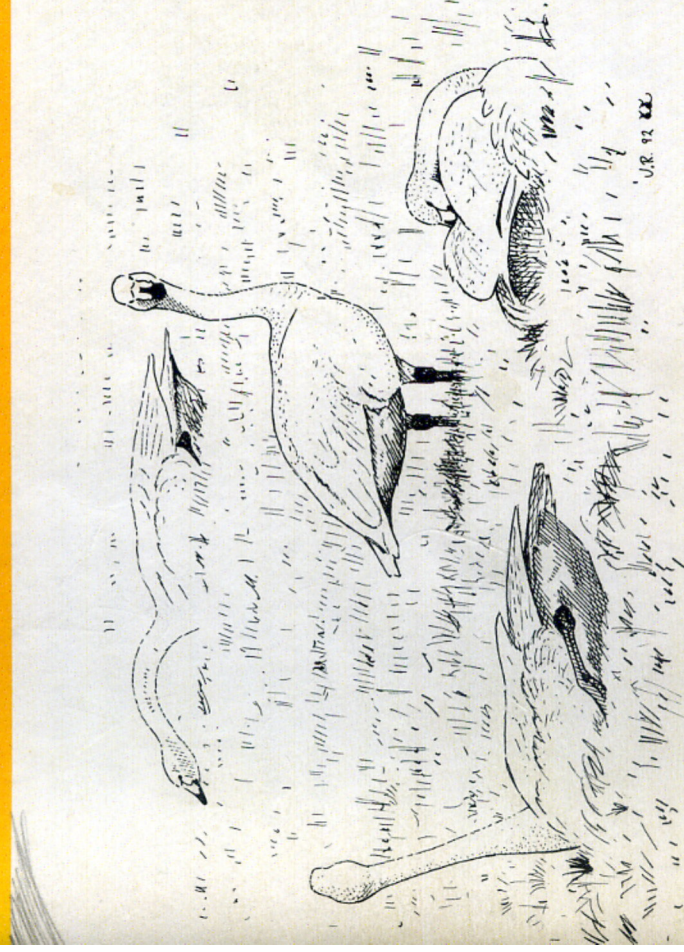


The Sussex Bird Report

No. 44 1991



Published by

The Sussex Ornithological Society

**SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL AT 30th JUNE, 1992**

President: B. A. E. Marr, 17 Roundhouse Drive, West Perry, Huntingdon, Cambs PE18 0DJ
Vice-President: Dr J. A. Newnham, Walton House, 61 Grand Avenue, Worthing BN11 5BA
Secretary: Mrs V. P. Bentley, Chetsford, London Road, Henfield BN5 9JJ
Assistant Secretary: D. J. Golds, 63 Sullington Gardens, Worthing BN14 0HS
Treasurer: D. C. Heryett, Flat 1, 56 Shakespear Road, Worthing BN11 4AT
Recorder: T. W. Parmenter, 22 The Kiln, Burgess Hill RH15 0LU
Assistant Recorder: C. R. Janman, 4 Brookside, Runcton, Chichester, PO20 6PX
Editor of Bird Report: G. C. M. Roberts, 3 Carmarthen Avenue, Drayton, Portsmouth, Hants PO6 2AG
Press & Public Relations Officer: M. J. Mason, 21 Park Close, Burgess Hill RH15 8HL
Surveys & Projects Officer: J. M. Halls, Nursery Cottage, 45 Hill Lane, Barnham PO22 0BL
Conservation Information Officer: Dr J. K. Irons, 9 Babylon Way, Rattton, Eastbourne BN20 9DL
Conservation Field Officer: R. Page, Stantons Bungalow, East Chiltington, Lewes BN7 3BB
Membership Secretary: J. E. Trowell, Lorrimer, Main Road, Icklesham, Winchelsea TN36 4BS
Newsletter Editor: Mrs I. M. Simpson, Hardanger, Littleworth, Partridge Green, Horsham RH13 8JF
Members of Council: Ms A. de Potier, 6 Brook Gardens, Emsworth, Hants PO10 7JY
M. Kenefick, 94 Stanmer Villas, Brighton BN1 7HN
D. Sneller, 31 Littlecote, Petworth
Dr B. J. Yates, 2 Watch Cottages, Nook Beach, Winchelsea TN36 4LU
S. W. M. Hughes, 6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, RH13 7SB

Committees:

Scientific: J. Cooper, R. D. M. Edgar, J. M. Halls, Dr J. K. Irons, Dr J. A. Newnham, T. W. Parmenter, G. C. M. Roberts, Dr A. B. Watson, Dr B. J. Yates
Records: A. S. Cook, R. J. Fairbank, P. James, C. R. Janman, T. W. Parmenter, D. Smith
Programme: B. F. Forbes, P. J. Luffingham, Mrs G. D. Marriott, R. Page, P. J. Whitcomb

**THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT
NUMBER FORTY-FOUR, 1991**

*Recorder: T. W. Parmenter
Editor: G. C. M. Roberts*

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Contributors and Acknowledgements.....	2
Review of 1991.....	5
Classified Records	13
Escapes and feral birds.....	73
Ringling in Sussex in 1991.....	76
<i>Note: Pied Wheatear at Newhaven, July 1990.....</i>	<i>81</i>
The changed distribution and status of Bewick's Swan in Sussex	83

*Cover drawing of Bewick's Swans
and text illustrations by John Reaney*

Published October 1992
by

THE SUSSEX ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CONTRIBUTORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, 1991

We are grateful to the following observers for records for the 1991 Sussex Bird Report.

B. Akimola
S. R. Allen
A. C. Armitage
J. Ashbee
V. Ashbee
S. J. Aspinall
J. Bacon (JBa)
C. F. Ball
P. C. Bance
M. H. Barnard
C. Barwood (CBa)
R. Batchelor
A. B. Batley
A. J. Beasley
J. S. S. Beasley
A. Benians (ABe)
Mrs V. Bentley
P. Bevan (PBe)
P. J. Biggs
R. F. Bird
J. Bodle (JB)
P. F. Bonham
A. Booker (AB)
Ms W. Bowess
A. L. Bowley
D. P. Bowtell (DPBo)
M. N. Brayshaw
P. M. Brayshaw
Dr C. Brooks (CB)
P. Brown (PB)
K. F. Burn
A. F. Burtenshaw
Mrs S. J. Burtenshaw
D. P. Butterfield (DPB)
T. Callaway
B. J. Carter
P. Catlett
V. A. Chambers
G. L. Champion
M. L. Champion
N. J. Champion
Mrs M. E. Charlwood
R. H. Charlwood
H. A. Clapham
F. Clarke
Miss C. M. Clarkson-Webb
G. A. Cockburn
R. A. Collier
C. B. Collins
Mrs M. A. Collins
A. S. Cook
D. Cooper
J. E. S. Cooper
J. F. Cooper
D. E. G. Copeland
C. J. Corrigan
Mrs J. Covell
R. D. Cox
Dr A. F. J. Cox
A. Crane
J. Crook (JC)
J. K. Cross

P. R. Cullen
J. Curson (JC)
P. I. Davison
C. H. Dean
Ms A. de Potier (AdP)
G. des Forges
D. Dey
Miss B. Dickeson
F. W. Dougharty
N. A. Driver
D. P. Dunk
Ms S. Dunsmore-Rouse
P. R. Durnell
M. J. Eales
R. D. M. Edgar
Mrs J. H. M. Edom
T. J. Edwards
L. J. Elliott
Ms J. Ellis
W. H. Ellis
C. Ellison
Ms M. Emberson
R. Emery
R. D. Evans
Mrs A. E. Everett
R. J. Fairbank
B. J. Fellows
A. W. Ferguson
B. H. Flack
B. F. Forbes
A. Ford (AFo)
C. J. Fox
Mrs J. Franks
A. Fray (AF)
P. Friston
C. E. Fullagar
D. J. Funnell
C. Furlapa
J. A. B. Gale
H. M. Gales
M. J. Gales
S. Gallis (SGa)
Ms S. M. Gamble
N. A. Gearty
R. Geere
S. Gibson (SGi)
B. R. Gilmore
Revd A. C. Ginno
J. Glover
Mrs A. J. Golds
D. J. Golds
H. Gordon
L. Gover
J. S. Gowers
G. C. Gowllett
A. S. Grace
P. Grace
R. R. Greenhalf
R. M. Greenshields

E. F. Grivell
A. J. Guest
A. C. Gutteridge
C. M. Guy
M. P. Hall
J. M. Halls
S. G. Hamilton
R. Harman (RHa)
R. G. Harris
S. P. Hartill
J. L. Harvey
R. B. Hastings
J. R. Havers
E. Hayward
B. Hedde
K. G. B. Heinzman
M. J. Helps
D. C. Hervett
S. Higgins (SHi)
R. N. Hobbs
A. J. Holcombe
B. J. Holcombe
R. Hollins (RH)
R. Holman (RHo)
M. Holmes
C. A. Holt
J. C. Holt
Mrs E. Honey
Mrs M. Hook
S. Hooper (SH)
C. E. Hope
M. D. Horne
A. C. Howard
S. W. M. Hughes
I. D. Hunter
A. M. Hutson
C. Hyde-Wear
R. Ingram
Dr J. K. Irons
A. Isted
R. A. Ives
H. Jacobs
Mrs B. James
Mrs B. D. James
C. M. James
P. James
Mrs S. James
C. R. Jamman
Miss C. M. Joynes
Dr M. Kalaher (MKa)
G. Kalli
R. S. Kelly
Ms D. J. Kelly
R. J. L. Kemp
M. Kenefick (MK)
D. F. G. Kennard
E. Kennard
E. King
J. W. King
M. Kipling (MKi)

A. R. Kison
S. J. Knaapp
R. Knight
R. Knight
L. Lacey-Johnson
Miss R. Lamb
P. D. Lanaway
D. C. Lang
L. Lawes
H. J. A. Lee
M. W. Light
S. Linnington
A. H. Lloyd
P. Lloyd
K. S. Lodge
M. R. Lovell
C. D. Lowmass
G. H. Luck
P. J. Luffingham
B. A. E. Marr
Mrs G. Marriott
W. B. Morrison
D. Marshall
M. J. Mason
D. W. Mayford
Miss V. Maynard-Smith
C. W. Melgar
Mrs D. Mitchell
O. Mitchell
C. Moore
Miss F. E. Moore
B. Morgan
P. Morgan
Mrs B. M. Mortlock
D. C. Mortlock
R. Mundy
D. E. Munson
S. Murray
Dr J. A. Newnham
J. Nobbs
K. Noble
M. E. Nolan
C. R. Nye
D. B. Nye
Mrs. M. A. Nye
T. Orrell
L. W. Osborne
M. Painter
Mrs E. Parkin
D. A. Parmenter
Mrs S. Parmenter
T. W. Parmenter
C. Parr
P. T. Patton
Mrs S. J. Patton
N. Pearce
R. Pepper (RPe)
A. Perry
Miss J. Petrie
P. Philpott
B. J. Pinchen
M. H. Port
R. A. Powell
M. G. Prince
R. Prior (RP)
R. N. Pullay
B. Puttock
A. Quinn
P. N. Ray
C. J. Raymond
J. Reaney
G. Rich
D. Rimes
S. B.RIX
Dr E. T. Roberts
G. C. M. Roberts
S. J. R. Rumsey
M. Russell
D. Sadler (DS)
R. F. Sanderson
R. J. Sandison (RJSa)
R. J. Saunders (RJSu)
B. Savage
W. J. M. Scott
M. J. Scott-Ham
C. M. Seaton
R. J. Senior (RJS)
G. R. Serres
A. Simpson
Mrs I. M. Simpson
R. Simpson
T. C. Smart
Miss C. Smith
D. I. Smith
Miss M. Smith

D. Sneller (DSn)
M. J. Sparkes
Miss B. M. Spencer
E. Standing
I. Standivan
Ms R. Stevens
P. J. Strangeman
G. A. Sutton
R. G. Sutton
A. J. Sweetman
H. M. J. Taffs
B. Taylor
Miss C. A. Taylor
Miss C. Tazzyman
N. J. Thomas
R. J. Thorne
G. E. Tomalin
T. J. Toohig
F. B. Townsend
J. E. Trowell
P. Trubshaw
P. C. Turner
W. Turner
C. J. Tyas
E. D. Urquhart
L. L. J. Vick
C. Walker
J. Warner (JWa)
Dr A. B. Watson
J. D. Weston
A. Wheeler
M. Whiffen
A. D. Whitcomb
I. J. Whitcomb
P. J. Whitcomb (PIWh)
G. C. White
R. L. C. Williamson
J. Willsher (JW)
P. J. Wilson (PJW)
T. J. Wilson
H. Wingfield-Hayes
C. W. Woodburn
Dr B. J. Yates

mo = many observers

Text illustrations:

Thanks are due to John Reaney for his drawings of Little Egret, Peregrine, Lapland Bunting and Pied Wheatear, as well as for the cover illustration.

National Surveys:

New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1991 saw the completion of work on this survey by the BTO/IWC/SOC, organised in West Sussex by Mrs V. P. Bentley, Chetsford, London Road, Henfield, and in East Sussex by M. J. Scott-Ham, 15 Batchelors, Pembury, Kent. Work continued on collection of data on a tetrad (2 km square) basis for use in compiling a Sussex tetrad breeding atlas. All contributors, who will be acknowledged in full once fieldwork for the Sussex atlas has been completed, are again thanked for their participation in these important surveys.

Nightjar Census: A pilot BTO/RSPB survey of breeding Nightjars was organised in Sussex by J. M. Halls, Nursery Cottage, 45 Hill Lane, Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. All contributors, especially the 10 km stewards and Ashdown Forest Bird Club, are thanked for their help.

Summer Survey of Introduced Geese: This WWT survey, conducted in June and July 1991, was organised by R. Rettke-Grover, Flat 3, 8 Ulva Road, Putney, London, with assistance from S. W. M. Hughes. All participants are thanked.

Heronry Census: This long-standing census is organised in Sussex by Dr A. B. Watson, 83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex. Counts of known heronries are given in the systematic list and observers are again thanked for their participation in this survey.

Wildfowl Counts: The counts in Sussex are organised for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust by D. W. Codd, 12 Broome Close, Horsham, West Sussex, who has made them available to the Society for this Report. Counters were:

P. C. Bance, G. Barker, G. Binns, G. F. Boniface, Dr C. Brooks, T. Callaway, D. W. Codd, D. E. G. Copeland, A. Dawney, M. Emery, Mrs A. E. Everett, J. M. Halls, S. G. Hamilton, R. G. Harris, J. L. Herring, D. C. Hervy, Mrs P. A. Hollow, M. Holmes, S. W. M. Hughes, Dr M. Kalaher, E. Kennard, D. C. Lang, P. J. Luffingham, R. Morris, Mrs B. M. Mortlock, D. J. Pankhurst, B. Puttock, C. J. Raymond, A. & Mrs I. M. Simpson, D. Sneller, Miss C. A. Taylor, P. C. Turner, Mrs O. Westwood, A. Wheeler and Dr B. J. Yates.

Estuary Counts: The BTO/RSPB/JNCC 'Birds of Estuaries Enquiry' was carried out between September 1991 and March 1992 and organised by C. D. Lowmass, 33 Barn Close, Seaford, East Sussex. The counters were:

D. Bowtell, K. F. Burn, P. Callett, C. B. Collins, Ms A. de Potter, R. D. M. Edgar, C. Elliston, D. J. Funnell, J. Glover, R. R. Greenhalf, R. Holman, M. Holmes, E. Kennard, S. J. Knappp, Bob Knight, Rex Knight, L. Lacey-Johnson, H. J. A. Lee, C. D. Lowmass, Mrs G. Marriott, K. Noble, B. J. Pinchen, J. Reaney, B. Savage, D. I. Smith, H. M. J. Taffs, B. Taylor, Miss C. A. Taylor, J. E. Trowell, E. D. Urquhart, J. D. Weston, R. L. C. Williamson, P. J. Wilson, Mr and Mrs H. Wingfield-Hayes, C. W. Woodburn and Dr B. J. Yates.

Thanks are due to all the above observers and organisers who have contributed to these national surveys in the county.

We are grateful for summaries of detailed observations at Beachy Head from R. D. M. Edgar and M. Kenefick, Bewl Water from P. C. Bance, Chichester Harbour from Anne de Potter, Pett Level from J. A. B. Gale, Rye Harbour from Dr B. J. Yates, Seaford Head from A. Wheeler, Selsey Bill from O. Mitchell, Thorney and Pilsey Islands from C. B. and Mrs M. A. Collins, Woods Mill from M. Russell and Worthing from Dr J. A. Newnham.

Thanks are also due to D. E. Crawley for again continuing to maintain the detailed records of ringing in the county and all those ringers who contributed.

Lastly the Recorder is especially grateful to Dr J. A. Newnham and the following team of helpers for again coding and inputting a large proportion of records onto the computer: T. Allen, Mrs B. Branscombe, J. E. S. Cooper, D. E. Crawley, Mrs C. King, Ms A. de Potter, J. M. Halls, D. P. Harvey, M. R. Lovell, Mrs M. Mason, Ms S. E. McKenzie and Mrs. I. M. Simpson.

The systematic list was compiled by T. W. Parmenter with much help from the following to whom grateful thanks are due: A. S. Cook, J. E. S. Cooper, R. D. M. Edgar, R. J. Fairbank, S. W. M. Hughes, P. James, C. R. Janman, M. Kenefick, Dr J. A. Newnham, M. J. Scott-Ham, Dr A. B. Watson and T. J. Wilson.

Finally, a special thanks to P. James who wrote the review of 1991 and who has contributed so much to the society in his role as Recorder for the past five years.

REVIEW OF 1991

by Paul James

The very unsettled weather of late December 1990 continued through the first 12 days of January. A slight frost introduced the new year but much milder air soon spread to all areas with 13.5mm of rain recorded later in the day. Further heavy rain fell on the night of 7th during which air temperatures remained at 11°C or more over S England. Pressure rose strongly on 11th and 12th, introducing an anticyclonic spell which was to last until the end of the month apart from a temporary interruption between 17th and 19th when a complex frontal system carried rain over all parts of the country. Pressure rose again on 21st to its highest level since March 1990. Quieter anticyclonic weather returned with below average temperatures and a lot of cloud much of the time. Parts of the south-east had no sunshine in the last 10 days, the longest spell since January 1987.

The 2 **Little Egrets** in Chichester Harbour in December 1990 remained into the new year, one being seen at Chichester GP on 12th and Pagham Harbour on 12-13th. The **Black Brant** present at this locality from October 1990 was last seen on 3rd January but a different individual was recorded on 13th and was seen with 2 hybrids on 21st. The male **Goshawk** first noted at Church Norton in November 1990 remained all month and was last seen on 7th May. It reappeared in the same area on 28th November and was then regularly reported into 1992. A **Little Auk** picked up exhausted at Partridge Green on 2nd was, no doubt, a straggler from the influx in December 1990. An **Iceland Gull** was recorded at Selsey Bill on 5th and what was presumably the same individual appeared at Brighton Marina on 13th and at Shoreham from 15th to 23rd, where a **Glaucous Gull** was also present up to 18th. Other highlights in a fairly quiet month included a **Leach's Petrel** at Shoreham on 2nd, a **Mealy Redpoll** in Ashdown Forest on 3rd, 2 **Shags** on Lindfield Pond from 7th to 12th, herds of 89, 25 and 21 **Bewick's Swans** in the Arun, Ouse and Adur valleys respectively, a **Red Kite** at Shoreham on 21st, a **Green-winged Teal** at Arundel WWT from 26th, **Great Grey Shrikes** at Ambersham Common and in Ashdown Forest and good numbers of **Crossbills** including maxima of 80 at Verdley Wood and 68 in Stansted Forest.

February opened with the mildest day since 21st January. Colder air pushed back again on 2nd, and from 3rd onwards only parts of Cornwall, Northern Ireland and W Scotland saw temperatures of 5°C or more. Over much of the SE, temperatures only achieved a maximum of between -5 and -6°C on 7th, believed to be the coldest February day of the century in some places. A minima of -11.7°C was recorded at Gatwick Airport on the morning of 7th. Snow fell heavily between 7th and 9th, particularly in the north and east of the county, blocking many roads and disrupting public transport. On 15th, milder air brought rain and drizzle and a general thaw. Very mild south-westerlies then spread to all parts of the UK by 23rd, with a maximum temperature of 10.1°C recorded at Hastings the following day.

The effect of the severe weather from 7th onwards was typically dramatic. **Woodcock**, a species normally more conspicuous in cold weather, appeared in good numbers as did **Water Rails** and **Jack Snipe**. Large diurnal movements of **Fieldfares** and **Skylarks** were recorded on several dates including 5000 of the latter species flying west at Rye Harbour on 8th. Scarcer birds included a wide scattering of **Sniew**, mainly in the east of the county, with a maxima of 26 at Camber on 17th. **Goosanders** were less affected by the freeze although 24 were present in the county on 17th. A total of at least 335 **Scaup** for the month included a flock of 230 at Scotney Court GP. This increased to a peak of 280 on 10th March. Two male **Red-crested Pochards** associating with **Wigeon** on the sea off Newhaven on 10th were probably of wild origin as were 16 **Barnacle Geese** at Scotney Court from 17th. A

Black-necked Grebe off Church Norton on 15th was one of only 2 recorded in the county in 1991. A **Lapland Bunting** was seen briefly at Arlington Res. on 9th and 3 more at Selsey Bill on 15th, on which date there was also a **Woodlark** at Sidlesham Ferry. Other notable records for February included an elusive **Great Grey Shrike** on the Adur Levels from 10th, a **Bittern** at Weir Wood Res. from 23rd to 25th, a **Waxwing** in an Aldwick garden from 24th into March and a **Turtle Dove** at Rye Harbour from 28th, this being one of the wintering birds recorded at this locality in December 1990.

March began quietly over most of the UK with early frost and fog patches in a number of places followed by a dry day. A cold front, which moved NE across the whole of the country on 2nd, brought milder south-westerlies in its wake resulting in over 7 hours' sunshine and temperatures in the range of 10-13°C on 3rd. During 5th to 8th, a deep complex low pressure area remained slow-moving in the Bay of Biscay area resulting in an unsettled picture over the UK. Some unseasonably high temperatures, however, were recorded including 15.5°C in Kent on 6th and 17°C in Devon on 7th. Even after the low in Biscay transferred N and filled, the unsettled weather continued, the air crossing the UK still being fed in from a predominantly S or SW point until 21st. During this period further notably high temperatures for the time of year were an almost daily feature from one place or another, particularly on 13th when there were up to 10 hours of sunshine. On 21st, colder NW winds were introduced. As pressure rose, showers became gradually more scattered over the following two or three days, while winds moved into the NE by 25th, introducing anticyclonic conditions for the remainder of the month.

The month opened with another **Waxwing** feeding beside the A21 in St. Leonards for 3 days from 1st, a **Bittern** at Eridge on 3rd and a lone **Pink-footed Goose** at Pulborough Brooks on 4th. **Wheatears** were early to arrive with 2 seen at Goring Gap on 6th and 2 more at Littlehampton West Beach the following day. The peak arrival of this species was on 22nd and 23rd with a total of 79 reported in the county. The first **Garganey** were 3 at Horse Eye Level on 9th followed by a further 7 at other sites up to 17th. Single **Sand Martins** appeared at Pagham Harbour on 11th and Chichester GP on 12th, a **Swallow** at Seaford Head on 15th and a **House Martin** at Cuckmere Haven on 23rd, an early date. A **Willow Warbler** at Pagham Harbour on 17th was also early, a reflection of the abnormally high temperatures in mid-month. A **Sandwich Tern** was recorded at Hope Gap on 10th while more notable seawatching records for the month included 15 **Avocets** at Seaford, a **Brent Goose** of the race '*hrota*' and 40 **Black-tailed Godwits** at Brighton Marina on 16th and a **Black-necked Grebe** at Worthing on 29th. A party of 13 **Long-tailed Ducks** off Pett on 24th remained until 5th May. A **Little Ringed Plover** at Arundel WWT on 22nd and a **Hoopoe** at Kingley Vale on 28th completed a month perhaps most notable for the early arrival of some spring migrants.

The first two days of April were mainly cloudy over England and Wales with some rain in most places. The 4th was wet and windy followed by heavy showers with local hail and thunder later the same day. The frontal system of another unusually deep depression brought strong winds on the afternoon of 6th, and gave several hours of heavy rain over much of the UK. Another windy, showery day on 7th preceded quieter, warmer weather, with 10 hours of sunshine after early morning fog on 9th. During 10th to 13th, several places in the SE achieved temperatures of 21°C or more. Increasingly wintry conditions spread to all parts during 16th. In the following few days, parts of E England experienced sleet, snow and hail and maximum temperatures no higher than 5°C. Night frost was widespread and at East Hoathly -4.4°C was recorded on 21st. The 26th to 28th

were rather warmer but 29-30th were wet and very cool over most of England and Wales, some parts of SE England having their wettest day on 29th for 15 months. It was also the wettest day over such a large part of the UK since 1971.

A most unusual record was that of 14 **Velvet Scoters** at Arlington Res. on 1st (on which date there were also 21 at Seaford). **Kittiwakes** also appeared on inland waters with singles recorded at Weir Wood Res. on 2nd and Bewl Water on 4th, on which date there was also an **Osprey** at this locality, the first of at least 22 reported in the county during the spring. A **Marsh Harrier** was present at Arundel WWT on 5th while on 6th there was an **Iceland Gull** at Newhaven. This was rather overshadowed, however, by the first major rarity of the year, an adult **Laughing Gull** at Shoreham. Only the second ever to be recorded in the county, it was then seen at Seaford before returning to fly past Lancing later in the day. Favourable conditions for seawatching on 10th produced 3 early **Pomarine Skuas** at Selsey Bill, 66 **Velvet Scoters** and 36 **Little Gulls** at Beachy Head and 2212 **Common Scoters** at Seaford. The 13th also proved to be a memorable day with an **Alpine Swift** and a **Goshawk** recorded at Beachy Head and an adult male **Surf Scoter** in Seaford Bay. The latter, the third record of this species for Sussex, remained until 20th although it was often elusive. A flock of 35 **Hawfinches** at Horsham on 15th was noteworthy particularly as only 26 others were recorded in the county over the whole year. Single male **Serins** at Littlehampton and Selsey Bill on 16th and 2 **Cranes** on Pevensey Bridge Level on 17-18th continued the fine run of unusual species in the county. A **Spoonbill** was present at Rye Harbour on 20th and a **Swallow x House Martin** hybrid was carefully observed at Waltham Brooks on 21st. Attention then switched back to the sea where 4009 **Bar-tailed Godwits** passed Worthing on 24th. A good variety of species in south-east winds the following day included a **Manx Shearwater** and 989 **Comic Terns** at Newhaven and 8 **Avocets**, 123 **Little Gulls** and 59 **Black Terns** at Seaford. The first of 4 **Kentish Plovers** recorded at Pilsey Island during the spring was found on 25th and others at Rye Harbour and Church Norton on 27th and 28th respectively. A **Wood Sandpiper** at Waller's Haven and a **Dotterel** in atypical habitat on Pilsey Island for just over a month from 28th were also noteworthy. Summer migrants were generally slow to arrive throughout the month although a **Whitethroat** at Seaford Head on 1st and a **Garden Warbler** there on 6th were both unusually early.

The first week of May was dominated by a mainly N airflow over the British Isles. In SE England it was a quite cloudy, very cool period, with rain or showers at times. Just over 100 hours of sunshine from 1st to 8th May 1990 was matched with less than 20 in the same period in 1991. Mean maximum temperatures near 11°C compared unfavourably with above 25°C a year earlier. A ridge across the UK on 8th enabled daytime temperatures to start a recovery. During 15th to 17th, quite widespread rain fell in central and eastern parts of England and Scotland, an unusual event in view of a pressure level around 1026-1028 mbar. Over 20th to 22nd, temperatures rose to their highest levels so far this year but thereafter SE England had only occasional warm weather, with maxima of only 11-14°C from 28th onwards.

Early May was generally quiet except for a **Purple Heron** recorded at Coombe Haven on 5th. Single **Hawfinches** arrived from the sea at Selsey Bill on 6-7th and 8 **Common Scoters** were noted at Weir Wood Res. on 7th. Seawatching was most unproductive apart from 8 **Mediterranean Gulls** at Worthing on 9th, an adult **Long-tailed Skua** over the beach at Seaford on 12th and 99 **Pomarine Skuas** at this locality on 21st, a large number for so late a date. A **Little Egret** flying past Birling Gap on 12th was seen later in the day at Rye Harbour and then at Dungeness. A **Dotterel**

was recorded at Broomhill Level, also on 12th, and a second-summer **Iceland Gull** frequented the Newhaven area between 18th and 27th. The onset of warmer weather in the latter part of the month coincided with the arrival of a number of unusual species including **Temminck's Stints** at Rye Harbour and Sidlesham Ferry on 20th-23rd and 22nd respectively, a male **Red-backed Shrike** at Birling Gap on 24th, a **Bluetthroat** at Seaford Head and a **Dotterel** at Newmarket Hill on 25th and a **Woodchat Shrike** at Pulborough Brooks on 26-27th. A **Montagu's Harrier** at Poverty Bottom on 22nd was the first of 5 recorded in the county in late May and early June including a male, which amazingly struck a window and survived, at West Hoathly on 28th. By far the best bird of the month, however, was a **Red-throated Pipit** in breeding plumage in the lower Cuckmere Valley for 5 days from 28th. The first spring record for Sussex, it was very confiding and even heard singing on several occasions. A female **Kentish Plover** at Cuckmere Haven on 31st completed an exciting end to May. Summer migrants continued to arrive all month with a notable fall recorded at Selsey Bill on 18th comprising 3 **Tree Pipits**, 24 **Yellow Wagtails**, a **Black Redstart**, 4 **Redstarts**, 32 **Whinchats**, 35 **Wheatears**, 26 **Sedge Warblers**, 4 **Reed Warblers**, 9 **Whitethroats**, 25 **Willow Warblers**, a **Ring Ouzel**, 2 **Pied** and 3 **Spotted Flycatchers**. A **Nightjar** arrived from the sea at Newhaven on 27th.

June was a dismal month being very cool, wet and dull. It began with air frosts recorded nightly until 6-7th somewhere or other in the UK. On 4-5th some parts of the Home Counties registered their coldest June night since 1962. Showers on 3rd-4th produced some snow on the northern hills while on 5th, 18.8mm of rain fell at Littlehampton. By 8th, the exceptionally cool air mass was finally cut off, but the sequence of depressions and fronts moving E across the British Isles continued unabated for the rest of the month. Temperatures recovered somewhat over much of England during 20th and 21st as a SW gradient became established but this was followed by some substantial falls of rain including 19.1mm at Hastings on 23rd. A ridge of high pressure brought parts of SE England their warmest and sunniest day of the month on 29th.

The run of unusual birds in late May continued into early June with the appearance on 1st of a **Kentish Plover** at the Crumbles (perhaps the Cuckmere bird?) and a pair of **American Wigeon** at Pett, although these were probably escapes. A singing **Savi's Warbler** was present at the latter locality on 2nd-3rd. A male **Wilson's Phalarope*** appeared at the other end of the county on Sidlesham Ferry on 3rd and a singing male **Scarlet Rosefinch** was recorded nearby on 4th. The remainder of the month was rather quiet although a **Hoopoe** was seen at Kingley Vale on 11th and single **Great** and **Pomarine Skuas** at Hope Gap and Seaford on 16th. Up to 4 **Roseate Terns** were present at Rye Harbour during the month while 5 **Mediterranean Gulls** at Shoreham on 19th included one carrying a Dutch ring. A **Slavonian Grebe** at Church Norton from 20th into July was the first summer record for the county since 1982. Also noteworthy were **Stone Curlews** at Rye Harbour on 20th and Pett Level on 29th, where 2 were present on 3rd July, and an **Osprey** in Chichester Harbour and a female **Red-backed Shrike** at Rackham, also on 29th. A **Short-toed Lark*** at East Head for several days from 26th will be the first county record of this species for 19 years, if accepted. Breeding birds probably had a poor season due to the very cool and wet conditions although little proof of this was received. Numbers of **Barn Owls**, **Grasshopper Warblers**, **Tree Sparrows** and **Corn Buntings** breeding in the county continued to decrease although there was a welcome increase in **Wood Warbler** and **Nightjar** records, the latter as a result of a survey of this species. A pair of **Pintail** summered at Pulborough Brooks and both

Garganey and **Pochard** nested successfully at other localities in the county. **Whinchats** bred for the first time since 1980 and there were a number of reports of **Crossbills** with young. At least 2 pairs of **Woodlarks** bred and 7 young **Cetti's Warblers** fledged from 3 broods at one locality.

A shallow depression over Britain on 1st July moved steadily S as pressure rose over Scotland, and from 3rd to 5th an easterly flow affected the whole country. There were outbreaks of thundery rain on 1st and 2nd, notably at Herstmonceux where 34mm fell late on 2nd. Most of Britain was hot and sunny on 4-5th with 26.1°C recorded at Hastings on 4th. After a day or so of changeable weather, temperatures rose sharply again between 9th and 11th reaching 32°C in Norfolk. Unsettled westerly type weather held sway from 12th to 20th and the early morning of 18th was particularly wet across S Britain. A transitory anticyclone brought another brief warm spell on 22nd-23rd, but an active depression produced much cooler weather with widespread rain and thunder on 24th. At Herstmonceux 48mm of rain fell overnight on 23rd-24th. High pressure reasserted itself between 26th and 28th bringing more hot sunshine but once again the fine spell quickly crumbled as a complex thundery trough moved N from France.

July started well with single **Bee-eaters** recorded at Rye Harbour and Littlehampton on 3rd and 4th respectively. An **Osprey** remained at Weir Wood Res. from 3rd to 9th and a **Velvet Scoter** was reported at Church Norton on 7th. An adult **Woodchat Shrike** was a surprise at Argos Hill, Mayfield on 15th as was a **Wryneck** at Weir Wood on 19-20th. A scattering of **Curlew** and **Wood Sandpipers** occurred during the month and the first returning **Little Stints** were 2 at Pilsley Island on 25th. **Roseate Terns** at Rye Harbour on 22nd and Selsey Bill on 25th and 29th rounded off a fairly quiet month.

August was the best month of the year being very dry, sunny and warm. Mean monthly pressure was above average for the whole of the British Isles with few interruptions to this general pattern. The Sussex coast had its sunniest August since 1976 and rainfall at Hastings was just 5% of the 1951-80 average for the month with only 3mm recorded! By 22nd a vigorous depression was centred off SW Ireland and on 23rd the S was cool and windy with blustery showers. As the depression moved away NE, pressure rose strongly bringing a return to very warm and quite sunny conditions with most sun along the S coast. Both Southsea and Ryde logged over 100 hours of sunshine in the last 8 days of the month.

August was another quiet month, probably due to the very settled weather throughout. A **Marsh Harrier** well inland at Weir Wood Res. on 8th was the first of 24 recorded in the county during the autumn. A small influx of **Little Egrets** again occurred with the first recorded at Pagham Harbour on 9th, followed by 2 there from 20th and 3 on 22nd. It appears that at least 2 of these then moved to Chichester Harbour where they remained into 1992. Seawatching at Selsey Bill on 23rd produced 5 **Manx Shearwaters** but numbers of **skuas** and **Black Terns** reported for August were very low reflecting the absence of strong winds during the month. **Curlew Sandpipers** put on a good showing, with up to 35 recorded at Sidlesham Ferry and 19 at Pett, as did **Little Stints** which reached a peak of 13 at the former locality on 13th. A **Dotterel** was heard calling at Balsean on 24th and a **Marsh Warbler** was trapped at Icklesham on 25th but by far the rarest bird recorded in the county during the month was a **Black Stork** over Cissbury on 26th, this being the third record for Sussex. The adult **Glaucous Gull**, first recorded at Selsey in 1983, reappeared on 30th.

September was warm and generally dry, but during the second half of the month it became cooler and less settled with some heavy rain. On 1st a shallow low

pressure area covered much of S England, but it was pushed away southwards by midday on 2nd as a ridge of high pressure became established. A weak front moved S during 5-6th but pressure remained high until 9th when a cold front crossed Scotland before passing slowly S across England and Wales on 11th. Pressure rose again behind the front, but as high pressure drifted E during the next 5 days, a succession of fronts, though weak in the S, crossed all parts from the W. A ridge of high pressure crossed all areas on 17th followed by a cold front that cleared the SE during 18th, bringing the UK temporarily under the influence of an anticyclone centred over the Bay of Biscay. High pressure transferred NE over the near continent during 19-20th. On 21st, as the high pressure drifted E, fronts rapidly crossed all areas of the UK, finally clearing the SE early on 22nd. On 24th a complex area of low pressure spread S to cover all areas with a very unstable moist air mass. Winds reached gale force south-westerly over a wide area on this date. During 27th the next deepening depression moved in from the Atlantic with fronts moving rapidly around the centre. The depression tracked across N France on 28th resulting in strong SE winds including a gust of 44 knots at Shoreham. On 29th a ridge of high pressure extended NE but yet another frontal system approached western districts on 30th.

The settled weather early in the month resulted in an influx of birds of prey including a **Honey Buzzard** over Hollingbury Camp on 1st, a **Montagu's Harrier** at Horse Eye Level on 2nd and a wide scattering of **Ospreys** including up to 4 together in Chichester Harbour. A **Tawny Pipit** flew over Seaford Head on 1st and on 5th there were 89 **Whinchats** at Sumping. An oiled **Storm Petrel** was found on a boat at Littlehampton on 3rd although the weather conditions at the time suggested that it is unlikely that the bird boarded ship off the Sussex coast. A **Red-necked Grebe** at Newhaven on 6th was one of only 5 recorded in the county up to the end of the year. A most unexpected record was that of a **Golden Oriole** at Church Norton on 10th, this being the latest for Sussex. A **Red-backed Shrike** at Climping on 14th and a **Hoopoe** at Hollingbury Camp on 14-15th were less surprising as was the appearance of another **Tawny Pipit**, at Littlehampton GC on 22nd. **Curlew Sandpipers** and **Little Stints** continued to feature prominently although the only rare wader recorded during the month was a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Manhood End from 21st to 27th. The strong winds on 28th produced some interesting seawatching records including a **Leach's Petrel** at Langney Point, a **Manx Shearwater** at Hastings, 107 **Gannets** at Worthing and 11 **Arctic Skuas** at Selsey Bill. A fairly ordinary September closed with another **Manx Shearwater** and 5 **Black Terns** at Langney Point on 29th and a **Darford Warbler** at Hollingbury on 30th.

October was a rather cold, cloudy and dry month with sequences of contrasting weather, each lasting between 5 and 7 days. Until 6th a changeable westerly airstream held sway but several days brought long sunny periods with 10.5 hours measured at Bognor on 2nd. During 7-8th a deep Atlantic depression transferred SE to Biscay, initiating a spell of mainly SE winds which lasted until 13th. Temperatures were near normal at first during this spell but 21°C was recorded in the county on 11th, on which date dust deposits, probably from the Sahara, were noted over a wide area of England. A spell of quiet weather followed between 12th and 15th with some hazy sunshine in S Britain after early morning fog. A rapidly deepening depression just to the N of Scotland produced a dramatic change with severe gales over the N two-thirds of the UK and heavy frontal rain on 16th. The next few days were cold and blustery with sunny spells and squally showers but this was followed by a return to anticyclonic conditions between 20th and 26th. Light northerlies prevailed until 24th with light easterlies and dull

overcast conditions thereafter. Disturbed SW winds returned during the last few days of the month bringing renewed gales and some heavy rain.

October, as is often the case, proved to be the most interesting month of the year. The period from 4th to 6th produced a number of scarce species, notably a juvenile **Long-tailed Skua** at Beachy Head, a **Woodlark** and a **Lapland Bunting** at Pett, a **Marsh Warbler** at Seaford Head, **Yellow-browed Warblers** at Climping and Beachy Head (2), one of the latter with a **Red-breasted Flycatcher**, and a **Great Grey Shrike** at Thorney. A fall of 195 **Ring Ouzels** on 12th was made up principally of 80 at Beachy Head (where 2 **Woodlarks** were also present), 54 at Fairlight and 31 at Seaford Head while on 13th there were 2 **Spoonbills** in Pagham Harbour and a **Wryneck** at Beachy Head. A large diurnal movement of thrushes on 19-20th included 1000 **Redwings** at Beachy Head on 19th and 1100 **Fieldfares** at Seaford on 20th. Finch passage was also heavy during the month with good numbers of **Bramblings** and **Redpolls** reported including 500 of the latter at Beachy Head on 26th. In October 1974, both a **Dusky Warbler** and a **Radde's Warbler** were trapped at Beachy Head. Up until 1991 there had been no further records for Sussex of these Siberian species, but, amazingly, a single individual of each appeared within a few days of each other towards the end of the month. A **Radde's** at Selsey Bill on 21st was only seen by a few lucky observers but a **Dusky** at Beachy Head on 27th was more obliging, remaining until 30th. Also of Siberian origin was a **Pallas's Warbler** at Beachy Head on 29th and a **Rustic Bunting** in the dunes at Littlehampton GC for 3 days from 30th, the latter the third county record. **Little Auks** have become increasingly regular in recent autumns so the appearance of 5 (including an inland bird) in the period 20th to 23rd was not unexpected. An influx of wildfowl on 27th included 100 **White-fronted Geese** over Hurstpierpoint, a **Bean Goose** at Scotney Court GP and herds of 45 and 10 **Bewick's Swans** at Beachy Head and Pagham Harbour respectively. A **Kentish Plover** at Shoreham on 16th, **Great Grey Shrikes** in the lower Cuckmere Valley and at Church Norton on 18th and 27th respectively, a **Cetti's Warbler** at Church Norton on 28th and a flock of 57 **Twite** at Cobnor on 30th were other notable records in an exciting month.

November was a changeable month during which unsettled westerly weather prevailed except in the last week when a SW/S flow took over with pressure high over the near-Continent. The 1st and 2nd were cloudy, windy days with heavy showers, but temperatures reached almost 15°C at Hastings on 1st, the highest of the month. The next few days were colder and on 5th sleet was observed as far S as the North Downs. Between 6th and 12th active fronts crossed the country at intervals bringing gales and heavy rain, particularly over W and N regions. Bognor Regis, however, logged 8.6 hours of sunshine on 9th. A very vigorous frontal trough on 12th was heralded by 3-hour pressure falls of up to 17 mbar. The following days were cold with widespread fog over central and E England being slow to clear on 17th. A depression moving slowly SE from the Irish Sea on 18th produced heavy rain over virtually the whole country accompanied by strong to gale force NE winds. A cold, sunny interlude occurred on 20th with frost morning and evening, but mild westerlies reached Ireland and Scotland the next day. The remainder of the month was cloudy and mild with S/SW winds prevailing but little or no rain.

November opened with an eclipse drake **Blue-winged Teal*** on Swanbourne Lake although this bird, which remained well into the month, may have been of captive origin. A **Wryneck** at Hurstpierpoint on 2nd was very late as was a well watched **Red-backed Shrike** at Selsey Bill from 6th to 16th and a **Yellow-browed Warbler** at Beachy Head on 24th. The windy weather in the first part of the month produced some interesting records of seabirds including a **Grey Phalarope** at

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1991

by P. James

Shoreham on 3rd and at Selsey Bill, a **Puffin** on 3rd, 6 **Little Auks** on 6th, a **Sooty Shearwater** and 101 **Gannets** on 12th and a **Pomarine Skua** on 18th. At least 13 more **Little Auks** were recorded at this site up to 17th and a handful of others elsewhere in the county. A **Great Grey Shrike** took up residence in Ashdown Forest for 3 weeks from 9th while on 15th there was a **Woodlark** at Selsey Bill. A flock of 40 **Pink-footed Geese** flew W over Rye Harbour on 17th. A first-winter **Glaucous Gull** in Chichester Harbour on 20th and 22nd was probably that seen at Selsey Bill on 3rd December. The month closed with a **Waxwing** at Rye Harbour on 28th, the first of 4 recorded in the county up to the end of the year.

Apart from a week of disturbed westerlies just after mid-month, high pressure controlled December's weather. Until 5th most regions were cloudy and dry, but 6th was very sunny with patchy fog and a frost morning and evening. From 7th until 15th high pressure lay over the Continent, producing severe frost and dense fog. The temperature fell below -5°C nightly over large areas of the country and day maxima were exceptionally low where freezing fog failed to clear. A trough brought rain to the SW on 15th, and from then until 23rd westerly winds brought unsettled windy weather with rain at times to the whole country. Pressure then rose strongly, and by Christmas Day an intense anticyclone was centred over the Channel with a peak pressure close to 1046 mbar. Sunny spells were followed by dry, quiet, cloudy weather in most areas as the month ended.

December was a fairly interesting month probably due to the colder than normal conditions. A **Ferruginous Duck** was seen at Weir Wood Res. on 2nd and a **Slavonian Grebe** at this locality on 5th. A flock of **White-fronted Geese** on Pulborough Brooks increased to reach a maximum of 70 on 9th while up to 86 **Bewick's Swans** were counted in the Arun Valley during the month. A small influx of **Scap** included 25 at Cuckmere Haven on 7th while a number of reports of **Goosanders** were received, the maximum count being 5 at Arlington Res. on 8th. Four **Smew** were noted at Darwell Res. on 17th and good numbers of **Long-tailed Duck** included up to 13 in Chichester Harbour and 3 at Pagham Harbour. A number of large rafts of **scoter** included 442 **Common** and 33 **Velvets** off Bexhill on 1st and 350 **Common** off Shoreham on 5th. A **Shore Lark** at Climping from 8th to 13th reappeared on 26th and remained at this locality through to March 1992. A **Red Kite** was recorded at Ditchling Beacon on 13th and the **Goshawk** at Church Norton (2) and in Emsworth Channel on 24th, a **Bittern** at Rye Harbour on Christmas Day, a **Waxwing** in a Rottingdean garden on 28th and a flock of 12 **Barnacle Geese** at Rye Harbour brought 1991 to a close.

* Those species marked with an asterisk are still under review by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee and, therefore, are not included in the Systematic List.

This list covers all species in Categories A and C of the British Ornithologists' Union check list. Records of national rarities have only been included if the Society has been notified of their acceptance by *British Birds*, at the time of going to press. Observers are reminded that all records of unusual species (see list on inside back cover) are considered by the Records Committee and only those fully authenticated will be published.

The following abbreviations are used in the Systematic List as standard practice: E, W, N, S, etc., cardinal points of the compass; GP, gravel pit(s); GC, golf course; Hbr, Harbour; MP, Mill Pond; SF, sewage farm or works; LNR, Local Nature Reserve; NR, Nature Reserve; NNR, National Nature Reserve; Res., Reservoir; SSSI, a declared Site of Special Scientific Interest; WWT, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust; nc, no count; ha, hectares; km, kilometres. (Note that 1 sq. km = 100 ha = 247 acres.) The reference to the latest standard account of Sussex birds is abbreviated: Shrubbs 1979 (Shrubbs, M., 1979, *The Birds of Sussex, their present status*, Phillimore, Chichester).

Although House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) occurred commonly in Sussex in 1991, details have not been incorporated into the List. Records of this species are, however, still required.

SWANS, GEESE, DUCKS and WADERS. Readers are reminded that the tables presented for all the main species have been compiled from the monthly 'Wildfowl Counts' for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the 'Birds of Estuaries Enquiry' for the BTO, RSPB and JNCC. The counts were made once per month and therefore the tables do not show the peak monthly figure but present a more meaningful coordinated count. The 'Birds of Estuaries Enquiry' counts were made on 19 Jan., 16 Feb., 16 Mar., 7 Sept., 12 Oct., 9 Nov. and 7 Dec. 1991, and 18 Jan., 22 Feb. and 21 Mar. 1992. The 'Wildfowl Counts' were made on 13 Jan., 17 Feb., 17 Mar., 15 Sept., 13 Oct., 10 Nov. and 15 Dec. 1991, and 12 Jan., 16 Feb. and 15 Mar. 1992.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS. As in the 1988, 1989 and 1990 Reports, a separate list of escaped and/or feral birds other than those species in the British Ornithologists' Union's Category C which appear in the main list, is appended to this report on pages 73-75.

0002. **RED-THROATED DIVER** (*Gavia stellata*):—An unexceptional year, the approximate monthly totals (but see also Diver sp.) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
54	38	118	58	32	1	21	46	201

Records for Jan-Mar. were widely scattered but with no notable concentrations. The largest groups were 4 at Cuckmere Haven on 1 Jan., 4 at Climping on 28th, 7 off Bexhill on 17 Feb., 4 off Worthing on 19th and 9 off Beachy Head on 2 Mar. One was noted at Arlington Res. on 17 Feb. and at Newhaven 67 were identified flying E in Mar. Records for Apr-May were mostly of birds passing up-channel at the main seawatching localities with only the occasional single noted elsewhere. These included 1 in Thorney Channel on 14 May and 1 in Cuckmere Haven on 17th. The June record was of 1 flying E at Selsey Bill on 5th.

Return passage commenced on 3 Oct. when 1 flew E at Selsey Bill. Thereafter numbers were slow to build up until Dec., with totals of 45 E and 10 W at Selsey Bill, 15 E and 13 W at Worthing and 58 E and 11 W at Newhaven during the month. Inland 1 was at Arlington Res. on 28 Dec.

0003. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER** (*G. arctica*):—Recorded in good numbers. The approximate monthly totals (but see also Diver sp.) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11	6	15	50	40	1	15	26	19

Other than singles on the coast, records for the early part of the year were of 2 off Pilsey Hope Gap on 1 Jan., 1 at the Crumbles from 21st-26th, 1 inland at Bewl Water on 9 Feb. and 2 at localities peaking at 6 at Seaford on 27 and 29 Apr. The last spring record was a single E at Seaford on 2 June.

In Oct. 1 was at Selsey Bill on 17th, thereafter records were widespread and included 2 at Brighton Marina on 25th, 2 off Clipping from 26-27th and 3 off Widewater, Lancing on 27th. In Nov. a single was at Cuckmere Haven on 9th, 3 were seen at sea off Brighton on 10th and the seawatching total from Selsey Bill was 5 E and 14 W. Most records for Dec. were from the W of the county although 1 was off Bexhill on 22nd and 2 were at Hope Gap on 31st. Seawatching during the month produced 5 E at Selsey Bill and 6 E and 1 W at Worthing.

0004. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER** (*G. immer*):—One was observed flying E at Selsey Bill on 25 Mar. (CH-W), another at Selsey E on 21 Apr. (TJE, OM *et al.*), 1 E at Brighton Marina on 9 May (JC, RJJ) and 1 past Selsey Bill on 23 May (BFF).

In the latter part of the year, there was an adult on Bewl Water from 23 Oct-8 Nov. (PCB), 1 on the sea at Church Norton on 17 Nov. (AJB, SJB) and 1, probably the same, on 25 Dec. Observers are reminded of the need to supply a description for this species.

DIVER SPECIES (*Gavia sp.*):—Totals of birds passing up-channel during Jan-May at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Coverage	<i>G. stellata</i>	<i>G. arctica</i>	<i>G. immer</i>	<i>G. sp.</i>
Selsey Bill	509 hrs	44	28	1	299
Worthing	243 hrs	26	12	—	153
Seaford	586.75 hrs	31	40	—	841
Birling Gap	86.5 hrs	22	21	—	201

In addition 3 were noted passing E at Seaford in June during 50 hrs watching. Analysis of the above records reveals the following monthly distribution:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	20	22	72	113	72	299
Worthing	9	3	35	79	27	153
Seaford	2	95	303	258	183	841
Birling Gap	—	—	130	57	14	201

The total of 844 E at Seaford (including the June records) is the largest number recorded in Sussex from one seawatching site, the peak there being 111 E on 9 Mar. From Oct-Dec. there were 83 E and 59 W in 181.5 hrs at Selsey Bill and 63 E and 36 W in 53 hrs at Worthing.

0007. **LITTLE GREBE** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*):—The monthly maxima at the principal wintering sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr.	49	31	25	5	15	53	31
Pagham Hbr.	11	16	6	11	10	15	18
Lower Cuckmere	13	—	—	—	7	10	12
Rye Hbr.	17	3	6	9	18	6	10

Elsewhere in Jan. and Feb. 30 were reported from the coast and 23 at inland sites including 9 at Tortington on 8 Feb., 6 on the R. Arun at Ford on 12 Feb., 9 on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 9 Feb. and 6 on the R. Ouse S of Lewes on 14 Feb.

During the breeding season 29-31 pairs were reported from 18 sites (number of young in brackets): 3-4 pairs at Rye Hbr (9), 3 pairs on Thorney Island, 3 pairs at Gravetye (3), 2-3 pairs at Chichester GP, 2 pairs at Burwash, Apuldrum, Inholmes Copse and Aldwick and single pairs at Emsworth, Church Norton (2), Dunford GP, Aldingbourne Rife (1), Copthorne, Pulborough Brooks, Durrington, Weir Wood Res. (2), Bewl Water, Darwell Res. (2) and Pett Pools.

Post-breeding dispersal was first recorded in the lower Cuckmere Valley with 1 bird seen on 15 Aug. At the end of the year other counts included 13 at Birdham Pool on 13 Nov., 15 on Pagham Lagoon on 15 Nov., 46 in Chichester Channel on 28 Nov., 6 on R. Arun at Ford on 24 Feb., 16 on R. Ouse near Southeast on 14 Dec. and 5 at the Crumbles GP on 27 Dec.

0009. **GREAT CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*):—The monthly maxima at the principal wintering sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr.	16	6	7	4	—	8	17
Pagham Hbr.	20	6	nc	24	42	23	12
Chichester GP	22	—	22	23	27	21	17
Weir Wood Res.	73	5	62	86	82	140	43
Ardingly Res.	25	36	26	19	17	24	13
Arlington Res.	14	29	13	32	22	15	29
Bewl Water	26	92	40	68	70	38	47
Darwell Res.	10	6	28	33	35	51	23

No large numbers were reported from the coast during the early months. In Chichester Hbr. 12 were present at Pilsey Island on 28 Apr. and Thorney Channel on 5 May but during the period 4-18 June numbers had reduced to 4-5.

In the breeding season 15 pairs at Bewl Water reared 17 young from 7 successful nests, 12-14 pairs at Weir Wood Res. reared 34 young from 28 broods, at Rye Hbr 6-7 pairs reared 11 young but at Darwell Res. only 1 of the 10-11 pairs were successful. Elsewhere 19 pairs at 15 sites are known to have reared 12 young including success again at both St. Julians, Coolham and Shillingee (N pond) where breeding occurred for the first time in 1990. Single pairs failed at Lurgashall, Petworth Park, Warnham LNR and Eridge Park. A pair was reported from the R. Adur, near Shoreham on 23 May and the R. Arun near Amberley on 22 June.

First evidence of post-breeding dispersal was a single at Thorney Deepes on 11 July and a second there on 28 July. Numbers at Weir Wood Res. reached 62 on 19 Aug. and at Arlington Res. 37 on 25 Aug. At the coast 22 off Church Norton on 8 Sept. had risen to 44 by 22 Oct. at which time there were 22 off Pett which rose to 36 on 17 Dec. and then to 76 and 210 on 24 and 27 Dec. respectively; 30 were off Goring on 29 Dec. Numbers inland were relatively low except for 140 at Weir Wood Res. on 9 Nov.

0010. **RED-NECKED GREBE** (*P. grisegena*):—Very few records were received, all in the latter part of the year. One was swimming off Newhaven Pier on 6 Sept., 1 on the Crumbles GP on 10 Oct., 2 off Clipping on 24 and 26 Oct. and finally 1 off Newhaven on 29 Dec. Observers are reminded of the need to supply a description for this species.

0011. **SLAVONIAN GREBE** (*P. auritus*):—An unexceptional year apart from the unusual summering record. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	34	29	20	8	1	1	1	1	1	10	29	29

In Jan. 8 W at Selsey Bill on 1st, 14 at Church Norton on 2nd and 12 in Chichester Hbr on 3rd may have included some duplication. In Feb. 1 was present off Widewater, Lancing on 13th with 2 there on 16th and 1 was in Thorney Channel on 27th but most records came from Church Norton where there were 26 on 19th. The total at Church Norton had reduced to 14 by 3 Mar. but increased at Widewater to 4 by 24th with a single at Seaford on 29th. This easterly movement was further demonstrated in Apr. with 2 off Brighton on 12th and singles at Newhaven on 13th moving to Seaford on 14th. The only May record was of 1 at Cuckmere Haven on 25th which was seen to fly off N. The summer record was of a single at Church Norton between 20 June and 11 July, the first summering bird since 1982 when 1 was present at Weir Wood Res. from 13-28 June (SxBR 35:7).

The first returning bird was at Selsey Bill on 28 Sept., thereafter numbers at Church Norton increased from 8 on 25 Oct. to 14 on 7 Nov. with 25 by 22nd. Elsewhere, 2 were off Goring on 27 Oct., 1 was in Thorney Channel on 15 Nov. with another at Camber on the same date. At Clipping 1 on 23 Nov. was joined by another on 2 Dec. Records for Dec. also included the only inland record for the year at Weir Wood Res. on 5th, with other coastal records of 1 W at Worthing and 2 at Bexhill on 22nd, 5 in Thorney Channel on 24th and 2 at Clipping on 29th.

0012. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE** (*P. nigricollis*):—Another poor year with only 2 recorded, 1 offshore at Pagham Hbr on 15 Feb. (BFF) and 1 off Worthing Beach on 29 Mar. (PMB).

0020. **FULMAR** (*Fulmarus glacialis*):—Movements at the main seawatching localities (away from breeding sites) were as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		June-July		Aug-Oct.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	13	288	544	21	107	13	51	
Worthing	4	313	237	8	37	1	7	

The peak movement was on 27 Apr. when there were 92 E at Brighton Marina. The only breeding records received were of 5 pairs at Newhaven and 1 pair at Rottingdean, the latter raising 1 chick.

A most unusual record was that of a single bird seen on several occasions over Mount Caburn on 26 May (BDJ, PJ), perhaps prospecting local quarries for nest-sites. Other inland records were of singles at Beddingham on 5 July (MJS-H) and at Weir Wood Res. on 12 Aug. (CEH, BMIM).

0043. **SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus griseus*):—One flew E at Selsey Bill on 12 Nov. (TJE, DIS).

0046. **MANX SHEARWATER** (*P. puffinus*):—Another poor year reflecting the lack of gates in 1991. The only records for which acceptable supporting details were supplied were as follows: singles E at Newhaven on 5 and 25 Apr. (ADW, EDU) and 2 E there on 21 May (EDU), 5 W at Selsey Bill on 23 Aug. (ASC, BJC), singles W at Hastings on 28 Sept. (DPB) and Langney Point on 29 Sept. (NJT) and 3 W at Selsey Bill on 31 Oct. (ASC, TJE).

A number of reports of this species, for which descriptions were not supplied, have been omitted from the text. Full details of any additional records should be sent to the Recorder.

0052. **STORM PETREL** (*Hydrobates pelagicus*):—An oiled bird was found on a boat, recently arrived from Cornwall, at Littlehampton Marina on 3 Sept. (DEGC). This is the first county record since 1988 although it is probably unlikely that the bird boarded ship off the Sussex coast.

0055. **LEACH'S PETREL** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*):—Two records: one on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 2 Jan. (KN, SRA *et al.*) and 1 W close inshore off Langney Point on 28 Sept. (RJJ, PJ, TJJ). This species has now been recorded in 3 of the last 5 years and in exceptional numbers in 1989, perhaps indicating a change in status of this once rare vagrant.

0071. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*):—The totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		June-July		Aug-Oct.		Nov-Dec.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	3	39	503	217	249	667	215	669	132	
Worthing	1	197	96	25	214	134	197	5	49	
Seaford	220	897	114	157	17	—	—	—	—	20
Beachy Head	—	—	375	—	21	—	—	—	—	—

A number of large movements included 167 E at Seaford on 21 Feb., 90 W and 107 E at Worthing on 23 June and 28 Sept. respectively and 101 W in 7 hrs at Selsey Bill on 12 Nov. Inland, there was a single at Weir Wood Res. on 25 Oct. (BMIM).

0072. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*):—The monthly maxima at the principal inland sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adur Levels	84	8	24	133*	5	108*	
Ardingly Res.	7	3	5	—	2	9	5
Barcombe Res.	22	44	12	—	1	28	2
Bewl Water	40	48	10	30	41	47	47
Chichester GP	33	55*	11	12	3	153*	109*
Darwell Res.	6	7	24	3	5	6	4
Waltham Brooks	24	12	17	7	11	17	12
Weir Wood Res.	4	18	3	10	8	13	33

*nocturnal roosting numbers.

In addition to the above counts maximum numbers roosting at Wyckham Farm on the Adur Levels included 40 in July and 55 in Aug. Max. numbers at the roost at South Stoke were in Jan. 17, Nov. 71 and Dec. 96; 128 flying up the river at Arundel on 11 Dec. were probably bound for this roost. Elsewhere 23 were resting on pylons on Lewes Brooks on 12 Aug. and up to 15 were roosting overnight on Manxey Levels in Dec.

At the coast counts included maxima of 119 roosting on Bognor Pier, 91 in Chichester Hbr, 117 at Pagham Hbr and 188 at Rye Hbr. Several adults were displaying and nest building at the latter locality in June and it is possible that 1 pair incubated. Regrettably there were again no counts for the colony at Fairlight.

0080. **SHAG** (*P. aristotelis*):—A much better year than 1990 with large numbers recorded in Jan-Mar., probably left over from the influx in Dec. 1990. The approximate monthly totals (allowing for likely duplication between adjacent localities) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
17	21	11	6	10	1	13	—	11	16	6	

As usual, the highest numbers recorded were at Brighton Marina where up to 9 were present in Jan., 14 in Feb. and 13 on the unusual date of 3 July (CB). At Selsey Bill there were 7 offshore on 1 Nov.

Records were received for 4 inland localities as follows: Lindfield Pond, 2 from 7-12 Jan., 1 remaining until the 26th (MAN, SBR *et al.*); Barcombe Res., 1 on 17 Mar. (SWMH); Bewl Water, 2 on 24 Oct. (AHL); and Weir Wood Res., 1 on 18 Dec. (NAD).

0095. **BITTERN** (*Botaurus stellaris*):—After none were reported in 1990, the first blank year since 1972, there were 3 records. In the early part of the year 1 was present at Weir Wood Res. from 23-25 Feb. (NAD) and another flew over the A26 at Eridge on 3 Mar. (NJT). At the end of the year 1 was watched at Rye Hbr on 25 Dec. (ASG, PG). Although this represents the best showing since 1987, the 1980s averaged over 6 annually.

0119. **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*):—1990:—One seen at Dell Quay on 18 Aug. (BJ, CMI, RP) was almost certainly the individual present in Chichester Hbr in late July and from late Aug. (SxBR 43: 15-16). It has been accepted by *British Birds*. Records published in advance of *British Birds* acceptance (SxBR 43: 15) from Cuckmere Haven (2 on 11 May), Brighton Marina (14 May) and Rye Hbr (23 May, 18 June-18 July and 16-24 Aug.) have not been accepted by *British Birds* (probably due to non-submission) and are best deleted until such time as they are, reducing the year's total to 5.



1991:—A similar pattern of records to 1990 with most reports coming from Chichester and Pagham Hbrs where 1 or 2 mobile individuals were in residence for protracted stays at both ends of the year. The 2 present in Chichester Hbr at the end of 1990 (SxBR 43: 16) were reported from Chichester Hbr at the start of the year (CBC *et al.*) with 1 being seen at Chichester GP on 12 Jan. (OM) and presumably the other at Pagham Hbr on 12-13th (OM *et al.*). One was then reported irregularly from Chichester Hbr being last recorded at Thorney Deepes on 17 Feb. (CBC, RJF). In May 1 flying E past Beachy Head on 11th (DC, JFC, RDME) was later reported from Rye Hbr (BJY).

One was seen in Pagham Hbr on 9 Aug. (TJE), with 2 present from 20-28th (BJC, BJ, CMJ *et al.*) and 3 reported on 22nd (BJ, CMJ). One was recorded on Thorney Deepes intermittently between 25 Aug-13 Oct. (CBC, MAC), with 1 still present at Pagham Hbr from 1-4 Sept. (BJ, CMJ *et al.*), 2 at Dell Quay on 5 Sept. (BJ, CMJ) and there on 22 Sept. (CRJ). Towards the end of the year 1 was present in Pagham Hbr on 17-18 Nov. (AFB, SJB, BJ, CMJ) while 1 frequented Thorney Deepes on 8-10 Dec. with 2 there from 12-31 Dec. and into 1992 (CBC, MAC, RJF, DIS *et al.*). It is likely that the above records involved no more than 6 individuals. The picture is incomplete as several undocumented reports, mainly from Chichester and Pagham Hbrs, have been excluded, but few are likely to relate to additional individuals. Although no longer a national rarity adequate descriptions of all sightings are still required.

0122. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*):—1990:—Westham, reported as 0, had 2 nests with a second brood in 1 (ACG). With Iford, the total for 1990 becomes 216.

1991:—All known heronries were counted and nests certainly and probably occupied totalled 200 (216 in 1990). The counts were as follows: Fishbourne 24 (JKC), Pagham 6 (SJK), Yapton 9 (RK), Parham 22 (AI), Henfield 17 (ABW), Firle 31 (ABW), Knepp 9 (AS, IMS), Eridge 16 (MJS-H), Glynleigh 7 (LG), Westham 1 (ACG), Wartling 10 (LG), Leasam 46 (JA). A new site at Iford, Lewes had 2 nests in 1990 and 2 in 1991 (DCL).

During the year maximum counts were 19 on Pulborough Brooks in Aug., 22 at Rye Harbour LNR in Oct., 25 at Northpoint GP in Dec. but at Thorney Deepes only 6 in Dec. Heron was recorded in suitable habitat throughout the county and on the coast in every month.

0124. **PURPLE HERON** (*A. purpurea*):—An adult was present at Filsham on 5 May (ASG, RH). The first to be recorded since 1988 and the 42nd in total, half of which have been since 1980 and slightly over half of those in this area.

0131. **BLACK STORK** (*Ciconia nigra*):—One flew slowly W over Cissbury Ring on 26 Aug. (CEH). It has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the 3rd county record, closely following the 2nd, at Wych Cross on 26 May 1989.

0134. **WHITE STORK** (*C. ciconia*):—1990:—One of the escaped individuals originating from Whipsnade Zoo and at large in the county during the latter part of the year (SxBR 43: 16) was also seen over Shoreham on 15 Nov. (KN *et al.*).

0144. **SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucoradia*):—The only authenticated records were of an adult flying over Rye Hbr on 20 Apr. (BJY), another adult on Sidlesham Ferry showing a red ring on the right leg and a yellow one on the left on 26 Aug. (CRJ) and 2 immatures at Pagham Hbr on 13 Oct. (GR, MR).

Observers are again reminded of the need to supply a description including bare parts colouration to eliminate the possibility of confusion with the hybrid Spoonbill x African Spoonbill still present in the county during 1991 (see Escapes and Ferals on page 73).

0152. **MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*):—In Jan-Mar. the highest counts reported from the principal localities were: Pulborough-Arundel 124, Pevensey Levels 119, Lewes Brooks 83, Chichester Hbr 68, Rye Hbr 43 and Adur Valley 33.

In the breeding season of 31 nests reported 6 were known to have failed, the outcome of 9 was unknown and the remaining 16 produced 78 young. At Rye Hbr 3 pairs reared 17 young, a pair at Ifeld reared 9 and 2 pairs at Hampden Park had a total of 7 young, 2 of which were of the all white Polish variety. Counts of non-breeders and failed breeders in June and July included Arundel-Littlehampton 103, Fishbourne Channel 64, Rye Hbr 53 and Pevensey Levels 35.

At the end of the year Nov-Dec. counts at the principal localities were Chichester Hbr/Chichester GP 198, Pevensey Levels 137, Pulborough-Littlehampton 133, Rye Hbr 52 and Glynde Levels 44.

0153. **BEWICK'S SWAN** (*C. columbianus*):—In Jan. the highest counts at the principal localities were: Arun Valley 89, Ouse Valley 25 and Adur Valley 21. Elsewhere there were 9 at East Guldeford on 19 Jan. During the cold spell in early Feb. birds moved away from their regular area at Pulborough and small parties were reported from several other areas e.g. on 3 Feb. 6 in Bosham Channel; on 8 Feb. 24 at Chichester GP, 25 at Tortington, 19 at Arundel WWT and 15 at Amberley; on 10 Feb. 13 were seen at Selsey and 4 at Arlington Res. which may have stayed in the area until 10 Mar. On 17 Feb. numbers in the Adur Valley rose to 84, the majority of which were seen flying in from the N. The last records in the spring were of 4 at Glynde on 17 Mar., 3 at Pulborough on 21 Mar., 4 at Weir Wood Res. on 30 Mar. and 4 very late birds at Henfield on 26 Apr.

In the autumn the first arrivals were on 27 Oct. when there were 10 at Pagham Hbr, 45 at Beachy Head and 2 NW at Climping; the first inland record was of 75 over West Chilton on 28 Oct. In Dec. the highest counts at the principal localities were: Arun Valley 86 and Ouse Valley 36. Other year end records included 6 at Pilsey on 20 Nov., 1 in the Cuckmere Valley on 7 Dec., 2 on the sea at Climping on 12 Dec. and probably the same birds on Littlehampton GC on 14 Dec. A paper describing the changing status of this species over the last 30 years appears on pages 83-92.

0157. **BEAN GOOSE** (*Anser fabalis*):—A single bird frequented Scotney GP from 27 Oct. until 15 Dec. when it moved to Dungeness. The possibility of captive origin cannot be totally ruled out.

0158. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (*A. brachyrhynchus*):—During the first winter period a single was on Pulborough Brooks on 4 Mar. (ASC). The only sighting in the latter months was of a party of at least 40 birds flying W over Rye Hbr on 17 Nov.

Observers are reminded that descriptions are required for this species.

0159. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*A. albifrons*):—In Feb. there were 6 at Pett Level on 3rd, increasing to 7 on 16th until 1 Mar. Also in Mar. 30 flew over Hurspierpoint on 10th, 1 flew past at sea off Church Norton on 17th and 23 past Seaford on 24th. The only other record was of 2 flying over Goring on 9 Mar. In the autumn a bird was associating with Canada Geese at Arlington on 1 Sept., and must be of dubious origin. Probably the same bird was present in the Cuckmere Valley on 17 and 21 Oct. At Hurspierpoint 100 flew over on 27 Oct. In Nov. a party of 9 reported from Pulborough Brooks increased to a maximum of 70 on 9 Dec. The only other records in Dec. were of 6 at Barcombe Res. on 22nd and 14 W at Rye Hbr on 25th.

0161. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*A. anser*):—The monthly maxima at the principal wintering sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Arun Valley/Petworth Park.....	75	31	8	28	35	48	59
Weir Wood Res./Ardingly Res.....	—	—	100	27	22	—	80
Glynde Levels.....	20	56	4	—	44	43	5

Other counts received included 20 over Lancing Clump on 10 Feb. and 3 and 2 flying W at Splash Point, Seaford with Brent Geese on 16 Mar. On 26 May there were 30 at Piddinghoe and a countywide census in late June/early July found 216 (including at least 34 young). At the end of the year there were 166 at Soutney Court GP.

GREY GOOSE SPECIES (*Anser sp.*):—Distant flying grey geese can frequently be difficult to identify although the majority of sightings, in Sussex, are likely to relate to "Whitefronts" (*A. albifrons*). The following records were received: 7 W at Climping on 3 Feb., 5 over Sidlesham on 10 Feb., a party of 17 flying SE over Worthing on 14 Feb. may well have been "Pinkfeet" (*A. brachyrhynchus*). 42 E at Hastings on 16 Mar., a single E past Worthing on 21 Apr., 9 high over Seaford on 12 Oct. and finally 14 at Slinfold on 23 Nov.

0166. **CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*):**—The monthly maxima at the principal wintering sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester GP.....	40	35	2	—	44	2	5
Arundel WWT.....	400	193	84	303	349	171	438
Pulborough Brooks.....	300	60	27	4	60	120	28
Petworth Park.....	159	150	42	7	164	307	—
Arlington Res.....	10	104	76	29	23	42	2
Lower Cuckmere.....	244	133	1004	417	299	304	332
Weir Wood Res.....	16	200	34	44	79	21	2
Warnham LNR.....	33	5	30	115	100	52	62
Bewl Water.....	338	800	56	660	175	302	400
Darwell Res.....	109	45	8	147	31	—	91
Rye Hbr.....	106	130	80	252	29	105	207

Early in the breeding season there were c.30 pairs at Rye Hbr but on 28 June 45 adults with 65 young. A countywide census in late June-early July found 2578 birds including at least 660 young. Other counts included 226 at Bewl Water on 1 June, 217 at Weir Wood Res. on 23 June and late Aug. counts of 76 at Fishbourne Channel, 183 at Darwell Res., 450 at Arlington Res. and 900 at Bewl Water.

0167. **BARNACLE GOOSE (*B. leucopsis*):**—The only definite record relating to wild birds was of 16 at Soutney Court GP from 17 Feb. until at least 17 Mar. In Dec. 12 birds of possible wild origin were at Pett Level on 28th, moving to Rye Hbr on that date until the end of the year. With the presence of large feral flocks it is almost impossible to judge which birds are truly wild. See also Escapes and Ferals on page 73.

0168. **BRENT GOOSE (*B. bernicla*):**—The estuary counts were as follows:

	1991							1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
County totals.....	10489	8864	3072	31	1128	8482	9177	14813	15511	1878	—	—	—	—
Chichester Hbr.....	9406	5893	2966	30	1100	7526	8802	11355	11582	1745	—	—	—	—
Climping.....	—	580	82	—	—	4	23	127	250	—	—	—	—	—
Pagham Hbr.....	1081	2370	nc	1	nc	926	264	3331	3669	128	—	—	—	—
Pett Level.....	—	—	—	—	3	7	71	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr.....	1	17	24	—	1	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Reports for other localities in the first winter period included 150 at Bewl Water on 7 Feb., 120 at Littlehampton GC on 13 Feb., with 300 there on 14th and 1200 at West Fields, Selsey on 17th. Observations of easterly return passage were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched					Total
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	
Selsey Bill.....	475.5	210	3266	656	268	4400
Worthing.....	234.7	442	1318	427	116	2303
Seaford.....	585.3	942	6968	1608	196	9714
Beachy Head.....	86.5	—	3723	713	110	4546

Peak movements were recorded at Newhaven with 1616 in 5.5 hrs on 9 Mar. and at Seaford with 1374 on 11 Mar. and 1287 on 15 Mar.

Summering birds at Chichester Hbr included 40 on 26 Aug. Autumn passage totals for Oct.-Nov. at coastal localities included 1786 W 102 E at Worthing and 1332 W 64 E at Selsey Bill. Records received for Dec. included 1000 at Apuldram Manor Farm on 10th and up to 1800 on winter wheat at Barnham on 18th.

Singles showing the characteristics of the pale-bellied race *brota* were noted at East Head on 3 Jan. and 4 Feb., Pagham Hbr on 23 Jan. and 24 Feb., 1 off Brighton Marina on 16 Mar., 2 off Seaford on 29 Apr. and finally 1 at Climping on 24 Oct.

Correction to 1990:—The adult Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) recorded at Thorney Island was present from 1-6 Jan. and a second individual was seen from 12 Jan-12 Mar.

1991:—The 1990 wintering Black Brant stayed until 3 Jan. A different individual was present from 13 Jan. and was seen with 2 hybrids on 21 Jan. It was last recorded on 10 Feb.

0173. **SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*):**—The estuary counts were as follows:

	1991							1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
County totals.....	2827	2781	1867	54	139	1393	2484	2108	2045	1356	—	—	—	—
Chichester Hbr.....	2311	2321	1813	35	130	897	1863	1633	1682	1146	—	—	—	—
Cuckmere.....	2	19	23	—	—	—	8	10	4	10	—	—	—	—
Newhaven.....	3	12	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pagham Hbr.....	323	319	nc	13	nc	482	536	396	245	139	—	—	—	—
Pett Level.....	4	28	7	—	5	3	14	14	4	4	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr.....	184	73	21	6	4	11	63	55	99	57	—	—	—	—

In the early part of the year 1 was recorded at Barcombe Res. on 6 Jan., 9 flew past Seaford on 3 Feb. and 17 E and 27 W there on 28 Feb. In Mar. 38 E at Worthing Beach on 13th were part of the monthly total there of 45. Birds arrived at Pulborough Brooks on 13 Mar. and 2 pairs were present there until June. In Apr.-May spring passage produced 104 E 14 W at Worthing Beach, 39 E 22 W at Selsey Bill, 42 E at Beachy Head and 69 E 40 W at Seaford.

In the breeding season pairs were reported as follows: Cuckmere 1, Coldwaltham 6, Duncton 1, Nyewood 2, Pett 1, Pevensey 3. Rye held around 13 pairs, but few broods were found, only 23 chicks noted. A survey of Chichester Hbr counted 630 in May and by mid-July there were still 180 adults (47 in 1990) and at least 60 juveniles (45 in 1990).

In the latter part of the year the largest number recorded was 64 at Northpoint GP on 30 Dec.

0178. **MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*):**—In Jan. up to 14 roosting at Maynards Green and 20 at Swanbourne Lake. During the breeding season c.23 pairs were reported from 20 localities in West Sussex and 3 pairs from 3 localities in East Sussex. Successful breeding (young in brackets) was reported as follows: 2 pairs at Pulborough (3 and 2), single pairs at Ebernoe (5), Fernhurst (2), Milland (2), Wakehurst Place (4), and Weir Wood Res. (4). On 30 June there were 16 at Swanbourne Lake but no evidence of breeding. At the end of the year records included 16 at South Ambersham on 12 Oct. and 13 at Pond Lye on 24 Dec.

0179. **WIGEON (*Anas penelope*):**—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal sites were:

	1991							1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
County totals.....	3615	3872	1774	279	2312	2201	3454	6249	4855	1977	—	—	—	—
Chichester Hbr.....	952	762	583	105	1667	747	1648	1328	1046	410	—	—	—	—
Pagham Hbr.....	33	248	nc	13	nc	128	339	1102	44	—	—	—	—	—
Pulborough/Amberley.....	1544	1045	674	7	43	701	700	2390	2520	945	—	—	—	—
Lower Cuckmere.....	545	623	127	27	211	371	361	903	870	317	—	—	—	—
Bewl Water.....	360	525	263	15	114	168	250	328	345	282	—	—	—	—
Arlington Res.....	60	270	15	13	—	38	6	79	13	—	—	—	—	—

The Jan. 1991 total was below the average for recent years. Other counts included 135 at Pett Pools on 1 Feb. and 150 at Climping on 10 Feb. In the spring last recorded on Pevensey Levels on 12 Apr. and at Cuckmere Haven on 25 May. Three summered at Pulborough and 2 in the Chichester Hbr area.

Returning birds were first noted at The Severals on 9 Aug. when 6 were present and there were 3 at Thorney Island on 29 Aug. Inland the first seen were 10 at Bewl Water on 4 Sept. and 2 at Warmham LNR on 5 Sept. The first birds arrived at Pulborough on 29 Sept. Other counts at the end of the year included 222 in Thorney Channel on 25 Sept., 250 at Bewl Water on 23 Oct., 585 at Arlington Res. on 25 Nov., c.1200 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 30 Nov. and 30 Dec. and 2560 at Pulborough on 31 Dec.

0180. **AMERICAN WIGEON** (*A. americana*):—A pair present at Pett Pools on 1 June (JABG) have been accepted by *British Birds* as probably relating to escapes. The unusual date suggests this and as this species has not previously been recorded in the county it seems unwise to include it on the county list on the strength of this record.

0182. **GADWALL** (*A. strepera*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal sites were:

County totals	1991													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr	184	202	58	1	58	150	316	213	233	94				
Pulborough	26	16	6	1	14	32	29	69	14					
Arundel WWT	17	36	26	34	25	18	41	29	24	21				
Swanbourne Lake	6	43	5	14	20	29	30	13	6					
Pulborough Brooks	26	—	—	—	—	9	—	12	19	—				
Chingford Pond	15	12	7	—	11	3	22	2	8	2				
Weir Wood Res.	13	8	0	3	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Bewl Water	53	64	2	—	2	31	64	54	50	26				
Icklesham	—	—	—	—	—	2	63	46	28	20				

The Jan. and Feb. 1991 totals were higher than in 1990 but still remained below the average for recent years. Other counts included 23 at Swanbourne Lake on 28 Jan., 45 and 50 at the Crumbles GP on 21 Jan. and 23 Feb., 18 at Thorney Deep on 16 Feb., 18 at Weir Wood Res. on 24 Feb., 18 at Arlington Res. on 23 Feb. and 14 at Petworth Park on 29 Mar.

In the breeding season, at Ripe no definite evidence of breeding but 4 juvs. present 14-23 July, elsewhere pairs reported from widely scattered localities predominantly in West Sussex. At the end of the year counts included 30 at Bewl Water on 27 Oct., 19 at Pulborough on 4 Nov., 45 and 40 at Pett Pools on 14 Nov. and 30 Dec. and 49 and 40 at the Crumbles GP on 24 Nov. and 12 Dec.

0184. **TEAL** (*A. crecca*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal sites were:

County totals	1991													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr	537	2659	824	1040	1153	2756	2848	4131	3398	804				
Pulborough	1049	720	120	464	512	929	1328	1100	394	187				
Arundel WWT	295	137	nc	23	nc	172	214	761	287	27				
Swanbourne Lake	27	31	35	61	86	193	56	176	62	25				
Pulborough Brooks	2510	715	292	67	117	1005	65	1439	2224	287				
Darwell Res.	422	184	24	6	3	4	354	192	26	9				
Icklesham	150	120	70	200	200	150	150	120	60	65				
Rye Hbr	190	50	7	156	145	111	185	157	23	26				

The Jan. 1991 total was almost double the average for recent years and the highest count for more than 10 years. Other counts included 139 at Ardingly Res. and 118 in the Cuckmere Valley on 13 Jan., 150 on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 2 Feb., 110 on Pevensey Levels and 107 at Glynde on 17 Feb. and 122 at Wallers Haven on 2 Mar. In the breeding season, in West Sussex, 4 pairs were present at 1 site and broods of 2 and 5 were seen, and a total of 4-5 pairs at 2 other sites; in East Sussex 1-2 pairs were present at one potential breeding site. At the end of the year counts included 119 at Powdermill Res. and 143 at Pett Level on 15 Dec. and 1944 at Pulborough on 27 Dec.

A bird showing the characteristics of Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*), not belonging to the collection, was found at Arundel WWT from 26 Jan.-22 Mar. (R.J.L.K. et al.). This was probably the returning bird from previous years.

0186. **MALLARD** (*A. platyrhynchos*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal sites were:

County totals	1991													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr	3795	3608	1655	3468	3343	3891	4933	4494	4994	1670				
Pulborough	369	218	187	317	552	456	397	406	284	187				
Arundel WWT	178	63	81	100	115	73	103	64	10	22				
Swanbourne Lake	229	169	nc	266	nc	300	361	289	290	119				
Pulborough Brooks	348	692	487	475	426	657	685	723	299	374				
Bewl Water	302	88	111	89	126	252	82	235	181	120				
Weir Wood Res.	255	349	140	332	234	320	484	282	255	114				
Arlington Res.	126	221	18	58	123	102	136	66	39	32				
Alexandra Park	292	95	10	24	84	125	400	116	54	41				
Darwell Res.	133	222	80	137	178	177	176	159	166	106				
Rye Hbr	222	193	44	141	147	211	474	337	96	36				
	203	315	98	381	342	161	201	264	115	81				

The Jan. 1991 total was near to the average for recent years. Other counts included 170 at Gossops Green on 9 Feb. and 150 at Knepp on 18 Feb. Breeding season population estimates included c.50-60 pairs at Rye; 33 drakes and 12 ducks at Pulborough on 30 May and a total of 17 broods totalling 77 ducklings during the season. At Bewl Water on 1 June there were 67 drakes and 20 ducks plus 42 young in 9 broods. At the end of the year other counts included 154 at Swanbourne Lake, 148 at Angmering and 156 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 16 Sept., 180 at Ifield on 14 Dec. and 205 at Barcombe Res. on 16 Dec.

0189. **PINTAIL** (*A. acuta*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal localities were:

County totals	1991													
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Chichester Hbr	426	309	237	1	37	214	167	608	378	97				
Pulborough	62	189	181	—	24	96	88	321	241	69				
Arundel WWT	13	53	nc	—	nc	70	60	174	58	—				
Pulborough Brooks	344	32	51	—	—	43	3	80	49	11				

The Jan. 1991 total was just under the average for recent years. Other records were 20 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 10 Feb., and 11 at Bewl Water and 10 at Weir Wood Res. on 17 Feb. Coastal passage was well documented at Selsey, Worthing and Seaford from Mar. to May with a max. count of 71 at Seaford on 4 Mar. A pair was present at Rye Hbr from 20-23 Apr. Summer records included 1 at Scotney Court GP on 11 May and a pair throughout June at Pulborough Brooks.

Returning birds were first noted on 30 Aug. when there were 19 at Pagham Hbr. At Rye 1 from 1-7 Sept. increased to 11, and there were 18 at Thorney Deep on 5 Sept. Other records at the end of the year included 90 in Pagham Hbr on 5 Nov., 127 at Pulborough on 27 Dec. and 125 at Thorney Deep on 31 Dec.

0191. **GARGANEY** (*A. querquedula*):—First recorded from Horse Eye Level, Pevensey where at least 3 were seen on 9 Mar. and 2 on 10th. Other early arrivals noted were singles at Amberley, also on 10th; Scotney Court GP on 13th and Pagham on 14th. Up to 3 were reported from Chichester GP on 17 Mar. and a single bird was found in Fishbourne Channel on the same date.

There were a number of sightings during the last 4 days of Mar., with up to 3 on Pevensey Levels, 3 at Coldwaltham Brooks and 2 seen flying E during a seaway at Worthing. During Apr. and early May, most records were from "seawatching stations" with 5 recorded from Birling Gap, 2 passed Selsey, 2 from Seaford and a single amongst a party of Common Scoter passed Newhaven. Elsewhere 2 pairs were observed on Pulborough Brooks, singles continued to be reported from Pevensey Levels and from 28 Apr. were seen in the Icklesham, Pett and Rye area. Up to 2 birds were reported from Pagham.

There was 1 record of a breeding pair in the county and another of a pair found at a suitable locality.

All autumn migration records came from Pett and Rye with 1-2 birds present throughout Aug. Last reported, from Rye Hbr, on 15 Sept.

0194. **SHOVELER** (*A. chrypeata*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal sites were:

County totals	1991			1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr.	0	0	0	290	198	252	235	278	331	297
Pagham Hbr.	1	0	nc	0	23	0	21	3	1	2
Chichester GP	9	62	11	0	5	52	33	9	12	12
Arundel WWT	14	17	8	21	4	5	11	8	47	45
Amberley/Pulborough	93	8	77	0	0	9	1	95	118	91
Arlington Res.	26	4	1	38	0	16	0	7	3	22
Pett Level	15	0	2	0	3	15	18	30	14	2
Icklesham	35	7	8	150	60	18	4	4	6	10
Rye Hbr.	30	15	19	80	96	88	90	66	104	109

The Jan. 1991 total was above the average for recent years; other counts included 94 and 45 at the Crumbles GP on 24 Jan. and 22 Feb. respectively. Spring movement was rather poor with Mar. totals of 35 E in c. 86 hrs watching at Selsey, 54 E/41 hrs at Worthing and 102/130 hrs at Seaford; peaks recorded were 30 at Worthing on 3 Mar. and 84 at Seaford on 4 Mar. In the breeding season at least 1 pair in the Pagham Hbr. area, a pair with 5 young at Thorney Deepes in July, 9 drakes and 5 ducks at Pulborough from Apr. to late May with 1 brood of 5 seen and at Rye at least 1 pair probably nested.

Return first in evidence at Rye when the 1-6 present throughout much of July increased to 14 on 25 July, 35 on 31 July, and 95 on 22 Aug. Elsewhere there were 8 at Scotney Court GP and 14 at Pett Pools on 6 Aug., 5 at Sidlesham Ferry on 12 Aug. and 7 at Apuldram Manor on 20 Aug. Other records at the end of the year included 71 at Arlington Res. on 6 Nov., 25 at Pett Pools on 15 Nov., 35 and 70 at the Crumbles GP on 17 Nov. and 12 Dec. respectively and 73 at Pulborough on 27 Dec.

0196. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Nettion rufina*):—During a period of severe weather, 2 males were found on the sea amongst a party of Wigeon, off Newhaven Tide Mills on 10 Feb. (JCH, MK, TJW). At Brooklands Lake, Worthing the long staying feral individual was joined by a nervous male in more usual plumage which may have been of feral natural origin on 29 Oct. (CAH, JAN). See also Escapes and Ferals on page 73.

0198. **POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal localities were:

County totals	1991			1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester GP	972	1032	502	116	216	616	1106	1078	857	322
Arundel WWT	76	25	33	55	61	132	119	165	111	52
Weir Wood Res.	333	582	224	37	108	213	458	355	389	124
Warnham LNR	17	4	12	0	0	14	21	56	60	41
Bewl Water	22	62	0	5	0	18	85	23	8	3
Arlington Res.	57	10	0	0	0	32	20	5	0	12
Barcombe Res.	39	42	0	0	0	11	123	73	0	1
Darwell Res.	65	77	16	1	3	1	22	6	8	0
Rye Hbr.	219	32	162	0	13	96	190	278	115	45

The Jan. 1991 total was just above the average for recent years. Other counts included 43 at Knepp Lake on 13 Jan., 45 at Ardingly Res. on 17 Feb. and 56 and 82 at the Crumbles GP on 24 Jan. and 18 Feb. respectively.

In the breeding season 6 at Swanbourne Lake, including a duck with 7 small young on 18 May, singles in June-July at Thorney Deepes, Ardingly Res., Darwell Res., and Boreham Street. At Rye Hbr. occasional birds of both sexes seen during May-June but no evidence of breeding on the SSSI; 2-9 in early July thereafter increasing to 20 on 26 July.

At the end of the year counts included 70 at Warnham on 10 Nov., 213 at Scotney Court GP on 14 Nov., 300 at the Crumbles on 15 Nov. and 213 at North Point, Rye on 30 Dec.

0202. **FERRUGINOUS DUCK** (*A. nyroca*):—An immature male was seen at Weir Wood Res. on 2 Dec. (NAD), the first in the county since 1987. Of the 6 records for Sussex in the last 10 years, 3 have been from this locality.

0203. **TUFTED DUCK** (*A. fuligula*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal localities were:

County totals	1991			1992						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester GP	923	1076	899	461	553	960	1009	1507	1237	987
Swanbourne Lake	159	111	191	172	168	181	146	234	247	255
Arundel WWT	94	218	217	58	61	61	46	203	94	170
Burton Ponds	311	421	186	78	111	224	322	344	289	114
Bewl Water	19	8	48	—	64	49	40	77	58	45
Barcombe Res.	11	29	16	9	15	97	172	224	163	81
Rye Hbr.	22	67	3	4	4	4	77	70	2	10

The Jan. 1991 total was just under the average for recent years. At the Crumbles GP counts included 93 on 21 Jan., 40 on 18 Feb. and 42 on 26 Mar., and elsewhere 58 at Ardingly Res. on 19 Jan.

During the breeding season pairs were reported as follows (young seen in brackets): Severals, Church Norton 1, Apuldram 1, Aldsworth 2 (12), Chingford Pond 1, Burton Pond 1, Dunfold GP 1 (6), Northbrook Worthing 1, Gravetye 2 (5), Wakehurst 1, Scaynes Hill 2 (6), Isfield 1, Boreham Street 1 and Bewl Water 4. Other counts of non-breeders included 16 at Darwell Res. on 29 June, 14 at Aldsworth Ponds on 21 June and 30 at Scotney Court GP on 6 Aug.

At the end of the year there were 150 at Scotney Court GP on 1 Sept. and 44 and 120 at the Crumbles GP on 9 Sept. and 14 Nov. respectively.

0204. **SCAUP** (*A. marila*):—An excellent year for the species. The first winter period started quite quietly with single birds at the Crumbles, Princes Park Eastbourne, Lancing, Worthing, Littlehampton and Arundel; 2 together on the Cuckmere and up to 24 at Scotney Court GP. The severe Feb. weather commenced on 8th, and brought an unprecedented volume of records with at least 335 birds seen including a flock of 230 at Scotney Court and uncommon inland records of a male at Arlington Res. and a male with 2 females at Pulborough.

Calmer weather conditions during Mar. and Apr. stemmed the flow of records to a trickle, although the flock at Scotney built to a peak of 280 on 10 Mar. Elsewhere, up to 3 birds were still lingering at the Crumbles, Worthing and in Pagham Hbr. Last seen at Scotney on 11 May.

First reported in autumn on 19 Oct., with 1 at Littlehampton. During the latter months, parties of up to 5 were widely recorded along the coast. Just 1 inland bird was found at Weir Wood Res. and there were flocks of 25 off Cuckmere Haven on 7 Dec., 14 passed Worthing on 21 Dec. and 20 at Rye Hbr from 26-28 Dec.

0206. **EIDER** (*Somateria mollissima*):—The approximate monthly totals and peak counts at the main localities were as follows:

County totals*	1991		1992	
	Jan.	Feb.	Jan.	Feb.
Chichester Hbr.	44	64	22	8
Pagham Hbr.	2	6	1	4
Rye Hbr.	6	5	7	1
Shoreham	1	—	—	—

* these exclude birds seen migrating along the coast.

Other significant concentrations in addition to those listed above included 42 off Bexhill on 17 Feb. and 15 off Climping on 23 Nov.

The totals recorded passing the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		June-July		Aug-Oct.		Nov-Dec.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	6	8	16	3	—	—	—	—	20	35
Worthing	—	—	14	—	9	—	10	—	31	14
Seaford	—	—	209	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Beachy Head	—	—	—	47	—	—	—	—	—	—

The main passage was in early Apr., as shown by the total of 159 E recorded at Seaford in the period 2nd to 6th.

0212. **LONG-TAILED DUCK** (*Clangula hyemalis*):—1990.—The female in Chichester Hbr on 15 Dec. remained into 1991.

1991.—The approximate monthly totals and peak counts at all localities were as follows:

County totals	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Arlington Res.	6	20	17	23	13	2	20	24
Bewl Water	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Brighton Marina	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chichester GP	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chichester Hbr	1	3	4	4	—	—	4	13
Crumbles GP	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pagham Hbr	1	—	—	—	13	1	3	3
Pett	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Piddinghoe	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr	1	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Shoreham	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	2
Weir Wood Res.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

At Pett, 13 remained offshore from 24 Mar-5 May with 15 present on 25 Apr. In Chichester Hbr numbers built up from 2 on 14 Nov. to 7 on 14 Dec., 12 on 15th and 13 on 31st. A total of 15-23 birds were observed on seawatches as follows: Beachy Head, a male E on 25 Apr.; Climping, 2 on 11 Feb.; Hove, 1 on 13 Feb.; Lancing, 3 W on 3 Nov.; Newhaven, 1 on 16 Nov.; Pett, 2 W on 11 Feb.; Seaford, 2 E on 24 Feb. and 21 Apr.; and Selsey Bill, 3 E on 21 Apr., singles on 22 Oct., 3 and 18 Nov. and 26 Dec. and 2 on 23 Nov.

0213. COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*).—1990.—A flock of 8 males at Southwater CP on 16 June (ARK, BMS).

1991.—Totals for the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan.-Feb.		Mar.-May		June-July		Aug.-Oct.		Nov.-Dec.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	8	6	6526	—	635	271	168	138	166	478
Worthing	—	3	2781	133	152	27	35	25	99	53
Seaford	12	—	9677	66	574	2	—	—	—	—
Beachy Head	—	—	—	4599	—	—	—	—	—	—

The main spring passage was on 10 Apr. when there were 2212 at Seaford and 1699 at Beachy Head and on 11 May when 720 passed the former locality.

The usual wintering flock in Rye Bay totalled 100 on 3 Jan., this being the only significant concentration reported for the county in the early months. In the latter part of the year, however, a number of large rafts were recorded including maxima of 100+ in Rye Bay on 10 Nov., 442 off Bexhill on 1 Dec. and 350 off Shoreham on 5 Dec.

Inland records were of 4 at Bewl Water on 4 Apr. and 1 on 20 Nov. and 8 at Weir Wood Res. on 7 May, one remaining until the following day.

0214. SURF SCOTER (*M. perspicillata*).—An adult male consorting with Common Scoter was present in Seaford Bay from 13-20 Apr. (GCG *et al.*). Best viewed from Splash Point, it was often too far offshore to distinguish. No longer a *British Birds* rarity, this is only the third county record and the first male. The previous 2 records were at Rye Hbr on 3 Dec. 1966 and off Pett Level in Nov-Dec. 1977.

0215. VELVET SCOTER (*M. fusca*).—The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	27	3	199	14	—	1	—	54	24	82	—

In Jan. there were 2 W at Selsey Bill on 3rd and 1 off Church Norton on 12th. Records were received for 5 localities in Feb. as follows: Selsey Bill, 2 E on 6th, Climping, 2 on 10th, Chichester Hbr, 1 on 16th and 4 on 24th, Bexhill, 15 on 17th and Seaford, 3 E on 21st. The first large spring movement occurred on 1 Apr. when there were 6 at Selsey Bill, 21 at Seaford and, most unusually, 14 at Arlington Res. (TJW), suggesting overland passage through the county. Further significant movements were recorded on 10-11 Apr. with totals of 66 E in 4 hrs at Beachy Head on the former date and 50 E in 3.5 hrs at Worthing on the latter.

A single bird was reported off Church Norton on 7 July (JDW) but there were no further records until 19 Oct. when there was 1 W at Climping. Thereafter there were reports of a number of birds associating with rafts of Common Scoters including maxima of 33 off Bexhill on 1 Dec. (on which date there were also 18 W at Selsey Bill), 12 off Shoreham on 26 and 31 Oct. and 6 off Brighton Marina on 17 Nov. In Chichester Hbr, where 4 were present on 30 Oct. and 3 on 6 Nov., up to 2 were noted regularly until mid-Dec.

0218. GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*).—The approximate monthly totals and peak counts at all localities were as follows:

County totals	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Arlington Res.	37	122	17	3	1	14	48	77
Bewl Water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brighton Marina	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brooklands	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chichester Hbr	6	25	—	—	—	11	28	42
Chichester GP	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crumbles GP	1	5	—	—	—	—	3	2
Glynde Clay Pt.	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Lower Cuckmere	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Newhaven	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pagham Hbr	5	22	4	1	—	1	3	8
Pett Level	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pevensy Levels	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pond Lye	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. Adur	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. Arun	1	11	—	—	—	—	—	—
R. Ouse	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr	12	10	2	—	—	2	2	3
Shoreham Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Union Canal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weir Wood Res.	6	2	3	—	—	—	7	5

* these exclude birds seen migrating along the coast.

The total for Feb. should be treated as an absolute minimum given that birds ranged widely along the R. Arun, from Littlehampton to Pulborough, during the harsh spell of weather.

At Bexhill a flock of 12 flew E on 21 Apr.

0220. SMEW (*Mergus albellus*).—This proved to be the best year for a long time as a result of very cold weather in Feb. Jan. was quiet with 3 at Rye Hbr on 5th remaining until the end of the month, with an additional bird on 19th. Elsewhere 1 was at Bewl Water on 10th and 1 at Bosham in a flooded field on 11th. In early Feb. at Rye Hbr there were 6 (1 male) on 2nd, 2 at Pagham Hbr on 3rd, 1 at Arundel on 8th, 2 at Crumbles GP on 9th, with 2 on the R. Adur on the same date. On 10th 4 were seen at 4 sites, the following day 5 were recorded including 3 on R. Adur (which remained until 21st) and 1 flying E at Pett Beach. By 13th 5 were at Littlehampton and 9 (1 male) at Northpoint GP with 3 (1 male) at Cuckmere Haven on 14th. On 16th there were 22 (6 males) at Northpoint GP with, on the following day, no less than 26 (no. of males not recorded) at Camber and another 6 in the county. On 18th 14 remained at Camber, 3 (2 males) were at Ternery Pool, Rye Hbr and 5 (3 males) at Scotney Court GP. Presumably this was the flock of the previous day dispersing. The number at Camber had reduced to 4 on 19th but at Ternery Pool, Rye Hbr the number increased to 19 (6 males) on 20th. The last birds in West Sussex were 1 on 19th at Chichester GP and the 3 on R. Adur last seen on 21st. In East Sussex on 25th 4 were at Scotney Court GP and 7 at Northpoint GP, with 3 at Rye Hbr until 3 Mar., the last of an eventful winter.

In complete contrast at the end of the year the only records were of a single at Bexhill on 13 Dec., 4 (3 males) at Darwell Res. on 17th and singles at Rye Hbr on 18th and 27th.

0221. RED-BREADED MERGANSER (*M. serrator*).—In the early part of the year the Chichester Hbr estuary counts were 135 in Jan. and 62 in Feb. In Pagham Hbr there were 56 on the Feb. count and 80 on 29 Mar. Figures for the main seawatching localities were:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	246	355	41	642
Worthing	95	107	9	211
Seaford	69	162	50	281
Beachy Head	27	88	7	122

The numbers recorded at Selsey Bill were unusually high with 55 E on 10 Apr. being the largest movement.

The earliest returning bird was on 23 June at Selsey Bill with 3 in Chichester Hbr on 26th. In Oct. 83 flew W at Selsey Bill (including 49 in 2½ hrs on 27th).
The Nov. total for this site was 198 W and in the same month 22 were off Pilesey Island on 6th and 87 off Climping on 23rd. The Chichester Hbr flock increased to 50 on 12 Dec. and there were 80 on the sea at Goring on 28th.

0223. **GOOSANDER** (*M. merganser*):—In Jan. a total of 20 were seen at 7 sites with 12 of these being at Weir Wood Res. on 20th. In Feb. the species was more widespread. On 1st a male was at Abbots Wood Pond and early in the month there were at least 14 in the Arun Valley with 11 at Pulborough Brooks and 3 at Littlehampton. On 9th there were 15 at South Stoke and the next day 11 had moved down river to Littlehampton. On 14th 9 had returned upstream to Amberley Wild Brooks. Meanwhile singles were at Chichester GP on 2nd and 8th. At Pagham there was 1 on 5th followed by 7 on 13th with only 2 remaining by 18th. Arlington Res. had a very good run of records from 2 on 9th increasing to 15 on 17th. Six other sites had a small number of birds, with 4 at Darwell Res. on 17th being the largest total. Although it is very difficult to ascertain the exact number in the county, it seems as though 24 were present on 17 Feb. It is quite possible that the monthly total did not exceed this number of birds moving from the Arun Valley to Arlington Res. Surprisingly there were no records from the extreme E of the county. In Mar. only 2 were seen both on 2nd, at Climping and Barcombe Res. On 12 Apr. a single flew E at Climping.

The first returning bird was at Weir Wood Res. on 4 Nov. where birds were present until 13 Dec. with a maximum of 3. Elsewhere 2 flew E at Worthing Beach on 20 Nov. and a male flew E at Climping on 3 Dec. At Arlington Res. there were 5 on 8 Dec., other records that month including 1 at Ardingly Res. on 17th, 2 at Pett Level from 18th to 21st, 1 at Rye Hbr on 12th with 2 there on 20th and 1 at Barcombe Res. on 29th.

0225. **Cat. C. RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*):—During Jan-Mar. recorded at 7 sites (max. in brackets): Arundel WWT (10), Thorney Deepes (3), Chichester GP (5), Barcombe Res. (2), Arlington Res. (4), Bewl Water (2) and Scotney Court GP (3). On 10 Feb. 4 were on the R. Arun between South Stoke and Arundel and on 11 Feb. 1 was present in Littlehampton Marina. In the breeding season at Swanbourne Lake 2 pairs, plus 15 young and 4 drakes were present on 17 June. Birds were also present at Thorney Deepes and Chichester GP but there was no evidence of breeding. During Sept-Dec. recorded at 6 sites (max. in brackets): Chichester GP (2), Swanbourne Lake (3), Arundel WWT (17), Weir Wood Res. (2), Barcombe Res. (2) and the Crumbles GP (1).

0231. **HONEY BUZZARD** (*Pernis apivorus*):—The only authenticated record of this problematical species related to an adult gliding over Hollingbury Wild Park on 1 Sept. (PJWh *et al.*).

0238. **BLACK KITE** (*Milvus migrans*):—1990.—One at Pett and Icklesham on 7 July (DPB, IDH, SJRR *et al.*) has been accepted by *British Birds*. It is the 14th county record of which 8 have been since 1986. Six have been recorded in Apr., 5 in May, 2 in July and 1 in Nov.

0239. **RED KITE** (*M. milvus*):—Single birds were recorded at Shoreham on 21 Jan. (KN) and over Ditchling Beacon on 13 Dec. (DC).

0260. **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*):—An excellent year for the species. Allowing for likely duplication of records from well watched coastal localities, there were a minimum of 32 birds recorded in the county; the second highest total in the last 12 years. Monthly maxima were as follows:

Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1	7	10	12	2

The first for the year was an adult being mobbed over Arundel WWT on 5 Apr. Passage during early May produced an individual over Bognor Regis on 2nd and singles flying in off the sea at both Seaford and Lancing on 5th. Two further individuals were at Pagham Hbr and Thorney Island on 11 May. At the end of the month, records of single birds came from Balsdean on 25 May and both Findon Valley and Thorney Island on 30 May.

Weir Wood Res. recorded the first autumn migrant on 8 Aug. During the period 15 Aug-29 Sept., there were sightings of at least 21 birds passing over the South Downs and widespread coastal localities. The last records were of single immatures from Rye Hbr on 12 Oct. and over Beachy Head on 28 Oct.

0261. **HEN HARRIER** (*C. cyaneus*):—An exceptional total of 114 reports were received. Allowing for likely duplication of records, an approximate total of 72 birds were recorded in the county. The monthly maxima were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adult males.....	3	9	5	2	6	1	1	3	12	2
Others.....	13	9	5	2	6	1	1	3	12	10

A number of traditional wintering areas were again frequented and the majority of records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester Hbr. The early months found a ringtail hunting over Thorney Island on 13 Jan. followed by 2 males and a ringtail at Dell Quay on 7 Feb. Autumn records were of single ringtails at Thorney Island on 20 and 29 Oct.

Selsey Peninsula. During Jan-Feb., single ringtails were recorded on 8 dates. An adult male was observed at Pagham on 10 and 16 Feb. Migrant ringtails were seen on 20 Apr., 1 May and 19 May. The first autumn ringtail was observed on 19 Oct. and was followed by 23 sightings of single ringtails up to the year end. These records probably related to only 2-3 birds.

Arun and Adur Valleys. During the first winter period, an immature male hunted over Pulborough Brooks on 31 Jan., a ringtail flew over Littlehampton GC on 8 Feb. and another was seen over the Upper Adur Levels on 14 Mar. A ringtail was at Woods Mill on 20 Sept. During the latter part of the year, an adult male at Pulborough Brooks from 31 Oct. until mid-Nov. was joined by a ringtail from 10-14 Nov. This site also produced a ringtail on 7 Dec. and a male on 27 Dec. Elsewhere single ringtails were observed over Cissbury Ring on 17 Nov. and 9 Dec.

Ouse Valley and adjacent downland. During Jan., ringtails were recorded from Balsdean, Offham and Glynde Levels. A late migrant ringtail flew over Balsdean on 31 May. Between 20 Aug. and 27 Dec. there were no less than 40 sightings of ringtails over downland W of the river, relating probably to 2-3 individuals, together with an adult male from 14-16 Oct. and on 23 Oct. A further ringtail was recorded at Gardeners Hill on 1 Dec.

Seaford, Cuckmere Valley and Beachy Head. During the first winter period, a single ringtail was recorded from Seaford Head on 13 Jan. with 2 there together on 7 Feb. In the Cuckmere Valley, single ringtails hunted over Lullington Heath on 26 Jan. and Charleston Reedbed on 13 Mar. Single migrant ringtails were seen over Lullington on 9 May, in off the sea at Seaford on 22 May and a very late sighting of a large bird at Beachy Head from 25 May-3 June. During the autumn, single ringtails were observed on 4 dates between 2 Oct. and 9 Nov.

Pevensey Levels. All records refer to single ringtails hunting on 10 Feb., 2-3 Mar., 27 Oct. and 8 Dec.

Pett Level and Rye Hbr. Just 2 sightings of ringtails in the early months, at Rye on 15 Jan. and Scotney Pit on 17 Feb. During the late autumn, a male was harried by "corvids" on 10 Nov. over Pett followed by records of single ringtails on 9 dates in the Rye Hbr area up to the end of the year. Two wing-tagged birds recorded were marked in Scotland as nestlings earlier in the year.

NW Sussex downs. All records refer to ringtails. The first winter period saw a single at Woolbeding on 5 Jan., 2 roosting at Ambersham on 20 Jan., with a further bird there on 3 Mar. During the latter months, single birds were recorded roosting at Ambersham on 3 dates and over North Marden Common on 21 Nov.

Ashdown Forest and Weir Wood Res. A wintering ringtail was recorded on 5 dates during Feb. and another flew over the forest on 3 Apr. In autumn, a ringtail was observed on 4 dates between 28 Oct-13 Nov. and a male hunted over Wren's Warren on 7 Dec.

In addition single ringtails were reported in the county as follows:—West Dean Woods, 12 Feb., 23 Mar., 23 Oct., 4 Nov.; Kingley Vale, 17 Feb., and Hollingbury Camp, 28 Sept. and 26 Oct.

0263. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER** (*C. pygargus*):—Fully authenticated records were received of 5 birds. Single ringtails were observed gliding over Poverty Bottom, Denton on 22 May (NJT) and near Arlington Res. on 29 May (CMJ, PJ). An extraordinary sighting came from a garden in West Hoathly where an adult male flew into a french window on 28 May (SJ). Both bird and glass survived the encounter. A further male was photographed flying N of Hastings on 2 June (IS).

In autumn, a ringtail was observed quartering Horse Eye Level on 2 Sept. (MJE). Accounts of a further 5 ringtails were received relating to sightings in May and Sept. Whilst it is very likely that most, if not all, of these were indeed *C. pygargus*, insufficient detail was supplied to eliminate *C. cyaneus*, which is increasing in frequency as a passage migrant as well as a winter visitor to Sussex.

0267. **GOSHAWK** (*Accipiter gentilis*):—The adult male at The Severals, Church Norton, first reported in 1989, was again widely recorded from 7 Jan-7 May and again from 28 Nov. to the end of the year. The only other authenticated record of a migrant, was a female passing along the cliffs at Beachy Head on 13 Apr. Accounts were received from 2 areas of suitable breeding habitat with both a male and a female observed at each site.

0269. **SPARROWHAWK** (*A. nisus*):—Widely reported in every month of the year with over 330 records including an individual flying "in off the sea" at Worthing on 24 Mar. Frequently observed hunting, where prey items caught included Collared Dove, Starling, Pied Wagtail and sadly Jack Snipe.

Information on breeding success has been limited. Of at least 22 probable pairs, only 5 are known to have bred, 4 of which reared 8 young.

0287. **BUZZARD** (*Buteo buteo*):—There continues to be a feral population centred upon Ashdown Forest. Elsewhere, during the first winter period, there were up to 16 birds seen from widely spread localities including 3 areas of suitable breeding habitat. In May, single migrants were seen being mobbed by crows over Church Norton on 2nd and circling Woods Mill on both 10th and 23rd.

Autumn passage was recorded from 20 July-20 Oct., involving a total of 9 birds from the coast with a further 18 from inland localities. These latter sightings may only relate to 11 different birds, allowing for likely duplication of records. At the end of the year, 1 was present in the Arun Valley.

0301. **OSPREY** (*Pandion haliaetus*):—A staggering total of 110 reports were received during 1991, involving, after allowing for likely duplication, a minimum of 22 birds in spring and another 26 in autumn; almost doubling the previous record set in 1990. Earliest and latest migrant dates were 4 Apr. and 6 Oct. Records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester Hbr. The first migrant flew over on 15 May. An individual was present from 28 May-3 June and another passed over on 29 June. In autumn, 1 was present from 31 Aug-4 Sept.; 2 together on 7-8 Sept. and up to 4 almost daily between 11-27 Sept. The latest record came from Thorney Channel with a single bird from 2-6 Oct.

Selsey Peninsula. The first migrant was seen at Selsey on 18 Apr. Individuals were also recorded from Pagham Hbr on both 22 and 28 Apr., and at Chichester GP on 19 May. All autumn records came from Pagham Hbr with up to 2 present between 14 Aug-4 Sept. and another from 10-17 Sept.

Lower Arun Valley. During the autumn, single migrants were recorded over Arundel WWT on 21 July and passed Littlehampton Beach on 14 Sept.

Cuckmere Valley. The first for the year was at Arlington Res. on 28 Apr. A single bird came in off the sea at Seaford on 8 May and another flew W along the beach there on 10th. Autumn passage recorded single birds as follows: over Charleston Reedbed on 1 Sept.; W past Seaford on 7 Sept.; at Arlington Res. on 8 Sept. and again on 21-22 Sept., and finally in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 29 Sept.

Beachy Head. Single migrants recorded on 11 May and 7 Sept.

Weir Wood Res. This site has firmly established its reputation as the most productive locality in the county for seeing this species. During spring, records were as follows: an adult on 12 Apr.; another on 21 Apr.; 2 sub-adults from 2-7 May; up to 2 birds on a number of dates between 18 May-2 June, and finally a single bird from 19-23 June.

In autumn, 1 was present from 3-9 July and up to 2 were widely reported between 28 July and 18 Aug.

Bowl Water. A very early record of a single migrant on 4 Apr. with another bird seen on 14 May. Autumn passage produced singles on 25 Aug., 8 Sept. and finally 1 at nearby Darwell Res. on 10 Sept.

Elsewhere, records of single birds are as follows: over Hailsham on 11 Apr., near Crowborough on 26 Apr. (possibly one of the Weir Wood birds) and over Sompting Brooks on 17 Sept.

0304. **KESTREL** (*Falco tinnunculus*):—Many recorded throughout the year with 5 singles seen to fly in off the sea during migration seawatches. Approximately 33 pairs were reported, 14 of which raised a total of 30 young. The choice of nesting sites varied from nestboxes to the concrete pillars of a flyover. The maximum number seen was 14 at Beachy Head on 10 Oct.

0309. **MERLIN** (*F. columbarius*):—A total of 202 sightings were recorded during the year. Seen up until 9 May and from 27 Aug. However allowing for inevitable duplication of records from adjacent sights, the monthly minima were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
10	12	8	7	2	3	15	30	16	15

All records during the early months related to single birds, the majority being from traditional hunting localities at Chichester and Pagham Hbrs, the coastal areas between Climping and Littlehampton, Newhaven and the Cuckmere, Pevensey Levels and the Pett Level/Rye Hbr area.

Elsewhere, inland sightings came from the South Downs, Amberley Wild Brooks and Weir Wood Res. The last recorded was at Selsey Bill on 9 May.

During the autumn and early winter, there were again numerous reports of single birds hunting over coastal, downland and inland wetland localities. Records of 2 birds together came from Climping on 8 Oct., Thorney Island on 22 Oct., Beachy Head and Selsey Bill both on 27 Oct., Pett Level on 26 Nov. and finally of roosting birds at Pulborough Brooks from 15-19 Dec.

0310. **HOBBY** (*F. subbuteo*):—1989:—The record at Waltham Brooks on 12 Nov. should be deleted.

1991:—First seen in spring on 20 Apr. at Pagham. At least 29 passage migrants were reported all along the coast up until 11 June, 6 of which were seen to arrive from the sea during seawatches. Also, during this period, birds were reported from 18 inland localities. Up to 10 pairs were found during the breeding season, but only 2 were confirmed as being successful, rearing 2 young.

At least 77 birds were seen during the autumn, including a peak count of 7 hawking dragonflies over Pulborough Brooks on 15 Sept. Last seen on 21 Oct. when a party of 3 were present at Burton MP.

0320. **PEREGRINE** (*F. peregrinus*):—The species has now firmly established itself in the county with an impressive 196 sightings. Birds were recorded in every month of the year, although much duplication is likely, especially at well watched coastal localities. Breeding success can also be confirmed. The majority of records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester and Pagham Hbrs. In the early months, single birds were recorded on 11 dates in Chichester Hbr, especially near the high tide wader roosts at Thorney and Pilsey Islands; and on a further 15 dates during Apr-June. At Pagham, birds were seen on 6 dates, including 1 over Sidlesham Ferry carrying jesses on 17 Jan.

0370. **QUAIL** (*Coturnix coturnix*):—Only 3 records were received, all single dates only, a significant decline from the last 2 years. There was no evidence of breeding.

0394. **PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*):—In the breeding season there were 2 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted, 2 pairs at Old Lodge and 1 pair at Moulsecomb Wild Park.

Outside the breeding season 39 were noted at Balcombe on 27 Feb., the peak count for Pulborough Brooks was 65 and a maximum of 3 were noted in the autumn at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head. An albino was present at Woods Mill, Henfield on 25 Apr.

0396. **Cat. C. GOLDEN PHEASANT** (*Chrysolophus pictus*):—Records continue to be confined to the Kingley Vale and West Dean Woods feral populations. Insufficient information was provided during the breeding season to assess the number of territories held. At least 3 males were observed at Kingley Vale, one showing flavistic colouration. In the woods surrounding West Dean, up to 7 birds were recorded in one extensive area, and a further male was found in a separate plantation.

0397. **Cat. C. LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT** (*C. amherstiae*):—An adult male, of unknown origin, was recorded on 4 dates during the spring on the Angmering Park Estate. It is likely to be the individual observed in 1990.

0407. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*):—The approximate monthly totals of non-breeding birds were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of sites.....	11	23	4	4	2	1	2	9	6	11
No. of birds.....	13	40	4	5	2	1	3	10	15	17

The cold weather in Feb. is reflected in the number of birds seen in widely scattered localities.

In the breeding season birds were noted at 4 sites but there was no evidence of nesting.

0424. **MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*):—This species is now included in the winter wildfowl counts and the first results for the principal localities were as follows:

	1991		1992	
	Sept.	Dec.	Jan.	Mar.
Chichester GP.....	33	46	47	34
Arundel WWT.....	46	55	70	38
Swanbourne Lake.....	27	32	14	27
Ifield/Gossops Green.....	26	25	55	64
Weir Wood Res.....	24	25	3	4
Gravetye Manor.....	16	23	2	9
Pevensy Levels.....	43	26	14	24
Alexandra Park.....	24	13	22	28
Bewl Water.....	22	15	2	10
Rye Hbr.....	30	43	46	51

Counts at the beginning of the year included 99 at Rye Hbr on 19 Jan. and 25 at Strivens Reedbed on 6 Feb. In the breeding season there were 7-10 pairs at Pulborough Brooks and 4 pairs at both Aldsworth and Woods Mill. More information on the breeding status of this species would be welcome. At the end of the year other counts included 22 at Pond Lye on 20 Oct., 24 at Brooklands Lake on 27 Nov., 29 at Littlehampton GC on 15 Dec., 35 at Poling near Arundel and 65 at Ifield Mill Pond on 1 Dec.

0429. **COOT** (*Fulica atra*):—The monthly wildfowl counts at the principal localities were:

	1991		1992	
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.
County totals.....	1917	2147	847	1360
Chichester GP.....	866	805	304	829
Pagham Hbr.....	49	99	nc	45
Swanbourne Lake.....	19	25	23	38
Arundel WWT.....	56	135	34	46
Ardingly Res.....	45	81	13	10
Bewl Water.....	116	182	52	62
Darwell Res.....	18	51	45	54
Icklesham.....	50	6	15	82
Rye Hbr.....	390	462	136	189

During the second half of the year, individuals were observed in every month, except Aug. Dunlin were the prey items identified on 2 occasions at Pilsey, and both Dunlin and Grey Plover were seen to be taken at Pagham.

Arun and Adur Valleys. A male flew past Shoreham Hbr on 6 Jan. During late Jan-early Feb. 2 females and an immature male hunted the Pulborough and Amberley Brooks. One flew over Lancing on 8 Aug.

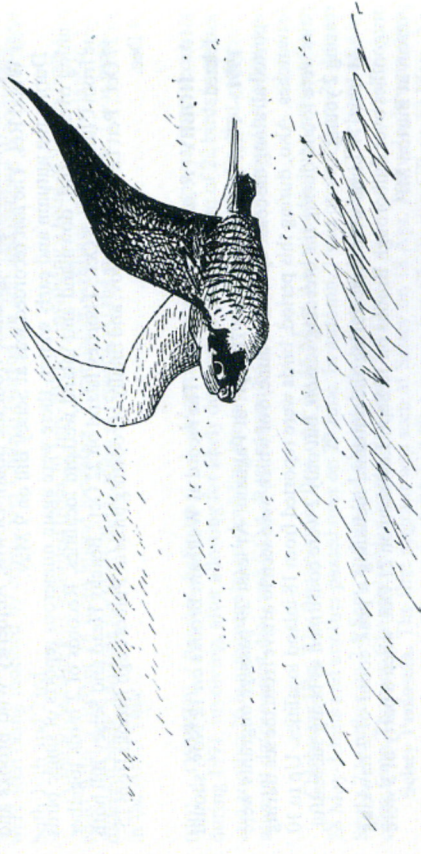
During the autumn/early winter period, single birds were seen on 4 dates at Pulborough Brooks. On the coast, a juvenile flew past Littlehampton on 30 Oct.; an immature was timed as it flew over Lancing and then Sompington on 4 Dec.; and single records came from both Climping and Worthing on 26 Dec.

Brighton-Beachy Head Coastline. During Mar-May, single birds were observed on 19 dates. Two were seen hunting at least 1 km offshore on 1 June. Autumn birds were first reported on 13 Aug. and then on 18 further dates, with parties of 3 birds together on 2 different occasions.

Ouse and Cuckmere Valleys and adjacent downland. During the first winter period, there were 4 sightings on downland W of the Ouse between 1 Jan-12 Feb. and another at Glynde Levels on 21 Jan. Birds were recorded from the Cuckmere on 10 and 21 Feb. and also 13 Apr. This was followed by a series of 7 sightings from 22 Oct-15 Dec. including 1 bird being mobbed by a Merlin. Over Glynde Levels, singles were recorded on 6 Nov. and 29 Dec. In the Cuckmere, birds were seen on 12 Oct., 1 Dec. and 7 Dec.

Pett Level and Rye Hbr. Single birds were recorded in every month except Aug. and Sept.; 2 were seen together on 5 Feb.

Elsewhere, individuals were reported as follows: at Bewl Water on 21 Jan.; on downland behind Brighton on 21 Jan., 9 Sept. and 20 Oct.; from Compton on 8 June; flying over Brighton town centre on 24 June; at Weir Wood Res. on 1 and 20 Dec.; on Pevensy Levels on 8 Dec. and at Hastings on 9 Dec.



0358. **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE** (*Alectoris rufa*):—As in previous years the status of this species remains uncertain due to the introduction of Chukars (*A. chukar*) and consequent hybridisation. The largest number recorded was 38 at South Ambersham. Pairs were present at several localities, the only other notable number being 14 at Pulborough Brooks. All records should be treated with caution.

0367. **GREY PARTRIDGE** (*Perdix perdix*):—A decline was noted at Rye Hbr with no chicks reported, but a covey of 10 included 7 immatures in Nov. Elsewhere the only significant counts were 23 at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 1 Sept. and 22 at Pagham Hbr on 28 Dec. A total of 15 pairs were noted from 6 widely scattered areas in the breeding season.

The Jan. 1991 total was again low and only half the average for recent years. Other counts included 60 on Brooklands Lake on 5 Jan. and 137 and 94 at the Crumbles GP on 21 Jan. and 18 Feb. respectively.

In the breeding season estimated populations (pairs) were: Aldsworth Pond 4, Patching 3, Petworth Park Lake 6, Burton Pond 5, Warmham LNR 4, Socknesh Manor 2 and Bewl Water 7. At Pulborough 15-20 pairs attempted to breed but were predated when water levels fell.

Post-breeding counts included 72 at Darwell Res. on 24 Aug. and 49 at the Crumbles GP on 6 Aug. At the end of the year counts included 66 at Brooklands Lake on 14 Dec., 146 at the Crumbles GP on 17 Nov. and 193 at Sotney Court GP on 27 Dec. One on the sea off Pilsey on 12 Dec. was rather unusual.

0433. **CRANE** (*Gruus grus*):—Two adults present on Pevensey Bridge Level on 17-18 Apr. (DPBo *et al.*) flew off E during the morning of 18th, being seen at Minsmere that evening. This species continues to be recorded in the county in just about every other year.

0450. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1992	
Chichester Hbr.....	2047	2183	1042	1597	1547	1290	1871	1829	1966	1089		
Climping.....	14	186	14	1273	1224	789	1362	1298	1131	609		
Pagham Hbr.....	291	269	nc	68	156	72	34	14	—	5		
Pett Level.....	158	80	23	nc	nc	236	315	325	413	248		
Rye Hbr.....	350	300	272	140	116	157	130	161	415	186		

As usual small numbers were recorded on spring passage with totals for Apr-May of 86 E in 184 hrs 40 mins at Worthing and 185 E in 416 hrs 15 mins at Seaford.

In the breeding season there were a max. of 21 pairs at Rye Hbr, 1 pair at the Crumbles and 2 pairs sitting at Cobnor Farm but the outcome unknown. 1 egg laid by a pair at Pilsey Island was predated by crows.

The partial albino at Pilsey was again seen in Jan., Oct. and Nov. Inland records were of singles at Bewl Water on 27 Aug. and Weir Wood Res. on 9 Dec.

0456. **AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*):—A good year, the approximate monthly totals being as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
4	2	25	14	13	14	5	5	2	—	2	15

During the first two months there were singles at Thorney Island and Rye Hbr and 2 at Pagham Hbr. In Mar., Rye Hbr had 2 on 16th with a single there on 17th, and at Seaford 15 flew E on 16th. Also at Seaford 8 flew E on 25 Apr. and at Rye Hbr a single on 20-23rd, 3 on 24th and a single on 25-28th.

A total of 19 were recorded in May at 8 localities. In June up to 10 were recorded at Sidlesham Ferry and 2 were observed at Weir Wood Res.

In the autumn Pett Pools recorded 2 on 22 July with a single there on 30th, and 4 were at Rye Hbr from 26-31st. In Aug. 3 were at Sidlesham Ferry on 2nd with a single observed in the Pagham Hbr area on various dates until 18 Dec. A bird present on Pilsey Sands on 20 Sept. departed on 1 Nov. after cold weather. There were 2 at Rye Hbr on 20 Nov.

0459. **STONE CURLEW** (*Burhinus oedipiciformis*):—One answering to tape on South Downs on 29 Mar. (JAN). Other singles were at Rye Hbr on 20 June (DJF) and Pett Level on 29 June (*per. JABG, MS*) and 2 at Pett Level on 3 July (CHD, HMJT).

0469. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*):—The approximate monthly totals away from known breeding sites were as follows:

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
3	8	6	2	10	15	5

The first of the year was a single at Arundel WWT on 22 Mar. followed by 1 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 30th.

In the breeding season 7 pairs were reported but only 1 of these was proved successful. In July, widespread singles were noted, with 3 at Sidlesham Ferry on 16th. During Aug. this remained the chief site with up to 5 noted. In Sept. a juv. was still at Crumbles GP on 1st, 2 were in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 6th, 1 was at Pagham Hbr on 12th and the last of the year was at Rye Hbr on 19th.

0470. **RINGED PLOVER** (*C. hiaticula*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991												1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.					
Chichester Hbr.....	853	389	106	1395	1225	969	634	658	768						
Climping.....	372	130	57	766	790	630	371	427	293	89					
R. Adur.....	42	48	3	3	12	42	36	46	17	6					
Cuckmere Haven.....	53	58	7	223	202	116	108	99	31	14					
Goring.....	12	21	2	11	—	43	7	4	6	0					
Newhaven.....	120	71	7	119	193	42	110	30	48	0					
Pagham Hbr.....	28	34	7	—	—	82	—	63	205	26					
Rye Hbr.....	198	16	14	253	nc	82	—	20	24						

As with previous years, information for the breeding season was very sparse, and again no records were received from Pagham Hbr. At Rye Hbr with 36 pairs, only 5 young were raised due to extensive predation and a similar story from Pilsey Island with 16 nesting attempts all predated. On Thorney Island 2 pairs hatched 4 young. Elsewhere the only information was of a single pair with 1 young at Cuckmere Haven, a pair raised 2 young on their 2nd attempt at Brighton Marina, a pair with 3 young at the Crumbles and finally a pair with 3 young at Lancing.

Regular counts at Pilsey Island produced 365 on 5 May, with a leucistic individual there on 29th, dropping to 166 on 7 June and 30 on 30 June, rising to 220 on 30 July, 639 on 8 Aug. and 1300 on 2 Sept.

0477. **KENTISH PLOVER** (*C. alexandrinus*):—An excellent year with 7-8 recorded. A male at Pilsey Sands on 25 Apr. (CBC) started a run of sightings there, with a female from 30 Apr-2 May and 2 males on 3-4 May, 1 of these staying on to 8th. Other Apr. records were single males at Rye Hbr on 27th (HMJT) and at Church Norton on 28th (SH). On 31 May, a female was at Cuckmere Haven (WJMS) and it was possibly this bird which was at Langney Point the next day (MEN, AQ).

The only autumn record was a single at R. Adur, Shoreham on 16 Oct. (KN *et al.*).

0482. **DOTTEREL** (*Eudromias morinellus*):—One remained at Pilsey Island from 28 Apr-29 May (CBC, MAC *et al.*) and other May singles were at Broomhill Level on 12th (PFB) and Newmarket Hill on 26-29th (DPD, JCH *et al.*).

One was heard at Harveys' Cross, Balsdean on 24 Aug. (GAS).

0485. **GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Pluvialis apricaria*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991												1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.					
Chichester Hbr.....	666	26	84	64	309	549	238	549	2121	22					
Pagham Hbr.....	—	—	nc	27	nc	247	393	1077	132						
Rye Hbr.....	1100	—	—	25	—	535	70	69	25	17					

A count on 19 Jan. at Rye Hbr produced 1100 and 1500 were at Oving also on 19th. Also in Jan. flocks of over 200 were reported from 5 localities. In Chichester Hbr at Ellanore, a flock of 210 in Jan. rose to 250 in Feb. and there were 450 there on 12 Mar. Also in Mar., there were 360 at Pevensey on 28th.

In the autumn the first recorded were 2 on Thorney Island on 30 July followed by a single at Rye on 8 Aug., and 33 at Pagham Hbr on 21st. Few were noted until 30 Sept. when there were 300 at Pagham Hbr. Numbers then grew in Oct., with 390 at Pevensey on 25th and 445 at Thorney also on 25th. Records for Nov. included 535 at Rye on 9th, 250 at Pevensey on 14th, 150 at Barcombe Res. on 24th, 280 at West Wittering on 26th and 1200 at East Head on 29th. During Dec. there were still 129 at Barcombe Res. on 14th, 120 at Steyning on 15th, 119 at Bewl Water also on 15th, 23 at Weir Wood Res. on 17th and finally a combined count at Manxey, Horse Eye and Pevensey Bridge Levels produced 700.

the only significant counts being 80 on Pilsey Island on 26 Oct. with 1391 there on 7 Dec. and 69 at Pagham Hbr on 26 Dec.

0497. **SANDERLING** (*C. alba*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	212	221	472	171	138	181
Chipping	4	64	253	74	33	72
Goring	10	62	—	1	78	17
Pett Level	8	32	179	8	20	108
R. Adur	—	—	nc	—	—	—
Rye Hbr	190	60	40	1	17	21

Totals on spring passage at main seawatching sites were as follows:

Selsey Bill	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Worthing	—	—	50	15	312	327
Seaford	—	—	—	52	386	501
Beachy Head	—	—	—	31	409	446
	—	—	—	—	13	13

The peak movement was 151 E at Worthing on 25 May.

At Pilsey Island where 377 were present on 1 Apr. counts decreased to 254 on 6 May, 106 on 26 May, and in June 82 on 15th and 3 on 29th. Numbers there then increased to 188 by 26 July and 253 by 31st, followed by 378 on 7 Sept.

At the end of the year significant counts elsewhere were 81 at Goring Gap on 31 Oct. with 70 there on 13 Dec., also in Dec. 42 at Felpham on 5th and 90 at Rye on 27th.

0501. **LITTLE STINT** (*C. minuta*):—The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	—	—	5	7	—	11	52	56	15	—	—

In Jan. 1 remained at Pett Level from 1-5th and 2 were at West Wittering from 2-19th; possibly 1 of the latter was at Pilsey Sands on 20th. In Apr. there were 4 in the upper Chichester Channel on 22nd and a single in the lower Cuckmere Valley. The May total comprised of widespread singles and 2 at Pagham Hbr on 18-19th.

Return passage commenced in late July with 2 at Pilsey Sands on 25th and 4 at Pett Level the next day.

During the next 2 months peak counts at Pett Level, Pilsey and Sidlesham Ferry all exceeded 10, including 13 at the last site on 13 Aug. October totals included up to 8 at Pett, 6 at Rye Hbr and up to 3 at Sidlesham Ferry and also Pilsey, where 1 remained until at least 27th.

0502. **TEMINCK'S STINT** (*C. temminckii*):—During May, singles were at Rye Hbr on 20-23rd and Sidlesham Ferry on 22nd (SJA).

0507. **PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*C. melanotos*):—A juv. at Manhood End from 21-27 Sept. (OM *et al.*) was the only record.

0509. **CURLEW SANDPIPER** (*C. ferruginea*):—The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
5	2	6	61	89	23

Spring passage commenced in May with singles at Shoreham Hbr on 8th, Sidlesham Ferry on 22nd and 2 at Rye Hbr on 24-25th. Apart from 2 at Rye Hbr on 13 June all records up to 10 Aug. were of single birds when there were 3 at Lancing Widewater. Numbers steadily grew during the month with up to 35 on Sidlesham Ferry on 28th and 18 at Pett Pools on 31st. Numbers at Pett Pools rose to 22 by 3 Sept., Sidlesham Ferry continued to record good numbers with 20 on 1st, 15 on 10th with 11 still there on 14th. Also in Sept. Lancing Widewater recorded 7 on 4th and 5th, 10 on 10th and there were 14 on Pilsey Sands on 11th.

Oct. figures were high with 5 on Pilsey Sands on 5th and 16 at Apuldram Manor Farm, Chichester on 9th with 4 still there on 23rd. Elsewhere there were singles at Pett Pools on 4th and Pilsey on the 8th.

0486. **GREY PLOVER** (*P. squatarola*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	2533	2268	1720	2201	2080	4319
Chipping	1681	1610	1718	1744	1114	1382
Goring	20	76	—	53	36	—
Pagham Hbr	1	150	—	25	170	92
Pett Level	773	363	nc	279	nc	412
R. Adur	51	4	—	5	18	12
Rye Hbr	1	18	—	8	31	15

Spring passage was less noticeable, totals for main seawatching localities are as follows:

Selsey Bill	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Worthing	1	14	45	60	—	—
Seaford	3	32	197	232	—	—
Beachy Head	42	13	74	129	—	—

On Pilsey Island 1318 were recorded on 1 Apr., 320 on 17 May and 125 on 16 June; 82 on 7 July rising steadily during the month to 219 on 25th.

The only inland record was of a single at Arlington Res. on 10 Nov.

The year ended with 190 at Goring Gap on 22 Dec. and 117 at Pett Level on 23 Dec.

0493. **LAPWING** (*Vanellus vanellus*):—In Jan. major flocks included 2000 at Northpoint GP on 1st, 1000 at New Salts Farm, Lancing on 5th, 6000 between Amberley and Pulborough on 12th, 500 at Glynde Levels on 13th, 2000 at Oving and 3161 at Rye Hbr on 19th and 4000 on Manxey Levels, Pevensey on 26th. In early Feb. a cold weather movement was recorded at Shoreham of 2000 on 6th and also on this date 12000 were counted roosting on Pulborough Brooks.

Breeding season records were received from 12 localities totalling 97-99 pairs. On Thorney Island 22 pairs raised 27 young, at Pulborough 27 pairs attempted nesting (11 in 1990) but were heavily predated and likewise at Rye 20-22 pairs raised no more than 6 young. Post-breeding flocks began to build up in June and 400 were recorded at Horse Eye Level on 22nd. Few sizeable flocks were noted in July but in Aug. 700 at Horse Eye Level and 1200 at Coldwaltham Brooks showed a build up in numbers.

Numbers were low in Sept-Oct. but in Nov. there were flocks of 1000+ reported from 2 localities and flocks of 2000+ from another 3 areas.

In Dec. there were 1000 at Lewes Brooks on 3rd, 1600 at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 20th, 2000 at New Salts Farm, Lancing on 21st, 1500 at Pease Pottage on 24th, 1000 at Hellingly on 26th, 5500 on Pulborough Brooks on 27th, 2000 at Normans Bay and 1500 at Barcombe Res. on 29th. Finally the flock at New Salts Farm had risen to 2500 by the year's end.

0496. **KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*):—Chichester Hbr was again the stronghold for this species although numbers were down on 1990. The estuary counts are as follows:

County totals	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	1381	1120	365	33	16	371
Pagham Hbr	1380	1106	365	6	14	365
	1	9	nc	20	nc	6

At Pilsey Island 2500 were counted on 3 Jan.

Easterly spring passage was very poor, totals for main seawatching sites as follows:

Selsey Bill	1991			1992		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Worthing	—	—	—	112	112	143
Seaford	—	50	—	3	36	94
Beachy Head	—	—	—	24	24	24

Out of the May total of 175, at least 148 of these were seen on 9th, so main passage confined almost to a single day.

There were few June records: 6 in the Cuckmere on 1st, 10 in Chichester Hbr on 2nd, the last there being 3 in Fishbourne Channel on 5th, while at Rye Hbr there were 12 on 6th and 1 from 13-15th.

The first returning birds were 1 in summer plumage at Rye Hbr on 4 July remaining until 27th; 2 at Pilsey on 13th increasing to 25 on 25th. Numbers were then very low at all localities,

0510. **PURPLE SANDPIPER** (*C. maritima*):—The peak monthly counts were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brighton Marina	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glyne Gap*	21	30	8	—	—	—	—	—	53
Langney Point	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Littlehampton	2	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Newhaven	10	10	8	—	1	—	—	—	3
Pilsley Island	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shoreham Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
* includes St. Leonards-on-Sea.	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2

The last recorded in spring was a single at Newhaven on 19 May.

0512. **DUNLIN** (*C. alpina*):—Estuary counts were as follows:

	1991	1991	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
County totals	27385	21687	3297	1607	6345	16772	16718	17896	17776
Chichester Hbr	24235	19568	3162	899	6054	13972	13970	13190	13730
Pagham Hbr	1763	966	nc	622	nc	1939	3052	3259	3230
Goring	610	215	37	21	42	112	228	221	457
Adur	444	541	15	12	134	484	1092	877	183
Pett Level	200	1	33	31	20	52	500	228	86
Rye Hbr	60	218	49	11	89	157	100	93	41

Spring passage was extremely light, especially in May, totals for main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	17	24	71	112
Worthing	80	57	77	214
Seaford	68	9	56	133

At Pilsley Island, where 2000 were present on 1 Apr., numbers increased to 2682 by 4 May and 3500 by 17 May dropping rapidly to 170 by 24 May, 62 on 28 June, and 29 on 2 July. Numbers then rapidly increased with 2700 there on 19 July and 3000 by the end of the month. In Aug. 220 were on Sidlesham Ferry. At the end of the year 400 were feeding in a dried pit on the Crumbles on 21 Dec.

0517. **RUFF** (*Philomachus pugnax*):—There were few significant counts during the first half of the year. Jan. records consisted of 13 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 19th and 4 at West Wittering on 31st. In Feb. there were 37 at East Head on 4th and Pulborough Brooks recorded a max. of 27 in Mar.

In the latter part of the year Pett Pools recorded a max. of 9 during Sept. and 11 were at Sidlesham Ferry on 23rd. During Dec. Pulborough Brooks recorded a max. of 30 and at East Head 30 were also counted on 2nd.

0518. **JACK SNIFE** (*Lymnocyptes minimus*):—The minimum monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of sites	8	22	5	—	1	5	1	6
Number of birds	15	29	10	—	1	11	14	15

First winter period numbers were well up on those of the last two years and included 4 at Thorney Deeps and totals of 3 at Rye Hbr, Coombe Haven and Cuckoo Corner, near Coombes. A late singleton was at Rye on 1 May.

Rye Hbr recorded the first returning bird on 9 Oct. and also the highest second winter period numbers of 13-14 from 9 Nov. and up to 5 during Dec.

0519. **SNIFE** (*Gallinago gallinago*):—In Jan-Mar. there were peaks of 180 at Pulborough Brooks, 117 at Wallers Haven, Pevensey, 100 at both Amberley and Strettham Manor, Henfield and 90 at Wyckham Farm, Steyning.

In the breeding season records of drumming birds included 42 at Pulborough Brooks on 1 May, 2 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 12 May and 1 at Pevensey on 8 June.

In the second winter period there were maxima of 900 at Pulborough Brooks on 21 Nov., 65 at Kings' Barn, Steyning on 1 Dec. and 100 at Pevensey Bridge Level on 24 Dec.

0529. **WOODCOCK** (*Scolopax rusticola*):—At the start of the year, only 3 were reported in Jan. However, as usual with this species, a large number appeared in the cold snap in Feb. A total of 133 were reported with up to 11 at Selsey Bill, 7 at Littlehampton GC and several in less expected locations such as gardens. Numbers dwindled to 10 in Mar. including 2 early roding birds at Eridge on 3 Mar.

Breeding records totalled c.135 roding birds, a large increase on the 77 reported in 1990. This is likely to be due to more visits to suitable areas in the Nightjar survey.

In autumn 10 were recorded in Oct., 9 in Nov. and 15 in Dec. Of the latter, 7 were on Pulborough Brooks.

0532. **BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa limosa*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

	1991	1991	1992	1992	1992	1992	1992
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
County totals	352	208	367	152	93	26	285
Chichester Hbr	352	176	367	138	92	26	285
Pagham Hbr	—	32	nc	13	nc	—	56

Spring passage included 40 at Brighton Marina on 16 Mar. and 10 E at Newhaven on 27th. Worthing recorded 10 E on 11 May, at Excat Bridge, Cuckmere 17 flew inland on 25th and also in May Seaford recorded a total of 14 E.

Significant counts in Apr. included 200 at Fishbourne Channel on 4th, 220 at Church Norton on 5th and 8th, and 300 on Thorney Deeps on 15th.

In July returning birds slowly increased with peaks of 261 on Thorney Island on 28th and 94 at Sidlesham Ferry on 31st.

Inland records included 8 on Pevensey Levels on 13 Apr. and 10 at Chichester GP on 1 Sept.

0534. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*L. lapponica*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

	1991	1991	1992	1992	1992	1992
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
County totals	568	1060	35	644	1074	812
Chichester Hbr	540	1056	35	608	1011	796
Pagham Hbr	28	1	nc	31	nc	10

Spring passage was heavy with an absolute minimum of 5949 birds recorded. Totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	5	909	241	1155
Worthing	—	4810	371	5181
Seaford	22	3640	1154	4816
Beachy Head	—	376	52	428

Typically, peak movements were in late Apr. with counts of 4009 E at Worthing on 24th, 1248 E at Seaford on 27th and 272 E at Worthing on 28th.

June records included 60 on Pilsley Sands on 14th and 40 in Pagham Hbr on 15th. Numbers increased at Pilsley Sands to 260 on 31 July.

The only inland records were singles at Weir Wood Res. on 8 May, Arlington Res. on 25 Sept. and at Bewl Water on 10 Nov.

0538. **WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*):—A single recorded at Pagham Hbr on 31 Jan., 11 and 15 Feb. was almost certainly an over-wintering bird. In early Mar. a single flew N in the Cuckmere Valley on 2nd, and 1 was still present in Pagham Hbr. Spring passage was observed at the end of Mar. at Worthing with 12 E on 29th and 5 E on 30th. Totals for the main seawatching localities are as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	—	117	142	259
Worthing	17	212	193	422
Seaford	—	172	422	594
Beachy Head	—	51	71	122

Inland records included 130 observed going to roost at Arundel on 28 Apr., 103 on Pevensey Levels on 2 May and 47 feeding on Pulborough Brooks on 5 May.

Pilsley Sands recorded 67 on 8 May dropping to 17 on 9th and a single there on 30th.

At Rye Hbr the regular roost held 5 on 12 Apr., rising to 80 on 23rd, 120 on 24th, peaking at 216 on 27th. Numbers then dropped to 145 on 28th but rapidly increased again in May with 410 there on 2nd and 385 on 3rd.

Returning birds were noted from early June with 4 on Pilsey Sands on 11th, increasing to 11 there on 17th, and 40 by 13 July. Numbers at Rye in July included 7 on 10th, 26 on 18th and 20 on 21st. Also in July 25 were counted on East Guldeford Level on 23rd. The largest total for Aug. was 70 at Pagham Hbr North Wall on 25th.

In Oct. 3 were present in Chichester Hbr on 10th and finally a single there on 2 Dec.

0541. **CURLEW** (*N. arquata*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	1727	1113	816	2105	1408	1224	1456	1604	1841	1123
Pagham Hbr	1075	739	773	1744	1178	972	1056	741	1035	744
Pett Level	324	315	nc	349	nc	126	159	504	427	361
Rye Hbr	268	12	18	12	208	8	236	307	346	2
Rye Hbr (night)	47	13	24	—	22	94	5	30	13	16
*nocturnal roost excluded from county totals.	740	278	nc	250	nc	396	nc			

Spring totals for the main seawatching localities are as follows:

Selsey Bill	1991					1992				
	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
Worthing	—	—	32	6	6	10	10	12	6	2
Seaford	—	—	17	17	2	2	2	36	—	—
Total	—	—	49	23	8	12	12	48	6	2

There was no evidence of breeding. In June returning birds were 52 on Pilsey Island on 11th, 15 W at Worthing on 18th, at Rye there were 33 on 21st and 35 on 28th.

At Stakes Island 450 were counted on 3 July increasing to 988 on 30th, also at Chichester 1268 were counted at West Chidham on 14 Aug.

Inland records included 21 at Aldsworth Pond on 3 Mar., with 12 there on 24th, 20 at Harting Down on 1 Apr., 10 at Weir Wood Res. on 25 June, also in June 15 at Bewl Water on 27th with 26 there on 28th.

0545. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*):—The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Chichester Hbr	3	4	1	6	9	10	9	10	12	6
Pagham Hbr	1	3	1	2	1	2	5	—	10	5
Pett Level	—	—	—	1	—	5	2	5	1	—
Rye Hbr	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	3	—	—

During the first 3 months up to 3 were recorded on Thorney Island, and singles at Pett Pools and Winchelsea Beach. In Apr. a single was present at Wallers Haven, Pevensey. Virtually no passages occurred in May.

In June returning birds were noted with singles at Worthing on 2nd, Cuckmere on 15th, Sidlesham Ferry on 17th and 20th and 2 at Thorney Deepes on 23rd.

In the latter part of the year the only birds recorded away from the listed sites were singles at Newhaven Tide Mills on 31 Aug. and Arlington Res. on 10 Nov. In Dec. up to 7 were recorded at Thorney Deepes.

0546. **REDSHANK** (*T. totanus*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	1370	1186	940	811	839	1163	1165	1011	992	682
Pagham Hbr	885	868	805	444	612	746	759	670	544	493
Adur	164	125	nc	172	nc	195	176	102	300	44
Rye Hbr	112	90	56	68	107	105	132	130	79	49
Total	2531	2269	1861	1668	1738	2209	2231	2012	1815	1268

Maxima for sites other than those listed above in the first winter period included 40 at Pett Level on 1 Jan., 40 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 5 Jan. and 132 at Cuckmere Haven on 7 Feb. An albino bird was recorded at Shoreham Airport and on the R. Adur in Jan. and Feb.

Very little breeding information was received, 73-75 pairs were reported, with 20 pairs on Thorney Island, c.5 pairs on Pevensey Levels, 12-14 pairs at Rye and 35 territories at Pulborough (10 in 1990). The only record of breeding success was from Rye, but here success was very poor with fewer than 5 young raised.

The high tide roost at Thorney Deepes held 250 on 30 June and 1000 on 28 July. The only other significant roost was on the R. Adur at Shoreham with 130 on 28 Sept.

The creamy individual returned to Shoreham for its 7th winter on 25 Oct. through to Dec.

0548. **GREENSHANK** (*T. nebularia*):—The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Chichester Hbr	3	10	3	42	51	13	108	189	201	127
Pagham Hbr	—	6	—	6	2	6	10	11	11	5
Rye Hbr	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	10	9	4

Spring passage was unexceptional, 26 at Thorney Deepes on 29 Apr. the only noteworthy number.

Odd returning birds were noted in mid-June but it was not until early July that passage started in numbers. Thorney Deepes held 42 on 11th increasing to 82 by 28th, in Sept. the number had grown to 146 by 26th, with 115 still there on 5 Oct. dropping to 28 by 22 Oct.

0553. **GREEN SANDPIPER** (*T. ochropus*):—The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Chichester Hbr	17	23	12	4	—	9	37	40	42	10
Pagham Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The Jan-Mar. numbers consisted of widespread ones and twos with 3 noted at both Rye Hbr and Small Dole. Spring passage was typically light comprising of widespread singles.

Return passage commenced on 19 June, with 1 at Weir Wood Res. and 1 at Rye Hbr the following day. During the next 2 months peak counts included 13 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 28 July and 5 at both Pevensey Bridge Level and Thorney Deepes in late Aug. Sept. maxima included 9 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 8th and 11 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 29th.

In Oct. and the first half of Nov. there were 4-5 at Darwell Res., up to 3 at Black Pond, Duncton and 3 at Pulborough Brooks on 10 Nov. Dec. records were from 9 localities and included twos at Arlington Res., Warnham MP, upper Adur Levels and Pevensey.

0554. **WOODSANDPIPER** (*T. glareola*):—The minimum monthly totals were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
Chichester Hbr	1	2	7	10	14	6	—	—	—	
Pagham Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Pett Level	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Rye Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

First recorded at Wallers Haven, Pevensey on 28 Apr. and followed by singles at Fishbourne and Seven Sisters Country Park on 14th and 31 May respectively. During June singles at Bewl Water and Pulborough Brooks accompanied totals of up to 3 at Chichester GP and 2 at Pevensey Bridge Level. In July there were widespread singles, in addition to 2 at both Coldwaltham Brooks and Pett Level.

As usual Aug. was the peak month, and included maxima of 3 at Rye Hbr on 8-9th and 5 at Chichester GP on 26-27th. During Sept. 2 at Fishbourne on 20th and 3 at Chichester GP on 21st were the last recorded.

0556. **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*):—The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

County totals	1991					1992				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Chichester Hbr	3	1	1	23	76	16	86	93	66	9
Pagham Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rye Hbr	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

In Jan-Mar. wintering birds were singles at Cuckmere Haven and Fishbourne Channel and 2 on Thorney Deepes.

The first spring record was recorded at Lancing Widewater on 2 Apr. followed by a light passage with 3 at both Littlehampton Marina and Sidlesham Ferry on 22nd, 3 at Brighton Marina on 27th, and 4 at Barcombe Res. on 29th. The peak counts for May were 7 at Sidlesham Ferry on 6th and 7 at Cuckmere Haven on 29th.

Numbers in July were low but there were 8 on Thorney Island on 14th and 15 in the Arun Valley between Ford and Tortington on 27th. In Aug-Sept. numbers were good with up to 12

at Sidlesham Ferry on 1 Aug., 16 at the Crumbles on 5 Aug., 20 at roost on fish cages at Bewl Water on 2 Sept. and 5 at Thorney Deep on 9 Sept. Numbers rapidly declined in Oct. with 4 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 1st, 2 at Darwell from 6-13th, 2 in the Arun Valley and a single by Charleston Recedbed. There were 2 Nov. records, both singles, at Cuckmere and Arundel. Thorney Island recorded at least 2 in Dec. and there were also singles at Hastings and in the Arun Valley.

0561. **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*):—The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1991											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total	
Chichester Hbr	720	470	759	630	501	856	550	602	644	814		
Pagham Hbr	164	158	226	115	262	179	149	181	95	218		
Normans Bay	171	119	nc	225	nc	459	258	161	260	139		
Glyne Gap	12	17	100	39	67	32	5	—	9	35		
Pett Level	209	150	229	165	104	174	87	115	174	250		
	158	—	193	81	31	7	29	135	85	136		

Easterly spring passage was much lighter than in 1990. Totals for the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	39	7	83	129
Worthing	18	10	50	78
Seaford	17	5	58	80

In Apr.-May maxima were 152 at Pett Pools on 15 Apr., 123 at Bexhill on 21st, 150 at the Severals on 28th, Pilsey Island held 146 on 11 May whilst nearby Stakes Island had 275 on 13th and Rye Hbr hosted 36 on 14th.

June was very poor with 3 recorded at Rye Hbr on 15-16th, 8 in Fishbourne Channel on 2nd and 13 on Pilsey Island on 7th the only records. In July numbers built up to 16 at Rye on 22nd and 106 on Pilsey Island on 31st. Pett Pools recorded maxima of 57 in Aug. and 49 in Sept. In Dec. 266 were counted at Bexhill.

0565. **GREY PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus fulicarius*):—One at Shoreham on 3 Nov. (ARK) was the only record.

0566. **POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*):—The first recorded on easterly spring passage was 3 at Selsey Bill on 10 Apr., an early date. Thereafter, passage was much more protracted than in 1990, probably reflecting the absence of favourable winds for seawatching during much of the spring period. Analysis of the available data indicates minimum totals for the county of 25 in Apr. and 153 in May, followed by a late single off Seaford on 16 June (AW). The peak movement was later than normal with 99 recorded at Seaford in 6 hrs during the afternoon of 21 May, on which date there were also 31 at Selsey Bill and 9 at Worthing. A further 18 passed Seaford on 28 May. Of particular interest was the presence of 2 birds on the beach at Cuckmere Haven on 27 Apr. (WJMS). These later departed N indicating overland movement through the county when conditions are not suitable for coastal passage.

In the latter part of the year there was 1 W at Selsey Bill on 18 Nov. (CMJ, DIS). An adult and 2 juveniles were seen from a fishing boat 9 miles off Brighton Marina on 29 Dec. and probably 1 of these 6 miles offshore on 30th (RG, NJT).

0567. **ARCTIC SKUA** (*S. parasiticus*):—Easterly passage was recorded from 2 Apr. when there were 2 E at Selsey Bill. The totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Selsey Bill	No. of hrs watched				Total
	Apr.	May	June	July	
Worthing	404	84	6	5	127
Seaford	204	48	27	—	78
Beachy Head	466	112	85	2	199
	62	40	28	3	71

A simple analysis of the available data indicates a minimum total for the county of 133 in Apr., 96 in May and 12 in June, the highest spring total since that of 258 recorded in 1988. Although noted on 49 days in Apr.-June, passage was heaviest in late Apr. with, for example, 89 recorded at Seaford in the period 24-30th. The presence of birds in June-July is again indicative of summering non-breeding individuals.

Autumn passage was very light except at Selsey Bill where there were 34 W in Sept-Oct. The peak movements were 11 in 7 hrs on 28 Sept. and 7 on 20 Oct. A total of 13 were reported for Nov. up to 12th, mainly at Selsey, but there was only 1 Dec. record: a single off Bexhill on 22nd.

0568. **LONG-TAILED SKUA** (*S. longicaudus*):—Two records: an adult E at Splash Point, Seaford on 12 May (GCG, AW) and a juvenile at Beachy Head on 5 Oct. (DC, JFC). These are the first to be recorded in Sussex since the hurricane of Oct. 1987. The county total moves to 22.

0569. **GREAT SKUA** (*S. skua*):—The approximate monthly totals (allowing for likely duplication between seawatching sites) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	1	—	34	12	3	—	1	4	6	—	5

Singles were recorded off Bexhill on 5 Jan. and Brighton Marina on 20 Feb. Easterly spring passage was noted from 2 Apr. when there were 3 at Seaford. Thereafter a further 31 were reported for Apr., 12 in May and 3 in June, the last a single off Hope Gap on 16th. As with Arctic Skua, passage was heaviest in late Apr. with, for example, totals for the period 24-29th of 14 at Seaford and 11 at Selsey Bill.

Autumn passage was light probably due to the absence of gales in this period. Analysis of the available data indicates a minimum total for the county of 11 for the period 17 Aug-10 Nov., with no more than 2 recorded on any one date. Following 2 off Brighton Marina on 13 Dec., there were singles at Bexhill on 22nd, Worthing on 23rd and Newhaven on 27th, with probably the same 2 at sea off Brighton on 30th.

0575. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*Larus melanocephalus*):—Another good year was recorded with 157 records reporting 219 sightings. It becomes increasingly difficult to know how much duplication there is when many of the records are of birds passing along the coast, particularly in spring. The following table shows the approximate numbers of each age seen monthly and shows the spring peak of adults occurring before the immatures. Also, like last year, least occurred in Nov.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adults	4	7	18	6	1	4	6	8	5	2	3	3
2nd year	1	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	2
1st year	—	1	—	1	17	8	2	1	2	1	—	3
TOTAL	5	10	20	9	19	12	8	9	9	5	3	8

The largest numbers seen were 8, mainly immatures, passing E at Worthing on 9 May, and a party of 5 immatures on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 19 June. One of the Shoreham birds wore a coloured ring, originating from a Dutch colony.

As usual most of the records were from coastal sites but singles were seen at Beddingham on 5 Feb., at Weir Wood Res. on 26 Feb. and 28 Oct. and at Arlington Res. on 1 Sept. and 8 Dec.

0576. **LAUGHING GULL** (*L. atricilla*):—An adult in summer plumage found on the R. Adur at Shoreham Airport on 6 Apr. up to 10.05 hrs (RJF, RS) was seen at Splash Point, Seaford, c.30 kms to the E, between 11.00-11.30 hrs (GCG, NJT) before returning to fly W past Widewater shortly after 12.00 hrs (CJC, HJ). These records of this rather mobile individual have been accepted by *British Birds*. It is only the second to be recorded in the county, the first, which was also the first British record, was as long ago as 1923, at the Crumbles from 2-9 July.

0577. **FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*L. pipixcan*):—1990:—An adult seen at Brighton Marina on 29 Dec. (MK, TJW) departed all too soon. It has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the second county record, the first being at Arlington Res. on 4 July 1970.

0578. **LITTLE GULL** (*L. minutus*):—Although fewer were seen than during 1990 this was another good year. Like most recent years the following table of the minimum number seen in each month reveals the spring to be the best season.

Jan. Feb. Mar. Apr. May June July Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov. Dec.
 11 — 13 445 85 4 4 9 16 30 19 6

A party of 7 adults at West Wittering on 31 Jan. was the most notable winter record. Although the first spring records were of singles at Shoreham Hbr on 2 Mar. and at Brighton Marina on 17 Mar., the largest numbers in early spring were seen inland with 6 at Weir Wood Res. on 30 Mar., 11 at Bewl Water on 4 Apr. and 3 at Arlington Res. on 5 Apr. Throughout Apr. and May there were regular sightings at Arlington Res. with a peak of 9 on 14 Apr. The peaks and totals seen at coastal sites during the spring are summarised in the table.

Totals of Little Gulls moving E at 4 coastal stations in 1991 (hours watched)

	APRIL				MAY			
	10 Apr.	11 Apr.	24 Apr.	25 Apr.	9 May	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
Selsey Bill.....	2 (8)	1 (4)	3 (9)	9 (13)	76 (171)	15 (185)		
Worthing.....	7 (4)	3 (4)	39 (10)	5 (6)	83 (96)	11 (89)		
Seaford Head.....	1 (6)	113 (6)	29 (7)	123 (11)	24 (12)	330 (164)	69 (252)	
Beachy Head.....	36 (4)	—	25 (6)	62 (4)	3 (4)	105 (36)	3 (26)	

Up to 4 were seen during June at Rye. Autumn passage started with 1 in Pagham Hbr on 14 July and continued until 9 Nov., however, only small numbers were seen with peak autumn counts of 12 at Birling Gap on 6 Oct. and 7 at Selsey Bill on 1 Nov. The last record was of 6 at Bexhill on 22 Dec.

0582. **BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*L. ridibundus*):—The only notable roost counts were at Rye where dusk counts on 18 Feb. and 18 Mar. totalled 6200 and 13200 respectively and at Bewl Water where the roost held 20000 on 23 Feb. As usual the seawatching log at Worthing recorded an eastward movement of mainly immatures during the spring, with a total of 1431 seen in Mar., 1642 in Apr. and 4710 in May, with the peak movement of 3122 in 6 hours' observation on 9 May.

Both the breeding colonies had poor seasons; at Stakes Island in Chichester Hbr the May count of 942 nests was lower than 1990 (1731) and by June only 38 well-grown chicks were counted. The wet, cold spring and flooding from high tides were thought to be the main reasons for the poor productivity and the success at Rye Hbr, where 174 pairs raised 20 young, was also affected by predation.

The most noteworthy counts in the autumn and winter were 2500 at Glynde Levels on 7 July, 2000 roosting at Arlington Res. on 23 Nov., 700 at Warnham MP on 25 Nov., 1750 at Rye also on 25 Nov. and 1750 at Glyne Gap, Bexhill on 1 Dec. An albino with black wing tips, noted during 1990, was seen at Worthing on several occasions. Reports of other albinos were from Rustington on 7 Feb., Newhaven on 31 Mar., and Washington on 31 Dec.

0590. **COMMON GULL** (*L. canus*):—The largest winter and spring counts were from the roost at Rye and Camber where there were 6300 on 18 Feb. and 32500 on 18 Mar. Other notable winter counts included 2500 in Chichester Hbr on 24 Jan. and 3000 roosting at Bewl Water on 23 Feb. A few were seen moving eastward along the coast in spring, the peak movement of 253 in 4 hours' observation was at Newhaven on 30 Mar.

Small numbers of mainly immatures remained through the summer and the following counts at Pilsey in Chichester Hbr show the numbers increasing through the autumn: 6 on 18 May, 6 on 6 June, 145 on 7 July, 250 on 22 July, 400 on 7 Aug., and 1400 on 15 Nov. The only other large gatherings were 500 at Steyning Round Hill on 6 Nov., 400 at Heathfield on 15 Dec. and 8050 roosting at Rye and Camber on 25 Nov.

0591. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*L. fuscus*):—The only large count in the winter was 70 at Faygate refuse tip on 27 Jan. During the spring the largest count at Rye was 29 on 15 Mar. and small numbers were seen passing eastward along the coast; the spring total seen passing E at Worthing was 70 with a peak of 33 on 9 May.

At least 3 pairs held territories amongst roof-nesting Herring Gulls at Worthing, 2 pairs were recorded in Eastbourne and Brighton.

A notable influx occurred in Aug. and Sept. when counts included 29 at the Crumbles on 18 Aug., 90 at Sidlesham Ferry on 22 Aug., 44 at Climping on 24 Aug., 30 at Scotney Court GP on 1 Sept., 69 at Coldwaltham Brooks and 150 in Pagham Hbr on 8 Sept. Apart from 139 at Pagham Hbr on 12 Nov. the largest counts later in the year were from inland sites with 85 at Slindon on 8 Oct. and 20 at Warnham MP on 8 Dec.

0592. **HERRING GULL** (*L. argentatus*):—The largest counts in the winter were roost counts at Rye and Camber with 850 on 18 Feb. and 1150 on 18 Mar. The only other notable counts were 200 at Faygate on 6 Jan. and 110 E at Newhaven on 30 Mar.

There were 25 pairs at Rye Hbr, 3 pairs on the cliffs between Birling Gap and the Cuckmere Haven, and roof-top nesting in St. Leonards, Brighton and Worthing where the colony has extended its area to include parts of the town far from the shore.

The records of the yellow legged race *L. a. michaletti* continued to show the pattern of summer and autumn gatherings mainly in the Chichester area, the Adur Valley and nearby coastal sites. The largest counts were 18 at Bracklesham Bay on 3 July, 73 at Portfield GP on 11 July and 28 near Shoreham on 13 Sept. Two records fall outside the normal pattern, 2 at Rye Hbr on 21 Apr. and one at Weir Wood Res. on 12 Dec. The following table shows the monthly minimum totals:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
monthly minimum totals:	2	1	—	3	1	4	83	38	41	19	7	2

0598. **ICELAND GULL** (*L. glaucoides*):—1990.—A first-winter was briefly seen at Pilsey Sands on 28 Dec. (CBC) and may have been the same bird seen elsewhere in early 1991.

1991.—A first-winter flew E at Selsey Bill on 5 Jan. (RP); presumably the same individual was seen at Brighton Marina on 13 Jan. (JC) and was present at Shoreham Hbr between 15-23 Jan. (BFF *et al.*). A first-winter plumaged bird was at Newhaven on 6 Apr. and one in second summer plumage was seen on several occasions near Newhaven between 18-27 May (EDU, RGS).

0599. **GLAUCOUS GULL** (*L. hyperboreus*):—The adult which has been recorded in the Selsey area for several years was again noted at various sites between Jan. and 19 Mar. (mo). The only other adult recorded was at Goring on 15 Mar. (RJS).

Records of first-year birds included singles at Shoreham between Dec. 1990 and 18 Jan. (mo), at Southsea on 6 Jan. (NJT), at Climping on 12 Feb. (RJLK), at Camber on 17 Feb. (PJB), at Newhaven on 1 Apr. (EDU) and singles flying past Brighton Marina on 29 Apr. (RJJ, CB) and Beachy Head on 4 May (JC). Finally, 1 in first-year plumage was at Langney Point on 9 June (AQ, MEN).

A second-winter, first seen at Seaford on 5 Jan., was seen on several occasions until 18 May (mo) and was possibly the individual seen at Newhaven in Apr. and May (EDU), at Worthing on 10 May (DIS, JAN), at Beachy Head on 12 May (JFC) and at the Crumbles GP on 15 June (JFC).

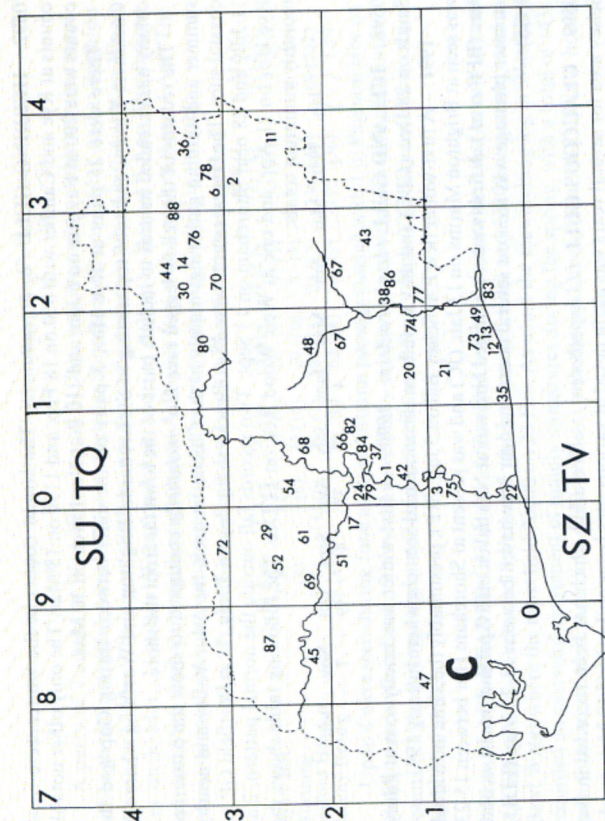
The Selsey bird was first seen in Pagham Hbr on 30 Aug. (MP) and thereafter regularly noted until the end of the year. The only other records were of first-years seen at East Head on 20 Nov. (DIS), at Pilsey Sands on 22 Nov. (CBC) and flying W at Selsey Bill on 3 Dec. (TJE, BJ, CMJ). An analysis of the 80 records received suggested 10 individuals may have been involved and the monthly numbers are shown below:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
monthly numbers:	5	4	3	3	3	2	—	1	1	1	2	1

0600. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*L. marinus*):—The largest counts came from between Rye and Camber where the roost counts were 326 on 18 Feb., 195 on 18 Mar., 300 on 20 Sept., 450 on 28 Oct., 1305 on 25 Nov. and 961 on 12 Dec. All other large counts came from coastal sites with 220 at Pilsey Sands on 8 June, 112 at Shoreham on 23 July, 105 at Goring Gap on 9 Nov., 311 in the Cuckmere Haven on 8 Dec., and 277 at Bexhill on 15 Dec.

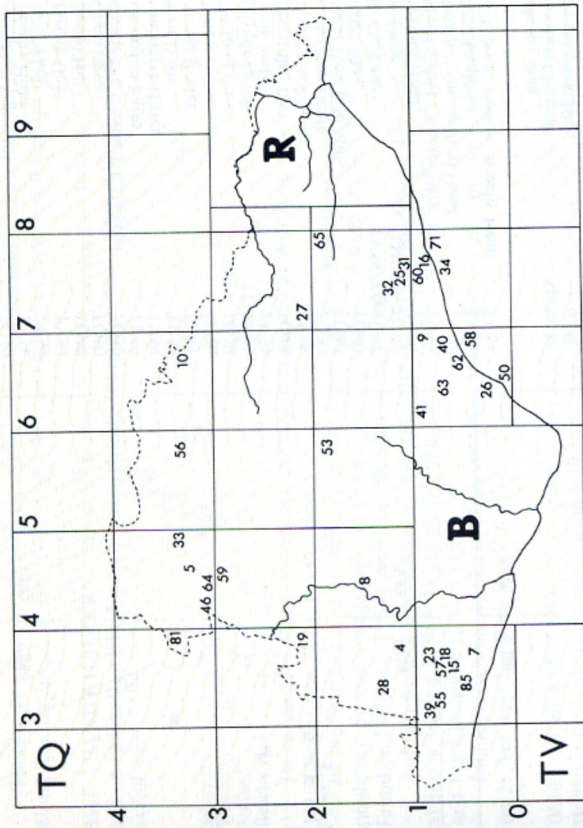
0602. **KITTIWAKE** (*Rissa tridactyla*):—The only noteworthy winter record was a westerly movement on 1 Jan. when counts were 30 at Pett, 150 at Newhaven, 56 at Worthing and 52 at Selsey. Although noted at all coastal sites during the spring the largest numbers were seen from Newhaven where 100 passed E on 2 Mar. and 2000, presumably from the nearby colony, were recorded on 25 Apr.

Autumn counts at Brighton Marina reached a peak of 125 on 7 Sept. with 45 there on 24 Oct. and 50 on 30 Dec. The peak coastal movements in the autumn were in Nov.; the month total at Selsey Bill was 505 E and 128 W in 92 hours' observation with the peak of 49 E and 52 W on 12 Nov.



Key to localities (not necessarily of public access)

1 Amberley Wild Brooks	TQ01	C Cobnor Point/Farm	TQ30
2 Ardingly Reservoir	TQ32	23 Cold Coombes, Kingston	TQ01
3 Arlington Reservoir	TQ00	24 Coldwaltham Brooks	TQ70/71
4 Arundel WWT/Park	TQ31	25 Combe Haven	TQ60
5 Ashcombe Bottom/Farm	TQ42/43	26 Crumbles Gravel Pit	TQ72
6 Ashdown Forest	TQ30	B Cuckmere Haven	TQ31
7 Balcombe	TQ41	27 Darwell Reservoir	SU92
8 Baisdean	TQ60	C Dell Quay	TQ23
9 Barcombe Reservoir/Mills	TQ63	28 Ditching Beacon	TQ70/71
10 Barnhorn Level, Hoce	TQ32	B East Dean	TQ71
11 Bluebell Railway	TQ10	R East Galdesford Level	TQ43/53
12 Bosham Channel	TQ23	C East Head	TQ70
13 Bostal Hill	TQ30	29 Ebermoe Common	TQ10
14 Bracklesham Bay	TQ32	R Exceat Bridge	TQ23
15 Brede Levels	TQ10	R Fairlight	TQ70/71
16 Broadwater	TQ23	30 Faygate	TQ71
17 Brooklands, Worthing	TQ30	31 Filsham LNR	TQ43/53
18 Broomhill Level	TQ23	B Firlie	TQ70
19 Bullock Hill	TQ30	R Flatroppers Wood	TQ10
20 Bulverhythe	TQ70/71	32 Fore Wood (RSPB)	TQ33
21 Burton Pond	SU91	33 Friars Gate	TQ01
22 Camber Sands	TQ30	B Friston Forest	TQ11/21
23 Castle Hill	TQ32	34 Glynne Levels	TQ30
24 Chailey Common	TQ11	35 Goring Gap	TQ60
25 Chalvington	TQ30	36 Gravey Manor	TQ01
26 Chancetonbury Ring	TQ32	37 Greatham Bridge	TQ11/21
27 Charleston Reedbed	TQ11	38 Henfield Brooks	TQ30
28 Chichester Gravel Pits	TQ30	B Hodcombe	TQ60
29 Chidham	TQ32	39 Hollingbury Camp/GC	TQ01
30 Church Norton	TQ10	40 Hoce Level	TQ60
31 Chyngton Farm	TQ30	41 Horse Eye Level	TQ01
32 Cissbury Ring	TQ30	42 Houghton Bridge	TQ21
33 Clumping	TQ10	43 Hurstpierpoint	TQ23
	TQ00	R Icklesham	SU82
		44 Iping Mill Pond	TQ43
		45 Iping Common	
		46 Isle of Thorns	
		C Ivy Lake	

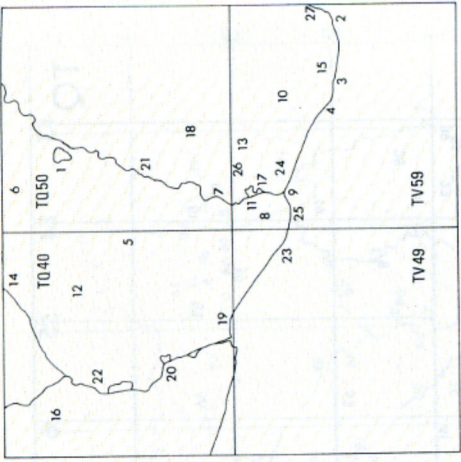


B = Beachy, C = Chichester, R = Rye area (see over)

R Jury's Gap	SU81	R R. Roithier (East)	TQ01/SU91/92/82
47 Kingley Vale	TQ12	R Rother (West)	
48 Knepp Lake	TQ10	R Rother Levels	TQ23
49 Lancing	TQ60	R Rye Harbour	TQ70
50 Langney Point	SU91	70 St. Leonards Forest	
51 Lavington Common		71 St. Leonards (on Sea)	
B Lewes Brooks		R Scone Court Gravel Pit	
B Lower Cuckmere		B Seaford Head	
B Ludington Heath	SU92	C Selsey Bill	
52 Lurgashall	TQ51	B Seven Sisters Country Park	
53 Maynards Green	TQ02	C Severals, The	SU93
54 Mens, The		72 Shillingee Mill Pond	
R Midrips		C Sidlesham Ferry	TQ10
R Money Penny Gravel Pit	TQ30	73 Sompting Brooks	
55 Moulsecomb Wild Park	TQ53	B Splash Point	TQ11
56 Nap Wood	TQ30	74 Strivens Reedbed, Steyning	TQ00
B Newhaven Tide Mills	TQ60	75 Swanbourne Lake	
57 Newmarket Hill		C Thorney Islands	TQ23
58 Normans Bay		R Tillingham Valley	
R Northpoint Gravel Pit	TQ42/43	R Union Channel	TQ11/21
C Nutbourne Marsh		77 Upper Beeding	TQ33
59 Old Lodge Reserve	TQ70/71	78 Wakehurst Place	TQ01
C Pagham Harbour		80 Warham Mill Pond/LNR	TQ13
C Pagham Lagoon		81 Weir Wood Reservoir	TQ33
60 Peabham		82 West Chilton	TQ01
R Pett Level	SU92	B West Dean	
61 Petworth Park	TQ60	C Westhampnett Gravel Pit	
62 Pevensey Bridge Level	TQ60/61	C West Itchenor	
63 Pevensey Levels		C West Wittering	
B Piddihoe	TQ43	B Whitbread Hollow	
C Pilsey Island	TQ71/81	83 Widewater	TQ20
64 Pippingford Park		84 Wigginton Brooks/Common	TQ01
65 Powdermill Reservoir	TQ01	R Winchelsea Beach	TQ30
66 Pulborough Brooks	TQ20/10/11/21/12	85 Woodingdean	TQ21
C Prinsted	TQ00/01/02	86 Woods Mill	SU82
67 R. Adur		87 Woolbeding Common	
68 R. Arun		88 Worth Forest	TQ23/33
B R. Cuckmere			
B R. Ouse			

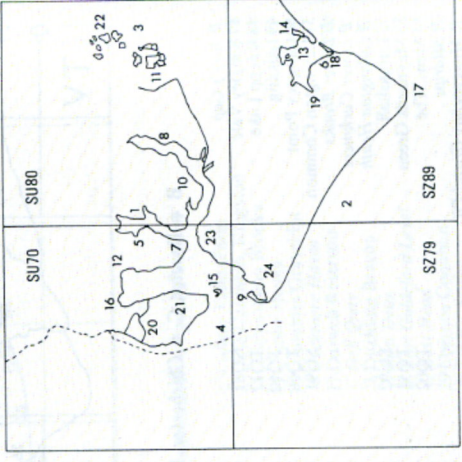
Beachy Head/Newhaven area

- 1 Arlington Reservoir
- 2 Beachy Head
- 3 Belle Tout
- 4 Birling Gap
- 5 Bostal Hill
- 6 Chalyngton
- 7 Charleston Reedbed, Litlington
- 8 Chyngton Farm
- 9 Cuckmere Haven
- 10 East Dean
- 11 Exceat Bridge
- 12 Firle
- 13 Friston Forest
- 14 Glynde Levels
- 15 Hodcombe
- 16 Lewes Brooks
- 17 Lower Cuckmere
- 18 Lullington Heath
- 19 Newhaven Tide Mills
- 20 Piddinghoe
- 21 R. Cuckmere
- 22 R. Ouse
- 23 Seaford Head
- 24 Seven Sisters Country Park
- 25 Splash Point, Seaford Head
- 26 West Dean
- 27 Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head



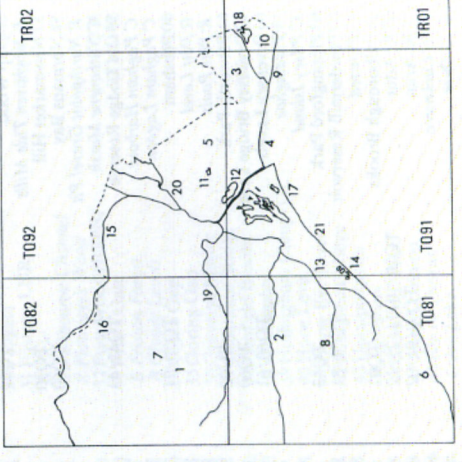
Chichester area

- 1 Bosham Channel
- 2 Bracklesham Bay
- 3 Chichester Gravel Pits
- 4 Chichester Harbour
- 5 Chidham
- 6 Church Norton
- 7 Cobnor Point/Farm
- 8 Dell Quay
- 9 East Head
- 10 Fishbourne Channel
- 11 Ivy Lake, Chichester GP
- 12 Nutbourne Marsh
- 13 Pagham Harbour
- 14 Pagham Lagoon
- 15 Pilsey Island
- 16 Prinsted
- 17 Selsey Bill
- 18 Severals, Church Norton
- 19 Sulfesham Ferry
- 20 Thorney Deep
- 21 Thorney Island
- 22 Westhamnett Gravel Pit
- 23 West Tichenor
- 24 West Wittering



Rye area

- 1 Beckley Woods
- 2 Brede Levels
- 3 Broomhill Level
- 4 Camber Sands
- 5 East Guldeford Level
- 6 Fairlight
- 7 Flatroppers Wood
- 8 Icklesham
- 9 Jury's Gap, Camber
- 10 Midrips
- 11 Moneyenny Gravel Pit
- 12 Northpoint Gravel Pit
- 13 Pett Level
- 14 Pett Pools
- 15 R. Rother (East)
- 16 Rother Levels
- 17 Rye Harbour LNR/SSSI
- 18 Scotney Court Gravel Pit
- 19 Tillingham Valley
- 20 Union Channel
- 21 Winchelsea Beach



There were a few records from inland sites; singles at Barcombe Res. on 12 Jan., at Weir Wood Res. on 2 Apr., at Bewl Water on 4 Apr. and finally at Weir Wood Res. on 18 Dec.

0611. SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*):—First recorded on 10 Mar. at Hope Gap and on 12th at Rye Hbr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Total
Selsey Bill.....	490	31	1758	874	—	2663
Worthing.....	245	10	1715	523	39	2287
Seaford.....	596	54	2541	1365	166	4126
Beachy Head.....	87	5	885	192	—	1082

There were few large movements, the largest being 955 at Worthing on 24-25 Apr. and 344 at Seaford on 24 May, a late date.

In the breeding season there were only 2 pairs at Rye Hbr, their nests being lost to predators, probably large gulls. In Chichester Hbr a total of 5 nests containing 9 eggs were found on 11 June but these were later flooded by high tides.

Autumn passage was again poor with totals for the period Aug-Oct. of 446 W in 252 hrs at Selsey Bill and 74 W in 58 hrs at Worthing. The last recorded were 2 at Selsey Bill on 4 Nov. and 1 in Chichester Hbr on 12th.

Inland, there were 4 at Bewl Water on 4 Apr. and 8 there on 25 Sept., 4 at Chichester GP on 28 Apr. and 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 2 May.

0614. ROSEATE TERN (*S. dougalii*):—At Rye Hbr up to 4 birds, including a colour-ringed individual, were present from 6-10 June. A pair was seen prospecting on 17 June and a juvenile was present on 22 July (BJJ *et al.*). The only other acceptable record was of 1 at Selsey Bill on 25 and 29 July (TJE).

0615. COMMON TERN (*S. hirundo*):—At Rye Hbr a total of only 40-45 pairs nested (90 in 1990), raising just 3 young to the flying stage. This poor breeding success was attributed to wet vegetation on the islands on which the birds were nesting. In Chichester Hbr, where 22 nests containing 40 eggs were found on 11 June and 16 nests and 36 eggs on 10 July, only 2 nests survived flooding by high tides but their ultimate fate was unknown. The colony on the Society's rafts at Chichester GP continued to thrive with 34-40 adults present on 21 July and 32 chicks. Elsewhere, there were single pairs at both Waltham Brooks and Arundel WWT, the latter hatching at least 1 chick.

As usual, small numbers were reported on passage at inland waters including, at Weir Wood Res., 10 on 25 and 27 Apr., 22 on 30 Apr., 12 on 30 July and 13 on 4 Aug.

0616. ARCTIC TERN (*S. paradisaea*):—More were recorded than in 1990 perhaps reflecting growing observer awareness of the relevant identification criteria.

Spring records were of 2 in Chichester Hbr on 12 Apr., 1 at Rye Hbr on 27 Apr., 1 at Chichester GP on 28 Apr. and 2 there on 4-5 May, 6 E at Bracklesham Bay on 29 Apr. and 13 E there on 7 May, 7 at Arlington Res. and 1 at Warmham MP on 1 May, 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 7 May and 6 E at Brighton Marina on 9 May.

Up to 3 were present in Chichester Hbr from 3-11 July but thereafter just 7 were recorded: singles at Selsey Bill on 27 July, Arlington Res. on 23 Sept. and Brighton Marina on 7 Oct. and 4 W at Langney Point on 28 Sept.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN:—First recorded on 31 Mar. at Climping, the same date as in 1990, and at Selsey Bill on 3 Apr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched	Apr.	May	June	Total
Selsey Bill.....	404	1537	2488	22	4047
Worthing.....	204	2030	1433	17	3480
Seaford.....	466	3323	8989	260	12572
Beachy Head.....	62	895	655	—	1550

In Apr. the largest movement recorded was 989 in only 3 hrs at Newhaven on 25th.

Analysis of the data for May reveals that passage was concentrated in the period 7-10th with, for example, 5344 recorded at Seaford, 59% of the May total for this site.

Autumn passage was very poor compared with 1990 with totals for Aug-Sept. of just 219 W at Selsey Bill and 36 W at Worthing. The last recorded were 2 at Pilsley Sands on 13 Oct.

0624. **LITTLE TERN** (*S. albigrons*):—First recorded on 5 Apr. at Pilsley Sands and on 10th at Pagham Hbr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched	Apr.	May	June	Total
Selsey Bill.....	404	422	527	—	949
Worthing.....	204	235	336	1	572
Seaford.....	466	70	253	1	324
Beachy Head.....	62	2	7	—	9

A number of large movements included, at Worthing, 193 on 24-25 Apr., 134 on 7 May and 71 on 9 May, a more protracted passage than in 1990.

In the breeding season there were 48-50 pairs at Rye Hbr where additional measures were taken to prevent predation of nests. The use of wire enclosures to protect individual nests was quite successful given that 35 young fledged successfully (12 in 1990). In Chichester Hbr, where 80-100 birds were present in late May, 5 nests containing 7 eggs were found at one site on 11 June. These were subsequently lost as were a further 4 nests located there on 10 July. At two other sites single nests containing 2 eggs were found on 29 June and 1 July respectively although these, too, were lost.

Autumn passage was typically light, the last recorded being singles at Worthing on 16 Oct. and Selsey Bill on 4 Nov., the latter the latest for the county.

There were 2 inland records: singles at Weir Wood Res. and Burton MP on 7 and 9 June respectively.

0627. **BLACK TERN** (*Chlidonias niger*):—1990.—The 51 on 6 May were at Arlington Res. not Ardingly Res. as stated.

1991.—The first recorded were 2 at Selsey Bill on 24 Apr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched	Apr.	May	June	Total
Selsey Bill.....	404	46	31	1	78
Worthing.....	204	5	11	—	16
Seaford.....	466	68	77	—	145
Beachy Head.....	62	28	5	—	33

Analysis of the available seawatching data indicates a minimum total for Apr. of 95 and for May of 107. Additional June records were of 6 at Rye Hbr on 1st and 1 in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 8th. The peak movements were on 25 Apr. when there were 59 at Seaford and 26 at Beachy Head, and on 28 May, a late date, when 33 passed Seaford. Away from the coast, birds were recorded in spring at 6 inland localities as follows: Ardingly Res., 6 on 28 Apr.; Arlington Res., 1 on 29 May and 12 on 30th; Barcombe Res., 6 on 25 Apr.; Bewl Water, 1 on 1 June; Chichester GP, 1 on 25 Apr., 4 on 26th, 2 on 27th and 29th and 1 on 10 May; and Weir Wood Res., 12 on 25 Apr., 4 on 26th, 1 on 8 May, 8 on 24th, 13 on 29th and 2 on 1 June.

In autumn a total of only 33 were recorded in the period 14 July-9 Oct. With the exception of singles at Weir Wood Res. on 4-5, 10-11 and 27-29 Aug., at Bewl Water on 15 Sept. and at Chichester GP on 28 Sept., all records were for the coast, the largest movement reported being just 5 W at Langney Point on 29 Sept.

0634. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*):—The approximate monthly totals (which include sea passage) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
101	2	4	4	25	4	1	1	—	7	27	84

These figures include 26 oiled birds, 17 of which were found dead at Seaford on 5 Jan.

A number of sightings from fishing boats off Brighton, including maxima of 55 on 13 Dec. and 65 on 29 Dec., suggests that the species may be commoner offshore than in coastal waters.

See also Auk sp.

0636. **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*):—The approximate monthly totals (which include sea passage) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
14	1	3	5	21	6	—	—	3	11	4	8

The totals given above (which include 3 corpses, 2 of which were oiled) show a similar pattern to that of 1990 with most birds recorded in May and no reports for July-Aug.

0647. **LITTLE AUK** (*Alle alle*):—Another excellent year following the large numbers recorded in 1989 and 1990. There were 3 records for Jan., probably stragglers left over from the influx in Dec. 1990. An exhausted bird was found at Partridge Green on 2nd and released later that day at Lancing (MR). Single corpses were picked up on the tidelines at Seaford on 5th (GGG, NJT) and at Shoreham on 19th (ASC).

In the latter part of the year, first recorded on 20 Oct. when there were singles at Clipping (ASC), Selsey Bill (JDW) and Bewl Water (AF:JC *et al.*), the latter remaining until 22nd when it was found dead. Further singles flew W at Clipping on 21st (ASC, RJLK) and 23rd (RJLK), but thereafter there were no records until 6 Nov. when there were 6 W at Selsey Bill (TJE), singles W at Worthing (RJS) and Church Norton (TJE) and 1 in Pagham Hbr (TJE). Seawatching at Selsey Bill on 7th produced totals of 5 W and 3 E (TJE) followed by a further 8 W up to 17th (BJC, TJE *et al.*). Other reports for Nov. were of singles off Church Norton on 7th (DPB) and 10th (AJG), at Pett on 9th (DPBo) and at Rye Hbr on 10th (BJY). In Dec. only recorded on 24th when there were 2 off Church Norton (RJF) and 1 in Emsworth Channel (CBC).

An analysis of the available data suggests a minimum total for the county of 32, well down on the 59 recorded in 1990 but still the second highest total ever for a single year in Sussex.

A number of reports of this species, for which supporting descriptions were not supplied, have been omitted from the text. Full details of additional records should be sent to the Recorder.

0654. **PUFFIN** (*Fratercula arctica*):—Two records: a corpse picked up at Brighton Marina on 14 Jan. (TJW) and 1 E at Selsey Bill on 6 Nov. (TJE).

AUK SPECIES:—Totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		June-July		Aug-Oct.		Nov-Dec.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill.....	11	23	59	27	—	4	15	19	24	21
Worthing.....	18	30	8	2	1	—	12	4	16	57
Newhaven.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seaford.....	43	5	234	3	9	—	—	—	19	—
Beachy Head.....	—	—	—	51	—	—	50	—	—	—

The largest movements recorded were 69 W at Newhaven on 1 Jan. and 50 E at Beachy Head on 20 Oct.

0668. **STOCK DOVE** (*Columba oenas*):—During the early months, the largest flocks reported were of 45 at Wepham Down on 24 Jan., up to 200 at Pagham from 9-12 Feb. and separate flocks of 50 and 100 on Pevensey Levels from 25-28 Mar.

In the breeding season, 4 pairs were recorded from 120 ha in Marline Wood, Hastings; 2 eggs were found in a Barn Owl nestbox on Thorney Island and 2 pairs nested at Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington.

The only large concentrations during the latter part of the year were of 150 at Standean Bottom on 12 Dec. and 80 on Pevensey Levels on 15 Dec.

0670. **WOODPIGEON** (*C. palumbus*):—During the early months, sizeable concentrations of birds reported included parties of 1000 on Lewes Racecourse on 3 Feb., 2700 at Pagham on 13 Feb. and flocks of 4000 at Binsted and 2500 on Lewes Brooks, both on 14 Feb.

No information was received on breeding season success in the county.

As in previous years, large autumn migration movements were widely reported from 9 Oct. onwards. These included daily totals over West Chilington of 1000, 2000 and 5000 on 7, 23 and 25 Nov. The year ended with 3000 recorded at Beddingham on 26 Dec.

0684. **COLLARED DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*):—Whilst common and widespread throughout the county, the only large concentrations continue to be recorded from Rye Hbr where up to 200 were present. As in both 1988 and 1990, this flock included 2 birds in almost white plumage. Elsewhere, there were counts of 36 from Brighton Wild Park on 15 Feb. and 35 in Pagham village on 11 Sept.

0687. **TURTLE DOVE** (*S. turtur*):—At Rye Hbr 1 of the wintering birds recorded during Dec. 1990 reappeared on 28 Feb., remaining until 12 Mar. Sadly a fresh corpse was found in this area on 19 Mar.

First recorded on spring migration at Ebernoe Common on 29 Mar., the earliest county record for at least 17 years. Following another individual at Rye Hbr, 5 Apr. migrants were reported daily from 11th. Yet again, spring passage was very light, the largest numbers recorded being 10 at Thorney Island on 1 May, 7 on Pulborough Brooks on 5 May and 11 at Mountfield on 26 May. Late arrivals were again noted with 2 seen flying in off the sea at St. Leonards on 31 May.

Little information was received on breeding activity in the county. 15 pairs were reported from Pagham, 3 pairs at Pulborough Brooks, 2 pairs at Shillinglee Hammerpounds and further pairs in Vert Wood and East Hoathly. The only large concentrations noted during the summer months were of at least 70 feeding on dumped grain at Rye Hbr on 7 June and 30 together at Brickkiln Farm, Chilgrove on 3 July.

Autumn passage was lighter than 1990 with a peak count of 12 on Sompting Brooks on 8 Sept. The last record for the year came from Seaford Head where a single bird was seen on 28 Oct.

0712. *Cat. C.* **RING-NECKED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula krameri*):—There were no reports of breeding during the year. The maximum count at Hollingbury Woods was 6 on 8 May. Elsewhere singles were noted at Hove Park and Steyning on 3 Feb., Upper Beeding on 14 Apr., Chichester GP on 14 Sept., at Shoreham on several dates and Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head on 1 Dec.

0724. **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*):—First recorded on 8 Apr. at Pulborough Brooks, an average arrival date. Several were reported on 10-11th from widely scattered localities with birds then regularly recorded from 13th onwards.

Widespread during the breeding season.

A late adult was recorded at Rye Hbr on 24 Aug. The last birds recorded were singles at Littlehampton GC and Pulborough Brooks on 21 Sept.

0735. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*):—A total of 103 records were received from 45 localities, 27 of which were in the breeding season. However, the number of probable pairs has fallen significantly, for the second successive year, to just 12. Of these, there was only 1 confirmed breeding success with a pair raising 3 young from a nestbox. The good news however, is a dramatic reduction in the number of road casualties, from 11 in 1990, to 3 in 1991.

0757. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*):—A total of 142 records were received for 79 localities, 58 of which were in the breeding season. Of 29 probable pairs reported, very incomplete information was received on breeding success. Pulborough Brooks held 3 territories of which 2 pairs raised 5 young. The cumulative county total of all records received, however, only shows that 5 pairs successfully reared 9 young.

0761. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*):—A total of 92 records were received for 58 localities, 63 of which were in the breeding season. Of 20 probable pairs reported, 7 were known to have bred successfully, 5 raising 15 young.

As in previous years, there were many suitable areas of woodland which did not feature in the records received, suggesting that this largely nocturnal species remains under-recorded in the county.

Sadly, 7 birds were found dead, mainly by the roadside.

0767. **LONG-EARED OWL** (*Asio otus*):—The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Nov.	Dec.
Number of sites.....	5	3	1	2	2	3	1
Number of birds.....	9	5	1	2	2	4	2

The largest numbers recorded were at a roost in the Adur Valley where up to 4 were present until at least 17 Feb.

Single migrants were noted in Chichester Hbr on 12 and 26 Apr. and on Lullington Heath on 11 May. The above totals also include birds found dead at Standean Bottom, 21 Jan.; Rye Hbr, 16 Apr.; Rodmell, 31 May and Bramber, 13 Nov.

All birdwatchers, especially outings leaders, are reminded once again of the need to avoid disturbance of this scarce species at its winter roosts.

0768. **SHORT-EARED OWL** (*A. flammeus*):—With impressive totals during the second winter period, the approximate monthly maxima were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	6	7	10	7	4	2	30	27	22

Chichester Hbr. All records were for the area comprising Thorney Island, Pilsey Island and East Head. Up to 2 birds were present during Jan-Feb., increasing to 4 at Thorney on 29 Mar. The latest spring sighting, of 2 birds, was on 16 Apr. During the latter months, 3 birds were first recorded on 6 Oct., increasing to a maximum of 9 on 21 Oct. There were many sightings on 13 dates up to the end of the year, with a final peak count of 8, again on Thorney on 11 Dec.

Selsey Peninsula. The only birds recorded during the first part of the year were single migrants at Pagham on 13 and 20 Apr. and at Selsey Bill on 23 Apr. The first autumn record was of an individual at Pagham on 29 Sept. There were few sightings in Oct., with only singles at Pagham and Selsey reported. During Nov., at least 2 different birds were seen on 12 dates at Pagham and up to 4 were present hunting over Selsey Westfields, on 16th and 17th. There were at least 2 birds present at Pagham throughout Dec.

Arun Valley. Following a single bird at Greatham on 28 Jan., up to 3 were present at nearby Parham during mid-Mar. A spring migrant came in off the sea at Littlehampton on 5 May. First reported in autumn on 6 Oct., with 2 in off the sea, again at Littlehampton. There followed singles at Coldwaltham on 8 Oct. and Littlehampton from 15-20 Oct. Two more migrants came in at Littlehampton on 23 and 28 Oct. During the latter months, there was 1 more at Littlehampton on 2 Nov., 2 birds at Coldwaltham on 10 Nov. and an individual at Ford from 2-8 Dec.

Adur Valley. During the first winter period, the only record was of 2 birds at Wyckham Farm, Steyning on 24 Mar. First recorded in autumn on 6 Oct. at Shoreham, with another there on 12 Oct. and on Beeding Brooks the same day. The latter months produced singles at Beeding and over the sea at Lancing, both on 10 Nov. and up to 3 at Beeding during Dec.

Ouse Valley and adjacent downland. In the early months, an individual was reported between 26 Jan-29 Mar. over the Lewes Brooks. A migrant came in off the sea at Seaford on 25 Apr. All autumn and later sightings came from the downland W of the river with a single on 8 Oct., another on 14 Nov. and up to 3 present at Highdole Hill, Telscombe from 20 Nov-24 Dec.

Cuckmere Valley and Beachy Head. The only spring migrant came in off the sea at Birling Gap on 25 May. In autumn, there were 2 arrivals over the shoreline at Cuckmere and 1 passing Beachy Head, all on 6 Oct. Further singles were reported from Beachy Head on 19 Oct. and 16 Nov. and finally from Cuckmere Haven on 6 Dec.

Pevensley Levels. During the first winter period, 1 was found on 17 Jan. and 3 together on 9 and 10 Feb. Spring migration produced 2 birds on 17-18 May. In autumn, a single on 25 Oct. was followed by up to 3 during Nov., and finally a single on 29 Dec.

Pett Level/Rye Hbr/Rother Levels. In the early months, there were singles at Rye on 27 Jan. and Pett on 18 Apr. During Oct. 1 was present at Fairlight on 11th and another at Rye from 12-25th. There were up to 2 birds widely reported from Rye and Pett throughout Nov. and what may have been one of the same birds present until 28 Dec. Singles were also found at East Guldeford on 23 Dec. and at Jury's Gap on 28th.

in Hurstpierpoint on 2 Nov. (AFB). Only in 1982 have so few been recorded during the last 30 years. The July individual is the first to be recorded in that month since 1 at Allfriston in June-Sept. 1976 while the previous latest record in the last 30 years was at Bexhill on 28 Oct. 1969.

0856. GREEN WOODPECKER (*Picus viridis*):—Continues to be widespread throughout the county. Interesting records early in the year were of 1 summing on the shore at Bosham on 14 Feb. and 1 in Pilsey Car Park on 29 Mar. Breeding season counts (pairs) from well defined areas were: Cissbury 2, Lychpole Hill 3, Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington (60 ha) 2, Chelwood Vachery (40 ha) 2, Pippingford Park (200 ha) 8 and Marline Wood, Hastings (120 ha) 3. On 28 July 5 were seen on a 7 km walk near Greatham.

0876. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos major*):—Widely distributed throughout the county. On 31 Jan. 5 were seen on a 3 km walk from Horsted Keynes to Birchgrove and on 21 Feb. 6 on a 7 km walk near Greattham. Breeding season counts (pairs) from well defined areas were: Chithurst Hammer Wood 3, Ebernoe Common reserve 4, Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington (60 ha) 2, Pippingford Park (200 ha) 8, Chelwood Vachery (40 ha) 2, Marline Wood, Hastings (120 ha) 2 and Darwell Res. 3.

One seen arriving at Seaford Head, with thrushes, on 12 Oct. and singles W at Fairlight on 13 Oct. and 25 Oct. may have been immigrants.

0887. LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER (*D. minor*):—Records were received from a total of 52 widely scattered localities. During the breeding season reported from 35 localities including 3 territories in Buchan Park, Crawley; Rackham Woods 2 and Marline Wood, Hastings (120 ha) 3. Successful breeding was reported from Slinfold, Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington, Pippingford Park and West Chilington. All records of this species are required.

0974. WOODLARK (*Lullula arborea*):—At the beginning of the year 1 was observed at Sidlesham on 15 Feb. (BFF) and there was 1, possibly the same bird, on the E side of Pagham Hbr on 18 Feb. At least 2 pairs bred in the county, but little breeding data was received.

In the latter part of the year 1 was seen at Pett Level on 5 Oct. (CHD), 2 at Beachy Head on 12 Oct. (DC, JFC, RJF) and finally a single at Selsey Bill from 15-17 Nov. (TJE, BI, CMJ, PJ).

0976. SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*):—Severe cold weather in early Feb. produced some notable movements with 5000 + W at Rye Hbr on 8th, many hundreds staying to feed in kale fields. Also on 8th, 89 W at Worthing Beach, 200 at Climping and 100's flying W at Pett Level. The movement continued with 1000 at Climping, 300 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 10th, 422 flew W in 10 minutes at Brighton Marina on 13th, 1000 at Shoreham and 3000 on the Lewes Brooks on 14th. Elsewhere large numbers were also seen during this spell of cold weather.

Very little data was received for the breeding season, 6 pairs being noted at Goring Gap and 30-40 pairs at Rye Hbr. In the autumn movements included 300 W at Seaford Head on 5 Oct. and 400 W there on 12th. Counts during Nov. and Dec. produced 120 at Pulborough Brooks on 14 Nov., 159 at Seaford Head on 7 Dec. and 700 at Pagham Hbr on 11 Dec.

0978. SHORE LARK (*Eremophila alpestris*):—One, thought to be a first-winter male, frequented the beach at Climping between 8-13 Dec., reappearing there on 26 Dec. and remaining into 1992 (BA, SJP, ES *et al.*). This is the first county record since 1986.

0981. SAND MARTIN (*Riparia riparia*):—The first recorded were singles at Pagham Hbr on 11 Mar. and Chichester GP on 12th. Another was seen at Pagham on 17th and 1 at Arundel on 19th. Few others were seen until 2 Apr. when there were 8 at Weir Wood Res., 40 at Chichester GP and 70 at Arlington Res. No other large numbers were noted during the month, the only other concentration in the spring was 150 at Chichester GP on 16 May. During the breeding season counts at selected sites were as follows:

Site	No. of pairs
Heathend	1990 93 1991 75
Dunford GP	40
Washington	45-50
Sandgate Park, Storrington	70+
	Colony re-occupied. No count

Elsewhere, singles were observed as follows: Ashdown Old Lodge on 17 Feb., the Crumbles on 28 Sept., Roedean on 11 Oct., Hollingbury Camp on 27 Oct. and finally 2 birds together on the Crumbles on 9 Nov.

0778. NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus europaeus*):—A late arrival in keeping with the poor weather in the spring. The first records were from Stansted Forest and Ashdown Forest on 23 May. The only sighting of a bird on passage concerned 1 flying in off the sea at Newhaven West Pier on 27 May.

The species was the subject of a survey this year which resulted in a large increase in breeding season records. In the W of the county 99 were reported (34 in 1990) and in the E 49 (19 in 1990). Of the latter, 39 were on Ashdown Forest. A rather late record of churring concerned 3 birds at a site on 31 Aug.

The only record in the autumn was of a single bird observed sitting on a garden fence in Bexhill for 13 hrs on 9 Sept. The bird eventually flew off in the evening.

0795. SWIFT (*Apus apus*):—First recorded on 15 Apr. at Hope Gap, Seaford Head and then 1 at Pulborough Brooks on 21st. Birds were then reported on a daily basis with influxes on 25th with 40 at Chichester GP, and on 28th with 75 at the latter site and 60 at Rye Hbr. Numbers increased in May with 200 at Chichester GP on 6th increasing on 16th to 400, when 500 were also noted at Beachy Head, 94 birds arriving from the sea at Climping and 100 + at Rye Hbr. Numbers increased at Rye Hbr to 800 by the end of May. June began cold and on 1st notable concentrations were 350 over Arlington Res., 250 at Thorney Island and 300 over Bewl Water. Barcombe Res. had 400 on 3rd.

Early in July 1700 were noted flying E at Climping, the only other notable movements recorded in the autumn were 300 at Beachy Head on 3 Aug. and 200 at Selsey Bill on 9th. At least 41 were recorded in Sept. and lastly there were singles at Selsey Bill and Seaford Head on 4 and 5 Oct. respectively.

0798. ALPINE SWIFT (*A. melba*):—One flying N over Beachy Head on 13 Apr. (DPD) has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the 26th to be recorded in the county.

0831. KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*):—Observations during winter were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of birds	24	23	20	22
No. of inland sites	11	10	9	9
No. of coastal sites	9	9	4	6

The numbers recorded are similar to those since 1987. The cold weather in Feb. seems to have led to little movement towards the coast. However in Mar. only 8 birds were reported. On 10 Jan. 1 at Cuckmere Haven was seen catching prawns although most of the river was ice bound. At Bewl Water 6 were present from Aug. to Dec.

Four pairs are known to have attempted breeding and 2 young were seen at Warmham MP. Another 3 pairs may have been present in the county and birds were recorded in the breeding season at another 6 sites.

0840. BEE-EATER (*Merops apiaster*):—1990.—One at Pett and Icklesham on 20 May (CHD, IDH) has been accepted by *British Birds*. This is the earliest county record since 1956 although there have been 5 records in the last 10 years on 25 or 26 May.

1991.—Two were recorded in early July, although it is possible that both records involved the same individual. One seen at Rye Hbr LNR on 3 July (DJF) flew off E, while on 4th 1 flew E over Climping (RJLK). Sadly no longer a *British Birds* rarity, this species has been recorded in every year since 1981 with the exception of 1982 and 1985.

0846. HOOPOE (*Upupa epops*):—Individuals recorded at Kingley Vale on 28 Mar. and 11 June (BS) were presumably different while another proved elusive on Hollingbury Camp on 14-15 Sept. (GLC, PJWh *et al.*). Three is the poorest showing since the single recorded in 1982. That none were recorded in either Apr. or May is unprecedented.

0848. WRYNECK (*Jynx torquilla*):—Individuals were recorded at Weir Wood Res. on 19-20 July (NAD) and at Beachy Head on 13 Oct. (DC, RJF) while 1 was picked up freshly dead

The first autumn record was on 10 Aug. at Beachy Head. A further 300 were reported with the last being at Littlehampton GC on 12 Oct. The maxima reported were 37 at Sompting Brooks on 4 Sept., 30 at Church Norton on 3 Sept. and 20 at Cissbury Ring on 26 Aug.

1011. MEADOW PIPIT (*A. pratensis*):—At the beginning of the year flocks were counted as follows: 40 at Runcion Rife on 12 Jan., 50 at Billingshurst on 13th, 50 at Greatham Bridge on 19th and 60 at Faygate on 27th. The cold weather at the beginning of Feb. produced 152 W at Worthing Beach on 8th, 260 at Climping also on 8th and 280 at Pagham Hbr on 9th. On 23rd 90 were recorded at Bramber and 40 at Maynards Green. The Mar. total for arrivals at Selsey Bill was 269. The peak arrival was on 1 Apr., with 50 at Worthing Beach and 300 at Selsey Bill.

In the breeding season Rye Hbr recorded 18 pairs.

Autumn peak passage occurred from the latter half of Sept. with 200 at Seaford Head on 21st, 500 at Goring Beach on 25th, 5000 at Beachy Head on 26th and 200 at Rye Hbr on 29th. Passage continued into Oct. with 470 at Pagham Hbr on 10th, 570 W at Selsey Bill, 100 at Pevensy Bridge, 85 at Faygate and 250 at Castle Hill, all on 12th. There were 300 at Rye Hbr on 13th, 335 W at Seaford Head on 19th, 60 roosting in heather on Ambersham Common on 20th and 140 W at Seaford Head on 23rd. Selsey Bill recorded 110 on 2 Nov. and Rye Hbr 100+ on 3rd.

1012. RED-THROATED PIPIT (*A. cervinus*):—One in summer plumage at Cuckmere Haven from 28 May-1 June (WJMS *et al.*) was probably the highlight of the year. It has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the 5th to be recorded in the county. All previous records have been in Oct., the most recent at Coombe Haven on 28 Oct. 1984. A photograph of this years individual appears on the cover of the 1991 *South East Region Bird Report*.

1014. ROCK PIPIT (*A. petrosus*):—The only large concentrations were 18 on 1 Jan. in lower Cuckmere Valley and 14 at Seaford Head on 7 Dec. On 9 Feb. in snow 1 fed in a town street in Hastings.

Breeding records were received from Seaford Head, Cuckmere Haven and Beachy Head.

1015. WATER PIPIT (*A. spinoletta*):—A below average showing, with 1 seen at Fishbourne on 16 Feb. (BDJ, PJ, TJT), 3 at Church Norton from 20-24 Feb. (TJE *et al.*), singles at Thorney on 22 Feb. (RJLK), Climping on 2 Mar. (RJLK, SJP, ES), Lyminster on 22 Mar. (RJLK) and Barcombe Res. from 6-8 Oct. (RDME).

Observers are reminded that descriptions are required for this species.

1017. YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*):—Only 1 was recorded in Mar., at Worthing Beach on 31st. Apr. produced few records, the only notable figures being 12 at Horse Eye Level on 12th and 15 at Selsey Bill on 27th. In May 18 were present at Weir Wood Res. on 7th and at Selsey Bill the peak arrival occurred on 18th with 24.

In the breeding season there were 38 pairs at Rye Hbr, 16 pairs at Pulborough Brooks, 2 pairs at Arlington Res., at least 1 pair at Barcombe Res., 2 pairs at Horse Eye Level, 2 pairs at Amberley, 2 pairs on Lewes Brooks, 2 pairs at Boreham Street and 8 pairs on Glynde Levels.

The first autumn migrant was a single at Beachy Head on 17 Aug. Thereafter Selsey Bill recorded 22 on 28th, with 20 at the Crumbles and 22 at Lancing on 29th. Passage was quite strong in early Sept. with 60 at Beachy Head, 40 at Cuckmere and 30 at Widewater on 1st, 40 at Pagham Hbr on 2nd, 80 at Climping on 3rd, 120 flew S at Seaford Head on 5th, 180 W there on 7th. In the latter half of the month passage thinned but regular numbers were still recorded along the coast. At least 60 were recorded during Oct., the last being 6 at Beachy Head on 15th and a single at Brooklands on 29th.

An adult male showing the characteristics of the race *flava* was seen at Rye Hbr on 4 May, and an adult there again collecting food from around the Ternery Pool on 6 July. Observers are reminded that descriptions are required of all unusual races of Yellow Wagtail.

1019. GREY WAGTAIL (*M. cinerea*):—In Jan. and Feb. reported from 6 and 22 inland and coastal localities respectively. Again little evidence of spring migration but singles were reported from Rye Hbr on 16 Mar. and 4 Apr. and Sidlesham Ferry on 25 Mar.

Autumn passage was light with 500 at Rye Hbr on 20 July, maxima for Aug. of 700 at Pilsley Sands on 20th, 1100 at Chichester GP on 23rd and 400 at Church Norton on 25th. In Sept. 1000+ at Pagham Hbr and 200 at Beachy Head on 8th and 500 at Pilsley Sands on 17th were the only large concentrations. Few were recorded in Oct. with the exception of 200 at Beachy Head on 5th.

The last recorded were singles at Littlehampton GC and Rye Hbr on 26 Oct. and Church Norton on 9 Nov.

0092. SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*):—First recorded on 15 Mar. at Seaford Head, followed by 1 at Littlehampton on 25th and 2 at Climping on 31st. Again numbers were low in Apr., peak counts being 40 at Chichester GP on 14th, with 130 there on 23rd, 60 at Barcombe Res. on 20th, 44 at Climping and 106 at Selsey on 26th, 47 and 74 at Climping on 27th and 28th respectively. At Worthing Beach only 40 were recorded all month. Passage was slightly better in May with Selsey Bill recording 676, the peak being 200 on 18th, coinciding with the peak at Worthing Beach of 92 and also 250 passing Brighton on the same date.

Very little breeding data was received.

In Aug. 1800 flew E in 1 hr at Seaford Head on 24th and on 31st 1000 were roosting on wires on Lewes Brooks. Passage was heavy in Sept., 700 went to roost at Thorney Deeps on 3rd, 1500 flew E in 20 mins at Seaford Head on 7th, on 8th 5000 were recorded past Goring Beach, 3000 past Beachy Head, 500 at Arlington Res. and an estimated 15000 at Pagham Hbr. Passage continued throughout the month, other notable figures were 3000 at Beachy Head on 11th, 8000 E in 1 hr at Seaford Head on 18th, 7000 past Beachy Head on 19th, 5000 there on 26th and 2000 on 29th. In Oct. numbers began to fall off but there were still 3000 at Beachy Head on 5th, 1000 at Hollingbury Camp and 1500 at Maynards Green also on 5th. On 12th 790 flew E past Seaford Head and 400 were at Beachy Head on 26th. An estimated 55 were noted in Nov., the largest number being 10 at Beachy Head on 10th. Last recorded on 24th with 2 at Pagham Hbr.

A bird considered to be a hybrid Swallow x House Martin was well-watched at Waltham Brooks on 21 Apr. (BFF, RAI, DIS).

1001. HOUSE MARTIN (*Delichon urbica*):—First recorded at Cuckmere Haven on 23 Mar. followed by 2 at Seaford Head on 30th. As in 1990 numbers were very low in Apr. and May, the peak count for Apr. was 20 at Chichester GP on 25th and in May 100 there on 6th, 125 at Barcombe Res. on 18th, 200 at Rye Hbr on 28th and the month's total for Selsey Bill was a mere 109.

Few records were received for the breeding season, the Maynards Green colony increased from 25 to 26 pairs of which 8 double brooded successfully.

Passage began in Aug. with 1000 and 2000 at Seaford Head on 24-25th, but the main movement was again in Sept. with 155 E at Seaford Head on 6th, 9000 E there on 17th and 3000 on 18th. Beachy Head recorded the largest numbers with 20000 on 11th, including 6000 in 1 hr at Birling Gap, 2000 on 19th and 3000 on 26th. Other large concentrations were at Climping with 3000 on 11th, Pagham on 19th with an estimated 4500 per hr from 08.30-11.30, 500 at Pilsley Sands also on 19th and 3000 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chillingbury Camp on 3 Oct. Also on this date 1700 flew E at Seaford Head and Hollingbury Camp recorded 1400. Beachy Head recorded 3000 on 6 Oct., the last major number of the year, although 500 were counted E at Seaford Head and Beachy Head on 12th, 179 E at Seaford Head on 19th and 300 E there on 20th. A total of 48 birds were noted in Nov., the last being 10 at Beachy Head on 10th, 2 at Seaford Head on 16th and 1 at Bognor Regis on 17th.

1005. TAWNY PIPIT (*Anthus campestris*):—Another poor year with only 2, albeit typical, records. One flew SW over Seaford Head on 1 Sept. (TJT) while another briefly graced Littlehampton GC on 22 Sept. (RJLK).

1009. TREE PIPIT (*A. trivialis*):—First recorded at Bawl Water on 1 Apr. but this was followed by a dreadful spring passage with a mere 12 recorded. The maximum count was 3 at Selsey Bill on 18 May.

Breeding season records totalled c.92 territories, of which 58 were on Ashdown Forest.

Fewer breeding season records were received than in 1990 but 23 territories were identified including a pair at Woods Mill from where the species had been absent for several years. Post-breeding dispersal first noted at the coast with singles at the lower Cuckmere on 1 June, at Rye Hbr on 18 June and Selsey Bill on 22 June.

Autumn passage was reported at Beachy Head from 1 Sept. to 10 Oct. (max. 5 on 14 Sept.), Seaford Head from 1 Sept. to 18 Oct. (max. 6 on 14 Sept.), Climping from 9 Sept. to 29 Sept. (max. 3 on 29 Sept.), Sompting from 17 Sept. to 27 Sept. (max. 46 on 26 Sept.) and Pagham/Selsey from 11 Sept. to 20 Oct. At the end of the year in Nov. and Dec. reported from 5 and 22 coastal and inland localities.

1020. PIED WAGTAIL (*M. alba*):—In Jan.-Feb. the largest concentrations were 50 at Pagham Hbr on 2 Jan., 48 at Chichester GP on 13th Jan., 60 at a pre-roost in Burgess Hill on 1 Feb., 40 at roost in Horam on 12 Feb. and 55 at roost in Horsham on 27 Feb.

In the autumn migrants were recorded at Beachy Head, with 50 on 5 Oct., Worthing Beach noted 55 E during Oct. with 70 on the beach late pm on 13 Oct., and at Fairlight 43 E were also recorded during Oct. There was a total of 75 at Goring Gap on 23 Oct. In Nov.-Dec. roosting birds were recorded as follows: 150 at Lancing on 1 Nov., 100 at Gatwick Airport on 6 Nov., 200 in an Acacia tree at Horsham on 22 Nov. On 1 Dec. 200 were noted at Eastbourne and 50 on Thorney Island. The roost at Horsham grew from 300 on 10 Dec. to 600 on 12th, a pre-roost assembly at Horam on 23 Dec. numbered 70.

A number of birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail (*M. a. alba*) were recorded. In spring there were singles at Pagham Hbr and Weir Wood Res. on 6 Mar., followed by 4 on 7 Mar. and 7 on 14 Mar. at Littlehampton. In the Cuckmere Valley 11 were seen on 16 Mar. A further 13 were recorded including 2 birds in June. In the autumn 12 were reported from 1 Sept.-27 Oct. including 3 on Thorney Island on 12 Sept.

1048. WAXWING (*Bombycilla garrulus*):—An excellent year for the species with 6 birds recorded, representing the highest annual total in Sussex since 1976.

The first fed on an ornamental cherry tree in a garden at Aldwick from 24 Feb.-7 Mar. (AF, RP). During the same period, but at the other end of the county, at St. Leonards, an adult fed, this time on an ornamental crab apple from 1-3 Mar. (CT, RGH). Interestingly both birds were accompanied by overwintering Blackcaps. At the end of the year, there were 4 "1 day sightings", at Rye Hbr in with a large flock of Fieldfares, 28 Nov. (DJF), at Beachy Head on 2 Dec. (RHC), very briefly in hawthorns at West Beach Littlehampton on 14 Dec. (ASC) and finally in Rottingdean on 28 Dec. (JF).

1066. WREN (*Troglodytes troglodytes*):—In the breeding season Moulsecomb Wild Park (240 ha) held 91 pairs, 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted held 21 pairs and 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted held 25 pairs. Figures which are slightly down on 1990.

Early in the year winter counts at Moulsecomb Wild Park had 77 in Jan. and 44 in Feb. and Brighton Cemetery 34 in Jan. and 35 in Feb. 7 mummified corpses were found in a nestbox at Weir Wood Res. on 21 Apr., probably due to the cold weather in Feb.

1084. DUNNOCK (*Prinella modularis*):—A count at Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington on 5 Mar. produced 11 singing in 2 ha. Counts of breeding birds in defined areas were 61 pairs in 240 ha at Moulsecomb Wild Park, 13 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted and 4 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted.

1099. ROBIN (*Erithacus rubecula*):—Counts of breeding birds in defined areas were 104 territories in 20 ha at Moulsecomb Wild Park, 15 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted and 17 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted.

In the autumn the first fall at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head was of 25 on 12 Oct. The only other significant number recorded was 40 at Seaford Head on 27 Oct.

1104. NIGHTINGALE (*Luscinia megarhynchos*):—The first were recorded at Abbots Wood near Hailsham, Littlehampton Marina and Woods Mill on 12 Apr. and 1 at Goring Wood the following day. A further 18 were noted from 13 sites between 19-30 Apr. During

May and early June fewer than usual were recorded, the total was 53 singing males from 37 sites, with the highest concentration of 5 at Abbots Wood. The last singing male was heard at West Grinstead Park on 5 July.

In autumn the largest numbers were recorded at Elms Farm, Icklesham where the largest count was 7 and the peak movement occurred between 11-16 Aug. Elsewhere there were only 10 records; at Beachy Head the total of 4 (possibly involving only 2 different birds) was the poorest year ever recorded. There were singles at Hollingbury on 17 Aug. at Church Norton on 25 Aug., in the Cuckmere Valley on 28 Aug., and at Sompting on 28 and 31 Aug. and 2 Sept.

1106. BLUETHROAT (*L. svecica*):—A female found at Seaford Head on 25 May (WJMS) keeps the recent average at 1 record in every 2 years. In total 47 were recorded during the 1960s, 22 during the 1970s and just 6 during the 1980s, a dramatic decline. This decline has not been reflected in the number of spring records, however, with 2 in 1960s, 4 in 1970s, 3 in 1980s and this one.

1121. BLACK REDSTART (*Phoenicurus ochruros*):—A below average spring was followed by a poor autumn, although more than usual were seen in Dec. The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	6	30	13	4	—	2	—	5	43	13	12

Both individuals recorded in Jan. were at Seaford, 1 remaining to 7 Mar. and 1 to 23 Mar., while others were recorded in Feb. at Newhaven Tide Mills, Saldean, Ferrying and Littlehampton. The first migrants were at Rye Hbr on 9 Mar. with 2 there, 3 at Beachy Head and 2 at Church Norton on 13th. Spring passage was generally poor, consisting of a few scattered individuals, mainly being seen along the coast, the only exceptions being 1 in Findon Valley on 14 Mar., 3 at Beachy Head and 2 at Langney Point on 16th, 2 at Seaford Head on 29th and 1 in Findon Valley on 14 Apr. Four were recorded in May but none in likely breeding habitat, being singles at Seaford Head and Beachy Head on 9th and at Selsey Bill and Brighton Marina on 18th.

Early returning birds were recorded at Church Norton on 9 July and Seaford on 24th, but none were recorded in Aug. and only 2 in Sept., at Hollingbury Camp on 2nd and Seaford Head on 28th. One was present at Selsey Bill on 6 Oct. and 3 at Newhaven Hbr on 12th with singles at Lancing and Fairlight on 13th and Church Norton on 14th. A further 46 were recorded between 23 Oct.-12 Nov., mostly along the coast. Records of note during this period were 5 at Selsey Bill on 26 Oct., 5 at Beachy Head and 3 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 27th, 3 at Church Norton on 28th, 1 at Hollingbury Camp on 30th, 1 at Old Ditcham near Haring on 3 Nov. and 1 in Stanmer Park on 12 Nov. A further 10 individuals were seen along the coast between 23 Nov.-8 Dec., with 2 at Selsey Bill on 13 Dec. and singles at Splash Point on 22nd and Goring Beach from 29th into 1992.

1122. REDSTART (*P. phoenicurus*):—The first report of the year concerned a single at Hope Gap on 5 Apr. A further 82 were recorded on spring passage including a small arrival on 7 May when 15 were at Selsey Bill and 12 at Beachy Head. A late bird was at the latter locality on 25 May.

During the breeding season 48 singing males were reported including 43 on Ashdown Forest. In the W of the county 3 were recorded after the blank year in 1990.

A very poor autumn for the species with only 167 noted. Maxima were 12 at Church Norton on 15 Sept., 8 at Littlehampton on 7 Sept. and 8 at Beachy Head on 8 Sept. The last of the year was at Pagham Hbr on 22 Oct.

1137. WHINCHAT (*Saxicola rubetra*):—An exceptional spring was followed by a good autumn, the approximate monthly totals being:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	—	—	12	250	1	4	175	590	49	—	—

As in 1990 the first records came from Seaford Head, with singles on 1 and 13 Apr. when 2 were also seen at Church Norton. After 1 at Climping on 25 Apr. only 7 were recorded to the month's end, at Selsey, Church Norton, Yapton and Pulborough Brooks. Exceptional

1147. **PIED WHEATEAR** (*O. pleshanka*):—1990:—An adult male at the base of the cliffs at Newhaven from 7-9 July (CJF, CRJ, ABW) was a very pleasant surprise, being the first county record and the first British record for July. It has been accepted by *British Birds* and an excellent photograph of it can be found in *Birding World* (3:230). A full account is published on pages 81-82.

1186. **RING OUZEL** (*Turdus torquatus*):—An average spring was followed by a good autumn, which included a spectacular fall in the east of the county on 12 Oct. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
			13	9				52			

Not recorded until 9 Apr. when 2 were recorded at Pagham Hbr, followed by singles at Hollingbury Camp and Denton on 11th, 2 at Climping on 14th, singles at Balsdean on 16th and 23rd and 5 at Seaford Head on 27 Apr. May records involved singles at Church Norton on 6th, Beachy Head on 7th, Selsey on 8th and 11th, with 3 at Church Norton on 13th and singles at Selsey on 18th and 23rd.

First of the autumn were singles at Beachy Head on 8 Sept., Newmarket Hill on 13th and Hollingbury Camp on 15th. One was seen at Sompting on 21st with 3 at Beachy Head on 27th, 11 at Hollingbury Camp on 28th, 22 at Beachy Head and 5 elsewhere on 29th and 2 at Newmarket Hill, 3 at Church Norton and 2 at Selsey on 30 Sept. Few were seen in early Oct., 4 at Beachy Head on 4th being the highest count before 11th when 41 were recorded at Seaford Head, 4 at Fairlight and singles at Newmarket Hill and Pett. Although numbers at Seaford had dropped to 31 on 12 Oct., a further 164 were reported on this date, including counts of 54 at Fairlight, 80 at Beachy Head, 8 at Balsdean and 10 at Hollingbury Camp. On 13 Oct. many had moved on, a total of 87 being recorded in the county including 25 at Fairlight, 45 at Beachy Head and 10 at Cissbury, while 32 were reported on 14 Oct. including 12 at Beachy Head and 10 at Castle Hill, but only 13 were reported on 15th. Subsequent records were exceptional, most coming from Beachy Head where 11 were present on 16th, 6 on 21st, 6 on 24th and 9 on 27th. Few were recorded elsewhere but included 7 at Seaford Head on 19 Oct. and 3 at Hollingbury Camp and singles at Pett and Icklesham on 20th. Last of the year were 2 at Hollingbury Camp on 29 Oct. and 1 at Beachy Head on 30th, the earliest departure since 1980.

1187. **BLACKBIRD** (*T. merula*):—Counts of birds in defined areas were 10 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted, 22 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted and 118 pairs in 240 ha at Moulsecobm Wild Park.

In the autumn 80 were observed at Seaford Head on 11 Oct. Elsewhere in Oct. there were 50 flying from the NE over Belle Tout, Beachy Head on 19th, 120 at Beachy Head on 27th, 127 at Alexandra Park, Hastings and 60 at Seaford Head also on 27th. In Nov. there were 50 at Beachy Head on 9th, 55 at Alexandra Park, Hastings on 16th and 150 on a 7 km walk at Greatham on 21st.

1198. **FIELDFARE** (*T. pilaris*):—Large numbers were seen in Jan-Feb. with the largest gatherings noted being 2000 at Amberley on 13 Jan. and 700 at Bodiam on 20 Jan. On 8 Feb. a continual W movement of several hundreds was noted at Lancing and 700 flew W at Cuckmere, 7000 were recorded at Pagham on 9-12 Feb., 1190 flew NW at Climping also on 9th, many hundreds at Selsey Bill on 10th, with 1380 in 1 hr there on 11th. Seven other concentrations of 1000+ were noted during Feb. and 2000+ were at Littlehampton GC on 13th. Numbers then declined rapidly during Mar., maximum number being 350 at Pease Pottage on 9th. Last records were singles at Littlehampton on 7 May and East Head on 31 May.

Only 1 bird was recorded in Sept., at Woods Mill on 19th. In Oct. a westerly passage was noted with 224 at Seaford Head on 18th, 405 there on 19th and 1100 on 20th. Several large flocks were also recorded in Oct., the largest of which were 600 at Pagham Hbr, 600 in Ashdown Forest, 200 at Wakehurst Place and 200 at Weir Wood Res., all on 20th. In Nov. there were 200 on the Upper Adur Levels and 200 at Bewl Water on 10th, 500 at Greatham on 17th, 200 at Hurstpierpoint on 23rd, 250 at Pevensy Levels on 24th, 280 at Binsted and 200 on

numbers were recorded during May, over three times the best total recorded during the 1980s. Five were recorded at Selsey Bill on 4th with 11 there, 12 at Church Norton and 11 at Beachy Head on 7th. Other peak counts were 11 at Selsey Bill on 11th, 6 at Rye Hbr on 13th and 32 at Selsey Bill on 18th (but only 15 remaining to 19th), while on 21st 64 were recorded including 11 at Selsey Bill, 16 at Climping, 7 at Castle Hill, 4 at Faygate, 10 at Beachy Head and 6 at Eastbourne. Other notable records in May were 1 at Pease Pottage on 4th, 2 at Warnham MP on 19th and singles at Kingley Vale on 22nd and Weir Wood Res. on 26th. Individuals quickly moved on with only 4 seen after 26 May, being 2 at Church Norton and 1 at Beachy Head on 27th and 1 at Bewl Water on 1 June.

A pair produced young on Amberley Wild Brooks but they were not seen to fledge. This is the first breeding record since 1980.

Returning birds were recorded on 17 July at Beachy Head and 30 July at Pagham Hbr but return passage did not get underway until mid-Aug. with 4 at Pagham Hbr on 13 Aug., 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 16th and several scattered records over the next few days including 6 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 19th and 4 at Selsey on 20th. On 25 Aug., 6 were seen at Rye Hbr and 9 at Climping with 25 at Horse Eye Level and 8 at Cissbury on 26th, 13 at Beachy Head on 29th and 8 in Ashdown Forest on 30th. Very good numbers were recorded throughout Sept., with notable counts of 30 at Rye Hbr on 2nd, 16 at Hill Barn GC on 3rd, 89 at Sompting Brooks on 5th (the highest county day total since 1982), 40 at Pagham Hbr on 6th, 20 at Firle on 8th, 18 at Beachy Head on 11th, 31 at Seaford Head on 14th, 11 at Castle Hill on 15th, 12 at Pulborough Brooks on 17th, 16 at Beachy Head on 19th and 8 on Thorney Island on 25th. Most Oct. records were of singles along the coast and adjacent downland but included 1 at Faygate, 3 at Amberley and 9 at Church Norton on 6th, 3 at Seaford Head, 3 at Cuckmere Haven and 2 at Beachy Head on 12th and 3 at Thorney Island on 14th. Only 1 was recorded thereafter at Seaford Head on 26 Oct.

1139. **STONECHAT** (*S. torquata*):—During Jan. a total of 77 were reported, declining to 44 in Feb. with the advent of the cold weather. Away from breeding sites, 10 were recorded in Mar.

There was a marked decline in breeding records with only 35 reported. Of these, 18 were on Ashdown Forest and 9 at Beachy Head.

Autumn passage records totalled c.200 with maxima of 20 at Beachy Head on 4 Oct. and 16 at Pulborough Brooks on 24 Oct.

Towards the end of the year, 66 were noted in Nov. and 61 in Dec.

1146. **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*):—First recorded were 2 at Goring Gap on 6 Mar., 2 at Littlehampton West Beach on 7th and 1 there on 8th. Birds were then seen regularly and a major arrival occurred on 22-23 Mar. with 79 recorded including 12 at Climping, 21 at Selsey Bill and 11 at Wideswater. A total of 57 were recorded during the month at Selsey Bill. Passage in April was unexceptional although a total of 52 were recorded on 3rd. Birds were recorded throughout May, the only notable numbers being 16 at Selsey Bill on 8th, 12 at Beachy Head on 10th and 35 at Selsey Bill on 16th. Birds believed to be of the Greenland race *O.o.leucorhoa* were recorded at Faygate on 21 May, Beachy Head on 29th, 2 at Seaford Head on 30th and 31st with 1 there on 1 June.

In the breeding season 11-13 pairs bred at Rye Hbr, most pairs in ground boxes, and birds were holding territory at East Head and the Seven Sisters.

In July possible migrants included 2 at Seaford Head on 14th, 1 at Arlington Res. on 18th and at Hollingbury Camp on 27th. Passage in Aug. began early with 15 at Selsey Bill on 9th, but it was again mid-month before numbers built up with Beachy Head recording 25 on 15th and 31 on 18th, 35 at East Head and 28 at Church Norton on 19th and 50 at the latter site on 26th, 35 on Thorney Island on 25th. Early Sept. produced daily totals of 50+ at Rye Hbr until 10th, 40 at Beachy Head on 1st, 25 at Seaford Head on 2nd and on 3rd there were 52 at Sompting Brooks census area, 48 at Seaford Head and 60 at Beachy Head. 118 were recorded at Sompting Brooks on 5th. Numbers then dropped, the only notable concentrations being 28 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 7th, 20 at Firle on 8th and 26 at Beachy Head on 26th. As in 1990, about 100 were recorded in Oct. mostly in ones and twos. Only 4 were reported in Nov. all singles, at Littlehampton on 5th, Rye on 9th and lastly at Balsdean and Seaford Head on 10th.

Breeding numbers suggested a continuing decline as demonstrated by counts at two major sites:

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
Thorney Deepes.....	nc	nc	71-73	60	55	52
Rye Hbr.....	22	34	nc	76	53	45

As with spring, autumn numbers were very poor, a maximum of 7 at Selsey Bill on 8 Aug. There were 2 Oct. records, 1 each on 6th and 10th, both at Hollingbury Camp.

1250. MARSH WARBLER (*A. palustris*):—1983:—One at Church Norton on 19 Sept. (DS) has never been published despite a photograph of this bird appearing as part of a *British Birds* monthly marathon (*British Birds* 80:136).

1991:—Two were recorded during the autumn, 1 trapped at Icklesham on 25 Aug. (SG) and another at Seaford Head on 5-6 Oct. (JC, BDJ, PJ, TJT). The latter is the latest county record, although this being such a difficult species to identify with certainty, particularly in autumn, it is likely that later individuals have occurred and either been overlooked or not submitted due to observer caution.

1251. REED WARBLER (*A. scirpaceus*):—First recorded at Rye Hbr on 18 and 20 Apr. with only 3 other sites having records in that month.

In the breeding season about 150 pairs were estimated at Rye Hbr (similar to 1989) but at Thorney Island only 65 pairs were counted similar to the 1986/87 survey but well down on the 89 pairs of 1988.

In autumn movement was recorded at Whitbread Hollow from 27 July with 25 on 17 Aug., 50 on 25 Aug. and 30 on 14 Oct., a very late date for such a high number. Indeed Oct. records were received from no less than 8 sites. The last was at Whitbread Hollow on 27 Oct.

1262. DARTFORD WARBLER (*Sylvia undata*):—In the early part of the year none were detected on the coast but birds were present at 4 inland localities, all potential breeding sites. Three of these were occupied in the breeding season but at only 1 is a pair known to have nested successfully. At 1 of the other 2 sites a singing male was present, apparently unpaired, for 3 months but at the other a male was recorded only on a single date in June.

A migrant was at Hollingbury Camp, Brighton on 30 Sept. (PB) and singles were on the coast at Thorney Island on 14 Oct. (CBC), Pagham Hbr on 15th (JBa) and 30 Oct. (SIK) and at Beachy Head from 26 Oct. to 24 Nov. (mo). In addition singles were recorded in Nov. at 2 of the sites occupied in the breeding season and in Dec. at an additional site where breeding has occurred in the past.

1267. SARDINIAN WARBLER (*S. melanocephala*):—1990:—A female trapped at Icklesham on 3 July (JW *et al.*) has been accepted by *British Birds*. The only previous county record being from Beachy Head between 23 Aug.-30 Oct. 1976.

1274. LESSER WHITETHROAT (*S. curruca*):—The first of the year was on 11 Apr. at Seaford Head followed by 1 on 21st at Pagham Hbr.

Few breeding counts were received but these included 3-4 pairs at Rye Hbr, 10 pairs at Seaford Head and 3 pairs on 60 ha at West Chilmington. These figures are very similar to last year's.

Autumn numbers were low with Whitbread Hollow producing its lowest ringing total ever of 74 (previous lowest 93 in 1983). This site recorded its highest count of 100 on 25 Aug. with 50 there the following day. In Sept. 52 were at Pagham Hbr on 15th otherwise the only other notable counts were at Beachy Head with 45 on 19th and 40 on 26th. There was a good run of Oct. records with 2 at Seaford Head on 5th, when 1 was at Whitbread Hollow and singles at Pagham Hbr on 9th, Seaford Head and Rye Hbr on 12th.

1275. WHITETHROAT (*S. communis*):—First recorded at Seaford Head where there were 2 on 1 Apr. followed by 11 on 13th. The most notable spring numbers were 34 at both Seaford Head and Thorney Deepes on 1 May, 35 at Beachy Head on 9 May and 50 there on 25 May.

Thorney Island on 28th. Numbers increased during Dec. with 200 flying E over a Worthing garden, 100 on the Upper Adur Levels and 400 on Thorney Island on 1st, 600 at Steyning on 8th and 15th, 600 going to roost on Thorney Island on 12th, 1000 roosting at Pulborough Brooks on 19th and 300 at Bewl Water on 28th.

1200. SONG THRUSH (*T. philomelos*):—In the breeding season there were 2 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted, 3 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted and 14 pairs in 240 ha at Moulsecoomb Wild Park.

No large influxes were noted during the autumn, maximum numbers being 39 at Seaford Head on 11 Oct., 25 at Beachy Head and 20 at Seaford Head on 27th. A total of 10 continental birds were trapped at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head between 12-26 Oct.

1201. REDWING (*T. iliacus*):—In Jan. 16 flocks of 100 or more were recorded, the largest of which were 250 at Hailsham on 4th, 500 at Partridge Green on 15th until month's end, 700 at Rackham Woods on 21st and 300 at Ivy Lake, Chichester on 22nd. Similar numbers were recorded in Feb. with 229 at Climping on 7th, 600 arriving from the sea at Worthing Beach on 9th, 400 at Pagham Hbr on 12th, 600 at Sidlesham Village on 13th, 500 at Hurstpierpoint on 20th, 400 at Maynards Green and 300 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chilmington on 24th. In early Mar. there was heavy nocturnal passage and numbers decreased rapidly, the maximum count being 150 at Maynards Green on 16th. A total of 14 were recorded in Apr., the last being a single at Arundel WWT on 6th.

In autumn the first recorded was 1 at Littlehampton Marina on 26 Sept. Passage during Oct. included 1000 W at Beachy Head on 19th and 700 W at Seaford Head on 20th. Numbers were again low in Nov-Dec. with just 4 flocks of 100 or more reported, the largest being 500 on the Upper Adur Levels on 15 Dec.

1202. MISTLE THRUSH (*T. viscivorus*):—In the breeding season there were 11 pairs in 240 ha at Moulsecoomb Wild Park. Very few breeding records were received from elsewhere.

The maximum numbers reported during the year were a flock of 35 at Parham on 14 July, 16 at Pulborough Brooks on 24 July and 25 at Warnham Mill Pond on 23 Nov.

1220. CETTIS WARBLER (*Cettia cetti*):—In Jan. 1 was seen at Pett on two dates. Two regular sites recorded birds from Mar. onwards. At one up to 3 birds were present up to 17 Jan. At the other birds remained throughout the rest of the year and 7 young fledged from 3 families. This was the same breeding site occupied since 1989.

Unlike last autumn there were no significant autumn movements. At the Severals, Church Norton there was 1 on 28 Oct. and at Rye Hbr 2 on 7 Dec. with 1 still present until 12th and 1 was present at Glyne Gap from 1 Dec. until 1 Jan. 1992.

1236. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*):—First recorded on 20 Apr. at Hope Gap, Seaford Head. More were reported on spring migration than in 1990 with multiple records from Thorney Deepes (6), Selsey Bill (4) and Beachy Head (3).

The number of birds in breeding territories is rapidly declining with perhaps as few as 6 pairs, 2-3 of these at Thorney Deepes.

The first autumn migrant was on 3 Aug. at Beachy Head where a maximum of 3 was recorded on 9 Aug. Approximately 20 were recorded on passage with the last on 9 Oct. at Littlehampton West Beach.

1238. SAVYS WARBLER (*L. luscinioides*):—One in song at Pett Pools on 2-3 June (DC, JFC, JWK *et al.*) gave good views to those obtaining permission to view it. This is only the 8th published record and the first in June.

1243. SEDGE WARBLER (*Acrocephalus schoenobanus*):—First was at Rye Hbr on 10 Apr. with very small numbers recorded at most sites for the next month, the peak arrival being 26 at Selsey Bill on 18 May.

In the breeding season counts of pairs included 8 at Hollingbury Camp, 17 at Seaford Head, 22 along 8 km of the South Downs from Burpham to Kithurst, 12 along the R. Ouse between Barcombe and Isfield, 4 on 60 ha at West Chiltington and 16 at Rye Hbr.

As usual the highest numbers were at Whitbread Hollow, 250 on 25 Aug. being an unusually high count, with 75 there on 26th and 100 on 27th being more normal. Elsewhere 50 at Seaford Head on 1 Sept. was the highest number. At least 11 were recorded in Oct., the last being at Beachy Head on 27th and Selsey Bill on 28th.

1276. **GARDEN WARBLER** (*S. borin*):—Another early first arrival on 6 Apr. again at Seaford Head (cf. 1990) but the next was not until 22nd. There were no noteworthy spring arrivals.

Breeding season counts (pairs) included 7 at Hollingbury Camp, 7 along the R. Ouse from Barcombe to Isfield, 7 along 8 km of the South Downs from Burpham to Kithurst and 2 on 60 ha at West Chiltington.

The autumn totals were very low with a maximum of 70 at Whitbread Hollow on 25 Aug. and 40 there on 27th. The ringing total at this site of 53 was the lowest ever (previous lowest 80 in 1963). There were 4 Oct. records, the latest being on 13th at Beachy Head and 14th at Pagham Hbr.

1277. **BLACKCAP** (*S. atricapilla*):—The numbers recorded in Jan. and Feb. were the highest since 1986 but with 16 (at 11 sites) were only half the number in that year. One on 14 Mar., in Hassocks, might have been an early migrant, subsequent records from 23rd certainly were. The spring peak (if it can be called that!) was 8 on 3 Apr. at Thorney Deepes.

A number of breeding counts were received including 15 pairs at Hollingbury Camp with smaller numbers elsewhere.

Autumn migration was noted from late Aug. onwards. Highest counts were recorded at Whitbread Hollow with 300 on 14 Sept., 250 on 17th, 300 on 26th, 200 on 27th and 250 on 4 Oct. Despite over 100 being recorded on 7 other dates, these counts were regarded as below normal and no other site recorded over 40 except 55 on 14 Sept. at Hollingbury Camp.

In Nov. 21 were at 14 sites (including 5 at Alexandra Park, Hastings) and in Dec. 17 were at 12 sites (including 4 at Brighton Cemetery).

1298. **PALLAS'S WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus proregulus*):—1990:—One at Baisdean on 12 Nov. (MHP, JR, GAS) has been accepted by *British Birds*.

1991:—An extremely confiding individual was present at Hodcombe, Beachy Head on 29 Oct. (RHC, MEC, MK *et al.*), on 1 occasion landing on the stem of an upturned leaf floating in a small pond within 10 m of assembled admirers. Sadly no longer a *British Birds* rarity, this is the 14th to be recorded at Beachy Head and the 23rd in total.

1300. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*P. inornatus*):—At least 4 were recorded during the autumn. One was seen briefly at Climbing on 4 Oct. (ASC), 1 trapped at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head on 5 Oct. (RDME), 1 at Belle Tout, Beachy Head on 6 and 9 Oct. (DAP, SP, TWP *et al.*) and another there on 24 Nov. (SL). This represents an average showing for recent years, moving the county total on to 59. The late Nov. record is noteworthy, there have only been 2 seen later, at Beachy Head on 30 Nov. 1968 and at Amberley on 20 Dec. 1986. Observers should be alerted to the possibility of the distinctive race *humei* which has occurred several times in Britain in late autumn in the last couple of years. It is a duller, greyer bird with whiter supercilium and wingbars (often only showing one), darker bare part colouration and a noticeably different call (see *Birding World* 2:421-424). The race *humei* has occurred in Sussex only once with certainty, at Beachy Head on 13-17 Nov. 1966 (*Ibis* 122:567), while 2 wintering individuals in early 1975, at Thorney on 10 Jan-26 Apr. and at West Dean on 28 Mar-20 Apr., showed some of the characteristics associated with this race.

1301. **RADDE'S WARBLER** (*P. schwarzi*):—One seen in a hedgerow adjoining the Pontins site at Selsey Bill on the morning of 21 Oct. (TJE, OM, DIS) unfortunately did not stay. It has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the second county record, the first being at Beachy Head on 18 Oct. 1974.

1303. **DUSKY WARBLER** (*P. fuscus*):—One skulking in gorse opposite Hodcombe, Beachy Head from 27-30 Oct. (DC, JFC *et al.*) has been accepted by *British Birds*. It is the second county record, the first being at Beachy Head on 18 Oct. 1974 (c.f. Radde's Warbler, above).

1308. **WOOD WARBLER** (*P. sibilatrix*):—First recorded at Bewl Water on 28 Apr. with a further 20 noted on passage.

A welcome increase in breeding records after several years of declining numbers. The total for this year was 22 and included at least 5 in Rackham Woods.

The species was scarce as usual in the autumn with only 2 seen, at Littlehampton West Beach on 15 Aug. and at Church Norton on 2 Sept.

1311. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*P. collybita*):—In Jan. 15 birds were at 10 sites including up to 4 at Rye Hbr. By Feb. this was reduced to 7 at 5 sites. As is now to be expected, records were more frequent in early Mar. with 10 at Hope Gap on 15th. A wintering bird of one of the north-eastern races at Ifield MP, present from Nov. 1990, remained until 29 Mar. If wintering birds can remain this late, are early Mar. records perhaps those of wintering birds in SW England moving into continental Europe? The largest numbers recorded in spring were 30+ on 21 Apr. at Pagham Hbr and 60 on 7 May at Selsey Bill.

The only breeding season count from a defined area was of 3 pairs on 60 ha at West Chiltington.

Autumn migration was reported from 26 July with 200 recorded at Beachy Head on 19 and 26 Sept. and 250 and 400 on 4 and 5 Oct. in Whitbread Hollow, after which numbers rapidly declined.

In Nov. at least 28 were reported from 18 sites and in Dec. there were still at least 28 and quite possibly over 30 at 24 or more sites. One bird at Pagham Hbr. showed the characteristics of either the race *abietinus* or *tristis* and a bird at Chichester GP showed the characteristics of the race *tristis*.

1312. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*P. trochilus*):—First recorded on the very early date of 17 Mar. (same as last year) at Pagham Hbr, followed by singles on 22 Mar. at Rottingdean and East Chidham. In all approximately 14 were recorded in Mar. at 10 sites as far inland as Weir Wood Res. and Bewl Water. In Apr. the highest number was 40 on 21st at Pagham Hbr and 20 on 12th at Bewl Water. There was only 1 large fall in May of 250 on 7th at Selsey Bill.

In the breeding season counts received included 15 pairs at Hollingbury Camp and 6 pairs on 60 ha at West Chiltington.

Autumn totals were generally low, the highest counts being at Beachy Head in Aug. with over 100 on 6 dates and 300 on 25th. Sept. numbers were very low except at Pagham Hbr with over 50 on 5 dates including 100 on 8th. In Oct. birds were recorded on 5 dates in the first half of the month. An exceptionally late record was of 1 at Cobnor, Chichester Hbr on 27 Nov., 1 of very few records in that month.

Birds showing characteristics of the northern race *aerodula* were trapped on 25 and 28 Aug. and 2 and 15 Sept. at Whitbread Hollow.

1314. **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*):—A year of extremely low numbers with 20 on 26 Jan. at Copthorne, near Crawley, the only record in double figures in the early part of the year. Only a single breeding record was received.

In the autumn numbers were extremely low with 40 at Seaford Head on 11 Oct. being the sole record in double figures and some sites recorded no migrants at all. At Whitbread Hollow the peak count was only 6, with 1964, 1979 and 1986 being the only previous years in the last 30 producing such low numbers. Only 4 sites recorded birds in Nov. and Dec.

1315. **FIRECREST** (*R. ignicapillus*):—Although present in the early part of the year in good numbers, a very poor spring was followed by a poor autumn, leaving few attempting to winter. The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
9	9	7	2	1	—	—	—	5	22	6	3

Individuals recorded in Dec. 1990 (SxBR 43:6) remained at Pett to 2 Feb., Balsedean to 4 Feb. and Littlehampton GC to 8 Feb. when 2 were seen. One was present in Rackham Woods between 6-15 Jan., with 2 recorded at Rye Hbr on 3 Jan., 2 in Angmering Park on 12th and singles at Church Norton on 16 Jan., Firle on 2 Feb., Hastings on 3rd and Midhurst Common on 19 Feb. while records from Church Norton between 20 Feb-9 Mar. and 20-31 Mar. involved at least 2 individuals. Also in Mar. 2 were seen at Hope Gap on 9th, 2 at Paghnam on 14th and 1 at Woods Mill on 27th. Apr. only produced 2 records, at Charleston on 10th and Church Norton on 13th concluding the worst spring showing for many years.

One, in song, was recorded in suitable breeding habitat near Crowborough on 11 May. Autumn passage was not noted until mid-Sept. with 3 recorded at Seaford Head on 14th, and singles at Church Norton on 15th and Sompting on 17th. None were then seen until Oct. with 1 at Hollingbury Camp on 5th, 3 at Beachy Head on 6th and 1 there on 9th. At least 3 were present at Beachy Head between 12-14 Oct. with 2 at Seaford Head on 12th, 1 at Fairlight on 13th, 2 at Church Norton on 14th, 1 at Arundel WWT on 15th, 1 on Littlehampton GC from 17-20th and another at Beachy Head on 23 Oct. On 29 Oct. 1 was seen at Church Norton and 4 were reported from Hollingbury Camp, the best showing in an otherwise poor autumn. Six individuals were recorded on isolated dates during Nov., at Littlehampton GC on 2nd, Beachy Head on 10th, Stammer Park on 12th, Hastings on 16th, Church Norton on 17th and Pett on 24th, where 2 were present between 1-7 Dec. One at Church Norton on 11 Dec. was the last reported in a disappointing year.

1335. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*):—First recorded with 1 on 7 May at Climping and 1 at Selsey Bill on 11th. An arrival was noted on 12-14th with 8 at Selsey Bill on the latter date. Passage continued during May with notable falls on 21st with 31 at Castle Hill and on 25th with 40 at Hollingbury Camp.

In the breeding season there were 2 pairs in 60 ha at Cattlestone Farm, West Chilmington. At Singleton a pair nested in a hanging basket.

Autumn passage started in Aug. with 3 at Selsey Bill on 8th, 31 were present in a census area at Sompting Brooks on 25th, 35 at Cissbury Ring on 26th and Hollingbury Camp recorded 10 on 27th. In Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head the only notable fall was of 15 on 27th when there were 18 at Church Norton. Passage continued in Sept., notable numbers included 30 at Church Norton on 7th, 25 at Cissbury Ring, 15 at Beachy Head and 11 at Church Norton on 8th, 15 at the latter site on 15th and 21 there on 26th. In Oct. 14 were recorded, the last being singles at Fairlight and Church Norton on 13th.

1343. RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula parva*):—One at Belle Tout, Beachy Head on 6-7 Oct. (TWP, NJT *et al.*) was only the 20th to be recorded in the county. Eleven have now been seen at Beachy Head, where this individual made a nice double in Belle Tout wood with the Yellow-browed Warbler on 6th.

1349. PIED FLYCATCHER (*F. hypoleuca*):—An above average spring was followed by a very poor autumn. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
—	—	—	5	19	—	—	14	15	2	—	—

First recorded at Selsey Bill on 10 Apr., followed by singles in Bexhill on 21st, Littlehampton GC on 24th and 28 Apr., when another was present at Selsey Bill. Most records during an excellent May were from the west of the county with 11 at Selsey Bill alone including 2 on 7th, 11th and 14th. Elsewhere singles were recorded at Church Norton on 5th, 7th and 18 May, Beachy Head on 7th, 8th and 27th, West Worthing on 18th and Castle Hill on 21st. Last of the spring was 1 at Selsey Bill on 29 May.

First of a poor autumn was 1 at Beachy Head on 3 Aug., but none were then reported before mid-month with singles at Littlehampton GC on 18th, at nearby Climping on 20th, Hollingbury Camp on 23rd and Rye Hbr on 25th. The best day of the autumn was 26 Aug., but only 5 were recorded then, 2 at both Beachy Head and Mount Harry and 1 at Cissbury while singles were seen at Church Norton on 27 Aug., Hollingbury Camp and Climping on 28th and Sompting Brooks on 31 Aug. Sept. was hardly better than Aug. with rather surprisingly no records from either of the county's premier migration sites, Beachy Head or

Selsey Bill. Singles were recorded at Church Norton on 1 Sept. and Hollingbury Camp on 2nd while on 5th 2 were seen at Seaford Head and 1 each at Climping and Sompting Brooks with 2 at the latter on 6th and 1 on 9 Sept. Also on 9th singles were seen at Hollingbury Camp and Woods Mill with other individuals at Willingdon and Mill Hill on 11th, Littlehampton GC on 14th and 17th, Church Norton on 26th and Seaford on 28 Sept. Only 1 was seen in Oct. at Church Norton on 11th.

1364. BEARDED TIT (*Panurus biarmicus*):—The approximate monthly totals outside the breeding season were as follows:

No. of sites	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of birds	2	2	1	1	1	8	5	2
	6	12	3	8	25	44	34	11

At 1 site (where breeding is now regular) 31 young were raised.

1437. LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caedatus*):—In an East Grinstead garden, 3 birds fed at peanut holders during late Feb., becoming regular visitors for white bread in Mar., possibly indicating a reduction in natural food supplies.

Many flocks were reported in autumn, with maxima of 26 at Apuldram on 1 Nov. and 32 at Salterns Copse, Chichester on 28th. At Bewl Water, a total of 140 were counted in a walk around the reservoir on 28 Dec.

Ringling totals for the county were 167, down by almost half on 1990 numbers.

1440. MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*):—Widely reported during the year, maxima were 5 at Dover Woods, Angmering on 7 Jan., 6 at Darwell Res. on 13th and 6 in 7 km at Greatham Bridge on 21 Feb.

On 4 Aug., 14 were counted in 7 km between Ardingly and Balcombe.

Maximum for autumn was 12 at Wiggonholt Common on 20 Oct.

1442. WILLOW TIT (*P. montanus*):—Reported from 31 localities throughout the year as singles or pairs, with many records in Apr-Jun. of breeding birds. At Marline Wood, Hastings 1 pair successfully raised 4 young.

1461. COAL TIT (*P. ater*):—Few records received, with maxima for the year being 20 at Wiggonholt Common on 20 Oct. and 40 at Holmbush Forest on 14 Dec.

County ringing totals were near the annual average at 95.

1462. BLUE TIT (*P. caeruleus*):—On 15 Jan. at Wild Park, Withdean Park and Brighton Cemetery, counts were made of 115, 33 and 62 birds respectively. A repeat count on 15 Feb. produced 103, 28 and 51 birds.

In the High Weald, nestbox schemes fared poorly with many clutches and broods failing in the cooler weather at the end of May and early June.

Counts at Alexandra Park, Hastings revealed 108 birds on 27 Oct., 113 on 16 Nov. and 124 on 24 Dec.

1464. GREAT TIT (*P. major*):—Winter counts at Wild Park, Brighton produced 64 birds on 15 Jan. and 55 on 15 Feb.

Many failures of clutches and broods in High Weald nestboxes were noted during the breeding season (*c.f.* Blue Tit).

At Alexandra Park, Hastings 16 birds were present on 24 Dec.

1479. NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*):—At Horsted Keynes, 9 were seen in 3 km on 31 Jan., and 8 in 7 km at Greatham Bridge on 21 Feb.

In the breeding season, counts received of pairs were: Alexandra Park, Hastings 4, Darwell Res. 4, Marline Wood, Hastings (120 ha) 1, Rackham Woods 2, Cattlestone Farm, West Chilmington (60 ha) 5.

Later in the year, linear counts received were: Horsted Keynes 11 in 4 km, Barlavington 11 in 8 km, Ardingly 12 in 7 km and Greatham 10 in 7 km.

All counts from defined areas are welcomed.

1486. **TRECREEPER** (*Certhia familiaris*):—Few records received, with 6 at Rackham Woods on 13 Jan. being the winter maximum.

Breeding season counts were of 5 pairs at Buchan Park (60 ha) and 2 pairs at Marline Wood, Hastings (120 ha).

Surprisingly, at Whitbread Hollow none were recorded in autumn, and county ringing totals were much reduced at 34.

1508. **GOLDEN ORIOLE** (*Oriolus oriolus*):—An immature male seen at Church Norton on 10 Sept. (TJE *et al.*), is, perhaps rather surprisingly, the latest county record and the first for Sept. None were recorded with certainty during the spring for the first year since 1982.

1515. **RED-BACKED SHRIKE** (*Lanius collurio*):—After a blank year in 1990, 4 birds were found in the county during 1991. A spring male at Birling Gap on 24 May (TWP) was followed by a mid-summer female at Rackham on 29 June (RAI). Autumn migration produced an immature at Climping on 14 Sept. (RJLK, SJP *et al.*) and a well-watched individual on wasteland at Selsey Bill from 6-16 Nov. (BJ, CMJ *et al.*).

1520. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE** (*L. excubitor*):—During the first winter period, records were received of at least 3 birds as follows: On Ashdown Forest from 1 Jan-23 Mar., at Ambersham Common intermittently from 13 Jan. to 4 Apr. and on the levels adjacent to Wyckham Farm, Steyning from 10 Feb-24 Mar.

During the latter months, at least another 5 birds were present: at Thorney Deepes on 6 Oct., in the Cuckmere Valley on 18 Oct., at Church Norton on 27 Oct., on Ashdown Forest from 9-28 Nov. and again at Thorney from 13-18 Dec.

1523. **WOODCHAT SHRIKE** (*L. senator*):—Recorded in the county for the fifth consecutive year. An adult was recorded on Pulborough Brooks on 26-27 May (TC, AJG, DJG *et al.*) while in July another adult was seen at Argos Hill, Mayfield on 15th (CFB, NAD *et al.*). July records are unusual and it is likely that this individual wandered around Sussex since late spring.

1539. **JAY** (*Garrulus glandarius*):—In the breeding season 4 pairs were present in 60 ha at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington.

The only significant count in the autumn was again at Darwell Res. where 12 were present on 12 Nov.

1549. **MAGPIE** (*Pica pica*):—In the breeding season 3-4 pairs were present in 60 ha at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington; 4 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted and 1 pair in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted. Moulsecomb Wild Park (240 ha) hosted 31 pairs and 8 pairs were noted at Devil's Dyke.

Outside the breeding season the largest concentrations were 108 at Moulsecomb Wild Park on 15 Feb., 22 at Hassocks on 24 Feb., 17 at Darwell Res. on 17 Mar., 47 at roost at Hollingbury Camp on 1 Oct. and 27 in Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head on 8 Oct.

1560. **JACKDAW** (*Corvus monedula*):—In Jan. 180 were noted on 6th at Bury Watermeadows and 200 at Darwell Res. on 13th. On 11 Feb. 60 were present at Rustington. In July 300 were recorded at Amberley on 14th and 2430 were noted flying S towards the Downs at dusk at Lavington Common. Numbers at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington built up from 500 on 24 Sept., 1000 on 27th, 1500 on 9 Oct., 2000 on 23 Nov. and 2500 on 20 Dec. The only other significant record was of 1700 at Hurstpierpoint on 21 Dec.

1563. **ROOK** (*C. frugilegus*):—Counts of nests in defined areas were as follows: Alfriston 22, Amberley 28, Ardingly 7, Barcombe 21, Burgess Hill 19, Charleston Manor 22, Flansham 58, Hassocks 4, Stretham Manor, Henfield 12, Hurstpierpoint 20, Isfield 6, Lewes 27, Ringmer 78, Yapton 146.

A flock at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington increased from 1000 on 27 Sept. to 2500 by 20 Dec.

1567. **CARRION CROW** (*C. corone*):—7 pairs were present in 240 ha at Moulsecomb Wild Park, 3 pairs in 16.1 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted and 3 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Binsted. Notable concentrations were 101 at Goring Beach on 14 May and 49 by the R. Adur, Shoreham on 10 Nov.

1582. **STARLING** (*Sternus vulgaris*):—Roost counts included 2000 at Narrow Pits, Rye Hbr on 10 June, 2000 at Arlington Res. on 26 Aug., 2000 in reedbeds at Thorney Island on 3 Sept. and 10000 arriving at a reedbed roost at Chichester GP on 24 Nov. An albino bird was seen at Scaynes Hill SF on 13 Aug.

1598. **TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*):—At the beginning of the year 60 were present at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 1 Jan., counts at Sidlesham Ferry reached 60 by 17 Feb., there were 30 at Rye Hbr on 10 Feb., up to 14 at Selsey Bill and 45 at Hurstpierpoint on 7 Mar.

In the breeding season about 12 boxes were occupied at Rye Hbr. At Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington the species was absent as a breeding bird for the first time in 30 years. Elsewhere only 5 pairs were definitely reported breeding.

In the autumn the only flocks numbering more than 10 were 12 at Climping on 5 Sept., 20 at Rodmell South Farm on 25 Oct., 15 at Beachy Head and 10 at Henfield Levels on 27 Oct., 29 at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 7 Dec. and finally 25 on the Upper Adur Levels on 15 Dec.

All records, especially of breeding birds, will be most welcome for this declining species.

1636. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*):—The Jan. total of 1265 included flocks of 700 in an overgrown vineyard at North Marden on 4th and 500 at Stoughton on 16th. The only Feb. record was of 162 at Stammer Park on 25th. During Mar. 150 were at Greattham Common on 9th and 14 singing males at Darwell Res. on 17th, and 130 birds were feeding on arable land at Kingley Vale on 20 Apr.

In the autumn there was evidence of migration on 26 Oct. when 300 were at Beachy Head and 375 at Selsey Bill. The only large flocks reported at the end of the year were of 200 at Faygate on 23 Nov. and 180 at Seaford Head on 7 Dec.

1638. **BRAMBLING** (*F. montifringilla*):—A much better year for this species with monthly totals as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
6	32	37	1	1	160	53	24

The only notable flocks at the beginning of the year were 20 at Crowborough on 9 Feb. and 30 in Friston Forest on 21 Mar.

An influx occurred in Oct., small numbers being recorded almost daily from many coastal sites, with maxima of 11 at Fairlight on 12th, 13 at Seaford on 25th and 10 at Beachy Head on 27th. Lesser numbers were widely scattered until the end of the year, the largest flock being 10 at East Grinstead on 12 Dec.

1640. **SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*):—Two males were seen on 16 Apr., 1 flying over Selsey Bill (CH-W) and 1 in Littlehampton (RJLK). Two would normally be regarded as a poor showing, but after 2 blank years is a welcome return.

1649. **GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*):—The monthly totals indicate that this species is vastly under-recorded; no breeding information was received.

Jan.	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
110	299	197	1603	95	225

The only large flock reported in the early part of the year was of 250 at Pagham on 9 Feb.

At Seaford Head 280 and 371 flew W on 5 and 19 Oct. respectively. Flocks of 100 were noted at Fishbourne on 26 Oct. and Bewl Water on 31 Dec. The monthly figures also include 500-700 at Rye from mid-Sept. to mid-Oct., but exclude 543 trapped at East Grinstead during the year, perhaps indicating a truer picture of the species' abundance in the county.

1653. **GOLDFINCH** (*C. carduelis*):—The Jan., Feb., Mar. and Apr. totals were 353, 124, 249 and 179 from 7, 2, 4 and 3 localities respectively, the maximum counts being of 100 at Stansted Forest on 25 Jan. and 3 Apr., and 150 at Rogate Common on 11 Mar.

At Thorney Island 20 were present on 5 May. The Sept., Oct., Nov. and Dec. totals were 299, 6858, 253 and 72 from 7, 16, 4 and 3 localities respectively. Most of the Oct. records came from the coast where 1670 were specifically recorded as moving W and 1694 E, with maxima of 1150 W at Seaford Head on 5th and 370 E at Fairlight on 12th.

1654. **SISKIN** (*C. spinus*):—This species was particularly numerous during the year. The Jan., Feb., Mar. and Apr. totals were 529, 250, 308 and 206 from 12, 18, 19 and 10 localities respectively, the largest flocks being of 150 in the Midhurst area on 28-29 Jan. and 100 in Stansted Forest on 9 Apr.

A single was calling over Crowborough Warren on 6 May. There were an unusual number of records for July, totalling 34 birds from 7 localities, the most interesting being of 3 adults and a juv at Weir Wood Res. on 7th.

End of year totals were Sept. 2223, Oct. 2095, Nov. 457 and Dec. 492; most of these relating to birds moving or temporarily feeding along the coast. The largest gatherings were 50 at Barcombe Res. on 22 Nov., 50 at Holmbush Forest the following day and 80 at Ifield MP on 11 Dec.

Reports of birds feeding on peanuts were 16 at East Grinstead on 14 Feb. and singles at Eastbourne on 28 Mar. and Storrington on 25 Dec. A total of 215 were ringed at East Grinstead during the period.

1660. **LINNET** (*C. cannabina*):—The largest concentrations during the first quarter were 100 at the Crumbles on 9 Feb., 1000+ at Pagham Hbr on 13th and 400 at Ferring Rife on 14th.

Spring coastal movements at Worthing totalled 257, with a peak of 84 on 13 Apr. During the breeding season 5 pairs were present on 60 ha of farmland at West Chilington.

Autumn movements included 700 W and 390 W at Seaford on 5 and 19 Oct. respectively and 140 E at Climping on 25th. Largest concentrations noted at the end of the year, 1074 at Sompting Brooks on 26 Sept., 600 at Selsey Bill on 11 Oct., 150 at Steyning on 29th, 200 at Pulborough Brooks on 1 Nov. and 200 at Beeding Hill on 30 Dec.

1662. **TWITE** (*C. flavirostris*):—During the early part of the year, 8 were at Cuckmere Haven on 1 Jan. and 3 at Pagham Hbr from that date until 14 Feb. A single was present at Shoreham on the R. Adur on 13-14 Feb. and 20 at the Crumbles GP on the latter date, where there were still 10 on 7 Mar. Two were present at Pagham on 3 Mar.

At the end of the year, 21 flew W at Cuckmere Haven on 5 Oct., a single was at Church Norton on 17th, and a large flock of 57 were at Cobnor on 30th. At Glyne Gap, Bexhill 8 were present on 1 Dec., 1 remaining into 1992.

1663. **REDPOLL** (*C. flammea*):—A good year for the species with some very large autumn counts.

At the start of the year 394 were noted in Jan., including 80 at Stansted Forest on 25 Jan. Numbers were very similar in Feb. with 391, including 120 in Eridge Park on 10 Feb. An increase in Mar. with up to 513 reported, including 200 at Buchan Park on 16 Mar., 100 on Ashdown Forest on 11 Mar. and 100 on Wiggonholt Common on 31 Mar. There were still 381 present in the county in Apr. with the Buchan Park flock still present on 6 Apr. and 100 at Stansted Forest on 14 Apr.

During the breeding season c.23 birds were reported. The records included the first breeding records for Slimfold.

None were reported during Aug. and Sept. A large passage produced a total of more than 2000 in Oct. including 228 at Fairlight on 19 Oct. and a count of 500 at Beachy Head on 26 Oct. Numbers decreased to 635 in Nov. of which 350 were in Buchan Park. Dec. records dropped further to 224.

One bird reported from Ashdown Forest on 3 Jan., of which full details were supplied, showed characteristics of Mealy Redpoll (*C. flammea*) (PJB).

1666. **COMMON CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostra*):—Following the large invasion of 1990, numbers increased significantly during the first half of the year, with monthly totals as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Birds found inland in suitable habitat	249	128	344	148	345	109	149	104	5	32	1	37
No. of localities (inland)	9	8	17	13	10	8	12	3	3	2	1	4
Migrants recorded at mainly coastal watch points:			7N	—	—	12N	35N	10N	1N	1W	—	—
						c.6	37E	56E	1	7		
												16W

Total no. of birds
249 128 344 155 351 121 221 186 7 40 1 37

It is likely that the increase in numbers over the late 1990 period may have been due to a southward movement of large numbers of birds wintering further N. in Britain, perhaps prompted by cold weather.

The evidence of only 13 migrants recorded from the well-watched coastal localities for the period Mar-May would seem to support this. Higher numbers were recorded in the W of the county, as the table of the main sites below indicates, but reports of smaller numbers came from widely scattered areas.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Stansted Forest.....	68	50	40	11	60	6	4					
Rogate.....	25	40										
West Dean Woods.....	30	38	20	155	2	65	1	25				
Henley (Verdley Wood).....	80	6	60									
Lavington Common.....	100			60	7							
Houghton Forest.....		2	15	20								20
Dover Wood.....	27	1	25									
Wiggonholt.....	1	1	1	5	1	10	6	6				13
Buchan Park.....					15							1
Ashdown Forest.....		5	18	13	25	3	15					
Friston Forest.....			1		12	9	1					

The largest flocks noted through the period were 80 at Verdley Wood on 4 Jan., 100 at Lavington Common on 9 Mar., 155 at West Dean Woods on 17 May, 60 in Stansted Forest on 28 June and 65 again in West Dean Woods on 4 Aug., over half of this flock being juveniles.

Breeding information received was as follows: 2 males singing at West Dean on 29 Mar., a pair feeding 3 fledglings at Wiggonholt on 5 Apr., a singing male at Iping on 21 Apr. followed by a pair with 1 juv there on 27 May, "some" juvs present on Ashdown Forest on 10 May, 5 adults and 2 juvs in Stansted Forest on 6 June, and a pair with 3 fully grown young which remained in a garden at Slimfold for 2 hrs on 23 June.

The population decreased greatly from June as birds moved out of the county and over half of those seen in July and Aug. were migrants.

With low numbers reported in Sept. and Nov. the higher figures from Oct. and Dec. may represent newly-arrived immigrants, or perhaps just long-stayers. A few singing males were present on 29 Dec.

A careful analysis of the available information, allowing for some local movement between sites suggests a county total of 1196 including migrants. This is the largest county total since 1909-10 when there was a huge irruption and flocks of several hundred were seen in many areas (J. Walpole-Bond).

1679. **SCARLET ROSEFINCH** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*):—A male in song near the Information Centre at Pagham Hbr (SM) on 4 June is the first to be recorded in the west of the county. Although there are only 13 county records, 5 of them have been since 1989, of which 3 have been in late May or early June. This increase is not surprising when considering that in Flevoland, Netherlands where the species first bred in 1987 there were 12 singing males present in 1991 (*Birding World* 5:145).

1710. **BULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*):—Throughout the year reports were received of 93 birds from 10 localities, additionally there were possibly 8 pairs along the Bluebell Railway.

1717. **HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*):—The monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Dec.
4	8	2	37	6	3	1

The annual total would have been below the recent average, but for a flock of 35 which alighted briefly on a beech hedge at Horsham before flying off E on 15 Apr. Single males arrived from the SE at Selsey Bill on 6 and 7 May. Records for the breeding season were from Catts Wood, Haywards Heath on 25 Apr., Ebernoe Common on 27th and 3 at Plaw Wood, Weir Wood on 26 May.

1847. **LAPLAND BUNTING** (*Calcurius lapponicus*):—Single individuals were recorded at Arlington Res. on 9 Feb. (BDJ, PJ, TJT), Selsey Bill on 13-14 Feb. with 3 present on 15th (TJE *et al.*) and at Pett Level on 5 Oct. (CHD). This is a well below average showing, due in part to several records having been excluded due to lack of, or inadequate, detail. Descriptions of additional birds should be sent to the Recorder.



1850. **SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*):—Allowing for likely duplication of records, of long staying individuals, there were a minimum of 28 birds in the county during 1991. These can be summarised geographically working from east to west. In the early months, coastal records were received as follows:

At Rye Hbr a male from 1-3 Jan., a male and female on 13 Jan., a single on 6 Feb. and 2 birds together from 16-22 Feb. On the Crumbles 2 birds were present from 22 Jan-11 Feb. There were another 2 birds at Newhaven Tide Mills from 6 Jan-3 Feb. On Lancing Beach 3 birds were widely reported between 1 Jan. and 17 Feb. An individual was present at Climping on 10-11 Feb. At Pagham Hbr 2 seen from 31 Jan-9 Feb., and at East Head, West Wittering a party of 4 were recorded on a number of dates between 3 Jan-20 Feb.

During the latter part of the year all records again came from the coastal strip with the first winter records on 9 Nov. of singles at Fairlight and Pevensy. Elsewhere records were as follows:

An individual flew W along Pett Beach on 25 Dec. On Shoreham Beach a single bird was found on 6 Dec. A little further W, at Goring Gap, up to 3 birds, 2 males and a female, were recorded on 9-10 Dec. At Littlehampton West Beach, individuals on 23 Nov. and 5 Dec. were followed by 2 females widely reported from 9-28 Dec. Singles were also found at Pagham on 29 Dec. and East Head on 25 Nov.

1857. **YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*):—During the first four months of the year 7 flocks totalling 247 individuals were recorded, the largest being of 51 at Barnham on 22 Jan. and 50 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chillington on 9 Apr.

From 25 Oct. until the end of the year, flocks were reported as follows: Pulborough Brooks 22, West Chillington 37, Seaford Head 25, West Wittering 10, Cuckmere 87 on 7 Dec., Upper Adur Levels 50, Cobnor Farm 33, Faygate 25 and Bewl Water 30.

1873. **RUSTIC BUNTING** (*E. rustica*):—One usually present in dunes adjoining Littlehampton GC between 30 Oct-1 Nov. (ASC, RJLK, SJP *et al.*) unfortunately did not stay to the weekend. It is only the third county record, the others being near Roedean on 23 Oct. 1867 (the first British record) and more recently at Beachy Head from 8-12 Oct. 1985.

1877. **REED BUNTING** (*E. schoenichus*):—In the first 4 months of the year 305 were reported from 10 localities. Significant flocks were 42 at Ashdown Old Airstrip on 4 Jan., 24 at Barnham on 23rd, increasing to 73 on 28th and again to 97 by 1 Mar., 50 at Shoreham on 9 Feb., 40 in Pagham Hbr on 18 Feb. and 36 at Thorney Deepes on 1 Apr.

In the breeding season there were 41 pairs at Rye Hbr and a further 19 pairs were reported from the rest of the county.

At the end of the year 25 were on Pulborough Brooks during Sept. and Oct., 23 flew W at Seaford Head on 5 Oct., a maximum for Littlehampton West Beach of 23 was recorded on 23 Oct., 72 were at Greatham on 22 Nov. and 50 at Ashdown Old Lodge Reserve on 15 Dec.

1882. **CORN BUNTING** (*Miliaria calandra*):—In the early part of the year the largest concentrations were of 100 at Offham on 12 Jan., 63 in the Cuckmere on 13th, 322 roosting at Sidlesham MP on 13 Feb., 50 at Pulborough Brooks during Feb., and 40 at Lewes Brooks.

During the breeding season a further decline was noted at Rye Hbr and Thorney Island, where only 5 and 4 singing males were reported respectively. However a further 71 singing males/pairs were recorded elsewhere in the county.

The largest flocks at the end of the year were 120 at Steyning on 10 Oct., 110 at Northsea on 9 Nov., 300 at Pagham North Wall on 11 Dec. and 500 in kale at Beeding Hill on 30 Dec.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS

All records of B. O. U. Category C species, of apparently feral individuals of other species, and of other probable or certain escapes from captivity, will be welcomed by the Hon. Recorder for this annual feature. Notes on age/sex, plumage, behaviour and, where known, status will be especially welcome. Such records should be submitted in the normal way but on separate recording forms from the main bulk of records.

The following escaped or feral birds, other than those Category C species in the main list, were recorded in the county in 1991:

PINK-BACKED PELICAN (*Pelecanus rufescens*):—An individual of this African species spent the late summer and autumn on Powdermill and Darwell Res. Last seen on 16 Oct.

AFRICAN SPOONBILL (*Platalea alba*):—The bird considered to be a hybrid Spoonbill x African Spoonbill, first recorded in the county in 1989, was present at Littlehampton on 29 Sept. It shows a combination of an all grey bill with pinkish-grey skin at the base, steel grey legs, and an absence of any black in the folded wing.

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*):—Singles of this Australian bird were reported as follows: Chichester GP on 4 Jan. and 19 Feb., Bewl Water on 21 Jan., Thorney Island on 26 Jan., Weir Wood Res. on 10 Mar. and finally again at Thorney Island from 1 July-14 Dec.

SNOW GOOSE (*Anser caerulescens*):—A single blue phase bird at Arlington Res. on 3 dates in Feb.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (*A. indicus*):—All sightings of this Asian goose were of single birds. An individual in with Canada Geese on Pulborough Brooks during Jan-Feb., at Weir Wood Res. on 30 Mar., on Warnham MP from 8-27 Apr., at Plashett Park on 26 May, on Bewl Water on 15 June and finally singles at Climping and Selsey Bill on 18 Sept.

CAKTLING GOOSE (*Branta canadensis minima*):—This is a diminutive form of the Canada Goose and records were received as follows: 2 at Plashett Park on 26 May, 2 with Canada Geese at Arlington Res. on 1 Sept. and 1, again with Canada Geese on Bewl Water on 31 Dec.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*B. leucopsis*):—Numerous sightings of feral birds were reported, mainly associating with Canada Geese, up to 19 at Arlington Res., up to 3 at Barcombe Res., 3 at Arundel, 2 at Bexhill, 2 at Pett Level, up to 2 at Bewl Water and singles at Gossops Green MP, Ifield MP, Chichester, Cuckmere, Glynde Levels and Darwell. Birds are also breeding at Plashett Park. See also main text.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferrugina*):—This species has a widespread range covering N Africa, rarely to SE Europe and throughout Asia. A feral population is also present in the Netherlands from which most British birds are believed to originate. A pair were seen on the saltmarsh at Pagham Hbr on 27 Oct.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*):—This American species is commonly kept in ornamental wildfowl collections. On Swanbourne Lake, 2 together on 20 Jan. with 1 again on 17 June. An individual on the lower Cuckmere on 19 May might be the same as reported from Litlington 6 days later; 2 at Malthouse Farm, Wisborough Green on 17 June, 1 at Ardingly Res. on 12 Aug. An unusual sighting involved an exhausted bird found at Selsey Bill tip on 11 Nov. Finally 1 was seen at Lidsey Rife, Barnham on 19 Nov.

CHLOE WIGEON (*Anas sibilatrix*):—One seen at Pagham Hbr on 28 Dec. This species is commonly kept in wildfowl collections and originates from southern South America.

SPECKLED TEAL (*A. flavirostris*):—A single bird reported from Coldwaltham Brooks on 12 Apr. Also known as Sharpwing Teal, this species is found in South America.

LAYSAN TEAL (*A. laysanensis*):—One sighting at Streecle Farm, Billingshurst of this rare duck, which resembles a female Mallard and is only found in the wild on the Hawaiian Islands.

SILVER TEAL (*A. versicolor*):—A pair were widely recorded in the Pagham Hbr area, mainly at Sidlesham Ferry, from Feb-Sept. Otherwise known as Versicolor Teal and heralds from South America.

CINNAMON TEAL (*A. cyanoptera*):—A bird of the western half of the USA. One seen at Knepp Lake on 14 Jan.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Nettion rufina*):—Very commonly kept in captivity. The abnormally plumaged male, first recorded in May 1987, was again present on Brooklands all year. At Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton, a female was regularly reported from 14 Mar-late Sept. See also main text.

MANED GOOSE (*Chenonetta jubata*):—A pair of these Australian waterbirds were seen on Pulborough Brooks during Mar. On 2 June a female was found with 2 young.

SAKER FALCON (*Falco cherrug*):—Widespread, but never common, throughout eastern Europe and Asia; 1 of these regular falconers birds was seen, carrying jesses, over Climping on 13 Oct.

BARBARY DOVE (*Streptopelia risoria*):—One reported from Gossops Green, Crawley on 14 Apr. This species is the domesticated form of the African Collared Dove.

SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*):—One of these large Australasian members of the parrot family was seen at Marline Wood, Hastings on 15 July.

COCKATIEL (*Nymphicus hollandicus*):—Widespread sightings of this commonly kept Australian cagebird. Singles reported as follows: Glyne Gap, Bexhill on 16 Mar., Pilsey Island on 30 Apr., Steyning Round Hill on 11 Aug., Beachy Head on 27 Aug., Runcton on 14 Sept. and Marline Wood, Hastings on 20 Oct.

BUDGERIGAR (*Melopsittacus undulatus*):—Between 27 May-5 Sept. there were 4 reports all from the lower Arun Valley, including 1 flying out to sea from Climping on 17 Aug. Also, a single bird at Selsey Bill on 3 Nov.

BLACK-CHEEKED LOVEBIRD (*Agapornis nigrigenis*):—One seen in Burgess Hill on 27 Apr. This is a small parrot found only in Zambia.

NANDAY CONURE (*Nandayus nenday*):—This is a South American parakeet. One was found at Climping on 24 Aug.

BLACK-HEADED CONURE (*Pionites melanocephala*):—A bird, thought to be this species, was found at Climping on 15 Aug.

HUMMINGBIRD SP.:—An extraordinary record of 1 in a garden at Icklesham on 13 and 14 Aug. Investigations are continuing into the bird's origin and specific identity.

COMMON WAXBILL (*Estrilda astrild*):—One of these African finches was seen at Hastings on 12 Dec.

JAVA SPARROW (*Padda oryzivora*):—The bird, first reported at Seaford, in Oct. 1990, was still present on 28 Nov.

COMMON MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*):—One at Westfield on 13 Mar. This member of the Starling family is widespread throughout central, south and south-east Asia.

RED-HEADED BUNTING (*Emberiza bruniceps*):—A male was present in a garden at St. Leonards-on-Sea from 19-21 Sept.

RINGING IN SUSSEX IN 1991

by Derek Crawley

This is my fourth annual ringing report for the *Sussex Bird Report*. During 1991 I received notification that 48,393 birds of 119 species were ringed in the county. Of this total 37,335 were ringed by the Rye Bay Ringing Group. For this reason and also because there seemed to be fewer reports on birds ringed in other parts of the county, I am afraid there is a heavy bias towards the ringing at Icklesham. Some of the ringers who have been active in the county for many years report that 1991 was not a good year. Some species showed alarming declines in the numbers trapped. The experience of Rye Bay ringers, involved in ringing on all suitable days during the autumn migration, illustrates this. The effort is fairly evenly spread between July and late October; therefore comparison between years is a good indication of changes. However it is to be hoped that the changes shown in Table 1 are no more than temporary.

TABLE 1.
CHANGES IN NUMBERS OF SELECTED SPECIES RINGED AT ICKLESHAM,
EAST SUSSEX, 1990-1991.

	1990	1991
Wren	481	114
Duncock	112	81
Robin	369	281
Whitethroat	540	343
Blackcap	1720	1433
Chiffchaff	1553	790
Goldcrest	594	NIL
Linnets	76	10

I am sure there are still **Goldcrests** to be found in Sussex despite Rye Bay's experience, though the county total for 1991 was only 34. By contrast record numbers of **Sedge** and **Reed Warblers** were ringed at Icklesham. Other species that showed an improvement were **Garden Warbler** and **Redpoll**. The latter species seemed to be abundant with 1542 ringed, by far the highest figure in recent times.

Reports of Constant Effort Site (CES) ringing in 1991 indicate that the year was a poor one for those species in Table 1. The numbers of adults trapped was down and so it is not surprising that the subsequent trapping of juveniles was down too. The numbers of first year **Garden Warblers** and **Redpolls** were up on the 1990 figures. **Linnets**, however, were a cause for concern. Sussex ringing figures have fluctuated since 1979 with an unusual 449 in 1989 to a low of 46 in 1991. There has been a reduction of 80% since 1988, in the number of **Linnets** trapped at CES.

Probable causes of these declines are harsh winter weather in the UK (**Wren** and **Goldcrest**); drought in Africa (**Whitethroat** and **Chiffchaff**) and unseasonal weather in the Mediterranean area, as well as cold and wet weather in Britain in June and July (Peach and Baillie, 1992). The **Linnets** has been declining for many years. The Nest Record Scheme has shown poor nesting success and it is likely that this is due to the decline in arable weeds (Marchant, Hudson, Carter and Whittington, 1990).

Another species that has declined as far as ringing numbers are concerned is the **Spotted Flycatcher**. The decade beginning 1980 averaged 76 a year. Only 48 were ringed in 1990 and 24 in 1991.

Owls had a poor year too if ringing figures are indicative (Table 2).

TABLE 2.
THREE COMMON SPECIES OF OWL RINGED IN SUSSEX BETWEEN 1988-1991.
(ONE LONG-EARED OWL WAS RINGED IN 1991)

	1988	1989	1990	1991
Barn Owl	21	21	24	6
Little Owl	12	3	14	3
Tawny Owl	12	10	7	6

Unusual species ringed during the year were **Spotted Crane, Aquatic Warbler** (5), **Marsh Warbler, Yellow-browed Warbler** (2) and a juvenile **Crossbill**, trapped in a reedbed. Otherwise it was a quiet year for the 'usual' rarities. The **Penduline Tit** seems to have retired from the scene and no **Wrynecks** were trapped for the first time since 1987.

More waders were ringed than in recent years including **Dunlin** (63), **Ruff** (5), **Jack Snipe** (12), **Bar-tailed Godwit** (6), **Spotted Redshank** (2) and **Greenshank** (15). Between 1979-1990 only seven Greenshank were ringed. The 15 reported here were all caught at Icklesham. Notable absentees from this year's figures were **Little Ringed Plover** (none were ringed in 1990 either) and **Wood Sandpiper**.

I turn now to some of the many reports received involving birds ringed or found in Sussex.

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1991

Key to symbols and terms

	Age		Manner of Recovery	Sex
	1 Pullus (nestling or chick not yet flying)	2 Year of hatching unknown		
3 Definitely hatched in current calendar year	4 Hatched before current calendar year but exact year unknown	5 Definitely hatched last calendar year	XF Found freshly dead/dying	f Female
6 Hatched before last calendar year but exact year unknown			+ Shot or intentionally killed by man	
			R Caught and released by ringer	

Heron					
1198012	1	06.05.89	Leasam, nr Rye, Sussex	50 58N 00 43E	
	XF	20.02.91	Blackwall Bridge, River Rother, Sussex	50 59N 00 44E	2km NE
Wigeon					
FC42818	5m	04.10.91	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 0 41E	
	+	24.10.91	Ribble Marshes, Lancs.	53 42N 2 55W	394km NW
Teal					
ER03169	3f	15.10.90	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 0 41E	
	+	12.01.91	Monfreville, Calvados, France	49 19N 1 02W	216km SW
ER03264	3m	17.09.91	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 0 41E	
	+	22.09.91	Loire-Atlantique (Dept.), France	47 41N 1 55W	406km SSW
ER03159	3f	15.10.90	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 0 41E	
	+	18.12.91	Brancepeth Park, Durham	54 43N 1 38W	450km NNW
Pintail					
FC42773	6m	02.02.91	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 0 41E	
	XF	06.02.91	Baie de Sullenne, Somme, France	50 10N 1 34E	104km SE
			<i>four Pintails were ringed at Icklesham in 1991</i>		

16 of the 18 duck recoveries in 1991 involved birds which were shot. The five mentioned were the most travelled.

Coot
 GH74647 4m 27.11.90 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E
 + 11.12.90 Gironde (Dept.), France 45 21N 1 04W 632km S
 GH58826 3 18.07.89 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E
 + 16.02.91 Beussent, Pas-de-Calais, France 50 33N 1 48E

Since 1989 71 Coot have been ringed. Before that few if any were marked in the county, so these two are of interest. GH74647 was reported too late for last year's report. This bird could have been a migrant from Northern Europe or a British bird escaping severe weather but as few British bred Coot actually emigrate the odds slightly favour this being a true migrant (Cramp, 1980).

Common Gull
 EB95502 6 29.11.82 West Worthing, Sussex 50 48N 0 24W
 + 15.06.91 Copenhagen Airport, Denmark 55 37N 12 39E
Air-strike prevention

The number of gulls ringed in the county is still in decline. A colour-ringed **Mediterranean Gull** seen at Shoreham on 17 June 1991 had been ringed in south-west Netherlands in June 1990 as a chick.

Canada Goose
 5102894 4 28.06.84 Petworth Park, Sussex 12km
 + 04.09.91 Amberley, Sussex

This bird was part of a moulting flock when ringed.

Snipe
 CE23436 3f 21.08.87 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E
 + 12.08.90 Borsky Region, Nizhnegorodskaya, USSR 56 20N 44 07E 2920km E

This bird which survived 1087 days, is one of over 40 British ringed Snipe that have been found in the former Soviet Union (Mead and Clark, 1986).

And a very late report:

Starling
 ring no. 6m 07.01.80 West Worthing, Sussex 50 48N 0 24W
 unknown XF 15.09.86 Pestov Region, Novgorod, USSR 58 35N 35 50E 2474km E

A **Starling** controlled in East Grinstead on 1 December 1991 carried a Lithuanian ring. Details are awaited.

Lapwing
 DN90494 1 02.05.88 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E
 + 09.02.91 Cayeux-sur-Mer, Somme, France 50 11N 1 29E 99km SE

This bird, the only one of the species reported in 1991 was one of a brood of three ringed during a good breeding season at Icklesham.

Barn Owl
 GH74502 1 06.07.90 Guldeford, Sussex 50 58N 0 46E
 X 17.02.91 between Lydd & Dungeness, Kent 50 55N 0 56E 13km ESE
 GH74504 1 12.07.90 Broad Oak, Sussex 50 57N 0 38E
 XF 15.04.91 between Crowhurst & St. Leonards, Sussex 50 52N 0 31E 12km SW

Both road casualties, an all too common cause of death for this species!

Kestrel
 EN72406 1 04.07.85 Earmley, Sussex 50 46N 0 50W
 X 10.04.91 St. Laureins, Oost-Vlaanderen, Belgium 51 14N 3 32W 310km E

It seems likely that this bird, which drowned in an artificial water container, was on its breeding territory.

Song Thrush
 Helgo. 5 18.04.88 Helgoland, Germany 54 11N 7 55E
 8127584 XF 10.02.91 West Worthing, Sussex 50 48N 0 24W 676km SW
possibly taken by a cat

This bird, hatched in 1987, was reported as being on passage when ringed in 1988. Thus, it is likely to have been of Scandinavian origin. **Song Thrush RV10534** ringed at Hodcombe, Beachy Head on 11 October 1989 was shot at Jerez de los Caballeros, Badajuz, Spain on 13 January 1991. This is the second recent record of an October ringed bird turning up in Iberia (Crawley, 1989).

Swallow
 H127633 3f 25.09.90 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E
 R 10.06.91 Utklippan Blekinge, Sweden 55 57N 15 42E 1139km ENE

Rather surprisingly I think, according to information to hand this is only the third British ringed Swallow controlled in Sweden (Mead & Clark, 1986).

Siskin
 F837475 6m 27.02.91 East Grinstead, Sussex 1446km NE
 XF 25.05.91 Uppsala, Sweden
killed by cat

This bird was recorded as being in an East Grinstead garden between 27 February and 10 March 1991. Ringed in ever increasing numbers they produce a good ratio of recoveries to the number trapped.

Reed Warbler
 C62899? 4m 20.07.86 Weston Turville Res., Bucks. 51 45N 0 45W
 R 21.08.91 Littleton, Sussex 50 47N 0 09E 124km SE
Due to poor copy the last digit of this ring is not to hand (DC).

B814172 3f 31.07.83 Stodmarsh, Canterbury, Kent 51 18N 1 12E
 R 15.08.91 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 0 41E

Both these birds were doing well but B814172 exceptionally so. When it was re-trapped at Icklesham it weighed a healthy 14.4 grams and on a 'fat score' graded 1 to 5 it was judged to be '5'. It seemed to be well set up for its return journey to Africa.

During August and early September 12 **Sedge Warblers** were ringed at a reedbed at Keyworth, Poole Harbour, Dorset and controlled at Icklesham. During the same period six birds of the same species, ringed at Icklesham, were controlled at Keyworth. Keyworth is 19.5km west of the Sussex site. Two of the Icklesham ringed birds were controlled on the day following ringing. All were first-year birds. No Reed Warblers were involved in this exchange; in fact the only other species reported between the two sites was **Sand Martin** (2), and one of those had been ringed at Icklesham in 1988. Does this mean that Reed Warblers are not inclined to roam around before heading south but Sedge Warblers are? Six Sedge Warblers ringed at Icklesham between 11-26 August arrived in the Charente-Maritime department of France an average of 8 days after ringing. Four Reed Warblers ringed between 14 August-1 September arrived in the same area an average of 9 days after ringing. This area of France is just over 600km due south of Icklesham. Hopefully continued intensive ringing of migrants at Icklesham will add to our knowledge of differing migration strategies between species.

A **Robin** trapped at Beachy Head Ringing Station on 7 October 1989 in a 'fall' of continental birds was re-trapped at Vlieland in The Netherlands on 26 September, during what was described as a 'massive Robin migration'.

A total of 19 **Bearded Tits** were controlled at Icklesham between 4-27 October. They had all been ringed at Stodmarsh NNR, Kent between 17 June-17 September

and formed part of a flock that appears to have moved *en masse* as part of the post-breeding dispersal. Over 350 were ringed at Stodmarsh in 1991 and I am told they had an excellent breeding season and did not seem to be affected by the bad weather that caused problems for other species.

The large numbers of **Sand Martins** that have been ringed at Icklesham in the last few years have generated a great number of reports. In 1991 75 of these birds were controlled by the ringers who took part in the 2nd expedition to Parc National du Djoudj in Senegal. The expedition also controlled 7 **Sedge Warblers** ringed at Icklesham.

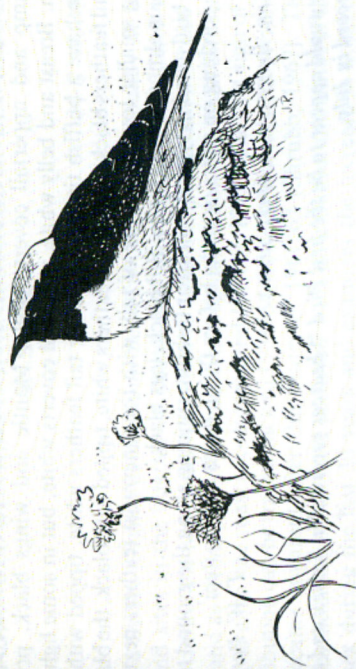
Two **Cetti's Warblers**, both females, were ringed outside the breeding season at Icklesham.

A male **Blackcap** was ringed at Marley Common on Christmas Day!

As always my thanks to all Sussex ringers who have contributed their records enabling me to compile this report. Any information above and beyond the bare records, which might help to add interest will be most gratefully received.

REFERENCES

- Cramp, S. (ed.) 1980. *The Birds of the Western Palearctic*. Vol. 2. Oxford University Press.
Crawley, D. 1989. Ringing in Sussex in 1989. *Sussex Bird Report* 42: 67-73.
Marchant, J. H., Hudson, R., Carter, S. P. and Whittington, P. A. 1990. *Population trends in British breeding birds*. BTO, Tring.
Mead, C. J. and Clark, J. A. 1987. *Report on bird-ringing in Britain and Ireland for 1986*. Ringing and Migration 8:173.
Peach, W. and Bailie, S. 1992. *Population changes on Constant Effort Sites 1990-1991*. BTO News No. 179.
Derek Crawley, 67a Grange Court Drive, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4AY.
(Tel. (0424) 210874).



Note: Pied Wheatear at Newhaven, July 1990

On 7th July 1990 Christopher Fox and I took an extending ladder to Newhaven's West Beach at 18.30 BST, to see if any of the Kittiwake chicks could be reached for ringing. As we got out of the car a Peregrine cruised past along the cliff and back again. A Fulmar was cackling above us. We set off towards the Kittiwake colony and after 100 m Chris spotted a Wheatear sitting on a chalk rock on the grassy slope at the foot of the cliff. It was 40-50 m away and facing us over the top of the boulder, showing a black head and breast with a light area on the crown. It was clearly a very unusual Wheatear.

We spent the next 15 minutes trying to get good views of field characters. The light was bad with dense low cloud and the wind was blowing salt spray onto spectacles and binoculars — the bird proceeded to move about a lot, going down onto the ground to feed and back up onto a rock or post, and keeping it in view was difficult. Of the tail pattern we could say only that there was a lot of white about the rump or tail coverts without defining its extent, but I had one really good view of the crown from above and behind. Most of the light area was a light buffy white with a narrow pure white margin round it, and in the rear portion there were some black streaks or feather tips. Otherwise the head, neck and breast were jet black. The mantle and wings were black with a hint of rufous in the centre of the back and also on the edges of the wing feathers. The belly was white or whitish.

We were reasonably certain that we had found a male Pied Wheatear (*Oenanthe pleshanka*) and I went to find a telephone, leaving Chris, my wife and son to try and keep track of the bird. However it moved to the top of the cliff and was lost in the bad light. Of the half dozen observers who came in response to the telephone message only one (TWP) glimpsed it.

Dr. A. B. Watson

83 Buckingham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

Additional notes on the Pied Wheatear

The next day there was bright sunshine and many observers had brilliant views. The following additional features were noted:

Forehead, crown and upper nape whitish buff, lower nape white. Lores, ear

coverts, neck, chin, throat black. Black on face extended to just over the eye. Lower back, rump and uppertail coverts white. Mantle and wings black, primaries brownish. Breast and belly white, undertail coverts white, but in some light could appear to have a buffish tinge. Tail: outer tail feathers white, tipped with black, central tail feathers black, rest of tail feathers white, tipped with black, the black tips becoming smaller towards centre of tail, with the innermost feathers next to the central pair almost totally white. Bill black, legs black.

The bird acted in typical Wheatear fashion, running along the ground to catch prey and perching on posts or rocks before flying down to prey item.

T. W. Parmenter

22 The Kiln, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

This would appear to be the first Pied Wheatear recorded in Sussex and the first British record in July.

THE CHANGED DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS OF BEWICK'S SWAN IN SUSSEX

by S. W. M. Hughes

Bewick's Swans *Cygnus columbianus bewickii* overwinter annually at a few wet grassland sites in the interior of Sussex and they are now considered a regular feature during the winter months. Prior to 1940 the species had not been recorded inland and as recently as 1961 it was an irregular visitor with most birds still being seen at, or near, the coast (des Forges and Harber, 1963). The first sign of a change in distribution can be traced back to 1953/54, however a consistent presence inland only became apparent after the winter of 1961/62 (Shrubbs, 1967). This paper describes the changes that have occurred in the distribution and status of the species in Sussex during the last 30 years and examines the increase in numbers in the regional and national contexts. It also reviews migratory and other movements associated with these changes.

INFORMATION SOURCES

The principal sources of information used have been the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS) files for the years 1961-1990, the National Wildfowl Counts for the winters 1961/62-1990/91 and the author's personal observations in the Arun Valley since the winter of 1962/63. Other sources consulted have included the annual reports of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society (1961-1990) and the Rye Harbour Local Nature Reserve (1970-1990).

DISTRIBUTION AND STATUS

INLAND SITES

The species now occurs almost annually on the wet grasslands of the Arun Valley, Adur Valley, Glynde Levels/Ouse Valley and the eastern Rother Valley sometime during the winter months. In addition it visits a few inland waters either to roost or on passage.

Arun Valley

The Arun Valley remains the most regular, and numerically most important, site for the species in Sussex. During the period under review birds have been present each winter for 15-20 weeks. Normally they frequent the levels between Pulborough and Arundel but occasionally they have used the valley to the south towards Lyminster and Ford or to the north near Stopham House and Pallingham.

The monthly maxima, and the first and last dates for each winter, are given in Table 1. Although present annually since the 1961/62 winter, numbers started to increase steadily from 1969/70 and the rate of increase became marked in 1975/76, when the number present was almost double the previous maximum count. Since then there have been considerable annual fluctuations with 100+ birds recorded in six winters and a maximum count of 158 in January 1986.

Observations, particularly during the last ten years, have shown that the birds are more sedentary now than they were previously, spending much of their time grazing seven particular areas of agriculturally improved pasture. As these areas are well spaced between Pulborough and North Stoke, when disturbed, the birds have a selection of feeding sites from which to choose. However a safe site to roost has

TABLE 1. MONTHLY MAXIMUM COUNTS OF BEWICK'S SWANS IN THE ARUN VALLEY (1961/62-1990/91) AND FIRST AND LAST DATES FOR EACH WINTER

Winter	First date	Monthly maximum counts												Last date
		Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.	Mar.		
1961/62	17.12	0	0	1	20	22	0	3.2						
1962/63	25.11	0	4	0	8	17	16	31.3						
1963/64	5.1	0	0	0	12	13	11	1.3						
1964/65	26.12	0	0	2	7	7	0	14.2						
1965/66	11.12	0	0	9	10	8	9	6.3						
1966/67	4.1	0	0	0	17	10	10	15.3						
1967/68	22.12	0	0	9	17	8	0	25.2						
1968/69	3.11	0	1	5	10	0	0	29.1						
1969/70	24.11	0	7	26	33	34	34	18.3						
1970/71	15.11	0	13	18	21	24	0	27.2						
1971/72	14.11	0	29	28	29	48	30	6.4						
1972/73	28.11	4	20	30	43	45	38	8.3						
1973/74	15.11	0	9	30	33	40	36	9.3						
1974/75	2.11	0	29	46	45	54	50	9.3						
1975/76	25.10	1	15	58	61	90	90	15.3						
1976/77	7.11	0	46	65	85	91	78	25.3						
1977/78	6.11	0	32	75	72	105	105	25.3						
1978/79	27.10	4	13	56	117	119	113	4.3						
1979/80	9.11	0	22	55	73	34	40	10.3						
1980/81	1.11	0	41	56	62	45	21	6.3						
1981/82	19.10	30	22	52	71	75	37	13.3						
1982/83	17.10	51	80	86	104	115	26	15.3						
1983/84	12.11	0	50	35	65	64	74	28.3						
1984/85	27.10	1	52	83	137	128	95	28.3						
1985/86	27.10	5	50	83	158	156	149	30.3						
1986/87	15.11	0	5	145	143	144	144	16.3						
1987/88	14.11	0	14	76	86	81	36	4.3						
1988/89	5.11	0	110	123	130	152	117	16.3						
1989/90	15.10	26	65	56	83	78	71	18.3						
1990/91	16.10	41	64	79	89	79	12	21.3						

sometimes been a problem. During the mid 1960s and the 1970s some birds commuted to Knepp Lake, approximately 12 km north-east of Pulborough. Thereafter the provision of a permanent water at the Sussex Wildlife Trust's reserve at Waltham Brooks provided a much more convenient refuge and became the main roosting site until 1989/90. Knepp Lake was not totally abandoned and during the winters 1978/79-1981/82 parties of 12-48 birds were recorded frequently flying over West Chilington, whilst moving between the Arun Valley and Knepp.

The creation of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) reserve at Arundel in 1976 had little effect on the behaviour of the species until 3 January 1979 when three birds circled low over the reserve but actually landed on the river. Two days later three birds, presumably the same, visited Swanbourne Lake. On 12 January 1982 36 circled the WWT and again failed to land, however two returned later that day, landed and roosted on the reserve for the first time. Up to four birds were present on 14-15 January 1982 and two visited Swanbourne Lake. Surprisingly, roosting at the WWT was not recorded again until January 1985 after which it became a regular feature until March 1990. The numbers using the reserve were very variable (Table 2) but in February 1986, 153, almost the entire local population, roosted there for several nights. Thus the WWT became an alternative roost to Waltham Brooks but both sites have since been abandoned in favour of the new RSPB reserve at Pulborough where optimal conditions are maintained and disturbance is negligible.

TABLE 2. MAXIMUM NUMBERS OF BEWICK'S SWANS VISITING THE WILDFOWL AND WETLANDS TRUST, ARUNDEL (1984/85-1989/90)

Winter	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
1984/85	—	—	—	12	31	14
1985/86	—	—	5	29	153	120
1986/87	—	—	—	19	62	106
1987/88	—	—	12	—	—	—
1988/89	—	10	—	—	1	—
1989/90	—	65	56	76	5	4

Adur Valley

Although two birds were seen in the Adur Valley in January 1963, this did not signal the start of regular wintering there as had happened several years before in the Arun Valley. The species was not recorded again until the winter of 1970/71 and it was not until 1976/77 that it became anything like a regular visitor (Table 3). In the 1979/80 winter a herd remained in residence for about 12 weeks and numbers peaked at 47, however in subsequent winters the maximum numbers reported were often down to single figures. More recently numbers have increased again and the 1990/91 winter saw peaks of 60 and 84 in January and February.

The considerable variation in numbers, which can occur on a daily basis, suggest that the birds using the Adur Valley may be part of the Arun herd (Newnham, 1988). Certainly this seems highly likely but the counts for both sites have not been co-ordinated sufficiently well to confirm it. In contrast, the daily consistency of counts in the Adur Valley in January and February 1980, 1988 and 1990 does suggest that in some winters, at least, a herd remains loyal to the area for prolonged periods of 8-12 weeks.

In terms of size the Adur Valley does not provide the same scope as the Arun, nevertheless disturbance is less and the birds have usually been reported from two apparently favoured areas, i.e. in the vicinity of Stretham Manor and Wyckham Farm. In recent years birds have been seen with increasing frequency to the north of Henfield near Bines Bridge, Ashurst. This is only 5 km from Knepp Lake and specific counts at the latter site, e.g. 23 on 17 January 1988, have correlated well with the numbers using the Adur Valley, suggesting that this water might now be used as a safe haven/roost by birds from the Adur Valley. The only record for the lower valley is of three birds at Shoreham on 7 January 1979.

Glynde Levels and Ouse Valley

Glynde Levels were used regularly for 18 years following the 1965/66 winter (Table 3). Since 1983/84 records have been scarce and the majority of sightings have come from the main valley of the Ouse. The attraction to Glynde may have been, in part, due to the SOS activities in controlled flooding of the area during the years 1971-1980. Since then the area has become drier and the birds have been attracted more to the Ouse Valley which still has some relatively wet sites plus areas of improved pasture. The birds spend most of their time south of Lewes and north of Southeast, with areas near Iford and Rodmell being particularly favoured. Records north of Lewes have been few but birds have been seen occasionally near Hamsay Place and as far north as Barcombe.

Numbers in these areas have always been small compared with those in the Arun Valley. Prior to 1984/85 counts at Glynde Level of five were typical, 10 or more were unusual and 21 reported in January 1979 were quite exceptional. Numbers in the Ouse Valley in recent years have increased, but remained variable, with peaks of 30 and 27 in January 1985 and February 1991 respectively.

TABLE 3. SEASONAL MAXIMUM COUNTS OF BEWICK'S SWANS AT INLAND AND COASTAL SITES IN SUSSEX (1961/62-1990/91)

Winter	Western Harbours and Chichester GP	Arun Valley	Adur Valley	Glynde Levels and Ouse Valley	Cuckmere Valley	Pevensy Levels	Pett Level and Rye Area
1961/62	9	22	—	—	1	—	—
1962/63	11	17	2	—	—	—	2
1963/64	12	13	—	—	2	—	1
1964/65	3	7	—	—	—	—	—
1965/66	19	10	—	5	—	—	—
1966/67	12	17	—	9	—	10	—
1967/68	4	17	—	2	—	2	2
1968/69	13	10	—	3	—	4	—
1969/70	1	34	—	4	—	8	—
1970/71	—	18	8	3	3	—	—
1971/72	5	48	8	1	—	—	11
1972/73	20	45	4	5	—	—	—
1973/74	4	40	—	3	8	22	—
1974/75	4	54	—	4	4	—	—
1975/76	6	90	—	4	4	—	—
1976/77	12	91	5	1	4	—	31
1977/78	12	105	17	12	4	—	28
1978/79	7	119	10	21	6	27	20
1979/80	2	73	47	—	4	—	—
1980/81	7	62	2	5	—	2	4
1981/82	7	75	5	6	—	—	8
1982/83	—	115	9	4	8	—	—
1983/84	11	74	3	4	—	—	—
1984/85	10	137	—	30	5	14	—
1985/86	—	158	26	5	6	—	3
1986/87	5	145	9	14	—	4	—
1987/88	7	86	24	10	—	—	14
1988/89	2	152	18	4	2	—	—
1989/90	6	83	39	9	2	—	—
1990/91	24	89	84	27	2	—	9

Given the proximity of Barcombe Reservoir it might be expected that the species would be seen there regularly, perhaps using it as a roost. However the only available records are of two there on 2 November 1980 and 18 on 21 January 1979, the latter almost certainly being the same birds which were using Glynde Levels. Sightings of 15 birds over Ringmer and Brighton on 7 and 9 January 1985 were probably part of the substantial flock present in the Ouse Valley at that time.

Eastern River Rother

The southerly arm of the River Rother forms the boundary between Kent and East Sussex and bisects both Wet Level and Wittersham Levels, both of which provide ideal habitat for the species which occasionally has been reported as far west as Northiam. Regrettably this area is poorly documented ornithologically, perhaps because it is a county boundary, and few records reach the SOS. Birds are known to have used both levels since at least the winter of 1965/66 when 14 were present. The published literature for Kent (Taylor *et al.*, 1981) suggests that birds seen in these areas are just a small part of the population which wanders widely over the entire Rother Valley and Walland Marsh in Kent. In 1974/75 the numbers reported were usually between 20-25 but during the winters 1975/76-1979/80 the herd size increased to 50-60.

Inland waters

Reference has already been made to Knepp Lake being used as a refuge or roost for birds using the Arun Valley and the possibility that it has now assumed a similar role for birds using the Adur Valley. It seems likely that the paucity of records for this site is due to the birds leaving early in the morning. Counts have varied considerably but some of the highest have included 23 on 4 January 1965, 45 on 31 January 1972, 24 on 30 December 1972 and 23 on 17 January 1988.

Darwell Reservoir, 14 km from the coast, was a regular site in the 1960s when the species was present in no less than seven winters. Numbers varied from 2-10 and it is particularly interesting that birds often stayed for prolonged periods, e.g. 7 for 68 days in December 1965-February 1966 and 10 for 28 days in January-February 1967. In later years the only records have been of 18-22 birds present for 16 days in January 1973 and 2 which paid a fleeting visit on 15 December 1985.

Elsewhere records of two and five at Weir Wood Reservoir on 17 January 1969 and 31 January 1964 respectively may indicate continued immigration or local movement. The same may be true of two at Stedham Sandpit on 11 January 1987, four at Lurgashall on 31 January 1965 and a juvenile which landed in fog at Warnham Mill Pond on 6 December 1989. Other records at inland waters clearly relate to migratory movements and are described later.

COASTAL SITES

Historically most records have come from the coast and many have been associated with bad weather. During the period under review, the frequency of records has increased but the numbers remaining at the coast have tended to decrease as they have increased inland. The traditional coastal areas for the species have been the western harbours (including Chichester gravel pits), the Cuckmere Valley, Pevensy Levels, Pett Level and Rye Harbour. Seasonal maximum counts for each are given in Table 3; nevertheless at none can the species be regarded as anything other than an occasional visitor. Furthermore, with the exception of the Chichester area, only rarely have birds remained at any site for more than a few days.

Western harbours and Chichester gravel pits

In this area 2-12 birds wintered annually in the 1960s and stayed 14-90 days. Since then 35 birds remained for 21-34 days in 1973/74, January 1985 and January-February 1987. Reports of long-stay birds have usually come from Thorney Island, Chichester gravel pits and the Selsey Peninsula. Other records have clearly been migratory parties or birds wandering from their regular wintering areas.

Cuckmere Valley

Birds have been recorded in the lower Cuckmere Valley in 14 of the last 30 winters but numbers have never reached double figures and none have stayed for more than a few days. Arlington Reservoir is well placed as a potential roosting site for birds using the valley, nevertheless the species has been reported there in only seven winters. Numbers have usually been less than five and 11 on 7-8 March 1971 and 30 on 20-21 January 1984 were exceptional. Family parties of three and four birds stayed for 10 days in January 1971 and 35 days in January-February 1977 respectively.

Pevensy Levels

This area might appear well situated and very suitable for the species, nevertheless records are surprisingly scarce. Parties have made short stays, e.g. 10 in January

1967 for seven days, 20 in January-February 1974 for four days, and 27 in February 1979 for three days; but in January-February 1985 14 were present for 20 days.

Pett Level and Rye Harbour

Most of the records for these areas have involved migratory parties or bad weather movements, with birds never actually landing. Small numbers have been present in 8 winters but there have been three large parties, which have been somewhat exceptional and are considered later. None have remained for more than a few days and it has been assumed that they have been birds wandering locally from the nearby population in Kent. Very occasionally small parties have been reported from the Brede Valley, e.g. seven on 25 February 1979.

Miscellaneous sites

Unusual records on waters near the coast have included four at Piddinghoe which stayed for 19 days in January 1970 and nine there on 1 January 1979; singles at Rottingdean Pond on 12-13 November 1971 and the Crumbles gravel pit on 22 January 1989.

MOVEMENTS

Autumn Arrivals

In the 1960s first arrivals usually occurred during November, and October dates were exceptional. In the 1970s and 1980s the reverse was true with first birds usually arriving during the last week of October. The earliest record for Sussex during the period under review was of seven west over Warmham Mill Pond on 10 October 1970, however it is unlikely that this party landed in Sussex. The same was probably true of 10 west over Slimfold on 29 October 1983. Both parties were almost certainly heading for established sites in Hampshire, Gloucestershire or Somerset.

Sussex may well have been the destination of 26 south-west over Rye on 16 October 1977 but the four earliest dates for birds *in situ* all relate to the Arun Valley, i.e. 15 October 1989, 16 October 1990, 17 October 1982 and 19 October 1981. The latter record, of 30 birds at Amberley, was of particular interest as it was earlier than the first arrivals at the WWT reserves at Welney or Slimbridge. In contrast, the first arrivals in 1967 were in December, when the pattern of sightings was also interesting; the first were four at Weir Wood Reservoir on 1 December (two birds staying until 10 December) followed by five south over Haslemere on 11 December.

With a perspective of 30 years it is clear that first reports are now twice as likely to be inland than at the coast. Most inland reports come from the wet grasslands but a few come from the larger permanent waters. As might be expected coastal sightings have shown a bias to East Sussex, e.g. The Midrips, Rye Harbour, Icklesham and Cuckmere Haven, but in a few years firsts have come from the west, e.g. Worthing and Thorney Island. Very few of the early birds stay at their site of arrival for more than one or two days; this is equally true for coastal and inland sites.

Continuing Immigration

Frequent counts and detailed inspection of family parties in the Arun Valley suggest that it is only in the second half of November that there is convincing evidence of consolidation of the wintering herd. Numbers continue to increase usually reaching a peak in late December or the first half of January.

Visual evidence of this continuing immigration has been relatively sparse but there are a few records at or near the coast, e.g. 14 west over Barcombe Reservoir on 22 November 1988, 13 north-west over Pett Level on 24 November 1965, 20 east-north-east at Pebsham on 20 December 1970 and seven west at Langney Point on 28 December 1975. Inland movements have also been reported, e.g. 25 east-north-east at Ansty on 13 December 1970, two west over Horsham on 2 December 1975, three north at Cuckfield on 1 February 1984, four south-west at Haywards Heath on 28 December 1985 and five north over Bewl Water on 6 January 1985 which were found an hour later at Beech Bough Reservoir in Kent.

Bad weather conditions on the Continent can result in further substantial influxes on a national scale in January and February. One such influx into Sussex, involving 150 birds, occurred in January 1956 and at the time was quite unprecedented. More recently national influxes have occurred in January in 1979, 1983 and 1985 and although no movements were witnessed in Sussex, the numbers in the Arun Valley increased from 56 to 117, 86 to 104 and 83 to 137 respectively. In 1984, three parties totalling 180 birds flew east at Rye on 18 January and 30 appeared at Arlington Reservoir on 20-21 January, whilst numbers in the Arun Valley increased overnight from 35 to 65, but no influx was reported nationally.

Local Movements

In most coastal areas it is now rare for the species to be anything other than a transient visitor, either involving birds which are wandering over a large area or birds without a permanent winter base. Thus records such as 28 and 20 at Rye Harbour on 16 December 1976 and 1 January 1979 respectively may have been either new immigrants or birds wandering from the nearby population on Walland Marsh, Kent. Similarly in the west 16 and 13 at Paghams/Selsey, on 8 January 1966 and 10 February 1991, and 17, 24 and 24 over Chichester gravel pits on 22 January 1969, 20 January 1970, and 8 February 1991 failed to correlate with numbers known to be wintering in these areas and were either new immigrants or more likely wanderers from the Arun Valley or the Hampshire Avon.

Spring Departure

Return movements normally start during March, however the date varies considerably and presumably is controlled by the prevailing weather conditions. Prior to 1972 the birds left the Arun Valley during February on four occasions and once, in 1969, during January. Occasionally departure has been delayed, as in 1972, when 30 were still present at Amberley on 6 April. However stragglers occur later, e.g. 4 in Henfield Brooks on 26 April 1991.

Careful counts and observations on herd composition in the Arun Valley have shown that departure is usually staggered with parties leaving over a period of days, if not weeks. There is also evidence of the early departures being replaced by new arrivals; a party of 54 east over the Downs at Earham at 1800 hrs on 9 March 1985 may well have been newcomers arriving from the west.

Returning migrants take both inland and coastal routes. At the coast, 15 south-east at Sidlesham Ferry on 2 March 1980 and 10 there on 9 March 1985 were certainly on passage, as were 13 east at Jury's Gap and 14 at Scotney gravel pit on 8 March 1987 and 27 east off Worthing on 9 March 1988. An unusual record was of seven resting on the sea off Beachy Head on 5 March 1983. Inland 24 south over Littleworth on 8 March 1977 may have been heading for the coast, but most other inland sightings have been of parties climbing away north-east at dusk, e.g. over West Chiltington on three March dates in 1979, 1982 and 1986. These had probably

originated from the Arun Valley whereas it is likely that 60 north-east high over Blackdown on 11 March 1982 had started out from Hampshire. Other evidence of inland movement has been provided by records from inland waters, e.g. 10 at Barcombe Reservoir on 2 March 1980, four at Weir Wood Reservoir on 30 March 1981, 2 March 1984 and 30 March 1991, 16 arriving at Bewl Water from the south-west on 6 March 1983, five at Chalvington on 3 March 1985 and 41 at Warnham Mill Pond on 16 March 1992.

There are records of a single bird flying over Arundel on 14 April 1985 and 17 May 1987. These are thought to relate to a young bird which was rescued from a ditch at Amberley in April 1985. It was taken to the WWT where it subsequently paired with a captive bird but failed to breed and finally died in 1991.

DISCUSSION

The north-west Europe population of Bewick's Swan has increased remarkably in recent decades and there has been an even sharper increase in the numbers wintering in Britain (Owen *et al.*, 1986). The latter fluctuate considerably from year to year, depending on the weather conditions on the Continent, but the long-term population trend can be illustrated by examining the 5 year mean maximum counts (Kirby, 1991). These are depicted graphically (Fig. 1) together with the 5 year mean Jan. maximum counts for Sussex (excluding birds in the eastern Rother Valley) over the last 30 years. The mean count in Sussex was 30 in the 1960s rising to 125 in the late 1980s and the increase in numbers visiting Sussex reflects the growth that has occurred nationally. Numbers in Britain in January 1989 and January 1990 have been estimated at 9000 and 8400 respectively (Kirby *et al.*, 1991), thus Sussex currently supports 1.4-1.5% of the wintering population.

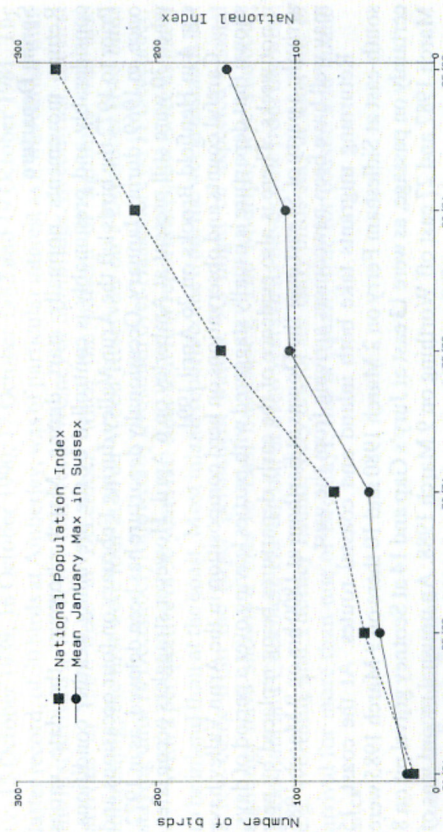


Fig. 1. Five year mean maximum January count of Bewick's Swans in Sussex (1960/61 - 1989/90) compared with National Population Index (1970/71 = 100%).

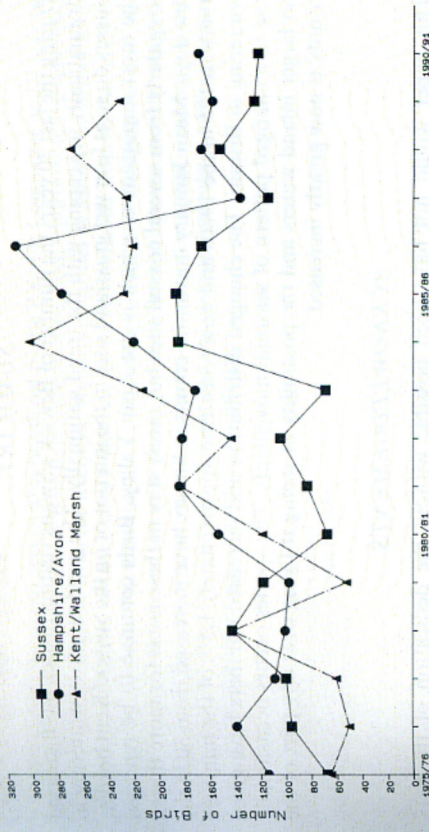


Fig. 2. Seasonal (maximum) counts of Bewick's Swans in Sussex (counts for eastern River Rother included in total for Walland Marsh) compared with counts for River Avon, Hampshire and Walland Marsh, Kent (1975/76 - 1990/91).

It is of interest, and possibly more relevant, to compare the figures for Sussex with those for the nearest herds in neighbouring Hampshire (Avon Valley) and Kent (Walland Marsh). For the most part all three wintering populations have shown similar annual fluctuations albeit sometimes to differing extents (Fig. 2). Combined, the numbers in the three areas provide a useful regional picture, showing increases during the 1970s until the winter of 1979/80, when a substantial fall was recorded. This fall was proportionally greater than might have been expected from the small drop that occurred nationally. Thereafter numbers recovered and have peaked during the winters 1984/85-1986/87, following which there has been a slight decline, which might only prove to be a short term regional phenomenon.

The trend, reported in recent years, for birds to arrive in Sussex earlier in the autumn, i.e. in mid-October, is also in line with observations elsewhere. These early movements are thought to be due to shortages of pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and relative drought conditions in the Lauwersmeer area of the Netherlands (Kirby *et al.*, 1991).

If the world population continues to expand and a large proportion of the increase comes to Britain there is every reason to expect that Sussex will see increased numbers on a regular basis. Assessing the potential of individual sites, now in use, to accommodate extra birds is difficult. Each would appear capable of sustaining larger herds, but human disturbance, whether it be legitimate shooting, dog walking or birdwatching, may be a negative factor. On the positive side the RSPB reserve at Pulborough should provide an increasingly effective refuge for larger numbers and its influence may extend indirectly to areas away from the Arun Valley. Also each of the other grassland areas in the interior have a large permanent water nearby which could provide refuge. Should the inland areas become filled to capacity there seems no reason why some of the coastal sites should not be used again. Historically these were attractive to the species and several have improved since nature conservation interests have been recognised. The potential of Pevensey Levels could be considerable if some wet areas could be re-established and if at least one of these was sufficiently large to provide a safe area for roosting.

SUMMARY

During the last 30 years the number of Bewick's Swans visiting Sussex has increased dramatically in keeping with the trend nationally. The great majority wintering in Sussex do so at four wet grassland sites in the interior or on the Sussex/Kent border, the most important of which is the Arun Valley. Birds continue to be reported irregularly from several coastal sites but rarely stay in these areas for more than a few days. Mean January maximum counts in Sussex have increased from 30 in the 1960s to 125 in the 1980s and now constitute approximately 1.5% of the numbers wintering in Britain. The changed distribution and increased numbers have given rise to a changed pattern of seasonal movements. The species occurs occasionally on larger inland waters and the possibility of seeing it flying over any part of the county is now greatly increased.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This paper would not have been possible without the dedication of the SOS members who submit their records each year and also those who participate in the National Wildfowl Count scheme. I wish to acknowledge Miss Marjorie Jennings, who introduced me to the species in the Arun Valley during the 1962/63 winter and has subsequently encouraged my interest in it. My thanks also go to Mr. A. Dawney for the records from the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Arundel, Alison Hughes for typing the manuscript and Richard Hughes for preparing the figures.

REFERENCES

- des Forges, G. and Harber, D. D. 1963. *A Guide to the Birds of Sussex*. Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh.
- Kirby, J. S. 1991. National Wildfowl Counts Programme 1989/90 published in *Britain's Birds in 1989-90: the conservation and monitoring review*. (Eds. Stroud, D. and Glue, D.) British Trust for Ornithology/Nature Conservancy Council, Theford.
- Kirby, J. S., Ferns, J. R., Waters, R. J. and Prys-Jones, R. P. 1991. *Wildfowl and Wader Counts 1990-91*. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Slimbridge.
- Newnham, J. 1988. *The Birds of Shoreham and surrounding areas including Brighton, Steyning and Worthing*. Shoreham District Ornithological Society.
- Owen, M., Atkinson-Willes, G. L. and Salmon, D. G. 1986. *Wildfowl in Great Britain 2nd ed.* Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.
- Shrubbs, M. 1979. *The Birds of Sussex, their Present Status*. Phillimore, Chichester.
- Taylor, D. W., Davenport, D. L. and Flegg, J. J. M. 1981. *The Birds of Kent — A review of their Status and Distribution*. Kent Ornithological Society.

S. W. M. Hughes, 6 West Way, Slinfold, Horsham, West Sussex.

UNUSUAL RECORDS

All records of unusual species are considered by the Records Committee and it may be assumed that those published have been fully authenticated. Such reports should be submitted on special forms available from the Recorder. Reports of rarities as defined by *British Birds* should be submitted on, or in the same format as, the forms obtainable from the Secretary to the Rarities Committee. The following list, which includes a number of changes from previous years, embodies those unusual species in Sussex for which descriptions are normally required. The Recorder may seek supportive evidence in the case of other species occurring under unusual circumstances. This list is not exclusive and any observer in doubt or needing further advice on any species should send details accordingly.

All divers (except Red- and Black-throated on the coast)
Red-necked and Black-necked Grebes
All shearwaters and petrels (except Fulmar)
Shag (inland records only)
Bittern
Purple Heron
Little Egret
White Stork
Spoonbill
Whooper Swan
Bean and Pink-footed Geese
Black Brant (*Brania bernicla nigricans*)
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)
Red-crested Pochard
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Marsh and Montagu's Harriers
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Osprey
Spotted Crane
Cormorant
Crane
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Dotterel
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Grey and Red-necked Phalaropes
Pomarine Skua (except on spring passage)
Long-tailed Skua
Sabine's, Ring-billed, Iceland and Glaucous Gulls
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Little Auk
Puffin
Bee-eater
Hoopoe
Wryneck
Woodlark and Shore Lark
Richard's, Tawny and Water Pipits
Waxwing
Dipper
Bluethroat
Siberian Stonechat (*Saxicola torquata maurostepheneri*)
Warblers: Cetti's, Savi's, Aquatic, Marsh, Icterine, Melodious, Barred, Pallas's, Yellow-browed
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Golden Oriole
Red-backed, Great Grey and Woodchat Shrikes
Raven
Sparrow
Scarlet Rosefinch
Lapland, Gull and Oortolan Buntings

In addition: all unusual races of Herring Gull (except *L. a. michahellis*), Yellow Wagtail and Rock Pipit.

THE SUSSEX LIST with Euring species codes by *Richard Fairbank*

The Sussex List catalogues all species that have been recorded in the county up to the end of 1991, either in a wild state or as fully established introductions. This gives an official Sussex List of 373 at the end of 1991, all having been accepted, where necessary, by either the British Ornithologists' Union (firsts for Britain), the *British Birds* Rarities Committee (national rarities since 1958), the SOS Records Committee (county scarcities since 1962), or des Forges and Harber (1963) (others before those years).

Published with the *Sussex Bird Report*, No. 44 for 1991.

Note. This list acts as an index to the Systematic List and it is hoped it will encourage the use of Euring code numbers when submitting records. *Ed.*

Euring species code

0002	Red-throated Diver	0153	Bewick's Swan
0003	Black-throated Diver	0154	Whooper Swan
0004	Great Northern Diver	0157	Bean Goose
0007	Little Grebe	0158	Pink-footed Goose
0009	Great Crested Grebe	0159	White-fronted Goose
0010	Red-necked Grebe	0161	Greylag Goose
0011	Slavonian Grebe	0166	Canada Goose
0012	Black-necked Grebe	0167	Barnacle Goose
0014	Black-browed Albatross	0168	Brent Goose
0020	Fulmar	0169	Red-breasted Goose
0036	Cory's Shearwater	0170	Egyptian Goose
0040	Great Shearwater	0171	Ruddy Shelduck
0043	Sooty Shearwater	0173	Shelduck
0046	Manx Shearwater	0178	Mandarin
0046.01	Mediterranean Shearwater	0179	Wigeon
0052	Storm Petrel	0182	Gadwall
0055	Leach's Petrel	0183	Baikal Teal
0071	Gannet	0184	Teal
0072	Cormorant	0186	Mallard
0080	Shag	0189	Pintail
0095	Bittern	0191	Garganey
0096	American Bittern	0192	Blue-winged Teal
0098	Little Bittern	0194	Shoveler
0104	Night Heron	0196	Red-crested Pochard
0108	Squacco Heron	0198	Pochard
0111	Cattle Egret	0200	Ring-necked Duck
0119	Little Egret	0202	Ferruginous Duck
0121	Great White Egret	0203	Tufted Duck
0122	Grey Heron	0204	Scaup
0124	Purple Heron	0206	Eider
0131	Black Stork	0212	Long-tailed Duck
0134	White Stork	0213	Common Scoter
0136	Glossy Ibis	0214	Surf Scoter
0144	Spoonbill	0215	Velvet Scoter
0152	Mute Swan	0218	Goldeneye

0220	Smew	0484	American Golden Plover
0221	Red-breasted Merganser	0485	Golden Plover
0223	Goosander	0486	Grey Plover
0225	Ruddy Duck	0491	Sociable Plover
0231	Honey Buzzard	0493	Lapwing
0238	Black Kite	0496	Knot
0239	Red Kite	0497	Sanderling
0243	White-tailed Eagle	0498	Semipalmated Sandpiper
0260	Marsh Harrier	0501	Little Stint
0261	Hen Harrier	0502	Temminck's Stint
0263	Montagu's Harrier	0504	Least Sandpiper
0267	Goshawk	0505	White-rumped Sandpiper
0269	Sparrowhawk	0506	Baird's Sandpiper
0287	Buzzard	0507	Pectoral Sandpiper
0290	Rough-legged Buzzard	0509	Curlew Sandpiper
0301	Osprey	0510	Purple Sandpiper
0303	Lesser Kestrel	0512	Dunlin
0304	Kestrel	0514	Broad-billed Sandpiper
0307	Red-footed Falcon	0515	Stilt Sandpiper
0309	Merlin	0516	Buff-breasted Sandpiper
0310	Hobby	0517	Ruff
0318	Gyr Falcon	0518	Jack Snipe
0320	Peregrine	0519	Snipe
0332	Black Grouse	0520	Great Snipe
0358	Red-legged Partridge	0527	Long-billed Dowitcher
0367	Grey Partridge	0529	Woodcock
0370	Quail	0532	Black-tailed Godwit
0394	Pheasant	0534	Bar-tailed Godwit
0396	Golden Pheasant	0538	Whimbrel
0407	Water Rail	0541	Curlew
0408	Spotted Crane	0544	Upland Sandpiper
0409	Sora Rail	0545	Spotted Redshank
0410	Little Crane	0546	Redshank
0411	Baillon's Crane	0547	Marsh Sandpiper
0421	Corncrake	0548	Greenshank
0424	Moorhen	0551	Lesser Yellowlegs
0429	Coot	0553	Green Sandpiper
0433	Crane	0554	Wood Sandpiper
0442	Little Bustard	0555	Terek Sandpiper
0446	Great Bustard	0556	Common Sandpiper
0450	Oystercatcher	0557	Spotted Sandpiper
0455	Black-winged Stilt	0561	Turnstone
0456	Avocet	0563	Wilson's Phalarope
0459	Stone Curlew	0564	Red-necked Phalarope
0465	Collared Pratincole	0565	Grey Phalarope
0467	Black-winged Pratincole	0566	Pomarine Skua
0469	Little Ringed Plover	0567	Arctic Skua
0470	Ringed Plover	0568	Long-tailed Skua
0474	Killdeer	0569	Great Skua
0477	Kentish Plover	0573	Great Black-headed Gull
0479	Greater Sand Plover	0575	Mediterranean Gull
0482	Dotterel	0576	Laughing Gull

0577	Franklin's Gull	0831	Kingfisher
0578	Little Gull	0840	Bee-eater
0579	Sabine's Gull	0841	Roller
0581	Bonaparte's Gull	0846	Hoopoe
0582	Black-headed Gull	0848	Wryneck
0585	Slender-billed Gull	0856	Green Woodpecker
0589	Ring-billed Gull	0876	Great Spotted Woodpecker
0590	Common Gull	0887	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker
0591	Lesser Black-backed Gull	0965	White-winged Lark
0592	Herring Gull	0968	Short-toed Lark
0598	Iceland Gull	0972	Crested Lark
0599	Glaucous Gull	0974	Woodlark
0600	Great Black-backed Gull	0976	Skylark
0602	Kittiwake	0978	Shore Lark
0604	Ivory Gull	0981	Sand Martin
0605	Gull-billed Tern	0982	Crag Martin
0606	Caspian Tern	0992	Swallow
0610	Lesser Crested Tern	0995	Red-rumped Swallow
0611	Sandwich Tern	1001	House Martin
0614	Roseate Tern	1002	Richard's Pipit
0615	Common Tern	1004	Blyth's Pipit
0616	Arctic Tern	1005	Tawny Pipit
0623	Sooty Tern	1008	Olive-backed Pipit
0624	Little Tern	1009	Tree Pipit
0626	Whiskered Tern	1011	Meadow Pipit
0627	Black Tern	1012	Red-throated Pipit
0628	White-winged Black Tern	1014	Rock Pipit
0634	Guillemot	1015	Water Pipit
0636	Razorbill	1017	Yellow Wagtail
0638	Black Guillemot	1019	Grey Wagtail
0647	Little Auk	1020	Pied Wagtail
0654	Puffin	1048	Waxwing
0663	Pallas's Sandgrouse	1050	Dipper
0665	feral Rock Dove	1066	Wren
0668	Stock Dove	1084	Dunnoek
0670	Woodpigeon	1094	Alpine Accentor
0684	Collared Dove	1095	Rufous Scrub-Robin
0687	Turtle Dove	1099	Robin
0712	Ring-necked Parakeet	1103	Thrush Nightingale
0716	Great Spotted Cuckoo	1104	Nightingale
0724	Cuckoo	1106	Bluethroat
0728	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1121	Black Redstart
0735	Barn Owl	1122	Redstart
0744	Eagle Owl	1137	Whinchat
0749	Snowy Owl	1139	Stonechat
0757	Little Owl	1146	Wheatear
0761	Tawny Owl	1147	Pied Wheatear
0767	Long-eared Owl	1148	Black-eared Wheatear
0768	Short-eared Owl	1149	Desert Wheatear
0778	Nightjar	1170	White's Thrush
0795	Swift	1186	Ring Ouzel
0798	Alpine Swift	1187	Blackbird

1197	Black-throated Thrush	1486	Treecreeper
1198	Fieldfare	1490	Penduline Tit
1200	Song Thrush	1508	Golden Oriole
1201	Redwing	1514	Isabelline Shrike
1202	Mistle Thrush	1515	Red-backed Shrike
1220	Cetti's Warbler	1519	Lesser Grey Shrike
1236	Grasshopper Warbler	1520	Great Grey Shrike
1238	Savi's Warbler	1523	Woodchat Shrike
1241	Moustached Warbler	1539	Jay
1242	Aquatic Warbler	1549	Magpie
1243	Sedge Warbler	1557	Nutcracker
1250	Marsh Warbler	1559	Chough
1251	Reed Warbler	1560	Jackdaw
1253	Great Reed Warbler	1563	Rook
1259	Icterine Warbler	1567	Carrion Crow
1260	Melodious Warbler	1572	Raven
1262	Dartford Warbler	1582	Starling
1265	Subalpine Warbler	1584	Rose-coloured Starling
1267	Sardinian Warbler	1591	House Sparrow
1273	Barred Warbler	1598	Tree Sparrow
1274	Lesser Whitethroat	1636	Chaffinch
1275	Whitethroat	1638	Brambling
1276	Garden Warbler	1640	Serin
1277	Blackcap	1649	Greenfinch
1293	Greenish Warbler	1653	Goldfinch
1298	Pallas's Leaf Warbler	1654	Siskin
1300	Yellow-browed Warbler	1660	Linnet
1301	Radde's Warbler	1662	Twite
1303	Dusky Warbler	1663	Redpoll
1307	Bonelli's Warbler	1666	Common Crossbill
1308	Wood Warbler	1668	Parrot Crossbill
1311	Chiffchaff	1676	Trumpeter Finch
1312	Willow Warbler	1679	Scarlet Rosefinch
1314	Goldcrest	1710	Bullfinch
1315	Firecrest	1717	Hawfinch
1335	Spotted Flycatcher	1840	White-throated Sparrow
1343	Red-breasted Flycatcher	1847	Lapland Bunting
1349	Pied Flycatcher	1850	Snow Bunting
1364	Bearded Tit	1857	Yellowhammer
1437	Long-tailed Tit	1858	Cirl Bunting
1440	Marsh Tit	1860	Rock Bunting
1442	Willow Tit	1866	Ortolan Bunting
1461	Coal Tit	1873	Rustic Bunting
1462	Blue Tit	1874	Little Bunting
1464	Great Tit	1877	Reed Bunting
1479	Nuthatch	1881	Black-headed Bunting
1482	Wallcreeper	1882	Corn Bunting
		1918	Northern Oriole