The following have contributed records :—

L. P. Alder, 64 Rugby Road, Brighton
Dr. L. Arnold, 25 Leigh Road, Hale, Cheshire
J. Ashbee, Upper Cadborough Lodge, Udimore Road, Rye
R. H. Baker, Littlefield, Marlborough, Wilts.
A. A. M. Batchelor, Temple Grove, Heron's Ghyll, nr. Uckfield
S. Bayliss Smith, Brighton College, Brighton
J. S. S. Beesley, 39 Carson Road, London, S.E.21
C. J. F. Bensley, Haslemere Educational Museum, Haslemere
C. L. Bergne-Coupland, Grassington, Sandy Cross, Heathfield
A. H. Betts, 143 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent
W. G. Bridges, Houghton House Cottage, Playdon, Rye
C. F. Brown, 17 St. Aubyn's Road, Portslade
D. H. Brown, 88 Royal Parade, Eastbourne
K. Brown, c/o 28 Worthney Road, North Hayling, Hants.
Mrs. M. M. Bruce, Inglenook, Barcombe
H. A. R. Cawkell, 6 Canute Road, Hastings
Dr. L. A. Collins, Rose Cottage, Alfriston
R. Cook, 78 Bradford Road, Southsea, Hants.
R. L. Day, The Windrush, Huggetts Lane, Willingdon
F. Doolley, 3 The Ridgeway, Tonbridge, Kent
C. E. Douglas, 73 London Street, Reading
G. des Forges, Harefield, The Vale, Ovingdean, Brighton
E. Giles, Oaklands, Udimore, Rye
R. A. F. Gillmore, 93 Northcourt Avenue, Reading
M. Gore, Glencoe Mansions, Aldwick Road, Bognor
L. N. Graburn, Perryvale, Wepham, nr. Arundel
C. A. Grigg, High Street, Steyning
F. M. Gurteen, Honiley, Balcombe Road, Horley
D. D. Harber, 1 Gorringe Road, Eastbourne
P. J. Hayman, 53 Eastmont Road, Hinchley Wood, Esher
Col. and Mrs. F. G. Highway, 36 Edgar Road, Winchester
G. C. Hodgson, Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester
P. A. D. Hollom, Manor Cottage, Park Road, Woking
H. C. Holme, 12 Upper Berkley Street, London, W.1
R. C. Homes, 62d Albermarle Road, Beckenham, Kent
C. Hughes, 6 St. Hilda's Avenue, Ashford, Kent
C. M. James, 7 Sillwood Mansions, Sillwood Place, Brighton
J. H. R. de Jersey, Maycroft, 95 Marshall Avenue, Bognor
N. M. Blurton Jones, 22 Mansfield Road, Reading
T. F. Keating, House in the Wood, Balcombe
M. Larkin, 37 Wheatsheaf Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham
P. F. Le Brocq, Wye College, Wye, nr. Ashford, Kent
Miss V. Maynard, Newstead, Semley Road, Hassocks
A. R. Mead-Briggs, 24 Fellows Lane, Harborne, Birmingham
B. Metcalf, 201 Lagoon Road, Pagham Beach, Bognor

P. R. Mills, 4 Kingsham Avenue, Chichester
R. W. Millward, 113 Whyke Lane, Chichester
G. H. W. Moule, Damerham, Fordingbridge, Hants.
Dr. A. H. Murch, 146 Rowlands Road, West Worthing
C. W. G. Paulson, Robin's Mount, Alma Road, Reigate
D. C. Pegram, 44 Combemartin Road, London, S.W.18
F. Penfold, Connest, Copse Lane, Walberton, Arundel
J. Reynolds, 6 Argyle Road, Bognor
R. H. Ryall, 24 Stilecroft Gardens, Wembley
R. J. Sandison, 23 Hillview Road, Worthing
* J. Shepperd, 107 Congreve Road, Worthing
G. N. Slyfield, 47 North Parade, Horsham
J. A. Smith, Hill View, Handcross
Mrs. M. Snell, Farfields, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells
Miss J. V. Stacey, Easton Farm, Sidlesham
* J. Stafford, Stone House, Shoreham
A. H. W. Stokes, 2 Luxford Road, Lindfield
G. A. Sutton, 22 New Steine, Brighton
G. Taylor, 23 Belsize Crescent, London, N.W.3
E. P. Thorne, 2 King Henry's Road, Lewes
J. M. Twort, 63 The Green, Southwick
C. M. Veysey, 6 High Street, Windsor
R. B. Warren, 38 Athelstan Road, Harold Wood, Romford
J. C. Wickens, 53 New Road, Rye

* Records from J. Shepperd indicated by initials "J.S."; from J. Stafford by use of full name.

EDITORIAL NOTES

RARE BIRDS

Many readers of this Report will have seen and welcomed the statement of editorial policy on sight-records of rare birds which appeared in *British Birds* xlv, p. 1. We have offered our whole-hearted co-operation in respect of records from Sussex. Since some contributors to the Report may not take *British Birds* the effect of the statement, very briefly, is that the Editors stress the necessity of sight records being above suspicion and request that records sent to them for publication shall be accompanied by details of the observers' previous experience of the species and other species with which confusion seems possible ; a sketch ; the name of an ornithologist, known to the Editors, to whom reference can be made ; the statement of any other ornithologist who can confirm the record ; and the steps taken to get confirmation of the record by showing the bird to someone else. The last point is frequently overlooked by observers of limited experience even when the rarity is supposed to be nesting and we should be glad to get particulars at the earliest moment of any rarity which may possibly stay in the locality for a day or two. In the front of this Report there is a list of observers scattered over much of Sussex, and it might be possible to get in touch with someone who could be shown the bird the same day. By doing so the observer need not feel that he is under the indignity of submitting his identification to the scrutiny of someone who is perhaps no more competent than himself. We think the proper attitude would be that he is reinforcing his record and sharing the pleasure that most of us feel on seeing a "new" bird.

The statement also indicates that only rarities of "national" significance will in future be recorded in *British Birds*, if there is a local report to which other reports of less general interest can be sent. We shall submit to *British Birds* for publication any records of the sort they now wish to publish and which are sent only to us ; we shall receive from *British Birds* records which do not conform to their requirements.

We shall continue to publish records of national interest in the Report for the year in which they occur, without however giving any supporting details, when the record has already appeared in *British Birds* or we know that it will appear in *British Birds*.

WILDFOWL COUNTS

A note is published in this Report on wildfowl counts and we invite the help of all who can assist, and in particular of those correspondents who now and then write to enquire what co-operative work is being undertaken. It is not necessary for an observer to be able to guarantee to cover all the days on which counts are made, although to be able to do so eases the work of organisation. If observers will tell the organiser what they think they will be able to do, their services can be utilised accordingly.

UNPUBLISHED DIARIES

We publish comments on the diaries of a Sussex ornithologist which illuminate a number of records already in print. We hope to extend this investigation to other similar material which has never been criticially examined. If anyone knows of diaries or records which look promising we should be pleased to have an opportunity of reading them.

CONTRIBUTIONS

As in previous Reports we repeat that we are glad to get records from any source. One point we have not before mentioned and to which we wish to draw attention is that if records which were not made by the observer sending in the notes are included, this fact should be disclosed and the other observer's name given. We have this year received one or two records which, although somewhat improbable, we should have published on the strength of knowing the capabilities of the sender, but later rejected on learning they were the observations of others. Ideally, of course, each observer should send in his own records and thus enable us to establish a direct contact.

G.d.F.
D.D.H.

WILDFOWL COUNTS IN SUSSEX

Most readers of the *Sussex Bird Report* are no doubt aware of the inquiry into the status of the Wildfowl of Europe, which has been undertaken by the International Committee for Bird Preservation. One of the methods employed is the counting of wildfowl throughout Great Britain on specified dates. For the 1951-52 counts, these were August 5th, September 30th, October 28th, December 2nd, December 30th, January 27th, February 24th, March 23rd, April 27th. The 1952-1953 counts will probably be held on corresponding Sundays.

The counts were started in 1948-49, but regular counts had not been organised in Sussex until 1951-52. The following localities have been covered : —Chichester Gravel Pits (P. Thorpe), Chichester Harbour (L. P. Alder, R. Cook, R. J. Green, C. M. James, E. J. Semper), Cuckmere Haven (Dr. Collins), Hastings Reservoirs (I. Ferguson Lees), Pagham Harbour (B. Metcalf), Pett Level (R. Cooke), Rye Harbour (J. Ashbee, W. G. Bridges, J. C. Wickens), Walland Marsh (H. A. R. Cawkell). Although most of the counts have failed (up to the time of writing this report—January 1st) to reveal large numbers of wildfowl, counters need not feel discouraged as such returns are just as valuable and informative in an inquiry of this nature as ones showing the presence of large numbers of birds. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all the watchers who have helped in this first count of Sussex wildfowl.

Unfortunately I have not been able to arrange counts for at least two important areas. The more important of these is Amberley Wild Brooks and the land between Amberley and Pulborough, which is regularly flooded. As over 2,000 ducks have been reported in this area (Dec. 1st—C. M. James) it is obviously important that a count should be done in this locality. The sea off the Seven Sisters is the other area which I should like to be included in the "counted areas." There may also be private or semi-private ponds or lakes, holding fairly large numbers of ducks (not less than 150 of all species on at least one occasion in the year) which should be included. A series of small waters lying close together, within, say, a five-mile radius, may be amalgamated to form "one counting point" which will produce the necessary qualifying numbers.

It is hoped to include a tabular summary of the 1951-52 counts in the *Sussex Bird Report* for 1952. It is unfortunate that this will have to appear so long after the completion of the season's count, but as counts do not end until April, the delay is inevitable.

I should be most grateful if any readers willing to help with the inquiry, by counting in the two localities mentioned or in any others not included in the list, would write to me at 6 Argyle Road, Bognor Regis, and I will give them further details. Further counters for Chichester Harbour, especially the western part, would also be most welcome.

JOHN REYNOLDS,
Regional Organiser.

CORRECTIONS TO 1950 REPORT

Omission from list of those contributing records: K. A. Murch, 48 Cedar Drive, Parklands, Chichester.

LITTLE AUK. 502.—For "(K.O.M.)" after record of West Dean on February 12th read "(K.A.M.)."

ADDITIONS TO 1950 REPORT

BRAMBLING. 42.—C. 50 at Handcross from early December until end of year (J.A.S.).

BLACK REDSTART. 202.—A pair nested on a bombed site in the Old Town, Hastings, in a territory where a singing male had been in possession in previous years. Two young were taken from the nest (Dr. N. F. Ticehurst).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER. 272.—One over Handcross on August 19th (J.A.S.).

HEN-HARRIER. 273.—A male at the Midrips on August 5th (P. J. Hayman).

CURLEW-SANDPIPER. 406.—One, Midrips, May 16th (A. H. Daukes).

DOTTEREL. 446.—One, Midrips, May 18th (A. H. Daukes).

AVOCET. 451.—One, Midrips, May 16th and 18th (A. H. Daukes).

POMATORHINE SKUA. 492.—On May 18th (A. H. Daukes—who has frequently seen the species in Norfolk) had prolonged views of one at Camber. This bird was seen both on the ground and in flight at ranges of 20-30 yards "so that every detail of the plumage and the tail feathers was as clear as if it had been in the hand."

NOTE ON WEATHER FOR 1951

The weather in 1951 was sunless and wet. Neither at the beginning nor end of the year was there any significant hard weather but the spring came late. After a summer which had fewer bright intervals than wet, the autumn was exceptionally wet. The feature of the year most remarked upon was the relative absence of any visible migration of waders in autumn, but no doubt the cause did not reside in the county, and the backward spring may have extended to higher latitudes and resulted in a bad breeding season. In contrast to this somewhat gloomy picture part of October was fine and warm and the mornings misty. The wind was often from the easterly quarter. During this period a rather more impressive migration of passerine birds was seen than usual.

CLASSIFIED RECORDS FOR 1951

HOODED CROW. 2.—Two at the Wicks on March 10th (P.F.L.B.) and one there on October 13th (D.D.H.). One on Brighton Beach during the second week in November (C.M.J.) and one (probably the same bird) at Southwick on December 4th and 15th (J.M.T.).

JACKDAW. 5.—L.P.A. records flocks flying over Brighton and Hove on seven days between October 8th and 25th. All went NW except one which went NE. Wind SE, except on two occasions when N-NE.

STARLING. 14.—At Langney Point five flew in SE to NW on October 25th, wind NE; seven flew in SE to NW and fourteen SSE to NNW on October 26th, wind SE with mist; two passed SSW to NNE on October 27th, strong SE wind with mist (D.D.H.).

GREENFINCH. 19.—On October 17th two flocks, each of 70-80, flew in S to N at Langney Point, wind NE, very misty (D.D.H.).

GOLDFINCH. 20.—On May 10th D.D.H. saw a few small parties following the coast NE at Langney Point; strong NE wind.

LESSER REDPOLL. 25.—On October 12th and 18th L.P.A. identified four flying NE over Hove.

COMMON CROSSBILL. 36.—On February 3rd D.D.H. saw a first winter bird in Ashdown Forest.

CHAFFINCH. 40/41.—On October 24th at Langney Point D.D.H. saw in the course of an hour c. 70 fly in from SE to NW (wind N) and L.P.A. saw four parties of 20-30 flying NW over Hove. On October 25th L.P.A. saw c. 20 flying NW over Hove (wind N-NE). On October 26th at Langney Point D.D.H. saw one fly in from SE and drop exhausted on to the beach (wind SE; misty). On October 27th D.D.H. saw one fly past Langney Point SSW to NNE (strong SE wind) and on the same day L.P.A. saw two fly in there from SW to NE.

BRAMBLING. 42.—Apart from a flock of c. 50 at Handcross which stayed until the middle of January (J.A.S.) very few recorded.

YELLOW BUNTING. 44.—One flying NW over Hove on October 25th and one E there on October 26th (L.P.A.).

REED-BUNTING. 55.—A nest with naked young at Sidlesham on August 7th—a late date (J.V.S.).

SNOW-BUNTING. 59.—One at Rye Harbour on January 3rd. Single birds at Langney Point on September 19th, October 16th and 18th. On November 14th one flew in from the SE, being first seen far out, and landed on the beach at Langney Point (D.D.H.). One at Pagham on November 10th (J.V.S.), 11th (J.S.S.B.) and 18th (R.A.F.G., N.G.B.J.).

TREE-SPARROW. 62.—On June 21st D.D.H. found several pairs N and NE of Iden. One was seen feeding young out of the nest and others were carrying food.

SHORT-TOED LARK. 66.—Two at Pagham on April 29th (M.G., B.M.) (Brit. B. XLV, p. 28).

WOOD-LARK. 69.—Four at Broomhill Sands on March 10th (P.F.L.B.). Extending breeding range in E. Sussex round Battle area (H.A.R.C.).

SKY-LARK. 70.—Between October 3rd and November 25th D.D.H. saw small numbers fly in from S or SE at Langney Point and between October 18th and November 14th L.P.A. saw NW and NE movements over Hove. Between October 18th and November 10th D.D.H. saw a few fly out to sea at Langney Point.

TREE-PIPIT. 75.—L.P.A. identified single birds flying SE over Brighton on October 3rd, 8th and 9th, and one SW on 10th. One on the Crumbles on the 10th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.). These are rather late dates.

MEADOW-PIPIT. 76.—Spring immigrants noticed at Langney Point only on March 22nd and 23rd (strong WSW wind). Arrival from the sea, from between E and SE was noted almost daily at Langney Point, September 16th-27th, but numbers less than in other years. Arrival on a somewhat larger scale there on September 28th and 30th and further inward movements there on October 3rd, 4th and 18th. The only outward movement seen at Langney Point consisted of three birds flying S on September 28th (D.D.H.). L.P.A. witnessed NW-W movements over Brighton and Hove, October 25th-November 25th, and NE-E movements, October 1st-12th.

WATER-PIPIT. 79.—The Cuckmere bird (*vide* 1950 Report) remained until at least March 4th, by which date the head was decidedly greyish and the markings on the underparts had largely become blurred or disappeared (D.D.H.). It was also seen by L.A., G.d.F. *et al.*

ROCK-PIPIT. 81.—One remained at Langney Point until early July, being several times found singing in April and May (D.D.H.).

BLUE-HEADED WAGTAIL. 84.—Two males in the Lower Cuckmere on April 28th (L.P.A.).

YELLOW WAGTAIL. 88.—C. three dozen pairs nested at Rye Harbour gravel pits. In mid-July it was found that only about half this number were still present and occupied with second broods (D.D.H.).

"SYKES'S WAGTAIL."—One at the Wicks on August 14th; "head light blue in colour, the eye-stripe and chin being white, whilst the ear-coverts did not appear noticeably darker than the rest of the head. The underparts were of the same brilliance as in an adult male Yellow Wagtail, which in all other respects it resembled (M.L.).

GREY WAGTAIL. 89.—A pair nested on a creeper behind a drain pipe on a house near Uckfield (A.A.M.B.). Apparently nested again near Chichester Channel (C.M.J.).

PIED WAGTAIL. 90.—A few flying in S to N at Langney Point on September 30th, October 4th and 18th. Wind E or NE. A small easterly movement along the coast there on October 19th (D.D.H.).

WHITE WAGTAIL. 91.—A very early bird at Southwick on February 11th: "mantle and rump were of same shade of pale grey colour" (C.M.J.). Three above Glynde on April 7th (L.P.A.). One at Rye Harbour, April 19th; Two, Lower Cuckmere, April 22nd (D.D.H.). One, Pett Level, April 22nd (L.P.A.) and two there, April 28th (D.D.H.). One on the Crumbles, September 3rd (A.H.W.S.) and one at Newhaven on September 15th (C.F.B.).

GREAT TIT. 97/98.—Two on the Crumbles on October 2nd during a period of N.E. wind and mist. Had not been seen there previously (D.D.H.).

COAL TIT. 101/102.—One on the Crumbles on October 4th during a period of NE wind and mist. Had not been seen previous day (D.D.H.).

SPOTTED FLYCATCHER. 121.—A rather late bird on the Crumbles on October 3rd (D.D.H.).

PIED FLYCATCHER. 123.—One at Southwick on April 21st and 22nd (J.M.T.). One at Bognor on May 1st (J.H.R.d.J.). One at Sidlesham on May 6th (J.V.S.).

About 14 autumn records, August 26th-September 16th.

GOLDCREST. 126/127.—One at Southwick, September 26th (J.M.T.); one on the Crumbles, October 2nd (wind NE, misty) (D.D.H.); c. four in the copse near Belle Tout, 11th (wind SE) (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.); three on the Crumbles, 12th (strong SE wind); one in bushes near coast, Rye Harbour, 13th (wind S) (D.D.H.); a male (British) found dead in a yard in Brighton, 14th (C.F.B.); one flew in from sea at Langney Point, being first seen a few yards out, 17th. After feeding for a few minutes it made off inland in a northerly direction (wind NE; very misty) (D.D.H.); two on Downs above Southwick, 20th (J.M.T.); two at Sidlesham, 26th (J.V.S.); c. 10 on the Crumbles, 27th (strong SE wind; misty); one at end of Langney Point, November 8th (wind E; misty); one in a street near Eastbourne front, 9th (wind SE) (D.D.H.); five at Southwick on November 10th (J.M.T.).

FIRECREST. 126.—Two in a garden at Heathfield in either the last week in March or the first week in April. A very close view; "gave the appearance of being more 'sleek' and more trim than Goldcrests and the white eye-stripe and deep orange head-stripe were almost startling" (C.L.B-C.).

CHIFFCHAFF. 129/131.—On March 2nd D.D.H. saw two together on the Crumbles, one of which was singing. Wind E; misty.

GREAT REED-WARBLER. 147.—On May 24th one was found in a reed bed in the E of the county by O. Holt and R. A. W. Reynolds. The next day it was seen by several observers, including Dr. N. F. Ticehurst. R. A. W. Reynolds, besides describing the striking song, noted the large size, heavy flight, rich brown of upper-parts (slightly more rufous on rump and tail) with head noticeably darker, with merest suggestion of white stripe over eye; underparts pale buff to white under the chin; bill long, strong and straight; legs dark. On June 10th this bird was independently found by E.G. who also heard a second bird singing about 70 yards away, only one bird being seen. A single bird was seen and heard by Mrs. Mary Smith on June 11th and by E.G. on June 14th. No records of song after this date and birds believed to have left, but on July 18th D.D.H. had good views of bird of this species in a tree overhanging the reed bed. He describes it as a much larger version of the Reed-Warbler, about size of Sky-Lark, with a noticeably long, straight bill; distinct brown streaks on white of throat; pale eye-stripe, not very obvious; gave short, harsh call. On July 28th what was no doubt the same bird was seen in the same locality by A.R.M.-B. who watched it for about 10 minutes in trees. He describes it as very much larger than a Reed-Warbler which it otherwise generally resembled; long straight bill; brown streaks on throat; call "Kik, Kik" followed by two jangling notes. He noted that while Reed-Warblers were apparently collecting food for young in the trees, this bird was eating the food it got. Three previous records for the county, the last in 1906.

REED-WARBLER. 149.—One on the Crumbles on October 13th (L.P.A.). A very late date.

SEDGE-WARBLER. 153.—Two on the Crumbles on October 4th (D.D.H.).

BLACKCAP. 162.—A.H.M. records a nest with the first egg laid on May 6th, an early date. One on the Crumbles on November 1st (D.D.H.).

WHITETHROAT. 163.—A rather late bird on the Crumbles on October 12th (D.D.H.).

DARTFORD WARBLER. 169.—On April 5th D.D.H. found a pair in last year's locality. A bird was seen there by him and G.d.F. on April 14th. Shortly afterwards the area was burned out. Towards the end of July D.D.H. and A.R.M-B. found at least one bird in another locality.

SONG-THRUSH. 175/177.—On October 13th one was put out of weeds on the sea-wall at the Midrips. It seemed tired and was unwilling to fly far (D.D.H.).

REDWING. 178.—One on the Crumbles, October 2nd. NE wind and mist (D.D.H.). On October 18th between 8.30 a.m. and 11.0 a.m. L.P.A. saw an almost continuous stream moving SW over Hove (wind NE-E). In the same locality he saw c. 60 flying SW on October 23rd and several moving NW-W on October 24th and November 10th.

RING-OUZEL. 182.—Only spring record—one on the beach at the Crumbles on April 4th, a rather early date (D.D.H.). One on the Crumbles, September 16th; a loose flock of c. 100 there on October 2nd after two days of easterly wind and mist. Nearly all left during the next few days (D.D.H.). Also on the 2nd a flock of 18 was seen by G.d.F. at Ovingdean. Three at Playdon on the 4th (W.G.B.); one at Peacehaven on the 6th (C.M.J.); two at Crowlink on the 7th; one on Downs near Eastbourne on the 11th; one at Rye Harbour on the 13th (D.D.H.); one on Downs N of Southwick on the 14th (C.F.B.); one at Playdon on the 17th (W.G.B.); two on the Crumbles on November 3rd (L.P.A.).

WHEATEAR. 186/187.—First arrivals on March 15th. Late birds were; one at Pett Level on November 3rd (H.A.R.C.); one at Langney Point on November 11th (D.D.H., P.J.H.); one at Seaford Head also on the latter date (L.P.A.).

WHINCHAT. 197.—P.F.L.B. records seeing a female at Rye Harbour on June 25th. Between September 3rd and 16th H.A.R.C. records "exceptional" numbers between Fairlight and the county boundary. On the 3rd there were c. 100. One at Prince's Park, Eastbourne, on October 31st (D.D.H.) —a late date.

BRITISH STONECHAT. 198.—Recovery as a breeding species continues to be maintained.

BLACK REDSTART. 202.—The birds reported in the 1950 Report as wintering at Newhaven and Langney Point remained into 1951 and one was recorded from Southwick during February (C.M.J.) and March (J.M.T.). The following were doubtless on spring passage (although the last two records may refer to breeding); one, Lower Cuckmere, on March 24th (C.M.J.); one, Lancing College, on March 26th (per F. M. Fitter); one on Downs near Eastbourne on April 7th (R.L.D.); one at Shoreham on April 8th (C.M.V.); one singing in Rye at Easter (David Lack) and one singing there on April 19th (D.D.H.).

Dr. N. F. Ticehurst has kindly furnished the following particulars of records relating to the breeding season for his area; no nesting proved in Hastings and St. Leonards, but singing males were found in five, possibly six, territories that had been occupied in previous years, and in two of them a hen was also present. In addition a pair was seen on the East Hill cliffs on May 19th. A pair nested at Fairlight, presumably successfully. A cock was singing on Pett Level on April 1st but no evidence of nesting was obtained.

On July 21st A.H.M. saw one near the shore at Ferring, but apart from this the earliest date for autumn passage was October 4th at Langney point (D.D.H.). Wintering birds at the end of the year were; two in the vicinity of Winchelsea Beach; two Crumbles-Langney Point (D.D.H.); one at Birling Gap; one Lower Cuckmere (G.A.S.); one at Maresfield Park Camp (M. Rogers per D.D.H.); three at Newhaven (L.P.A., C.M.J.); one at Southwick (R.J.S., J.M.T., C.M.V.); one at Pagham (D.H.B., D.D.H.).

ROBIN. 207/8.—On September 29th, twelve, all in twos, were skulking along the sea-wall between the Midrips and the Wicks (no wind, misty). Between October 2nd and 5th, during a period of NE wind and mist a distinct increase took place in the number on the Crumbles and on October 3rd there was a bird in weeds at the end of Langney Point. There was one there again on October 28th (D.D.H.).

WREN. 213.—On October 20th D.D.H. saw three along the sea-wall at the Midrips.

SWALLOW. 220.—At Langney Point on many dates between August 29th and November 7th D.D.H. witnessed arrival from the sea. The birds came from between S and SE and continued inland between N and NW. The wind direction appeared to have no influence on these movements since they took place from whatever quarter it was in. Numbers in all cases were small. On several occasions when this inward movement was observed a small movement out to sea, between S and SW was also seen. On October 6th, between Dungeness Point (Kent) and Camber D.D.H. saw several small parties fly in from the sea, SE to NW. H.A.R.C. records a roost of over 1,000 in a reed bed at Pett Level on September 29th.

HOUSE-MARTIN. 222.—On June 23rd at Langney Point D.D.H. saw two fly in SE to NW with a party of Swifts.

SAND-MARTIN. 223.—Ten pairs tried to breed in a sandhill forming part of a range of bunkers on Rye golf course, Camber (H.A.R.C.). On July 13th there was a small westerly movement at Rye Harbour (wind W) (D.D.H.). On July 29th L.P.A. saw four fly in from the sea in a north-easterly direction from Newhaven West Breakwater (wind NW). On August 29th D.D.H. saw four fly in S to N at Langney Point, and two fly in there S to N on September 26th.

SWIFT. 225.—First spring record—one at Winchelsea on April 16th (W.G.B.). The following movements were observed by D.D.H. at Langney Point; **June 12th,** 3.30 p.m.-4.0 p.m., 22 in all flew S out to sea until lost to sight (strong WSW wind); **June 22nd,** six flew out to sea between S and SE (wind SSW); **June 23rd,** 11.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m., c.500 flew in from between SSE and SSW to between NNE and NNW; 2.50 p.m.-5.20 p.m., c. 260 flew in as above. The largest party of the day consisted of c. 200 birds. Eight flew E out to sea (wind NNW, fog in night which had mainly lifted); **June 24th,** 10.15 a.m.-1.0 p.m., 36 flew in from between S and SE to between N and NW (wind NW, veering to W); 3.15 p.m.-4.15 p.m., 15 flew in SE to NW and c. 20

flew E out to sea (strong W wind) ; **June 26th,** 3.30 p.m.-5.15 p.m., c. 200, coming from NNE, flew out to sea between S and SSW. A party of six flew in from sea, SE to NW (strong W wind, showery) ; **June 28th,** 9.30 a.m.-1.0 p.m., 15 flew in from between S and SE to between N and NW (wind NW) ; **July 3rd,** 4.15 p.m.-6.15 p.m., 12 flew in from between SE and E to between NW and W ; **July 4th,** 10.45 a.m.-1.0 p.m., 13 flew in from between SE and E to between NW and W (strong W wind) ; 3.15 p.m.-6.0 p.m., 42 flew in as before (wind northerly) ; **July 11th,** two flew in SE to NW (wind SW). At the mouth of the Rother on July 18th, 3.45 p.m.-4.45 p.m., D.D.H. saw hundreds coming in from the SE and making off NW inland. This movement was taking place on both sides of the estuary as far as the eye (plus 12x binoculars) could see. Afterwards only a few came in (wind NW). On July 23rd A.R.M-B. saw c. 40 fly in at Langney Point, SE to NW.

NIGHTJAR. 227.—One on the Crumbles on August 10th (D.D.H.).

HOOPOE. 232.—One at Stoughton on May 26th (Rev. H. J. Emmet, Sussex County Magazine, September, 1951).

GREATER SPOTTED WOODPECKER. 236/237.—One on the Crumbles on November 7th (D.D.H.). From date and locality possibly of the Northern race.

WRYNECK. 339.—One at Hassocks on several dates between July 27th and August 15th (V.M.) is the only record.

SHORT-EARED OWL. 251.—P.F.L.B. describes one seen by him on May 19th at Rye Harbour. It was flying in the direction of Dungeness Light at a height of c. 150 feet. The only record received.

PEREGRINE FALCON. 259.—At least six pairs on the coast during the breeding season. Some raised young.

HOBBY. 261.—Successful breeding reported from two localities.

MERLIN. 262.—Rather more winter records from the coast and the Downs than usual.

KESTREL. 263.—At Langney Point D.D.H. on September 19th saw two together and two single birds fly in SE to NW, being first picked up far out to sea. Later two and a single bird were seen flying inland away from the coast. On September 27th, likewise at Langney Point, D.D.H. saw one fly S out to sea. On April 22nd L.P.A. saw one flying E across Rye Bay.

MARSH-HARRIER. 271.—One at Thorney on August 7th (A.H.W.S.). One at Glynde on November 25th (C.M.J.).

MONTAGU'S HARRIER. 272.—An adult male at Camber on April 25th (E.G.). An adult male on East Sussex Downs on June 18th (C.M.V.). A female, Midrips-Wicks, August 13th (M.L.), and an immature there on September 18th (R.H.B.) and October 6th (D.D.H.).

HEN-HARRIER. 273.—Only record ; two, one an adult male, reported as frequenting the Downs near Eartham early in the year (B. Pearce per B.M.).

OSPREY. 284.—One, Thorney Channel, May 13th (G.T.). One flying in an easterly direction off Langney Point on August 29th (D.D.H.). One fishing in the lake in Eridge Park on October 16th (M.S.).

SPOONBILL. 287.—An immature bird (doubtless the one reported in this area on December 31st in last year's Report) frequented the Pulborough-Amberley district from January onwards, being last reported there on April 15th (many observers). From April 26th to May 24th an immature (presumably

the same) was present at Pagham Harbour, where again it was seen by a number of observers. What may have been still the same bird was the immature seen in Emsworth Channel on June 17th by G.d.F., D.D.H. and C.W.G.P. On July 13th D.D.H. saw one, with no black or brown on the wings, flying in an easterly direction over Rye Harbour.

COMMON HERON. 289.—The census of heronries produced the following results : Fishbourne, 17 (R.C.) ; Itchenor, seven (V.M.) ; Molecomb, none (R.C.) ; Parham, not counted ; Glynde, 31 on April 20th (E.P.T.) ; Firle Decoy Pond, three on April 25th (E.P.T.) ; Eridge, 34 (per W. B. Alexander) ; Beauport, not found by E.P.T. ; Leasham, 53 (J.C.W.), a decrease due to extensive tree felling in the summer of 1950 ; Henfield, one (C.A.G., S.B.S.). On June 28th, two flew in together S to N at Langney Point, being first seen a good way out at sea (D.D.H.).

BEWICK'S SWAN. 301.—One (doubtless the same as recorded for December in the 1950 Report) at Rye Harbour on January 1st (J.A.) and one at Pett Level pools on February 4th (L.P.A.).

GREY LAG-GOOSE. 303.—One at Littlehampton on January 14th (J.S.). At Langney Point on March 18th, during a SW gale, three came in from the S and alighted briefly on the Crumbles before making off towards the N (D.D.H.). Full descriptions have been supplied.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE. 304.—Thirty-two flying low over Pevensey Levels on January 18th (D.D.H.). Two near Glynde on February 18th (C.M.J.).

BEAN-GOOSE. 306.—On January 7th one, out of a flock of 12 grey geese on Pevensey Levels, was shot by a gunner and later retrieved by G.A.S. It proved to be a Bean. On January 18th and 20th D.D.H. independently identified a flock of 11 Bean-Geese in this same area.

BRENT GOOSE. 312/313.—Three at Pagham on January 21st (M.G.). On March 11th there were 63 in Chichester Harbour (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and c. 10 off Newhaven, flying E (C.M.J.). On March 10th P.F.L.B. saw 60 flying E at Camber ; on the 15th and 18th there were five at Rye Harbour (L.A., W.G.B.) ; c. 10 flying E there on the 26th (C.M.J.). Seven in Chichester Harbour on April 9th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). A few moving E off the Seven Sisters on the 29th (L.P.A.). Two off Thorney on September 29th (F.G.H.), an early date. One at Pagham on December 29th and three there on the 30th (P.R.M., J.R.).

CANADA GOOSE. 314.—Five on Amberley Wild Brooks on April 15th (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

SHELD-DUCK. 315.—Seven pairs reared 60 young in the Rye Harbour area (J.A.) and a pair bred in the vicinity of the Chichester gravel pits at Whyke (L.P.A.).

MALLARD. 317.—Two pairs nested within 50 yards of high-water mark at Camber (E.G.). Largest numbers were reported in January, on the 1st c. 1,000 in Rye Bay (J.A.) and on the 7th c. 600 at Darwell Reservoir (P.A.D.H.). At the end of the year c.350 at Pagham on December 30th (B.M., P.R.M., J.R.).

GADWALL. 318.—On September 2nd one at Rye Harbour gravel pits (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and one, possibly the same, on Pett Level pools on the 9th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.).

TEAL. 319.—On January 7th c. 700 on Darwell Reservoir (P.A.D.H.) and on March 4th c. 800 there (L.A., W.G.B.); on January 21st c. 900 on Amberley Wild Brooks, dropping to c. 200 on April 1st, when there were also c. 60 on Wiggonholt Marsh and to 30 on April 15th (L.P.A.). During the breeding season birds were seen at Thorney (G.d.F., D.D.H., C.W.G.P.) and Rye Harbour gravel pits (L.P.A., D.D.H.). On July 7th five in flight off Langney Point (D.D.H.). In December there were c. 300 on Glynde Levels and c. 800 on Amberley Wild Brooks (L.P.A.).

GARGANEY. 322.—Very few reported on spring passage. During the breeding season birds reported at Pagham (M.G., B.M.), Amberley Wild Brooks (F.P.), on Pevensey Levels (five males) (D.D.H.) and Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H.). On August 25th, 17 on Pett Level (H.A.R.C.).

WIGEON. 323.—Apart from c. 1,000 in Rye Bay on January 1st (J.A.) and 200-300 at Darwell Reservoir on January 7th (P.A.D.H.) no large numbers at the beginning of the year. In December c. 400 on Glynde Levels (L.P.A.); c. 270 in Chichester Channel (P.R.M.) but never more than c. 175 at Pagham (P.R.M.). A drake frequented the Pett Level pools from May 20th to the end of the year, carrying through its moult there (H.A.R.C., D.D.H.).

PINTAIL. 325.—Large numbers seen on floods at Amberley Wild Brooks, Wiggonholt Marsh and below Pulborough. On January 21st a total of c.100 and on April 1st 176 with fluctuating numbers in between these dates (L.P.A.). Late spring records are of a pair on May 6th on the Rother Levels (W.G.B.) and three (one a male) on the 7th at the Wicks (L.P.A.). On July 19th two at Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H.). In December similar numbers in Pulborough district; 130 there on the 23rd (L.P.A.).

SHOVELER. 326.—Largest number was 25 on Glynde Levels on November 25th (C.M.J.). Birds seen in breeding season were in previously recorded breeding areas. During August 2 or 3 birds which no doubt bred on Walland Marsh were seen at the Wicks, Midrips and Rye Harbour gravel pits (D.D.H., M.L.) and on August 11th there were five juveniles on Pett Level (H.A.R.C.).

COMMON POCHARD. 328.—Considerable numbers at beginning of year in Pulborough district; largest number c. 180 on March 4th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). On March 4th 80 at Darwell Reservoir (L.A., W.G.B.).

TUFTED DUCK. 330.—On March 4th 20-30 at Darwell Reservoir (L.A., W.G.B.). Largest number in Pulborough district was 49 on March 23rd (L.P.A.). On May 13th a pair on Burton Lake (C.A.G.); on the 27th a pair at Darwell Reservoir (W.G.B.) and on June 8th a pair on Broom Hall Lake, Ockley (G.N.S.).

SCAUP-DUCK. 331.—On September 29th a female flew in from the sea on to Pett Level pools (D.D.H.). An early date.

GOLDENEYE. 332.—Largest numbers recorded were 13 in Chichester Channel on February 25th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and 15 or 20 there on December 27th (P.R.M.). A pair at Rye Harbour, April 8th-14th (H.A.R.C.).

LONG-TAILED DUCK. 334.—Two off Newhaven on March 11th (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

COMMON EIDER.—On May 20th L.P.A. and C.M.J. saw 14 (paired) which moved E off Newhaven after a brief rest on the sea. From November 10th to the end of the year from one to nine off Langney Point (D.D.H. *et al.*). December 2nd to end of year one in entrance to Chichester Harbour (L.P.A., G.d.F., C.W.G.P.).

COMMON SCOTER. 339.—At the beginning of the year there were several thousand in Rye Bay (J.A.). On May 20th several parties of c. 20 flying E off Newhaven (C.M.J.). On June 30th c. 65 off Newhaven (L.P.A.) and in third week of July c. 100 in Rye Bay (D.D.H.). At the end of the year 3-4,000 in Rye Bay (J.A.).

VELVET SCOTER. 340.—Over 300 in Rye Bay on May 8th (L.P.A.), an unusual number for that date. One there July 14th (D.D.H.). Elsewhere only small numbers recorded.

GOOSANDER. 342.—A brown-headed bird flying up the lower Rother on January 3rd (D.D.H.).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER. 343.—Largest number recorded was 32 in Chichester Harbour on February 11th (L.P.A.). A series of spring records, all later than hitherto recorded for the county, commences with one off Pett Level on May 12th and one off the Rother the following day (L.P.A.); birds flying E were a pair off Rye Harbour on May 13th (C.M.J.); seven, three and three off Newhaven on May 19th (one being an adult male); two off Newhaven on June 9th (L.P.A.). One on the sea off Church Norton on July 1st (L.P.A.).

SMEW. 344.—One at Darwell Reservoir on January 21st and two there on February 11th (L.A.). Two brown-headed birds on Greatham floods on January 21st (L.P.A.) and one at Rye Harbour gravel pits on January 28th (E.G.).

CORMORANT. 346/347.—Eighteen on flood water near Pulborough on March 14th (L.P.A.). One on Newells Pond, Horsham, on May 14th (G.N.S.). Birds with an amount of white on head and neck suggesting southern sub-species were seen at Newhaven on March 17th (C.M.J.) and 24th (L.P.A.); in Chichester Harbour on March 18th, two birds (L.P.A., C.M.J.); and at Seaford Head, two birds, on April 5th (L.P.A.).

GANNET. 349.—As in the last three years seen in every month except February and March. The only birds of the year reported were one which came ashore at Eastbourne slightly oiled on August 21st (an early date) and one off Langney Point with a party of adults on December 27th (D.D.H.). On November 4th L.P.A. observed a continuous E movement off Brighton until 3.30 p.m. There was a SE gale at the time.

STORM-PETREL. 350.—One flying E close to the shore at Langney Point on June 23rd (D.D.H.) and one working E off Brighton on November 4th during a SE gale (L.P.A.).

MANX SHEARWATER. 355.—E.G describes one resting on a shingle bank a few feet above the tide line at the mouth of the Rother on January 21st. It appeared uninjured and shuffled down to the water when disturbed.

BALEARIC SHEARWATER. 356.—One flying SW c. 300 yards off Langney Point on August 26th (L.P.A., D.D.H., C.M.J.) (Brit. B. xlv, p. 72). Apparently the first record for the county. One flying W 400-500 yards off Langney Point on November 24th (D.D.H.), details of which will appear in *British Birds* in due course.

FULMAR PETREL. 268.—Between April 29th and June 27th there are 15 records for the coast between Black Rock, Brighton, and Langney Point. All are for single birds and only one individual may be involved.

GREAT CRESTED GREBE. 370.—One on Darwell Reservoir on January 7th (P.A.D.H.). One off Pett Level on May 12th (L.P.A.) was rather late to leave the open sea, whilst one off the Midrips on August 25th (D.D.H.) and one off Langney Point the following day (C.M.J.) were early to return.

RED-NECKED GREBE. 371.—One off Langney Point on October 25th and one there on November 14th (D.D.H.).

SLAVONIAN GREBE. 373.—The bird in the Lower Cuckmere at the end of 1950 was last seen there on January 14th (L.A., D.D.H.). A few among a party of Grebes in Chichester Harbour on February 11th (L.P.A.) ; one there on March 18th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). One assuming summer plumage off Langney Point on April 27th. Two, mainly in summer plumage, there on September 7th—the earliest autumn record for the county (D.D.H.). One there on October 10th (D.D.H., G.W.H.M.) ; one there on the 19th and 26th (D.D.H.). One on Pett Level pools on November 17th (H.A.R.C.).

BLACK-NECKED GREBE. 374.—All records : one at Pagham on January 1st (M.G.) ; one on Pett Level pools on the 27th (D.D.H.) ; most of a party of 13 Grebes in Chichester Harbour on February 11th were of this species (L.P.A.) ; one at Pett Level pools on March 31st ; one there September 1st to 3rd (H.A.R.C.) ; two off Langney Point, October 19th and 28th (D.D.H.) ; two, Chichester Harbour, December 2nd (L.P.A.).

LITTLE GREBE. 375.—One on a pool in Ashdown Forest on February 3rd (D.D.H.). Comparatively unusual in the interior in winter. Started gathering at Pett Level pools at the end of July ; c. 100 in September and October, remaining to the end of the year (H.A.R.C.).

GREAT NORTHERN DIVER. 376.—One off the West Pier at Brighton on January 29th (C.M.V.) ; one in Chichester Harbour on February 25th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) ; one in Newhaven Harbour from December 26th to the end of the year (L.P.A., P.H.B., C.M.J.).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER. 378.—One at Pagham on January 13th (J.S.) and one off Bishopstone on March 11th (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

RED-THROATED DIVER. 379.—Inland records are of one near Glynde on flood water on January 6th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and of one on Chichester gravel pits on March 18th (C.M.J.). May records are : One in summer plumage on Pett Level pools between the 6th and 20th (L.P.A., D.D.H., C.W.G.P.) ; one in summer plumage at Rye Harbour between the 6th and 13th (L.P.A., L.A.C., C.M.J.) ; one in winter plumage in Newhaven Harbour on the 14th (C.M.J.) ; one in summer plumage off Langney Point on the 19th (D.D.H.) and a party of 16 divers flying E off Newhaven on the 25th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) were probably of this species. These are late spring dates for the county.

WOOD-PIGEON. 380.—C. 80 in small parties flying SW over Brighton at 7.30 a.m. on November 12th (L.P.A.).

TURTLE-DOVE. 383.—On July 8th c. 200 in a loose flock near West Dean (L.P.A., C.M.J.). A rather late bird on the Crumbles on October 5th (D.D.H.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. 386.—One at Rye Harbour on June 14th (D.D.H.).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. 387.—In Chichester Harbour the first record is of 18 near Manhood End on February 25th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) ; returning migrants first seen on July 15th when there were five at Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) ; c. 200 there in early August (C.M.J.) ; over 400 on the 19th (P.F.L.B.) ; c. 350 at the end of September (P.R.M.) ; c. 100 at the end of October (C.M.J.) and one on December 2nd (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). Small numbers (under five) seen on spring passage at Pagham (M.G.) and the Midrips (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). Twelve on flood water at Bodiam on March 23rd (R.B.W.) and 11 on flood water at Glynde on April 7th (L.P.A.). Small numbers in autumn at Pagham (M.G., B.M.), Chichester gravel pits (J.R.) and Rye Harbour (E.G., P.J.H.).

COMMON CURLEW. 388.—On February 23rd at Langney Point a flock of c. 100 flew in from the SE, being first seen far out to sea. As they approached land they circled and flew away ENE on which course they were watched for a great distance (D.D.H.) ; an early date for immigrants.

D.D.H. again recorded numerous birds on the move from June 15th to July 7th. All records are of birds flying W past Langney Point (the largest party being 11) except for one party of 13 on June 30th which having arrived from the NE flew S out to sea till lost to sight. In the third week in June small numbers were present at Pagham (J.R.) and there was one on Amberley Wild Brooks on June 24th (L.P.A.). Rather larger numbers were seen moving W during the third week of July on the coast near the mouth of the Rother where also a party of 40 flew in S to N on July 15th (D.D.H.). There were over 100 at Pagham on the 10th (J.R.). On August 9th three flew in from the SE at Langney Point, being first seen very far out. On August 25th c. 300 on Broomhill Level (D.D.H.) but J.A., records no large numbers in the Rye area at any time during the year.

On November 25th L.P.A. and D.D.H. saw five fly in from the S at Langney Point, being first seen far out to sea ; after circling they flew N inland.

Two breeding pairs located in NW Sussex, one having chicks three or four days old on May 28th (A.H.B.).

WHIMBREL. 389.—Two flying W at Langney Point on April 13th and one flying W there on June 23rd (D.D.H.). On May 5th c. 50 at Thorney (P.J.H.) and on July 15th two at Midrips (H.A.R.C.).

JACK SNIPE. 398.—One on the Crumbles as late as May 12th (D.D.H.).

GREY PHALAROPE. 400.—One at Thorney in the new ditch on September 16th (G.d.F. *et al.*) and 17th (S.B.S.) ; one at the Midrips on October 1st (A.H.W.S.) ; one off Langney Point on November 11th (D.D.H., P.J.H.) ; one on the edge of the sea at Worthing Front on the 12th (E. V. Pope per S.B.S.) ; one at Pagham on the 30th (D.H.B., D.D.H.) and on December 2nd (B.M.).

TURNSTONE. 402.—One at Rye Harbour on July 16th (D.D.H.) is the only record of interest.

KNOT. 403.—One record for June, a bird at Rye Harbour gravel pits on the 14th and a different bird there on July 17th (D.D.H.). On September 7th five flew in from the S at Langney Point, being first seen far out to sea. Wind NE (D.D.H.).

DUNLIN. 404/405.—One or two inland records of birds on spring passage. On August 21st three flew in from the S at Langney Point, being first seen far out to sea (D.D.H.).

CURLEW-SANDPIPER. 406.—In Rye Harbour-Midrips area ; one on September 2nd (L.P.A., C.M.J.) ; two on the 11th ; one on 15th (H.A.R.C.) ; three on the 17th (J.A.). Only other record ; one at Sidlesham Ferry on August 24th (M.G.).

LITTLE STINT. 407.—Three birds in autumn and none in spring.

TEMMINCK'S STINT. 409.—One at the Wicks on August 11th, just inside the county boundary (D.D.H.).

PURPLE SANDPIPER. 415.—Apart from usual records from Newhaven where largest count was of nine on May 20th, six at Littlehampton on January 28th, seven at Hastings on April 22nd (L.P.A.) one in Cuckmere Haven on September 5th (L.A.C.).

SANDERLING. 416.—One June record of three at Camber on 21st and two July records—nine at Camber on 14th (D.D.H.) and one at Pagham on 19th (M.G., B.M.).

RUFF. 417.—On April 22nd one at Thorney (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and four there on 24th (P.A.D.H.); five at Rye Harbour gravel pits on 22nd and one there May 11th (L.P.A.). Three at the Wicks on September 20th (E.G.); one at the Midrips on the 29th; three there on October 13th and four there on 20th (H.A.R.C., D.D.H.).

TEREK SANDPIPER. 420.—One at the Midrips on May 30th (A.H.B.) (Brit. B. xlv, p. 36).

COMMON SANDPIPER. 421.—Two winter birds at Littlehampton (J.S.) and one at Birdham (L.P.A., P.R.M.), both records being for the early part of the year. One at Thorney on June 17th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.). On July 4th one flew in from S at Langney Point, being first seen several hundred yards out (D.D.H.).

WOOD-SANDPIPER. 423.—One at Rye Harbour gravel pits on April 19th (D.D.H.). Two at Rye Harbour on August 11th (H.A.R.C.); one at Thorney on the 19th (P.F.L.B.); two there on the 25th (P.A.D.H.); one at Pagham on the 26th (B.M.); one at the Wicks on September 3rd (H.A.R.C.); one at Pett Level pools on the 9th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.); one there on October 20th (D.D.H.).

GREEN SANDPIPER. 424.—Two in Lower Cuckmere on January 21st (A.H.W.S.). Two June records of three at Thorney on the 17th (C.W.G.P.) and the same number on the same date at Chichester gravel pits (L.P.A.), and two early July records of 6 at Chichester gravel pits on the 2nd and one at Pagham on the 8th (J.R.). Not such large numbers at Thorney as usual in autumn (G.d.F.); on July 15th a party of 8 in a ditch at Thorney had apparently just arrived (G.d.F.).

BRITISH REDSHANK. 428.—Increase in breeding population at Rye Harbour and on East Guldeford Level where 34 pairs hatched young (J.A.).

SPOTTED REDSHANK. 431.—In April, one on the 5th at Thorney (C.M.J.); two there on 22nd (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and one at Rye Harbour gravel pits (L.P.A.); three at Pett Level pools on 24th (L.A.) and one at Thorney on 29th (J.S.S.B.). In autumn recorded at Thorney from July 15th (P.R.M.) to October 7th (J.S.S.B.); largest number five or more on September 16th (C.W.G.P.). Elsewhere only at Shoreham (C.F.B., J.S., J.M.T.) and Rye Harbour gravel pits (L.P.A., C.M.J.).

GREENSHANK. 432.—One by Lower Rother on January 28th (W.G.B.). Largest spring flock—15 at Thorney (D.D.H.). Return migration not observed untul July 15th (G.d.F., C.W.G.P., J.R.). A late bird in the Lower Cuckmere Valley till November 11th (L.P.A.).

MARSH-SANDPIPER. 433.—One at Thorney on April 22nd (G.d.F., C.W.G.P.) and one, perhaps the same bird, in the Lower Cuckmere valley on April 29th (L.P.A., C.M.J.). Details of these records will appear in *British Birds* in due course.

RINGED PLOVER. 435/436.—An adult near the mouth of the Rother on August 16th had upperparts very obviously darker than any of the many others present, the bird appearing almost black at a distance. The underparts appeared rather more dingy than those of the others. It was also noticeable that this bird kept on its own, both feeding at a distance from other Ringed Plovers and flying separately when put up. Probably an Arctic Ringed Plover (D.D.H., M.L.).

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER. 438.—First observed on breeding ground on March 26th (P.R.M.). Four pairs nested at its principal station, one pair raised four young to free-flying stage, two pairs three young to this stage, but the fourth pair with eggs on June 17th had disappeared a month later (L.P.A., F.G.H., C.M.J., *et al.*). At its other station two pairs raised two and three young to the free-flying stage respectively (L.P.A., C.M.J., J.S.). On the coast a pair was seen on June 10th but the male also on July 1st (L.P.A.). A single bird was seen at an entirely new gravel pit on June 9th (R.W.M.). One at Rye Harbour on July 17th (D.D.H.).

GOLDEN PLOVER. 440/441.—On February 23rd a party of three flew in from S to N at Langney Point, being first picked up far out at sea (D.D.H.). On February 11th there were c. 460 near West Wittering, where on March 25th two were sufficiently in summer plumage to be identified as belonging to the Northern race (L.P.A.). On July 28th a Southern Golden Plover was seen at the Midrips (D.D.H.) where it was seen on occasions until August 15th (M.L.). Very few about at the end of the year.

GREY PLOVER. 444.—In Chichester Harbour numbers about normal (G.d.F.) but very much below normal at Pagham, when in December there were only 15-20 (B.M.).

LAPWING. 449.—In Rye and Rye Harbour areas breeding population declined slightly, 43 pairs known to have hatched young (J.A.).

AVOCET. 451.—One flying in an easterly direction close in off Langney Point on December 20th (D.D.H.).

BRITISH OYSTER-CATCHER. 452.—At Pagham one pair bred on a small islet and hatched young but did not appear to rear them (B.M., J.R.). At Rye a pair raised two young in a field (J.A.).

STONE-CURLEW. 456.—One flew across Pett Level pools on October 6th from direction of Marsh and landed on beach. Disturbed it flew out to sea but turned towards cliffs at Cliff End when nearly out of sight (H.A.R.C.).

BLACK TERN. 462.—April 22nd, three at Pett Level pools and one at Rye Harbour gravel pits (L.P.A.); May 4th, three at Chichester gravel pits (G.C.H.); May 6th, two there (L.P.A., C.M.J.); May 14th, one at Rye Harbour (W.G.B.); May 19th, three, Newhaven Harbour; May 20th, one there (L.P.A.); May 31st, one at Rye Harbour (E.G.); June 1st, one there (R.B.W.); June 23rd, one at Pett Level (H.A.R.C.). In August c. 19 birds, in September 6, but only one for October. All records relate to the coast excepting the Chichester gravel pits.

GULL-BILLED TERN. 465.—One at Langney Point on April 25th (D.D.H.) and one there on July 29th (D.D.H., A.R.M-B.). Details of these records will appear in *British Birds* in due course.

SANDWICH TERN. 467.—First spring arrivals were two seen on April 7th at Langney Point (D.D.H.) ; a large E movement off Pett Level and Rye Harbour on May 12th (L.P.A.). On June 23rd six flew W at Langney Point ; on the following day three, five and six flew in from the S and then coasted NE there ; on the 27th, 28th and 29th small numbers (five or less) were seen flying W there and on the 30th four were flying E (D.D.H.). Further records in July relate to birds seen at different parts of the coast.

ROSEATE TERN. 468.—On July 16th D.D.H. saw one at the mouth of the Rother which made off westwards along the coast ; on the 22nd he saw another flying W off Langney Point. In both cases near views were obtained in good light and the following features noted ; strikingly whiter than Common Terns ; noticeably long tail streamers ; bill black ; underparts white ; black on head still intact ; flight more buoyant than that of Common Terns ; no call.

COMMON TERN. 469.—Breeding population at Rye Harbour c. 185 pairs (J.A.) but only c. eight young raised (D.D.H.) ; at the Midrips one young bird reached free-flying stage (D.D.H.). On July 27th c. 100 (apart from local birds) had arrived at Langney Point (D.D.H.).

ARCTIC TERN. 470.—One record for late July—the 29th—at Langney Point (D.D.H., A.R.M-B.) otherwise no records of special note.

LITTLE TERN. 471.—First arrived at Pagham on April 14th (B.M.) where colony on E side of Harbour mouth deserted. Although some 15-20 pairs present in the summer breeding was attempted only at Church Norton (B.M.). At North Point Beach, two pairs ; at Midrips 10 or 11 pairs and in other colonies at Rye Harbour another 12 pairs (J.A.).

SABINE'S GULL. 474.—A first summer bird off Langney Point on August 25th (L.P.A.). Details will appear in *British Birds* in due course.

BONAPARTE'S GULL. 476.—On June 24th a first summer bird was watched feeding at Langney Point (D.D.H.). Details will appear in due course in *British Birds*.

LITTLE GULL. 477.—A first winter bird at Langney Point on February 24th (D.D.H.). A first summer bird at Newhaven Harbour on May 19th (L.P.A.). The following all occurred at Langney Point ; a first winter bird on October 3rd ; another on the 21st was flying SW over the Crumbles ; an adult and a first winter bird flying E on November 10th (D.D.H.) ; a first winter bird on the 11th (P.J.H.) ; a second winter bird on the 15th ; two first winter birds flying W together on the 23rd ; an adult on the 24th ; an adult on December 27th (D.D.H.).

BLACK-HEADED GULL. 478.—Twelve pairs nested at Rye Harbour and hatched 11 young, most of which reached the free flying stage (J.A.). On May 12th from mid-day to dusk between Pett Level and Rye Harbour there was a large E movement of first summer birds and a similar movement off Newhaven on the 20th (L.P.A.).

COMMON GULL. 481.—Two pairs attempted to breed at the Midrips, but without success (D.D.H.). On May 12th a large E movement from mid-day to dusk off Pett Level and Rye Harbour (L.P.A.).

HERRING GULL. 482.—The breeding population between Pett Level and Hastings appears to have dropped to 1949 figure of c. 200 (J.A.). A yellow-legged bird on the Seven Sisters on May 5th (L.P.A., C.M.J.) and one at Peacehaven on the 14th (C.M.J.).

SCANDINAVIAN LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL. 484.—One at Langney Point on December 27th (D.D.H.).

ICELAND GULL. 488.—On March 25th C.M.J. saw one with Herring Gulls on Seaford Head. He noted that the size was slightly smaller than that of a Herring Gull and that the bill also appeared smaller than in this species. The wing-tips projected beyond the tail at rest. Colour of bill was brown with darker marking at tip, mainly confined to upper mandible. The eye was dark. While the back and mantle were very pale grey the wings were even lighter in colour. On June 28th D.D.H. had very near views of one perched on the sewage outlet at Langney Point together with Herring Gulls. This bird was "white except for some brownish mottling on the upper-parts, more noticeable in flight than at rest. Slightly smaller than Herring Gulls and head and bill noticeably smaller, appearing quite delicate in comparison. Bill : base, pale horn colour, extreme tip, pale, rest (less than half) dark horn. Eye appeared black. Tips of primaries were decidedly attenuated and projected beyond the tail. Legs were pink and decidedly brighter than those of an immature Herring Gull and apparently slightly brighter than those of an adult of this species which was standing by it. Buoyant flight with rapid wing beat." It eventually made off NW inland. This bird was apparently in first summer plumage and is the first June record for the county.

KITTIWAKE. 489.—From May 7th a continuous stream of records to the end of the year. Similar information for the last three years has been published in detail, so that it is only necessary to remark upon a juvenile flying W off Langney Point on August 23rd (D.D.H.) and upon small but steady westerly movements there on November 23rd and 24th (D.D.H.).

ARCTIC SKUA. 493.—Including skuas presumed to be of this species there was the unusual number off-shore of c. 15 in spring between April 30th and June 10th. There were 11 in autumn between July 14th and October 6th (L.P.A., E.G., D.D.H., P.J.H., C.M.J.).

NORTHERN GUILLEMOT. 498.—On January 3rd D.D.H. saw an oiled Guillemot at Winchelsea Beach at a range of a few feet which had such obviously dark upper-parts as to indicate this sub-species.

SOUTHERN GUILLEMOT. 499.—On June 15th, 23rd and 24th D.D.H. saw a total of seven birds flying W past Langney Point.

LITTLE AUK. 502.—One at Rye Harbour on January 28th (J.A.).

CORN-CRAKE.—On May 3rd one was picked up dead at Shoreham (J. Stafford) ; during the latter half of August and early September one was seen in several different cornfields at Sidlesham, but doubtful if more than one bird was involved (J.V.S.) ; on September 10th one on Hastings golf course (H.A.R.C.) and on 15th three at widely separated points at Goodwood (C.J.F.B.).

SPOTTED CRAKE. 505.—One picked up by a pylon near Shoreham on October 18th (C.A.G.).

NOTE ON THE DIARIES OF R. MORRIS

By the courtesy of Mr. Richard Gilbert we have been able to study the diaries of the late Robert Morris. These diaries comprise about 150 volumes (including an index) and give almost a daily record for the years 1880-1947. They deal with the birds of the Eastbourne and Uckfield districts, mainly with those of the former. We understand that they will eventually pass into the possession of the Eastbourne Natural History Society, when, no doubt, they will be available to anyone wishing to consult them. Most of the records of interest have already appeared in print. About the year 1908 Morris compiled his records up to that date and sent them to H. A. Bryden. These notes were subsequently used by J. Walpole-Bond in *A History of Sussex Birds* (1938). *The Birds of Eastbourne* (1936) by E. C. Arnold contains most of the significant Eastbourne records of Morris up to the early 1930s and a number of these records were quoted from this source in *A History of Sussex Birds.*

Unfortunately, a study of the diaries shows that some of these published records must be either modified or abandoned. Morris worked alone, without resort to a gun and modern field guides. He therefore modified his earlier records as his experience increased, and this applies to some appearing in *A History of Sussex Birds*, which were submitted in 1908 and not subsequently corrected by him. After learning, in 1937, that these early records were going to be used in this way he wrote: "I had rather hoped those notes had gone into the wastepaper basket." Later, having read *A History of Sussex Birds*, he commented "I am astonished at the frequency with which he has accepted my notes, some of which ought not to have been accepted." (Diary, October 6th, 1937, and December 2nd, 1938). In some cases too, incorrect conclusions appear to have been drawn from the information supplied by Morris. Nearly always Morris put down what he could about a rarity and in some cases it is evident that he himself drew incorrect conclusions from what he had seen.

The following are the revisions which we consider necessary. *A History of Sussex Birds* is referred to as HSB and *The Birds of Eastbourne* as BE.

Raven. In HSB, under "Former Coast-Ravenages" it appears to be suggested that in the latter half of the 19th century separate nesting sites and (presumably) separate pairs existed at Beltout (sic), "Suicide's Leap" and Beachy Head. During the years 1880-1899 Morris paid many visits to these cliffs during the breeding season. He never saw more than one pair (and their young), the usual nesting site being between the present lighthouse and Belle Tout, although alternative sites appear to have been used. He refers to this pair as the Beachy Head pair. This would appear to account for the few positive records of nesting at Beachy Head and at Belle Tout and squares with Dutton's remark about the birds always nesting between Beachy Head and the lighthouse at Belle Tout provided one allows that "always" should be read to include the use of alternative sites at Beachy Head and Belle Tout. The diaries do not support the suggestion made in HSB that Ravens nested on the Seven Sisters "in all probability . . . until about the year 1892." It is true that Morris records seeing a single bird here in May of that year and wonders whether it is breeding there since he can find none at Beachy Head. But later he records information from a shepherd that one of the Beachy Head pair had been shot and no breeding took place there that year. The May bird at the Sisters was doubtless the survivor of the Beachy Head pair. Morris also mentions in 1892 that he had seen a Raven's nest on the Sisters "above fifteen years ago"; but apparently he had not seen a nest since.

Wood-Lark. The two birds seen by Morris, according to BE, in Gildridge *Road*, Eastbourne, were actually seen in Gildridge *Park*.

Richard's Pipit. BE and HSB state that Morris thought he saw one near Beachy Head. According to the entry under October 6th, 1920, no particulars about this bird other than its apparently large size were observed.

Tawny Pipit. Record of July 28th, 1928 (BE, HSB). Morris noted a "distinct rufous tint on the webs of the secondary feathers" which does not appear to be characteristic of this species. Few other details given. Record would appear somewhat doubtful.

Tree Pipit. Unfortunately Morris never knew how to identify this bird when on migration—as he himself repeatedly stated later in life. Therefore the presence of this species in the big movement of April 16th, 1892, at Eastbourne (HSB) has to be discounted. The only features given under this entry for the identification of some of the pipits as Tree Pipits were "somewhat larger" size and longer tails.

Rock-Pipit. HSB is incorrect in referring to Morris in support of the suggestion that this species bred on the Sussex coast annually until 1891. Morris saw his first nest in this year and his few earlier records (largely guesswork) had been for winter.

Grey Wagtail. The many birds of this species on the Crumbles in late July and in August, 1891, recorded by Morris (HSB) cannot be regarded as definite records. Much later than this Morris was doubtful about identifying immature wagtails in autumn. Most of the birds in question were apparently immature and over one entry (July 24th) Morris has written in pencil (no doubt much later) "Yellow Wagtails?"

Lesser Grey Shrike. Crumbles, January 4th, 1923. Arnold (BE) doubts this record but it seems to be accepted in HSB. He apparently got a good, but brief, view of the bird and according to the description given: "the black plumage extended over the forepart of the head; the wings possessed a single, conspicuous white bar; the outer tail feathers were white and in preening the plumage the bird enabled me to see that the base of the tail feathers were dull white. It was a smaller bird than the Great Grey Shrike, the tail far less wedged and lacked the conspicuous white tips." It may be noted that he had not at this time seen a Great Grey Shrike for seven or eight years. However, when, on January 6th, he went to look for this bird again he found only a Great Grey Shrike in the place where he had seen it. It was this point particularly which (according to correspondence included in the diary) made Arnold doubt the record. Of this latter bird Morris writes: "Not only did it lack the black forehead, but there was more white showing in the scapulars and tail than in the bird I saw on Thursday, and it was a much larger bird than the Lesser Shrike." We do not feel that the possibility of a mistake can be excluded here.

Aquatic Warbler. There is no reason to suppose that the bird seen by Morris on September 3rd, 1891 (BE and HSB), and thought by him to have been an Aquatic was in fact of this species. Its size is given as "much that of a Willow Wren," and there was no stripe on the crown.

Red-Spotted Bluethroat. A minor correction—Morris's bird of August 31st, 1922, was not seen "near Langney Fort" (BE, HSB) but in the Crumbles ballast pits by the Fort Road. This may well be a slip of Arnold's.

White-tailed Eagle. Record of December 6th, 1892 (BE). Morris himself at the time considered it distinctly doubtful that the bird he saw belonged to this species. He obtained a brief rear view of a large brown bird, mobbed by

Rooks, flying over Eastbourne and took it to be a Bittern. Next day he learned that two hours before he saw his bird a coastguard had seen flying over the sea off the town a large brown bird with some yellow on the head which he assumed was an eagle. This is the sole basis for the record.

Goldeneye. The record of June 6th, 1899 (HSB) must be discarded. The diary states that only a very poor view was obtained of this bird (apparently only in flight with the naked eye) and at the time Morris wrote that the bird "must have been the Scaup Duck (Fuligula marila) but I could not be positive as to the species." Only at some subsequent date did he add a note: "No, the Goldeneye."

Goosander. The record for Beachy Head of July 7th, 1897 (HSB, BE), must be discarded. Morris had then seen no species of Saw-bill, nor did he ever really know either Goosander or Red-breasted Merganser. At the time Morris was not sure whether the bird he saw was a Goosander or a Red-breasted Merganser. Later he even thought it might have been a Smew! Goosander seems to have been no more than a guess. Most probably it was a Merganser.

Shag. No convincing records appear in the notes, and therefore the birds mentioned in BE and HSB as having been seen "occasionally" by Morris cannot be regarded as definite.

Manx Shearwater. Beachy Head record of January 3rd, 1899 (HSB), was always regarded by Morris as very doubtful. The note at the time merely claims that the bird was a Shearwater of some sort (it was seen swimming fast, low in the water "carrying the head forward in a curious manner" and only very briefly). Later Morris wrote "Probably all folly" over the note and, probably later still, added a footnote "Nonsense."

Red-necked Grebe. Beachy Head record (BE) of November 2nd, 1892, almost certainly related to a Great Crested. No reason at all given as to why it should be a Red-necked. Morris then knew neither species and never knew the latter.

Little Ringed Plover. No reason whatever to believe that the two which Morris thought he saw at Cuckmere Haven (BE) in 1888 were in fact of this species.

Iceland Gull. Record of December 22nd, 1917 (BE, HSB), certainly relates to a Glaucous Gull. The diary states "It was a larger-looking bird than the Herring Gulls, the head and body larger."

Pomatorhine Skua. Morris's spring records (BE, HSB) do not seem very convincing, identification merely resting upon an estimate of size of apparently immature birds in one case and no reason at all being given in the other (June 22nd, 1922, June 4th, 1923).

Long-tailed Skua. Record of October 20th, 1891 (BE and, quoted from this, HSB) apparently arose from some mistake, perhaps of Arnold's. The diary on the date in question describes the bird as a Richardson's Skua and nowhere does Morris suggest that the bird was of any other species. In his list of birds for the Eastbourne district (compiled years later) Morris makes no mention of Long-tailed or Buffon's Skua.

Apart from the somewhat negative value of the diaries in establishing a number of probable or palpable fallacies, of which those mentioned above are the most important, they also contain a good many records relating to migration. So far as this information seems to be significant we hope to publish a summary of it in the next Report. D.D.H.