



**S HOREHAM  
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S OCIETY**

*Winter 2011 NEWSLETTER*

Winter and Spring Outings 2012

**Feb 26th (Sun) Rackham Woods (am) and The Downs (pm)**

Meet 09:00 in quarry car park next to the old school.

OS Sheet 197. Ref. TQ050144—Dist. 4K (2).

Leader: Bernie Forbes 01903 753876.

**Mar 17th (Sat) Warnham L.N.R am only and £1 entry charge**

Meet 09:30 in the car park NW of Horsham just off A24 on B2237.

O.S. sheet 187. Ref. TQ167323—Dist 3K(1).

Leader: Brianne Reeve 01273 452497.

**Apr 22nd (Sun) Goring Seawatch am only**

Meet 08:00 at the shelter opposite Alinora Avenue

O.S. sheet 198. Ref. TQ117018—Bring chair.

Leader: John Newnham 01903 247596.

**May 4th (Fri) Nightingale Walk—evening only**

Meet 20:00 in Woods Mill.

O.S. sheet 198. Ref. TQ218138—Dist 2K(1).

Leader: Val Bentley 01273 494723.

**May 16th (Wed) Knepp Castle—am only**

Meet 09:30 at The Bothy just to the left of the entrance gate.

O.S. sheet 198. Ref. TQ153221—Dist 5K(2).

Leader: Brianne Reeve 01273 452497.

**May 26th (Sat) Anchor Bottom—am only**

Meet 09:30 in Beeding Hill car park.

O.S. sheet 198. Ref. TQ208097—Dist 3K(2).

Leader: Chris Wright 01903 814859.

Upcoming Indoor Meetings

**February 14th AGM followed by North Stars:**

**Wildlife of Svalbard and The Arctic.**

by Robert Yarham.

**March 13th Birds Britannia: What have birds ever done for us?**

by Stephen Moss

**April 10th Horsham—An Urban Wilderness.**

by Jake Everitt.

**Nightjar Update**

We have heard from Graham Appleton at the BTO regarding the Nightjars which were fitted with geolocator tags. In the summer of 2011 a total of 27 Nightjars were caught, of which 19 were heavy enough to carry the tags. From September 2011 and for the following eight months these Nightjars will be away collecting data. Given the mortality and changes in breeding site location, it is not expected that all the tagged birds will return but it is hoped that possibly up to ten birds might be recaptured in 2012 and even into 2013.

The results of this study will help reveal migration routes and African wintering areas. At present the few available ringing recoveries only provide indications of migration routes within Europe and into north Africa. Greater knowledge of the actual migration routes and wintering areas will provide missing 'pieces of the jigsaw' which will help interpretation and understanding of population changes and therefore the focus of conservation efforts.

SDOS is helping in this work with the donation which was sent to the BTO in December 2010. Graham Appleton will be giving us a talk in November this year on the tagged Nightjars as well as other birds such as

Cuckoos and Nightingales, which are collecting data with this advanced technology.

## **Sixty Years of the SDOS**

Terry Hicks has been making plans about how we might celebrate the SDOS 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary after the success of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book – still a very good read nearly ten years later!

He suggested that we should plant some trees. At our last Council Meeting we discussed some areas where this might be achieved. The Woodland Trust would provide trees as whips but we had to find the planting area. There were two offers near Henfield but both were just outside the SDOS recording area. Cissbury was suggested but was not encouraged by Worthing Borough Council. However John Knight, the WSCC County Ranger was delighted to help when I asked if the Downslink could do with a few more trees. It has been decided to plant three standard Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria*) in Shoreham. The nearest access point will be the gate by the main lay-by about 300 yards north from the fly-over on the A283. Inside the gate, by a large information board, turn right to an open area about 50 yards away. The three trees (and in time a Bernie/Dorian bench) will be on the left hand side. We hope to have these trees planted by mid February weather permitting. There will be more information posted on the usergroup.

Later in the autumn we shall plant three more trees, about 300 yards further north along the Downslink in another open area. At present we are considering a Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*), also known as the Chequer Tree, and two Buckthorns (*Frangula alnus* and *Rhamnus cathartica*). All these trees have interesting leaves, flowers beloved of insects and berries very attractive to birds. However if any one feels strongly about any other variety do let us know. This means there will be six trees, one for each decade of the SDOS. Finally, we shall be using some of the donations given in memory of Peggy Allen, wife of our second President, Stanley. She had a particular love of trees, which featured in her paintings, so it is very fitting that her money should be used in this way.

**Brianne Reeve**

## **“Fifty Years of Birdwatching” Book**

The Society’s own book “Fifty Years of Birdwatching” which was published to celebrate the Society’s Golden Jubilee in 2003 is still available and represents “a jolly good read”. No member should really be without one on their bookshelf! Its 200 pages are packed with interesting articles, information, photographs etc.

Originally priced at £15 copies are now available for a mere £5. Probably the bargain of the year! Hurry whilst stocks last!

Copies can be purchased at any indoor meeting or from:  
Hon. Treasurer  
41 St. Lawrence Avenue  
Worthing, BN14 7JJ

## **SDOS Car Stickers**

The Society’s stylish car stickers are still available for a mere £1 (incl. postage) and can be purchased at any indoor meeting or from:  
Hon. Treasurer  
41 St. Lawrence Avenue  
Worthing, BN14 7JJ

## **Outing Reports**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
**Cissbury Ring**  
**Leader** Bernie Forbes

Nineteen members of the Shoreham and District Ornithological Society (SDOS) gathered in the car park north of the ring for a midweek walk. A lovely bright chilly morning with blue sky and easterly wind, conditions just right for visible migration. On the walk up the east side small parties of Siskin and a few Redpolls could be heard moving overhead and

Crossbill were just heard calling although not located. Still a few Chiffchaffs giving out the "huwitting" contact call; again many remaining unseen in the bushes. At the top of the hill overlooking the Rifle Butts three Redpoll were seen feeding with Greenfinch, Chaffinch and Goldfinch managing to get brief scope views and a few Yellowhammers sat up in the surrounding bushes.

A ringtail Hen Harrier flew suddenly west fairly close-by before being seen off by the local corvids. In the gorse on the top of the ring four Wheatear and a small flock of Meadow Pipit were found. In the bushes around the southern Yew Tree two Ring Ouzels were feeding with Blackbird and Song Thrush; the ouzels were very flighty and took off heading north before turning back and dropping down into thick cover. Also in the area Bullfinch, Long-tailed Tit and three Stonechat. A few of the group glimpsed a Merlin that suddenly flew right alongside a Kestrel.

A couple of distant Common Buzzard and a close Sparrowhawk were being watched when the "chip-chip" call of Crossbill was heard and three birds flew overhead going east. Some of the group opted to return to the Ring Ouzels where they obtained better views whilst the rest of the party returned to their cars, finding another couple of Wheatear in the field by the car park and another flock of Siskin moving east.

## **Saturday 15th October** **Climping Beach**

**Leader** Clive Hope

Ten members met up at Climping beach car-park on Saturday morning in dry, rather cloudy but gradually improving weather. The wind had lessened from recent days and so made for a pleasant walk first eastwards, as far as the track that runs north past the horse paddock, and then west along the beach to Poole Place. The first birds were confiding Wheatears, which eventually totalled about eight, and a flock of some 20 Turnstones close by on the beach. Large numbers of finches and other species were on the move mostly heading west; Linnets, Goldfinches and some Siskins as well as good numbers of Meadow Pipits, Swallows and a few House Martins. Over the fields a large party of Skylarks showed distantly and in the lane a Chiffchaff, two Stonechats and several Dunnocks and Robins showed well. A couple of Herons lumbered over. A single Grey Wagtail passed west while offshore eight Brent Geese and two Gannets did likewise. On the sea were two Great Crested Grebes and a smart adult

Mediterranean Gull. Three Sandwich Terns were briefly seen, one returning east later. Kestrels and Buzzards were in evidence as the morning progressed and a few caught a glimpse of a Sparrowhawk. More accommodating was a Green Woodpecker perched in a small tree. Returning through the small wood Goldcrest and tits were added to the day's list which also included the four commoner gulls and Cormorants. Though nothing particularly rare was encountered good views were had of most of the birds and the pleasant company made for yet another enjoyable outing.

## **Friday 11th November** **Impromptu Walk at Burpham** **Leader** Bernie Forbes

Eighteen members and guests of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society assembled at the viewpoint In Peppering Lane Burpham at 1345hrs for an impromptu walk around The Burgh. Despite a very dull afternoon with poor visibility spirits were running high with the Red Kites over the distant eastern ridge although soon lost in the murk!

On the walk up a ring-tailed Hen Harrier was watched hunting the game strips and chasing and missing a small bird and plenty of Grey Partridges calling. Near the dew pond the Rough-legged Buzzard was glimpsed and came closer, where the group had cracking views as it hunted on the wing and frequently hovered. It sat on top of one of the green seed bins and then in a tree and gave prolonged scope views before it took flight and then went into one of its hovering periods affording long views and showing all the critical ID features for this species.

Another ring-tailed Hen Harrier and a Red Kite were encountered on the way back to the cars; a covey of a twenty Grey Partridges shot over the footpath in front of the group. Everyone was highly delighted with this downland walk despite the very chilly south-east wind.

## **Sunday November 6th** **Waltham Brooks** **Leader** Bernie Forbes

The Sunday afternoon walk at Waltham Brooks attracted a large

gathering of eager birders, setting off just after 1400hrs for a stroll along the river bank! The water meadows were relatively quiet although the rank grass looked perfect for a few skulking species. On the walk out Long-tailed Tits were heard calling and a couple of Reed Buntings flitted amongst the reeds.

Two Stonechats were seen although they quickly melted away in the tall lush grass. On the open water Wigeon and Teal could be heard calling as well as quacking Mallard. We found a convenient spot on the river bank and scanned the endless habitat along both sides of the river; a delightful Red Kite flew over high being mobbed by a few corvids, the kite a species that is really becoming a daily occurrence in parts of the county.

Out on the brooks a solitary Common Buzzard was sitting on a fence post and Sparrowhawk flew low and was soon lost to view. Seven Fieldfare flew high south and then returned joining a flock of 20 or so sitting up in dead trees giving us good scope views. A flock of waders were spotted flying high and, although a long way off, were identified as Common Snipe.

During the rest of the afternoon a few pairs of Common Snipe moved around the brooks. Two singing Cetti's Warblers were heard as they belted out their loud song trying to impress a lurking female perhaps although they remained well hidden in the thick ground cover. Just after 1600 hrs, as we watched the sun slip behind the South Downs and walked back to Greatham Bridge in the gathering gloom, a Peregrine flew over the river heading south presumably going to roost.

The group slowly dispersed with a few keen birders still chatting away and scanning the brooks—a Barn Owl hunting along the river bank was seen by some. A few remaining members had a magnificent Short-eared Owl hunting the meadows which came very close and, even in the poor light, showed the delicate underwing pattern. Finally, a Tawny Owl was heard.

## **December 30th**

### **Fort Haven, Shoreham**

#### **Leaders** SDOS Committee

Eighteen members of the Shoreham District Ornithological Society

gathered at Fort Haven car park for the annual post Christmas walk in the local area. In the harbour entrance a Guillemot was active as it swam out to sea and up on the Power Station chimney one of the Peregrines was sitting by the nest box. Off the east arm an adult Shag was diving and offshore a distant Red-throated Diver flew west. No sign of any Purple Sandpipers on this occasion, just a few Turnstones and single Rock Pipit.

The group then moved on to Widewater and walked west along the coastal path finding the confiding Snow Buntings feeding on the beach near the grain pile. Once again, despite all the crowds and the occasional disturbance, they remained faithful to a small area of shingle. Offshore a pair of divers moving west were identified as Red & Black-throated Diver with good comparison being made on structure and colouring. On the sea a few Red-breasted Mergansers and Great-crested Grebes. On the walk back a skittish Rock Pipit appeared on one of the rock groynes and on the lagoon several Little Grebes and Little Egret were seen. Sea watching off the beach huts produced a single female Common Scoter and another Black-throated Diver which was preening itself on the sea before quickly diving and disappearing.

## **Sunday January 8th**

### **Henfield Farmland and River Walk**

#### **Leaders** Val Bentley and Nigel Parsons

On Thursday the water level east of the Adur near Betley was covering the walkway of the bridges near Chates, by Friday it had dropped so that the bridges were passable; Saturday just a damp field! On Friday between the southern section of the Downslink and Rye Farm there were a couple of Bewick's Swans, some Pintail & Shoveler. A final recce on Saturday at 08:15 found that a shooting party had just started blasting away so everything had disappeared apart from the decoy ducks and geese. So things did not bode well for the 18 who met at Henfield for the SDOS walk! Hence walking northwards in the hope that the area around the fishing lake north of Betley would still have some water - Pintail, Wigeon, Teal, Lapwing and Black-tailed Godwits were there on the SOS Bird Race on the previous Monday, but that had all drained away too, and though there were Wigeon and Teal on the lake itself, there was no other wildfowl around. Whilst trundling up the old railway track, still with bushes full of

sloes, a Song Thrush was heard singing beautifully, plenty of Fieldfares and Redwings were seen and most of the group got excellent views of a smart male Bullfinch. Arriving at the fishing lake the group found SDOS member Dave Buckingham, who had just seen a Peregrine! A Buzzard was sitting in a tree and 'scoped nicely.

Half of the party decided to loop back along the river rather than walk straight back to the car park, and in the damp field mentioned earlier, a Reed Bunting showed well on a bush, and then the best moment of the day turned up. A Short-eared Owl flew up from the field, and almost immediately afterwards a fox was seen running across the field towards the northern hedge.

## **Sunday January 15th Beeding Brooks**

**Leader** Terry Goble

Seventeen members of the SDOS group met at 2pm in Pound Lane to explore the Beeding Brooks. It was a gloriously sunny winter's afternoon, with only a slight breeze, which made the day feel almost warm! The conditions were very much easier underfoot than normal for this time of year as the ground was mainly dry. The stiles had also been improved from previous years making the brooks much more accessible. The birding was mixed with over thirty species in the three hour walk. A few species were missed (where have the Barn Owls gone???) and the lack of standing water meant that the Bewick's Swans and other wildfowl had moved on.

As we started out we very soon were watching Blackbirds, Fieldfares and Redwings in the same hawthorn hedgerow; a Song Thrush was heard but not located. Along the lane leading north to the brooks a few common woodland species were picked up such as, Blue and Great Tit, Robin and overhead common corvids, Woodpigeon and Collared Dove. The Cetti's Warbler that had been calling all week remained silent and out of view, which was a shame. Walking out onto the brooks we had more mixed flocks of thrushes and Starlings wheeling around and looking panicky. We searched for a raptor but didn't see any, but the flock looked decidedly jumpy.

Some members watched a Stonechat feeding from its perch, but it quickly disappeared when the group gathered to watch it. Normally a relatively common sight over the brooks, Stonechats have been very scarce the last

few winters. Further on a sleepy Short-eared Owl was located in a hawthorn roost. The owl was partially obscured but in bright sunlight as it snoozed. After enjoying the owl we finally located the mixed flock's nemesis in the shape of a Peregrine scything through the flock. It appeared to miss its target and powered off east, presumably towards the cement works. A pair of Lapwings flying overhead were observed as we set off to the river.

The group made its way up onto the river bank and from this vantage point we scanned the brooks and the local N.R. A few common birds were picked up including Mute Swans, Black-headed and Herring Gull, Chaffinch and Meadow Pipit. A distant Kestrel located roosting in a hawthorn was identified after a little debate as it was fluffed up and looked decidedly owl-like.

A Sparrowhawk flew over the river adding to the anxiety of the flocks of smaller birds, but it carried on going east until out of view. As we strolled down the river bank we picked up a Short-eared Owl hunting over the brooks. Initially it was quite distant but did come in closer for all to get good views. At another stop on the bank we were able to watch Grey Heron (one particularly strikingly marked individual) and distant Little Egret (which later flew overhead giving close views). A Buzzard was seen but was being constantly harried by corvids and was unable to settle, eventually flying off north. Walking further along the Adur banks small parties of Skylark and Meadow Pipits flew up in front of the group and flew off to settle in the fields. Overhead squadrons of Cormorant were coming into roost.

Making our way back to the start we stopped in the small copse where Tawny Owls are often heard but remained quiet on this evening. Goldfinch and Pheasant were added to the list amongst more of the commoner tits and finches and Robin. As the evening closed in the Jackdaws began to fly over to their roost. The Jackdaw roost was lighter than usual with smaller groups going over to Small Dole. The Jackdaw roost can sometimes be quite spectacular with hundreds of birds converging to roost. At this point the group dispersed to go and warm their cold toes, after a very enjoyable outing.

## A “Saga” holiday with birds in mind

When a friend suggested a week in Spain where the temperature would be about 20 degrees Fahrenheit the idea seemed a good one. When the place suggested would be quite near to the Donana National Park in Spain, then the answer was definitely “yes please”. And so we found ourselves being driven from Faro airport across the border into South Western Spain on 5th January this year. Modern travel these days transports us so quickly to another climate, and coming from the UK in wintertime, it was a great delight a few hours later to see the Storks had returned to their nests. Apparently they lay their eggs at the end of January and their chicks spend the next three months in the nest being fed. Their favourite nest sites were on top of pylons where special flat metal plates could be seen. Whether this is deliberately to encourage the storks to nest I know not, but there are a huge number of pylons across fields and marshes in this area. This was a reasonably priced Saga holiday and we stayed at Hotel Barcelo at Punta Umbria right on the beach, with our room overlooking the sea. Soon we were sitting on our balcony in warm sunshine watching the occasional Sandwich Tern patrolling the tideline calling for its friend Erik!

On the second day during a short walk from the hotel through the Stone Pines (*Pinus pinea*) growing amongst the sand dunes we found several Sardinian Warblers and Serins. This holiday was getting better and better. It was an early start for our booked trip to the Donana National Park. We were driven to El Rocio, a tiny village of white houses where we boarded one of the green high wheeled buses which are the only vehicles allowed inside the park. This is a place where everyone gets about on horseback. There are no concrete roads just sand tracks. Outside each house is a railing to tie horses to. Even the pubs have tables at a height where horse-riders can have a drink without getting off. Small children learn to ride before they even ask for a bicycle, and many festivals involve residents and often horse riders from far and wide dressed in traditional costume taking part, such as a special pilgrimage-fair which takes place at Whitsun.

The eco system of the Park is carefully managed primarily to protect the very rare Iberian Lynx which we were told were very few in number living in this 50,720 hectare park. We started noting the birds on a somewhat depleted lake including Flamingos, Spoonbills, Glossy Ibises and

Purple Swamphens. Soon we were driving slowly through the pine woods when suddenly two people shouted they could see a Lynx. All eyes focused on a bush where it was last seen when suddenly the driver slowly slewed the bus across the path and this rarest of all animals slowly crossed in front of the bus. Wow! Fantastic! We had an amazingly long look at an animal we were told was rarer to see than winning the lottery. It wore a tracking collar, and with its distinctly pricked ears it was a very beautiful member of the cat family. Apparently their main diet is rabbit which are getting very scarce due to myxomatosis and other factors. Our comment was that we could possibly arrange for a shipment of rabbits from this country.

Marshland is another important habitat of the reserve and which is normally flooded at this time of the year. No rain had fallen since November so of course the ground was hard and dry. A Black-shouldered Kite was seen hovering, and further along we were shown huge flocks of Greylag Geese of which they are very proud as these birds come for the winter from Scandinavia. Three Red Kites were seen pulling at a carcass of a Little Egret with white feathers floating everywhere. Two Little Owls were seen, a Raven and plenty of brightly coloured Stonechats. We stopped at a lake and found Avocet, several Great White Egrets, heard Chiffchaffs calling and overhead three Cranes. After a coffee stop the bus started the return journey somewhat quicker than before. Suddenly upon noticing a bird in a bush I yelled at our guide (rather loudly and commandingly!) “Stop! Stop the bus and let’s go back to those bushes”. I am sure the driver wondered why I was shouting, but he dutifully backed up. At this point I was slightly worried that the bird might have flown by then, but no there it was – phew! - and a lovely Great Spotted Cuckoo it was too. After watching it for a few minutes we started off again, but again stopped to watch a rare Spanish Imperial Eagle and a Griffon Vulture side by side, slowly drift overhead. It had been a wonderful morning, and my bird list was growing with superb species. The afternoon was spent being taken to other areas in the outer parkland picking up Azure-winged Magpie, Night Heron, Black Redstart, Kingfisher and others. Another trip we were able to book though the Saga representative at the hotel was a half day tour of the local River Odiel marshes with a local enthusiastic birdwatcher called Manu. This large marshland area sits next to the petro-chemical port of Huelva where Christopher Columbus sailed from in 1492 and returned in 1493. Black-necked Grebes, Dunlin, Yellow-legged Gulls (plenty of these), a Fan-tailed Warbler, more Flamingos, an Osprey, Stone Curlew, Common Sandpiper, and Marsh

Harriers were soon on our list. Bar-tailed and Black-tailed Godwits, Curlew and Whimbrel plus lots more were found. At this point I put in a request for some Audouin's Gulls and at last these were found on a sandy spit with other gulls and lots of action packed Sanderling. We also had several views of a bird which is still being debated upon. It is either a Little Egret which has melanistic features, or a very rare Western Reef Egret, or a hybrid between these species. Apparently there is an ongoing debate within the Spanish birding world as to its taxonomy. On the way home both Great Grey and a Lesser Grey Shrike were seen.

Another interesting trip was through the hills of the Sierra de Aracena to Aracina and beyond. We passed the huge open-cast mine of the Rio Tinto Company, which is the largest of its type in Europe, and we stopped in the company's central meeting building for coffee with the retired men, playing dominos with great enthusiasm at nearby tables. As we left an elderly man got up with the aid of his stick to point out a picture on the wall showing a very ancient train and a man on the footplate. Even without knowing much Spanish we all realized this was him when the mine was being worked. The mine had been worked since Roman times for its valuable minerals but conditions were always very unhealthy for the workers. When the British worked the mine the sick men were sent to British built hospitals in Punta Umbria for convalescence and sea air.

For lunch in Aracina my friend and I sat outside eating delicious tapas below the site of a 12<sup>th</sup> century Moorish fortress which had been demolished by the Knights Templar in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Onwards and upwards as they say as later we were driven to yet another shrine in the hills, but by which time a couple of us were getting out our binoculars and were able to find the last good bird of the day – a female Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.

This was to be a great birdwatching holiday for me although not billed as such by Saga. My friend is not a bird-watcher but has come back with the list of 95 species which we saw and is impressing her many friends. Warm sunshine and good birds without very much walking is to be thoroughly recommended as a good winter's tonic. This resort is very quiet in winter, but during the summer months must heave with people visiting its wonderful sandy beaches.

**Audrey Wende**

## **2012 SDOS Subscriptions**

SDOS subscriptions remain unchanged for 2012.  
Subscriptions are for a calendar year and are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January.

Ordinary: £12

Family (at same address): £18

Junior: £5

Life Membership rates are available on application.

Every year I have to send out renewal reminders to nearly a third of our members and, indeed, as I write (mid-January) I am still awaiting more than 50 subscriptions!

It would greatly ease this annual problem if more members set up Standing Order arrangements with their banks, especially those who do not regularly attend indoor meetings.

Standing Order forms are available from myself in paper or electronic format. Payments will not be debited from your account until 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Subscriptions for 2012 will be gratefully received at any indoor meeting or sent to me at: 41 St. Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, BN14 7JJ.

Thank you to the majority of members who have already paid their subscription or who have already set up a standing order arrangement.

**John Maskell**  
**Hon. Treasurer**

[sdostreasurer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sdostreasurer@tiscali.co.uk)

## Recent Bird Sightings SDOS Area and further afield

### **Black-throated Diver**

Single west off Worthing

### **Bewick's Swan**

Thirty-one in the Arun valley and four in the Adur Valley.

### **White-fronted Goose**

Twenty-seven at Pulborough RSPB and elsewhere in the Arun valley.

### **Pink-footed Goose**

One at Amberley WB, relocating to Pulborough RSPB.

### **Velvet Scoter**

Eighteen west off Worthing.

### **Rough-legged Buzzard**

The long staying individual still at Burpham

### **Hen Harrier**

Several around the downs and river valleys

### **Iceland Gull**

One at Shoreham and two at Newhaven; further afield two or three at Portsmouth Harbour and many all over the UK after a huge New Year influx.

### **Short-eared Owl**

In the best winter for many years six at Waltham Brooks and four or more at Beeding Brooks with ones and two seen at several other sites.

### **Firecrest**

Seen at quite a few sites with the two birds at Pulborough RSPB being the most reliable.

### **Black Redstart**

One each at Lancing/Widewater, Portobello and Steyning.

### **Snow Bunting**

Three long-stayers at Widewater and three or four at East Head.

### **Shore Lark**

Out-of-county a single at Hayling Oysterbeds was enjoyed by Hants and Sussex birders alike.

### **Water Pipit**

Singles at Portobello and Coldwaltham waterworks.

### **Chiffchaff/Siberian Chiffchaff**

Twenty plus Chiffchaff at Coldwaltham waterworks with a single 'tristis-type' bird.

As this goes to press:-

**Spanish Sparrow** still resident at Calshot, Hants as is the **Dark-eyed Junco** nearby in the same county. Closer to home the putative **Parrot Crossbill** still being seen at Black Down NT, the **Paddy-field Warbler** at Pagham Breech Pool and a **Great White Egret** at Thorney Island.

### Next Newsletter

The next newsletter, the Spring issue, will appear in May. Copy deadline for this will be 30th April. If you would like to contribute anything then please contact me at:-

**tarsigercyanurus1@btinternet.com** or

**01903 207993**

**Russ Tofts**

Newsletter Editor