

Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1980



J. T. R. Sharrock and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

It is a real pleasure to be able to report that, in 1980, records were received from all the county and regional report editors, for the first time since these annual reports started in 1973. Many county recorders have also gone to the trouble to check their files against our past reports and notify additions and corrections to us. We wish to express our thanks for this co-operation, which not only increases the scientific value of our report, but also enables it to be of much more help in the making of policy decisions by conservation bodies such as the RSPB and the NCC.

We are also pleased that the data being supplied to us by most recorders are increasingly detailed and, therefore, increasingly useful. Our annual report provides a brief summary of this information, which serves three purposes: (1) archive, (2) conservation, and (3) research. Only general summaries are ever made available for purposes (2) and (3) without specific approval from the relevant recorder. The prime purpose of the Panel, however, is to provide a safe, central repository for detailed information which might otherwise be lost to posterity, as has often happened in the past.

The Panel is supported, both morally and financially, by *British Birds*, the BTO, the RSPB and the NCC. During 1980, the Panel's members were Dr L. A. Batten, R. H. Dennis, Ian Prestt, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (secretary) and Robert Spencer.

Most records reach the Panel from the county and regional recorders. Individual observers are strongly encouraged to submit their data via the relevant county recorder, although it is recognised that there may very occasionally be exceptional reasons for sending a report directly to the Panel's secretary. The special forms for submitting records are available free from the address at the end of this report.

The policy in our published reports is to include information only when safe to do so, and provided that we have received permission; we publish basic details, sufficient for the purposes of most researchers and enough to give birdwatchers a balanced annual summary of the events concerning the United Kingdom's rarest breeding birds.

In this report, counties are named only when permission has been given. In other cases, code letters are used: these are the same as in previous reports, so that histories of decline or colonisation can be followed, even though the locations must remain confidential to ensure freedom from disturbance. This report contains a mixture of old and new county names: we have used those supplied by the recorders.

For most species, we have given a range of figures for 'pairs breeding', the lower representing the number confirmed breeding and the upper (those 'possibly breeding') the maximum if, for instance, every singing male or single sighting represented a nesting pair. Although these ranges are often very wide, they can be calculated consistently each year and are, we believe, valuable for comparisons.

Summary of the year

The year 1980 was interesting, with many encouraging signs, especially in Scotland. It was good for grebes, with the first-ever nesting of a pair of Red-necked Grebes *Podiceps grisegena* (though no young were reared and apparently no eggs laid) and indications that both Slavonian *P. auritus* and Black-necked Grebes *P. nigricollis* may be increasing. One unexpected development was that involving a pair of Pink-footed Geese *Anser brachyrhynchus* which apparently took up territory. Less unexpected was the further advance of the Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*.

It was a good year for the big raptors. Red Kites *Milvus milvus* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* both reared their highest number of young in any year this century, and Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* achieved their second-highest total. Credit for these achievements is due partly to the birds, but perhaps largely to the conservation bodies for ensuring the maintenance of suitable habitat or ensuring, by wardening, lack of disturbance, or both. The same may be said for the Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta*, of which more were present at more sites than at any time for 150 years. Other waders also did well: the small but expanding population of Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*, the three-years-in-a-row Purple Sandpipers *C. maritima*, and the Wood Sandpipers *Tringa glareola*, with a best-ever showing.

Some passerines also made 1980 memorable. Two male Bluethroats *Luscinia svecica* (one red-spotted *L. s. svecica* and one white-spotted *L. s. cyaneacula*) sang in suitable habitat, and, as an appropriate accompaniment, Redwings *Turdus iliacus*—in the doldrums for four years—were evident in the largest numbers since the all-time high of 1975. Continuing already-encouraging trends, Firecrests *Regulus ignicapillus*, Savi's Warblers *Locustella luscinioides* and Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* turned in, respectively, their second, fourth and fifth good years in a row. Cetti's Warblers *Cettia cetti* slowly advanced (one currently wonders what effect the 1981/82 winter will have had on this species).

A Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator* joined a long list of would-be colonists (e.g. Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*, Black Duck *Anas rubripes*, Scaup *Aythya marila*, King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*, Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*, Glaucous Gull *L. hyperboreus*, Firecrest, and Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*) which, failing to find a mate of their own species, have turned to the next best thing, a close relation. Among other potential colonists, Bramblings are trying, but Serins *Serinus serinus* and Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* clearly aren't, while Lapland Buntings *Calcarius lapponicus* sadly dropped to a single pair.

The two new species added to our lists both proved to be at dismally low levels: only three pairs of Garganeys *Anas querquedula* were proved to breed

in the whole of the United Kingdom, and, outside their Devon stronghold, breeding was confirmed for only six pairs of Cirl Buntings *Emberiza cirlus*.

Systematic list

We have received no relevant 1980 records of the following species:

Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>	Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Purple Heron <i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Shore Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>C. melanotos</i>	Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

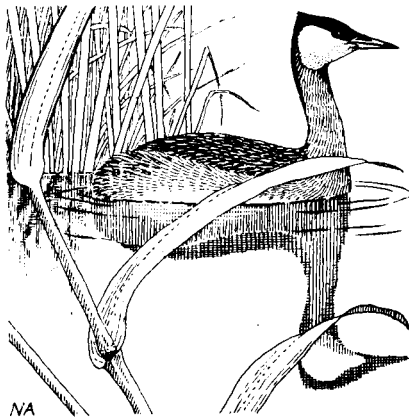
Three sites: 0-3 pairs breeding; first ever nest built in Britain.

Essex One site: one from 26th May to 25th June.

County A One site: one from at least 22nd June to 21st July.

County B One site: pair built nest, but did not lay eggs; first seen 11th June, built raft on 12th June, when displayed and copulated (on raft), display continued until 26th, when new nest found, adult covered nest when leaving, still sitting on 3rd July and covering nest when leaving, but nest still empty, pair left area before mid July; presumably young pair making first breeding attempt.

Colonisation moved one step nearer with a pair building a nest at one of two Scottish sites.



NA

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

36 sites: 53-80 pairs breeding, at least 39 young reared.

Inverness-shire 32 sites: (1)-(32) total of 72 pairs, 50-52 pairs confirmed breeding (at 22 sites) and total of 33-34 young reared.

Sutherland One site: single on 20th May.

County A One site: up to five pairs, with two pairs confirmed breeding, and five young on 10th August.

County B Two sites: (1) pair reared one young; (2) single on 10th and 11th April.

1978 County A One site: seven adults in May.

1979 Inverness-shire 24 sites: (1)-(24) total of at least 50 to 67 pairs breeding, 37 young reared.

Excluding 1975, when Inverness-shire sites were incompletely covered, the mean number of pairs breeding since these reports started in 1973 has been 52-63, so the number confirmed in 1980 was about average, but the possible maximum was the highest (previous maximum, 75 in 1976).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Nine sites: 11-21 pairs breeding, at least 14 young reared.

County A Two sites: (1) six pairs reared eight young; (2) three pairs reared one young.

County B Two sites: (1) three or four pairs on 30th May, none on 4th July; (2) single 19th July.

County D One site: two pairs, one with two half-grown young on 3rd July, one with one young about ten days old on 16th August.

County G Two sites: (1) pair from 27th April to 29th May, displaying and carrying nesting material; (2) single from 15th March, two from 22nd March to 5th April, then none until single 17th August, then two or three until 31st August, single to 20th September.

County I One site: two returned on 5th May, later left, one returned 5th June, later left.

County J Two sites: (1) single from 12th May to 8th August; (2) three, including pair displaying, on one date in May, single next day.

Although the totals remained similar to previous years, the number of sites and number of counties involved continue to increase, giving hope that breeding may spread.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

One site: single again summered with Gannets *Sula bassana*.

Shetland One site: single which has frequented Hermaness gannetry annually since 1974 again summered and built nest, 15th March to 2nd August.

Perhaps one day it might find a mate . . .

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

19 sites: 4-48 pairs breeding.

Glamorgan, West One site: single from 22nd January to 29th August, booming from 16th February onwards.

Kent One site: two or more booming occasionally in April-May, 'breeding unlikely'.

Lancashire Two sites: (1) 12 booming at Leighton Moss; (2) one booming in spring.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: single all year, booming in summer.

Norfolk Eight sites: (1) single booming, two nests; (2) pair reared young; (3) pair with nest and two eggs on 13th June; (4) single booming, one nest; (5) three booming; (6)-(8) singles booming.

Northumberland One site: two from December 1979 until at least 23rd March, booming on many dates from 9th February to 9th June, single from 23rd March to end of year.

Suffolk Three sites, but no proved breeding: (1) Minsmere, nine pairs; (2) Walberswick, seven pairs; (3) one pair.

Somerset One site: single booming on 27th May.

County C One site: single booming on 9th June.

1977 Lancashire Second site: (2) single booming.

1979 Glamorgan, West One site: single from January to June, booming from March to June (rehabilitated individual released on 24th April).

1979 Kent One site: three territories with singles booming, some probable feeding flights observed.

Since this species was added to our list, annual totals have been: 1977, 18 sites, 0-43 pairs; 1978, 17 sites, 2-47 pairs; and 1979, 21 sites, 1-51 pairs. Thus, the number of sites and pairs in 1980 were both at roughly the 1977-79 average.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

Two sites: 0-2 pairs breeding.

Glamorgan, West One site: male on 25th May and 30th June, where singles also in June and August 1976 and September 1977.

Hertfordshire Male on 9th June, presumed to be migrant.

County A One site: female on 29th June, pair on 30th, male 'barking' during 5th-9th July, male seen 19th July.

Proof of breeding may come one day, but will probably depend upon fledglings being sighted at a regularly watched site.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

No relevant records in 1980.

1975 Glamorgan, West One site: first-summer from 7th May to 27th June and adult on 6th July.

Summering was also noted in 1976, 1977 and 1979.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Three sites: 1-3 pairs breeding; one with feral female reared two young.

Argyll Two sites: (1) three adults on 7th July; (2) two adults on 6th July.

Dunbartonshire One site: pair (believed to be wild male and escaped pinioned female that reared one young in 1979) reared two young.

A feral breeding population may be in the course of becoming established in Loch Lomondside.

Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One site: 0-1 pair breeding.

County A One site: pair showing territorial behaviour, including chasing feral Greylag Geese *A. anser* from one particular island, on 1st June.

This is the first occasion that this species has appeared in these reports; the locality was, however, atypical for this species, which suggests that escaped or injured individuals may have been involved.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

One site: female probably paired with male Mallard *A. platyrhynchos* and hatched two young.

Scilly One site: female with two ducklings seven to ten days old on 13th and 16th May; female reappeared on 11th August.

This is the fourth successive year in which hybrid young have been produced in Scilly.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

15 sites: 9-25 pairs breeding.

Argyll Two sites: (1) three females, two with young, on 6th July; (2) female on 6th July.

Berwickshire One site: pair throughout May, female 'disappeared', male stayed until at least early July, female and any young could have been overlooked among numerous Mallards *A. platyrhynchos*.

Caithness One site: pair, nest with five eggs on 14th June.

Cambridgeshire One site: two pairs, including female with six young.

Cheshire Two sites: (1) four males and three females in late April, pair remained until late July, three in early July; (2) male and two females from 7th-12th June, not present rest of summer.

Kent Three sites: (1) four on 11th July; (2) pair on 1st May; (3) male from 3rd-24th May.

Kirkcudbrightshire/Wigtownshire One site: two pairs, with three young and two young.

Lancashire One site: pair in late May and irregularly in June.

Orkney Two sites: (1) two females giving distraction display on 8th June, adults and juveniles on 29th August; (2) female with three young on 24th July.

Suffolk One site: one summered June-July.

1979 Kent Third site: (3) male from 13th-21st April, 'behaviour suggestive of breeding attempt'.

1979 Kirkcudbrightshire/Wigtownshire One site: pair hatched five young.

There were about average numbers in 1980. The late 1979 records bring that year's totals to 19 sites with ten to 41 pairs breeding.

**Garganey** *Anas querquedula*

33 sites: 3-53 pairs breeding.

Avon One site: pair and second male throughout breeding season.

Berkshire One site: male and two females on 23rd April, male from 30th July to mid September, joined by females from 21st August to mid September.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) four or five males present, four pairs estimated; (2) male on 19th April.

Cambridgeshire/Norfolk One site: Ouse Washes, eight or nine males in spring, two females with young in June.

Cumbria Two sites: (1) female on 15th May; (2) male on 13th June.

Derbyshire/Leicestershire One site: pair from 30th March to at least 4th May.

Devon Three sites: (1)(2) pairs in mid April; (3) male in mid April; also pair in May in habitat unsuitable for breeding.

Dorset One site: pair summered.

Essex Three sites: (1) female on 7th June; (2) female from 13th-18th June; (3) single on 26th May.

Kent Two sites: (1) three pairs; (2) two pairs.

Leicestershire One site: pair in late April and early May.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside Six sites: (1) two pairs on 18th April, one pair remained to breed, female and three young on 9th August; (2) one pair (female sometimes absent) from 19th April to 12th May; (3)-(6) males in April or May.

Norfolk Two sites: (1)(2) males on 25th May and 10th June.

Outer Hebrides Two sites: (1) pair on 5th June; (2) male on 22nd May.

Renfrewshire One site: male on 29th April.

Suffolk Two sites: (1)(2) single pairs probably bred.

Tyne & Wear One site: male and three females from 14th-26th April, pair until 13th May.

County A One site: pair during breeding season.

This is the first year in which records of this species have been collected by the Panel. Its inclusion in the list is fully justified by the very meagre showing in 1980: only three pairs proved breeding in the whole of the United Kingdom and very little indication that those at 24 of the 33 sites were other than lingering migrants; in 'good years', however, such individuals could well stay and breed.

Scaup *Aythya marila*

Two sites, but no breeding indications.

Essex Two sites: (1) three on 16th July; (2) female from 7th May to 24th July, male from 7th-12th July.

With past instances of nesting by infertile female in Suffolk in 1967-71 and pairing of probable hybrid female with Tufted Duck *A. fuligula* in North Yorkshire in 1978-79, these summer records in Essex are worthy of note. The only recent breeding records of pure pairs have been in Orkney (1973 and 1978) and Perthshire (1970).

King Eider *Somateria spectabilis*

Single male associating with female Eider *S. mollissima*.

County A One site: male kept company with female Eider from early April to mid June, ducklings also present, but no evidence that they were hybrids.

Hybridisation seems very likely to occur; colonisation by pure King Eider pairs is an exceedingly unlikely possibility.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Ten sites: 7-113 pairs breeding.

Argyll One site: pair in second half of June.

Dunbartonshire/Stirlingshire One site: six pairs and two males on 16th May, a few females but no young seen during 10th June to 21st July.

Fermainagh One site: 87 pairs, maximum day-counts of six broods, and of 33 young on 13th July.

Inverness-shire Three sites: (1) present, but no count made, pair nearby on 25th May; (2) seven adults on 21st May; (3) female on 21st June.

Perthshire Two sites: (1) pair and four females on 10th May, two males and three females on 24th May, groups of four and two females/juveniles on 31st August; (2) pair in May (also on nearby loch), female with four young on 7th July.

Ross-shire Two sites: (1) eight adults on 28th May; (2) pair in late May.

A further reduction, following the lowest post-Atlas figure in 1979.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

At least 11 sites: 26 to 37 or more pairs breeding, 165 young hatched.

Cumbria Six sites: (1)-(6) singles (one pair) on various dates during May-August.

Dunbartonshire/west Stirlingshire One site: male and two females on 8th June, male found dead on 11th June.

Suffolk One site: female from 11th-22nd July.

County A Two sites: (1)(2) females summered.

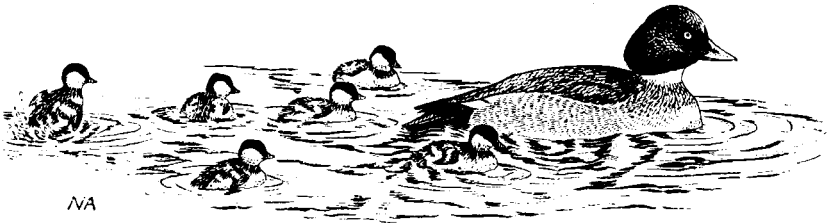
County B Females laid eggs in 26 nests (25 in nestboxes), 21 clutches incubated, 165 ducklings hatched from 17 successful nests; also many summering.

1978 County A One site: pair summered.

1979 Greater Manchester One site: female on 17th and 24th June.

1979 Lancashire One site: female on 31st May.

The population continues to expand satisfactorily.



NA

Smew *Mergus albellus*

Two sites: single male and single female.

Dunbartonshire/west Stirlingshire One site: male from 9th March to 7th August.

Renfrewshire One site: female (or immature) during August.

1979 Renfrewshire One site: female (or immature) during August.

If they get together . . .

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Three sites: 2-4 pairs breeding.

Bedfordshire One site: single on 3rd and 9th August.

Nottinghamshire One site: pair bred (success not known) and one or two other individuals.

County F One site: pair displaying in June, soaring and carrying food in August, breeding proved.

1976 Hertfordshire One site: single on 20th June.

1976 County F One site: single in August.

1979 Nottinghamshire One site: pair, which drove away a third individual, reared one young.

Regrettably, data are still not supplied to any conservation body by observers in the main breeding area, so current trends are unknown.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

39 pairs: 27 young reared by 21 pairs.

Central Wales Total of 39 pairs, of which 36 built nests, but only 28 laid eggs; 21 pairs reared a total of 27 young (six broods of two and 15 of one); also at least 20 unpaired individuals.

Reporter commented that the number of fledged young was a record for this century and the proportion of successful nests was the highest for 20 years, due to fine, dry weather in April-May. The total of about 100 adults present in spring bodes well for the future, as does the good news that there were no known losses due to egg-collectors.



Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

32 sites: probably 18-26 pairs breeding; 40 young reared.

Cambridgeshire Three sites, but no suspected breeding: (1) adult female and female or immature in May, two immatures (at least one male) in June; (2) male on 14th April; (3) female from late April to early June, two in early May.

Essex One site: one from late May to mid June.

Kent Three sites: (1) male and two females from mid May to late July, stick-carrying reported, but no other evidence of breeding; (2) two (once three) females or immatures from late May to early July, male in late July; (3) pair from mid April, stick-carrying seen on 16th April and 7th May.

Lancashire One site: male from 5th May to end of August.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside Eight sites: (1) at least three different birds, including subadult male, between early June and early September; (2)-(8) singles occasionally or once in June or July.

Norfolk Ten sites: (1) two pairs, one rearing four young, second pair built nest but did not lay eggs; (2) two pairs, one rearing four young, second pair disappearing; (3) two pairs, both unsuccessful; (4) pair reared five young; (5)-(8) pairs each reared two young; (9) pair reared one young; (10) male with two females, one reared two young, other none.

Suffolk Six sites: (1) two males and three females reared ten young; (2) two pairs reared six young; (3) pair, success unknown; (4) pair, success unknown, but thought to have failed; (5)(6) pairs failed.

County F One site: female from 5th May, male from 11th May, nest-building from 18th May, male found poisoned in June.

1975 West Glamorgan One site: female from 8th May to 28th June.

1979 Kent One site: three different adult males and two or three females during April to August, few staying more than a week.

Another good year, with the second-highest total of young reared this

century (exceeded only by 44 in 1977), a continuing increase in the number of wandering individuals and summerers, and a breeding attempt well outside the main Norfolk-Suffolk stronghold.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Seven sites: 2-7 pairs breeding, at least four young reared.

County C One site: female from 2nd May, second-year male from 5th May, but 'things then fizzled out'.

County D One site: one pair successfully reared young, but details not submitted to county recorder.

County H One site: pair from spring to early August, when pair seen with one juvenile, 'very likely that they had bred and reared at least one young, but possible that they bred elsewhere, though this unlikely in view of spring and summer records'.

County I One site: male and female during summer.

County J One site: male from 8th May to 2nd July, seen displaying and carrying nesting material, but no female observed.

County K One site: adult male 26th June to 1st July.

County L One site: pair with three flying juveniles still being fed by adults on 10th August.

1973 Gwent Two sites: (1) single from late May to early June; (2) single on 9th June.

This species continues to maintain a foothold here as a breeding species. Observers are asked not to visit known sites and not to disturb pairs at any new sites. We recommend that the RSPB should be informed at once so that, if necessary, landowners can be alerted and appropriate measures considered (telephone Sandy (0767) 80551 and ask for Richard Porter or Mike Everett).

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

About 26 sites: 6-32 pairs breeding, at least seven young reared.

Caernarvonshire One site: male and female displaying on 9th March, two males on 22nd March, various other unsubstantiated reports during February to April, one pair may have attempted to breed.

Cumbria Two sites: (1) female on 6th April; (2) male on 3rd June.

Derbyshire One site: pair present, first nest robbed in April, repeat nest also unsuccessful.

Dunbartonshire/west Stirlingshire One site: 'many sightings, but no evidence of breeding'.

Greater Manchester One site: one adult and one immature from mid to end of April.

Norfolk One site: 'pair proved breeding'.

Nottinghamshire One lone wandering female.

County C Two sites: (1) pair, no evidence of breeding, believed introduced; (2) singles in April and May.

County G One site: pair reared three young.

County M 'Continued increase in sightings, breeding details extremely incomplete, we could have at least five pairs, but odd birds all over the place.'

County O Two sites: (1) male in late March and April; (2) reported in May, but no nest in 1978-79 site.

County T One site: pair reared three young.

County U One site: two pairs, one rearing young, other with young seen in nest.

County V Three sites: (1) pair from April and throughout summer, display seen; (2) 'pair present'; (3) odd sightings suggest possibly two pairs.

County X One site: birds (perhaps pair) present throughout year, display calls heard.

County Z Two sites: (1) pair displaying on 6th April; (2) pair in April-May.

County AA One site: male displaying on 8th March.

County BB One site: one or two seen regularly, with some display noted, from early April to mid May, probably one pair.

County CC Two sites: (1) pair, display in early April and early May, immature on 31st October; (2) female on 3rd April, male on 6th May, female on 2nd October.

1975-79 County DD One site: pair nested each year.

1978 County O One site: pair with nest; no other details supplied.

1978 County Z Two sites: (1) pair present; (2) female in May.

1979 County O One site: pair with nest; no other details supplied.

1979 County Z One site: male on 21st April.

The number of counties in which Goshawks are being reported remains high:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Counties	6	9	13	8	15	16	19	19
Pairs proved breeding	6	8	5	12	15	14	21	6
Pairs possibly breeding*	12	17	32	23	37	36	41	32

Firm establishment does, however, clearly still depend upon a reduction in disturbance and persecution.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

25 sites: 20 pairs laid eggs, 19 pairs rearing total of 41 young.

Inverness-shire Loch Garten: pair in early April disappeared after one week of nest-building; new pair reared two young from three eggs.

Perthshire Loch of the Lowes: pair reared three young.

Elsewhere in Scotland 23 sites: total of 18 pairs laid eggs, 17 pairs reared total of 36 (5 × 3, 9 × 2, 3 × 1) young.

The number of pairs was the same as in the previous year, but the number of young reared was the highest this century:



	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Pairs	16	14	14	14	20	22	25	25
Successful pairs	10	10	7	10	7	11	16	19
Young reared	21	20	16	20	13	19	30	41

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

149 sites: 64-155 pairs breeding, with 41 successful pairs rearing a total of at least 86 young.

Avon Three sites: (1) adult with noisy fledged juvenile at site used in previous year on 24th August; (2) many sightings, including food-carrying; (3) singles on 10th and 27th July.

Bedfordshire Five sites: (1) pair probably bred; (2) pair possibly bred; (3) eight sightings including pair once; (4)(5) singles on eight and three occasions.

Berkshire Five sites: (1) pair reared three young; (2) pair reared two young (signs that tree climbed, so perhaps one young removed); (3) pair reared two young; (4) pair bred; (5) singles in May-July and two on 13th August.

Cambridgeshire Four sites: (1) pair present; (2) singles on 27th April, 1st May and 17th June; (3) two on 10th May; (4) two on 10th August.

Cheshire One site: singly on 9th June and on several evenings in August.

*Throughout this report, 'Pairs possibly breeding' is the maximum if, for instance, every singing male or single sighting represented a nesting pair; the number given does, therefore, include those proved breeding.

Devon Only information supplied to us by county society was: 'Status slightly stronger than it was ten years ago, due largely to its ability to select a variety of nesting sites. A reasonable number of "floating" sub-adults present in the county in the last few breeding seasons.'

Dorset Ten pairs proved breeding.

Essex Two sites: (1) single on 6th June and 7th July; (2) pair prospecting crow nest on 18th May, not seen subsequently.

Hampshire No data supplied for the New Forest, but details from seven sites elsewhere: (1)-(3) pairs reared three, two and one young; (4) pair seen regularly; (5)(6) one or two regularly until late August or September; (7) one or two in May and early June. County recorder has commented: 'Records received give no true indication of breeding strength.'

Herefordshire One site: breeding proved, 'two adults with two juveniles'.

Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) pair reared three young; (2) pair possibly bred.

Huntingdonshire One site: pair on 8th May, adult drove off family of Kestrels *F. tinnunculus* in late May, adult on 5th July.

Kent Four sites: (1)(2) pairs reared three and one young; (3) pair; (4) one or two present.

Leicestershire Two sites: (1) pair reared at least one young; (2) pair seen repeatedly, much calling.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside Two sites: (1) pair with two flying young from 20th August to late September, adult once seen to feed young in flight; (2) adult and three flying young in trees containing crow nest on 23rd August.

Northamptonshire One site: pair reared two young.

Nottinghamshire Five sites: (1) food-carrying, perhaps to young in nest, seen three times; (2)-(4) pairs probably breeding; (5) probably a fifth pair.

Oxfordshire 'Minimum of eight pairs bred; two pairs raised young.'

Shropshire Two sites: (1) single on 10th June, 17th and 30th July, juvenile 3 km away on 1st September; (2) single from late May through June.

Somerset 11 sites: (1)(2) pairs reared two and two or three young; (3) family party of three on 4th September; (4) pair throughout most of breeding season; (5) nest-prospecting; (6) pair, food pass, calls thought to be from young; (7) singles from May to August; (8) single on 6th and 24th May, pair on 25th May; (9) single on 26th May and 27th July; (10)(11) singles on 2nd June and 12th July.

Staffordshire One site: adult and juvenile able to fly on 16th August.

Suffolk Seven sites: (1)(2) pairs; (3) singles throughout summer, thought to have bred; (4)-(6) singles in May and June at all three sites; (7) seen occasionally in June and July.

Surrey Nine sites: (1)-(3) pairs reared two young; (4)(5) pairs reared one young; (6) pair robbed; (7)-(10) pairs probably bred; another five pairs possibly bred.

Sussex, East & West Six sites: (1)-(6) total of six pairs reared total of 10 or 11 young.

Warwickshire One site: pair with two young in nest.

Wiltshire Ten sites: (1) two pairs each reared two young; (2)(3) pairs reared three and two young; (4) pair with one young, not known if it fledged; (5)(6) pairs; (7)-(10) 'at least four other pairs in suitable habitat'.

Worcestershire One site: pair with three young.

County E 14 sites: (1)-(3) pairs reared three young; (4)(5) pairs reared two and at least one young; (6)-(9) nests not found, but pairs with two young; (10)(11) pairs and courtship flights early in season; (12) pair in May and early June; (13) pair in May and again in late July and August; (14) single hunting in August, perhaps nesting in neighbouring county.

County F 23 sites: records suggest that 11 pairs probably bred and a further 12 pairs possibly bred.

1973 Gloucestershire Two sites: (1)(2) pairs bred.

1973 Hertfordshire Three sites: (1)-(3) singles in July.

1974 Gloucestershire One site: single.

1974 Hertfordshire Three sites: (1)-(3) pairs bred.

1974 Kent One site: pair reared two young (first breeding record since 1967).

1975 Hertfordshire Extra site: (5) pair reared two young.

1976 Gloucestershire Two sites: (1) pair from May to mid August; (2) pair displaying on 6th June.

1979 Kent Extra sites: (5) pair from 27th April to 25th August, display and food-passing in late May; (6)(7) probable pairs.

1979 Northamptonshire One site: pair reared two young, which fledged between 11th and 18th August and whole family stayed in area until the end of September.

1979 Nottinghamshire Four sites: (1)-(4) pairs, three of which reared young (numbers not reported to Panel).

The firm information supplied to us since 1973 is summarised below:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Pairs proved breeding	24	47	38	59	51	70	80	64
Pairs possibly breeding	65	96	133	143	119	156	132	155
Young reared (minimum)	24	51	42	69	78	96	72	86

The absence of any counts or even estimates for what is probably the species' main area in Britain (the New Forest) and the lack of detail from some other counties makes it difficult to determine general trends. It seems likely, however, that over 100 pairs of Hobbies nested in Britain in 1980. Assuming that breeding success for those not reported to us was roughly the same as for those that were, one can deduce that over 60 pairs nested successfully and that over 140 young Hobbies fledged.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Three sites: four males singing.

Cambridgeshire One site: two males singing on 18th May and one on 23rd.

Lancashire One site: male singing on 5th and 6th May.

Morayshire One site: male singing on 16th June.

1979 Inverness-shire One site, data not supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 24) notes: male singing during 18th-20th June.

Although proof of breeding will always be difficult to obtain, this species' status is clearly still that of an extreme rarity, for the loud and distinctive 'whip-lash' song is seldom reported:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	0	4	0	1	4	6	4	3
Singing males	0	5	0	1	7	6	8	4

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Eight sites: 168-180 pairs reared at least 101 young.

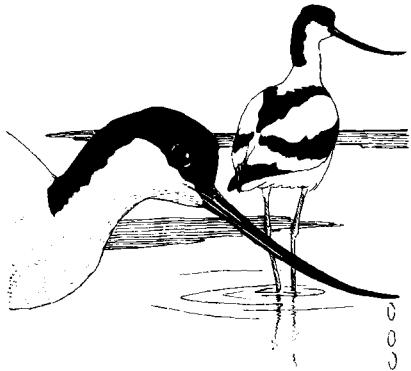
Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: single in early May and pair displaying in mid June.

Norfolk One site: 20 pairs bred, but no details supplied.

Suffolk Five sites: (1) Havergate Island, 90 pairs reared 23 young; (2) Minsmere, 58 pairs reared 78 young; (3) 'breeding attempted'; (4) up to five from 11th May to 23rd July; (5) pair on 8th June.

County B One site: up to 12 adults and six juveniles in June, 'presume locally bred'.

In 1980, the number of sites and the number of pairs were both the highest not only for just the eight-



year period during which the Panel has collected records, but also for over 150 years:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	4	4	6	5	7	4	5	8
Pairs (minimum)	149	125	158	151	146	145	147	168
Pairs (maximum)	149	125	158	151	146	145	156	180
Young reared	115	64	142	68	14	92	99	101

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

69 sites: 10-77 pairs breeding, but, as usual, data incomplete.

Berkshire Three sites: (1) pair reared young (probably two); (2) heard early in breeding season; (3) heard from 16th July.

Cambridgeshire 13 sites: (1) pair and two juveniles on 18th May and 29th June; (2)-(13) heard.

Dorset One site: two pairs probably bred.

Essex One site: two pairs, one reared two young.

Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) pair probably bred; (2) pair.

Norfolk 31 sites: (1) two pairs nested; (2)-(31) present. 'Undoubtedly many pairs overlooked.'

Oxfordshire One site: pair from mid April.

Suffolk Ten sites: (1) pair reared two young; (2) pair reared one young; (3) pair, seen carrying food; (4) five pairs; (5) two pairs; (6)-(10) pairs.

Sussex, West Three sites: (1) pair, three eggs during 13th-20th June; (2)(3) pairs in May.

Wiltshire Four sites: (1) pair reared two young; (2) pair, nest found; (3) pair; (4) single.

1973 Hertfordshire Seven pairs present and probably bred.

1974 Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) three pairs probably bred; (2) pair probably bred.

1977 Hertfordshire One site: pair reared two young.

1978 Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) pair bred; (2) pair summered.

Excluding the main counties of Hampshire and Norfolk for which details are not available annually, totals have been as follows:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Pairs proved breeding	26	28	47	16	4	20	34	8
Pairs possibly breeding	90	67	77	109	27	34	81	45

It would not be unreasonable to add the county recorders' own past estimates of over 50 pairs in Hampshire and well over 30 pairs in Norfolk and guess that the total British population is around 150 pairs. A co-ordinated census, including liaison with landowners, farmers and keepers, could, however, reveal that even this is a serious underestimate.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

Two sites: pair and single, perhaps only migrants.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside Two sites: (1) pair on 17th May, male on 18th May; (2) female on 15th June.

1979 Kent One site: up to three in May, last one on 1st June.

One pair hatched two young in Lincolnshire/south Humberside in 1979, the only published breeding record in the UK since 1956.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

At least 11 sites: 5-38 pairs breeding.

Angus One site: 'Usual or more than usual numbers—terrible breeding success', but only details are 38 on 11th May, one female on 4th June.

Highland One site: two pairs, with males incubating clutches of three and two in June.

County B Three sites: (1)(2) present in May-June; (3) one to ten 'calling agitatedly in misty conditions' in mid July.

County E One site: 'usual sightings . . . in eminently suitable breeding terrain and where bred in 1969' including 15 on 16th May and ten on 18th May; recorder comments that birders rarely try to prove breeding.

County F Two sites: (1) pair, male with two chicks about eight days old on 20th July; (2) pair throughout breeding season, 'a poor "Dotterel year"'.
County J One site: two pairs bred, two separate chicks on 6th July.

County K Unfortunately, the only information supplied to the county recorder was: 'Numbers have been very stable over recent years. Breeding slightly better than average in [one area] in 1980, but slightly poorer in [a second area].'

1973 Angus One site: four pairs, 'good breeding year'.

1978 County L One site: pair, two eggs, two young reared, first conclusive proof of breeding in the county.

1979 Grampian/Highland Extra details, from *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 25): number of young—20 (four juveniles) east Cairngorms on 9th August, 28 (five juveniles) west Cairngorms on 16th August.

It is difficult to interpret Dotterel observations—does a flock of 20 on a hilltop in May or June represent 20 pairs, ten pairs, or none because they are all migrants or non-breeders?—and even more difficult for the Panel to assess the situation when some observers supply only generalised statements (based on how many data?) rather than precise details of what was observed. Trends in peripheral areas may or may not reflect what is happening in the main area. It is, however, possible to show some apparent trends outside the main breeding area (asterisks indicate first-ever breeding records):

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Counties	1	1	3*	3	5	4*	3	3
Sites	1	1	7	4	7	7	4	6
Pairs proved breeding	0	1	3	3	4	5	4	1
Pairs possibly breeding	1	1	7	11	12	20	14	15

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Five sites: 1-6 pairs breeding.

County A Two sites: (1) single singing and displaying on 11th June; (2) two singing on 28th May.

County B One site: four adults on 16th May, at least one nest found, later deserted, apparently after one egg had been removed; two adults with at least one chick on 18th July.

County D One single during 15th-17th June.

County E One site: single singing on 1st and 16th June.

1979 County A One site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 26) states: adult singing on 30th May.

1979 County B One site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 26) states: first on 23rd May, up to six individuals, bred successfully.

1979 County E One site: up to two present, one displaying, from 30th May to 16th June.

Despite disturbance by irresponsible birders and by egg-collectors, the Scottish population of this species seems to be expanding very slowly:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	1	2	1	2	3	3	4	5
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1
Pairs possibly breeding	2	3	2	4	6	6	6	6

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One site: one pair reared one young.

Scotland One site: pair reared one young, adult and chick during 16th-24th July, juvenile independent by 2nd August.

1979 Scotland One site: one nest with three eggs on 19th June; additional information not supplied to Panel, but published in *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 26): first seen 24th May, adult with three young on 4th July, two of these fledged about 25th July, another adult with two young which fledged about 10th August.

Successful breeding has now occurred for three successive years at this site. Those who know the location are requested to keep the information completely confidential and not to visit the area during May-July. It is now wardened, but nests are not searched for even by the wardens, to avoid disturbance.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Ten sites: 3-13 females breeding.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) female and two young on 23rd June; (2) two pairs and third male on 23rd April.

Cornwall One site: male and two females through summer into July, chasing and display noted.

Essex One site: 12 males and one female at lek on 4th April, but none seen between 21st May and 24th August.

Lancashire Two sites: (1) female incubating four eggs, one disappeared, other three infertile, no male ever seen; (2) male on 6th May, female on 10th May.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) male and two females on 17th May, two on 28th June, ten males and one female on 5th July; (2) three males on 3rd July, one male on 4th July, one female on 25th July.

County D One site: pair displaying during June.

County E One site: female incubating four eggs, first nesting record for mainland Scotland.

1979 County D One site: two males and one female displaying during June.

Summering seems to be occurring at more sites, but breeding continues to be sporadic and, as always, difficult to prove:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	1	1	4	6	6	3	12	10
Pairs proved breeding	0	2	2	4	0	0	3	3
Max. number females breeding	8	12	26	17	16	4	22	13

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

11 sites: 52-77 pairs breeding.

Cambridgeshire Three sites: (1) 37 pairs in May, 'many' young in June, 'good season'; (2) eight pairs in May, nest with four eggs, pair with juveniles on 25th May, behaviour in May suggested that all had young; (3) two or three in early May, present late May.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: male occasionally displaying during 18th-26th May.

Norfolk Three sites: (1) 11 pairs, eight with young; (2) pair with two chicks; (3) pair displaying on 6th April.

Somerset One site: five to seven pairs on 28th April, three pairs on 16th May behaved as if young nearby, extremely agitated pair on 1st July suggested second attempt.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) three pairs reared six young; (2) up to ten during 6th-19th June.

Shetland One site: pair from 26th April to 28th July, hatched young, two thought to have fledged.

It was a successful year in the main area (the Ouse Washes, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk); elsewhere, there has been little change over the past eight years:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	8	9	9	12	10	12	12	9
Pairs proved breeding	4	6	8	8	5	10	17	7
Pairs possibly breeding	10	11	16	23	18	28	33	29

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Four sites: 7-12 pairs bred.

Caithness One site: pair in June.

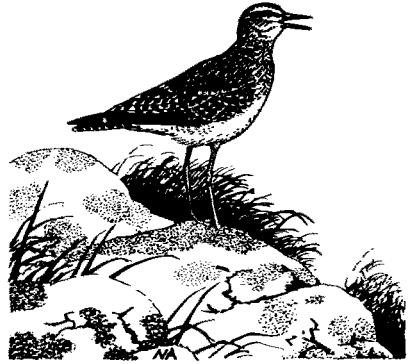
Inverness-shire One site: five to seven pairs nested, first egg 8th May, three nests on 1st July, two clutches of four being incubated and one with three newly hatched chicks and one egg.

Ross-shire One site: singing in mid June, adult with young on 13th July, two pairs with young on 26th and 27th July, adult and probable juvenile in flight on 28th July, at least two and perhaps three pairs bred.

County D One site: single on 25th May.

1979 Inverness-shire Additional site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 29) states: (2) two on 23rd May and one on 28th May.

1979 Ross-shire One site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 29) states: adult on 24th June.



Although the number of sites was low, so the population very vulnerable, 1980 was the best-ever year for the number of breeding pairs:

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	5	3	3	5	3	4	7	3	4
Pairs proved breeding	5	0	1	2	1	2	4	2	7
Pairs possibly breeding	8	3	4	6	3	5	10	4	12

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Ten sites: 4-34 pairs breeding.

Argyll One site: pair on 6th July.

Shetland Five sites: (1)-(5) total of 20-24 pairs probably bred.

County A One site: pair, one flying young on 2nd July.

County B One site: single on 25th May, pair by 2nd June, four on 7th June, usually three adults, at least one pair probably nested.

County E Two sites: (1) two or three pairs bred; (2) one pair bred.

Numbers have remained relatively static during the past eight years (Shetland data are not available for 1973):

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	5	9	9	4	7	10	13	10
Pairs proved breeding	2	2	18	1	20	22	13	4
Pairs possibly breeding	7	21	32	21	31	36	40	34

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Five sites: one pair laid two eggs, other singles probably unpaired or paired to Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*.

Essex One site: adult from 4th May to 20th July, appeared to be feeding young on 6th and 13th July, assumed to have bred with Black-headed Gull as no second Mediterranean Gull seen.

Hampshire One site: pair laid two eggs, nest washed away by high tides.

Lancashire One site: adult displaying in small colony of Black-headed Gulls on 13th June, joined by immature on 16th June, one or other present for another six days.

Suffolk One site: subadult held territory with Black-headed Gull from 9th April to 29th May.

County C One site: male holding territory in Black-headed Gull colony from 12th April to 31st May, unsuccessfully attempted coition with Black-headed Gull on 5th May.

Not only is breeding becoming more regular, but the incidence of summering by individuals in colonies of Black-headed Gulls is also increasing:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	5
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1
Max. number pairs or singles	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	5

The low number of Mediterranean Gulls, and their affinity for colonies of the common species, does, however, make the establishment of a regular breeding population very unlikely.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

12 sites: summering individuals only.

Cheshire One site: at colony of Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*, adult on 26th April, three adults on 8th May, adult from 14th to 23rd May, 'unlikely that breeding was attempted, but it must have been a possibility.'

Lincolnshire/south Humberside More summering than usual, mostly immatures, with one to 11 at 11 sites.

Pairs of Little Gulls laid eggs in Cambridgeshire/Norfolk in 1975, and in Norfolk and in North Yorkshire in 1978, but no young have yet hatched.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

One site: up to three females, one laid infertile egg, no males.

Shetland One site, Fetlar: three females from January to 2nd May, two females to end of May, female from June to August, laid infertile egg on 2nd June, disappeared by 4th June, no sign of any male.

Breeding was annual on Fetlar during the nine years 1967-75, but there has been no male there for the past five.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Two sites: 0-2 pairs breeding.

Gloucestershire One site: pair in suitable habitat at end of May and early June, singing heard.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: single during 10th-16th May and 1st-2nd June, probably same bird in late May, second bird 1½ km away during 1st-2nd June.

The only recent confirmed breeding records were in Sussex in 1971, and in Avon, Somerset, Surrey and Sussex in 1977, but breeding almost certainly also occurred in Huntingdonshire in 1978.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

11 sites: 1-14 pairs breeding.

Grampian Four sites: (1) pair nested in nestbox, nine eggs laid, eight young hatched, probably seven young fledged; (2)-(4) singles singing for short periods.

Inverness-shire Six sites: (1) singing on 18th May, seven or eight on 25th May, two on 28th May, 'may have nested'; (2) two singing in May; (3)-(6) singles singing in May or June.

Lancashire One site: one singing during 11th to 19th June.

1973 Hertfordshire One site: pair bred in old orchard which was felled in 1974.

1978 County B One site: pair brought two young to lawns, presumed to have bred locally.

1979 Inverness-shire One site: no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 36) notes: three singing in June, one found dead on 19th July.

1979 Kent One site: one or two during 15th-21st May.

1979 Ross-shire One site: no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 36) notes: two singing in June.

1979 County B One site: pair brought three young to lawns, presumed to have bred locally.

The northerly bias continues, with almost all now in Scotland:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites in England	2	0	5	2	3	3	3	1
Sites in Scotland	1	5	5	5	14	18	4	10
Pairs proved breeding	2	1	3	1	7	4	1	1
Pairs possibly breeding	3	5	10	7	19	22	9	14

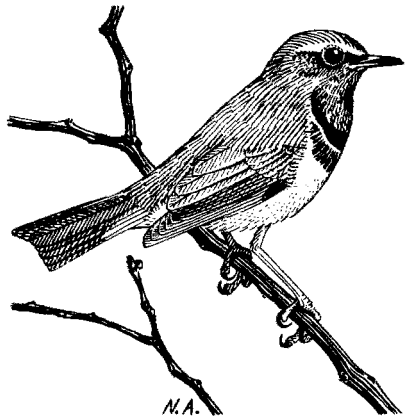
Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Two sites: single singing males.

Inverness-shire One site: male of red-spotted race *L. s. svecica* singing in suitable breeding habitat on 15th June.

Nottinghamshire One site: male of white-spotted race *L. s. cyanecula* singing and holding territory for six weeks, from early April to 12th May.

These are the first instances of singing males in suitable habitat for at least 13 years and are perhaps the first ever. The only breeding record concerns a female flushed from nest and eggs in Inverness-shire in 1968 (*Brit. Birds* 61: 524-525).

**Black Redstart** *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Records not collected for 1980.

1973 Hampshire One site: pair reared two broods.

1974 Hampshire Six sites: (1)-(3) pairs reared two broods; (4)-(6) pairs, breeding not proved.

The Panel listed records during 1973-76 and continues to publish additions and corrections for those four years.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Four sites: probably four late/early migrants.

Cumbria One site: male singing on 6th May.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: single on 7th June.

County A Two sites: (1) single on 17th May; (2) single on 8th July.

1974 Kent One site: one or two daily throughout June.

1975 Lancashire Two sites: (1)(2) singles, on 26th May and 29th June.

1976 Kent Two sites: (1) two to five during 27th-31st July; (2) single on 29th July.

1979 Surrey One site: three (one suspected juvenile) on 8th July.

The colonisation of Britain by this fine thrush seems to be flagging:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	3	8	9	11	6	2	6	4
Pairs proved breeding	2	3	1	3	4	0	1	0
Pairs possibly breeding	3	7	9	12	6	2	6	4

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

18 sites: 7-32 pairs breeding.

Banffshire Two sites: (1) male singing on 27th April and 8th June; (2) male singing on 27th April.

Cumbria One site: male singing on 1st June.

Inverness-shire Six sites: (1) seven males or pairs, two nests found, both failed, due to wet weather and predation by pine marten *Martes martes*; (2) pair with brood of five during 17th-23rd May; (3) fledged brood on 16th June; (4) pair nesting; (5) four singing males; (6) three singing males.

Kent Two sites: (1) male singing in April, male on 13th May, female with brood-patch on 22nd May, probably bred; (2) single on 2nd June.

Morayshire One site: single carrying food in suitable breeding habitat in June.

Ross-shire Four sites: (1) three or four singing males during April-June; (2) one or two pairs 'behaving as if nesting' at previous nesting site on 13th May; (3)(4) single singing males, on 28th April and 28th May.

Sutherland Two sites: (1) pair nested, but one adult and four young killed by cat; (2) at least one singing male on 22nd May.

1979 Sutherland One site, no details supplied to Panel but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 40) notes: one carrying food to presumed nest during 8th-10th May.

There was a very welcome resurgence in records in 1980, with the highest total since the all-time peaks in 1975:

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	?	11	27	25	10	10	12	5	18
Pairs proved breeding	12	4	3	13	3	2	3	2	7
Pairs possibly breeding	42	12	27	53	15	16	17	8	32

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

46 sites: 19-189 pairs breeding.

Cambridgeshire One site: male singing throughout year from 20th April, trapped and found to be one-year-old ringed in Hertfordshire in autumn 1979; seven juveniles caught and at least two more untrapped. First breeding record for county.

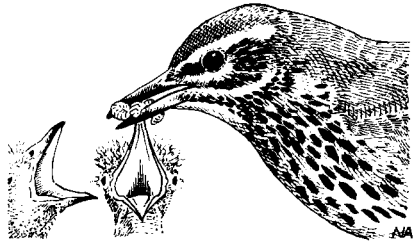
Cornwall Three sites: (1) at least one pair present all year, but breeding not proved; (2) one or possibly two during 8th April to 7th July; (3) single present until 8th June.

Devon Four sites: (1) resident, ten to 14 breeding pairs; (2) singing on 10th February, 9th March and 7th June; (3) singing on 9th March; (4) pair and unattached male during April-June, breeding proved, at least eight on 16th August.

Dorset Six sites: (1) nine pairs; (2) seven pairs; (3) three pairs; (4) pair; (5) two males during April-May; (6) male in April.

Hampshire One site: two pairs reared total of six young.

Hertfordshire Three sites: (1) pair reared two broods; (2) up to two singing throughout



year, one pair bred, outcome unknown; (3) one singing during March-April, single from 19th July to 22nd September, two broods in August.

Isle of Wight Four sites: (1) pair on 3rd June; (2)-(4) singles heard on one or two days in April, May or June.

Kent Nine sites: (1) one pair bred; (2)-(9) singing males: 71, 11, 3, 3, 2, and three singles.

Norfolk Nine sites: (1)-(9) singing males: 12, 8, 6, 2, 2, and four singles.

Suffolk Five sites: (1) pair reared four young; (2) pair; (3)-(5) singing males.

Worcestershire One site: singing male during 2nd-22nd March.

1979 Surrey One site: single during 13th May to 7th July.

1979 West Glamorgan One site: heard on 5th April, seen on 14th and 27th August.

The spectacular increase and spread, following initial colonisation of Kent in 1972, still continue, but seem to have slowed somewhat:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Counties	2	3	3	8	10	14	14	11
Pairs proved breeding	1	5	8	8	13	30	46	19
Pairs possibly breeding	14	16	75	80	153	174	163	189

Savi's Warbler *Locustella tuscinioides*

14 sites: 2-29 pairs breeding.

Cambridgeshire One site: male singing during 12th April to 26th July, second during 6th-26th July.

Cornwall One site: male singing during 30th April to 23rd June.

Devon One site: male singing during 19th-25th April.

Dorset One site: male singing during 20th April to 4th May.

Kent One site: five singing males, two pairs feeding young.

Leicestershire One site: male singing during 15th-26th May.

Norfolk Five sites: (1) pair; (2)-(5) males singing: 8, 4, 2 and a single.

Suffolk Three sites: (1) male singing from 18th May, pair thought to have bred; (2) male singing during 27th April to 7th June, pair thought to have bred; (3) male singing during 25th April to 5th May, pair may have bred.

The run of good years is now extended to four:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	4	5	3	8	13	15	15	14
Pairs proved breeding	0	1	1	0	3	4	6	2
Pairs possibly breeding	13	8	3	9	26	28	30	29

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Nine sites: 2-59 pairs breeding.

Gloucestershire One site: male singing on 12th and 15th June.

Kent Two sites: (1) pair reared two young; (2) male singing on 30th May.

Wiltshire One site: pair, proved breeding.

Worcestershire Two sites: (1) 'no change in main area'; (2) up to three singing during 30th May to 2nd July; recorder estimated 40-50 pairs probably breeding in county.

County B Two sites: (1) three males throughout breeding season; (2) male on 27th May.

County C One site: male singing on 2nd July.

1973 Gloucestershire One site: two pairs, rearing five and four young.

1979 Gloucestershire DELETION Site (3) in 1979 report actually referred to 1980 (see above).

Outside the main area, where 40-70 pairs have been estimated annually since 1973, numbers dropped back after two good years:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	9	6	3	5	6	15	15	8
Pairs proved breeding	5	0	0	0	2	4	1	2
Pairs possibly breeding	15	7	5	5	11	15	23	12

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

At least 26 sites: estimated 177 pairs in the New Forest and 19-100 pairs breeding elsewhere.

Cornwall Three sites: (1) pair, nest, two fledged young seen; (2)(3) pairs each reared at least one young, perhaps a second pair at each site. First breeding records in county since 1940.

Devon Two sites: (1)(2) males, on 14th May and 19th June.

Dorset '35 pairs probably bred.'

Hampshire Six sites: (1) in New Forest, 53 pairs located in seven sample areas covering 30-40% of suitable habitat; (2) three pairs, at least two bred successfully; (3) two pairs and three extra males, male feeding young on 11th May, but fire on 12th May devastated area; (4) pair and extra male, failed due to fires; (5) pair, failed due to fires; (6) male in April.

Isle of Wight Two sites: (1) single on 15th and 17th May; (2) single on 1st June.

Surrey 11 sites: (1)-(11) total of 12 pairs proved breeding, number of pairs at each site: 10-12, 9-11, 3-5, 2-3, 2-3, five singles and one probable pair.

Sussex, West One site: two pairs and one or two extra males, young heard on 5th July.

1973 Hampshire New Forest total 'probably over 200 pairs' (not 'at least 100 pairs').

Numbers in the New Forest and elsewhere had, by spring 1980, recovered from the 1978/79 winter, with totals in excess of those in spring 1978.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

30 sites: 7-78 pairs breeding.

Berkshire Three sites: (1) six singing males, two nests, both unsuccessful; (2) male singing on 19th April; (3) male singing in May.

Buckinghamshire Three sites: (1) total of 17 singing males; (2) singing male; (3) male from late January until at least 19th April, when singing.

Devon One site: female with a brood patch on 15th April.

Dorset One site: single on 15th July.

Essex Two sites: (1) pair with three young during 5th-26th July, one or two in August and September; (2) male singing on 17th May, pair 7th June, male on 21st June.

Gloucestershire One site: male and female on 6th-7th June, male on 10th June, two males on 14 June.

Gwent One site: up to two males singing during 13th March to 16th July.

Hampshire Six sites: total of nine singing males, with one pair breeding successfully.

Kent Six sites: (1) 20 singing males, seven paired, two nest-building; (2) two singing males; (3) pair on 24th May; (4)(5) singing males, on 14th and 18th-29th May; (6) single trapped 26th April.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: singing male from mid April to mid May.

Suffolk Five sites: (1) two males and female, three juveniles seen; (2) 'pair thought to have bred'; (3) two pairs in April; (4) two males singing regularly until 28th June; (5) singing male on 7th May.

1974 Gwent Three sites: (1)(2) males singing, on 2nd March and 3rd April; (3) one found dead on 21st April.

1974 Hampshire Additional site: (3) pair, proved breeding but outcome unknown.

1975 Huntingdonshire One site: single on 17th March and 13th April.

1978 Surrey One site: male trapped on 26th May.

1979 Berkshire Additional information: nest, eggs laid, unsuccessful.

1979 Greater Manchester One site: single on 8th March, singing male on 27th April.

1979 Kent Extra site: (4) two on 23rd May.



After a decline during 1976-78, it is pleasing to have two successive good years:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	5	13	31	14	12	7	25	30
Pairs proved breeding	2	1	4	4	2	1	9	7
Pairs possibly breeding	18	37	122	27	31	11	73	78

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

17 sites: 2-28 pairs breeding.

Cumbria One site: male singing during 16th-18th June.

Derbyshire One site: single calling on 14th August.

Devon One site: two on 2nd July, probably male and female, possibly male and juvenile.

Kent Nine sites: (1) up to three during 20th-31st May; (2) up to two during 22nd May to 8th June; (3) up to two during 17th May to 3rd July; (4) male on 19th May; (5) male singing on 18th May; (6) male singing in late May, up to three in mid May and one in early August, perhaps all migrants; (7) male singing on 30th May; (8) female, with no brood-patch, trapped on 7th June; (9) two on 15th May, male singing on 15th-16th May about 1 km distant.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: male singing on 29th June.

Suffolk Three sites: (1) up to 12 males singing, pair at nest on 25th May, nine adults and three juveniles on 27th July; (2) pair bred; (3) pair probably bred.

County D One site: male singing from 12th June, possible female present in early July.

1977 Glamorgan, South CORRECTION Male on 20th July, not 20th June.

1979 Glamorgan, West One site: male singing on 15th May.

Although breeding was not proved in Kent, it was the fifth successive good year for this species:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	2	3	4	11	16	14	17	17
Pairs proved breeding	1	2	2	7	6	7	3	2
Pairs possibly breeding	8	4	7	23	21	28	30	28

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

32 sites: 26-36 pairs breeding.

Cambridgeshire One site: pair bred, first in county since 1971.

Essex One site: pair bred successfully.

Gwent Two sites: (1)(2) singles, during 2nd-9th June and on 17th June.

Hampshire Three sites: (1)-(3) pairs bred, two rearing young.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside Three sites: (1) male on 23rd, 24th and 31st May, pair attempting coition on 1st June; (2)(3) males, on 30th May and 1st June.

Norfolk Six sites: (1)(2) pairs each reared three young; (3) pair reared two young; (4) pair failed to rear young; (5) pair; (6) male held territory for two weeks.

Suffolk 16 sites: (1) two pairs bred; (2) two pairs bred, one rearing four young; (3) three pairs failed to rear any young, one pair comprised male Woodchat Shrike *L. senator* and female Red-backed; (4)-(13) pairs bred, five of them rearing 6, 5, 4, 3-5 and 2 young; (14) pair present; (15) female on 31st May, male on 14th June; (16) female on 21st July.

1977 Kent One site: female during 14th-24th July, male on 15th-16th July, 'probably pair that failed in the near vicinity'.

1979 Aberdeenshire Three sites, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 45) notes: (1) pair bred, three recently fledged young on 13th July; (2)(3) males.

1979 Angus One site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 45) notes: male on 24th June.

1979 Inverness-shire Two sites, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 45) notes: (1) male in song on 3rd June, female nearby on 4th July; (2) male on 16th June.

1979 Norfolk Six sites, but unknown overlap with three of the four sites noted last year:

(1)-(4) pairs reared 5, 4, 4, and 3 young; (5) two pairs reared total of 6 young; (6) pair bred, nest found, outcome unknown.

1979 Perth One site, no details supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 45) notes: male on 5th June.

Records were less widespread in Britain than during 1977-79.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Counties	7	8	7	5	13	11	10	7
Pairs proved breeding	27	30	51	3	48	13	14	26
Pairs possibly breeding	43	52	56	25	64	37	52	36

We greatly welcome the increased detail supplied to us from the species' main area.

Woodchat Shrike *Lanius senator*

One site: male paired with female Red-backed Shrike *L. collurio*.

Suffolk One site: male paired with female Red-backed Shrike, but failed to rear young.

This potential colonist unfortunately did not find a mate of its own species.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Three sites: presence and singing only, 0-4 pairs breeding.

Sutherland One site: male singing on 4th June, not found on 5th.

County A Two sites: (1) two males, three females, song heard on 5th May, male singing on 17th May; (2) single on 25th May.

Are we perhaps seeing the first signs of colonisation by this attractive finch?:

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Pairs possibly breeding	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	4

Serín *Serinus serinus*

One site: 0-1 pair breeding.

Devon One site: male singing and displaying during 3rd-24th July.

It is astonishing that this species has still not succeeded in establishing a firm base on this side of the English Channel. The published records do not encourage any expectation of imminent colonisation:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Pairs possibly breeding	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1

Lapland Bunting *Calcaeus lapponicus*

One site: one pair breeding.

Scotland One site: pair nested, female carrying food, at least one male.

1979 Scotland Five sites: the data supplied to the Panel last year are incomplete; *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 48-49) notes: (1) first males in early June, seven or more males and ten or more females in June-July, flying young by 7th July, good numbers by 14th July, one male considered to be polygynous with four females; (2) female with young in early July and on 27th

July; (3) male singing on 3rd June; (4) male on 10th June; (5) female on 7th July.

This splendid addition to our breeding avifauna hung on for a fourth year:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	0	1	0	0	6	3	5	1
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	0	2	2	11	1
Pairs possibly breeding	0	1	0	0	16	6	14	1

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Four sites: 4-10 pairs breeding.

Inverness-shire/Aberdeenshire/Banffshire Four sites: (1)(2) total of five males and three females, three pairs proved breeding, probably at least 12 young reared; (3) pair and two or three singing males on 26th May; (4) pair on 27th June, male on 3rd July, and juvenile on 11th September.

1979 Central Highlands Two sites, data not supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 49) notes: (1) main site, at least four pairs nested, good season, 14 or more young in six groups on 8th August; (2) three or four males and three or more females in nearby area, young seen on 7th August.

1979 Inverness-shire Six sites, data not supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 49) notes: (1) male on 6th May, female on 20th May; (2) one or more males singing on 4th June; (3) pair on 3rd June; (4)-(6) single males.

1979 Ross-shire One site, data not supplied to Panel, but *Scottish Bird Report* (1979: 49) notes: pair nested successfully.

It is very pleasing to have been supplied with very full details for the main area by several observers this year, in contrast to the vague summaries which have sometimes been all we have received. In consequence, the data summarised below are probably of variable reliability and some will be underestimates:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Sites	5	7	13	1	5	3	11	4
Pairs proved breeding	6	2	2	4	4	3	6	4
Pairs possibly breeding	11	13	20	7	15	6	18	10

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

Outside Devon, 21 sites: 6-26 pairs breeding.

Buckinghamshire One site: up to two males singing and one female from March to August.

Cornwall Five sites: (1)-(3) pairs bred; (4)(5) singing males.

Devon 'Population thought to be in the range 120 to 150 pairs', but 'number recorded is probably only about a third of the total': 15 pairs proved breeding, another 25 probably breeding and another four possibly breeding; very full details supplied to Panel.

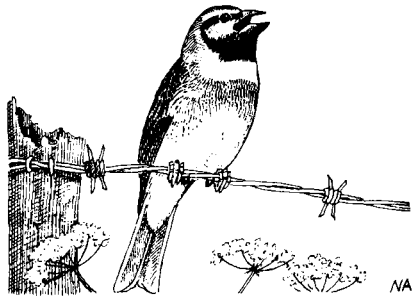
Dorset No breeding records, and only two migrants.

Hampshire One site: male singing on two dates in July.

Huntingdonshire One site: male on 22nd July.

Lincolnshire/south Humberside One site: male during 16th-25th June.

Somerset Six sites: (1) two males singing, one pair bred; (2) pair bred; (3) three males



singing, one pair probably bred; (4) male singing during May-August; (5)(6) male singing in June.

Surrey Two sites: (1) one or two pairs; (2) single on 6th July.

Oxfordshire No records.

Sussex, East Two sites: (1) pair reared two young; (2) male all year.

Sussex, West One site: male on 24th April.

County A One site: male singing throughout the summer until 12th August, 'reputed to have been accompanied by a female in June'.

This is the first year that this species has featured in our report, its addition being at the request of the NCC and of the county recorders in several of the counties from which it seems to be disappearing. The total of six to 26 pairs breeding is based, as with all figures in these reports, on those actually observed during the year; the county recorders' estimates quoted by Humphrey Sitters (*Brit. Birds* 75: 106, table 1) totalled 24-40 pairs outside Devon.

Rare Breeding Birds Panel, Fountains, Park Lane, Blunham, Bedford MK44 3NJ