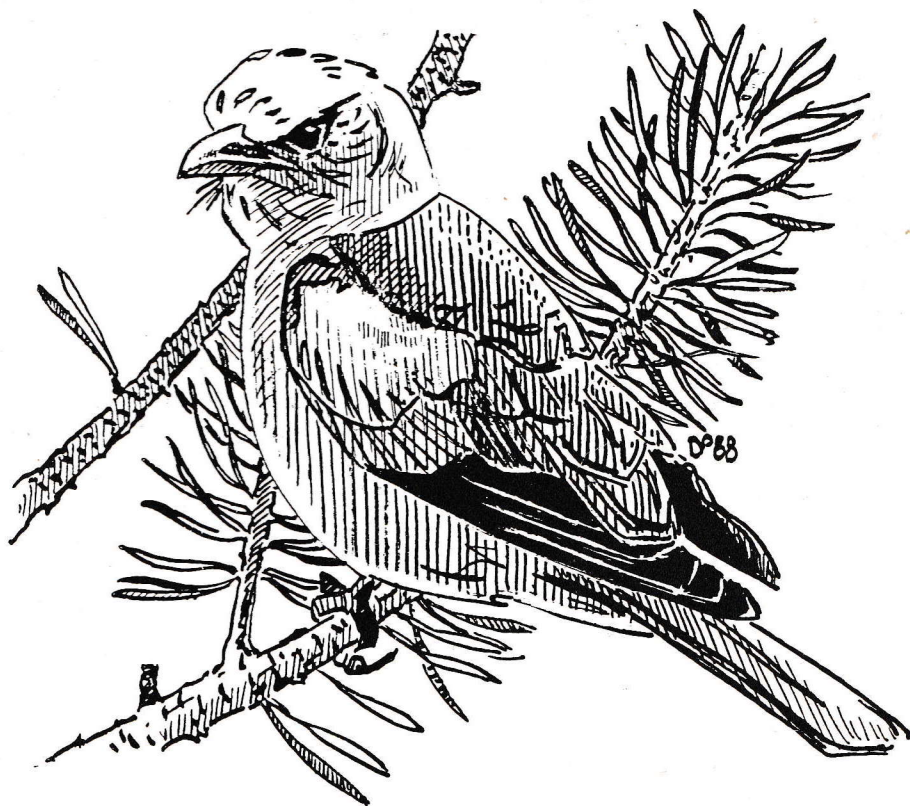
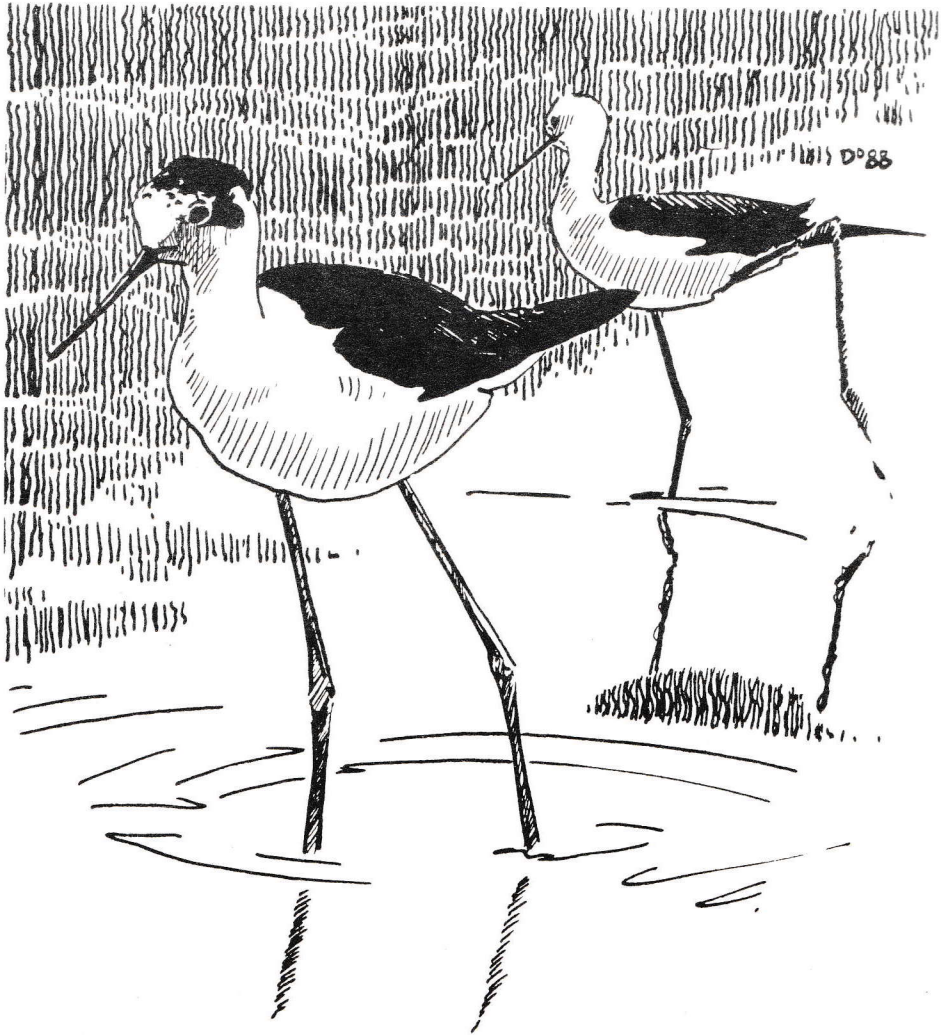


HAMPSHIRE BIRD REPORT

1987



Published October 1988



Black-winged Stilts by Dan Powell

HAMPSHIRE BIRD REPORT 1987

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Published October 1988

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Cover: Roller by Dan Powell

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This is the third Chairman's report to be included in the Society's annual Bird Report, when he has the unenviable task of linking the proceedings of one Annual General Meeting with the Accounts and Reports for the forthcoming one. Much of the material he has available for his report has been seen and heard by the Society's members several times before it reaches the printer. I am, therefore, on this occasion, picking out the highlights of another busy year and concluding with some remarks for the future.

Membership

With no membership subscription rise it is disappointing to report no significant increase in the Society's membership during the year. Total membership rose by only four to 845 on the 1st January 1988. One can only repeat our President's repeated observation that there is surely scope, in a county the size of Hampshire, for a much larger membership. A target of 1,000 members is not unreasonable with the continuing demands of our own Tetrad Breeding Atlas Survey and the many important National Surveys that the Society is engaged in.

Finance

We are again very grateful to the Hampshire County Council for their continuing support of the Society; their grant of £800 was very welcome, £200 of which was specifically given towards the cost of the Tetrad Atlas Breeding Bird Survey.

Further donations towards this project were received from:

Southampton City Council	£250
Eastleigh Borough Council	£200
Havant County Council	£50
Winchester City Council	£50
East Hampshire District Council	£100

for which we are extremely grateful.

These grants and donations together with sponsored bird watches and the first full year's Extra Interest bank account gave the Society a surplus for the year 1987 of £517, the accumulated balance of the Society standing at £3,675 at the year's end.

During the year two Amstrad PC 1512 computers were purchased, one for the compilation of bird records together with the production of the Tetrad Atlas Breeding Survey, the other for membership records. Both have already proved their usefulness.

Mention here must be made of our Treasurer, Mr. Graham Davies, whose wise counsel and expertise has been of great benefit to the Management Committee. Again we are able to go forward to 1988 without increase in the present level of subscriptions.

Officers

The occasion of our eighth Annual General Meeting held in Winchester on the 14th March 1987 was notable for the conferring of Honorary Life Membership of the Society on our Past President, Mr. Guy Mountfort O.B.E. Also the presentation by our President, Mr. James Hancock, of a painting of a Greater Spotted Woodpecker by Robert Gillmor to Mr. Ralph Cook, who retired as our Membership Secretary. This was in recognition of his work for the Society over the last 22 years.

Field Studies Sub-committee

This committee had an extremely busy time in 1987 and its Chairman, Dr. John Eyre, and its members are to be congratulated on the tremendous amount of work they have done during the year. This work has included the second year of the Society's Tetrad Atlas Breeding Bird Survey. Ongoing surveys such as the Birds of the Estuaries Enquiry, Wildfowl Counts and BTO Heronry Count, together with a new HOS survey of Sand Martins and the BTO national Lapwing sample survey kept field workers very fully occupied during the year. Mention here must be made of the sterling work being undertaken by Mr. Peter Puckering, the Tetrad Atlas Co-ordinator, in bringing together all the data collected for the Atlas.

A subject which has exercised the committee over the past year has been the formulation of a policy for the release of ornithological data for which there is a growing interest. After many hours of discussion,

drafting and re-drafting, the committee produced a policy document for the guidance and benefit of all members which was published early in 1988. For this they must be congratulated.

Recruitment, Publicity and Programme Sub-committee

This committee under the able Chairmanship of Mrs. June Irvine again organised a full programme of events, including field outings, indoor meetings and exhibitions at shows and libraries. There was a notable increase in attendance at indoor meetings where entrance charges were made to improve their quality and hopefully attract new members. Coverage of the county has improved but I know how much this committee would welcome increased support by members acting as area publicity contacts. Mrs. June Irvine, the Editor of *Kingfisher*, played a vital role in getting this newsletter of the Society produced four times a year, thus bringing every member in regular contact with HOS activities. The Sales Officer, Mr. Chris Lovett, reported increased sales of Bird Reports, the result of wider advertising in the national ornithological media.

Records and Publications Sub-committee

Once again the main task of the Records and Publications Sub-committee was to collect and collate bird records and to produce the annual Bird Report. Our grateful thanks go to our Recorder, Mr. Eddie Wiseman and our Bird Report Editor, Mr. John Clark. Their task to produce the 1986 Report was made harder by the ever increasing numbers of records submitted and the checking of drafts for the printer. The Management committee therefore took the decision to delay publication to maintain the high standard of the report, which again was well received. The committee, as a result of their experiences in 1987, has now thoroughly revised the procedures for the production of the Bird Report in the forthcoming year, so that the high standard can be maintained.

Conclusion

It was a great honour to be elected Chairman of your Society in 1987. I took over an organisation which had benefitted greatly from Mr. Glynne Evans' Chairmanship for the past four years and our grateful thanks go to him for his hard work. I have, during the past year, been able to attend meetings of all the sub-committees as well as our normal management meetings. I have been particularly struck by the dedication of committee members and the vast amount of material tackled by them all, who it must be remembered carry out this work voluntarily but in a truly professional manner. My grateful thanks to to all who have supported the Society with their work; my plea is for more members to come forward to help, especially those with specialised skills, so that this Society can continue its growth and maintain the high standards it has set itself in the past. With the better communications with members to be brought into effect in the coming year it is hoped that membership will rise to the target of 1000. Please out and recruit a member today.

Richard Leach

Chairman (1987)

EDITORIAL

If a year is judged solely on the number of species seen in the county, then 1987 was probably the best ever, with 252 recorded. Only one was new, an Olive-backed Pipit at Sway in November, although a record of an Isabelline Wheatear, another potential first, at Keyhaven in October is still under consideration by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee. Eight distinctive sub-species occurred, including a Whistling Swan and a Black Brant which were both new to the county when discovered in late 1986. However, the year will not be remembered for the high number of species but the aftermath of the famous hurricane on the night of October 15th/16th. This resulted in a wreck of Sabine's and Little Gulls, with over 100 of each recorded, and smaller numbers of Grey Phalaropes, Leach's and Storm Petrels, Mediterranean Gulls and terns. Weather conditions at other times of the year were much less extreme, although the severe conditions in January and February to which we have become accustomed in recent years returned, with the result that a moderate influx of divers, grebes, Bitterns and various wildfowl took place again.

Apart from those already mentioned, rarities recorded during the year included Little Egret (3-4), Cattle Egret, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck (2), Black Kite (1 + one record still under consideration), Red Kite (2), Red-footed Falcon (2), Crane, Black-winged Stilt (6), Collared Pratincole, White-rumped and Spotted Sandpipers, Long-tailed Skua, Ring-billed Gull, Roller, Shorelark, Black-eared Wheatear, Aquatic, Marsh, Icterine (2) and Melodious Warblers and Serin.

All breeding records of rare and/or sensitive species were considered in the light of the policy on this matter recently published by HOS. As a result, all such records submitted to the Recorder have been included in this report, with the exception of sightings of two species considered particularly vulnerable to disturbance. The year was noteworthy for the first ever breeding in the county of Black-necked Grebe, although unfortunately the birds did not return in 1988.

Thanks are once again due to the many people who have helped in the preparation of this report, notably Ed Wiseman for carrying out the Recorder's duties, Bob Chapman, Pete Mantle, Keith Maycock, Alf Smallbone, Graham Stephenson, Dave Unsworth and Ed Wiseman for assembling records and compiling sections of the Systematic List, John Eyre for acting as Assistant Editor, Brian Dudley, Roger Clarke, Mike and Pete Combridge and John Eyre for writing the papers, Richard Leach for the Chairman's Report, Dan Powell for his excellent new cover design and illustrations through the Systematic List, Donald Watson for his evocative illustration accompanying the Hen Harrier paper, Duncan Bell, Dennis Bright and Pete Hobby for their photographs, David Gumn for technical help, Kay Dobson for typing most of it and last, but not least, the many observers who contributed their sightings. All records for 1988 should be sent to Ed Wiseman, the County Recorder, at the address shown on page 1 as early as possible in 1989.

*John Clark
August 1988*

POLICY, MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANISATION OF THE HAMPSHIRE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in January 1979, following the winding-up of the Ornithological Section of the Hampshire Field Club. The objects of the Society shall be for the public benefit:

- a) to promote the recording, study and research into ornithology within the County of Hampshire and collate and maintain the results;
- b) to publish the results of such study and research and to publish reports, newsletters and other papers of ornithological interest as may be deemed by the Society suitable or desirable for promoting its objects;
- c) to support and encourage the preservation and conservation of wild birds and places of ornithological interest in the County and to protect these from injury, ill-treatment or destruction;
- d) to promote interest in the objects of the Society and for this purpose to arrange lectures and meetings and to organise tours, rambles, excursions and the like.

Membership is available for the following subscriptions (as from January 1989):

Ordinary membership	£5.00
Joint Membership	£6.00
(2 or more members at the same address)	
Associate Membership	£2.00
(Students between 18 and 25)	
Junior Membership	£2.00
(Members under 18)	
Corporate Membership	£7.00
(Schools, N.H.S's etc)	

Application should be made to the Hon. Membership Secretary. Subscriptions are renewable on January 1st each year, but the subscription of any new member joining after September 30th shall cover the succeeding calendar year, save that members so joining shall not be entitled to receive the Bird Report published in the year they are joining.

All members receive the annual Bird Report, quarterly newsletters, and the Summer and Winter Programmes, which give details of all indoor and outdoor meetings arranged on behalf of the society.

The Newsletters contain Society news and views, articles on various aspects of Hampshire ornithology, recent reports, ringing news, and details of the organisation, progress and results of surveys organised by the Field Studies Committee. These include wildfowl and wader counts, breeding censuses and migration watches. New surveys are started every year, and the newsletter serves as a medium to contact potential volunteers. All members are invited to take part in surveys and contribute articles to the newsletter.

Regular field meetings are arranged for all parts of the county throughout the year, and venues far afield are also selected, e.g. Cley and Dungeness. Meetings are designed to introduce members to various habitats and to provide opportunity for novices of all ages to learn more about birds under field conditions.

Indoor meetings (usually illustrated lectures) are arranged in the winter months. Most of these will be of interest to all members, but some may cater particularly for specialist groups, e.g. survey workers meetings.

The Society is administered by the Management Committee. Three sub-committees, Field Studies, Records and Publications, and Recruitment, Publicity and Programme are responsible for these particular areas to the Management Committee. Officers of all the committees are listed on the inside front cover of this report.

RECORDING BIRDS IN HAMPSHIRE

Observers should send their records to to the Recorder, Mr. E.J. Wiseman, at Normandy Farmhouse, Normandy Lane, Lymington, at the end of each quarter, or, at the latest, by the end of January following the year in which the observations were made.

Records should be tabulated on the special forms obtainable from the Recorder. Species should be listed in the order given in this report, leaving a single line between each species but not between each individual record. Each individual observation should be written in full on a separate line without the use of ditto marks or abbreviation for localities, which can cause confusion. The practice of listing monthly maxima for the year at one locality on the same line, without the date of each count, should be avoided. Full information on what type of records are required for each species is contained in a special pamphlet obtainable from the Recorder. HOS members should have received a copy.

Records of species considered by the *British Birds* Rarities Committee can be submitted directly, or preferably via the county Recorder, but in either case on the special forms available for the purpose from the Rarities Committee Secretary at 'Bag End', Churchtown, Towednack, Cornwall TR26 3AZ. The HOS Records Committee would also like descriptions of the following lesser rarities.

All Divers
Grebes (except Great Crested and Little)

†All Petrels and Shearwaters

Bittern

†Purple Heron

†White Stork

Spoonbill

†Whooper Swan

†Bean and †Pink-footed Geese

Garganey

Red-crested Pochard

Scaup

†Ferruginous Duck

Long-tailed Duck

Velvet Scoter

Ruddy Duck

†Honey Buzzard

†Red Kite

Marsh and †Montagu's Harriers

†Goshawk

†Rough-legged Buzzard

Osprey

Peregrine

Quail

†Spotted Crake

†Corncrake

†Kentish Plover

†Dotterel

†Temminck's Stint

†Pectoral Sandpiper

†Buff-breasted Sandpiper

All unusually early or late migrants

†All Phalaropes

†Pomarine, †Long-tailed and Great Skuas

Mediterranean, †Sabine's, †Iceland

and †Glaucous Gulls

Roseate Tern

†Black Guillemot

Little Auk

Puffin

Long-eared Owl

Hoopoe

Wryneck

Shore Lark

†Richard's and †Tawny Pipits

Unusual races of Yellow Wagtail

White Wagtail (in autumn)

Waxwing

†Dipper

†Bluethroat

†Savi's, †Aquatic, †Marsh, †Icterine,

†Melodious, †Barred

and †Yellow-browed Warblers

†Red-breasted Flycatcher

Golden Oriole

Red-backed Shrike

Hooded Crow

†Raven

Twite

†Serin

†Scarlet Rosefinch

†Lapland, Snow, Cirl and †Ortolan Buntings

In most cases, especially when the observer is known to the Committee, a short note showing why the species was identified as such is all that is required. This is best written with the observation on the recording form. However, in the case of those species marked with a † above, which includes ten recently removed from the list of those considered by *British Birds*, a full description is required. Special HOS unusual Record forms are obtainable from Records Committee members for this purpose. No records of these species will be published unless a description has been accepted by the Records Committee.

The Records Committee may seek supportive evidence in the case of other species occurring under unusual circumstances. The list above is not exclusive and any observer in doubt or needing advice on any species should contact the Recorder.

LIST OF OBSERVERS AND CONTRIBUTORS

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*Apologies for any
 errors or omissions.*

BIRDS IN HAMPSHIRE, 1987

The following abbreviations have been used:

N, E, S and W = the points of the compass; these are combined with numbers to show the direction in which birds overhead were moving, e.g. 17 W;

CBC = Common Bird Census

C.B. = Cress Bed

C.P. = Country Park

G.C. = Golf Course

G.P. = Gravel Pit

- (in tables) = datum not available;

0 (in tables) = visit made but none seen;

* = record maximum for area concerned.

N.F. = New Forest

NNR = National Nature Reserve

R.T. = Rubbish Tip

S.F. = Sewage Farm/Works

S.P. = Sand Pit

Species are listed in order of the *Vooos* list. Each is given a code letter; an explanation of these is given below.

A = A species for which all records are given;

B = A species for which a summary of the records is given;

C = A species for which selected records are given, e.g. migration, weather movements, unusual dates, etc.

D = A species recorded about which there is nothing to report.

Chichester Harbour counts. These are included in the tables for certain species but are not covered by any comments in the text. The area counted is largely in West Sussex but it does include East Hayling Shore. Our thanks are due to the *Sussex Ornithological Society* for providing these data.

Blashford Lakes is used to refer collectively to all the gravel pits in the Avon Valley north of Ringwood (see map in *HBR* 1982). *Warsash* refers to the Hamble Estuary, the shore from Hook Park to Warsash village and Hook-with-Warsash Nature Reserve.

Red-throated Diver (A)

Gavia stellata

One flew E off Hill Head on Jan. 10th and another was there on Jan. 19th. Nearby at Titchfield Haven, one was seen on Jan. 17th and 29th. A long staying bird was at Paulsgrove Lake, Portsmouth Harbour from Jan. 17th-Mar. 28th. At Lepe, one was on the sea on Jan. 26th and 28th and two flew E on the first date. A corpse was found at Hurst Spit on Jan. 31st. Later in the winter, singles were at Hilsea Creek on Feb. 25th, Curbridge on Mar. 9th and Hill Head on Mar. 12th.

A major passage occurred on Apr. 4th, with ten E off Hayling Bay at 1325 hrs., six offshore there at 1520 hrs. and one E at 1657 hrs. Two moved E off Hurst Castle on that date. Singles flew E off Hurst Beach and Hayling Bay on Apr. 25th and one was offshore at Hayling Bay the next day.

One was in Langstone Harbour on Jun. 6th (CJT). This is the first June record for the county.

Late year records were all of single birds, at Pennington on Oct. 3rd, 20th, Dec. 5th and 12th, Netley on Oct. 10th, Hurst Castle on Oct. 19th (flying E), Hayling Bay on Oct. 24th, Eling on Nov. 1st and Lepe on Nov. 6th.

1986: At Hurst, 2 on Jan. 18th, 1 on Jan. 19th, 1 SE on Apr. 23rd, 2 E on May 2nd and 1 on May 5th. At Southsea, 1 on May 10th.

Black-throated Diver (A)*Gavia arctica*

Records of a singleton off Hill Head on Jan. 11th, Warsash on Jan. 16th and Lee-on-the-Solent on Jan. 17th possibly referred to the same bird. One was on the sea off Hurst Castle on Jan. 31st and another was on nearby Mount Lake, this bird remaining to the next day. Two were off Hill Head on Feb. 28th. One arrived from the W off Hayling Bay on Mar. 7th and on the same date one partially oiled bird was found dead on the road at nearby Black Point.

Spring passage sightings involved singles E at Hayling Bay on Apr. 22nd and 24th, Hill Head on May 7th, Hurst Beach on May 9th and two E at Hayling Bay on May 23rd. One was off Hill Head on June 2nd (PMP). This is the first June record for the county. There were no late year records.

1986: 1, Hurst, Jan. 19th.

Great Northern Diver (A)*Gavia immer*

In Jan., two were at Black Point on 1st, at least one was off Hill Head from 3rd-22nd with a maximum of three on 19th, and one was off Dibden Bay on 4th and from 15th-20th. In Feb., one was at Black Point on 15th. The only other records for the year were from Hayling Bay, where there was one on Mar. 7th, 14th and 21st, four (including two E) on Apr. 4th and one on Apr. 23rd/24th.

1986: 1, Hurst, Jan. 18th, 1, Keyhaven/Pennington, Nov. 15th/16th.

Diver sp. (B)*Gavia sp.*

Along the coast there were totals of six E and nine W between Jan. 10th-Mar. 14th, including two E at Hayling Bay on Jan. 10th, three W and one E off Lepe the next day and four E at Hill Head on Feb. 16th. Two circled over Southampton University and left WSW on Jan. 20th.

Spring records involved a minimum total of 21 E and one W from Apr. 2nd-May 10th, peaks eight E off Hayling Bay on Apr. 4th (cf. Red-throated Diver) and four E there on May 2nd.

Thereafter, one was off Brownwich on Aug. 26th, two flew E off Hill Head on Oct. 30th and one was at Pennington on Nov. 15th.

1986: At Hurst, 9 on Jan. 18th, 7 the next day, 19 E between Apr. 23rd-May 5th (peak 9 on May 3rd), 1 on May 16th, 1 W on Nov. 1st and 2 at nearby Pennington on Nov. 22nd.

Little Grebe (C)*Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ports Creek	24	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	18	23
Eling/Lower Test	50+	37	41	4	0	0	0	0	5	12	16	56
Blashford Lakes	1	12	—	—	—	—	22	—	36	—	8	2
Longstock/Leckford	45	51	38	—	—	—	—	—	—	63	36	68
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	0	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	41	28	4	5

The only other notable counts were of 35 at Timsbury on Aug. 27th, 36 there on Oct. 4th and 23 at Bossington on Nov. 7th.

1986: 15 at Salterns Pond, Lymington on Jan. 21st was a good number for that site.

Great Crested Grebe (B)*Podiceps cristatus*

Record numbers were present between Hill Head and Eling during the cold spell from mid Jan.-mid Feb. 111 were in the Netley/Eling area on Jan. 18th, but thereafter numbers

declined here, presumably because some birds moved to the Hill Head/Brownwich area, where the peak counts were of 217 in late Jan. and 182 on Feb. 15th. In contrast, none was found in Langstone Harbour on Jan. 17th and only 13 had returned by Feb. 7th.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Point/Hayling Bay	15	23	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	10
Langstone Harbour	30	13	8	10	9	3	6	12	14	52	90	25
Hill Head/Brownwich	217*	182	45	3	0	0	0	0	2	5	13	73
Netley/Hythe/Eling	111*	78	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	12	21	47
Ringwood/Bickton	0	17	32	28	26	—	31	—	22	16	8	11
Tundry Pond	6	8	20	20	10+	—	4	—	5	—	—	—
Fleet Pond	16	19	31	12	9	12	8	6	5	7	7	18
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	0	19	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	16	12

Pairs in territory were recorded as follows: Allington G.P., 1; Blashford Lakes, 16; Broadlands Lake, 4; Burgate (R. Avon), 1; Blackwater Valley G.P.s (Eversley-Badshot Lea), 19; Dogmersfield Lake, 1; Ewhurst Lake, 1; Fawley Reservoir, 3; Fleet Pond, 3; Stratfield Saye, 2; Timsbury G.P., 1; Timsbury Lake, 1; Tundry Pond, 5; Wellington C.P., 2. Of the 60 pairs, 32 raised 67 young, 19 definitely failed and for nine the outcome was not recorded.

Red-necked Grebe (A)

Podiceps grisegena

One, possibly two, were seen off Hayling Oysterbeds, Langstone Harbour on Jan. 3rd. A small influx occurred with the onset of the cold weather in mid January. Sightings were made at Marchwood/Dibden Bay (2, Jan. 17th/18th, 1 staying to 31st; 2, Feb. 18th), Netley (1, Jan. 24th - probably the Dibden bird), Warsash Marina (1, Jan. 21st, 23rd and 28th), Hill Head (1, Jan. 23rd, 26th and 27th), Cadland Pool, Lepe (1, Jan. 31st), Langstone Harbour Entrance (1, Jan. 31st), Oxey Creek, Lymington (1, Feb. 11th), Lepe (1, Feb. 13th and 19th - different to the earlier bird), Calshot (1, Feb. 22nd) and inland at Shepherd Springs, Andover (1, Jan. 18th-Mar. 15th, when found dead). Thereafter the only early year sighting was of one in summer plumage off Hill Head from Mar. 30th-Apr. 1st.

In autumn, two singles were seen, off Hurst Beach on Sept. 20th and a juvenile at Eling on Sept. 28th. The remaining records were all for Dec.: one found dead in a road at Hoopers Hill, New Milton on 4th, one at Hayling Bay on 20th and presumably the same bird at Black Point on 31st.

Slavonian Grebe (B)

Podiceps auritus

Recorded until Apr. 5th (2, Hayling Bay and 1, Langstone Harbour) and from Nov. 1st (1, Keyhaven). High numbers built up in Hayling Bay during March, with 11 on 7th, 21 on 14th and 24 on 21st.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A		N	D
Hayling Bay	3	3	24	9		1	1
Langstone Harbour	1	1	1	1		0	1
Hill Head	3	4	0	0		0	0
Weston/Netley	1	2	1	0		0	0
Calshot/Needs Ore	3	4	3	0		0	1

In the early year, other records were of single birds at Eling from Jan. 16th-20th, Warsash on Jan. 21st, Sweare Deep, Chichester Harbour on Jan. 31st and Fawley on Feb. 8th. Two were at Dibden Bay on Jan. 20th and Pennington on Feb. 28th.

Apart from sites in the table, the only late year records were of singles at Keyhaven on Nov. 1st and Dec. 6th and two at Eling on Dec. 18th.

1986: 2, Hurst, Jan. 18th. 1, Keyhaven, Feb. 8th. 1, Pennington, Dec. 27th.

Black-necked Grebe (B)

Podiceps nigricollis

Present in Langstone Harbour until Apr. 5th, monthly maxima being Jan., 31; Feb., 12; Mar., 16; Apr., 7. Note the low Feb. count in the severe weather. Elsewhere singletons were at Black Point on Jan. 17th and Feb. 7th, Hayling Bay on Jan. 17th, Dibden Bay on Jan. 20th, Weston on Feb. 23rd and Mar. 9th and Timsbury G.P. from Mar. 15th- Apr. 16th.



At one locality, a single adult and two young were discovered on July 26th. The adult remained until Aug. 4th and the two juveniles were last seen on Aug. 14th. This is the first breeding record for Hampshire.

In the late year, present at Langstone Harbour from Sept. 30th, monthly maxima being Sept., 1; Oct., 20; Nov., 38; Dec., 18. The only other records involved singletons at Hill Head on Oct. 23rd and Weston Shore on Dec. 5th and 7th.

1986: 1, Hurst, Jan. 18th.

Fulmar (B)

Fulmarus glacialis

One was in Hayling Bay on Mar. 7th.

During the spring recorded from Hayling Bay (19 E + 44 W, Apr. 4th-May 23rd, peaks 2 E + 10 W, Apr. 23rd; 2 E + 11 W, Apr. 24th, 4 E + 10 W, May. 23rd), Gilkicker Point (1, Apr. 22nd), Hill Head (8 W + 1 offshore, Apr. 17th-30th), Lepe (1 E + 5 W, Apr. 26th-28th), Tanners Creek (1 W, Apr. 26th) and Hurst Beach (5 SE + 5 offshore, Apr. 4th-May 9th).

In autumn recorded from Hayling Bay (1 W, Aug. 22nd), Haslar Creek (1, Aug. 13th), Hill Head (1 E, July 30th; 1 W Aug. 6th), Lepe (1 W, Aug. 16th, 2 E, Aug. 18th) and Pennington (1 E + 4 W + 2 offshore, Aug. 22nd-Sept. 6th).

1986: 8 E + 10 offshore, Hurst, Apr. 21st-May 17th. 1, Pennington, Aug. 2nd and 10th. 2, Hurst, Aug. 25th.

Manx Shearwater (A)

Puffinus puffinus

Ten flew W off Southsea on Mar. 29th following storms (CHW). This is the first Mar. record for the county.

Storms in Sept. produced further sightings, with singles W and later E at Lepe on 19th, E at Hurst on the same day, and inland at Timsbury from 18th-21st and in an Andover garden on 21st. Both inland birds were caught and released at the coast at Lepe and Hurst respectively.

1986: At Hurst, 3 E on May 2nd and flocks of 3 and 7 offshore on May 17th.

Storm Petrel (A)*Hydrobates pelagicus*

Following the hurricane on the night of Oct. 15th/16th, single birds were seen off Stokes Bay on 17th (AJP) and Hurst Castle on 18th (MCC, PC).

Leach's Petrel (A)*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Four were seen off Pennington/Hurst on Oct. 17th (MCC, PC, EJW) and one was in Langstone Harbour the next day (ANW).

1986: 1, Pennington, in still, sunny weather, Sept. 28th (MCC, PC).

Petrel sp. (A)*Hydrobates/Oceanodroma sp.*

One flew E off Hill Head on Oct. 16th (RKL).

Gannet (B)*Sula bassana*

A poor spring, the only records coming from Hayling Bay (4 E, Mar. 7th; 1 E + 1 W, Apr. 4th; 1, Apr. 23rd; 4 E + 2 W, May 23rd), Hill Head (3 W, May 14th) and Hurst (6, May 9th).

In July, six were fishing off Hurst on 11th and 26 (15 adults) were there on July 19th. In August three were seen off Hayling Bay. 68 were noted in September, including 8 E + 26 W off Hayling Bay on 5th and 15 W off Lepe on 19th. The only subsequent sightings were of two off Hurst on Oct. 7th and singles on the sea off Lepe on Oct. 19th and flying W over Titchfield village on Nov. 23rd.

1986: At Hurst, 2 on Jan. 19th, 2 E + 18 offshore between Apr. 25th-May 17th (peak 11, May 17th), 3 on June 7th, 20 (4 adults) on Sept. 13th and 7 on Sept. 14th. 1, Pennington, June 17th.

Cormorant (C)*Phalacrocorax carbo*

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	38	53	51	—	—	—	—	—	67	133	89	65
Langstone Harbour	30	10	6	16	28	45	52	92	125	99	58	30
Portsmouth Harbour	24	37	18	5	7	—	—	—	20	36	42	31
Southampton Water	105	150+	—	—	—	—	102	134	172	204*	173	105+
Avon Valley	39+	108	60+	31	2	—	2	—	3	—	56	105
Test Valley	20	14	10	5	2	—	1	—	—	2	4	12

The Feb. and Mar. counts in Langstone Harbour were surprisingly low, the maximum count of ten involving a flock which flew in from the north over Portsdown Hill.

The Southampton Water counts were mostly made at Hythe, from where roosts at Netley, Hamble Point, the Esso jetty and Hythe cranes are visible. The count of 204 on Oct. 24th is the highest yet for Hampshire.

The Avon Valley counts were mostly from the Avon Village roost where 105 on Dec. 31st was the highest yet. Large numbers were day roosting on shingle spits at Mockbeggar Lake in the early year, e.g. 48 on Feb. 28th (+ 60 already at Avon) and 60+ on Mar. 14th.

In the N.E. the increase continues. At Fleet Pond there were records on 79 dates in Feb. (1 bird day), Apr. (8), May (6), July (2), Aug. (5), Sept. (23), Oct. (69), Nov. (42) and Dec. (21). All records were of one to four apart from six flying N on Sept. 26th and 15 S on Oct. 28th. At Eversley/Yateley G.P.s sightings were made on 54 dates in Feb. (4 bird days), Mar. (24), Apr. (20), May (3), Sept. (1), Oct. (3), Nov. (41) and Dec. (51). All counts were of one to four until Nov./Dec. when up to 12 were present. Other records included up to three at Stratfield Saye in Jan.-Mar. and Nov./Dec., 9 SSW over Queen's Parade, Aldershot on June 11th and 8 S over Whitehill on June 28th.

Shag (A)*Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Early year records came from Black Point (1, Jan. 1st), Southsea (4, Jan. 1st; 1, Jan. 12th, 16th, 31st and Mar. 29th), Eling/Hythe (1, Jan. 17th-24th and Feb. 23rd), Pennington (1, Feb. 7th; 2, Apr. 4th) and Hill Head (2, May 6th).

Late year records were of singles at Black Point and Southsea on Oct. 18th, Lepe from Oct. 20th-23rd, Warsash and Mayflower Park on Oct. 25th, Sandy Point on Dec. 5th and Weston Shore on Dec. 21st, and three sub adults inland at Wellington C.P. on Nov. 29th. 1986: At Hurst, 1 on May 1st, 5th and 10th, 3 on May 18th and 1 on Nov. 16th. 1, Pennington, Oct. 18th.

Bittern (A)*Botaurus stellaris*

At least one of the two December 1986 birds at Fleet Pond remained into the new year, with sightings on Jan. 2nd, 3rd, 6th, 25th and Feb. 8th. Two were again present from Feb. 10th-20th and the last record was of one on Feb. 23rd. Elsewhere, there was a small influx coinciding with the severe weather. Records came from (singles unless otherwise stated): Broadlands Lake (Jan. 6th and 27th), Titchfield Haven (1/2, Jan. 12th-24th), Lymbourne Stream, Langstone (Jan. 17th), Farlington Marshes (Jan. 17th and 24th - flying W at dusk), Dibden Bay (Jan. 20th), Sopley/Winkton (Jan. 23rd-Feb. 7th) and Wildgrounds, Gosport (Jan. 25th, Feb. 1st and 26th).

Late year reports were of singles at Fleet Pond from Nov. 21st-24th and at Oxeys Marsh, Lymington on Nov. 24th and Dec. 18th.

Cattle Egret (A)*Bubulcus ibis*

The 1986 bird at Titchfield Haven remained until Jan. 11th.

Little Egret (A)*Egretta garzetta*

One flew E across Keyhaven saltings on Aug. 10th (EJW) and presumably the same bird was at Curbridge on the River Hamble from Aug. 16th-31st (DPo, MFW *et al*).

Another was inland at Leckford on the River Test on Oct. 17th (PJP), then one arrived from the W at Keyhaven on Nov. 14th (EJW, GDF, MCC, PC) and one was at Lower Test Marshes on Nov. 18th (JP, AP). These records probably refer to no more than two birds, and the Nov. ones are the first for that month.

All the records were accepted by *British Birds*.

Grey Heron (C)*Ardea cinerea*

Counts of 20+ were made at Amport (c. 25 overhead, Sept. 23rd), IBM Lake, Cosham (21, Sept. 21st), Langstone Harbour (max. 30, Sept. 20th and 26th), Lower Test Marshes (max. 30 -date not given), Mockbeggar Lake (24, Sept. 26th) and Timsbury (53, Jan. 1st; 32, Dec. 13th).

Breeding records (counts of occupied nests) were as follows: Blashford, 10; Elvetham Wood, 7; Fort Elson (Gosport), 36+, Hinton Admiral Park, 5/6; Sopley, 10; Sowley Pond, 26/27; Tournurbury, 9; Trotts Wood (Marchwood), 13/14. No counts were made at Marwell or Ramridge Copse (Weyhill). Sites counted in both years show a decrease from 124 nests in 1986 to 98 in 1987.

Spoonbill (A)*Platalea leucorodia*

Two were seen in the Lymington Estuary on Apr. 23rd (EJW) and one circled over Farlington Marshes and left east on May 9th (PG).

Mute Swan (B)*Cygnus olor**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	3	0	61	—	—	—	—	—	51	106	86	46
Langstone Harbour	0	0	5	6	4	25	32	38	19	5	5	2
Canoe Lake, Southsea	24	50	50	—	—	—	—	—	19	12	34	44
Baffins Pond, Portsmouth	2	34	50	—	32	44	—	—	43	40	31	35
Titchfield Haven	7	17	12	18	18	20	10	—	13	9	1	—
Itchen Estuary	31	31	33	32	30	59	75	63	45	27	25	31
Eling Great Marsh	5	4	4	4	—	57	91	77	61	8	3	6
Lymington/Hurst	30	20+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	15
Sopley/Bisterne	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	45	106*	38
Ringwood/Bickton	106	105	93	65	—	—	—	—	44	70	141	141
Woodgreen/Hale	94	124	133	—	46	—	—	—	102	115	153	108
Broadlands Estate/Lake	34	8	9	16	15	—	—	—	27	7	10	20
Timsbury	12	6	76	82*	20	34	35	15	32	30	10	8
Longstock/Leckford	37	49	25	28	—	—	—	—	—	24	67	51
M27 G.P. Eastleigh	23	—	30	29	31	7	11	—	14	25	27	34
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	12	28	31	—	—	24	—	—	—	27	40	35

An unprecedented spring passage took place at Timsbury, with a maximum of 82 on Apr. 5th. Other sites on the Test had their maxima in other months, e.g. 34 at John O'Gaunt's Lake, King Somborne on Feb. 3rd, 36 at Romsey on Feb. 19th, 30 at Bossington on Nov. 7th and 32 at Mottisfort in Dec. 13th. The only other sites where counts exceeded 20 were Alresford Pond (27, Oct. 18th) and Wellington C.P. (max. 23, Nov. 29th and Dec. 6th).

Bewick's Swan (B)*Cygnus columbianus*

In the early year, counts in the Avon Valley exceeded 300 for the first time, with maxima of 311 (25 first winters) on Jan. 17th and 314 (25 first winters) on Feb. 28th. The last were 14 at Ibsley on Mar. 16th. The first returns were 12 at Ibsley on Nov. 1st but subsequently numbers were low, reaching a maximum of 93 (14 first winters) on Dec. 20th. Half monthly maxima for the main sites and the whole valley are shown below.

	Jan 1-15	Jan 16-31	Feb 1-14	Feb 15-28	Mar 1-15	Nov 1-15	Nov 16-30	Dec 1-15	Dec 16-31
Woodgreen/Hale	0	38	13	4	6	0	0	0	2
Ibsley	254	286	217	312	303	12	43	80	50
Blashford/Ringwood	27	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
Sopley/Avon Village	75	50	3	2	0	21	0	0	0
Whole valley	281	311	233	314	303	21	43	80	93

Other records were: 2, Eling Great Marsh, Jan. 10th, arrived from N, left SE; 5, Hill Head, Jan. 15th; 2, Keyhaven Harbour, Jan. 16th, left N; 2 W, Winchester, Jan. 16th; 3 E, Whitehill and 3 E, West Hayling, Jan. 17th; 3, Emsworth Channel, Jan. 18th (the Hayling birds); 12, Titchfield Haven, Jan. 17th-Feb. 28th; 1 first winter, M27 G.P., Eastleigh, Feb. 10th-May 26th; 106 N, Ashley Walk, Mar. 14th; 1, Winnall Moors, June 20th; 1 W, Stubbington, after dark, Nov. 5th; 7 W, Langstone Harbour and 7 N, Bishopstoke, Dec. 6th.

One showing the characteristics of the Nearctic race, the Whistling Swan, *C. c. columbianus* was at Ibsley from Jan. 1st-25th. Accepted by *British Birds*. The first British record (MRe, GJA *et al*).

1986: One showing the characteristics of the race *C. c. columbianus* was at Ibsley on Dec. 31st (see above).

Whooper Swan (A)*Cygnus cygnus*

One flew W over North Hayling on Jan. 3rd (RJS) and two flew low W over Bramshill R.T.

on Jan. 19th (MAsc). Three moved W over North Hayling on Nov. 7th (CBC, MJWH, KWM, RJS) and one flew SW over Waltham Chase the next day (KWM).

Bewick's/Whooper Swan (A)

Cygnus columbianus/cygnus

Seven flew W over Winchester S.F. on Feb. 8th and seven E over Titchfield Haven on Feb. 16th.

Bean Goose (A)

Anser fabilis

The bird of the race *fabilis* at Tundry Pond in Dec. 1986 was seen again on Jan. 5th. One of the race *rossicus* was with White-fronts at Blashford on Jan. 17th (JMCK).

Pink-footed Goose (A)

Anser brachyrhynchus

Single birds (probably feral) were reported from Mottisfont on Feb. 15th, Eversley G.P. on Apr. 11th, Titchfield Haven from Oct. 2nd-5th, Fleet Pond on Oct. 12th and Bossington on Dec. 13th. A party of eight at Titchfield Haven from Dec. 19th-31st were considered to be genuine wild birds (BSD *et al*).

White-fronted Goose (B)

Anser albifrons

In the Avon Valley, the maximum count of 520 on Jan. 25th coincided with the severe weather. In Feb. three counts were between 265 and 300 and on Mar. 1st, 310 were present. The last were four on Mar. 16th. Nine were back by Nov. 25th, numbers rising to 205 on Dec. 12th but then decreasing to 151 on Dec. 31st.

Apart from one at Broadlands Lake on Mar. 18th and 20 S over Romsey on Nov. 10th, all other records were of one to six and within the above dates.

Greylag Goose (C)

Anser anser

Maximum counts at localities with double figure counts were: 16, Sopley/Bisterne, Oct. 18th; 322*, Stratfield Saye, Oct. 3rd; 30, Bossington, Feb. 15th; 100+, Bransbury Common, Dec. 26th; 53, Longparish, Apr. 5th; 13, Longstock, Mar. 17th.

The only breeding records were of one occupied nest at Longparish and one pair which raised eight young at Wellington C.P. No young were reared at Stratfield Saye due to control measures.

Canada Goose (B)

Branta canadensis

Counts in Aug.-Nov. in various areas are shown below (1986 figures in brackets).

Stratfield Saye/Bramshill area	738(c)	(1850)
Fleet/Elvetham/Tundry Pond area	790(c)	(510)
Eversley/Yateley G.P.s	833(c)	(300)
Frimley G.P./Badshot Lea/Sleaford Reservoir	373(c)	(250)
Petersfield/Liphook area	80	(246)
Itchen Valley (Allington - Alresford)	309	(250)
Test Valley (Eling - St. Mary Bourne)	331	(120)
Avon Valley (Avon Village - Bickton)	340	(325)
Needs Ore/Sowley Pond area	129	(205)
Titchfield Haven	242	(228)
Portsmouth area	165	(56)
TOTALS	4330	(4340)

(c) = Co-ordinated count, October 3rd

Record counts included: 123, Sinah G.P., Sept. 27th; 92, Farlington Marshes, Aug. 22nd; 93, Baffins Pond, Oct. 18th; 118, IBM Lake, Sept. 22nd; 242, Titchfield Haven, Nov.; 190, Avon Village/Bisterne, Oct. 18th; 1225, Eversley G.P., Sept. 26th; 750+, Tundry Pond,

Oct. 3rd; 790 roosting, Fleet Pond, Oct. 3rd (Tundry birds); 210, Sleaford Reservoir, Oct. 23rd.

Brent Goose (B)

Branta bernicla

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	5379	9998	7005	—	—	—	—	—	17	5623	5652	8244
Langstone Harbour	7600	5930	5800	925	13	6	8	7	400	3400	6280	6010
Portsmouth Harbour	1966	1605	640	8	0	0	0	0	—	597	1231	2129
Hill Head/Chilling	800	506	500	7	1	0	0	0	0	109	1026	1200
Warsash	480	165	229	12	0	0	0	0	0	30	147	275
Weston Shore	160	70	100	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Fawley/Calshot	500	490	500	4	0	0	0	0	0	—	450	690
Beaulieu Estuary	520	711	600	395	90	0	0	0	1	275	340	260
Sowley/Lymington	72	218	332	19	0	0	0	0	0	6	142	165
Lymington/Hurst	2500*	1700	1600	54	0	0	0	0	2	209	860	1000+

The only first winters reported in the early year were five at Langstone Harbour and one at the Beaulieu Estuary. In the late year, numbers were again low, with only 79 out of 6280 at Langstone and 16 out of 860 in the Hurst area on Nov. 21st.

Spring passage records involved a minimum of 610 E between Mar. 21st-May 12th with a peak of 496 E at Hurst on Apr. 4th (*cf.* Common Scoter and Little Gull).

Several inland sightings were reported: 10 NNW, Regent's Park, Southampton, Jan. 3rd; 1 with White-fronts, Ringwood, Jan. 11th; 16, Eastleigh S.F., Jan. 26th; 10 (7 first winters), Mockbeggar Lake, Dec. 26th. Langstone birds are apparently regularly moving inland to feed, as shown by counts of c. 250 on Jan. 18th and c. 200 on Dec. 3rd just north of Portsdown Hill.

Records of birds showing the characteristics of other races were of single Pale-bellied Brents *B.b. hrota* at West Hayling on Jan. 15th and Keyhaven on Dec. 19th, and a single Black Brant *B.b. nigricans* at Farlington Marshes from Feb. 7th-12th (RWW *et al*) and presumably the same at East Hayling from Nov. 9th-21st (CBC *et al*). The *nigricans* records have been accepted by *British Birds* and are the first for the county (see also 1986 below).

1986: One showing the characteristics of the race *B.b. nigricans* was at Chichester Harbour from Nov. 2nd into 1987 and was frequently seen at East Hayling (CBC, MAC).

Shelduck (B)

Tadorna tadorna

The count of 2783 at Langstone Harbour on Jan. 17th was the highest there since Feb. 1972.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	2959	3772	2607	—	—	—	—	—	151	286	817	2235
Langstone Harbour	2783	2146	1800	208	130	30	30	23	46	73	142	625
Portsmouth Harbour	403	431	47	68	80	6	12	13	1	1	48	125
Titchfield Haven	27	46	52	38	22	17	2	2	12	4	14	21
Warsash	138	59	70	25+	25+	25+	—	10	0	0	6	5
Fawley/Calshot	220	295	92	93	69	—	—	67	25	20	91	158
Beaulieu Estuary	95	144+	110	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	140
Sowley/Lymington	105	160	136	136	33	44	33	5	0	5	11	20
Lymington/Hurst	663	604+	330	146	48	2	30	—	—	7	—	236
Ringwood/Bickton	2	12	10	11	20	—	4	—	2	0	3	1

Movements noted included 117 W off Lepe and Pennington in cold weather between Jan. 10th-12th, 17 off high NW from Farlington Marshes on Apr. 12th and 95+ E through the

Solent between Apr. 4th-May 23rd.

Broods were reported as follows: Langstone Harbour islands, 5; Wildgrounds (Gosport), 2; Dibden Bay, 1; Fawley/Calshot, 1; Pylewell, 1; Milford-on-Sea, 1; Mockbeggar Lake, 2; Spinaker Lake, 1; Hamer Warren S.P., 1. 20+ pairs attempted breeding at North Solent NNR.

Other inland records came from 13 sites, monthly totals being: Jan., 3; Feb., 19; Mar., 2; Apr., 27; May, 4; June, 1; Aug., 3; Sept., 4; Oct., 1; Dec., 2. All records were of one to four apart from 6, Heath Pond, Feb. 8th and 11th; 7, Alresford Pond, Feb. 14th and 18, Sopley/Bisterne, Apr. 5th.

Mandarin (B)

Aix galericulata

Reports of successful breeding came from Eyeworth Pond (6 young raised) and Stratfield Saye (7 young raised). Elsewhere, reports of pairs in suitable breeding habitat came from Headley, Leckford, Liphook and six New Forest sites.

In other months, records came from a further eighteen sites mainly in the N.E. and the New Forest. Counts over four were made at Cadnam Ring (5, Feb. 4th), Fleet Pond (up to 8, Sept. 2nd-30th), Passfield Pond (37, Oct. 2nd), and Stratfield Saye (13, July 26th; 32*, Sept. 4th; 72*, Sept. 13th; 48, Oct. 3rd).

Wigeon (B)

Anas penelope

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	2485	367	354	—	—	—	—	—	29	562	546	540
Langstone Harbour	2236*	470	374	9	3	3	3	12	188	548	651	660
Titchfield Haven	3300*	2500	720	2	2	2	2	2	22	270	750	1156
Eling/Hythe	665	386	199	0	0	0	0	0	3	124	250	349
Fawley/Calshot	52	76	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	48	108
Beaulieu Estuary	340	580	180	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	258	362
Sowley/Lymington	270	140	66	0	0	0	0	0	4	160	200	280
Lymington/Hurst	1000	200	100	0	0	0	0	0	12	55	150	200
Sopley/Bisterne	4130*	200	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	81	150+	1160+
Ringwood/Bickton	2900	2100	800	6	2	0	1	0	5	20	135	606
Broadlands/Bossington	380	180	131	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	9	290
Stratfield Saye	62	71	65	4	0	1	1	0	0	2	7	30

A marked cold weather movement took place between Jan. 10th-13th, with a minimum of 923 W through the Solent and an arrival of 1000 at Pennington/Keyhaven on 11th. Subsequently, exceptional numbers were present at Titchfield Haven (max. 3330*, Jan. 15th), Langstone Harbour (2236*, Jan. 18th) and in the Avon Valley (4130*, Sopley/Bisterne and 2750, Ringwood/Bickton, Jan. 25th). Numbers at other inland localities showed a marked influx with 70, Winchester S.F., Jan. 18th; 90+, Alresford Pond, Jan. 22nd; 62, Avington Park, Jan. 25th and 117, Bishopstoke/Allington G.P./Highwood Reservoir, Jan. 31st.

Numbers dropped markedly in Feb. but both the Avon Valley and Titchfield Haven still held over 2000 birds.

In the late year, numbers were below normal at most sites.

1986: The Sept. max. for Titchfield Haven should read 30, not 11.

American Wigeon (A)

Anas americana

A drake was at Titchfield Haven from May 7th until July (BSD, RKL). Accepted by *British Birds*. The fifth Hampshire record.

Gadwall (B)*Anas strepera*

A record number of c. 520 was present in Dec., maintaining the species steady increase after a brief respite. Numbers were estimated at c. 400 in Jan.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Titchfield Haven	47*	47	41	12	9	8	2	6	10	4	23	29
Beaulieu Estuary	3	25+	8	2	6	—	1	—	4	—	12	8
Sowley Pond	4	16	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
Ringwood/Bickton	109	104	72	19	11	—	18	—	47	85	150	174
Laverstoke/Overton	26	56	37	—	—	17	41	—	12	—	7	115*
Allington G.P.	18	0	6	0	0	—	—	0	0	4	12	17
Winchester S.F.	44	43	33	19	11	11	12	3	0	0	5	54
Alresford Pond	40	29	10	14	12	5	10	30	43	62*	37	26
Stratfield Saye	2	4	8	11	—	8	—	—	6	13	0	3
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	34	48	31	6	0	0	0	0	2	8	4	38

Other localities with counts of 10+ were Fawley Refinery (12, Dec. 20th), Northington (14, Feb. 15th; 42+, Sept. 27th), Sopley (11, Jan. 25th), Warsash (11, Jan. 21st), Wellington C.P. (up to 13, Dec. 23rd-30th) and Winnall Moors (32*, Jan. 25th).

Successful breeding was reported at Alresford Pond (2 broods, 10 young), Blashford Lakes (3 broods, 15 young), Brown Candover (1 brood, 2 young), Overton (4 broods, c. 35 young), Polhampton (1 brood, 5 young), Winchester College (1 brood, 4 young) and Winchester S.F. (1 brood, 8 young). Pairs were also present in suitable breeding habitat at Paulsgrove R.T., Titchfield Haven, Warsash, Needs Ore (4), Stratfield Saye, Avington and Warnford Park.

1986: 34*, Needs Ore, Mar. 11th.

Teal (B)*Anas crecca*

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	902	913	947	—	—	—	—	—	88	568	1146	1741
Langstone Harbour	262	140	203	72	2	10	6	76	650	700	278	440
Portsmouth Harbour	227	253	77	14	0	0	0	12	205	325	200	230
Titchfield Haven	236	228	40	15	12	17	28	102	152	432	272	255
Warsash	65	67+	30+	4	2+	0	1	4	42	76	28+	76+
Eling/Lower Test	100	123	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	250	250
Fawley/Calshot	660	430	180	2	0	0	0	0	96	560	760	870
Beaulieu Estuary	320	115	75	5	—	3	4	19	108	140+	103	214
Sowley/Lymington	66	300+	102	0	0	0	0	0	60+	160	80	400
Lymington/Hurst	400	230	30	9	0	0	1	20	50	300	140	600
Sopley/Bisterne	230	8	—	13	0	0	0	0	0	9	310+	130
Ringwood/Bickton	116	275	110	39	1	0	4	0	37	26	122	190
Broadlands/Timsbury	47	22	17	0	0	0	0	0	33	2	11	130
Avington	64	80	20	5	0	5	0	1	30	38	75	88
Alresford Pond	112	69	30	4	0	0	1	29	110	43	57	80
Dogmersfield Lake	60	52	—	2	0	0	0	0	7	30	—	12
Stratfield Saye	21	90	40	—	—	2	3	—	50+	50	67	210

Counts of 50+ were also made at Allington G.P. (50, Jan. 12th), Winchester College (60 E, Jan. 29th), Northington (55, Oct. 18th) and Wellington C.P. (52 W, Dec. 27th). Successful breeding was reported from Highclere Park (1 brood, 2 young), Liss Forest Pond (1 brood, 2 young), Stratfield Saye (1 brood, 2 young), Warblington (1 brood) and Woolmer Pond (2 broods, 9 young).

A drake showing the characteristics of the Nearctic race, the Green-winged Teal, *A.c. carolinensis* was near Romsey on Feb. 28th. Accepted by *British Birds*. The eighth Hampshire record.

Mallard (B)*Anas platyrhynchos**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	500	532	289	—	—	—	—	—	240	366	529	480
Langstone Harbour	104	110	20+	20	30	50	50	68	61	103	46	100
Baffins Pond	320	220	198	—	—	—	—	—	178	138	190	175
Portsmouth Harbour	216	153	152	44	15	120	127	153	422	335	175	175
Titchfield Haven	245	283	251	15	52	56	50	177	—	132	230	192
Lower Test Marshes	200	—	—	—	—	—	—	233	—	800	250	250
Beaulieu Estuary	390	170	86	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	174	399
Ringwood/Bickton	103	36	18	—	—	—	—	—	827	170	416	194
Broadlands	660	307	390	—	—	—	—	—	770	690	591	940
Leckford/Longstock	71	100	133	—	—	—	—	—	—	400	115	104
Avington	100	60	8	20	—	—	—	30	—	65	225	12
Alresford Pond	180	62	20	104	—	—	75	190	275	100	10	18
Northington	120	86	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	840	240	300
Stratfield Saye	—	250	50+	50	—	75	117	—	750+	—	250+	150
Eversley/Yateley G.P.s	71	23	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	176	130	265
Dogmersfield Lake	—	—	7	—	—	53	—	—	100	380	—	300
Fleet Pond	200	115	40	—	36	60	100	250	425	450	650	685*

Counts did not exceed 200 at any other locality.

Pintail (B)*Anas acuta**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	251	85	110	—	—	—	—	—	0	16	61	71
Langstone Harbour	200	240	245	1	0	0	0	0	23	70	103	236
Portsmouth Harbour	35	28	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	11	0
Titchfield Haven	3	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Beaulieu Estuary	84	35	17	0	0	0	0	0	5	—	34	27
Sowley Pond	14	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lymington/Hurst	58	44	45	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	17	34
Ringwood/Bickton	19	20	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

Other coastal records came from seven sites but the only counts to exceed six were made at Fawley/Calshot (max. 7, Dec. 20th) and Sowley Pond (max. 14, Jan. 27th). Records of movement included 9 W, Lepe, Jan. 11th; 2 E, Hurst, Apr. 3rd; 2 E, Hurst, Apr. 4th; 1 E, Lepe and Hayling Bay, Apr. 28th; 15 W, Pennington, Oct. 25th.

Inland records away from the Ringwood/Bickton area came from Eversley G.P. (2, Mar. 14th; 5, Aug. 14th), Fleet Pond (1, Nov. 26th), Sopley/Bisterne (1, Jan. 11th and Dec. 31st), Sway Lakes (1, Jan. 13th), Winchester College (12 N, Feb. 4th) and Winchester S.F. (1, Jan. 25th).

1986: 6, Titchfield Haven, Sept. 17th and 1 there, Dec. 11th.

Garganey (A)*Anas querquedula*

The only spring records were of a pair at Needs Ore on May 2nd, and single drakes there on May 4th and at Keyhaven Marsh on May 25th.

In autumn, singles were at Warsash on July 13th, Milton Reclamation on Aug. 5th and Fleet Pond on Sept. 16th.

1986: 8, Pennington, Aug. 10th (PC, MCC).

Shoveler (B)*Anas clypeata**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	15	72	2	—	—	—	—	—	0	11	0	0
Langstone Harbour	133	87	60	6	5	1	3	50	90	62	60	65
Paulsgrove R.T.	6	12	17	2	5	0	2	6	90	60	52	38
Titchfield Haven	94	38	16	7	2	3	1	35	30	32	88	70
Warsash	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	11	11	1	14
Beaulieu Estuary	17	12	14	2	—	—	—	20+	8	—	11	4
Lymington/Hurst	21	38	21	7	0	2	5	0	4	17	0	30
Ringwood/Bickton	35	68	38	19	0	—	0	—	14	16	30	25
Allington G.P.	20	9	10	5	0	0	0	0	1	4	13	16
Alresford Pond	20	24	4	3	2	2	0	2	6	2	0	7
Stratfield Saye	11	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	14	10	0	0

Other localities with counts of 10+ were Baffins Pond (17, Jan. 18th; 20, Feb. 15th; 12, Mar. 15th), Dibden Bay (11, Mar. 20th and 27th); Sowley Shore (15, July 13th) and Sowley Pond (16, Oct. 17th; 38, Dec. 12th).

Breeding was proved at Farlington Marshes where a pair raised one young.
1986: 40+, Needs Ore, Feb. 27th.

Red-crested Pochard (A)*Netta rufina*

Single drakes were recorded at Eling Great Marsh on Jan. 15th/16th, Heath Pond, Petersfield on Jan. 17th/18th, Blackwater Meadows on Feb. 3rd, Eversley G.P. on Feb. 6th (the Blackwater bird), Sinah G.P. on Mar. 15th and Farlington Marshes from Apr. 12th-18th.

Pochard (B)*Aythya ferina**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Sinah G.P.	201	75	83	0	0	0	0	0	2	37	88	86
IBM Lake/Paulsgrove R.T.	73	47	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	26	26	40
Titchfield Haven	169	36	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	17	43
Fawley Reservoir	75	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	94	65
Sowley Pond	74	67	9	0	0	0	0	0	6	15	41	75
Ringwood/Bickton	215	431	349	17	2	—	5	—	4	26	177	411
Broadlands Lake	66	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	17
Timsbury G.P.	180	210	115	60	20	30	25	15	20	45	115	145
Mottisfont	153	120	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	64	60
Allington G.P.	57	46	14	2	0	0	1	1	3	18	51	100
Winchester S.F.	74	58	26	10	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
Alresford Pond	61	36	2	2	4	6	8	2	1	1	12	73
Stratfield Saye	55	67	31	9	0	0	0	0	1	5	44	22
Wellington C.P.	33	70	71	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	66
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	75	60	58	11	3	1	9	6	12	26	22	51
Fleet Pond	56	58	45	10	3	5	6	3	62	96	39	45

Other localities with counts of 50+ were Laverstoke (62, Feb. 7th), Sopley/Bisterne (89, Jan. 25th; 55+, Nov. 22nd), Tundry Pond (57, Feb. 13th) and Winnall Moors (60, Jan. 30th).

Broods were reported as follows: Alresford Pond, 6; Fleet Pond, 4; Timsbury, 3.
1986: The Oct. max. for Titchfield Haven should read 12, not 7.

Ring-necked Duck (A)*Aythya collaris*

The 1986 bird remained in the Frimley G.P./Ash Vale G.P. area until Apr. 6th; it spent most of its time on Surrey water but was occasionally seen in Hampshire. It reappeared at Fleet Pond on Apr. 18th and then moved to Dogmersfield Lake, where it remained until Apr. 25th (MASC, KBW, WGD).

A first winter drake was at Mockbeggar Lake on Nov. 22nd/23rd (JMCK *et al*) and then at Timsbury G.P. from Dec. 11th into 1988 (PL, KJF, DAT *et al*). This is the fifth Hampshire bird.

All records were accepted by *British Birds*.

Ferruginous Duck (A)*Aythya nyroca*

A female was at Fleet Pond on Jan. 9th (WGD, MASC) and a male was at Mockbeggar Lake on Dec. 13th (CGB) and 16th (GPG). Presumably the same bird was relocated on the River Avon at Sopley on Dec. 28th (AHa), where it remained into 1988.

Tufted Duck (B)*Aythya fuligula*

The Jan. cold spell froze most still water and so resulted in several abnormally high gatherings on rivers, *e.g.* at Titchfield Haven, Rignwood/Bickton, Broadlands and Mottisfont (see table below) and on salt water - notably 108 in Langstone Harbour and 160 at Weston/Netley Shore on Jan. 16th. Also of interest were 18 W at Lepe in 2.75 hours on Jan. 11th (*cf.* Wigeon, Pintail).

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Sinah G.P.	103	74	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	35	47
Baffins Pond	35	27	50	—	—	—	—	—	10	17	12	18
IBM Lake/Paulsgrove R.T.	221	199	119	7	0	0	0	0	2	17	11	50
Titchfield Haven	155*	7	11	6	6	0	1	3	2	3	9	18
Fawley Reservoir	40	49	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	42	58
Sowley Pond	35	48	12	0	0	0	0	0	12	10	35	28
Ringwood/Bickton	325	466	445	229	74	—	148	—	179	—	175	303
Woodgreen/Hale	109	33	74	—	6	—	—	—	0	1	0	44
Broadlands Estate/Lake	380*	221	124	—	—	—	50	—	50	19	60	110
Timsbury G.P.	180	220	140	70	45	40	25	25	25	15	120	205
Mottisfont	145	85	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	16	10
Leckford/Longstock	60	80	50	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	37	31
Rookesbury Mill	53	19	25	—	—	—	—	—	20	17	34	19
Overton/Laverstoke	—	63	24	—	—	—	—	—	32	—	4	40
Allington G.P.	100	44	44	52	21	0	0	0	30	58	79	94
Highwood Reservoir	135*	90	34	20	—	12	—	—	25	0	48	78
Winchester S.F.	16	10	11	52	29	19	6	1	0	0	0	14
Winnall Moors	60	37	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	35	70
Alresford Pond	58	55	4	13	—	—	7	12	3	—	—	22
Dogmersfield Lake	—	13	18	—	10	4	13	—	55	21	—	39
Stratfield Saye	50	120	82	108	—	20	33	—	35	37	44	30
Wellington C.P.	24	31	56	24	2	—	—	—	—	—	28	22
Yateley/Eversley G.P.S	245	242	242	—	—	—	—	—	—	121	88	251

Breeding records involved 52 broods at 20 sites, including nine at Blashford Lakes, 12 at Eversley G.P. and seven at Winnall Moors.

Scaup (A)*Aythya marila*

The cold weather produced a notable influx, with the first a female at Sowley Pond on Jan. 3rd, then several records of single birds between 11th-14th, ten moving W at Pennington in 40 minutes on 12th and six in Langstone Harbour from 12th-17th. A large flock was

established in the Hythe/Dibden Bay/Marchwood area of Southampton Water, with eight on Jan. 14th, rising to 31 (10m) on 18th. Counts then varied between 19 and 26 up to Feb. 18th, with three on Feb. 22nd the last record. 26 (12m) off Brownwich on Feb. 15th and four at Netley Shore on Feb. 19th were presumably Hythe birds. Other coastal records, all of one or two birds, came from 12 sites with the last two females at Titchfield Haven on Mar. 29th. Inland records were of a drake at Bisterne (R. Avon) on Jan. 25th and single females at Woodgreen (R. Avon) on Jan. 18th, Blashford Lakes on Jan. 18th/19th and Feb. 28th/Mar. 1st and Eversley G.P. on Mar. 5th. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Jan	Jan	Feb	Feb	Mar	Mar
1-15	16-31	1-14	15-28	1-15	16-31
32	54	32	26	6	4

The only late year records were of three female/immatures at Portsmouth Harbour on Nov. 21st and one female at Langstone Harbour on Nov. 28th.

Eider (B)

Somateria mollissima

In the early year the Black Point/Hayling Bay flock reached a maximum of 50 on Apr. 4th but in the remainder of the year numbers were low.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Black Point/Hayling Bay	17	35	40	50	2	0	0	0	0	0	19	9
Hill Head	0	6	9	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pennington	1	3	1	0	5	6	6	6	7	0	0	0

Other records came from Dibden Bay (5, Jan. 10th), Calshot (1, Feb. 22nd), Lepe (12, Mar. 15th; 1 W, Mar. 17th; 2 W, Oct. 21st), Southsea (3 E, Apr. 5th), Langstone Harbour (1, May 26th) and Netley/Weston Shore (1, Dec. 16th and 25th).

Long-tailed Duck (A)

Clangula hyemalis

The only record was of two flying E at Sandy Point on May 23rd. The worst year since 1978, when one was reported.

Common Scoter (B)

Melanitta nigra

Approximate monthly totals:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
On sea	6	4	81	584	14	0	32	0	1	0	26	0
Flying E	0	3	7	715	0	0	0	1	13	0	6	0
Flying W	30	0	1	77	0	0	1	35	3	7	0	0

The only double figure count in the early year was of 30 W at Hayling on Jan. 11th.

A total of 722E was recorded on spring passage between Mar. 7th-Apr 26th, peak 649E at Hayling Bay on Apr. 4th with 554 seen between 1300 and 1500 hrs. Other records included 80+ at Hayling Bay on Mar. 7th, 400 off Hurst Beach on Apr. 4th and 110 there the following day.

Summer records were of 25 at Hurst on July 11th and eight there on July 19th.

Autumn passage was reported between Aug. 9th-Oct. 21st and involved small numbers with a peak of 35W at Pennington on Aug. 9th.

In the late year, records were of one to four birds apart from eight at Warsash on Nov. 24th.

Velvet Scoter (A)*Melanitta fusca*

Four were seen off Black Point on Jan. 1st. All other records in the early year were of single birds: females at West Common Shore, Hamble on Jan. 7th, Weston/Netley Shore on Jan. 16th and Curbridge on Mar. 9th, and males flying W at Lepe on Jan. 11th and at Eling/Marchwood from Jan. 17th-19th and Feb. 3rd.

In the late year two flew E at Pennington on Oct. 24th, two drakes did likewise at Lepe on Nov. 6th and a female was at Weston/Netley Shore from Dec. 13th-31st.

Goldeneye (B)*Bucephala clangula*

Present until Apr. 13th (1, Warsash) and from Oct. 17th (2 W, Hill Head).

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	139	95	56	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	15	41
Hayling Bay	11	19	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Langstone Harbour	63	64	61	6	0	0	0	0	0	3	41	56
Portsmouth Harbour	70	31	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	36
Netley/Weston Shore	80	120*	48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	36
Lymington/Hurst	36	12	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Ringwood/Bickton	33	53	64*	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	9

The record numbers at Netley/Weston Shore were attracted to the sewage outfall there. Counts of males were very low, e.g. only four out of 120 on Feb. 2nd and eight out of 82 on Feb. 23rd. Maxima at other sites in Southampton Water were of seven at Northam, R. Itchen on Feb. 6th, 18 at Eling on Jan. 24th and 33 (5 m) at Dibden Bay on Jan. 4th, which arrived at dusk from the Netley direction. Other coastal records came from Titchfield Haven/Hill Head (max. 5, Jan.), Curbridge (max. 8, Jan 12th), Warsash (max. 1), Lepe (2 W, Jan. 11th; 1 E, Dec. 2nd), the Beaulieu Estuary (max. 2) and Sowley Pond (1, Apr. 6th).

In the Ringwood/Bickton area numbers also reached record levels. Many feed on the R. Avon during the day but fly into roost at Blashford Lakes at dusk. The count of 64 (9 m) on Mar. 1st consisted of 44 at Mockbeggar Lake and 20 at Ellingham Lake. Other inland records came from Highwood Reservoir/Allington G.P. (1 f, Jan. 11th-17th), Overton Ponds (1 f, Jan. 18th-Mar. 1st), Yateley G.P. (1 m, Jan. 30th), Eversley G.P. (1 f, Mar. 18th-Apr. 5th) and Fleet Pond (1 imm. m, Oct. 19th).

Smew (B)*Mergus albellus*

As in 1985 and 1986, a notable influx occurred during the severe weather, with most present in the second half of Jan. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

	Jan 1-15	Jan 16-31	Feb 1-15	Feb 16-31	Mar 1-15
Redheads	13	36	15	9	7
Adult males	2	5	3	1	3

One was at Yateley G.P. on Jan. 1st/2nd but the main arrival was from Jan. 12th onwards. The records are summarised below.

Sinah G.P.: 1, Jan. 31st-Mar. 14th.

IBM Lake: 1, Jan. 12th-Mar. 12th but 5, Jan. 20th/21st.

Titchfield Haven: 3, Jan. 13th; 1, Feb. 21st.

Netley/Weston Shore: 1, Jan. 17th-24th and Feb. 23rd.

Cobden Bridge, R. Itchen: 1, Jan. 15th-Feb. 1st.

Eling/Lower Test: 4, Jan. 16th; 2, 17th; 3, 18th; 1/2, 19th-27th; 1, Feb. 8th.

Broadlands Lake: 2, Jan. 16th/17th; 1, 24th; pr., Mar. 13th.

Fawley Reservoir: 2, Jan. 18th.

Exbury Ponds: 1, Jan. 25th.

Sowley Pond: 1 m, Jan. 12th-21st; 2 m, 24th-Feb. 1st; 1 redhead, Jan 27th and 3 redheads, Feb. 1st; 1, Feb. 22nd.

Lymington Toll Bridge: 2, Jan. 18th; 1, Jan. 26th.

Keyhaven/Pennington: 1, Jan. 10th and 16th; 6 (1 m) 17th; pr., 18th; 1, 19th/20th and Feb. 1st; 2, Feb. 7th.

Sopley/Bisterne, R. Avon: 1, Jan. 12th; 7 (1 m), 15th; pr., 16th; 4, 25th.

Blashford Lakes: 4, Jan. 17th; 4 (1 m), 25th; 5, 31st; 6 (1 m), Feb. 7th; then up to 3 to Mar. 1st.

Timsbury G.P.: pr., Mar. 15th.

Twyford, R. Itchen: 1 shot, Jan. 17th.

Alresford Pond: 1 m, Mar. 15th.

Stratfield Saye: 1, Jan. 30th.

Yateley/Eversley G.P.s: 1, Feb. 5th-7th, 11th; pr., Feb. 15th.

All were redheads unless otherwise stated.

In the late year two redheads were at Mainbridge, Romsey on Dec. 13th/14th. One left N but the other remained until at least Dec. 20th.

1986: 1 m, Blackwater, Needs Ore, Feb. 17th-19th; 2 redheads there, Mar. 7th and 1, Mar. 11th-13th.

Red-breasted Merganser (B)

Mergus serrator

Present until May 25th (2, Langstone Harbour) and from Oct. 3rd (4, Langstone Harbour), apart from singles at Pennington on July 4th and from Aug. 9th-16th, Langstone Harbour from July 22nd-Aug. 15th, and two E at Keyhaven on Aug. 2nd.

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	36	44	40	—	—	—	—	—	0	14	77	50
Langstone Harbour	60+	34	34	34	2	0	1	1	0	14	127	214
Portsmouth Harbour	16	11	11	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	83
Hill Head/Brownwich	37	26	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	17
Warsash	11	13	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
Southampton Water	34	40	36	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	28
Lymington/Hurst	26	14	12	3	0	0	1	1	0	2	20	20

Maxima at individual Southampton Water sites included 40 (5 m) off Netley/Weston Shore on Feb. 23rd, 32 (2 m) at Northam, R. Itchen on Mar. 8th and 18 (4 m) off Dibden Bay on Mar. 20th.

Spring passage through the Solent was noted between Mar. 7th-May 9th, involving a minimum total of 84 E and 19 W. The peak movement occurred on Apr. 4th, when 45+ moved E at Hurst and 21 E at Hayling Bay (assumed to be the same birds in calculating the total).

Autumn movements included nine W at Hurst on Oct. 19th and seven W at Hayling Bay on Oct. 24th.

Goosander (B)

Mergus merganser

In the early year, the usual flock was present in the Wellington C.P. area and a small influx occurred in other parts of the county. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

	Jan 1-15	Jan 16-31	Feb 1-14	Feb 15-28	Mar 1-15	Mar 16-31	Apr 1-15
Wellington C.P. area	10	19	32	34	27	16	1
Elsewhere	12	25	16	14	14	2	2

In the Wellington area, selected counts were: 10 (4 m), Wellington C.P., Jan. 7th; 19 (7 m), Stratfield Saye, Jan. 30th; 32 (11 m) roosting, Wellington C.P., Feb. 15th; 27 (9 m), Eversley G.P., Feb. 19th; 34 (12 m) at all three sites, Feb. 21st; 27 (6 m), Eversley G.P., Mar. 14th; 1, Eversley G.P., Apr. 5th/6th.

Other records are summarised below.

Hilsea Moat/IBM Lake: 1, Jan. 17th-Mar. 11th.

Titchfield Haven/Hill Head: 1 m, Jan. 14th; 1, 16th/17th; 1 m, 24th.

Weston/Northam (R. Itchen): 1-3, Jan. 17th-Feb. 7th then 1 to Mar. 7th.

Eling/Marchwood: 1, Jan. 17th and 20th.

Beaulieu: 1, Jan. 17th; 3, 18th; 1, 20th.

Lymington River: 7, Jan. 17th.

Keyhaven: 1 m, Jan. 17th.

Sopley: 4 (1 m), Jan. 15th; pr., 16th.

Mockbeggar Lake: 3 (1 m), Feb. 7th; 1, 11th-28th; 6 (2 m), Mar. 1st; 4 (2 m), 2nd; 1, 14th and 29th; 2, Apr. 5th.

Woodgreen: 1 m, Mar. 15th.

Holmsley G.P.: 1, Feb. 15th.

Broadlands Lake: 2, Jan. 16th.

Allington G.P.: 1, Mar. 15th and 18th.

Highwood Reservoir: 1, Jan. 11th; 2 m, 16th.

Winchester College: 6 (5 m) N, Jan. 15th.

Alresford Pond: 3 (1 m), Jan. 21st; 1, 25th.

Fleet Pond: pr., Feb. 4th/5th; 1 m, 10th-14th and 23rd; 5 (2 m), 24th/25th; 9 (1 m), 26th; then 1-4 to Mar. 13th.

Camp Farm S.F.: 8 (3 m) NE, Feb. 8th.

All were redheads unless otherwise stated.

In the late year there were up to five males in the Wellington C.P. area from Dec. 5th-31st.

Ruddy Duck (A)

Oxyura jamaicensis

In the early year, reported from Blashford Lakes (1 f, Jan. 17th-Feb. 7th), Eling/Dibden Bay (1 m and 1 f separately, Jan. 18th; 2 m, Jan. 31st), Wellington C.P. (1 m, Jan. 28th), IBM Lake (1 f, Jan. 30th) and Eversley G.P. (1 f, Mar. 12th).

During the breeding season, present at Blashford Lakes from May 16th-Aug. 23rd, with a maximum of four (three males) at Mockbeggar Lake and a pair with young at Ivy Lake on July 25th.

In the late year, reported from Mockbeggar Lake (1 f, Sep. 27th and Nov. 1st-22nd), Fleet Pond (1 f/imm., Oct. 2nd-4th), Sowley Pond (2 f/imms., Oct. 19th; 1, Nov. 14th and Dec. 12th), Ladywell Lake, Alrebury (1 m, Nov./Dec.) and Timsbury G.P. (3 (2 m), Dec. 11th-31st).

1986: 1 imm., Baffins Pond, Portsmouth, Mar. 1st. 1 f/imm., Blackwater, Needs Ore, Mar. 6th/7th.

Black Kite (A)

Milvus migrans

One off Hurst Beach on May 4th arrived from the direction of the Needles before flying W towards Hengistbury Head (BDG, JAN). Accepted by *British Birds*. The third Hampshire record.

Red Kite (A)

Milvus milvus

Single birds flew over Shawford on Feb. 17th (MFG) and NNW over South Hayling on Oct. 20th (CJT).

Marsh Harrier (A)

Circus aeruginosus

Spring occurrences showed a healthy increase with eight recorded, compared with two in 1986. Records came from Fleet Pond (ad. male left W, Apr. 23rd), Boldrewood (female WNW, May 2nd), Normandy Marsh (fem/imm. E, May 4th), Farlington Marshes (2 females, May 4th; pr., May 13th) and Titchfield Haven (imm. female, May 9th/10th).



In autumn, records came from Farlington Marshes (fem/imm. WNW, Aug. 31st; fem/imm., Sept. 11th; male NW, Sept. 20th) and Titchfield Haven (imm. female, Sept. 19th).

A fem/imm. at Farlington Marshes on Dec. 20th was a first for that month for the site, but other Dec. reports came from Titchfield Haven with two (one male) on 27th and an immature remaining to the year's end.

1986: One female flew in off the sea at Southsea on Apr. 28th.

Hen Harrier (B)

Circus cyaneus

Recorded until Apr. 26th (ringtail, Beaulieu Road) and from Sept. 10th (male, Ashley Walk) apart from a late male at Beaulieu Road on May 20th.

Minimum monthly totals:

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Coastal sites	7	3	1	0	0	0	3	3	2
New Forest/Avon Valley	7	5	3	5	1	3	3	2	14
Elsewhere inland	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	6

Away from the New Forest, records came from (single ringtails unless otherwise stated) Langstone Harbour Entrance (1 W, Jan. 20th), Farlington Marshes (Oct. 31st-Nov. 5th; male, Dec. 1st), Titchfield Haven/Warsash (male + ringtail, Jan. 14th-24th; Nov. 3rd; Dec. 6th - in off the sea), Dibden Bay (male + 2 ringtails, Jan. 17th-24th), Calshot (male, Jan. 27th; Nov. 7th), Bergerie Farm, St. Leonards (male + ringtail, Feb. 13th), Needs Ore (2 ringtails, Oct. 21st), Hale Meadows (Jan. 1st; male, Apr. 4th - caught a Snipe), Broughton (male, Jan. 5th), Old Winchester Hill (Jan. 24th), Tundry Pond (Jan. 29th), Dean Hill (Mar. 18th), Chattis Hill (male, Mar. 20th), Martin Down (Mar. 29th), Lee (1 W, Nov. 10th), Fleet Pond (1 E, Nov. 12th), Nether Wallop (Nov. 29th), Eversley G.P. (male W, Dec. 6th), Winchester S.F. (2 ringtails, Dec. 13th), Teglease Down (Dec. 19th), Ladle Hill, Burghclere (Dec. 20th) and Springhead, Greywell (Dec. 25th).

Records of birds sexed indicate that ten adult males and 17 ringtails were present in the early year and seven adult males and 18 ringtails in the late year.

See elsewhere in this report for a paper on the diet of Hen Harriers at New Forest roosts.

1986: ringtail, Needs Ore, Jan. 26th, Mar. 12th and 17th and a male there, Feb. 27th.

Montagu's Harrier (A)

Circus pygargus

The only records were of a male at Lower Test Marshes on May 18th/19th, a female at one site on May 29th and a male at a second site on July 4th.

Sparrowhawk (C)

Accipiter nisus

Records for the Tetrad Atlas for 1986-87 show the species present in 40% of Hampshire's tetrads, with proved breeding in 69, probable breeding in 131 and possible breeding in 201.

Counts of bird days at four localities are shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Farlington Marshes	8	7	5	4	0	0	0	9	10	8	5	10
Fleet Pond	4	2	3	10	3	4	7	12	27	18	9	6
Old Winchester Hill	1	0	0	5	5	0	1	6	11	6	3	2
Regents Park, Southampton	3	4	3	8	7	2	2	13	3	7	6	3

The figures for Farlington Marshes indicate the species' status there as a non-breeding visitor. There is no real evidence of passage. The other three sites show spring and autumn peaks, suggesting passage. However, the spring data especially should be treated with caution as this is the time of peak soaring activity, making the birds more conspicuous. At Hurst Castle, two singles moved S towards Wight on Oct. 19th.

Buzzard (C)

Buteo buteo

In the New Forest study area, 19 territories were occupied. Ten pairs bred, raising a total of 15 young. The remaining nine pairs did not attempt breeding. In other areas between Southampton Water and the Avon Valley a further nine pairs were located in territory (CRT, JMT). Elsewhere in the county, records for the Tetrad Atlas for 1986-87 show breeding proved in seven tetrads, probable in 25 and possible in 35.

Records at the coast conformed to the usual pattern, i.e. one or two birds in spring but most in the period late Aug.-Nov. Sightings, all of singletons, came from Pennington (May 4th), Warsash (N, May 25th), Wildgrounds, Gosport (W, Aug. 30th), Farlington Marshes (W, Aug. 31st), Pennington/Hurst (Aug. 31st; N, Sept. 5th; Sept. 25th/26th; S, Oct. 19th; S, Nov. 14th) and Warsash/Chilling (Oct. 19th and 23rd - same dark individual). In addition, three soaring together drifted SW over Lymington on Sept. 4th.

Other reports outside the breeding season included sightings at a further 20 sites where not recorded in summer and a maximum of six together in the New Forest on Feb. 28th and in the Meon Valley on Sept. 18th.

1986: 1, Pennington, Sept. 7th.

Osprey (A)

Pandion haliaetus

One flying N at Bishopstoke and one moving NE at Frensham Great Pond on Apr. 8th were almost certainly different birds. One flew over Ober Water (N.F.) on Apr. 10th. One N over Brockenhurst on May 9th was possibly the same individual which flew off NW from Winchester S.F. on the same day.

One off Pennington Marsh on Aug. 27th was the only autumn record.

Kestrel (C)

Falco tinnunculus

Records for the Tetrad Atlas for 1986-87 show the species present in 44% of Hampshire's tetrads, with breeding proved in 115, probable in 151 and possible in 174.

Merlin (B)*Falco columbarius*

Recorded until Apr. 12th (1, Bishop's Dyke and 1, Langstone Harbour) and from Aug. 28th (2, Rockbourne) apart from one at Pennington Marsh on May 6th.

Minimum monthly totals:

	J	F	M	A	M	A	S	O	N	D
Coastal sites	5	5	5	1	1	0	4	5	4	4
New Forest	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	3	2
Elsewhere inland	1	0	1	0	0	2	2	2	1	4

Bird days at the two main coastal sites are shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	S	O	N	D
Farlington Marshes	2	2	2	3	0	2	8	3	3
Pennington/Hurst	2	3	1	0	1	0	5	8	1

Other coastal records (singles unless otherwise stated) came from Sinah Beach (Mar. 14th), Wildgrounds, Gosport (Sept. 17th), Titchfield Haven area (Jan. 18th, 28th, Feb. 9th, Mar. 19th, Sept. 30th and Dec. 8th), Dibden Bay (Jan. 24th and Dec. 19th), Fawley Refinery (Nov. 22nd), Eling Great Marsh (Nov. 13th), Needs Ore Point (Sept. 13th, Oct. 4th and 21st), Sowley Pond (Mar. 5th) and Tanners Creek (2, Feb. 22nd).

Inland records away from the New Forest (singles unless otherwise stated) came from Longdown Jan. 3rd, Mar. 14th, Oct. 24th, Nov. 14th and 3rd, Mar. 14th, Oct. 24th, Nov. 14th and Dec. 19th), Rockbourne (2, Aug. 28th), West End, Southampton (Sept. 6th), Martin Down (Sept. 30th), Fleet Pond (1 S, Oct. 28th), Bentley Church (Dec. 6th), Searchfield Farm, Hale (Dec. 13th) and Longwood Warren (Dec. 20th).

Records of birds sexed involved five adult males and eight female/immatures in the early year and nine adult males and nine female/immatures in the late year.

Red-footed Falcon (A)*Falco vespertinus*

In the New Forest, an adult female was at Stoney Cross on July 2nd (PC) and an immature female was at Bishop's Dyke on July 5th (CH, KI). Both records were accepted by *British Birds*.

Hobby (B)*Falco subbuteo*

The first was at Lymington on Apr. 12th and the last were at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 5th and a breeding site on Oct. 11th.

Minimum monthly totals of migrants at the coast were as follows: Apr., 6; May, 10; Aug., 4; Sept., 7; Oct. 2.

During the breeding season birds were present at c. 52 locations; 25 pairs raised a minimum of 25 young.

Peregrine (B)*Falco peregrinus*

As in 1986 most observations came from coastal sites and these are summarised below.

Langstone Harbour/Farlington Marshes: singles, Feb. 10th and 15th, Aug. 14th/15th, Sept. 6th, Oct. 3rd and Nov. 1st; 2, Dec. 5th.

Titchfield Haven/Brownwich: 1, Jan. 24th; imm. male + imm. female, Oct. 31st-Dec. 31st.

Eling/Dibden Bay: male + female, Jan. 1st-Mar. 29th; 1, Apr. 21st; male, Aug. 27th; presumed same, Sept. 1st; male + female, Nov. 7th-Dec. 31st.

Lepe: adult, Sept. 18th; 1, Oct. 19th.

Lymington/Hurst: monthly bird day totals were Jan., 5; Feb., 1; Mar., 2; Apr., 3; May, 2; June, 2; July, 1; Aug., 3; Sept., 2; Oct., 3; Nov., 4; Dec., 2. All sightings were of singles apart

from three - an adult female and adult and immature males - together over Pennington Marsh on Jan. 8th and two on Sept. 12th and Nov. 22nd.

Other records came from Stratfield Saye (imm. male, Jan. 25th, Feb. 15th and Mar. 8th), the New Forest (singles, Feb. 28th, Mar. 5th, June 13th, Sept. 15th, Oct. 24th and Nov. 1st) and Bishopstoke (adult, Oct. 25th).

1986: At least 3 birds were involved in records at Hurst/Pennington in late 1986.

Red-legged Partridge (C)

Alectoris rufa

Breeding season surveys in three areas produced the following results: Manydown Estate, Wootton St. Lawrence (3000 acres), 37 adults and 32 juveniles; Down Farm, Rockbourne, 44 adults and 19 juveniles; South Allenford Farm, Martin, 18 adults, no young seen.

Grey Partridge (C)

Perdix perdix

Numbers in the areas mentioned under Red-legged Partridge were as follows: Manydown Estate, 99 males, 71 females and 230 juveniles; Down Farm, 22 males, 17 females and 60 juveniles; South Allenford Farm, 20 males, 13 females and 45 juveniles.

1986: 80, Middle Wallop/Danebury, Feb. 2nd, not Timsbury.

Quail (B)

Coturnix coturnix

Many more than usual were recorded in 1987, with a total of 16-22 calling birds at eleven sites, in NE Hants (4-6), Central Hants (10-14) and West Hants (2). Within the extreme dates of May 9th and Aug. 5th, four birds were heard on one occasion only and the remainder two to five times.

Ten to 13 were heard only in the period mid June-late July. It is of interest to speculate on the origin of these birds. In Southern Europe in some years breeding birds vanish in June only to reappear in August. It is possible that Quails occurring in Britain in late summer are part of a northwards dispersal/late influx.

Pheasant (D)

Phasianus colchicus

Golden Pheasant (B)

Chrysolophus pictus

In the Butser Hill area there were three occupied territories at Oxenbourne Down and six at Head Down Plantation.

Water Rail (C)

Rallus aquaticus

The largest early year concentration reported was of c. 15 at Fleet Pond in Jan.-Apr. One was found dead on a pavement in Portsmouth on Mar. 27th.

Breeding territories were as follows: Alresford Pond, 1; Emer Bog, 1; Fleet Pond, 2; Titchfield Haven, 3; Wendleholme, 1; Warsash, 2; Woolmer Pond, 2. Juveniles were seen at Alresford, Warsash and Woolmer.

The first autumn return to Farlington Marshes (where the species was scarce or little in evidence) was on Aug. 10th. Fleet Pond again held the most in the late year with 25 on Oct. 28th and up to 35 in mid Nov.

Spotted Crake (A)

Porzana porzana

Singles were at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 30th (NC), Alresford Pond on Sept. 16th (MASc) and Titchfield Haven on Dec. 7th (BSD, RKL).

Corncrake (A)

Crex crex

One was found dead, but in good condition, at Gins Farm, Needs Ore in Dec. (per EJW).

Moorhen (C)*Gallinula chloropus*

Localities where counts exceeded 50 were Alresford Pond (60+, Sept. 24th), Timsbury (70, Jan. 25th) and Titchfield Haven (153, Jan. 16th, 127, Feb. 18th; 82, Nov. 10th; 135, Dec. 21st).

Coot (C)*Fulica atra*

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Sinah G.P.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	35	51	64	115
IBM Lake	117	118	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	36	54	73
Titchfield Haven	301	187	48	48	48	48	—	—	—	53	53	69
Lower Test/Eling	153	150	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ringwood/Bickton	612	627	—	—	—	—	450	474	612	—	946	1043
Broadlands Lake	111	132	130	15	—	—	—	—	50	70	100	139
Timsbury	142	125	90	60	40	40	90	110	115	120	115	160
Leckford/Longparish	57	35	55	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	52	46
Alresford Pond	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	120	190	110	20
Dogmersfield Lake	—	—	—	—	—	47	56	—	100	68	—	12
Yateley/Eversley G.P.s	260	265	182	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	445
Wellington C.P.	90	85	70	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	125	139

The only other count to exceed 100 was of 120 at Northington on Dec. 13th.

Crane (A)*Grus grus*

One, disturbed from Thorney Island (W. Sussex) flew across to Eastney Park Farm, Hayling on Sept. 27th (CBC, MAC). Accepted by *British Birds*.

Oystercatcher (B)*Haematopus ostralegus*

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	657	842	615	—	—	—	—	—	1600	982	669	666
Langstone Harbour	1225	1279	1165	440	400	432	440	620	1150	1150	1259	1624
Portsmouth Harbour	295	—	210	63	16	22	20	179	206	124	159	120
Titchfield Haven	102	115	102	27	32	22	58	132	140	90	80	140
Warsash	208	165	10	52	3	8	4	200+	215	169	160+	70
Eling Great Marsh	75	71	81	42	—	10	42	60	80	73	149	80
Hythe	—	—	—	—	—	—	151	172	250	147	240	225
Fawley/Calshot	200	170	370	16	49	—	47	330	41	150	300	310
Beaulieu Estuary	79	65	89	71	—	40	35	10	130	—	130	13
Lymington/Hurst	50	65	108	39	58	0	81	43	40	68	50	90

The only other count to exceed 100 was of 120 at Netley/Weston Shore on Jan. 24th.

Spring movement along the coast involved a total of 109 E between Apr. 12th May 9th, peaks 25 E, Hayling Bay, Apr. 24th and 21 E Lepe, Apr. 28th.

Inland records (singles unless otherwise stated) were as follows: heard at night, Regents Park, Southampton, Feb. 28th; 2, Eversley G.P., Apr. 4th; 1 E, Tunworth, Apr. 6th; Fleet Pond, Apr. 7th; M27 G.P., Eastleigh, Apr. 11th; 1 W, Regents Park, May 20th; heard at night, Widley, Aug. 11th; 1 S, Meonstoke and 6, Eversley G.P., Oct. 16th; 1 SE, Fleet Pond, Oct. 17th.

Breeding records were: Langstone Harbour islands, 28 pairs; Titchfield Haven, 1; Cadland Pool, Lepe, 1; Needs Ore, 25+; Pitts Deep-Lymington, no survey but no apparent decrease; Lymington-Hurst, 30+.

Black-winged Stilt (A)*Himantopus himantopus*

A very good year for this species with six individuals recorded. The first were two at Pennington Marsh from May 3rd-7th (m.o.). A male was at Farlington Marshes from May 10th-20th (CJT, PG) and one was at Winchester S.F. on May 17th (JMcE). A first summer bird was at Farlington Marshes on June 16th (DFB) and the third individual of the year there, a moulting adult, was present from July 11th-25th (RWH *et al*).

All the records were accepted by *British Birds*. There are only four previous records, involving nine birds, for the county this century, the last in 1962.

Avocet (A)*Recurvirostra avosetta*

In the early year two were at Farlington Marshes from Jan. 16th-Mar. 3rd and singles were at Northney, Hayling on Jan. 31st and Baker's Island, Langstone Harbour on Mar. 14th.

Spring records came from the Lymington Estuary (4, May 9th; 1, May 24th), Paulsgrove R.T. (2, May 17th; 1, May 25th) and Titchfield Haven (1, May 25th and June 10th/11th).

Autumn records came from Needs Ore (2, July 5th-7th), Farlington Marshes (1, July 11th and 14th), Paulsgrove R.T. (1, July 17th-27th), Hythe (1, Aug. 31st) and Hill Head (2 E, Oct. 2nd).

In the late year one was at Black Point on Dec. 20th and two were at Pennington on Dec. 26th.

1986: 2, Needs Ore, Sept. 20th.

Stone Curlew (B)*Burhinus oedicnemus*

The first was one heard over Sway at 0004 hrs. on Mar. 18th.

During the breeding season 16 pairs were located in four main areas. Eight pairs are known to have raised a total of seven young. Elsewhere, a pair was present at one site in early April but not found subsequently and a male was displaying at a second site on May 31st. No records were received for one other area of the county where the species is still believed to occur.

One in a field near Avon Causeway on May 20th was most unexpected.

Autumn records came from two sites, with three at one on Aug. 2nd and 23rd, and up to five at the other between Sept. 13th-25th.

Collared Pratincole (A)*Glareola pratincola*

One spent the day in the Ibsley/Mockbeggar Lake area on May 6th (MJR, MJG *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds*. The second Hampshire record, the first being at Fleet Pond on May 28th, 1974.

Little Ringed Plover (B)*Charadrius dubius*

The first three were at a breeding site on Mar. 25th. The only spring migrants at the coast were at Farlington Marshes, with two on Apr. 29th and May 2nd and one up to May 17th. Inland non-breeding records included one at M27 G.P., Eastleigh from Mar. 31st-Apr. 6th and on Apr. 26th, up to six at Ibsley Flash from Apr. 19th-May 17th and two at Sleaford Reservoir, Bordon on June 4th.

During the breeding season 29 pairs were present at 15 sites, with breeding proved at seven of these. At some sites it is thought that nests were flooded or chicks drowned due to heavy rain or deliberate flooding by contractors.

Single birds were at Titchfield Haven on June 14th and 20th and Farlington Marshes on

June 16th, but the main autumn passage was from July 1st onwards, records coming from Titchfield Haven (1-4, July 1st-Sept. 7th), Paulsgrove R.T. (1, July 11th and 25th), Farlington Marshes (1/2, July 16th-Sept. 8th; 1, Sept. 18th), Pennington/Keyhaven (2, Aug. 1st), Fawley Refinery (2, Aug. 8th) and Hayling Oysterbeds (1, Aug. 29th). Records from inland sites showed the main passage/departure in late July, e.g. nine, a local breeding pair and seven migrants, at one site on 21st. There were no Aug. records after 5th but one was at a breeding site on Sept. 13th.

Ringed Plover (B)

Charadrius hiaticula

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	49	255	84	—	—	—	—	—	290	82	53	503
Langstone Harbour	300	281	149	80	155	70	70	620	828	381	615	511
Portsmouth Harbour	1	14	119	2	6	—	—	84	345	45	19	85
Warsash	215	131	149	12	22	2	29	119	200	146	107	150
Fawley/Calshot	74	141	78	1	60	—	8	315	180	73	100	140
Lymington/Hurst	23	59	46	—	6	—	22	89	260	105	—	61

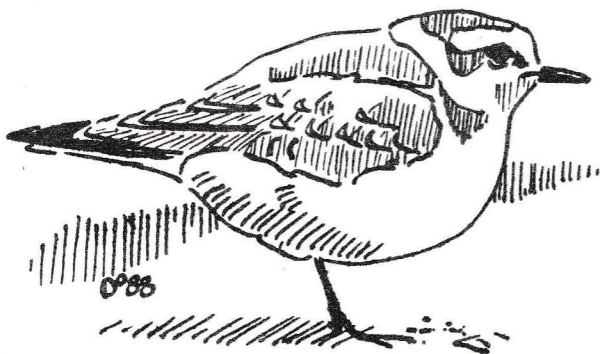
The only other count to reach 100 was of 164 roosting at Eastney Beach on Nov. 7th.

Breeding records from the coast were: Langstone Harbour islands, 36 pairs; IBM Lake, 1; Browndown, 2; Warsash, 1; Southampton Western Docks, 6; Lepe, 1; Needs Ore, 25+; Lymington/Hurst, 23.

Birds had returned to the Avon Valley by Feb. 28th, when three were at Mockbeggar Lake. At nearby Ibsley Flash, there were up to 12 in early Mar. (max. on 8th) and five on Apr. 19th. Subsequently five pairs bred in that area, at least two successfully. Elsewhere inland, two pairs were reported in the New Forest (one successful), one pair at M27 G.P., Eastleigh (failed) and two pairs at one site in the NE (both failed). Other inland records included a pair displaying at Timsbury G.P. on Apr. 7th, a juvenile at Eversley G.P. on Aug. 31st/Sept. 1st and an adult at Fleet Pond on Sept. 8th.

Kentish Plover (A)

Charadrius alexandrinus



One was at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 30th (CM). A juvenile was at Calshot Spit from Oct. 18th-25th and on Oct. 28th (RAC, AP *et al*). One at Warsash on Oct. 26th (MJP) was presumably the same individual.

Dotterel (A)

Charadrius morinellus

Five (three females, one male and one first summer) were at Snatchhangers Farm, Odiham from May 3rd-6th (MASc, KBW).

Golden Plover (B)

Pluvialis apricaria

Cold weather movement was evident on Jan. 10th, when 77 flew SW at Hayling, 105 S/SE at Hill Head, 200 S at Eling and 101 SE at Longdown. Early year three figure counts were made at Crondall (200+, Jan. 3rd), Whitsbury (c. 200, Jan. 3rd and Apr. 8th), Danebury (200+, Jan. 7th), Hamble (160, Jan. 7th and 20th; 140, Feb. 16th), Sopley (237, Jan. 11th), Eastleigh (105, Jan. 12th), Weston Shore (105, Jan. 13th), Warsash (300, Jan. 16th), Brownwich (125, Jan.), Soberton Down (146, Mar. 13th), Bagnum Fields (150, Mar. 14th), Finkley, Andover (248, Mar. 15th) and Hillside, Odiham (350, Mar. 26th; 101, Apr. 2nd). The last spring birds were 69 at Wonston on Apr. 21st, apart from singles in off the sea at Hill Head on Apr. 28th and at Farlington Marshes on May 25th.

Early autumn birds were singles at Titchfield Haven on July 8th, Farlington Marshes on Aug. 1st, Keyhaven on Aug. 29th and five at Fawley/Calshot on Aug. 9th. The main arrival was from Sept. 20th, when 50 were at Nether Wallop and 12 at Hillside. Thereafter, three figure counts were made at Nether Wallop (150, Sept. 27th; 200, Nov. 29th), Brownwich (171, Oct.), Crondall (250, Nov.; 142, Dec. 5th), Ibsley area (108, Nov. 22nd; max. 650 in Dec., on 22nd), Itchen Stoke (300, Nov. 22nd), Hamble (200, Nov. 24th), Eastleigh (120, Nov. 25th), Longstock (200, Nov. 25th), Worthy Down (150, Nov. 26th; 250, Dec. 18th), Burton (500, Dec. 18th; 300, Dec. 31st), Harestock (150, Dec. 23rd; 270, Dec. 26th) and Tournerbury/Black Point (160 on shore, Dec. 28th).

Grey Plover (B)

Pluvialis squatarola

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	492	1631	349	—	—	—	—	—	1556	1670	1479	1003
Langstone Harbour	197	618	713	1091	135	130	31	358	1172	927	868	1200
Portsmouth Harbour	405	—	101	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	30	0
Fawley/Calshot	314	410	52	1	20	0	0	46	28	83	190	270
Beaulieu Estuary	150	30	112	100	8	0	0	1	12	—	140+	—
Lymington/Hurst	100	149	236	12	4	1	3	25	135	219	236	248

The only other count to reach 100 was of 107 at Hythe on Nov. 22nd.

Notable spring records were of 102 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th, a flock of 45 off high NE inland from Farlington Marshes at 1330 hrs. on May 4th, and 15 NE at Hill Head on May 8th. Otherwise only 22 E through the Solent between Mar. 31st-May 23rd.

Lapwing (B)

Vanellus vanellus

As in late 1986 numbers in early Jan. were low, and the arrival of the cold weather resulted in a marked exodus of birds. On Jan. 10th, a total of 2910 moved S/SW at nine sites, peaks 810 S at Lepe, 806 SW at Hayling in six hours and 632 S/SW at Fleet Pond in 90 minutes. The next day 2063 were noted moving S/SW at five sites, peak 1260 S/SW at Hayling. On 12th/13th 280 were seen moving, and after this time very few were seen until mid Feb. 600 at Crondall on Mar. 19th was the largest flock recorded.

Breeding season records, including those obtained during the course of the BTO sample survey, involved 238 pairs at 50 sites. See elsewhere in this report for a paper on the BTO survey.

Autumn numbers were low, no flock exceeding 300 in June-Sept. apart from one of 1025 at Mockbeggar Lake on July 25th. In Oct./Nov. there was a gradual build-up with a max. of 750 at Farlington Marshes on Nov. 21st, but a considerable influx occurred in Dec., with four figure counts of 1812 at Hillside/Crondall on 5th, 1200+ at Farlington Marshes on 20th, 1800+ at Ellingham Lake/Hucklesbrook on 31st and c. 1500 at Burton on the same day.

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (20+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Inland total	1450	950	1115	0	0	180	1937	707	987	2069	2899	8862
Sites	4	4	4	—	—	3	7	5	6	10	8	12
Coastal total	443	1239	872	80	0	155	684	794	728	776	2427	3630
Sites	6	9	6	1	—	2	7	7	7	5	8	9

Knot (B)

Calidris canutus

One flew E at Lepe in cold weather on Jan. 11th. The Estuaries count on Jan. 17th produced 1000 at Portsmouth Harbour and 332 at Langstone Harbour. On Feb. 14th the high tide roost at Portsmouth was flushed eastwards before it could be counted, but the count of 1730 at Langstone presumably included these birds. Numbers there fell to 707 on Mar. 14th, 150 on Mar. 28th and none on Apr. 11th. Other records during this period involved only 14 birds at five sites.

Spring records covered the period Apr. 28th-May 24th, involving 30 E through the Solent and one at Farlington Marshes on May 2nd.

In autumn, a small passage was noted between July 20th-Aug. 8th, with 27 at three sites (max. 15, Pennington, July 25th). The Estuaries count on Sept. 5th produced 105 at Langstone Harbour and 64 at Keyhaven, and the next day two juveniles were at Eversley G.P., the first inland record since 1962. Numbers at Keyhaven fell to 40 on 13th and 14 on 19th, and on that day nine flew E at Hurst and one E at Lepe. The only other record at this time was of one at Eling Great Marsh on Sept. 17th.

In the late year numbers at Langstone built up from 40 on Oct. 17th to 384 on Nov. 21st and 984 on Dec. 19th. None was recorded in Portsmouth Harbour on these dates. Elsewhere, records came from Keyhaven (max. 10, Nov. 21st) and Calshot (max. 9, Dec. 13th).

1986: 1, Titchfield Haven, Sept. 5th.

Sanderling (B)

Calidris alba

Monthly maxima at Hayling Bay and totals elsewhere (excluding birds moving) are shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Hayling Bay	42	7	5	25	13	0	0	0	0	90	0	14
Elsewhere	7	11	0	2	74	0	4	8	16	4	10	2

Away from Hayling Bay counts did not exceed five except at Eastney (max. 10, Nov. 23rd) and Titchfield Haven (8, Sept. 10th). One at Netley/Weston Shore in severe weather on Jan. 16th and 19th was possibly the first there. Inland, one was at Eversley G.P. on May 8th.

Spring movement through the Solent involved at least 235 E between Apr. 4th-May 28th, with peaks of 77 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th and 55 E at Hayling Bay on May 9th. This total does not include records from Hill Head, where 135 flew E but individual daily totals were not submitted.

1986: 1, Pennington, Oct. 8th.

Little Stint (A)

Calidris minuta

The only spring report was of three at Titchfield Haven on May 23rd.

Autumn records were relatively few, coming from Hayling Oysterbeds (1, Aug. 29th-31st), Farlington Marshes (1, Aug. 4th/5th; 2, Aug. 20th/21st; 1, Aug. 22nd, 26th/27th), Paulsgrove R.T. (1, Sept. 19th), Titchfield Haven (1, Aug. 3rd/4th and Sept. 27th-Oct. 4th),

Warsash (1, Aug. 4th and 25th), Southampton Western Docks (1, Sept. 27th), Lepe (1, Sept. 2nd), Pennington Marsh (1, Aug. 22nd/23rd and Sept. 11th) and Eversley G.P. (1, Sept. 26th).

Temminck's Stint (A)

Calidris temminckii

A very good year for this species with four records involving six birds. One was at Titchfield Haven on May 14th/15th (BSD, RKL, PMP), two were at Mockbeggar Lake on May 16th/17th (JAE, JMCK, MASc) and two were at Farlington Marshes on May 20th (DJU, PAG). Finally an adult was at Titchfield Haven from July 25th-27th (BSD, DPo *et al.*).

White-rumped Sandpiper (A)

Calidris fuscicollis

An adult was at Farlington Marshes from Aug. 10th-17th (RWW, JTS, TJ *et al.*). Accepted by *British Birds*. The tenth Hampshire record.

1986: An adult was at Farlington Marshes on Sept. 3rd (KI, RJW). Accepted by *British Birds*. The ninth Hampshire record.

Pectoral Sandpiper (A)

Calidris melanotos

A summer plumage adult was at Paulsgrove R.T. on July 28th (KI) and a juvenile was at Titchfield Haven from Oct. 2nd-6th (DPo, RL-S, BSD *et al.*).

Curlew Sandpiper (B)

Calidris ferruginea

There was an unusually large number of spring sightings, records coming from Tanners Creek (2, May 9th), Swanwick (1, May 17th), Warsash (1, May 17th and 24th), Paulsgrove R.T. (2, May 22nd; 1, May 25th/26th), Farlington Marshes (1, May 25th) and Titchfield Haven (1, May 25th; 2, May 30th).

The first return was one at Farlington Marshes on July 13th. Singles were at Warsash on July 30th and Aug. 4th/5th, and at Farlington there were three on Aug. 10th/11th, two on 15th and singles on 19th and 27th. Most of these birds were reported as adults. A second wave between early Sept. and early Oct. mostly involved juveniles, records coming from Farlington Marshes (1-3 on 12 dates, Sept. 5th-Oct. 4th), Titchfield Haven (1/2 on 6 dates, Sept. 11th-Oct. 7th) and Keyhaven/Pennington (1, Sept. 19th). As in other recent years, there were a few late birds, with one at Calshot on Oct. 24th, two at Warsash on Oct. 26th and singles there on Oct. 29th and Nov. 8th.

Purple Sandpiper (B)

Calidris maritima

At Southsea Castle present until Apr. 5th (monthly maxima 6, 7, 6, 5) and from Oct. 18th (monthly maxima 1, 5, 5). The only other records were from Sandy Point, Hayling, with two on Apr. 18th and singles on Apr. 25th, May 9th and Nov. 7th.

Dunlin (B)

Calidris alpina

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	10671	16121	4513	—	—	—	—	—	43	5262	8862	11634
Langstone Harbour	7400	14300	8200	2350	1580	30	2030	1750	1036	5298	19000	32900
Portsmouth Harbour	2720	200+	1750	3	52	0	108	154	320	788	1795	4200
Warsash	240	1225	1150	12	89	0	47	44	59	268	844	1780
Weston Shore	700	400	100	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	110	330
Eling Great Marsh	5	425	609	0	—	2	0	43	—	2	465	597
Hythe	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	30	15	1300	700
Fawley/Calshot	800	1250	280	50	96	0	3	231	147	48	305	550
Beaulieu Estuary	330	730	300	158	10	—	170	16	80	—	980+	500
Lymington/Hurst	800	2020	2291	217	64	1	87	585	360	277	1206	1300

The cold weather in Jan. resulted in increased mortality as witnessed by 51 corpses found on Hurst Beach on Feb. 1st. Singles were inland at Bishopstoke on Jan. 18th, Camp Farm S.F. on Jan. 19th and Mockbeggar Lake on Feb. 7th. The floods at Sopley attracted considerable numbers, with 50 on Jan. 3rd, 270 on 6th, 28 on 11th then up to five to 19th. Following the return to mild weather, floods at Ibsley held eight on Mar. 6th then up to five until Mar. 25th.

Spring passage through the Solent was small, with only 173 E between Apr. 22nd-May 9th, peak 97 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th. Other records associated with this movement included one heard at night over Regent's Park, Southampton on Apr. 24th, a flock of 18 off NW inland from Farlington Marshes on Apr. 25th and inland sightings at Eversley G.P. (1, Apr. 19th; 2 Apr. 26th) and Mockbeggar Lake (2, May 28th; 1, May 31st). Inland autumn records came from Everlsey G.P. (1, July 2nd, 23rd, Aug. 3rd; 2, Aug. 4th, 1 remaining to 8th), Mockbeggar Lake (2, July 5th; 1, July 25th and Nov. 1st), Alresford Pond (3, Aug. 9th; 1, Aug. 30th), Fleet Pond (1 SE, Aug. 21st; 2, Sept. 8th) and Old Winchester Hill (heard moving SW, Sept. 20th).

Ruff (B)

Philomachus pugnax

Present until May 23rd (3, Paulsgrove R.T.) and from June 20th (1, Keyhaven).

Monthly maxima at the two main sites and monthly totals elsewhere are shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Farlington Marshes	3	0	10	17	9	0	0	4	30	1	0	1
Titchfield Haven/HMS Daedalus	30	37	54	3	3	0	1	3	0	0	8	13
Coastal sites	5	6	0	18	8	1	0	0	4	0	1	3
Inland sites	0	12	11	21	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Coastal records were all of one to three apart from: 5, Milton Reclamation, Feb. 22nd; 4, Keyhaven, Apr. 19th and 16 there, Apr. 20th; and 4, Warsash, May 6th. Inland records came from Sopley (12 S, Feb. 17th; 10 S, Apr. 16th), M27 G.P., Eastleigh (10, Mar. 31st), Ibsley Flash (1, Mar. 31st; 9, Apr. 16th with 2 still present, Apr. 24th), Winchester S.F. (2, Apr. 18th) and Alresford Pond (1, Sept. 6th-16th).

There has been a marked decline in wintering numbers between Needs Ore and Hurst, formerly an important area. Only one was seen in Jan. and three in Dec.

Jack Snipe (B)

Lymnocyrtus minimus

Recorded until Apr. 19th (1, Warren Heath, Bramshill) and from Oct. 29th (1, Farlington Marshes).

Approximate monthly totals:

J	F	M	A	O	N	D
18	10	5	1	2	4	8

All records were of one or two apart from three at Camp Farm S.F. on Jan. 15th and three at Farlington Marshes on Dec. 12th.

1986: 1, Keyhaven, Sept. 28th.

Snipe (B)

Gallinago gallinago

Numbers were low at both ends of the year. The only sites where counts reached 50 were Sopley Marsh (55, Jan. 10th), Sopley (50+, Jan. 11th), Camp Farm S.F. (70, Jan. 14th), the Alresford area (70, Jan. 17th), Titchfield Haven (210, Jan.; 100, Feb.; 200, Nov., 116, Dec.), Ibsley/Harbridge (100+, Feb./Mar.; 50+, Apr. 4th), Lower Test Marshes (200+, Nov./Dec.), Timsbury (60, Nov. 22nd) and Farlington Marshes (50, Dec. 19th).

Spring/summer records indicative of breeding came from: New Forest, 20 pairs/drumming birds at 12 localities; Keyhaven, 1; Ibsley, 4; Baddesley Common, 4; Emer Bog, 2; Winnall Moors, 2; Itchen Abbas, 1; Bighton, 1; Tichborne Springs, 1.

Woodcock (C)

Scolopax rusticola

30 were recorded during the Jan. cold spell, including six flushed from under blackthorns at Upton on 3rd, three on silage at Upton Grey on 12th and three at Farlington Marshes on 17th. Only three were recorded in both Feb. and Mar., including one in Broadhill Wood, Stuckton on Mar. 8th (the first seen there in 25 years) and one at Sandy Point on Mar. 22nd.

Only two were reported in Oct., one moving over Regent's Park, Sotuhampton at dawn on 21st and another at Timsbury on 31st, the only record for the year there. Totals for Nov./Dec. were six and 11 respectively.

Black-tailed Godwit (B)

Limosa limosa

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	117	93	146	—	—	—	—	—	430	66	428	297
Langstone Harbour	84	421	283	229	42	39	162	802	687	1033	478	869
Portsmouth Harbour	—	—	—	—	47	25	5	100	44	—	50+	—
Titchfield Haven	400	200	120	3	2	30	58	45	40	40	380	389
Warsash	21	20	8	0	0	0	6	60+	31	18	0	0
Fawley/Calshot	156	150	—	—	—	—	34	120	200	100+	87	—
Beaulieu Estuary	—	115	125	171	22	21	6	15	14	14	—	28
Lymington/Hurst	16	8	14	235	8	0	18	40	51	26	28	8

Other records came from Eling (20, Jan. 26th; 9, Feb. 19th; 19, Dec. 28th), Southampton Western Docks (1, Aug. 14th), Sowley Marsh (4, June 7th) and Tanners Creek (25, Mar. 29th; 14, Apr. 12th; 10, May 3rd; 3, June 7th).

Spring movement was indicated by 25 off NW inland from Farlington Marshes at dusk on Apr. 17th, 232 likewise on Apr. 22nd and eight leaving N from Keyhaven on May 15th. 1986: 23, Needs Ore, May 11th and 14 there, July 20th.

Bar-tailed Godwit (B)

Limosa lapponica

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	985	373	1	—	—	—	—	—	425	214	361	458
Langstone Harbour	544	512	360	116	10	22	63	189	260	352	396	120
Lymington/Hurst	37	14	16	0	18	0	0	0	3	3	0	8

The only other double figure counts were of 48 at Warsash on Jan. 14th and ten at Tanners Creek on May 9th.

Spring passage through the Solent was poor, with only 425 E between Mar. 31st-May 9th, peaks 150 E at Hill Head on Apr. 25th and 115 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th.

Of note was one in full breeding plumage at the Kench, Langstone Harbour on Jan. 1st and 10th.

Whimbrel (B)

Numenius phaeopus

One was at Langstone Harbour on Feb. 1st.

The first spring migrants were two flying E at Southsea and one at Langstone Harbour on Mar. 29th. Small numbers only were recorded until mid Apr. Passage through the Solent involved at least 508 E between Apr. 17th-May 16th, peak 128 E at Hill Head on May 7th.

Away from the Solent the peak movement was on Apr. 25th, when 70 flew N from Pennington, 67 flew E at Farlington Marshes and 49 flew NE over Fleet Pond. Other inland records involved a minimum of 33 moving between Apr. 19th-May 27th including six W over Eversley G.P. on Apr. 27th, four W there on May 1st and seven over Winchester College on May 4th. Double figure counts of off passage birds were made at Lymington/Hurst (61, Apr. 22nd; 62, Apr. 26th; 30, May 4th), Dibden Bay (112 roosting at dusk, Apr. 21st; 95 in pasture, Apr. 28th; 20, May 4th), Warsash (11, Apr. 28th) and Langstone Harbour (max. 35, May 6th). Records of birds feeding inland came from Botley Wood (18, Apr. 2nd), Havant Thicket (21, Apr. 30th) and Furzeley (70, May 3rd). These birds return to the coast to roost at dusk.

June records involved one at Langstone Harbour throughout the month, one at Keyhaven on 4th, five at Pennington Marsh on 20th and two flying south over Knowle on 22nd.

Double figure autumn counts were few, coming from Langstone Harbour (33, July 11th; 16, Aug. 8th; 71 W, Aug. 16th; 13 S from inland, Aug. 23rd), Paulsgrove R.T. (40+, July 25th; 45, July 31st), Warsash (12, July 27th) and Lymington/Hurst (40, July 11th). Inland records involved singles seen or heard at five sites between July 12th-Aug 30th. Only 15 were noted in Sept. and the last were singles at Calshot on Oct. 3rd and Keyhaven on Oct. 28th.

Curlew (B)

Numenius arquata

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	500	834	635	—	—	—	—	—	1457	1831	945	1009
Langstone Harbour	378	460	234	348	170	377	1145	1850	996	628	432	600
Portsmouth Harbour	85	320	191	109	0	0	62	102	112	—	484	51
Titchfield Haven	120	116	69	4	2	6	0	7	4	45	90	81
Warsash	136	95	91	71	0	9	26	70	170	93	100	150
Dibden Bay/Hythe	200+	—	—	—	—	—	398	—	232	49	120	34
Fawley/Calshot	202	320	68	60	30	0	122	605	335	366	165	95
Beaulieu Estuary	61	80	51	70	6	20	14	10	32	—	177	—
Lymington/Hurst	162	253	173	43	6	100	268	186	166	101	115	115

The only other three figure counts were made at Eling, where the maximum was 151 on Feb. 14th. The highest count of birds arriving there at dusk from inland feeding grounds at Lower Test Marshes, Broadlands and Romsey was 126 on Nov. 15th. Other inland feeding flocks were noted at Southwick (up to 31, Jan.-Mar.; 38, Apr. 28th; 80, Dec. 5th), Sway (up to 19, Jan.) and Widley (21, Dec. 18th). Other inland records included singles at Hucklesbrook on Jan. 18th, Alresford Pond from Jan. 31st-Feb. 15th and on Sept. 3rd, two over M27 G.P., Eastleigh on Apr. 5th, a total of seven at three NE sites between Apr. 11th-25th, two over Emer Bog on July 3rd and three at Sopley on Dec. 31st.

Coastal spring passage involved a minimum total of 164 E through the Solent between Feb. 27th-May 2nd, peaks 51 E at Lepe on Mar. 31st and 42 E at Hill Head on Apr. 6th.

Breeding season records involved 21 pairs in the New Forest (fewer than in recent years) and one pair at Woolmer.

Spotted Redshank (B)

Tringa erythropus

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Langstone Harbour	2	1	1	3	7	7	26	28	30	12	4	0
Titchfield Haven	0	0	1	1	1	3	5	3	6	1	0	0
Beaulieu Estuary	—	—	1	2	4	—	13	20	50	20	—	—
Lymington/Hurst	2	11	7	5	4	0	2	1	2	1	1	5

The only other records were from Warsash (2, Feb. 16th; 1, Aug. 28th, Sept. 3rd and 22nd), Sherfield English (1 heard, Apr. 10th), Curbridge (1, Apr. 27th; 2, Oct. 12th) and Fawley/Calshot (4, Oct. 4th).

Redshank (B)

Tringa totanus

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	489	1052	746	—	—	—	—	—	813	895	1627	1609
Langstone Harbour	102	280	173	110	80	130	317	505	1008	870	269	287
Portsmouth Harbour	17	21	97	2	4	10	33	53	56	117	59	166
Warsash	65	65	112	77	8	—	97	145	183	175	80	101
Eling Great Marsh	50	49	49	23	—	7	—	90	—	10	106	114
Hythe	—	—	—	—	—	—	128	150+	200+	23	5	15
Fawley/Calshot	486	320	230	50	19	—	100	211	70	430	240	180
Lymington/Hurst	100	80	135	31	26	—	160	185	444	223	50	107

The severe weather in Jan. resulted in some low coastal counts as usual, e.g. in Langstone Harbour, but forced an unusual number inland. In Jan./early Feb. 33 were recorded at ten sites, including six at Sopley on Jan. 11th and Ibsley on Feb. 7th, five at Winchester College on Jan. 14th and Mapledurwell C.B. on Jan. 16th, and four at Camp Farm S.F. on Jan. 18th. Numbers increased in the Ibsley/Mockbeggar Lake area to 19 on Mar. 1st, with 18 at nearby Spinnaker Lake (drained) on Mar. 14th and 20+ on Apr. 5th. Peaks at other inland localities at this time indicate passage, e.g. ten at Timsbury on Mar. 28th and 13 at Bishopstoke on Apr. 7th. 102 left NW inland from Langstone Harbour between 1845 and 1930 hrs. on Apr. 22nd.

Breeding records from inland sites were far from complete but involved some 45 pairs at 23 localities. None was found in the NE for the first time ever. Coastal records were of 53 pairs at Langstone Harbour islands, 35+ at North Solent NNR and 17 at seven other localities.

Most had left inland localities by mid July; a flock of 11 at Winchester S.F. on 14th were believed to be passage birds. The next inland were not until Dec., when four were in the Ibsley area on 20th and seven were with Lapwings at Alresford on 27th.

Greenshank (B)

Tringa nebularia

Monthly maxima at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	0	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	6	1	0
Langstone Harbour	1	0	0	6	12	1	76	96	64	15	1	2
Paulsgrove R.T.	0	0	0	0	2	0	16	12	4	5	0	0
Titchfield Haven	0	0	0	2	2	0	6	3	5	4	0	0
Warsash/Curbridge	3	4	9	15	1	2	8	6	15	13	8	5
Fawley/Calshot	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	13	8	4	5	4
Beaulieu Estuary	—	—	—	3	—	—	5	1	4	1	—	—
Lymington/Hurst	2	5	9	5	5	0	1	13	9	11	3	5

The autumn counts at Langstone Harbour were the lowest there since 1979. The June records involved one at Langstone on 5th and 17th and two at Warsash on 10th. Other coastal records included one at Bitterne on Jan. 13th, a flock of 19 which paused briefly at Hill Head on Apr. 28th before leaving E, one at Wildgrounds, Gosport on Aug. 22nd (the first there) and one at Eling from Nov. 20th-Dec. 20th.

Inland, one was heard at Mockbeggar Lake on the unusual date of Jan. 28th. In spring, singles were at Eversley G.P. on Apr. 19th and May 9th, two flew N at Fleet Pond on May 18th, two did likewise at Titchfield Haven on May 20th and one was heard at night flying N over Portsdown on May 27th. In autumn one was at Eversley G.P. on July 1st and up to

Four were at Winchester S.F. from July 5th-14th. The main passage was between Aug. 7th-Sept. 6th, with a minimum total of 18 recorded at Fleet Pond (1, Aug. 7th), Eversley G.P. (1, Aug. 11th, Sept. 1st and 6th), Winchester S.F. (3/4, Aug. 12th-18th), Woolmer Pond (6, Aug. 12th/13th; 5, Aug. 20th; 2, Aug. 24th), Alresford Pond (1/2, Aug. 16th-Sept. 3rd), Fordingbridge (1, Aug. 24th and Sept. 2nd) and Ellingham Lake (1, Sept. 6th).
1986: 1, Eversley G.P., May 3rd.

Green Sandpiper (B)

Tringa ochropus

Present until May 9th (1 N, Fleet Pond) and from June 14th (1, Titchfield Haven). Monthly maxima at the four main localities and monthly totals elsewhere are shown below.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Titchfield Haven	1	0	0	0	0	8	11	12	10	2	0	0
Blashford Lakes/Ibsley	3	3	1	2	0	1	7	7	6	1	1	0
Alresford Pond/C.B.	4	3	1	0	0	0	2	8	11	3	4	2
Eversley G.P.	0	4	5	1	0	1	5	5	3	2	2	2
Coastal sites	2	7	2	3	0	2	18	30	23	15	8	6
Inland sites	7	6	8	8	1	2	5	13	9	5	7	6

The only other sites where counts exceeded five were Warsash (7, Aug. 11th; 6, Sept. 1st), Blackwater, Needs Ore (7, Aug. 24th; 6, Sept. 18th), Keyhaven Marsh (6, July 27th) and Winchester S.F. (6, Aug. 14th and 18th).

Wood Sandpiper (A)

Tringa glareola

The only spring records were of singles at Farlington Marshes on May 11th and 17th.

Autumn records came from Winchester S.F. (1, July 22nd), Keyhaven Marsh (3, July 27th; 1, Aug. 26th, 30th and Sept. 3rd-19th), Warsash (1, Aug. 11th), Woolmer Pond (1, Aug. 12th/13th), Titchfield Haven (1, Aug. 16th and Aug. 28th-Sept. 16th), Farlington Marshes (1, Aug. 17th and 21st; 2, Aug. 22nd; 1, Aug. 26th/27th and Sept. 11th) and Blackwater, Needs Ore (1, Sept. 5th and 10th).

Common Sandpiper (B)

Actitis hypoleucos

In the early year wintering birds were only recorded at Eling/Lower Test (3, Jan.; 1, Feb./Mar.). Passage was evident in spring from Apr. 3rd (1, Warsash) to May 24th (4, Heath Pond, Petersfield) and in autumn from June 21st (1, Winchester S.F. and Langstone Harbour) to Oct 21st (1, Titchfield Haven). Late year wintering birds were present at Fawley/Calshot (1, Oct. 28th-Nov. 21st), Fareham Creek (1, Nov. 15th and Dec. 28th) and Eling/Lower Test (3, Nov./Dec.). Approximate monthly totals are shown below (note that, as in 1985 and 1986, more were inland in spring but more were on the coast in autumn).

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Coastal sites	3	1	1	9	16	7	85	82	62	15	5	4
Inland sites	0	0	0	21	55	2	36	44	35	3	0	0

In spring the only counts to reach five were at Dogmersfield Lake on May 2nd and 13th. Autumn counts reached double figures at seven localities: Paulsgrove R.T. (17, July 22nd), Titchfield Haven (10, July 23rd and Aug. 20th), Eversley G.P. (12, July 23rd), Langstone Harbour (18, July 25th; 12, Aug. 1st; 11, Sept. 5th), Curbridge (10, Aug. 22nd), Blashford Lakes (12, Sept. 6th) and Hurst/Lymington (12, Sept. 19th).

Spotted Sandpiper (A)

Actitis macularia

The bird present at Titchfield Haven since Oct. 1986 remained there until Jan. 12th. It is thought probable that it succumbed in the severe weather shortly thereafter.

Turnstone (B)*Arenaria interpres**Monthly maxima at selected localities:*

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Chichester Harbour	82	100	50	—	—	—	—	—	17	66	199	208
Langstone Harbour	73	33	213	260	156	38	17	434	350	343	223	120
Titchfield Haven	20	8	33	56	44	0	1	28	74	50	40	42
Warsash	190	100	128	98	151	2	70	95	250	110	72	80
Weston Shore	50	20	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	53
Fawley/Calshot	107	112	56	—	28	—	—	106	30	61	81	72
Beaulieu Estuary	42	38	48	57	12	0	32	45	40	—	—	45
Lymington/Hurst	55	115	56	8	48	4	4	31	27	61	—	100

The only other counts to exceed 50 were of 120 feeding at high tide in Hayling Bay on Nov. 21st, 60 at Hythe on Sept. 6th and 130+ there on Dec. 25th.

Spring passage was poor, with only 80 E between Apr. 4th-May 8th, peak 52 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th.

Red-necked Phalarope (A)*Phalaropus lobatus*

An adult was at Farlington Marshes from Oct. 11th-15th (JTS *et al*) and a juvenile was at Hilsea Moat on Oct. 23rd (BA), then moving to Farlington where it remained from Oct. 25th-28th (DFB *et al*). The first since 1984.

Grey Phalarope (A)*Phalaropus fulicarius*

Following the hurricane on the night of Oct. 15th/16th, some 24 birds were seen in the county in the next eight days, the most in one year since 1960.

On 16th, one flew SW at Frensham Great Pond (and another was present there on the Surrey side of the border) and one was found at dusk at Fleet Pond. None was seen on the coast.

Records for Oct. 17th-21st are shown below.

	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21
Eastney Outfall	—	3	3	—	1
Southsea Castle	1	1	—	—	—
Hayling Oysterbeds	—	1	—	—	—
Farlington Marshes	—	1	1	1	1
Gilkicker Point	—	—	1	—	—
Hill Head	—	3	2	—	—
Warsash	—	1	—	—	—
Lepe	—	—	—	1	—
Pennington/Hurst	4	1	6	1	—

Most sightings were of birds feeding along the shore but one flew W at Hurst on 17th. (At Hengistbury Head, Dorset, five flew W on 18th and 11 W on 19th.)

One, probably a new bird, was at Pennington on Oct. 24th.

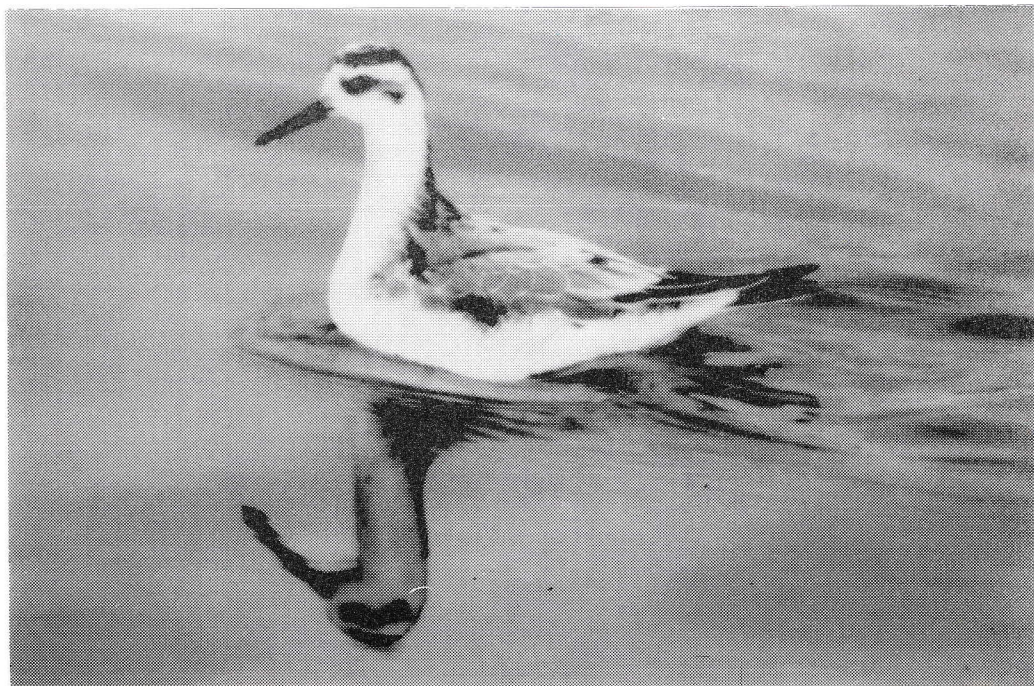
Pomarine Skua (A)*Stercorarius pomarinus*

The only spring records were of one flying E at Hill Head on Apr. 19th (MJP) and three moving SE/E at Hurst on Apr. 25th (EJW, RD).

The three autumn records followed the hurricane. An adult was inland at Frensham Great Pond on Oct. 16th (JMCK). The next day an adult flew W at Pennington (MCC, PC, EJW) and possibly the same bird was seen off Hurst Castle on 18th (PC, MCC, PH).



Sabine's Gull at Hurst. Over 100 individuals were recorded in the county following the hurricane of October 15th/16th, 1987.
(Pete Hobby)



Grey Phalarope at Langstone Harbour. At least 20 were seen following the hurricane, the most in Hampshire since 1960.
(Dennis Bright)



Kingfisher. Records for the Hampshire Tetrad Atlas for 1986-87 show the species present in only 10.4% of the county's tetrads. Hopefully the mild weather of early 1988 will result in a return to many traditional haunts from which it was absent in the first two years of the survey.

(Dennis Bright)



Barn Owl. The species was located in 11.4% of the county's tetrads in 1986-87. In view of the difficulty in finding Barn Owls, this shows an encouraging picture of the species' status in Hampshire.

(Dennis Bright)



Mediterranean Gull at Fareham Creek.

(Dennis Bright)



Aquatic Warbler at Farlington Marshes.

(Duncan Bell)

Arctic Skua (B)*Stercorarius parasiticus*

One was seen off Hayling Bay and Southsea on Jan. 9th (RWW, SHCo).

A poor spring. One was feeding along the tide line at Lee-on-the-Solent on Apr. 9th. A minimum of 16 flew E through the Solent between Apr. 20th-May 8th, peak 5 E at Hayling Bay on Apr. 25th. Two moved NE inland over Titchfield Haven on Apr. 28th and four did likewise on May 8th.

In autumn 33 flew W through the Solent between Aug. 9th-Sept. 13th, peaks 5 W at Hurst on Aug. 9th and 13 W off Lepe on Sept. 13th. Inland, two flew S over North Waltham on Aug. 23rd. Single birds were at Langstone Harbour on Sept. 19th, Calshot on 26th, Lepe on 29th (flying E) and Pennington on 29th/30th. Five were seen following the hurricane. On Oct. 17th, singles flew W at Pennington and Hayling Bay, and on 18th, singles flew W at Hill Head and Hayling Bay and one flew S over Titchfield Haven and out to sea.

Long-tailed Skua (A)*Stercorarius longicaudus*

A sub adult circled over Titchfield Haven at 1000 hrs. on Jan. 29th and then left NE (MJP, PMP, PRD). The sixth Hampshire record.

Great Skua (A)*Stercorarius skua*

None was seen in spring. Two flew E at Pennington on Sept. 1st and one was there the next day. One flew W past Hill Head and inland towards Hook R.T. on Sept. 29th. The remaining records followed the hurricane. On Oct. 16th one was seen inland over Worthy Down and on 17th singles flew W at Hill Head and Pennington. The next day two flew W off Lepe and 15 moved W at Hurst Castle, and on 19th two flew WNW over Fleet Pond.

Mediterranean Gull (B)*Larus melanocephalus*

Approximate monthly totals:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Adults	6	3	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	6	3	5
Second years	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	2	1	2	1	1
First years	1	2	0	4	5	3	2	1	0	1	0	0

The records are summarised below.

Black Point: adult, Jan. 10th.

Hayling Bay/Sinah G.P./Eastney/Southsea: adult, Jan. 1st-Mar. 28th with 2 adults, Jan. 18th; second winter/summer, Jan. 16th, Feb. 15th, Mar. 7th-Apr. 6th and May 14th; first winter, Feb. 15th, Apr. 2nd and May 2nd; 2 second winters, Oct. 17th, 1 to 24th; 2 adults, Oct. 18th, 1 to 24th, adult, Nov. 28th then 2 in Dec.; second winter, Dec. 24th.

Farlington Marshes/Bedhampton: adult, Jan. 1st-Feb. 1st; first winter, Jan. 10th; 2 first summers, June 28th/29th, 1 to Aug. 1st; adult, July 16th-Aug. 15th; second summer, July 30th-Sept. 27th; adult, Oct. 18th/19th, 29th, Dec. 5th and 20th.

IBM Lake: adult, Jan. 8th.

Paulsgrove R. T.: 3 first summers, May 28th, 1 to June 1st; second summer, July 31st and Aug. 16th.

Portsmouth Harbour Entrance: adult, Oct. 26th.

Fareham Creek: adult, Nov. 16th-Dec. 31st.

Lee-on-the-Solent: adult, Oct. 18th; first winter, Nov. 3rd.

Titchfield Haven: first summer, Apr. 23rd/24th, May 10th and July 14th; second summer, July 14th.

Hill Head: first winter, Oct. 17th.

Netley/Weston Shore: adult, Jan. 13th-Mar. 15th, Sept. 9th and Dec. 5th-14th.

Newtown R.T.: 3 adults, Mar. 15th; 2 adults, Apr. 6th.

Fawley Reservoir: adult, Jan. 18th.

Pennington area: adult, Feb. 15th; first winter, Apr. 10th and 25th; adult, May 5th; second summer, July 17th.

Eversley G.P.: first winter, Feb. 13th.

Queen's Parade, Aldershot: adult, Oct. 16th.

Fleet Pond: adult, Nov. 1st.

Note that eight were discovered in the county from Oct. 16th-18th following the hurricane. 1986: adult, Canoe Lake, Mar. 29th; first winter off N at dusk from Hythe, not Lepe, Nov. 15th.

Little Gull (B)

Larus minutus

In Jan.-Mar. the only records were of a first winter which left NE from Fleet Pond at dusk on Feb. 28th and an adult on a flooded polder at Dibden Bay on Mar. 27th.

Spring passage through the Solent was detected on only three dates, with 19 adults E at Hurst and nine adults E at Hayling Bay on Apr. 4th, one adult and two first years E at Lymington on Apr. 23rd and two adults and 15 first years E at Hayling Bay on May 9th. Records of off passage birds came from Eversley G.P. (adult, Apr. 6th), Fleet Pond (first winter, Apr. 16th), Farlington Marshes (first summers, Apr. 16th and 25th; 2/3 adults, May 8th/9th; adult, May 13th; first year, May 17th), Sinah G.P. (first summer, Apr. 17th/18th) and Titchfield Haven (first year, May 7th).

One first year was off Fawley on June 24th.

Autumn records were few, with two adults at Fleet Pond on July 25th, then single juveniles at Hill Head on July 30th (flying E) and Sept. 3rd (flying N), Fleet Pond on Sept. 3rd and 16th, Lepe on Sept. 4th and 6th, and Pennington on Sept. 8th. A first winter was at Fleet Pond on Oct. 6th, and an adult flew E there the next day, the eighth of the year there. The last before the hurricane was an adult at Eastney Outfall on Oct. 9th.

A major influx took place after the hurricane on the night of Oct. 15th/16th. The first signs were in the N.E. of the county, where a first winter was at Frensham Great Pond, two adults were on floods at Queen's Parade, Aldershot and at dusk ten flew S over Eversley G.P. and two were at Fleet Pond. Also on Oct. 16th, a first winter was in Portsmouth Harbour and three flew E at Hill Head. Records for Oct. 17th-23rd are shown below.

	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23
Hayling/Eastney/Southsea	17 (9)	20 (9)	10	—	7 (3)	—	2 (0)
Hill Head	40(15)	4 (2)	—	3 (2)	5	2 (2)	—
Calshot/Lepe	—	12 (5)	3 (0)	—	—	—	—
Pennington/Hurst	16	18 (4)	29(14)	2 (0)	—	—	2 (2)

Numbers of first winters are shown in brackets

The total number is difficult to assess but was probably between 100-130. Although most left the county quickly, the only movements detected were 12 W at Southsea and 20 E at Hill Head on 17th, four W at Lepe on 18th and ten W at Hurst on 19th. (At Hengistbury Head, Dorset, there were 28 W on 16th, 22 W on 17th, 4 W on 18th and 7 W on 19th).

One (unaged) was at Pennington on Dec. 26th.

Sabine's Gull (A)

Larus sabini

An amazing wreck of this species, involving a minimum of 120 birds (about 95 adults and 25 first winters) and probably in excess of 140, was caused by the hurricane on Oct. 15th/16th.

The first to be discovered on 16th were an adult and a first winter among a flock of Black-headed Gulls on floods at Queen's Parade, Aldershot (PJK *et al*). They remained until dusk before flying off SW. Also on this date two adults were in Portsmouth Harbour (BWR) and two adults flew SE over Eversley G.P. at dusk (GCS, MASc).

The main influx occurred over the next two days. Coastal records for Oct. 17th-23rd are shown below.

	Oct 17	Oct 18	Oct 19	Oct 20	Oct 21	Oct 22	Oct 23
Hayling/Eastney/Southsea	8 (0)	25 (0)	4 (0)	4 (0)	2 (0)	2 (0)	1 (0)
Hill Head	7 (4)	3 (0)	3 (0)	—	—	2 (0)	—
Warsash	—	1 (1)	—	—	—	—	—
Netley	8 (0)	1 (1)	2 (1)	—	2 (0)	—	—
Eling/Mayflower Park	1 (0)	—	—	1 (1)	2 (1)	—	—
Calshot	—	2 (1)	8 (2)	—	—	—	—
Lepe/Needs Ore	12 (1)	28+(3)	16 (3)	1 (0)	4 (1)	—	—
Pennington/Hurst	7 (2)	50+	36 (8)	—	—	—	—

Numbers of first winters are shown in brackets



Most of the birds were milling about just off shore, although one adult spent the day feeding over farmland at Chilling on 18th. Little movement was seen on 17th/18th, although ten of the 50 at Hurst left W. The main departure was on 19th, when birds were seen moving at several sites and 33 flew W at Hurst Castle. (At Hengistbury Head, Dorset, there were 14 W on 18th and 58 W on 19th.)

Inland, a first winter was at Queen's Parade and two adults flew W over Fleet Pond on 17th, a first winter was feeding on a school playing field in Farnborough on 18th, flying into roost at Frimley G.P. (Surrey) each evening until 23rd, and an adult roosted at Frensham Great Pond on 20th and was still present the next morning. An adult was at Pennington on Nov. 14th (MCC, PC).

There are nine previous records for the county, the last in 1981.

Black-headed Gull (C)

Larus ridibundus

Four figure counts were made at Bedhampton R.T. (2000+, Jan. 4th), Titchfield Haven (max. 3200, Jan. 19th), Hook R.T. (max. 1500, Nov. 11th and Dec. 16th), Newtown R.T. (max. 3000, Jan. 19th), Weston Shore (10000+ roosting at dusk, Dec. 11th), Eling (4000,

Jan. 27th; 5000 + 3500 in from the N at dusk, Dec. 20th), Effort R.T., Pennington (max. 1900, Jan. 5th), Timsbury (2300 S to roost Feb. 19th), Bramshill R.T. (max. 3000+, Jan. 16th), Eversley G.P. (1000, Feb. 16th and Mar. 9th; 2500 NE to roost, Dec. 8th), Wellington C.P. (2000 NW to roost, Dec. 24th) and Fleet Pond (1595 S/SW, Oct. 16th-18th following the hurricane).

7500+ pairs nested at Needs Ore. 53 pairs bred at Langstone Harbour and raised c. 90 young.

Ring-billed Gull (A)

Larus delawarensis

An adult was at the Kench, Langstone Harbour on Nov. 29th (PMP, KAT *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds*. The eighth Hampshire record.

Common Gull (C)

Larus canus

Counts exceeded 200 at Black Point (300, Dec. 28th), Bedhampton R.T. (300+, Jan. 4th), Titchfield Haven (465, Jan. 20th), Newtown R.T. (300+, Jan. 19th), Longdown (800, Feb. 28th; 1000, Dec. 19th) and Bramshill R.T. (300, Dec. 16th).

An adult and two second summers at Paulsgrove R.T. on June 6th was the only record for that month.

Lesser Black-backed Gull (B)

Larus fuscus

Monthly maxima/totals* at selected localities:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Newtown R.T.	18	1	9	6	—	18	—	9	—	—	—	3
Eling Great Marsh	74	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	30+	92
Timsbury G.P.	37	15	10	3	6	0	0	35	35	45	72	55
Bramshill R.T.	50+	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	107	—	—	100
Blackbushe R.T.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	62	216	—	—
Fleet Pond *	—	—	—	14	49	0	12	82	95	196	46	23
Other coastal sites *	8	14	35	31	9	33	25	4	1	20	5	2
Other inland sites *	54	12	23	18	23	4	6	4	6	190	0	4
TOTALS	204	42	77	72	87	55	43	209	306	667	123	224

In the totals, the highest figure from either Timsbury or Eling has been taken as daily movement occurs between the two sites, *e.g.* on Dec. 20th, 35 were on the mud at Eling and 57 flew in from the N at dusk. This wintering flock has been increasing each year since 1983/84, when the maximum was 12.

Other double figure counts were: 20, Crondall, Jan. 6th; 31 N, Winchester, Jan. 18th; 15, Eversley G.P., Mar. 13th; 16, Hook R.T., Mar. 26th; 14 N, Hill Head, Mar. 28th; 15 E, Hayling Bay, Apr. 23rd; 12 ENE, Fleet Pond, Apr. 29th; 11 N, Ibsley, May 17th; 32 (5 adults), Paulsgrove R.T., June 6th and 25 there, July 11th; 25 SE, Fleet Pond, Aug. 25th; 189 N, Kingsclere, Oct. 6th; 131 mostly S, Fleet Pond, Oct. 16th-18th (following the hurricane); 15, the Kench, Langstone Harbour, Oct. 18th; 17 W/SE, Fleet Pond, Nov. 14th.

1986: At Kingsclere, a large daily late afternoon movement of birds N to roost was noted in Oct., with 300 N on 3rd, 800 N on 8th, 1039 N on 9th and 1470 on 11th (JAN). Many fewer were involved in 1987 (see above) although poor weather made counting more difficult. The Aug. total for coastal sites should read 16, including ten at Hook R.T. on 15th.

Herring Gull (C)

Larus argentatus

Counts exceeded 100 at Bedhampton R.T. (1000+, Jan. 4th), Paulsgrove R.T. (120 imms., July 10th; 173, Oct. 23rd), Hook R.T. (200+, Nov. 11th), Newtown R.T. (200, mostly first

summers, June 9th), Hythe (550 roosting on barges, Oct. 31st; 455, Dec. 9th), Efford R. T., Pennington (600, Jan. 5th) and Bramshill R. T. (400, Jan. 10th; 300+, Dec. 30th).

Birds showing the characteristics of the western Mediterranean race *L.a. michahellis* were recorded in all months except Apr. and June. The records are summarised below.

Sinah G.P.: adult, Aug. 22nd, Sept. 26th and Oct. 31st.

Bedhampton R. T.: adult, Jan. 16th.

Paulsgrove R. T.: adult, July 11th; 2 adults, Oct. 17th.

Hill Head: third year, Jan. 16th; 1/2 adults, Aug. 24th-26th; third year, Sept. 3rd; up to 3 adults, Sept.; adult, Oct. 26th and Nov. 13th.

Newtown R. T.: adult, Jan. 13th.

Eling Great Marsh: up to 4 adults, 1 third winter and 1 first winter, Jan.; adult, Feb. 6th and May 6th; 4 adults and 1 third year, July 22nd; 7 adults and 4 juveniles, Aug. 7th; 11 (not aged), Sept. 18th; c. 18 (not aged), Sept. 17th; 8 adults, Oct. 10th but 1/2 on other dates in that month; 1-4 adults, Nov.-Dec.

Pennington: adult, July 7th and Sept. 24th.

Eversley G.P.: adult, Mar. 13th.

Timsbury G.P.: adult, Dec. 11th-14th.

Yellow-legged birds possibly of races other than *michahellis* were recorded at Cracknore Hard on Jan. 18th, Eling on Nov. 13th/14th, the Kench on Dec. 5th and Titchfield Haven on Dec. 10th (all single adults).

1986: adult *L.a. michahellis*, Pennington, July 13th.

Iceland Gull (A)

Larus glaucooides

A first winter bird was at Bramshill R. T. on Jan. 10th (GCS, JMCK).

Glaucous Gull (A)

Larus hyperboreus

The usual wintering adult was present at Hardway, Gosport with sightings up to Mar. 14th, on Sept. 5th and from Nov. 14th. An adult at IBM Lake, Cosham on Jan. 8th and 28th was presumably the same bird.

Other records were of an adult at East Winner, Hayling on Jan. 11th, first winters at Newtown R. T. on Jan. 19th, Hurst on Feb. 14th and the Lymington River on Feb. 28th, an adult at Hill Head from Feb. 16th-Mar. 29th, an adult which left E from Hurst on Mar. 14th, a first winter at Titchfield Haven on Apr. 16th and a second summer/third winter at Pennington on Aug. 19th.

Great Black-backed Gull (C)

Larus marinus

Counts reached 50 at the Kench, Langstone Harbour (80, Nov. 29th), Bedhampton R. T. (280, Jan. 4th), Paulsgrove R. T. (100, Oct. 17th), Hill Head (100, Jan.; 87, Sept.; 75, Oct.; 100, Nov.; 192, Dec.), Hamble Airfield (100, Jan. 7th; 50+, Nov. 24th; 100+, Dec. 23rd), Newtown R. T. (320, Jan. 1st - an unusually high count; 100, Jan. 7th), Eling (160, Jan. 17th), Hythe (445 to roost, Jan. 6th; 139 roosting on barges, Dec. 9th), Needs Ore (54, July 13th) and Wellington C.P. (60 NW at dusk, Dec. 30th - Bramshill R. T. birds).

Kittiwake (B)

Rissa tridactyla

A poor year. Approximate monthly totals are shown below.

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
0	2	5	17	12	0	4	0	16	39	23	0

The only double figure counts were: 6 E + 6 on sea, Hurst Beach, Apr. 25th; 10 W + 4 E,

Hayling Bay, Sept. 5th; 26, Hurst Castle, Oct. 18th; 22 W, Pennington, Nov. 14th. Inland, single adults were at Eversley G.P. on Feb. 5th and Fleet Pond on Mar. 26th.

Sandwich Tern (B)

Sterna sandvicensis

The first was at Langstone Harbour on Mar. 21st. A further nine were seen before the end of the month. Spring movement was noted between Apr. 4th-May 23rd, with a total of 708 E, peaks 128 E at Hayling Bay on Apr. 22nd and 219 E there on Apr. 24th. Inland, two flew S over Yew Tree Heath (N.F.) on May 27th and one flew SE over Sway on June 25th.

Breeding records were of 220 pairs at Needs Ore, c. 50 pairs at Sowley/Hurst and three pairs which raised two young at Langstone Harbour, the first successful breeding there.

Small numbers only were noted in autumn but some 15 were seen in the wake of the hurricane, including eight around Hayling Island on Oct. 18th and the last, singles at Calshot and Langstone Harbour on Oct. 25th.

Two flew from high inland to Portsmouth Harbour on Oct. 4th.

1986: The first was at Hayling Bay on Mar. 20th

Roseate Tern (A)

Sterna dougallii

The only spring record was of one at Hurst Beach on May 9th.

In autumn all the records came from Titchfield Haven. An adult was there on Aug. 6th, then an adult and a juvenile on 8th and two adults on 9th. A single adult was seen on six dates between Aug. 18th-Sept. 8th although possibly two birds were involved. Finally a juvenile was present on Sept. 25th.

Common Tern (C)

Sterna hirundo

Breeding was recorded as follows: Langstone Harbour islands, 45 pairs raised 79+ young; Curbridge, 1 pair raised 1 young; Needs Ore, 300+ pairs; Sowley/Hurst, 55 pairs with good success; Ellingham Lake, 1 pair failed; Mockbeggar Lake, 2 pairs raised 6 young.

Common/Arctic Tern (B)

Sterna hirundo/pardisaea

Apart from breeding records, all sightings of Common Tern are summarised under this heading.

The first were early: five E at Hurst Beach, five at Hayling Bay and one at Fleet Pond on Apr. 4th. Three were at Pennington on 5th and one was at Warsash on 6th but then no more were seen until Apr. 17th. Spring passage through the Solent was poor, involving some 345 E between Apr. 17th-May 23rd, peaks 89 E at Lepe on Apr. 28th and 100 E at Hayling Bay on May 9th.

Inland, three flew E at Fleet Pond on Apr. 30th, one or two were at M27 G.P., Eastleigh on six dates from Apr. 29th-May 27th and one was at Wellington C.P. on June 4th. Up to three were at Fleet Pond and Eversley G.P. on eight dates between June 21st-Aug. 4th, then three were at Fleet Pond on Aug. 30th. Finally, four flew W at Eversley on Sept. 4th, two flew S over Queen Elizabeth C.P. on Sept. 14th and two were at Fleet Pond on Sept. 20th.

Autumn gatherings on the coast were smaller than usual, those to exceed 100 being of 160 at Titchfield Haven/Hill Head on Aug. 9th, 200+ there on Aug. 22nd and 150 at Lepe on Sept. 6th. Most had departed by late Sept., with only three reported in Oct. up to the time of the hurricane. Then there were four at Lepe on Oct. 16th, 15 at Black Point/Sandy Point and three moving W at Lepe on 17th, 14 at five localities on 18th and 13 at five localities on 19th. Probably at least 35 were involved in these records. Stragglers remained over the next few

days with the last two adults at Lepe on 26th and one juvenile there on Oct. 31st. All the birds involved in this influx were identified as Common Terns.

Arctic Tern (B)

Sterna paradisaea

One flew E at Hurst Beach on Apr. 4th (MCC, PC), a very early date. Only three others were noted along the coast in spring and one was at Fleet Pond on Apr. 30th.

In autumn, single juveniles were at Hayling Bay on Sept. 12th and Fleet Pond from Sept. 12th-15th and 17th-22nd. Several appeared after the hurricane, with 12 along the coast from Oct. 17th-19th and a juvenile at Lepe on Oct. 21st/22nd.

Little Tern (B)

Sterna albifrons

The first were five E at Hurst Beach and two at Langstone Harbour on Apr. 17th. Spring passage through the Solent was poor, with only 198 E between Apr. 18th-May 23rd, peak 77 E at Hayling Bay on May 9th.

142 pairs nested at Langstone Harbour islands, raising at least 168 young. 70 pairs bred at two sites in the west Solent.

Autumn numbers were low except for 100 in Hayling Bay on Aug. 8th. The last was in Langstone Harbour on Oct. 1st apart from a hurricane related bird there on Oct. 18th.

Black Tern (A)

Chlidonias niger

Spring records came from Farlington Marshes (1, Apr. 24th), Hill Head (21 E, Apr. 27th-May 11th), Lepe (12 E, Apr. 28th), Hurst (9 E, Apr. 28th; 9, May 9th), Netley Shore (1, May 18th) and Warsash (1, May 28th).

Autumn records came from Eling (1, July 17th), Titchfield Haven (1, Aug. 14th and 24th; 3, Sept. 5th), Pennington (1, Aug. 28th/29th; 64 W, Sept. 1st; 1, Sept. 6th), Lepe (1, Aug. 29th; 25 W, Sept. 5th; 35, Sept. 19th), Frensham Great Pond (3, Sept. 1st and 18th), Farlington Marshes (1, Sept. 5th and 23rd) and Lee-on-the-Solent (1, Oct. 18th).

Guillemot (A)

Uria aalge

A very poor year. Single birds were recorded as follows: Portsmouth Harbour Entrance, Jan. 21st and Dec. 10th; Southsea, Apr. 5th and May 16th; Hayling Bay, Apr. 26th; Milford-on-Sea, Aug. 20th; Hill Head, Sept. 19th, Oct. 17th, 26th and Nov. 30th; Black Point, Dec. 31st.

Razorbill (B)

Alca torda

None in the early year, then singles at Hythe on Sept. 29th and Hill Head on Oct. 11th. The hurricane produced nine along the coast between Oct. 17th-24th, one of which remained in Langstone Harbour until Nov. 21st. Records followed from Black Point (1, Nov. 14th and 28th; 2, Dec. 10th), Keyhaven (2, Nov. 15th), Hurst (1, Nov. 28th) and Hill Head (1, Dec. 5th).

Little Auk (A)

Alle alle

One in flight off Keyhaven on Nov. 21st eventually flew out W through Hurst Narrows (RAC, EJW).

Stock Dove (B)

Columba oenas

Reported flocks of 100 or more were: 100, Crondall, Feb. 18th; 500+, Hillside, Mar. 29th; 100, Five Lanes End, Greywell, Apr. 21st; 100, Hillside, May 3rd; 100+, Hayling Island, Oct. 10th; 130, Titchfield Haven, Dec. 18th; 140, Timsbury, Dec. 13th; 200, Springhead,

Greywell, Dec. 19th.

Sixty were reported moving over Fleet Pond between Sept. 28th-Nov. 21st, peaks 13 S/W on Oct. 14th, 12 SW/S on Oct. 18th and nine W on Oct. 19th.

Woodpigeon (C)

Columba palumbus

Reported flocks of 1000 or more were: 1650+, Springhead, Jan. 7th; 3000+, Stratfield Turgis, Feb. 5th; 1000+, Danebury, Feb. 8th; 2600+, Finkley, Andover, Mar. 15th; 1500+, Tunworth, Nov. 18th and 3000+ there, Dec. 9th; 2000+, Timsbury, Nov. 22nd; 1000+, Exbury, Nov. 28th; 1000+, Telegraph Hill (N.F.), Dec. 20th; 1150, Middle Wyke, St. Mary Bourne, Dec. 27th.

Movements were noted during the late year at a number of locations. Records included: 4281 mostly SE/S/SW/W, Fleet Pond, Sept. 28th-Nov. 28th, peak 1130 S/SW, Oct. 29th; 1000 NW, Timsbury, Nov. 15th; 1500 W, Regents Park, Southampton, Nov. 21st; 2000+ NE, Minley, Dec. 4th; 1194 NE in 40 minutes, Lepe, Dec. 11th.

Collared Dove (B)

Streptopelia decaocto

Very few records were submitted, those of more than 50 being: 60, Greywell, Jan. 18th; 60+, Chalton, Feb. 7th; 60, Chilling, Sept. 25th; 105, Brownwich, Nov. 11th; 100, Bentley Church, Dec. 25th; 100, Timsbury, Dec. 27th.

Turtle Dove (B)

Streptopelia turtur

The first arrivals were singles at Sway on Apr. 18th and Old Winchester Hill the next day. Birds were reported widely from Apr. 22nd onwards. Movement continued throughout May and into June, e.g. 24 N/NE at five sites on May 10th and seven N at Tunworth on June 2nd.

Breeding season records involved a total of 133 pairs/singing males at 83 sites.

More birds were noted this autumn including 11 at Crondall on Aug. 22nd, 13 at Sandy Point on Sept. 19th and 20 at Bishopstoke on the same date. The last record was of two SE at Fleet Pond on Oct. 6th.

Ring-necked Parakeet (A)

Psittacula krameri

The only reports were of one at Titchfield Haven on Feb. 23rd, one feeding on peanuts at Romsey on Apr. 2nd, two at Mislingford, Wickham on Apr. 11th, one flying S at Titchfield on May. 9th, one at Bashley on July 2nd and one at Fleet on Dec. 11th and 12th.

Cuckoo (C)

Cuculus canorus

The first were at Liss on Apr. 7th and Solent Breezes on 9th. Records followed from 40 sites between Apr. 15th-24th.

Rufous phase females were noted at Eldon on May 10th and Wildgrounds, Gosport on May 8th, June 2nd and 10th.

The last record of the year was of one at Bishopstoke on Aug. 27th.

Barn Owl (B)

Tyto alba

Records for the Tetrads Atlas for 1986-87 show the species present in 11.4% of the county's tetrads, with breeding proved in 38, probable in 17 and possible in 59. One was observed at a Starling roost at Southampton Central Station on three dates in Jan./Feb. and on one occasion was seen to make a successful kill.

Little Owl (B)*Athene noctua*

Records for the Tetrads Atlas for 1986-87 show the species present in 27.7% of the county's tetrads, with breeding proved in 68, probable in 114 and possible in 95.

Tawny Owl (C)*Strix aluco*

Records for the Tetrads Atlas in 1986-87 show the species present in 42.2% of the county's tetrads, with breeding proved in 91, probable in 187 and possible in 152.

One road casualty was reported.

Long-eared Owl (A)*Asio otus*

Four or five were present at Farlington Marshes in Jan./Feb. with six recorded on Jan. 28th and Feb. 6th. Three remained until Mar. 10th, then two until Mar. 21st. A single bird was regularly recorded up to Apr. 26th, when one was found dead by the railway line. However, one was seen again on May 10th, June 12th, Aug. 30th/31st and regularly from Oct. 28th, presumably having summered. Two were present on Dec. 5th/6th.

Elsewhere, a single bird was roosting at Titchfield Haven during Jan. and on Nov. 30th, and at another locality one was watched hunting at dusk on June 27th/28th and a juvenile was heard nearby on July 26th.

1986: One was found dead near Ringwood on Oct. 25th.

Short-eared Owl (B)*Asio flammeus*

Early year records came from Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour (2, Jan.; 2/3, Feb.; 2, Mar. 1st-23rd), Southampton Western Docks (2, Jan. 24th), Calshot Reclamation (1, Jan. 11th and Feb. 8th), Normandy/Keyhaven (2, Jan./Feb.; 1, Mar.-Apr. 5th and 18th), Ashley Walk (1, Jan. 18th), Worthy Down (up to 5 roosting, Jan.; 4, Mar. 8th), Caesar's Belt (1, Jan. 2nd) and Old Burghclere Clay Pit (1, Feb. 7th).

Late year numbers were very poor, records coming from Farlington Marshes/Langstone Harbour (1, Oct. 2nd, Dec. 5th and 7th), Normandy/Keyhaven (1, Aug. 6th and Oct. 17th-30th; 2, Nov. 2nd-6th; 1, Nov. 11th, 21st and Dec. 24th), Worthy Down (2, Nov. 15th onwards), Old Winchester Hill (1, Nov. 28th) and Larkwhistle Farm, Longparish (1, Dec. 12th).

Nightjar (B)*Caprimulgus europaeus*

The first were at Ashley Walk and Bramshill on May 9th. One churring at Hamble Common on May 23rd was presumably a migrant as it was not seen again. Counts of pairs/singing males during the breeding season included the following: New Forest, 39 (not a complete survey); Badminton Common, 1; Bricksbury Hill, 3+; Emer Bog, 1; Eversley Common, 3; Havant Thicket, 1; Hipley Copse, 1; Longmore Inclosure, 6+; Ludshott Common, 4; Mortimer West End, 3; North Solent NNR, 3; Oxenbourne Down, 1; Upper Pennington Common, 1; Velmead Common, Fleet, 1/2; West Walk, 1; Woolmer, 14+; Yateley Heath Wood, 5.

Autumn records were of singles at Lower Pennington Lane, Lymington on Sept. 15th/16th and Oxenbourne Down on Sept. 22nd.

Swift (C)*Apus apus*

The first was one at Regents Park, Southampton on Apr. 17th. A further 106 were then recorded to the month's end including 20 at Portwood, Southampton on 28th and 15 at Fleet Pond on 30th. Significant visible movements noted during May and June were: 200

W, Crondall, May 14th; 288 in off the sea in five hours, Sandy Point and 300 in off the sea, Hill Head, May 23rd; 100 N, Warsash, May 29th; 315 N in five minutes, Sway, June 16th.

Late summer flocks/movements reported included the following: 200 SW in 1 hour, Portswood, Southampton, July 15th; 500, Crondall, July 19th; 500, Lepe, July 21st; 190 NW in just over 1 hour, Millbrook, Southampton, July 22nd; 300 E, Titchfield Haven, Aug. 4th and 500+ there Aug. 6th. The last of five Sept. sightings was of one flying S at Bishopstoke on Sept. 14th.

Kingfisher (B)

Alcedo atthis

Tetrad Atlas records for 1986-87 show the species present in 10.4% of Hampshire's tetrads, with breeding proved in 24, probable in 37 and possible in 43 (cf. Grey Wagtail).

Outside the breeding season there were records from 20 coastal localities including four at Titchfield Haven on Nov. 27th.

Roller (A)

Coracias garrulus

One was at Rowbarrow Pond (N.F.) on May 30th/31st (KWM, MJWH, RJS *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds*. The fourth Hampshire record this century, the most recent, coincidentally, being on May 30th 1955 at Butser Hill.

Hoopoe (A)

Upupa epops

Single birds were at South Wonston (per JMCe) and Camp Farm G.P. (PJK) on Apr. 19th, Fleet Pond on Apr. 30th (MASc), Milford-on-Sea (flying in off the sea) on May 9th (RD), Broughton NR on May 23rd (NRF-C) and Warsash on June 12th (RWH, VB).

Wryneck (A)

Jynx torquilla

Single birds were at Bishop's Dyke on Apr. 23rd (per EJW), Farlington Marshes from Aug. 30th-Sept. 4th (PG) and on Sept. 15th/16th (SHo, PMP), Mattingley on Sept. 8th (per EJW) and Sandy Point from Sept. 12th-16th (MJWH, KWM).

Green Woodpecker (C)

Picus viridis

Only six records were received including one of a male taken in flight by a female Sparrowhawk at Lower Test Marshes on Oct. 29th.

Great Spotted Woodpecker (C)

Dendrocopos major

Only 15 records were received. Those suggesting movement were: 1 E, Lepe, Sept. 17th and 1 W there, Sept. 21st; 1 high W, Farlington Marshes, Sept. 27th; 1 S to Wight from Keyhaven Marsh, Sept. 27th.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker (B)

Dendrocopos minor

Tetrad Atlas records for 1986-87 showed the species to be present in 19.2% of Hampshire's tetrads, with breeding proved in 39, probable in 55 and possible in 98.

Woodlark (B)

Lullula arborea

The only early year records away from breeding areas were of one on the beach at Sinah, Hayling on Jan. 17th and one flying N at Tunworth on Mar. 10th.

During the breeding season records of pairs/singing males totalled 16 in the New Forest (coverage incomplete), 36 at 12 localities in the N.E. and one elsewhere in the county.

Autumn records included one over Fleet Pond on Oct. 13th, one flying W at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 25th, three moving NW at Warsash on Oct. 24th and one there on Nov. 5th.

Skylark (B)*Alauda arvensis*

Early year flocks/movements included: 350, Longdown, Jan. 3rd; 2100 W in 50 minutes, Warsash, 875 W at Titchfield Haven/Chilling and 250 N in 40 minutes, Hythe, Jan. 14th; 300, Hamble Lane, Jan. 16th; 400+, Dibden Bay, Jan. 18th; 900, Brownwich, Jan. 20th.

Little autumn movement was recorded, the total being 359 mostly W/SW at seven sites between Sept. 25th-Nov. 27th, peak 38 W at Warsash on Oct. 24th. The largest late year flock was of 150 at Greywell on Dec. 16th.

Shore Lark (A)*Eremophila alpestris*

Single birds were at Browndown on Jan. 15th (TAL) and Weston Shore on Jan. 21st (JW, DAC). The first records since 1978.

Sand Martin (C)*Riparia riparia*

The first was at Titchfield Haven on Mar. 25th, then some 30 were seen until the month's end, including 12 at Timsbury on 27th. The highest spring counts received were of 70 at Bishopstoke on Apr. 18th and 150 N at Timsbury on Apr. 21st.

Breeding numbers continue to recover. Counts of pairs/occupied nests were: Bishopstoke S.P., 350; Carters Clay, Sherfield English, 430; Fair Oak S.P., 10; Hamer Warren S.P., Ibsley, 310; Hogmoor, Bordon, 10-14, Kingsley S.P., 117-150; North Boarhunt, 28-50; Somerley S.P., 150; Timsbury, 90; Woolmer, 6.

At Titchfield Haven, 100 flew S on Aug. 15th and a reed-bed roost held 200 birds on Aug. 30th/31st. Other notable autumn counts were made at Fleet Pond (max. 100, July 28th), Farlington Marshes (max. 145 NW in 2.5 hours on July 25th) and Timsbury (max. 100, Aug. 31st). The last was at Farlington on Oct. 10th.

Swallow (C)*Hirundo rustica*

Three at Alresford C.B. on Jan. 1st (per CRC) were the first ever for that month.

The first returning bird was at Timsbury on Mar. 27th, records following from a further six sites up to Apr. 3rd. The highest spring count was of 150 roosting at Lower Test Marshes on May 27th.

Return migrants were noted from late July, with 250 at Fleet Pond on 30th rising to 450 by Aug. 11th. A roost at Titchfield Haven peaked at 1800 on Aug. 31st. In Sept., numbers of outgoing migrants increased sharply toward mid month. 1940 moved E through Needs Ore on Sept. 18th and c. 14000 flew E at Lepe the next day, including 2760 in ten minutes. At Timsbury, a roost in a maize field reached 1200 on Sept. 19th. Good numbers continued for much of Oct., 1300 E over Titchfield Haven on 2nd and 270 S at Lepe on 18th being the highest counts. 14 were noted in Nov., the last at Fareham on the 22nd.

1986: 58+ W, Titchfield Haven, Oct. 31st. 1, Keyhaven, Dec. 14th.

House Martin (C)*Delichon urbica*

The first were at Allington Lane on Mar. 26th and Farlington Marshes on Apr. 3rd. Spring numbers were low until the end of Apr. when 100 visited Tundry Pond and 150 Fleet Pond on 30th. The only other high spring count was at Bransbury, where 150 flew N up the Test Valley on May 3rd.

Return migrants were noted from mid July. Four figure counts were made at Sandy Point (2000 NW in 135 minutes, Sept. 26th), Titchfield Haven (max. 2000, Sept. 28th), Beacon Hill, Warnford (2000, Sept. 27th) and Warsash (4200 E, Oct. 2nd). Passage continued until mid Oct., with 80 S over Lepe on 18th, but then none was recorded after 21st apart from

singles at Whitehill on Nov. 21st, Lepe on Nov. 27th and Titchfield Haven on Dec. 8th. 1986: 1000+, Titchfield Haven, Oct. 4th and 20 there, Nov. 3rd. Then a further 15 up to Nov. 30th.

Olive-backed Pipit (A)

Anthus hodgsoni

One was at Sway from Nov. 13th-26th, being trapped on 15th and 18th (SWS, EJW). Accepted by *British Birds*. The first Hampshire record.

Tree Pipit (C)

Anthus trivialis

The first were at Eyeworth (N.F.), Hazeley Heath (3), Kingsclere (flying N) and Old Winchester Hill on Apr. 5th. Away from breeding areas, 31 were recorded, mostly flying N, up to May 5th.

Autumn migrants were noted from mid July with a clear peak in late August. Half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul	Aug	Aug	Sept	Sept	Oct
15-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15
3	11	134	50	12	4

Counts included a total of 76 (mostly flying W) at Titchfield Haven between Aug. 6th-Oct. 1st with a maximum of 40 W on Aug. 28th and 28 at Old Winchester Hill on Aug. 16th. The last one flew W at Lepe on Oct. 12th.

Meadow Pipit (C)

Anthus pratensis

Large early year flocks were noted at Hamble Lane (200, Jan. 16th), Titchfield (150, Jan. 16th), Dibden Bay (100+, Jan. 18th), Winchester S.F. (100, Jan. 18th) and Camp Farm S.F. (120, Feb. 2nd).

Spring movements were noted at seven sites with a total of 1496 mostly N between Mar. 10th-Apr. 17th, peaks 815 N at Hill Head on Mar. 25th, 117 N there in 2.5 hours on Mar. 28th and 194 N over Hurst Castle on Apr. 4th.

Autumn flocks included 100 at Titchfield on Sept. 21st, 150 at both Beacon Hill, Warnford and Eversley G.P. on Sept. 26th, 150+ at Nether Wallop on Oct. 11th and 118 at Chilling on Oct. 30th. Movements recorded included a total of 1602 mostly S at Fleet Pond between Sept. 9th-Nov. 28th, peak 284 S/SW on Oct. 11th, 338 SE in four hours at Old Winchester Hill on Oct. 11th and 200+ S at Lepe on Oct. 21st.

Large late year flocks were located at Ludshott Common (100, Nov. 2nd) and Westend Down (120, Dec. 10th).

1986: 150 W, Titchfield Haven, Sept. 23rd.

Rock Pipit (C)

Anthus petrosus

Away from Hurst Castle, where three pairs bred, recorded along the coast until Mar. 8th and from Oct. 9th. Localities with double figure counts were Eling (10, Jan. 5th; 16, Dec. 19th), Warsash (10, Feb. 13th; 11, Oct. 30th; 10, Nov. 8th) and Sturt Pond/Hurst Castle (32, Dec. 19th).

One was inland at Eversley G.P. on Oct. 31st.

One showing the characteristics of the Scandinavian race *A.p. littoralis* was at Lower Test Marshes on Dec. 15th.

1986: The first return to a wintering site was one at Hill Head on Sept. 22nd.

Water Pipit (B)*Anthus spinoletta*

Recorded until Apr. 11th (2, Ringwood) and from Oct. 17th (1 S, Fleet Pond).

Approximate monthly totals:

J	F	M	A		O	N	D
10	22	4	2		1	16	23

Counts reached three at Camp Farm S.F. (3-5, Jan. 14th-20th; 3, Feb. 20th), Titchfield Haven (max. 12, Feb. 13th), Alresford C.B. (4, Feb. 15th) and Lower Test Marshes (up to 8, Nov.; 16+, Dec. 20th; 5+, Dec. 25th; 6, Dec. 28th). Coverage at several known wintering localities was poor, e.g. one at Headbourne Worthy C.B. on Jan. 8th was the only record from that site.

Yellow Wagtail (B)*Motacilla flava*

The first was at Langstone Harbour on Mar. 31st. Half monthly totals of spring migrants away from breeding sites are shown below.

Apr 1-15	Apr 16-30	May 1-15	May 16-31
12	38	40	6

All records were of one to four except for 16 N at Winchester College on May 7th.

Breeding records involved seven pairs/singing males in the Avon Valley and 18-20 at five coastal localities.

Return passage began in early July but no large number occurred until mid Aug. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul 16-31	Aug 1-15	Aug 16-31	Sept 1-15	Sept 16-30	Oct 1-15	Oct 16-31
6	91	576	675	301	33	6

Counts reached 50 at Farlington Marshes (roosts of 80, Aug. 15th; 100, Aug. 31st/Sept. 1st), Keyhaven/Pennington (53, Aug. 26th; 110, Sept. 14th), Titchfield Haven (59 W, Aug. 28th; roosts of 110, Aug. 30th; 223, Sept. 3rd; 130, Sept. 21st), North Hayling (60+, Aug. 30th), Pitts Deep/Pylewell (76, Aug. 30th) and Warsash (70, Sept. 16th). 39 were noted in Oct. including a flock of 21 S over Longparish on 6th. The last was at Sandy Point on Oct. 24th.

Birds showing the characteristics of the continental race, the Blue-headed Wagtail *M.f. flava* were at Farlington on May 8th and June 13th.

Grey Wagtail (C)*Motacilla cinerea*

The only significant winter counts were from Eastleigh S.F., with 16 on Jan. 19th and 18 on Jan. 26th.

Tetrad Atlas records for 1986-87 show the species present in 21.9% of the county's tetrads, with breeding proved in 94, probable in 65 and possible in 60.

A small autumn passage was detected, records coming from eight sites including Fleet Pond (21 S/W/NW, Aug. 21st-Oct. 18th), Lepe (17, Sept. 4th-21st, peak 7 W, Sept. 17th), Normandy/Keyhaven (11, Sept. 6th-Oct. 24th), Titchfield Haven (33, Sept. 8th-23rd, peaks 11 W, Sept. 8th and 10 W, Sept. 9th) and Warsash (5, Sept. 15th).

1986: 5 W, Titchfield Haven, Sept. 23rd.

Pied Wagtail (C)*Motacilla alba*

Early year counts included 175 at Camp Farm S.F. on Jan. 1st, 200 feeding in a cabbage

field at Hamble Lane on Jan. 12th and 185 in a reed bed roost at Fleet Pond on Mar. 4th. Records of autumn movement included a total of 112 S/SW/W at Fleet Pond between Aug. 29th-Nov. 5th, 44 E at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 2nd and 36 E at Sandy Point the next day. The highest roost counts at this time were of 238 at Lower Test Marshes on Sept. 10th, 200 at Timsbury on Oct. 4th and 180 at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 26th.

The roost on steam pipes at a North Baddesley factory was counted throughout the year, the monthly maxima being 640, 460, 220, 168, 120, 35, 40, 20, 0, 180, 460, 770.

Records of the continental race, the White Wagtail *M.a. alba* started with two at Pennington on Mar. 28th. Further sightings were made at Farlington Marshes (1, Apr. 11th and 18th; 4, Apr. 21st), Hurst (2, Apr. 18th), Pennington/Keyhaven (17, Apr. 19th), Eversley G.P. (3, Apr. 19th; 2, Apr. 21st; 1, Apr. 27th and 29th), Milton Locks, Portsmouth (3, Apr. 20th; 1, Apr. 22nd), Dibden Bay (1, Apr. 21st), Titchfield Haven (1, Apr. 27th and May 2nd), Winchester College (1, May 1st) and M27 G.P., Eastleigh (1, May 1st). A pair bred successfully at the 1986 site.

1986: 25 W, Titchfield Haven, Sept. 23rd. A pair of White Wagtails bred successfully at one locality.

Waxwing (A)

Bombycilla garrulus

One was watched for an hour at Greenfields Estate, Alton on Feb. 14th and was seen to leave NE (DHT *et al*).

Wren (D)

Troglodytes troglodytes

Duncock (C)

Prunella modularis

Five flew high over Titchfield Haven on Oct. 5th, at least three flying off E eventually.

Robin (C)

Erithacus rubecula

Autumn passage was again evident from regular ringing at Southampton Western Docks, where 29 birds were caught between Aug. 7th-Oct. 29th.

Nightingale (B)

Luscinia megarhynchos

The first was at Sinah Warren, Hayling on Apr. 17th. A total of 115 pairs/singing males was counted at 57 sites, including 10 at Martin Down CBC, seven at North Solent NNR, six at Lepe on Apr. 26th (possibly including some migrants), five to six at Timsbury (a big increase) and four at Horsebridge/Houghton, Netherton Bottom (Hurstbourne Tarrant) and along the Basingstoke Canal between Fleet and Aldershot.

In Aug., singles were at Southampton Western Docks on 7th/8th and at Shirley, Southampton from 5th-30th. The last was at Normandy Marsh on Sept. 2nd.

Black Redstart (A)

Phoenicurus ochruros

The only early year record was of one at Hayling Oysterbeds on Jan. 3rd.

Spring migrants (all singles) were reported from Southampton Common (Mar. 15th), Hill Head/Brownwich (Mar. 16th and 18th), South Hayling (Apr. 5th), Vale Farm, Longparish (Apr. 5th), Stoney Cross (Apr. 5th), Black Gutter Bottom (Apr. 10th) and Farlington Marshes (Apr. 21st).

An immature male held territory on a demolition site from Apr. 13th-July 3rd and at a second site a male was singing on Apr. 5th and a female was seen carrying food into a farm building on July 9th.

Singles at Kingsclere on Oct. 1st and Bramley on Oct. 3rd were the first of the autumn, but then there was a lull until the end of the month, records then coming from Widley Farm, Portsdown (Oct. 22nd), Doncaster Farm, Eastleigh (Oct. 23rd), Fort Cumberland, Eastney (2, Oct. 24th), Beacon Hill, Warnford (2, Oct. 25th), Leigh Park, Havant (Oct. 30th), Sinah G.P. (Oct. 31st), Northfields Farm, Twyford (Nov. 2nd), Dean Hill (2, Nov. 4th, 1 to Nov. 8th), Lepe (Nov. 5th), Dibden Bay (Nov. 8th) and Portsdown Hill (1, Dec. 14th).

Redstart (C)

Phoenicurus phoenicurus

The first were at Pitts Wood (N.F.) on Apr. 10th and Old Winchester Hill on Apr. 12th. Some 26 migrants were noted away from breeding sites up to May 24th, including seven males on Hayling Island on Apr. 17th.

Autumn migrants were seen from July 25th with the main movement in late Aug./early Sept. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul	Aug	Aug	Sept	Sept	Oct
16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15
3	20	90	60	28	10

Although numbers were lower than in 1986, peak counts again occurred on the downs, with totals of 38 at Old Winchester Hill (max. 7, Aug. 23rd), 28 at Beacon Hill, Warnford (max. 7, Aug. 23rd and Sept. 6th) and 29 at Butser Hill (max. 7, Sept. 9th). On the coast, six at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 31st was the maximum. The last was on Oct. 15th apart from late singles at Bishop's Dyke on Oct. 24th, Black Point on Oct. 25th and in a Drayton, Portsmouth garden on Nov. 1st.

Whinchat (B)

Saxicola rubetra

The first were singles at Sandy Point and Farlington Marshes on Apr. 17th. A further 43 migrants were recorded until May 24th, including a maximum of four at Martin Down on Apr. 23rd.

Nine pairs/singing males were located in the New Forest, of which four are known to have raised young.

Autumn passage, which was lighter than in 1986, was evident from July 18th. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul	Aug	Aug	Sept	Sept	Oct	Oct
16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31
5	32	65	199	77	21	11

The highest counts were of ten at Crondall on Sept. 15th, 15+ at Farlington Marshes on Sept. 3rd, 13+ at Milton Reclamation on Sept. 2nd and c. 40 at Pennington on Sept. 9th. The last were singles at Farlington Marshes and IBM Lake on Oct. 25th and Pennington/Keyhaven on Nov. 2nd/3rd.

Stonechat (B)

Saxicola torquata

Numbers were at a very low ebb in 1987. In the New Forest, only 17 pairs were reported breeding, and on the N.E. heaths 13 pairs bred at six sites. Elsewhere, Tetrad Atlas records for 1986-87 show breeding proved in 13 tetrads, probable in seven and possible in four.

Although the New Forest total is clearly a gross underestimate, the figure quoted is the lowest number actually reported for many years.

Monthly totals elsewhere are shown below.

J	F	M	S	O	N	D
9	5	4	6	20	21	17

These totals include the records from Langstone Harbour, where only nine birds were seen during the year, the worst ever in 35 years. The highest count was of six at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 5th and Nov. 18th.

Wheatear (B)

Oenanthe oenanthe

The first was at Browndown on Mar. 14th. Spring migrants were mostly noted in late Mar. and Apr., but passage continued until early June, when one was at Bedhampton R.T. on 6th. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Mar	Apr	Apr	May	May
16-31	1-15	16-30	1-15	16-31
138	133	116	13	11

The highest counts were of 19 at Dean Hill on Apr. 1st and 42 along the sea wall at Keyhaven/Pennington the next day.

In the New Forest some 14 pairs/singing males were found in suitable breeding habitat. Three pairs bred successfully at one site, but a pair at another probably failed due to disturbance.

Autumn migrants were noted from early July but numbers were fairly low. Approximate half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul	Jul	Aug	Aug	Sept	Sept	Oct	Oct
1-16	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-31
4	14	101	189	51	86	11	14

Counts reached 15 only at Wilverley Plain (15, Aug. 28th) and Farlington Marshes (16, Aug. 16th; 24, Sept. 19th). The last was at Sinah on Oct. 31st, except for a very late bird at Warsash on Dec. 13th (RKL), only the third ever in that month.

Black-eared Wheatear (A)

Oenanthe hispanica

A male of the western race *O.h. hispanica* was at Farlington Marshes on June 5th (GF, TJ *et al*). Accepted by *British Birds*. The second Hampshire record, the only previous one being at the same place on Sept. 18th 1954.

Ring Ouzel (A)

Turdus torquatus

The first was at Bishopstoke on Apr. 5th followed by singles at Bramshill Plantation on Apr. 8th, Black Gutter Bottom on Apr. 16th, Old Winchester Hill on Apr. 16th and 24th, Beacon Hill, Warnford on Apr. 19th/20th, Southampton Airport on Apr. 25th, Winchester College on May 1st and Lower Test Marshes on May 7th.

In autumn there was an exceptional gathering of 15 at Godshill from Sept. 27th-Oct. 1st with one still present on Oct. 3rd - an unprecedented number for the county (MCC, PC). More typical records were of singles at Ashley Walk and Widden Bog, Brockenhurst on Oct. 10th, Brownich on Oct. 23rd, Sandy Point on Oct. 24th, Bishopstoke from Oct. 30th-Nov. 4th and Warsash on Nov. 6th.

Blackbird (C)

Turdus merula

The largest winter counts received were of 100+ at Stoke Fruit Farm, Hayling from Jan. 15th-18th and 65 at Titchfield Haven on Dec. 21st.

Several observers reported evidence of autumn immigration from mid. Sept.-mid Nov. -especially late Oct. The largest counts at this time were: 40, Sandy Point/Black Point, Oct. 24th; 50+, Bishopstoke, Oct. 30th; 60, Timsbury, Nov. 15th; 68, Titchfield Haven, Nov. 18th. A total of 18 was recorded moving SE/SW over Fleet Pond between Oct. 12th-Nov. 4th.

Fieldfare (B)*Turdus pilaris**Approximate monthly totals:*

	J	F	M	A	O	N	D
Total on ground	3677	3046	3392	871	183	3141	5473
Localities	19	18	22	21	6	22	30
Total moving	50	0	107	20	114	846	137

The largest counts were: 600+, Stoke Fruit Farm, Jan. 15th; 1000+, Sarisbury, Jan. 14th-21st; 500, Chilton Candover, Mar. 8th; 600+, East Worldham, Mar. 28th; 500, Meonstoke, Nov. 15th; 550 N, Timsbury, Nov. 15th; 440, Ashley Walk, Nov. 20th; 460, Hucklesbrook, Nov. 23rd; 700+, Plaitford, Dec. 12th; 550, Bishopstoke, Dec. 19th.

In contrast to 1986 there was little evidence of any cold weather movements. Several flocks were seen during Apr., the largest being of 230 at Braishfield on 10th and 220 at Broughton Down on 14th. The last were singles at Sinah Warren and Timsbury on Apr. 25th and two at Plaitford the following day.

The first in autumn were two at Godshill from Sept. 27th-Oct. 1st followed by one at Beacon Hill, Highclere on Oct. 4th. No more were seen until Oct. 23rd but thereafter numbers built up to a high level during Dec. A leucistic individual was present at Titchfield Haven from at least Dec. 12th-20th.

1986: 15000 moved W over Milford-on-Sea during severe weather on Feb. 7th (RD).

Song Thrush (C)*Turdus philomelos*

As in previous years, there were many reports of movement during the autumn. From Sept. 27th-Nov. 25th a total of 284 was recorded moving mostly between S and W, including 205 at Fleet Pond, peaks 19 SW/W/NW on Oct. 13th and 22 S/W on Oct. 18th.

1986: The counts of 30+ at Sinah Common and 35 at Sandy Point on Oct. 12th clearly referred to immigrants; counts above five at these sites are unusual.

Redwing (B)*Turdus iliacus*

Numbers were fairly low at both ends of the year.

Approximate monthly totals:

	J	F	M	A	S	O	N	D
Total on ground	735	893	1806	101	7	141	423	2186
Localities	13	5	27	9	3	9	13	16
Total moving	351	0	56	0	5	1082	441	45

The largest counts were: 200+, Sarisbury, Jan. 14th-21st; 300+, Tundry Pond, Feb. 2nd; 250, Sway, Feb. 13th; 500, Chilton Candover, Mar. 8th; 200, Eversley G.P., Mar. 17th; 200, Meonstoke, Dec. 13th; 600, St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester, Dec. 18th; 450, Bishopstoke Dec. 19th.

The last spring birds were four at Braishfield on Apr. 10th. The first autumn returns were two early individuals at Bishopstoke on Sept. 14th followed by further records from 27th onwards. A total of 870 moved S/W over Fleet Pond between Oct. 1st-Nov. 28th, peak 145 W on Nov. 3rd, and 369 moved N/NW over Regents Park, Southampton in two hours on Oct. 23rd.

1986: 14000 moved E over Milford-on-Sea on Feb. 6th (RD).

Mistle Thrush (C)*Turdus viscivorus*

The largest flock recorded was of 47 at Butser Hill on Aug. 19th. Autumn movement was noted at Titchfield Haven (18 W, Oct. 23rd) and Fleet Pond (123 over, Sept. 14th-Nov. 14th, peak 11 W on Sept. 21st).

Cetti's Warbler (B)*Cettia cetti*

During the breeding season the numbers of pairs/singing males reported were: Avon Valley, 5 at five sites; Test Valley, 15 at four sites; Itchen Valley, 6 at five sites; Meon Valley, one; coast, 28 at six sites; total 55 at 21 sites. At three sites where the species was recorded for the first time only single unmated males were present. Allowing for incomplete coverage in the river valleys, especially the Avon, the county population probably exceeds 70 pairs.

Outside the breeding season there were records from two further localities including the first ever at Calshot from Oct. 25th-Nov. 1st.

Grasshopper Warbler (A)*Locustella naevia*

The first was at Titchfield Haven on Apr. 10th, followed by singles at Lower Pennington on Apr. 19th and Calshot and Beaulieu Bog on Apr. 26th. Pairs/singing males were reported in May-July as follows: Belbins, Romsey, 1; Bentley Wood, Tytherley, 1; Bighton Lane, Alresford, 1; Longstock, 1; The Moors, Bishops Waltham, 1; North Solent NNR, 2; Paulsgrove R.T., 1; Portsdown Hill (S side), 2; Puttles Bridge, N.F., 1; Southampton Airport, 1; South Wanborough, 1; Stoney Cross, 1; Stratfield Saye, 1; Titchfield Haven, 3; Winchester College, 1. Many of these were recorded on one date only and there were no instances of proved breeding reported.

Autumn records were of three at Emer Bog on July 23rd (not bred there) and singles at Fleet Pond on Aug. 7th, Lower Test Marshes on Aug. 25th and Alresford Pond on Sept. 15th.

Sedge Warbler (C)*Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

The first was at Titchfield Haven on Apr. 10th followed by two at Bishopstoke on Apr. 13th. A further 19 were recorded at nine localities up to Apr. 19th. Selected counts of pairs/singing males were as follows: Bishopstoke/Mansbridge, 24+; Itchen Abbas, 18; Titchfield Haven, 56; Winnall Moors, 46.

Autumn passage was the poorest at Lower Test Marshes since recording first began in 1975. Despite a similar amount of effort to 1986 only 39 were trapped between July 4th-Sept. 2nd. A total of 77 was trapped at Southampton Western Docks from Aug. 3rd-Sept. 23rd (also similar coverage to 1986). At Titchfield Haven 302 were trapped during the autumn. The last were singles at Fleet Pond on Oct. 3rd and Warsash on Oct. 19th.

Aquatic Warbler (A)*Acrocephalus paludicola*

A first year bird was trapped at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 31st (PMP, RWW *et al*).

Marsh Warbler (A)*Acrocephalus palustris*

A singing male was present at one locality from June 14th-21st.

Reed Warbler (C)*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

The first was at Titchfield Haven on Apr. 10th followed by two at Farlington Marshes on Apr. 18th. A further 14 were recorded up to Apr. 25th followed by a widespread arrival. Counts of pairs/singing males during the breeding season included: Bishopstoke/Mansbridge, 35+; Farlington Marshes, 19; Fleet Pond, c. 40; Itchen Abbas, 10+; Titchfield Haven, 88; Winnall Moors, 25.

At Lower Test Marshes 84 were trapped between July 4th-Sept. 2nd (peak 28, Aug. 1st) and 62 were trapped at Southampton Western Docks from Aug. 4th-Oct. 12th. The last

were singles at Fleet Pond on Oct. 22nd and Titchfield Haven on Oct. 31st.

Icterine Warbler (A)

Hippolais icterina

Singles were at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 30th (MS, HN, GF *et al*) and Sept. 12th (TMM). The fourth and fifth Hampshire records.

Melodious Warbler (A)

Hippolais polyglotta

One was at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 29th (TMM).

Dartford Warbler (B)

Sylvia undata

No comprehensive data were received for the New Forest but numbers were thought to be little changed from 1986. Elsewhere, six pairs/singing males were located at four sites.

Late year records away from breeding sites came from Lepe (1/2, Sept.; 1, Nov. 10th), Langstone (1, Oct. 14th) and Oxy/Keyhaven (1-4, Oct. 24th-Dec. 12th).

Lesser Whitethroat (B)

Sylvia curruca

Most exceptional was the discovery on Jan. 29th of one in a Highfield, Southampton garden where it remained until Apr. 19th (SRH *et al*). This bird strongly defended a territory around the observer's bird-table where it could even be seen hanging from the peanut bag in the manner of a tit!

The first migrants appeared on Apr. 19th at Keyhaven/Pennington and Apr. 24th at Farley Mount with a further 19 up to Apr. 30th. During the breeding season a total of 117 pairs/singing males was reported from 60 locations. Selected counts included: Bishopstoke/Mansbridge, 6; Farlington Marshes, 5/6; Titchfield Haven, 8.

Totals recorded at various sites in Aug./Sept. were as follows: Southampton Western Docks, 26 trapped; Old Winchester Hill, 38 on five dates; Hayling Island, 41 on ten dates; Lepe, 42 on 13 dates; Butser Hill, 37 on 17 dates. The last were two at Southampton Western Docks on Oct. 1st and one at Sinah G.P. on Oct. 4th.

1986: The Dec. bird at Farlington Marshes was seen again on 17th.

Whitethroat (B)

Sylvia communis

The first was one at Hurstbourne Tarrant on Apr. 12th, followed by widespread records from Apr. 18th onwards including 15 at Winchester S.F. on Apr. 26th. During the breeding season a total of 224 pairs/singing males was reported from 49 localities. The largest counts were: Dibden Bay, 23; Bishopstoke/Mansbridge, 19; Ludshott Common, 17; Lower Test Marshes/Hillyfields 16; Titchfield Haven, 12.

The autumn passage at Southampton Western Docks was the best since ringing started there in 1981, with 47 trapped between Aug. 4th-Sept. 24th, peak 13 on Sept. 6th. At Lepe, 39 were noted during this period but at Butser Hill only seven were recorded (*cf.* Lesser Whitethroat). The last were singles at Farlington Marshes on Oct. 4th and Titchfield Haven on Oct. 6th.

Garden Warbler (C)

Sylvia borin

The first was at Brownich on Apr. 10th. No more were recorded until Apr. 23rd but thereafter a total of 38 was noted up to Apr. 30th.

At Southampton Western Docks, 32 were trapped between Aug. 7th-30th, then seven in Sept. up to 20th. Elsewhere, the pattern was similar, the only later records being of singles at Farlington Marshes on Sept. 28th and Oct. 15th and Southampton Western Docks on Oct. 12th.

Blackcap (C)*Sylvia atricapilla*

In Jan.-Mar. a minimum of 25 males and seven females was recorded. One at Farlington Marshes on Mar. 31st was probably the first migrant although the main arrival began on Apr. 8th.

Autumn records included 76 trapped at Southampton Western Docks between Aug. 5th-Oct. 5th, peak 11 on Sept. 16th (cf. *HBR* 1986), and 141 at Old Winchester Hill on nine dates from July 26th-Sept. 27th, peak 34 on Aug. 16th. Only eight were noted in Oct., including four at Sandy Point on 3rd, and in Nov./Dec. a minimum of seven males and five females was recorded.

Wood Warbler (B)*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

The first was at Sinah on Apr. 18th, followed by the first in the New Forest at Shatterford on 20th. 16 migrants were recorded at non breeding sites up to May 5th.

Away from the New Forest, where some observers considered numbers to be low, counts of pairs/singing males were as follows: Bartley Heath, Hook, 1; near Hambledon, 1; Ham Wood, Wellow, 1+; Holbury Manor, 3; Holly Hill, Sarisbury, 1; Home Wood, North Stoneham, 1; Ludshott Common/Waggoners Wells, 4; Monkwood, Ropley, 1; Stoke Park Woods, Bishopstoke, 2; Warsash, 1; Wellington C.P., 1; West Walk, 2.

As usual autumn passage was small, with 11 recorded from July 24th onwards with the last one at Fleet Pond on Aug. 27th and two trapped at Sway the following day.

Chiffchaff (C)*Phylloscopus collybita*

In Jan.-early Mar. 29 were recorded at 15 localities, with maxima of six at Budds Farm S.F., Bedhampton on Jan. 3rd/4th and four at Yateley G.P./Sandhurst S.F. on Feb. 1st. Only six were noted during the severe weather in the second half of Jan. Migrants began appearing in mid Mar. and were widespread by the end of the month.

Autumn totals included 68 trapped at Southampton Western Docks between Aug. 17th-Oct. 15th, 105 at Old Winchester Hill on five dates from Sept. 6th-Oct. 11th (peak 42, Sept. 27th), 254 at Fleet Pond from Aug. 8th-Oct. 18th (peaks 14, Aug. 19th and Sept. 22nd) and 65 at Beacon Hill, Warnford on five dates from Sept. 6th-Oct. 4th (peak 17, Sept. 27th). Also of note was a count of 31 at Bishopstoke on Sept. 20th. Fewer were recorded during Oct. than in 1986 but five were still at Sinah on 31st. In Nov./Dec. ten were recorded at six localities, with a maximum of four at Eastleigh S.F. on Nov. 21st.

Willow Warbler (B)*Phylloscopus trochilus*

The first were singles at Fleet Pond, Farlington Marshes and Tanners Creek on Mar. 29th, followed by widespread sightings from Apr. 2nd onwards. Some large counts during Apr. included 117 at Sandy Point on 18th and 60+ at Fleet Pond the following day.

Autumn totals included 87 trapped at Southampton Western Docks between Aug. 4th-Sept. 20th, 441 at Old Winchester Hill on eight dates from July 26th-Sept. 20th (peak 95, Aug. 30th), 380 at Fleet Pond from July 23rd-Sept. 23rd (peak 45, Aug. 7th) and 287 at Beacon Hill, Warnford on eight dates from July 26th-Sept. 9th (peak 61, Aug. 31st). The last were three at Farlington Marshes on Sept. 28th and one at Fleet Pond on Oct. 3rd.

Goldcrest (C)*Regulus regulus*

Breeding season counts of pairs/singing males were received as follows: Yateley Heath Wood, 38+; Alice Holt Forest, 33+; Fleet Pond/Heath, c. 20.

Following the poor autumn passage in 1986, numbers were back to normal. Records were

received from several localities especially during Oct. At Old Winchester Hill a total of 72 was recorded on five dates between Sept. 27th-Nov. 1st (peak 19, Oct. 11th). Other counts included 25 at Beacon Hill, Warnford on Nov. 1st and up to 20 at Fleet Pond during Oct./Nov.

Firecrest (B)

Regulus ignicapillus

In the early year, there were four at Pitts Wood Inclosure on Jan. 3rd, one there on Jan. 24th/25th, one at Eyeworth Pond on Jan. 29th and one at Bells Copse, Leigh Park on Feb. 1st.

Spring passage was evident from Mar. 16th-May 4th, with singles at Hilsea, Southwick, Sandy Point, Portsdown Hill, Old Winchester Hill, Hambledon and two New Forest sites, all except the Hilsea bird on one date only.

Territorial birds were present in the New Forest from Apr. 2nd, with a total of 17 pairs/singing males subsequently located at five sites. Either several males were unmated or breeding success was poor, for only one juvenile was seen. Elsewhere, 11 pairs/singing males were found at four sites, again with no proof of successful breeding.

Autumn/late year records, all of singles unless otherwise stated, were as follows: Rownhams, Southampton, Aug. 27th; Bitterne, Sept. 13th; Old Winchester Hill, Sept. 20th and Oct. 25th; Denny Wood, Sept. 25th and Dec. 28th; Yateley Heath Wood, Sept. 29th; Sway, Oct. 1st; Fleet Pond, Oct. 2nd; Widley, Oct. 12th; Black Gutter Bottom, 2, Nov. 1st; East Aston, Longparish, Nov. 21st; Danes Stream, Milford-on-Sea, Nov. 28th; Warsash, Dec. 5th; Ridley Wood (N.F.), Dec. 5th; Berry Beeches (N.F.), Dec. 5th; Bank, Lyndhurst, Dec. 13th; Fritham, Dec. 31st.

Spotted Flycatcher (C)

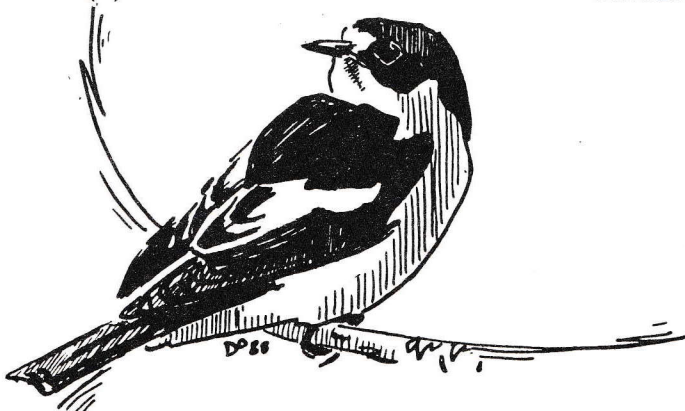
Muscicapa striata

The first were singles at Farlington Marshes on Apr. 26th and Ashurst on Apr. 29th. Arrivals continued throughout May and included 11+ at Sandy Point on May 24th.

Autumn concentrations included: 34, Old Winchester Hill, Aug. 16th; 15, Timsbury, Aug. 20th; 15, Eversley G.P., Aug. 28th; 20, Sandy Point, Aug. 30th; 15, Bishopstoke, Sept. 8th. The last were two at Dibden Bay and one at Old Winchester Hill on Sept. 27th.

Pied Flycatcher (B)

Ficedula hypoleuca



The first were males at Hill Head and Sinah Warren on Apr. 17th. A further 16 were

reported until May 5th (including two males at Winchester College on May 1st) followed by a singing male at Rufus Stone from May 11th-15th. Only two were reported as females. At one locality, a male held territory from Apr. 19th-June 10th but failed to attract a mate. Autumn migrants were recorded between July 26th (1, Old Winchester Hill) and Sept. 20th (1, Old Winchester Hill). Half monthly totals are shown below.

Jul	Aug	Aug	Sept	Sept
16-31	1-15	16-31	1-15	16-30
3	5	14	2	1

All records were of singles except for two at Farlington Marshes on Aug. 16th, four at Hayling Island on Aug. 29th and two at Sandy Point on Aug. 30th. The lower numbers compared to recent years probably reflect the reduced coverage on Hayling Island, which has been the main locality.

Bearded Tit (B)

Panurus biarmicus

Early and late year maxima at Titchfield Haven were six in Feb. and ten in Nov., and at Farlington Marshes seven in Jan. and 12 in Oct. Other records came from Bishopstoke (3, Apr. 2nd-4th), Lower Test Marshes (2, June 13th, Nov. 14th and 22nd; 6, Dec. 1st), Warsash (8, July 13th; 2-4, Aug. 4th-Oct 23rd), Paulsgrove R.T. (2, Aug. 16th), Fleet Pond (1, Oct. 29th), Calshot Reclamation (2, Nov. 1st) and Keyhaven (up to 4, Nov. 2nd-Dec. 19th).

Breeding was only reported from one site where four males and two females raised at least 14 young.

Long-tailed Tit (C)

Aegithalos caudatus

Flocks of 15+ were recorded in Jan. (2), Feb. (1), June (2), July (2), Aug. (1), Oct. (4), Nov. (1) and Dec. (1). The largest count was of 100+ at Warsash on Oct. 30th (in several flocks).

Marsh Tit (C)

Parus palustris

During Apr.-July recorded from about 50 localities. The only site to exceed two pairs was Coxmoor Wood, Crookham, with four (*cf. HBR* 1986). The largest count outside the breeding season was of 10+ at Dogmersfield Lake on Dec. 17th.

Willow Tit (C)

Parus montanus

Many more reports were received than usual for Apr.-July. Breeding was proved or suspected at 52 localities. The Tetrad Atlas work is showing that the species is clearly widespread and sometimes common in the northern half of the county.

One was at Farlington Marshes from Aug. 1st-Oct. 31st, where the species is very rarely recorded.

Coal Tit (D)

Parus ater

Blue Tit (C)

Parus caeruleus

The largest counts were: 50, Sway, Jan. 1st; 90, Fleet Pond, Aug. 7th and 120 there, Sept. 2nd; 50, North Wanborough, Oct. 26th; 51, Titchfield Haven, Nov. 18th; 50, Dogmersfield Lake, Dec. 17th.

Great Tit (D)

Parus major

Nuthatch (D)

Sitta europaea

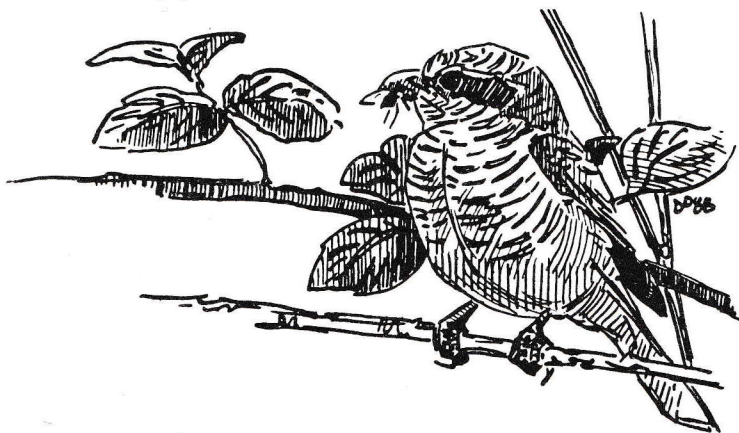
Treecreeper (C)*Certhia familiaris*

Singles were trapped at Southampton Western Docks on Aug. 9th and 11th, and one was seen there on Sept. 13th. These represent the first records for this area since ringing began there in 1981 and may involve coastal movement.

Golden Oriole (A)*Oriolus oriolus*

In the area where breeding occurred in 1986, present from Apr. 27th-Sept. 3rd, with two pairs and two unmated males present. One pair raised four young. In another area a female was seen on May 4th.

1986: In one area, present from Apr. 30th-Sept. 8th with two pairs raising five young and two further unmated males present.

Red-backed Shrike (A)*Lanius collurio*

An immature at Farlington Marshes from Sept. 9th-16th (RCI, IL, CBC *et al*) was joined by a second bird, probably a female, between 11th-15th (m.o.). Another immature was at Sinah Warren, Hayling Island, on Sept. 17th (JMW) and a male was in the New Forest on Sept. 26th. The first since 1983.

Great Grey Shrike (B)*Lanius excubitor*

In the New Forest, recorded in one area regularly until Apr. 2nd and from Oct. 23rd. The only other records submitted were of singles at one site on Jan. 4th, Feb. 22nd and Dec. 28th and at a second on Jan. 17th.

Elsewhere, singles were at Ludshott Common on Jan. 10th, Hillside on Jan. 15th/16th and Mar. 17th and 29th, Springhead, Greywell on Jan. 25th (the Hillside bird) and St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester on Feb. 21st.

Jay (C)*Garrulus glandarius*

A few were seen moving at three sites on Apr. 26th/27th, e.g. four E at Lepe on 27th. There were no autumn reports.

Magpie (C)*Pica pica*

Roosting was reported at Fleet Pond (149, Feb. 2nd and a record count of 277, Dec. 27th) and St. Catherine's Hill, Winchester (70, Dec. 18th). A pre-roost gathering of 50 was noted

at Millers Pond, Sholing on Nov. 8th, and daytime gatherings of note were seen at Timsbury (75 in two flocks, Jan. 1st), Fort Fareham (47, Mar. 5th) and Winchester S.F. (51, Dec. 13th).

Jackdaw (C)

Corvus monedula

Major concentrations included 3500 at Caesar's Belt on Jan. 2nd and 2000 flying to roost over Timsbury on Dec. 13th. At Fleet Pond, numbers reached a peak during Oct. and there were movements of 33 W on Oct. 17th and 24 NW on Nov. 14th. At Titchfield Haven, 34 moved W on Oct. 18th.

Rook (C)

Corvus frugilegus

The largest counts were associated with Jackdaws, i.e. 1500 at Caesar's Belt on Jan. 2nd and 1500 over Timsbury on Dec. 13th. A regular feeding movement was noted at Fareham during the winter with birds flying daily to and from Bedhampton R.T. (max. 820 W in Dec.).

Counts of nests included 290 at Timsbury and 447 in the Horsebridge/Broughton/Chattis Hill area.

A pure albino was seen at Winnall Moors on Sept. 25th.

Carriion Crow (C)

Corvus corone

A large feeding flock overwintered at Weston Shore (max. 115, Feb. 9th) and an autumn build up at Fleet Pond reached a peak of 145 on Dec. 22nd.

Starling (C)

Sturnus vulgaris

Selected roost counts included 10000, North Farnborough Cemetery, Feb. 10th; 60000, Portsmouth, Feb.; 2000, Keyhaven, Sept. 14th-19th; 2000, Alresford Pond, Nov. 8th.

It was a poor autumn for movement with reports only from Fleet Pond (2445 mainly S/SW/W, Sept. 26th-Nov. 25th) and Sinah G.P. (95 SW, Nov. 14th). 420 moved E in cold weather at Sandy Point, Hayling Island on Jan 17th.

House Sparrow (D)

Passer domesticus

Tree Sparrow (B)

Passer montanus

Slightly more reports this year than last, double figure winter flocks being seen at Bentley Church (23, Dec. 25th), Brownwich (12, Oct. 23rd-Dec. 31st), Five Lanes End (30, Feb. 1st), Greywell (25, Mar. 5th) and Newtown R.T. (20, Jan. 13th; 12, Feb. 23rd and Mar. 16th).

There was a slight increase in breeding season records with one to four birds present at Cannon Heath Farm, Kingsclere; Coldrey; Eversley G.P.; Frost Hill, Overton; Hillside; Hook; Poland and Snatchangers Farms, Odiham; Sydmonton Court Farm; Warblington and Well.

A barely discernible autumn passage involved one or two moving at four sites during Oct. 1986: 6 W, Titchfield Haven, Oct. 31st.

Chaffinch (C)

Fringilla coelebs

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (50+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	750	695	230	100	0	0	0	0	150	0	300	1450
Flocks	5	5	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	7

There was a general paucity of winter records, although reports suggest a late year influx, including a flock of 500 at Houghton on Dec. 16th.

Autumn passage was well recorded with reports of movement from six sites, ranging between Sept. 21st-Nov. 25th and totalling 2559 birds, mainly going W. At Fleet Pond, a total of 1634 included 228 W on Oct. 11th and 160 S/SW/W on Oct. 18th, whilst at Titchfield Haven a total of 514 included 304 W on Oct. 23rd.

Brambling (B)

Fringilla montifringilla

Scarce at both ends of the year. In Jan., reports totalled 100 birds with a maximum of 25 at Baddesley Common on 10th and most of the rest at garden bird tables during the severe weather. Feb. reports totalled 94 including 40 at Nursling on 23rd and 20 at Broughton Down on 28th. In Mar. there were 114 including 61 at East Worldham on 22nd and 25 at Farley Mount on 23rd. Apr. reports were only from Fleet Pond (max. 3), with the last a pair there on 29th.

The first returns were two at Titchfield Haven on Oct. 12th, followed by three singles at the end of the month. In Nov., 37 were recorded including 19 at Fleet Pond (max. 8 N on 1st) and 12 at Sluffers Inclosure on 20th. Dec. records involved 16 birds with no count exceeding three.

Serin (A)

Serinus serinus

A male flew SW low over the lake at Farlington Marshes on May 9th (CHW). The ninth Hampshire record.

Greenfinch (C)

Carduelis chloris

The largest flocks recorded were of 300 in cabbage fields at Hamble Lane on Jan. 12th and 300 feeding on sunflower seeds at Corhampton on Oct. 25th.

Autumn movement was recorded at Fleet Pond (221 S/SW/W, Sept. 28th-Nov. 21st, peak 74 W, Oct. 18th), Warsash (157 W, Oct. 12th-24th) and Titchfield Haven (108 W, Oct. 23rd).

Goldfinch (C)

Carduelis carduelis

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (20+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	128	0	167	114	0	0	20	80	348	67	97	102
Flocks	3	0	3	3	0	0	1	2	6	2	3	2

Winter numbers were generally low, although up to 50 at Farlington Marshes between Jan.-Mar. was considered to be exceptional at this locality. A gathering at Dibden Bay in Mar. grew steadily to a peak of 100 on 22nd, providing the only evidence of spring migration. Similar transient flocks were noted during Sept. at Bishopstoke (60 on 13th), Farlington (70 on 29th), Longdown (80 on 26th) and Soberton (80 on 22nd). Autumn movement was evident at three coastal and one inland site, noteworthy reports including 162 over Fleet Pond between Sept. 23rd-Nov. 21st (peak 51 W, Oct. 19th) and 100 S from Hurst Castle on Oct. 19th.

Siskin (B)

Carduelis spinus

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (10+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	620	356	153	42	0	16	0	0	10	168	525	492
Flocks	13	7	6	3	0	1	0	0	1	3	8	10

Wintering numbers were low at both ends of the year with few flocks exceeding 100. The largest gatherings were reported at Church Crookham (100, Jan. 15th), Emer Bog, North Baddesley (130, Jan. 9th; 250, Nov. 29th) and Fleet Pond (100, Jan. 1st; 200, Dec. 6th-22nd).

Breeding season reports were received for only 13 New Forest sites and were mainly of single birds on one date only. However, there was evidence that a small colony was established at one N.E. site, where at least two/three pairs probably bred and a flock of 16, including several juveniles, was seen on June 16th.

A small autumn passage commenced in late Sept. with movement noted at Fleet Pond (91 S/W, Sept. 23rd-Oct. 27th), Warsash (43 W, Oct. 13th/14th), Keyhaven, Lepe and Titchfield Haven (22 W, Oct 1st-22nd).

1986: 1 juv., Timsbury, Aug. 17th indicated local breeding.

Linnet (C)

Carduelis cannabina

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (20+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	2113	110	220	170	0	0	50	0	484	1050	90	130
Flocks	10	2	2	3	0	0	1	0	5	9	2	2

A notable Jan. peak consisted of large gatherings at Five Lanes End (500 on 7th), Hamble Lane (400 on 16th) and Redbridge (800 on 12th).

Spring passage was poor (max. 20 N, Eversley G.P., Apr. 2nd), whereas autumn movement featured well with a total of 1106 seen over eight sites between Sept. 6th-Nov. 28th. Peak passage was during Oct. and included 101 E at Sandy Point on 3rd, 350 W at Roydon Woods, Brockenhurst on 8th and 78 SW at Fleet Pond on 18th. The largest feeding flocks at this time were of 339 at Old Winchester Hill on Oct. 11th and 250 at Brownwich on Oct. 23rd.

Twite (A)

Carduelis flavirostris

Regular at Eling Great Marsh until Feb. 12th (max. 34, Jan. 5th) and from Dec. 12th (max. 13, Dec. 19th). Elsewhere, seen at Athelston Road Allotments, Southampton (4, Jan. 18th), Calshot (1, Jan. 31st; 8, Nov. 7th) and Normandy Marsh (1, Dec. 19th and 23rd).

Apparently absent at the traditional Dibden Bay site, presumably as a result of the recent marina development there.

Redpoll (B)

Carduelis flammea

Approximate monthly totals of flocks (10+) on the ground:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	369	140	60	111	0	0	0	0	40	493	1120	680
Flocks	11	3	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	7	5	5

The early year wintering population showed little change from late 1986 with few gatherings of note, and only one of three figures, namely 150 at Fleet Pond between Jan. 1st-9th.

Breeding season reports involved at least 50 pairs/singing males at some 20 localities in the New Forest and 30 pairs/singing males at ten localities in the N.E.

A moderate autumn passage consisted of a total of 731, mostly moving S or W, at five coastal and four inland sites from Sept. 18th-Nov. 21st, including 405 S/W at Fleet Pond (peak 76 S on Sept. 27th) and 44 W at Warsash on Oct. 14th. A feeding flock of 200 at Bishop's Dyke

on Oct. 11th was the largest noted during the migration period. Diurnal movement slowed in early Nov. coinciding with a notable throughput of birds centred on two of the largest gatherings seen for some years, at Emer Bog, North Baddesley (60, Nov. 5th; 350, Nov. 7th; 80, Nov. 29th) and Fleet Pond (225, Nov. 4th; 600, Nov. 29th; 275, Dec. 6th). A second peak of 500 was noted at the latter site on Dec. 21st but there were few other late year reports.

Crossbill (B)

Loxia curvirostra

Sparsely recorded in the New Forest with regular sightings in only three areas, breeding being confirmed at two but both attempts being unsuccessful. Odd reports were also received from a further ten sites, chiefly of one or two birds on single dates only (max. 5/6, Williford, Ashurst, Feb. 21st).

Elsewhere, breeding almost certainly occurred at two sites in the N.E. where the maximum counts were of 11 on Jan. 29th and 10 on Apr. 9th respectively. Other reports of note included 16 at Purbrook on Jan. 16th, up to four around Fleet on five dates between Apr.-Sept. and single Oct. migrants over Lepe on 14th and Timsbury on 17th.

Bullfinch (C)

Pyrrhula pyrrhula

Autumn movement totalled 46 birds over three sites as follows: 16, Fleet Pond, Sept. 27th-Nov. 5th (peak 7 N, Oct. 17th); 5 W, Lepe, Oct. 19th and 18 E there, Oct. 23rd; 7 W, Titchfield Haven, Oct. 22nd.

Hawfinch (B)

Coccothraustes coccothraustes

Numerous reports from the New Forest included parties of six to 20 at seven localities in Feb.-Aug. and Dec. Tetrad Atlas records for 1986-87 show the species' presence in 26 tetrads, with breeding proved in seven, probable in 11 and possible in eight. At one site, five pairs were located of which two at least bred successfully.

Away from the New Forest recorded on odd dates outside the breeding season at Beacon Hill, Warnford (1 E, Oct. 11th), Blacknest (up to 6, Jan./Feb.), Greywell, Shepherd Springs, Sherfield English, Timsbury, Titchfield Haven (1 W, Jan. 16th), Worthy Down (up to 7, late Jan./early Feb.) and Yateley G.P. In summer recorded in 16 tetrads with breeding proved in only one (at Leckford), probable in seven and possible in eight.

Lapland Bunting (A)

Calcarius lapponica

Singletons were recorded at Keyhaven Marsh on Sept. 25th/26th (MCC, PC, EJW) and Oct. 24th (PC).

Snow Bunting (A)

Plectrophenax nivalis

An adult was at Farlington Marshes from Oct. 8th-10th and another flew E there on Oct. 28th (PG). Also during Oct., two were at Warsash on 13th (RKL) and Brownwich/Chilling on 18th (JRDS, BSD), and one was at Pennington on 24th (per PC).

1986: a flock of 14 flew NE and one was calling on the ground at Sturt Pond, Milford-on-Sea on Feb. 23rd (RD). This is the largest number seen in the county since 1962.

Yellowhammer (C)

Emberiza citrinella

Fifteen winter gatherings, chiefly in the early year, exceeded 20 birds, the largest being of 120 at Five Lanes End, Greywell on Feb. 1st and 100 at Hamble C.P. on Jan. 1st. Winter roosts were also noted at Itchen Stoke Down (70, Jan. 3rd) and Springhead, Greywell (100, Dec. 9th).

Reed Bunting (C)*Emberiza schoeniclus*

200 in a cabbage field at Hamble Lane on Jan. 16th was by far the largest feeding flock reported, although 50 at Calshot on Oct. 25th was of equal note since most of these were probably migrants. Many were drawn to gardens during the cold early year weather and at Titchfield Haven up to 35 were coming to food put out during Feb.

Roost counts were made regularly at Fleet Pond (max. 253 in one reed bed, Nov. 14th) and Winnall Moors (max. 60 in Nov./Dec.). 40 roosted at Springhead, Greywell on Dec. 13th.

Corn Bunting (C)*Miliaria calandra*

No winter gathering exceeded 50, flocks of that size being seen at Longdown in Jan.-Mar., Danebury in Feb. and Corhampton in Oct. The largest roost reported was of 45 at Winnall Moors on Jan. 30th.

Breeding season reports involved a total of 105 pairs/singing males. In addition to traditional downland reports, e.g. 25 pairs/singing males in the Crondall/Well area, there was evidence that the species is well established along the coast, with seven/eight pairs along Brownwich Down, two singing males at Keyhaven and one singing male at North Hayling.

ESCAPES AND FERALS

Snow Goose (B)*Anser caerulescens*

In the NE regular at Stratfield Saye with a maximum of 28 on Sept. 13th. 23 at Wellington C.P. on Feb. 24th and 24 at Eversley G.P. on Oct. 17th and 23rd related to this flock. Elsewhere, single blue phase birds were reported in the Avon and Test Valleys and in the Needs Ore/Sowley area.

Barnacle Goose (B)*Branta leucopus*

In the NE reported from seven localities with double figure counts at Stratfield Saye (max. 54, Sept. 13th) and Wellington C.P. (16, Feb. 24th). One pair bred at Potbridge Fishery. Elsewhere, up to 24 at Baffins Pond, Portsmouth and one or two birds in the Avon, Test and Itchen Valleys and at Sowley Pond.

Saker (A)*Falco cherrug*

An immature bird was at Langstone Harbour from Nov. 23rd (probably earlier) into 1988. Although behaving like a Saker and in most plumage details resembling a first winter bird, it had very distinct and extensive black moustachial markings - much like a Peregrine. The possibility of it being a hybrid cannot be ruled out at this stage (DFB).

Chukar (B)*Alectoris chukar*

Birds of this species were reported at Fordingbridge, Lepe, Littleton and Wootton St. Lawrence. Observers taking part in the Tetrad Atlas survey should carefully scrutinise Red-legged Partridges in case they are Chukars or Red-leg/Chukar crosses.

Records were also received of Bar-headed Goose, Emperor Goose, Lesser (Cackling) Canada Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Wood Duck, Ringed Teal, New Zealand Brown Duck, Peacock, Silver Pheasant, Budgerigar, Cockatiel, Quaker Parakeet, Peach-faced Lovebird, Black-headed Mannikin and White-eye *sp.*

REPORT ON BIRD RINGING IN HAMPSHIRE, 1987

Brian Dudley

There was a lower level of activity by some ringers in the county during the year. This is reflected by the lower total of birds ringed — 14,224 — over 4000 less than 1986.

There was a very cold spell during the early year, but the majority of the common resident species did not appear to suffer, *e.g.* the ringing totals for Wren were the highest for many years and the Goldcrest total was more than three times the previous years total.

The two resident warblers show a complete contrast in their respective totals. The 36 Cetti's Warblers equalled the record total of 1986, while the Dartford Warbler total was only six, compared with 162 in 1986. This low total was entirely due to very little ringing on the colour marking project during 1987, not a catastrophic decline in Dartford Warbler numbers!

Totals of *Acrocephalus* warblers remain at the low level of previous years, though this was partly due to lack of coverage at one site and low numbers of passage migrants at another.

Lack of coverage at the main wader site also accounts for the low wader total during 1987.

Only one national rarity was caught during the year: an Olive-backed Pipit, the first ever in Hampshire.

Notable recoveries reported include a Danish-ringed Grey Heron, a Kentish Plover from Portugal, a Curlew Sandpiper to France, a Reed Warbler from Sweden and a Siskin to Czechoslovakia.

Once again thanks are due to the following ringers and groups who sent their totals and recoveries for 1987:

Dr. R.A. Cheke, F.A. Courtier, A.J. Crease, P.G. Davis, B.S. Duffin, N.E.G. Elms, G.C. Evans, Farlington R.G., Fleet Pond R.G., T.G. Heathcote, Itchen R.G., N.R. Jones, T. Jorgensen, J.H. Kesby, J. Kieser, Dr. E.S. Lawrence, Lower Test R.G., G. Murphy, J. Pain, S.H. Sporne, C. Stodate, M.W. Tyler, M. Walmsley, A.J. Welch.

Apologies for any omissions.

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SUMMARY OF RECOVERIES & CONTROLS REPORTED IN 1987

CORMORANT

5130708 (Nestling) 21.06.86 St. Margarets Island (Tenby) Dyfed
Found Dead 22.11.86 near Southampton 245km ESE

This is the third recovery in Hampshire of a chick ringed at this locality. (Previous recoveries 1974, 1984).

GREY HERON

Details of a Danish-ringed bird found dead in the county were still not available at the time of writing.

MUTE SWAN

There were several recoveries reported, but the only ones recording movement over 50kms were two ringed in Berkshire in June/July 1985 which were controlled at Leckford on 18.12.86.

TEAL

The one recovery involved a fairly typical movement for the species:

EK88106 (F.g. ♂) 25.01.84 Titchfield Haven
Shot 20.09.87 Savijarvi (Kuopio) Finland 60°24'N 26°32'E 2167km E

KESTREL

EB65854 (Nestling) 12.06.86 Shawford
Found Dead 03.04.87 Nayland (Suffolk) 185km E

This is the third recovery from a brood of four ringed at Shawford. One was found dead in Wiltshire (48km NNW); the other found dead locally, in August/September 1986.

RINGED PLOVER

Only one recovery reported:

NV10545 (F.g.) 17.08.85 Farlington Marshes
Controlled (♀) 13/14.05.87 Walney (Barrow-in-Furness) Cumbria 391km NNW

KENTISH PLOVER

D004725 (Nestling) 23.06.86 Ludo (Algarve) PORTUGAL 37°00'N 8°00'W
Found Dead (♀) c18.04.87 Southampton Docks. Distance/direction unknown.

This bird was found dead on a Container Ship berthed at Southampton, which had sailed from Saudi Arabia. It was thought to have landed on board somewhere between the Bay of Biscay and the English Channel, as it was in reasonably fresh condition when found. This is the first recovery of this species affecting Britain; (a French-ringed bird reported in 1979 is now considered to be incorrect).

LAPWING

DR81142 (Nestling) 12.05.81 Brambridge
Shot 26.02.87 Valeyrac (Gironde) FRANCE 45°25'N 0°54'W 621km S

Movements such as this are not uncommon.

CURLEW SANDPIPER

NB15279 (F.g.) 15.08.77 Farlington Marshes
Found Dead 26.08.87 Graye sur Mer, (Calvados) FRANCE
49°20'N 0°28'W 171km SSE

There are few foreign recoveries for this species, this is only the second from France. This bird also shows the longest elapsed time between ringing/recovery for a B.T.O.-ringed Curlew Sandpiper.

DUNLIN

Two Hampshire birds ringed in September and December were controlled in Sweden in August; another Hants bird ringed in December was controlled in Poland in July, all of which follow the pattern of recoveries shown in previous reports for the nominate race *C.a.alpina*.

A July-ringed bird controlled in Scotland in May also conformed to previous recoveries of 'Summer-ringed' Dunlin from Hampshire.

REDSHANK

One ringed at Farlington Marshes on 12.10.80 was controlled at Banks Marsh, (Lancashire) on 15.06.87; it had previously been controlled there from 1982 - 1986. Another ringed at Fawley on 26.09.76 was shot at Spalding (Lincs) on 23.03.86 (230km NNE).

GREENSHANK

DR55997 (1st yr) 13.09.84 Farlington Marshes
Found Dead 25.05.87 St. Philbert de Grand Lieu (Loire-Atlantique) FRANCE
47°02'N 1°38'W 424km S

DR55951 (F.g.) 07.08.82 Farlington Marshes
Controlled 31.07.87 Farlington Marshes. Local

DR55997 is the eighth foreign recovery of a Greenshank ringed at Farlington, while DR55951 is another example of fidelity to an autumn passage site; (see H.B.R. 1985).

BLACK-HEADED GULL

There were four recoveries of birds to/from Finland, Denmark and Poland, none of which are unusual.

COMMON GULL

CT015736 (Nestling)	17.06.79	Rautjarvi (Kymi) FINLAND 61°18'N 29°09'E
Controlled	17.01.87	East Cosham 2191km WSW
5214821 (Nestling)	16.07.78	Heiligenhafen (Schleswig-Holstein) W. GERMANY
		54°23'N 11°00'E
Dead on road	06.02.86	Eastney 905km WSW

While not particularly outstanding recoveries on a national scale, few of this species are handled in the county.

SAND MARTIN

The large numbers ringed recently generated recoveries in Kent, Norfolk, Shropshire, Suffolk and Surrey, (mainly inter-colony or roost movements). There was only one reported abroad.

C904765 (Ad ♀)	20.06.87	Kingsley
Controlled	30.08.87	St. Philbert de Grand Lieu (Loire-Atlantique) FRANCE
		47°02'N 1°38'W 458km S

SWALLOW

A nestling ringed at Castle Donnington (Leics) on 12.08.87 was controlled at Titchfield Haven on 18.09.87.

HOUSE MARTIN

A foreign-ringed bird was detailed in the B.T.O. Ringing Report 1986:

A036074 (F.g.)	12.04.79	Lunzjata (Gozo) MALTA 36°03'N 14°14'E
Found Dead	01.05.86	Fawley 2060km NW

The only recovery involved a bird ringed at Titchfield Haven on 13.10.86 which was a traffic victim on 05.08.87 at Colchester (Essex).

GREY WAGTAIL

The one control reported was a nice example of the species tendency to move from the higher altitude breeding areas in the winter:

E221027 (1st yr ♀)	05.08.86	Brecon (Powys)
Controlled	11.01.87	Tidworth 144km SE

WREN

2K3396 (1st yr)	08.08.86	Lower Test Marshes
Found Dead	19.03.87	Clyst St. Mary (Exeter) Devon
(Cold weather)		138km W

Long distance movements by Wrens are relatively unusual, but ringing has shown that a small portion of the population moves during hard weather, as seems to be the case with 2K3396.

ROBIN

B177353 (Juv)	20.07.83	Sway
Railway Casualty	05.10.87	Saltley (Birmingham) W. Midlands 199km N

Another unusual movement, British-bred Robins, (as this bird probably was) are usually rather sedentary.

NIGHTINGALE

NH85843 (Nestling)	07.06.86	Hartley Wintney
Controlled (♀)	14.06.87	East Worldham 20km S

Though not a distant movement, few Nightingales are ringed as nestlings.

FIELDFARE

There were two recoveries involving birds to Sweden.

XN07803 (2nd yr ♀)	16.02.85	Chilworth
Found Dead	27.08.87	Bjursas, Sorskog (Kopparberg) SWEDEN
		60°49'N 15°23'E 1509km NE
RA84111 (Ad ♀)	23.02.86	East Cosham
Controlled	06.05.87	Haparanda, Sandskar (Norrbotten) SWEDEN
		65°35'N 23°45'E 2171km NE

RA84111 was most likely in its breeding area.

REDWING

RX66438 (2nd yr)	22.02.86	Hayling Island
Dead on road	21.06.87	Palokangas, Valtimo (Kuopio) FINLAND 2269km NE

Another breeding season recovery (see Fieldfare). The only other distant Redwing recovery was of a bird ringed at East Cosham on 18.01.86. found dying near Bath (Avon) on 20.02.87 (107km NW).

SEDGE WARBLER

There was only one recovery reported for this species during 1987!

E428286 (1st yr)	26.08.87	Titchfield Haven
Controlled	29.08.87	Treogat (Finistere) FRANCE 47°55'N 4°19'W 392km SW

Note the rapid movement of this individual.

REED WARBLER

In contrast to the Sedge Warbler, there were a number of distant movements recorded for this species, with recoveries to/from Avon, Berkshire, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Kent, Powys and Suffolk. There was also a Swedish-ringed bird caught; (one of very few recorded from that country), but the ringing details were still unavailable at the time of writing.

DARTFORD WARBLER

A number of birds colour-ringed in 1986 were seen during the year, but the furthest movement was only 16km away from the ringing site. A bird ringed at a coastal site as a full grown ♂ on 04.02.83 was retrapped there on 12.10.86, making this the longest lived Dartford Warbler recorded so far.

BLACKCAP

There was only one recovery reported, an adult male ringed at Gotham, (Notts) on 07.06.81 was found dead at Broughton on 29.05.85 (199km S).

WILLOW WARBLER

The only distant recovery reported involved a same-autumn movement to France.

2H2124	(Juv)	04.08.87	Titchfield Haven	
	Controlled	19.08.87	Collonges (Ain) FRANCE 50°49'N 1°14'W	739km SE

CHIFFCHAFF

One recovery reported, a same-autumn movement from Eire.

3N8625	(Juv)	16.08.87	Cellbridge (Kildare)	
	Controlled	08.09.87	Titchfield Haven 456km SE	

GOLDCREST

1K1712	(1st yr ♂)	08.10.86	Copeland (Down)	
	Controlled	12.10.87	Southampton Docks 499km SE	

The origin of this bird is open to speculation, it was controlled with a Swedish-ringed Reed Warbler.

BEARDED TIT

Ringing activities at Titchfield Haven produced a total of eight recoveries/controls, including five birds ringed in Kent. These Autumn movements from the species breeding strongholds in eastern England are not unusual.

TREECREEPER

There was one recovery showing exceptional longevity for the species:

3B6601	(Juv)	09.09.79	East Worldham	
	Retrapped	27.09.87	East Worldham	

ROOK

There were several recoveries from the colour-ringing study in the Chilworth area, but only one had moved any distance:

FC10985	(Nestling)	01.05.86	Chilworth	
	Shot	25.01.87	Basingstoke 39km NE	

CARRION CROW

FV59062	(Nestling)	23.05.80	Farlington Marshes	
	Found dying	18.01.87	Stubbington 13km W	

Carrion Crows are normally very sedentary, and few are ringed in Hampshire.

STARLING

Recoveries reported included two from Belgium, and one to the Netherlands, none of which should occasion surprise.

GREENFINCH

Recoveries/controls included birds to/from Essex, Dorset and Sussex.

SISKIN

Distant recoveries of this species are commonplace. Hampshire recoveries in 1987 included birds to Devon, Highland Region, Merseyside and Tayside. There was also one outstanding foreign recovery:

C859247	(Ad ♂)	12.03.86	East Cosham	
	Controlled	17.01.87	Jihlava, CZECHOSLOVAKIA 49°24'N 15°35'E	1196km E

This is the first recovery of a British-ringed Siskin for that country; this bird was obviously not returning to winter in the U.K. during 1987.

RINGING TOTALS REPORTED TO H.O.S. 1987

Species	Eg.	Pull	Total
Grey Heron	14		14
Mute Swan	3		3
Mandarin	1		1
Gadwall	4		4
Teal	45		45
Mallard	29		29
Pochard	4		4
Tufted Duck	4		4
Sparrowhawk	10		10
Kestrel	2	15	17
Water Rail	7		7
Moorhen	18		18
Coot	1		1
Little Ringed Plover	1		1
Ringed Plover	26	14	40
Lapwing	4	18	22
Curlew Sandpiper	1		1
Dunlin	200		200
Snipe	12		12
Black-tailed Godwit	8		8
Redshank	4		4
Greenshank	12		12
Common Sandpiper	1		1
Black-headed Gull	121		121
Common Gull	9		9
Stock Dove	1	18	19
Woodpigeon	13		13
Collared Dove	6	2	8
Turtle Dove		8	8
Cuckoo		1	1
Barn Owl	1	10	11
Tawny Owl		5	5
Kingfisher	9		9
Green Woodpecker	5		5
Great Spotted Woodpecker	10		10
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	2		2
Sand Martin	653	3	656
Swallow	463	384	847
House Martin	31	1	32
Olive-backed Pipit	1		1
Tree Pipit	5		5
Meadow Pipit	26	27	53
Yellow Wagtail	6		6
Grey Wagtail	14	4	18
Pied Wagtail	164	18	182
Wren	410	8	418
Dunnoek	273	7	280
Robin	477	28	505
Nightingale	8		8
Redstart	35	6	41
Whinchat	1		1
Stonechat	1		1
Blackbird	599	103	702
Fieldfare	129		129
Song Thrush	106	65	171
Redwing	26		26
Mistle Thrush	18		18
Cetti's Warbler	36		36
Grasshopper Warbler	3		3
Sedge Warbler	672		672

Species	Eg.	Pull	Total
Aquatic Warbler	1		1
Reed Warbler	617	22	639
Dartford Warbler	2	4	6
Lesser Whitethroat	48	6	54
Whitethroat	108	7	115
Garden Warbler	140	8	148
Blackcap	353	13	366
Wood Warbler	3		3
Chiffchaff	428		428
Willow Warbler	675	174	849
Goldcrest	123		123
Firecrest	2		2
Spotted Flycatcher	21	96	117
Pied Flycatcher	1		1
Bearded Tit	22		22
Long-tailed Tit	226		226
Marsh Tit	29		29
Willow Tit	14		14
Coal Tit	63		63
Blue Tit	1499	473	1972
Great Tit	574	175	749
Nuthatch	15	39	54
Treecreeper	53		53
Jay	17	16	33
Magpie	18	54	72
Jackdaw	42	6	48
Rook	27	98	125
Carrion Crow	3		3
Starling	305	9	314
House Sparrow	1		1
Tree Sparrow	8		8
Chaffinch	375		375
Brambling	5		5
Greenfinch	645	16	661
Goldfinch	50	11	61
Siskin	130		130
Linnnet	50	44	94
Redpoll	80		80
Bullfinch	180		180
Yellowhammer	178	47	225
Reed Bunting	265	18	283
Corn Bunting	2		2

Grand Total	12,143	2,081	14,224
102 Species			

THE DIET OF HEN HARRIERS ROOSTING IN THE NEW FOREST

Roger Clarke, M.C. & P. Combridge



A total of 258 pellets collected by M.C. & P. Combridge during the 1985/86, 1986/87 and 1987/88 winters from forms at two communal Hen Harrier roost sites in the New Forest were analysed by Roger Clarke.

METHODS

The pellets were dried immediately after collection to arrest decay. They were dissected later, and the contents cleaned. The commonest parts of bird prey to survive were feathers from alulas, wing coverts, contour feathers, bills (separate upper and lower mandibles falling apart into their constituent sheaths and internal palatal thickenings), gizzards, bones (mostly broken), claws and skin from feet. Species of bird were identified by comparison of feathers and bills to a personal reference collection. The colours of feathers had not been affected. The skulls of small mammal prey seldom came through intact; jaws, or parts thereof, and teeth were often present, and an inconsistent number of associated bones. Fur came through in quantity and generally good condition. Species of Vole, Mouse and Shrew were identified from teeth. Pellets containing lagomorph (Rabbit/Hare) were particularly large. Identified by the distinctive hair (confirmed by microscopic examination of the medulla as described in Day (1986)), they otherwise normally contained just a few pieces or tubular lengths of bone, but occasionally teeth and parts of lower jaws. Lizards were recognised by the presence of a pelvis and are assumed to be Common Lizard since the Sand Lizard is now thought to be extinct, or almost so, in the New Forest (M.A. Stewart, pers. comm.).

Some caution should be exercised about the relative proportions of various types of prey detected — some bone and feather remains may be more prone to being completely digested by harriers than others. Also, there may be a bias towards the collection of fur pellets, which seem less liable to disintegrate in wet conditions.

RESULTS

Table 1 shows the importance of birds in the diet of Hen Harriers roosting in the New Forest. This was not unexpected, as Harriers are often seen in pursuit of birds there (MCC and PC, pers. obs.), and small mammals/lagomorphs are known to be scarce in the Forest itself (Tubbs 1986), but in 1988 when pellets were collected later into March and late into

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Table 1. Number of pellets collected by diet type.

Type	Collection Dates												
	from	7.12.85	29.11.86	1.3.87	29.11.87	20.2.88	4.4.88						
	to	1.1.86	25.12.86	12.3.87	9.1.88	19.3.88	21.4.88						
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	
Bird	29	74.4	19	70.4	24	66.7	46	83.7	22	56.4	29	46.8	
Bird & Mammal	9	23.1	5	18.5	9	25.0	8	14.5	3	7.7	3	4.8	
Bird & Reptile											1	1.6	
Reptile & Mammal									1	2.6	2	3.2	
Mammal	1	2.5	3	11.1	3	8.3	1	1.8	13	33.3	27	43.6	
TOTALS	39	100.0	27	100.0	36	100.0	55	100.0	39	100.0	62	100.0	

Table 2. Bird diet by number of individuals identified to species

Species	Collection Dates													
	from	7.12.85	29.11.86	1.3.87	29.11.87	20.2.88	4.4.88							
	to	1.1.86	25.12.86	12.3.87	9.1.88	19.3.88	21.4.88							
No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%			
Red-legged Partridge					1	1.5		1	3.5					
Grey Partridge	1	2.0	1	3.2	1	2.6	1	1.5	1	3.5	4	12.1		
Pheasant					2	3.0		1	3.5					
Moorhen				2	5.3									
Snipe	1	2.0				1	1.5							
Pigeon/Dove					1	1.5		10*	34.4	6*	18.2			
Meadow Pipit	4	8.0	5	16.2	7	18.5	2	3.0						
Wren	7	14.0			1	2.6	5	7.4	3	10.3	6	18.2		
Robin											1	3.0		
Blackbird					1	2.6								
Fieldfare	4	8.0	1	3.2	1	2.6								
Song Thrush	2	4.0					4	6.0	2	6.9				
Redwing	5	10.0	1	3.2	1	2.6	1	1.5						
Dartford Warbler							1	1.5			1	3.0		
Goldcrest	2	4.0												
Coal Tit	1	2.0									2	6.1		
Blue Tit	1	2.0	1	3.2	3	7.9								
Great Tit	5	10.0			1	2.6								
Starling	1	2.0	1	3.2			1	1.5						
House Sparrow					1	2.6					1	3.0		
Chaffinch					2	5.3	1	1.5						
Greenfinch	3	6.0	2	6.5	1	2.6	2	3.0						
Goldfinch					1	2.6								
Linnet			1	3.2	2	5.3	1	1.5						
Bullfinch	1	2.0												
Yellowhammer	2	4.0	4	12.9			6	8.9	1	3.5	2	6.1		
Reed Bunting	10	20.0	14	45.2	13	34.3	37	55.2	10	34.4	10	30.3		
TOTALS	50	100.0	31	100.0	38	100.0	67	100.0	29	100.0	33	100.0		

* One with a lead shot

Table 3. Reptile and mammal diet by number of individuals traced

Species/Type	Collection Dates												
	from	7.12.85	29.11.86	1.3.87	29.11.87	20.2.88	4.4.88						
	to	1.1.86	25.12.86	12.3.87	9.1.88	19.3.88	21.4.88	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Lizard												2	5.3
Reptile *										1	4.5	1	2.6
Lagomorph **		2	20.0	7	87.5	4	40.0	1	11.1	6	27.3	21	55.3
Field Vole		2	20.0			2	20.0	3	33.3	14	63.7	8	21.1
Bank Vole		1	10.0										
Wood Mouse								2	22.3			1	2.6
Pygmy Shrew				1	12.5	1	10.0					1	2.6
Small Mammal ***		5	50.0			3	30.0	3	33.3	1	4.5	4	10.5
TOTALS		10	100.0	8	100.0	10	100.0	9	100.0	22	100.0	38	100.0

* Scales Only **Rabbit/Hare *** Vole/mouse/shrew fur - no teeth present to allow ready identification of species

April it was revealed that mammals were important. A swing towards mammal prey by late March was also shown by Clarke and Palmer (1987) from analysis of Breckland Hen Harrier pellets. However, many of the mammals may have come from beyond the Forest, as explained below.

Table 2 shows that the range of species of bird taken as prey is very wide. Compared to species found in Breckland pellets, additions in any significant numbers were Meadow Pipit, Redwing and Great Tit. Notably more Pigeon/Doves were recorded and less Partridges and Yellowhammers. Two pellets containing Pigeon/Dove remains held single lead shot and point to perhaps the normal circumstances in which Harriers take winter gamebirds (shot were also found in Breckland pellets). A Harrier would by no means always eat the part of these larger birds containing shot. The two pellets containing Moorhen feathers were collected from the same roost site on the same date, perhaps indicating that just one carcase was involved. Up to three birds were identified in individual pellets and several pellets contained two Reed Buntings (from number of upper and lower mandibles), by far the most frequent prey in both Breckland and New Forest pellets. Some 18 pellets contained bird remains that were not identified, mostly small traces.

On Table 3, the pellets classed as 'small mammal' were likely to be Field Vole (from the colour of fur). Compared to Breckland pellets, Pygmy Shrews were a new prey and also Lizards. The two 'reptiles' on the Table are likely to be Lizards too.

Other items often found in the pellets were grit and seeds from seed-eating prey (often still in a gizzard), grass and small black Beetles (Weevil sp. — probably food of bird prey). Larger Beetles found were one *Cylindronotus laevioctostriatus* (common under loose bark) and one Seven-spot Ladybird. The occasional tiny twig, pieces of deciduous tree leaf or bracken leaf, one brown chrysalis and one tiny snail shell were also found. We assume that much of the vegetation was torn up with prey. Of the seeds identified, Black Bindweed nearly always coincided with Reed Bunting, as in Breckland pellets, and cereal grains often with Pigeon/Dove.

DATA ON COMPOSITION OF ROOSTS

Table 4 summarises counts made by M.C. & P. Combridge participating in the international Hen Harrier Winter Roost Survey. The roosts were typically small, usually attracting one to four birds. Larger numbers were occasionally encountered; the maximum

seen at roost was eight. Because the Ringtails probably included a number of first winter males, it seems likely that the percentages of males at the roosts were in fact somewhat higher than Table 4 shows for greys alone. Male Hen Harriers are widely acknowledged to be more agile than the heavier females and therefore tend to take more small passerines, the type of prey most readily available in the Forest. The higher percentage of Ringtails at Site B indicates that it attracts a higher proportion of females. Site B is much closer to the edge of the New Forest than Site A. More birds are often present at the roosts than can easily be accounted for hunting in the Forest, and birds have been seen leaving the Forest and returning to it during the day (MCC and PC, pers. obs.). Roost B may tend to attract more of the Harriers which range outside on to adjacent habitats. The heavier female Harriers would tend to take larger prey such as Rabbits/Hares which are more numerous outside the Forest, and this was borne out in the fact that all but one of the Rabbit/Hare pellets came from Site B. Rabbits are not abundant in the Forest; and seem largely nocturnal because of disturbance, and Hares only occur at very low density. The scarcity of both Voles too has been shown by trapping. Close grazing by large herbivores seems to be responsible (Tubbs 1986). There was no discernible difference in the species of bird prey recorded in the pellets from the two sites in 1985/86 and 1986/87. In 1987/88, when all but one pellet were collected from Site B, Tits and Finches were noticeable by their relative absence.

Table 4. Summary of counts at roosts A and B, 1983/84 - 1987/88

Month	Roost A			Roost B		
	Number of Counts	Cumulative number of Grey Males	sightings of Ringtails *	Number of Counts	Cumulative number of Grey Males	sightings of Ringtails
October	4	5	1	1	1	0
November	14	21	9	13	24	6
December	23	41	17	31	53	44
January	12	24	20	18	21	28
February	12	38	10	18	14	47
March	3	3	3	13	16	34
TOTALS	68	132 (69%)	60 (31%)	94	129 (45%)	159 (55%)

* Females of all ages and first winter males.

DISCUSSION

It may be thought remarkable that woodland species such as Goldcrest and Tits feature in the diet of an open-country raptor which generally catches its prey on or close to the ground. However, Hen Harriers must be quite capable of picking the occasional bird off the top of a tree or bush. They occasionally hunt gorse brakes in the New Forest and along the tops of conifer belts both in the New Forest and at Norfolk and Suffolk heathland roost sites (MCC, PC and RC, pers. obs.) and they have been watched picking Goldcrests off hedges during a 'fall' of the latter on Holy Island (Birds in Northumbria 1982). Thrushes often share the roost sites with the Harriers, and so Fieldfares and Redwings came as no surprise. The Reed Bunting proved to be the archetypal Harrier prey, as it did in Breckland pellets (Clarke and Palmer 1987); it was interesting to find Meadow Pipits being taken much less often (none at all in Breckland pellets) and Skylarks not at all (also none in Breckland pellets). A notable fluctuation in numbers taken occurred with Wrens; the crash in the Wren population during the cold weather of February 1986 seems to have left its mark the next winter, which was also harsh.

A lack of mammal prey may be depressing the proportion of female Hen Harriers roosting in the New Forest generally; the overall proportions of Ringtails at Sites A and B of 31% and

55% respectively (Table 4) are both below the national average of two-thirds found by the Hen Harrier Winter Roost Survey and show graduation towards a majority of Ringtails at Site B closer to the edge of the Forest. It is interesting to note that the swing towards a majority of Ringtails at Site B does not take place until January and generally increases in February and March, being mirrored in the swing towards mammal prey in the pellets collected in late February and March 1988, when Voles were more frequently taken, and April 1988, when young lagomorphs appeared in numbers. This resource may be crucial to a build-up of condition by the Harriers prior to migration and breeding. The lack of a noticeable swing towards mammal prey in pellets collected in early March 1987 points to a later season after a harsher winter.

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THE 1987 BTO LAPWING SURVEY IN HAMPSHIRE

J. A. Eyre

SUMMARY

35 tetrads in Hampshire were surveyed in 1987 for the BTO Lapwing survey; 61 pairs of Lapwings were located. The density of birds in Hampshire is significantly lower than in northern counties. This is probably due, at least in part, to the popularity of autumn sown cereals and other autumn sown crops in the south. Such crops reduce the amount of habitat suitable for Lapwings to breed.

INTRODUCTION

The Lapwing is one of our most familiar and recognisable breeding birds. It is widely distributed throughout the British Isles but there is concern that numbers are declining, particularly in the south of the country. This has been attributed to changing farming practices and to loss of habitat due to urbanisation and drainage of wetlands. To obtain a reliable estimate of Lapwing numbers, the BTO organised a national survey of the species in 1987.

SURVEY METHOD

The survey was based on counts of breeding pairs in tetrads randomly chosen, one from each 10km square of the National Grid. Where Lapwings were found, observers were asked to record habitat type and, in the case of grass, whether it was grazed by cattle, sheep or horses.

TABLE 1

TETRAD	PAIRS OF LAPWINGS	SPRING CROPS	AUTUMN CROPS	GRASS LAND	BARE LAND
SU10Y	0	0	0	0	0
11J	0	0	0	0	0
20W	2	0	0	2	0
21R	0	0	0	0	0
23P	1	1	0	0	0
24E	0	0	0	0	0
30I	0	0	0	0	0
31X	0	0	0	0	0
32K	10	1	0	9	0
33R	2	0	0	0	2
34E	0	0	0	0	0
35T	5	2	3	0	0
40Y	0	0	0	0	0
41Q	0	0	0	0	0
42F	0	0	0	0	0
43N	4	4	0	0	0
44D	NR	—	—	—	—
45Q	0	0	0	0	0
50P	0	0	0	0	0
51X	NR	—	—	—	—
52F	0	0	0	0	0
53N	3	3	0	0	0
54G	0	0	0	0	0
55C	NR	—	—	—	—
60R	0	0	0	0	0
61S	3	2	0	0	1
62W	1	0	0	0	1
63F	0	0	0	0	0
64X	0	0	0	0	0
65Q	NR	—	—	—	—
70N	0	0	0	0	0
71P	0	0	0	0	0
72C	6	0	0	6	0
73F	5	0	0	5	0
74R	NR	—	—	—	—
75L	12	4	0	4	4
83K	4	0	0	4	0
85A	0	0	0	0	0
SZ 29W	0	0	0	0	0
39M	3	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	61	20	3	30	8

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Nationally, the survey recorded 4010 pairs in 1285 tetrads, a density of 3.1 pairs per tetrad or 0.8 pairs per square kilometre.

In Hampshire, a total of 35 tetrads was surveyed (Table 1), representing a coverage of about 88% of the 40 tetrads selected within the county. 61 pairs of Lapwings were located within the 140 square kilometres surveyed, a density of 0.4 pairs per square kilometre. This is significantly lower than the national density but is similar to many of the densities in our neighbouring counties. The survey confirmed that there is a marked north/south divide

with densities in Lancashire, northwest Yorkshire and Cumbria an order of magnitude higher than in most southern counties.

On the basis of about 1000 tetrads in Hampshire, the total number of pairs in the county is estimated at approximately 1800 — not a high number for a species that we generally think of as common. It is possible that this is an underestimate because the survey method does not necessarily give adequate weight to coastal or river valley areas where densities are well above average. For example, in the county Wet Meadows Survey carried out in 1982, 222 pairs of Lapwings were located in 28.4 square kilometres — a density of 8 pairs per square kilometre. Even higher densities occur in preferred coastal localities. The regular survey of Farlington Marshes in 1987 located 42 pairs within the reserve boundary — a very high density of about 65 pairs per square kilometre. In the present survey, the highest density recorded was 12 pairs in a single tetrad or 3 pairs per square kilometre, well below the levels known to occur in preferred habitats. However, such habitats are rare so, although the above estimate may be low it is unlikely that the county population exceeds 2000 pairs.

It is not possible to say from a one-off survey whether the population is stable or declining, but the distribution of birds over various habitats shows clearly how farming practices may be reducing suitable habitat. Of the 61 pairs of Lapwings located, 38 were on grass or bare land and 23 were on arable land planted with crops or cereals. Of the latter, only three pairs were in autumn sown cereals and of these, two pairs were on bare patches within the crop.

Lapwings require short grass or bare ground for breeding and feeding, but cereals planted in autumn are already well grown when birds are starting to breed. The increasing popularity of these and other crops such as rape must obviously reduce the amount of habitat suitable for Lapwings to breed.

Even so, this does not explain why large areas of apparently suitable habitat are devoid of birds. Out of the 35 tetrads surveyed only 14 contained Lapwings. The average number of pairs per occupied tetrad was, therefore, approximately four but several tetrads contained only one or two pairs. It may be that the population is still low following the run of hard winters in recent years or there may be other factors such as increasing predation from foxes. Analysis of the full results of the national survey may shed some light on these matters.

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J.A. Eyre, 3 Dunmow Hill, Fleet, Hampshire.

BREEDING CENSUSES IN HAMPSHIRE, 1987

J.M. Clark

COMMON BIRDS CENSUS

Unfortunately, of the 20 plots surveyed in 1986, seven were not covered in 1987, numbers 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 17 and 25. Coverage of plot 3 was resumed after being missed in 1986, and two new plots were started, numbers 26 and 27 (see below).

26 Wendleholme: SU40; mainly scrub with some mixed woodland, reed swamp and saltmarsh; altitude 10 m; area not recorded; observers, P.R. Durnell and P.M. Potts.

27 Oxenbourne Down: SU71; largely yew and whitebeam plantation with areas of thorn scrub; altitude 122-213 m; area 42.4 hectares; observer, J. Allen.

Table 1 shows counts of confirmed territories of selected species on Hampshire CBC plots in 1987. Some of the scarcer species are excluded but these records are included in the *Birds in Hampshire* section of this report. Table 2 shows population changes for 1986-87 for the commoner species.

WATERWAYS BIRDS SURVEY

Only two plots were surveyed in Hampshire in 1987. Table 3 shows counts of confirmed territories on each plot.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are again due to all the observers who carried out CBCs or WBSs in Hampshire, and John Marchant, who kindly supplied the data on behalf of the BTO. New census plots are always welcome, so any observers interested in starting one should write to the Populations Section, BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR.

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Table 1. Numbers of confirmed territories on CBC plots in Hampshire in 1985

Plot Number	1*	2*	3	7*	9*	10*	11*	13*	14*	15*	16*	19*	21*	23*	24*	26	27
Shelduck					4	1	1										
Mallard					4	8	4	18			4						
Kestrel					1	1	1	1	1						1		
Grey Partridge				7			1								8		
Pheasant		4		8						5	2				8	3	5
Moorhen						1	2	18	31	6						1	
Coot								14	19	2							
Lapwing								22	3						5	1	
Redshank								6	1								
Stock Dove	3	4	16				2			1						5	
Woodpigeon	1	4	6	7	3	2	7		5	11	2				13	1	3
Collared Dove							5										
Turtle Dove				4			1		4	3							7
Cuckoo		1	1	1			2	1	4	3		1		1		1	
Tawny Owl	1	1	1									1	1				1
Green Woodpecker	1	1	2	1			1		1	1	2	1				2	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	1	1						1	2	1	2				2	
Skylark				8	14	1	17	11	1	1					4	2	
Meadow Pipit					6	2			1								
Pied Wagtail							3										
Wren	4	15	16	11	10	7	28	4	58	27	43	12	1	1	14	25	13
Duncock			4	18	5	2	34	13	11	7	3				2	3	9
Robin	4	27	28	6	3	5	23		9	10	39	8	9	1	6	22	6
Redstart	3	3	20									2					
Blackbird	4	13	9	14	6	8	51	22	22	8	17	7	12	16	10	27	11
Song Thrush		4	3	4	1	3	6	7	3	4	7	2	2	1		8	2
Mistle Thrush		2	1			1	3		1	1	2	1				1	
Sedge Warbler					1			4	42	14							
Reed Warbler					1	2	5	19	77	11						2	
Lesser Whitethroat				4	1	1	4	3	6	2						1	1
Whitethroat				8	2	3	3	1	11	1						2	3
Garden Warbler			2	4										1	1		
Blackcap		3	3	10		1		1	4	4	6		2		6	10	6
Wood Warbler		2	4								1	2				1	
Chiffchaff				1				1	3	2	6	1	5		1	5	5
Willow Warbler	1	8	4	36	8	6			10	2	6	1		7	8	5	12
Goldcrest	1										7	1	2			2	3
Spotted Flycatcher			1														
Long-tailed Tit	2	2		1					3	1		1			3	2	
Marsh Tit			5									2	4		1	1	
Coal Tit	2	2	6								4	3	5			1	12
Blue Tit	10	34	28	1	4	4	25		17	10	13	12	2	5	12		4
Great Tit	4	16	8	6	1	3	21	3	12	9	12	7	5	1	4	11	14
Nuthatch	1	5	7								3	3			2	2	
Treecreeper	2	2	3							1		2				2	
Jay	1	1	3						4	2	2	1	3	1		2	2
Magpie			1	4	3	1	11	4	4	5	2			3	4	2	6
Jackdaw	4	2	10			1	3				1	2			1	1	
Rook				26			22								31		
Carriion Crow	2	1	2		1		8	3		3	2		1	2		2	
Starling		1	3			1	7		2		1			5		11	
House Sparrow					2	1	15	1	1	1				11			
Chaffinch	4	31	26	22	16	8	22	2	5	6	8	12	12	25	24	9	28
Greenfinch			1		1	1	12	2	2	2			1	1		2	1
Goldfinch							3									1	
Linnet				3	10	1	2	8	2					2			1
Bullfinch			3	4	1	1			1	1			2	1		3	4
Yellowhammer				26	5	2	9						1	14	1		16
Reed Bunting					4	2	3	12	25	17							

* = Plots used in calculation of changes 1986 - 1987 (see Table 2)

KEY TO PLOT NUMBERS (for full details see previous reports)

W = Woodland

F = Farmland

S = Special

1 - RUSHPOLE WOOD, New Forest (W).....	<i>Mrs. J. Irvine</i>
2 - STUBBS WOOD, New Forest (W).....	<i>Mrs. P. Grant</i>
3 - EYEWORTH WOOD, New Forest (W).....	<i>G.C. Evans</i>
7 - MARTIN DOWN (W)	<i>P. Toynton</i>
9 - NORMANDY FARM, Lyminster	<i>E.J. Wiseman</i>
10 - KEYHAVEN MARSHES (F)	<i>E.J. Wiseman</i>
11 - WARBLINGTON, Havant (F).....	<i>A.C. Gutteridge</i>
13 - FARLINGTON MARSHES LNR (S).....	<i>P.M. Potts</i>
14 - LOWER TITCHFIELD HAVEN (S).....	<i>B.S. Duffin</i>
15 - UPPER TITCHFIELD HAVEN (S)	<i>R.K. Levett</i>
16 - SOUTHAMPTON COMMON (W)	<i>J.R. Simms</i>
19 - WOODHOUSE COPSE, Brockenhurst (W)	<i>L.G. Broomfield</i>
21 - HEAD DOWN PLANTATION, Petersfield (W)	<i>J. Allen</i>
23 - CHARITY DOWN FARM, Longstock (F).....	<i>J.O. Latham</i>
24 - WHERWELL, near Andover (F).....	<i>C. Stoate</i>
26 - WENDLEHOLME, Warsash (W)	<i>P.R. Durnell & P.M. Potts</i>
27 - OXENBOURNE DOWN (W).....	<i>J. Allen</i>

Table 2 Hampshire Bird Population Changes between 1986 - 1987, all habitats

	1986 Index	Total 1986	Total 1987	No. of plots	% change	1987 Index
Moorhen	108	49	58	6	+18	128
Woodpigeon	99	44	49	8	+11	110
Skylark	70	68	59	9	-13	61
Wren	66	204	235	14	+15	76
Duncock	76	102	98	10	-4	73
Robin	63	142	150	13	+6	67
Blackbird	85	231	210	14	-9	77
Song Thrush	75	42	44	12	+5	79
Sedge Warbler	71	53	61	4	+15	82
Reed Warbler	148	117	115	6	-2	145
Blackcap	96	31	37	9	+19	115
Willow Warbler	103	91	93	14	+2	105
Goldcrest	53	16	11	4	-31	36
Blue Tit	92	150	149	14	-1	91
Great Tit	84	102	103	14	+1	85
Chaffinch	98	182	197	14	+8	106
Linnet	81	42	28	7	-33	54
Yellowhammer	98	61	58	8	-5	93
Reed Bunting	147	83	63	7	-2	112

(Based on 1981 = 100)

Table 3 Numbers of confirmed territories on WBS Plots in Hampshire in 1987

	River Itchen Navigation (2.7km) <i>H. Fuller</i>	River Meon West Meon-Exton (4.8km) <i>A. Y. Norris</i>
Little Grebe	9	2
Mute Swan	1	2
Canada Goose	0	2
Mallard	9	22
Pochard	0	1
Tufted Duck	0	7
Water Rail	0	1
Moorhen	9	20
Coot	7	10
Lapwing	0	2
Kingfisher	0	1
Grey Wagtail	0	5
Pied Wagtail	1	1
Cetti's Warbler	1	1
Sedge Warbler	4	0
Reed Warbler	1	0
Whitethroat	0	1
Reed Bunting	1	2