



Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1995

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

This, the twenty-third annual report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, contains information on the breeding in 1995 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 intentional 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.

There has been some unfortunate slippage in the production of this report, but we hope to make amends with the 1996 report, which should follow this one after a shorter interval.

The Panel

The current (April 1998) 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 1995 was almost complete, with records (or nil returns) received from virtually every county and region. Information for some species remains patchy, however, and any known gaps are mentioned in the species accounts.

Review of the year 1995

The weather continues to exert a considerable influence on the success or otherwise of many of Britain's rare breeding birds. As will be apparent from reading the species accounts below, gales and rain at critical periods during the breeding cycle adversely affected a number of species in 1995, especially Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* and Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*. Predation and high tides took their toll of some coastal nesting species, especially Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*. Slavonian Grebes *P. auritus* achieved a welcome recovery from last year's low, with an especially pleasing increase in productivity, and four pairs of Red-necked Grebes *Podiceps grisegena*, all seen displaying, with one pair copulating and nest-building, is the best ever. Black-necked Grebes *P. nigricollis* also reached a new high for confirmed pairs. Despite a slight fall in the number of sites, the total of 'booming' Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* was the same as last year, while at least 14 young were reared, compared with eight or nine.

The occurrence of two pairs of Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia*, one bird being seen to collect nesting material, may be the precursor of a colonisation, just as the continued presence of pairs of Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* finally (in 1997, *Brit. Birds* 91: 273-280) led to successful breeding, though not in 1995. As expected, reported numbers of Northern Pintails *Anas acuta* fell in the absence of last year's full survey of Orkney. Garganeys *A. querquedula* increased in England and Wales, though it was a very poor year for them in Scotland. Greater Scaups *Aythya marila* appeared in Scotland for the second summer running, while a full survey of all known haunts of Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* produced a population estimate of 76-89 potential pairs, indicating a decline from the approximately 100 pairs in the mid 1980s.

Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* continued to increase slowly, for the sixth successive year, and the minimum of 13 young reportedly reared was also a new record. The Welsh Red Kites *Mikus mikus* maintained their long-term increase, while the re-established birds in England and Scotland also continued to grow in numbers and expand in range. Both Marsh *Circus aeruginosus* and Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* had good seasons, with record numbers of young, though production per pair of the former species was down. A male Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus* and a female Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus* bred together in Scotland, though sadly the eggs were eaten by a predator. Ospreys fell one short of the 'century' of breeding pairs, and failures due to high winds and rain were added to by no fewer than six robberies.

It was another good year for Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix*, but Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* had their second successive poor year and none was proved to breed. Corn Crakes *Crex crex* continued their recovery in their main haunts on the Scottish islands, thanks in the main to the conservation efforts of the RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Crofters' Union.

The number of confirmed pairs of Avocets fell back from last year's peak, while production was little short of disastrous, with the lowest number of young reared since 1984 and, allowing for incomplete reporting, the worst production per pair since 1977. Predation by Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes* and gulls

Larus is the most serious problem at a number of sites, though bad weather at key moments also contributed. Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* increased for the seventh year running, with a substantial increase in the number of young reared compared with last year's low figure. No Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* were proved to breed this year, but Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* did better.

Of the rarer waders, only Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* had a good year, with at least seven pairs breeding. The Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* on Fetlar continued to do well, but breeding away from Shetland seems to have ceased.

The first breeding by Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus cachinnans* in Britain was reported, though it is not thought that any young were reared. Numbers of Mediterranean Gulls *L. melanocephalus* seem to have levelled off over the last four years, while there was just one hybrid pairing with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*. The long-standing hybrid pair of Lesser Crested *Sterna bengalensis* and Sandwich Terns *S. sandwicensis* bred yet again, but unsuccessfully. Roseate Terns *S. dougallii* had another poor year.

A pair of Bluethroats *Luscinia svecica* bred successfully in Scotland, only the second breeding record of this species in Britain and the first time that young have been reared. A second male, at a different site, was heard singing. The reported number of Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros* fell back to the 1993 level after the boost given last year by the survey of the Greater London area. A pair of Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* bred after last year's gap, but total numbers were small.

Cetti's *Cettia cetti* and Dartford Warblers *Sylvia undata* had good seasons, but Savi's Warblers *Locustella luscinioides* are declining fast. Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* also declined in numbers for the second year running, while last year's increase in localities did not last.

These reports now regularly include records of males of different species of vagrant warblers singing and, occasionally, nest-building, and some of these may one day breed with us.

Golden Orioles seem to have the worst luck of any rare breeding species when it comes to weather. The losses in 1994 from heavy rain and bad storms destroying nests were repeated this year, and only 7-11 young were thought to have been reared. There were more Bramblings *Fringilla montifringilla* than for over ten years, with nest-building and singing reported, though no confirmed breeding.

As more work is done on the crossbills *Loxia* of Scotland, so new and sometimes puzzling facts are coming to light, such as the seven adults at five nests which had bill measurements well within the limits for Parrot Crossbill *L. pytyopsittacus*. For the first time for six years, a Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus* appeared in suitable habitat.

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. Panel data have also played a key role in reviews of birds of conservation concern and national population estimates, together with the development of recovery plans for certain species.

Publications

A number of papers on Panel species, including results of surveys, are listed at the end, under References.

Acknowledgments

The Panel, and in particular its Secretary, very gratefully acknowledges the willing co-operation of all the many county, regional and local recorders throughout the country. Completing the forms is just one more burden put upon their willing shoulders, and it is greatly appreciated.

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We should also like to express our sincere thanks to all the very many individuals whose fieldwork 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, 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/probable (pairs)' mean 'Number of pairs confirmed breeding' and 'Number of pairs possibly or probably breeding', respectively.

Great Northern Diver *Gavia immer*

One locality: single.

Scotland, N & W One locality: adult present on loch late June and early July, possibly paired to Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

A hybrid pair involving these two species occurred in 1985 and 1986, with eggs being laid in the latter year, though the single chick which hatched failed to survive. The only proven breeding record by a Great Northern Diver pair in Britain was in 1970 (*Scot. Birds* 6: 195).

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

No breeding records.

An adult was present at Stithians Reservoir, Cornwall, throughout the summer, while one of the hybrid young, from the 1994 nesting with Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, was last seen in late March, but there were no signs of any further breeding activity.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Six localities in six counties: pair copulated and built platforms; two other pairs displayed.

England, E Two localities: (1) one in summer plumage from 29th March to 3rd September and second bird from 29th April to 24th May, with some calling and display; (2) one from 25th March to 30th August.

England, N Two localities: (1) pair from 29th January to 8th May, with much loud calling for two weeks prior to their departure; (2) adult from 20th May to 29th June.

Scotland, S One locality: pair at regular summering site, seen copulating and built nest platforms, but no egg-laying suspected.

Scotland, Mid One locality: two adults, probably a pair, on 3rd June only.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	1	5	10	8	6	5	3	9	7	10	6
No. individuals	4	5	9	12	9	3	4	12	7	13	10
No. pairs	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	0	1	4

The southern Scotland pair was observed copulating and nest-building, behaviour that has been noted in almost every year since 1983, but, as usual, there were no further developments. With three other pairs seen displaying, this is the largest number of active pairs yet recorded, though the number of single birds observed was the lowest for ten years.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

31 localities: 58-65 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid and N & W 31 localities: (1)-(31) total of 58 pairs bred, producing minimum of 46 young to near fledging; also seven singles.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	40	43	39	22	39	36	31	34	33	32	31
Confirmed (pairs)	63	68	33	31	70	74	61	72	73	51	58
Possible/probable (pairs)	18	19	6	6	8	12	13	5	4	8	7
Max. total (pairs)	81	87	39	37	78	86	74	77	77	59	65

A slight, but welcome, increase in the number of breeding pairs from last year's six-year low, while the number of young reared was the best since 1992 and the productivity figure of 0.79 young per pair was well above the 25-year average of 0.62. The Panel is grateful to the North of Scotland Regional Office of the RSPB for information on numbers and breeding performance. Detailed research into the breeding biology of this species was carried out by the RSPB in 1992 and 1993 (Summers & Mavor 1995).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

30 localities in 15 counties: minimum 30-77 pairs breeding, hatching at least 36 young.

England, SW Two localities: 4-12 pairs.

HAMPSHIRE Two localities: four pairs bred, two other pairs and six singles.

England, SE One locality: pair.

KENT One locality: pair.

England, E Nine localities: 1-18 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: pair bred and four singles. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Four localities: pair and seven singles. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Three localities: two pairs, including display, and three singles.

England, Central Five localities: 0-5 pairs.

LEICESTERSHIRE Two localities: two singles. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: pair and one single. SHROPSHIRE One locality: pair.

England, N Four localities: 14-23 pairs.

CHESHIRE One locality: two pairs bred. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair bred, plus one other pair. NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: 11 pairs bred, plus eight other pairs.

Wales One locality: 0-1 pair.

GWYNEDD One locality: pair.

Scotland, S Three localities: 2-3 pairs.

BORDERS Three localities: two pairs bred and one single.

Scotland, Mid Five localities: 9-14 pairs.

FIFE Two localities: three pairs. TAYSIDE Three localities: nine pairs bred, one other pair and one single.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	17	15	19	22	19	19	25	29	31	32	30
Confirmed (pairs)	9	11	27	15	25	21	19	26	24	27	30
Possible/probable (pairs)	13	22	12	20	15	16	34	34	26	54	47
Max. total (pairs)	22	33	39	35	40	37	53	60	50	81	77

The largest number of confirmed pairs ever recorded. Just as the 1994 total of confirmed pairs could have been up to 11 pairs higher, as full details were not received from an important Scottish site, so, this year, no report was received from an important site in North Humberside where 14 pairs bred in 1994. Successful breeding occurred in southern England after a year's gap.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

One locality: one in spring and summer.

Scotland, N & W One locality.

SHETLAND One locality: adult in colony of Northern Gannets *Morus bassanus*, Hermaness, from 3rd April to 7th July.

The twenty-fifth year of summering (missing only 1988 and 1989) and, as last year, staying for over three months.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

13 localities: minimum of 20 and maximum of 21 booming males, with minimum of 12 young fledged.

England, SE Two localities: (1) single on 16th April (up to four in mid March); (2) single on 3rd May.

England, E Ten localities: (1) four booming males, two nests found, at least three young fledged; (2) four booming males, two nests found, number of young unknown; (3) booming male, nest found, three young hatched, two probably fledged; (4)(5) booming male, nest found, two young fledged; (6) booming male, nest found, three eggs, one hatched, not known if fledged; (7)-(9) booming male in May and/or June, no evidence of breeding; (10) booming male on 29th April only.

England, N One locality: four, possibly five, booming males, three nests found, five fledged young seen.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	15	12	17	14	14	12	13	14	13	16	13
Confirmed nests	0	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	11
Booming males	28	23	22	30	30	20	19	19	17	20	20

Although the slight improvement in the number of localities shown in 1994 has not been sustained, the number of booming males has stayed at the same level. The considerable increase in the number of nests found reflects the detailed research now being carried out on this species by RSPB staff. The number of young fledged represents a significant increase on the eight or nine thought to have done so last year.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Ten localities: up to 12 pairs.

England, SW Nine localities, with ten pairs present throughout the summer, though no signs of breeding.

Wales One locality: two pairs seen displaying in colony of Grey Herons *Ardea cinerea* in March, but no further activity.

The above are the actual pairs reported to the Panel, as opposed to the many flocks also present in southern Britain.

Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

One locality: two pairs.

England, E One locality: up to four present between 14th April and 10th August; at least one seen collecting nesting material in late April. There were several other records of Spoonbills in the same county during the spring.

The only previous report of this species to the Panel was in 1989 when a pair started to build a nest in late July. The breeding population in the Netherlands has been increasing in recent years, with over 600 pairs in 1993

compared with about 150 in the 1960s, when pesticides had considerably reduced numbers (Osieck & Voslamber 1997), so further activity in eastern England may be expected.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Nine localities: pair bred, but failed.

England, SE Two localities: two singles, both released birds. No reports were received from the sites where released pairs bred or attempted to breed in 1994.

Scotland, S Two localities: (1) pair, probably released, laid eggs but none hatched; (2) one, presumed injured, summered.

Scotland, N & W Five localities: (1) single bird built a nest and sat on it for a while; (2)-(5) singles summering, one of which displayed.

Last year's successful breeding by apparently wild birds in North & West Scotland was not repeated and there was a return to the more usual scattering of single, probably mostly injured, birds. Nor were there any reports of introduced or released birds breeding successfully.

Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

One locality: one.

England, SW One locality: one male.

SCILLY A male, which has been present on Tresco since 1st April 1994, was present throughout the year and seen to be paired to a female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*. It is not known whether breeding took place, but no young were seen.

It remains to be seen whether this hybrid pair will emulate the pairing between a female Black Duck and a male Mallard which occurred at the same site in the late 1970s and early 1980s, producing several young.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

25 localities: 11-45 pairs breeding.

England, SE Five localities: 1-7 pairs.

KENT Four localities: three pairs, and three singles. SUSSEX One locality: pair bred.

England, E Six localities: 1-9 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: three pairs, no evidence of breeding. NORFOLK Four localities: four pairs, and one single. SUFFOLK One locality: pair bred unsuccessfully.

England, Central One locality: 0-1 pair.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair present in April.

England, N Two localities: 0-5 pairs.

LANCASHIRE One locality: four pairs, uncertain whether any breeding attempt.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: single male throughout May.

Wales Two localities: 2-3 pairs.

PEMBROKESHIRE Two localities: two pairs bred, and single female throughout year which may have attempted to breed.

Scotland, S One locality: 0-2 pairs.

AYRSHIRE One locality: two females.

Scotland, Mid One locality: 0-4 pairs.

GRAMPIAN One locality: four males in May and June.

Scotland, N & W Seven localities: 7-14 pairs.

ARGYLL One locality: two pairs summered, but no evidence of breeding. INVERNESS One locality: two pairs bred. ORKNEY Five localities: five pairs bred, two other pairs and three singles.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	17	14	16	20	16	20	28	23	23	49	25
Confirmed (pairs)	9	6	7	14	11	9	4	13	4	20	11
Possible/probable (pairs)	12	12	14	15	28	27	39	35	43	56	34
Max. total (pairs)	21	18	21	29	38	36	43	48	47	76	45

Last year's boost to the numbers was produced almost entirely by the full survey undertaken of Orkney. In its absence this year, and with fewer pairs reported from both England and Wales, numbers have fallen back to the levels of the three previous years.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

81 localities: 9-117 pairs breeding.

England, SW Nine localities: 0-14 pairs.

AVON One locality: pair and one male. DEVON Four localities: four single males. SOMERSET Four localities: two pairs and six males.

England, SE 23 localities: 2-32 pairs.

ESSEX Four localities: pair and four males. HERTFORDSHIRE Two localities: male and immature male in late summer. KENT Eight localities: pair bred, four pairs and seven males and one single. GREATER LONDON One locality: male. SUSSEX Eight localities: pair bred, five pairs and five males.

England, E 26 localities: 3-42 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: two pairs bred, two pairs and one male. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Three localities: pair and four males. LINCOLNSHIRE Two localities: two males. NORFOLK Six localities: pair bred, nine pairs and seven males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Four localities: three pairs and one male. SUFFOLK Eight localities: two pairs and seven males.

England, Central Two localities: 0-2 pairs.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair. STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: pair.

England, N Three localities: 3-5 pairs.

GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair. YORKSHIRE One locality: three pairs bred, eight young seen.

Wales 14 localities: 0-17 pairs.

ANGLESEY Two localities: two pairs and three males. REST OF COUNTRY 12 records of singles at 12 localities.

Scotland, S One locality: 0-2 pairs.

AYRSHIRE One locality: two pairs, not known if breeding attempted.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: 1-2 pairs.

GRAMPIAN One locality: pair. TAYSIDE One locality: pair bred unsuccessfully.

Scotland, N & W One locality: 0-1 pair.

ARGYLL One locality: male.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	32	42	36	37	81	87	90	90	73	65	81
Confirmed (pairs)	4	8	8	11	18	14	12	16	14	13	9
Possible/probable (pairs)	36	47	37	40	80	97	82	144	149	98	108
Max. total (pairs)	40	55	45	51	98	111	94	160	163	111	117

A slightly better year than 1994, with more in eastern England and in Wales, but the worst year for Scotland since 1988.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

142 localities or areas: 309-494 pairs breeding.

England, SW 12 localities: 10-32 pairs.

AVON One locality: 12 females in late April, no evidence of breeding. CORNWALL Three localities: pair and single male and single female. HAMPSHIRE Five localities: seven pairs bred, three other pairs. SOMERSET Three localities: three pairs bred and four males. WILTSHIRE Nil return, the first time since 1977 that there has been no breeding.

England, SE 50 localities or areas: 156-220 pairs.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: five pairs bred. ESSEX 17 localities: 34 pairs bred, and 35 other pairs. GREATER LONDON Seven localities: ten pairs bred, four other pairs and two males. HERTFORDSHIRE Five localities: four pairs bred, and two other pairs. KENT Eight localities or areas: 100 pairs bred, no count of other pairs. SURREY Nine localities: three pairs bred, 16 other pairs and one single. SUSSEX Two localities: five pairs.

England, E 33 localities: 89-107 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Four localities: eight pairs bred, one other pair. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: at least 21 pairs bred. NORFOLK 19 localities: 58 pairs bred, and eight other pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Seven localities: pair bred, at least five other pairs or singles. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) four pairs; (2) pair bred.

England, Central 14 localities: 7-41 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: pair bred. LEICESTERSHIRE Eight localities: three pairs and 31 males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Four localities: five pairs bred. SHROPSHIRE One locality: pair bred.

England, N 13 localities: 30-54 pairs.

CUMBRIA One locality: two pairs bred. GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: three pairs bred. LANCASHIRE Three localities: eight pairs bred. NORTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: at least one pair bred, plus eight pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Five localities: 14 pairs bred, and six other pairs. YORKSHIRE One locality: at least two pairs bred, plus ten other pairs.

Wales Six localities: 9-14 pairs.

ANGLESEY One locality: up to eight pairs bred, and one other pair. GLAMORGAN One locality: pair bred. ELSEWHERE Four localities: pairs or singles at each.

Scotland, S Six localities: 4-12 pairs.

BORDERS Six localities: four pairs bred, four other pairs and two males and two females.

Scotland, Mid Eight localities: 4-12 pairs.

FIFE One locality: pair bred. GRAMPIAN One locality: pair in May. TAYSIDE Six localities: three pairs bred, six other pairs and a male.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	68	63	138	116	133	161	145	117	158	142
Confirmed (pairs)	126	130	185	260	207	284	266	237	347	309
Possible/probable (pairs)	59	44	162	76	86	144	292	179	291	185
Max. total (pairs)	185	174	347	336	293	428	558	416	638	494

Although numbers have fallen back from last year's peak, this reflects variation in reporting from some important counties, with a concentration on successful breeding pairs, which have dropped much less than reports of non-breeding pairs and single birds.

Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

Three localities: two pairs, two males and a female.

England, E One locality: two males remained until 26th May, and one female on 3rd June.

Scotland, N Two localities: (1) two males and a female on 24th April; (2) female for at least a week around 19th May.

Some slightly encouraging signs from northern Scotland, building on last year's pair, which followed two blank years. Summering in eastern England has occurred in the past (e.g. in 1989). This followed successful breeding in Anglesey the year before, so such birds should never be dismissed out of hand.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

61 localities: population estimate of 76-89 potential pairs.

Shetland Ten sites surveyed, none occupied.

Flow Country 310 sites surveyed, 32 occupied, holding peak counts of 32 pairs and 36 females, with population estimate of 32-36 potential pairs.

West & South Scotland 121 sites surveyed, 21 occupied, holding 32 pairs and 41 females, with population estimate of 32-41 potential pairs.

Islay Four sites surveyed, two occupied, holding 12 pairs, with population estimate of 12 potential pairs.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	25	35	15	36	7	9	14	32	38	47	61
Confirmed (pairs)	2	8	29	14	8	6	9	9	16	5	n.c.
Possible/probable (pairs)	72	92	33	76	32	23	21	62	72	79	76-89
Max. total (pairs)	74	100	62	90	40	29	30	71	88	84	89

The results shown above are taken from those of the full survey of this species carried out in summer 1995 and written up for publication (Underhill *et al.* 1998). The areas used in the survey report differ from those conventionally used by the Panel, with 'Flow Country' equating to Caithness and Sutherland (Scotland, N & W), while 'West & South Scotland' includes Inverness, Ross & Cromarty and Argyll (also Scotland, N & W) and Tayside (Scotland, Mid).

The survey also included Ireland, where 111 pairs were present on just three sites. The previous best estimate of breeding pairs in Britain was about 100 in the mid 1980s, so, provided that that estimate was reasonably accurate, there appears to have been a marked decline. The Irish population declined steeply in the 1970s, from about 170-180 pairs in 1967 to about 95-111 pairs in the early 1980s, but has since remained stable.

The survey highlighted the lack of protection afforded to the breeding sites of this small population and makes recommendations for further research and conservation. (See also page 405.) The Panel is grateful to the senior author of the report for making the results available ahead of publication.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Breeding occurs predominantly in one extensive nestbox scheme in Scotland, 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, with breeding proved at three other Scottish sites, plus breeding by a released/escaped pair in England.

England, SE One locality.

HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: injured female summered.

England, E Two localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: female in June. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: immature male summered.

England, Central Four localities.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: two summering females, both presumed injured. LEICESTERSHIRE Three localities: (1) two females to 3rd May; (2) male and two females throughout July; (3) female until 23rd May. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: immature male and adult female all summer.

England, N One locality.

LANCASHIRE One locality: released female seen with four young in June.

Wales One locality.

ANGLESEY One locality: female on 19th May.

Scotland, S Two localities.

BORDERS One locality: pair present and possibly bred, with female last seen 13th June and male on 2nd July. LOTHIAN One locality: female summered.

Scotland, Mid Seven localities.

TAYSIDE Seven localities: (1) female with six young; (2) pair bred in nestbox, but failed; (3) pair seen copulating 4th May, no further evidence of breeding; (4)-(7) from one to five singles during summer.

Scotland, N & W Three localities.

HIGHLAND Three localities: (1) 39 pairs attempted to nest in boxes, 15 of which were successful, while 24 failed to hatch any eggs; (2) 19 pairs successful in 46 boxes checked, with total 204 eggs laid and 159 young fledged; also two or three pairs bred in natural sites; (3) female with four young in July (apparently also bred here in 1994; not included in 1994 Report).

The results from Highland Region refer to a sample only of the many boxes available to the species. Elsewhere, the successful breeding in Tayside and suspected breeding in Borders continue a very slow expansion from this core area.

Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

23 localities in ten counties: 9-30 pairs breeding; minimum of 13 young reared.

Great Britain 23 localities: (1)-(5) single pairs each raised two young; (6)-(8) single pairs each raised one young, two adult males and single immature male and female also present at one site; (9) pair bred but apparently failed; (10) pair and single present and behaviour suggested breeding but no young seen; (11) pair and male, but no young reared; (12)-(14) single pairs in breeding season; (15) up to four birds, but perhaps involving two pairs already accounted for; (16) one, probably two, birds; (17)-(19) singles in suitable habitat; (20)-(23) singles on single dates only, perhaps migrants.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	8	6	9	9
Max. total (pairs)	4	6	7	10	20	19	22	26	27	28	30

Another small increase to new record totals of both pairs and young reared. The Panel is aware that the above information is incomplete, with no reports received from two known breeding areas, and appeals to all observers to submit their records for safekeeping.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

124 wild pairs reared 117 young, and 39 released pairs reared 81 young.

Wales 124 pairs were proved to breed, of which 79 were successful, rearing 117 young; all three totals were new records, for the second successive year. In addition, there were a further 20 non-breeding pairs, while 108 unmated individuals were identified during the spring. The total population was estimated as at least 394 in April and 513 in August, an increase of 38 since August 1993. (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.)

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total pairs	54	58	59	68	71	84	92	102	115	136	144
Breeding pairs	43	40	44	49	54	65	76	84	104	111	124
Successful pairs	19	23	27	27	33	47	41	60	61	70	79
Young reared	25	29	39	38	49	73	62	96	82	99	117
Young/successful pair	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.5

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

England The number of breeding pairs increased by two to 24, of which 22 were successful, fledging no fewer than 55 young (mean 2.5 young/successful pair). There were also two non-breeding pairs.

Scotland The increase here was larger, from eight to 15 breeding pairs, of which 11 were successful, rearing 26 young, double last year's total (mean 2.4 young/successful pair). There were two non-breeding pairs.

ENGLAND						SCOTLAND				
	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995		1992	1993	1994	1995
Total pairs	2	7	12	22	26	Total pairs	2	8	11	17
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	20	24	Breeding pairs	1	5	8	15
Successful pairs	0	4	8	17	22	Successful pairs	1	3	6	11
Young reared	0	9	14	37	55	Young reared	1	7	13	26
Young/successful pair	-	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.5	Young/successful pair	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.4

The history of the re-establishment of the Red Kite in England and Scotland has recently been described in detail (Evans *et al.* 1997).

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Re-establishment.

Scotland Ten territories were occupied by territory-holding pairs, including two by trios of a male with two females. Nine clutches were laid, and seven young were reared from five broods, both equalling previous highest totals. One nest failed when the young were small, one during hatching, and two during incubation. Two Scottish-bred pairs, one of which bred unsuccessfully last year, attempted to breed, but neither was successful. In addition, a territory was occupied by two adults, though they were probably not paired, and another by a single female. A further six chicks were brought from Norway, reared in captivity and released.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Breeding pairs	4	5	6	6	6	9	8	9	6	8	9
Successful pairs	1	1	2	1	3	2	4	4	4	4	5
Young reared	1	2	3	2	5	2	7	7	5	5	7
Young/successful pair	1.0	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4

A slightly better year than 1994, but four failures out of nine remains disappointingly high. The Panel is grateful to the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information. The Project is supported jointly by the JNCC, SNH and the RSPB.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

151 males and 156 females bred, rearing at least 277 young.

Great Britain The figures for definitely breeding males and females shown in the table should be treated with caution as not all sex ratios are known in polygamous situations. Furthermore, the information received from one important area did not record the sex ratio, so the total for males is probably an overestimate. The number of young reported to have fledged is again a new record.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Breeding males	29	26	40	42	58	73	83	92	84	114	151
Breeding females	31	32	46	56	66	110	91	107	110	129	156
Young	86	82	126	145	172	145	198	229	244	255	277

The number of breeding adults has increased substantially, though production per pair has fallen. (The Panel wishes to thank Bob Image for the continued provision of detailed information on this species.) A paper on the current status of the Marsh Harrier in Britain has recently been published (Underhill-Day 1998).

Pallid Harrier *Circus macrourus*

Male bred with female Hen Harrier *C. cyaneus*.

Scotland, N One locality: male paired to female Hen Harrier; clutch of five eggs laid, but eggs disappeared, probably taken by a predator.

The only previous occurrence of this species in these reports was in 1993, when a second-summer bird was seen displaying to a female Hen Harrier. This breeding record, though unsuccessful, is a first for Britain and is comparable with the successful breeding with Montagu's Harrier *C. pygargus* in Finland in 1993 (*Brit. Birds* 88: 268).

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

14 localities: eight males and nine females reared a minimum of 26 young.

England, SW Nine localities: (1) pair fledged four young; (2) pair fledged two young from second clutch, having lost its first, and additional male present; (3) pair fledged at least one young; (4)-(7) single pair in suitable habitat or at traditional site, but no breeding evidence; (8)(9) male regular during summer.

England, SE One locality: single reported.

England, E Three localities: (1) three males and four females fledged 12 young; (2) pair fledged four young; (3) pair fledged three young.

England, N One locality: male seen.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	9	10	10	14	15	9	14	12	8	15	14
Breeding males	3	7	4	5	4	8	5	7	5	7	8
Other males	5	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	9	8
Breeding females	3	7	5	6	6	11	7	8	6	12	9
Other females	5	3	4	4	7	2	6	4	1	11	4
Young	7	13	13	17	14	20	14	12	9	13	26

The most successful year, since the Panel was formed, for production of young, though from fewer nests than last year. The surge in numbers in

eastern England in 1994 was not sustained, but breeding in southwest England was better than for the last three years.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 270 localities or areas: 249-319 pairs breeding.

England and Wales Up to 220 localities in 34 counties: up to 188 pairs bred, of which 163 were reported as successful; an additional 63 pairs and 11 singles were reported.

Scotland At least 50 localities in four regions: 41 pairs known to have bred, of which 33 were successful; an additional seven pairs and a single were reported.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	
No. counties		20	31	31	31	23	30	36	34	35	33	38
Confirmed (pairs)		36	57	54	108	112	93	158	150	199	145	249
Possible/probable (pairs)		39	59	40	68	54	79	71	93	100	80	70
Max. total (pairs)		75	116	94	176	166	172	229	243	299	225	319

The increase in the number of confirmed pairs partly reflects better reporting to the Panel. Raptor Study Groups and a small number of individual observers make a considerable contribution to knowledge of the numbers and distribution of this species, and the Panel is grateful to them for the summary information provided.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

99 pairs: 92 pairs laid eggs, rearing 144 young.

England, SW One locality: single from late May to September.

England, Central One locality: one or two regularly in April.

England, N Two localities: (1) single from 19th May to 30th June, with second bird visiting intermittently; (2) male from 10th May to 5th September.

Scotland, S One locality: one in May and three, briefly, in July.

Scotland A total of 99 occupied nests was found. It was thought that there might be a further three pairs breeding whose nests were not located. Eggs were laid in 92 nests, of which 77 hatched young and 73 reared 144 young. All except the last figure are new record totals.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Pairs	34	42	50	53	58	62	73	76	88	95	99
Successful pairs	22	24	30	38	38	44	44	48	56	69	73
Young reared	53	48	56	81	81	90	82	101	111	146	144
Young/successful pair	2.4	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0

A further increase in the number of pairs and successful pairs, but no corresponding increase in the number of young reared. No fewer than six clutches were stolen, a very disappointing resurgence. Other failures were caused by strong winds and by bad weather during the critical hatching period. (The Panel is grateful for the information supplied to it by Roy Dennis and his associates.)

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 613 localities: 161-430 pairs breeding.

England, SW 60-127 pairs.

AVON 4-7 pairs. CORNWALL 2 pairs. DEVON Minimum. 10 pairs. DORSET 11-26 pairs.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE 1 pair. HAMPSHIRE 28-46 pairs. SOMERSET 0-5 pairs. WILTSHIRE 4-30 pairs. **England, SE** 44-195 pairs, 60 young reported.

BEDFORDSHIRE 1 pair. BERKSHIRE 2-9 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 4-15 pairs. ESSEX 13-50 pairs. GREATER LONDON 6 pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 2-48 pairs. KENT 5-10 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE 2 pairs. SURREY 8-29 pairs. SUSSEX 1-25 pairs.

England, E 19-48 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 1-2 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 2-5 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE 0-9 pairs. NORFOLK 11-12 pairs. SUFFOLK 5-20 pairs.

England, Central 32-48 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE 24-29 pairs. LEICESTERSHIRE 3-11 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 3 pairs. SHROPSHIRE 2 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE 0-3 pairs.

England, N 1-5 pairs.

CHESHIRE 1 pair. NORTHUMBERLAND 0-3 pairs. YORKSHIRE 0-1 pair.

Wales 4-7 pairs.

BRECONSHIRE 1-3 pairs. GWENT 3-4 pairs.

Scotland, Mid 0-1 pair.

ANGUS 0-1 pair.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed (pairs)	98	91	108	103	140	154	159	255	152	170	161
Possible/probable (pairs)	148	202	164	226	250	287	310	327	341	330	269
Max. total (pairs)	246	293	272	329	390	441	469	582	493	500	430

As this species has become commoner, so the reporting of its numbers has become less accurate. Equally, the reporting of breeding success and numbers of young reared has also become more sporadic and it is no longer sufficiently meaningful to include the latter in the table. The decline seen in 1995 is much more apparent than real. The successful breeding in Scotland in 1994 was not repeated.

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

At least 320 localities: 15-515 pairs breeding.

England, SW 61 localities: 4-108 pairs.

AVON Three localities: pair bred, one other pair and 17 singing males. CORNWALL Three localities: six singing males. DEVON Ten localities: pair bred and nine singing males. DORSET Up to 28 localities: 28 singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Three localities: ten singing males. HAMPSHIRE Eight localities: two pairs bred and ten singing males. SOMERSET Six localities: one pair and 22 singing males.

England, SE 42 localities: 3-64 pairs.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Nine localities: pair bred and 13 singing males. ESSEX Eight localities: 12 singing males. HERTFORDSHIRE Five localities: five singing males. KENT Ten localities: two pairs bred and 21 singing males. SURREY Three localities: three singing males. SUSSEX Seven localities: seven singing males.

England, E 96 localities: 5-139 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 18 localities: two pairs bred and 16 singing males. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Four localities: five singing males. LINCOLNSHIRE Eight localities: two pairs bred and 13 singing males. NORFOLK 41 localities: pair bred and 63 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Ten localities: 15 singing males. SUFFOLK 15 localities: 22 singing males.

England, Central 54 localities: 2-115 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE 16 localities: 18 singing males. LEICESTERSHIRE Nine localities: 23 singing males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Eight localities: 38 singing males. SHROPSHIRE 12 localities: two pairs bred, and 17 singing males. STAFFORDSHIRE Five localities: 13 singing males. WORCESTERSHIRE Four localities: four singing males.

England, N 24 localities: 1-30 pairs.

CHESHIRE Two localities: two singing males. **GREATER MANCHESTER** Six localities: six singing males. **LANCASHIRE** Seven localities: eight singing males. **NORTHUMBERLAND** Eight localities: pair bred and nine singing males. **YORKSHIRE** One locality: four singing males.

Wales Six localities: 0-6 pairs.

ANGLESEY One locality: one singing male. **BRECONSHIRE** One locality: one flushed. **CLWYD** One locality: one singing male. **GLAMORGAN** Three localities: three singing males.

Scotland, S 17 localities: 0-31 pairs.

AYRSHIRE Two localities: two singing males. **BORDERS** 12 localities: pair and 25 singing males.

LOTHIAN Three localities: three singing males.

Scotland, Mid 13 localities: 0-14 pairs.

ABERDEEN Seven localities: seven singing males. **FIFE** Six localities: seven singing males.

Scotland, N & W Seven localities: 0-8 pairs.

ARGYLL One locality: one singing male. **INVERNESS** Two localities: three singing males.

ORKNEY One locality: one singing male. **ROSS & CROMARTY** Three localities: three singing males.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	84	152	130	904	255	88	319	172	359	320
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	5	27	13	2	9	1	8	15
Possible/probable (pairs)	110	245	158	1,628	364	105	481	202	604	500
Max. total (pairs)	111	246	163	1,655	377	107	490	203	612	515

Another good year for the species, if slightly below the total for 1994. There was also a more northerly bias, with higher numbers in central England and in Scotland and fewer in southern England.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Eight localities: 0-12 pairs breeding.

England, E Three localities: (1) pair; (2) two singing males; (3) singing male.

Wales Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) juvenile from 24th September to 3rd October.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: (1) four singing males; (2) singing male; (3) single seen on 3rd and 14th May, but not apparently heard singing.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. counties	2	3	4	5	7	6	5	9	12	4	5
No. localities	2	3	7	6	14	14	7	12	19	5	8
No. singing	3	4	18	10	21	21	14	14	31	11	10

A slight improvement on 1994, but still a poor year. The juvenile seen in Wales in the autumn was nowhere near the locality with the singing male in spring.

Corn Crake *Crex crex*

25 'localities'; 551 males calling.

England, SE KENT One singing male, not heard after 23rd June.

England, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE One singing male from 11th to 20th July. **SUFFOLK** Two singing males on 4th July, one on 5th.

England, N CUMBRIA One on 1st July. **LANCASHIRE** One singing for at least a week in June.

Wales PEMBROKE Single singing males at two localities in April and July.

Scotland, S BORDERS Singing male on 27th June.

Scotland, N & W: Mainland

ROSS & CROMARTY One singing male on several nights in July. **SUTHERLAND** At least two singing males at one locality, and single singing males at two others.

Scotland, N & W: Islands

Totals of singing males: HIGHLAND - INNER HEBRIDES 9 (Skye 9), STRATHCLYDE - INNER HEBRIDES 207 (Coll 37, Tiree 140, Iona 4, Colonsay & Oronsay 12, Islay 14), ORKNEY 39, WESTERN ISLES 282 (Lewis 96, Harris 8, North Uist 53, Benbecula 23, South Uist 58, Barra & Vatersay 44).

A total of 537 singing males was found by RSPB, SNH and SCU teams on the Scottish islands this year, compared with 463 in 1994 and 446 in 1993. This brings the total back almost to the 540 reported in 1988. Although all the islands listed above showed an increase between 1994 and 1995, four other islands (Canna, Eigg, Muck and Mull), which had one or two individuals each in 1994, had none in 1995. In addition, Berneray and Rum, which had Corn Crakes in 1993, have now gone two years without any.

The RSPB/SNH/SCU Corncrake Initiative operated for the fourth year in Scotland, with increased numbers of farmers and crofters accepting payments to delay mowing their hay or silage fields until after 31st July, with an additional payment available for mowing in a Corn Crake-friendly manner, in strips or from the centre outwards. The Initiative, and other current conservation actions in Britain and Ireland, were reviewed in detail by Williams *et al.* (1997).

Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

United Kingdom Four pairs; at least one bred. Although the eggs are thought to have hatched, no young were reared and chicks were believed to have been taken by a predator.

Once again, no young were reared, for the seventh year running.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One locality: single male.

England, E One locality: male present all year.

Although only a single bird was present, it was in suitable breeding habitat, so this record is worth noting.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

At least 25 localities: 613-615 pairs reared a minimum of 149 young.

England, SE 11 localities

ESSEX Five localities: (1) 36 pairs fledged 24 young; (2) eight pairs bred, success unknown; (3) six pairs bred, success unknown; (4)(5) two pairs bred at each, success unknown.

KENT Five localities: (1) 76 pairs present, but eggs hatched in only 21 nests, and ten pairs fledged 16 young; (2) 33 pairs bred, but only two young reared, with major chick loss due to failure of food supply; (3) 17 pairs bred, but only 14 young fledged, from five nests; (4) four pairs bred, two hatched, but no young fledged; (5) three pairs bred, but no young thought to have fledged. Pairs at localities 4 and 5 had probably already failed at one of the other sites.

SUSSEX One locality: five birds present May-July, but no sign of breeding.

England, E 14 localities.

NORFOLK Ten localities: (1) 63 pairs bred, but only three young fledged; (2) 45 pairs bred, success unknown; (3) 40 pairs bred, 40 young fledged; (4) at least 28 pairs bred, 70 clutches laid, but only three young fledged owing to high level of predation by Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*; (5) 22 pairs fledged at least 15 young; (6) six pairs bred, success unknown; (7) four pairs bred, but no young fledged, and one other pair; (8) three pairs bred, success unknown; (9) three pairs bred, but all nests preyed on by Red Fox; (10) three pairs bred, but nests flooded.

SOUTH HUMBERSIDE One locality: four pairs bred, 14 young fledged, one other pair simply made scrape.

SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) 141 pairs fledged just 21 young, with gull predation the main cause of loss; (2) 80 pairs fledged just 12 young, with gull predation and bad weather the main causes of loss; (3) 30 pairs bred, fledging 25 young.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	14	15	18	27	24	21	21	29	25	29	25
Confirmed (pairs)	269	255	341	389	521	355	448	492	436	623	613
Young reared (min.)	245	227	315	136	150	200	305	336	347	181	149

Although the number of young reared was not reported from all sites, and no reports were received from at least one regular, though small, site, this was clearly a disastrous year for production. Poor weather at key times in the summer had an adverse effect, but predation by, especially, gulls and Red Foxes was mainly to blame.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus*

Seven counties: 165-174 pairs.

England, SW & SE Four counties: 56 pairs made a minimum 88 breeding attempts, fledging 61 young; five other pairs.

England, E Three counties: 109 pairs made 164 breeding attempts, from which 125 hatched young, at least 103 fledging, plus four other pairs and a single.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed (pairs)	68	103	137	126	126	139	139	155	146	141	165
Possible/probable (pairs)	47	12	0	3	17	10	16	4	16	32	9
Max. total (pairs)	115	115	137	129	143	149	155	159	162	173	174
Min. no. of young fledged	n/a	n/a	n/a	62	79	112	123	111	101	91	164

The best year to date, with only a modest increase in the number of confirmed pairs, but these producing by far the largest number of fledged young yet recorded. The capacity shown by this species for re-laying following loss of the first clutch was well demonstrated this year. (The Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green, RSPB, for his assistance in compiling the data.)

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

One locality: two pairs probably breeding (excluding those in main Scottish breeding areas).

England, N One locality.

CUMBRIA One locality: two pairs in May.

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 birds on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage. A paper examining the history of Dotterel breeding in northern England will shortly be submitted to *British Birds*.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: 0-2 pairs.

Scotland, N & W One locality: two males and one female were present at a traditional site in late May and early June.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2
Max. total (pairs)	2	3	5	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2

The minimum amount of monitoring of this species is carried out, just enough to establish presence.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one pair bred.

Scotland, N & W One locality: one young seen in mid July.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	3	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	4	1
Possible/probable (pairs)	2	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0
Max. total (pairs)	3	2	3	2	4	1	4	2	1	4	1

As with the preceding species, only minimal monitoring is carried out and confirmed breeding records such as this one are largely fortuitous.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Seven localities: lekking at three and breeding may have occurred at one.

England, SE Two localities

SUSSEX Two localities: (1) two males and two females in breeding plumage; (2) male in breeding plumage, with two females.

England, E One locality.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: two males, but no lekking.

England, Central One locality.

STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: two males and five females, some lekking, but site too dry.

England, N Three localities.

LANCASHIRE One locality: up to 50 birds lekking, two males and one female probably bred.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: up to 12 males and three females lekking, but very doubtful that breeding took place.

YORKSHIRE One locality: up to 45 present, with two or three females staying into spring, but no evidence of breeding.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	8	7	16	14	15	8	9	21	10	13	7
No. leks	3	3	10	6	6	1	4	7	7	3	3
Nests/broods	0	1	1	1	1	3	7	0	0	2	0

Reported from fewer localities than for some years, and the number of leks remained low. No breeding was confirmed, but was probable at one site.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

13 localities: 28-35 pairs breeding.

England, SW Two localities.

SOMERSET Two localities: (1) three adults; (2) single adult.

England, SE Three localities.

KENT Three localities: (1) three pairs laid, one clutch hatched, but no young fledged; (2) one

pair hatched one young, not known whether it fledged; (3) pair bred, success unknown.

England, E Three localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE. Two localities: (1) 14 pairs bred and fledged at least ten young; (2) five pairs bred, with unknown number of young fledging. NORFOLK One locality: two pairs bred, fledging at least three young.

England, N Two localities.

LANCASHIRE One locality: pair displaying and copulating at potential breeding site.

NORTH YORKSHIRE One locality: pair in June, but no sign of breeding.

Scotland, N & W Three localities.

ORKNEY One locality: adult in May and displaying, but no other evidence of breeding.

SHETLAND Three localities: (1) pair reared two young; (2) pair reared at least one young; (3) adult present.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	11	19	13	17	14	16	18	24	16	22	15
Confirmed (pairs)	22	23	28	36	34	33	28	20	28	20	28
Possible/probable (pairs)	17	24	12	28	22	33	25	38	5	16	7
Max. total (pairs)	39	47	40	64	56	66	53	58	33	36	35

A reduced number of sites, but the number of confirmed pairs returned to earlier levels, with at least 16 young fledged. Breeding records in Scotland are thought to involve the Icelandic race.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

No reports away from Orkney and Shetland.

For the fourth 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*

Six localities: 7-11 pairs bred.

Scotland, N & W Six localities: (1) three pairs bred and hatched young, but number fledged unknown; (2) two pairs bred and fledged at least three young; (3) two pairs bred successfully; (4) two pairs present throughout season; (5)(6) single adults in mid May.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	3	2	3	4	6	2	2	4	4	8	6
Confirmed (pairs)	2	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	6	7
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	5	6	5	4
Max. total (pairs)	3	3	4	4	6	2	2	6	8	11	11

Although the number of sites dropped back, the number of confirmed pairs increased slightly on last year's high count.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Seven localities: 33 breeding males reared at least 50 young at two sites.

Scotland, N & W Seven localities: (1) 31 breeding males, and 50 young were fledged; (2) two breeding males, unknown number of young reared, plus a third male; (3) three males and five females, but breeding not proved; (4) two males and two females present to mid July, but no evidence of breeding; (5) two females; (6) male in early spring; (7) female, but not at former regular site nearby.

The combined total of sites 1 and 2 is the highest since 1968 and reflects the success of the RSPB's management work on Fetlar, Shetland, recently reviewed by O'Brien *et al.* (1997). Reports from other areas were more than usual, but did not include any breeding.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

14 localities: 18-28 pairs, plus hybrid pair breeding.

England, SW Three localities: (1) pair bred, success unknown; (2) three pairs, but not known whether breeding took place; (3) pair holding territory.

England, SE Seven localities: (1) five pairs bred, but all failed because of high tides, and immature pair; (2) three pairs, two definitely bred, fledging total of two young; (3) three pairs bred unsuccessfully; (4) three pairs bred, but success unknown; (5) pair bred, but failed; (6) pair summered; (7) pair present April to June.

England, E Three localities: (1) three pairs bred, but failed; (2)(3) single pairs.

England, Central One locality: second-summer male paired to adult female Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* bred and fledged one hybrid young.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	3	5	3	9	5	10	13	15	14	16	14
Confirmed (pairs)	3	1	1	5	6	11	15	19	15	16	18
Possible/probable (pairs)	5	4	2	10	3	5	8	12	17	14	10
Max. total (pairs)	8	5	3	15	9	16	23	31	32	30	28

There has been a levelling-off in the number of localities and breeding pairs, with poor productivity this year because of high tides and predation.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinmans*

One locality: pair bred.

England, SW One locality: pair bred, but probably failed as young seen being fed by adult on 14th May, but not subsequently, despite checking; second pair present.

The first confirmed breeding in the United Kingdom. A hybrid pairing, with Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*, was reported in 1992 (*Brit. Birds* 88: 84).

Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*

One locality: female bred with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*.

England, N One locality.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: female bred with Sandwich Tern, laid one egg which was lost to unknown causes, a second clutch of one hatched, but the chick vanished at five days old.

A simpler story than in 1994, with no sign of the hybrid bird which bred and produced young that year.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

15 localities: 72-85 pairs breeding, fledging at least 66 young.

England, SW Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, but success unknown; (2) three adults, but no breeding activity.

England, E Two localities: (1) pair probably bred, with clutch of two eggs thought to be of this species, plus one adult; (2) pair and adult present, but no breeding attempt.

England, N Five localities: (1) 38 pairs bred, rearing up to 40 young; (2) two pairs bred and probably reared young, three other pairs; (2) pair bred; (3) two pairs made scrapes, but apparently did not lay; (4) three seen regularly at suitable site.

Wales Two localities: (1) ten pairs bred and fledged eight young; (2) pair, but did not breed.

Scotland, Mid Two localities: (1)(2) total of 11 pairs bred at the two sites and fledged 13 young.

Northern Ireland Two localities: (1)(2) total of eight pairs bred at the two sites and fledged five young.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	10	13	17	15	13	15	18	14	15
Confirmed (pairs)	169	164	172	93	52	62	84	74	72
Possible/probable (pairs)	164	33	5	31	5	10	21	24	13
Max. total (pairs)	333	197	177	124	57	72	105	98	85

A further worrying fall from the peak of 1993, with birds absent or not breeding at four former regular sites. Several new sites were used, however, with one pair at a former breeding site in Mid Scotland not occupied for over 40 years; rings indicated that both birds had fledged from the main Irish colony at Rockabill. In Northern Ireland, pairs bred successfully for the first time in two years at two sites. Despite the lower numbers of confirmed pairs, the spread to new or formerly used sites is encouraging.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Three localities: three singles.

England, Central One locality: single seen in late May and early June.

Scotland, N & W Two localities: (1) singing bird in May, but not relocated in June; (2) single in early August in area where has bred in previous years.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	9	9	10	9	8	6	6	1	6	1	3
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	8	8	9	9	7	6	5	2	5	1	3
Max. total (pairs)	9	9	10	10	8	6	6	2	6	1	3

Not quite so bad as in 1994, and with a welcome return to Scotland, although the population, if it can be called that, remains at a very low ebb.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

261-847 pairs breeding.

England, SW 234 breeding pairs or singing males.

DEVON Six areas: at least 16 singing males. **DORSET** Ten localities: 22 singing males found in partial survey. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** One locality: singing male. **HAMPSHIRE** Total of 194 pairs or singing males counted or estimated, but coverage incomplete. **WILTSHIRE** One locality: pair.

England, SE 126 breeding pairs or singing males.

BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: breeding pair and singing male. **BERKSHIRE** Four areas: 14 breeding pairs or singing males. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** One locality: two singing males. **KENT** One locality: pair plus singing male. **SURREY** Whole county: 78 breeding pairs or singing males. **SUSSEX** Whole county: 28 breeding pairs or singing males.

England, E 473 breeding pairs or singing males.

LINCOLNSHIRE Whole county: nine breeding pairs or singing males. **NORFOLK** Two main areas: 198 breeding pairs or singing males. **SUFFOLK** Two main areas: 266 breeding pairs or singing males.

England, Central 14 breeding pairs or singing males.

UNNAMED COUNTY Three localities: 13 breeding pairs or singing males. **STAFFORDSHIRE** One locality: pair in suitable habitat.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. counties	9	13	11	12	10	14	12	14	13	13	16
Confirmed (pairs)	5	47	28	88	156	64	39	124	213	100	261
Possible/probable (pairs)	122	181	165	157	54	272	303	535	408	524	586
Max. total (pairs)	127	228	193	245	210	336	362	659	621	624	847

The distinction between confirmed and possible/probable is not always made in some reports, so the breakdown of the maximum total pairs should be treated with caution. There has been a further increase. The true picture of this species' abundance will be revealed by the results of the census in 1997.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Red-spotted race *L. s. svecica*.

Two localities: pair bred, plus one singing male.

Scotland, N & W Two localities: (1) pair bred and fledged three young; (2) singing male on 8th June.

Only the second confirmed breeding record of this species in the United Kingdom, and the first instance of successful breeding. The previous record was in 1968, when a female was flushed from a nest and eggs, also in northern Scotland, though no male was seen and the fate of the nest was unknown (*Brit. Birds* 61: 524-525). The singing male was a long distance from the breeding site.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

58 localities: 19-82 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality: pair breeding.

DORSET One locality: pair fledged four young in two broods.

England, SE 33 localities: 7-47 pairs breeding.

BEDFORDSHIRE One locality: singing first-summer male. **BERKSHIRE** One locality: two singing males. **ESSEX** Two localities: (1) pair and singing male; (2) pair. **HERTFORDSHIRE** One locality: pair. **KENT** Ten localities: (1) pair fledged seven young in two broods; (2) pair fledged four young; (3) three pairs; (4) pair and four singing males; (5)(6) single pairs; (7) two females; (8)-(10) single singing males. **LONDON** Nine localities: (1) pair fledged four young in two broods, one other pair; (2) pair fledged one young; (3)(4) single pairs bred; (5) pair and singing male; (6) four singing males; (7)(8) single juveniles seen in June; (9) single singing male. **SURREY** Six localities: (1) pair fledged two young; (2)(3) single pairs; (4)-(6) single singing males. **SUSSEX** Three localities: (1) pair; (2)(3) single singing males.

England, E Nine localities: 5-15 pairs breeding.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: female in June. **NORFOLK** Three localities: (1) pair bred; (2)(3) single singing males. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** One locality: pair bred and two singing males.

SUFFOLK Four localities: (1) two pairs bred, third pair probably bred; (2) at least three singing males, six juveniles ringed; (3) pair bred; (4) pair in July.

England, Central Eight localities: 4-11 pairs breeding.

DERBYSHIRE Four localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2) pair bred; (3) pair, but no breeding evidence; (4) singing male. **LEICESTERSHIRE** One locality: singing male. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** One locality: pair and two singing males. **STAFFORDSHIRE** Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) female.

England, N Seven localities: 2-8 pairs breeding.

GREATER MANCHESTER Five localities: (1) male and two females fledged two broods; (2)(3) single singing males; (4) female; (5) female or juvenile in July. **LANCASHIRE** Two localities: (1) pair in March-April; (2) female in February-May.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	92	77	70	56	50	36	44	53	66	58
Confirmed (pairs)	81	46	54	36	28	23	14	32	32	19
Possible/probable (pairs)	38	63	58	46	46	46	57	44	63	63
Max. total (pairs)	119	109	118	82	74	69	71	76	95	82

A thorough survey was made of the London area in 1994, which boosted the totals for that year. In the absence of a repeat survey, numbers have fallen back to close to the 1993 level.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Six localities: 1-6 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality: one on 30th June.

England, Central One locality: one on 14th June.

England, N One locality: pair with three young.

Scotland, S Two localities: (1) bird 'alarming' on 4th June, but 'probably late migrant'; (2) moulting adult on 1st August.

Scotland, N & W One locality: pair holding territory in suitable habitat.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7	5	5	6
Confirmed (pairs)	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2	2	0	1
Possible/probable (pairs)	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8	3	5	5
Max. total (pairs)	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	11	5	5	6

A single definite breeding record after last year's gap, but still only half the number of reports of a few years ago.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Nine localities: 3-14 pairs breeding.

Scotland, S One locality: singing male in early June, but apparently did not stay.

Scotland, Mid One locality: singing male.

Scotland, N & W Seven localities: (1)-(3) single pairs bred; (4) pair and four singing males; (5) two singing males; (6)(7) single singing males.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	35	32	39	22	38	17	15	13	22	15	9
Confirmed (pairs)	12	20	9	10	12	6	7	9	5	4	3
Possible/probable (pairs)	23	26	41	30	39	15	13	15	22	15	11
Max. total (pairs)	35	46	50	49	51	21	20	24	27	19	14

A particularly poor year for this severely under-recorded species. In past years, many records have come from a very few people in good areas and the lower totals reflect the absence of such observations.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

At least 103 localities: 15-441 breeding 'pairs'.

England, SW 6-305 'pairs'.

AVON One locality: male bred with three females, fledging 11 young. **CORNWALL** Four localities: two pairs bred and 13 singing males. **DEVON** Whole county: about 66 singing males.

DORSET Whole county: (1) 32 pairs or singing males; (2) eight singing males; (3) total of 32 singing males at other localities. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) two singing males at each. HAMPSHIRE Whole county: at least 98 (and probably up to 120) pairs or singing males. SOMERSET Whole county: three pairs bred, and 38 singing males at 18 localities. WILTSHIRE Three localities: eight singing males.

England, SE 15 localities: 4-25 'pairs'.

BERKSHIRE Two localities: (1) male with two females; (2) two singing males. HERTFORDSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) single in June. KENT Three localities: seven singing males. SUSSEX Eight localities: three pairs bred and nine singing males.

England, E 26 localities: 1-57 'pairs'.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: singing male. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One locality: singing male. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: singing male, first summer record for county. NORFOLK 20 localities: 51 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: pair fledged three young. SUFFOLK Two localities: two singing males.

England, Central One locality: two 'pairs' bred.

WORCESTERSHIRE One locality: male bred with two females, fledging six young.

Wales 13 localities: 2-52 'pairs'.

BRECONSHIRE One locality: one singing male. CARMARTHEN Seven localities: 19 singing males. CARDIGAN/PEMBROKE One locality: 23 singing males, breeding occurred, but no details received. GLAMORGAN Two localities: two pairs bred and four singing males. GWENT Two localities: three singing males.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. counties	13	11	14	14	15	21	17	18	21	23	25
Confirmed ('pairs')	59	4	31	24	12	19	27	15	11	14	15
Possible/probable ('pairs')	190	175	156	174	196	326	214	273	306	318	426
Max. total ('pairs')	249	179	187	198	208	345	241	298	317	332	441

A further substantial increase, but still under-representing the population, which was censused in 1996 (Wotton *et al.* 1998). There is a slow but steady expansion north and west, with the first summer record for Lincolnshire and an expansion in Wales.

River Warbler *Locustella fluviatilis*

Two localities: two singing males (*Brit. Birds* 88: 516; 89: 499).

England, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: singing male at Wicken Fen, 7th to 10th July.

England, N GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: singing male at Scotsman's Flash, 11th June to at least 12th July.

Singing males reported for the third year running, the Greater Manchester bird being the longest stayer so far.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Two localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality.

KENT One locality: two singing males in July, one for one day only.

England, E One locality.

NORFOLK One locality: one seen on 22nd April only.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	12	9	16	10	13	5	13	13	5	7	2
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	14	11	20	13	17	9	16	20	4	9	3
Max. total (pairs)	15	12	20	13	17	10	16	22	8	10	3

A very poor year, with none reported from Suffolk, which has regularly produced up to four singing birds.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

16 localities: 2-31 pairs breeding, plus hybrid pair breeding.

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

England, SE Nine localities: (1) pair bred, five other pairs present; (2) five pairs present; (3) four singing males and two presumed females; (4) three pairs; (5) three singing males; (6) pair probably bred, juvenile seen end July; (7) pair bred, but nest destroyed by reed-cutting; (8)(9) single singing males.

England, E One locality: singing male.

England, Central Four localities.

WORCESTERSHIRE Four localities: (1) male Marsh Warbler bred with female Reed Warbler *A. scirpaceus* and fledged two young; (2) two singing males; (3)(4) single singing males.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	23	18	11	13	10	12	15	13	15	22	16
Confirmed (pairs)	2	12	10	6	11	13	9	9	12	0	2
Possible/probable (pairs)	40	16	11	14	11	11	23	26	46	48	29
Max. total (pairs)	42	28	21	20	22	24	32	35	58	48	31

The number of localities has dropped back to the 1993 level, while the number of pairs and singing males has fallen sharply for the second year running. The successful breeding of the hybrid pair will doubtless add to future identification difficulties.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One locality: one singing male (*Brit. Birds* 89: 517).

England, N CLEVELAND One locality: singing male, Haverton Hole, 22nd June to 4th July.

Although this is the sixth consecutive year in which males have been reported in song, the slow build-up of one (1991), three (1992), four (1993) and five (1994) has gone sharply into reverse.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Up to 1,679 territories identified.

England, SW County totals: CORNWALL 10, DEVON 174-233, DORSET 339 (partial survey), HAMPSHIRE 150 (very incomplete), plus probably 600 in New Forest, ISLE OF WIGHT 9, SOMERSET 11, WILTSHIRE 1.

England, SE County totals: BERKSHIRE 1, KENT 1, SURREY 283, SUSSEX 38.

England, E County totals: SUFFOLK 3.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. counties	5	5	8	6	5	8	8	7	11	10	12
Confirmed (pairs)	26	15	8	26	23	55	67	63	93	n/a	n/a
Possible/probable (pairs)	368	293	239	616	499	873	634	863	1,053	1,675	1,679
Max. total (pairs)	394	308	247	639	522	928	701	926	1,146	1,675	1,679

The results of the 1994 RSPB/EN national survey were reported recently (Gibbons & Wotton 1996). Some of the figures given above are guesstimates based on the detailed work carried out that year. Real increases have, however, been reported from Devon (156-165 in 1994), Surrey (155-173)

and Sussex (34), while the first breeding for the county was reported from Kent.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

35 localities: 4-56 pairs breeding.

England, SW 15 localities: 1-29 pairs breeding.

DEVON Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males in April, perhaps on passage.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Four localities: (1) three singing males; (2)-(4) single singing males in May.

HAMPSHIRE Five localities: (1) pair bred, and three singing males; (2) eight singing males, but coverage far from complete; (3) pair carrying nest material; (4)(5) single singing males.

SOMERSET One locality: singing male in May. WILTSHIRE Three localities: (1) three singing males; (2)(3) single singing males.

England, SE 15 localities: 1-19 pairs breeding.

BERKSHIRE Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Two localities:

(1)(2) single pairs. ESSEX One locality: singing male. KENT Two localities: (1) female gathering nest material, and two singing males; (2) four singing males.

LONDON Two localities: (1) female with brood patch; (2) singing male. SURREY One locality: singing male.

SUSSEX Four localities: (1)-(4) single singing males.

England, E Two localities: 1-3 pairs breeding.

NORFOLK Two localities: (1) pair bred, plus singing male; (2) singing male.

England, Central Three localities: 1-5 pairs breeding.

DERBYSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair bred, second pair and singing male; (2) singing male.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: singing male.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	24	19	37	44	52	48	19	15	20	41	35
Confirmed (pairs)	5	1	8	11	19	9	2	3	3	4	4
Possible/probable (pairs)	41	28	74	72	112	88	20	16	25	62	52
Max. total (pairs)	46	29	82	83	131	97	22	19	28	66	56

With more-limited survey work in the New Forest, numbers were bound to fall back from the peak in 1994, though still remaining about the level of the three previous years.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

34 localities: 8-35 pairs breeding, rearing 7-11 young to fledging.

England, SW Two localities: (1) adult and immature males singing from late May to mid June; (2) male on 6th May, probably on passage.

England, SE Eight sites surveyed, of which three held orioles and five held none: (1)(2) single singing males in May; (3) one.

England, E 61 sites surveyed, of which 33 held none, and a minimum of eight breeding pairs found, of which three known to have fledged young; three other pairs probably bred, there were also pairs at nine other sites, and singing males or singles at eight more.

England, Central One locality: male in early July.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	12	13	22	35	29	38	27	37	33	34	34
Confirmed (pairs)	4	5	11	16	15	10	16	14	14	7	8
Possible/probable (pairs)	11	11	20	25	22	32	12	23	19	28	27
Max. total (pairs)	15	17	31	41	37	42	28	37	33	35	35

A second consecutive very disappointing year. A full survey carried out in 1994 coincided with very poor weather, so it was decided by the Golden Oriole

Group, in consultation with English Nature, to repeat it in 1995. Unfortunately, 1995 turned out to be an equally bad season, because of inclement weather at critical times in the breeding cycle, with only seven to 11 young thought to have fledged (cf. 2-14 in 1994, but 31-37 in 1993, the best year to date). 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*

One locality: 0-1 pairs breeding.

England, SW One locality: male seen in suitable habitat on 2nd June (only visit paid).

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	7	3	8	6	3	7	5	13	6	7	1
Confirmed (pairs)	6	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	6	2	11	6	6	7	4	12	6	7	1
Max. total (pairs)	12	6	13	7	6	8	5	13	6	8	1

A complete absence of records from Scotland, where a pair bred in 1994, and a continuing minimal presence in England, leaves the situation precarious in the extreme, and a far cry from the minimum 49 pairs, almost all of which bred, and 79-80 young reared, of just 20 years ago, in 1975.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Eight localities: 0-8 pairs breeding.

Scotland, S Two localities: (1) pair, male singing, 13th May; (2) singing male on 7th May. It seems probable that these birds were on passage.

Scotland, Mid One locality: singing male on 30th April, probably migrant.

Scotland, N & W Five localities: (1) pair in late June, female nest-building on 1st July; (2)-(5) single singing males in suitable habitat, one found dead on road after singing for a month.

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
No. localities	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	8
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	1	4	8
Max. total (pairs)	3	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	4	8

Even subtracting the probable passage birds in south and mid Scotland, this is the best year since 1984.

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

One locality: 0-1 pair.

England, SW One locality.

CORNWALL One locality: singing male on 14th April and pair on 14th May, though not seen subsequently.

Yet another poor year, with Devon, formerly the most regular area, now apparently abandoned.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

One locality: up to seven breeding adults.

Scotland, N & W One locality: seven breeding adults, at five nests, were of this species on

measurements (Svensson, 1992, *Identification Guide to European Passerines*).

The first report since 1991, when two pairs bred in North & West Scotland, following a considerable influx the previous autumn (*Brit. Birds* 84: 500). Detailed studies of breeding crossbills in the region (Marquiss, M., paper read at Scottish Ringers' Conference, 1997, and RSPB) are revealing obvious differences in, especially, bill measurements, making some individuals referable to this species, and others to Common *L. curvirostra* and Scottish Crossbills *L. scotica*. More work by the RSPB is in progress to try to sort out the complex situation now being revealed.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Five localities: 0-7 pairs breeding.

England, SE One locality: male on 17th July.

England, E One locality: up to four birds present, female seen carrying nest material.

Scotland, N & W Three localities: (1)(2) single immature males singing; (3) at least three birds staying into July.

The first sign of breeding since 1992, though inconclusive.

Lapland Longspur *Calcarius lapponicus*

One locality: one male.

Scotland, Mid One locality: male in suitable upland area in June.

The first report of this species since 1989. There was a little burst of breeding in the late 1970s, with two confirmed pairs in 1977 and 1978, 11 in 1979, then only one in 1980, since when there have been just singles in 1981 and 1989.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Eight areas or localities: up to 19 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid and N & W Eight areas or localities: 19 pairs or singing males.

Limited survey work in one area together with casual observations have produced the above, which represent only a small proportion of the estimated 70-100 breeding pairs in northern Scotland.

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius*

42-379 breeding pairs.

England, SW

CORNWALL Seven localities: (1)(2) single pairs; (3)-(7) single singing males. **DEVON** The sample tetrad survey, now carried out on an annual basis by the RSPB, led to an estimate of 372 pairs as a county total; of a sample of 40 pairs, only 21 were successful (52.5%), well below last year's 67%, fledging a total of 65 young (3.1 young per successful nest).

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Confirmed (pairs)	36	48	98	113	92	43	42
Possible/probable (pairs)	83	85	143	207	269	369	337
Max. total (pairs)	119	133	241	320	361	412	379

The tetrad survey suggests a decline in numbers from the peak in 1994, while breeding success of monitored nests was also poor. (The Panel would like to thank the RSPB for the information on the sample survey in Devon.)

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