

THE BIRDS
of the
HASLEMERE DISTRICT



Prepared for the Haslemere Natural History Society by
P. A. Kirkpatrick and Peter G. Davis

1980

Cover Illustration — Woodcock

The Birds of the Haslemere District

including Frensham, Thursley, Chiddingfold
Northchapel and Liphook



A Review

Prepared for the Haslemere Natural History Society

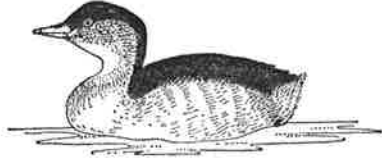
by P. A. KIRKPATRICK and PETER G. DAVIS

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Illustrated by C. Darter



Little Grebe

The first review of local birds was compiled by W. A. Shaw in 1921, and was revised in 1954 and 1968. This new edition has been completely rewritten from the records kept at Haslemere Educational Museum, and up-dated to 1979, with the emphasis on the period 1967-79.

The past twelve years have seen great changes in the status of many species. In 1967 resident birds such as Wren and Green Woodpecker were only just recovering from the effects of the prolonged freeze-up of 1962/63; happily most now have regained their former numbers. In 1968 and thereafter came the catastrophic population "crash" of White-throat, Redstart and other small summer migrants, mainly due to adverse climatic conditions on their migration routes and in their winter quarters. Their decline now seems to have halted, but their numbers remain low. Everywhere, increasing human pressures on habitats can be seen to be having often dramatic effects. Growing recreational usage of rivers and large waters is restricting the suitable areas available for water birds, and the removal of hedgerows in the name of progressive farming is destroying not only nest sites, but also a valuable source of food for many species. Birds of prey are still low in numbers after the misuse of pesticides in the 1960s, and even now the "safer" chemicals in use are cutting down the available supply of insects and other small invertebrates. It is against such a background of change that this Review is presented.

The area covered is within a ten kilometre radius of Haslemere Town Hall; although this is slightly larger than the previous six mile area, very few extra records have qualified for inclusion.

The classification followed is "A Species List of British and Irish Birds" (B.T.O., 1978).

Thanks are due to the many observers who have contributed records, and in particular to the Frensham Watchers — a succession of volunteers

who have carried out a weekly watch at Frensham Ponds since 1948. Readers are reminded that authenticated reports and notes on birds in the area are always welcomed by the N.H.S. at the Museum.

Finally, our thanks go to Mrs. Christine Darter, who has spent many hours producing the delightful illustrations and the map.

In conclusion, we quote in full the Introduction to the first review — "A List of the Birds of Haslemere and District" by the Rev. W. A. Shaw. Copies of this and the later editions are available for reference in the Haslemere Museum library.

"All lovers of birds who live in the delightful district which Edna Lyall described as the beautiful fringe of Surrey's plain cloak must feel that the lot has fallen unto them in a fair ground. With grand hills, much woodland, wide rest lands of heather and pine, many streams and still waters, there are suitable haunts for very local as well as common birds. A big line of migration comes over the heights of Haslemere in spring and returns in autumn, and it is noteworthy, too, that victims of the winter storms — like Petrels and Divers — have been picked up exhausted under the same Milford-Witley-Haslemere airway. From Godalming to Havant the earliest Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps appear to alight not far from the railway-line — coming from the Isle of Wight — before the wider waves distribute them. It would be interesting if some resident on Hindhead would note the migrants that reach us there, and how far their arrival grounds extend towards Churt. Numbers of birds do undoubtedly come and go about the Punch Bowl. Two hundred and ten species are mentioned in this list, and keen observation — especially at the Frensham ponds — may in time add some others which have been obtained in the county, but outside our district. Many of our rarities are in the museum at Charterhouse, a few in the Haslemere Museum; others, like the Black Redstart etc., in our own — relics from the days when bird-study was another word for bird massacre. Today — with the exception of the unwelcome visits of clutch-hunters, with their destructive fad of multiplying similar egg-shells, if rare — we have advanced, and my best thanks are given to all those true bird-lovers who with field-glass or camera find a real and lasting delight in accurate observation. They have been a great help in bringing these short records up to date."

W.A.S.

December 1920

LIST OF BIRDS

Order GAVIIFORMES

Family GAVIIDAE

Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Very rare winter visitor. Reported thirteen times between 1931 and 1960, mostly at Frensham, then not again until 1974, when a diver, probably this species, was seen at Enton on 11.1.74 (GSE, JH). In 1978 an oiled bird was at Frensham Little Pond from 25.2.78 until 3.3.78 (MJRF, PRP et al.). One (? the same bird) was seen at Frensham Great Pond, 12.3.78 (BG).



Red-throated Diver

Black-throated Diver *G. arctica*

Vagrant. One at Frensham, badly oiled, on 26.1.57 (MLW, JB), and one there between 18.1.70 and 27.1.70 (WHH, PGD et al.). One was found dead there, 22.2.65 (CE, PMF).

Great Northern Diver *G. immer*

Vagrant. One at Frensham on 20. and 21.12.59 (DAW, PMB, LCT). One at Frensham Great Pond from 5.1.64 to 21.2.64 (TGW, PGD), and one there, 11.1.74 (DAW).

Order PODICIPEDIFORMES

Family PODICIPEDIDAE

Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*

Scarce resident whose numbers have decreased greatly during the last twenty years. One/two pairs recorded recently at Thursley Moat Pond, Enton, Sweetwater (Witley), Frensham (Little Pond and Outfall) and Wishanger. In 1976 there were four pairs at Milland and three pairs at Forest Mere. Recent autumn maximum has been fourteen at Enton, 17.10.77 (GSE), compared with regular flocks of sixty to a hundred at Frensham in the late 1940s/early 1950s. Increased disturbance alone hardly seems to account for this sharp decline.

Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

Resident in small numbers and passage migrant on large areas of water. At Frensham, breeding success has been very low in recent years, probably due to increasing disturbance from sailing and fishing. In 1978 nine pairs were present in spring, but only five bred, raising seven young. Up to forty usually there on passage in spring and autumn. One/two pairs present most years at Lurgashall Mill Pond, Shillinglee, Thursley and Witley Park, with some records of successful breeding.

Red-necked Grebe *P. grisegena*

Vagrant. A pair at Frensham Little Pond, 9.7.25 (PMB, NB), and single birds at Frensham, 23.1.49 (NJW), 13.12.59 (PGD) and 9.5.68 (AJE).

Slavonian Grebe *P. auritus*

Rare visitor normally occurring between November and March, though one was at Frensham, 1.8.65 (DAW, AJR). Eleven records before 1971, but has been almost annual since. All sightings at Frensham except for one at Thursley Moat Pond, 23.4.71 (DC).

Black-necked Grebe *P. nigricollis*

Very rare visitor to Frensham, usually in autumn, with a dozen records between 1920 and 1970. One in summer plumage, 11. to 16.8.71 (SJM), and single birds in winter plumage, 17.9.72 (JEMM), 12.10.72 (JM-G), 1.9.73 (DWF, JG), 16.3.75 (JMB, IMS), 12. to 18.8.77 and 27.9.77 (PFLEB, JMC et al.).

Order PROCELLARIIFORMES

Family HYDROBATIDAE

Storm Petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus*

Accidental. A storm-driven bird died at Hambledon, 26.8.51 (EP). One was found dead at Easebourne, 29.10.52 (JC).

Leach's Petrel *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*

Accidental. One found in a hot-house at Plant Protection, Fernhurst, 8.12.48, died later (BR, CEO). One reported from Unstead Sewage Works, 28.9.52 (EP).

Order PELECANIFORMES

Family SULIDAE

Gannet *Sula bassana*

Accidental — all records probably storm-driven birds. One on a garden pond at Easebourne, 3.11.52 (JC) (c/f Storm Petrel). One at Frensham, 27.8.63, remained for several days but eventually died (IHB, PMB, DAW).

Family PHALACROCORACIDAE

Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

Occasional visitor, seen most years at Frensham and Enton, mostly in autumn. In 1971 one remained at Frensham throughout October and November, and in 1974 one or two were at Enton from 20.10.74 onwards. Six were at Frensham, 7.12.74 (GSE) and seven flew over Woolmer, 9.10.75 (HSBBR). Also reported occasionally at Thursley and Lurgashall.

Shag *P. aristotelis*

Vagrant. One at Frensham, 27.2.37 (DPO, JCMN), and one there, 1.1.61 (DAW, JB). One appeared on a window sill at Hindhead, 13.2.60 (MM), and one in a garden shed at Inval, 16.2.63 (MMH), both in snow. There were three at Frensham Little Pond, 12.3.62 (PMF). One was ringed and released at Frensham, 26.2.60 (DP), and the ring only was found at Hove, 25.5.71. One which had been ringed as a nestling on the Farne Islands, 26.7.74, was found in a garden near Shottermill Ponds, 6.10.74 (DWF).

Order CICONIIFORMES

Family ARDEIDAE

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

Occasional winter visitor. One was reported at Frensham in January 1956 and in 1962, and one frequented small ponds in the Northchapel area from 17.12.69 to 25.2.70 (RWB, DG et al.). Since 1973 single birds have been at Frensham every winter, with three there on 14.3.74 (PFLEB), and two on 21.3.74 (EAF, DAW). One was photographed perched high up in a tree after heavy snowfall, 1.1.79 (LS).



Bittern

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Frequent on most ponds throughout the year and a regular unwelcome visitor to many small garden goldfish ponds. The only known heronry in the area is near Churt, which has been occupied since at least 1969, with a maximum of seventeen occupied nests in 1973.

Purple Heron *A. purpurea*

Accidental. A juvenile was at Frensham from 18. to 24.9.55 (MMH, PMB et al).

Order ANSERIFORMES

Family ANATIDAE

Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*

Resident and winter visitor on all larger waters. One/two pairs breed most years at Frensham, Enton, Thursley and probably Shillinglee and Wishanger. Numbers increase in late autumn with up to twenty at Enton in October/November. Maximum recorded at Frensham, sixty on 1.12.73. Two birds were ringed on 7.8.63; one was recovered at Kingston-on-Thames, 31.8.64, and the other at Wapping in October 1965.

Bewick's Swan *C. columbianus*

Rare winter visitor. There were seventeen at Enton, 25.3.58 (ADW). Five flew over Valewood, Haslemere, 11.12.67 (JDERK), and five were at Frensham Great Pond, 4.3.68 (MLW). Up to four adults with four juveniles were at Frensham on 1.11.73 (PFLEB), and 6. and 7.12.73 (JG, DAW).

Whooper Swan *C. cygnus*

Rare winter visitor, recorded only at Frensham. Two with Mute Swans, 27.2.22 (LCT, NB), and two adults with two immatures, 8.3.53 (MMH, DAW). Two on 23. and 30.4.67, and one on 10.12.67 (RH, GHP). Four flying west over the Great Pond, 3.1.72 (SJM), and two there, 31.3.74 (JMB, JG, PR). Eight adults flew north over King's Ridge, 2.1.79 (RGM).

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons*

First recorded in 1964 when two flew over Frensham Great Pond, 3.2.64 (PMF). There were six at the Little Pond, 9.1.72 (JG). One juvenile with Canada Geese at Frensham from 17.12.72 until 22.3.73 (DAW et al).

Snow Goose *A. caerulescens*

One, presumably an escape, spent the 1978/79 winter with Canada Geese at Shillinglee Lake and Lurgashall Mill Pond (PAK, PMF, DMB). It was last seen there in mid-March, then one, presumed to be the same bird, became a frequent visitor to ponds around Frillinghurst, nr. Haslemere, until 10.4.79 (SAK).

Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*

Resident on most large ponds where numbers have increased over the past ten years. Autumn and winter flocks sometimes reach up to about one hundred at Frensham, and seventy at Enton and Shillinglee, with smaller numbers at Lurgashall, Thursley, Forest Mere and Milland. However, breeding success is often low, probably due to human disturbance and predation by foxes.

Barnacle Goose *B. leucopsis*

Not recorded until 1972 when one was at Frensham Great Pond, 31.1.72. Since 1975 single birds have been reported at Frensham up to three times per year. All are thought to be feral.

Brent Goose *B. bernicla*

Vagrant. A pair at Frensham, 23.4.23 (PS, LCT). One at Frensham 23.3.53 to 2.4.53 (NB, LCT), and one there 25. and 26.9.76 (PFLEB et al).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea*

Two flying west over Frensham Great Pond on 2.4.77 were almost certainly escapes (HSBRR). It is interesting that two were seen also at Hurst, Hants. the following day (HM.B.R.).

Shelduck *T. tadorna*

Occasional visitor to large ponds, usually in autumn or winter. There were eight at Frensham in early January 1971 (PGD, SJMG). The species was noted as present at Lurgashall Mill Pond during the breeding season in 1969 (SX.B.R.), but there are no breeding records for the area. An immature which arrived at Frensham in August 1976, and remained until 1979, had almost certainly escaped from a collection at Fernhurst.



Shelduck

Mandarin *Aix galericulata*

First recorded in October 1968 at Warren Mere (DAB, RMF), and then fairly regularly in the Thursley area, with seven at the Hammer Pond, 11.1.70 (DWB). In 1972 a number were deliberately released at Busbridge Lakes, nr. Godalming, which probably contributed to the establishment of the feral population in the area. Breeding has been suspected in recent years at Thursley, and ducklings were seen on the River Wey at Frensham in 1979 (RHD, JHP). At Pickhurst, Chiddingfold, small flocks are present occasionally, such as twenty one on 18.9.76 (JAS).

Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Occasional winter visitor, reported most years at Frensham in small numbers. It appears to have become less frequent in recent years, though up to twenty five were present on at least nine dates in 1973.

Gadwall *A. strepera*

Rare visitor in late winter and early spring. Between 1920 and 1970 there were only five records, all at Frensham. One duck was at Frensham Great Pond, 18.4.71 (SJM); three were there, 25.2.72 (SJM); and a pair, 25.12.72 (SJM). One drake remained from 10. to 20.2.73 (HSB), and a duck was seen on 3.3.73 (ADF). A drake was there, 10.2.76 and 13.4.76, and there was one at Frensham Little Pond, 3.3.77 (PFLEB). At Shillinglee, one was seen on 31.3.79 (BM).

Teal *A. crecca*

Resident and winter visitor, in small numbers. It is now seldom seen at Frensham, but one or two pairs breed on smaller and more secluded waters with reedy fringes. Small groups of perhaps ten to twenty are seen at Enton and Thursley during winter; at Ockley Common there were fifty on 17.1.70 (DAB). One young drake ringed at Blackdown, 19.11.66 (PGD) was shot near Pulborough, Sussex, on 13.1.68.

Mallard *A. platyrhynchos*

Common resident on most waters and winter visitor to the larger ponds. Maximum numbers are recorded in late autumn, with up to two hundred at Frensham and sixty at Thursley.

Pintail *A. acuta*

Rare winter visitor, recorded only twelve times between 1930 and 1961, then not again until 1973. All recent sightings have been at Frensham, with a duck on 22.12.73 (JMC) and 6.1.74 (PR, LCT), two drakes on 31.12.76 (GMM), and one duck from 28. to 31.1.77 (PFLEB).

Garganey *A. querquedula*

Rare passage migrant, recorded four times prior to 1968, all at Frensham. One at Hammer Pond, Thursley, 29.9.68 (DAB); a duck at Frensham, 6.4.71 (SJM); and a pair there, 21.4.74 (DMK, LCT).

Shoveler *A. clypeata*

Occasional visitor in small numbers, usually between August and April, with up to six at Frensham in early autumn. In 1954 there was a brood of six at Sweetwater, Witley (LJR).

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina*

Vagrant. One at Frensham, 19.11.31 (PV). One in eclipse at Enton, 5.8.59 (GSE, RMF). A drake at Frensham, 28.11.61 (DAW, LCT, AJR), and a duck there, 15. and 18.8.72 (SJM, PFLEB).

Pochard *Aythya ferina*

Winter visitor on all sizable ponds. A few arrive as early as August and stay until April with occasional summer stragglers, but most are present from October to March. Up to twenty are seen at Enton, Thursley and Lurgashall Mill Pond, while the mid-winter flock at Frensham reaches about one hundred. In 1972 and 1973, following the Frensham fire and subsequent events (see note under Coot), this number increased to between three and four hundred.

Ferruginous Duck *A. nyroca*

Accidental. One was at Frensham on several dates between 29.12.60 and 25.1.61 (AFM, DAW). One at Enton, 17.12.78 (GSE).

Tufted Duck *A. fuligula*

Resident and common winter visitor. In recent years one/two pairs have bred at Lurgashall and Thursley, and up to four pairs at Forest Mere and Milland. At Shottermill Ponds, the last successful breeding was in 1968, while at Frensham none have bred since 1975, except for a single pair at the Outfall Pond in 1977. Winter flocks vary from fifty to one hundred at Enton and Frensham, with smaller numbers on other waters. As with Pochard, the flock increased to over three hundred at Frensham in the winters following the fire.

Scaup *A. marila*

Rare winter visitor, recorded almost annually until 1957, but seldom since. All recent records have been at Frensham. Two ducks were there between 20.10.71 and 5.11.71 (SJM, PGD, MLW), and between 25.11.72 and 31.12.72, with an immature from 9. to 25.12.72 (HSBBR). There was one on 11.2.73 (JG et al.), and two on 17.10.76 (SMD).

Eider *Somateria mollissima*

The only record is of a drake in partial eclipse at Frensham, 10.7.65 (PGD). It appeared shy and kept to the centre of the pond.

Long-tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis*

Vagrant. One duck at Enton, 15.12.57 (ADW), an immature at Frensham on 9. and 10.11.61 (PGD), and three different birds there between 28.10.67 and 26.11.67 (PGD, DAW, PMB, RH).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Rare visitor, recorded in only four of the past eleven years. Two pairs were at Frensham, 6.4.71 (SJM, RGM), a drake at Warren Mere, 25.6.71 (DAB), and a duck at Frensham, 5.10.71 (SJM). A pair were there, 21.4.74 (JHP et al), and one duck, 2.10.74 (NK); another duck, 6.4.76 (PFLB), and a pair, 30.4.76 (JMC); and finally three ducks on 28.8.77 (JEMM) and 28.10.77 (GJSR).

Velvet Scoter *M. fusca*

Vagrant. One immature at Frensham during November 1956 (LCT, PMB et al.), and one there, 26.3.61 (PGD).

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Occasional winter visitor, seen each year at Frensham, and less frequently at Thursley and Enton. Most reports are of up to five "brownheads" (female or immature), but single drakes or pairs are noted sometimes in late winter. The largest group recorded was of seven "brownheads" on 6.1.74 (PR, LCT) at Frensham Little Pond.

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Very rare winter visitor. Up to 1967 single birds were seen at Frensham most winters, and occasionally at Enton, but the only recent sighting was of two "redheads" at the Great Pond on 10.2.76 (PFLCB).

Red-breasted Merganser *M. serrator*

Rare winter visitor, recorded only at Frensham. Twenty five there, 31.1.39 (MMH); four on 27.4.54 (CJFB); one on 7. and 14.2.60 (LCT, RMF et al.); four "redheads", 1.12.68 (GHP, RH), and 15.1.69 (LCT); and one on 14.11.71 (LCT, DAW). One probable female, 18. and 25.2.79 (JG, SN, JHP).

Goosander *M. merganser*

Occasional winter visitor, most often seen during cold spells, and seldom reported in mild winters. There was a duck at Enton, 10.11.74 (GSE), otherwise all records are from Frensham, of one or two birds. Exceptionally, there were twelve "redheads" there on 29.1.68 (RH); up to eleven during December 1968 (sy.B.R.); and up to five during February 1979.

Order ACCIPITRIFORMES

Family ACCIPITRIDAE



Red Kite

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

One flying high over Chiddingfold, mobbed by two jackdaws, 15.12.78 (EH). One flying over Witley, 13.5.79 (RAW). These are the only records.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Very rare passage migrant. Five records of one/two between 1914 and 1961. One female/immature at Woolmer, 29.8.75, was attacked by a hobby and a sparrowhawk (PFLB). An immature female was at Ockley Common on 1. and 2.5.78, and 21. and 22.5.78, with an adult female on 21.5.78 (RMF).

Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*

Regular winter visitor to the local commons. It has become more frequent in recent years, with single birds or pairs often being present for several weeks in late winter, at Woolmer, and in the Thursley/Hankley/Frensham area. One adult male was seen chasing a merlin at Ockley Common on 16.12.78 (RMF).

Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*

Vagrant. An immature was present in the Elstead area on 14., 27. and 28.5.67 (NEGE), there was an unconfirmed sighting in 1973 and one was in the Frensham area in late April 1977 (PGD et al.).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Occasional visitor. There was one soaring over Frensham Common on 13. and 14.5.61 (PMB, PGD); one at Thursley Common, 17.8.72 (RMF); and 22.8.72 (ADF); one over Hydon's Ball, 21.4.74 (JAS); one at Thursley Common, 17.8.75 (DAB); a female at the Moat, Thursley, 20.4.78 (RMF); and one at Frensham, mobbed by crows, 19.5.79 (PGD). In 1975 a pair was reported to have attempted to breed in the area, but the nest was deserted after three weeks incubation.

Sparrowhawk *A. nisus*

Resident; became rare during the 1960s, probably due to pesticides, but now seems to be increasing again. Breeding has been reported at several sites in recent years. One was at Ludshott Common throughout the winter 1978/79 (SG), and at least one pair were seen frequently chasing the finch flock at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, in early 1979 (CE, PAK, MHT). There are regular reports of small birds being taken at garden feeding stations. Feathers found around nesting sites indicate a variety of prey sizes, ranging from blue tits through goldfinches, chaffinches and thrushes to pigeons and domestic doves.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

Uncommon. Bred in the area from 1954 to 1970, but seen only occasionally since, usually in the Thursley area. The breeding population was probably descended from the nine birds released in Witley Park in 1939. A pair which bred near Chiddingfold in 1966 fed their young mainly on young rabbits and hares; only once was anything brought that could have been a game bird (GB). A nest at Chiddingfold in 1968 contained a rabbit skin and nine decapitated starlings (PGD).

Family PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

Occasional passage migrant, seldom seen before 1967, but almost annually since. Most records are of birds flying over, or pausing for a few hours only, in late spring or early autumn, but on three occasions one has remained for some while in the Frensham area. One was there for a month from 27.8.67 (PGD, LCR et al.); one was seen intermittently between 8.9.76 and 16.10.76 (numerous observers); and one was there 25.5.77 to 1.6.77 (JG et al.), when it was much harassed by irresponsible bird-watchers. One there, 19. and 21.9.79 (CDV).

In 1976 the bird was often watched fishing, sometimes catching roach or perch. Once it was seen to extract the tongue before eating the fish (EH, GH).

Order FALCONIFORMES

Family FALCONIDAE

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Resident, but irregularly reported from scattered localities. It is probably more common over the less intensively watched farmlands in the east of the area than around Haslemere and the heathlands, where there are very few regular breeding records. Three were hunting over Holdfast Lane, Haslemere, 30.7.72 (AMFJ), and five young were found drowned in a swimming pool near Chiddingfold the same summer (GB). One chased a great grey shrike at Ockley Common on 28.10.72 (DMP), and another was watched in pursuit of a heron at Inval in December 1977 (LH).

Merlin *F. columbarius*

Occasional winter visitor, reported only ten times prior to 1967, but almost annually since. As with other uncommon species, it is difficult to assess if this represents a genuine increase, or is merely a reflection of the growing number of observers. Most records are of single birds or a pair, at Thursley and Ockley Commons, but a male was seen chasing chaffinches near Inval, Haslemere, on 27.12.70 (MMH), and another was flying over Woolmer, 27.11.76 (PFLEB). A female was near Bramshott, 27.3.78 (MMH), and one flew south over Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, on 19.11.78 (KJ). 1978 was an unusually good year for sightings, with at least one female in the Thursley area throughout most of January (on one occasion it attacked a flock of reed buntings); a male there, 22.10.78; and one/two on three dates in December (RMF, SY.B.R.).

Hobby *F. subbuteo*

Rare summer visitor, normally arriving in late April or early May and leaving by September. It probably breeds in the area most years, but is sensitive to disturbance and has declined since the first decades of the century. Passage birds are seen each spring.

Peregrine *F. peregrinus*

Very rare visitor, last recorded in 1962. Between 1938 and 1960 there were eleven sightings; since then, one at Thursley, 27.2.60 (DP), and one at Roundhurst, 30.1.62 (FJB). A report of one hunting over Frensham Common, 28.8.77 (SBC Bulletin) was not confirmed.

Order GALLIFORMES

Family TETRAONIDAE

Black Grouse *Tetrao tetrix*

Last recorded in the area in 1905, when there was a pair near Thursley (WAS). At the end of the last century the species was shot at Blackdown, Hindhead and Hankley, and seems to have been fairly common.

Family PHASIANIDAE

Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*

Resident in small numbers, but few breeding records. Occasionally seen at Frensham, where breeding was confirmed in 1972 and 1976; at Liphook, where a pair bred in 1977 (JHP); and at Woolmer, Hankley Common and Shillinglee. There was a group of fifteen at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, on 11.2.73 (HSBBR). In spring 1979 a pair nested in a garden at Fernhurst, but the clutch of sixteen eggs was deserted after two days of torrential rain (PMB).

Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*

Very uncommon. Up to the 1950s this species was a well-distributed resident on arable land, but has declined steadily, perhaps affected by changing farming methods and the clearance of field headlands and hedgerows. The last breeding record was at Brook in 1971, and since 1972 there have been only three sightings at Frensham; two near the Outfall, 31.3.76 (JMB), one near the Little Pond, 20.5.78, and three near the Outfall, 5.8.79 (SN, MN).

Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

Accidental. There was one near Haslemere, 11.11.18 (WAS), and one at Elstead, 10.5.54 (AFM).

Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*

Common resident — seldom reported. The position is much confused by the release of hand-reared birds for sporting purposes.

Order GRUIFORMES

Family RALLIDAE

Water Rail *Rallus aquaticus*

Resident — probably scarce, but certainly under-recorded, due to its secretive habits. There are irregular reports from Shillinglee, Lurgashall Mill Pond, and the ponds in the Thursley area, but the only confirmed breeding was at Thursley in 1974, where an adult with a juvenile was seen on 14.7.74 (JBS). At Frensham, heard fairly regularly throughout the year. Breeding was suspected at the Little Pond in 1976 and 1977 (HSBRR). Up to three have been present most winters, with eight there in November/December 1977.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Accidental. There was one in Witley Park, 1.5.06 (WAS), and a pair in a marsh near Witley Farm from April to July 1930 (HT). One remained in the swamp near the sailing club at Frensham Great Pond from 19.9.71 to 7.10.71 (JMB, SJMG et al). One there, 27.11.78 to 5.12.78 (PFLeB).

Little Crake *P. parva*

A small crake, probably this species, was at Frensham Great Pond on 17. and 18.2.73 (PFLeB, JMC). It remained for several days, and was last seen on 3.3.73 (JG, ADF).

Corncrake *Crex crex*

Vagrant. Four records between 1940 and 1955 — since then only one. In 1972 one was calling continuously at Woodman's Green, nr. Linchmere, on 17.6.72. It had been heard for about a week before this (DWB, SX.B.R.).

JHP's father, who lived at what is now 115 Wey Hill, Haslemere, noted that this species was present in "the wheatfield at the bottom of the garden", which is now the swimming pool site. This would have been in about 1887.

Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Common resident on ponds and streams. Large gatherings are unusual, but there were about fifty at Frensham Great Pond on 6.12.73 (sy.B.R.). In 1976 nine young were seen to leave the nest at Pickhurst, Chiddingfold (VE).

Coot *Fulica atra*

Common resident and passage migrant on larger ponds. During the 1950s large winter flocks of up to 1,000 were noted at Frensham, but since then numbers have dropped, and the spring/autumn maxima are usually fifty to one hundred. Breeding numbers also seem lower. From 1971 to 1974 unusual circumstances at Frensham Great Pond

combined to produce a tremendous growth of the pond weed *Elodea canadensis*, and this attracted large flocks of Coot, Tufted Duck and Pochard. An area of eroded ground on the northern shore was reseeded and heavily fertilised in autumn 1971, and the fertiliser leached into the Pond. In addition, during the fire which swept the Common in July, large quantities of ash were deposited in the Pond. The resulting increase in available nutrients caused such rapid and dense weed growth that sailing was prevented. Some clearance was done in 1972, followed by a major campaign in 1973, and during 1974 conditions gradually returned to normal.

By November 1971 there were 300 Coot on the Pond, these remaining until February 1972. Between July and November numbers built steadily to about 1,000, and remained high until March 1973. This pattern was repeated the following autumn and winter, with over 900 present from November 1973 to January 1974. Thereafter numbers fell steadily, and by the autumn had stabilised at less than fifty.

Order CHARADRIIFORMES

Family HAEMATOPODIDAE

Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*

Rare visitor, recorded only at Frensham. Five reports of single birds between 1922 and 1962, then one there on 4.4.63 (AJR), 1.9.63 (DAW), 8.5.65 (PGD), 17.5.68 (RH), 15.9.68 (JMB), 20.7.69 and 28.8.69 (MLW, RH). There were three on 25.6.72 (MLW, JMB), one on 16.11.73 (JJW), and one flying over on 17.8.75 (DOS).



Oystercatcher

Family RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Accidental. Recorded at Frensham in 1839; at Lurgashall in 1848, when a young bird was shot; and at Frensham in 1929, when a pair were seen on 16.3.29. On 8.4.74 one circled Frensham Great Pond and departed S.E. (PFLEB).

Family BURHINIDAE

Stone Curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Accidental. One at Hankley Common, April 1895 (WAS). A male was found dead under an electric cable at Headley Mill on 22.5.58 (JC).

Family CHARADRIIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Occasional visitor to Frensham in spring, first recorded on 5.5.61 (PGD). There were single birds on six occasions up to 1970; since then on 19.4.70 (JMB, JG), 14.5.72 (EH, GH), 6.5.73 (HSBBR), 22.3.74 (PGD), and 1., 16. and 23.5.76 (JG et al.). Two were there on 3.5.74 (HSBBR).

Ringed Plover *C. hiaticula*

Occasional passage migrant, recorded only at Frensham. During the 1960s it was seen several times in most years, with a maximum of nine in May 1969, but since then has been less frequent. Two on 6.5.73 (DOS, KMB); two on 25.4.76 (EAF, PKP), and one on 9.5.76 (JHP, DMB); one on 19.5.77 (MAS), and on 6. and 20.8.77 (HSBBR); and one on 19.9.78 (HSBBR).

Dotterel *C. morinellus*

One on Frensham Common on 2.5.73 (PGD). This is the first Surrey record this century.

Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Rare visitor, generally only recorded flying over the area. There were fifty in winter plumage at Frensham on 24.3.49 (PL). Small groups were reported over Thursley and Ockley Commons on several occasions in 1968 and 1974, and there was one on Frensham Common, 9.10.76 (JMC). Fifteen flew south at Woolmer on 20.12.78 (HSBBR).

Grey Plover *P. squatarola*

Vagrant. Heard calling over Grayswood, 29.10.37 (RCB); four flew S. over Thursley, 1.10.38 (HT); there was one at Frensham on 9.4.67 (RH), and 15.5.67 (DWB); and one there on 20. and 23.5.70 (RH).

Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Resident and winter visitor. Displaying pairs are seen regularly in the east and south of the area, particularly around Lurgashall, Northchapel and Ebernoe, and at a few sites in the north and west. Small flocks, usually of thirty to fifty, build up in autumn and winter, but severe weather conditions cause huge movements. Over a thousand passed southward over Ockley Common on 29.11.69 (DAB), and nearly fifteen hundred over Thursley in bitter cold on 31.12.78 (HSBBR). This movement continued across the area on 1.1.79 on a wide front, and must have involved several thousand birds.

Family SCOLOPACIDAE

Knot *Calidris canutus*

Vagrant. There was one at Frensham on two occasions in 1922, one there in partial summer plumage, 4.5.47 (PMB), and one on 4.10.54 (AFM). The last record was of one at Enton, 12.1.57 (ADW).



Knot

Sanderling *C. alba*

Rare visitor to Frensham. It was shot there sometime prior to 1921 (WAS), then not recorded again until one was seen on 2.5.60 (PFLEB, MLW). One was present in summer plumage, 22.5.66, and two on 24.5.66 (RH). Later that year, on 14.8.66, two very tame birds were caught and ringed (PGD, DAW), and one of them was controlled at Heacham, Norfolk, 210 kms. N.N.E., on 17.5.69. There was one at the Great Pond, 9.5.69, eight on 11.5.69 (PGD, RH), and one on 26.10.75 (KMB, SMD).

Little Stint *C. minuta*

Vagrant. At Frensham, one with a Dunlin, 22.7.19 (HB), one on 10.10.46 (PMB), three on 14.9.57 (JMB), one on 26.9.76 (JMC), and one on 14.9.79 (PFLEB).

Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferruginea*

Vagrant. One at Frensham, 13.4.06, and an immature, 16.8.20 (WAS). One feeding there, 1.11.63 (AC).



Dunlin

Dunlin *C. alpina*

Occasional, almost annual visitor, normally on passage, but there have been reports for all months of the year. One was found dead in Bunch Lane, Haslemere, on 25.1.71; all other recent occurrences have been at Frensham, with a maximum of seven on 11.5.69. During cold weather in early 1976, several parties of two or three were circling the Great Pond on 30.1.76 (PFLEB), and one was standing on the ice on 7.2.76 (HSBBR).

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

One at Frensham Little Pond on 23.8.71 (SJMG). This is the only record for the area.

Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

Occasional winter visitor, reported only four times prior to 1972, but more frequently since. One at Frensham Little Pond, 27.2.72 (HSBRR), and a group of ten at Frensham Great Pond, 14.3.73 (PGD). One at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, 3.2.74 (HSBRR); one at Frensham Common, 10.11.74 (DMP); and one at Pudmore, 23.11.74 (DAB). At Thursley Common, two (one dead), 25.10.75, and one there, 22.10.77 (HSBRR). Single birds at Woolmer, 9.10.78; at Ockley Common, 16.12.78; and at Birchy Pond, Thursley, 25.12.78 (HSBRR).

Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

Very scarce resident. Drumming is recorded at Thursley and Ockley Common each spring, and a few pairs probably breed. There are occasional sightings at Frensham in spring and autumn indicating passage. Four at Lurgashall, 6.1.73 (DMK), and three there, 25.2.79 (PAK); local residents believed that some bred nearby in 1978.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola*

Resident throughout the area in suitable habitats. Roding males reported from a wide range of localities, including Northchapel, Bexley Hill, Chapel Common, Conford, Frensham, Thursley, Hankley and Witley Commons, Brook, Inval, Beacon Hill and Arford. One was feeding in a garden at Headley Down, 9.9.72, and another at Grayshott in 1974 (PC). One sheltered from a blizzard behind a log stack at Inval, 31.12.78 (PAK). One ringed at Marley Common, 14.8.76 (PGD) was shot 18 kms. S.S.E. at Up Waltham, near Petworth, 1.12.76.

On 10.6.79 one was watched in a fir plantation near Fernhurst, and seen to carry at least one and probably two chicks between the thighs. She flew about 45 yards down a ride, and shortly afterwards returned for a third chick, which she led away on foot (PHM).

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Vagrant. One remained at Imbham's Farm Pond for about twelve days, leaving on 30.8.57 (JS, PMB). One was reported on the hockey pitch at Plant Protection, Fernhurst in July 1974, but this was unconfirmed.

Bar-tailed Godwit *L. lapponica*

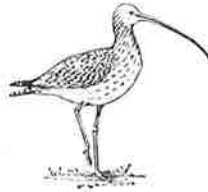
Vagrant. First recorded in 1973, when there was one at Frensham Great Pond, 29.4.73 (DWB). At Frensham Little Pond, on 30.4.78, seventeen flew S.E., followed 30 minutes later by eight flying S.W. (HSBRR).

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Rare passage migrant, usually only heard flying over. There were single birds at Frensham on 2.5.72 and 24.4.74 (HSBRR). The most recent reports were in 1975, with one flying W. at Hankley, 19.4.75 (JRM), nine flying E. at Ockley Common, 27.4.75 (HSBRR), and four flying E. at Thursley, 10.5.75 (DAB).

Curlew *N. arquata*

Uncommon summer visitor. A few pairs probably breed at one or two damp heathland sites, and occasional birds are seen or heard on passage.



Curlew

Spotted Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

Vagrant. The only recent records are of single birds at Frensham on 27.8.72 and 1.9.72 (SJM), 5.4.75 (NK) and 19.3.76 (PFLEB).

Redshank *T. totanus*

Occasional passage migrant which used to breed in the area; a pair did so in 1973 and possibly in 1977. Most reports are of single birds passing over the local commons in April/May and late June/August, but there have been October records. One was resting on ice at Frensham Great Pond, 30.1.76 (HSBRR).

Greenshank *T. nebularia*

Rare passage migrant, recorded only three times up to 1960. Since then reports have been more frequent. Two at Frensham Great Pond, 22.5.68, and one there, 22.5.69 (RH). One at Ockley Common flying S.E., 16.8.70 (DAB), and one heard at Frensham the same day (DAW, MLW). One flying W.S.W. at Frensham, 19.8.71 (SJM); two there, 28.7.72, with one the following day (SJM, PFLEB), and one on 18.8.72 (PFLEB). One at Frensham, 16.9.74 (DMP) and two at Thursley, 8.5.76 (MCW). At Frensham Great Pond, one on 2.5.78 (MS), two on 3.5.78 (RGM), and one on 9.8.78 (HSBRR).

Green Sandpiper *T. ochropus*

Occasional visitor, recorded every year, usually on passage. Most records come from Frensham, Eton and the Thursley area, and all but two are of single birds. There was one at Valewood House, Haslemere, 14.7.71 (JDERK), and one at Woolmer, 17.8.78 (HSBRR). Apparently there is no suitable wintering site in the district.

Wood Sandpiper *T. glareola*

One at Thursley Common, 21.8.74 (DMP). This is the first record for the area.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Regular passage migrant, especially at Frensham, most numerous in April/May and July/August. Normally less than five are seen, but as many as twenty five were present on 28.8.60 (IHB, UBT). More recently, there were eight on 28.7.71 (SJM), twelve on 26.4.77 and nine on 2.8.78 (HSBBR).

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Vagrant. Reported at Frensham on 20.5.21 (RF-C), 11.5.62 (vzw), 5.5.67 (DAW), and on 11.5.69 (PGD), when two were present.

Grey Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Vagrant. One at Frensham, 25.1.53 (GF), 16.9.57 (ECM), 9.10.60 (PGD), and 23.12.61 (PMF).

Family LARIDAE

The numbers of all gulls have increased greatly during the last twenty years, probably due to their increased exploitation of rubbish tips.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

One in second summer plumage at Frensham Great Pond, 10.5.79 (RGM, RMF) was the first for the area.

Little Gull *L. minutus*

Rare visitor. One at Enton, 21.9.57 (ADW). At Frensham, two in first winter plumage, November 1948 (MMH); one, probably a first year bird, 26.8.51 (GF); one on 3.11.68, and 9.4.72 (PGD); one immature, 5.9.75 (MS); and another immature, 27.8.77 to 2.9.77 (sy.B.R.).

Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*

Common non-breeding resident and winter visitor. A few are seen throughout the area even in summer months, and flocks of fifty to a hundred are regular in farmland from autumn to spring. Since 1972 there have been increasingly large numbers night-roosting at Frensham Great Pond, with 2,500 to 3,000 there on various dates during mid-winter most years, and over 6,000 on 24.2.78 (HSBBR). Many of these seem to spend the day out of the area, at the Wrecclesham rubbish tip.

Common Gull *L. canus*

Occasional winter visitor, seen a few times each year at Frensham. There were thirteen on 19.2.76 (HSBBR), twenty on 29.1.77 (JMC), and about ten during November/December 1978. One was patrolling along the river near Lurgashall Mill Pond, 25.2.79 (PAK).

Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*

Regular winter visitor to Frensham. A few, usually less than fifteen, are seen occasionally between August and April, and a similar number are often with the roosting gull flock, November to February, although there were up to fifty in early 1978.

Herring Gull *L. argentatus*

Fairly regular winter visitor to Frensham, usually in small numbers, although up to fifty are noted occasionally. Over a hundred were roosting at the Great Pond on 21.1.78 (HSBBR). There were thirty five at Enton, 17.2.72 (GSE), and an unusual summer record was of six at Frensham on 23.7.78 (HSBBR).

Great Black-backed Gull *L. marinus*

Occasional mid-winter visitor to Frensham. Most records are of four or less, but there were nineteen on 4.2.68. A few roosted at the Great Pond in early 1978, with at least fifteen on 27.1.78 (HSBBR), and four were standing on ice, 1.1.79 (PAK).

Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*

Vagrant. Most records are of obviously storm-driven birds. Six flew over Frensham, 17.1.55 (CJFB), and an adult was there, 16.3.67 (RH). One flew S.S.W. over Woolmer in a strong wind, 22.1.76 (HM.B.R.), and one crossed low over King's Ridge, Frensham, 23.4.77 (GS).

Family STERNIDAE

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*

Rare passage migrant. One shot at Frensham, 1837, and one seen, 11.7.14 (WAS). Three records 1947-9, all at the Great Pond, then one there, 18.4.71 (PGD); one in winter plumage, 8.9.74 (MRL); two there, 7.8.76 (KJA); and one, 15.5.77 (HNHS).

Roseate Tern *S. dougallii*

One at Frensham Great Pond, 7.5.71 (SJM, RGM), the first record for the area.

Common Tern *S. hirundo*

Regular passage migrant at Frensham, usually seen in April/May and July/September. Eleven were present, 23.5.71 (SJM), and up to eleven, including juveniles, in late August 1977 (sy.B.R.), but most records are of less than five. One was at Warren Mere, 11.5.75 (ECBN).

Little Tern *S. albifrons*

Very rare passage migrant at Frensham. The only recent records are of single birds on 3.10.65 (PGD) and 21.4.68 (LCT, JDERK), and two on 1.5.78 (MS).

Arctic Tern *S. paradisaea*

Occasional passage migrant at Frensham, first recorded on 27. and 28.4.47 when two were present (LCT, PMB, NB). Seven there, 21.5.48 (DCH), and one in summer plumage, 6., 7. and 8.9.56 (FMG, PMB, LCT). One there, 1.5.71 (PGD); two on 26., 29. and 30.4.72, and four on 5.5.72 (HSBBR); one on 7.8.77 (PMF); and one probable, 13.4.79 (MHT). On 1.5.79, forty nine "commic" terns, of which at least twelve were Arctic, were at Frensham Great Pond from 7.10 to 7.15 p.m. (RGM).



Arctic Tern

Black Tern *Chlidonias niger*

Regular passage migrant, seen nearly every year at Frensham, and occasionally at Enton, generally in May and August/September. There have been some sightings in early June, and an adult with four juveniles was at Frensham Great Pond, 24.6.79 (SG, JHP). The latest date was one on 7.11.67 (RH, PGD). Most records are of less than ten, fifty on 21.5.48 (DCH) being very unusual.

Family ALCIDAE

Little Auk *Alle alle*

Accidental. One in the Charterhouse collection was picked up at Haslemere (no date). One was found dead at Easebourne, 12.2.50 (BG).

Puffin *Fratercula arctica*

Accidental. A storm-driven bird was found at Thursley, 16.2.38 (GOA), and there was one at Roundhurst, Blackdown, 14.10.71, after a night of strong N.N.E. winds (TK).

Order COLUMBIFORMES

Family COLUMBIDAE

Stock Dove *Columba oenas*

Resident, seldom reported. Small flocks are seen on farmland, such as round Shillinglee and Northchapel. Breeding is obviously regular, though rarely recorded. In 1972 a pair bred in a hollow cherry tree at Pickhurst, Chiddingfold (JP). In 1979 a pair reared three broods in the same hollow tree at Waggoners Wells — young birds were still in the nest on 14.9.79 (PGD).

Woodpigeon *C. palumbus*

Very common resident and winter visitor. Flocks build up from July onwards, increasing greatly in size during November. Several thousands passed eastwards over Haslemere between 8.0 a.m. and 10.0 a.m. on 6.11.68 (DS); in 1971 about fifteen thousand flew over Milford in twenty minutes on a November morning (DWB), and nearly three thousand over Witley Station on 29.11.71 (TR). Cooing is heard normally from mid-January until autumn, though one was heard in Bunch Lane, 21.12.70 (PAK).

Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*

Common resident. It was unknown in the area until fifteen years ago, when first reported at Beacon Hill, 3.9.64 (DAW). At Frensham one was seen, 13.10.68 (DK, PGD), and the first nesting records were at Haslemere, Chapel Common and Hindhead in 1971. Since then numbers have increased steadily throughout the area.

Turtle Dove *S. turtur*

Summer resident, apparently less common than formerly, but still well-distributed. Average arrival date is about April 25th, though a week earlier is not uncommon. Cooing continues to mid-July, and the latest sighting was one at Ockley Common, 13.9.70 (DAB). In recent years there has been a late summer flock at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, with seventy there, 26.6.77 (sy.B.R.), over thirty on 16.7.77 (EAF), forty on 11.6.78 (HSBRR), and twenty two on 21.7.79 (EAF).

Order CUCULIFORMES

Family CUCULIDAE

Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*

Common summer resident. Numbers dropped sharply in the early 1970s and are increasing again only slowly. The average arrival date, which used to be April 11th, is now about a week later, perhaps due to a series of cold springs. Calling is heard until about June 25th. September sightings are not uncommon, and one was at Frensham Common, 21.10.72 (JU). At Frensham, meadow pipits are the regular hosts, but none of twenty seven nests examined in 1978 and 1979 contained Cuckoos. This was probably due to the increasing Carrion Crow population — they take the contents of the earlier nests, including the Cuckoo eggs, and the pipits only rear broods from their later nests (when the young crows have fledged), by which time the Cuckoos are no longer laying. One juvenile was fed on a Haslemere bird table by starlings, 4.6.69 (JH). One ringed as a nestling at Frensham, 2.8.73 (PGD) was found dead ca. 5.3.74 at Maretz, Nord, France.

Order STRIGIFORMES

Family TYTONIDAE

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

Uncommon resident. Pairs have bred regularly at several sites in the Haslemere/Northchapel/Chiddingfold area in recent years. At one site in 1979, an oak tree was shared with a pair of Little Owls.

A nestling ringed at Haslemere, 19.6.75 (PGD), was controlled at Farnham, 7.2.76 (PJM), and killed by traffic at Runwick, nr. Farnham, 6.5.76.

Family STRIGIDAE

Little Owl *Athene noctua*

Resident, and fairly common on the clay lands in the south and east of the area. A number of nesting sites in old trees have been occupied for many years.



Little Owl

Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*

Common resident — seldom reported. In 1976 a pair nested in a Kestrel box at Pickhurst, Chiddingfold (RHBF). A nest box at Marley Common was occupied in four out of the past twelve years. (PGD).

Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*

Vagrant. In the past this was a very uncommon resident, but only reported once in the last 25 years, when one was seen at Longdown, Hindhead, in 1969 (MLW).

Short-eared Owl *A. flammeus*

Rare winter visitor, only reported three times before 1973 but more frequently since. At Ockley Common, one was mobbed by a pair of great grey shrikes, 3.11.73 (AJJ), and one was there, 23.11.75 (DAB). One flew N.E. over the fields by Frensham Outfall Pond, 25.4.76 (JMC); there was one "probable" at Elstead Common on 11.10.77 (PFLEB); and one at Ockley Common, 26.11.78 (S.B.C.) and 16.12.78 (KJ).

Order CAPRIMULGIFORMES

Family CAPRIMULGIDAE

Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Summer resident on heathland. Numbers have declined steadily over the last fifty years, and there are considerable annual fluctuations. In 1978 at least twenty five churring males were heard in the district (some areas of heath were not visited), and in 1979 numbers were probably similar.

Order APODIFORMES

Family APODIDAE

Swift *Apus apus*

Common summer resident and passage migrant. The first arrivals are normally over Frensham in late April, the earliest being one on 18.4.71 (PGD). The resident birds arrive in Haslemere about May 11th, and depart about August 13th, though passage birds are seen into September, and one was flying over Woolmer on 9.10.78 (PRLEB). Large flocks build up in late summer, such as over a thousand at Frensham Great Pond, 19.6.72 (SJM). An albino-bodied bird, with normal dark-coloured head, wings and lower tail, has appeared at Frensham each year since 1977.

An adult ringed at Marley Common, 4.7.73 (PGD) was caught in Morocco on 18.8.77.

Order CORACIIFORMES

Family ALCEDINIDAE

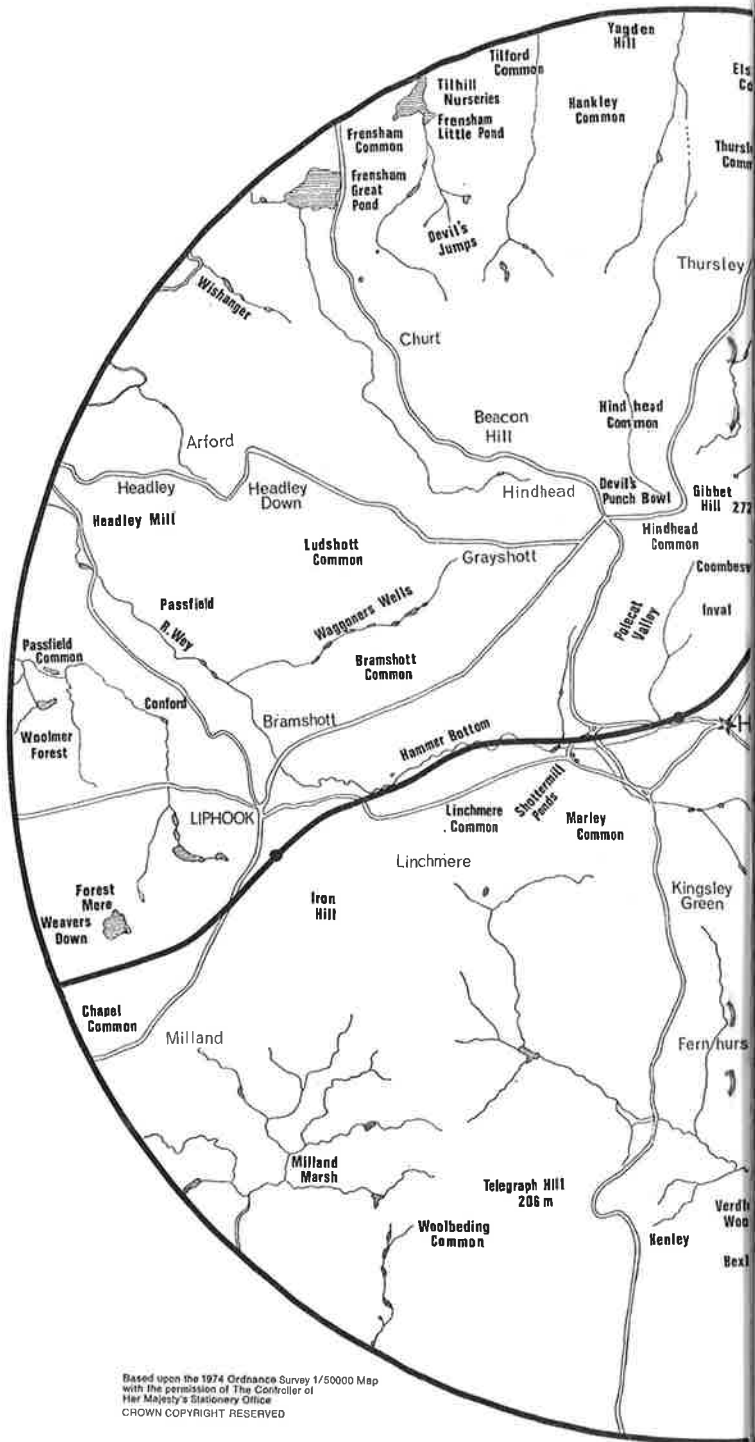


Kingfisher

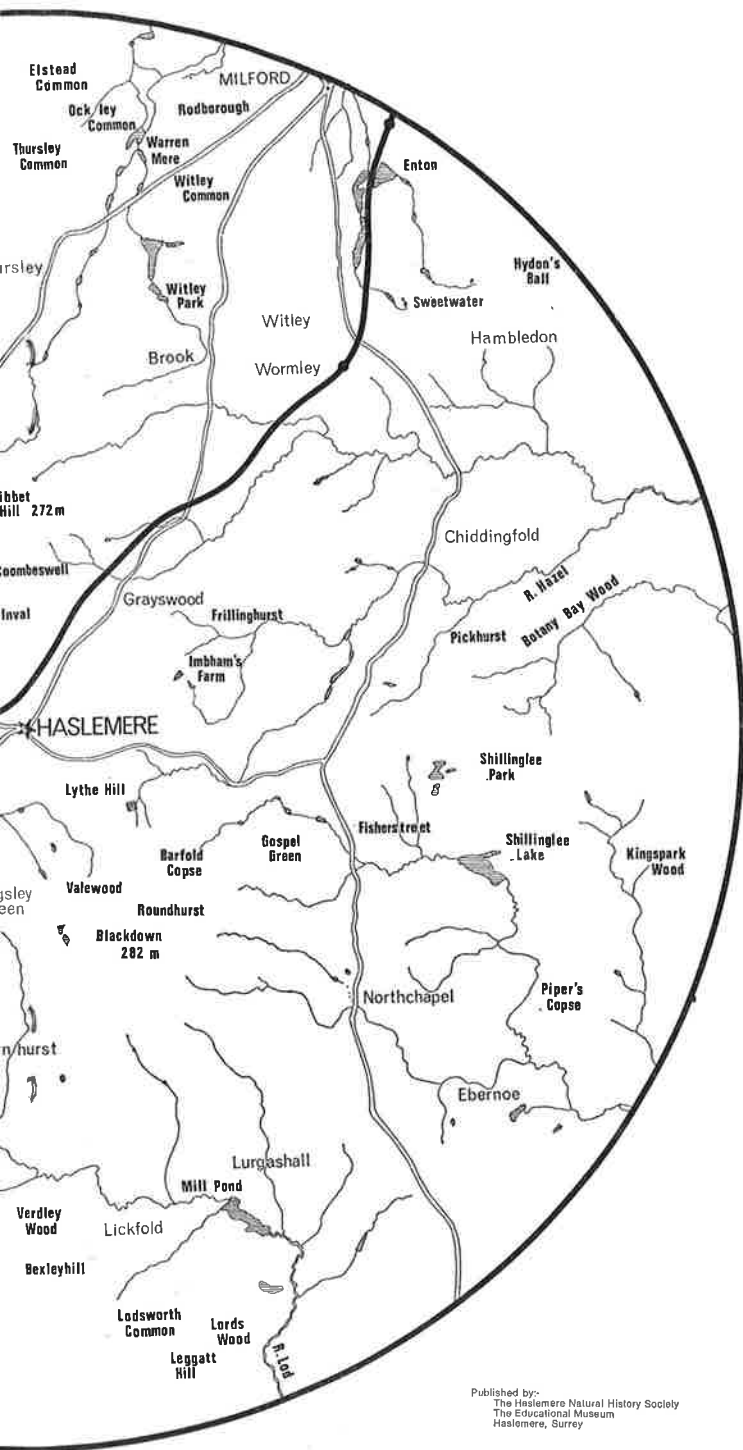
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Resident in very small numbers, on larger streams and ponds. This species is badly affected by hard winters, and fewer were seen after the cold spells of 1978/79. Breeding confirmed at Frensham most years, and suspected at Lurgashall, Thursley, and on the River Wey near Shottermill. During September 1975 four were seen in Bell Vale Lane, Haslemere (EFH), and birds were rescued several times from nets covering fish ponds at Hammer (CC).

One controlled at Frensham Great Pond on 30.12.67 (PGD) had been ringed 70 kms. N. at Marsworth Reservoir, Herts., on 1.8.67.



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Family UPUPIDAE

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Occasional visitor, usually on passage. There was one in a Haslemere garden, 1.5.69 (HYS); one near Northchapel, 15.4.72 (SX.B.R.); and one on Thursley Common, 12. to 20.8.72 (HSBRR). In 1973, one was at Hankley, 14. to 18.4.73, and in the Frensham area on several dates from 25.4.73 to 9.5.73 (AFM, RGM et al.), and again 18.10.73 to 5.12.73 (JEMM et al.). In 1977 there was one at Marley, 16.4.77 (PGD), and at Frensham, 8.5.77 (HSBRR), and a pair bred successfully in the area, rearing two young.

Order PICIFORMES

Family PICIDAE

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Very rare summer visitor. In the past fifty years this species has declined drastically, for in the 1920s it was regarded as quite common (WAS). It may have nested in the Frensham/Tilford area in the mid-1960s, but there have been no indications of breeding since. One was ringed at Redcot, Haslemere, 29.9.69 (DK, PGD), and there was one at Frensham, 23.5.70 (PGD, DAW, PMB), and 5.6.72 (SJM). One was seen at Woolmer on four dates, 12.6.72 to 7.7.72 (PFLB). One was near Grayswood, 24.5.73 (BM); one in a Haslemere garden, 15.4.75 (AF); one was killed by a cat in Chiddingfold in 1976 (GSE); and one was ringed at Witley Common, 28.8.77 (MRL).

Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*

Common resident, chiefly in mixed woodland. After the hard winter of 1962/63 numbers were not fully recovered for nearly ten years, but the cold weather of 1978/79 seemed to have little effect, indicating that prolonged rather than severe frosts are the danger.

One was watched "anting" at Haslemere in late January 1972 (DS).

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*

Common resident, which has continued to increase over the past decade. In particular, numbers are high on Frensham and Thursley Commons where recent fires have left many dead trees. In winter it is a regular visitor to feeding stations, and young birds are brought to bird-tables in late summer if bones or fat are provided. Drumming is noted from early January, but one was heard in late November 1970 at Hindhead (IHB, MLW), and throughout October and November 1978 at Inval (PAK).

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *D. minor*

Rather scarce resident, probably often overlooked. It is irregularly reported from scattered localities, with a few breeding records, indicating a wide distribution. There were five at Thursley Common, 29.10.78 (HSBRR).

Order PASSERIFORMES

Family ALAUDIDAE

Woodlark *Lullula arborea*

Scarce resident on heathland. It has declined considerably in the past twenty years, and is no longer a bird of open fields. A few pairs breed each year on the local commons, and small winter flocks perhaps indicate some influx from outside the area. Up to twenty were at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, in December 1977 (HSBRR), and again during the 1978/79 winter (CE). At Hankley Common, over thirty five were present, 5.10.78 (RMF). Song is heard from late February, and again throughout the autumn.

Skylark *Alauda arvensis*

Common resident and winter visitor on farmland and heaths. Winter flocks are usually of less than fifty, but huge movements occur in severe weather. On 1.1.79, after snowfall and in a temperature of 18°F., small flocks passed S.W. on a wide front across the area all day, being reported from Frensham, Churt, Headley, Witley and Milford, and must have totalled many thousands.

Family HIRUNDINIDAE

Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Summer visitor and passage migrant. In the past there were several colonies in the area, but none have been known for over twenty years, and the nearest are probably at Seale and Runfold. Normal arrival time is the last week in March, though one was seen at Frensham on 10.3.78 (RHD), and the latest record was one there, 14.10.78. Autumn flocks collect from mid-July; eight hundred were at Frensham, 24.7.77 (KMB, SMD).

Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common summer resident, though less numerous in the past few years, when many traditional nesting sites have been unoccupied. Often first reported in early April, and occasionally even in March, but main arrivals are from about April 20th onwards. Autumn passage is noted during August and September, and there are usually October records, such as three over Haslemere, 24.10.78. In 1979 a pair reared three young in a 4" square open nest box in a cattle shelter on Marley Common (PGD). The box had been used in previous seasons, once by a Robin, and three times by Pied Wagtails.

One ringed at Frensham, 2.5.68 (PGD) was found dead 435 kms. N.N.W. in Northumberland three weeks later.

House Martin *Delichon urbica*

Common summer resident, arriving in mid-April. Last records are generally in mid-October, though in 1977 a pair were still feeding young at the nest in Haslemere High Street during the second week of October (PAK), and the latest sighting was one at Northchapel, 3.11.70 (GB). In the drought of 1976, mud for nest-building was in very short supply, and even a small puddle near a leaking farm tap was utilised by several dozen birds.

Family MOTACILLIDAE

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

One at Thursley Common, 25.10.78 (RMF). This was the first record for the area, and only the thirteenth for Britain, the normal range being in Asia and the extreme N.E. of Europe. (Note: This sighting has yet to be accepted by the "British Birds" Rarities Committee).

Tree Pipit *A. trivialis*

Common summer resident, mainly on heathlands and young conifer plantations. In 1978 forty singing males were counted on Hankley Common, and at least ten on Thursley and Ockley Commons. The earliest recent record is one at Frensham, 2.4.78 (WRS), and the latest, two over Thursley Common, 5.10.77 (RMF). This is perhaps the only small true migrant which has not declined during the past twenty years.

Meadow Pipit *A. pratensis*

Common resident and winter visitor on all the local commons. Flocks of up to two hundred build up in September and October; the wintering flocks are normally forty to fifty.

One nestling ringed at Hankley Common, 5.7.67 (PGD) was trapped at Cadiz, Spain, on 11.1.68, and another ringed at Frensham, 10.5.68 (PGD) was "taken", also in Spain, on 15.11.68.

Rock Pipit *A. spinoletta petrosus*

Rare visitor, recorded only at Frensham. One there, 22.3.53 (EH), and two on 4.4.53 (PFLEB). One on 10.4.70 (AH), 24.4.72 (SJM), and 8.8.76 (DMEC, PMF).

Water Pipit *A. s. spinoletta*

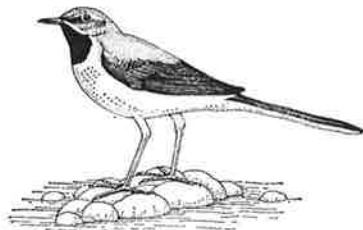
One at Ockley Common with Wheatears, 22.4.69 (GSE). One at Woolmer 22. and 24.4.78 (PFLEB).

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Uncommon passage migrant, seen in April/May and August/September. Reports are usually of small groups of up to ten flying over Frensham, Thursley Common or Woolmer. Eight were by the river at Frensham, 20.6.71 (WHH).

Grey Wagtail *M. cinerea*

Resident in small numbers. Usually found near falling water, and widely reported from sites at bridges and sluices. However, many sites have been lost to development and over-enthusiastic clearance; for instance, until Oaklands was built, a pair were regular at the stream in Town Meadow, Haslemere.



Grey Wagtail

Pied Wagtail *M. alba yarrelli*

Common resident and probably winter visitor. Flocks of fifty or more are seen feeding together in winter, such as on re-seeded grass at Frensham in March 1977. Roosts are reported occasionally, with over a hundred at Frensham (SJM), and about sixty in rhododendrons at Three Gates Lane, Haslemere (DK), in 1971, and "large numbers" in the bushes by the Wey Hill car park, in 1977 and 1978.

One found dead in a glasshouse at Plant Protection, Fernhurst, 27.11.70, had been ringed near Cambridge, 140 kms. N.N.E., on 11.9.70.

White Wagtail *M. a. alba*

Very rare passage migrant, recorded only four times in the past twenty years. Two at Frensham Great Pond, 25.4.71 (SJM); one there, 8.5.72, and one at Thursley, 3.6.72 (HSB); and one at Frensham Little Pond, 18.3.78 (JMC).

Family BOMBYCILLIDAE

Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

Rare winter visitor. None seen between 1959 and 1970, then one at Fernhurst, 9.12.70 (PGD) and four at Milland, 17.12.70 (DVG-L). Two in a garden at Frensham, 3.1.71 (MFL), and one at Frensham, 1.12.72 (KT).

Family TROGLODYTIDAE

Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*

Very common resident, but much affected by severe winters. It was almost wiped out in 1962/63 and took at least five years to recover. In exposed areas, such as Ludshott Common, numbers were reduced considerably by the 1978/79 winter, but elsewhere seem normal.

Family PRUNELLIDAE

Duncock *Prunella modularis*

Very common resident, seldom reported. One almost total albino was at Frensham Vale in 1974 (SR), and birds with a few white feathers are not uncommon. One ringed at Haslemere, 5.10.66 (PGD) was found dead 6 kms. S. at Henley on 10.4.69.

Family TURDIDAE

Robin *Erithacus rubecula*

Very common resident throughout the district. Several birds ringed at Marley (PGD) have been recovered locally — maximum time lapse 2 years 7 months.

Nightingale *Luscinia megarhynchos*

Summer resident in declining numbers. Many traditional sites have been deserted in recent years, while at others fewer birds have been present. Witley/Rodborough Commons seem to hold the densest population, with about thirty singing males in 1976.

One ringed as a nestling at Gospel Green, nr. Haslemere, 7.6.70 (PGD) was shot at Ortuella, Spain, on 1.9.70.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Uncommon passage migrant. Up to three reported almost annually since 1967, usually on the commons. Most sightings are in late March/early April, but a few have been recorded in autumn. One female was at Inval, Haslemere, 23.3.73 (TARC).

Redstart *P. phoenicurus*

Scarce summer resident, which used to be common but declined sharply in the early 1970s. A slight recovery has been noted since 1977, with up to eight pairs at Thursley Common, four pairs at Hankley Common, and one/two pairs at Frensham, Ludshott, Linchmere and Marley Commons, and at Woolmer.

One ringed as a nestling at Marley Common, 12.6.67 (PGD) was recovered in Navarra, Spain on 10.10.67. Another ringed as a nestling at Marley Common, 27.6.78 (PGD) was recovered in Morocco in April 1979.

Whinchat *Saxicola rubetra*

Scarce but regular passage migrant, seen annually in late April/May and August/September. There were ten at Woolmer, 26.8.75 (HSBRR), and at Ludshott Common the same day (HM.B.R.), and eight at Ockley Common, 28.8.76 (DMP), but most reports are of one/two birds. During September 1979 up to three were seen on weekly visits to an area of waste ground in Shottermill (PGD). In the past this was a breeding species, but there are no recent records of nesting.

Stonechat *S. torquata*

Resident and summer visitor on heathland. In 1978 a total of about forty breeding pairs was estimated in the area, though sites at Chapel Common, Weaver's Down and Woolbeding, which have held up to three pairs, were not visited.

Foreign recoveries of locally ringed birds (PGD) are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
25.4.65	15.12.65	Cuevas de Vinroma, SPAIN
4.7.71	20.11.71	Barcelona, SPAIN (Shot)
22.6.76	30.12.76	Sarthe, FRANCE (Killed by traffic)

Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*

Passage migrant in small numbers. Up to five are reported at Frensham each year, in April/early May, and August/September, and there are irregular sightings at Hindhead, Thursley, Hankley, Marley and Ludshott Commons, at Shottermill and at Woolmer. In the past this was a breeding species, but the last confirmed record was in 1961. Birds of the larger Greenland race were identified at Woolmer, 14.5.76, and at Frensham, 5.5.77 (HSBBR).



Wheatear

Ring Ousel *Turdus torquatus*

Rare passage migrant. Nine reports in the twenty years up to 1968, then one at Frensham, 18.8.68 (DAW, PGD), and one female trapped and ringed at Marley, 18.9.68 (PGD). One at Woolmer, 26.9.72 (PFLEB), another eating elderberries at Marley, 3. and 4.10.72 (PGD), and one in a garden at Hindhead, 9.10.72 (KMP). One at Thursley Common, 9.4.74 (DMP), one at Plant Protection, Fernhurst, 23.4.75 (JSW), and one at Marley, 13.9.75 (PGD).

Blackbird *T. merula*

Very common resident. Numerous local recoveries of birds ringed at Marley (PGD) — maximum time lapse, 7 years 4 months. Foreign recoveries are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
22.12.62	8.3.64	Brasschaat, Antwerp, BELGIUM
29.12.64	25.2.67	Hessen, GERMANY

One was seen "anting" at Liphook, 22.9.78 (JHP).

Fieldfare *T. pilaris*

Common winter visitor, usually present from October to April. The earliest recent record was at Frensham, 14.9.77 (PFLEB), and the latest, eight at Fisher Street, nr. Chiddingfold, 7.5.79 (SG, PAK). Flocks frequently exceed two or three hundred. Rotten apples in the Churt orchards attract large numbers each winter, and on 30. and 31.12.78, at least a thousand were present (CE, PJM). At Plant Protection, Fernhurst, in the cold weather of January 1979, about three thousand fed on waste chopped apples purposely spread on a field (PGD).

One ringed at Churt, 20.2.65 (PGD) was found dead in Akershus, Norway, on 9.6.68.

Song Thrush *T. philomelos*

Common resident, which has declined slightly in recent years. Several local recoveries of birds ringed at Marley (PGD) — maximum time lapse, 6 years 10 months.

Foreign recoveries are :

Ringed	Recovered	Location
8.7.61	mid-Feb. 1963	Brest, FRANCE
17.4.64	24.10.64	Villareal, SPAIN

Redwing *T. iliacus*

Common winter visitor, from October to late March. Earliest date, 15.9.68, at Marley (PGD), and latest, twenty at Inval, 8.5.69 (MMH). Flocks of several hundred, often with fieldfares, are common; a mixed flock of about a thousand was at Elstead Common, 27.2.71 (DAB). In recent winters, single birds have been reported as regular garden visitors in Haslemere.

Mistle Thrush *T. viscivorus*

Common resident and probably winter visitor. Flocks of up to fifty indicate some immigration in autumn. Nesting is often early, being noted at Grayshott on 28.1.73 (PC). Recoveries of locally ringed birds are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
3. 8.62	2.2.63	Vendee, FRANCE
1. 1.63	3.1.63	Emsworth, Hants.
12.12.69	20.7.76	Haslemere (killed by cat)
20. 7.71	30.5.76	Gosport, Hants. (killed by cat)

Family SYLVIIDAE

Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella naevia*

Rare summer visitor which has declined greatly in the last few years. In 1968 there were good numbers at Frensham, and it bred there, at Blackdown and on Hankley Common. In 1970 it nested at Frensham, while in 1972 breeding was suspected there and at Thursley Common. Since then, there have been no breeding records, and only one or two reports per year of passage birds.

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*

Uncommon summer resident. At Frensham, numbers dropped sharply about fifteen years ago, and only one or two pairs have bred recently. It probably still breeds at less disturbed sites such as Lurgashall Mill Pond. One ringed as a juvenile at Frensham, 18.7.64 (PGD), was controlled at Thatcham, Berkshire, on 20.4.68.

Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus*

Summer resident at Frensham, where it has been increasing over the past twenty years. In 1969, fourteen pairs nested at the Great Pond. In 1972, there were about fifteen pairs at each pond, and by 1978, at least twenty five pairs at the Great Pond and fifteen at the Little Pond. There have been no reports from other localities since 1937, at Lurgashall.

Recoveries of Frensham ringed birds are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
17.7.64	29. 9.64	Gondomar, PORTUGAL
22.7.64	18. 7.65	Woodbridge, Suffolk
21.7.65	1.10.65	Tarazona, SPAIN
13.6.67	3. 6.68 and	Thorpe, Surrey
	10. 8.68	Minsmere, Suffolk
9.7.73	24. 8.73	Radipole, Dorset

Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*

Accidental. There was one at Frensham, 5. to 19.6.65, which was ringed on 11.6.65 (PGD). The following year an unringed male was singing in the identical patch of reeds.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Scarce resident on heathland. Very susceptible to severe winters — it was wiped out in the area by the sharp cold spells in 1962 and 1963 and was not seen again for about twelve years. There are now several small but successful colonies, although numbers are still much lower than in the 1930s, when up to ninety pairs were estimated to be present (RCB). In good seasons several broods can be reared; four newly fledged birds were seen on 29.8.79, an extremely late date (PGD).



Dartford Warbler

Lesser Whitethroat *S. curruca*

Scarce summer resident and passage migrant. Singing males are noted annually around Chiddingfold and on the commons, but move on after a few days. This species is probably under-recorded as some observers seem unaware of its inconspicuous song. Breeding is reported only rarely, but in 1979 one sang daily at Inval from 12.5.79 to 16.6.79 (MMH, PAK); a pair were seen on 23.5.79, and were believed to be nesting.

Whitethroat *S. communis*

Summer resident, previously very common, which declined dramatically about 1969. Since 1976 numbers have recovered slightly. In 1977 and 1978 there were about twenty singing males at Ludshott Common (HSBBR), and in 1978, five at Lord's Wood, Leggatt Hill (PAK). In 1979 very few were reported.

Garden Warbler *S. borin*

Summer resident which has been less numerous during the past ten years, but is still widespread.

Blackcap *S. atricapilla*

Common summer resident, normally present from early April, and widely reported. Overwintering is not uncommon; there was a male in a Shottermill garden, 5.1.71 (PR), and a female at a nearby bird-table, 25.1.71 (TGW); a female feeding on fat at Grayshott in February 1972 (SK); a male feeding on ornamental crab apples at Inval, 30.11.78 (CE, PAK); and a female in Bell Lane, Haslemere on 9.2.79 (ADE).

An adult male ringed at Marley Common, 5.9.71 (PGD) was controlled in Loire Atlantique, France, on 22.9.71.

Wood Warbler *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*

Scarce summer resident. Until about ten years ago it was fairly common, particularly in beech woodland. Since then numbers have dropped steadily. At Hydon's Ball, seven singing males were present in 1968, six in 1971, and one in 1977 (LJR, sy.B.R.). In 1979 only three single birds were reported, at Waggoners Wells, Polecat Valley and Coombeswell, and many usual sites were unoccupied.

One ringed as a nestling on 6.7.67 (PGD) was recovered in Italy on 29.8.67.

Chiffchaff *P. collybita*

Common summer resident, but less numerous than in the past. Arrival date is about March 20th, the earliest being one singing in Three Gates Lane, Haslemere, 9.3.78 (PAK). There are few overwintering records; single birds were seen at Frensham, 2.2.69 (HNB) and 16.11.69 (LCT, DAW).

One ringed at Marley Common, 23.9.72 (PGD) was killed by traffic at Ipswich, Suffolk, on 28.5.73.

Willow Warbler *P. trochilus*

Common summer resident which has declined in recent years. One ringed 6.7.64 (PGD) was recovered at Caldelas, Portugal, on 6.9.65.

Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*

Common resident and probable winter visitor, well-distributed in the district. Autumn and winter flocks of up to forty are reported regularly, often mixed with tits, on the edges of the commons.

One ringed at Marley Common, 4.11.76 (PGD) was controlled at Copeland Islands, Ireland, on 18.4.77.

Firecrest *R. ignicapillus*

Very rare passage migrant, recorded only three times prior to 1972. There were single birds at Witley Park, 3.1.72 (JW); at Ludshott Common, 22.3.72 (LCT); and with goldcrests at Marley, 19.10.72 (PGD), and again at Marley in January 1973 (PGD). A male was at Thursley Common, 23.3.75 (DAB); one with tits at Hydon's Ball, 19.4.75 (JRM); and one at Ockley Common, 26.4.75 (DAB). One was at Marley, 14.10.76 (SX.B.R.); a male at Hammer Pond, Thursley, 10.4.77 (RMF); and a first year male and female ringed at Witley Common, 6.11.77 (MRL). There was one on King's Ridge, Frensham, 16.10.79 (JMC).

Family MUSCICAPIDAE

Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*

Fairly common summer resident. Numbers dropped sharply in the early 1970s, but were much improved in 1978 and 1979. Arrival date is usually about May 11th, but one was at Frensham, 10.4.70 (AH), and passage birds are seen until late September.

One ringed 15.6.64 (PGD) was recovered at Azambuja, Portugal, on 13.9.64, and another, ringed as a nestling at Marley Common, 23.6.73 (PGD), was found dead at Ajaccio, Corsica, on 15.5.74.

Red-breasted Flycatcher *Ficedula parva*

One at Elstead Common, 7.10.72 (DMP) is the only record for the area.

Pied Flycatcher *F. hypoleuca*

Rare passage migrant, reported in four out of the past twelve years. Two (female and juvenile) at Frensham, 1.8.76 (PMF, EAF); one at Elstead Common, 11.8.76, and two there, 12.8.76, in a large tit and tree creeper flock (DMP); one at Marley Common, 25.8.76 (PGD). Single males at Thursley Forked Pond, 24.4.77 (RMF); at Thursley Common, 24.4.78 (RMF), and at Frensham Outfall, 28.4.78 (PFLEB); and at Witley Common, 3.5.79 (MRL).

Family TIMALIIDAE

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

Very rare winter visitor. Two at Frensham Little Pond, 25.10.64 (EH, GH) were the first recorded for about 140 years. There were single birds at Frensham, 18.10.70 (JMB, DAW), 26.10.71 (PFLEB), and 1.11.72, and six on 6.11.72 (HSBRR). Between 11.11.73 and 23.3.74 up to six were present at Frensham, usually in the reedbeds of the Little Pond (DAW, PFLEB et al.). The following winter there were two at Frensham Little Pond, 23.12.74 (HSBRR), but since then none have been reported.

Family AEGITHALIDAE

Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*

Common resident throughout the district. Winter flocks of thirty to fifty are regular, and sometimes reach one hundred. Numbers are reduced sharply by each hard winter, such as 1947, 1948 and 1963, but were little affected by 1978/79. Many recent reports of up to a dozen feeding at bird-tables, generally in late winter, suggest that this habit is spreading.

At Frensham in 1974 a nest was found to contain the feathers of Mallard, Mute Swan and Tawny Owl (F.C.B.W.).

Family PARIDAE

Marsh Tit *Parus palustris*

Common resident, which seems to be doing very well at present. It is a frequent visitor to bird-tables, especially where sunflower seeds are provided.

One ringed at Haslemere, 24.8.68 (PGD) was killed locally by a cat seven years later, in autumn 1975.

Willow Tit *P. montanus*

Resident — seldom reported, but probably often overlooked. In the early 1970s it was seen at Frensham more than Marsh Tit; three pairs bred in 1972, and at least one in 1975, but since then it has been scarce. Irregular sightings from elsewhere suggest a wide distribution, mainly in damp areas.

Coal Tit *P. ater*

Common resident, particularly in mixed woodland with conifers. During autumn and winter, flocks of twenty to fifty, often with other tits and goldcrests, are regular on the commons. About one hundred were at Thursley on 28.9.75 (DAB). All ringing recoveries have been local — maximum time lapse, 8 months.

Blue Tit *P. caeruleus*

Very common resident and perhaps passage migrant. Birds ringed at Marley and Witley Commons (PGD, MRL) have been recovered in Devon, Sussex and at Portsmouth, but there have been no local recoveries of birds ringed farther north. Autumn flocks reach up to a hundred; there were over one hundred and fifty together at Witley Common, 13.8.77 (MRL). In 1976 breeding success was low, due to the drought, and there were several cases of whole broods dying from heat in nest boxes.

Great Tit *P. major*

Very common resident. Song is sometimes noted from late December onwards. All ringing recoveries have been local — maximum time lapse 2 years 4 months.

Family SITTIDAE

Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*

Common resident, especially in areas with mature oak and beech trees. One ringed as a nestling at Haslemere, 12.5.61 (PGD) was found dead locally six years later, on 26.6.67. A pair have bred since 1976 in an old nest box in Derby Road, adding new layers of mud each year (DS).

Family CERTHIIDAE

Treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*

Common resident, whose numbers are much affected by hard winters. Small flocks are seen in early spring; there were fifteen together near Holy Cross Hospital, Haslemere, 4.3.77 (PAK). One fed at a bird table on 14.1.79 (ADE).

Family ORIOLIDAE

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Vagrant, first reported in 1971, when singing birds were heard at Thursley and Hindhead. One was heard at Wormley, 4.7.76 (GL).

Family LANIIDAE

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Very rare passage migrant, seen only once in the past twelve years, when a female was at Frensham Common, 4.6.78 (SMD, JHP). Until about 1930 this was a fairly common summer resident, but has declined steadily. The last breeding record was of a pair at Bramshott Common in 1965.

Lesser Grey Shrike *L. minor*

Accidental. One found dead at Holt Pound, nr. Rowledge, just outside the district, 16.5.67 (TGW), is now on display at the Museum. One was found dying at Peperham, Haslemere, 11.11.73 (HEC).

Great Grey Shrike *L. excubitor*

Regular winter visitor, in very small numbers, to the commons and to Woolmer. It has become more frequent in recent years, with numerous reports of one/two every year between October and April. Individual birds seem to cover large areas, ranging from Thursley across Hankley to Frensham. Larders have been found containing beetles, Reed Bunting and Redpoll (RMF, DMP).



Great Grey Shrike

Family CORVIDAE

Jay *Garrulus glandarius*

Very common resident, which seems to be becoming more numerous. Fifty six were counted around Frensham Great Pond on 3.10.77 (HNHS).

Magpie *Pica pica*

Very common resident, apparently increasing in numbers. Sixty were roosting near Elstead Common in March 1973 (DMP), and occasional flocks of about twenty are noted.

Nutcracker *Nucifraga caryocatactes*

One at Frensham, 31.8.57 (IHB, MLW) is the only record.

Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*

Common resident, though with a patchy distribution. Flocks of up to a hundred, often associated with rooks, feed on the farmlands around Shillinglee and Northchapel. In 1968 one was seen at Chiddingfold, collecting nesting material from a donkey's back (MMH).

Rook *C. frugilegus*

Common resident, particularly in the eastern side of the area. Most known rookeries contain less than twenty nests — ten were occupied at Milland Marsh, 18.3.79 (PAK). Six were building in Church Lane, near Haslemere town centre on 27.2.71 (NGB), but this site is now deserted.

Carrion Crow *C. corone corone*

Common resident which recently has increased in numbers. Up to thirty are noted often on Frensham Common, and fifty at Woolmer and Hankley Common. There have been several reports of birds making a vocal sound like a drumming woodpecker.

Hooded Crow *C. corone cornix*

Vagrant. There was a Hooded/Carrion Crow hybrid at Frensham, 15.10.72 (JMB, JG, GHP). One flew north over Woolmer, 31.12.76 (HM.B.R.).

Raven *C. corax*

Accidental. The only record during the past fifty years was one at Frensham, 16.11.56 (JJS).

Family STURNIDAE

Starling *Sternus vulgaris*

Very common resident and winter visitor. At Frensham Great Pond, three thousand five hundred were roosting on 13.8.76, and two thousand on 17.8.77 (HSBRR). Several local recoveries of birds ringed at Marley Common (PGD) — maximum time lapse 6 years 4 months. Others have been recovered near Bristol, in Kent and in Germany, and on 2.1.65 a Dutch ringed bird was caught in Haslemere.

Family PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

Very common resident. Although well-distributed around habitation, it surprisingly is absent in some places — at Inval, Haslemere, it is seen now only once or twice a year, although it was a regular visitor in the past (MMH).

Tree Sparrow *P. montanus*

Scarce resident and winter visitor. There are a few breeding records, including a pair in a nesting-box at Brook in 1972 (EH). Flocks of about fifty are regular in the Elstead/Milford/Enton area in winter, and reached two hundred near Elstead on 12.3.77 (HSBRR).

Family FRINGILLIDAE

Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*

Very common resident and winter visitor. Since about 1966 large autumn and winter flocks of mixed finches have been noted on hop waste used as fertiliser at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, and sometimes up to half are Chaffinches. Two to three hundred were there between October 1978 and March 1979, and again in late 1979.

Foreign recoveries of locally ringed birds are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
18. 1.66	6. 4.67	Kopparberg, SWEDEN
19.12.70	20. 4.74	Ovebro, SWEDEN
7.10.72	18. 5.75	Ostergotland, SWEDEN

One ringed in Belgium, 20.10.63, was recovered in Haslemere on 16.2.64.

Brambling *F. montifringilla*

Regular winter visitor in varying numbers. In some years (eg. 1974, 1976, 1977) less than a dozen are reported, while in others (eg. 1970-73, 1978/79) flocks of several hundred are present. Up to two hundred were with the finch flock at Tilhill Nurseries during November/early December 1978, and again in late March/early April 1979, and at least three hundred in December 1979. Stragglers are seen until May, when singing males may be noted.

Foreign recoveries of locally ringed birds are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
22.12.62	17. 2.63	Finisterre, FRANCE
9. 3.73	21. 3.73	Texel, NETHERLANDS

One ringed in Finland was controlled at Tilhill in January 1980 (details not yet available).



Brambling

Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*

Very common resident and winter visitor, whose numbers fluctuate considerably. This is noticeable in the finch flock at Tilhill Nurseries; in some years about 70% are Greenfinches, with over five hundred there in December 1976, and about four hundred in December 1977; in others, such as early 1979, less than a dozen birds are present.

Birds ringed during mid-winter have been recovered in Bucks., Berks., Cambridge, Essex, Middlesex and Kent, as well as locally, but there have been no foreign recoveries. A female ringed in Haslemere, 20.12.67 (PGD) was caught several times during the next four years in a bullfinch trap at Tiptree, Essex.

Goldfinch *C. carduelis*

Common resident and migrant; ringing has shown that some wintering birds come from the Midlands, while other pass through to France. Flocks of about fifty are regular on the commons in winter, with up to a hundred on the hop waste at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham.

Siskin *C. spinus*

Regular winter visitor, seen in small flocks from late October to April, often with Redpolls. Numbers fluctuate greatly; very few were seen in 1978/79. As in other parts of the country, the habit of feeding at bird tables has developed over the last decade.

In 1975/76 an enormous influx took place, with 1,080 being ringed at Marley Common (where normally Siskins are scarce) between October and March (PGD). Very few birds were retrapped, suggesting that far greater numbers were present and/or that the birds were constantly moving through. This invasion may have been due to an exceptionally heavy birch seed crop, which co-incided with the failure of the alder seed crop over a wide area.

Locally ringed birds, (PGD, MRL) have been recovered in Devon, Essex and Argyll. Foreign recoveries are:-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
15. 3.64	3.11.66	N.W. ITALY
30. 3.75	23.11.75	Caceres, SPAIN
8.11.75	10. 2.76	W. GERMANY
22. 1.76	16. 4.77	Vastmanland, SWEDEN
15. 2.76	July 1976	Orkanger, NORWAY
2. 3.76	27. 6.76	Alvsborg, SWEDEN
28. 3.76	24. 4.76	W. GERMANY
7. 2.76	23.10.77	nr. Poltava, UKRAINE S.S.R.

(farthest E. to date for a British-ringed Siskin)

Linnet *C. cannabina*

Common resident on heathland, and probably winter visitor. Autumn flocks of fifty or more are regular; up to a hundred were on spent hops at Tilhill Nurseries, Frensham, in January/February 1978.

Twite *C. flavirostris*

Accidental — reported twice in the past sixty years. One at Thursley, February 1933 (HR), and one at Frensham, 10.3.68 (EH, GH).

Redpoll *C. flammea disruptis*

Resident in very small numbers and common winter visitor. Flocks of fifty to a hundred are present on the commons from October to April, with as many as four hundred at Thursley, 19.4.74 (DMP).

Birds ringed at Marley and Witley Commons (PGD, MRL) have been recovered in the Midlands, the North and in Scotland, and five from the North have been controlled at Marley. Foreign recoveries are :-

Ringed	Recovered	Location
5.11.64	20.10.65	W. Flanders, BELGIUM
17. 1.65	11.11.65	Zuid, HOLLAND
13. 3.65	26.10.66	Goussainville, FRANCE
15.10.70	19.11.70	Versailles, FRANCE
17.10.74	30. 4.75	Oost-Vlaanderen, BELGIUM

Mealy Redpoll *C. f. flammea*

Rare winter visitor, reported four times up to 1968. Single birds at Marley, 27.2.68 and 29.12.72 (PGD); several at Frensham, 1.1.75 (DP); one there, 10.1.76 (HSBRR), and at Witley Common, 28.2.76 (MRL); one at Frensham, 27.3.77 (MS); and a pair at Thursley Common, 22.3.78 (RMF). During the 1975/76 Siskin "invasion", five were trapped at Marley Common — always with Siskins, never Redpolls (PGD).

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

Irregular autumn and winter visitor. A few are reported most years, from July onwards, and after an "invasion year" such as 1972, some remain and breed the following spring. Juveniles were seen at Beacon Hill in May 1969 (DAW), and a pair probably bred in Botany Bay Wood, nr. Chiddingfold, in 1977 (RMF, DMP). In August and September 1979 flocks of up to twenty were seen around the area.

Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common resident, usually seen in small numbers. Flocks of fifty at Frensham, 21.1.68 (RH), and over thirty at Thursley Common, 13.1.78 (HSBRR) were unusual. Eleven birds ringed at Marley Common (PGD) have been recovered locally, several shot on fruit trees — maximum time lapse, 5 years 2 months.

Hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*

A shy and elusive resident, probably often overlooked. Numbers have obviously dropped in the last few decades, as the flocks of up to fifty, such as visited the Museum grounds during the 1930s, are no longer seen. Occasional records of one or two, feeding on holly seeds or cherry stones, come from Blackdown, Marley, Shottermill, Hindhead and Churt, and Witley Common.

Family EMBERIZIDAE

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Vagrant — reported three times this century. There was a female at Frensham Pond car park, 23.11.57, one at Gibbet Hill, 21.11.66 (DAW), and a first winter male at Thursley Common, 31.10.76 (DAB, DMP).

Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Common resident on heathland and farms. Few are seen at Frensham, though fifty were there on re-seeded grass, 21.11.71 (JMB), but up to a dozen singing males have been at Ludshott in recent years. In 1979 the species was well-distributed on farmland around Chiddingfold, Northchapel and Shillinglee.

A female ringed at Frensham, 12.9.65 (PGD) was released from a greenhouse near Fareham, Hants., on 11.2.68.

Cirl Bunting *E. cirius*

Very rare visitor, reported only eight times this century. The most recent record was one at Enton, 4.6.61 (GHG).

Reed Bunting *E. schoeniclus*

Resident in small numbers, and probably winter visitor. It appears to be increasing; up to twelve singing males have been present at Frensham in recent years, with several pairs at Thursley, Hankley and Ludshott Commons, and also on farmland near Chiddingfold and Northchapel. Winter flocks suggest some immigration; up to two hundred fed on Purple Moor Grass at Hindhead Common, January to March 1971 (DMK), and fifty to a hundred are noted regularly at Thursley and Ockley Commons in late winter.



Reed Bunting

Corn Bunting *Miliaria calandra*

Very rare visitor, reported twice this century. One was at Frensham, 4.2.68 (JDERK, PGD). In June 1974 there were three singing males near Witley — by the end of the month only one remained, together with a female, thought to be sitting on eggs nearby (CE, BM).

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(HSBBR)
Hampshire Bird Report (Hm.B.R.)
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