

NON-NATIVE BIRDS BREEDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1996

MALCOLM OGILVIE AND THE RARE BREEDING BIRDS PANEL



Golden Pheasants *Chrysolophus picta* (Dan Powell)

From 1996, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel enlarged the list of species that it deals with to take in all those on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 instead of only those which were considered to be less common. At the same time, it was realised that the Panel, with its connections to the entire network of local bird recorders, was also ideally placed to monitor the scarcer introduced and naturalised non-native species. The need for such monitoring was one of the main conclusions of the joint BOU/JNCC conference on introduced and naturalised birds in the UK held in 1995 (Holmes & Simons 1996; Marchant 1996).

As explained by Ogilvie (1997), non-native species, whether the result of escapes from captivity or of deliberate introduction, can cause serious problems, for example to indigenous species or to agriculture, throughout the World. Britain has not been free from such problems, with Canada

Goose *Branta canadensis* an obvious example, while escaped Ruddy Ducks *Oxyura jamaicensis* have spread from Britain to Spain and caused problems for native White-headed Ducks *O. leucocephala* there.

Almost 300 species of non-native birds have been reported in the wild in Britain and about one-sixth of these have been recorded as having bred in the wild (BOURC 1998; Holmes *et al.* 1998). Many species that escape never find a mate, however, or fail to find the correct habitat, food or climatic conditions to breed successfully. Those that do have the potential to acquire the status of pests and can cause significant economic and nature conservation impacts. This new initiative by the Panel will, with the much-appreciated co-operation of local bird recorders, put in place a national mechanism to track the establishment and spread of populations of these non-native species.

The information gathered will assist conservation agencies and the Government to fulfil Article 8 of the Biodiversity Convention, and other international treaties, such as the EU Birds Directive, which stress the need to ensure that releases of non-native species are closely regulated and do not result in ecological conflicts with native fauna or flora, whether in this country or farther afield.

This first report is not claimed to be complete: not all county recorders were able to send in information, though it is to be hoped that this will be possible in future years. It does, however, briefly set out the known status of most of the scarcer non-native breeding birds and is the first step towards regular monitoring of the situation throughout the UK.

Such monitoring will become much more effective if all birdwatchers will report the presence of escapes and, especially, any breeding activity to their local recorder. It is to be hoped that the dismissal of escapes as of no interest is already a thing of the past. Several species already deserve much closer study than has so far been paid them and we would encourage local bird clubs to organise surveys of some of them. For example, the Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* lives in areas of high human population density, but, until recently (Pithon & Dytham 1999), has received remarkably little attention.

All non-native species reported to the Panel as having bred in 1996 are listed below, together with those species known to breed regularly even if no actual 1996 records were received. For completeness, all the common non-native breeding species are included. Only records involving breeding or potential breeding activity are included, with the exception of the rarer pheasants. The mere presence of these highly sedentary and secretive birds is all that is normally reported, but it can be regarded as indicative of breeding.

The letters after the species' names are the categories used by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC 1998):

- A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
- B Species which were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C Species that, although originally introduced by man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.
- E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species of which Category E individuals have been recorded as nesting, with their own kind, are marked with an asterisk (E*).

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. All other Category C species are listed below, including, for completeness, those common ones for which the Panel is not gathering information.

Records are given by county, in alphabetical order within England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

NORFOLK Up to 30 free-winged and unmarked birds of European race *nycticorax* breeding in a colony of Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* at Great Witchingham Park, associated with similar-sized captive flock. Reported as virtually sedentary and never wandering far.

LOTHIAN Although there are still some birds (of the American race *hoactli*) free-flying in Edinburgh Zoo which occasionally

wander, no breeding now takes place away from the Zoo.

These two long-standing colonies are apparently wholly dependent upon captive conditions and artificial feeding.

MUTE SWAN *Cygnus olor* (AC)

This species is not included in the Panel's list.

The most recent population estimate for Britain is 25,750 (Scott & Rose 1996).

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

ESSEX Pair bred on Raphael Park Lake, Upminster town centre, seen with two cygnets. Pair in Romford town centre did not breed.

WILTSHIRE Two pairs bred at Ramsbury Manor, seen with one and three cygnets respectively. Another pair and a single at two other localities.

Many singles and occasional pairs are reported from, particularly, the southern half of England, but these are the only breeding reports to be received.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

DUNBARTONSHIRE Two pairs bred, but both nests flooded and eggs destroyed.

These were the only known escaped pairs to breed, though several others were present at localities in England. Apparently wild pairs also bred in Scotland (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* (AE*)

No reports received.

In 1991, Delany (1993) reported a pair breeding in Lancashire, among a total of 88 birds recorded at 29 sites.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* (AE*)

ARGYLL Three full-winged pairs of the Greenland race *flavirostris*, from a waterfowl collection, bred on Islay away from the collection site, rearing four young.

In 1991, Delany (1993) reported a pair of the nominate race breeding in Norfolk, among a total of 77 recorded at 11 sites.

GREYLAG GOOSE *Anser anser* (ACE*)

Not included in the Panel's list.

In 1991, Delany (1993) reported a total of 19,501 individuals at 447 sites.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (E*)

DERBYSHIRE Pair bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred unsuccessfully.

HAMPSHIRE Pair at Eversley Cross.

A total of 85 was reported by Delany (1993) in 1991 at a minimum of 27 sites, with three broods at Stratfield Saye, Hampshire, the only breeding record.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

HAMPSHIRE Six pairs bred (five at Eversley Gravel-pit, one at Stratfield Saye), but no young reared.

NORFOLK Large free-flying colony at Sandringham Park; no counts and not certain if bred, but 50 seen in spring 1995.

ARGYLL Two pairs bred, Coll. No breeding records from Mull, but Coll/Mull flock of 40-50 in both winters (1995/96 and 1996/97). These birds stem from a former waterfowl collection on Mull.

In addition to the free-winged flock on the neighbouring islands of Mull and Coll, Delany (1993) reported a further 120 at 26 sites, with young seen at three sites, in Bedfordshire, Hampshire and Norfolk.

CANADA GOOSE *Branta canadensis* (ACE*)

Not included in the Panel's list.

The most recent census was in 1991 by Delany (1993) which found 63,581 at 1,210 sites throughout the UK. The average annual rate of increase since the previous survey, in 1976, had been 8.3%.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

ESSEX Three pairs reared broods at Hamford Water.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 15 pairs bred at Frampton Gravel Pits, with free-flying flock

there and at Slimbridge totalling about 70.
 HAMPSHIRE 22-25 pairs (17-20 pairs at Stratfield Saye reared 47 young; four pairs at Eversley Gravel-pit and one at Eversley Cross all failed).

NORFOLK Six pairs bred (five at Pensthorpe, one at Hickling fledging five young); additional feral flocks totalling 177 at three localities.

SUFFOLK Up to ten pairs bred (up to seven at Heveningham Hall, where two pairs seen with young and flock totalled 122 in October, two at Kessingland Wildlife Park, pair at Weybread Pits).

ARGYLL Three pairs from a waterfowl collection bred unsuccessfully on Islay, away from the collection site.

Delany (1993) reported a total of 925 at 89 sites, with successful breeding occurring at 15 sites, compared with the 11 sites reported here.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Pair bred on Aberdeen Pool; first breeding for county.

HAMPSHIRE Pair at Wellington Country Park did not breed, though had done in 1995.

KENT Single pairs at two localities, no young seen.

LEICESTERSHIRE Pair bred at Rutland Water.

NORFOLK Three pairs bred at two sites, four at two other sites, one or two pairs at 16 other sites, probably under-recorded.

SUFFOLK Up to seven pairs bred at six localities.

SURREY Pair with two young; second breeding record for county.

In 1991, pairs with broods were reported by Delany (1993) from 23 sites, all but two in Norfolk; single pairs bred in Leicestershire and Berkshire. The reports in 1996 indicate that the population is still spreading out from its traditional stronghold. The total population in 1991 was 906 at 47 sites.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

NORFOLK Pair bred, seen with two young.

Although many individuals and small groups of this species are present throughout the year, mainly in southern England, but also turning up in Scotland, breeding is rare and this is the only report.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (E*)

DEVON No specific breeding records, but quite widespread and flocks of up to 75 reported.

NORTHUMBERLAND Pair bred on Derwent Reservoir; two young may have fledged from a brood of 15; two other adults present.

SURREY Quite common on town and private lakes and probably breeding, but not usually reported.

No reports were received of the breeding population in Cambridgeshire where a population of about 130 birds was recorded in 1991 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (E*)

CAMBRIDGESHIRE/HUNTINGDONSHIRE Pair on Little Paxton Gravel-pit in May.

GREATER MANCHESTER Male paired with female Mandarin Duck *A. galericulata*, seen with seven ducklings (but not proven hybrids which have never been recorded and are, in any case, highly improbable because of genetic incompatibilities between the two species).

KENT 24 pairs reported, of which two proved to breed, six probably did and 16 possibles.

SURREY Singles at two localities, one with female (but not known whether this species or Mandarin Duck).

Single birds and small groups are widely reported, but these are the only breeding or possible breeding records received.

MANDARIN DUCK *Aix galericulata* (CE*)

ARGYLL Up to six pairs bred at two sites in Loch Eck area.

HIGHLAND Three pairs bred in Strathnairn.

DOWN Population of 20-30 pairs has become established along the Shimna River since 1978.

Although not on the Panel's list, these breeding records from outwith the main breeding range seem worth recording. The total British population was estimated at 7,000 individuals by Davies (1988).

MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos* (AC)

Not included in the Panel's list.

The British breeding population has been estimated at about 100,000 pairs (Owen *et al.* 1986), with a post-breeding total of about 500,000. Autumn numbers are nearly doubled by the release of an estimated 400,000 birds artificially reared for shooting purposes (Harradine 1982).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* (AE)

ESSEX Pair nest-building on Connaught Water on 1st April.

This pair has been present there since at least 1994. This species is recorded as a Category E species, but has never been proved to breed in the wild in the UK (BOURC 1998).

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* (AE*)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE/WILTSHIRE At least 20 pairs on gravel-pits of Cotswold Water Park, with peak of 90 birds in December. No information available on breeding success.

INNER LONDON At least ten captive-bred young birds were full-winged after 1996 breeding season.

NORFOLK Large free-flying population at Pensthorpe, breeding status unknown.

Gibbons *et al.* (1993) estimated the total population in Britain in 1988-91 as under 100 individuals.

RUDDY DUCK *Oxyura jamaicensis* (CE*)

This species is not on the Panel's list.

The total of 3,625 was counted in January 1997 (WeBS, per B. Hughes).

CAPERCAILLIE *Tetrao urogallus* (BC)

This species is not on the Panel's list.

The population was estimated at 2,200 in 1992-94 by Catt *et al.* (1994).

RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE *Alectoris rufa* (CE*) AND CHUKAR PARTRIDGE *A. chukar* (E*)

Neither of these two species is on the Panel's list.

Releases of Chukar Partridges and of hybrid Redleg x Chukar have been banned since 1992. The population of Red-legged Partridges was estimated by Gibbons *et al.* (1993) at about 90,000 territories during 1988-91, with perhaps 1.5 million individuals at the start of the shooting season, including released birds.

SILVER PHEASANT *Lophura nycthemera* (E*)

NORFOLK Pair bred in 1994, but no report was received this year.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

SURREY Two males, Banstead, 21st February.

There have been a number of attempts to introduce this species, but none successful. Singles have been seen in recent years in a number of counties in southern and eastern England.

COMMON PHEASANT *Phasianus colchicus* (CE*)

This species is not on the Panel's list.

The British population of this species was estimated at 1.5-1.6 million females in 1989 (Robertson *et al.* 1989), although this is boosted by the annual release of an estimated 15-20 million hand-reared birds to supplement autumn populations for shooting (Potts 1990).

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus picta* (CE*)

DERBYSHIRE Pair present, but did not breed.

ISLES OF SCILLY Several pairs breed on



35. Rose-ringed Parakeets *Psittacula krameri* preening, Bharatpur, India (David Tipling)

Tresco, though no specific report received for this year.

NORFOLK 19 reported from five localities, under-recorded in Brecks; some evidence of decline.

SUFFOLK Records from two traditional areas, with three males reported at one and two males and a female at the second. Thought to be declining.

ARGYLL Up to 12 individuals on Mull, population apparently not self-sustaining.

AYR Female at Lugar in May.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Probably four to six males in Palnure/Stronard area, declining.

Estimating numbers of this secretive and elusive bird is virtually impossible, though there is some consistency about the reports of declines. The population was estimated at 1,000-2,000 in 1981-84 (Lack 1986). No report was received from Tresco, Isles of Scilly, where several pairs occur.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT
Chrysolophus amherstiae (CE*)

BEDFORDSHIRE Population estimated at 100-200 individuals in 1991 (Trodd & Kramer 1991) had dropped to about 60 (less than 20% females) in 1995 and only 35 males in 1996 away from Luton Hoo, where there were only 15-20 (four or five females) with no breeding success. A three-year census of all suitable areas in the species'

stronghold is being conducted by the Bedfordshire Bird Club.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Breeds in two areas, perhaps ten pairs, but no recent survey.

The Bedfordshire population is thought to represent the majority of the British total (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

ROCK DOVE (AND FERAL PIGEON)
Columba livia (AC)

This species is not on the Panel's list.

Sharrock (1976) guessed that the British and Irish populations probably exceeded 100,000 pairs. Gibbons *et al.* (1993) refrained from even guessing at a total, except to say that the number of wild Rock Doves had probably declined and the number of Feral Pigeons had probably increased in the intervening period.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Reported from four localities, breeding suspected at one.

KENT Several pairs bred at Foots Cray Meadows.

MIDDLESEX Breeding probable at Bushy Park.

SURREY Breeding reported from two localities. The roost at Esher Rugby Club reached a peak of 850 in December.

The size of the principal roost suggests a breeding population numbering hundreds of pairs. Estimates of the total population have varied in recent years from under 1,000 to 'several thousands' (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). Peak counts in 1996 from the area covered by the *London Bird Report* (London Natural History Society 1997) were Surrey 1,198, Middlesex 174, Buckinghamshire 133, Kent 83, Inner London 4 and Hertfordshire 1.

Simultaneous counts at roosts in the London area and Kent in autumn 1996 to spring 1997 revealed an estimated total of 1,539 on 14th October and a peak count of 1,508 on 9th October (Pithon & Dytham 1999).

MONK PARAKEET *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

DEVON Up to ten free-flying birds at Bickleigh Mill, Tiverton, associated with an aviary. In past years, several pairs have nested locally in trees and electricity poles, but it is not known if any did so this year.

SURREY Pair at Lonsdale Road Reservoir, 26th July to 3rd November, seen nest-building in September, success unknown.

Ones and twos of this species have been reported from scattered localities as presumed escapes take place.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* (E*)

ENGLAND Pair bred at a location in northern England and is thought to have fledged three young.

The provenance of this pair is unknown. The only previous breeding record was of a pair which bred in Moray & Nairn in 1984 and again in 1985, fledging a single chick (Cook 1992).

LITTLE OWL *Athene noctua* (C)

This species is not on the Panel's list.

The British population was estimated to be between 6,000 and 12,000 pairs in 1988-91 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

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NON-NATIVE BIRDS BREEDING IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1997

MALCOLM OGILVIE AND THE RARE BREEDING BIRDS PANEL



Red-crested Pochards *Netta rufina* (Rosemary Powell)

This is the second report on non-native species of birds breeding in the United Kingdom and covers the year 1997. As explained in the introduction to the first report (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999b), the Rare Breeding Birds Panel has extended its remit to monitor the scarcer introduced and naturalised non-native species in addition to its traditional role.

Like the first report, this second one does not claim to be complete. The publication of the first report has, however, stimulated more observers and county recorders to contribute information, so that this second report does provide a fuller picture for most species. Records of all non-native species in 1997 involving breeding or potential breeding activity, including presence of a pair or more in suitable habitat, are listed below.

The letters after the species' names are the categories used by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC 1998):

- A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
- B Species which were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C Species that, although originally introduced by Man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.
- E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. Species of which Category E individuals have been recorded as nesting, with their own kind, are marked with an asterisk (E*).

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in

the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999c): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

The Panel is not gathering information for the following commoner Category C species: Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*, Greylag Goose *Anser anser*, Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata*, Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*, Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus*, Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa*, Chukar Partridge *A. chukar*, Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*, Rock Dove (and Feral Pigeon) *Columbia livia*, and Little Owl *Athene noctua*.

Records are given by county, in alphabetical order within England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

LOTHIAN An estimated five to ten pairs breed in Edinburgh Zoo, with a total of at least 30 free-flying individuals seen in recent years.

These birds, together with those at Great Witchingham Park, Norfolk, appear to be more or less sedentary.

BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Pair bred at Deene Lake and raised four young.

LOTHIAN Pair bred on Union Canal at Rotho and raised two young.

The only breeding reports received, though singles and occasional pairs are well distributed throughout southern England, with occasional birds farther north.

TRUMPETER SWAN *Cygnus buccinator* (E*)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Pair bred at Tansor Gravel-pits, raising one young.

This appears to be the first breeding by this species in the wild state in the United Kingdom. The birds had escaped from a wildfowl collection.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

BEDFORDSHIRE Pair raised three young

at Wardown Park, Luton.

BERKSHIRE Pair, free-flying, on Great Meadow Pond, Windsor Great Park, May–July.

NORTHUMBERLAND Pair at Marden Quarry and other nearby waters, June – August.

DUNBARTONSHIRE Seven birds present, but no evidence of breeding at this regular locality.

These were the only known escaped pairs which bred or may have bred, though several others, and several singles, were present at localities in England. Apparently wild pairs also bred in Scotland in 1997 (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999c).

PINK-FOOTED GOOSE *Anser brachyrhynchus* (AE*)

RUTLAND Adult paired with Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*, March – May.

Occasional pairs have bred – perhaps, if within the wintering range of the species, involving injured birds – but released birds exist in a number of locations.

WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE *Anser albifrons* (AE*)

GREATER MANCHESTER Pair of the Greenland race *flavirostris*, which appeared, with Canada Geese *Branta canadensis*, on the moorland reservoirs at Rochdale in winter 1991/92, was seen with four young in October 1997 and stayed to the year end.

ARGYLL Four full-winged pairs of the race *flavirostris* bred on Islay near a waterfowl collection; one brood of three young seen.

The origin of the Greater Manchester birds remains a mystery. The small group on Islay stems from a small waterfowl collection, but appears not to mix with wild visitors.

BAR-HEADED GOOSE *Anser indicus* (E*)

DERBYSHIRE Pair present at one locality.

HAMPSHIRE Pair raised three young at Stratfield Saye.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Up to three pairs present during summer, but no proof of breeding.

Delany (1993) recorded birds at a minimum of 27 localities in 1991, but with breeding only at Stratfield Saye.

SNOW GOOSE *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

BERKSHIRE Up to six pairs bred unsuccessfully at Eversley Gravel-pits.

HAMPSHIRE Pair bred unsuccessfully at Stratfield Saye.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two males at Priory Water, both hybridised with Greylag Geese *A. anser* and produced broods of four and three.

ARGYLL Maximum of 49 seen on Coll in April, but no information on breeding.

The Argyll flock, which moves between Coll and Mull, appears to be an apparently self-sustaining flock which has remained remarkably stable for the last 30 years or more, during which period flocks of other introduced geese have managed steady increases.

BARNACLE GOOSE *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

BERKSHIRE Two pairs bred unsuccessfully at Eversley Gravel-pits.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Flock of about 50 near Emberton (present for some years), no information on breeding.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Up to 32, moving between New Grounds and Frampton Pools, with six goslings seen on 28th May.

HAMPSHIRE 21 pairs bred at four localities (Stratfield Saye, Eversley Cross, Baffin's Pond, Portsmouth, and Sowley Pond), raising at least 56 young.

LANCASHIRE and NORTH MERSEYSIDE Single pairs bred at two localities.

NORFOLK Single pairs bred at two localities. Flocks of up to 60 seen in county during year.

SUFFOLK Single pairs bred at two localities.

GLAMORGAN Pair bred successfully at Roath Park Lake, Cardiff.

Reports were received from 14 localities, compared with 11 in 1996, while Delany (1993) reported successful breeding occurring at 15 localities in 1991.

EGYPTIAN GOOSE *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

BERKSHIRE Pair with three young on River Thames, Bray, on 2nd July; pair bred unsuccessfully (twice) at Whiteknights Park; and pair incubating at South Lake, Woodley, in December, hatched seven young in January 1998.

ESSEX Single pairs present at two localities, breeding took place at one.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two pairs bred at Compstall Reservoirs, Stockport, where introduced several years ago; up to nine adults in January.

RUTLAND Three pairs bred at Rutland Water (seen with broods of ten, seven and three); maximum of 46 birds in September-October.

SUFFOLK Single pairs with young reported from seven localities.

SURREY Up to 18 birds seen at four localities; two pairs thought to have bred.

No meaningful records were received from the traditional stronghold in Norfolk, but elsewhere there is evidence of a slow spread.

RUDDY SHELDUCK *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

NORFOLK Pair bred, hatching 11 young, but none survived.

This species is reported quite frequently from widely scattered localities including in Scotland, but few if any show signs of breeding, with just the one pair in Norfolk for the second year running.

CAPE SHELDUCK *Tadorna cana* (E)

SURREY Two adults and four juveniles, Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir on 3rd May, later moved to Walton Reservoir where three adults and two juveniles until mid July. One of the adults was considered to be a hybrid with Paradise Shelduck *T. variegata*.

The breeding locality of these birds was not reported, nor is their origin known. If they did breed in the wild, then this would be a first record for the United Kingdom.

MUSCOVY DUCK *Cairina moschata* (E*)

BEDFORDSHIRE Pair bred at East Hyde and raised one young.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Eight pairs present on the River Ouse at Ely, with confirmed breeding by at least two, with broods of 17 and seven seen.

DERBYSHIRE Pair bred at Bradford Dale, with brood of five seen on 13th July.

NORFOLK One pair known to have bred, with brood noted.

NORTHUMBERLAND Pair bred at Derwent Reservoir, brood of three seen.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Up to 16 at Rufford, including four pairs.

SURREY Up to three pairs at one locality and a pair at another, no evidence of breeding.

Reported from seven counties, compared with just three in 1996. The species is also well established at Lothing Lake and Oulton Broad in Norfolk, where 99 were counted in December 1996 (Waters *et al.* 1998), but the breeding status there is unknown.

WOOD DUCK *Aix sponsa* (E*)

Several reports of singles and small flocks, but no breeding or possible breeding records were received.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *Anas discors* (AE*)

ESSEX The pair, which has been present at Connaught Water, Epping Forest, since at least 1994, bred successfully.

This is the first proved successful breeding of this species in the wild in the United Kingdom.

RED-CRESTED POCHARD *Netta rufina* (AE*)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Maximum of 88, in October, in Cotswold Water Park, with much smaller numbers in summer months: May 13, June 11, July 9 and August 10. No breeding details this year.

MIDDLESEX Two, Stoke Newington Reservoir, on 11th May and 20th August, three on 23rd August and six, including two juveniles, on 4th and 7th September.

SURREY Pair bred at Winkworth

Arboretum, with brood of six on 21st May.

SUSSEX Pair bred at Elms Farm, Icklesham, where brood of three seen.

WILTSHIRE Pair bred in Cotswold Water Park, brood of three seen on 2nd August, the first breeding in the Wiltshire part of the Park since 1990.

The population in the Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire/Wiltshire, is well established and apparently increasing, though actual breeding records are scarce.

SILVER PHEASANT *Lophura nycthemera* (E*)

SUSSEX A single bird was seen in West Dean Woods on 18th June.

The only record received.

REEVES'S PHEASANT *Symaticus reevesii* (E*)

No records received this year.

GOLDEN PHEASANT *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

BEDFORDSHIRE A male was heard calling in June near Woburn.

DORSET Present on Furzey and Brownsea Islands in Poole Harbour, where populations reported as stable, but no detailed information.

NORFOLK A total of at least 34 reported from at least 13 localities, but no proof of breeding.

SUSSEX Six males reported, but no evidence of breeding.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Thought to be still present in Palnure area, though no records this year.

Reports of declines continue to be received. No report was received from Tresco, Isles of Scilly, where several pairs are believed to occur.

LADY AMHERST'S PHEASANT *Chrysolophus amherstiae* (CE*)

BEDFORDSHIRE The Bedfordshire Bird Club is conducting a three-year survey of this elusive and declining species. Minimum totals of 37 males and nine females were found at nine localities. One brood of two young was seen.

SUSSEX Three males reported, but no evi-

dence of breeding.

A fuller picture of numbers in Bedfordshire, which is thought to hold the great majority of the British population should emerge from the current survey. There is much evidence that the species is declining.

ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

LANCASHIRE and NORTH MERSEYSIDE
A locally escaped pair bred successfully in north Liverpool.

This species has previously bred, rarely, in the wild in the United Kingdom.

ROSE-RINGED PARAKEET *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

AVON Escaped pair attempted to breed, but failed when female killed in nest hole.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Up to 16 reported from four localities, with successful breeding by two pairs at one, where up to 20 seen in winter.

DORSET Three pairs in one locality, at least one bred, with three juveniles seen in October.

SURREY A total of 37 pairs reported, of which two were proved to breed and 12 probably did. The Esher Rugby Club roost held a new record total of 1,507 birds in August.

SUSSEX Up to 14 pairs reported, but no evidence of breeding.

Peak counts in 1997 from the area covered by the *London Bird Report* (London Natural History Society 1998) were Surrey 3,000, Middlesex 282, Kent 187, Buckinghamshire 63, Essex 1, Inner London 1 and Hertfordshire 1; further evidence of the continued increase in the population. It is clear from the late-summer counts that comparatively few breeding pairs are being reported, perhaps because they are widely dispersed.

MONK PARAKEET *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

DEVON Seen regularly around Bickleigh Mill, Tiverton, with maxima of five in January, March and November. There was

no evidence of breeding in the wild.

SURREY A pair, present at the Lonsdale Road Reservoir from early March to the end of the year, built nests in March, November and December, but no further proof of breeding.

The same localities as last year. Further reports of scattered singles were received.

EAGLE OWL *Bubo bubo* (E*)

ENGLAND Pair bred at a location in northern England for the second successive year and fledged three young.

The pair which bred in 1996 did so again. A certain amount of publicity was generated from the mention of it in the first report (Ogilvie *et al.* 1999b), with the popular newspapers and radio interviewers concentrating on the fact that the species has been known to kill domestic cats and dogs. The only previous breeding record was of a pair which bred in Moray & Nairn in 1984 and again in 1985, fledging a single chick (Cook 1992).

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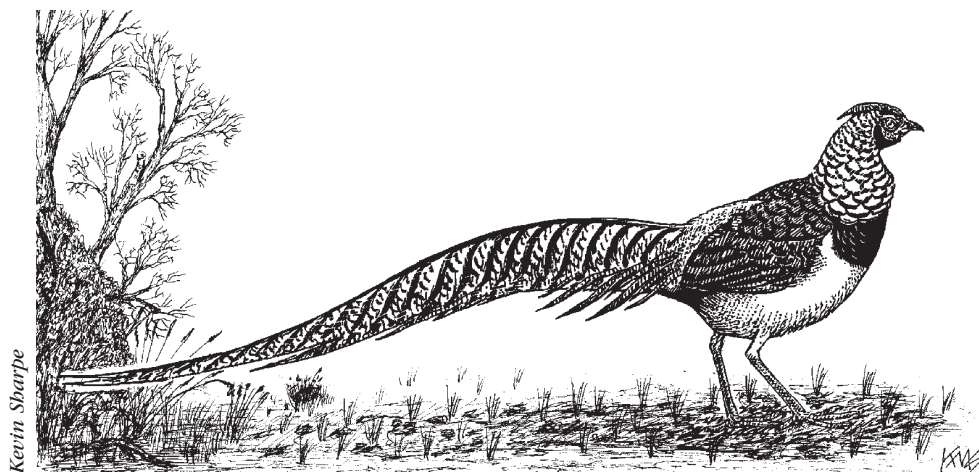
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Non-native birds breeding in the United Kingdom in 1998

*Malcolm Ogilvie and the
Rare Breeding Birds Panel*



Kevin Sharpe

Lady Amherst's Pheasant

This is the third report on non-native species of birds breeding in the United Kingdom and covers the year 1998. Coverage has further improved, but we do encourage observers to record species that, in the past, they might have ignored, and to pass on the information to their county recorder. There is an increasing need to monitor present and potential breeding by introduced or escaped birds.

Records of all non-native species in 1998, and some for 1997, involving breeding or potential breeding activity are listed below. Pairs or, for some species such as the pheasants, just males in suitable habitat qualify for inclusion. The letters after the species' names are the categories used by the British

Ornithologists' Union Records Committee. The absence of a letter indicates that the species is not currently listed.

- A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
- B Species which were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C Species that, although originally introduced by Man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.

E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. These are marked E* when they have been recorded as nesting with their own kind.

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (Ogilvie *et al.* 2000): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

The Panel is not gathering information for the following relatively common species of which introduced or escaped populations breed in the wild (categories in brackets): Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (AC), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (AC), Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (AC), Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* (C), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (AC), Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (C), Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (BC), Red-legged Partridge *Alectoris rufa* (C), Chukar Partridge *A. chukar* (E*), Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (C), Rock Dove (and Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* (AC), and Little Owl *Athene noctua* (C).

Records are given by county, in alphabetical order in the country order England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Systematic list

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

One locality: unknown number of pairs bred. LOTHIAN There were 35 full-winged birds, including five juveniles, at Edinburgh Zoo on 15th August.

No reports were received concerning the full-winged birds at Great Witchingham Park, Norfolk. A number of singles were also reported, some of which may have been escapes. Late-arriving information from Edinburgh Zoo reveals that, in 1997, a number of young were taken from nests prior to fledging and dispersed to other collections.

Trumpeter Swan *Cygnus buccinator* (E*)

One locality: one pair.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE A pair which bred at Tansor Gravel-pits in 1997 was present in January and March, but did not stay and breed.

The year 1997 appears to be the first in which breeding by this species in the wild state was recorded in the United Kingdom. The birds had escaped from a wildfowl collection.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

Four localities in four counties: four pairs bred.

ESSEX Pair bred and seen with two young in May on Raphael Park Lake, Upminster, where they bred in 1996. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Pair raised at least one young at Deene Lake, where they bred in 1997. WILTSHIRE Pair bred at Ramsbury Manor, a regular site, seen with two young in early June. LOTHIAN Pair reared three young on the Union Canal, Ratho, where they bred in 1997.

All four breeding records refer to well-established pairs. Reports of singles and pairs were also received from several other areas.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

One locality: one pair possibly bred.

BERKSHIRE A juvenile was present from 25th June, but its origins are unclear.

This was the only report received, in contrast to the definite breeding record and two other pairs in England in 1997. Two apparently wild pairs bred in Scotland in 1998 (Ogilvie *et al.* 2000).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (AE*)

One locality: one pair possibly bred.

ROSS & CROMARTY A flock of five on the Cromarty Firth on 17th July was believed to be a family party of two adults and three well-grown young.

It is always difficult to know whether records like this refer to genuine wild birds that failed to migrate back to their breeding grounds in Iceland and Greenland or to introduced or escaped birds, which are quite widespread. Delany (1993) found a total of 88 at 29 sites in 1991, including a breeding pair in Lancashire.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (AE*)

Three localities in two counties: three pairs bred.

NORFOLK Single pairs at two sites both reared young. ARGYLL Three full-winged

pairs of the race *flavirostris* bred on Islay near a waterfowl collection; one brood of two young was reared.

The small group on Islay stems from a small waterfowl collection. Breeding success is low.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (E*)

Six localities in five counties: six pairs bred, plus possible hybrid pair.

AVON A clutch of six eggs was laid on Denny Island, Bristol Channel, but may have been produced by a hybrid pair (with Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*). DERBYSHIRE Pair raised one young at Queen's Park, Chesterfield. GREATER LONDON Six full-winged pairs in Kew Gardens in late May, with broods of five, four and three; also a hybrid pair (with Lesser White-fronted Goose *Anser erythropus*) with three young. GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred unsuccessfully at Pennington Flash. HAMPSHIRE The only breeding report from the regular locality at Stratfield Saye was of one mated to a Greylag Goose *Anser anser* raising four young. There were a number of reports of pairs or singles from elsewhere in the county.

The Derbyshire pair was present, but not breeding, in the previous summer. Although there could be as many as 100 birds in the country - Delany (1993) reported 85 at 27 localities in 1991 - very few breeding attempts have been reported.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

Three localities in three counties: at least three pairs bred.

HAMPSHIRE Two pairs bred at Stratfield Saye, but no young fledged. NORFOLK A colony of free-flying individuals was reported from Sandringham, but it is not known whether any pairs bred away from the lake there. ARGYLL Maximum of 38 birds was seen on Coll during the year; at least one pair bred, with four young.

Apart from the self-sustaining flock on Coll, this species seems to breed only very sporadically away from collections.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

20 localities in 11 counties: at least 54 pairs bred or probably bred.

AVON Pair raised three young on Denny Island, Bristol Channel. BERKSHIRE Pair with

two young at Eversley Gravel-pits on 20th June. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE The flock at Emberton, which has been present for some years, numbered at least 40, but there was no information on breeding. ESSEX Three pairs were present at two sites; all probably bred but their success is unknown. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Flock of 30 or more full-winged individuals present in New Grounds and Frampton Pools area, but breeding success unknown. HAMPSHIRE 24 pairs bred at Stratfield Saye, 42 young being raised from 124 eggs laid; pair raised seven young at Baffin's Pond, Portsmouth. LANCASHIRE Two pairs bred at Belmont, near Bolton, and breeding took place at Knowsley Park, Liverpool, though number of pairs not recorded. Breeding possibly occurred at Ormskirk, Southport and Stocks Reservoir. NORFOLK 13 pairs bred in Stanford Battle Area; pair raised three young at Ditchingham Gravel-pit; pair (including a Swedish-ringed male present since 1993) raised five young at another site; two pairs at fourth site both failed. SUFFOLK Three pairs seen with broods, but an increase from 70 to 140 birds in the county over the summer suggests several pairs went unrecorded. WEST MIDLANDS Pair raised six young, Edgbaston. ANGLESEY Four pairs laid at Llyn Crigyll.

Although it may take a while to become established, this species appears to have high productivity thereafter.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

Minimum of 20 localities in six counties: at least 82 pairs recorded.

BERKSHIRE Pair at Whiteknights Park laid in December 1997, but deserted by 9th January 1998, but laid again and had three young from 30th March; the female was incubating again in December. Pairs bred at Binfield (seven young in March), South Coke (seven young) and Dinton Pastures (six young in April), while display was seen at Summerleaze Gravel-pit in April. ESSEX Pair bred at Little Totham, but the eggs disappeared. GREATER MANCHESTER Four pairs at Compstall, one brood seen briefly in March; a later attempt fledged one young. HERTFORDSHIRE Pair raised brood on Amwell Gravel-pit and had further two or three nesting attempts. NORFOLK A total of 53

pairs was recorded in the county. SUFFOLK At least 18 pairs seen at 12 sites and 14 broods were reported.

The total of pairs in Norfolk is not claimed to be complete, but reflects an increasing awareness of the species. The Suffolk total represents a genuine increase on past years. The ability of this species to nest during the winter is well demonstrated by the records from Berkshire.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

One locality: one or two pairs.

NORFOLK One or two pairs present all year, but no breeding reported.

No other reports of this species were received.

Cape Shelduck *Tadorna cana* (E)

One locality: one hybrid pair.

SURREY As in 1997, a pair of which one was a hybrid, either between Cape Shelduck and Paradise Shelduck *T. variegata*, as reported in 1997, or between Australian Shelduck *T. tadornoides* and Paradise Shelduck, as now suggested, hatched five young, reducing to two, in the Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir and West End Common area.

The precise identification of the hybrid adult remains uncertain.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (E*)

Four localities in four counties: one pair bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two territorial pairs recorded on the Huddersfield Narrow Canal, but breeding not reported. NORFOLK One pair present throughout the year south of Thetford, but not recorded as breeding. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Up to nine at Rufford during the summer, but no confirmed breeding. SURREY Pair bred, adult and young seen, Clapham.

These were the only reports received, compared with the seven counties with pairs in 1997. No reports were forthcoming from the known regular site on the River Ouse at Ely, Cambridgeshire, or from any of the following listed by Cranswick *et al.* (1999): Lothing Lake and Oulton Broad, Norfolk (52 in December 1997), Nafferton Lake, Yorkshire (30 in December 1997), Wilderness Pond, Glamorgan (12 in July and September 1997), Lancaster Canal, Lan-

cashire (eight in January 1998), Derwent Water, Cumbria (eight in October and December 1997), or Gun Knowe Loch, Borders (seven in April 1997).

We hope that observers will send in breeding records of this species in future years.

Ringed Teal *Callonetta leucophrys* (E)

One locality: one pair possibly bred.

HAMPSHIRE Pair at Titchfield Haven on 8th February and again on 19th June, when accompanied by a possible juvenile.

It is not certain that this was a definite breeding record, but if so it would represent a first in the wild in Britain.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (E*)

One locality: one pair.

DEVON Pair, plus an additional one or two males, present on River Plym from May to September; breeding not confirmed.

This was the only breeding-season report received.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (AE*)

Five localities in five counties: six pairs bred. ESSEX Adult with two young in July, Harrow Lodge. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Up to 74 were present in the Cotswold Water Park in winter 1997/98, but no breeding reports were received. LINCOLNSHIRE At least four pairs bred on the Deepings Gravel-pits close to the Cambridgeshire border. NORFOLK Full-winged birds are based on a waterfowl collection at Pensthorpe, but there were no reports of breeding away from there. OXFORDSHIRE Pair fledged five young at Shipton-on-Cherwell.

Reports concerning the well-established population in the Cotswold Water Park would be very welcome.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (A)

One locality: two pairs bred.

LANCASHIRE Two pairs, of known captive origin, bred at Mere Sands Wood, but no young hatched.

Up to four pairs, originating from birds which flew away from a waterfowl collection, have been breeding at this Lancashire site since at least 1988 and have previously been included in the main Panel report. The

nests have frequently been robbed, which may account for the static or even diminishing number of pairs.

Northern Bobwhite *Colinus virginianus* (E*)

One locality: single singing male.

ISLE OF MAN Singing male in potato field, Smeale, 5th to 12th July.

The first time that this species has appeared in these reports.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* (E*)

No records were received.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

One locality: single bird.

SUSSEX One at High Hurstwood on 25th March.

The only record received.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

27 localities in six counties: minimum of 85 birds recorded.

HAMPSHIRE A pair and six males (four calling) were reported from four localities. NORFOLK A total of at least 58 was reported from 14 localities, but the true county total is thought to exceed 100. SUFFOLK Calling males were reported from Kings Forest (six or seven), Mayday Farm, Brandon (six), and Thetford Warren Lodge (one). SUSSEX At least one calling male in West Dean Woods and in Kingley Vale. AYRSHIRE Male at North Craig reservoir, 14th April. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Single males were reported from Beattock (there was also one there in 1997, which was not included in our 1997 report) and Loch Ken, but none was seen at the traditional Palnure area, though no thorough search was made.

No reports were received from Furzey or Brownsea Islands, Dorset, or from Tresco, Isles of Scilly, sites which are known to have held this species in previous years.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amberstiae* (CE*)

Three counties: 94 pairs or territories recorded.

BEDFORDSHIRE A total of 85 territories was identified during an intensive survey carried out by the Bedfordshire Bird Club (Cannings 1999). BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Eight pairs were

recorded at three sites. NORFOLK A pair was seen in November.

The number found by the Bedfordshire Bird Club compares with the estimated 100-200 individuals in 1991 (Trodd & Kramer 1991), suggesting less of a decline than had been thought.

Red-rumped Parrot *Psephotus baematonotus*

One locality: One pair possibly bred.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Up to six feeding in garden at Moulton in late August, when one young one found dead; then still six (three males and three females) on 2nd September.

It is probable that this group escaped together, but just possible that breeding may have taken place in the wild.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

One locality: two pairs bred.

MERSEYSIDE Two pairs bred at Fazackerley, where a single pair bred in 1997, and raised broods of five and three, with all 12 birds being seen together on 1st May. Several were, however, subsequently shot by youths with airguns, though at least one pair survived the winter. While we must condemn the vandalism, we also do not wish another member of the parrot family to become established as a breeding species in Britain.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

Five counties.

BERKSHIRE Pairs reported from four localities. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Up to 40 birds in six or seven areas during the breeding season, but true number of breeding pairs unknown; 150 seen going to roost at Wraybury Gravel-pit in January, and 160 in November. HAMPSHIRE Three records, but no breeding reported. MIDDLESEX Five pairs bred on Crane River Island. SURREY Up to 27 nesting or territory-holding pairs reported, though these are not representative of the county total. The roost at Esher held 1,373 in October and 1,704 in December.

There is evidence of an increase and spread in Buckinghamshire.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

Four localities: no confirmed breeding reports.

HERTFORDSHIRE There is a small breeding population in Borehamwood, with up to 15 seen together. SURREY Reports of pairs and small flocks from a number of localities, including Barn Elms and Lonsdale Road reservoirs and Richmond Park, but no actual breeding noted.

No report was received from the known haunt in Devon.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (E*)

Two localities: one pair bred.

ENGLAND Pair bred at a location in northern England and fledged two young. ROSS & CROMARTY An adult called throughout January at a locality where a nest scrape was made in 1997.

This is the third year running that the northern England pair has bred successfully.

The Scottish bird was present for the second year running (its presence was not included in our 1997 report). The only previous breeding record was of a pair which bred in Moray & Nairn in 1984 and again in 1985, fledging a single chick (Cook 1992).

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Non-native birds breeding in the United Kingdom in 1999

*Malcolm Ogilvie and the
Rare Breeding Birds Panel*



Rosemary Powell

The Rare Breeding Birds Panel has been monitoring the breeding of rarer non-native species in the United Kingdom since 1996, and this is its fourth annual report, covering 1999. It is, however, disappointing to report that, after three years during which the submission of relevant records by County Recorders and other observers has improved, the number of records received this year has fallen. The systematic recording of scarce non-native birds

breeding in the UK is important, particularly as it enables the spread of potential problem species to be detected at an early stage. The Panel strongly urges all observers to contribute records to their County Recorders and, through them, to the Panel.

This report lists records of breeding or potential breeding by all non-native species in 1999, plus one for 1998. Pairs or, for some species such as the pheasants (Phasianidae), males in suitable habitat qualify for inclu-

sion. The letter codes after the species' names denote the categories used by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC 1998). The absence of a letter indicates that the species is not currently listed.

- A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
- B Species which were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C Species that, although originally introduced by Man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.
- E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. These are marked E* when they have been recorded as nesting with their own kind.

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (Ogilvie *et al.* 2001): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

The Panel does not gather information for the following relatively common species of which introduced or escaped populations breed in the wild (categories in brackets): Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (AC), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (AC), Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (AC), Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* (C), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (AC), Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (C), Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (BC), Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* (E*), Red-legged Partridge *A. rufa* (C), Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (C), Rock Dove (and Feral Pigeon) *Columba livia* (AC), and Little Owl *Athene noctua* (C).

Records are set out in the country order England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and, within those, by alphabetical order of county. There were no records of scarcer non-native species breeding in Wales in 1999.

Systematic list

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

Two localities: two populations of full-winged individuals.

NORFOLK The flock of full-winged birds at Great Witchingham Park was not counted this year. LOTHIAN No count was received of the flock of full-winged birds at Edinburgh Zoo.

We understand that the policy of Edinburgh Zoo of preventing any more young birds from becoming full-winged has continued, with the expectation that the free-flying members of this group will be gradually reduced over the coming years.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

Three localities: two pairs bred.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One pair was present throughout the year at Deen Lake, but breeding was not recorded. WILTSHIRE One pair bred on the River Avon, at Salisbury. LOTHIAN One pair bred, for the third year running, on the Union Canal at Ratho.

Both breeding records refer to well-established pairs. Reports of singles and pairs were received from several other areas. In Hampshire, one at Timsbury was sitting on a nest with two eggs in February, but deserted within a week; no mate was seen.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

Three localities: 2-3 pairs bred.

BERKSHIRE A pair raised one young in Windsor Great Park. HERTFORDSHIRE A pair with three first-year birds visited Wilstone Reservoir, Tring, between April and June, although it is not known where it bred in 1998. AYRSHIRE A pair raised two young on Loch Slochy.

This is the largest number of escaped pairs breeding in one year. At least four apparently wild pairs bred in Scotland and Northern Ireland in 1999 (Ogilvie *et al.* 2001).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (AE*)

Small numbers were recorded from several localities, but no breeding was reported.

Delany (1993) found a total of 88 individuals at 29 sites in 1991, including a breeding pair in Lancashire.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (AE*)

One locality: three pairs bred.

ARGYLL Three full-winged pairs of the Greenland race *flavirostris* bred on Islay, near a waterfowl collection; ten eggs hatched, but only five young survived to three weeks old.

This small group stems from a waterfowl collection. Breeding success is typically low.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (E*)

Five localities: up to eight pairs bred, plus a mixed pair.

DERBYSHIRE One pair raised five young at Queen's Park, Chesterfield, a regular breeding site. GREATER MANCHESTER One pair probably bred at Pennington Flash, but was not successful. HAMPSHIRE At Stratfield Saye, a female mated to a male Greylag Goose *A. anser* raised five young. SOMERSET One pair bred at Chew Valley Lake. WEST MIDLANDS Up to five pairs bred at one locality, although success was low.

Very few breeding attempts have been reported in Britain, although Delany (1993) reported 85 individuals at 27 localities in 1991, and the real total may be even higher.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

Two localities: two pairs bred.

HAMPSHIRE Two pairs bred at Stratfield Saye and fledged five young. ARGYLL Up to 30 individuals were seen on Coll during the year, but there were no breeding records.

These represent fewer reports than usual, although this species does not seem to breed freely in the wild.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

17 localities in ten counties: at least 43 pairs bred, or probably bred, plus two mixed pairs. BERKSHIRE Two pairs with six young were reported at Eversley Gravel-pits, a regular site. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE A pair bred at Calvert, while the regular flock at Emberton numbered up to 50, but no information on breeding was received. ESSEX Three pairs bred at two sites in the northeast of the county, but their success is unknown. HAMPSHIRE 20 pairs were present at Stratfield Saye, and apparently breeding, but only two pairs were successful, raising three young. Two pairs raised three young at Baffin's Pond,

Portsmouth. LANCASHIRE Two birds, both paired to Canada Geese *B. canadensis*, bred at Belmont, near Bolton, but no eggs hatched. The county total, estimated from an atlas survey between 1997 and 1999, is thought to be five pairs. NORFOLK 12 broods were seen at three different localities, with a total of 65 adults present. Two other localities held 24 and five individuals, respectively, during the breeding season. SOMERSET One pair bred at Chew Valley Lake, with up to eight adults present. ARGYLL A pair of escaped birds on Islay failed to breed. AYRSHIRE A pair with a clutch of nine eggs was present on Horse Island, but it is not known whether any young fledged. ROSS & CROMARTY A pair built a nest near Invergordon and laid three eggs, which failed to hatch.

The above is an incomplete picture of the status of this species.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

Minimum of 54 localities in eight counties: at least 85 pairs recorded.

BERKSHIRE Two pairs bred at Odney, Cookham, and raised nine young. Single pairs bred at Billingbear Golf Course and at Binfield, each fledging seven young, and at Dinton Pastures, where five young survived of seven hatched. A pair bred at Whiteknights Park but was not thought to have fledged any young. A pair was present in April and May at Theale Gravel-pits. ESSEX Three pairs bred, but their success is unknown. GREATER MANCHESTER Two broods were seen in January at Etherow Country Park, where an adult was incubating in April. HERTFORDSHIRE One pair hatched two broods at Amwell Gravel-pit, but neither brood survived. NORFOLK Eight pairs laid clutches in the Stanford Battle area, of which six hatched 40 young. Five pairs were reported at Felbrigg Park, four at Sennowe Park and at Cranwich Gravel-pit, three at Holkham Grazing Marsh and at Whitlingham Lane Gravel-pit, and one or two pairs at 27 other localities. There were also 17 adults with one small young at Nunnery Lakes, Thetford. No details were received from Holkham Park Lake, where 15 pairs were present in 1998. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One pair raised one young at Center Parcs, Clipstone. SUFFOLK Breeding reported from: Ampton (14 adults with six young); Livermere Lake (at least three pairs bred); Sotterley (two

pairs); Lound (pair with two young); and Oulton Broad (pair with small young). SURREY Three pairs were present, and probably breeding, at Townland Pond, Oxted, and there were single pairs at Lammas Lands, Godalming, and at Godstone Bay Pond, Kew Gardens and the QEII Reservoir.

This represents improved coverage compared with last year (Ogilvie *et al.* 2000).

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

One locality: one pair.

NORFOLK A pair was present throughout the year at the UEA Broad, Norwich, but was not thought to have bred.

A late-summer influx into southern Britain produced reports of family parties in Norfolk and Northamptonshire.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (E*)

Seven localities in three counties: one pair probably bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER A territory-holding pair was reported from the Huddersfield Canal, Mossley. SUFFOLK Numbers at Oulton Broad increased through the year, from 12 in January to 29 in September and 31 in December, suggesting that successful breeding took place, though no reports of broods were received. SURREY One pair probably bred at Langshott, Hurley, while other pairs were present at Barnes, Clapham Common, Ewell Wood Lake and Kew Gardens.

A disappointing year, with many fewer records than in either 1997 or 1998. We do urge observers to report this species, which is not just a farmyard duck.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (E*)

Two localities: 1-2 pairs.

BERKSHIRE A pair bred at Maiden Erlegh Lake and is thought to have raised two young, since four individuals were present in September. SURREY One pair may have bred near Dorking Mill Pond.

These two were the only breeding-season reports received.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (AE*)

Five localities in three counties: seven pairs bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER A family party of two adults and five young arrived at Doff-cocker Lodge, Bolton, on 28th October; a male

and three females were still present at the end of the year. A male was present on Elton Reservoir, Bury, from 28th July to 21st September, being joined by a female on 9th-11th September. NORFOLK Six broods, all believed to have been left full-winged, were reported from the waterfowl collection at Pensthorpe. SURREY Reports were received of a full-winged male in Kew Gardens on 8th April, and of a female at Unstead sewage farm.

A reduction compared with last year, and we still have no details concerning the well-established breeding population at Cotswold Water Park, Gloucestershire.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (A)

One locality: two pairs bred.

LANCASHIRE Two pairs, known to be of captive origin, bred at Mere Sands Wood, but without success.

The birds which have bred at this site since at least 1988 originated from a nearby waterfowl collection.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* (E*)

Two localities: one pair and a single bird.

NORFOLK One was at Alderfen in late February. SUSSEX A pair was seen in West Dean Woods on 31st January.

These were the only records received.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

Two localities: two calling males and a single bird.

NORFOLK One was at Barnham Broom from 30th November to 11th December. SUFFOLK Two adult males at Wantisden on 31st December were calling constantly.

The only records received.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

29 localities in four counties: minimum of 98 birds recorded.

LANCASHIRE A small population persists in the Lytham area, surviving from releases last made in 1993; some hybridisation with Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* has been reported. In addition, a pair was present from January to March at Mere Sands Wood. NORFOLK A total of at least 77 birds was reported from 14 localities, an increase for the second year running, although there are thought to be up to 100 in the county.

SUFFOLK Records were received from 11 localities, including six calling males: at The King's Forest (four), Elveden and Thetford Forest (one each). SUSSEX A minimum of two males and a female was seen at Linchball and West Dean Woods; another pair was reported from West Dean, but no indications of breeding.

No reports were received from the known localities on Furzey and Brownsea Islands, Dorset, and Tresco, Isles of Scilly.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* (CE*)

One county: five pairs.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Five pairs were reported, but no complete survey has ever been carried out.

In 1998, a total of 85 territories was identified in Bedfordshire (Cannings 1999), but the survey has not been repeated.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (E*)

Three localities in one county: three pairs bred. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two females hatched broods of four and one young, respectively, at Pipewell Wood, but only one young survived, from the brood of four. A pair with two well-grown young was at Kirby Hall on 13th June, with a second pair nearby. Individuals were also reported from a third location.

This is a new species for these reports, although we have subsequently discovered that a pair fledged three young at Pipewell Wood in 1998.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

One locality: one pair bred.

MERSEYSIDE One pair bred at Fazackerley (success unknown), where a single pair bred in 1997 and two pairs bred in 1998.

This remains the only breeding site in Britain for this species.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

Four counties.

BERKSHIRE Three pairs were reported from Cookham and two pairs from both Bray and Maidenhead Court. Single pairs were seen at Horton Gravel-pit and in Windsor Great Park. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Fewer were reported during the breeding season than in 1998,

with about 12 birds in five or six areas, and a total of 50-60 wintering individuals. MIDDLESEX One breeding pair was reported. SURREY Up to 15 breeding or territory-holding pairs were reported, but it is known that this figure does not represent the number breeding in the county. The roost at Esher peaked at around 3,000 in November.

A study of the population biology of this species in southeast England commenced in 2000, which should lead to a much better knowledge of its breeding status and distribution.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

Three localities or areas: breeding occurred at two.

DEVON A single was at Stoke Hill, Exeter, in August. HERTFORDSHIRE There is a small breeding population in Borehamwood, with up to 17 birds seen in February. SURREY A pair bred at Lonsdale Reservoir, but the outcome is unknown; small numbers are regular in this area, and around Barn Elms and Richmond Park.

The species is probably commoner around London than the above indicates. It is likely that the study of Rose-ringed Parakeets (see above) will reveal more information about this species, too.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (E*)

Two localities: one pair bred.

ENGLAND One pair bred at a location in northern England and fledged two young.

WARWICKSHIRE An unmated male, apparently on territory, was calling in wooded rural parkland between February and December.

The pair in the north of England bred for the fourth year running.

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Non-native birds breeding in the United Kingdom in 2000

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus*
Mike Langman

This is the fifth annual report by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel into the breeding of the rarer non-native species in the United Kingdom, and covers the year 2000. Compared with the previous report, the recording of some species has improved but it is clear that many observers still do not bother to document the occurrence of 'escapes', despite the fact that the majority of county bird reports now include a section devoted to them. The Panel continues to urge all observers to contribute records to their County Recorder and, through them, to the Panel.

Records of all non-native species involving

breeding or potential breeding activity in 2000 are listed below. Pairs or, for some species such as the pheasants (Phasianidae), just males in suitable habitat qualify for inclusion. The letter codes after the species' names are the categories used by the British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee (BOURC 1998). The absence of a letter indicates that the species is not currently listed.

A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.

B Species which were recorded in an appar-

ently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.

- C Species that, although originally introduced by Man, either deliberately or accidentally, have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.
- E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. These are marked E* when they have been recorded as nesting with their own kind.

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (Ogilvie *et al.* 2002): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus*

milvus and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

The Panel does not gather information for the following relatively common species of which introduced or escaped populations breed in the wild (categories in brackets): Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (AC), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (AC), Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (AC), Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* (C), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (AC), Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (C), Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* (E*), Red-legged Partridge *A. rufa* (C), Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (C), Rock Dove (and Feral Pigeon) *Columbia livia* (AC), and Little Owl *Athene noctua* (C).

Records are set out in the country order England, Wales, Scotland, and, within those, by alphabetical order of county. There were no records of scarcer non-native species breeding in Northern Ireland in 2000.

Systematic list

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: two populations of full-winged individuals.

NORFOLK The breeding colony containing full-winged birds at Great Witchingham Park was not counted this year. LOTHIAN No count was received of the Edinburgh Zoo population.

It is understood that no young were allowed to become full-winged at Edinburgh Zoo this year, in line with the policy of reducing the number of free-flying birds.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

At least seven localities in seven counties: four pairs bred, three other pairs reported.

CLEVELAND Pair bred at Stewart Park and reared two young. DEVON Pair bred at Dawlish Warren and hatched three young. GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred at Arley Hall and reared two young, one of which was shot; the other was taken into care and re-homed. NORFOLK Pair seen at various localities along the north coast during the year, but did not breed. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Pair possibly bred at Deene Lake where one of three adults present was sitting on a nest in September. SUSSEX Pair with one full-grown cygnet, Arlington Reservoir, August to October; breeding locality unknown. WARWICKSHIRE Pair summered in the Tame valley.

No breeding reports were received from either Wiltshire or Lothian, where pairs have bred in recent years. Reports of singles were received from a number of other areas.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

No reports of breeding by apparently escaped or introduced birds were received. Singles in Cumbria and the Scottish Borders may have been injured wild birds forced to summer.

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus (AE*)

Small numbers were recorded from a number of localities, but no breeding was reported. Delany (1993) found a total of 88 individuals at 29 sites in 1991, including a breeding pair in Lancashire.

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: four pairs bred. NORFOLK A pair of the European race *albifrons* bred at Stiffkey Fen, but the outcome was not reported. ARGYLL Three full-winged pairs of the Greenland race *flavirostris* bred on Islay; only three young fledged.

Delany (1993) reported a total of 54 *albifrons* in 1991, of which 40 were at six localities in Norfolk; the only record of a breeding pair that year was at one of these sites. The small group

of *flavirostris* on Islay stems from a waterfowl collection, and breeding success is typically low.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (E*)

Four localities in three counties: three pairs and one mixed pair bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: pair bred unsuccessfully at Pennington Flash; pair with two fledged young in west of county from October onwards, but breeding site unknown. **SHROPSHIRE** Mixed pair (with Greylag Goose *A. anser*) bred, with four young seen. **SOMERSET** Pair with five young, Shapwick Heath, 30th May, had only three young by 14th June; the final outcome was not reported.

Reports of singles and small flocks were received from a number of counties. Delany (1993) reported 85 individuals at 27 localities in 1991, but very few breeding attempts have been reported and success seems low.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: two pairs bred.

HAMPSHIRE Two pairs bred at the regular site of Stratfield Saye and reared four young. **ARGYLL** A flock of 30-40 introduced birds, which moves between Coll and Mull, was present during the year, but there was no report of breeding.

A small number of records of non-breeding birds were received.

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus* (E)

One locality: mixed pair bred.

CUMBRIA Mixed pair (of hybrid Emperor × Bar-headed Goose *A. indicus*) laid eggs but no young were seen.

This is the first time that this species has appeared in these reports, albeit as a mixed pair and thus not yet deserving the addition of an asterisk on the BOU's Category E list. Delany (1993) found just 14 individuals in 1991 at seven widely scattered localities. A handful of other records was received, including two Emperor Goose × Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* hybrids in Sussex.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

Minimum of nine localities in eight counties: at least 59 pairs bred or probably bred.

AVON Pair bred at Chew Valley Lake, laid three eggs, but no young seen. **BERKSHIRE** Five pairs bred at Eversley Gravel-pits, all failed.

CUMBRIA Ten pairs were proved to breed; a county-wide breeding-season survey revealed 96 adults and 18 young. **ESSEX** Single pairs bred at two sites, success not reported. **HAMPSHIRE** At least 25 pairs bred at Stratfield Saye, but all apparently failed. **LANCASHIRE** Estimated 15 pairs bred. **NORFOLK** No proven breeding records were received, but the presence of flocks of up to 133 birds indicates that the species breeds regularly somewhere in the county. **WEST MIDLANDS** Pair bred at the Vale and reared four young.

This is clearly an incomplete picture of the status of this species. Flocks of apparently non-breeding birds were reported from a number of localities.

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

Minimum of 14 localities in eight counties: at least 127 pairs recorded/estimated.

BERKSHIRE Pair hatched ten young at Billingbear Golf Course and fledged seven. **ESSEX** Two pairs bred and a third probably did so, at two localities. **GREATER MANCHESTER** Pair with three young at Compstall Reservoir in January; may have bred again as pair with one young at Audenshaw Reservoir in July where definitely did not breed. **NORFOLK** 47 pairs known to have bred, but county total at least 100 pairs. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** Three localities: pair reared three young at Attenborough Gravel-pits; pair reared six young at Center Parcs, Clipstone; one to three adults present at Rufford. **SUFFOLK** Nine pairs bred and four pairs possibly bred; incomplete survey. **SURREY** Four localities: pair with three young in June on River Thames, Shepperton; pair reared two young, Thorpe Water Park; pair with five small young, Camberley; three pairs at Old Oxted, but no proof of breeding. **SUSSEX** Pair with four well-grown young, River Adur, Shipley, in May-June; first breeding in county.

Coverage remains patchy.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

Three localities in two counties: one pair bred.

NORFOLK A pair bred at Sennowe Park, young were seen but final outcome unknown. A pair was present at Holkham Park all year, but is not thought to have bred. **GWENT** Pair at Celtic Manor Golf Course in April.

Single pairs bred in Norfolk in 1996 and 1997.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (E*)

Three localities in three counties: one pair bred. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 24 birds present at Ely on 30th June, but up to 20 subsequently removed by local council. CHESHIRE Pair bred at Shakerley, one young seen in July. SURREY Male and three females, Kew Gardens, June.

Records of non-breeding birds were received from a further seven counties. We do stress that this species is not simply a farmyard duck and that we welcome all records.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (E*)

No breeding records were received.

DEVON Pair at Buckfastleigh, 1st April. KENT Single pairs present at Boughton Park in May and June, and Lamberhurst in April. SHROPSHIRE Pair at Middle Pool, Trench, from January to 22nd June. WEST MIDLANDS Pair at Dartmouth Park from July.

The above are the only breeding-season reports received of pairs. There were a number of other records of birds outside the breeding season from a further nine counties.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (AE*)

Three localities in three counties: one pair and one mixed pair known to have bred.

NORFOLK Introduced/escaped population in Wensum Valley reported as still present, but no further information received. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Mixed pair (a female mated to a male Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*) at Lound produced one young seen on 21st June; male Red-crested Pochard present on 15th June only. SURREY Full-winged pair bred, Kew Gardens, three young reared.

Reports were received from a further eight counties, but with no indication of breeding. We would like to suggest to observers in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire that a survey of the apparently well-established population in the Cotswold Water Park would be extremely worthwhile.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (A)

One locality: one pair.

LANCASHIRE One pair at Mere Sands Wood, but did not breed.

The birds at this site originally came from a waterfowl collection in 1988 and they may now have died out as a breeding population.

Silver Pheasant *Lophura nycthemera* (E*)

No reports were received.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: two birds. DERBYSHIRE Male at Haddon Fields, late March and April. NORFOLK One at the Stanford Training Area, May-June and October.

These were the only records received.

Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor*

One locality: six birds.

NORFOLK Up to six birds, including five males, were present in potentially suitable habitat in the Ingham/Stalham/Sutton area in January to April and September to November.

This is a new species for these reports and one which does not appear in the BOU's British List Category E. The origin of the Norfolk birds is unknown.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

21 localities in five counties: approximately 85-118 pairs recorded.

DEVON Two individuals recorded from one locality. NORFOLK Total of 49 birds noted at 11 localities, probably representing a minimum of 30-50 pairs; one pair known to have bred. SUFFOLK County total estimated at eight pairs, with records of up to six calling males at Kings Forest and a female with three young seen at Rushford. SUSSEX A more extensive survey than usual was carried out, which included data from three private estates not normally included in this report. About 25-30 pairs present and breeding on estate 1, but chick survival very poor and population maintained by captive breeding and release; two or three pairs at each of three sites on estate 2, present all year, but no evidence of breeding; two pairs at each of three sites on estate 3, also 5-6 pairs killed by Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*; single male seen and heard at Powdermill Reservoir, March-May; one, Vinehall Footland Wood, May; male, West Dean Woods, March. ABERDEENSHIRE Male seen Brimmond Hill, Aberdeen, 24th June.

This represents the most individuals ever recorded in these reports, but there are still a number of areas where this species is thought to occur, and for which no reports were received.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant
Chrysolophus amherstiae (CE*)

No reports were received. In 1998, a total of 85 territories was identified in Bedfordshire, but the survey has not been repeated.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (E*)

No reports were received from the sites in Northamptonshire where pairs bred in 1998-1999.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* (E)

One locality: three birds.

NORFOLK Three present all year at Stanford Water in apparently suitable habitat.

This is a new species for these reports.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

No breeding reports received.

The pair which bred at Fazackerley, Merseyside, from 1997 to 1999, appears to be no longer present; several of the flock, which had built up to around 12 birds, were shot in 1998.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

Breeding in six counties: total population c. 4,300 individuals.

BERKSHIRE Concentrated in the easternmost part of the county, but has recently spread west as far as Bray and Maidenhead. At least 100 birds were roosting regularly at Wraysbury. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Small population in southeast of county, around Burnham, Dorney and Langley Park, as well as further north to Bourne End and Marlow; estimated total of about 100 birds in 2000. KENT Estimated 75-100 pairs on the Isle of Thanet, where principal roost, at Ramsgate, peaked at 435 in winter 2000/01 and total population estimated at 500 birds. Increasing population in west of county around Lewisham, with peak roost count of 641 in winter 2000/01. MIDDLESEX Largest counts from Bushy Park and Hampton Court areas, with at least 150-200 birds present. SURREY Peak roost counts in winter 2000/01 were of 2,999 at the Esher Rugby Club and 277 at Reigate. SUSSEX Expansion south from Surrey has reached Gatwick in the north of the county. There were scattered sightings of small numbers at several localities along the south coast between Hastings and Bognor, as well as some evidence for a small population based around

Brighton, but no breeding reports were received.

Based on the figures above, the total population estimate for the UK in winter 2000/01 was 4,352. Sightings not involving breeding birds were received from Avon, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Dorset, Essex, Hampshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Warwickshire. Much of the information above came from Butler (2002) and Raven (2002), as well as from Chris Butler's website at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wolf0977/plan.html>, to which observers are requested to contribute their sightings.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: breeding at one locality.

HERTFORDSHIRE The breeding population in Borehamwood numbered at least 20 birds, with five or six breeding pairs. SURREY The pair which bred at Lonsdale Reservoir in 1999 did not breed this year.

Scattered records suggest continuing escapes of this species, but no other breeding populations are known. The population of up to 30 birds which was present and breeding in Tiverton, Devon, between 1987 and 1998, died out after a change in ownership of the land where they were breeding.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: one pair bred.

ENGLAND Pair bred at a site in northern England; three eggs hatched but no young were reared, probably because of bad weather. WARWICKSHIRE An unmated male held a territory all year in the same locality as in 1999.

The pair in the north of England bred for the fifth year running; this was their first failure.

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Non-native birds breeding in the United Kingdom in 2001

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



388. A pair of Eagle Owls *Bubo bubo* bred in northern England each year between 1996 and 2001, with only one failure. The pair reared three young in 2001 (the year covered in this report). Observers are urged to submit all sightings of this species in the UK to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, whether or not they involve birds thought to be breeding. *Photographer unknown*

This is the sixth annual report by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel into the breeding of the rarer non-native species in the United Kingdom and covers the year 2001. Recording of many species was reduced this year because of restrictions on access imposed during the foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) epidemic. Even allowing for this, however, coverage

was less complete than hoped for and we urge all observers to report the occurrence of 'escapes' to their County Recorder and, through them, to the Panel.

As explained by Ogilvie (1997), free-living non-native species, whether resulting from escapes from captivity or through deliberate introductions, can lead to serious conservation

problems, for example to indigenous species or to agriculture. Britain has experienced some widespread and well-publicised problems, for example those relating to Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* and Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*.

Almost 300 species of non-native birds have been reported in the wild in Britain and about one-sixth of these have bred in the wild (BOURC 1998; Holmes *et al.* 1998). All of these species have the potential to acquire pest status capable of causing significant economic and nature conservation impacts. By gathering information on their breeding since 1996, the Panel has put in place a national mechanism to track the establishment and spread of populations of these non-native species, a need which was identified at the joint BOU/JNCC Conference on introduced and naturalised birds in the UK held in 1995 (Holmes & Simons 1996; Marchant 1996).

The information gathered will assist conservation agencies and the Government to fulfil Article 8 of the Biodiversity Convention, and other international treaties, such as the EC Birds Directive, which stress the need to ensure that releases of non-native species are closely regulated and do not result in ecological conflicts with native fauna or flora, whether in this country or farther afield. The Government has recently received the report from a working group reviewing its non-native species policy (Defra 2003) and in this the Panel was identified as playing an important monitoring role.

Records of all non-native species for which there was breeding or potential breeding activity in 2001 are listed below. In the case of the pheasants (Phasianidae), the presence of males in suitable habitat is sufficient to qualify a species for inclusion. The letter codes after the species' names are the categories used by the BOU Records Committee (BOURC 1998). The absence of a letter indicates that the species is not currently listed.

- A Species which have been recorded in an apparently natural state at least once since 1st January 1950.
- B Species which were recorded in an apparently natural state at least once up to 31st December 1949, but have not been recorded subsequently.
- C Species that, although originally introduced by Man, either deliberately or accidentally,

have established breeding populations derived from introduced stock, that maintain themselves without necessary recourse to further introduction.

- E Species that have been recorded as introductions, transportees or escapees from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are thought not to be self-sustaining. These are marked E* when they have been recorded as nesting with their own kind.

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (e.g. Ogilvie *et al.* 2003): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

The Panel does not gather information for the following relatively common species of which introduced or escaped populations breed in the wild (categories in brackets): Mute Swan *Cygnus olor* (AC), Greylag Goose *Anser anser* (AC), Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* (AC), Mandarin Duck *Aix galericulata* (C), Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (AC), Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis* (C), Capercaillie *Tetrao urogallus* (BC), Chukar Partridge *Alectoris chukar* (E*), Red-legged Partridge *A. rufa* (C), Common Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* (C), Rock Dove (and Feral Pigeon) *Columbia livia* (AC), and Little Owl *Athene noctua* (C).

Comments included under the various goose species refer to the totals found during a national survey in 1991 (Delany 1993). Although a repeat survey was carried out by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in 2001, the results are not yet available.

Records for England are listed first followed by those for Scotland and, within each country, by alphabetical order of county. There were no records of scarcer non-native species breeding in either Northern Ireland or Wales in 2001.

The Panel

The current membership of the Panel is: Colin Bibby, Humphrey Crick, Ian Francis, Judith Smith, Ken Smith, David Stroud and Malcolm Ogilvie (Secretary). The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but three are also able to reflect the interests and needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies) and the RSPB, with additional support coming from the BTO.

Systematic list

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: two populations of full-winged individuals.

NORFOLK Full-winged birds were seen both in and outside Great Witchingham Park all year, with a maximum of five, including juveniles, in October. LOTHIAN No young were left full-winged at Edinburgh Zoo.

Edinburgh Zoo is now pursuing a policy to reduce the number of free-flying birds.

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

At least ten localities in nine counties/regions: at least nine pairs bred.

DEVON Pair bred at Starcross and reared four young. ESSEX Pairs bred at Abberton Reservoir (one young reared) and Hanningfield Reservoir (three young reared). GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred at Arley Hall and reared four young. SUSSEX Pair bred at Amberley Wildbrooks RSPB Reserve and reared five young, and a pair was present at Cowdray Park and possibly bred. WILTSHIRE Pair bred at Ramsbury Lake and reared two young. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Mated pair visited several lochs over a period of about ten days at the end of April, but apparently did not breed. LOTHIAN Pair bred on the Union Canal at Ratho and reared two or three young. NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND Pair bred at the St Fergus Gas Terminal and fledged one of the two young hatched. ORKNEY Pair bred near Kirkwall and reared three young.

This is easily the largest number of pairs reported breeding since the Panel started gathering records in 1996.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

There were no reports of breeding by apparently escaped or introduced birds. For reports of breeding by birds thought to be of wild origin see Ogilvie *et al.* (2003).

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus* (AE*)

Small numbers were recorded in summer from a number of localities where Icelandic birds regularly winter, such as the Solway Firth, but no breeding was reported.

Delany (1993) found a total of 88 individuals at 29 sites in 1991, including a breeding pair in Lancashire.

White-fronted Goose *Anser albifrons* (AE*)

One locality in one county: three pairs bred. ARGYLL Three full-winged pairs of the Greenland race *flavirostris* bred on Islay, but only one brood of three young fledged.

Delany (1993) reported a total of 54 *albifrons* in 1991, of which 40 were at six localities in Norfolk. The small group of *flavirostris* on Islay stem from a waterfowl collection, and breeding success is typically low.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (E*)

Three localities in three counties: one pair bred and one pair possibly bred.

DERBYSHIRE Pair present on a lake at Kineton all summer, but breeding probably did not occur. SURREY Pair bred at Teddington Lock and reared two young. SUSSEX Flock of 22, including eight juveniles, at Chichester Harbour, 1st September. The origin of these remains a mystery and they could have come from a foreign collection.

Reports of singles and small flocks were received from a number of counties. Delany (1993) reported 85 individuals at 27 localities in 1991, but few breeding attempts have been reported and breeding success appears to be typically low.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: one hybrid pair bred.

HAMPSHIRE A Snow Goose paired with a Greylag Goose *A. anser* reared three young at Blashford. No report was received from the regular breeding site of Stratfield Saye owing to FMD restrictions on access. ARGYLL The introduced flock of 30-40 which moves between Coll and Mull was present during 2001, but there was no report of breeding.

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus* (E)

Two localities in two counties: three pairs bred. CUMBRIA Two pairs bred at Walney Island rearing four young; up to 14 were present through the year. SURREY A captive pair bred at Claremont Lake and reared three young. On 20th September, a flock of eight was present at this site, of which six were full-winged.

This is the first time that breeding has been reported in the wild, and follows the failed breeding attempt of a mixed pair (hybrid

Emperor × Bar-headed Goose *A. indicus* in Cumbria in 2000. Delany (1993) found 14 individuals in 1991 at seven localities.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

Minimum of three localities in four counties: seven pairs known to have bred.

AVON Two pairs bred at Chew Valley Lake and reared three young. CUMBRIA Three pairs reared two young at Killington Reservoir and two pairs reared eight young at Derwent Water. A flock of 59 birds was seen all summer at the latter site and also on Ullswater. HAMPSHIRE No reports were received from the regular breeding site of Stratfield Saye because of FMD restrictions on access. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE An estimated 15 pairs were present in the county.

As in 2000, the above is an incomplete picture of the status of this species, exacerbated by access restrictions. Flocks of apparently non-breeding birds were reported from a number of localities.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiacus (CE*)

Minimum of 42 localities in ten counties: at least 47 breeding pairs recorded.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Pair bred at Langley Park and reared six young. ESSEX Single pairs possibly bred at Earls Colne and at South Park, Ilford. GREATER MANCHESTER Pair reared two young at Etherow Country Park. HAMPSHIRE Two pairs bred in the Avon Valley and reared five young. LEICESTERSHIRE At least four pairs bred at Rutland Water and reared 19 young. NORFOLK Breeding was recorded at 29 locations, though no totals of pairs are available. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Pair bred at one locality and was seen with seven young in April. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Pair bred at Attenborough, but the two young seen in April subsequently disappeared; two broods, of four and eight young, were seen at Center Parcs, Rufford. SUFFOLK Four pairs bred and ten pairs possibly bred in the county, but data incomplete. SURREY Pair reared eight young in Kew Gardens; two pairs were present in Sutton Place, one of which bred, but outcome unknown; single pairs were present all year at Bay Pond, Godstone, and at Walton-on-Thames, but breeding not thought to have occurred.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

One locality: one pair.

NORFOLK Pair present at Holkham Park all year.

In addition, there were many sightings of singles and small flocks reported to us.

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata (E*)

Four localities in four counties: six pairs bred.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Maximum of 30 birds present at Ely during the year; at least three pairs bred, with broods of seven, four and two reported. CHESHIRE Pair bred at Shakerley, young being seen in July. DEVON Two pairs bred at Okehampton, ten birds present in December. DORSET Pair present throughout the year at Abbotsbury.

Records of non-breeding birds were received from a further two counties. We repeat our comment made last year that this species is not just a farmyard duck and that we welcome all records.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (E*)

One locality: pair bred.

DEVON Female with five to seven week-old young near Haytor on 23rd June.

In addition, single birds were seen in three counties.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (AE*)

Three localities in two counties: six pairs known to have bred.

NORFOLK Regular free-flying flock at Penthorpe Waterfowl Park; five broods seen. At least two females were reported throughout the summer at Hickling Broad. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Pair bred at Lound and were seen with four young on 25th June, but only one remained by 14th August.

Yet again we have no information on the apparently well-established population in the Cotswold Water Park (Gloucestershire/Wiltshire), and once more we urge local bird-watchers there to carry out a survey of this species.

Common Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula (A)

No reports of apparently escaped or introduced birds were received.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

Six localities in four counties: at least nine birds. AVON Single males at Clevedon on 29th March and at Henleaze on 24th April. NORFOLK Reported from Seven Acre Pit, Stanford Training Area, on 28th April. SOMERSET Male at Copleham Cross, 29th April. Birds reported as introduced at Ash Priors. WILTSHIRE Two males and three females were seen at Druid's Lodge on 29th December.

Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor*

One county, four localities. NORFOLK Reported from Brumstead (dead bird), 1st February; East Ruston, 28th March; Neatishead, 8th February and 18th March; and Worstead, 10th February.

These sightings come from the same area of Norfolk as the six seen in 2000.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

One locality: single bird recorded. SUFFOLK Male heard calling at Brandon on 3rd April.

A very poor showing after the much fuller report published for 2000. Access restrictions because of FMD are at least partly to blame for the lack of records.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* (CE*)

The only information received was that there is still a population present in Backwood and Wavendon Woods, Buckinghamshire.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (E*)

One locality. NORFOLK Two, Winfarthing, 9th May and one on 20th.

The only previous records of this species in these reports were of breeding by up to three pairs in Northamptonshire in 1998-99.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* (E)

One locality: two pairs bred. NORFOLK Two pairs fledged 12-14 young at Houghton Park; there were several other adults in the area.

This is the first breeding by this species to be included in these reports. The locality is well

away from Stanford Water, Norfolk, where three were seen in suitable habitat in 2000.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

One locality: hybrid pair bred. KENT A pair of hybrid Alexandrine x Rose-ringed Parakeets *P. krameri* bred at Sidcup and reared at least one young. A male Alexandrine was seen attending two Rose-ringed Parakeet nests nearby.

This is the first breeding report since the pair which bred at Fazackerley, Merseyside, in 1997-99 disappeared.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

Breeding in seven counties: total population 6,000+.

BERKSHIRE Mainly in east of county, but spreading west; at least 118 birds roosting at Maidenhead in winter 2001/02. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Small population in southeast of county, as well as farther north to Bourne End and Marlow; the most recent estimated total is of c.100 birds in 2000. DORSET At least two pairs bred at Studland, where 12+ birds were seen in August. KENT Estimated 100+ pairs on the Isle of Thanet, where principal roost, at Ramsgate, peaked at 540 in winter 2001/02 and the total population was estimated at 600 birds. Increasing population in west of county around Lewisham, with peak roost count of 900 in winter 2001/02. MIDDLESEX Largest counts from Bushy Park and Hampton Court areas with at least 150-200 birds present. SURREY Peak roost counts in winter 2001/02 were of 4,096 at the Esher Rugby Club and 350 at Reigate. SUSSEX Continued expansion south and a small isolated population around Brighton.

Although this report normally concentrates on reports of breeding pairs, the population of this species is far more easily monitored through counts at roosts. The five main winter roosts, at Esher, Lewisham, Reigate, Ramsgate and Maidenhead, held a total of 6,004 birds during winter 2001/02, compared with 4,352 during winter 2000/01.

Butler (2002) divides the birds living in the London area into two subpopulations: (1) southwest London, including east Berkshire, south Buckinghamshire, Middlesex, Surrey and north Sussex, and (2) southeast London,

centred on the Lewisham/Bromley/Bexley area of northwest Kent.

Most of the information above came from Butler (2002) and Raven (2002), as well as from Chris Butler's website at <http://users.ox.ac.uk/~wolf0977/plan.html>, to which observers are requested to contribute their sightings.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticauda*

One locality: pair bred.

KENT Pair bred at Lewisham; four eggs laid, but predated. Second pair present but not proved to be breeding.

This is the first time that this species has been recorded breeding in the wild in the UK, although it is probable that birds have been breeding at Lewisham for some years as a pair was seen at a bird table in the area in 1997 and numbers had increased to about 15 by 1999. The details of the breeding attempt have already been reported by Butler *et al.* (2002). The species is a native of South America where different subspecies occur in Columbia and Venezuela, Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Argentina.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: breeding at one. HERTFORDSHIRE The population in Borehamwood numbered at least 32 birds, with seven nests found, but breeding success was not known. SURREY One bird of the pair which bred at Lonsdale Reservoir in 1999 was found dead in February 2001 and the other subsequently disappeared.

Occasional sightings suggest continuing escapes of this species, but no other breeding populations are known. Previous colonies existed at Tiverton, Devon, and Barnton, Cheshire, but then died out.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (E*)

One locality: pair bred.

ENGLAND The pair which has been breeding at a location in northern England since 1996 reared three young.

This pair has bred for six years running, with only one failure. There have been very few

reports of the 13 young reared during this period. It would be useful to receive all records of this species, whether breeding or not, from throughout the UK.

Red-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax formosus*

One area: breeding reported.

ISLE OF MAN Escapees from a wildlife park have been living in the wild for several years, with breeding taking place since at least 1996.

This addition to the list of non-native species breeding in the UK has only recently been reported to the Panel. A full account is in preparation. The species is a native of southwest Szechwan and northeast Yunnan provinces in southwest China.

Acknowledgments

The Panel is grateful to all County Recorders, report editors and individuals who supplied the information from which this report has been compiled.

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Non-native birds breeding in the UK in 2002

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



Bar-headed Geese *Anser indicus*. Simon Gillings

This is the seventh annual report by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel into the breeding of rarer non-native species in the UK, and covers the year 2002. Almost 300 species of non-native birds have been reported in the wild in Britain and about one-sixth of these have bred in the wild (Holmes *et al.* 1998; BOURC 2004). Since 1996, the Panel has monitored the establishment and spread of populations of these species, and the information gathered will assist conservation agencies and the Government to fulfil Article 8 of the Biodiversity Convention, and other international treaties, such as the EC Birds Directive, which stress the need to ensure that releases of non-native species are closely regulated and do not result in ecological conflicts with native fauna or flora.

As in previous years, coverage in 2002 was patchy, with considerable variation in the reporting of introduced and escaped birds in different parts of the country. Yet it is imperative that we learn more about our breeding non-native birds. Certain species, whether escapes from captivity or deliberate introductions, can create potentially serious conservation or even economic problems, and for this reason we urge observers to redouble their efforts in reporting the species described below

to County Recorders and/or to the Panel.

The results of a new survey of naturalised geese breeding in the UK, carried out by WWT in 2000, were finally published in 2004 (Rowell *et al.* 2004), and are presented here for the appropriate species. They are compared with the Panel's data, and also with the results from an earlier national survey of naturalised geese, in 1991 (Delany 1993).

The current membership of the Panel is Humphrey Crick, Ian Francis, Judith Smith, Ken Smith, David Stroud and Malcolm Ogilvie (Secretary). The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but three are also able to reflect the interests and needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies) and the RSPB, with additional support coming from the BTO.

It was with great sadness that the Panel learnt of the death of Colin Bibby on 7th August 2004. Colin had been a member of the Panel since 1990 but was forced to resign owing to ill health in April 2004. His knowledge and advice were invaluable and he played a key role in the development of the Panel into a major source of information of conservation importance.

Systematic list

Records of non-native species for which there was breeding or potential breeding activity in 2002 are included. In the case of the pheasants (Phasianidae), the presence of males in suitable habitat is sufficient to qualify a species for inclusion. The letter codes after the species' names are the categories used by the

Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* (E*)

Three localities in two counties: two pairs bred. GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred at Arley Hall but failed. Two immatures present, Elton Reservoir, early August, but origin unknown. SUSSEX Pair bred at Benbow Pond, Cowdray Park, and was seen with a downy cygnet on 11th August; fledging success was not reported.

This represents a considerable reduction on the nine or more breeding pairs in 2001. In four counties where breeding occurred in 2001, Devon, Lothian, Northeast Scotland and Orkney, it was confirmed that no breeding took place this year.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus* (AE*)

Three localities in three counties: three pairs bred.

BEDFORDSHIRE A pair attempted to breed at Wardown Park, Luton. BERKSHIRE Pair with two young on 31st May, fledging success unknown. HIGHLAND Pair bred in Glen Strathfarrar, breeding success unknown.

These were the only reports of pairs believed to be of captive origin (see Ogilvie *et al.* 2004 for reports of assumed wild pairs).

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus (AE*)

No reports of breeding in 2002 were received. Rowell *et al.* (2004) found a total of 33 individuals at 20 sites in 2000. They also reported breeding by a pair at Horsey Island, Essex, and probable breeding in Leicestershire, neither of which was reported to the Panel. Their figure compares with a total of 88 birds at 29 sites in 1991 (Delany 1993).

White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons (AE*)

One locality in one county: at least one pair bred.

ARGYLL Three full-winged pairs of the race *flavirostris* were present on Islay near a water-fowl collection, of which one pair definitely

BOURC (BOURC 2004). The absence of a letter indicates that the species is not currently listed.

The following species, shown as Category C in the British List, are dealt with in the Panel's reports on rare breeding birds (e.g. Ogilvie *et al.* 2004): Gadwall *Anas strepera*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*.

bred, rearing two young.

Rowell *et al.* (2004) found only seven adult birds (two *albifrons*, one *flavirostris* and four undetermined) at seven sites in 2000, none of them breeding, which is a considerable drop since Delany's (1993) total of 54 *albifrons* in 1991.

Bar-headed Goose *Anser indicus* (E*)

Five localities in four counties: up to five pairs bred.

KENT Flock in Grove/Stodmarsh area, August-October, included at least three juveniles; possibly also bred in Wingham area. SUSSEX Two adults and two immatures were present in Chichester Harbour in late August and early September, but it is not known where breeding took place. WARWICKSHIRE Pair fledged one young on lake at Kineton. WILTSHIRE Pair bred at Edington Lake and reared four young.

No breeding apparently took place in either Derbyshire or Hampshire in 2002, where breeding has been fairly regular in past years. Reports of singles and small flocks were received from a number of counties. There were 52 birds at 18 localities in eight counties in 2000 (Rowell *et al.* 2004), with just one breeding pair, at Stratfield Saye, Hampshire. This record was not reported to the Panel at the time, but three other breeding pairs that year were. Delany (1993) reported 85 birds at 27 localities in 1991.

Snow Goose *Anser caerulescens* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: 3-4 pairs bred.

HAMPSHIRE Although two pairs were reported from the regular breeding site of Stratfield Saye, it is not thought that breeding actually took place. ARGYLL On Coll, a flock of 24 adults and 10 goslings was rounded-up and ringed during their annual wing moult in July 2002. This was thought to be all the birds present on the island at the time, but it is not known whether there were any others elsewhere. This flock of 30-40 introduced geese moves between Coll and Mull during the year.

Rowell *et al.* (2004) reported a total of 86

Snow Geese at 17 sites during 2000, which compares with 85 at 27 localities found in 1991 by Delany (1993). Delany included the Coll/Mull flock in his total, however, which was not mentioned by Rowell *et al.*

Emperor Goose *Anser canagicus* (E)

No reports of breeding in 2002 were received. In 2000, 14 birds were found, all adults, at five localities (Rowell *et al.* 2004). In 1991, Delany (1993) also found 14 birds, at seven localities.

Barnacle Goose *Branta leucopsis* (AE*)

Breeding reported from at least nine localities in eight counties.

BEDFORDSHIRE A maximum of 28 young were present on Roxton Gravel-pit in early July, but it is not known how many fledged or how many pairs actually bred. A pair also bred at Harrold Gravel-pit and reared one young. CHESHIRE & WIRRAL Pair hatched one young at Tatton. DERBYSHIRE Pair fledged two young at Carsington Reservoir. HAMPSHIRE Eight pairs bred at the regular site of Stratfield Saye, with up to 20 young seen. HIGHLAND Pair bred at Tarbat House, Dornoch Firth, but success unknown. NORFOLK Pair bred successfully at Ditchingham Gravel-pit, but number of young not reported. SUFFOLK Twelve small young seen on Sotterley Park lake in early June; number of pairs involved not reported. Breeding suspected elsewhere in county. WARWICKSHIRE Three pairs bred on lake at Priors Marston, success unknown.

The 2000 survey (Rowell *et al.* 2004) found a total of 693 birds at 75 sites. Details of the number and location of all the breeding sites are not given, but 129 of the total were juveniles with breeding confirmed in Cumbria, Essex and Hampshire, among others. The Panel's report for 2000 (*Brit. Birds* 95: 631-635) included breeding records for those three counties, and also a further five. Although several flocks appear to be flourishing, the total found in 2000 is well down on the 925 at 89 localities reported by Delany (1993).

Egyptian Goose *Alopochen aegyptiacus* (CE*)

Minimum of 43 localities in seven counties: at least 33 breeding pairs recorded.

BERKSHIRE Breeding reported from Windsor Great Park (two pairs), the River Thames at

Caversham (two pairs), Dinton Pastures Country Park (four pairs) and Theale Gravel-pits (two pairs), with young produced at each locality. GREATER MANCHESTER Pair fledged two young at Compstall Water. HAMPSHIRE Up to six pairs at four localities, but breeding not confirmed. LEICESTERSHIRE Five pairs raised 15 young at Rutland Water. NORFOLK Breeding reported from 17 localities, but no estimate of the total number of pairs involved. SUFFOLK Up to 17 pairs breeding at 14 localities. WARWICKSHIRE Single pairs at two localities, both in suitable habitat, but breeding not reported.

Coverage remains disappointingly patchy. In 2000, a total of 575 was found at 43 localities (Rowell *et al.* 2004), with the majority (444) in Norfolk and a further 64 in Suffolk. In fact, only one breeding locality away from Norfolk and Suffolk was listed, though the Panel's report for 2000 (*Brit. Birds* 95: 631-635) records breeding in six other counties. In 1991, the total recorded was 906, with Norfolk holding over 800 of these (Delany 1993). It is not known whether this is a genuine reduction in numbers or simply whether coverage in Norfolk was less thorough in 2000.

Ruddy Shelduck *Tadorna ferruginea* (BE*)

No reports of breeding in 2002 were received.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata* (E*)

Three localities in three counties: at least four pairs bred.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE The population at Ely numbered at least 19 adults during the summer and a minimum of ten young were seen. DERBYSHIRE Up to 11 adults and 15 young (broods of eight and seven) were present at Bradford Dale in late July. NORFOLK Pair fledged one young at Broom Heath.

No breeding took place in either Cheshire or Devon where this species was reported in 2001 (*Brit. Birds* 96: 620-625). Records of non-breeding birds were received from a number of other counties. This species is not simply a farmyard duck and all records are useful in establishing the national picture.

Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: pair bred, three other pairs reported.

LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEYSIDE Pair present in suitable habitat. WILTSHIRE Pair bred at Stanton Park and fledged one young;

two other pairs present in early March.

Singles were seen in at least five other counties.

Red-crested Pochard *Netta rufina* (AE*)

Five localities in four counties: at least five pairs. GLAMORGAN Pair displaying at Roath Park Lake in early April. GOWER Pair at Eglwys Nunydd in late March. LINCOLNSHIRE Pair at Langtoft Gravel-pits in April and 12 birds in September. NORFOLK Two young seen in May at Pensthorpe, where there is a free-flying population, and two males and a female at nearby Great Ryburgh in April and June.

Once again, our annual plea for data from the well-known population in the Cotswold Water Park has gone unheeded. Information from this site would be extremely valuable.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula* (A)

No reports of apparently escaped or introduced birds in 2002 were received.

Helmeted Guineafowl *Numida meleagris* (E)

Six localities in three counties: no confirmed breeding.

DEVON Five together in a field in August. NORFOLK There were no reports from the breeding locality of 2001, but two were seen about 12 km from that site, in August. Two males and a female seen at another locality in April and single pairs at two (separate) nearby localities, one in June and the other in December. SOMERSET A free-flying flock is well established at Ash Priors, but no reports of breeding were received.

This species may be increasing in popularity as a species to keep, and release.

Reeves's Pheasant *Syrnaticus reevesii* (E*)

Six localities in three counties.

NORFOLK Males reported from three sites within the Stanford Training Area, including two displaying in late July at one and seven males in September at a second; sightings from three other localities. SOMERSET Small numbers present at Ash Priors throughout the summer. WILTSHIRE Three males present at Druid's Lodge estate in early May.

Green Pheasant *Phasianus versicolor*

Three localities in one county.

NORFOLK Up to 12 males at Worstead all year; also reported from Frettenham, in late March and early April, and North Walsham, in early April (two).

This species was first reported to the Panel in 2000, from the same general area of northeast Norfolk, where it appears to be persisting, though the above localities are up to 10 km west of the original release site.

Golden Pheasant *Chrysolophus pictus* (CE*)

21 localities in five counties: minimum of 64 birds involved.

DEVON Single males, one killed by a car, at two localities. LANCASHIRE & NORTH MERSEY-SIDE Nine males and a female seen in Lytham Hall Woods. NORFOLK Reported regularly from three localities, Wayland Wood (up to 11), Hockham Woods (10) and Wolferton (3), plus one or two sightings of 1-5 birds (total 15) at seven other localities. SUFFOLK Six males seen in five different localities. SUSSEX Three pairs and a single bird reported from three localities.

The Norfolk total of 39 compares with 49 in 2000, the last year for which there were good figures. The Sussex total is incomplete as the three estates which held up to 45 pairs in 2000 were not surveyed this year.

Lady Amherst's Pheasant *Chrysolophus amherstiae* (CE*)

Present in two counties, which still hold the two main populations of this species.

BEDFORDSHIRE At least 15 different birds seen in several localities. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Still present but no counts. A total of 85 territories was identified in this county in 1998.

Common Peafowl *Pavo cristatus* (E*)

This species was seen in five localities in Norfolk, but no breeding was reported. Common Peafowl bred in Northamptonshire in 1998 and 1999, and two were seen at Winfarthing, Norfolk, in 2001.

Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* (AE*)

Two localities in two counties: two full-winged populations.

NORFOLK Free-flying birds from the colony at

Great Witchingham Park continue to be seen outside the park in small numbers. **LOTHIAN** No young were left full-winged at Edinburgh Zoo.

Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria* (E*)

No reports of breeding were received in 2002.

Rose-ringed Parakeet *Psittacula krameri* (CE*)

Breeding in at least five counties: total population 6,000+.

The summary of breeding numbers in the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey in the Panel report for 2001 cannot be improved upon, as the study upon which it was based (Butler 2002) ended prior to the 2002 breeding season. Very few were seen in Sussex, and no breeding was reported. The five main winter roosts, at Esher, Lewisham, Reigate, Ramsgate and Maidenhead, were counted during winter 2001/02 and held a total of 6,004 birds (Butler 2002). Sightings of small numbers of birds were reported from Cheshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Rosy-faced Lovebird *Agapornis roseicollis* (E)

One locality: pair bred.

LOTHIAN Pair bred at Dunbar, an adult and juvenile being present during January to April, with five birds seen on 3rd April, and another juvenile present on 5th August.

This is the first reported breeding by this species in the wild, and the second successive year that a new species of parrot has bred in the UK (the first breeding of Blue-crowned Parakeet was reported in 2001). Rosy-faced Lovebird is a native of Angola, Namibia and South Africa.

Blue-crowned Parakeet *Aratinga acuticaudata*

No reports of breeding were received in 2002, although there were seven together in the Lymington area of Hampshire from September to December. Last year's attempted breeding in Kent was not repeated.

Monk Parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (E*)

Two localities in two counties: breeding at one.

HERTFORDSHIRE The Borehamwood population numbered at least 35 birds and breeding was known to occur, but there was no count of nests. **WILTSHIRE** A small colony was reported from Castle Combe, with up to eight birds in March, but no information was received on breeding. These birds have apparently been present in the village for at least two years.

Scattered records suggest continuing escapes of this species, but no other breeding populations are known. Previous colonies existed at Tiverton, Devon, and Barnton, Cheshire, but then died out.

Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (E*)

The pair that has been breeding at a location in northern England since 1996 reared two young in 2002. Reports of single birds were received from Highland, Norfolk and Warwickshire (a long-staying individual, but not seen after February). This is the seventh year running in which this pair in northern England has bred, but there have been hardly any reports of the 15 young reared to date. Birdwatchers are encouraged to submit all records of this species from the UK, whether breeding or not.

Red-winged Laughingthrush *Garrulax formosus*

In the Isle of Man, escapes from a wildlife park have been living in the wild for several years, with breeding taking place since at least 1996 (including in 2002).

Acknowledgments

The Panel is grateful to all County Recorders, report editors and individuals who supplied the information from which this report has been compiled.

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