

West Midland Bird Club

Annual Report No. 61

1994



Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Draycote, September 1994 (Phill Ward).



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The Annual Report of the West Midland Bird Club on the birds in the counties of Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire and West Midlands.

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 1995

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<i>Vice Presidents</i>	F C Gribble, W E Oddie
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<i>Report Editor</i>	J J Bowley, 17 Meadow Way, Fenny Compton, Warks CV33 0WD
<i>Bulletin Editor</i>	J P South, The Croft, Lower Penkridge Road, Acton Trussell, Stafford ST17 0RJ
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	J O Reeves, 9 Hintons Coppice, Knowle, Solihull B93 9RF
<i>Permit Secretary</i>	Miss M Surman, 6 Lloyd Square, 12 Niall Close, Birmingham B15 3LX
<i>Ringling Secretary and Promotion, Fund Raising and General Purposes Committee Chairman</i>	*A E Coleman, 67 Park Lane, Bonehill, Tamworth, Staffs B78 3HZ
<i>Research and Reserves Committee Chairman</i>	*J R Winsper, 32 Links Road, Hollywood, Birmingham B14 4TP
<i>Birmingham Branch Chairman</i>	*A J Richards, 1 Lansdowne Road, Studley, Warks B80 7JG
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<i>Staffordshire Branch Chairman</i>	*F C Gribble, 22 Rickerscote Avenue, Stafford, Staffs ST17 4EZ
<i>Tamworth Branch Chairman</i>	B Stubbs, 19 Alfred Street, Tamworth, Staffordshire
<i>Warwickshire Recorder</i>	S M Haynes, 4 Spinney Close, Old Arley, Coventry CV7 8PD
<i>Worcestershire Recorder</i>	S M Whitehouse, 6 Skipton Crescent, Berkeley Pendesham, Worcester WR4 0LG
<i>(from January 1996)</i>	R E Harbird, Flat 4, Buckley Court, 16 Woodfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9UJ
<i>Staffordshire Recorder</i>	Mrs G N Jones, 4 The Poplars, Lichfield Road, Abbots Bromley, Rugeley, Staffs WS15 3AA
<i>West Midlands Recorder</i>	T C Hextell, 49 Cradley Croft, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 8HP
<i>Executive Council</i>	D Coles, P K Dediccoat, Mrs D B Dunstan, Mrs J Neal (Minutes Sec.), P J Rollin, T G Smart
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* Officers serving on the Executive Council

Editor's Report

I must first apologise for the late appearance of this report. Unfortunately, unavoidable family commitments for three out of the four recorders led to an inevitable delay in its production.

As many of our membership will already know, the recent passing of the new Charities Act has required that annual reports and statements of accounts are published before the end of the financial year. To comply with this, it is now necessary (from 1995) to publish them in the bulletin, therefore the present number will be the last containing officers reports. This allows a little more space in future for the publication of main articles and short reports.

Steve Whitehouse has decided to stand down as Worcestershire recorder after nine years in the post. I would like on behalf of the records committee and our membership to express our thanks to him for all his sterling work over the years. The new recorder, Richard Harbird, is a familiar face to many and is very ably suited to fill the position. We wish him well for the future.

We still have a worrying decline in the number of contributions to the report of good quality artwork and photographic prints and slides. There must be many potential and practising artists and photographers among our membership and I earnestly appeal to them for contributions. At present we continue to rely on a faithful few. Further, I must re-emphasize that prints are as acceptable as slides, so get snapping!

Finally, my thanks go to the authors of the article and shorter features, and to the following:

The county recorders and their teams:

Warwickshire: Steve Haynes.

Worcestershire: Steve Whitehouse, Gavin Peplow, John Sirrett and Fiona Skinner.

Staffordshire: Gilly Jones, Bill Low, Eric Clare, John Martin, Ben Reavey, Trevor Smart and Mark Sutton.

West Midlands: Tim Hextell and Mark James.

The Artists: Phil Jones, Terry Parker and John Teasdale.

The Photographers: B L Kington and Phill Ward.

WMBC Hotline: Eric Clare (01283-791171)

Also to the several hundred observers and organisations that contributed the meat of this report, to the staff at C H Healey (particularly Mike Gaydon) for their forbearance and last but not least to my wife Dawn.

J J Bowley

Birds in 1994

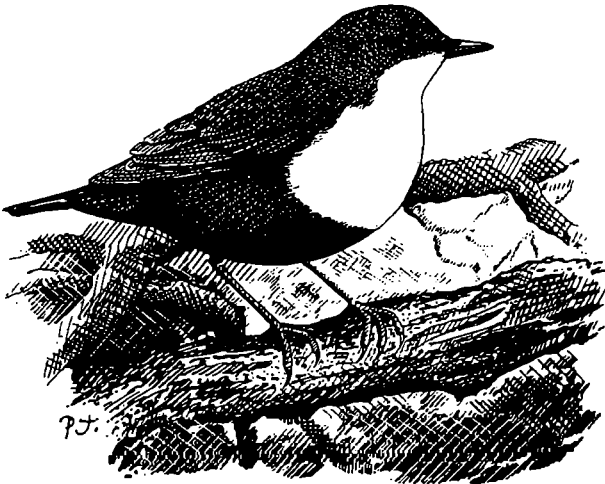
A record 240 species were seen in the Region this year, beating the previous highest total of 238 (allowing for **Feral Pigeon** and **Yellow-legged Gull**, both now counted) in 1987. This staggering total included two new species, **Collared Pratincole** and **Red-throated Pipit**, as well as a range of other choice vagrants including **Night Heron**, **Cattle Egret**, **Purple Heron**, **American Wigeon**, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Long-tailed Skua**, **Sabine's** and **Bonaparte's Gulls**, **Whiskered Tern**, **Alpine Swift**, **Shore Lark**, four **Richard's Pipits**, **Bluethroat**, **Savi's** and **Yellow-browed Warblers** and **Little Bunting**. Weather conditions during the year were again unremarkable with a mostly mild wet winter allowing a high survival rate among our resident species, followed by a cold wet spring which led to many early broods being lost. However, a very warm June and July more than made up for these early failures, except perhaps among the scarcer duck species which again had a poor year. There was tantalising evidence that **Red-breasted Mergansers** bred for the first time in the Region, although this could not be proved beyond doubt, while Worcs claimed first successful breeding records of **Goosander**, **Common Tern** and **Cetti's Warbler**. **Woodlarks** were present in the breeding season for the first time since 1979, but on the negative side several moorland birds seem to be becoming increasingly scarce, while our tiny population of **Marsh Warblers** appears to be on the brink of extinction. After an often wet though ornithologically exciting autumn, the last two months were exceptionally mild and quiet.

January was generally a very mild wet month, with frequent low pressure systems tracking in from the west and south-west bringing heavy rain and causing extensive flooding in the river valleys. There was much of interest staying over from 1993 on the main waters, including **Great Northern Diver**, **Red-necked Grebe**, two **Shags**, two **Brent Geese**, **Ferruginous Duck**, a few **Scaup** and about 14 **Smew**. Commoner wildfowl were generally in high numbers, particularly **Goldeneye** which had record counts of 169 at Draycote and 155 at Chasewater. About 18 **White-fronted Geese** were located but **Bewick's Swans** were in short supply. A pair of **Hen Harriers** were well watched on the moors, while other species present during the month included two ever elusive **Bitterns**, seven **Bearded Tits** and just one **Water Pipit**. A notable feature of the first half of January was the presence of several large finch flocks; with the largest at Cotes Heath containing up to 1000 **Greenfinches**, 600 **Chaffinches**, 500 **Bramblings** and 400 **Linnets** among others. Small parties of **Common Crossbills** were also found at two Worcs sites, while flocks of up to 400 **Redpolls** were present on Cannock Chase. **Blackcaps** were more numerous than in any previous winter with reports from about 52 localities, mostly at garden feeding stations, while other overwintering passerines included a **Black Redstart** seen on 15th at Barton and up to two **Firecrests** in Sandwell Valley. In the Cannock area, a **Hooded Crow** found on the tip on 8th was the first in the Region since 1987, while next day a **Grey Phalarope** on nearby Chasewater was probably a victim of the prevailing westerlies and was the first ever in this month. A small influx of geese and swans in mid-month produced two **Bean Geese** which stayed into early March, two **Whooper Swans** and a passage of **Pink-footed Geese**, including 120 over both Barton and Sutton Coldfield, and 51 over Belvide. Towards the end of the month temperatures rose steadily, resulting in very little movement. A **Little Auk** found on a garden pond on 28th was another victim of the westerlies and must have made many a 'garden lister' envious! The Staffs 1993

Red Kite was again seen in the Enville area, while at the end of the month a flock of 170 **Dunlin** in the Worcs Avon valley was notable as was a flock of 45 **Pink-footed Geese** flying over **Swallow Moss**.

Westerlies continued to dominate during early **February**, which remained mild and sunny but with some thick night frosts and occasional showers. **Wigeon** numbers were high on several waters, including peaks of 1150 at Draycote and 1300 at Blithfield. Otherwise things were generally quiet, although the overwintering Warks 1993 **Red Kite** was seen again near Draycote on 4th, where a splendid herd of 27 **Bewick's Swans** pitched down on 7th. A **Knot** on 12th heralded a change in the wind, with south-easterlies bringing intense cold and heavy snowfalls during 13th-15th, followed by a slow thaw. Unusually few new birds were seen, with a small increase in **Iceland Gulls** (seen at six sites on 13th) perhaps the most noteworthy event. On 19th the Bewdley flock of **Hawfinches** peaked at eight, while a pair of **Firecrests** found in Warks were often elusive, but like the equally unreliable Sandwell Valley bird, remained into early March. Two new **Shags** on 21st may have been stragglers from a large seabird wreck down the North Sea coast during this time. Further heavy snowfalls occurred on 22nd-23rd, followed by a quick thaw and rapidly rising temperatures during the last few days as a result of a return to a westerly airflow. A **Red-throated Diver** on 25th and a party of 13 **Scaup** next day were the only noteworthy arrivals.

Westerlies continued to dominate throughout **March** and so consequently the weather remained mild and unsettled, with frequent belts of heavy rain passing through. The first week was unusually warm with a light south-westerly breeze encouraging the first summer migrants to appear. The earliest ever **Little Ringed Plover** arrived on 1st to be followed by a trickle of **Chiffchaffs** from 2nd. Many winter visitors took advantage of the weather to depart, with the last records of **Bittern**, **Bewick's Swans**, **Bean**



Black-bellied Dipper (Phil Jones)

Geese and Firecrests during the first week. Incoming **Curlews** peaked at 161 on 6th at Longsdon Mill Pool, but the real highlight was a **Black-throated Diver** at Himley for ten days from 3rd, the first in the Region since 1989. The first **Northern Wheatear** and **Sand Martin** arrived on 10th, followed by *White Wagtail* on 12th. Mid-month water passage brought up to 43 **Redshank** to Bredon's Hardwick, two or three early **Green-shanks** and a noticeable peak in **Jack** and **Common Snipe** numbers, with 378 of the latter at Doxey on 13th. The *Iberian Chiffchaff* arrived back at Fens Pools for its third year on 15th. An early **Willow Warbler** on 17th was followed by two **Great Grey Shrikes** arriving on 21st-22nd and a small passage of 12 **Whooper Swans** through on 21st-24th, the latter day also seeing the first **Black-tailed Godwit** and **Swallow**. The elusive **Nuneaton Dipper** finally confirmed as *Black-bellied* on 1st, remained until 26th although it left many would-be observers frustrated. The month closed with fine sunny weather from 26th-31st which produced a flurry of incoming summer migrants including *hirundines*, **Blackcaps** and **Willow Warblers**, while pronounced **Meadow Pipit** passage included several **Rock Pipits**; one being of the Scandinavian race. This period also provided first sightings of **Little Gull**, **Sandwich Tern**, **House Martin** and **Ring Ouzel**, while records of **Red-throated Diver**, **Black-necked Grebe**, **Spotted Crake** (found dead on 28th) and **Red-breasted Merganser** were other highlights. The fine sunny days saw an increase in raptor activity, and sightings of **Red Kite**, **Goshawk** and an impressive group of 16 **Common Buzzards** were all reported.

The first half of **April** was generally cold with frequent rain or snow showers and predominant northerlies. A few more migrants struggled through during the first week, with first records of **Yellow Wagtail** and **Black Redstart** on 1st and extraordinarily early **Pied Flycatcher** on 2nd and **Lesser Whitethroat** on 3rd. **Northern Wheatear** passage peaked during the first ten days, during which time at least six **Little Gulls** were seen and an early **Arctic Tern** occurred on 3rd. Vast concentrations of **Sand Martins** feeding over the larger waters were the biggest for many years, these having been held up by the adverse winds. Other migrants during the first week included a few **Water Pipits**, two **Ospreys**, **Marsh** and **Hen Harriers**, **Red-necked Grebe** and a late **White-fronted Goose**. A brief respite occurred during 6th-11th, with a change to slightly warmer south-westerlies. This resulted in early **Hobby** and **Turtle Dove** on 6th, the first **Common Redstart** on 8th and **Tree Pipit** on 9th, two more **Ospreys** and a **Marsh Harrier**, but migrants were still generally in short supply. Two **Firecrests** were found during 9th-12th and these were followed by the first **Staffs American Wigeon** from 13th, **Red Kite**, **Osprey**, the first **Cuckoo** (15th), **Pale-bellied Brent Goose** and a small passage of 50 **Arctic Terns** (on 16th-17th). The winds at last veered to the south on 19th bringing a warm end to the month, with temperatures reaching 25°C during the last three days. A **Hoopoe** on 19th ushered in the main arrival of summer migrants, followed by the first **Whimbrel** on 20th and **Little Tern** on 21st. More terns arrived next day, with a major movement on 23rd including over 330 **Arctic**, many **Common** (190 at three sites alone), over 50 **Black**, six **Little** and a sprinkling of **Sandwich Terns** and **Little Gulls**, **Arctic Skua** and **Avocet** also caught up. The 21st-26th saw much interesting birdwatching with most of the remaining summer migrants appearing, as well as up to 30 *White Wagtails*, a scatter of extralimital **Ring Ouzels** and **Black Redstarts**, several more **Ospreys** and **Marsh Harriers** and a **Red-necked Grebe**. Two southern species caught up in the rush were **Alpine Swift** on 24th and

Purple Heron next day but neither were available to a wider audience. Two early **Spotted Flycatchers** were seen on 27th, a day that also saw the last **Smew** leave the Region, while a **Little Egret** appeared in Worcs. The month closed with two more **Marsh Harriers** and an early **Temminck's Stint** (on 29th).

The first two days of **May** remained warm and sunny but the rest of the month was very dull and wet, with the predominant easterly wind bringing frequent showers. Temperatures were well below average although there were a few warm sunny days around mid-month. Despite being the coldest and wettest spring since 1986, bad weather often means good birding and this year was no exception. A summer-plumaged **Whiskered Tern** at Bredon's Hardwick on 1st provided an excellent start to the month, a day which also saw the first (of only three) **Garganey**, the first **Wood Sandpiper** and both **Marsh** and **Hen Harriers**. Next day there was a passage of 50 **Ruff** through the southern half of the Region and a spring peak of eight **Greenshank** at Upton Warren. **Iceland Gull** and **Long-tailed Duck** on 3rd and 4th reflected the return to colder, wetter conditions. Also on 4th, Bredon's Hardwick did it again with the finding of the Region's first **Collared Pratincole**, while another southern vagrant, an adult **Night Heron**, entertained its many admirers in the Black Country from 6th (until 17th). On 7th during heavy rain, a strong passage of **Whimbrels** occurred with over 80 reported, a day which also produced six **Little Terns** and five late **Scaup**. Four **Dotterel** next day on Bredon Hill were the only ones reported this year. The second week saw the main **Turtle Dove** passage, while an extended trickle of species with an eastern flavour occurred from 7th-25th, including at least one pair of **Black-necked Grebes**, three **Arctic Skuas**, an astonishing 12 **Marsh Harriers**, six **Ospreys**, four **Temminck's Stints**, nine **Little Stints**, 12 **Wood Sandpipers** and a secondary peak (13th-16th) of **Common** and **Black Terns**. A **Savi's Warbler** on 11th-12th was followed by the last **Golden Plover** on 14th and the first **Nightjar** on 15th. Heavy showers on the latter day produced a widespread and marked wader passage through the Region, presumably involving Arctic breeding birds. Estimated numbers included minima of 200 **Dunlin**, 100 **Ringed Plover**, 50 **Sanderling** and nine **Turnstone**. A party of 19 **Common Scoter** were found at Coton also on 15th, while rarities on this day included a female **Montagu's Harrier** (part of a national influx) and a **Golden Oriole**. Further oddities included a very late **Brambling** and a singing **Bluethroat** on 22nd and the first Worcs **Little Bunting** (also singing) on 25th-26th, all reflecting the dominant easterly airflow. The last week was quieter, although some notable concentrations of **Common Swifts** and **House Martins** occurred over the larger waters on colder days, while a few more **Common Scoter**, **Scaup** and several **Ospreys** were also seen. Finally, single **Nightjars** in Worcs on 21st and 29th were the first in that county since 1987.

Warm showery easterlies persisted during the first two days of **June** but on 3rd the wind veered to the south-west bringing heavy rain and a party of 11 **Common Scoter** to Chasewater. The weather remained mixed until 10th when a developing anticyclone to the south-west of Ireland brought warm settled conditions to the Region for the rest of the month, with temperatures up to 28°C. A light south-west or north-west wind predominated, though a change to south-easterlies occurred from 23rd. Passage through the Region was negligible, with the only notable species being **Osprey** on 1st, **Red Kites** on 6th-7th and 24th, an unseasonal **Long-tailed Duck** on 9th, **Black-necked Grebe** from 12th (to 25th), several **Little Gulls**, a **Kittiwake** and a **Sandwich**

Tern. The first **Yellow-legged Gull** returned on 15th and at least a dozen **Quail** were located. The best records involved single **Hoopoes** at two sites on 25th-26th and two **Woodlarks** at a possible breeding site from the last week into July.

After a showery first week the rest of **July** was bathed in sunshine, with light southerly winds bringing a heatwave from the continent and temperatures soared to 32°C on some days, making it the hottest July for 11 years. Wader passage recommenced during the first week with a thin scatter of birds including records of **Whimbrel**, **Black-tailed Godwit**, **Spotted Redshank** and **Wood Sandpiper**. A peak of 27 **Little Ringed Plovers** at Upton Warren on 7th was a reserve record. **Common Sandpipers** were most abundant during the second week, with small parties at numerous sites throughout the Region and a maximum of 30 at Blithfield. A total of seven **Little Gulls** during the first half of the month coincided with a heavy passage down the east coast. Wildfowl included 45 **Common Scoter** at two Staffs sites on 3rd, followed by three **Ruddy Shelduck** on 6th which coincided with the start of a small national influx, possibly involving wild birds. A **Corncrake** on 8th-9th was the first since 1988 (though unfortunately not twitchable) and this was followed by a **Red-necked Grebe** on 9th-11th, which continued the recent run of summer appearances. It proved to be a good year for **Quail**, with over 25 located during the month including 16 at two sites alone. One wonders how many more went unreported! Some scattered showers occurred in the last week punctuated by a heavy thunderstorm on 28th which brought down a total of 48 **Whimbrel**. A few new birds started to appear towards the end of the month as return passage began to escalate. The first **Mediterranean Gull** of the autumn on 22nd, up to two **Black-necked Grebes** at Coton from 25th-29th, a **Little Egret** on 26th, a peak of ten **Common Scoter** on 27th and an early **Scaup** on 29th were the best of the bunch.

Warm humid weather continued during the first ten days of **August**, with a light south-westerly wind bringing frequent showers. Wader passage was rather sparse, although some species such as **Green Sandpiper** were reasonably widespread. Brief sightings of **Marsh Harrier** on 3rd and **Red Kite** on 4th were followed by a long-staying **Little Egret** on the Ladywalk reserve from 4th-15th. Several waters carried huge totals of moulting duck, particularly **Mallard** and **Tufted Duck** and diligent searchers began to find a few **Garganey** with them from the first week. Cooler more showery weather dominated from 10th bringing in a few **Little Gulls** as well as another **Avocet** on 14th. A male **Merlin** in Coventry also on 14th was an unusually early return record for the lowlands, while yet another **Red Kite** on 20th was a first for Ladywalk. The last week was also showery and the wind alternated between easterlies and south-westerlies, resulting in rather more exciting watching; beginning with an influx of over 90 **Black Terns** on 23rd along with a scatter of associated species including a party of 33 **Arctic Terns** in the Black Country. A **Black-necked Grebe** was found next day in Worcs, where **Wryneck** on 25th (to 27th) and **Arctic Skua** on 27th were other good finds. Wader passage at last picked up during the final few days, with the appearance of the first few **Curlew Sandpipers**, about eight **Sanderling** and a long-staying **Pectoral Sandpiper** (from 27th) at Blithfield; the latter site also hosting an **Osprey** for several days. **Whinchat** passage peaked during the last week with up to 16 at Bishampton Vale Golf Course. The month ended optimistically, with a **Manx Shearwater** and **Fulmar** at Draycote on 29th.

The first half of **September** was dominated by a westerly cyclonic airstream which brought cool, wet and overcast conditions. An excellent month started with a very tame **Buff-breasted Sandpiper** at Draycote and a **Grey Phalarope** at the nearby Jubilee Pools on 2nd, both staying for some time thus allowing many people to see and photograph them. Also during the first week there was another **Manx Shearwater**, a juvenile **Mediterranean Gull**, an **Osprey** and an early **Black Redstart**. A second **Pectoral Sandpiper** joined the Blithfield bird on 7th-8th, where **Ruff** peaked at 20 next day. A male **Goshawk** was an exciting find at Dosthill on 9th and another **Wryneck** played hide-and-seek with observers at Draycote from 9th-12th. On 11th there was an early **Jack Snipe** and another **Grey Phalarope**, the latter staying to 13th. Heavy rain occurred on 13th as an intense depression developed over the North Sea, bringing very cold (down to 10°C) wet weather and winds varying from north-west to north-east. Exciting birds arrived from both directions starting with a **Sabine's Gull** in Worcs from 13th (to 15th) representing only the second county record, followed by a notable influx of skuas with five or six **Great**, two **Arctic** and a **Long-tailed Skua** over the next few days. Also during this period there were up to 30 **Black Terns** and a peak in **Little Stint** and **Curlew Sandpiper** passage. Both **Red Kite** and **Honey Buzzard** appeared on 17th, when the first autumn **Siskins** started trickling in and **Redwing** was seen. A **Wryneck** and a late **Grasshopper Warbler** were good finds on 20th. Next day the weather began to warm up, with generally sunny and dry conditions lasting for the rest of the month. A **Red-breasted Merganser** and a pronounced wader passage occurred on 21st, the latter including ten **Curlew Sandpipers** and parties of 21 **Knot** and 30 **Redshank**. The 24th saw the first **Fieldfare** and a late **Pied Flycatcher**, possibly both from Scandinavia. Also that day last year's **Cattle Egret** was refound in the Region, this time in Warks giving a new species to the county list. This bird remained in meadows with cattle at Ansley until well into December. The last **Spotted Flycatcher** and **Common Whitethroat** were seen on 26th, when another **Great Skua** appeared. A **Scaup** was found in Worcs on 27th, followed by four more at Westport on 29th, which were joined by yet another **Grey Phalarope**. The month closed with the last **Tree Pipit** and first **Brambling** on 30th.

Sunny, mild and settled weather prevailed during the first half of **October**, with a variable but mainly south-easterly airstream and some night frosts from 4th. From 18th south-westerlies began to predominate bringing cooler, wetter conditions. The remaining summer migrants mainly left the Region during the first week, with the last **Sedge Warbler** on 1st, **Willow Warbler** on 2nd, **Sand Martin** on 6th and **Garden Warbler** on 7th but many sites had only a trickle of **Swallows**, **Blackcaps** and **Chiffchaffs**. The month opened with a vast **Linnet** flock near Kingsbury which numbered 1250 on 1st. An influx of 36 **Barnacle Geese** to Staffs on 3rd-4th may have involved wild birds, while the Region's fourth **Bonaparte's Gull** on 4th (to 6th) was a notable find in the same county. On 7th five drake **Red-crested Pochards** at Belvide was a good record as was up to three **Mediterranean Gulls** in the Shustoke area. Next day Worcs first **Spotted Crane** for 13 years was found at Upton Warren and this bird obliged observers up to 13th. On the latter date the first of four **Richard's Pipits** was seen reflecting the largest national influx on record, followed by the last **Common Redstart** on 14th and **Yellow Wagtail** on 15th. A small passage of six or seven **Black Redstarts** occurred from 14th-25th, the majority coming from the previously little watched



Bonaparte's Gull (John Teasdale)

Ilmington Downs. A purple patch here, which is the highest point in Warks, also included two **Ravens** on 16th and a **Rough-legged Buzzard** next day, when another was seen on the North Staffs Moors. These two were precursors of a large national influx. Thrush passage became heavy from mid-month, which included 11 **Ring Ouzels** on the Malverns on 17th. Also during mid-month **Shoveler** numbers were high reaching their annual maxima of 160 at Belvide and 220 at Coombe, the latter being a county record. The regular **Ferruginous Duck** returned on 16th coinciding with the start of a small influx of **Scaup**. A few late summer migrants during this period included **Common Tern** on 16th, **Reed Warbler** on 17th, **Common Swift** on 19th and **Arctic Tern** on 23rd. **Meadow Pipit** and **Skylark** passage through the Region peaked around 22nd-25th and with them came a scatter of **Rock Pipits**, two more **Richard's Pipits** on 23rd and a **Shore Lark** next day. The real highlight however was the Region's first **Red-throated Pipit** found skulking in a stubble field at Lawford Heath on 22nd-23rd, which was seen by a lucky few. Other birds at this time included a party of seven **Brent Geese** on 21st, another **Red Kite** on 23rd and several late **Northern Wheatears**, **Whinchats** and **Ring Ouzels** on 23rd-24th. The last few days of the month brought both **Black-necked** and **Slavonian Grebes**, 11 **Whooper Swans** and a large influx of **Fieldfares**. A **Hen Harrier** returned to Swallow Moss, while the latest ever **Hobby** was at Wyken Slough on 28th-30th.

November was unusually mild, though often overcast and showery, and was remarkable as being the warmest one since records began in 1659, with temperatures reaching a maximum of 17°C on 13th. The month was dominated by a light southerly or south-easterly breeze, veering to the south-west during the last few days which brought slightly colder conditions. Thrushes continued to pass through in large numbers during the first week and **Bramblings** peaked around 5th. However these as well as **Red-wings** and **Fieldfares** subsequently became rather scarce, at least in the southern three counties. Up to three **Common Swifts** enjoyed the unusually mild weather in

south Warks on 1st and 3rd, while the 4th brought another **Richard's Pipit** and a **Black Redstart**. Also on 4th, ten **Common Scoter** at Blithfield coincided with a large passage down the Trent valley in Nottinghamshire. The first **White-fronted Goose** and **Smew** appeared on 5th, followed by the first ten **Bewick's Swans** next day. The 10th saw another **Black Redstart** as well as a Worcs record count of 54 **Goosander**. Further interest occurred daily, with a **Great Northern Diver** on 11th, up to four **Little Gulls** on 12th, a ringtail **Hen Harrier** in the Staffs Tame valley on 13th, **Slavonian Grebe** on 14th and **Brent Goose** on 15th. Next day a very late **Black Tern** in Valley Park, seemingly moved to Belvide where it remained until the 26th. A **Gannet** on 17th coincided with a couple of **Kittiwakes**, while a probable **Pomarine Skua** at Draycote on 20th would have caused a minor stampede had the bird stayed. Also around the 19th-20th there was a small influx of **Grey Plover**, including 15 at Belvide. The first and only wintering **Water Pipit** was discovered on 19th, with briefly staying **Red-breasted Merganser** and **Great Northern Diver** over the next few days. More **Scaup** appeared during the rest of the month but it generally remained quiet, the only unusual sighting being a late **Black Redstart** on 26th-27th. Several **Pink-footed Geese** in West Mids and north Warks during 27th-29th may have been drop-outs from a flock of 200 grey geese thought to have been this species, which flew over Wolston on 26th.

December continued in the same vein as the previous month with the weather remaining mild during the first couple of weeks, although the blustery south-westerly wind brought frequent showers and local flooding. The month opened with an apparent influx of **Brambling** in some areas including two flocks of 300 on 1st. A trickle of interesting birds during the first week also included **Slavonian Grebe**, **Red-breasted Merganser**, **Brent Goose** and seven **Little Gulls**, with four **Velvet Scoter** staying in Sandwell Valley from 3rd (to 19th) being the highlight. A **Sanderling** on 5th and an exceptionally late **Northern Wheatear** on 6th-7th reflected the unusually mild conditions. A **Red-throated Diver** at Larford from 9th onwards was the first in Worcs since 1988. Other birds during the second week included a **Great Northern Diver**, two **Red-necked Grebes**, a **Shag**, three **Glaucous Gulls** and a **Firecrest**. **White-fronted Geese** and **Bewick's Swans** remained scarce, although about 20 of the latter were found. On the night of 14th/15th temperatures plummeted to below zero as a north wind pushed bitterly cold air south over the Region. This situation lasted until Christmas Eve, giving heavy frosts and night temperatures down to -10°C . The cold spell apparently did little to bring much new into the Region, apart from the first four or five **Iceland Gulls** from 18th, two **Shags**, a few more **Smew** and a flock of 28 **Pink-footed Geese**. However it did apparently see off the long-staying Warks **Cattle Egret**, which was not seen beyond the 23rd. Also that day one incredulous observer found himself looking at the first **Yellow-browed Warbler** for Staffs, a bird which closely resembled the race *humei* which may soon attain full species status. On 25th the wind backed to the south-west bringing in mild wet weather which lasted to the end of the year, which ended quietly with only a **Firecrest** on 29th being of note. Although the scarcer species of waterfowl remained just that due to the mild conditions, many common species were around in very good numbers. Three sites held **Wigeon** flocks of around 900-1100, while there was a Staffs record count of 76 **Gadwall** at Elford and a new Regional record of 328 **Cormorants** at Draycote.

Hon Treasurer's Report

West Midland Bird Club (Charity 213311) Statement of Financial Activities Year Ended 31st December, 1994

	Note	General Fund	Development Fund	Staffs. Conservation Fund	Total	1993
Income						
Subscriptions		13034	—	—	13034	13963
Interest		443	2080	49	2572	3571
Fund raising (net)	2	306	—	—	306	338
Grant		—	—	750	750	—
Sundries		<u>31</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>185</u>
		<u>£13814</u>	<u>£2080</u>	<u>£799</u>	<u>£16693</u>	<u>£18057</u>
Expenditure						
Education	3	13295	1318	—	14613	16783
Conservation	4	970	—	394	1364	800
Admin.	5	<u>1334</u>	<u>1459</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2793</u>	<u>2246</u>
		<u>£15599</u>	<u>£2777</u>	<u>£394</u>	<u>£18770</u>	<u>£19829</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		(1785)	(697)	405	(2077)	(1772)
Balance b/fwd		<u>13389</u>	<u>62904</u>	<u>2161</u>	<u>78454</u>	<u>80226</u>
Balance c/fwd		<u>£11604</u>	<u>£62207</u>	<u>£2566</u>	<u>£76377</u>	<u>£78454</u>

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1994

	Note	General Fund	Development Fund	Staffs. Conservation Fund	Total	1993
Fixed Assets						
Timber Rights	6	—	7500	—	7500	7500
Freehold Land	7	—	5766	—	5766	—
Computer Equipment	8	<u>—</u>	<u>6330</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>6330</u>	<u>7912</u>
		<u>—</u>	<u>£19596</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>£19596</u>	<u>£15412</u>
Current Assets						
Stocks		113	—	—	113	183
Cash at Bank		18840	4611	2566	26017	30321
Short Term Deposits	9	—	38000	—	38000	38000
Debtors	10	<u>931</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>931</u>	<u>2555</u>
		<u>£19884</u>	<u>£42611</u>	<u>£2566</u>	<u>£65061</u>	<u>£71059</u>
Creditors due within one year	11	<u>8280</u>	—	—	<u>8280</u>	<u>8017</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>£11604</u>	<u>£14261</u>	<u>£2566</u>	<u>£56781</u>	<u>£63042</u>
Net Assets		<u>£11604</u>	<u>£62207</u>	<u>£2566</u>	<u>£76377</u>	<u>£78454</u>

I have examined the accounting records Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts of the Club. In my opinion these accounts give a true and fair view of the state of the Club's affairs at 31st December, 1994, and the excess of expenditure over income for the year ended on that date.

Sutton Coldfield
10th March, 1995

R. W. Bradley
F.C.M.A., M.B.I.M.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1994

1. Accounting Policies

- a) Income and Expenditure is brought into account in the year to which it relates.
 b) Computer equipment is depreciated at 20% over 5 years.
 c) Land and Timber Rights are capitalised at net cost

2. Fund raising net income is analysed

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Sales	467	622
Cost of sales	<u>161</u>	<u>284</u>
Net Income	<u>306</u>	<u>338</u>

3. Education expenditure is analysed

	<u>1994</u>			<u>1993</u>		
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Net Spend</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Net Spend</u>
Branch Costs						
Birmingham	800	—	800	805	1	804
Solihull	440	45	395	401	1	400
Stafford	1004	445	559	1700	671	1029
Studley	—	—	—	40	—	40
Tamworth	319	197	122	401	177	224
Field Meetings	2505	2432	73	2795	2725	70
Bulletin	4913	559	4354	6931	326	6605
Annual Report	5945	157	5788	6934	186	6748
Computer Depreciation			1318*			—
Print, post, stat., etc			704			863
Research Grant			500			—
			<u>14613</u>			<u>16783</u>

* charged to Development Fund

4. Conservation expenditure is analysed

	<u>1994</u>			<u>1993</u>		
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Net Spend/ (Income)</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Net Spend/ (Income)</u>
Reserves cost/income						
Belvide	3691	3551	140	2987	3669	(682)
Blithfield	2425	2294	131	2420	2555	(135)
Harborne	710	—	710	1421	180	1241
Ladywalk	583	1167	(584)	517	1510	(993)
Brandon (donation)						500
Meadows survey						183
Moorland/wader studies			394			—
Printing, postage, stationery, etc			573			686
				<u>1364</u>		<u>800</u>

5. Admn. expenditure is analysed

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Audit	100	100
Insurance	300	275
Computer software	1195*	—
Computer depreciation	264*	—
Other costs	934	1871
	<u>2793</u>	<u>2246</u>

* charged to Development Fund

6. **Timber Rights**

In 1980 Worcester Trust acquired the Timber Rights to protect the Fred Dale Reserve. The Trust is now negotiating to sell these rights. We joined the Worcester Trust in this purchase and have a 50% share.

7. **Belvide Reserve**

We acquired the freehold of 9.2 acres of land at Belvide consisting of the Car Park and Reservoir Plantation.

Cost	7200
Legal fees and costs	<u>366</u>
	7566
less grant from C.C.	<u>1800</u>
	<u>5766</u>

8. **Computers**

We purchased 6 computers in late 1993.

Five are used for county records/Annual Report purposes. One is used for membership records. Depreciation is charged against the Development Fund.

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Cost	<u>7912</u>	<u>7912</u>
Depreciation in year		
charged to education	1318	-
admin.	<u>264</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>1582</u>	<u>-</u>
Net Book Value	<u>6330</u>	<u>7912</u>

9. **Short Term Deposits**

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
National Savings Income		
Bonds	8000	8000
COIF Deposit Account	<u>30000</u>	<u>30000</u>
	<u>38000</u>	<u>38000</u>

10. **Debtors**

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Debtors	407	415
Prepaid Expenses	524	640
Interest free loan (Bardsey)	<u>-</u>	<u>1500</u>
	<u>931</u>	<u>2555</u>

11. **Creditor**

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Accruals	6260	5878
Cash received in advance	<u>2020</u>	<u>2139</u>
	<u>8280</u>	<u>8017</u>

12. **Transactions with Trustees**

	<u>Total</u>	<u>No. of Trustees</u>
Payments to Trustees		
Reimbursement of		
postage, tel., etc	392	7
Research Grant	500	1
As speakers at meetings	65	2
Receipts from Trustees		
Contribution to postage costs	499	1

D J Hall
Hon. Treasurer

Secretary's Report

1994 has been a special year, in as much that it has been 65 years since the Club (originally known as the Birmingham Bird Club) was founded in Edgbaston by W E Groves, and it is a tremendous achievement to think how the West Midland Bird Club has grown in numbers and stature since those early beginnings.

Members will be fully aware of the ongoing situation concerning the Ruddy Duck in the U.K., and this has been an important subject on the forecourt of the Club's Agenda. On the 14th February last year the Main Committee met with the Ruddy Duck Working Group together with representatives from the Department of the Environment, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the RSPB to discuss matters in detail. We are of course grateful to Frank Gribble, our Vice President, who delivered a detailed progress report at our Annual General Meeting in March.

Equally, a cause for concern has been the indiscriminate felling of the pine trees at the Gailey Heronry by British Waterways to deter roosting Cormorants. The Club, along with the RSPB, lodged a formal complaint, and over 60 supporting letters were received from Club members condemning the damage caused to the Heronry.

Turning now to our Reserves, we are pleased to announce that at Belvide, the purchase has been completed of the plantation and car park comprising some 9 acres. The new tern raft recently constructed has been a great success.

Urgent help is needed throughout the year at Harborne, and if anyone has any free time available, then please contact Derek Brown.

Management work continued to be undertaken at Ladywalk, despite the changes that are affecting the adjoining site, with the demolition of the Power Station and the proposed Channel Tunnel Freight Terminal.

At Blithfield, we understand there are proposals to convert part of the sawmill complex at Stansley Wood into an Environmental Education Centre to accommodate no more than 30 pupils, plus teachers, at any one time.

At the Fred Dale Reserve in the Wyre Forest, the WMBC and the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust are proceeding with the Landowner to accept a surrender of the existing lease, which will sever our connections at this location.

During the year, computers were purchased for each of the County Recorders, and software installed for the Membership Secretary. All membership details are now on the computer.

In conclusion, I would like to convey my thanks to the office bearers and committee members who have served the Club over the past year. Special thanks to Peter Rollin for continuing with the production of the Bulletin, pending the appointment of his successor; and it is pleasing to report that Paul South has come forward and is willing to offer his services as the new Bulletin Editor.

Thanks also to Daphne Dunstan and helpers for promoting the WMBC at County Shows, and to you the membership for your support. Please remember that if there is anything you are not happy with, or you feel there are areas which warrant improvement – do please let us know.

Indoor Meetings – Birmingham

January	Graham Harrison	"The Fortunate Isles"
February	Neil King	"In Search of the Rain God"
March	Mike Wilkes	"Texas"
April	AGM, Alan Richards	"Viva España"
October	Charles Brown	"Up the Okavango"
November	Tom Leach	"Birds of the Arctic"
December	Anne & Arthur Izzard	"Skokholm"

Thanks to Alan Richards for arranging the list of speakers, and to the "regular team" overseeing the projector facilities.

H M MacGregor

Permit Secretary's Report

The number of permits issued during 1994 were:

		(1993)
Belvide	571	652
Bliithfield	433	483
Ladywalk	337	422
Total	1341	(1557)

Miss M A Surman

Membership Secretary's Report

WMBC membership figures underwent little change during the year, standing at 1824 members at December 31st 1994. This consisted of 1076 Joint members, 731 Singles and 17 Juniors.

J O Reeves

Research, Reserves and Records Committee Report

The clubs new committee structure has now become firmly established with research embracing reserves management, county recorders and the production of the club's annual report. This format has provided a platform for everyone involved in the above club functions to make a regular input, in an effort to ensure the welfare of this committee and indeed the club as a whole. 1994 has seen the consolidation of the new structure with regular attendances of a team able to relate directly to specific matters that lie within the role of this committee. We now have a sound foundation to build upon and I am optimistic that this committee can progress as we imagined.

J R Winsper
Chairman

Solihull Branch Report

The Solihull Branch, formed in 1973 with Daphne Dunston as representative, sees the tenth anniversary of its consolidation with a full committee in 1995. This would appear to be a good opportunity to review progress over the last ten years.

Since then we have maintained the loyal following already built up amongst members living in the area. Whilst there are, perhaps, not so many good natural bird habitats in Solihull and Warwickshire as in some other midland counties, there is a great deal of interest in natural history. The branch continues a relationship of friendly co-operation with the other conservation organisations in the area.

Due largely to the imaginative work of the Meetings Secretaries over the years we have been able to attract many speakers of a high standard. Our indoor meetings have varied from the more academic or scientific approach from officers of the B.T.O. to evenings of slides presented by branch members and judged by one of the club's own skilled photographers. We are lucky in the West Midland Bird Club as a whole in having so much talent and expertise, with both naturalists and photographers of international repute.

We are also fortunate in Solihull in having an excellent venue for our meetings. Solihull College lecture theatre, with a capacity of around one hundred, is just right for our normal attendance of forty to sixty without becoming seriously overcrowded when occasionally filled to capacity. Several of our speakers have said that they like coming to Solihull, both for the welcoming and enthusiastic audience and the compact and intimate nature of the theatre where they can be seen and heard from all seats.

1994 has maintained the high standard of speakers and interest shown and we have seen and heard of birds and other wildlife in many parts of the world; from the local countryside, through the Scottish Highlands and Islands to Africa and South America. Numbers on field meetings have varied but in the past year we have enjoyed well-attended and successful visits to Draycote Water, Coombe Abbey, the Wyre Forest and Kingsbury Water Park/Dosthill Pits.

I was not going to mention anyone else by name but I feel that I must make an exception in thanking Eric Harvey for stepping in, with only two days notice, in December and presenting a memorable slide show in his own unique style. This was after the advertised speaker was laid low as the result of an accident and our quick thinking Meetings Secretary had the inspired idea of asking Eric.

Finally, on behalf of the Branch Committee I would like to thank all our members who have supported us so well during the last ten years and to say we look forward to your company in the next ten.

G A Morley
Chairman

Staffordshire Branch Report

The branch has had a busy year once again. The committee met on three occasions and we have been well represented at the Club's newly established three major committees that meet in Birmingham.

Problems affecting birds and/or birdwatchers in the county continue to arise and we have concerned ourselves especially with Ruddy Duck and Cormorants; also Sand Martins at Saredon. Chasewater has again been affected by pollution, particularly silt from the opencast coal mining at Bleak House; we continue to be concerned for the Swag Pool and its high numbers of diving duck that feed and shelter there.

At Belvide the tern raft proved a success with a pair of Common Terns raising three chicks. The new island and a reasonable autumn water level proved attractive to waders.

A major concern was the devastation caused on the island at Lower Gailey Reservoir

by the felling of the pine trees by British Waterways Fishing Staff before all the Herons had fledged. Three young Herons were rescued and subsequently reared and successfully released to the wild by Mr A Hardy at the British Wildlife Rescue Centre at Amerton. We had just recorded the heronry's best ever annual total of 57 nests; at least twelve nest sites have been lost for the future! The felling was done to discourage Cormorants roosting there, but small numbers continue to do so. Although a licence was granted to shoot Cormorants we are pleased to note this option has not been used. We are continuing to liaise with the British Waterways Board on ways that any damage to the fishery caused by Cormorants can be limited.

At Blithfield we have had discussions with the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company about proposed developments there.

We have continued our input to various local plans and plans for road improvements around Stafford, the widening of the M6 motorway and the northern and western orbital routes around Birmingham.

Members have continued monitoring waders in the Sow, Penk and Trent valleys; Blackcock and Ring Ouzels have been counted on the North Staffs moors. In many of these matters we have continued our close liaison with the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, the Peak Park Planning Board, Staffordshire County Council, English Nature and Forest Enterprise.

Support for indoor meetings was not quite so good as last year, but an excellent series of lectures was given by:

Gerry Griffiths – 1. "Costa Rica" & 2. "Arctic Splendour"

Paul Donald – "Farmland Birds"

Maurice Waterhouse – "Bulgarian Surprise"

Colin McShane – "Island Hopping"

In addition members provided entertainment at our AGM. Only two Field Meetings were arranged; the first was aimed at encouraging inexperienced members who wanted to get involved in survey work and the second the usual Nightjar evening. Both were on Cannock Chase and proved popular.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee for their support over the year and record our thanks to Gilly Jones our County Bird Recorder and her team of helpers

F C Gribble
Chairman

Ruddy Ducks and the West Midland Bird Club

The Ruddy Duck is at the centre of great controversy. Briefly the problem is that it is an introduced species, which escaped from captivity and established a feral breeding population in Britain. Initially this population was centred within Avon and the West Midlands, which is why the WMBC adopted the Ruddy Duck for its logo. As the population grew, however, so birds dispersed further afield, particularly during hard winters. Some birds of unknown origin have appeared in Spain, where they have begun to interbreed with the White-headed Duck. Regrettably, the hybrid offspring have proved to be

fertile, thereby posing a threat to the indigenous population of White-headed Ducks.

The White-headed Duck is a globally threatened species and the Spanish government has taken great steps to try and conserve the small and vulnerable Iberian population, which a few years ago faced extinction. The threat to this population from the Ruddy Duck has therefore become an international issue at government level. A UK Ruddy Duck Working Group was established, with funding from the Department of the Environment (DoE), to carry out research into the control of the Ruddy duck.

Following the initial research, the DoE has now asked English Nature, in conjunction with bodies such as the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust and the RSPB, to carry out further control trials. As part of these further trials, the Club was approached by English Nature in June 1995 for permission to carry out a controlled trial on its reserves by shooting breeding female Ruddy Ducks during the summer of 1996.

The WMBC's policy on Ruddy Ducks was set out in the Club's Bulletin (No. 370) in November/December 1993. This makes it clear that the WMBC has a commitment to biodiversity and to the survival of the White-headed Duck. It goes on to say, however, that before any control is contemplated the Club considers there is a need to demonstrate that the methods used will be humane and effective, that they will not have adverse effects on other wildlife and that they really will be capable of reducing the number of birds to a level which will influence the numbers occurring in Spain.

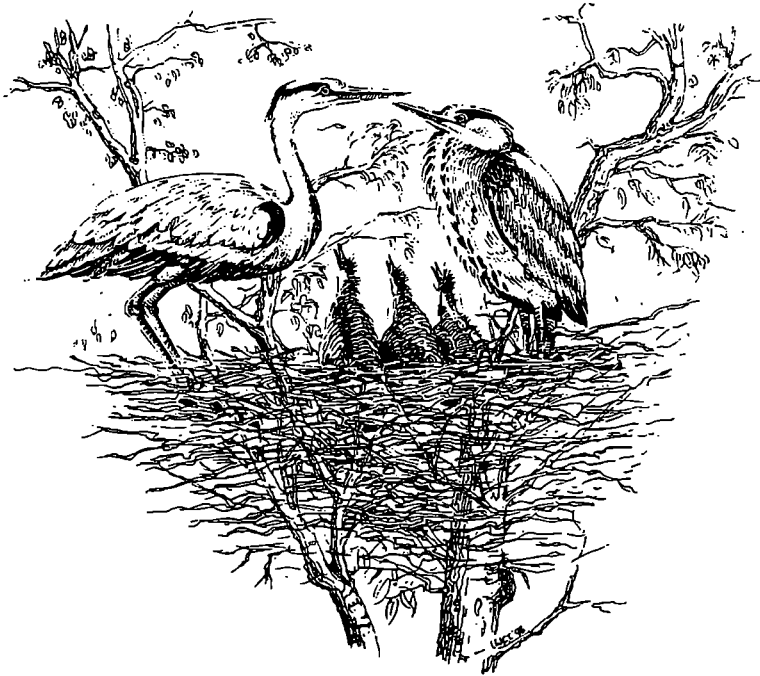
The Club's Executive Council has considerable reservations about the effectiveness of the control measures proposed. It is also very concerned about the likely effect on other species, especially during the breeding season. It therefore sought a meeting with English Nature to seek reassurance over such matters. This was held on 31st October, when members of the Research, Reserves and Records Committee met with English Nature, who had been provided in advance with a set of prearranged questions.

Despite a relaxed and enjoyable meeting, English Nature was unable to provide satisfactory assurances and safeguards to many of our concerns. Based on the answers received, the Club was left with no alternative but to refuse permission to carry out the proposed control trial on its reserves. The reasons for this were both scientific and practical. In particular, English Nature was unable to provide any scientific evidence that its activities would not cause disturbance to other breeding birds. Nor was it able to point to any research into winter or hard weather movements of Ruddy Duck, either within the UK or to the Continent. From a practical point of view, the Club was concerned that if it were to sanction shooting on its reserves this would attract unauthorised shooting as well and might draw the attention of animal rights organisations. More importantly, it was felt the Club's membership would react strongly against shooting as a means of control.

In responding to English Nature it was made clear that the WMBC wishes to remain objective and constructive over this issue and that it hopes its decision, and the reasons for it, will contribute to the research project. For its part, English Nature has acknowledged that it understands the Club's position.

Graham Harrison
Deputy Chairman

Movements of the Grey Heron to and from the WMBC area with special reference to breeding success at the Gailey Heronry during 1960–70 and 1980–90.



Nesting Grey Herons (John Teasdale)

Introduction

This paper analyses Grey Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) breeding data from the Gailey Reservoir Heronry during the periods 1960-70 and 1980-90, and movements taken from all recoveries of herons ringed or recorded within the West Midland Bird Club's region between 1960-90 inclusive.

Methodology

The Gailey Heronry has been studied intensively since 1960. Each year the number of occupied nests, and with the exception of 1971-77, the total number of young produced per nest have been recorded and a sample of nestlings ringed. Although most of the data refers to the Gailey Heronry other information on movements have been included from ringing at other sites within the area. Records of birds ringed elsewhere and recovered in the WMBC region have also been included.

Results

Figure 1. Number of occupied nests at Gailey from 1960-1990.

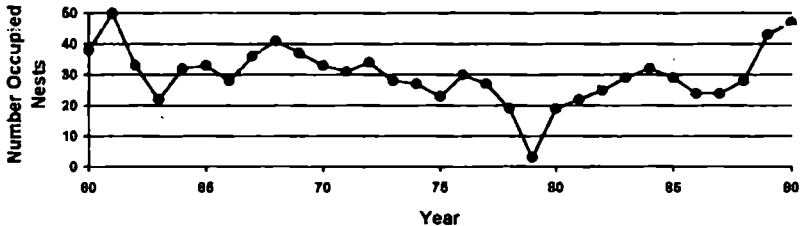
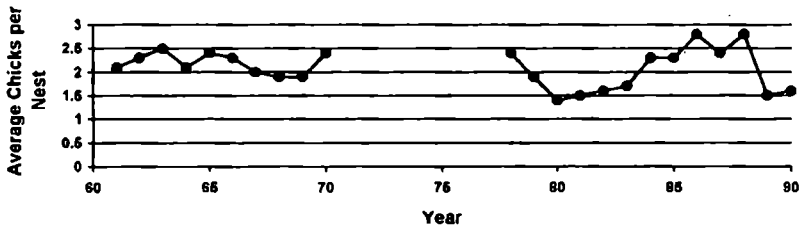


Figure 2. Average number of young per occupied nest at Gailey.



The number of occupied nests at Gailey have shown considerable fluctuation throughout the study period (Fig. 1). The average number of nests during 1960-70 and 1980-90 was 35 and 30 per year respectively. Productivity, expressed as the average number of young per occupied nest, has also shown annual variation (Fig. 2); the highest recorded being 2.9 in 1986 and the lowest 1.4 in 1980. Between 1960-70 the average number of young per nest was 2.14, compared with 1.98 between 1980-90. The overall average was 2.06.

Most deaths (59%) were recorded in the first year of life but mortality decreased in subsequent age classes (Table 1). Records were evenly spread throughout the seasons (Table 2) but most first year recoveries were recorded during the winter period.

Table 1

Age at recovery (mortality) of nestlings ringed in WMBC region.

Age in years	Number of recoveries	Percentage
1	55	59.1
2	15	16.1
3	5	5.4
4	5	5.4
5	1	1.1
5+	12	12.9
Totals	93	100.0

*Table 2**Distribution of recoveries for nestlings ringed within the WMBC region.*

Months	Number of recoveries	Percentage
March – August	47 (21 first years)	50.5
September – February	46 (34 first years)	49.5

A majority of nestlings ringed in the Region (45.2%) were recovered within 50 kms of their natal site (Table 3); 72.1% of all recoveries were within 100 kms.

*Table 3**Dispersal distances of nestlings ringed within the WMBC region*

Distance (kms)	Number of recoveries	Percentage
0–50	42	45.2
51–100	25	26.9
101–150	12	12.9
151–200	5	5.4
*201–300+	9	9.6

*Includes two Gailey nestlings ringed in April and recovered in Spain the following November and one Gailey nestling ringed in May and recovered the following September in France.

The distance of recovery decreased as the age of the bird increased (Table 4). The direction of movement varied between heron ringing areas, with 83% of recoveries from nestlings ringed in the south-west of the Region moving to the north, while nestlings ringed further north at Gailey showed a more random distribution with a bias towards the south-west and north-west.

*Table 4**Average distance of movements with age for nestlings ringed in the WMBC region*

Age in years	Average distance moved
*1	113.1
2	68.3
3	31.5
4	61.4
5+	41.3

*Excluding three first-year birds which moved to the Continent.

The direction of movements from the Gailey Heronry changed somewhat over the period of the study (Table 5), the greatest change being in south-easterly movements.

Table 5
Changes in direction of movements of nestlings ringed at Gailey between 1961-70 and 1971-90.

Period	North/West	South/West	North/East	South/East
1961-70	31.8%	36.4%	22.7%	9.1%
	n = 7	n = 8	n = 5	n = 2
1971-90	29.2%	25.0%	18.8%	27.1%
	n = 14	n = 12	n = 9	n = 13
	-2.6	-11.4	-3.9	+18.0

Six foreign recoveries were recorded in the WMBC region; four of which had travelled south-west to the area from Scandinavia and two which had travelled west from Holland and Belgium. All were recovered during the winter; two being first-year birds, two were second-years, one a third-year and one a fourth-year.

Recoveries of birds ringed outside the Region numbered 13. Most (12) occurred during the winter months and all except one involved birds moving north. With the exception of one individual, all were in their first year.

Discussion

Figure 1 clearly shows the effect of the severe winters of 1962/63 and 1978/79 but whereas nationally the heron population shows a gradual overall increase from 1963 (Marquiss 1993), the Gailey Heronry shows an overall decline from 1968 to 1979.

There appears to be a correlation between the number of young produced per nest and the colony density. Between 1960-70, in years where the colony size was higher than the overall average number of nests recorded per year (35), 75% of the years produced lower numbers of chicks per nest than the overall average of 2.14. Again between 1980-90, in years where the colony size was higher than the overall average number of nests recorded per year (30), 66% of the years produced lower numbers of chicks per nest than the overall average of 1.98. During the periods 1960-70 and 1980-90, in years where the colony size was lower than the overall average number of nests recorded per year/per period, 80% and 57% respectively of the years produced higher numbers of chicks per nest than the overall average number per nest/per period.

The high winter mortality in first-year birds is clearly due to a lack of feeding skills coupled with a reducing food supply and a shorter day length for feeding. Recoveries show that Grey Herons can be long-lived birds with ages of 12 and 13 years being recorded.

The pattern of movements suggest that Grey Herons travel along river valleys. The more random distribution of Gailey birds may be the result of easier access to several river systems via the Trent and Severn Valleys, both of which are within easy reach of the Heronry. Worcestershire birds mainly utilise the Severn Valley.

Birds entering the Region from the Continent were from the more migratory Scandinavian and north European populations moving to avoid harsh weather.

An earlier paper on the Gailey Heronry (Minton 1970) indicated that even individuals from the same brood will disperse in different directions. This is likely to be advantageous, as a random dispersal should allow a more evenly spread population utilising

winter food resources rather than all birds competing for the same resource in one area.

The distance of recovery correlated with age suggests that some natal site fidelity occurs. Minton indicated that this was not prevalent at Gailey and it may be that because the heronry is on a small island, the competition for nesting sites may inhibit returning birds from actually breeding on the site.

Prior to 1970, Gailey birds showed few south-easterly movements and Minton suggested that the Birmingham conurbation may have been the inhibiting factor. In recent years, improvement in the water quality of rivers and other water bodies, conservation of fish stocks and the use of ornamental fish ponds as garden features may have made this area more attractive to herons.

The authors would like to thank all ringers who have participated in the ringing programme over the years, Mr Charles Brown, the warden of Gailey and the Commodores of the South Staffordshire Sailing Club for their support and endless ferrying over the years.

References

- Marquiss M. *in* Gibbons D. W. *et al.* (1993) *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1988-1991*. Poyser, London.
- Minton, C. D. T. (1970) *The Gailey Reservoir Heronry 1960-1970*. *West Midland Bird Club Annual Report* **37**: 24-29.

A E Coleman
J T Coleman

1994 Bird Record Localities

The following alphabetical list for each county gives the grid reference (if known), of all localities mentioned in the Classified Notes.

Warwickshire

Alcester	SP0857	Close Wood	SP2584	Hillborough Manor	SP1251
Alvecoate	SK2504	Clowes Wood	SP0973	Honiley	SP2372
Ansley	SP3091	Coleshill	SP2089	Hurley	SP2495
Ansty	SP3983	Coleshill SF	SP1991	Hurley Common	SP2496
Arbury Hall	SP3389	Combroom	SP3051		
Arden's Grafton	SP1154	Compton Verney	SP3152	Idlicote	SP2844
Arlay	SP2890	Compton Wynyates	SP3341	Ilmington Downs	SP1942
Armscote	SP2444	Coombe Abbey	SP4079		
Astley	SP3189	Corley	SP3085	Jubilee Pools	SP3873
Aston Cantlow	SP1359	Corley Moor	SP2884	Judkins Quarry	SP3493
Atherstone GC	SP3096	Cosford	SP4979		
Austray	SK2906	Coton	SP2194	Kenilworth	SP2971
Avon Dassett	SP4149	Cubbington	SP3468	Kineton	SP3351
		Curdworth	SP1892	Kingsbury Rifle Ranges	SP2296
				Kingsbury WP	SP2097
BAD Kineton	SP3651	Dosthill Pit	SP2098	Kinwalsey	SP2585
Baddesley Clinton	SP2072	Draycote Water	SP4669	Kites Hardwick	SP4768
Baddesley Common	SP2797	Dunchurch	SP4871	Knightcote	SP4055
Baginton Airport	SP3574				
Baginton Lagoons	SP3573	Earlswood	SP1174	Ladbroke	SP4158
Ballards Green	SP2791	Edge Hill	SP3747	Ladywalk	SP2191
Barford	SP2760	Edstone Lake	SP1761	Lapworth	SP1671
Bascote	SP3864	Eitington	SP2748	Lawford Heath	SP4676
Beausale	SP2370	Exhall	SP3485	Lea Marston	SP2093
Bedworth	SP3586			Leamington Res.	SP3365
Bentley Woods	SP2895	Famborough	SP4349	Leamington Spa	SP3165
Bidford-on-Avon	SP0951	Fenny Compton	SP4151	Leek Wootton	SP2868
Billesley Brake	SP1557	Fillongley	SP2887	Lighthorne Quarry	SP3456
Bishop's Itchington	SP3857	Finham STW	SP3374	Lighthorne Rough	SP3355
Bishop's Tachbrook	SP3161	Flecknoe	SP5163	Lillington	SP3267
Black Hill GP	SP2359	Fosse Rides	SP3052	Longbridge	SP2662
Bodymoor Heath	SP2095	Freasley	SP2499	Long Compton	SP2832
Bowshott Wood	SP3053	Frog Hall GP	SP4173	Long Itchington	SP4165
Brailes	SP3337			Lower Radbourn	SP4457
Bramcote Mains	SP4188	Gaydon	SP3654		
Brandon Marsh	SP3875	Grandborough	SP4965	Marcliff	SP0950
Bretford	SP4277	Grendon Wood	SP2798	Marston	SP2094
Brinklow	SP4379			Marton	SP4068
Broadwell	SP4565	Halford	SP2645	Maxstoke	SP2386
Brownover Mill	SP5176	Hampton Lucy	SP2557	Merevale	SP2997
Bubbenhall	SP3672	Hams Hall	SP2092	Middleton	SP1898
Bulkington	SP3987	Harborough Magna	SP4779	Milcote	SP1852
Burton Hill Farm	SP3850	Harbury	SP3760	Monks Kirby	SP4683
Butler's End	SP2484	Hartshill Hayes	SP3294	Morton Bagot	SP1164
Butlers Marston	SP3150	Hartshill SF	SP3395		
		Haseley Manor	SP2367	Napton Res	SP4759
Chadshunt	SP3553	Hatton Locks	SP2466	Newbold Comyn	SP3365
Chapel Ascote	SP4157	Hawkesbury	SP3684	Newbold Pacey	SP2957
Charlecote	SP2656	Hay Wood	SP2071	Newnham Paddox	SP4883
Chase Lane	SP2773	Heach Wood	SP2488	Nuneaton	SP3691
Chase Wood	SP2572	Heathcote	SP3062		
Chesterton	SP3558	Hell Hole	SP3054	Oakley Wood	SP3059
Church Lawford	SP4476	Hemlingford Green	SP2095	Offchurch	SP3666
Church Pool Covert	SP2092	Henley-in-Arden	SP1566	Old Ford Wood	SP4062

Oversley Wood	SP1056	Salford Priors	SP0751	Walsgrave Hill	SP3980
Over Whitacre	SP2591	Deeswood Pool	SP3290	Walton	SP2852
Oxhill	SP3146	Shawbury Wood	SP2588	Wappenbury Wood	SP3770
Oxhouse Farm	SP3050	Shipston-on-Stour	SP2540	Warren Chase Pool	SP1657
		Shuckburgh	SP4961	Warton	SK2803
Packington	SP2384	Shustoke Res.	SP2291	Warwick	SP2864
Packwood	SP1772	Snitterfield	SP2160	Wasperton	SP2658
Piccadilly	SP2298	Snitterfield Bushes	SP2060	Water Orton	SP1891
Pillerton Hersey	SP2948	Somers, The	SP2282	Waverley Wood	SP3570
Pleasance Farm	SP2672	Southam	SP4162	Weddington	SP3692
Polesworth	SK2602	Spernal	SP0862	Welcombe Hills	SP2056
Poolfields	SP3253	Spernal Park	SP1062	Wellesbourne	SP2755
Priors Hardwick	SP4756	Stockton	SP4365	Wellesbourne Airfield	SP2654
Priors Marston	SP4957	Stoneleigh	SP3372	Wellesbourne Wood	SP2753
		Stoneton	SP4654	Whatcote	SP3043
Radford Semele	SP3464	Stoneythorpe Hall	SP4061	Whateley	SP2299
Radway	SP3649	Stratford-upon-Avon	SP2055	Whitacre Heath	SP2192
Ragle Hall	SP0755	Sych Wood	SP2092	Whitestone	SP3889
Ratley	SP3847			Wiggins Hill	SP1793
Red Hill	SP1356	Tanworth-in-Arden	SP1170	Willmote	SP1657
Ridge Lane	SP2994	Temple Pool	SP3744	Wishaw	SP1794
Rough Hill Wood	SP0564	Terry's Green	SP1173	Wolston	SP4175
Round Hill Wood	SP2952	Thurlaston	SP4671	Wolverton	SP2062
Rugby	SP5175	Tysoe	SP3444	Wood End	SP2398
Rugby Waterworks	SP5176	Ufton Fields	SP3861	Wormleighton Res.	SP4451
Ryton-on-Dunsmore	SP3874	Ufton Wood	SP3862	Wroxall	SP2270
Ryton Pool	SP3772	Ullenhall	SP1267		
Ryton Wood	SP3872	Upper Radbourn	SP4458	Yarningale Common	SP1966

Worcestershire

Abberley Hills	SO7566	Birmingham	SO9342	Callow Hill	SO7473
Abberton	SO9953	Bishampton	SO9851	Castlemorton	SO7937
Alvechurch	SP0272	Bishampton Vale Pool	SP0050	Castlemorton Common	SO7839
Arley Wood	SO8082	Bittell	SP0174	Chase End Hill	SO7635
Arrow Valley Lake	SP0567	Blackpole	SO8657	Chateau Impney	SO9064
Ashmoor Common	SO8446	Blackwell	SO9872	Church Lench	SP0251
Ashton under Hill	SO9937	Blakedown	SO8878	Churchill Wood	SO9155
Asplands Husk Coppice	SP0558	Bordesley	SP0470	Claines	SO8558
Astley Burf	SO8167	Bow Wood	SO9455	Claines Pool	SO8458
Astley Cross	SO8069	Brandlodge Coppice	SP07375	Clent Hills CP	SO9379
Aston Mill Pit	SO9435	Bransford	SO7952	Clifton-upon-Teme	SO7161
Axborough	SO8679	Brazier's Coppice	SO6464	Cobbler's Coppice	SO9269
		Bredon	SO9136	Coldridge Wood	SO8082
Badger's Hill	SP0048	Bredon Hill	SO9139	Conderton	SO9636
Ball Mill	SO8262	Bredon's Hardwick	SO9135	Cookley	SO8480
Barnard's Green	SO7845	Bredon's Norton	SO9340	Cooksey	SO9069
Barnetbrook	SO8876	British Camp	SO7640	County Hall	SO8754
Barnett Hill	SO8877	British Camp Res.	SO7639	Cowsden	SO9453
Bartles Wood	-	Broadway	SP0937	Croome Park	SO8744
Bayton	SO6973	Bromsgrove	SO9570	Crothorne Heath	SO9944
Beckford	SO9735	Broome	SO9078	Crossway Green	SO8368
Belbroughton Pool	SO9176	Broome Pool	SO9078	Crowle Green	SO9256
Berrow	SO7934	Broomhill Coppice	SO7638	Crutch Hill	-
Besford	SO9144	Brotheridge Green	SO8241		
Bewdley	SO7875	Broughton Hackett	SO9254	Death's Dingle	SO6667
Bine Coppice	SO6766	Burcot	SO9871	Deerfold Wood	SO9047
Birchley Farm Poplars	SP0465			Defford	SO9143
Birchwood	SO8081	Calcot Hill	SO9478	Delamere	-

Devil's Spittleful	SO8074	Holt	SO8262	Malvern Link	SO7847
Diglis	SO8453	Holt Fleet	SO8263	Mamble	SO6971
Dingle, The	SO7645	Holy Cross	SO9278	Martin Hussingtree	SO8860
Doddenhill Farm	SO6669	Holywell	SO7740	Matchborough	SP0766
Dodford	SO9373	Honeybourne	SP1144	Midsummer Hill	SO7637
Doverdale	SO8566	Ironhill Wood	SO9558	Mill Pond	SO7737
Dowles Brook	SO7776	Huddington	SO9457	Monkwood	SO8060
Drayton	SO9075	Hunthouse Wood	SO7070	Mount Pleasant	SP0064
Droitwich	SO8963	Hurcott Pool	SO8577	Mount Segg	SO8675
Dunhampstead	SO9160			Murcot	-
Dunley	SO7869	Inkberrow	SP0157	Nafford	SO9441
		Ipsley Alders	SP0767	Nash Elm Wood	-
Eamslaw Quarry	SO7644	Ipsley Mill Pond	SP0767	Naunton Beauchamp	SO9652
Easerfield Coppice	SO8063	Island Coppice	SO6364	Netherton Pool	SO9941
Eastham	SO8568	Island Pool	SO8580	Newnham Bridge	SO6469
Eckington	SO9241			New Pool	SO7843
Evesham	SP0343	Kemerton	SO9436	North Hill	SO7646
Eymore Wood	SO7779	Kempsey	SO8549	Northwick Marsh	SO8358
		Kempsey Common	SO8748	Nunnery Wood	SO8754
Far Forest	SO7274	Kempsey Lower Ham	SO8448		
Feckenham Wyld Moor	SP0061	Kempsey Pool	SO8447	Oakenshaw	SP0464
Fillet Wood	SO9258	Kempsey Upper Ham	SO8449	Oakley	SO8960
Fladbury	SO9946	Kenswick	SO7958	Ockeridge	SO7862
Frankley	SO9980	Kidderminster	SO8376	Oddingley	SO9159
Furnace Mill	SO7276	Kings Green	SO7760	Offerton	SO8958
		King's Norton GC	SP0675	Oldfield	SO8464
Garmsley	SO6161	Kinsham	SO9335	Old Hills	SO8246
Grafton	SO9936	Kinsham GP	SO9336	Oldington STW	SO8273
Grafton Flyford	SO9656	Kniver Edge	SO8282	Old Storridge Common	SO7451
Great Comberton	SO9542	Knapp, The	SO7451	Orieaton	SO6966
Great Witley	SO7565	Knightwick	SO7355	Overbury	SO9537
Grimley	SO8360	Knowles Coppice	SO7676		
Guarford	SO8145	Knowles Mill	SO7676	Peopleton	SO9350
Gullet, The	SO7638	Kyre Pool	SO6364	Perry Wood	SO8654
		Kyrebath Wood	SO6261	Pershore	SO9045
		Kyewood	SO6057	Pinnacle Hill	SO7641
Hadley	SO8663			Pirton	SO8747
Hadley Poplars	SO8564	Larford	SO8169	Pitcher Oak Wood	SP0267
Hagley	SO9180	Laughern Brook	SO7661	Poolbrook Common	SO7944
Hallow	SO8258	Lellow Coppice	SO6467	Powick	SO8351
Hampton	SP0243	Lickey Hills	SO9975	Powick Bridge	SO8352
Hanbury	SO9663	Link Common	SO7947	Powick Hams	SO8352
Hanbury Park	SO9464	Little Comberton	SO9643	Prickley Green	SO7661
Hanley Castle	SO8442	Little Witley	SO7863	Puckrup	SO8736
Hanley Child	SO6565	Littleworth	SO8850	Pugh's Rough	SO7762
Hanley William	SO6765	Longbank	SO7674	Purshall Green	SO9071
Happy Valley	SO7645	Longdon Marsh	SO8236		
Hartlebury	SO8470	Long Marston Depot	SP1547	Queenhill	SO8536
Hartlebury Common	SO8270	Lower Cowsden	SO9352		
Harvington (Evesham)	SP0549	Lower Moor	SO9847	Raggedstone Hill	SO7536
Harvington (Kidderminster)	SO8774	Lower Rochford	SO6863	Randan Wood	SO9172
Harvington Pool	SP0448	Lower Rowney Green	SP0471	Rea Valley	SO6773
Hawford Wood	SO8460	Lower Smithe	SO8858	Redditch	SP0467
Hewell Grange	SP0069	Lynall's Coppice	SO7375	Redstone	SO8170
Hewell Park Lake	SP0169			Retraat Farm, Grimley	SO8359
High Green	SO8745			Ribbesford	SO7872
Highwood	SO6566	Madeley Heath	SO9577	Ripple	SO8738
Hindlip	SO8758	Malvern	SO7745	Romer's Wood	SO6063
Hollybed Common	SO7737	Malvern Common	SO7846	Rous Lench	SO0153
Hollybush Hill	SO7636	Malvern Hills	SO7745		

Rowney Green	SP0471	Stoke Works	SO9466	Upton-upon-Severn	SO8540
Ryall	SO8640	Storrige	SO7448	Upton Warren	SO9367
Hyall GP	SO0030	Stoulton	SO9049		
		Stourport	SO8171	Wadborough	SO9047
St. Anne's Well	SO7745	Stourport Marina	SO8169	Walton Hill	SO9479
Staxen's Lode	SO8638	Strensham	SO9039	Warndon	SO8856
Seckley Wood	SO7678	Strensham Lagoons	SO9139	Webheath	SP0266
Severn Stoke	SO8544	Suckley	SO7251	Welland	SO7939
Shakenhurst Brook	SO6772	Suckley Knowl	SO7153	Wells Common	SO7744
Shatterford	SO7981	Sugar Loaf	SO7645	West Hagley	SO9080
Shaver's End	SO7668	Swinyard Hill	SO7638	Westmancote	SO9337
Shelsley Walsh	SO7263	Tardebigge	SO9969	Westminster Farm	SO9980
Shenstone	SO8673	Tedstone	-	Westwood	SO8763
Sherriff's Lench	SP0249	Teme Valley	SO6676	Weyman's Wood	SO7262
Shernal Green	SO9161	Temple Dingle	SO7064	White End	-
Shorthorn Plantation	SO9949	Thomgrove	SO8260	White-leaved Oak	SO7535
Shortwood Roughs	SO0170	Throckmorton	SO9849	Wilden	SO8272
Shrawley	SO8064	Throckmorton Tip	SO9748	Wissett's Wood	SO6772
Shrawley Woods	SO8066	Tibberton	SO9057	Woodbury Common	SO7464
Smite	SO8958	Tiddesley Wood	SO9245	Wood Norton	SP0147
South Littleton	SP0746	Timberhonger	SO9170	Worcester	SO8454
Spetchley Park	SO8953	Trench Wood	SO9258	Worcestershire Beacon	SO7645
Stanford Bridge	SO7165	Trimpley Res.	SO7678	Wordley Dingle	SO7768
Stanford Court	SO7065			Wychbury Hill	SO9281
Stanford-on-Teme	SO7065	Uffmoor Wood	SO9581	Wyche Cutting	SO7744
Stoke Bliss	SO6562	Upper Dingle	SO7644	Wyre Forest	SO7475
Stoke Hill	SO6663	Upper Rochford	SO6367		
Stoke Pound	SO9667	Upton Snodsbury	SO9454	Yald Wood	SP0152

Staffordshire

Abbots Bromley	SK0824	Betley Mere	SJ7548	Chillington	SJ8606
Adbaston Pools	SJ7628	Bickford Meadows	SJ8814	Chillington Lower Avenue	SJ8807
Adder's Green	SK0265	Biddulph Moor	SJ9058	Chillington Pool	SJ8505
Alrewas	SK1715	Bishops Offley	SJ7829	Clay Mills	SK2625
Alton	SK0742	Bishton	SK0220	Clayton	SJ8543
Amington	SK2304	Bliithfield	SK0623	Codsall	SJ8703
Anslow	SK2125	Blurton	SK9042	Codsall STW	SJ8803
Anson's Bank	SJ9816	Boarsgrove	SK0462	Codsall Woods	SJ8603
Aqualate	SJ7720	Bobbington	SO8090	Cold Meece	SJ8532
Ashmore Park	SJ9502	Borrowpit	SK2003	Consall Wood CP	SJ9848
Ashwood	SO8688	Bradley	SJ8817	Coombes Valley	SK0052
Axe Edge	SK0370	Brancote	SJ9622	Copmere	SJ8029
		Brancote STW	SJ9522	Cotes Heath	SJ8335
Back Forest	SJ9865	Branston WP	SK2120	Coven	SJ9006
Baggeridge CP	SO8992	Brewood	SJ8808	Coven STW	SJ9004
Bagots Park	SK0727	Brickley Wood	-	Crossplains	SK1624
Baldstones	SK0164	Brindley Heath	SK9914	Croxall	SK1914
Barlaston Downs	SJ9036	Brocton Coppice	SJ9819	Croxden GP	SK0341
Barton GP	SK2017	Burntwood	SK0509		
Basford Green	SJ9951	Byrkley Park	SK1623	Deephayes CP	SJ9653
Baswich	SJ9422			Deepmore	-
Bearda Hill	SJ9664	Cannock Chase	SK0017	Dosthill North GP	SP2099
Bearstone Mill	-	Cannock Tip	SJ9909	Doveleys	SK1141
Beaudesert	SK0313	Catholme	SK2016	Doxey Marshes	SJ9024
Beech	SJ8538	Caverswall	SJ9542	Drystone Edge	SK0268
Belvide	SJ8610	Chasewater	SK0307	Dunstall	SK1820
Bemmersley Tip	SJ8854	Checkhill Bog	SO8587	Dydon	SK1344
Beresford Dale	SK1258	Checkley Tip/STW	SK0337	Eccleshall	SJ8329

Edingale	SK2112	Kings Bromley	SK1216	Rugeley	SK0418
Elford GP	SK1810	King's Wood	SJ8639	Sandon Hall	SJ9529
Ellenhall	SJ8426	Kingswood	SJ9908	Seighford	SJ8824
Ellington Grange	-	Kingswood Bank	SJ8540	Seven Springs	SK0020
Enville Hall	SO8286	Kinver Edge	SJ8383	Sheepwalks	SO8185
Fenton	SJ8944	Knighon	SJ7427	Sherbrook Valley	SJ9818
Five Clouds	SK0062	Knotbury	SK0168	Shoal Hill	SJ9711
Flash	SK0267	Knyppersley Res.	SJ8955	Shugborough	SJ9922
Flash Bottom	SK0166	Landwell Farm	-	Shutt Green	SJ8709
Ford Green	SJ8950	Lawneswood	SO8787	Smith's Pool	SJ8844
Fradley	SK1513	Leek	SJ9856	Stafford	SJ9223
Frogghall	SK0247	Leek STW	SJ9854	Stafford Common	SJ9125
Gailey	SJ9310	Lichfield	SK1110	Stanley Pool	SJ9351
Gerrards Bromley	SJ7734	Little Wyrley	SK0105	Stansley Wood	SK0524
Gib Torr	SK0264	Loggerheads	SJ7335	Stoke-on-Trent	SJ8745
Gnosall	SJ8220	Longnor	SK0864	Stourton	SO8685
Godsitch Moss	SK0165	Longsdon Mill	SJ9553	Stowe Pool	SK1210
Gothersley	SO8586	Lower Penn	SO8696	Sturbridge	-
Gradbach	SJ9965	Madeley Pool	SJ7744	Swallow Moss	SK0660
Great Chatwell	SJ7914	Manifold Valley	SK0954	Swindon	SO8690
Great Haywood	SK0022	Mansty	SJ9512	Talke	SJ8253
Great Wyrley	SJ9907	Marchington	SK0954	Tamworth	SK2003
Greensforge	SO8588	Mayfield	SK1545	Thorpe Constantine	SK2609
Greenway Bank CP	SJ8855	Meerbrook	SJ9860	Three Shire Heads	SK0068
Gun Hill	SJ9661	Mermaid Public House	SK0360	Tillington Cemetary	SJ9124
Hamps Valley	SK0953	Minster Pool	SK1109	Tittesworth	SJ9959
Hanbury	SK1727	Morrige	SK0256	Tixall Wide	SJ9822
Hanchurch Hills/Tower	SJ8439	Muckleston	SJ7237	Tixall Park	SJ9723
Handsacre	SK0916	Needwood Forest	SK1724	Trentham Gardens	SJ8640
Hanley Festival Park	-	Newborough	SK1325	Trescott	SO8497
Hanley Forest Park	SJ8848	Newcastle-under-Lyme	SJ8445	Trysull	SO8594
Harpfields	-	Oakamoor	SK0544	Wall	SK0906
Haughton	SJ8620	Oliver Hill	SK0267	Warslow	SK0858
Haywood Warren	SK9919	Orchard Common	SK0269	Waterhouses	SK0850
Highgate Common	SO8389	Park Hall CP	SJ9345	Weeford	SK1403
High View Pool	-	Parkhouse Ind. Estate	-	Weeping Cross	SJ9421
Hill Ridware	SK0817	Pendeford Mill NR	SJ8904	Weston Jones	SJ7624
Himley Hall	SO8891	Penkridge	SJ9214	Westport	SJ8550
Hixon	SK0025	Porthill	SJ8548	Wetley Moor	SJ9248
Hoarcross	SK1223	Punch Bowl	SJ9820	Wheaton Aston	SJ8512
Holden Lane Pool	SJ8950	Pye Green	SJ9814	Whitmore Hay	SK1813
Hopton	SJ9425	Radford	SJ9320	Whittington SF	SO8582
Hominglow	SK2425	Rangemore	SK1822	William's Wood	SJ8624
Hollybush	SK1326	Rawbones Meadows	SJ9822	Wolstanton	SJ8547
Hulme	SJ9345	Rickerscote	SJ9320	Wombourne	SO8792
Ipstones Edge	SK0450	Ridgehill Wood	SO8787	Woodmill	SK1321
Katlyn Memorial	SJ9816	Roach End	SJ9964	Wychnor Locks	SK1715
Keele University	SJ8244	Roaches	SK0063	Wyrley Hayes	SK0208
Kettlebrook Park	SK2103	Rocester	SK1139	Yoxall	SK1419
Kidsgrove	SJ9816	Rudyard	SJ9459	Yoxall Park	SK1521

West Midlands

Alcott Wood	SP1786	Aston	SP0889	Barrow Hill	SO9189
Aldridge	SK0500	Balsall Common	SP2476	Barston SF	SP1979
Allesley Park	SP2980	Barr Common	SP0699	Bartley Res.	SP0081
Amblecote	SO9085			Berkswell Hall	SP2479

Bickenhill	SP1882	Henley Green	SP3681	St. Margaret's Lakes	SP0594
Bilston	SO9496	Highbury Park	SP0682	Saltwells Wood	SO9387
Binley	SP3777	Hillfield Park	SP1578	Sariudwell Valley	SP0291
Birmingham City Centre	SP0686	Hobs Moat Woods	SP1482	Seth Somers Park	SO9782
Birmingham University	SP0483	Hockley	SP0588	Sheepwash UP	SO9791
Blakenhall	SK0001	Hockley Heath	SP1572	Shire Oak NR	SK0504
Bordesley	SP0886	Hydes Road Pool	SO9994	Shirley	SP1279
Bradès Hall	SO9790	Jubilee Park (Olton)	-	Smethwick	SP0288
Bradnock Marsh	SP2179			Smethwick Hall Pool	SP0188
Braggs Farm	SP1175	Keresley	SP3184	Solihull	SP1579
Brandwood	SP0779	King's Heath Park	SP0681	Somers Road GP	SP2382
Branton Hill Quarry	SK0600	King's Norton Park	SP0279	Stoke Floods	SP3778
Bromwich Wood	SO9981	Kingstanding	SP0794	Stourbridge	SO8983
Brookvale Park	SP0991	Kingswinford	SO8888	Stourbridge Canal	SO8985
Brueton Park	SP1678	Kingswinford Park	-	Stubber's Green	SK0401
Bumble Hole	SO9588	Knowle	SP1876	Sutton Coldfield	SP1296
				Sutton Park	SP0997
				Swanswell Pool	SP3379
Castle Bromwich	SP1489	Lady Pool	SK0200		
Catherine-de-Barnes	SP1880	Ladywood	SP0586	Temple Balsall	SP2076
Chelmsley Wood	SP1886	Longford	SP3583	Tidbury Green	SP1075
Cheswick Green	SP1275	Lower Gornal	SO9090	Tritford Park	SP0980
Cinder Bank	SO9388			Tudor Grange Park	SP1479
Clayhanger	SK0404	Marston Green	SP1781	Tyseley	SP1184
Compton	SO8898	Mercote	SP1281		
Coombeswood	SO9785	Meriden	SP2481	Valley Park	SJ8900
Cornets End	SP2381	Meriden STW	SP2381	Victoria Park	SP0288
Cotwall End	SO9192	Minworth SF	SP1592		
Coventry City Centre	SP3379	Mons Hill	SO9392	Walker's Heath	SP0578
Cradley Heath	SO9485	Mushroom Green Marsh	SO9386	Wall Heath	SO8889
Cuckoo's Nook	SP0598			Walsall	SP0198
Cutler's Rough	SP0080	Nechells	SP0989	(Old) Walsall Airfield	SP0499
		Netherton Hill	SO9388	Walsall Arboretum	SP0198
Dorridge Park	SP1675	Netherton Res.	SO9387	Walsall Wood	SK0403
Dunstall Park	SJ9000	Newbridge	SO8999	Walsgrave	SP3881
		Norton Green	SP1874	Watford Gap	SK1100
Earlwood (Norton Lane)	SP1074			Wergs	SJ8700
Edbaston	SP0584	Oldbury	SO9889	West Bromwich	SP0091
Edbaston Park	SP0584	Olton	SP1382	West Park	SO9099
Edbaston Res.	SP0486	Olton Mere	SP1381	West Smethwick Park	SP0088
Erdington	SP1191			Whitley	SP3577
		Park Hall Pool	SK0397	Whitley Grove	SP3576
Fens Pools	SO9188	Parques Hall Pool	SO9392	Whitmore Reans	SO9099
Fishley	SK0003	Park Lime Pits	SP0299	Wiggins Hill	SP1693
Foleshill Gasworks	SP3582	Pedmore	SO9182	Wightwick	SO8698
Foots Hole	SO9087	Pelsall North Common	SK0103	Willenhall	SO9698
Four Oaks	SP1198	Penn	SO8996	Winterbourne	SP0584
		Pensnett	SO9188	Wishaw	SP1695
Gibbet Hill	SP3074	Perry Hall Park	SP0591	Withymoor Pool	SO9085
Great Barr	SP0495	Plantsbrook Res.	SP1492	Witton Lakes	SP0892
Goscote Valley	SK0102	Potter's Green	SP3782	Wollaston	SO8884
		Pype Hayes GC	SP1392	Wolverhampton	SO9198
Haden Hill Park	SO9585			Woodgate Valley	SP0083
Hampton-in-Arden	SP2080	Queslett NP	SP0694	Woodlands Camp	SP0699
Handsworth Wood	SP0590			Woodshires Green	SP3484
Harborne	SP0284	Rushall Manor	SP0299	Wren's Nest	SO9391
Hayhead Wood	SP0498	Ryton End	SP2179	Wyken Slough	SP3683
Hayley Green	SO9482				

Classified Notes

The sequence of species followed is that advocated by *Birding World* (*Complete List of the Birds of the Western Palearctic* 1991). The English names are those in popular use at the time of writing. Records of distinctive subspecies are listed separately immediately after the commonly occurring race, their commonly used English names appearing in italics. All records of species on the official British and Irish List (i.e. in Categories A-C) appear in the main section, even if suspected of being of captive origin. All other records (including Category D species) appear under *Exotica*; these mainly refer to escapes from avicultural collections. Records of national rarities are only published if they have been accepted by the BBRC. The only exceptions to this will be in the case of well-documented records which are still being assessed due to late submissions.

The average arrival and departure dates given for migrants are based on first and last dates (excluding freaks) shown in the Annual Reports up to 1994. Figures in brackets denote the number of years on which the averages are based.

A list of contributors to these notes appears at the back of the Report.

The following abbreviations have been used:

CBC = Common Bird Census	R. = River
CP = Country Park	Res. = Reservoir
GC = Golf Course	SF = Sewage Farm
GP = Gravel Pit(s)	STW = Sewage Treatment Works
NP = Nature Park	UP = Urban Park
NR = Nature Reserve	WP = Water Park

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Warks Singles seen in flight at Draycote on February 25th and March 26th *RCM*.

Worcs One at Larford intermittently from December 9th-31st *SMW et al.*

Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

The first Regional record since 1989, which followed a small influx onto midland waters during February.

Staffs An immature at Himley Hall Great Pool from March 3rd-13th *MJH, RH et al.*

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

Warks At Draycote, the second-winter bird first seen in December 1993 remained until at least April 10th *JJB et al.* With no autumn reports the continuous run of records here since 1989 comes to an end.

Worcs One arrived at Upper Bittell during mid-afternoon on November 11th, but left after thirty minutes following constant harrying from Lesser Black-backed Gulls *KC*.

Staffs An immature at Belvide on November 22nd *REH, DJS*, was followed by an unaged bird on December 10th *SN*. Both stayed only briefly before flying out.

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dosthill/Kingsbury	6	9	2	-	-	-	25	34	23	-	13	4
Draycote	2	1	1	-	-	-	11	16	20	2	1	3
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	-	-	3	3	3	3	8	7	6	6	-
Pirton	1	2	3	2	-	-	16	25	29	18	12	4
Upton Warren	0	-	1	6	6	4	6	10	10	10	2	2
Westwood	1	1	4	2	-	-	3	2	3	7	2	3
Cornets End	3	-	3	5	-	7	13	14	10	7	-	-

Warks Breeding pairs suspected or confirmed at: Baginton Lagoons, Brandon, Cole-shill SF, Coombe, Dosthill (three), Draycote, Hartshill SF, Jubilee Pools (three), Ladywalk, Paget's Lane Bubbenhall (two), Ryton Wood Quarry and Water Orton SF. Other maxima included 14 at Jubilee Pools in August and 15 at Coton in December.

Worcs Pairs bred at: Beckford, Bishampton Vale Pool (two), Crossway Green (two), Upton Warren (four) and Wilden (three). A maximum of 21 at Wilden on September 2nd. Elsewhere, four at Lower Moor on October 2nd, with others seen at Bittell, Bredon's Hardwick, Larford and Oakley.

Staffs Breeding pairs at: Adbaston Pools (two), Betley Mere, Blithfield, Doxey, Kettlebrook Lake (two) and Tittesworth (two, both failed). Possible breeding was also recorded at Belvide where up to five were present. The highest count recorded this year on any water was 16 at Croxall in September. Reported as having become uncommon at Westport.

W Mid Breeding pairs reported from: Bradnock's Marsh, Clayhanger, Cornets End (two), Edgbaston Park (two), Fens Pools, Hydes Road Pool, Minworth SF (four), near Netherton Res., Plantsbrook Res., Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP (three), Stubber's Green and Tudor Grange Park. Also reported from a further six localities including maxima of 15 on the Staffs and Worcs Canal in Valley Park on February 15th and five at Wyken Slough during September.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Draycote	180	138	101	107	80	56	47	51	44	91	72	80
Kingsbury	22	41	17	-	-	-	-	-	13	12	27	20
Bittell	8	11	12	23	10	8	20	16	12	8	13	10
Bredon's Hardwick	-	4	10	10	8	6	12	4	12	16	2	5
Larford	8	4	2	4	2	-	-	3	-	2	-	5
Upton Warren	5	6	14	13	8	5	5	3	10	1	-	2
Westwood	4	2	8	8	8	4	5	6	5	4	1	2
Aqualate	3	8	18	28	36	-	23	20	18	18	2	2
Belvide	18	30	21	16	28	40	14	14	17	37	52	13
Blithfield	52	10	4	21	39	121	155	52	51	57	29	19
Chasewater	52	57	31	19	16	18	25	37	21	22	25	21
Tittesworth	2	3	6	7	18	8	7	5	3	5	3	1

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Westport	8	6	17	8	4	4	4	4	6	6	7	9
Bradnock's Marsh	6	-	-	13	8	-	13	9	-	-	-	-
Sandwell Valley	12	17	15	-	-	-	5	-	-	6	5	10

- Warks** Pairs bred at: Alvecote (two), Brandon (two), Coombe (eight), Earlswood (eight), Ladywalk (two), Middleton Hall, Napton Res. (two), Packington (three), Ragley Hall and The Somers (four). No records received concerning the important Dosthill colony. Over 30 were present at Coton in July and August.
- Worcs** Pairs bred at: Bittell (two), Bredon's Hardwick, Church Lench, Kinsham GP, Hewell Grange, Lower Moor (three) and Upton Warren (five). Ten were at Hewell Grange on April 29th. Also recorded at Beckford, Trimply Res. and Bishampton Vale Pool.
- Staffs** Pairs bred at: Aqualate, Belvide (eight), Betley Mere, Blithfield, Chasewater (eight), Chillington Pool, Doxey, Hollybush, Stowe Pool (Lichfield), Trentham Gardens and Tixall Wide (two). No breeding this year at Tittesworth. The February count of 57 at Chasewater was a site record.
- W Mid** Breeding or summering pairs reported from: Bradnock's Marsh (four), Brookvale Park, Edgbaston Res., Fens Pools (four, rearing 15 young), Queslett NP, Netherton Res., Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park (at least four), West Smethwick Park and Wyken Slough (first success here since 1988). Other large counts included 20 at Edgbaston Res. on June 5th and 11 on Powell's Pool, Sutton Park on November 26th.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

- Warks** Again there were two spring occurrences, but alas only for one day stays. As in 1993 there was one at Draycote on April 3rd *RCM*, followed by another at Dosthill on 24th *AC, NFO, SR*. Another summer adult remained at Dosthill from July 9th-11th *SMH, ICW, MY et al.* The sole winter record concerned a first-winter at Draycote on December 11th *GIG, REH, PDH*.
- Staffs** The bird at Chasewater from 1993 remained until January 4th *GE et al.*, and an immature was at Westport on December 8th *WJL et al.*

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

- Staffs** At Belvide, a bird in winter plumage on October 28th and early on the morning of 29th *SN* was the first there since 1974. A bird at Chasewater from November 14th-17th *GE* had originally been reported as Black-necked, and this was followed by an adult on December 3rd *GE, ICW, MY*.

1985 Addendum

- Warks** One at Wormleighton Res. on December 1st *BOS*.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

It seems conceivable that the Belvide and Dosthill records involved the same wandering pair.

- Warks** An adult at Draycote on March 27th *JJB, JW et al.*, was well advanced towards summer plumage. Two further spring records came from Dosthill, involving

single pairs on May 8th *AC, BLK, SR et al.* and from 17th-21st *NDG, SMH et al.* The latter were heard calling on occasion. A single remained at the favoured Jubilee Pools from June 12th-25th *DB, SMH et al.*, while a juvenile was at Coton from July 25th-29th *SMH, TCH et al.*, with two there on 27th *SMH*.

Worcs A juvenile at Westwood from August 24th-27th *TMH, SMW*, was followed by a winter plumaged bird at Upton Warren on October 27th-28th *SC, DAJ*.

Staffs Two summer plumage birds were at Belvide on May 16th *JKH, SN* and 30th *PKD, SN*.

W Mid One at Stubber's Green from September 5th to at least 11th *TCH et al.*

Fulmar *Fulmaris glacialis*

Warks One paused briefly at Draycote on August 29th *KLMM, RCM*. Only the eighth county record and the first since 1989.

1981 Addendum

Warks One found exhausted at Avon Dasset on January 4th *BOS*. At the time this was only the second record within the present county boundaries.

Manx Shearwater *Puffinus puffinus*

Warks A bird found at Draycote on August 29th was observed throughout the day *JJB, SMH, PDH, RCM*. Towards evening it became very flighty and was thought to have departed at some height.

Worcs One found exhausted in a Bromsgrove garden on September 4th was successfully released on the flash pools at Upton Warren on 8th *JTB, REH, AGS*.

1985 Addendum

Warks One picked up at Priors Marston after a gale on September 7th *BOS*, taking that year's autumn total to seven.

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Worcs An immature reported flying over Brotheridge Green during mid-afternoon on November 17th *JRH*.

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Coombe/Draycote	242	260	220	130	108	4	1	8	30	160	262	328
Kingsbury	59	59	68	23	6	-	-	-	35	32	43	60
Ladywalk	88	2	27	4	-	-	-	-	-	13	17	63
Blitell	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	1	4	2	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	8	5	19	22	6	-	1	6	8	17	6	18
Larford	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
New Pool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3
Pirton	3	3	7	1	-	-	10	3	2	2	4	4
Upton Warren	7	54	3	9	2	1	2	1	7	8	14	32
Westwood	63	71	59	52	6	1	-	2	5	14	27	42
Wilden	-	-	-	2	-	-	6	1	-	-	-	-
Aqualate	17	22	55	20	-	-	-	2	20	19	10	6
Belvide	7	39	15	23	8	4	1	2	38	38	46	37

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Blythfield	14	22	62	36	9	11	22	34	85	45	93	90
Chasewater	80	17	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	4	7	36
Chillington	47	-	54	34	1	-	-	10	-	60	65	20
Tittesworth	2	5	4	4	2	-	-	18	4	6	4	7

Warks The December count at Draycote sets a new Regional record. Numbers there continue to climb much to the consternation of local fishermen, while an increasing number spending the day at their roost site at Coombe or commuting between the two sites make accurate counts of this population increasingly difficult. December seems to have been the peak month at other sites too, with 99 at Shustoke on December 8th the largest count.

Worcs Eight flew downstream at Bewdley on February 6th, with five over Old Hills on April 24th and three over Bredon Hill on May 29th. Four were seen at Lower Moor on November 6th and six at Beckford on December 18th. Smaller numbers at: Bransford, Kemerton, Kempsey, Little Witley, Oakley, Pershore, Ripple, Throckmorton, Trimley Res. and Upton-upon-Severn.

Staffs Smaller numbers were reported roosting at Gailey. The January count of 80 at Chasewater was a site record.

W Mid Seen throughout the year and apparently increasing in frequency, although most records are still of overflying birds. Records again came from 14 localities, with the most regular sightings at: Bartley (max. five on September 7th), Netherton (max. 13 on October 24th), Sandwell Valley (on 41 dates) and Wyken Slough (max. five on December 1st). Other site maxima included seven at Fens Pools on April 12th, seven at Valley Park on August 21st, nine at Kingstanding on October 3rd and 12 at Park Lime Pits on December 16th.

"Continental" Cormorant *P. c. sinensis*

Almost certainly overlooked but undoubtedly increasing in line with the general upward fortunes of the nominate race. The usual caveat concerning subspecific identification applies to these records however, as some elderly nominate birds may display a similar plumage.

Warks Birds showing characteristics of this race were reported from: Coombe, three on April 12th; Draycote, up to 12 from January 26th-April 10th; Kingsbury, five on March 22nd; and Ladywalk, one on April 6th.

Shag *Phalacrocorax aristotelis*

Warks The two immatures at Draycote first appearing in autumn 1992, remained throughout the year *many observers*. Two were seen at Earlswood on February 21st *JAC*.

W Mid A single bird at Netherton Res. on December 12th-13th, 15th and 24th *CJT*, with two on Longmoor Pool, Sutton Park on December 16th *CJW*.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Warks The bird at Ladywalk in December 1993 was reported as heard booming on January 1st and seen on 9th *per SLC*. Presumably the same bird was flushed here on March 1st *JLA*.

Worcs One seen briefly in flight at Westwood on January 10th *SMW*.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

W Mid A superb adult frequented a small pool at Foothole, Brierley Hill from May 6th-17th *SE, AG et al.* This constitutes the 11th Regional record but only the second for the county, the previous one being at Hayhead Wood and Park Lime Pits in April 1990.



Cattle Egret (John Teasdale)

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Warks A single bird found with cattle at Nuthurst Heath Farm, Anstey on September 24th *DB, RHm* remained until December 23rd, during which time it was observed by numerous observers. This bird, the first county record, was presumably the one first seen in **Worcs** in October 1993 which subsequently relocated to Gloucs. It was present at Sandhurst, Gloucs until at least September 2nd (*Brit. Birds 88. 499*), so may well have arrived at Anstey some days before it was discovered.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

The fourth year in succession that this attractive southern heron has appeared in the Region and although three is a fairly meagre total compared with the 10-14 of 1993, it looks like this species is now here to stay.

Warks One remained at Ladywalk from August 4th-15th *JLA et al.* This was the sixth county record and the second for the locality.

Worcs One flew over Fleet Lane, Bredon's Hardwick on April 27th *RWP*. In the same area, an adult visited Bredon's Hardwick GP on July 26th *SJH, RWP et al.*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

- Warks** Coombe had a good breeding season with a record 50 pairs producing young. At Ragley Hall, 27 young were raised from 17 nests. There was no information from other known heronries. Site maxima included 12 at Brandon, 27 at Draycote and 18 at Ladywalk.
- Worcs** The single central heronry remains occupied. Peak numbers elsewhere included 12 at Upton Warren in June, 12 at Bittell in August and six at Westwood also in August.
- Staffs** The county's breeding population showed a further small increase, with a minimum of 374 nests reported (cf. 332 in 1992). These included 45 at Aqualate, 112 in Bagots Wood, 15 at Eccleshall, 20 at Enville Hall, 57 at Gailey, 28 at Leek, 17 at Pendeford Mill NR, five at Radford, 59 at a locality in the south-east of the county and 17 in Trentham Gardens. However, there was negative news from former small heronries at Chillington Park, Hamps Valley, Landwell Farm and Checkhill Bog. Large post-breeding concentrations included maxima of 39 at Rudyard Lake on August 15th and 31 at Blithfield on 31st.
- W Mid** Reported from 15 sites during the year, the only large concentration being in Sandwell Valley where there was a peak of 16 in November. The Berkswell heronry, not reported since 1988, is now known to be still in existence and doing well, although no specific nest counts were received. Nesting was again suspected at the south end of Valley Park.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

This was only the seventh Regional record and was one of the forerunners of an exceptional influx of over 40 into Britain, mainly during May and June.

- Staffs** One briefly visited Westport on April 25th *MBI, WJL*. This, the third county record, followed hard on the heels of the second at Branston in May 1993.

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	12	11	7	16	—	57	65	65	32	29	39	21
Draycote	8	4	5	5	18	22	41	34	36	39	42	37
Kingsbury area	38	38	19	6	—	15	64	71	22	109	100	42
Pirton	14	6	6	—	—	—	13	13	62	64	64	12
Upton Warren	2	2	5	2	3	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
Westwood	10	3	12	—	8	13	10	22	10	3	5	5
Aqualate	—	—	—	3	1	—	9	8	8	12	11	7
Barton	13	51	22	22	5	33	62	34	22	13	12	4
Belvide	9	5	9	11	34	47	49	53	48	42	19	10
Blithfield	8	0	0	2	36	96	139	110	19	19	12	8
Chasewater	48	38	51	53	39	24	34	45	43	59	53	49
Croxall	102	72	78	82	61	31	8	41	28	16	23	7
Elford	33	79	49	35	35	29	48	53	42	75	97	101
Kettlebrook	10	6	6	13	9	14	14	11	10	10	4	6
Tamworth	42	—	—	35	35	29	48	53	42	36	—	—

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Westport	86	83	97	91	92	110	108	111	110	94	95	98
Netherton Res.	4	3	6	6	2	2	-	4	2	9	11	13
Wyken Slough	28	17	17	18	23	28	28	30	26	16	18	17

Warks Bred successfully on most suitable waters throughout the county. At Draycote, numbers have been swelled over the past two years by the arrival of moulting birds during late summer.

Worcs Pairs bred at: Bishampton Vale Pool, Bransford, Church Lench, Kemerton, Lower Moor, Strensham, Trimpley, Westwood and Worcester. Consistently high counts came from the R. Severn in Worcester all year, with 122 on April 17th the largest. The only other notable counts consisted of 15 on floodwater at Upton-upon-Severn on January 9th and 12 at Bredon's Hardwick in March.

Staffs Breeding pairs recorded from: Aqualate, Belvide (two), Betley Mere, Deep Hayes CP, Elford (four), Ford Green, Kettlebrook (three), Holden Lane Pool, Festival Park, Hanley Forest Park, Madeley Pool, Pendeford Mill NR, Smiths Pool, Westport (two) and Woodmill. Maxima recorded elsewhere included 31 on the Meece Brook, 40 at Whitemoor Hay and 72 at Wychnor Locks. At Chasewater, a total of 115 different ringed birds were recorded during the year, while at Westport at least 160 different birds were estimated to have used the site over the year. Of a total of 145 ringed birds recorded at the latter site, no fewer than 103 had originated from there.

W Mid Breeding reported from: Fens Pools, Sandwell Valley (three pairs), Sheepwash UP, Stoke Floods, Stubber's Green, Swanswell Pool, Withymoor Pool and Wyken Slough. Presumably this greatly under-records the current situation.

Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus*

Average: October 20th (5) – March 12th (5)

Another poor year.

Warks A herd of 27 at Draycote on February 7th was the biggest since 1991. Three were present there on March 1st and 12 flew south-south-west over Avon Dassett on 6th. In December, there was one at Ladywalk on 4th, two over there on 22nd and one near Dosthill on 31st.

Worcs One on floodwater at Upton-upon-Severn on January 4th, was followed by five adults on 8th-9th and ten adults and four immatures on 14th. One of these birds which bore a blue neck collar proved to be a female ringed as a yearling on August 10th 1992 near Kashin Island in the Gulf of Korovinskaia, which is situated in the lower Pechora River, Siberia. The bird had subsequently been recorded in both Germany and the Netherlands. A party of seven over Bredon's Hardwick on January 21st, may have been the same as the seven reported here on February 4th. At the end of the year, there were six adults again here on December 3rd and two on 14th.

Staffs The only records early in the year consisted of two at Elford from January 4th-February 13th, four at Rickerscote on January 6th and eight on 7th, with two at both Alrewas on January 15th and Belvide on 23rd. In the autumn, there were five at Elford from November 6th-December 4th, with five at nearby

Whitemoor Hay also on November 6th, increasing to seven on December 11th and three still present on 28th. The only others were three at Blithfield on November 11th, eight at Barton GP on 22nd and eight at Rickerscote on December 31st.

W Mid An adult in Sandwell Valley on November 8th.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Staffs A group of three adults at Belvide on March 21st *SN*, contained a bird that had been ringed in August 1993 in northern Iceland and which had been seen on January 27th at Welney, Norfolk. Two adults were there on November 15th *BL*. At Blithfield, there were two adults on January 16th-17th *several observers*, a group of six adults and three immatures on March 24th *AK, DK*, and two adults and a juvenile on October 28th *ESC, JCT*. An adult at Westport also on 28th *WJL* was joined by seven more the following day *NC, JAL, WJL*.

W Mid Two adults were in Victoria Park, Smethwick on January 31st *DW*. There were single adults in Sandwell Valley on April 2nd-11th, 15th and 30th *SVB*, at Fens Pools on April 13th *BMM* and at Sheepwash UP on April 29th and May 27th, with two there from May 30th-June 27th *DW, AGW*. Two adults flew east over Walsall Wood on November 21st *PAJN, SCW*. Presumably most, if not all these records refer to the two escaped birds first recorded in 1991, which are said to have originated from Cotwall End Nature Centre *per MDJ*.

1986 Addendum

Warks A single bird at Wormleighton Res. on November 22nd *BOS*.

1989 Addenda

Warks In January, two were at Wormleighton Res. on 2nd and one at Lower Radbourn on 15th *BOS*.

Wild Swans *C. columbianus/cygnus*

Staffs A flock of 43 flew west over Shutt Green, Brewood on March 3rd *IP*.

Bean Goose *Anser fabalis*

Staffs Two adults found at Elford north pit on January 15th, remained in the area until March 5th *DJA et al*. During this period they also frequently visited Alrewas, Croxall, Whitemoor Hay and Wychnor.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

Warks The regularly returning feral bird was again in the Brandon/Jubilee Pools area from late March until mid-September, with two on March 30th. A single at Bramcote on November 27th was also thought to be of feral origin.

Staffs A small movement was detected in January, involving 120 flying north-west over Barton GP (in two skeins of 70 and 50) on 16th *ESC*, 51 over Belvide on 17th *BL* and 45 west over Swallow Moss on 31st *AL*. 28 flew south over Tittesworth on December 18th, followed by nine heading south-west on 28th *PAW*. There were also a number of records of single, presumably feral, birds within flocks of Canada Geese. These came from Tittesworth on January 23rd and March 13th-14th, Rudyard on 29th, Belvide during September 27th

November 4th, Blithfield on 6th and 13th, and finally at Great Haywood on December 26th. The scatter of dates suggest that only one or two birds were involved in all these records.

W Mid Two skeins containing roughly 70 and 50 birds (possibly the Barton, Staffs flock), flew west over Sutton Coldfield on January 16th *JVH*. One flying south over Netherton Hill on November 28th *CJT*, was followed next day by two very wary birds which fed on riverside fields in Sandwell Valley for 45 minutes before leaving high to the north-east *PJM, RW*.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

Warks Two adults feeding in a field at Draycote from January 20th-23rd *JJB, SMH et al.* and a single bird flying over Coton at dusk on November 5th *SMH* were thought to be of wild origin.

Worcs The nine birds from 1993 continued to roost at Westwood from January 1st-13th, with eight staying there until 22nd *GHP, SMW*. The same nine also visited Grimley on January 8th, with a further seven flying south there the same day *TMH, MJI*. Five at Larford on January 17th *JEB*, were followed by a single immature on 20th *GHP* and 29th *TMH, MJI*. At Bredon's Hardwick, eight were found on January 21st, followed by a single on February 19th-22nd *SJH, MAS* and a late immature from April 3rd-6th *SJH, GHP, RWP*. A presumably feral adult was at Upton Warren on June 8th-9th and again on 18th *TMH, MJI*. At the end of the year, the only record was of a single adult at Bredon's Hardwick on December 10th-11th, 25th and 29th *SJH, GHP, RWP, SMW*.

Staffs A probably feral bird at Blithfield from December 20th-31st *several observers*.

W Mid The feral bird present in Sandwell Valley for much of 1993 remained there until March 19th *SVB*.

1992 Addendum

Warks Over 20 were on fields at Radway on January 16th *BOS*.

Greylag Goose *Anser anser*

Warks At least four pairs bred at Brandon rearing 18 young, the best breeding season ever there. Two pairs also bred at Coombe. The largest counts were 38 at Brandon, 40 at Coombe, 65 at Dosthill, 62 at Ladywalk and 16 at The Somers. Less than ten were seen at Alvecote, BAD Kineton, Draycote, Jubilee Pools, Middleton Hall and Stoneton Manor.

Worcs Only seen in the first quarter of the year. At Bredon's Hardwick, two were present on January 1st, followed by five on April 17th, dropping to three by 19th. Two were on the R. Avon at Bredon on January 16th, with singles at Pirton on February 20th, Westwood on 27th and Upton Warren on March 1st and April 12th, and two there on 23rd.

Staffs At Trentham Gardens, a small feral colony of three pairs were reported to have hatched 21 goslings, while on June 24th a flock of 38 counted here included 17 juveniles. Other records came from: Anslow, one on April 2nd and two flew over on 19th; Aqualate, one on January 16th; Belvide, one on March 30th-31st, with two present August 10th-18th and September 29th-October 10th; Blithfield, five on January 31st and March 9th-11th, followed by two on

April 7th; Branston, six on July 19th; Pendeford Mill NR, two on May 8th-28th, June 10th and September 8th; Tittesworth, one on April 24th; and Westport, five flew over on February 6th.

W Mid Up to two were present in Sandwell Valley throughout the year. One at Wyken Slough on March 10th, with two on November 27th. At Dunstall Park, noted on April 10th, May 15th (two), August 7th and September 25th. Singles at Sheepwash UP on April 18th and June 15th, with one high over Cradley Heath on April 27th and a singleton at Bartley on May 11th. A pair were noted in the vicinity of a residential cul-de-sac one mile from Wolverhampton town centre on May 15th.

Grey Geese Anser sp.

Warks 200 moving east over Wolston on November 26th were possibly Pinkfeet *per SMH*.

Staffs A party of seven which flew south over Blithfield on October 23rd were thought to have been Whitefronts.

Snow Goose Branta caerulescens

Warks A white-phase bird was at Ragley Hall on September 10th.

Staffs Two at Belvide on January 1st, with a single bird there on May 20th and 22nd.

Canada Goose Branta canadensis

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brandon	125	79	82	86	82	136	86	168	160	60	145	98
Chesterton	135	240	166	-	170	87	200	265	220	140	3	90
Coombe	156	184	89	80	80	120	352	-	340	-	-	230
Draycote	277	200	36	15	4	-	42	225	366	47	170	65
Kingsbury area	382	371	284	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	291	300
Bishampton Vale Pool	44	-	31	16	30	-	12	-	200	-	77	45
Bittell	73	7	34	12	-	4	16	444	300	37	126	99
Bredon's Hardwick	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	230	-	280
Grimley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146	-	-	-	200
Larford	65	1	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Pirton	86	122	87	40	-	-	170	235	256	25	2	33
Upton Warren	47	51	47	51	61	75	61	116	100	42	-	-
Westwood	200	15	6	2	14	29	20	100	400	240	191	280
Aqualate	125	75	46	36	53	-	0	162	233	60	17	14
Barton	73	63	39	8	15	74	94	303	248	42	-	164
Belvide	233	96	51	46	75	45	102	277	378	329	135	178
Blithfield	178	142	15	-	9	26	-	688	161	625	431	565
Chasewater	23	37	26	16	6	15	19	157	114	43	5	38
Chillington	16	12	27	37	35	22	22	-	-	-	-	-
Croxall	227	121	76	44	48	240	228	341	343	314	415	346
Doxey	300	-	-	42	-	12	-	-	-	207	184	369
Elford	267	86	104	-	76	70	53	248	24	3	393	15

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Kings Bromley	162	278	308	171	127	239	343	23	140	64	18	17
Pendelford	14	20	60	20	27	20	15	0	0	2	0	0
Rudyard	241	-	71	-	-	-	-	-	121	84	-	-
Tittesworth	103	101	47	30	17	40	62	351	90	78	65	160
Westport	25	37	34	21	23	51	55	60	33	54	32	32
Wyken Slough	65	51	23	5	5	6	23	43	190	106	185	65

- Warks** A common breeding bird on many waters, although the only localities to report more than five broods were Brandon with eight and Ladywalk with six.
- Worcs** 58 young were reared at Arrow Valley Lake. Other pairs bred at: Abberton, Beckford, Bittell (two), Bredon's Hardwick (four), Church Lench (two), Lower Moor (three), Mill Pond (two), Stanford Bridge (two), Throckmorton (two), Upton Warren (four), Westwood (two) and Wilden (two). Other large counts included 244 on the R. Avon at Bredon in January and 186 at Kinsham GP in August.
- Staffs** Breeding pairs were only reported from: Belvide (six, 42 young reared), Hanley Forest Park, Knypersley, Park Hall CP (two) and Trentham Gardens. Maxima at other sites included: 45 at Gailey in January, 137 at Trentham in June, 37 at Stanley Pool in August, 73 at Rickerscote in September, 43 at Hanley Forest Park in October and 75 at Great Haywood in December. Two birds belonging to one of the small races were present at Pendeford Mill NR from May 11th-20th.
- W Mid** Breeding pairs reported from Bradnock's Marsh (at least three), Hayhead Wood, Minworth SF, Park Lime Pits (two), Park Hall Pool in Walsall (three), Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP (seven), Sutton Park and West Smethwick Park Pool. Highest counts comprised 345 in Sandwell Valley in February, 326 at Bartley in August, 150 at Swanswell Pool in September, with 160 at Comets End and 142 on Smethwick Hall Park Pool in October.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis*

- Warks** A single at Draycote on January 1st was a straggler from the flock of six that arrived there on December 28th 1993. A feral bird circled over Ufton Wood on May 22nd and another was noted at Brandon on June 17th and August 2nd and 7th.
- Worcs** All records this year seemingly involved feral birds. These came from: Beckford, two on January 22nd, four on July 13th and two on August 19th; Bishampton Vale Pool, one on November 20th; Bittell, one from August 7th-September 5th; Bredon's Hardwick, two on January 1st, one on April 17th and three on December 10th; Upton Warren, singles on April 27th and September 25th; Westwood, one on October 6th and 10th; and Wilden, one intermittently May 16th-June 4th and again on August 28th.
- Staffs** Two birds present at Belvide from 1993 remained until March 12th, with singles erratically during July 13th-November 1st. Additionally, a party of 12 were present here on October 3rd and again from 5th-18th. Also during this period, a flock of 24 were present at Westport on October 4th, with 21 still present the next day before flying off south-east. Singles were also seen at

Pendeford Mill NR on March 28th, Aqualate on October 5th and at Blithfield on January 8th, August 14th and 27th, September 12th-18th and from October 8th until the end of the year, with three on December 11th.

W Mid One in Sandwell Valley was present on and off throughout the year. Singles at Sheepwash UP on February 28th, Valley Park on March 2nd and 23rd, Bartley from June 20th to at least July 22nd and again on August 21st, Tudor Grange Park on August 29th and Cornets End on October 8th. Four were seen at Edgbaston Res. on November 17th.

1993 Addenda

Warks One at Lower Radbourn on May 14th and three at BAD Kineton on December 15th-16th.

Brent Goose *Branta bernicla*

Warks Two adults of the dark-bellied race were at Draycote on January 1st-2nd *several observers*, with a single there on December 18th *RCM*. More unusual was a pale-bellied bird at Jubilee Pools on April 17th *DB*.

Worcs An adult of the dark-bellied race was at Upper Bittell on December 3rd *GJM*.

Staffs There were seven adults briefly at Blithfield on October 21st *MDJ* which flew off south-south-east, and one at Tittesworth on November 15th-16th *PAW*.

Anser/Branta hybrids

Canada x Greylag Goose

Warks At least one still seen occasionally at Coombe.

Worcs Singles at Beckford on January 22nd, Hewell Grange on April 15th and Bishampton Vale Pool on September 11th.

W Mid Singles at Swanswell Pool, Coventry on February 27th, Wyken Slough on March 4th and November 21st-22nd and at Dunstall Park on August 27th.

Canada x Swan (Chinese) Goose

Warks One at Ryton Pool on January 6th.

Canada x Barnacle Goose

W Mid One in Sandwell Valley from February 4th to the end of the year.

Barnacle x Bar-headed Goose

Worcs One or two birds of this parentage were present intermittently at both Beckford and Bredon's Hardwick throughout the year, with four identified at Bishampton Vale Pool on September 25th.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

A notable influx of unknown origin occurred in north-west Europe from late June-October, with at least 50 reaching parts of Britain. The highest numbers were in Finland suggesting that these were wild birds originating from the expanding population on the Russian steppes and not from the small feral colonies in Germany (*Birding World 8: 25*). Of records within our Region, only the party at Branston in July seems promising, the rest probably referring to just two or three wandering feral birds.

Warks A bird toured the Tame valley from Ladywalk up to Dosthill from March 20th-May 29th *many observers*, frequently accompanying non-breeding Shelducks. Thought to be female by most observers some believed it to be male. Sexing this species should be straightforward and the difference of opinion was possibly due to the effects of shadow which some observers believed had caused the appearance of a black neck-ring. A single bird was seen again at Ladywalk on November 5th *per SLC*.

Staffs A single bird was reported at Blithfield on January 18th-19th, March 11th and 20th, April 2nd, 5th and 19th, June 7th and then fairly regularly from June 15th-August 28th. Possibly the same bird then appeared at Barton GP on September 10th. One was also seen at Branston GP on April 5th and 19th, with three there on July 6th. In addition, the bird in the Warks Tame valley frequently visited Dosthill North GP during its stay *AB, MB, WB, ESC, FCG, AGJ, JCT*.

W Mid Singles at Sheepwash UP from September 22nd-30th *DW, AGW* and Stubber's Green on October 24th *GKN*.

1982 Addendum

Warks Two on floodwater at Chapel Ascote on April 6th *BOS*.

Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	8	21	20	5	6	13	13	-	-	-	-	-
Kingsbury area	5	23	12	6	10	6	4	-	-	-	-	2
Ladywalk	8	9	27	14	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Bittell	8	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	2	-	5	-	24	-	-	-	11	-	-	1
Grimley	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larford	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Upton Warren	2	2	4	8	-	-	-	3	4	3	3	-
Westwood	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Alrewas	-	2	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barton	4	12	6	16	26	19	2	1	-	-	4	13
Belvide	3	2	2	7	2	0	10	1	3	1	3	1
Blithfield	2	3	0	2	2	-	1	8	3	4	3	2
Branston	12	12	22	29	21	43	24	-	-	-	-	-
Croxall	1	-	4	8	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Westport	1	-	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Cornets End	-	-	-	2	2	2	-	-	2	1	4	-

Warks Pairs bred at Alvecote (three), Dosthill and Kingsbury (two). No young were seen at Ladywalk this year despite much display and an excellent peak of 27 on March 21st. A pair also summered in the Packington area. Small numbers were noted at a number of other localities during the year, including BAD Kineton and Chesterton in the south of the county.

Worcs Two were on floodwater at Upton-upon-Severn Ham on January 8th and three flew upstream on the R. Avon at Eckington on May 25th.

Staffs A successful breeding season was apparent at Branston, where four pairs

reared 25 young. Away from waters listed in the table small numbers were also reported from: Aqualate, Betley Mere, Chasewater, Doxey, Elford GP, Hill Ridware, Rickerscote, Rudyard and Tittesworth.

W Mid Five were present at Bartley on January 17th and again on April 7th, two at Netherton Res. on February 21st and September 21st, with three in Sandwell Valley on March 22nd and two there on 30th-31st. A pair were present at Minworth SF on April 26th, a juvenile at Bradnock's Marsh on July 31st and two at Sheepwash UP from October 5th-18th.

Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*

Warks A female or juvenile at Packington on August 19th was the only record.

Worcs Breeding season records came from Aston Mill (up to nine in May and June), Beckford, Grafton and Strensham. Elsewhere, there were six at Kemerton in January and one in March, a good total of 15 at Westmancote on August 25th and two males at Longdon Marsh on December 18th.

Staffs A free-flying colony was reported to have become established in Trentham Gardens, where several broods were seen in the dense cover of Rhododendrons fringing the lake. Single pairs were also seen in the Warslow/Longnor area on April 3rd and on the Trent and Mersey Canal at Great Haywood on 24th. In November, a male was at Blithfield on 13th, followed by a female on 20th.

W Mid A free-flying male at Woodlands Camp, Streetley on September 18th.

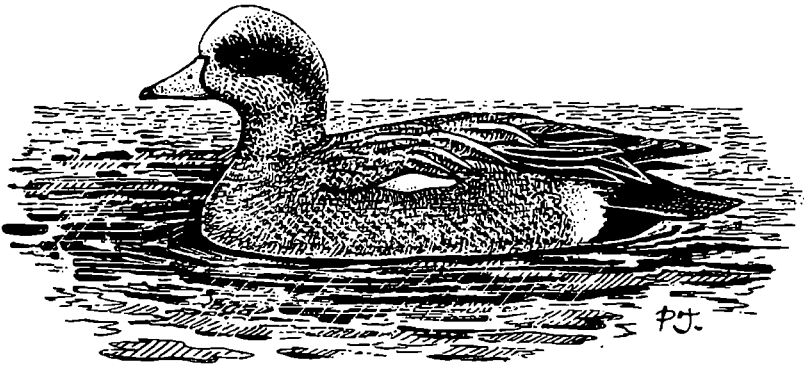
Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Draycote	600	1150	650	8	-	-	-	-	6	230	330	1028
Jubilee Pools	140	177	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	270
Kingsbury/Coton	262	192	103	2	-	-	-	-	14	70	331	543
Shustoke	112	68	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bittell	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	2	5	12
Bredon's Hardwick	60	450	215	4	3	1	2	1	44	240	152	1100
Grimley	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Larford	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Longdon Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
Pirton	27	18	35	-	-	-	-	-	26	114	90	44
Upton Warren	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1	4	7
Westwood	61	56	-	2	-	-	-	-	11	19	74	56
Aqualate	121	116	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	3	17	34
Barton	279	269	226	27	1	1	1	1	3	1	131	139
Belvide	255	350	185	14	1	0	0	0	63	154	259	204
Blithfield	1250	1301	616	21	2	1	2	7	16	180	270	906
Chasewater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	12	61
Croxall	591	377	381	28	-	-	-	-	-	79	280	464
Doxey	30	30	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1
Elford	14	62	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kings Bromley	35	55	82	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	57
Rudyard	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	285	140
Westport	280	256	100	-	-	-	-	-	10	19	101	320
Sandwell Valley	30	41	24	1	-	-	-	-	12	20	29	34

- Warks** Away from the main sites there were maxima of 180 at Baginton Lagoons, 110 at Brandon and 187 at Ladywalk. At the latter site in spring a male stayed until May 29th.
- Worcs** Elsewhere, seven were at Chateau Impney on January 9th, eight at Kinsham GP on November 5th and 25 at Upton-upon-Severn Ham on December 10th. Smaller numbers also at Bishampton Vale Pool, Lower Moor and Wilden, while at Mill Pond a feral pair remained all year.
- Staffs** Small numbers also seen at: Chillington, Copmere, Dosthill North GP, Holly-bush, Hill Ridware, Kingswood and Rickerscote.
- W Mid** Two at Bartley on January 1st were the only other records early in the year. As in 1993, autumn birds were again much more numerous. Records came from: Bartley, five on November 29th, eight on December 23rd and one on 27th; Cornets End, two on October 17th; Edgbaston Res., four on December 23rd; Netherton Res., one on November 4th, two on 29th and three on December 15th; Park Lime Pits, one on November 4th; Stubber's Green, small numbers regularly from September-December, with a peak of 24 on November 24th (possibly commuting from Sandwell Valley); and Wyken Slough, up to three from September 27th-October 13th, with singles on December 1st and 22nd.

American Wigeon *Anas americana*



American Wigeon (Phil Jones)

- Only the third Regional record of this abundant North American duck, the previous two coming from Warks in June 1985 and May 1987.
- Staffs** An adult male at Belvide from April 13th-21st *SN et al* was the first county record. The bird was found feeding along the north shore with a party of eleven Wigeon.
- Head showed whitish crown, slightly more mottled at rear and a dark green eye panel, heavily flecked black. Grey bill with black tip. Distinctly pinky-brown breast and flanks,

browner on mantle and a slim white flank stripe. A prominent white patch on rear flank bordering black undertail coverts. The upper wing showed a similar pattern to Wigeon with broad white wing patches and dark-centred tertials. In flight the bird showed distinctive white axillaries.

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Another apparently dismal breeding season.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brandon	29	13	10	11	3	2	3	1	7	30	18	16
Draycote	12	13	11	2	2	-	-	3	8	11	21	25
Kingsbury area	53	21	16	6	2	-	-	-	15	30	10	59
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	-
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4
Bredon's Hardwick	-	-	5	2	2	-	-	-	3	4	2	2
Larford	13	19	14	9	8	-	-	8	-	5	29	24
Pirton	17	7	4	3	-	-	-	2	2	10	10	18
Upton Warren	-	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	7	3
Westwood	60	71	54	5	4	3	2	7	18	34	49	15
Wilden	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
Aqualate	-	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	3	7	-
Barton	5	5	2	2	2	2	2	3	-	5	-	-
Belvide	12	14	16	12	10	20	34	36	59	37	30	5
Bliethfield	4	2	4	4	2	-	-	1	2	-	8	7
Branston	40	30	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chasewater	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	1	1	3	3
Chillington	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	8	-	8	-
Elford	20	24	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	20	76
Westport	5	3	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	2	2	3
Comets End	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Sandwell Valley	-	5	4	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	2	1

Warks Summering birds were present at: Brandon, Draycote, Kingsbury, Ladywalk and Napton Res., although again with no evidence of successful breeding. The last proven record was in 1991. Small numbers were seen at a number of additional sites during the year, with the larger counts being 25 at Jubilee Pools on January 6th and 18 at Ladywalk on October 26th.

Worcs Two broods were seen at Westwood and one at Church Lench. Five were on floodwater at Grimley on January 1st, with others at Lower Moor in January and April.

Staffs The 76 recorded at Elford in December was a county record. Smaller numbers recorded at: Croxall, Ford Green, Hanley Forest Park, Hill Ridware and Tittesworth.

W Mid The regular male was again present at Fens Pools intermittently throughout the year. Two were at Netherton Res. on March 11th. A pair at Bradnock's Marsh on May 15th, with two pairs present on 19th and a single on December 4th. A pair were in Sutton Park on October 15th and three pairs at Sheepwash UP on November 6th.

Teal *Anas crecca*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	15	29	40	38	—	2	—	8	22	8	80	120
Brandon	172	125	178	97	2	10	19	176	237	218	256	280
Draycote	400	450	300	42	1	—	—	26	50	86	175	218
Kingsbury area	193	55	43	13	5	7	3	6	31	—	40	400
Ladywalk	113	80	56	40	3	3	3	—	130	75	120	22
Bittell	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	3	7	45
Bredon's Hardwick	—	—	10	—	—	—	3	3	32	22	10	240
Grimley	130	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	42	—	—
Holt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	—
Longdon Marsh	250	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Strensham	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	6	59	—
Upton Warren	45	32	30	19	2	2	5	49	65	65	80	101
Westwood	67	28	24	5	2	—	1	7	18	20	15	25
Wilden	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	9	15	14	—	—
Aqualate	512	70	0	2	—	—	—	—	23	0	6	5
Barton	179	110	69	20	1	—	7	94	148	515	440	320
Belvide	507	400	250	35	6	11	23	233	272	455	452	432
Bliethfield	573	219	10	14	1	12	4	540	592	545	610	812
Chasewater	15	7	—	—	—	—	—	6	18	6	7	35
Chillington	8	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	7	10	4	—
Croxall	323	197	241	50	1	3	3	12	45	273	—	215
Elford	78	61	8	—	—	—	1	24	67	7	17	69
Hill Ridware	27	58	37	36	—	—	—	10	23	131	—	19
King Bromley	11	29	10	2	2	—	1	—	—	32	—	32
Pendelford	12	5	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	20	14
Rudyard	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	80	433	300	519
Tittesworth	12	12	10	18	—	6	6	18	18	1	26	80
Cornets End	26	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	57	—
Sandwell Valley	25	30	30	15	—	1	1	11	36	55	25	—
Sheepwash UP	38	20	15	4	—	—	1	6	19	22	35	47
Stubber's Green	19	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	6	4	18

Warks Present in small numbers at several sites during the summer months but with no evidence of successful breeding. Away from the tabulated sites, the most notable count concerned an exceptional 450 at the strictly private Baginton Lagoons on November 22nd.

Worcs A female with young was reported by a waterboard official at Strensham Lagoons in early May. Ten were at Guarford on September 6th, with smaller numbers at Aston Mill, Bishampton Vale Pool, Kempsey Hams, Kinsham, Larford, Mill Pond and Pirton.

Staffs Maxima elsewhere included 300 at Doxey on January 5th and 80 at Ricker-scote on September 20th. Smaller numbers recorded at: Copmere, Ford Green, Hanley Festival Park, Hanley Forest Park, Holden Lane Pool, Holly-bush, Parkhall CP and Yoxall Park.

W Mid 20 at Bartley on December 23rd. Fewer than ten reported from: Fens Pools, Hayhead Wood, Minworth SF, Netherton Res., Park Lime Pits, Sutton Park, Valley Park and Wyken Slough.



*This **Black-throated Diver** was the first to be seen in the Region for almost five years. Himley, March (Phill Ward).*



***Golden Plover.** A common winter visitor to the Region's farmland; but very few pairs still nest on the northern moorlands. Blithfield, August (Phill Ward).*



*A scarce passage migrant to reservoirs and gravel pits, this **Bar-tailed Godwit** visited Chasewater in May (Phill Ward).*



***Grey Phalarope.** This well-watched bird at Jubilee Pools was one of three or four to appear during September (Phill Ward).*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
 Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	58	75	57	18	30	108	89	120	88	12	110	120
Brandon	252	180	26	27	103	150	220	600	285	98	80	109
Chesterton	80	80	22	-	56	89	157	146	166	190	150	260
Draycote	480	380	140	90	124	150	245	490	600	430	480	600
Kingsbury area	226	176	100	18	26	66	52	60	104	181	185	341
Bishampton Vale Pool	12	-	-	2	12	14	12	33	25	20	29	18
Bittell	52	42	9	15	-	8	57	180	80	77	39	45
Bredon's Hardwick	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	100	50	35	60
Larford	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Pirton	48	30	12	-	-	-	49	108	64	95	22	75
Strensham	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	72	29	30	-	16
Upton Warren	-	-	-	20	92	109	107	240	359	60	94	73
Westwood	120	30	16	10	50	74	175	200	110	120	182	110
Wilden	-	-	-	-	-	-	100	70	250	160	-	-
Aqualate	753	130	20	36	62	-	392	402	127	230	124	300
Barton	409	196	79	35	59	120	150	153	254	556	544	388
Belvide	630	546	320	30	77	257	235	595	573	329	344	335
Betley	12	24	5	-	-	9	27	135	31	-	-	-
Blithfield	412	349	43	59	72	201	766	15/3	656	1025	998	735
Borrowpit	44	-	-	25	21	7	18	12	32	22	-	-
Chasewater	88	57	43	39	47	55	85	235	313	126	154	134
Chillington	215	145	36	46	34	22	46	300	300	50	250	200
Copmere	100	14	8	8	7	-	-	-	200	59	44	53
Croxall	370	293	130	130	125	213	122	285	584	513	514	476
Elford	202	107	34	-	21	120	28	134	113	79	37	206
Hill Ridware	124	43	96	60	68	72	65	174	169	372	233	64
Kettlebrook	62	75	44	41	36	32	39	55	59	17	42	68
Kings Bromley	295	194	104	48	48	46	130	233	203	217	129	238
Pendeford	30	20	30	20	10	15	15	20	40	35	30	30
Rudyard	60	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	147	157	317	504
Westport	72	105	77	29	19	41	105	111	122	114	88	77
Cornets End	177	-	36	14	-	97	36	79	26	71	-	-
Fens Pools	35	45	-	-	-	-	72	-	37	35	14	-
Netherton Res.	24	43	29	17	13	13	14	16	28	32	28	23
Wyken Slough	75	40	14	7	6	12	19	79	128	48	47	42

Warks Clearly a common breeding species but little definite information actually received. The largest brood totals were six at Brandon and seven at Lady-walk. A count of 600 at Brandon on August 21st was a reserve record. Other notable counts included 220 at Baginton Lagoons, 200 at Coombe and Lady-walk and 145 at Napton Res.

Worcs Broods reported from: Abberton, Bishampton Vale Pool, Bittell, Bredon's Hardwick, Lower Moor (two), Mill Pond (several), Stanford Bridge (two), Strensham (seven), Throckmorton (two), Upton Warren, Westwood and Wilden (12). Other counts included 50 at Kinsham on October 30th and 63 at Belbroughton Pool on December 26th.

Staffs Broods only reported at: Aqualate, Ashwood, Belvide (19), Chasewater (six), Knypersley and Trentham Gardens. Maxima at other sites were: 120 at

Doxey and 81 at Stowe Pool, Lichfield in January, 62 at Minster Pool, Lichfield in February, 107 at Ford Green in July, 86 at Trentham Gardens and 50 at Leek STW in August, 84 at Rocester JCB Pool and 130 at Crossplains in September and 76 at Knypersley Res. in November.

W Mid Broods reported from Fens Pools (six), Grand Union Canal (eight between Catharine-de-Barnes and Castle Lane, Solihull), Park Lime Pits (five), Sheepwash UP (at least ten), the Staffs and Worcs Canal in Valley Park, and Wyken Slough (two). Other counts included 112 at Stubber's Green in July and 75 at Bradnock's Marsh in December. A poorly recorded species.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Draycote	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-
Kingsbury area	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	3	5	-
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	3	22	12	-	-	-	-	-	5	6	1	43
Kempsey Upper Ham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Longdon Marsh	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pirton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Upton Warren	15	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	3
Westwood	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	3
Belvide	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	17	6	1	2
Blithfield	12	7	36	2	2	-	-	16	23	33	31	31

Warks Early in the year there were five at Chesterton on January 2nd, a female at Ladywalk from January 6th-February 20th, and a pair at Brandon on January 7th, two pairs on February 25th and a male on 28th. It was a good autumn at Ladywalk starting with an exceptional 13 on September 20th, followed by single males on 24th and October 21st, a pair on 26th-30th and finally a male on November 22nd. At Alvecote, there were singles on September 25th and on several October dates, with two on 23rd. A male was at Coombe from November 19th-23rd.

Worcs A female at Kinsham on April 26th and a male at Kempsey Lower Ham on December 14th were the only other records.

Staffs On January 16th, there were four at Aqualate, two at Croxall and two at Kings Bromley, while one was on the R.Trent at Alrewas on February 12th. Later in the year, birds were recorded at: Branston, one on July 17th; Chillington, one on August 21st; Tittesworth, singles on July 18th and October 4th-8th, with three on November 19th; and Westport, 14 flew over on September 18th with a single on November 6th.

W Mid There were singles in Sandwell Valley on September 15th and October 6th and a female was at Edgbaston Res. on December 7th. A very confiding male on a small pond at Meriden on May 11th was presumably an escape.

1985 Addendum

Warks A party of 11 on Temple Pool, Upton on January 6th was a good count for the south of the county.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

Average: April 2nd (51) – September 27th (50)

A very poor year with only three spring records, the first being on May 1st at Belvide. A small influx was evident during August, with the last at Belvide on September 17th.

- Warks** A poor year, with no records from some previously favoured areas. Only three birds were involved, all during August. At Draycote, an eclipse-plumaged male was present from August 2nd-5th and a female from 21st-27th. A female or juvenile was at Baginton Lagoons on 9th.
- Worcs** A male at Upton Warren on May 29th was the only spring record. On return passage, a pair in eclipse plumage were at Upton Warren on August 10th, with possibly the same pair at Bittell from 11th-28th, being joined by a second eclipse male from 14th-28th.
- Staffs** The only spring records were of single males at Belvide on May 1st and Blithfield on 2nd. In the autumn, three were present at Belvide on August 6th, increasing to four on 12th, five from 21st-25th and eight on 30th. Four were seen again here on September 4th, one remaining until 17th. At Blithfield, a female on July 30th was followed by one on August 24th, two from August 26th-September 4th, two again on 8th and one on 9th.
- W Mid** An eclipse male in Sandwell Valley from August 6th-11th.

Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	2	4	–	–	–	–	–	5	59	2	8	4
Brandon	31	34	53	38	19	4	15	54	75	36	20	24
Coombe	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	5	50	220	100	–
Kingsbury area	38	109	39	–	4	–	20	25	28	27	45	50
Ladywalk	62	40	80	40	1	–	–	1	2	15	60	24
Bittell	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	1	1	–	–	1
Bredon's Hardwick	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	8	10	10	4	1
Larford	4	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Pirton	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–
Upton Warren	11	6	19	13	3	4	7	30	60	46	52	67
Westwood	76	55	45	5	1	2	–	5	30	91	81	92
Wilden	30	67	10	3	–	–	7	11	–	–	45	99
Aqualate	36	0	0	0	2	–	–	12	97	17	14	0
Barton	8	6	2	5	2	4	–	16	14	7	14	–
Belvide	77	10	27	20	20	10	10	140	125	160	128	120
Blithfield	0	0	4	6	12	6	13	172	80	62	17	1
Branston	36	43	48	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Chillington	18	–	4	–	–	–	–	10	14	48	35	–
Croxall	13	5	2	8	4	4	–	3	1	–	7	–
Fens Pools	8	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	3
Netherton Res.	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	2	2
Sandwell Valley	7	10	8	2	2	–	1	1	20	20	13	10
Sheepwash UP	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	–
Wyken Slough	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	2	7	3

- Warks** No proven breeding this year. The count of 220 at Coombe on October 14th appears to be a county record. Other maxima included 20 at Draycote on January 9th, and excellent totals of 65 at Baginton Lagoons on November 22nd and 43 at Shustoke on December 25th, the latter attracted by low water levels.
- Worcs** One at Naunton Beauchamp on July 27th and two at Bishampton Vale Pool during October, were the only other records.
- Staffs** A pair bred at Belvide, with four young reared. The only other sizeable count was 32 at Hill Ridware on September 26th, while smaller numbers appeared at: Chasewater, Doxey, Kettlebrook, Pendeford Mill NR, Rickerscote, Tittesworth and Westport.
- W Mid** A pair were seen at Minworth SF on April 26th. At Bartley, singles were noted on September 1st and October 15th, with three on November 29th. Seven were at Bradnock's Marsh on December 11th and three on 25th. At Stubber's Green, one was noted on October 18th, five on December 13th and two on 28th. In Sutton Park, five noted on September 22nd, six the next day and three on 28th. Appears to be increasing as a winter visitor to the county.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

- Warks** After a good year in 1993 a more typical showing. At Draycote, a male present from October 23rd *several observers* was joined by a female on November 19th *REH, DJS*, both remaining until 20th. Of dubious origin and presumably the bird from November 1993, an immature male was seen at Wolston on May 13th and 15th and at Brandon on several dates during June 14th-July 4th at least.
- Worcs** A female was present at Bishampton Vale Pool intermittently during May 4th-July 17th *GHP et al.*, with another at Bredon's Hardwick from September 10th-17th *LAB, GHP, SMW*.
- Staffs** Single females/immatures were at Belvide on August 6th-12th and September 7th-12th *several observers*, while five males were there on October 7th *KVC*. A female at Blithfield on August 13th *MB, WB*, was followed by a male from November 13th-26th *ESC et al.*

1990 Addendum

- Warks** One at Poolfields on August 27th-28th *BOS*.
- 1993 Addenda**
- Worcs** A female was at Bittell from July 6th-August 7th *KC, GHP et al.*, and a female/immature at Larford on November 14th *REH, WFP*. A moulting male at Westwood on November 24th *SMW*, subsequently reappeared at Upton Warren, where it stayed from December 6th-21st *GG et al.*

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	143	95	45	1	2	3	-	1	-	4	55	50
Brandon	58	39	18	3	-	-	2	1	1	30	35	43
Draycote	170	215	80	1	1	1	8	4	18	71	200	95
Lea Marston/Coton	633	885	515	6	6	-	80	55	-	566	707	1096
Bishampton Vale Pool	15	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	34	53	56

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bittell	44	33	4	1	-	-	-	3	-	9	60	77
Bredon's Hardwick	257	180	5	-	5	-	5	-	8	37	53	-
Larford	48	36	7	-	-	-	-	-	=	10	-	19
Pirton	120	185	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	42	56
Upton Warren	44	40	27	2	1	3	20	8	80	21	21	37
Westwood	157	100	15	5	-	-	16	15	87	171	173	134
Wilden	24	31	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	21	-	92
Aqualate	320	85	20	5	-	-	-	-	2	7	28	129
Barton	7	25	8	-	-	-	1	4	-	26	9	18
Belvide	145	103	25	1	4	12	13	15	130	252	257	237
Blithfield	157	128	29	6	10	21	13	22	16	133	101	134
Chasewater	120	84	14	5	-	-	-	5	37	55	104	95
Chillington	29	-	87	-	-	2	5	10	17	5	10	22
Copmere	8	25	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	26
Croxall	45	26	46	2	2	-	-	1	6	5	81	24
Elford	55	68	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	39	18
Hill Ridware	16	14	25	-	-	-	-	-	10	3	28	17
Kings Bromley	28	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Tittesworth	25	33	20	-	2	-	-	-	1	1	35	33
Westport	35	57	14	0	1	0	14	4	16	14	40	51
Cornets End	166	95	69	1	-	-	-	-	-	36	71	-
Fens Pools	14	13	5	-	-	-	2	1	3	12	12	15
Sandwell Valley	59	62	35	-	1	-	3	2	20	40	50	70
Sheepwash UP	4	9	5	1	-	-	-	-	1	8	20	24
Sutton Park	9	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	17	10
Wyken Slough	16	16	4	-	-	-	5	-	-	4	18	19

Warks A few birds summered at the traditional breeding sites of Alvecote and Coombe but the only evidence of successful breeding this year came from Wormleighton Res. (a new site), where a female with two young were seen on July 3rd.

Worcs A male was on a small pool near Bartles Wood on June 19th. Other counts included 78 on floodwater at Upton-upon-Severn on January 8th, 25 on floodwater at Grimley on 16th and 13 at Hewell Grange on February 10th.

Staffs No breeding evidence again.

W Mid Counts on other waters included 26 at Stubber's Green on January 7th, 22 at Kingswinford Park on February 24th, 29 at Queslett NP on November 20th and 31 at Bradnock's Marsh on December 25th.

Ferruginous Duck *Aythya nyroca*

Warks The regularly wintering male was again observed by many observers at Coton/Lea Marston, where it remained until February 28th PC and was present again from October 16th JAA, BLK to the end of the year. At times it displayed to a female Pochard JAA.

Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Draycote	700	250	120	32	21	-	50	50	355	420	680	491

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Kingsbury/Dosthill	205	122	142	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	247	273
Lea Marston/Coton	722	646	420	400	-	-	410	880	500	960	830	870
Bishampton Vale Pool	20	15	15	26	20	22	26	15	55	38	45	24
Bitell	12	11	6	23	2	4	5	9	13	18	8	14
Bredon's Hardwick	68	60	32	30	29	-	5	5	10	13	16	24
Larford	26	10	8	12	20	-	4	3	-	3	-	16
Lower Moor	5	-	-	13	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pirton	66	38	25	18	-	-	25	18	16	4	24	19
Throckmorton	13	6	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	6
Upton Warren	3	6	16	57	18	14	31	22	8	7	6	14
Westwood	80	75	65	57	20	3	15	30	54	65	95	95
Wilden	-	-	2	52	62	35	39	16	-	4	-	-
Aqualate	63	47	29	19	16	-	2	37	13	73	137	137
Barton	36	45	33	43	23	51	81	33	21	42	45	20
Belvide	55	56	87	60	46	40	27	86	160	275	147	89
Betley	10	22	19	11	3	18	10	-	13	-	-	-
Blithfield	33	27	55	61	101	151	219	197	189	157	149	48
Chasewater	792	658	382	203	4	4	43	161	315	647	750	862
Chillington	136	80	24	10	18	12	22	200	170	38	150	115
Copmere	60	61	85	45	2	-	-	-	104	193	130	108
Croxall	167	146	147	103	-	45	82	183	112	55	109	73
Elford	59	57	59	-	34	27	103	48	84	58	71	61
Gailey	25	23	-	-	-	-	36	35	-	80	-	Hill
Ridware	55	53	65	47	17	22	10	14	34	60	97	40
Kettlebrook	16	10	34	8	-	-	4	-	-	-	9	23
Kings Bromley	14	16	-	-	-	2	3	2	2	-	-	-
Tittesworth	20	15	15	8	13	12	16	5	2	3	9	9
Westport	120	155	66	28	11	8	28	32	70	36	64	66
Comets End	22	-	20	14	-	9	3	32	9	17	-	-
Fens Pools	54	40	56	20	15	5	30	-	35	73	70	-
Netherton Res.	72	102	10	2	4	2	2	2	6	10	5	34
Sandwell Valley	132	156	60	35	-	-	-	-	-	49	-	140
Sheepwash UP	6	6	-	12	6	10	15	-	8	15	18	12
Sutton Park	25	35	25	-	-	-	-	-	49	50	35	49
Wyken Slough	15	22	12	2	-	2	1	1	4	6	20	22

Warks Broods were seen at: Baginton Lagoons, Coton (six), Dosthill (four), Draycote (seven), Freasley, Frog Hall GP (two), Hartshill SF (three), Ladywalk (two), Packington and Seeswood. One of the best counts away from the tabulated waters was 115 at Jubilee Pools on January 6th.

Worcs Broods reared at: Bishampton Vale Pool, Bredon's Hardwick (five), Highwood, Lower Moor, Netherton Pool, Stanford Court, Strensham, Upton Warren (two), Wilden and Wordley Dingle. Small numbers recorded from a further ten sites.

Staffs Broods at: Aqualate, Belvide (four), Betley Mere (two), Ford Green, Rudyard, Tittesworth and Woodmill. The 862 counted at Chasewater on January 10th was a new county record.

W Mid Broods only reported from Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP and Stubber's Green. Presumably under-recorded, all breeding records would be welcome. The only other notable count concerned 35 at Minworth SF in late April. Totals of less than 20 were reported from a further six waters.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

- Warks** At Draycote, the two immatures from 1993 remained until February 27th, being joined by an adult female on 16th. On February 26th an impressive 13 were seen (comprising nine males and four immatures), while a female stayed from March 16th-27th. The only record from the usually favoured Tame Valley sites during this period was of a female/immature at Coton on March 22nd, although a male and immature female appeared briefly at Dosthill on May 24th. In the autumn the latter district fared better with a female arriving at Lea Marston on October 16th, with two from 22nd and three on 30th. Also that day an immature male arrived, remaining into 1995. From November 1st to the end of the year, at least two females/immatures could usually be found here with up to five from November 21st-28th. An immature was at Shustoke on December 10th. At Draycote, one or two females/immatures were present from October 16th-27th, with an immature male on 24th.
- Worcs** The female present at Bredon's Hardwick from December 1993 remained until March 10th. This bird was joined by an immature male on March 5th, which moulted into adult plumage and remained until May 12th. A female was at Kempsey Lower Ham from January 1st-5th, with two on 6th-7th. A male stayed at Westwood from January 18th-29th, with a second male (in moult) from 28th-31st. The latter then moved to Larford, where it was present from February 1st to at least 28th. Another male was on the R. Severn at Redstone on February 20th. In the autumn, a female was at Upton Warren on September 27th and a female/immature at Bredon's Hardwick on October 18th.
- Staffs** A better year than last year. The female at Chasewater at the end of 1993 stayed until March 12th. Apart from an immature male at Westport on January 23rd, all other records in the first half of the year seemed to refer to spring passage. These involved a male at Great Wyrley on March 11th, single females at Blithfield on March 30th, April 9th and 17th, five (three males) at Belvide on May 7th and a final female at Blithfield on 14th. An early female was seen at Trentham Gardens on July 29th and this was followed by an immature male and three females at Westport on September 29th. Females were further present at Belvide on October 29th-31st and November 20th and at Blithfield on December 11th (two) and 14th-18th. At Chasewater, an immature female remained from November 20th to the end of the year.
- W Mid** The female at Netherton Res. from 1993 was present intermittently until March 6th. What may well have been the same bird (described as a female/immature) was at Fens Pools from January 5th-26th, February 6th, 13th and 19th, and again from March 1st -7th. A first-winter female at Withymoor Pool on January 12th was also possibly this bird. A female was on Longmoor Pool, Sutton Park on March 31st-April 1st. In the autumn, a first-winter male found at Berkswell on November 13th then moved to Bradnock's Marsh from 20th to December 11th. Possibly the same bird was then seen at Bartley on December 23rd and in Sandwell Valley on 24th.

Aythya hybrids***Pochard x Tufted Duck***

Warks Females were noted at Draycote on January 26th and Lea Marston on February 6th, with a male at Coton on November 18th.

Staffs A male was at Chasewater on November 27th.

Tufted Duck x Pochard

Warks A male was at Draycote on February 11th and 27th, with two on 12th. A male reappeared here in autumn on November 5th, remaining until the end of the year. In the Coton area, the male from 1993 remained until April 11th and was again present from December 18th into 1995.

Staffs A male at Belvide from November 9th-26th.

Tufted Duck x Scaup

Staffs A female at Chasewater on January 1st and a male at Belvide from October 29th-December 31st.

Scaup x Tufted Duck

W. Mid A female at Netherton Res. on August 10th.

Red-crested Pochard x Pochard

W. Mid A male was on the Staffs and Worcs Canal in Valley Park during late March and again on April 10th and 16th *VPBG*.

Long-tailed Duck Clangula hyemalis

Staffs Two out-of-season records came from Belvide. A first-summer male was present from May 4th-12th *KVC, JVH, SN, SAR* and a female on June 9th *SN, SAR*. The last county record was in 1990.

Common Scoter Melanitta nigra

Warks A poor year at Draycote, but a wider scatter of records from elsewhere than recently. A male at Shustoke on March 31st, was followed by a party of 19 (two males) at Coton on May 15th which arrived after a night of drizzle and south-easterly winds. There were single males at Packington on June 6th, Draycote on July 7th and Coton on August 12th, with six males at Dosthill on July 27th. Later in the year a male and five females at Draycote on October 10th, were followed by single females at Dosthill on November 6th and Shustoke from November 24th-December 9th.

Worcs Three males and a female were at Bredon's Hardwick on May 31st. An immature male was at Bittell on July 27th, followed by an immature/female at Westwood on 31st. In November, there was a female at Bishampton Vale Pool on 6th and an immature male at Westwood on 25th.

Staffs In the spring, there were two males at Rudyard on April 12th and a party of eight (five males) at Belvide on May 23rd. This was followed by a flock of 11 (three males) at Chasewater on June 3rd and an influx of 32 (29 males) at Westport and 13 at Blithfield on July 3rd. A single male was at the latter site on

July 10th-11th, with a female at Belvide on July 24th, three males at Chasewater on 27th and a single male at Barton GP on August 6th. Two males were at Belvide on October 2nd, while at Blithfield there were ten females on November 4th, three on 5th, two on 6th and finally two more on 25th.

W Mid A female at Bartley on June 25th.

Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

W Mid Two immature males and two females were in Sandwell Valley from December 3rd-19th SVB. Initially very wary, they soon settled down to a daily pattern of roosting on Forge Mill Pool and flying to Swan Pool to feed at dusk. This was the first county record since January 1979 when one was also on Swan Pool.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dosthill	55	75	125	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	30
Draycote	169	155	110	36	-	-	-	1	1	25	155	160
Bittell	8	7	7	5	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	2
Dredon's Hardwick	0	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Hewell Grange	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Larford	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lower Moor	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Upton Warren	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Westwood	10	10	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5
Wilden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Aqualate	1	4	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3
Barton	36	46	44	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	2
Belvide	30	20	36	31	4	0	0	0	0	28	37	33
Blithfield	26	33	21	19	1	-	1	1	1	22	30	26
Chasewater	155	138	128	60	1	1	1	1	1	22	108	148
Chillington	8	8	12	6	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	11
Copmere	6	14	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	6
Croxall	6	1	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	9
Elford	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hill Ridware	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kings Bromley	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rudyard	3	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tittesworth	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Westport	21	20	18	11	0	0	0	0	0	12	26	15
Bartley Res.	1	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Fens Pools	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	5
Sandwell Valley	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
Sutton Park	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

Warks Winter peaks have gradually been edging higher over the last three years and the January and March counts at Draycote and Dosthill respectively are new site records, the former also being a new Regional record. Small numbers were also seen on a number of other waters, mainly in the northern half of the county.

Worcs A single at Bishampton Vale Pool on November 5th was the only other record.
Staffs The female that summered at Chasewater had a broken wing caused by a collision with a power line. The count of 155 here on January 15th was a county record.

W Mid Two males at Netherton Res. on February 21st were followed in the autumn by a single bird on October 17th. There was one on Dunstall Park Lake from October 18th-20th and two at Cornets End on November 13th and 27th.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Warks At Dosthill, the three redheads from 1993 were regularly present until February 6th, with four there on January 30th *JAA, BLK* and two until March 19th. Up to two of these birds also visited Coton until March 27th. Singles, probably different individuals, remained at Dosthill until April 23rd *SR, ICW* and Coton until the late date of April 27th *JJB, PC*. At Draycote the male and two redheads from 1993 were joined by an immature male on January 8th *REH* and all four stayed to March 13th. Three of these (including the adult and immature males) stayed to the 27th and two to the 29th *many observers*. For the first time since 1984 there were no autumn records from Draycote, though birds returned to the Tame Valley. Single redheads appeared at Coton on November 13th *BLK* and Dosthill on 14th *PC*, with regular sightings of singles there and occasionally at Kingsbury until the end of the year *several observers*. Two were seen at Coton on December 25th *SMH* and Dosthill on 29th, with three there on 30th *BLK*. The only male in the Tame Valley this year appeared at Shustoke on December 21st *BLK*.

Worcs The redhead from 1993 was again at Lower Moor intermittently during January 8th-February 27th *GHP, WFP*. A redhead was on Mill Shrub pool, Bittell on November 27th *JJB*.

Staffs An excellent year, with a small influx during the early months all consisting of redheads. Two stayed at a private site in the west of the county from January through to at least March 13th *per FCG*. Others were seen at: Blithfield, one on January 9th *ESC*, two from 10th-19th *ESC et al.*, three on 31st *AL*, one on February 6th *WJL* and 9th *ESC*, two on 11th *ESC*, three on 12th *MB, WB* and two on 13th *AL, WJL* and 21st *ESC*; Chasewater, one on February 12th *GE*; Copmere, one on January 14th *GM*; and Dosthill North GP, singles on February 27th *ICW, MY* and April 23rd *MAA, RJT*. In the autumn, there were single redheads at Belvide *SN* and Blithfield *MB, WB* on November 5th and at Dosthill North GP on 23rd *MAA, RJT*. Finally, single males appeared at Chasewater on December 12th *MY*, Belvide on 14th *FCG* and Blithfield on 20th and 30th *ESC*, possibly referring to just one or two individuals.

W Mid A redhead visited Withymoor Pool, Brierley Hill for ten minutes on November 27th before leaving to the north *SC*.

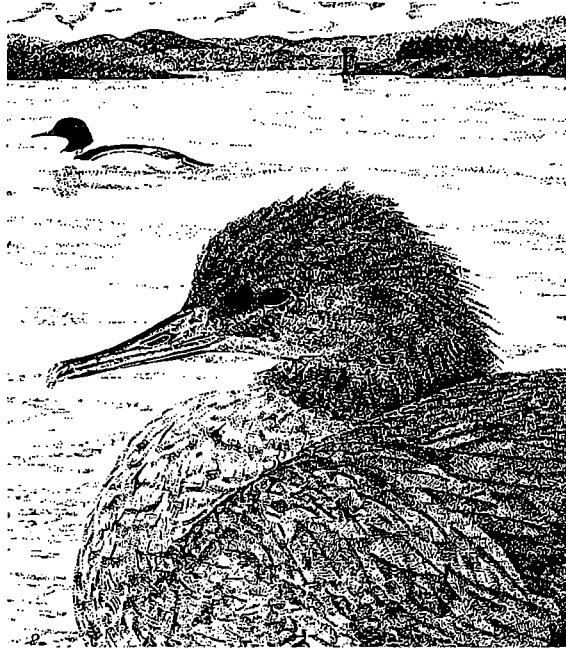
Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

Warks The redhead at Draycote from December 1993 remained until January 16th *RCM et al.* Another at Shustoke from March 31st-April 3rd *SMH* may have been the bird at Coton also on April 3rd *ARD*.

Worcs
Staffs

A redhead was seen at Bredon's Hardwick on September 21st *SJH, SMW*.
A female with 15 young on the R. Dove near Mayfield on May 25th *EH*, was the first evidence of breeding within the Region. Unfortunately, the river here forms the county boundary with Derbyshire and so it cannot be proved that the brood was hatched on the Staffs side. A female was seen at Belvide on November 4th *KVC, SN* and a male on November 20th *KVC*, while a male was at Chasewater on December 3rd *ICW, MY*.

Goosander *Mergus merganser*



Goosander (Terry Parker)

The first breeding record from Worcs was notable, following a gradual eastward spread into England from the Welsh borders.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Draycote	52	46	43	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	18	41
Shustoke	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Bransford Pool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24	54	-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bredon's Hardwick	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	=	2	-	1
Larford	5	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	17
Stanford on Teme	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	-
Upton Warren	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Westwood	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Barton	25	18	4	11	2	1	-	-	-	-	8	1
Belvide	27	46	27	5	1	0	0	1	3	5	17	64
Blithfield	80	62	62	14	1	-	-	-	-	1	28	64
Chasewater	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
Chillington	12	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	19
Croxall	6	2	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doxey	16	7	8	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Longsdon Mill	3	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pendelord	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	6
Rudyard	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Tittesworth	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
Sandwell Valley	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1

Warks Maxima of six at Ladywalk in both winter periods and 11 at Shustoke on December 23rd. Up to three were also present at Alvecote, Brandon and in the Kingsbury/Coton area. One on the R. Avon at Hampton Lucy on February 20th and a male at Warren Chase Pool, Wilmcote on March 17th were good local records.

Worcs A pair with 11 young at a locality on the R. Teme during May 29th-June 5th at least, constituted the first proven breeding in the county. A male and 53 redheads at Bransford Pool on November 10th was also a county record. Other records consisted of a redhead at Lower Moor from January 1st-20th, a male flying upstream on the R. Severn at Bewdley on February 6th, seven redheads on Stanford Court Pool on November 27th and two redheads at Hewell Grange Lake on December 9th. A male at Upton Warren on the late spring date of April 23rd was noteworthy.

Staffs Birds were present at the recent breeding site in the north-east of the county during March and April but again there was no proof of success. Maxima at other sites were: five at Alrewas on February 12th, one at Bishops Offley on February 28th, three at Gailey on November 21st and two at Kings Bromley on March 13th.

W Mid A single at Bartley on December 23rd was the only other record.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Flock counts at the main wintering sites continue to decline.

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Colon	125	17	14	6	6	-	20	45	-	145	143	184
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	-	4	6	5	6	11	10	10	8	3	0
Bittell	-	-	1	5	-	-	3	4	-	-	3	2
Bredon's Hardwick	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Church Lench	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	10	-	-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Pirton	5	8	4	2	—	—	7	6	7	10	2	1
Upton Warren	1	2	10	13	8	7	10	6	4	2	1	2
Westwood	12	12	9	13	8	9	8	6	16	16	11	19
Wilden	—	—	—	18	12	8	12	7	—	—	—	—
Aqualate	0	2	3	34	30	—	1	4	20	19	14	17
Belvide	2	2	24	17	19	25	7	4	8	31	50	30
Betley Mere	—	—	7	10	9	4	32	22	18	—	—	—
Blithfield	245	390	250	116	6	11	12	115	174	411	434	480
Cornets End	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	8	2	8	—	—
Sandwell Valley	1	—	2	8	2	4	8	2	5	4	6	3
Sutton Park	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	7	7	12	—	—

Warks Very few records were received for the breeding season, with broods only at Chesterton and Kingsbury (two) and low numbers of summering birds apparent. The largest count in the Dosthill/Kingsbury area was 73 on March 22nd, while away from this area there were maxima of only 14 at Alvecote, ten at Chesterton, nine at Ladywalk and six at both Brandon and Draycote.

Worcs Broods were recorded at Bishampton Vale Pool (two), Westwood and Wilden. Birds also noted at Hewell Grange and Larford.

Staffs Broods at: Adbaston Pools, Chasewater (two), Kingswood, Elford and Rocester. Other localities to attract small numbers included: Barton GP, Bearstone Mill, Chillington, Croxall GP, Ford Green, Gailey, Hollybush Lake, Kings Bromley, Hill Ridware, Rudyard and Westport.

W.Mid The only confirmed breeding records came from Fens Pools (two broods), Sandwell Valley and St Margaret's Lakes (Great Barr). Also reported from Bradnock's Marsh (max. four), Edgbaston Res. (four), Minworth SF (display noted), Netherton Res., Sheepwash UP, Stoke Floods (max. seven), Stubber's Green (pair) and Wyken Slough (max. two). At the latter site a sharp decline has occurred since the peak year of 1992 (when a max. of 11) and breeding has ceased. A male at Bradnock's Marsh from May 14th-21st at least, had an all dark head with no white cheek patches and resembled the Peruvian race *ferruginea* GIG, PDH. However an aberrant or melanistic bird could not be ruled out (cf. a similar bird was described at Kingsbury on March 23rd 1991).

1993 Addenda

Warks Single broods were noted in the south-east of the county at Lower Radbourn and Stoneton Manor.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Although this fine raptor has missed just two years since 1987, this was only the 12th Regional record this century. Six of these have been during the month of September.

Staffs A dark-phase immature which flew east over Hixon on September 17th WK, WJL was the fifth county record this century.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Records continue to increase.

Warks The bird frequenting the Draycote/Thurlaston area during late 1993 was presumably the one at Kites Hardwick on February 4th JJB. Another was

seen briefly over the A46 near Warwick on August 4th *DCB*, while the first bird to be seen over Ladywalk (rather than distantly) was noted there on August 20th *DIL*. It is notable that six out of eight arrivals this century in the county have been during July and August.

Worcs One flew across the M5 motorway at Offerton on March 27th *IGC*. On June 6th, a first-summer bird with no wing tags flew from Eckington onto Bredon Hill *JRH* and was seen again that evening above Bredon's Norton *RWP*. Next morning, the same bird was seen flying east over Westmancote *SMW* but in the evening was back over Bredon's Norton *DO*. A wing-tagged bird flew over Defford on June 24th *JRH*, while one was watched drifting east over Upper Bittell on October 23rd *KC*.

Staffs The bird from 1993 was still present on the Sheepwalks on January 22nd *KVC* and 30th *ICW*. A wing-tagged individual from the English reintroduction scheme was at Beech from April 14th-17th *DH et al*, with the same bird seen later in the year at Belvide on September 17th *JKH, SN*.

1991 Addendum

Warks One flew over Avon Dassett on July 28th *BOS*, the first in the county since 1975.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

A record spring passage with possibly 16-20 individuals involved. In contrast there was only one autumn record.

Warks An adult male passed through Dosthill on April 29th *ICW*. A female seen at Ladywalk *BLK* and Marston *KW* on May 10th probably remained in the area until 12th when it reappeared at Ladywalk to attack a juvenile Coot *per SMH*. Another adult female on August 3rd quartered the same Packington fields as did one in 1991 *NPB*.

Worcs A good spring at Upton Warren, with single female or immature birds noted on April 10th and 30th *SC*, and on May 1st *JTB* and 13th *SC*. On May 14th, a female/immature was seen in the morning *REH, TMH*, with an immature male reported in the afternoon *AFJ*. Single females or immatures were also seen at Westwood on May 8th *GDL* and 14th *TH*.

Staffs An excellent series of spring records came from Belvide, with single adult females on April 4th *KVC*, May 7th *SN* and 14th *SAR* and immature females on May 8th *GIG, FCG, SN*, 14th *SN* and 15th *SN, PT*. All were thought to refer to separate individuals. Elsewhere, an adult female flew over Dosthill North GP heading towards Tamworth on April 23rd *ICW, MY*, while a first-summer male was seen on the North Staffs Moors near the Mermaid Public House on April 26th *AB*.

W Mid A female drifted northwards over Park Lime Pits on May 10th *AKD*.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

Worcs A ringtail was seen on Bredon Hill, near Westmancote on May 1st and 4th and above Conderton on 8th *DO*. In the autumn, a female was again on Bredon Hill above Conderton on at least November 24th *NCI*.

Staffs The male and female from 1993 were again roosting on Swallow Moss early in the year, with many records from this area during January 17th-April 6th

several observers. In the autumn, a male was seen here on October 29th *MB, WB*, followed by regular sightings again until the end of the year, involving this bird and a ringtail *several observers*. A male, probably from Swallow Moss, was seen at Boarsgrove on March 29th *AB*. Elsewhere in the county during the early months, there were reports of a female at Tixall Wide on January 9th and February 16th *FCG*, a ringtail shadowing a flock of Redpolls at Brocton Coppice (Cannock Chase) on February 18th and again seen briefly on March 15th *JCT*, and a female at Tittesworth on April 4th *PAW*. In the autumn, a ringtail was seen at Barton GP on November 13th *ICW, MY*, December 20th *ESC* and 31st *DJA*.

1993 Addenda

- Warks** A ringtail was seen by four observers at Fenny Compton on the unusual date of August 8th *BOS*. This brings the 1993 county total to five, the best year on record.
- Staffs** The wing-tagged ringtail at Swallow Moss during September is now known to have been marked in Argyllshire, Scotland sometime during 1992/93, having completed a journey of 410 kms.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

- Staffs** A female at Belvide on May 15th *AL, SN et al.* stayed for only fifteen minutes, but was watched down to twenty yards during this time. The last county record was in 1983.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Undoubtedly continues to be under-reported.

- Warks** Two adults and a juvenile watched at a site in the southern half of the county on August 27th was the first hint of possible breeding for many years. A male soaring high over Dosthill on September 9th *SMH* caused total panic; even the Coots were disturbed.
- Worcs** Noted at two localities in the breeding season, but unfortunately no further breeding data was received (cf. 1993, pairs were seen in at least five locations with two successful nests reported). The only records away from known breeding areas this year concerned one heading north over Upton Warren on April 11th *AFJ* and a female at Pirton Pool on November 7th *SMW*.
- Staffs** A pair bred successfully at one location, with possible breeding pairs present at three others. Away from these areas, a female was watched being mobbed by crows at Belvide on April 7th, a female was at Tittesworth on October 5th, with one on the Sheepwalks on 30th.
- W Mid** One drifted over Longmoor Valley, Sutton Park on March 29th *CJW*, while one circling over Barrow Hill, Pensnett on April 7th *KJC* may also possibly have been present the previous day.
- 1991 Addendum**
- Warks** One reported at Gaydon on August 15th *BOS*, may have been the same bird that was later seen at Draycote on 18th and at Grandborough in September.
- Sparrowhawk** *Accipiter nisus*
- Warks** Widespread and common, seen throughout the county.
- Worcs** Recorded at 18 locations during the breeding season and at a further 16 sites

at other times of the year. A female was seen carrying a Long-tailed Tit at Trimpley Rco. on May 20th and throe were seen together above Bredon's Norton on June 7th.

Staffs Despite receiving many records from throughout the county, reports of confirmed breeding came from only five sites: Brancote, Chillington Park (three young), Coombes Valley (three pairs raised eight young), Needwood Forest and Pendeford Mill NR. Prey species reported ranged from Blue Tit to Fieldfare, while at one site a bird was seen to release a Little Owl after being surprised by the observer.

W Mid Definite or probable breeding records came from: Aldridge, Bartley, Birmingham city centre, Brades Hall, Brandwood, Cutler's Rough (Frankley), Edgbaston, Fens Pools, Knowle, Mons Hill, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Smethwick, Sutton Park, Valley Park (two pairs) and Walkers Heath. Reported from a further 15 localities outside the breeding season. Five were noted in the air together at Wyken Slough on April 8th, and a male was seen trying to catch a House Martin high over Valley Park on August 29th.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Continued increase reported from all counties.

Warks At least six pairs were thought to have bred successfully. As would be expected the west of the county has seen most birds although there is, nevertheless, a good spread of records from 16 other sites. Four over Wolverton on October 7th and five over Church Pool Covert on 9th may have involved passage birds.

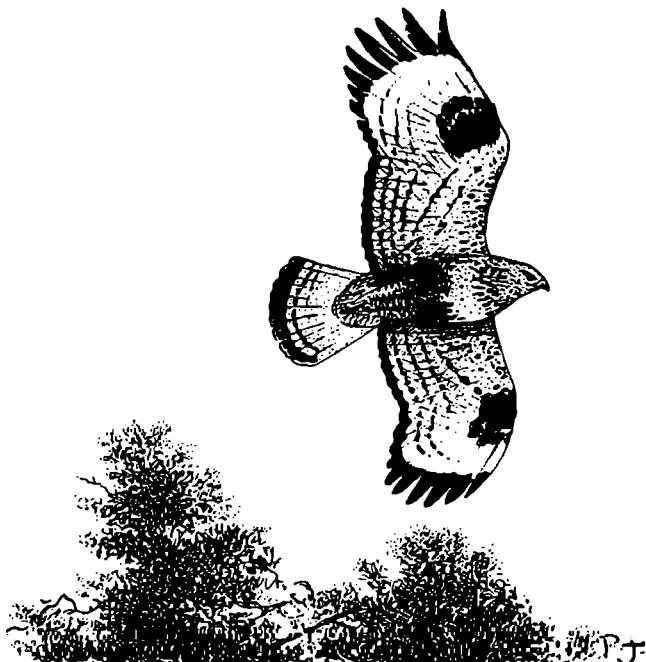
Worcs Despite being seen in 45 widespread localities during the breeding season and at 24 sites outside it, there was very little information on breeding with only two attempts documented. However, records show that it is now becoming firmly established in many areas east of the R. Severn, where formerly it was rare or absent. The largest reported group was five; over Woodbury Hill on May 17th and over Guariford on August 28th.

Staffs A large number of records were received this year from most parts of the county, showing that fairly rapid colonisation from the west is progressing. More records of breeding activity would help evaluate its true status in many districts as well as documenting this spread. It was seen at Belvide on 103 different days during the year. There were more records of small parties than usual, with seven at Chillington on March 6th and groups of five at Dydon, Froghall, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Penkridge during the post-breeding period. However, there were two exceptionally large concentrations, both of 16; at the Sheepwalks on March 26th and at Aqualate during September.

W Mid Up to four were present at a locality in the east of the county during the year and one pair may have nested. Elsewhere it was recorded in Sandwell Valley on February 11th (two), April 6th, May 15th and June 7th and in Valley Park on March 20th, April 22nd and October 4th, while three were over Saltwells Wood on March 26th and one on April 19th. Other singles were seen over Barr Beacon on March 20th, Bromwich Wood on April 19th, Halesowen on 28th, south Walsall on May 27th, Netherton Hill on June 16th, Barrow Hill on

July 1st, Wall Heath on 19th, Wyken Slough on August 4th, Fens Pools on 13th and Wrens Nest on October 21st.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*



Rough-legged Buzzard (Phil Jones)

These two were forerunners of the second largest documented national influx of the century. From October 16th to the end of the month over 100 arrived in Britain (only surpassed by the 250 in October 1974), which after a number of lean years was most unexpected. Interestingly, ten of the first twenty reports (up to 22nd) came from central or western counties (*Birding World* 7:379).

Warks A juvenile watched hovering over fields around Nebsworth on Ilmington Downs on October 17th eventually flew east after harassment from two Common Buzzards *SMH*. The first confirmed county record since 1974.

Staffs One at Swallow Moss on October 17th *PGo, PM, AMP* was watched for ten minutes before departing north.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Warks Five records probably involved four birds. Singles were seen at Draycote on April 2nd and 23rd *RCM*, Dosthill on May 15th *DIL* and at both Brandon *per FGS* and Draycote *JJB, GIG* on September 4th.

Worcs Single birds passed over Upton Warren on April 16th *PA, SC, AGWr*, and on

May 8th *GG, AFJ* and 16th *PA, PQ*. One flew north-west over Hewell Grange on April 26th *CG*, while in May singles were seen over Walton Hill on 14th *DAJ et al.*, flying north over Eckington Bridge on 25th *JRH* and visiting Trimley Res. on 28th *PG* and 29th *CJ*.

Staffs The first record of the spring concerned a single bird flying north over Wall on April 4th, which was later seen over Stowe Pool, Lichfield and then again twenty minutes later over Rugeley *all RJJ*. Singles were also seen at Blithfield on April 10th *RJJ*, Belvide on May 4th and 10th *JKH, SN*, Tittesworth on 25th *PL, JO* and 29th *PAW* and again at Belvide on June 1st-2nd *BL*. The only bird on return passage stayed at Blithfield from August 28th-30th *ESC*.

W Mid One flew over Fens Pools on April 9th *RS per EGP*

1989 Addendum

Warks One at Farnborough on April 15th *BOS*.

1990 Addendum

Warks One at Kineton on May 24th *BOS*.

Lesser Kestrel *Falco naumanni*

1973 Corrigendum

Staffs/ Following a recent review of the species in the light of improved identification
W Mid criteria, the BBRC has now rejected the record of one at Chasewater on November 4th 1973 due to inadequate documentation (*Brit. Birds 88: 505-6*). Consequently this species is deleted from the Regional list.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Warks Some observers are commenting specifically on an apparent decline though often this is noted as relative to a strong rise in Sparrowhawk numbers. Clearly under-recorded however, with definite breeding records only reported from Earlswood, Finham STW, Ladywalk, Lea Marston, Middleton, Radway and Rugby. Good success was also reported from specially erected nestboxes set up alongside the M40 motorway. On June 15th a total of 15 chicks were ringed in three boxes between Junctions 12 (Gaydon) and 15 (Longbridge).

Worcs Recorded during the year in 28 localities, with successful breeding at Bittell and Strensham and other pairs present in the breeding season at Castle-morton Common, Frankley, Hollybed Common, Oddingley, Old Hills and Pepwell. A very similar situation to last year.

Staffs This common raptor unfortunately continues to arouse very little interest among observers, with only a handful of records received. Breeding was recorded in the Belvide area (three pairs), Brancote STW (the fledged young here were accidentally drowned in a deep tank), Coombes Valley (two pairs raised five young) and Pendeford Mill NR.

W Mid Confirmed breeding in Birmingham city centre, Coventry city centre (two pairs), Foleshill gasworks, Pye Hayes GC and alongside the Solihull bypass. One territory on the Mons Hill CBC plot, with probable breeding at Frankley, Meriden STW and Minworth SF (three pairs). Regularly reported during most of the year at Bartley, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Valley Park and Wyken Slough. Further records from another 11 sites, though several observers report a decline.

Merlin *Falco columbarius*

- Warks** Some observers are finding this formerly scarce bird with increasing ease, focusing attention on good numbers of Skylarks, pipits or Linnets feeding on wide open fields such as those existing in the Kingsbury, Over Whitacre and Wishaw areas. There were at least 14 individuals involved in 18 records, eleven of them during the autumn period. During the first quarter there was a male at Wishaw on January 2nd and a female on March 12th *SMH*, one at Compton Verney on January 12th *NC*, single males at Hillborough Manor on February 4th *SDN* and Piccadilly on 21st *SR*, a female/immature at Draycote on March 11th *RCM* and a female at Coton on April 22nd *SMH*. Autumn records started early, with a female/immature at Draycote on September 3rd *PDH* and another at Poolfields on 10th *NP*. A female was on the Kingsbury rifle ranges on September 27th, October 2nd and 15th *SMH*, with another female at Over Whitacre also on 15th *SMH*. Single females were at Wishaw on November 20th and December 27th *AC*, and at Coton on December 23rd *PC* and 27th *SMH*, *SW*. A male was reported in the Coombe-Brinklow area on several dates during November and December *per JJB*.
- Worcs** In the first quarter, single females were seen at Upton Warren on January 2nd *AFJ*, Pershore on 21st *GDL*, Great Comberton on March 22nd *PFW*, Nafford on 27th *PFW*, Little Comberton on April 1st *PFW* and again at Upton Warren on 5th *GJM*, *AGWr* and 15th *GHP*. The only male was at High Green on March 6th *JRH*. Records were more frequent in the autumn, with males at Upton Warren on October 18th and November 23rd *AFJ*, at Bredon's Hardwick on October 21st *GHP* and 22nd *SMW*, flying over Little Comberton on November 30th *RRH* and near Droitwich on December 23rd *RRH*. Females or immatures were seen at Throckmorton Tip on October 19th *GHP* and on December 3rd and 8th *PFS*, with others during this month at Bredon's Hardwick on 1st *SJH* and 28th *RWP*, Upton Warren on 12th *AGWr* and at Belbroughton on 26th *REH*.
- Staffs** Another excellent breeding season, with three successful pairs on the North Staffs Moors *AH* and many sightings reported in this general area throughout the year. Elsewhere in the county, it was reported early in the year at: Belvide, single females on January 27th and April 15th *BL*; Branston GP, a female on January 22nd *ICW*, *MY*; Elford, a male on January 25th *AB*; Tittesworth, a male on February 2nd and March 20th, a pair on April 4th, followed by single males on May 1st and July 31st *PAW*; and Whitemoor Hay, a male on February 2nd, followed by two on 24th *DJA*. Autumn sightings came from: Alrewas, a female/immature on October 23rd *ICW*; Barton GP, a male on November 13th *ICW*, *MY*; Belvide, a male on October 6th and a female on November 27th *BL*; Blithfield, a female/immature on September 18th *ICW* and 21st *ESC*; and Whitemoor Hay, a male on October 31st *DJA*, November 7th *ESC*, 23rd and on December 28th *DJA*.
- W Mid** Only two records were submitted this year, both from Wyken Slough. An adult male was watched sunbathing on a footpath during the early morning of August 14th after having apparently roosted there overnight, while an immature male on December 4th-5th was preying on Meadow Pipits *JJB*.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Average: April 24th (27) – October 2nd (30)

A bird at Kingsbury on April 6th was another very early arrival, with others appearing daily from 20th. During the autumn records were daily until October 2nd, followed by a very late bird at Wyken Slough on 28th-30th which surpasses the previous latest record (1985 at Doxey) by five days.

Warks Positive breeding records have been difficult to come by during the past two years. Nesting pairs are known to move short distances within territories and they are not easy to relocate. This year only one definite success was recorded. This was in the northern half of the county where a further two sites held family parties in autumn. Regular records, possibly indicating local breeding, were received from four other sites. Brandon had another good year with 38 records from April 20th to September 9th, involving up to three birds together. In contrast there were only six records from Draycote, 13 from Kingsbury and five from Ladywalk.

Worcs Well reported during the summer months, with records from 40 localities scattered throughout the county, which is about the same as last year. Regular sightings came from Abberton, Bishampton Vale Pool, Bittell, Bredon's Hardwick, Little Comberton, Tibberton, Upton Warren, Westwood and Wilden. Evidence of successful breeding in the county was suggested by a pair with two fledged juveniles feeding off hayricks near Droitwich during August and a pair with one juvenile near Chaddesley Corbett on September 5th.

Staffs Numerous sightings were reported from most areas of the county, with three probable breeding pairs located. Flying juveniles were reported from Belvide, Bliithfield, Needwood Forest and Pendeford Mill NR.

W Mid One pair bred successfully in the county raising two young. Elsewhere, one or two were noted on a total of 28 occasions between May 2nd and September 17th at: Bartley, Earlswood, Fens Pools, Kingstanding, Lower Gornal, Netherton Hill, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park, Valley Park and Wyken Slough. At the latter site, a very late immature bird was present October 28th-30th *JJB*.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

Warks Since the demolition of the Hams Hall Power Station there have been only four records at Ladywalk but sightings have been fairly regular further up the Tame Valley. Ladywalk recorded birds only in the first winter period: a female on January 6th and 12th *BLK*, and singles on February 21st and March 6th *per SLC*. In the Kingsbury area one was noted mobbing a Short-eared Owl on February 12th *PDH*, and further singles were at Dosthill on August 13th *MAA*, *RJT*, Kingsbury on September 11th *MAA*, *SMH*, *RJT*, Middleton on October 3rd *PC* and 21st *BLK*, Coton on 30th *MFO*, Lea Marston on December 17th *SMH* and Dosthill on 25th *SR*. From Draycote there were reports of singles on February 12th-13th *RCM* and October 22nd *REH*, *DJS*, with one nearby at Grandborough on December 25th *JW* and at Lawford Heath on 26th *PFA*. Odd sightings away from these two main areas included a female at Bedworth on February 2nd *JJB*, a very vocal immature male at Harbury on May 14th *NPB*, *JJB*, *SMH*, *TCH*, an immature female at Astley Gorse on

August 22nd *SMH*, an adult male at Exhall on October 30th *ICW*, and an adult female at Harborough Magna the same day *ICW*.

Worcs Once again a large number of records received, which can only be summarised here. Birds were seen at various sites along the Malvern Hills throughout the year, but less frequently than over the last three years. Regular records also came from Bredon's Hardwick from January-April and again from September-December, and at Upton Warren. Here, two were seen on January 3rd and then one or two birds occurred regularly from August-December, often roosting on the radio masts at nearby Wychbold. Elsewhere, there was one at Timberhonger on January 1st-2nd, with two at Longdon on 4th and others there on December 10th and 18th (two). Two birds were seen at Stoulton on January 28th, with singles at Pirton on February 4th and October 10th and at Throckmorton on February 11th and November 10th. At Crowle, where there had been no sightings during the previous thirty years, singles were noted on February 11th and 24th, April 7th and October 10th. More isolated sightings came from Whittington in March, Grafton Flyford in April, Evesham in May, Lower Smite in June, Castlemorton Common in August, Northwick Marsh in September and High Green in October.

Staffs A record number of sightings. A pair bred successfully at one site in the county for the third successive year, while a second pair probably nested at another site.

At Belvide recorded on the following number of days per month:—

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
5	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	11	11	8	6

There were sightings here on a total of 47 days during the year (cf. 23 in 1993, 24 in 1992). All reports before August were believed to be of adults with a strong showing of immature birds in the second half of the year. Two adults were watched sparring on December 15th *many observers*. There were also increased sightings at Blithfield, with records on January 16th *WJL*, August 5th *ESC*, 14th *GIG*, *PDH*, 20th *ICW*, 28th *PDH*, September 4th *ESC*, *REH*, *PDH*, *MJI*, 11th *MJI*, 17th *WJL*, *ICW*, 20th *PDH*, 21st *ESC*, October 8th *WJL*, *ICW*, 11th *MJI*, November 6th *ICW*, 17th *ESC*, December 3rd *WJL*, 7th *ESC*, 10th *MY*, 11th (two) and 16th *ESC*. Elsewhere in the county, reports came from: Barton GP, immatures on August 20th *ICW*, *MY* and October 9th, with a male on November 6th *ICW*; Beech, one on April 16th *NC*; Boarsgrove, one on May 29th *AB*; Coven, a male on January 31st *KA*; Croxall, a male on January 29th *ICW*, *MY* and an immature on September 20th *ESC*; Elford, two on January 16th, with singles on April 2nd and November 26th, and a female on December 6th *DJA*; on the moors by the Mermaid Pub, a female on April 26th *AB*; the Sheepwalks, an immature on December 10th *REH*, *DJS*; Swallow Moss, one on August 2nd *JWi*; Tittesworth, a male on November 8th and female on December 6th *PAW*; Waterhouses, one on December 26th *JAL*; Westport, a male on August 6th *NC*, *WJL*; and Whitemoor Hay, singles on February 2nd, April 20th and August 16th *DJA*, with two on 25th *ESC*.

W Mid In Birmingham, up to two birds wintered on the University clock tower, being

present from January through to mid-March *ARD*, while one calling on the Alpha Tower in Broad Street on March 22nd was probably one of these *HSQ*. Later in the year, singles flew south over Netherton Hill on May 4th *CJT* and north over Bartley on 10th *JHB*, *AN*, with another here on July 30th *JHB*. A female was seen at Kingswinford on September 15th *SLH*.

1990 Addendum

Warks One at Whatcote on October 31st *BOS*.

Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus*

Staffs Records received from many areas across the North Staffs Moors. No large packs were reported, although it was fairly numerous on the Roaches and around Swallow Moss. A pair with seven chicks were seen at the latter locality on June 1st. The Roaches estate gamekeepers were reported to have been pleased with grouse numbers there, attributing success to selective heather burning and closing concessionary paths during the breeding season.

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Staffs For the second year running all records of this declining bird were again restricted to Swallow Moss, where the hide provided excellent viewing. Unfortunately the maximum number of males reported was down to seven this year (from 12 in 1993), while no more than two females were seen. One potential problem from an unexpected source was that sheep in the field were seen butting the birds on occasions!

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Captive-bred hybrid Red-legged x Chukar Partridges known as "ogridges" were widely released in Britain for sporting purposes during the 1970's and 80's. These birds which show intermediate features, notably a greatly reduced black "necklace", have several advantages over pure birds such as the ability to produce more eggs in captivity. Although the release of these hybrids was stopped in 1992, the damage had unfortunately already been done and in some counties eg. Suffolk, few pure-bred birds are now thought to exist. We know next to nothing about their distribution or abundance within the Region and so all observers are urged to scrutinise carefully any "Red-legs" and report their findings.

Warks Fairly numerous on areas of rough ground both industrial and rural, as well as on arable land. The largest coveys reported were of 18 at Packington on January 20th, 32 at Lawford Heath on September 25th and 17 at Hams Hall on October 23rd. Pairs of hybrid Red-legged x Chukar Partridges were noted at both Draycote and Frog Hall GP.

Worcs Noted at 14 widespread localities. The largest coveys recorded were of 15 at Bredon on January 11th and 50 at Aston Mill on November 5th, the latter coming from an area where they are artificially reared and released for shooting.

Staffs Very few records received, the only one referring to possible breeding being two pairs present at Crossplains. In the region of the North Staffs Moors, a single bird on moorland at Gun Hill on March 20th and a covey of 11 at

Tittesworth on December 4th indicated a continued presence there. Elsewhere, the largest covey reported was of 16 at Tixall on December 28th.

W Mid Appears to be still fairly numerous in the Wiggins Hill/Wishaw area. The only other records consisted of two on Netherton Hill during the breeding season, singles at Coombeswood in March and at Sheepwash UP (a former breeding area) on April 17th and May 29th, and a pair in a front garden near Earlswood on April 2nd-3rd. Nine at Bradnock's Marsh on November 27th was a good number.

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Warks The few records received for the breeding season included birds at: Brailes, Compton Wynnyates, Coombe, Dosthill, Draycote, Freasley, Hurley Common (three pairs), Monks Kirby, Priors Marston, Radway, Tysoe, Walton and Wishaw. The best coveys were 12 at Draycote, 20 at Grandborough and 14 near Wishaw.

Worcs Reported from nine widespread localities. The only evidence of breeding referred to two juveniles at Abberton on July 24th. A covey of 30 noted at Larford in January, with 19 again here in December, were the largest counts.

Staffs Few records of significance were received. The largest covey reported was of 21 at Whitemoor Hay on December 22nd, while 12 on the Roaches on September 25th was a good number for a moorland locality.

W Mid Two in a field off Bosty Lane, Aldridge on February 12th and May 3rd, with three on December 24th. At Park Lime Pits, a single bird on January 6th, with a pair noted on 14th, March 21st, May 4th and June 15th. Two were present at Wall Heath during April, a pair at Minworth SF on April 27th and one near Dorridge Park on May 30th. Seemingly on the verge of extinction in the county.

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Average: May 5th (8) – August 30th (5).

A better year than last.

Warks A pair bred at Radway, where up to three were recorded on dates during May 5th-July 18th *BOS*. Elsewhere, there were only short-staying or fairly quiet birds heard calling: singles at Harbury Heath on May 28th *RVCH*, Poolfields on June 1st-2nd *NP*, Chesterton on 5th *RVCH*, Long Compton on 5th and 16th *per WWT*, Stoneythorpe Hall on 14th *JW* and Fenny Compton on August 3rd *BOS*.

Worcs One was heard at Belbroughton on May 14th *DAJ*, with another at Dunley on 24th *RM*. In June, a male was seen and heard at Kempsey during 12th-18th *MAL*, *WFP*, *SMW*, with further birds at Bishampton on 13th *WFP* and at Mount Segg on 27th and 30th *JC*. A male called at Honeybourne from June 30th-July 30th *per SMW*, while further singles called during July at Crowle on 3rd *AHT*, Kenswick on 10th *RM* and Eardiston on 21st *per GHP*.

Staffs Up to six were calling in fields at Whitemoor Hay from June 27th-August 4th, where breeding must have been a possibility *DJA*, *AB*, *ESC*. Breeding was also indicated at Seighford where calling was heard from June 5th, with an impressive peak of ten there in July *MDB*. Also during this month two were calling near Loggerheads *PJ*, *WJL*, while single males were heard at Beacon

Hill, Hopton on June 13th *MT* and in a wheatfield at Mucklestone on July 27th *DWC, SME*.

W Mid One heard calling in fields south of Stourbridge on June 25th and 28th *WFP*.

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Warks A common breeding bird in most rural areas. Some wholly white or black plumaged birds were noted at both Beausale and Ilmington.

Worcs 150 were counted on Bredon Hill above Bredon's Norton before shooting commenced on November 5th.

Staffs No significant records received.

W Mid Still reported to be fairly common in the Berkswell/Meriden area, while other breeding season records in rural Solihull came from Balsall Common, Bradnock's Marsh, Norton Green and Temple Balsall. In the urban fringe a good breeding population (ten pairs) was reported at Minworth SF, with other summer records from Bartley and Sutton Park (where it was said to have slightly declined since about 1990). More isolated records of single males came from Brueton Park, Solihull on February 16th, Sandwell Valley on March 29th and in Valley Park from March to June. An unusual record concerned a female at Balsall Common on May 11th which took shelter down an occupied Badger's sett when disturbed!

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus*

Warks A pair at Brandon on June 27th were presumably locally released or escaped birds.

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Warks Present all year at Brandon with a maximum of five on July 10, including a juvenile. Bred at Alvecote and breeding was strongly suspected at Baginton Lagoons (juvenile seen), Coombe (two pairs) and Draycote. Also present in summer at Ladywalk, with records on June 4th and August 13th. During the winter months good numbers were attracted to Ladywalk with a peak of 12 estimated on February 6th, while up to four were noted at Baginton Lagoons, Coombe and Draycote.

Worcs At least three pairs attempted to breed at Upton Warren, with at least one juvenile seen on September 20th. During the early winter months at least three were present at Oakley and two at Westwood, with singles at Castle-morton Common, Lower Moor and Wilden. In the autumn, birds were seen at Abberton, Bishampton Vale Pool, Bittell, Oakley, Shrawley, Westwood and Wilden.

Staffs The county stronghold of this species appears to be Doxey Marsh, where no fewer than 12 pairs were reported to have bred. Interestingly, this is the same total as that recorded in 1989-90 indicating a fairly stable population there. Again very few were reported from other sites, possibly indicating a genuine scarcity. The only places with more than a single bird were Belvide, where up to three were present October-December, and Elford GP with two during September.

W Mid Four sites accounted for most of the records. The best was again Mushroom Green Marsh, where two were present during January and February and birds were again noted from September 21st to the year's end, with a peak of four in November. In Sandwell Valley, one or two birds were noted on five dates in the early winter months and seven in the autumn, while singles were also regular at Sheepwash UP up to March 31st and again from October 20th. At Wyken Slough, there were singles on January 10th and September 9th, with three on November 17th and further singles on 24th and December 24th. Other records of single birds came from Fens Pools on February 16th and December 6th, Netherton Res. on January 25th and December 19th and in Longmoor Valley, Sutton Park, where a juvenile was seen on October 11th.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Worcs One at Upton Warren from October 8th-13th *GSB, SMW et al.* was the first in the county since 1981.

W Mid A freshly dead adult was found at Bradnock's Marsh on March 28th *JD*.

1988 Addendum

Warks One at Lighthorne Quarry on April 12th *BOS*, bringing the Regional total for that year to five.

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Warks One heard at Packington on July 8th-9th *per NPB* was the first in the county since 1988. Sadly, the only person to enjoy this bird was the local game-keeper.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Warks 15 pairs bred at Baginton Lagoons. Maxima included 25 at Alvecote, 44 at Brandon, 45 at Chesterton and 20 at Seeswood.

Worcs Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bittell	6	7	3	6	-	-	9	17	32	15	17	11
Pirton	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	13	33	15	10	15
Srensham	25	-	-	-	-	-	25	22	16	14	-	-
Upton Warren	-	-	-	14	21	19	18	24	34	29	16	12

Other counts included 31 feeding on a sports field adjacent to Hewell Grange on January 18th, 30 at Westwood on August 28th and 28 at Mill Pond on October 28th.

Staffs The only breeding records came from: Ashwood (22 juveniles counted in July), Belvide, Blithfield, Ford Green, Kettlebrook Park, High View Pool (Stoke) and Trentham Gardens. Notable counts were 25 at Belvide on July 26th and a possible site record of 34 at Chasewater during August.

W Mid Breeding pairs reported from: Bartley/Frankley area, Cornets End, Grand Union Canal (seven pairs between Catharine-de-Barnes and Castle Lane, Solihull), Longford, Marston Green, Mons Hill, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park, Valley Park and Wyken Slough (four pairs bred – a further decline, cf. 1993). Largest counts comprised 22 at

Wyken Slough on January 7th, 18 in Sandwell Valley (Forge Mill Lake) on 15th, 23 at Cornets End on 16th, 24 at Stubber's Green on October 18th and 52 along the Staffs and Worcs Canal in Valley Park on December 5th.

Coot *Fulica atra*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	30	51	45	40	43	32	95	104	138	78	76	81
Draycote	200	250	145	95	32	44	82	215	330	175	195	280
Kingsbury	494	182	92	-	-	-	260	-	548	-	600	630
Coton/Lea Marston	1004	660	267	6	8	19	250	375	-	781	631	770
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	-	-	-	7	9	-	40	43	42	53	-
Bittell	7	14	6	16	-	-	3	15	21	23	21	17
Larford	50	50	37	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Pirton	157	69	38	-	-	60	108	158	257	182	208	161
Upton Warren	-	-	-	16	19	28	30	12	4	6	10	13
Westwood	-	30	-	-	-	82	141	101	150	130	100	-
Aqualate	2	7	11	16	5	-	26	-	311	136	-	348
Belvide	142	243	115	100	109	327	620	806	1146	1069	715	307
Blithfield	175	158	108	49	30	117	451	644	264	16	25	43
Chasewater	941	251	159	88	62	62	191	380	505	633	735	859
Doxey	28	35	27	6	-	24	-	7	13	8	11	19
Westport	173	147	63	48	31	41	85	165	205	220	246	225
Cornets End	105	-	32	33	-	57	58	90	89	89	-	-
Wyken Slough	75	50	59	36	35	32	55	68	68	65	58	57

- Warks** Six pairs bred at Alvecote and five at Ladywalk. The wintering flock at the Coton/Lea Marston pools was the largest since 1990. However at Brandon a further decline in post-breeding numbers was noted with a peak of only 15.
- Worcs** Breeding pairs reported at: Frankley Waterworks, Grimley (two), Mill Pond, Pirton, Strensham, Upton Warren, Westwood and Wilden. 46 were at Wilden on June 25th.
- Staffs** A very common bird with widespread breeding records received. The biggest concentrations of nests were of 17 at Belvide and over 30 at Chasewater. The autumn peaks at Belvide were the the highest since 1988.
- W Mid** Breeding pairs reported from: Fens Pools (27, cf. 21 in 1993), Minworth SF and the adjacent stretch of the R. Tame in Castle Bromwich (12-15), Park Lime Pits (two), Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park and Wyken Slough (16, cf. 13 in 1993, ten in 1992). Other maxima included 207 at Fens Pools, over 100 at Edgbaston Park and 180 in Sandwell Valley, all in January.

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

- Warks** A pair bred again at the same site as last year. Two young were raised, the favoured food item was seemingly earthworms. Another pair was present in the Packington area from April 24th-May 30th but there was no real evidence of them settling to breed. Most sightings came from the Tame Valley area, including Ladywalk where there were seven records during March-July and presumably involved some of the above birds. Away from this general area

records concerned mainly passage migrants, with maxima at Draycote of eight in March and four in September. Others were seen at Brandon during March 25th-April 22nd, Jubilee Pools from April 5th-10th, Curdworth SF on 27th (two) and Hartshill SF on August 12th.

Worcs For the second year running an attempt to breed at Bredon's Hardwick was unsuccessful. A bird returned to this site on March 7th and was joined by a second on 24th. Both birds remained here until July 17th, with one staying to 26th. On April 23rd, three were present. Elsewhere, one flew west over Malvern on February 10th, with singles at Lower Moor on March 6th, Upton Warren on April 20th, Larford on June 5th, and Bittell on July 13th and August 23rd. Two visited Upton Warren on August 4th and September 12th, while one was heard over Blackpole on August 10th and another stayed at Bishampton Vale Pool on November 19th-20th.

Staffs Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Barton	-	1	2	4	6	4	4	4	1	-	-	-
Branston	-	2	7	2	2	1	3	-	-	-	2	-
Belvide	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	3
Blithfield	-	2	3	-	3	-	2	-	1	-	1	1
Chasewater	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Croxall	-	-	6	4	5	4	6	-	-	-	-	-
Elford	-	4	11	12	11	13	9	-	-	-	-	-
Tittesworth	-	-	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Westport	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites (six)	1	-	7	3	1	4	2	-	-	-	-	-

Successful breeding was reported from Barton GP (two pairs reared two young) and Elford GP (one pair reared one young).

W Mid A pair were present in the Cornets End area during the breeding season, while possibly the same pair visited Minworth SF on April 27th. Singles were seen at Bartley on February 19th, Sandwell Valley on May 2nd, Fens Pools on June 24th and over Norton (Stourbridge) and in Sandwell Valley on August 12th. A small influx during early December brought singles to both Sandwell Valley and Wyken Slough on 1st and three to Cornets End on 4th.

1991 Addendum

Warks A party of 24 resting beside the lake at BAD Kineton on October 31st was the largest flock ever reported in the Region.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

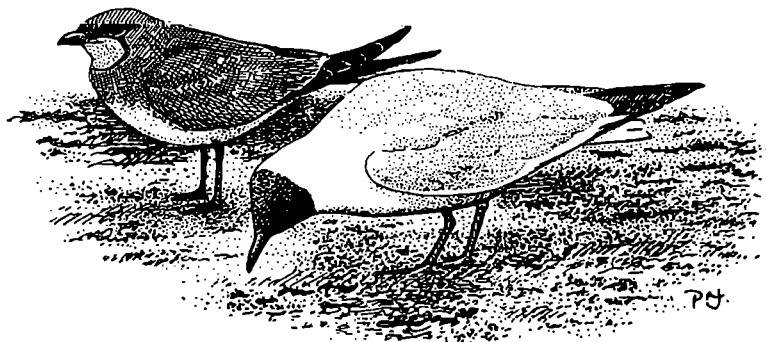
This bird remains a rare and much sought-after passage vagrant within the Region despite the huge increase in breeding and wintering birds at a national level. These were the first records since 1991.

Warks A juvenile was at Draycote on August 14th *KLMM, RCM*.

Staffs One was seen at Tittesworth on April 23rd *BH per PAW*.

Collared Pratincole *Glareola pratincola*

An addition to the Regional list, this bird breeds irregularly throughout much of Africa and the Middle East and from Iberia eastwards through the



Collared Pratincole (Phil Jones)

Mediterranean to Kazakhstan. Within Britain it is an almost annual vagrant, with a peak in frequency during the second half of May. Records have declined however since about 1983 and this was one of only two occurrences in 1994 (*BB 88: 508-9*).

Worcs A single bird spent the afternoon at Bredon's Hardwick on May 4th *DG, SMW et al.*, before flying off into Gloucs. What was presumably the same bird was later seen at Lugg Meadows, Hereford on May 20th. For a full account of this bird please refer to *Short Notes*.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Average: March 20th (30) – October 2nd (30).

The bird at Belvide on March 1st was the earliest on record by one day. The next appeared on the more usual arrival date of March 20th at Frog Hall GP, with the main influx beginning on 26th. In autumn few were observed beyond mid-September, the latest coming from Draycote on October 6th.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Bishampton Vale Pool	–	2	2	1	2	–	–
Bittell	–	–	–	3	4	3	–
Bredon's Hardwick	3	12	4	–	1	–	–
Grimley	–	–	2	5	7	5	–
Kinsham GP	–	2	2	–	–	–	–
Larford	–	1	2	1	–	–	–
Ryall GP	–	3	2	2	–	–	–
Strensham Lagoons	–	1	2	–	1	–	–
Throckmorton Tip	–	2	1	–	2	1	–
Upton Warren	2	10	17	14	27	10	–
Wilden	1	–	4	6	1	–	–
Other sites (two)	–	3	2	–	–	–	–
Barton	–	6	10	8	3	2	1
Branston	1	4	6	3	3	–	–

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Belvide	3	5	6	12	14	7	4
Blithfield	-	1	2	10	18	3	2
Chasewater	-	2	1	1	1	-	1
Croxall	-	6	8	6	4	-	-
Doxey	2	1	2	2	3	1	1
Elford	-	-	4	12	7	-	-
Rudyard	-	1	5	7	12	7	-
Tittesworth	-	2	2	2	6	9	3
Westport	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Other sites (six)	-	12	6	1	-	-	-
Sandwell Valley	4	4	6	3	4	-	-

Warks Successfully bred at Dosthill and Hams Hall (two pairs). Additional pairs may have bred at Alvecote, Brandon, Frog Hall GP, Jubilee Pools and The Somers. Spring passage was poor with a max. of six at Dosthill, five at The Somers and even fewer elsewhere, therefore six at Napton Res. on May 13th was a very good record. High water levels did not help passage at Draycote, which also of course hampered any attempt at breeding there. Autumn maxima here included eight on July 24th and up to 14 in September.

Worcs Breeding pairs were reported from: Bredon's Hardwick (two, both successful); Frankley Waterworks (one, unsuccessful); Grimley (two, only one successful); Kinsham GP (one, successful); Ryall GP (one, unsuccessful); Upton Warren (five, 15 chicks hatched of which eight fledged; the best year on record); and Wilden (four young fledged). The count of 27 on July 7th at Upton Warren was a new reserve record.

Staffs Pairs bred successfully at: Barton GP, Belvide, Croxall GP, Doxey, Elford GP (three), Rudyard and Tittesworth (two). A very early bird was seen at Belvide on March 1st *BL*.

W. Mid Two pairs bred in the Sheepwash UP area raising two young to the flying stage, and one pair was successful near Dunstall Park Lake (with a second pair present in early July). A single pair attempted to breed in Sandwell Valley, with another probably doing so at Somers Road GP. Spring passage birds were reported from Bartley, Bilston (two), Comets End, Stubber's Green and Wyken Slough (where one on April 18th was the first locality record). Autumn records came only from Bartley.

Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dosthill/Kingsbury	-	-	2	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Draycote	2	6	10	2	4	5	7	11	14	3	-	-
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	24	-	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Upton Warren	-	-	1	3	20	-	1	5	5	-	-	-
Barton	-	-	10	10	12	7	8	12	4	-	-	-
Belvide	-	1	1	3	25	2	2	6	17	2	-	-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Branston	3	5	14	26	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
Bliithfield	-	-	-	-	12	4	4	37	34	5	-	-
Chasewater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Croxall	-	2	-	4	8	2	3	1	1	-	-	-
Elford	-	2	6	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tittesworth	-	-	-	1	12	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Westport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites (four)	-	5	7	8	-	1	-	6	1	-	-	-

Warks A very poor year in the Kingsbury area and no evidence of nesting here or indeed anywhere else in the county, although a pair displayed regularly at Draycote. This breaks the continuous run of breeding records, since the species first became established in 1980. Brandon scored well however, with 27 records, between February 13th and July. Usually singles were involved, but there were two quite regularly there in June. Occasional records were also received from Frog Hall GP, Ladywalk, Napton Res. and The Somers.

Worcs Notable movements occurred on May 15th when 20 were seen at Upton Warren, and on September 15th when 24 moved through Bittell in small parties.

Staffs Pairs bred successfully at: Barton GP (two), Belvide, Croxall and Doxey. A total of at least eight young were raised to the flying stage.

W. Mid A good series of spring records came from Sandwell Valley: February 17th, April 19th (two), 21st, May 2nd, 14th (three), 15th (two), 16th, 21st (five) and 22nd. Also on May 15th there was one at Stubber's Green and five near Dunstall Park lake, the latter being the first known record in that area. On return passage, there were two at Sheepwash UP on July 12th, two at Sandwell Valley on August 11th and two at Bartley on September 17th.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Worcs For the second successive year birds on spring passage were found on Bredon Hill. Four birds paused briefly in fields on the eastern side of the hill on May 8th *GHP*, *WFP*, *SMW*, which were thought to involve two males and two females.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Average: August 11th (47) – April 27th (48).

In spring there were late birds at Bredon Hill on May 5th and Poolfields on 14th. The first dated record of the return passage involved two early birds at Draycote on July 28th. The next was seen at Upton Warren on August 7th, with the main influx starting during the second week in September.

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	640	-	-
Draycote area	1500	600	200	-	-	-	2	-	89	300	280	270
Kingsbury area	60	110	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	200	300	-
Wellesbourne	3000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	700	-	3000

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bredon Hill	-	-	-	80	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	-	500	24	310	-	-	-	-	5	200	24	1000
Lower Moor	750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	250	=	-
Malvern area	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Upton Warren	-	150	35	-	-	-	-	1	13	1	2	30
Barton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	200	7
Belvide	-	2	25	-	-	-	1	6	30	60	78	-
Blithfield	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	25	1
Chasewater	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150
Doxey	60	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	500
Park Hall CP	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	255	465	465	-
Stafford	50	100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2000
Stafford Common	2	-	200	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550	1000
Other sites (15)	88	10	183	55	-	-	-	1	6	706	268	625
Hockley Heath	1000	700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500

Warks It is a pity that regular counts are not made (or are birds absent?) in the main areas to enable a more accurate estimate of the wintering population. Other notable flocks included peaks of 1250 at Bramcote on February 25th and 1200 at Baginton Airfield in October, with smaller flocks of 300 at both Chadshunt and Gaydon and 200 at Snitterfield.

Worcs Records were received from ten other localities, with 75 at High Green in October and 41 at Strensham in December being the best counts.

Staffs There were no breeding reports from the moors this year.

W Mid Other early winter records included in February, two south on 13th and 42 south on 15th at Wyken Slough, 27 east on 17th and 11 north-west on 28th at Sandwell Valley, with five there on March 5th and 30 at Bickenhill on 12th. A late bird flew north over Minworth SF on April 26th. The first in autumn were two flying south-west over Wyken Slough on September 22nd, with five over Sheepwash UP and one over Valley Park on 25th. At Park Lime Pits, there were three on October 17th, five on November 29th and 20 on December 15th. Also in December, 35 flew south-east over Wyken Slough on 5th and 89 south on 24th, a day when 90 were also seen flying over Sheepwash UP and 40 were on fields near Bickenhill.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Warks A very poor year, with just a single at Draycote on November 20th.

Worcs In spring one visited Bredon's Hardwick on May 6th. On autumn passage, one was seen at Bittell on September 3rd, with possibly two separate birds passing through here on 15th. One was seen on Longdon Marsh on December 10th.

Staffs Spring passage began at Alrewas, with a single on March 28th-29th. In May, three were seen at Belvide on 13th, singles at Branston and Barton on 15th, three at both Barton and Blithfield on 16th and further singles at Elford on 19th and Tittesworth on 23rd. Return passage began at Blithfield with one on August 23rd, followed there by one or two on four dates between September 18th and November 6th. At Belvide, up to three were seen on seven dates from September 14th-November 19th, when an exceptional party of 15 flew

over. Elsewhere, two were at Crossplains on September 13th and one at Gradley on November 13th.

W Mid Singles were recorded at Sheepwash UP on March 27th, flying north over Sandwell Valley on October 3rd and at Bradnock's Marsh on November 20th.

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	200	155	50	-	-	-	100	300	750	-	210	-
Brandon	500	138	11	8	14	100	646	800	350	160	110	160
Dosthill	418	140	20	-	-	-	-	-	1000	500	-	250
Draycote	4000	2500	700	50	22	-	60	150	260	800	1500	1500
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	146	-	-	141	-
Bredon's Hardwick	400	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-
Malvern area	-	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85	-	-
Strensham	-	-	12	-	-	-	10	-	60	48	-	-
Upton Warren	1500	-	-	12	28	13	365	150	674	730	1376	2000
Wilden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	279	-	-	200	-
Other sites (four)	2300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	1100
Barton	-	-	-	9	-	2	215	1080	655	-	-	-
Belvide	50	60	100	1	14	160	1090	2100	1778	1	908	-
Bliethfield	300	-	-	17	2	30	860	1600	37	-	-	-
Croxall	-	-	-	33	33	53	275	170	690	-	-	-
Dosthill	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1000	800	750	-
Doxey	700	100	4	10	-	5	50	15	-	100	500	1500
Rickerscote	500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	500	500
Rudyard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1000	486	-	-	-
Other sites (20)	2	470	7	89	30	45	841	587	366	797	750	360

Warks Pairs bred at: Alvecote, Ansty (three), Brandon (three), Honiley, Ladywalk, Longbridge (three), Poolfields, Radway (six), The Somers (three) and Terry's Green. Away from the tabulated sites the largest count was 3000 at Wellesbourne on December 18th, with other good-sized autumn flocks at Baginton Airport (1000), Bishop's Tachbrook (2000), Gaydon (1000) and Snitterfield (982).

Worcs Breeding pairs at: Aston Mill (two), Bredon's Hardwick, Guariford, Kemerton (three), Ripple (ten), Strensham Lagoons (two), Tibberton, Upton Warren (seven, six broods raised but only five young fledged) and Wilden. Undoubtedly under-recorded during the early winter and autumn periods; there were 2000 at Lower Moor in January, 500 at Holt in November, with 300 at Grimley and 800 at Longdon Marsh in December.

Staffs Successful breeding pairs reported from: Baswich (11), Belvide (seven), Dosthill (two), Doxey (five), Elford (four), Fenton, Pendeford Mill NR (two attempted), Radford (five), Rawbones Meadows (seven), Sandon Hall (seven) and Weeford (four). On the moors, probable breeding pairs were noted at Goldsitch Moss, Oliver Hill and Swallow Moss.

W Mid Breeding records came only from Sandwell Valley (numbers stable) and Sheepwash UP (three pairs reared only two young). A pair displayed in the Park Lime Pits area, while birds were again present at Keresley. The largest reported early winter flocks included 60 at Stubber's Green on January 7th,

100 at Park Lime Pits on 17th and 165 south over Wyken Slough on February 13th. Autumn maxima were higher and included 200 at Park Lime Pits on October 17th, 316 south over Wyken Slough on November 3rd, 180 at Walsgrave on 5th, 355 at Dunstall Park on 18th, 170 over Woodshires Green on 30th, 280 at Stubber's Green on December 13th and 400 at Meriden on 25th

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Warks A poor year. One at Dosthill from May 8th-12th was the only spring record. In September, one at Seeswood Pool on 11th was a good find and this was followed by singles at Draycote on 14th and October 16th.

Worcs One at Bredon's Hardwick on February 12th was the sole record.

Staffs Barton GP produced the only spring records, with two on April 27th and one the following day. Return passage was recorded mainly at Blithfield, with up to two from August 24th-30th, four on 31st, two on September 1st and one on November 6th. Elsewhere in September, there were singles at Doxey on 1st and Belvide on 15th, while a party of 21 there on 21st was a site record.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Average passage: April 11th (5) – October 13th (5).

Warks A disappointing year. In spring, there was one at Draycote and five at Dosthill on May 15th, followed by three at the latter site on 16th, one on 18th and two on 23rd. The only later records were of five at Draycote on August 27th and a very late bird there on December 5th.

Worcs A good spring passage included singles at Bredon's Hardwick on May 4th, 7th-8th and 15th, with two on 16th and 25th. Two were also at Upton Warren on 16th. On return passage, one visited Upton Warren on July 19th.

Staffs Spring passage began in April, with six at Tittesworth on 15th and one at Belvide on 19th. In May, after singles at Blithfield on 10th, Barton on 12th and three at Doxey on 14th, there was a widespread passage on 15th; with ten at Barton, 13 at Belvide, two at Blithfield, nine at Branston, one at Croxall and three at Tittesworth. Two were at Blithfield again on 20th, while at Barton there were two on 21st, three on 22nd and one on 23rd. Singles were also at Chasewater on 23rd and Belvide on 24th. Three at Blithfield on August 27th were the only birds in autumn.

W Mid One at Stubber's Green and three in Sandwell Valley on May 15th, with one present at the latter site on the following day. One at Edgbaston Res. on August 10th.

Little Stint *Calidris minuta*

Average passage: May 5th (5) – October 29th (5)

Warks A disappointing year after last year's unprecedented numbers. There was one at Dosthill on May 7th, three on 15th and two on August 8th. At Draycote, singles occurred from July 31st-August 4th, September 3rd-7th and on 15th-17th and 24th.

Worcs Single birds were seen in May at Upton Warren on 13th-14th and 23rd-25th and at Bredon's Hardwick on 15th, with two there the following day. Unusually there were no autumn records.

Staffs The only spring bird was seen at Branston on May 17th. There was a sparse

autumn passage, with records only from the two main reservoirs. At Blithfield, two on August 10th were followed by birds on nine September dates up to 21st, all singles apart from three on 16th. Single birds were recorded at Belvide on nine dates from September 2nd-25th.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Average passage: May 8th (5) – September 9th (2)

Warks An early individual at Dosthill on April 29th *ICW* closely follows the earliest ever – at nearby Kingsbury North Pit during April 25th-29th 1993. A well-watched bird at Brandon from May 12th-15th *BMCG*, was followed by another there on 22nd *BMCG* which was also seen at nearby Jubilee Pools *DB*, the second recent record from the latter locality.

Staffs Two in summer plumage were present at Barton GP on May 21st-22nd *ESC*, *KVC*, *ICW*, *MY*.

Pectoral Sandpiper *Calidris melanotos*

Staffs A juvenile was at Blithfield from August 27th-September 9th *ICW*, *MY*. *et al.*, with a second bird also present on 7th-8th *ADB*, *NGB*, *ESC*.

Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea*

Average passage: May 12th (3) – October 18th (5)

Warks Only four records, with one at Draycote on August 27th, two there on September 15th, one on 18th and one at Brandon on October 16th.

Worcs Two juveniles which visited Bittell briefly on September 15th was the only record.

Staffs No spring passage birds this year. Return passage commenced with two at Blithfield on August 29th. In September, birds were present at Belvide on ten dates from 2nd-25th with peaks of seven on 15th and eight on 21st. There were two at Blithfield on 2nd-3rd, increasing to six on 4th and down to two on 5th. The only others recorded were at Barton, with seven on August 31st, one on September 9th and two on October 2nd; and at Rickerscote, with two on September 21st being a first for the site.

Dunlin *Calidris alpina*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Dosthill	–	–	3	5	20	6	–	5	4	–	1	1
Draycote	1	2	1	–	4	–	4	7	15	8	8	6
Bittell	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	3	2	–	6	2
Bredon's Hardwick	170	2	11	4	5	–	1	6	1	–	–	30
Upton Warren	–	1	2	2	8	–	3	2	8	4	2	6
Westwood	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	4	1	2	1
Other sites (five)	–	–	–	–	8	–	1	3	–	1	–	–
Alrewas	–	11	22	7	1	–	–	–	–	–	5	10
Barton	5	1	20	5	50	–	2	7	5	6	25	28
Belvide	–	5	3	4	53	1	5	11	30	3	9	2
Blithfield	–	–	–	4	31	–	18	35	36	7	39	38
Other sites (ten)	8	2	1	8	16	–	2	5	8	3	13	8
Sandwell Valley	–	–	2	2	5	–	2	2	2	1	4	–

Warks Three reasonably good-sized flocks occurred at Dosthill in May, with 11 on

1st, 19 on 5th and 20 on 15th-16th. Away from the two main sites one or two were noted on eight dates at Brandon and on ten dates at Ladywalk, with a few more elsewhere.

Worcs Staffs The maximum count of 170 at Bredon's Hardwick was made on January 30th. The largest spring counts occurred on May 15th, when a strong passage also included ten at Branston.

W Mid Also reported from: Sheepwash UP, on April 4th, 23rd (two), May 16th, 21st-22nd and November 11th; Dunstall Park, on May 15th, 22nd (two), 23rd-24th (four) and 25th-27th (two); Bartley, on July 14th, 15th (three), 16th (two), and September 9th-10th; and Stubber's Green on December 17th.

1990 Addendum

Warks A flock of 90 at Draycote on August 25th.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper *Tryngites subruficollis*

The fourth Regional record, all first appearing during September.

Warks A very confiding juvenile was at Draycote from September 2nd-16th *RCM et al.* After the first county record last year another juvenile at the same place was totally unexpected! Unlike the first however, this bird was very approachable and was much photographed during its stay.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bittell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	6	-
Bredon's Hardwick	-	-	8	1	7	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Upton Warren	-	-	3	-	16	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
Belvide	-	1	-	-	2	-	1	5	7	-	-	-
Bliithfield	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	18	20	-	-	-
Branston	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites (seven)	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	4	8	-	-	-

Warks A good spring passage at Dosthill started with a single on April 17th, followed by eight on May 1st, 25 on 2nd, 18 on 3rd-4th and 20 on 5th. Also during this period there were two at Brandon on May 2nd-3rd and again on 13th, five at Alvecote on May 3rd and a final bird at Ladywalk on June 6th. Most of the autumn records came from Draycote, with records on 15 dates during August 16th-October 4th and a peak of eight on September 4th. Elsewhere there were only occasional records from the usual sites, with parties of six at Dosthill on September 11th and Ladywalk on 17th being the largest. Two feeding on pasture at Whatcote on September 22nd was a notable record from the south of the county where this species is rarely recorded.

Worcs A better year than 1993, with eight at Bredon's Hardwick on March 27th and a strong passage on May 2nd, when seven were noted at this site and 16 at Upton Warren. A party of six reported at Bittell on November 3rd was also unusual. Away from the above sites, one visited Strensham Lagoons on September 11th.

- Staffs** The autumn peak of 20 at Blithfield came on September 9th.
- W Mid** Singles at Stubber's Green on March 21st, Sandwell Valley on August 10th and October 6th, and at Bartley on September 17th.

1991 Addendum

- Warks** The autumn flock at Draycote peaked at 24 on August 25th.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Average: September 26th (53) – April 20th (49)

The last in spring was reported from Upton Warren on April 19th. During the autumn, an early bird was seen at Brandon on September 11th but no more were found until the first week in October.

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brandon	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Abberton	4	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	5
Bittell	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	7
Castlemorton Common	2	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Holt	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Upton Warren	3	4	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	5	7	5
Wilden	-	-	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	1
Belvide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	-
Blithfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1	2
Branston	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Chasewater	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	3	7
Doxey	-	3	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites (five)	-	1	9	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	4
Sandwell Valley	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Sheepwash UP	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	8	2

- Warks** Another poor year. Recorded on only five dates at Brandon including December 29th when the bird was taken by a Sparrowhawk. Further singles were seen at Draycote on February 16th-23rd, Chase Lane on March 13th, Shustoke Flashes on 23rd, Coton on October 10th and Whatcote on November 1st.
- Worcs** The only record away from the tabulated sites concerned a bird at Oakley in January. The largest counts during the year were of seven at Upton Warren on March 6th and November 10th, eight at Wilden on March 6th and 13th, and seven at Bittell on December 27th.
- Staffs** Away from the main tabulated sites there was a maximum of seven at Hill Ridware on March 13th.
- W Mid** Apparently fewer this year. At Wyken Slough, there were two from January 1st-7th and one on November 20th. One was flushed from a stream at the base of Netherton Hill on October 5th.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
 Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Alvecote	–	–	–	30	–	–	–	–	20	6	1	1
Brandon	6	3	12	12	–	3	9	24	12	7	8	2
Dosthill area	45	76	–	–	–	–	13	–	–	12	–	–
Draycote	20	14	4	1	1	–	1	2	2	9	35	18
Ladywalk	70	50	5	–	–	–	–	7	25	4	3	6
Abberton	17	18	16	8	–	–	–	–	10	23	26	31
Castlemorton Common	25	30	35	1	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	33
Upton Warren	70	56	41	24	2	1	6	20	20	50	81	100
Wilden	–	–	21	–	1	–	1	2	1	7	–	–
Other Sites (11)	1	11	1	5	–	–	2	7	7	6	79	31
Sandwell Valley	6	7	4	21	–	–	–	3	5	1	2	8
Sheepwash UP	9	13	8	2	–	–	–	1	3	10	21	4
Wyken Slough	45	17	8	1	–	–	–	1	–	4	12	12

Warks Drumming was reported from Dosthill, Lighthorne Quarry, Packington and The Somers, although only singles were involved and activity was intermittent. Wintering numbers were reasonable with other maxima including 25 at Baginton Lagoons, 12 at Chase Lane, 15 at Wasperton and 18 at Wormleighton Res.

Worcs The only report of drumming came from Wilden in April. Upton Warren was again the principle locality for wintering birds, with a count of 81 on November 13th increasing to 100 by December 4th. Away from the main tabulated sites, there were 28 at Ashmoor Common and 50 at Holt in November and 30 at Bittell in December.

Staffs Drumming was witnessed only at Chasewater, Oliver Hill, Rawbones Meadows and Wheaton Aston SF. Reported from a total of 22 sites during the year, though the only one to hold over 50 was Doxey where there was an excellent maximum of 378 on March 13th. This was the largest Regional count since 1991 when there were 420, also at Doxey in March.

W Mid One or two displaying birds in Sutton Park was the only evidence of breeding activity in the county. Other large counts all came from the first quarter and included 25 at Brueton Park (Solihull) on January 16th, 27 at Clayhanger on February 2nd and 22 at Cornets End on March 6th, with 19 still present on April 10th. Other records came from a further six localities, but did not involve more than three birds.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Warks Roding birds in the breeding season at: Close Wood, Heach Wood, Oakley Wood (three) and Roundhill Wood. There was a good spread of winter records with estimated maxima in brackets: BAD Kineton (nine), Brandon (two), Butlers Marston, Close Wood (two), Compton Verney, Corley Moor, Draycote (four), Idlicote, Ladywalk (three, with two roding during February and March), Shustoke and Wormleighton.

Worcs Roding birds were noted at Kinver Edge, along the Malvern Hills (eight) and at Monk Wood (two), while it was also seen in the Wyre Forest in June. Outside the breeding season, there were three at Castlemorton Common in January and two near Swinyard Hill in December. Singles were also in Bow Wood and Shrawley Wood in January, at Coldridge Wood and Evesham in February and at Bittell in November.

Staffs A poor year with roding recorded only from Cannock Chase. Elsewhere, mainly singles were recorded in nine months of the year from a total of eight sites.

W Mid One or two roding birds were again present near the Warks border in the Close Wood area of Meriden. Outside the breeding season there were singles at Fens Pools on February 24th, Netherton Hill on October 28th and November 29th, in Sandwell Valley on February 6th, October 20th and November 27th and at Wyken Slough in early March and on October 28th.

1990 Addendum

Warks A good count of 14 at BAD Kineton on March 4th.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Average passage: March 16th (5) – October 24th (5)

Warks No spring records this year but a total of 18 were noted on return passage during July 13th-September 3rd. Eight at Brandon on July 29th was the best flock and there were also three there on August 2nd. At Draycote, three on July 31st were followed by singles on August 28th-29th and September 3rd. Other singles were seen at Ladywalk on July 13th-16th and Hartshill SF on August 11th.

Worcs In spring, a single at Bredon's Hardwick from May 5th-7th and two at Upton Warren on 8th-9th, with one there on June 18th. Two were then seen at Bredon's Hardwick on 27th, followed by groups of two and three passing through Upton Warren on July 6th with another remaining here until 8th. Further birds visited this locality on July 21st, 22nd (three) and 27th, with another at Wilden on 30th-31st. In August, there was a single at Upton Warren on 4th, with a juvenile regularly commuting between here and Bittell during 8th-17th and two at Wilden from 17th-23rd. Two very late birds visited Upton Warren on November 30th.

Staffs Spring passage commenced with singles in March at Alrewas on 24th and Barton on 29th. A single bird was seen again here on May 6th, with a party of ten at Belvide on 7th. Return passage began in July, with two at Barton on 10th-11th and up to two at Blithfield from 10th-17th. Birds were again seen at the latter site from August 3rd-September 8th, with records on 16 dates and a maximum of five on August 12th and 30th and again on September 4th. Elsewhere, Belvide had two on August 3rd and singles from 14th-September 1st, while five were at Barton on September 9th and two at Elford on 10th-11th.

W Mid One at Bartley on July 30th was the only record.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa iapponica*

Warks One at Middleton on September 12th was the only record.

Worcs Five flew through Upton Warren on May 11th, with another remaining here from 11th-14th.

Staffs Spring passage consisted of singles at Branston on April 24th and 29th, with five here on May 15th; and singles at Belvide on 16th-17th, Croxall on 19th, Branston on 21st and Chasewater on 26th-27th. On return passage, there were five at Doxey on August 4th with one at Blithfield from 10th-14th. One at Barton on September 1st, was followed by nine flying over Blithfield on 3rd, one here on 9th and finally three on October 2nd.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Average passage: April 13th (5) – September 24th (5)

Another excellent passage through the Region, with some good-sized flocks noted on May 7th and July 30th. The flock of 40 at Draycote was the largest ever recorded spring party.

Warks After the first at Shustoke on April 21st, there was another at Draycote on 26th and three at Black Hill GP on 28th. An exceptional passage occurred on May 7th, with totals of 40 at Draycote and 14 at Dosthill, while one at Kenilworth on 16th and three at Draycote on 22nd completed spring records. Return passage commenced on July 11th when seven appeared at Dosthill, with further singles there on 15th, 16th and 31st. At Draycote, an excellent 28 occurred on July 30th, with seven more on 31st. The final record was of one over Hartshill SF on August 12th.

Worcs The bulk of spring passage was concentrated this year at Bredon's Hardwick and Upton Warren. At the former site, birds were recorded on ten dates between April 28th-May 19th with two on April 29th, three on May 1st, ten on 6th, three on 7th and two on 13th. At Upton Warren, single birds passed through on May 1st, 5th and 6th, while another was heard over Blackpole on 9th. On return passage, what presumably was the same bird roosted with Curlews at Upton Warren on July 3rd, 6th, 8th and 10th and that or another visited Bredon's Hardwick on 11th. A flock of at least 20 over Birchwood Common during a heavy rain shower on July 30th was notable. Further records came from Westwood on August 1st, Bittell (five) and Fladbury on 4th, Wilden on 9th and Upton Warren again on 26th.

Staffs Recorded at eight sites on 21 dates ranging from April 20th-September 9th, with a maximum of eight at Belvide on April 22nd. Most were seen only briefly, although a single bird stayed at Doxey from August 26th-29th.

W Mid Spring records came from Sandwell Valley, where singles flew through on April 20th and 24th and a flock of 20 were found resting beside Swan Pool in heavy rain on May 7th. On return passage, singles were recorded at Sandwell Valley on July 27th and over Norton Lane, Earlswood on August 31st.

Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Warks Monthly maxima at Ladywalk:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2	5	2	7	-	-	23	26	25	2	-	-

Breeding or display flights reported from: Bentley, Butlers Marston, Maxstoke, Oxhill and Polesworth. Up to four were seen at Draycote in seven different months, with scattered records elsewhere mainly relating to passage migrants.

Worcs Monthly maxima at Upton Warren:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
-	3	47	5	2	34	95	111	97	48	20	14

A pair raised four young at Oddingley. Also noted in the breeding season at: Abberton, Aston Mill, Bredon's Hardwick, Castlemorton Common, Crowle, Hanley William, Kedges Wood, near Kings Norton GC (Wythall), Monkwood, Nash Elm, Nash End, Peopleton, Rowney Green, Strensham, Trench Wood, Upton Snodsbury, Upton-upon-Severn Ham and Witnells End.

Staffs Birds were recorded from 25 sites, but with breeding reported only from Chillington (two pairs), and Kings Bromley. A pair also attempted to breed at Doxey but were disturbed by mowing. Flocks of over 50 were seen at Tittesworth and Longsdon Mill Pool, with a maximum of 161 at the latter site on March 6th.

W Mid Up to two were singing and displaying at Cornets End on March 30th and April 17th, although unfortunately there were no further reports from this area. The only other record received concerned one flying south with Lapwings over Wyken Slough on November 3rd.

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Average passage: April 9th (4) – September 25th (5)

Warks A very poor year, with just a single juvenile at Draycote on August 27th.

Worcs One flew over Upton Warren on August 17th, with other singles there on 22nd and at Bredon's Hardwick on September 16th-17th.

Staffs Following early singles at Barton on July 10th and Blithfield on 11th, a thin autumn passage was recorded at: Barton, one on August 14th; Belvide, two from 16th-21st; Blithfield, singles on six dates from August 14th-September 18th; Dosthill North GP, one on September 17th; and Doxey, one on August 29th and September 1st.

1982 Addendum

Warks One at Wormleighton Res. on September 5th was a rare record from the south of the county.

Redshank *Tringa totanus*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brandon	-	1	8	6	11	6	-	-	-	1	-	-
Dosthill area	4	3	8	10	8	6	5	1	-	-	2	3
Draycote	-	1	1	1	2	-	1	4	8	1	-	-
Aston Mill	-	-	-	4	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bredon's Hardwick	1	7	43	35	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Strensham	-	-	4	4	6	7	3	-	-	-	-	-
Upton Warren	-	-	7	8	10	8	2	1	1	1	-	-
Other sites (seven)	-	-	1	4	-	3	6	-	2	-	-	-
Barton	-	-	10	10	4	6	3	-	1	-	-	2
Baswich	-	-	1	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Belvide	-	2	13	10	6	9	4	1	2	2	-	-

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bliethfield	-	-	1	-	5	5	6	4	30	-	2	-
Branston	2	2	6	6	2	4	3	-	-	-	-	1
Croxall	-	-	-	11	10	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Doxey	-	1	7	3	3	5	1	-	-	-	-	-
Other sites (14)	-	-	8	32	6	6	3	9	1	-	-	-

Warks Breeding was confirmed at Brandon, Dosthill (three pairs) and Kingsbury, and was suspected of having done so at Whitacre Heath NR as a juvenile was seen at nearby Ladywalk in June. Away from the tabulated sites there were spring maxima of eight at Alvecote, ten at Jubilee Pools and three at Ladywalk.

Worcs A pair raised at least one young at Strensham Lagoons, while four or five pairs attempted to breed at Upton Warren but only two young fledged. There were two pairs on territory at Aston Mill in spring and display was also noted at Eckington. Four juveniles at Kinsham during mid-summer had presumably been locally raised. No breeding data from Bredon's Hardwick this year.

Staffs Breeding was only reported from Belvide, where a pair reared two young, Croxall and Doxey, where a nesting attempt was thwarted by a dog. Pairs were also present in several other areas. Autumn passage through the Region is usually very weak, so the flock of 30 feeding at Bliethfield on September 21st was unusual.

W. Mid Singles were recorded at Sheepwash UP on March 6th, 11th, 16th and 19th, April 10th, May 15th, August 6th-8th and 31st, and in Sandwell Valley on March 21st, April 1st, June 27th and September 11th. Elsewhere, singles were reported from Stubber's Green on April 16th, Meriden STW on May 12th and Bartley on July 22nd.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Dosthill area	-	-	3	-	1	2	1	1
Draycote	-	-	1	-	1	3	3	-
Bittell	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	-
Bredon's Hardwick	-	1	4	1	-	2	1	-
Grimley	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Upton Warren	-	1	8	1	1	3	1	-
Other sites (four)	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Barton	-	-	-	1	1	4	2	-
Belvide	-	-	1	1	2	6	4	1
Bliethfield	-	-	1	1	2	7	1	-
Other sites (eight)	2	1	3	1	2	11	12	1

Warks A very early bird at Ladywalk on March 12th. The only others in spring were singles at Napton Res. on May 13th and Lighthorne Quarry on 14th. A generally poor autumn, with records on only six dates at Dosthill. Smaller sites did a little better with at least seven birds passing through Brandon and up to five throughout August at Ladywalk, one staying to September 16th. Else-

where, there was one at Jubilee Pools on July 18th, while during August there were singles at The Somers on four dates and four at Packington on 16th.

Worcs A better year, with spring and autumn maxima of four at Bredon's Hardwick on May 1st and eight at Upton Warren on 2nd, and four at Bittell on August 27th.

Staffs A single wintering bird was seen in the Alrewas/Barton GP area on January 24th, February 8th and March 3rd, while there were two at Alrewas GP on March 19th.

W Mid The only spring record concerned three in Sandwell Valley on May 2nd. Autumn records came from: Sandwell Valley on July 17th and 31st (two), Bartley on July 31st and September 1st (two), Dunstall Park on July 31st and Wyken Slough on September 15th.

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Brandon	1	-	6	5	2	5	16	18	10	7	1	-
Dosthill	2	1	3	1	-	7	7	4	4	2	1	1
Bredon's Hardwick	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-
Grimley	-	-	1	-	-	3	9	6	3	2	1	1
Kinsham GP	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-
Strensham	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Upton Warren	2	1	2	1	-	4	12	13	8	3	4	1
Wilden	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Other sites (six)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	-	-	-
Barton	1	1	-	2	1	1	6	7	4	-	-	1
Belvide	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	11	4	1	1	-
Bliithfield	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	-
Croxall	-	-	1	1	-	-	6	3	3	-	-	1
Other sites (eight)	-	-	3	4	-	1	10	9	4	-	-	6

Warks Elsewhere, there were good numbers at Baginton Lagoons with a maximum of 15 on August 9th. In spring, up to eight were at Shustoke before a flash pool dried up. Recorded every month except May and December at Ladywalk, with peaks of six in April and August. Additionally, records of up to five together came from a number of other localities.

Worcs The highest count was 13 at Upton Warren on August 4th.

W Mid Singles were recorded on spring passage at Stubber's Green on March 21st and April 20th, Somers Road GP on April 6th and Minworth SF on 26th. On return passage, a good series of records came from Stubber's Green: on August 16th, 17th (two), 24th-26th, September 2nd, 8th (two), 9th and October 2nd. Relatively few were seen elsewhere; three at Comets End on August 7th and two on September 11th, with singles at Sheepwash UP on July 31st and August 22nd and in Sandwell Valley on August 31st and September 14th.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Average passage: May 6th (5) – September 27th (5)

Warks The best year since 1991. In spring all records were during May 11th-24th, except for one at Alvecote on May 1st and 7th. Two at Draycote on May 11th

were followed by two at Brandon on 13th and one at Coton from 14th-16th. Then at Dosthill, there was one on 17th and 19th, two from 20th-22nd and one on 23rd-24th. Also one at Lea Marston on 22nd. On return passage, Draycote held two on July 27th and August 5th-6th, with one on September 3rd. Other singles visited Brandon on July 30th, Baginton Lagoons on August 9th and Kingsbury on 13th.

Worcs In spring one visited Upton Warren briefly on May 17th. Return passage involved singles at Wilden on July 3rd and over Bishampton Vale Pool on 24th, the latter relocating to Throckmorton Tip for the rest of the day.

Staffs During May, one was seen at Belvide on 9th and two at Tittesworth on 22nd-23rd. Return passage involved singles at Belvide on July 31st-August 4th and from September 3rd-13th, with two there on 4th. Other singles were recorded at Westport on August 3rd, Doxey on 14th-15th, 21st-22nd and on 26th, with two at Barton on September 1st.

W. Mid One in Sandwell Valley on September 2nd.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Monthly maxima at main sites:

	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Brandon		1	7	1	1	2	1	1
Coton	-	3	7	-	5	5	3	-
Dosthill area	1	9	6	-	5	9	3	-
Draycote	-	8	5	-	18	11	7	-
Bishampton Vale Pool	-	1	1	-	2	2	1	-
Bittell	-	1	3	-	2	6	1	-
Bredon's Hardwick	-	3	5	1	10	4	3	-
Pirton	-	5	-	-	1	1	-	-
Upton Warren	-	5	12	1	6	5	3	-
Westwood	-	2	3	-	2	1	-	-
Wilden	-	2	1	-	2	5	3	1
Other sites (seven)	-	4	3	-	3	4	1	-
Barton	-	1	2	-	9	5	3	-
Belvide	-	5	3	6	14	17	4	-
Blithfield	-	5	3	8	30	20	5	-
Chasewater	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	-
Croxall	-	-	2	2	4	3	-	-
Doxey	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-
Rudyard	-	3	2	1	3	-	-	-
Tittesworth	-	4	14	8	10	7	5	-
Other sites (eight)	-	5	1	2	19	1	4	-
Fens Pools	-	3	3	-	3	1	1	-
Sandwell Valley	-	20	5	-	10	4	3	-
Sheepwash UP	-	7	3	1	3	2	1	-
Wyken Slough	-	1	1	-	1	3	-	-

Warks Recorded widely on passage elsewhere. Wintering birds were noted at Dosthill on January 2nd and Jubilee Pools from December 24th-31st.

Worcs The largest counts were of 12 at Upton Warren on May 15th and 18th, and ten at Bredon's Hardwick on July 8th. Last seen at Wilden on October 13th.

Staffs A pair reared two young on the R. Churnet at Leek STW. There was no

evidence of successful breeding this year at Tittesworth. Peak numbers occurred in July, with the largest count being 30 at Blithfield on 10th. Other good sized parties during this month not tabulated included six at Stowe Pool, Lichfield on 12th and five at Branston on 16th.

W Mid Other sites which held passage birds included: Bartley Res. (max. five on April 21st and three on July 22nd), Bradnock's Marsh, Dunstall Park, Fishley, Minworth SF, Netherton Hill/Res. (max. three on April 21st), Stubber's Green, Sutton Park and Valley Park.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Average passage: April 26th (5) – September 23rd (5)

Warks After two good years there were only 14-16 birds at three sites, mostly in spring. Singles at Draycote on April 23rd and May 14th, were followed by four at Dosthill on 15th and one there on 21st-23rd and 26th. Possibly the same bird visited nearby Kingsbury on 21st. Return passage was confined to Draycote, with two on July 24th, one on 29th and four on September 15th.

Worcs In spring, one visited Bredon's Hardwick on May 15th; while Upton Warren had three the same day, with four on 16th and two remaining until 22nd. On return passage, singles were noted at Bittell on July 24th and August 7th, and over Grimley on July 31st, with four at Upton Warren on August 31st.

Staffs The first spring migrant appeared at Barton on April 23rd-24th, followed in May by two on 10th and one on 15th at Blithfield, two at Westport on 20th, with singles at Chasewater (perched on a buoy) on 21st and Barton on 21st-22nd. On return passage, Blithfield held one on July 25th, three on 27th and two on September 11th, while Belvide had one on August 10th, two on 16th-17th, with two again on September 15th.

W Mid Singles were seen at Fens Pools on May 23rd, Sandwell Valley on August 14th and Sheepwash UP on 31st.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Four or five was the largest total since the "great storm" of October 1987 when six or seven birds occurred. Although there are several December records in the Region, the January bird was the first for this month.

Warks A juvenile at Jubilee Pools from September 2nd-5th *PFA et al* was the first in the county since 1990.

Staffs Single birds at Chasewater on the unprecedented date of January 9th *PJH* and at Westport on September 29th *WJL*.

W Mid A juvenile was at Olton Mere on September 11th-13th *MDR*.

Phalarope sp.

Warks A well-described bird which spent a day on Chesterton Church Pool sometime during September was probably a Grey Phalarope *per JJB*.

Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Warks A pale-phase adult passed through Draycote on April 23rd *RCM* and an immature paused there on September 18th before leaving to the east-north-east *AC, GIG, PDH*.

Worcs A dark-phase adult flew north-east over Upton Warren on May 20th *JTB, GG*,

while another dark-phase adult passed south-west over Walton Hill on August 27th *ICW, MY*.

Staffs Two pale-phase adults visited Belvide briefly on May 21st *KVC, SN* before departing north. An immature was at Chasewater on September 14th *GE*.

Long-tailed Skua *Stercorarius longicaudus*

This was the Region's seventh record of this much sought-after though elusive skua, five of these coming from Staffs.

Staffs An immature was seen briefly at Belvide on September 15th *SN*.

Great Skua *Stercorarius skua*

The first birds in the Region since the influx of September 8th-10th 1989, when 19 occurred including an exceptional party of 14 at Draycote. The records at Bartley and Bittell may well have involved the same individual.

Worcs One arrived at Upper Bittell during mid-afternoon on September 15th, but only stayed a few minutes before moving off south-west after being mobbed heavily by gulls and crows *KC*. This was only the second or third County record; the previous one concerning singles at both Bittell and Upton Warren on September 26th 1971, which may have involved the same bird.

Staffs Five were sitting on the water at Chasewater during rain on September 14th *GE* and one was at Belvide for five minutes before flying off east on September 26th *SN*.

W Mid One at Bartley for thirty minutes on September 15th *MDJ*. This was the third county record, the previous two also both coming from Bartley in September (1971 and 1976).

Skua sp. *Stercorarius sp.*

Warks An immature seen flying away from a dead Pochard at Draycote on November 20th was thought to have been a Pomarine Skua *RCM*

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Warks Around twenty individuals were recorded which represents a better year than last. Particularly encouraging was the increase in number of sites where the species was detected. Sightings in the Draycote roost during the first quarter included: an adult on January 8th *DJS*, 22nd *REH* and February 6th *SMH*, with possibly a different adult in summer plumage on 26th *REH, MJI, DJS* and March 4th *GIG, PDH*. First-winters were seen on January 22nd *RK*, March 13th *AC, GIG, PDH, MJI* and 20th *AC*, with two on April 15th *REH*. The only other during this period was an adult at Brandon on January 18th *per FGS*. The first autumn record was of a second-winter at Draycote on September 12th *MFO*, followed by two first-winters there on October 13th *REH*, a first-winter *several observers* and an adult *SMH* on 30th, two first-winters again on November 19th *REH, DJS*, a second-winter on December 4th *PDH* and finally a first-winter on 31st *REH*. A good number of records came from elsewhere in the county. A bird still showing mainly juvenile plumage was found on fields at Over Whitacre on October 2nd *SMH* and the same bird accompanied a first-winter at Shustoke on 4th *SMH*. The first-winter was seen again here on

6th *BLK*, with three on 7th and one on 8th *BLK*. Two first-winters were found at Jubilee Pools on November 13th *DB*, with singles at nearby Brandon on 14th *per FGS* and at Jubilee Pools again on 27th *SMH*. A second-winter was seen at Coton on December 10th *SMH*, with a first-winter on 17th *SMH*, 18th *JAA* and 25th *SMH*.

Worcs At Westwood, the first-winter from 1993 continued to roost from January 1st-22nd *GHP, INR, SMW*. A ringed adult in almost complete summer plumage was at Upton Warren on July 22nd *SC, TMH*, with the same bird relocated at Throckmorton on 24th-25th *GHP, WFP, SMW*. Late in the year a second-winter roosted regularly at Westwood from November 21st-December 28th, with the same bird at Throckmorton on 31st *GHP, SMW et al.* A first-winter was also in the Westwood roost on November 23rd-25th *SMW*.

Staffs At Chasewater, single first-winters were seen on January 2nd-3rd and 15th *ARD, GE*, 22nd, 29th and on February 6th and 20th *ARD*. An adult was at Blithfield on January 30th *ESC, AL*, with further first-winters at Westport on February 24th *WJL* and Belvide on March 12th-13th *SN*. The first in autumn was a juvenile at Blithfield on September 3rd *MJI*, with first-winters there on October 16th *WJL*, 22nd *ICW, MY*, 23rd and 29th *WJL*, and on November 6th *ESC, GIG, PDH, WJL* and 13th *WJL*. At least four different first-winters were thought to have been involved in these latter records. A juvenile moulting into first-winter plumage was present at Belvide from September 29th-October 16th *SJ, SN et al.*, while two first-winters at Westport on October 18th *WJL* and an adult at Chasewater on December 25th *ARD* completed the autumn records.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Warks A good spring passage started with an adult at Draycote on March 27th, with four adults there from April 2nd-4th, three on 5th and one on 7th. On April 22nd four adults and two first-summer passed through, with another first-summer on 24th and an adult and first-summer on May 3rd. In the Tame valley on April 23rd, two adults appeared at Kingsbury and an adult and three first-summer at Dosthill. A first-summer was seen at both Coton and Dosthill on May 14th and June 3rd; the latter then staying at Dosthill from 4th-8th. Finally, an unaged bird at Napton Res. on May 29th and an adult at Seeswood Pool on July 5th were both good locality records. In contrast autumn passage was poor and confined to Draycote. Single juveniles were seen there on August 12th and 29th, and from September 3rd-6th. An adult was seen on September 25th, a first-winter on October 22nd and finally another adult on December 4th.

Worcs In spring, there was a bird in second-summer plumage at Larford on April 24th, followed by a first-summer at Upton Warren on May 13th, with an adult here on 24th. The post-breeding period brought another first-summer to Upton Warren on July 1st-2nd and an adult on 18th, while an immature visited Westwood on July 7th and a juvenile moulting into first-winter was at Bittell on August 14th. Finally, single adults were at Upton Warren on November 12th and in the roost at Westwood from 29th-December 4th.

Staffs Spring passage began with a first-winter at Chasewater on March 31st,

followed by two at Blithfield on April 2nd-3rd, one staying to 6th. A party of six (all first-winters apart from one second-winter bird) were at Tittesworth on April 10th, with a first-winter at Westport on 17th, an adult at Belvide on 18th and another at Tittesworth on 19th-20th. In May, there were two adults and a first-winter at Chasewater on 3rd, with one at Barton on 10th and single first-years at Belvide from 13th-17th and at Blithfield on 13th. Single first-summers were at Belvide on June 12th and 20th, with two adults there on July 17th. At Blithfield, there was an immature on July 10th, another on August 9th, three on 10th-11th and four on 12th-14th, with a first-winter from September 3rd-4th. After a first-winter at Westport on October 13th, there was a small influx late in the year beginning with an adult at Tittesworth from November 5th-7th. At Belvide, there were three adults on 12th, a second-winter on 20th, an adult and first-winter on 22nd and three first-winters in the roost on December 6th. In December there were also single first-winters in fields at Wyrley Hayes on 1st and at Chasewater on 30th.

W Mid A first-summer was at Netherton Res. for ten minutes on May 13th before flying off north-east, while another at Fens Pools on the same date may possibly have been the same bird. One was seen at Fishley on December 1st.

Sabine's Gull *Larus sabini*

The ninth Regional record of this almost strictly maritime gull but only the second for Worcs, the previous one being in August 1948.

Worcs A juvenile arrived at Upton Warren flash pools on the evening of September 13th *JTB, SC*. It was seen briefly again here the next morning and again returned in the evening *TMH, AFJ*, with the last sighting in the Westwood gull roost on the 15th *SMW*.

Bonaparte's Gull *Larus philadelphia*

Incredibly, there have now been four records of this North American gull in the Region during the last five years! Previous birds were seen at Kenilworth and Draycote during March 1990, Westport in December 1991 and Draycote again in May 1992.

Staffs An adult in winter plumage was at Blithfield from October 4th-6th *ESC et al*. Slightly smaller than Black-headed Gull, although when in flight the size difference was not apparent. Slightly darker grey mantle and upperwing. The most distinctive feature was the white almost translucent underwing, with black trailing edge to primaries only visible when in flight. Other features included a short slender black bill, dark iris, fleshy-orange legs and a prominent dark spot on the ear coverts.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bittell	450	-	-	-	-	2	70	200	250	600	400	326
Bredon's Hardwick	-	400	150	90	20	-	-	-	-	400	-	-
Throckmorton	1000	1500	-	-	-	1	900	50	6	700	350	500
Upton Warren	-	-	-	-	5	86	1100	1200	700	22	800	110
Westwood	3000	3600	1600	25	-	-	75	200	640	3000	3000	4500

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Wilden	-	-	-	-	3	-	75	311	-	200	-	-
Belvide	2000	3000	200	1	3	5	-	-	1200	-	-	-
Chasewater	-	6000	1800	16	-	2	500	600	-	6700	8000	9000
Westport	5000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7500	6000

Warks Bred at Dosthill and Kingsbury but numbers not reported. In the Coton roost 7000 were estimated in February and 5000 in December. At Draycote, 13000 were estimated in September. Other counts included 2000 at Brandon on January 16th, a maximum of 4500 at Lawford Heath Tip in February and at pre-roost gatherings at Shustoke, a maximum of 1900 on February 22nd. An albino was noted at Draycote on November 11th.

Worcs 2500 were on floodwater at Upton-upon-Severn on January 8th, while 600 passed over Castlemorton Common on November 6th.

Staffs The small gullery near Aqualate held 23 nests in May. A larger one was indicated at Barton GP, where over 100 young were counted on May 30th. There were no records from the Elford GP colony, which held 123 nests in 1987 and 86 in 1991. Away from these areas few were reported in summer until early July when migrants appeared in fair numbers. These were mostly adults, eg 64 adults and a first-summer at Trentham Gardens on July 3rd, whilst the first returning juvenile appeared at Westport on 5th. Outside the breeding season, other four figure counts came from: Rickerscote, with 1500 on September 18th and 1000 on December 28th; Tittesworth, with 2800 on November 29th; and Aqualate, with 1000 in the roost on December 31st. Unusually, 500 roosted on the roofs of retail buildings at Hanley Festival Park on October 18th. No counts were received from the Bliethfield roost this year, which usually holds the largest numbers (cf. over 26000 there in January 1993).

W. Mid Over 2000 roosted at Bartley during the winter months. At Wyken Slough, birds were regularly seen on evening flightlines to the Draycote (Warks) roost, with maxima of 1200 on January 10th and 2800 on November 25th. The largest counts elsewhere included 300 at Netherton Res. on January 2nd, 400 at Stubber's Green on 19th, 500 in Dunstall Park on July 13th and November 21st and 310 on playing fields at Penn in December.

Common Gull *Larus canus*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Bittell	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	6	3	-
Bredon's Hardwick	6	-	60	88	3	-	-	-	-	10	-	-
Throckmorton	1	8	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	4	3	12
Upton Warren	-	-	-	52	1	-	2	2	2	2	2	3
Westwood	3	7	13	5	-	-	-	-	4	9	10	10
Tittesworth	17	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Westport	15	23	12	2	3	0	0	0	2	2	3	10

Warks Recorded in the county up to May 26th and again from July 24th. The only

- roost count at Draycote this year comprised 1000 on December 24th. During the first three months up to 300 fed at the nearby Lawford Heath Tip. The only other counts of note were over 500 at Radway on March 23rd and 200 at Draycote on April 10th, both probably involving spring passage migrants. Noted as being scarce in the Kingsbury area where a maximum of only 30 were seen.
- Worcs** Spring passage included 42 moving north over Upton Warren on April 16th, with a further 52 heading south there on 17th. Ten were seen on Longdon Marsh in January and there were eight over White-leaved Oak on March 19th. Smaller numbers were recorded at: Bishampton Vale Pool, Grimley, Hollybed Common, Kempsey, Kinsham, Larford, Poolbrook Common and Wells Common.
- Staffs** The only good-sized flock reported was 100 at Rudyard on January 23rd, in a district where other fair-sized flocks have appeared in recent years. Five at Belvide on May 24th was a good count for the time of year but the maximum reported there was only six on March 7th. Single figures reported from four other sites, with eight at Chasewater in February the maximum. Under-recorded but clearly not common.
- W Mid** Mainly noted in the east of the county, especially at Wyken Slough where up to 50 regularly fed during the winter months, with a peak count of 120 on November 21st. At Cornets End, 22 were counted on January 31st and 17 on November 27th, while at Woodshires Green there were 30 on October 31st and November 2nd. In the Birmingham/Black Country area it seems to be quite scarce, although apparently regular at Bartley. Mainly reported in autumn/winter, with one or two reported on 23 dates in Sandwell Valley, five dates at Sheepwash UP and six dates in the Dunstall/Valley Park area. A singleton at Park Lime Pits on December 29th was said to be a rare visitor there. At Wyken Slough it was last seen in the spring on April 15th, with the first return on July 19th. Between these dates one at Sheepwash UP on May 29th was the only record.

Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus graellsii*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Coton	-	140	-	-	-	-	-	-	1200	800	-	-
Draycote	-	-	2000	-	-	-	180	-	1000	-	-	1870
Throckmorton	2000	1200	-	-	-	25	400	100	100	1000	1000	3000
Westwood	1400	1400	95	1	-	-	-	8	180	2000	1200	3000
Belvide	200	125	150	-	30	-	-	150	600	2166	-	712
Chasewater	-	1500	800	65	-	-	500	1500	-	2000	2100	1300

- Warks** Up to 300 fed at Lawford Heath Tip outside the breeding season. An albino was at Draycote on January 1st.
- Worcs** Nine pairs were reported to be nesting in Worcester City and at least one pair bred in Kidderminster. Up to 50 were present all year at Bredon's Hardwick and 260 were in a flooded field at Oddingley on December 18th.
- Staffs** Other large winter counts included 1500 at Tittesworth on November 29th,

790 at Westport on December 12th and over 2500 in the Aqualate roost (many more than usual) on 31st. Summer counts included 70 immatures at Bemmersley Tip on June 10th, with 380 there on August 29th and 470 at Checkley Tip on 30th. A very striking leucistic first-winter was seen in the Chasewater roost on January 9th, with another on December 25th *ARD*.

Wholly pale cream in colour with no diffuse mottling, apart from a small brownish patch near the shoulder and a weakly-defined diffuse pale brown tail-band. The bill was 70% dark, while the eye was also dark. Structure as nearby Lesser Black-backs with a heavier bill than Iceland Gull, a bird that vaguely resembled it. The December bird was similar but with a mainly pale bill.

W Mid A small number of pairs were again present on rooftops in Birmingham city centre during the breeding season. Due to the scale of buildings here it is often difficult to confirm breeding, although copulating birds were observed on top of the Virgin Megastore on April 28th. One or two pairs noted in Sandwell Valley during the summer months presumably emanated from this city centre colony. Reported as being "common" in winter roosts at Bartley, with 280 counted here on October 20th. Flightlines to Draycote over Wyken Slough included 300 on February 13th and 360 on November 21st. Other large flocks involved 100 flying south over Woodshires Green on July 19th, 150 in Valley Park on October 9th, "several hundred" at Park Lime Pits on 20th and 130 at Stubber's Green on December 28th.

"Intermediate" Lesser Black-backed Gull L. f. intermedius

Clearly under-recorded, see *WMBC Annual Report 60:102*.

Worcs Adults identified as this race included at least three at Throckmorton in November and a minimum of three nightly in the Westwood roost during the winter months.

Staffs An adult at Checkley Tip on August 30th.

W Mid Four at Stubber's Green on December 28th.

"Scandinavian" Lesser Black-backed Gull L. f. fuscus

Warks An adult at Draycote on February 16th *JJB*.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Now treated as a full species by BBRC. The comment in last year's report concerning the acceptance of full species status by BOURC was in fact rather premature; at present they are still sitting on the fence over the issue.

Warks All records relate to adults unless otherwise stated. Early in the year at Draycote there were two on January 16th and March 12th *RCM*, three on February 11th *JJB* and singles on four other dates up to March 15th *RCM*. Nearby at Lawford Heath Tip, there were three including a third-winter on January 26th, with the latter bird again on February 11th *JJB*. Singles were seen in the Coton roost on February 21st *SR* and at Dosthill on April 11th *SR*. After a third-summer at Dosthill on June 15th *SR* there was the usual late-summer influx at this locality. There were four including a fourth-summer on July 19th *NFO* and five on 28th *SR*, with singles on five further dates up to October 19th *BLK*. Another roosted at Coton on November 2nd *BLK*. At Draycote there were two on October 30th *GIG*, *REH*, one on November 13th *GIG*, four on 19th *REH*,

DJS and singles on 27th *REH* and December 11th and 18th *GIG, PDH*.

Worcs Monthly maxima at main sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Throckmorton	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	5	3	5
Westwood	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	7	5	8

A minimum of 38 birds were identified during the course of the year at the two tabulated sites, but unlike last year none were reported elsewhere. Two second-summer birds were at Throckmorton on July 7th, a second-winter at Westwood on November 23rd and first-winters at Throckmorton on December 11th and Westwood on 25th. Otherwise, the composition of ages at both sites was roughly 65% adults, 20% third-year birds and 15% fourth-year birds.

Staffs Single adults were identified at Chasewater on January 1st *RAH* and 9th *GE*, and on March 7th *GE* and 12th *KVC, GE*; and at Blithfield on January 15th and March 12th *WJL*. More numerous in the autumn, with adults at Belvide on October 29th *KVC*; Blithfield on November 6th, 20th (two) *GIG, PDH* and 26th *MB, WB*; Copmere on November 13th and 19th *DWE*; and Chasewater on December 7th (three) *DJC*, 10th *GE* and 11th (two) *DJC*.

W Mid Adults were reported at Bartley on May 17th *AN*, August 21st *ARD* and December 25th (two) *INR*, at Sheepwash UP on July 7th, 10th and October 14th *AGW* and at Lower Gornal on December 30th *MJH, RH*.

Herring Gull *Larus argentatus*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Throckmorton	400	130	-	-	1	-	35	1	-	40	12	400
Westwood	130	100	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	26	7	250
Chasewater	1500	600	80	18	-	-	-	1	-	100	1000	1500

Warks Roosting numbers at Draycote were thought to be down during both winter periods, with 784 in December the largest count. The best count at Lawford Heath Tip was 500 on January 26th. One or two were noted in the Tame valley during May and at Alvecote in June.

Worcs Up to eight birds were resident at Bredon's Hardwick, whilst a summering adult was in Worcester City. 40 flew over Upton Warren on November 19th.

Staffs Away from the Cannock Tip/Chasewater area numbers reported were low, although no counts were received from the Blithfield roost. During January, there were up to 30 in the Belvide roost, 55 at Tittesworth on 9th and 50 at Westport on 22nd. Summer records included one at Belvide on May 10th and up to three there in June. At the end of the year, there were roost peaks of only 15 at Belvide in December and ten at Aqualate on 31st. Up to five were at Rickerscote from September-December, where this species accounted for only about 10% of the large gulls present. Tantalising pieces of evidence point to a significant decline, thus regular counts of the species from more sites would be most useful. An albino was reported from Blithfield on January 30th and again on February 18th and 20th.

W Mid Flightlines over Wyken Slough to Draycote early in the year peaked at 400 on January 10th, but unusually low numbers were noted in autumn/winter with 100 on December 30th the largest. Apparently regular in the Bartley roost but there were no specific counts. Only very small numbers were seen elsewhere, but these included several reports of apparent passage birds in late April and May including 24 flying north over Valley Park on May 15th.

Iceland Gull *Larus glaucoides*

A notable influx during January and February. The bird at Chasewater on May 3rd beats the latest spring date on record (1970 at Belvide) by two days.

Warks Appears to be becoming more frequent than Glaucous Gull in the county. Most records again came from the Draycote roost where a possible seven different birds was a similar total to both the previous two years. Here, the first-winter from 1993 roosted nightly during January 1st-11th *REH et al.*, with a different bird on 29th *AC*. An adult was seen here on January 8th *REH, DJS* and February 26th *REH, MJJ, DJS*, and a second-winter on February 11th *JJB*, 12th *REH*, 13th *GIG, PDH, DJS* and again on March 5th *REH*. A couple of these birds also fed on the nearby Lawford Heath Tip during the day, with the first-winter noted from January 2nd-9th *REH, PDH et al.* and the adult from February 24th *MFO* to March 1st *JJB*. Three birds appeared in the county during December: an adult at Draycote on 18th *GIG* and a third-winter both there *MJI* and at Lawford Heath Tip *AC* on 31st, and an adult in the Dosthill area from 19th-31st *JAA, AC et al.* The latter bird frequently roosted on Cliff Pool in nearby Kingsbury WP.

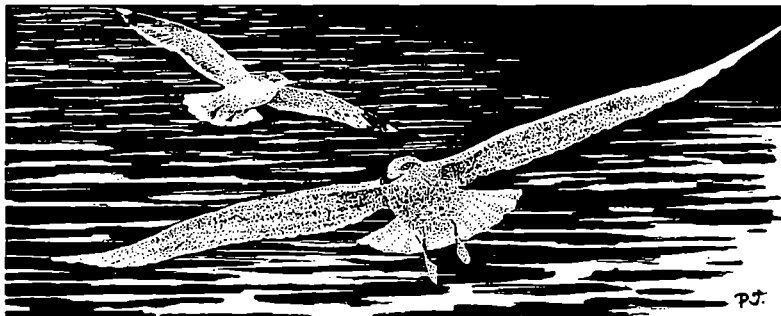
Worcs A first-winter bird roosted at Westwood on January 25th-26th, with the same bird at Throckmorton on the latter date *GHP, SMW*. A different first-winter roosted at Westwood on January 31st and then on several dates until February 8th. This bird also frequented Throckmorton Tip from February 1st intermittently until 27th, on which date it also roosted at Westwood *GHP, SMW*. A second-winter bird was also at Throckmorton on February 13th *GHP, SMW*. At the end of the year, a first-winter was reported flying south at Upton Warren on December 26th *AFJ*.

Staffs Most records came as usual from Blithfield and the Cannock/Chasewater area. At Blithfield, there were single first-winters on January 15th *WJL* and March 20th *DJA, ESC* and an adult on February 20th *ESC*. Cannock Tip produced first-winters on January 1st *JJB, SMH, MJH, RH* and 9th *MJH, RH*, and on February 13th *MJH, RH*, 16th and 18th *DJA*. These birds presumably roosted at Chasewater, where first-winters were seen on January 1st *KVC, ARD, RAH*, 8th *ICW, MY*, 30th *MJI* and on February 4th and 16th *GE*. A second-winter was seen on February 4th *GE*, while single adults appeared on January 22nd and 29th *ARD* (which was also seen at Kingswood), and on March 12th *KVC, GE*. Finally, a very late bird described as a first or second-summer, was seen on May 3rd *GE*. Elsewhere in the county, a first-winter at Bemmersley Tip from January 7th-10th *DK et al.*, was also seen at nearby Knypersley Res. on January 15th and 22nd *DK*, while an adult was at the latter site on January 10th and 14th *AK, DK, WJL*. A first-winter was at Westport on January 13th *DK* (possibly from Bemmersley) and a second-winter at

Tittesworth on February 13th *AB*. The only record in the second winter period was of a third-winter at Blithfield on December 24th *ESC*.

W. Mid A second-winter was on waste ground near Pensnett on January 15th-16th *CJT* and a first-winter at Wyken Slough on February 13th *JJB*.

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*



Glaucous Gull (Phil Jones)

Warks The adult from December 1993 was still present at Draycote *AC*, *REH* and Lawford Heath Tip *GIG*, *PDH* on January 1st-2nd. A first-winter was at Draycote on February 2nd *SMH* and a fourth-winter at Lawford Heath Tip on 16th *JJB*. An adult at Coton and Dosthill on January 2nd *JAA*, *AC* was seen again at Dosthill on 6th *PC*.

Staffs In the early months records came from: Blithfield, a fourth-winter on January 4th *ESC*, *WJL*, an adult from 7th-19th *ESC*, *AL et al*, a second-winter on 21st *ESC*, *PJ* and an adult and second-winter on 30th *ESC*, *AL*.; Cannock Tip, a first-winter on January 1st *JJB*, *SMH*, *MJH*, *RH*; and Chasewater, probably the same first-winter on January 1st *KVC*, *ARD*, with an adult on 16th *ARD* and an adult and second-winter on February 4th *GE*. In December, a third-winter was seen on 10th *ICW*, *MY* and a second-winter on 11th *ESC* at Blithfield, while an adult was also at Little Wyrley on 11th *MJH*, *RH*.

Larus hybrids

Iceland Gull hybrid

Warks A second-winter bird of this species noted at Dosthill on February 5th was thought to have some hybrid characteristics *ICW*, *MY*.

Glaucous x Herring Gull

Staffs A first-winter was identified at Westport on January 15th *WJL*.

A very large pale gull almost the size of Great Black-back, with pink legs and a stout pale pink dark-tipped bill similar to first-winter Glaucous Gull. In flight it displayed a prominent mid-brown tail band, while the outer four primaries were also mid-brown but these were not obvious at rest.

In addition, an adult was present in the Chasewater roost from 1993 until January 22nd and again during Decmber 25th-31st *ARD, GE*.

1993 Addendum

Staffs An adult was at Chasewater from November 21st-December 31st *ARD, GE* (see above).

Great Black-backed Gull *Larus marinus*

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Throckmorton	18	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	20
Upton Warren	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Westwood	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	30
Chasewater	200	20	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	15	30	142

Warks Very few were reported from Tame valley sites and only two roost counts were made at Draycote, involving 180 in January and 60 in December. Up to 150 were present at Lawford Heath Tip in January, reducing to only 20 in February and with the last bird on March 1st.

Worcs No other records received.

Staffs Away from Chasewater, only very small numbers were reported as the other major roost at Blithfield remained uncounted. Up to four were present in the winter months at Belvide, where there was also one on April 15th, a first-summer on May 16th and 23rd, two on July 20th and four on September 14th. Maxima elsewhere included five at Doxey, four at Westport, three at Tittesworth and two at Aqualate, all in January or December. Under-recorded, but these figures strongly indicate a significant decline from the record counts of the 1980's.

W Mid Larger numbers reported from Wyken Slough this year, with up to eight regular on flightlines to Draycote and peaks of 18 on January 10th and 11 on November 21st. A "few" were reported as present at Bartley during the winter months. The only other birds recorded were at Dunstall Park on January 12th, 15th (two), February 5th and September 9th; and in Sandwell Valley (a juvenile) on September 12th.

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Warks No noticeable influx this year and no records involved more than two birds. There was however a good spread of records. An immature at Draycote on January 22nd, was followed by two adults on 29th. On spring passage after an adult at Draycote on March 13th, a first-summer visited Shustoke on April 2nd, and single adults were at Ladywalk on 4th, Draycote on 5th, Dosthill on 10th and 13th and Shustoke on 17th. Late adults appeared again there on May 16th and at Dosthill on 22nd. An oiled adult was present at Draycote on September 10th, with a first-winter on October 30th and another adult on December 30th. Lastly, a first-winter was seen at Shustoke on December 8th, with an adult found dead there on 20th.

Worcs An adult was at Throckmorton on January 27th. On spring passage an adult flew north-east over Westwood on March 28th, followed by a first-year moving in the same direction over Upton Warren on April 1st. A juvenile

was also at Upton Warren from August 24th-27th.

Staffs In January, there were adults at Blithfield on 8th and Belvide on 27th. Spring passage involved only adults, beginning with two at Belvide on March 1st, with singles at Westport on 2nd, Blithfield on 6th, Belvide on 7th, two at Westport on 12th and one at Blithfield on 22nd. April singles were at Belvide on 2nd, 20th and 25th, Westport on 3rd and 29th and Chasewater on 15th. Finally, there were late singles at Belvide on May 20th and Blithfield from June 12th-17th. A poor autumn began with a sickly juvenile at Belvide from August 25th-31st, when it died. Single adults were seen here on October 3rd and 29th, with one at Blithfield on December 4th.

W Mid An adult at Wyken Slough on November 17th was the first at this locality. It was followed by singles low over Netherton Hill on November 19th and at Netherton Res. on 27th, with an adult at Comets End also on 27th. Finally, an adult was in Sandwell Valley on December 24th.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Average passage: April 4th (5) – September 26th (5)

Warks A poor year with just two Draycote records, involving two on April 23rd and two on August 23rd.

Worcs In spring, single adults visited Bittell on April 1st and Upton Warren on May 15th, while return passage birds included two flying south over Wilden on July 30th, one at Bredon's Hardwick on August 20th and an adult and juvenile here on September 14th.

Staffs At Blithfield, there was a good sequence of spring records beginning with an early bird on March 28th, with two on April 24th, one on May 1st, two on 3rd and one on June 24th. The only other spring record concerned a bird at Belvide on May 3rd, while in autumn there were two here on September 14th and one at Croxall on 18th.

W Mid Four rested on buoys at Bartley for thirty minutes on April 23rd and two flew east through Sandwell Valley on September 15th.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Average: April 13th (10) – October 8th (10)

There was a very late arrival in spring with no records before April 22nd, when birds appeared on several waters in Staffs and Warks including 20 at Kingsbury. These were followed by a major influx next day. The last autumn bird was seen at Draycote on October 16th.

Monthly maxima at selected sites:

	A	M	J	J	A	S	O
Bishampton Vale Pool	–	13	–	–	–	1	–
Bittell	2	1	–	4	9	11	–
Bredon's Hardwick	2	3	2	1	5	1	–
Upton Warren	3	23	3	8	6	6	–
Westwood	–	5	1	–	5	–	–
Other sites (five)	–	4	–	3	3	–	–
Edgbaston Res.	–	11	6	9	10	–	–
Sandwell Valley	1	2	1	4	4	21	–

- Warks** Approximately 20 pairs were thought to have bred at Dosthill, where 34 chicks were ringed. On this visit some juveniles were already flying and several clutches had yet to hatch so the final total of young was probably higher. At the original site at Kingsbury a further 20 young were ringed. Three pairs bred on a floating raft at Draycote, where three chicks were seen on July 1st but one was later taken by a Sparrowhawk. Elsewhere small numbers were seen fairly regularly during the summer months at Alvecote (max. seven), Brandon (max. 12), Earlswood Lakes, Jubilee Pools, Ladywalk and The Somers, with display noted at several of these and nest-scraping observed at Brandon in July. Spring passage was hard to detect at the main localities due to breeding birds, though there was a noticeable peak on April 23rd when 70 were at Dosthill and 100 at Draycote. Very few were noted on return passage, the latest being two juveniles at Kingsbury on September 29th, a juvenile at Draycote on October 2nd and an adult there on 16th.
- Worcs** A pair hatched three young at Upton Warren, one of these fledging and thus providing the first successful breeding record for the county. Two birds also lingered at Bredon's Hardwick for three weeks in June but no breeding activity was noted. The highest counts in the spring occurred on May 16th, when 13 passed through Bishampton Vale Pool and 23 visited Upton Warren. Autumn movements were less significant, with nine on August 27th and 11 on September 7th both at Bittell, being the best.
- Staffs** Up to ten pairs were thought to have nested in the Trent valley, but the only specific record concerned three pairs at Barton GP which apparently reared about seven young. A single pair also bred on the tern raft at Belvide, rearing three young. The table shows peaks in the second half of April and the second half of May but there was no major movement this spring. The few double figure spring counts included 18 at Tittesworth on April 23rd, 18 at Blithfield and 14 at Chasewater on May 22nd, with 12 there on 25th. Up to 11 were regular at Blithfield during July and August and at Belvide in early July, though there was no noticeable autumn passage peak. The only later party of note concerned 18 immatures at Belvide on September 25th.
- W Mid** Small numbers of up to five were also noted on various dates between May 10th and September 12th at: Bartley, Bradnock's Marsh, Cornets End, Fens Pools, Fort Dunlop, Hampton-in-Arden, Netherton Res., Park Lime Pits, Sheepwash UP, Sutton Park and Wyken Slough. Sightings were most frequent during August, including a party of 20 at Fens Pools on the 23rd.

Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea*

Average passage: April 9th (5) – October 12th (5)

Some good-sized flocks appeared on one or two days in April, including the largest flock in the Region since 1983; but otherwise a rather average year. The bird at Dosthill on April 3rd was the second earliest on record; the earliest being at Edgbaston Res. on April 2nd 1989.

- Warks** Spring passage began with a very early bird at Dosthill on April 3rd, followed by another there and six at Draycote on 17th. On 23rd a large movement produced counts of 87 at Dosthill and around 200 at Draycote, although next day the only record concerned two at The Somers. On May 3rd three were

noted at Dosthill and four at Draycote, but apart from two at Shustoke on 16th and six at Draycote on 17th, there were just two further singles at Kingsbury up to 23rd. Unusually it was Shustoke that saw most of the autumn records, with one from September 11th-13th, three on 15th and one on October 12th. Elsewhere there were just September singles at Dosthill, Draycote and Earlswood.

- Worcs** In spring, nine at Larford on April 16th were followed by 16 at Bredon's Hardwick on 17th, with a further single there and two at Upton Warren on 21st. Another visited Bredon's Hardwick on April 26th, with three there on May 16th and a late migrant over Ashmoor Common on June 7th. Return passage began with one at Upton Warren on July 9th. In September, there were single juveniles at Bishampton Vale Pool on 10th-12th, Westwood from 10th-24th (with two on 12th and 14th-16th, three birds being involved) and Upton Warren on 12th. An adult was present at Bredon's Hardwick from 10th-17th.
- Staffs** Spring passage opened with a bird at Chasewater and 17 at Blithfield on April 17th, followed by a flock of 40 at the latter on 23rd, coinciding with a general tern movement. Otherwise only one or two here and elsewhere on dates during April and May, apart from five at Belvide and three at Chasewater on May 4th. Only very small numbers occurred on return passage and despite the peak of five at Blithfield on August 21st, most were during September. The last was a late bird at Tittesworth on October 23rd.
- W Mid** Spring passage birds were reported from Sheepwash UP on April 24th, Bartley on May 21st (two) and Edgbaston Res. on 26th-27th (two). An early autumn adult in Sandwell Valley on July 13th, was followed by a flock of 33 flying south-west over Netherton Hill on August 24th and a singleton at Netherton Res. on September 10th.

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

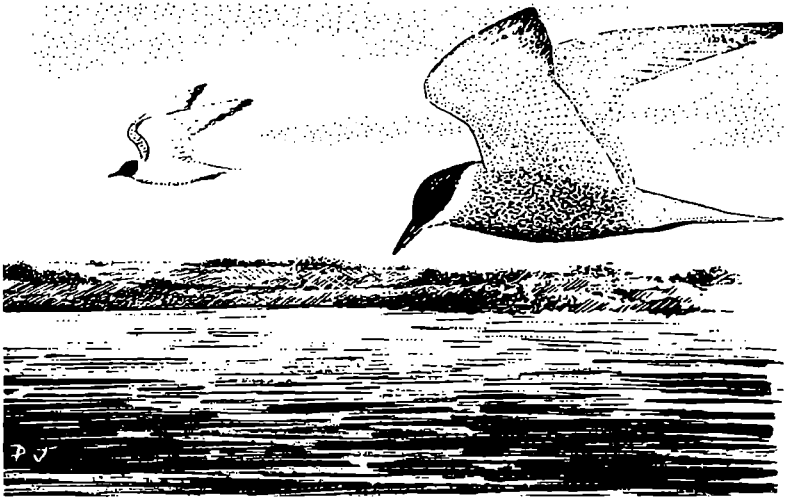
Average passage: May 5th (5) – September 1st (5)

- Warks** A good year, with five records involving 12 birds. One at Draycote on April 21st was followed by four there on 23rd. On May 7th, four were seen at Dosthill and two at Earlswood. Finally, a juvenile appeared at Draycote on August 17th.
- Worcs** A total of three passed through Bredon's Hardwick GP on May 16th, with one frequently visiting this site during 23rd-26th but apparently spending most of its time feeding along the course of the nearby R. Avon. Another was seen at Bittell on July 10th.
- Staffs** The only records came on April 23rd, when singles were seen at both Tittesworth and Belvide.
- W Mid** Singles in Sandwell Valley on May 3rd and at Edgbaston Res. on August 10th.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

This was only the sixth record of this rare southern marsh tern within the Region, the last being at Kingsbury on May 18th 1987.

- Worcs** A summer plumaged adult at Bredon's Hardwick GP on May 1st *RWP, SMW et al.* was the first record for the county. This bird which fortunately chose a



Whiskered Tern (Phil Jones)

Bank Holiday to appear, was present from mid-morning up to 20.30 hrs when it was seen to fly off south-west. During this time an estimated 300-400 observers managed to enjoy views of the bird as it hawked up and down over the water or rested on a shingle island.

About same size as Black Tern. Sooty grey underparts from throat to belly contrasting strongly with bright white cheeks and undertail coverts. Upperparts mainly powdery mid-grey but with paler silvery-grey upper tail feathers and black crown. Short dark red bill and legs.

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Average passage: April 22nd (5) – October 22nd (5)

An average year. The bird at Valley Park and then Belvide from November 16th-26th was the latest ever in the Region. The previous latest record was on November 12th as long ago as 1849 in Worcester.

Warks

Spring passage started on April 22nd with one at Dosthill and three at Draycote. On the following day a significant tern passage brought 25 to Draycote, with nine at Napton Res., three at Kingsbury and two at Dosthill. A trickle then came through until May 28th, with up to four recorded on nine dates at Dosthill and on three dates at Draycote, with singles at Earlswood and Shustoke. Autumn passage was generally unimpressive with only one or two being seen at the usual waters on a scattering of dates from July 10th-October 6th. An exception was on August 23rd, when 29 appeared at Shustoke, together with six at Kingsbury, five at Dosthill and one at Earlswood. Another small influx occurred on September 15th, when there were nine at Coton and 11 at Draycote, while six were at Shustoke next day.

Worcs After birds at Bredon's Hardwick and Upton Warren on April 23rd, further singles were recorded in May at Bishampton Vale Pool on 12th, Bredon's Hardwick on 19th, Eckington on 25th, Upton Warren on 16th, 21st, 24th-26th and Westwood on 16th, 22nd and 26th. A stronger autumn passage was recorded at: Bishampton Vale Pool, one on August 23rd; Bittell, one on August 11th, two on 23rd and 25th, and one on 28th and September 15th; Bredon's Hardwick, one from August 2nd-4th and nine on 23rd; Upton Warren, singles on August 11th and September 16th-17th; and Westwood, one on August 11th and four on 23rd. On September 9th a party of eight arrived here, dwindling to seven the next day, six on 11th and five on 12th-13th. Further singles appeared here on September 15th and 25th.

Staffs The first appeared on April 23rd when there were seven at Blithfield and three at Belvide, with four at Tittesworth next day. Most spring records were in May, with a small influx during mid-month. At Blithfield during this period there were eight on 14th, 17 on 15th and six on 16th, while others appeared at six further sites including three at Chasewater on 13th and four at Belvide on 16th. Autumn passage began with seven at Blithfield on August 1st, with passage continuing across the county until late September. The largest numbers occurred on August 23rd, when there were 12 at Chasewater, 11 at Belvide, six at Westport and four at Blithfield. An exceptionally late first-winter remained at Belvide from November 16th-26th *several observers*.

W Mid Singles noted in Sandwell Valley on August 23rd and 31st. A very late bird present along the Staffs and Worcs canal in Valley Park on November 16th VPG was presumably the bird later reported from Belvide.

Half monthly summated totals for Black, Common and Arctic Terns in Staffs:

	A		M		J		J		A		S		O	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
Black	0	15	39	19	0	4	0	0	10	40	13	11	0	0
Common	0	41	25	53	20	24	26	30	30	16	17	26	0	0
Arctic	1	62	8	2	3	0	0	0	1	5	8	5	0	1

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Staffs One was found and photographed on a small garden pond at Edingale, near Tamworth, on January 28th *JRS*.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Few records received as usual.

Warks A flock of over 200 were at Shustoke Waterworks on October 1st.

Staffs Present at Belvide from February to June, with a maximum of 36 on February 21st. A flock of 50 were reported from the North Staffs Moors on June 26th.

W Mid Flock sizes reported to be generally down this year in north-east Coventry.

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Warks Considered common in most areas, although the only significant breeding records received concerned four pairs in the ruins of Astley Castle and two

pairs in nestboxes at Ladywalk. The largest flocks were all during the early winter or autumn months and included 100 at Armscote, 77 at Baginton Lagoons, 80 at Grandborough, 60 at Kineton and 110 at Kingsbury.

Worcs Only one breeding record received. The largest flocks reported were of 150 at Bredon's Hardwick on March 13th, 230 at Bishampton Vale Pool on April 10th, 350 near Strensham on May 1st, 115 at Bredon's Hardwick again on October 21st and 80 at Crowle Green on December 11th. Smaller flocks of around 25-30 were seen at six other sites.

Staffs No breeding birds reported. Notable counts included 48 at Whitemoor Hay on February 15th, rising to 60 by May 9th; and parties of 50 during March at both Tittesworth and Belvide.

W Mid Breeding season records came from Bartley, Berkswell, Bradnock's Marsh, Dunstall Park/Valley Park (five pairs), Erdington, Foleshill Gasworks, Hampton-in-Arden, Longford, Meriden, Minworth SF (three or four pairs), Mons Hill (four territories on the CBC plot), Norton Green, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Woodshires Green and Wyken Slough. The largest flock reported was of only 12, at Bradnock's Marsh on December 4th.

Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*

Warks A numerous and widespread breeding bird. The best flocks occurred early in the year, with 2200 roosting at Chesterton on January 6th, 1000 at Coombe on 11th and 1000 at Kites Hardwick on February 4th. An albino was seen with normal birds at Exhall on February 12th.

Worcs During the first winter period, there were counts of 350 around Tibberton and 400 at Sheriff's Lench in January, 220 at Crowle in February and 152 at Guarlford in April. Autumn produced flocks of 350 at Bishampton Vale Pool on October 30th and an estimated 800 on Bredon Hill on November 6th, with 450 moving west over Happy Valley the same day. Flocks of around 300 were noted at Sheriff's Lench and Tibberton late in the year.

Staffs Reports came from throughout the county. The largest flocks reported in the early months included: 300 at Ashwood and 500 at Deepmore on January 20th, 340 at Elford on 22nd, 500 at Shugborough on February 16th and 1000 at both Belvide and Doxey on 21st. There were still 300 at Belvide on April 28th, while autumn counts included 362 there during October and 1000 at Mansty on December 4th.

W Mid The only breeding season counts comprised 21 territories on the Mons Hill CBC plot (cf. 14 in 1993) and six pairs at Wyken Slough. The largest flock consisted of 1500 roosting in Saltwells Wood on January 13th.

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Seems to be most abundant in Worcs where consistently large flocks are reported.

Warks Fewer reports this year but still thought to be increasing in some districts. The largest flocks were 30 at Chesterton, 25 at Whateley and 40 at Wolston.

Worcs Large concentrations included 180 at Ryall on January 8th, 82 at Defford on 22nd, 136 at Bredon's Hardwick on October 21st, 148 at Little Comberton on November 15th and 158 at Abberton on December 11th.

Staffs Few reports. Small flocks were recorded at nine sites, with 36 at Hall Farm, Hulme on October 28th being the largest.

W Mid Breeding season records came from: Bartley, Four Oaks, Mons Hill (seven territories on the CBC plot), Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP (said to be on the increase), Valley Park and Wyken Slough (four pairs). Notable counts included 35 at Netherton Res. on January 7th and 39 in a south Walsall garden on December 11th. A leucistic individual was at Mushroom Green Marsh on May 16th.

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Average: April 25th (59) – September 24th (59)

An exceptionally early bird at Draycote on April 6th equals the earliest spring migrant ever (at Belvide in 1974). Otherwise a typically late arrival with first birds appearing from April 29th into early May and with the main influx during the second week. Few seem to be seen in September nowadays and this year the only record beyond the 1st was of a bird at Alvecote on 11th. This attractive dove still appears to be hanging on in parts of Worcs and south Warks but becoming increasingly rare elsewhere.

Warks Thinly distributed during the breeding season with records of possible breeding birds in June/July at: Alvecote, Bidford-on-Avon, Brailes, Dosthill, Idlicote, Kingsbury, Oversley Wood, Radway, Stoneton, Temple Pool, Ufton Fields, Whateley, Whichford Wood and Wormleighton Res. Most records involved only one or two birds, with rather more noted on passage in May including parties of six at Dosthill on 8th and ten at Lower Radbourn on 15th. An indication of how scarce this bird is becoming was that the well-watched reserves at Brandon and Ladywalk could only muster one and three records respectively.

Worcs Recorded at 29 sites during the summer months, with multiple sightings from: Aston Mill, Defford, Eckington, Grimley, Holt, Kemerton, Little Comberton, Lower Moor, Ribbesford, Strensham and Upton Warren. Up to three pairs were noted on the southern Malvern Hills.

Staffs Most summer records came from traditional areas, with singing birds at Belvide, Croxall, Elford (two), Hollybush and Newborough. Elsewhere, passage birds were noted at Brewood, Hanbury, Katyn Memorial (Cannock Chase) and Whitemoor Hay.

W Mid Only five records received, all probably on passage. In spring there was one at Norton Green STW on May 12th, an impressive flock of ten at Wyken Slough on 13th and one in Sandwell Valley on 15th. In August, one was at Woodshires Green on 4th and two flew south-west at Wyken Slough on 16th.

Ring-necked Parakeet *Psittacula krameri*

Warks A slight upward trend in records could possibly indicate the start of a very slow spread of prospecting birds into the county. The resident female was again present throughout the year at Coombe, where it roosted regularly inside a hollow ornamental plane tree. A male found at Leek Wootton in late October remained until the end of the year. Further singles were seen at Draycote on May 19th and Whatcote on October 24th.

W Mid Singles flew over Solihull on August 12th and Valley Park on October 12th.

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Average. April 10th (50) – September 4th (57)

A bird at Kingsbury on April 15th was the first in spring, a slightly later date than usual; while others did not start appearing until the 21st-24th. The last of the year was seen at Rudyard on August 29th.

- Warks** Under-recorded, with reports from only 16 sites. Three or four together were seen at Brandon, Draycote, Harbury and Kingsbury.
- Worcs** Reported from 37 sites during the summer months.
- Staffs** Reported from 34 widespread locations across the county, with concentrations on both the North Staffs Moors and Cannock Chase. The best count was of six at Belvide on May 10th. The only juvenile reported was at Rudyard on August 29th, which was brown in colour with a white nape patch.
- W Mid** Calling birds, most apparently migrants, reported from Balsall Common, Bartley, Bradnock's Marsh, Hampton-in-Arden, Meriden, Norton Green, Park Lime Pits, Temple Balsall and Valley Park. An adult noted at Sheepwash UP on July 6th and 9th, with an immature in Sandwell Valley on 27th.

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

- Warks** Confirmed breeding came from two areas, involving three pairs. The only other record during the breeding season concerned one at Ladywalk on June 30th, the first there since 1990. Outside this period records came from: Alcester, Barford, Brandon, Chadshunt, Draycote, Ettington, Kineton, Light-home, Longbridge (Warwick), Oxhill, Pillerton Hersey, Radway, near Red-ditch, Shustoke and Whateley.
- Worcs** Two pairs bred in the west of the County, with birds noted at three other sites during the breeding season. Outside this period, records came from: Bittell, Burcot, Eyemore Wood, Ham Green, Hartlebury, Holt, Larford, Longdon Marsh, Stourport Marina, Throckmorton, Upton Warren and at several Temе Valley locations. More unusually, one roosted at County Hall, Worcester in mid-March.
- Staffs** Breeding season records came from: Betley Mere, Bickford Meadows, Bish-ton, Cold Meece, Ellenhall (pair), Gailey, Gothersley, Kings Bromley, Seigh-ford and Tittesworth (including the colour-ringed bird from 1993). Others were seen at Alton, Ashmore Park, Barton GP, Belvide and Coven.
- W Mid** Singles at Brueton Park on February 6th, along the Solihull bypass on July 4th, Bickenhill on September 15th, Netherton Hill on 20th, Footshole on October 16th and Fens Pools on 19th. It was also reported again from the Bartley/Frankley area, while a bird of dubious origin was caught in a Coventry suburban street.

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

- Warks** Well reported with about 80 records received. Still fairly common in suitable areas.
- Worcs** Remains a widespread if somewhat under-reported species. Noted at 19 sites (cf. 26 in 1993) with breeding confirmed at Larford (two pairs), Lower Moor, Mill Pond and Peopleton.
- Staffs** The number of records received was down on last year, with reports from 29

localities (cf. 40 in 1993). Confirmed breeding pairs reported from: Abbots Bromley, around Belvide (three), Blithfield, Coombes Valley, Longsdon and Seighford.

W Mid Breeding season records came from: Clayhanger, the Earlswood area, Frankley, Meriden STW, Norton Green STW, Park Lime Pits and Sandwell Valley. Also noted near the motorway junction in Castle Bromwich on September 3rd, Valley Park on October 12th and at Minworth on November 20th.

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Warks Only four record slips received but no change in status indicated. Three were heard at Bascote on April 28th.

Worcs Noted at 22 sites, with successful breeding reported on Bredon Hill and at Broomhill Coppice. Three calling birds were heard at Monk Wood, with two in Trench Wood.

Staffs Poorly reported, with records received from only 12 sites. Confirmed breeding pairs at: Abbots Bromley, Anslow (two), Belvide (at least three) and Coombes Valley (seven, 16 young raised).

W Mid Confirmed breeding in King's Heath Park and Valley Park, with probable records from Brandwood Cemetery (two pairs) and Winterbourne (Edgbaston). Other breeding season records came from Catherine-de-Barnes, Marston Green, Park Lime Pits, Sutton Park and Temple Balsall; with autumn/winter records at: Brueton Park, Dunstall Park, Kingswinford, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Tettenhall, south Walsall and Wergs.

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Some known roost sites continue to be undocumented, but even allowing for this it was undoubtedly a poor year for this secretive owl. Perhaps significantly, this was the first year since 1980 that there was no confirmed breeding in the Region.

Warks Two were present at a roost site in the north of the county during January and again in November-December. The only other to be reported was picked up dead on a road at Tysoe on January 17th.

Worcs One near Droitwich on February 20th was the sole record.

Staffs Fewer reports than in 1993. Up to nine were counted in the roost at Park Hall CP. Single birds were seen at Handsacre on February 7th and Belvide on May 8th-9th, the latter being the first for the locality. One at Gib Torr on June 22nd came from a possible breeding site.

W Mid One in Sandwell Valley from December 16th-19th.

Short-eared Owl *Asio flammea*

A lean year for this species in the Region, which like the Long-eared Owl is presumably due to the paucity of immigrants; in this case resulting from recent poor breeding success in Scandinavia caused by low vole and lemming numbers.

Warks A very poor year with just ten records. Singles were seen at Brandon on January 16th and March 16th; Lea Marston on January 30th, February 12th and 28th and March 26th; and Draycote on April 10th. In the autumn, there

- was one at Priors Hardwick on October 1st, one flying east over a Rugby garden on November 7th and two at Lea Marston on December 23rd.
- Worcs** Reported from only two sites. At Larford, a single bird was present from January 7th-March 21st, with two together on January 7th-8th, February 6th and March 5th and 10th. Upton Warren produced singles on September 17th-18th, October 21st and November 6th.
- Staffs** Fewer records received this year, with less sites involved and no evidence of breeding. The bulk of the records came from just two localities. At Barton GP, birds were seen on January 8th, 22nd (two), 25th, March 6th (two), 19th, 22nd (two), 31st (five) and on April 3rd and 16th. One on the unusual date of July 17th, was followed by two on October 1st, one on 3rd and again on December 11th. At Swallow Moss, there were two on January 1st, one on 2nd, two on February 5th, four on March 1st, with singles on April 6th, October 9th and December 24th. Elsewhere, the only records involved singles at Boarsgrove on April 12th, Morridge on May 27th and Doxey on September 25th.
- W Mid** The only records concerned singles in Sandwell Valley from May 21st-31st and again on November 24th.

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Average: May 16th (52) – August 21st (38)

On Cannock Chase it was first heard on May 15th.

- Worcs** A male in Monk Wood on May 21st MAS, was followed by a probable female at the same site on 29th SMW. These constitute the first county records since 1987.
- Staffs** No reports this year from outside the Cannock Chase area. The only records from this important area involved up to four churring in the Katyn Memorial area, with others at Brindley Heath and Pye Green.

Common Swift *Apus apus*

Average: April 22nd (60) – September 25th (60)

The first appeared almost on time at both Belvide and Larford on April 23rd. A trickle then occurred daily until the end of the month, with the main arrival starting early in May. In late summer the species was present in some numbers until mid-August with stragglers passing through almost daily until September 15th. After this date the only records came from south Warks, where exceptionally late birds appeared at Kineton on October 19th and Whatcote on November 1st (three) and 3rd.

- Warks** Adverse weather in late May led to some notable congregations feeding over the larger waters. At Dosthill, 1000 were estimated on 20th-21st, falling to 800 on 22nd. Draycote saw peaks of 2000 on 22nd and 1800 on 26th. On return passage in early August, there were 400 over Baginton Lagoons on 9th and "hundreds" moving over Packington on 12th-13th.
- Worcs** Again very little breeding data received. The largest flocks reported were at Westwood, where there were 150 on May 5th, 350 on 16th, 400 on 17th and 350 again on June 6th; and at Upton Warren, where 200 were counted on May 16th and 210 on 23rd. Elsewhere, the largest flock was 150 feeding around Earnslaw Quarry on June 6th.

Staffs The largest reported concentrations involved 2000 at Belvide on May 16th, 800 at Chasewater on 21st, over 500 at Croxall on June 9th and more than 1500 at Blithfield on 18th. The regular partial albino was at Belvide for the fourth year running, while three other similar birds were sighted there during the summer months. Another aberrant individual seen at Elford GP had a white rump which extended along the underside of the body, slight mottling on the breast and a more prominent white throat.

W Mid Breeding information involved several pairs in Monument Road, Edgbaston and a "big colony" on the Ashburnham Grove estate in the Whitley area of Coventry, as well as proved breeding at Marston Green and near Valley Park. The largest concentrations comprised 1000 in Sandwell Valley during mid-May, 200 at Sheepwash UP on May 22nd and 200 around Netherton Res. on July 30th. Smaller flocks of up to 100 birds were reported from a further seven localities.

Alpine Swift *Apus melba*

These two bring the Region's tally to four records; the last being found exhausted in a Rowley Regis quarry on March 16th 1988, which later unfortunately died on a flight to Portugal where it was to be released.

Worcs A single bird was watched at Lower Moor for about twenty minutes during the morning of April 24th *RAP*. The third county record.

1992 Addendum

Worcs A bird was watched at Upton Warren intermittently for an hour on the evening of May 24th *PA, TAP et al.* This was the second record for the locality and county, the first being in May 1973.

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Warks Breeding season records, some involving nests, reported from: Alvecote, Bidford-on-Avon, Brandon, Coombe, Dosthill, Earlswood, Exhall (Coventry), Kingsbury, Ladywalk (two pairs), Packington and Water Orton. One observer noted it a record 15 times at Draycote, but conversely it was thought to be decreasing along the R. Blythe near Packington.

Worcs Recorded during the breeding season at: Alvechurch, Bewdley, Bredon, Hampton Ferry, Kyre Brook, Lower Moor, Mythe Bridge, R. Rea, Stanford Bridge, Upton Warren and Wilden. Outside this period reported from a further ten locations.

Staffs Well reported from throughout the county. A nest with young was found alongside the Shropshire Union Canal north of Brewood, while another nest was located upstream at Trentham Gardens.

W Mid Records during the breeding season came from: the Grand Union Canal at Olton (one pair), the R. Tame at Hamstead, Park Lime Pits and south of Valley Park. A singleton was also seemingly resident in the Sheepwash UP area throughout the year. Outside this period, birds appeared at Brueton Park, Bumble Hole, Fens Pools, Footshole, Haden Hill Park, Hayhead Wood, Sandwell Valley, along the R. Sowe and R. Sherbourne in Coventry, the Stour-bridge Canal, Woodshires Green and Wyken Slough (where two were present regularly August-November).

1990 Addendum

Staffs During a survey of the R. Penk a total of six pairs were located along the 13 km between Stafford and the A5 at Water Eaton, giving a density of almost one pair to every 2km stretch; a figure which agrees with the national optimum density for a good river. Of these, four occupied nests were found, while another nest belonging to a seventh pair was located on an adjacent stretch of a tributary, the Whiston Brook *JJB*.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

It seems likely that the two June records referred to the same individual.

Warks One at Whatcote on June 25th *CP* was on a later spring date than usual, most arriving in April or May.

W Mid One was seen briefly at Fens Pools on April 19th *SE, BMM* and another was feeding on a sheep pasture at Braggs Farm, Dickens Heath on June 26th *PAC*. These were the first county records since 1987.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Warks One at Draycote from September 9th-12th *RCM et al.* The first county record since 1989.

Worcs One well-watched individual frequented garden lawns at Abberton from August 25th-27th, where it fed on ants eggs *GHP, WFP et al.*

Staffs One was watched for half an hour in a Codsall garden on September 20th *DCP*

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Warks Fairly common resident in most areas.

Worcs Bred at Tibberton and Westwood. The largest groups consisted of four at Trimpley Res. and six on North Hill; the latter were watched feeding on berries in a large Elder bush on October 23rd, in company with two Ring Ouzels. Recorded from a further 16 sites during the year.

Staffs Three pairs bred at Coombes Valley producing ten young. Roosted regularly at Belvide during January-March. Elsewhere reported from 28 different sites throughout the county.

W Mid Noted in the breeding season at Bradnock's Marsh, Branton Hill Quarry, Dorridge Park, Minworth SF, Norton Green STW, Park Lime Pits area, Pelsall North Common, Penn area, Sandwell Valley (three or four pairs), Sutton Park (apparently quite common here, with up to six seen together in the Longmoor Valley in March) and Tidbury Green. Further records from another 11 localities outside the breeding season.

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus major*

Warks No change in status. Most records involved birds coming to garden or reserve feeding stations such as Ladywalk, where three pairs bred. Ten different birds were ringed in autumn coming into a nuttery at Packington. At Draycote on January 1st, one unfortunate individual was seen that had only one eye and lacked a tail.

Worcs Three young were reared in an orchard near Mill Pond. Two pairs were on

territory at Westwood, while six birds were seen at Hewell Park on April 29th and up to four were present throughout the year at Chase End woods. Reported from a further 17 widely scattered localities during the year.

Staffs Widely reported, with records of confirmed breeding pairs at: Belvide (one or two), Coombes Valley (five, cf. three in 1993), and Cannock Chase (Brocton Coppice, Seven Springs and Sherbrook Valley). Several reports came from garden feeders, where birds were regularly attracted to peanuts and fat.

W Mid Breeding season records came from Bromwich Wood, Dorridge Park, Marston Green, Minworth SF (two pairs), Mons Hill, Pype Hayes GC, Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park (said to be less common this year) and Valley Park. Outside the breeding season reports came from a further 15 localities, including seven gardens.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopus minor*

Warks Breeding was confirmed or suspected at: Avon Dassett, Chase Wood, Coleshill, Compton Wynyates, Coombe, Edstone Lake, Packington, Rough Hill Wood, Rugby, Ryton Wood and Shustoke. Other records came from: Brandon, Draycote, Kineton, Ladywalk, Leamington Spa, Stoneythorpe Hall and Water Orton.

Worcs Breeding behaviour noted at Bredon Hill, Tibberton and Westwood. Widely reported elsewhere during the breeding season, with records at: Callow Hill, Chase End Hill, Coldridge Wood, Crossway Green, Crowle, Dowles Brook, Eastham, Evesham, Eymore Wood, Grimley, Hallow, Happy Valley, Hewell Park, Kempsey, Kings Norton GC (Wythall), Little Comberton, Midsummer Hill, Stoke Bliss, Stourport and the Wyre Forest. Other records came from Barnett Hill, Larford, Littleworth, Lower Moor, Oakley, Pirton Pool, Upton Warren and Wilden.

Staffs Two pairs bred at both Coombes Valley and Tittesworth. A female was observed carrying food at Blithfield on May 30th, while a female and juvenile were seen near Stourton on June 20th. Elsewhere, reports of singletons came from a further 11 sites including Westport on March 3rd, where it was reported as being of rare occurrence.

W Mid In the spring singles were seen in Hayhead Wood on March 22nd and at Woodshires Green on April 5th, the latter being the first seen in this area by the observer during five years observation. One was heard drumming in Valley Park on April 16th and another heard calling near the Grand Union Canal at Olton on 27th. Two were in a Solihull garden on June 5th. Outside the breeding season, reported mainly in Sandwell Valley where singles were seen on nine dates during both winter periods. Other singles were noted in an Erdington garden on September 6th and 19th, at Edgbaston Res. on November 25th and in a Shirley garden on December 23rd.

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

The first breeding season report of this former resident in the Region since July 1979, when a singing male was present on Cannock Chase for two weeks. These birds may well originate from the migrant East Anglian population which has shown a remarkable recovery in recent years and have

spread from here back into old haunts in Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. It may not be a coincidence that Derbyshire had its first record since 1976 this year.

Staffs Two were present in possible breeding habitat at a site in the centre of the county from late June until well into July, but the only record submitted during this period was for July 3rd *PAF, TCH*.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Warks The few breeding season counts included two pairs at Alvecote, eight pairs at The Somers and ten singing males between Bidford and Marcliff. Winter flocks were generally small, the best being 75 at Kineton and 50 at Radway in January, 80 at Walsgrave Hill on February 11th and 50 at Aston Cantlow on March 17th. Autumn counts were much larger, with numbers peaking during the last two weeks in October. Maxima included 280 at Over Whitacre, 270 at Ilmington Downs, 200 at Curdworth, 120 at Wishaw, with 100 at Kingsbury, Lawford Heath and Snitterfield.

Worcs Counts of singing males came only from: Abberton (two), Bishampton Vale GC (four), Bittell (four), Shortwood Roughs (one) and Tibberton (two). The largest winter flocks occurred in January, including 80 at Tibberton on 1st, 100 at Holt on 16th, 50 at Upton Warren on 20th, with 160 at Abberton and 130 at Sheriff's Lench on 23rd. In autumn, set-aside and stubble fields proved the most favoured habitat with flocks of 150 at Bredon Hill on October 17th and November 5th, with further November counts of 50 at Bishampton Vale GC on 1st, 80 at Sheriff's Lench on 3rd and at least 100 at Holt on 5th.

Staffs Few breeding records as usual; the only reports being of single pairs at Coombes Valley and Doxey, with six territories at Belvide. The largest flocks reported consisted of 160 at Whitemoor Hay on February 15th, which had increased to 330 on 24th; and 150 at Tittesworth on October 22nd. Other counts were very small, with only 50 at Ashwood, 30 at Kingswood, 25 at Belvide and 24 at Elford.

W Mid Breeding season territories recorded at: Bilston steelworks (two or three), Bosty Lane (Aldridge), Dunstall Park, Park Lime Pits (several), Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP (four), Sutton Park (three or four in the north-east corner, but said to be less common than ten years ago), Valley Park and Withymoor (two). The only notable flocks reported were of 50 on freshly sown arable at Park Lime Pits on October 18th, 12 off Bosty Lane on November 5th and 17 in Sandwell Valley on December 3rd. A small but detectable spring passage was recorded at Wyken Slough, with a total of 47 noted on seven dates during February 8th-March 15th, moving mainly north-west. Autumn passage here was as usual far more prominent, but not as heavy as in previous years. A total of 354 were recorded moving between south-east and south-west during ninety minute counts on 19 dates between September 27th-November 15th, with peaks of 45 on October 18th and 48 on November 4th.

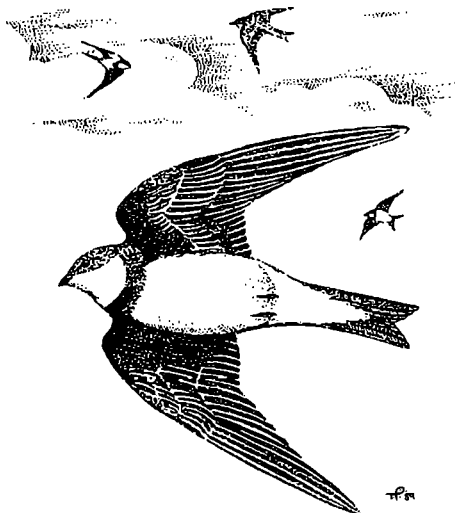
Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

The seventh Regional record, four of which interestingly have occurred since

1990 all during the period October 17th-28th.

Warks One at Draycote on October 24th *RCM* was only the second county record, the first having been seen at Coton in 1990.

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*



Sand Martin (Terry Parker)

Average: March 21st (59) – October 10th (59)

The first bird was seen at Brandon on March 10th, with a trickle daily thereafter and the main influx beginning on 20th. This was the sixth year in succession that birds began to appear before mid-March. Spring numbers were the best for many years but there was no real sign of a recovery at the breeding colonies. In contrast autumn passage was as poor as ever, with the last at Bredon's Hardwick on October 6th.

Warks Breeding records remain very sparse. About 15 pairs bred at Frog Hall GP and a "small number" did so along the R. Tame near Ladywalk. Two pairs were seen excavating nestholes at Water Orton as last year. In contrast, spring passage was the best since at least 1980. A definite peak occurred during April 1st-15th, when 250-500 were present almost daily at both Draycote and Shustoke. Also during this period there were up to 200 at Coton and maxima of 60-80 at Brandon, Earlswood and Jubilee Pools. Numbers on return passage were much lower, with maxima of 70 roosting in reeds at Ladywalk on July 13th, 80 at Coton on August 12th and 50 at Draycote on September 12th.

Worcs Breeding colonies (with counts of nestholes in brackets) were located at: Aston Mill, Bredon's Hardwick (20), Grimley (30) and Kinsham GP (40, cf. 89

in 1993), but no data was received from the Teme Valley. In spring at Westwood, numbers increased from 80 at the end of March to 200 on April 7th, 500 by the 15th, with 320 still present on 17th. These represent the largest concentrations in the county since 1971. Elsewhere, there were peaks of 100 at Upton Warren on March 30th and April 4th, increasing to 120 on 9th; 150 at Bredon's Hardwick also on 9th and 200 at Wilden on 23rd. Apart from a flock of 100 around the Grimley nest site on July 10th, there were no significant autumn flocks.

- Staffs** The largest colonies reported came from the banks of the R. Dove, with over 80 nestholes south-west of Mayfield and 96 at two adjacent sites on the lower reaches. Elsewhere, 55 nestholes were counted at Croxden GP (cf. 14 in 1993), with other uncounted colonies at Branston GP and Leek. An unusual nest site was a silage pit at Bromley where eight or nine pairs nested. On passage the largest counts came in early spring, with maxima of 1000 at Blithfield on April 2nd, 320 at Belvide on 3rd and 200 at Chasewater on 4th.
- W. Mid** The breeding colony at Cornets End consisted of some 150 occupied nestholes (approximately the same as 1993), with a further 20 in the nearby Somers Road GP. Passage records came from ten sites with much improved numbers in spring, including 70 over Powell's Pool, Sutton Park on April 12th and 110 in Sandwell Valley on 22nd. Still scarce in autumn, with a peak of 20 in Sandwell Valley on August 2nd.

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Average: March 31st (60) – November 2nd (60)

Singles in Sandwell Valley on March 24th and at Upton Warren on 25th were the harbingers of another early spring, with others appearing during 27th-31st. Autumn birds continued to be seen daily until October 17th, with the last at Draycote on November 5th.

- Warks** Very little breeding information received as usual, although a couple of observers commented on the lack of success at some traditional sites. The only large spring counts involved 80 at Draycote on April 14th, up to 100 at both Coton and Shustoke during late April and 180 at Coton on May 16th. In late summer some good-sized flocks used *Phragmites* reedbeds for roosting at Ladywalk, with peaks of 200 on August 3rd and 300 on September 1st. The best counts elsewhere occurred in September, with 300 at Draycote on 6th, 400 on 18th and 200 on 25th; 300 at Coton on 16th and 150 at Whatcote on 22nd.
- Worcs** No significant breeding data received. A late brood at Little Comberton left the nest on October 2nd and had departed by 10th. The best spring counts came from Upton Warren, where there were 60 on April 23rd, 100 on May 18th and 150 on 21st. In autumn, 80 gathered over Hollybed Common on August 14th, while in September there were 40 at Bredon's Hardwick on 14th, 46 at Castlemorton Common on 16th and 30 at Bittell on 19th. A total of 100 moved south over Bishampton Vale Pool on 25th.
- Staffs** The only sizeable spring concentration was 300 at Belvide on May 20th, while on return passage the largest counts were 1500 roosting at Betley Mere on September 8th and 400 at Blithfield on 20th. Trapping at the Betley Mere

roost showed that there was a high proportion of juveniles to adults, indicating a successful breeding season.

W Mid Breeding numbers appeared stable in Sandwell Valley, while numbers were said to be down in Valley Park this year (where young were still being fed in the nest on September 17th). A sparse spring passage included maxima of 50 through Sandwell Valley on May 5th, ten at Wyken Slough on 7th (more here compared to 1993) and 20 at Sheepwash UP on 15th. Autumn counts were much higher and included 350 in heavy rain at Minworth SF and 250 over Netherton Hill both on September 14th and 300 over Saltwells Wood on 20th.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Average: April 7th (60) – November 1st (60)

Like the other hirundines birds are showing a continued tendency to arrive early and leave early. The first was seen at Sheepwash UP on March 28th, with several others on 30th-31st. The main arrival began in the second week of April, with the heaviest passage occurring as usual during May. In autumn few lingered beyond the first few days in October, the latest being seen at Loggerheads on 15th.

Warks The main spring influx occurred as usual during May, with the best flocks being 350 at Dosthill on 17th and 750 at Draycote on 26th. Autumn flocks included maxima of 300 at Coton, 150 at Hartshill SF and 200 at Shustoke, while numbers at Draycote peaked at 1000 on September 6th.

Worcs 19 pairs bred at a colony in West Malvern. Spring numbers were low until May when 100 were counted at Upton Warren on 18th, with 170 there on 23rd and 400 at Westwood on 26th. Autumn concentrations included 300 at Shavers End on August 28th, 150 at Westwood on September 4th, 120 at Wilden on 11th, 160 at Calcot Hill on 18th and 100 at Bittell on 19th.

Staffs Small breeding colonies were reported from Hanchurch Water Tower (18 nests) and Wolstanton Working Men's Club (seven nests). The Hanchurch colony is a very old one which formerly was much larger; a peak of 134 nests were counted in 1963, but was last reported in 1988 when there were 27. Numbers were thought to be down this year in Lichfield, while young were still being fed in the nest at Baswich on October 1st. Spring maxima included 100 at Betley Mere on April 22nd, 300 at Chasewater on May 24th (apparently a record count there) and 500 at Belvide on June 4th. Autumn flocks included 200 at both Shugborough and Swindon on August 18th, 300 at Oakamoor on 24th, 500 at Tittesworth on 26th and 300 at Blithfield on September 20th.

W Mids The only breeding information referred to a continuing decline in the Sheepwash UP area and to fewer nesting pairs in the Alderman's Green and Woodshires Green areas of north Coventry. Highest spring counts consisted of 150 in Sandwell Valley on May 5th and 50 at Wyken Slough on 24th. In autumn there were peaks of 70 at Wyken Slough on August 31st and September 18th, 100 in Sandwell Valley on September 11th and 150 around Mushroom Green Marsh on 20th. A semi-albino was seen at Wyken Slough on September 15th.

Richard's Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

After the first in the Region for 26 years in 1993, four more this year were totally unexpected. They were part of a huge autumn influx of over 300 into Britain during September-November, which doubled the previous record year of 1968. Unfortunately at least two others reported in the Region remain undocumented.

Staffs A calling bird flew west over Westport on October 13th *WJL*, while two flew off south-west from Barton GP on 23rd *ICW, MY*, one coming from the Derbyshire side of the river.

W Mid A calling bird flew over Bartley Res towards Worcs on November 4th *MDJ*. The first county record.

Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*

Average: April 7th (57) – September 20th (55)

First seen in Valley Park on April 9th, with the last at The Somers on September 30th. Generally a poor year, with a continued decline in lowland areas.

Warks Singing males during the breeding season at: Baddesley Common, BAD Kineton (only one, cf. seven in 1993), Bentley Park, Grendon Wood and Waverley Wood (two). The only passage birds were two at Dosthill on April 30th, two at Kenilworth on July 17th and one on August 31st, and one at The Somers on September 30th.

Worcs Singing males were noted at Devil's Spittleful (two), Lickey Hills, Old Hills and in the Wyre Forest. Passage birds were seen only at North Hill on April 19th and Upton Warren on 26th, Wilden on May 14th and Happy Valley on September 3rd.

Staffs During the breeding season, records came from: Cannock Chase (Brindley Heath, Brocton Coppice, Katyn Memorial, Seven Springs and Sherbrook Valley), Coombes Valley (seven pairs, down from ten in 1993), Gradbach, Highgate Common, Kinver Edge, the Roaches, Swallow Moss, Three Shire Heads and Tittesworth. Birds on spring passage were noted at Barlaston Downs, Belvide, Crossplains, Fenton and Park Hall CP.

W Mid Again there were two males in song on the north-east side of Sutton Park, but no breeding evidence was forthcoming. Spring passage birds reported from Valley Park on April 9th, Wyken Slough on 12th, Netherton Hill on 22nd and Sandwell Valley on May 6th. Autumn passage began with one in Sandwell Valley on August 21st, followed by two on Netherton Hill on 31st, with three here on September 5th and singles on 10th and 13th.

Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*

Warks Breeding pairs at: Baginton Airport (five), Dosthill, Gaydon, Hurley Common (two), Lighthorne Quarry (six), Middleton and Radway. Up to 50 were present during January-February at both Jubilee Pools and The Somers. Spring passage appeared to peak during March 19th-28th, when there was maxima of 51 at Brandon, 115 at Dosthill, 85 at Draycote, 70 at Ladywalk, 81 in fields by Rough Hill Wood and 40 at Shustoke. In autumn the largest counts were 50 over Ladywalk on September 26th, 100 at Brandon on October 10th, 50 at Draycote on 23rd and 100 at Wiggins Hill on November 22nd.



*Immature **Kittiwake** Shustoke Reservoir; one of five to have been seen there in 1994. December (B L Kington).*



***Ring Ouzel**. A declining summer visitor to the North Staffs Moors, where this male was photographed in July. Fewer than ten pairs were located in 1994, compared to 18 in 1992 and 61 in 1985 (Phill Ward).*



Redwing. An abundant passage migrant and winter visitor, flocks often visit berry-bearing shrubs in suburban gardens during cold weather. Burntwood, February (Phill Ward).



Common Crossbill. Several good sized flocks were present during the first quarter in north Worcs and on Cannock Chase, where this male was photographed in May (Phill Ward).

- Worcs** Singing males were noted during the breeding season on Brereton Hill, Castlemorton Common (three), Hartlebury Common (two), North Hill and Walton Hill (three). Winter flocks included 35 at Upton on Severn in January and 42 at Upton Warren, 40 at Bishampton Vale Pool and 30 at Worcester during February. On March 12th, 50 were counted at Larford, while there were 30 at Upton Warren on April 16th. In autumn, a movement of 174 south-west over Walton Hill in 150 minutes on September 18th was notable. This was followed by flocks of 60 on North Hill on September 29th-30th and 70 on October 10th, 30 at County Hall, Worcester on September 30th, 50 at Bishampton Vale Pool on October 6th, 30 at Holt on November 5th and 31 at Larford on 11th.
- Staffs** Fewer reports this year, with breeding records again limited to the regions of Cannock Chase and the North Staffs Moors although it is known to be much more widespread. Only one pair bred at Coombes Valley. Winter counts included 60 at Belvide during January (where noted in smaller numbers than in previous years due to flooding of their favoured feeding spots), 100 at Whittington SF in February and 61 at Coombes Valley during March. At Belvide, the largest count on spring passage was 70 on March 28th but autumn movements there were poor, with peaks of only 30 on September 26th and October 17th. Elsewhere in October, 180 were at Wetley Moor on 3rd, with 110 at Blithfield and 161 moving over Chasewater in one hour, both on 8th.
- W Mid** Present in the breeding season in Sutton Park as usual, with one pair attempting to breed at Sheepwash UP and probable breeding noted at Minworth SF. A singing bird was also reported in Sandwell Valley. The largest spring flocks comprised 80 at Sheepwash UP on March 19th, 21 on the old Walsall Airfield on April 1st and 35 in Sandwell Valley on 13th. Spring passage, mainly to the north-west, was also noted at Wyken Slough from March 2nd-April 30th, with a peak count of 26 on March 15th. Autumn passage here was recorded from September 11th-November 3rd, with a peak count of 70 moving south-west on October 8th. The only other large flock was 55 near Banners Gate in Sutton Park on October 4th. On February 23rd a bird killed itself by flying into an Amblecote shop window.

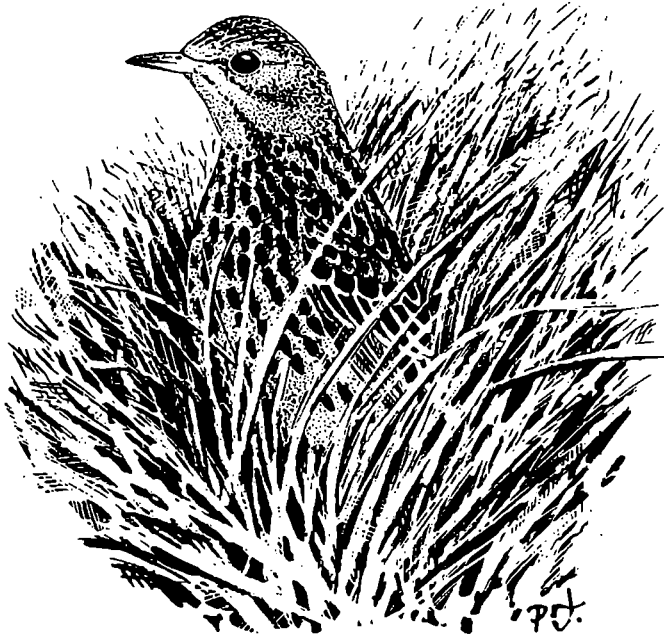
1987 Addendum

- W Mid** Twelve pairs bred in abandoned pasture at New Invention shortly before the site was destroyed by housing development.

Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

A new addition to the Regional list, this skulking pipit breeds on the Arctic tundra from Norway east to Alaska and winters in North Africa, the Middle East and southern Asia. Although it has a very distinctive flight call, birds tend to occur in stubble, crops and longish grass on migration and so many inland birds must undoubtedly go undiscovered.

- Warks** One was present in a weedy stubble field near Lawford Heath Tip on October 22nd-23rd *REH, DJS et al.* For a full account of this bird see *Short Notes*.



Red-throated Pipit (Phil Jones)

Rock Pipit *Anthus petrosus*

- Warks** Another fairly good year at Draycote. Singles were seen here on February 5th, 26th-27th and March 27th-29th. In October there were four on 6th, two from 10th-19th, three on 22nd, four on 23rd and five on 24th. The only record elsewhere in the county was also in this month: a single at Shustoke on 13th.
- Worcs** The only bird in spring was seen at Wilden on March 27th. There was a good return passage during October, with singles at Strensham on 1st, Oldington STW on 11th, Upton Warren from 13th-25th, Bishampton Vale Pool on 19th and Wilden on 23rd, with another again at Bishampton Vale Pool on November 4th.
- Staffs** No spring passage birds reported. During the autumn, there were singles at Blithfield from October 5th-22nd, with two on 8th and 22nd. Single birds were also at Westport on October 7th and 29th, and at Tittesworth on November 11th.
- W Mid** One in Sandwell Valley from March 20th-29th was often rather elusive. Two were at Fens Pools on October 10th and one at Sheepwash UP on 21st.

"Scandinavian" Rock Pipit *A. p. littoralis*

- Warks** Close views were obtained of a summer-plumaged bird at Draycote on March 27th JJB.

Water Pipit *Anthus spinoletta*

Average: October 15th (5) – April 18th (5)

- Warks** A single in summer-plumage at Draycote on April 2nd *RCM*, with a bird in less advanced plumage here on 3rd *SMH*. At Coton, there was one on April 2nd *PDH*, two on 3rd *JAA*, one on 7th *PDH* and again on 11th *JAA*.
- Worcs** A winter plumaged bird visited Upton Warren from April 1st-9th *TMH et al.*, followed by another in transitional plumage from 13th-16th *REH et al.* A single bird was also present at this site from November 19th *SC et al.* until the end of the year.
- Staffs** A single bird was seen at Doxey on January 2nd *FCG*, 4th *MDB* and 21st *SAR*.
- W Mid** A bird in summer plumage was in Sandwell Valley briefly on April 22nd *RW*.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava flavissima*

Average: April 1st (58) – October 11th (58)

- The first spring birds arrived right on time, with birds at Croxall and Upton Warren on April 1st and the main arrival beginning a few days later. Autumn birds were seen daily until October 3rd, with the last at Crossplains on 15th.
- Warks** Pairs bred at: Bretford, Dosthill, Draycote (five), Heathcote (five), Monks Kirby (two), Polesworth, Poolfields and The Somers. Spring passage was very sparse with maxima of only 12 at Coton, 16 at Draycote and 17 at Kingsbury. Return passage was not much better. At Draycote the largest count was of 50 on August 29th, while the few other recorded parties included 15 at Hartshill SF, 12 at Ladywalk and 25 at Radway; with 50 at Whatcote on August 20th.
- Worcs** Breeding season pairs reported from: Ashmoor Common, Grimley, Hartlebury (three), Ryall (two), Shenstone, Strensham (two or three) and Upton Warren. Birds were recorded from eight other localities on spring passage, with a maximum of ten at Bredon's Hardwick on May 1st. In autumn ten were seen at Grimley on July 17th, with 16 there on September 2nd and 18 at Bishampton Vale Pool on 11th.
- Staffs** During the breeding season, birds were seen at: Barton GP, Belvide, Blithfield, Codsall, Crossplains, Croxall GP, Kings Bromley, Rawbones Meadows, Trescott and Whitemoor Hay. During spring passage, the largest parties were of 15 at Barton GP on April 30th and 30 at Blithfield on May 1st, while the passage was said to be poor at Belvide. Autumn passage included 25 at Crossplains on July 30th, 20 at Brancote on August 18th, 20 at Blithfield on 21st and six at Barton GP on September 19th.
- W Mid** The only breeding report consisted of one or two pairs in the Wiggins Hill/Wishaw area. One at Netherton Hill on June 26th was the only other summer record. The largest counts on spring passage consisted of up to four in Sandwell Valley (where recorded on 19 dates), over ten at Minworth SF from April 26th-28th and three at Barston SF on May 5th. Others were reported from Bartley, Dunstall Park, Netherton Hill, Sheepwash UP, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park and Wyken Slough. A sparser autumn passage was reported during August 14th-September 14th from six of the above localities, with five at Wyken Slough on September 11th the only report of more than two.

Blue-headed Wagtail *M. f. flava*

For the first time since 1975 no records were received.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Appears to be doing very well at present in the Region, having fully recovered from the slight setback caused by the cold spell of early 1991.

- Warks** An increase in sites with suspected or proved breeding pairs was very welcome, with records from: Atherstone, Bascote, Brandon, Coleshill SF, Combrook, Draycote, Earlswood, Edstone Lake, Hatton, Leamington Spa, Polesworth, Seeswood, Southam, Tysoe, Walton Hall, Water Orton, Welcombe Hills and Whichford. Seen at many more sites outside the breeding season. Five at Ladywalk on August 13th was an unusual number there.
- Worcs** Successful breeding reported from Dowles Brook (two pairs), The Gullet and Nafford, with birds seen carrying food at New Mill Bridge, R. Teme and at Stoke Works in May. Further breeding season records came from: Bittell, Death's Dingle, Eastham, Knightwick, Mythe Bridge, Oldington STW (four pairs), Redditch, Strensham, Trimpley Res., Upton Warren, Westwood, Wilden and Wordley Dingle. Noted at 14 well scattered localities outside the breeding season, with up to six seen at County Hall, Worcester during November and December.
- Staffs** Well reported from throughout the county. Breeding pairs reported from: Coombes Valley (two), Coven Heath, Doxey, Flash Bottom, Gerrards Bromley, Greensforge, Kidsgrove, Stourton and Tittesworth (two).
- W Mid** Breeding season records came from: Edgbaston Res., Goscote Valley, Grand Union Canal (Solihull), Minworth SF (four pairs on April 26th-28th, with one or two pairs subsequently breeding), Jubilee Park (Olton), Sheepwash UP, Sutton Park, Tudor Grange Park, Valley Park and Witton Lakes. Records came from 12 localities in the first three months, with an increase to 25 localities in the autumn. The largest gatherings comprised 14 at Lower Gornal STW on February 3rd and five at Netherton Hill on October 8th. At Wyken Slough, 36 moved mainly south between July 17th and November 1st, but mainly late September/October with a peak of six on September 22nd.

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*

- Warks** A common breeding bird in many habitats. A rather sparse spring passage was noted at several sites during March and April, with a peak on April 5th when there were 26 at Draycote and 50 at Ladywalk, with 47 at the latter on 22nd. Autumn maxima were also rather low, with 62 at BAD Kineton, 35 at Brandon, 50 at Coleshill SF, 40 at Draycote, 70 at Hartshill SF and 35 roosting in a pile of building blocks at Hams Hall.
- Worcs** Breeding reported only from Strensham, Throckmorton and Trimpley. In winter, 110 roosted at Pirton during February. Several small spring flocks were noted with 27 at Westwood on April 7th and 30 at Upton Warren on 15th being the most notable. Post breeding parties included 51 at Strensham on July 29th and 50 at Grimley on 30th, while later counts included maxima of 100 at Bishampton Vale Pool on September 27th, 180 at Upton Warren on October 10th and 80 at Oldington STW on December 23rd.

Staffs Breeding pairs were reported from: Belvide, Codsall, Coombes Valley, the Roaches and Trentham Gardens. The only reported roost again came from Stoke-on-Trent, where they occupied willows adjacent to a subway entrance near Stoke railway station. Here the roost increased from 100 on September 2nd to 410 on October 2nd, with 400 again on 28th. Flocks elsewhere were small and included 50 at Brancote STW on August 15th, 40 at both Leek STW on 23rd and Checkley STW on 30th, 40 at Rudyard on September 17th, 50 at Blithfield on 18th and finally, 60 at Parkhouse Industrial Estate on December 19th.

W. Mid Only reported from ten localities, of which Sandwell Valley and Sheepwash UP held breeding pairs. The largest flocks consisted of 80 flying over Sandwell Valley to roost on January 29th, up to 12 at Wyken Slough throughout the year, 40 in Dunstall Park on February 28th and November 5th, and 12 at Marston Green on October 1st. Seriously under-recorded, any breeding information or roost counts would be welcome.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Warks A light spring passage was noted at Coton and Draycote, with one or two on various dates from April 3rd-24th. There were three at Draycote on 22nd, ten at Coton on 23rd and three there on 24th. One or two were also seen on odd dates during this period at Dosthill, Kingsbury, Marston, Napton Res. and The Somers. In September, there was one at Jubilee Pools on 9th PFA and two at Draycote on 15th NPB.

Worcs Single birds were noted at Westwood on March 12th-13th, Matchborough on 16th-17th and at Bredon's Hardwick from April 9th-21st and again on May 12th. At Upton Warren, there was one on April 12th-13th, with two there on 16th and three on May 3rd. Further birds were noted in May at Wilden on 3rd and Ryall GP on 15th.

Staffs The first bird was seen at Tittesworth on March 27th, with three there by 29th. These were followed in April by singles at Blithfield on 2nd and 9th, Branston on 2nd and Croxall GP on 4th, 7th and 19th. On April 24th there were two at Tittesworth and five at Barton GP, with three at the latter on 27th.

W. Mid Reported in Sandwell Valley on March 22nd, April 16th-18th, 21st (three), 26th and 28th, with further singles at Bartley on April 14th and 19th and on the old Walsall Airfield on April 4th, 8th and May 2nd.

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

1988 Addendum

Warks Two were seen at Avon Dassett on December 8th BOS. These were part of a widespread invasion in the 1988/89 winter, which had brought at least 50 to the Region during November and December 1988.

Dipper *Cinclus cinclus gularis*

Worcs Very under-recorded. A pair were holding territory along the Dowles Brook on February 10th and three were noted there on April 28th, but no further breeding data was forthcoming. The only other report referred to a single on the R. Rea on July 21st.

Staffs A pair bred successfully at Coombes Valley, rearing three young. Single birds were seen at Tittesworth on May 22nd, June 26th, July 17th, September 15th and October 13th. There were two in Beresford Dale on January 4th, with singles at Wombourne on January 1st-2nd, Greenway Bank CP on 22nd, Knotbury on May 22nd and along the R. Dove at both Doveleys and Mayfield on 29th. Several of these have been recent nesting localities so it is undoubtedly under-recorded.

Black-bellied Dipper *C. c. cinclus*

Warks The bird first seen on the R. Anker and Change Brook at Weddington, Nuneaton in mid-November 1993, remained until March 26th *RED et al.*

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Warks Nine singing males were located at Ladywalk during a breeding bird survey. Counts at Brandon revealed 29 in March, 36 in October and 32 in December.

Worcs The only counts of singing males involved 14 at Shortwood Roughts (cf. 19 in 1993) and eight in Uffmoor Wood.

Staffs 102 pairs bred at Coombes Valley, slightly down from 108 in 1993. At Belvide however, a census in April showed an increase with 38 singing males (cf. 26 in 1993). At Betley Mere eight adults and eight juveniles were trapped during a standardised ringing session, comparing with six adults and 11 juveniles trapped during the equivalent session in 1993. Other breeding season counts involved 17 at Ashwood and 14 at Ridgehill Wood.

W Mid 47 territories on the Mons Hill CBC (cf. 48 in 1993) indicate a stable population there. At Valley Park numbers were also regarded as stable, though the counts were slightly down (36 on April 24th and 50 on December 18th). Eight contacts were made at Park Lime Pits during a census.

Dunnoek *Prunella modularis*

Warks A stable six pairs at Alvecote, but only two singing males were located at Ladywalk. An above average year reported at Brandon with a peak of 31 in October and December.

Worcs The only record submitted involved four singing males at Shortwood Roughts (cf. two in 1993).

Staffs Few reports. A census in April at Belvide produced 20 singing males (cf. 23 there in 1992). Ten pairs bred at Coombes Valley, with a maximum of 21 there in January.

W Mid 13 territories on the Mons Hill CBC (cf. 15 in 1993). Five contacts were made at Park Lime Pits on a census count. The Valley Park census day on December 18th produced 22, but this was thought to be way below the actual total present. More eruptive behaviour was noted at Wyken Slough during the autumn, with eight noted perching together on the top of one small bush during the early morning of September 11th, while birds were said to be "everywhere and very flighty" on October 7th.

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Warks A stable five pairs at Alvecote, with four singing males located at Ladywalk.

The largest counts involved a "noticeable influx" of over 30 at Ladywalk at dusk on September 26th and a maximum of 52 at Brandon on October 8th.

- Worcs** Up to eight singing males were located at Shortwood Roughs (cf. 14 in 1993), with eight singing males also counted in Uffmoor Wood.
- Staffs** An incredible resurgence at Coombes Valley, with 88 pairs (cf. 36 in 1993, 32 in 1992). An increase was also noted at Belvide, where 25 were counted on February 21st and 17 singing males were present in the spring (cf. ten in 1993). The highest counts at Ashwood and Ridgehill Wood both came in September (reflecting the temporary abundance of first-year birds), with totals of 19 and 11 respectively.
- W Mid** 37 territories on the Mons Hill CBC (cf. 38 in 1993) indicate a stable population there. Six contacts were made at Park Lime Pits during a census. The Valley Park censuses on April 24th and December 18th produced 30 and 49 respectively.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Average: April 19th (60) – July 31st (17)

The first of the spring was heard at Idlicote on April 22nd. Unfortunately, a continued decline and contraction of range of this fine songster is indicated from the records, in some cases probably helped by degradation of suitable habitat.

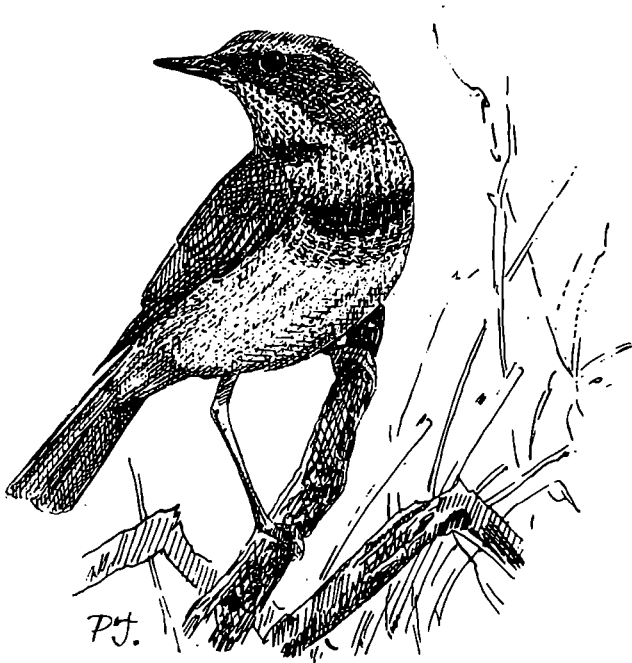
- Warks** At BAD Kineton (the county stronghold), a better year was recorded with seven singing at one locality and two at another. Single singing males were also found at Bowshott Wood, Brailes, Fosse Rides, Idlicote and Roundhill Wood; all traditional sites. The species was absent from the Bascote area for the first time. A migrant was seen at Draycote on April 23rd.
- Worcs** Another poor year, with records from only six sites (eight in 1993). Singing males were located at: Malvern Link, Old Hills (four), Perry Wood, Ripple (two), Trench Wood (two) and Westwood.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Only the sixth Regional record, with the last four all appearing during the period May 14th-24th and involving Scandinavian red-spotted birds. This bird recalls the last Regional record which concerned a singing male at Knotbury only about 10km north of Tittesworth in 1988.

- Staffs** A singing male of the nominate red-spotted race at Tittesworth on May 22nd *PAW et al.* was only the second county record.

Similar to Robin in size and structure, though noticeably longer-legged. The bill also appeared longer and more slender. Upperparts were generally a dull greyish brown. It had a prominent off-white supercilium extending beyond the eye. The throat was bright blue with an orange spot in the centre, boarded by two breast bands; the upper blackish and the lower brownish-orange. The tail was brown with the characteristic orange patches at the base of the outer tail feathers.



Bluethroat (Phil Jones)

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

- Warks** Single females were seen at Napton Res. on April 11th *JW* and The Somers on 24th *JJB*. After an early male in a Warwick garden on September 3rd *PW*, a good autumn passage was noted at Ilmington Downs. Here there were two or three females/immatures on October 16th, with one remaining until 19th; followed by an immature male on 23rd-25th *JJB*, *SMH et al.* A female/immature was at Pleasance Farm, Kenilworth on November 4th *PFA*.
- Worcs** A singing male was reported from the Guildhall in Worcester on April 17th *MH*. In the autumn, an immature male was present in the Happy Valley/Worcs Beacon area from October 14th-17th *NL*, *GHP*, *WFP et al.*, with another immature male at Walton Hill on 15th *SE*, *SEE*, *MY*. A female/immature was observed disputing feeding territory with two Stonechats on North Hill on November 10th *WFP*, *WRHP*.
- Staffs** A probable first-winter male was at Barton GP on January 15th *ICW*, *MY*.
- W.Mid** During the breeding season in Birmingham, at least one pair was present in Hockley *several observers* and another in the Aston/Nechells area *PAC*, but there was no proof of successful breeding. A male was in song at the Albright and Wilson chemical works, Oldbury from May 26th-July 7th *AGW*. Other

spring records consisted of single males at Barston SF on April 1st-2nd *per JJB*, in song in the Bordesley area on April 23rd *PAC* and 27th *JAA* and at Cornwall Road, Smethwick on May 3rd *JR*. In the autumn one was seen at Tyseley on October 25th *MR*, while a first-winter male was in Sandwell Valley on November 26th-27th *GH, JH et al.*

Common Redstart *Phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Average: April 10th (58) – September 24th (57)

A bird at Ladywalk on April 8th was the first in spring, although most did not start to appear until the 19th-24th. Few autumn migrants were seen beyond the first week of September, except for a late bird in West Bromwich on October 13th-14th.

Warks In April, a male was at Ladywalk on 8th, two males at Brandon on 21st and a single at BAD Kineton on 27th. The only later record concerned a bird at Billesley Brake on July 1st, suggesting possible breeding or summering.

Worcs Singing birds were recorded at: Bredon Hill (two, cf. seven in 1993), Dowles Brook (five, cf. ten in 1993), Easerfield Coppice (five), Kyrebatch Wood, Lickey Hills (two), Malvern Hills (at least ten) and Upper Rochford. Spring migrants were reported from: Happy Valley/North Hill, Kings Norton GC (Wythall), Upton Snodsbury and Wilden. Autumn records came from: Abberton, Bredon's Hardwick, Castlemorton Common, Crossway Green, Kempsey, Naunton Beauchamp, Staunton, Strensham, Tibberton, Upton Warren (max. four in late July), Walton Hill and Wilden.

Staffs On Cannock Chase, ten singing males were counted in Brocton Coppice, with other breeding pairs at Seven Springs and in Sherbrook Valley. In the north of the county, 32 pairs were at Coombes Valley (cf. 34 in 1993), five pairs bred at Tittesworth and probable breeding was reported from Beresford Dale, Gradbach, and Knotbury. Other singing males were located at King's Wood, Trentham (four) and Rudyard (five) in spring. Autumn passage birds were reported from Belvide, Blithfield and Westport.

W Mid A concentrated spring passage this year, with solitary migrants at Fens Pools and Sandwell Valley on April 19th, Erdington and Wyken Slough on 21st, Valley Park on 23rd and Netherton Res. on 25th. Autumn records came from: Aldridge on August 29th; Fens Pools on July 16th, 28th and August 5th-6th; Handsworth Wood on September 21st; Sandwell Valley on August 21st, 29th (four) and September 6th (one or two); Sheepwash UP on July 27th; a West Bromwich garden on the rather late date of October 13th-14th; a Willenhall garden on September 7th, and Wyken Slough on August 31st.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Average: April 23rd (58) – October 6th (54)

First recorded in the spring at Draycote on April 17th, with most firsts appearing during the 22nd-25th. Late autumn migrants appeared on several dates in October up to the 23rd, with a very late one in Sandwell Valley on November 6th.

Warks Sadly, there was no proven breeding at BAD Kineton this year after annual records since 1988. A total of 18 were reported on spring passage through the county, with records between April 17th-May 28th. The largest count was of

three at Brandon on April 24th, with one or two also at BAD Kineton, Dosthill, Draycote, Lighthorne, Poolfields and Wasperton. In stark contrast to the good numbers recorded last autumn, only 19 were reported this year with records during the period July 28th-September 21st from: Brandon, Draycote, Earlswood Lakes, Packington, Pleasance Farm (Kenilworth), Shustoke and Whatcote. Four at the latter site on August 30th was the best count.

Worcs Spring migrants were recorded from April 23rd-May 26th at: Castlemorton Common, Crowle, Eckington, Hartlebury Common, Larford, Ryall GP and on at least five dates at Upton Warren. In autumn, birds were seen on dates between July 2nd-October 23rd at: Bittell, Bredon's Hardwick, Castlemorton Common (max. seven on September 16th), Hollybed Common, Holt, Kempsey, Kinsham, Longdon, Severn Stoke, Upton Warren, Warndon and Wilden. In addition, a particularly strong passage was noted at Bishampton Vale GC, with ten on August 28th increasing to 16 on 29th and September 1st, and with four remaining until 21st.

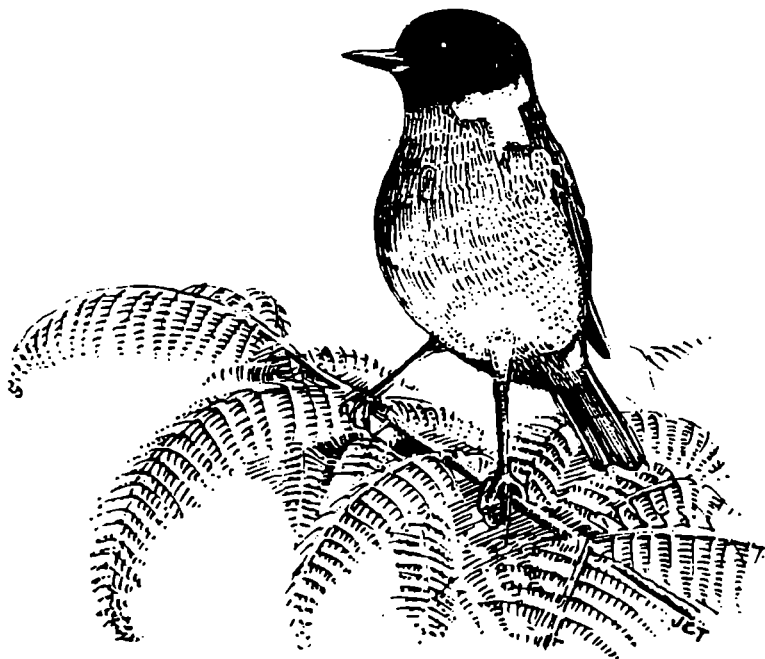
Staffs No actual breeding records received, though birds were seen at probable breeding sites at Boarsgrove, Kingswood, the Roaches (four singing males) and Tittesworth. On Cannock Chase, two females were in Sherbrook Valley (where the species bred until 1992) on May 20th but not subsequently. The only others on spring passage were three at Belvide on April 29th and up to two at Crossplains. Autumn birds were seen at Abbots Bromley, Belvide, Blithfield (max. three on September 11th), Brancote, Crossplains (three juveniles during August) and Whitemoor Hay.

W Mid A light spring passage of mainly singles between April 22nd-May 20th, recorded from: Nethererton Hill, Park Lime Pits (two on May 3rd), Sandwell Valley (max. two on April 24th), Sheepwash UP and, more unusually, a Solihull garden (on April 29th). More numerous in the autumn, with records stretching between July 16th and the exceptionally late date of November 6th (at Sandwell Valley). Reports of one or two birds came from Bartley, Clayhanger (four on August 15th and 22nd), Pelsall North Common, Sandwell Valley (on ten dates), Sutton Park, the old Walsall Airfield and Wyken Slough.

Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*

Warks Another good year though fewer than in 1993. During the early months, three remained at both Dosthill and Draycote until early March, with singles also at Grandborough, Jubilee Pools and Poolfields in January. A few more appeared during February 22nd-March 27th evidently on spring passage, with records of single birds from Brandon (two-five individuals involved), Burton Hill Farm (Burton Dassett), Hurley STW, Ladywalk, Milcote, Stockton and Ufton Fields. Records were sparser in autumn with passage of one or two birds during October 2nd-November 4th at Brandon, Draycote, Ilmington Downs, Kingsbury and Ladywalk. A pair returned to Dosthill on October 30th and remained to the end of the year, but the only other possible wintering bird was a male at Baginton Airport on November 22nd.

Worcs A pair raised three young at a site in the north of the county, while a juvenile on the Malvern Hills in late May and three on nearby Castlemorton Common on August 13th may indicate breeding in that area. Early in the year, wintering



Stonechat (John Teasdale)

birds were again widespread and present in good numbers with records from: Abberton, Bishampton Vale Pool, Bredon's Hardwick (two), Castlemorton Common (two), Clifton on Teme, Crossway Green, Happy Valley/North Hill area (max. five on March 19th), Larford, Lineholt (two), Lower Moor, Mount Segg (two), Pinnacle Hill (two), Shelsley Beauchamp, Throckmorton (two), Timberdine allotments, Upton Warren (two), Warndon and Wilden. Autumn records were received from: Bishampton Vale Pool, Bredon's Hardwick, Bredon Hill (max. four on October 18th), Castlemorton Common (max. five on November 6th), Happy Valley/North Hill area (peaks of five on September 22nd and six on 23rd, October 15th and 23rd), Shelsley Beauchamp, Strensham (two), Throckmorton (two), Timberhonger and Walton Hill (max. five on October 23rd).

Staffs

A pair reared two young in the Sherbrook Valley, Cannock Chase. Good numbers of birds were still present in the county during January-March, with records from: Ashwood (pair), Barton GP (max. four on January 8th), Belvide (max. four on March 2nd), Croxall, Doxey, Knotbury (two), Swindon (two), Whitemoor Hay and Whittington (two). A late bird was at Belvide on April 18th. Records were sparser in autumn with up to three staying in Sherbrook Valley

until October, and other records coming from Aqualate, Barton GP (two), Belvide, Blithfield, Brancote and Westport. These were mainly of singles on isolated dates in November/December.

W Mid Another very good year. At least one pair bred in the Longmoor Valley, Sutton Park; the first such record in the county since 1981 (also in Sutton Park), although a pair summered in 1992. Early in the year two pairs were seen at Sheepwash UP on January 1st, one pair remaining into March. The only others concerned singles at Wyken Slough from January 1st-10th and in Sutton Park on 22nd. No more were seen until the period February 27th-March 19th, which brought one's and two's on spring passage to: Bartley, Fens Pools, Hillfield Park, Netherton Hill, Sandwell Valley (max. four March 1st-4th), Sutton Park (max. five March 18th) and Wyken Slough. Autumn records came from: Bartley in December; Netherton Hill on August 29th and November 2nd-23rd; Pelsall North Common on November 30th and December 1st (two); Sandwell Valley, up to three on seven dates between October 1st-November 4th; Sheepwash UP, up to three from October 2nd to the end of the year; Sutton Park, birds present up to early November, max. six in early September, and Valley Park on October 23rd-24th.

Northern Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Average: March 19th (57) – October 15th (58)

The first spring migrant appeared at Kingsbury on March 10th, with others at Crossway Green and in Sandwell Valley next day. Birds were present in Warks until October 24th but an extraordinarily late bird at Mount Segg on December 6th-7th was the latest ever in the Region. The previous latest date was November 28th 1913 at Etruria, Staffs apart from a January bird on the Malverns in 1967.

Warks A fairly reasonable spring passage was reported from 16 localities between mid-March and May 11th, with maxima of five at Draycote on March 29th and April 3rd, six at Ladywalk on 5th, four at Gaydon on May 1st and seven at Poolfields on 9th. Autumn records came from 13 localities, the best run coming from Draycote. After a juvenile here on July 16th, birds were seen on many dates during July 24th-October 24th, with up to three in September and four in October. Only one or two were seen at other sites, mainly in September; although singles were on Ilmington Downs from October 16th-23rd.

Worcs A pair possibly bred in the Castlemorton/Hollybed Commons area. Spring passage was noted at 20 localities, but with maxima of only three together reported from Bishampton Vale GC, Bredon Hill, Throckmorton and the Malverns. Autumn records were received from 16 localities, with up to four at Bishampton Vale Pool and three at Doverdale. A very late bird was seen at Mount Segg on December 6th-7th *AFJ*.

Staffs The only breeding record involved at least four pairs on the Roaches. On passage, birds were noted in a total of 21 localities. Most frequent in spring, when there were peaks of eight at Whitemoor Hay on April 1st and five at Alrewas GP on 4th. The largest count on return passage was four at Blithfield on August 2nd. At Crossplains, totals of 28 passed through in spring and 34 in autumn.

W Mid Spring passage birds were recorded between March 12th-May 28th, with the best series coming from Park Lime Pits (max. seven on May 7th), Sandwell Valley (up to four on 25 dates), Sheepwash UP, Sutton Park (max. six on April 9th) and the old Walsall Airfield (max. five on May 8th). Others were seen at Bartley, Clayhanger, Goscote Valley, Netherton Hill and Wyken Slough. There was a sparse autumn passage of mainly singles at Bartley, Dunstall Park, Netherton Hill, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP and the old Walsall Airfield.

Ring Ouzel *Turdus torquatus*

Average: March 30th (38) – October 23rd (32)

First birds were seen in Happy Valley on the Malverns and at Mushroom Green Marsh on March 27th, with the last on North Hill on October 24th.

Warks A female at The Somers on April 24th was the only record.

Worcs In spring on the Malverns, a male was found in Happy Valley on March 27th which was followed by up to four in the Happy Valley/North Hill area during April 10th-17th, with one also at St Ann's Well on 12th. Four were seen on Walton Hill on April 16th, with three remaining the following day and another on 26th. A female was present on Bredon Hill on April 30th. In autumn, a juvenile was found in Upper Dingle on September 20th and one or two were present in Happy Valley on 22nd. Several more were seen in Happy Valley during October, with a maximum of 11 on 17th. Birds were also seen on nearby North Hill on October 7th, 23rd (two) and 24th. Elsewhere, two were found on Walton Hill on October 8th and there was one on Bredon Hill on 17th, with two there the following day.

Staffs Apparently still declining as a breeding bird on the North Staffs Moors. Only two pairs bred in the Roaches/Hen Cloud area (a former stronghold), while four or five other pairs were located elsewhere. Although a few were probably missed, this still compares badly with recent census work (1992) which found 18 pairs in this region. A few were also seen on spring passage through this general area, including a party of four males and two females at Five Clouds on April 3rd.

W Mid In spring, singles were reported from Mushroom Green Marsh on March 27th and Netherton Hill on April 23rd and May 5th. A male was in Sandwell Valley on April 24th, a female at Park Lime Pits on April 24th-25th and single males in Valley Park on April 26th and May 7th. The only autumn bird was at Netherton Hill on September 14th.

1987 Addendum

Warks A single at Chesterton on April 10th-11th.

Blackbird *Turdus merula*

Records suggest that the Regional population is stable or slightly increasing.

Warks Few records received as usual. Counts of singing males included ten at Alvecote (cf. 12 in 1991), eight at Ladywalk and 21 on 200 acres between Wood End and Piccadilly (near Kingsbury). An excellent breeding season was reported in the Lillington area. The largest counts outside the breeding season came from Brandon, with 31 on October 8th and 32 on December 16th; and Ladywalk, with up to 20 in November.

- Worcs** Breeding was noted during early March at Bewdley. Counts of singing males included 22 at Old Hills (the same as 1993) and up to eight at Shortwood Roughts (cf. five in 1993). Autumn flocks were again low, with 25 in Happy Valley on October 14th and 14 on Castlemorton Common on December 24th, the largest to be reported.
- Staffs** A noticeable increase at Coombes Valley, with 43 pairs (cf. 32 in 1993, 28 in 1992). Regular all year counts at Ashwood and Ridgehill Wood peaked at 21 on May 7th and November 2nd, and 20 on June 1st respectively. Outside the breeding season, the largest counts were 60 at Belvide on February 21st and 80 at Tittesworth on October 22nd.
- W Mid** An increase was noted at Mons Hill CBC, with 38 territories (cf. 25 in 1992). Reported as breeding in "good numbers" in Bromwich Wood, with "quite a good year" in Sutton Park. Numbers appeared stable along Valley Park, with 51 on April 24th and 93 on December 18th. Up to 60 were present at Wyken Slough in January and February, with autumn influxes here on a number of dates during September 27th-November 17th, with peaks of 75 on October 15th and November 11th. An influx of 30 at Woodshires Green on October 12th.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Average: September 30th (59) – May 2nd (58)

- Another rather early spring departure, with the latest at Brandon on April 24th. First autumn migrants appeared at Brandon on September 24th and Draycote on 25th, but few others were seen until a general arrival on October 6th-8th.
- Warks** Fairly abundant during the first three months, with maxima of 700 roosting at Ladywalk, 500 at Ufton Fields and flocks of 300-350 at Brandon, Draycote, Hatton, Packington, Stockton, Walsgrave Hill, Whatcote and Whateley. Smaller flocks of up to 250 were widely reported throughout this period and from most parts of the county, with some flocks of up to 100 staying into early April. In contrast the species was quite scarce in autumn, with few parties reaching more than 50. Only during the last week or so of October and the first few days of November was it more numerous, when there were flocks of 100 at Bishops Itchington on October 20th, 150 at Lawford Heath on 23rd and 250 at Alvecote on 30th. Apart from 70 at Baginton on November 22nd, there were no more significant flocks until December 28th when 200 appeared at Gaydon and 1000 at Haseley Manor.
- Worcs** In January, the largest flocks reported consisted of 100 at Westwood on 11th, 200 at Upton Warren on 14th and 175 at Holt on 16th. An influx was apparent in early February at the onset of colder weather, with 200 at Upton Warren early in the month, 350 at Besford on 5th, 260 at Hindlip on 6th and 400 at Crowle Green on 13th. 100 were still at Tibberton on March 13th and a departing flock of 325 was noted at Stoke Bliss on April 20th. Autumn concentrations included 100 at Oddingley and 120 at Bredon's Hardwick on October 30th; 200 again at Bredon's Hardwick and 120 on Bredon Hill (with a further 100 passing over here) on November 5th; 160 near Tibberton on 12th and 100 at Bishampton on 20th. A partially leucistic bird, showing a white tail with pale rump and primaries, was seen at this last locality on 26th. Also

on 26th, 200 were observed going to roost at Grimley, while 260 were seen at Oddingley on December 18th.

Staffs The largest winter flocks occurred in January, when there were 250 at both Bishton and Newborough on 4th, with 200 at Blithfield and 300 at Elford GP on 16th. At Loggerheads, a large south-westerly movement (with Redwings) was noted following overnight snow on February 23rd. Some large concentrations also occurred on spring passage, with 500 at Swallow Moss and 150 at Trysull on March 27th, 250 at Biddulph Moor on April 10th, 500 flying west over Tittesworth on 12th and 160 at Belvide on 21st. Autumn flocks peaked in late October, with 150 at Anslow on 19th, 250 at Belvide on 25th, 160 at Weston Jones on 30th and 1500 moving over Trysull on 31st being the largest.

W Mid The largest early winter flocks comprised 150 on pasture at Aldridge on January 16th, 100 in Sandwell Valley and 100 moving south over Valley Park on February 15th and 250 in fields adjacent to Hayhead Wood on April 9th. The species was more numerous in autumn, with 120 moving west-north-west over Park Lime Pits on October 17th, 140 at Sheepwash UP on 29th, 210 south-west on 30th and 765 south on November 3rd at Wyken Slough, 100 at Mercote on 13th and 90 over Bradnock's Marsh on 16th. Numbers in both periods were generally below average, with many observers reporting a paucity of records, presumably relating to a poor berry crop.

Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*

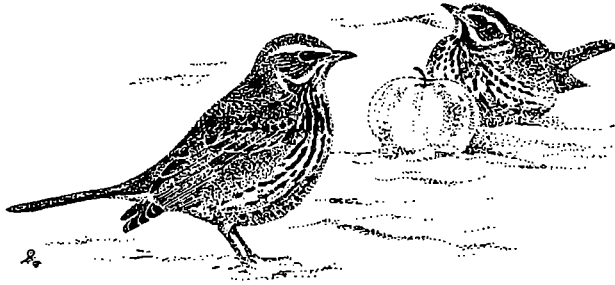
Another moderate increase noted in some districts.

Warks Very few records received, with the only breeding season counts comprising five pairs at Ladywalk and only one or two at Alvecote. During the winter months up to 15 were seen at Ladywalk.

Worcs On the Malvern Hills, the breeding population was reported as being generally significantly higher, with roughly double the 1993 level. A drop was however registered on Old Hills, where the 12 singing males were almost half that of 1993 (22), but still higher than the seven of 1992. Small autumn concentrations were noted in Happy Valley, with a peak of 15 on October 5th.

Staffs A significant increase was noted at Coombes Valley, where there were 26 pairs (cf. 18-21 from 1990-93). Little other relevant information was forthcoming and the only other breeding territory count was six at Belvide.

W Mid A further increase reported at Wyken Slough, where there were seven pairs (cf. five in 1993, three in 1992). Information from Mons Hill CBC, Park Lime Pits and Valley Park suggests that the populations have stabilized in these areas, although only nine were counted on the spring census at the last named locality (cf. 21 in 1993, 20 in 1992). Breeding records received from a further 17 sites, including three or four pairs in the north-east corner of Sutton Park. In the autumn, small influxes were noted at Wyken Slough on a number of dates during September 27th-November 11th, with a peak of 18 grounded in dense fog on October 15th. A fall of 25 were counted at Woodshires Green on October 12th, with many heard flying over here with Redwings on the nights of 13th and 14th, and again on November 2nd.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus**Redwing (Terry Parker)*

Average: September 26th (60) – April 18th (59)

The last in spring was seen at Penn Common on April 27th. The first autumn bird was noted at Brandon on September 17th, with others trickling in daily from the 27th. The main influx began in the second week of October.

Warks Birds were rather numerous during the early winter months, with maxima of 100 at Alvecote on January 2nd, 300 at Packington on 14th, 120 roosting at Brandon on 25th, 130 at Weddington on February 2nd, 140 at Grandborough on 6th, 200 at Beausale on 26th, 300 at Hatton and 200 at Radway on 27th and finally, 100 at Ufton Fields on March 1st. In the autumn, good numbers passed south-west over Ilmington Downs during October 16th-25th, with a peak of 350 in ninety minutes on the first date. Elsewhere in the county however, the species seemed to be rather scarce with most passage at night and only very small numbers remaining into December. The largest counts were of 77 at Brandon on October 16th, 75 at Wormleighton on 18th and 50 at Radway on November 18th.

Worcs Winter flocks of 400 at Upton Warren on January 20th and 500 at Hindlip on February 6th proved to be the highest of the year. Further counts included 100 at Crowle Green on February 13th and 210 there on 27th, followed by 150 at Guariford on March 1st. No further notable spring concentrations were reported. In autumn, 220 passed through Happy Valley on October 17th and there were 160 on Castlemorton Common on 23rd. The only other reasonably sized flocks were 150 on Bredon Hill on November 5th, 112 at Tibberton on 11th and 134 at Randan Wood on December 26th.

Staffs Relatively few large flocks were reported, with all those exceeding 50 listed. The largest early winter counts consisted of 200 in the Anslow area during January and February, 100 at Knighton on January 30th, 100 at Rudyard on February 13th, 155 at Crossplains on 27th and 60 at Longsdon Mill Pond on March 6th. Autumn flocks reported were 50 at Belvide on October 13th, 150 by the R. Dove on 26th, 250 at Hanbury on 30th, 800 at Tittesworth on 31st and 50 at Dunstall on November 19th. A flock of 40 roosted in *Phragmites* at Belvide on January 29th.

W Mid The largest winter flocks included 100 at Kineton Lane, Hockley Heath on January 21st, 150 at Park Lime Pits on 23rd, 100 at Wyken Slough on February 13th and 100 at Woodshires Green on 26th. Much more abundant in the autumn, with the largest counts being 300 over Finchley Park on October 16th, 1150 west-north-west over Park Lime Pits in ninety minutes on 17th and 290 south over Wyken Slough on November 3rd. Heavy nocturnal passage was also reported from Woodshires Green on many nights between October 9th and late November.

Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*

Warks Few records of this common resident were submitted. Three pairs bred at The Somers. The largest flocks were of 40 at Coleshill on July 20th, 24 at Kenilworth on 31st and 25 at Ilmington Downs on October 16th.

Worcs Five pairs held territory around the Old Hills. Autumn flocks included 12 at Kinsham on October 1st and 20 at Tibberton on October 10th and November 13th.

Staffs Few reports. Seven pairs bred at Coombes Valley. The only party of more than ten to be reported was an impressive 82 at Tittesworth on July 31st.

W Mid Breeding was well reported with pairs at: Bartley, Brandwood Cemetery, Handsworth Wood, Highbury Park, King's Heath Park, King's Norton Park, Meriden STW, Mons Hill (two), Moseley Woods, Park Lime Pits, Perry Hall Park, Pye Hayes GC, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Sutton Park, Tritton Park, Valley Park (at least four), Winterbourne (Edgbaston), Woodshires Green and Wyken Slough (two). The largest post-breeding flocks were 30 at Sandwell Valley on August 6th, 20 in Valley Park during August and September and 18 at Park Lime Pits on September 21st. Calls heard after dark over Woodshires Green on October 13th with numbers of migrating Redwings and Song Thrushes were considered unusual.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

Warks Present in every month at Brandon with a pair breeding successfully for the second year running, rearing three young. There was a maximum of seven here on June 27th, while the original male that was trapped in 1992 was still present at the end of the year *BMCG*. Evidence that a northward spread is still occurring was provided by the recovery of a bird in Nottinghamshire; see *ringing report*.

Worcs A male at a central locality present since the beginning of the year, attracted two females by late spring. Two broods each of three young were successfully fledged. This was the first county breeding record *AGWr*.

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Average: April 18th (58) – August 26th (48)

The first was heard at Brandon on April 19th, while the last was a late migrant here on September 20th.

Warks Reeling birds were recorded in spring and summer at: BAD Kineton (five or six at least), Brandon (two), Coton, Dosthill, Draycote, Hell Hole (two), Lea Marston, Tysoe, Waverley Wood (three) and Whatcote (two).

- Worcs** Bred at Castlemorton Common, where up to three males sang until at least July 10th. Elsewhere, reeling males were heard at: Abberton, Ashmoor Common, Defford, Grafton Flyford, Old Hills (two), Rous Lench (two), Sheriff's Lench, Shorthorn Plantation, Throckmorton (two), Upton Warren (two) and Wilden (two).
- Staffs** Very under-recorded. At Belvide, two males were reeling on April 29th and a pair subsequently raised two broods. Reeling birds were also reported from Abbots Bromley, Bobbington, Cannock Chase (Katyn Memorial and Sherbrook Valley), Chasewater, Croxall, Doxey (two) and Tittesworth. An autumn migrant was seen at Crossplains on September 12th.
- W Mid** Possibly bred in Sandwell Valley. Reeling birds also reported at Clayhanger on April 27th, Sutton Park on May 2nd and Bradnock's Marsh on 19th and 21st. One was heard at Bartley on July 11th, with a second bird in a different spot here on August 6th-13th.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

The ninth Regional record, the last coming from Brandon in 1989.

- Worcs** A male was seen and heard at Upton Warren on May 11th-12th *SC, TMH, GHP*. This was the third county record, the last being at the same site in May 1985.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Average: April 16th (58) – September 28th (52)

Spring passage was rather later than usual, with the first at Brandon on April 19th and the main arrival not until the last week. The latest autumn record came from Westport on October 1st.

- Warks** Singing males at probable breeding sites: Alvecote (six), BAD Kineton (three), Bidford-Marlcliff (eight along R.Avon), Brandon (13), Coombe, Dosthill, Draycote (two), Eathorpe (two or three), Hartshill SF, Kingsbury WP (eight), Ladywalk (17), Lower Radbourn (four), Middleton Hall, Napton Res. (three), Radford Semele (three) and Walton Hall (four). Passage migrants were also recorded at Packington, The Somers and Water Orton.
- Worcs** Singing males at: Bredon's Hardwick (two), Castlemorton Common, Church Lench (four), Defford (two), Eckington (two), Lower Moor (three), Oakley (four), Strensham (eight), Upton Warren (seven), Westwood and Wilden (two).
- Staffs** Reported from 12 sites in the breeding season, with counts of singing males at: Barton GP (five), Belvide (13 pairs bred, cf. ten in 1993), Doxey (15, cf. 38 in 1993, 20 in 1992), Rudyard (three) and Tittesworth (four). At Betley Mere, a total of 33 were ringed during the summer compared to 42 in 1993.
- W Mid** Breeding season territories at: Bradnock's Marsh, Clayhanger (three), Sandwell Valley (two or three pairs bred, with seven in song on May 9th), Stoke Floods, Valley Park (possibly bred) and Wyken Slough (three, with two pairs breeding successfully). Spring passage birds were reported from Fens Pools on April 23rd and May 16th (two), Park Lime Pits on April 29th, Sheepwash UP on May 13th, Netherton Hill on 15th-16th and Goscote Valley on 18th. Birds on autumn passage were noted at Fens Pools on August 5th, 10th and September 6th, and at Sheepwash UP on August 15th and 21st.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Average: May 31st (44) – July 8th (3)

The worst year on record, with no recorded breeding. Unhappily it seems that our almost unique population is now nearing the brink of extinction.

Worcs The first male arrived back in the Avon Valley on May 27th. Four males subsequently held territories but failed to attract any mates. The last song was heard on July 10th *JRH, SMW*.

Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*

Average: April 25th (54) – September 25th (48)

A multiple arrival on April 24th brought birds to Belvide, Brandon and Oakley. Several late autumn birds were noted on dates up to October 9th, with the latest at Westport on 17th.

Warks Breeding pairs at: Alvecote (four), Baginton Lagoons (four), Brandon (26 hatching 72 young in the East Marsh ditch study area; slightly down from the record numbers of 1993), Coombe (usual population of 15-20), Coton (two-three), Draycote (two), Ladywalk (14, cf. a peak of 30 here in 1990-1), Middleton Hall, Napton Res. (three) and Rugby Waterworks (two). Other singing males were recorded at: Bidford-Marlcliff (six along R. Avon), Compton Verney, Kingsbury, Lower Radbourn (eight, cf. 16 recorded here in 1993), Packington (three) and Wormleighton Res. (three).

Worcs Singing males were present at: Bishampton Vale Pool (two), Bittell (two), Church Lench, Eckington (five), Grimley (four), Hewell Grange (six), Hanbury Wharf-Shernal Green canal (15), Lower Moor (seven), Oakley (nine), Strensham, Tibberton-Oddingley canal (ten), Upton Warren (eight) and Westwood (four). Post breeding numbers included 42 along the canal between Tibberton and Oddingley on July 31st and 20 at Oakley on August 14th.

Staffs Singing males at: Aqualate, Barton GP, Belvide (12 pairs bred), Croxall GP, Doxey, Elford, Kingswood, Tixall Broad and Westport (one pair bred). At Betley Mere (a constant effort site), 178 were trapped during the summer (cf. 90 in 1993, 86 in 1992) indicating a thriving population.

W Mid Bred at Fens Pools (one pair successful), Sandwell Valley (two or three pairs) and Sheepwash UP. A singing male was noted at Lady Pool, Rushall on May 13th. Breeding was not confirmed here and the lack of reedbed management at this important traditional site may well lead to its extinction. Spring passage birds were reported from Netherton Hill on May 11th, Mushroom Green Marsh on 19th, Valley Park on April 30th, May 7th (two), 8th, 14th and 28th, and at Wyken Slough on June 5th.

Lesser Whitethroat *Sylvia curruca*

Average: April 21st (58) – September 20th (58)

A bird in the Kingsbury area on April 3rd was the earliest ever in the Region, beating the previous earliest date (April 11th in 1950, 1961 and 1993) by eight days. No more were seen until 21st, with the main influx beginning on 24th. The latest bird occurred at Belvide on September 22nd. Numbers appeared to be below average in many areas this year.

Warks Singing males were reported from 27 localities, although evidence of breed-

ing came only from Alvecote, Finham STW, The Somers (two or three pairs) and Water Orton. Most sites held only one or two singing males and many of these seemed to be on passage. An exceptionally early bird was seen at Hemlingford Green (Kingsbury) on April 3rd *EAH*. Eight at Brandon on August 13th was the largest post-breeding count.

- Worcs** Breeding was proved at Bredon's Norton, Kemerton, Westmancote and Wilden. Singing males were noted at a further 34 sites, including six at Tibberton, five at Upton Warren and two at Ashmoor Common, Church Lench, Grimley and Upper Rochford. The largest post-breeding count was eight at Upton Warren on August 13th.
- Staffs** Two pairs bred at Belvide. Singing males were reported from: Abbots Bromley, Bradley, Branston GP, Crossplains, Croxall GP, Haughton, Hoar Cross, Leek, Newcastle and Meerbrook. The largest post-breeding count was eight at Blithfield on August 1st.
- W Mid** Birds were recorded in the breeding season at only 13 sites, compared to 22 in 1993. Breeding was confirmed at Netherton Res. and Wyken Slough (one pair, cf. two in 1993, three in 1992), and suspected in Valley Park. Elsewhere singing males were reported from Bartley, Fens Pools, Meriden, Minworth SF, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park, Wall Heath and Woodshires Green. The largest counts on spring passage involved seven at Wyken Slough on May 1st and six singing in Valley Park on 4th. In autumn, the maximum was nine at Fens Pools on August 5th. Autumn numbers were reported to be down at Wyken Slough with not more than six on any one day (cf. up to 13 in 1993).

Common Whitethroat *Sylvia communis*

Average: April 14th (60) – September 26th (60)

The first in spring was at Brandon on April 17th, with the main influx during the last week. The latest were seen at Draycote and Upton Warren on September 26th.

- Warks** Singing males were noted in numerous areas throughout the county, with the largest counts coming from: Bidford-Marlcliff (six along the R. Avon), Brandon (max. 19 on May 14th but breeding numbers said to be down), Coleshill SF (seven), Dosthill (six), Fenny Compton (four along the Oxford Canal), Hell Hole (six), Ladywalk (21, a good year there) and Packington (four).
- Worcs** Pairs bred at Kemerton, Redditch and Tibberton (three). Singing males recorded from a further 40 localities including Abberley Hills (six), Devil's Spittleful (three) and Strensham Lagoons (six). Seven birds were seen at Upton Warren on August 13th.
- Staffs** Singing birds were reported from 25 sites. Breeding was proved at: Abbots Bromley, Belvide (18 pairs, cf. 11 in 1993, ten in 1992), Brocton Coppice, Pendeford Mill NR and Park Hall CP. Three pairs were also found breeding in bramble-grown ditches high on the North Staffs Moors.
- W Mid** Breeding season records came from 21 localities, the only territory counts coming from: Bradnock's Marsh (at least six; cf. two in 1992), Fens Pools (three), Minworth SF (nine on April 28th), Park Lime Pits (six), Sheepwash UP (six), Valley Park (at least eight) and Wyken Slough (six, cf. 12 in 1993). Many

observers reported an increase in numbers yet again this year, although the existing figures show an equal division between increase and decrease.

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*

Average: April 21st (57) – September 11th (56)

A prompt arrival at Belvide on April 21st, with the main influx beginning during the last few days of the month. Birds were again present into late September; the latest being seen at Erdington on October 7th.

- Warks** Noted in 27 localities during the summer months, with counts of 12 singing males at Brandon, five at Hams Hall/Ladywalk (cf. 20 in 1991-2), four at The Somers, three at Draycote and Wood End (Kingsbury) and two at Alvecote, Close Wood, Kingsbury WP, Lighthorne Rough and Whichford Wood. Apparently generally fewer this year.
- Worcs** Records came from 23 sites, with four singing males at Devil's Spittleful, Dowles Brook and Highwood; and two each at Lower Moor, Redditch, Shortwood Roughs, Tibberton, Trench Wood and Uffmoor Wood.
- Staffs** Pairs were proved breeding at: Ashwood, Belvide (three), Coombes Vallcy (23, a slight recovery after a continuing decline from the peak of 44 in 1989), Hanchurch, Pendeford Mill NR, Thorpe Constantine, Tillington Cemetery, Tittesworth and Westport. Birds were noted at 16 other localities.
- W Mid** Singing males in the breeding season recorded at: Bradnock's Marsh, Dorridge Park (two), Minworth SF, Netherton Hill, Park Lime Pits (up to two), Saltwells Wood, Sandwell Valley (three or four), Valley Park (up to five, possibly including some passage birds) and Wyken Slough (up to four, with two pairs breeding; the first time in recent years). Passage birds were reported from five additional localities.

Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*



Blackcap (John Teasdale)

A record number of wintering birds were reported during the early months, but these are probably just a tiny fraction of the true number as most resort to private gardens. Probably a survey would reveal that birds are now present in most towns and large villages within the Region. Recent research has pointed towards Germany as being the source of many of these winter visitors.

- Warks** In the breeding season there were numerous reports of up to three territories

from widespread localities, though fewer larger concentrations were reported this year. These came from Brandon (eight), Coleshill SF (four), Ladywalk (four), Rough Hill Wood (four) and Wood End (six). Very widespread early in the year with records from: Alcester, Coleshill, Draycote, Halford, Kineton (pair), Ladbroke (pair), Ladywalk, Leamington (pair), Long Compton, Polesworth, Rugby, Stratford (at least three pairs), Tysoe and Water Orton. Records were then regular between March 26th (Brandon) and October 30th (Kenilworth). Apparently scarce during the last two months with only a pair in Kineton and a female at Shustoke.

Worcs Counts of breeding season territories came from: Abberley Hills (two), Abberton (two), Bittell (seven), Old Hills (19), Shortwood Roughts (nine), Tardebigge (six), Tibberton (four), Trench Wood (three), Uffmoor Wood (five), Upton Warren (six) and Westwood (six). Winter reports came from: Barnard's Green, Bewdley, Bordesley (two), Claines (pair), Evesham (four), Kempsey, Little Comberton, Malvern Link (pair), Matchborough, Mount Pleasant, West Hagley (pair), Westwood and Worcester (two). In the autumn birds were noted up to October 30th, when singles were at Hallow and Upton Warren. No more were then reported until December, when birds appeared at: Kempsey (pair), Little Comberton, Tibberton and Worcester (pair).

Staffs Breeding season records came from all over the county, but the only counts were of ten pairs at Belvide and five pairs at Westport. A male was watched nest-building at Tittesworth on the early date of April 25th. Winter records of one or two came from: Alrewas, Amington, Barlaston, Biddulph, Clayton, Cod-sall, Knypersley, Newcastle and Stafford, mostly at garden feeding stations.

W Mid Recorded in the breeding season from 14 localities (cf. 19 in 1993), the only territory counts coming from: Allesley (five), Dorridge Park area (up to five), Fens Pools (six on April 30th), Minworth SF (eight on April 28th), Mons Hill CBC (12, as in 1993), Park Lime Pits (four), Sheepwash UP (up to three), Valley Park (27 on April 27th) and Wyken Slough (six, as in 1993). Some of the April counts probably included passage birds but the available information suggests a similar population to last year. Records from the first three months came from 16 localities (all garden records except for one in Valley Park), with peak counts of five in Erdington and three in Four Oaks. Scarcer at the end of the year with records from six localities, again mainly gardens.

Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus*

The third Regional record, with previous ones at Upton Warren in 1986 and Happy Valley in 1993 both during October. Although not yet officially accepted as having occurred in Britain by the BOURC due to the problems of intergrades, birds showing characteristics of the race *humei* which breed in the mountains of central Asia have been identified with increasing frequency in recent years during late autumn. At least five others occurred in Britain during November/December 1994. Some authorities already treat this race as a species in its own right.

Staffs A bird resembling the race *humei* was seen briefly at Westport on December 20th *WJL*. The bird, first located on call, was watched in company with two Chiffchaffs for about two minutes but unfortunately was not seen subsequently.

The bird was chunkier than the accompanying Chiffchaffs, with pale greyish-brown upperparts (no greenish tones noted) and off-white underparts. The head showed a broad off-white supercilium extending from the base of the bill, thinning behind the eye and then turning upwards towards the nape (depending on the stance of the bird). It also had a thin indistinct eye-stripe which blended into dull greyish ear-coverts. The closed wing showed one broad off-white wing bar on either side and a second (upper) narrow indistinct one. The tertials were only slightly darker than the rest of the upperparts and had narrow pale fringes, unlike the nominate race which have black tertials broadly tipped with white. The legs were dark but did not appear as black as accompanying Chiffchaff. Dark eye and bill, the latter being short and stout. The call was a soft but distinct nasal "seeoo".

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Average: April 21st (58) – August 24th (45)

The arrival and departure dates were both on time; the first being at Westwood on April 22nd and the last at Kineton on August 24th. Another fairly poor season.

- Warks** Single spring migrants were recorded in May at Bentley Park on 2nd. Bishop's Gorse (Lighthorne) on 10th and Rough Hill Wood on 16th. An autumn migrant at Kineton on August 24th.
- Worcs** The breeding population on the Malvern Hills crashed in 1994, with males located at just three sites. A total of 13 singing males in the Wyre Forest included six along the Dowles Brook, two at Callow Hill and one at Far Forest. One was also in Seckley Wood on May 4th. All other reports referred to spring passage males, with records from Hewell Grange, Link Common, Old Hills, Shrawley Woods, Wells Common and Westwood.
- Staffs** Singing males from traditional breeding sites were recorded at: Bearda Hill, Brocton Coppice (two), Consall Wood CP (one pair bred), Coombes Valley (11 pairs bred), Hanchurch Hills, King's Wood (Trentham) (two) and Seven Springs (three). Spring migrants were noted in late April at Belvide and Pendeford Mill NR, with an autumn bird at Tittesworth on August 3rd.
- W. Mid** One in Saltwells Wood on April 28th-29th was the only record.

Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*

There was an early arrival of summer migrants this year, with singles at Brandon on March 2nd, Wyken Slough on 4th, Kempsey and Westwood on 5th and at several localities on 6th. The main influx began in the third week.

- Warks** Fewer counts of singing males were received this year, the largest coming from: Alvecote (three), BAD Kineton (eight), Brandon (eight), Curdworth SF (three), Rough Hill Wood (five), Ryton Wood (seven) and Wood End (five). The largest count on autumn passage was nine at Draycote on September 18th. Early in the year, there was one at Brandon on January 25th, two at Ryton-on-Dunsmore on February 8th and one at Ladywalk on 17th and 19th. Late autumn records came from: BAD Kineton, one on November 9th and 30th; Brandon, two on November 27th and one on December 17th; and the Water Orton area, one on November 3rd, December 18th and 25th.
- Worcs** Recorded in the breeding season from 34 localities, with counts of singing males at: Bittell (five), Castlemorton Common (four), Dowles Brook (five),

Hewell Grange (nine), Lickey Hills (seven), Lower Moor (four), Tardebigge (four), Tibberton (five), Uffmoor Wood (seven) and Westwood (five). In the autumn, 25 were counted in Happy Valley on September 3rd, with the latest migrants there on October 10th and at Bredon's Hardwick on 18th. Wintering birds included one at Lower Moor in January and February, two at Kempsey in February, singles at Lickey Hills and Malvern Link in November and one at Kyre Wood in December.

Staffs Counts of singing males came from Belvide (six on March 27th, with four pairs breeding), Coombes Valley (seven pairs bred), Hanchurch Water Tower (five), Knypersley (six), Sherbrook Valley (ten) and Trentham Wood (11). On autumn passage there were 12 at Chasewater on October 2nd, with the last at Hanbury Bank on 30th. The only bird during the first two months was seen at Newborough on January 28th. Late in the year singles were at Branston WP in November and Chasewater during November/December, while there was a maximum of four at Westport on December 21st.

W Mid Breeding season records came from 13 localities, the only ones holding more than two territories being: Mons Hill CBC (five, as in 1993), Sandwell Valley (at least seven), Sutton Park (at least 12 on the north-east side) and Valley Park (five). Passage birds were recorded from another six locations, including Ladywood in central Birmingham. The only winter records involved singles in Sandwell Valley on January 21st and at Penn on 26th. Late autumn records were much more numerous, coming from: Sheepwash UP, on November 9th-18th, 30th and December 4th-5th; Sandwell Valley, on November 19th, 23rd-29th (up to three), December 4th, 6th(two), 8th and 13th, and at both Fens Pools and Valley Park on November 26th.

"Siberian" Chiffchaff P. c. tristis

W Mid One showing characteristics of this race was seen in Sandwell Valley on November 7th *PMH, PJM, MJO*.

"Iberian" Chiffchaff P. c. brehmii

W Mid A male singing on territory at Fens Pools from March 15th to at least May 16th *BMM et al.*, was present for its third year.

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Average: March 26th (60) – October 5th (60)

The earliest spring migrants were seen in Sandwell Valley on March 17th and at Draycote on 24th, with further birds trickling in from 29th. The main influx began to get underway from April 5th, with highest numbers as usual during the latter half. Another fairly early departure saw the latest at Swallow Moss on October 2nd. Although there were the usual local fluctuations, a downward trend in line with the national picture still seems evident.

Warks The only territory counts reported came from Alvecote (six), Bidford-Marlcliff (five along the R. Avon), Draycote (over ten, cf. 17 in 1993), Kingsbury WP (12 on April 23rd), Ladywalk (24), The Somers (16) and Wood End (ten). The population seems remarkably stable at Alvecote, having been usually in the range of four-eight pairs for many years. On passage, numbers at Brandon

peaked at 30 on April 26th and 25 on August 13th.

Worcs Singing males recorded from 23 locations, with the highest counts coming from: Happy Valley (six, cf. 12 in 1992-3, 25 in 1991), Lickey Hills (30), Shortwood Roughs (three, cf. eight in 1993), Tardebigge-Stoke Pound (eight), Tibberton-Oddingley (eight), Trench Wood (seven), Uffmoor Wood (eight) and Walton Hill (16).

Staffs Counts of singing males came only from Belvide (15 pairs bred, cf. ten in 1992), Rudyard (18) and Westport (ten). Compared with 1993, the population at Brocton Coppice (Cannock Chase) was thought to have increased, but in the Needwood Forest area a decrease was noted. A standardised trapping period at Betley Mere obtained seven adults and six juveniles, compared with 11 adults and 13 juveniles the previous year.

W Mid Breeding season records came from only 12 locations, with counts of singing males coming from Fens Pools (ten on April 23rd), Mons Hill CBC (one, cf. three in 1993), Park Lime Pits (six pairs), Sheepwash UP (ten on April 24th), Valley Park (17 on April 27th) and Wyken Slough (14 pairs, cf. 20 in 1992-3). Most of the above April counts probably involved passage migrants and these were also reported from a further nine sites. At Wyken Slough counts of migrants peaked at 26 singing males on April 21st and 30 on July 30th.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Warks Very few records received. Three pairs bred in Somers Wood. The highest numbers were present as usual during the autumn, with the largest counts being 50 in Close Wood on November 14th and 70 at Coombe on 23rd.

Worcs Noted at 23 localities, with breeding proved at Pitcher Oak Wood and Trench Wood. The largest count was of 20 in Happy Valley on September 29th, October 8th and 15th.

Staffs Very under-recorded. Eight pairs bred at Coombes Valley (cf. five in 1993). The only party of more than five reported was of 30 with a mixed tit flock at Park Hall CP on October 6th.

W Mid Breeding noted at Haden Hill Park and in Sandwell Valley. Present in the breeding season on the Mons Hill CBC plot and in an Erdington garden. Outside this period records were received from a further 22 widespread localities, appearing slightly commoner in the early part of the year. The largest counts however came in autumn, with ten in Sandwell Valley on October 1st, ten at Wyken Slough on 13th, six at Fens Pools on 15th and 16 along Valley Park on December 18th.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Warks A pair found at Ufton Fields on February 19th *KB*, *JW* remained until at least March 1st *JJB*. One was seen at Coombe on April 12th *JJB*.

Staffs One in William's Wood, Ranton on December 10th *RSr*.

W Mid Two were seen in Sandwell Valley on January 17th, with one remaining until March 9th *TCH et al*. One was present at Sheepwash UP on April 9th-10th *DW*, *AGW et al.*, while at the end of the year there was one again in Sandwell Valley on December 29th *MJHa*.

1979 Addendum

Warks One at Avon Dassett on September 30th *BOS*.

1984 Addendum

Warks One at Wormleighton Res. on May 7th *BOS*.

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Average: May 2nd (58) – September 26th (58)

An early arrival began with two at The Somers on April 27th, which were the first in this month since 1984. These were followed by others at Kingsbury on May 1st and Sutton Park on 2nd, with regular records from 6th. The last was seen at Solihull on September 26th. Apparently still declining, at least in low-land areas; all breeding records are required.

Warks Breeding was proved or suspected only at: Coleshill, Coombe, Eathorpe, Eittington, Packington, Priors Marston, Ragley Park and Whateley. Only Coombe and Packington apparently held more than one pair. Away from these areas records were received from 19 sites, most apparently relating to passage migrants. The largest counts came from Avon Dassett, with five on May 15th and three on September 4th.

Worcs Breeding pairs at: Crossway Green, Droitwich, Lower Moor, Lower Rowney Green, Stoke Bliss, Trimpley Res. (two) and Webheath (two). Spring and summer records came from a further 13 localities, with a maximum of five at Upton Warren on August 23rd.

Staffs Breeding pairs were only reported from: Belvide, Coombes Valley (seven, cf. five in 1993), Knypersley, Lichfield, Oakamoor and Tittesworth (ten, cf. eight in 1993). Passage birds were reported from a further 13 sites, with numbers at Belvide reported as being down on previous years.

W Mid One in Dorridge Park on June 26th may have been a local breeding bird – this was the only indication of breeding in the county, a very sorry state indeed. After an early bird in Sutton Park on May 2nd, further spring migrants were seen during May 11th-29th at: Dorridge (two or three on 16th), Fens Pools, a Norton garden, Park Lime Pits (max. two on 18th) and Sandwell Valley. More numerous on autumn passage, which lasted from July 30th-September 26th, with records from: Bartley, Blakenhall (Walsall), Brueton Park, Comets End (four on August 26th), Fens Pools (max. three on September 16th), Fishley, Hayhead Wood, King's Norton, Kingstanding, Sandwell Valley (max. six on September 6th), Sheepwash UP, Solihull, Valley Park and Wyken Slough (max. four on September 4th).

Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Average: April 20th (48) – September 6th (29)

The bird at Whatcote on April 2nd was the earliest ever; the previous earliest being on April 5th 1987. The next was along Dowles Brook on April 10th, with the main arrival from the 21st. Few remained in the Region beyond early August, with a late bird at Anslow on September 24th possibly being of Scandinavian origin.

Warks An exceptionally early male at Whatcote on April 2nd *TPr* was the sole record.

Worcs In the Wyre Forest, breeding was noted at Brandwood Lodge (two nestboxes



Pied Flycatcher (John Teasdale)

held 12 nestlings and one egg), the Fred Dale Reserve (nine pairs in nestboxes laid 61 eggs and fledged 35 young) and Knowles Coppice (ten pairs laid 74 eggs and reared 68 young). Along the southern Malvern Hills (which embraces both sides of the county boundary), breeding was recorded in two localities. In one, three nestboxes produced 20 young, while in the second there were 14 broods with 94 young fledged. At The Knapp, four pairs reared 20 young. Elsewhere, singing males were noted at Eymore Wood (two), Hewell Grange, the Lickey Hills (three) and Trimpley. At Westwood, two males and a female were present on April 28th, with one male holding territory from April 30th-May 4th. Further passage birds were seen at Bittell on April 21st and Longbank on 30th.

Staffs Breeding pairs reported from: Basford Green, Cannock Chase (two pairs at Brocton Coppice, with others noted at Seven Springs and Sherbrook Valley), Chillington Park (three nestboxes occupied but some predated), Coombes Valley (39, cf. 34 in 1993, with 48 birds counted there in July), Knypersley and Tittesworth (two, only one successful). Other singing males or passage migrants were noted at: Anslow, Baggeridge CP, Blithfield, Gnosall, King's Wood (Trentham), Loggerheads and Westport.

W Mid A male in Saltwells Wood on April 21st was the only record.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

- Warks** The small party present at Brandon at the end of 1993 continued to be seen into the new year, though they remained very elusive. Records involving a male and two females were received for only seven dates, with two on April 1st being the latest.
- Worcs** Three males and a female present at Oakley at the end of 1993 remained until February 10th, with two males and a female reappearing here from February 20th-March 6th.

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

- Warks** Remains at quite a high level, although few breeding pairs reported. There were two pairs at both Alvecote and Ladywalk, with one at Draycote. The largest flocks were again seen at Coombe, with a maximum of 80 on January 11th. Elsewhere, parties of 20-30 were reported from Alvecote, Brandon, Coleshill SF, Draycote and Ladywalk.
- Worcs** Few records were submitted. Breeding was reported at Fillet Wood, Tibberton and Upton Warren. The largest parties included 41 at Old Hills on May 27th, 40 between Tibberton, Oddingley and Crowle Green on July 7th and October 23rd, and 38 on Midsummer Hill on July 17th.
- Staffs** Nests were found at Belvide (five), Coombes Valley (nine) and Rudyard. The largest parties reported were in the range of 20-26, these coming from: Froghall, Seven Springs (Cannock Chase) and Westport in January, at Belvide in July, Parkhall CP in October, Chasewater in November and Ridgehill Wood in December.
- W Mid** Reported from 31 localities with breeding pairs at: Bradnock's Marsh, Fens Pools (five or six), Hayhead Wood, Marston Green, Meriden STW, Minworth SF (two), Mons Hill CBC (three), Park Lime Pits (two), Sandwell Valley (at least five), Sheepwash UP (first breeding record for the area), Sutton Park, Valley Park (several), Woodshires Green and Wyken Slough (three). The largest flocks consisted of 40 at Wyken Slough on July 10th, over 50 in Sandwell Valley on November 11th, several parties up to 40 strong in Sutton Park during December and at least 52 in Valley Park on December 18th. An increasing species with numerous garden records.

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

- Warks** Breeding season records came from: Avon Dassett, BAD Kineton, Coombe, Edge Hill, Ettington, Ilmington Downs, Rough Hill Wood, Ryton Wood, Stoneton, Tysoe, Whatcote, Whichford Wood and Yarningale Common. Also recorded at: Brandon, Compton Verney, Ladywalk, Priors Hardwick, Priors Marston and Wormleighton. Again very few records came from the north of the county.
- Worcs** Breeding season records at: Bredon Hill, Chase End, Dowles Brook, Hewell Park Lake, Midsummer Hill, Raggedstone Hill and Trimpey. Also seen at: Abberley Hills, Bittell (where unusual), Broadway, Crowle Green, Grimley, The Gullet, Oddingley, Shavers End, Tiddesley Wood and Westwood.
- Staffs** Very poorly reported. Three pairs bred at Coombes Valley as in 1993. Single birds were reported from another five sites.

W Mid Still a county rarity. The only records concerned singles in Valley Park on February 19th and April 22nd, at Wyken Slough on April 8th (first locality record) and in Sandwell Valley from August 21st to the end of the year. Additionally, two were seen at Netherton Hill on March 6th and August 13th.

Willow Tit *Parus montanus*

Warks Well recorded, with reports from 33 localities from throughout the county. Pairs were suspected or proved breeding at: Alvecote (two), Brandon (two), Church Pool Covert, Colehill SF, Coombe (two), Ladywalk, Oakley Wood, Packington (three), The Somers, Whichford Wood and Yarningale Common. Reported to have been more numerous at Brandon this year, where a peak of ten counted in January. A party of six seen at Ufton Fields on March 1st.

Worcs A nest at Upton Warren was predated by a Great Spotted Woodpecker. Song during the breeding season was reported from: Bittell, Coldridge Wood, Trimpley and Walton Hill; with other records coming from Church Lench, Hewell Park Lake, Strensham Lagoons, Wilden and the Wyre Forest.

Staffs Three pairs bred at Belvide and one pair in Coombes Valley. Reports came from a further ten sites from throughout the county.

W Mid Three or four pairs bred in Valley Park, while single pairs at Sheepwash UP and Wyken Slough were the first confirmed breeding records at these localities. Probable or possible breeding was also reported at Minworth SF, Mons Hill CBC (three territories, cf. one in 1993) and Park Lime Pits. Outside the breeding season there were records from Newbridge, Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park and Woodshires Green.

Coal Tit *Parus ater*

Warks Very few records were received and these were mainly outside the breeding season. Two pairs bred in Somers Wood and their were four singing males in Ryton Wood on April 24th. The largest count was 30 in Close Wood on November 14th.

Worcs Records came from 20 sites, with evidence of breeding at Bewdley, Hewell Park Lake, Southcrest Wood (Redditch), Trimpley and the Wyre Forest. The largest reported party was 12 in Happy Valley on October 6th.

Staffs 27 pairs bred at Coombes Valley (cf. 21 in 1993). The only other noteworthy record concerned a count of 28 in Hanchurch Wood on January 4th.

W Mid Very little breeding data received. One territory was located on the Mons Hill CBC plot (cf. two in 1993). At least two pairs bred along Valley Park, with higher numbers reported there in autumn and winter than in recent years. Records were also received from a further 16 localities, predominantly gardens. Any comparative data would be welcome.

Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*

Warks Four or five pairs bred at Alvecote, while 41 young were ringed in the Brandon nestboxes (cf. 59 in 1992, 50 in 1991). Outside the breeding season numbers were reported to have been lower than usual at several sites and there were no records of substantial post-breeding flocks.

Worcs Counts of occupied nestboxes on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserves

included: eight at Badger's Hill, 12 at Fred Dale (77 young), 16 in Horn Hill Wood, 32 at The Knapp and Papermill, 22 at Knowles Coppice (45 young), 19 at Monk Wood (164 young), five at Tiddesley Wood and four at Trench Wood. There were also two nestboxes containing 17 young at Brandlodge Coppice, while 14 pairs were counted at Shortwood Roughs (the same as in 1993). The largest flock reported was only 16, at Coldridge Wood on January 9th.

Staffs There were 124 breeding pairs at Coombes Valley (cf. 112 in 1993). Flocks of over 20 included 41 at Ashwood and 30 at Belvide in February and 26 at Ridgehill Wood on April 3rd. At Betley Mere (a constant effort site) during standardised ringing sessions, five adults and seven juveniles were trapped, compared with five adults and 15 juveniles in 1993.

W Mid A recovery was noted on the Mons Hill CBC plot, where 21 territories were registered (cf. 14 in 1993, 19 in 1992). Up to 75 were counted in Sandwell Valley on September 6th, while at Wyken Slough a regular flock peaked at 40 on 9th. A total of 108 were counted in Dunstall and Valley Parks during the census day of December 18th.

Great Tit *Parus major*

Warks Three or four pairs bred at Alvecote. Numbers were reported to be slightly down at Brandon, where there was a maximum of 16 in March. A total of 39 nestlings were ringed in the nestboxes here (cf. 43 in 1992, 37 in 1991). The largest reported flock was of 30 in Church Pool Covert on February 19th.

Worcs Counts of nestboxes on Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserves included: one at Badger's Hill, five at Fred Dale (15 young), seven at Horn Hill Wood, 30 at The Knapp and Papermill, eight at Knowles Coppice (44 young), 23 at Monk Wood (136 young), 17 at Tiddesley Wood and six at Trench Wood. There were 17 territories at Old Hills. The largest flock was of 15 in Happy Valley on September 30th.

Staffs 73 pairs bred at Coombes Valley (cf. 90 in 1993). Regular counts at Ashwood and Ridgehill Wood showed that the largest numbers occurred in February, with peaks of 37 on 7th and 35 on 8th respectively.

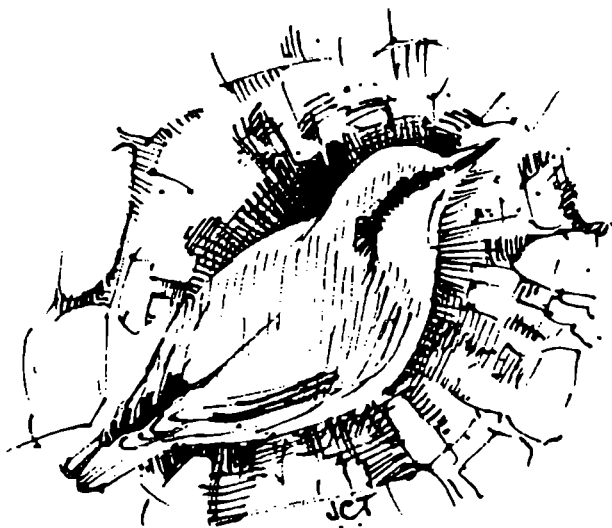
W Mid 28 territories located on the Mons Hill CBC plot was the same as last year. The largest flock reported was 15 at Wyken Slough during July/August, although the census count in Dunstall and Valley Parks on December 18th produced a total of 44.

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Warks Widely reported, with records from 18 sites though still very under-recorded. Reported to be common at both Coombe and Packington.

Worcs Breeding season records at: Bredon Hill (one pair only), Chase End (two pairs), Dowles Brook (four singing), Hewell Park, Lower Rowney Green, Redditch (one pair bred in Pitcher Oak Wood and three pairs in Southcrest Wood), Trimpley and Westwood (two pairs). Reported at six other sites including eight at Callow Hill on December 12th.

Staffs Poorly reported. Seven breeding pairs were reported at Coombes Valley. The only other nesting records concerned a pair occupying a nesthole at Brocton



Nuthatch (John Teasdale)

Coppice which in 1993 had housed Pied Flycatchers, and another in Weeping Cross which probably bred. At Belvide it was reported as a poor year, while at Ridgehill Wood up to six were seen. Two birds in Beresford Dale which took to hiding nuts from a feeder in tree crevices, were apparently watched by Magpies which later stole them:

W Mid Breeding season records came from: Allesley Park, Berkswell Hall (several pairs), Brueton Park, Cuckoo's Nook, Dorridge Park, Four Oaks, Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park and Whitley Grove (Coventry). Other records received from: Bartley (two in Bromwich Wood from September 11th to the end of the year were the first in the vicinity for some years), Compton, Cradley Heath, Dunstall Park, Edgbaston Res., Hobs Moat Woods, Seth Somers Park (Halesowen), Solihull, Valley Park, Wergs and West Park.

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Warks Widely reported. Breeding pairs reported from: Bentley Park (three), Brandon, Brownsover Mill, Clowes Wood, Coombe, Ettington, Exhall, Finham STW, Leamington Spa Res., Oakley Wood, Packington (common), The Somers and Whichford. Still common at Coombe where six together in one small tree on January 11th.

Worcs Reported from only 12 sites, including a breeding pair at Upton Warren and three pairs during the breeding season at Old Hills.

Staffs Under-recorded. 12 pairs bred in Coombes Valley. An apparent decline was noted at Belvide with fewer sightings than in previous years. Elsewhere, reports came from ten separate locations.

W Mid Reported in the breeding season at: Berkswell, Cutler's Rough (Frankley), the Hagley Road in Bearwood, Mons Hill CBC (two territories), Sandwell Valley (at least three pairs), Sutton Park, Valley Park, Whitley Grove (Coventry) and Woodshires Green. Other records came from Bartley, Dorridge Park, Newbridge, Park Lime Pits, Pype Hayes GC, Wergs, West Park and Wyken Slough.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Warks A male at Middleton Hall on May 15th *DIL* was typically elusive.

1992 Addendum

Warks A male heard singing at Kineton on May 19th *BOS*.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Worcs An adult discovered on Castlemorton Common on March 21st *per SMW*, remained in the area until 26th *INR*.

Staffs One seen at Swallow Moss on March 22nd *WB, MW*.

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Warks A fairly common breeding bird. A few small parties noted in spring and autumn included nine at Brandon, eight at Hartshill Hayes and seven at both Draycote and The Somers.

Worcs Remains widely distributed. Twelve were counted in the breeding season between Wyche Cutting and British Camp on the Malvern Hills. Reported from ten other locations, with the largest concentration being ten on the Walton and Calcot Hills on October 8th.

Staffs Seven pairs bred at Coombes Valley. A possible pair was present at Belvide, where it was noted that fewer had been seen than in previous years. Otherwise, reports came from throughout the county with a maximum of six at Hanchurch Wood on April 6th.

W Mid Present in the breeding season at: Bartley (apparently "common" here), Berkswell, Bickenhill Plantation, Cuckoo's Nook, Handsworth Wood, Hayhead Wood, Marston Green, Meriden, Minworth SF, Mons Hill CBC (one territory), Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park and Valley Park. Reported from a further eight localities outside the breeding season. The largest party comprised eight at Cuckoo's Nook on October 17th.

Magpie *Pica pica*

Warks Very few records received, with the largest count being 50 at Warwick in December. Birds are still apparently being trapped in fairly large numbers in some rural areas. An unfortunate individual was watched being killed by a Weasel at Brandon on November 12th.

Worcs Twelve pairs bred at Old Hills, nine of these nests having being renovated from the previous year. Flocks included 55 roosting at Larford on February 10th and 30 at Clent Hills CP on March 29th.

Staffs Few records received. No reports of any large roost again this year, and the only notable congregation was of 59 at Chasewater on April 10th. Two pairs nested at Belvide, where the largest count was of only seven.

W. Mid An abundant resident throughout the county, although breeding records were received from only nine localities. The only counts of breeding pairs came from the Mons Hill CBC plot (nine, cf. six in 1993) and Wyken Slough (eight, cf. seven in 1993), both suggesting that numbers are still on the upward trend. A pair in Handsworth Wood were usurped from a nest they had occupied for three years by Carrion Crows. Largest gatherings consisted of 60 in Valley Park at a regular winter roost (with 76 counted here on the December 18th census), 40 in Sandwell Valley on March 28th and 50 at Wyken Slough on October 7th.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Warks The best flocks were of 320 at Coombe, 200 at Chesterton and Ragley Hall, 150 at Ilmington and Lawford Heath Tip, and 130 at Priors Marston. Most of these were either in January or October.

Worcs Up to 1000 were present at Crowle in both winter periods. There were 225 at Woodbury Common on April 16th, with flocks of 200 at Throckmorton on July 7th, Welland on 20th and Westwood on October 23rd.

Staffs The largest reported flocks were of: 150 at Sheepwalks on March 31st, 140 at Belvide and 185 at Hanchurch Wood on April 15th, 120 at Brancote and 200 at Envile on August 15th, 280 at Beech on 26th, 126 at Coombes Valley in November and 200 at Gothersley on December 11th.

W. Mid Breeding reported from Four Oaks, King's Norton, Norton/Wollaston area, Rushall Manor (adjacent to Park Lime Pits), Valley Park (at least eight pairs), south Walsall and Winterbourne in Edgbaston. Apart from 300 near Bradnock's Marsh on December 4th, flock size was down this year. The largest included 40 at Minworth SF on April 28th, 35 over Wyken Slough on October 7th, more than 70 over Valley Park on 12th and 46 in Sandwell Valley on November 6th. Reported as being a permanent resident at Edgbaston Res. these days (cf. 1985 when a series of visits failed to produce a single record).

Rook *Corvus frugilegus*

Warks At Sych Wood 77 nests were counted (cf. 60 in 1993) of which seven were on nearby pylons. Six pairs nested in the heronry at Coombe; the first time in the park for some years. Eight pairs occupied a recently established rookery near Water Orton. The largest flocks were of 200 at Chesterton, Hatton, Lawford Heath and Whatcote, 300 at Hartshill and Ilmington and 500 over Ladywalk.

Worcs Rookery counts included 20 at Doddinghill Farm, 48 at Hewell Grange, 50 at Hill Top, 30 at Lellow Coppice, 15 at Rochford House and 43 near Lower Rochford. The larger concentrations were 100 at Trench Wood on May 14th, 200 at Oddingley on June 11th, 300 at Throckmorton on July 7th and 200 at Westwood on October 23rd.

Staffs Reported rookeries included 18 at Brickley Wood, 46 at Coombes Valley, 17 at Keele Services and 15 at Sturbridge. The only flocks recorded were of 250 at Whitemoor Hay on January 24th, 165 at Beech on August 26th and 50 at Ashwood on October 4th. Large communal night roosts shared with other corvids were reported from Beaudesert Park (Cannock Chase) and

Bunkers Hill Wood (Whittington SF), the latter being a traditional one.

W Mid More breeding information was received this year. Counts of nests at small rookeries came from: Balsall Common (11), Barston SF (13), Minworth SF (15), Norton Road, Pelsall (five), Pelsall Common (13), Potter's Green, Coventry (seven), Temple Balsall (25 in two colonies) and Valley Park (four at the traditional site and at least 15 more close to the southern edge of the Park). Larger rookeries estimated at 80-100 nests were reported at Meriden and Gibbet Hill (south Coventry), with at least 45 in Sandwell Valley. Both the small rookeries at Broad Street (Wolverhampton) and Henley Green (Coventry) appeared to be abandoned. The largest flocks reported were of 90 at Cuckoo's Nook on January 12th, 80 in Sandwell Valley on February 10th, 60 in Valley Park on 19th, 50 at Wyken Slough on November 7th and 100 at Bradnock's Marsh on December 4th.

Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*

Warks The largest flocks were of 60 at Baginton Lagoons on August 9th and 62 at Ladywalk on September 3rd.

Worcs Largest flocks occurred in October, with 40 at Bittell on 9th, 93 in the North Hill/Worcester Beacon area on 26th and 30 at British Camp on 27th.

Staffs Counts included 140 at Bemmersley Tip on June 10th, 35 at Beech on August 26th, 39 on the shoreline at Belvide in October and 58 at Park Hall CP on November 1st.

W Mid An abundant resident, with counts of breeding pairs including two at Fens Pools, three on the Mons Hill CBC, five at Park Lime Pits, at least five in Valley Park and three at Wyken Slough. Large gatherings included 100 in Sandwell Valley on January 21st, 120 at Minworth SF on April 28th and 160 at Barston SF on May 5th. There were still enormous numbers roosting in Sutton Park, but unfortunately no specific counts were received.

Hooded Crow *C. c. cornix*

The first Regional record since April 1987 when there were two sightings.

Staffs One was seen at Cannock Tip on January 8th *DJA*.

Raven *Corvus corax*

Warks One was mobbed by six Carrion Crows whilst perched on the roof of Whitacre Heath Waterworks on June 10th *SMH*, with the same bird at nearby Maxstoke on 12th-13th *KS*. Two were watched playing over Ilmington Downs on October 16th *JJB*, before heading off into Gloucestershire. These two records are the first in the county since 1972.

Worcs A pair bred in the west of the county for the sixth successive year *SMW*. On the Malvern Hills a pair bred again just over the county boundary, rearing three young. One or two were seen frequently throughout the year along this range from North Hill south to Raggedstone Hill, with up to three in October *several observers* and six together over Happy Valley on September 21st *AFJ*. Other areas to have regular records of one's and two's were: Bredon Hill April 10th-October 30th; Bredon's Hardwick July 17th-December 12th, with three on October 10th and 27th; Wyre Forest (Dowles Brook and Callow Hill) March

19th-August 14th *several observers*, and Stoke Bliss, throughout the year *RM*. More isolated records came from: Island Coppice February 6th *RM*, Bines Coppice (pair) April 23rd *RM*, Aston Mill April 29th *SMW*, Stoke Hill (pair) July 24th *RM*, Wissetts Wood (one or two) August 13th *RM*, Kyre Green (one or two) August 27th *RM*, The Knapp (five) September 19th *JRH*, over the R. Severn between Hallow and Northwick September 20th *IGC*, Crowle on October 8th *KHT*, Croome Park on November 6th *MJI*, Woodstock Bower (two) on November 25th *RM*, near Fladbury (eight) on December 13th *PFW*, and lastly two at both the Abberley Hills and Trimpley Res. on December 18th *BW*.

Staffs On the Sheepwalks (Enville), two were seen on January 7th *MDJ*, 22nd *KVC* and October 30th, with one on December 18th *DAE*, *MJH*, *RH*. Two were seen at Tittesworth on February 27th and singles on May 23rd and October 1st *PH*, *JO*, *PAW*. Other singles were seen at Himley Hall on March 5th *KVC*, Beech on April 16th *PJ*, Orchard Common on May 22nd *KVC* and Knotbury on July 30th *PJ*.

Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

Warks There were no roosts at Brandon this year. Some big flocks were noted including 2000 at Lawford Heath Tip on February 11th, 1000 at Draycote on March 1st and 500 at Wellesbourne Airfield on October 17th.

Worcs The largest flocks reported consisted of 2500 at Throckmorton on February 2nd, 2000 at Droitwich on March 1st and 1500 flying south over Upton Warren on July 6th. In the autumn, there were up to 1000 at Throckmorton in October/November, with 700 at both Bredon's Hardwick on October 30th and Westwood on November 3rd.

Staffs Large roosts were reported from: Betley Mere, 300 on July 27th increased to a peak of 3000 on September 6th; Coombes Valley, a peak of 2150 during October; and Hanley Festival Park, 2500 on October 21st. Elsewhere, other largish flocks included 300 at Codsall during September, 600 at Park Hall CP on November 1st and 900 at Caverswall on November 26th.

W Mid Again very little information, with only six record cards received. About the only breeding comment was that it was "continuing to thrive" in Valley Park, while the only flocks reported consisted of 300 on playing fields in Aldridge on September 3rd and 500 at Park Lime Pits on October 21st. Visible migration was noted on some days from late September until mid November at Wyken Slough, the largest counts being 500 moving north-west on October 3rd and 620 south-west on November 3rd, both in ninety minute periods. A semi-albinotic individual was in Valley Park on April 28th, May 7th and September 20th.

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Warks The only flock noted was one of 30 regularly present at Brandon Nature Centre during the second half of the year. Would observers please record all flocks in future as there is some concern about a decline.

Worcs The largest flock was 100 near Upper Bittell on August 18th.

Staffs Under-recorded. Apparently no change in status.

W Mid Nine territories located on the CBC plot at Mons Hill was an improvement over 1993, when there were only three. No other comparative data was received. In the Coventry suburbs it was noted as being very scarce as a breeding bird in areas of modern housing, due presumably to the lack of suitable nesting sites. Again there were no large winter flocks reported, and at other times of year only 80 at Sheepwash UP on August 8th and 30 on Barr Common on 31st were worth noting. More data would be most welcome on what seems to be a declining species.

Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Warks Breeding was proved or suspected at: Arley STW, Baginton Lagoons, Brailes, Brandon, Chesterton, Corley, Cotton, Dosthill, Elmhurst Farm, Hampton Lucy, Hartshill SF, Hurley STW, Ladbroke, Priors Marston, Walton and Water Orton. There was apparently no more than four pairs at any one site. Winter flocks were also on the low side with the only double figure counts being: 30 at Baginton Lagoons, 20 at Chesterton, 25 at Curdworth, 20 at Harbury, 25 at Hatton, 30 at Marston, 12 at Middleton, ten at Ratley, 22 in a Southam garden and 12 at Upper Radbourn.

Worcs Breeding records came from: Lower Cowsden, Lower Rochford, Newnham Bridge, Peopleton, Tardebigge and Upper Bittell. Also present in the breeding season at: Bishampton Vale Pool, Red Hall Farm (Broome), Cakebowl, Kempsey, King's Norton GC (Wythall), Oddingley, Stoke Bliss and Upton Snodsbury. The largest flocks were seen at Peopleton, with 60 on January 29th and 45 on April 16th. Otherwise, only 15 near Kyre Green on August 27th, 15 at Throckmorton on November 10th and 20 at Offerton on December 12th.

Staffs Fewer reports received this year. The only evidence of breeding referred to two pairs at both Codsall STW and Coven Heath STW. No post-breeding flocks were noted at Belvide this year, where generally it was reported as being a poor year with a maximum of only five on September 2nd. During January and February there were flocks of 50 at Ashwood, 100 at Cotes Heath, 30 at Himley Hall, 40 at Tamworth and 30 at Whitemoor Hay. The only later concentration was 100 at Blithfield on November 6th. A few reports were received of birds coming to feed with finches in gardens during the winter months.

W Mid Again the only breeding records concerned a single pair at Park Lime Pits and several pairs in Sandwell Valley. In addition, one or two pairs may have nested at Minworth SF. Singles in the Bartley area during late April, at Cinder Bank on April 28th and at Bradnock's Marsh on May 12th may point to nesting in these districts. Early in the year around Aldridge, a good-sized flock of 52 was counted on January 30th, but another observer at Bosty Lane saw only one in this area all year (on April 9th) and commented that it had virtually disappeared due to the lack of cereal production. It was more frequent in the autumn, with small flocks of 18 at Park Lime Pits on September 7th, 10-12 in the Dorridge/Hockley Heath area in early October, ten at Wyken Slough on October 11th, 13 in Aldridge on November 1st, four near Hayhead Wood on 6th and 30 in Sandwell Valley on December 30th.

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Several large flocks appeared during January and February.

- Warks** Five pairs bred at both Alvecote and Ladywalk. Two very large flocks were noted in January, with 450 at Butlers End and 500 at Tysoe. Surprisingly these are the largest published flocks in the county since 1965! Other winter flocks included maxima of 60 at Alvecote, 150 at Baddesley Clinton, 100 at Bidford-on-Avon, 70 at Coombe and Gaydon, 50 at Hurley, 80 at Jubilee Pools and 50 at Ladywalk. Autumn passage was noted over Ilmington Downs, where on October 16th 180 flew south-west in ninety minutes.
- Worcs** Ten pairs in the breeding season at Shortwood Roughs was a slight decrease (cf. 13 in 1993), while the Malvern Hills population showed a small increase. Similar numbers to last year were noted on autumn passage moving west through Happy Valley, with peaks of 60 on October 28th and 90 on November 6th. At Walton Hill (Clent), 64 moved south-west in two hours on October 8th. The largest concentrations occurred in winter, with the best being 500 near Island Pool on January 7th and 700 on February 25th, 700 at Blakedown on January 9th, 300 at Strensham Lagoons on 16th and 360 at Offerton on December 26th.
- Staffs** There were 88 breeding pairs at Coombes Valley (cf. 86 in 1993) and 26 pairs at Belvide (cf. 15 in 1993). The largest flocks reported consisted of 200 at Himley Hall on January 6th, 600 at Cotes Heath on 7th, 200 at Baggeridge CP on March 6th, 50 at Sheepwalks on 10th and 95 at Beech on September 27th.
- W Mids** Breeding birds noted at Bartley (apparently "common"), Mons Hill CBC (three territories, cf. five in 1993), Park Lime Pits (probably two pairs), Sandwell Valley, Sutton Park, Valley Park (numbers appeared stable) and Wyken Slough (six pairs). Visible migration occurred at Wyken Slough during the period October 7th-November 15th, although in greatly reduced numbers compared with recent years. Up to 15 per hour were generally recorded here moving mainly west or south-west, with a peak rate of 30 per hour on November 11th. The only flocks recorded were of over 30 grounded in fog at Wyken Slough on October 15th and 100 in Sandwell Valley on December 3rd, while 46 were counted along Valley Park on December 18th.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Average: October 10th (59) – April 18th (58)

Good numbers remained in the Region during the early months with some staying into the second half of April. Four dallied at Belvide until May 1st, with a very late bird at Avon Dassett on 22nd. This beats the previous latest date (May 12th 1973 and 1981) by ten days. The first of the autumn was seen at Happy Valley on September 30th, but few others turned up until the main arrival in mid-October. It remained generally scarce although several flocks appeared in early December.

- Warks** The vast majority of records came from the first quarter, when up to four were seen at 19 localities spread throughout the county. During the first couple of months there were up to 33 regularly at Butlers End, 30 at Baddesley Clinton and 16 at Tysoe. Spring influxes brought maxima of 45 at The Somers on

April 6th, 30 at Hartshill Hayes on 13th and 12 at Shustoke during mid-month. A very late bird was at Avon Dassett on May 22nd *BOS*. By contrast autumn brought only a handful of singletons, but up to three were present at both Avon Dassett and Ilmington Downs and there was a peak of ten roosting at Coombe on November 5th.

Worcs Recorded at 13 localities during the first winter period, mainly in very small numbers. However there were several decent sized flocks around, with peaks of 200 at Blakedown on January 2nd, 300 in stubble at Island Pool on February 25th, 40 at Axborough on 26th and 50 in a mixed finch flock at Severn Stoke during most of March. Spring passage birds included one in Arley Wood on April 11th, two at Westwood from 14th-16th, with three at Stone and six at Wilden also on 16th. Autumn passage through Happy Valley was recorded from September 30th-November 2nd with a peak of 14 on October 24th. Also recorded in a further 14 localities from October to early December, but in generally very small numbers. The only sites to hold five or more were: Bredon Hill, six on October 18th, 12 on 30th and seven on November 5th; Bishampton Vale Pool, five on November 4th; and Westwood, a maximum of 24 on November 5th.

Staffs Reported from 25 sites, the largest flocks being up to 500 at Cotes Heath on January 8th, 50 at Stourton on 16th, 100 at Whittington on February 5th, 50 at Baggeridge CP on April 14th and 300 at Little Wyrley on December 1st. Up to six came regularly to the feeding station at Belvide during April, with four as late as May 1st.

W Mid Another poor year. Early in the year the only records concerned one's and two's which visited gardens in Aldridge, Erdington, Four Oaks and Hayley Green. One was seen in Valley Park on April 19th. Autumn records were a little more numerous and widespread, but still involved only very small numbers with a maximum of six in Sandwell Valley on November 5th, apart from a quite unexpected flock of 300 at Fishley on December 1st and up to 30 in a south Coventry garden later that month. Other records came from Netherton Hill, Sutton Park, Valley Park and Wyken Slough, with garden records from Erdington, Four Oaks, Shirley and south Walsall.

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

The enormous flock at Cotes Heath which fed with hundreds of Chaffinches, Linnets and Bramblings must have been an impressive sight; indeed it seems to have been the largest feeding flock ever to have been recorded in the Region, although several roosts have previously reached 1000.

Warks By far the largest flock was of 250 in a stubble field at Tysoe on January 6th. Other maxima included 35 at Alvecote, 50 at Brandon, 100 at Butlers End, 40 at Corley and 30 at Ladywalk.

Worcs No breeding data reported. The largest congregations were 200 at Blakedown on January 9th, 55 at Stoke Bliss on April 15th, 60 at Oakley Pool on August 14th, 115 at Upper Bittell on 18th, 100 at Tibberton on 27th and 65 on Bredon Hill on October 12th.

Staffs Widely reported from throughout the county, particularly from gardens where small flocks regularly frequented feeding stations. The only large flock

reported was at Cotes Heath, where 600 on January 2nd had increased to 1000 on 7th-8th. Otherwise the largest congregations comprised 50 at Belvide on September 18th, 80 at Trentham Gardens on November 22nd and 65 at Keele on 26th.

W Mid Breeding records received only from Bartley, Mons Hill CBC (two territories, as in 1993), Valley Park and Wyken Slough (five pairs). The only notable count was of 145 roosting in Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) near Powell's Pool, Sutton Park on November 26th.

Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*

Warks Thought to be increasing as a breeding species in some parts of the county. Most flocks were as usual noted during August-October, with maxima of 80 at Baginton Lagoons, 40 at Brandon, 40 at Butlers Marston, 100 at Draycote and 50 at Ilmington Downs. The only noteworthy winter counts involved 51 near Redditch and 60 at Wood End, with 80 at BAD Kineton on November 21st.

Worcs Notable flocks included 50 at Larford on January 8th, 100 near Island Pool on February 25th, 100 at Wilden on April 3rd, 110 at Grimley on August 28th, 75 at Holt GP on September 18th and 50 at Upton Warren on 23rd.

Staffs Monthly maxima at Westport:

J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
8	12	12	10	10	5	3	20	2	35	12	8

Reports came from throughout the county. Three pairs bred at both Coombes Valley and Doxey. The largest flocks reported were of 50 at Leek STW on August 23rd, 46 at Belvide on September 10th, 40 at Chasewater on 11th and 80 at Tittesworth on 13th.

W Mid Four pairs bred at Wyken Slough (cf. six in 1993). Breeding records also came from Bartley, Sandwell Valley and Sheepwash UP. It was regularly reported around Birmingham city centre during the breeding season. Largest flocks consisted of 55 at Wyken Slough on August 27th and again during October, 35 in Valley Park during early September, 36 at Park Lime Pits on September 11th and 35 at Woodshires Green on November 28th. Smaller parties of less than 30 were noted at five other localities. Several records were received of birds coming to garden nut feeders.

Siskin *Carduelis spinus*

Numbers generally below average at both ends of the year.

Warks Two interesting summer records again suggested the possible presence of breeding birds; three were seen at Compton Verney on May 15th and two in a Rugby garden on July 16th. Numbers were rather low during the first quarter with the only notable counts being 20 at Coombe and Ladywalk, 25 at Close Wood, 73 at BAD Kineton and 60 at Packington. The species was more numerous during the autumn, with a further influx at several sites in December. Maxima included 25 at Astley and Coombe, 35 at Kineton, 40 at Shustoke, 50 at Brandon, Kingsbury and Ladywalk, with 60 again at Packington.

Worcs Much scarcer than for some years. Reported from 18 localities in the first

quarter, with the only sizeable flocks being 40 at Hanley Child and 50 in Coldridge Wood on February 13th and 100 at the latter on March 3rd. Autumn records came from only ten sites, with larger flocks present at: Happy Valley, 55 on September 17th and 60 on 18th; Upton Warren, 30 on September 24th, 50 on October 8th and 80 on December 1st; Stoke Bliss, 40 on November 5th; and Fladbury, 37 on December 13th.

Staffs Birds were present at Loggerheads throughout the summer and may have bred in the area. Outside the breeding season the largest flock was at Westport, where numbers peaked at 210 in December. Other flocks tended to be smaller than usual, with counts of 50 at Baggeridge CP in January, 50 in suburban Newcastle on February 11th, 72 at Elford GP on October 8th, 50 at Belvide in November and 60 at Pendeford Mill NR in December. Birds coming to garden feeding stations were reported from eight widespread localities.

W Mid Highest counts in the first winter period comprised 40 at Netherton Hill on January 1st, 30 at Sheepwash UP on 9th, two flocks totalling 80 in Sutton Park on 11th and 33 in a Four Oaks garden on 23rd. Autumn flocks were rather smaller, with peak counts of 30 in Valley Park during October/November, 30 in Shirley gardens on November 13th, 25 at Bradnock's Marsh on 16th, 24 at Park Lime Pits on 30th and 25 in Sandwell Valley on December 31st. Smaller parties were recorded at a further 23 widespread localities, the majority referring yet again to garden observations.

Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*

The Kingsbury flock was one of the largest ever recorded in the Region, only beaten by the 1500 at Draycote in December 1991.

Warks Thought to be increasing in some districts (in contrast to the national situation), due perhaps to the spread of set-a-side fields which are used for winter feeding. In support of this, a couple of excellent-sized flocks were found in autumn with maxima of at least 1250 at Kingsbury Rifle Ranges on October 1st and up to 450 at Lawford Heath later in the month. Other good-sized flocks occurred mainly during the winter months, with peaks of 100 at Baginton, Draycote and Maxstoke, 120 at Southam, 150 at Ilmington and Wilmcote, and 200 at Whitestone.

Worcs Counts of breeding pairs came from: Castlemorton Common (13), Church Lench Pool (two), Hollybed Common (two), between Oddingley and Crowle Green (two) and Old Hills (11). Few large flocks were reported, the biggest being 100 at both Pinvin on February 1st and Church Lench on 20th; with 130 on October 3rd and 120 on November 6th at Bittell and 100 at Ryall on December 6th.

Staffs The only breeding record received referred to a pair in Sherbrook Valley, Cannock Chase. More large flocks were reported this year, with up to 200 at Rawbones Meadows, 400 at Cotes Heath on January 3rd, 200 at Bishton on 16th, 100 at Seven Springs on 30th, 110 at Whitemoor Hay on February 15th, 80 at Kingswood on 20th, 150 at Baggeridge on March 6th, 80 at Chase-water on April 15th, 100 at Belvide on July 28th and 200 at Tittesworth on September 26th.

W Mid A good sized colony of 20-40 pairs were reported breeding on Netherton Hill (where there is much gorse). Other breeding season records came only from Mons Hill, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP (one or two pairs), Sutton Park and Wyken Slough (two pairs). Flock size seems to be generally down this year, perhaps indicating a continuing decline. These include up to 70 in the Park Lime Pits area during the early months, 100 in Sandwell Valley on February 13th and 20 at Minworth SF on April 28th. In the autumn there were 50 at Park Lime Pits on October 4th, 60 in Dunstall Park on 18th, over 70 in Sutton Park during October-November, 50 at Woodshires Green on November 28th and a peak of 30 roosting at Wyken Slough on December 30th (cf. the peak here in 1993 was 105). There were also 20-30 at Sheepwash UP in autumn/winter, which was said to be only a third of the total two or three years ago.

Twite *Carduelis flavirostris*

Staffs A survey of summering birds on the North Staffs Moors on May 31st produced an estimate of at least 80 pairs *AH*. This compares with counts of 88 pairs in 1992 and 95 in 1985, suggesting a slight decline. More specifically in this area, breeding records were received from Adders Green and the Roaches *AH*, while at Knotbury up to six were seen on several dates during May-July *NC, KVC, PJ*. On August 23rd a flock of up to 40 were feeding on thistles in the same area *PJ*. The only reports from below the moors involved singles at Tittesworth on July 27th and November 5th *PAW*, and at Barton GP on November 13th *ICW, MY*.

Redpoll *Carduelis flammea cabaret*

Numbers continue to decline, with the breeding range apparently contracting northwards.

Warks May not have bred in the county this year, continuing its marked decline. The only records that could be attributed to a possible presence involved a pair on territory at The Somers until mid-May which subsequently disappeared, and a single at Coombe on May 15th. Only noted at 19 sites during the winter months, with most involving parties of 15 or less. The larger counts in the first quarter included maxima of 30 regularly at Ladywalk, 30 at Whitestone on January 21st, 22 at Rough Hill Wood on February 8th, 60 at Alvecote on April 3rd and 20 at The Somers on 6th. Autumn peaks included 30 at Brandon on October 30th, 70 at Ladywalk on November 4th, 40 in Close Wood on 14th and 18 at Coton on 18th.

Worcs Again there were no signs of breeding in the county. Early in the year birds were only recorded at seven sites, with the largest parties being 40 at Church Lench on January 9th, 40 at Ribbesford on April 10th and 28 at Shortwood Roughts on 17th. More were seen in autumn, with records coming from 14 localities. The largest parties were 20 moving south-west over Walton Hill on October 8th, 25 in Happy Valley on 15th, 60 at Wilden on December 12th and 25 at Crowle Green on 25th.

Staffs A pair bred at Coombes Valley, while another pair attempted to breed at Belvide during May but were unsuccessful. Singing males were also present

on several parts of Cannock Chase during the breeding season as well as in the north of the county at Five Clouds, Swallow Moss and Tittesworth. Cannock Chase held the largest flocks during the first quarter, with over 300 at Brocton Coppice on January 3rd, 400 in two flocks at the Punchbowl on 22nd, 62 at Shoal Hill on February 20th and 100 at Seven Springs on March 13th. The largest flock elsewhere was of 58 at Coombes Valley during April. A flock of 50 appeared at Tittesworth as early as July 10th, but later counts were on the low side with 50 at Chasewater on October 2nd, and maxima of 22 at Westport in November and 30 at Belvide on December 14th.

W Mid

Bred successfully again at Woodshires Green, with song heard at Wyken Slough but no proof of breeding. Also noted in the breeding season on Mons Hill and sporadically in Valley Park. In the early part of the year, 15 in Valley Park on January 8th, 25 in Saltwells Wood on 24th, 16 at Bradnock's Marsh on 31st, 15 at Marston Green on February 6th, 60 at Longmoor Pool on March 5th and 50 at Bracebridge Pool on 25th (both Sutton Park), and 30 in Sandwell Valley on April 23rd were the highest counts. The species appeared to be scarcer in the autumn/winter with 30 at Sheepwash UP on November 2nd and 40 in Sandwell Valley on 28th being the only notable flocks. Smaller numbers at eight further sites.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Warks

More records than for many years. A very vocal pair seen in Hay Wood on March 20th were unfortunately, given the date, not relocated. More usual were late spring and summer records of 12 at Bentley Park on May 1st, four at Sperrall Park on 31st, four over Avon Dasset on June 12th and a juvenile at Newbold Comyn on August 21st. Three flew north-east over Ilmington Downs on October 25th.

Worcs

Two areas held flocks early in the year. The Arley/Coldridge Woods had totals of 35 on January 9th, 21 on 13th, 20 on 15th, 17 on February 13th and six on 20th. In the Wyre Forest 12 were seen on January 19th and 35 on February 12th, both along the Dowles Brook. Small numbers remained in the forest into spring and evidently breeding occurred, as a pair were watched courtship feeding in one locality on April 27th and a pair with juveniles were along Dowles Brook on May 4th. In this general area, there were parties of 14 on April 24th and six on May 1st, while three were at Callow Hill on May 2nd. Elsewhere in the county, there were two on Bredon Hill on April 24th, four here on 30th and a pair at Kemerton on May 29th. A small party was at Garmsley on June 12th, with two flying south-west over Stoke Bliss on 25th, two west over Eastham and two at Timberhonger on July 12th, a few south-east over Wissets Wood on August 13th, with one at Stoke Bliss and 15 in Eymore Wood on 28th. In October, one flew through Happy Valley on 15th, followed by two more on 24th.

Staffs

Reports came from several parts of Cannock Chase during spring and summer. Twenty were seen at Horse Pasture Pool on March 9th, ten at Hayhead Warren on April 24th, 30 at the Forest HQ. on 26th, a pair at Seven Springs on 29th, with ten there on June 12th and finally up to six were in the Sherbrook Valley area. Elsewhere, four were seen on Highgate Common on

March 26th; while in July, seven flew over Stansley Wood (Blithfield) on 3rd, followed by three heading south-west on 10th.

W. Mid Five flew south over Netherton Hill on May 14th and several flew north-east over Woodgate Valley on August 21st.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*



Bullfinch (Phil Jones)

- Warks* Three pairs probably bred at both Alvecote and Draycote. Parties of up to eight were noted at Brandon and Ladywalk.
- Worcs* Few records received, with breeding only reported at Southcrest Wood (Red-ditch), between Tibberton and Oddingley, and at Upton Warren. The largest parties were of only five at Tibberton on January 9th and eight in Happy Valley on October 10th.
- Staffs* Very few reports. Five pairs bred at Coombes Valley (cf. six in 1993). There was no breeding at Belvide this year, though there were regular sightings here throughout the year and two or three pairs brought their broods in to feed from elsewhere. Nine at Westport on February 5th and 12th was the largest reported party.
- W Mid* Reported from 20 localities, with breeding confirmed or suspected at: Allesley, Bartley, Cutler's Rough (Frankley), Hayhead Wood, Minworth SF, Mons Hill CBC (three territories, cf. two in 1993), Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Valley Park (at least five pairs), Woodshires Green and Wyken Slough (five pairs, cf. four in 1993, three in 1992). The largest count

was again at Wyken Slough, where a flock feeding on the seeds of Trifid Bur-marigold (*Bidens tripartita*) peaked at 23 on November 7th. The next best was 11 at Fens pools on December 30th.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

Warks One seen in beech trees at Ilmington Downs on October 16th.

Worcs Birds were present early in the year at Jubilee Gardens, Bewdley; with three reported on January 30th, one on February 5th, six on 6th and eight on 19th. The only other records received were of singles over Callow Hill on April 10th and in a Malvern Wells garden on June 21st.

Staffs Another poor year. The only records came from the Lower Avenue, Chilling-ton Park. Here, following a single female on March 3rd, one or two birds were present from 14th-20th and one again on 31st.

1993 Addendum

Warks One flew over Welches Meadow, Leamington Spa on October 23rd.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

The 12th Regional record, the last being at Chasewater in October 1987.

1993 Addendum

Staffs One was seen and heard briefly at Belvide on November 2nd *JKH*.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

No records received. This was the first blank year since 1980, which in turn was the first since 1958.

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Warks The few breeding season counts included six pairs at Alvecote, five at Bidford-on-Avon, two at Coleshill SF and five at The Somers. Most reported flocks occurred during the first quarter, with maxima of 100 at Alvecote, 20 at Aston Cantlow, 30 roosting at Brandon, 25 at Knightcote, 50 at Maxstoke, 35 at Radway, 44 at Salford Priors and 120 at Whitestone (Nuneaton). In autumn there were 20 at Baginton Lagoons and 52 at Maxstoke, while 26 at Cub- ington on November 6th had built up to a very good 210 by December 27th.

Worcs Counts of singing males along the Malverns and adjacent commons apparently showed a continuing downward trend. The only other breeding season counts were of three pairs on the east side of Tibberton and three singing males along the Worcs Canal from Tardebigge-Stoke Pound. It was also recorded at 18 other localities, with the largest flocks being 48 at Westmancote on February 10th, 75 at Stoke Bliss on 17th and 150 at Church Lench on November 20th.

Staffs Four pairs bred at Coombes Valley (cf. six in 1993), with three pairs around Belvide. Very few flocks were reported, the largest being 25 at Chasewater on January 1st, 20 at Lawneswood on February 10th, 42 at Elford on March 5th, 20 at Swindon on 11th, 21 at Doxey on 26th and 40 at Blithfield on April 5th.

W Mid Breeding records were received only from Park Lime Pits (probably five pairs), Sandwell Valley and Sutton Park (at least four territories in the north-

east corner), with only one pair still present in Valley Park hut no proof of brooding. There were no birds in the breeding season at Wyken Slough for the first time (cf. three pairs in 1992). Other summer records came mainly from rural areas with birds noted at Balsall Common, Bradnock's Marsh, Marston Green, Meriden and Temple Balsall. 30 in fields off Bosty Lane, Aldridge from January-March and 20 in Sandwell Valley on February 3rd were the only two flocks of any note, re-emphasizing a probable continued decline.

Little Bunting *Emberiza pusilla*

Only the second and third Regional records of this tiny north Eurasian bunting, the first being as long ago as October 1902 when a male was trapped at Pailton, Warks. Most traditionally appear in Britain from September-November but in recent years an increasing number have been seen in spring or winter, the latter often overwintering in Reed Bunting flocks.

Worcs A male was seen well as it fed in a weedy field and sang from a dead elm tree near Defford on May 25th-26th *SB, JRH*.

A small slight bunting, superficially resembling a female Reed Bunting though only the size of a Linnet. Streaked brown plumage with chestnut crown and cheeks, the latter bordered above and below by prominent supercilia and malar/sub-moustachial stripes. Heavily streaked flanks and breast with pale/white underparts. Small bill. Song was short though frequent and melodic.

1992 Addendum

Staffs One watched at Kingswood Bank, Trentham Gardens on November 8th *ST*.

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*

Warks Breeding season pairs reported from: Alvecote (six), BAD Kineton (12), Bidford-on-Avon (four), Brandon (six), Coleshill SF (four), Curdworth SF (three), Eathorpe (three), Ladywalk (19), Lighthorne Quarry (three), Napton Res. (three) and The Somers (two). Singles were noted at a number of other sites. Winter flocks were again rather scarce, with 30 roosting at Brandon in January, 75 at Alvecote in February and up to 15 at both Baginton Lagoons and Lawford Heath during the autumn.

Worcs Bred at Kemerton, Peopleton and Tibberton, with further territories at: Hewell Park Lake (three), Ipsley Alders (two), Strensham Lagoons (six), the Worcs Canal from Tardebigge-Stoke Pound and Upper Bittell. The largest flocks were of 18 at Oakley Pool on August 18th and 20 at Holt on November 5th.

Staffs A total of 14 pairs bred at Belvide (cf. ten territories in 1993). At Blithfield, four singing males were located on May 13th with one nest found. At Betley Mere, 14 adults and six juveniles were trapped, compared to 15 adults and nine juveniles in 1993. In addition, a noticeable passage was noted here on calm early mornings during September/October. Birds were attracted down to a (licensed) tape recording of the song and often appeared to be travelling in pairs. The only notable count involved a large roost in *Phragmites* at Belvide which peaked at 120 on January 23rd, with numbers subsequently declining probably due to rising water levels.

W Mid Breeding season territories reported from: Balsall Common, Barston SF (two), Bradnock's Marsh (six), Grand Union Canal (Solihull), Hillfield Park,

Minworth SF (14), Norton Green STW, Park Lime Pits, Sandwell Valley, Sheepwash UP, Stubber's Green, Sutton Park, Valley Park (at least five), West Bromwich walkway and Wyken Slough (six). Regular winter records came from a south Walsall garden, with a peak of eight on February 26th.

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

- Warks** Singing males present during the breeding season at: Bidford-on-Avon, Bretford, Charlecote, Curdworth, Eathorpe, Grendon, Newbold Pacey, Poolfields, Priors Marston, Snitterfield, Wellesbourne and Wishaw, but not more than four reported at any of these. Winter flocks included 14 at Bidford, 25 at Lawford Heath, 40 at Whitestone (Nuneaton) and 30 at Wiggins Hill. Singles were reported at Draycote in May, November and December where the species is uncommon.
- Worcs** Recorded from 22 localities. Two pairs bred at Little Comberton, with singing males at: Astley Cross, Bredon's Hardwick, Broome, Hartlebury/Rushock area (five), Holt Heath, Kempsey (seven), Littleworth, Peopleton, Ryall (five) and Upton Warren (four). Small flocks were seen at a number of these sites, with peaks of 16 at Kempsey on January 1st, 25 at Harvington on 23rd, 13 at Bredon's Hardwick on March 25th, 19 at Peopleton on the odd date of May 21st, eight at Throckmorton on October 16th, 29 at Naunton Beauchamp and 14 at Holt on November 5th, 20 at Little Comberton on 20th and 16 at Ryall on December 6th.
- Staffs** A total of 43 singing males were reported, with records coming from Belvide, Elford, Enville area, Halfpenny Green, Kings Bromley, Pattington, Shebdon, Smestow Gate, Stapenhill, Swindon and Whitemoor Hay. At Forge Lane, Little Aston it was absent after several successful years, probably owing to the conversion of its favoured arable fields into a new golf course. The only flock reported was of 45 at Whitemoor Hay on November 26th.
- W.Mid** Singing males were reported from: Pedmore (two), the Hillwood Common/Watford Gap area of Sutton Coldfield (two or three) and Wiggins Hill/Wishaw area (four or five). Appears to be just hanging on in the county.

Exotica

The sequence followed and the nomenclature used in this section is that advocated by Howard and Moore (1991: A Complete Checklist of the Birds of the World). Species in category D of the BOURC British and Irish list are indicated: (D1, possible vagrants) or (D4, feral breeding species, not yet fully established).

White-faced Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna viduata*

Lakes and rivers throughout tropical America and Africa.

- Warks** One at Brandon on April 22nd.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus*

Lakes in Australia and (introduced) New Zealand.

Warks The bird at Draycote from 1993 remained until at least January 20th. One at Kingsbury WP on March 22nd, may have been the bird later seen in Staffs.

Worcs One on floodwater at Grimley on December 10th.

Staffs One grazing with Mute Swans in the Elford/Whitemoor Hay area from March 29th-April 20th. A bird which visited Rickerscote on September 21st and Doxey on 25th was thought to have come from the JCB Rocester pools.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indica*

(D4). Breeds on high plateaux in central and southern Asia, wintering mainly in northern India.

Worcs The bird from 1993 was present throughout the year in the county, visiting Beckford, the R. Avon at Bredon, Bredon's Hardwick, Pirton, Upton Warren and Wilden.

W Mid Singles at Sheepwash UP on June 1st-3rd and Wyken Slough from November 24th-27th.

Ross's Goose *Anser rossii*

Breeds on tundra of central Arctic Canada, winters in western USA and Texas.

Staffs The regularly returning bird was seen again at Blithfield on September 21st, October 8th and December 31st.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys*

Forest pools in southern South America.

Warks One at Earlswood Lakes on August 14th-15th and again on September 1st.

Worcs One at Stourport Marina on June 24th.

Staffs The female at Chasewater was again present throughout the year, having first been seen in November 1992.

Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons*

Salt and freshwater habitats throughout Australasia.

Staffs A single bird at Blithfield on July 23rd and 31st.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

Mainly coastal wetlands in the West Indies, parts of South America and the Galapagos Is.

Warks Singles at Alvecote on May 14th and Draycote on July 24th.

Worcs Two at Wilden on August 27th, with at least one still present on September 11th.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa*

(D4) Forested wetlands in North America.

Warks A free-winged drake at Coombe from late August until the end of the year.

Staffs A drake was on the canal at Horninglow, Burton on January 4th, consorting with two Mallard.

W Mid One was along the Staffs and Worcs Canal in Valley Park from March 1st-8th and again on June 24th and 28th. A pair were in Branton Hill Quarry on March 19th.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

Semi-arid woodland and scrub in South and Central America, north to southern Texas and Arizona.

W Mid One in the Edgbaston Park/Winterbourne area during January and February.

Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*

Forests and lightly wooded land in northern and eastern Australia.

W Mid One at Sheepwash UP on September 2nd.

Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus*

Interior of Australia.

Warks One at Brandon on July 24th-25th.

Staffs An adult was flying around the car park at Westport for ten minutes on July 22nd.

W Mid One flew east over Park Lime Pits on March 14th.

Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans*

Wet coastal forests in eastern and south-eastern Australia.

Staffs One seen regularly in a Harpfields, Stoke-on-Trent garden from September 30th until late December.

Budgerigar *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Domesticated forms of a species widespread in Australia.

Staffs A blue-phase bird at Tittesworth on July 15th.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus*

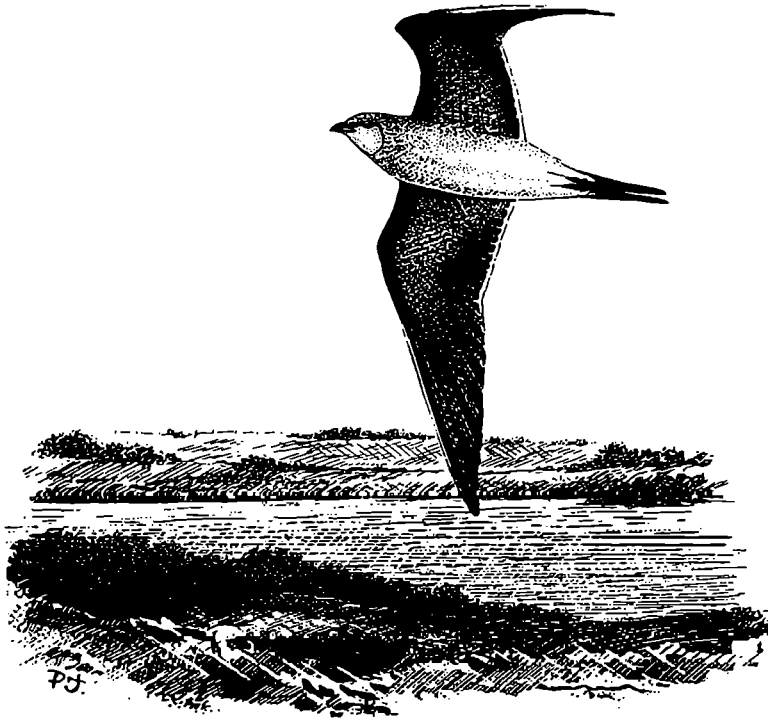
Lightly forested land in South America.

Staffs One in the Porthill area of Newcastle-under-Lyne regularly from April 17th-December 6th. A pair nested in most years in this area from 1983-91, though usually unsuccessfully.

Parakeet sp.

W Mid One heard calling over Erdington on July 7th, 9th and August 16th.

Short Notes



Collared Pratincole (Phil Jones)

The Worcestershire Collared Pratincole – a Regional first.

At about 14.10 hrs on May 4th I received a call from Dennis Green on the Birdline Midlands Hotline, who said that he had been watching a pratincole hawking around the new pit at Bredon's Hardwick since 13.00 hrs, but it was now resting on a gravel island. He thought that it was most likely a Collared Pratincole due to strongly contrasting upperwing plumage and a generally light sandy coloration. I told him to go back to the site and keep the bird under observation, while I made my way over by car.

Twenty-five minutes later, I had covered the 19 miles and found Mr Green standing by the five bar gate with his telescope trained on the bird. On being told it was still there I looked down his 'scope, which despite being rather old, plainly revealed a sandy-brown pratincole sitting at the back of the middle island. After five minutes of watching during which time the bird remained inactive, I decided to get closer. Climbing over the gate, I cautiously made my way down to a row of hawthorns alongside the pit from where I 'scoped the bird at about 120 yards distance. From here all the details which identified it specifically as Collared were noted, including bill colour, tail fork depth, general tones

to the upperparts and most important of all, the white trailing edge to the secondaries and the deep copper underwing coverts.

After broadcasting the news, birders were quick to arrive and in total probably at least 250 people saw the bird during the afternoon, including Keith Vinicombe of the BBRC.

The bird remained at the pit until 18.06 hrs, when it was seen to fly off west into Gloucestershire. Probably the same bird was then relocated near Hereford on May 20th.

An obvious pratincole in first-summer or non-breeding plumage, which spent most of its time resting on a flat gravel island but occasionally flew around with a characteristic semi-erratic hawking flight. Smaller than nearby Redshank, with low horizontal posture and short black legs and feet. Upperparts were generally sandy-brown but with contrasting dark brown-grey primaries. The secondaries had a sub-terminal grey bar together with a slim white trailing edge. The underwing coverts were deep copper-red which contrasted with the darker grey of the rest of the underwing. The bird had large dark eyes and a short plover-like bill, with the basal half being deep red and the distal half black. It had a clean cream-coloured throat, bordered by a very diffuse collar, which was certainly not a definite black line. Below this, a dirty sandy-brown band across the upper breast, with clean white lower breast, belly and undertail coverts. The tail was deeply forked and projected beyond the primary tips at rest. It was dark grey with slim white fringes on the outer tail feathers. In flight, the bird showed a prominent white rump.

Mr Green's prompt action at contacting Birdline Midlands has to be commended. He was not wholly sure about the bird's specific identity, but with my help the identity was clinched beyond all doubt. How many birders in the past have seen unusual or unidentified birds but not told anyone until too late, after which identification is not possible? I therefore urge all finders of potentially unusual birds in the Region to ring the hotline (01905-754154). A member of staff will always be available to check out any promising sighting.

Steve Whitehouse

Red-throated Pipit at Lawford Heath – the first for the Region.

Saturday October 22nd had seen Dave Scanlon and I spend a fairly wet uneventful day birding in Warwickshire. By mid-afternoon we were at Draycote debating whether to go home or try one last site. Our mind was made up by the rain showing signs of abating, so we plumped for Lawford Heath near Rugby.

We were aware that there was a very productive stubble field behind the tip and had previously obtained the permission of the site manager to birdwatch there. We set off across the field, flushing the usual Skylarks and Corn Buntings as we went. Half way across, we "kicked" up a small pipit which gave an explosive "sweeee" or "pseeee" as it flew over us. We both instantly recognised the call as being that of a Red-throated Pipit.

After flushing the bird once more, this time with a Meadow Pipit, we debated what to do next. We felt that we should try to get views of the bird on the ground, something which was proving almost impossible due to the length of the stubble. I therefore ran back to the car for my tripod, leaving Dave to relocate the bird. On my return we found it again, and I eventually managed to 'scope it as it ran away between lines of stubble. I noted the heavily streaked mantle with distinctive pale tramlines. In all we flushed it about four or five times and on each occasion it gave the diagnostic call.

In order to cause the bird minimum distress, we then left the site and went home to decide what to do about releasing the news. Complete suppression of the bird's presence was an unpalatable option which could only be justified in the most extreme circumstances. On the other hand, immediate release of the news to local and national birdlines would result in an unknown, but probably large, number of people attempting to gain access to this private site the following morning. It was decided to inform a small number of other observers and have them meet us at the site at dawn to see if the bird was still there and then take a decision about the feasibility of broadcasting the news.

Next morning, about a dozen birders gathered and the bird was quickly relocated. An impromptu discussion took place mid-field when it was decided that until permission could be obtained from the landowner, news of the bird would be kept off the birdlines and papers.

Over the next hour or so I located the farm which "owned" the land but then found that it had been leased by the owners of the tip; being a Sunday of course, they could not be contacted. In the meantime, the first trickle of other local birders had been arriving. Unfortunately the bird then became more flighty and was not seen, as far as I know, after mid-day.

Inevitably there was much disappointment amongst observers who either arrived late, or did not hear about it at all. The only crumb of comfort that I can offer is the thought that this species is probably overlooked, and that the chances of a repeat performance, hopefully at a more accessible site, must be quite good.

Richard Harbird

Ringling in 1994

Ringling returns received from ringers show a total of 73 species ringed within the WMBC area during 1994 of which only two were unusual species – Manx Shearwater and Cetti's Warbler.

The sightings of Mute Swans and Canada Geese listed in the report again illustrate the value of large coloured individually engraved Darvic leg rings, which can be read at a distance with binoculars. The birds did not have to be caught to make a positive identification and all ring numbers were read by members of the general public.

Longevity records are always most useful and 1994 provided some for the smaller birds with Reed Warblers aged 4.98 years and 3.10 years, a Sand Martin aged 3.2 years and a Reed Bunting six years old. The larger birds included a Canada Goose at 16.7 years of age, one at 17 years and a Jay from Brandon over 9.5 years old.

Few movements over 1000 kilometres were recorded and the Sand Martin's journey of 4223 kms to Senegal shows the importance of ringling in this area. The Blackbird movement to Sweden is a good example of a wintering bird returning to the continent to breed, but does the Norwegian recovery show an early return or indicate that the bird overwintered on the continent?

Reed and Sedge Warbler records illustrate general autumn migration movements very well, with many Midland birds being recorded on the south coast in July and August. Sand Martins also show similar movements. The Cetti's Warbler moving north is an interesting movement for this usually sedentary resident bird.

Normally we expect summer migrants to return and breed in the spring but the Black-cap recorded in Belgium in May 1994, even though its age at ringing indicated it had been hatched in "northern parts", was perhaps not returning to breed in 1994.

1994 was another good year for the long term ringing studies within the area. Ringing of Common Tern chicks at Kingsbury Water Park continued, the colony again providing a good number of chicks. The Grey Herons at Gailey also had an excellent breeding season and although the herony produced a record number of breeding pairs, there was no increase in the average brood size on the previous year.

Mute Swans also produced large numbers of cygnets and 271 were ringed within the south Staffordshire study area alone. This is the second consecutive season where over 250 cygnets have been ringed in that area. The paired population however decreased within the area; 1994 producing 129 pairs, a decrease of 2% on 1993.

And finally, as a rule the tits are not supposed to move very far but 1994 produced three exceptions with a Long-tailed Tit moving 27 kms, a Great Tit moving 44 kms and a Blue Tit moving a colossal 82 kms. Compared with true migrants the movements are small but considering the species involved they are quite considerable.

I would like to express by sincere thanks to the secretaries of the Brandon and Wychavon Ringing Groups, Dr C. D. T. Minton and Messers P. Bache, J. Cameron, D. Clifton, S. Graham, C. Griffiths, P. Ireland, J. A. Lawrence, B. Lowe, C. McShane, J. Mountfort and P. Shearwood for supplying the information for this Annual Report.

A E Coleman
Ringing Secretary

Selected List of Recoveries involving the WMBC Area

Entries are arranged by species and within species by recovery date. Ringing details are given on the first line and recovery details on the second. This report includes recoveries for 1994 and previously unpublished recoveries for earlier years. All foreign recoveries and movements of greater than 100 km (62.14 miles) are included. Treatment of movements of less than 100 km depends on the species involved.

Key:

Age at Ringing:

Pull *Pullus (nestling)*
Juv *Juvenile (young able to fly)*
1Y *Bird in its first year*
2Y *Bird in its second year*
Ad *Adult (at least one year old)*
Fg *Full grown (age uncertain)*

Sex:

M *Male*
F *Female*

Manner of Recovery:

v *Caught and released with ring*
+ *Shot or killed*
x *Found dead or dying*
vv *Ring read in the field*
? *Manner of recovery unknown*

Species	Ring No.	Age/Sex	Date	Place	Ringer Movement
Mute Swan					
	U2252	2Y F	26/10/91	Gailey (Staffs)	AEC
		w	30/07/94	Caemavon (Gwynedd)	154 kms

Species Ring No.	Age/Sea	Date	Place	Ringer Movement
U4796	Ad M	27/03/94	Tamworth (Staffs)	AEC
	vv	22/05/94	Slimbridge (Glos)	110 kms
Canada Goose				
	Ad	02/07/91	Harewood House (W Yorks)	GW
	vv	15/02/92	Harewood House (W Yorks)	0 kms
	vv	24/11/93	Sutton Park (W Mids)	120 kms
	vv	01/03/94	Sutton Park (W Mids)	-
5076387	Pull	25/06/77	Handsworth Park (W Mids)	CDTM
	x	08/04/94	Cannon Hill Park (W Mids)	7 kms
White TF	Ad	28/06/75	Aqualate Mere (Staffs)	-
	vv	29/06/92	Tipton (W Mids)	54 kms
Black-headed Gull				
EN91170	Ad	24/01/87	Majors Green (Worcs)	PI
	x	12/02/94	Waltham Abbey (Essex)	151 kms
ER27538	Ad	24/11/87	Majors Groom (Worcs)	PI
	x	16/02/94	Bacup (Lancs)	146 kms
EK56052	Juv	04/01/86	Majors Green (Worcs)	PI
	vv	24/05/89	Hvidovre, Denmark	-
	vv	02/04/94	Copenhagen, Denmark	-
Sand Martin				
H730170	Ad F	07/06/92	Chasewater (Staffs)	BS&M
	v	25/03/93	Parc National du Djoudj, Senegal	4223 kms
H982236	Juv M	05/09/92	Icklesham (Sussex)	RBRG
	v	17/07/93	Comets End (W Mids)	233 kms
J138275	Juv	17/07/93	Comets End (W Mids)	PI
	v	10/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	233 kms
J138259	Ad F	17/07/93	Comets End (W Mids)	PI
	v	17/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	233 kms
J138268	Juv	17/07/93	Comets End (W Mids)	PI
	v	17/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	233 kms
F479944	1Y	16/06/90	Saredon (Staffs)	BS&M
	v	25/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	271 kms
H981724	Juv M	13/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	RBRG
	v	18/06/94	Comets End (W Mids)	233 kms
J020411	Ad F	20/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	RBRG
	v	18/06/94	Comets End (W Mids)	233 kms
J024739	Juv M	11/09/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	RBRG
	v	18/06/94	Comets End (W Mids)	233 kms
J138239	Ad F	03/07/93	Comets End (W Mids)	PI
	v	21/07/94	Braakman, Zeeland, Netherlands	-
H000933	Ad M	28/06/92	Comets End (W Mids)	PI
	v	15/08/94	Stodmarsh (Kent)	231 kms
Swallow				
J408879	Pull	03/08/94	Wennington (Lancs)	NLRG
	v	02/09/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	123 kms
J288815	Juv	29/07/94	Warrington (Ches)	MFG
	v	21/09/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	42 kms

Species Ring No.	Age/Sex	Date	Place	Ringer Movement
Blackbird				
XK33977	2Y M	19/01/93	Brewood (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	x	20/02/94	Bremanger, Norway	1106 kms
RK76056	2Y F	14/03/94	Sandon (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	v	29/06/94	Skaraborg, Sweden	1155 kms
Cetti's Warbler				
J868157	Fg M	02/10/94	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	30/10/94	Cottam (Notts)	113 kms
Sedge Warbler				
J007469	Juv	16/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	<i>RRBG</i>
	v	28/05/94	Brandon (Warks)	219 kms
J261308	1Y	01/07/93	Deepmore Farm (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	v	23/07/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	219 kms
H986345	Juv	24/06/93	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	04/08/93	Icklesham (Sussex)	219 kms
J241384	Juv	16/08/93	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	16/07/94	Rutland Water (Leics)	61 kms
J389753	Juv	03/07/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	<i>JAL</i>
	v	27/07/94	Icklesham (Sussex)	314 kms
Reed Warbler				
H407657	Ad F	22/06/91	Nelson Bog (Glamorgan)	<i>GW</i>
	v	16/07/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	163 kms
H551846	Juv	08/07/92	Betley Mere (Staffs)	<i>JAL</i>
	v	19/07/94	Wirrel (Merseyside)	63 kms
F025294	Juv	29/07/89	Maer (Staffs)	<i>RES</i>
	v	23/07/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	10 kms
J332835	1Y	05/09/93	Windsor (Berks)	<i>RRG</i>
	v	23/07/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	215 kms
H887849	Juv F	24/07/93	Betley Mere (Staffs)	<i>JAL</i>
	v	30/07/94	Icklesham (Sussex)	314 kms
J542671	Juv	03/07/94	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	30/07/94	Tring (Herts)	79 kms
J317006	Pull	26/06/93	Hounslow (Gtr London)	<i>HRG</i>
	v	05/08/94	Hewell Grange (Worcs)	147 kms
J389904	Juv	10/08/94	Betley Mere (Staffs)	<i>JAL</i>
	v	26/08/94	Fellxstowe (Suffolk)	275 kms
J542781	Juv	30/06/94	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	30/08/94	Icklesham (Sussex)	219 kms
Blackcap				
H887844	Juv M	24/07/93	Betley Mere (Staffs)	<i>JAL</i>
	v	02/05/94	West Vlaanderen, Belgium	468 kms
Long-tailed Tit				
3F2981	Juv	11/07/92	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	x	25/01/94	Stratford (Warks)	27 kms
Blue Tit				
H081365	1Y	12/01/91	Walsgrave (W Mids)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	31/03/93	Monks Wood (Cams)	82 kms

Species Ring No.	Age/Sex	Date	Place	Ringer Movement
Great Tit				
J413430	Ad F	18/02/94	Brewood (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	x	13/04/94	Ellastone, nr Ashbourne (Derbys)	44 kms
H419298	Juv F	25/09/94	Daventry (Northants)	–
	v	06/11/94	Leamington (Warks)	24 kms
Jay				
DA33660	Juv	12/08/84	Brandon (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	x	09/03/94	Coventry (W Mids)	2 kms
Starling				
RE03075	Juv F	16/11/91	Leamington (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	x	20/03/94	Banbury (Oxon)	30 kms
Greenfinch				
VJ79981	1Y F	06/02/94	Leamington (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	12/02/94	Stratford (Warks)	20 kms
Siskin				
H487853	2Y F	08/03/92	Uttoxeter (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	v	30/01/94	Crediton (Devon)	262 kms
J158987	2Y M	17/01/94	Claregate (W Mids)	<i>BS&M</i>
	v	09/04/94	Balerino (Lothian)	373 kms
J303995	2Y F	05/02/94	Codsall (Staffs)	<i>BS&M</i>
	v	13/04/94	Ickburgh (Norfolk)	193 kms
Reed Bunting				
F192210	Juv F	06/11/88	Eathorpe (Warks)	<i>BRG</i>
	v	10/11/94	Dorchester (Dorset)	191 kms

Key to Ringers/Ringing Groups

<i>BRG</i>	Brandon Ringing Group
<i>BS&M</i>	Bache, Shearwood and McShane
<i>AEC</i>	A E Coleman
<i>CDTM</i>	Dr C D T Minton
<i>GW</i>	Dr G Watola
<i>GWo</i>	G Wood
<i>HRG</i>	Hounslow Ringing Group
<i>JAL</i>	J A Lawrence
<i>MRG</i>	Merseyside Ringing Group
<i>NLRG</i>	North Lancashire Ringing Group
<i>PI</i>	P Ireland
<i>RES</i>	R E Simister
<i>RMRG</i>	Rye Meads Ringing Group
<i>RRG</i>	Runnymede Ringing Group

Key to Contributors

The following observers and organisations have kindly provided information for this report. Our sincere apologies if we have omitted anyone. In total there were 304 contributors to the classified list.

D J Abbott	D J Clifton	A Hancock
J L Ailton	T Clifton	P Hancox
P Anstis	H M Collins	T Hannington
G J Ariss	A Connah	R E Harbird
M A Arnold	P Copson	P A Harper
N G Arnold	J Cox (<i>JC</i>)	M Harrison
J A Asbury	M Cresswell	S L Haycox
K Aslett	S Croft	S M Haynes
P F Atherton	A Curran	S Heam
	P A Curry	D Heath
G Bailey		G Heath
J E Bailey	C J Davis	J Heath
E Bainbridge	H Davis	K Heron
M Baines	L J Davis	T C Hextell
D Baker	A R Dean	R Higgins (<i>RHi</i>)
<i>Banbury Ornithological Society (BOS)</i>	S R Deane	B Higginbottom
A J Barker	P K Dediccoat	R Higginbottom (<i>RHm</i>)
S R J Barker	H Dennatt	J K Higginson
N P Barlow	A K Dolphin	D I Hill
L H Beech	<i>Doxey Marsh Birdwatching Group</i>	T M Hinett
J T Belsey	(<i>DMBG</i>)	E Hirst
<i>Belvide Log (BL)</i>	T Doyle	J R Hodson
T Beynon	<i>Draycote Log</i>	M J Hollis (<i>MJH</i>)
K Bicknell	R E Duckhouse	R Hollis (<i>RH</i>)
G S Bilbao	J Duffy	J V Holtham
<i>Birdline Midlands</i>	S M Dungey	P J Hopkin
R Bishop	F Dutton	E A Hopkins
M Blaire (<i>MBI</i>)		R R Howf
M D Boote	A Eardley	S J Huggins
D Booth	R J Ebrey	R A Hume
D C Bowley	S Edwards	R V C Humphreys
J J Bowley	S E Edwards	P D Hyde
R W Bradley	D W Emley	
<i>Brandon Marsh Conservation Group</i>	S M Emley	M J Inskip
(<i>BMCG</i>)	D A Evans	P Ireland
J H Brindle	G Evans	
S Broomfield	K Evans	A G Jackson
L A Brown	T Evans	C Jackson
M Bryant		W T Jackson
A Brydges	S Falk	A F Jacobs
A D Burton	P A Forbes	S Jaggs
N G Burton	E French	M D James
R F E Butler	P French	P L James
M Buxton (<i>MB</i>)	R Fussell	R J Jennett
W Buxton		D A Jennings
	N D Galloway	B Jones
J Cameron	P G Garner	G N Jones
N Carter (<i>NC</i>)	P Gayner (<i>PG</i>)	P Jones
B D Carthy	G I Giles	
I G Cave	A Glover	P P Kelly
S L Cawthray	P Goodman (<i>PGo</i>)	A Kelsall
J A Chidwick	G Greaves	D Kelsall
E S Clare	D Green	D J Kightley
N Clark (<i>NCI</i>)	F C Gribble	R J King
P Clarke	C Grove	V A King
P Clement	J V Gulley	B L Kington
K J Clements	A Gwilt (<i>AG</i>)	W Kirby
K V Clements		P J Knight
K Clifton	P M Hackett	J Knighton
D Clifton	M J Hadlington (<i>MJHa</i>)	R Knightsbridge

G D Laight
 C J Lane
 M A Lane
 A J Last
 A Latham
 J A Lawrence
 N Lewis
 P Lines
 P W Lines
 D I Long
 W J Low
 P Lunt (PL)
 C Lythgoe

I R Machin
 P Mallat (PM)
Malvern Hills Conservators

P J Mansell
 G J Mant
 T Marlow
 B M Marsh
 J P Martin
 R Maskew
 K I. M Mays
 R C Mays
 K McGee
 S Micklewright
 H J Miller
 P Mollatt
 D Moonlight
 A A Moore
 I Moore
 J Moore
 D Morgan (DM)
 G Moss
 J R Mountford

P P Newell
 P A J Newman
 G K Nicholls
 A Nolan
 S D Norman
 S Nuttal

J Oakes (JO)
 J O'Dell
 D Offer
 M F Oliver
 R Openshaw
 N F Osborne

C C Owen
 M J Owen

N Page
 M W Painting
 A M Park
 T Parker
 G H Peplow
 W F Peplow
 W R H Peplow
 T A Perry
 E G Phillips
 H R Player
 I Porteous
 C Price
 T Price (TPr)
 R W Price
 D C Prowse
 R A Prudden

H S Quiney
 P Quinney

M Rao
 M D Rayment
 B Reavey
 I N Ricketts
 J Ridley
 D J Roberts
 S Roper
 S A Roper

Sandwell Valley Birders (SVB)

D J Scanlan
 A G Shepherd
 K Simmons
 J H Sirrett
 D Skidmore
 F Skinner
 T G Smart
 B W Smith
 L Smith
 P Smith
 R Smith
 M D Southall
 M Squire
 M Squires
 M A Stephens
 R Stevens (RS)
 R Stonier (RSr)
 P F Stewart

F G Stokes
 J R Stonehouse
 A Surtees
 M Sutton

J C Teasdale
 A H Thomas
 K H Thomas
 R J Thomas
 P Thompson
 M Till
 C J Timmins
 S Timms
 P Tipler (PT)
 F W Tunbridge
 S Turner (ST)
 J Tyndall

Valley Park Bird Group

(VPBG)
 D Vernon

J Wagstaff (JW)

P A Wain
 S Wain
 D Waite
 D I M Wallace
 P Ward
 R Wardle
 A G Warr (AGWr)
Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
 (WWT)

M Waterhouse
 Y M Way
 C J West
 B Westwood
 P F Whitehead
 I C Whitehouse
 S M Whitehouse
 J Wilkinson (JWt)
 A G Williams (AGW)
 S Williams
 R Wilson (RW)
 K Wimbush
 S C Wood
 M G Woodhams
 G T Woodin
 M W C Woodward
 P Worthy (PW)

D W Yalden
 M Yapp

Submission of Records

All contributors are asked to follow the guidelines set out in the booklet *A Checklist of the Birds of the West Midlands and a Guide to Status and Record Submission (second edition 1989)*. All records should be sent to the relevant County Recorder as soon as possible after the observation. Records received after January 31st of the following year, may be too late for publication.

A full description is not necessary for scarce species detailed below but there should be enough to show how the species was identified. Such descriptions should be accompanied by brief details of the circumstances and the observer's experience of that and other similar species. Lack of acceptable descriptions may lead to records being rejected

Records of the following species will NOT be published unless they are supported by adequate descriptions:

All national rarities

All out-of-season migrants

Unusual races

Divers; Grebes, other than Great Crested or Little; Petrels and Shearwaters; Gannet and Shag; Herons other than Grey; Storks and Spoonbill; Whooper Swan; Geese, other than Canada, Greylag or feral species; Ruddy Shelduck, Red-crested Pochard, Ferruginous Duck, Eider, Long-tailed Duck, all Scoter spp except Common, Smew, Red-breasted Merganser; Birds of Prey, except Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel and Hobby; Quail and Golden Pheasant; Crakes other than Water Rail; Common Crane; Avocet, Stone Curlew, Kentish Plover, Dotterel, Temminck's Stint, Pectoral Sandpiper, Purple Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Phalaropes; Skuas; The following gulls, Mediterranean, Sabine's, Ring-billed, Yellow-legged, Iceland and Glaucous; Roseate Tern; Auks; Nightjar, other than Cannock Chase records; Hoopoe; Wryneck; Woodlark and Shore Lark; Pipits, Richard's, Tawny and Water; Wagtails, Blue-headed and other *flava* races, White (autumn only); Bluethroat, Black Redstart; Warblers, Cetti's, Savi's, Aquatic, Marsh, Icterine, Melodious, Dartford, Yellow-browed; Firecrest; Red-breasted Flycatcher; Golden Oriole; Shrikes; Cough, Hooded Crow and Raven (except Malverns records); Finches, Serin, and Twite; Buntings, Lapland, Snow, Cirl and Ortolan.

