

Shoreham and District
Ornithological Society
Autumn Newsletter
2025



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Front Cover: Juvenile Starling: Richard Allan

Editorial

This Autumn Newsletter is a little shorter than usual as we have lost the Garden Bird Report which has been a feature of the Newsletter for many years. The Spring Newsletter, with its Ringing Reports, is typically long, but we often have a shortage of copy in the autumn and I encourage our many new members to consider writing about your birding experiences.

It is now nearly fifty years since I first committed my thoughts on green matters to paper, for a Sixth Form essay, and it has been interesting over those years to observe the waxing and waning of public and political concern for the environment. The late nineteen sixties, with a focus on population growth and resource depletion, saw the establishment of environmental concern as a political force. The mid-eighties, with acid rain and the Chernobyl disaster, brought further advances, and the mid-noughties with global warming and the passing of the Climate Change Act in 2008, was a similar period of rapid advancement of the environmental cause.

It seems now, however, that we are moving into a period of retreat. The Trump administration's view on the environment requires little further comment, but there are also signs that the consensus across the UK political spectrum that was present twenty years ago is now breaking down. I suppose we shall see in the next few years where this takes us.

Best wishes to you all

Roger

Three Months Birding in New South Wales

Steve Lawless

In May 2024 I visited my mother in Australia with my wife. Previous family visits at ten yearly intervals had resulted in my seeing very little of the country. I therefore decided to spend a good chunk of each day birding so that I could connect with the local ecology and see sites determined by nature rather than the usual tourist priorities. This visit was only for three weeks but I ended up with a species count of 77 birds.

We decided to return for a three-month stretch in February 2025. I set myself a target of 200 Australian bird species. Australia is big and for birding purposes is better understood as a continent than a single country. There are almost 900 species recorded in the whole of Australia and around 350 of those are endemic. However, the majority will only be found in a couple of regions, with numbers tailing off at the edges. A number of birds are confined to Tasmania for example. This reflects differences in climate as well as migration patterns. A bird that is rare in one region may be common in another. The same can be said of habitat type, season and even location, so 200 birds was an ambitious target.

We were based in Kiama, a small rural coastal town about 100km south of Sydney. We have family in Sydney and Wollongong, so these locations all provided birding opportunities.

The house that we stayed in was brilliantly located to see local birds. Upon arrival we were treated to both male and female Satin Bower Birds, an Attenborough celebrity species, and seen in the garden! The house was set on the brow of a steep hill with views over Bombo Beach. I regularly saw up to 24 species from the balcony each morning and

evening. That view encompassed four habitats - ocean, woodland, swamp and farmland. This meant that I was occasionally treated to less frequent visitors such as a couple of Swamp Harriers, two Black Shouldered Kites, a Nankeen Kestrel and several White-bellied Sea Eagles.

I decided to use the eBird app for this trip so that I could separate my UK birding records. It was also a useful way to trial this “go to” app for Australian birders. This proved to be a prescient decision as I was able to identify optimum local birding sites as well as locations of target species using the app.

For me the first challenge of birding in a foreign country was that of identification. In the previous May I had found Birdly (an Australian bird identification app) extremely useful alongside a couple of field guides lent to me by Bernie Forbes. Merlin is linked to eBird and was at times useful in the field although its call identification function was too undeveloped for Australian birds. I also invested in the best Australian bird field guide. Although too large to carry around in the bush it provided hours of enjoyable study and checking in the evenings. The eBird app provides a list of species for any location which enabled me to find out whether my bird spot was likely for that site at that time of year or totally off kilter. In any location list eBird also identifies the birds you have not seen yet and the likelihood of seeing them at that time of year.

I joined the local bird club, Illawarra Birding, which provided a couple of outings a month. Illawarra Birding, like SDOS, has some experienced birders who could identify birds on the basis of calls as well as by sight on and I was able to correct some of my early, first week, identification mistakes.

The first, and most predictable, mistake was identifying the female Satin

Bower Bird as a Cat Bird. I couldn't understand why eBird was telling me that the Cat Bird was fairly rare in that locality! My first guided club outing to Wollongong Botanical Gardens meant that I had to correct two weeks of records for this species when I returned to Kiama.

Most Australian birds are fairly distinctive. There are, however, quite a few that fall into the Willow Warbler/Chiffchaff conundrum. Not surprisingly these are mostly in the LBJ category. Specifically Scrub Wrens, Thornbills and Gerigones presented a challenge in the early weeks. The various varieties of Thornbill continued to present a challenge throughout. Welcome Swallows and both varieties of Martin, Tree and Fairy, were also more difficult to differentiate than are hirundines in the UK.

The president of Illawarra Birders is an invigilator for eBird (Kiama district) and was able to help me with a couple of early identification problems. One of these was egrets. Australia has seven varieties of Egret which include the Cattle, Little and Great White Egrets that we have in the UK. Not surprisingly non-migratory introductions have evolved slightly differently to the same species that we are familiar with. In this instance the Great White Egret, which is known in Australia as the Great Egret and is fairly common, is somewhat smaller than those seen in the UK. I therefore wondered if it might be a Plumed Egret. They are similar birds outside of the breeding season, but the Plumed Egret is rarer in NSW.

Ralph was also able to help me identify two Brown Cuckoo Doves. These are the largest pigeons that I have ever seen, 40 to 43 centimetres (16 to 17in) in length! At first I thought that they must be raptors because of their size and colour, but the head and beak were wrong for that. The possibility of them being pigeons did not occur to me due to their size.

They are strikingly beautiful birds with scalloped auburn plumage and long tails. They have been through various name changes over time. They do raise their own young, so I have not been able to find out why the word “cuckoo” is included in their title other than the possibility of visual similarity, although I do not see this myself.

The balcony at breakfast was a great start to the day. I had managed to pack my scope and used it mainly from the balcony and for wetland habitats. There was a birdbath on the balustrade and it was regularly used by Bower Birds, Magpie Larks, Willie Wagtails and Little Wattle Birds. Occasionally it would be visited by Laughing Kookaburras, a member of the Kingfisher family. Less frequently I would see Scrub Wrens and Gerigones on the decking peering out from the foliage. The other side of the house was also frequented by Australian Ravens, Australian Magpies and Pied Currawongs, all of which have distinctive and easily learned calls. These birds, along with Magpie Larks, are all pied in colouration.

The Australian Magpie should not be confused with our bird of the same name. It is not a Corvid but rather is related to the Butcherbirds and Currawongs. It is a very common and noisy bird but, like all of the Butcherbird family, has a beautiful fluting melodic call. It is a large bird and has been known to attack humans that wander too close to nests in the breeding season. My son has had the privilege of this experience whilst mountain biking in the bush, and is subsequently somewhat wary of them. Maybe it is too confiding?

The Butcherbird, which keeps a greater distance from humans, is smaller and has an impressive hook at the end of its bill. Butcherbirds are insect eaters for the most part, but they will also eat small lizards and other vertebrates. They get their name from their habit of impaling captured

prey on a thorn or tree fork. Their call is even more enchanting than that of the Magpie. The first time I heard it I rated it wow factor 11. It is such moments that make birding so special.

The related Currawong is as melodic as its name. It is the Australian cockerel making the call that I woke up to most mornings. A bird club member informed me that an English woman that he once knew had left Australia because she couldn't tolerate the birdsong in the morning! Maybe that illustrates how far so many humans have become divorced from nature over the last century?

After the first three or four weeks, with growing familiarity, I was starting to become more aware of categories of birds. It is hard to appreciate the size and therefore the variation in climate and habitats across Australia. For example our President (John Newnham) regularly spends time in Western Australia and will see counterpart variants of birds present in Eastern Australia, where New South Wales is located. This can be reflected in names such as Eastern Thornbill as opposed to the Western Thornbill. Unfortunately field guides and apps, although they include the resident region in the description of a bird, rarely categorise birds by region. This inevitably results in having to do some filtering when identifying a new sighting.

Another set of categories that became useful in identification was that of family group. Not known in the UK, Honeyeaters are both colourful and common birds. There are many varieties of these interesting birds that feed mostly on nectar. They are small to medium sized colourful birds with long curved beaks to get down into the various flowers. They also have long tongues which are shaped to maximise nectar collection, somewhat on the same principle as a runcible spoon for honey. They are important pollinators and are dependent on the year - round succession

of flowering plants in the sub-tropical to temperate climate of Australia. Identification, as with all birding, is aided by familiarity with detail. Yellow-faced and Lewin's Honeyeaters both have yellow patches on their faces but of different shapes. Until familiarity is established it is easy to confuse the two.

Wrens and Scrub-wrens inhabited the undergrowth looking for invertebrates. Robins, mostly Eastern Yellow Robins, were seen on the ground and in the lower regions of trees and shrubs. Parrots feed on nectar in the same mid-levels as honeyeaters, but were also be found in the canopy or screeching through the skies, sometimes in very large flocks. One variety of parrot, the aptly named Ground Parrot, predominantly lives on the ground in dense bush. This is an endangered species and despite my frequenting its known habitat I was unable to twitch it.

Lyrebirds are ground dwelling. Superb Lyrebirds, large and Peacock like. although not brightly coloured, are rainforest dwelling where they turn over the leaf litter searching for invertebrates. The males have long tails, which can be raised and spread for courtship and resemble a lyre, giving the bird their name. Their digging behaviour plays an important part in the ecology of rainforests. They are famed for being outstanding mimics. Many locals were keen to tell me that if I heard a chainsaw in the forest it was just as likely to be a Superb Lyrebird.

Parrots were another source of the wow factor for me. Famed for their bright colours and remarkable intelligence they are probably the noisiest of birds that I encountered. In the evenings great flocks of Sulphur Crested Cockatoos, Corellas and Galahs would descend onto the Norfolk Pines in the urban areas making a deafening noise, a celebration of nature in the midst of human habitation, somewhat akin to the

murmurations of Starlings in big cities in Europe, although much, much louder.

I went birding for at least two hours a day almost every day; some days much more than that. The first four weeks, predictably, resulted in many new ticks a day. After eight weeks numbers of new species tailed off considerably. I knew then that I would have to resort to some serious twitching to see more.

Coastal New South Wales is quite mountainous. There is a lot of stunning scenery which meant every bird trip was a real pleasure. Ten miles up into the mountain behind Kiama there are a number of important birding reserves for which eBird records showed that one in particular was where some of the rarer species, such as Gang-Gang Cockatoos, Ground Parrots and Wonga Pigeons could be found. Despite five lengthy visits to this area I never saw more than ten species at a time and generally ones I had already seen, although it did deliver spectacular Crimson Rosellas, another member of the parrot family, including, on one occasion, the rarer yellow morph.

Higher up the mountain, the colder it became. I visited Minnamurra Rainforest reserve, a reputed birding site, and saw Superb Lyrebirds, a Golden Whistler and Spotted Pardalotes, but again only about eight species altogether. A trip in the early morning with the bird club to a mountain site, Budderoo Fire Trail, resulted in twenty two species including four Gang-Gang Cockatoos and a couple of Beautiful Firetails, a stunningly colourful finch. Both were new ticks for me. You need to be in the right place at the right time and the best time seems to be the couple of hours after dawn.



Beautiful Firetail

By Week 10 I was stuck at 140 species. The weather was also turning autumnal which affected the birds that could be seen. On the Tuesday of Easter week, whilst sitting on the balcony, I played my wife the call of the Green Cat Bird to demonstrate the reason for its strange name (they sound like a cat wailing). I was thinking that I was not going to see this bird. The call resulted in about eight Satin Bowerbirds coming to an adjacent tree and then, to my delight, a Green Cat Bird popped up amongst them! Sighting number 141.

Green Cat Bird



These two were the only species of Bowerbirds in my area. They are plump and colourful birds that mostly eat fruit and insects. The Green Catbird, although of the Bowerbird family, does not build a bower. It is a bright iridescent green with a white bill. The female Satin Bowerbird is olive green with lilac iridescent eyes. The male Satin Bowerbird has striking iridescent indigo plumage and collects blue objects to decorate its bower to attract females. There seemed to be about eight females to each male, but I later learned that juvenile males have similar plumage to the females and do not reach maturity for seven or eight years. The

bowers are purely used to attract a mate and should not be confused with nests which are built exclusively by the females.



A female or Juvenile Satin Bower Bird

Other Australian wildlife that we saw included Grey Eastern Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, a Wombat, an Echidna and a black snake. Grey Headed Flying Fox bats were both noisy and common in a couple of the birding sites that I visited.

In Tune with Birds

John Maskell

Long before my wife Shena had introduced me to the wonders of birding, my late Father had encouraged an interest in “classical” music through his LP collection. Over the intervening years I have gained much pleasure when my various interests have coincided and so it has been with birds and music.

Living in a household without a television has given me the opportunity for extended listening to music during my leisure hours. Although I am not a musician I have developed a good musical memory and so, at the risk of “crowing”, I can now readily identify countless pieces after hearing just a few bars. However, it took more than three decades before birdsong made any sense! But once “it” clicked a whole new world of identification was revealed. Why did it take so long? Well perhaps Tom Stewart has given me the solution for he recently wrote that “most birds sing in ways that sound very abstract in the context of western classical music”.

As mentioned in the obituary I wrote in 2019 for former SDOS newsletter and report editor, Jim Steedman, we also shared a joint interest in classical music and would often attend concerts together. On occasions we would find ourselves listening to compositions inspired by birdsong.

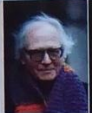
The first concert I attended in London with Jim and his wife Judith was to hear music by Olivier Messiaen (1908 – 1992). The Frenchman’s scores make extensive use of birdsong based on field transcriptions made by Messiaen all over the world and he compiled a massive ‘Catalogue d’Oiseaux’ for solo piano.



MESSIAEN Peter Hill
Catalogue d'Oiseaux Books 1-3



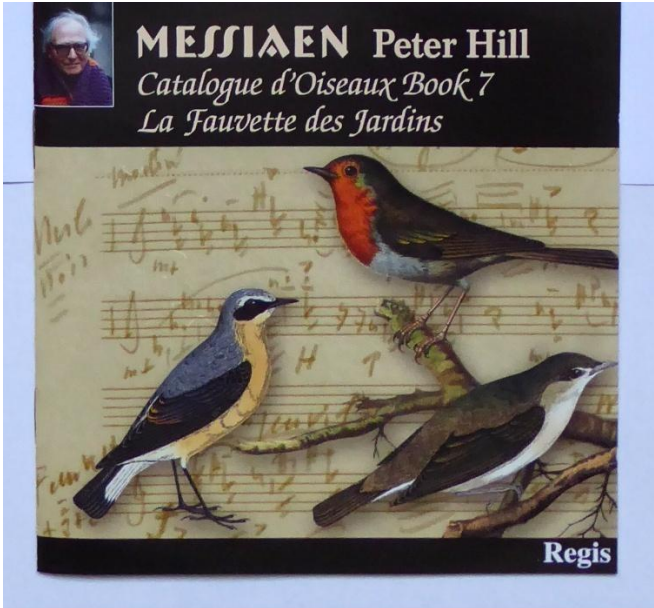
Regis



MESSIAEN Peter Hill
Catalogue d'Oiseaux Books 4-6



Regis



Later Jim and I discovered a joint love of the symphonies of the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius (1865 – 1957) and one of my treasured possessions is a boxed set of CDs that came from his estate. Sibelius was also inspired by nature and, after a close encounter with 16 Whooper Swans, he famously wrote his uplifting “Swan Hymn” theme in the finale of his 5th Symphony. His diary for 21st April 1916 records, “Lord God, what beauty! They circled over me for a long time.”

More recently Sibelius’ compatriot Einojuhani Rautavaara (1928 – 2016) wrote his ‘Cantus Arcticus’ or Concerto for Birds & Orchestra. In 1972 Rautavaara cleverly incorporated field recordings that he made into an impressionistic orchestral score (with tape) and it has proved to be one of his most popular works.

Whilst the three composers I've mentioned so far all flourished mainly in the Twentieth Century, bird song has been inspiring musicians for far longer. Indeed, one of the earliest inclusions of a bird is a Cuckoo that appears in the well-known 13th Century song 'Sumer is icumen in' written by the prolific Anonymous!

Writing half a millenium later Handel cleverly gives us a duet between a Cuckoo and a Nightingale in an organ concerto. Unsurprisingly the work is known as 'The Cuckoo and the Nightingale' and perhaps reflects the time when it was written (1739) when both species were more numerous and well-known by the wider public.

Probably the most famous piece of classical music to incorporate a representation of bird song is Beethoven's programmatic 6th Symphony, commonly referred to as his 'Pastoral'. This was first performed in Vienna in 1808 and in the second movement the woodwind section gives us interpretations of three birds that are increasingly difficult to see and, importantly, hear within the SDOS area: Nightingale (flute), Quail (oboe) and Cuckoo (2 clarinets).

Of course musical enjoyment is down to the individual and I'm fully aware that what I've attempted to recommend above will not be to everyone's taste, but if just a single member is tempted to explore one of the pieces that might be new to them then I'll be very satisfied. There are certainly many more birdsong pieces that I could have mentioned but this quintet is a taster. Each of these compositions has certainly given me great pleasure and they are certainly not "cheep thrills"!

SDOS interview

SDOS Member Sarah Hunt interviewed by Tony Benton

When did you first become interested in birding and how has your passion developed?

I've always been interested; I was born fascinated by nature. I'm so obsessed that I find it quite difficult to understand how everyone isn't into it. My first memories of birdwatching are pushing a chair up to my bedroom window and climbing on so I could watch the birds in the early morning. It's still my favourite way to watch the birds, although I no longer need to stand on a chair to see. As I got a bit older, I used to want to tick off new species and had to persuade my parents to take me to Blacktoft Sands, Bempton Cliffs, Fairburn Ings and other reserves which were relatively local to me in rural East Yorkshire. Fortunately it didn't take long for them to get the bug too, so my powers of persuasion weren't needed so much. I don't tend to keep lists of birds I see and I'm not really interested in ticks. I'm much more interested in watching the behaviour of birds and marvelling at their efficiency and beauty. I get frustrated at birders saying "there's nothing of interest". If you really look, every bird is interesting. You only have to sit and watch starlings for a while to see their complex social groups, the way one bird will trill to others to alert them to a spillage of crumbs. But crows are the best to watch. They relentlessly tease my dog and totally have the edge on intelligent play.

What's your favourite place for birding these days?

My garden. Seeing the same birds each day and how their populations have increased since I've changed my garden to increase its value to wildlife is immensely satisfying. I'm lucky enough to have a male blackbird with a distinctively white flecked face so I can be sure it is the same individual who hunts with its mate every day. I've learnt about sparrows sticking in close

groups in the same gardens, while blue tits follow a set route over a much wider area each day. I'm also intrigued by stories of boisterous seagulls elsewhere as they are not interested in coming into my garden. They may very cautiously swoop down to take the odd crust of bread put out, but they never linger or come back hoping for more. Usually they are so overly cautious that they lose out to the crows and magpies. It all goes to show that birds learn where is good to rest and feed.

I know you volunteer with the RSPB, where and what is your role?

I have two roles: one is working in the Brighton office helping with managing the RSPB Local Groups all over the country. The other is managing the Adur Estuary Reserve. My project for the past couple of years now has been trying to get signage into the reserve to alert watercraft users and others that it is a private nature reserve and the birds need to be left in peace. Perhaps by the time this is published some marker buoys will have been installed. It's been a very long road to get to this, the regulatory landscape in an estuarine Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is complex, not to mention the practical issues with working in silt. I've met so many dedicated team members at the RSPB, from those at the coal face of Marine Policy, the lead on the campaign to ban Sand Eel fishing, to the volunteers at Pulborough and of course those for the Adur Estuary who are also the core SDOS team who campaigned for years to have more done about the recreational disturbance in the RSPB reserve, but also the wider Adur Estuary SSSI. It's great to be part of this team.

You've also set up a group to safeguard the Adur SSSI - can you tell me more about that?

For years there has been a team of people including many SDOS members, mainly the core Council, who have campaigned for better protection of the Adur Estuary SSSI, which many people do not know exists, and if they do, they're not sure of what it actually means. I have led the set up of Friends of

Adur SSSI to engage the community with the area and help to ensure that everyone knows the importance of the SSSI, what the designation means and to crucially spread the word about what we can all do to minimise our impact on the estuary.

And if people want to get involved, what do they need to do?

Just tell everyone you know about the SSSI, stay on the paths on the upper edges of the banks, don't let your dog run over the salt marsh, mudflats or towards birds (some may not be visible) and sign up at www.friendsofadursssi.org.uk.

What other aspects of the natural world are you interested in?

All of it! If I had to pick one area it would be elasmobranchs - sharks and rays. I became a diving instructor so I could spread the word about these creatures that have remained pretty much the same for 450 million years (to add context, dinosaurs showed up 245 million years ago) yet which are relentlessly fished and in serious danger of extinction. As apex predators their removal from the ecosystem is of critical concern. They provide the checks and balances to the rest of the food chain and without them the ecosystem is in peril. They are slow to breed and thus replenishing their numbers takes time. Sharks are 99.9% extinct in the Mediterranean and in the Channel and diving in both these areas is shocking in that there are simply hardly any fish. This is a normal sight for many divers today who don't appreciate how there should be fish everywhere.

What's the most thrilling encounter that you have ever had with a shark(s)?

I've been very lucky to have come within an arm's length of many species such as tiger sharks, bull sharks and oceanic whitetips - all species which are supposedly dangerous. I am very respectful of animals (I was terrified of dogs

until relatively recently), but I can honestly say I've never once felt remotely threatened by a shark, just staggered by their beauty.

My most memorable encounters have been with oceanic giant mantas which are around 6-7 metres across (much bigger than the already huge reef mantas). These creatures actively approach divers with a curiosity I've only ever seen in primates. They are fish, yet they stop, look you in the eye and appear to make a judgment. I really don't like anthropomorphising animals, but on one particular occasion it definitely seemed like a two-way assessment. This manta stopped opposite me and dipped her wing tip down so she could come closer and get a better look. I could see her eyeball moving as she looked at me. The next thing, she flicked her wing up and swatted my go pro out of my hand. The force was impressive but she must have held back. She had made her point and it was life changing.

And finally, if you were Prime Minister for the day, what would be your first executive order?

Get rid of GDP as a benchmark of success. We can't have infinite growth on a planet with finite resources.

Birds recorded in the SDOS area between January and June 2025

John Newnham

This summary of the records from our recording area during the first half of the year has been compiled from observations uploaded into the Sussex Ornithological Society's (SOS) database by early August 2025. Most have come from the British Trust for Ornithology's Birdtrack, from the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's eBird or the National Biodiversity Network's iRecord with no records yet from national surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey, Wetland Bird Survey or Garden Birdwatch. Members are reminded that postings on the society's user-group, local Whatsapp and Facebook pages do **not** regularly get into the county database; sightings should be recorded through one the channels mentioned above.

Over 30,900 SDOS area records have so far been received from over 320 observers. The range of recording activity is massive with 53 birders logging over 100 sightings whilst 73 contributors have created just one record. The records come from about 200 sites; the most popular locations in this period being similar to other years and, in descending order of record numbers, being Shoreham-by-Sea (2157 records), Brooklands (2003), West Tarring (1612), Woods Mill (1603), Henfield Levels (1587), River Adur – unspecified stretch (1217), Widewater (1165) and River Adur – Tollbridge to Cement Works (1078). In keeping with recent times there was some recording on each day with a marked range between 931 records on 22nd March and just 14 records on 12th June. The following table shows March to be the month with most records.

were only encountered on one or two dates; the details of these follow in chronological order. During January a **Dartford Warbler** at Sompting on the 4th, a **Siberian Chiffchaff** at Rye Farm, Henfield on the 6th and 7th, two **Goldeneye** on Brooklands on the 18th and a **Jack Snipe** on Beeding Brooks on the 24th. February was fairly lean with just another **Dartford Warbler** by Southwick Canal on the 28th. There was more scarce bird interest in March with two **Spoonbills** flying east at Goring Gap on the 10th, three **Black-necked Grebes** offshore at Widewater and two **White Storks** on Henfield Levels on the 20th, a **Hawfinch** photographed on a seed feeder in a Southwick garden on the 21st and another **Jack Snipe** at Oreham Common on the 23rd. On 25th March a white-spotted **Bluethroat** was found in the reeds at Brooklands, this stayed until the 26th and allowed many birders to get good views and photographs. This the first local Bluethroat since one was at Woods Mill in April 2017.

The sole record of **Brambling** in this period was at Bramber on 11th April and seven **Common Crossbills** flew over Brooklands on the following day. The spring seawatching was not brilliant; **Little Terns** were seen at Goring Gap on 12th April and off East Worthing on the 26th, the only **Velvet Scoter** flew east, with a party of Common Scoters, at Lancing on the 13th and single **Manx Shearwaters** were logged on 20th April and 3rd June. Three **White Storks** were on the Henfield Levels on 15th April and the area's only spring **Grasshopper Warbler** was heard at Devil's Dyke on the 18th. The area's second **Hawfinch** was recorded in Brighton on the same day and, also on the 18th, a **Long-eared Owl** was heard calling from a downland copse. During May single **Honey-buzzards** were recorded at Steyning on the 13th and over Brighton on the 16th. During June a **Nightjar** was at Sullington Warren on the 12th, four **Spoonbills** flew west at Goring Gap

on the 16th and four **Common Crossbills** flew over the River Adur on the 20th.

The following large table lists the other species recorded in this period showing the number of days each species has been recorded, the first and last date and the maximum count for each. The order follows the current British List posted by the British Ornithologists' Union in January 2025. Where there are several days with the same maximum count, mostly one or two birds, then just the first record is shown. House Sparrows were recorded on every day during this period whilst Herring Gull and Blackbird were missed on just one day. As previously noted this summary provides little detail and analysis of the plethora of observations from our recording area but it hopefully provides an insight into the range of species, their abundance and occurrence locally.

Thanks to all the observers, far too numerous to name, who have contributed records in our recording area during this period.

Species Name	Dates	First date	Last date	Maximum count
Brent Goose	57	04-Jan	25-May	1850 on 20-Mar at Widewater
Canada Goose	62	02-Jan	11-Jun	180 on 29-Jan at Henfield Levels
Greylag Goose	60	01-Jan	16-Jun	260 on 20-Jan at Henfield Levels
White-fronted Goose	14	13-Jan	06-Mar	9 on 20-Jan at Henfield Levels
Mute Swan	138	01-Jan	29-Jun	45 on 19-Jan at Widewater
Egyptian Goose	33	10-Jan	01-Jun	20 on 11-Feb at Adur Levels
Common Shelduck	34	13-Jan	10-May	13 on 26-Apr at Worthing
Mandarin Duck	3	10-Feb	18-Mar	3 on 10-Feb at Wiston Estate
Shoveler	36	02-Jan	10-May	100 on 02-Mar at Henfield Levels
Gadwall	14	13-Jan	19-May	10 on 14-Jan at Henfield Levels
Eurasian Wigeon	22	02-Jan	22-Mar	300 on 14-Jan at Henfield Levels
Mallard	135	01-Jan	27-Jun	60 on 02-Jan at Henfield Levels
Pintail	24	02-Jan	26-Apr	145 on 07-Mar at Goring Gap
Eurasian Teal	76	01-Jan	26-Apr	400 on 14-Jan at Henfield Levels
Common Pochard	5	05-Jan	20-Jan	2 on 05-Jan at Brooklands
Tufted Duck	7	13-Jan	29-Apr	6 on 02-Mar at Henfield Levels
Common Eider	30	02-Jan	28-Jun	2 on 05-Apr at Worthing

Common Scoter	55	08-Jan	11-Jun	189 on 22-Mar at Worthing
Goosander	4	11-Jan	26-Apr	3 on 26-Apr at Widewater
Red-breasted Merganser	34	08-Jan	25-Apr	28 on 15-Feb at Worthing
Grey Partridge	21	15-Jan	25-Jun	8 on 29-Jan at Chantry Hill
Common Pheasant	114	02-Jan	25-Jun	29 on 25-Apr at Varncombe Hill
Quail	8	26-May	19-Jun	1 on 29-May at Applesham
Red-legged Partridge	21	03-Jan	16-Jun	12 on 29-Jan at Chantry Hill
Common Swift	63	15-Apr	30-Jun	30 on 23-May at Mile Oak
Common Cuckoo	33	11-Apr	19-Jun	2 on 07-May at Henfield Levels
Feral Pigeon	169	01-Jan	30-Jun	200 on 26-Jan at Worthing
Stock Dove	122	02-Jan	29-Jun	900 on 18-Feb at Truleigh Hill
Woodpigeon	179	01-Jan	30-Jun	450 on 04-Feb at Stump Bottom
Turtle Dove	7	22-Apr	20-Jun	2 on 22-Apr at Woods Mill
Collared Dove	172	01-Jan	29-Jun	20 on 17-Jan at Ditchling Beacon
Water Rail	37	02-Jan	08-Jun	2 on 09-Jan at Henfield Levels
Moorhen	118	01-Jan	27-Jun	30 on 20-Jan at Brooklands
Coot	103	01-Jan	27-Jun	100 on 20-Jan at Brooklands
Little Grebe	79	01-Jan	09-Jun	16 on 24-Jan at Brooklands
Great Crested Grebe	73	06-Jan	29-May	220 on 15-Jan at Goring
Oystercatcher	130	02-Jan	29-Jun	66 on 08-Jan at Goring Gap
Avocet	6	04-Apr	26-May	6 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Grey Plover	49	02-Jan	09-Jun	14 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Golden Plover	5	09-Jan	30-Jan	10 on 13-Jan at Henfield Levels
Ringed Plover	40	06-Jan	29-May	40 on 06-Jan at Widewater
Little Ringed Plover	4	25-Mar	04-Jun	2 on 04-Jun at River Adur
Lapwing	81	01-Jan	24-Jun	249 on 20-Jan at Henfield Levels
Eurasian Whimbrel	43	31-Mar	29-May	183 on 09-May at Goring Gap
Curlew	50	02-Jan	27-Jun	8 on 21-Feb at Goring
Bar-tailed Godwit	16	18-Apr	18-May	615 on 26-Apr at Widewater
Black-tailed Godwit	5	25-Jan	19-May	40 on 28-Feb at Lancing
Woodcock	3	07-Jan	26-Mar	1 on 07-Jan at Buncton
Common Snipe	23	02-Jan	28-Apr	150 on 01-Feb at River Adur
Common Sandpiper	30	07-Jan	29-Jun	6 on 17-Apr at River Adur
Green Sandpiper	4	14-Jan	08-Apr	1 on 14-Jan at Henfield Levels
Common Redshank	85	02-Jan	29-Jun	40 on 01-Feb at River Adur
Greenshank	30	01-Jan	24-Apr	1 on 01-Jan at River Adur
Turnstone	112	01-Jan	21-Jun	63 on 12-Mar at Goring Gap
Knot	8	18-Jan	09-May	15 on 08-May at Worthing
Sanderling	35	06-Jan	27-May	75 on 12-Mar at Goring Gap
Dunlin	49	06-Jan	29-May	95 on 07-Feb at River Adur
Purple Sandpiper	25	02-Jan	10-Apr	11 on 02-Jan at Brighton

Arctic Tern	3	19-Apr	09-May	10 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Common Tern	9	22-Mar	11-Jun	32 on 11-Jun at Goring Gap
Commic Tern	10	03-Apr	09-May	12 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Sandwich Tern	54	15-Feb	21-Jun	136 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Little Gull	6	28-Jan	20-May	4 on 23-Mar at Worthing
Kittiwake	20	04-Jan	12-May	45 on 10-May at Worthing
Black-headed Gull	155	01-Jan	29-Jun	1000 on 11-Jan at Brighton Marina
Mediterranean Gull	85	02-Jan	29-Jun	82 on 07-Apr at Widewater
Common Gull	88	01-Jan	30-May	850 on 04-Feb at Stump Bottom
Caspian Gull	5	05-Jan	09-Mar	1 on 24-Jan at Goring Gap
Herring Gull	180	01-Jan	30-Jun	1500 on 11-Jan at Brighton Marina
Yellow-legged Gull	3	05-Jan	14-Apr	1 on 05-Jan at Brooklands
Great Black-backed Gull	137	01-Jan	29-Jun	35 on 07-Jan at River Adur
Lesser Black-backed Gull	79	01-Jan	29-Jun	50 on 21-Jan at Palace Pier
Arctic Skua	16	14-Apr	11-Jun	5 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Pomarine Skua	4	29-Apr	09-May	14 on 29-Apr at Worthing
Great Skua	6	12-Apr	29-Apr	1 on 12-Apr at Worthing
Razorbill	12	08-Jan	02-May	20 on 16-Jan at Goring Gap
Common Guillemot	5	03-Jan	23-Apr	1 on 03-Jan at Widewater
Unidentified auk spp	12	06-Jan	03-Apr	42 on 16-Jan at Worthing
Red-throated Diver	50	04-Jan	03-May	69 on 16-Jan at Worthing
Black-throated Diver	9	29-Jan	26-Apr	3 on 18-Apr at Worthing
Great Northern Diver	7	16-Jan	03-May	1 on 16-Jan at Worthing
Unidentified diver spp	20	16-Jan	12-May	19 on 21-Mar at Widewater
Fulmar	36	04-Jan	11-Jun	7 on 03-May at Worthing
Gannet	74	02-Jan	11-Jun	378 on 19-Apr at Worthing
Cormorant	136	01-Jan	29-Jun	40 on 12-Jan at Hove
Shag	3	06-Mar	29-Apr	1 on 06-Mar at Worthing
Little Egret	121	01-Jan	29-Jun	18 on 29-Jun at River Adur
Great White Egret	10	02-Jan	02-May	2 on 20-Jan at Henfield Levels
Cattle Egret	3	22-Mar	28-Apr	3 on 28-Apr at Strettham Manor
Grey Heron	92	01-Jan	29-Jun	9 on 07-Mar at Henfield Levels
Osprey	3	19-Mar	31-May	1 on 19-Mar at Steyning
Sparrowhawk	72	10-Jan	29-Jun	4 on 15-Jun at Brooklands
Marsh Harrier	4	20-Jan	17-Jun	2 on 29-Jan at Chantry Hill
Hen Harrier	15	02-Jan	29-Apr	1 on 02-Jan at Mile Oak
Red Kite	135	02-Jan	27-Jun	40 on 13-Jan at Findon Park
White-tailed Eagle	6	30-Jan	09-Mar	2 on 30-Jan at Rock Common
Common Buzzard	140	02-Jan	29-Jun	14 on 14-Mar at Michelgrove
Barn Owl	51	02-Jan	25-Jun	3 on 16-Mar at Cuckoos Corner
Little Owl	30	02-Jan	26-Jun	2 on 02-Jan at Mile Oak

Short-eared Owl	7	24-Feb	26-Apr	1 on 14-Mar at Pad Farm
Tawny Owl	24	14-Jan	25-Jun	2 on 11-Feb at Westmeston
Kingfisher	36	07-Jan	22-Jun	2 on 08-Jan at River Adur
Great Spotted Woodpecker	118	02-Jan	29-Jun	5 on 17-Mar at Edburton
Green Woodpecker	122	03-Jan	27-Jun	10 on 25-Apr at Lancing Ring
Kestrel	135	02-Jan	29-Jun	3 on 02-Jan at Mile Oak
Merlin	3	11-Jan	09-Mar	1 on 11-Jan at Upper Adur Levels
Hobby	8	26-Apr	23-May	2 on 05-May at Worthing
Peregrine	52	04-Jan	08-Jun	2 on 04-Jan at Brighton Marina
Ring-necked Parakeet	28	01-Jan	01-Jun	3 on 03-Jan at Shoreham-by-Sea
Jay	107	02-Jan	25-Jun	4 on 03-Jan at Buckingham Park
Magpie	179	01-Jan	30-Jun	55 on 10-Feb at Shoreham-by-Sea
Jackdaw	170	01-Jan	29-Jun	300 on 12-Jan at Lychpole
Rook	126	02-Jan	29-Jun	200 on 12-Jan at Lychpole
Carrion Crow	178	01-Jan	30-Jun	120 on 12-Feb at Southwick
Raven	92	02-Jan	27-Jun	6 on 11-Mar at Truleigh Hill
Coal Tit	40	02-Jan	27-Jun	7 on 09-May at Sullington Warren
Marsh Tit	8	12-Jan	24-May	5 on 13-Feb at Steyning Round Hill
Blue Tit	175	01-Jan	30-Jun	35 on 13-Feb at Steyning Round Hill
Great Tit	171	01-Jan	30-Jun	14 on 18-Jan at Woods Mill
Skylark	143	02-Jan	29-Jun	175 on 15-Feb at Steep Down
Sand Martin	7	30-Mar	28-Jun	10 on 14-Apr at Sandgate Park
Barn Swallow	80	09-Mar	29-Jun	45 on 26-Apr at Widewater
House Martin	33	06-Apr	29-Jun	40 on 01-Jun at Woods Mill
Cetti's Warbler	92	10-Jan	24-Jun	10 on 13-Apr at Beeding Brooks
Long-tailed Tit	106	02-Jan	29-Jun	15 on 02-Jan at Mile Oak
Willow Warbler	23	25-Mar	04-Jun	7 on 12-Apr at Steep Down
Common Chiffchaff	135	02-Jan	29-Jun	25 on 21-Mar at Henfield Levels
Sedge Warbler	26	08-Apr	19-Jun	8 on 21-Apr at Henfield Levels
Reed Warbler	53	11-Apr	30-Jun	12 on 31-May at Ladywell
Blackcap	150	01-Jan	29-Jun	12 on 19-May at Edburton
Garden Warbler	19	21-Apr	26-Jun	2 on 16-Jun at Mile Oak
Lesser Whitethroat	39	10-Apr	29-Jun	5 on 26-Apr at Sheepcote Valley
Common Whitethroat	75	07-Apr	30-Jun	25 on 22-Apr at Mile Oak
Firecrest	44	02-Jan	29-Jun	3 on 10-Apr at Stanmer Park
Goldcrest	86	05-Jan	25-Jun	5 on 30-Apr at Ferring Rife
Wren	162	02-Jan	29-Jun	26 on 18-May at Sheepcote Valley
Nuthatch	72	02-Jan	25-Jun	4 on 06-Mar at Henfield Levels
Eurasian Treecreeper	27	12-Jan	17-Jun	4 on 14-Mar at Small Dole
Common Starling	176	01-Jan	29-Jun	9185 on 17-Feb at Palace Pier
Song Thrush	143	02-Jan	29-Jun	17 on 19-Jan at Edburton

Mistle Thrush	55	02-Jan	27-Jun	8 on 16-Feb at Washington
Redwing	34	03-Jan	07-Apr	50 on 26-Mar at Fulking
Blackbird	180	01-Jan	30-Jun	33 on 07-Jan at River Adur
Fieldfare	14	03-Jan	17-Mar	12 on 07-Feb at Oreham Common
Ring Ouzel	3	24-Apr	29-Apr	2 on 29-Apr at Cissbury
Spotted Flycatcher	3	30-Apr	19-May	2 on 19-May at Patcham
Robin	178	01-Jan	30-Jun	23 on 27-Apr at Cissbury Fields
Common Nightingale	38	09-Apr	24-Jun	10 on 17-May at Woods Mill
Pied Flycatcher	3	12-Apr	22-Apr	2 on 12-Apr at Steep Down
Black Redstart	19	04-Jan	25-Apr	3 on 23-Mar at Brighton
Common Redstart	4	27-Mar	26-Apr	1 on 06-Apr at Mill Hill
Whinchat	6	15-Apr	02-May	2 on 02-May at Hollingbury Camp
Eurasian Stonechat	96	02-Jan	29-Jun	8 on 11-Feb at Mile Oak
Northern Wheatear	29	02-Mar	10-May	5 on 24-Mar at Goring Gap
House Sparrow	181	01-Jan	30-Jun	50 on 25-Jun at River Adur
Duncock	166	02-Jan	29-Jun	19 on 22-Mar at Sheepcote Valley
Yellow Wagtail	7	05-Apr	09-May	5 on 05-Apr at Worthing
Grey Wagtail	22	06-Jan	20-Jun	2 on 16-Feb at Long Furlong
Pied Wagtail	108	02-Jan	27-Jun	40 on 16-Feb at Long Furlong
Meadow Pipit	88	02-Jan	27-Jun	36 on 12-Mar at Goring Gap
Rock Pipit	28	02-Jan	15-Jun	4 on 06-Feb at Shoreham Fort
Chaffinch	138	02-Jan	27-Jun	45 on 11-Feb at Wiston Estate
Bullfinch	34	09-Jan	08-Jun	4 on 28-Feb at Edburton
Greenfinch	132	01-Jan	29-Jun	12 on 12-Apr at Moulsecoomb
Linnet	121	02-Jan	27-Jun	700 on 02-Jan at Mile Oak
Goldfinch	167	01-Jan	30-Jun	50 on 20-Mar at Buckingham Park
Siskin	3	21-Feb	06-Mar	4 on 06-Mar at Henfield Levels
Corn Bunting	102	02-Jan	29-Jun	100 on 02-Mar on South Downs
Yellowhammer	98	02-Jan	27-Jun	47 on 17-Mar at Edburton
Cirl Bunting	5	05-Mar	27-Apr	1 on 05-Mar at Mile Oak
Reed Bunting	71	02-Jan	30-Jun	23 on 19-Jan at Edburton
Black Swan	43	02-Jan	27-Jun	1 on 02-Jan at Henfield Levels
Lord Derby's Parakeet	22	01-Jan	14-Apr	1 on 01-Jan at Shoreham-by-Sea

Image Gallery









Image acknowledgments

The source of images is often clear from the context or other attribution and those are not listed here. Note also that some of the bird photographs are illustrative; they may not be of the actual bird referred to in the account.

Front cover: Common Starling: Richard Allan

Page 30: Bluethroat: Brooklands: Ron Bewley

Page 30: Sand Martin: Ron Bewley

Page 31: Reed Warbler: Ron Bewley

Page 31: Woodchat Shrike: Newhaven: Ron Bewley

Page 32: Mediterranean Gull: Richard Allan

Page 32: Lesser Black-backed Gull: Richard Allan

Page 33: Yellowhammer: Richard Allan

Page 33: Garganey: Richard Allen

Back cover: Common Whitethroat: Richard Allan

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17/9/2025

