

34.6.
Price to Non-Members, Five Shillings.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Hampshire Field Club
AND
Archaeological Society

(ESTABLISHED 1885)

for the Study of the Natural History and Antiquities of the County



Vol. XIX, Part 3 (Supplement)
NATURAL HISTORY, 1956.

EDITED BY
W. H. DOWDESWELL.

WINCHESTER:
WARREN & SON, LTD.,
THE WYKEHAM PRESS
1957

RED HOUSE MUSEUM

★ Christchurch ★

LIBRARY



NATURAL HISTORY, 1956.

THE following report of Natural History activities in the Hampshire Field Club during 1956, while showing a welcome expansion in some directions also indicates a marked decline in others. Several members have sent in notes on mammals but these are so sporadic and scattered that I feel it would be misleading to publish them as one account. There is still a great need for studies to be undertaken such as those summarised by Mr. Oliver Hook in the 1955 Report.

By contrast with the mammals, the amount of information received on Hampshire birds has been greater than ever and this year's section on ornithology is the most extensive yet published. The Ornithological Section has continued to meet on alternate months in Winchester College Science School for informal discussion of a great variety of bird topics. The amount of material now received by Mr. Cohen for the Annual Report is so large that it has been decided to form an Editorial Committee, each member being responsible for a particular area of the county. Regular contributors and members of the Ornithological Section have already been informed of these changes. Anyone else who may be interested can obtain full particulars from me.

Entomological records during the year do not call for much comment except that there is a conspicuous lack of contributions from the northern part of the county. Once again we have to thank Mr. Collin for a notable contribution to our knowledge of the Diptera of the New Forest.

The botanists appear to have suffered an eclipse and the only record I have received has been from Mrs. P. M. Baker of the rare Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*) and Dyer's Greenweed (*Genista tinctoria*) growing in a field at Highbridge not far from the River Itchen. Townsend (*Flora of Hampshire*) records *Dianthus armeria* from a number of isolated localities but, as far as I know, there are no previous reports from this area. I have no doubt that Botanical and Entomological Sections of the Field Club would well repay the effort needed to form them just as the Ornithological Section has done. Enthusiastic members are badly needed in both these fields of Natural History.

It only remains for me to thank once more all those who have kindly contributed both towards our various reports, and to the running of our Field Expeditions which have been, as always, one of the most enjoyable features of the Hampshire Field Club.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

1. Birds in Hampshire, 1956.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

This year half the report has been written by Mr. P. L. Day and I am extremely grateful for his invaluable help. The work has become too laborious for one person and as many readers will know, a committee of five has been elected by the Ornithological Section to edit the report in future; each will compile a report on his area and these accounts will form the material for the final report which will be written by one or two of them. Their names and areas are: Myself (W. Hants), K. H. Palmer (New Forest), G. H. Rees (E. Hants), J. H. Taverner (N. Hants), and J. Stafford (Wight).

I again acknowledge my indebtedness to the many observers who sent in notes, every one of which has been considered in compiling the report. The number in 1956 was larger than in 1955 but not so much larger as would appear from the alphabetical list because this year, in accordance with a recommendation of the Conference of Editors of Local Reports held in Oxford on September 29th, I have given the names of individual observers, where they are known to me, in preference to that of the ornithological body to which they belong. There are still miserably few notes from the north of the county.

There was a fine crop of rarities. Notable occurrences include the first Little Egret in the county since 1822, our first Green-winged Teal since about 1840, a Kite, our first Bonaparte's Gull, another Mediterranean Black-headed Gull (one in each of the years 1954 and 1955), a Gull-billed Tern, a pair of Hoopoes breeding, three Wrynecks (one of which stayed all summer), the first Bearded Tit since *Kelsall and Mumm*, two Bluethroats, three or four Aquatic Warblers, one Icterine Warbler, two or three Ortolan Buntings and two Lapland Buntings.

Weather: An intense cold spell prevailed from February 1st to the 4th and 9th to 26th inclusive, with a mild spell from the 4th to the 9th. Some notes on the cold spell by Dr. J. S. Ash appear at the end of this introduction. There were eighteen days of "official drought" at Bournemouth up to April 11th. The summer was rather inclement with a severe gale on July 29th. August and September were rather wet and December mostly very mild.

Explanations: I have been asked to explain again that the number before each species is that of the B.O.U. Check List 1952. These numbers are used in *The Popular Handbook* by P. A. D. Hollom and in the B.T.O.'s sixpenny *Field List of British Birds*, a useful publication which enables one to note down the species seen on five separate occasions.

For the benefit of non-ringers I should perhaps explain that the word *pull*, which I have used occasionally is an abbreviation of the Latin *pullus* = a nestling and is now standard use in ringing-schedules for any bird ringed that cannot yet fly.

Those readers who saw the review in *British Birds* XLIX, 367/70, of our 1953 and 1954 reports by D. D. Harber, who is himself the Editor of the *Sussex Bird Report*, may like to have some of his criticisms answered and his doubts cleared up. In our 1953 report the Black Terns on March 14th should certainly be deleted; in any case, as he rightly points out, Thorney Island is in Sussex, not in Hampshire. In the 1954 report the Swifts on April 5th "apparently accepted without description at second hand from a non-ornithologist" were accepted by the Editor of the Isle of Wight report, who should know his observers. The date of the Spotted Crane found on the London Road in Portsmouth was October 15th; this should have been mentioned. The Little Buntings, since rejected by *British Birds*, should have been included in the corrections at the end of our 1955 report as being deleted from the 1954 report.

EDWIN COHEN,

Ornithological Secretary.

Hazelhurst,
Sway.

April, 1957.

Since this report was written, Hampshire ornithology has suffered a sad loss in the death of Mr. P. L. Day. He had a deep love of the country and all that it stood for, in particular of the New Forest and its birds. Apparently in good health, he died suddenly while out beagling on November 23rd.

December, 1957.

E.C.

NOTES ON THE COLD SPELL.

By DR. J. S. ASH.

On February 1st, the first day of the first wave of the cold spell at Fordingbridge, many parties of Lapwings, up to 60 or more in number, were flying south very high—often just visible—throughout the afternoon. There were also some Fieldfares and Redwings and probably a few Starlings. Already many Song Thrushes and a few Fieldfares were showing obvious signs of hunger; these were perhaps birds which had already endured some days of cold elsewhere. On February 2nd, at Damerham, several parties of Redwings and Fieldfares passed south during the day but there were no Lapwings.

The first dead Fieldfare in the second wave of the cold spell was found on February 18th. From February 22nd onwards an

increasing number of dead thrushes was found. In the Fordingbridge—Damerham—Cranborne area Fieldfares suffered worst—perhaps because they were present in this area in such large numbers prior to the onset of the cold spell. Next came Mistle Thrushes, then Song Thrushes. Most Blackbirds seemed in good form, presumably because they had a different and accessible food supply; they were present in very large numbers. Finches and other small birds did not appear to suffer much. Many of the birds found dead were lying on roadsides where they had rolled down the hedgebanks in which they had sought food and shelter; many others were round the base of stacks. In one area of downland near Damerham many decapitated birds were found, apparently wantonly killed by birds of prey; a Buzzard was suspected in this instance. Similar corpses were found in smaller numbers elsewhere.

A sample of dead birds from the Fordingbridge—Cranborne—Damerham area was weighed and examined. Unlike those found in the 1955 cold spell, none of the present examples was diseased although practically all the thrushes carried endoparasites, some of them in very large numbers. A Wren from Cranborne (Dorset) contained no fewer than 17 *Acanthocephala* and a Trematode (a new host record). It is not known whether these parasites were present in abnormal numbers.

In the table below is a brief summary of the sex and weights (in gms.) of those examined, from which it will be seen how appallingly low is their body weight when death is due to emaciation; by contrast, a male Blackbird killed by a car on February 27th, weighed 101.5 gms. and a Hedge Sparrow (? killed by a car) on the same day, 23.8 gms.

Also of interest was the great preponderance of females amongst those examined. The following figures include a few extra birds which were found decapitated, so were not weighed: Blackbird (1 female), Fieldfare (2 males, 9 females), Mistle Thrush (1 male, 6 females), Redwing (1 male, 2 females), Song Thrush (2 females). Total: 4 males, 20 females.

The Redwings and Song Thrushes were later examined by K. Williamson who stated that all belonged to their nominate races.

SEX AND WEIGHTS OF DEAD BIRDS EXAMINED.

	<i>Fieldfare</i>		<i>Mistle Thrush</i>		<i>Redwing</i>		<i>Song Thrush</i>		<i>Blackbird</i>	
	<i>Av. wt.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Av. wt.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Av. wt.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Av. wt.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Av. wt.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Male	52.96	2	70.7	2	38.1	1				
Female	57.15	6	70.2	3	37.2	2	56.3	1	53.5	1
Unsexed	57.40	3			36.6	1				
Total										
Average	56.45	11	70.4	5	39.7	4	56.3	1	53.5	1

RED-BACKED SHRIKE.

J.S.A. is making a special study of the distribution of this species in the New Forest. Will anyone prepared to help cover any area or who has information on distribution in this or in past years please contact him at Damerham, near Fordingbridge, Hants.

ADDITIONS TO 1954 REPORT.

- 102 **Montagu's Harrier** ringed as *pull* in New Forest July 13th, 1952, found dead at Tresco, Scilly Islands, 225 miles S.W. on May 31st, 1954 (B.B. L. 54).
- 343 **Blackcap**.—A male came regularly to a bird-table in Stockbridge about the end of October and a female after Christmas (Mrs. E. Maude per Dr. Bruce Campbell).

ADDITIONS TO 1955 REPORT.

- 170 **Purple Sandpiper**.—Four at Southsea Castle on January 19th feeding at the base of the sea wall 15 feet from the observer (T E B).
- 208 **Black-headed Gull**.—One ringed as *pull*. July 5th, 1955, near Brightlingsea, Essex, reported dead at Marchwood, 120 miles S.W., on October 5th, 1955 (B.B. L. 60). One ringed as juvenile July 9th, 1950, at Abberton, Essex, found dead at Southampton, 115 miles S.W. on March 30th, 1955 (*ibid.*).
- 325 **Robin**.—One ringed December 31st, 1952, at Ewell, Surrey, found dead at Whitehill, Bordon, 31. miles S.W., on April 20th, 1955 (*ibid.*, p. 68).

CORRECTIONS TO 1955 REPORT.

- 52 **Pintail**.—Delete W H T as one of the observers of 16 birds on January 23rd.
- 207 **Little Gull**.—Substitute R M C for W H T as the observer of one on November 19th.
- 423 **Snow Bunting**.—Substitute R M C for W H T as the observer of two on November 13th.

BIRD RECORDS, 1956.

- 1 **Black-throated Diver**.—Occasional birds off the coast January to mid-March and from the end of October to the end of the year were satisfactorily differentiated from Great Northern Divers by several observers. One in Langstone Harbour on April 29th (P G) and one off South Hayling in partial summer plumage on May 7th (G H R).
- 2 **Great Northern Diver**.—Fewer reported than last year. Latest spring date April 6th except for one on April 11th which was apparently oiled or injured (B W R).
- 4 **Red-throated Diver**.—One in Langstone Harbour on August 21st (P G) but otherwise not present from June to September inclusive. Many records in other months, some of oiled birds. One in Langstone Harbour on January 11th in summer plumage ! (P G). On April 2nd there was a total of 23 in Stokes Bay and off Lee-on-Solent, of which five were flying east and nine were together on the water (C J H). There was a W.—E. movement off St. Catherine's Point in March, April and May with a maximum of 13 on April 7th (E J W).

- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.**—One coastal record in June (P G) and three each in July and August (P G, C J H and K B), otherwise by no means uncommon although very few reports from inland waters and none of breeding. Quite large numbers at times, the maximum being 50 in Langstone Harbour on January 21st from which they dropped to a maximum of 13 during the cold spell in February but rose again to 42 on March 4th with a steady decline during the rest of the month (P G); from October 21st to the end of the year numbers were fairly constant at between 20 and 25 (P G).
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.**—Two near Black Point, Hayling, on January 13th (B W R). One in Brading Harbour on February 25th (J S). One in Titchfield Haven on December 1st (J H T *et al*), seen at 40 yds. with 10 x 60 binoculars and described as dusky except for pale cheek patches, neck shorter and fatter than a Great Crested's (which the observer knows well) and the back of the head much more rounded and less angular. R H D, who had seen this bird, saw what was probably the same one the next day and one on December 18th.
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.**—At least 13, mainly in transition plumage, on March 30th in Hayling Bay (C J H) and six off Southbourne in summer plumage on April 6th (J V B). Smaller numbers or singletons, mostly in January and December, including three near Whitecliff Bay, Wight, on January 28th (G H R, E J W) were reported by several observers.
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.**—Small numbers in spring, autumn and winter at various places on the coast but most in Langstone Harbour where there were 16 in January, which disappeared during the cold spell in February and began to return on March 4th (one bird); by the 2nd of April there were 23 and then numbers gradually fell to 5 on the 15th (last date). In March and April they were in breeding plumage and were often seen displaying. The first return to Langstone Harbour was of nine in transitional plumage on September 30th, after which the general pattern is expressed in the following records: 14 on October 14th, 15 on the 21st, 36 on the 28th, 31 on November 25th, 30 on December 8th, 11 on the 23rd and 19 on the 29th (P G).
- 9 **Little Grebe.**—Distribution and numbers much as in previous reports but 67 in Portsmouth Harbour on December 1st (J K B) is noteworthy; 48 there on November 18th (W H T).
- 12 **Leach's Petrel.**—One was picked up weak but uninjured on December 11th at the pumping station on the Avon three miles S.S.W. of Ringwood and was kept overnight by Miss Penrose. It was released at Keyhaven on the 12th by E C but it was blown eastwards over the spartina by the gale and is unlikely to have survived.
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.**—Off St. Catherine's Point, one on March 31st (G H R) and one on April 17th (R R, R J W) in both cases completely black on top and white below.
- 26 **Fulmar.**—Up to five on several dates between March 31st and June 20th off the coasts of the Island (G H R, E J W, D Fa) and one on July 28th (E J W, J K B). One in Hurst Narrows on January 15th (D W) and one there on August 27th (I R B).
- 27 **Gannet.**—Adults and immatures off St. Catherine's in April and May and from July 6th to November 10th (G H R, E J W, W H T, J K B); not more than 24 and more often under 10 except on September 6th when 54 flew to S.E. in 2½ hours (B A E M, R R, D R W). One or two off Hengistbury Head on December 13th (J V B).
- 28 **Cormorant.**—Large numbers again counted on Fawley Pier, *e.g.*: 148 on January 15th, 146 March 11th, 108 April 3rd (all R H D). Birds very like *sinensis* were seen at Stanpit on January 26th (F R C), off Brownwich twice in March (T E B) and in Langstone Harbour on February 12th and March 10th (P G). Little heaps of regurgitated fishbones found in

March and April on the bank of the Meon by C S were identified as Wrasse by the Natural History Museum and it seems probable that Cormorants were responsible. Up to six present at Winnall, Winchester, nearly every day in December (P S S). Numbers increase in stormy weather in summer in Christchurch Harbour from the usual 30 to 55 and even 70 (F R C). About 100 pairs at Main Beach on May 12th (J K B).

- 29 **Shag**.—Very small numbers off the Island in April/May and from August 8th to November 3rd (several observers). Often about 20 to 30 in winter in Christchurch Harbour where there are many more than there are Cormorants (J V B). Four pairs with nests at the Needles on May 12th (J K B).
- 30 **Heron**.—The numbers of occupied nests at certain heronries were : Wickham (the largest in the county) 34 (D M J), Sandyballs Wood 11 (the 1955 increase having been wiped out) (J S A), Tournembury 27 (same as last year) (J K B), Harewood Forest 11 (three new ones in a new site) (E L J), Hinton Park 7 (in a rookery) (E C), Sopley a small one not previously reported contained 5 occupied in 1955 (M. A. Cottrell). On August 9th one bird came in off the sea at St. Catherine's Point and turned N.W. inland (E J W, G H R and J K B). Peak numbers in Langstone Harbour were 16 on September 2nd, 20 on October 14th, 42 on the 18th, 44 on November 3rd and 16 on December 9th (P G). There were never so many reported from other places on the coast.
- 32 **Little Egret**.—One at Hengistbury on May 8th (F R C) has been accepted for publication by *British Birds*. Apparently the first record for the county since 1822.
- 38 **Bittern**.—One at Fleet Pond on January 21st (W G E). One in Dibden Bay on February 19th (G K), flushed from an isolated patch of reeds. Good views were had by many observers of one and sometimes of two birds at Titchfield Haven on many dates between February 4th and March 25th, on which date one bird was seen by C S struggling with an eel. He and others handled a dead bird on March 10th which was alleged to have been shot at Browndown a short while previously. Three others were picked up dying in the Lee-on-Solent district (per C S). One from about March 24th to April 8th in the Ipley Manor area of the New Forest (H. Branford per P L D). One on Farlington Marshes on five dates in March and another bird on the sewage farm there from March 12th to 17th (P G).
- 42 **Spoonbill**.—At 5.0 a.m. on May 26th one came in from the sea and, circling lower and lower, flew into Titchfield Haven and out to sea again ; the spatulate bill was clearly seen (Mr. and Mrs. Maynard per C S). One adult all day at Stanpit on June 22nd, seen resting, preening, feeding and in flight (Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Clifton). Also seen there the next day by M C A. One immature there from September 26th to 30th C P and J. Wright per F R C ; last seen on October 7th.
- 45 **Mallard**.—A vast number of counts have been sent in, but that they are not worth much for the purposes of this report, despite the fact that some of them were made in connexion with the Wildfowl Inquiry, is shown by the following discrepancies in counts on the same dates at the same places by different recorders : Alresford 18th February ca. 80 (E J W, G H R) but ca. 50 (J K B, W) ; 7th October 75 (P S S) but ca. 5 (W) and again at Avington Lake (excluding the river) on October 7th ca. 200 (P S S) but ca. 70 (W) ; and Titchfield Haven on 3rd November ca. 40 (P S S) but 180 (R H D). The birds do of course move about and headquarters of the Wildfowl Inquiry have the means of evaluating the counts sent in to them. The largest single count was 570 on Avington lake and the river above, at a time when there were also 300 at Alresford, December 12th (W), but the species is everywhere plentiful. Display

- seen January 9th and mating February 8th (R H D) ; first brood May 10th, in Langstone Harbour (P G). Breed also in the Island.
- 46 **Teal**.—Similar discrepancies as for Mallard, *e.g.*, at Titchfield Haven on December 15th *ca.* 400 (J K B) but 640 (R H D) ; admittedly it is a very difficult terrain to count and anyhow the fact remains that the species is common in the county and in the Island. Numbers at Titchfield Haven in January and February were of the order of 500 to 800 with a maximum on the last day of the first cold spell (February 2nd) of *ca.* 1,200 (R H D, J J W E). The January to March and October to December counts on the waters near Winchester were almost always well below those of Mallard (W). At Langstone Harbour there were from 100 to 200 from January 7th to March 18th but all but one had left by April 30th (P G). About 230 on Brading Marsh, Wight, on January 7th (J K B).
- Green-winged Teal** (*Anas crecca carolinensis*).—A drake seen by E R on the Meon at Titchfield Haven on March 18th was watched for about two hours by C S, R H D, J J W E *et al.* It remained almost stationary for about two hours ; through a telescope the observers saw the vertical white line on the sides of the breast instead of the horizontal line on the body, also that the breast was more buff and the head darker than that of *crecca*. This is the first Hampshire record since about 1840. See B.B. L. 119-120 for full report.
- 47 **Garganey**.—A male on Alresford Pond on February 18th (G H R), another at Warren Flats on March 4th (G K), and a female on March 11th at Titchfield Haven, flushed at 5 yards range with Teal for comparison (C S) ; all three dates are unusual. A female there on March 29th (J K B) and thereafter a few birds there each month except May and June until September. Maximum 10 on August 25th (C S) ; the last one on September 15th (R H D). A drake at Farlington on April 22nd and two birds (one drake) on June 26th (P G), also one or two on four dates in August (P G).
- 49 **Gadwall**.—Two at Avington on January 22nd (W) and a drake at Alresford from February 11th to March 4th (W *et al.*). Two females at Bishop's Dyke on March 10th and one in Dibden Bay on the 17th (G K).
- 50 **Wigeon**.—In winter several flocks flight up the Avon valley at Fording-bridge at late dusk each evening (J S A). Of the many counts sent in (which have been filed for reference) the largest was of 1,600 feeding in the Meon estuary on February 4th (R H D, J J W E). Five in Titchfield Haven on April 14th (C S), only four (all drakes) in May, none in June, two immatures at N. Hayling on July 30th (G H R) and none in August until the 31st when the first three returned to Langstone Harbour (P G). On March 25th and 31st a W.—E. flight of about 20 birds passed over Langstone Harbour at dusk (P G). The January to March numbers there fluctuated between 110 and 1,000 ; the April numbers declined from 276 on the 1st to 160 on the 2nd, 84 on the 8th, 65 on the 15th, 35 on 19th and three on 22nd. From October to December the numbers rose from 105 on October 8th to 900 on December 1st (*ca.* 500 on the 30th) (P G). In Titchfield Haven the December minimum was 150, the maximum 800 (C S *et al.*). Hundreds also at both ends of the year at Warren Flats, Eling Marsh, Dibden Bay, Pennington Marshes and on the Avon near Ringwood (G K). Maximum in the Island *ca.* 391 on February 12th at Newtown (M M S).
- 52 **Pintail**.—Occurrences well distributed in all months except May and June (only one in July, a drake in eclipse on the 25th on the Meon—R H D) from Christchurch in the west to Langstone Harbour in the east, also on inland waters. The cold spell brought an influx into Langstone Harbour after only odd birds in January, *viz.*, 25 on February 4th, 32 on the 5th, 14 on the 7th, 29 on the 19th and 16 on the 26th (P G). Three (one drake) from W. to E. off St. Catherine's on November 3rd (G H R).

- 53 **Shoveler.**—Very few reported from May to July but otherwise as widespread as Pintail only more of them. The largest numbers were *ca.* 40 at the Gins, Beaulieu, on March 31st and 36 there on December 22nd (both J K B). There are always more at Titchfield Haven (C S *et al*) than in Langstone Harbour where 21 on November 24th was exceptional for that area (P G). Eight drakes and 15 ducks at Newtown on February 12th (M M S).
- 55 **Scaup.**—Many more reported than last year especially during the cold spell in February. Between 30 and 40 in a close flock on the sea off Hengistbury on four dates between February 5th and 19th (J S A, E C, F R C). Some remained in Langstone Harbour well into March, 11 on the 4th, 12 on the 16th and 10 on the 18th; thereafter none reported at all until a drake there on December 29th (P G). Practically all the Titchfield Haven reports were in February.
- 56 **Tufted Duck.**—Exceptionally large influx into Titchfield Haven in the latter part of the February cold spell, *viz.*, *ca.* 100 on the 21st (T E B), 136 on the 22nd (R H D), 212 on the 25th (R H D) (but J K B reports no more than *ca.* 150 on that day). Many stayed on long after the frost had been dispelled by a strong westerly wind, *i.e.*, 150 on the 29th and still 116 on the 10th March (P S S) and about 90 on the 17th (E J W, G H R, C J H, C S). Other retreats in the cold weather were Harbridge (50 on February 26th—(G H R) and Langstone Harbour, 36 on that day, the maximum (P G). A pair remained at Winnall through the early summer months and six throughout the summer in Arlebury Park (W) where E L J and G K saw six on August 6th. A few on Sowley Pond at times in winter—21 on January 15th (R H D) and five on December 24th (G H R). Up to 12 in March on waters near Farnborough, Odiham and Stockbridge (W G B). Twenty in Brading Harbour on March 11th (J B).
- 57 **Pochard.**—Winnall, Alresford, Titchfield Haven and Sowley Pond are the main wintering quarters and there were also 28 on salt water in Langstone Harbour on February 26th, the penultimate day of the cold spell (P G), 18 on the same day at Ibsley (D F B, E J W) and 24 on Fleet Pond and 13 on Dogmersfield Lakes on March 11th (J K B, W G B). No count gave more than 41 (Titchfield Haven, February 5th, R H D); the highest at Winnall was 37 on March 8th (P S S, W) and on Sowley 32 on January 15th (R H D). The only April record was of two drakes and a duck at Marsh Court on the 2nd (E L J and G K). No summer records and very few at the latter end of the year, but 33 on Sowley on December 29th (W H T). Only three in the Island, all drakes, in January and February (J S).
- 60 **Goldeneye.**—Many off Hayling (K B) and *ca.* 35 in Dibden Bay (K H P) in early February, but apart from a very few at both ends of the year off Hengistbury (F R C), Hurst Castle (R M C, J K B), Lymington (J V B), Sowley Pond (R M C, W H T, K H P, J K B), Titchfield Haven (C S, R H D *et al*), Dibden Bay (G K) and one drake on December 16th at Alresford (S M) the concentration was all in Langstone Harbour as follows: 35 on January 1st, 72 on the 21st, 85 on February 4th, 100 on the 7th, 87 on the 13th, 65 on the 26th, 50 on March 4th, 40 on the 18th, 20 redheads on April 1st and 18 on the 2nd. First seen again on October 28th and numbers fairly constant after 33 on December 2nd (P G).
- 61 **Long-tailed Duck.**—Not more than a dozen birds in January, February, November and December (K B, F R C, B W R, J K B, P G). An adult female, slightly oiled, on the sea at Brighstone on February 25th (J S).
- 62 **Velvet Scoter.**—Considerably more than last year, including a flock of 21, 8 or 9 of them drakes, flying east along the Solent off Hill Head on January 29th (R H D, J J W B) and five similarly on February 14th (R H D). Five and four, of which three were drakes, flying from W. to E. off St. Catherine's Point on April 21st (J K B) and 28th (G H R, E J W).

- A few more at both ends of the year and up to six 200 yards off-shore between Highcliffe and Christchurch Bay on August 30th and 31st (I R B).
- 64 **Common Scoter.**—Recorded in all months. A considerable easterly movement off St. Catherine's Point towards the end of April, maximum 146 in ten hours on the 21st (J K B) and about the same number there on August 4th moving west (E J W, G H R). About 80 off Hengistbury on May 8th and 10th (F R C).
- 67 **Eider.**—More than last year. Twelve, including three first winter males off Pennington on January 15th (K H P). Nine at Keyhaven on March 20th and one there on April 16th (J V B). A drake, "probably immature, perhaps eclipse", off Eastney Beach on September 12th (P G); nine at Black Point on December 16th (K B, C J H) and several in November and December.
- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.**—From January to May and October to December. Over 10 at Osborne on March 16th (M C A). Courtship display in a flock of seven males and seven females close inshore at Hayling Bay on April 1st (B W R). During the February cold spell numbers in Langstone Harbour dropped from a maximum of 36 on January 16th to nine but rose again to 29 on March 30th and there were six until April 15th (P G). A female at Winnall, Winchester, for one day on December 28th (P S S).
- 70 **Goosander.**—Possibly some 20 against only five last year, though it is impossible to say whether the same birds were reported at different places on dates close together. Five in Langstone Harbour on January 28th (P G), a pair at Marsh Court on February 18th (G K), five "redheads" in Christchurch Harbour on the 19th (F R C), five by the Avon at Breamore in severe, icy weather on the 26th (E B), a drake on Petersfield lake on November 22nd (W P W) and several, mostly singletons, on or near the coast from January to March and in November - December.
- 71 **Smew.**—Many more than usual; over 30, including nine adult drakes, flew into Titchfield Haven, mostly from the S., nine from N.E., a day or two before the end of the February cold spell (R H D, J K B) and a few were about at Hayling and in Langstone Harbour at the beginning of the month (K B, P G). The last "redhead" was seen in Titchfield Haven on March 10th, long after the thaw had set in (J K B). There was one "redhead" at Winnall from March 5th to 7th (W, P S S). A drake in Langstone Harbour on December 29th and 31st, the weather being wet and rather mild (P G, P S S).
- 73 **Shelduck.**—Many more in Langstone Harbour than last year until the end of May, thus: January 1st 615, 5th ca. 950, 8th ca. 1,000, February 5th ca. 1,500, 25th ca. 2,000, 27th ca. 2,500 (but on the 26th R M C saw only 550), March 4th ca. 3,000, 11th 2,500 (but on the same date R H D saw only 1,500 + 1), 25th ca. 900, 29th ca. 500, April 7th ca. 500, 15th ca. 430, 28th ca. 150, May 5th ca. 100, 22nd 91, throughout June ca. 40. First brood seen on June 17th. September 9th a pair and a brood of half-grown young. The first large return of adults was of 160 on November 3rd (a whole month later than last year). Gradual build up as follows: November 24th ca. 300, December 8th 340, 9th ca. 800, 16th 1,200, 30th ca. 1,000 + (P G).

The big discrepancy in numbers mentioned above in February and March and in other species of duck referred to earlier in this report must be a headache to the organisers of the Wildfowl Counts if they receive reports from different observers of the same areas and, if they do not, the discrepancies are nevertheless there; presumably the larger counts are the correct ones, the smaller ones being due to the temporary absence of some birds in another part of the area out of sight.

In Christchurch Harbour the maximum number was 55-60 from March 30th to April 19th; the first young were seen on June 16th and the maximum 40 on July 11th (F R C *et al*).

The species was recorded at many places on the coast but quite exceptionally in October, *viz.*, three at the Gins on the 5th (W H T) three at Keyhaven on the 3rd and 19 there on the 12th of which 10 were certainly adults (E C).

Four pairs were present throughout the summer on Beaulieu Heath but breeding was rendered impossible by the filling in of rabbit holes (K H P). Probably three pairs nested at Yarmouth (M C A).

Mandarin Duck.—The drake reported as keeping company with a flock of Mallard in November and December 1955 apparently mated this year with a semi-tame duck Mallard of the flock (per G G P).

- 75 **Grey Lag Goose.**—One on Itchen Stoke water-meadows on February 18th. Large size, heavy head and orange bill with white tip, light-coloured neck and light-blue forewing conspicuous in flight (G H R, E J W, J K B). Four on the Avon near Ringwood on the 19th with Whitefronts for comparison (G K). One at the Gins with three Whitefronted Geese on December 24th (D F B, G H R).

- 76 **White-fronted Goose.**—Counts of the usual winter flock in the Avon valley gave at least 400 on February 9th (B W R), *ca.* 640 on the 26th (G H R, D F B, E J W) and *ca.* 210 on March 9th (E C). One hundred and fifty or more on February 22nd, in very hard weather, on a field behind the Keyhaven marshes where they are not seen in mild winters (M R, E C). Flights from E. to W. over Langstone Harbour of 12 birds on February 5th, 50 on the 18th and 43 on the 25th. On the 4th of March 19 flying from W. to E. were watched out of sight turning in over the Sussex Downs (P G). On March 17th eight came over from Yarmouth to Pennington where they turned and flew E. (J K B). A very few near Winchester in mid-February and up to three on the coast in December.

There was a possible hybrid Lesser White-front x White-front among a party of 14 White-fronts on Hayling Island on February 25th (Keith Shackleton), of which a detailed description appeared in *British Birds* XLIX, 229, with a comment by Peter Scott who is of the opinion that such hybrids do occur.

J S A reported 21 flying N. at Hale on February 26th, the last day of the cold spell, and between 600 and 1,000 flying N.W. at Damerham on the 28th when the thaw was complete.

- 80 **Brent Goose.**—Although there were small parties (maximum *ca.* 50 at Pennington in early February—A P-S) at both ends of the year from Hurst Castle eastwards along the coast and 42 at Newtown from February 17th—27th (when, joined in flight by *ca.* 30 more, they flew off to the East) (M M S), large numbers and frequent counts come as usual from Langstone Harbour (P G) as follows: *ca.* 200 on January 1st rising to *ca.* 250 on the 22nd, 293 on February 3rd, *ca.* 400 from 4th to 6th, 438 on 7th, *ca.* 500 on the 11th (the peak), 410 on 12th, 380 on 27th, *ca.* 250 on March 10th, 467 on 13th, *ca.* 500 (another peak) on 18th, 230 on 24th, *ca.* 200 on 25th, *ca.* 100 on 29th and 30th; 103 on April 1st, 15 on the 4th, 2 on the 11th, 12 on 14th and 15th, 2 on the 16th and 3 on the 28th.

The first return was of nine on October 9th, 17 by November 3rd, 55 by the 24th, 78 on December 1st, *ca.* 90 on the 16th, 120 on the 21st and *ca.* 400 on the 27th. All these latter were Dark-breasted except for seven on November 11th (P G).

- 82 **Canada Goose.**—Notes received only from Fleet Pond, Dogmersfield Park and Stratfield Saye. Four pairs on Fleet Pond in March (J K B, W G E) and three pairs on April 2nd (W G E). At Dogmersfield 14 on February 18th, six birds on March 4th and one pair on the 11th (W G E).

- At Stratfield Saye in October none on the 10th, 13 on the 17th and 11 on the 26th ; none in November nor on December 11th (E A G).
- 84 **Mute Swan.**—Christchurch Harbour holds the largest numbers, usually all or nearly all adults, and the following counts were made : 17 on April 8th, 170 on May 16th (E C), 200+ on June 29th (M C A), 400+ on July 7th (F R C *et al.*), 176+ on July 10th, 148+ on the 15th (E C), 200+ on August 3rd (P S S), 187+ on the 15th, 180 on September 11th, 170 on the 22nd, 111 on October 4th (E C), 156 on November 10th (W) and *ca.* 146 on December 17th (E C). Three pairs in Titchfield Haven each had three attempts at nesting but the nests were all swamped ; one pair had a fourth unsuccessful attempt (C S). One pair reared ten young at Browndown (R H D). Sturt Pond, Milford, held 60 adults and 10 immatures on January 8th, 39 and 7 on the 12th, none on February 16th (still almost frozen over) and 26 adults and five immatures on December 27th (E C). At least six nesting sites in the Island but no large winter herds.
- 85 **Whooper Swan.**—The long cold spell in February brought more than usual. Thirty-two flew E. low along the sea-wall at Titchfield Haven on February 4th, "whooping loudly and continuously" (R H D *et al.*). In Langstone Harbour there were two on February 11th, 18 flying E. to W. on the 13th and an immature nearby on the 19th (P G). Five near Conigar Point, Emsworth, on the 21st (B W R), an immature in Titchfield Haven on the 20th (W H T) and one off Cowes on March 4th (R H) ; three in Brading Harbour, when all fresh water was frozen, on February 4th (J S). Two adults in Christchurch Harbour on November 11th and an immature at Avon on the Avon on December 29th (F R C *et al.*). The only other inland occurrence reported was of 17 at Fullerton on the Test for a few days during the cold weather in February (per E L J).
- 86 **Bewick's Swan.**—A notable year for this species. From February 22nd (14 ; R B) until March 24th (6 ; C S) many people saw varying numbers in Titchfield Haven, the peak being 34 on the 18th when 27 were seen to leave, leaving seven behind (T E B). Only two or three were immature. From March 7th to 9th there were 21, including about 10 immatures on Long Pond, Burley ; they had gone by the 12th (C P). There were two adults and five immatures at Ibsley on February 26th (G H R, D F B, E J W). An adult and two immatures on the Test at Fullerton for about a month up to March 26th were seen by several observers. In Langstone Harbour 14 (10 adult) on February 11th, 20 flew over from E. to W. on the 18th and 14 similarly on the 21st ; 28 there (four immature) on the 25th left later to the W. On March 18th 12 flew from W. to E. in the evening over Portsmouth (all P G).
- 91 **Buzzard.**—There really do seem to have been fewer this year both in the New Forest and outside it. Nearly all reports were of single birds or pairs and only twice (in May) were five seen together. Only three or four reports of single juveniles and only one (D W) of a brood of three (July 21st, able to fly). Three nests with fresh greenery in April appeared abandoned in early May (P L D). There was again a report of a pair shot at Hursley and of one hanging up as a scarecrow at Romsey (J H T). Three, possibly four, over Garstons Down in the Island on March 25th (W S).
- 93 **Sparrowhawk.**—At 0530 hours on April 2nd a female caught a Jackdaw on a lawn at Sway in full view of the house ; it took just over half an hour to kill it and was at first mobbed by a flock of Rooks ; at one time eight Magpies joined in the mobbing from a low branch and one of them alit very close two or three times and almost but not quite pulled at the hawk's tail. The hawk could only lift the Jackdaw a yard or two at a time even after the latter was dead. When it was finally scared off some 70 minutes

- after the attack the Jackdaw's breast on both sides was found to be eaten but no other part (E C). A nestling ringed in Norway on June 20th, 1952, was recovered at Ringwood on September 17th, 1952 (*B.B. XLIX*, 443).
- 95 **Kite.**—One at Old Winchester Hill on August 15th, 16th and 17th (I P) was watched circling at about 2/300 ft. or gliding at about 20-40 ft. above the ground. It was mobbed on one occasion by two Crows, and Kestrels often flew very close to it. At times it came to within 60 ft. of the observer, who was using 8 x 30 binoculars. Sketches made at the time showed the forked tail (with one feather missing), the white patch on the under side of the wings, the light head and, on the upper side of the wing, a light bright orange band between the red of the leading edge and the black of the trailing edge. Very rare in the county.
- 99 **Marsh Harrier.**—Single birds on or near the coast, mostly females, from January to May, September and October. A female at Ringwood on January 21st (J K B) and an immature male at Farlington from May 6th to 20th (P G).
- 100 **Hen Harrier.**—A male about round Burley for some weeks to at least March 8th, two males quartering a moor in the New Forest on February 19th (R H D, J J W E), a male at Farlington Marsh on May 6th soared off to the N.W. at a great height (plain secondaries and white rump clearly seen) (P G), a male at the same place on December 9th (P G) and one on several dates in December at Red Rice, near Andover, with a "ring-tail" (P. Lang per E L J). An adult male at Damerham on two dates in March and three dates in November and a "ringtail" on five dates January to March 26th when it was eating a Partridge (J S A). Other "ringtails" at Marsh Court on February 18th (G K) and in November at Micheldever (P S S) and near Winchester (F C).
- 102 **Montagu's Harrier.**—Two pairs nested within about a mile of one another, the two males being first seen by E C on May 10th; one of the pairs reared one young and the other possibly three out of 4. Another pair was present all summer, the male being first seen on May 5th, and presumably attempted to breed; they were not interfered with. One male of the first two pairs was thought to be a second summer bird (K H P, D F B). Yet another male was quartering a quite different locality on June 13th (M B).
- 103 **Osprey.**—An adult in Langstone Harbour from April 29th to May 2nd (P G); one flying north low over the Solent near Lymington on October 2nd (J G) and one perched on an island in Langstone Harbour on October 9th (F C, P C, P G). Good descriptions of all three.
- 104 **Hobby.**—First date May 15th (J S A); last date September 16th at Hengistbury Head (F R C). J S A says "very few records compared with last year; ? decrease". G H R located two nests and W G E saw a pair of adults with two young on August 22nd on the eastern border of the county in a district from which very few notes are received for this report. From the better known areas many reports were received.
- 105 **Peregrine.**—Reported in all months except August. One pair "obviously breeding" at usual site (G H R). A very large first winter female shot near Rockbourne about February 21st was brought to J S A for identification; it was larger than the largest in *The Handbook* "but definitely not Gyr Falcon on wing-formula. Wing = 375 mm., weight = 963 grms."
- 107 **Merlin.**—In all months except May to August. The not infrequent reports were of isolated occurrences but there were also the following of birds being seen at one place over a period. A female at Farlington from January 1st to February 19th with a male also on January 8th, 14th and 15th, and February 4th; also a female there from October 8th to December 25th with single males on November 17th and 24th, and December

- 23rd (P G). At Damerham one on February 11th and 18th, a pair on March 19th and 20th, and two males on the 21st (J S A).
- 110 **Kestrel**.—A male at Ibsley on February 26th was seen to catch and kill a Mistlethrush weakened by the cold (D F B). Curiously enough Mistlethrush is not included among the prey listed in *The Handbook* although Fieldfare is. On September 16th four flew along Hengistbury and up the Solent at about five-minute intervals and single birds left Hengistbury flying S. in early morning watches on September 23rd and 30th (F R C). Two males migrating N.W. low and fast along the shore at Warsash on November 3rd (R H D).
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge**.—Two at St. Lawrence, a few miles W. of Ventnor, on March 3rd (G H R, J K B). As none had been reported from the Island, at least for many years past, we made enquiries through J S A who kindly sent us the following reply from Commander Minchin, an authority on partridges in the Island: "Red-legs in the I.O.W. are almost certainly not native birds, nor have they flown from the mainland. They are hand-reared. Several attempts have been made in recent years to rear and/or introduce them. These attempts have always had very limited success; the reason for this is obscure. Birds released have lived for a season or two, then disappeared. So far as I know, none has been observed to breed in the Island."
- "The last release of birds was in July or August 1953 when 28 were put out near Bowcombe, in the centre of the Island. These birds were reared and released by Mr. F. Cram, Ladylands, Shorwell. Another lot were reared and released between the wars, but I am not sure of the year or number. They, too, disappeared."
- A gamekeeper's estimate set the ratio of Common to Red-legged in the Micheldever district at 7—1 (P S S). On the other hand, in the Norley Wood area (near Beaulieu) the keeper reports more Red-legged than Common, with several barren pairs (per P L D).
- At East Boldre on June 30th a pair with a brood of young successfully drove off the repeated attacks of a Kestrel (J S A).
- 116 **Partridge**.—A female killed by a Tawny Owl on June 30th at Damerham whilst incubating (J S A). 60-70 pairs on a 1,000-acre Micheldever farm (P S S).
- 117 **Quail**.—Heard and occasionally seen between June 6th (M C A) and August 20th (M G) near Damerham (J S A), Stockbridge (G K) and Over Wallop (M C A) and also one seen at S. Hayling on July 30th (G H R).
- 118 **Pheasant**.
- 120 **Water Rail**.—More reported than last year, yet in the Damerham—Alderholt area where they are usually regular in winter very few were seen (J S A). Reported in all months except June, though only once in May, July and September. An adult was resident at a duck-pond at Lee-on-Solent from November to March and was seen once with a piece of bread in its bill (J M). Several January and March records from the Island (E J W, G H R *et al*).
- 121 **Spotted Crake**.—One at Farlington on January 8th and 18th. On the 8th it was in view, running, for ca. 30 yards when short bill, barred flanks and white-flecked upper back and shoulders were noted; on the 18th it was flushed from almost underfoot when the short bill and buff under tail coverts were noted, also that it was smaller than a Water Rail (P G).
- 125 **Corncrake**.—One at Farlington on April 16th and 26th (P G), one at Damerham on May 4th and one at Lymington on September 17th (J S A), one caught and another seen at St. Catherine's Light on the night of August 31st/September 1st (G H R, E J W) and one disturbed from long grass near Conigar Point, Emsworth, on October 4th when

- chestnut patches on wings and other characteristics were seen (B W R).
- 126 **Moorhen**.—About 40 at sea off Hill Head in extremely cold weather on February 8th (T E B), 19+ on Great Ballard Lake, New Milton on October 22nd (E C), 24 on November 15th and 13 on December 5th on wet meadows by Keyhaven pond (E C), 24 at Warsash on December 27th and ca. 60 in Titchfield Haven on the 30th (R H D).
- 127 **Coot**.—Many large coastal flocks, sometimes of several hundred, during the cold spell and well on into March after the thaw, especially in Titchfield Haven (C S, R H D), but the largest of all was of 463 on Stanpit Marsh and in Christchurch Harbour on February 12th (E C), where the final dispersal of the winter flock was about April 2nd (F R C); the autumn build-up there was from 21 on November 13th to 290 on December 10th (F R C *et al*). Sowley Pond holds large numbers at times: about 200 feeding there on January 15th (R H D), 80 on the 17th (W H T), ca. 170 on November 17th (E J W), ca. 100 on December 24th (G H R) and ca. 350 on the 29th (W H T). On salt water in Langstone Harbour the maxima were ca. 250 on February 12th and 289 on December 1st (P G). Considerable concentrations (up to ca. 150) in Brading Marsh and Harbour from January 28th to March 11th (J B, G H R, E J W); also on Winnall and Avington (P S S). Bred in the Test valley (M C A) near Fritham, New Forest (R M C), and at Winchester, where the first young were seen swimming in the river on April 25th, an exceptionally early date considering the hard weather which had preceded (P S S).
- 131 **Oystercatcher**.—Many counts of coastal flocks have been made, often of the order of 50 to 100 birds, maximum ca. 150 at Warsash on November 4th (P S S); numbers were nearly always larger to the E. of the Beaulieu river than to the W. of it. The variations in winter numbers do not seem significant but that many non-breeding birds must remain in flocks through the breeding-season is shown, for example, by the following counts in Langstone Harbour from April to June: ca. 50 on April 8th, 72 on the 15th, 88 on the 19th, 65 on the 28th, ca. 60 on May 20th and ca. 50 throughout June (P G). Bred at Stanpit successfully although incubation of the two eggs lasted from May 27th to June 26th, presumably owing to frequent disturbance (F R C); also bred at Thorness Bay (W S). Three in the beam of St. Catherine's Light after dark on September 9th (B A E M *et al*) and there is some evidence of a small E. to W. movement off the Light in August (E J W). The "usual partial albino" was seen in Langstone Harbour on September 9th, October 8th, 20th and 21st, November 3rd and 24th (P G). One bird at Winchester on February 18th (D J M).
- 133 **Lapwing**.—Recoveries of two ringed nestlings: one ringed at Brighstone May 1st, 1955, found dead at Guenrouet, Loire-Inférieure, France, on February 19th (J S); another ringed at Damerham on May 25th, 1954, presumed killed in March 1956 at Nostang, nr. Kerrignac, Hennebont, Morbihan, 230 miles S.S.W. (J S A).

At Damerham on February 16th a loud Golden-Plover-like "thuee" from a bird on the ground when attacked by another. A bird found dead on March 10th had *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* in its blood (J S A).

Cold weather movements: On February 1st, the first day of the cold spell, many flying S. at Fordingbridge all afternoon in parties up to 60 all very high (J S A). Two hundred and twenty flying E. over the sea off Brownhitch on February 14th (R H D). There were up to 500 resident on Eastleigh airport before the cold spell but by February 13th there were only 30, and on the 22nd, none (E A G). There were also movements on January 9th when there was an icy N. wind in the morning, the day ending, however, much milder and with rain: 1,050 off Brownhitch flying S.E. over the sea, but at mid-day the movement changed direction to the W., straight through the Solent (R H D); on the same

day 1,300 went from E. to W. over Farlington Marshes and 180 similarly over Southsea (P G).

After the thaw had been complete for a week 53 birds flew past St. Catherine's from E. to W. in three hours on March 3rd (E J W, J K B, G H R). *Ca.* 50 from S.W. to N.E. off the sea into Langstone Harbour on March 4th (P G). In the second half of the year some of the reported flocks were : in Langstone Harbour *ca.* 150 on July 3rd, 270 on August 11th, *ca.* 300 on August 18th and September 9th, *ca.* 150 on the 22nd and on November 17th, *ca.* 300 on December 16th, and *ca.* 500 on the 26th (P G). Large influx noted on Warren shore on October 14th, when about 600 in several flocks flew in from the N.E. and alit with the resident population ; total number present was at least 1,000 (G K).

In small flocks at roosting time as early as June 5th at Wallop and numbers increased to 200+ by July 24th and 300+ on August 13th (M C A).

- 134 **Ringed Plover.**—A chick ringed at Hengistbury on May 3rd (F R C) was early. The largest counts other than in Langstone Harbour were *ca.* 200 at Needs Oar on January 28th and 210 at Warsash on August 29th (J K B) and *ca.* 150 at Hamble on October 7th and a similar number at Warsash on November 5th (P S S). Two flew N.W. over Portsdown from Langstone Harbour on May 5th (P G). Counts in Langstone Harbour were as follows : *ca.* 50 on February 13th, *ca.* 300 on March 10th, *ca.* 100 on 14th, 3 on April 9th and *ca.* 50 on the 29th and May 9th, *ca.* 100 on the 12th and 50 on the 20th, up to 30 in June (9th) and up to 20 in July (29th), 110 on August 11th and *ca.* 150 by the 25th and again on September 9th and November 25th, *ca.* 1,000 on December 1st (P G).
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover.**—A pair from May 1st to June 15th on the shore of Southampton Water where seen last year. Frequent display-flight but no evidence of nesting (K H P).
- 136 **Kentish Plover.**—A male in breeding plumage in Langstone Harbour on April 7th (P F Le B, C J H). Described as "decidedly smaller than Dunlin, neater than Ringed Plover ; upper parts sandy brown, crown rufous-chestnut, lores and ear-coverts blackish, white stripes above lores meeting at base of upper mandible and conspicuous when seen head-on, dark bar on forehead. Whole of under parts pure white with whitish semi-collar almost meeting on nape. Rectangular black mark on either side of breast. Bill small and blackish, legs long and slender and black.
- One on Stanpit on September 1st (R J J, F R C). "Directly compared with Ringed Plover, when the following points were noted : smaller ; lighter and more sandy-coloured mantle ; bill, legs and feet black ; more white showing on tail when bird on ground ; broken pectoral band."
- 139 **Grey Plover.**—Again reported in all months all along the coast but only on four dates (total nine birds) from the Island. Often in considerable numbers, maximum *ca.* 170 on September 9th in Langstone Harbour where there were between 15 and 80 on a number of days between April 1st and August 22nd and, exceptionally and surprisingly, as many as 93 on June 24th ; the following movements from the harbour over Portsdown were seen, 15 to the N.W. on April 18th, 25 to N.N.E. on May 13th and 3 to N.W. on May 26th. On August 18th there was a sudden arrival of birds in summer plumage, the count on that day giving *ca.* 50 (P G). A single bird in summer plumage was seen at Stanpit on nine days in September between the 1st and the 25th.
- 140 **Golden Plover.**—From January until April 15th when the breeding trill was heard among a party of 16 at E. Hayling (K B, C J H) ; very few in September beginning with two at St. Catherine's Light on the morning of the 15th (G H R) and from October to the end of the year. Flocks

much as usual both inland and on the coast ; numbers at Eastleigh airport increased from 100 on December 3rd to 425 on the 29th (D W), which was the largest flock reported this year. Very few reports from the Island.

- 143 **Turnstone.**—In every month, as usual ; many of those in the summer months assume breeding plumage. The largest count was of 236 flighting down the Hamble river from a high-tide roost in the afternoon of September 4th (R H D). The following movements from Langstone Harbour were noted : to the N.W. over Portsdown 23 on May 13th, 60 on the 18th, 27 on the 21st and 6 to the N., which left the number there on the 22nd at 43 followed by an increase to about 150 on the 26th. On June 24th there were *ca.* 40 there (P G).
- 145 **Snipe.**—Many counts received, the largest being of 68 in one flock at Somerley on February 26th (G H R, D F B, E J W).
- 147 **Jack Snipe.**—Quite often recorded in small numbers, nine or less, in the first and last quarters. The following more unusual notes are worth recording : 15 on April 6th, 2 on May 1st, 1 on September 30th and 8 on December 1st, all at Farlington Marshes (P G).
- 148 **Woodcock.**—One ringed in Sweden as nestling June 15th, 1952, was recovered at Basingstoke on October 12th, 1952 (*B.B.* XLIX, 445). Several people reported seeing (and shooting) very many more than usual in West Hants in November/December (J S A).
- 150 **Curlew.**—Some of the larger counts were : at E. Hayling *ca.* 550 on April 15th, *ca.* 800 on July 28th, *ca.* 2,000 on September 9th (all K B, C J H). In Langstone Harbour 400 on January 15th, 450 on April 1st, 200 on May 22nd, 250 in June, 500 on July 1st, 1,000 on the 15th, 1,500 on August 5th, 1,500 on September 2nd, 1,000 on the 9th and 22nd, 300 in October, 500 on November 3rd, 450 on December 1st (all P G and numbers approximate). On Eling Marsh 350 August 26th, up to 400 in September, 350 in October and 300 on December 9th (all G K).
- The following movements were reported : 31 to E. at Hill Head on March 17th (E J W, G H R), 27 and 49 from W. to E. at Langstone Harbour on April 2nd and on the 8th 29 left to the S.E. after many false starts (P G), 33 to E. past St. Catherine's on April 20th (J K B, W H T), six from W. to E. over Hurst Spit on May 8th, having come in off the sea (G H R) and 27 from E. to W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile offshore past St. Catherine's on August 4th (G H R, E J W, J K B). A few pairs breed in the New Forest.
- 151 **Whimbrel.**—First date April 11th, one on Farlington Marshes (P G). Last date October 13th, one at Pennington (R H). (The last date in 1955, inadvertently omitted from last year's report, was November 10th.) The largest numbers were 150 on May 9th and 213 on August 19th, both at Farlington Marshes (P G). Thus the spring maximum was the same as last year and on the same date, whereas the autumn maximum was over four times as great in 1956 and eighteen days later. A few reported in June and July. The following are among movements noted at Farlington : on May 11th flocks of 9, 23 and 5 left to the E. ; on the 12th 28 and 2 to the N. ; on the 13th 9 to the N. and on the 22nd 4 to the N.W. (P G). In late summer there was a gradual build-up there from 3 or 4 in early July to 43 on the 22nd and 100 on the 29th and August 5th ; on the 21st a party of 37 (out of about 100) left at 1300 hours G.M.T. to the S., gaining "a considerable height". Ten or fewer there in September (P G). Very few reported from the Island on both passages.
- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.**—In all months ; largest flock *ca.* 500 at Tournembury, Hayling, on September 9th (K B, C J H). Fewer than 100 in Langstone Harbour in the first three months but 180 on April 1st and 120 on the 19th ; in May 17 on the 6th, 5 on the 26th, 39 on the 31st ; in June *ca.* 40 on the 3rd, 49 on the 10th and 30th ; in July 204 on the

- 8th, 300 on the 15th ; in August 224 on the 19th ; in September *ca.* 300 on the 2nd and 340 on the 22nd ; between 100 and 160 from October to the end of the year (P G). Some movements : 40 from Langstone Harbour to the N.W. on April 17th (P G) ; a flock estimated at 20 - 30 birds judging by the noise was heard at 2.30 a.m. on April 18th at St. Catherine's Light ; they came in off the sea and flew over in a northerly direction with a great clamour, but were not seen at all. The wind was N. to N.E. The observers were familiar with the call-note of the species (R R, R J W). At Hill Head on October 21st 66 came from N. or N.E., circled and flew out again across Southampton Water to the N.W. (C S *et al*). Eling Marsh is also a haunt of the species in autumn (G K) and these birds may have been going there.
- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.**—In all months ; fewest in October. With one exception (108 on March 14th at Brownwich—R H D) all flocks of over 100 (maximum *ca.* 300 on January 1st—P G, and 18th—R H D) were in Langstone Harbour. The approximate monthly maxima there were February 19th 80, March 10th 60, April 15th 100, May 22nd 43, June 17th 50, July 15th 60 declining to under 10 until December 9th, 30 (P G). Maximum from the Island 18 at Newtown on February 26th (J S) ; not reported at all from the Island after February.
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.**—A few inland and on the coast in every month except May ; most often in August and September. The only reports of double numbers were 14 at Warsash migrating S.W. on August 7th and 11 there on September 10th of which seven flew S. on migration, calling (R H D).
- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.**—Four or fewer in April and May and from July to the end of September, all of them on the coast. The only May report was of one "doing song flight" over Lymington Marshes on the 6th (R H).
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.**—One or two wintered round Farlington at both ends of the year ; a single bird there on October 3rd and 21st may have been one of these or a straggling late emigrant. The earliest presumed arrival was at Titchfield Haven on April 14th (C S, R H D) and the last presumed departing birds were three on Farlington Marshes on September 30th (P G). As many as 38 there on July 22nd and 30 on August 14th, reduced to 17 on the 17th and *ca.* 10 on September 20th (P G). Singletons at St. Catherine's Point on a few dates in April, August and September but six on September 1st (G H R, E J W, J K B) and on the 9th a large flock congregated on the shore and at 1600 hours B.S.T. 25 of them flew S. out to sea and were followed until lost to sight (B A E M, R R, D R W).
- 161 **Redshank.**—Full display and several unsuccessful attempts at coition on mudflats in Hurst Castle creek on January 8th (E L J). The first breeding birds returned to Damerham on March 18th (J S A). Breeds on the New Forest heaths and in the valleys of the Test, Itchen and Anton. Small numbers frequent cress-beds inland. The only winter counts in Langstone Harbour gave about 1,000 on January 15th and 29th, and 500 on December 16th (P G). Other counts there gave approximately 50 on June 24th, 150 on July 3rd, 293 on the 8th, 400 on the 14th, 1,450 on August 19th, 2,000 on September 8th, 22nd and October 21st (P G), whereas there were practically none in Titchfield Haven all September, October and November (C S). Between 40 and 200 in the Hamble estuary in August and September (R H D, J K B). Seven passed E. to W. at St. Catherine's on August 8th and some were heard before dawn (E J W, J K B).
- The remains of a bird found at Hurst on April 7th had a wing measurement of 167 mm. which is just outside the measurement of the British race and would indicate that it was of the Iceland race (D F B).
- 162 **Spotted Redshank.**—Again in all months but fewer than last year especially at Warren Flats which, however, still produced the only double

figures, *viz.*, 18 on March 25th, 11 on the 26th (W), 10 on April 29th (G K), 12, mostly in summer plumage, on May 1st (W), 14 on November 4th and 11 on the 11th (G K).

- 165 **Greenshank.**—In all months but, except on autumn passage as recorded below, records were mostly of ones and twos and always less than ten. At Warren Flats 10 on August 25th (E J W) and 11 on October 5th (W H T) ; at Farlington Marshes the first return was of one on July 8th, five or fewer until 10 on August 19th, 12 on 21st, 10 on 25th, 11 on 29th, 12 on September 2nd, 22 on the 7th, 26 on the 9th, 11 on the 14th, 18 on the 22nd, 6 on the 30th and still 7 on October 27th (P G). At Pennington Marshes on September 23rd there were 22+, all of them apparently excited and calling almost continually ; at 1600 hrs. B.S.T. a party of nine rose, calling frequently, and moved off S.W. over Hurst Castle and out of sight (G K).
- 169 **Knot.**—In all months and some much larger flocks than in the last two years and, in general, larger numbers reported from a larger number of coastal areas, but none from the Island. Even in June there was one on the 2nd and two on the 4th in Christchurch Harbour (F R C) and three on the 9th, five on the 10th and seven on the 24th in Langstone Harbour (P G). The largest flocks were also there : 240 on January 22nd, 300 on February 5th, 400 on the 13th, 600 on March 10th, 400 on the 30th, 200 on April 1st, 120 on September 23rd, 130 on October 13th and 240 on the 21st, dwindling to 40 by December 29th (P G). There were also 230 at Black Point on January 15th (W H T, J K B) and 157 at Warsash on February 20th (R H D).
- 171 **Little Stint.**—More than in the last two years put together. One in summer plumage at Hurst on May 8th (G H R) and in Langstone Harbour on the 27th with Dunlin (P G). One at Pennington on August 5th (G K), one at Farlington from the 24th to the 26th (P G), two at Ashlett on the west side of Southampton Water on the 27th (K H P) and one at Warren on the 29th (E L J). From one to three in Christchurch Harbour on eight days in September (F R C *et al.*), three at Pennington on the 1st, two at Warsash on the 11th and one on the 20th (R M C) and one at Farlington on the 30th (P G) ; one at Fawley on the 6th September and one at Pennington on October 21st (D B F) ; one at Farlington on December 16th (P G) and one, with a party of Dunlin and Ringed Plover on Newtown Marsh on the 26th (J S).
- 173 **Temminck's Stint.**—One in summer plumage at Farlington Marshes lagoon on May 30th ; trilling call, white outer tail-feathers and no bold back-pattern (P G). One on marshy pools at Ashlett on September 30th ; small size, short black bill, brownish legs, grey head, back and breast ; belly, wing-bar and outer tail-feathers white ; towered when flushed and uttered a cricket-like trill (R M C).
- 178 **Dunlin.**—One ringed as fully grown in Norway on October 5th, 1953, was recovered in Langstone Harbour in February 1954 (B.B. XLIX, 11). Two reports of single birds far inland : one at Winnall on May 7th allowed an extremely close approach (P S S) and there was one at Old Alresford Pond on December 29th (E L J).

Winter flocks were at times much larger even than in 1954 and 1955, *e.g.*, in Langstone Harbour 8,500 on January 2nd and 15,000 on December 1st, about which P G writes that the estimate was based on the division of a counted 100 into a vast flock and that despite the high total it was confidently considered to be less than the actual number present ; on this date none were seen at high tide in the upper waters of Portsmouth Harbour where there are usually large flocks ; 10,000 on December 8th and 6,000 on the 16th in Langstone Harbour (P G). Other large flocks there were 5,000 on February 6th, 2,000 on March 10th and 3,000 on the 24th. A number of parties (maximum 37 on the 19th) flew N.W.

- over Portsdown in April and many more between N.W. and N.N.E. throughout May, e.g., flocks of 40, 28, 29, 50, 21 and 50 out of 300 in the harbour on May 5th (all to N.W.) and 73 to N., 54 to N.N.E., 39 and 78 to N.N.W. and 70 to N.W. out of 400 there on May 13th. Up to 40 were present in June and numbers began again to top the 1,000 mark with 1,200 on July 29th. Evidence of small spring and autumn migrations at St. Catherine's (E J W, G H R, B A E M *et al*). Also parties of 16 and eight migrating up the Meon river on April 14th (C S, R H D). Many other counts received, especially of large winter flocks at Hamble and Warsash (R H D).
- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.**—One in Langstone Harbour on July 30th (P G), a few in August and September on the west side of Southampton Water (K H P, R M C), Keyhaven (I R B), Warsash (J K B, R H D) and in Christchurch and Langstone Harbours (F R C *et al*, P G), maximum seven in the former on September 7th (F R C). One on December 9th and two on the 30th in Langstone (P G).
- 181 **Sanderling.**—Reported in all months except June and October; some larger flocks than last year, those over a hundred being 126 at Black Point, Chichester Harbour on January 1st (having flown from the Sussex coast) (B W R, J K B), 133 at S. Hayling on the 15th (W H T, J K B), 100 at Black Point on December 1st (E J W), 110 at Hayling Island on the 2nd (T B S) and 104 on the 24th (J K B). Migration was seen at Langstone Harbour as follows: on May 13th two left with Dunlin to N.N.W. and on the 26th 15 to the N. over Portsdown; there were still 57 present as late as May 27th (P G). Six off Hill Head on July 20th (C S, W H T, W G B *et al*) and one at Hurst Castle on the 31st (E J W). In the Island 43 on January 7th between Bembridge Point and Whitecliff Bay (J K B) and *ca.* 60 in Brading Harbour on the 28th (G H R, E J W).
- 184 **Ruff.**—All months except June, October and November. Four at Milford on January 8th (G K); at Keyhaven in the prolonged bitter weather of February there were two males, one with a partial white ruff, on the 17th and seven on the 21st (of which two had partial ruffs). On March 26th and 27th there were eight and on the 30th nine; these birds were very wild (E C); there were again nine on April 16th (J V B, who recorded smaller numbers in between these dates). One near Winchester on February 19th (W). A male on Farlington Marshes on May 3rd and July 23rd (P G). One to three at many places on the coast on a number of days in August and September. A female at Stanpit on December 10th (P J F) and one at the Gins (Warren) on the 22nd (J K B).
- 185 **Avocet.**—One in Langstone Harbour on December 26th (P G).
- 187 **Grey Phalarope.**—One at Warren Flats on September 17th (G K) and a Phalarope probably of this species on calm sea between The Needles and Christchurch on the 30th (J G).
- 189 **Stone Curlew.**—First on March 27th (J S A), last (two) on October 13th (M G). Usual breeding numbers; on July 17th a flea found under an incubated egg was identified as *Ceratophyllus garei* (J S A). Declining round Winchester owing to ploughing of downs (G G P). Twenty-one at Sutton Scotney in September (P S S).
- 193 **Arctic Skua.**—A light-phase bird going E. past Stone Point on April 28th and two going E. down the Solent over Hurst on May 5th (J K B). An adult of the light phase in Langstone Harbour on July 22nd and 23rd (pointed tail-feathers seen clearly at close range) (P G). A bird at Bournemouth on July 30th (W D H B). An immature at Warren Flats on August 18th (W H T) and what was very likely the same bird flying E. close in off Hill Head on the same day (R H D).
- 194 **Great Skua.**—One flying E. past St. Catherine's at 7 a.m. on April 22nd (W H T, J K B). Two flew past there S.E. on September 6th, the wind being S.W.; large white patches at base of primaries noted (B A E M *et al*).

- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.**—Not rare inland in winter along the river valleys and as far as Micheldever, especially during the February cold spell. Two hundred on January 3rd and 220 on the 5th at Burnmoor Farm on the outskirts of Southampton attracted by slaughterhouse offal (P D). *Ca.* 200 adults in Langstone Harbour on January 1st, 100 on February 6th and *ca.* 20 immatures throughout June (P G). 100+ at Stanpit on December 17th sheltering from a W.S.W. gale with squally showers and a completely overcast sky (E C). 200+ (adults and immatures) on shingle banks in dense fog at Hill Head on December 23rd (C S). One hundred and seventy in Langstone Harbour on September 8th, an early date for such large numbers. One and possibly two pairs nested in the Needles area.
- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.**—Spring movement along the south coast of the Island and in Langstone Harbour is nearly all from W. to E., though 13 were going in the opposite direction past Main Bench on April 14th (G H R, E J W). In autumn the movement is all from E. to W.
- The large autumn parties were all at St. Catherine's : 60 on August 4th, 153 on the 8th, 80 on the 25th, 200 on September 8th, 134, of which 32 were immature and 35 of the Scandinavian race, on the 29th (E J W, G H R, J K B), 170 on October 6th, 140 on the 7th, 60 on the 21st and 72 in four hours on the 27th (J K B, E J W). About 20, all of the Scandinavian race, between Southampton and Cowes on November 3rd (B C). A few of both races in mid-winter, including two at Barton Stacey on December 29th (E L J) and one at Breamore on the 2nd (E B). In mid-summer : one at Andover on June 11th (M G), one at Breamore on the 5th (E B), an adult in Langstone Harbour on the 7th and 11th (P G) and a single adult in Christchurch Harbour on several occasions from the 16th which was seen feeding a juvenile on the 22nd (F R C *et al.*).
- 200 **Herring Gull.**—Occurrences far inland : 11 at Winnall on March 3rd (W), two at Marsh Court on April 2nd, one at Fullerton on July 22nd and one at Stockbridge on the 25th (E L J) ; 57 at Alresford on October 11th (W). At Langstone Harbour : *ca.* 400 in January and February, 1,450 on March 14th, *ca.* 250 immatures summered there in June and on the 26th there were *ca.* 800 including some adults (P G). A continual stream, mostly of immatures, in from the S.E. at St. Catherine's Point on March 31st, turning W. when reaching the shore (G H R). An E.—W. movement off St. Catherine's on October 27th, 146 being counted in one hour (J K B). "At the height of the February cold spell an immature in its search for food landed on the head of one of our party !" (P S S).
- 201 **Common Gull.**—Fairly common inland until early April and from mid-October to the end of the year (100+ at Alresford on October 11th—(W) and up to 80 every morning during November and December—(P S S)). Usual large numbers in Langstone Harbour in winter (P G). Seventy-one flying down the Test over Stockbridge at dusk on March 25th (J K B). A small passage from the S.E. at St. Catherine's, March 31st, turning W. at the coast (G H R). Continual W. to E. movement over Langstone Harbour all day on April 2nd ; four adults and three immatures there in June (P G). E. to W. passage at St. Catherine's in October : 68 in four hours on the 6th, 43 in 1½ hours on the 7th and all day on the 27th when 184 were counted in an hour (J K B).
- 202 **Glaucous Gull.**—A first winter bird at Black Point on December 16th (K B, C J H). Much larger than Herring Gull (direct comparison), bill heavy, black-tipped, white primaries ; in flight pale fawn colour, rather darker on breast.
- 205 **Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.**—An adult at N. Hayling on July 28th (K B, C J H). Seen in flight at *ca.* 60 yds. and on the ground

- at ca. 120 yds. with 30x telescope ; wings rather shorter than Black-headed Gull, less pointed ; primaries conspicuously white and no white flash on forewing ; head with a blackish hood well into moult with whitish patches on forehead and behind eye ; legs dark reddish ; bill deep red noticeably heavier than Black-headed Gull's.
- 206 **Bonaparte's Gull.**—One in Langstone Harbour on October 6th (P F Le B, G H R). First record for the county of this very rare species. Accepted by B.B. which will publish a full description.
- 207 **Little Gull.**—Only four in 1954 and five in 1955 but about 16 this year. An adult at Stanpit on February 12th (E C), a first winter bird in Langstone Harbour on March 25th, 26th and 28th, a first summer bird on June 1st and 13th, a second summer bird on July 30th, a bird of the year on August 30th and a first winter bird on September 3rd and 29th (P G) ; an ailing juvenile at Freshwater on July 17th, which died on the 20th (per H C H) ; one at Hill Head on August 14th (T E B) and a juvenile there on September 6th (R H D) ; two immatures at Stanpit on September 8th (G H R) and one bird on the 10th (D F) ; an adult at Southampton Generating Station on October 4th (G K) and one off Hill Head on December 8th (M P).
- 208 **Black-headed Gull.**—A bird found in a dying condition on Farlington Marshes on March 25th had been ringed as *pull*. at Nottingham on July 25th, 1954. Large numbers first heard screaming over the Keyhaven gullery on March 5th (E C). An albinistic bird at Eastney Point on April 18th (P G, C J H) had no grey on back and pale brownish scapulars and tips to outer secondaries and inner primaries. One on June 15th in Titchfield Haven was flying with one of its legs dangling and a cockle closed tightly on its foot (C S). A very late moulter still with brown hood on November 27th at Winnall (P S S). Movements : E. to W. past St. Catherine's, 34 on October 6th (E J W), 22 on the 13th and all day on the 27th, 490 being counted in an hour (J K B). First young of the year (three) at Hythe on June 23rd (G H R) ; ca. 300 immatures in Langstone Harbour in June (P G).
- 211 **Kittiwake.**—Twenty-two W. to E. off Hill Head on January 14th after gales (G H R, E J W, J K B) and eight W. to E. off St. Catherine's on May 26th (E J W). A few others off St. Catherine's March to May and July to October. Fifteen passed E. into the Solent over Hurst in two hours during a gale on December 30th (J K B).
- 212 **Black Tern.**—First one in the Solent on April 16th (M R). Only three on spring passage, all in April. One at Hatchet Pond, Beaulieu, on June 16th (D F B, G H R). Many on autumn passage in August and September all along the coast and, inland, one at Winnall on August 6th (G K) and one there almost daily from the 28th until September 17th (P S S). Never more than three together except for a loose flock of 27 seen from the Ryde—Portsmouth steamer on September 10th (B A E M). The only October record is of one at Wootton Creek in the Island on the 13th ; it flew into the Solent and then west (W G E).
- 215 **Gull-billed Tern.**—One at 1430 hours on August 27th flying into a very strong west wind close inshore off St. Catherine's Point. A sketch and full description have been sent us. Though the general size and colouring were similar to those of a Sandwich Tern the shape was distinctive and the forked tail much shorter than that of a Sandwich. The flight was heavy with a definitely Gull-like action. The most noticeable feature was the heavy, angled, black bill, back from which ran a wide black eyestripe. The head, apart from the eyestripe, was completely white. The bird was seen for the whole crossing in front of the observer (E L J).
- 217 **Common Tern.**—Few observers distinguish between Common and Arctic Terns and some of those who attempt to do so describe the colour

of the bill as for a Common and then call it an Arctic; therefore most observations have perforce to be lumped together as "Comic", which, indeed, is how most of the observations are sent in. One of the few definitely identified as Common was the first one seen in Langstone Harbour, on April 15th (P G). About 12 pairs bred at the seaward edge of the spartina on the Solent (J K B).

- 218 **Arctic Tern.**—Rather more Arctics are definitely claimed than Common, the first one, again in Langstone Harbour, on April 16th (P G). There were 14 there on August 12th, 13 on the 25th, four on September 9th and smaller numbers on other days in August (P G). The last was seen at Haslar on October 9th (T E B), who also saw one take a bumble bee flying low over the sea on August 3rd (per C S).

- 217/8 **Common/Arctic Tern.**—The earliest were five going E. down the Solent over Hurst on April 14th (J K B) and the last were two on October 20th (P G). Some of the more interesting movements recorded were: Spring passage in small numbers over Langstone Harbour from April 22nd to May 26th (P G). Eighty-two going E. over Hurst down the Solent on May 5th and 115 in six hours on the 21st, at least seven being Arctic (J K B). Thirty flew E. past St. Catherine's in 6½ hours on May 19th (D F B). At 2000 hours G.M.T. on June 27th two flew N. at a great height over Portsdown Hill from Langstone Harbour (P G). Four to the S. at a considerable height on July 9th, three to S.W. on the 15th, nine dropped in from the N. and continued to S., low, on the 22nd, nine, one and 12 to S.W. on August 18th, 15 in at a height from N. on September 9th and seven similarly from N. to S. on October 6th "all of which point to birds passing generally S. overland and coming out at Langstone Harbour, i.e., the converse of the spring wader passage, which has included some terns." Twelve from E. to W. off Eastney on July 30th; 44 left Eastney and flew out of sight round the Island on August 23rd, nine from E. to W. there on September 16th (P G). About 80 moving W. through Hurst Narrows on August 27th (I R B). Autumn passage at Eling Marsh (Southampton Water) included ca. 45 on August 29th and ca. 40 on September 22nd (G K). Present throughout the breeding season at Yarmouth (M C A).

- 219 **Roseate Tern.**—Two flying E. over Hurst shingle bank on April 15th. "Very long streamers, long, thin, red-black bill, long wings" (R H D, J J W E).

- 222 **Little Tern.**—First date April 15th, six from W. to E. over Langstone Harbour (P G); last date October 12th, 10 at the Floating Bridge, Woolston (D B F); as this date is somewhat late we got a full and convincing description from the observer.

Spring passage at Langstone from April 17th to May 22nd, maximum 14 on April 28th (P G). By far the largest number in spring was 77 going E. over Hurst on May 5th (J K B). About seven pairs bred there, some successfully (J V B, D W, K H P). Many summer and early autumn records all along the coast (P S S *et al*), but hardly any from the Island. Numbers in Langstone Harbour were: 34 on July 15th, 42 on the 24th, 62 on August 5th, 70 on the 12th, 58 on the 20th and 55 on the 21st (P G).

- 223 **Sandwich Tern.**—One ringed on June 28th, 1947, at de Beer, South Holland, was caught by a wing in a fishing-hook on June 12th while diving for small fish which were being chased by bass in the western approaches to the Solent; it was released, none the worse (W. J. Thomas per J S). First arrival, one from W. to E. over Hurst Spit on April 7th (D F B, G H R); last birds, off Warsash, one, and at Eling Marsh, two, on September 30th (R H D and G K respectively). W D H B, per Dr. K. B. Rooke, states that 10 pairs bred in 1955 and 17 pairs in 1956 at an

- unnamed spot on the coast and breeding this year too is strongly suspected (D W, K H P, M C A) ; these would be the first breeding records for the county. Some notable easterly movements in spring : over Hurst 62 on May 5th (J K B), off St. Catherine's 146 in 6½ hours on May 19th, mostly in small parties but one of 30 and one of 18 (D F B, G H R) ; much smaller numbers from E. to W. off St. Catherine's in August and September (G H R, E J W, J K B).
- 224 **Razorbill.**—At Main Bench between Freshwater Bay and The Needles *ca.* 80 birds on April 14th (G H R, E J W) and about 80 pairs on May 12th (J K B). One blown inland in January "has settled down as a family pet and is thriving on a regular diet of raw herrings" (*I.O.W. County Press*, March 31st).
- 226 **Little Auk.**—One storm-driven on Thorns Beach on January 11th was released ; it swam away but was later found dead (R D). A flock of six and two singles were seen from the ferry midway between Portsmouth and Ryde pier-head at about 1500 hours on December 1st. The weather was bitterly cold with a moderate wind blowing up Channel (R E L).
- 227 **Guillemot.**—At Main Bench *ca.* 50 birds (G H R, E J W) on April 14th and *ca.* 80 pairs on May 12th (J K B). A juvenile dead, badly oiled at Hill Head, September 21st (C S) and two dead and two alive but badly oiled in December (four observers).
- 230 **Puffin.**—*Ca.* 10 pairs at Main Bench on May 12th (J K B). An adult found alive in the water below Culver Cliff on May 16th died soon afterwards. The plumage was clean but parts of the alimentary tract were found to be clogged with oil (G A H W).
- 232 **Stock Dove.**—Flocks reported from Titchfield Haven, Warsash and Brownich ; maximum 45 feeding on ploughed fields on the cliffs of latter place on January 9th (R H D). A flock of *ca.* 100 Beacon Hill, main Newbury road, April 6th (E A G).
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**—No outstanding records, although numerous large flocks reported during the cold spell, and W S reports on March 25th that at Froglands and Bowcombe Farms in the Island, "I have never seen so many". Two hundred and nine shot at Wellow considered a record for two guns (*I.O.W. County Press*, April 14th).
- 235 **Turtle Dove.**—First record April 21st, East Martin (B C). A pair breeding close to shore at Conigar Point, Emsworth. One young bird seen on July 4th. Adults and juvenile often seen to fly out into *spartina* on mudflats (B W R). Passage noted at St. Catherine's Light September 9th, 151 flying east between midnight and 6 a.m., wind N.E. very strong. On a corresponding watch on September 10th only three recorded, going east under similar conditions (R R, B A E M, D R W).
- 237 **Cuckoo.**—May 13th two observed going north over the Solent at Hill Head (E J W). Two adults at Farlington Marshes on August 21st and a single juvenile there on September 15th (P G). One at Park Gate September 21st (R H D).
- 241 **Barn Owl.**—Several reports of hunting in broad daylight from widespread localities, the majority during the cold spell of January—March (P S S). Three seen hunting in daylight at Kingsworthy, April 27th (W). A bird disturbed feeding on a juvenile Linnet, Ashley Walk, New Forest, June 5th (J S A).
- 246 **Little Owl.**—Two at St. Catherine's Point, September 22nd (E J W). March 13th, Pear Tree Farm, Emery Down, Lyndhurst ; two in an oak, one of which several times descended to a mole heap, where it caught and ate a worm. Imitation of its courtship note brought immediate response, at first softly but later in full strength, uttered both from the tree and when perched on the mole heap. A Song Thrush feeding on the ground, often within four or five yards of the owl, kept up a continuous note of alarm (P L D).

- 247 **Tawny Owl.**—Eight "calling excitedly" and flying around a garden at Park Gate, September 14th (R H D). One reported killing an incubating Partridge on the nest at Damerham, June 27th (J S A).
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.**—Seen on Farlington Marshes from January to April 17th. Also up to four birds on many dates from October to the end of the year (P G). A single bird on March 31st at St. Catherine's Point soared out of sight to seaward, going S.E. (G H R). One in a kale field at Damerham, December 12th (J S A). One Danebury Hill, Stockbridge, December 8th (M G), and four there on 30th (E L J).
- 252 **Nightjar.**—A bird heard to clap its wings thirty-seven times in succession, Farley Mount, June 4th (P S S). One male when put up off young "made a noise like the moaning of wind in telegraph wires", Avon Tyrrell, July 11th (J E M). A male seen dusting on a track in the midday sun, Latchmore Bottom, New Forest (J S A). Many breeding records from throughout the area.
- 255 **Swift.**—First record, one flying over Farlington Marshes on April 22nd (R H D *et al*) and seven at Winnall on the same day (P S S). Most spring records were for birds flying N. but five were seen going E. to W. off shore at South Hayling on May 11th (G H R), *ca.* 40 going E. to W. off shore at Eastney on June 26th, and a single bird in the opposite direction on the same day (P G). From about 1945 hours B.S.T. small parties and individual birds which had been feeding with hirundines over the north slopes of Butser Hill began moving off in an E. to N.E. direction: wind light to moderate S.E. to E. (B W R). A general exodus of local birds from the Andover district took place during the first two weeks of August, after which only stragglers were seen, all moving down the river Test (E L J). At Hayling on July 28th there was a continual passage to the S.W. all the afternoon, wind moderate to fresh S.W. cloudy (K B, C J H). P G report autumn passage, "August 5th to September 6th no large numbers involved and mostly moving S.W. or W. However, twenty-one seen over Langstone Harbour on August 11th were going N.W." At St. Catherine's Point on August 10th 23 came in off the sea from the south and continued on inland, while *ca.* 50, first seen far out to the south, turned E. on reaching the coast. Ten flew W. to E. off the point on July 28th and two in the opposite direction far out at sea on August 8th (G H R, E J W, J K B). Larger concentrations noted were: 160 Farlington Marshes June 9th (R H D), *ca.* 100 at same place on August 6th (C S). There are two records of birds at St. Catherine's Light, two on the night of August 3rd/4th and one 7th/8th (G H R, E J W, J K B). Two records of birds leaving the coast: two going S. out to sea from St. Catherine's Point on July 28th (E J W) and two S. from Hengistbury Head early in the morning of September 5th (F R C). Last record, *ca.* 12 feeding and flying round at Seaview on September 10th (R A L). At Fordingbridge on July 4th and 5th a swift was observed with two white feathers (*ca.* 1½ in. long) attached to the tip of the right outer tail feather, apparently placed there as a marker. An unsuccessful attempt was made to catch it; of twenty other adults caught, all carried several parasitic flies (*Crataerina pallida*) (J S A). An adult caught at its nest when placed on a lawn instantly rose and flew off (E L J).
- 258 **Kingfisher.**—Many reports of single birds. Birds noted on the coast from August 2nd to end of the year. A pair feeding two fledglings by Sturt Pond, Milford-on-Sea, September 1st (J K B). A small eel, *ca.* 5 in. long, found directly under nest-hole containing young, Minstead mill-stream, New Forest, July 22nd (P L D).
- 261 **Hoopoe.**—A pair nested at Middle Wallop and succeeded in rearing a single young to the flying stage. A full report appeared in *British Birds*

XLIX, 454, and other literature. There are sixteen other records, some possibly the same bird :—

I.O.W.

April 14 (and possibly also on 15th).—One on farmland at Rookley (G L H).

„ 13.—One found exhausted at Alum Bay died during the night (S W).

„ 16.—One between St. Helens' station and Bembridge (J E C).

„ 29.—One, Rowborough Corner, Brading—St. Helens road (J E C).

Sept. 7.—(“and on several following days”).—One on a lawn at Wroxall. See *Country Life*, October 25th, 1956. (J G C).

„ 6 to 11.—One bird in a garden at Brading. This bird while feeding seen occasionally to toss a tit-bit into the air and neatly catch it before swallowing (P S).

„ 10.—One bird at St. Catherine's Point (B A E M, R R, D R W).

„ 11.—One in a garden at Shanklin (E H W).

Mainland.

May 16.—One Goatpen Plain, near Burley, New Forest (P L D).

„ 18.—One Burley Lodge garden ; 2½ miles N.N.E. of above. This bird heard calling frequently from the tops of trees and was seen to flutter up the side of the house and alight on a window-sill. Later flew to some ancient hollow oaks but was driven off by nesting jackdaws and was not seen again (P L D).

June —One Breamore Down (G. B. Bowles per Mrs. Barnes).

„ 16.—One on a lawn at Romsey (J. B. Attlee).

Aug. —One Netley Hospital (D B F).

„ 12.—One on a lawn at Twyford (A. Hill per Brig. Hughes).

Sept. 3 to 10.—One at Andover pumping station (M. Gilbert per E L J).

„ 8.—One Titchfield Haven (C S, R H D *et al*).

It is perhaps interesting to note that all the earlier dates come from the Isle of Wight.

262 **Green Woodpecker.**—A bird reported eating apples at Park Gate (R H D).

263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.**—Twice heard drumming briefly on July 18th at Sway (P L D). Frequently heard also at the same place between September 13th and 23rd (E C) (*cf.* B.B. L, 122). Heard again October 9th (E C, P L D). Drumming heard in the same wood on December 25th—might perhaps be classed as exceptionally “early” (E C). A bird in this wood came to roost regularly throughout December at 1600 hours almost exactly, its arrival announced by insistent calling, kept up from three to five minutes, ceasing abruptly as the bird entered a hole high up in a decayed alder (P L D).

264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.**—One seen to fly towards the shore at Conigar Point, Emsworth, February 15th (B W R). A female in a Lymington garden during the cold spell, February 24th (L D N S). One seen to fly E. to W. over Portsmouth Harbour mouth October 6th (J K B). Many single records from throughout the area.

265 **Wryneck.**—One near Fordingbridge on May 4th still heard calling July 2nd. A Wryneck has been reported from this locality in previous years : no evidence of breeding but the bird remained over a longer period this year (D M N, E C). A pair seen at Stratfield Saye on May 27th (B. Tucker per Dr. J. F. Monk, who writes that the record sounds acceptable).

271 **Woodlark.**—There is perhaps some evidence to support a rather marked fluctuation in numbers of this species over a period of years, but more evidence is needed. It certainly continues to breed with regularity in many New Forest areas. Other records : two Harewood Forest, March 27th (E L J) ; six Rushmoor Down, August 11th (G K, E L J), and

six Farley Mount, August 15th, may have been family parties (E L J). One singing Woolbury Ring, July 14th (W). Two Damerham on October 19th, the first seen here for several years, in an area where formerly several pairs bred (J S A). Reported also from Wolmer Forest and near Bordon (W G E) and Sheddin Oak area (W). One at Stanpit Marsh, April 1st (E B), and three there on September 8th (G H R).

272

Skylark.—Only a few records of passage movement in spring, and all E. to W. except for a single bird flying S. to N. off the Solent at Hill Head on March 17th. P G report "770 E. to W. on Farlington Marshes, January 9th, small E. to W. movement over Portsmouth, February 10th, and at Farlington Marshes on 11th : ca. 80 on waste ground at Portsmouth, February 19th—cold spell". Ca. 30 at Keyhaven on January 10th, apparently an influx (E C). Autumn passage recorded :—

Sept. 23 to 26 and 30.—Hengistbury Head, 14 out to sea S.E., two out to sea S., 27 coasting E. (F R C).

" 25.—Hill Head, 50 W. to E. (G H R).

" 30.—Warsash, eight W. to E. (R H D).

Oct. 2.—Yarmouth, two N. (M C A).

" 6.—St. Catherine's Point, five E. to W. (E J W).

" 7.—Yarmouth, eight to N.W. (M C A).

" 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 22 E. to W. (J B K, W H T) in 1½ hours.

" 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 125 E. to W. (G H R, J K B) in 7 hours.

" 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 32 S. to N. (G H R, J K B) off the sea.

" 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 85 S. to N. (J K B) in an hour.

" 13.—Titchfield Haven, five S. to sea (C S).

" 20.—Titchfield Haven, small parties E. to W. (J K B).

" 21.—St. Catherine's Point, seven E. to W. (E J W).

" 21.—Hengistbury, five S.E. (F R C) out to sea, in 1½ hours.

" 26.—Hengistbury, 68 N.W. (F R C) from sea, in 2 hours.

" 27.—Meon shore, 198 E. to W. (E J W).

" 28.—Meon shore, 4 E. to W. (C S).

" 28.—Yarmouth, 20, 7, 12, 1 to N.W. Also two S.E. (M C A).

Nov. 3.—Yarmouth, six to N.W. (M C A).

" 3.—Hill Head, two to N.W. (C S).

" 3.—Hill Head, 12 to N.E. (C S) flying high in a flock.

" 4.—Hill Head, one to N.W. (C S).

" 10.—Hill Head, 37 to S. and S.E. (J K B).

" 10.—Hill Head, 18 to N.W. (J K B).

" 11.—Hill Head, three to N.W. (C S) flying high and calling.

Dec. 1.—Hayling, two E. to W. (E J W).

" 29.—Warsash, eight to N.W. (R H D).

J S A reports from Fordingbridge : "The usual N. to N.W. passage in October. On the 11th many were flying N.W. during the morning." It can be seen from the above that the bulk of the records, both for spring—such as they are—and for the autumn passage show birds moving W., N.W. or N. In this connection it is interesting to note that Ticehurst in his *The Birds of Kent*, quoted by Bannerman, states that Skylarks from the Continent in autumn arriving on the south coast of Kent travel from S.E. to N.W.

274

Swallow.—Spring passage on the coast. For the purpose of analysis the area has been divided as follows : P. = Portsmouth ; C. = St. Catherine's Point and The Needles ; S. = Solent—Titchfield Haven, the N. coast of the Island and the coast of the Mainland from Calshot to Hurst.

N.B.—Numbers quoted should be taken only as an indication of the density of movement since many refer to "birds per hr." ; they may provide some pointer to future observation.

Date	P.	N. C.	S.	P.	S. C.	S.	P.	E. C.	S.	P.	W. C.	S.
April 6	1		1									
" 7									50			
" 14		48							49			
" 16								15				
" 17		7										
" 21		3	18						16			
" 23									31			
May 6	80										3	
" 5		14						7	79			
" 13			20									
" 17		9						3			4	
" 19											4	
" 21									9			
" 26		26										
June 14				4								
" 20							2					
Aug. 4		3									5	
" 8								11			15	
" 9											8	
Sept. 1		20										
" 2		3 N.E.										
" 6								80				
" 8						40*						
" 9							45	220				
" 10	2											
" 12	51											
" 15		40										
" 16	21											
" 18	21											
" 22	18											
" 23												
" 29						210†						
" 30	5											13
Oct. 2												
" 6											44	
" 7											200	
" 13	20										500	
" 17											66	
" 20						8					1500	
" 21											14	
" 27		14 strong			60						155	
" 28		3 N			E.							
Nov. 10											1	

* Christchurch Harbour.

† Yarmouth.

There were two birds around the light at St. Catherine's on the night of May 4th, 2300—2400 hours.

From the above analysis it can be seen that on spring passage birds were coming in from the sea and flying N., while there was also a marked E. movement along the Solent shores inside the Island. Few birds were recorded going west. In autumn large numbers were going E. throughout September, with appreciable numbers moving N. (birds turning back from sea owing to low intensity of southward urge?). In October there was an almost complete switch to the W. Unfortunately all too few observers made any reference to wind and weather.

Inland, early southward movement was noted down the river Test at Stockbridge on July 25th, 50+ with other hirundines, while the local

population was still present (E L J). There are several records for single birds during the second half of November, with seven at Titchfield Haven on the 18th (C S). December records : One, Titchfield Haven, 1st (A S *et al*) ; one, Southsea Castle, 7th (T E B) ; one, Lee-on-Solent, 10th (C S) ; one, Ventnor, 19th (M C A) ; one, Seaview, 19th (R A L).

276 **House Martin.**—Movement-records many fewer than for Swallow but general pattern much as for that species. Spring, N. and E. throughout April and until May 12th. No other coastal movement reported until September 15th—except eight flying E. at St. Catherine's September 9th. Thereafter E. movement to end of month (300 S.S.E. Meon 23rd and 342 S. Yarmouth 29th). Switch to W. as Swallow October 6th—13th. Only three records for N. movement, *viz.*, September 18th, three, Portsea ; October 27th, 17, St. Catherine's ; November 11th, one, Farlington.

Birds still collecting mud at Bransgore August 21st (J M). A pair nesting at Fareham up to October 6th (R H D). Three nests occupied September 25th, and one still used at night up to 30th. Burley Lodge, New Forest (P L D). October 5th, young abandoned in nest at Southampton (G K). Last date, one at Hill Head, November 23rd (T E B). E L J reports the following behaviour observed each summer : "On 22nd and 25th July, 8th and 15th August groups of this species (and occasionally including Sand Martins) were seen landing on the faces of various chalk pits in Test valley. Occasionally apparently feeding, but on other occasions just sitting—possibly sunning—but the behaviour has been observed in the evening when the sun is low. On August 15th (dull, only occasionally warm) *ca.* 20 with *ca.* 10 Sand Martins were seen landing and sitting on the face of a pit at Leckford and now and then engaging in mass take-offs. On August 8th, when *ca.* 120 and two Sand Martins were hawking close to the face of a pit at Stockbridge, they were not landing on the chalk but perching in the foliage of hawthorns, on ragwort and the turf at the top of the pit, and swinging from rootlets, and at times engaging in mass take-offs. The day was fine and hot. Possibly some form of social sun-bathing ?"

277 **Sand Martin.**—Very few spring records : April 8th to May 8th mostly N. but from May 4th to 21st 11 E. in Solent and 10 W. at St. Catherine's. July 22nd to September 22nd majority S.E. and E., but 25 N. August 4th, 17 N. on 10th, 53 W. 4th, 11 W. 8th, 60 S. over Christchurch Harbour September 8th.

The small but ancient colony in Matley sand-pit was apparently not used this year. A new colony was established in the cliffs at Brownwich where 108 nests were counted on July 14th (C S *et al*). A small colony of six holes noted on the Winchester by-pass at 495/313 (E L J). One bird at St. Catherine's Light August 7th and one September 15th.

279 **Raven.**—Pair "obviously feeding young" I. of W. April 14th, also a single bird and a dead one in same area (G H R *et al*). Two flew past St. Catherine's Point April 18th (R R, R J W). Various other single records from Wight and a pair at Yarmouth refuse tip November 25th (M C A). One seen at Wherwell, near Andover, July 22nd, details given (E L J, G K).

280 **Carriion Crow.**

281 **Hooded Crow.**—One at Farlington Marshes October 26th (P G) and one at Stanpit on January 1st (R J J).

282 **Rook.**—Two roost movements from the mainland to the I. of W. have been noted : one from Hill Head—Titchfield Haven towards Cowes—Ryde area and one from Keyhaven to Yarmouth. January 14th, *ca.* 100, flying low in small parties, 1300 hours (C S, T E B). November 24th, *ca.* 150 in two lots, 1445 hours (C S, G H R). December 15th, a few flying about the shore at Hill Head apparently unwilling to face 30 knot S.S.W. wind, rain and fog, 1545 hours (C S). March 3rd, two seen from

the Ryde ferry crossing towards the mainland 0800 hours (J K B, G H R). Keyhaven, January 10th, E C saw 38 in a straggling line passing from the Keyhaven—Pennington marshes towards Yarmouth, and P L D has a note for June 26th, 1947 : "Concourse of rooks seen straggling from Keyhaven—Pennington marshes right across the Solent towards Yarmouth at about sunset." On October 13th two birds were seen to leave St. Catherine's Point S.E. seaward and watched out of sight (G H R, J K B).

283 **Jackdaw.**

284 **Magpie.**—November 10th flock of *ca.* 22 noted at Sway (E C). A pure white bird with black shrike-like mask seen at Old Winchester Hill (E J W, G H R), March 24th.

286 **Jay.**—One S. to N. at about 250 feet over Portsmouth in early morning of May 6th (P G). One at St. Catherine's on May 5th and one August 4th (E J W). Ringing recovery : ringed as adult Cowes, January 21st, shot at Shorwell November 26th (J S, R S C).

288 **Great Tit.**—A bird ringed from a trap June 1st, 1950, retrapped same place February 26th this year (E C). A report of a melanistic bird seen at the Miz-Maze near Breamore received from Miss F. E. Penrose : "No white visible anywhere. Head and neck 'hooded' with black extending down the breast. No white in wings nor tail. Back a dull darkish grey ; breast dusky, green beak and legs dark. Call, behaviour and size all that of a normal Great Tit."

289 **Blue Tit.**—Ten S. to N. off sea, eight S.E. to N.W. off sea and three W. to E. past St. Catherine's Point, October 13th (G H R, J K B). Seventeen by Hurst Lighthouse November 17th (J K B). Articles "torn" by Blue Tits at Chandler's Ford include milk-bottle tops, a rubber shoe, a newspaper in a letter-box and a baby's napkin on a line (P S S).

290 **Coal Tit.**

292 **Marsh Tit.**—A nest at Burton Common near Bransgore in a hole at least partly excavated by birds themselves (J E M).

293 **Willow Tit.**—One West Walk, Wickham, November 12th (T E B). Two pairs seen and heard Kingsdown Wood, Overton, and a third pair in a wide wooded hedgerow near North Oakley (529/544) March 30th (E L J). J S A reports : "Seems to be increasing on chalk along Hants/Dorset boundary west of Damerham, and now noted in several localities where a few years ago it was unknown. As usual near Alderholt Mill."

294 **Long-tailed Tit.**—Twelve at St. Catherine's Point October 27th (J K B). Nine there on November 4th (W H T). Ten were seen flying high E. to W. Meon Shore October 27th (E J W). This flight line would take them across Southampton Water to opposite shore about Calshot. A late flock March 27th. Nests with eggs in same area a few days later (J E M).

295 **Bearded Tit.**—One adult female St. Cross water meadows ; description by Stephen Martin : "On the evening of November 3rd, 1956, a member of our Society reported what he considered was a juvenile male in St. Cross water meadows. When I went down with him early on the morning of the 5th it was still in the same place, on the edge of a thick reed-bed. Although a very active bird, hopping from reed to reed with the greatest of ease and occasionally going right up to the very top of one, not infrequently it remained quiet enough to allow a x 30 telescope to be focussed on it for a few seconds at a time. We were never more than 30—40 feet from it, so I achieved admirable views of it through the telescope and a good pair of binoculars. The tail was continually twitched in a vertical movement. It called frequently with a dullish metallic chink ; possibly

there was a double call once, though I am not certain of it. After *ca.* 25 minutes it got up, pursued by three passerines, probably House Sparrows. After rising in spirals with weak, fluttery and jerky wingbeats to a height of *ca.* 100 feet it made off in a N.W. direction and was not seen again. In size it was small and the tail, though long, did not look too conspicuous in flight. Altogether it was slightly smaller than a Grey Wagtail with probably shorter tail, though I did not get a direct comparison. The legs were jet black and the bill of a dull yellow colour. The head was of a distinct grey tint, darker in colour than the back, with which it merged at the back of the neck, and stretching down to eye-level. The eye was probably dark, though not specifically seen. I thought once I may have caught sight of a tinge of yellow in the region of the eye, though of this I was not certain. The cheeks were of a lighter grey-white colour and the chin was almost white. Just round and below the eye there was a slight dark patch. The chin merged into a slightly darker grey-white breast and upper underparts. The flanks were of a light brown-fawn colour, which on the lower breast came down to the level of the legs and probably went right across lower down by the tail coverts. The wings were perhaps the most distinguishing features of the bird. The outer one or two (2nd and 3rd ?) primaries were dark, but inside them there was a fairly narrow but distinctive white strip, probably from white 4th or 5th and/or 6th primaries. On the inside of the wings at rest, *i.e.*, the secondaries a fairly broad light buff bar was noticeable, probably formed by light extremities to the secondaries. When viewed from the rear this, with the white stripe, formed an irregular V shape. The centre of the wing was of a much more rich brown than the rest of the body, with black markings irregularly dispersed. The tail, which was fanned out slightly, had a distinctly lighter centre than the more rufous outsides. White outer tail feathers were noticed for at least the first half of the tail, though I did not see if the streak went round the end of it. The under tail was a dirty rufous brown colour. The back, from neck to tail, was all of a uniform colour, being slightly darker fawn-brown than the colour of the flanks. From this evidence I deduced that it was an adult female." The last record for Hampshire, Kelsall and Munn, 1902.

- 296 **Nuthatch.**—February 16th Osborne one seen and another heard (A J H).
November 16th one seen in a garden at Ventnor (T W).
- 298 **Treecreeper.**
- 299 **Wren.**—One at St. Catherine's Light on night of April 27th/28th. Two at St. Catherine's Light on night of October 12th/13th (G H R, J K B). The bushes at St. Catherine's Point "crawling" with wrens on November 3rd (G H R). Dr. Bannerman in his *Birds of the British Isles*, writing on the subject of wren migrations, observes that records from St. Catherine's Light are very rare.
- 301 **Mistle Thrush.**—Five E. to W. St. Catherine's Point, October 13th (G H R, J K B). Four E. St. Catherine's Point, November 4th (W H T).
- 302 **Fieldfare.**—There appears to have been some W. movement during the early part of January when *ca.* 1,000 passed W. in small groups along the Meon and Warsash shores (R H D) and 190 W. at Farlington Marshes on the same day (P G). Only small numbers present on these marshes during the rest of the month and then a small movement W. February 5th and 10th, *ca.* 200 W. 11th, 60 W. 19th, but very few seen there subsequently—during the cold spell (P G). November 2nd, 250 at Warsash (R B), but only four there on 3rd, also on 2nd 80 were seen moving W. over Southampton (J T S). The only record for St. Catherine's is of three calls heard on the night of November 3rd at the time of a heavy passage of Redwings (G H R). Latest spring date, 43 flying S. over Wolmer Forest April 22nd (W G B).

- 303 **Song Thrush.**—Some W. movement with Fieldfares and Redwings during the February cold spell, notably Hill Head on 11th (J K B), and a "decided increase" observed that day at Farlington (P G). Autumn records at St. Catherine's: One at the Light September 15th; two at the Light October 7th, a.m., with seven in the bushes later; many calls heard there November 3rd; three at the Light 4th; four at the Point October 13th. Temporary increase noted at Farlington Marshes October 2nd, "typical warm brown birds" (P G).
- 304 **Redwing.**—W. movement in January and February much as noted for Fieldfare and Song Thrush, with a large W. passage on February 11th. A dead bird picked up during the cold spell was identified as belonging to the typical European race *Turdus m. musicus*, wing 116 mm. Passage heard over Portsmouth 6th, 26th, 31st March; 1st and 7th April. One Farlington Marshes April 12th (P G). One at St. Catherine's Light night of 27th-28th April (G H R), and one heard after dark at the Point on the same night (E J W). One at Exton near Droxford May 24th (E J W). Autumn records for St. Catherine's: October 27th 46 S. to N. in four hours from 0600 hours and five S. to N. in the afternoon (J K B). Heavy passage at the Light on night of 2nd-3rd November, heard and/or seen in the beams, continuing all night from 2315 hours until dawn (G H R). N. movement heard nightly over Southampton October 30th to November 10th, with largest passage 7th and 9th (J T S). P G report autumn passage: "Passage indicated by calls at night over the area generally from October 6th (three heard p.m.) to December 27th, seven calls in ½-hour from 0710 hours. Fairly heavy passage November 3rd in the afternoon, December 6th and especially December 7th, when 37 calls were noted in five minutes and birds were passing still at 0640 hours. The frequency and density this autumn were far lower than the last two, which may have been due to the larger number of clear nights in October and November and the subsequent (presumed) high flying of migrants. Heavy passage, also on night of December 7th, at Bournemouth: 129 calls in 30 minutes, cliffs of central Bournemouth 2025 hours; 17 calls in 15 minutes Boscombe cliffs and 18 in 20 minutes Southbourne cliffs. Movement still in progress over central Bournemouth 2355 hours when 10 calls were heard in 10 minutes. Direction of movement seemed to be S.E. to N.W., i.e., calls first heard on sea side and last heard over land (F R C). Large passage also reported from Fordingbridge on night of December 7th: "From 2030 hours to 2130 under calm, misty, overcast and close conditions, a very large number were heard calling over Fordingbridge—accompanied by a few Song Thrushes—some very little above roof-top level. They were presumably disoriented and attracted to lights". In this area night migrants passing N. to N.W. and diurnal migrants in southerly directions (J S A).
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.**—A small flock, four birds, which flew off together, seen briefly by E A G on Twyford Down March 18th. One male Brownhills cliffs April 4th (R H D). Two, one male, Farlington Marshes April 17th (P G). I. of W., April 5th, one male between the cliffs and the Military road (L E H, E R H); April 12th, one female, Headon Warren (G A H W). October 11th, one female, Hatherwood Point (H A J B). New Forest, Acres Down, one female feeding on rowan berries (R H D, J J W E).
- 308 **Blackbird.**—A pure white bird with pink bill and legs at Mengham, Hayling Island, January 8th (G H R). St. Catherine's, heard passing all night on October 12th (G H R). Sixteen came in off the sea in four hours from 0600 hours October 27th (J K B). Many heard and/or seen in the light November 3rd with Redwings, but less numerous than that species (G H R). A concentration noted at Conigar Point, Emsworth, during November and December may either have been migrants or

merely local birds attracted by abundance of haws and blackberries : November 9th *ca.* 20 were all males and on December 3rd 40 were mostly of this sex. Southampton, October 30th to November 10th, nocturnal movement N. over the University with Redwings, while on November 5th *ca.* 40 flew N.N.W. 1100 hours at about 50 feet (J T S). A large increase noted at Farlington Marshes October 2nd which was greatly diminished by 3rd with a further small arrival on 4th. Calls heard at night over Portsmouth from October 9th to December 7th. Sudden increase at Farlington December 25th (*ca.* 100 in a small bushy area known as The Copse) but had decreased to a great extent by next day (P G).

- 311 **Wheatear.**—First record March 12th, a single bird in mid-Solent flying N.E., an oblique course towards the mainland (J S). Spring passage, Farlington Marshes, March 25th to May 26th ; peaks on March 29th eight (five males), 30th 11, April 11th 12, and 15th 15. "The feature of this passage was arrival in the afternoon" (P G). (Cf. Hayling Bay and St. Catherine's below). Various birds trapped April 14th to May 18th had wing measurement of Greenland race, 103-106 mm. (P G). March 30th, Hayling Bay, five came in from the sea 1445 hours (C J H). Sight records of Greenland race, April 27th. A bird at Warsash appeared larger and richer in colour with a distinct preference to perch on gorse bushes : not seen to perch on the ground at all (R H D), and a bird on May 7th in Millersford Bottom, New Forest (E B).

St. Catherine's : March 31st, two males and one female, apparently arrived during the afternoon (G H R). April 27th/28th, four at the Light (E J W *et al*) ; April 7th, six, one female ; none 20th or 21st, but 13, all tired, on 22nd (J K B). None at the Point on morning of April 28th, but five, three males, there by the afternoon (G H R). April 23rd, one came off the sea to join three already present, Hurst (J K B).

Autumn : St. Catherine's Point and Light. August 8th one ; 9th two ; 9th/10th two at the Light ; 1 caught proved to be juvenile British race, *Oenanthe oe. oenanthe*, wing 93.66 mm. (G H R) ; 10th one ; 27th one ; August 31st/September 1st 57+ at the Light ; five caught, British race in partial or nearly complete winter plumage (G H R) ; 7th one at the Light ; 9th *ca.* 30 passed through Light beams 0015 - 0550, peak 0520 ; 10th *ca.* 400 passed through Light beams in 5½-hour watch a.m. (B A E M, R R, D R W) ; 15th 20 at Light, a.m. ; 29th one male at the Point considered Greenland form (G H R) ; October 6th two ; 7th one.

Lyminster—Keyhaven Marshes : August 26th five ; 28th 15 ; September 5th 35+ by sea wall, S.E. wind, warm rain (E C), thereafter six or less till October 12th.

Hengistbury : July 22nd three, thereafter regular, with maximum 22 on September 4th ; last date, one, Stanpit, October 14th.

Farlington Marshes : Autumn passage July 30th/October 13th. Maxima of 20 August 11th, 43 September 2nd and 76 on September 9th (only 10 next day) (see notes above for St. Catherine's that date). One on the Marshes from October 14th until November 5th. Single Greenland Wheatears identified September 16th, 20th, 22nd (P G).

Fordingbridge : One flying N. at *ca.* 100 feet, October 10th (J S A).

Breeding records from the New Forest and elsewhere throughout area. A first winter female ringed at Fair Isle on September 6th, 1956, was found injured near Petersfield on October 10th, 1956. Bulletin Fair Isle Bird Observatory, Vol. 3, Number 3 (per C S).

- 317 **Stonechat.**

Jan. : All records for coastal districts, except 2 pairs, New Forest.
Feb. : " " " " " 1 pair, New Forest.
" " " " " 1 male, Winnall.

Mar. :	All records for coastal districts, except	1 female, New Forest.
April :	" " " " "	3, New Forest.
May :	" " " " "	New Forest.
June :	" " " " "	1 pair, Eastney. 2 pairs, inland.
July :	" " " " "	1 male, Portsdown Hills.
Aug. :	" " " " "	
Sept. :	" " " " "	coastal districts, 6 pairs and 5+ N.F.
Oct. :	" " " " "	2 N.F., 1 pair Winnall.
Nov. :	" " " " "	3 N.F., 1 pair Winnall.
Dec. :	" " " " "	3 N.F., 1+ Winnall.

Isle of Wight : One probable breeding record. A family party of one male and two or three young only just able to fly, Westover Down August 13th (J S). Otherwise January and March, and October/December.

From the above it would appear that there is a very definite move from breeding areas to the coast ; however, more *negative* reports from breeding areas visited out of season would be useful. Present at Hengistbury (and Stanpit) only from September to December ; maximum seven on October 13th.

- 318 **Whinchat.**—It appears that at least four pairs bred in the north part of the New Forest, while there may be a connection between a male bird recorded from Greenmoor on May 20th and five seen there in September. The many records from coastal areas, and a considerable number from inland, seem only to refer to passage : no birds are recorded outside the New Forest between May 19th and the second week in August except one at Danebury August 8th.

Heavy passage at St. Catherine's Light a.m. on September 9th when *ca.* 25 were seen passing through the beams, and after dawn 25 were seen in the area surrounding the Lighthouse : a maximum number were also recorded on this date at Farlington Marshes where 19 were seen (P G).

- 320 **Redstart.**—An exceptionally good Redstart year. Abundant in all suitable New Forest woods. Definite breeding records from elsewhere only at Rushmoor Down, Danebury Down ; other records only mention single birds or pairs. First date, April 3rd, one male Rowlands Castle (J L B, C J H). Main arrival date appears to have been April 14th and 15th. P G report "General arrival on I. of W. and Sussex coast in large numbers. Eight birds (six males) at Needles on 14th with *ca.* 20 in Alum Chine (G H R, E J W). St. Catherine's Point on the 14th (wind N.) ; two females in the grounds of the Lighthouse in the evening and next morning ; also on 15th 34 birds counted in a bushy area there ; nearly all had left by 16th (R R, R J W). Small numbers also recorded at this time from Stanpit, Hengistbury, Farlington, Warsash and Titchfield Haven (the first for 36 years—C S). Autumn passage at St. Catherine's : Aug. 25th, 1 pair at the Point ; 26th, one immature at the Point (W H T) ; August 31st to September 1st, six (two males) at the Light (G H R, E J W) ; September 1st, one male and one immature male at the Point (G H R, E J W) ; 7th/8th, 10 at the Light (J K B) ; 9th, *ca.* 50 through the beams at Light in an hour, a.m. ; 10th, *ca.* 40 through the beams at Light in 5½ hours, a.m. (B A E M, R R, D R W) ; 10th, 14 in the area of the Lighthouse after dawn. Also on 9th and 10th G H records "a large number seen" at Freshwater Bay. Last date, October 14th, one female Old Winchester Hill (P L R). Unusual nest site : a nest with small young in a tin on open ground *ca.* 200 yards from nearest wood, Stoney Cross, New Forest, May 25th (J S A).

- 321 **Black Redstart.**—Recorded :
 Jan. 7.—One, Hurst Castle (R M C).
 Mar. 9.—One male, eastern edge of Beaulieu Heath (K H P).
 „ 21.—One male, a mile N. of above (K H P).

Mar. 17.—One first winter male, Burley, feeding in recently burnt gorse area (E C).

„ 27.—One female, Sway (E C).

„ 28.—One second-year male, Whyke Pits, Chichester (W).

July 21.—One female, Titchfield Haven (C S, W H T).

Isle of Wight :

Mar. 17.—One, Yarmouth (M C A).

„ 24.—One female on shore at Beimbidge (J S).

Apr. 10.—One male on buildings of old fort, Headon Warren (G A H W).

Oct. 14.—One male and three females—possibly immatures—only four birds definitely seen but there may have been six (E C) (D M J).

322 **Nightingale**.—Early date, April 4th, Barton (O H per M R). One caught at St. Catherine's Light, a.m., September 10th, and one in the bushes later (B A E M, R R, D R W). (The *Handbook* says "Very little information as to autumn movements".) A bird trapped at Damerham June 18th was carrying a small blackish flea which was probably *Geratophyllus garei* (J S A).

324 **Bluethroat**.—A first winter female at Farlington Marshes on September 9th and 10th. Robin shape, olive grey back, whitish underparts, striated on side of upper breast, necklace and moustache markings, dark, white chin, light eye-stripe and second (upper) moustache stripe; red sides to upper tail coverts. Often flicked tail; wings held below tail. This bird caught on September 10th and above points confirmed; wing 67.5 mm., ringed and released (P G).

Another observer, J S A, reports a probable: "Damerham, October 11th, at 1715 G.M.T., a small bird chased by a cock Yellowhammer flew close past me from an overgrown area of recently planted woodland into a kale field. Quite independently the same bird attracted the attention of a friend about 50 yards away who also stopped his car to watch it through binoculars, but was unable to pick it up. It immediately disappeared into thick kale, but the Yellowhammer remained on top of a plant looking down into the crop. After about a minute it flew up, again followed by the Yellowhammer, and set off low towards a dense tangle of thorn hedge. The whole time that it flew directly away from me for about 30 yards the fanned tail showed the characteristic red panels (through 10 x 40 binoculars). Although I was not able to obtain any other details, except that the shape and size fitted this species, I am quite confident about the identification. Incidentally it was the sixth Bluethroat I had seen in 1956." Very rarely recorded in the county.

325 **Robin**.—One at St. Catherine's Light, September 7th/8th (J K B). One at St. Catherine's red Light, September 10th (B A E M, R R, D R W). A pull. ringed Damerham June 22nd, 1954, trapped and released Alderholt, Dorset, February 22nd, 1956, 1½ miles S.S.E. (J S A).

327 **Grasshopper Warbler**.—Status apparently much as in 1955 but again records for the northern two-thirds of the county lacking. Ten singing at "usual haunt" near Portsmouth, June 12th (G H R). But J S A—Fordingbridge and north part of the New Forest—says "many breeding birds but apparently less numerous than usual". He also has a note of a pair with young out of the nest which gave a frequent alarm call, somewhat resembling other *Acrocephali*, but not so harsh, rather more metallic and with definite ventriloquial effect. On September 19th he saw a party of six together in the middle of a large turnip field. Two caught at St. Catherine's Light, a.m., on September 10th (B A E M, R R, D R W).

333 **Reed Warbler**.—Two seen and one heard singing Titchfield Haven April 14th, an early date (C S *et al*). Late date, one at St. Catherine's Point October 2nd and one at Hillhead on the 4th (W H T). One in the grounds of the Lighthouse at dawn of September 9th (B A E M, R R, D R W).

- 337 **Sedge Warbler.**—Records from St. Catherine's Light and/or Point :
 Apr. 27/28.—Two at the Light (G H R).
 May 5.—One in bushes at the Point (E J W).
 " 19.—Three in bushes at the Point (G H R).
 Aug. 4.—One at the Point (E J W *et al.*).
 " 8.—Three at the Point (E J W *et al.*).
 " 9.—None (G H R).
 Sept. 8.—One at the Point (E J W *et al.*).
 " 9.—One caught and one seen in Light, a.m. (B A E M *et al.*).
 " 10.—Many at the Light, a.m., and five picked up dead below lantern (B A E M *et al.*).
 An apparent influx noted at Sturt Pond, Milford-on-Sea, May 5th, where birds were abundant in bushes and reed clumps (J K B).
- 338 **Aquatic Warbler.**—Three, possibly four, birds identified : September 10th, One caught at St. Catherine's Light 0445 hours. Full details taken and the bird compared with several Sedge Warblers. The bird flew off E. when released. Later the same morning whilst working the bushes at the Point, ca. $\frac{1}{2}$ mile W. of Lighthouse, good views of an Aquatic were obtained. First identified by the buff stripe on the crown, but eventually the rump streaks were seen. Seen by one of the pools and may well have been a different bird from that caught (but not ringed) at the Lighthouse (B A E M, R R, D R W). September 15th, Latchmore Bottom, New Forest, one watched at close range under perfect conditions (J S A). September 16th, Farlington Marshes, one feeding in a ditch. Full details noted, including streaked rump. Seen by nine members of P G and also R H D, J J W E. Very rarely recorded in the county.
- 340 **Icterine Warbler.**—One caught at St. Catherine's Light, a.m., September 14th. Wing : 3rd, 4th and 5th primaries emarginated (most noticeably on 3rd), 3rd primary longest, 2nd about equal to 4th, 2nd longer than 5th. Bill 11.5 mm. long, stout, flattened at base. Mandibles dark greyish-brown, the lower being flesh at the base. Rictal bristles stiff and noticeable. Tail square, 53 mm. 12 rectrices. Legs stout, tarsi 21 mm. bluish-grey. Forehead and whole upper parts olive-green, flight feathers darker. Whitish supercilium. Chin greyish-white, upper breast tinged yellowish-buff, vent whitish, with yellow suffusion on flanks (D F B, C J H, G H R). Very rarely recorded in the British Isles.
- 343 **Blackcap.**—February 11th, one female Butts Ash, Hythe, daily visiting bird-table during the cold spell until at least 20th (Brig. Venning). Very few migration records : two males St. Catherine's Point September 8th (J K B *et al.*). Three there on 10th (B A E M, R R, G H R). September 4th, one female, Hengistbury (F R C) ; 16th, one male, Hengistbury (F R C).
- 346 **Garden Warbler.**—St. Catherine's :
 May 19.—One in the bushes at Point (G H R).
 Aug. 16.—Two at the Point (J K B).
 " 31/Sept. 1.—Two caught at the Light (G H R).
 Sept. 8.—One at the Point (J K B).
 " 9.—Five caught at Light, a.m., and 16 in area later in the morning (B A E M, R R, D R W).
 " 10.—Seven caught in Light and seven in area later (B A E M, R R, D R W).
 " 15.—One caught at Light (G H R).
 " 17.—One at the Point (J K B).
 " 29.—One at the Point (E J W).
- 347 **Whitethroat.**—Farlington Marshes, April 12th, one female ; passage up to May 5th which was the peak date ca. 50 birds (P G). Hurst, May 5th, 11 birds (J K B). Fordingbridge, "First large influx May 3rd" (J S A).

St. Catherine's :

Apr. 15.—Two in dry stone wall at the Point ; “ by the 18th they were everywhere ” (R R, R J W).

„ 20.—One male (J K B).

„ 22.—One male (J K B).

„ 27/28.—One at the Light and two in the bushes, a.m. (G H R, E J W).

St. Catherine's, autumn :

Aug. 3/4.—One at the Light, quite a number in the bushes, a.m.

„ 8.—Increase in the bushes, with a further increase next day : one in the Light.

„ 31/Sept. 1.—Nine at the Light with 6+ at Point (G H R, E J W).

Sept. 9.—Ten caught at Light, a.m.

„ 10.—This species made up the bulk of birds seen and caught at the Light. In the morning *ca.* 100 were caught in 5½ hours, and phenomenal numbers moving W. to E. through the beam all the time. In fact half the total of birds seen were probably Whitethroats (B A E M, R R, D R W).

„ 15.—*Ca.* 30 at the Light, a.m. (G H R).

„ 22.—Two at the Point (E J W).

„ 29.—Two in the bushes at the Point (G H R, E J W).

Oct. 7.—One caught at Light, a.m. (J K B, W H T).

Farlington Marshes, autumn passage : August 5th to September 30th (14 birds, the last). No really large numbers recorded but peaks on August 22nd and September 8th (P G).

- 348 Lesser Whitethroat.—A bird singing at Emery Down, Lyndhurst, on April 30th was still singing in approximately the same place July 11th (P L D). At Winchester a bird was twice heard singing from a tree in College Street in May (W). Recorded in small numbers St. Catherine's on passage August/September.

- 352 Dartford Warbler.—In spite of the cold spell in February this species appears to have done well throughout the area in 1956. In the N.E. part of the county an increase to three nesting pairs was noted in an area where there was only one in 1955, and this in spite of a much reduced habitat through fires (W G E). A census compiled from the records of the under-mentioned indicates that approximately 50 pairs nested in the county, all but the three mentioned above in the New Forest area (Messrs. Bowers, Wiseman, Ash, Billett, Rees, Le Brocq, W. G. Edwards, Bryant and Palmer). One pair seen on Keyhaven Marshes on November 4th further substantiates indication from previous years that some birds move to the coast during the winter months. Winter records from breeding areas, including negative ones, would be useful. J E M gives details of the small variations in height of the nest from the ground : seven occupied nests, height to the rim 13in., 14in., 15in., 16½in., 16½in., 17in., 19in. A small “chocolate-brown—or at least very dark—small bird” with a long tail seen in bushes on Tennyson's Monument Down, Isle of Wight, on June 19th may have been of this species (D Fa).

- 354 Willow Warbler.—A bird at Exton (R. Meon) on March 24th was heard singing, a somewhat early date (G H R, E J W). Considerable immigration noted at the week-end of April 14th/15th Isle of Wight, Hurst/Milford and at Titchfield Haven :

Apr. 14.—Needles, one S. to N. in off sea, and five in long grass on cliff top (G H R, E J W).

Main Bench, two in long grass on cliff top (G H R, E J W).

Alum Chine, *ca.* 10 birds (G H R, E J W).

Hurst, nine on shingle and in *Spartina* (J K B).

Sturt, many (J K B).

Titchfield Haven, many (with Chiffchaffs) (P S S).

- „ 15.—Titchfield Haven, many (with Chiffchaffs) (C S, R H D).
St. Catherine's Point, many hundreds of Willow Warblers and Chiffchaffs, in about equal proportions, at the Point on the grass, the cliff and in the bushes. They decreased in numbers during the next few days (R R, R J W).
Blackgang, large numbers along the coast (W S).
„ 20.—St. Catherine's, 14 birds (J K B).
„ 21.—St. Catherine's, one seen flying in from the sea (W H T).
One singing in the bushes (J K B).
„ 27/28.—A small but steady S. to N. movement at night off sea was probably of this species (small *phylloscopi*) (G H R)

At Farlington Marshes passage noted from April 2nd until May 6th but no large numbers involved (P G).

May 19.—St. Catherine's, many in the bushes "an obvious wave" (G H R).

Autumn passage—St. Catherine's :

Aug. 3/4.—Continual trickle of *phylloscopi* to E. and some to N. visible in beams of light. One caught was of this species..

- „ 4.—At least 10 in the bushes in the morning (G H R).
„ 7/8.—Sporadic and small movement through beam to E. (G H R).
„ 8.—Large number in the bushes in morning (G H R).
„ 9.—Considerable decrease in numbers (G H R).
„ 9/10.—One *phylloscopus* at Light (G H R).
„ 31/Sept. 1.—At least three birds at Light (E J W).
Sept. 10.—Thirty caught at the Light a.m. About 200 were identified during the 5½-hour watch (B A E M, R R, D R W).
„ 15.—One caught at the Light a.m. (G H R).

Farlington Marshes passage August 5th to September 18th, small numbers involved. Last date, one, September 23rd (P G).

- 356 **Chiffchaff.**—March 17th, two, Old Basing (P E B), two feeding in burnt gorse bushes at Burley (E C), one at Winnall (P S S). March 24th, 21 heard singing near Old Winchester Hill (G H R). One at Alum Chine on April 14th was probably of "northern" race, being white below and grey above : its song sounded "fairly normal" (G H R). April 14th-15th, immigration with Willow Warblers as noted above. September 10th, St. Catherine's, seven caught at the Light, a.m., many in the bushes, with Willow Warblers, later in the morning (B A E M, R R, D R W). September 15th, one caught at the Light (G H R) ; 22nd and 29th, one at the Point (G H R, E J W). October 2nd, one caught at the Light (W H T, J K B) ; 6th, five seen at the Point (W H T, J K B) ; 7th, one caught at the Light (W H T, J K B).

Farlington Marshes, passage throughout September, maximum of 20+ on the 8th, but only five next day (P G). J S A reports on autumn passage: In September a very heavy passage occurred between 10th and 18th ; on 17th there were Chiffchaffs everywhere in the Damerham area—in bracken, in root fields, in hedgerows and even in stubbles. The last at Damerham were one 24th and four 26th. Counts in the bushes at Latchmore Bottom, New Forest, gave 10+ on 8th, ca. 30 15th, 20+ 16th, 12+ 18th, five on 29th, two at Irons Well on 30th. Many of these were thought to be of the Scandinavian race *abietinus*.

- 357 **Wood Warbler.**—One, Titchfield Haven, April 14th, with other *phylloscopi* (R H D) is only coastal record. Breeding commonly in New Forest and elsewhere.

- 364 **Goldcrest.**—Unusual numbers seen in Titchfield Haven gravel pit during October ; maximum ca. 12 on 6th (C S et al).

St. Catherine's :

Sept. 10.—One at the red light 0020 hours (B A E M, R R, D R W).

Oct. 7.—Two at the Light, a.m., four at the Point later (J K B, W H T).
 „ 12/13.—Three at the Light (J K B, G H R).

Nov. 3/4.—Three at the Light, one after dawn (W H T).

Needs Oar Point, November 17th, four in gorse bush on the shore (E J W).
 Emsworth, October 4th, three or four birds in willows along the shore (B W R).

- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher**.—May 18th, one flying W. along the shore at Hill Head (W H T). May 19th, St. Catherine's Point, three in bushes (G H R). August 22nd, Holmsley Airfield, many, mostly immature, feeding in scrub (J E M). Autumn passage Farlington, August 11th to September 24th (P G). St. Catherine's : August 25th, two at Light (J K B) ; 31st/September 1st, one at the Light, 1+ in bushes in morning (E J W, G H R) ; September 9th, 11 at the Point ; 10th, two caught and three seen in beam, a.m., 12 seen later in Lighthouse area (B A E M, R R, D R W). On that day also maximum 6+ seen Warsash area (R H D). At Burley Lodge, New Forest, July 15th, cock seen to feed two fully-fledged young close to nest in which hen was then sitting on c/4. Cock also fed hen and continued to feed one young up to 22nd (P L D).

- 368 **Pied Flycatcher**.—Few spring records, viz., April 19th, a male, Ampfield (Mrs. Earle) ; April 22nd, a pair, Shanklin (E H W), and a male at Yarmouth on April 14th and 15th (M C A). But unusually heavy autumn passage noted at several places during September, notably at St. Catherine's on the 9th, a.m., when "ca. 40 passed in $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour. Movement began suddenly at 0500 hours and continued until dawn (25 caught), 23 in the bushes later. A similar but more prolonged passage occurred a.m. on 10th when 77 identified in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours (17 caught), five in the bushes later" (B A E M, R R, D R W). Noted particularly also on these dates at Tournurbury, Hayling, four birds (K B, C J H) ; Freshwater Bay, "literally dozens of Pied Flycatchers" (G L H) ; Bembridge, ca. 12 ; Culver Down six (J S). Single birds noted on many dates and from several places from July 17th—a male in a Bournemouth garden (W D H B) to September 22nd ; two at Meon (R H D). There was one bird singing all the afternoon of June 10th at Irons Well, New Forest (J S A).

- 371 **Hedge Sparrow**.—A bird ringed April 28th, 1951, was killed by a car near where ringed April 11th, 1956 (J S A). A much longer lived bird was ringed at Sway September 16th, 1949, and is still seen daily (to December 14th, 1957) where ringed (E C).

- 373 **Meadow Pipit**.—Spring passage :

Mar. 17.—Hurst, 18 E. down the Solent in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B).

„ 18.—Farlington Marshes, large influx (P G).

Apr. 14.—Needles, ca. 70 on cliff top, gone in about an hour, and 10 S. to N. in off sea (E J W, G H R).

„ 14.—Hurst, 16 in an hour down the Solent (J K B).

„ 14.—Yarmouth, 30 birds (M C A).

„ 27/28.—St. Catherine's Light, a few heard during the night, and with a sudden lull in a strong N.E. wind at 1730 B.S.T. On 28th four came in S. to N. off sea in five minutes (G H R).

May 4/5.—St. Catherine's Light, fairly heavy passage N. from sea during the night (E J W).

„ 8.—St. Catherine's Point, fairly heavy passage 0300–0500 B.S.T. (E J W).

Autumn passage :

Sept. 15.—St. Catherine's Point, ca. 800 E. in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours (G H R) ; 60 N. in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours off the sea (G H R).

- Sept. 22.—St. Catherine's Point, 810 E. in 1 hour (J K B, E J W) ; 19 E. in $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour (E J W).
 " 23.—Hillhead, c. 200 E. in 1 hour (G H R).
 " 29.—Solent, 17 W. over Lymington ferry (J K B).
 Oct. 6.—St. Catherine's Point, ca. 50 N. in off the sea (E J W) ; 84 W. (E J W), 31 N., 33 W. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B).
 " 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 176 W. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B) ; 47 E. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B) ; 14 N. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B).
 " 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 107 W. in 7 hours (G H R, J K B) ; 17 E. in 7 hours (G H R, J K B) ; 14 N. in 7 hours off the sea (G H R, J K B).
 " 21.—St. Catherine's Point, 70 W. (E J W).
 " 27.—St. Catherine's Point, 24 N. in 1 hour (J K B).
 Nov. 3.—St. Catherine's Point, one caught at the Light (G H R).
 " 4.—St. Catherine's Point, ca. 20 at the Lighthouse before dawn and 13 N. at Point later (W H T).

During early morning watches kept at Hengistbury Head on September 8th, 16th, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 30th, October 21st and 26th, a total of 2,264 birds seen passing : 1,098 left to the S.E., 505 left to S. and 267 to E., 294 followed the coast towards the E. ; peak days 23rd, 24th, 25th. On October 26th 13 came in off sea S.E. to N.W. (F R C).

The only *large* movement noted at Farlington Marshes was on October 7th, when a sample count gave 112 in an hour W. and N.W. (P G). It is perhaps interesting to note from the above records that the bulk of movement during September was E., with some coming in from the sea to the N., but during October, while numbers to the N. increased, the majority were moving to the W. (*cf.* a similar switch noted under Swallow).

J S A records from Damerham "literally thousands in fields over a large area September 18th and 19th (a non-breeding area) were reduced to scores by the 26th.

- 376 **Tree Pipit.**—Small numbers seen coming in from the sea, I. of W., April 14th to April 28th. Maximum 11 in 15 minutes at St. Catherine's Point on 28th about 1730 B.S.T. with sudden lull in strong N.E. wind (G H R, E J W). Nesting in suitable places throughout New Forest area. Autumn, from the few records general pattern of movement appears much as for Meadow Pipit. Maximum noted, 10 went out S. from Hengistbury Head, September 30th (F R C).
- 379 **Rock Pipit.**—A bird seen at Farlington Marshes March 30th and April 2nd was thought to be of the Scandinavian race, *Anthus s. littoralis*. Like a Rock Pipit with greyer head and upper back ; whitish eye-stripe also small light stripe in malar region ; underparts less streaked—those present being mostly on the flanks, Rock Pipit present for comparison (though Bannerman says "I can see no difference in the breast markings of the two races in the British Museum series"). The grey outer tail feathers ruled out Water Pipit (G H R).
- 379B **Water Pipit.**—St. Catherine's Point, March 31st, one (G H R). Farlington Marshes, March 24th, one. April 1st, three ; 2nd one. Satisfactory details given. Probably one or two elsewhere. October 14th, Stanpit, one, pure white outer tail feathers noted as bird flew from one spot to another (E B).
- 380 **Pied Wagtail.**—Spring passage ; only two records : April 4th, Stanpit, four going W. with two White Wagtails (E C). April 14th, one in off the sea Main Bench, I. of W. (G H R).
 Autumn passage :
 Sept. 15.—St. Catherine's Point, nine E. (G H R).
 " 22.—St. Catherine's Point, 37 E. in 2 hours (J K B, E J W).
 " 23.—Hill Head, 10 E. (G H R).

- Oct. 6.—St. Catherine's Point, 26 W. in 1½ hours (J K B); 140 W. (E J W).
 „ 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 91 W. in 1½ hours (W H T).
 „ 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 29 W. in 7 hours (J K B, G H R); 5 N. in 7 hours off sea (J K B, G H R).
 „ 21.—St. Catherine's Point, 25 W. (E J W); four S. out to sea (E J W).
 „ 27.—St. Catherine's Point, 12 N. (J K B).

N.B.—E. to W. switch apparent again in this species, *cf.* Swallow and Meadow Pipit.

Autumn movement noted at Hengistbury Head in early morning watches kept between September 8th and 30th and October 21st: total of 166 birds: 69 out to sea S.E., 40 E., 27 S., 30 following coastline E. or W. Peak days: September 23rd, 56 in 170 minutes; September 25th, 35 in 80 minutes (F R C).

380B **White Wagtail.**—A sprinkling of birds identified along the coasts during April and May. One at St. Cross, Winchester, April 24th (W).

381 **Grey Wagtail.**—Very little definite information as to breeding status in the county. Only records sent in are Gunner's Hole, Water Meads (W). A bird with one young one at Winchester in May (P S S). Known to nest in a few places in the New Forest.

Autumn movement, small numbers:

- Aug. 25.—St. Catherine's Point, two W. (W H T).
 Sept. 8.—St. Catherine's Point, 21 E. and three from N. (J K B).
 „ 15.—St. Catherine's Point, seven E.; seven W. and five present (G H R).
 „ 15.—Hill Head, 18 E. in 95 minutes and three N. (J K B).
 „ 16.—Warsash, 30 W. (R H D).
 „ 22.—St. Catherine's Point, three W. in 1 hour; one E. (E J W).
 „ 29.—St. Catherine's Point, one E. (E J W).

Present Stanpit September 16th to October 14th, maximum three birds (F R C). Farlington Marshes, P G report autumn passage there September 8th to November 9th, single birds N. on September 16th and October 14th; two W. on October 21st and November 4th.

382 **Yellow Wagtail.**—First, a male at Farlington, April 9th (P G); last, one at St. Catherine's Point, November 4th (W H T).

Apr. 14.—Hurst, three E. over Solent (J K B); two males at Stanpit (E C).

- „ 15.—Yarmouth, 2+ W. (M C A).
 „ 22.—St. Catherine's Point, four from E. landed and joined one male there (J K B, W H T).
 „ 28.—St. Catherine's Point three N. in off sea during lull in strong N.E. wind, *cf.* Meadow and Tree Pipits (G H R, E J W).

May 5.—St. Catherine's Point, nine N. in off sea (E J W).
 Farlington Marshes: Eight males by April 12th; first females on 24th; seven or eight pairs bred in the area (P G).

- Aug. 21.—Meon, *ca.* 200 W.; Warsash, 30 W. (R H D).
 „ 22.—Warsash, *ca.* 35 (R H D); *ca.* 100 Farlington Marshes (P G).
 „ 23.—Meon, *ca.* 45 (R H D).
 Sept. 1.—St. Catherine's Point, one (G H R).
 „ 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 12 (B A E M).
 „ 8.—St. Catherine's Point, five W. and one N. (J K B).
 „ 9.—St. Catherine's Point, two at the Light, a.m. (B A E M *et al.*); Hayling Bay, 41 E. (K B, C J H).
 „ 15.—St. Catherine's Point, eight E. and four N. in off sea (G H R); Hill Head, 43 E. and 10 N. in 93 minutes (J K B).
 „ 22.—St. Catherine's, Point, two E. (J K B).
 „ 29.—St. Catherine's, Point 1 N. (G H R).

Oct. 7.—St. Catherine's, Point one W., two E., one N. (J K B).

Sept. 9.—Eastney Point, 41 E.; Portsmouth, 30 E. (P G).

N.B.—Concentration on the coast in August, but very low numbers reported from St. Catherine's Point during September.

As last year, E L J reports *flava* type Yellow Wagtails at Chilbolton Common: "There were normal female *Flavissima* both up and down river from this locality. On Chilbolton Common three pairs of 'yellows' were watched in July. Of the three pairs the males were all normal *flavissima* types; one very bright, one rather pale and the other intermediate. Paired with these males were three females which could not, in the field, be separated from *flava*. They showed the characteristics of a male Blue-headed in a more subdued form—white eye-stripe and face, blue-grey crown and grey nape very conspicuous. Dark mark on upper breast. Yellow of under parts rather pale, but deepening towards the rear. The birds were otherwise as *flavissima*, but the 'grey and white' head picked them out as *flava* types. (A similar situation has occurred in Cheshire where Smith—1942—recorded *flava*-type females mated with *flavissima* males. Tucker commented that the indigenous population was producing female (but not male) variants resembling the Continental race. See *British Birds*, Vol. XLVIII, No. 9.)"

382B **Blue-headed Wagtail**.—One male Titchfield Haven May 6th, "classic example"; blue head, dark ear-coverts, large white eye-stripe and chin (D F B, G H R, C S). One male Warsash May 8th (R H D).

383 **Waxwing**.—A single bird near Winchester November 11th. Fully described: but as single bird, possibility of an escape cannot be ruled out (P S S).

384 **Great Grey Shrike**.—One male, fully described, by the Avon at Hale on February 12th (E B).

388 **Red-backed Shrike**.—Status probably much as in previous years in New Forest area, with about usual records from elsewhere in the county. One juvenile in the bushes at St. Catherine's Point September 10th (B A E M, R R, R J W).

389 **Starling**.—January 28th, Ryde Pier, two flocks totalling ca. 100 birds flew from the direction of the mainland 0800 hours, presumably returning to the I. of W. from a roost. A similar observation was made on March 3rd, but only ca. 40 birds (G H R). In the autumn particularly heavy movement was noted during the last week of October: Oct. 23rd.—Damerham, a temporary roost—for few days only—10,000—15,000 birds (J S A).

Oct. 27th.—Hill Head, flocks of 20—100 at short intervals all day W. and N.W., total of 2,655 in five hours (E J W, C S). The local flock at Titchfield Haven took no part in this movement and roosted as usual in the reeds (C S). St. Catherine's Point, 1,612 in six hours came in off the sea and turned W. (J K B). New Forest, parties 30—200 N.W. most of the day; also seen over Southampton (K H P, K V E). Farlington Marsh—Langstone Harbour, passing W. all day up to 1500 hours. Sample count 450 in one hour. Birds could also be seen passing along ridge of Portsdown Hill; similar movement over Eastney Point a.m. next day (P G).

Oct. 28th.—Sowley Pond, ca. 20,000 circled for 25 minutes before roosting in the reeds (R H D, J J W E).

Oct. 30th.—J S A reports: "Between 1420 and 1600 hours ca. 20 parties of 15 to 20 birds each were seen flying N. into a very strong head wind over the Dorset/Hants boundary (see Portland B.O. Report where a similar movement of immigrants was taking place 'during the afternoon from midday' composed of similar flock sizes)."

An adult bird ringed at Fordingbridge February 1st, 1954, was found dead at Bydgoszcz, Poland, 850 miles E.N.E., on March 14th, 1956.

Another adult also ringed at Fordingbridge, February 2nd, 1954, was found dead at Sijbekarspel, North Holland, 320 miles E.N.E., on April 11th, 1956 (J S A). On December 9th "a very dull day with heavy cloud but visibility up to 1,500 yards", a flock estimated at over a million birds was watched at East Worldham, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles S.E. of Alton by Mr. John Blackwell, Engineer to the Alton R.D.C. He watched them for about an hour at a distance varying from 100 to 250 yards "and for a long time one part of the flock was leap-frogging over the other in a field of clover from which barley had been harvested in September". He estimated it to be "a mass some 500 yards long by 200 yards wide by 10 yards deep; allowing only one bird in each cubic yard of air space there were a million birds. They passed over a field which I know to be 210 yards wide and they stretched nearly the full length of the field which I have paced at about 700 paces (of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet). The height I judged by electricity poles which are 22-footers. My estimation of one bird per cubic yard is very lean". (There are references to flocks of 1,000,000 birds (or more) in *Yorkshire Birds* (Chislett) and in *Birds of Lancashire* (Oakes) and to one of 300,000+ in *Bird Pageant* (Robertson).) This flock, "after other smaller groups had been attracted to it, flew off in a westerly direction at about 3.30 p.m. No roost is known in the neighbourhood of the Worldhams". This report comes to us through the kindness of Brigadier Hughes who until recently was Surveyor to the County Council and who sent us Mr. Blackwell's original letters.

- 391 **Hawfinch**.—Recorded from many places throughout the area. A flock of ca. 10 seen in Bilgrove Copse, near Andover, largest number recorded (E L J).

- 392 **Greenfinch**.—Flocks ca. 15—20 birds noted during May at Keyhaven, 7th (E C), and Petersfield Heath, 10th (W P W).

- 393 **Goldfinch**.—Indication of spring and autumn passage movement :

Apr. 15.—Farlington Marshes, 15 E. (P G).

" 17.—St. Catherine's Point, five N. off sea (R R, R J W).

" 28.—St. Catherine's Point, three N.W. off sea (G H R, R J W).

May 5.—St. Catherine's Point, nine N.W. (six and three); 2 W.; eight E. (E J W). Hurst, 1 E. in off sea continuing down Solent (J K B).

July 28.—St. Catherine's Point, seven present (E J W).

Oct. 6.—St. Catherine's Point, 22 W.; 12 N. in off sea (E J W).

" 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 44 W. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B, W H T).

" 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 91 W. in 7 hours; 26 E. in 7 hours (J K B, G H R).

" 21.—St. Catherine's Point, 174 W. (E J W).

" 27.—St. Catherine's Point, 18 W. (J K B).

- 394 **Siskin**.—Largest winter flock recorded 100+ February to at least March 3rd, Old Basing (P E B). April 7th to 9th a male singing from top of Douglas fir and Aspen poplar at Burley Lodge, New Forest; and on June 1st was seen in song-flight from a Lime tree: the bird flying at ca. 15 feet, and, against a dark background, was very conspicuous with the late afternoon sun illuminating its canary-yellow rump, sides of the tail—with dark terminal band—and yellow bar on the wings. June 27th, 3+ Siskins in Douglas firs and Scots pines, one at least of which was a heavily streaked juvenile (P L D).

- 395 **Linnet**.—Spring passage at St. Catherine's Point third week of April to May 5th. Small numbers seen to come in off the sea—maximum 14, April 18th. Nine in off sea on August 9th (J K B *et al*). Two N. in from sea and five W. September 29th are the only records for this month, but considerable movement during October :

Oct. 6.—St. Catherine's Point, 241 W. (E J W); 25 W. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B); 24 N. in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours (J K B).

Oct. 7.—St. Catherine's Point, 384 W. in 4½ hours ; 83 N. in 4½ hours (J K B).

„ 13.—St. Catherine's Point, 286 W. in 7 hours ; 24 E. in 7 hours ; 39 N. in off sea (J K B, G H R).

„ 21.—St. Catherine's Point, 88 W. ; 17 E. ; six S. out to sea (E J W).

„ 27.—St. Catherine's Point, 85 N. ; 16 W. (J K).

Movement observed from Hengistbury Head in early morning watches between September 23rd and 30th and October 21st, 26th. Total number of birds passing 462, of which 136 flew out S., 68 S.E., 34 S.W., 45 E., 182 E. or W. along the coast (F R C).

- 396 **Twite**.—P G report : "16 at Farlington Marshes from November 10th to end of the year (still present January 1957). Seen by 16 observers. Yellow bills, orange breast, generally streaked, especially on crown and back, noticeable wing-bar—more so when at rest—pink rumps seen on some. Call notes and song also heard." The reference to "orange" breast is curious, as also to song being heard ; the *Handbook* chart gives March to August. "Orange" can perhaps be translated as "buff" and the *Handbook's* song chart sometimes fails to show song of other species in months when it can be heard, e.g., Goldcrest (cf. H.F.C. reports for 1954 and 1955).

- 397 **Redpoll**.—A number of winter records. April 8th, two in Colden Common gravel pit, near Eastleigh (R M C). One pair and three juveniles seen near Picket Post, New Forest, July 7th (E J W, W H T), and an "anxious pair" seen there July 21st (G H R).

- 401 **Bullfinch**.

- 404 **Crossbill**.—Numerous records for New Forest area throughout the year. Undoubtedly continues to breed successfully ; there are records of juveniles seen with parents, and one of female carrying nest material April 15th (D W).

- 407 **Chaffinch**.—Small W. to E. movement noted at Farlington Marshes April 6th (P G). One at St. Catherine's Light a.m. September 9th. Movement during October to W. and N. in small numbers ; maximum 56 N. past the Point on 27th (W G E). Ringing recoveries : juvenile female ringed Holland October 8th, 1953, recovered Botley March 26th, 1954. Another ringed Belgium October 5th, 1952, recovered Hayling Island November 30th, 1952 (*British Birds*, Vol. XLIX, No. 11).

- 408 **Brambling**.—Last date April 1st. Eight males and one female, Ashurst (G K). A well abraded male, i.e., summer plumage, noted at Hannington March 30th (E L J). Flock of about 80 Bedhampton Creek February 19th and ca. 100 on 28th and 27th (P G).

- 409 **Yellowhammer**.—A flock of ca. 20 on the cliff top at the Needles, April 14th, had left one hour later (G H R, E J W). October 20th, Titchfield Haven, 30+ in a mixed flock with 25 Corn Buntings, 12 Gull Buntings and six Reed Buntings (J K B per C S).

- 410 **Corn Bunting**.—Breeds in fair numbers over much of the suitable areas ; noticeably the chalk uplands and extensive farmlands in general. Winter coastal records from Warsash to Farlington Marshes, but none from W. of Southampton Water.

- 415 **Gull Bunting**.—Status in the county rather uncertain but breeds in many places. Absent from the New Forest area but unlike the Corn Bunting is found along the coastal strip S. of this area : has bred there and probably still does. Seen frequently on Southampton Common (J P S, K V E). Heard singing Osborne, I. of W., all months except January, February, September and November (J S).

- 416 **Ortolan Bunting**.—One caught St. Catherine's Light 0345 hours September 10th. "Dingy brown and streaked. The most prominent features of the plumage were broad buff stripes on an otherwise brown streaked throat ; pale eye-ring ; large white patches on outer tail feathers,

rich buff underparts ; pink bill and legs. General colour of back, head etc., was buff-brown streaked black. Obviously a juvenile" (B A E M, R R, D R W). Damerham, September 17th, one, and probably a second (J S A). This bird proved rather wild, but fair details were obtained and the observer had had several opportunities of watching this species at this time when a number were present at Portland.

- 421 **Reed Bunting.**—Dry (gorse and heather) breeding habitats recorded from Beaulieu heath, Ocknell/Stoney Cross and Fritham (G H R, E J W).
- 422 **Lapland Bunting.**—One identified by its note, Farlington Marshes, October 8th (P G), and another also identified by its distinctive note flying high N.W. over Damerham, September 18th (J S A). This observer adds : " This species was identified on many occasions at Portland from September 22nd until into November, in parties of up to eight or more. It is interesting to note that the local records of Aquatic Warblers, Ortolans and this species, all coincided with the ' great rush ' on the coast."
- 423 **Snow Bunting.**—One or two birds—maximum five—seen between January 4th and April 6th at several places along the coast. One inland at Petersfield February 29th (A A S). Flock of about 20 seen in the dock area Southampton, October 27th (J P S). One female Farlington Marshes, October 27th and November 4th (P G).
- 424 **House Sparrow.**
- 425 **Tree Sparrow.**—Quobb Lane, West End, near Southampton, 21 seen on January 3rd (D W, R H D). Farlington, February 5th, two (R H D).

List of Observers.

NOTE.—P G (Portsmouth Group) records from January to June were from one or more of the following : D. F. Billett, J. K. Bowers, P. F. le Brocq, J. Conchie, C. J. Henty, N. A. Rand, G. H. Rees, B. W. Renyard, C. R. Tubbs and E. J. Wiseman with occasional notes from A. Best, M. Bryant, P. J. Chadder, F. Cowan, S. Martin, J. L. L. Pilkington, P. Smith, J. H. Taverner and W. H. Truckle, and from July to December from the first three as above and M. Bryant, C. J. Henty, N. A. Rand, G. H. Rees, B. W. Renyard, P. Smith, J. Simons, W. H. Truckle, C. R. Tubbs, A. Walker, F. Walker and E. J. Wiseman, with additional notes from K. Brown, P. J. Chadder, A. Best, F. Cowan, J. Conchie, G. H. Clay, E. A. Grove, E. L. Jones, B. A. E. Marr, S. Martin, J. L. L. Pilkington, J. H. Taverner, P. L. Rabbetts and R. Ruston.

Farlington Marshes were watched on 264 dates and other parts of the area on a further twenty-six dates.

(M C A)	M. C. Adams.	(J L B)	J. L. Burton.
(J S A)	J. S. Ash (Dr.).	(J B)	J. Butler.
(E B)	E. Batchelor (Miss).	(B C)	B. Campbell (Dr.).
(I R B)	I. R. Beames.	(P C)	P. Chadder.
(J B)	J. Beazley.	(F R C)	F. R. Clifton.
(D F B)	D. F. Billett.	(R S C)	Sir Ralph S. Clarke (Col., K.B.E.).
(J K B)	J. K. Bowers.	(J G C)	J. G. Clarkson (Mrs.).
(J V B)	J. V. Boys.	(E C)	E. Cohen.
(T E B)	T. E. Brice.	(J E C)	J. E. Cooper.
(B.B.)	<i>British Birds.</i>	(F C)	F. Cowan.
(H A J B)	H. A. J. Brotherton (Miss).	(R M C)	R. M. Curber.
(K B)	K. Brown.	(P L D)	P. L. Day.
(P E B)	P. E. Brown.	(R H D)	R. H. Dennis.
(R B)	R. Brown.	(R D)	R. Dilke (Mrs.).
(W H D B)	W. H. D. Brown.	(P D)	P. Dymott.
(M M B)	M. M. Bruce (Miss).	(D E)	D. Edmeades (Miss).
(M B)	M. Bryant.	(K V E)	K. V. Edwards.

(W G E)	W. G. Edwards.	(P G)	"Portsmouth Group"
(J J W E)	J. J. W. Everett.	(I P)	I. Prestt.
(D Fa)	D. Farren.	(P L R)	P. L. Rabbetts.
(D F)	D. Fry.	(G H R)	G. H. Rees.
(P J F)	P. J. Fullagar.	(B W R)	B. W. Renyard.
(D B F)	D. B. Fumage.	(E R)	E. Richards.
(B G)	B. Goater.	(M R)	M. Rogers (Mrs.).
(J G)	J. Goodhart.	(R R)	R. Ruston.
(M G)	M. Grist.	(M M S)	M. M. Seabroke (Mrs.).
(E A G)	E. A. Grove.	(A S)	A. Searle.
(R H)	R. Harkness.	(K S)	K. Shackleton.
(A J H)	A. J. Henry.	(A A S)	A. A. Shakespeare.
(C J H)	C. J. Henry.	(J T P S)	J. T. P. Sharrock.
(L E H)	L. E. Higson.	(W S)	W. Shepherd.
(E R H)	E. R. Higson (Miss).	(T B S)	T. B. Silcocks (Sgt.).
(G L H)	G. L. Hogbin.	(J S)	J. Stafford.
(O H)	O. Hook.	(P S)	P. Stent (Lt.-Comdr., R.N.).
(H C H)	H. C. Hopkinson (Dr.).	(C S)	C. Suffern (Dr.).
(R J J)	R. J. Jackson.	(L D N S)	Lymington and District Naturalists' Society.
(D M J)	D. M. Jones.	(P S S)	Peter Symonds' School.
(E L J)	E. L. Jones.	(J H T)	J. H. Taverner.
(G K)	G. Kinsey.	(W H T)	W. H. Truckle.
(R A L)	R. A. Lawrence (Mrs.).	(D R W)	D. R. Wells.
(R E L)	R. E. Leverett.	(G A H W)	G. A. H. Wells.
(J E M)	J. E. Major (F./Lt.,	(E H W)	E. H. White.
& (J M)	R.A.F.).	(T W)	T. White (Miss).
(D J M)	D. J. Mallock.	(W P W)	W. P. White (Miss).
(B A E M)	B. A. E. Marr.	(R J W)	R. J. Wilmshurst.
(S M)	S. Martin.	(W)	Winchester College N.H.S.
(D M N)	D. M. Nicholson (Miss).	(E J W)	E. J. Wiseman.
(K H P)	K. H. Palmer.	(D W)	D. Wooldridge.
(A P-S)	A. Pearce-Smith.		
(M P)	M. Philpott.		
(G G P)	G. G. Pierce.		
(C P)	C. Popham (Miss).		

2. Insects, 1956.

(a) Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths).

By W. H. DOWDESWELL.

Contributions were received from the following:—

Miss E. Batchelor (E B).
 Mr. E. Cohen (E C).
 Major J. N. Kirkaldy (J K).
 Mr. G. H. Rees (G R).
 Dr. C. Suffern (C S).
 Mr. W. H. Truckle (W T).
 Winchester College N.H.S. (W).

Although most of the common butterflies were plentiful and some of them abundant, the year was undoubtedly a freak one judged by the time of emergence of some species. Since this was almost certainly due to abnormal weather conditions, it is perhaps worth putting a brief summary on record. The frosty conditions

of late January continued throughout almost the whole of February and were accompanied by bitter N. and N.E. winds. Frosts were also recorded during the first ten days of March. April was fairly fine but there were fourteen days of frosts. A fine, warm May was followed by a cold, unsettled June and early July—the period when many species normally emerge. The average time of appearance of the resident butterflies was at least a fortnight later than usual.

Systematic List.

Large White (*Pieris brassicae*).—Very scarce in Winchester area with no evidence of any migration. First date May 24th, last August 21st (W). Rare on coast in Hill Head area and no signs of any migration (C S).

Small White (*Pieris rapae*).—Common in Winchester area, particularly second brood. First May 18th; last September 6th (W). Scarce in Hill Head area and no sign of migration. First date May 20th, last September 2nd (C S). First date New Forest April 9th (E C).

Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*).—Commoner everywhere than in 1955. Abundant in Itchen Water-meadows (W). Increase in numbers at Hill Head but still not common. First date May 6th; last August 26th (C S). Few at Farlington Marshes; common at Bishop's Dyke May 21st (G R).

Orange Tip (*Anthocharis cardamines*).—Common in Redbridge May 22nd and in Crab Wood May 29th (W). Few at Bishop's Dyke and Farlington Marshes (G R). Few at Hill Head but still not common there (none seen at all in 1955) (C S). First record in New Forest, male, April 29th (E C).

Clouded Yellow (*Colias croceus*).—One male seen Woolbury Ring area on July 7th (W). Otherwise no records.

Brimstone (*Gonepteryx rhamni*).—An exceptionally good year for both broods. Freshly emerged males and females at Worthy Down August 20th (W). Several at Hill Head (C S), and Farlington Marshes (W T). First date March 9th Castle Hill (E B).

Silver-washed Fritillary (*Argynnis paphia*).—Locally common in narrow sunlit glades of Crab Wood and Harewood Forest. Many at Crab Wood July 26th and 27th (one *valezina* on 27th) (W). Common in Harewood Forest July 7th, including several *valezina* (J K). First date July 8th, Amberwood Inclosure (E B).

High Brown Fritillary (*Argynnis cydippe*).—Common and fresh in Harewood Forest July 27th (J K).

Dark Green Fritillary (*Argynnis aglaia*).—Common on open slopes near Crab Wood and Woolbury Ring area. Freshly emerged on July 7th (W).

Pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Argynnis euphrosyne*).—Common and fairly fresh in Crab Wood May 29th. First date Crab Wood April 2nd. Common in Harewood Forest (W). New Forest May 20th (E B). Ca. 20 Woodfildley area May 21st (G R). Eight Pinnick Wood area July 7th (W T).

Small pearl-bordered Fritillary (*Argynnis selene*).—Several small colonies in the Harewood Forest area and another near the Blandford—Salisbury road. A rare species in Winchester area (J K). Roe Wood Inclosure May 20th (E B).

Marsh Fritillary (*Euphydryas aurinia*).—Locally common on the northern slopes of Hills Valley May 20th to June 10th. Maximum abundance during first week of June (W).

- Comma** (*Polygonia c-album*).—A very good year for this species (both broods). Common in Harewood Forest in late April. Few at Crab Wood and very common on rhododendron bushes in Ampfield Wood July 31st (W). First date Godshill Inclosure March 25th (E B).
- Small Tortoiseshell** (*Aglais urticae*).—Common in Crab Wood, Hills Valley and Ampfield Wood. First date Winchester May 4th; last St. Cross October 1st (W). Common Hill Head, first March 25th; last October 14th (C S).
- Peacock** (*Nymphalis io*).—Commoner than last year but still scarce in the Winchester area. A few at Crab Wood July 2nd and at Chilworth in mid-September (W). Commoner at Hill Head (C S). First date New Forest March 30th (E B).
- Painted Lady** (*Vanessa cardui*).—A rare butterfly this year (even less common than in 1955). Single record Redbridge May 28th (W). One at Castle Hill June 2nd (E B). One, St. Catherine's Point, September 2nd (W T).
- Red Admiral** (*Vanessa atalanta*).—Much less common than in 1955. Record of two at Hockley in early July (W). Very scarce in Hill Head area, none seen before September 8th (C S). One disturbed as it was sunning itself on a grassy drive in Salisbury Trench Inclosure April 22nd. Probably wintered in this locality (E B).
- White Admiral** (*Limenitis camilla*).—A very good year in Crab Wood and Harewood Forest; common in both localities 6th to 27th July (W). First date New Forest July 8th (E B).
- Marbled White** (*Agapetes galathea*).—Abundant on open downland and more numerous than *Maniola jurtina* in many places. Just emerging Woolbury Ring July 7th. First record Hills Valley June 24th. Plentiful in Crab Wood area July 26th/27th (W).
- Speckled Wood** (*Pararge aegeria*).—As common as usual in Crab Wood during May and early June. Very common in Ampfield Wood July 31st. Common on Chilworth Common during August and first part of September (W). Very scarce at Hill Head—only one seen (C S). New Forest April 20th (E C).
- Wall** (*Pararge megera*).—Commoner than usual along wayside banks and hedgerows. Several at Chilcomb Ranges, May 31st (W). New Forest May 21st and Farlington Marshes August 12th (W T).
- Grayling** (*Eumenis semele*).—Common on heathland such as Stoney Cross area (New Forest) in mid-July. Also abundant on Arreton Down (I.O.W.) August 11th (W). One Needs Oar Point August 18th (W T).
- Meadow Brown** (*Maniola jurtina*).—Distribution remarkably patchy for such a common species. Quite rare in some of its usual haunts. Seems to have been replaced almost entirely by *Agapetes galathea* in some localities, e.g., Hills Valley, Woolbury Ring (W). Several at Farlington Marshes. On July 4th in strong S.W. gale, one *jurtina* was seen to rest repeatedly for short periods on choppy sea. It took off again with apparent ease each time (G R).
- Gatekeeper** (*Maniola tithonus*).—Common along hedgerows and in clearings but not as abundant as last year. First date Crab Wood July 16th (W). New Forest July 18th (E B). Scarce in Hill Head area (C S).
- Ringlet** (*Aphantopus hyperanthus*).—Common in woodland and along hedgerows but late in appearance. Replaces *M. jurtina* along edge of road in Woolbury Common area—freshly emerged July 7th (W). Predominant in grassy clearings in woodland, such as New Forest—first date July 15th (E B).
- Small Heath** (*Coenonympha pamphilus*).—Hills Valley May 22nd. Very common everywhere suitable. Still swarming in Worthy Down area September 6th (W). New Forest May 21st (E B). Common Farlington Marshes May 20th onwards (G R).

- Duke of Burgundy Fritillary** (*Hamearis lucina*).—Restricted colony in Crab Wood reported as abundant May 16th. Large colony discovered at Chattis Hill and two smaller ones at Barton Stacey (J K). New Forest first date May 20th (E B).
- Small Copper** (*Lycaena phlaeas*).—Commoner than in 1955 particularly the second brood. Numerous at Redbridge July 31st and at Arreton Down (I.O.W.) August 11th (W). Still scarce at Hill Head (E S).
- Brown Hairstreak** (*Thecla batulae*).—Restricted colony in Longparish area and another near Tidworth September 10th/12th (J K).
- Purple Hairstreak** (*Thecla quercus*).—Plentiful in Harewood Forest. A few seen in Crab Wood July 20th, but not as common there as usual (W).
- White-letter Hairstreak** (*Strymon w-album*).—One very restricted locality near Longparish July 11th (J K). One in Winchester garden July 27th (W).
- Green Hairstreak** (*Callophrys rubi*).—Quite a good season for this species. Common by May 21st in St. Catherine's Hill area and elsewhere on chalk downland. First date May 13th at Cheesefoot Head (W).
- Silver-studded Blue** (*Plebejus argus*).—Very common on New Forest heathland. Abundant in Stoney Cross area July 10th (W). First date New Forest July 1st (E B).
- Brown Argus** (*Aricia agestis*).—Common in Hills Valley and Cheesefoot Head area from May 22nd onwards (W).
- Common Blue** (*Polyommatus icarus*).—Very common this year; Hills Valley and other grassland May/July. First date May 22nd (W). Fair number at Hill Head June 3rd/24th (C S).
- Chalk-hill Blue** (*Lysandra coridon*).—Flourishing colonies on Chattis Hill, Broughton Down and Woolbury Ring. Very common on Arreton Down (I.O.W.) by August 11th. Surprisingly rare in Hills Valley, Winchester, and none appeared until first week in August (W).
- Adonis Blue** (*Lysandra bellargus*).—Distribution in Hampshire appears to be remarkably patchy and the species is absent from much of the chalk downland. Flourishing colony in Hills Valley, more numerous than usual May/July. First date May 20th (W).
- Holly Blue** (*Celastrina argiolus*).—Much commoner than in 1955 in localities such as Crab Wood. First brood reported May 11th. Second brood August 4th (W). Two, Farlington Marshes, August 12th (W T). Several at Hill Head but less than in 1955 (C S).
- Small Blue** (*Cupido minimus*).—First date May 31st Chilcomb ranges. Less common than usual in Hills Valley during June. Flourishing colony in Woolbury Down area near main road. Perfect condition July 7th (W). Small second brood in Chattis Hill colony August 5th (J K).
- Grizzled Skipper** (*Pyrgus malvae*).—Very common in all usual localities such as Hills Valley, Winchester. First date May 13th (W).
- Dingy Skipper** (*Erynnis tages*).—Similar to *P. malvae*.
- Small Skipper** (*Adopoea sylvestris*).—Very common in Crab Wood, Hills Valley and Worthy Down area July/August. First date July 7th (W). Quite common at Hill Head (C S).
- Essex Skipper** (*Adopoea lineola*).—Small colony at Over Wallop July 8th (J K). No news of Woolbury Ring locality (W).
- Large Skipper** (*Ochlodes venata*).—Very common in Hills Valley. First date June 10th (W). Fewer at Hill Head than in 1955 (C S). Common in Broughton Down area August 6th (J K).

Moths.

The following notes have been sent by Dr. C. Suffern of species found in the Hill Head area :

Common Footman (*E. luridola*).—Very scarce : only one on August 4th.

Setaceous Hebrew Character (*A. c-nigrum*).—One on September 9th.

Lesser Yellow Underwing (*T. comes*).—One on August 12th.

Common Yellow Underwing (*T. pronuba*).—One on July 14th ; one on August 28th and one on September 7th.

Cabbage Moth (*M. brassicae*).—One on June 30th and no others.

Flounced Rustic (*L. testacea*).—Two on September 15th.

Dusky Brocade (*A. obscura*).—Two came to light at midnight June 13th/14th, and one did the same on June 20th/21st.

Light Arches (*A. lithoxylea*).—One on September 8th.

Dark Arches (*A. monoglypha*).—Three on July 14th.

Common Wainscot (*L. pallens*).—One on July 7th.

Smokey Wainscot (*L. impura*).—One on July 28th.

Copper Underwing (*A. pyramidea*).—One on August 25th.

Hebrew Character (*O. gothica*).—One on April 1st.

Silver Y (*P. gamma*).—A very bad season. One on August 7th and August 8th (probably the same specimen). One on September 9th ; one on September 23rd ; one on September 29th ; four on October 13th ; eight on October 14th ; and one on November 3rd. August 7th is the very latest date for the first of the year ; but November 3rd as the latest date for the last of the year is beaten by November 8th in 1952.

Moth Shipton (*E. mi*).—One on June 3rd ; and one on June 19th.

Small Emerald (*H. chrysoprasaria*).—One on September 8th.

Blood-vein (*C. amata*).—Two on June 7th, two on June 24th and two on August 5th.

Shaded Broadbar (*O. chenopodista*).—Only two on August 10th.

Common Carpet (*E. alternata*).—Only one on June 21st.

Purple Bar (*L. ocellata*).—Only one on June 13th.

Yellow Shell (*E. bilineata*).—Only one on July 27th.

Common Wart (*C. exanthemata*).—Two on June 7th, one on June 13th and one on June 20th.

Clouded Border (*A. marginata*).—Two on June 9th.

Clouded Silver (*B. temerata*).—One on June 7th, the only one I have ever found at Hill Head.

Swallowtail Moth (*O. sambucaria*).—One on September 8th.

Brimstone Moth (*O. luteolata*).—Only one on September 8th.

Dotted Border (*E. marginaria*).—One on March 16th.

Early Thorn (*S. bilunaria*).—One on August 8th.

Willow Beauty (*C. rhomboidaria*).—One on August 3rd.

Broadbordered Five-spot Burnet (*Z. trifolii*).—One on June 30th, just emerged, and two in cop. July 21st.

Hookmarked Straw (*X. hamana*).—Plentiful from June 11th to July 21st.

(b) Odonata (Dragonflies).

Dr. C. Suffern has sent the following notes from the Hill Head area.

An even worse year than 1955. First appearances were about the same or a little later than in 1955 for most species, and last

appearance a little earlier. Apart from two unidentified species of *Aeshma* seen, one sp. on September 22nd, and the other from September 15th to October 2nd, the following notes were made :—

Libellula depressa first appeared on June 3rd, a fortnight earlier than in 1955, and was last seen on June 13th, also a fortnight earlier than in 1955.

L. quadrimaculata. I saw only one specimen on June 13th (a usual date for first appearance), but none thereafter.

Agrion splendens first appeared on June 3rd, ten days earlier than in 1955, and was last seen on July 8th, a month earlier than in 1955.

Coenagrion puella was again the only species that could be considered abundant. It first appeared on June 3rd (June 2nd in 1955), and was last seen on July 28th (three weeks earlier than in 1955).

Pyrrosoma nymphula first appeared on May 20th, a fortnight later than in 1955, and was last seen on June 12th, a week earlier than in 1955.

Anax imperator. Only one specimen was seen—on September 8th. This species usually appears first in June.

Ischnura elegans first appeared on June 12th, five days later than in 1955, and was last seen on July 22nd, a week earlier than in 1955.

Orthetrum cancellatum. Only one specimen was seen—male on August 8th, a month later than in 1955 and ten days earlier than very latest record (1950).

Sympetrum striolatum did not appear until September 15th (it usually appears in May) but it lasted in small numbers until October 21st. (I have only three later dates—1950, 1951 and 1952.)

I saw no other species in 1956.

(c) Diptera (Flies).

Mr. J. E. Collin has sent the following report on Diptera in the New Forest area :—

I am afraid that my report for the year 1956 is again one calling attention to a remarkable scarcity of insect life in the "Forest". Such indeed were the conditions on four separate occasions from May to September of this year in this region. It is not surprising therefore that most of the species I had hoped to find were not forthcoming. It would indeed seem that some species had completely disappeared from their usual haunts. Nevertheless, a few interesting additions to the Hampshire fauna were discovered and will be found mentioned below.

Among the Nematocera, no further specimens of the rarer Tipulids were taken, but the somewhat striking-looking little Ceratopogonid *Monohelea tessellata* Zett. was found at Aldridge Hill in August. In the Scatopsidae *S. tristis* Zett., and *albitarsis* Zett., were taken.

The Empididae, usually so abundant in the Spring, were much scarcer than usual. Several of those previously recorded were found, but a special hunt for more specimens of *Rhamphomyia physoprocta* Frey, met with no success. *Syndyas nigripes* Zett., however, was again found in its old haunts at Mark Ash, even so late as the middle of August, and *Tachydromia pulicaria* Mg., occurred at Linwood in the same month.

Again the scarcity of Tabanidae was very marked. One wonders how many years must elapse before they regain their former abundance in this region.

In the Dolichopodidae I was glad to get some specimens of *Porphyrrops fascipes* Mg., at Denny in May, but a further hunt for *Dolichopus melanopus* Mg. was again unsuccessful, and it still remains for someone to rediscover this long-lost species.

The pretty little Platypezid *Agathomyia viduella* Zett. was found at Linwood in May, and in the Phoridae a species was found which has not often been recorded, namely *Citrango citreiformis* Beck.

Very little attention was paid to the Syrphidae, though a futile search was made for *Brachyopa pubescens* Coll. on laurel blossom in Mark Ash, where it had previously been taken. The search was futile mainly because there was no laurel blossom owing to Spring frosts. Later (in August) Mr. E. A. Fonseca was pleased to secure a good series of *Chilosia longula* Zett.

Some of the best collecting was done in the Tachinidae and Muscidae. Of the former, *Actia anomala* Zett., a small Scottish parasite of certain Geometrid moths, not previously recorded south of Shropshire, was taken at Aldridge Hill in August. Other captures included the scarce *Nemoraea pellucida* Mg., as well as *Campylochaeta inepta* Mg., and *Loewia phaeoptera* Dsv. In the Muscidae Mr. E. A. Fonseca obtained a specimen of *Pseudophaonia* (formerly *Poliatella*) *steini* Ringd., the only other British record being from Barton Mills (Suffolk). Specimens of the Scottish Anthomyid *Pegomyia seitenstettensis* Strbl., the larva of which mines the leaves of *Oxalis*, were found at Bank, and Mark Ash. The little-known *Pegohylemyia nudithorax* Ringd., was again found, and while males were scarce, females were somewhat freely taken where "Heath" and "Ling" were in blossom. Then, when specimens of *Azelia*, including *A. zetterstedti* Rnd., *aterrima* Mg., and the ubiquitous *A. triquetra* Mg., were freely found on *Angelica* blossom at Linwood, they were carefully examined for possible examples of what was believed to be a hitherto unnamed species recently found in Suffolk. Success attended these efforts, and a number of both sexes of this interesting new species were found. It has since been discovered that this is evidently the species described some months later (November 1956) by Hennig in Germany as *Azelia trigonica* n. sp.

Other species in this large family found in the course of our visits, and worthy of mention, include *Phaomia vittifera* Zett., *Mydaea electa* Zett., *Lophosceles mutatus* Flin., and *cristatus* Zett., *Fannia verralli* Stein, *mutatus* Zett., and *monilis* Hal., *Acrostilpna latipennis* Zett., and *Nupedia debilis* Stein.

In the Acalyptrate Muscids the Cordylurids *Amaurosoma inerme* Beck., and *nibiella* Zett., both occurred at Denny in May, while among the Lonchaeidae taken was *L. obscuritarsis* Coll., and among Psilidae *Psila (Camptopsila) lefeburei* Zett.

Finally, evidence was brought to our notice that comparatively small alterations in the condition of an environment would appear to have a very marked effect on its insect inhabitants. In a small "bog" at Linwood the only apparent alteration to its condition in 1956 from that in 1955 was that it appeared to be rather less "boggy", while weather conditions (so far at least as regards temperatures) were very similar in both years, yet the many interesting Dolichopodidae and Tetanocerinae found there in 1955 were almost completely absent in 1956.

My thanks are again due to Mrs. F. H. Haines and her family, of "Apple-slade", Linwood, for the many facilities afforded me in my efforts to collect the material for this report.

BOTANICAL OUTINGS.

Field Meeting in the Basingstoke Area.

Leader : MR. E. A. BURROWS.

ON June 9th some 26 members braved the rather unpromising weather conditions for a botanical expedition in the Basingstoke area.

Leaving Basingstoke station, the first stop was at Malshanger House (by kind permission of Sir Jeremiah Colman) where a search of the woods produced a large colony of the green hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*) which was growing in abundance in a small locality. Unfortunately, it was too late for the flowers but several specimens were found bearing fruits. Quite apart from this, a visit to the area was well worth while if only to see the magnificent woodland which was looking its best.

The next move was to Hannington Down near the road from Ibworth to Hannington. As the party emerged from a woodland track on to the chalkdown we were faced with the remarkable sight of great masses of the rare cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*). Our visit could scarcely have been better timed for the yellow flowers were still plentiful ; so, too, were the orange fruits which provided a beautiful display. Other plants of interest in the area were greater butterfly orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*) which was in full flower and the blue fleabane (*Erigeron acris*). Many other plants typical of chalk downland were also to be seen including the early purple orchid (*Orchis mascula*) and the spotted orchid (*O. fuchsii*). Growing in a recently felled hazel copse was an unusually luxuriant colony of the common cow-wheat (*Melampyrum pratense*).

After tea the party stopped on the homeward journey at a point on the Harrow Way north of Deane. This locality was not particularly productive but some very fine examples of the beautiful woolly thistle (*Cirsium eriophorum*) were found by the roadside which would be worth a visit when they are in flower.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.

Visit to the Denny Area, New Forest.

Leaders : DR. J. M. LAMBERT.

DR. J. G. MANNERS.

A party of 36 members assembled at the sandpit at Church Place in the afternoon of June 30th, 1956. The areas visited are included in the proposed Denny Nature Reserve, which includes examples of nearly all the principal types of semi-natural vegetation occurring in the New Forest.

The eastern half of Denny New Inclosure, which was first visited, consists of old beech-oak woodland on the sandy clays of the Neadon Beds, with a small area of beech on Barton Sand. The area had been virtually untouched for many years, and natural colonisation of gaps left by fallen trees could be seen. The principal colonists were bramble and holly, with some beech seedlings, but in one part there was profuse sycamore colonisation.

From the inclosure the party passed through Denny Wood, where it was observed that, probably as a result of grazing, the tree cover was rather less continuous, with open grassy areas quite frequent. We then entered a small inclosure made in 1952 under the Ancient and Ornamental Woodlands scheme, and the vigour and abundance of the ground flora in the parts which had been felled and replanted with oak and beech seedlings was in marked contrast to the sparsity of ground vegetation under the mature canopy.

The party then left the woodland on Headon Beds, crossing on to heathland on Barton Sand and Plateau gravel. The heath itself was very poor in species and it was noted that the rotational burning practised on the heaths had prevented any tree growth. Along the cart-tracks, however, rather more species were seen, such species as *Potentilla erecta* and *Polygala vulgaris* being conspicuous.

The party returned to Church Place by way of Shatterford Bottom, a bog covered for the most part by bog moss (*Sphagnum*), with abundant purple moorgrass (*Molinia caerulea*) and sweet gale (*Myrica gale*). In the wet heath flanking the bog it was noticed that the bell heather (*Erica tetralix*) became at least as abundant as the ling (*Calluna vulgaris*), and there was also abundant bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*). Where there was open water, under the bridge, the bladder-wort *Utricularia minor* was seen.

J. G. MANNERS.

Fungus Foray in Crab Wood (near Winchester).

Leader : DR. F. B. HORA.

Some 56 members assembled at the entrance to Crab Wood on the afternoon of Saturday, October 6th, for the annual Fungus Foray—a record turn-out ! The warm, dry weather of the preceding few weeks had caused an unusually rapid growth of toadstools with the result that many of the commoner species were already nearly over. However, 64 species were recorded and these were arranged and identified in the Biology Laboratory of Winchester College after tea.

- Amanita phalloides*.
Amanitopsis fulva.
Russula fragilis.
 " *emetica*.
 " *ochroleuca*.
Tricholoma album.
 " *sulphureum*.
 " *virgatum*.
 " *albobrunneum*.
Lactarius subdulcis.
 " *pyrogallus*.
 " *vellerius*.
 " *turpis*.
 " *aspidius*.
Hygrophorus chrysaspis.
Mycena sanguinolenta.
 " *pura*.
Psathyrella gracilis (agg.).
Marasmius dryophilus.
 " *peronatus*.
 " *globularis*.
Clitocybe infundibuliformis.
 " *nebularis*.
 " *odora*.
Laccaria laccata.
 " " *var. amethystina*.
Cantharellus cibarius.
 " *tubaeformis*.
Craterellus cornucopioides.
Omphalia umbilicata.
Collybia fusipes.
- Inocybe fastigiata*.
 " *patouillardii*.
 " *geophylla*.
 " *geophylla* var. *lilacina*.
 " *periodora incarnata*.
Hypholoma fasciculare.
Heboloma crustulineforme.
 " *fastibile*.
Entoloma rhodopolium.
Armillaria mellea.
Pholiota flammans (?).
Psalliota arvensis.
Cortinarius nemorensis.
 " *humicolus*.
Boletus scaber.
Hydnum repandum.
Polyporus betulinus.
Trametes rubescens.
Clavaria botrytis.
 " *inequalis*.
 " *formosa*.
 " *pistillaris*.
 " *stricta*.
Phallus impudicus.
Scleroderma verrucosum.
Lycoperdon perlatum.
 " *piriforme*.
Gastrum triplex.
Auricularia auricula-judae.
Helvella elastica.
Daldinia concentrica.
Xylaria hypoxylon.

W. H. DOWDESWELL.



CONTENTS

NATURAL HISTORY, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	309
1. BIRDS IN HAMPSHIRE, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	310
2. INSECTS, 1956	...	...	...	...	...	354
BOTANICAL OUTINGS	...	...	...	...	...	361

