THE SUSSEX BIRD REPORT

FOR

1948.

Edited by G. des Forges.

Obtainable from G. des Forges, Harefield, The Vale, Ovingdean, Brighton, Sussex.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

With somewhat mixed feelings I present the Sussex Report for 1948 in a new guise and apart from the reports of the other counties with which it has been associated since 1934. In that year the South-Eastern Bird Report first appeared through the enterprise of Ralph Whitlock, who undertook the whole financial responsibility as well as the editorship. The increasing losses, due to rising costs, which he has sustained have now compelled him to discontinue the publication of this Report. It fulfilled a very useful function and it is to be regretted that it has now come to an end. The fate of the Sussex Report as a separate entity entirely depends on the support it receives.

There has been a gratifying response to my requests for records for 1948 and I thank the contributors listed below. All records are preserved, but severe compression is necessary to bring the final Report within reasonable compass. Unpublished records are certainly not to be regarded as of no importance. For convenience, contributors are asked to group notes under species and to use only one side of the paper. If records are sent in periodically, or even only twice during the year, the task of compilation is eased by being spread over the twelve months. In the case of records dealing with migration, more information on wind (force and direction) and weather conditions, than is usually supplied, would be valuable.

The following Report is compiled on the same lines as the 1947 Report. Species are prefixed with the reference number used in "The Handbook of British Birds" and scientific names omitted. The use of these numbers is not, however, to be taken to infer that any particular sub-species is involved unless this is made clear in the narrative.

I am obliged to S. Bayliss Smith for supplying an interesting frontispiece; and D. D. Harber has gone to endless trouble to check my first draft with the records, to make numerous suggestions improving the Report, and finally he has typed the manuscript. I am greatly beholden to him.

The following have contributed records :—

L. P. Alder
J. Ashbee
S. Bayliss Smith
J. S. S. Beesley
J. H. Boswall
W. R. P. Bourne
N. F. Brazenor
C. F. Brown
D. H. Brown
E. M. Cawkell
H. A. R. Cawkell
E. L. Crouch
J. M. Cullen
J. C. Felton
F. M. Firth
R. S. R. Fitter
R. A. Gill
A. G. Glenister
H. F. Greenfield
C. A. Grigg
P. Guiton
F. M. Gurteen
D. D. Harber
G. A. Hebditch
D. M. Hocking
P. A. D. Hollom
C. M. James
J. H. R. de Jersey
Dr. N. H. Joy
T. F. Keating
B. Laker
I. J. F. Lees
P. R. Maynard
Miss V. Maynard
H. Medhurst
B. Metcalf
Dr. J. D. Mills
P. R. Mills
Miss M. R. Morley
N. Muir
Miss M. G. Newman
C. W. G. Paulson
*J. Reynolds
*J. Rigby
M. L. R. Romer
Miss A. M. Saunders
H. J. C. Seymour
C. St. C. Simmons
J. St. C. Simmons
G. N. Slyfield
J. A. Smith
P. B. Smyth
Miss J. Stacey
S. J. Teideman
E. P. Thorne
C. M. Veysey
B. G. Volk
J. C. Voysey
J. Walpole-Bond
J. C. Wickens
A. D. Wilkinson
A. G. Wootton
A. A. Wright

* Records from J. Reynolds are indicated by "J.R."; from J. Rigby by the use of his name in full.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON 1948.

Until mid-February the weather was wet and mild. It then became colder and a blizzard hit the S.E. coast on the 19th. Snow fell on that day and also on the 21st and 22nd, in places to a considerable depth, and it continued cold until the 28th. This short spell of really cold weather did not produce any spectacular weather movements, although on the 22nd there was a continuous passage of Larks, Pipits, Fieldfares, Redwings and Linnets westwards along the coast (L.P.A., B.M.). Thereafter the spring was mild and dry. This enabled the so-called resident birds, which were severely depleted in the winter of 1946-47, to increase their numbers very satisfactorily. From the end of May it was cold and rather wet with recurring gales and it so remained until the third week in July. This bad patch of weather had a serious effect on some breeding species, as for example, Common Terns. Autumn produced an abundance of waders, including American species. It was mild for the rest of the year with but a fleeting spell of rather cold weather at Christmas. The year departed in a hurricane.

Two aspects of migration may be mentioned. The first is that there was an obvious rush of migration visible on April 29th. This, I believe, was still more pronounced at Dungeness. The previous day there was a strong south-westerly wind which dropped in the night and until early in the morning of the 29th it was misty. In the morning the Crumbles was alive with small birds, mostly warblers, where two days before only breeding birds were to be seen. There were Whitethroats and Willow-Warblers in almost every bush. Sedge-Warblers were commoner than usual and a Grasshopper-Warbler was reeling. There were also many immigrant Wheatears and three Whinchats. A number of Swallows and a Swift passed over (D.D.H.). At Crowlink C. and J.St.C.S. also saw movement. Two Cuckoos flew up Crowlink valley heading north with a stream of Swallows and a few Sand-Martins at about 10.30 a.m. Many Swallows and a few Sand-Martins flew north up Crowlink valley for the first half of the morning ; then, for the rest of the day, a much larger movement, consisting of Swallows, House-Martins and Sand-Martins and one Swift, took place in a westerly direction over Crowlink. There were a large number of immigrant Wheatears all over Crowlink. With the Wheatears was associated a flock of 15 Whinchats. There was a noticeable increase in the numbers of Whitethroats and Willow-Warblers. There were also 3 Sedge-Warblers and 2 Ring-Ouzels. In the lower Cuckmere valley, in the afternoon, there was a flock of 27 Whinchats (D.D.H.). Otherwise the movement appears to have died down by the afternoon.

Secondly, there were a number of early records for the return migration. These relate to waders and Terns and are dealt with under the individual species concerned.

SYSTEMATIC NOTES.

1. **RAVEN**—One at Brighton in mid-June (W. Boughton-Leigh per J.W.-B.).

2. **HOODED CROW.**—One at Birling Gap on July 17th, which, according to a local informant, had been about since spring (Capt. J. McNeile, J.W.-B.). This bird probably accounts for the following records : one in the lower Cuckmere valley on August 19th (D.D.H.) and on September 19th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). Otherwise only recorded in the Camber-Rye Harbour area (2) in November and December.

4. **ROOK.**—Eight pairs nested on the framework of a gasometer at Chichester (L.P.A., C.M.J.), where nesting also occurred in the 1914-18 war years. A slight increase in the Rye area (J.A., J.C.W.).

5. **JACKDAW.**—Two partial albinos recorded (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H., C.St.C.S.).

14. **STARLING.**—On November 8th A.D.W. saw a flock half a mile long and 5 to 10 birds deep heading north from Fairlight Cove. Although they were not actually seen to cross the coast A.D.W. considers that they came in from overseas.

19. **GREENFINCH.**—A flock of 24 (mostly males) on Pevensey Levels on June 2nd (D.D.H.). E.M.C. records a large movement of finches from over the Channel on October 26th and 27th. The birds were seen to come ashore at Pett Level (R. Cooke) and all along the coast from the Midrips to the Brooks (Kent). All birds identified were Greenfinches. No flock contained more than 50 birds, but they passed very frequently.

28/29. **TWITE.**—Three on Thorney Island on October 31st (D.D.H.).

30. **LINNET.**—An early nest at Goring contained one egg on April 4th (A.G.W.). A nest at Camber was built in Purslane (J.H.B., D.H.B.), a site recorded, also, in 1946.

42. **BRAMBLING.**—A few on the Crumbles and at Sidlesham early in the year. None recorded at the end of the year.

43. **CORN-BUNTING.**—Generally abundant in its usual haunts. Outside these G.N.S. heard song at Ashurst on July 1st. Nineteen at the Midrips on March 10th (M.L.L.R.).

49. **CIRL-BUNTING.**—A pair at Friston started building on April 13th (C. & J.St.C.S.).

58. **LAPLAND BUNTING.**—One with Sky-Larks at Langney Point on November 20th (D.D.H.).

59. **SNOW-BUNTING.**—Two at Pagham on November 8th (J.S.S.B.) ; 6 at the Midrips on November 14th (H.A.R.C., J.C.V.). One flew in from the sea at Langney Point on November 13th (D.H.B.) ; 10 there on November 20th (D.D.H.), increasing in number to 20-24 and remaining to the end of the year.

62. **TREE-SPARROW.**—Rather more winter records than usual, including a flock of about 40 at Hampden Park on December 19th (J.H.B., D.H.B.).

69. **WOOD-LARK.**—One arrived from the sea, during the cold weather movement, at Seaford Head, on February 22nd (L.P.A.). Several pairs located in North Sussex, including two new breeding haunts (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.).

72. **SHORE-LARK.**—One near Piddinghoe (nearly 2 miles from the sea) on October 31st (J.H.B., D.H.B.). Two at the Midrips on November 14th and one there on December 19th (H.A.R.C.).

73. **RICHARD'S PIPIT.**—Two flew from the sea or beach on to the Seven Sisters on March 24th (J.A.S., J.W.-B., A.G.W.). J.W.-B. describes them as "... when standing they looked almost as large as a Song Thrush and their legs were strikingly long. Their note was a far from loud 'zit-zit-zit'—very Bunting-like. They ran very fast and were quite tame."

74. **TAWNY PIPIT.**—One at Pett Level on October 24th (A.D.W.).

75.—**TREE-PIPIT.**—During August and September L.P.A. found migration mostly westward but occasionally S.E. and that it was most marked on August 14th and 28th. On August 10th about 50, and on August 17th about 30 flew over Crowlink in a loose stream in a westerly direction (C.St.C.S.). Identified in all cases by the "teez" note.

79. **WATER-PIPIT.**—One or two seen at Selsey between August 27th and October 16th by N.H.J. Three off Hove front seen at close range on November 7th. A Rock-Pipit was within a very short distance of them (J.W.-B.). One associating with 2 Rock-Pipits at Langney Point on November 13th (D.H.B.). One at East Head, West Wittering, on December 12th (L.P.A., also seen by B.G.V.). Field notes been supplied to support these records.

83. **SCANDINAVIAN ROCK - PIPIT.**—Five in summer plumage by Hove Lagoon on March 7th (J.W.-B.).

84. **BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL—" SYKES'S WAGTAIL."** —A male agreeing with the mutant variously dubbed " Sykes's" and " Pale Blue-headed Wagtail" or embraced by the wider term " Variant Yellow Wagtail," was seen at Rye Harbour on various dates between July 7th and August 2nd (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H.). D.D.H. describes it " as like a male Yellow Wagtail but forehead and crown *very* pale ash-grey, especially forehead, which appeared almost white. So pale were these parts of the head that no definite eye-stripe could be made out even on examination under most favourable conditions. Ear-coverts a shade darker grey than the crown ; a darkish line between the eye and the base of the bill." Despite late date the plumage was only a little worn.

88. **YELLOW WAGTAIL.**—Fewer breeding on Pevensey Levels than in 1947 (D.D.H.) and fewer seen on emigration (C.M.J., I.J.F.L.). Eastbound migration observed at Rye Harbour and Winchelsea Beach on the morning of September 5th (A.D.W.).

89. **GREY WAGTAIL.**—A pair raised two broods in a burnt-out house at Handcross, half a mile from water (I.J.F.L.), and a pair nested in Steyning (C.A.C.). A Grey Wagtail's nest at Balcombe was again used by a Cuckoo, whose egg, marked erythristic, disappeared and the young wagtails were reared. The same nest was used for the second brood and was again used by, presumably, the same Cuckoo (R. Farrell per S.B.S.).

91. **WHITE WAGTAIL.**—Recorded from the Cuckmere in the spring and from Shoreham and Thorney Island in the Autumn.

93. **TREE-CREEPER.**—G.N.S. records that round Horsham it did not suffer from the winter of 1946-47 as much as might have been expected and that he found several nests in 1948.

110. **NORTHERN LONG-TAILED TIT.**—J.A.S. describes a Long-tailed Tit seen near Handcross on January 22nd with an entirely white head. (Brit. B., xli, p. 308 ; the Editors point out that *Aegithalos caudatus europaeus*, the W. and S. middle-European form might conceivably be involved instead of *Aegithalos c. caudatus*, the N. European form).

111. **BRITISH LONG - TAILED TIT.**—Continues to be scarce.

112. **BEARDED TIT.**—On November 28th D.H.B. found 4 Bearded Tits, 2 males and 2 females, in a reed-bed near Eastbourne. The birds were seen by many observers up to the end of the year.

114. **GREAT GREY SHRIKE.**—B.G.V. describes one seen at Chiddingly during the cold spell in February, and J.S.S.B. one at Littlehaven Halt near Horsham on October 24th.

121. **SPOTTED FLYCATCHER.**—Several at Dell Quay, Chichester Harbour, on July 18th, which had probably moved down to the coast prior to emigration (C.M.J.). Thirty were scattered over Crowlink on August 29th, during an east wind (C.St.C.S.), which suggests coastwise movement. A rather late emigrant was seen at the Cuckmere on October 3rd (H.F.G.).

123. **PIED FLYCATCHER.**—The only spring record was one at Bognor on April 18th (J.H.R.deJ.). One at Portslade on August 30th (C.F.B.). One at Bognor on September 5th and one at Pagham on September 6th (J.H.R.deJ.). One on the Crumbles on September 10th (D.D.H.), and one on Crowlink and one near East Dean on September 11th (C.St.C.S.).

125. **RED-BREASTED FLYCATCHER.**—I.J.F.L. describes a female briefly seen near Handcross on April 29th as "shy and secretive . . . but making short flights from twig to twig and out into the air. Noticeably smaller than a Spotted Flycatcher or Robin; mantle, back and rump greyish-brown; crown and forehead darker and greyer; white throat and breast, tinged buff; tail a darker brown than rest of back with a broad white patch on each side of basal half. Tail frequently flicked or held cocked over back."

126-7. **GOLDCREST.**—Still scarce as a breeding species. There was evidently an extensive migration on foot at the end of October when, on the 28th, there were 6 in the suaeda bushes at the Midrips (not there previously, nor on the 29th); on the 29th, 5 in the coast-guard station "garden" at the Midrips and at Southerden's; on the 30th 8 in the Midrips-Camber area, one being so tired that it was picked up, though uninjured (E.M.C., H.A.R.C.). One in weeds at the tip of Langney Point on the 30th (D.D.H.). On the 31st one on Newhaven breakwater (C.M.J.), one exhausted at the Midrips (J.C.V.) and also seen in the Marsham Valley (A.D.W.). The exhausted condition of two and the locality of, for example, the Newhaven bird, seem to point to arrivals from overseas and thus to them being Continentals. There was also an influx, noted along the littoral, at Fairlight on November 7th (H.A.R.C.).

128. **FIRECREST.**—One in J.W.-B.'s garden at Hove on November 11th. The head markings, at close range, were *very* conspicuous when the bird was in flight. One in Prince's Park,

Eastbourne, on December 22nd, during a period of easterly winds. It made off westwards, across the town. The white superciliary stripe was seen (D.D.H.).

129. **CHIFFCHAFF.**—There was a considerable arrival on March 21st noticed along the whole Sussex coast as well as in the north of the county. About 20 at Selsey Bill on July 31st (N.H.J.). One at Eastbourne on November 13th (D.D.H.).

132. **WILLOW-WARBLER.**—A few in the Eastbourne district on March 21st (D.H.B., D.D.H.). One in coastal bushes at Rye Harbour on July 7th was no doubt on early migration (D.D.H.). About 10 at Selsey Bill on July 31st (N.H.J.).

145. **GRASSHOPPER WARBLER.**—A.D.W. records 2 singing in new stations in the Fairlight district, but otherwise it remains scarce.

149. **REED-WARBLER.**—Below normal breeding strength (J.W.-B.).

150. **MARSH-WARBLER.**—Some of its former breeding haunts were visited, including the site where a nest was found last year, but none was found (I.J.F.L., J.W.-B.).

153. **SEDGE-WARBLER.**—A few at Selsey Bill on July 31st (N.F.J.).

162. **BLACKCAP.**—One seen and heard at Poynings on March 26th (T.F.K.) and one seen and heard at Felpham on March 28th (D.M.H.). March records are scanty but not unique. M.G.N. records fully-fledged young being fed on May 30th.

164. **LESSER WHITETHROAT.**—A somewhat early arrival was seen singing at Handcross on April 10th (I.J.F.L.). Twenty in twos and fours on Crowlink during an east wind on August 29th (C.St.C.S.).

169. **DARTFORD WARBLER.**—No records.

173. **FIELDFARE.**—After three days of snow and frost Fieldfares were moving along the coast westward in an "increasing stream" at Pagham on February 22nd (B.M.) and at Seaford and Beachy Head on the same date (L.P.A.).

174. **MISTLE-THRUSH.**—At Sidlesham on February 8th 2 parties of 30-40 birds and another of 40-50 birds came in from the east, rested for a while and then went off westwards (J.S.). The weather at this time, as before, was quite mild.

178. **REDWING.**—Also took part in the movement of February 22nd referred to under Fieldfare.

182. **RING-OUZEL.**—A male on Crowlink on April 19th and 22nd and a male and female there on April 29th (C. and J.St.C.S.). Two males and a female near Windover Hill on April 14th (W.R.P.B.). No autumn records.

186. **WHEATEAR.**—J.H.B. and D.H.B. describe one seen at close quarters in the lower Cuckmere valley on December 26th. The white rump and general coloration were satisfactorily seen. The first December record for Sussex.

187. **GREENLAND WHEATEAR.**—A few records for coastal districts for early May and a number of autumn records.

197. **WHINCHAT.**—Unusually large flocks for spring migration were seen on April 29th, when one of 27 was seen in the lower Cuckmere valley (D.D.H.) and one of 15 on Crowlink (C. and J.St.C.S.). (See Brit. B. xli, p. 348). One on the Crumbles on October 21st (D.D.H.) was a late emigrant.

198. **STONECHAT.**—Has not appreciably improved its breeding status, although W.R.P.B. records a pair, behaving as though nesting, in Ashdown Forest. Records of birds on the coast in the autumn and winter are not more numerous than in 1947.

201. **REDSTART.**—On March 28th a male flew in over the cliff edge at Crowlink and, after a brief halt, made off inland (D.D.H.) I.J.F.L. and J.A.S. record that it was far more common in the Handcross area than in 1946 or 1947. On August 29th 10 appeared on Crowlink during an east wind (C.St.C.S.). A rather late emigrant at Rye was seen on October 17th (J.A., J.C.W.).

202. **BLACK REDSTART.**—First arrival at Pett Level was a female on February 22nd (A.D.W.). At Pett Level a pair built in Toot Rock but left after being disturbed. Another pair built in the bungalow used the previous year but which is now occupied at most week-ends (A.D.W.). In all 3 pairs reared broods in this area (R. Cooke, per Dr. N. F. Ticehurst). In Hastings and St. Leonards 3 pairs nested successfully ; one on Castle Hill ; one in Warrior Square (2 broods reared) ; one in cliffs behind Grosvenor Crescent. In addition there were at least 8 other singing males, of which one may have been mated but a second bird was only seen once (per Dr. N. F. Ticehurst). An adult male was seen on the outskirts of Eastbourne on July 1st (D.D.H.) and a young male near Crawley on August 18th (I.J.F.L.). Several were wintering on the coast at the end of the year.

203. **NIGHTINGALE.**—More common this year in Handcross area (I.J.F.L.).

207-8. **ROBIN.**—There was an influx of Robins on November 7th when L.P.A. saw 2 in a street in Brighton, 2 under Newhaven Head, and 3 on the western breakwater at Newhaven and odd birds in the bushes on Newhaven Levels. Exceptional numbers were also seen along the coast between Fairlight and Pett Level on the same date (H.A.R.C.). Other migrants were one in the suaeda bushes at the Midrips on October 27th and one there on October 31st (E.M.C.).

223. **SAND-MARTIN.**—Emigration began in the third week of July when, on the 20th, 21st and 23rd, a westerly movement against the wind was seen in the Midrips and Camber area (D.D.H.). On the first two of these days a few had arrived on the coast at Rottingdean (G.D.F.), and on the 23rd many were congregated on the power cables at Piddinghoe (B.G.V.). On July 25th about 30 started off against a SSE wind at Selsey Bill, flying near the surface of the water (N.H.J.).

225. **SWIFT.**—One at Eastbourne on April 22nd where also, on July 26th, a greyish white bird was seen (D.D.H.). On July 9th at Selsey when the wind was NNW and about 25 m.p.h. about 10 came in over sea from the SSE, at a height (N.H.J.).

227. **NIGHTJAR.**—Still very common in the Handcross and Crawley district (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.) and near Eartham (N.M.). A bird heard at Fairlight from June 7th onwards to the end of July is the first post-war record for the district (A.D.W.).

232. **HOOPOE.**—One on "Sussex Downs" on April 17th (Brit. B., xlii, p. 89); one on Crowlink on April 22nd which flew in from the sea, settled, and then made off inland (C. & J.St.C.S). 2 birds seen together on the downs N. of Brighton at beginning of May seem to have been correctly identified as Hoopoes, although the observer only takes a casual interest in birds (per J.H.B.) On May 20th one is reported to have visited a garden in Eastbourne (Sussex County Magazine, Vol. 22, p. 256). On the downs north of Portslade on July 25th a Hoopoe flew past C.F.B. at a height of 12-15 feet moving quite fast for this species with direct and purposeful flight.

234. **KINGFISHER.**—There are a good number of records for coastal districts in the autumn and winter which suggests that the bird has much improved its numbers since the winter of 1946-47.

239. **WRYNECK.**—Only record, one on March 28th in a wood at Fairlight (A.D.W.).

240. **CUCKOO.**—W. Boughton-Leigh saw one near Patcham on March 31st. It had been heard, on and off, since the 27th (per J.W.-B.). On September 21st C.A.G. saw a young Cuckoo flying about his garden which was not fully fledged. The egg must have been laid quite late in July, which is abnormal.

251. **SHORT-EARED OWL.**—All records confined to the Midrips, and remarkably few from there, except 2 near Pevensey.

259. **PEREGRINE FALCON.**—6 pairs attempted to breed on Sussex cliffs. On October 26th 3 were seen in the Midrips-Camber area where none were seen on the previous two or subsequent five days. The immigration of other species that day and the position of these birds, on or near the shore, suggests that they, too, were from overea (E.M.C.).

261. **HOBBY.**—Single immigrants seen at Hove on April 29th (J.W.-B.), at Chichester gravel pits on May 2nd (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and at Selsey on May 24th (N.H.J.). At an eyrie in North Sussex the young, after leaving the nest, appear to have been fed, during the next four weeks, entirely on Swifts, many of which were adult. One count under the feeding tree showed at least 22 Swifts (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.). The bird was also found nesting elsewhere in the county (C.M.J., K. Ridgewell) and its status appears much as in 1948 (J.W.-B.). An early emigrant was seen on July 28th flying west along the coast at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

262. **MERLIN.**—The usual records at the beginning and end of the year.

269. **COMMON BUZZARD.**—Although the bird was seen in May and July in the western half of the county (G.A.H., N.M.) its breeding status has unfortunately not been investigated there. In mid Sussex a pair built a nest but, probably due to tree-felling, deserted and did not make a second attempt elsewhere (E.P.T.). They were still in the district at the end of the year.

271. **MARSH-HARRIER.**—N.H.J., at Selsey, records as an undoubted Marsh Harrier a bird which he saw on May 7th and which, circling to a height almost out of sight, was later seen with a second. The shape of the wings was noted. On August 15th an immature bird was flushed from an extensive reed-bed near Crawley and made off in an easterly direction (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.). On August 22nd one was seen flying south over Handcross (J.A.S.). This record may well relate to the bird seen the previous week in the same district.

272. **MONTAGU'S HARRIER.**—Only records relate to a melanistic example at the mouth of the Cuckmere on August 14th and a female or immature bird in the lower Cuckmere valley on August 20th (C.St.C.S.).

273. **HEN-HARRIER.**—Several harriers, probably referable to this species, and one certainly so, have been recorded, but even so remarkably few were seen and none from the downs or inland.

287. **SPOONBILL.**—3 near Fishbourne on May 23rd ; 2 there on May 30th and one there on August 15th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). One at Pagham Harbour on July 6th (D.M.H., J.R.).

289. **COMMON HERON.**—A census of known heronries was made and a new one was discovered. The new one at Itchenor contained 12 nests in ash and oak. It was said to have been occupied in 1947 and possibly in 1946 (L.P.A., C.M.J.). Fishbourne (Old Park Wood) 9, possibly 11 (R. Cook, per W. B. Alexander) ; Parham, 31 or 32 (N.M. and G.N.S.) ; Molecomb, 2 (Captain Hubbard, per E.M.C.) ; Glynde, 19 (E.P.T.) ; Firle (Decoy Pond), not possible to visit the island but probably only 2 or 3 (E.P.T.) ; Firle (Park), 1 (E.P.T.) ; Eridge, according to the keeper there, 12 (V.M.) ; Leasam, 46 (J.A. and J.C.W.) ; Glynleigh, unoccupied in early May (D.H.B.) and the following sites at which nesting was attempted or took place in 1947 were also unoccupied : West Dean, Herstmonceux and Great Park Wood, Udimore (J.A., D.D.H., J.C.W.). This shows a drop of 20 to 25 breeding pairs as against 1947, whereas over the country as a whole there has been a very small increase (about 4 per cent.) (W. B. Alexander). It seems likely that there is an undiscovered heronry in east central Sussex.

291. **GREAT WHITE HERON.**—J.S.S.B. had a good view of one in flight at Pagham Harbour on October 24th ; it did not alight and left in an easterly direction (Brit. B, p.). This is the first Sussex record.

300. **WHOOPER SWAN.**—One at Rye Harbour on various dates between January 1st and March 17th (J.A., D.D.H., J.C.W.) and an immature near Church Norton on January 22nd (J. Rigby).

301. **BEWICK'S SWAN.**—One in flight over the Crumbles on January 11th, its bill, size and goose-like appearance being noted (C.St.C.S.). An immature bird at Rye Harbour on April 18th (J.A., J.C.W.).

303-7. **GREY GEESE.**—On March 28th, during the passage of Brent Geese (q.v.) off the Seven Sisters, 13 geese flew by in an easterly direction. Whilst near enough to be identified as Grey Geese, and probably neither Grey Lag nor Pink-footed, the species could not be positively identified. (D.H.B., D.D.H.).

303. **GREY LAG-GOOSE.**—C.St.C.S. describes in detail one seen in the lower Cuckmere valley on December 28th. It appeared tired and reluctant to fly far and he obtained very good views of it.

304. **WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.**—Apart from a few in the extreme S.E. of the county on December 27th (J.A., J.C.W.), only one, flying westward, low and near in off Langney Point on December 22nd (D.D.H.).

307. **PINK-FOOTED GOOSE.**—One flying eastwards off Langney Point on October 30th (D.H.B.) and one there flying westwards on December 2nd (D.D.H.)., One in Cuckmere Haven with Brents on December 26th (A.G.G.).

312. **DARK-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.**—Where the sub-species was not determined, records are included under this heading. Very few wintering in Sussex either at the beginning or end of the year. One lingered at Rye Harbour until April 13th (J.S.S.B.), the same bird, possibly, being seen at the Midrips on the 11th (J.M.C.). A considerable passage of Brents, eastwards up the Channel, was seen in the spring by J.H.B., D.H.B. and D.D.H., between Seaford Head and Langney Point. All which could be identified were Dark-breasted. Nearly all passage observed took place against an easterly wind. When the wind was westerly only very small numbers were seen. On March 26th about 135 were seen ; on March 27th, about 55 ; on March 28th, about 580 ; on March 29th, about 410 ; on April 11th, 250 ; on April 17th, about 1,350 ; on May 16th, about 80. After the latter date no regular watch was kept, but on June 16th D.D.H. saw a party of 6 off Langney Point (Brit. B. xlii, p. 90). On June 8th 9 were reported to A.D.W. to have been seen flying across Rye Bay. These are the first June records for Sussex.

313. **PALE-BREASTED BRENT GOOSE.**—B.M. saw one with the white underpart extending to the upper breast flying with a dark-breasted bird at Pagham Harbour on February 15th.

315. **SHELD-DUCK.**—Appears to be holding its own as a breeding species and possibly still to be increasing as well as extending its range.

318. **GADWALL.**—Two at Thorney Island on September 26th (I.J.F.L., J.W.-B.).

319. **TEAL.**—On June 6th J.H.B., D.H.B. and D.D.H. saw near Glynde a pair with a juvenile which was able to fly short distances. This indicates a complete clutch by about the middle of April—rather earlier than usual.

322. **GARGANEY.**—This species appears to have passed through the county in strength in the spring, the first record being of a drake at Church Norton on March 8th (J. Rigby). All records relate to the coastal districts, except for a pair during the last week in April and the first two weeks in May at the Mill Pond at Crawley (I.J.F.L.). Another pair which was late if merely passing through was seen on Pevensey Levels on May 1st (D.D.H.). A pair nested on Thorney Island (I.J.F.L.). Two pairs nested (one successfully) at Rye Harbour and one pair at Northpoint Level (J.A., J.C.W.).

323. **WIGEON.**—Owing to the generally mild weather no really large numbers were seen at either end of the year except 1,200-1,500 at Pagham Harbour on February 21st during the cold snap (D.M.H., B.M.). A late bird lingered at Fishbourne until May 30th (L.P.A., G.d.F., C.M.J.). August records, which are quite exceptional unless breeding has occurred in the neighbourhood, are one at the Midrips on August 14th (D.H.B., D.D.H.), 17 (13 adult males) near Newhaven on the 15th (J.H.B., B.G.V.) and 14 flying westwards off Cliff End, Pett Level, on the 29th (A.D.W.). Records for the first half of September are 5 at Thorney Island (I.J.F.L., B.M.) and 8 at Pagham Harbour on the 5th (B.M.), 6 at the Wicks on the 9th (D.D.H.), 11 on Thorney Island on the 10th (C.M.J.) and about 20 at Pagham on the 12th (I.J.F.L.).

325. **PINTAIL.**—Largest number seen was 25 at Pagham Harbour on February 22nd and 23rd during the cold weather (D.M.H., B.M., J.R.). Only late spring record is of two drakes flying over Pagham Harbour on May 23rd (S.J.T.). An early autumn duck, if not breeding in the district, was one seen at the Midrips on September 5th (J.A., J.C.V., J.C.W.).

326. **SHOVELER.**—Largest flock, 28, in Chichester Harbour on February 15th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). Breeding took place at Thorney Island, where a duck with ducklings was seen in June, but a second pair also probably attempted to breed as 4 adults were seen in August and September but no young (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.). One at Rye Harbour and 6 at the Wicks on August 14th had probably bred in Walland Marsh (D.H.B., D.D.H.).

327. **RED-CRESTED POCHARD.**—A female was identified at Thorney Island on the Great Deep on October 10th (G.d.F., M.G., C.W.G.P.), but it had been there at least a week earlier though not then indentified (I.J.F.L.). It remained until at least

December 16th (D.D.H.) and in the interval was seen by many observers. The following is a summarised description. A heavyish duck sitting well up in the water ; it usually flushed easily, leaving before Teal or Wigeon. Crown, chocolate brown ; face, greyish ; mantle and back brown ; bill, with hooked nail, blackish with orange vermilion margin and tip except for black nail. In flight the hind-wing, pale. The possibility of it being an escape cannot be excluded, but no recently-lost bird has been traced, and on the other hand it has been increasing as a breeding species in Holland (J. E. Sluiters *in litt.*) and possibly in Central Europe as well (Niethammer ; Handbuch der Deutchen Vogelkunde, Bnd. II, p. 466). A flock of 14 or 16 of this species turned up in 1911, but it has not been otherwise recorded in the county before.

328. **COMMON POCHARD.**—About 40 on Piddinghoe Pond on March 7th (D.H.B.), 30 off Cliff End, Pett Level, on February 22nd (A.D.W.), and 25 at Pagham on February 21st (B.M.) are the largest flocks recorded. A drake at Pagham Lagoon on June 11th (B.M.). Somewhat early return migrants were 6 at Rye Harbour gravel pits on August 14th (D.H.B., D.D.H., B.M.).

330. **TUFTED DUCK.**—Very few seen at either end of the year. Only summer record one at Chichester gravel pits on July 18th (C.M.J.). It has not returned to nest at Bewbush near Crawley (I.J.F.L.).

331. **SCAUP-DUCK.**—Apart from odd birds on the coast, 40 were seen flying westward off Newhaven on October 30th (L.P.A.) and 7 off the Midrips on February 29th (J.A., J.C.W.). A drake was seen at Pagham Lagoon between July 19th and 25th (D.M.H., B.M., J.R.).

332. **GOLDENEYE.**—Occurred, as usual, in Chichester Harbour at both ends of the year. The largest number was 19 at Birdham on February 29th (L.P.A.). One on Pagham Lagoon from June 11th to September 15th (B.M. *et al.*).

334. **LONG-TAILED DUCK.**—Only record is of an immature drake on Pagham Lagoon from November 5th to the end of the year (J.R. *et al.*).

337. **COMMON EIDER.**—On May 27th at Pett Level an oiled drake just off-shore (A.D.W.). On November 25th a female, exhausted, was picked up at Aldwick and identified by Major P. Stocker (S.J.T.).

339. **COMMON SCOTER.**—At the eastern end of the county, numbers variable at the beginning of the year and very few at the end of the year except on December 12th when there were about 2,000 (J.A., J.C.W.).

340. **VELVET SCOTER.**—Only appears to have been seen in ones and twos west of Pett Level. On October 29th, when not many scoter of either sort were about E.M.C. records that, off the Midrips, this species outnumbered the Common Scoter. One off the Midrips on July 10th (D.D.H.).

342. **GOOSANDER.**—An adult drake off Thorney Island on October 3rd (I.J.F.L.) and two adult drakes at Pagham Harbour on December 28th (P.R.M.).

343. **RED - BREASTED MERGANSER.**—This species showed up in strength at both ends of the year, particularly at Pagham and in Chichester Harbour, the largest flock being 28 at the latter place on December 26th (L.P.A.). Out of a total of probably 80 or 90 different birds 14 are recorded as adult males. D.D.H. saw birds flying past Langney Point westwards on January 18 (one) and 28th (one); October 20th (2) and December 8th (12) and flying eastwards on October 27th (one).

344. **SMEW.**—One in Chichester Harbour on February 15th (L.P.A., C.M.J.); one on the lower Cuckmere on February 22nd (G.d.F., S.B.S.), and one at Rye Harbour on March 26th (H.A.R.C.). All brown-headed birds.

346. **CORMORANT.**—One swimming on Knepp Lake on April 7th; this is some 11 miles inland (G.N.S.). A congregation of at least 96 on the southern tip of Thorney Island in the evening of October 31st (L.P.A.).

347. **SOUTHERN CORMORANT.**—C.M.V. describes a bird seen by him and C.F.B. at Shoreham on February 8th in which the white extended some way down the back and sides of the neck. On March 28th J.W.-B. saw a cormorant near Beltout with a snowy head and neck.

349. **GANNET.**—Many records from the end of September onwards. In October several were flying eastwards; thus 12 on the 15th (D.D.H.), 9 on the 25th (E.M.C.), more than 12 on the 28th (E.M.C.). Other records are: January (2); April (1); May (6) (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H.). An adult and a second-year bird off Langney Point on June 16th (D.D.H.); several there in July (D.D.H.) and off Cliff End, Pett Level (A.D.W.).

361-2. **CORY'S SHEARWATER.**—In accordance with the proposal of the Editors of British Birds (Vol. xli, p. 89) this name is adopted to embrace the two sub-species referred to in "The Handbook" as Mediterranean and North Atlantic Shearwaters. On October 15th D.D.H. saw a shearwater flying eastwards a few hundred yards off Langney Point which he describes as "obviously a larger and more strongly built bird than a Manx, and its upper parts lighter, browner than those of that species. Under parts appeared white except for the margins of the wings which were brownish. Despite careful examination through a telescope set at ×35, no white patch above the tail was seen and there was no 'capped' appearance—the sides of the head and throat appearing to have the same greyish-brown coloration as the upper parts, this merging into the white below without any sharp dividing line. A strong SW wind was blowing and Gannets were passing in large numbers and closer in-shore than usual." Cory's Shearwater has only been recorded 4 or 5 times for Sussex before.

368. **FULMAR PETREL.**—One near in to the cliff at Beachy Head on February 7th (D.H.B., D.D.H.). One off Langney Point on August 15th (D.H.B., D.D.H.) and about 30 off Fairlight on September 25th (A.D.W.).

373. **SLAVONIAN GREBE.**—Apart from one or two at the beginning of the year in Chichester Harbour (D.H.B., D.D.H.) and 7 or 8 also at the western end of the county at the end of the year (J.S.S.B., B.M., N.M., S.J.T.), a male in summer plumage was seen off Newhaven cliff on May 9th (C.M.J.).

374. **BLACK-NECKED GREBE.**—All told, about 8 birds were seen. One in partial summer plumage was seen at Shoreham on July 18th and onwards until September 12th. It was tame and easily approachable (C.F.B. *et al.*).

375. **LITTLE GREBE.**—A late bird for coastal districts was seen on the sea near the mouth of the Cuckmere on April 18h (J.H.B., D.D.H., C.St.C.S.). Early to return after breeding were 30 birds on the Chichester gravel pits on July 18th (C.M.J.), increasing to 42 in early August (L.P.A.). Ten had returned to Pagham on July 31st (B.M.), but none were seen in the lower Cuckmere valley until October 15th (D.D.H.).

376. **GREAT NORTHERN DIVER.**—One off Langney Point on January 28th (D.D.H.) ; one off East Head on February 8th (L.P.A.) ; one at Pagham on March 28th which remained until late April, when it was found dead with no sign of injury (B.M. *et al.*) ; one off-shore at Pagham on November 7th and 8th (J.S.S.B.) ; and on December 12th (B.M.).

378. **BLACK-THROATED DIVER.**—Three records only: January 2nd at Hove (C.F.B.), April 11th at Pagham (D.M.H.) and November 14th in Newhaven Harbour (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

379. **RED-THROATED DIVER.**—A rather late bird was seen off East Head, West Wittering, on April 21st (D.D.H., C.St.C.S.)

380. **WOOD-PIGEON.**—A flock of at least 500 in the lower Cuckmere valley on January 31st (D.H.B., D.D.H.). A.D.W. has collected 6 instances of Wood-Pigeons arriving in Sussex in the autumn from the sea, namely, about 50 on October 10th over Cliff End flying north, about 30 on October 23rd flying north across Pett Level; 20, including some Stock-Doves, on October 28th (R. Cooke); at least 200 on November 5th over Fairlight Cove which, when about $\frac{3}{4}$-mile inland, settled in a wood; a "much smaller flock" on November 10th over Cliff End which also settled and 2 "fairly large flocks" on November 11th which crossed the coast just east of Fairlight Glen.

381. **STOCK-DOVE.**—An immigrant flock of 20 Stock-Doves and Wood-Pigeons crossed the coast at Pett Level on October 29th (R. Cooke).

383. **TURTLE-DOVE.**—An early arrival on April 18th was seen flying over Pett Level (A.D.W.). In Bognor and Stedham areas it is reported as being much scarcer than usual (J.H.R.de.J., M.R.M.).

386. **BAR-TAILED GODWIT.**—Wintered in Chichester Harbour, largest number being 80 on February 8th (L.P.A.). Two at Pagham (B.M., J.R.) and 3 at the mouth of the Cuckmere (D.H.B.) in the third week of February and 6 at Camber on March 7th (M.L.R.R.). Spring passage started in March, when 15 were seen at Pagham Harbour on the 27th and were thence onwards seen in good numbers. One at the Midrips on June 25th (M.L.R.R.), 6-8 at Pagham on June 26th (I.J.F.L.), one in summer plumage at Rye Harbour on July 7th (D.D.H.). On July 10th two flew out to sea from Broomhill Level with a S.E. wind (D.D.H.). Very few on autumn passage.

387. **BLACK - TAILED GODWIT.**—Although complete records for Chichester Harbour are not available, the following may be inferred from the records, present at least from mid-March (2 on March 14th—L.P.A.) onwards to the end of the year. Spring arrivals brought the numbers up to about 80 (33 at Thorney Island and 80 at Fishbourne on March 29th (L.P.A.)). This number fell off at the end of May, but about 30 summered (28 on June 26th (I.J.F.L.)). Autumn migrants began to return at the end of July

or the beginning of August (300 on August 8th (C.M.J., I.J.F.L.), 450 on September 4th (B.M.)) and the maximum number was reached in the middle of September (about 700 on September 19th (I.J.F.L.)). By October this number had fallen off to 450-500 (L.P.A., C.M.J., I.J.F.L., B.M.) and by the end to about 100 (D.D.H.). On December 19th there were 70 (L.P.A.). Spring and autumn passage was also visible elsewhere on the coast. Spring passage: 3 at Piddinghoe on March 23rd (J.D.M.) and one there on the 28th (C.M.J.); 5 at Pagham on April 7th (D.M.H.); one at the Midrips on April 14th and various dates to April 25th (J.S.S.B., D.D.H., J.C.V.). Autumn passage: one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 25th (D.H.B.) and August 5th (D.D.H.); one at Pagham on September 11th, 3 there on the 13th (B.M.) and 5 there on the 30th (B.L.). There were 10 at Chichester gravel pits on December 30th and 31st (J.R.).

388. **COMMON CURLEW.**—Three, possibly four, pairs on their breeding ground in north-west Sussex. One nest was found on May 2nd (W.R.P.B.). Although it is difficult to disentangle the movements of birds summering, but not breeding, from genuine migration, the following records suggest an early migration; 15 in small parties, flying westwards along the coast at the Midrips on July 10th, one flying westward off Langney Point on July 11th, 2 flying westward along the coast at Camber on July 20th (D.D.H.). A flock of about 180 "arrived" at Pagham on July 15th (D.M.H.). But at Pagham I.J.F.L. records about 35 on June 13th and about 100 on June 26th, and M.L.R.R. records 3 at the Midrips on June 11th. In the autumn numbers were well up to strength in the west of the county. Thus 950-1,000 at Thorney Island on October 3rd (I.J.F.L.) and over 1,000 at Pagham on September 14th (B.M.). In the east of the county J.A. and J.C.W. say there were but few.

389. **WHIMBREL.**—In numbers at both migrations. About 120 left Pagham Harbour on May 12th (B.M.); 37 flying north into a strong NNE wind off the sea at the Midrips on April 25th, calling (J.C.V.), and 21 at Camber on the same day (J.A., J.C.W.). One was seen at the Midrips on June 30th (D.D.H.) and July 2nd (M.L.R.R.). One flying westwards off Langney Point on July 11th (D.H.B., D.D.H.) points to early return migration. Thereafter seen in small numbers along the coast except for about 80 at Pagham Harbour on August 1st (I.J.F.L., J.A.S.).

393. **WOODCOCK.**—I.J.F.L. and J.A.S. report them common in the Handcross-Crawley district. One on the Crumbles on October 9th (D.D.H.) and one at the Midrips in a small garden on October 30th (E.M.C.).

398. **JACK SNIPE.**—On the return migration one was seen at Thorney Island on September 26th (I.J.F.L.). Rather more than usual were recorded in the autumn, and small numbers were reported from Rye Harbour, the Crumbles, Newhaven Levels, Shoreham, Pagham and Thorney Island, some staying till the end of the year.

400. **GREY PHALAROPE.**—A phalarope at the Midrips between August 26th and 29th caused a good deal of confusion, but Dr. N. F. Ticehurst positively identified it as a Grey, saying, "this bird was far too thick in the head and neck and far too coarse in the bill for a Red-necked . . ." A party of 5 flying westwards very near in off Langney Point were seen on October 27th. The contrast between the uniform grey back and the darker wings and the dark patch on the side of the head were seen. The wind had changed from W to SE over-night and a haze had just lifted (D.D.H.).

401. **RED-NECKED PHALAROPE.**—J.W.-B. saw one on the Hove Lagoon on September 19th. It was even tamer than is usual with phalaropes, often being within a yard of a crowd of people. On September 16th one is recorded as having been seen on the boating pool at Worthing (*Sunday Times*).

402. **TURNSTONE.**—Only unusual records are of one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on June 17th and two at Rye Harbour on July 20th (D.D.H.).

403. **KNOT.**—Only unusual records are of one at Rye Harbour on June 30th (D.D.H.) and 51 at the Midrips on September 6th (J.H.B., C.M.J.).

404-5. **DUNLIN.**—Return migration noted rather earlier than usual at Rye Harbour, where 40-60 were seen on July 10th—only 3 having been present on July 7th (D.D.H.).

406. **CURLEW-SANDPIPER.**—Turned up in larger numbers than usual at both migrations and was seen at most likely places on the coast, which are regularly watched, in ones, two and threes, but 5 were seen at Pagham on September 14th (B.M.). Spring records confined to the period May 22nd to 26th and autumn records to the period between August 29th and September 24th, apart from a bird which turned up at Shoreham on September 11th and stayed until October 17th (C.F.B.).

407. **LITTLE STINT.**—Spring records, which are scarce, consist of 3 at Rye Harbour gravel pits on May 17th (J.M.C.), 2 at Pagham on the 19th and one there the following day (B.M.). Records for August and the first week of September when the bird is not commonly seen all probably relate to a single bird at the

Midrips, first seen there on August 28th. Five were seen there on September 9th (D.D.H.), and 12th (M.L.R.R. and J.C.V.). One seen at Shoreham on September 11th by several observers. One by the Cuckmere Old Channel on September 13th (C.St.C.S.).

409. **TEMMINCK'S STINT.**—One at the Midrips between August 30th and September 4th (J.S.S.B., D.H.B., D.D.H., C.St.C.S., H.J.C.S.).

411. **AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER.**—Two by the Cuckmere Old Channel from August 29th to September 1st (D.D.H., G.d.F. *et al.*) and one on Thorney Island from September 26th to October 3rd (I.J.F.L., J.W.-B), all of which were seen by a number of observers under favourable conditions, precluding all chance of error in identification.

414. **BONAPARTE'S SANDPIPER.**—This bird was apparently seen first on August 30th at the Midrips by J.S.S.B. and H.J.C.S., but not positively identified. On September 19th H.A.R.C (with F.W. and E. A. Blake) describes the bird as first attracting attention " by its straight, slender and short bill as compared with Dunlin with which it was feeding, and its apparently shorter legs. Flushed, it disclosed white tail coverts and uttered a most distinctive call-note—a shrill but musical 'chinck.' Head, grey-brown, greyer and more uniform in patterning than Dunlin. Thin whitish stripe above eye enlarging into a roughly circular patch behind the eye. Back and upper wing-coverts similar to winter-plumage Dunlin but wing-coverts with white margins and faint touches of chestnut on the shoulders. Tail-coverts white. End of tail blackish, centre with lighter shade on outer feathers. Upper breast streaked with brown which terminated on breast, leaving lower breast, belly and flanks pure white. Legs and bill dark brown or black." It was quite tame. This is the seventh or eighth Sussex record. (Brit. B.).

415. **PURPLE SANDPIPER.**—One at Bulverhythe on January 4th (H.A.R.C.) and two for October-November are all recorded.

416. **SANDERLING.**—The only records of note are of 2 at Camber on July 10th, 8 there on July 20th and 21 there on July 22nd (D.D.H.), all somewhat earlier than usual, and one or two by the Cuckmere Old Channel in autumn—a rather unusual locality.

417. **RUFF.**—There is one spring record—one at Fishbourne on March 29th—a rather early date (L.P.A.). On the return migration one was seen at Piddinghoe (L.P.A.), and one at Rye Harbour gravel pits (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H.) on August 2nd. Another bird was present at Rye Harbour gravel pits on August

14th (D.H.B., D.D.H.). There were 6 at the Midrips on August 30th (J.S.S.B.) and then in smaller numbers until September 12th (J.C.V. *et al*). Seven other birds were seen in the last week of August and the first half of September at the Cuckmere, Piddinghoe and Thorney Island.

419. **BROAD - BILLED SANDPIPER.**—On March 6th J.W.-B. saw a small wader on the Hove Lagoon, which at that time was chiefly dry, which attracted attention at 30 yards range. He was able to watch it for a long time on that and the following day at 6 or 7 feet range. "Its bill was long and, from above, looked as if it had been compressed flat in a small vice except that the tip was bent (rather than curved) over ; and in colour off-black, with a creamy white base. Legs relatively short, and also off-black. The general plumage effect above (streaky-looking) was dark with pale edgings (more or less). Here and there were small patches of grey remnants of winter dress. There was a pale eye-stripe. On the wing it looked very dark above, wings included, while the tail was dark in the centre but pale on the sides and the white side tail-coverts showed up well. Belly and lower breast, white ; upper breast, buffish white, darkly striated. Flight, low and sandpiper-like, but it never flew far. When it rose it sometimes uttered a fairly loud 'trrp' given singly, though occasionally twice"

J.W.-B. adds that when writing in "A History of Sussex Birds" (Vol. III, p. 178) that he would not dream of swearing to this wader at large he did not dream, either, of seeing one at really close quarters and by itself ! This is the tenth Sussex record.

421. **COMMON SANDPIPER.**—Arrived late in the spring, first date, April 29th (D.D.H.), and in small numbers only. Two or three on Thorney Island on June 26th (I.J.F.L.) were presumably summering. On the return migration they appeared rather early, thus one, Chichester gravel pits on July 4th (L.P.A., C.M.J.), one, Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 7th (D.D.H.), one at the Midrips (D.D.H.) and one at Pagham (J.R.) on July 10th and a party of 5 at Langney Point on July 11th (D.D.H.). On August 8th I.J.F.L. estimated that there were over 60 at Thorney Island. D.D.H. saw one on Pevensey Levels on December 27th.

423. **WOOD-SANDPIPER.**—Three spring records ; at the Midrips on June 11th (M.L.R.R.), at Pett Level on May 16th (R.S.R.F.) and at Pagham on May 15th (B.M.). One or two at Thorney Island between August 8th and September 5th (I.J.F.L.) but possibly 3 there on August 21st (B.M.). One or two in the lower Cuckmere Valley between August 12th and 22nd (D.H.B.,

D.D.H., C.St.C.S.). One Rye Harbour gravel pits August 2nd to August 14th (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H., B.M.), 3 together at the Wicks on August 14th (D.H.B., D.D.H.) and 2 at the Midrips on September 19th (J.A., J.C.W.).

424. **GREEN SANDPIPER.**—One at Chichester gravel pits on January 16th (D.D.H.). Two at Thorney Island on February 15th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). June records are of one on the 20th at Chichester gravel pits (L.P.A.), 3-5 on the 26th at Thorney Island (I.J.F.L.). Early July records are of 2 at Chichester gravel pits on the 4th (L.P.A., C.M.J.), 2 near Rye and 1 near Winchelsea on the 7th (D.D.H.). The largest number seen on autumn migration was about 15 at Thorney Island on September 5th. November records are of one at Piddinghoe on the 6th and one on Newhaven Levels on the 28th (L.P.A.). On December 25th 3 were seen on Pett Level (A.D.W.).

428-30.—**REDSHANK.**—The following estimates of breeding pairs have been made ; Thorney Island, 40 (I.J.F.L.) ; Pagham area, 15-25 (J.R.) ; Amberley Wild Brooks, 30-40 (G.d.F.) ; lower Arun valley, 4 only (N.M.) and in the Rye Harbour Area at least 50, but only 13 were successful owing to field cultivation during incubation (J.A., J.C.W.). There were 400 at Thorney Island on June 26th and about 3,000 there on September 19th (I.J.F.L.).

431. **SPOTTED REDSHANK.**—One at Pagham on March 29th (B.L.) ; one at the Midrips from April 30th to May 1st, in winter plumage (J.M.C.) ; one in summer plumage at Fishbourne on May 2nd (L.P.A., C.M.J.) ; one at Thorney Island on June 26th (I.J.F.L.) ; 5 there on August 1st and seen in varying numbers there up to October 17th, when there were 3 ; maximum, 12-15, consisting of a party of 9 and several single birds on August 8th (L.P.A., C.M.J., I.J.F.L.). One at the Midrips from August 28th to 30th (J.S.S.B.) and one at Pagham on September 12th (B.L.).

432. **GREENSHANK.**—In May came through at Chichester Harbour, maximum 5 on May 9th (L.P.A.), up to 3 at Pagham (B.M.), Amberley Wild Brooks, one (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and 3 at the Midrips (J.M.C.). One at Thorney Island on June 26th (I.J.F.L.). Early return migration dates for July are of single birds on the 4th at Rye Harbour, on the 10th at the Midrips and of 2 there on the 21st (D.D.H.). Thereafter the bird occurred at the following places, maximum numbers in brackets ; Midrips (3), Rye Harbour (4), Cuckmere (9) Shoreham (4), Thorney Island (c. 50). There are two late October records, one on the 24th at the Midrips (E.M.C.) and 2 at Thorney Island on the 31st (D.D.H.), and one record for November, one at Pagham Harbour on the 17th (B.L.).

438. **LITTLE RINGED PLOVER.**—Nesting attempted and a scrape made in the third week of May. The pair then moved, but in June, up to the 20th, a single bird was seen (L.P.A., C.M.J. Brit. B. xli, p. 377). This is the first Sussex record relating to breeding.

439. **KENTISH PLOVER.**—Two in the Rye Harbour area on May 1st (J.M.C.). A pair, presumably the above birds, were seen in the same locality by J.H.B. from May 3rd to 7th and by D.D.H. on the 5th. Coition was at least attempted on the 7th, but after this date they were not seen again. A female was seen in the same locality on May 17th (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H.), and although it could not be found on the 19th, it or another was present on May 22nd (D.H.B.). On May 26th D.D.H. found that 2 males and one female were present but none were found on subsequent visits. (Brit. B. xlii, p. 93). One in Pagham Harbour was seen on various dates between April 23rd and May 7th (B.L., S.B.S., J.R.).

440-1. **GOLDEN PLOVER.**—Fair numbers at the beginning of the year ; 130 flying over Rye Harbour on January 4th ; 160 on Winchelsea Marsh (J.A., J.C.W.), 300 at Rye Harbour (J.C.V.) and c. 200 near Itchenor (L.P.A., C.M.J.) on January 18th. In autumn they re-appeared early. August records are of 5 at the Midrips on the 15th (B.M.), one at Thorney Island on the 8th (L.P.A.) and 5 there on the 21st (I.J.F.L., B.M.). As the end of the year was mild no large numbers were seen ; a flock of c. 100 on Pevensey Levels on December 27th (D.D.H.) being the biggest. B.M. saw a partial albino in Pagham Harbour on October 3rd.

444. **GREY PLOVER.**—The largest flocks seen were 200 at East Head, West Wittering, on February 14th (D.H.B., D.D.H.), 100 at Pagham on March 26th and 200 there on April 11th (D.H.M.). June records are of 10 on the 12th at Pagham Harbour (B.M.), 4 in full summer plumage there on the 12th, and 2, also in full summer plumage, there on the 26th (I.J.F.L.). July records are : 12 at Pagham Harbour (D.M.H., J.R.) and one at the Midrips (D.D.H.) on the 10th, 15 at Pagham Harbour on the 24th (B.M.) and one at Rye Harbour on the 20th (D.D.H.). In the autumn the largest number at Pagham Harbour was c. 60 on December 17th (J.R.).

446. **DOTTEREL.**—Four on the downs near Jevington on May 9th (P.B.S.).

449. **LAPWING.**—A further general increase in breeding population in the extreme S.E. of the county except on Pett Level, where there was a great reduction due to cultivation (J.A., J.C.W.).

The general tendency seems to be to maintain and slightly increase the very depleted breeding stock which was left at the end of the war. In the last months of the year flocks showed the same tendency to increase; thus A.D.W. remarks that one of 750-1,000 on Pett Level was the largest seen there since the war.

451. **AVOCET.**—Two at the Midrips on May 22nd and 23rd (D.H.B., J.M.C., H.F.G.).

452. **OYSTERCATCHER.**—An albino except for rather dark wing-tips at East Head, West Wittering, on February 29th (L.P.A.). Four pairs, possibly 5, attempted to breed in the Pagham area but none successfully (I.J.F.L., B.M., J.R.). Two pairs attempted to breed at Rye Harbour; young were reared at Northpoint Beach, at Camber and at the Midrips by 3 pairs (J.A., J.M.C., J.C.W.).

456. **STONE-CURLEW.**—One nest found in growing corn on May 16th. This was probably due to shortage of suitable sites, as 3 or 4 other pairs were nesting along a strip of ground no more than $\frac{3}{4}$-mile long (W.R.P.B., G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). The extensive breaking up of downland may more and more drive them to nest in corn, but whether this will be to their advantage or detriment is speculative.

462. **BLACK TERN.**—One at Rye Harbour on May 12th (D.D.H.), one there on May 17th (J.M.C.), 7 at Pagham Harbour on May 16th and 17th (B.M., B.L.). In autumn about a dozen records, for the coast and Piddinghoe pond, between August 8th and October 2nd. 1 winter plumage Pagham 2nd November W.R.P.

467. **SANDWICH TERN.**—Twelve on the beach at Langney Point (D.H.B.) and 2 at Pagham Harbour (B.M.) on June 12th; 4 at the Midrips on June 19th (J.A., J.C.W.); one at Camber on on June 30th (D.D.H.); 2 at Rye Harbour on July 4th, one there on July 7th and 10 there on July 10th, one of which was a juvenile; on the same day 6 were seen passing westwards off the Midrips in ones and twos (D.D.H.). One was also seen that day at Pagham Harbour (J.R.).

469. **COMMON TERN.**—About 40 on the beach at Langney Point on June 12th, not connected with the local breeding birds. They went out to sea on being disturbed (D.H.B.). One in the lower Cuckmere valley on June 5th (L.P.A.) and one at Thorney Island on June 26th (I.J.F.L.). Passage westwards along the coast seen at Rye Harbour and Langney Point from July 10th onwards (D.H.B., D.D.H.). About 200 pairs nested at Rye Harbour;

hatching was successful, but all the young were killed by unfavourable weather when a few days old (J.A., J.C.W.).

470. **ARCTIC TERN.**—Two at Langney Point on June 12th (D.H.B.) ; one in first summer plumage there on July 11th (D.H.B., D.D.H.), and what may have been the same bird was seen there on July 12th and 21st by D.H.B. The first two records are substantiated with notes which satisfactorily establish identity. Two were identified satisfactorily, on October 16th and 17th at Southwick (L.P.A., C.F.B., C.M.V.), and 4, probably of this species, were off the mouth of the Cuckmere on October 17th (D.D.H.).

471. **LITTLE TERN.**—About 40 pairs nested on Nook Beach ; 4 pairs at Northpoint Beach (J.A., J.C.W.) ; 50-70 pairs at Pagham (B.M., J.R.). At the last-mentioned place considerable damage was done by people walking on the eggs (B.M.) and the number breeding was less than in the previous three years (J.R.). There was a westward movement along the coast in small number at Rye Harbour and Langney Point from July 10th onwards(D.D.H.).

477. **LITTLE GULL.**—D.M.H. saw one in summer plumage at Pagham Harbour on April 11th. An adult moulting into winter plumage was seen by the Cuckmere Old Channel on August 8th (D.D.H., J.D.M.) and 9th (D.H.B.). One at Pagham Harbour on November 12th (B.L.) ; an immature at Southwick on November 21st (C.F.B.). An immature at Langney Point on December 10th (D.D.H.).; an adult there on December 11th (D.H.B.). An immature at Pagham Harbour on December 26th (B.M.).

478. **BLACK-HEADED GULL.**—185 pairs attempted to nest in Rye Harbour area, but only very few were successful (J.A., J.C.W.).

481. **COMMON GULL.**—Several hundred immature birds along the Camber Sands on May 15th (J.M.C.).

482. **HERRING GULL.**—One pair nested at the Midrips (H.A.R.C.) ; 2 pairs, unsuccessfully, at Rye Harbour ; over 50 pairs on the cliffs between Pett Level and Hastings (J.A., J.C.W.), and, apart from its main stronghold on the cliffs from Beachy Head to Seaford, a few pairs nested on the cliffs between Newhaven and Saltdean (J.W.-B.).

484. **SCANDINAVIAN LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—Only a few seen in early spring, but from early September onwards about as common as the British sub-species.

485. **BRITISH LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL.**—One spent the winter of 1947-48 at Shoreham (J.H.B.), where there were 3 on February 15th (G.d.F.). Two pairs nested on the Seven Sisters and Beachy Head (J.W.-B.). One at Rye Harbour on December 11th (D.D.H.) and one at Shoreham on December 18th (C.M.J.).

487. **GLAUCOUS GULL.**—One flew past Cliff End, Pett Level, on January 15th (A.D.W.) ; one, fully adult, at Southwick on March 21st (C.F.B.) and another, fully adult, at Pagham Harbour from March 28th to April 11th (L.P.A., D.M.H., *et al.*).

489. **KITTIWAKE.**—One at Piddinghoe Pond (about 2 miles up river from the coast) on April 10th (L.P.A.). As in 1947 there are a number of records between mid-May and the beginning of September from the Midrips to Langney Point. They consist of single birds and upwards ; 9 at Langney Point on June 13th being the largest number (D.H.B., D.D.H.). Twelve off Langney Point on October 27th and one or two there throughout December (D.D.H.). Seven on the beach at Pett Level on December 26th (A.D.W.).

491. **GREAT SKUA.**—One at Pagham Harbour on September 9th (W. Kay Robinson, *Sunday Times*, September 19th).

493. **ARCTIC SKUA.**—Single immature skuas, presumaby of this species, were seen at Langney Point on May 3rd (D.H.B.), at Pagham on July 10th (D.M.H.), at Rye Harbour on August 22nd (D.H.B.) and off Langney Point on the same date (D.D.H.).

496. **RAZORBILL.**—A small passage, up to 3 birds at a time, passing all day off Beachy Head eastwards on May 16th (J.H.B., D.H.B., D.D.H.) ; 5 flying eastwards and 2 westwards off Beachy Head on May 18th (D.H.B.). A westward movement was seen off Langney Point towards the end of October (D.D.H.).

509. **WATER-RAIL.**—A number of records from suitable places on the coast for both ends of the year. An injured bird was found on Crowlink on November 11th (C.St.C.S.).

519. **RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE.**—One picked up dead on August 28th at Fairlight, where it has not occurred for many years (A.D.W.).

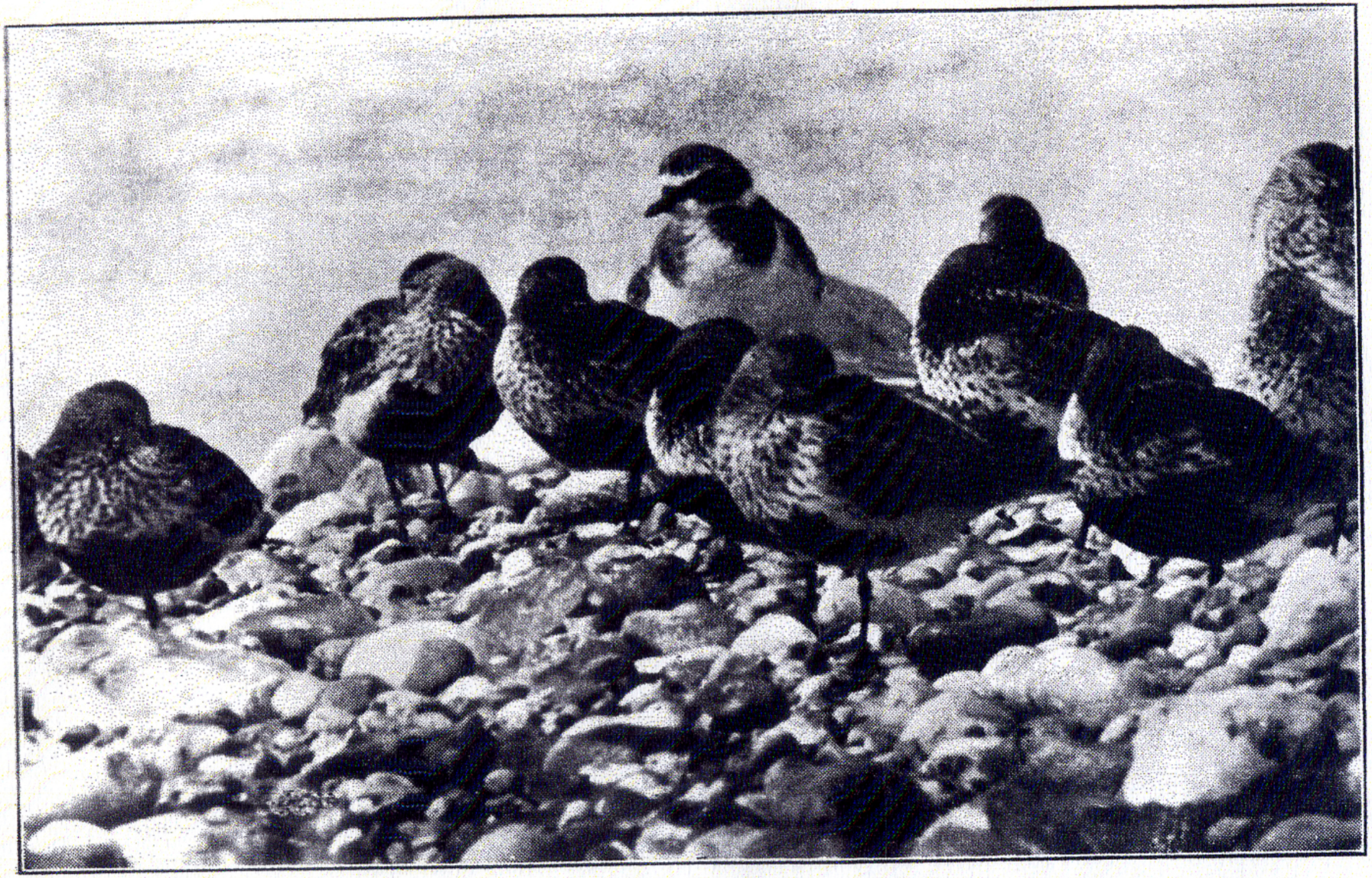
520. **QUAIL.**—A pair probably nested near Steyning where the call was heard during the latter part of May and in June. A large field of oats was frequented but no nest found, although a search was made (C.A.G.).

ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS TO 1947 REPORT.

328. **POCHARD.**—Four at Rye Harbour gravel pits on July 20th (D.H.B.).

375. **LITTLE GREBE.**—First returned to Pagham in early August, as is usual, and not September 8th (B.M.).

462. **BLACK TERN.**—Delete "Shoreham" in connection with May records and for the initials "C.F.B." substitute "L.P.A."



S. Bayliss Smith

Kentish Plover photographed in Pagham Harbour, May 1948, (*see text*).