

THE
SUSSEX BIRD
REPORT
1953

EDITED BY
G. DES FORGES
AND
D. D. HARBER

OBTAINABLE FROM G. DES FORGES,
THE VALE, OIVINGDEAN, BRIGHTON

The following have contributed records :—

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A. A. M. Batchelor, Temple Grove, Heron's Ghyll, Nr. Uckfield
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R. Slater, Redwings, Linden Chase, Uckfield
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* Records from J. Shepperd indicated by initials "J.S."; from J. Stafford by use of full name

WEATHER DURING 1953

The weather during the year was not remarkable except for one feature ; the very mild, open weather at the end of the year. This appears to have encouraged birds of several species to begin nesting operations but we have unfortunately been able to get particulars of only 2 or 3 instances in sufficient detail to authenticate them. Any others known to readers would be welcome even now.

There was a patch of cold weather in January which initiated coastal movements but this fact is noted against most of the observations in the Report which seem attributable to the cold.

THE KENT BIRD REPORT AND LIGHTSHIP RECORDS

We are very glad to welcome the first Kent Bird Report published by the Kent Ornithological Society (obtainable from G. R. Shannon, Cannongate Road, Hythe). We hope that the other adjoining counties of Hampshire and Surrey will be inspired to do likewise. Through the kindness of the Editor, Mr. E. H. Gillham, we have been allowed to use records sent to him by Mr. A. G. Sharman from the Royal Sovereign Lightship for 1953. This ship is, of course, off the Sussex coast and it seems convenient to keep as many of the Sussex records as possible together in one report. Contact has also been made with the Owers Lightship from which it is hoped to get records during 1954.

WILDFOWL COUNTS IN SUSSEX, 1953-54

The periodical counts started for the International Wildfowl Inquiry in 1951 have been continued this season. The areas covered are as follows : Pagham Harbour (B. Metcalf), Chichester gravel pits (A. Allen), Chichester Harbour (S. Eames, R. Green, E. Semper), Darwell Reservoir (G. Sutton), Cuckmere Haven and Valley (E. S. P. Harrison), Eridge Park (Mrs. Snell), Mouth of Arun (J. Candlin), Amberley Wild Brooks (Dr. Stafford). Mrs. Pett has counted at Baynam Abbey, which, although in Kent, probably interchanges with Eridge Park.

It seems evident from the counts that comparatively small numbers of wildfowl spend the winter in Sussex. The more interesting records, either of species or numbers, appear in the "SUSSEX BIRD REPORT."

I should like to thank the counters who make this Inquiry possible by continuing the work in spite of the sometimes very low numbers which they obtain and which are very discouraging to them. At the end of the Inquiry we shall have a much truer idea of the status of wildfowl in Sussex.

JOHN REYNOLDS,

Regional Organiser.

SUSSEX BIRDS HITHERTO ATTRIBUTED TO KENT

Readers of *A History of Sussex Birds* may have noticed that a number of birds are mentioned, although the county in which they are said to have been obtained is given as Kent, on the grounds presumably that, having been obtained near the border, there may have been some error in fixing the precise place or that the birds may possibly have crossed the border before being shot.

Such records, furthermore, are almost wholly confined to the boundary immediately adjacent to the coast and it is the purpose of this note to refer to these only. In *A History of Sussex Birds* Walpole-Bond has quite rightly given the place of capture as noted in the printed references thereto, most of which first appeared in *British Birds* or *The Bulletin of the B.O.C.*, but he has not drawn attention to the erroneous belief apparently held by some of the recorders that Jury's (or Jury) Gap and the Midrips are in Romney Marsh and in Kent. Indeed, in the Introduction to his book he speaks of the Kent boundary as being at Jury Gap whereas, of course, it is considerably further to the east of this and of the Midrips as well.

The upshot is that a number of uncommon species have hitherto been credited to Kent whereas, in fact, the published data provide a *prima facie* case for the birds having been obtained in places in Sussex. It is conceded that the county of origin is not a matter of prime importance but so long as the county or vice-county is used as a unit for reporting or for regional avifauna accuracy is desirable even in details of this character. Since we have in mind preparing a short Guide to the Birds of Sussex which may fill the need for a handy reference book giving the status and distribution of Sussex birds, we draw attention to this matter in advance.

Dr. N. F. Ticehurst has been good enough to confirm our impression that the principal recorders of the period, roughly between 1900 and 1920, were hazy as to where the boundary actually fell and that, since in those days there were no county reports, it was thought to make little difference whether a record was referred to Kent or to Sussex. Dr. Ticehurst further states that he has no doubt that all the earlier recorded birds seen or shot at Jury's Gap or the Midrips are, politically speaking, Sussex records.

It would be fair to add that the original confusion may possibly have been caused by the transference of the parish of Broomhill from Kent to Sussex by an order of the Local Government Board of April 20th, 1895, but that has no direct bearing on records dated after 1895.

It remains only to say that of the records given in *Sussex Birds* and assuming that they are all "good" records the Red-rumped Swallow and the Semipalmated Sandpiper are not otherwise on the Sussex list ; nor is the Eskimo Curlew, but this particular record is placed in square brackets by the authors of *The Handbook*. * Birds which have been recorded in Sussex on other occasions but rarely, include Madeiran Little Shearwater, Bulwer's Petrel, Slender-billed Curlew, Bonaparte's Sandpiper, Cream-coloured Courser, Pratincole, Caspian, White-winged Black and Sooty Terns.

* In view of the more explicit history of this bird appearing in Harrison's *Birds of Kent* it seems an acceptable record. It was shot by J. Southerden and was set up for him by Bristow of St. Leonards. It remained at Southerden's until 1924 when it was bought by George Bristow, still in its original case. From him it was bought by A. H. Griffiths and presented to the Booth Museum. The information concerning this bird which did not appear in the Catalogue of the Booth Museum is that it was in the Southerdens' possession from 1879 to 1924 which suggests it was genuine in the first instance (otherwise the shooter would hardly have had it stuffed for himself) and also that it was in fact an Eskimo Curlew as the possibility of a "switch" is ruled out.

THE DIARIES OF E. T. BOOTH

E. T. Booth is now remembered as the creator of the Museum in the Dyke Road, Brighton, which still houses his collection of British birds. Between 1869 and 1879 he kept a diary of his collecting trips which runs to about 625 pages. Although the details of this material have been known since his death it seems never to have been reported upon and probably not even read by more than two or three people. It therefore seems worth mentioning that it is still preserved at the Booth Museum. It is poor in Sussex records because during this period his excursions were principally to Scotland and Norfolk and often of long duration. When he was in Sussex he seems to have been preoccupied with the results of his last trip or preparing for the next.

Booth was 29 when his existing diaries began and he had already become familiar with the Rye area and probably with Shoreham Harbour as well, but there is little evidence that he kept any records of those days despite the remark made by the author (A. F. Griffiths) of the *History of the Collection* in later editions of the *Catalogue of the Dyke Road Museum*, published after Booth's death, that "very few . . . unfortunately still exist." Booth may, of course, have destroyed some earlier diaries but as he kept rough drafts and other papers of little value this is unlikely and there appears amongst these papers a list of his note books in his own hand which does not mention any not now extant except one relating to a visit to Norfolk in the summer of 1879. But he refers to records for 1866 and 1870 in *Rough Notes* for which no diaries can now be found.

He made extensive use of his diaries when writing his monumental *Rough Notes on the Birds observed during Twenty-five years' shooting and collecting in the British Isles*, often quoting the entries *in extenso*, and in compiling the *Catalogue of the Museum*. There is thus little Sussex material which has not already been published by Booth himself and later incorporated into *A History of Sussex Birds*. But there are a few items of interest set out below. After 1879 Booth seems to have devoted himself to compiling his *Rough Notes*, which were published between 1881 and 1887. He died in 1890.

I am indebted to the authorities of the Brighton Corporation's Museum and Library Department for permission to examine and use all Booth's material for the purpose of this note and to Mr. W. B. Alexander, M.A., for providing me with extracts from *Rough Notes*.

Tawny Pipit. In his first draft Booth records one in Swaysland's garden (in Brighton) on November 7th, 1873. When Booth rewrote this part of his diary in more literary style he omitted to refer to it. One may therefore assume that he did not see the bird himself though its omission does not necessarily mean that he disbelieved the event as he paid scant attention to other people's records unless they had direct bearing on his own. This bird is very probably the one recorded by G. Swaysland in the *Zoologist* for 1875, p. 4.694, without date, the place being given as the east end of Brighton.

Whitethroat. In *A History of Sussex Birds*, Vol. II, p. 34, Walpole-Bond states that W. Swaysland in a letter to him claims to have shot one "near Brighton in 1873 on the 15th of November." In the first draft of his diaries Booth wrote under November 11th, 1873, "saw Whitethroat in some gardens—the bird was shot on the 14th." Thus Booth confirms the exceptionally late date for this species although he missed this entry out of his second draft (the significance of which is mentioned under Tawny Pipit).

Swallow and Sand-Martin. On September 22nd, 1873, when Booth was about 4½ miles off-shore, he noticed Swallows and Sand-Martins flying towards land. This movement continued from 10.0 a.m., when Booth went out, to past mid-day.

Nightjar. On April 23rd, 1879, a fisherman at Shoreham reported to Booth that he had seen 3 or 4 petrels at sea that morning near "the wreck" one of which he had obtained. This proved to be a Nightjar (!) and "another was shortly after shot at sea." The date is somewhat early.

Bar-tailed Godwit. On May 16th, 1872, when 6 or 7 miles out to sea off Brighton, Booth saw a number of waders, but only mentions Bar-tailed Godwit specifically, flying from West to East. It does not appear to be recorded elsewhere that a coast-wise migration of waders takes place in this manner in spring, although apart from the distance these birds were from land, there is nothing unexpected in the circumstance.

G.d.F.

CORRECTION TO 1948, 1951 AND 1952 REPORTS

COMMON CURLEW. 388.—The breeding ground of this species is in NE, not NW, Sussex.

ADDITION TO 1949 REPORT

BLACK REDSTART. 202.—A male singing on April 24th in central Eastbourne (C. G. Sims). The locality is not far from the site where nesting was established in 1953.

ADDITIONS TO 1952 REPORT

WHOOPEER SWAN. 300.—Two in flight near Rye Harbour on January 20th (E. L. Crouch).

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. 304.—Eight in flight near Rye Harbour on January 20th (E. L. Crouch).

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1953

HOODED CROW. 2.—Most of the birds recorded for the end of 1952 stayed on into 1953, up to 8 being recorded for Broomhill-Midrips (H.A.R.C.); up to 3 at Shoreham (several observers); one on downs above Steyning (C.A.G.). Also one, lower Cuckmere, January, February and March (many observers), which was last seen on April 5th (D.D.H.) which was the latest date recorded for any bird; 2 near Lewes on February 22nd and one near Brighton up to March 21st (G.A.S.); one on the outskirts of Worthing on February 15th (G.d.F.). But whereas the 1952-53 winter was the "best" for this species for many years, not one was recorded for the latter part of 1953.

CARRION CROW. 3.—A pair again built a nest on a telegraph pole near the Midrips (D.D.H.). A nest was also built in the rafters of a roofless shed at the Midrips (G.d.F., D.D.H., C.W.G.P.) and one on a pile-driving machine not far away (D.D.H.). On April 6th L.P.A. saw c. 40 nr. Jarvis Brook.

ROOK. 4.—On March 11th one flew in SE to NW at Langney Point, being first picked up far out. On November 4th 2 flew in SE to NW there (D.D.H.).

STARLING. 14.—On January 8th, during a cold spell, wind N-NE, L.P.A. saw 700 and 800 fly W over Hove. On March 12th 4 flew in S to N at Langney Point, wind NE (D.D.H.). On March 18th and 20th L.P.A. observed an early morning movement (up to 11.0 a.m.) in an easterly direction over Hove. The largest party was c. 40. On March 21st, between 10.0 a.m. and 11.45 a.m., D.D.H. observed an intermittent easterly movement in parties of up to c. 50 over Ashdown Forest. On March 22nd L.P.A. saw an easterly movement over Shoreham. Most parties were of c. 50. The movement continued up to 11.0 a.m.

From a position c. ¼ mile from the coast at Saltdean L.P.A. observed an almost daily NW movement between October 14th and November 11th, most being seen on November 4th when c. 600 passed. On October 17th R.B.W. saw 3 flocks flying W over the Downs above Worthing and S.H.F. saw c. 2,000 flying W near Lewes, where a SW movement was also seen by him, November 5th-8th.

c. 200 flew in from the sea, SE to NW, at Langney Point on October 18th over a period of c. 2 hours (R.H.C., D.D.H.). A few were still coming in over the Seven Sisters in the afternoon (R.H.C.). On the same day C.M.J. saw large numbers arriving at Newhaven. Wind northerly. On October 29th birds were flying N at the Royal Sovereign Lightship, some having been round the Lantern at night (A.G.S.). Arrival from the sea was seen at Langney Point on November 5th—c. 40 in c. 2 hours; 6th—c. 230 in 3 hours; and 17th—4 birds only (D.D.H.). On November 3rd, 4th, 6th and 10th flight S to N or SE to NW was observed at the Royal Sovereign Lightship, especially on the 6th. On the night of the 9th-10th they were numerous round the Lantern (A.G.S.).

GREENFINCH. 19.—On November 18th 3 flew S out to sea from the E side of Beachy Head and a few were flying in a westerly direction along the coast there. Wind N. (D.D.H.).

GOLDFINCH. 20.—On March 25th a party of 6 which had been feeding on the ground flew E out to sea at Langney Point. Wind SW, some mist (D.D.H.). A flock of c. 50 on thistles at Thorney Island on July 25th (K.B.). At Langney Point 4 flew S out to sea on November 3rd and 2 on the 17th while

a few were flying along the coast in a westerly direction. On November 18th a few were flying S out to sea from the E side of Beachy Head and a few were flying in a westerly direction along the coast there (D.D.H.).

LESSER REDPOLL. 25.—One or both birds of a pair seen on several occasions in Hove during May and June and on July 10th. From a point c. ¼ mile from the coast at Saltdean a few were seen flying NW on October 15th and 26th and on November 4th and 10th (L.P.A.).

TWITE. 28/9.—At least 3 at Pett Level on February 15th (H.A.R.C.) and 3 at the Midrips on the 16th (H.E.A.).

LINNET. 30.—On February 15th, during a cold spell, L.P.A. observed many flying to the E-NE along the shore and cliffs at Newhaven, mostly up to about 10.0 a.m. Wind NE. A few flying E over Hove on March 17th, wind SE (L.P.A.). A flock of c. 2,000 feeding in stubble near Brede on August 26th (K.E.I.B.). On October 16th 10 flew in from the S at Langney Point, landing on arrival (D.D.H.).

COMMON CROSSBILL. 36.—On July 12th 2, perhaps 3, were feeding on spruce at Balcombe where a female had been seen in May (G. Ravenscroft per B.T.O.). On August 11th a party of 8 flew over Burgess Hill to the SE (J.A.W.). On August 19th there was a party of 9 feeding on Black Pine at Crowhurst (I.J.F.L.). At Haywards Heath a party of 10-20 was first seen on August 26th and birds were present in the vicinity until the end of the year (E.R.G.K.). On August 28th there were 13 at Brighton and birds were seen there, in lesser numbers, until September 4th. From c. ¼ mile inland at Saltdean 2 were seen flying NE on October 5th and 2 flying NW on the 6th (L.P.A.). On November 30th S.H.F. saw 5 in Scots Firs at Ringmer and on December 1st I.J.F.L. saw 3 at Little Common.

CHAFFINCH. 40/1.—20 flying E over Hove on March 17th, wind SE. c. 100 flying E there on the 20th, wind NE. On March 22nd 2 flew in NE from the sea at Shoreham. Wind N-NE (L.P.A.).

On October 17th R.B.W. saw numerous parties flying NW on the Downs above Worthing. On October 18th between 10.30 a.m. and 12.45 p.m. c. 50 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point (D.H.B., R.H.C., D.D.H.). That day at Newhaven C.M.J. saw large numbers coming in from the S and SE and continuing on inland, the movement lasting until 2.0 p.m. In the afternoon a few were coming in over the Seven Sisters (R.H.C.). From c. ¼ mile inland at Saltdean L.P.A. saw a movement to the NW on October 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th and 29th and on November 3rd, 4th, 6th and 10th, few birds being involved except for over 200 on the 19th.

BRAMBLING. 42.—More records than usual, both from the coast and from inland but no large numbers except for "anything up to 200" in Maresfield Park in late December (H.A.B.). R.B.W. saw a few flying NW with Chaffinches on the Downs above Worthing on October 17th and R.S. saw a flock of 25-30 flying NW at Burwash on the 19th.

CORN-BUNTING. 43.—Song heard on Broomhill Level near the Midrips in June and July which establishes continued presence in this area. 2 singing, Rye Harbour gravel pits, during July (D.D.H.).

LAPLAND BUNTING. 58.—2 birds were seen separately at East Head between December 23rd and the end of the year by A.A., G.H.C., G.H.R., J.R. and C.R.T., who have each supplied descriptions. Chestnut on the wing covers and nape; yellow bill with darker tip and calls "a rather rattling ticky-ticky" and "jip-jip" are among the features given.

SNOW-BUNTING. 59.—One on the Crumbles, January 3rd (L.P.A.); 4, Midrips, on the 10th (H.A.R.C.); 6 there on the 25th (F.J.W.) and 28th (H.E.A.); 4 at Camber on February 24th (K.E.I.B.). A dead bird at Pagharn on April 6th (H.P.M.). The only autumn record is of one at East Head on November 22nd (A.A., C.R.T.).

TREE-SPARROW. 62.—A new colony of at least 3 pairs in the Brede valley (K.E.I.B.). 2 or 3 pairs nesting on Winchelsea Hill and 2 pairs by Winchelsea Station (C.V.J.). J.V.S. reports one in the SW of the county, May 14th-24th. From c. ¼ mile inland at Saltdean L.P.A. observed 20 flying NW on October 16th, and 8 on the 17th.

SKY-LARK. 70.—In the afternoon of January 7th, after snow in the night and with a NE wind, D.D.H. saw a small westerly movement at the mouth of the Cuckmere and also a few flying in SE to NW there. On the 8th and 9th with a continuation of the cold spell and N-NE wind, L.P.A. saw a few flying NE over Hove. On the 10th with a thaw, K.E.I.B. saw 25 fly in from the sea at Pett Level and L.P.A. saw 2 fly in to the NE at Langney Point while at Bulverhythe D.D.H. observed a small easterly passage along the coast. On February 20th 3 flew S out to sea between Camber and the Midrips and on March 25th one flew S out to sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

On October 5th, 9th, 21st and 22nd L.P.A. observed a small but steady movement to the NE-N over Saltdean and over Hove on November 18th. He also observed a steady NW movement over Saltdean on October 7th, 8th, 10th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 20th and 29th and on November 3rd, 4th, 6th and 10th. On October 7th R.H.C. saw 40-50 fly in to the N at Langney Point. On October 18th at Langney Point with a northerly wind and mist lifting, c. 250 flew in SE to NW between 10.30 a.m. and 12.45 p.m. (D.H.B., R.H.C., D.D.H.) and at Newhaven C.M.J. observed large numbers flying in from the S and later, as visibility improved, from the SE, and continuing on inland. This movement lasted until 2.0 p.m. and later than this R.H.C. saw a few coming in over the Seven Sisters. Between October 21st and November 4th D.D.H. observed small movements in from the sea and also out to sea (S or SW) at Langney Point.

TREE-PIBIT. 75.—Odd birds flying NW over Brighton on August 25th and 31st and over Saltdean on September 11th; SW over Saltdean on August 28th and SE there on September 8th (L.P.A.).

MEADOW-PIBIT. 76.—Spring arrival from the sea was less noticeable than usual and not recorded until March 22nd. Autumn arrival from the sea also seems to have been less apparent than usual.

WATER-PIBIT. 79.—The Cuckmere bird (mentioned in the 1952 Report) was still present early in the year and was seen by a number of observers, being last recorded on April 15th by R.H.C. On April 18th D.D.H. saw one in summer plumage by a pool at Northpoint Beach, near Rye. Size of Rock-Pipit; dark legs; head and upper-mantle very grey, shading off into brownish lower down; marked whitish eye-stripe; throat and breast pinkish buff; a very few blurred markings, mostly at sides of breast; rest of under-parts white; outer tail-feathers very noticeably white; call typical—a weak version of the Rock-Pipit's. This appears to be the latest spring date for the county.

ROCK-PIBIT. 81.—On October 18th 2, first seen far out, flew in from the SE and landed on the beach at Langney Point. Wind northerly, misty (D.H.B., R.H.C., D.D.H.).

SCANDINAVIAN ROCK-PIBIT. 83.—On March 26th there was one at the Pett Level pools. Like a Rock-Pipit but with distinct pinkish flush

on breast where streaks were blurred and with noticeably grey head. Outer tail feathers greyish, not white as in Water-Pipit and call that of Rock-Pipit (D.D.H.).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL. 84.—On April 18th D.D.H. saw at Rye Harbour gravel pits a bird like a female Yellow Wagtail but with a distinct greyish tinge to the crown and nape and with pure white eye-stripe and chin. It was not associated with a male.

YELLOW WAGTAIL. 88.—Appears to have arrived rather earlier than usual there being 4 males at Rye Harbour gravel pits on April 3rd (K.E.I.B.) and 9 there on the 4th (D.D.H.) while on the 7th there were 25-30 birds at Camber (K.E.I.B.). Breeding numbers at Rye Harbour gravel pits were about the same as in 1952—c. 20 pairs (D.D.H.). A pair bred at Thorney where this has not been recently recorded (D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R.). Above Lewes a pair raised 2 broods in a peafield in 'dry' surroundings 2 miles from the Ouse (S.H.F.).

Variants were recorded as follows:—

A variant male at Rye Harbour gravel pits on April 18th. Similar to a male Yellow Wagtail but crown and nape slate grey—darker than in the case of usual 'Sykes's' variant. Ear-coverts no darker than crown and nape. White eye-stripe. Chin not seen. Courting an apparently normal female Yellow Wagtail (D.D.H.).

Two males of the 'Sykes's' type at Pett Level pools on April 22nd in an assembly of 30-40 Yellow Wagtails, mostly males. Pale slate-grey crown and nape; ear-coverts no darker than crown; white eye-stripe; chins not seen (D.D.H.).

A bird at Manhood End on August 19th with conspicuous white eye-stripe, crown, nape and mantle grey, contrasting with rest of upper-parts, dark grey ear-coverts, chin white, throat and upper breast whitish, rest of under-parts yellow (H.C.H.).

GREY WAGTAIL. 89.—A pair nested on top of a rafter like a Swallow under the eaves of Balcombe Station (T.F.K.). L.P.A. records single birds moving E-SE over Saltdean on September 8th and 14th.

PIED WAGTAIL. 90.—One flew in from the sea to the NE at Brighton on February 15th (L.P.A.). On March 15th 2 flew in S to N at Crowlink (D.D.H.). On October 4th, 16th and 17th D.D.H. observed small numbers flying along the coast in an easterly direction at Langney Point, winds being N or NE. On October 7th, 8th and 16th L.P.A. saw a few moving NW-N about ¼ of a mile inland at Saltdean and a few moving NE there on October 21st, 22nd and 29th.

WHITE WAGTAIL. 91.—A few recorded for the coast between April 1st and May 3rd.

GREAT GREY SHRIKE. 114.—One at Haywards Heath on March 23rd (E.R.G.K.). One near Camp Hill, Ashdown Forest, March 29th to April 19th (G.A.S.). One at Shoreham, October 24th to 26th (J. Stafford).

PIED FLYCATCHER. 123.—2 at Pagharn on April 18th (B.M.), one at Crowlink (D.D.H.) and one at Chichester (Dr. Stuart Jackson per G.N.S.) on April 24th. One at the Midrips on May 14th (K.E.I.B.). 6 autumn records between August 22nd and September 24th.

GOLDCREST. 126/7.—One at Cow Gap. Beachy Head on March 29th (D.D.H.). Very few records from the coast in autumn and these may not relate to migrating birds.

FIRECREST. 128.—One at Ratton near Eastbourne on January 4th (R.H.C.). One at Cow Gap, Beachy Head, on March 29th (J.H.B., D.D.H.). One at Shoreham on April 7th and 8th (J. Stafford, J.M.T.). Full descriptions of the above birds have been supplied.

CHIFFCHAFF. 129/31.—The bird seen at Bognor in December, 1952, was seen again on January 5th and 16th (J.R.). One at Eastbourne, January 15th, 17th, 19th, 22nd and 23rd (R.H.C.). One at Shoreham, February 27th to March 8th (J. Stafford, J.M.T.). Otherwise no records until March 19th. One at Shoreham on November 12th (J. Stafford).

On September 1st and 2nd L.P.A. saw a "Northern" Chiffchaff at Brighton. "Note, shrill and plaintive, quite unlike that of *Phylloscopus collybita*. On one occasion song was heard. This was a shorter, more clipped version of the song of *Phylloscopus collybita* and delivered more rapidly. The conspicuous white under-parts lacked any trace of yellow. Flanks and sides of breast were buffish. The upper-parts were greyish brown."

WILLOW-WARBLER. 132/3.—One singing at Pagham on November 3rd (C.R.T.).

BLACKCAP. 162.—A male at Shoreham on February 1st and 2nd (J. Stafford).

WHITETHROAT. 163.—One on the Crumbles on November 3rd (R.H.C.).

DARTFORD WARBLER. 169.—On September 1st one was seen by R.H.C. in the locality where a bird was recorded in 1951.

FIELDFARE. 173.—A large movement to the NW-W over Hove on January 7th and a few moving SE there on the same day (L.P.A.). Cold spell. On February 14th there was a movement from NW to SE at Sidlesham. Some snow on ground and more falling (J.V.S.). On the 15th with the cold spell continuing a considerable easterly movement was observed between Brighton and Worthing (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); at Shoreham (J.M.T.); at Brighton (C.M.J.); at Newhaven (L.P.A.) and between the Cuckmere and Eastbourne (D.D.H.). A party of 15 near Lewes on April 29th (S.H.F.).

MISTLE-THRUSH. 174.—On February 15th, during a cold spell, G.d.F. and C.W.G.P. saw a few flying W at East Head.

SONG-THRUSH. 175/7.—One on the sea wall at the Midrips on October 10th (D.H.B.). One at the end of Langney Point on October 18th. Wind northerly, misty (D.D.H.). A pair with young at Washington on December 6th (per S.B.S.). At Hailsham a pair had a nest and one egg on December 15th; 2 more eggs were laid and incubated from the 20th to January 7th when the nest was deserted (*Sussex County Magazine*, 1954, p. 146).

REDWING. 178.—A few flying to the NE over Hove on January 1st; many flying W-NW there during a cold spell on the 7th; a few flying to the W-NW there on the 8th and 9th; a few flying NE there on the 13th (L.P.A.). Some took part in the easterly movement of Fieldfares at Sidlesham on February 14th (J.A.S.). Some took part in the easterly coastal movement of Fieldfares on February 15th described under that species (L.P.A., G.d.F., D.D.H., C.W.G.P., J.M.T.). On February 22nd and 23rd S.H.F. observed a marked northerly movement over Ringmer which took with it all local birds.

RING-OUZEL. 182.—A male on the Downs above Eastbourne on April 23rd and a female there on the 24th (D.D.H.). The only autumn records are of one on the Crumbles, October 16th to 29th (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and of one near Telscombe on October 24th (L.P.A.).

BLACKBIRD. 184.—"Exceptionally numerous" on the Downs above Worthing on the morning of October 17th. There were very few there on the afternoon of the 18th (R.B.W.). There was one at the end of Langney Point on October 18th. Wind northerly, misty (D.D.H.). On October 23rd a few were seen flying SE to NW at the Royal Sovereign Lightship (A.C.S.). A pair had eggs at Wiston on December 6th (per S.B.S.).

WHEATEAR. 186/7.—First spring record, one at Langney Point on March 18th (D.D.H.). Even by March 26th there were relatively few about on the coast. One at Eastbourne on November 2nd (R.H.C.) and one at Piddinghoe on the 7th (L.P.A.).

REDSTART. 201.—A pair raised a brood in "open hedgerow" country 4 miles N of Lewes (S.H.F. who states that he does not know of previous breeding in this area).

BLACK REDSTART. 202.—At the beginning of the year single birds were recorded wintering at Shoreham (J. Stafford, J.M.T., C.M.V.), Friars Bay (H.P.M.) and the mouth of the Cuckmere (H.P.M., G.A.S.). There was one 4 miles N of Lewes on February 27th and 28th and a few March records probably relating to spring passage. There was an adult male at Shoreham as late as April 23rd (J. Stafford).

We are informed by Dr. N. F. Ticehurst that despite search no birds were found in their usual haunts in Hastings and St. Leonards during the breeding season. A pair nesting on a school at Bexhill had 3 young ready to fly by June 6th. By July 18th this pair had bred again and had 3 young in the nest (J.A.H., H.Mc.). A pair bred in central Eastbourne, young out of the nest being seen on June 12th. A pair seen for a week in May a short distance away may not have been the same birds (R.H.C.).

One at Langney Point on July 1st (D.D.H.). First Autumn record, one at Brighton on October 6th (C.M.J.). In December there was one 1½ miles NW of Lewes on the 1st (S.H.F.); 2 at Pevensey Castle on the 6th (D.D.H.); one at the mouth of the Cuckmere on the 26th (G.A.S.) and there were 2 in the Crumbles—Langney Point area (R.H.C., D.D.H.).

NIGHTINGALE. 203.—One at Thorney on September 20th (D.D.H., A.R.M.-B.). A late date.

BLUETHROAT. 205/6.—A female was present in Southerden's garden at the Midrips, April 7th-9th (H.J.C.S.). "Tail appeared dark brown until it was flicked when flame red showed at base. At rest short line of red could be seen at side of tail near base. Light eye stripe just above eye. Two black or nearly black stripes down chin, one each side with same across breast. Light buff under-parts with few marks near chestband. Head and back darkish brown. Uttered sharp 'tack tack'." A drawing has also been supplied which confirms the identification.

ROBIN. 207/8.—A pair had eggs at Washington on December 6th (per S.B.S.).

SWALLOW. 220.—On May 20th one flew S out to sea until lost to sight at Langney Point (D.D.H.), and one flew SE out to sea there on May 24th (L.P.A., D.D.H.). On June 24th one was flying in an easterly direction over the sea following the coast there (D.D.H.). On October 25th one flew in from the sea at Langney Point (R.H.C.).

HOUSE-MARTIN. 222.—One flying in an easterly direction along the coast at Langney Point on June 24th (D.D.H.). 2 at Prince's Park, Eastbourne, on December 1st (R.H.C.); 2 at Littlehampton on the 8th (J.H.R.del.); and 2 at Arundel on the 13th (Martin Coles Harman in the *Field*).

SAND-MARTIN. 223.—c. 10 pairs nested in pipes cemented in a concrete wall overlooking Chichester Canal. Nesting first occurred here in 1952 (A.A.). Birds were first noted in autumn at Thorney on July 10th (K.B.), and between July 11th and 18th D.D.H. observed a small westerly movement along the coast at the Rother estuary. There was a southerly movement along the E side of Thorney Island, July 17th-30th (G.H.R.). On July 28th 9 flew in SE to NW at Langney Point; 3 did likewise there on August 9th and 8 on the 12th (D.D.H.). On July 30th, D.D.H.; on August 2nd, R.H.C., and on the 3rd, D.H.B. and D.D.H. saw many hundreds resting on the sands between Camber and the Midrips and many on the ground at the Midrips.

SWIFT. 225.—The first spring record was on one at Pagham on April 19th (B.M.). On May 19th a party of 7 flew S out to sea at Langney Point (D.D.H.). The following mid-seasonal movements were recorded from Langney Point and by D.D.H. unless otherwise stated:—

May 31st—a small rush NW-N from the sea in the afternoon (L.P.A.).
June 6th—c. 20 flew in S to N and 3 flew S out to sea at the Wicks-Midrips.
Wind NE, cold and bright.

June 16th—10.45 a.m.-12.30 p.m., 9 flew S out to sea and 5 flew in S to N.
Fresh SW wind.

June 19th—11.10 a.m.-12.40 p.m., c. 240 came from between N and NW and flew out to sea between S and SE in parties of up to c. 20, coming down low over the water. c. 10 in all flew in from the sea, going NW inland. Some at least of these were birds which had just left as they were seen to break away from the others and turn back. Fresh SW wind; a trough of low pressure passing E over Britain. (On the 18th and 20th, despite a watch of 1½ hours on each day no Swift movements were seen).

June 24th and 25th—small easterly movements along the coast. Wind northerly. On the 25th movement ceased when the wind changed to SW.

June 27th—an easterly movement along the coast lasting all day between Rye Harbour and the Wicks. Wind NE, bright.

June 30th—6.0 p.m.-7.0 p.m., 7 flew in S to N. Wind NE.

Small movements, both in from the sea and out to sea, were observed both at Langney Point and in the Rye area during July. On the 2nd 3 were seen flying in near the Royal Sovereign Lightship (7 miles out) and 3 more some 3 miles from land (D.D.H.). On the 4th S.H.F. saw c. 1,500 flying low 1½ miles NW of Lewes. These gradually drifted away to the S. On July 10th there was a considerable arrival from the sea at Eastbourne and Langney Point (R.H.C.). On July 6th, 12th and 17th, K.B., saw a southerly movement at Thorney.

BEE-EATER. 231.—On May 30th A.R.L., who knows the Bee-Eater well in the Middle East and East Africa, had no hesitation in identifying as such a bird which passed within 25 yards of where he and his wife were standing at Newhaven Harbour. It was flying westwards along the coast.

HOOPOE. 232.—Only 4 records and all for April; one on the 5th on a lawn, Maresfield Park (Mrs. St. John Smith and Mr. A. E. Smith per H.A.B.); one on the 14th at Little Common, Bexhill (Mr. A. F. Potter in *The Field*); one on the 29th at Seaford and one on the 30th near West Dean (East Sussex), both of which were reported to J.D.M.

WRYNECK. 239.—Only records are of one in a garden at Steyning on April 8th (B.P.) and one at Darwell Reservoir on August 16th (G.A.S.).

SHORT-EARED OWL. 251.—Only one record for the beginning of the year. 3 on Pevensey Levels on August 26th and September 1st. One of

these was much darker than the others (R.H.C.). One at Rye Harbour on September 5th (A.A.) and 6th (C.M.J.). One at Thorney on September 10th (C.W.G.P.). On October 18th one was seen coming in from the sea at the Seven Sisters and on November 20th one flew in from the S at Langney Point, alighting on reaching land. Wind NW, some mist (D.D.H.). 2 further coastal records for November (R.H.C., H.P.M.) and at the end of the year there were at least 2 in the vicinity of Lyminster and Tortington Brooks (F.P.) and 3 at Thorney (C.R.T.).

PEREGRINE FALCON. 259.—Breeding information indicates at least 4 pairs on the chalk sea-cliffs (R.H.C., C.M.J., R.S.). There are several records of birds out of the breeding season on other parts of the coast and one for Ashdown Forest in March.

HOBBY. 261.—One on May 7th at Pett Level was a somewhat early arrival (R.G.M.). Records for Thorney and Manhood End on several dates between July 19th and August 16th possibly relate to one bird or a pair foraging in this area for a brood. L.P.A. saw an immature bird on the downs on October 11th.

MERLIN. 262.—Wintering records at the beginning of the year relate to 2 birds on the coast. 4 spring records of which the last was on May 10th at the Crumbles (A.H.W.S.). Autumn records were from September onwards. On October 28th one flew out to sea from Pagham Harbour (A.A., C.R.T.). 3 recorded on the coast at the end of the year.

KESTREL. 263.—On September 27th one flew in from the S at Langney Point. Wind NE (D.D.H.). On October 25th one flew S out to sea at Langney Point. Wind SW (R.H.C., D.D.H.). On October 22nd one flew in from the sea at Eastbourne (R.H.C.).

COMMON BUZZARD. 268.—In May 2 birds seen together in 2 districts in mid-Sussex about 5 miles apart (C.F.B. and J.A.S.) and on October 10th in a third place about 10 miles away from the nearest of the 2 mentioned above (C.M.J.). All may well refer to one pair only. One on West Sussex Downs on June 1st (B.M.). One at Thorney on August 17th (P.R.M.). One near Pulborough on October 4th (B.M.) and one at Rye on the same day (D.H.B.).

MARSH-HARRIER. 271.—One on Broomhill Level on September 16th (D.D.H., A.R.M.-B.) which had been present on Walland Marsh (Kent) for some time previously. One at the Midrips on December 27th is described in detail by R.H.C.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER. 272.—One at Rye Harbour on May 2nd (D.D.H.). At least 3 different birds in the Rye Harbour-Midrips area in August and September (R.H.C., D.D.H., A.R.M.-B.) and a harrier presumably of this species off Thorney on September 6th (D.F.B.).

HEN-HARRIER. 273.—A male at the beginning of the year in Ashdown Forest (M.S.). A male has now been consistently recorded for this district each winter for 5 years. At least one on dates in January between Broomhill and Rye Harbour (K.E.I.B., F.J.W.) and in the same area in March (G.A.S.) and on April 5th (H.P.M.).

At the end of the year a male was seen in this same area on dates between October 31st and November 29th (K.E.I.B., D.D.H., H.P.M.) and on December 20th there was a male on the Downs near Eastbourne (D.D.H.).

KITE. 278.—On May 28th J.A.S. saw one pass overhead, at no great height, at Seaford Head going SW. He was not able to see the upper-parts but noted the deeply forked tail and, even without glasses, the light patches under the wings were distinctly seen.

OSPREY. 284.—On May 6th there was one at Rye Harbour gravel pits which flew off inland (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.); about this date one is reported by the Water-Bailiff to have visited Darwell Reservoir (per D.D.H.) and on May 25th one was seen by C. Tomlin (per D.D.H.) to fly in from the sea at the mouth of the Rother carrying a fish. Spring records for the county are extremely few but only one bird may be involved in the above records.

One at Thorney on August 2nd (L.P.A.) and one flying E and then S off-shore near Pagham on the 30th (H.P.M.).

SPOONBILL. 287.—One in the lower Cuckmere valley on May 10th (L.P.A.) and one at the Midrips on the 12th and 13th (P. S. Redman per D.D.H., K.E.I.B.).

COMMON HERON. 289.—The numbers of occupied nests were:—Fishbourne, 17 or 18 (R.C.); Parham, 42 (V.M., D.S.); Henfield, 3 (C.A.G.); Fittle Decoy Pond, 4 (E.P.T.); Glynde, 21 (E.P.T.); Glynieigh, 8 or 9 (J.A.H., E.P.T.); Eridge, 29 (F.T.W.); Leasham, 47 (J.A.). None at Itchenor.

On July 10th one, first seen as a mere speck through binoculars, flew in from the SE at the mouth of the Rother (D.D.H.).

BITTERN. 297.—One at Pond Leigh near Burgess Hill on March 19th (J.A.W.).

GREY LAG-GOOSE. 303.—On January 11th L.P.A. saw 67 on the levels below Lewes from the higher ground of one of the "Rises" and noted: very pale greyish-white fore-wing; head and neck paler than body; rump whitish and general appearance of being large, heavy geese, especially about the head and bill. First seen on the ground, they later flew S down the valley.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. 304.—c. 50 flying at Pagham on January 7th (P.R.M.) and 2 there on the 18th (B.M.). 8 flying over Cuckmere Haven on January 11th (L.A.C.). c. 16 at Chichester Harbour on December 30th (C.R.T.).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE. 307.—Only records are of one at Pagham on February 17th (A.A.) and of one near the Midrips on October 31st (D.D.H.).

BRENT GOOSE. 312/3.—Up to 4 together seen on various dates in January, February and early March at points along the whole coast-line. In addition c. 50 off Eastbourne on January 12th (D.D.H.).

A pale-breasted bird with 3 dark-breasted birds at Pagham on February 15th (H.P.M.).

One off Langney Point on October 18th (D.H.B., R.H.C., D.D.H.) but then none until December when less than 6 recorded along the coast and in addition 15 in Chichester Harbour on December 13th (L.P.A.).

CANADA GOOSE. 314.—The birds which were introduced before the war at Petworth Park continue to breed there, 14 adults and 9 young being seen in June (F.P.). They are sometimes seen in suitable localities in the neighbourhood—e.g. Amberley Wild Brooks. A single bird frequented Slaugham Mill Pond for several weeks in the spring (J.A.S.).

SHELD-DUCK. 315.—Breeding population at Thorney estimated to be 20-30 pairs (D.F.B., C.R.T.). A pair at Rye Harbour gravel pits had young by May 16th. A pair had newly hatched young at the Midrips on July 4th (D.D.H.). A pair attempted breed in the lower Cuckmere valley but the young were taken. This is the first breeding record for this locality (per D.D.H.). Parties of up to 7 recorded as flying W off the East Sussex coast between November 5th and December 6th.

MALLARD. 317.—Numbers lower than usual at both ends of the year; only c. 90 at Darwell Reservoir on December 6th (G.A.S.).

TEAL. 319.—Up to 50 on the sea off the Seven Sisters in early spring (D.D.H., C.M.J.). A male at Rye Harbour gravel pits on May 30th. 5 at the Wicks on July 4th (D.D.H.). Maximum number at Darwell Reservoir c. 400 on December 6th (G.A.S.).

GARGANEY. 322.—Very few spring records, the earliest, one off the Seven Sisters on March 8th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). A number of records suggest breeding; 2 drakes at Piddinghoe on May 9th (C.M.J.); a drake on Pevensey Levels on May 23rd (D.D.H.); a drake at Pagham on May 24th (B.M.); 3 drakes and a duck at Chichester gravel pits and Manhood End on May 25th (D.F.B., H.P.M., J.S. and others); a pair at Thorney on June 15th (G.H.R., C.R.T.). At Rye Harbour gravel pits there were 3 drakes on May 21st and 2 on June 6th; 8 juveniles able to fly well were there on July 17th and a flock of 20 birds on July 30th (D.D.H.).

WIGEON. 323.—No particularly large numbers at either end of the year. A drake and 2 ducks off Thorney on May 3rd (D.F.B.). 2 pairs and an immature drake were seen at Rye Harbour gravel pits on various dates in May and on June 6th there were 4 drakes there and 5 on the 11th. Only 3 drakes and one duck were seen in July and there is no evidence of breeding (D.D.H.).

PINTAIL. 325.—15 on Amberley Wild Brooks on January 8th (P.R.M.); 25 at Dell Quay on March 18th (E.J.E.S.); 15 at the Wicks on October 31st (D.D.H.); 45 at Fishbourne on December 13th (K.B.).

SHOVELER. 326.—2, possibly 3, pairs nested at Thorney and a duck with 8 ducklings was seen on July 17th (D.F.B., C.R.T.). C.R.T. also records several pairs breeding at Aldsworth Ponds. A drake at Rye Harbour gravel pits and one (perhaps the same) at the Midrips on June 27th (D.D.H.). 20 in Chichester Harbour in December (L.P.A., C.M.V.) and 15 at Rye Harbour on December 19th (D.D.H.).

COMMON POCHARD. 328.—A duck at Manhood End on May 10th (G.A.S.). Largest winter numbers mostly occurred in the first 10 days of January; 69, Chichester gravel pits, P.R.M. (but 82 there on January 31st (E.J.E.S.)); c. 70, Pagham (J.R.); 57, Piddinghoe (L.P.A.); 44, Pett Level pools (D.D.H.).

TUFTED DUCK. 330.—Maxima for Darwell Reservoir, 16 at beginning of the year and 33 at the end (G.A.S.). A pair there on June 24th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); 2 pairs on Petworth Lake at the beginning of the breeding season (F.P.); a drake at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 11th (D.D.H.).

SCAUP-DUCK. 331.—Only records of interest; 3 flying in a westerly direction off Langney Point on October 16th (D.D.H.) and 4, including 2 adult drakes, at Manhood End from October 18th (C.R.T.).

GOLDENEYE. 332.—One, no doubt pricked, summered at the Pett Level pools (D.D.H.). In Chichester Harbour, c. 20 at both ends of the year.

LONG-TAILED DUCK. 334.—On November 17th 4 flew in a westerly direction off Langney Point (D.D.H.). At the end of December there were 2, apparently a duck and a drake, at Pagham (A.A., M.H.P., J.R.).

COMMON EIDER. 337.—4 single birds at the beginning of the year at Newhaven (L.P.A.), Hastings (D.D.H.) and Pagham (N.A.R., J.M.T.). On April 6th one flying W off Langney Point (D.D.H.).

The first autumn record was for September 15th when R.H.C. saw a duck off Eastbourne (details supplied) which is the earliest date for the county. On September 27th there was a duck, possibly the same bird, at Newhaven (C.M.J.). In Chichester Harbour there were 8 on November 22nd (A.A.) but on December 27th C.M.V. records at least 14 there and off-shore. There was also a duck at Pagham in December (A.A.).

COMMON SCOTER. 339.—c. 40 in Rye Bay on July 4th and c. 30 off Langney Point on the 12th (R.H.C.). One at Piddinghoe on December 27th (C.M.J.).

GOOSANDER. 342.—A duck at Chichester gravel pits on various dates between March 31st and April 5th (A.A., S.J.K.E., P.R.M., E.J.E.S.). A wounded bird at Pagham on December 28th (A.A.).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. 343.—Records of uninjured birds in May include one off Winchelsea Beach on the 2nd (D.D.H.); one flying E off the Midrips and one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on the 6th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.); one off Langney Point on the 15th (D.D.H.). But a duck at Manhood End between April and mid-June finally died, perhaps from oiling. In December there were considerable numbers off-shore in West Sussex; c. 40 between Littlehampton and Middleton on the 27th (G.A.S.); c. 20 between Aldwick and Pagham on the 22nd (J.R.) and c. 12 off East Head (L.P.A.).

SMEW. 344.—On January 7th one was shot at evening flight at Wiltling (C.V.J.). On January 18th and February 15th there were 5 (one an adult drake) at Darwell Reservoir (G.A.S.). From January 25th to February 22nd there were 2 red-headed birds at Manhood End with a third there for 2 days (L.P.A., S.J.K.E.).

CORMORANT. 346.—Birds with exceptional areas of white about the head are recorded by L.P.A.; 2 in Chichester Harbour on March 8th and one off Brighton on April 3rd. C.R.T. estimates that c. 200 wintered in Chichester Harbour in the latter part of the year.

SHAG. 348.—On June 16th D.D.H. saw an immature Shag flying W just off-shore at Langney Point. Full details have been supplied. This is the first June record for the county.

GANNET. 349.—2 March records, for the 27th and 29th (D.D.H.) are the first we have received. Many records from May onwards. On August 30th a bird of the year with a broken back was picked up alive at Birling Gap and later seen by D.D.H.

Several other records of birds of the year for September and October. On October 11th one was fishing inside Chichester Harbour (seen from East Head) (R.H.C.). Only a few records for November and none for December.

STORM-PETREL. 350.—One found on the deck of the Royal Sovereign Lightship on November 14th and again one on the 16th (A.G.S.).

MANX SHEARWATER. 355.—One flying in a westerly direction c. 200 yards off-shore at Langney Point on May 15th. A fresh SW wind with showers; one flying in an easterly direction 300-400 yards off-shore at the Wicks on May 30th. A fresh W wind with showers (D.D.H.). The first spring records for the county. One flying in an easterly direction off Langney Point on September 24th. A fresh SW wind (D.D.H.).

BALEARIC SHEARWATER. 356.—On July 26th one was feeding with gulls and terns off Langney Point from 12.40 p.m. to 4.5 p.m. It was mostly 300-400 yards out but once came in to c. 200 yards and on leaving in a westerly direction passed at c. 100 yards. Light conditions were excellent. Size as Manx; upper-parts dark brownish, the area of the primaries darker than the rest of the wing; under-wing pale greyish with dark brown margins; breast and belly dirty white bordered dark brown; throat paler brownish; under tail-coverts and under side of tail, dark brown; bill blackish. A strong SW wind (R.H.C., D.D.H.). Apparently the first July record for Britain.

SOOTY SHEARWATER. 363.—One flying in a westerly direction 400-500 yards off Langney Point on October 30th. A large shearwater, appearing completely black except for a pale, greyish area down the middle of the under-sides of the wings. Body appeared relatively heavy and wings relatively long and narrow. A strong SW wind with showers (D.D.H.).

FULMAR PETREL. 368.—One or 2 recorded along the coast from April 6th to August 4th between Langney Point and Black Rock, Brighton (several observers). During the first week of July 4 or 5 were seen from the Royal Sovereign Lightship (A.G.S.).

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. 370.—2 at Darwell Reservoir on January 18th (G.A.S.). One in Chichester Harbour on May 10th (G.I.F., C.W.G.P.); one at Manhood End on June 15th (C.R.T.) and 7 in Chichester Harbour on July 12th (K.B.).

At least 6 pairs breeding in Chichester gravel pits (E.J.E.S.).

A bird of the year flying W off Langney Point on August 23rd and a bird of the year at Pett Level pools on the 27th (D.D.H.).

Inland records at the end of the year were: one at Pond Leigh, near Burgess Hill on November 22nd (M.H.P.); 3 at Darwell Reservoir on the 29th (G.A.S.) and one there on December 13th (M.H.P.). On November 21st there were c. 300 in parties of 20-50 on the sea off Winchelsea Beach (D.D.H.).

RED-NECKED GREBE. 371.—One still in partial summer plumage off Langney Point, October 17th-23rd (D.H.B., R.H.C., D.D.H.). One in winter plumage on the Midrips on October 31st (D.D.H.). One on the sea off Pett Level on November 14th may have been the same as the last mentioned (D.D.H.). One off Pagham Beach on November 8th (H.P.M.).

SLAVONIAN GREBE. 373.—6 or 7 records for the coast.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE. 374.—A dozen or so individuals recorded for the coast and also one in summer plumage at Thorney, June 14th-21st (A.A., D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R., C.R.T.).

LITTLE GREBE. 375.—Several inland records for the end of the year S.H.F., M.H.P.) and one for January (G.A.S.).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. 376.—One on Pett Level pools on January 1st (D.D.H.); 2 off Pagham on February 8th (C.R.T.); one off East Head (C.W.G.P.) and one off Pagham (H.P.M.) on February 15th. 2 off Pagham on November 3rd (C.R.T.) and 15th (H.P.M.).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. 378.—An oiled bird at Newhaven on January 18th and 2 there, one oiled, on the 25th (C.M.J.). One off Brighton on January 17th (C.M.V.). One off Aldwick on February 4th (H.P.M.). One (oiled) at Pagham, February 4th-15th but 2 there on the 14th (H.P.M., B.M., C.R.T.). One in partial summer plumage off the Seven Sisters on April 11th (D.D.H.).

RED-THROATED DIVER. 379.—2 at Darwell Reservoir on February 15th and March 15th (G.A.S.). At least 200 on the sea off Newhaven on February 15th (L.P.A.). Numerous records of birds, up to 12 together and mostly flying E, in May (L.P.A., D.D.H., H.P.M., B.M., G.A.S.) up to as late as the 30th when there was one off the Wicks (D.D.H.). On August 8th there was one off the Midrips (D.D.H.) which is the first county record for this month.

WOOD-PIGEON. 380.—Between May 25th and 30th there was a flock of c. 600 near Lewes (S.H.F.).

STOCK-DOVE. 381.—On January 7th, during a cold spell, a flock of c. 30 flew in S to N at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

TURTLE-DOVE. 383.—c. 125 together on Downs near Brighton on June 20th (G.A.S.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. 386.—At the beginning of the year the only large number recorded was on February 1st and 7th when 70-80 were seen in Emsworth Channel (K.B.). At the end of the year there were 50-60 in Chichester Channel in November and December (L.P.A., G.H.R., C.R.T.). During spring migration c. 100 at the Rother estuary and 32 at the Midrips on May 6th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.) were the largest numbers recorded. 2 flew in a westerly direction off Langney Point on May 28th (D.D.H.). One summered at Rye Harbour (R.H.C., D.D.H.). No others were seen in the area until August 27th when there were 4 at Pett Level (D.D.H.). There was one at Thorney on June 14th and 18th (D.F.B., D.P., C.R.T.). On July 22nd one in summer plumage flew in a westerly direction off Langney Point (D.D.H.). On July 26th there were 2 on Pilsea Island (D.P.). On August 22nd 2 flew W off Brighton (C.M.V.). A small return passage was noted the E end of the county, at Shoreham and at Pagham during the first 3 weeks of September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. 387.—From c. 150 separate records for Chichester Harbour the following emerges; January 18th, 25; 25th, 60; February, none; March 8th, 150; 17th, 50; thereafter through March, April and May numbers vary up to 11 birds. From June 1st to 7th, one; 14th, 5; 28th, 11. On July 5th, 34; 13th, 94; 15th, 134; 16th, 184; 18th, 115 or 120. For the rest of July the number appears to have been somewhat under 50 until the end of the month when 100 were counted. Whether the majority of the birds present in mid-July then departed altogether or were dispersed by disturbance is not certain. In mid-August the figure was back at 250 but for the rest of the month fell off again to about 50. No records for early September but on the 12th, c. 300; on the 26th in the part of the Harbour in Hampshire 800 were seen. On October 4th, 100-120; November 22nd, 25; December 6th, 6; 20th, 3; 31st, c. 20. Many observers contributed records but chiefly L.P.A., K.B., D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R., C.R.T.

The only other records are 2 at Rye Harbour gravel pits on April 26th (F.T.W.); 3 at the Midrips on June 27th (D.D.H.); 5 flying E off Hove on the 29th (G.A.S.) and one at the Rother estuary on August 21st (D.D.H.).

COMMON CURLEW. 388.—On March 13th c. 20 flew E high over Brighton (C.M.J.). On their breeding grounds there appear to have been 4 pairs (H.A.B., G.A.S., R.S.).

The westerly movement along the coast noted in previous years at Langney Point was first observed on June 16th and then on various dates up to the 28th but in 3 cases birds came in S to N there. Never more than 2 birds together involved (D.D.H.). Between June 22nd and July 18th S.H.F. noted 5 single birds and once 4 together flying W at a point 4 miles N of Lewes—“an annual occurrence.” By July 5th there were c. 100 in Chichester Harbour (C.R.T.) and on the 19th c. 220 at Pagham (P.R.M.); on August 21st c. 100 on Broomhill Level and about the same number at Pett Level on the 27th (D.D.H.); at this time there were c. 150 at Thorney (C.R.T.). At the end of the year there were c. 200 at Pett Level (D.D.H.).

WHIMBREL. 389.—c. 50 at Thorney on May 17th (D.F.B.). 2 on Glynde Levels on June 2nd (L.P.A.). One at Thorney on July 4th (K.B.); one by the lower Rother on the 12th and 8 at Pett Level on the 17th (D.D.H.). Few

recorded in autumn. One at or near Thorney on November 22nd (L.P.A.) and 25th (C.R.T.).

GREY PHALAROPE. 400.—The only record is of one seen and described in detail at Chichester gravel pits on December 7th (P.R.M.).

TURNSTONE. 402.—A number of birds present in June (D.D.H., D.P.) and one probably summered at Rye Harbour (D.D.H.).

KNOT. 403.—2 at the Rother estuary on July 15th and 4 there on the 16th. All were in summer plumage (D.D.H.). This is the third successive year that birds, presumably on early return passage, have appeared in this area about this date.

DUNLIN. 404.5.—The peak of the spring passage at Rye Harbour appears to have occurred about May 2nd when c. 500 were present (D.D.H.). A few summered in the Rye Harbour-Midrips area where return passage was first noted on July 4th and the first juvenile seen on the 17th (D.D.H.).

CURLEW-SANDPIPER. 406.—One at the Midrips in winter plumage on June 27th (D.D.H.); one there showing some summer plumage on August 8th (D.D.H.); 4 there on the 27th (R.H.C., D.D.H.). During late August and September there were at least 6 in the Midrips-Rye Harbour area (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one, lower Cuckmere (R.H.C., C.M.J.); one at Shoreham (G.A.S., J.M.T.); one at Pagham (A.A.); 6 at Manhood End (J. Stafford) and 2 at West Wittering (H.C.H.).

LITTLE STINT. 407.—An exceptional year for this species. 2 at Manhood End on April 5th and 3 there on the 12th (L.P.A.); one there between May 10th and June 3rd (A.A., G.A.S., C.R.T.). One by the lower Rother on July 19th (R.B.B., G.P.) is the earliest autumn record for the county; one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on the 23rd (D.D.H.). From late August through September and the first half of October there were at least 30 individuals seen at most suitable places along the coast. On November 15th there was one at the Rother estuary. One at Manhood End, November 22nd-December 31st (K.B., E.J.E.S.).

TEMINCK'S STINT. 409.—C.J.H. describes one which he saw on the ground, and on several occasions in the air, at Thorney on May 7th and 8th. K.B. saw it 4 times in flight on the 8th and C.R.T. saw it on the 9th. No autumn records.

PURPLE SANDPIPER. 415.—At the beginning of the year there were, as usual, a few at Bulverhythe and at Newhaven. Birds were again present in the latter locality at the end of the year and odd birds elsewhere on the coast.

SANDERLING. 416.—c. 20 at Camber on June 11th. One apparently injured at the Rother estuary on the 27th. After this none were seen there until July 10th when there was one; 3 there on the 13th; 5 on the 15th; c. 40 on the 30th. By mid-September nearly all had left the area (D.D.H.).

RUFF. 417.—A male at Rye Harbour gravel pits on May 2nd (D.D.H.); a male at Thorney on the 2nd and 3rd (A.A., L.P.A., K.B., D.F.B., G.H.R.); a male at Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H.) and a female at the Midrips (K.E.I.B.) on the 13th.

On June 28th there was a male in nearly complete summer plumage at Thorney (D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R., C.R.T.). A similar male at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 4th; 2 females there on the 8th and a different male, 9th-11th (D.D.H.). In August and September over 20 individuals were recorded at the

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER. 438.—First seen on March 31st (J.R.). At the first station A.A. found 2 pairs and believes they each reared one young. P.R.M. suggests they raised 6 young. One clutch was laid in a potato field (R.H.C., D.D.H.) and one at Sidlesham Ferry on the 4th (E.S.J.S.).

COMMON SANDPIPER. 421.—One wintering in Chichester Channel (J.R., C.R.T.) and 2 there on March 8th (L.P.A., G.A.S.).

Two at Thorney on June 28th (D.F.B., G.H.R.) and one there on July 2nd (K.B.) rising to 16 on the 9th and 21 on the 30th (K.B., G.H.R.) and 27 on August 5th (D.P.). Other early July records; 2 at the Midrips on the 4th (D.D.H.) and 3 at Southeast on the 5th (L.P.A.).

November records: one at Thorney on the 25th (C.R.T.); one at Sidlesham on the 15th (H.P.M.); 2 at Fishbourne on December 13th (K.B.), one of which stayed on to the end of the year (K.B., C.R.T.). One at Darwell Reservoir on December 6th (G.A.S.).

WOOD-SANDPIPER. 423.—One near the Rother estuary on May 16th (D.D.H.); one at Thorney on the 17th (L.P.A., A.A., D.F.B., D.P., C.R.T.). One at Thorney on July 2nd and 2 on the 3rd (K.B.); a single bird there on the 24th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on the 13th (D.D.H.). Thereafter only c. 7 birds in all of which one was seen at Darwell Reservoir on August 16th (G.A.S.).

GREEN SANDPIPER. 434.—Only spring records: one at Rye Harbour on April 7th (K.E.I.B.) and one there on May 2nd (D.D.H.). One on the Lewes Brooks on June 10th (D.D.H.); one at Rye Harbour on the 11th (D.D.H.); one at Thorney on the 15th (G.H.R., C.R.T.); 3 at Powdermill Reservoir on the 24th (R.H.C., D.D.H.); one at Rye Harbour and one at Winchelsea Beach on the 27th (D.D.H.); 4 at Thorney on the 28th (D.F.B., G.H.R., C.R.T.). Maximum number there, 9 on August 17th (D.P.) and only small numbers noted elsewhere.

SPOTTED REDSHANK. 431.—2 at Thorney on February 20th (C.J.H.); one there on March 7th and 8th (K.B., C.J.H.); one at West Wittering on March 8th (L.P.A.) and one at Manhood End on the 17th (P.R.M.). One at Thorney on April 1st (C.R.T.); and on May 10th (D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R.); also one there, June 14th-21st (A.A., D.F.B., D.P., C.R.T.) and 4 there June 28th and July 1st (D.F.B., D.P., G.H.R., C.R.T.). Thereafter recorded on many dates up to mid-September. 2 there on December 6th and 20th (L.P.A.) and one on the 22nd (C.R.T.) and 26th (C.M.V.).

Also recorded at Rye Harbour gravel pits: August 16th, one (R.H.C.); 27th, 3 (R.H.C., D.D.H.); September 2nd, 4 (A.A.). At Pagham: 2 on August 22nd and one on the 26th (A.A., H.C.H.). At Sidlesham: one on September 12th (J.V.S.).

GREENSHANK. 432.—Winter records: one at Thorney on January 10th (K.B.) and February 20th (C.J.H.). Also one there on November 25th (C.R.T.) and December 6th (L.P.A.).

Very few in spring at the E end of the county but at Thorney there were up to 18 in early May (K.B.). One at Manhood End and 2 at Thorney in mid-June (D.F.B., D.P. *et al.*). One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on June 27th (D.D.H.) and 6 at Thorney on the 28th (D.F.B., G.H.R.). One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 10th and one at the Midrips on the 13th (D.D.H.). Subsequently far fewer birds than usual at the E end of the county (D.D.H.) and a somewhat small maximum count at Thorney—c. 40—during the second week in August.

RINGED PLOVER. 435.6.—On May 9th C.M.J. saw a free-flying bird of the year at Newhaven; an early date.

GOLDEN PLOVER. 440.1.—One which from its plumage appeared to be an adult of the Southern race at Rye Harbour gravel pits on May 6th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.). 2 flying in a westerly direction off Langney Point on August 22nd (D.D.H.).

GREY PLOVER. 444.—c. 70 in Chichester Harbour at the beginning of the year (K.B.). June records: one assuming summer plumage at the Rother estuary on the 11th (D.D.H.); one in winter plumage in the lower Cuckmere valley on the 18th (D.D.H.); 3 at the Rother estuary on the 28th (R.H.C.). Heard at Thorney on July 3rd (K.B.). One flying in a westerly direction off Langney Point on August 15th (D.D.H.); 40 at Pilsea Island on the 26th (C.R.T.) but D.D.H. found none in the Rye area in August, which is unusual. In the Worthing district A.H.M. saw the first wintering bird on November 30th which is later than usual and the largest number there (13) was less than average (25). c. 60 at Pagham in November and December (P.R.M., C.R.T.).

LAPWING. 449.—June flocks: c. 60 and 25 on the Lewes Brooks on the 10th (D.D.H.) and c. 50 at Thorney on the 14th (C.R.T.).

AVOCET. 451.—One in the lower Cuckmere valley on March 22nd (R.L.D., R.G., J.D.M., D.G.N.) and 25th (D.D.H., J. Stafford). 2 at the Midrips on April 21st (W.G.F.). Records between August 12th and 18th from Pagham and Chichester Harbour probably all refer to the same bird which was seen by many observers. One at Fishbourne on November 29th (K.B.).

BRITISH OYSTERCATCHER. 452.—Breeding attempted in the Rye area by 2 pairs but without apparent success, though one young was hatched (D.D.H.). 2 pairs at Pagham seem only to have raised one young (A.A.).

STONE-CURLEW. 456.—On November 4th one flew in from the SE at Langney Point, alighting on arrival (D.D.H.).

BLACK TERN. 462.—4 at Manhood End on May 5th (J.V.S.); one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on the 6th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.); a different bird there on the 9th (D.D.H., P.A.D.H.); one at Thorney on the 15th (D.P.); one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on June 7th (R.H.C.).

About 9 (less than usual) recorded for autumn, August 21st-October 4th. All were single birds and from the coast except for one at Darwell Reservoir on August 21st (R.H.C.).

GULL-BILLED TERN. 465.—On May 30th 2 flew in low from the sea at Nook Beach, Rye Harbour, being seen at very close range as they passed. They circled over the ternery and then flew inland. The short, thick, all-black bill was clearly seen and also the stocky shape and characteristic flight (D.D.H.).

SANDWICH TERN. 467.—On March 28th D.D.H. saw one off Langney Point. There was a strong SW wind with some mist. This is the first county record for March. G.A.S. saw 3 off Hove on April 7th. The usual records for June and July, most being 11 off Langney Point on July 12th (R.H.C.). Most autumn passage was recorded for August; on the 14th 134 flew W off Langney Point in less than 2 hours (D.F.B., G.H.R.).

On December 19th D.D.H. had good views of one flying in an easterly direction c. 100 yards off Winchelsea Beach. There is no previous county record for this month.

ROSEATE TERN. 468.—During the afternoon of June 25th one passed and repassed Langney Point 3 times, flying just off-shore. Alongside Common Terns it was strikingly white except for the black cap and bill; very long tail-streamers; characteristic streamlined shape and buoyant flight; call heard. Wind had changed from N to SW a few hours before and there was a sea mist (D.D.H.).

COMMON TERN. 469.—A few pairs attempted to breed at the Midrips but without any success (D.D.H.). About the usual number (c. 150 pairs) nested at Rye Harbour and c. 100 young must eventually have flown but it is difficult to arrive at an exact figure since the first were on the wing in early July while others were still beginning to fly at the end of August (D.D.H.).

A bird either of this species or an Arctic Tern was seen off Hove on November 4th (G.A.S.).

LITTLE TERN. 471.—c. 12 pairs attempted to breed at Pagham but only 2 young known to have reached the free flying stage (A.A., J.R.).

LITTLE GULL. 477.—Fewer records than of late. An adult in winter plumage at Pett Level on September 1st (A.A.); an immature at Rye Harbour gravel pits on September 25th (R.H.C.), 26th (D.D.H.) and 27th (H.P.M.).

BLACK-HEADED GULL. 478.—On March 13th and 14th and between March 22nd and 25th S.H.F. observed a considerable easterly movement 4 miles N of Lewes.

On June 25th D.D.H. noted the first return movement at Langney Point when 34, mostly adults, were present, only very few having summered. There was a juvenile there on June 30th which can hardly have been raised in the county.

At Rye Harbour a few pairs attempted to breed at the ternery but were robbed and abandoned this site. The birds persisted in 3 other sites and c. 12 young were eventually raised (D.D.H.).

MEDITERRANEAN BLACK-HEADED GULL. 479.—On July 18th D.D.H. saw one, moulting into second-winter plumage, at the Rye Harbour ternery. It was seen in flight, under excellent light conditions, at 20-30 yards' range for c. 5 minutes. "Mantle, pale grey; upper surface of wings, pale grey except for a good deal of blackish on the outer primaries and some blackish markings towards the ends of the secondaries—thus no white on the upper surface of the wings; a black patch behind the eye, extending indistinctly upwards. No Black-headed Gull was present and so no comparison of structure with that of this species was possible. Its attempts to alight were prevented by the Common Terns present and while pursued by these it gave a harsh cry quite different from that of a Black-headed Gull."

COMMON GULL. 481.—A pair attempted to breed within the county boundary near the Midrips (H.A.R.C.).

HERRING-GULL. 482.3.—On February 8th L.P.A. saw 2 birds with pale yellow legs at Newhaven Harbour. The mantle was darker than that of neighbouring Herring-Gulls. Both were in full spring plumage.

SCANDINAVIAN LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. 484.—One at Camber on January 1st (D.D.H.). One at Peacehaven on May 9th (G.A.S.).

BRITISH LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. 485.—A pair at Seaford Head on June 2nd (C.M.V.) and 28th (C.M.J.). One at Hove on December 11th and one at East Head on the 20th (G.A.S.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL. 486.—C.M.J. considers that there were more than usual about in autumn and winter. On December 28th he saw 75-100 adults under the Seven Sisters.

ICELAND GULL. 488.—On May 9th L.P.A. saw an immature at Langney Point. "Size, smaller than that of Herring-Gull. Generally pale sepia-brown with primary tips and rear edge of wing whitish; tail rounded with outer tail-feathers and tips whitish; head and bill slight and smaller than Herring-Gull. Bill, horn coloured with darker area at tip, mainly on upper mandible; legs pinkish. Flight very buoyant. Seen at c. 30 yards' range."

KITTIWAKE. 489.—As usual a few, mostly single birds, during summer on the East Sussex coast and one at Aldwick on June 15th (R.B.W.). On August 23rd C.M.V. saw a juvenile at Newhaven. On December 2nd there was a small westerly movement off Langney Point during a fresh SW wind (D.D.H.).

GREAT SKUA. 491.—On February 15th M.D. and A.H.W.S. obtained close views of one, probably oiled, both in flight and on the sea wall at Langney Point. A full description has been supplied.

ARCTIC SKUA. 493.—On May 10th L.P.A. saw an adult and 2 immatures flying E off the mouth of the Cuckmere; on the 24th R.B.B. and G.P. saw one off the Midrips. On June 3rd an immature of the pale form flew E off the mouth of the Cuckmere and a similar (or the same) bird was off Langney Point on the 4th; on the 16th there was an immature of the dark form off Langney Point and on the 23rd, 2 records are the latest. June dates for the county. (D.D.H.). These last 2 records are the latest. June dates for the county.

Autumn records are of c. 12 birds between July 12th and September 23rd for the coast between Hove and the Wicks. On July 23rd, during a strong SW wind, D.D.H. saw an immature on the ground at the Midrips. It flew strongly when put up.

BRITISH RAZORBILL. 496.—Between May 30th and June 27th a few were seen off Langney Point and the Wicks (D.D.H.).

NORTHERN GUILLEMOT. 498.—On November 26th there was a bird, so dark as to be readily identified as belonging to this sub-species, near in at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

SOUTHERN GUILLEMOT. 499.—A westerly passage off Langney Point was observed by D.D.H. on May 19th and by L.P.A. on the 24th. One was seen off there in June and several in July (D.D.H.).

SOUTHERN PUFFIN. 503.—On March 4th one, only dead a few hours, uninjured but very thin, was brought to C.A.G. It had been found dead on a farm about a mile from Steyning and 7-8 miles from the sea. There had been no recent gales. On October 4th, 1935, a keeper's dog killed a young Puffin on a stream less than a mile from where this one was found. On July 18th D.D.H. found a juvenile freshly dead on the tide line at Rye Harbour after strong westerly winds.

LITTLE AUK. 502.—On November 11th one flew in a westerly direction just off shore at Langney Point. There had been a SW gale on the 7th (D.D.H.).

CORNCRAKE. 504.—Single birds at Sidlesham on August 10th and 12th and on September 3rd (J.V.S.). On August 31st one was picked up with a broken wing (no doubt "wired") at Pevensy and brought to the Eastbourne R.S.P.C.A. where it was seen by D.D.H.

QUAIL. 520.—An unusual number of records. Near Steyning a nest with 7 eggs was found in June by a farm labourer. Though this was later deserted a pair bred successfully in the neighbourhood (C.A.G.). Near Patcham birds were heard on June 28th and July 19th (C.F.B.). Near Rottingdean one was heard on May 22nd and 23rd in the same field as in 1952, this being now under grass. On June 8th, after the grass had been cut, one was heard c. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away (G.d.F.). N of Lewes one was heard in a field of seeds, May 20th-30th. When this was cut on the 30th calling continued in a nearby field of oats until July 1st (S.H.F.). Near Alfriston L.A.C. first heard one calling on May 25th and there were at least 4 males calling there in June, one of which was doubtless heard by C.M.V. on June 1st in this neighbourhood. On the downs above Selmeston one was calling on June 21st (L.P.A.). Near Jevington one was heard on July 17th (P.A. Emmerson per Dr. N. F. Ticehurst) and D.H.B. heard one there on August 2nd. Near Boreham Street on Pevensy Levels D.D.H. heard one calling on June 20th. It had perhaps been mown out of some neighbouring meadows which had just been cut. Near Brede K.E.I.B. heard one on July 27th and 31st.