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BIRD REPORT for 1982
and
THE BREEDING WADERS OF WET MEADOWS
IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT, 1982

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BIRD REPORT FOR 1982

By J. STAFFORD

The year produced a remarkable variety of species. The total of 207 (which does not include four distinguishable subspecies) easily exceeds the previous highest annual total of 200 in 1963.

Six new species were recorded in 1982 – Red-crested Pochard, Ruddy Duck, Slender-billed Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Scops Owl and Savi's Warbler. Some other species which had seldom been recorded before were Bean Goose (for the second and third times) White Stork (third), Shore Lark (fifth), Gull-billed Tern (seventh) and Rough-legged Buzzard and Little Ringed Plover (each for the eighth time). Details are to be found in the Systematic List. (The caveat must be added that some of those mentioned are still under consideration by the national Rarities Committee).

A spell of cold weather, including snow, lasting for about a week from January 8th produced several records of movements, or of birds in unusual places. Examples may be found in the Systematic List, concerning Lapwing, Shore Lark, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Brambling and Reed Bunting.

There was a gratifyingly large increase in the number of observers this year. Whatever value the Report may have is due to them, and my thanks are extended to them all.

Abbreviations, etc.

The sequence and vernacular names follow *The "British Birds" List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1978). Names of subspecies, where appropriate, and species reference numbers are taken from The British Trust for Ornithology's *Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971).

♂: male. ♀: female. S.C.P.: St. Catherine's Point.

Observers' initials are inserted in the Systematic List in support of six categories of record, which are defined in the *Bird Report for 1980*.

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SYSTEMATIC LIST

- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** Following unusual numbers of unidentified divers at S.C.P. at the end of 1981 (see *Report for 1981*), up to 100 of this species were there throughout January, feeding in the area; numbers reduced through February, and almost none were left by March. Spring passage to E there was recorded from March 21st to May 31st – a total of 107 divers, probably mostly this species.

Four at Freshwater Bay on January 10th.

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** Movements past S.C.P., all to E: 1 on April 3rd and 13th, 2 on 15th, 3 on 16th.

Two off Osborne on November 28th.

- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** One in Osborne Bay on January 1st. One at Quarr several times in January, and on December 10th. One to E past S.C.P. on April 25th.

- 9 **Little Grebe.** Nested at Bembridge as usual. Nested at Carisbrooke Waterworks (MW), after being present there in the two previous seasons (see *Reports for 1980 and 1981*). Nested at four new sites – Churchills Farm, Chessell (HMF), Thorness Farm (DRN), Quarr (FEH), and S of the Military Road near Barnes High (JMC, DJH).

Peak numbers were similar at all the main wintering localities – 11 on Western Yar, 10 at Newtown, 15 on Medina, 12 at Bembridge.

- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** One off Ryde Pier on January 21st. A juvenile at Newtown from August 29th to end of year. Frequent off Quarr, January-March and November-December; maximum 5 on January 14th.

- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.** Single birds in Osborne Bay on January 24th, at Quarr on January 17th and 22nd and December 14th, at Newtown on December 28th, and at Woodside on 29th.

- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** At Woodside, 8 on January 1st and 2 on December 28th. One at Foreland on January 3rd. One at Quarr on November 23rd.

- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.** Single birds at Quarr on January 3rd and at Newtown on January 13th.

- 26 **Fulmar.** Following first prospecting of Gore Cliff in 1981 (see *Report for 1981*), there was increased activity there this year; up to 8 pairs were present, some staying into August, but they did not nest. Two birds frequented Culver Cliff, but did not occupy a ledge as in 1981. Up to 8 birds at Main Bench, and up to 6 birds at Freshwater Cliff.

There was an early arrival at S.C.P. on January 16th-18th. 11 off Freshwater Bay on February 28th, and several records of smaller numbers there about that time. Main movement past S.C.P. was on May 3rd – 13 to E, 47 to W. At the end of the year, 2 flew W past S.C.P. on December 19th, and 1 at Freshwater Bay on 30th.

- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** At S.C.P., 3 to E on May 31st, 2 to E on June 12th. One off Culver on June 19th.

- 16 **Balearic Shearwater.** A meeting of the Society at Fort Victoria on July 18th saw one on the sea, being carried east by the tide. It flew about 400 yards west, and settled on the sea to float east again. The bird repeated the process several times, and was still doing so when the party left. (A bird of this subspecies was

seen in the same area from the mainland coast on a very close date in 1971 – see *Hampshire Bird Report for 1971*).

- 27 **Gannet.** Largest spring movements past S.C.P. were 58 to E on May 1st – mostly immature – and 23 to W and 114 to E on May 5th. In a force 8 SSW gale there on November 21st, during an hour in the morning 20 flew W and 38 E, then in the next hour 3 W and 76 E (JMC).

One at Newtown on January 16th.

- 28 **Cormorant.** On June 13th, 277 were counted from a boat between Yarmouth and Main Bench (JMC). (See *Reports for 1978-1981* for comparable counts).

- 29 **Shag.** Three at Bembridge on February 7th. Two pairs nested at Main Bench.

- 30 **Grey Heron.** One pair nested successfully at Bembridge.

- 38 **Bittern.** One at Priory Pond, Carisbrooke, on January 1st (DKB). Possibly the same bird found long-dead at Carisbrooke Waterworks on March 8th (MW).

One frequented a garden pond near the River Medina at Shide, 3rd-7th January (AJWH).

- 40 **White Stork.** One at Plaish on March 29th (LH). Details supplied. This is the third record for the Island, apart from the migration experiments in the 1930s. There has been a recent warning (*British Birds* 76: 484) that some British occurrences of this species must now be suspect because of introductions in Holland, but this bird was seen on a plausible migration date.

- 84 **Mute Swan.** The largest herd was 22 at St. Helens on April 1st.

- 86 **Bewick's Swan.** Four at Bembridge, November 9th-14th. Four on stubble between Chale and Atherfield on December 5th, in heavy rain and strong wind (DJH, DBW).

- 78 **Bean Goose.** One with Canada Geese at Newtown, January 17th-20th (MMS). One in Brading Marsh, October 18th-21st (SMN). These are the second and third records for the Island.

- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** Newtown: 20 on January 15th and 11 on October 31st (MMS). One with Coots in Brading Marsh on December 29th (SMN).

- 82 **Canada Goose.** Largest number was 69 at Newtown on October 1st. One pair nested there.

A few recorded elsewhere. One by pool at Compton Grange, January 15th to February 27th (JS). Three at pond near Blackpan Farm, Sandown, April 11th-25th (B. W. Rose), which had not been introduced by the farmer. One flew W past Gurnard on April 10th. Two by Military Road near Barnes on May 1st and 9th. At Quarr, 3 on March 31st, 1 on May 9th, 1 on August 2nd.

- 81 **Barnacle Goose.** Four at Quarr on March 26th (FEH). One at Newtown, October-December (PJE, MMS).

- 80 **Brent Goose.** At Newtown, 800 on January 16th, reducing until last one seen on April 22nd. First bird of the autumn there on October 3rd, and by the end of the month there were 270. 900 on December 5th.

More than usual at Yarmouth in December – about 100 regularly. Numerous records elsewhere along the north coast and estuaries, including a bird of the pale-breasted race *hrota* at Woodside on February 20th.

A few along the south coast early in the year. 10 at Freshwater Bay on January 10th. 20 flew E past S.C.P. on January 18th, as did 13 on February 2nd.

- 73 **Shelduck.** Largest flocks were 439 at Newtown on January 24th and 161 at Bembridge on January 2nd.

A few pairs bred at Newtown and Bembridge. Birds frequenting the cliffs were probably nesting there – two pairs at Freshwater Cliff in April and May, and at least 9 birds at Culver on May 28th. Two presumed breeding pairs at Quarr.

- 50 **Wigeon.** Largest flocks were 444 at Newtown on February 14th, 315 on Western Yar on December 20th, and 110 at Bembridge on January 26th.

- 49 **Gadwall.** A ♀ at Yarmouth on January 23rd (TWH, KVT), and a pair on Dodnor Pond on the same day (MW). A ♂ at Newtown on November 21st (MMS). At Bembridge 10 on February 14th, 5 on December 12th, 7 on 27th (JMC, DJH, SL).

- 46 **Teal.** At the main localities, the December flocks were all of similar size: 550 at Newtown on 12th, 499 at Bembridge on the same day, and 550 at Yarmouth on 19th.

The only record suggesting nesting was a ♀ at Alverstone on July 27th (KVT).

- 45 **Mallard.** 282 at Bembridge on September 12th.

- 52 **Pintail.** Present at Newtown until March 21st and from August 27th. Largest numbers there were 110 on January 16th and October 10th.

Four flew E past S.C.P. on March 27th, as did 2 on May 11th.

- 47 **Garganey.** Recorded only in Brading Marsh: a ♂ seen several times from January 31st to March 14th (JMC, DJH, SL); 3 on November 22nd (SMN).

- 53 **Shoveler.** 16 in Seaview Marsh on January 12th. 25 at Bembridge on January 17th.

- 54 **Red-crested Pochard.** A ♂ at Bembridge on March 21st (JMC, DJH, SL) and April 16th (KVT). This was possibly the same bird which had been at Titchfield, on the Hampshire coast, from February 20th to March 19th (see *Hampshire Bird Report for 1982*). The species is usually suspect as an escape, and we have rejected the few previous records. But in early 1982 there were unusual numbers not only in Hampshire but in other parts of England, suggesting immigration from the continent. This bird can reasonably be accepted as the first record for the Island.

- 57 **Pochard.** Largest flock was 51 at Bembridge on February 14th. The 5 at Carisbrooke Waterworks at the end of 1981 (see *Report for 1981*) did not remain into 1982, but a ♂ was there, January 17th-19th. Three on Medina on January 23rd.

Five pairs nested in Brading Marsh; on June 15th, 5 ♀♀ were seen with 5 broods totalling 24 young (MW).

- 56 **Tufted Duck.** Largest flock was 41 at Bembridge on December 27th. Four on Medina on January 11th. At Carisbrooke Waterworks, a ♂, January 17th-23rd, and a pair, December 26th-31st. Ten on a pond below St. Lawrence – a new locality – in October and November (EB). One at Quarr on December 14th.

Three pairs bred in Brading Marsh. Nested at Churchills Farm (HMF) – a new site. A pair at Compton Grange on April 17th did not stay (JS). A ♀ on a farm pond near Kings Quay on August 31st (MW).

- 55 **Scaup.** On Medina, 4 on January 1st, and 3 on 3rd – all ♀ or immature ♂. Two flew W past S.C.P. on November 21st.

- 67 **Eider.** Main movements past S.C.P. were a flock of 70 to E on April 5th, 19 to E on 20th, and 19 to W on December 4th.

Several elsewhere in December: 2 off St. Helens on 2nd, and 1 there on 12th; 1 at Newtown, 9th-29th; 2 off Osborne on 26th.

- 61 **Long-tailed Duck.** An immature ♀ on Ryde Canoe Lake from November 6th to the end of the year was seen by many and photographed by some. It was several times seen to fly on to the sea nearby.

- 64 **Common Scoter.** Main movements to E past S.C.P.:

March			April			May
25th	26th	27th	2nd	3rd	4th	11th
154	250	600	331	274	131	100

The total – including smaller numbers on other days – was 2242 to E between January 8th and May 30th.

A few records in winter, including 56 off Seaview on January 5th. Summer records were 3 to E past Fort Albert on June 13th and 1 to W past Fort Victoria on August 15th. One in fresh water in Quarr Marsh on October 27th (FEH).

- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** Two at Quarr on January 3rd. The only others reported were flying E past S.C.P.: 1 on March 27th, 17 on April 5th and 2 on April 13th.

- 60 **Goldeneye.** Numerous records on the estuaries, including 12 on Medina on January 11th and 10 at Newtown in January and December. Also an immature on Ryde Canoe Lake, January 2nd-5th (DAC).

- 71 **Smew.** Two immature ♀♀ on the Yar at Bembridge on February 17th (DJH).

- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.** Several flocks of similar size: 18 at Bembridge on January 3rd, 28 at Quarr on January 31st, 25 at Newtown on February 7th, 32 at Newtown on November 28th. Also 1 in Freshwater Bay on January 10th.

- 70 **Goosander.** A ♂ to E past Seaview on January 13th (SMN).

- **Ruddy Duck.** A ♀ or immature ♂ at Bembridge on January 31st and March 14th (JMC, DJH, SL). The first record for the Island. The species breeds ferally in the Midlands (see *British Birds* 69: 132-143), and has been on the British List since 1971. Its numbers and range are both increasing, so that further occurrences here can be expected.

- 99 **Marsh Harrier.** One at Gurnard on April 22nd (DTB).

- 100 **Hen Harrier.** Rather more than usual at both ends of the year; all single birds unless stated otherwise. The one in Brading Marsh at the end of 1981 (see *Report for 1981*) was seen regularly around Bembridge and St. Helens from January 1st to March 20th; 2 there on November 16th, 1 on December 3rd, 27th and 28th. Newtown, January 16th to end of month, September 22nd to end of year. Over a clearing in Parkhurst Forest, February 10th. Shanklin, March 9th. Swainston, March 28th, 2 on 30th. Western Yar, April 9th. Little Atherfield, April 9th. Over Bowcombe Down, April 11th, mobbed by Jackdaws. Thorley, October 9th. Seaview, October 15th. Alverstone, October 31st. Shorwell, December 29th.

- 94 **Goshawk.** One over Brighstone on August 31st (KVT).

- 93 **Sparrowhawk.** At Ryde on February 27th, one first seen about a mile out to sea flew in over the canoe lake and continued inland (DAC). One arrived at S.C.P. from S on April 28th.

One found trapped in discarded fruit netting in a hedge at St. Helens on February 19th was released (DML). At Newtown on December 12th one caught Redshank, discarded the wings, and took the rest away.

- 91 **Buzzard.** Was seen on April 11th displaying over the Brighstone Forest nesting site which has been used each year since at least 1977, but apparently did not nest this year.

Widespread records of single birds at other seasons.

- 92 **Rough-legged Buzzard.** One in Brading Marsh on January 2nd (MW) and 3rd (PAG). The eighth record for the Island.
- 103 **Osprey.** One at Newtown on September 18th (JN).
- 110 **Kestrel.**
- 107 **Merlin.** Numerous records of single birds in January, April, and October to December. One over a Quarr bird table on December 5th (FEH).
- 104 **Hobby.** A pair frequented Marvel Copse, Newport, from July to September (MJJ); details supplied.
- One at S.C.P., April 24th and 25th; in half an hour it caught five or six incoming migrants, including a Swallow and a warbler, which it ate in flight. One over Brading Marsh on September 18th was chasing House Martins and Rooks. Others (all single birds): Headon Warren, April 18th; Bembridge, May 8th; Main Bench, May 16th; Seaview, July 23rd; Chale, October 15th.
- 105 **Peregrine.** There were occasional sightings of one or two birds at Main Bench in the summer, and there was hope that they might be nesting at a particular site which could not be seen from the clifftop. Unfortunately an intruder descended to the site by rope *at night* on June 3rd, and not surprisingly got into difficulty. The rescue services had to be called, leading inevitably to serious disturbance.
- At St. Helens on January 27th one took a Redshank (KVT), while one at Newtown on December 12th stooped unsuccessfully at an Avocet (DJH, SL). Two flew into Dunnose from the south on April 30th. Seen also at Brading Marsh, S.C.P. and Yarmouth.
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge.** Only seen singly, all in April – east of Calbourne on 2nd (JS) and 24th (DTB), near S.C.P. on 9th and 12th (PAG), and on Bleak Down on 24th (DJH, SL).
- 116 **Grey Partridge.**
- 117 **Quail.** Two ♀♀ near Sandford on May 9th walked along side of road and under gate into a cultivated field (JMC).
- 118 **Pheasant.**
- 120 **Water Rail.**
- 126 **Moorhen.**
- 127 **Coot.** Many more than usual in January – 675 at Bembridge on 17th, and 124 along Medina estuary on 23rd.
- Nested at a new site – Blackwater Mill (JS). Of the two sites which were new last year (see *Report for 1981*), Carisbrooke Waterworks was used again, by three pairs, but at Gunville Pond only one bird arrived on March 24th, and did not stay. Four pairs reared 20 young at Quarr.
- 131 **Oystercatcher.** Four pairs at Newtown in the breeding season, including a pair which nested successfully in the Scrape.
- 185 **Avocet.** One at Newtown on December 12th (DJH, SL) was chased by a Peregrine, but escaped.
- 135 **Little Ringed Plover.** One in Brading Marsh on April 14th (PJB, DJH, SL). The eighth record for the Island.
- 134 **Ringed Plover.** Fewer than usual at Newtown – maximum 57 on January 5th.
- 140 **Golden Plover.** Maximum at Newtown was 485 on December 25th. The only others reported were 18 at Bembridge on October 5th, and 376 at Atherfield on December 12th, which decreased and had all left by the end of the year.
- 139 **Grey Plover.** At Newtown, the winter maximum of 110 on January 24th was

not many more than the maximum during passage of 91 on August 29th. Maximum at Quarr was 43 on January 18th. A few others seen along the north coast.

- 133 **Lapwing.** Movements at S.C.P. in January: 115 to SW on 8th, 100 to E on 9th, 200 to E on 10th.

The largest flock was c1,500 at Newtown on December 18th.

- 169 **Knot.** Following the reduction at Newtown last year (see *Report for 1981*), increased to 200 again on January 9th, but down to 46 by 22nd.

16 at Seaview on October 16th.

- 181 **Sanderling.** Over 100 at Ryde on January 11th, reducing to 7 by March 29th. 3 at Quarr on April 23rd.

The first of the autumn were 12 at Ryde on November 6th. An apparent influx on November 14th, when there were 60 at Foreland and 158 flew E past Seaview; next day there were 50 at Ryde and 170 at Seaview. Numbers then decreased, down to 27 at Ryde on December 29th.

The only others reported were 8 flying E past S.C.P. on May 11th.

- 171 **Little Stint.** One in a new locality at Mount Bay, St. Lawrence, on August 6th (RG), was observed for 75 minutes. It was very tame, and allowed approach within three feet.

Single birds seen well at Newtown on February 19th and November 9th (KVT). Both dates suggest overwintering rather than passage.

- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** One at Newtown on September 24th.

- 170 **Purple Sandpiper.** Foreland: 24 on December 28th. Freshwater Bay: 12 on January 3rd, then up to 6 until April 14th; 9 on December 20th. One at S.C.P. on March 6th.

- 178 **Dunlin.**

- 184 **Ruff.** One in Brading Marsh on April 18th (PJB, DJH, SL).

- 146 **Jack Snipe.** Occasional at Brading Marsh and St. Helens Millpond, January-March and November-December; all single birds, except 2 at St. Helens on February 21st.

- 145 **Snipe.** More than usual at Newtown – 140 on January 5th. 27 at pond near Upton on February 13th. 106 in Seaview Marsh on March 12th.

Two on High Down on April 11th (DJH, SL) – completely out of usual habitat, and obviously on passage.

Heard drumming at Bembridge on May 15th, but not known to have nested.

- 148 **Woodcock.** Seen in breeding season at Parkhurst Forest and Firestone Copse. One by Bembridge Pond on March 20th could have been still on passage – the species is not known to nest near there. One feeding on lawn at Quarr at dusk, November 26th-29th (FEH). 12 in Nunwell Copse on December 11th.

- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** Fewer at Newtown than in recent years: 132 on January 17th; 164 on March 21st; 143 on November 21st; less than 100 at other times. 14 at Quarr on May 11th. A few records of single birds elsewhere along the north coast.

- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** Spring movements past S.C.P., all to E:

April										May	Total
16th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	24th	25th	26th	27th		17th	
65	20	220	180	255	100	436	359	1450		23	3108

Also one in summer plumage in a field there on May 2nd.

A flock of 45 flew E past Fort Victoria on May 12th.

At Bembridge, up to 3 in January, and c30 on December 27th (including one in summer plumage).

Six at Newtown on October 21st.

- 151 **Whimbrel.** At Newtown, first on April 18th, and 20 there next day; last 6 on October 13th.

30 flew E past S.C.P. on April 25th and May 11th. 40 flew W past Fort Victoria on August 15th.

- 150 **Curlew.** 220 at Newtown on February 14th. One – presumably migrating – on High Down on September 11th.

- 162 **Spotted Redshank.** Often 1 or 2 at Newtown; 5 there on January 17th and April 25th. One at Yarmouth in October and December.

- 161 **Redshank.**

- 165 **Greenshank.** Two at St. Helens Millpond in every month except June and July. 14 flew W past Seaview on January 14th. 21 at Newtown on August 29th. Up to 5 at Yarmouth, Kings Quay and Quarr, July-September.

Not often seen on south coast. 11 flew S over Freshwater Bay on September 1st. One at Brook on September 19th.

- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** Wintering birds at Yarmouth on January 18th and December 11th, and at Newtown on February 7th. The only spring bird was at Quarr on April 12th. One at Branstone – a new site – on July 14th (MW). Other autumn records at Yarmouth, Newtown, Quarr and Brading Marsh. All single birds, except 2 at Quarr on August 8th.

- 157 **Wood Sandpiper.** One at Newtown on June 21st (DJH, MMS).

- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** 14 at Newtown on July 15th – not often seen in such numbers.

- 143 **Turnstone.**

- 187 **Grey Phalarope.** Three at Newtown on September 6th (KVT).

- 193 **Arctic Skua.** First arrivals at S.C.P. were earlier than usual – 1 on April 3rd, 4 on 4th, 1 on 5th – then 29 others until May 14th. All spring movements were to E.

In autumn, a light-phase bird near Needles on July 22nd (most occurrences are dark-phase), 1 at Seaview on September 11th, and at S.C.P. 2 to E on September 26th, 1 to E on November 21st and 1 to W on 23rd.

- 194 **Great Skua.** Recorded only at S.C.P. Seven single birds flew E, April 3rd to May 15th. In autumn, 2 to E on November 21st and 1 to W on 23rd (*cf* Arctic Skua), and 1 to E on December 19th.

- 205 **Mediterranean Gull.** An immature at Bembridge on April 18th (PJB, DJH, SL) and May 8th (SL). An adult at Atherfield on September 20th (JS). An adult at Godshill on November 16th (DBW). An immature at Ryde Canoe Lake on November 20th (SL).

- 207 **Little Gull.** Three records, all of immature birds – S.C.P., May 14th; Atherfield, September 26th; Freshwater Bay, December 20th.

- 208 **Black-headed Gull.** Ringing recovery: a bird ringed (NLA 3191516) as a nestling at Plas Ravensberg, Holland (52° 3' N, 4° 45' E) on May 27th, 1980 was found dying at Quarr on July 25th, 1982 (FEH).

- **Slender-billed Gull.** One on the sea at Hanover Point, near Brook, on September 13th-16th (KVT, JS). One on a groyne at St. Helens Duver on December 12th (JMC). The records have been submitted to the *British Birds* Rarities

Committee. If accepted, they will be the first records for the Island, and about the fourth and fifth for Britain.

- **Ring-billed Gull.** An adult at St. Helens Millpond on numerous dates from February 3rd to April 10th (PJB, DRB, JMC, KMG, AMH, DJH, SL, PMcA). The first record for the Island. This visitor from North America has occurred in Britain much more frequently in the last few years (see *British Birds* 77: 533).
- 201 **Common Gull.** 25 on January 16th at Thorness, where usually none or only a few. Next day 143 at Bembridge – the largest number of the year.

On October 5th there was a continual passage of small numbers of adults and immatures to W along Main Bench (BWR).

- 199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.**

- 200 **Herring Gull.**

- 198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** Again nested unsuccessfully on the Newtown sea wall (see *Report for 1981*).

- 211 **Kittiwake.** One on Ryde Esplanade bowling green on January 16th.

At S.C.P., 750 flew E between January 15th and May 31st; small numbers on many days, but 200 on February 3rd. In autumn there, 750 to E on November 21st and 100 to W on 23rd.

Eight pairs nested at Main Bench (JMC, DJH, PMcA).

- 215 **Gull-billed Tern.** One with Sandwich Terns at Ryde Pier on August 8th (JMC). The seventh record for the Island.

- 223 **Sandwich Tern.** First at Bembridge on March 5th.

Over 300 flew E past S.C.P. between April 1st and May 18th - all in small numbers.

Last on October 3rd, at Newtown and Quarr.

- 217 and 218 **Common Tern.**

Arctic Tern. First on April 4th, at Newtown, Seaview and S.C.P. A total of 529 flew E at S.C.P. in spring, including 214 on May 14th. Last on October 19th, at Quarr.

An Arctic Tern was identified at Newtown on August 14th (KVT).

- 222 **Little Tern.** First on April 25th, at Newtown. At least one pair nested there (JMC).

Ten flew E past S.C.P. on May 11th.

- 212 **Black Tern.** A small spring migration to E along both coasts was concentrated into a few days:

	May 10th	11th	12th	13th
S.C.P.	5	9	3	
Egypt Point, Cowes			2	7

Also 2 at Seaview on May 6th and September 24th, and 1 in Freshwater Bay on June 6th.

- 222 **Guillemot.** C200 at Main Bench on June 13th.

- 224 **Razorbill.** Several records of up to 7 birds at Main Bench, but no nests.

- 226 **Little Auk.** One just off the end of Ryde Pier on February 25th (JMC).

- 230 **Puffin.** An oiled bird at Bembridge on January 1st. One flew E past Seaview on January 14th. Several passed S.C.P., also going E: 3 on April 16th, 3 on May 3rd, 2 on 8th, 1 on 11th. It is several years since the annual total last reached double figures!

- 232 **Stock Dove.** 50 at Gurnard on January 1st (DRN), and 30 near Norton on October 4th (BWR) – unusually large flocks for the Island.
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**
— **Collared Dove.**
- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First on April 24th, at Newchurch. Last on October 6th, on Compton Down.
- 237 **Cuckoo.** First on April 20th, at Quarr. A juvenile was found dead at Brighstone on July 23rd.
- 241 **Barn Owl.**
- 242 **Scops Owl.** A bird frequented gardens around Granville Road, Totland, for several weeks in April and May – precise dates not noted (KP). A long sound recording was supplied, and was played at a meeting of the Ornithological Section in the autumn. The first record for the Island.
- 246 **Little Owl.** One on the ground on West High Down on October 10th appeared to have just flown in, and left slowly to N (JMC, DJH).
- 247 **Tawny Owl.** Three records of single birds: Osborne, February 28th (DJH); Upper Hyde, Shanklin, June 18th (LS, RAS); Freshwater, October 31st (EH).
- 248 **Long-eared Owl.** One in Brading Marsh on January 31st.
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.** Single birds at Alverstone on February 4th, at Shide on February 20th and 21st, and at S.C.P. (arrived from S) on April 25th.
More than usual in autumn. One on West High Down, September 11th to October 31st. One at Newtown from October 20th to end of year. One along the Military Road between Brighstone and Brook, November 4th to December 1st. One or two on St. Catherine's Hill, October 11th to end of year. Brading Marsh, 2 on October 27th and 30th, 1 on November 4th and 28th; possibly one of the same birds over Bembridge cliff on November 16th.
- 252 **Nightjar.**
- 255 **Swift.** First on April 20th, at Seaview. First arrivals at Newtown on May 3rd were followed by a small passage across the marsh there for the whole of the following day.
C100 at Freshwater on June 8th, c350 over Arreton on June 20th, and on June 28th, after a week of heavy rain, 30 flew SW over Shanklin.
Last on September 16th, near Needles.
On June 28th one plunged into deep water in Quarr Marsh, and was unable to fly. It clung to a proffered stick, and flew away next day after being dried (FEH).
- 258 **Kingfisher.** Widespread records, mostly along the rivers and north coast, but none in the breeding season.
- 261 **Hoopoe.** One in the garden of Quarr Old Abbey on April 23rd. One in the grounds of Norris Castle on April 25th.
- 265 **Wryneck.** Single birds by Western Yar on September 5th and at Newtown on November 1st.
- 262 **Green Woodpecker.**
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Young bred at Quarr were again brought to bird table in June (FEH) (see *Report for 1981*).
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** One seen well near Pitt Place, Mottistone, on August 25th (KVT).

- 271 **Woodlark.** One performing display-flight at St. Helens Duver on April 16th (KVT).
 272 **Skylark.** During a cold spell in January, 60 came in to Gurnard from N on 9th, and 500 passed S.C.P. to E on 10th.
 273 **Shore Lark.** One at Brighstone in snow on January 14th (KVT). The fifth record for the Island.
 277 **Sand Martin.** First on April 3rd, at Needles, Gurnard and Quarr. Last on October 3rd, at Newtown. No nests reported this year. See also under Swallow.
 274 **Swallow.** First on April 2nd, at Quarr.

The main autumn passage was observed on different dates at different places. At S.C.P. 5,000 (including a few House Martins) passed to E on September 16th, with not many on other dates. At Nettlestone there were 10,000 Swallows and House Martins on September 30th. On October 3rd at Seaview Duver all three hirundine species were passing continuously all day, while on the same day about 6,000 Swallows per hour were moving S on a broad front between Alum Bay and Atherfield.

Last on November 11th, at Brighstone.

- 276 **House Martin.** First on March 26th, at Orchard Bay. Last on November 12th, at Ryde. See also under Swallow.
 376 **Tree Pipit.** Two in Brading Marsh on April 4th. One on West High Down on April 23rd. One at Brighstone on May 9th. 16 on West High Down on August 26th. Last 1 on High Down on October 9th.
 373 **Meadow Pipit.** Passage was recorded at three different places on October 3rd: 150 at Shalcombe Down, 250 on West High Down, and 200 arrived at S.C.P. from SE.
 379 **Rock Pipit.** 17 at Bembridge on December 28th.
 379 **Water Pipit.** One on High Down on August 31st (KVT).
 382 **Yellow Wagtail.** First on April 11th, on West High Down.
 Several records in September: 17 at S.C.P. on 2nd; 28 in Chale area on 4th; 40 at Newtown on 5th; 5 at Brighstone on 16th, on cricket pitch which was being sprinkled; 29 in Brading Marsh on 23rd; last 6 at Quarr on 30th.
 381 **Grey Wagtail.** Nested at Carisbrooke Waterworks.
 380 **Pied Wagtail.** Two roosts were reported: c100 on Ryde Pier on October 24th, and 50-100 on buildings in centre of Newport on December 24th (cf *Report for 1981*) (SL).
 380 **White Wagtail.** A ♂ at St. Helens Duver on April 10th (PJB, SL).
 299 **Wren.**
 371 **Duncock.**
 325 **Robin.**

- 322 **Nightingale.** First on April 21st, near Havenstreet.
 321 **Black Redstart.** One at Bembridge on January 3rd. One at Newbridge on February 1st. Then a small influx in March: 3 at S.C.P. on 23rd, 5 on West High Down on 27th, 1 in Carisbrooke Cemetery on 28th.

More than usual in autumn. Single birds at Seaview on October 11th, St. Boniface Down on 15th, and Alum Bay on 24th. On October 31st, c20 had arrived at S.C.P., and a few stayed there until November 21st; also on October 31st, single birds at Newtown and Newchurch. Scattered records through November (mostly single birds): Newbridge on 1st; West High Down on 3rd; Freshwater

on 6th; 4 at Brighstone on 9th; Ryde on 12th; Cowes on 23rd and 24th; Blackwater on 27th; 2 at Freshwater Bay on 29th, staying to end of year. In December, 2 at Bembridge on 21st, 1 on High Down on 24th, and 1 at St. Helens on 27th.

- 320 **Redstart.** First at Gurnard on April 10th. An influx on April 23rd, when there were 10 at S.C.P. and 12 on West High Down.

Last on October 3rd, at Alum Bay.

- 318 **Whinchat.** First arrivals were a pair at Seaview on March 18th.

An exceptionally late ♀ was near Blackwater on November 27th, feeding on a pile of rotting vegetables. Others at West High Down on October 23rd and at Newtown on November 11th were also later than usual.

- 317 **Stonechat.** Nested at Alum Bay and Compton.

An influx in early October; birds were reported at several places from 5th onwards.

- 311 **Wheatear.** First on March 3rd, and last on October 31st, both on West High Down.

- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** Only one record this year – a ♀ on West High Down on April 11th.

- 308 **Blackbird.** Indications of early nesting: a ♀ collecting nest-material at Wroxall on February 14th, and a ♀ carrying food at Queens Bower on February 21st (JMC).

- 302 **Fieldfare.** Widespread in January: 1,000 near Havenstreet on 2nd and 400 near Folly on 3rd; during cold spell visited gardens in Freshwater on 10th and Newport on 14th and 15th. Last spring bird on West High Down on April 23rd.

Early arrivals in August: 3 N of Newport on 26th (KVT), and a flock feeding on rowan berries at Freshwater on 27th (IW). No more until one on West High Down on October 24th. 1,000 in Brading Marsh on December 5th.

- 303 **Song Thrush.** During cold weather on January 13th and 14th, one at Newtown fed on winkles *Littorina* (PJE). The winkles were hammered on a concrete path. The shells did not shatter as with snails, but a hole was made through which the winkle could be extracted. (For similar occurrences elsewhere, see *British Birds* lx, 412-414).

- 304 **Redwing.** 500 at Ashey on January 2nd. During snow on January 9th, 2,000 flew into Seaview from N, and in the next six days birds visited gardens in Freshwater, Totland and Newport. Was heard over Ryde after dark on March 3rd.

The first autumn birds were 65 on West High Down on October 10th.

- 301 **Mistle Thrush.** On May 29th a juvenile in Newport was found entangled in a tree by a length of twine around a leg, and was released (MW).

- 326 **Cetti's Warbler.** Heard occasionally in Brading and Alverstone Marshes, where recorded in previous years. Also on February 8th and October 1st at Brighstone, away from likely breeding habitat (KVT).

- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** Heard at Western Yar, Grammars Common, S.C.P. and Bembridge, all between April 23rd and May 2nd.

- 329 **Savi's Warbler.** One in a Shanklin garden on April 28th (JMC, VEC). It was present from early morning to early evening, and sang frequently. The first record for the Island.

- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** First 2 on April 20th, in Brading Marsh. Last on October 11th, by Western Yar.

- 333 **Reed Warbler.** First 4 on April 29th, at Bembridge.

Bred in Quarr Marsh for the first time; two broods were reared, and birds

were present until October 15th (FEH).

- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** Seen May-August in the same locality as last year (JS, KVT). Also in another recent breeding locality in March, and in an old breeding locality in May.

- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** First on April 25th, at S.C.P.

- 347 **Whitethroat.** First on April 17th, at S.C.P. Last on October 3rd, at West High Down.

- 346 **Garden Warbler.** First on April 2nd, at Quarr. Last on October 3rd, at West High Down.

- 343 **Blackcap.** Winter records at both ends of the year: Freshwater, January 10th; 3 at Shanklin, January 16th; a ♀ on December 3rd, and a ♀ on 4th, at Gurnard; Totland, December 10th.

- 357 **Wood Warbler.** Seen only at S.C.P. – single birds on April 29th and May 8th.

- 356 **Chiffchaff.** Winter records at both ends of the year: Bembridge, January 3rd and 29th; Osborne, December 28th.

- 354 **Willow Warbler.** First on March 20th, at Bembridge. Arrivals were noted at several places on April 4th or 5th.

A small passage was noted at Shanklin, August 12th-17th; 7-10 birds flew over to S, early each morning (JMC). Last on October 24th, at Alum Bay.

- 364 **Goldcrest.**

- 365 **Firecrest.** Two on West High Down on October 3rd. C15 in the area of S.C.P. at end of October, most of which stayed to end of year. Six reports, totalling eight birds, in the Freshwater/Totland area from December 20th to end of year.

- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** Several observers commented that this species was scarcer than usual this year.

- 368 **Pied Flycatcher.** Two at Fishbourne, April 10th-12th. 1 at S.C.P. on April 29th. 1 in Godshill Park on May 9th.

On West High Down, 1 on September 5th and 4 on 11th. One in a Freshwater garden on September 14th.

- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.** Numerous reports from October onwards. Largest parties were 23 at Alum Bay on October 23rd and 21 at Newtown on November 13th.

- 292 **Marsh Tit.**

- 293 **Willow Tit.** One at Quarr on September 5th (FEH).

- 290 **Coal Tit.**

- 289 **Blue Tit.**

- 288 **Great Tit.**

- 298 **Treecreeper.**

- 286 **Jay.**

- 284 **Magpie.**

- 283 **Jackdaw.** A bird at Quarr was caught on a barbed wire fence. Its struggles severed a foot, but tendons were left wound round the wire. The bird was carefully removed from the wire, but then escaped before it could be tended further (FEH).

- 282 **Rook.**

- 280 **Carrion Crow.** An agitated bird at Quarr eventually drowned in shallow water, and was found to have its beak firmly held in a cluster of slipper limpets *Crepidula fornicata* (FEH).

- 281 **Hooded Crow.** On April 19th one was seen to fly in from S to S.C.P. (PJB, JWT). An hour later an independent observer found it feeding on St. Catherine's

Hill (DBW).

One at Hill Farm, St. Helens, on August 21st (JMC).

279 **Raven.** On May 28th two flew NE over Luccombe Down (JMC).

389 **Starling.**

424 **House Sparrow.**

425 **Tree Sparrow.** The only records concerned single birds (possibly the same bird) at S.C.P. on April 5th, 11th and 12th.

407 **Chaffinch.**

408 **Brambling.** One at Gurnard on January 1st. 7 in a Freshwater garden on January 9th, and 3 in a Totland garden, January 11th-15th. A ♀ at Bembridge on March 21st.

400 **Serin.** Single birds flew in to S.C.P. from S on April 19th (PJB) and 25th (DJH, SL, DBW).

392 **Greenfinch.**

393 **Goldfinch.**

394 **Siskin.** Several parties from mid-January: 2 in a Shanklin garden on 10th, also 1 there daily from March 29th to April 2nd; at Bembridge, 32 on 12th, 5 on 17th, 12 on 31st; 10 at Quarr on 14th; 25 by Western Yar on 16th, and 10-20 there on February 27th. 12 at Petticoat Lane, Newport, on March 23rd. One at S.C.P. on April 14th.

Party at Bembridge on October 5th. 7 at Quarr on October 31st.

395 **Linnet.** 86 flew in from sea to S.C.P. on April 16th.

396 **Twite.** 20 at Newtown on March 28th (MMS).

397 **Redpoll.** Single birds at Bembridge on January 1st, Yarmouth on 18th and Shanklin on 24th.

No more until autumn. Newtown, September 8th. 11 on West High Down on October 23rd. One at Newbridge on November 1st. Mottistone Down, December 17th.

404 **Crossbill.** One flew W over High Down on August 14th (PJB, SL).

401 **Bullfinch.**

423 **Snow Bunting.** Only two records of single birds, both on High Down. A ♀ with Skylarks on March 20th (KVT); spring records are scarce here. A ♀ or juvenile on October 5th (B. W. Renyard) is more in keeping with the usual pattern of occurrences (see comments in *Report for 1981*).

409 **Yellowhammer.**

421 **Reed Bunting.** Two visited a Totland garden during cold weather on January 14th.

410 **Corn Bunting.** Seen in the breeding season in two of the usual localities: 1 at Leechmore Cross; up to 3 along the Military Road between Chale and Atherfield. Also 2 not far away at Little Atherfield on April 9th.

THE BREEDING WADERS OF WET MEADOWS IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT, 1982

By J. STAFFORD

The observations reported here were made as part of a national survey by the British Trust for Ornithology.

The results are summarised in the table below, which lists the sites visited, in order from west to east. The grid references are those of typical points near the centre of each site. In the large area of Brading Marsh it was possible to identify eight separate sub-sites occupied by waders, as indicated in the table.

All the sites were visited at least twice during the breeding season. The table gives the observers' assessment of the number of occupied territories; in some cases the evidence of breeding was no stronger than that, while in other cases there was more direct evidence, e.g. some Lapwing chicks were seen.

Other breeding sites of waders were outside the scope of this survey; e.g. (a) the Newtown Nature Reserve, where Lapwing and Redshank breed, is not primarily meadowland, and (b) some Lapwings nest in dry habitats.

The national survey also covered Curlew (which does not nest in the Isle of Wight) and Oystercatcher (which does not nest in these meadowland sites).

<i>Site</i>	<i>Grid reference</i>	<i>Number of Territories</i>				<i>Observer</i>
		<i>Lapwing</i>	<i>Snipe</i>	<i>Redshank</i>	<i>Total</i>	
By Military Road W of Brook	382 838	1			1	J. Stafford
By Military Road SE of Brook	393 831	1			1	J. Stafford
NE of Barton's Cor- ner, Shalfleet	421 891			1	1	J. Stafford
Valley of Eastern Yar, between Newchurch & Sandown Water- works	578 857				0	J. M. Cheverton
Brading Marsh	618 875	8				J. M. Cheverton
	623 878			1		
	626 878	1		1		
	631 877	4				
	633 879			3		
	635 876	2				
	635 878		1			
	639 882			1		
Sub-total for Brading Marsh		15	1	6	22	
Grand Total		17	1	7	25	

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