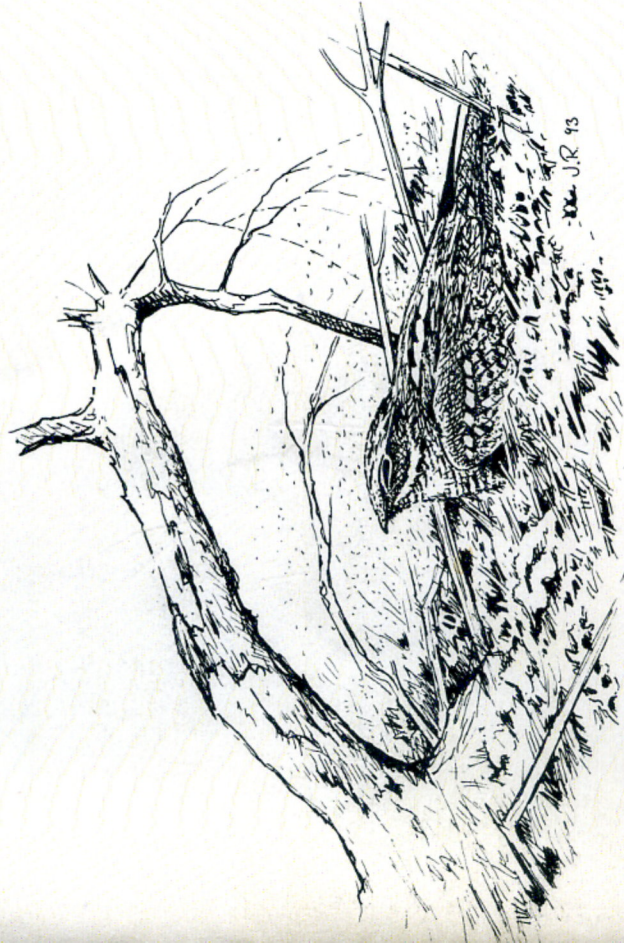


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and text illustrations by John Reaney*

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National Surveys:

BTO Breeding Birds Atlas/Sussex Tetrad Atlas/Avifauna: Fieldwork for these closely related projects commenced in 1988 with the first season of the BTO's new Breeding Birds Atlas survey, and was expanded subsequently to encompass visits to every tetrad (2 x 2 km square) in the county, with the aim of compiling a Sussex Tetrad Atlas of breeding birds as part of a new county Avifauna.

As a result of the efforts of 10 km stewards and helpers, and other members of the Society who have given of their time to input the vast amount of records collected, draft maps have now been produced for:

- (i) Breeding birds in Sussex (from tetrad records 1988-92)
- (ii) Archived records for certain species (1976-87)
- (iii) Wintering birds in Sussex (mainly 1989-92)
- (iv) Some scarce and migratory species

The Society is indebted to all those who have assisted with the project (fieldworkers' names listed below), to Mrs V. P. Bentley and Mr M. Scott-Ham for co-ordinating the surveys in West and East Sussex respectively, and to Dr J. A. Newham for the considerable time and expertise he has brought to computing the data and production of the maps.

Further progress on the Avifauna will be reported in the Society Newsletter as appropriate.

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Apologies for any omissions.

Nighthjar Census: Following the 1991 BTO/RSPB pilot survey, the Society contributed to a full national breeding census in 1992. It was again organised in Sussex by J.M.Halls, Nursery Cottage, 45 Hill Lane, Barnham, Bognor Regis, West Sussex. All contributors are thanked. The results of this survey are presented in a paper on pages 88.

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REVIEW OF 1992

by T. W. Parmenter

Despite ferocious easterly gales in Scotland, the first week of January was mild in the south. During the 8/9th a low moved SE across the country bringing cold northerly easterly winds. From the 11th pressure was generally high over the whole country. As a whole the month was dry and the mean surface pressure was the highest for January this century.

The most notable birds were those remaining from 1991. Two **Snow Buntings** at Littlehampton remained until 28th, 2 at Goring until 8th, a male remaining until 24 February. A **Red-necked Grebe** was present at Chichester GP all month and stayed into March, whilst up to 20 **Slavonian Grebes** were off Church Norton. 15 **Scaup** were on Scotney Court GP on 11th and 18 at Rye Harbour on 18th remained until 21 March. The 2 **Little Egrets** on Thorney Deepes in 1991 remained into 1992, one staying until 11 May. Five **White-fronted Geese** were at Pulborough Brooks on 1st, 4 in the Cuckmere on 9th and 37 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 26th. The **Black Brant** on Thorney Island from 1991 was seen with 4 young on 18th and last seen on 15 February. A second individual was seen on 7th in Thorney Channel. A **Smew** was at Rye Harbour on 23-24th, this area also hosting the highlight of the month, a wintering **Dotterel** from 27th-2 February. The **Glaucous Gull** at Selsey was again present, at least until 2 February and another was at Seaford on 1st and 5th. The **Shore Lark** at Climping first seen in 1991 remained until 23 March. Two **Waxwings** were seen S of Tunbridge Wells on 4th and over-wintering **Black Redstarts** were at Selsey, Seaford and Goring. There was an over-wintering **Great Grey Shrike** in Ashdown Forest and 2 **Twite** at the Cuckmere on 25th.

February was largely settled, mild and dry with a continuing anticyclonic bias. Rain fell on 10-11th with Eastbourne recording 22mm, the heaviest since November. Over England and Wales as a whole the 1991/92 winter was the driest for 28 years, for some areas in southern England it was probably the driest since 1744.

Although predominantly a quiet month for birds there were a few highlights. **Bewick's Swans** peaked at 147 at Pulborough Brooks and 80 were roosting at Rye until at least the 8th. The first **Garganey** was recorded on 29th. On 6th 20 **Long-tailed Duck** were in Emsworth Channel with 14 still there on 24th, 6 remaining until 19 April. A pair of **Smew** were present on Chichester GP on 23rd and a redhead at Rye on 26-27th. **Red-breasted Mergansers** at Goring Gap numbered 40 on 4th and the **Dotterel** re-appeared at Rye on 22nd. On Thorney Island, **Short-eared Owl's** roosting peaked at 15. Two **Firecrests** at Seaford Head on 28th were possibly early migrants. The largest gathering of **Crossbills** for the early part of the year were 24 at Houghton Forest on 16th. Finally, a single **Snow Bunting** was at the Cuckmere on 23rd.

March was mild and changeable with a marked lack of sunshine. Westerly winds prevailed during the first three weeks with northerlies for the last week. From the 2nd high pressure over the continent brought changeable south-westerlies over much of Britain until the 10th when a cold front brought general rain, with gales and heavy rain in the N of the country on 11-12th, followed by heavy snow showers and blizzards in Scotland on 13-14th, although it remained mild in the south. Changeable but mild south-westerlies predominated until 21st and from 22nd a depression moved ESE producing heavy rain from Wales to East Anglia. Cold unsettled weather featured for the rest of the month and a deep low covered southern England on 30-31st.

A **Spoonbill** appeared at Pevensey Bridge Level on 17th, **Bewick's Swans** departed at Pulborough (last seen on 15th), **Garganey** continued to appear with a single at Pulborough Brooks on 3rd and 3 at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 29th. Also on 29th the first significant movement of **Velvet Scoter** occurred with 14 E off Seaford and Selsey. It was also a major day for **Red-breasted Merganser** with 173 E at Worthing and 224 E at Seaford. The first **Little Ringed Plover** appeared with singles at Barcombe Reservoir and Sidlesham Ferry on 21st. **Jack Snipe** numbers reached 14

on Thorney Deep, the first **Arctic** and **Great Skuas** on 29th, the first **Sandwich Tern** on 15th at Hope Gap and a '**Commic Tern**' on 31st. The first **Cuckoo** was at Pagham on 23rd and **Hoopoes** at Poverty Bottom, Newhaven on 23rd (which remained until 28th), Sidlesham on 25th and Selsey Bill on 26th brought hopes of a good spring. The first **Sand Martin** appeared on 6th Pevensey Bridge Levels followed by 6 at Chichester GP on 14th. **Swallows** arrived with 2 at Pagham Harbour on 20th and 12 **House Martins** at Warmingham MP on 18th. Seaford Head produced 8 **White Wagtails** on 17th and 2 **Yellow Wagtails** on 21st. **Black Redstarts** also occurred with 20 between 17-26th all at coastal localities and 2 early **Redstarts**, the earliest ever for the county at Pulborough Brooks on 17th and another single at Hope Gap on 21st. **Wheatears** also featured with 2 at Littlehampton on 1st followed by odd sightings until the 17th when 89 were reported from various localities. A real surprise was a **Pallas's Warbler** at Aldwick, Bognor Regis from at least 14-23rd. **Chiffchaffs** appeared with numbers building up from mid-month and a **Willow Warbler** on 7th was the county's earliest record, with another 9 being reported during the month.

April continued with unsettled weather and heavy rain. A cold start to the month was followed by a brief spell of warm sunny weather until the 11th. A vigorous depression moved E across Britain on 14th bringing heavy rain and was followed by warmer weather over Easter. A deep Atlantic depression produced south-westerlies from 23-27th and a secondary depression moving along the English Channel on 28th brought more rain. Further Atlantic fronts brought rain to the whole country on 30th.

A summer-plumaged **Red-necked Grebe** was off Selsey Bill on 2nd and single **Black-necked Grebes** off Bulverhythe on 5th and Selsey on 15th. Sea-watching produced 17 **Manx Shearwaters** off Selsey Bill on 14th and a single on 30th. The county's earliest **Night Heron** was recorded at Pulborough Brooks on 8th but unfortunately it didn't stay. Spring passage of **Common Scoter** peaked on 7th with 1664 past Seaford. Also at Seaford, **Velvet Scoter** numbered 25 on 7th and 76 on 21st. A migrant **Buzzard** was flushed at Selsey Bill on 10th and the first **Marsh Harrier** on 20th at Southwick Hill. Very early **Ospreys** were seen at Bewl Water on 2-4th and another over Seaford Beach also on 2nd. A **Hobby** at Selsey Bill on 21st heralded a good passage of these lovely falcons with a further 44 noted during the spring. 30 **Avocets** flew past Selsey Bill on 20th and 14 **Dotterel** were at Kingston on 29th. The first **Pomarine Skua** was seen at Seaford on 22nd and between 24-26th 84 **Arctic Skuas** also passed this sea-watching site. **Iceland Gulls** appeared at Selsey Bill on 19th and Newhaven on 22nd, the latter site also producing a **Glaucous Gull** on 27th. **Little Terns** first appeared on 12th, the largest movement being 41 at Selsey Bill on 21st when 2 **Black Terns** were also recorded there. **Turtle Doves** put in another poor spring with no obvious passage; 3 at Seaford Head on 19th were the first at the end of the month from a wide selection of localities. A single Wryneck was seen on 20th at Seaford Head where the first **Nightingale** appeared on 11th. **Grasshopper Warblers** appeared from 20th, **Sedge Warblers** from 8th and **Reed Warblers** from 23rd. Continuing with the warblers, **Lesser Whitethroat** was recorded from 11th. **Whitethroat** from 9th, **Garden Warbler** 11th and **Wood Warbler** from 21st. **Serins** were present at Selsey Bill on 21-24th.

May started with a week of westerly winds and heavy rain falling on the night of the 1st. The month was generally sunny and warm, in fact the warmest May of the century over most of Britain, with Littlehampton recording over 300 hours of sunshine.

A **Honey Buzzard** drifted over Goodwood on 14th and a **Red Kite** was seen over Angmering Park Estate and West Worthing on 25th. Bewl Water recorded a **Black-winged Stilt** on 19th. Kingston continued its run on **Dotterel** with 8 on 3-4th and Pevensey Bridge Levels held a **Temminck's Stint** on 13th. The best wader of the spring, if not the year, was a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Sidlesham Ferry from 21-23rd. On 14th, 2 **Roseate Terns** were on Pilsey Sands and even more rewarding on adult summer-plumaged **White-winged Black Tern** there on 14-15th and 22 **Black Terns** there on 19th. The first **Nightjars** appeared on 9th at Parham Park and

Wiggonholt Common. A **Bee-eater** flew E over Beachy Head on 22nd and a **Hoopoe** was on Thorney on 17th. At Church Norton a **Red-rumped Swallow** on the evening of the 3rd unfortunately did not appear the next day. A **Tawny Pipit**, a rarity in spring, was recorded at Littlehampton GC on 14th. Another spring rarity, especially inland, was an **Icterine Warbler** at Steyning on 21st. A male **Golden Oriole** at Selsey Bill on 26th and also here more **Serins** were recorded with up to 3 during the month.

June, the warmest overall since 1976, started with thundery depressions bringing heavy rain to much of the country. Rain mixed with sunshine prevailed for the first half of the month. On 19th a vigorous low touched SE England producing heavy rain and hail in some places. Warm sunny weather returned for the rest of the month, the SE being especially warm and humid.

A **Manx Shearwater** was observed off Worthing on 20th and a **Honey Buzzard** passed over Rye on 3rd. An extraordinary influx of **Red-footed Falcons** occurred in the country and just touched Sussex. At Pett Level a female was observed on 5th, whilst Powdermill Reservoir was home to 2 males and a female on 9th. Adult **Roseate Terns** appeared briefly at Rye on 5th and 9th. Late arriving **Redstarts** appeared at Pett and Fairlight on 19th. On the down side, only 16 **Grasshopper Warblers** had been recorded by the end of the June in the whole county and none confirmed to be breeding. On the brighter side, a **Savi's Warbler** was trapped at Icklesham on 15th. Also on the bright side, 2 more **Golden Orioles** were reported, a male at Pett Level on 4th and another male at Church Norton on 10th. Beachy Head recorded a **Serin** on 7th and finally there was a female **Scarlet Rosefinch** at Climping on 14th.

During a cloudy and wet July mean monthly pressure was abnormally low in the mid-Atlantic and consequently south-westerly winds predominated. At the beginning of the month a thundery low lay across SE England. During the second week a cold front moved SE across the country bringing unsettled weather and westerlies. On 20th the day started with high humidity before heavy rain and thunderstorms with subsequent flooding in some areas. Fine warm weather returned to the country for the next five days and during the latter part of the month a high built over the UK. Rainfall in the SE for the month was 180-200% above average.

July is usually a quiet month and this was no exception. **Little Egrets** re-appeared however and thus began an unprecedented series of records for this species. The first was seen at Thorney Deep on 10th and numbers slowly grew to 5 by 23rd. The records then continued into August. On 9th, 3 **Spoonbills** were at Church Norton. Rye proved breeding for the first time in the reserve of Gadwall, 5 chicks being seen on 5th. An **Osprey** was observed at Weir Wood Reservoir on 10-14th. The first returning **Curlew Sandpiper** was noted at Pett Pools on 8th and also a very early **Purple Sandpiper** was at Newhaven on 15th. Large flocks of returning **Black and Bar-tailed Godwits** were being recorded by the end of the month. Still with the waders, a **Marsh Sandpiper** was present at Icklesham, then Rye on 4th, only our 2nd July record and the 8th overall. **Wood** and **Common Sandpipers** were also widely reported. The first autumn migrant **Grasshopper Warblers** were very early with 2 at Beachy Head on 25th. Icklesham trapped 2 **Marsh Warblers**, one on 26th and another on 29th. **Reed** and **Sedge Warblers** were also on the move from mid-month.

August started warm, at least in the SE, but with heavy rain in the N and W. On 7th a low over France moved N producing heavy rain. From 11-13th a deep depression crossed Scotland and it was cool in the SE with very heavy rain on 13th. After a brief warm spell rain again returned. A deep depression off the W of Scotland on 22nd brought unsettled weather, and yet another very deep depression across Ireland and Scotland on the Bank Holiday weekend made it seem like late autumn already. It was generally the dullest, coolest and wettest August for a long time.

However there were birds; the **Little Egret** numbers at Thorney Deep built up to 12 on 29th and there were at least another 5 in the county, many staying until December. A returning **Honey Buzzard** was seen at Newhaven on 20th, **Marsh Harriers** from the 1st and at least 4 **Ospreys** during the month. **Spotted Crakes** were trapped at Icklesham on 16th and 20th (4 were to be recorded here in all) and an adult

female **Baillon's Crake** on 11th (6th county record). Sidlesham Ferry hosted a **Red-necked Phalarope** from 26th-3 September. 3 **Pomarine Skuas** were seen, a single on 16th and 2 on 21st. Strong southerly winds blew an immature **Sabine's Gull** inland to Arlington Reservoir on 30-31st. An adult **White-winged Black Tern**, almost in full summer-plumage, was seen at Pett Pools on 26th, moving to Rye from 28th-4 September. An **Alpine Swift** briefly graced Beachy Head on 18th. **Wrynecks** were seen at Climping on 15-17th and Hurstpierpoint on 26th. Icklesham began a remarkable run of **Aquatic Warblers** with singles on 5th and 10th, 2 on 15th, 2 on 16th, another 2 on 19th and another single on 26th, a total of 9. An **Icterine Warbler** was at Seaford Head on 29th. Also on 29th there were large numbers of **Lesser Whitethroat** (100), **Whitethroat** (500) and **Blackcap** (350) at Beachy Head. **Red-backed Shrikes** showed well, an immature at Seaford Head on 21st, an adult male at Hastings on 22nd and another immature at Hillbarn GC on 25th. At Seaford Head 8 **Crossbills** flew over on 29th.

The predominantly westerly winds continued until mid-September. Cool unsettled wet and windy weather prevailed over the country until the 9th, then the wind went southerly on 10th with a cold front moving in on 11th. The 12th saw a waterspout off Plymouth. An anticyclone developed over the country on 16th, but thereafter thundery showers and violent storms crossed the country, hailstones killing hundreds of birds at Foulness on 18th. From 21st heavy rain caused flooding in many areas but after 25th it was fairly warm and sunny in the SE.

A total of 7 **Manx Shearwaters** were seen at 3 localities on 6th, a **Mediterranean Shearwater** off Selsey Bill on 14th and a **Leach's Petrel** 6 miles S of Brighton Marina on 13th. Another **Spoonbill** appeared at Pagham on 15th, a **Honey Buzzard** over Littlehampton on 26th and at least 5 **Ospreys** at various localities. A further **Spotted Crane** was trapped at Icklesham on 11th, a **Pectoral Sandpiper** at Rye Harbour from 15-24th and another **Red-necked Phalarope** was photographed near Glynde on 1-2nd. Passage of **Arctic Skuas** was high especially on 6th with 78 past Selsey Bill in strong SW winds. These conditions also produced an astonishing 1800 **Black Terns** at Langney Point, all moving W, the highest day total recorded in Sussex. It was a good month for **Wrynecks** too, with 9 reported from 5 localities. **Tawny Pipits** also showed well with 8 records, the best year since 1987. **Ring Ouzels** and **Fieldfares** began coming through from 19th. The 10th **Aquatic Warbler** for the autumn was at Thorney Island on 20-22nd, a **Melodious Warbler** at Beachy Head on 5-6th, a **Barred Warbler** at Littlehampton GC from 22-27th and a **Radde's Warbler** trapped at Icklesham on 30th (3rd county record). **Firecrests** appeared, 9 recorded for the month, a further 2 **Red-backed Shrikes**, at Atherington and Littlehampton brought the autumn total to 5.

After a complex low system moved S across the UK a large blocking high was W of Scotland until mid-October, both these systems causing cold N-NE airstreams. On 15th a depression moved S into the North Sea introducing cold Arctic air to the whole of the country. From 18-28th it remained cold with heavy rain falls, thunderstorms, hail and sleet. The month ended with cold sunny weather with frost and fog. The coldest October overall since 1974.

October is often the most interesting month of the year, at least with regard to scarce/rare species and this year was no exception. **Bewick's Swans** returned on 20th with 7 at Pulborough Brooks, the first **White-fronted Geese** at Rye with 3 on 17th and a large passage of **Brent Geese** occurred on 4th with 914 W at Selsey Bill. A **Black Brant** returned to Thorney on 11th and stayed until the year's end. A **Honey Buzzard** flew over Burgess Hill on 17th, **Ospreys** were recorded from Pagham on 2nd, Arlington Reservoir 3rd and Bewl Water 23rd, whilst the last **Hobby** of the autumn was noted at Beachy Head on 3rd. Icklesham trapped their 4th **Spotted Crane** on 1st, a late **Stone Curlew** was at Selsey West Fields on 9th, a juvenile **Pectoral Sandpiper**, the second for the autumn, at Horse Eye Level on 16th and a **Grey Phalarope** near Elmer on 26-27th. A **Hoopoe** was at Telscombe on 31st. Icklesham continued to provide its share of rarities with a Bluethroat on 18th which remained until 30th. But the star of the autumn was a **Paddyfield Warbler** trapped there on

13th and 18th, the first county record. Not content with this they also trapped a **Yellow-browed Warbler** on 16th, Beachy Head, not to be outdone also had a **Yellow-browed** on 16th which remained until 18th, another individual on 17th and yet another on 27-28th where it was joined by a **Pallas's Warbler**. Another **Yellow-browed** was at Balsdean on 19-20th. The county's 3rd record of **Dusky Warbler** came from Combe Haven on 26th. Reports of **Great Grey Shrikes** came from 4 localities and a **Snow Bunting** was seen at Steyning Round Hill on 31st.

In November a deep depression crossed over Scotland on 2nd after which a high over France brought warm south-westerlies. Between the 10-20th cold unsettled weather with heavy rain prevailed. During the latter 10 days the weather was very disturbed, largely mild over the country but strong winds and heavy rain. Over England and Wales the wettest November since 1984 but the mildest over most of England since 1986.

After such a good October, November was something of a disappointment although a **Sooty Shearwater** off Selsey Bill on 1st and a **Leach's Petrel** off Rockanore, Hastings on 9th was a good start. A **Red-crested Pochard** of unknown origin (aren't they all) was at Rye from 14 Nov-20 Dec. A late **Hoopoe** appeared in a garden at Nutley on 7th, a **Woodlark** at Selsey on 17th and a **Ring Ouzel** at Bewl Water on 1st. A **Great Grey Shrike** found at Amberley Wild Brooks on 6th stayed until the year's end but could be very elusive. Two **Snow Buntings** appeared at Beachy Head on 15th.

December continued with the unsettled westerly trend in the weather. Flooding in Wales, the West Country, West Midlands and the Thames Valley continued during the first week and heavy snow fell in E. Scotland during 15/16th. After the 18th a belt of high pressure established itself and the rest of the month was generally dry and cold.

A quiet month, the cold weather in the latter half producing 4 **Pink-footed Geese** at Pett Level from 21-30th. **White-fronted Geese** also moved with 110 over Burgess Hill on 15th and further small movements at three localities on 26 and 29th. A **Long-tailed Duck** appeared in Emsworth Channel on 13th and 5 **Velvet Scoter** were off Pett Beach on 26th. An adult **Iceland Gull** was found on the River Adur on 21st. A late **Ring Ouzel** was at Wilmington on 26th. Four **Firecrests** were noted during the month and the last **Snow Buntings** appeared, a single at Littlehampton West Beach on 10-11th, another single on the Crumbles on 17th and 2 males at Camber on 29th.

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1992

by T. W. Parmenter

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).

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 18 Jan., 22 Feb., 21 Mar., 12 Sept., 10 Oct., 14 Nov., and 12 Dec. 1992 and 9 Jan., 6 Feb., and 6 Mar. 1993. The 'Wildfowl Counts' were made on 12 Jan., 16 Feb., 15 Mar., 13 Sept., 18 Oct., 15 Nov. and 13 Dec. 1992 and 17 Jan., 14 Feb., and 14 Mar. 1993.

ESCAPES AND FERAL BIRDS. As in recent 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 page 82.

0002. RED-THROATED DIVER (*Gavia stellata*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

An exceptional year apart from an unusual early autumn record. The approximate monthly totals (but see also Diver sp.) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
210	59	34	60	57	-	-	4	3	7	149	137

The Jan. total included 89 E and 12 W at Newhaven West Pier where a flock of 35 E was recorded on 25 Jan. Elsewhere the only notable gathering was of 32 off Rye Hbr on 4th. Inland 1 was recorded at Darwell Res. on 12th and an oiled bird was at Bewl Water from 16-19 Jan. Feb. records were widely scattered and included 4 inland; 1 at Scotney Court GP on 7th, an oiled bird at Pond Lye, Goddards Green on 9th, 1 at Piddinghoe Pond on 10th and 1 at Willingdon Level Lake, Eastbourne on 23rd. Records for Mar-May were mostly of birds passing up-channel at the main seawatching localities with only the occasional single noted elsewhere.

Unusually 4 flew E at Climping on 10 Aug., the first record for this month since 1 off Selsey Bill on 1 Aug. 1982 (*SxBR* 35: 5).

The first returning bird was on the typical date of 13 Sept. at Worthing. Thereafter records were again widely scattered but in small numbers apart from at Worthing where 44 E and 16 W were recorded and at Selsey Bill where there were 66 E and 129 W. The peak was at Selsey Bill where 85 flew W in 6 hrs on 24 Nov. The only inland record was of 2 at Scotney Court GP on 30 Dec.

0003. BLACK-THROATED DIVER (*G. arctica*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

An unexceptional year but with more being identified on spring seawatches than usual. The approximate monthly totals (but see also Diver sp.) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
8	3	9	79	50	-	-	-	-	2	11	8

Records for Jan-Mar. included 1 in Emsworth Channel on 4 and 8 Jan. which may have been the bird seen in Lower Chichester and Bosham Channels later in the month. Another single was present between Brighton Marina and Shoreham from 14 Jan-20 Feb. Elsewhere all records were of coastal singles with the exception of 5 E at Seaford on 29 Mar. Apart from a single in Pagham Hbr on 8 Apr., all spring records were of birds passing E at the main seawatching localities as follows: Selsey Bill 28, Worthing 8, Newhaven 24, Seaford 46 and Beachy Head 22. Some duplication is likely.

The first returning bird was off Selsey Bill on 14 Oct. with another there on 28th probably moving to Church Norton the next day. In Nov-Dec. all records were of singles on the coast apart from 7 off Hastings on 9 Nov. and 3 E at Seaford on 27 Dec.

0004. GREAT NORTHERN DIVER (*G. immer*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

1991: One on the sea off Selsey Bill on 23 Oct. (CMJPI).

1992: One flew E off Newhaven Hbr on 29 Mar. (RAIDIS). In Apr. a summer-plumaged bird off Selsey Bill on 5th (CRJ) was possibly that seen flying E there on 7th (RP). In May another summer-plumaged bird flew E past Worthing on 17th (PMB).

Observers are reminded of the need to supply a description for this species.

DIVER SPECIES (*Gavia* sp.).

Totals of birds passing up-channel at the main seawatching sites were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched	<i>G. stellata</i>	<i>G. arctica</i>	<i>G. immer</i>	<i>G. sp.</i>
Selsey Bill	577	72	29	2	350
Worthing	213	28	8	1	204
Newhaven	144	135	25	-	212
Seaford	445	40	51	-	1280

Analysis of the above records reveals the following monthly distribution:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	68	24	49	119	90	350
Worthing	-	20	102	47	35	204
Newhaven	102	15	9	65	21	212
Seaford	348	162	355	300	115	1280

The total of 1280 E at Seaford is the largest number recorded from one seawatching site in Sussex eclipsing last year's record of 844 E at the same site. This seemingly large figure can be put into context by seawatching totals from Estonia where there were 62,600 between 3-23 May 1992 including an incredible 12,844 on 20 May (*Birding World* 5: 176).

From Oct-Dec. there were 72 E and 308 W at Selsey Bill, with a peak of 127 W in 2.5 hrs on 19 Dec., 52 E and 29 W at Worthing and 403 E at Seaford. Away from the main seawatching localities the only notable record was of 100 E and 4 W at Langney Point on 28 Dec.

0007. LITTLE GREBE (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*). Regular winter visitor and breeding summer visitor.

No systematic counts were received other than from Rye Hbr where maximum

counts at the beginning of the year were Jan. 4, Feb. 3 and Mar. 6. Elsewhere between Jan-Mar. 46 were recorded from 10 coastal sites and 20 from 8 inland sites. A further 7 birds were still in Bosham Channel on 8 Apr.

Under-recorded during the breeding season with only 14-15 pairs noted from 9 sites. The approximate number of pairs is shown with the maximum number of young in brackets: Rye Hbr 5-6 (6-8), Chichester GP 2 (1), Redford Pond 1 (2), Cophorne Common 1 (1), Graveyey 1 (2), Icklesham 1 (2), Dunford GP 1 (3), Weir Wood Res. 1 and Parham 1.

In the latter part of the year 124 were noted at 10 coastal sites and 33 at 10 inland sites, including 32 in Chichester Hbr on 30 Oct. and 33 at Northpoint GP on 30 Dec.

0009. GREAT CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*). Regular winter visitor and breeding summer visitor.

The monthly maxima at the principal wintering sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Pagham Hbr	2	-	-	28	48	7	-
Weir Wood Res.	52	-	153	80	106	112	71
Bewl Water	52	43	56	78	39	33	56
Darwell Res.	28	25	26	35	61	61	20

No systematic counts were received from Chichester Hbr, Chichester GP or Ardingly Res. In addition to the above figures, large numbers were recorded off Pett Level where there were 305 on 23 Jan. and 330 on 19 Feb. Records from the coast in May included 7 off Selsey Bill on 17th and a total of 7 E at Worthing during the month.

Very few records were received during the breeding season. The approximate number of pairs is shown with the maximum number of young in brackets: Weir Wood Res. 10 (5 broods), Warnham MP 2 (3), Lurgashall 1-2 (1), Burton MP 1 (3), Chichester GP 1 (3), Pett Pools 1 (1), Ifield 2 (3), Crumbles GP 1 (3) and Pond Lye 1 (1). Pairs were also noted at Tilgate Park, Petworth Park, Wakehurst Place and Balcombe but the breeding success at these sites is unknown.

Post-breeding dispersal was evident at Church Norton with 8 on 24 Aug. and at Arlington Res. with 43 on 30 Aug. Thereafter the maximum counts away from the main reservoirs were Pagham Hbr 48 on 29 Oct., Pett Level 60 on 30 Dec. and Goring Gap 25 on 31 Dec.

0010. RED-NECKED GREBE (*P. griseus*). Regular winter visitor.

1991: One in Chichester Hbr from 1-20 Jan. (CBC,MAC) and 2 at the same location on 24 Dec. (CBC). These records took the year's total to 8.
1992: In the early part of the year 1 was present at Chichester GP between 1 Jan-Mar. (PJW *et al.*), 1 was at Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton between 11-18 Mar. (ACH,SJP) and a summer-plumaged bird was off Selsey Bill on 2 Apr. (TJE).

In Oct. 3 or 4 singles were reported: in the lower Cuckmere Valley on 17th (NJT,PJW), off Selsey Bill on 22nd (TJE,CRJ), possibly the same off Church Norton on 26th (DS) and off Beachy Head on 31st (DC,JFC,RJF). In Nov. 1 commuted between Church Norton and Selsey Bill between 11-29th (TJE *et al.*) and 1 was off Worthing on 24th (PMB). The only record for Dec. was at East Head, West Wittering on 20th (BDJ,JP).

0011. SLAVONIAN GREBE (*P. auritus*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

An unexceptional year. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
26	21	8	16	1	3	13	20	25

In Jan. up to 20 were recorded at Church Norton on various dates and 3 were off Widewater, Lancing on 14th. Elsewhere, singles were noted at Pilsey Island on 4th.

Littlehampton on 11th and Goring on 31st. In Feb. 1 was recorded inland at Arlington Res. on 5th whilst 9 off Selsey Bill on 6th had probably come from Church Norton where up to 20 remained throughout. Numbers at Church Norton fell however to 8 on 8 Mar. Spring passage was recorded at Seaford with 2 on 31st continuing in Apr. when 11 summer-plumaged birds at Seaford were also seen off Birling Gap later the same day. Also on 20th, 2 were recorded off Jury's Gap. The last bird of the spring was seen at Church Norton on 10 May.

The first returning birds were 3 at Church Norton on 27 Sept., thereafter numbers remained low there, illustrated by counts of 11 on 29 Oct., 14 on 15 Nov. and only 4 on 21 Dec., although 12 at Selsey Bill on 11 Dec. was probably a more accurate count. Elsewhere, singles were recorded at a number of sites notably Arlington Res. on 15 Nov., Cuckmere Haven on 17 Dec. and Bewl Water between 21-31 Dec. Also in Dec. up to 10 remained around Thorney Island.

0012. BLACK-NECKED GREBE (*P. nigrocollis*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

1991: One in summer-plumage off Worthing on 6 June (JAN) took the year's acceptable records to 3.

1992: Another poor year with only 3-4 recorded. A single was at Bulverhythe on 5 Apr. (BDJ,PJ), 1 off Selsey Bill on 15 Apr. (TJE) and 1 at Rye Hbr from 27 Aug-3 Sept. which may have been the bird seen there on 4 dates in Dec.

0020. FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*). Breeds, resident Dec-Sept. and passage migrant.

The usual movements of uncertain significance were recorded at the main seawatching localities, away from the nesting areas, as follows:

Direction of movement	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		Aug-Oct.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	-	-	139	670	5	41
Worthing	2	-	126	136	11	41

The peak movement was 80 W in 11 hrs at Selsey Bill on 13 Apr.

Counts for the breeding season included 58 occupied sites on the cliffs between Hastings and Pett and 26 sites at Newhaven. Successful nesting was recorded at the latter site where 7 chicks were counted on 15 Aug. The last birds were noted at Hope Gap on 13 Sept., where 54 were present on 28 Nov., the same date as the first returning birds were recorded at Newhaven.

A total of 6 passed Hastings in strong S winds on 9 Nov.

A dark morph bird was present at Newhaven Cliffs on 6-7 May (EDU).

0043. SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*). Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce/rare summer visitor.

One flew E at Selsey Bill on 1 Nov. (OM,RP *et al.*).

0046. MANX SHEARWATER (*P. puffinus*). Regular/scarce passage migrant and scarce summer visitor.

1991: 2 E at Newhaven on 21 May should have read 2 E on 21 May 1989.

1992: A good year, records for which acceptable supporting details were supplied were as follows: 17 off Selsey Bill on 14 Apr. comprising 6 singles, 2, 4 and 5 together (TJE), another single at Selsey Bill on 30 Apr. (TJE) and a single at Worthing on 20 June (JAN). In the autumn on 6 Sept. 4 were seen at Birling Gap at midday (mo), 2 at Langney Point (PJ,BDJ) and a single at Worthing in the evening (DIS). Also in Sept. a single at Birling Gap on 11th (PJW) and finally 4 at Selsey Bill on 24th (TJE).

0046.01. **MEDITERRANEAN SHEARWATER** (*P. yelkouan*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant.**

A single was observed off Selsey Bill on 14 Sept. (TJE).

0055. **LEACH'S PETREL** (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). **Scarce/rare autumn passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

Two records: a single 6 miles S of Brighton Marina on 13 Sept. (NJT) and another single at Rockanore, Hastings on 9 Nov. (DPB).

0071. **GANNET** (*Sula bassana*). **Common spring to autumn visitor offshore and scarcer but increasingly numerous in winter.**

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	5	64	405	719	16	57	52	338	8	330
Worthing	-	-	195	122	-	-	-	174	-	28
Newhaven	5	5	268	100	-	-	-	-	-	-
Seaford	87	-	708	125	-	-	-	-	-	81*

* direction not specified

Additionally, there were 100 off Pett on 5 June.

The peak movements recorded in the first half of the year were 64 W in 3 hrs at Selsey Bill on 1 Jan. and 66 E at Worthing on 30 Mar. In autumn, a number of large W movements at Selsey included 63 on 10 Aug., 72 on 6 Sept., 80 on 1 Nov. and 121 on 9 Nov.

0072. **CORMORANT** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). **Regular breeding summer visitor, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The monthly maxima at some principal inland sites were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Bewl Water	50	25	24	54	41	50	47
Darwell Res	6	37	30	1	-	-	5
Weir Wood Res	-	61	7	20	30	-	-

In addition to the above counts 222 were at Chichester GP on 12 Jan., 216 at Arundel WWT on 23 Jan. and 307 at South Stoke on 26 Jan. Counts at Bognor Regis reached 195 by 13 Feb. Also in Feb. up to 20 were on a pylon roost at Lewes Brooks and 80 on powerlines at Henfield Levels on 29 Feb. In Mar. also on pylons, 6 at Manxey Levels on 28th and 39 at Steyning on 10 Apr.

In the breeding season adults were seen displaying at Rye Hbr but no indication of serious nesting attempts. However at Fairlight 28 nests were counted on 7 June, mostly with chicks.

Simultaneous counts carried out at South Stoke and Chichester GP in the latter part of the year produced:

	South Stoke	Chichester GP	Total
1992			
12 Sept.	45	197	220
10 Oct.	166	64	230
14 Nov.	58	225	283
12 Dec.	60	147	207
1993			
9 Jan.	83	170	253
6 Feb.	119	72	191
6 Mar.	99	103	202

Counts at Wyckham Farm, Steyning rose from 52 on 7 Aug. to 68 on 21 Aug.

135 on 23 Sept. and 165 on 13 Oct. A roost on the West Pier, Brighton reached 20 on 1 Dec. and 37 were in a tree roost at Ardingly Res. on 27 Dec.

0080. **SHAG** (*P. aristotelis*). **Winter visitor and passage migrant and occasional in summer.**

The poorest year since 1990 with very few recorded in the first half of the year. The approximate monthly totals (allowing for overlap between adjacent localities) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	1	1	1	2	10	11	8	7	12

The largest numbers recorded were at Selsey Bill, where up to 7 were offshore during Sept., and at Brighton, where up to 7 immatures roosted in the inner basin of the Marina throughout Dec. The only inland record was of a single at Weir Wood Res. for several days from 26 Sept. (BMIM).

0104. **NIGHT HERON** (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). **Scarce/rare spring and autumn passage migrant, and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

An adult at Pulborough Brooks on 8 Apr. (DC.JMP.JR) has been accepted by *British Birds*. Although 14 of the 21 recorded have been in spring, including all those since 1975, this is the earliest by 7 days.



0119. **LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*). **Scarce/rare spring passage migrant and summer visitor, scarce/rare autumn passage migrant and winter visitor.**

This was an unprecedented year for the species, especially in the autumn, most records emanating from the Chichester Hbr area. It is extremely difficult to produce an accurate account of exactly how many individuals were involved due to the fact that some individuals were highly mobile and also to the fact that they were so common many observations were not supplied and many were not authenticated.

The 2 individuals on Thorney Deepes at the end of 1991 remained into 1992, 1 remaining in the general area until 11 May (mo). A single was seen at New Salts Farm, Shoreham on 28 Apr. (KN). Also on 28th 2 were observed at Pagham Hbr (TJE). On 21 May 1 flew E off Worthing (CEH.RJSa) and later in the day it, or another individual was at Cuckmere Haven (MKi). A single was again seen in the Cuckmere Valley from 20-22 June (mo) and another at Icklesham on 21 June (RBRG).

An individual returned to Thorney Deepes on 10 July (CBC) and numbers there and in the harbour area grew with 2 on 11th, 3 by 16 July (mo) and 5 on 23rd. By 6 Aug. the number had risen to 9, 10 were seen on 15th and 12 on 29 Aug. These birds were widely reported in varying numbers in the Chichester Hbr area throughout the

rest of the year until 31 Dec. when 11 were seen going to roost at Thorney Deep (CBC). Also in the Chichester area, a single at Chichester GP from 8-12 Aug. (BFF,ARK). Elsewhere Bewl Water hosted a single from 25 July-4 Sept. (PCB,KGBH, Mrs KGBH). One returned to the Cuckmere in July, if it ever left, and birds there were widely reported intermittently on many dates up until 17 Dec. including 3 from 22-29 Aug. (mo) and 4 on 13 Sept. At Icklesham a single was observed from 6-31 Aug. (RBRG). One was observed at Climping on 14 Oct. (ASC). At Pagham Hbr a single on 27 July (ACH,RJLK) was reported intermittently until 24 Aug. and 2 there from 18 Nov-9 Dec. with a single individual remaining until 14 Dec.

0122. **HERON** (*Ardea cinerea*). **Breeds, widespread throughout the year.**

All known heronries were counted and nests certainly and probably occupied totalled 186 (200 in 1991). The counts were as follows: Fishbourne 20 (JKC), Pagham 8 (ABW), Flansham formerly Yapton 16 (RK), Parham 17 (AD), Henfield 16 (ABW), Firlie 15 (ABW), Knepp 10 (AS,IMS), Eridge 11 (MS-H), Glynlleigh 8 (PIL), Westham 0 (ACG), Warthing two heronries 2 and 10 (PIL), Winchelsea 2 (CHD), Leasam 45 (JA), Iford 2 (DCL). A heronry newly reported at Gillham's Moor near Liphook 4 (JLN,GCMR) may have been in existence for some years. The decline from 31 to 15 at Firlie was probably due to human disturbance early in the year. The Yapton heronry moved nearer to Flansham after the 1987 storm and now seems settled here.

During the year maximum counts were 32 on Pevensey Levels in Nov., and 41 in Dec., 36 at Rye Hbr in Jan. and 34 in Dec. and 24 at Weir Wood Res. in Aug. Herons were recorded in suitable habitat throughout the county and on the coast all through the year.

0144. **SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucoradia*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant and summer visitor, scarce/rare winter visitor.**

Three records. An adult was seen at Pevensey Bridge Level on 17 Mar. (RJT), 3 first summer birds at Church Norton on 9 July (BJC,TJE) and finally an adult at Pagham Hbr on 15 Sept. (TJE).

0152. **MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*). **Regular breeding resident.**

Highest counts recorded in Jan - Mar. were 111 at Pulborough Brooks during Jan., 40 in the Lower Ouse Valley on 12 Jan., 18 at Horse Eye Level, Pevensey on 18 Jan., 56 at Greatham on 19 Jan., 40 at Bines Bridge, Ashurst on 31 Jan. and 45 at Emsworth on 23 Feb.

In the breeding season records of 22 successful broods were received; producing 70 cygnets. Other pairs nested but were unsuccessful or information not received. At Littlehampton Marina a brood of 6 included 2 of the all white Polish variety. Counts of non-breeding flocks included up to 58 at Fishbourne Channel, 22 in the Cuckmere and 72 on the Lewes Brooks.

At the end of the year Nov - Dec. counts included 84 on the Lewes Brooks, 119 on a co-ordinated count of Pevensey Levels and 67 at Bines Bridge, Ashurst.

0153. **BEWICK'S SWAN** (*C. columbianus*). **Regular winter visitor.**

At the beginning of the year the maximum for the Arun Valley was 147 at Pulborough Brooks in Feb., at Rye 80 were roosting from end of Jan. to at least 8 Feb., a single was present at Sidlesham Ferry on 3 Jan. and 16 Feb., 2 at Northpoint GP on 11 Jan. and 39 on the Lewes Brooks on 12 Jan. In Mar., when main departure occurred at Pulborough (last seen 15th), a single present at Arlington Res. on 3rd, 45 at Warnham MP on 16th and 25 flew over Rye Hbr on 4th. In Apr. singles with Mute Swans were seen at Arundel on 9th and Littlehampton Marina on 18th.

In the autumn the first returning arrivals were on 20 Oct. with 7 at Pulborough Brooks and 31 Oct. with 4 at Wyckham Farm, Steyning. On 23 Nov. 10 were feeding on rape on the Lewes Brooks. Dec. records included 47 at Amberley Wild Brooks on

12th, 2 in the Cuckmere on 17th, 12 on the Upper Adur Levels on 22nd and finally 8 at Selsey Bill on 31st.

0158. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE** (*Anser brachyrhynchus*). **Scarce/rare winter visitor.**

Four birds were present at Pett Level from 21-30 Dec. (CHD,RBW).

0159. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE** (*A. albifrons*). **Regular winter visitor.**

At the beginning of Jan. 5 were at Pulborough Brooks on 1st, 2 in the Cuckmere on 9th with 4 there on 15th. Later in Jan. there were 23 at Arundel on 24th, 37 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 26th, 30 at Rye Hbr on 30th and a single at Pevensey Bridge Levels also on 30th. In Feb. 3 at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 2nd rose to 9 by 8th, 17 at Pett Level on 2nd rose to 24 also by 8th and on 9th 34 at Cuckmere. These records indicate an influx on these dates. At the end of the month singles were present at Pagham and Pevensey. Numbers at Pulborough Brooks peaked with 18 on 5 Mar. the date of the last sighting there. At Selsey Bill 16 flew SE on 14 Mar. and 5 still remained in the Cuckmere on 21st. There were several May sightings all of which must be treated as of dubious origin.

Returning birds were first seen at Rye Hbr with 3 there on 17 Oct. Elsewhere arrival was very late, not until Dec. with 2 at Pulborough on 14th, 110 flying S over Burgess Hill on 15th, 6 at Seaford Head on 26th, 14 over Rye Hbr and 19 at Pagham Hbr on 29th.

0161. **GREYLAG GOOSE** (*A. anser*). **Resident feral breeding population, winter visitor.**

In Jan-Feb. the highest counts were of 40 at Pulborough Brooks on 9 Jan., 206 at Weir Wood Res. on 26 Jan., 62 at Broadbridge Heath on 16 Feb., 16 S and 94 E over Rye Hbr on 24 Feb. Pairs with young were reported from Rye Hbr, Camber GP and Piddinghoe Pond.

In the latter part of the year maxima were 20 at Warnham MP, 40 over Rye Hbr, 40 on Pulborough Brooks, 63 at Scotney Court GP and finally 150 at Weir Wood Res.

0166. **CÁNADA GOOSE** (*Branita canadensis*). **Introduced regular breeding resident.**

Counts of large flocks at the beginning of the year included 200 at Cuckmere, 250 at Arlington Res., 200 at Pulborough Brooks, 38 at Darwell Res., 83 at Rye Hbr, 452 at Bewl Water, 90 at Warnham MP and 88 at Pett Pools.

In the breeding season there were c.20 pairs at Rye Hbr but success was mixed. Limited data were available from elsewhere on breeding success, only 113 young known to have been raised from 10 sites.

From Sept. numbers built up with 160 at Petworth Park on 5th, 160 at Pond Lye on 12th, 943 at Bewl Water on 13th and 151 at Barcombe Res. on 19th. Numbers rose at the latter site to 300 by 17 Oct. and numbers at Bewl Water dropped to 116 by 18 Oct. Also in Oct. 70 were at Icklesham on 13th. Nov. began with 350 at Pulborough Brooks on 1st and on 11th there were 203 at Weir Wood Res. Figures for Dec. included 293 at Pulborough Brooks on 13th, 83 at Weir Wood Res. on 27th and 917 at Bewl Water on 31st.

0167. **BARNACLE GOOSE** (*B. leucopsis*). **Scarce winter visitor, usually in severe weather. The true status of the species is, however, clouded by the presence of an increasing feral population.**

The flock of 12 at Pett Level and Rye Hbr in late Dec. 1991 remained in this area until 8 Feb. and were probably the same birds as those recorded at Bewl Water on 16 Feb. and again at Pett on 21 Feb. At Weir Wood Res., 10 on 2 Feb. increased to 22 on 19th and 24 on 21st. Of these, 22 remained until 4 Mar. The only other records relating to possibly wild birds in the first winter period were of 5 with White-fronted

Geese on Pevensey Bridge Levels on 3 Feb. and 6 W at Rye Hbr on 13 Feb. In the latter part of the year there were 10 at Scotney Court GP on 12 Dec. and 12 on 17th and 22 at Arlington Res. on 30th. See also Escapes and Ferals on page 82.

0168. BRENT GOOSE (*B. bernicla*). Regular winter visitor and regular spring passage migrant.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	14813	15511	1878	17	4718	9858	12564	11382	11310	7921
Chichester Hbr	11355	11582	1745	17	4085	8543	9559	11349	10096	7002
Cuckmere	127	250	-	-	1	12	11	5	-	48
Newhaven	3331	3669	128	nc	609	1283	2969	9	1209	865
Pagham Hbr	-	-	-	-	1	6	9	6	2	6
Pett Level	-	-	-	-	21	-	2	-	2	-

In the Cuckmere 47 were present on 23 Feb. Observations of easterly passage were as follows:

	No. of hrs watched						Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	
Selsey Bill	576.95	99	281	2080	945	290	2750
Worthing	117.2	-	537	4038	852	-	5427
Seaford	444.75	437	1155	7488	2135	152	11367

Peak movements were recorded on 29 Mar. with 2590 in 6.4 hrs at Worthing and 3319 in 11.5 hrs at Seaford. The only inland record involved a suspected escape at Weir Wood Res. from 17-25 Apr. Summering birds at Chichester Hbr included 17 at South Stakes Island on 30 June. Single birds were seen at Pett Pools on 3 June and in Aug. at Cuckmere, Pett and Pagham.

Return passage commenced in Sept. and at Selsey Bill a total of 84 were recorded in 83 hrs watching. There was a definite movement on 4 Oct. with 914 W at Selsey Bill in 6.5 hrs. In Nov. 16 were recorded at Weir Wood Res. on 15th. Dec. records included 800 on rape at Rookwood, West Wittering on 3rd.

Individuals showing the characteristics of the pale-bellied race *hrota* were noted as follows: a single at Northpoint GP on 1 Jan., 2 at Pagham Hbr on 7 Jan., another single at West Wittering on 14 Jan., 2 at Apuldram Manor Farm on 3 Mar. with 3 there on 21 Dec. and finally 2 at Pagham Hbr on 29 Dec.

Correction to 1991:- An adult Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*) was recorded at Thorney Island from 25 Oct - 31 Dec. (CBC).

1992: Black Brant (*B. b. nigricans*). The 1991 individual was seen with 4 young on 18 Jan. and last seen on 15 Feb. Another individual was seen on 7 Jan. in Thorney Channel. An individual returned on 11 Oct. until 31 Dec. (CBC). These records have been accepted by *British Birds*.

0173. SHELDUCK (*Tadorna tadorna*). Regular breeding resident and regular winter visitor.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	2108	2045	1356	50	538	629	1500	1490	2150	1814
Chichester Hbr	1863	1682	1146	48	337	449	1121	1422	1750	1449
Cuckmere	10	4	10	1	-	6	12	6	11	27
Newhaven	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	nc	-	3
Pagham Hbr	396	245	139	nc	192	125	316	26	344	232
Pett Level	14	14	4	-	4	4	5	3	-	-
Rye Hbr	5	99	57	1	5	40	46	28	42	97

In the early part of the year inland records included 1 at Barcombe Res. on 1 Jan., 2 at Lurgashall MP on 18 Feb. and 20 Mar., 4 at Bewl Water on 24 Feb. and 2 at Streele Lake, Billingshurst on 28 Mar. During Mar - May Seaford recorded totals of 244 E and 24 W, Worthing 189 E and Selsey Bill 94 E and 47 W.

Main arrivals at Pulborough Brooks were in Mar. rising to a maximum of 17 on 15 May, with 2 pairs present until June. 2 pairs were also present at Barcombe Res. from 6-13 May.

In the latter part of the year the largest number recorded was 94 at Northpoint GP on 30 Dec.

0178. MANDARIN (*Aix galericulata*). Introduced regular breeding resident.

In Feb. at least 4 pairs at Swanbourne Lake, up to 4 at Pond Lye, a single at Warmham MP and 3 females plus 1 male at Burton MP. At least 3 pairs recorded at Pulborough Brooks in May.

Successful breeding was reported from South Ambersham, Chelwood Vachery, Pippingford Park, Pulborough Brooks, Weir Wood Res., Swanbourne Lake, Gravetye Lakes and Warnham MP. In the latter part of the year records included 15 at Pond Lye on 20 Dec. and 11 at Swanbourne Lake on 29 Dec.

0179. WIGEON (*Anas penelope*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant.

Counts at the beginning of the year included 1089 in the Cuckmere on 1 Jan., rising to 1206 by 25th and 382 at Bewl Water on 26 Jan. Numbers at these two sites then fell during Feb. and Mar. At Pulborough Brooks there was a maximum of 2650 in late Feb.

The only other flocks of over 100 were 450 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 14 Mar. and 120 at Rye Hbr on 17 Mar. At Seaford numbers flying E were as follows: 39 during Jan., 5 in Feb. and 93 in Mar. The last records for the spring were a single at Thorney Deepes on 9 May and 11 at the Cuckmere on 27 May.

First returning birds were singles noted at Pagham on 28 Aug. and Bewl Water on 30 Aug. Thereafter numbers increased with 300 at Pagham on 2 Oct., 167 at Bewl Water on 18 Oct. and 53 at Arlington Res. on 15 Nov. Large flocks in Dec. included 2146 at Pulborough Brooks by mid-month, 879 at the Cuckmere on 21st, 95 at Scotney Court GP on 27th, 82 at Arlington Res. on 30th and 435 at Bewl Water on 31st.

0182. GADWALL (*A. strepera*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant. Has bred irregularly.

Counts in Jan. included 30-40 throughout the month at Rye with 51 there on 1st, 26 at Arlington Res. on 2nd, 20 at Chichester GP also on 2nd, 7 at Darwell Res. on 12th, 9 at Ifield MP on 15th, 38 at the Crumbles on 23rd and 71 at Bewl Water on 26th. In Feb. 13 were at Chingford Pond on 7th and 50 at Bewl Water on 16th. The maximum count at Weir Wood Res. for the period Jan-Apr. was 5 on 16 Mar.

In the breeding season Rye Hbr had a proven breeding record for the first time in the reserve with 5 young raised out of a brood of 10. Chicks were first seen on 5 July. Elsewhere pairs were present at a further 5 widely scattered localities but breeding not confirmed.

At the end of the year counts included 81 at Rye Hbr on 14 Nov. the highest ever recorded there, 55 at Bewl Water on 15 Nov., 100 at Icklesham on 25 Nov., and in Dec. 57 at Pulborough Brooks on 10th, 25 on Thorney Deepes on 24th, 32 at Swanbourne Lake on 29th, 26 at Arlington Res. on 30th and finally 70 at Bewl Water on 31st.

0184. TEAL (*A. crecca*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.

Counts for Jan. included 220 at Pagham Hbr on 12th, 193 at Darwell Res. also on

12th, 206 at Pett Pools and 340 at Rye Hbr on 23rd and 211 at the Cuckmere on 25th. In Feb. 50 were counted at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 2nd, 33 at Weir Wood Res. and 37 at Pett Level on 7th and 2124 at Pulborough Brooks on 16th. In Mar. 250 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 5th and 41 at Horse Eye Level were noteworthy.

In the breeding season birds were present in several widely scattered suitable sites but breeding only proven at 1 site with at least 4 broods recorded.

At the end of the year the highest totals for selected sites were as follows: 162 at Sidlesham Ferry on 6 Oct., 200 at Icklesham on 7 Oct., co-ordinated counts at Pevensey Levels produced 513 on 15 Nov. and 499 on 13 Dec., 300 at Rye on 13 Nov., 1891 at Pulborough Brooks on 13 Dec. and finally 209 at the Cuckmere on 31 Dec.

0184. **GREEN-WINGED TEAL** (*A. c. carolinensis*). **Scarce/rare visitor Oct-May.**

1989: The male showing the characteristics of Green-winged Teal (*A. c. carolinensis*) present at Arundel WWT but not belonging to the collection, from 21 Apr-1 May (S&BR 42:19) was also seen on 2 May (ASC).

1990: A male present at Arundel WWT from 10-24 Mar. (RILK *et al.*) is presumed to be the returning bird of 1989 and was also recorded from 26 Jan-22 Mar. 1991 (S&BR 44:22). It has been accepted by *British Birds*.

0186. **MALLARD** (*A. platyrhynchos*). **Regular breeding resident and regular winter visitor.**

The largest counts received for the first 3 months of the year all occurred in Jan. and were as follows: Pett Pools 162 (no date), 157 at Arlington Res. on 2nd, 355 at Rye Hbr on 3rd, 337 at Darwell Res. on 12th, 112 at Brooklands, Worthing on 18th, 80 at Warnham MP on 22nd, 180 at Ifield MP on 25th, 166 at Weir Wood Res. on 26th and 291 at Bewl Water also on 26th.

In the breeding season 49 drakes and 14 ducks were recorded at Pulborough Brooks but fewer broods than 1991, 50-60 pairs at Rye Hbr but breeding success poor and 64 pairs at Bewl Water where 21 broods were counted totalling 144 ducklings.

At the end of the year counts included 118 at Weir Wood Res. and 443 at Bewl Water on 13 Sept., 200 at Icklesham on 2 Nov., co-ordinated counts at Pevensey Levels produced 373 on 15 Nov. and 324 on 13 Dec. Also in Dec. 526 at Arlington Res. on 30th, 320 at Darwell Res. and 566 at Bewl Water on 21st.

0189. **PINTAIL** (*A. acuta*). **Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant. Has bred.**

Counts received for the early part of the year included 150 at Pagham Hbr on 12 Jan., 46 at Thorney Deepes on 17 Jan., 7 at Weir Wood Res. on 3 Feb. and 140 at Thorney Island on 1 Mar. Woods Mill recorded a pair flying over the reserve on 3 May, the first record for the reserve. Seawatching at Seaford Head produced 13 W and 10 E in Jan., 28 E in Mar., 7 E in Apr. and 3 E in May. During May 2 were seen at Thorney Deepes on several dates.

Returning birds were first noted at Bewl Water with 3 on 31 Aug. Numbers at Sidlesham Ferry built up to 60 by 19 Sept. and the total for Pagham Hbr was 182 by 10 Dec. and 216 on 29 Dec. Elsewhere in Dec. 90 were present at Amberley Wild Brooks on 6th and Pulborough Brooks held a maxima of 257 on 13th.

0191. **GARGANEY** (*A. querquedula*). **Regular passage migrant, breeds most years.**

First recorded at Pagham with a single on 29 Feb., then another single at Pulborough Brooks on 3 Mar. and 3 at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 29 Mar. In Apr-May sightings were reported from Icklesham, Pulborough Brooks, Pevensey Levels, Pett Level, Coldwaltham Brooks, Filsham, Pagham and Rye. 2 flew past Seaford on 14 May.

There were 2 records of successful breeding in the county.

Most records in Aug. came from Pagham Hbr with up to 3 there on several dates. Elsewhere there were singles at Icklesham and Pevensey, 2 at Rye Hbr and 3 at Charleston Reedbed. In Sept. there were singles at Icklesham, Sidlesham Ferry and Chichester GP. Last reported from Rye Hbr on 23 Sept.

0192. **BLUE-WINGED TEAL** (*A. discors*). **Scarce/rare spring passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

1991: An eclipse male was present on Swanbourne Lake, Arundel from at least 2-27 Nov. (R.J.F., B.J.P. *et al.*). Its identification has been accepted by *British Birds* but it is thought to have been of suspect origin. It had aberrant white tips to the right primaries and although not claimed as part of the collection, its close proximity to Arundel WWT where a captive female with completely white right-winged primaries was present, was sufficiently damning. There remain only 2 acceptable county records, at Worth on 17 Jan. 1922, and Chichester GP from 12-14 May 1970. Another, less tainted individual is surely overdue.

0194. **SHOVELER** (*A. clypeata*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.**

In Jan. the largest flocks recorded were as follows: up to 96 at Rye Hbr, 25 at Arlington Res. on 2nd, 22 at Manxey Levels on 23rd and 40 at the Crumbles on 31st. Woods Mill recorded a pair on 1st, the first record for the reserve. In Feb. the maximum at Rye Hbr reached 152 on 21st, and 32 were counted at Pevensey Bridge Levels also on 21st. During Mar. 31 were counted E at Seaford and at Rye Hbr numbers peaked at 220 on 7th. Numbers at the latter site dropped to 105 on 5 Apr. and 30 on 17th with only 2-4 thereafter. Also in Apr. 24 were counted E at Seaford during the month.

In the breeding season breeding was proven at Chichester GP, 1 pair, and at Rye Hbr 2 pairs raised 9 young.

Returning birds were not really evident until Aug. with 40 at Icklesham on 30th. Elsewhere numbers were low until Oct. when there were 95 at Rye Hbr on 10th, 180 on 13th dropping to 150 at the end of the month, 62 at Pagham Hbr on 5th and 24 at Arlington Res. on 28th. Nov. records included 67 E at Selsey Bill on 9th, 15 at Weir Wood Res. also on 9th, 200 at Rye Hbr on 10th, 15 at Icklesham on 25th and 97 at Arlington Res. on 28th. In Dec. Pulborough Brooks recorded a maximum of 164 on 13th and 30 were seen flying E at Climping on 30th.

0196. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD** (*Netta rufina*). **Scarce/rare winter visitor and passage migrant.**

An illusive female of unknown origin was present at Rye Hbr from 14 Nov-20 Dec. (KRB mo).

0198. **POCHARD** (*Aythya ferina*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.**

During Jan. the largest flocks were 65 at Warnham MP, 180 at Northpoint GP and 47 at Weir Wood Res. all on 11th, 278 at Rye Hbr on 18th and 68 at Bewl Water on 26th. Numbers in Feb. included 115 at Rye Hbr on 22nd and 72 at Weir Wood Res. on 23rd.

In the breeding season the only success was noted at Swanbourne Lake with 1 pair. At Rye Hbr occasional birds of both sexes were seen during May-July but no evidence of nesting on the SSSI.

Towards the end of the year counts at Rye Hbr included 89 on 23 Sept. rising to 145 on 14 Nov. and 174 by 12 Dec. Elsewhere in the county 79 at Barcombe Res. on 24 Oct. and 96 at Chichester GP on 25 Oct. In Nov. 30 at Warnham MP on 8th, 48 at Arlington Res. on 15th and 55 at Bewl Water also on 15th. In Dec. numbers at Warnham MP rose to 42 by 19th, on 27th Weir Wood Res. held 30 and Scotney Court

GP 85. The maximum at Weir Wood Res. reached 55 by 28th, 34 at Arlington Res. on 30th and finally 81 at Bewl Water on 31st.

0203. TUFTED DUCK (*A. fuligula*). Regular winter visitor and regular breeding resident.

The largest flocks recorded in the first 3 months of the year were 130 at Rye Hbr on 18 Jan., 58 at Weir Wood Res. on 19 Jan., 316 at Bewl Water on 26 Jan. dropping to 163 by 16 Feb. and 81 on 15 Mar., 189 at Rye Hbr on 22 Feb. dropping to 132 by 21 Mar. and 181 at Chichester GP on 1 Mar.

During the breeding season pairs were reported as follows: Arundel WWT 2 broods, Bewl Water 1 brood, Cophorne 1 brood, Dumford GP 1 brood, Rye Hbr 12 broods and Swanbourne Lake 1 brood. Counts of non-breeders or possible breeding came from Bewl Water, 2 further pairs present, Weir Wood Res. 7 on 20 June, Darwell Res. 5 on 28 June, Burton MP 1 male on 18 July, 20 at the Crumbles on 24 July and 2 at Warnham MP on 26 July.

At Bewl Water numbers increased from 30 on 2 Aug. to 84 by 13 Sept., 146 on 18 Oct., 215 on 15 Nov. and finally 299 on 31 Dec. Elsewhere in the latter part of the year notable concentrations included 103 at Chichester GP on 25 Oct., 99 at Rye Hbr on 14 Nov. rising to 107 by 12 Dec., 63 at the Crumbles on 26 Nov. and 20 at Weir Wood Res. on 28 Dec.

0204. SCAUP (*A. marila*). Regular winter visitor scarce/rare passage migrant.

In Jan. a single at Brooklands, Worthing, 2 at Rye Hbr. 4 in Emsworth Channel and 6 on the sea at Seaford all on 1st. Scotney Court GP held 15 on 11 Jan. and Rye Hbr 18 on 18th remaining there until 21 Mar. Elsewhere in Mar. 6 at Scotney Court GP on 26th and 1 at Sidlesham Ferry on 30th. Last spring record was of 1 at Rye Hbr on 2 Apr.

First recorded in autumn on 17 Oct. with 1 at Pett Pools. Thereafter 2 on the sea at Seaford and 3 at Thorney Deepes on 31 Oct. Nov. records included 22 past Hastings on 9th and 1 W at Selsey Bill on 24th. The year ended with 3 on the sea at Seaford and a single at Scotney Court GP on 30 Dec.

0206. EIDER (*Somateria mollissima*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and scarce/rare summer visitor.

Totals E for main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
Seaford	27	1	197	99	324
Worthing	-	-	111	37	148

In Jan. the only significant records were of 21 on the sea off the Cuckmere on 1st, 30 at West Beach, Littlehampton on 9th and 26 off Pilsey Island on 18th. The main passage was on 30 Mar. with 101 E at Seaford. Singles were seen in Chichester Hbr during June-Aug. In Dec. Selsey Bill recorded 38 W in 37 hrs seawatching.

0212. LONG-TAILED DUCK (*Clangula hyemalis*). Regular winter visitor and scarce/rare passage migrant.

In Jan. singles were recorded from 7 localities. In addition to these there were 2 inland records, 1 immature drake from 1991 at Bewl Water stayed until 26 Apr., 1 at Arlington Res. from 26-28th, 2 at Camber on 3rd and 3 there on 11th and 14 in Emsworth Channel on 7th. In Feb. the Emsworth Channel number rose to 20 on 6th before declining to 14 on 24th, 13 by 5 Apr. and 6 on 19 Apr. At Pett Beach a female was seen from 15-17 May. At the end of the year 1 was recorded in Emsworth Channel on 13 Dec.

0213. COMMON SCOTER (*Melanitta nigra*). Regular spring passage migrant and regular winter visitor.

1991: 15 not 8 at Weir Wood Res. on 7 May.

1992: 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	19	14	7616	-	100	24	183	223	17	395
Seaford	129	8	11018	19	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Worthing	nc	nc	4456	nc	nc	nc	-	32	nc	nc

The main spring passage occurred on 7 Apr. with 1664 past Seaford, 21 Apr. with 1042 past Worthing, 4 May with 1055 past Seaford and 14 May with 1015 past the latter site.

In June 86 non-breeding birds were offshore at Hastings on 6th, 100 offshore at Rye Hbr on 15th and 29th with 90 still there on 8 July. At the end of the year 80 were on the sea again off Rye Hbr on 7 Nov.

Inland records were of 2 males at Weir Wood Res. on 16 Mar. and a pair at Bewl Water on 20 Apr.

0215. VELVET SCOTER (*M. fusca*). Regular spring passage migrant and regular winter visitor.

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
25	8	23	16	50	-	-	-	-	-	30	6

In Jan. there was 1 at Pagham Hbr on 4th, 1 E at Worthing on 8th, 2 off Newhaven on 11th, 4 in Thorney Channel on 12th, 1 off Pett Beach on 24th and 16 off Worthing Beach on 26th. The first noticeable movement occurred on 29 Mar. with 14 E off Seaford and Selsey Bill. Further significant movements occurred in Apr., Seaford recording 25 E on 7th, 23 E on 20th and 76 E on 21st when Worthing also recorded 56 E. The largest movement in May occurred on 5th with 30 E at Beachy Head. After May no records were received until Nov. with 1 W at Selsey Bill on 7th. Last recorded were 5 at Pett Beach on 26 Dec.

0218. GOLDENEYE (*Bucephala clangula*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant.

On 1 Jan. 3 were at Brooklands, Worthing; 3 at Weir Wood Res. and a single at Pett Pools. By the middle of the month there were 7 in Emsworth Channel on 17th, numbers at Weir Wood Res. had risen to 6 by 19th when there were also 6 at Bewl Water. By 9th Feb. Weir Wood Res. held 10, 30 were in the Fishbourne Channel by 11th and 7 were at Pagham Hbr on 20th. In Mar. Weir Wood Res. had 11 on 1st, numbers dropped to 4 in Fishbourne Channel by 8th, Bewl Water recorded a single on 15th and 1 flew E at Seaford on 29th. There were 2 records for Apr., 1 on Thorney Deepes on 22nd and 1 at Barcombe Res. on 24th. A single summered on Thorney Deepes.

The first autumn record was of a single at Bewl Water on 18 Oct. followed by 2 at Pagham Hbr on 22nd and a pair at Rye Hbr on 24th. Few were seen in Nov., maximum numbers included 6 at Weir Wood Res. on 10th and 11 in Thorney Channel on 15th. In Dec. Bewl Water recorded 7 on 13th, Thorney Deepes 12 on 21st, 7 at Rye Hbr on 27th, 5 at Pagham Hbr on 29th and finally 36 near Dell Quay on 30th.

0220. SMEW (*Mergus albellus*). Regular winter visitor.

After a bumper year in 1991 very few records were received. In Jan. 1 redhead at Rye Hbr from 23-24th. In Feb. a pair on Chichester GP on 23rd and 1 redhead at Rye Hbr on 26-27th. Again at Rye Hbr a redhead on 5 Mar. In Dec. 4 at Pagham Hbr on 26th and 1 there on 30th, at Rye Hbr 3 on 29th and 1 male on 30th. These were the only records.

0221. **RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** (*M. serrator*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant.**

1991: 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 27-28 Oct.

1992: At Goring Gap numbers built up from 40 on the sea on 4 Feb. to 110 by 8 Mar.

Figures for the main seawatching localities were:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	120	69	293	326	32	840
Seaford	16	6	249	194	25	490
Worthing	nc	nc	265	94	nc	359

Again numbers recorded were high, especially at Selsey Bill. Notable movements included 39 E on 4 Jan., 48 E on 11 Jan. at Selsey Bill, but 29 Mar. proved the major day with 173 E at Worthing and 224 E at Seaford but only 39 E at Selsey Bill. In Apr. at Selsey Bill 50 E on 2nd, 43 E on 7th and 45 E on 9th.

An early arrival was 1 offshore at Selsey Bill on 10 June followed by 1 off Thorney Island on 27 June. A single frequented Pagham Hbr in July and Aug. and here there were 21 offshore on 29 Oct. In Nov. 247 W at Selsey Bill on 9th and 65 around Thorney Island on 15th were the largest numbers. Also in Nov. Selsey Bill recorded a total of 511 W in 65 hrs seawatching. Dec. produced 87 around Thorney Island on 4th and 28 offshore at Worthing Beach on 24th.

0223. **GOOSANDER** (*M. merganser*). **Regular winter visitor.**

Numbers were very low, only 7 were seen in Jan. at 3 sites. One at Barcombe Res. on 1-4th, 2 at Arlington Res. on 1st, 3 at Weir Wood Res. also on 1st and 1 there on 19th. In Feb. 1 at Arlington Res. on 1-4th, 2 at Darwell Res. on 16th and 1 at Pagham on 23rd.

In the autumn an early individual was on the R. Adur at Steyning on 16, 23 and 29 Sept. Pagham Hbr recorded 1 on 1 Oct., 7 were at Pilsey Island on 24 Oct., 3 flew past Hastings on 9 Nov. and 2 appeared at Weir Wood Res. on 10 Nov. staying until 13th. In Dec. there was 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 7th and 2 on 8th, 1 at Darwell Res. on 13 and finally 1 at Arlington Res. on 27th.

0225. **Cat.C. RUDDY DUCK** (*Oxyura jamaicensis*). **Introduced regular winter visitor, regular breeding summer visitor.**

On 1 Jan. 4 were at Swanbourne Lake, 2 at Chichester GP and 2 at Barcombe Res. Bewl Water recorded 3 females on 26 Jan. and Weir Wood Res. 2 on 31 Jan. which stayed until 4 Mar. Swanbourne Lake had 4 pairs by 15 May and Weir Wood Res. a male on 16 May. Two broods of 3 and 5 were seen at Swanbourne Lake on 22 June.

Oct. produced 1 at Barcombe Res. on 24th, 5 at Chichester GP on 25th and 1 at Arlington Res. on 28th. In Dec. there was 1 on Thorney Deepes on 23rd, 7 at Ivy Lake, Chichester GP on 29th and 3 on Chichester GP on 30th.

0231. **HONEY BUZZARD** (*Pernis apivorus*). **Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor, has bred.**

An excellent year for the species with 6 migrants recorded, equalling 1990 as the highest total for at least 18 years.

First to be found was an adult drifting over The Trundle, Goodwood on 14 May (BFF). This was followed by another adult, at Rye Hbr on 3 June (BFF,DS). During the breeding season, 2 adults were seen on one date over a suitable inland locality.

In autumn, single migrants were recorded as follows: over Denton, Newhaven on 20 Aug. (NJT); at Church Norton on 15 Sept. (TJE,BFF); a dark morph over Littlehampton GC on 26 Sept. (SPH); and another dark plumaged bird soaring over Burgess Hill on 2 Oct. (JFC).



0239. **RED KITE** (*Milvus milvus*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant and winter visitor, has bred.**

There were 2 authenticated records, a migrant each for spring and autumn. One circled over the Angmering Park Estate before drifting SE and was later recorded at West Worthing on 25 May (CEH,JAN,RJSa). On 17 Oct. another was seen slowly flying W along the cliff edge at Beachy Head (DPD,JPS,PIW *et al.*).

0260. **MARSH HARRIER** (*Circus aeruginosus*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

A record year for the species, especially in autumn. Allowing for inevitable duplication of records from well watched coastal localities, there were probably 44 birds seen in the county. The average for the last 10 year period is 21. Monthly maxima were as follows:

Apr.	May	June	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1	9	1	12	18	2	1

The first for the year flew over Southwick Hill on 20 Apr. Passage continued during mid-May, with a single at Beachy Head on 10th, a dark plumaged bird over the sea at Pett on 15th, 2 over Icklesham on 17th, an adult male quartering fields near Newmarket Hill on 19th and a female present at Sidlesham on 22nd. Towards the end of the month, single migrants were reported from Pagham on 26th and Pett Pools the following day. The last spring record came from Icklesham, with 1 on 2 June.

Autumn passage commenced at Pagham on 1 Aug. There followed no fewer than 41 reports up until the end of Sept, mostly involving individuals in female or immature plumage, but including 2 birds together at Thorney Island on 7 Sept., Fairlight on 13 Sept., Pagham on 15 Sept. and Beachy Head on 27 Sept. Single late migrants were also recorded at Pagham on 4 Oct., Selsey on 9 Oct. and finally Icklesham on 29 Nov.

0261. **HEN HARRIER** (*C. cyaneus*). **Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant.**

A formidable 134 reports were received during the year. Allowing for likely duplication, an approximate total of 76 birds were recorded in the county, the highest total since at least 1979. The monthly maxima were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adult males	4	6	2	1	-	1	-	1
Ringtails	21	11	12	7	1	-	8	3

A number of traditional wintering areas were again frequented and the majority

of records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester Hbr. Surprisingly scarce this year. Not recorded until 25 Mar. when a ringtail was seen at Cobnor Farm. During mid-Apr. another ringtail was regularly seen over Thorney Island. In autumn, just 1 ringtail on Thorney Island from 10-13 Oct.

Selsey Peninsula. Between 2 Jan - 17 Mar. single ringtails were reported on 16 dates from Pagham Hbr with 2 birds together on 19 Mar. The only other early month record came from Selsey with a ringtail on 9 Feb.

There were just 2 autumn migrant ringtails reported, over Selsey west fields on 10 Oct. and at Pagham Hbr on 28 Nov.

Arun and Adur Valleys. During the first winter period, most reports came from the wildbrooks adjacent to Amberley, Greatham, Coldwaltham and Pulborough. In the early months, a ringtail was reported on 4 dates in mid-Jan., a male was seen between 16-21 Jan. and it, or another, reappeared on 15-17 Feb. Following a ringtail on 3 Mar., an immature male was present between 6-8 Mar. An adult male was widely recorded between 1-11 Apr. and a ringtail was present on 19 Apr. Elsewhere in the Arun Valley, a ringtail was seen at South Stoke on 6 Jan. and an adult male at Madehurst on 10 Jan. In autumn, the only bird recorded was an adult male at Pulborough on 21-22 Oct.

In the Adur Valley, single ringtails were found on 1 Jan. and 26 Nov.

Ouse Valley and adjacent downland. During the first winter period, there were 11 reports of single ringtails on downland W of the river, involving a maximum of 7 different birds. Elsewhere, records came from Firlie Beacon on 26 Jan. and Newhaven Hbr on 14 Mar. In autumn, 2 ringtails were found on the Downs on 12 Nov. and further singles were recorded over Lewes racecourse on 28 Nov., Ashcombe Bottom on 29 Nov. and an adult male hunted over Balsdean on 8-10 Dec.

Seaford, Cuckmere Valley and Beachy Head. In the early months, a ringtail seen at Seaford Head on 12 Jan. may have been the same as that found in the Cuckmere on 23 Jan. During the autumn, migrant ringtails hunted over Beachy Head on 15, 16 and 28 Oct. and at Seaford Head single ringtails were seen on 27 Nov., 24 and 30 Dec.

Pevensley Levels. A ringtail seen over Horse Eye Level on 25 Jan. was found hunting over Whepley Level the following day. At the end of the year, single ringtails were found on Whepley Level on 13 Dec. and over Manxie Level on 27-28 Dec.

Pett and Icklesham Levels and Rye Hbr. During the first winter period at least 3 ringtails hunted the levels at Pett and Icklesham. After 1 seen on 12 Jan., at least 1 bird was the subject of 8 reports between 12 Mar - 16 Apr. Single ringtails were present in the Rye Hbr area throughout the winter up until 19 Apr. The only other ringtails were at E. Guldeford on 1 Jan. and Camber on 15 Mar. In autumn, a ringtail seen at Icklesham on 10-12 Oct. may have been the bird reported from Rye Hbr on 13-16 Oct. Finally another ringtail was found at Rye on 23 Dec.

NW Sussex Commons. All records were for the first winter period. At Lavington Common an adult male and a ringtail were present from 1 Jan. to at least 9 Feb., with the ringtail seen again on 4 Apr. On Heyshott and Ambersham Commons, 2 ringtails, a female and an immature male, were present intermittently between 11 Jan - 19 Mar.

Ashdown Forest. Up to 2 adult males were observed between 28 Jan - 16 Mar. hunting widely throughout the forest.

Elsewhere in the early months, single ringtails were found at Singleton Forest on 1 Jan. and West Dean Woods on 13 Feb. An adult male was also seen at West Dean on 15 Feb. There followed further ringtails seen from Standean Bottom on 25 Feb. and Billingshurst on 10 Mar. In autumn, single ringtails were recorded as follows: over Kingston Gorse on 29 Aug., at Fairlight on 10 Oct., near Billingshurst on 12 Oct. and in the West Dean and Monkton Woods area, West Sussex from 3-22 Nov.

0267. GOSHAWK (*Accipiter gentilis*). Scarce/rare passage migrant and summer/winter visitor, has bred.

The adult male first recorded from Church Norton in 1989 was widely reported from New Years Day until the end of May. The only other fully authenticated record was of a female over Rye Hbr on 18 Apr. (R.J.F.A.S.G.). Whilst the Society has heard mention of a number of other sightings, it must be stressed that full written descriptions are required for this problematical species.

0269. SPARROWHAWK (*A. nisus*). Regular breeding resident and scarce passage migrant.

A total of more than 260 were recorded during the year and at least 25 pairs were present during the breeding season. The only obvious migrant records were singles seen coming in off the sea at Hastings on 18 Apr. and the Crumbles on 4 Sept.

0287. BUZZARD (*Buteo buteo*). Regular winter visitor, scarce passage migrant, scarce summer visitor, has bred or breeds irregularly.

Birds were recorded in all months with up to 10 reported during Jan - Apr. One flushed at Selsey Bill on 10 Apr. and 1 at Worthing on 13 May were the only probable migrants. During the summer birds were reported from at least 2 areas of suitable breeding habitat.

During the period July - Dec. at least 10 birds were recorded from 8 inland localities and a further 5 from or near the coast.

0301. OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*). Regular passage migrant.

Reports of this species have increased dramatically in recent years. Following record totals in 1990 and 1991 of at least 26 and 48 respectively, a minimum of 30 birds were recorded during 1992. Allowing for likely duplication at least 17 were found in spring and 13 in autumn. Earliest and latest migrant dates were 2 Apr. and 23 Oct. Records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Pagham Hbr. Single birds flew over on 16 and 23 Apr. In autumn, 1 flew along Church Norton beach on 21 Aug. and another flew E across the reserve on 2 Oct.

Weir Wood Res. The first migrant appeared on 22 May. This, or another, was again seen on 24 May. A 3rd bird was widely reported between 31 May - 11 June. Just 1 late summer record involved a bird watched on both 10 and 14 July.

Arlington Res. A total of 4 birds were found during the year. The first, on 1 May was followed by a well-watched individual, often sitting on pylons, on 23-24 May. In autumn, singles were recorded on 18 Sept. and 3 Oct.

Bewl Water. An exceptionally early bird was regularly seen between 2-4 Apr. This is the earliest date recorded in the county since 1978. Interestingly this site has produced the first Osprey of the spring in 5 of the last 10 years. Up to 2 birds were present from 24-31 May with a single seen intermittently until 8 June. A further individual was recorded on 28 June.

In autumn, up to 3 birds were present between 2-31 Aug. and further singles were found on 13 Sept., 29 Sept. and 23 Oct.

Icklesham and Rye. Following a single bird seen at Rye Hbr on 16 May, birds were recorded at Icklesham between 24-31 May, with 2 seen together on 26th and 30th.

Elsewhere, single birds were recorded as follows: over Seaford beach on 2 Apr., passing Saldean on 4 Sept. and watched flying out to sea from Beachy Head on 19 Sept.

0304. KESTREL (*Falco tinnunculus*). Regular breeding resident.

Many records throughout the year with at least 56 pairs suggested as breeding. One came in off the sea at Selsey Bill on 6 Oct. The maxima reported were 11 at Clapham Village on 27 July and co-ordinated counts on Pevensy Levels producing 18 on 15 Nov. and 23 on 13 Dec.

0307. RED-FOOTED FALCON (*F. vespertinus*). Scarce/rare passage migrant and scarce/rare summer visitor.

A female of unknown age was seen at Pett Level on 5 June (CHD), followed by two first-summer males and an unaged female seen at Powdermill Res. on 9 June (JDP/RJP). All four records have been accepted by *British Birds*. One of the males remained to 14th (DC, MK *et al.*). These coincided with a record national influx involving perhaps 120-150 individuals (*Birding World* 5: 207). All of the 13 recorded since 1968 have been between 10 May-3 July.

0309. MERLIN (*F. columbarius*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant.

A total of 168 sightings were recorded during the year. Seen up until 8 Apr. and from 15 Aug. Allowing for inevitable duplication of records from adjacent and well-watched sites, monthly minima were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
20	15	11	5	2	14	24	14	13

During the first winter period, the majority of records came from traditional hunting localities at Chichester and Pagham hbrs, the Climping - Littlehampton coastline, the Arun, Adur, Ouse and Cuckmere valleys and adjacent downland, Pevensy Levels, Pett Levels and Rye Hbr. Elsewhere, inland sightings came from Petworth Park, Pulborough Brooks and Stone Cross. The last recorded was from Thorney Island on 8 Apr.

In autumn and early winter, numerous reports were received of single birds hunting our coastal, downland and wetland localities. Additionally single birds were seen at Broad Oak, Heathfield on 7 Sept., Chithurst on 21 Oct. and Turners Hill on 15 Dec. Reports of 2 birds together came from downland adjacent to the Ouse on 6 Oct. and Horse Eye Level, Pevensy on 17 Oct.

0310. HOBBY (*Falco subbuteo*). Scarce breeding summer visitor and regular passage migrant.

1989: The record for 27 Mar. is no longer considered acceptable.

1992: First recorded on 21 Apr. at Selsey Bill and a further 44 noted during a good spring passage, several being seen to come in off the sea.

During the breeding season at least 15 pairs were reported but only 2 were confirmed as breeding successfully. However, the county population is probably higher than indicated as there were many sightings from other areas during the breeding season.

A total of 90 birds were reported during the autumn, the last being at Newhaven and Beachy Head on 3 Oct.

0320. PEREGRINE (*F. peregrinus*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant, has bred.

As in 1991, this species was seen in every month of the year. Nearly 200 records were submitted, although again much duplication is inevitable, especially at well-watched coastal localities. Breeding success has been consolidated. The majority of records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester and Pagham Hbrs. In the early months single birds were recorded on 21 dates, with 2 present on 1 Mar., in Chichester Hbr. The favoured hunting ground, once again, was the high tide wader roosts at Pilsley Island, with Dunlin twice being reported as prey. Elsewhere single birds were recorded in Pagham on 10 dates. The second quarter was naturally quieter yet there were still 7 "bird days" at Pagham, 4 at Chichester, and 2 at Selsey Bill. During the second half of the year, birds were recorded in every month including 1 chasing an Arctic Skua over Pagham on 8 Oct. Again Dunlin were the only identified prey although a Greenshank was relentlessly pursued for 5 minutes on 12 Oct. The majority of sightings referred to single birds,

however 2 birds were seen together at Pilsley, Sidlesham Ferry field and Church Norton.

Arun and Adur Valleys. Up to 2 hunted over Pulborough Brooks in late Feb. and early Mar. The only other record in the early months was of a single bird flying over Climping on 18 Mar. An adult male flew W over Chancetonbury on 22 June. In autumn, single birds were seen from Cissbury on 7 Sept. and 19 Sept. and another individual was seen roosting on the chimney stack at Shoreham Power Station from 18 Oct. until the year end. Finally, in Dec. an adult was regularly seen hunting from the same tree at Pulborough Brooks and a single bird flew past Widewater on 23rd.

Brighton-Beachy Head Coastline. During the first half of the year there were frequent records of birds normally causing havoc amongst the gulls. Autumn birds were first reported on 26 July, and then on 15 further dates, with parties of 3 birds together on 2 different occasions.

Ouse and Cuckmere Valleys and adjacent downland. Early month records from the Ouse Valley were restricted to single wintering birds over Offham on 13 Feb. and on the Downs on 4 Mar. However over the Cuckmere, 2 birds were seen together on 9 Feb. and a single flew across the valley on 14 Mar.

The only autumn sightings were of individuals seen from Balsdean on 22 Aug. and 9 Sept. At the end of the year, single birds were recorded from Seven Sisters Country Park on 1 Nov. and again on 8 Nov. Further up the valley, individuals were watched over Wilmington on 30 Nov. and Alfriston on 6 Dec. Finally, 1 was seen at Arlington Res. on 27 Dec.

Pett and Icklesham Levels and Rye Hbr. On the levels, reports were scarce during the early months with just 2 sightings in Feb. and 1 in Mar. However, single birds were regularly reported from 27 July throughout the remainder of the year. At Rye Hbr single birds were seen in 8 months out of 12.

Elsewhere, records were received as follows: an adult male over Chichester GP on 26 Jan., a male at Weir Wood Res. on 12 Apr. and an individual flew along Goring seafront on 10 May. During the autumn an adult female flew past Worthing on 6 Sept. and a single bird hunted Pevensy Levels on 15-16 Nov. and again on 29 Nov. From 30 Nov., the well-watched individual regularly roosted on Chichester Cathedral. Finally 2 were seen hunting Pevensy Bridge Level on 13 Dec.

0358. RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE (*Alectoris rufa*). Resident. Status uncertain due to introduction of CHUKARS (*A. chukar*) and subsequent hybridisation.

Several pairs were seen throughout the county; the largest number recorded were 14 in North Fields, Pagham Hbr. The only breeding reported was of a pair with 14 chicks at Woodmancote, near Emsworth.

0367. GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*). Regular breeding resident.

At Rye Hbr 3 coveys of 16, 15 and 7 were noted in Oct., an improvement over 1991. Elsewhere significant numbers were 16 at Sidlesham on 5 Sept., 40 at Ashcombe Bottom, Lewes on 29 Nov. and 16 at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on 5 Dec. Only 6 definite pairs were noted from 5 widely scattered areas in the breeding season.

0370. QUAIL (*Coturnix coturnix*). Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor. Breeds irregularly.

Records were received from 13 widely scattered sites, a significant improvement over 1991. A single male calling at Rye Hbr on 12 June was the first record for the reserve. Although breeding was not proven, the presence of birds at 6 sites in the summer indicated possible breeding. Three were ringed at Icklesham during the autumn..

0394. PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*). Regular breeding resident.

Very little breeding data was received. Outside the breeding season 1 was

observed feeding on garden bird food at Storrington on 26 Jan. Several albino birds were observed, 1 at Partridge Green on 12 Oct., also in Oct. singles at Cowfold on 23rd, Bluebell Railway on 24th and 27th., and 3 at Balcombe Viaduct on 31st. Another albino was noted amongst a flock of 20 at Ardingly Res. on 29 Nov. Peak count at Pulborough Brooks was 50+ in Sept.

0396. *Cat.C.* **GOLDEN PHEASANT** (*Chrysolophus pictus*). **Feral population.**

At Kingley Vale 12 birds were noted, but no details of sex or number of breeding territories was provided. The male showing flavistic colouration was again present. Outside Kingley Vale the only other record was of a single at Ebemoe Common on 2 Jan.

0407. **WATER RAIL** (*Rallus aquaticus*). **Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant. Breeds most years.**

The approximate minimum monthly totals of non-breeding birds were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of sites	13	9	3	2	2	3	3	6	11	12
No. of birds	13	10	3	3	2	3	4	12	14	18

In the breeding season birds were noted at 2 sites but there was no proof of breeding.

0408. **SPOTTED CRAKE** (*Porzana porzana*). **Scarce/rare summer visitor and scarce/rare passage migrant.**

Four records, all from Icklesham, all trapped. Singles on 16 Aug., 20 Aug. (retrapped on several dates up to 16 Sept.), 11 Sept. and 1 Oct. (RBRG).

0411. **BAILLON'S CRAKE** (*P. pusilla*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

An adult female trapped at Icklesham on 11 Aug. (RBRG) has been accepted by *British Birds* and although the 6th county record, is the first since 1941. There are now 2 records in Aug. and one each for May, Sept., Nov. and Dec-Jan.

0424. **MOORHEN** (*Gallinula chloropus*). **Regular breeding resident.**

The largest counts at the beginning of the year were 73 at Ifield MP on 29 Jan. with 63 there on 7 Feb. and 63 at Rye Hbr. on 22 Feb. Little data on breeding was received, however up to 10 pairs bred at Pulborough Brooks, 4-6 pairs at Woods Mill and 5 pairs at Maynards Green.

During the latter part of the year co-ordinated counts at Pevensey Levels produced 71 on 15 Nov. and 81 on 13 Dec. On 31 Dec. 40 were seen roosting in the tops of elders at Pett Pools.

0429. **COOT** (*Fulica atra*). **Regular breeding resident, regular winter visitor.**

Jan. counts included a maximum of 69 at Brooklands, Worthing, 30 at Darwell Res. on 12th, 30 at Littlehampton on 18th, 304 at Rye Hbr. also on 18th, 61 on the Crumbles on 22nd, 51 at Ifield MP on 25th, 30 at Weir Wood Res. and 162 at Bewl Water on 26th. Numbers for Feb. included 73 at Brooklands, Worthing on 7th, 100 at Scotney Court GP also on 7th, 221 at Bewl Water on 16th, 54 at Ifield MP on 20th and 240 at Rye Hbr. on 22nd.

Little data on breeding was received. At Ifield MP there were at least 6 nests, another 6 pairs were at Petworth Park Lake and up to 15 pairs at Pulborough Brooks where breeding success was poor. Very few chicks were seen at Rye Hbr.

Records for the latter part of the year included 104 at Bewl Water on 17 Aug. rising to 137 on 13 Sept., 179 on 18 Oct., 219 on 15 Nov. and 306 on 31 Dec. Elsewhere, in Oct. there were 212 at Rye Hbr on 10th, 44 at Burton MP on 17th, 451 at Chichester GP on 25th and 90 at Icklesham on 30th. In Nov. 337 at Rye Hbr on

14th, 54 at Brooklands, Worthing and 34 at Ardingly Res. on 29th. In Dec. Rye Hbr produced 351 and Chichester GP 708.

0450. **OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant, breeds most years.**

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992				1993					
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	1829	1966	1089	1126	1409	1374	1717	1445	1565	1381
Chichester Hbr	1298	1131	609	831	929	957	1197	1162	1151	583
Climping	14	-	5	110	152	19	22	14	25	51
Pagham Hbr	325	413	248	nc	176	164	257	-	105	204
Pett Level	-	4	2	-	-	8	14	-	-	6
Rye Hbr	161	415	186	171	120	180	193	220	164	526

Numbers moving E along the coast during Mar-May were 136 in 336.75 hrs at Seaford and 745 in 203.8 hrs at Worthing. In the breeding season 2 nests were found on Thorney Island and 17 pairs were at Rye Hbr where 2-4 young were raised at Ternery Pool. Inland records included 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 9 Aug. and 1 at Bewl Water after severe SW storms on 30 Aug. Also 1 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 23 Dec.

0455. **BLACK-WINGED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant and summer visitor.**

One at Bewl Water on 19 May (PCB) has been accepted by *British Birds*.

0456. **AVOCET** (*Recurvirostra avosetta*). **Regular passage migrant. Scarce winter visitor.**

1991: 3 were roosting on Pilsey Island after heavy rain on 27 Apr.

1992: Another good year. The approximate monthly totals are as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	2	22	49	35	14	8	-	4	2	9	1

During the first two months singles were seen at Pilsey Sands, the Crumbles, Goring Gap and Rye Hbr. In Mar. Pagham Hbr had at least a single bird, a single at Pilsey Sands, there were 7 at Rye Hbr and 13 were seen flying E at Selsey Bill. April produced the largest figure with 30 at Selsey Bill on 20th., a total of 7 in the Cuckmere Valley, up to 5 at Pagham Hbr and singles at various other localities. In May there were 8 E at Splash Point, Seaford on 14th., 5 E at Worthing Beach on 19th. and others were seen at another 7 localities including 2 at Bewl Water on 14th. In June birds were recorded from Rye Hbr, Cuckmere Haven and Sidlesham Ferry.

In the autumn Pett Pools recorded 4 on 8 July which seemed to travel between there and Rye Hbr until 15th when last seen at Rye Hbr. Also in July Sidlesham Ferry had 2 on 8th and 2 in the Cuckmere on 16th. Other autumn figures included 4 in Thorney Channel on 21-Sept., 5 at Sidlesham Ferry on 10 Nov. and 3 at Pett Pools on 12 Nov.

0459. **STONE CURLEW** (*Burhinus oedicnemus*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant. Has bred.**

Only 1 record, a single bird at Selsey West Fields on 9 Oct. (BFF, DS).

0469. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER** (*Charadrius dubius*). **Regular passage migrant and regular breeding summer visitor.**

The approximate monthly totals away from main breeding sites were as follows:

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
2	1	4	1	17	17	2

At Pevensey Bridge Levels 260 were counted on 4 Jan., elsewhere in Jan. large flocks were counted at East Head with 522 on 5th, West Wittering with 450 on 7th, 300 at Arundel on 19th and 450 at Chichester GP on 26th. In Feb., 170 were present on the Upper Adur Levels on 2nd, 150 at Pett Level on 3rd, 250 at Oving on 6th, 1100 at Pagham Hbr on 22nd and 1000 at West Wittering on 29th. Numbers dropped during Mar., the largest flocks being 200 at Thorney Deepes on 4th and 400 at Pagham Hbr on 14th.

In the autumn the first recorded was a single at Thorney Deepes on 31 July followed by another single at Pagham Hbr on 1 Aug. Numbers at Thorney Deepes rose to 49 by 15 Aug. Numbers remained low until 7 Oct. when there were 220 at Pagham Hbr and 80 at Pevensey Bridge Levels. At Cobnor Farm 300 were counted on 18 Oct. and 350 on Pevensey Levels also on 18th. Also in Oct., 188 on Thorney Airfield on 29th. Large flocks in Nov. included 424 at Pevensey Levels on 15th, 540 at Pagham Hbr on 18th, 300 at East Head on 23rd, 800 Thorney Deepes on 24th and 920 on the Midrips on 29th. In Dec. 1750 were counted at West Wittering on 9th, 340 on Thorney Deepes on 11th, Pulborough Brooks held 150 on 15th, 500 near Chichester GP on 27th and 140 at Weir Wood Res. on 30th. In addition many smaller flocks were observed at a further 16 sites.

0486. GREY PLOVER (*P. squatarola*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and scarce summer visitor.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992					1993				
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	2201	2080	4319	2394	1910	1950	3747	1695	2937	2281
Chichester Hbr	1114	1382	3901	2368	1547	987	2215	1403	2272	1583
Climping	36	-	-	24	30	51	68	34	72	73
Goring	161	92	-	1	-	45	109	94	164	159
Pagham Hbr	825	579	412	nc	332	825	1266	15	412	419
Pett Level	31	12	-	-	-	31	81	135	-	23
R. Adur	31	15	4	1	1	11	6	6	17	23
Rye Hbr	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1

Spring passage was slightly better than 1991, totals for main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Seaford	26	2	69	97
Selsey Bill	3	131	309	443
Worthing	293	293	-	-

The year began with 1000 at Ferring Rife on 8 Jan. and 210 at Goring Gap also on 8th. Numbers at Pilsey Sands reached 2106 on 21 Mar., dropping to 700 on 3 Apr., 413 on 17th, 350 on 5 May, 32 on 6 June then rising to 138 by 30 June and 800 by 29 Aug. Inland records included a single in full summer plumage at Pulborough Brooks on 14-15 May, another single at Amberley Wild Brooks on 16 Aug., Pulborough again on 20 Aug. and finally 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 9 Nov. The year ended with 207 at Goring Gap on 31 Dec.

0493. LAPWING (*Vanellus vanellus*). Regular breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In Jan. major flocks included 1500 on Pevensey Bridge Levels on 1st, 3000 on Henfield Levels on 5th and 4000 between Amberley and Pulborough on 19th. Also in Jan., a leucistic individual was noted at Newhaven Tide Mills. The largest counts for Feb. were 1800 on the North Fields, Pagham Hbr. and 2500 at Rye Hbr.

Breeding season records were received from 11 localities totalling some 74 pairs. At Rye Hbr 23 pairs bred, hatching success was good but very few young actually fledged. At Pulborough 23 pairs attempted to breed (27 in 1991). Post-breeding birds

First records for the year were singles at Barcombe Res. and Sidlesham Ferry on 21 Mar. In the breeding season 6 pairs were reported but only 1 pair was reported as successful. In July widespread singles were reported with up to 3 at Sidlesham Ferry on 9th and 4 at Pett Pools on 25th. During Aug. Sidlesham recorded up to 3 on several dates, a single was at Arlington Res. on 4th and 8th and 2 at Cuckmere Haven on 28th. Finally there were singles at Sidlesham Ferry on 3 Sept. and Arlington Res. on 9 Sept.

0470. RINGED PLOVER (*C. hiaticula*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	684	658	168	2338	682	1017	1005	948	749	458
Chichester Hbr	427	293	89	1591	441	587	744	564	389	198
Climping	46	17	6	48	23	5	44	82	46	15
R. Adur	99	31	14	446	182	152	135	93	71	67
Cuckmere Haven ..	4	6	-	33	-	-	-	6	17	10
Goring	30	48	-	121	-	8	25	17	80	53
Newhaven	9	28	5	-	-	8	nc	nc	7	16
Pagham Hbr	63	205	26	nc	2	250	3	148	58	66
Rye Hbr	-	20	24	89	31	-	11	-	78	32

Breeding records were received from 11 sites. At Rye Hbr 52 pairs bred and many young were raised to the flying stage. Single pairs were at Selsey Bill, Cuckmere Haven, Chichester GP, Newhaven Tide Mills, Brighton Marina and Southwick. The Worthing area held 3 pairs at various sites and 5 pairs at Widewater, Shoreham.

Regular counts at Pilsey Island produced 359 on 13 May dropping to 83 on 2 June, 124 on 31 July, 800 on 19 Aug. and reaching a peak of 1380 on 12 Sept. then dropping to 527 on 13 Nov. and 716 on 12 Dec.

0477. KENTISH PLOVER (*C. alexandrinus*). Scarce/rare passage migrant, has bred.

1990: The record in the 1991 SxBR for 16 Oct. was in 1990.

1991: A female was present on Pilsey Sands from 26-27 June(CBC).

1992: There were no records for 1992.

0482. DOTTEREL (*Eudromias morinellus*). Scarce/rare passage migrant.

1990: The record for 3 Apr. should read 30 Apr.

1992: An unusual record of a wintering bird at Rye Hbr from 27 Jan-2 Feb. and then seen again on 22 Feb.(AFB). In the spring at Kingston a single was recorded from 11-13 Apr., then 14 on 29 Apr., 4 on 30 Apr-1 May, 2 there on 2 May rising to 8 on 3-4 May and 2 on 5-6 May(GAS).

Autumn records from Balsdean started with a single on 15-17 Aug., 6 from 18-19 Aug. dropping to 4 on 20th, then to 2 on 21st. Finally 2 on the Downs on 20 Sept. and a single on 22 Sept.(GAS).

0485. GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis apricaria*). Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	549	2121	22	18	50	-	1100	101	400	615
Pagham Hbr	393	1017	132	nc	-	843	62	-	-	-
Rye Hbr	69	25	17	21	18	-	1	-	45	500

were observed from 3 June with 42 at Thorney Deep, but numbers were generally low throughout June/July the maximum being 400 on Thorney Deep on 31 July. In Aug. 800 were noted at New Salts Farm, Lancing. The leucistic individual returned to Newhaven Tide Mills in Sept. and was also seen in Nov. Another leucistic bird was seen at Fishbourne Channel, Chichester Hbr. on 3 Oct. The only notable flock in Sept-Oct. were 1512 at Rye Hbr on 13th Sept. and 750 at Thorney Deep on 27 Sept. Numbers built up in Nov. with 1183 at Rye Hbr on 14th, on 15th there were 2758 at Pulborough, 4500 at Amberley Wild Brooks and a co-ordinated count on Pevensey Levels produced 5194. Dec. started with 2000 at Hardham on 5th, 2000 on Thorney Deep on 7th, 2193 at Rye Hbr. on 12th, 1119 on New Salts Farm, Lancing, and 3072 at Pevensey Levels on 13th. Finally, also in mid-Dec., over 10,000 were at Pulborough Brooks.

0496. KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant.

As usual almost all records were from Chichester Hbr. The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	810	617	8	19	162	723	1500	3001	1620	637
Chichester Hbr	810	590	8	17	161	683	1500	3000	1620	637
Pagham Hbr	-	27	-	nc	-	40	-	-	-	-

At Pilsey Sands 1200 were counted on 23 Jan. Spring passage was very poor with only 230 birds observed of which 229 were in May. June records were confined to 4 on Pilsey Sands on 6th and a single in full summer plumage at Rye Hbr on 18th. The first returning birds were singles at Pilsey Sands on 2 July and Pett Pools on 15 July. Numbers at Pilsey Sands rose to 17 by 12 Sept., 233 on 29 Oct., 1200 on 23 Nov. and 1500 on 12 Dec. Elsewhere the only notable flock was 87 at Pagham Hbr on 27 Sept.

0497. SANDERLING (*C. alba*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant.

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
County totals	181	294	370	279	46	102	37	184	203	195
Chichester Hbr	72	166	325	276	31	74	14	149	91	52
Climping	-	20	43	1	15	18	22	12	56	43
Goring	108	106	-	-	-	10	1	22	55	87
Pagham Hbr	-	1	1	nc	-	-	-	1	-	-
Rye Hbr	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	12

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

	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	90	401	491
Worthing	49	414	463
Seaford	25	164	189

Peak passage was 226 E at Worthing on 20 May. Away from the main estuary sites 95 were on Worthing Beach on 6 Mar., rising to 119 on 19 Mar. At Pilsey Sands where 374 were present on 18 Apr. counts decreased to 251 on 22 May and 18 were the last birds on 13 June. The first returning birds there were 2 on 30 June. Numbers then increased to 308 by 31 July and 350 on 29 Aug. Elsewhere the only significant counts were of 70 at West Beach, Littlehampton on 26 Oct. and 63 at Goring Gap on 31 Dec.

0501. LITTLE STINT (*C. minuta*). Regular autumn passage migrant, scarce spring passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.

The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
1	12	5	1	18	15	12

The first spring bird was at Pagham Hbr on 26 Apr. followed by 1 at Sidlesham Ferry from 17 May which preceded a peak of 8 on 21st. Other May records were singles at Rye Hbr on 23-24th and Pevensey Bridge Level on 24th. A rare June occurrence involved 5 at Pett Pools on 17th.

The first returning bird was at Sidlesham Ferry from 28 July, followed in Aug. by 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 7th, 2 at Pett Pools on 14th, plus singles at Climping Beach and Chichester GP on 15th. After 8 at Pilsey Sands on 18th there were more widespread ones and two until 6 were noted at Sidlesham Ferry on 24 Sept. The number here fluctuated through the rest of the month and into Oct., with 8 on 4th, dropping to 6 by 9th. A single at Pett Pools on 25 Oct. was the last recorded.

0502. TEMMINCK'S STINT (*C. temminckii*). Scarce/rare passage migrant.

During May singles were at Pevensey Bridge Level on 13th (PH,RJT,TJW) and at Sidlesham Ferry on 22-23rd (TJE et al.).

0507. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*). Rare spring/autumn passage migrant.

An adult was at Rye Hbr from 15-24 Sept. (TGB et al.) and a juvenile was at Horse Eye Level on 16 Oct. (MJE).

0509. CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*). Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce spring passage migrant.

The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
2	7	-	5	8	7

Spring passage began in Apr. with singles at Pagham Hbr from 10th and Rye Hbr on 21st. There were no other sightings until 1 arrived at Sidlesham Ferry on 13 May followed by another on 21st. Three were at Pilsey Sands on 22nd, at this time up to 2 were at Rye Hbr.

A very light return passage commenced with 1 at Pett Pools on 8 July. This was followed by several singles until up to 4 were noted at Sidlesham Ferry from 1 Aug., 4 were also at Rye Hbr during this month. In Sept. up to 2 were in the Lower Cuckmere Valley on 9-16th and 4 remained at Sidlesham Ferry until 1st, after which there were 2 singles here with the last sighting on 27th.

0510. PURPLE SANDPIPER (*C. maritima*). Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant.

The peak monthly counts were as follows:

County totals	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Brighton Marina	9	31	9	12	26	-	1	-	3	8	27	23
Glyne Gap*	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Langney Point	-	17	4	-	26	-	-	-	-	1	14	17
Littlehampton	2	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newhaven	-	9	-	10	-	-	1	-	2	1	10	-
Pilsey Island	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shoreham Hbr	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2

*includes St. Leonards-on-Sea
One at Newhaven on 15 July was only the county's 2nd record for that month.

the first being a single at Brighton Marina on 30th in 1981.

0512. DUNLIN (*C. alpina*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and scarce summer visitor.

Estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	17896	17776	2281	1185	4428	17279	25560	17998	13555	11044
Pagham Hbr	3259	3230	522	1026	3924	14476	21721	16590	10288	9091
Goring	221	457	-	nc	479	2122	2566	287	1286	832
Adur	877	183	123	3	-	46	195	67	232	260
Pett Level	228	86	3	40	16	570	732	800	1505	701
Rye Hbr	93	41	35	11	2	51	286	108	28	30
				78	7	14	-	-	91	87

Spring passage was again extremely light, though better than in 1991. Totals for main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	1	62	273	336
Worthing	-	-	81	81
Seaford	7	23	31	61

At the beginning of the year 400 were on the mud of a drained pit on the Crumbles on 16 Jan., only 5 remaining on 20 Feb. when the pit had been filled. On Pilsey Sands 600 were present on 22 Apr. rising to 1200 by 5 May. Numbers then dwindled to 59 by 26 June but then rose to 2000 on 31 July.

Inland records were scarce with a single at Weir Wood Res. on 19 Feb., 4 at Arlington Res. on 28 Apr., another single at Weir Wood Res. on 7 June, 2 there on 15 July, 8 on 14 Aug. and 12 on 6 Sept. Darwell Res. had a single on 18 Oct. and at Amberley Wild Brooks 4 on 23 Dec., rising to 8 on 24 Dec. Pulborough Brooks recorded some in Dec. with a maximum of 7 on 13th.

Finally 180 were roosting at Shoreham Airport on 25 Dec.

0517. RUFF (*Philomachus pugnax*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant.

In Jan. Pulborough Brooks recorded 36 on 14th and 12 were at West Wittering on 7th. Numbers rose at the latter site to 17 by 12 Feb.

In May 5 were at Pulborough Brooks on 15th and 2 males were seen displaying to a female on Pevensey Bridge Levels on 9th and up to 5 were there until 16th before departing.

Very few were seen during June-July with maximums of 3 at Pett Pools and 4 at Sidlesham. In Aug. the latter site held up to 8 whilst there were 15 on Pevensey on 15th. Weir Wood Res. had singles on 21st, 23rd, 26th and 29th. Numbers crept up in Sept. with 18 at Sidlesham on 22nd and 29th.

The first wintering birds at Pulborough Brooks were back on 15 Nov. with 12 there rising to 20 by Dec. and finally 36 were counted at Amberley Wild Brooks on 23 Dec.

0518. JACK SNIPE (*Lymnocyptes minimus*). Regular winter visitor, scarce passage migrant.

The minimum monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Number of sites	4	6	3	6	1	6	3	8
Number of birds	11	7	16	8	2	17	22	37

Numbers were down in the first winter period compared to last year except for Mar. when 14 at Thorney Deepes boosted the total. Again Rye Hbr recorded birds in

May, a single on 1st and 2 on 5th.

The first returning birds were 7 on Thorney Deepes on 30 Sept. In Oct. Rye Hbr recorded 1-4 there all month and a single was at Pett Pools on 2nd. Also in Oct. 4 were at Icklesham on 15-17th and a single there on 30th, and singles at Pagham on 17th, Pevensey on 30th and 2 at Pagham on 31st.

Numbers rose at Thorney Deepes from 13 on 6 Nov. to 20 on 22 Dec.

0519. SNIPE (*Gallinago gallinago*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant, breeds irregularly.

In Jan-Mar. the highest figures were of 285 at Pulborough Brooks on 14 Jan. and 140 on Thorney Deepes on 26 Feb.

In the breeding season records of drumming birds included 31 at Pulborough Brooks from Mar. onwards and 1 at Boreham Bridge on 2 May.

In the latter part of the year counts included 60 at Icklesham on 8 Oct., 32 at Weir Wood Res. on 19 Oct. and in Nov. over 400 at Pulborough Brooks. 278 on a coordinated count at Pevensey on 15th and 60 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 28th. During Dec. high tides flushed 106 from the saltings on the R. Adur on 13th, the count on Pevensey had risen to 313 also on the 13th, 100 were counted at Amberley Wild Brooks on 23rd and finally 15 were at Bewl Water on 31st.

0527. LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER (*Limnodromus scolopaceus*). Scarce/rare autumn passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.

An adult in summer plumage on Sidlesham Ferry from 21-23 May (TJE *et al.*) was probably the highlight of the year for many and has been accepted by *British Birds*. It is the 4th county record and the first since one, originally accepted as a Short-billed Dowitcher (*L. griseus*), at the same location in Feb-Mar. 1965. Both the other records, in Oct. 1950 and Nov. 1959, were at Thorney. In addition to these there have been 2 unidentified dowitchers recorded in the county, at Chidham in Apr. 1965 and Willingdon in Dec. 1985.

0529. WOODCOCK (*Scolopax rusticola*). Regular breeding resident and winter visitor; scarce passage migrant.

During the first quarter of the year very few were recorded with only 6 in Jan., 6 in Feb. and 10 in Mar. At least 72 roding birds were reported but this was well down from the 135 in 1991.

In the latter part of the year again few were noted, with none in Oct., 1 in Nov. and 8 in Dec. The latter total included 5 at Pulborough Brooks.

0532. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*). Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant and scarce summer visitor.

The estuary counts were as follows:

County totals	1992			1993						
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Chichester Hbr	308	596	283	355	410	153	341	457	176	150
Pagham Hbr	252	536	276	353	409	151	325	457	176	148
	56	60	-	nc	-	1	16	-	-	-

Spring counts included 200 on 20 Apr. at Thorney Island and a peak of 250 at Apuldram Manor Farm South on 29 Apr. Records elsewhere included 7 past Rye Hbr on 20 Mar. and 5 past Worthing on 12 May. Up to 14 were at Pulborough Brooks on 15-21 May.

Some large flocks of returning birds were present in the west of the county by late July as reflected by counts of 102 at Sidlesham Ferry on 30th and 304 at Thorney Deepes the following day.

By far the largest count of the year was 600 at Nutbourne on 29 Nov.

0534. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*L. lapponica*). **Regular winter visitor, regular spring passage migrant and scarce summer visitor.**

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992		1992		1993	
	Jan.	Feb. Mar.	Sept.	Oct. Nov. Dec.	Jan.	Feb. Mar.
County totals	831	805 534	507	55 591 1288	750	940 474
Chichester Hbr	784	762 534	506	53 589 1267	749	933 474
Pagham Hbr	39	41 -	nc	2 2 20	-	4

A low absolute minimum spring passage total of 1664 was recorded, with totals at the main seawatching localities as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey	23	44	504	571
Worthing	-	14	748	762
Seaford	5	285	817	1107
Newhaven	-	12	663	675

The peak movement occurred on 4 May, when there were 214 at Selsey Bill, 339 at Worthing, 490 at Seaford and 539 at Newhaven. June records included 160 at North Stakes Island, Chichester Hbr on 7th and 85 in the Lower Chichester Channel on 25th. Counts at Pilsey Sands showed an increase from 22 on 31 June to 346 by 31 July, and 706 were recorded there by 12 Dec.

0538. **WHIMBREL** (*Numerius phaeopus*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

In Jan. there was an interesting record of 7 over Weir Wood Res. on 1st and a single was noted in the Lower Chichester Channel on 14th.

The first migrant was on the R. Adur, Shoreham on 18 Mar. followed by another single on Worthing Beach on 29th. Spring totals for the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey	-	262	117	379
Worthing	1	73	117	191
Seaford	-	175	88	263
Newhaven	-	107	130	237

Inland records included 105 at Pevensey Bridge Level, 200 at South Stoke and 105 further north at Pulborough Brooks all on 2nd May. At the beginning of June there were 2 at Pagham Hbr with records from several sites after 5th. 14 at Pilsey Island on 15 July increased to 21 by 29th, dropped slightly to 15 by 18 Aug. and then to 8 the next day. Other Aug. records included 25 in the Lower Cuckmere Valley on 9th, 30 at Rye Hbr on 10th and 20 at Climping on 15th. Numbers dropped greatly in Sept. and there were only singles recorded at 5 localities during Oct. In Nov. there were singles in the Bosham Channel on 3rd and in Pagham Hbr on 7th. The latter remained throughout Dec. and 4 were at Apuldram Manor Farm South on 22nd.

0541. **CURLEW** (*N. arquata*) **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant, breeds irregularly.**

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992		1992		1993	
	Jan.	Feb. Mar.	Sept.	Oct. Nov. Dec.	Jan.	Feb. Mar.
County totals	1604	1841 1123	1493	1356 1793	2545	1271 1962 996
Chichester Hbr	741	1035 744	1460	788 662	1172 391	1133 384
Pagham Hbr	504	427 361	nc	434 355	583 116	301 316
Pett Level	307	346 2	15	115 762	789 762	258 262
Rye Hbr	30	13 16	18	11 14	-	2 260 34

Spring totals for the main seawatching localities are as follows:

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Total
Worthing	-	58	28	86
Seaford	30	149	17	196

Again there were no records of breeding. On Pilsey Island the first returning birds were noted on 2 June when 45 were present. Numbers on Stakes Island reached 250 by 3 July and by 20 July an estimated 1000 birds were in Chichester Hbr. Inland a single bird was observed flying W over Weir Wood Res. on 8 July, 3 were at Pulborough Brooks on 8 Sept., singles at Darwell Res. on 10 Oct. and Amberley Wild Brooks on 22 Oct. Finally 2 at Pulborough in Dec.

0545. **SPOTTED REDSHANK** (*Tringa erythropus*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.**

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
County totals	9	6	7	3	2	6	3	12	5	6	4	4
Chichester Hbr	9	6	7	2	-	3	2	2	-	4	4	4
Pagham Hbr	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	-
Pett Level	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Rye Hbr	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	-	-

In the first winter period up to 8 were at Thorney Island on 1 Jan., dropping to 6 by Feb. and early Mar. In addition, singles were in the Fishbourne Channel on 28 Jan. and at Cobnor Farm on 21 Mar. In Apr. 1 was at Sidlesham Ferry on 10-11th and 2 were at Thorney Island on 16th. As with the previous year, the May total was extremely poor with singles at Newhaven Tide Mills and Rye Hbr on 4th and 23rd respectively.

In June returning singles were at Rye Hbr on 12th and 27th, Icklesham on 20th and Cobnor Farm on 27th. Two at Thorney Deepes from 29th remained into July and possibly Aug., while 1 was at Sidlesham Ferry on 28 July.

During Aug-Sept. there were widespread ones and twos. From Oct. 4 were at Thorney Deepes through to the year's end, the only others being singles at Pagham Hbr on 7 Oct. and Rye Hbr from 1-13 Oct.

0546. **REDSHANK** (*T. totanus*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant, regular breeding summer visitor.**

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992		1992		1993	
	Jan.	Feb. Mar.	Sept.	Oct. Nov. Dec.	Jan.	Feb. Mar.
County totals	1011	992 682	1256	1363 1247	1976	1502 1369 1024
Chichester Hbr	670	544 493	1045	827 796	1388	1059 897 601
Pagham Hbr	102	300 44	nc	290 212	179	225 214 130
Adur	130	79 49	72	66 125	195	100 145 149
Rye Hbr	55	15 92	109	149 67	143	53 64 92

An albino bird was again recorded at Shoreham, on the R. Adur on 23 Feb. and 15 Mar., returning on 7 Nov., 29 Nov. and 13 Dec.

Again very little breeding information was received, c.61 pairs were reported, with 19 pairs at Rye Hbr with moderate to little success, an estimated 38 territories at Pulborough Brooks (35 in 1991) and 4 pairs at Pevensey Bridge Levels.

The first returning birds to Thorney Deepes arrived on 12 June with 32, then rising to 450 by 28 June and 800 on 31 July. After a storm 22 were recorded at Bewl Water on 30 Aug. The creamy individual returned to Shoreham for its 8th winter on 30 Oct. through to at least 25 Dec.

0556. **COMMON SANDPIPER** (*Actitis hypoleucos*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce/rare winter visitor.**

The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3	-	5	24	89	3	51	145	47	3	-	3

In Jan-Mar. there were 2 at both Thorney Deepes and Warnham MP, with a single in the Lower Arun Valley. Spring passage involved widespread ones and twos until 6 were noted at Barcombe Res. on 29 April. Peak counts in May included 11 at both Weir Wood Res. on 14th and Arlington Res. on 23rd.

After a single was at Rye Hbr on 6 June, the first returning singles were at Rye from 24th and Thorney Deepes on 27th. The build-up in numbers was slow until late July with, for example 14 at Thorney Deepes on 20th and 8 at Weir Wood Res. on 26th. August maxima included 12 at Pagham Hbr on 2nd, 10 at Clipping on 9th, 15 at Arlington Res. on 22nd, 14 at Barcombe Res. on 30th and 13 at Bewl Water on the latter date. After a sharp drop in numbers during Sept. there were 3 Oct. singles at Rye Hbr, Pulborough Brooks and Darwell Res. In Dec. there were 2 at Shoreham Hbr on 5th, with a single remaining at Thorney Deepes.

0561. **TURNSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*). **Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant.**

The estuary counts were as follows:

	1992												1993		
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
Country totals	602	644	814	342	392	845	610	1056	562	704					
Chichester Hbr	181	95	218	103	150	184	193	108	185	127					
Pagham Hbr	161	260	139	nc	30	428	136	578	187	249					
Normans Bay	-	9	35	6	10	20	-	20	12	nc					
Glyne Gap	115	174	250	203	150	158	141	227	156	144					
Pett Level	135	85	136	18	31	50	121	89	12	141					

Easterly spring passage was better than in 1991. Totals for the main seawatching localities were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	38	98	174	310
Worthing	-	-	73	73
Seaford	-	1	10	11

In Apr. there was 1 in summer plumage at Barcombe Res. on 26th. The only records for June came from Chichester Hbr with 14 on Pilesey Island on 6th, dropping to 2 by 13th and a single on 26th, whilst 19 were on North Stakes Island on 29th. In the latter part of the year there were no noteworthy concentrations away from the estuary sites.

A single bird was at Weir Wood Res. during foul weather on 9 Nov.

0563. **WILSON'S PHALAROPE** (*Phalaropus tricolor*). **Scarce/rare spring and autumn passage migrant.**

1991: One at Sidlesham Ferry on 3 June (BJ, CMI) has been accepted by *British Birds*.

0564. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE** (*P. lobatus*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant.**

Two records, a single at Sidlesham Ferry from 26 Aug-3 Sept. (CMI) and another was photographed on the R. Ouse, near Glynde, date uncertain, but probably 1-2 Sept. (BW per. DG).

0547. **MARSH SANDPIPER** (*T. stagnatilis*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant.**

One at Icklesham on 4 July (IDH) which was seen the same day at Rye (DA,MT) has been accepted by *British Birds*. It is the 8th to be recorded in the county, the 2nd to be seen in July and the 2nd at Icklesham.

0548. **GREENSHANK** (*T. nebularia*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.**

The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Country totals	7	5	3	22	46	24	132	216	150	63	12	12
Chichester Hbr	7	5	3	10	22	11	106	126	100	52	11	12
Pagham Hbr	-	-	-	6	3	7	7	37	12	-	-	-
Rye Hbr	-	-	-	3	3	3	7	44	18	9	-	-

All wintering birds were in Chichester Hbr and included 6 at Thorney Island on 23 Jan. Spring passage was unexceptional and included a peak of 12 at Thorney Deepes on 6 May.

Returning birds showed from mid-June, numbers slow to build up until early July. Counts at Thorney Deepes included 58 on 10 July, 103 on 31 July, 119 on 15 Aug. and 100 still there on 15 Sept. A notable party of 31 flew SW over Sidlesham Ferry on 20 Aug.

With the exception of 1 at Elms Farm, Icklesham on 1 Nov. all records for Nov-Dec. were from Chichester Hbr.

0553. **GREEN SANDPIPER** (*T. ochropus*). **Regular passage migrant and scarce winter visitor.**

The approximate minimum monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	16	9	3	10	4	11	51	60	30	17	14	12

The totals for Jan-Mar. included widespread ones and twos, with up to 3 at both Pett Royal Military Canal and Chichester GP.

After typically low spring passage numbers, what was probably the first returning bird was at Bewl Water on 7 June. No more than 3 birds were seen together until July, when 6 were at Chichester GP from 9th and 9 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 28th. The former site had the highest Aug. peaks including 12 there on 12th; Elms Farm, Icklesham recorded 6 through much of this month. An autumn peak of 6 was reached at both Sidlesham Ferry and Arlington Res. on 24 Sept. and 6 Oct. respectively. At the year's end co-ordinated counts at Pevensy Levels produced 7 on 15 Nov. and 6 on 13 Dec.

0554. **WOOD SANDPIPER** (*T. glareola*). **Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce spring passage migrant.**

The minimum monthly totals were as follows:

	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
	1	4	2	11	11	3

First recorded at Burton MP on 15 Apr., followed in May by up to 2 at Icklesham and singles at Pevensy Bridge Level and Sidlesham Ferry.

During June there were singles at Seven Sisters Country Park and Sidlesham Ferry on 5th and 26th respectively. In July there were widespread singles in addition to 2 seen at Pagham Hbr on several dates.

The chief site in Aug. was Sidlesham Ferry with a maximum of 3 on 20th. During Sept. a single was at Pett Pools on 8th; 2 at Icklesham on 12th were the last recorded.

0565. **GREY PHALAROPE** (*P. fulicarius*). **Regular autumn passage migrant and rare winter visitor.**

A first-winter individual near Poole Place, Elmer on at least 26-27 Oct. (ASC, SJP *et al.*) was the only record.

0566. **POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). **Regular spring passage migrant but numbers vary considerably from year to year. Scarce in autumn and a vagrant in winter.**

The first recorded on easterly spring passage was 1 off Seaford on 22 Apr. All other reports were for May, the available data indicating a total for the month of 118 E and 5 W, this low figure reflecting the absence of favourable winds for this species in the first half of May. The peak passage was on 14th when 34 passed Seaford plus a further 11 off Glyne Gap, Bexhill. The Seaford birds included a flock of 13 that was also observed off Worthing, Shoreham, Brighton Marina and Beachy Head.

In autumn, there was 1 E at Worthing on 16 Aug. (MGP) and 2 from a fishing boat 6 miles S of Brighton Marina on 21 Aug. (NJT).

0567. **ARCTIC SKUA** (*S. parasiticus*). **Regular spring and autumn passage migrant. Occasional in winter and summer.**

Easterly spring passage was first recorded on 29 Mar. (*cf.* Great Skua) on which date there were 6 at Seaford and on 30th when 2 passed Worthing. The totals at the main seawatching localities (number of hrs watched in brackets) for Apr. and May were as follows:

	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	95 (204)	60 (253.5)	155
Worthing	35 (71.5)	9 (95.4)	44
Newhaven	61 (73)	13 (51)	74
Seaford	141 (142.5)	53 (131.75)	194
Beachy Head	45	13	58

A simple analysis of the available data indicates a minimum of 264, the highest spring total since 1986. Passage was noted on 47 days with, once again, a marked peak in late Apr. including 84 at Seaford in the period 24-26th. The largest May movement was 18 at Selsey Bill on 12th. In June, there was 1 at Rye Hbr on 7th while in July, there were singles E at Selsey Bill, Seaford and Worthing on 4th, 11th and 13th respectively and 2 off Pett on 29th.

Autumn passage was heavier than in 1991, particularly at Selsey Bill where there were 96 W in 83 hrs in Sept., including an exceptional 78 on 6 Sept., the highest autumn day total for the county. Numbers in Oct. were, by comparison, low with just 4 recorded while in Nov. there were 3 off Hastings on 9th and 1 off Worthing on 14th.

0569. **GREAT SKUA** (*S. skua*). **Regular spring and autumn passage migrant. Occasional in winter and summer.**

The approximate monthly totals again show the main spring movement occurring in Apr. and a smaller return passage in autumn:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
-	-	1	39	7	3	2	5	10	1	6	1

Easterly spring passage was noted from 29 Mar. on which date there were singles off Climping and Worthing. The peak movements were on 20 Apr. when there were 8 off Seaford and Birling Gap and on 24 Apr. when 5 passed Selsey Bill and Seaford.

In June, there were 2 E off Hope Gap on 12th and 1 at Pett Level on 19th. The July records were of a single W at Worthing on 14th and 1 at sea off Newhaven on 21st. The peak autumn movements were recorded at Selsey Bill including 7 W in 13 hrs on 6 Sept. and 3 W on 9 Nov. Single birds at this locality and Pagham Hbr on 1 Dec. and again at Selsey on 23 Dec. probably relate to an injured individual released at Pilsley Island, also on 1st.

0573. **GREAT BLACK-HEADED GULL** (*Larus ichthyæetus*).

No longer on Sussex list. Following a BOURC review the continued acceptance of both county records can no longer be justified (*British Birds* 86:203) and the species should be removed from the county list. The records in question are:

1910: A winter adult at Telscombe Cliffs on 4 Jan., not acceptable after review.
1932: A summer adult flying past Hove on 9 Aug., not acceptable after review.

0575. **MEDITERRANEAN GULL** (*L. melanocephalus*). **Recorded throughout the year mainly as a passage migrant; a scarce summer visitor and rare breeding species. The numbers recorded are increasing steadily.**

Yet another good year was recorded with 194 records reporting 250 sightings. Analysis continues to be difficult, in part due to the large number of records but also due to a growing trend for observers not to record the bird's age accurately. The following table shows the approximate numbers of each age seen monthly; the total including unaged, probably different, individuals. The pattern of a spring peak is again clearly demonstrated.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Adults	2	2	7	8	6	3	3	5	3	2	5	3
2nd year	-	2	2	3	3	-	-	-	2	2	1	3
1st year	1	-	3	10	10	5	1	2	2	-	1	3
TOTAL	5	5	12	26	24	9	4	9	7	7	9	10

Most of the records involve single birds, 28 records involved 2 individuals and there were 3 recorded at Splash Point, Seaford on 7 and 30 Apr., at Selsey Bill on 3 May and at Portobello, Rottlingdean on 13 Aug. The largest numbers however, were seen in Chichester Hbr where there were 6 immatures on 19 May. Apart from records of singles on downland near Newhaven on 28 Mar. and at Balsdean on 3 Apr. all the sightings were from sites on or near the coast.

0577. **FRANKLIN'S GULL** (*L. pipixican*). **Rare visitor.**

1991: An adult at Newhaven Tide Mills on 4 Jan. (NJT) has been accepted by *British Birds* and was presumably that seen briefly at Brighton Marina on 29 Dec. (*SxBR* 44: 43). Its whereabouts during the intervening period remain a mystery, leaving those not lucky enough to chance upon it thinking of what might have been. The only previous record was an equally unhelpful appearance at Arlington Res. in July 1970.

0578. **LITTLE GULL** (*L. minutus*). **A passage migrant, most numerous in the spring; a scarce summer and winter visitor.**

Another good year was recorded although the 380 individuals seen is the lowest since 1987. The following table of the minimum numbers seen in each month reveals a similar pattern to previous years with a marked spring peak and a smaller but obvious late autumn passage.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	3	-	234	55	1	1	7	9	28	41	-

The winter records were single birds at Plumpton on 8 Jan., Selsey Bill on 11 Feb., Hastings on 19 Feb. and at Pulborough Brooks on 22 Feb. Coastal spring passage started slowly in early Apr. with the peak day of 185 E at Splash Point, Seaford during 7.5 hrs on 21 Apr. Interestingly on the same day few were seen in West Sussex with 4 at Selsey Bill in 11 hrs and just 2 in 9 hrs watching at Worthing. The only other notable spring day was 4 May when 25 E at Newhaven, 24 E at Seaford and 23 E at Beachy Head. An adult at Arlington Res. on 13 Apr. and an immature at Weir Wood Res. on 21 Apr. were the only inland spring records.

There were more records from inland reservoirs in the autumn with several records from Arlington Res., Weir Wood Res. and Barcombe Res., with a maximum of 4 at Arlington Res. on 30 Aug. The main coastal movements were at Selsey Bill

where 23 W on 27 Oct. and 30 W on 9 Nov. and the last was recorded at Newhaven Tide Mills on 29 Nov.

0579. **SABINE'S GULL (*L. sabini*)**. Scarce/rare autumn passage migrant.

An immature present at Arlington Res. on 30-31 Aug.(PJW) was the only record.

0582. **BLACK-HEADED GULL (*L. ridibundus*)**. Increasingly successful breeding species, common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Regular dusk roost counts at Rye and Camber totalled 1800 on 23 Jan., 4600 on 24 Feb. and 13,500 on 31 Mar. Elsewhere notable counts were 5000 at Arlington Res. on 2 Jan. and 600 at Warmham MP on 28 Jan., with 700 there on 24 Feb. Eastward coastal movements of predominantly immature birds were recorded in the spring at both Newhaven and Worthing; the combined Apr. and May totals being 2575 and 2500 respectively.

A high number of young fledged from the colony at Stakes Island in Chichester Hbr: 1322 nests were counted on 18 May and 1004 well grown chicks and 21 young chicks recorded on 15 June. At Rye 120 pairs raised 200 young and at a new colony at Camber GP there were 60 nests, many with small young, on 26 May.

Observers at Bewl Water noted an early return passage when 5 SW on 6 June. The highest autumn and winter counts were 1350 at Sompthing Brooks on 21 Aug. and 1521 at Rye on 20 Nov. Once again the black wing tipped albino, reported in previous years, was regularly seen at Worthing in the late autumn.

0590. **COMMON GULL (*L. canus*)**. Recorded all year although mostly a common winter visitor and passage migrant.

Monthly winter roost counts at Rye and Camber produced the years largest counts with 3900 on 23 Jan., 13,560 on 24 Feb. and 21,600 on 31 Mar. Elsewhere counts were much smaller but 1000 at Pilsey Sands on 23 Jan., 2000 at Devil's Dyke on 27 Mar., 1000 on Steyning Round Hill on 18 and 21 Apr. and 2125 E at Newhaven during Apr. watches were noteworthy.

A single adult at Bewl Water on 6 June was the earliest autumn record for that site. Counts at Pilsey Sands of 17 on 28 June, 80 on 6 July, 200 on 29 July, 400 on 7 Aug. and 550 on 13 Nov. show the numbers building through the autumn. The dusk count at Rye on 20 Nov. totalled 885.

0591. **LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. fuscus*)**. A few breeding pairs and some non-breeding birds summer, most numerous as a coastal passage migrant and a winter visitor to inland sites.

The largest counts early in the year were 29 at Cuckmere Haven on 1 Jan., at Warmham MP there were 26 on 2 Jan. and 60 on 11 Jan., and 15 at Pagham Hbr on 11 Feb. Spring passage was poor with Mar. to May totals of 69 E at Newhaven and 30 E at Worthing. At Bewl Water passage was recorded between 15 Mar. and 26 Apr., with the peak of 13 on 31 Mar. At least 3 pairs were at Worthing during the summer although only 1 nest located amongst the roof breeding Herring Gulls.

Autumn passage at Bewl Water was noted between 13 Sept. and 18 Oct. with a peak of 26 on 4 Oct. Autumn counts were notably higher than spring with counts at Pagham Hbr of 263 and 400 on 8 July and 1 Nov. respectively, 50 at Duncton Common on 23 Aug., 110 at Slindon Park on 13 Oct. and 160 adults on pasture near Faygate on 29 Nov.

0592. **HERRING GULL (*L. argentatus*)**. A common resident and breeding species; a winter visitor and passage migrant.

The largest counts in the winter were from the monthly roost counts at Rye and Camber with 1320 on 23 Jan. and 1650 on 31 Mar., although the count on 24 Feb. only produced 100 birds.

There were 17 pairs nesting at Rye Hbr and rooftop nesting was again recorded

in St. Leonards, Hove and Worthing although the records give no indication of the total breeding population using man-made sites in coastal towns. The only spring count was 174 at Newhaven on 24 May.

Notable counts in the autumn and winter include 600 at Pett Pools on 29 Oct., 161 on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 5 Nov., 100 at Faygate on 29 Nov., and 100 at Darwell Res. on 13 Dec.

L.a. argentatus:- There were records of birds showing the characteristics of this race from Pagham Hbr, one on 3 Feb.(BDJ,PJ,TJT); the Crumbles, one on 17 Feb.(BDJ,PJ); Scotney Court GP, 3 on 3 Mar.(RJF,PJ) and Pett Pools, 2 also on 3 Mar.(RJF,PJ).

The records of the yellow legged race *L.a.michahellis*, now considered by some to be a separate species *L.cachimans* were fewer but continued to show the pattern of summer and autumn gatherings mainly in the Chichester area and Adur Valley. The largest counts were 17 and 15 at Pagham Hbr on 21 July and 7 Oct. respectively, 25 at Washington refuse tip on 24 Aug. and 11 on the R.Adur at Shoreham on 14 Sept. A single bird in the Cuckmere Valley on 30 July was considered to be the same individual that had returned for 12 years. The following table shows the monthly minimum totals.

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
-	-	4	-	-	11	23	28	27	20	4	1

0598. **ICELAND GULL (*L. glaucooides*)**. Scarce/rare spring passage migrant, scarce/rare winter visitor.

A first-summer bird was recorded at Selsey Bill on 19 Apr.(BJC,CRJ) followed by first-winter birds at Newhaven on 22 Apr.(RGS) and 4 May (EDU). At the end of the year an adult was found on the R.Adur at Shoreham on 21 Dec.(KN).

0599. **GLAUCOUS GULL (*L. hyperboreus*)**. Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant.

1991: An adult at Pilsey Island on 5 Jan. and a second-winter at Thorney Island on 28 Apr.(CBC) and a second-year at Worthing Beach on 10 May (JAN,DIS).

1992: The adult regularly recorded in the Selsey area since 1985 was again noted at various sites between 1 Jan. and 2 Feb. and from 19 Aug. until 28 Dec.(mo). A first-winter at Seaford on 1st and 5th Jan.(AMW), other first-winter birds were as follows: 1 at Pett Level on 13 Feb.(CB), Climping/Littlehampton beaches on 7, 14 and 17 Feb.(RJLK), and Newhaven on 28 Mar. and 27 Apr.(EDU).

0600. **GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. marinus*)**. A non-breeding resident and passage migrant.

The largest counts came from coastal sites during the winter months. The monthly dusk roost count between Rye and Camber totalled 680 on 23 Jan., 92 on 24 Feb. and 260 on 31 Mar. At Hope Gap there were 298 on 1 Jan., 277 on 23 Feb. and 382 on 21 Dec. At other traditional gathering sites the counts were lower with the year maximum of 190 on the R. Adur at Shoreham on 10 Feb. and 150 at Pilsey Sands on 13 June. Other notable counts were 100 at Hastings during the winter, 273 E at Newhaven in 3 hrs watching on 8 Feb., 120 at the Crumbles on 19 Nov. and 155 at Crowhurst Marsh on 19 Dec.

0602. **KITTIWAKE (*Rissa tridactyla*)**. Increasingly successful breeding species, winter visitor and passage migrant.

Small numbers were noted offshore during the winter with no large movements recorded. Although regularly seen during spring seawatches the numbers were small, the largest movement of 63 E at Worthing on 29 Mar. and the spring total at Selsey Bill was 179 E and 152 W in 525 hrs observations between Mar. and May.

In early May there were 24 nesting on the cliffs at Seaford and the colony at

0616. ARCTIC TERN (*S. paradisaea*). Uncertain but probably a regular spring and autumn passage migrant.

Spring records were of 1 at Littlehampton on 25 Apr. and 2 at Bewl Water on 26th. In autumn, the first recorded was 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 1 Aug. followed by 3 at Chichester GP on 30th and further singles at Arlington Res. and Pett Level on 31st and at Rye Hbr on 1 Sept. A flock of 34 flew S over Pulborough Brooks on 3 Sept., on which date single birds were recorded at Bewl Water and Wornham MP. The only other reports for Sept. were of 1 at Arlington Res. on 10th and a juvenile at Paghham Hbr on 27th. The identification of Common, Arctic and Roseate Terns is fully discussed in a recent paper, *British Birds* 86(5): 210-17.

COMMON/ARCTIC TERN

First recorded on 31 Mar. at Worthing, the same date as in 1990 and 1991. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities (number of hrs watched in brackets) were as follows:

	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	520 (204)	1175 (253.5)	1695
Worthing	66 (71.5)	723 (95.4)	789
Newhaven	171 (73)	747 (51)	918
Seaford	694 (142.5)	1575 (131.75)	2269

In a very poor spring for tern passage, the only large movements recorded were 285 and 451 at Seaford on 4 and 10 May respectively. The total for the whole spring in this locality compares most unfavourably with the 12572 recorded in the same period in 1991.

Westerly autumn passage, by comparison, was heavy with monthly totals for Aug. of 506 at Worthing and 268 at Selsey Bill and for Sept. of 1071 and 1302 respectively. The peak movement was on 6 Sept. when there were 1100 in just 4 hrs at Langney Point, 502 in 6.25 hrs at Worthing and 528 at Selsey in 13 hrs. The last recorded was 1 at the Crumbles on 29 Oct. although this was most likely the Common Tern recorded at Langney Point on 25th.

0624. LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*). Regular passage migrant and scarce breeding summer visitor.

First recorded on 12 Apr. at Selsey Bill and in Paghham Hbr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities (number of hrs watched in brackets) were as follows:

	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	189 (204)	258 (253.5)	447
Worthing	13 (71.5)	42 (95.4)	55
Newhaven	-	36 (51)	36
Seaford	15 (142.5)	41 (131.75)	56

The largest movements recorded were 41 at Selsey Bill on 21 Apr. and 37 there on 23rd.

In the breeding season there were 40-45 pairs at Rye Hbr. A prolonged spell of poor weather caused most nests to fail although 10-14 young eventually fledged successfully. In Chichester Hbr, where 53 were present on 17 May and 140 on 31 July, 6 nests were located on 15 June. These contained 10 eggs and 2 small chicks.

Autumn passage was heavier than usual, the main movement being on 6 Sept. when there were 70 W at Langney Point, 40 W at Worthing and 35 in Newhaven Hbr. At Paghham Hbr there were 59 on 9 Aug., 80 on 21 Aug. and 20 on 12 Sept. The last recorded was 1 on Pilsey Sands on 28 Sept.

Inland records were of 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 1-2 and 14 Aug., 5 there on 7 Aug. and 3 on 30 Aug.; 4 at Bewl Water on 30 Aug., 2 remaining until the following day; and 1 on the R. Rother at Bodiam on 9 Sept.

Newhaven held 1170 occupied nests on 7 June; both these counts show small reductions from the last counts in 1990.

The early autumn gathering at Brighton Marina reached a peak of 221 on 5 Sept. and the only significant autumn movements were recorded at Selsey Bill with 171 W in 4.5 hrs on 8 Nov. and 89 W in 5.5 hrs on 9 Nov. With the exception of 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 26 Aug. all the records were from the coast.

0611. SANDWICH TERN (*Sterna sandvicensis*). Regular spring and autumn passage migrant. Breeds erratically.

First recorded on 15 Mar. at Hope Gap and on 18th at Selsey Bill and Rye Hbr. Easterly spring passage totals at the main seawatching localities (number of hrs watched in brackets) were as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.	May	Total
Selsey Bill	25 (67.5)	1394 (204)	1209 (253.5)	2628
Worthing	38 (36.9)	773 (71.5)	712 (95.4)	1523
Newhaven	4 (5.5)	715 (73)	489 (51)	1208
Seaford	119 (62.5)	2149 (142.5)	1036 (131.75)	3304

Although seldom recorded in larger numbers than Common/Arctic Terns, there were few sizeable movements, the peak being 468 at Seaford on 21 Apr., on which date there were also 411 at Worthing.

In Chichester Hbr, 27 nests containing 47 eggs were located on 18 May and a total of 15 chicks on 15 June, the best breeding success at this locality since 1983. There was, however, no evidence of nesting at Rye Hbr.

Westerly autumn passage was again light, the totals for Aug. being 229 and 510 at Worthing and Selsey Bill respectively. At the latter site, there were 155 W in 13 hrs on 6 Sept., the largest movement recorded during the autumn. The last noted was 1 in Chichester Hbr on 16 Oct.

Inland, there were 16 SW at Bewl Water on 9 Aug. and 2 there on 13 Sept., 3 at Chichester GP on 19 Sept., 1 SW over Faygate on 20 Sept. and 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 21st.

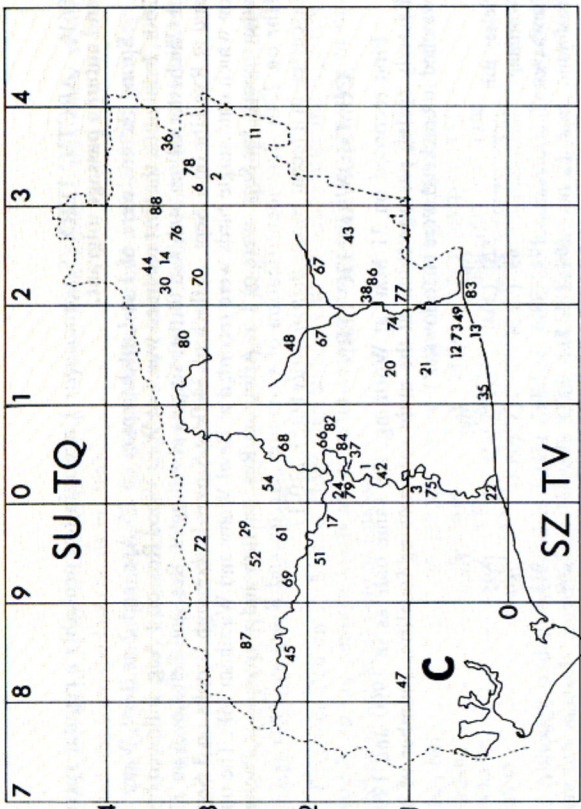
0614. ROSEATE TERN (*S. dougallii*). Scarce passage migrant and non-breeding summer visitor.

The only records of this nationally declining species were of 2 in Chichester Hbr on Pilsey Sands on 14 May (CBC) and single adults at Rye Hbr on 5 and 9 June (*per. B.J.Y.*)

0615. COMMON TERN (*S. hirundo*). Regular spring and autumn passage migrant; scarce breeding summer visitor.

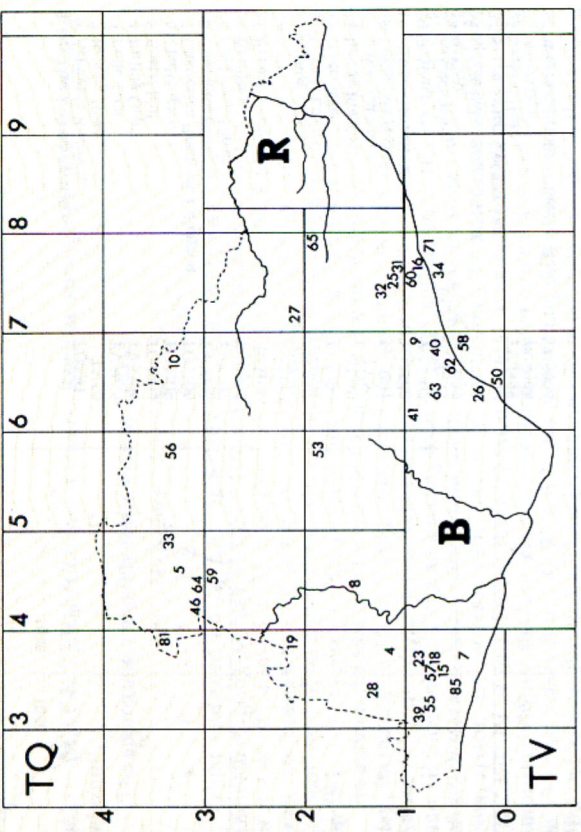
At Rye Hbr 45-50 pairs nested raising 80 young, a marked improvement in breeding success compared with the 3 young fledged in 1991. In Chichester Hbr, where 17 nests were found on 15 June, only 4 survived flooding by high tides but their ultimate fate was unknown. The colony on the Society's rafts at Chichester GP also fared badly due to predation of eggs by Magpies. Although 20+ adults were present on 10 June, the colony was deserted by 27 June with no subsequent evidence of re-laying. A pair hatched 2 chicks on a raft at Arundel WWT and, at another site, a pair was observed copulating on 31 May.

Few were observed on passage at inland waters in spring but in autumn a number of large counts included, on 30 Aug., 100 at Chichester GP, 78 at Barcombe Res., 70 at Arlington Res., 61 at Bewl Water and 36 at Weir Wood Res. Other significant concentrations included 50 and 40 at Arlington on 2 and 10 Sept. respectively, 43 and 41 at Weir Wood Res. on 3 and 17 Sept. respectively and 50 at Bewl Water on 11th. The last recorded was 1 at Langney Point on 25 Oct.



Key to localities (not necessarily of public access)

- 1 Amberley Wild Brooks
- 2 Ardingly Reservoir
- 3 Arlington Reservoir
- 4 Arundel WWT/PAK
- 5 Ashcombe Bottom/Farm
- 6 Ashdown Forest
- 7 Balcombe
- 8 Barcombe Reservoir/Mills
- 9 Barnham Level, Hoop
- 10 Beckley Head
- 11 Beckley Woods
- 12 Belle Tout
- 13 Bewl Water
- 14 Birling Gap
- 15 Bluebell Railway
- 16 Bostal Channel
- 17 Bostal Hill
- 18 Bracklesham Bay
- 19 Brede Levels
- 20 Broadwater
- 21 Brooklands, Worthing
- 22 Broomhill Level
- 23 Buchanan Park
- 24 Bullock Hill
- 25 Bulverhythe
- 26 Burton Pond
- 27 Camber Sands
- 28 Castle Hill
- 29 Chatley Common
- 30 Chadlington
- 31 Chancotbury Ring
- 32 Charleston Reedbed
- 33 Chichester Gravel Pits
- 34 Chidham
- 35 Church Norton
- 36 Clynchton Farm
- 37 Cissbury Ring
- 38 Climping
- 39 Cobnar Point/Farm
- 40 Cold Coombes, Kingston
- 41 Coldwaltham Brooks
- 42 Combe Haven
- 43 Crumbles Gravel Pit
- 44 Cuckmere Haven
- 45 Darwell Reservoir
- 46 Dell Quay
- 47 Ditchling Beacon
- 48 East Dean
- 49 East Giddeford Level
- 50 Ebernoe Common
- 51 Exeat Bridge
- 52 Fairlight
- 53 Faygate
- 54 Filsham LNR
- 55 Firle
- 56 Fishbourne Channel
- 57 Flatroppers Wood
- 58 Fore Wood (RSPB)
- 59 Friars Gate
- 60 Friston Forest
- 61 Glynde Levels
- 62 Glynede Gap
- 63 Goring Gap
- 64 Gravetye Manor
- 65 Greattham Bridge
- 66 Henfield Brooks
- 67 Houdcombe
- 68 Hollingbury Camp/GC
- 69 Hoop Level
- 70 Horse Eye Level
- 71 Houghton Bridge
- 72 Hurstpierpoint
- 73 Icklesham
- 74 Infield Mill Pond
- 75 Iping Common
- 76 Isle of Thorns
- 77 Ivy Lake
- 78 King's Gap
- 79 Knepp Lake
- 80 Lancing
- 81 Langney Point
- 82 Lavington Common
- 83 Lewes Brooks
- 84 Lower Cuckmere
- 85 Lullington Heath
- 86 Lurgashall
- 87 Maynards Green
- 88 Mens, The
- 89 Midrips
- 90 Moneypenny Gravel Pit
- 91 Moulsecomb Wild Park
- 92 Nap Wood
- 93 Newhaven Tide Mills
- 94 Newmarket Hill
- 95 Normans Bay
- 96 Northpoint Gravel Pit
- 97 Nuthourne Marsh
- 98 Old Lodge Reserve
- 99 Paghram Harbour
- 100 Paghram Lagoon
- 101 Pebsham
- 102 Pett Level
- 103 Pett Pools
- 104 Peworth Park
- 105 Pevensey Bridge Level
- 106 Pevensey Levels
- 107 Piddlinghoe
- 108 Pilsey Island
- 109 Pippingford Park
- 110 Powdermill Reservoir
- 111 Prinsread
- 112 Pulborough Brooks
- 113 R. Adur
- 114 R. Arun
- 115 R. Cuckmere
- 116 R. Otze
- 117 R. Rother (East)
- 118 R. Rother (West)
- 119 R. Rother Levels
- 120 R. Rye Harbour
- 121 St. Leonards Forest
- 122 St. Leonards (on Sea)
- 123 Scooney Court Gravel Pit
- 124 Seaford Head
- 125 Selsey Bill
- 126 Seven Sisters Country Park
- 127 Severals, The
- 128 Shillinglee Mill Pond
- 129 Sidlesham Ferry
- 130 Sompington Brooks
- 131 Splash Point
- 132 Strivens Reedbed, Steyning
- 133 Swanbourne Lake
- 134 Thorney Deep
- 135 Thorney Island
- 136 Tilgate Forest
- 137 Tillingham Valley
- 138 Union Channel
- 139 Upper Beeding
- 140 Wakehurst Place
- 141 Waltham Brooks
- 142 Warnham Mill Pond/LNR
- 143 Weir Wood Reservoir
- 144 West Chillington
- 145 West Dean
- 146 Westhampnett Gravel Pit
- 147 West Titchener
- 148 West Wittering
- 149 Whibread Hollow
- 150 Widewater
- 151 Wiggonholt Brooks/Common
- 152 Winchelsea Beach
- 153 Woodingdean
- 154 Woods Mill
- 155 Woolbeding Common
- 156 Worth Forest



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

- 1 Jury's Gap
- 2 Kingley Vale
- 3 Knepp Lake
- 4 Lancing
- 5 Langney Point
- 6 Lavington Common
- 7 Lewes Brooks
- 8 Lower Cuckmere
- 9 Lullington Heath
- 10 Lurgashall
- 11 Maynards Green
- 12 Mens, The
- 13 Midrips
- 14 Moneypenny Gravel Pit
- 15 Moulsecomb Wild Park
- 16 Nap Wood
- 17 Newhaven Tide Mills
- 18 Newmarket Hill
- 19 Normans Bay
- 20 Northpoint Gravel Pit
- 21 Nuthourne Marsh
- 22 Old Lodge Reserve
- 23 Paghram Harbour
- 24 Paghram Lagoon
- 25 Pebsham
- 26 Pett Level
- 27 Pett Pools
- 28 Peworth Park
- 29 Pevensey Bridge Level
- 30 Pevensey Levels
- 31 Piddlinghoe
- 32 Pilsey Island
- 33 Pippingford Park
- 34 Powdermill Reservoir
- 35 Prinsread
- 36 Pulborough Brooks
- 37 R. Adur
- 38 R. Arun
- 39 R. Cuckmere
- 40 R. Otze
- 41 R. Rother (East)
- 42 R. Rother (West)
- 43 R. Rother Levels
- 44 R. Rye Harbour
- 45 St. Leonards Forest
- 46 St. Leonards (on Sea)
- 47 Scooney Court Gravel Pit
- 48 Seaford Head
- 49 Selsey Bill
- 50 Seven Sisters Country Park
- 51 Severals, The
- 52 Shillinglee Mill Pond
- 53 Sidlesham Ferry
- 54 Sompington Brooks
- 55 Splash Point
- 56 Strivens Reedbed, Steyning
- 57 Swanbourne Lake
- 58 Thorney Deep
- 59 Thorney Island
- 60 Tilgate Forest
- 61 Tillingham Valley
- 62 Union Channel
- 63 Upper Beeding
- 64 Wakehurst Place
- 65 Waltham Brooks
- 66 Warnham Mill Pond/LNR
- 67 Weir Wood Reservoir
- 68 West Chillington
- 69 West Dean
- 70 Westhampnett Gravel Pit
- 71 West Titchener
- 72 West Wittering
- 73 Whibread Hollow
- 74 Widewater
- 75 Wiggonholt Brooks/Common
- 76 Winchelsea Beach
- 77 Woodingdean
- 78 Woods Mill
- 79 Woolbeding Common
- 80 Worth Forest

0627. BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias niger*). Regular spring and autumn passage migrant.

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

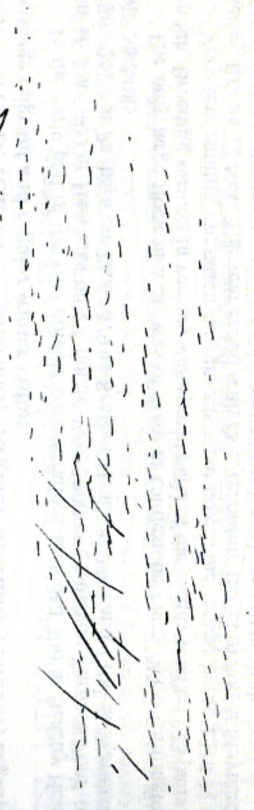
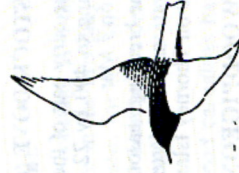
Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
8	119	4	65	1897	

First recorded on 21 Apr. at Selsey Bill (2), Worthing and Rye Hbr (2). Thereafter, spring passage was very light with totals at the main seawatching localities of just 45 at Selsey Bill, 25 at Seaford, 11 at Beachy Head and 4 at Worthing. The peak movement was 18 E at the first named locality on 14 May. Additional records for May were of 48 during the month in Chichester Hbr, including 22 on Pilsley Sands on 19th, 1 at Pevensey Bridge Level on 9th and 2 at Weir Wood Res. on 24th.

In autumn the first noted were 3 in Chichester Hbr on 30 July and on the following day, increasing to 16 on 7 Aug., the maximum count in the county for the month. Strong S/SW winds after overnight rain on 6 Sept. produced an unprecedented influx into SE England including an amazing total of 10215 at Dungeness (Kent), over 90% of which were adults (*Birding World* 5 (9): 328). Numbers in Sussex were small, by comparison, but at least 1800 passed W at Langney Point between 0900-1530 (DCJFC,PJ *et al.*), by far the biggest day total ever recorded in Sussex. Not surprisingly, large numbers were also recorded at other coastal sites including 1026 W in 13 hrs at Selsey Bill, 194 W in 6.25 hrs at Worthing, 200 sheltering in Newhaven Hbr and 73 over Pett Pools. These latter counts have not been included in the monthly total for Sept. as they are likely to be the same birds as those recorded at Langney Point. Numbers at inland waters were small except for 50 at Chichester GP on 7th, decreasing to 10 by 11th. Few were reported thereafter, the last for the year being 2 at Pett Pools on 29 Sept.

0628. WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*C. leucopterus*). Scarce/rare passage migrant.

Two fairly typical individuals were recorded following two blank years. An adult in summer plumage was found at Pilsley Island on 14-15 May (CBC) and an adult seen at Pett Pools on 26 Aug. (JABG) and at Rye Hbr LNR from 28 Aug-4 Sept. (RGH *et al.*). Both have been accepted by *British Birds* and move the county total on to 41.



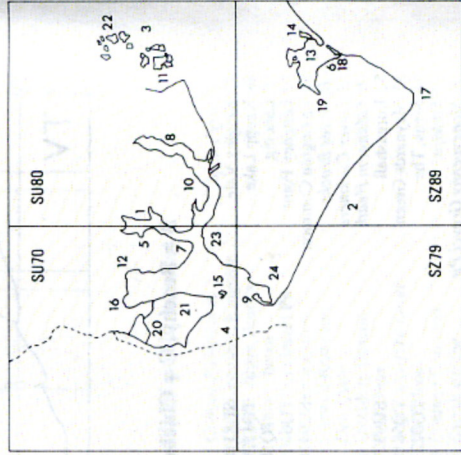
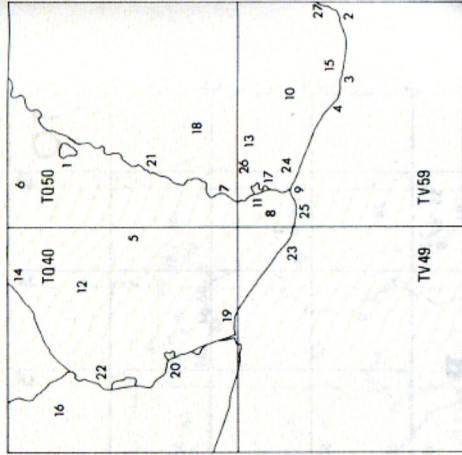
Beacy Head/Newhaven area

- 1 Arlington Reservoir
- 2 Beacy Head
- 3 Belle Tout
- 4 Birling Gap
- 5 Bostal Hill
- 6 Chalvington
- 7 Charleston Reedbed, Littleington
- 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 Splash Point, Seaford Head
- 24 Seven Sisters Country Park
- 25 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 Pilsley Island
- 16 Prinsted
- 17 Selsey Bill
- 18 Severals, Church Norton
- 19 Sidlesham Ferry
- 20 Thorney Deep
- 21 Thorney Island
- 22 Westhampnett Gravel Pit
- 23 West Itchenor
- 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 Scomey Court Gravel Pit
- 19 Tillingham Valley
- 20 Union Channel
- 21 Winchelsea Beach



0634. **GUILLEMOT** (*Uria aalge*). **Non-breeding summer visitor; winter visitor; passage migrant.**

The approximate monthly totals (which include sea passage) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
65	34	3	7	4	1	2	1	-	1	-	10

These figures include 3 dead birds, 2 of which were oiled, and a further 47 live but oiled individuals, most of which were taken to Brent Lodge for cleaning. Of these, 16 were found in Jan. and 19 in Feb. See also Auk sp.

0636. **RAZORBILL** (*Alca torda*). **As Guillemot but apparently less numerous.**

The approximate monthly totals (which include passage at sea) were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	5	2	2	2	-	-	-	1	3	7	3

These figures include 7 oiled individuals, all of which were taken to Brent Lodge for cleaning.

AUK SPECIES

Totals at the main seawatching localities were as follows:

Direction of movement.....	Jan-Feb.		Mar-May		Aug-Oct.		Nov-Dec.	
	E	W	E	W	E	W	E	W
Selsey Bill	61	9	63	24	-	14	29	28
Worthing	6	-	8	-	6	5	5	23
Newhaven	79	3	12	-	-	-	-	-
Seaford	221	15	112	4	-	-	207	-

The records for Seaford for Nov-Dec. include a further 236 birds for which the direction of movement was not specified. The largest movements recorded were 207 E at Seaford on 14 Nov. and 92 E at Langney Point on 27 Dec.

0665. **feral ROCK DOVE** (*Columba livia*). **Feral.**

A single wild plumaged bird of unknown origin flew in off the sea at Selsey Bill on 17 May.

0668. **STOCK DOVE** (*C. oenas*). **Regular breeding resident.**

In the early part of the year notable concentrations included 150 at Pagham on 26 Jan., rising to 400 by 22 Feb., 200 were at Standean Bottom on 27 Feb. and 100 at Offham on 7 Mar.

In the breeding season 39 records of breeding pairs were received. The only large concentrations in the latter part of the year were 110 on Pevensey Down Level on 2 Oct., 100 on Thorney Island on 5 Dec. and 55 in Filsham Valley on 28 Dec.

0670. **WOODPIGEON** (*C. palumbus*). **Regular breeding resident, regular passage migrant and regular winter visitor.**

In the early part of the year notable concentrations included 300 at Beachy Head on 16 Jan., 400 at Hassocks on 27 Jan., in Feb. 2000 at Slaught Furnace Pond on 17th, 2500 at Pagham on 22nd, 379 at Seaford Head on 23rd and 1100 at Warnham MP on 24th.

The only large flock in Mar. was of 1000 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington on 8th. Breeding surveys in various widespread parts of the county totalled 223 pairs.

Very few autumn migration movements were noted, the largest being 1310 N at Selsey Bill on 12 Nov. The year ended with Dec. recording flocks of 800 at Maynards Green on 23rd, 800 at Climping on 24th and 500 at Warnham MP on 30th.

0684. **COLLARED DOVE** (*Streptopelia decaocto*). **Regular breeding resident.**

As in previous years Rye Hbr held the largest concentration with over 200 including the 2 almost white birds recorded in 1988, 1990 and 1991. Another almost white bird was seen at Mannings Heath on 5 Apr.

Bewl Water recorded its largest ever number with 32 there on 10 Sept. In Oct., 83 were counted at Pagham on 3rd, 65 at Barnham on 22nd and 20 were observed feeding in a cut sweetcorn field at Weir Wood Res. on 28th. A flock of 70 were seen roosting in trees at Hurstpierpoint on 30 Nov.

0687. **TURTLE DOVE** (*S. turtur*). **Regular breeding summer visitor and regular passage migrant.**

First recorded at Seaford Head with 3 on 19 Apr. No obvious passage was noted and the maximum number seen during the spring was 8 on Thorney Deepes on 1 May, 8 at Seaford Head on 3 May and 13 there on 16 May.

In the breeding season records of only 25 pairs were received and no large concentrations were noted during the summer. Autumn passage was extremely light, the last recorded was a single at Climping on 9 Oct.

0712. **Cat.C. RING-NECKED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula krameri*). **Introduced, regular breeding resident.**

Again there were no confirmed reports of breeding during the year. The maximum seen together were 3 at Moulsecomb Wild Park, Brighton on 1 June. Singles were seen at Hollingbury Camp on numerous dates in Apr. and May.

Elsewhere 2 were seen flying over Pulborough Brooks on 24 Feb., singles were at Littlehampton GC on 20 May, Steyning on 10 Sept., flying round Hove Cemetery on 27 Sept., Cobnor Point on 11 Oct., Cuckmere on 12 Oct. and Bexhill from 6-11 Nov. with 2 there on 13th. In Dec 2 were seen at Ellanore on 26th.

0724. **CUCKOO** (*Cuculus canorus*). **Regular breeding summer visitor, regular passage migrant.**

First recorded at Pagham on 23 Mar., an early date. Following singles at West Wittering on 2 Apr., Worthing 4 Apr. and Angmering and Maynards Green on 5 Apr. birds were reported regularly after 14th.

Widespread during the breeding season. The last bird of the year was a single at Littlehampton GC on 29 Sept.

0735. **BARN OWL** (*Tyto alba*). **Regular breeding resident.**

The number of birds seen in the county remains fairly constant. A total of 102 records were received from 45 localities, 25 of which were in the breeding season. However, the number of probable pairs has fallen again, for the 3rd year in succession, to just 9. Of these, there was only 1 confirmed breeding success with a pair raising 4 young from within a barn. In addition, a juvenile bird was seen flying near Sidesham Ferry at the end of June.

It is, however, most encouraging to confirm that no road casualties have been reported during the year.

0757. **LITTLE OWL** (*Athene noctua*). **Regular breeding resident.**

A total of 137 records were received for 65 localities, 49 of which were in the breeding season. Of 25 probable pairs reported, again incomplete information was received on breeding success. It is known that 6 pairs were successful, although the only definite fledged young were from Climping, where a pair raised 3 young.

Sadly 1 roadside corpse was reported.

0761. **TAWNY OWL** (*Strix aluco*). **Regular breeding resident.**

A total of 113 records were received for 61 localities, 39 of which were in the

breeding season. Of 37 probable pairs reported, 6 were known to have bred successfully, raising 13 young. As previously mentioned, there are many suitable areas of woodland throughout the county which do not feature in the records received, suggesting that this largely nocturnal species remains under recorded. The number of casualties has significantly reduced. Only 1 roadside corpse was reported, with another 2 birds taken into care, 1 of which was released a week later.

0767. LONG-EARED OWL (*Asio otis*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant, breeds most years.

The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	July	Oct.	Dec.
Number of sites	2	4	2	2	2	1	1	1
Number of birds	6	11	10	2	2	2	1	1

These numbers include roosts of 9, 5 and 4 in the Ouse, Arun and Adur valleys respectively. Single migrants were noted at Bayham on 7 May and Seaford Head on 18 Oct. Sadly there was a roadside corpse at Playden Saltbarn on 8 Mar.

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

0768. SHORT-EARED OWL (*A. flammeus*). Regular winter visitor and regular passage migrant. Has bred.

The large wintering totals recorded at the end of 1992 increased further in the New Year. Whilst there is inevitable duplication of reports from well-watched coastal areas, the following monthly maxima were recorded. It must be stressed that many individuals remained in the county throughout both winter periods.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	25	25	20	24	7	2	36	33	31

The majority of records can be grouped and summarised as follows:

Chichester Hbr. All records relate to the winter roosts on Thorney Island, with occasional hunting birds visiting nearby Cobnor Point. There were roosts of 8 and 2 recorded on 16 Jan. By 8 Feb, these had swelled to a peak of 8 and 7 respectively. Numbers gradually dwindled with the onset of spring and the last 2 were seen on 1 May.

Autumn records began with a migrant seen coming in off the sea on 7 Oct. Wintering birds arrived later in the month, with 3 present on 22 Oct. By 5 Nov, this overwintering total had increased to 6, and remained at this level through Dec.

Selsey Peninsula. As expected, from such a well-watched locality, there were many reports from Pagham during the early months, with a maximum of 5 birds present on 11 Jan. Elsewhere, an individual was found at Selsey on 7 Mar., with 2 there on 17th. The last sighting was from Pagham on 24 May.

In autumn, migration was first recorded at Pagham with an individual on 26 Sept. Single birds came in "off the sea" at Selsey on 5/6 and 11 Oct. From then on, birds became scarce with just single records on 31 Oct., 14 Nov. and finally 28 Nov.

Arun Valley. In the early months on Pulborough Brooks, single birds were seen in Jan., Feb. and Apr. whilst on the coast, there was just 1 bird regularly recorded from Littlehampton, between 7-17 Feb.

During the last quarter of the year, Pulborough recorded 2 birds in Oct. and further singles in Nov. and Dec. The remaining records for this region all came from the Climping - Littlehampton coastline. One bird was seen being mobbed by both gulls and crows on 5 Oct. This, or another, was subsequently observed between 9-11 Oct. There were 2 further individuals reported, on 22 and 30 Oct.

Adur Valley. During the first winter period, an individual was found at Ashurst Bines bridge on 24 Jan. and up to 2 birds were recorded on the levels south of Henfield between 24 Jan - 3 Feb. Further single birds were seen as follows: on Steyning/Beeding Brooks from 7-23 Apr., at Shoreham Airport on 22 Apr. with it or

another reported again on 1 May and a further record from Steyning on 2 May. Just 1 record at the end of the year, again from the Steyning/Beeding Brooks, on 24 Dec.

Sheepcote Valley. Following just 1 spring migrant on 4 Apr., up to 4 were regularly recorded between 28 Nov - 7 Dec.

Ouse Valley and adjacent downland. During the first quarter, there were just 2 sightings; a single bird in the valley on 4 Mar. and 2 together at Piddinghoe on 8 Mar. By 5 Apr., however, 2 migrants had appeared at Saltdean, both present the following day. Thereafter, the only spring records were from the river valley with singles seen on 9 and 11 Apr.

In autumn, almost all records came from Newhaven Tide Mills with single birds recorded on 21 Oct., 29 Oct., 29 Nov. and 29 Dec. Elsewhere, 3 were seen together on the Downs on 10 Nov.

Cuckmere Valley and Beachy Head. The first half of the year was very quiet with the only wintering bird found at Cuckmere Haven between 17-23 Feb., and 1 spring migrant at Beachy Head on 3 May.

In autumn, singles were found at Beachy Head on 15 and 31 Oct. Another bird, also on 31 Oct. was seen over Arlington Res. Finally in winter 1 was recorded on the Cuckmere on 21 Dec.

Pevensey Levels and the Crumbles. It is difficult to accurately assess the number of birds hunting over these water meadows. Between 8 Jan - 17 Apr. there were 7 reports but may only refer to 2 birds. In autumn, however, the first migrant was found on 3 Oct. with further records on 22 Oct., 30 Oct. (2), and 3 Nov. During Nov. and Dec. a co-ordinated survey was carried out resulting in an overwintering population of 10 birds.

Pett Levels/Rye Hbr. During the first quarter, as expected, there were many reports from Rye Hbr. It is likely that 2 birds were involved in Jan. with 1 each for Feb. and Mar. Up to 4 different migrants were recorded between 2-22 Apr. Elsewhere, singles were found at Pett on 17 Feb., Icklesham on 14 Mar. and again there between 3-6 May.

The first autumn migrant hunted over Pett between 11-15 Sept. This was followed by single records on 8 and 18 Oct. At Rye Hbr, 1 came in off the sea on 24 Oct. and another was found on 29th. There were up to 6 birds on the reserve during Nov. and Dec.

Elsewhere, records were received in autumn and early winter as follows: a single bird passed Goring Gap on 7 Oct. and another flew out to sea from Worthing on 10 Oct. An individual was flushed from the gorse on Hollingbury Camp on 18 Oct. and another was at Lidsey Rife, Barnham on 22 Oct. By 29 Oct. there were 3 at Barnham, 1 still present on 14 Dec. Finally, 1 flew over Ditchling village on 28 Nov.



0778. **NIGHTJAR** (*Caprimulgus europaeus*). Scarce breeding summer visitor and rare passage migrant.

First recorded on 9 May at both Parham Park and Wiggonholt Common. Only 1 spring migrant was reported, this being seen at Rye Hbr on 2 June.

The breeding survey produced a total of 68 in W.Sussex (99 in 1991) and 25 in E.Sussex (49 in 1991), both well down on the previous year.

One was reported in the autumn, at Beachy Head on 3 Sept.

0795. **SWIFT** (*Apus apus*). Regular summer breeding visitor, regular passage migrant.

First recorded on 20 Apr. at Seaford Head, and then 1 at Hollingbury Camp on 22nd and singles at Chichester GP and Scaynes Hill on 23rd. Birds were then reported on a daily basis but no major influxes occurred until 40 at Pagham Hbr on 5 May, 50 at Icklesham on 8th and then 2000 at Chichester GP on 9th. Arlington Res. recorded 200 on 10th, Selsey Bill 225 on 12th and 300 were present at Bewl Water during cold easterlies on 17th. June began with 500 at Sidlesham on 4th, 400 at Barcombe Res. on 6th and in mid-June 250 at Goring on 18th.

Very few breeding records were received. Early in July 300 were observed at Beachy Head on 2nd and 150 were seen daily at Icklesham from 9th. In Aug., over 1600 were counted in the Sumping Brooks area on 6th, 400 at Balsdean on 18th and 150 at Broadwater, Worthing on 19th. A minimum of 59 were recorded in Sept., and the last record for the year was 1 at Holmbush Farm, Faygate on 2 Oct.

0798. **ALPINE SWIFT** (*A. melba*). Scarce/rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

1988: One at Beachy Head on 27 Mar. (PML.AT) has been accepted by *British Birds*. At the time it was the earliest county record but this now falls to that at the Crumbles GP on 25 Mar. 1990 (SxBR 43: 47).

1992: One at Beachy Head on 18 Aug. (DPD).

0831. **KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo atthis*). Regular breeding resident and winter visitor.

Observations during winter months were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of birds.....	14	6	21	18
No. of inland sites.....	6	2	9	7
No. of coastal sites.....	5	4	11	8

The numbers in Feb. were unusually low. In the breeding season 3 pairs definitely bred with 2 broods raised at Warnham M P. Two other possible pairs were reported with birds present in the breeding season at 14 other sites.

0840. **BEE-EATER** (*Merops apiaster*). Scarce/rare spring and autumn passage migrant. Has bred.

One flying E over Beachy Head on 22 May (DPD) was typical. Of the 21 recorded since 1981 13 have been between 20-28 May and 16 have been at Beachy Head, a pattern slightly distorted by the flocks of 6 there on 28 May 1989 (SxBR 42: 44) and 4 from 26-28 June 1984 (SxBR 36: 37).

0846. **HOPOE** (*Upupa epops*). Regular spring passage migrant and scarce autumn passage migrant. Has bred.

An excellent year for the species involving probably 11 different migrants, the highest annual total since 1980.

As usual, most records were condensed into the four week period from late Mar. to late Apr. and can be summarised as follows:- A well-watched individual was found at Poverty Bottom, Newhaven on 23 Mar. and remained at least until 28th. Also

during this period, there were single migrants at Sidlesham on 25th and Selsey Bill tip playing fields, the following day.

A further 5 individuals were recorded towards the end of Apr. commencing with a tantalisingly brief view of 1 in a garden at Felpham on 21st and followed by another at Church Norton on 23-24 Apr. At the other end of the county, 1 was watched at Udimore between 27-29 Apr. and during this period another was found at Winchelsea Station on 27th and a further individual roamed between various Bexhill gardens between 28 Apr. and 2 May. The final spring sighting came from Thorney Island on 17 May.

In autumn, 2 birds were found; at Telscombe on 31 Oct. and finally another garden record, at Nutley on 7 Nov.

0848. **WRYNECK** (*Jynx torquilla*). Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce/rare spring passage migrant. Has bred.

One was seen in spring, at Seaford Head on 20 Apr. (WJMS), and at least 9 in autumn, a slightly below average showing but the best since 1989. In autumn singles were seen at Climping on 15-17 Aug. (RJLK, SJP *et al.*), in a Hurstpierpoint garden on 26 Aug. (RGWB) and at Selsey Bill from 16 Sept. (BJC) being joined by a second on 22nd (TJE). Two were seen at Fairlight on 20 Sept. (ASG *et al.*) with another there on 25th (HMJT) and 30th (DPB), while singles were recorded from Birling Gap on 25 Sept. (SPH), Combe Haven on 30 Sept. (MS) and in a Hastings garden from 28 Sept-2 Oct. (IS *et al.*).

0856. **GREEN WOODPECKER** (*Picus viridis*). Regular breeding resident.

Widely recorded throughout the county. During the breeding season records of pairs were received from 15 sites. At the Bluebell Railway 4 pairs were breeding adjacent to the line. Juveniles were observed at Warnham MP, Mannings Heath and Partridge Green.

0876. **GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos major*). Regular breeding resident.

Widely distributed throughout the county. At Selsey Bill 1 was found dead in trees on the playing field on 9 Apr. Breeding success was reported from Rackham Woods, Woods Mill, Woodmancote, West Dean Arboretum, Cophorne, Warnham MP and Leechpool Woods, Horsham. 4 pairs were counted adjacent to the line on the Bluebell Railway. In the autumn there were no records indicating immigrants.

0887. **LESSEER SPOTTED WOODPECKER** (*D. minor*). Regular breeding resident.

Records were received from at least 53 widely scattered localities. Pairs were seen at nestholes at Rackham and Aldwick. At Woods Mill, Henfield 1 was seen on 10 dates from 13 Sept. to 22 Dec. At Sparrite Common, Parham a single bird was observed with a tit flock in Oct. and Nov. All records, especially of breeding, are required of this species.

0968. **SHORT-TOED LARK** (*Calandrella brachydactyla*). Scarce/rare spring and autumn passage migrant.

1991: One found in the dunes at East Head, West Wittering on 26 June (SJA) remained to 4 July (mo) but could be illusive at times. It has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the 10th to be seen in the county. Only 2 of the previous records are since 1909, 2 at Pagham on 29 Apr. 1951 and 4 at Beachy Head on 4 Oct. 1972. No pattern of occurrence emerges with records in Apr., June, July, Sept., Oct. and Nov.

0974. **WOODLARK** (*Lullula arborea*). **Scarce winter visitor, scarce passage migrant, breeds most years.**

1991: 3 birds, not one at E side of Pagham on 18 Feb. and the single at Sidlesham was present from 13-15 Feb.

1992: Little breeding data was received but possibly 7 pairs present in the county. Good numbers were seen in the autumn, records were as follows: a single at Seaford Head on 26 Sept. (PJ,TJT), a single at Fairlight on 27 Sept. (CHD, HMJT), 3 at Whitbread Hollow also on 27 Sept. (RDME, SEMcK, NJT). In Oct. a single at Selsey Bill on 6th (JC, KC), 4 at Pagham Hbr on 7th (TJE), a single at Hove on 11th (CAH), 2 at Belle Tout, Beachy Head on 17th (DC, JFC, RJF), another at Beachy Head on 24th (DC, JFC, RJF), 2 at Selsey Bill on 28th (TJE) with 2 more there on 30th (BJC), 4 at Fairlight on 31st (CHD). Finally in Nov. a single at Selsey Bill on 17th (OM).

0976. **SKYLARK** (*Alauda arvensis*). **Regular breeding resident, regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant.**

On 1 Jan. a wintering flock of 148 were counted at Seaford Head. There were 100 on Thorney Island on 16th and 300 at Mill Hill, Shoreham on 26th. No significant movements were reported during Feb-Mar.

During the breeding season a survey on the South Downs between the R. Ouse - A23 produced 11 singing males. Elsewhere selected records included 8 singing males on Horse Eye Level, 50 singing males at Pulborough Brooks, 40 pairs in Seven Sisters Country Park, 9 pairs adjacent to the line on the Bluebell Railway and 6 pairs at Cissbury Ring. At Rye Hbr breeding numbers were reduced with only 26 pairs mapped (30-40 pairs in 1991).

At the end of Sept. 59 were counted at Newhaven Tide Mills on 26th. Early in Oct. 160 were at Seaford Head on 2nd, also at Seaford Head 1475 flew W in 1 hr on 17th. At Hollingbury Camp maximum Oct. count was 144 on 31st. The year ended with a wintering flock of 163 at Seaford Head on 17 Dec. and 150 at Pease Pottage on 28th.

0978. **SHORE LARK** (*Eremophila alpestris*). **Scarce/rare winter visitor.**

The bird at Climping first seen on 8 Dec. 1991 remained into 1992 and was last seen on 23 Mar. (RJLK *et al.*).

0981. **SAND MARTIN** (*Riparia riparia*). **Regular passage migrant, regular breeding summer visitor.**

First recorded at Pevensey Bridge Levels on 6 Mar. followed by 6 at Chichester GP on 14th and 1 at Bewl Water 15th. Recorded almost daily from 21 Mar., highest number being 40 at Chichester GP on 21-22nd. Large concentrations during the spring included 100 at Pulborough Brooks on 24 Apr., 100 at Barcombe Res. and 100 at Bewl Water on 26 Apr., 150 at Arlington Res. and 500 at Chichester GP on 12 May.

During the breeding season counts at selected sites were as follows:

Site	No. of pairs	
	1991	1992
Dunford GP	45-50	100
Sandgate Park, Storrington	70+	70-80

Autumn passage commenced in July and included 150 W at Selsey Bill on 15th, 150+ flying out to sea at Rye Hbr on 20th, 200 at reedbed roost on Thorney Deepes on 22nd and 500 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 30th. There were few large concentrations reported during Aug - Sept. 1000 at Chichester GP on 24 Aug., 1000+ at Rye Hbr on 27 Aug. and 3500 there on 1 Sept. were the most notable.

The last recorded were 3 at Thorney Island on 13 Oct. and 10 at Darwell Res. on 18 Oct.

0992. **SWALLOW** (*Hirundo rustica*). **Regular breeding summer visitor, regular passage migrant.**

First recorded on 20 Mar. with 2 at Pagham Hbr followed by a single at Weir Wood Res. on 21 Mar. The only large concentration during Apr. was of 300 at Bewl Water on 26th, elsewhere no flocks over 40 were recorded. May showed little improvement, 100 at Pagham on 5th, 100 at Icklesham on 11th, 665 at Selsey Bill on 12th and 1000 at Chichester GP also on 12th.

Again, very little breeding data was received.

At Thorney Deepes 400 were roosting in the reedbeds on 17 Aug. Peak counts during Sept. included 1045 at Hollingbury Camp on 8th, 8000 past Selsey Bill on 16th, 2000 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington on 19th and 1295 at Climping on 20th. The only large gathering at Barcombe Res. was of 150 on 21st. Bewl Water recorded 430 SW in 1 flock on 22nd, Pagham Hbr 800 also on 22nd, 2500 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 26th, 10000 moving mostly S at Beachy Head also on 26th with a steady passage E of 2500 there on 27th. In Oct. numbers fell quickly, 225 at Pagham Hbr on 13th dropping to 55 by 20th, 100 at Beachy Head on 18th and 10 there on 31st. There were several records in Nov., the latest being 1 at Pett Level on 22nd.

0995. **RED-RUMPED SWALLOW** (*H. daurica*). **Scarce/rare spring passage migrant.**

One at Church Norton on the evening of 3 May (SP) was regrettably not present the following morning. This record has been accepted by *British Birds* and is only the 10th county record, all having been seen between 18 Apr-26 May.

1001. **HOUSE MARTIN** (*Delichon urbica*). **Regular breeding summer visitor, regular passage migrant.**

First recorded at Warnham MP with 12 there on 18 Mar. A single at Worthing on 21st was the only other Mar. record. Numbers were again very low in Apr. and May although slightly better than 1991. Peaks numbers for Apr. included 100 at Pulborough Brooks on 24th, 320 at Bewl Water on 26th and 150 at Barcombe Res. on 29th. In May the number at the latter site rose to 200 by 9th and 500 were recorded at Chichester GP on 12th.

In the breeding season the colony at Maynards Green decreased to 20 pairs, whilst at Broad Oak there were 9 nests, an increase of 3 on 1991. 3 of these were double brooded and 1 triple brooded. 22 pairs bred at Rye Hbr village. Otherwise very few breeding records were received of this declining species.

Passage began in Aug. with 500 at Mannings Heath on 19th, 100 at Darwell Res. on 22nd and 500 at Bewl Water on 30th. A near pure albino bird was at Icklesham on 21st. Mid-Sept. produced a notable increase in numbers, 1500 at Bewl Water on 13th, 10000 moving past Selsey Bill on 16th, 5000 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chiltington on 19th and 1000 at Hove on 20th. The peak autumn count at Hollingbury Camp was 550 on 22nd when there were 2300 at Pagham Hbr and 1700 at Bewl Water. Selsey Bill recorded 5000, Newhaven Tide Mills 2500 and Beachy Head 10000 on 26th with passage continuing on 27th with 2000 E at Beachy Head and 5000 at Selsey Bill.

Numbers dropped significantly in Oct. with 150 at Climping on 1st, 100 at Mannings Heath on 2nd, 100 at Pagham Hbr on 13th and 300 at Beachy Head on 18th, the only notable concentrations. Last recorded at Seaford Head with 2 on 28 Nov.

1005. **TAWNY PIPIT** (*Anthus campestris*). **Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce/rare spring passage migrant.**

One at Littlehampton GC on 14 May (RJLK) was only the 6th to be recorded in spring. In autumn 2 were seen on 10 Sept., at Church Norton (BM) and an adult at Birling Gap SF (ARK). The Birling individual may have been one of 3 present on 13th, one of which remained to 14th (DC, JFC, JWK, NJT). Also at Beachy Head an adult was seen on the cliff edge near Birling Gap on 19 Sept. (TJW) and a probable

immature near Hodcombe on 26th (DCJFC). Finally 1 was seen at West Beach, Littlehampton on 28 Sept. (ASC). Eight records represent the best showing since 1987 and follows 3 particularly lean years with 3, 2 and 2 records only. The species has been recorded in the Littlehampton GC/Climping area in each of the last 6 years, while Beachy Head has missed out in just 2 of the last 10 (1984 and 1991).

1009. TREE PIPIT (*A. trivialis*). Locally common breeding summer visitor and regular passage migrant.

First recorded on 4 Apr. at Crowhurst Marsh. A further 21 were noted on spring passage up to 6 May. Breeding season records totalled 98 territories, of which 48 were in Ashdown Forest.

A typical autumn passage produced 234 records with maxima of 20 at Hollingbury Camp on 19 Aug. and 16 at Beachy Head on 31 Aug. The last for the year was ringed at Icklesham on 29 Oct.

1011. MEADOW PIPIT (*A. pratensis*). Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In Jan. the largest flock was 45 on 23rd at Hurston Warren, Pulborough. In Feb. 50 were at West Chilington on 5th (which were again seen on 4 Mar.) with 50 also at Ambersham Common on 21st and there were 45 on Lavington Common on 24th. On 7 Mar. 82 were at Seaford Head, where there were 110 on 21st. On 2 Apr. 156 flew N at Selsey Bill and at Seaford Head there were 294 on 5 Apr. and 478 on 18th, the largest number recorded this spring. In the breeding season 20 pairs were recorded at Rye Hbr, a slight increase on last year and the same number of pairs were at Pulborough Brooks. Breeding records were received from 9 other sites.

In autumn some large coastal flocks were encountered from mid-Sept. to mid-Oct. On 15 Sept. 461 were at Littlehampton GC and 500 at Beachy Head on 17th. On 19 Sept. 1000 were at Beachy Head and 850 at Seaford Head. The following day 500 were at Beachy Head, 400 at Fairlight with 400 also at Pagham Hbr on 21st, 22nd and 26th. On 27th 390 were at Fairlight, 500 at Selsey Bill and 1000 at Pagham Hbr. On 1 Oct. 300 were at Pagham Hbr with the same number at Selsey Bill on 4th. On 17 Oct. 365 flew W in 1 hr at Seaford Head. Numbers in Nov. and Dec. were similar to the early part of the year except for 80 roosting at Pulborough Brooks.

1014. ROCK PIPIT (*A. petrosus*). Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Rare away from the coast.

On 1 Jan. 15 were at Cuckmere Haven, the only notable concentration early in the year. In the breeding season 7 pairs were counted at Beachy Head between Birling Gap and Cow Gap. Breeding was also confirmed at Seaford Head and Cuckmere Haven. In the autumn single birds were recorded inland at Weir Wood Res. on 23 Sept. and 26 Oct., and at Barcombe Res. on 9 - 15 Oct. At Arlington Res. there were 3 on 10 Oct. At Seaford Head there were 12 on 17 Oct. with 11 at Thorney Island on 23 Nov. The maximum at Cuckmere Haven was 19 on 17 Dec.

An individual showing the characteristics of the race *littoralis* was seen at Newhaven on 12 Sept.

1015. WATER PIPIT (*A. spinoletta*). Scarce annual winter visitor and passage migrant.

At least 19 were seen during the year. One on 24 Jan. on the R. Arun near Arundel WWT (RJLK) was the only record in the first winter period. At Widewater there was 1 on 23 Mar. with 2 the following day, with a different bird on 28th (RJF). On 5 Apr. at least 4 were at Combe Haven (BDJ.PJ). In Oct. 1 was on the R. Adur near Steyning on 23rd (KN), 1 in the Lower Cuckmere on 25th (PJJW) and 1 at Pagham Hbr on 31st (PB). A single was again recorded at the latter site on 5 Nov. with 4 on 19th, 3 on 25th and 2 on 3 Dec. (all TJE). Elsewhere there were 2 on the R. Adur near Streamham Manor on 21 Nov. (BFF), 2 on 8th and 1 on 31 Dec. at Thorney Island (TJE) and 1 on

29 Dec. at Elmer (RJLK).

1017. YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla flava*). Regular passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.

First recorded with 2 at Seaford Head on 21 Mar., and further records for this month were singles at Littlehampton GC on 23rd and Worthing Beach on 31st. A total of 112 were noted in Apr., including 16 at Seaford Head on 11th with 27 there on 19th, 11 at Selsey Bill on 21st and 16 at Arlington Res. on 28th. Light passage continued into May, with 20 at both Seaford Head and Arlington Res. on 3rd, and 18 at Seaford Head on 17th.

In the breeding season there were 30 pairs at Rye Hbr, 19 pairs at Pulborough Brooks, 6 pairs at Horse Eye Levels, 2 pairs at Arlington Res., 2 pairs in the Cuckmere Valley, 1 pair at Lewes Brooks, and singles noted at Thorney Deep and Sompting Brooks.

The first autumn migrants were 4 at Church Norton on 2 Aug. Thereafter Icklesham recorded 20 on 20 Aug. with 49 at Hope Gap, Seaford and 80 at East Head on 21st, 500 at Rye Hbr, on 27th, and 70 at Horse Eye Level on 29th. Heavy passage continued into late Aug. and early Sept., with 410 W in 1 hr at Seaford Head, 138 at Climping, and 5 further counts of 40 individuals on 29 Aug., 130 at Seaford Head on 30th, and 171 there on 5 Sept. Regular passage continued through the month, notable counts being 149 at Seaford Head on 13th, 50 at Selsey Bill and Cuckmere Valley on 19th, 100 at Fairlight on 20th, and 100 at Church Norton on 27th. Numbers thinned rapidly from late Sept. and the last records were 1 at Sidlesham Ferry on 13 Oct., and 3 at Seaford Head on 17th. There were 5 records of the Blue-headed race '*flava*'. These were 1 at Pagham Hbr on 24 May, 1 at Exceat Bridge, Cuckmere on 11 Sept., 4 at Birling Gap on 17 Sept., and singles at Selsey Bill and Lancing on 27 Sept.

1019. GREY WAGTAIL (*M. cinerea*). Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In Jan. and Feb. reported from 16 inland and 9 coastal localities, including 10 at Lewes Brooks on 23 Feb. Again, little evidence of spring migration with 1 NE at Pett Royal Military Canal on 20 Mar. and 1 at Selsey Bill on 19 Apr.

More breeding season records were received than in 1991 with 30 territories identified, and included a pair with 5 young at Pippingford Park. Although 5 eggs were laid at Woods Mill, all were predated. No obvious post-breeding dispersal was noted.

Autumn passage commenced with 1 at Selsey Bill on 18 July, after which 1 at East Head on 19 Aug., 2 at Sompting Brooks and 3 at Climping on 29th, and 5 at Pilsey Island on 31st. A total of 116 were recorded from coastal sites in Sept. with 39 in Oct., and involved mainly singles and low numbers, the exceptions being 10 at Fairlight on 20 Sept. and 30 at Sidlesham Ferry and Church Norton on 26th Sept. In Nov. and Dec. mainly singles noted from 10 coastal and 17 inland localities.

1020. PIED WAGTAIL (*M. alba*). Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In Jan.-Feb. the largest concentrations were at roosts, with 200 in Eastbourne town centre on 2 Jan., 50 at Woods Mill on 14 Jan., 300 in Horsham on 22 Jan., and 112 in a pre-roost at St. John's Park, Burgess Hill on 6 Feb. 55 were at the King's Barn, Steyning roost on 10 Apr., and migration was evidenced at Seaford Head with 38 on 5 Apr.

In the breeding season only 6 pairs were noted, including 3 pairs at Rye Hbr and singles or small groups at a number of scattered sites.

In autumn the highest counts of migrants reported were 63 at Fairlight on 27 Sept., 50 at Church Norton on 8 Oct., 50 E at Worthing Beach on 10 Oct., 50 at Birling Gap on 11 Oct., and 56 W in 1 hr at Seaford Head on 17 Oct. Counts of roosts in Nov.-Dec. were 100 in Eastbourne pedestrian precinct on 7 Nov. and 22 at Chapel

Green, Crowborough on 12 Nov., 67 were at Climping on 11 Dec., and further roosts were 40 at Icklesham on 17 Dec., 40 at Southsea on 21 Dec., and 52 in a pre-roost at St. John's Park, Burgess Hill on 25 Dec.

Birds showing the characteristics of White Wagtail (*M.a. alba*) totalled 15 in both Mar. and Apr., including 8 at Seaford Head on 17 Mar., and 6 in May. The majority of records were from coastal localities. In autumn, 3 were at Littlehampton on 8 Sept., 1 in Cuckmere Haven valley on 12 Sept., 5 at Birling Gap on 17 Sept., and singles at Weir Wood Res. on 19 Oct. and Newhaven Hbr on 29 Nov.

1048. **WAXWING** (*Bombycilla garrulus*). **Scarce/rare winter visitor.**

Only 2 were seen, right on the Kent/Sussex border S of Tunbridge Wells on 4 Jan. (CFB,NAD).

1066. **WREN** (*Troglodytes troglodytes*). **Regular breeding resident, regular winter visitor.**

In the breeding season there were 30 pairs on 45.3 ha at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 21 in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton, 15 in 16 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted and 23 pairs adjacent to the line on the Bluebell Railway.

1084. **DUNNOCK** (*Prinella modularis*). **Regular breeding resident, regular passage migrant.**

In the breeding season counts of breeding birds in defined areas were as follows: 8 pairs in 45.3 ha at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 22 in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton and 2 in 16 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted.

1099. **ROBIN** (*Erithacus rubecula*). **Regular breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.**

In Feb. a very striking individual with sandy brown upperparts was observed at Thorney Deepes on 8th and was seen again on 1 Apr. In Mar. a complete albino was at Brook Farm, Maplehurst on 15th. Counts of breeding birds in defined areas were 29 pairs on 45.3 ha at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 18 in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton, 16 in 16 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted and 20 pairs adjacent to the line on the Bluebell Railway.

The first influx of the autumn occurred at Whitbread Hollow with 25 there on 29 Aug. 150 were recorded at Paghams Hbr on 3 Oct. Another complete albino was reported from Adversane on 4 Oct. Also in Oct. 50 at Whitbread Hollow on 9th and 40 at Icklesham on 30th. 33 were counted at Darwell Res. on 15 Nov.

1104. **NIGHTINGALE** (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). **Widespread but not numerous breeding species and passage migrant.**

Although the first, recorded at Seaford Head on 11 Apr., was an average arrival date there were no other records until 1 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 20 Apr. and only 9 other records in Apr. During the spring a total of 59 singing males were recorded, 22 in East Sussex and 37 in West Sussex. Few sites held more than 2 singing males and the highest concentration recorded was 8 within a mile radius of Woods Mill, Henfield.

In autumn there were records from just 6 sites. There were singles recorded in Aug. at Shoreham, Hollingbury Camp and Newhaven Tide Mills and at Srompting Brooks 2 were recorded on 2 Aug., 3 on 10 Aug. and 1 on 1 Sept. As usual, most were recorded from Elm's Farm, Icklesham and Beachy Head where respectively the peak counts were 4 on 30 July and 1 Aug., and 5 at Whitbread Hollow on 15 and 29 Aug. The last was recorded at Whitbread Hollow on 20 Sept.

1106. **BLUETHROAT** (*L. svecica*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant.**

A male was trapped at Icklesham on 18 Oct. and again on 21st and 30th (RBRG).

There have been 9 recorded in the last 10 years, 4 in spring and 5 in autumn. Three of the last 4 records are from this site.

1121. **BLACK REDSTART** (*Phoenicurus ochruros*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Breeds most years.**

A poor early winter, spring and autumn, but in contrast an excellent Nov. and Dec. The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
4	3	21	12	4	2	1	1	4	31	61	74

In Jan., 2 were at Selsey West Fields on 12th, with singles at Seaford Head and Goring present into Mar. The only new record in Feb. was a single at Brighton Marina, and the first probable migrant was 1 at Cuckmere Haven on 4 Mar. with 20 between 17-26 Mar., all from coastal sites and including 4 at Seaford Head on 21st. Few, mainly singles noted in Apr. and May and again all from the coast, except 1 at Cissbury Ring on 20 Apr.

No proof of breeding but a male in song for 1 day only in Newhaven on 4 June, and interestingly 1 at Church Norton on 28 June.

An early returning bird was at Slinfold on 27 July and the only Aug. record was a juvenile at Beachy Head on 22nd. In Sept. 1 was at Selsey Bill on 4th with 3 at Seaford Head on 11th, and Oct. was unexceptional with virtually all reported from the coast, the highest numbers being 3 at Birling Gap on 11th and 4 there on 22nd.

A number of probable late migrants were noted from the coast in early Nov., after which a dramatic upturn in the number of birds apparently wintering with 21 at inland localities during the period Nov-Dec., including 3 at Steyning on 26 Nov. and 3 at Ditchling on 5 Dec. The remainder were from the coast, with 5 at Selsey Bill on 29 Nov., 5 at Brighton Marina on 13 Dec., 4 at Hope Gap, Seaford on 21 Dec. and 4 at Worthing Beach on 26 Dec.

1122. **REDSTART** (*P. phoenicurus*). **Scarce breeding summer visitor and regular passage migrant.**

The first report of the year was on 17 Mar. at Pulborough Brooks. This was enough to become the earliest ever county record displacing that at Church Norton on 18 Mar. 1972. Another early bird was at Hope Gap, Seaford on 21 Mar.

During the spring, a further 56 were reported on passage including 2 late birds at Fairlight and Pett on 19 June. The maximum reported was 8 at Hope Gap, Seaford on 20 Apr.

During the breeding season 37 territories were located on Ashdown Forest and a mere 6 elsewhere in the county. These other sites were at Ambersham Common, St. Leonard's Forest, Lavington Common and Eridge Park. Three adults caught at a nest-box scheme in Ashdown Forest had been ringed as pulli in 1989 (2) and 1990 (1).

Autumn passage produced a total of 406 records with an influx on 19 Sept. which included 26 at Seaford Head. The only other large count was 20 at Beachy Head on 26 Sept. The last for the year was ringed at Icklesham on 18 Oct.

1137. **WHINCHAT** (*Saxicola rubetra*). **Regular passage migrant and breeds very irregularly.**

A good spring was followed by an exceptional autumn, as shown by the following approximate monthly totals:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
26	92	3	3	308	894	16

As in 1990 and 1991, the first record was from Seaford Head with a single on 5 Apr., after which singles at Birling Gap on 9th and Warnham MP on 12th. A further 23 were noted to the month's end, including 4 at Seaford Head on 20th and 4 at Selsey Bill on 29th. A noticeable peak in arrivals occurred between 1-7 May with 79 reported, including 6 at both Selsey Bill and Seaford Head on 2nd, and 7 at both

Selsey Bill and Church Norton on 6th. Other notable records in May were 4 at Beachy Head on 2nd, 4 at both Seaford Head and Church Norton on 3rd, 4 at Charleston Reedon on 29th, and 15 from 13 inland localities.

No evidence of breeding, but a female was present in suitable habitat at Iping Common from 22-29 June, probably an early migrant. The first returning birds were an early 2 at Seaford Head on 26 June, but not recorded again until singles at Rackham and Thorney Deepes on 22 July and Cissbury Ring on 25 July. Regular return passage commenced from mid-Aug. with 15 at both Climping and Thorney Island on 15th, 12 at Newhaven Tide Mills on 22nd, then a peak in the last few days of Aug. with 28 at Seaford Head, 25 at Beachy Head and 14 at Thorney Island on 29th and 16 at Seaford Head on 30th. Very good numbers recorded throughout Sept., notable counts being 49 at Brighton Racecourse on 5th, 49 at Seaford Head on 11th, 15 at Amberley Wild Brooks and 20 at Beachy Head on 19th, 26 at Seaford Head on 20th, 17 at Hope Gap, Seaford and 15 at Beachy Head on 26th and 19 at Thorney Island on 27th. Numbers dwindled rapidly into Oct., and apart from 4 at Seaford Head on 2nd just a few singles were noted, mainly from the coast. The last were singles at Barcombe and Seaford Head on 17th, and Icklesham on 30th.

1139. **STONECHAT** (*S. torquata*). **Local breeding resident and regular passage migrant.**

During the first quarter of the year 75 were reported in Jan., 51 in Feb. and, away from breeding sites, 6 in Mar.

Numbers breeding in the county declined further with 11 on Ashdown Forest, only 1 reported from Beachy Head and 21 elsewhere in the county.

A total of 129 were reported during the autumn with maxima of 16 at Seaford Head on 2 Oct. and 15 at Thorney Island on 17 Oct. Numbers at the end of the year remained high with 73 in Nov., including 21 on Pevensy Level count on 15 Nov., and 77 in Dec., including 15 on Pevensy Level count on 13 Dec., and 14 on Thorney Island on 5 Dec.

1146. **WHEATEAR** (*Oenanthe oenanthe*). **Regular passage migrant and breeding summer visitor.**

First recorded were 2 at Littlehampton GC on 1 Mar. with the same, or another there the next day, then singles at Seaford Head on 7th, Goring Beach on 8th, Balsdean on 11th and 3 at West Wittering on 13th. A major arrival on 17th totalled 89 birds, and included 25 at Littlehampton GC, 23 at Selsey Bill and 17 at Pagham Hbr. A further 163 noted to the month's end, mainly small counts from coastal localities with peaks of 30 at Newhaven Tide Mills, 17 at Goring Beach and 11 at Seaford Head on 21st.

Again, passage was unexceptional in Apr. with none recorded in the first 7 days and a total of only 200 for the remainder of the month with notable counts of 28 at Littlehampton GC, 26 at Selsey Bill, and 20 at Goring Gap on 12th, and 15 at Selsey Bill on 20th with 18 there on 22nd. Small numbers were recorded throughout May with a total of 65 for the month, and including 8 at Littlehampton GC on 2nd with 8 at Selsey Bill and 10 at Beachy Head on 3rd. Birds considered to be of the Greenland race *O. leucorrhoa* were reported at Seaford Head with 2 on 23 May and 1 there on 29th. 6 late birds were at Church Norton on 3 June, and a single was in unsuitable breeding habitat at Sompting Brooks on 22nd.

Breeding was reported from Rye Hbr only where a poor season was noted with 5 pairs only, compared to the usual 8-10 pairs in recent years. 4 pairs each raised a single brood and 1 pair raised 2 broods.

In July the first probable migrants included 1 at Coldwaltham Brooks on 18th and 3 at Seaford Head on 19th, with a further 8 at coastal localities to the month's end. Passage in Aug. began early, with 8 at both Littlehampton GC and Pagham Hbr on 9th and 24 at Church Norton on 10th, and again numbers built up in mid-month with Beachy Head recording 55 and Thorney Island 26 on 15th, and 50 at Balsdean on

18th. Few then noted until 29th when there was a noticeable fall totalling 682 birds, including 81 at Seaford Head, 240 at Beachy Head, 50 at Thorney Island, 104 at Climping and 120 at Church Norton. Regular passage was observed through Sept., concentrations being 55 at Selsey Bill and 48 at Pagham Hbr on 4th, 47 at Seaford Head on 13th and 33 at Thorney Island on 27th. Oct. numbers were a little down on recent years with a month total of 69, mainly singles and counts up to 6, the exceptions being 7 at Thorney Island on 8th and 10 at Beachy Head on 11th. There were just 2 records in Nov., both of singles, at Pagham on 1st, and the last at Steyning Round Hill on 6th.

1186. **RING OUZEL** (*Turdus torquatus*). **Regular passage migrant.**

An average spring and autumn. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
-	-	-	18	8	-	-	-	10	121	1	1

First recorded with a single at Newhaven on 3 Apr., followed by a single at Seaford on 4th. Only Seaford and Beachy Head produced more than single figures in Apr., with 5 at the former on 11th and 3 at the latter site on 23rd. In May the only records were 4 at Seaford on 2nd, a single at Pagham on 3rd, singles at Selsey Bill and Church Norton on 4th and finally a single at Pulborough Brooks on 10th.

First of the autumn were singles at Beachy Head on 19 Sept. followed by singles at 3 localities on 26th. A small fall occurred on 2 Oct. with 18 at Seaford Head and on 3rd there were 5 there and at least 8 at Fairlight. Continuing with Oct. 7 were counted at Beachy Head on 5th, 6 there on 9th, 6 at Fairlight on 10th, 25 at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head on 16th and 3 at Seaford Head on 17th. Elsewhere in the county numbers were very low. In Nov. Bewl Water recorded only the second sighting for the reserve for this species on 1st and in Dec. a late bird was seen at Wilmington on 26th.

1187. **BLACKBIRD** (*T. merula*). **Regular breeding resident, regular passage migrant and winter visitor.**

Counts of birds in defined areas were 20 pairs on 45.3 ha at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 25 in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton and 5 in 16 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted. An albino was reported from a garden in West Chidham on 11 June and a partial albino male at Littlehampton GC on 14 Sept.

In the autumn Whitbread Hollow recorded no large movements, 45 there on 15 Oct. and 40 on 31 Oct. the highest counts. Also on 31st 60 at Icklesham. In Nov. Seaford Head had 77 on 14th, Darwell Res. 53 on 15th and in Dec. 40 at Beeding Brooks on 24th.

1198. **FIELDFARE** (*T. pilaris*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.**

An average poor first quarter, and in the absence of significant hard weather most gatherings were reported from inland localities, the largest being 550 at Chithurst on 13 Jan., 500 at West Chitlington on 19 Feb., 400 at South Stoke on 24 Feb., 450 at Stansted Park on 2 Mar., 500 at Woods Mill on 4 Mar. and 12 further counts of between 200 and 350 birds. Numbers declined rapidly into Apr., the peak count being 125 at Warren Copse on 16th, and the last were 8 at Maynards Green and 60 at Woolbeding Common on 18th.

First of the autumn were 6 at Seaford Head on 19 Sept. and 17 there on 20th, but there were no further records for the month. After 200 at Chithurst on 1 Oct., few were noted until 250 at Amberley Wild Brooks on 14 Nov. Incoming birds numbered 165 at Seaford Head on 29 Nov., after which decidedly scarce in Dec., with counts of 400 during the month at Pulborough Brooks, 130 at Icklesham on 8th, 120 at Maynards Green on 23rd, and just 8 further counts of between 30-60 individuals.

1200. SONG THRUSH (*T. philomelos*). Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.

In the breeding season there were 4 pairs in 45.3 ha at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 47 pairs in 24 km of shore and 180 ha of surround at Bewl Water, 2 pairs in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton, 4 pairs in 16 ha at Barns Copse, Binsted, 3 pairs at Devil's Dyke, 27 pairs in the Brighton parks, and 3 pairs at Old Lodge, Ashdown.

Apart from 150 at Church Norton on 3 Oct., no significant autumn influxes were noted. Typical Oct. counts were 20 at Beachy Head on 11th, 44 at Seaford Head on 17th, 40 at Icklesham on 29th and 36 at Seaford Head on 31st.

1201. REDWING (*T. iliacus*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.

Very few noted in Jan. with just 3 counts in excess of 80, the largest of these being a westerly movement of 200 at Seaford Head on 12th. Numbers increased in Feb. and 10 flocks of 100 or more were recorded, the peaks being 225 at Ifield Wood on 9th, 220 at Maynards Green on 13th, 200 at West Chilington on 14th, 300 at Parham on 20th and 500 at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 24th with an easterly movement of "thousands" reported there from dusk on 25th.

In Mar. there were 5 flocks of 100 or more in the first half of the month, including 265 at Stansted Forest on 2nd, 200 at Rackham Woods on 6th and 200 at Darwell Res. on 15th. Numbers declined rapidly from the latter date, maxima being 75 at Poverty Bottom, Newhaven on 16th, 50 at Fernhurst on 18th and 50 at Woods Mill on 20th. Only 3 records in Apr. and the last of these was a single at Littlehampton Marina on 17th.

In autumn the first noted were 3 at Seaford Head and 1 at Littlehampton Marina on 13 Sept., after which 12 at Fairlight on 26th was the only other record for the month. Generally low numbers were reported in Oct., the exceptions being 200 at Chithurst on 1st, 465 at Paghham Hbr on 7th, 596 in 1.5 hrs at Old Lodge, Ashdown on 11th, and 500 W at Seaford Head on 30th. Very few noted in Nov. and the only count greater than 20 was 250 at Seaford Head on 29th. Numbers increased into Dec. with 7 counts of 100 or more, the largest of which were 600 at Pulborough Brooks during the month and 275 on the Upper Adur Levels on 27th.

1202. MISTLE THRUSH (*T. viscivorus*). Regular breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.

In the breeding season there were 19 pairs in 24 km of shore and 180 ha of surround at Bewl Water, 12 pairs in 240 ha at Moulsecocomb Wild Park, Brighton and a further 12 pairs from 7 scattered localities.

The maximum numbers reported through the year were 10 at Warnham MP on 29 July, 17 at Wakehurst Place on 20 Aug., 27 at Icklesham on 31 Aug. and 20 there on 16 Sept. Recorded as "now rare" at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head, where 2 on 26 Sept. was the only record.

1220. CETTI'S WARBLER (*Cettia cetti*). Annual scarce winter, passage and non-breeding summer visitor. Has bred in some recent years.

In the early part of the year 2 were present in a now regular site and 1 was at Arundel WWT from 25 Feb. until 12 Apr. At a third site 1 was recorded on 4 Apr. At the first mentioned site 2 singing males were present in the summer and 6 young fledged. In the autumn there were 5 birds at this locality until 5 Nov. At a second site 2 were present in late Oct.

1236. GRASSHOPPER WARBLER (*Locustella naevia*). Regular breeding summer visitor but declining, and passage migrant.

First recorded on 20 Apr. at 4 sites. By the end of June only 16 had been recorded in the whole county. There was no confirmed breeding, and only 4 of the records received covered a period suggesting birds holding territory. One of the most regular breeding sites, Thorney Island, only had 1 on 2 dates in early May. The future of this

species looks very bleak. All breeding season records would be particularly welcome.

The first autumn migrants were very early with 2 on 25 July at Whitbread Hollow. Only 8 were seen there all autumn. However that there is a considerable passage through the county is shown by the remarkable ringing total at Icklesham where no less than 381 were trapped through the autumn. In addition approximately 40 were recorded on passage, twice last year's total, with 4 at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton and 4 at Shooters Boitom, Beachy Head on 26 Sept. being unusual. The last of the year was on 18 Oct. at Icklesham (where else!).

1238. SAVY'S WARBLER (*L. luscinoides*). Scarce/rare passage migrant.

One was trapped at Icklesham on 15 June (RBRG).

1242. AQUATIC WARBLER (*Acrocephalus paludicola*). Rare autumn migrant at coastal localities. Less than annual.

No less than 10 were recorded this autumn, equalling the record total in 1975. Nine, all immatures, were trapped at Icklesham as follows: - singles on 5 Aug. (TSJW) and 10 Aug. (retrapped on 11th) (TSJW), 2 on 15 Aug. (1 retrapped on 16th) (GB.SJRR, TS *et al.*), 2 on 16 Aug. (1 retrapped on 18th) (GB.DEC.SJRR *et al.*), 2 on 19th Aug. (DEC, SJRR, TS *et al.*) and 1 on 26 Aug. (IDH, TS, JW). In addition 1 was seen at Little Deepes, Thorney Island on 20-22 Sept. (CBC).

1243. SEDGE WARBLER (*A. schoenobanus*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first for the year were on 8 Apr. at Worthing Beach and Thorney Deepes. Subsequently 2 were at Seaford Head on 11 Apr. but there were no more until 20th after which arrival was more widespread. At the Severals, Paghham Hbr there were 40 on 5 May. In the breeding season there were 50 pairs at Thorney Deepes, similar to last year's low total (52 pairs) but at Rye Hbr a census revealed 82 pairs, a very welcome increase over the 45 pairs in 1991.

Autumn passage was noted from 26 July at Cissbury Ring. At Icklesham 12,412 were ringed, by far the largest annual total ever in the county and indicating just how many birds can be attracted to suitable habitat. The last for the year were 2 birds there on 10 Oct.

1247. PADDYFIELD WARBLER (*A. agricola*). Rare autumn passage migrant.

One trapped at Icklesham on 13 and again on 18 Oct. (RBRG) has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the first county record. Its location is perhaps not surprising considering the large numbers of acrocephalus warblers trapped. That it remained for nearly a week, albeit unseen, would have doubtless caused consternation to the twitching fraternity had they been aware of its occurrence at the time.

1250. MARSH WARBLER (*A. palustris*). Scarce non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant (rarest in autumn). Irregular breeder. Annually recorded since 1984.

Single birds were trapped at Icklesham on 26 and 29 July (TS, JW).

1251. REED WARBLER (*A. scirpaceus*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First recorded at Thorney Deepes on 23 Apr. and at 4 other sites later in that month.

In the breeding season no detailed count was made at Rye Hbr but numbers were considered to be similar to 1991. At Thorney Deepes there were 78 pairs, an increase on 1991 and similar to the 1990 total. At Lidsey Rife, Barnham 46 pairs were present and 26 pairs at the Severals, Church Norton. Breeding counts were received from a number of other sites and included a pair breeding in a pond created by the British

Airports Authority at Gatwick.

Autumn passage, which was first demonstrated by birds being present at Cissbury Ring and Whitbread Hollow on 31 July and 1 Aug. respectively. Nearly 7,000 were ringed in the county (the majority at Icklesham), our highest annual total.

The last for the year was trapped at Icklesham on 18 Oct.

1259. ICTERINE WARBLER (*Hippolais icterina*). Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

One in song at Steyning on 21 May (ARK) was only the 3rd to be recorded away from the coast and coincided with a number on the East Coast. One at Seaford Head on 29 Aug. (WJMS) was more typical. There have now been 29 records of which 5 have been in spring.

1260. MELODIOS WARBLER (*H. polyglotta*). Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant.

At Beachy Head, 1 found at Birling Gap on 5 Sept. (DCJFC *et al.*) was presumably the individual seen near Belle Tout on 6th (BFFRAIDIS *et al.*). This is the 37th county record, the 20th in Sept. and the 17th to be seen at Beachy Head, with 14 recorded in the Selsey/Pagham Hbr area.

1262. DARTFORD WARBLER (*Sylvia undata*). Scarce winter visitor and passage migrant, mainly at coastal locations. Rare breeder on inland heaths, disappearing from the county after hard winters.

For the second year running none were recorded at coastal localities in the early part of the year. In Mar. 1 was at Selsey Bill on 1st and 3 were on 2 inland heaths. Single pairs bred on 2 separate heaths with an additional male on one. One other bird was recorded on 1 date in Apr. at a potential breeding site.

Autumn dispersal was widespread with single birds at Hollingbury Camp on 22 Sept., which is becoming a regular early autumn site; Littlehampton GC on 29 Sept.; 2 (perhaps 3) at Beachy Head on 3 Oct. when 1 was also at Selsey Bill; Thorney Island on 10 Oct.; both Seven Sisters and Fairlight Country Parks on 17 Oct., with 2 at the former; Brooklands, Worthing on 28 Oct. and on 3 inland heaths where they had not been recorded earlier in the year. Some of the birds remained for some time – the Fairlight bird staying until mid-Nov., that at Littlehampton GC until 6 Dec. and at Selsey Bill until 18 Dec. On Thorney Island the number increased to 4 on 30 Oct. with 3 until 20 Nov. and 2 on 24th. The 2 at Beachy Head remained until 26 Nov. One reappeared at Hollingbury Camp on 19 Nov. Additional birds in Dec. were at Pagham Hbr on 16th and at Sheepcote Valley, Brighton on 20th.

1273. BARRED WARBLER (*S. nisoria*). Very scarce autumn passage migrant. Less than annual.

One at Littlehampton GC from 22-27 Sept. (BFF, ASC). This is the 33rd record for the county and the first since 1989.

1274. LESSER WHITETHROAT (*S. curruca*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First recorded on 11 Apr. at Seaford Head with no others until 21st. On 1 May 18 were at Thorney Deepes and the only other spring arrivals in double figures were 10 at Beachy Head on 3rd and 11 at Selsey Bill on 5 May. Breeding counts within defined areas included 3 pairs on 67 ha of a mixed farmland at Yapton and 6 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water. Other breeding counts included 14 pairs at Seaford Head and 5 pairs at Devil's Dyke.

Autumn numbers were very low indeed. At Whitbread Hollow only 61 were ringed, even lower than the 1991 total of 74 previously the lowest for the site. 100 were at Beachy Head on 29 Aug. with 50 at Whitbread Hollow on 3 Sept. The only

other notable counts were at Seaford Head with 39 on 28 Aug. with 23 there on 19 Sept. There were 5 Oct. records with the last at Littlehampton GC on 16th.

1275. WHITETHROAT (*S. communis*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First recorded on 9 Apr. at Seaford Head where there were 17 on 19th and 30 were at Thorney Deepes on 1 May. Otherwise there were no significant arrivals. A good number of breeding counts were received. These included from defined areas: 6 pairs on 67 ha of mixed farmland at Yapton, 8 pairs in 400 ha at Hyde Wood, Bewbush and 14 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water. Other counts included 23 pairs at Seaford Head, 22 pairs at Rye Hbr, 21 pairs in the Climping Gap to Littlehampton area and 14 pairs at Moulsecomb Wild Park, Brighton.

In the autumn the first movement was noted on 8 Aug. when 28 were at Hollingbury Camp. This was followed by 350 at Whitbread Hollow on 15 Aug. with approximately 500 at Beachy Head on 29 Aug., when 138 were at Seaford Head. Numbers seemed generally much improved on those in 1991. Five records were received in Oct. with a very late bird at Littlehampton GC on 31 Oct.

1276. GARDEN WARBLER (*S. borin*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

First recorded on 11 Apr. at Seaford Head. As with the last few years there were no notable spring arrivals. Breeding counts from defined areas included 11 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water and 3 pairs on 45.3 ha of farmland at Maynards Green. Amongst other breeding counts received were 8 pairs at Moulsecomb Wild Park, Brighton.

In autumn passage was recorded from 8 Aug. at Sumping Brooks and 150 were at Whitbread Hollow on 15 Aug. with 70 there the following day. Otherwise numbers were unremarkable but a considerable improvement on 1991. Birds were seen on 5 dates in Oct. the last being at Beachy Head on 17th and Darwell Res. on 18th.

1277. BLACKCAP (*S. atricapilla*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Small numbers winter.

In Jan. and Feb. 12 were recorded with 4 at coastal localities and 8 inland. With small numbers throughout Mar. it is impossible to deduce when spring migration commenced and the highest total was only 17 at Seaford Head on 20 Apr. Breeding counts were received from 18 sites and included, in defined areas, 6 pairs on 45.3 ha of farmland at Maynards Green, 2 pairs on 45 ha of mixed farmland at Yapton, 3 pairs in 16 ha of mixed deciduous woodland at Binsted, 6 pairs in 60 ha at Holmbush and 36 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water.

Autumn numbers were very good reflecting the continued success of this species. 3,152 were trapped at Icklesham with high ringing totals at Whitbread Hollow and Cissbury Ring. As usual the largest numbers were seen at Whitbread Hollow including 350 on 29 Aug., 400 on 5 Sept., 450 on 12 Sept., 750 on 16 Sept. and 250 on 9 Oct. On the latter date 200 were at Icklesham. After this no counts in double figures were received suggesting passage was early and concentrated with few continental birds present, which tend to pass through later than British migrants.

In Nov. there were 11 at 10 sites (6 coastal, 4 inland) and in Dec. 13 at 9 sites (5 coastal, 4 inland). These included 3 (2 male, 1 female) in Eastbourne and 1 male and 1 female on honeysuckle in Worthing. It would be helpful if observers would record the sex of wintering birds and give accurate grid references in order that we can gain a better picture of numbers and distribution.

1298. PALLAS'S WARBLER (*Phylloscopus proregulus*). Scarce/rare passage migrant.

1990: One at Beachy Head on 10 Nov. (GG) has been accepted by *British Birds*.

1992: An at times illusive individual was present at Aldwick, Bognor Regis from at least 14-23 Mar. (DC,RJF,MK *et al.*). It is the first British record outside the period Sept-Jan. and a photograph appears in *Birding World* 5: 88. One in Belle Tout Wood, Beachy Head on 27-28 Oct. (RJF,JPS,CFW *et al.*) was more typical. 26 have been recorded in the county, 17 at Beachy Head, with late Oct-early Nov. being the favoured time.

1300. **YELLOW-BROWED WARBLER** (*P. inornatus*). Scarce autumn passage migrant, and rare winter visitor.

Two were seen on 16 Oct., 1 trapped at Icklesham (RBRG) and 1 found in Belle Tout Wood, Beachy Head (NJT,CFW *et al.*) where it remained to 18th. Another was seen at Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head on 17 Oct. (JPS) with 1 present at Balsedean from 19-20 Oct. (JR, GAS) and another in Belle Tout Wood on 27-28 Oct. (JPS,CFW *et al.*).



1301. **RADDE'S WARBLER** (*P. schwarzi*). Scarce/rare autumn passage migrant.

One trapped at Icklesham on 30 Sept. (RBRG) has been accepted by *British Birds* and is the 3rd county record. Both previous occurrences were in mid-Oct., at Beachy Head on 18 Oct. 1974 and Selsey Bill on 21 Oct. 1991 (*SxBR* 44: 64).

1303. **DUSKY WARBLER** (*P. fuscus*). Scarce/rare autumn passage migrant.

A single at Combe Haven on 26 Oct.(MS) has been accepted by *British Birds*. It is the 3rd county record.

1308. **WOOD WARBLER** (*P. sibilatrix*). Regular but local breeding summer visitor and scarce passage migrant.

First recorded on 21 Apr. with 2 at Leechpool Woods, Horsham. Another 13 were seen on spring passage. Only 8 records were received of birds in suitable breeding localities, surely (and hopefully!) a case of under recording.

None were reported in July, autumn passage commencing with 1 on 6 Aug. at Pagham Hbr. 13 others were recorded on passage including, on 21 Aug., 2 at Twyford, near Wych Cross and 3 together at Apuldram, Chichester Hbr in a reedbed hedgerow. Multiple records are particularly unusual. The last was at Littlehampton

GC on 1 Oct., the latest record for the county.

1311. **CHIFFCHAFF** (*P. collybita*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant. Scarce winter visitor. Eastern races rare passage migrant and winter visitor.

In Jan. there were 24 at 15 sites and in Feb. 14 at 8 sites. Up to 5 were at Rye Hbr in Jan. and 5 at Seaford Head on 29 Feb. Passage was certainly detected in early Mar. but was not widespread until the middle of the month. The highest numbers in Mar. were 14 at Pagham Hbr on 18th., 10 at Littlehampton GC on 20th and up to 15 at Bishopstone on 21st. Numbers reported in Apr. were very low, 18 at Seaford Head on 11th and 26 there on 20th being the highest counts. Very few at all were recorded in May. Breeding counts from defined areas included 7 pairs on 45.3 ha of farmland at Maynards Green, only 1 pair on 67 ha of mixed farmland at Yaption, 3 pairs in 16 ha of mixed deciduous woodland at Binsted, 10 pairs in 100 ha at Holmbush and 33 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water.

The first autumn movement of note was of 250 at Whitbread Hollow on 12 Sept. where there was 350 on 20th. On 26 Sept. 85 were trapped at Charleston Reedbed and 93 at Cissbury Ring when 120 were recorded at Whitbread Hollow. In Oct. the most notable totals were on 9th when 150 were at Icklesham and 350 at Whitbread Hollow. In Nov. 27 were at 17 sites and Dec. 25 also at 17 (but not the same) sites.

Birds showing characteristics of either the races *abietinus* or *tristis* were reported at Littlehampton GC on 1 Oct. (ASC) and Ifield Pond on 19 Oct. (JRH).

1312. **WILLOW WARBLER** (*P. trochilus*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

The first on 7 Mar. at Seaford Head was the earliest for the county (the next confirmed earliest was 12 Mar. in 1968). Also quite early were 3 on 22 Mar. also at Seaford Head. Another 6 were recorded during Mar. There were few large spring arrivals with 70 on 19 Apr. at Beachy Head and 40 on 2 May at Pagham Hbr being the most notable. In the breeding season there were 64 pairs along 24 km of shore and 180 ha surrounding Bewl Water.

The first autumn movement was on 4 Aug. when 30 were at Pagham Hbr and the largest count for the month was of 200 at Whitbread Hollow on 15th. The only other counts of 100 or over were at Seaford Head on 28 Aug. when there were 126 and on the following day when 100 were at Whitbread Hollow. A number of observers commented on the low autumn numbers. Birds were recorded on 5 dates at 6 localities in Oct., the last being at Whitbread Hollow on 16th.

1314. **GOLDCREST** (*Regulus regulus*). Regular breeding resident and passage migrant.

Another poor year, but numbers were up a little in autumn from 1991, and more breeding records were received.

Very few were noted between Jan-Mar., the only record in double figures being 34 at Seaford Head on 28 Feb. The remainder were mainly singles.

Breeding season records included 8 pairs at Old Lodge, Ashdown, 6 pairs in 24 km of shore and 180 ha surround at Bewl Water, 2-3 pairs at Pulborough Brooks, 1 pair at Devil's Dyke and 10 males in Tilgate Forest on 25 Apr. There were only 2 further records of birds holding territory.

In autumn, a total of 92 were ringed between 28 Aug-7 Nov. at Cissbury Ring. Passage commenced with 2 at Beachy Head on 12 Sept., after which only a further 28 for the month from 3 coastal sites. Numbers increased in Oct. but still no count exceeded double figures, the peaks being 75 at Beachy Head on 9th with 90 there on 11th, after which 35 at Icklesham on 13th, 30 at Seaford Head on 18th and 35 at Beachy Head on 29th. Numbers declined rapidly in Nov., the largest concentration being only 13 at Seaford Head on 14th. In Dec., just 2 reports of 3 birds each from inland localities.

1315. FIRECREST (*R. ignicapillus*). Regular passage migrant and winter visitor. Has bred.

Present in very low numbers in the early part of the year, followed by a below average spring, but a better autumn than in 1991. The approximate monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
2	4	12	9	6	-	-	-	9	34	26	4

In Jan. wintering singles were at Winchelsea from 6th-10th and Darwell Res. on 12th, whilst in Feb. again singles, in a Pett garden on 22nd. Dover Woods, Angmering on 23rd and 2 at Seaford Head on 28th. Numbers were evenly spread through Mar. and again were mainly singles, with 2 at Toot Rock, Pett from 21st-29th and 2 at Littlehampton GC on 31st being the exceptions. Apr. reports were 5 at Birling Gap on 5th, with singles at Selsey Bill on 1st, Littlehampton GC on 3rd, Hassocks on 11th and Buchan Park on 17th. No more were noted until 3 May when 2 were at Handcross, after which singles at St. Leonards Forest and Holmbush on 4th, Balsdean on 5th and Mewsbrook Park, Littlehampton on 13th. There was no evidence of breeding. Autumn passage was noted from 19 Sept. with singles at Beachy Head and Pett Level, and 2 were at Hollingbury Camp on 20th. Further singles during the month were at Littlehampton GC from 23rd-30th, Charlestone Reedbed on 26th and Fairlight Country Park on 27th.

Records were again evenly distributed throughout Oct., with numbers increasing a little towards the end of the month, and counts greater than 1 were 2 at both Church Norton and Beachy Head on 15th, 2 at Rye Hbr on 22nd, 2 at Littlehampton GC from 23rd to end of Dec., 3 at Climping on 25th, and 2 at Beachy Head on 28th, with up to 5 there on 31st. Passage continued into Nov. and again numbers greater than 1 were 3 at Saldean on 6th, with 2 there on 7th, 3 at Church Norton on 15th, 2 at Seaford Head on 27th and 2 at Church Norton on 29th. Except for 2 at West Wittering on 23 Dec., only 2 wintering birds were noted during the month, from Church Norton and Icklesham.

1335. SPOTTED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa striata*). Regular breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.

A poor year. First recorded in May, with singles at Weir Wood Res. on 1st, Sompting and Church Norton on 4th, West Wittering on 5th, Cissbury Ring on 6th and 2 at Beachy Head on 3rd. Disappointingly just a further 35 were noted during the month, with no falls and the largest group recorded was 4 at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 23rd. In the breeding season details of approximately 25 pairs were received, including 7 pairs in 24 km of shore and 180 ha of surround at Bewl Water, 2 pairs in 45.3 ha of farmland at Grantley Farm, Maynards Green, 2-3 pairs at Pulborough Brooks, 2 pairs at West Dean and 2 pairs at Hesworth Common.

Autumn passage started in Aug. with 1 at Weir Wood Res. on 8th and 3 at Sompting on 10th. Notable counts during the month included 28 at Sompting on 19th, with 39 there on 29th, 14 at Beachy Head on 22nd and 15 at Findon Valley, Worthing on 26th. This was followed by a very poor Sept. with a total of only 144 for the month and no counts reached double figures, the largest groups being 8 at Church Norton on 8th, 9 at Seaford Head on 19th, with 8 at the latter locality on 28th. There were just 2 records in Oct. and these were 2 at Beachy Head on 1st and the last, a single at Seaford Head on 2nd.

1349. PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypoleuca*). Regular passage migrant, has bred.

An average Apr. and poor May were followed by a good autumn, particularly in Sept. The approximate monthly totals were as follows:

Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
10	2	-	-	33	54	1	-

First recorded at Waterhall, Brighton on 19 Apr. followed by a further single at Sompting on 22nd, and on 26th singles at Beachy Head and Woods Mill, plus 2 at both Church Norton and West Dean, West Sussex. Singles were at Newmarket Hill on 27th and Church Norton on 28th, after which only 2 records in May, both singles at Littlehampton GC on 2nd, and a male was reported on 21st as having sung for a month in suitable habitat, but breeding was not proven.

The first of a better autumn was 1 at Durrington, Worthing on 3 Aug., with singles at Church Norton on 6th, Hollingbury Camp on 8th, Willingdon on 9th and on this latter date 2 were at Rye Hbr and a female was found dead in Eastbourne. A further 27 were noted to the month's end, mainly singles but including 3 at Church Norton on 22nd, 2 at Sidlesham Ferry on 24th and 4 at Sompting on 29th.

In Sept. only 7 singles were recorded to 14th and most were from the Selsey Peninsula, after which 21 were noted between 16th-20th, with the majority from coastal sites this time in the east of the county, notably at Seaford Head and Beachy Head, with up to 5 at the latter locality on 19th. A further 26 were reported from 22nd-28th, and were equally divided between mainly coastal sites in both east and west of the county. Peak counts during this period were 3 at Hove on 26th and 4 at Beachy Head, with 3 at Church Norton on 27th. Passage ended abruptly with the last, and only Oct. record, of a single at Climping on 1st.

1364. BEARDED TIT (*Parurus biarmicus*). Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Scarce summer visitor, has bred.

The approximate monthly totals outside the breeding season were:

No. of sites	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
No. of birds	2	1	1	3	4	10	4	5
	11	4	5	13	40	74	33	24

At one site, where the species is present year-round and breeding is now regular, at least 35 young were raised, and at another site the second breeding record for the locality was noted, up to 4 young being raised. Single birds were present for 1 day only at 2 further sites in the breeding season. Migrants not associating with reedbeds were "a few" calling over East Head on 13 Oct. and 2 which arrived from the N at Selsey Bill on 23 Oct., but departed after only 30 seconds.

1437. LONG-TAILED TIT (*Aegithalos caudatus*). Regular breeding resident.

Birds were seen feeding on peanuts in gardens in Storrington and East Grinstead in Feb. and Mar. and on suet in a garden at Fairlight in Apr. At Whitbread Hollow, Beachy Head birds were seen carrying nesting material on 29 Mar. and feeding young on 2 May. The largest flock reported in the autumn was of 33 at Church Norton on 3 Sept. One was found exhausted at Scaynes Hill on 29 Nov. and successfully revived and released.

1440. MARSH TIT (*Parus palustris*). Regular breeding resident.

Widely reported during the year. One was seen feeding on peanuts at Mannings Heath on 27 Apr. 10 were counted at Bewl Water on 1 June. At Woods Mill 2 regularly fed at a bird table from 15 Sept. through the winter. At Darwell Res. 14 were counted on 13 Dec.

1442. WILLOW TIT (*P. montanus*). Regular breeding resident.

Reported from 29 localities throughout the year. At Horsted Keynes 8 pulli were ringed on 1 June. Pairs were seen feeding young at Warnham MP and Leechpool Woods, Horsham.

1461. COAL TIT (*P. ater*). Regular breeding resident, scarce passage migrant.

Few records received. At Maynards Green 4 pairs were counted on 45.3 ha of farmland, 21 counted at Old Lodge Reserve, Ashdown on 1 June and 17 on a survey

at Bewl Water also on 1 June. On 5 Sept. a single flew from the beach at Selsey Bill into the gardens indicating a newly arrived migrant. At Parham 7 were seen together feeding on the ground on 25 Nov.

1462. BLUE TIT (*P. caeruleus*). Regular breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

At Gravetye Lakes 5 pairs reared 23 young, 15 pairs were counted on 45.3 ha farmland at Maynards Green, 116 counted at Moulsecocomb Wild Park, Brighton during a survey and 20 at Brighton Cemetery. On the Bluebell Railway 170 pulli were ringed where 34 pairs used nestboxes at Horsted Keynes. At Bewl Water 62 were counted during a survey, 11 on a CBC survey on 67 ha of mixed farm at Marsh Farm, Yapton and 14 on a CBC on 16 ha of mixed deciduous woodland at Barns Copse, Binsted. At East Head 15 flew in from Hayling Island on 13 Oct.

1464. GREAT TIT (*P. major*). Regular breeding resident, scarce passage migrant and winter visitor.

A bird feeding on peanuts at Sidley, Bexhill on 24 Mar. had all black head and cheeks. Breeding records were received from 10 localities, including 29 pairs in boxes at Horsted Keynes where 141 pulli were ringed. Another, or the same, partial melanistic bird was seen at Bexhill from 21-25 Oct.

1479. NUTHATCH (*Sitta europaea*). Regular breeding resident.

Very few records received. At Maynards Green 4 pairs on 45.3 ha of farmland and 4 pairs in nestboxes at Horsted Keynes where 11 pulli were ringed. Counts in Ashdown produced 4 pairs in 40 ha at Chelwood Vachery and 3 pairs on 12 ha at Wych Cross. In Dec. 8 were counted at Darwell Res. and 2 at the cricket ground at Arundel. All counts from defined areas are welcomed.

1486. TRECREPER (*Certhia familiaris*). Regular breeding resident.

Few records received. Birds were noted nestbuilding at Darwell Res. on 20 Apr. and a pair seen feeding young at Rackham Woods on 1 May. At Maynards Green 2 pairs on 45.3 ha of farmland. At Bewl Water 14 counted during a breeding survey. Whitbread Hollow recorded only a single on 15 Aug. The winter maximum was 8 at Darwell Res. on 13 Dec.

1508. GOLDEN ORIOLE (*Oriolus oriolus*). Scarce passage migrant and summer visitor. May have bred.

Three authenticated records. A male at Selsey Bill on 26 May (OM,TJE), an immature male at Pett Level on 4 June (CHD) and another male at Church Norton on 10 June. (TJE)

1515. RED-BACKED SHRIKE (*Lanius collurio*). Regular autumn passage migrant and scarce summer visitor, has bred.

1991: The immature reported from Climping on 14 Sept. remained until 17th (RJLK).

1992: An impressive total of 5 birds were recorded this autumn, the highest annual figure since 1981. An immature was found on Seaford Head on 21 Aug. (CAW) and an adult male, seen the following day at Hastings Country Park (DPB). Hot on their heels was another immature, at Hillbarn GC on 25 Aug. (SPH). There followed an adult female seen at Atherington on 2 Sept. (SJP *et al.*) and finally another female on Littlehampton GC on 20 Sept. (RJLK,BA,BFF).

1520. GREAT GREY SHRIKE (*L. excubitor*). Scarce winter visitor and scarce autumn passage migrant.

Only 1 overwintering bird was encountered during the early months with

sightings from Ashdown Forest during Jan.

In autumn, single migrants were found at Cuckmere Haven on 5 Oct., Beachy Head on 11 Oct., at Rye Hbr, their first for 14 years, on 16 Oct. and at Weir Wood Res. on 18 Nov. The only long stayer hunted over Amberley Wild Brooks from 6 Nov. until the year end.

1539. JAY (*Garrulus glandarius*). Regular breeding resident, scarce passage migrant, scarce winter visitor.

Darwell Res. recorded a maximum of 10 during the year, a single bird at Shoreham Sanctuary on 23 Aug. was an unusual record as were 20 at Hollingbury Camp on 15 Sept. Breeding records were received from 8 sites. On 5 Oct. a bird was seen taking beech mast into a hole in a willow tree at Warnham MP. No large flocks were reported in the autumn.

1549. MAGPIE (*Pica pica*). Regular breeding resident.

At the beginning of the year 35 were counted at Ashcombe Bottom and 20 at Westbourne, near Emisworth on 26 Jan. At Marsham Valley 46 were recorded at a roost in scrub on 21 Feb. During the breeding season records were received from 8 sites. Maximum counts during the autumn were 23 at Whitbread Hollow on 5 Sept. and 19 at Warnham MP on 2 Sept.

1560. JACKDAW (*Corvus monedula*). Regular breeding resident.

2500 were counted at a roost on Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington during Jan. and Feb. Roosts of 1000 at Hurstpierpoint on 8 Jan. and 2000 at Clayton on 26 Jan. were also recorded. 17 pulli were ringed at Horsted Keynes where pairs occupied 10 nestboxes. In the autumn the roost at Cattlestone Farm held 2000 on 6 Sept. 40 flew S at Selsey Bill on 30 Oct. In Dec. 195 were counted at Beeding Brooks.

1563. ROOK (*C. frugilegus*). Regular breeding resident.

At the beginning of the year counts of roosts included 2000 at Cattlestone Farm, West Chilington during Jan-Feb. and 800 at Clayton. On 2 Feb. a bird with a long decurved upper mandible was observed at Brighton Marina. Counts of nests in defined areas were as follows: Hassocks 16, Boreham Bridge 14, Burgess Hill 5 at new site, Marstake Common 4, Pulborough 35. At Plumpton a count at 7 sites produced a total of 171 nests. Numbers at Cissbury Ring grew from 265 in July to 600 by 5 Aug. and the roost at Cattlestone Farm again held 2000 by 6 Sept.

1567. CARRION CROW (*C. corone*). Regular breeding resident.

During May a Hooded Crow (*C.cornix*) was observed flying in off the sea on 1 May and it, or another individual feeding in fields at Beachy Head on 16 May.

In the breeding season 4 pairs were present in 45.3 ha of farmland at Maynards Green. The only notable concentrations were of 84 at Crowhurst Marsh on 17 Dec. and 176 at Goring Beach on 19 Dec.

1582. STARLING (*Sternus vulgaris*). Regular breeding resident, regular passage migrant, regular winter visitor.

At Maynards Green 17 pairs were on 45.3 ha of farmland. A leucistic individual was seen at Rye Hbr on 25 Sept. Also at Rye Hbr the largest roost count was of 8000+ on 30 Oct. At Bognor Regis 13300 were counted on 3 Nov. and 300 flew W off Worthing Beach on 14 Nov.

1591. HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Regular breeding resident.

A heavy decline in breeding numbers was noted at Bewl Water. 150 were counted at Newhaven Tide Mills on 23 Aug. and a single was recorded at Whitbread Hollow where it is a scarce visitor. An albino was noted at Glyne Gap, Bexhill on 24 Dec.

1598. **TREE SPARROW** (*P. montanus*). **Regular winter visitor, regular passage migrant, regular breeding summer visitor.**

At Newark a flock of 27 was the largest recorded at the beginning of the year.

In the breeding season 14 out of 37 boxes were occupied at Rye Hbr. 15 pairs were reported from a further 7 sites including a pair in a rusty 5 bar gate near Henfield. At Cattlestone Farm, West Chilmington the species was again absent as a breeding bird and also absent at Bewl Water for the first time (42 in 1984, 17 in 1990).

In the autumn migrating birds were noted at Fairlight Country Park with 3 on 3 Oct. and 13 on 10 Oct. Also in Oct. the highest numbers were 16 at Beachy Head on 17th, 12 at Icklesham on 29th and 11 at Fairlight on 31st. In Nov. 24 were at Weir Wood Res. on 6th, 14 at Fairlight Country Park on 11th and 17 at Seaford Head on 14th. 20 were feeding on uncut maize on Welchs Common on 5 Dec. and 18 at Crowhurst Marsh on 21 Dec.

1636. **CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*). **Regular breeding resident, winter visitor and passage migrant.**

At the beginning of the year the largest flocks reported were 118 at Chyngton Farm, Cuckmere on 25 Jan. and 200 at both Holmbush Farm, Faygate and Pulborough Brooks during Feb.

A breeding survey in June revealed the following pair counts: 25 on 45.3 ha at Maynards Green, 33 at the Devil's Dyke, 49 at Brighton Wild Park, 11 at Brighton Cemeteries, 22 at Old Lodge Reserve, Ashdown, 29 on 67 ha of mixed farmland at Marsh Farm, Yapton, 7 on 16 ha at Binsted and 120 in the area surrounding Bewl Water.

Autumn numbers were low with a maximum of 145 on 8 Oct. at Church Norton, but during the last two months of the year 1,619 were reported from 11 areas, the largest flocks being 250 at Amberley on 6 Nov. and 300 at Wiggonholt Common on 26 Dec.

1638. **BRAMBLING** (*F. montifringilla*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant.**

Another good year for this species with monthly totals as follows:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
16	20	13	6	5	175	86	24

The largest flock seen in the early part of the year was 10 at Standean Bottom on 27 Feb.

The species was again reported almost daily from many coastal sites in Oct., the highest numbers being 35 at Pagham Hbr and 30 at Winchelsea on 7th, and 9 at Beachy Head and 20 at Icklesham on 18th. At the end of the year 35 were at Seaford Head on 14 Nov., 22 at Weir Wood the following day, 8 at Ifield on 5 Dec. and 6 with Chaffinches at Wiggonholt Common on 26th.

1640. **SERIN** (*Serinus serinus*). **Scarce spring and autumn passage migrant and scarce summer visitor. Has bred.**

A good spring with at least 4 individuals seen at Selsey Bill and 2 brief sightings at Beachy Head. At Selsey Bill a female found on 21 Apr. (BJ,BDJ,CMJ,PJ *et al.*) was presumably that seen on 24th while a male was present on 22-23rd (TJE *et al.*), a female on 4 May, 2 males and a female on 5 May (BJC), a pair from 7-11th (OM *et al.*) and a 2nd female on 9th (TJE,DIS *et al.*), a female on 16th and finally a male on 31st (*per.OM*). The Selsey birds were most regularly seen at the Bill tip or on the Pontins site but were generally rather illusive, presumably spending much time in gardens, making it impossible to determine how long individuals were present or how many were involved. Despite high hopes there was no evidence found to indicate attempted breeding. At Beachy Head a female was seen at Birling on 15 May

(GCG,RK,SHL) and a male near Hodcombe on 7 June (DC,JFC).

1649. **GREENFINCH** (*Carduelis chloris*). **Regular breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The monthly totals recorded were:

Jan.	Feb.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
208	386	1288	1761	805	266

Breeding counts in June were as follows (in pairs): 2 on 45.3 ha of farmland at Maynards Green, 31 at Brighton Wild Park, 21 at Brighton Cemeteries, 8 in 67 ha at Marsh Farm, Yapton and 23 around Bewl Water. At Rye Hbr there were 500-700 from mid-Sept. to mid-Oct., and at Pagham Hbr numbers rose from 300 on 30 Sept. to 400 by 1 Nov., whilst 350 were present at Shoreham Beach on 2 Nov.

1653. **GOLDFINCH** (*C. carduelis*). **Regular breeding summer visitor, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
347	130	213	52	1184	3443	148	95

The highest counts during the early part of the year were 100 at Houghton Forest on 10 Jan., 110 at Stansted Forest on 30th, 80 at Rogate Common on 6 Feb. and 100 at Pulborough Brooks in Mar. During June 33 pairs were reported from 5 localities.

Autumn migration commenced in mid-Sept. and the peak movements noted were: 530 at Seaford Head on 2 Oct., 160 E in 20 mins at Worthing Beach and 200 at Icklesham on 7th, 405 at Church Norton the following day, a flock of 400 E at Beachy Head on 11th and 422 at Seaford Head on 17th. Overwintering flocks of 10 to 60 were noted from 6 locations during Nov-Dec.

1654. **SISKIN** (*C. spinus*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant and scarce summer visitor. Has bred.**

The monthly totals for the early part of the year were Jan. 604, Feb. 440, Mar. 329 and Apr. 142, from 18,18,13 and 17 localities respectively. The largest flocks being 200 at South Ambersham on 28 Jan., 80 at Burton MP on 24 Feb. and 80 at Iping Common on 19 Mar.

Breeding season records came from 3 localities, with 2 pairs possibly nesting.

End of year totals were Sept. 95, Oct. 766, Nov. 358 and Dec. 222. Most of the Oct-Nov. records related to migrants, eg: 197 at Fairlight on 10 Oct., 120 at Icklesham on 11th and 149 at Seaford Head on 14 Nov. A total of 13 birds were recorded feeding on peanuts from 4 gardens in the county, and 382 birds were ringed at 2 locations in East Grinstead during the year.

1660. **LINNET** (*C. cannabina*). **Regular breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

The longest concentrations during the first quarter were 300 in Pagham Hbr on 26 Jan., falling to 200 by 2 Feb., 100 at Hassocks on 28 Jan. and 170 at Stansted on 2 Mar., falling to 120 by 19th. Spring movements included 253 at Seaford Head on 18 Apr. and 144 at Worthing on 21st.

Breeding surveys in June revealed 19 pairs at Devil's Dyke, 10 pairs at Brighton Wild Park and 33 pairs around Bewl Water.

Large numbers were reported during autumn migration including a flock of 400 at Thorney Island on 15 Aug., 600 E at Beachy Head on 27 Sept., 400 E in an hour at Seaford Head on 2 Oct., 775 at Pagham Hbr on 8th, 1500 at Beachy Head on 11th and 390 at Seaford Head on 17th. In Dec. 120 were on rape stubble on 5th and 400 at Gatehouse Farm, Trotton on 29th.

1662. **TWITE** (*C. flavirostris*). **Winter visitor and scarce passage migrant.**

A poor year for the species with only 6 records received. At Cuckmere Haven 2 were present on 25 Jan.

At the end of the year, 7 were at Rye Hbr on 26 Oct., 11 at Seaford Head on 15 Nov. falling to 8 by 27th, 2 at Cuckmere Haven on 17 Dec., and finally 2 by R-Adur, Shoreham on 22nd.

1663. **REDPOLL** (*C. flammea*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant, small numbers breed.**

During the first quarter 149 were recorded from 8 localities in Jan., 448 from 10 localities in Feb. and 41 from 4 localities in Mar., the largest gathering by far being 300 at Ashdown Forest on 15 Feb., indeed the vast majority of the records coming from the east of the county. On 12 Apr. 100 were present at Buchan Park.

During the breeding season 44 pairs were reported, including 22 at Old Lodge Reserve, Ashdown, and 15 around Bewl Water.

The Oct. total of 434 from 14 areas included 20 N at Selsey Bill on 4th, 90 on 8 dates at Beachy Head, 60 S at Bewl Water on 18th and 70 at Icklesham on 30th. In Nov-Dec. 306 were noted at 12 localities, the largest flock being 200 at Ifield MP on 5 Dec.

1666. **COMMON CROSSBILL** (*Loxia curvirostris*). **Regular winter visitor and passage migrant. Breeds irregularly.**

The monthly totals were:

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
11	43	16	13	7	8	-	12	1	19	-	14

Reported from 12 inland localities and 3 coastal in the west, and 2 inland and 1 coastal in the east. The largest gathering at the beginning of the year were 24 at Houghton Forest on 16 Feb. and 15 at Lavington Common on 14 Mar.

Breeding season details were: a flock of 7 at Lavington Common on 24 Apr., 1 male and 2 females at Buchan Park on 25th, 1 female at Houghton Forest on 24 May and 1 at Old Lodge Reserve, Ashdown Forest on 1 June.

Five flew NW over Littlehampton on 18 June and 8 were seen at Seaford Head on 29 Aug. At the end of the year 14 were at Easebourne on 24 Oct. and 10 at Graffham Common on 20 Dec.

1679. **SCARLET ROSEFINCH** (*Carpodacus erythrinus*). **Scarce/rare passage migrant.**

Two were seen briefly in late spring, an adult male in song at Selsey Bill on 25 May (CMJHP,RP) and a female at Climping on 14 June (RJK). Six of the last 8 records have been in the period encompassed by the above. The increase in records continues with 6 in 1990-92, 6 in 1980s, 2 in 1970s and 1 in 1869 (the first British record).

1710. **BULLFINCH** (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*). **Regular breeding resident and winter visitor.**

Up to the end of Apr. 34 were reported from 7 areas, the highest number being 10 at Darwell Res. on 15 Mar. In the breeding season 20 pairs were recorded from 9 areas, and additionally 26 were recorded in the area surrounding Bewl Water. From July to Dec. 52 were noted from 9 localities, including 16 at Sompington Brooks on 18 Aug.

1717. **HAWFINCH** (*Coccothraustes coccothraustes*). **Regular breeding resident and scarce passage migrant.**

A very poor year with only 7 recorded as follows: a single at Wakehurst Place on 12 Jan., 3 at Darwell Res. on 20 Apr., 1 at Denmans Gardens, Fontwell on 4 May, 1 at

Washington Bostal on 7 July, and lastly 1 flying over Pulborough Brooks on 26 Sept.

1847. **LAPLAND BUNTING** (*Calcarius lapponicus*). **Scarce/rare winter visitor and passage migrant.**

1991: A single at Thorney Island on 1 Jan. (CBC,MAC) and 2 there on 18 Jan.(CBC). A confiding individual found on Lancing Green, on 16 Feb. (KN *et al.*) may well have been the same bird as was present at Widewater, Shoreham the following day (JSG,DIS *et al.*)

1992: There were no records for this species in 1992, the first blank year since 1976.

1850. **SNOW BUNTING** (*Plectrophenax nivalis*). **Regular winter visitor and scarce passage migrant.**

At the beginning of the year 2 were present at Littlehampton West Beach until 28 Jan., 2 at Goring until 8 Jan., a male remaining to 24 Feb. and a single at Cuckmere Haven on 23 Feb.

During the last quarter 7 were seen: a single at Steyning Round Hill on 31 Oct., 2 at Beachy Head on 15 Nov., 1 at Littlehampton West Beach on 10-11 Dec., 1 at the Crumbles on 17 Dec. and 2 males at Camber on 29 Dec.

1857. **YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*). **Regular breeding resident.**

During the first 4 months 12 flocks totalling 494 individuals were recorded, the largest being 90 at Cuckmere Haven on 1 Jan., 78 at Seaford Head on 11 Jan. and 55 at Mill Hill, Shoreham on 26 Jan.

Breeding season details involved 124 pairs from 15 reported localities, including 49 around Bewl Water.

In the last 3 months 11 flocks totalling 414 birds were reported, most notable being 50 at Bewl Water on 4 Oct., 50 at Newick on 8 Nov., 65 at Kingley Vale on 25 Dec., 78 at Seaford Head on 28 Dec. and 40 at Pease Pottage on 28 Dec.

1877. **REED BUNTING** (*E. schoeniclus*). **Regular breeding resident, passage migrant and winter visitor.**

From Jan-Apr. 233 were seen at 18 localities, the largest concentrations being 30 at Ashdown Forest on 19 Jan., 26 at Rackham Hill on 19 Feb., 29 at Wisborough Green on 15 Mar. and 30 at Thorney Deepes on 1 Apr.

In the breeding season 125 pairs were reported from 21 areas, including 48 pairs at Rye Hbr LNR and 27 pairs around Bewl Water where there has been a steady decline since 1984 when 58 pairs nested.

From 15 Sept. to the end of the year 122 were recorded from 11 areas, most notable being 19 at Seaford Head on 18 Oct., 16 at Littlehampton West Beach on 5 Dec. and 25 on stubble at Ifield on 20 Dec.

1882. **CORN BUNTING** (*Miliaria calandra*). **Regular breeding resident.**

A total of 907 individuals were reported from 27 localities up to 7 May, the largest concentrations being 75 at West Wittering on 23 Jan., 130 at Paghham Hbr on 26 Jan., 73 at Barnham on 6 Feb. and 120 at Telscombe on 28 Mar.

This species is fast declining in much of the county, and Sussex observers obviously made great efforts in finding breeding birds this year, resulting in 106 singing males/pairs being recorded from 30 localities, including 16 on the Downs, between Ouse-A23, 8 at Newmarket Hill, 9 at the Cuckmere, 10 at Standean Bottom and 7 at Rye Hbr LNR.

From the end of July to the end of the year approximately 500 were reported from 14 localities, the largest concentrations being 135 at a reedbed at Steyning on 13 Oct., 50 at Rye Hbr on 20 Nov. and 40 at Mile Oak, Portslade 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 now annual feature. Notes on age/sex, plumage, behaviour and, where known, status will be of particular interest. 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 1992:

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*). One at Emsworth on 23 Feb.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE (*Anser indicus*). Singles at Knepp on 14 Sept. and at Pulborough Brooks from 5 Oct. to the end of the year and 4 on Beeding Brooks on 8 Nov. A bird considered to be a hybrid Bar-headed x Canada Goose was also noted at Pulborough Brooks.

SNOW GOOSE (*A. caerulescens*). The only record was a blue-phase bird at Chichester GP on 21 Mar.

BARNACLE GOOSE (*Branta leucopsis*). In addition to those birds in the systematic list, there were numerous reports of feral birds as follows: up to 9 at Weir Wood Res., up to 4 at Rye Hbr, up to 3 at Cuckmere Haven, 2 at Arlington Res., and singles at Barcombe Res., Buxted Park, Ditchling, Pett Level, Pilsey Island, Singleton, Thorney Island, West Wittering and Wilmington. At Plashett Park, 2 pairs with a total of 7 young were noted on 17 May. A third pair had adopted young Canada Geese and 3 non-breeding adults were also present. A further visit to this locality on 27 May located 2 pairs and 8 other adults.

RUDDY SHELDUCK (*Tadorna ferruginea*). Three were recorded at Paghams Hbr between 19-24 Aug. and presumably the same 3 were at Littlehampton GC on 26 Aug. Two were at Paghams Hbr from 4-6 Nov.

WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*). At Swanbourne Lake, Arundel there were 2 pairs on 30 June and the largest count there was 17 on 13 Dec. A female, possibly holding territory, at Rackham Woods was the only other record.

WHITE-CHEEKED (BAHAMA) PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*). Three at Apuldram Manor Farm on 12 Aug., 1 trapped at Icklesham on 16 Oct. and a further single at Brooklands, Worthing from 30 Nov. to 2 Dec.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD (*Netta rufina*). The abnormally plumaged male was again reported on Brooklands, Worthing from 15 Aug. to early Sept.

REEVE'S PHEASANT (*Syrnaticus reevesii*). A male of unknown origin at Pett Level on 2 Aug.

COCKATOO SPECIES (*Cacatua* sp.). A white bird at Falmer on 8 Apr.

COCKATIEL (*Nymphicus hollandicus*). Singles of this commonly kept Australian cage bird were recorded as follows: Albourne on 4 Jan., Worthing on 17 May, Bewbush on 16 Sept., Crowborough on 26 Sept., Cissbury Ring on 29 Sept., Littlehampton on 3 and 15 Oct. and Steyning on 28 Oct.

BUDGERIGAR (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). Singles at Angmering on 9 May and Apuldram Manor on 12 Aug.

LOVEBIRD SPECIES (*Agapornis* sp.). A bird reported as a 'Madagascar' Lovebird at Littlehampton on 21 Aug.

RED-BILLED FIREFINCH (*Lagonosticta senegalata*). A male of this African species at Steyning on 10 Aug.

BLACK-HEADED WEAVER (*Ploceus cucullatus*). One feeding at a bird table in Hursipierpoint on 12 Sept.

CAPE GLOSSY STARLING (*Lamprotornis nitens*). One killed by a cat at Falmer on 28 May.

RINGING IN SUSSEX IN 1992

by Derek Crawley

This is my fifth annual report on ringing in Sussex. Records received from the county's ringers indicate that 52,392 birds of 116 species were ringed. As in all recent years the largest contributor to this total has been the Rye Bay Ringing Group with 37,358 birds.

Rye Bay were responsible for trapping the unusual species: **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Quail** (3), **Spotted Crane** (4), **Baillon's Crane**, **Savi's Warbler**, **Aquatic Warbler** (9), **Marsh Warbler** (2), **Paddyfield Warbler**, **Yellow-browed Warbler**, **Radde's Warbler** and **Little Bunting**. At the time of writing the Little Bunting is still being considered by *British Birds* Rarities Committee. The word 'unusual' requires some qualification. This is third year running that Spotted Crakes have been trapped; Savi's Warblers have been caught in three of the last five years; Aquatic Warblers in six of the last ten years and Marsh Warblers in the last three years. A Radde's Warbler seen at Beachy Head on 18th October 1974 was the first record for the county. I know of no previous record of one being ringed in Sussex. The Paddyfield Warbler is the first record for the county and the 18th for Britain.

Table 1. Numbers of birds ringed of eight selected migrant species, 1986-1992.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Sedge Warbler	394	1013	1632	4198	8079	8425	12650
Reed Warbler	986	1534	2050	4066	5183	5754	6978
Lesser Whitethroat	413	459	465	627	513	331	308
Whitethroat	549	771	753	1281	1266	592	1205
Garden Warbler	362	322	387	678	707	730	1061
Blackcap	1217	1286	1654	4111	3203	2201	4925
Chiffchaff	848	1215	2753	3150	2480	1235	2633
Willow Warbler	2149	3477	3593	2964	4020	2391	2184

Table 1 shows the figures for eight selected migrant warbler species ringed in the county. 1986 was the first year of the Rye Bay Ringing Group's operations. The four years since 1989, but especially the years 1990-92, were years when the effort reached a consistency that allows the figures to give some indication of how certain species are faring from year to year. In the case of **Sedge** and **Reed Warbler** totals, they reflect how the planned change of habitat at the Icklesham site has been successful in attracting these species on passage. The figures for **Lesser Whitethroat** show an alarming decline whereas **Garden Warbler**'s gradual increase, between 1989 and 1992, surely indicates an especially successful season. The **Willow Warbler** appears to be in decline at the moment, while **Chiffchaff** exhibits a somewhat erratic record, as does **Blackcap**.

The number of gulls ringed in the county remains low compared to the figures for the early 1980s. The 1992 total stands at 417 of two species; **Black-headed Gull** (402) and **Common Gull** (15). These birds are caught at rubbish tips and I understand that in the last quarter of the year the numbers of birds using the tips was unusually low. Black-headed Gulls ringed in previous years continue to provide a steady flow of overseas recoveries (Table 2).

Table 2. Overseas recoveries of Black-headed Gulls ringed in Sussex.

USSR	1	Norway	1
Latvia	1	Netherlands	10
Lithuania	4	Belgium	3
Finland	6	Germany	4
Sweden	3	Denmark	7
		Total	40

The BTO/Euring/ICBP expedition in Senegal has provided more recoveries of Sussex ringed birds. At the time of writing I have to hand records of 54 birds found there in 1992. The breakdown is as follows: **Sand Martin** (33), Sedge Warbler (16), Reed Warbler (4) and Chiffchaff (1).

Only 72 waders of 7 species were ringed during the year. They were: **Ringed Plover** (6), **Lapwing** (48), **Jack Snipe** (4), **Snipe** (5), **Woodcock** (1), **Redshank** (3) and **Green Sandpiper** (5). All of the Lapwings were chicks and the 41 at Icklesham represents an improvement in breeding success over the most recent past.

Of the 12 duck species ringed, totalling 303 birds, there was a single **Mandarin**, **Gadwall** (22), **Pintail** (28) and **Garganey** (2).

SELECTED LIST OF RECOVERIES REPORTED IN 1992

Key to symbols and terms

	Age	Manner of Recovery		Sex	
1	Pullus (nestling or chick not yet flying)	X	Found dead		
2	Year of hatching unknown	XF	Found freshly dead/dying		
3	Definitely hatched in current calendar year	+	Shot or intentionally killed by man		
4	Hatched before current calendar year but exact year unknown	R	Caught and released by ringer		
5	Definitely hatched last calendar year	RR	Not caught; ring or other mark read in field by ringer.		
6	Hatched before last calendar year but exact year unknown			m	Male
J	Juvenile			f	Female
Mute Swan					
Z31322	6f	18.10.81	Brede Level, Sussex	50 56N 00 39E	
	R	18.03.92	Brede Valley, Sussex	50 55N 00 39E	5km SW 3804 days
Shelduck					
GJ95096	3J	29.08.85	Fairlight, Hastings, Sussex	50 52N 00 41E	
	XF	18.11.92	Bensersiel, Weser-Ems, Germany	53 41N 07 35E	566km ENE 2638 days
Gadwall					
FC42847	4	09.12.91	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	+	28.11.92	Fowlmere, nr Thetford, Norfolk	52 28N 00 45E	172km N 355 days
Pintail					
FC42924	6m	18.01.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	+	15.09.92	Trolle Ljungby, Kristianstad, Sweden	56 02N 14 21E	1068km NE 241 days
Garganey					
ERO3458	5m	04.04.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	R	23.04.92	Abberton Res., nr Colchester, Essex	51 49N 00 50E	101km N 19 days
Kestrel					
EB25812	3f	10.10.91	Beachy Head, Eastbourne, Sussex	50 44N 00 15E	
	R	16.11.92	Bothwell, Strathclyde Region	55 48N 04 04W	632km NNW 403 days
ER47883	1	03.06.91	Mendowhead, Strathclyde Region	55 15N 04 20W	
	R	27.10.91	Cissbury, nr Worthing, Sussex	50 52N 00 23W	544km SE 146 days
			A late record. One of a brood of five.		

EB25812 was in poor condition when controlled in Scotland but released on the day following capture. The well established fact that young **Kestrels** disperse in all directions after fledging seems to be confirmed by these two records. Although the Beachy Head bird had no doubt 'dispersed' once already.

Common Tern

CE10862	1	18.07.85	Stakes Island, Chichester Hbr, Sussex	50 48N 00 54W	
	XF	15.06.92	Stakes Island, Chichester Hbr, Sussex	50 48N 00 54W	2524 days
CE10875	1	18.07.85	Stakes Island, Chichester Hbr, Sussex	50 48N 00 54W	
	XF	27.07.92	Eastney, Portsmouth, Hants.	50 47N 01 02W	10km WSW 2566 days

The cause of death of these two birds ringed as chicks on the same day in 1985 is

not known. The records illustrate the fidelity to the natal site of this species.

Sand Martin					
E571921	3	07.09.87	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	R	31.08.92	Isle of Grain, Kent	51 28N 00 41E	1820 days
E573162	3f	16.09.87	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	R	28.07.92	Ashton Keynes, Wiltshire	51 39N 01 54W	1777 days
E743573	3	02.08.88	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	R	31.12.92	P.N.O. du Djoudj, Senegal	16 25N 16 18W	4125km SSW 1612 days

These are three of the older birds featured in a large batch of Sand Martins controlled in 1992. E743573 having been to Djoudj more times than the founder members of the Senegal expedition. The **Swallows**, below, are added to the ever growing total of this species found in Southern Africa.

Swallow					
F794992	3	10.09.91	Sandgate Park, Storrington, Sussex	50 55N 00 26W	
	R	13.02.92	Skimmerspruit, nr Pretoria, Transvaal	25 44S 28 10E	8974km SE 156 days
H139259	4	07.09.91	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	R	10.02.92	De Aar, Cape Province, R.S.A.	30 39S 24 01E	9352km SSE 156 days
Pied Wagtail					
H685412	3m	20.08.92	Belford, Northumberland	55 35N 01 50W	
	R	05.12.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	546km SE 107 days
Robin					
H703966	3	15.10.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	
	XF	07.11.92	Mancot, Royal Deeside, Clwyd	53 11N 03 00W	357km NW 23 days
Wheatear					
VCI9184	1	31.05.91	Rye Harbour, Sussex	50 56N 00 45E	
	XF	04.03.92	Amellago, Morocco	32 00N 05 00W	2156km S 278 days

While ringing records of **Pied Wagtails** show that the population of southern England is mainly sedentary, northern birds are largely migratory with southerly movements from August (Lack, 1986). The north-westerly movement of the **Robin** in October seems unusual. I can find no indication of significance in the literature available. Over 50 British-ringed **Wheatears** have been recovered in Morocco. Very few are ringed in Sussex, which makes this record worth mentioning.

Mistle Thrush

CP51919	4	27.07.75	Chichester Gravel Pit, Sussex		
	+	24.03.92	Itchenor, nr Chichester, Sussex		16 years 8 months

This bird was more than 7 years older than the ringing longevity record quoted in BWP. The same source gives 20 years for a **Blackbird** and 18 years for a **Fieldfare** (Cramp, 1988).

Marsh Tit

CI50033	5	24.03.84	Fairlight, Hastings, Sussex	50 52N 00 39E	
	RR	10.12.92	Fairlight, Hastings, Sussex	50 52N 00 39E	3183 days

This colour-ringed bird was identified in the field and at over 9 years might be the oldest recorded of this species. It seems likely that the bird has spent all of its long life at Fairlight. This species is not noted for its long distance movements. British ringing records show only two movements greater than 50 km (Mead and Clark, 1990).

The following **Siskin** records represent all of the birds reported to me in 1992. The birds controlled show that the flocks of Siskins we see in southern England come from various places and disperse widely as spring approaches. The vast majority of the Siskins ringed in the county are trapped in East Grinstead gardens attracted to peanut feeders. H369953 moved from the peanuts of East Grinstead to a peanut stop in Windlesham, Surrey. It no doubt called at other feeders en route to its ultimate destination. I have provided the co-ordinates when available to me.

Chiffchaff
 5R4289 3J 06.08.92 Weirwood Reservoir, Sussex 51 05N 00 02W 38 days
 R 13.09.92 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 00 41E 53km ESE

Reed Bunting
 H702662 3 13.09.92 Icklesham, Sussex 50 55N 00 41E
 R 26.09.92 Littleton, Sussex 50 47N 00 09E 40km WSW 13 days

Now follows some news of general interest based on ringing activity. On 2nd February a female Blackcap was trapped in East Grinstead. The number of Sand Martins (4457) was down on recent years. They seemed to be more difficult to catch and there were definitely fewer at the Icklesham roost. **Song Thrush** had poor figures (269). Since 1979 there has only been one poorer year and that was 1987. **Spotted Flycatcher** (25) remains in decline as do **Tree Sparrow** (9) and **Linnet** (38). **The Yellowhammer** (32) shows the lowest total for over 10 years. **Goldcrest** (243) has recovered from the poor showing in 1991 (34). Another species that has certainly declined in terms of ringing figures is the **Starling**. Just 203 birds in 1992 compared to a 13-year average of 710. I reported last year on the number of **Bearded Tits** caught at Icklesham. It was an even more productive year in 1992 with a total of 38 birds ringed. Additionally 19 were trapped with rings. As in 1991 they had all been ringed in Kent (Crawley, 1992).

The number of **Grasshopper Warblers** ringed in the county has increased dramatically in the last few years culminating in a total of 397 in 1992. Very few returns are forthcoming on this skulking species so I offer no apologies for including information that is proper to next years Sussex Bird Report. A Grasshopper Warbler ringed at Icklesham on 18 August 1992 was controlled on 14 January 1993 at Djoudj, Senegal. (Full details in my next report).

My thanks, as always to the ringers who have provided me with the information needed to compile this report.

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 Derek Crawley, 67a, Grange Court Drive, Bexhill-on-Sea, East Sussex TN39 4AY. (Tel. 0424 210874).

Siskin	6f	18.02.91	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	1241km NE	427 days
F837425	R	20.04.92	Valdres, Opland, Norway			
F837466	6m	27.02.91	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	769km NW	438 days
H190724	5m	10.05.92	Letterfearn, Highland Region			
	R	03.03.91	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	28km NW	368 days
	R	05.03.92	Dorking, Surrey	51 13N 00 19W		
H369742	5f	26.01.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	28km NW	50 days
	R	16.03.92	Dorking, Surrey	51 13N 00 19W		
H369953	5f	23.02.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	54km NW	25 days
	R	19.03.92	Windlesham, Surrey			
H403709	6m	08.03.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	378km NW	30 days
	R	07.04.92	Heysham, Lancs	54 02N 02 55W		
H403713	5f	15.03.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	487km NNW	35 days
	R	19.04.92	Keilder, Northumbria			
H403718	5m	15.03.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	20km NE	8 days
	R	26.03.92	Sevenoaks, Kent	51 17N 00 11E		
H418480	5f	14.03.92	Marley Common, Sussex	51 04N 00 45W	713km NNW	42 days
	R	25.04.92	Logie Hill, Highland Region	57 45N 04 05W		
H641144	6m	15.03.92	East Grinstead, Sussex	51 07N 00 01W	769km N	27 days
	R	11.04.92	Golspie Tower Farm, Highland Region			
Greenfinch						
VH64099	3m	09.11.90	Lymington, Hants			
	R	21.04.91	Charing, Kent	51 07N 00 01W	117km E	
	R	01.12.91	East Grinstead, Sussex			
			A late record showing NE-SW movement between breeding in Kent.			

As in earlier years a number of birds ringed at sites all over the county find their way to the Rye Bay site at Icklesham. Some of course go the other way. The following are all migrants with the exception of the **Reed Bunting** showing a local movement.

Sedge Warbler						
H116512	3	02.08.92	Litlington, Sussex	50 47N 00 09E	40km ENE	20 days
	R	22.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		
H466200	3	01.08.92	Beachy Head, Sussex	50 44N 00 15E	37km NE	6 days
	R	07.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		
H709999	3	15.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	40km WSW	1 day
	R	16.08.92	Litlington, Sussex	50 47N 00 09E		
Reed Warbler						
H087992	3	25.07.92	Litlington, Sussex	50 47N 00 09E	40km ENE	13 days
	R	07.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		
	R	08.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex			
H087999	3	26.07.92	Litlington, Sussex	50 47N 00 09E	40km ENE	2 days
	R	28.07.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		
H284987	3	30.07.92	Thorney Deepes, Thorney Is., Sussex	50 50N 00 56W	112km E	16 days
	R	15.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		
H705461	3	30.07.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	53km WNW	11 days
	R	10.08.92	Weirwood Reservoir, Sussex	51 05N 00 02W		
H705876	3	05.08.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E	40km WSW	18 days
	R	23.08.92	Litlington, Sussex	50 47N 00 09E		
H799696	3	08.09.92	Wales Farm, Plumpton, Sussex	50 54N 00 05W	53km E	4 days
	R	15.09.92	Icklesham, Sussex	50 55N 00 41E		

THE 1991-1992 NIGHTJAR SURVEY IN SUSSEX

by J.M. Halls

The Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* is fairly exacting in its habitat requirements: bare, free-draining ground for the nest site, surrounded by low-growing shrubs for cover; open ground for hunting prey – large moths and beetles; scattered trees for use as song posts and daytime roosts; woodland to act as a shelter belt. Such a mosaic of habitats tends to be found on lowland heathlands and commons and in large blocks of woodland where open glades have been created through windblow or harvesting of timber.

Sussex has always been a key area for the Nightjar but monitoring from the late 1960s, culminating in a full census in 1977, indicated that the species was declining (Hughes, Houghton and Blake, 1978). The continuing decline in Sussex was reflected elsewhere in Britain with the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) 1981 survey estimating that there were only 2100 pairs nationwide (Gribble, 1983). In order to assess the Nightjar's current status a census jointly organised by the BTO and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) was undertaken in 1992. In Sussex the majority of fieldwork took place in 1991 as a pilot for the national survey.

METHOD

A list of potential sites was drawn-up based on previous survey data and information from general records submitted to the Sussex Ornithological Society (SOS). 10 km stewards were provided with standard recording cards and maps (approximately 1:20000 scale) for sites within their area and asked to enlist the help of local birdwatchers.

Observers were asked to visit each site at least twice between mid-May and July, noting the location of any churring birds on the map. In addition, basic habitat details were recorded within a 50 metre radius of each bird. On completion of the survey the maps were reviewed and an estimate of the number of territories at each site was made.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

145 territories were found on 63 sites holding Nightjars in 1991. A further 12 potential sites which were visited held no birds. A breakdown of the broad habitat categories in which the birds were recorded is shown in Table 1. An additional 40 sites were surveyed in 1992 only, with a total of 18 churring birds being found at three of them.

Table 1. Number of Nightjar territories in West and East Sussex in 1991 by habitat (number of sites).

	Heath/Common	Plantation	Chestnut Coppice	Total
West Sussex	40 (10)	31 (14)	17 (8)	88 (32)
East Sussex	47 (23)*	8 (7)	2 (1)	57 (31)
Total	87 (33)	39 (21)	19 (9)	145 (63)

*This total of 23 sites represents different one-kilometre squares within the Ashdown Forest complex.

These data compare to 155 territories from 88 occupied sites during the 1981 census, 122 (63 sites) of which were in West Sussex and 33 (25) in East Sussex. No direct comparison of absolute numbers can be made between the censuses of 1981 and 1991 because the field methods varied as did the actual number of sites visited. The average number of territories per occupied site may be more meaningful, rising from 1.76 in 1981 to 2.30 in 1991.

The breakdown of territories by habitat (Table 1) are to be expected: where available heathland is the favoured habitat, with its combination of bare ground, low-growing shrubs, isolated trees and bushes and areas of adjacent woodland acting as

shelter belts. Such habitat features can often be replicated in plantation woodland, especially where broad rides and glades are present and clear-felling or wind-blow has created large open areas that would otherwise not be present. The importance of Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa* coppice should be noted: the average cycle of 15 years providing suitable nesting and feeding opportunities on some of the larger sites.

The use of coniferous plantations is becoming increasingly important. Preliminary results from the national survey show that the majority (54%) of Nightjars now nest in plantations, an increase of over 15% on the 1981 figure. This no doubt arises partly from the severe windblow in 1987 and 1990 and also from the fact that many plantations are now being harvested and re-planted. Creating mixed-aged stands and leaving more open ground to develop naturally is likely to increase the amount of potential Nightjar habitat. This is to be welcomed at a time when lowland heathland and commons are still being lost either to development or through lack of appropriate management, resulting in invasion by pine, birch and other woody species.

CONCLUSIONS

Sussex remains a stronghold for the Nightjar, notably in the remaining areas of heathland and common but also, and increasingly, within commercial forestry plantations. Although the role which climatic change may yet have to play on influencing the distribution and nesting success of the bird should not be forgotten, it is important that the opportunity to influence sympathetic habitat management for Nightjars be made. Closer links between conservation organisations and bodies such as the Forestry Enterprise is resulting in real gains for many species of native wildlife. Fortunately the requirements of Nightjars for a varied habitat structure within their territories means that any management undertaken for them is likely to benefit a large range of other species also.

Although the future for Nightjars appears more assured there is still the need to closely monitor their numbers each year, at least on some of the key sites. Ideally this should include mapping territories, together with habitat features and boundaries, so the future changes in numbers can be related to habitat change. Appropriate advice can then be given to the land manager to encourage the maximum amount of Nightjar habitat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the census whether by identifying potential sites or actually undertaking the fieldwork. The strength of the 10 km steward system was again demonstrated by the help given in organising the survey.

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THE BREEDING WADERS OF THE ARUN VALLEY (1991)

by C. J. Corrigan

INTRODUCTION

The Arun Valley in West Sussex is one of the most important lowland wet grassland sites in the UK. Indeed, Amberley Wild Brooks has been identified as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. This habitat, which has declined by more than 40% since 1930 (Buisson, unpub), supports important populations of breeding, wintering and passage birds as well as a wide range of aquatic plants and invertebrates.

Until recently, much of the conservation effort in the valley has concentrated on the Amberley Wild Brooks as the most important site for birds in the valley. However, since 1989 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) has been actively managing Pulborough Brooks and this site now supports the bulk of the breeding and wintering waterfowl.

Historically, the Arun Valley has been subject to a number of drainage improvements. The most controversial of these involved a proposed pump drainage scheme on Amberley Wild Brooks which would have been extremely damaging to the wildlife interest. Following a public inquiry in 1978 the scheme was rejected in favour of a more sympathetic set of minor improvements. However, since the improvements, the limited bird information available suggests that there has been a decline in the population of breeding birds. The effects on numbers of wintering birds is less clear, although anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a reduction in the frequency of flood events in recent years (Amberley Society, *pers. comm*).

To attempt to assess these apparent changes in more detail, the RSPB and the National Rivers Authority carried out a breeding bird survey of the Arun Valley in 1991. The aims of the survey were:

- i) to establish the distribution and abundance of waders within the Arun Valley.
 - ii) to provide baseline data for the Arun Valley so that future population changes can be monitored.
 - iii) to provide data to compare the present pattern of distribution and abundance of waders with past estimates.
- Information on breeding wildfowl and Yellow Wagtails, as well as land use, was also collected. This is not described here but full details can be found in Pilcher (1991).

THE SURVEY AREA

As full coverage of the entire floodplain was not possible, the area thought to contain most of the suitable wader and wildfowl habitat was identified. This covered the floodplain from Arundel to Pulborough and westwards along the River Rother to Lower Fittleworth, a total area of almost 1600 ha (Fig. 1). A less intensive survey was carried out on approximately 550 ha of the floodplain south of Arundel (Fig. 2).

Selection of sub-sites

The main survey area was divided into 18 sub-sites, with a further 4 sub-sites south of Arundel. Sub-sites needed to be as large as possible to reduce the errors associated with "edge effects", but small enough to be covered on a single visit. From experience, the optimum size is approximately 100 ha.

TIMING OF VISITS

Waders are most easily detected in the early morning when they tend to be most active (Reed *et al.*, 1985). This is particularly the case for Snipe (Green, 1985). However, to restrict all counts to the early morning would have greatly reduced the area covered. It was decided that the visits to each sub-site should start shortly after dawn and whenever possible to be completed before 12 noon. This would allow adequate time to

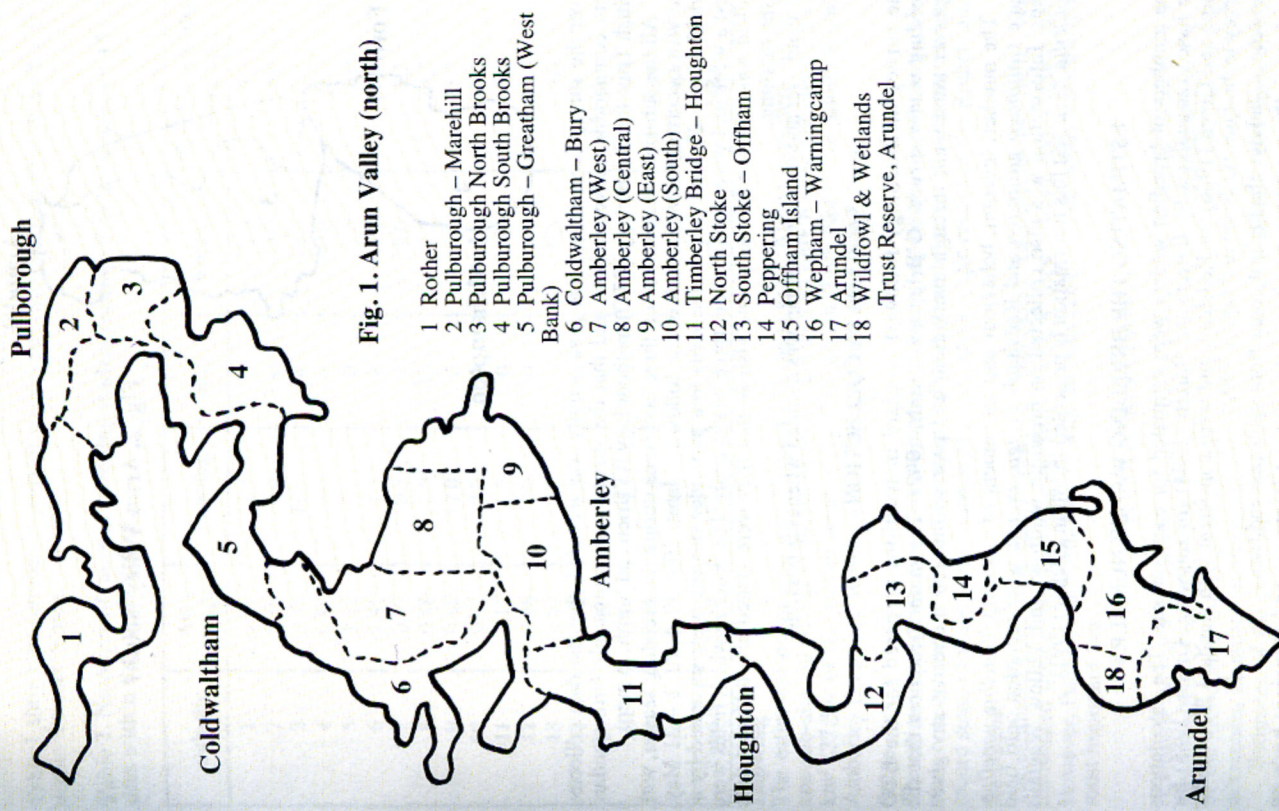


Table 1 shows the number of pairs of waders estimated to be present on each sub-site within the survey area.

Table 1. Numbers of pairs of breeding waders estimated to be present on 18 sub-sites within the Arun Valley.

Sub-site	Area (km ²)	Lapwing	Snipe	Redshank	Combined wader population
1	1.48	1.0	1	1.0	3.0
2	0.40	0.0	0	0.0	0.0
3	0.55	19.5	34	26.0	79.5
4	0.94	8.0	8	9.0	25.0
5	1.82	0.5	0	2.5	3.0
6	1.45	1.5	18	6.5	26.0
7	0.97	0.5	4	2.0	6.5
8	0.88	2.0	10	2.5	14.5
9	0.85	12.0	3	6.5	21.5
10	0.92	3.0	9	6.5	18.5
11	1.15	1.5	0	4.0	5.5
12	0.96	7.0	0	6.0	13.0
13	0.67	2.5	0	0.5	3.0
14	0.52	1.0	0	4.5	5.5
15	0.50	2.5	1	7.5	11.0
16	0.79	8.5	0	9.5	18.0
17	0.79	0.5	0	1.5	2.0
18	0.19	5.5	0	1.0	6.5
Total	15.83	77.0	88	97.0	262.0

Lapwing

The estimated population was 77 pairs (4.9 pairs/km²). Although present on all but one sub-site, 60-61 pairs (79.5% of total) occurred on only 6 sub-sites covering 4.35 km² (27.5% of the survey area). Only Pulborough (both North and South Brooks), Amberley (East) and Wepham-Warningcamp held more than 8 pairs.

Snipe

The estimated population was 88 drumming and chipping birds (5.6 pairs/km²). These were concentrated in the area between Pulborough and Amberley with only a single record south of a line from Amberley to Bury and a single record on the Rother.

Redshank

The estimated population was 97 pairs (6.1 pairs/km²). This species was more evenly distributed than either Lapwing or Snipe, with 8 sites holding more than 6 pairs. However, Pulborough North Brooks with 26 pairs (26.8% of the total) was clearly the most important site.

POPULATION CHANGES

A similar survey was carried out in 1982 as part of the Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows Survey (Smith, 1983). The survey covered six sites totalling almost 1000 ha of the floodplain included in the present survey, apart from a number of minor differences identified by Pilcher (1991).

Estimates of the breeding population of Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe held on each of the six sites were calculated using the raw data collected in 1982 and compared with the results for the same areas in 1991 (Table 2). Table 3 also presents a comparison between trends detected in the Arun Valley with both regional and national trends.

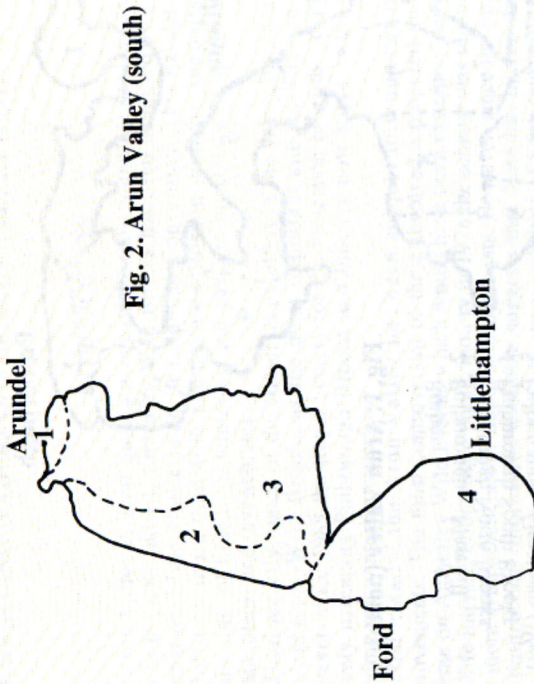


Fig. 2. Arun Valley (south)

cover the survey area, ensure that peak activity was recorded, that the data collected were comparable between visits, and that the survey was compatible with standard British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) methodology (O'Brien and Smith, in prep).

All the sub-sites were visited on three occasions during the breeding season, with one visit occurring between each of the following dates: 10 - 30 April, 1 - 21 May, and 22 May - 22 June. Successive visits to a particular sub-site were separated by at least a week and were usually about three weeks apart. The order in which fields were walked was reversed for the second visit so that they were visited at a different time of the morning.

Cold, wet and/or windy weather was avoided whenever possible.

DATA COLLECTION

The survey methodology followed standard instructions prepared for the BTO breeding wader survey (O'Brien and Smith, 1992). The method requires that the observer must walk through every field and pass within 100 metres of any given point.

The number, location, behaviour and movement of Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* and Redshank *Tringa totanus* were recorded onto field maps. Information was also collected on breeding wildfowl and Yellow Wagtails *Motacilla flava* and this information is presented in full in Pilcher (1991).

ESTIMATING THE BREEDING WADER NUMBERS

The numbers of breeding waders were estimated for each sub-site. The calculations are based on analysis by Barrett and Barrett (1984) for Lapwing, Green (1985) for Snipe and Green (1986) for Redshank and were consistent with standard BTO wader survey techniques (O'Brien and Smith, 1992).

Lapwing: halving the highest count from visits one and two.

Snipe: the maximum number of displaying (drumming and chipping) birds on any visit so long as displaying Snipe were present in May.

Redshank: adding the total number of birds recorded on visits one and two, and dividing by two.

Table 2. Estimated number of breeding pairs of waders for the same six areas surveyed in 1982 and 1991.

Site Name	1982 SURVEY			1991 SURVEY						
	Area km ²	Lapwing	Snipe	Redshank	Total	Sub-Sites	Lapwing	Snipe	Redshank	Total
Rother	0.23	2.0	0	0.0	2.0	1 (part)	1.0	0	0.0	1.0
Pulborough	2.08	26.0	0	6.0	32.0	2 (part) 3 4	27.5	42	35.0	104.5
Additional fields										
Coldwaltham/ Amberley/ Timberley/ Houghton	4.8	87.0	6	36.0	129.0	6 (part) 7 8 9 (part) 10 11 (part)	18.5	41	24.0	83.5
North Stoke	1.06	7.0	2	7.5	16.5	12 13 (part)	7.0	0	6.0	13.0
South Stoke- Offham	1.01	27.5	0	16.5	44.0	13 (part) 14 (part) 15 16	6.0	1	12.0	19.0
Arundel	0.71	12.0	0	6.0	18.0	17 (part) 18	6.0	0	2.5	8.5
Total		161.5	8	72.0	241.5		66.0	84	79.5	229.5

Table 3. Changes in numbers of breeding waders for the Arun Valley covered between 1982 and 1991 on a regional and national basis from BTO surveys carried out in 1982 and 1989.

	Arun Valley		Arun Valley Survey excluding Pulborough Area		Regional Non-reserve		National	
	Arun Valley Surveys	Regional Non-reserve	Arun Valley Surveys	Regional Non-reserve	Arun Valley Surveys	Regional Non-reserve	Arun Valley Surveys	Regional Non-reserve
Lapwing	-59%	-72%	-76%	-72%	-38%	-72%	-38%	-72%
Snipe	+1050%	-27%	+425%	-27%	-12%	-27%	-12%	-27%
Redshank	+10%	+14%	-38%	+14%	0%	+14%	0%	+14%

Region = Southern and Thames Water Authority Catchments Regional and National data from O'Brien and Smith (1992)

The results from 1982 and 1991 are difficult to compare directly because of differences in the way the data have been collected. In the 1982 survey, not all fields were walked, three visits were not always made, and the survey rarely started at dawn. Consequently, this was likely to result in underestimates of the numbers of breeding waders; particularly Snipe. The more comprehensive and intensive coverage of the 1991 survey would inevitably record a higher proportion of birds present in the valley. Nevertheless, a comparison of the results is still of value in view of the significant population changes which appear to have occurred. The trends observed in the Arun Valley are compared with the regional and national trends in Table 3.

Lapwing

The results indicate that there has been a decline from 161-162 pairs to 66 pairs on the areas surveyed in 1982 and 1991. The overall decline appears to be consistent with the regional trends and may be associated with a decline in habitat quality. Evidence for this can be found in the results for Pulborough, where positive management on the RSPB reserve supports a Lapwing population approximately the same as that found in 1982. This suggests that Lapwing populations can be maintained where there are the correct habitat conditions.

Snipe

The number of displaying birds recorded has apparently increased from 8 in 1982 to 84 in 1991. This dramatic increase is in complete contrast to regional and national trends which indicate substantial declines between 1982 and 1991 (Table 3). However, it is almost certain that this anomaly is due to the different methodologies used in the two surveys. Snipe are the most difficult of the three species to census. Accurate figures can only be obtained by ensuring all fields are walked and starting surveys at dawn. This was rarely done in 1982, so the results for Snipe will be significantly underestimated. Consequently it is difficult to make any meaningful comparisons between 1982 and 1991 for this species.

Redshank

The total number of Redshank increased slightly from 72 pairs in 1982 to 79-80 pairs in 1991. This is in line with both regional and national trends (Table 3). However, this overall trend is slightly misleading in that declines were noted on all sites except Pulborough where there was a substantial increase from 6 pairs to 35 pairs in response to habitat management on the RSPB reserve. From the evidence available, it is not possible to say whether birds have moved into Pulborough from other parts of the valley where populations were previously stable, or whether these areas had already deteriorated prior to the establishment of the RSPB reserve.



DISCUSSION

The 1991 breeding wader survey estimated 77 pairs of Lapwing, 88 displaying Snipe and 97 pairs of Redshank in the Arun Valley north of Arundel. In addition, a less intensive survey estimated at least 16 pairs of Lapwing and 5 pairs of Redshank were present south of Arundel. The total number of waders located is approximately the same as the much larger Somerset Levels and Moors (Buisson, unpub). This makes the Arun Valley one of the top ten lowland wet grassland sites for breeding waders in the UK.

Comparisons with those areas surveyed in 1982 indicate that there has been a substantial decline in the number of Lapwings. From other information collected as part of the 1991 survey there is evidence that the Yellow Wagtail has fared equally badly (Pilcher, 1991). The total number of Redshank in the valley appears to have been stable, perhaps partly as a result of the management work at the Pulborough RSPB reserve. Increases at this site appear to have compensated for declines elsewhere in the valley. As a result of differences in survey methodology outlined above, it is not possible to make any meaningful comments on trends in Snipe numbers, despite the apparent dramatic increase. It is likely that this increase may be attributable to more intensive recording in the 1991 survey.

Despite its importance, there is anecdotal evidence which suggests that there has been a decline in ditch water-levels and the frequency of flood events since at least early 1980s (eg. Amberley Society *pers. comm*). This is probably linked to agricultural improvements which have been the cause of much of the damage to other lowland wet grassland sites.

Historically, much of the conservation attention has focussed on the Amberley Wild Brooks. However, the results of this survey, together with the winter wildfowl counts and habitat improvements at Pulborough clearly highlight the value of the Arun Valley as an ecological unit. With the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy there has been a shift in emphasis away from further agricultural intensification towards more environmentally sensitive management. With more opportunities for farmers to enter grant schemes there is now an excellent opportunity to manage the area for wildlife. The Pulborough RSPB reserve clearly shows what can be achieved with appropriate habitat management. The 1991 survey results can be used as a baseline against which future trends can be measured.

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This paper summarises the survey work carried out by Rob Pilcher for the RSPB and NRA in 1991.

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A SURVEY OF INTRODUCED GESE IN SUSSEX

by R F Retlike-Grover and S W M Hughes

Large introduced populations of Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* and Greylag Goose *Anser anser* exist in Britain and are known to be expanding rapidly. Farmers and amenity groups have been exerting increasing pressure to have these populations controlled and it has been suggested that both species may now be causing damage to some conservation sites. Other introduced species of goose also occur in some areas, for example, Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* and Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiaca* and hybrids, particularly between Canada Goose and Greylag, have started to appear in substantial numbers.

The situation in Sussex reflects that seen nationally. The history and status of the introduced populations of Canada Goose and Greylag have been described previously (Hughes, 1972 and 1987 and Hughes and Watson, 1986) and since then both have continued to increase in both range and numbers. Furthermore other introduced goose species are now being encountered throughout the county, albeit in small numbers.

Under the circumstances the need to have more reliable information on the distribution and numbers of all introduced geese became obvious and to meet this the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) organised a national survey in summer 1991. This paper reports the results of the survey in Sussex.

METHOD

Counts were to be made during the moulting period when the geese tend to concentrate at relatively few sites and, being flightless, remain sedentary. At this time most juveniles are still noticeably smaller than the adults, thus enabling separate estimates to be made of adults and young. In Sussex Canada Goose numbers have increased to such an extent that it is a widely distributed species and moulting flocks of non-breeders and failed breeders are no longer confined to a few favoured sites. Consequently, to achieve reasonable coverage, it was considered necessary to visit 200 inland waters and river systems. This substantial task was only feasible by using the Sussex Ornithological Society's network of 10 km stewards, who in turn enlisted the assistance of other members. Nationally sites were to be visited during the period 22 June - 14 July but observers in Sussex were asked to perform their counts between 29 June and 7 July.

RESULTS

COVERAGE

All but 36 of the sites which had been identified in advance as likely areas were visited and an additional 16 sites were included later by observers on their own initiative. Thus coverage comprised 180 sites and probably represented about 80% of the potential habitat. With the benefit of hindsight only one water, at Raystede Animal Rescue Centre in TQ41, which might have held a substantial number of birds (i.e. 100+) was not visited. Elsewhere more birds might have been found in TQ42, TQ51 and TQ82 if coverage had been more thorough.

NUMBERS

Totals of 2578 Canada Goose, 216 Greylags, 63 Barnacle Geese, 1 Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* and 11 hybrids were found at a total of 84 sites. The numbers for each 10 km square are given in Table 1 and where the information is available they have been divided into adults and young.

Canada Goose: This species was widely distributed throughout the county, being found at 80 sites in 33 10 km squares. A small minority of birds started their moult in mid-June, nevertheless it seems that these remained sedentary as the flock sizes remained fairly stable during the counting period. Many successful breeding pairs were found at their breeding sites with fully fledged juveniles and a few pairs still had unfledged young. By far the largest numbers were found in TQ63 with 389 at Bewl Water. Other large concentrations were 237 at Weir Wood reservoir, 260 at the WWT

Table 1. Numbers of Introduced Geese in Sussex, June-July 1991

10km Square	WATERS		CANADA GOOSE			GREYLAG GOOSE			OTHER GOOSE Sp.		
	No. Visited	No. with geese	Ad.	Jv.	Un.	Ad.	Jv.	Un.	Ad.	Jv.	Un.
SU 70	2	1	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 72	1	1	8	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 80	4	2	43	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 81	2	2	23	16	-	-	2	-	1(B)	-	-
SU 82	12	4	34	69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 83	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 91	4	2	4	8	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
SU 92	6	4	105	45	25	-	-	15	-	-	-
SU 93	3	1	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 00	7	1	186	74	-	-	-	-	42(B)	2(B)	-
TQ 01	7	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
TQ 02	2	2	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 03	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 10	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 11	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 12	5	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 13	3	2	26	4	-	-	-	60	-	-	-
TQ 21	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 22	13	3	6	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 23	4	3	10	9	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 31	2	1	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 32	2	2	30	-	-	-	6	-	2(H)	1(H)	-
TQ 33	14	5	253	63	20	-	6	-	2(H)	-	-
TQ 40	5	4	4	12	37	-	21	16	-	-	-
TQ 41	9	6	16	15	15	-	33	5	16(B)	1(B)	-
TQ 42	3	3	61	23	-	-	-	-	1(B)	-	-
TQ 43	4	1	16	5	-	-	8	4	-	-	-
TV 59	1	1	40	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 50	7	4	31	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 51	6	2	4	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 52	4	3	8	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 53	4	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	4(H)	2(H)	-
TQ 60	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 61	3	3	87	43	-	-	3	-	-	-	-
TQ 62	4	4	55	19	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
TQ 63	3	3	442	20	-	-	5	-	1(P)	-	-
TQ 71	8	4	33	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 72	2	1	116	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 81	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TQ 91	3	3	87	107	-	-	4	5	-	-	-
TR 01	1	1	18	-	-	-	15	-	-	-	-
TOTALS			1790	660	128		107	34	75	69	6
				2578				216			75

No geese were reported in Sussex 10 km squares SZ 79, SU 71, SZ 89, SU 90, TQ 20, TQ 24, TQ 30, TV 49, TV 69, TQ 70, TQ 80, TQ 92, TR 02.
Ad = Adult, Jv = Juvenile, Un = Age not stated.
(B) = Barnacle Goose, (P) = Pinkfooted Goose, (H) = Hybrid Goose.

at Arundel, 110 at Rye Harbour, 116 at Petworth Park and 112 at Darwell reservoir. A total of 660 young were identified of which 107 were in the Rye area.

Greylag: This species was far less widespread and numerous than the Canada Goose, nevertheless it was reported from 14 10 km squares. The highest count was 60 at Broadbridge Heath near Horsham. Although free winged, this flock is very tame and sedentary for much of the year. Other concentrations were 26 at Piddinghoe, 29 at Glyndebourne, 15 at Lodsworth and 15 at Scotney Court gravel pits. A total of 34 young were found of which 16 were at Piddinghoe.

Barnacle Goose and other species: All except two of the 63 Barnacle Geese were found at two sites, i.e. 44 at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Arundel and 17 at Plashett Park; these totals included two and one young respectively. Few hybrid geese were found and half showed definite characteristics of Canada Goose and half resembled Greylag. Some were clearly Greylag/domestic geese hybrids. The Pink-footed Goose was at Bewl Water. Surprisingly a Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* which had spent much of the previous two years at Warnham Mill Pond was not found.

DISCUSSION

The decision to include a substantial number of smaller waters during this survey was fully vindicated by the number of pairs of Canada Geese still at their breeding sites. Although 100 sites were visited with negative results, there remains the probability that even better coverage of lesser known and potential breeding sites would have resulted in more geese being found. Thus the total in Table 1 for this species should be regarded as a minimum figure and considering that at least one potentially important site was not visited a rounded up total of 2700 birds would not be unrealistic. In contrast the development of the Greylag population in Sussex is still at a relatively early stage and it is unlikely that additional coverage would have found more than a few extra birds.

Estimates of the post breeding population of the Canada Goose in Sussex have been made previously in July 1971 and July 1976, i.e. 326 and 387 respectively (Hughes, 1972 and Ogilvie, 1977). Although very similar, the areas counted were not entirely comparable. The 2700 geese estimated in July 1991 represents a 600% increase over the last 15 years and this compares with the 505% increase for the south east region as a whole (i.e. S. Surrey, Kent and Sussex) and a 218% increase nationally. The 1991 figures show that the population of this species nationally has continued to increase by approximately 7-8% per year, as it has since 1967. However whereas compared with 1976, increases have been recorded in all regions, they have varied from 3% in Scotland to 688% in central southern England. The percentage of the national population in any region has also shown greater variability with a drop of 16% in one area and maximum gain of 8% in another. The south-eastern region now holds 8.9% of the national population compared with 4.7% in 1976, i.e. an increase of 4.2% (Delaney, 1992).

Introduced Greylags first arrived in Sussex in 1969, but successful breeding was not proven prior to 1977. In 1985 five pairs bred successfully and it is possible that a similar number were unsuccessful. In addition there were approximately 20 non-breeders, thus the total adult population was probably less than 50. At that time the geese were concentrated in three clusters, in the south-east, north-east and north-west of Sussex, and all the evidence suggested that these small sub-populations were finding it difficult to hold their own due to the competition with the larger Canada Goose. The 1991 total of 216 birds shows that a substantial change has occurred quite rapidly. The figures show a new cluster centred on the Ouse Valley with the combined totals for TQ40, 41 and 43 comprising 40% of the total birds reported. Birds were first reported in TQ13 at Broadbridge Heath in 1985 and the flock had increased to 30 in 1988 and 60 in 1991. The rapid growth of this flock has had a significant impact on the total numbers, but in other ways these birds have been of little importance as they have never been reported moving more than 2 miles radius from their home water.

Elsewhere population growth has been far less obvious but undoubtedly expansion is occurring as in 1990 13 pairs were known to have bred successfully at 9 sites.

The counts of other introduced goose species will provide a useful baseline for future comparisons. The Barnacle Geese based at the WWT at Arundel have no need to wander for food and show little inclination to do so to breed. However it remains to be seen if the same will apply to the smaller flock based at Plashett Park in TQ41. The total of 63 Barnacle Geese constitutes the fifth largest county population nationally. The numbers of hybrid geese found were lower than had been expected and comprised approximately 4% of the national figure. It is to be hoped that the numbers of these hybrids do not increase substantially. However it seems that introduced geese will breed freely with almost any available species, and can sometimes produce fertile hybrids.

SUMMARY

A survey of introduced geese was performed nationally in June-July 1991. In Sussex the survey found 2578 Canada Geese (including 660 young), 216 Greylag Geese (34 young), 63 Barnacle Geese (3 young), one Pink-footed Goose and 11 hybrids. After taking coverage into account the population estimate for Canada Geese was revised upwards to 2700. This figure represents a 600% increase since 1976. The population increase for the south-east region, of which Sussex is part, was 505% which compares with an increase of 218% nationally. The south-east region now holds 8.9% of the national population compared with 4.7% in 1976. No previous survey had been conducted of introduced Greylag Geese nationally, but in Sussex, an intelligent estimate in 1985 put the population at less than 50. The current population of introduced Barnacle Geese in Sussex constitutes the fifth largest concentration nationally.

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UNUSUAL RECORDS

All the records of unusual species in the list below 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 available from the Secretary of the Rarities Committee.

The following list, which includes many changes, are for those unusual species in Sussex for which descriptions are normally required:

Great Northern Diver
Black-necked Grebe
All shearwaters and petrels (except Fulmar)
Purple Heron
White Stork
Spoonbill
Whooper Swan
Bean and Pink-footed Goose
Green-winged Teal (*Anas crecca carolinensis*)
Ferruginous Duck
Surf Scoter
Honey Buzzard
Red Kite
Montagu's Harrier
Goshawk
Rough-legged Buzzard
Spotted Crane
Cormorant
Crane
Stone Curlew
Kentish Plover
Dotterel
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral and Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Grey and Red-necked Phalarope
Pomarine (except on spring passage) and Long-tailed Skua
Sabine's, King-billed and Iceland Gull
Roseate Tern
Black Guillemot
Little Auk
Puffin
Bee-eater
Shore Lark
Richard's, Tawny and Water Pipit
Dipper
Bluethroat
Savi's, Aquatic, Marsh, Icterine, Melodious, Barred, Pallas's & Yellow-browed Warbler
Red-breasted Flycatcher
Golden Oriole
Red-backed and Woodchat Shrike
Raven
Serin
Twite
Scarlet Rosefinch
Lapland, Cirl and Ortolan Bunting.

In addition all unusual races of Herring Gull (except *L. a. michahellis*), Yellow Wagtail and Rock Pipit.

It should be noted however that the following species, or any other species seen in unusual circumstances or on an unusual date, may, at the discretion of the Recorder, require a description:

Inland divers, Red-necked Grebe, Shag (inland records), Bittern, Little Egret, Red-crested Pochard, Marsh Harrier, Osprey, Glaucous Gull, Hoopoe, Wryneck, Woodlark, Waxwing, Cetti's Warbler and Great Grey Shrike.