

# Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1999

*Malcolm Ogilvie and the  
Rare Breeding Birds Panel*

This is the twenty-seventh annual report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, which presents details of the status of Britain's rarest breeding birds. Most totals are set out by county, region or, occasionally, country; only rarely are actual localities given. This is done in order to minimise the continuing threat from egg-collectors, and, in some cases, to reduce the risk of disturbance from over-zealous birdwatchers. Where county names are given, these are grouped within the Panel's ten regions (see page 346).

## *The Panel*

The current (June 2001) membership of the Panel is: Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr H. Q. P. Crick, Dr I. Francis, Mrs A. J. Smith, Dr K. W. Smith, D. A. Stroud and Dr M.A. Ogilvie (Secretary). At the end of 2000, we said goodbye and thank-you to the two longest-serving members: Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, who was a member of the original Panel formed by the RSPB in 1968, prior to its reconstitution as an autonomous body in 1973; and Dr L.A. Batten, who joined in 1978. Dr Ian Francis was recruited to the Panel in 2000. The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but three are also 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) and the RSPB, with additional support coming from the BTO and *British Birds*.

## *Coverage*

The Panel collects records from the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, but not from the Republic of Ireland. Coverage in 1999 was excellent, with at least some records (including nil returns) received from every county and region. The majority of the records included in this report are submitted by County Recorders, with additional data from Schedule 1 licence forms received from the three country agencies. With regard to the acceptance of records for publication, it is the Panel's policy to follow the views of the appropriate County Recorder and local committee, and only very exceptionally to publish records which have not been vetted in this way.

## *Review of the year 1999*

This was the fourth year in a row in which reports from all parts of the country spoke of bad weather disrupting the breeding season, with heavy rain and floods in some areas and unseasonable snow and storms in others, while high water levels and high tides were responsible for destroying nests, eggs and chicks.

Just as in 1998, the breeding success of Black-throated Divers *Gavia arctica* was poor, with high water levels and bad weather to blame, although Red-throated Divers *G. stellata* in Orkney and Shetland fared rather better. There was a further drop in the numbers and, especially, the breeding success of Slavonian Grebes *Podiceps*

*auritus*. On a more optimistic note, Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* showed a continued improvement, with more booming males at a greater number of localities, and more young fledged, than in either of the previous two years, proof that the species is responding well to habitat management.

Among the wildfowl, although there were fewer reports of Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* compared with 1998, the number of confirmed breeding pairs was the highest recorded since the Panel started collecting records in 1973. Garganeys *A. querquedula* arrived in Britain in lower numbers than in either of the two previous years, although their distribution was not affected. A pair of Greater Scaups *Aythya marila* breeding in Northern Ireland was only the second such record for the Province.

The populations of Red Kites *Milvus milvus*, both natural and re-established, marked time in England and Wales, this being due at least partly to the effects of bad weather on breeding success, although there was a further increase in Scotland. The re-established White-tailed Eagles *Haliaeetus albicilla* had a slightly less successful season than in 1998. Although the count of breeding Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* continues to rise, the number of young produced in 1999 was lower, with several failures caused by high winds and heavy rain. Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* also produced fewer young than last year, but Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* managed a slight improvement.

The first complete census ever of Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* showed the value of intensive effort, since the total of singing males was more than twice the maximum number previously recorded. Corn Crakes *Crex crex* had a mixed year, with a welcome increase on a number of Scottish islands, yet declines on others.

Among the waders, Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* were affected by predation and high tides at some colonies. The steady increase in the numbers of breeding pairs of Stone-curlews *Burbinus oedicnemus* continued, although the number of fledged young fell very slightly. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, on the other hand, did well, despite some flooding, with the numbers of both breeding pairs and fledged young the highest for several years. Only the second

confirmed breeding by Green Sandpiper *Tringa ocbropus* took place, in Scotland (the first was in 1959, also in Scotland). There was something of a recovery in the breeding population of Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* on Fetlar, Shetland, although numbers were still well below the peak of a few years ago, while breeding or probable breeding occurred at three other locations in Scotland.

Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* bred in greater numbers, and at more locations, but no hybridisation was observed this year. A pair of Yellow-legged Gulls *L. cachinnans* bred, for the second year running, as did two mixed pairs of Yellow-legged and Lesser Black-backed Gulls *L. fuscus*. The number of breeding Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* increased slightly.

The numbers of both Barn Owls *Tyto alba* and Common Kingfishers *Alcedo atthis* were lower than in 1998, and the Panel once again appeals to county bird clubs to consider censusing the latter species.

A pair of Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* bred for only the fourth time in the 1990s, while breeding by Horned Larks *Eremophila alpestris* was strongly suspected. For the first time since 1983, no records of Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris* were received. There was, however, better news of Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* than in recent years, with more singing males recorded than for the last five years, although once again no proved breeding. Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* increased slightly compared with 1998 records, although for the first time for a great many years none was found in the species' former stronghold of Worcestershire.

Bearded Tits *Panurus biarmicus* have been reported to be in decline in recent years, but almost complete surveys throughout the species' range in the UK suggest that it is still present in very similar numbers to those found at the time of the 1992 census. Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* had their worst breeding season since 1986, but, to conclude on a positive note, a pair of Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio* bred in Scotland, and there were records of Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla* from five locations after only a single record in the last three years.

## *Conservation uses of Panel data*

It is the Panel's policy to make data available for relevant conservation uses. As well as site-specific information (e.g. for the review of Special Protection Areas by JNCC and the country conservation agencies), national data sets have been used by the RSPB for planning surveys. The Panel's data have also played a key role in reviews of birds of conservation concern and national population estimates, together with the development and implementation of recovery plans for certain species.

## *Publications*

The bibliography at the end of this report gives details of published results of censuses and surveys of the numbers and distribution of Panel species, many of these making use of the Panel's data.

## *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 United Kingdom. Jake Allsopp and the Golden Oriole Group, Colin Crooke, Peter E. Davis and the Welsh Kite Trust, Roy Dennis, Dr Andy Evans, Ian Carter, Dr Gillian Gilbert, Dr Rhys Green, Bob Image, Malcolm Henderson, Julianne Evans and Dr Ron Summers all supplied information on their particular specialities, and grateful thanks are due to them. We are grateful to the licensing officers of the three country agencies for their ready co-operation in supplying information: John Holmes (English Nature), John Ralston (Scottish Natural Heritage) and Sian Whitehead (Countryside Commission for Wales). We should also like to express our sincere thanks to all the very many individuals whose fieldwork produced the observations that form the basis for this report.

## *Key to geographical regions used in this report*

Note that recent further reorganisation of local government throughout Britain has made some of the names below obsolete. Exactly as happened after the last major reorganisation, in 1974, however, some English county and area bird societies have changed

their recording areas and others have not. So, without defining the precise boundaries of the 'counties' given below, these are, so far as possible, the names used by the local recorders who sent the Panel their information.

For Wales and for Scotland, it has been decided, again so far as possible, to use the names of the recording areas included in the respective annual bird reports of those two countries. Each publishes a map showing the names and boundaries, that for Wales being based on the Watsonian vice-counties, and that for Scotland on the local bird-report areas.

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

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

England, E Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, 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 The Watsonian vice-counties of Anglesey (Môn), Brecon (Brycheiniog), Carmarthen (Caerfyrddin), Caernarfon, Ceredigion, Denbigh (Dinbych), Flint (Fflint), Glamorgan and Gower (Morgannwg), Gwent, Meirionnydd, Montgomery (Trefaldwyn), Pembroke (Penfro), Radnor (Maesyfed)

Scotland, S The local bird-recording areas of Dumfries & Galloway, Borders, Lothian, Ayrshire, Clyde (comprising West and East Dunbartonshire including that part now in Argyll & Bute, North and South Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, City of Glasgow, Inverclyde, Stirling-Clyde drainage), Clyde Islands (Arran, the Cumbraes, Bute)

Scotland, Mid The local bird-recording areas of Angus & Dundee, Fife, Forth (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling), Perth & Kinross, Northeast Scotland (Aberdeenshire), Moray & Nairn

Scotland, N & W The local bird-recording areas of Argyll & Bute (except Bute and former West Dunbartonshire), Caithness, Highland (Badenoch & Strathspey, Inverness, Ross & Cromarty, Sutherland), Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides

Northern Ireland Co. Antrim, Co. Armagh, Co. Down, Co. Fermanagh, Co. Londonderry, Co. 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 'Pos-

sible/probable (pairs)' mean, respectively, 'Number of pairs confirmed breeding' and 'Number of pairs possibly or probably breeding'.

Within each species account, numbers given in the format '1-4 pairs' indicate (in this case) one proven breeding pair and a possible maximum total of four breeding pairs.

### Red-throated Diver *Gavia stellata*

Long-term monitoring continued in Orkney and Shetland. Other, more casual, breeding observations are not listed.

#### Scotland, N & W

ORKNEY On Hoy, of 63 pairs, 42 were successful and 21 failed; on West Mainland, of 25 pairs, 13 were successful, and reared 18 young.

SHETLAND On Fetlar, 23 pairs reared 21 young; at Hermaness, Unst, seven pairs reared six young; on

Foula, 13 pairs reared three young. The overall breeding success of 0.70/pair is substantially better than the 0.39 of 1998, despite the continued very poor production on Foula.

WESTERN ISLES The first successful breeding took place, on Barra.

The total British breeding population was estimated at 935-1,500 pairs in 1994 (Stone *et al.* 1997).

### Black-throated Diver *Gavia arctica*

The RSPB monitored 90 sites, of which 74 were occupied. Rafts have been constructed on several lochs to provide nesting sites that are less prone to flooding than those on banks and islands.

Year	Sites monitored	Sites occupied	Rafts used/available	Young fledged (av. chicks per pair)		
				Rafts	Natural	Total
1996	120	96	27/45	19 (0.70)	28 (0.41)	47 (0.49)
1997	98	82	32/41	17 (0.53)	12 (0.10)	29 (0.35)
1998	114	82	38/45	19 (0.50)	12 (0.28)	31 (0.38)
1999	90	74	38/48	14 (0.36)	7 (0.27)	21 (0.33)

The number of rafts used remains high, but, owing to cold, wet and windy weather during the main hatching period, productivity was the lowest recorded since monitoring began in 1991. Breeding success at natural sites was similar to that in 1998 and, as usual, below that for those pairs using the rafts.

### Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Six localities in three areas: one pair and 3-5 adults in summer plumage.

#### England, E

Three localities: (1) summer-plumaged adult from 19th March to 3rd April, and from 3rd May to 5th September, at usual site; (2) summer-plumaged adult on 8th June; (3) summer-plumaged adult (perhaps same bird as (2)) from 30th June to 14th July.

#### England, N

Two localities: (1) summer-plumaged adult seen

sporadically from 1st April to 19th August; (2) summer-plumaged adult on 8th June, perhaps the same bird as (1).

#### Scotland, S

One locality: summer-plumaged adult on 7th April, pair recorded from 12th April intermittently to 29th July.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	6	5	3	9	7	10	6	8	4	10	6
No. pairs	3	2	1	3	0	1	4	2	1	4-5	1
No. individuals	9	3	4	12	7	13	10	10	3	5	3-5

A disappointing year, after the improved showing in 1998. The long-established pair in south Scotland, which has been present since 1983, sometimes attempting to breed, was only intermittent in its appearance, perhaps suggesting that this site is being deserted.

### Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

24 localities: 35 pairs breeding, fledging 12 young.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

24 localities: total of 35 pairs bred, fledging 12 young; also six unpaired singles.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	39	36	31	34	33	32	31	24	22	25	24
Confirmed (pairs)	70	74	61	72	73	51	58	49	53	42	35
Possible/ probable (pairs)	8	12	13	5	4	8	7	6	3	8	6
Max. total pairs	78	86	74	77	77	59	65	55	56	50	41

The breeding productivity, of 0.34 young per pair, is well below the long-term average of 0.60, as it was in 1998. The RSPB has started a number of experimental projects to improve the nesting habitat, particularly by increasing the amount of available nesting cover from aquatic vegetation. Investigations are also being carried out into the effects of predation of adult birds. 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*

22 localities in 17 counties: 34-53 pairs bred.

England, SW

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. AVON One locality: pair present, intermittently, May-June; juvenile seen in August, but no evidence that it was reared here. HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair 9th-22nd May.

England, SE

Two localities: 1-3 pairs. ESSEX One locality: pair bred, not successfully. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: two pairs in June, one bird seen carrying nesting material.

England, E

Four localities: 1-4 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: pair in late April, some nest-building activity. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: pair bred. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair in April; (2) pair in late March.

England, Central

Two localities: 2-3 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) two pairs fledged five young; (2) pair probably bred, no young seen.

England, N

Six localities: 24-32 pairs. CHESHIRE One locality: six pairs bred successfully, three pairs probably bred, another (tenth) pair present. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair fledged four young. NORTHUMBERLAND Three localities: (1) 17 pairs with 31 young; (2) two pairs in May; (3) pair in May. YORKSHIRE One locality: two juveniles in early July, suggestive of local origin.

Scotland, S

Two localities: 1-2 pairs. BORDERS One locality: pair bred. LOTHIAN One locality: summer-plumaged adult in early April.

Scotland, Mid

Four localities: 5-7 pairs. FIFE One locality: pair present, but not known to have bred. ANGUS One locality: pair bred. PERTSHIRE Two localities: (1) four pairs attempted to breed, at least six young hatched, and three or four fledged; (2) pair in late May.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	19	19	25	29	31	32	30	32	26	18	22
Confirmed (pairs)	25	21	19	26	24	27	30	20	17	35	34
Possible/ probable (pairs)	15	16	34	34	26	54	47	33	29	13	19
Max. total pairs	40	37	53	60	50	81	77	53	46	48	53

The number of localities rose slightly from the low point of 1998, but the number of confirmed breeding pairs was one fewer than that year's record number. Single sites in Cheshire and in Northumberland again contributed the bulk of the breeding pairs.

### Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

17 localities, of which 16 had a minimum of 19 and a maximum of 24 booming males; between 21 and 25 young fledged from at least 21 nesting attempts.

#### England, SW

Two localities: (1) booming male, late February to early April; (2) wandering male, some booming heard, late May.

#### England, SE

Three localities: (1)-(3) booming males, only one regular.

#### England, E

11 localities: (1) five booming males, nine nests found, at least 13 young fledged; (2) two booming

males, six nests found; (3) one booming male, two nests found, at least one young fledged; (4) two booming males, one nest found; (5) one booming male, one nest found; (6)-(8) single booming males, breeding not confirmed; (9)(10) single males, intermittently booming; (11) one in flight, mid-June.

#### England, N

One locality: three booming males, at least two nesting attempts, two juveniles seen.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. booming localities	14	12	13	14	13	16	13	10	10	12	16
Confirmed nests	3	3	4	4	5	5	11	8	15	13	21
Booming males (min.)	nc	18	16	18	15	15	19	22	11	13	19
Booming males (max.)	30	20	17	19	17	16	20	22	12	18	24

An encouraging increase, in all categories, compared with 1998. As in recent years, strict criteria are applied to records of booming males, with records included in the minimum figure of 19 only when (1) sound analysis of the boom showed that the bird was different from those nearby, (2) the booming period overlapped those at nearby sites, or (3) booming was heard at the same time as those in nearby territories. In addition, the birds must be heard for at least a week, and reported by a reliable observer (e.g. site warden, County Recorder). The additional five booming males heard this year were confirmed, but the records did not meet the above criteria. Totals in the table since 1990 have been adjusted to take these criteria into account. The total of 21-25 young fledged is based on the number tagged by RSPB staff and their estimate of chicks which fledged from nests not visited.

Research effort sponsored by the RSPB and EN continues, while the results of management work carried out by a variety of organisations are starting to become apparent. The Panel is grateful to both organisations for supplying many of these data.

### Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Nine localities: 30-36 pairs bred.

#### England, SW

Nine localities: 30-36 pairs. AVON Two localities: (1)(2) no breeding, but birds present in suitable

areas in April and May. DEVON Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs indulging in aggressive courtship in late March and early April. DORSET



Two localities: (1) 23 pairs bred, number of fledged young unknown; (2) two pairs bred. HAMPSHIRE Two localities: (1) five pairs bred, at least two pairs reared young; (2) at least one pair,

may have bred. SOMERSET One locality: three birds flying in and out of heronry, but breeding not proved.

Numbers at the original site in Dorset continue to increase, as does the spread in either direction along the south coast, as well as north into adjacent counties.

### Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Five localities: 1-7 pairs bred.

England, E

Two localities: (1) up to nine birds (perhaps four pairs), June and July, with mutual preening and stick-gathering observed; (2) pair present, but did not breed.

England, N

Two localities: (1) pair bred, laying three eggs and

rearing two young; (2) two birds, occasionally three, throughout the summer, observed carrying sticks.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: single bird in May.

The breeding record in 1998, proclaimed as the first in Britain since 1688, may not, it seems, have produced fledged young, as reported originally (*Brit. Birds* 93: 364). Full details will appear in a future issue of the Suffolk Bird Report. The pair in northern England this year did, however, rear two young to fledging. Other pairs or groups of birds are continuing to show signs of breeding activity in different localities.

### Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

15 localities: 4-7 pairs bred; also ten singles.

Scotland, N & W

14 localities: (1) two pairs, one pair bred and reared one young; (2) pair bred and reared one young; (3) pair may have bred, but no young seen; (4) pair attempted nest-building; (5)-(14) single birds.

Northern Ireland

One locality: two pairs bred and reared three young.

The above are all considered to be of wild origin, though some may have been injured birds, not able to undertake their normal migration to Iceland. Records of escaped birds are now included in the Panel's report on non-native breeding birds.

### Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Breeding reports were received as follows:

England, SW

SOMERSET Four pairs at three localities.

England, SE

ESSEX Single summering pairs or birds at eight localities.

England, E

NORFOLK Summering pairs or birds at 13 localities.

England, Central

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Three males and a female at one locality. WARWICKSHIRE Summering pairs or birds at three localities.

England, N

DURHAM 14 broods, and 15 other pairs, at 14 localities. NORTHUMBERLAND Seven broods,

comprising a total of 30 young, at three localities.

Scotland, S

BORDERS Two pairs bred, and third pair present, at three localities. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three pairs bred at one locality.

Scotland, Mid

ABERDEENSHIRE Two pairs at one locality. MORAY & NAIRN Two broods at one locality.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Three broods at one locality. ORKNEY 13 pairs bred, plus another pair present, at ten localities. SHETLAND Two broods at one locality. WESTERN ISLES Five pairs bred and seven pairs probably bred on two islands.

The number of reports from England has fallen compared with 1998, although the total remains around 100 pairs, typical of recent years. The most recent estimate of the British population is 300-500 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

### Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Breeding reports were received as follows:

#### England, SW

DEVON Four pairs. DORSET Up to 11 pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 30 pairs. HAMPSHIRE At least 44 pairs. SOMERSET At least 59 pairs.

#### England, SE

BERKSHIRE Seven pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 11 pairs. ESSEX 50 pairs.

HERTFORDSHIRE 24 pairs. SURREY 17 pairs. SUSSEX Ten pairs.

#### England, E

HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 30 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE Seven pairs. NORFOLK 120 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 13 pairs. SUFFOLK At least 51 pairs.

#### England, Central

DERBYSHIRE 27 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 43

pairs. SHROPSHIRE Three pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 20 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE One pair.

#### England, N

CLEVELAND 11 pairs. CHESHIRE 25 pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER Nine pairs. LANCASHIRE 25 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Ten pairs.

#### Wales

ANGLESEY Two pairs. CARMARTHEN Five pairs. GWENT One pair. PEMBROKESHIRE One pair (first breeding in county).

#### Scotland, S

BORDERS One pair. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Single male.

#### Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL One pair. ORKNEY 13 pairs. ROSS & CROMARTY Single male.

The total of pairs reported, 688, is below the 1998 total of almost 800 pairs, but is still higher than the 500-550 pairs in 1996 and 1997. The drop is widespread, although a number of counties did not send in reports. The most recent estimate of the British population is about 770 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

### Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

25 localities: 22-37 pairs breeding.

#### England, SE

Three localities: 1-3 pairs. ESSEX One locality: pair summered. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: pair probably bred. SUSSEX One locality: pair bred.

#### England, E

Two localities: nine pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: eight pairs bred. SUFFOLK One locality: pair bred, the first proven breeding record in the county since 1951.

#### England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pair. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: pair in April-May, female absent for two weeks in May, then returned, so possibly nested and failed.

#### England, N

One locality: one pair. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair bred.

#### Wales

One locality: 0-1 pair. PEMBROKESHIRE One locality: summering female in June.

#### Scotland, S

One locality: 0-1 pair. LOTHIAN One locality: pair present throughout May.

#### Scotland, Mid

One locality: pair bred. ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: pair bred.

#### Scotland, N & W

15 localities: 10-20 pairs. ARGYLL One locality: two pairs, one probably bred. HIGHLAND Four localities: (1) pair bred; (2)-(4) pairs or females in suitable habitat. ORKNEY Nine localities: (1) three pairs bred; (2)(3) two pairs bred; (4) pair bred; (5)-(9) single pairs present. WESTERN ISLES One locality: pair bred.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	16	20	28	23	23	49	25	33	22	28	25
Confirmed (pairs)	11	9	4	13	4	20	11	8	5	13	22
Possible/ probable (pairs)	28	27	39	35	43	56	34	45	28	37	15
Max. total pairs	38	36	43	48	47	76	45	53	33	50	37

A mixed year, with the highest number of confirmed breeding pairs since the Panel began



keeping records, in 1973, but backed up by the lowest number of possible and probable breeding pairs since 1987. The numbers on Orkney, which holds such a high proportion of the British population, amounted, in a partial survey, to eight confirmed pairs and five others, compared with 12 and eight respectively in 1998.

### Garganey *Anas querquedula*

77 localities: 37-108 pairs breeding.

#### England, SW

17 localities: 6-21 pairs. AVON Two localities: three males. DEVON Nine localities: pair bred, plus one other pair and six males (including one at two sites). DORSET One locality: pair bred. SOMERSET Five localities: four pairs bred, plus five other pairs.

#### England, SE

Six localities: 1-9 pairs. ESSEX Four localities: pair bred, plus four other pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: one male. KENT One locality: three pairs.

#### England, E

15 localities: 23-37 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: 18 pairs bred. NORFOLK Six localities: four pairs bred, plus seven other pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Three localities: pair bred, plus two other males. SUFFOLK Four localities: five pairs.

#### England, Central

Five localities: 1-5 pairs. DERBYSHIRE Two localities: pair bred, plus one other pair. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: two pairs. SHROPSHIRE One locality: one male.

#### England, N

11 localities: 3-13 pairs. CLEVELAND One locality: three pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER Six localities: two pairs and three other males, plus up to four eclipse birds from July. LANCASHIRE Three localities: pair bred, plus another pair and a male. YORKSHIRE One locality: two pairs bred.

#### Wales

15 localities: 1-15 pairs. CEREDIGION One locality: pair bred. OTHER WELSH COUNTIES 14 localities: 14 singles.

#### Scotland, S

One locality: 0-1 pair. BORDERS One locality: one male.

#### Scotland, N & W

Six localities: 1-6 pairs. ARGYLL One locality: one pair. ORKNEY Five localities: pair bred, plus three other pairs and one male.

#### Northern Ireland

One locality: one pair. ARMAGH One locality: pair bred.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	81	87	90	90	73	65	80	60	85	86	77
Confirmed (pairs)	18	14	12	16	14	13	9	15	10	22	37
Possible/ probable (pairs)	80	97	82	144	149	98	108	63	119	122	71
Max. total pairs	98	111	94	160	163	111	117	78	129	144	108

The worst year since 1996, with numbers down more or less everywhere except, curiously, north and west Scotland, where numbers were higher than in 1998.

### Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

394 pairs.

#### England, SW

30 pairs. AVON Five pairs. DORSET Seven pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One pair. HAMPSHIRE Four pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT One pair. SOMERSET 12 pairs.

#### England, SE

100 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Three pairs. ESSEX 60 pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE Six pairs. KENT 20 pairs. SURREY 11 pairs.

#### England, E

120 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 16 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE 26 pairs. NORFOLK 52 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Four pairs. SUFFOLK 22 pairs.

#### England, Central

15 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Four pairs. SHROPSHIRE Three pairs. WARWICKSHIRE Seven pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE One pair.

#### England, N

81 pairs. CLEVELAND 20 pairs. CHESHIRE 22 pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER Four pairs. LANCASHIRE 15 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Seven pairs. YORKSHIRE 13 pairs.

#### Wales

19 pairs. ANGLESEY Three pairs. CARMARTHEN 14 pairs. GLAMORGAN Two pairs.

#### Scotland, S

Seven pairs. BORDERS Seven pairs.

## Scotland, Mid

Four pairs. CENTRAL One pair. FIFE Three pairs.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

Three pairs. ORKNEY Two pairs. ROSS &amp; CRO-

MARTY One pair.

## Northern Ireland

15 pairs. ARMAGH 15 pairs.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	116	133	161	145	117	158	142	98+	96+	96+	nc
Confirmed (pairs)	260	207	284	266	237	347	309	269	246	386	394
Possible/ probable (pairs)	76	86	144	292	179	291	185	100	134	58	-
Max. total pairs	336	293	428	558	416	638	494	369	380	444	394

Numbers reported were lower than in 1998, with some counties not sending in records. The number of localities has been omitted, since this is also not always available.

### Greater Scaup *Aythya marila*

One locality: one pair.

## Northern Ireland

ARMAGH One locality: one pair bred, brood of seven hatched, which was reduced to three before

fledging. This is the second breeding record for Northern Ireland.

There were no breeding records of this species in 1998, and confirmed breeding is a comparatively rare event.

### Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

49 localities: 14-58 pairs.

## Scotland, Mid

Two localities: five pairs all believed to have bred.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

ARGYLL Three localities: 17 pairs recorded. HIGH-

LAND Total of 44 localities checked in partial survey: minimum 36 pairs found, of which nine were confirmed breeding.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	7	9	14	32	38	47	61	10	8	16	49
Confirmed (pairs)	8	6	9	9	16	5	nc	11	2	6	14
Possible/ probable (pairs)	32	23	21	62	72	79	76-89	32	33	35	44
Max. total pairs	40	29	30	71	88	84	89	43	35	41	58

About half of the known breeding sites in the Flow Country were surveyed this year. The last full census was in 1995, when the British and Irish population was estimated to be 195 pairs (Underhill *et al.* 1998).

### Velvet Scoter *Melanitta fusca*

One locality: one male.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

HIGHLAND One locality: adult male present, with breeding Common Scoters *M. nigra*.

The presence of an adult male on an inland water in midsummer is thought sufficiently unusual to be worth recording. This species has not previously appeared in these reports.

### Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Only sample data are available from nestbox schemes in Highland Region, Scotland. The first

breeding records in Borders Region were reported in 1999.

England, E

Seven localities: 0-8 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Five localities: (1)-(5) single summering birds. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two localities: (1) two males summered; (2) single male summered.

England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pair. DERBYSHIRE One locality: single female summered.

England, N

One locality: 0-1 pair. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair summered.

Scotland, S

Five localities: 1-5 pairs. BORDERS Five localities:

(1) pair bred, five young reared, the first breeding record for Borders; (2)-(5) single summering birds.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: 1-2 pairs. CENTRAL One locality: pair bred in nestbox. MORAY & NAIRN One locality: adult female present.

Scotland, N & W

61 pairs. HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) Abernethy RSPB Reserve: 11 pairs in 28 boxes checked, 38 young hatched; (2) Insh Marshes RSPB Reserve: 47 nesting attempts in 56 boxes, 25 clutches incubated, 125 young hatched. Casual records of three other pairs in the region.

The first breeding in Borders may indicate the beginning of a slow spread southwards. Small numbers continue to summer in England.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

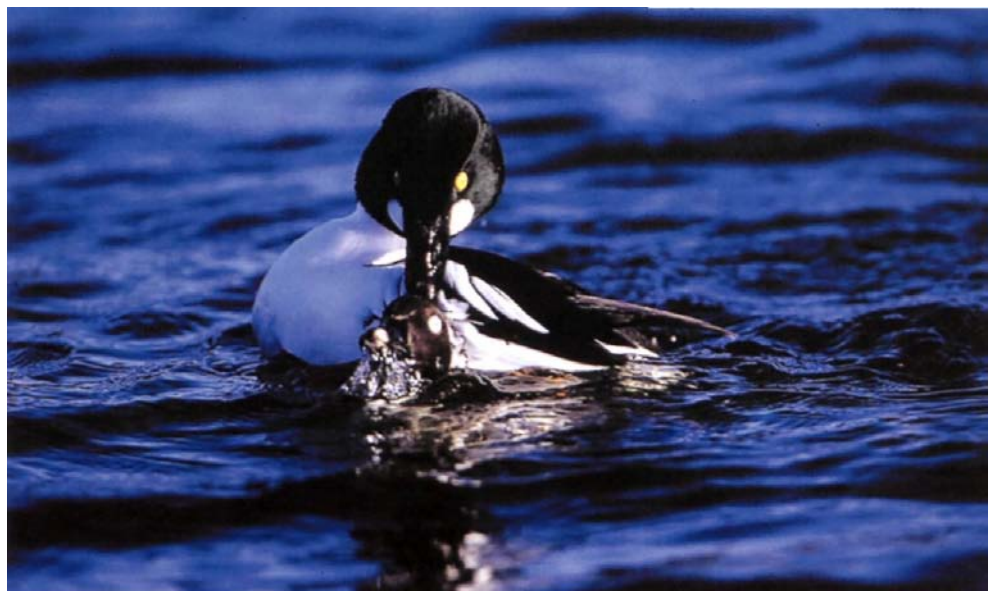
37 localities: 13 pairs breeding; minimum of 14 young reared.

Great Britain

37 localities: (1) pair fledged two young, third adult present also; (2)-(5) pair fledged two young; (6) pair fledged one young, two further adults present; (7) pair fledged one young, third adult present also; (8)(9) pair fledged one young; (10)-(13) pairs present and breeding, but apparently no

young fledged; (14)(15) pairs present and nest-building, but no eggs laid; (16) four adults present, no proof of breeding; (17) pair and third adult present, no proof of breeding; (18)-(27) pairs present, no proof of breeding; (28)-(37) single birds present.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	2	8	6	9	9	14	14	17	13
Max. total pairs	20	19	22	26	27	28	30	34	39	37	43



David Tipling/Windrush

205. Common Goldeneyes *Bucephala clangula*, Speyside, March 2000.

Although the number of confirmed breeding pairs fell, the overall total of pairs rose to a new high. It was suggested by Roberts *et al.* (1999) that the true population of this species in Britain is probably more than 50 pairs. Accordingly, the Panel organised a census in 2000 and provisional results suggest a total of 29 confirmed pairs and a possible total of 61 pairs (Batten 2001). A more detailed account will be presented in our report for 2000. The Panel continues to urge observers to submit all records of this species.

### Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

181 breeding pairs in Wales reared 165 young, and at least 119 breeding pairs from released stock in England and Scotland reared at least 231 young.

#### Wales

181 pairs were proved to breed, of which 118 were successful, rearing 165 young. While the numbers of breeding pairs and of successful pairs were both higher than ever before, the number of fledged young fell slightly. Bad weather was responsible for several nest failures, including heavy snowfall in mid-April which caused the col-

lapse of eight nests. At least one nest was robbed by egg-collectors.

In addition to the breeding pairs, there were 47 non-breeding pairs, while 155 unmated singles were counted during the spring. The total population stood at 610 individuals in April and 766 in August, which is substantially more than the 1998 figures of 520 and 682, respectively.

Wales	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total pairs	71	84	92	101	115	138	146	161	180	200	228
Breeding pairs	54	65	76	84	104	111	127	130	152	167	181
Successful pairs	33	47	41	60	61	70	79	90	99	112	118
Young reared	49	73	62	96	82	99	117	119	129	174	165
Young/territorial pair	0.69	0.87	0.67	0.95	0.71	0.72	0.80	0.74	0.72	0.87	0.72

The Panel wishes to thank Peter Davis and the Welsh Kite Trust for the above information.

#### England

A total of 75 breeding pairs of the re-established population in southern England was located at or near the original release site in the Chilterns; of these, 71 pairs successfully fledged 155 young. In the East Midlands release area, six of the seven breeding pairs were successful, rearing 16 young;

releases have now ceased at this site. A new release site was established this year in northern England, where 23 young birds were released.

In addition to the above, breeding took place in one southern England county, with at least one young fledged, and pairs were seen in three other counties.

England	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total territorial pairs	2	7	12	22	26	nc	61	87	nc
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	20	24	37+	57	76	83
Successful pairs	0	4	8	17	22	nc	50	67	78
Young reared	0	9	14	37	55	80	111	146	172
Young/territorial pair	-	1.29	1.17	1.68	2.12	-	1.82	1.68	-

#### Scotland

A total of 32 pairs was located in the area of the North of Scotland release site; of these, 30 laid and 22 were successful, fledging 54 young. At the

Central Scotland release site, four of six breeding pairs were successful, rearing five young between them. A seventh pair was seen.

Scotland	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Total territorial pairs	2	8	11	17	22	27	30	39
Breeding pairs	1	5	8	15	17	23	25	36
Successful pairs	1	3	6	11	16	19	22	26
Young reared	1	7	13	26	39	39	47	59
Young/territorial pair	0.50	0.86	1.18	1.53	1.77	1.44	1.57	1.51

The Panel is grateful to Ian Carter of English Nature and Colin Croke of the RSPB for the above information.

Steady growth continues at all the re-establishment sites, though more quickly in England than in Scotland, where persecution, particularly through poisoning, remains a serious problem. Breeding in an area away from the English release sites was confirmed for the first time, although it has been suspected before.

### White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

#### Re-establishment.

##### Scotland

A total of 18 pairs, or trios, of territory-holding birds laid an estimated 15-16 clutches. Nine of these were known to have hatched, resulting in

six fledged broods totalling 11 young. All the nest failures were attributed to natural causes. The release of young birds from Norway has now ceased.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Breeding pairs/trios (min.)	6	9	8	9	6	8	9	12	11	18	18
Successful pairs	3	2	4	4	4	4	5	7	5	9	6
Young reared	5	2	7	7	5	5	7	9	9	13	11
Young/territorial pair	0.83	0.22	0.88	0.78	0.83	0.63	0.78	0.75	0.82	0.72	0.61

A slightly less successful year than 1998, with productivity slightly below the average for the previous ten years, although the general situation remains favourable. The Sea Eagle Project Team remain concerned that, although 12 of the 20 eagle territories which have been established since the early 1980s have successfully produced a total of 88 fledged young, just four of these sites are responsible for no fewer than 64 (73%) young. All four key sites have been occupied by the same individual birds throughout their history.

The Panel is grateful to Colin Croke and the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information. The Project is supported jointly by the JNCC, SNH and the RSPB.



Frédéric Desmette/Windrush

206. White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, Skye, Inner Hebrides, June 2000.



## Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

145-164 pairs bred, rearing at least 256 young.

### England, SW

One locality: one pair. SOMERSET One locality: pair fledged four or five young.

### England, SE

Eight localities or areas: 33-38 pairs. ESSEX Four localities: (1) pair fledged three young, plus another pair present; (2) pair fledged three young; (3) two pairs present; (4) immature male and two females nest-building. KENT Four localities: (1) 28 females nested, of which 19 successful, fledging 45 young; (2) pair fledged four young; (3) pair fledged three young; (4) pair bred.

### England, E

28 localities or areas: 106-113 pairs bred. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: (1) two pairs fledged seven young; (2) two pairs fledged six young; (3) pair probably bred. LINCOLNSHIRE Four localities: (1) two pairs fledged seven young; (2) two pairs fledged six young; (3) two pairs probably bred; (4) pair probably bred. NORFOLK Ten localities or areas: 64 pairs fledged at least 102 young;

two additional pairs probably bred. SUFFOLK 11 localities: (1) 11 pairs bred, eight of these fledging 25 young; (2) eight pairs fledged 14 young; (3) six pairs bred; (4) three pairs fledged nine young; (5)(6) pair fledged two young; (7) pair fledged one young; (8)-(10) single pairs bred; (11) pair possibly bred.

### England, N

Four localities: 5-6 pairs bred. LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1) two pairs fledged six young; (2) immature pair summered. YORKSHIRE One locality: three pairs fledged seven young.

### Wales

One locality: 0-1 pair. ANGLESEY One locality: male displaying during April-May.

### Scotland, Mid

One locality: 0-1 pair. FIFE One locality: pair possibly bred.

### Scotland, N & W

Four localities: 0-4 pairs. HIGHLAND Three localities: (1)-(3) single female seen. ORKNEY One locality: pair present, male seen nest-building.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Breeding males	58	73	83	92	84	114	151	135	131	137	145
Breeding females	66	110	91	107	110	129	156	136	132	138	145
Young	172	145	198	229	244	255	277	263	206	292	256

An increase of 6% in the number of breeding birds compared with 1998, partly reflecting better survey coverage, although in some areas there are difficulties in monitoring all possible pairs. The reduction in the number of young reared was probably caused by spells of poor weather at critical times.

## Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete survey.

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, N (all counties)	25	12	28	1.12
Wales	10	6	12	1.20
Borders & Lothian	10	3	7	0.70
Dumfries & Galloway	20	10	30+	1.50
South Strathclyde	no data	-	-	-
Stirling	5	2	7	1.40
Angus	3	2	6	2.00
Perthshire	23	13	37	1.61
Northeast Scotland	14	7	19	1.36
Moray & Nairn	21	15	48	2.29
Argyll & Bute	24	16	39+	1.63
Highland	11	7	20	1.82
Orkney	25	10	21	0.84
Western Isles	12	7	19	1.58
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1.44</b>



The numbers of monitored territories and pairs were lower than in 1998, when a national census took place, but overall breeding success has increased from the 1.2 young per territorial pair recorded then. The results of the national census will be published shortly (Sim *et al.*, in press). The total of territorial pairs found by the 1998 census was 570 (range 499-640), which is little different from the previous census in 1988.

The Panel is grateful to the Scottish, Welsh and Cumbrian Raptor Study Groups, as well as to many individuals, for the above information.

### Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

11 localities: 4-11 pairs reared 12 young.

England, SW

Five localities: (1) pair probably bred, but not successfully; (2) pair present, but non-breeding; (3) single male seen; (4)(5) single females seen.

England, SE

Three localities: (1) pair bred, fledging three

young; (2) male present for a month; (3) single female seen.

England, E

Three localities: three pairs bred; two of these fledged nine young, the third failed.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	15	9	14	12	8	15	14	16	13	11	11
Breeding males	4	8	5	7	5	7	8	6	7	3	4
Other males	5	4	3	2	2	9	8	8	6	10	4
Breeding females	6	11	7	8	6	12	9	7	9	3	4
Other females	7	2	6	4	1	11	4	7	3	5	5
Young	14	20	14	12	9	13	26	14	11	8	12

Another poor year, only slightly better than the low point of 1998. The decline from the peak numbers of 1995 continues to be of great concern.

### Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 270 localities or areas: 198-293 pairs breeding.

England

At least 99 localities in 25 counties: 79 pairs known to have bred, plus 49 other pairs.

Wales

81 localities in nine counties: 50 pairs known to have bred, plus 32 other pairs.

Scotland

89 localities in seven recording areas: 68 pairs known to have bred, plus 14 other pairs.

Northern Ireland

One locality: one pair known to have bred.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. counties	23	30	36	34	35	33	38	33	41	38	42
Confirmed (pairs)	112	93	158	150	199	145	249	160	247	179	198
Possible/ probable (pairs)	54	79	71	93	100	80	70	53	100	70	95
Max. total pairs	166	172	229	243	299	225	319	213	347	249	293

The main reason for the increase in numbers compared with 1998 was the improved reporting from Wales. The totals for England and Scotland remained very similar to those in the previous year. Some observers are still withholding information because of the risk of persecution faced by this raptor. We do, however, urge that all information should be lodged with the Panel to assist the conservation of this species, not least by obtaining more complete data on the scale of persecution.

## Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, with the exception of northern England, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, N	2	0	0	-
Dumfries & Galloway	2	0	0	-
Borders	2	1	1	0.50
Central Scotland	8	5	6	0.75
Tayside	22	8	11	0.50
Northeast Scotland	19	17	12-13	0.6-0.7
Argyll	57	16	17	0.30
Highland	79	32	37	0.47
Western Isles	35	8	8	0.23
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>92-93</b>	<b>0.41</b>

The 1999 season was a very poor one, with overall productivity well down on the figure of 0.6 young per territorial pair recorded in 1998. One of the two pairs in northern England laid one egg, but it failed to hatch. Successful breeding took place in the Borders, but the two pairs in Dumfries & Galloway failed this year.

The Panel is grateful to the Scottish and Cumbrian Raptor Study Groups for much of the above information.

## Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

136 pairs and four singles: 125 pairs laid eggs, rearing 183 young.

### England, SW

SOMERSET One locality: a single bird summered for the fifth successive year.

### England, Central

RUTLAND Two males present in summer; 12 more young were translocated from Scotland to Rutland Water, all of which fledged and left the area.

### Scotland, S

BORDERS Three localities: (1) pair bred, fledging two young; (2) pair present but did not breed; (3) single bird present for much of the season.

### Scotland, Mid

TAYSIDE 45 territories were occupied and 39 clutches were laid; 25 of these were successful, fledging 51 young. ELSEWHERE 16 pairs, all of which laid clutches, ten of them fledging 22 young.

### Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Four pairs were all successful, fledging ten young. HIGHLAND 69 pairs were found, of which 65 bred and 47 fledged 98 young.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Pairs with nests	58	62	73	76	88	95	99	104	111	131	136
Pairs with eggs	51	56	64	63	78	83	92	93	102	117	125
Successful pairs	38	44	44	47	56	69	73	74	77	93	87
Young reared	81	90	82	103	111	146	146	155	159	194	183
Young/territorial pair	1.40	1.45	1.12	1.36	1.26	1.53	1.47	1.49	1.43	1.48	1.35

The year 1999 was not quite so good as 1998, with lower breeding success despite more pairs nesting. High winds and heavy rain caused several failures, and in one area the high water level in the local river prevented the adults from catching sufficient fish to feed their young. Successful breeding again took place in southern Scotland.

The Panel is grateful for the information supplied to it by Roy Dennis, Colin Crooke and the Osprey Study Group.

*Merlin Falco columbarius*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, SW	1	1	1	1.00
England, Central	21	17	56	2.67
England, N	206	125	445+	2.16
Wales	29	17	53	1.83
Borders & Lothian	25	12	33	1.32
Dumfries & Galloway	13	10	22+	1.69
South Strathclyde	no data	-	-	-
Angus	12	9	30+	2.50
Stirling	3	no data	-	-
Perthshire	23	12	25+	1.09
Northeast Scotland	45	38	97+	2.16
Argyll & Bute	5	4	12	2.40
Highland	33	19	62	1.88
Orkney	17	10	30	1.76
Shetland	13	11	27	2.08
Western Isles	16	4	13	0.81
Northern Ireland	17	6	?	?
TOTALS	479	295	906	1.89

The number of occupied territories was almost identical to that in 1998, while successful breeding pairs rose slightly and the number of young fledged rose by 9%, which is encouraging. The Panel is grateful to the Cumbrian and Scottish Raptor Study Groups and many individuals for the information included in the table. The most recent estimate of the British population is 1,300 (1,100-1,500) pairs in 1993-94 (Rebecca & Bainbridge 1998).

*Hobby Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 246-553 pairs breeding.

## England, SW

60-172 pairs. AVON 2-10 pairs. DEVON 13 pairs. DORSET 12 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 16-71 pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT One pair. SOMERSET 6-25 pairs. WILTSHIRE 10-40 pairs.

## England, SE

92-167 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE One pair. BERKSHIRE 6-15 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 2-14 pairs. ESSEX 50+ pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 4-9 pairs. INNER LONDON Six pairs. KENT 1-2 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE Seven pairs. SURREY 2-37 pairs. SUSSEX 13-26 pairs.

## England, E

32-81 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 3-11 pairs. NORFOLK 8-16 pairs. NORTHAMPTON-

SHIRE 12-24 pairs. SUFFOLK 9-30 pairs.

## England, Central

39-93 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 23-27 pairs. HEREFORDSHIRE 0-1 pair. LEICESTERSHIRE Four pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 8-13 pairs. SHROPSHIRE 3-21 pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 6-25 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE 0-12 pairs.

## England, N

3-11 pairs. CHESHIRE 0-6 pairs. LANCASHIRE 0-1 pair. NORTHUMBERLAND 2-3 pairs. YORKSHIRE One pair.

## Wales

15-19 pairs. BRECON 0-3 pairs. DENBIGH One pair. GWENT Eight pairs. MONTGOMERY 0-1 pair. RADNOR Six pairs.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Confirmed (pairs)	140	154	159	255	152	170	161	190	167	161	246
Possible/probable (pairs)	250	287	310	327	341	330	269	264	457	514	307
Max. total pairs	390	441	469	582	493	500	430	454	624	675	553

The number of confirmed pairs has risen to its highest since 1992, but the number of possible/probable pairs is well down, partly as a result of poor reporting from some southern and eastern English counties, but also reflecting the difficulty which County Recorders have in interpreting the many scattered sightings of single birds which they receive. Numbers reported in Wales were a better indication of the true situation than were those in 1998. Gibbons *et al.* suggested that the British population was in the region of 500-900 pairs. Interestingly, Chapman (1999) gave a considerably higher estimated figure of 948-1,775 pairs.

### Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have produced clutches	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/occupied territory
England, SW	146	99	160	1.10
England, SE	18	14	28	1.56
England, Central	38	29	42	1.11
England, N	189	152	190	1.01
Wales	193	125	172	0.89
Borders & Lothian	44	29+	83	1.89
Dumfries & Galloway	78	71	93	1.19
South Strathclyde	25	20	25	1.00
Angus	21	7+	15	0.71
Central	25	12+	30	1.20
Perthshire	40	20+	47	1.18
Northeast Scotland	66	34+	71	1.08
Argyll	23	11+	17	0.74
Highland	16	13	15	0.94
Orkney	14	1+	1	0.07
Western Isles	14	4+	12	0.86
Northern Ireland	49	49	93	1.90
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>690+</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>1.10</b>

Once again, there has been an increase in all the totals compared with the previous year, in this case 1998, when 858 occupied territories fledged 1,023 young. Overall breeding success has declined slightly from the 1.2 young/territorial pair in 1998. Note that the number of pairs known to have produced clutches has been substituted for the previously given number of pairs which fledged young, since the latter data were not available this year for several areas.

The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for most of the Scottish information. The most recent estimate of the UK Peregrine Falcon population is 1,263 pairs in 1991 (Crick & Ratcliffe 1995).

### Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

5-317 pairs breeding.

#### England, SW

0-88 pairs. AVON Four singing males. DORSET One singing male. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One probable family party and 14 singing males. HAMPSHIRE 12 singing males. SOMERSET Ten singing males. WILTSHIRE Seven pairs and 39 singing males.

#### England, SE

0-19 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Ten singing males. ESSEX Four singing males. HERTFORDSHIRE Five singing males.

#### England, E

2-59 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One pair and two singing males. LINCOLNSHIRE One singing male. NORFOLK Two broods seen and 47 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Six singing males.

#### England, Central

1-50 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 23 singing males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 17 singing males. SHROPSHIRE 16 singing males. WARWICKSHIRE One brood seen and seven singing males. WORCESTER-

SHIRE Three singing males.  
 England, N  
 2-37 pairs. CHESHIRE Pair bred and 11 singing males. LANCASHIRE 12 singing males. NORTHUMBERLAND One pair bred, and 12 other singing males.  
 Wales  
 0-18 pairs. ANGLESEY Three singing males. CAERNARFON Two singing males. CEREDIGION One singing male. DENBIGH Two singing males. GLAMORGAN Six singing males. PEMBROKE

Three singing males. RADNOR One singing male.  
 Scotland, S  
 0-8 pairs. BORDERS Seven singing males. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One singing male.  
 Scotland, Mid  
 0-13 pairs. ABERDEENSHIRE Five singing males. FIFE Three singing males. MORAY & NAIRN Five singing males.  
 Scotland, N & W  
 0-8 pairs. ARGYLL Two singing males. HIGHLAND Five singing males. SHETLAND One pair seen.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Confirmed (pairs)	27	13	2	9	1	8	15	5	4	5	5
Possible/probable (pairs)	1,628	364	105	481	202	604	500	330	863	523	312
Max. total pairs	1,655	377	107	490	203	612	515	335	867	528	317

The worst year since 1993, with reduced numbers in all areas, but especially in southeast and eastern England.

### Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

40 localities: 46-77 singing males.

England, SW  
 Three localities: 1-2 singing males, plus adult. DORSET One locality: adult trapped on 31st July. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One locality: casual record of singing male. SOMERSET One locality: one singing male.  
 England, SE  
 Two localities: four singing males, plus two adults and juvenile. KENT One locality: casual records of two adults and one juvenile. SUSSEX One locality: four singing males.  
 England, E  
 Nine localities: 10-16 singing males. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: (1) 3-6 singing males; (2)(3) single singing males. NORFOLK One locality: singing male. SUFFOLK Five localities: (1) 2-3 singing males; (2)(3) single singing males; (4)(5) casual records of single singing males.  
 England, Central  
 One locality: casual record of adult and juvenile. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: sight records of adult and juvenile.  
 England, N  
 Four localities: 5-14 singing males, plus juvenile. CHESHIRE One locality: one singing male. LANCASHIRE One locality: casual record of singing male. TYNE & WEAR One locality: juvenile seen.

YORKSHIRE One locality: 4-12 singing males.  
 Wales  
 Four localities: 1-2 singing males, plus an adult, and a juvenile. ANGLESEY One locality: casual record of singing male. CEREDIGION Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) adult seen. GLAMORGAN One locality: juvenile seen.  
 Scotland, S  
 Three localities: 2-3 singing males. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: casual record of singing male. LOTHIAN Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.  
 Scotland, Mid  
 Five localities: 11-13 singing males. ABERDEENSHIRE Three localities: (1) 2-3 singing males; (2)(3) two singing males. DUMBARTONSHIRE One locality: 5-6 singing males.  
 Scotland, N & W  
 Nine localities: 12-23 singing males. ARGYLL Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) casual record of singing male. HIGHLAND Three localities: (1) 8-14 singing males; (2)(3) single singing males. ORKNEY Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) casual record of singing male. SHETLAND One locality: casual record of singing male. WESTERN ISLES One locality: casual record of two singing males.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. counties	7	5	5	9	12	4	5	5	7	11	25
No. localities	14	10	7	12	19	5	8	8	13	16	40
No. pairs/singing males	21	17	14	14	31	11	10	13	14	31	46-77

The first census of this species ever in Britain took place in 1999. The results clearly show how under-recorded this noisy, but nonetheless elusive, bird has been in the past. The figures above are all taken from a paper which reports the results of the census (Gilbert, in press), and the Panel is very grateful to Gillian Gilbert, the census-organiser, for making them available. The criteria used in the census separated persistently singing males from those that sang only briefly, the latter being described above as 'casual'. There was no evidence that breeding had taken place in the localities where the juveniles were seen.

### Corn Crake *Crex crex*

576 pairs or singing males.

England, SW

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) singing males.

Wales

One locality: 0-1 pair. PEMBROKE One locality: adult seen 26th May, juvenile seen 14th-17th September.

Scotland, N & W: Mainland

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. ROSS & CROMARTY Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) one found dead on road.

Scotland, N & W: Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland

16 localities or areas: 0-573 pairs. Totals of singing males: HIGHLAND - INNER HEBRIDES 16 (Skye 16; none on any of the Small Isles), STRATHCLYDE - INNER HEBRIDES 235 (Coll 48, Tiree 144, Mull 2, Iona 13, Colonsay & Oronsay 21, Islay 7), ORKNEY 15, SHETLAND 2, WESTERN ISLES 305 (Lewis 50, Harris 4, Berneray 2, North Uist 66, Benbecula 36, South Uist 101, Barra & Vatersay 46).

The total of 573 found on all Scottish islands in 1999 was slightly higher than the 550 found in 1998, but the increases were unevenly distributed, and offset by some declines. For example, the numbers on South Uist increased from 65 to no fewer than 101, but on Lewis the total dropped from 77 to 50. Sadly, none appeared on Canna after the welcome return of two birds in 1998 following an absence of several years. There were fewer mainland records this year, both in Scotland and in England.

The Panel is grateful to the RSPB for all the island data above.



Tim Loseby

207. Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*, Grove Ferry, Kent, August 2000.



### Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

England, E

NORFOLK One locality: four pairs nested, one pair fledging two young.

Young have now been reared for three years in succession, following eight years of failure.

### Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

One locality: single male present.

England, E

One locality: male present all year.

The single bird present at Titchwell, Norfolk, for the last six years remained throughout 1999 (*Brit. Birds* 93: 528).

### Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

At least 36 localities: at least 655 pairs reared a minimum of 444 young.

England, SW

One locality: 2 pairs. DORSET One locality: two pairs bred, but were not successful. First county breeding record.

England, SE

Nine localities: 107-108 pairs. ESSEX Six localities: (1) 34 pairs bred, but only four young reared; (2) 15 pairs bred, fledging 15-18 young; (3)(4) two pairs bred, four young reared at one locality; (5) one pair bred, one pair probably bred; (6) pair bred. KENT Three localities: (1) 48 pairs fledged 57 young; (2) three pairs bred, no young fledged; (3) pair bred, unsuccessfully.

England, E

25 localities: 520-595 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: 20 pairs fledged 43 young. NORFOLK 15 localities: (1) 64 pairs fledged 15 young; (2) 40 pairs probably bred, success unknown; (3) 37 pairs fledged 39 young; (4) 27 pairs bred, success

unknown; (5) 25 pairs bred, success unknown; (6) 23 pairs fledged 39 young; (7) 22 pairs fledged three young; (8) 22 pairs bred, success unknown; (9) ten pairs probably bred, success unknown; (10) four pairs bred, success unknown; (11)(12) three pairs bred, success unknown; (13) two pairs bred, both failed; (14) pair bred, outcome unknown; (15) one pair fledged three young. SUFFOLK Nine localities: (1) 148 pairs fledged 87 young; (2) 45 pairs fledged eight young; (3) 19 pairs fledged 30 young, further 25 pairs present; (4) 25 pairs fledged c. 50 young; (5) ten pairs bred, success unknown; (6) nine pairs bred, success unknown; (7) four pairs fledged 14 young; (8) three pairs fledged eight young; (9) three pairs bred, but failed.

England, N

One locality: 26 pairs. YORKSHIRE One locality: 26 pairs fledged 25 young.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	24	21	21	29	25	29	25	25	35	48	36
Confirmed (pairs)	521	355	448	492	436	623	613	592	654	834	655
Young reared (min.)	150	200	305	336	347	181	149	189	238	536	444

The decline in the number of localities and breeding pairs is at least partly due to incomplete information from southeast England, where some colonies were not monitored. Productivity is still depressed by heavy predation at some colonies, but there were fewer problems with high tides than has been the case in some past years.

### Stone-curlew *Burbinus oediconemus*

Seven counties: 235-246 pairs fledged a minimum of 163 young.

England, SW

58-68 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 19 pairs, of which 17 bred and fledged seven young. WILTSHIRE 49 pairs, of which 41 bred and fledged 37 young.

England, SE

Eight pairs. BERKSHIRE Six pairs fledged ten young. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One pair fledged two young. OXFORDSHIRE One pair fledged two young.

England, E  
169-170 pairs. NORFOLK Brecks: 80 pairs fledged  
49 young. Elsewhere: seven pairs, six of which

bred and fledged five young. SUFFOLK Brecks: 79  
pairs fledged 48 young. Elsewhere: four pairs  
fledged three young.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Confirmed (pairs)	126	139	139	155	146	141	165	174	192	215	235
Possible/ probable (pairs)	17	10	16	4	16	32	9	14	11	11	11
Max. total pairs	143	149	155	159	162	173	174	188	203	226	246
Min. no. of young fledged	79	112	123	111	101	91	164	155	167	165	163

The breeding population continues to increase, although the number of young fledged fell slightly for the second year running. Fledging success in the Norfolk and Suffolk Brecks, in particular, was well down, falling from 111 in 1998 to 97 this year.

The Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green, RSPB, for his assistance in compiling the data.

### Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Possible/ probable pairs	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
England, SW	15	37	52
England, SE	50	50	100
England, E	12	55	67
England, Central	77	94	171
England, N	29	144	173
Wales	21	51	72
Scotland, Mid	0	1	1
TOTALS	204	432	636

The number reported has increased each year since the species was added to the Panel's list. The most recent estimate of the British population was 825-1,070 pairs in 1991 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

### Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Outside main Scottish breeding areas: one pair bred.

Scotland, S

One locality: one pair. BORDERS One locality: adult seen with two young.

The Panel seeks records only away from the main breeding range, which lies north of a line from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Tay and holds 840-950 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993). We accept that at least some of the birds on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage. For the first time for many years, there were no reports of this species from Cumbria.

### Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Two localities: up to four pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) up to three males seen displaying and chasing females, three pairs thought to have bred, although no young seen; (2) displaying adult in late May and June.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Confirmed (pairs)	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	4
Max. total pairs	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4

Three pairs returned to the traditional site for the second year running, while there was the welcome discovery of a new locality for this species.

### Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one individual.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: single bird seen.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1
Confirmed (pairs)	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	2	3	2	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Max. total pairs	4	1	4	2	1	4	1	2	3	3	1

Only very limited monitoring is carried out for this elusive species, but, even so, this is a disappointing report.

### Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Three localities: three leks reported, but no evidence of breeding.

England, E

Three localities: three leks. CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
One locality: five males and three females lekking,  
no proof of breeding. NORFOLK One locality: up

to 44 birds lekking in spring, no proof of breeding.  
SUFFOLK One locality: a lek of up to 15 birds, no  
proof of breeding.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	15	8	9	21	10	13	7	8	6	5	3
No. of leks	6	1	4	7	7	3	3	3	5	2	3
Nests/broods	1	3	7	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0

Another very poor year, involving the lowest number of localities for more than 20 years, and with no records of lekking at former sites in northern England.

### Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

18 localities: 45-53 pairs breeding.

England, SE

Two localities: 2-4 pairs bred. KENT One locality:  
two pairs bred. SUSSEX One locality: two pairs  
present, but did not breed.

England, E

Four localities: 32-35 pairs bred. CAMBRIDGE-  
SHIRE Two localities: (1) 18 pairs fledged 26  
young; (2) 14 pairs fledged one young. NORFOLK  
One locality: two pairs displayed constantly in

May, but then departed. SUFFOLK One locality:  
pair seen copulating, but apparently did not nest.

England, N

Three localities: four pairs bred. CUMBRIA One  
locality: 22 summering birds until mid-June.  
LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, no  
young reared; (2) two pairs bred, one clutch taken  
by egg-collectors, fate of other unknown.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

Nine localities: 7-10 pairs bred.

ORKNEY Four localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2)(3) single pairs bred; (4) pair present in June. SHET-

LAND Five localities: (1) pair fledged two young; (2) pair fledged one young; (3) pair failed during incubation; (4)(5) single pairs on territory, but failed to breed.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	14	16	18	24	16	22	15	12	11	13	18
Confirmed (pairs)	34	33	28	20	28	20	28	34	42	38	45
Possible/ probable (pairs)	22	33	25	38	5	16	7	7	5	12	8
Max. total pairs	56	66	53	58	33	36	35	41	47	50	53

A reasonably good year, with a welcome increase in the number of localities and the highest number of confirmed breeders since 1984. In addition, while the total number of young reared each year is rarely complete, this year's 30 is one of the highest recorded for several years and compares with only seven definitely fledged in 1998.

### Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Away from the species' stronghold in Orkney and Shetland, one pair possibly bred.

## Wales

GWYNEDD One locality: a pair apparently holding territory.

An intriguing record. The Scottish population is estimated at 530 pairs (Stone *et al.* 1997).

### Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The following limited information was received:

## Scotland, N &amp; W

HIGHLAND 11 pairs reported from nine localities. SHETLAND Two pairs reported. WESTERN ISLES 13 territories located in a fairly comprehensive survey.

The above bears no relationship to the actual population (estimated at 1,100-1,600 pairs). More records would be welcome, perhaps especially from birdwatchers visiting the Highlands who observe this species displaying or singing.

### Green Sandpiper *Tringa ocbropus*

Three localities: 1-3 pairs.

## England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pair. DERBYSHIRE One locality: pair summered, and was observed displaying and singing. This astonishing record has been accepted by the county records committee.

## Scotland, Mid

ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: an adult giving alarm calls in suitable habitat, no young seen.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

HIGHLAND One locality: pair found with four young.

Breeding was suspected in Highland Region in 1995 and 1996, and again in 1998. This year there is finally a confirmed breeding record plus another probable one (both in Scotland, as might be expected), as well as a summering, and displaying, pair in central England, which is an exceptional record.

The only previous confirmed breeding record was in Inverness-shire in 1959 (*Brit. Birds* 52: 430-432).

### Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Three localities: 2-6 pairs bred.

## Scotland, N &amp; W

Three localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2) at least six birds, probably three pairs, displaying in May, breeding thought almost certainly to have occurred; (3) pair present and probably breeding.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	6	2	2	4	4	8	6	3	5	5	3
Confirmed (pairs)	2	1	1	1	2	6	7	8	0	8	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	4	1	1	5	6	5	4	0	9	2	4
Max. total pairs	6	2	2	6	8	11	11	8	9	10	6

A disappointing year compared with 1998, with no birds present at one formerly regular site.

### Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Seven localities: at least 18 breeding males reared 24+ young.

#### Scotland, N & W

Seven localities. ARGYLL One locality: pair present, thought to have bred, but no young seen. SHETLAND Three localities: (1)(2) Fetlar, total of 12 breeding males, at least 17 young believed to

have fledged; (3) five breeding males, at least five young fledged. WESTERN ISLES Three localities: (1) male seen with two young; (2) male mobbing Otter *Lutra lutra* in mid-June; (3) five adults present.

A better year on Fetlar, where, although the number of males declined by three, their rearing success improved enormously from the 5-8 young of 1998. In addition, successful breeding took place at another location in Shetland, as well as in the Western Isles, and probably also in Argyll.

### Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

28 localities: 60-79 pairs, plus hybrid adult and first-year birds.

#### England, SW

Six localities: 20-25 pairs. DORSET One locality: two pairs probably bred. HAMPSHIRE Four localities: (1) 14 pairs fledged at least 17 young; (2)-(4) single pairs present, did not breed. ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: six pairs bred, but five washed out by tides, one young probably fledged.

#### England, SE

Seven localities: 24-30 pairs. ESSEX Four localities: (1)(2) two pairs each bred unsuccessfully; (3)(4) single pairs each reared one young. KENT One

locality: 14 pairs bred, success unknown. SUSSEX Two localities: (1) four pairs fledged at least three young, five other pairs present; (2) pair present.

#### England, E

Nine localities: 13-18 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: adult present 13th March to 14th June. NORFOLK Five localities: (1) pair hatched one young, not known if fledged, two other pairs probably bred; (2)(3) single pairs bred; (4)(5) adult and juvenile in July at each, not known if bred locally. SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) four pairs



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208. Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*, Shetland, June 1990.

bred, one young fledged; (2)(3) three pairs each fledged two young.

England, Central

One locality: 0-1 hybrid pair. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

One locality: hybrid (presumed with Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus*) adult and first-year birds present.

England, N

Four localities: 3-5 pairs. LANCASHIRE Three locali-

ties: (1) two pairs bred, success unknown; (2)(3) single territorial males, one throughout breeding

season, the other to at least 9th May. YORKSHIRE

One locality: pair bred unsuccessfully.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: 0-1 pair. ORKNEY One locality: territorial adult, April to mid-May.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	5	10	13	15	14	16	16	18	24	27	28
Confirmed (pairs)	6	11	15	19	15	16	18	31	33	54	60
Possible/ probable (pairs)	3	5	8	12	17	14	10	14	20	11	19
Max. total pairs	9	16	23	31	32	30	28	45	53	65	79

A further increase in localities, and in confirmed and total pairs. A total of only 27 young from 60 pairs, however, represents very poor productivity. High tides were responsible for some failures. No interbreeding by this species with Black-headed Gull was reported.

### Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Three localities: one pair bred, plus two mixed pairs present.

England, SW

One locality: one pair. DORSET One locality: pair fledged two young.

England, SE

One locality: one mixed pair. SUFFOLK One locality: male hybridised with female Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus*, but the clutch of three eggs

was preyed on.

England, Central

One locality: one mixed pair. WORCESTERSHIRE

One locality: female hybridised with male Lesser Black-backed Gull, two young hatched, but neither fledged.

A second successful breeding attempt by this species, following the first in 1997, but also the breeding of two mixed pairs.

### Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Eight localities: 61-64 pairs breeding, fledging a minimum of 46 young.

England, E

One locality: one pair bred unsuccessfully, two other pairs displayed.

England, N

Three localities: (1) 34 pairs fledged 33 young; (2) four pairs fledged three young; (3) one non-breeding pair throughout summer.

Wales

Two localities: (1) three pairs fledged two young;

(2) up to 23 birds seen around locality, but no pairs settled.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: nine pairs fledged eight young.

Northern Ireland

One locality: ten pairs bred, seven in specially designed nestboxes, but success unknown.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	17	15	13	15	18	14	15	11	14	11	8
Confirmed (pairs)	172	93	52	62	84	74	72	66	54	50	61
Possible/ probable (pairs)	5	31	5	10	21	24	13	9	1	7	3
Max. total pairs	177	124	57	72	105	98	85	75	55	57	64

An improvement, in terms of both numbers and productivity, despite a further serious drop in the number of colonies.



### Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Pairs in 1997	Pairs in 1998	Pairs in 1999
England, SW	260	218	235
England, SE	182	152	103
England, E	561	642	776
England, NE	104	146	151
England, NW	9	42	50
Wales	80	45	86
Scotland	185	215	253
TOTALS	1,381	1,460	1,654

While coverage is not necessarily the same from year to year, the data for the last three years are presented here. These suggest that all areas apart from southeast England fared better in 1999 than in 1998. The latest estimate of the total British population was 2,430 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

### Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

The following information has been received, totalling between 1,493 and 1,520 pairs (compared with 1,578-1,584 in 1998). Several County Recorders emphasised that their information was incomplete, sometimes substantially so, and consequently their best estimates have been used.

#### England, SW

333 pairs. AVON 5. CORNWALL 7. DEVON 68. DORSET 9. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 23. HAMPSHIRE 60. ISLE OF WIGHT 17. SOMERSET 45. WILTSHIRE 99.

#### England, SE

228-248 pairs. BEDFORDSHIRE 3. BERKSHIRE 20-40. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 22. ESSEX 60. HERTFORDSHIRE 1. KENT 10. OXFORDSHIRE 50. SURREY 10. SUSSEX 52.

#### England, E

244-251 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 13. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 12. LINCOLNSHIRE 89. NORFOLK 48. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 42-49. SUFFOLK 40.

#### England, Central

75 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 25. LEICESTERSHIRE 4. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 8. SHROPSHIRE 8.

STAFFORDSHIRE 3. WARWICKSHIRE 21. WORCESTERSHIRE 6.

#### England, N

291 pairs. CHESHIRE 11. CLEVELAND 2. CUMBRIA 85. GREATER MANCHESTER 7. LANCASHIRE 125. NORTHUMBERLAND 23. YORKSHIRE 38.

#### Wales

122 pairs. ANGLESEY 2. BRECON 20. CAERNARFON 4. CARMARTHEN 11. CEREDIGION 25. DENBIGH 2. GLAMORGAN 8. GWENT 4. MERIONETH 4. MONTGOMERY 36. PEMBROKE 6.

#### Scotland, S

86 pairs. AYR 3. BORDERS 84. LOTHIAN 2.

#### Scotland, Mid

49 pairs. ABERDEENSHIRE 1. CENTRAL 22. FIFE 3. MORAY & NAIRN 20.

#### Scotland, N & W

65 pairs. ARGYLL 61. HIGHLAND 4.

Coverage was good in many counties, although some others made estimates based on past surveys. There is also some variation in the way in which sightings of single birds are reported.

### Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

The following information has been received, totalling between 879 and 882 pairs (compared with 1,028-1,062 in 1998). Several County Recorders emphasised how incomplete their information was, and they have, therefore, used estimates.

#### England, SW

156 pairs. AVON 16. CORNWALL 1. DEVON 16. DORSET 14. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 20. HAMPSHIRE 45. SOMERSET 44.

#### England, SE

197-200 pairs. BERKSHIRE 25. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 100. ESSEX 25-27. HERTFORDSHIRE 3. KENT 1. MIDDLESEX 5. SURREY 28-29. SUSSEX 10.

England, E  
133 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 9. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 16. LINCOLNSHIRE 5. NORFOLK 26. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 37. SUFFOLK 40.

England, Central

76 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 3. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 23. SHROPSHIRE 16. STAFFORDSHIRE 3. WARWICKSHIRE 16. WORCESTERSHIRE 15.

England, N

206 pairs. CHESHIRE 14. CLEVELAND 2. GREATER MANCHESTER 56. LANCASHIRE 100. NORTHUM-

BERLAND 22. TYNE & WEAR 4. YORKSHIRE 8.

Wales

63 pairs. BRECON 28. CARMARTHEN 3. CEREDIGION 1. DENBIGH 12. GWENT 4. MONTGOMERY 12. PEMBROKE 3.

Scotland, S

33 pairs. AYR 4. BORDERS 22. CLYDE 2. LOTHIAN 5.

Scotland, Mid

7 pairs. CENTRAL 4. FIFE 3.

Scotland, N & W

8 pairs. HIGHLAND 8.

The coverage was less complete than in 1998. We again take this opportunity to suggest to county bird clubs that survey work would be worthwhile, both to learn more about the status and distribution of the species and as a means of measuring river and stream quality.

### Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One locality: one singing male.

England, SW

GLOUCESTERSHIRE/WORCESTERSHIRE One area: a male, which sang regularly, was present from May to July in an area straddling the county boundary.

Although there was never any sign of a second bird, such a long-staying, and singing, male is unusual.

### Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Two localities: pair bred and singing male.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) pair bred successfully, up to five young thought to have fledged; (2) singing male on one date in May, in suitable habitat.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	8	6	6	1	6	1	3	4	5	2	2
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Possible/ probable (pairs)	7	6	5	2	5	1	3	4	4	2	1
Max. total pairs	8	6	6	2	6	1	3	4	5	2	2

A very welcome breeding record, at a different location from that at which successful nesting was reported in 1997.

### Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

The following county totals were received, which are compared with the results of the full census in 1997 (see page 372).

The five most significant counties for this species, Suffolk, Norfolk, Hampshire, Surrey and Nottinghamshire, all carried out variably complete surveys. The true figure for Hampshire, where coverage was patchy, is thought to be probably 300 pairs or more. With allowance for an incomplete survey in Dorset, and the absence of information from Sussex, the total can be directly compared with the census year of 1997 to suggest a continuing increase, especially in the more northerly counties of Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire.

Wood Lark County	Pairs in 1997	Pairs in 1998	Pairs in 1999
Cornwall	0	0	0
Devon	53	7	12
Dorset	105	54	66
Hampshire	294	174	179
Somerset	0	0	0
Wiltshire	3	2	9
Bedfordshire	1	1	0
Berkshire	63	2	40
Buckinghamshire	6	3	5
Essex	0	3	2
Kent	3	6	1
Surrey	171	134	135
Sussex	71	60	nc
Lincolnshire	37	40	51
Norfolk	248	326	364
Suffolk	457	459	474
Nottinghamshire	31	78	135
Staffordshire	7	3	0
Yorkshire	2	19	27
TOTALS	1,552	1,370	1,500

### Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One locality: single bird.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: one bird present in suitable breeding habitat, and breeding was strongly suspected; locality not far from 1977 nest site.

This record follows the presence of a pair in another Highland locality in 1997.



Tim Loseby

209. Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*, Kent, April 1994.

## Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

'White Wagtail' *M. a. alba*

Two localities: one seen carrying food, and another paired with Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarrellii*.

Scotland, N & W

ORKNEY One locality: one seen carrying food. SHETLAND One locality: one paired with a Pied Wagtail.

Previous records of this subspecies apparently breeding, including one in Orkney in 1998, have involved mixed pairings with Pied Wagtails. In 1999, the mate of the Orkney bird was not observed.

## Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*

One locality: one bird in summer.

Scotland, N & W

ORKNEY One locality: one on 4th July.

The context of this unusual record is that there is only a handful of observations of this species staying in Scotland later than the middle of May, while the earliest known autumn record was at the end of August.

## Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

39 localities: 15-50 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: singing male. WILTSHIRE One locality: singing male.

England, SE

18 localities: 9-24 pairs. BERKSHIRE One locality: two pairs bred. ESSEX 11 localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2)(3) single pairs bred; (4) two or three singing males; (5)-(10) pairs present; (11) singing male. KENT Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging eight young from two broods, plus two further pairs; (2) pair fledged five young. MIDDLESEX Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. SURREY Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) singing male.

England, E

11 localities: 5-16 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: pair fledged four young. NORFOLK Four

localities: (1) pair fledged two young; (2) four singing males; (3) three pairs; (4) singing male. SUFFOLK Six localities: (1)-(3) pairs bred successfully; (4) pair present; (5) singing male; (6) female in May.

England, Central

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. DERBYSHIRE One locality: pair present. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: 0-1 pair.

England, N

Six localities: 1-6 pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER Three localities: (1) pair fledged three young; (2)(3) single singing males. LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) juveniles seen, probably bred locally. YORKSHIRE One locality: two juveniles seen, probably bred locally.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	56	50	36	44	53	66	58	46	67	71	39
Confirmed (pairs)	36	28	23	14	32	32	19	28	33	32	15
Possible/ probable (pairs)	46	46	46	57	44	63	63	37	66	59	35
Max. total pairs	82	74	69	71	76	95	82	65	99	91	50

A very disappointing year, with no records from the important areas in London and Birmingham city centres, nor from many localities in Kent.

## Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

20 localities: 2-29 pairs breeding.

Scotland, N & W

17 localities: (1)(2) pairs bred; (3) four singing males; (4)-(9) two singing males at each; (10)-(17)

single singing males.

Scotland, Mid

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

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	38	17	15	13	22	15	9	28	7	15	20
Confirmed (pairs)	12	6	7	9	5	4	3	3	3	0	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	39	15	13	15	22	15	11	35	14	18	27
Max. total pairs	51	21	20	24	27	19	14	38	17	18	29

A fairly typical set of records, which do not in any way reflect the true status of this species in Scotland, but the steady accumulation of information helps to define its range and more records are always appreciated.

### Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

555-563 'pairs' or singing males.

#### England, SW

329-335 pairs or singing males. AVON 11 singing males. CORNWALL Ten singing males. DEVON 75-80 singing males. DORSET 33 singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE One pair and two singing males. HAMPSHIRE 98-99 pairs or singing males. SOMERSET 86 singing males. WILTSHIRE One pair and 12 singing males.

#### England, SE

36 pairs or singing males. BERKSHIRE Two pairs and 13 singing males. ESSEX One singing male. HERTFORDSHIRE One pair. MIDDLESEX One singing male. OXFORDSHIRE One pair and 11 singing males. SUSSEX Two pairs and four singing males.

#### England, E

142-144 pairs or singing males. NORFOLK 123-125 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Four singing males. SUFFOLK One pair and 14 singing males.

#### England, Central

Four pairs or singing males. DERBYSHIRE One singing male (first county record). WORCESTERSHIRE One pair and two singing males.

#### Wales

44 pairs or singing males. ANGLESEY One pair and four singing males. CARMARTHEN 16 singing males. CEREDIGION & PEMBROKE One pair and three singing males. GLAMORGAN Three pairs and ten singing males. GWENT Six singing males.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. counties	15	21	17	18	21	23	25	28	24	27	24
Confirmed ('pairs')	12	19	27	15	11	14	15	nc	nc	nc	nc
Possible/ probable ('pairs')	196	326	214	283	306	318	426	574	361	491	555
Max. total 'pairs'	208	345	241	298	317	332	441	574	361	496	563

Higher numbers than those reported in 1998, with some evidence of a continued spread, notably the first record for Derbyshire.

### Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Seven localities: 0-9 pairs breeding.

#### England, SE

Four localities: 0-4 pairs. KENT Three localities: (1) singing male during 10th-13th May; (2) singing male on 18th May and 8th July; (3) singing male from 1st June to 10th July. SUSSEX One locality: singing male during 17th-26th June.

#### England, E

One locality: 0-3 pairs. NORFOLK One locality: three singing males, one from 19th April to 21st

July, a second from 29th April to 22nd May, and the third from 3rd May to 17th June.

#### England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pair. WORCESTERSHIRE One locality: singing male during 1st-19th May.

#### Wales

One locality: 0-1 pair. ANGLESEY One locality: singing male during 8th-11th June.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	13	5	13	13	5	7	2	3	4	2	7
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	17	9	16	20	4	9	3	3	5	2	9
Max. total pairs	17	10	16	22	8	10	3	3	5	2	9

An encouraging recovery after four very poor years, with several birds singing for prolonged periods.

### Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One locality: one singing male.

England, SE

KENT One locality: singing male on 26th May at Dungeness (*Brit. Birds* 93: 554).

A new species for these reports, although only a vagrant.

### Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

22 localities: 3-29 pairs breeding.

England, SW

One locality: male on 24th May.

England, SE

Three localities: (1) up to four pairs present, but no nests found; (2) pair present, with male in full song during June; (3) singing male.

England, E

Ten localities: (1) pair bred, plus three singing

males; (2)-(10) single singing males.

England, N

Seven localities: (1) pair fledged two young, second pair present; (2) pair fledged two young; (3) pair present, male singing; (4)-(7) single singing males.

Wales

One locality: singing male in June.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	10	12	15	13	15	22	16	11	17	10	22
Confirmed (pairs)	11	13	9	9	12	0	2	3	5	9	3
Possible/ probable (pairs)	11	11	23	26	46	48	29	19	27	15	26
Max. total pairs	22	24	32	35	58	48	31	22	32	24	29

The number of localities reporting the species increased, especially in eastern and northern England, and included the first record submitted to the Panel from Wales since 1986. For the first time in very many years, however, none was found in Worcestershire.

### Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One locality: one singing male.

England, N

YORKSHIRE One locality: a singing male at Leventhorpe from 10th June to 5th July (*Brit. Birds* 93: 555).

This is the tenth consecutive year with at least one singing male, but, so far, none appears to have attracted a mate.

### Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: singing male on 8th June in suitable habitat.

A new locality, well away from that where probable breeding was recorded in 1998.



### Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Up to 1,747 territories identified.

England, SW

County totals: DEVON 249, DORSET 317, HAMPSHIRE 396, ISLE OF WIGHT 9, SOMERSET 75, WILTSHIRE 3.

England, SE

County totals: BERKSHIRE 20, BUCKING-

HAMSHIRE 2, SURREY 573, SUSSEX 83.

England, E

County totals: SUFFOLK 20.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. counties	5	8	8	7	11	10	12	12	11	12	11
Confirmed (pairs)	23	55	67	63	93	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Possible/ probable (pairs)	499	873	634	863	1,053	1,675	1,679	552	915	947	1,747
Max. total pairs	522	928	701	926	1,146	1,675	1,679	552	915	947	1,747

A number of counties carried out more intensive surveys than at any time since the 1994 census. These revealed marked increases in Surrey (152-173 in 1994) and Sussex (34 in 1994), while the species is now firmly established in Suffolk (where none was recorded in 1994). The population is very likely to be well in excess of 2,000 pairs, since the 1994 figures for Dorset and Hampshire were 652-653 and 577-622, respectively. The 1998 breeding record in Wales (the first there) was not repeated this year, since the male, which had wintered on site, departed in mid-March.

### Spectacled Warbler *Sylvia conspicillata*

One locality: one singing male.

England, SW

DEVON One locality: first-summer male singing during 3rd-6th June, and possibly since mid-May (*Brit. Birds* 93: 556).

A new species for these reports.



David Tipling/Windrush

210. Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*, Dorset, March 1990.

*Iberian Chiffchaff Phylloscopus brehmii*

Two localities: two singing males.

## England, SW

DEVON One locality: a singing male at Start Point during 6th-14th May. DORSET One locality: a singing male at Verne Common, Portland, from 25th April to at least 8th July. (*Brit. Birds* 93: 560)

A new species for these reports. The song is a key identification feature, and, as it becomes better known to birdwatchers, so we may expect more records.

*Firecrest Regulus ignicapillus*

37 localities or areas: 3-103 pairs breeding.

## England, SW

At least ten localities or areas: 1-53 pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. HAMPSHIRE County total of at least 41 singing males in four areas, including minimum of 24 in New Forest, where adults feeding young at one locality, and 11 in northeast of county. SOMERSET County total of a pair and four males. WILTSHIRE Three localities: (1) two pairs; (2) two males; (3) singing male.

## England, SE

17 localities: 1-36 pairs. BERKSHIRE One area: pairs present at three sites. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: two or three pairs. ESSEX Two localities: (1) pair probably bred; (2) singing male. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: pair bred, and two

singing males. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: three singing males. SURREY Eight localities: (1) five pairs; (2) three pairs; (3) two pairs; (4) two singing males; (5)-(8) single singing males. SUSSEX Three localities: (1)-(3) two singing males.

## England, E

Eight localities: 0-12 pairs. NORFOLK Five localities: (1)(2) two singing males; (3)-(5) single singing males. SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) three pairs; (2) pair; (3) singing male.

## England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pair. DERBYSHIRE One locality: singing male on 16th May.

## Wales

One locality: one pair. FLINT One locality: pair with young.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	52	48	19	15	20	41	35	35	26	30	37
Confirmed (pairs)	19	9	2	3	3	4	4	4	2	0	3
Possible/ probable (pairs)	112	88	20	16	25	62	52	56	46	62	100
Max. total pairs	131	97	22	19	28	66	56	60	48	62	103

This year's figures are much higher than those in 1998, with particularly good numbers in the Hampshire stronghold of the New Forest, and are probably close to the true total.

*Bearded Tit Panurus biarmicus*

The following information has been received, comprising 368-373 pairs.

## England, SW

DORSET Nine pairs. HAMPSHIRE 18 pairs, best year on record. SOMERSET Five pairs.

## England, SE

ESSEX 12-14 pairs at two localities, other sites not counted. KENT Five pairs. SUSSEX 22 pairs.

## England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One pair. LINCOLNSHIRE Four pairs. NORFOLK County total of 84-87 pairs at ten localities. SUFFOLK County total of 92 pairs at five sites.

## England, N

LANCASHIRE 55 pairs, including 40 in nestboxes. NORTHUMBERLAND One pair, first breeding record for county. YORKSHIRE 60 pairs at one locality.

## Scotland, Mid

MORAY & NAIRN Flock of two males and four females seen in October, and thought likely to have bred locally, although this is well known to be a dispersive species.

The total is slightly below the 384-396 pairs reported last year, but still within the 339-408 pairs estimated for 1992 by Campbell *et al.* (1996). Not all counties reported complete surveys.

### Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*

Seven areas: up to 30 pairs reported.

**Scotland, Mid**

MORAY & NAIRN Two areas: (1) 12 pairs, but only three broods; (2) eight pairs fledged 41 young.

**Scotland, N & W**

HIGHLAND Five areas or localities: (1)-(5) total of ten pairs fledged 59 young.

These records were received from some local studies, and are still very incomplete. The estimated total population is 900 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

### Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

23 localities: 5-24 pairs breeding, producing a minimum of 13 young.

**England, SE**

Four localities: (1) pair in July; (2)(3) singing males in late May and June; (4) single bird seen.

**England, E**

51 sites visited, with presence of species confirmed at 18. Only five pairs confirmed as breeding, all of which were successful, fledging at

least 13 young. Pairs were present at five other sites, singing males at a further six, plus singles at two others. Outside the main study area, a singing male was present at a former breeding locality in early July.

**Wales**

One locality: singing male in mid-May.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	29	38	27	37	33	34	34	22	23	19	24
Confirmed (pairs)	15	10	16	14	14	7	8	7	9	10	5
Possible/ probable (pairs)	22	32	12	23	19	28	27	15	15	12	19
Max. total pairs	37	42	28	37	33	35	35	22	24	22	24

The worst breeding season since 1986, blamed mostly on the poor summer weather.

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*

Five localities: 1-5 pairs breeding.

**England, SW**

Two localities: (1) single male in mid-June; (2) single male in July to early August.

**Scotland, N & W**

Three localities: (1) pair bred, the female seen feeding a single young; (2)(3) adult males in suitable habitat in June.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	3	7	5	13	6	7	1	3	6	9	5
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1
Possible/ probable (pairs)	6	7	4	12	6	7	1	3	5	9	4
Max. total pairs	6	8	5	13	6	8	1	3	6	9	5

Another confirmed breeding record from northern Scotland, but fewer sightings than in the last two years.

**Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax***

The following information was received:

Area	Occupied sites	Successful pairs	Young reared	Young/territorial pair
Isle of Man	90	50	116	1.3
Wales				
Anglesey	15+	15	21+	1.4
Caernarfon	10+	10	31	3.1
Ceredigion	20	13	37	1.9
Glamorgan	3	2	3	1.0
Montgomery	1	1	3	3.0
Pembroke	55	45	120	2.2
Scotland				
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	-	-
Colonsay & Oronsay	12	8	22	1.8
Islay	42	Not known	Not known	Not known
Mull	1	0	-	-
Northern Ireland				
Co. Antrim	2	0	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>252+</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>353+</b>	<b>1.4</b>

Unlike in 1998, when 342 occupied sites were recorded, some areas were not surveyed fully, so the above data are incomplete.

**Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla***

Five localities: 0-7 pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities. ARGYLL Two localities: (1) two singing males on 13th May, possibly late migrants;

(2) singing male on 28th June. HIGHLAND Three localities: (1) pair on 9th May in suitable habitat; (2) two singing males; (3) singing male.



B. R. Hughes/Windrush

211. Red-billed Choughs *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*, Isle of Man, May 1996.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	1	1	2	2	2	4	8	0	1	0	5
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	1	1	2	3	1	4	8	0	1	0	5
Max. total pairs	1	1	2	3	2	4	8	0	1	0	5

A better showing than in the last three years.

### Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

The following information was received for England and Wales. Very few Scottish records were received, and these are not given here.

#### England, SW

HAMPSHIRE One pair bred. SOMERSET One juvenile in July, perhaps not locally bred.

#### England, SE

SUSSEX One pair bred.

#### England, E

SUFFOLK Two pairs bred.

#### England, Central

WORCESTERSHIRE 20 individuals at three localities.

#### England, N

CHESHIRE Breeding at one locality. LANCASHIRE Possible breeding at 3-5 localities.

#### Wales

BRECON Three pairs. CAERNARFON Two pairs.

CARMARTHEN Pairs recorded at three localities.

GLAMORGAN Two pairs.

These records represent a considerable reduction from the numbers reported in 1998. Several County Recorders commented on how scarce the species was in the early part of 1999.

### Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*

The following information was received.

#### Scotland, N & W

Four localities: total of eight pairs.

No data were received from the two main study areas, so this information is less complete than we should have liked.

### Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

Two localities: little information available.

#### Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) pair fledged two young; (2) pair in suitable breeding habitat.

The status of this species continues to require further study.

### Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Five localities: five singing males.

#### England, N

LANCASHIRE One locality: singing male in June.

#### Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Four localities: (1) singing adult male in

June; (2)-(4) single immature males singing, with the possibility that only two individuals were involved.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
No. localities	3	3	1	13	6	6	5	6	8	7	5
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	3	2	2	15	7	8	7	10	7	7	5
Max. total pairs	3	3	2	20	7	8	7	10	8	7	5

The poorest year since 1991. We include a table for this species for the first time for several years, in order to show just how unusual the events of 1992 were.

## Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Six areas or localities: up to 30 breeding pairs.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

Six areas or localities: up to 30 pairs or singing males.

The above is the result of limited survey work in one area, plus casual records, and is not representative of this species, which has an estimated UK breeding population of 70-100 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

## Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius*

453 territorial pairs.

England, SW

DEVON A full census was carried out for the second year running, revealing 453 pairs, exactly the same number as in 1998.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Confirmed (pairs)	48	98	113	92	43	42	nc	nc	nc	nc
Possible/ probable (pairs)	85	143	207	269	369	337	337	380	455	453
Max. total pairs	133	241	320	361	412	379	337	380	455	453

No pairs were found in Cornwall in 1999, despite a thorough survey conducted by English Nature and RSPB, this being the only difference from the previous year.

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