

Classification of rare breeding birds in the UK

Regular breeders

A regular breeder is a species that has bred (i.e. confirmed breeding has been recorded) at least once in the UK and which has bred (or was strongly suspected to have bred) for any five consecutive years within the last 25 (unless the last breeding was more than ten years ago). This definition is the same as used in the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) reviews (Eaton *et al.* 2015).

All regular breeding species are further categorised according to population size:

- **Very rare** (mean of <30 breeding pairs (bp) per annum);
- **Rare** (30–300 bp per annum);
- **Scarce** (301–1,000 bp per annum);
- **Less scarce** (>1,000 bp per annum).

Occasional breeders

An occasional breeder is a species which has bred at least once in the UK but is not a regular breeder.

Potential breeders

A potential breeder is a species which has not bred previously in the UK but, in some years, shows signs that it may do so (e.g. presence of singing males holding territory or pairs in suitable breeding habitat).

Colonising breeders

A colonising breeder is a species which first bred in the UK in the most recent five years.

Former breeders

A former breeder is a species which bred regularly in the past but for which there has been no confirmed breeding record in the last ten years.