of records for October and last seen on Nov. 17th at Ovingdean (AJC).

320. REDSTART (*Phoenicurus phoenicurus*).—First recorded on Apr. 5th at Beachy Head. On Apr. 10th 6 were at Beachy Head and 2 at Church Norton. Very small numbers seen from other localities during the Spring.

Recorded during the breeding season from Bayham Woods where 4 singing males were present and one family party seen, 2 or 3 pairs at Eridge Park, 2 pairs at Linchmere and pairs present in Ashdown Forest. Breeding season records are incomplete and all records would be most welcome.

An improvement noted in the number of birds seen this Autumn compared with Autumns since 1969. During September, 9 were at Cissbury on the 7th and 14 here on the 14th, while at Beachy Head 18 were seen on the 17th and 35 on the 18th. At Church Norton 6 were noted on the 21st.

Last recorded on Nov. 3rd with one at Sidlesham.

321. BLACK REDSTART (*P. ochruros*).—During January and February chiefly single birds were recorded from Tidemills, Cuckmere Haven, Newhaven, Goring, Selsey, Rocdean, Sompting, Ovingdean, Shoreham, Chichester, Lancing and Southwick.

Spring passage was chiefly noted from Mar. 21st but only very small numbers seen. Three pairs bred in one locality rearing at least four young from the first brood and seven young from the second brood. Three other singing males were present at the same site. Single birds or small numbers noted from a number of localities during the Autumn with 10 at Beachy Head on Oct. 25th and 14 there on the 27th. Last seen on Oct. 31st at Church Norton.

322. NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*).—This is the third year of the Society's survey and coincided with the national census organised by the B. T. O. Coverage was excellent throughout the County and between May 5th and June 6th records were received from 123 tetrads in West Sussex and 121 tetrads in East Sussex of which 79 in West Sussex and 92 in East Sussex were new to the survey. A total of 664 singing males were reported which would appear to be the largest breeding population for any county in the country in 1976. Approximately 25% of

the breeding population was discovered in two of the county's 38 ten KM. squares namely TQ02 (Kirdford area) and TQ71 (Battle area). Beachy Head had an excellent Autumn, their best since systematic recording commenced in 1960 with a minimum of 8 different birds on Aug. 13th and was last seen here on Sept. 25th.

324. **BLUETHROAT** (*L. svecica*).—An immature bird trapped at Pett on Sept. 1st (Fisham Kinging Group) and an immature bird at Beachy Head on Sept. 17th (BEC, TWP).

325. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*).—Along five miles of the Bluebell Railway line there were 41 pairs during the breeding season on the line and another 16 pairs close to the line.
The Autumn maximums at Beachy Head were 110 on Oct. 16th, 100 on Oct. 18th and 100 on Oct. 20th.

326. **CETTI'S WARBLER** (*Cettia cetti*).—Littlington, one between June 19th and July 10th (PJW *et al*) and one between Oct. 8th and 16th (PJW). A singing male in another locality in East Sussex in June (CMJ, PJJ). One trapped at Beachy Head on Oct. 19th (JFC, DAP, JBW) and one at Runcton, near Chichester on three dates between Dec. 12th and 25th. These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

327. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER** (*Locustella naevia*).—First recorded on Apr. 16th at Selsey Bill and the following day at Beachy Head. Otherwise very few birds seen on Spring passage. In the breeding season there were records of 25 pairs including about 10 pairs at Arundel Park.
This species is the subject of a breeding census during the years 1977-1980 and all breeding records are required.
Very few noted on Autumn passage with only the odd bird seen at Beachy Head; it was last recorded on Oct. 16th.
This species has suffered a drastic decline since 1971.

333. **REED WARBLER** (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*).—First recorded at the Severals on Apr. 20th. During the breeding season there was a minimum of 74 pairs on Pevensey Levels, 67 pairs along the River Adur between Shoreham and the cement works and reports of 75 pairs in other areas but other records were not complete.
During the Autumn recorded from a number of coastal localities and it was last recorded at Beachy Head on Oct. 30th. This is the County's latest record.

334. **MARSH WARBLER** (*A. palustris*).—A singing bird recorded in a suitable breeding habitat between June 19th and 25th but not recorded after this date.

337. **SEDGE WARBLER** (*A. schoenobaenus*).—First recorded on Apr. 9th at Pett Level and on Apr. 11th at Church Norton.
Breeding records included about 26 pairs in the Arundel area, 39 singing males between Shoreham and the cement works on the River Adur and a minimum of 196 singing males on Pevensey Levels.
Autumn passage peaks at Beachy Head were 30 on Aug. 5th and 15 on Aug. 12th. Last recorded here on Oct. 4th.

343. **BLACKCAP** (*Sylvia atricapilla*).—No records during January and February but there were three records for March. Small numbers seen on Spring passage.

Only a few breeding season records were received.
Autumn peaks came as usual from Beachy Head with 150 on Sept. 6th, 300 on Sept. 12th, 400 on Sept. 14th, 200 on the 15th, 300 on the 17th and 18th and 250 on the 28th. There were a number of November records and in December one was present in the Cuckmere Valley on the 24th, one on the 26th at Storrington and 2 at Lindfield on the 27th. A record Autumn at Beachy Head for this species and this was confirmed by the large numbers ringed.

344. **BARRED WARBLER** (*S. nisoria*).—One trapped at Beachy Head on Sept. 4th (JFC, MK, TWO). The County's seventeenth record of which fifteen have been at Beachy Head.

346. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*S. borin*).—First recorded on Apr. 25th at Beachy Head and at Lullington Heath on the 29th.
Only a few breeding records received.

Autumn passage peaks at Beachy Head were 60 on Aug. 13th, 50 on Aug. 15th and 55 on Sept. 4th. Last recorded there on Oct. 25th.

347. **WHITETHROAT** (*S. communis*).—First recorded on Apr. 18th at Glyndebourne and on the 23rd at Beachy Head.

Spring maxima 30+ on May 4th at Beachy Head and 50 singing males on May 8th at Lullington Heath.

Many records for the breeding season including 20 pairs on Harting Down and 10 pairs at Darwell Res.

Maximum numbers seen during the Autumn were from Beachy Head with 80 on Aug. 12th, 100 on the 13th and 60 on the 16th and 17th. Last recorded from this locality on Oct. 20th.

It was considered by a number of observers that there had been some recovery in the number of breeding pairs and this was confirmed by the number ringed at Beachy Head.

348. **LESSER WHITETHROAT** (*Sylvia curruca*).—First recorded on Apr. 18th at Beachy Head and on the 21st at Slinfold.

Only a few breeding records received but there were ten pairs at Harting Down. Good Autumn passage noted on the Downs near Worthing and at Beachy Head, where the maximum number seen was 75 at this latter locality on Aug. 26th.

Last recorded on Oct. 25th at Woodingdean.

350. **SARDINIAN WARBLER** (*S. melanocephala*).—A male present at Beachy Head from Aug. 23rd until at least Oct. 30th (DMC *et al*).

This record has been accepted by Brit. B. and is the first for the County.

352. **DARTFORD WARBLER** (*S. undata*).—Recorded during the breeding season from four localities with three pairs at one site and several pairs at another site.

354. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trochilus*).—First recorded on

Mar. 29th at Chichester G. P. and near Shoreham.

Spring maxima at Beachy Head, 80 on Apr. 10th and at Pagham Harbour 50 on Apr. 11th. During the breeding season 60 pairs were counted at Arundel Park.

Autumn passage commenced as early as July 16th and 100 were noted near Lewes on July 30th. Peaks at Beachy Head occurred on Aug. 1st with 120, Aug. 3rd with 200 and on the 11th with 160. On Aug. 6th 200+ were present at Pett.

Last recorded on Oct. 29th when 2 birds were present at Beachy Head.

356. CHIFFCHAFF (*P. collybita*).—During January one was seen in the Balsean Valley on the 17th, one at Chichester G. P. on the 18th and one at Worthing on the 28th and in February single birds were seen at Southwick on the 5th and near Lewes on the 7th.

Spring passage was first noted from Mar. 11th.

Only a few breeding season records received with 11 pairs in Arundel Park and 7 pairs on Harting Down.

Autumn passage peaks at Beachy Head were 80 on Sept. 14th, 120 on Sept. 17th and 100 on Sept. 28th.

Many records for December involving 16 different birds including 3 at Chichester G. P. on the 3rd, 2 at Selsey on the 18th and 2 at Arundel Park on the 11th.

357. WOOD WARBLER (*P. sibilatrix*).—First recorded on Apr. 11th at Westbourne and noted on Spring passage at Beachy Head on Apr. 30th and May 8th and 9th and at Church Norton on May 16th.

During the breeding season about 21 pairs or singing males were recorded in twelve localities.

In the Autumn it was noted at Beachy Head on July 26th, Aug. 17th and Sept. 5th, at Runcton on Aug. 10th and 19th, at Balsean Valley on Aug. 28th and at Church Norton on Aug. 28th.

360. YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER (*P. inornatus*).—One trapped at Beachy Head on Oct. 10th (RHC, MEC *et al*).

This constitutes the sixteenth county record of which ten have been recorded at Beachy Head.

364. GOLDCREST (*Regulus regulus*).—On Spring passage maximum recorded was from Beachy Head with 45 on Apr. 10th.

Recorded from seven localities during the breeding season but information incomplete. No repeat of the unprecedented numbers recorded last Autumn with the maximum numbers recorded from Beachy Head as follows: Oct. 16th 85, Oct. 19th 150 and Oct. 27th 80. At Newmarket Hill 20 were present on Oct. 25th.

365. FIRECREST (*R. ignicapillus*).—Recorded from Mar. 21st. At Beachy Head a total of 14 birds passed through the area during the Spring with a maximum of 5 on Apr. 1st. Single birds were also noted at Rottingdean on Mar. 26th, at Goring on Mar. 21st and at Church Norton on Apr. 4th.

During the breeding season pairs were recorded from two localities. At Beachy Head during the Autumn approximately 48 different birds

were recorded between Sept. 21st and Nov. 7th with 5 seen on Sept. 26th, Oct. 19th and 20th.

Other records included 2 at Shoreham on the early date of Aug. 16th and single birds at Weir Wood Res. on Oct. 10th, Marley on Oct. 14th, Sidlesham on Oct. 19th and 2 in the Balsean Valley on Oct. 20th.

On Dec. 1st one was present at Newmarket Hill, on Dec. 29th 2 were seen at Lychpole Hill and one was at Arundel on Dec. 31st.

366. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*).—First recorded on May 7th from Storrington and Beachy Head and on the 8th at Runcton. Only small numbers recorded on Spring passage.

During the breeding season seen in twenty two sites but obviously under recorded. In August, 40+ seen near Petworth on the 10th, 30 at Sidlesham on the 12th, 20 at Parham Park on the 20th and 22 at Beachy Head on the 26th.

In September, 25 at Beachy Head on the 6th, 47 the following day at Cissbury and 20 at Sidlesham on the 16th. Scattering of October records chiefly from Beachy Head with the last one being seen there on Oct. 27th.

368. PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*).—Single birds seen on Spring passage at Balsean Valley on Apr. 30th, at Sullington Warren on May 2nd and 5th and at Beachy Head on May 12th.

A male was present at the same locality as last year between May 7th and June 5th. It was singing and holding territory but no female seen.

Small passage noted during the first three weeks of the Autumn from Beachy Head with up to 6 seen on a day and a total of 20 were ringed.

On Aug. 22nd, 11 were present at this locality with 10 on the 28th. Also recorded during August from sixteen other localities chiefly at the coast but odd birds were seen in some of the observers' gardens.

Very small numbers seen at nine localities in September, and in October recorded from Church Norton on the 3rd and 12th.

370. RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*F. parva*).—One at Beachy Head on Sept. 25th (DMC, TWP *et al*).

373. MEADOW PIPIT (*Anthus pratensis*).—At the beginning of the year the largest number seen was 35 at Chichester G. P.

During the Spring, arrival from the direction of the sea was observed at Beachy Head, Selsey Bill and Hope Gap with a maximum of 81 at Selsey Bill on Mar. 20th and 98 there on the 27th.

In the breeding season 118 pairs were located on the Pevensy Levels but it was estimated that the actual population was nearer 200 pairs. Elsewhere it was reported from seventeen well distributed localities but records were incomplete. Maximum numbers recorded at Beachy Head in the Autumn were 200 on Sept. 19th, 100 W. on 29th and 300 W. on the 30th. On Sept. 16th there were up to 250 in the Sidlesham/Church Norton area and on Oct. 1st, 120 were noted at Cissbury Ring. On Oct. 5th several hundred were seen departing S. at Church Norton and there were 300 at Goring Gap on the 22nd. Large scale passage was also observed near Lewes in early October.

January and Apr. 27th at least 14 birds were recorded from thirteen well distributed localities.

On Oct. 16th one was seen at Beachy Head and on Oct. 23rd and 24th one was seen at Runcton. Single birds were then reported from Lullington Heath on Oct. 26th, near Selsey Sewage Farm on Oct. 30th and 31st, near Petersfield on Nov. 5th, Poling on Nov. 13th and 14th and Ashdown Forest on Nov. 26th.

386. WOODCHAT SHRIKE (*L. senator*).—One at Beachy Head on Aug. 22nd (JFC, DAP *et al*), one near Chichester from Sept. 11th to 25th (CRJ, WWAP, JVS *et al*), one at Beachy Head on Oct. 16th (FL, CW, RPP *et al*) and one at Sidlesham between Oct. 24th and Nov. 2nd (AJH, CM, MS *et al*).

Four records in one year is exceptional and our best year to date. About 23 birds have now been recorded in the County. These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

388. RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*L. collurio*).—A male was present at Sutton on July 5th and an immature bird at Beachy Head on Sept. 25th. At Balsdean Valley one was recorded between Sept. 27th and Oct. 10th and another at Sidlesham on Oct. 29th.

389. STARLING (*Sternus vulgaris*).—On Jan. 2nd 2,000 were recorded at Amberley Wild Brooks and about 3,000 were seen flying E. at Hangleton on five mornings at the end of the month. At Glynde Levels-over 10,000 were recorded on Feb. 24th and on Mar. 23rd a small arrival from the direction of the sea was noted at Selsey Bill and Church Norton. During the last week of March a mass roosting flight of over 20,000 was seen in the Northam area.

In October maximum numbers seen at Beachy Head were 1,000 W. on the 9th and 300 W. on the 10th. At Shoreham a roost of about 10,000 birds was noted on the 29th with 20,000+ there on Nov. 1st. Other large roosts recorded were 10,000+ at Itchenor on Nov. 3rd and 1,000 at New Erringham Farm on Nov. 21st. No records were received from the large roost in the Cuckmere Valley.

391. HAWFINCH (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*).—Between Jan. 20th and Apr. 9th records concerning up to 17 birds were received from Blackboys, Haywards Heath, Ringmer, Langley, Maresfield, Pippingford Park, Fernhurst and Beachy Head.

The only breeding season record was that of a juvenile at Barlavington on June 27th. On Sept. 27th one was observed at Slinfold and at the end of the year it was again recorded from Fernhurst.

392. GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*).—In the early months the largest flock reported was 50 at Climping Beach on Jan. 17th but records were incomplete.

Unusually large summer flocks were recorded when up to 104 fed on elm seeds at Southwick during June and 1,200 were observed in the Cissbury area on July 29th. Large Autumn and Winter flocks included 300 at Chanctonbury, 250 at Cissbury, 300 at Horam and 200-300 near Lewes.

375. TAWNY PIPIT (*A. campestris*).—At Beachy Head, 2 from Aug. 28th to 31st (ARK *et al*), and single birds on Sept. 2nd (RHC) and Sept. 20th (RHC).

These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

376. TREE PIPIT (*A. trivialis*).—First recorded on Apr. 10th when 4 were located in St. Leonards Forest. Only small numbers noted on Spring passage.

In the breeding season there were records from twenty eight well distributed localities.

During the Autumn numbers of migrants seen at Beachy Head were the lowest recorded there since watching began in 1960 with a maximum of 10 on Sept. 1st, 4th, 5th and 19th. The low numbers recorded suggested a poor breeding season.

It was last seen at Litlington on Oct. 5th.

379. ROCK PIPIT (*A. spinoletta*).—Breeding season records were only received from Rottingdean, Newhaven, the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head where at least 7 pairs were present.

Birds showing characteristics of the race *litoralis* were recorded as follows: Sidlesham Ferry, one between Mar. 27th and Apr. 16th and Nov. 4th and Dec. 21st. Litlington, one on Dec. 5th. Cuckmere Haven, one on Mar. 22nd.

380. PIED WAGTAIL (*Motacilla alba*).—A roost of up to 200 birds was reported from High Hurstwood in January and February. Between September and December roosting was recorded from Eastbourne, Horam, Steyning, Storrington and Shoreham with a maximum of 200+ at Worthington on Nov. 10th.

On Mar. 23rd, 10 arrived from the direction of the sea at Selsey Bill. A single bird showing the characters of the race *alba* was seen at Arlington Res. on May 5th.

381. GREY WAGTAIL (*M. cinerea*).—During the breeding season, pairs or single birds were recorded from thirty seven localities which compares with fifty two localities in 1975.

In the Autumn only 22 were seen on passage at Beachy Head.

382. YELLOW WAGTAIL (*M. flava*).—First recorded on Apr. 4th at Church Norton.

Records of proved or probable breeding were recorded from the following localities: Rye Harbour, Coldwaltham, Southsea, Amberley, Barcombe, Bodiam, Glynde. A complete census of Pevensey Levels in June found 165 pairs present.

Autumn passage at Beachy Head was larger than of late with 200 on Aug. 21st, 65 on Aug. 29th and 80 on Aug. 30th.

Last recorded at Rottingdean on Oct. 11th.

383. WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*).—Two at Mannings Heath on Feb. 9th (GET), and a small flock of up to 10 at Rushlake Green on Oct. 1st (LT).

384. GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*Lanius excubitor*).—Between early

At High Hurstwood, 693 were ringed during the year with as many as 330 of these being trapped in July.

393. **GOLDFINCH** (*C. carduelis*).—During the early months the largest flocks reported were 175 at East Chidham and up to 100 at Darwell Res.

Arrival from the direction of the sea was observed at Selsey Bill on Apr. 20th, when 140 were seen and 100 there on May 8th. Smaller arrivals were noted on other dates from this locality and also from Beachy Head when many hundreds were seen on Apr. 29th.

No records were submitted on breeding pairs and one must assume that no noticeable change was noted.

During the Autumn, maximum movements recorded at Beachy Head were 300 W. on Sept. 21st, 300 W. on Oct. 2nd and 1,000 E. on Oct. 8th. Between Aug. 6th and Oct. 25th flocks of 100-200 were seen at seven localities and there were 500+ at Amberley Wildbrooks on Oct. 3rd. Only small numbers recorded during November and December.

394. **SISKIN** (*C. spinus*).—Between January and April records were received from forty widely distributed localities but numbers were generally small. At Forest Mere 90 were present on Jan. 17th and 70 at Sullington Warren on Jan. 11th. Flocks of 20-40 birds were located in nine other areas and there were reports from five gardens of birds feeding on nuts. On Mar. 28th a male was singing near Pound Hill.

None recorded during the Summer months and first recorded on Autumn passage from Crowlink on Sept. 17th. A drastic decline in numbers was noted during the Autumn from Beachy Head when only 9 birds were seen compared with 400 in 1975 and 350 in 1974. This decline was also noted from other localities during the Autumn and Winter of 1976/77 and the maximum numbers seen were 30 at Hisham Farm during November and December and 25+ at Maynards Green in December.

395. **LINNET** (*Acanthis cannabina*).—During the early months the largest flocks reported were 70 in the Ouse Valley on Jan. 11th and 80 at Sutton on Mar. 14th.

In April arrival from the direction of the sea was noted at various coastal localities between Selsey Bill and Camber with 200 at Climping on the 14th, 250 there on the 16th and 1,000 at Camber on the 23rd. At Pyecombe 200 were seen on Apr. 8th and 60 at Bewl Bridge Res. on May 2nd.

In the Autumn, maximum numbers recorded on passage at Beachy Head comprised 500 W. on Oct. 10th, 300 W. on the 17th and 250 W. on the 25th.

Elsewhere flocks of up to 400 birds were reported from eight localities mainly in the West of the County with the largest being 700 at Beeding Hill, Shoreham on Oct. 9th.

At the end of the year 500 were observed near Devils Dyke on Dec. 28th.

396. **TWITE** (*A. flavirostris*).—Between Jan. 1st and Feb. 19th up to 50 were recorded at Shoreham. Elsewhere there were 20 at Sidlesham on Jan. 6th, 40 at Rye Harbour on Jan. 11th, 15 at Thorney on Feb. 14th and small numbers from three other coastal sites.

At Beachy Head during the Autumn one was observed on Oct. 10th,

18 on Oct. 20th and 2 on Oct. 24th.

At the end of the year, the maxima recorded from Rye, Shoreham and Pagham was 30, 60 and 30 respectively.

The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
124	50	5	34	47	120

397. **REDPOLL** (*A. flammea*).—During the breeding season, excluding Ashdown Forest, pairs were recorded as follows:

Marley	1 pair	Courtledge Down
Halmaker	1 pair	Frant
Cooden	1 pair	St. Leonards Forest
Brightling	2 pairs	Plummers Plain
Chailey Common	1 pair	Herstroncoex Fen
Linchmere	1 pair	Iping
Battle	1 pair	Hadlow Down

This species is the subject of a special breeding survey and all records are required between May and July.

It was considered to be a poorer Autumn than normal at Beachy Head although odd birds seen here at the end of July and early August may have indicated local breeding. Main movements occurred from Oct. 10th to the 31st with peaks of 100 on the 16th and 200 on the 31st.

400. **SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*).—Up to 2 present at Beachy Head on May 8th (many observers) with a pair present at this locality between May 24th and June 14th (RHC).

During October, one was present here on the 9th (RME, TWP, BJS) and 2 on the 19th (RHC).

These records have been accepted by Brit. B.

401. **RULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).—Maximum numbers recorded during the Autumn from Beachy Head were 40 on Oct. 21st and 50 on Oct. 31st.

402. **SCARLET ROSEFINCH** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*).—An immature bird or female was trapped at Beachy Head on Oct. 21st (JFC, STG, MEN *et al*).

This record has been accepted by Brit. B. and is the third for the County.

407. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*).—During the first three months of the year the largest flocks reported were 140 at Maynards Green on Jan. 10th, 100 at Earham on Jan. 17th, over 200 at Sidlesham on Jan. 27th and 200 on the Downs on Mar. 6th. 350 were also present at Beachy Head on Mar. 7th and 110 moved E. there on Oct. 9th.

During December, flocks of 100 birds were observed in the Cuckmere Valley and near Lewes.

408. **BRAMBLING** (*F. montifringilla*).—Recorded up to Apr. 18th from seventeen localities. Generally the numbers seen were small but 150 were counted in Ashdown Forest on Jan. 10th and 11th and there were

flocks of 50 in this area up to Mar. 21st. Other flocks of 50 were present at Pippingford Park on Jan. 30th and Feb. 2nd and with the Chaffinches at Beachy Head on Mar. 7th. This whole flock of finches seen at Beachy Head had departed on the 8th.

In the Autumn first recorded on Oct. 8th from Beachy Head and then noted on five further dates at this locality. Elsewhere 2 were seen at Offham on Nov. 17th and one in Ashdown Forest on Dec. 11th.

409. YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—During the early months of the year the largest flocks recorded were 80 at Sidlesham on Jan. 7th, 30 near Firls Beacon on Jan. 24th and 60 at Weir Wood Res. on Feb. 13th.

On Nov. 16th up to 80 were seen at Bewl Bridge and 60-70 were present in Ashdown Forest in December.

410. CORN BUNTING (*E. calandra*).—During the breeding season records were received from nineteen downland localities and in addition it was reported from the following West Sussex coastal localities, Oving, Merston, Yapton, Ferring, Bilsham and Chidham.

Only two Winter roosts were reported, Strivens Reedbed maximum 500 seen and Shoreham Airport with a maximum of 200.

This species is now the subject of a special breeding survey and all records of singing males are required for the period May to August.

415. GIRL BUNTING (*E. cirius*).—In the breeding season pairs were reported from the following localities: Cuckmere Valley 5 pairs, Lancing 1 pair, Peacchaven Cliffs 1 pair, Thorney Island 1 pair, Beachy Head 3 pairs.

In addition singing males were reported from Ditchling Common on Mar. 26th and Rackham on May 5th.

416. ORTOLAN BUNTING (*E. hortulana*).—At Beachy Head an immature bird trapped and at least one other immature bird present on Sept. 5th and 6th (RHC, DEL, PJW).

421. REED BUNTING (*E. schoeniclus*).—In the breeding season 262 pairs were located on the Pevensey Levels and reports were received from twelve other well distributed localities.

At Bewl Bridge up to 60 were seen on Nov. 14th and Dec. 24th. Elsewhere the largest numbers recorded were 28 at Rye Harbour on Oct. 24th and over 30 near Old Lodge in Ashdown Forest on Nov. 27th.

At Sutton, 213 different birds were ringed during the 1975/76 Winter.

423. SNOW BUNTING (*Plectrophenax nivalis*).—On Jan. 11th there were 20 at Rye Harbour and between Jan. 13th and Mar. 29th one was seen on Worthing beach. At Langney Point 9 were recorded on Feb. 1st and 2 were still present on Mar. 13th.

An early record of a male at Pagham on Sept. 25th (IJ) and single birds were subsequently noted at Beachy Head on Oct. 29th and at Woodingdean from Nov. 12th to the 17th. During December there were 2 at Pett Level on the 5th and a maximum of 23 at Rye Harbour L. N. R.

424. HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—In July there were two

reports of unusual coloured birds. The first concerned a pure albino at Brighton (RL) and the second an all cream coloured bird at Alfriston (PJW, VAW).

425. TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*).—Selected counts of Winter flocks were as follows: Amberley 100, Weir Wood 70, Sidlesham 100, North Mundham 100, Maynards Green 100, Newich 50 and Cissbury 200.

During the breeding season 50 pairs were reported from 25 localities.

Autumn passage at Beachy Head was heavy with maxima of 1,000 E. on Oct. 10th, 1,500 W. on Oct. 10th and 500 W. on Oct. 17th.

ESCAPES

A number of escapes were reported in the County during the year under review and these records have been filed. No attempt has been made in this report to summarise these records but good numbers of Ring Necked Parakeets are reported from a number of areas and observers should be aware of escapes.

Other more interesting escapes seen included Red-Wiskered Bulbul and Red Crested Cardinals. All records of escapes should be submitted.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1972 REPORT

324. BLUETHROAT—One juvenile trapped at Chichester G. P. on Sept. 29th (CRG).

338. AQUATIC WARBLER—One juvenile trapped at Chichester G. P. on Sept. 3rd (CRG). This record has been accepted by Brit. B.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1974 REPORT

107. MERLIN—One on Dec. 30th at Falmer.

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO THE 1975 REPORT

9. DABCHICK—Peak concentration in Pagham Harbour was 28 on Nov. 22nd. Peak concentration in Chichester Harbour was 101 on Nov. 22nd.

76. WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE—22 present at Pett Level on Dec. 23rd.

91. BUZZARD—One at Falmer on Mar. 31st.

99. MARSH HARRIER—A female at Falmer on May 16th (CFH).

121. SPOTTED CRAKE—The bird seen in Chichester Harbour was also present on 23rd August.

142. **DOTTEREL**—The Pagham bird was a juvenile.

146. **GREAT SNIPE** (*Gallinago media*).—Female shot at Bodiam in late September (A. Kidd per Dr. J. G. H.).
This record has been accepted by Brit. B.

147. **TEMMINCK'S STINT**—One at Arlington Res. between Sept. 29th and Oct. 1st (PJW, VAW).

205. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL**—An adult at Chichester G. P. on Oct. 18th (PR, BS).

216. **CASPIAN TERN** (*Hydroprogne tschegrava*).—One seen in Cuckmere Haven on June 26th (PB).
This record has been accepted by Brit. B.

321. **BLACK REDSTART**—A pair bred at a second locality rearing 2 young.

Page 46. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER**—The bird at Darwell Res. was on Dec. 6th 1975 not 1974 as stated.

Page 52. Table 1.—The peak winter Teal count and % for Pagham Harbour should read 450 and 0.3% not 199 and 1.13%

SUMMARY OF BIRD RINGING IN SUSSEX, 1976

Compiled by P. J. Wilson

The total number of birds ringed in Sussex in 1976 was 18,360 of 101 species. This compares with the previous year's total of 24,103.

The flow of recoveries, especially controls, increases yearly and whilst this is very gratifying, it obviously means that the following lists are becoming more and more selective.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1976

Key to symbols and terms
(Ring numbers are omitted)

Age	Manner of Recovery
1. Pullus (nestling or chick not yet flying)	v Caught or trapped and released with ring
2. Full grown, but year of hatching quite unknown	+ Shot or killed by man
3. Definitely hatched during current calendar year	x Found dead or dying
4. Hatched before current calendar year but exact year unknown	() Caught or trapped alive and not released, or released but with ring removed
	/?/ Method of recovery unknown

5. Definitely hatched last calendar year
 6. Hatched before last calendar year but exact year not known
- J. This suffix indicates a bird still in juvenile plumage

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

Sex

- ♂ Male
♀ Female

Distance
The distance is given in kilometres and directions are approximate

BIRDS RINGED IN SUSSEX

Swallow	3	20.9.75	Filsham (FRG)
	/?/	11.5.76	Tihouna ait Ovdir, Arhbala, Morocco
	3	20.9.75	Filsham (FRG)
	v	20.10.76	Anza, Agadir, Morocco
House Martin	2	22.9.75	Beachy Head (BHRG)
	/?/	(12.5.76)	Segangane, (Nador) Morocco
			There were also other recoveries from Berkshire and Yorkshire
Bearded Tit	2 ♂	3.11.73	Filsham (FRG)
	v	28.5.75	Kilemeer, Kaedjik, (N. Holland) Netherlands
	v	27.9.76	Oostvaardersdijk, (Ijsselmeer Polders) Netherlands
	2 ♂	26.10.75	Filsham (FRG)
	v	7.11.76	Great Salterns, Portsmouth, Hampshire
Wren	2	26.10.75	Filsham (FRG)
	x	23.4.76	Soihull, Warwickshire. 230km. NW
Redwing	4	19.12.72	Near Lewes (R/L)
	v	31.1.76	Near Lewes
	x	24.10.74	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
		1.2.76	Brejos de Azzitas, Palmels, (Estremadura) Portugal

Goldcrest	2 ♂ x	26.9.75 ?.10.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Grand Forte Philippe (Pas de Calais) France
	2 ♂ v	16.10.76 18.10.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Dungeness, Kent. 53km. ENE
Duncock	Three birds ringed in autumn at Beachy Head were recovered at Rye (March), Brighton (March) and Pevensey Bay (May)		
Starling	4 ♂ x	2.1.72 ?.5.72	Alfriston (PJJW) Shangaly (Arkhangel'sk) U. S. S. R. (Reported in 1976)
	2 ♂ x	14.12.75 ?.7.76	Alfriston (PJJW) Puskarv, Polva, Estonian S. S. R.
	3 x	13.8.76 14.1.76	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC) Chasne sur Illet (Ille-en-Vilaine) France
Goldfinch	3J +	31.7.66 4.11.66	Beachy Head (BHRG) Cuenca (Cordoba) Spain (Reported in 1976!!)
	5 ♂ /?/	25.7.72 22.12.74	Shoreham-by-Sea (ABW) Huesca, Spain (Reported in 1976)
	3J /?/	7.8.74 12.3.76	Shoreham-by-Sea (ABW) Vitoniz (Arana) Spain
Girl Bunting	v	22.7.75 11.6.76	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC) Isle of May, Scotland. 625. NNW (An unprecedented recovery)

BIRDS RINGED ELSEWHERE AND RECOVERED IN SUSSEX

Dunlin	Five birds controlled in early 1976 at Shoreham by ABW and JAN had been ringed in Sweden, Finland, Poland, Denmark and Norway, all in autumn.		
Razorbill	Three birds ringed as chicks on the Shiant Isles (Outer Hebrides) in July were found dead at Camber, Bognor Regis and Cuckmere Haven during the winter months (per DJS)		
Robin	v	27.9.76 20.10.76	Bassevelde (East Flanders) Belgium Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
Reed Warbler	3 v	14.8.76 Pett Level (FRG)	Hamburg-Vjendorf (Hamburg) West Germany

Blackbird	4 ♀ x	29.1.74 15.2.76	Alfriston (PJJW) Kastaven, Tempelin, (Neubrandenburg) E. Germany
(killed by cat)	x	22.10.75 26.7.76	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC) Zwolle (Overijssel) Netherlands
(shot in cherry orchard)	3 ♀ x	10.10.75 19.3.76	Lewes (RJJL) Zepperen (Limbourg) Belgium
Song Thrust	4 ♂ +	20.10.75 30.6.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Cappeln (Oldenburg) West Germany
Redstart	4 x	19.10.75 25.2.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Knabendijke (Zeeland) Netherlands
Robin	3 x	15.9.75 29.4.76	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC) The Calf, Isle of Man. 500 km. NW
	3 x	11.10.75 25.10.75	Lewes (RJJL) Digulleville (Manche) France. (Reported in 1976)
	3 x	22.8.74 ?.10.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Sheffield, Yorkshire. 315km NNW
Reed Warbler	3 x	6.8.76 27.9.76	Pett Level (FRG) Evora (Alto Alentejo) Portugal
	3 +	27.8.76 7.10.76	Pett Level (FRG) Praia de Lavadores (Douro Litoral) Portugal

There were also recoveries from Sussex, Lancashire, Essex, Cheshire and Somerset

Sedge Warbler	3 x	12.8.75 13.4.76	Filsham (FRG) Abéjar (Soria) Spain
	3 v	6.9.75 19.1.76	Filsham (FRG) Djoudj, Near St. Louis, Senegal, West Africa
Willow Warbler	3 v	11.9.75 22.4.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) The Calf, Isle of Man. 500 km NW
Chiffchaff	2 x	8.9.75 5.10.76	Beachy Head (BHRG) Chambray-les-Tours (Indre-et-Loire) France

There have been very few recoveries of passerines from South of the Sahara

There were also recoveries from France (3), Brecon, Kircudbrightshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire, Essex and Sussex

3	29.7.75	Titchwell, Norfolk
v	30.8.75	Filsham (FRG). 230km. S
v	18.7.76	Titchwell, Norfolk
There were also controls from Sussex, Hampshire (2), Hertfordshire (2), Dorset, Somerset, Yorkshire, Essex and Kent		
Blackcap	2 ♀	Bridgend, Isle of Islay, Argyll
v	28.10.76	Beachy Head (BHRG). 700 km SE
Garden Warbler	5.9.75	Wangen (Sudwurtenburg) West Germany
v	16.8.76	Hodcombe, Beachy Head (RHC)
2	21.8.76	Schiernorni Koog, Netherlands
v	28.8.76	Pett Level (FRG)
Yellow Wagtail	3 ♀	Capbreton (Landes) France
v	31.8.76	Pett Level (FRG)
Siskin	2 ♀	Lachen, Neustadt (Rheinsland Pfalz) West Germany
x	28.3.76	Sullington, Storrington (per JNMCK)

COASTAL COUNTS OF WADERS AND WILDFOWL IN SUSSEX AND EAST HAMPSHIRE IN 1976/77

R. F. PORTER

This is the fourteenth year of the Society's survey of the wader populations of Chichester and Pagham Harbours, and the seventh year of the RSPB/Wildfowl Trust/BTO Birds of Estuaries Enquiry. Eight complete counts of waders and wildfowl were made in the two main Harbours between July 1976 and March 1977, and two counts along the whole of the Sussex Coast were made in January and February 1977. The results of these are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

Once again close co-operation was maintained with the Ornithological Section of the Hampshire Field Club, so that virtually all counts were made on simultaneous dates in the East Hampshire harbours of Langstone and Portsmouth.

In the results of the 1975/76 survey (Porter, 1976) attention was drawn to the international importance of Pagham and Chichester Harbours for certain species by comparing the peak counts with those of the West European wintering population. Though one must be cautious about comparisons of counts of one seasons duration, international status was maintained this winter by all species listed by Porter (1976) i.e. one for Pagham and seven for Chichester Harbour, and in addition such status was attained by Dark-bellied Brent Goose in Pagham (maximum wintering count being 1,500—approximately 1.4% of West European wintering population) and Bar-tailed Godwit in Chichester Harbour

(maximum wintering count being 1,120—approximately 1.24% of West European wintering population). The winter Bar-tailed population in this harbour has shown considerable annual fluctuation in recent winters with a peak of over 1,400 wintering in the early 1970's dropping to a peak of just over 500 in 1974/75, 715 in 1975/76, and up again to 1,220 this winter. The average peak of 1,129 between 1971 and 1977 clearly shows that the Harbour is of regular international importance for this species.

Generally numbers of diving duck and grebes were down over the count for 1975/76. For example Little Grebes peaked at only 30 in Chichester Harbour, compared to 101 the previous winter, and Goldeneye only reached 71 there, whereas in 1975/76 the peak was 134. However, wintering Red-breasted Mergansers slightly increased (peak of 27 in 1975/76 to a peak of 67 in 1976/77).

Conversely, dabbling duck numbers were up in both harbours and particularly notable were the peak Pintail counts: 215 in Chichester and 260 in Pagham. The wintering Teal population continued its upward trend in Chichester reaching a peak of 1,379, a figure which represents 0.92% of the West European wintering population.

There was a large and worrying drop in the numbers of Shelduck in Chichester. Between 1971 and 1976 the average peak has been 2,915, and in the winter of 1975/76 the maximum count was 2,540. In the winter under review the peak was only 1,500. Close observations will be kept on this species for which the Harbour is internationally important even at this reduced figure. It is possible that with a succession of mild winters recently, birds that otherwise would have come to Britain have remained on the West Danish coast (G. Atkinson-Willes pers. com.) or else the increase in algal growth due to the sewage levels has brought about reduction in *Hydrobia ulva*, the main food item of the Shelduck, a suggestion that has been offered for the decrease in adjacent Langstone Harbour (Tubbs 1977).

The Dark-bellied Brent Goose population declined slightly in Chichester, but in Pagham there was an almost 50% increase over the previous winter. The overall peak count of 13,765 in the West Sussex/East Hampshire harbour complex however, was of a similar order to that of the previous winter. Brent continued their habit of flying off the Harbours to feed on grass meadows, and during both the January and February counts in Chichester and Pagham over 60% of the geese were on grass (see Table 3). This was a dramatic increase over 1975/76, when a maximum of only 28% were feeding on grass/winter wheat. Fortunately only 28 birds were observed feeding on winter wheat this winter, and very few complaints were received from farmers. Sample counts of 658 birds in Chichester revealed that 143 (22%) were juvenile. This is higher than the national figure for the current winter which is approximately 10% (A. St. Joseph pers. com.).

The counts for waders were again good, despite some rather 'high' high tides which caused some disruption. The Grey Plover figures, though showing a slight overall decrease in mid-winter compared to the previous year, were exceptional in September when 2,383 were present in Chichester Harbour. Now that we have reintroduced early and mid-Autumn counts we are able to monitor passage populations, thus reveal-

ing the importance of the Harbours at this time of the year, not only for Grey Plover, but also Curlew, the Godwits, Redshank, Greenshank, Spotted Redshank and Whimbrel.

There were good mid-Winter counts of Black-tailed Godwit in both Chichester and Pagham, and the peak Bar-tailed count for Chichester, as previously mentioned, brought it back to the level attained in the early 1970's. Both Dunlin and Turnstone Autumn and Winter counts in Pagham were exceptionally high. In the case of Dunlin, however, though there was again a general decrease in the Chichester roosting population throughout the Winter, the overall mid-Winter population in the West Sussex/East Hampshire harbour complex remained remarkably consistent between 47,303 and 48,190.

The results of the Sussex Coastline count of January and February 1977 are given in Tables 3 and 4. Coverage was again excellent and the total counts were 61,747 and 54,816 respectively.

Acknowledgements

Those responsible for undertaking these wader and wildfowl counts are acknowledged on page 8. I would again like to thank D. F. Billett and also K. R. Grant for providing the Langstone Harbour figures, and D. J. Steventon for both supplying the Portsmouth Harbour counts and allowing us to publish data for all the East Hampshire estuaries. I am grateful, once again, to Michael Shrubbs for commenting on the first draft of this paper.

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TABLE 1. WILDFOWL COUNTS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS 1976/77

NB. Langstone count in December was on the 11th and in January on the 8th, Portsmouth count in March was on the 20th

	1976		1977					
	July 31	Sept. 25	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19
G. C. Grebe								
Pag	5	18	20	17	19	3	9	5
Chi					9	19	16	3
Lang	4	1	2	23	16	26	4	5
Port	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Slav. Grebe								
Pag				1	1	1	7	5
Chi					1	3	14	6
Lang							2	2
Port								
Black-n-Grebe								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang				14	40	21	36	2
Port								
Little Grebe								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang				20	6	12	11	8
Port				23	30	12	4	5
Mallard								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang				14				
Port				19		25	19	9
Teal								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Wigeon								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
 Pintail								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Shoveler								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Goldeneye								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Eider								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Total								
Pag	37	81	152	104	100	109	190	119
Chi	37	186	280	193	179	120	101	92
Lang	56	62	96	27	48	38	20	11
Port	15	190	73	64	65	22	19	17
Total	135	520	601	488	492	369	330	239
Portsmouth								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Langstone								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Goldcrest								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Robin								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Starling								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Jackdaw								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Magpie								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Corvidae								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								
Other								
Pag								
Chi								
Lang								
Port								

	1976			1977			1977			1977						
	July 31	Sept. 25	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	July 31	Sept. 25	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19
Red-b-Merg:																
Pag	1	—	—	1	—	11	5	6								
Chi	—	—	1	—	67	55	15	38								
Lang	—	—	5	15	64	52	7	34								
Port	—	—	—	—	—	35	10	4								
Shelduck																
Pag	20	41	150	660	550	631	800	276								
Chi	195	306	407	676	832	1152	1500	860								
Lang	14	23	27	47	38	542	723	258								
Port	16	—	—	—	—	189	58	23								
Brent Goose																
Pag	—	—	2	420	550	1254	1500	105								
Chi	2	18	73	5505	5190	5719	5100	989								
Lang	4	100	374	4610	4178	6112	3507	697								
Port	—	—	—	300	680	574	102	—								

Also counted but not included in Table: Cormorant, Heron, Coot, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Canada Goose, Mute Swan, Bewick's Swan, Whooper Swan, White-fronted Goose.

TABLE 2. WADER COUNTS IN PAGHAM, CHICHESTER, LANGSTONE AND PORTSMOUTH HARBOURS 1976/77

NB. Portsmouth count in March was on the 20th

	1976			1977			1977			1977						
	July 1	Sept. 25	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19	July 1	Sept. 25	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19
Oystercatcher																
Pag	117	132	252	220	215	240	77	36								
Chi	366	1531	1887	1013	701	1065	350	260								
Lang	459	900	1149	1178	1188	1089	1200	759								
Port	136	204	255	485	377	312	228	95								
Lapwing																
Pag	110	670	464	466	500	53	c1000	55								
Chi	695	2655	2495	2211	1223	2759	1045	158								
Lang	158	728	717	900	426	1218	688	75								
Port	159	22	36	73	160	210	204	—								
Ringed Plover																
Pag	140	145	88	101	74	30	68	62								
Chi	85	217	600	346	366	145	113	48								
Lang	70	477	227	375	170	104	55	20								
Port	74	217	12	10	—	3	1	2								
Grey Plover																
Pag	15	96	431	359	33	960	413	144								
Chi	119	2983	656	608	751	738	1183	915								
Lang	85	754	1024	697	619	660	1501	538								
Port	—	18	—	—	30	55	—	—								
Golden Plover																
Pag	—	50	—	54	30	13	—	350								
Chi	6	663	260	273	800	642	97	—								
Lang	—	2	30	145	2	238	314	1								
Port	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—								
Turnstone																
Pag	19	58	461	119	386	352	259	160								
Chi	51	39	28	51	66	96	27	64								
Lang	11	156	106	34	50	68	117	90								
Port	68	1	5	2	2	71	78	1								

Also counted but not included in Table: Common Sandpiper, Ruff, Avocet and Little Stint.

TABLE 3. NUMBER AND % OF TOTAL POPULATION OF BRENT GESE FEEDING ON GRASS IN CHICHESTER AND PAGHAM HARBOURS DURING PERIOD OF ESTUARY COUNTS 1976/77

	Oct. 23	Nov. 20	Dec. 4	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 19
Pagham Harbour						
Total count	2	27	55	1254	1510	105
On grass	0%	0%	?	870	1000+	-
% on grass	0%	0%	?	69%	67%	0%
Chichester Harbour						
Total count	73	5505	190	5719	800	889
On grass	-	9	96	3780	333*	11
% on grass	0%	1%	19%	66%	42%	1%

* 28 of these were feeding on winter wheat

TABLE 4. SUSSEX COASTLINE WADER COUNT-22ND JANUARY 1977

	Totals	Rye Harbour	Pett Level	Pevensy	Cuckmere	Newhaven-Tide Mills	Shoreham	Goring-Ferring	Chipping-Middleton	Pagham	Chichester
Oystercatcher	1884	410	1500	15000	1400	250	1000	72	166	240	1065
Lapwing	24402	2400	1500	54	21	7	15	37	110	360	2759
Kinged plover	409	25	10	54	6	7	15	37	40	30	145
Grey plover	1839	78	10	2800	6	30			40	738	738
Golden plover	4021	136	400	2800	6	30			13	642	642
Turnstone	676	176	50	900	120	35			352	96	96
Snipe	1534	265	60	900	120	35			35	119	119
Jack snipe	29		18	18						11	11
Curlew	1442	8	400	15		2			15	287	715
Woodcock	9										
Black-t-Godw	1085		7							300	785
Bar-t-Godwit	667									660	660
Redshank	1724	200	5	26	55	10	30	23	3	289	1083
Spot: redshank	8	1		1						6	6
Greenshank	4									4	4
Knot	189			14			400	22		175	175
Dunlin	21540	555	190	35	95	35		110	325	4728	15515
Sanderling	651	60		1		1		7		155	155
Purple S/piper	57										9
Ruff	72									48	48
Avocet	3										3

Also recorded:- Green sandpiper (2)

TABLE 5. SUSSEX COASTLINE WADER COUNT-19TH FEBRUARY 1977

Location	Oystercatcher	Lapwing	Ringed plover	Grey plover	Golden plover	Turnstone	Snipe	Jack snipe	Curlew	Woodcock	Black-t-God:	Bar-t-God:	Redshank	Knot	Dunlin	Sanderling	Purple s/piper	Ruff
Chichester	350	1045	113	1183	97	27	167	11	1170	305	300	1220	1006	60	12790	125	3	
Pagham	77	1000	63	413	85	259	21	11			400	267	3	80	1060			
Chipping-Middleton	179	40	7			8							4	20	242	40		
Goring-Ferring	3	700	100										150	150	800	100		
Shoreham	1	300	10										15	100	100	24		
Newhaven Tide-Mills		1100	11				60		1				26	30				
Cuckmere		12000	45				2000		6				21	273	11	17		
Pewsey	6	1500	12				100		800				5	50	325	23		
Pett Level		3300	36				140		1				88					
Rye Harbour	308	20945	418	1700	5823	556	2538	20	2283		700	1227	1585	60	15528	441	41	12
Totals	924	20945	418	1700	5823	556	2538	20	2283		700	1227	1585	60	15528	441	41	12

Also recorded:- Green Sandpiper (1), Greenshank (1), Little Stint (2)