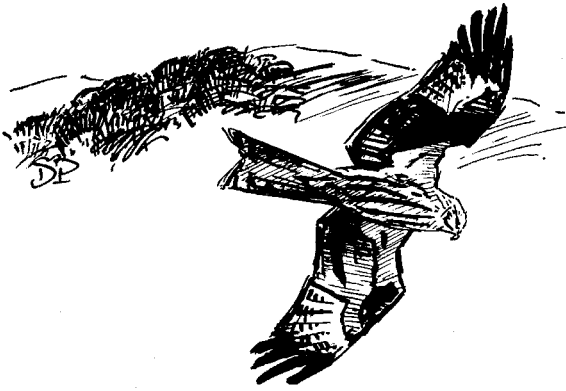




British Birds

Established 1907; incorporating 'The Zoologist', established 1843



Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1992

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

This is the twentieth annual Report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. It sets out, in the now well-established format, details of the breeding, probable breeding and possible breeding records for each species on the Panel's list. The amount of information published for each species varies according to the degree of sensitivity of that species to potential nest robbery or disturbance. For the majority, records are listed under region or even county but, for a few, even this amount of geographical detail is not published in the interests of the species concerned.

This Report is being published only six months after that for 1991, a measure of the amount of catching-up which has been possible, thanks to the willing co-operation of the county recorders in submitting their records promptly. Some further catching-up will be attempted, with the eventual aim of publishing these annual reports no more than 18 months after the end of each year.

The Panel

The current (January 1995) membership of the Panel is Dr L. A. Batten, Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, Dr M. A. Ogilvie (Secretary), Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr K. W. Smith and D. A. Stroud. The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but four of them are additionally able to reflect the interests and needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is financially supported by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales), the RSPB, the BTO and *British Birds*.

The Panel collects records from the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, but not from the Republic of Ireland. Coverage was, for the second year running, virtually complete, with information received from every single county and region. Information for a few species is incomplete, because of difficulties in obtaining adequate coverage in particular areas. These gaps are mentioned in the relevant species accounts.

Review of the year 1992

The spring and summer of 1992 were a great improvement over those of 1991, with much warmer and drier conditions almost everywhere, though cooler and damper weather in parts of Scotland in March and April had an adverse effect on some of the earlier-nesting species. It is pleasing to be able to report that the majority of Panel species showed increases in numbers and breeding success over last year. Of 29 species for which the data are thought to be comparable, 17 increased between 1990 and 1991, but 12 declined. Between 1991 and 1992, no fewer than 25 increased in numbers, and only four declined. These figures, while very encouraging, should have a caution attached. In a good breeding season, the chances of finding breeding pairs are that much greater than in a poor one, when a failed pair may quite quickly leave its nesting area. In several cases, the apparent drop in numbers between 1990 and 1991 was more than restored in 1992.

All three species of grebe increased in numbers, though productivity by Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus* fell for the third year running, which is a particularly worrying trend. Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris* has just about held steady for the last three summers, but there is little cause for complacency, with the total number of 'boomers' less than half that of ten years ago.

Nearly all the duck species did very well, with more Garganeys *Anas querquedula* than at any time since the Panel began collecting records. The great majority of these were single or unpaired birds, but their appearance nevertheless offers hope for the future. No Greater Scaups *Aythya marila* were reported during 1992, but it is to be hoped that this is merely a minor fluctuation. Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* were the subject of a special survey in Caithness and Sutherland, an increased effort which will culminate in a full survey in 1995.

All the birds of prey monitored by the Panel showed at least some increase in 1992 compared with 1991, with both Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* achieving new record totals in all three categories of pairs, successful pairs and numbers of young reared. It is especially encouraging to note that 1992 was the first year since 1977 when no Red Kite nests were known to have been robbed. Sadly, this cannot be taken as good evidence that those misguided enough to attempt to rob nests are giving up, but at least the many people involved in nest protection, including the military, have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts have not been in vain. The reintroductions of Red Kites into Scotland and England produced the sought-for success when pairs in both countries bred successfully in the wild.

Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix* were back in some strength, though nowhere approaching the numbers recorded in the big influx of 1989. It is tempting to link the increased numbers of this species and of Garganeys, and the presence of a number of singing warblers with mainly southerly or easterly distributions (e.g.

River *Locustella fluviatilis*, Booted *Hippolais caligata* and Marmora's *Sylvia sarda*), with the spell of warm southerly winds in the second half of May which also brought the largest and most widespread influx of Clouded Yellow butterflies *Colias croceus* for very many years.

Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* continue to increase, though their low production, particularly at some of the larger colonies, remains a concern. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* showed a slight improvement in numbers, nearly recouping the drop between 1990 and 1991, and appeared in more localities than ever before. That other wet-grassland wader, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, did less well, however; the number of localities was a new record, but for the first time for several years no nesting was confirmed and the number of females at leks was down. The rarer waders which nest in tiny numbers in Scotland did rather better, with confirmed breeding by Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* and Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*, and probable breeding by Temminck's Stint *C. temminckii* and Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*.

Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* did well, while Yellow-legged Gull *L. cachinnans* enters the Panel's list for the first time. Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* just about held their own.

The worst-ever year for Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* was depressing, but it was to some extent offset by a much better year for Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio*. Only one pair was proved breeding, but presence in no fewer than 13 localities, the most for 15 years, might, optimistically, indicate a revival in its fortunes.

On the whole, passerines did quite well in 1992, with all the regular rare warblers showing increases. Not only did individuals of a number of unusual species arrive here and sing for a time, as already mentioned, but there was the first breeding record for Scotland (and the first apparently successful breeding in the UK) of Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*. Another species which has never bred in Britain is the Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*. It may or may not have done so in 1992, as it is difficult to evaluate the mist-netting of one with a large brood patch in mid July. Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* exceeded expectations, breeding not only as anticipated in northern England, but also at two sites in eastern England, as well as attempting to do so in Scotland.

Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros* managed a slight increase over 1991, the first for five years, and, while numbers of Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* were slightly down, those for Redwing *T. iliacus* were up a little, though still well below the levels of a few years ago. Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* had a better year, though production was patchy.

Acknowledgments

The Panel, and in particular its Secretary, is greatly indebted to all the many observers and the following county and regional recorders for their willing co-operation in supplying information:

ENGLAND Avon Harvey Rose, Bedfordshire Dave Ball, Berkshire Peter Standley, Buckinghamshire Andy Harding, Cambridgeshire R. Allison, Cheshire Tony Broome, Cleveland John Dunnett, Cornwall Stanley Christophers, Cumbria John Callion, Mike Carrier and Ronnie Irving, Derbyshire Roy Frost, Devon Peter Ellicott, Dorset Martin Cade, Durham Tony Armstrong, Essex Mike Dennis and John Miller, Gloucestershire Andrew Jayne, Hampshire J. M. Clark, Herefordshire Keith Mason, Hertfordshire Rob Young, Huntingdon & Peterborough Graham Elliott,

Isles of Scilly Will Wagstaff, *Isle of Wight* Dave Wooldridge, *Lancashire* Maurice Jones, *Leicestershire* Roger Davis, *Kent* Ian Hodgson, *Lincolnshire/South Humberside* Graham Catley, *London*, *Greater* Mark Hardwick, *Manchester*, *Greater* Judith Smith, *Norfolk* P. D. Kirby and Michael Seago, *Northamptonshire* Bob Bullock, *Northumberland* Nick Rossiter, *Nottinghamshire* John Hopper, *Oxfordshire* John Brucker, *Shropshire* Geoff Smith, *Somerset* Brian Rabbits, *Staffordshire* Mrs Gilly Jones, *Suffolk* Philip Murphy, *Surrey* Jeffrey Wheatley, *Sussex* Owen Mitchell, *Warwickshire* Steve Haynes, *West Midlands* Tim Hextell, *Wiltshire* Rob Turner, *Worcestershire* Steve Whitehouse, *Yorkshire* Bill Curtis. SCOTLAND *Borders* Ray Murray, *Central* Dr Cliff Henty, *Dumfries & Galloway: Dumfries* Ken Bruce, *Dumfries & Galloway: Stewartry & Wigtown* Paul Collin, *Fife* Douglas Dickson, *Grampian* Andy Thorpe, *Grampian: Moray* Martin Cook, *Highland* Colin Croke, *Highland: Caithness* Eric Maughan, *Highland: Nairn* Martin Cook, *Highland: Sutherland* Tony Mainwood, *Lothian* Ian Andrews, *Orkney* Chris Booth, *Shetland* David Suddaby, *Strathclyde: Argyll* Mike Madders, *Strathclyde: Arran & Bute* Bernard Zonfrillo, *Strathclyde: Ayrshire* Angus Hogg, *Strathclyde: Clyde* Iain Gibson, *Tayside: Angus* Martin Scott, *Tayside: Perth & Kinross* Mrs Wendy Mattingley, *Western Isles* Peter Cunningham and T. J. Dix. WALES *Clwyd* Peter Rathbone, *Dyfed: Carmarthenshire* R. O. Hunt, *Dyfed: Ceredigion* Peter Davis, *Dyfed: Pembroke* Graham Rees, *Glamorgan, Mid and South* Philip Bristow, *Glamorgan, West* Dr Derek Thomas, *Gwent* Brian Gregory, *Gwynedd* Tom Gravett, Reg Thorpe and Iolo Williams, *Powys: Breconshire* Martin Peers, *Powys: Montgomery* Brayton Holt, *Powys: Radnor* Pete Jennings. ISLE OF MAN Dr Pat Cullen. NORTHERN IRELAND George Gordon.

SPECIALIST CONTRIBUTORS Jake Allsopp and the Golden Oriole Group, Emma Brindley, Colin Croke, Peter Clement, Peter E. Davis, Roy Dennis, Dr Andy Evans, Dr Ian Evans, Dr Rhys Green, I. Hughes, Bob Image, John Mitchell, Greg Mudge, Steve Petty, John Ralston, Michael Seago, Dr Ron Sumners and Glen Tyler.

We apologise for any inadvertent omissions.

Key to geographical regions used in this report

England, SW Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Somerset, Wiltshire

England, SE Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Greater London, Hertfordshire, Kent, Middlesex, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex (East and West)

England, E Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire and South Humberside, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk

England, Central Derbyshire, Herefordshire, Leicestershire (with Rutland), Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire

England, N Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, North Humberside, Tyne & Wear, Yorkshire (North, South and West)

Wales All present-day counties (i.e. includes Gwent, the former Monmouth)

Scotland, S The regions of Borders, Dumfries & Galloway and part of Strathclyde comprising the former counties of Ayrshire, Berwickshire, Dumfriesshire, Kirkcudbrightshire, Lanarkshire, Lothian (East, Mid and West), Peeblesshire, Renfrewshire, Roxburghshire, Selkirkshire, Wigtownshire

Scotland, Mid The regions of Central, Fife, Grampian and Tayside, together with parts of Highland and Strathclyde, comprising the former counties of Aberdeenshire, Angus, Banffshire, Clackmannanshire, Dunbartonshire, Fife, Kincardineshire, Kinross, Moray, Nairn, Perthshire, Stirlingshire

Scotland, N & W Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, together with the greater part of Highland and part of Strathclyde comprising the former counties of Argyllshire, Bute, Caithness, Inverness-shire, Ross & Cromarty, Sutherland

Northern Ireland Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone

Systematic list

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Nine localities in six counties; two pairs built nest platforms and copulated.

England, SW One locality: one in summer plumage, 17th April to 25th August.

England, SE Three localities: (1) wintering bird to 27th April, when in summer plumage; (2) summer-plumaged adult on 15th June; (3) summer-plumaged adult 9th to 11th August.

England, E Three localities: (1) pair from 16th May to 12th August, built platform and copulated; (2) male 11th January to 1st April; (3) male 4th April to 14th August (possibly same as at (2)).

Scotland, S One locality: pair built platforms and copulated, but no eggs laid.

Scotland, Mid One locality: pair in suitable habitat, 14th to 16th June.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	2	2	1	1	5	10	8	6	5	3	9
No. individuals	2	3	1	4	5	9	12	9	3	4	12
No. pairs	0	1	0	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	3

There has been a small but welcome increase this year in all categories but still falling short of actual breeding. The presumed same pair in southern Scotland built platforms for the fourth year running. There was also a nesting attempt in eastern England after a gap last year.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

34 localities: 72-77 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid and N & W 34 localities: (1)-(34) total of 72 pairs bred, producing a minimum of 44 young to near fledging; five singles also recorded.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	25	44	26	40	43	39	22	39	36	31	34
Confirmed (pairs)	51	41	39	63	68	33	31	70	74	61	72
Possible (pairs)	8	38	21	18	19	6	6	8	12	13	5
Max. total pairs	59	79	60	81	87	39	37	78	86	74	77

The results of the complete survey carried out by the RSPB show a slight recovery from last year in both sites and number of confirmed pairs, though the number of young recorded at about seven weeks old, or close to fledging, has dropped to 0.6 young per pair.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

29 localities in 15 counties: 26-60 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality: adult in suitable habitat, 31st May to 9th June.

England, SE Two localities: (1) pair displaying, 30th April to 4th May and 28th May; (2) adult on 16th May and 7th and 8th June.

England, E Four localities: (1) pair laid twice, but failed both times, third bird present 9th April; (2) pair on 9th June, one on 10th; (3) pair on 10th and 11th June; (4) summer-plumaged adult 23rd to 28th June.

England, Central Five localities: (1) pair displaying in suitable area on 7th June; (2) adult from 19th May to 15th August, seen nest-building; (3) pair on 31st May and one on 7th June; (4) summer-plumaged adult 31st May to 9th June; (5) one to three adults April to mid July, then up to five until late August.

England, N 13 localities: (1) four pairs laid, all four reared one young each; (2) three pairs bred, at least six young reared; (3) three pairs bred, five young seen; (4) pair reared two young and second pair probably bred; (5) pair hatched two young and reared one; (6) pair hatched two young, but both taken by predator; (7) three pairs probably bred, but no young seen; (8) pair

probably bred but no young seen; (9)(10) total of five pairs at two adjacent sites, display and nest-building at both but no young seen; (11) three singles during summer, no evidence of nesting; (12) three adults in late May, two in June; (13) adult on 12th May.

Scotland, S One locality: one young on 11th June, same or another on 11th July; first breeding for county.

Scotland, Mid Three localities: (1) six pairs bred, nine young seen, single adult also present; (2) four pairs bred, hatching up to 12 young and rearing four; (3) pair reared two young.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	13	19	17	17	15	19	22	19	19	25	29
Confirmed (pairs)	11	11	17	9	11	27	15	25	21	19	26
Possible (pairs)	12	21	13	13	22	12	20	15	16	34	34
Max. total pairs	23	32	30	22	33	39	35	40	37	53	60

The number of localities is at a new high, but the increase relates only to two regions, while several others have shown declines. Compared with 1991, there has been a slight decline, from six localities to four in Scotland, albeit with a new county breeding record, but this has been more than compensated for by the increase from eight to 18 localities in northern and central England. In the southern half of England, there has been a decline from 11 sites to seven.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

One locality: one in spring and early summer.

Scotland, N & W One locality.

SHETLAND One locality: adult in gannetry, Hermaness, sporadically from 19th April to 19th June.

First recorded at Hermaness in 1972, and probably the same bird which was at the Bass Rock in 1967-69. A late arrival and an early departure, as in the last two years.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

14 localities: at least four nests, 19 booming males.

England, SE One locality: adult noted 26th May.

England, E 12 localities: (1) two booming males, two young seen; (2) at least two booming males, evidence for two nests, immature seen into September; (3) 'pair' bred; (4) chasing and display seen, three booming males; (5) two booming males; (6)-(11) single booming males; (12) present, but did not breed.

England, N One locality: four booming males.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	15	18	18	15	12	17	14	14	12	13	14
Confirmed nesting	1	0	5	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	4
Booming males	35	44	36	28	23	22	30	30	20	19	19

Very little change from 1991, with none in southwest England but a return to two sites in eastern England. Despite this, however, the situation continues to give cause for considerable concern.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Ten localities: five pairs breeding, of which four were certainly feral.

England, SE One locality: feral pair plus additional adult all summer, as in 1991.

Scotland, S Two localities: (1) feral pair nested, but failed; (2) tame adult 8th June to 1st July.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: (1) one feral pair raised one young, male of second pair died during winter; (2) pair held territory where bred in 1990 and 1991, but did not nest.

Scotland, N & W Five localities: (1) pair may have bred, but conclusive proof lacking; (2) nest built by lone adult; (3)-(5) singles present during summer.

There has been a further decline in the number of summering birds reported in northern Scotland and just one possible nesting attempt. Feral pairs continue to breed or attempt to do so in a handful of localities.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

23 localities: 13-48 pairs breeding.

England, SE Three localities: (1) pair bred, brood of four young; (2) up to four adults seen throughout summer; (3) male on 3rd and 7th May.

England, E Six localities: (1) pair in suitable habitat on 19th May; (2) female on 20th May and pair on 5th June in suitable habitat; (3) two males on 10th to 22nd May, when female also seen; (4) three, including one male, 2nd-3rd May and male on 13th May; (5) male in suitable habitat on 12th June; (6) adult in suitable habitat on 16th June.

England, N Five localities: (1) pair bred and up to four other pairs seen; (2) male and two females displaying 8th April; (3) pair present intermittently, May-July; (4) female flushed from moorland site on 16th May; (5) up to three in May and June, and two in July.

Wales One locality: two broods on 6th June, but not seen subsequently, so probably taken by predator.

Scotland, S Three localities: (1) six pairs on 21st April, but not subsequently; (2)(3) single male from 11th January to 31st December visiting both sites.

Scotland, Mid One locality: two pairs in April; brood of nine young on 12th June reduced to six on 5th July; second pair not seen again.

Scotland, N & W Four localities: (1) seven pairs bred, 15 young in three broods reared; (2) brood of three on 8th July; (3) two pairs during May; (4) pair during May.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	18	23	15	17	14	16	20	16	20	28	23
Confirmed (pairs)	7	12	5	9	6	7	14	11	9	4	13
Possible (pairs)	25	20	13	12	12	14	15	28	27	39	35
Max. total pairs	32	32	18	21	18	21	29	38	36	43	48

After last year's peak, the number of localities has fallen back, but this is entirely due to the special survey in Orkney in 1991. Confirmed breeding was reported from six localities, compared with only three last year. The history of the Northern Pintail as a breeding species in Britain & Ireland has been examined recently by Dr A. D. Fox and Eric Meek (*Brit. Birds* 86: 151-162), while Eric Meek has also published the results of his 1991 census of the species in Orkney (*Scot. Birds* 17: 14-19).

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

90 localities: 16-160 pairs breeding.

England, SW 13 localities in five counties: 1-16 pairs breeding.

England, SE 19 localities in seven counties: 2-29 pairs breeding.

England, E 17 localities in four counties: 7-49 pairs breeding.

England, Central Six localities in two counties: 1-8 pairs breeding.

England, N 28 localities in eight counties: 5-50 pairs breeding.

Scotland, S Two localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: 0-2 pairs breeding.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	66	59	46	32	42	36	37	81	87	90	90
Confirmed (pairs)	10	15	4	4	8	8	11	18	14	12	16
Possible (pairs)	84	55	53	36	47	37	40	80	97	82	144
Max. total pairs	94	70	57	40	55	45	51	98	111	94	160

There was a sharp drop in the number of localities with Garganeys in eastern England, but increases in most other regions. The sharp increase in the total of

possible pairs results mainly from larger numbers of single and unpaired birds, though may be a pointer to future growth in actual breeding pairs provided they can find the necessary small pools.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

145 localities: 266-558 pairs breeding.

England, SW Six localities in four counties: 8-19 pairs breeding.

England, SE 44 localities in eight counties: 124-179 pairs breeding.

England, E 31 localities in six counties: 57-135 pairs breeding.

England, Central 21 localities in five counties: 19-41 pairs breeding.

England, N 27 localities in eight counties: 47-121 pairs breeding.

Wales Five localities: 3-14 pairs breeding.

Scotland, S Six localities: 3-32 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid Four localities: 2-14 pairs breeding.

N Ireland One locality: three pairs breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	68	63	138	116	133	161	145
Confirmed (pairs)	126	130	185	260	207	284	266
Possible (pairs)	59	44	162	76	86	144	292
Max. total pairs	185	174	347	336	293	428	558

Although there were drops in the number of localities and in the number of confirmed pairs, there was a considerable increase in the number of possible pairs. Even though about three-quarters of these were unpaired birds, some in flocks of up to 30 or more, they may well—as with the previous species—indicate future potential for increase and expansion.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

None reported.

No records of this species were received in 1992. This is especially disappointing after the ten pairs reported last year, the most ever. This species has, however, long been erratic in its appearances, with only a single pair in 1990. The last time none was seen was in 1985, itself the third consecutive blank year.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

31 localities: 10-71 pairs.

Scotland, S and Mid Three localities: (1) six pairs and one male in May, brood of six young in July, but only one surviving in August; (2) pair plus male on 9th May; (3) male on 4th June.

Scotland, N & W 27 localities.

ARGYLL Two localities: (1) up to six pairs, no proof of breeding; (2) pair in May-June in suitable habitat.

HIGHLAND 22 localities: (1) up to four pairs, female with brood in June; (2) two pairs, female with brood in August; (3) female with brood in July; (4) brood seen in July; (5) pair and three males in May, eggshell found in July; (6) pair and female on 6th June, female with brood on 27th June; (7)(8) single females with broods; (9) pair in May, female distracting in June; (10) female distracting in July; (11) three pairs in May; (12) two pairs in June; (13) male and two females in May, female in June; (14) pair in May and June; (15) two adults in June; (16)-(20) single females in June and/or July; (21) single male on 30th April; (22) 'present'.

SHETLAND Three localities: (1) two males and three females, female with brood in July; (2)(3) single males.

Northern Ireland One locality: up to 14 males and six females, two pairs may have bred.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	17	6	9	25	35	15	36	7	9	14	31
Confirmed (pairs)	14	10	17	2	8	29	14	8	6	9	10
Possible (pairs)	98	75	52	72	92	33	76	32	23	21	61
Max. total pairs	112	85	69	74	100	62	90	40	29	30	71

The increase in numbers of both localities and possible pairs is due to a thorough survey of much of the range in Highland region, so the totals are more comparable with those of 1988, the last year of intensive fieldwork, than with any of the intervening years. Proving breeding by Common Scoters is notoriously difficult as they often nest very late, and the females may move their broods considerable distances from the nest site.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Breeding almost exclusively in one extensive nestbox scheme, but increasing numbers summering elsewhere.

England, SW One locality.

GLoucestershire One locality: up to three summered.

England, SE Three localities.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: female summered; the damaged wing of the bird summering in the past three years was not noticed.

HERTFORDSHIRE Two localities: (1) female until 8th May, unmated male until 24th May; (2) single until 3rd May and one on 10th July.

England, E One locality.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: male remained to 20th June.

England, Central Two localities.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) up to two males and two females in May, male seen on single dates in June and July; (2) three adults on 10th May, one on 30th May.

England, N Four localities.

CHESHIRE One locality: female on 15th July.

CUMBRIA Two localities: (1)(2) single males in May-June.

LANCASHIRE One locality: four feral pairs bred, three broods seen and one clutch stolen.

Scotland, S Six localities.

BORDERS One locality: male from 23rd May until October.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three localities: (1) two immature males and three females in April, the males and one female staying until 13th May; (2) female on 9th May; (3) female on 7th August.

LOTHIAN Two localities: (1) pair on 5th June, male on 14th June; (2) female on three dates in July and August.

Scotland, Mid Two localities.

FIFE One locality: four males and two females on 22nd June.

GRAMPIAN One locality: ten pairs throughout May and June.

Scotland, N & W Ten localities.

HIGHLAND Nestbox area: incomplete survey of the boxes found about 67 boxes used with at least 34 successful, 294 young hatched. Elsewhere: pairs or females seen at two other sites.

SHETLAND Four localities: (1)(2) two females at each, June to July or August; (3)(4) single females in June or July.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Confirmed (pairs)	27	47	53	67	77	80	90	88	100	72	71
Young hatched (min.)	220	209	311	336	390	332	427	453	529	301	294

The figures from the nestbox areas in Highland are incomplete for the second year running, now that comprehensive monitoring has unfortunately ceased. Elsewhere, only feral birds are breeding; the number of pairs and summering singles continues to grow slowly, although the number of localities has fallen from

last year. The absence of any in Wales is perhaps puzzling; the last record of summering there was as long ago as 1986.

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

16 localities in ten counties: 8-26 pairs breeding.

Great Britain 16 localities: (1) pair raised two young, five other adults seen; (2) pair raised two young, two other adults seen; (3)-(5) single pairs each raised two young; (6)-(8) pairs displaying and/or carrying food, though nests not located; (9) pair may have bred; (10) pair and a third adult; (11) pair, no evidence of breeding; (12)(13) two at each site, not known if pairs; (14)-(16) singles.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	8
Max. total pairs	3	5	2	4	6	7	10	20	19	22	26

Although the number of localities and counties has dropped compared with 1991, the number of reported confirmed pairs and the total possible pairs are both at an all-time high. It is particularly pleasing to be able to report the rearing of five broods of two young, comfortably the most young fledged in Britain in any year this century.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Welsh population: 102 pairs and at least 92 further individuals; 96 young raised.

Introduced population: nine pairs; 10 young raised.

Wales 102 localities: 84 pairs were proved breeding, of which 60 were successful, rearing 96 young. In addition, a further 92 unmated individuals were identified during the spring. The total population was estimated as 296 in April and 388 in August. The proportion of successful nests was the highest since 1960 and the number of young produced is the largest on record, 23 more than in 1990, the previous best year. Although the season started with cool and unsettled weather and some females appeared to have difficulty in egg production, perhaps because of food shortage, the weather turned warm and dry in time for the main hatch period and stayed good throughout most of the fledging period. Nest production also benefited from this being the first year since 1977 when no egg robberies were thought to have taken place, a tribute to the local watchers and perhaps not uninfluenced by reports of Gurkhas and SAS personnel helping to guard nests. (The Panel's thanks go to Peter Davis for his detailed report. His work is funded by the Countryside Council for Wales.)

Scotland and England Two pairs of Red Kites, formed from individuals released by the joint JNCC/RSPB experimental reintroduction project, first bred in 1991 in England; both, however, were unsuccessful. In 1992, more attempted to breed, with two pairs located in Scotland and a further seven pairs in England. These breeding attempts resulted in a single chick being reared by one pair in Scotland, and a total of nine young reared by four pairs in England. This was the first successful breeding to be recorded in both countries for more than a century.

In addition to the young reared, a further 24 juvenile Red Kites were imported from Sweden and released in Scotland, and a further 20 juveniles were imported from Spain and released in England. Totals of 69 and 53 Red Kites have now been released in Scotland and England respectively.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Total pairs	47	46	46	54	58	59	68	71	84	92	102
Breeding pairs	38	33	33	43	40	44	49	54	65	76	84
Successful pairs	19	30	13	19	23	27	27	33	47	41	60
Young reared	23	24	21	25	29	39	38	49	73	62	96

The table, which includes only the natural Welsh population, clearly reveals the extent of this year's success story.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Reintroduction.

Scotland Eight areas were occupied, by six pairs, a trio of one male and two females, and an adult plus immature. Nine clutches were laid by eight females, resulting in the fledging of seven young in three broods.

This equals last year's record number of fledged young.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

101 males and 112 females breeding; also 26 singles.

Great Britain The figures for both 'pairs' and numbers of males and females include some estimated from the available data, with not all observers able to report on the precise sex ratio in polygamous situations. The number of young consists only of those reported by the observers to have fledged and is easily a new record.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Breeding males	19	21	27	29	26	40	42	58	73	83	101
Breeding females	24	28	32	31	32	46	56	66	110	91	112
Young	59	71	66	86	82	126	145	172	145	198	229

The trend continues upwards in a very satisfactory manner coupled with a small, but welcome spread away from the traditional core area, both into Scotland and elsewhere in England. (The Panel wishes to thank Michael Seago and Bob Image for their continued provision of detailed information on this species.)

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

12 localities: 8-12 pairs breeding.

England, SW Three localities: (1) pair hatched three young, but all died in spell of adverse weather; (2) pair summered, but no evidence of breeding; (3) pair in late July and August.

England, SE One locality: female from late May to early August.

England, E Six localities: (1) pair raised four young; (2)-(4) single pairs each raised three young; (5) female with male from site 4 hatched one young, but failed to rear it; (6) female in June.

England, N Two localities: (1) female with three newly fledged young in early August; (2) pair with clutch of three eggs in June, but apparently taken by predator.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	7	8	2	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12
Confirmed (pairs)	3	6	1	3	7	6	6	7	5	7	8
Possible (pairs)	5	4	1	6	3	4	8	8	4	7	4
Max. total pairs	8	10	2	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12

Despite a slight fall in the number of localities, the number of pairs actually breeding increased by one to a new high, with 16 young known to have fledged. Wardenage remains a very important element in the successful breeding of this species.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 238 localities: 150-243 pairs breeding.

England and Wales At least 189 localities in 31 counties: a minimum total of 114 pairs is known to have bred, of which 85 were reported as successful and 25 as definitely having failed, the majority owing to nest robbery; the fate of the other nests is uncertain. Not fewer than 170 young are reported to have fledged. At least 58 pairs were recorded as present though not definitely known to have bred, and 20 singles were seen at different localities during the breeding season.

Scotland At least 49 localities in three regions: at least 36 pairs are known to have bred, of which 31 were successful and five definitely failed; ten pairs were present, but breeding was not proved; elsewhere five singles seen.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. counties	17	19	22	20	31	31	31	23	30	36	34
Confirmed (pairs)	24	34	36	36	57	54	108	112	93	158	150
Possible (pairs)	19	27	42	39	59	40	68	54	79	71	93
Max. total pairs	43	61	78	75	116	94	176	166	172	229	243

While it is accepted that this species is considerably underrecorded by the Panel, the upward trend in the total pairs is nevertheless very likely to be a real one. Persecution continues to be a serious problem in some areas and is a prime cause for the understandable reluctance of observers to divulge information relating to breeding pairs. Despite these fears, however, there is a need to gather as much knowledge as possible about the status of this species, if only to counteract wild estimates from those ill-disposed towards this and other birds of prey.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

76 pairs: 61 pairs laid eggs, fledging 101 young.

England, SE Two localities: (1) adult from 20th to 25th May, when two or three present; one on 26th; (2) two adults from 24th May to 8th June, one on 28th June and two throughout August.

England, N One locality: male in suitable habitat from mid May to third week of July.

Scotland The number of pairs increased to a new high of 76, three more than in 1991, of which 61 laid eggs and 48 hatched young. A total of 101 young fledged, another record.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Pairs	30	30	31	34	42	50	53	58	62	73	76
Successful pairs	21	20	21	22	24	30	38	38	44	44	48
Young reared	45	45	47	53	48	56	81	81	90	82	101

This was a better year for production than 1991, although the percentage of pairs managing to raise young was not so high as in 1990. However, the total of young fledged topped 100 for the first time. Another milestone was passed as the cumulative total of young reared since 1954, when Ospreys first returned to nest successfully, now exceeds one thousand. (The above is based on the report supplied to the Panel by Roy Dennis and his associates.)

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

At least 470 localities: 255-582 pairs breeding.

England, SW 70-148 pairs breeding, 27 young reported.

England, SE 96-230 pairs breeding, 87 young reported.

England, E 41-124 pairs breeding, 54 young reported.

England, Central 42-62 pairs breeding, 101 young reported.

England, N 0-5 pairs breeding, no young reported.

Wales 6-10 pairs breeding, nine young reported.

Scotland 0-3 pairs breeding, one young reported.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Confirmed (pairs)	97	80	93	98	91	108	103	140	154	159	255
Possible (pairs)	105	182	116	148	202	164	226	250	287	310	327
Max. total pairs	202	262	209	246	293	272	329	390	441	469	582
Young reared (min.)	63	104	91	117	126	160	133	205	239	265	279

It is very probable that the considerable surge in numbers reflects better reporting as well as an increase in the size of the population.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

319 localities: 9-490 pairs breeding.

England, SW 68 localities: 4-132 pairs breeding.**England, SE** 43 localities: 0-67 pairs breeding.**England, E** 71 localities: 1-80 pairs breeding.**England, Central** 40 localities: 0-68 pairs breeding.**England, N** 31 localities: 0-43 pairs breeding.**Wales** Two localities: 0-2 pairs breeding.**Scotland, S** 32 localities: 1-50 pairs breeding.**Scotland, Mid** 12 localities: 0-15 pairs breeding.**Scotland, N & W** 18 localities: 3-31 pairs breeding.**N Ireland** Two localities: 0-2 pairs breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	84	152	130	904	255	88	319
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	5	27	13	2	9
Possible (pairs)	110	245	158	1,628	364	105	481
Max. total pairs	111	246	163	1,655	377	107	490

There is clearly much to understand about the behaviour of this species. After the very noticeable tailing-off of numbers in the last two years, there was a return to a higher total which, although only less than one-third the size of the major influx of 1989, was still larger than anything experienced in the years immediately before or since.

Spotted Crane *Porzana porzana*

11 localities: 1-15 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality: one flushed from a canal bank adjacent to suitable habitat on 24th June.**England, E** Two localities: (1) four singing during the summer, chicks disturbed during hay-making in early September; (2) one singing in early May and one seen in late July.**England, N** Two localities: (1) one singing from 6th June to 1st July; (2) one singing on 20th May.**Wales** One locality: one singing on 7th and 11th June.**Scotland, S** Three localities: (1) one singing on 22nd April; (2) one singing in May; (3) one singing on a single date.**Scotland, Mid** Two localities: (1) two singing in mid May; (2) one singing for four days in May.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. counties	1	3	3	2	3	4	5	7	6	5	9
No. localities	2	6	4	2	3	7	6	14	14	7	11
No. singing/seen	3	12	10	3	4	18	10	21	21	14	15

A comparable year to 1991 in terms of numbers, but they were more widespread, particularly in England and southern Scotland. None, however, was reported from northern Scotland, including a definite negative report from one locality where this species was present in each year during 1986-91. Proof of breeding by this species is only rarely recorded, so it is especially pleasing to note the report of chicks being seen in eastern England.

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

Eleven localities: 0-13 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality.**SOMERSET** One locality: one singing between 13th June and 1st July.

England, N Three localities: (1)-(3) singles singing in early June.

Scotland, S Three localities.

BORDERS One locality: one singing on 13th June.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: one singing on 18th May.

STRATHCLYDE One locality: one singing in early June.

Scotland, N & W Four localities.

CAITHNESS Three localities: (1) two singing on 25th June; (2) one singing on 2nd and 5th June; (3) one crossing a road on 4th July.

INVERNESS One locality: (1) two singing in June.

Only mainland records are listed above. There have been some inconsistencies in past years regarding the coverage of this species by the Panel. The Western Isles has traditionally been excluded, and the Northern Isles (Shetland and Orkney) and the Inner Hebrides (Small Isles and the Argyll islands) have sometimes been included and sometimes not. The above records show a reduction by one locality compared with 1991, but the same number of birds.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

United Kingdom Three pairs bred, but no young were reared in the wild.

This small population continues to attempt to breed, but no young have been reared in the wild in any of the last four years.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

30 localities: 492-517 pairs reared a minimum of 336 young.

England, SE and E 30 localities: (1) 110 pairs nested, but reared only five young; (2) 52 pairs made 96 nesting attempts, but reared only 20 young; (3) 40 pairs reared at least 80 young; (4) 35 pairs reared 66 young; (5) 30 pairs reared 35 young, the majority from second clutches; (6) 27 pairs bred, success not reported; (7) 26 pairs bred, but reared only five or six young; (8) 25 pairs reared 13 young; (9) 21 pairs reared 35 young; (10) 21 pairs reared 20 young; (11) 18 pairs reared at least eight young; (12) 17 pairs reared 40-50 young; (13) 16 pairs bred and fledging appeared to be good; (14) 12 pairs bred, but rearing success unknown; (15) ten pairs bred, but no young were reared; (16) nine to 11 pairs bred, but success not reported; (17) four pairs in April/May, one of which laid, but nest destroyed by predator, then three pairs laid in June, but all nests destroyed by predator; (18) five pairs laid, two fledging young; (19) five pairs bred, but success not reported; (20) five pairs, but all failed; (21) three pairs probably bred, but no young reared; (22) one pair reared two young; (23) 18 birds in potentially suitable habitat in late March; (24) three pairs, but no success; (25) pair summered and displayed; (26) pair may have bred, but was flooded out; (27) pair present in suitable habitat in mid April; (28) four birds in mid July; (29) up to two birds on three dates in late May; (30) single in May and June.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	9	9	11	14	15	18	27	24	21	21	30
Confirmed (pairs)	190	238	237	269	255	341	389	521	355	448	492
Young reared (min.)	150	192	118	245	227	315	136	150	200	305	336

Although the number of localities and the number of young reared reached new high levels, productivity per pair remained at the same level as last year. Although this is higher than in the previous three years, it remains the most worrying aspect of this species' biology.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*

Seven counties: 155-159 pairs.

England, SW and SE Four counties: 59-62 pairs and 16-22 singles, at least 38 young fledged.

England, E Three counties: 96-97 pairs and three singles, at least 73 young fledged.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Confirmed (pairs)	8	20	19	68	103	137	126	126	139	139	155
Possible (pairs)	59	76	52	47	12	0	3	17	10	16	4
Max. total pairs	67	96	71	115	115	137	129	143	149	155	159

A further increase in numbers, although the total of young known to have fledged has fallen a little from the 123 reported in 1991. Censuses in all the major breeding areas are co-ordinated by the RSPB.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Four localities: two to 12 pairs breeding (excluding those in main Scottish breeding area).

England, N One locality.

CUMBRIA One locality: two pairs bred, rearing a total of five young, two further males and three females in mid May.

Scotland, S Two localities.

BORDERS One locality: four in May.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: some feathers found in early July in suitable habitat, but poor visibility prevented a search.

Scotland, N & W One locality.

STRATHCLYDE One locality: two on hilltop where species has bred in past.

The Panel seeks records only away from the main breeding range in Highland and Grampian and accepts that at least some of those seen on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: 1-2 pairs probably bred.

Scotland, N & W One locality: two in late May and three on one occasion, one displaying in early June and two feeding in mid June. One, possibly with young, on 20th June. The best estimate is that one or two pairs probably bred at the site.

This, the one regular breeding site, continues to hold a tiny number. Disturbance is kept to a minimum, so that the information is always likely to be incomplete.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one pair bred.

Scotland, N & W One locality: three adults in May, one pair bred and may have reared a single young.

The remarks applied to Temminck's Stint can be repeated for this species.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

21 localities: no definite proof of breeding, but minimum of 12 females at leks.

England, SE Four localities.

KENT One locality: up to 23 (not sexed) in May.

GREATER LONDON One locality: pair probably summered.

SUSSEX Two localities: (1) two males displaying to one female in first half of May, three males on one date; (2) up to four from May to July, including one full-plumaged male.

England, E Seven localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) two males in full plumage in May in a flock of up to 75 and some lekking observed, a single juvenile in July may have been reared here; (2) up to 84 in spring, but little lekking.

UNNAMED COUNTY Five localities: (1) two lekking males out of a flock of 25 in May; (2)-(5) flocks of from ten to 75 in April and May at potential breeding sites.

England, N Ten localities.

CLEVELAND One locality: three in June in suitable habitat.

CUMBRIA Five localities: (1)-(5) two to seven present at each during April to July, but no evidence of breeding.

LANCASHIRE One locality: lekking by two males to five females in late May.

NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: (1) male lekking to two females on one date in late May; (2) male lekking to two females in late May.

YORKSHIRE One locality: three different leks in May involving 20, 18 and eight individuals and almost certainly bred, but no proof.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	13	8	6	8	7	16	14	15	8	9	21
Nests	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	7	0
Max. no. females possibly nesting	23	32	6	8	9	69	11	17	15	15	12

Although Ruffs appeared at a number of new sites, particularly in northern England, this is the first time since 1985 that no breeding was confirmed, though observers' suspicions were strong at two localities.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

24 localities: 20-58 pairs breeding.

England, SW Two localities.

SOMERSET Two localities: (1) pair displaying in early May, but area drained soon after; (2) pair from mid March to early June, but no nesting activity.

England, SE Four localities.

ESSEX One locality: pair raised one young, up to eight more adults present.

KENT Three localities: (1) three pairs and one adult, two pairs nested, one hatching brood of three, the other failing twice; (2) pair with half-grown young on 21st June; (3) pair with additional male displaying.

England, E Eight localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) up to 20 pairs, with 11 territories, five pairs nested, three of which hatched young; (2) 16 pairs with territories and eight pairs probably hatched young, though only two fledged young seen.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1) pair raised one young; (2) pair displaying, but no evidence of nesting.

UNNAMED COUNTY Four localities: (1) pair raised three young, spring total reached 65 in April; (2)-(4) spring totals reached 136, 75 and 65 at three potential breeding sites.

England, N Three localities.

CHESHIRE One locality: over 300 stayed throughout summer, but no sign of breeding.

LANCASHIRE One locality: four displaying on 29th April.

YORKSHIRE One locality: three pairs displaying April to June, probably bred, but failed during incubation.

Scotland, S One locality.

BORDERS One locality: three in April, five in May.

Scotland, N & W Six localities.

ORKNEY One locality: pair in May, agitated behaviour on 22nd.

SHETLAND Five localities: (1) pair reared two young; (2) pair probably nested, but failed; (3) pair displaying and copulating on 17th May, but no further breeding activity observed; (4) pair from early May to mid July, but no evidence of a nesting attempt; (5) female from 10th May.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	13	10	12	11	19	13	17	14	16	18	24
Confirmed (pairs)	38	32	55	22	23	28	36	34	33	28	20
Possible (pairs)	31	12	25	17	24	12	28	22	33	25	38
Max. total pairs	69	44	80	39	47	40	64	56	66	53	58

It is disappointing to record the lowest number of definite breeding pairs since the Panel started gathering information in 1973. Numbers at the two main sites

in Cambridgeshire were at a reasonable level, but many pairs seemed not to progress beyond holding territories. On the positive side is a significant increase in the number of localities, including several new ones in Shetland. The total number in flocks in April to June was just over 600, nearly all in areas considered by the observers to be potential breeding sites. It must be hoped that before too long some of the birds agree with this conclusion.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

No records received.

Information from the regular sites in the Northern and Western Isles is not collected by the Panel, but we do welcome reports from elsewhere in Britain when there are signs of any remaining after the spring migration period and in particular if they exhibit any territorial behaviour.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Four localities: one to six pairs bred.

Scotland, N & W Four localities: (1) pair with newly hatched young on 7th June and third adult present, the first proved breeding there for some years; (2) two pairs at traditional site, distraction display during June suggested presence of young; (3) pair in June; (4) one singing on single dates in May and June.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	4	3	4	3	2	3	4	6	2	2	4
Confirmed (pairs)	3	1	4	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	1
Possible (pairs)	3	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	5
Max. total pairs	6	5	5	3	3	4	4	6	2	2	6

A good year, though our knowledge of this species' status is dependent on adequate monitoring of the few known localities, which did take place this year.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

One locality: 0-1 pair breeding.

Scotland, N & W One locality: pair display-fighting in late May and early June, but no proof of breeding.

This species first appeared in one of the Panel's reports in 1975, when display and song were noted at two sites and alarm calls at a third. In the following year, a pair may have bred, but final proof was not forthcoming. It was suggested at the time that the first confirmed breeding of Turnstones in Britain could not be long in coming, but instead of increased activity there was a complete absence of records until this year. Perhaps predicting that we are no nearer the first confirmed breeding record will have the opposite effect.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*

Two localities: one adult paired with Common Sandpiper *A. hypoleucos*.

England, N Two localities: (1) adult apparently paired with Common Sandpiper on 27th May; (2) presumed same mixed pair, 29th May to 14th June.

This must be assumed to be the same hybrid pair which was seen with three full-grown young in 1991 and as a pair in 1990 (*Brit. Birds* 86: 628) and conceivably also the same as in 1984, all at localities in the same county. The 1984 and 1990 records were not included in the Panel reports for those years.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Three localities: 25-28 pairs breeding.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: (1) minimum of 24 breeding males and minimum of seven fledged young on Fetlar; (2) two males and one female at usual site, with a brood of three hatched and at least one young fledged; (3) pair and second female in June.

Although recorded at only three sites, the total of breeding pairs is at its highest level since the early 1980s. This is partly due to intensive study by the RSPB of those at the principal site, which should lead to improved management of the habitat. It must be hoped that the lessons learned can be applied to the other sites before it is too late.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

15 localities: 19-27 pairs breeding.

England, SW Two localities: (1) two pairs bred and two unmated individuals also present; (2) adult and second-summer from mid March to mid June.

England, SE Ten localities: (1) six pairs bred, rearing seven young; (2) pair reared two young; (3) three pairs, two of which nested, but failed early on; (4) two pairs bred, but no young reared; (5) pair laid three eggs, but nest washed out; (6) pair incubating in May, but success unknown; (7) pair attempted to breed; (8) pair most of May and June; (9) pair; (10) adult in summer plumage in June.

England, E Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs laid at each site and hatched eggs, but neither pair reared young to fledging.

England, N One locality: male paired with female Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*, juvenile seen begging from male on 23rd June.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	2	6	4	3	5	3	9	5	10	13	15
Confirmed (pairs)	2	2	4	3	1	1	5	6	11	15	19
Possible (pairs)	1	6	1	5	4	2	10	3	5	8	8
Max. total pairs	3	8	5	8	5	3	15	9	16	23	27

The trend continues upwards, both in numbers of localities and in confirmed pairs. There was a tendency for early colonists to pair with Black-headed Gulls, but there now seem to be sufficient numbers present in the country for this habit to be disappearing.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Three localities: 0 pairs bred.

England, SE Three localities: (1)-(3) six, three and one first-summer in May and June.

It is difficult to know whether these records have any significance, but it seems worth recording them, and appealing for other reports of any summering, in case they are a precursor to breeding.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Two localities: 0-1 pair and one hybrid pair breeding.

England, Central One locality: a probable pair during April and May and possibly holding territory on a suitable nesting island.

England, N One locality: an adult (not sexed) nested with a Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* and eggs were laid, but these were destroyed during routine control measures before the situation was realised.

We welcome this newcomer to our Report consequent upon its recently enhanced status and shall welcome other records and observations.

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

One locality: one hybrid pair breeding.

England, N One locality.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: female paired with male Sandwich Tern *S. sandvicensis* laid a clutch of two eggs and reared one hybrid young.

This is the third time that this bird has been successful in rearing a hybrid young in the nine consecutive years that it has been present here.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

15 localities: 62-72 pairs breeding, including one hybrid pair.

England, SW Eight localities.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair in tern colony, but no information on nesting.

UNNAMED COUNTY Seven localities: (1) at least two pairs laid and at least one other pair present; (2) three clutches laid by two pairs; (3) two pairs alarming in early June, but deserted site because of predation, at least two other pairs present; (4) pair; (5) single alarming in June and July; (6)(7) single nestlings possibly of this species ringed at each site.

England, SE One locality: one or two occasionally in June and early July.

England, N Two localities: (1) 27-30 pairs laid 53 eggs of which 48 hatched and 35 or 36 young fledged; (2) four pairs bred, rearing four young.

Wales One locality: seven pairs, of which six pairs laid ten eggs and fledged nine young.

Scotland, Mid One locality: 17 pairs fledged 14 young.

Scotland, N & W One locality: hybrid chick with Common Tern *S. hirundo* seen in Common Tern colony, but no adult Roseate seen.

Northern Ireland One locality: three pairs nested, but no young were reared.

A slight improvement on 1991, with some reasonable rearing success.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

Four localities: two or three females.

England, N & W Four localities.

HIGHLAND One locality: female in suitable habitat June to October. NB: a female was seen in the same locality in May to August 1990 and again briefly in April 1991; it was assumed to be the same individual which had stayed there from 21st June to 4th September 1987. None of these records has previously appeared in Panel reports.

SHETLAND Three localities: (1) two females until 29th March, then one to 13th May; (2) one from site (1) from 8th April to 17th May; (3) probably one of same on 27th May.

Although the dates this year could indicate that the female in Highland is one of the two on Shetland, this has not been the case in past years when the dates of occurrence have overlapped.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

Three localities: probably only two singles.

England, SW Three localities: (1) one from 23rd to 26th May; (2)(3) singly on 11th and 30th May, respectively, at two closely adjacent sites.

There were no records last year, but in 1990 a pair displayed briefly and a third individual sang.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One locality: two singing.

Scotland, N & W One locality: two singing in June.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	9	14	9	9	9	10	9	8	6	6	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0
Possible (pairs)	10	15	10	8	8	9	9	7	6	5	2
Max. total pairs	10	15	10	9	9	10	10	8	6	6	2

The worst year for Wrynecks, in every respect, since the Panel started collecting records in 1973.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

124-659 pairs breeding.

England, SW 77-131 pairs breeding.

DEVON At least seven localities: (1)-(7) at least seven breeding-season records in county.

DORSET At least ten localities: (1)-(10) three pairs known to have bred and about another 25 pairs probably did so.

HAMPSHIRE New Forest poorly covered, but 23 pairs thought to have bred in areas checked, while elsewhere at least 49 pairs bred; further records of 18 pairs possibly breeding, together with two singing males and a single adult.

WILTSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs rearing young at each, plus a further singing male.

England, SE 13-78 pairs breeding.

BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: singing male in March-April.

BERKSHIRE Six localities: (1)-(6) total of three pairs bred and three additional males singing, together with at least ten additional individuals.

KENT Two localities: (1)(2) single pair bred, two further males singing and one additional adult.

SURREY 17 localities: (1)-(17) eight pairs bred and a further two probably did so, also six possible breeding pairs, 19 singing males and eight other individuals.

SUSSEX Five localities: (1)-(5) one confirmed breeding pair, seven possibly breeding, as well as three singing males and three additional adults.

England, E 34-445 pairs breeding.

LINCOLNSHIRE Two localities: (1)-(2) one definite pair, though breeding not proved, together with seven singing males.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1)-(2) 18 pairs bred, of which 11 successful and seven failed, further 52 singing males.

SUFFOLK 18 localities in most-complete county survey to date: (1)-(18) totals of 16 pairs, of which at least ten successful, further 350 pairs or singing males.

England, Central 0-3 pairs breeding.

UNNAMED COUNTY Two localities: (1)-(2) three singing males, but not thought to be any females present.

England, N 0-2 pairs breeding.

CHESHIRE One locality: two pairs believed to be present.

The intensive survey work in Suffolk revealed a much larger population there than had been previously counted and it seems likely that elsewhere, too, the numbers breeding are larger than currently believed. The lack of detailed surveys in Hampshire means that the national total must be substantially larger than is recorded here. It seems very probable that there has been an overall increase in numbers.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

44 localities: 14-71 pairs breeding.

England, SE 21 localities.

ESSEX One locality: singing male, probably bred.

KENT Six localities: (1) three pairs bred; (2)(3) single pairs bred; (4) six singing males; (5)(6) single singing males.

LONDON Five localities: (1) pair raised four young and second pair present; (2) pair bred; (3) pair summered; (4)(5) single singing males.

SURREY Five localities: (1) male collecting nest material on 27th May; (2) female and singing immature male March to May; (3) singing male daily May to mid July; (4) singing male briefly in mid March; (5) female on one date in April, male on one date in May.

SUSSEX Four localities: (1) singing male plus female on 5th April; (2) singing male in April; (3) singing male on 4th June only; (4) female on 27th July.

England, E Nine localities.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1) three males and two females; (2) two singing males in June.

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: two pairs and a male, no dates reported.

SUFFOLK Six localities: (1) three pairs, of which two reared a brood each; (2) two pairs bred, one double-brooded, rearing 11 young; (3) pair bred and further three singing males; (4) two singing males and three females; (5) two singing males; (6) pair in suitable habitat in late April.

England, Central Eight localities.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: one or two during May, but no evidence of breeding.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: two singing males in June and July.

WEST MIDLANDS Six localities: (1) female and juvenile probably indicate local breeding; (2) pair seen once, then female carrying nest material; (3) sub-adult male and female probably bred, full adult male also seen May and June; (4) two singing males; (5)(6) single singing males in June.

England, N Six localities.

GREATER MANCHESTER Five localities: (1) pair bred; (2)-(4) single singing males; (5) female seen briefly in early April.

YORKSHIRE One locality: pair bred.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	92	77	70	56	50	36	44
Confirmed (pairs)	81	46	54	36	28	23	14
Possible (pairs)	38	63	58	46	46	46	57
Max. total pairs	119	109	118	82	74	69	71

A slight recovery is apparent from last year's low point, but it is worrying that there were no records at all from such formerly regular counties as Berkshire, Lancashire, Lincolnshire or Staffordshire, though there was a welcome return to Sussex, from which no reports were received in 1991.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Seven localities: 2-10 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality.

ESSEX One locality: one with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* for two weeks in June, the third such sighting in this part of the county in the last five years.

England, N Two localities.

TYNE & WEAR One locality: pair on 10th July.

YORKSHIRE One locality: adult on 6th July.

Scotland, S Two localities.

BORDERS Two localities: (1) one alarming on 10th May, but not seen later; (2) adult on 6th June, about 3 km from a sighting of one in June 1990.

Scotland, N & W Two localities.

CAITHNESS One locality: three juveniles seen, but could have been early migrants.

SHETLAND One locality: two pairs nested within a few metres of each other, laying clutches of 6 and 5 and rearing broods of 5 and 2, respectively.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	7	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2
Possible (pairs)	5	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8
Max. total pairs	7	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	10

A poorer year, with fewer sightings than in recent years in England (three, compared with nine in 1991), and just the two proved cases of breeding, at the one site.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

13 localities: 9-24 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: (1)(2) singing males in May or June.

Scotland, N & W 11 localities: (1) pair reared four young, at least nine other singing males in

the area; (2) two nests; (3) one nest with four eggs, outcome unknown, also second pair; (4) pair reared five young; (5) pair reared four young; (6) pair bred successfully; (7)(8) nests found; (9)(10) single pairs; (11) singing male in May.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	42	65	58	35	32	39	22	38	17	15	13
Confirmed (pairs)	30	17	31	12	20	9	10	12	6	7	9
Possible (pairs)	32	51	48	23	26	41	30	39	15	13	15
Max. total pairs	62	68	79	35	46	50	49	51	21	20	24

A small recovery in the number of pairs, both confirmed and possible, compared with last year, but no sign of a return to the higher numbers achieved throughout the 1980s.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

71 localities: 15-298 breeding 'pairs'.

England, SW 48 localities in seven counties: 9-213 'pairs' breeding.

England, SE 13 localities in six counties: 4-23 'pairs' breeding.

England, E Four localities in three counties: 1-32 'pairs' breeding.

Wales Six localities in two counties: 1-30 'pairs' breeding.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. counties	12	13	13	13	11	14	14	15	21	17	18
Confirmed ('pairs')	29	90	78	59	4	31	24	12	19	27	15
Possible ('pairs')	173	157	238	190	175	156	174	196	326	214	273
Max. total 'pairs'	202	247	316	249	179	187	198	208	345	241	298

The decline in 1991 has proved to be only temporary, with increased numbers in all regions, even though the number of confirmed pairs has actually fallen. (The use of the term 'pairs' has been normal in these reports, but does not properly represent the true situation for this markedly polygynous species, whose females and nests are very difficult to find.)

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

One locality: one singing.

England, E One locality: singing male on 10th and 11th May.

The second time this species has appeared in one of the Panel's reports, the last being in 1984 when a singing male was present in the second half of July, also in east England.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

13 localities: 2-22 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality: singing male in May.

England, SE Two counties and two localities: (1) six territories held throughout May; (2) one seen on 15th June and one ringed on 8th August.

England, E Ten localities.

NORFOLK Five localities: (1) two singing males; (2)-(5) single singing males.

ELSEWHERE (three counties) Five localities: (1) two pairs each produced two broods; (2) three singing males from late April to June; (3)-(5) single singing males.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	11	12	10	12	9	16	10	13	5	13	13
Confirmed (pairs)	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Possible (pairs)	18	15	12	14	11	20	13	17	9	16	20
Max. total pairs	18	17	12	15	12	20	13	17	10	16	22

Although the number of localities was the same as in 1991, the distribution was somewhat different with presence in seven counties compared with five, and it was good to have confirmed breeding by two pairs. The total number of confirmed and possible pairs is the highest since 1980, when there were 29.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

13 localities: 9-35 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality: male in brief song on 31st May and 7th June, but not subsequently.
England, SE Seven localities: (1)-(7) seven pairs bred, a further seven pairs probably bred, and two pairs possibly did so; a further seven singing males and two other individuals were also recorded.

England, Central Three localities.

WORCESTERSHIRE Three localities: (1)-(3) two pairs bred successfully and there were a further four singing males.

England, N One locality: pair suspected of breeding.

Scotland, N & W One locality: two singing males.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	26	26	28	23	18	11	13	10	12	15	13
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	4	2	12	10	6	11	13	9	9
Possible (pairs)	72	53	47	40	16	11	14	11	11	23	26
Max. total pairs	74	56	51	42	28	21	20	22	24	32	35

Ever so slowly, the upward trend in the total number of pairs continues from the low in 1988, though unfortunately this is not matched by any increase in the number of sites. The record from Scotland is the first from that country to be reported to the Panel.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Three localities: three singing males (*Brit. Birds* 86: 513; 87: 553).

England, SW Two localities: (1) singing male at Axmouth, 15th-17th May; (2) singing male at Chew Valley Lake, 18th May.

England, E One locality: singing male at Aldeburgh, 31st May.

This is the third consecutive year that this species has been reported to the Panel, the seventh altogether, and the fourth with more than one singing male.

Booted Warbler *Hippolais caligata*

Two localities: two singing males (*Brit. Birds* 86: 513).

England, N Two localities.

CUMBRIA One locality: singing male at South Walney, then trapped, 15th June.

NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: singing male at Spurn, 10th to 22nd June, trapped on 16th.

This species has not previously been included in the Panel's reports and perhaps these singing birds are of small importance. This was, however, a record year for Booted Warbler sightings in Britain, and these were the first spring records so it seems correct to include them. There was a third spring record, of one at Hartlepool Headland, Cleveland, on 7th and 8th June, but this did not exhibit any kind of territorial or breeding behaviour.

The one at Spurn completed a remarkable trio of singing warblers at this site in June 1992: see Marmor's *Sylvia sarda* and Greenish Warblers *Phylloscopus trochiloides* (below).

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One locality: one pair bred.

Scotland, N & W One locality: pair seen carrying food and removing faecal sac and calling young heard at Creag Meaghaidh NNR, though the nest was not located. The adults were first noted from the end of June and singing heard on 16th July. Breeding activity was noted during 29th July to 1st August. When the site was revisited on 3rd August, the birds were not seen.

This is the first breeding record for Scotland, the second or third attempted breeding in the UK, and the first apparently successful. It followed a spring which had seen a mini-invasion of about 175 Icterine Warblers during the last week of May and the first half of June, concentrated particularly in the Northern Isles and eastern Britain (*Brit. Birds* 85: 636, 643-645).

Previous breeding attempts were in 1907 and 1970, though the latter has been questioned (see *Brit. Birds* 19: 311; 83: 381; 85: 247). Reports of singing males have appeared in the Panel's reports for 1981, 1983 and 1989.

Marmora's Warbler *Sylvia sarda*

One locality: one singing male (*Brit. Birds* 86: 513).

England, N One locality.

NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: singing male at Spurn, 8th and 9th June, trapped on 8th.

This is only the second record of this species in Britain, though the first was of a long-staying individual in South Yorkshire from mid May to late July 1982. It did not get a mention in the Panel's report, but perhaps should have done as it both sang and displayed during its prolonged visit and occurred in remarkably suitable habitat (*Brit. Birds* 78: 475-481).

Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

One locality: one singing male (*Brit. Birds* 87: 554).

England, N One locality: singing male, Filey, 24th-29th May, trapped on 24th.

The first record for Britain of this species.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

63-926 pairs breeding.

England, SW County maxima:

CORNWALL 2, **DEVON** 73, **DORSET** 266, **HAMPSHIRE** (INCLUDING ISLE OF WIGHT) over 538.

England, SE County maxima:

BERKSHIRE 3, **SURREY** 37, **SUSSEX** 7.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. counties	6	6	6	5	5	8	6	5	8	8	7
Confirmed (pairs)	8	14	11	26	15	8	26	23	55	67	63
Possible (pairs)	304	134	429	368	293	239	616	499	873	634	863
Max. total pairs	312	148	440	394	308	247	639	522	928	701	926

Totals for this species will continue to be dependent upon the effort available for censuses in different areas. Hampshire, in particular, was better covered than last year, though the New Forest totals are largely based on estimates.

Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Eight localities: eight singing males (*Brit. Birds* 86: 516).

England, SW One locality.

DORSET One locality: singing male at Portland, 10th June.

England, E Four localities.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1) singing male at Blakeney Point, 30th May; (2) singing male at Waxham, 31st May.

SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) singing male at Landguard, 31st May; (2) singing male at Trimley St Mary, 7th June.

England, N Two localities.

CUMBRIA One locality: singing male at Arnside, 9th June.

NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: singing male at Spurn, 1st June.

Scotland, Mid One locality.

GRAMPIAN One locality: singing male at Rattray Head, 31st May.

A record number arrived in spring 1992 and, while this arrival undoubtedly reflected the prevailing southerly and southeasterly wind conditions at the time, the species is increasing as a visitor to Britain and could be a future breeder. The only previous report to the Panel was in 1983, when a male stayed in a Perthshire woodland for over a month.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

15 localities: 3-19 pairs breeding.

England, SW Six localities.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Three localities: (1) pair seen feeding four or five recently fledged young on 25th July; (2)(3) single singing males.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: (1) pair on 7th May, but not seen again. Note that, for the second year running, no information was received for the New Forest (where there were at least 19 pairs or singing males in 1990).

WILTSHIRE Two localities: (1) singing male on 24th May; (2) juvenile trapped on 27th September, so possibly locally bred.

England, SE Eight localities.

BERKSHIRE One locality: singing male on 13th June.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) five singing males on 23rd June; (2) singing male on 7th July.

LONDON One locality: pair in late April, singing male and adult carrying food from 2nd June.

SUSSEX Four localities: (1) pair in early May, but no evidence of breeding; (2)(3) single singing males in May; (4) one on 5th May.

England, E One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: singing male on 4th May.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	21	75	47	24	19	37	44	52	48	19	15
Confirmed (pairs)	4	6	4	5	1	8	11	19	9	2	3
Possible (pairs)	40	169	78	41	28	74	72	112	88	20	16
Max. total pairs	44	175	82	46	29	82	83	131	97	22	19

The second consecutive very poor season, with a further decline in both sites and pairs and no sign of a return to central and northern England or to Wales. The absence of counts from the New Forest means that the picture is not quite so gloomy as it might seem, but even adding on the 19 pairs or singing males for that area found in 1990 still does not restore numbers to the level of the 1980s.

Penduline Tit *Remiz pendulinus*

One locality: one individual.

England, N One locality.

CLEVELAND One locality: adult trapped in *Phragmites* reedbed on 18th July had a large brood patch.

It is difficult to know how to interpret this record. In 1990, the only previous year in which this species was reported to the Panel, a male stayed ten days in a Kent reedbed and built two nests. Without the knowledge of how far and how

quickly a bird with a brood patch might move, it is not possible to judge whether this was a British breeding bird or one from continental Europe.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

37 localities: 14-37 pairs breeding.

England, SW Three localities: (1) male seen and heard in May, present for up to ten days; (2)(3) singles.

England, SE Six localities: (1) two singing males, and believed to be breeding; (2) pair in breeding season; (3)-(6) single singing males.

England, E 36 localities surveyed, of which nine held none, and a minimum of 13 breeding pairs found. Total of 17-30 young fledged from 12 nests and one failed owing to being blown out. Two other pairs probably bred, five other sites held pairs and six more had singing males.

England, N One locality: pair reared three young.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	12	14	11	12	13	22	35	29	38	27	37
Confirmed (pairs)	3	2	4	4	5	11	16	15	10	16	14
Possible (pairs)	18	19	14	11	11	20	25	22	32	12	23
Max. total pairs	21	21	18	15	17	31	41	37	42	28	37

A slightly better year, but still below the peak reached a couple of years earlier. The Panel is most grateful for the detailed information on the eastern England population supplied by the Golden Oriole Group.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

13 localities: 1-13 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality: singing male for one or two days.

England, E Seven localities: (1) pair reared four young; (2) pair in May in former breeding area; (3) singing male in early June in suitable habitat; (4)-(7) singles in former or potential breeding areas.

Scotland, S Two localities: (1) singing male on 25th May and 10th June; (2) juvenile on 5th July.

Scotland, Mid One locality: female in early June.

Scotland, N & W Two localities: (1)(2) two males in early June in suitable habitat.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
No. localities	2	3	4	7	3	8	6	3	7	5	13
Confirmed (pairs)	5	11	6	6	4	2	1	0	1	1	1
Possible (pairs)	3	1	4	6	2	11	6	6	7	4	12
Max. total pairs	8	12	10	12	6	13	7	6	8	5	13

This is the largest number of sites since 1977, the most individuals since 1981, and marks a sudden reversal in the fortunes of this species. Whether the presence in former breeding sites in east England can be translated into breeding pairs remains to be seen, but at least the picture is a little more optimistic after the gloom of last year.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Two localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

Wales One locality: singing male on 21st June.

Scotland, N & W One locality: two singing males on 2nd July.

The first Welsh record reported to the Panel and the second year running when singing males were present in suitable habitat in Scotland.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Two localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality.

SUSSEX One locality: up to two males and two females in mid May, one male singing to a female, but breeding not proved.

England, E One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: singing male holding territory from 14th May to 26th July.

A poor showing with none once again from Devon, which is disappointing as they had returned there last year following a two-year gap.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

13 localities: 5-20 pairs breeding.

England, SW Three localities: (1) pair, the male an immature, built a nest, but no eggs were laid apparently; (2)(3) singing males on 21st May and 10th June, respectively, assumed to be migrants.

England, SE One locality: singing male on 21st June.

England, E Five localities: (1) pair, the male a first-summer, reared two young; (2) pair, the male a first-summer, built a nest and laid eggs, but these not thought to have hatched; (3) adult male singing in early June in suitable habitat; (4) immature male singing in early June in suitable habitat; (5) adult trapped in early July in suitable habitat.

England, N One locality: two pairs bred, two more pairs probably bred and one further pair and three males were present at two other sites within the main locality.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: (1)-(3) singing males in suitable habitat, at one of which a pair bred in 1991 (an additional record to the report for 1991).

Although colonisation was expected this year in northern England, it was certainly not expected that breeding would also take place at two sites in eastern England, or that there would be nesting attempts and singing males as far apart as southwest England and northern Scotland. At last, this species seems to be here to stay and to have considerable potential for further colonisation.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Four localities: 28 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid One locality: broods from 12 pairs ringed.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: minimum of 16 pairs bred.

These reports come mainly from surveys of two areas.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

113-320 breeding pairs.

England, SW

CORNWALL Three localities: (1)-(3) single pairs bred successfully.

DEVON 316 occupied territories found during a thorough census of the county. Of these, 110 held pairs which were confirmed as breeding, a further 113 probably did so, while in the remaining 93 territories there was a possibility that breeding occurred.

SOMERSET One locality: pair.

The detailed census work, coupled with management throughout the year, co-ordinated by the RSPB, continues both to benefit this species and to provide a particularly complete picture of its status.

Dr M. A. Ogilvie, Glencairn, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay PA49 7UN