

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. XX (Supplement)
NATURAL HISTORY, 1957

SOUTHBORNE PRINTING CO., LTD.
SOUTHBORNE, BOURNEMOUTH
1959

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Birds in Hampshire, 1957	1
List of Observers	2
Bird Records, 1957	4
Addenda to 1956 Report	56
Corrections to 1956 Report	56
Report on New Forest Diptera, 1957	56

BIRDS IN HAMPSHIRE, 1957

FOREWORD

Readers will see that the number of observers is higher than ever, which is excellent; but some of them are maddeningly slack about sending in their notes. Hence the deplorable delay in the appearance of this report. Notes for 1958 **must** be in the hands of the area recorders by the end of January 1959 and preferably by the middle of the month if they are to be included in the next report; those who have already sent in their 1958 notes quarter by quarter are urged to send in those for the final quarter equally promptly. The compilers of the report cannot be expected to start work until all notes for the year are in, because additions to and interpolations in an attempted draft interim report cause much unnecessary work and irritation.

This report for 1957 has been written by Mr. Taverner and Mr. Palmer, to whom we are all greatly indebted, and has been discussed with them and approved by the remaining area editors, Mr. Rees, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Stafford and myself (Cf. Editorial 1956 Report). Each of us summarised and vetted notes received from our own areas. Two new group names have been used, the Christchurch Harbour Group (CHG) and the St. Catherine's Point Group (SPG); the members of both are detailed in the alphabetical list. All observers are warmly thanked for their efforts.

It was another good year for rarities, to some of which attention is drawn below, but to list all the slightly less uncommon species seen would take up too much space. Readers will no doubt find them for themselves. The County and the Island had their full share of the notable autumn irruption of tits, especially of Blue Tits, of which it is expected that an account will eventually appear in *British Birds*.

The following are particularly worthy of mention (one only of each species unless otherwise stated):— Leach's Petrel; Storm Petrel, two or three; Purple Heron (only two recorded in *Kelsall & Munn*); Little Egret (only one in *K. & M.* and one last year); Goshawk; Broad-billed Sandpiper (first record for Hants); Red-necked Phalarope (much less often recorded than the Grey); Pomarine Skua; Mediterranean Black-headed Gull (one last year also); Gull-billed Tern, two (one last year also); Collared Dove (first record for the county); Aquatic Warbler, two (three or four last year).

EDWIN COHEN,

8th December, 1958.

Chairman, Ornithological Section.

LIST OF OBSERVERS

(MCA)	M. C. Adams	(JGr)	J. Grafton
(HA)	H. Aiken	(PRG)	P. R. Grant (2nd Lieut.)
(AA)	A. Allen	(DMG)	D. M. Grist
(JSA)	J. S. Ash (Dr.)	(CHG)	Christchurch Harbour Group
(DJA)	D. J. Attrill	(PG)	Portsmouth Group
(AJB)	A. J. Barrett	(SPG)	St. Catherine's Point Group
(EB)	E. Batchelor (Miss)	(EAG)	E. A. Grove
(PB)	P. Bateman	(HVH)	H. V. Harris
(EHB)	E. H. Batt	(MH)	M. Hatton
(DFB)	D. F. Billett	(WAH)	W. A. Hay
(DWB)	D. W. Bland	(AJH)	A. J. Henry
(JBB)	J. B. Bottomley	(CJH)	C. J. Henty
(RBo)	R. Bower	(SH)	S. Hett (Mrs.)
(JKB)	J. K. Bowers	(JH)	J. Higgins (Rev. Father)
(JVB)	J. V. Boys	(FIH)	F. J. Honnor
(PJB)	P. J. Brew	(OH)	O. Hook
(TEB)	T. E. Brice	(GH)	G. Hopkinson (Mrs.)
(HAJB)	H. A. J. Brotherton (Miss)	(MJH)	M. J. Hudson
(KB)	K. Brown	(CH)	C. Hunter
(PEB)	P. E. Brown	(RJJ)	R. J. Jackson
(RB)	R. Brown	(GWJ)	G. W. Jacobs
(MMB)	M. M. Bruce (Miss)	(RHJ)	R. H. Jepson (Mrs.)
(MB)	M. Bryant	(ELJ)	E. L. Jones
(JCa)	J. Cawsey	(LK)	L. Kennedy (Miss)
(PC)	P. Chadder	(GK)	G. Kinsey
(PJC)	P. J. Chadwick	(PFLeB)	P. F. Le Brocq
(ECh)	E. Churches (Mrs.)	(GKL)	G. K. Lloyd
(FRC)	F. R. Clifton	(BL)	B. Lock
(EC)	E. Cohen	(JML)	J. M. Lock
(JC)	J. Conchie	(CRM)	C. R. Macdonald
(PCo)	P. Copeland	(RJM)	R. J. Machin
(FC)	F. Cram	(JEM)	J. E. Major (F/Lt.)
(DC)	D. Cronan	(BAEM)	B. A. E. Marr
(RMC)	R. M. Curber	(SM)	S. Martin
(VGD)	V. G. Davey	(RHM)	R. H. May
(PLD)	P. L. Day	(MJM)	M. J. McVail
(RHD)	R. H. Dennis	(DGM)	D. G. Mitchison
(TGD)	T. G. Dixon	(DCM)	D. C. Mole
(CD)	C. Doe	(BM)	B. Morris
(ED)	E. Doe	(DJM)	D. J. Morris
(PHD)	P. H. Dymott	(AM)	A. Mowlem
(JWE)	J. W. Eagles (Miss)	(JM)	J. Murry
(KVE)	K. V. Edwards	(ICTN)	I. C. T. Nisbett
(WGE)	W. G. Edwards	(JLN)	J. L. Northeast
(IJE)	I. J. Eley (Miss)	(MAO)	M. A. Oram
(RE)	R. Elmes	(KHP)	K. H. Palmer
(JE)	J. Everett	(DHP)	D. H. Paul
(IGF)	I. G. Farwell	(FEP)	F. E. Penrose (Miss)
(WCF)	W. C. Ferguson	(AVP)	A. V. Pettet
(JF)	J. Follett	(MP)	M. Philpott
(OHF)	O. H. Frazer	(GGP)	G. G. Pierce
(CHF)	C. H. Fry	(JLLP)	J. L. L. Pilkington
(DF)	D. Fry	(CP)	C. Popham (Miss)
(PJF)	P. J. Fullagar	(MHP)	M. H. Port
(SG)	S. Geary (Miss)	(DP)	D. Price
(BG)	B. Gillham (Miss)		
(DJG)	D. J. Godfrey		
(JG)	J. Goodhart		

LIST OF OBSERVERS—contd.

(GHR)	G. H. Rees	(GAS)	G. A. Sutton
(PAR)	P. A. Reid	(JHT)	J. H. Taverner
(BWR)	B. W. Renyard	(MRT)	M. R. Taylor
(EGR)	E. G. Richards	(GT)	G. Tidy (Mrs.)
(BSR)	B. S. Roberts	(MT)	M. Townsend
(DR)	D. Roberts	(WHT)	W. H. Truckle
(MR)	M. Rogers (Mrs.)	(CRT)	C. R. Tubbs
(JR)	J. Russell	(MWT)	M. W. Tucker (Mrs.)
(PSS)	Peter Symonds' School	(AW)	A. Walker
(MMS)	M. M. Seabroke (Mrs.)	(FW)	F. Walker
(AS)	A. Searle	(CGW)	C. G. Weare
(PS)	P. Sharland (Miss)	(GAHW)	G. A. H. Wells
(RES)	R. E. Sharland	(DJW)	D. J. Westwood
(JTRS)	J. T. R. Sharrock	(SLW)	S. L. White
(WS)	W. Shepard	(TW)	T. White (Miss)
(TBS)	T. B. Silcocks	(WPW)	W. P. White (Miss)
(JRS)	J. R. Simms	(SNDW)	S. N. D. Whitfield
(JSi)	J. Simons	(EW)	E. Williams
(ECLS)	E. C. L. Simpson (Col.)	(RJW)	R. J. Wilmshurst
(JSm)	J. Smallwood	(W)	Winchester College
(SHS)	S. H. Sporne	(AJW)	A. J. Wise
(JS)	J. Stafford	(EJW)	E. J. Wiseman
(CS)	C. Suffern (Dr.)	(DW)	D. Wooldridge
		(GEW)	G. E. Wooldridge
		(JW)	J. Wright
		(AY)	A. York-Norris

Christchurch Harbour Group (CHG)

Mr. and Mrs. H. Aiken, Miss Batchelor, J. V. Boys, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Clifton, E. Cohen, A. J. Foxten, D. Fry, P. J. Fullagar, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Godfrey, C. Gubbins, H. V. Harris, R. J. Jackson, C. R. Macdonald, B. J. Pitman, Miss C. Popham, P. Roberts, J. H. Taverner, A. J. Wise, J. Wright.

Portsmouth Group (PG)

D. F. Billett, J. K. Bowers, M. Bryant, P. F. Le Brocq, C. J. Henry, E. L. Jones, T. Meek, N. A. Rand, G. H. Rees, B. W. Renyard, J. Simons, P. Smith, W. H. Truckle, C. R. Tubbs, A. Walker, F. Walker, E. J. Wiseman. Occasional Notes from: A. Allen, A. Best, B. A. E. Marr, J. Burton, R. Brown, P. Chadder, J. Conchie, F. Cowan, R. H. Dennis, J. L. L. Pilkington, R. Ruston, J. Smallwood, A. Searle, T. Silcocks, M. Townsend, D. Wells.

St. Catherine's Point Group (SPG)

M. C. Adams, A. Allen, D. F. Billett, J. K. Bowers, K. Brown, R. Brown, J. Conchie, R. H. Dennis, W. G. Edwards, C. J. Henry, E. L. Jones, G. Kinsey, G. K. Lloyd, B. A. E. Marr, A. V. Pettet, G. H. Rees, B. W. Renyard, J. Stafford, J. H. Taverner, M. R. Taylor, M. Townsend, W. H. Truckle, C. R. Tubbs, E. Williams, R. J. Wilmshurst, E. J. Wiseman.

BIRD RECORDS, 1957

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** Several reported at both ends of the year. Single birds were seen on six dates between 8th January and 9th February at Portsmouth Harbour (RHD), Langstone Harbour (PG) and Sandy Point on Hayling Island (KB). More than one was concerned since one report was of an oiled bird. Single corpses were washed up at Hengistbury Head on 29th January, 9th February and 12th April (FRC, PJF, CRM, JW), a single bird was reported from Hatchet Pond on several days in the latter half of March (KHP) and two more singletons were seen off St. Catherine's Point on 10th March and 22nd April, the last of these flying East (SPG).

At the end of the year, up to three were seen on several dates between 6th November and 14th December off Hill Head (RHD, CS, JHT, SLW) and single birds were recorded from October onwards at Calshot (AY), Black Point (KB), Fareham Creek (AS) and Hurst (JKB) whilst two at Warsash on 15th December were probably the Hill Head birds (RHD). One was seen at St. Catherine's Point going West on 2nd November (SPG).

- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** The majority of records came from places to the East of Southampton Water and in that area there was a marked difference in localities when records for the early part of the year are compared with those from the latter part. In the first three months of the year, birds were recorded along this part of the coast from Hayling Island where the maximum was four on 19th January (KB), Langstone Harbour with a maximum of two (PG) and Hill Head where the most seen was four on 1st and 3rd January (RHD). The Hill Head birds were nearly all in January and the last bird in any of these localities was on 30th March. At the end of the year however, all records were from Hill Head and the nearby shores where the species was seen regularly from 9th November onwards with seven there on 14th December (SLW et al).

West of Southampton Water, one was seen at Hatchet Pond on 2nd February (GHR), odd birds were off Hengistbury on four dates up to April (EC, PJF, RJJ), up to four were present in Bournemouth Bay in the second week of April (JHT) and one was at Lymington Ferry on 1st June (ELJ). The only definite Island record was of one in the Hurst Narrows on 27th January (JKB).

[Unidentified Divers. Sixteen records from St. Catherine's Point were of divers belonging to one or other of these two species. 13 of them were of birds flying East between 6th April and 12th May (SPG).]

- 3 **Red-throated Diver.** Many reports of up to three birds cover the whole of the coastline up to 20th April, records becoming infrequent towards this date. Three inland reports from this period were of a dead bird at Ewhurst on 17th February (perPB), one at Petersfield Lake from late January to 20th February (WPW) and one on Hatchet Pond in March (KHP). Several of the coastal birds were oiled and dead. At St. Catherine's Point between 2nd March and 4th May, 40 flew past to the East and one to the West, the most being in the last week of March and the first two weeks of April with a maximum of eight on 23rd March (SPG).

None was then seen until a single bird was recorded at Southsea on 21st September (PG) but the next was not until 9th November. Nearly all the end of the year records were then from Hill Head (cf. Great Northern Diver) with a maximum of six on 15th November (RB). Otherwise, odd birds from Black Point (KB), Warsash (RHD), Hayling Island (BWR), St. Catherine's Point (SPG), Yarmouth (MCA), Quarr (JH) with the only mainland records West of Southampton Water at Hurst on 16th December (JKB) and at Dibden Bay on 23rd November (KHP).

- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** Wintering birds from the whole length of the coastline mainly up to the end of March and from November to the end of the year, but also outside this period, especially in Langstone Harbour where up to four were recorded frequently in Summer. During this Winter period, reports from the mainland were more frequent than from the Island. Maxima from wintering haunts were: sea off Bournemouth, 14+ on 28th December (JHT); Southbourne, ca. 25 on 16th January (RJJ); Hurst, seven on 27th December (JHT); Lepe, five on 26th February (KHP); Dibden Bay, six on 9th February (JHT); Hill Head, 34 on 16th February (RHD, GHR, WHT); Langstone Harbour, ca. 50 on 26th December (PG); Hayling shores, 17 on 2nd February (KB); Osborne Bay, six on 6th December (MCA). There is evidence to suggest that when the wind is in the Northern sector, numbers increase on the North coast of the Solent, the birds probably seeking shelter (RHD).

Inland, outside the breeding season, some waters support small counts of wintering birds, particularly Fleet Pond which had a maximum of eleven on 24th March (PB). Six pairs bred in the North of the county and one pair in the South compared with 24 pairs in 1931 (EAG, HVH, PAR, TBS, MHT). On central inland waters, occasional records of birds on passage.

- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.** Ten together off Hill Head between 13th and 19th January (RHD et al) one there on 19th February and two more on 22nd February (RHD, W). At the end of the year, three were at Hill Head on 28th December (AY).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** Recorded mainly from: Langstone, one or two often reported up to 24th March but only one bird at the end of the year, on 17th November (PG). Hayling, a maximum of six on seven dates up to 30th March but like Langstone, only on two dates at the end of the year (KB). Hill Head, in contrast to the previous two localities, only seen on two days at the beginning of the year but then one or two frequently reported from mid October to the end of the year. (cf. Great Northern and Red-throated Divers) (SLW et al). Hurst, up to four in the first two months of the year and seven on 24th November (JKB, KHP, WHT). Otherwise only a few records from other places and only one from the Island.
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.** Apart from sightings of up to three birds from other parts of the mainland coast and of three birds from the Island, the only localities where records were at all regular were the Hurst/Lymington coast and Langstone Harbour. Seven was the maximum at the former place, on 7th January (ELJ) whilst details from Langstone were as follows:

	Weekly maxima	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
January counts ranged from 1 to 21	...	21	16	18	10
February " " " 2 to 37	...	9	37	17	28
March " " " 2 to 40	...	28	32	13	40

Last seen 30th March, eight birds.

First return, two on 3rd August, then with increasing regularity.					
November counts ranged from 0 to 58	...	12	13	58	12
December " " " 0 to 31	...	4	31	25	25

The fluctuating numbers must be due to movement between here and nearby areas. Two were in Summer plumage on 11th March (All PG).

- 9 **Little Grebe.** Coastal gatherings in sheltered inlets on the mainland and the Island dispersed in mid March and began to build up again from the end of September, the maximum counts being 30 in Emsworth Channel on 15th December (KB), and up to 50 on the Medina, October/December (JS). Similar Winter gatherings were recorded inland.

Breeding reported from: Brownwich Lake (RHD), Bursledon (RHD), Titchfield Haven, the first since 1920 (CS), Great Salterns Lake (PG), Wolmer (JKB, WHT), near Winchester (JHT), Verely Hill (JKB) and Mopley Pond (KHP), at least twelve pairs being involved. Inland however, and on the Island, records in Summer were frequent from several localities, probably indicating further breeding.

- 12 **Leach's Petrel.** One on the Solent near Gurnard Bay on 15th September (OH, MR). Seen at very close quarters and one of the observers has experience of both this species and of Storm Petrel. This bird was chiefly identified by its characteristic flight.
- 14 **Storm Petrel.** One was picked up dead at Lee-on-Solent after a storm, by M. Philpott. The corpse was sent to the B.T.O. pathologist who replied that there was aspergillosis lesions on lungs, liver and intestines, only the second bird of any species he had so far found thus infected. (per CS). [Two unidentified petrels, probably of this species, were seen off St. Catherine's Point on 27th July and 3rd November, a strong SW. wind blowing on both occasions. (SPG.)]
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** At St. Catherine's Point:

May 11th	four going East
May 12th	four going West
May 18th	eight going West and one East
May 25th	one going West
Aug. 4th & 6th	one going West
Aug. 10th	15 going West
Aug. 11th	four going West
Nov. 3rd	six going West and one East

 (All SPG).

On 12th September, one was in the Solent between Ryde and Gosport (ICTN).

- 16 **Balearic Shearwater.** At St. Catherine's Point, single birds to the West on 6th August (AA, WHT, EJW), 10th and 11th August (JKB, GHR, WHT, EJW).
- 26 **Fulmar.** Seen near Needles Cliffs several times in May and June (JKB, ELJ, JS, WHT, GAHW). One was flushed from the same portion of the cliffs on three dates but the cliff face could not be seen (JS). At St. Catherine's Point, between one and three were seen regularly from 13th April to 27th May with four on 5th May and at least eight on 25th. There was no definite movement. On 10th August, two flew past the Point to the East and five to the West (SPG). The only other Island record was of one at Atherfield Point on 25th May (JKB).
 On the mainland, one was picked up weak but uninjured in the grounds of Southampton University in January and was released at the Royal Pier. (per AVP). One corpse was at Hengistbury Head on 5th January.
- 27 **Gannet.** A summary of St. Catherine's Point records is as follows:
 January—14 going East on 19th.
 21st February/25th May—312, 184 to the East and 128 to the West.
 The maximum daily total was 40 on 11th May.
 9th July/16th November—329 recorded, 181 going West and 138 going East.

The maximum daily total was 32 on 18th August and 22nd September. Other Island records totalling 56 birds from various places along the South coast (MCA, JS).

On the mainland, dead birds were picked up at North Hayling on 2nd February, one (KB), two at Brownwich on 9th February (RHD, CS), one at the same place on 5th November (SLW) and five along the Southbourne shore area on 10th February (HB—cf. auks, Kittiwake). One young bird was found inland in a garden at Nether Wallop on

30th September (Mrs. R. H. Jepson-Turner in *The Field*, 31st October —per JSA). Up to eight off Hengistbury Head on single dates in August and September (CHG).

28 **Cormorant.** Several flight lines were reported as follows:

1. Beaulieu Heath—SW./NE., fighting all Summer at all times of day in both directions, probably birds which breed at the Needles and feed by day in Southampton Water. Numbers seen each month were: March 16; April 8; May 29; June 12; July 12; August 2; September 1 (KHP).
2. River Avon at Fordingbridge, where up to 35 were seen each day at dusk from 31st January to 24th March, the birds flying South (JSA).
3. Hill Head to Fawley. Up to 55 on six dates between 24th October and 4th November, usually when the weather was rough (SLW). Otherwise, reports of note were of a party of up to eight regularly inland at Winnall until the second week of March (PSS), the maximum recorded count of 72 in Langstone Harbour on 17th November (PG) and several birds described as resembling *sinensis*.

29 **Shag.** Reports mainly from the Island. Several records from Culver Cliffs suggest breeding for immatures were seen on the sea below the site in May. 25 pairs bred around the Needles (JKB).

The report in the 1956 edition that this species is seen in Stanpit in Winter more often than Cormorants could only have referred to an isolated period and is not generally true. The only reports from there this year, although the area is well watched, were of up to four or nine dates up to May and from September onwards (CHG). Other mainland reports were of one adult off Eastney Beach on 21st January, three in Langstone Harbour mouth on the same date, one off the boom defence at Southsea on 2nd April (all PG) and one in early December on the beach at Hill Head (TEB).

30 **Heron.** Herony counts:

Harewood	7 occupied nests (ELJ)
Hinton Park (2 sites)	8 and at least 8 occupied nests (EC)
Godshill	18 occupied nests (JSA)
Sopley	Deserted (MAC)
Sowley	17 occupied nests (EC)
Tournebury	18 occupied nests (KB)
Wickham	39 occupied nests (DMJ, HEW)
Wootton	11 occupied nests (JS)

After being seen regularly in Langstone Harbour through the year, mostly in single figures, some increase was noted from the end of August onwards, 14 being recorded at that time, and then a large increase in the months September to November with a maximum of 37 on 9th November and over 20 on four other dates. The Langstone Herons seem mainly to come from Tournebury but reasonably frequent records of birds leaving the harbour and flying over Portsdown Hill or arriving from that direction, would seem to indicate that some of the birds come from Wickham (PG).

The following movement was seen at St. Catherine's Point:

- Apr. 14th One off the sea from the SW., continuing Eastwards.
- Apr. 15th One going West.
- Aug. 7th One off the sea, continuing Westwards.
- Aug. 17th One going West.
- Sept. 10th One off the sea from the SE., continuing Westwards.
- Sept. 21st One going East.
- Nov. 9th One circled and then drifted off South. (All SPG).

Other movement:

- July 5th One flew across the Solent towards Beaulieu (MCA).
- Aug. 15th One flew West past Woody Bay (MCA).

- 31 **Purple Heron.** One at St. Catherine's Point on 14th April came in from far out to sea from SSW. and landed on Rocken End where it was watched at ranges down to 250 yards. "At first sight it appeared small with a conspicuous bulge in the neck, and as it came closer the general rufous brown colour of the underparts were noticed. General colour of the neck and underparts was rufous brown, the crown was dark with a stripe running from the lower mandible across the cheeks, and there was a noticeable amount of white on the chin and around the gape; the mantle was dark purplish-grey; the bill, legs and feet were yellowish." (RHD, JKB).
- 32 **Little Egret.** One in Langstone Harbour and Farlington Marsh on 2nd June. "A small heron, a little larger than a Curlew. It was pure white with black bill and legs. The feet could not be seen when it was down and in flight were not noticeable at all! although at the same range, Godwits' feet were visible. Against the strong background of a blue sky, this would not be unreasonable if they were of a light colouration. When seen on the ground, it presented a hunched-up appearance but frequently it straightened up to look around and then the long, slender neck was accentuated. It was Heron-like in flight with drawn-in neck, trailing legs and rounded wings, but the flight was more reminiscent of an owl's." (DFB, PFIB, RHD, GHR, BWR).
- 38 **Bittern.** One immature at Tichfield Haven on five dates from 6th July to 18th (RHD et al). Another bird was seen at the same place on 27th September. (RHD, SLW).
- 42 **Spoonbill.** One, probably a Second Summer bird, in Langstone Harbour on 22nd/23rd June (PG).
- 45 **Mallard.** Counts made for the Severn Wildfowl Trust for selected waters in the North, centre and south of the county are shown in the table below. The Winchester group consists of Avington Lake, Alresford Pond, Alrebury Pond and Northington Lake.

	Jan 27	Feb 24	Mar 24	Jul 28	Aug 25	Sept 22	Oct 20	Nov 24	Dec 22
Stratfield Saye (North)	300	80	40	250	350	453	500	72	452
Winchester Central	630	220	150	457	940	1238	661	440	146
Tichfield Haven (South)	98	50	27	63	130	162	57	47	41

The September maximum clearly shows an Autumn passage in the central parts of the county and to a lesser extent on the coast. The particularly high numbers around Winchester in September were followed by abnormally low wintering counts. In the North at Stratfield Saye, numbers remained constant after the build up, the low November count being explained by movement to nearby waters.

There is some evidence of Spring immigration, a temporary increase of about 30 birds at Tichfield Haven in March probably being in this category (RHD) but figures are not complete enough for a definite statement.

The largest counts were from inland waters where 450 or more were seen at Stratfield Saye in September, October and December (MHT), Avington on 22nd September (EAG, JHT), Northington on 25th August (EAG, JHT) and fighting into a stubble field at dusk near Downton on 27th August (JSA).

On 19th January, 210 were in groups on the sea off Culver Cliff and Whitecliff Bay (JKB, WGE).

Breeding reports widespread from all over the county.

- 46 **Teal.** The usual pattern of large counts in Winter, the first half of April being the period when the last counts of any size were made, and low Summer numbers, generally starting to build up at the end of July. None were seen inland during May or June except in the New Forest but in that area, there was no proof of breeding.

Titchfield Haven was once again the main haunt, a brief summary from there being as follows:

940 on 1st January was by far the largest count at the beginning of the year, then *ca.* 300 until early February followed by fluctuating numbers of 10/183, probably due to passage, until mid April. Numbers were then low until 29th July when 30 were present. A further increase took place from early September with up to 187 and then on the 9th November, 570 were recorded (an increase was also noticed at Langstone Harbour on this same date). Lower counts followed but on 17th December, 1200 were seen there (again an increase was noticed at Langstone around this time) but only 17 were seen ten days later. (CS et al).

Inland, Alresford was the only water to hold over 100, such counts being regular from there in Winter.

200 from Newtown at both ends of the year seems to be the maximum for the Island (MMS).

- 47 **Garganey.** All records from Farlington Marsh and Titchfield Haven. In Spring the first were on 30th March at Farlington, a pair, and thereafter, one or two were seen there on four other dates up to 9th May (PG). At Titchfield Haven, single birds were recorded on four dates in the period 26th April/1st May (RHD, AY, SLW et al).

At Farlington during the return passage, the species was seen on five dates in July and the first half of August with five on 19th July (PG) but at Titchfield Haven there was quite a considerable passage. This started with a single male during the first two weeks of July, two males being present on 16th of that month, rising to six birds (four males) by 2nd August. The peak was 12 on 10th/14th August, numbers falling after this but still records for sixteen more dates up to 13th September with counts of up to 10, becoming lower towards the end of the period. A single duck was then seen on three days in November, the 26th being the last occasion (RHD, CS et al).

- 49 **Gadwall.** A pair at Marsh Court on 22nd March (ELJ).

- 50 **Wigeon.** The main Winter decline occurred in mid/late March whilst late September saw the first large scale return. Details from the main wintering localities are as follows: **Newtown**—*ca.* 300 in January and February and 350 on 22nd December (MMS). **Black Point**—400 or more recorded at both ends of the year (KB). **Langstone Harbour**—an early year maximum of 700 on 19th January after which numbers fell, the final decline starting in late March. The last record was on 18th April and the first returns were two birds on 17th August. Late September saw a count of *ca.* 50, fluctuating greatly until *ca.* 120 were seen on 9th November, increasing to a maximum of 400+ on 22nd December (PG). **Titchfield Haven**—the maximum early in the year was 600 on 1st January, after this counts of up to 500 being made until late February when numbers fell to 300 or thereabouts, remaining so until mid March when the main departure began. The last were seen on 19th April. (cf. Langstone). The first return was on 24th August, three birds, then a sudden increase to 56 on 27th September and thereafter a build up to a maximum of 800 on 17th December (RHD, CS, SLW et al). **Dibden Bay** 100/300 up to early March, 50 on March 10th being the last recorded date (KHP, JHT). Up to 125 were then seen at the end of the year (KHP). **Needs Oar**—87, mostly males on 29th September, 175 at the end of November and 200/300 by mid December (JFB, RHD, JHT). **Sowley**—*ca.* 200 in mid December (JFB). **Pennington/Hurst**—100/160 up to mid February with only

one or two at the end of the month. At the end of the year, the maximum was 145 on 24th November (JKB, ELJ, KHP, DW). **Stanpit**—the maximum count was ca. 100 on 22nd December (HA). **River Avon**—ca. 300 at Harbridge on 2nd March (GHR). **Winchester area**—Up to 62 until mid April and a maximum of 43 seen from mid November onwards (PSS, W).

150 were seen going West at Fareham on 18th October (JKB).

- 52 **Pintail**. Birds recorded on single dates from Farlington, Dibden Bay, Ober Heath, Bartley, Leckford, Harbridge, Needs Oar and Newtown up to 8th March, all singletons except for five at Leckford, five at Newtown and four at Needs Oar (EC, PG, EH, ELJ, GHR, MMS, JHT, EJW). At Titchfield Haven however, Pintail were seen on eleven dates up to 16th April with a maximum of four whilst at St. Catherine's Point, 16 flew Eastwards on March 10th (SPG). More birds were about than these numbers would show however, for 15 were seen to depart from Southampton Water on 3rd February and fly East past Hill Head and Lee-on-Solent (TEB, RHD) and 28 in three parties passed East off Hill Head on 10th March (RHD).

A single duck was seen in Langstone Harbour on 21st/22nd June and again on two dates in September (PG).

Except for four at Dibden Bay on 9th November (KHP), all records from October onwards were from Titchfield Haven or Farlington Marsh, up to five at the former place with few December records and up to three at the latter, nearly all in December (RHD, PG, CS, SLW). The low counts for the year were probably due to the mild weather.

- 53 **Shoveler**. There are only records for nine dates West of Southampton Water and so no comments can be made on that area. Inland and in Western coastal areas however, the following have been seen: **Central and Northern Hants**—many reports of birds from several waters but in greatly fluctuating numbers in all Winter months which suggests that the species does not confine itself to one area but winters over a fair-sized district. There would also seem to be movement through the area; thus at Alresford there were 20 on 19th February and 30 on 5th March with lower counts in between whilst at other nearby waters, they were equally spasmodic (PSS, W). There were no records for May or June, the first return being a duck at Hursley on 28th July (JHT) with August records from Fleet (TBS) and Chilbolton (ELJ). From September onwards, numbers were more steady, particularly in the last two months of the year, but most counts were of single figures (EAG, PSS, W). **Langstone**—only odd records until March when up to 13 were seen fairly regularly until the 25th. During Summer there were very few records until 4th August and then a small number were present through the month. For the rest of the year, records were very spasmodic and so it seems that at this locality as well, passage birds were the most regular (PG). **Titchfield Haven**—this is the most regular Shoveler haunt in the county. Up to 32 were seen very frequently until 19th April. From 23rd April onwards, an odd male was repeatedly seen and this, together with the appearance of a pair with four juveniles on 4th July, makes breeding seem likely, an occurrence that Dr. Suffern has suspected for the past year or so but which would be the first record in his experience of the locality. Ten adults and 14 juveniles were later seen. Sightings were spasmodic until 6th September, then none was seen until 4th October, when regular numbers began to build up with increasing tempo to a maximum of 52 on 23rd December (RHD, CS, SLW et al).

At St. Catherine's Point, a pair flew East on 30th March (SPG).

- 55 **Scaup**. Five January records, four from Langstone Harbour with a maximum of two (PG) and one from Fawley Refinery (KHP). The species was then seen on eight dates from 5th October onwards from

various parts of the coast, all single birds or twos except for eight off Lee-on-Solent (JVB, FRC, AY, PG, AJW, JW, SLW).

- 56 **Tufted Duck.** The most-favoured Winter haunts seem to be Sowley Pond with a maximum of ten (EC, KHP, EJW), Stratfield Saye, maximum 18 (EAG, MHT), Alresford with up to 15 (PSS) and Titchfield Haven, maximum 11 (RHD, CS, SLW et al). Only scattered records from elsewhere. On the coast, the species was last seen on 13th March and the first return on 12th October, similar dates from inland being 15th May and 20th October. There were only a few Island records.

12 left Southampton Water and flew ESE. on 10th March (RHD).

- 57 **Pochard.** Wintering numbers were small, probably due to the mildness of the weather, and the departure was earlier than usual. No more than 11 were recorded in the Winchester area and there were only two April records for the whole of Hampshire. The largest number at the beginning of the year was 36 on Fawley Refinery Reservoir on 12th February (KHP).

The possibility of breeding in the county, or close by, is shown by a drake on an inland water on 1st June (BWR) and three immature birds at Winnall on 26th July, one remaining for several days (JHT), whilst a female on Fleet Pond in early August is also an early date (TBS).

Other than these, the first returns were on 7th November, but numbers were very small, 32 at Fleet Pond on 1st December being the maximum (TBS) with 12 the most from any other water. From the Island, only recorded from Bembridge with a maximum of three (MCA, AJH).

- 60 **Goldeneye.** Recorded regularly from Langstone Harbour and Dibden Bay and quite often from Christchurch Harbour, the latest date for the county being 28th March with 9th November as the first return. From elsewhere on the coast inside this period, there were occasional records. Details from the three places mentioned above are: **Langstone**—maximum 54 (12 adult males) early in the year with numbers declining in March until the last were seen on 28th, eight birds (PG). Two birds returned on 9th November, increasing to 32 (6 adult males) on 27th December (PG). **Dibden Bay**—Seen up to 2nd March with two birds nearby on the next day. The maximum was 45 on 3rd February, a much higher count than any other. Up to 11 were seen at the end of the year (RMC, KHP, JHT). **Christchurch Harbour**—up to eight in January, November and December (CHG). Only one Island record, a pair at Osborne Bay on 3rd February (WGE).

- 61 **Long-tailed Duck.** In common with most British Southern coastal areas, there were far more than usual reported during the year. Three from Ashlett Creek on two days in January were the only records from the beginning of the year. At the end of the year, an immature drake off Hill Head on 30th October was the first and this bird stayed until 23rd November, whilst another at the same place on 27th December could have been the same one (SLW et al). Also at Hill Head, two were seen going East on 17th December (SLW), two were in Dibden Bay from 9th November to the end of the year (KHP), up to three were in Langstone Harbour on four dates from 17th November (PG), four were recorded in the Emsworth Channel on 1st December (KB), two at Hurst on 16th December (JKB, JVB, ELJ), three were off Black Point on 21st December (WHT) and one was on the sea off Lee-on-Solent on 28th December (TEB). The majority of these were immatures.

- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** The higher numbers recorded in 1956 were maintained in 1957. At Hill Head, three (one male) were seen on five January dates and another single drake was seen there in the same month (JKB,

RHD, GHR, WHT). During the same month, single drakes were at Langstone Harbour (PG), Emsworth Channel (KB) and Sandy Point (KB), whilst "a few" were amongst a large gathering of Common Scoter at Hengistbury, also in January (PJF). A corpse was picked up at Hengistbury on 12th May (FRC, CRM). At St. Catherine's Point, one flew East on 15th April, another on 21st and eight on 11th May (SPG).

On 5th July, a drake was seen for a few hours in Clamerkin Lake, Newtown (MMS).

At the end of the year, up to eight were off Hill Head on thirteen dates from 10th November onwards (RHD, SLW et al) and up to four on seven other dates within this period from the rest of the coast (JKB, KB, PG, DCM, AS).

- 64 **Common Scoter.** Bournemouth Bay seems to be by far the most important Winter quarters for the species in Hampshire, flocks generally being seen in the same localities day after day. 100/200 were nearly always present up to the second week of April (RMC, FRC, PJF, RJJ, JHT) one being picked up dead along with many other sea birds (HB). At the end of the year, 220 was the maximum here on 2nd November (FRC), but it is thought that this number is well below the true wintering total for the Bay (FRC, JHT). Elsewhere on the coast, numbers were small for wintering parties, and, migrating birds apart, there are only three other counts of double figures. Much movement was seen however:

Hayling, 12 going East 30th March (CJH).

Gilkicker, ca. 50 going East 31st March (CJH).

Southsea Castle, 7 going East 3rd April (PG).

St. Catherine's Point, between 2nd March and 23rd May, 2,835 flew Eastwards and 198 Westwards, maximum numbers as follows:—

23rd March, 346 going East.

30th March, 649 going East.

17th April, 285 going East.

11th May, 183 going East.

Between 9th July and 16th November, 414 flew West and 162 East, mostly during the second and third weeks of August (SPG).

Other movement in small numbers recorded elsewhere on the South Coast of the Island.

A single duck was as far inland as Winnall on 4th April (JHT).

- 67 **Eider.** The spread in the Winter range of the species continues. Single immature drakes were seen on four January dates off Hill Head (JKB, RHD), and on four January dates in Langstone Harbour (PG). Three were off Sandy Point in January (KB) and on 2nd May, an immature drake was recorded off Hengistbury Head (TEB). 14 females or immatures flew East past St. Catherine's Point on 21st April (SPG).

At the end of the year, six were in Langstone Harbour in early October and single birds were seen there twice in November and once in December (PG). At Titchfield Haven, after the first return on 4th November, up to 11 were constantly recorded to the end of the year (RHD, SLW et al), but the largest flocks were at Black Point, where 18, 20, 22 and 27 were seen in November and December (KB). Single figures were also recorded from Hurst (JKB), Lee-on-Solent (RB), Stokes Bay (DCM), Emsworth Channel (KB), Warsash (RHD, SLW), and Newtown (RJM, MMS, WS). All birds were females or immatures, except for one adult drake at Black Point and Newtown.

- 68 **Red-breasted Merganser.** In Langstone Harbour, where the largest numbers were seen, the maximum of 42 was on 7th January, with 30 on 16th February as the last of the larger counts. The species was then

present in smaller numbers until 3rd April, becoming infrequent towards the end of this period (PG). At Hill Head they were recorded fairly often until 14th April with a maximum of 29 on 13th January (RHD, ER et al), and there were quite frequent sightings from all along the coast of up to ten birds. There was one inland record at Winnall on 6th February (JHT).

Movement: St. Catherine's Point—Between 10th March and 23rd April, 16 (four males) flew East and one female flew West. The maximum was five going East on 23rd March (SPG).

Portsmouth area—25 going East in the last week of March (PG).

St. Catherine's Point—One male going East on 2nd November (SPG).

From 3rd November onwards, records were from all along the coast, most frequently from Hill Head, Langstone Harbour and Osborne/Ryde area. Maximum counts at this end of the year were 63 off Woodside, about a third of which were discernable as drakes (MCA), 32 at Hill Head (SLW), and 30 at Hayling (KB).

- 70 **Goosander.** Nearly all records were in January, for in that month up to three were reported from eight localities, two of which were well inland, and one from the Island. Generally the birds were seen on one day only, but in Langstone they were seen on seven dates. The only other records at the beginning of the year were of a duck in the Alresford/Alrebury area in April (W), and six birds at Newtown on 24th February (MMS).

At the end of the year, there were only single December reports from Hill Head (SLW) and Langstone Harbour (PG).

- 71 **Smew.** Probably due to the mild Winter, there were only three recordings of Smew, an adult drake in Langstone Harbour on 1st January (PG), three redheads at Titchfield Haven on 19th January (RB, RHD, JHT) and another adult drake in Blashford Gravel Pits on 26th January (DW).
- 73 **Shelduck.** West of Southampton Water, flocks were recorded from several localities on the mainland in the early part of the year with the most *ca.* 100, declining in early or late March. In the East of the county, flocks were larger, the fullest details coming from Langstone Harbour where a summary of records is as follows: 1000 or more (max. 1800) were present to the 3rd March, but thereafter there was a decline with numbers fluctuating very much, possibly due to arrival and departure of birds from other areas moving to breeding quarters. The decrease in numbers may be judged from the following selected counts; 800 11th March, *ca.* 650 28th March, *ca.* 500 6th April, *ca.* 300 14th April, 40 4th May, 200 9th May, 100 19th May, 50 2nd June. From several parts of the coast, many were reported going Eastwards in March and April (PG et al).

Young were seen from 9th June onwards and breeding was reported the length of the mainland coast, from the Island and 5/10 pairs bred in the New Forest (KHP et al). Two new breeding localities were found on the Island.

Moulting flights took place in July when once again numbers in Langstone Harbour fluctuated widely, again possibly due to birds from the West moving to moulting grounds. Thus, 28 adults were seen there on 6th July but 132 on 7th, although this could be caused by local movement. A flock of 80 adults in the Emsworth Channel on 5th July was perhaps a pre-moulting flock (KB).

By 9th November, 150 including many adults in Langstone Harbour were clearly returning birds and numbers built up there to a

maximum of 2,050 by 26th December with counts from other coastal localities much the same as they were in the early part of the year. Numbers continue to increase in Newtown Marsh however, maxima for either end of the year being 284 and 235 respectively (MCA, MMS).

- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** Counts of the Avon flock were of *ca.* 150 on 5th January (EJW), *ca.* 280 on 10th February (RHD, JE) and 270 on 2nd March (GHR). Elsewhere early in the year, 14 went NE. over Rowlands Castle on 10th January (CH), one was found dead at Keyhaven on 9th February (JKB, WHT) and 80/90 were seen at Dur Hill (Holmsley Walk) on 22nd February (CP).

A single bird at Fullerton in May and June was reported by the Leckford people to be apparently wild and they keep no birds of this species (ELJ).

At the end of the year, ten were at Ibsley on 18th December (JVB) and two flew over Gosport on 29th December (AY). These were the only end of year records.

[Grey Geese records as follows:

22 over Farlington 15th January (PG).

Two parties (one of *ca.* 15) went South over Fordingbridge 15th January (JSA).

A party at Canford Cliffs in off the sea from Wight, 11th February (HB).

32 going South over Fordingbridge 12th February (JSA).

ca. 200 going SE. over Christchurch Harbour 2nd March (JW).

ca. 120 going North over Fordingbridge 25th February (JSA).

54 going SE. over Christchurch Harbour 10th March (FRC, DJG).

Four going North over Langstone Harbour 27th March (PG).

Five going East, St. Catherine's Point, 9th November (SPG).

Seven Sowley Shore, 16th December (JFB).]

- 80 **Brent Goose.** As usual, the only regular wintering flock was in Langstone Harbour where the counts varied between 210 and 450 until 11th March and on that date *ca.* 300 were seen. After this, however, there were only two other reports from there, 45 on 16th March and 53 on 17th (PG). Elsewhere the birds were not recorded regularly from any locality but up to 30 were seen on occasions from the Hayling shores (excluding the Langstone birds) (KB), a few were off Hill Head infrequently and there were two January records of one and three geese from the Western part of the county shoreline. On the Island, birds were seen on five dates in January and February. Around the time when the geese were leaving, four went East off St. Catherine's on 2nd and 16th March (SPG), 24 were seen going East off Hill Head on 23rd March (RHD, WHT) and three also going East on 30th March (CJH). The last were two at Tournebury on 13th April, the only record for that month (KB, CJH). All these were dark-breasted, except for ten at Emsworth on 10th February (BWR).

The first to return were at Langstone Harbour, 18 on 6th November and thereafter there was a build up there to a maximum of *ca.* 500 on 26th December (PG). Also at this end of the year, the species was recorded on five dates from Hill Head with a maximum of 48 in early December, on several occasions from Black Point with counts of up to 130 (KB, JLLP, GHR), on five dates from the Hurst/Pennington area with a maximum of eight (JKB et al), and on five dates at Newtown (MCA, MMS). The Hill Head birds were mostly moving, 11 going East on 30th November (GHR, AS, CRT), 15 going North overland on 1st December (SLW) and 42 going East on 12th December (RHD).

- 82 **Canada Goose.** Mainly from the North of the county where early in the year the species was reported from several waters with a maximum at any one time of 19. Breeding was recorded in this area at

- Aldershot Gravel Pit, one pair (TBS), Fleet Pond three pairs (TBS) and Bramshill five pairs (P. A. Reid per MHT), but the number of chicks raised was small in the first two localities due to human interference. At the end of the year, numbers were much larger, 50+ being present at Dogmersfield from July to the end of the year, with a maximum of 85 on 14th September (TBS), whilst up to 30 were seen at Stratfield Saye (MHT) from September to November inclusive and 16 were at Fleet Pond on 26th July (TBS). Elsewhere in the county, up to four were on Petersfield Lake during February and March and a pair later bred there (WPW), 11 adults flew into Sowley Pond on 9th August from the North (BWR) and one was in Christchurch Harbour on 8th August (EB).
- 84 **Mute Swan.** At the main locality for the species, in Christchurch Harbour, a summary of counts is as follows: Numbers fell rapidly through February from totals of up to 150 until by the end of the month the lowest count of the year was recorded, that being five birds on the 20th. Numbers then rose to a maximum of 400+ on 24th June, falling to 130-170 through September and then rising to around 300 again by the end of the year. This is a similar pattern to that of the previous year (CHG). The peak in Langstone Harbour was a little later, occurring there in July and August with 78 on 4th August the most (PG).
- Dr. Suffern reports that for the first time in his experience, there is evidence of a roost in the harbour at Hill Head, figures for a date in June being seven birds at 0645 hrs., 13 at 1545 hrs., 15 at 1755 hrs., 21 at 1800 hrs., and 25 at 1925 hrs.
- Counts from elsewhere are very incomplete, but at St. Catherine's Point, two came from the West and alighted 5-7 miles SSE. of the Point on 10th September (SPG).
- 85 **Whooper Swan.** Two left Titchfield Haven and flew along the Solent shore into Southampton Water on 19th January (RB, RHD); six (five adults) flew into Titchfield Haven from Southampton Water but did not settle on 24th January (TEB); four flew low over the Portsmouth/Gosport Ferry on 25th January (TEB); one at Brownwich Shore on 16th December (TEB, RHD); two in Christchurch Harbour on 17th December (HVH).
- 86 **Bewick's Swan.** The only record of live birds is of 12 flying low past Brownwich Cliffs on 17th January (TEB, MP). However, a swan's wing was washed up at Hengisbury with measurements of 480 mm. which would seem to belong only to a pen of this species.
- 91 **Buzzard.** Apparently numbers have increased since last year's county report when a decrease was noted. Thus at Damerham there was a measured increase with the reappearance of myxomatosis, eight seen on the wing together being the first large number there for many years (JSA). In the New Forest, six pairs were proved to have bred and many records show that possibly as many as 27 other pairs were present in the breeding season. It is hard to tell from the reports how many birds were being counted twice in different localities, something which is very possible in view of the wide area over which one bird might wander (JKB, RHD, GHR et al). Otherwise, breeding only reported from Poultons Park on the edge of the Forest and from Hursley Park (Keepers per JHT).
- Apart from these birds, recorded quite often from the North of the county, mainly from July onwards, but there were only six reports from the East, three of these being on the same day, the 6th October, when one was seen going over Farlington (PG), another NW. over Portsdown Hill (PG) and another passing over Titchfield Haven (SLW).

Recorded on six dates from the Island, one on 30th August coming in from the SE. to St. Catherine's Point (SPG).

On 27th September, one at Damerham had all the plumage characteristics of *lagopus* but the observer reports seeing two such birds belonging to *buteo buteo* before at times of the year when *lagopus* would not be present (JSA).

- 93 **Sparrowhawk.** Single birds were recorded on 42 occasions from widespread localities and on two occasions a pair of birds were recorded together. A female came in from the SE. to St. Catherine's Point on 2nd September (SPG).
- 94 **Goshawk.** One was seen flying South down the Avon Valley on 8th February (JSA). "200 yards, no binoculars . . . Its large size was obvious without comparison but it looked almost as large as a Cormorant slightly beyond it. It provided a view for about half-a-minute always in side silhouette, in which it looked dark all over. It flew and looked like a large Sparrowhawk; in the size range of Buzzard/Hen Harrier, with characteristic glide and rather fast up and down flaps every few seconds. Broad 'blunt' wings and longish tail."
- 99 **Marsh Harrier.** One at Latchmore Bottom on 17th February (JSA). An immature male at Needs Oar Point on 16th March (W). At Titchfield Haven, there were three April records, one going SW. on 2nd (RB), a male going West on 5th (RB) and another on 12th (SLW). The only other reports came from Farlington Marsh where an immature female was seen on 30th August and 1st September and another immature female on 3rd November (PG).
- 100 **Hen Harrier.** In the first part of the year, an adult male was seen at Damerham on many occasions up to 5th April (JSA), a female at Fritham on 4th February (PLD) and a male at Farlington on 29th April (PG).

At the end of the year, a "ringtail" was at Damerham on four dates from 7th November onwards by J. S. Ash, but this observer reports that the keepers in the area saw a similar bird almost daily within this period. An adult male was at this same place on 12th November (JSA) and an immature male was at Farlington on 9th November (PG).

- 102 **Montagu's Harrier.** There were no definite breeding records for the year but birds were seen in nine different localities from 2nd May to 15th September. At Damerham a male was recorded on five dates in May, June and July, and a ring-tail was there on single dates in July, August and September (JSA, RHD). Odd birds were seen in the Forest in Summer (RHD, RE, CHF, KHP, GHR, JHT, EW, W). A female hunting near Stockbridge on one date only (ELJ), a male at Allbrook (PSS) and one male going North over Langstone Harbour (PG).
- 103 **Osprey.** One was watched at Hatchet Pond on 10th September (KHP), and a further bird at Ashlett on 4th October (DW).
- 104 **Hobby.** The first record was at Winnall on 1st May (PSS) and the last at Farlington on 29th September (PG). Between these dates, birds were present at several localities as follows: in the New Forest, reports show that there were possibly 14 pairs although this is by no means meant to be an accurate count of birds in the area; there were several records of Hobbies from a Northern area (WHT) and from Fleet Pond (TBS); a pair were calling and flying about firs at another locality on 2nd June (WHT); odd reports from other places, whilst at Damerham they were very scarce (JSA).
- 105 **Peregrine.** From the mainland, fifteen records of single birds, only three of which fell within the period May/September inclusive. Most of the reports were from coastal districts. Numerous records from the Island, particularly from The Needles, but there were no reports of breeding.

["On 6th January, a large Peregrine-like bird seen at Farlington Marsh had a distinctly slower flight often resembling that of a harrier. On one occasion, it even glided on angled, v-ee'd wings. The bird was dark in appearance with a much lighter head. It was seen by several observers and was considered by the following to be a Gyr-falcon (DFB, PFIB, GHR). A similar bird was present in November and December 1956."]

- 107 **Merlin.** Most records are from Farlington Marsh. Single males and females were there on five occasions up to 11th March and on twenty-one dates from 20th August onwards with two on 16th November (PG). Otherwise, single birds were recorded within this period, at Hurst twice (JKB), at Brownich cliffs on three days (RHD, WHT, EJW, SLW), at Hook Lane once (TEB), at Setley once (PLD), at Damerham on four dates with two males on a fifth (JSA), twice from the Island (MCA, SPG) and once at Dibden Bay (KHP).
- 110 **Kestrel.** One at St. Catherine's Point going East, 20th April (SPG); one at Hengistbury going SE., 27th September (per FRC); one at St. Catherine's in off the sea from the South, 29th September (SPG); two St. Catherine's going West half-a-mile offshore, 6th October (SPG). Otherwise very many records from all parts.
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge.** Widespread records from the mainland and, as in last year's report, the species seems to be most numerous in the New Forest area where coveys of 20 and 30 were recorded at Beaulieu Heath and Ashlett respectively (KHP). On the Island, two pairs nested for the first time following recent introduction (FC, JS).
- 116 **Partridge.**
- 117 **Quail.** One at Netherton on 11th June (DMG) and another heard calling from barley fields near Newton Stacey on 23rd June (ELJ). On 28th August, a bevy of four were seen near Rockbourne (JSA) and keepers reported seeing a pair with three young at this same locality earlier in the year (per JSA).
- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.** Many reports from the coast, the Itchen Valley, the Test Valley, some Northern waters, the Island, and one or two other localities up to the end of April and from the end of July onwards. Most of the records were of single birds, but at Titchfield Haven from October to the end of the year, numbers were greater with as many as 12+ on 9th October (RHD, CS, SLW et al).
There was one breeding record, a nest with eight eggs being found in the New Forest on 5th May (RHD, JE).
- 121 **Spotted Crake.** Single birds were recorded at Farlington Marsh on 29th and 31st August, the 15th September and 4th October. The following were the main points noted: about the size of a Water Rail or possibly a little smaller; brown colouration, short bill, buff under tail coverts, white on leading edge of wing and edge of secondaries. Upper back and breast flecked densely with whitish-buff, flanks barred (PG).
- 125 **Corncrake.** Recorded from two localities. Near Park Gate, a pair were seen and a nest found containing three eggs (RHD). At St. Cross, a male was present from late April to 12th July, being seen and heard on several occasions but no evidence of a pair could be found (JHT, W, et al).
- 126 **Moorhen.** Numbers building up in the Winter reported from Titchfield Haven and the Itchen Valley (CS, JHT). The only unusual record was of 46 at Brownich Lake on 9th February, unprecedented in the observer's experience (CS). Birds killed at St. Catherine's Light on 22nd February and 24th October (SPG).

- 127 **Coot.** Summaries from areas from which details were given were: **Winnall**—A maximum of 161 at the beginning of the year, a large dispersal taking place in the first week of February with numbers lowest in May, when 15 were recorded. Thereafter a very steady build up to a maximum of 125 in December (PSS). **Christchurch Harbour**—200/300 until 3rd March, when a rapid decrease left 40 by 17th March, and then none until 16th June. The Winter flock began to assemble on 20th October, rising to 260 on 15th December and then a very rapid build up, for 370 were present on the day following the previous record and by 24th December the maximum of 518 was seen. Thereafter, numbers decreased to ca. 350 by the end of the year (CHG). **Titchfield Haven**—Up to 180 until 13th February, then a fairly steady decrease to ca. 30 on 25th March. Ca. 15 pairs bred, more than usual, and by 1st September, 60/70 were there. Numbers remained near this mark until mid December when there was a rapid rise to a maximum of 284 on 27th (CS et al).

Elsewhere, the largest counts were at Sowley Pond, ca. 250 in the early year, and 387 in November (EC, KHP, EJW), 166 in Langstone Harbour in December (PG), and 220 at Bembridge in December, a locality where numbers are steadily increasing (MCA).

Dispersal dates seem to vary but on the coast there was clearly a very large influx from 14th December for a few days, many of the birds apparently passing on to other areas before the end of the year.

- 131 **Oystercatcher.** Summaries as follows. From Christchurch Harbour, the maximum of 27 was in January, decreasing steadily to two in late June, rising again to 40 in October with lower numbers for the rest of the year (FRC et al). On 10th February, 20 oiled birds were found amongst other oiled species at Hengistbury (HB). From other places West of Southampton Water, there were counts from many localities (up to 80) early in the year, with small numbers in Summer, rising again to over 100 in places in September (KHP et al). On the Eastern shore of Southampton Water, Winter flocks at Weston Shore, Hamble and Warsash reached 100+ and 80+ at either end of the year, with isolated counts of up to 60, amongst lower counts in the Summer (RHD, JHT). Flocks from Brownwich and Titchfield Haven reached 50+ and 162 at either end of the year, numbers in the breeding season being small (RHD, SLW et al). In Langstone Harbour, up to 55 were seen until mid March, then counts were in the thirties until June. In this month numbers rose to 60, and then with fluctuations to a maximum of 254 on the 20th October. The partial albino first seen in 1951 was present at both ends of the year (PG). There were also high counts from Hayling Island (KB).

From the mainland, there were four reports of breeding (RHD, PGF, PG), whilst a few bred at Newtown (MMS et al).

In March, some birds were seen going East whilst on 24th April, ca. 90 went NE. inland from the Solent over Lee-on-Solent (TEB), and small parties were twice seen to leave Southampton Water and fly inland over Warsash in May and June (RHD). Also birds were seen at St. Catherine's Light on the nights of March 23rd/24th, 29th/30th, May 4th/5th, August 3rd/4th, 30th/31st, August 31st/September 1st and September 21st/22nd (SPG).

In summary, numbers are generally higher as one goes East, particularly in Summer.

- 133 **Lapwing.** Flocks of a thousand or more at Eastleigh Airport on a few January dates (JHT), at Winnall on 2nd February, the only such count for that place (JHT) and at Chilbolton on 19th September, whilst 1000+ were seen there flighting to a feeding ground at dusk on 28th August (ELJ). Many other large Winter flocks reported from several areas, dispersing in February and March with the first signs of

flocking again in June and several counts of 100/300 in July. The following birds were recorded on movement:

6th January, Langstone, 60 arrived from the East (PG).

27th February, Warsash, 39 going WNW. (RHD).

2nd March, one came in off the sea from SW. at St. Catherine's (SPG).

14th July, Twyford Down, 40 going South very high (EAG).

14th December, Eastney Point, two going North (PG).

14th December, Eastney Point, three going ENE. (PG).

Generally distributed as a breeding bird in the New Forest (KHP) and early breeding reported from Damerham where many birds were sitting by the fourth week of March (JSA).

The legs of one ringed as Pull at Damerham on 7/5/54 by J. S. Ash were recovered at Sopley on 29th May, 12 miles to the SSE.

- 134 **Ringed Plover.** Mainland numbers extremely low. In the first part of the year, with the exception of 100 at Ashlett on 15th February (KHP), the maximum number recorded was 50 but reports were mostly of lower counts with "odd birds only" in Langstone Harbour. However, flocks at Newtown totalled over 1000 in Winter, the only record for the year of such numbers for the whole county (MMS).

Passage was observed on the mainland in the last week of April and in the first three weeks of May, whilst at St. Catherine's Point, small numbers were recorded at the Light on the nights of March 8th/9th, April 5th/6th, 17th/18th, May 7th/8th and 14th/15th (SPG). Numbers following this movement were low up to the end of July but in Summer there were 13 definite breeding records and 28 possible pairs besides, the vast majority of which were from the West of Southampton Water (KHP et al).

Autumn passage occurred from 28th July to the end of October. On the first of these dates, 40 were at Langstone Harbour after records of lower counts and at 2200 hrs. on the following day, birds were heard passing overhead at Portsmouth (PG). During this period, passage was recorded at Langstone, Dibden Bay, Ashlett, Pennington, Hurst, St. Catherine's Point and Christchurch Harbour with 150+ at Langstone as the maximum mainland count of the year. After October, numbers fell somewhat, no more than 100+ being seen at any one time except as stated above at Newtown.

- 135 **Little Ringed Plover.** A pair were at last year's site on Southampton Water from 13th April to 18th May but there was no sign of breeding (RMC, RHD, JJWE, KHP). A pair were reported as nesting unsuccessfully from another locality however (JG). In future reports, these will be called No. 1 locality and No. 2 locality respectively.

- 139 **Grey Plover.** A brief summary would be "the further East, the more frequent the records". In Christchurch Harbour, only seen in May, June and September/November inclusive and never more than three birds (CHG). From Hurst to Dibden Bay, there were records in the early part of the year of up to 45 with only two birds in April and three in May up to the 8th. The next were two on 28th July and then only single figures until 20/30 were seen at Hurst at the end of October (EC, RHD et al). From Langstone Harbour, wildly fluctuating numbers show that from an early year maximum of 110, numbers fell through the latter half of April and May to three on 22nd June. In the last five days of June, there was a sudden increase and 45 were there on 29th. Numbers then fell again but increased from early August onwards to a maximum of 150 in October, still fluctuating widely. During this last build up, there were days when a noticeable arrival took place, 23rd/25th August for example (PG).

Elsewhere, odd birds were seen on the Hill Head/Warsash shore and there were fair-sized Winter flocks at Hayling Island, 263 being

reported from there on 13th October which was the most at any one time for the whole county (KB).

From the Island, only recorded at Newtown with a maximum of 13 (MCA, WGE, AJH, MMS, JS).

- 140 **Golden Plover.** Flocks as follows: **Eastleigh Airport**—up to 103 in the first part of the year, not seen after 2nd March. The first returns were seen on 6th October when 30 birds were present, rising to only 35/45 by 1st December but then increasing to 80/100 on 8th and *ca.* 200 on 14th and 15th (PJB, JHT, DW). **Morn Hill**—maximum *ca.* 325 on 3rd March with the last being three or four on 20th April. The first back were on 14th October when 40 were present and about 200 were seen before the end of the year (EAG, GGP, JHT, W). **Nr. Stockbridge**—89 arrived and stayed a short while on 7th April and *ca.* 150 were there on 27th November (ELJ). **Brownwich**—300 on 13th January, 60/70 in February and 17 on 9th March, 11 leaving to the South over the Solent on that date. The first to return were three on 12th October, 280 being there on 13th November and up to 360 for the rest of the year (RHD, SLW). **Newtown**—37 or 38 on 22nd and 27th December (MCA, MMS). **Sowley area**—200, 3rd December.

From Langstone Harbour, small numbers occasionally seen (see movement) and odd birds from elsewhere. For the county as a whole, not recorded from 2nd May/14th September inclusive.

Movement—5th January, Hill Head, 58 going East (JKB, RHD).
10th January, Lee-on-Solent, *ca.* 300 going SE. (TEB).
19/20th January, Farlington, 32 and 45 fighting into the harbour with Curlew (PG).
15th September, Warsash, one going NW. (RHD).
21st September, St. Catherine's, two before dawn (SPG).
12th October, Hill Head, four going North (JKB).

- 143 **Turnstone.** Dates of peaks, passage and so forth do not tally from different parts of the county. In **Christchurch Harbour**, the most seen in the early part of the year was 14 in January, becoming infrequent until May when peaks of 17 and 16 on the 8th and 11th point to passage. None was seen there in June or July, the first returning on 7th August and then no more than eight to the end of the year with reports most regularly from September (CHG). On the coast from **Hurst to Dibden**, in the first three months there were several records of under 20 birds except at Hurst where 40 were seen. Spring passage was observed at Pennington and Lepe, no more than 30+ recorded, in April and May. Apart from three at Keyhaven on 18th/28th June (RES), the first to return were in the second half of August, 43 at Hurst on 26th October being the most for this end of the year (JKB, EC et al). On the **Eastern shores of Southampton Water**, birds were recorded all the year round with very few May/July. Weston Shore, Hamble and Warsash were the main places, the largest numbers seen from mid August onwards with 50/150 on several occasions (RHD, DCM, JHT, SLW). On 17th September however, as many as 231 were seen flying down the Hamble River on a dropping tide and apparently proceeding to the West shore of Southampton Water (WHT). At **Hill Head**, up to 40 until 14th April, then only on three dates to 12th August when single-figured counts became more frequent until 12th October. From then, up to 80 seen to the end of the year (RHD, CS, SLW et al). At **Langstone Harbour** Winter numbers at both ends of the year were in the thirties, with only single-figured counts in June and the first three weeks of July. Passage here was in March/May and on a smaller scale from 28th July to 11th August. In March, numbers soared to 400+ on 4th from 36 on the previous day, numbers subsequently remaining high but fluctuating until the low

numbers of June. The later passage was up to 50 birds on any one date (PG). Up to 87 recorded at Hayling (KB), and no more than 30 recorded from the Island.

Movement: May, 18 going NW on 9th, 12 going West on 10th, 89 going North on 19th and three moving on 6th; all at Langstone (PG). 1st September, one going West over St. Catherine's Light in early hours (SPG). Also, 37 going West at Gilkicker on 2nd September (JRS).

- 145 **Snipe.** The largest flocks were: 75 at Stratfield Saye on 24th February (MHT); 170+ on 25th February and 122 on 27th December at Titchfield Haven (RHD, CS et al); 120 at Farlington on 17th March (PG). Flocks at Titchfield Haven were seen up to the second week of April and from October onwards. In Farlington, numbers were highest from mid February to the second week of April and from early November onwards. At Yarmouth, 20th April was the last Spring record and 14th September the first return (MCA).
- 147 **Jack Snipe.** From the two wintering grounds that are well watched, dates tally very well. Thus at Farlington, the last were seen on 26th April with the first returns on 27th September, whilst at Titchfield Haven, similar dates were 28th April and 4th October. At the former locality, maxima at both ends of the year were 11 and 16 respectively (PG), whilst at the latter, numbers were 12 and three. At Titchfield Haven however, a single bird was seen on 23rd June (RB, RHD, CS, SLW et al). The only other wintering ground was at Hengistbury where up to three were seen until 10th March, and the same number from 2nd November onwards (CHG). Apart from these, reported twice from Stanpit in November and December (HA, CRM) and once each from Eling in October (PHD), Fordingbridge in January (JSA) and Hurst in December (JKB, ELJ).
- 148 **Woodcock.** Very much the same as usual, a widespread and common breeding species in the New Forest with several records from the remainder of the county where it appears to be generally distributed in suitable areas. Only two records from the Island.
- 150 **Curlew.** Winter flocks of several hundred from all along the coast with 2,080 at Tournebury on 12th October the largest (KB), and with ca. 148 as the maximum from the Island. Langstone Harbour was the only place where any numbers were reported in Summer, up to ca. 250 being present (PG). Birds moved inland to Forest breeding grounds in late March/early April, a time when the coastal flocks were breaking up. Birds returned to the coast and left the Forest in late June and July. Between these dates, 27 pairs were found breeding in the Forest (RHD, MJH, KHP).

There were many records of migration: in Spring, they were frequently heard at night passing over the Portsmouth area from 24th February to 31st March (KB, PG). At this time, numbers in Langstone Harbour increased to 1600 on 28th March from a previous maximum of 700. Other Spring sightings can be summarised as follows: 415, nearly all going East from early March to early May from many points on the mainland coast and at St. Catherine's Point with the peak around 14th/22nd April.

Fewer records for the return migration, the main occasions being:

- Large Westerly movement at North Hayling through July (KB).
- July 13th and 31st, single birds at Fleet Pond (TBS).
- July 14th, Stone Point, 89 going West (RHD).
- July 28th, Titchfield Haven, heard 0230 hrs., giving migration call (CS).
- August 2nd, Cosham, birds passing East at night (PG).
- August 29th, Langstone, 110 going WNW. (PG).

September 2nd/3rd, large flock going West at St. Catherine's at night (SPG).

September 7th, Needs Oar, 54 going NW. (BWR).

- 151 **Whimbrel.** For the county as a whole, Spring passage was from 6th April to 29th May with odd birds seen until Autumn when passage was from 7th July to 22nd October, the dates varying a little within these bounds for different localities.

Also, within these limits there were periods of peak passage, the first two weeks in May seeming to be general for the whole county whilst from regular records at St. Catherine's Light, the main nocturnal movement was reported between 3rd and 8th May (SPG). Many birds were heard moving at night over Portsmouth and of all birds recorded at this time of the year, the vast majority were moving Eastwards or to the NE. with fewer reports of birds leaving to the North or NW. (PG et al). Inland, many were heard moving up the Itchen Valley at 1130 hrs. on 1st May (W).

There were fewer records at the other end of the year but in Langstone Harbour, the bulk moved through in the last week of July and the first three weeks of August whereas West of Southampton Water, the last half of August saw the peak numbers (PG, KHP). Small numbers were recorded at St. Catherine's Light between 24th July and 2nd September (SPG).

Langstone Harbour had by far the largest counts, 163 being the most during the early migration (11th May) and 200 the most in Autumn (4th August) (PG).

- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** Langstone Harbour and Hayling Island once again provide the largest counts; numbers from these two localities, if taken separately, show great fluctuations which are probably due to birds moving from one place to another and also moving to Chichester Harbour. A summary of Langstone counts, showing the general pattern, is as follows:

Jan. 5th—200	Mar. 17th— 8	Jun. 22nd— 40	Sep. 1st—250
Jan. 9th— 13	Mar. 24th—206	Jul. 7th—182	Sep. 23rd—150
Jan. 26th— 8	Apr. 7th—275	Jul. 20th—200	Oct. 4/6th— 0
Feb. 9th— 50	Apr. 19th—150	Aug. 4th—340	Nov. 9th—100
Feb. 17th—100	Apr. 27th— 73	Aug. 28th— 50	Nov. 23rd—290
Feb. 24th— 7	May 3rd— 15		Dec. 22nd—150

The highest count was from Hayling where 550 were at Tournbury on 22nd September. Numbers were high in October when those at Langstone were at their lowest (KB).

At Titchfield Haven, there were up to 150 until mid March, numbers becoming smaller and less frequent towards the end of this period. At the end of the year, small numbers were again present (RHD, CS et al). Also, up to 72 recorded nearby at Warsash (SLW et al).

To the West of Southampton Water, there were only two counts of double figures, the highest being 73 (KHP et al). On the Island, records were mainly from Newtown with the largest numbers in August and September, 111 on 14th September being the maximum (WGE).

Apart from the Langstone area, very few were seen April/June inclusive.

Movement—April 12th, Titchfield Haven, 9 going East (SLW).

April 18th, St. Catherine's Point, one (SPG).

April 20th, Titchfield Haven, 17 going West (SLW).

April 25th, Langstone Harbour, 14 arrived from West (PG).

April 27th, Langstone Harbour, 22 arrived from West (PG).

April 29th, Titchfield Haven, one going NE. (SLW).

July 14th, Titchfield Haven, 50 going East (SLW).

Sept. 2/3rd, St. Catherine's, one at Light (SPG).

Details of measurements taken from a bird found dead at Thorness Bay in February were sent to Mr. K. Williamson, who replied:

" . . . The bird is almost certainly a male *islandica*. (See *British Birds*, Vol. L, pp. 524-6)."

- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** The following table summarises a very heavy Spring passage which took place during the last few days of April and the first week of May, continuing on a smaller scale until half-way through the month. In each column is given the day's total of birds seen passing, the direction in which they were passing and an initial to indicate the exact locality. The coast is divided into three parts—East, Centre and West. Similar passage from the Island is summarised in the paragraph following the table.

East	Central	West
Apr. 23rd		613 East —SP
Apr. 26th	3 East —EP	
Apr. 27th *469 East —LH	*568 NE & E—TH	
Apr. 28th 121 East —LH	27 NE —TH	
Apr. 28th	23 NNE —W	
Apr. 28th	42 East —E	
Apr. 29th	1 NE —TH	
Apr. 30th 400+ —LH	11 NE —TH	
Apr. 30th	15 NE —L	
May 1st		1 (only 3 Spring records)—CH
May 4th 300 —LH	3 East —TH	400 —K
May 4th 100 sudden increase—H		2 —CH
May 8th	1 NE —TH	
May 19th 150 —LH		

*One party passing Titchfield Haven had a smaller wader flying with them whilst a party arriving at Langstone a little later were accompanied by a Knot. This would seem to support the conclusion that the Titchfield birds were the same as were seen at Langstone.

LH—Langstone; H—Hayling; E—Eastney Point; TH—Titchfield Haven; W—Warsash; EP—Elmora Point; L—Lee-on-Solent; K—Keyhaven; SP—Stone Point; CH—Christchurch Harbour.

From 3rd/11th May inclusive, several birds passed over St. Catherine's Point, mainly passing East at night (SPG).

Autumn passage was less marked but was reported from West of Southampton Water from the end of July to the end of September, but in Langstone Harbour, numbers in September were at their lowest, being only in single figures.

Otherwise, Winter flocks of up to 200 at Hayling (KB) and 120 at Langstone with low numbers from elsewhere, although 68 in Christchurch Harbour on 11th October was exceptional (CHG). At Yarmouth on 26th April, a flock of 17 apparently driven in to shelter by strong winds was unusual for that locality (MCA).

Some birds were present in Summer and it was considered from their plumage that such birds in Langstone were first Summer birds (PG).

- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** Odd birds Wintering at both ends of the year were reported from eight inland and coastal localities but only on single dates from five of these with none from the Island. It is difficult to separate Spring passage entirely because from April to June, odd records came from places where Wintering birds had been seen but presumably birds heard at St. Catherine's on the nights of May 10th/11th and 14th/15th were migrants (SPG). There were no inland records for the three months mentioned above and only two from West of Southampton Water.

Autumn passage was from July to late September with many records from the coast, inland and from the Island. Maxima were: from inland, eight at Alresford on 3rd August (EAG, JHT), seven in cress beds near Andover on 24th July (ELJ) and five at Fleet Pond on 8th August (TBS). This seemed to be the period when the bulk moved through inland areas. From the Western coast parts, the most were four at Dibden on 11th September (KHP) and from the East, five at Warsash on 2nd August (RHD) and seven at Farlington on 27th August, this last locality being the one from which the species was recorded most regularly (PG). The most from the Island was three at Yarmouth on 11th August, a locality where the birds were frequently seen after 29th June (MCA).

- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.** Reported from: Langstone Harbour, one 23rd/26th May, one 29th June and up to two regularly from 7th July to 10th September (PG); Titchfield Haven, one 10th/11th July (JKB) and another 3rd/4th August (DP, CS); Stanpit, one going SW. on 7th August (FRC, RJJ).

- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** One or two Wintering birds at both ends of the year. Dates of Spring passage differ from place to place. Thus, the first were a party of nine at Totland Bay on 3rd March, which flew across to Hurst Castle (BM); at St. Catherine's, recorded on four dates at the Light from 4th/5th May to 26th/27th (SPG); at Christchurch Harbour, birds were only seen at this time on 17th April and 1st May (CHG); from the other areas West of Southampton Water, there was a small passage, with no more than three birds, only in the first week of May (CHF, JTRS); East of Southampton, passage was from 18th April to 2nd June, the highest counts being 23 coming in off the sea at Titchfield Haven on 3rd May (CS, SLW), eight at Farlington on 9th May (PG) and seven leaving Hook Lake to the NNE. on 30th May (RHD). Inland, there was a single bird at Winnall on 8th April (PSS).

The Autumn passage was much larger and the dates tally well from all parts of the county, 30th June to the end of October being the dates with the peak numbers in July, August and September. There were three records from inland at Winnall and Fleet Pond (TBS, PSS) in this period whilst maxima from the coast were 22 at Pennington on 28th July and 15 on 7th August (JKB, ELJ, KHP), and 22 at Langstone Harbour on 31st July (PG). During this migration, recorded at St. Catherine's Light on two nights in August and three in September (SPG).

- 161 **Redshank.** Winter flocks of up to 200 at several places at the beginning of the year, except at Langstone where the maximum was 1,200 on 3rd March (PG). Birds first began to occupy inland breeding grounds in

March, the earliest arriving before their usual date in the Itchen Valley and the Test Valley, this years' dates being 10th March (PSS) and 11th March (ELJ) respectively. Similar dates for Damerham and Beaulieu Heath were 14th March (JSA) and 23rd March (KHP). These dates coincide with the break up of the large coastal numbers for the last count of any size was on 17th March when 300 were present in Langstone Harbour (PG), and the species was recorded at St. Catherine's Light on the night 17th/18th March (SPG). The only large coastal count between the birds leaving for their breeding grounds and their return in June was of 200 in Christchurch Harbour on 8th and 10th April (JHT). The first birds to return to the coast were seen at Warsash on 12th June (RHD) and at Farlington on the same date, 12 birds. By 23rd June, the count at Langstone was 500 and this had increased to 1,120 by 14th July (PG). Birds were again recorded at St. Catherine's Light during this movement on the nights of 5th/6th August and 2nd/3rd September (SPG). Thereafter, the usual Winter gatherings of up to 300 birds except at Langstone Harbour where the maximum was 2,400 on 5th November.

There were two unusual records at the latter end of the year; one going West over Andover on 17th December is the observer's first record for this month in the area (ELJ) whilst one at Alderholt Mill on 16th November is the observer's first record for the period August/December for seven years (JSA).

- 162 **Spotted Redshank.** One, occasionally two, birds in Farlington Marsh/Langstone Harbour in most months but most often in April (six dates) and July/September inclusive (31 dates) (PG). Single birds were at Hayling Island on three July dates and once in October (KB), with other singletons at Warsash on 8th May (RHD) and Titchfield Haven on 9th/12th July (RHD, CS). West of Southampton Water numbers were higher especially at Needs Oar Point where up to 11 birds were seen March, April and May (MHP, GAS, W) with the same number there on 30th October (JKB). Also, one at Keyhaven on 8th May (RES), one at Pennington on 13th October (JKB), whilst at Christchurch Harbour, up to two were seen in April, August and October (CHG). One was at Dibden Bay on 9th and 17th November (KHP).

- 165 **Greenshank.** Winter records of birds on two dates in Langstone Harbour (PG), on several occasions from Newtown (MCA, AJH, MMS, JS, GAHW), twice in December at Yarmouth (MCA) and once at The Gins (EJW). A rather small Spring passage was recorded from the coast between mid April and the first week in June with no more than three at any one time and with a few reports of birds moving East. During this time, there was one inland report of a bird moving high overhead at Damerham on 5th June (JSA). There was a much heavier passage at the end of the season from the last week in July to the first week in October. Within these dates, maxima for different localities were at different times. Thus at Langstone, there was a peak in the first week of August, ca. 20 being there on 6th (PG), the species being reported from this area more regularly than elsewhere. From Hayling, the maximum was 12 in late September (KB) which tallies with dates from West of Southampton Water where the maximum was at The Gins, 12 on 29th September (RHD). There were two inland reports for this period, one at Avington on 17th August (JHT) and two at Fleet Pond on 29th August (TBS). Records of movement were too few to fall into any pattern, i.e.

July 28th, Titchfield Haven, five going NW. (RB, CS).

Aug. 3rd, Langstone Harbour, one arrived from the West (PG).

Aug. 20th, Titchfield Haven, three going SW. (CS).

Aug. 27th, Titchfield Haven, eight passed Westwards (CS).

- 169 **Knot.** Very few records between the end of the first week in July and mid August. Before this date, recorded only infrequently from the Western half of the Coastline but regularly from the Portsmouth area with up to 140 in Langstone although numbers there fluctuated widely (PG et al). Reports were more frequent from the West in the latter half of the year with 60 at Pennington on 24th November by far the largest count from this part of the county (JKB) and 220 at Langstone on 28th December by far the largest count from the East (PG). At Christchurch Harbour, records were most frequent in August and September which would seem to point to passage at that time (CHG).
 Apart from one at Yarmouth on 10th November (MCA), the only Island records came from Newtown in January/February and mid August/end of year, with 25 on 24th February the maximum (MCA, MMS).
- 170 **Purple Sandpiper.** One on a groyne at Hengistbury on 23rd December was the only record for the year (JW).
- 171 **Little Stint.** A considerable Autumn passage, mainly from the East, from 3rd August/14th October inclusive, the vast majority in the latter half of September. Details from localities are: **Farlington**—on eight dates, the maximum 11 on 28th September with ten, mainly immatures, on the following day (PG); **Hayling**—on nine dates, maximum seven on 27th September (KB); **Titchfield Haven**—single birds on four dates (SLW et al); **Warsash**—one on 14th October (SLW); **Pennington**—up to three birds on three October dates (EC); **Christchurch Harbour**—single birds on 13th and 25th September (CHG); **Newtown**—seen from 15th August to 6th November, up to three except for seven on 9th October (AJH, MMS, JS); **St. Catherine's**—one heard after dark, 21st September (SPG).
- 173 **Temminck's Stint.** One at Farlington Marsh on 9th September and 1st October. A full description of plumage, flight and voice has been sent in from C. J. Henty who saw the birds and has had previous experience of the species (PG).
- 176 **Pectoral Sandpiper.** One at Farlington Marsh from 29th September to 6th October was seen by many observers (PG). "Generally resembled Ruff. Bill black and slightly decurved; head buff with crown and nape closely streaked dark brown and pale superciliaries nearly meeting at the nape. Upper parts sandy buff with dark centres to the feathers and two conspicuous longitudinal white stripes on the back. Dark centre to tail, light/white at sides. Under parts: chin light buff, almost white; sandy buff upper breast finely striated with dark brown, these forming a distinct pectoral band where they sharply terminated; lower breast and remainder of under parts pure white. Legs described from 'yellow' to 'ochre'. A little larger than a Dunlin but slimmer and longer legged. Flight rapid and call note, always uttered on rising, was a sharp but squeaky 'queerk'".
- 178 **Dunlin.** Early in the year, Winter numbers of several hundred from all along the coast, the highest at Langstone on 19th January where 10,000 were seen (PG). There were several visual sightings of movement in Spring viz:
 April 3rd, Titchfield Haven, one going NE. (RHD).
 April 6th, Eastney Point, four going East (PG).
 April 29th, Langstone Harbour, eight going NNW. (PG).
 May 1st, Langstone Harbour, 32 going WNW. and NNW. (PG).
 May 9th, Langstone Harbour, 184 going in an arc between NE./NNW. (PG).
 May 10th, Langstone Harbour, 19+ going N. and NW. (PG).
 May 14th, Langstone Harbour, 18 going N. and NNW. (PG).
 May 19th, Langstone Harbour, 36 going NW. (PG).
 May 21st, Langstone Harbour, 38 going NW. (PG).

Apart from visual sightings, birds were recorded at St. Catherine's, usually in small numbers, on nine nights from 29th/30th March to 14th/15th May (SPG).

There were counts of up to 6,000 in May whilst this movement was in progress but counts fell in early June, remaining rather low for the rest of the month and for the first part of July.

Autumn passage recorded at St. Catherine's Light from 4th/5th August to 21st/22nd September, mainly at night but six seen passing in daylight (SPG). After this, there was a build up of the usual coastal counts with Langstone Harbour once again providing the maximum, 9,000 being there in December (PG). However, the species was only once recorded in September at Langstone, three birds on 2nd.

Inland, single birds were seen at Fleet Pond on 27th August and 9th September (TBS). A pure white bird was in Langstone Harbour on 17th March (PG). A report from the Island states that if the birds at Yarmouth are disturbed at high water, they may cross the Solent to larger roosting grounds.

- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** In the first half of the year, birds were only seen at Farlington, singletons on 28th April, 9th and 12th May and 2nd June. In Autumn, from 28th July to 6th October there was a larger passage. Eight were at Newtown on 28th July and two were there on 8th September (MMS); up to three birds were at Farlington on six dates (PG); two were at Warsash on 4th September (RHD); one at Hayling on 14th and two on 21st September (KB); one at Brownwich on 25th September (SLW); one in Portsmouth Harbour on 30th September (EC); five at Pennington on 6th October (DW).

- 181 **Sanderling.** Apart from one bird at Gilkicker on 26th December, the species was only recorded on the mainland in Winter from Hayling Island, ca. 80 at Black Point on 19th January being the maximum number seen together (KB). On the Island, small numbers were at Newtown during November and December and in December the species was recorded from Brading Harbour, 83 on 3rd and 117 on 9th, both at high water whilst at low water on 16th, none was seen (MCA).

Apart from these Winter gatherings, Spring passage was reported from Christchurch Harbour (up to 28—CHG), Titchfield Haven/Warsash (up to 18—RHD, SLW), Langstone Harbour (up to ten—PG) with a single bird at Keyhaven. The following visual movement was seen:

March 31st, Hayling, 32 going East (KB).

April 14th, Hayling, 30 going East (KB).

May 11th, Hill Head, two going East (SLW).

May 15th, Langstone, ten going NNE. (PG).

Also, several small parties apparently passing East were heard over St. Catherine's Light on the night of 7th/8th May (SPG).

After two July records, there was a small passage from August to October, no more than two birds being seen together except at Hayling where 70 were present on 14th September (TBS).

- 183 **Broad-billed Sandpiper.** One at Farlington Marsh on 5th and 6th October, seen by many observers. An account appears in *British Birds*, May 1958, giving a full description of plumage and behaviour (PG).

- 184 **Ruff.** Odd records for February and March from Keyhaven, Christchurch Harbour and Langstone. These were followed by a Spring passage during April, May and early June, summaries from localities being: **Keyhaven**—33 present in early April, falling to three by 8th May (JVB et al); **Needs Oar**—one on 19th April (MHP, GAS); **Titchfield Haven**—a single bird in April and again in May (SLW et al);

Farlington—on several dates throughout the period stated above, the maximum being seven on 29th April and only on three dates in May and June (PG).

After this, there was a single bird at Farlington in July, followed by a small passage from the end of August to early October at Stanpit (max. nine), Titchfield Haven (max. three), Yarmouth (max. two) and Farlington (max. three), the birds being regular at the last-named locality from 27th August/22nd September inclusive. There was a single bird at Hurst on 16th December (JKB, ELJ).

- 185 **Avocet.** One at Titchfield Haven on 9th May (AS) and four in Langstone Harbour on 22nd September (PG).

- 187 **Grey Phalarope.** One picked up dead at Hill Head on 6th January (RHD et al). In common with most coastal areas of the South of England, there were far more records than usual in Autumn. The majority of the records were in September and a full list is as follows:

Sept. 8th, Southsea Castle, one (RHD).
 Sept. 11th/12th, Brownwich, one (SLW).
 Sept. 12th/14th, near Ringwood, one on a pond (FEP).
 Sept. 12th/16th, Farlington, two (PG).
 Sept. 13th/21st, Pennington, up to four (JKB, JVB, EC, ELJ).
 Sept. 15th/16th, Brighstone, one (OHF, GAHW, DIW).
 Sept. 29th, Yarmouth, one (MCA).
 Oct. 3rd, Stokes Bay, six on a pool (DCM).
 Oct. 5th, Brownwich, one slightly oiled (RHD).
 Oct. 5th, Hill Head, one not oiled (RHD).
 Nov. 21st, Lee-on-Solent, one (TEB).

[A phalarope, probably of this species, was at Yarmouth on 15th September (ED per MCA).]

- 188 **Red-necked Phalarope.** One at Stokes Bay on 10th and 12th September (DCM). "Upper plumage dark grey, as was crown and nape of neck. There was a dark mark through the eye. Under parts were white. There were some red marks on the side of the neck. Bill fine and longish. Very tame. Back was streaked with white".

- 189 **Stone Curlew.** First records on 23rd March, on which date recorded from West Hampshire (JSA), Micheldever (PSS) and the East (BWR) so there was probably a widespread influx around this date. The last date was 30th September, from Damerham (JSA) and Broughton (GT). Between these dates, the species was reported from many localities on the chalklands of Central and Northern Hants where it still appears to be widespread as a breeding bird and is by no means uncommon in places (DMG, ELJ, PSS et al).

- 190/191 **Pratincole.** One at Stanpit on 14th September, a full description of which appeared in *British Birds*, March 1958 (JKB, ELJ).

- 193 **Arctic Skua.** Ten dark phase and five light passed East off St. Catherine's Point between 16th April and 12th May (SPG). One dark phase bird going East off Gilkicker Point on 22nd April (BWR) and seven, two light phase, flew down river at Titchfield Haven to settle on the Solent on 14th September (RB, RHD, SLW).

In Autumn, at St. Catherine's Point, one immature went East on 8th August and one dark phase adult came from the East and returned in that direction on 28th September (SPG). Two, both dark, were close in off Hengistbury among a large gathering of terns and other species on 29th September (FRC).

- 194 **Great Skua.** One going East off Brownwich cliffs on 6th February (RHD), whilst at St. Catherine's, there were two on 12th May, three on 27th July and one on 9th September, all flying East (SPG).

- 195 **Pomarine Skua.** One adult, light phase, in Langstone Harbour on 10th October (JKB). "Light phase bird with faint pectoral band. Heavy flight and a large amount of white on the wings (more than is usual for Arctic). In some views, the tail projection merely appeared to be long but it was thick and longer than the tail. The bird did not come close enough for the twist to be seen. The cap was very dark. The observer is familiar with Arctic."

[Unidentified skuas. One heavy-looking bird (not Great), going East off St. Catherine's Point 16th April (SPG). Ten, probably Arctic, going East on four dates between 21st April and 12th May off St. Catherine's Point (SPG). One chasing terns off Hengistbury on 11th August (RJJ).]

- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** Apparently, few observers have bothered to record this species and the only reports received of coastal gatherings in Winter are from Christchurch Harbour where fairly full counts were made and showed a maximum of 70 (CHG) and from Titchfield Haven, where *ca.* 100 adults were reported on 2nd January (JHT) and 132 on 15th November (SLW). In Langstone Harbour, there were *ca.* 250 immatures on 21st July (PG). Inland, the birds were regular up the Itchen valley as far as Micheldever until the end of March, becoming rather infrequent in that month with the maximum for any one locality being ten at Winnall on 4th January. The first return was in mid September and in the latter part of the year, up to 20 adults were recorded at various localities far up the valley. These birds move down to Southampton Water in the evening in company with other gulls (all PSS). They were also recorded in Winter from the Test valley but less often than from the Itchen (DMG, ELJ).

Winter gatherings from the Island were more often recorded, 52 flying towards Brading Harbour in December being the most (MCA). At Newtown, from 19th/25th June, up to 75 were recorded (MMS).

7 or 8 pairs were found breeding on the Island.

At St. Catherine's Point, 27 flew Westwards on 6th January and ten flew West on 21st February (SPG).

- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** After two January records, there was a Spring passage that seemed to take place in waves. The first influx occurred in February, from 9th to 24th small numbers being recorded from the coast and inland. Then none was seen until 2nd March, this arrival lasting until 10th April with some lowering of numbers at the end of March. The species was then not reported until 26th April, and from that date until 9th May, more movement apparently took place. For the rest of May, June and the first three weeks in July, there were only odd coastal records. These dates differ within the stated ranges for various localities and there were times when none was seen at some localities whilst movement was observed at others. Visual records from the coast from 13th March to 25th May inclusive can be summarised as follows:

Direction of flight	N.	NE.	E.	W.
Number moving	6	30	113	48 (98 of these, 47 going West and 51 East, were at St. Catherine's).

Inland records at this time were of two at Alresford on 24th February and one at Bradbridge on 8th March (EAG).

Two were seen in the breeding season at Culver Cliff (MCA) and various observers reported two near the Needles.

Autumn passage for the county as a whole was from the end of July to the end of October but once again reports of dates differ from place to place within these limits. For instance, the species was not recorded in Langstone Harbour from 14th September to the end of the month but on 21st, there was a sudden increase in Christchurch Harbour to a maximum of *ca.* 100, 50% of which were *fuscus*. Again,

the species was not reported from the East in October after the 5th, but a secondary peak was seen in Christchurch Harbour right through the month and birds were also in other Western coastal areas. Inland records were more frequent in this period than in the Spring passage, viz:

Aug. 9th, Fleet Pond, two going South (TBS).

Aug. 25th, Alresford, four (EAC, JHT).

Aug. 26th, Fleet Pond, two going South (TBS).

Sept. 11th, Damerham, one going SW. (JSA).

Sept. 21st, Winnall, one (PSS).

Sept. 21st, Longstock, one (ELJ).

Oct. 17th, Dogmersfield, one going South (TBS).

At St. Catherine's Point, out of a total of 1,389 whose direction was recorded, 1,292 flew Westwards and 97 Eastwards. Numbers there were small until 17th August when 128 flew West and from then to the end of October, passage continued at the rate of 10/30 per hour, with peaks of larger numbers, 50 per hour on 6th September and 60/100 per hour on 21st and 22nd September. *Graellsii* noted only on six occasions, *fuscus* always being predominant and constituting all passages (SPG). Elsewhere on the Island in this period, heavy Westerly passage was often recorded.

A few birds were seen in November and December with 21 at Brownwich on 12th December, 18 of which were *fuscus* (SLW).

- 200 **Herring Gull.** Not many records were received. Inland, the birds were present up to early April in the Test and Itchen valleys and in the North of the county. They were then absent in these areas until the end of July, after which they once again became increasingly regular. Most reports were from the Itchen, especially at Winnall and Alresford where the birds were daily visitors, the maximum at any one time being 17 although larger numbers were recorded at Winchester Sewage Farm. In the late afternoon, the birds fly to the Solent to roost (PSS et al).

From the coast, counts are few but 800 and 600 on 15th and 20th August in Christchurch Harbour would indicate passage as the next highest count from there was 200+ (CHG). There were up to 200 immatures at Titchfield Haven in May (CS et al).

Three pairs bred at Fawley, the only mainland report (SHS) but at least 1,130 breeding pairs were seen on the Island, including a new locality at Newtown which contained only one nest (JKB, GHR, GAHW).

In Langstone Harbour on 26th April, there was a yellow-legged adult with the normal coloured mantle (PG).

- 201 **Common Gull.** Up to 1,500 seen in January/March and December, coming down the Hamble River at dusk to roost in Southampton Water (RHD). Birds from this roost were seen inland in the daytime, particularly at Winnall and Alresford up to the end of April and from the end of July onwards with a maximum of 50+ (PSS) and from playing fields around Eastleigh where gatherings of 200+ were seen (JHT). These all flew South in the late afternoon to roost on Southampton Water. Smaller counts were reported from the Test valley and the North of the county in Winter.

Easterly passage was heard at night and seen by day from Eastern coastal parts from 26th March to 12th April (PG et al), whilst from the beginning of March to mid May, 229 flew East past St Catherine's Point, 94 on 3rd March being the maximum (SPG).

There were only three records in May for the whole county, two singles from Christchurch Harbour and at least one adult at Main Bench on 4th May (BWR). The first return was on 13th June and by the end of July, birds were present in some numbers. During this

return, odd birds were seen going South over the North of the county (TBS, ELJ) and at St. Catherine's, the first Autumn date was 5th August, after which one or two were present there until 19th October when ca. 30 were seen with 56 going Westwards on 10th November (SPG).

One found dead at Farlington on 29th April had a Finnish ring (PG).

- 202 **Glaucous Gull.** One, on four dates from 1st to 13th January at the mouth of Langstone Harbour. "Slightly smaller than a Great Black-back with the heavy flight of that species. The primaries were white and there were biscuit markings on the whitish plumage. The bill was heavy with a dark tip." Seen by many observers, three of whom have had previous experience of the species (DFB, CJH, GHR).

- 205 **Mediterranean Black-headed Gull.** One adult in Langstone Harbour on 26th January and 9th February. "Flying near to Black-headed Gulls. Shorter, broader, more rounded wings of the present species noted and not angled so much. Consequently the flight was very different. Also, present species larger and body proportionately more bulky. Grey mantle and wings with pure white primaries and the white tips to the secondaries formed a band along the trailing edge of the wings. White, rounded tail. Bill thick and curved." (DFB, NAR, GHR, EJW).

- 207 **Little Gull.**

Jan. 24th, Langstone Harbour, one first Winter bird (PG).
Feb. 2nd/3rd, Langstone Harbour, one oiled (PG).
Feb. 16th, Hengistbury Head, one (FRC).
Apr. 29th, Farlington Marsh, one second Summer bird (PG).
May 15th/28th, Titchfield Haven, one first Summer bird (RB et al).
Aug. 18th, Black Point, one adult (WHT).
Oct. 31st, Hamble River, one adult (AS).

- 208 **Black-headed Gull.** The largest gathering was in Southampton Water where 12,000 were counted at Dibden Bay in February (KHP). Birds from here fly inland and were seen in the Itchen Valley with up to 300 together in places up to March, decreasing to very few in June and beginning to build up again in July. The gulls fly down river to the sea in late afternoon (JHT et al). Smaller numbers from the lower Test (ELJ). On 10th February, many were found oiled and dead at Hengistbury along with other species (HB).

Easterly Spring passage at St. Catherine's 609 passing between 3rd March and 25th May, mainly adults, with 183 on 3rd March the maximum (SPG).

Breeding counts were as follows:

Hurst	74 pairs	(EC).
Needs Oar	1,130	" (RHD).
Tanner's Lane	920	" (RHD).
Keyhaven	ca. 400	" (RHD).
Fawley	ca. 700	" (KHP).

3,224

Also, 2/4 pairs apparently attempted to breed at the University (AVP).

There is evidence that moulting flocks use gathering grounds not used at other times of the year, from Langstone Harbour and Titchfield Haven (PG, CS). On November 6th/9th, eight dead in the Hill Head area were found by Dr. Jennings to be poisoned and he suggested D.N.C., a selective weed killer (SLW). An albino was at Hill Head on 8th December (WHT).

One ringed as pull. in Kent on 2nd June 1957 found injured at Bembridge about 9th September and had to be destroyed (GWJ).

- 211 **Kittiwake.** A few birds were seen along the coast in January and then in the first days of February, a 'wreck' took place on Southern and Western shores of Britain that has been described in a paper in *British Birds*, July 1958. The wreck was most marked in Hampshire, particularly in the West of the county. Details from places are: **Christchurch Harbour**—25+ on 9th February and 108+ on the following day, all flying but nearly all bearing traces of oil, considerable quantities of which could be seen on the water's edge. There were still 27 there on 17th February but only nine corpses on 10th March (CHG). **Hurst Area**—first appeared on 9th February when 40 were present plus some dead birds. Subsequently in that month, several birds were present, mostly dead and oiled but there was only one in March, a corpse on 24th (JKB, EC, KHP, WHT, DW). **Southampton Water and Eastern parts**, from 2nd February to 14th March, no more than seven at a time and the majority either oiled or dead (PG et al). The 9th February seemed to be the day that the wreck was first noticed on all parts of the county coastline, except from the Island where 2nd February was the similar date. According to the paper in *British Birds*, all the birds involved in the wreck subsequently perished. **Isle of Wight**, up to six birds at several places through February, mostly adults, the majority of which were oiled and some of them dead (MCA, JKB, SPG, JS).

After this, small numbers seen off St. Catherine's Point from 1st March to 25th May as in previous years, 13 flying Westward and eight East, and odd birds there from 9th July to 16th November with ca. 30 flying West with a strong SW. wind on 3rd November (SPG). There were four other Island records (MCA, JKB). One immature was in Langstone Harbour on 4th May and six individuals were seen from September to the end of the year. At Hurst on 26th October, however, 14 were seen going East (JKB).

- 212 **Black Tern.** A small Spring passage reported from 8th/26th May inclusive, but only from the East of the county coastline. There was a much larger passage at the other end of the year from 10th July to 5th October from inland and all parts of the coast. Details are as follows:—

Spring:

May 8th, Hill Head, six going East (SLW).*

May 9th, Hill Head, four going East*, and five fishing. Farlington, four (PG, SLW, W).

May 11th, Langstone, one going East. Tournebury, one (KB, PG).

May 26th, Hill Head, one (CS).

*Other species of tern moving at this time at the same place.

Autumn:

East Hants—Up to four from 10th July/21st September (PG et al).

Hengistbury area—Up to four from 20th August/5th October except for 60 in a flock going SW. over Hengistbury on 21st September, only one being seen the next day, and nine there on 29th September (CHG).

Southampton Water—Five, 3rd August (BWR).

Hurst—One, 25th August (JKB, ELJ).

Fleet Pond—One, 5th August, none on the 7th, two on 9th going SE. and one 10th/13th August (TBS).

Winnall—12, 22nd September and three on the following day (MJM, JHT, W).

- 215 **Gull-billed Tern.** Two at St. Catherine's Point on 29th August, flying East (RHD). "More gull-like than most terns, the flight being heavy and slow. The first bird was an adult in Winter plumage, the short thick black tail was seen well; the head had an unusual appearance, this was due to the lack of a black cap, instead the head was whitish with a dark smudge running from the bill through the eye and round the nape, being darker and more pronounced behind the eye. The whole bird appeared greyer than the Sandwich Terns which were also around; the tail was slightly forked and grey but the legs were not seen. The following bird was a juvenile, calling squeakingly to the adult; the bill was similar, there was a dusky smudge on the face, nothing like the barring on the head of a juvenile Sandwich Tern; the wings were greyish with brown marks and the tail was slightly forked."

- 217/218 **Common/Arctic Tern.** First record, two at Gilkicker on 2nd April (RB). Thereafter recorded in small numbers until 5th May when 25 were seen moving up Southampton Water. This was the beginning of a few days' heavy passage. On 8th, 143 went East past Hill Head, the following day 68 went East past the same place whilst on 11th, 72 went East past there and 35 passed in the same direction at Langstone Harbour (RHD, PG, CS, JHT, SLW). However, at St. Catherine's, the only Spring record was of two flying East on 12th May (SPG). Thereafter, constantly recorded but no more large numbers moving. During this time, not many birds were specifically identified, but over 50 were said to be Common and 5 Arctic. There were also 3 inland records, single birds being seen at Petersfield Lake on 10th/11th May (WPW) and at Winnall on 12th May (PSS).

In the breeding season, 78 nests of Common were found at Keyhaven (EC) and 48 at Needs Oar (RHD).

Passage at the end of the season, mainly of birds going West, was recorded from early July from all along the coast and inland, but at St. Catherine's Point, the only evidence of passage was 13 going West on 10th August, 41 flying in the same direction in two hours on 22nd September and birds seen in small numbers at the Light during the nights 2nd/3rd, 20th/21st and 21st/22nd September (SPG). The bulk of the movement was in August in the East and outside Langstone Harbour there are only four September records for this area. West of Southampton Water, however, the birds were present in numbers through August and up to the end of September, with a maximum of 75 fishing off Hengistbury on 29th September, at which time very few were seen in other parts (CHG). The highest counts were around the mouth of the Hamble River at the end of July with ca. 200 on the 25th July (RHD, SLW, W). Some overland passage was recorded, for birds were seen at Winnall, Fleet Pond, Petersfield, and Park Gate, whilst at Titchfield Haven, 29 flew down river from inland on the 12th August (CS). More birds were specifically identified in this period with over 100 reported as Common and over 50 as Arctic. 22 of the latter species were at Christchurch Harbour on 22nd August (CHG).

A few birds were recorded in October up to the 27th, and then a single Common at the Model Yacht Pond, Gosport, on 12th November and one 'Comic' at Black Point on 15th December (both JLLP).

- 219 **Roseate Tern.** Two at Hill Head for about five minutes on 8th May finally left to the East (RHD, SLW) and two were at Hurst on 25th June (JVB). "Range down to 25 yards. Bill appeared long and dark but on closer view it was seen to be black with a dark red base. Cap black and underparts white. Mantle very light grey. No pink noticeable on the breast. In general appearance, very white and slender with a very long, forked tail. Call note, 'kuik', heard several times."

- 222 **Little Tern.** The first date was very early, one being seen at Hurst on 24th March (JKB) but the next were not until 19th/23rd April and in that period birds were seen from several points along the coast. Small numbers were then seen regularly until 8th May, when 49 passed East at Hill Head and on 11th May, 21 were at the same locality (SLW). cf. other tern species. Movement, mainly to the East was seen until the end of May but no more high counts were recorded. Breeding figures for the county were as follows:—

Hurst	12 pairs (KHP)
Pennington	1+ pair (JKB)
Needs Oar	15 pairs (RHD)
Lepe	1 pair (KHP)
Ashlett	1 pair (KHP)

No breeding reports from Newtown since 1953. On 25th July, 50/60 were at Warsash, a date when large numbers of Common/Arctic were present at the same place (RHD), whilst at Langstone Harbour, 17 on 21st July heralded larger numbers and up to 54 were then present until 2nd September with as many as 190 on 5th August (PG). 40 were at Black Point on 18th August (WHT), so it would seem that these numbers represent the main return passage. Last recorded 25th September at Christchurch (CHG).

- 223 **Sandwich Tern.** First seen on 23rd March, when one went East past St. Catherine's Point (SPG). Then followed many records of small numbers mainly moving East, 56 past St. Catherine's Point between 20th April and 23rd May, for example, but in the second week of May, in common with other tern species (see under Common/Arctic, Little and Black) larger counts were reported from Hill Head, i.e. 70 going East on 8th, 25 going East on 9th and 13 going East on 11th (RHD, SLW). Movement on a smaller scale lasted until the end of May.

A colony of ca. 80 pairs raised about 50 young (DW—cf. 1956 report). From June onwards records from the East of the county were infrequent except for up to 20 fishing off Gilkicker in the latter half of July (AS) but in Christchurch Harbour there was an end-of-season congregation which reached ca. 25 on 7th August and 14 on 20th August, probably connected with the breeding colony (CHG). At St. Catherine's Point, only odd birds seen moving at this time of the year except for 17 going East on 9th September (SPG). Last seen 29th September.

- 224 **Razorbill.** Many dead birds, mostly oiled, on the mainland coast in January and February particularly after gales. The main places where birds were picked up were: Hengistbury, the most being on 10th February when 28 were found between Hengistbury and Bournemouth Pier with many other sea birds (HB); Hill Head, with eight dead in January and February (CS et al); Hurst, where 17 corpses were found on three February dates (JKB, KHP, WHT). There were also four live birds reported in January and one in April, the only records for the first half of the year. From the end of September onwards, nearly all reports were of live birds, over 30 being seen with the bulk in October off Hengistbury where numbers were reported to be unusual for the area with up to 10+ in the month (CHG).

ca. 60 pairs estimated at Main Bench on 25th May (JKB).

- 226 **Little Auk.** One dead in Langstone Harbour on 13th January (PG). One picked up on a lawn at Headley in November and released on Frensham Pond. (Mrs. A. T. Barrett in *Country Life*, 28.11.57). One flying East at St. Catherine's on 3rd November (JKB, RHD, EJW), and one flying West past the same place on 10th November (JKB).

- 227 **Guillemot.** 19 birds oiled and dead in January and February with two more in March, nine of these being on the Hengistbury shore area on 10th February (HB, JKB, CHG, KHP, WHT). Apart from these, six live birds were seen from the mainland in the first half of the year. In the latter six months, ten live birds and one corpse in July/November with five of these in July.

ca. 80 pairs estimated at Main Bench on 25th May (JKB).

- 230 **Puffin.** Maximum number near Needles was 12 on 24th March (MCA) but no more than eight recorded on numerous later dates. At St. Catherine's, at least 12 flew East on 23rd May and odd birds also flying West were seen there on five dates in April, May and July with four on 3rd November. A dead juvenile was found at Hill Head on 14th July (CS, SLW) and a dead adult was picked up at Brighstone on 21st July (MCA).

- 232 **Stock Dove.** The only movements noted were of one or two birds flying West over Langstone Harbour and Titchfield Haven on three dates in March, April and November and of one flying South out over the Solent on 31st March at Gilkicker (RHD, PG, CJH, WHT, SLW). At St. Catherine's Point three came in from East with Woodpigeons and headed out to sea SSW. on 2nd November, while two flew North with Woodpigeons on 10th November (SPG).

- 234 **Woodpigeon.** In early January a movement SSW. was noticed at Titchfield Haven, 32 on the 3rd and 36 on the 6th (RHD). A nest containing two young was found in the New Forest on 24th March (EC).

The only Spring movements recorded were at St. Catherine's Point where one was seen at the Light on the night of 30th/31st March and two there on the night of 5th/6th April (SPG). Considerable Autumn movements were reported between 14th September and 24th November. By far the largest numbers were seen at St. Catherine's Point. The majority of these birds came in from the East and continued West; however, a considerable number were moving in the opposite direction, particularly on 9th November when ca. 800 flew East. Others flew in from the South and continued Northwards while a few arrived from the East and turned North on reaching the Point. Total observations at St. Catherine's Point are listed below:—

Date	E—W	W—E	S—N	E—N	N—S	Total
October 20	121					121
October 27	273	15				288
November 2	728			195		923
November 9		800	8			808
November 10			318	52	200	570

At Ventnor ca. 50 flew NE. off the sea on 8th November (MCA). At Eastney Point up to three birds were seen flying West on four dates between 14th September and 4th October while two flew East on 7th October (PG). At Titchfield Haven 37 flew SW. and ten NNW. on 6th November, 51 West on 9th November and 12 NE. on 10th November (RHD, SLW). At Langstone Harbour, one flew North on 7th November and 12 came in off the sea at 1115 hrs. on 22nd November (PG). Over Southampton, five flocks (total 53 birds) flew West and one flock East in a period of dawn movement on 8th/10th November (AVP). 13 birds flew NW. over Beaulieu Heath on 1st November (KHP). The last movement reported was a party of 17 flying SW at Warsash on 24th November (SLW). On 10th February, an oiled bird was found dead between Hengistbury and Bournemouth Pier (HJB).

- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First record one at Micheldever, 18th April (AM). Main arrival seems to have begun in the period 23rd/27th April. On 8th May, two flew NW. off the Solent at Hill Head (RHD), and the only

Spring record at St. Catherine's was of one on 10th May (SPG). On 16th June, a flock of 49 were seen feeding in a ruined barn at Micheldever (CGW), and on 9th July one was watched on seaweed at Stanpit. (EB). Autumn movement was noted at St. Catherine's Light where 23 were seen during the night of 20th/21st September and two the following night. On 12th September, one flew over Bembridge Foreland from the NE. (JKB, ELJ). Last date was one at Damerham on 1st October (JSA).

Collared Dove. One, Gosport, 30th August (DCM) is the first record for Hampshire. "About the size of a Turtle Dove. All of the plumage was sandy-grey, lighter on the rump. Dark half-collar, narrow across nape, broader at ends. Dark primaries. Outer tail feathers edged with white. Legs and feet pink. Black and white under-tail pattern seen in flight. Seen at rest on the ground and also using a high perch in outer branches of hawthorn bush and on an electric cable. No notes heard."

- 237 **Cuckoo.** First date 11th April at Lymington (per EC). Main arrivals in period 13th/24th April. At Ventnor one flew in from the sea on 24th April and at St. Catherine's Point one was caught at the Light in the early morning on 8th May (MCA). At Hill Head on 8th May, one flew South towards I.O.W. but returned to mainland when mobbed by gulls (RHD). At Fritham a juvenile was being fed by Woodlarks, 30th June (JSA). There were 12 birds at N. Hayling during June (KB). On 3rd August a juvenile came in from the East at Farlington Marshes (PG) and one left to the SE. at dusk on 19th September at Titchfield Haven (JKB), the last date on which the species was reported.

- 241 **Barn Owl.** Several observers report a marked decrease of this species in the SE. of the county. Elsewhere, numbers appear to be normal. At Damerham on 30th April, one was watched eating a freshly-killed leveret, a prey not mentioned in the Handbook, 30th April (JSA).

- 246 **Little Owl.** As with the Barn Owl, there seems to have been a very marked decrease of this species in the SE. of the county (RHD, PG). RHD reports " . . . where, usually, in Park Gate area, up to 8 pairs breed, no birds seen or heard (in period January-June). This decrease seems to be general for all the district . . . " In the Portsmouth area, there were " . . . far fewer (records) than normal and this is felt to be a true indication of a population decrease " (PG).

Comments on the status of this species in other parts of the county would be welcomed, although records suggest that at least in the North numbers appear normal.

At Hurst Point one was flushed, very tired, from marine growth on 24th November (JKB).

- 247 **Tawny Owl.** There is no indication of any decrease in numbers of this owl in the SE. of the county. At St. Catherine's Point one flew East along the cliff edge in daylight on 16th April (SPG).

- 248 **Long-eared Owl.** One near Stockbridge, 3rd June (ELJ) and one found dead at Damerham in July (JSA).

- 249 **Short-eared Owl.** One or two birds on Farlington Marshes from January until 31st March and up to three there on many dates between 19th August and the end of the year. At Titchfield Haven, one, 12th and 19th October (CS et al), and at Tournerbury, Hayling, there was one on 25th August, seven in September and seven on 23rd November (KB). At Chilbolton, there was one on open stubble on 5th and 8th January (ELJ) and at least five at Danebury on 26th January (ELJ), two still there on 2nd February (DMG). One, Danebury, 19th October (DMG). At Ashlett one was flushed from the sea-wall on 17th January (KHP). One found dead at Millersford Bottom, Godshill, 24th March (EB). At Martin, one, 5th October, three or four 6th November and three 12th December. Also one at Rockbourne, 7th October (JSA).

- 252 **Nightjar.** Many breeding records throughout the county, particularly in the New Forest. A female found dead on road at Brook, I.O.W., 2nd September (MCA), and one at N. Hayling on 15th September had struck overhead wires (KB).
- 255 **Swift.** First arrivals were on 23rd April when two were seen at Bitterne Park, Southampton (MAO), one at Portswood, Southampton (AVP) and four at Winnall (EW). There were many reports of birds flying between NW. and NE. throughout May with an apparent peak on 25th May when up to 200 an hour were passing North over Hill Head/Titchfield Haven (RHD). The main movement up the Itchen Valley occurred on 7th May (W), and in the Andover area most of the residents had arrived by 19th May (ELJ). As in previous Springs there were several records of birds flying East to West. On 15th May, about 65 birds left Hill Head flying towards the I.O.W. (RHD) and on the same day there was a steady SW. passage at Park Gate (RHD). During the period 6th/13th July there was a heavy continuous passage SW. Movements were reported from Portsmouth, Fawley, Sandown and St. Catherine's Point, the birds flying West in the latter locality. On 17th July *ca.* 200 flew West in two hours at Eastney Point (TEB). On 19th July, birds were flying North in from the sea at Gosport and Hill Head (CS). On 26th/27th July, there was a big influx into the Winnall area (ELJ, JHT). During August most birds were moving West to SW. in much smaller numbers. At Ventnor two flew South on 11th August (JKB), while a few flew East and NE. over Farlington Marshes on 17th August (PG). Only odd birds were reported during September, the last being one at Lee-on-Solent on 25th September (TEB).
- 258 **Kingfisher.** Many reports of single birds, particularly in coastal localities, outside the breeding season. No records from Farlington Marshes between 4th May and 29th June. At Stanpit, birds were seen from 4th August to the end of the year. The only definite breeding record is of a pair at Dogmersfield which successfully reared five young (TBS); however, during the breeding season pairs were present at Fleet, the Basingstoke Canal, New Forest—six pairs including a juvenile seen on 24th August—(JKB, ELJ), Hook Lake, Warsash, Waggoners Wells, the R. Meon at Knowle and on Sowley Pond where a pair was watched carrying small fish to one corner of the lake on 8th June (RHD).
- 261 **Hoopoe.** Eight records of which six refer to the I.O.W. On 18th March one was watched feeding in a garden at Totland Bay (FJH). On 31st March there were records of three individual birds on the Island, one at Knighton Sand-pit, Newchurch and two by the side of the road at Hardingshute, Brading. All three were seen by MRT. On 30th April, one, Ryde Golf Course (PS). One at Lymington on 9th May (IGF) and one in the New Forest on 25th May was investigating holes (JSA). The only Autumn record is of one on Brighstone Down on 4th August (GAHW).
- 262 **Green Woodpecker.**
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Some evidence of migration in October and November. On 2nd October one flew West past Eastney Point (PG), and on 20th October one flying West along the cliff edge at St. Catherine's Point with Linnets was presumed to be a migrant. Also at St. Catherine's, one flew in from the SW. and landed on 16th November. At Titchfield Haven, birds seen on 27th October (one), 4th November (two), and 27th November (one) were "in exposed positions by the shore, appeared restless and flew about a lot; seemed to be migrants" (RHD).

264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** In the New Forest one was seen in gorse on Greenmoor on 20th July (GHR, ELJ), and one in gorse near Hatchet Pond on 7th August (KHP).

271 **Woodlark.** Continues to breed commonly in the New Forest and records referring to 46 pairs have been submitted. The species appears to be distributed evenly throughout the forest in suitable habitats. In a 900-acre area of heathland in the East of the forest a breeding survey revealed eight breeding pairs all in the vicinity of areas of woodland or scattered trees (KHP).

Outside the New Forest breeding birds were reported from Farley Mount (PSS, W), Harewood Forest, three pairs (ELJ), Vetley Firs (RMC), Liss Forest (JKB, WHT), Woolmer Forest (JKB, WHT), and Ludshott Common, two pairs (JKB, TBS, WHT). The species seems to have disappeared from the Damerham area where a few years ago it was a "not uncommon breeding species" (JSA).

Outside the breeding season single birds, that were assumed to be migrants, were seen flying South over Damerham at 1430 hrs. G.M.T. on 26th September and high over Fordingbridge on 7th October at 1045 G.M.T. (JSA).

272 **Skylark.** Very few records of Spring movement—a few birds flying NW. at St. Catherine's Point and single birds flying East at Hill Head in the period 2nd/10th March (RHD, SPG).

Autumn passage commenced in mid September and continued into the second week of November. The majority of this passage was in a Westerly direction although at St. Catherine's Point there was some Northerly passage. Peak movements occurred at Eastney Point in the first four days of October when between 0600 and 0850 hrs. 115, 74, 31 and 35 respectively were counted flying West (PG). During periods of dawn movement over Southampton, small numbers were flying West during the first two weeks of November with a peak of 63 on the 7th (AVP). At Hengistbury Head there was an influx of Skylarks on 12th October (CHG) and at Dibden Bay there were unusually large numbers on 27th October (KHP). At Hill Head the movement reached a peak on 7th November when 100 passed to the West (SLW).

274 **Swallow.** The first record is of a pair which returned to a nest-site at Well, near Basingstoke, on the very early date of 3rd March (S. N. D. Whitfield in the *Field*, 28th March, 1957). Other early records are of two flying North at Rowlands Castle on 21st March (CH), two at Lymington on 23rd March (RMC), one at Eastney Point, 29th March (PG) and three on 31st March at Thorness Bay, I.O.W. (RJM). The bulk of the Spring passage took place between mid April and the third week of May. The majority of the birds were flying North, though in the New Forest birds moved NW. apparently on a broad front. No large Spring movements were recorded.

The Autumn movement was characterised by a sharp peak on 21st/22nd September. At St. Catherine's Point ca. 1,000 an hour were flying West for 3 hours until stopped by fog on the 21st (SPG). At Farlington Marshes there was a "very heavy passage" SW. (PG). Large numbers were reported from Hengistbury on both dates (CHG). At Winnall, Winchester, ca. 160 arrived on the 21st (compared to three or four on previous days) and very many were seen on passage in the Winchester area on the 22nd (MJM, JHT). ca. 200 were assembled on telegraph wires at Chilbolton and ca. 100 at Longstock on the 21st (ELJ).

A secondary peak occurred on 28th September with ca. 390 flying West in one hour at St. Catherine's Point (SPG). A group of 50 flew West at Pennington at 1415 B.S.T. (KHP) and ca. 30 flew SW. over

Park Gate (RHD). Passage continued on a diminishing-scale throughout October with several records of birds flying East or NE. in the Titchfield Haven area. Small numbers were recorded on many dates in November, the last being one at Hurst on the 24th (JKB).

- 276 **House Martin.** First birds seem to have arrived at the end of March with two at Hill Head on the 29th (TEB), one at Portsmouth, Southampton on the 30th (AVP) and one at Cowes on the 31st (GAHW). There is then a gap in the records until 9th April when the first birds were noticed in the Fordingbridge area (JSA). The main arrivals seem to have commenced on the 18th April and reached a peak in the period 5th/8th May. On 5th May birds were watched flying East across the New Forest at Mallard Wood and Beaulieu Heath (KHP, BWR)—this contrasts with the NW. direction taken by Swallows across the forest in Spring.

At the end of July, birds were watched leaving Hill Head to the West or SW. on the 29th and 30th at 1800 hrs. and 2000 hrs. respectively.

Main Autumn passage took place in the period mid September to third week in October. Nearly all birds were flying in a Westerly direction. At Eastney Point on 1st October, 2,100 flew West between 0645 and 0840 hrs. (PG). However, at Whitecliff Bay, I.O.W., at least 350 flew South on 12th September (JKB, ELJ). Stragglers continued on into November, the last date being three at Southwick on 22nd November (AVN).

- 277 **Sand Martin.** First arrivals noted at Titchfield Haven on 11th March when 17 flew in from the Solent at 1700 hrs. (SLW). From then until the end of the month, small numbers were reported from many localities. There was a much larger movement during the first three days of April, birds flying West and SW. at Warsash and Titchfield Haven respectively (RB, RHD, SLW). In the Winchester area, the main movement occurred from 16th April to the first week in May, with a peak on 26th April (PSS).

Breeding was reported from seven localities totalling about 100 pairs. In the New Forest one pair bred in the old colony at Matley and one pair in a sand-pit at Holburv Purlieu (KHP). At least two and probably seven pairs bred in a sand-pit in Woolmer Forest (JKB, WHT). In Hook Gravel Pits *ca.* 60 pairs bred in one colony and a sub-colony contained *ca.* 15 nests (RHD). Ten to 15 pairs nested on Chilling Cliffs (RHD) and at Blackfield at least three and probably 12 pairs nested in a sand-pit which later in the year was destroyed for building development (KHP). On the I.O.W. nesting occurred at Sandown Golf Course but probably without success due to interference (AJH). For the first time within living memory, no birds nested in the quarry at Petersfield Hospital (WPW).

Autumn passage occurred from the end of July to the end of September with a peak at the end of August. In October there were four at Titchfield Haven on the 4th (SLW) and a party feeding with House Martins at Shelley Hill, Mudeford on the 23rd (BG, SH).

- 278 **Golden Oriole.** One, Holmsley, New Forest, 5th April (per EC), and one in Eyeworth Wood, Fritham in early April (TGD). At Shedfield a male was seen on 20th April (JM).
- 279 **Raven.** All records from I.O.W. Many records from the W. Wight chalk cliffs with circumstantial evidence of breeding (MCA et al). At St. Catherine's Point there was a pair apparently resident from 17th April to 1st May. In Autumn there are records of two 13th August, one 21st September and two 3rd October (SPG).

At Wroxall, one flying NE. 17th December (MCA).

- 280 **Carriion Crow.** At St. Catherine's Point there are records of birds seen flying in from the sea and leaving to the South in the period 3rd March to 4th May, nine flying North and six South. On 28th August one was killed at the Lighthouse (SPG).
- 281 **Hooded Crow.** One near Ventnor, 26th March (MCA) and one with Carriion Crows in a field at St. Catherine's Point on 21st April (SPG). At Stockley one was seen in company with other *Corvidae* on 26th May (SHS).
- 282 **Rook.** With reference to the roosting fly-line between Hill Head and the I.O.W. mentioned in the 1956 report, birds returning from the I.O.W. in the early morning were recorded as 280 at 0730 hrs. on 29th November, and ca. 400 at 0745 hrs. on 14th December (SLW).
- 283 **Jackdaw.**
- 284 **Maggpie.**
- 286 **Jay.** This was one of the species involved in the Autumn irruption of tits and other species. At St. Catherine's Point birds first became evident in the bushes on 4th September (two). Numbers then built up from six on 22nd September and eight on 5th October to a peak of 12 on 19th October. They then dropped to eight on 26th October and to five by 27th October—the last date on which they were recorded. On 28th September, four together flew E.—W. at a considerable height. (SPG). On 7th October at Newtown, four flew out over the Solent (MMS). At Fareham 12 were flying NE. between 100 and 200ft. on 26th September (RHD), eight flew West at Petersfield on 1st October (WPW), three flew East at Titchfield Haven on 12th October (CS) and one West over Farlington Marshes on 18th October (PG). At Fording-bridge up to five or six on several days in October/November were watched flying North at about 100 feet in the morning (JSA).
- On 11th August a flock of 25 birds were seen in a young pine plantation at Sloden (RHD).
- In Doles Wood 70 Jays were killed by keepers in a single afternoon (per ELJ).
- At Sway a bird was flushed from a clutch of seven eggs on 21st April (EC); the nest was predated later.
- 288 **Great Tit.** Noted in relatively small numbers during the Blue Tit irruption. At St. Catherine's Point one flew E.—W. on 13th September; there were six in the Lighthouse grounds at 0800 hrs. G.M.T. on 21st September and these had gone half-an-hour later; two flew E.—W. on 20th October (SPG). At Warsash three were seen flying NW. on 15th September (RHD); there were six at Farlington Marshes on 29th September (PG) and one in gorse, Eastney Point, in the early morning of 4th October. On 12th October, eight flew NE. in fog at Titchfield Haven (JKB, RHD) and two were seen in an isolated gorse-row on Farlington Marshes (PG). On 27th October, 11 flew NW. at Warsash, calling excitedly as they left tamarisk bushes on the shore (RHD).
- 289 **Blue Tit.** One of the chief characteristics of the Autumn of 1957 was the unusually large irruption of tits and other species. Of these, the Blue Tit was by far the most prominent species. In Hampshire, reports have come in from all over the county of unusually large numbers of Blue Tits between the end of September and the beginning of November. During the same period, reports of milk bottle opening, putty pecking and other mischievous habits were very common. During November numbers declined rapidly and several observers commented on the very low numbers in December. Evidence that these birds were moving through the county is provided by a bird that was ringed at Hengistbury Head during the peak of the irruption on 8th October and was recovered 165 miles NNE. at Rainworth, near Mansfield,

Notts, on 27th November. Wing measurements of many of the birds that were trapped suggest continental origin, and to support this there are many records of birds seen flying in from the sea.

At Hengistbury, there was a small influx, *ca.* 20, on the 19th September, but the main rush was on the 8th October, 150+, when "clouds" of Blue Tits were flushed from the reeds in the very early morning. There were still many, *ca.* 50, on the 9th and 10th October, but by the 19th there were only about ten (FRC).

At St. Catherine's Point there were *ca.* 80 in the bushes on 21st September and some were moving West. On the 28th, 53 flew past to the West and 12 came in from the sea and turned West. There were *ca.* 40 in the bushes on 5th October and on the following day 54 were counted flying North. On the 19th October, nine flew West and on the 20th 46 flew West, four North and four flew in from the North and landed. There were up to 20 in the bushes from the 26th October until the 9th November, while eight flew West on 27th October and eight flew in from the sea on 2nd November (SPG).

There were several hundred in bushes on Culver Down, I.O.W., on 6th October (JS) and at Newtown a party of between 70 and 100 birds were moving East along the shore on the 7th (MMS).

On the I.O.W. numbers seemed to remain at a higher level in November and December than on the mainland, and putty pecking and milk bottle opening was prevalent to the end of the year (JH, LK, JS).

In the Portsmouth area the movement started in mid September and continued until mid November with numerous parties of Blue Tits seen moving mainly between NE. and NW. with a peak in mid October (PG). 120 were seen in a Gosport garden from 28th September until 15th October (AS).

At Southampton University, birds almost certainly of the Continental race were trapped on 5th, 8th, 12th October and on 1st November. During this period the ratio of first Winter to adult birds trapped was 10 : 1, during November and December nearly every bird trapped was an adult, suggesting that the first Winter birds moved on with the immigrant Blue Tits (AVP).

At Hurst on 26th October, a party of 28 which tried to leave NW. against a strong wind at 1300 hrs. had gone by 1500 hrs. (JKB).

On 16th December, on Hurst Spit, a group of 18 birds were described as very dark with velvety-blue and deep greenish-yellow plumage (JKB, ELJ).

A juvenile ringed by JSA at Dockens Water on 21st July, 1956 was caught and released four miles ESE. at Bartley on 24th November and 15th December, 1957, by RE; one ringed as pull. at Bartley on 3rd June, 1956 by RE was caught and released by JSA at Fordingbridge, 10 miles West on 24th February, 1957.

- 290 **Coal Tit.** Records suggest that a few Coal Tits were involved in the Autumn irruption. At St. Catherine's Point two left to the NW. on 21st September and in the Portsmouth/Titchfield Haven area there are several records of birds moving West in October with a maximum of eight at Park Gate on the 28th (RHD, PG, SPG).

In the Southampton area the species was reported to be more numerous than usual in October and early November (AVP, KHP).

- 292 **Marsh Tit.** The only evidence that this species was involved in the Autumn irruption comes from Titchfield Haven where one arrived from the West with Blue Tits on 19th October (GHR) and one was seen moving with Blue Tits on 4th November (RHD).

- 293 **Willow Tit.** Several pairs, presumed breeding, in the West of the New Forest (JSA) and in one or two localities in the North of the county (ECLS, MWT).

Outside the breeding season the species is undoubtedly extending into many new localities in the West of the county (JSA, EB). A similar increase has been noticed in the North of the county, particularly in Autumn. At least 19 individuals from 11 localities were found between 18th and 30th September (JKB, ELJ). One, Forest of Bere, 27th December (AS).

- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.** Some evidence of migration at St. Catherine's Point on 21st September (12) and 19th October (8), although these could not be certainly distinguished from local birds (SPG). At Titchfield Haven, eight were moving West on 19th October (GHR, SLW).

A flock of *ca.* 20 were seen in birches between two areas of heather on St. Catherine's Hill, Hurn, on 6th October (EC).

- 296 **Nuthatch.** Records from the I.O.W., where the species is very scarce are:—

10th January, one, Osborne, on trunk of elm (JS).

21st September, one in the bushes at St. Catherine's Point (JKB, RHD, GHR).

This latter is the first record from the Island suggestive of migration.

- 298 **Tree Creeper.**

- 299 **Wren.** At St. Catherine's Point there was an influx of Wrens on the morning of 6th October. An estimate of *ca.* 250 birds was made for the Lighthouse grounds and cliffs to Watershoot Bay (*ca.* 600 yards away). On 9th October one was killed at the Light (SPG).

On a small section of Beaulieu Heath consisting of scant gorse and disused gravel-pits and covering about 30 acres, Wrens, not present in the breeding season, appeared at the end of September and occupied ten distinct territories all in gorse and these were maintained to the end of the year. None of these Wrens which were watched almost daily, were ever heard to sing although singing was quite common by neighbouring Wrens occupying wooded territories in breeding habitats (KHP).

At Fordingbridge on 28th March a very unusual song consisting of a rapid repetition of a single note and recalling the song of a Cirl Bunting was eventually tracked down to a Wren. The song was heard all day (JSA).

- 301 **Mistle Thrush.** An early nest at Rowlands Castle on 10th February (CH). In August a flock of 25+ was seen on many dates at Dibden Purlieu (KHP). At Farley Mount there were flocks of 200+ outside the breeding season and on 26th October 100+ were seen there at a large roost in yew trees (JHT). At St. Catherine's Point 34 flew West on 28th September and one West on 20th October (SPG).

Many records of birds moving in the Portsmouth to Titchfield Haven area during October, mostly West to NW., but some East (PG).

- 302 **Fieldfare.** Largest numbers reported in early months were *ca.* 220 at Danebury on 22nd March (ELJ). At Butt's Ash on 3rd January, 14 flew NW. at 0850 hrs. and 18 flew NE. over Dibden Purlieu on 20th January (KHP). Seven flew North along the Meon Shore on 2nd January (RHD). The last Spring record is of ten near Aldershot on 3rd May (TBS).

The first Autumn birds (10) were seen at Farlington Marshes on the early date of 13th September (PG), and at Farley Mount on 5th October (MJM). On 8th November two flocks, each of about 30 birds, flew NW. at 0945 and 1415 hrs. over Damerham where numbers were unusually high in November and December (JSA).

Over Southampton University flocks flew West in the early morning on 7th, 9th and 10th November (AVP).

- 303 **Song Thrush.** Several records of early nesting. On Southampton Common a bird was watched building a nest on 20th January. The nest was then three-quarters complete but was not finished subsequently (JRS). At Park Gate nesting was first noted on 6th February and the young successfully flew on 16th March (RHD). At Fordingbridge a juvenile was trapped on 1st April (JSA). At a roost in the grounds of Southampton University numbers dropped abruptly in the period 6th/8th March, at the same time as the Blackbird numbers dropped (AVP).

Nocturnal migration was heard over Southampton on the nights of 10th, 11th and 14th October (AVP, JTRS) and one flew NW. over Beaulieu Heath with other immigrants in the early morning of 2nd October (KHP). Nocturnal migration was heard over Park Gate on 12th October (RHD).

Two, very grey birds, were seen at Eastney Point on 5th October (PG) and two similarly coloured birds were seen at St. Catherine's Point on 12th November (MCA). At Damerham a marked Northerly passage at night with Redwings was recorded in October (JSA).

On the 9th April the remains of a Song Thrush removed from the crop of a first Winter male Sparrow Hawk contained a Cestode identified as *Raillietina* sp. by Dr. P. A. Clapham (JSA).

A Song Thrush answering the description of the Continental race was ringed at Damerham on 27th January (JSA).

- 304 **Redwing.** Definite nocturnal movements during the early part of January noticed in the Southampton and Portsmouth areas, and birds appeared to be moving SW. Calls were heard on 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 10th January (RHD, PG, KHP). Following this movement, numbers increased at Farlington Marshes to ca. 300 until the end of the month (PG) and 150 were seen in Shave Wood on 13th January (RE).

The return Spring passage seems to have taken place between 22nd February and 24th March, with the peak of the movement occurring between 6th/11th March. During this period there were over 500 at Bartley (RE), birds were calling at the rate of 20/30 calls per hour over Southampton (AVP), birds were seen at the Light, St. Catherine's Point (SPG) and at least 50 passed over Winchester between midnight and 0100 hrs. on the 8th (W).

The first Autumn record is from Marsh Court on 27th September (ELJ). On 2nd October four flew NW. over Beaulieu Heath in the early morning (KHP). On the 12th October a very heavy nocturnal passage was recorded. Over Southampton there were more than 100 calls per hour (AVP), and at Portsmouth the rate of calls rose from 2/3 per minute, at 2030 hrs. to ca. six per minute by 2300 hrs. (PG). Calls were also heard over Lee-on-Solent, Hill Head and Park Gate (JKB, RHD, DCM, CS). Passage continued on a smaller scale on succeeding nights to the end of the month and into the first week of November, with occasional records up to 27th November. A large Westerly passage over Southampton during a period of frosty weather from 7th/9th November was noticed at dawn (AVP).

- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** Except for one at N. Hayling on 30th March (KB) and one on Beaulieu Heath on 27th and 28th August (KHP), all records are for September as detailed below (there were no September records for 1956!)

Sept. 1st A male, Cutbush Lane, Southampton (MAO).

„ 4th & 5th A male, St. Catherine's Point (SPG).

„ 7th A female and immature male at St. Catherine's Point (SPG).

„ 14th One, Hengistbury Head (FRC, DJG, AJW).

- Sept. 14th One, N. Hayling (KB).
 „ 20th An adult male and one other, near Martin (JSA).
 „ 21st An immature male, St. Catherine's Point (SPG).
 „ 22nd An adult male, St. Catherine's Point (SPG).
 „ 22nd One, Hengistbury Head (HA, FRC, CRM).
 „ 26th One, Damerham, flew off NW. (JSA).
 „ 29th A female, St. Catherine's Point (SPG).

- 308 **Blackbird.** Several records of early nesting:— A nest at Twyford had three eggs on 10th January but was deserted on 17th January (BSR). A nest in fir trees at Chandlers Ford was found, with the bird sitting, on 29th January. On the 30th the nest was found to contain three eggs. These had been reduced to two on 14th February. One dead young was found in the nest the following day when the parents had deserted (JC). In the Portsmouth area the first nesting was noticed on 6th March, with the bird sitting by the 16th (RHD). In the Damerham area there were again many nests built on the ground. On 15th April a rat was watched eating the eggs of this species in a nest four feet high in a bramble bush (JSA).

In the Autumn there appeared to be an influx of Blackbirds in the period 3rd/8th October. On the 3rd there were 14 birds in a gravel-pit on Beaulieu Heath, where previously there were only one or two (KHP). On the 4th there were 29 on Farlington Marshes, two flew West and there were about six in the bushes at Eastney Point. On the 5th *ca.* 50 appeared at St. Catherine's Point (SPG). On the 6th there was a large arrival overnight at N. Hayling (KB) and numbers had risen to 20 at Eastney Point (PG). On the 8th *ca.* 25 arrived on Hengistbury Head (CHG).

On the night of the 12th, Blackbirds were heard passing over during the big Redwing movement at Portsmouth and Southampton (PG, AVP).

At Rowlands Castle a young Blackbird was hatched in early December (CH).

- 311 **Wheatear.** First record is of a male at N. Hayling on 2nd March (KB). On 3rd March there was a male on Farlington Marshes (PG). On the night of 8th/9th March *ca.* 10 were seen at the Light of St. Catherine's Point (SPG). On the 10th there were single birds at Hordle Cliff and Eastleigh Airport (Mrs. Goodhart, DW), and on the 11th there was one on Beaulieu Heath (KHP), one Farlington Marshes (PG) and one at S. Hayling (TEB).

Main Spring passage took place between the third week of March and the third week of May. On Beaulieu Heath the passage reached a peak on 13th April when there were 14 birds present (KHP). This day, too, saw the peak on Farlington Marshes with 11 birds (PG). However, at St. Catherine's Point the peak occurred on 18th April when between 70 and 80 birds were present (SPG).

Between the end of April and 21st May there were several reports of birds apparently of the Greenland race. At Farlington Marshes there were three 29th April, two 4th May, four 6th May, one 16th May and four 21st May (PG). On Beaulieu Heath a very bright buff male bird persistently perched on the top of tall birches 2nd and 3rd May (KHP) and there was a male at Pennington on 5th May (JTRS). Also on this date, some males out of 30 birds seen at Ashlett, appeared to be of the Greenland race (RHD).

Bred commonly in the New Forest where records refer to at least 34 pairs. Of these, 12 pairs nested on the Eastern half of Beaulieu Heath—nine in open heathland and three in areas of burnt gorse (KHP). No breeding records from the North of the county, perhaps due to the high grass caused by the shortage of rabbits (ELJ). On the I.O.W. a pair apparently bred on Tennyson's Down (JKB, BWR, JS).

Return passage occurred from the last week in July until early October with stragglers throughout October.

The peak of the Autumn movement occurred at the end of August when there were up to 25 on Farlington Marshes (PG), *ca.* 140 at Hook Lake on the 27th August (RHD) and up to 30 at St. Catherine's Point (SPG). On 18th August, 85 flew over St. Catherine's from South to North (SPG). On this day there were 12 at Hengistbury rising to *ca.* 20 on the 29th August. Also at Hengistbury on the 19th October a bird of the Greenland race was trapped (CHG). The last record is of one at Brownich Cliff on 7th November (SLW).

- 317 **Stonechat.** In the New Forest, breeding records refer to at least 102 pairs. These appear to be evenly distributed in suitable habitats. A census carried out on the Eastern half of Beaulieu Heath showed that 21 pairs bred there, all in gorse habitats. While a few birds wintered on the heath, there was a big increase in numbers at the end of February and most territories were occupied by the first week in March. The first brood of young left the nests mostly between 4th and 9th May with the second broods between second week of June and first week of July. In August, September and October, parties of up to ten birds were formed and there appeared to be considerable movement through the area often associated with migrating Whinchats and Wheatears. By mid November numbers were reduced to the normal Winter population (KHP).

Outside the New Forest breeding was reported from Gilkicker Point (BWR), Eastney Point, three pairs (PG), Hengistbury Head (JHT) and at Freshwater, I.O.W. (KB). Two other pairs probably bred on I.O.W. at Alum Bay (MCA, JKB, JS, GAHW).

As in previous years, records suggest a marked movement to coasts and a smaller movement to some river valleys in October and November, with a return in February and March.

- 318 **Whinchat.** Records suggest that at least five pairs bred in the New Forest this year and breeding was proved in the case of three of these (JSA, JKB, MB, RE, RJJ). Outside the New Forest there is only one record of probable breeding near Chilbolton where three juveniles, hardly able to fly, were seen on 14th August (ELJ).

The feature of the Spring migration was a heavy and well-marked passage on 4th/5th May. At St. Catherine's Point there were large numbers passing on the night of the 4th/5th and 13 at the Point on the 5th (SPG). In the New Forest 13 birds from six localities were reported during these two days and these represent almost all the Spring records for that area (EB, RHD, CHF, RE, KHP, GEW). A male was seen at Pennington on the 5th (JTRS). On Farlington Marshes there were four on the 4th and three on the 5th, the only other Spring record being two on the 9th (PG). At Stanpit there was one on the 4th (CHG).

The earliest Spring record is of a male at Lepe on 23rd April (JKB).

Autumn passage took place, chiefly in coastal localities, from the last week of July until the end of September with a peak at the end of August. On 27th August *ca.* 35 were counted between Titchfield Haven and Warsash (RHD) and 14 at Farlington Marshes on 30th August (PG). The last record is of one at Hill Farm on 1st October (ELJ).

- 320 **Redstart.** First Spring record is of one at St. Catherine's Point on 23rd March (SPG). On the night of the 29th/30th March, birds were passing the Light at St. Catherine's Point (SPG) and on the 31st March a male was seen at Winnall (MJM, EW). Main arrivals in breeding localities occurred in the second and third weeks of April. At St. Catherine's Point birds were watched flying in from sea on 13th, 14th, 23rd April and 5th May. Maximum numbers at the Point

were 18 on the 18th April (SPG). As with Whinchats there seems to have been a considerable arrival of Redstarts on 4th/5th May, on which two days there are reports from many localities.

The species bred commonly throughout the New Forest. Elsewhere, breeding was reported from Woolmer Forest, two, possibly three pairs (JKB, BWR, TBS, WHT, EJW), Ludshott Common (WHT), Rushmore Down, four pairs (ELJ), Winchester, two pairs (W), Fleet, two pairs (TBS), with singing males in the breeding season at Waggoner's Wells (WHT) and Bromshott Common (WHT et al).

Autumn passage took place from the first week of August to the end of September with a few stragglers in October.

At St. Catherine's Point the maximum number in Autumn was 30 on 29th August and 25/30 on the night of 20th/21st September (SPG).

The last record is of a female at Farlington Marshes on 13th October (PG).

- 321 **Black Redstart.** No Winter records in January or February. March records, presumably relating to a Spring passage, are of a female at E. Hayling on the 3rd (TBS), one at Newtown, I.O.W., on the 10th (MMS), a male at Ventnor, I.O.W., on the 13th (MCA) and a female at W. Hayling on the 31st (TBS). There is one April record of a female at St. Catherine's Point on the 18th (SPG).

Autumn passage commenced with a female at St. Catherine's Point on 5th October. Also at the Point there were three (two males) on 19th and 20th October which were said by the Lighthouse staff to have been present at least a week; two females on 26th October and a male on the 9th November (SPG). Elsewhere in Autumn there were two (one male) at N. Hayling on 13th October (KB), one on Beaulieu Heath on 26th October (KHP) and a female on Shanklin Beach on 4th November (MCA).

Records, presumably referring to Wintering birds, are of a male at Southsea Castle, 22nd November (PG), a male at Hurst Castle on 24th November (JKB) and a male on Brownwich Cliffs 1st, 17th and 21st December (RB, TEB, RHD, AS, SLW).

- 322 **Nightingale.** Nesting was reported to be more common than usual in the SE. of the county (RHD) and in the North the species nests very commonly, at least 20 singing males being counted in Burntwood, for example, on 4th May (EAG, PSS). However, along the West shore of Southampton Water the species is fast disappearing from many former haunts, due to the rapid development of this area (KHP).

On 8th May, what was evidently a migrant bird, was flushed from very scant vegetation at the base of an oil storage tank in the Fawley Refinery (KHP).

In Autumn, single birds were seen on Farlington Marshes on 14th, 18th and 30th August (PG).

- 325 **Robin.** An Autumn influx was noted at St. Catherine's Point on 21st/22nd September when numbers rose from six to between 35 and 40 (SPG). A large arrival was reported at N. Hayling on 5th/6th October.

A bird was heard singing after dark on several nights in mid February near Southampton Central Station at about 6.45 p.m. (KHP).

On 11th May, a bird having all the characteristics of a Robin except for an albino head and no red breast was seen in a cow-shed at Hamstead, I.O.W. (RJM, WS).

- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** First arrivals in period 18th to 24th April. Breeding distribution much as in previous years except in the NW. of the New Forest where, although usually common, there were none in the normal localities (JSA, KHP). Elsewhere in the New Forest seven reeling males were located (EB, JKB, RHD, RE).

In Autumn, migrants were reported from St. Catherine's Point, one at Light on night of 5th/6th August (SPG), three at Titchfield

Haven on 27th August (RHD), three at Hengistbury Head 2nd September and one there 18th September (CHG) and one at Dibden Bay in reeds on 11th September (KHP).

- 333 **Reed Warbler.** First Spring record, three at Titchfield Haven, 17th April (JKB, RHD). One at St. Catherine's Point on 4th May (SPG). Bred in usual localities.

In Autumn one was trapped on Hengistbury Head on 18th August (CHG). The last date is of one at Titchfield Haven on 17th September (WHT).

- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** First record is of one at Titchfield Haven on 21st March and again on 22nd (RB). Two there on 29th March (TEB). On 31st March, one at Winnall (PSS) and one caught at Damerham (JSA).

Main arrivals by third week April and an influx on the 5th May. During the night of 4th/5th May one was caught and nine were killed at the Light of St. Catherine's Point and on the morning of the 5th there were *ca.* 24 at the Point (SPG). A similar influx was noticed at Titchfield Haven on the 5th (CS).

Return migration from last week of July to end of September. One was killed at the Light of St. Catherine's Point on the night of 25th/26th July and a further six killed there between then and 9th September.

The last record is of a very late bird seen at Stone Point on 6th November (Mr. & Mrs. TEB). The bird was seen very clearly at a distance of down to 15 feet. This date is later than any mentioned in the "Handbook".

- 338 **Aquatic Warbler.** Two, both on Farlington Marshes, on 29th August (AW) and 23rd September (GHR).

A summary of a long description submitted by the first observer:—"Like a Sedge Warbler (also present) but with a very conspicuous buff stripe over the crown and large buff eye-stripes, crown otherwise black. Upperparts strongly streaked black, this streaking extending over the rump."

Of the second bird GHR writes:—"I obtained good views for about three minutes, at rest and twice in short flight, down to about four yards with 12 x 50 binoculars. Head black, with broad buff stripe over crown and prominent eye-stripes. Mantle, rump and upper tail coverts tawny-buff, streaked black. Tail rufous and unmarked. Underparts yellowish-buff with brown streaks on breast and flanks. I have seen the species once before."

- 343 **Blackcap.** One singing in Godshill Inc. on 24th March is the first Spring record (EB). On the 31st March, birds were recorded from many areas—a male at N. Hayling (KB), a male at Park Gate (RHD), two at Netley (RMC), one Chandlers Ford (WHT) and one trapped at Damerham (JSA).

Two males were caught at St. Catherine's Point Light early on 6th April (SPG).

In Autumn a female was seen at Titchfield Haven on 17th August (CS, WHT), two (one male) there on 24th August (AY) and two (one male) there on 29th September (CS). On 3rd December a female was seen at Freshwater Bay (GH).

- 346 **Garden Warbler.** First arrivals reported from several localities on 14th/15th April. Migrant birds reported in Autumn from coastal localities in small numbers (usually singly) between 8th August and 22nd September.

- 347 **Whitethroat.** One at Gilkicker 22nd March (BL, JSm), one, Bartley, 28th March (RE), one at Titchfield Haven, 29th March (TEB) and two there on 30th March (SLW) are the first Spring records.

First large numbers arrived in the period 21st/23rd April and passage continued until the 15th May with a peak in the period 3rd/8th May. On the night of 4th/5th May at St. Catherine's Light, for

instance, during a very large passage, 57 birds were caught and 78 killed (SPG).

Autumn passage occurred from 27th July to 22nd September with a peak in the last week of August.

A bird ringed at St. Catherine's Light on 17th April was found dead on a road near Blidworth, Notts., 170 miles North on 15th May.

- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** One at Titchfield Haven on 17th April (AY) is the first Spring record, with the majority of first arrivals appearing, as with the Whitethroats, in the period 21st/23rd April.

Only a few, scattered, breeding records.

In Autumn recorded on passage in coastal localities in August and September.

- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** A mild Winter and carefully-controlled gorse burning by the Forestry Commission in certain areas undoubtedly contributed to the breeding success of this species in the New Forest this year. Records show that at least 67 pairs bred. A careful census on one particular heath showed that numbers increased from 12 pairs in 1956 to 20 pairs in 1957.

Outside the New Forest, two pairs bred in one locality in the East of the county (JKB, TBS, WHT).

Birds were seen in two localities in the Isle of Wight in April, October, November and December with a maximum of three in November in one of the localities (MCA).

In the New Forest, birds were seen in at least a few breeding habitats until 1st November, and in the Spring most territories were occupied by 1st March. Records again suggest a movement away from the New Forest from November to February though more negative records are badly needed.

- 354 **Willow Warbler.** At Titchfield Haven a bird was heard singing on the early date of 10th March (RHD). On 20th March birds were reported from Newtown (MMS) and Osborne (JS) on the I.O.W. First arrivals in most localities occurred between 23rd and 31st March—rather earlier than usual.

In common with other Spring immigrants, there was a peak movement in the period 3rd/5th May. On the night of 3rd/4th, 33 were killed at St. Catherine's Light (SPG) and on the 5th there were ca. 20 in the garden at Hurst Castle (JTRS). On the night of 10th/11th May a bird of the Northern race was caught at St. Catherine's Light (SPG).

Peak of the return passage occurred in mid August and continued through September in much smaller numbers. On 18th August at St. Catherine's Point, six were seen coming in from the sea and working North through the Lighthouse grounds.

Last record is of four at Titchfield Haven on 5th October (RHD).

- 356 **Chiffchaff.** First birds seen on 9th March—two at Titchfield Haven (RHD), one at Yarmouth (MCA) and five caught and one killed at St. Catherine's Light (SPG). Birds continued to arrive on subsequent dates throughout March and April. Single birds seen at St. Catherine's Point on 19th April and 4th May appeared to be of one of the Northern races (SPG).

Return passage commenced at the end of August. On 29th August, 14 birds were seen along the Western shore of Southampton Water (most singing) where previously none had been seen (KHP). This passage continued throughout September and in smaller number to the middle of October.

On 2nd and 3rd December a warbler, probably this species, was seen at Freshwater Bay, I.O.W. (GH).

- 357 **Wood Warbler.** One singing in Gritham Wood on 20th April is the first Spring record (MHP, GAS). Single birds seen at Farlington Marshes on 24th and 27th April (PG) and one at Eastney Point on 1st May (PG).

In Autumn, single birds at Titchfield Haven on 20th August (AY), at Farlington Marshes on 29th, 30th August and 2nd September (PG) are the only coastal records.

- 364 **Goldcrest.** One at St. Catherine's Point on 3rd March is the only Spring record from there (SPG).

Several records of small number in Autumn from St. Catherine's including 9 on 21st September, 14 on 19th October and 6 on 20th October. On Hengistbury Head there was a small influx on 19th September when there were about 20 birds present. Numbers remained high until 16th November (CHG).

- 365 **Firecrest.** One, St. Catherine's Point, 18th April (SPG).

- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** At Titchfield Haven one was seen on the early date of 16th April (TEB). Otherwise, first arrivals from 4th May (JS), with main influx on 20th May (JSA).

Autumn passage from third week of August to mid September, the last being one at Ashlett on 16th September (KHP).

- 367 **Pied Flycatcher.** Most records are from St. Catherine's Point. In Spring there were single birds at the Light on the nights of 17th/18th April and 18th/19th April with one at the Point on 18th April. Three at the Light on the night of 4th/5th May.

In Autumn, single birds were seen on 6th and 29th August. One was caught at the Light on 2nd/3rd September. On the night of 20th/21st September about 100 were seen at the Light. On the following day four birds were seen and a further two at the Light after dark.

Elsewhere, an immature male was seen on Stoney Cross Plain on 18th August (EB), a female in Southampton on 27th/28th August (MAO), one on Farlington Marshes, 31st August (PG), one Hengistbury Head, 21st September (FRC) and one at Shanklin, I.O.W., on 22nd September (AJH).

- 371 **Hedge Sparrow.** Some evidence of Autumnal movement.

On 28th September, seven were present in a small area of Beaulieu Heath where previously there had been none. At least three of these remained to hold Winter territories to the end of the year (KHP).

On 26th October at St. Catherine's Point, two came in from sea and two left to the North (SPG). On the following day two flew NW. along the coast at Warsash (RHD).

On 30th December there was a bird at Sway which had first been ringed there in 1949 (EC).

At Titchfield Haven a nest containing five eggs was found on 17th March. These began to hatch on 30th March (RHD, CS).

- 373 **Meadow Pipit.** Spring passage from 8th March to 5th May with peaks at the end of March and in mid April.

Nearly all birds seen were flying North. On the 31st March, for instance, about 100 flew North over Hayling Bay between 0730 and 0930 hours (KB). On the same day 12 flew North in from the Solent at Gilkicker (CJH) and 16 flew North at Horsey Island (AW). At St. Catherine's Point birds were seen at the Light on the nights of 8th/9th March and in large number on 3rd/4th May (SPG). The only movement reported that was not in a Northerly direction were 12 flying East at St. Catherine's Point on 23rd March.

The Autumn passage extended from 18th August to 10th November with peaks in the periods 13th/16th September and 27th September/3rd October. Most movement was in a Westerly direction but was much more variable than in the Spring. On the I.O.W. there was a good correlation between wind direction and direction of movement, the movement being generally into the wind (MCA). This may well account for the predominantly Westerly movements reported.

Peak movement in the Portsmouth area occurred on 15th September when small parties were moving NW. along the coast all day at

Titchfield Haven (CS); there was a heavy Westerly passage at Langstone Harbour lasting to mid-day, 227 for example, flying West between 0800—0900 hrs. (PG) and 85 flew NW. at Warsash in the early morning (RHD).

At St. Catherine's Point, peak movement was on 13th September when 314 flew West in two hours; on the 20th October 122 flew West (SPG).

At Hengistbury peaks occurred on 14th September (175/200 birds) and 19th September (300 birds) (CHG).

- 376 **Tree Pipit.** At St. Catherine's Point there are five Spring records of birds flying over North between 30th March and 11th May. Also many were heard during the nights of 17th/18th April and 4th/5th May. In the New Forest, birds first arrived in breeding territories on 4th April. A census carried out on the Eastern half of Beaulieu Heath showed that eight pairs bred there compared to three in the previous year (KHP).

In Autumn a mainly Westerly passage was observed between 18th August and 6th October with one further record of a single bird flying West at St. Catherine's Point on 27th October (GHR).

Sharp peaks in the Autumn passage occurred on the 18th and 27th August. On the first date, eight flew West past Eastney Point (PG) and nine West at St. Catherine's (SPG). On the latter date, ca. 25 flew NW. at Warsash during the morning (RHD), 10 flew West past St. Catherine's (SPG) and a single bird was heard calling over Beaulieu Heath in the early morning (KHP).

At St. Catherine's, birds were heard during the nights of 30th/31st August and 20th/21st September (SPG).

On 15th September 10 flew NW. at Warsash (RHD).

- 379a **Rock Pipit.** Present in coastal localities until 3rd April. Two pairs present in Summer months at Hurst Castle (JKB, KHP).

The return to coastal localities commenced on 16th September at Farlington Marshes with an influx in mid October, e.g. 30 at Farlington on 10th October (PG). Numbers returned to normal Winter population by third week of October.

- 379b **Water Pipit.** Satisfactory details have been received of two Water Pipits at Hurst on 24th March (JKB), one which arrived from SE. off the sea at St. Catherine's Point on 21st April (SPG) and two on Farlington Marshes on 28th December (PG).

- 380a **Pied Wagtail.** A pair at Titchfield Haven were feeding five young in a boat on 21st April, the fledglings leaving the nest on 4th May. On the 18th May the same pair were building a nest in a sailing dinghy which went out into the Solent three times per week. On 25th May the dinghy put to sea with the female incubating six eggs. The nestlings fledged successfully on 16th June. On the 20th July a nest containing well-feathered young in the original boat was presumably the third brood of the same pair. However, rain drowned the young of this brood in the nest on 21st July (CS et al).

Autumn passage occurred between 28th August and 11th November. The majority of the birds in this passage were moving West but, as with Meadow Pipits, direction of flight was variable. At St. Catherine's Point a total of 142 birds were seen to fly West between 28th August and 2nd November, the most being 72 on 28th September. Only small numbers were seen flying in other directions apart from a flock of 27 lost in fog on 21st September (SPG).

At Woody Point, I.O.W., on 27th September a total of 45 passed West in two hours, the birds extending well out to sea (MCA).

Considerable movement was noticed at Eastney Point between 1st and 7th October. A total of 101 birds flew West, 39 East, 11 North, two NE. and two NW. (PG).

At Titchfield Haven 16 flew West on 6th November (SLW). Over Southampton a total of 27 birds flew West during period of dawn movement between 8th and 11th November (AVP).

- 380b **White Wagtail.** A total of 23 birds were seen in the Titchfield Haven/Portsmouth area between 19th March and 5th May, with a maximum of eight at Titchfield Haven on 11th April (PG et al).

At Pennington two came in from SE. and moved on NW. on 6th April (ELJ) and there was a single bird at Ashlett on 23rd April (KHP). There was one at Stanpit Marsh on 17th April (JHT) and one at Winnall, Winchester on 14th April (EW). At St. Catherine's Point there were two on 28th August and six on 30th August.

At the Solent Brickworks, Brading, I.O.W., a female nested, paired to a male Pied Wagtail. The birds were first seen on 14th April. Both adults were seen taking food to the nest on 4th May and 11th May. On the latter date the nest contained two young, which were ringed, and an egg. On 19th May the nest was empty but both adults and a juvenile were seen. The birds were watched at ranges down to 12 feet from inside buildings, through a broken window. The female had mantle and rump pale grey, with lower part of rump a darker shade of grey, and flanks same shade as mantle; the black cap and throat were not connected. The male was a normal Pied Wagtail (JS).

- 381 **Grey Wagtail.** Probably three pairs bred in the New Forest (EB, RHD). A pair nested at Carisbrooke Waterworks, I.O.W. (MCA, RJM). Elsewhere little information received on breeding status.

Autumn passage recorded between 27th August and 9th November. Movements at St. Catherine's Point were:—

29th August, 17 W.—E., 7 E.—W.

6th September, 20 W.—E., 1 E.—W.

8th September, 10 E.—W.

13th September, 24 E.—W. in two hours.

6th October, 7 E.—W.

27th October, 1 E.—W. and 3 came from West and turned North.

At Woody Point at least 12 flew West on 27th September (MCA). Many records of from one to three birds flying both East and West in the Portsmouth area (PG).

- 382 **Yellow Wagtail.** One, Lymington River on 23rd March (RMC) is the first Spring record. Recorded at Stanpit from the 24th March (CHG). Main Spring arrivals commenced on 5th/6th April and continued into the first week of May. Main direction of flight was between North and NE. with smaller numbers flying East and a very few flying West or NW.

At St. Catherine's a total of 32 birds were recorded flying over North between 13th April and 5th May. During the same period two flew East and two West. On the night of 17th/18th April two were seen at the Light (SPG).

Maximum numbers at Farlington Marshes were eight flying North on 19th April, 12 flying NE. on 21st April and six flying NE. on 22nd April (PG).

Breeding was reported from the Farlington area (six pairs) (PG), Titchfield Haven (RHD, CS), Warsash (JKB, RHD), Dibden Bay (KHP) and one pair was present in June in the New Forest at Brockenhurst (MB).

Autumn passage from mid August to the end of September. Nearly all records refer to birds moving West. Largest movement at St. Catherine's Point occurred on 13th September when 128 flew West in two hours (SPG).

Several late records include up to four birds at Titchfield Haven on four dates in October (RHD, CS, SLW), two at Warsash Lake on

- 21st November (SLW), one at Farlington Marshes 24th November (PG) and one at Titchfield Haven on 8th December (CS).
- 384 **Great Grey Shrike.** One in the New Forest near Roe Wood on the 4th, 5th and 10th of March (EC, FRC, PLD). A male at Stratfield Saye on 24th March (MWT). Probably the same bird was shot ten days later at Waring.

One in the New Forest at Ashley Cross on 19th and 20th October (RHD, JE) was not there on 27th October.

- 388 **Red-backed Shrike.** In the New Forest a total of 56 pairs were proved to have bred and a further ten were presumed to have bred (JSA et al). Outside the New Forest two pairs are known to have bred and breeding was suspected in the case of three other pairs (DMG, ELJ, TBS, JHT, WHT, W).

A bird that was probably a migrant was seen at Dibden Purlieu on 24th April (CGF) and a juvenile was present on Farlington Marshes from 10th/29th August (PG). Also a male at Farlington Marshes, 10th September (PG).

- 389 **Starling.** A large-scale Autumn immigration of Starlings was noted between the last week of September and about the 10th November. On the South coast, birds were moving West, although at least on one occasion birds were seen to arrive off the sea from the South and then turn West along the coast.

It appears that at least some of the birds flying West past Eastney Point, followed the coast-line NW. since this was the predominant direction of flight recorded in the Warsash/Titchfield Haven area. Some of these, again, appeared to cross Southampton Water and fly across the New Forest in a WNW/NW. direction where they were seen over Beaulieu Heath in the East and Fordingbridge in the West. However, it appears that not all the birds moving West along the coast off Portsmouth turned NW., since a considerable E.—W. movement was noted at St. Catherine's Point.

Over Southampton a Westerly movement was recorded in early November.

All records relevant to this Autumn immigration are detailed below:—

Date	Eastney Pt./ Farlington (PG)	St. Catherine's Pt. (SPG)	Warsash/ Titchfield Haven (RHD, CS, SLW)	Beaulieu Heath (KHP)	Fording- bridge (JSA)	Southampton (AVP)
Sept. 27	—	—	—	108 WNW	—	—
Oct. 1	340 W	—	—	249 NW	—	—
" 2	342 W	—	—	8 NW	—	—
" 3	380 W	—	—	8 NW	—	—
" 4	96 W	—	—	—	—	—
" 5	9 W 12 N	—	—	—	—	—
" 6	67 W 3 E	120 W	—	—	—	—
" 7	19 W 3 E	—	—	—	—	—
" 20	—	481 S-W 53 E-SSW	—	—	—	—
" 24	—	—	—	23 NW	—	—
" 27	24 W	—	1,140 NW	—	—	—
" 28	—	—	—	15 NW	—	—
" 30	—	—	—	50 NW	—	—
" 31	—	—	—	117 NW	—	—
Nov. 1	—	—	100 NW	5 NW	—	—
" 2	—	75 W 24 S	—	60 NW	—	—
" 4	—	—	3,000 NW	50 NW	—	200 W
" 5	—	—	—	—	—	200 W
" 6	—	—	2,500 SW	—	—	—
" 7	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 8	—	—	—	—	370 NW	500 W
" 9	100/hr. W	14 N	3,000 NW 16 N	57 NW	50 NW	58 W 433 W
" 10	—	20 N	—	—	—	—

All the above records refer to early morning observations with the exception of the 370 flying NW. over Fordingbridge on 7th November which were seen between 3.0 and 4.10 p.m.

In the Spring an Easterly movement over Southampton and Farlington Marshes was recorded from mid February to the third week of March with a peak in the first five days of March (PG, AVP).

On 7th March at West Park, Damerham, a roost which had numbered tens of thousands during the Winter, built up in the previous ten days to hundreds of thousands (perhaps a million). One half roosted in absolute silence, but the other half nearby set up a continuous clamour all night. Vast flocks continually flew up and circled round. On the evening of the 7th March, some of these could be heard rising but not resettling and one flock was seen flying off SE. silhouetted against moonlit clouds. Within the next week practically all had gone (JSA).

At Fordingbridge a bird which was buffish-cream all over was seen on 8th February (JSA).

A bird ringed by JSA at Damerham on 5th March, 1957 was found dead at Berghem, Noord Brabant, Holland, 320 miles ENE. on 14th April, 1957. Another bird ringed the same day and place by JSA was found dead at Klein Rodensleben, near Magdeburg, Sachsen-Anhalt, 575 miles ENE. on 7th June, 1957.

- 391 **Hawfinch.** Present in breeding season in at least nine localities in the New Forest, all but two of which were in the NW. Breeding also reported from the Southampton and Winchester areas.

Many reports of single birds and small parties outside the breeding season from many localities.

At St. Catherine's Point three flew over to NE. on 18th August (JKB, ELJ).

- 392 **Greenfinch.** Small numbers (maximum three) moving both East and West at Portsmouth and St. Catherine's Point between 23rd March and 11th May (PG, SPG).

Autumn movement falls into two periods: 28th September to 7th October and 27th October to 10th November. In the first period ten flew West at St. Catherine's Point on 28th September (SPG). A total of 65 flew West at Eastney Point and Southsea Castle (PG) and a total of six flew NW. over Beaulieu Heath on 3rd and 4th October (KHP). In the second period about 70 birds an hour flew West past St. Catherine's Point for six hours on 27th October, 42 flew West on 2nd November, one West on the 9th November and three North on the 10th November (SPG). At Brownich 40 flew West on 6th November and about the same number West on 10th November (SLW). Three flew West over Southampton on 10th November (AVP).

- 393 **Goldfinch.** Some movement in Spring between 23rd March and 10th May. At St. Catherine's Point 230 flew East and 311 West (SPG). In the Portsmouth/Titchfield area a total of 40 birds flew West and two South (JKB, RHD, PG, CJH, WHT, SLW).

Autumn movements took place between 21st September and 7th November with the majority in the first week of October. Nearly all the movement was in a Westerly direction. At St. Catherine's Point a total of 526 birds were seen flying West (SPG). In the Portsmouth area 65 flew West and 15 East (PG). One flew NW. over Beaulieu Heath on 2nd October (KHP) and three flew West over Southampton on 7th November (AVP). At Brownich 50 flew West on 10th November and nine flew West on 16th November (SLW).

- 394 **Siskin.** Some evidence of breeding in two localities in the New Forest (EC, RE).

Winter flocks reported from three localities in the New Forest, maximum 18 in Mark Ash Wood on 12th January (DW); Woodmill—

up to 25 in October/December (PHD, KVE, MJH, AVP); 20 at Stratfield Saye in February and March (MWT) and smaller numbers at Winchester and Chandlers Ford in November and February respectively (RMC, GGP) and at Bembridge, I.O.W. in November (MCA).

An Autumn movement is suggested from the following records:—
21st September, St. Catherine's Point, 10 (2 males) in bushes (SPG).

4th October, Eastney Point, 2 departed West (PG).

4th November, St. Catherine's Point, 1 male flew West (SPG).

8th November, Southampton, 1 flew West (AVP).

9th November, Southampton, 2 flew West (AVP).

- 395 **Linnet.** Spring passage from 23rd March and 24th May. At St. Catherine's Point a total of 417 flew West and 134 flew East. Peak of the Westerly movement occurred in the period 14th/16th April (332 birds) and the peak of the Easterly movement on 20th and 21st April (91 birds) (SPG). In the Portsmouth area a Westerly passage totalling 25 birds was recorded on 14th/15th April.

Passage in Autumn extended from 5th September to 10th November with peaks in two periods: 28th September/7th October and 20th October/2nd November. Totals observed in each period at St. Catherine's Point and in the Portsmouth area are detailed below:—

Period	St. Catherine's		Portsmouth	
	to W.	to E.	to W.	to E.
1. 28th September/7th October	643	10	276	59
2. 20th October/2nd November	2,030	—	49	—

On the Eastern half of Beaulieu Heath, 60 pairs bred (KHP).

- 396 **Twite.** Three, Titchfield Haven, 3rd January (RHD). A flock of up to 17 on Farlington Marshes from the beginning of the year (see 1956 report) until 11th March (PG).

In the Autumn at Farlington three on the 20th October increased to over 70 on 2nd/3rd November and about 25 remained to the end of the year (PG).

At Hurst Castle, three flew over East on 26th October (JKB). Seven at Martin on 2nd August (TEB).

- 397 **Redpoll.** Many Winter records of small flocks, the maximum being a flock of 40 at Bishop's Dyke in the New Forest on 7th April (KHP).

Two pairs almost certainly bred at one locality in the New Forest (JSA, JKB, RJJ) and a pair attempted to breed three times, sitting for several days on four eggs on the last occasion before the nest was robbed, at a locality in the North of the county (VGD).

The only record of Spring movement is of three birds flying East at St. Catherine's on 4th May (SPG).

However, in Autumn considerable movement was reported. At Eastney Point eight birds flew West and four East between 2nd and 7th October, while two flew West at Southsea Castle on 6th October (PG). At St. Catherine's, one flew West on 10th November (SPG), one left Southampton University to the West on 2nd November (AVP) and three flew West over Beaulieu Heath on 17th October (KHP).

- 401 **Bullfinch.** One flew West with Chaffinches past St. Catherine's Point on 20th October (SPG).

- 404 **Crossbill.** Records from the New Forest suggest that probably at least nine pairs bred (JSA, EB, JVB, EC, RMC, CHF, ELJ, KHP, GHR, DW). No records from the Forest from August to the end of the year. In January and February several flocks reported, the largest being ca. 22 in Parkhill Inc. on 20th January (EC).

Outside the New Forest, there was one North of Hill Head on 2nd January (RHD), a pair in Woolmer Forest on 8th June (JKB, WHT, EJW) and up to seven at Hiltbury Lake and Cranbury Park from 3rd February to 23rd March (EAG, GGP, JHT).

- 407 **Chaffinch.** An Autumn influx from 28th September until 10th November. In the Portsmouth area the main movement was in the period 2nd/7th October when a total of 153 birds flew West, 32 North/NE. and seven East (PG). At St. Catherine's Point peak movements were recorded on:—

28th September, 127 West
20th October, 139 North
27th October, 450 West
2nd November, 82 West (SPG).

Over Beaulieu Heath there was a well-marked NW. passage in the early mornings. A total of 81 birds were recorded on six dates between 2nd October and 2nd November (KHP). Over Southampton a total of 38 birds flew West on 7th, 8th, 9th November (AVP).

- 408 **Brambling.** Several small Winter parties in January, February, March, November and December chiefly in the North of the county and in the New Forest. Largest parties were ca. 20 at Damerham in December (JSA) and 15 near Winchester in February and March (PSS, W). A flock of about 100 birds feeding in the top of tall beeches in S. Oakley Inc. were almost certainly of this species (PLD).

Evidence of Autumn movement is provided by records from St. Catherine's Point of one flying West on 20th October and four flying West on 2nd November (SPG) and also of two flying West over Beaulieu Heath on 28th October (KHP).

- 409 **Yellowhammer.** At St. Catherine's Point one flew East on 21st April and one West on 20th October.

A breeding census of East Beaulieu Heath showed that 29 pairs bred (KHP).

- 410 **Corn Bunting.** In the New Forest area where the species is very scarce, the only record is of two at Need's Oar Point on 19th May (RHD, JE).

Only two records in the breeding season from the I.O.W., from two separate localities (DJA, MCA). Elsewhere, breeding status apparently much as usual.

At St. Catherine's Point one circled the farm and headed North on 20th October and one flew West on 2nd November (SPG).

To assist in the enquiry into the status of this species in Hampshire, all records, even if negative, should be sent in to the recorders.

- 415 **Cirl Bunting.** Continues to breed commonly in Northern and Eastern parts of the county. Scarcer in the SW., but along the coastal strip of Southampton Water and the Solent birds in the breeding season reported from Dibden (2 pairs), Fawley, Lymington, Keyhaven and Milford. In the New Forest males were reported from Shave Green and Bartley in February (RE).

There were seven males on Southampton Common all the Summer (JRS) and up to 14 in the University grounds in November (AVP).

On the I.O.W. one was singing again at Osborne throughout the Summer and in December (JS). The only other record from the Island was of a male near St. Helens on 22nd August (MRT).

- 421 **Reed Bunting.** Many breeding records from the New Forest in both gorse and swampy habitats. This division of breeding habitats was particularly apparent on Beaulieu Heath (E), where of the 21 pairs found during the breeding survey, 13 occupied territories in very wet swamps and thickets, the remaining eight being in completely dry, open gorse patches (KHP). It would be interesting to receive definitive information on the ratio of habitat types in other parts of the New Forest.

In the Autumn there was an influx on Hengistbury Head on 19th September of at least 20 birds (FRC). In the Portsmouth area a few birds (total six) were seen flying West between 2nd and 6th October.

- 423 **Snow Bunting.** A male and three females seen at Newtown, I.O.W. on 7th November (AJH, MMS). A male at Farlington Marshes, 24th November (PG) and four females at Hurst on the same day (JKB).
- 424 **House Sparrow.** Movements at St. Catherine's Point:—
 4th May, two flying East with Goldfinches; two flying North off the sea.
 6th October, party of 22 flew West; 14 came in from the sea, landed, then left to East with Linnets.
 19th October, 11, West with Linnets; eight, North.
 27th October, one, West.
 At Warsash, 40 flew NW. on 15th September (RHD) and one flew West at Eastney Point on 7th October (PG).
- 425 **Tree Sparrow.** Autumn movement over Southampton recorded on 6th, 8th and 9th November. A total of 12 flew West and eight North during a period of early morning movement (AVP).
 Probably bred near Aldershot (TBS).
 Outside breeding season seen at Cutbush Lane, Southampton (max. 50) (MAO), Stratfield Saye (max. 20) (MWT), Farlington Marshes (max. 7) (PG).

ADDENDA TO 1956 REPORT

- 85 **Whooper Swan.** 20 flying down the Itchen at Swaythling on 19th February (AVP).
- 364 **Goldcrest.** A female ringed at Dungeness, Kent, on 20th October, 1956, was found dead at Headley Down, Hants, seven days later.

CORRECTIONS TO 1956 REPORT

- 48 **Garganey.** The male reported on 18th February is an error. It should appear under Gadwall.
- 255 **Swift.** The "ca. 100 at same place (i.e. Farlington Marshes) on August 6th (CS)" should read "at Titchfield Haven".

REPORT ON NEW FOREST DIPTERA, 1957

In 1957 I was only able to arrange for two short visits to the New Forest, one in May, and one in August. Although on both occasions the remarkable scarcity of insect life experienced in recent years was still evident, a few species were found additional to those previously taken there. My report however is necessarily a short one.

Two interesting species were taken among the Empididae, namely *Rhamphomyia albitarsis* Coll., and *Empis praevia* Coll., the former at Linwood, and the latter at Aldridge Hill, both in May.

Dolichopodidae worth recording are represented by three species of *Medeterus* found sitting as usual (always in a position looking upwards) on tree trunks, on this occasion on young alder trees at "Appleslade," Linwood, in May. They were found to consist of *M. tristis* Zett., *abstrusus* Thunb. (previously incorrectly recorded in the British List under the name of *M. apicalis* Zett.), and *impiger* Coll.

Among the Platypezidae, *Callimyia leptiformis* Flin., and *amoena* Mg., were taken in the same locality as the Dolichopodids. *C. leptiformis* was added to the British List by Verrall under the name of *C. elegans* Mg., and

it is by no means certain that the true *elegans* has been found in this country. I have never seen a British specimen, and if anyone believes he possesses one I would very much like to see it.

Pipunculidae, which are parasitic on Homoptera, were scarce. Apart from very common species I can only record *Eudorylas subterminalis* Coll., from Denny Lodge Wood, and *Cephalops aeneus* Flin. (*flavipes* Mg.) from Linwood.

In the Phoridae the following were taken in Denny Lodge Wood, *Aneurina thoracica* Mg., *Diploneura concinna* Mg., and *D. palpina* Zett. The last a species often confused with *abdominalis* Flin. and *florea* F., and at one time was considered by Schmitz to be a variety (*versicolor*) of the latter.

Among the Anthomyiidae I would mention the capture of *Trichopticus perpendicularis* Zett. (at one time considered a rarity), *Hydrotaea parva* Mde., and *tuberculata* Rnd., also the following species in the genus *Fannia* *aerea* Mg., *atra* Stein, *difficilis* Vill., *pretiosa* Schin., *immutica* Coll., and *Verralli* Stein, the last two being worth a special note. A male of *immutica*, a species more usually found in Scotland, was taken by my friend Mr. E. A. Fonseca in Denny Lodge Wood, and the males of *Verralli*, of which only a few odd specimens had previously been taken, while the true female remained unknown, were found in some numbers hovering under the branches of conifers at Aldridge Hill, and what is undoubtedly the true female were swept from the herbage near by. The new *Azelia trigonica* recorded in last year's report was again in evidence in one or two different localities. The New Forest is always a good place for finding species of the Fern-feeding genus *Chirosia*. During the May visit, eight of the ten British species of this genus were taken, including the little-known *C. similata* Tiens., at Mark Ash. Species of *Pegomyia* found during May included *P. provecta* Vill., a species not at present included in the British List. Finally, males of *Pegohylemyia nudithorax* Ringd., of which previously mainly females only had been found, were taken freely among the heather near Denny Bog.

Acalyprate Muscids perhaps worth recording include the Helomyzid *Eccoptomera longiseta* Mg., taken at Linwood, *Sciomyza pallidicarpa* Rnd., at Mark Ash, *Anthomyza pleuralis* Cz., in Denny Lodge Wood, the Chloropid *Elachiptera tuberculifera* Corti, at Linwood, also a female of *Palloptera scutellata* Mcq. (*neutra* Pand.). This last was first recognised as British from a New Forest female, and though it has been found in other localities since, the specimens have all invariably been females.

Sent in by Mr. J. E. Collin, F.R.E.S., Raylands, Newmarket, Cambridge.



SPIN 1234