

# Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1993

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



**ABSTRACT** The Rare Breeding Birds Panel's twenty-first report provides a summary for the whole of the United Kingdom for 1993.

Heavy rains at critical periods proved to be detrimental for a number of species.

The year's main features included: continued declines of both Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* and Corn Crakes *Crex crex*; but continued increases of Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus*, Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus*, Northern Goshawks *Accipiter gentilis* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*; a record year for both Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* and Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata*; and a welcome revival for Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris*.

Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus* attempted to breed. Various other vagrant species showed signs of breeding behaviour, the most significant, perhaps, being those involving Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* and Greenish Warbler *Phylloscopus trochiloides*.

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This is the twenty-first annual Report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. It includes the details of the breeding status of each species on the Panel's list which possibly, probably or certainly bred in 1993. The information presented varies according to the perceived sensitivity of the species to disturbance or to nest robbery. Thus, for the majority, the counties are grouped into the Panel's ten

regions (see page 65), though for some it is possible to list the actual counties, whereas for others only country totals are given.

This report is being published more than two years after the end of the calendar year with which it deals. The process of catching up on which we have embarked, however, with the gratefully acknowledged help of county recorders and species co-ordinators, should permit the publication of the 1994 Report later this year, and the 1995 Report in early 1997.

## The Panel

The current (January 1996) membership of the Panel is Dr L. A. Batten, Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr H. Q. P. Crick, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr K. W. Smith, D. A. Stroud and Dr M. A. Ogilvie (Secretary). Dr Crick replaced Dr J. J. D. Greenwood, who resigned during the year, and to whom the other members of the Panel are most grateful for his contributions to its work at a time of development in the Panel's activities. The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but four of them are additionally able to reflect the interest and needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies), with further financial contributions coming from 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, for the third successive year, was virtually complete, with records (or nil returns) received from every single county and region. Gathering comprehensive information for some species is still a problem; any gaps are mentioned in the species accounts.

## Review of the year 1993

The 1993 breeding season was marred in many areas by several periods of heavy rain, often resulting in local flooding. The nests of many ground-nesting birds were flooded, while the productivity of several other species was adversely affected. The BTO's Nest Record Scheme reported that it was a relatively poor year for many common species, with reduced clutch sizes and poor nesting success (*BTO News* 196: 14-16). Similarly, records sent to the Panel showed that there was a reduction in numbers and breeding success of several rare species.

Red-necked *Podiceps grisegena* and Black-necked Grebes *P. nigricollis* both declined in numbers compared with 1992. Although the number of pairs of Slavonian Grebes *P. aurinus* held up, their productivity was extremely, and worryingly, low. Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* did rather better, with at least ten young produced, even though the number of booming males fell yet again.

Northern Pintails *Anas acuta* and Garganeys *A. querquedula* maintained their numbers, though a reduction in localities for the latter species was particularly noticeable in the northern half of Britain, suggesting either poor migration or bad weather discouraging Garganeys from heading as far north as usual. Common Pochards *Aythya ferina* declined sharply both in localities and in numbers, but continued extensive survey work on Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* produced a further substantial increase of records.

Raptors had a patchy season. Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* reared 11 young, beating last year's record total by one, and both Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* recorded further increases, to new record levels. The Welsh Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, however, had a poor year, with many nest failures and brood reductions caused by periods of very wet weather at critical times. The re-established Red Kites in England and Scotland each had their best year to date, though the weather reduced their productivity, too. Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* raised as many young as in their previous best year, 1992, but the number of localities and of pairs fell for the second year running, with no reports from northern England, into which the species had appeared to be expanding.

Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix* arrived in modest numbers this year, and largely remained in the southern half of Britain. Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* had their best year on record, with 31 singing males, compared with the previous best, in 1989 and 1990, of 21. There was even that rare event, a proved breeding record, when a juvenile was seen at a Scottish site where it was known that a pair was present. The results of the full national census of Corn Crakes *Crex crex* are included in brief. Total numbers are now under 500 singing males, compared with almost 600 as recently as 1988 and over 700 in 1978-79. There are, though, some encouraging results coming from the management now being carried out in the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

Summering Black-winged Stilts *Himantopus himantopus* put in an appearance for the first time for five years, but sadly their breeding attempt failed. Numbers of Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* were slightly down, but productivity marginally up. Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedipnemos*, too, managed a small increase in the number of young per pair. There was a sharp drop from last year's record number of localities for Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax*, but, as last year, there was no definite breeding, despite reports of lekking from six or seven sites. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, too, appeared in fewer localities than last year, but numbers of pairs held up well.

Among the very rare waders, Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*, Purple Sandpipers *C. maritima* and Wood Sandpipers *Tringa glareola* all bred, the last-named having their best year for a long time. Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* continue to do quite well on Fetlar, where careful management is being carried out to improve conditions for them, but this was offset by their non-appearance at two former regular breeding sites.

Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* maintained their slow increase, though the picture is complicated in at least one area by hybridisation with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*. The long-standing mixed pair of Lesser Crested *Sterna bengalensis* and Sandwich Terns *S. sandvicensis* was present on and off through the summer at its usual Northumberland haunt, but did not breed and, perhaps as a result, turned up at a number of localities between the Borders and Norfolk. Roseate Terns *S. dougallii* showed an increase in the number of pairs, but fledging success was patchy.

It is most encouraging to be able to report a second successive increase in the number of localities for Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* and a tiny increase in numbers, but Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* had their poorest season for several years.

There was a welcome increase in the number of Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus*

*palustris*, but an alarming decline for Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*. Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata* continue to do well, in the absence of any really severe winter weather. As last year, the report includes records of vagrant warblers singing or showing other signs of breeding behaviour. Both Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus* and Desert Warbler *S. nana* were seen carrying nesting material.

The picture for Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* was very similar to last year's in terms of numbers and distribution, but productivity fell quite sharply. Other passerines also had mixed fortunes, with numbers of Firecrests *Regulus ignicapillus* up, but Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* sadly down, and Common Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus* failing to repeat last year's breeding success.

Including the Desert Warbler, already mentioned, no fewer than five species make their first appearance in these reports: Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*, not breeding yet but surely it is only a matter of time; Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*, a male displaying to a female Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*; Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*, a pair displaying, which may be of little consequence, but is worth putting on record; and Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*, a single singing male.

## Publications

Since the publication of the last report, a number of papers making use of the data collected by the Panel have appeared. These are referred to under the relevant species accounts. Of more general interest has been the publication of a survey of what might happen to rare species of fauna and flora in Britain in the event of climatic change (*Climate Change and Rare Species in Britain*, edited by G. W. Elmes & A. Free, ITE research publication no. 8, 1994). Using a detailed analysis of results published in the Panel's reports, it concludes that increased temperatures, provided summer rainfall was maintained at present levels, would benefit about one-third of rare breeding species. If summer droughts became more common, however, or wet, cold winters were more frequent, both of which have been predicted, then as many as half of our rare species might be adversely affected. Interestingly, increased rainfall was thought to be of potential benefit to up to 15 species, including expected wetland birds such as Black-necked Grebe and Northern Pintail, but also some land birds, for example Purple Sandpiper and Firecrest. The positive effect of rainfall in promoting the production of food supplies in the form of seeds and invertebrates is considered important. It is also acknowledged, however, that, for some species, rainfall can have a damaging effect, as has been shown this year, by increasing losses of eggs and young.

## Acknowledgments

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## Key to geographical regions used in this report

**England, SW** Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Isles of Scilly, 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, Lothian 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

The definitions of 'Confirmed breeding', 'Probable breeding' and 'Possible breeding' used in the Panel's reports follow those recommended by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (now part of the European Bird Census Council). Within tables, the abbreviations 'Confirmed (pairs)' and 'Possible (pairs)' mean 'Number of pairs confirmed breeding' and 'Number of pairs possibly or probably breeding', respectively.

### Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Seven localities in six counties: only singles recorded.

**England, SW** One locality: one, paired with a Great Crested Grebe *P. cristatus*, from February to 7th April.

**England, E** Three localities: (1) one from 25th April to 12th July; (2) one from 25th April to 21st June; (3) one in March and August at site where pair attempted to breed in 1992.

**England, N** One locality: breeding-plumaged adult from 21st April to 21st June, seen displaying.

**Scotland, S** One locality: adult on 9th May at site used by summering pair in past years.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: adult in breeding plumage on a sea loch, 25th June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	
No. localities		2	1	1	5	10	8	6	5	3	9	7
No. individuals		3	1	4	5	9	12	9	3	4	12	7
No. pairs		1	0	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	0

It is disappointing that no pairs were reported this year following the good season last year with two pairs nest-building and copulating. Even the southern Scotland pair, which had managed four consecutive years of platform-building, failed to appear this year.

### Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

33 localities: 73-77 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, Mid and N & W** 33 localities: (1)-(33) total of 73 pairs bred, producing a minimum of 25 young to near fledging; also four singles.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	44	26	40	43	39	22	39	36	31	34	33
Confirmed (pairs)	41	39	63	68	33	31	70	74	61	72	73
Possible (pairs)	38	21	18	19	6	6	8	12	13	5	4
Max. total pairs	79	60	81	87	39	37	78	86	74	77	77

Following the full census in 1992, only previously known breeding sites were visited in 1993; nevertheless, almost exactly the same number of pairs was located. Breeding success, however, was very poor, with only 25 young thought to have been reared, compared with 44 in 1992. Further work is being carried out by the RSPB to determine the main causes of loss, though it is known that some nests were destroyed by wave action, others were taken over by Little Grebes *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, and eggs were stolen by both crows *Corvus* and

egg-collectors. Mammalian predators have also been responsible for the deaths of at least 11 adults at one site in the last two years.

Although the population is holding its own, it remains very vulnerable, with 40% occurring on just three lochs.

### **Black-necked Grebe** *Podiceps nigricollis*

31 localities in 15 counties: 24-50 pairs breeding, producing a minimum of 25 young to near fledging.

**England, SE** Three localities: (1) pair probably bred, adults until 15th June, juvenile on 13th September; (2) two adults on 26th April and one until 29th May at site where has bred previously; (3) pair from 23rd to 29th May.

**England, E** Three localities: (1) pair from 27th May to 17th June, copulation noted; (2) one from 31st May to 18th July, built a platform and joined by second individual from 2nd to 18th July, third on 2nd July; (3) one on 5th May and two on 7th June.

**England, Central** Three localities: (1) pair built two platforms, first washed away, clutch of four eggs taken from second before hatching; (2) one to four adults from 9th April to 31st August, juvenile from 11th July to 31st August, but not thought to have been bred locally; (3) pair with juvenile on 22nd July, but not locally bred.

**England, N** 16 localities: (1) four pairs bred and four broods totalling five young seen, from which four fledged; (2) four pairs bred and six young probably fledged; (3) three pairs bred, four or five young fledged; (4) two pairs to 2nd June, then one pair with two young to 5th July, thereafter only one adult seen; (5) one pair fledged two young; (6) pair with two half-grown young on 9th August; (7) pair from 14th May to 17th July, display noted; (8) pair in early May; (9)(10) single pairs in May; (11) three pairs in May, but possibly visiting from site 1; (12) pair on 21st and 22nd April; (13) single in early April and from mid June to mid August; (14)(15) singles in mid April; (16) single on 21st July.

**Scotland, S** One locality: pair all summer, any nest probably flooded.

**Scotland, Mid** Five localities: (1) five pairs bred, rearing four young; (2) two pairs bred; (3) pair reared two young; (4) pair, but no evidence of breeding; (5) pair with two young in late summer, but did not breed there.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	19	17	17	15	19	22	19	19	25	29	31
Confirmed (pairs)	11	17	9	11	27	15	25	21	19	26	24
Possible (pairs)	21	13	13	22	12	20	15	16	34	34	26
Max. total pairs	32	30	22	33	39	35	40	37	53	60	50

The number of localities has increased again over last year's record level, but the number of pairs, both confirmed and possible, has declined.

### **Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris*

One locality: one in spring and summer.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality.

**SHETLAND** One locality: adult in gannetry, Hermaness, from 7th April to 13th July.

A longer and more continuous stay than last year, for this individual which has been summering in Scotland in all but two of the last 23 years.

### **Great Bittern** *Botaurus stellaris*

13 localities: 17 booming males, at least ten young seen.

**England, E** 11 localities: (1) three males and at least five females, five young; (2) two booming males, two young; (3) two booming males, one young fledged; (4) one booming male, one juvenile; (5) pair, one young; (6) two, including one booming male; (7) pair reported, but did

not breed; (8)-(10) single booming males; (11) single in May and June, but no booming heard.

**England, Central** One locality: injured adult all summer.

**England, N** One locality: four booming males, occasionally five in May.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	18	18	15	12	17	14	14	12	13	14	13
Confirmed nesting	0	5	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	5
Booming males	44	36	28	23	22	30	30	20	19	19	17

Although the number of confirmed nesting records is higher than for several years, this is mainly a result of increased observation, the species being the subject of detailed annual monitoring by the RSPB. The slow and apparently inexorable decline in the number of booming males continues, but a major habitat restoration programme in England, by English Nature and the RSPB, will hopefully not be too late to halt the decline and encourage a recovery in numbers.

### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Two localities in two counties: two pairs mating or displaying.

**England, SW** Two localities: (1) pair mating in early May, stick-collecting in early July; (2) pair reported displaying at the end of May.

This species has not previously figured in these reports, but it is surely only a matter of time before the first breeding in Britain takes place, especially given the increase in regular wintering numbers on the South Coast. There were reports of over 50 in Britain in both May and June 1993, again with a concentration on the South Coast.

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

20 localities: four pairs breeding, only one of which was considered wild; one young reared.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging one young, also seven other adults (also bred there in 1992, an addition to the 1992 Report); (2) single throughout most of year.

**Scotland, S** Three localities: (1) pair bred, but nest flooded; (2) pair plus single summered, all injured; (3) injured individual summered.

**Scotland, Mid** Three localities: (1) pair bred, but young did not survive bad weather; (2) pair, not thought to be wild, displaying on 24th May, but did not breed; (3) second-summer on suitable breeding loch on 13th June.

**Scotland, N & W** 12 localities: (1) pair, considered to be wild, built nest and probably laid, but flooded following heavy rain; (2) four adults (probably two pairs) for at least one week in early June; (3)-(11) single summering individuals, some or all probably injured; (12) single on 10th June.

One apparently wild pair bred unsuccessfully. The number of summering, probably injured, individuals in northern Britain showed an increase over 1992, but this is largely due to better reporting. There were the usual small numbers of escaped or introduced individuals or pairs scattered from the Central Region of Scotland to southern Britain, of which just one pair bred successfully.

### Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

23 localities: 4-47 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Four localities: (1) two or three pairs summered, but not thought to have bred; (2) two pairs all May, additional female to 7th June, single male thereafter; (3) one on 30th May; (4) one on 1st and 4th June.



**England, E** Two localities: (1) pair probably bred, but unsuccessful; (2) pair, but no evidence of breeding.

**England, Central** One locality: male and two females in April and May, one female in June and July, some display noted.

**England, N** One locality: two pairs from late April to end June, display noted in late April, at least five individuals in July.

**Wales** Two localities: (1) pair bred, one young seen, but probably killed by gulls *Larus*; (2) pair nested, but no young reared.

**Scotland, N & W** 13 localities: (1) pair bred, brood of four young; (2) male and two females, nest with nine eggs; (3) six pairs; (4) two pairs, one pair possibly bred; (5)-(7) single pairs in May/June; (8) two males and female in May; (9)(10) single pairs in May; (11) nine males on 7th May; (12) three males on 4th May; (13) female in June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	23	15	17	14	16	20	16	20	28	23	23
Confirmed (pairs)	12	5	9	6	7	14	11	9	4	13	4
Possible (pairs)	20	13	12	12	14	15	28	27	39	35	43
Max. total pairs	32	18	21	18	21	29	38	36	43	48	47

Although the number of sites is the same as in 1992, there has been a slight decline in the number of pairs. No Northern Pintails were noted this year in South or Mid Scotland, but there were more than the usual numbers in northern Scotland, mainly owing to survey work in the Inner Hebrides.

### Garganey *Anas querquedula*

73 localities: 14-163 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** Nine localities in four counties: 3-21 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** 25 localities in seven counties: 5-40 pairs breeding.

**England, E** 20 localities in six counties: 5-62 pairs breeding.

**England, Central** Five localities in three counties: 0-11 pairs breeding.

**England, N** Eight localities in five counties: 0-18 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, S** One locality: 0-1 pair breeding.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: 0-1 pair breeding.

**Scotland, N & W** Three localities: 0-8 pairs breeding.

**Northern Ireland** One locality: 1 pair breeding.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	59	46	32	42	36	37	81	87	90	90	73
Confirmed (pairs)	15	4	4	8	8	11	18	14	12	16	14
Possible (pairs)	55	53	36	47	37	40	80	97	82	144	149
Max. total pairs	70	57	40	55	45	51	98	111	94	160	163

The large decrease in the number of localities arises from many fewer Garganeys appearing in northern England and Scotland than last year (13 sites compared with 35), only slightly offset by an increase in southeastern England. The total number of individuals, though, was slightly higher than last year's record numbers, suggesting that the poor weather may have discouraged them from penetrating so far north.

### Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

One locality: male paired with Northern Shoveler *A. clypeata*.

**England, SW** One locality: adult male paired with female Northern Shoveler from 4th May to 3rd June, then again on 7th July, when copulation was recorded. The female Northern Shoveler was thought to have been incubating in late May, but no young were seen.

This is only the second time that this species has appeared in these reports. The previous occasion was in 1988, when a male also paired with a female Northern Shoveler, in Cambridgeshire, and three young were reared.

### Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

117 localities: 237-416 pairs breeding.

England, SW Seven localities in three counties: 19-24 pairs breeding.

England, SE 45 localities in six counties: 113-197 pairs breeding.

England, E 25 localities in four counties: 57-89 pairs breeding.

England, Central 14 localities in three counties: 6-28 pairs breeding.

England, N 14 localities in five counties: 31-61 pairs breeding.

Wales Five localities: 4-6 pairs breeding.

Scotland, S Two localities: 2 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid Five localities: 5-9 pairs breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	68	63	138	116	133	161	145	117
Confirmed (pairs)	126	130	185	260	207	284	266	237
Possible (pairs)	59	44	162	76	86	144	292	179
Max. total pairs	185	174	347	336	293	428	558	416

There has been a substantial drop in numbers of localities (the lowest since 1989) and pairs (the lowest since 1990). The decline is concentrated in central and northern England and Scotland, where the number of localities declined from 63 to 40 and the maximum total of pairs from 218 to 111. Bad weather may have been a major factor. Of those pairs that did breed, flooded nests were most commonly mentioned as a cause of failure.

### Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

None reported.

No records of this species were received by the Panel in 1993, for the second consecutive year.

### Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

38 localities: 16-88 pairs.

Scotland, S and Mid Three localities: (1) up to three pairs and a single adult during April-August, 'alarming' female on 11th July; (2) pair on 17th May and male on 3rd June; (3) male on 6th May and pair on 4th June.

Scotland, N & W 35 localities.

ARGYLL Two localities: (1) up to nine pairs, female with brood on sea nearby in early August; (2) pair in June in suitable habitat.

HIGHLAND 32 localities: (1) six pairs on 11th June, brood on 31st July; (2) four pairs, two broods seen; (3) three pairs, two broods seen; (4) three females, two with broods on 31st July; (5) three pairs in May and July; (6) two pairs and a male on 8th May, female with brood on 8th July; (7) two females in late June, one with brood on 1st July; (8) two pairs in May and August; (9) two pairs on 16th May; (10) up to six adults on 1st June, pair probably bred; (11) female with brood on 23rd July; (12) pair on 15th May, female with brood on 26th July; (13) female with brood on 22nd July; (14) brood on 15th July; (15) pair on 27th April, 'alarming' female on 28th May; (16) male and two females on 11th May, pair on 21st May and 15th June; (17)-(24) single pairs in May; (25)-(28) single pairs in June; (29)(30) single pairs in July; (31) female on 24th June; (32) nine males and six females on 7th May, but not thought to be a potential breeding site.

SHETLAND One locality: two broods, first on 14th July.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	6	9	25	35	15	36	7	9	14	32	38
Confirmed (pairs)	10	17	2	8	29	14	8	6	9	9	16
Possible (pairs)	75	52	72	92	33	76	32	23	21	62	72
Max. total pairs	85	69	74	100	62	90	40	29	30	71	88

The detailed survey work begun by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust in 1992 continued in 1993 and contributed towards the further increases in both localities and pairs. This is still a very scarce breeding species and one that is difficult to census and, especially, to prove breeding, but the pattern of distribution and probable total numbers are becoming clearer. Sadly, though, there were no breeding records from Northern Ireland, where, in the 1960s, there were up to 150 pairs; only males were seen at the site used in recent years.

### Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

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

**England, SW** One locality.

AVON One locality: female summered.

**England, SE** Five localities.

ESSEX One locality: male in June, at least two females in July.

HERTFORDSHIRE Four localities: (1) female until 3rd May and again on 26th June; (2) female until 18th May; (3) female from 19th to 25th May; (4) injured female summered.

**England, E** One locality.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: female on 9th June.

**England, Central** Four localities.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: female, possibly injured, summered, second female on 28th August.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) four males on 23rd May and two from 1st to 20th June; (2) female on 24th July.

STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: male from 5th to 15th June.

**England, N** Three localities.

CHESHIRE Two localities: (1) male from 28th May to 19th June; (2) immature male summered.

LANCASHIRE One locality: three pairs bred, one brood seen and two clutches stolen. This small population originated from full-winged individuals escaped from a wildfowl collection.

**Scotland, S** Five localities.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three localities: (1) pair on 23rd May and female on 18th July; (2) four on 27th April; (3) male on 20th May.

LOTHIAN Two localities: (1) pair on 6th June; (2) immature male on 29th June and 16th July.

**Scotland, Mid** Five localities.

FIFE One locality: pair and three immature females summered.

TAYSIDE Four localities: (1) pair until mid May, male staying to late May; (2) pair on 22nd May and female on 28th; (3) five on 24th April; (4) male on 28th May, possibly from site 1.

**Scotland, N & W** Nine localities.

ARGYLL One locality: female on 19th July.

HIGHLAND Eight localities: (1) main nestbox area: incomplete survey of the boxes found 70 occupied: 386 eggs laid in 36 of them and minimum of 152 young hatched; (2) second nestbox area had 23 occupied boxes and up to four natural sites; (3) two boxes used; (4) one box used; (5) pair nested in dead Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*; (6) pair attempted to breed in natural site; (7) adult pair all summer; (8) pair until early May.

The figures from the nestbox areas in Highland are incomplete for the second year running, now that comprehensive monitoring has ceased, and the table of confirmed pairs and young hatched has therefore been discontinued. Elsewhere in Scotland, a few pairs are now breeding, while numbers in England continue to grow slowly, though only escaped individuals are, as yet, breeding there.

### Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

23 localities in ten counties: 6-27 pairs breeding; minimum of 11 young reared.

**Great Britain** 23 localities: (1) pair raised two young, second pair may have bred; (2) two pairs, one rearing two young, not known if second pair bred; (3)-(5) single pairs each raised two young; (6) pair raised one young; (7) immature pair built nest, but did not lay; (8) pair displaying on 14th August; (9) two males and a female through summer, no nest looked for; (10) pair may have been present all summer; (11) adult male, immature male and two immature females, but no adult female; (12) up to five in area, but no breeding proved; (13) one or two from 3rd July to 11th September; (14) adult 'skydancing' on 17th July, two immatures on 18th; (15) up to four in May and three in July, but probably not breeding there; (16) one on 6th June and three, including two immatures, on 17th August, but probably did not breed there; (17) one on 24th May and two on 3rd July, probably wanderers from other sites; (18) up to two in late June and one on 3rd July, probably wanderers from other sites; (19) single on three dates in June; (20) one on 27th June; (21) one on 27th July; (22) one on 7th and 20th August, three on 28th August; (23) one on 13th August.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Confirmed (pairs)	3	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	8	6
Max. total pairs	5	2	4	6	7	10	20	19	22	26	27

The 11 young reared is one more than last year's record. The maximum of total pairs excludes 11 individuals at localities 15-18 which it is thought were wanderers from other sites. These areas may, however, prove to be suitable for breeding in the future.

### Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

134 pairs bred; 103 young reared.

Wales 104 pairs were proved to breed, of which 61 were successful, rearing 82 young. In addition, there were a further 11 non-breeding pairs, while 88 unmated individuals were identified during the spring. The total population was estimated as at least 310, possibly 350, in April and 397 in August. With the total numbers of individuals and pairs at new highs, the proportion of non-laying pairs was the lowest since 1972, reflecting the unusually favourable early-season conditions. Very wet weather in late May, however, and, in particular, on 10th-11th June, when 140 mm of rain fell in 30 hours, induced many nest failures and even more brood reductions. Thus, the expected further increase in the annual number of young fledged failed to materialise, though it was still the second-best year on record. (The Panel's thanks go to Peter Davis for his detailed report. His work is funded by the Countryside Commission for Wales and the RSPB.)

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Total pairs	46	46	54	58	59	68	71	84	92	102	115
Breeding pairs	33	33	43	40	44	49	54	65	76	84	104
Successful pairs	30	13	19	23	27	27	33	47	41	60	61
Young reared	24	21	25	29	39	38	49	73	62	96	82

The breeding populations re-established by a joint JNCC/RSPB project made further progress. (The Panel is grateful to Ian Evans, JNCC, for the following information.)

**England** Nine pairs were found breeding, but one pair failed subsequently at hatching during a period of heavy rain. This period of detrimental weather also reduced productivity of the successful pairs, as only 14 young were reared. No first-years bred, but two non-breeding pairs consisting of first-years were located. A further 20 juvenile Red Kites were imported from northeastern Spain and released in southern England. The total August population of Red Kites in England was 80.

**Scotland** Five pairs were proved breeding, of which three pairs were successful, rearing seven young. Three additional pairs and four single males held territory, but did not breed. A further 24 juvenile Red Kites were imported from Sweden and released in northern Scotland. The total August population of Red Kites in Scotland was 79.

England	1991	1992	1993	Scotland	1992	1993
Total pairs	2	7	12	Total pairs	2	8
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	Breeding pairs	2	5
Successful pairs	0	4	8	Successful pairs	1	3
Young reared	0	9	14	Young reared	1	7

### White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

#### Re-establishment.

**Scotland** Twenty-one individuals occupied ten territories, one containing a single male with two females. Six clutches were laid and five young reared from four broods. An additional ten immatures, brought from Norway, were released.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Breeding pairs	2	4	5	6	6	6	9	8	8	6
Successful pairs	0	1	1	2	1	3	2	6	3	4
Young reared	0	1	2	3	2	5	2	7	7	5

Although the number of occupied territories continues to increase, rearing success was lower than in 1991 or 1992. (The Panel is grateful to the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information.)

### Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

109-145 'pairs' bred, rearing 244 young.

**Great Britain** As in recent years, the figures for both 'pairs' and numbers of males and females are subject to some degree of estimation from the available data, as it is not always possible for observers to be certain of the precise sex ratio in polygamous situations. The number of young consists only of those reported to have fledged and is easily another record.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Breeding males	21	27	29	26	40	42	58	73	83	92	84
Breeding females	28	32	31	32	46	56	66	110	91	107	110
Young	71	66	86	82	126	145	172	145	198	229	244

Another good year, despite poor summer weather, with further slight increases in numbers in northern England and Scotland. (The Panel wishes to thank Michael Seago and Bob Image for the continued provision of detailed information on this species.)

### Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Male displaying to Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*.

#### Scotland, Mid

TAYSIDE One locality: a second-summer male from 3rd to 5th May, displaying to female Hen Harrier.

This is a new species for these reports. The only precedent for such an occurrence took place in the Netherlands in the mid 1980s, though it should also

be noted that a successful mixed pairing with Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus* was reported from Finland in 1993 (*Brit. Birds* 88: 268).

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Eight localities: 6-9 pairs bred, rearing 16 young.

**England, SW** Three localities: (1) pair raised three young; (2) pair in May, male carrying food into hay field, but no further details; (3) male.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) male on 3rd and 28th May; (2) first-summer female from 22nd to 27th May.

**England, E** Three localities: (1) pair raised five young; (2) pair raised three young; (3) two females, sharing one male, raised three and two young.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	8	2	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12	8
Confirmed (pairs)	6	1	3	7	6	6	7	5	7	8	6
Possible (pairs)	4	1	6	3	4	8	8	4	7	4	3
Max. total pairs	10	2	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12	9

The numbers of localities and pairs have fallen for the second year running, though the 16 young reared equals last year's record. The recent expansion of the range into northern England, where two pairs bred in 1992, seems to have received a setback, one hopes only temporarily.

### Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Up to 292 localities: 199-299 pairs breeding.

**England and Wales** Up to 244 localities in 29 counties: up to 166 pairs are thought to have bred, of which 131 were reported as successful, hatching between them a minimum of 283 young, at least 170 of which are believed to have fledged; 39 nests were known to have failed, with nest robbery the most frequent cause. A further 55 pairs and 30 singles were reported.

**Scotland** Up to 48 localities in six regions: 33 pairs are known to have bred, of which 26 were successful, rearing at least 78 young, and seven certainly failed; 11 pairs and four singles were also reported.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. counties	19	22	20	31	31	31	23	30	36	34	35
Confirmed (pairs)	34	36	36	57	54	108	112	93	158	150	199
Possible (pairs)	27	42	39	59	40	68	54	79	71	93	100
Max. total pairs	61	78	75	116	94	176	166	172	229	243	299

The number of pairs reported continues to increase, though still probably a considerable underestimate of the true population. We do urge observers and recorders to make every effort to record and report this species in order that we may obtain as accurate a picture as possible. The conservation response to the continued persecution of this species needs to be based on the best possible information.

### Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

88 pairs: 78 pairs laid eggs, rearing 111 young.

**England, SE** One locality: adult from 1st July to 3rd August.

**England, E** One locality: adult from 15th May to 3rd August.

**England, N** One locality: one from 15th May to 27th July.

**Scotland** The number of pairs increased yet again, to 88, no fewer than 12 more than last year. Of these, 78 pairs laid and 59 hatched young, with 56 successful pairs rearing 111 young, an average of 1.26 per pair.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Pairs	30	31	34	42	50	53	58	62	73	76	88
Successful pairs	20	21	22	24	30	38	38	44	44	48	56
Young reared	45	47	53	48	56	81	81	90	82	101	111

A substantial improvement in numbers of pairs, though productivity per pair was down compared with last year. Nest failures arose from a variety of causes, including bad weather, predation and interference by other Ospreys. There were, however, no reports of nest robberies. (The above is based on the report supplied to the Panel by Roy Dennis and his associates.)

### **Hobby** *Falco subbuteo*

At least 477 localities: 152-493 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 43-133 pairs breeding, 72 young reported.

**England, SE** 58-204 pairs breeding, 76 young reported.

**England, E** 23-75 pairs breeding, 35 young reported.

**England, Central** 25-63 pairs breeding, 56 young reported.

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

**Wales** 3-12 pairs breeding, five young reported.

**Scotland** 0-1 pair breeding, no young reported.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Confirmed (pairs)	80	93	98	91	108	103	140	154	159	255	152
Possible (pairs)	182	116	148	202	164	226	250	287	310	327	341
Max. total pairs	262	209	246	293	272	329	390	441	469	582	493
Young reared (min.)	104	91	117	126	160	133	205	239	265	279	243

The fall from the previous year's high totals may reflect the generally poor summer.

### **Common Quail** *Coturnix coturnix*

172 localities: 1-203 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 31 localities: 0-33 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** 29 localities: 0-44 pairs breeding.

**England, E** 58 localities: 1-62 pairs breeding.

**England, Central** 22 localities: 0-29 pairs breeding.

**England, N** 17 localities: 0-19 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, S** Four localities: 0-4 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, Mid** Five localities: 0-5 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, N & W** Six localities: 0-7 pairs breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	84	152	130	904	255	88	319	172
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	5	27	13	2	9	1
Possible (pairs)	110	245	158	1628	364	105	481	202
Max. total pairs	111	246	163	1655	377	107	490	203

A moderate year, but with the distribution very much weighted towards the southern half of England. Relatively few penetrated as far north as Scotland, and there were no records from Wales or Northern Ireland.

### Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

19 localities: 1-33 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** Three localities: (1) one singing during 18th-23rd April, where has bred in past years; (2) one singing from 23rd to 30th April; (3) one singing on 28th May, also one seen 24th August to 2nd September.

**England, SE** One locality: two singing on 20th April.

**England, E** Three localities: (1) up to three males singing; (2) one singing on 5th and 13th May, three attracted by tape lure on 15th; (3) one singing on 9th July.

**England, N** One locality: one singing on 20th and 22nd June.

**Wales** Five localities: (1) three singing from mid June to July; (2) up to three singing in June; (3) two singing from 22nd to 30th June, one seen on 16th July; (4) two singing in late June; (5) one singing on 15th April.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: one singing 8th June.

**Scotland, N & W** Five localities: (1) two singing, female also calling, juvenile on 10th August; (2) three singing in late May and early June; (3) two singing in early June; (4)(5) singles singing in June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	
No. counties		3	3	2	3	4	5	7	6	5	9	12
No. localities		6	4	2	3	7	6	14	14	7	12	19
No. singing		12	10	3	4	18	10	21	21	14	14	31

An excellent year, with record numbers of both localities and singing males, as well as counties in which they occurred. In particular, there has never been more than a single report from Wales in any previous year. Proof of breeding was obtained for the second year running for this notoriously difficult species. Studies using a tape lure suggest that there may be more birds present than is indicated by the numbers heard singing.

### Corn Crake *Crex crex*

62 'localities': 1-487 pairs breeding.

A national census was organised in 1993. The following county totals of individuals are taken from R. E. Green (1995, *Bird Study* 42: 66-75), with the addition of a further six records received by the Panel, all of which fall within Green's census period of 20th May to 10th July.

**England, SW** DEVON 1, DORSET 1.

**England, E** SUFFOLK 1.

**England, N** CHESHIRE 1, CUMBRIA 1, NORTH YORKSHIRE 3, SOUTH YORKSHIRE 1.

**Wales** DYFED 1.

**Isle of Man** 1.

**Scotland S** BORDERS 3, CENTRAL 2, DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 1, STRATHCLYDE - AYRSHIRE 2.

**Scotland, Mid** GRAMPIAN 3, TAYSIDE 1.

**Scotland, N & W** HIGHLAND - CAITHNESS 7, HIGHLAND - NAIRN 1, HIGHLAND - ROSS & CROMARTY 1, HIGHLAND - SUTHERLAND 1, HIGHLAND - INNER HEBRIDES 14, STRATHCLYDE - INNER HEBRIDES 158, STRATHCLYDE - ARGYLL 2, ORKNEY 6, SHETLAND 3, WESTERN ISLES 271.

The census carried out in 1993 revealed a further very steep decline in numbers, these having fallen by at least 17% since the previous census in 1988.



Management based on the most recent research into the needs of the species, before and during the breeding season, is now being applied widely in the Inner Hebrides and Western Isles by the RSPB, aided by grants from Scottish Natural Heritage and with the support of the Scottish Crofters Union. Early results are encouraging and suggest that numbers can be sustained and increased with appropriate farming methods. What is needed now is much wider and urgent application of these conservation measures throughout the past and current range of the Corn Crake.

### Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

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

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

### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Two localities; pair attempted to breed.

England, N Two localities, but the same individuals involved: adult and two immatures displayed and 'scraped' during 22nd April to 31st May, before moving to a new site (Frodsham, Cheshire), where four eggs were laid, but were then taken by a predator during a spell of cold, wet weather.

This species has not featured in these reports since 1988, when a pair displayed and copulated. In 1987, a pair bred successfully, the only previous instance having been in 1945 (*Brit. Birds* 38: 322-328). There was a failed breeding attempt in 1983.

### Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

25 localities: 436-511 pairs reared a minimum of 347 young.

England, SE 13 localities

ESSEX Five localities: (1) 18 pairs bred, at least eight young reared; (2) 16 pairs bred, fledging appeared to be good; (3) 11 pairs bred, 30 young reared; (4) six pairs reared 15 young at a new site; (5) one pair in suitable habitat.

KENT Seven localities: (1) 62 pairs reared 66 young; (2) 19 pairs bred, 17 were successful, ten young but no full count; (3) 13 pairs, but only three bred, two young seen; (4) at least seven pairs raised a minimum of eight young; (5) two pairs, one bred; (6) four pairs, but high water levels and predation prevented successful breeding; (7) pair may have bred.

SUSSEX One locality: two in May and June, but no evidence of breeding.

England, E 12 localities

NORFOLK Eight localities: (1) 48 pairs raised 42 young; (2) 46 pairs, of which 16 thought to have bred, rearing up to 20 young; (3) 29 pairs bred, rearing up to 40 young; (4) 23 pairs bred, but all young killed by Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*; (5) nine pairs, but no details of breeding; (6) five pairs reared 18 young; (7) two pairs, of which one nested, but reared no young; (8) up to 22 in May, pair nested, but reared no young.

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: three pairs, but not known if they bred.

SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) 90 pairs bred, but only three young fledged; (2) 70 pairs bred, hatching 107 young, of which 44 fledged; (3) 20 pairs raised a minimum of 20 young. Two more localities which have been used in previous years dried out early and were not occupied.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities		9	11	14	15	18	27	24	21	29	25
Confirmed (pairs)		238	237	269	255	341	389	521	355	448	436
Young reared (min.)		192	118	245	227	315	136	150	200	305	347

A further slight improvement in productivity per pair, though still quite low compared with what was achieved in the mid 1980s.

### Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*

Eight counties: 146-162 pairs.

**England, SW and SE** Five counties: 57 pairs, of which 49 were confirmed as breeding, fledging 42-45 young.

**England, E** Three counties: 105 pairs, of which 97 were confirmed as breeding, fledging 59 young.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Confirmed (pairs)	20	19	68	103	137	126	126	139	139	155	146
Possible (pairs)	76	52	47	12	0	3	17	10	16	4	16
Max. total pairs	96	71	115	115	137	129	143	149	155	159	162

The first decline in the number of pairs confirmed breeding for some years, though the total number of pairs rose slightly. Productivity was a little better in the Southwest and the Southeast compared with 1992, but fell in eastern England. A valuable summary of the monitoring of Stone-curlew numbers and breeding success in the period 1986-91 has recently been published (Green, 1995, *Britain's Birds in 1991-92*: 138-141) and the Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green, RSPB, for his assistance in compiling the data for 1993.

### Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

One locality: one pair breeding (excluding those in main Scottish breeding area).

**England, N** One locality.

**CUMBRIA** One locality: pair laid, but failed, reason not known.

**Scotland** No records were received from areas away from the main breeding area.

The Panel seeks records only if away from the main breeding range, which lies north of a line from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Tay, and accepts that at least some of the Dotterels on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage. This species was the subject of an intensive survey during 1987 and 1988, the results of which have recently been published (Galbraith *et al.*, 1993, *Bird Study* 40: 161-169), showing that the population may be as high as 840 pairs, with a wider distribution than had previously been thought. The estimated British total included three pairs in England and Wales and seven in southern Scotland.

### Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: two pairs bred, one successfully.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: adult with two young at traditional site, and second adult present; second pair probably attempted to breed, but failed at egg stage.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of localities	1	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	2
Possible (pairs)	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1
Max. total pairs	2	1	2	3	5	3	3	2	3	2	3

This species still clings on in its one traditional site. A recent paper by Dr G. P. Mudge & Roy H. Dennis summarised the history of breeding in Britain by this species (*Brit. Birds* 88: 573-577).

### Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one pair bred.

Scotland, N & W One locality: one pair raised at least one young.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of localities	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	1
Possible (pairs)	1	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0
Max. total pairs	1	2	3	2	3	2	4	1	4	2	1

This species, like the last, continues to hang on as a breeding bird, just.

### Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Ten localities; no proof of breeding, though copulation and possible breeding at one locality and lekking noted at six others.

England, SE Three localities.

KENT Two localities: (1) up to five males and ten females, with lekking noted in May; (2) up to six in June and five in July.

SUSSEX One locality: male in breeding plumage on 23rd June.

England, E Five localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) up to nine males and 26 females from 29th March to 19th May, with some lekking observed; (2) up to 39, with some lekking.

SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) three males and three females in early spring, lekking reported; (2) one male and six females in May, some lekking; (3) male and female during June.

England, N Two localities.

CHESHIRE One locality: three males and two females lekking during 5th to 13th May, but departed by 17th.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: four males and two females on 16th May, lekking and copulation noted. Although laying by one or two females was suspected, heavy rain flooded the area and the birds departed.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	8	6	8	7	16	14	15	8	9	21	10
Nests	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	7	0	0
Max. no. females possibly nesting	32	6	8	9	69	11	17	15	15	12	59

No proof of breeding was obtained, for the second year running, though there was a strong suspicion of breeding at one locality. The number of localities was lower than last year's peak, but there was more lekking reported which involved many more individuals.

### Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

16 localities: 28-33 pairs breeding.

England, SW Two localities.

SOMERSET Two localities: (1) two pairs displaying on 25th May, but apparently no attempt to breed; (2) two pairs, which departed by early June either not having nested or having rapidly lost their eggs to a predator.

**England, SE** Five localities.

ESSEX Two localities: (1) 15 adults summered in suitable habitat, but no breeding evidence; (2) at least seven adults summered in suitable habitat, but no breeding evidence.

KENT Three localities: (1) four pairs bred, but only one young fledged; (2) three pairs, two of which are thought to have bred, one nest found, but no young fledged; (3) one pair raised one young.

**England, E** Seven localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) 14 pairs attempted to breed, ten young fledged; (2) six pairs bred, six young fledged.

SUFFOLK Five localities: (1)-(5) no breeding or breeding behaviour reported, but counts of up to 110, 83, 30, seven and four summering, respectively.

**England, N** One locality.

CHESHIRE One locality: maximum of 467 in April, declining to 230-250 in May and June, and up to 420 in July. Occasional display flying, but no other signs of breeding.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality.

SHETLAND One locality: one pair bred, raising two young.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	10	12	11	19	13	17	14	16	18	24	16
Confirmed (pairs)	32	55	22	23	28	36	34	33	28	20	28
Possible (pairs)	12	25	17	24	12	28	22	33	25	38	5
Max. total pairs	44	80	39	47	40	64	56	66	53	58	33

Although there was a sharp drop in the number of localities, with no records from the several new sites reported from Shetland last year, the total of confirmed pairs recovered from last year's poor showing. The number of possible pairs dropped sharply, however. The numbers summering in flocks in apparently suitable habitat also continue to increase. Almost all the breeding pairs are on National Nature Reserves or reserves belonging to the RSPB.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** *Limosa lapponica*

One locality: one pair displaying.

England, N One locality: pair on 3rd May engaged in display flight.

This is a new species for these reports and, while the observation, which was made on the coast, may have little significance, it is worth putting on record. Small numbers summer in several parts of Britain and, while the majority are clearly in their first summer, a few do attain something approaching breeding plumage.

**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

No reports away from Orkney and Shetland.

For the second year running, no reports were received from areas away from the regular breeding area in the Northern Isles. We repeat our appeal for records of summering or displaying elsewhere in Britain.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

Four localities: 2-8 pairs bred.

Scotland, N & W Four localities: (1) two pairs and a fifth adult, both pairs bred successfully, but number of young not known; (2)(3) two pairs at each locality, but no definite proof of breeding; (4) pair displaying on 8th May, none on 25th, but single feeding and briefly displaying on 13th June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	3	4	3	2	3	4	6	2	2	4	4
Confirmed (pairs)	1	4	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2
Possible (pairs)	4	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	5	6
Max. total pairs	5	5	3	3	4	4	6	2	2	6	8

The best year for the total number of pairs possibly breeding since 1980. Monitoring of known sites continued at the higher level achieved in 1992.

### Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

No reports received.

After last year's reappearance in suitable breeding habitat, following a gap of 15 years, the species again failed to show any evidence suggestive of breeding.

### Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two localities: 20-24 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1) a complex of five sites with 18-22 pairs breeding and 48-50 young hatched; (2) two pairs bred, one raising three young, but the second failed after the male was killed by hitting a fence.

Although numbers held up well at the principal locality on Fetlar, Shetland, and a new one was discovered, two previously regular breeding sites were unoccupied.

### Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

14 localities: 15-32 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** Two localities: (1) five pairs bred, but no information is available on their success; (2) pair from 7th March to 9th April, but not apparently thereafter.

**England, SE** Six localities: (1) four pairs, of which three bred successfully, hatching six young; (2) three pairs raised three young and a fourth pair failed; (3)(4) single pairs each raised two young; (5) five adults displaying in March, only two in April and one until July; (6) two immatures, in April and May.

**England, E** Four localities: (1) adult male bred with female Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*, but outcome unknown, two other adults and a pair of second-summer hybrids also, the latter apparently nesting in April, but nests disturbed or destroyed by fishermen; (2) pair laid one egg, but nest destroyed by Black-headed Gull; (3)(4) single pairs prospecting.

**England, Central** One locality; male from 22nd April to 8th May apparently trying to claim territory in Black-headed Gull colony.

**England, N** One locality: pair of second-summers held territory from 24th April to 1st May, displayed and copulated.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	6	4	3	5	3	9	5	10	13	15	14
Confirmed (pairs)	2	4	3	1	1	5	6	11	15	19	15
Possible (pairs)	6	1	5	4	2	10	3	5	8	12	17
Max. total pairs	8	5	8	5	3	15	9	16	23	31	32

A very similar year to last year, though with more hybrid pairs, and more hybrids, reported.

### Little Gull *Larus minutus*

One locality: none bred.

**England, SE** One locality: adult in winter plumage from 4th June, first-summer from 19th June and adult in summer plumage from 11th July, all to end of July.

In keeping with past policy, we are recording these occasional summering individuals and appeal for all observations to be sent in.

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

No reports received.

Were last year's possibly territory-holding pair and the one paired with a Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* a flash in the pan?

### Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

One locality: one female mated with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

England, N One locality.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: female mated to Sandwich Tern, intermittently from 3rd May to 8th August, seen copulating on 31st May, but no further breeding evidence.

What has been assumed to be the same individual also appeared in Borders on 16th May, North Humberside during 15th-20th June, Lincolnshire on 20th June, and Norfolk on 8th to 15th and 21st July, 11th and 22nd August. On each occasion, it was noted as being paired with a colour-ringed Sandwich Tern, and copulation was observed in Lincolnshire (*Brit. Birds* 87: 533; 88: 520).

### Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalli*

18 localities: 84-105 pairs breeding.

England, SW Seven localities.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: two pairs, an additional adult and one subadult, a scrape made, but no eggs laid.

UNNAMED COUNTY Six localities: (1) 18 adults, three pairs bred, raising six young; (2) three pairs, of which two bred successfully, raising four young; (3) three pairs, of which two bred successfully, two young fledged; (4) two pairs bred, one nest failed, two young reared; (5)(6) single pairs bred, each raising two young.

England, SE Three localities: (1) up to two in May and June, but no suggestion of breeding; (2) single in May and June; (3) single in July and August.

England, N Two localities: (1) up to 33 pairs bred, raising 35 young; (2) three pairs raised six young.

Wales Three localities: (1) 16 pairs bred, 28 young produced; (2) five pairs raised seven young; (3) pair and a third adult, but did not breed.

Scotland, Mid Three localities: (1) 19 pairs, 18 of which laid, but only 14 young hatched; (2) pair bred, apparently successfully; (3) up to three displaying.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of localities	10	13	17	15	13	15	18
Confirmed (pairs)	169	164	172	93	52	62	84
Possible (pairs)	164	33	5	31	5	10	21
Max. total pairs	333	197	177	124	57	72	105

The Panel began full monitoring of this species only in 1987. There has been a marked improvement in the number of pairs over the last two years, though fledging success was poor in some colonies.

### Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

Two main localities: two females.

Scotland, N & W Two main localities.

SHETLAND Only one female for certain, turning up at several locations between 29th April and 18th September.

WESTERN ISLES A female was in a number of places between 16th April and 2nd August. A first-year male on St Kilda on 11th April was presumably a migrant.

There were no reports from the Highland region this year, but the lengthy presence of one in the Western Isles is of interest. There have, however, been no reports of any adult males since 1979.

### Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Six localities: 1-6 pairs bred.

England, E One locality: single on 13th June.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: (1) one singing in early June; (2) one in mid July.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: (1) pair bred and reared young, though number not recorded; (2) single singing in two places on 28th and 29th May; (3) single singing during 28th-30th May.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	14	9	9	9	10	9	8	6	6	1	6
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Possible (pairs)	15	10	8	8	9	9	7	6	5	2	5
Max. total pairs	15	10	9	9	10	10	8	6	6	2	6

A small, but welcome, improvement on last year's very poor result, including a renewed, if slight, presence in eastern England.

### Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

213-621 pairs breeding.

England, SW 145-217 pairs breeding.

DEVON Two localities: (1) pair and six singing males; (2) singing male.

DORSET Eight localities: (1) at least ten singing males or pairs present; (2) pair raised two young; (3) two singing males; (4)-(8) single pairs or singing males present.

HAMPSHIRE New Forest not fully covered, but 83 pairs located, plus a further 26 singing males; up to 82 pairs or singing males at a further 28 localities in the county.

WILTSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs each rearing two young.

England, SE 24-105 pairs breeding.

BERKSHIRE Five localities: (1)-(5) total of six pairs bred, 12 further pairs, nine singing males and a single.

KENT Two localities: (1)(2) total of two pairs bred, plus five singing males.

SURREY 15 localities: (1)-(15) total of 13 pairs bred, 20 further pairs and 19 singing males.

SUSSEX Ten localities: (1)-(10) total of three breeding pairs, eight further pairs and six singing males.

England, E 118-313 pairs breeding.

NORFOLK Nine localities: (1)-(9) total of at least 15 pairs bred, plus a further 28 pairs and one singing male.

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE Four localities: (1)-(4) one pair bred, plus three pairs and six singing males.

SUFFOLK Over 20 localities or areas surveyed, with totals of up to 225 breeding pairs, other pairs and singing males.

England, Central Two localities.

UNNAMED COUNTY Three sites within one broad locality: one pair laid twice, the first clutch was taken by a predator, the second produced five fledged young; the other two pairs were not proved to breed.

Scotland, N & W One locality: singing male from 23rd June to 4th July, two, possibly three, individuals later.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Number of counties	8	9	13	11	12	10	14	12	14	13
Confirmed (pairs)	16	5	47	28	88	156	64	39	124	213
Possible (pairs)	185	122	181	165	157	54	272	303	535	408
Max. total pairs	201	127	228	193	245	210	336	362	659	621

Further intensive survey work in Suffolk found fewer than in 1992, but there were more found in Hampshire and elsewhere in England. Scotland's first breeding record was suspected, but not proven.

This is the first time that a table has been published for this species. The recent substantial increases are in part due to more intensive survey work, but at the same time the range is expanding and a general increase taking place.

### Thrush Nightingale *Luscinia luscinia*

One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, N & W One locality: male in song at Helendale, Lerwick, Shetland, on 20th May (*Brit. Birds* 87: 546).

A new species for the Panel's reports. The Panel is keen to monitor occurrences of all species that show even slight signs of breeding behaviour.

### Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

53 localities: 32-76 pairs breeding.

England, SW Four localities.

DORSET Two localities: (1) pair bred successfully; (2) juvenile on 5th July had, perhaps, been bred locally.

HAMPSHIRE Two localities: (1) female from 6th July to 13th August, male with food on 23rd July; (2) territory-holding male from 11th to 19th June.

England, SE 25 localities.

BERKSHIRE Three localities: (1) pair raised three young; (2) pair raised three young; (3) singing male April to June and August.

ESSEX One locality: one.

HERTFORDSHIRE Three localities: (1) pair raised at least three young; (2) singing male, no date; (3) immature in June.

KENT Five localities: (1) four pairs, of which three certainly bred, rearing at least 12 young; (2) four pairs, of which three certainly bred; (3) pair raised two young; (4) singing male from 9th to 11th June; (5) female on 6th June.

LONDON Nine localities: (1) pair raised broods of four and three; (2) pair probably bred in area used in past years; (3) pair probably bred in area where two or three pairs have bred annually; (4) pair on 5th April; (5)-(8) single singing males in June; (9) female in March and April.

SURREY Two localities: (1) pair raised at least one young; (2) female in suitable habitat.

SUSSEX Two localities: (1) two singing males and female in May; (2) singing male on 9th June.

England, E Ten localities.

LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: two singing males in June.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1) two pairs bred successfully; (2) two singing males in June.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: pair present; also reported to have bred here in 1992, which is an addition to that year's report.

SUFFOLK Six localities: (1) three pairs raised a total of four broods; (2) three pairs bred; (3) one pair raised two broods each of two young, second pair raised brood of three young, five males reported in June; (4) three pairs, of which one bred; (5) pair fledged three young; (6) three singing males.

England, Central Eight localities.

DERBYSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair from early April throughout summer, pair with one or two juveniles in September; (2) male in summer plumage.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair raised five young.



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: two singing males in June.

WEST MIDLANDS One locality: pair had two broods and fledged three or four young.

STAFFORDSHIRE Three localities: (1)(2) single females in mid April, probably passing through and possibly the same individual; (3) immature male on 10th July.

**England, N** Six localities.

GREATER MANCHESTER Five localities: (1) pair with four young on 20th July; (2) pair feeding young in early October; (3) singing male from 1st to 30th May; (4) singing male on 30th May and 14th June; (5) female on 21st and 24th April.

YORKSHIRE One locality: pair bred.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	92	77	70	56	50	36	44	53
Confirmed (pairs)	81	46	54	36	28	23	14	32
Possible (pairs)	38	63	58	46	46	46	57	44
Max. total pairs	119	109	118	82	74	69	71	76

A welcome increase in both the number of localities and the number of confirmed breeding pairs, though both are well below the levels of even five years ago. There has been a return to southwest England, as well as to Berkshire. Numbers in the West Midlands were disappointingly low, but may reflect reduced searching rather than a genuine decline.

### Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Five localities: 2-5 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Two localities.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: adult being investigated by a pair of Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* on 4th June.

HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: single on 22nd May.

**Scotland, N & W** Three localities.

INVERNESS Two localities: (1) nest containing three large young on 1st July; (2) pair probably bred at site where the species is reported to have done so since the mid 1980s, though this has not always been noted in these reports (where details have been made available, these are included in the table below).

SHETLAND One locality: pair bred at same site as in 1992, raising six young.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7	5
Confirmed (pairs)	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2	2
Possible (pairs)	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8	3
Max. total pairs	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	11	5

The poorest year since 1986. Are we at the bottom of some kind of cycle, as in the mid 1980s? Certainly the scattered sightings in northern and eastern England have virtually ceased in the last two years, leaving just the hard core of breeding pairs in Scotland. Coverage for this species remains difficult, however, especially in the remoter parts of Scotland, and this may well be contributing to some of the fluctuations.

### Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

22 localities: 5-27 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: two singing males at neighbouring sites in the second half of May.

**Scotland, N & W** 21 localities: (1) pair raised a total of five young from two broods; (2)(3)

pairs each raised three or four young; (4) three singing males, single fledged young seen; (5) at least one pair probably bred at this regular site; (6) pair attempted to breed, but failed; (7) pair at usual site; (8) three singing males; (9)-(21) single singing males in April and/or May.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	65	58	35	32	39	22	38	17	15	13	22
Confirmed (pairs)	17	31	12	20	9	10	12	6	7	9	5
Possible (pairs)	51	48	23	26	41	30	39	15	13	15	22
Max. total pairs	68	79	35	46	50	49	51	21	20	24	27

The slight recovery noticed last year continues, coupled with a welcome increase in the number of localities. The species remains badly under-recorded, however, in much of western and northern Scotland, where local observers believe that the population is substantially larger than the 40-80 pairs estimated for the whole of Britain by Gibbons *et al.* (1993, *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland 1988-1991*).

### Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

About 86 localities: 11-317 breeding 'pairs'.

**England, SW** About 60 localities in eight counties: 9-243 'pairs' breeding.

**England, SE** Eight localities in five counties: 2-21 'pairs' breeding.

**England, E** Eight localities in five counties: 0-30 'pairs' breeding.

**England, Central** One locality: 0-1 'pair' breeding.

**Wales** Nine localities in two counties: 0-22 'pairs' breeding.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. counties	13	13	13	11	14	14	15	21	17	18	21
Confirmed ('pairs')	90	78	59	4	31	24	12	19	27	15	11
Possible ('pairs')	157	238	190	175	156	174	196	326	214	273	306
Max. total 'pairs'	247	316	249	179	187	198	208	345	241	298	317

A continued recovery from the low point in 1991, though still not quite back to the peak of 1990. The use of the word 'pairs' is normal in these reports, but does not reflect the true situation for this markedly polygynous species, the females of which are extremely elusive.

### Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Five localities: 4-8 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Two localities.

**KENT** One locality: two pairs bred, no further details.

**SUSSEX** One locality: at least one pair probably bred, two juveniles ringed in July/August.

**England, E** Three localities.

**NORFOLK** One locality: singing male in June.

**SUFFOLK** Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, third male not thought to have attracted a mate; (2) singing male in early June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	12	10	12	9	16	10	13	5	13	13	5
Confirmed (pairs)	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
Possible (pairs)	15	12	14	11	20	13	17	9	16	20	4
Max. total pairs	17	12	15	12	20	13	17	10	16	22	8

After a couple of good years, there has been a considerable decline, especially in the number of localities, with only a single record in Norfolk and two elsewhere in eastern England. This is the lowest total of confirmed and possible pairs since 1975.

### Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

15 localities: 12-58 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** One locality: singing male 7th to 20th June, possibly also a female present.

**England, SE** Nine localities: (1)-(9) total of seven pairs bred, a further eight pairs probably bred, while five pairs possibly did so; a further 14 singing males were also recorded.

**England, E** One locality: singing male reported.

**England, Central** Two localities.

**WORCESTERSHIRE** Two localities: (1)(2) total of five pairs bred successfully and there were a further 10-13 singing males.

**England, N** One locality: two singing males.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: male singing on 30th May.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities		26	28	23	18	11	13	10	12	15	13
Confirmed (pairs)	3	4	2	12	10	6	11	13	9	9	12
Possible (pairs)	53	47	40	16	11	14	11	11	23	26	46
Max. total pairs	56	51	42	28	21	20	22	24	32	35	58

A significant, and very welcome, increase in the number of localities, confirmed pairs and possible pairs, with the total pairs at its second highest level since the Panel began its monitoring in 1973, exceeded only by the 74 recorded in 1982. Not only is the Worcestershire population beginning to recover, but there has been a good spread of records from elsewhere, including a further one from Scotland. At a different locality in Scotland, there was also what may have been a breeding record, but one which has been concluded as unproven, so not included above. The *Orkney Bird Report for 1993* records that two adult warblers, thought at the time to be Marsh, were trapped and ringed in July, with one of them subsequently carrying food and behaving in an agitated manner. Three juvenile warblers were trapped in August at the same site. Subsequent analysis of wing measurements and wing formulae concluded, however, that, while the first adult fell within the range of Marsh Warbler, the second adult came within the Marsh Warbler/Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus* overlap zone. The measurements of the three juveniles were similarly inconclusive, probably because their wing feathers were not fully grown.

### Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Four localities: four singing males, one carrying nest material (*Brit. Birds* 87: 553; 88: 538-539).

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) singing male at Elmley, Kent, from 27th May to 3rd July, carrying nest material on 29th May and again, 750 m away, on 16th June; (2) singing male at Lydd, Kent, on 23rd May.

**England, E** Two localities: (1) singing male at Minsmere, Suffolk, on 28th-29th May; (2) singing male at Titchwell, Norfolk, from 11th to 17th June.

This is the fourth consecutive year in which this species has been reported to the Panel and the total is the highest reported in a single year. One wonders whether the Elmley male may have been building nests for a highly secretive, unobserved female.

**Marmora's Warbler** *Sylvia sarda*

One locality: one singing male.

**Scotland, S** One locality.

LOTHIAN One locality: singing male from 23rd to 27th May at St Abb's Head (*Brit. Birds* 87: 554).

This is the second consecutive year that this species has been included in the Panel's reports and, while perhaps of little significance, it is notable that, of the three individuals which have reached Britain, two have decided to sing.

**Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*

93-1,146 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** County maxima:

CORNWALL 3, DEVON 135, DORSET 221, HAMPSHIRE (including ISLE OF WIGHT) over 694, SOMERSET 2, WILTSHIRE 2.

**England, SE** County maxima:

BERKSHIRE 4, SURREY 71, SUSSEX 13.

**England, E** County maxima:

SUFFOLK 1.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. counties	6	6	5	5	8	6	5	8	8	7	11
Confirmed (pairs)	14	11	26	15	8	26	23	55	67	63	93
Possible (pairs)	134	429	368	293	239	616	499	873	634	863	1053
Max. total pairs	148	440	394	308	247	639	522	928	701	926	1146

The major increase in records continues, with more counties now within the range of the species. Especially notable was the singing male in Suffolk, the first such recent record for eastern England. Although some of the increase will be the result of improved coverage, there is a real underlying trend. A full census of the species took place in 1994, which will reveal the true situation.

**Desert Warbler** *Sylvia nana*

One locality: one singing male, carried nest material.

**England, E** One locality.

NORFOLK One locality: singing male at Blakeney Point from 27th May to 1st June, also carrying nest material (*Brit. Birds* 87: 556).

This is the first spring record for Britain and the first time the species has figured in the Panel's reports. This individual was subject to organised and extensive disturbance, particularly on 30th May, by birdwatchers, who should certainly have known better and who took no notice of requests from a member of the Panel to leave the bird alone.

**Greenish Warbler** *Phylloscopus trochiloides*

Three localities: three singing males (*Brit. Birds* 87: 556-558; 88: 541).

**England, SW** One locality.

DORSET One locality: singing male at Verne Common on 1st June.

**England, SE** Two localities.

KENT Two localities: (1) two singing males at Folkestone Warren from 15th June to 1st July; (2) singing male at St Margaret's Bay on 12th June.

This is the second consecutive year that this species has appeared in these reports and, although a reduction on last year's eight, the trend for spring arrivals continues, as it does for them to sing whilst here.

**Firecrest** *Regulus ignicapillus*

20 localities: 3-28 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 11 localities.

DEVON Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males in March.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) singing male from 23rd May to 5th June; (2) singing male on 3rd May.

HAMPSHIRE Six localities: (1) pair bred, two other singing males; (2) pair with four young; (3) pair in summer; (4)-(6) single singing males.

WILTSHIRE One locality: pair with fledged young, plus five singing males.

**England, SE** Six localities.

BERKSHIRE One locality: singing male on 5th June.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: at least two in May and June.

ESSEX One locality: male singing in May where has bred in past.

KENT One locality: pair probably bred.

SURREY One locality: singing male on 3rd May, perhaps a migrant.

SUSSEX One locality: pair displaying on 28th May.

**England, E** Two localities.

SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) pair, nest-building noted; (2) singing male on 18th-19th June.

**England, Central** One locality.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: singing male on 3rd June.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	75	47	24	19	37	44	52	48	19	15	20
Confirmed (pairs)	6	4	5	1	8	11	19	9	2	3	3
Possible (pairs)	169	78	41	28	74	72	112	88	20	16	25
Max. total pairs	175	82	46	29	82	83	131	97	22	19	28

A slightly better picture than in either of the two previous years. Information from the New Forest, Hampshire, is still very incomplete.

**Penduline Tit** *Remiz pendulinus*Two localities: two individuals (*Brit. Birds* 87: 559-560).**England, E** Two localities.

NORFOLK One locality: male at Titchwell from 23rd to 28th April.

SUFFOLK One locality: male at Minsmere on 25th July.

In view of last year's appearance of a bird with a brood patch, it seems worth recording these spring and summer records even though there were no signs of any breeding behaviour.

**Golden Oriole** *Oriolus oriolus*

33 localities: 14-33 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Four localities: (1)(2) single singing males; (3) single male seen; (4) female seen.**England, E** 39 localities surveyed, of which 11 held no orioles, and a minimum of 13 breeding pairs found, which fledged at least 23 young. Six other pairs probably bred, there were singing males at five sites and singles at four more.**Scotland, Mid** One locality: pair bred at a site where they have apparently done so for the last five years.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	14	11	12	13	22	35	29	38	27	37	33
Confirmed (pairs)	2	4	4	5	11	16	15	10	16	14	14
Possible (pairs)	19	14	11	11	20	25	22	32	12	23	19
Max. total pairs	21	18	15	17	31	41	37	42	28	37	33

A very similar picture to last year's, though the number of young known to have fledged in eastern England has dropped from a maximum of 30 in 1992. (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*

Six localities: 0-6 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1)(2) one at one site on 1st June and two, possibly a pair, at the second on 4th and 5th June; perhaps only two, rather than three, individuals involved.

**England, E** Three localities: (1)-(3) two single males and a single female at three different sites on single dates only.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: male on 28th May in suitable habitat.

	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
No. localities	3	4	7	3	8	6	3	7	5	13	6
Confirmed (pairs)	11	6	6	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	0
Possible (pairs)	1	4	6	2	11	6	6	7	4	12	6
Max. total pairs	12	10	12	6	13	7	6	8	5	13	6

A very poor showing, with no confirmed breeding records and low numbers of localities and pairs, and so especially disappointing after the better numbers last year.

### Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Correction to 1991 Report.

The report of an adult summering Great Grey Shrike in Suffolk in 1991 included the observer's comment that it was probably of the Iberian race *L. e. meridionalis*. At that time, the details had not been submitted to the British Birds Rarities Committee. Subsequent consideration by the Committee led to the conclusion that, while the bird was undoubtedly a Great Grey Shrike, there was insufficient evidence on which to base the racial identification.

### Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Two localities: 1-2 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, S** One locality: female paired to male Chaffinch *F. coelebs* and singing male Brambling nearby on 29th April, but not subsequently; habitat thought suitable.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: pair on 16th June, the female collecting food.

The Scottish pair in June can be assumed to have been breeding, the first case since 1988.

### European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Two localities: 0-2 pairs.

**England, SW** One locality.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: singing male from 28th May to 30th June.

**England, SE** One locality.

KENT One locality: singing male on 31st May and 1st June.

A second successive poor year, with again none in Devon, the former stronghold for the species.

### Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Six localities: 0-7 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) pair on 28th May; (2) single on 2nd June.

**England, E** One locality: singing male in full summer plumage on 27th May.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: adult male singing from 1st to 4th June, female or immature 2 km away on 11th.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1) adult male singing from 14th to 20th June in suitable habitat; (2) first-summer male singing and holding territory on 9th June.

A disappointingly poor showing after last year's prediction that the species was here to stay; perhaps, however, this is only a temporary gap in the expected colonisation.

**Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis***

Two main localities: up to 19 pairs probably breeding.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1) 15 males and 16 females located, an increase of one male and two females over 1992; (2) one male and three females reported.

These reports come mainly from surveys of two areas carried out as part of a study of the species. Details of the breeding seasons and nesting success arising from this study have recently been published (Smith & Marquiss, 1994, *Scot. Birds* 17: 323-334).

**Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus***

92-361 breeding pairs.

**England, SW**

**CORNWALL** Five localities: (1)-(3) total of three pairs bred, but two probably failed owing to poor weather, and the fate of the third was unknown; (4)(5) single males, one in March, the other in June.

**DEVON** 356 occupied territories found during a thorough survey. Of these, 90 held pairs which were confirmed as breeding, a further 123 probably did so, while in the remaining 143 territories there was a possibility that breeding occurred. The 31 pairs monitored produced 3.9 fledged young per pair, a 47% success rate, most failures coming during periods of heavy rain in June and July.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Confirmed (pairs)	36	48	98	113	92
Possible (pairs)	83	85	143	207	269
Max. total pairs	119	133	241	320	361

The table shows the increase in numbers since Dr Andy Evans, RSPB, began his study in 1989. Whilst some of the increase is due to greater recording effort, the RSPB has been quick to implement management measures, including habitat creation, based on Dr Evans' findings, which have already made a considerable contribution. The habitat creation and detailed survey work by the RSPB continues, to the great benefit of this species, which will be featured in a forthcoming paper in *British Birds* by Dr Andy Evans.

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