

## Notes on the RBBP Recording Forms

The Standard and County total forms are to be used by county or regional bird recorders, and individuals, to submit data to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

Please use a separate standard form for each species within a county in the year being reported.

The County Totals form should ONLY be used for the species named on that form and ONLY when there are ten or more pairs of that species breeding in the county in the year being reported. This form only requires species name and number of pairs in the three breeding categories (see note 9 below).

### NOTES

1. Enter the full English name of each species.
2. Please use the current administrative or recording divisions: county or recording area in England, Wales and Northern Ireland; SOC recording area in Scotland.
3. Lines are provided for up to five individual sites; please use further forms if you have more sites to report.
4. Please give a site name from the current 1:50,000 OS maps and a 2-letter 6-figure grid reference. For larger sites, give a centralised 4-figure grid reference.
5. Please record the maximum number of adults seen using M for male and F for female (e.g. 2F, 1M). If a site was checked and found to be unoccupied in a particular year, please enter 0 here.
6. Please enter the number of eggs in the clutch (where known) and young thought to have fledged from the site. If you are unsure, please give the likely range (e.g. 6-9). Please state if the number relates to young in nest or young fledged, or include both if known.
7. It is a requirement of Schedule 1 licences that the number and dates of visits to the nest are recorded here.
8. If the nest has been visited, it would be helpful to complete a BTO Nest Record Card. Write Y if a card has been completed for this site, N if not and U if you do not know.
9. Please enter the number of pairs in each of the European Atlas categories (below), plus the Total. If you are unsure, give the likely range (e.g. 15-20). Note that, for some species, it is appropriate to count in units other than pairs (e.g. Bittern and Corncrake, calling males, Marsh Harrier, females and nests); please indicate the units used.  
**Possible breeding:** One or more birds observed in possible nesting habitat or singing male (or breeding calls) in breeding season.  
**Probable breeding:** Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season or permanent territory presumed (through registration of song or other territorial behaviour on at least 2 occasions a week or more apart); or observations of courtship, visiting probable nest-site, agitated behaviour of adults, nest-building or brood-patch on adult.  
**Proved (or confirmed) breeding:** Adults injury-feigning (distraction display), or at apparently occupied nest, or carrying faecal sac or food for young; or current year's used nest, fresh eggshells, recently fledged or downy young, or nest with eggs or young.
10. Please provide additional information, such as accuracy or reliability of estimate, circumstances of failure, ring numbers of pulli, etc.
11. If the observer is not the person who has completed the form, please enter the observer's name here.

**CONSERVATION.** If any of the sites are being reported for the first time, or if the situation has recently changed, please give here any information that might be valuable for conservation purposes - in particular, whether they are public or private, whether they are protected as SSSIs or similar, whether conservation measures are needed, whether the site is kept, whether the landowner knows of the birds.

**FURTHER DETAILS.** Please record here any other observations that you feel might be useful (such as 'first record for county', 'site last occupied 1990', habitat details) but which you cannot fit into the notes box. It is useful to provide notes of regular sites which usually hold this species but which were not visited this year.

Please return this form by email to [secretary@rbbp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rbbp.org.uk) or by post to:  
The Secretary, Rare Breeding Birds Panel, The Old Orchard, Grange Road, North Berwick, East Lothian EH39 4QT, as soon as possible after the end of the breeding season.