

# Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1994

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



**ABSTRACT** In 1994, the Rare Breeding Birds Panel's twenty-second year of operation, county coverage was complete.

It was a record year for breeding numbers of Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*, Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*, Red Kite *Milvus milvus*, Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*, Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus*, Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, and was also generally good for Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* and Hobby *Falco subbuteo*.

Among the rarer species, Common Crane *Grus grus* appears to be faltering; but Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*, Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima* and Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* were successful; and Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena* and Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* give hope for the future. Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, Corn Crake *Crex crex*, Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus* and Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* all appear to be responding to research-based conservation measures.

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This is the twenty-second annual report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel. It contains information on the breeding in 1994 of the species on the Panel's list, whether proven, probable or possible. As usual, the amount of detail included 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 below), though for some it is possible to list the actual counties. For a few species, only country totals are given.

As foreshadowed in the introduction to the report for 1993, we have been able to catch up further in our publishing timetable, so that this report appears only seven months after the previous one (*Brit. Birds* 89: 61-91). We gratefully acknowledge the help of county recorders and species co-ordinators in enabling this to be achieved.

### The Panel

The current (September 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). 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 supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies), with further 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 in 1994 was virtually complete, with records (or nil returns) received from every single county and region. There are still problems in getting comprehensive information for some species, and any known gaps are mentioned in the species accounts.

### Review of the year 1994

The 1994 breeding season was certainly not affected by bad weather to the extent that occurred in 1993, but the spring was noticeably cool and wet in some areas, with heavy rains extending through May and into June, especially in southern Britain. Some species suffered losses of nests, eggs and young to storms and floods. The general effect was of a recovery of a number of species from last year's low point, though several did no better or even declined further.

Red-necked *Podiceps grisegena* and Black-necked Grebes *P. nigricollis* both recovered from last year's low numbers to reach new peaks, but there was a sharp decline in the number of pairs of Slavonian Grebes *P. auritus*, perhaps associated with late-winter mortality, and those that did breed were no more successful than in previous years. Numbers of Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* rose, although many records were only of sporadic 'booming' birds, while the number of young known to have fledged was still small.

Although the provenance of breeding Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus* is sometimes suspect, it seems likely that those in the northern part of Scotland are most probably of wild origin and therefore the nesting of no fewer than three pairs, one successfully, is a cause for celebration. Numbers of Northern Pintails *Anas acuta* rose, though much of the increase was due to a full survey of those in Orkney, but Garganey *A. querquedula* had a poor year, with a reduction in both numbers of localities and pairs. After a poor year in 1993, numbers of breeding Common Pochards *Aythya ferina* increased to a new record high. Over one hundred possible pairs of Common Scoters *Melanitta nigra* were found.

Raptors mostly had a better season than in 1993, with more Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* breeding than ever before, though rearing no more young. The Welsh Red Kites *Milvus milvus* did very much better: although the onset of breeding was delayed by cool and wet weather in March, there were many fewer weather-induced losses of eggs or chicks. The re-established Red Kites in England and Scotland also did well, with the first nesting in both countries by birds reared there. Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and, especially, Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* had their best season in recent times in terms of numbers of breeding birds, as did Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus*. There was the first successful breeding of Hobby *Falco subbuteo* in Scotland for over a century.

More Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix* arrived than for some years. Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana*, however, followed their best year on record, with 31 singing males in 1993, with their worst for several years, with only 11, though for the second year running there was a proved breeding record. After very many years of decline, it is extremely pleasing to be able to report an increase in the number of Corn Crakes *Crex crex* in their main haunts on the Scottish islands, largely the result of conservation efforts by the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Crofters' Union.

Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* continue to suffer high losses of eggs and young, particularly to predators, though there was a substantial increase in the number of breeding pairs. Stone-curlews *Burhinus oediacnemus*, too, increased slightly in numbers, as they have done every year since 1988. Two pairs of Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* bred successfully, but numbers of potential breeders were down, and lekking was reported from only three localities. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* showed only a slight recovery from last year's low point.

The rarer waders, Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii*, Purple Sandpipers *C. maritima* and Wood Sandpipers *Tringa glareola*, had a reasonably good season, with the last-named appearing at a record eight sites, with six pairs definitely breeding. Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* increased further on Fetlar and bred for the second time at a newly discovered site.

There were similar numbers of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* to last year, though with further hybrid pairings with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*. Not only did the long-standing hybrid pair of Lesser Crested *Sterna bengalensis* and Sandwich Terns *S. sandvicensis* nest, though without rearing a chick, but a hybrid adult also bred successfully with a Sandwich Tern, fledging one young, which is therefore one-quarter Lesser Crested. Roseate Terns *S. dougallii*, after three years of increase, fell back a little.

A survey of London, including the City centre, helped to produce a substantial increase in the numbers of reported Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros*. Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris*, however, did no better than last year's disappointing results. Among the warblers, Cetti's *Cettia cetti* and, especially, Dartford *Sylvia undata* increased, the latter having been censused nationally by the RSPB and EN during the year, but Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* declined after last year's welcome increase. Savi's Warblers *Locustella luscinioides* did a little better than in 1993, but only one pair was confirmed as breeding.

Several species of vagrant warblers sang while here in the spring, and, for the second year running, and in the same locality, a male Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus* was seen carrying nesting material.

Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* suffered about the worst of any Panel species from bad weather, with heavy rain and bad storms destroying nests. Among the other passerines reported, numbers of Firecrests *Regulus ignicapillus* were up, largely thanks to survey work in the New Forest, and Cirl Buntings *Emberiza cirius* continued to increase.

Three species are reported for the first time in these reports. A Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps* bred with a Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, producing a brood of hybrid young. A Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba* of the nominate race was seen possibly breeding with one of our native British race *M. a. yarrellii*, while no fewer than three Subalpine Warblers *Sylvia cantillans* sang after arrival in the spring. There was also a record of a displaying Jack Snipe *Lymnocyrtus minimus*, only the second time that this has been noted.

### Conservation uses of Panel data

It is the policy of the Panel to make data available for conservation uses where this is compatible with the constraints of confidentiality. As well as site-specific information (e.g. for reviews of Special Protection Areas), national data sets have been used by the RSPB for planning surveys of Common Scoter and Cetti's Warbler. Panel data have also played a key role in reviews of birds of conservation concern and national population estimates.

### Publications

The results of the national survey of the Dartford Warbler have recently been published (Gibbons, 1996, *Brit. Birds* 89: 203-212). The survey was planned with the aid of Panel information. The Panel is co-ordinating the production of a number of species reviews summarising data held on individual species. The first of these, on Temminck's Stint, was published last year (Mudge & Dennis, 1995, *Brit. Birds* 88: 573-577).

### Acknowledgments

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**WALES** *Clwyd* Geoff Neal, *Dyfed: Carmarthenshire* Rob Hunt, *Dyfed: Cardigan* Peter Davis, *Dyfed: Pembroke* Graham Rees, *Glamorgan, Mid and South* Steve Moon, *Glamorgan, West* Harold Grenfell, *Gwent* Chris Jones, *Gwynedd: Anglesey* David Wright, *Gwynedd: Caernarvon* John Barnes, *Gwynedd: Merioneth* Reg Thorpe, *Powys: Breconshire* Martin Peers, *Powys: Montgomery* Brayton Holt, *Powys: Radnor* Pete Jennings.

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We should also like to express our sincere thanks to all the very many individuals whose field work produced the observations which make up this report.

### 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, Lothians 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/probable (pairs)' mean 'Number of pairs confirmed breeding' and 'Number of pairs possibly or probably breeding', respectively; 'Max. total pairs' is the sum of these.

**Great Northern Diver** *Gavia immer*

One locality: single bird.

Scotland, N & W One locality: single during the summer on a freshwater loch, where an individual also occurred for some time in summer 1993.

The 1993 record represents an addition to the 1993 report and is thus the first report since 1988.

**Pied-billed Grebe** *Podilymbus podiceps*

One locality: single (*Brit. Birds* 88: 497).

England, SW One locality: male, paired to a Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* at Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall; two clutches laid, the first producing three hybrid young, the second failing owing to falling water levels.

This is a new species for these reports and involves an individual which has been present at this locality since 1992. There has been a marked tendency for individuals of this species to stay for many years, though the chances of a male and a female getting together are probably still remote.

**Red-necked Grebe** *Podiceps grisegena*

Ten localities in ten counties: pair built platforms.

England, SE Two localities: (1) single from November 1993 to November 1994; (2) single during 5th-15th June.

England, E Two localities: (1) one from 28th April to 5th November, calling during April and May; (2) one from 3rd May to 2nd August.

England, Central One locality: one in summer plumage on 24th April, and during 9th-11th July.

England, N Three localities: (1) single(s) on 8th May, 29th June and 18th July; (2) adult from 16th May to mid August; (3) fledged juvenile on 23rd July, definitely not bred at site.

Scotland, S One locality: pair at regular summering site from 15th March to 1st July, seen copulating and built nest platforms, but no egg-laying suspected.

Scotland, Mid One locality: six (ages unknown) on 18th September possibly summered at this potential breeding site.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	1	1	5	10	8	6	5	3	9	7	10
No. individuals	1	4	5	9	12	9	3	4	12	7	13
No. pairs	0	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	0	1

After a gap of one year, the southern Scotland pair was back and was observed copulating and nest-building, but, as usual, not progressing further. The fledged juvenile in northern England in July is early for a migrant.

**Slavonian Grebe** *Podiceps auritus*

32 localities: 51-59 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid and N & W 32 localities: (1)-(32) total of 51 pairs bred, producing minimum of 30 young to near fledging; also eight singles.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	26	40	43	39	22	39	36	31	34	33	32
Confirmed (pairs)	39	63	68	33	31	70	74	61	72	73	51
Possible/probable (pairs)	21	18	19	6	6	8	12	13	5	4	8
Max. total pairs	60	81	87	39	37	78	86	74	77	77	59

There has been a substantial decline in the number of breeding pairs this year, which may, perhaps, be linked to the large-scale mortality of seabirds on the east

coast of Scotland in February–March 1994. The 30 young produced represented a production of 0.6 young per pair, which is close to the long-term average. (The Panel is grateful to the North of Scotland Regional Office of the RSPB for information on numbers and breeding performance.)

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

32 localities in 19 counties: 27–81 pairs breeding, hatching at least 46 young.

**England, SW** Two localities: 0–3 pairs.

DORSET Two localities: up to three pairs.

**England, SE** Three localities: 0–4 pairs.

HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: one. KENT Two localities: three singles.

**England, E** Five localities: 0–6 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: two singles. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Three localities: four singles.

**England, Central** Five localities: 0–6 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: two pairs, including display. LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: two singles. WARWICKSHIRE Two localities: pair and one single.

**England, N** Ten localities: 26–41 pairs.

CHESHIRE Three localities: pair bred, three pairs and one single. GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: five pairs bred, and one single. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair. NORTH HUMBERSIDE

One locality: 14 pairs bred. NORTHUMBERLAND Three localities: six pairs bred, and nine singles.

**Wales** Two localities: 0–3 pairs.

CLWYD One locality: two singles. GWENT One locality: one.

**Scotland, S** One locality: 0–1 pairs.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: one.

**Scotland, Mid** Four localities: 1–17 pairs.

ANGUS One locality: 11 pairs, no breeding details. FIFE Two localities: pair bred, second pair possibly bred, and three singles. PERTSHIRE One locality: pair.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	17	17	15	19	22	19	19	25	29	31	32
Confirmed (pairs)	17	9	11	27	15	25	21	19	26	24	27
Possible/probable (pairs)	13	13	22	12	20	15	16	34	34	26	54
Max. total pairs	30	22	33	39	35	40	37	53	60	50	81

After last year's slight decline, the number of confirmed pairs equals the previous record total in 1987, while there has been a substantial increase in the number of possible pairs. There was, however, less breeding activity in the southern half of England than in recent years.

### **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 26th March to 24th July.

After becoming a little sporadic in its appearances, this year's stay was even longer than last year's. This individual has now been summering in British waters for 24 years, going missing only in 1988 and 1989.

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

16 localities: minimum of 20 and maximum of 22 booming males, at least eight or nine young fledged.

**England, SE** One locality: booming male on 8th and 10th May.

**England, E** 12 localities: (1) two booming males and four females, two of latter probably did not breed, two broods seen, immature male also present; (2)(3) booming male and female at each site, bred and hatched two young; (4) booming male and female, laid but nest destroyed by predator; (5)(6) booming male and female at each site, probably had nests; (7) three or four

booming males, no breeding information; (8)-(10) single booming males, one on one date only; (11) one through winter and until 9th May, also an adult seen from 30th August to 10th September; (12) single in July.

**England, N** Three localities: (1) four booming males, a fifth in April/May was probably an immature; (2)(3) single booming males.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	18	15	12	17	14	14	12	13	14	13	16
Confirmed nests	5	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5
Booming males	36	28	23	22	30	30	20	19	19	17	20

A slightly better year than in 1993, though some of the booming males were heard only very briefly and were away from the regular sites.

### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Two localities: three pairs.

**England, SW** Two localities: (1) two pairs in breeding season; (2) pair in breeding season.

There was no overt breeding behaviour observed this year, but these birds were obviously paired, in contrast to those in the many flocks now present in Britain throughout the winter. It can be only a matter of time before breeding is proved for this species.

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

14 localities: five pairs breeding, two of which were wild; nine young reared.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) released pair fledged five young; (2) released pair and three singles at 1992 and 1993 breeding site, but no attempt to breed this year.

**Scotland, S** Four localities: (1) pair, probably released, fledged three young; (2) pair, perhaps released, built nest, but abandoned it apparently without laying; (3) single summered, presumed injured; (4) adult on 26th June may have been injured.

**Scotland, N & W** Eight localities: (1) pair fledged three young; (2) pair laid four eggs, which did not hatch; (3) pair laid but nest robbed; (4) pair summered and may have attempted to breed; (5)-(8) singles summering.

It seems highly probable that the pairs breeding in north and west Scotland were all genuinely wild and make this year the best for this species since it was first included in the Panel's report for 1978. If this species has begun to colonise naturally, it is going to be made more difficult to monitor if, simultaneously, we are witnessing an artificial introduction.

### Pink-footed Goose *Anser brachyrhynchus*

One locality: one.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: one on 2nd June, apparently paired with a Greylag Goose *A. anser*.

It is likely that this individual was a genuinely wild bird belonging to the Greenland/Iceland population, which stayed on after the spring migration, perhaps because of injury.

### Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

49 localities: 20-76 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** One locality: 0-1 pairs.

**SOMERSET** One locality: single male.

**England, SE** Eight localities: 0-9 pairs.

**ESSEX** Three localities: pair probably bred, one other pair and one male. **HERTFORDSHIRE** Four localities: pair and four single males. **KENT** One locality: pair.

**England, E** Four localities: 0-4 pairs.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: two pairs, one may have attempted to breed. SUFFOLK Two localities: two pairs.

England, N Four localities: 5-17 pairs.

CHESHIRE Two localities: at least 11 pairs, but no breeding evidence. CLEVELAND One locality: pair. YORKSHIRE One locality: five pairs fledged 24 young.

Wales Four localities: 4-8 pairs.

ANGLESEY Three localities: at least three singles. PEMBROKESHIRE One locality: four out of five pairs bred.

Scotland, S One locality: 0-1 pairs.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: single male.

Scotland, N & W 26 localities: 10-35 pairs.

ARGYLL Four localities: pair bred, two other pairs and two singles. ORKNEY 19 localities: a survey of Orkney revealed six definite breeding pairs, plus a further ten pairs, as well as ten additional males and a female. SHETLAND Three localities: three pairs bred.

Northern Ireland One locality: pair.

DOWN One locality: pair bred.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	15	17	14	16	20	16	20	28	23	23	49
Confirmed (pairs)	5	9	6	7	14	11	9	4	13	4	20
Possible/probable (pairs)	13	12	12	14	15	28	27	39	35	43	56
Max. total pairs	18	21	18	21	29	38	36	43	48	47	76

Much of the apparent increase in the number of localities and breeding pairs is attributable to a comprehensive survey undertaken in Orkney, although even without these there has been an increase. The survey confirmed the continuing importance of Orkney for this species, with figures that compare well with the 1991 census total of 22-26 pairs (Meek, 1991, *Scot. Birds* 17: 14-19).

### Garganey *Anas querquedula*

65 localities: 13-111 pairs breeding.

England, SW 13 localities: 1-23 pairs.

AVON Two localities: two pairs and one male. DEVON Six localities: up to nine singles.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair. SOMERSET Four localities: pair bred, two other pairs and seven males.

England, SE 13 localities: 0-19 pairs.

ESSEX One locality: three pairs probably bred. HERTFORDSHIRE Four localities: pair and four singles. KENT Four localities: two pairs and five males. SUSSEX Four localities: pair and three males.

England, E 18 localities: 6-35 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: at least three pairs bred, 11 other pairs and one male.

NORFOLK Two localities: three pairs bred and a fourth may have done. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Three localities: pair and two males. SOUTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: single male. SUFFOLK Nine localities: six pairs and six males.

England, Central Two localities: 0-2 pairs.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: two males.

England, N Five localities: 3-16 pairs.

CHESHIRE Two localities: pair and three males. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair. NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: three of seven pairs definitely bred. YORKSHIRE One locality: four pairs, no breeding information.

Wales Seven localities: 0-7 pairs.

ANGLESEY One locality: pair. REST OF COUNTRY Six records of singles.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: 0-2 pairs.

FIFE One locality: pair. PERTSHIRE One locality: single male.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: 1-4 pairs.

ARGYLL Two localities: pair bred and one male. ROSS & CROMARTY One locality: pair.

Northern Ireland Two localities: 2-3 pairs.

ARMAGH One locality: pair bred, and one male. DOWN One locality: pair bred.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	46	32	42	36	37	81	87	90	90	73	65
Confirmed (pairs)	4	4	8	8	11	18	14	12	16	14	13
Possible/probable (pairs)	53	36	47	37	40	80	97	82	144	149	98
Max. total pairs	57	40	55	45	51	98	111	94	160	163	111

A relatively poor year for this species, with fewer reported from almost all parts of the UK compared with 1993. The numbers of this species do tend to be highly variable from one year to the next.

### Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*

One locality: female possibly paired to Northern Shoveler *A. chrypeata*.

**England, SE** One locality: adult female consorting with a male Northern Shoveler from 18th to 30th May.

This is the second year running in which this species has appeared in these reports and the third in all. On the two previous occasions, a male Blue-winged Teal has been paired to a Northern Shoveler, so it is interesting that the attraction works the other way around, too.

### Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

158 localities or areas: 347-638 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 15 localities: 19-65 pairs.

AVON One locality: ten pairs and three males, no breeding evidence. CORNWALL One locality: pair and one male. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One locality: pair bred, and two males. HAMPSHIRE Seven localities: 16 pairs bred, ten other pairs and two males. SOMERSET One locality: two pairs bred. WILTSHIRE Four localities: three pairs probably bred, five other pairs and nine males.

**England, SE** 48 localities or areas: 167-261 pairs.

BERKSHIRE One locality: one male. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Five localities: up to five birds at each, no breeding evidence. ESSEX Eight localities: 29 pairs bred, and 23 other pairs. GREATER LONDON Ten localities: 36 pairs bred, and one male. HERTFORDSHIRE Five localities: 10 pairs bred, and nine other pairs. KENT Nine localities or areas: 86 pairs bred, and seven other pairs. SURREY Eight localities: four pairs bred, 23 other pairs and four singles. SUSSEX Two localities: two pairs bred, and one other pair.

**England, E** 36 localities or areas: 85-138 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Seven localities: pair bred, 15 other pairs and two singles. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: 16 pairs bred. NORFOLK County survey: 65-68 pairs bred at minimum of 11 localities, though not all key sites in Broads area covered. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Ten localities: pair bred, at least nine singles. SUFFOLK Seven localities: two pairs bred, 11 other pairs and 13 singles.

**England, Central** 21 localities: 9-41 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE Seven localities: three pairs bred and at least four singles. LEICESTERSHIRE Seven localities: five pairs and 20 males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Four localities: five pairs bred. WARWICKSHIRE Two localities: pair bred, one other pair and one single. WEST MIDLANDS One locality: pair.

**England, N** 20 localities: 50-86 pairs.

CHESHIRE Four localities: summering flocks only. CLEVELAND Two localities: seven pairs bred. CUMBRIA One locality: three pairs bred. GREATER MANCHESTER Three localities: four pairs bred, one other pair and six males. LANCASHIRE Three localities: 17 pairs bred. NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: 11 pairs, but no breeding information. NORTHUMBERLAND Four localities: 14 pairs bred. YORKSHIRE Two localities: five pairs bred, and 18 other pairs.

**Wales** Five localities: 8-17 pairs.

ANGLESEY One locality: pair bred, and nine other pairs. CARMARTHEN Three localities: four pairs bred. GLAMORGAN One locality: three pairs bred.

**Scotland, S** Six localities: 3-11 pairs.

BORDERS Five localities: two pairs bred, four other pairs and four males. LOTHIAN One locality: pair bred.

**Scotland, Mid** Five localities: 6-17 pairs.

ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: pair. ANGUS One locality: seven pairs. FIFE Two localities: five pairs bred. PERTHSHIRE One locality: pair bred, and three males.  
**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: 0-2 pairs.  
 CAITHNESS Two localities: two singles.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	68	63	138	116	133	161	145	117	158
Confirmed (pairs)	126	130	185	260	207	284	266	237	347
Possible/probable (pairs)	59	44	162	76	86	144	292	179	291
Max. total pairs	185	174	347	336	293	428	558	416	638

After last year's fall in numbers, 1994 was a much better year, with reports from many more localities and involving larger numbers, achieving the highest number of confirmed and total pairs ever recorded, reinforcing the dramatic increase of the last few years.

### Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

One locality: pair.

**Scotland, N** One locality: pair on 25th May.

A minimal return after two blank years.

### Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

47 localities: 5-84 pairs.

**Scotland, S** One locality: two in July.

**Scotland, Mid** Five localities: (1)-(4) minimum of four pairs and two males, but movement between sites obscured true total; (5) female on 27th June only.

**Scotland, N & W** 41 localities.

ARGYLL Two localities: (1) up to seven pairs and three males in June; (2) female with five young on 4th August. HIGHLAND 38 localities: (1)-(38) survey work by the RSPB revealed four broods, 57 pairs and two singles. SHETLAND One locality: pair, no young seen.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	9	25	35	15	36	7	9	14	32	38	47
Confirmed (pairs)	17	2	8	29	14	8	6	9	9	16	5
Possible/probable (pairs)	52	72	92	33	76	32	23	21	62	72	79
Max. total pairs	69	74	100	62	90	40	29	30	71	88	84

The increased total of localities almost certainly reflects an increase in fieldwork prior to a full survey in 1995, rather than a genuine increase.

### Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Breeding predominantly in one extensive nestbox scheme for which only sample data are available, so there is no longer an estimate of the total number of breeding pairs. Increasing numbers are summering elsewhere, although no breeding has been proved as yet.

**England, SW** One locality.

DORSET One locality: male summered; one has been present for many years.

**England, SE** Three localities.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: female on 28th May only. HERTFORDSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair stayed to mid May, with male displaying and female defending nestbox; (2) injured female summered.

**England, Central** Four localities.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) male from 14th May to 26th June; (2) male stayed until 31st May. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) male summered; (2) female summered.

**England, N** Four localities.

CHESHIRE Three localities: (1)-(3) female in June and August, possibly the same individual.

LANCASHIRE One locality: at least one released pair bred, but success unknown.

**Wales** Three localities.

ANGLESEY Two localities: (1) female from 4th June to 29th July; (2) single on 27th June.

MERIONETH One locality: female remained until mid June.

**Scotland, S** Four localities.

DUMFRIES &amp; GALLOWAY Three localities: (1) two males and a female in mid May, with males remaining until mid June; (2)(3) two immatures seen at each site. LOTHIAN One locality: pair and an immature male stayed to 25th May.

**Scotland, Mid** Four localities.

CENTRAL One locality: female with six young. TAYSIDE Three localities: (1) two females with broods on 8th July; (2) several males and females throughout spring, females remaining into summer; (3) six immature males on 16th May.

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

ARGYLL One locality: female on 19th July. HIGHLAND Four localities: (1) 46 pairs attempted to nest in boxes, 16 of which hatched at least one young; (2) 27 pairs nested in boxes and one in a natural site, with mean clutch size of 7.86 (range 2-20); (3) 25 pairs in boxes and two in natural sites laid, with a mean clutch size of 8.07, and 16 pairs fledged 123 young (mean brood size 7.69); (4) single on 30th June.

The results from Highland Region refer to a sample only of the many boxes available to the species. Elsewhere, the successful breeding in Central Region is an indication of a slow spread southwards.

**Honey-buzzard** *Pernis apivorus*

22 localities in 12 counties: 9-28 pairs breeding; minimum of 11 young reared.

**Great Britain** 22 localities: (1)-(4) single pairs each raised two young, a second male was present at one site; (5)-(7) single pairs each raised at least one young, three unattached birds at one site; (8)(9) single pairs bred but nests probably destroyed by predators, second male also seen at one site; (10)(11) single pairs built nests; (12) two pairs in July and August, with some display; (13)(14) single pairs at possible nesting sites; (15)-(22) singles only.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Confirmed (pairs)	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	8	6	9
Max. total pairs	2	4	6	7	10	20	19	22	26	27	28

The long-term increase for this species has been sustained. The number of pairs confirmed as breeding is the highest ever, and while their production of 11 young is perhaps disappointing, even though it equals last year's record, it is probably quite reasonable for a large bird of prey.

**Red Kite** *Milvus milvus*

111 wild pairs reared 99 young, and 28 released pairs reared 50 young.

**Wales** 111 pairs were proved to breed, of which 70 were successful, rearing 99 young, all three totals being new records. In addition, there were a further 25 non-breeding pairs, while 94 unmated individuals were identified during the spring. The total population was estimated at at least 465 in August, up by 68 on August 1993. Cool and very wet weather in March and early April delayed the onset of laying and also interfered with fieldwork, so that it is possible that a number of pairs were missed. (The Panel's thanks go to Peter Davis for his detailed report. His work is funded by the RSPB and the Welsh Office 'Kite Country Initiative', with additional support from the Countryside Council for Wales.)

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total pairs	46	54	58	59	68	71	84	92	102	115	136
Breeding pairs	33	43	40	44	49	54	65	76	84	104	111
Successful pairs	13	19	23	27	27	33	47	41	60	61	70
Young reared	21	25	29	39	38	49	73	62	96	82	99
Young/successful pair	1.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4

The re-established breeding populations in England and Scotland continued to make excellent progress and the Panel is grateful to Ian Evans, JNCC, and Lorcan O'Toole, RSPB, for the following information.

**England** 20 pairs bred, of which 17 were exceptionally successful, fledging a total of 37 young. One of the three breeding failures occurred during the early stages of incubation, the other two after hatching. For the first time, birds reared in nests in Britain themselves bred and reared young. A further 20 juvenile Red Kites were imported from Spain and released in southern England. The total August population of Red Kites in England was 128.

**Scotland** Eight pairs were proved breeding, of which six were successful, rearing 13 young. The two pairs which failed both abandoned their clutches during incubation; the female of one pair was the first Scottish-bred chick to attempt to breed, but was not successful. Three further pairs built nests and five single males held territory, including another Scottish-bred bird. There were no releases this year, and the total August population of Red Kites in Scotland was 54.

England	1991	1992	1993	1994	Scotland	1992	1993	1994
Total pairs	2	7	12	22	Total pairs	2	8	11
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	20	Breeding pairs	1	5	8
Successful pairs	0	4	8	17	Successful pairs	1	3	6
Young reared	0	9	14	37	Young reared	1	7	13
Young/successful pair	-	2.2	1.8	2.2	Young/successful pair	1.0	1.0	2.2

Correction to 1993 report: only one pair bred in Scotland in 1992, not two as shown in the table in that report.

### White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

#### Re-establishment.

**Scotland** Ten territories were occupied by territory-holding pairs, including one by a male with two females. Eight clutches were laid and five young reared from four broods, the same as in 1993. One clutch was laid by an immature male which is Scottish-bred; his adult female mate was also probably bred in Scotland, making this the first definite breeding attempt by Scottish-bred birds. An additional territory was occupied by a single female which laid an infertile clutch. Ten further immatures were brought from Norway and released.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Breeding pairs	2	4	5	6	6	6	9	8	9	6	8
Successful pairs	0	1	1	2	1	3	2	4	4	4	4
Young reared	0	1	2	3	2	5	2	7	7	5	5
Young/successful pair	-	1.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Although the number of breeding pairs has recovered from last year's drop, the success rate remains low. The Panel is grateful to the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information. The Project is jointly supported by the JNCC, SNH and the RSPB.

Correction to 1992 and 1993 reports: seven young were reared in four broods, not three, in 1992.

### Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

114 males and 129 females bred, rearing at least 255 young.

**Great Britain** The figures for breeding males and females shown in the table should be treated with caution as not all sex ratios are known in polygamous situations. The number of young reported to have fledged is easily another record.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Breeding males	27	29	26	40	42	58	73	83	92	84	114
Breeding females	32	31	32	46	56	66	110	91	107	110	129
Young	66	86	82	126	145	172	145	198	229	244	255

A welcome increase in the number of breeding adults, though their production of young per nest was slightly down on last year. (The Panel wishes to thank Bob Image for the continued provision of detailed information on this species.)

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

15 localities: seven males and 12 females reared a minimum of 13 young.

**England, SW** Three localities: (1) male with two females, one of which fledged three or four young, the other of which probably failed; (2)(3) individuals present but not known whether nesting occurred.

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) male with two females, one nest was destroyed by a predator, presence of a second nest was suspected; (2) summering adult male occasionally joined by immature female.

**England, E** Nine localities: (1) total of five males and nine females in one extensive locality fledged at least ten young, three nests were destroyed by predators; (2) displaying pair in early June; (3) pair; (4) displaying adult male; (5)-(9) singles, one female joined briefly by an immature male.

**England, N** One locality: one or two individuals, but no evidence of breeding.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	2	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12	8	15
Breeding males	2	3	7	4	5	4	8	5	7	5	7
Other males	1	5	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	9
Breeding females	1	3	7	5	6	6	11	7	8	6	12
Other females	1	5	3	4	4	7	2	6	4	1	11
Young	3	7	13	13	17	14	20	14	12	9	13

A most welcome increase across the board, due mainly to a remarkable surge of breeding in eastern England, with the highest numbers in one area for 70 years. It remains to be seen whether this higher population can be maintained.

### Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 210 localities: 145-225 pairs breeding.

**England and Wales** Up to 156 localities in 28 counties: up to 105 pairs bred, of which 87 were reported as successful, fledging 183 young; 21 nests are known to have failed; an additional 55 pairs and 14 singles were reported.

**Scotland** At least 51 localities in four regions: 40 pairs known to have bred, of which 38 were successful, rearing at least 113 young; an additional eight pairs were reported.

**Northern Ireland** Three localities in one county: pair probably bred, and two single males, both displaying.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. counties	22	20	31	31	31	23	30	36	34	35	33
Confirmed (pairs)	36	36	57	54	108	112	93	158	150	199	145
Possible/probable (pairs)	42	39	59	40	68	54	79	71	93	100	80
Max. total pairs	78	75	116	94	176	166	172	229	243	299	225

Although the number of pairs has fallen, this may not reflect the true situation in view of the paucity of information from some areas. We would repeat our previous encouragement of 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*

95 pairs: 83 pairs laid eggs, rearing 146 young.

**England, SW** One locality: single in late May.

**England, Central** One locality: two birds, probably first-year male and female, from late May to late August.

**Scotland, S** Three localities: (1)-(3) singles in summer.

**Elsewhere in Scotland** The number of pairs continues to increase, reaching 95, an increase of seven over 1993. 83 pairs laid clutches, of which 71 hatched, with 69 successful pairs rearing 146 young, an average of 1.54 per pair, the best success rate of recent years.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Pairs	31	34	42	50	53	58	62	73	76	88	95
Successful pairs	21	22	24	30	38	38	44	44	48	56	69
Young reared	47	53	48	56	81	81	90	82	101	111	146
Young/successful pair	2.2	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1

A substantial increase in numbers of pairs. Several of the nest failures were due to strong winds, while predation by Pine Martens *Martes martes* was probably to blame in a number of cases. There was a single instance of probable egg robbery and another failure was attributed to human disturbance. (The Panel is grateful for the information supplied to it by Roy Dennis and his associates.)

### Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 460 localities: 170-500 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 45-122 pairs, 90 young reported.

AVON 6-11 pairs. CORNWALL 2 pairs. DEVON 15-20 pairs. DORSET 11-31 pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 0-1 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 10-51 or more pairs. SOMERSET 1-5 pairs. WILTSHIRE 0-1 pairs.

**England, SE** 65-218 pairs, 60 young reported.

BEDFORDSHIRE 3-7 pairs. BERKSHIRE 5-10 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 7-22 pairs. ESSEX 22-39 pairs.

GREATER LONDON 10-29 pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 1-33 pairs. KENT 1-18 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE 9 or more pairs. SURREY 7-41 pairs. SUSSEX 0-10 pairs.

**England, E** 27-60 pairs, 40 young reported.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1-5 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE 5-10 pairs. NORFOLK 7-8 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 7 pairs. SUFFOLK 7-30 pairs.

**England, Central** 22-78 pairs, 46 young reported.

DERBYSHIRE 10-24 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE 4-28 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 4-10 pairs. SHROPSHIRE 0-1 pairs. STAFFORDSHIRE 0-3 pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 1-6 pairs. WEST MIDLANDS 1 pair. WORCESTERSHIRE 2-5 pairs.

**England, N** 1-3 pairs, one young reported.

CHESHIRE 1 pair. NORTHUMBERLAND 0-2 pairs.

**Wales** 9-13 pairs, ten young reported.

BRECONSHIRE 0-2 pairs. CLWYD 1 pair. GLAMORGAN 1 pair. GWENT 4-6 pairs. MONTGOMERY 2 pairs. RADNORSHIRE 1 pair.

**Scotland, S** 0-5 pairs.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 0-5 pairs.

**Scotland, Mid** 1 pair, two young reported.

FFIFE 1 pair.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Confirmed (pairs)	93	98	91	108	103	140	154	159	255	152	170
Possible/probable (pairs)	116	148	202	164	226	250	287	310	327	341	330
Max. total pairs	209	246	293	272	329	390	441	469	582	493	500
Young reared (min.)	91	117	126	160	133	205	239	265	279	243	249

The reported numbers were closely similar to those in 1993, although as always this must represent a minimum estimate. The successful breeding of a pair in Scotland appears to be only the second such record for the country, the first having been in 1887. The other four Scottish records were of singles in June.

### Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

At least 359 localities: 8-612 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 94 localities: 4-181 pairs.

AVON Two localities: 11 singing males. CORNWALL Seven localities: pair and eight singing males. DEVON 15 localities: 19 singing males. DORSET 11 localities: 14 singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Nine localities: ten singing males. HAMPSHIRE 14 localities: 29 singing males. SOMERSET Nine localities: four pairs bred, and 18 singing males. WILTSHIRE 27 localities: 67 singing males.

**England, SE** 51 localities: 1-91 pairs.

BERKSHIRE Two localities: 12 singing males. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Four localities: four singing males. ESSEX Eight localities: 16 singing males. GREATER LONDON One locality: one singing male. HERTFORDSHIRE Ten localities: 11 singing males. KENT Five localities: 11 singing males. OXFORDSHIRE 12 localities: 26 singing males. SURREY One locality: one singing male. SUSSEX Eight localities: pair bred, and eight singing males.

**England, E** 84 localities: 0-132 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 17 localities: 30 singing males. LINCOLNSHIRE 12 localities: 12 singing males. NORFOLK 30 localities: 55 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 19 localities: 28 singing males. SUFFOLK Six localities: seven singing males.

**England, Central** 50 localities: 3-75 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE 22 localities: two pairs bred, and 23 singing males. LEICESTERSHIRE Seven localities: 11 singing males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Eight localities: 16 singing males. STAFFORDSHIRE Four localities: 14 singing males. WARWICKSHIRE Four localities: pair bred, and three singing males. WORCESTERSHIRE Five localities: five singing males.

**England, N** 35 localities: 0-73 pairs.

CHESHIRE Six localities: ten singing males. CLEVELAND Five localities: eight singing males. CUMBRIA Five localities: seven singing males and three females flushed. GREATER MANCHESTER Four localities: ten singing males and one female seen. LANCASHIRE Eight localities: 16 singing males. NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: seven singing males and two females. NORTHUMBERLAND Six localities: eight singing males and one bird flushed.

**Wales** 20 localities: 0-30 pairs.

ANGLESEY Four localities: five singing males. BRECONSHIRE Three localities: three singing males. CAERNARVON One locality: one singing male. CARDIGAN One locality: one singing male. CARMARTHEN Two localities: two singing males. CLWYD One locality: five singing males. GLAMORGAN Two localities: five singing males. GWENT One locality: one singing male. MERIONETH One locality: one found injured. PEMBROKESHIRE Four localities: six singing males.

**Scotland, S** 17 localities: 0-20 pairs.

AYRSHIRE One locality: one singing male. BORDERS Five localities: six singing males. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three localities: three singing males. LOTHIAN Eight localities: nine singing males and one bird seen.

**Scotland, Mid** Three localities: 0-4 pairs.

ABERDEENSHIRE Two localities: three singing males. PERTHSHIRE One locality: one singing male.

**Scotland, N & W** Five localities: 0-6 pairs.

ARGYLL One locality: one singing male. CAITHNESS Two localities: two singing males. ROSS & CROMARTY Two localities: three singing males.



	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	84	152	130	904	255	88	319	172	359
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	5	27	13	2	9	1	8
Possible/probable (pairs)	110	245	158	1,628	364	105	481	202	604
Max. total pairs	111	246	163	1,655	377	107	490	203	612

The numbers of this species are highly variable from year to year, but this year contains the most reports since the bumper total in 1989.

### Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Five localities: 1-11 pairs breeding.

**England, E** One locality: four singing males in May and June, with at least one brood of young seen in June and July.

**Wales** One locality: three singing males.

**Scotland, N & W** Three localities: (1) two singing males from 31st May to 26th June; (2) male heard on 26th May only; (3) male heard on 21st June only.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. counties	3	2	3	4	5	7	6	5	9	12	4
No. localities	4	2	3	7	6	14	14	7	12	19	5
No. singing	10	3	4	18	10	21	21	14	14	31	11

A very disappointing year after the higher numbers in 1993, despite a rare confirmation of breeding by one pair for the second year running, with declines in all three countries.

### Corn Crake *Crex crex*

30 'localities': 478 males singing.

**England, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE** One singing male from 13th to 17th June.

**England, N NORTH YORKSHIRE** Three singing males at one locality in early June, and one in July; two unsexed birds in same area.

**Wales ANGLESEY** Pair almost certainly bred at one site; singing male at second site in late June.

**PEMBROKE** Single singing males at two localities in April and May.

**Scotland, S BORDERS** Single singing males at two localities, one in May and June, one in July.

**Scotland, N & W** Totals of singing males: HIGHLAND—CAITHNESS 5, HIGHLAND—INNER HEBRIDES 14 (Skye 9, Canna 2, Eigg 2, Muck 1), STRATHCLYDE—INNER HEBRIDES 174 (Coll 25, Tiree 126, Mull 1, Iona 3, Colonsay & Oronsay 6,Islay 13), ORKNEY 20, WESTERN ISLES 255 (Lewis 89, Harris 7, North Uist 51, Benbecula 19, South Uist 49, Barra & Vatersay 40).

A total of 463 singing males was found by RSPB, SNH and Scottish Crofters' Union teams on the Scottish islands this year, a small but very welcome increase over the 446 found during the census year of 1993. Considerable effort and expense has been involved to secure appropriate management for Corn Crakes and it is to be hoped that the corner has been turned, just in time.

Corn Crake is one of the priority species for which an action plan has recently been published through the UK Government's Biodiversity Action Planning Initiative, whilst a Europe-wide recovery programme has recently been agreed jointly by the European Union and the Council of Europe's Bern Convention. All of these programmes stress the importance of monitoring, an area where birdwatchers can assist through continued provision of observations to the Panel.

### Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

**United Kingdom** Three pairs bred, but no young were reared. One pair reared one young to

14 days, when it died. Two other pairs laid but did not hatch any eggs and may be infertile.

No young have been reared since 1988 and the prospects for this tiny breeding group look bleak, especially as it is suspected that two of the pairs are infertile.

### Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

At least 29 localities: 623-669 pairs reared a minimum of 181 young.

**England, SE** 13 localities.

ESSEX Three localities: (1) 45 pairs bred, success unknown; (2) 14 pairs bred, ten nests destroyed by Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes*, six young fledged; (3) two pairs summered. KENT Nine localities: (1) 97 pairs laid, at least 35 nests hatched but only 28 young fledged from 14 broods, with failure probably due to high water levels and competition for food; (2) ten pairs bred in flooded fields after earlier failure, three pairs hatched but no young fledged; (3) 37 pairs present, but only five pairs bred and only three young seen; (4) five pairs fledged at least seven young; (5) two pairs fledged seven young; (6) pair fledged three young; (7) pair with single young; (8) pair on nest but not successful; (9) 21 adults present, but no nesting attempt. SUSSEX One locality: pair on nest, success unknown.

**England, E** 16 localities.

NORFOLK 11 localities: (1) 29 pairs bred, success unknown; (2) 25 pairs made 52 nesting attempts, but fledged only six young; (3) 11 pairs laid and all hatched young, of which at least 17 fledged; (4) ten pairs reared at least ten young; (5) pair bred, but nest flooded; (6)-(11) total of 133 pairs bred at these six localities, but no details available. SOUTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: two pairs bred, three young fledged. SUFFOLK Four localities: (1) 105 pairs hatched a minimum of 252 young but only 30 young fledged, with most losses due to predation; (2) 103 pairs fledged 35 young; (3) 22 pairs hatched 14 broods and fledged 24 young; (4) pair present, but did not breed.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	11	14	15	18	27	24	21	21	29	25	29
Confirmed (pairs)	237	269	255	341	389	521	355	448	492	436	623
Young reared (min.)	118	245	227	315	136	150	200	305	336	347	181

Information on the number of young reared is incomplete, but, even allowing for this, predation clearly remains a serious problem in some colonies, added to the more usual, and less controllable, losses due to high tides.

### Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Eight counties: 141-173 pairs.

**England, SW & SE** Five counties: 47-53 pairs, of which 46-52 were confirmed as breeding, fledging 34 young, plus an additional 13 singles.

**England, E** Three counties: 105 pairs, of which 95 were confirmed as breeding, fledging at least 57 young, plus an additional two singles.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Confirmed (pairs)	19	68	103	137	126	126	139	139	155	146	141
Possible/probable (pairs)	52	47	12	0	3	17	10	16	4	16	32
Max. total pairs	71	115	115	137	129	143	149	155	159	162	173
Min. no. of young fledged	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	62	79	112	123	111	101	91

Despite a slight drop in the number of confirmed pairs and relatively poor production, the situation continues to improve slowly, helped by continued research-based management undertaken by the RSPB and English Nature. (The Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green, RSPB, for his assistance in compiling the data.)

**Dotterel** *Charadrius morinellus*

Two localities: two pairs breeding (excluding those in main Scottish breeding areas).

**England, N** One locality.

CUMBRIA One locality: pair laid three eggs, two subsequently found broken in nest and fate of third unknown.

**Scotland** Pair reared three young at a site well away from the main breeding range.

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 those on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage.

**Temminck's Stint** *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: two pairs.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: four adults seen, with two males displaying in late May and one in late June. It is thought that one pair probably laid but failed.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	1	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2
Max. total pairs	1	2	3	5	3	3	2	3	2	3	2

As mentioned in last year's report, a recent paper summarised the history of breeding in Britain by this species (*Brit. Birds* 88: 573-577).

**Purple Sandpiper** *Calidris maritima*

One general area: at least four pairs bred.

**Scotland, N & W** One general area: four adults, with young and giving distraction displays, at separate sites.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	1	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	4
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0
Max. total pairs	2	3	2	3	2	4	1	4	2	1	4

This species continues to be present in very low numbers. The apparent increase over last year may just reflect more observers being in the right place at the right time rather than a genuine increase in numbers breeding.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*

13 localities: at least two pairs bred.

**England, SE** Three localities.

KENT One locality: five adults in spring but perhaps only migrants. SUSSEX Two localities: (1) two in April; (2) single in July; perhaps all migrants.

**England, E** Four localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) numerous on passage in April and May, with lekking at end of April, one male from lek staying until mid May; (2) many migrants in April and May, but no lekking seen. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) pair during 19th-30th June; (2) female on 20th June; perhaps all migrants.

**England, N** Six localities.

CHESHIRE Three localities: (1)-(3) present at all sites April to July, with maximum of 72 birds, but no lekking seen. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: one with damaged wing, arrived with

migrants in April and remained until mid July. NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: up to 31 males and 12 females at leks; four females seen copulating; three just-fledged young (broods of two and one) with two females and seven males on 2nd July. NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: 12 males and at least 30 females at lek; one copulation seen.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	6	8	7	16	14	15	8	9	21	10	13
No. leks	1	3	3	10	6	6	1	4	7	7	3
Nests/broods	0	0	1	1	1	1	3	7	0	0	2
Max. no. females at leks	6	8	9	69	11	17	15	15	12	59	42

The first proven breeding after a couple of blank years, and lekking reported from a total of three localities.

### Jack Snipe *Lymnocyptes minimus*

One locality: one displaying.

England, N One locality: bird performing evening display flights on 18th and 19th May.

While this can be presumed to be a migrant, this is rare behaviour for this country, the last occurrence in these reports having been in 1984.

### Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

22 localities: 20-36 pairs breeding.

England, SW Four localities.

SOMERSET Four localities: (1) pair in suitable habitat; (2) adult displaying on 28th April; (3) pair in May and up to six birds in late May, but no display; (4) three adults in May.

England, SE Three localities.

KENT Three localities: (1) two pairs fledged five young, plus an unpaired adult; (2) pair fledged three young; (3) up to 12 adults, but no evidence of breeding.

England, E Five localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Two localities: (1) 14 pairs, of which ten definitely bred, and up to 12 young seen; (2) four pairs bred, of which three were successful. NORFOLK One locality: pair seen displaying and copulating, but no proof of breeding. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs displaying in May.

England, N Seven localities.

CHESHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) present at both sites throughout summer, with over 300 at each, but no signs of breeding behaviour. GREATER MANCHESTER Three localities: (1) present from 7th May to 2nd July, with peak of 33 on 18th May; some display flights seen; (2) up to nine in May; (3) up to four in June. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair displaying and copulating at potential breeding site. NORTH YORKSHIRE One locality: three pairs displaying, one bred but probably failed during incubation, the other two left in early May.

Scotland, N & W Three localities.

SHETLAND Three localities: (1) three pairs holding territory, of which one fledged two young; (2) pair fledged two young; (3) pair apparently breeding on 7th June, but not seen subsequently.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	12	11	19	13	17	14	16	18	24	16	22
Confirmed (pairs)	55	22	23	28	36	34	33	28	20	28	20
Possible/probable (pairs)	25	17	24	12	28	22	33	25	38	5	16
Max. total pairs	80	39	47	40	64	56	66	53	58	33	36

A generally poor year, with little recovery from last year's sharp drop in the number of pairs.

### Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

No reports away from Orkney and Shetland.

For the third 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 any summering or displaying elsewhere in the UK.

### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Eight localities: 6-11 pairs bred.

**Scotland, N & W** Eight localities: (1)(2) two pairs bred at each site and all produced young; (3)(4) single pairs bred at each site and produced young; (5) at least two pairs probably bred; (6)-(8) singles, one of which displayed.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	4	3	2	3	4	6	2	2	4	4	8
Confirmed (pairs)	4	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	6
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	5	6	5
Max. total pairs	5	3	3	4	4	6	2	2	6	8	11

This is the largest number of sites recorded since the Panel first reported in 1973 and the highest number of proved and total pairs since 1980.

### Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two localities: 33 males and 28 females reared at least 46 young.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1) a complex of five sites where 30 males and 26 females were recorded, 23 of the males being known to have bred, producing a minimum of 42 young; (2) three males and two females produced four to six young.

The RSPB's ongoing management work on Fetlar, Shetland, has produced a slight increase over last year's 18-22 pairs, though the number of young hatched fell from 48-50 to 42. There was again breeding at the new locality first reported last year, but no return to either of the two most recently used former regular breeding sites.

### Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

16 localities: 16-30 pairs, plus hybrid pair breeding.

**England, SW** Three localities: (1) two or three pairs bred; (2) pair holding territory; (3) up to four pairs present during breeding season, but no evidence of nesting.

**England, SE** Six localities: (1) five pairs bred, but nests washed out by high tide; (2) three pairs bred, with five large young in three broods seen; (3) three pairs laid but failed, fourth pair present; (4) pair hatched two young; (5) pair probably bred; (6) pair held territory, and single immature in April-May.

**England, E** Four localities: (1) pair raised one young; (2) pair hatched two young, which were taken by a predator, and a second pair did not lay; (3) pair copulated and built nest, but no eggs laid; (4) male paired to Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus* hatched young, which subsequently died; two adult hybrids with Black-headed Gull were present all summer, one of which was paired to a Black-headed Gull.

**England, N** Three localities: (1) pair of displaying second-years in late May; (2) pair in April and May; (3) single in Black-headed Gull colony where hybrid pair bred in 1993.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	4	3	5	3	9	5	10	13	15	14	16
Confirmed (pairs)	4	3	1	1	5	6	11	15	19	15	16
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	5	4	2	10	3	5	8	12	17	14
Max. total pairs	5	8	5	3	15	9	16	23	31	32	30

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

### Little Gull *Larus minutus*

One locality: single.

**England, SE** One locality: a first-summer stayed from May to the end of July.

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

### Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

One locality: one female bred with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandwicensis*; hybrid bred with Sandwich Tern.

**England, N** One locality.

**NORTHUMBERLAND** One locality: female bred with Sandwich Tern, laid one egg, which hatched on 10th July, but chick died on 15th; a hybrid adult, presumably one of the offspring fledged between 1989 and 1992, bred with Sandwich Tern, with one young, first seen on 15th July, fledged on 28th.

The situation gets a little more complicated, with young fledged from a pairing of a Sandwich Tern to a hybrid.

### Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

14 localities: 74-98 pairs breeding, fledging at least 74 young.

**England, SW** Five localities: (1) up to four pairs, with three clutches laid, but all failed because of unknown predator; (2) pair laid two eggs, but nest destroyed by predator; (3) pair present, may have laid, but site flooded by high tide; (4) up to six adults (three pairs?) seen, but no proof of breeding; (5) pair in May and June, three pairs in July, no nests found.

**England, N** Three localities: (1) 38 pairs, of which 35 laid 68 eggs in 42 clutches (including seven re-layings) and fledged 44 or 45 young; (2) two pairs fledged four young, two other pairs present; (3) pair made scrape, but did not lay.

**Wales** Three localities: (1) 18 pairs hatched 21 young, of which 18 fledged; (2) two pairs laid clutches of two eggs, but eggs were taken by Stoat *Mustela erminea*; (3) three pairs, but did not nest.

**Scotland, S** One locality: two pairs bred, success unknown.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: 14 pairs, of which seven laid nine eggs, eight of these hatched and seven young fledged.

**Northern Ireland** One locality: four pairs bred, but fledged only one young.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	10	13	17	15	13	15	18	14
Confirmed (pairs)	169	164	172	93	52	62	84	74
Possible/probable (pairs)	164	33	5	31	5	10	21	24
Max. total pairs	333	197	177	124	57	72	105	98

The upward trend of the previous two years has been reversed, including the number of young fledged, which has fallen from about 110 in 1993. There is increasing evidence of movements between the Northeast Atlantic colonies, so that the UK birds form only a small part of the total population.

### Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

No records received.

There were no confirmed sightings in Shetland this year, the first blank year since the early 1960s.

**Wryneck** *Jynx torquilla*

One locality: pair.

**England, Central** One locality: pair heard and seen four times between early April and 5th June; may have bred, with possible juvenile seen in early June.**Scotland** There were no sightings at any of the traditional localities.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	9	9	9	10	9	8	6	6	1	6	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	10	8	8	9	9	7	6	5	2	5	1
Max. total pairs	10	9	9	10	10	8	6	6	2	6	1

An even poorer year than 1992 and the worst since the Panel started in 1973. The regular haunts in Scotland were checked, so lack of coverage is not to blame for the low numbers.

**Wood Lark** *Lullula arborea*

100-624 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 28-202 pairs breeding.

DEVON Four localities: six breeding pairs or singing males. DORSET Whole county: 64 singing males. HAMPSHIRE A total of 131 counted or estimated from at least 24 localities, but coverage of the New Forest, where 109 pairs or singing males were found in 1993, was very poor. WILTSHIRE One locality: pair present.

**England, SE** 17-132 pairs breeding.

BERKSHIRE Five localities: 19 breeding pairs or singing males. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: one breeding pair. KENT One locality: three singing males. SURREY 20 localities: 80 breeding pairs or singing males. SUSSEX 15 localities: 29 breeding pairs or singing males.

**England, E** 46-281 pairs breeding.

LINCOLNSHIRE Six localities: 12 breeding pairs or singing males. NORFOLK Two main areas: 108 breeding pairs or singing males. SUFFOLK Two main areas: 151-161 breeding pairs or singing males.

**England, Central** Nine pairs breeding.

UNNAMED COUNTY Two localities: nine breeding pairs.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. counties	8	9	13	11	12	10	14	12	14	13	13
Confirmed (pairs)	16	5	47	28	88	156	64	39	124	213	100
Possible/probable (pairs)	185	122	181	165	157	54	272	303	535	408	524
Max. total pairs	201	127	228	193	245	210	336	362	659	621	624

A similar picture to that of last year.

**Pied Wagtail** *Motacilla alba*Continental race *M. a. alba*.

One locality: one possibly breeding.

**England, SE** One locality: male holding territory on a building containing a wagtail nest, but not seen after 14th May.

A new species for these reports, although the observations are inconclusive.

**Thrush Nightingale** *Luscinia luscinia*Two localities: three singing males (*Brit. Birds* 88: 531).

**England, SE** One locality: first-summer male in song at Dungeness, Kent, on 18th May, when trapped and ringed; second, different first-summer male in song during 2nd-9th June, also trapped and ringed.

**Scotland, S** One locality: male in song at Gullane, Lothian, on 25th and 26th May.

This is the second year running in which this species has appeared in the Panel's reports. The Panel is keen to monitor occurrences of all rare species that show even slight signs of breeding behaviour, which may be precursors to real breeding in the future.

### Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

One locality: one singing male.

**England, Central** One locality: singing male of red-spotted race *L. s. svecica* on 22nd May only.

The first record since 1991.

### Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

66 localities: 32-95 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** Two localities.

AVON One locality: female carrying food into suitable building. HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair fledged at least two young.

**England, SE** 36 localities.

BERKSHIRE One locality: pair feeding brood of three on 27th June. ESSEX Two localities: (1)(2) single males in suitable habitat in April and May. GREATER LONDON 18 localities: (1) pair bred, and additional singing male; (2)-(6) single pairs bred; (7) pair, and two additional singing males; (8) six singing males; (9) two singing males; (10)-(18) single singing males. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: pair with one young. KENT Six localities: (1) two pairs bred and two young seen; (2) pair fledged three young; (3) female carrying food into suitable building; (4)(5) single pairs; (6) singing male in April. OXFORDSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs each fledged two broods of four young. SURREY Six localities: (1)-(3) single singing males; (4) adult in April and June close to suitable building; (5)(6) singles, perhaps on passage.

**England, E** 11 localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: first-summer male from 17th May to 12th June. NORFOLK Three localities: (1)(2) two singing males at each; (3) singing male. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: two pairs bred, fledging at least seven young, a third pair may have been present. SUFFOLK Six localities: (1) four pairs bred successfully, and an additional singing male; (2) two pairs, of which one was seen feeding young; (3) pair fledged three young, and additional four singing males; (4) pair bred successfully; (5) two singing males; (6) singing male.

**England, Central** 11 localities.

DERBYSHIRE Four localities: (1) three pairs fledged at least four young, and an additional two singing males; (2) pair fledged three young; (3) pair fledged two young; (4) first-summer male singing in May. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: pair and additional singing male in May to July. WEST MIDLANDS Six localities: (1)(2) single pairs; (3)-(6) single singing males.

**England, N** Six localities.

CHESHIRE One locality: two immatures on 16th July, definitely not bred there. GREATER MANCHESTER Three localities: (1) pair fledged three young; (2) singing male; (3) female visiting garden in July and August. LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1) pair raised at least one brood; (2) singing male.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	92	77	70	56	50	36	44	53	66
Confirmed (pairs)	81	46	54	36	28	23	14	32	32
Possible/probable (pairs)	38	63	58	46	46	46	57	44	63
Max. total pairs	119	109	118	82	74	69	71	76	95

Much of the apparent increase over 1993 results from a thorough survey, by members of the London Natural History Society, of the Greater London area, in particular the City centre, where there were 25 pairs or singing males within less than a mile and a half (2.4 km) of St Paul's Cathedral.



**Fieldfare** *Turdus pilaris*

Five localities: 0-5 pairs breeding.

**England, Central** One locality: adult with two Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* on 22nd June.**England, N** Two localities: (1) adult carrying food in mid May; (2) adult feeding in same place during 23rd-29th May.**Scotland, S** One locality: bird alarming and showing territorial behaviour, during 15th-18th May, but not seen subsequently.**Scotland, N & W** One locality: adult carrying food into plantation.**SHETLAND** Not seen at locality where bred in 1992 and 1993.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7	5	5
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2	2	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8	3	5
Max. total pairs	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	11	5	5

The second poor year running, with no definite breeding, though two probables.

**Redwing** *Turdus iliacus*

15 localities: 4-19 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, S** One locality: singing male from 26th April to 2nd May.**Scotland, Mid** Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males, between April and June.**Scotland, N & W** 11 localities: (1) three pairs bred successfully, a fourth pair probably bred, and an additional singing male; (2) pair fledged at least two young; (3)(4) single pairs present and probably breeding; (5)-(11) single singing males.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	58	35	32	39	22	38	17	15	13	22	15
Confirmed (pairs)	31	12	20	9	10	12	6	7	9	5	4
Possible/probable (pairs)	48	23	26	41	30	39	15	13	15	22	15
Max. total pairs	79	35	46	50	49	51	21	20	24	27	19

This species is much under-reported; the numbers reported from north and west Scotland are thought to be only a small part of the estimated breeding population there.

**Cetti's Warbler** *Cettia cetti*

At least 101 localities: 14-332 breeding 'pairs'.

**England, SW** About 72 localities: 6-248 'pairs'.**AVON** Two localities: two singing males. **CORNWALL** Six localities: 25 singing males. **DEVON** Eight localities: 51 singing males. **DORSET** 13 localities: 28 singing males. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** Two localities: pair bred, and one singing male. **HAMPSHIRE** 27 localities: three pairs bred, two other pairs and 98 singing males. **SOMERSET** Ten localities: two pairs bred, 27 singing males, four males trapped in spring, female with brood patch trapped. **WILTSHIRE** Four localities: eight singing males.**England, SE** Eight localities: 3-18 'pairs'.**BERKSHIRE** One locality: pair bred. **KENT** Two localities: pair and three singing males.**OXFORDSHIRE** Three localities: ten singing males. **SUSSEX** Two localities: two pairs bred, and one singing male.**England, E** Nine localities or areas: 0-31 'pairs'.**CAMBRIDGESHIRE** One locality: one singing male. **NORFOLK**. County summary: five main areas: 24-27 singing males. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** One locality: pair probably bred. **SUFFOLK** Two localities: two singing males.**England, Central** Two localities: three 'pairs'.

**England, E** Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

**England, Central** Two localities.

**WORCESTERSHIRE** Two localities: (1)(2) a total of seven singing males was heard, but no females were seen at either site.

**England, N** Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

**Scotland, S** One locality: singing male on 2nd June.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	28	23	18	11	13	10	12	15	13	15	22
Confirmed (pairs)	4	2	12	10	6	11	13	9	9	12	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	47	40	16	11	14	11	11	23	26	46	48
Max. total pairs	51	42	28	21	20	22	24	32	35	58	48

A disappointing year after the considerable increase in 1993, especially at the former stronghold in Worcestershire, where no females were seen at all. The number of localities again rose, however, and the total of pairs is still higher than for several years.

### **Great Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

Five localities: five singing males, one carrying nest material (*Brit. Birds* 88: 538).

**England, SE** Two localities: (1) singing male at Elmley, Kent, during 12th-26th June, seen carrying nest material on 19th; (2) singing male at Dungeness, Kent, on 24th and 25th May.

**England, E** Two localities: (1) singing male at Rockland Broad, Norfolk, on 2nd May; (2) singing male at Cley, Norfolk, during 11th May to 26th June.

**Scotland, N** One locality: singing male at Geosetter, Shetland, on 22nd May.

This is the fifth consecutive year in which this species has been reported to the Panel and a new record total. For the second year running, there was a male at Elmley apparently building a nest. One cannot help wondering whether he had a secretive mate each time.

### **Booted Warbler** *Hippolais caligata*

One locality: one singing male (*Brit. Birds* 88: 539).

**England, SE** One locality: singing male at Beachy Head, Sussex, on 5th June.

This is the second time that this species has appeared in these reports; there were two singing males in 1992.

### **Icterine Warbler** *Hippolais icterina*

Two localities: two singing males.

**England, E** One locality: singing male on 3rd July.

**Scotland, S** One locality: singing male on 7th June.

After last year's breeding record, in a different part of Scotland, these are the first singing males since 1989.

### **Dartford Warbler** *Sylvia undata*

Total of 1,597 to 1,675 territories identified during national survey.

**England, SW** County totals:

CORNWALL 7, DEVON 156-165, DORSET 652-653, HAMPSHIRE 577-622, of which 98 were away from the New Forest, ISLE OF WIGHT 5-9, SOMERSET 7, WILTSHIRE 2-3.

**England, SE** County totals:

BERKSHIRE 2, SURREY 155-173, SUSSEX 34.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. counties	6	5	5	8	6	5	8	8	7	11	10
Confirmed (pairs)	11	26	15	8	26	23	55	67	63	93	n/a
Possible/probable (pairs)	429	368	293	239	616	499	873	634	863	1053	1675
Max. total pairs	440	394	308	247	639	522	928	701	926	1146	1675

The RSPB/EN national survey (Gibbons & Wotton, 1996, *Brit. Birds* 89: 203-212) carried out in 1994 was a considerable success, with excellent coverage in the most difficult areas in Dorset and Hampshire. It should be noted, however, that the national survey did not record any birds in Wiltshire. The population was shown to be at its highest ever. Even the estimate of 1,597-1,675 pairs may have been an underestimate; corrections for overlooked pairs suggested that the population may have been as high as 1,800-1,890 pairs. It would appear, therefore, that around 70% of the birds have been reported to the Panel over the last few years. The apparent range extension northwards into Suffolk in 1993 was not repeated this year.

The Panel wishes to thank Dr David Gibbons for the results from the survey.

#### Subalpine Warbler *Sylvia cantillans*

Three localities: three singing males (*Brit. Birds* 88: 539).

**England, SE** One locality: singing male at Walthamstow Reservoir, Greater London, on 15th May.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: singing first-summer male at Maryton, Tayside, during 12th-17th May.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality: singing male during 15th-17th May.

Larger numbers than usual were recorded in Britain in 1994, and these three singing males are the first mention of this species in these reports.

#### Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

41 localities: 4-66 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** 18 localities.

**DEVON** Six localities: (1)-(6) single singing males between 28th March and 20th May. **DORSET** Two localities: (1) singing male in May; (2) single on 19th August. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** Nil return for first time since 1987. **HAMPSHIRE** Seven localities: (1) two pairs bred, plus seven singing males; (2) seven singing males; (3)-(7) single pairs or singing males. **WILTSHIRE** Three localities: (1) four singing males; (2) two singing males; (3) singing male.

**England, SE** 21 localities.

**BEDFORDSHIRE** One locality: pair. **BERKSHIRE** Two localities: (1) four singing males on 9th May; (2) singing male on 9th July. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** Two localities: (1) pair in April and May; (2) singing male on 11th June. **ESSEX** Two localities: (1) two singing males in May and June, one, apparently paired to Goldcrest *R. regulus*, seen feeding young; (2) singing male in late May. **GREATER LONDON** One locality: singing male in late April at past breeding site. **KENT** Two localities: (1) pair in early May; (2) singing male in mid June. **OXFORDSHIRE** One locality: two singing males in May. **SURREY** Five localities: (1) pair bred; (2) three singing males; (3)-(5) single singing males, April to June. **SUSSEX** Five localities: (1)-(3) single singing males during May to July; (4)(5) singles in April and May.

**England, E** One locality.

**SUFFOLK** One locality: singing male in early June.

**Wales** One locality.

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

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	47	24	19	37	44	52	48	19	15	20	41
Confirmed (pairs)	4	5	1	8	11	19	9	2	3	3	4
Possible/probable (pairs)	78	41	28	74	72	112	88	20	16	25	62
Max. total pairs	82	46	29	82	83	131	97	22	19	28	66

A big increase in the maximum total is only partly accounted for by more detailed observations in the New Forest, which, while certainly incomplete, were more thorough than in several recent years.

### Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

33 localities: 7-35 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males, two of which were immature.

**England, E** 57 localities surveyed, of which 27 held none, and a minimum of seven breeding pairs found, which fledged only four to six young; six other pairs probably bred, there were also pairs or singing males at 17 sites, and singles at two others.

**Scotland, Mid** No report was received from the site where breeding has taken place in recent years.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	11	12	13	22	35	29	38	27	37	33	33
Confirmed (pairs)	4	4	5	11	16	15	10	16	14	14	7
Possible/probable (pairs)	14	11	11	20	25	22	32	12	23	19	28
Max. total pairs	18	15	17	31	41	37	42	28	37	33	35

A dismal year, when those attempting to breed in their main area in eastern England were very badly affected by appalling weather, including high winds, heavy rain and thunderstorms, during the critical periods of nest-building and egg-laying. 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*

Seven localities: 1-8 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality: male found dead beside road on 22nd June.

**Scotland, S** Two localities: (1) adult male took up territory briefly during 2nd-4th June; (2) male on 1st June, perhaps on passage.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: pair fledged two young.

**Scotland, N & W** Three localities: (1) one or two males in late June and early July; (2) male on 22nd June; (3) single on 5th July.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	4	7	3	8	6	3	7	5	13	6	7
Confirmed (pairs)	6	6	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1
Possible/probable (pairs)	4	6	2	11	6	6	7	4	12	6	7
Max. total pairs	10	12	6	13	7	6	8	5	13	6	8

A slightly better year than 1993, with one successful breeding pair and a scattering of other records, although those in England appear to have gone now.

### Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Four localities: 0-4 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, S** One locality: singing male on 11th May, in suitable habitat.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality: singing male on 10th June, in oak *Quercus* wood.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males in suitable habitat.

	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
No. localities	10	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	4
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	8	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	4
Max. total pairs	9	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	4

More than for several years, as demonstrated by the table, included here for the first time in five years.

### European Serin *Serinus serinus*

Two localities: 0-2 pairs.

**England, SW** One locality.

CORNWALL One locality: singing male on 1st May only.

**England, E** One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: singing male during 6th-11th April.

A third successive poor year, with again none in Devon, the former most-regular area for the species.

### Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Six localities: 0-8 pairs breeding.

**England, SW** One locality: two males together on 12th July.

**England, SE** One locality: singing (grey) male on 15th June.

**England, E** One locality: singing male during 3rd-6th June.

**Scotland, S** One locality: singing adult male during 25th May to 3rd July.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities: (1) singing male during 11th-22nd June, with probable second male on 11th; (2) singing male first seen on 5th June and singing on 9th, in area where singing male has occurred before.

A similar picture to that of last year, with a number of singing males, not all adult, but no females reported.

### Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Two main areas and four other localities: 7-27 pairs breeding.

**Scotland, Mid and N & W** Two main areas and four other localities: (1) at least 15 pairs, probably representing a slight increase over 1993, with some second broods fledged; (2) at least six pairs bred successfully and two singles seen; (3) pair with two recently fledged young; (4)-(6) single males in suitable habitat.

The information on this species will always be incomplete and patchy, but the Panel will always welcome reports, even if only of a single male seen once, so long as it is in potentially suitable habitat.

### Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus*

43-412 breeding pairs.

**England, SW**

CORNWALL Eight localities: (1)(2) single pairs bred, two additional males seen at each site; (3)-(8) single males between April and June. DEVON Full county surveys have been undertaken since 1989, but, because of the recent increase in population, only a sample survey was conducted in 1994, designed to detect any increase in range. A total of 81 tetrads was surveyed and 247 males were located. Extrapolation from the sample put the county estimate at 370-400 pairs. A sample 41 pairs were monitored and managed a 67% success rate, considerably better than in 1993.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Confirmed (pairs)	36	48	98	113	92	43
Possible/probable (pairs)	83	85	143	207	269	369
Max. total pairs	119	133	241	320	361	412

There has been a further modest increase in numbers. This recovery could be due to several factors, including the advent of set-aside (which has provided winter foraging), RSPB and EN management advice, farms entering Countryside Stewardship or SSSI management agreements, and a run of mild winters.

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