

Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 2000

Malcolm Ogilvie and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

This is the twenty-eighth annual report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel giving the status of Britain's rarest breeding birds for the year 2000. Most totals are set out by county, region or, occasionally, country; only rarely are actual localities given. This is done to counter 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 below).

The Panel

The current (August 2002) membership of the Panel is: Dr Colin Bibby, Dr Humphrey Crick, Dr Ian Francis, Judith Smith, Dr Ken Smith, David Stroud and Dr Malcolm Ogilvie (Secretary). 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.

Coverage

The Panel collects records from the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, but not from the Republic of Ireland. 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 and from specialist groups. Coverage in 2000 was excellent, although in a few cases no records

were received from County Recorders, but at least some information was available from the licence forms. With regard to the acceptance of records for publication, it is the Panel's policy to follow the view of the County Recorder and the local committee, and only in very exceptional cases to publish records which have not been vetted in this way.

Review of the year 2000

March was generally mild, dry and sunny across much of Britain, with occasional cold snaps. If this encouraged any birds, especially ground-nesting species, to start breeding early, they soon lost out as April started with heavy snow in parts of southern Britain. This quickly turned into heavy rain, which continued over the next two weeks, causing widespread flooding in the East Midlands and East Anglia and washing out nests. Despite a drier spell towards the month's end, it was the wettest April in England and Wales for 250 years, and at least the eastern half of Scotland was also much wetter than usual. May began with warm and generally dry conditions, but the second half was very wet and cool with renewed flooding in low-lying areas, causing further problems for ground-nesting birds. Only north and west Scotland managed a sunnier and warmer month than usual and even here substantial rain fell. June was better, although thunderstorms caused flooding in northeast England and there was a severe gale across much of Scotland on 12th-13th. Flooding in the north of England was repeated in mid July, though overall the month was reasonably dry across the whole country. High tides are an almost annual

problem for coastal nesting species in one part of the country or another, but there does seem to have been an increase in inland flooding in spring and early summer of recent years.

Red-throated Divers *Gavia stellata* in Shetland had one of their worst seasons on record, while things were only a little better in Orkney. Black-throated Divers *G. arctica* fared slightly better than in 1999, with more young raised, both on rafts and at natural sites. There was yet another decline in the numbers of nesting Slavonian Grebes *Podiceps auritus* but their breeding success rose markedly, to the highest ever recorded. Conversely, although Black-necked Grebes *Podiceps nigricollis* suffered poor breeding success, there were more confirmed breeding pairs than ever before. Improvements to *Phragmites* reedbed habitat which will benefit Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* are now starting to pay dividends. Numbers are continuing to increase slowly, with at least three additional booming males and one more locality compared with 1999, although the number of young fledged remains worryingly poor. Little Egrets *Egretta garzetta* continue to spread and increase in numbers, and now breed in six counties. Eurasian Spoonbills *Platalea leucorodia* failed to maintain their precarious toehold and did not breed this year, but nesting activity was reported from some new sites.

Gadwalls *Anas strepera* were reported in higher numbers than in any previous year, but few Northern Pintails *A. acuta* were found and fared badly in the areas where they were recorded. Garganey *A. querquedula* numbers declined (but only slightly) for the third year running, while the number of localities from which they were reported was well down.

The survey of European Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* organised in 2000 by the Panel produced the desired improved coverage, resulting in increased numbers reported. It is hoped that this increased monitoring effort can be maintained in future years. Red Kites *Milvus milvus* continue to increase, although breeding success of the natural Welsh population was poor because of cold, wet weather in May. The re-established populations did well, with further increases in southern and central England and central Scotland, while the recently established population in northern England bred successfully for the first time. Unfortunately, the population in northern Scotland still lacks the momentum of the southern breeders

and numbers here increased only slightly, although breeding success was above average. The number of successful breeding pairs of White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* in the re-established population increased from 1999; 12 young were reared, the second-best year to date. Coverage of Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* was excellent and both the total of nesting birds and the number of young produced were new records, despite poor weather in the early summer. In contrast, although the number of breeding Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* rose encouragingly, their breeding success was very poor. Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* continued their steady increase, though again the number of young fledged was below average. There was the added excitement of the first breeding record in England for well over a century, when a pair nested successfully in the Lake District.

For the second successive year, Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix* suffered a poor year, with the smallest total since 1993. Numbers of Corn Crakes *Crex crex* increased slightly, though as usual they did better on those islands where habitat management is sympathetic to the specific needs of this sensitive species.

Avocets *Recurvirostra avosetta* bred in record numbers but production, where it was recorded, was extremely poor, being adversely affected by high tides and flooding of their nesting lagoons. Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedicnemus* also bred in larger numbers than before, but breeding success fell. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa* suffered from flooding, as they are always so prone to do. A pair of Green Sandpipers *Tringa ochropus* bred in Scotland for the second year running. Last year's welcome increase in the number of breeding Red-necked Phalaropes *Phalaropus lobatus* in Shetland was not sustained and productivity was particularly poor. Birds were present at a number of other locations, but breeding was not proved at any of them.

Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* bred in record numbers in 2000, but heavy rain and high tides took their toll on nests. A Yellow-legged Gull *L. cachinnans michahellis* and a Lesser Black-backed Gull *L. fuscus* hybrid pair bred for the second year running, though unsuccessfully. Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* fell back from last year's improved figures and production was also poor.

A pair of Bohemian Waxwings *Bombycilla garrulus* at a locality in northern Scotland in

early May might have gone without comment had a single bird not still been there a month later. Breeding was not proved, but must have been a possibility. Two pairs of Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* nested successfully, the first to do so since 1996. Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides* continues its relentless slide into oblivion with just two reports this year, though one was of a successful breeding pair, rearing two broods. Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* numbers increased, thanks to a full survey in Kent, which found substantially more than in any previous year. With the continued run of mild winters, conditions have favoured the survival of overwintering warblers, with both Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti* and Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* reaching new record totals.

Firecrests *Regulus ignicapilla* were surveyed in several areas and reached a total close to last year's high numbers. Although Bearded Tits *Panurus biarmicus* have been thought to be declining in recent years, their numbers rose sharply in 2000 to a new high. Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* had yet another dismal breeding season, with the lowest number of pairs since 1986 when special surveys began of this species' core range in eastern England. Nest-building by two pairs of Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus* was reported, the most positive sign of breeding for a couple of 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 datasets have been used by the RSPB for planning surveys. The Panel's data have also played a key role in national population estimates and in the development and implementation of recovery plans for certain species. The publication 'The state of the UK's birds 2001' (published jointly by RSPB, JNCC, WWT and BTO in 2002) makes extensive use of the Panel's data, as does the recently revised 'The population status of birds in the UK' (*Brit. Birds* 95: 410-448).

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 making use of the Panel's data.

Acknowledgments

The Panel, in particular its Secretary, 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, Ian Carter, Colin Crooke, Roy Dennis, Julianne Evans, Dr Gillian Gilbert, Dr Rhys Green, Malcolm Henderson, Bob Image, Dr Ron Summers and the Welsh Kite Trust, all supplied information for their particular specialities and grateful thanks are due to them.

We are grateful to the licensing officers of the three country agencies – John Holmes (English Nature), John Ralston (Scottish Natural Heritage) and Sian Whitehead (Countryside Commission for Wales) – for their ready co-operation in supplying information.

We should also like to express our sincere thanks to all those 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 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, Isle of Wight, Isles of Scilly, 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), Caernarfon, Carmarthen (Caerfyrddin), 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 Ayrshire, Borders, 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), Dumfries & Galloway, Lothian

Scotland, Mid The local bird-recording areas of

Angus & Dundee, Fife, Forth (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling), Perth & Kinross, North-east 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 Western Isles

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 ‘Possible/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

HIGHLAND Of five pairs nesting on rafts, one reared two young.

ORKNEY On Hoy, of 66 pairs, 33 were successful, rearing 35 chicks, and 33 failed; on West Mainland, of 14 pairs, nine were successful, rearing 12 young; on Rousay, nine pairs attempted to breed, but only two young were seen and fledging success was unknown.

SHETLAND Overall, the number of successful pairs in the various study areas was equal lowest since records began in 1979. On Fetlar, 23 pairs reared 13 young; in the Yell study area, seven pairs reared ten young; in south Unst, two pairs reared just one young; at Hermaness eight pairs raised six young; and on Foula 12 pairs raised four young. Productivity on Foula remained very low, as has been the case since 1997, while that on Hermaness and Fetlar was about average.

WESTERN ISLES On North Uist, 14 pairs nested, while a partial survey on South Uist revealed 18 pairs. A survey of the peatlands of Lewis and Harris in 1994-96 gave an estimated population of 100 pairs.

Although some pairs on Shetland laid early (and one chick on Yell was ready to fledge in mid July), the severe storm of 13th June had a significant impact on breeding success, with large waves washing out nests on many larger lochs. The late date of such an event was particularly important because it was simply too late for many birds to relay. 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 93 sites, of which 83 were occupied. Of the 57 rafts available in 53 territories across north and west Scotland, at least 33 rafts were used, and 18 raft-nesting pairs were known to hatch young, 13 of which reared 14 chicks.

Year	Sites monitored	Sites occupied	Rafts used/ available	Young fledged (av. chicks per pair)			Production ratio raft site to natural site
				Rafts	Natural	Total	
1996	120	96	27/45	19 (0.70)	28 (0.41)	47 (0.49)	1.7
1997	98	82	32/41	17 (0.53)	12 (0.10)	29 (0.35)	5.3
1998	114	82	38/45	19 (0.50)	12 (0.28)	31 (0.38)	1.8
1999	90	77	38/48	14 (0.37)	7 (0.27)	21 (0.27)	1.3
2000	93	83	33/57	14 (0.42)	13 (0.33)	27 (0.33)	1.4

There was a decline from the two previous years in the number of rafts used but, despite poor weather from mid May onwards, the productivity at all sites rose slightly compared with 1999.

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Four localities in three counties; three adults in summer plumage.

England, E

One locality: summer-plumaged adult at usual site, 20th March to 21st August.

Scotland, S

Three localities: (1) summer-plumaged adult on three dates between 14th April and 1st June; (2)(3) summer-plumaged adult on 3rd June and 17th-22nd June, presumed same bird.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	5	3	9	7	10	6	8	4	10	6	4
No. pairs	2	1	3	0	1	4	2	1	4-5	1	0
No. individuals	3	4	12	7	13	10	10	3	5	3-5	3

The worst year since 1988. At the site in southern Scotland where a pair was present between 1983 and 1999, sometimes attempting to breed, only one bird appeared, on just three dates, suggesting the end of that particular long-running pairing.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

15 localities: 29 pairs breeding, fledging 33 young.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

15 localities: (1) Loch Ruthven. 14 pairs present and all probably bred, rearing 22 young, plus three unpaired birds; (2)-(15) 17 pairs of which 15 bred and nine were successful, rearing 11 young; also three unpaired birds.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	36	31	34	33	32	31	24	22	25	24	15
Confirmed (pairs)	74	61	72	73	51	58	49	53	42	35	29
Possible/probable (pairs)	12	13	5	4	8	7	6	3	8	6	8
Max. total pairs	86	74	77	77	59	65	55	56	50	41	37
Number of young reared	47	51	38	25	30	46	17	15	16	12	33
Young/territorial pair	0.64	0.84	0.53	0.34	0.59	0.79	0.35	0.28	0.38	0.34	1.14

Although the number of pairs declined to their lowest since monitoring began in the early 1970s,

productivity was, encouragingly, the highest ever recorded, at 1.14 young reared per pair on territory. This compares with under 0.4 young per pair in the previous four years and a long-term average of just over 0.60. Alarming, the number of sites used fell even more sharply, making the population ever more concentrated. Loch Ruthven continued its pre-eminence, and productivity here was at a record high. The



Mike Langman

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

RSPB is continuing its research into habitat management and the effects of predation. The Panel is grateful to the North and East Scotland Regional Offices of the RSPB for information on numbers and breeding performance.

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

29 localities in 16 counties: 48-65 pairs bred.

England, SW

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. AVON One locality: pair in April, single in July; two juveniles in August, but no evidence that they were reared here. HAMPSHIRE One locality: summer-plumaged adult, May-June.

England, SE

Six localities: 3-9 pairs. ESSEX One locality: pair attempted to breed, but were unsuccessful. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: 2-3 pairs bred, fledging one young; second young reared by pair of Great Crested Grebes *P. cristatus*, and apparently fledged. KENT Four localities: (1) up to three adults in March-April; juvenile in July possible migrant, but bred here in 2001; (2) two adults in March-April and again July-August; (3)(4) pairs in summer plumage in May.

England, Central

Five localities: 9-11 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) seven pairs bred hatching minimum 16 young of which up to ten fledged; (2) two pairs attempted to breed, neither successful. STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: pair displayed in May. WARWICKSHIRE Two localities: (1) agitated adult in May, no further observations; (2) two juveniles in August, perhaps related to site (1).

England, N

11 localities: 29-34 pairs. CHESHIRE One locality: nine pairs bred successfully, at least 16 young fledged, tenth pair probably bred. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair probably bred. NORTHUMBERLAND Five localities: (1) 14 pairs bred, but only six young reared, remainder deserted, probably due to predation by Mink *Mustela vison*; (2) two pairs reared three young; (3)(4) single pairs reared two young; (5) pair reared one young. YORKSHIRE Four localities: (1) pair reared two young; (2)-(4) pairs of summer-plumaged adults in May-June.

Scotland, S

Two localities: 1-3 pairs. BORDERS Two localities: (1) pair bred, second pair probably did so; (2) displaying pair, no proof of breeding.

Scotland, Mid

Three localities: 6 pairs. ANGUS One locality: pair bred unsuccessfully. FIFE One locality: two pairs reared four young. PERTSHIRE One locality: three pairs bred, but no young reared.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	19	25	29	31	32	30	32	26	18	22	29
Confirmed (pairs)	21	19	26	24	27	30	20	17	35	34	48
Possible/ probable (pairs)	16	34	34	26	54	47	33	29	13	19	17
Max. total pairs	37	53	60	50	81	77	53	46	48	53	65

By far the best year ever for confirmed breeding pairs, though success was poor, including at the key site in Northumberland.

Great Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

17 localities, of which 16 held a minimum of 22 and a maximum of 28 booming males; at least ten young fledged from a minimum of 14 nests.

England, SW

One locality: booming male early in season; adult carrying food June/July indicates probable breeding but no young seen.

England, SE

One locality: booming male; possibly bred.

England, E

13 localities: (1) seven booming males, of which one was occasional, six nests from which six young fledged; (2) three booming males, one occasional, four nests, of which three failed and the outcome was unknown at the other; (3) two booming males, one occasional, one nest, success not known; (4) one booming male, one nest, at least one young fledged; (5) one booming male, one nest, but no young fledged; (6) no booming heard, but one nest and one young fledged; (7) one occasional booming male, one nest, success not reported; (8)-(13) single booming males, one occasional, no confirmed nesting.

England, N

Two localities: (1) two booming males, two nests, one of which predated, two young fledged; (2) two booming males, no evidence of breeding.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. booming localities	12	13	14	13	16	13	10	10	12	16	17
Confirmed nests	3	4	4	5	5	11	8	15	13	21	14
Booming males (min.)	18	16	18	15	15	19	22	11	13	19	22
Booming males (max.)	20	17	19	17	16	20	22	12	18	24	28

The welcome increase seen in recent years continues, with the most localities with booming birds since 1984, though comparisons should be treated with caution, because of stricter criteria now being applied to records of booming males (see last year's report). The Panel is grateful to RSPB for supplying data on booming males and nest success, monitored as part of the joint RSPB/EN bittern research programme.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Nine localities: 68-77 pairs bred.

England, SW

Seven localities: 59-68 pairs. AVON Two localities: (1)(2) up to eight birds in April and four in June in suitable habitat, but not breeding. DORSET Two localities: (1) 48 pairs bred, number of fledged young unknown; (2) one or two pairs bred. HAMPSHIRE Two localities: (1) 8-11 pairs bred, at least 11 young fledged; (2) one pair bred, three more may have done so, at least two young fledged. SOMERSET One locality: pair bred, rearing two young.

Scotland, N & W

Nine localities: (1) pair bred, hatched five young and reared three; (2) pair bred and reared one young; (3) pair bred, but failed; (4)-(8) single non-breeding pairs; (9) an injured adult part-built a nest with a Mute Swan *C. olor*.

The above are all considered to be of wild origin, though some may have been injured birds unable to undertake their normal migration to Iceland. Only pairs are shown. In addition, up to 37 single birds were reported in summer at Scottish sites. Records of escaped birds are now included in the Panel's report on non-native breeding birds (*Brit. Birds* 95: in press).

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*

Breeding reports were received as follows:

England, SW

AVON Up to four males at one locality. SOMERSET Three birds at one locality.

England, SE

ESSEX Pair probably bred; single pairs at four other localities.

England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 11 pairs and 13 males at four localities. NORFOLK One to six birds noted at ten localities, no breeding attempts. SUFFOLK One to three birds at nine localities.

England, Central

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Seven pairs and a male at three localities. WARWICKSHIRE One pair.

England, N

CHESHIRE Birds summered at four localities. CUMBRIA One summering pair. NORTHUMBERLAND At least seven pairs bred at three localities. YORKSHIRE A pair and up to 44 males summered at four localities.

Wales

ANGLESEY Birds summered at three localities. FLINT Two pairs and four males summered.

Scotland, S

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One summering pair.

Scotland, Mid

ANGUS & DUNDEE Five broods at three localities. CLYDE One to four birds at five localities, no evidence of breeding. FIFE Birds at seven localities, no evidence of breeding. MORAY & NAIRN One pair bred and second pair present at one locality, single pairs at two others. NORTHEAST Five pairs, including four broods, at two localities. PERTH & KINROSS Seven broods seen at four localities, possible breeding at four others.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Two pairs bred at one locality, birds present at two others. ORKNEY 12 broods seen at eight localities, breeding suspected at five more. SHETLAND Pairs bred at two localities. WESTERN ISLES Thirty pairs noted, and 11 broods seen.

An increase in both the number of pairs reported, and the number of sites where successful breeding occurred in Scotland. The most recent estimate of the British population is 300-500 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Gadwall *Anas strepera*

Reports of pairs in the breeding season were received as follows:

England, SW

AVON Five pairs. DEVON One pair. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 51 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 25 pairs. SOMERSET 60 pairs.

England, SE

ESSEX 26 pairs. GREATER LONDON Seven pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 40+ pairs. KENT 97 pairs. SURREY Four pairs. SUSSEX 21+ pairs.

England, E

CAMBRIDGESHIRE 145 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 35 pairs. NORFOLK 91+ pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 13 pairs. SUFFOLK 56 pairs.

England, Central

DERBYSHIRE 31 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Three pairs. SHROPSHIRE One pair. STAFFORDSHIRE Six pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 20 pairs.

England, SE

Two localities: nine pairs. ESSEX One locality: seven pairs reared 14 young. KENT One locality: two pairs reared at least four young.

The increase and spread continues, with first breeding records for both Essex and Kent. With records of birds in apparently suitable habitat in Sussex and others turning up in heronries north to Warwickshire and Lancashire, the future for this attractive heron appears positive, although because none of these showed definite breeding activity they are excluded from the details above.

Eurasian Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia*

Six localities: 0-7 pairs bred.

England, E

Two localities: (1) two pairs present during the summer where breeding suspected but not proved in 1998, but did not breed; (2) pair present from 29th April to 5th May; nest built in reeds, but quickly dismantled by Common Coots *Fulica atra*.

England, N

Three localities: (1) an adult and a first-year bird at the site where breeding took place in 1999, 19th May to 30th August, but no breeding activity; (2) pair 30th April to 4th May and same or another pair, 21st-23rd June, at suitable site; (3) up to three in July and August at potential breeding site.

Scotland, S

One locality: pair from 4th July to 16th August, building four nest platforms, but did not breed.

Although no pairs bred this year, potential breeding activity is spreading, as far north as southern Scotland.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

Nine localities: 3-8 pairs bred; hybrid pair nest-built.



Steve McQueen

Whooper Swans *Cygnus cygnus*.

England, N

CHESHIRE 47 pairs. CLEVELAND Two pairs. CUMBRIA Five pairs. GREATER MANCHESTER 13 pairs. LANCASHIRE 11 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Nine pairs. YORKSHIRE 36 pairs.

Wales

ANGLESEY Five pairs. CAERNARFON One pair. FLINT One pair. GWENT Two pairs. PEMBROKE One pair.

Scotland, S

BORDERS Four pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One pair.

Scotland, Mid

ANGUS & DUNDEE 23 pairs. AYRSHIRE One pair. CLYDE Nine pairs. FIFE Five pairs. MORAY & NAIRN One pair. PERTH & KINROSS 70+ pairs.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Two pairs. ORKNEY 11 pairs. SHETLAND Eight pairs. WESTERN ISLES Four pairs.

The total of at least 1,000 pairs reported is easily the highest ever and is in part due to much better reporting from Scotland. There are still some gaps in the coverage from both England and Wales, but nearly all the more important counties are included above. The most recent estimate of the British population is about 770 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*

15 localities: 10-26 pairs breeding.

England, SE

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. KENT Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs stayed into early June. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: pair probably bred.

England, E

Three localities: 0-4 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: two pairs, breeding not proved. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1)(2) single pairs in May, males seen into June.

Scotland, Mid

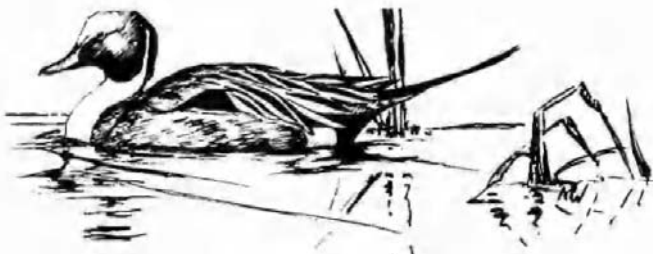
Two localities: 0-2 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE One locality: pair stayed into June. NORTHEAST One locality: pair stayed into June.

Scotland, N & W

Seven localities: 10-17 pairs. ARGYLL One locality: two pairs, one probably bred. ORKNEY Six localities: (1) seven pairs bred; (2) two pairs bred; (3) one pair bred; (4)(5) two pairs probably bred; (6) single pair probably bred.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	20	28	23	23	49	25	33	22	28	25	15
Confirmed (pairs)	9	4	13	4	20	11	8	5	13	22	10
Possible/ probable (pairs)	27	39	35	43	56	34	45	28	37	15	16
Max. total pairs	36	43	48	47	76	45	53	33	50	37	26

A poor year, although this is at least partly because of reduced coverage in Orkney, which holds a high proportion of the British population.



Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*.

Rosemarie Watts/Powell

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

52 localities: 30-109 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Seven localities: 2-14 pairs. DEVON One locality: one pair. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: pair bred, one other pair. SOMERSET Four localities: pair bred, ten other pairs.

England, SE

12 localities: 3-24 pairs. ESSEX Three localities: four pairs. KENT Eight localities: three pairs bred, 12 other pairs. OXFORDSHIRE One locality: five pairs.

England, E

13 localities: 18-47 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: 13 pairs bred, 21 other pairs. NORFOLK Four localities: two pairs bred, five other pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two localities: pair bred, one other pair. SUFFOLK Four localities: two pairs bred, two other pairs.

England, Central

Five localities: 1-5 pairs. DERBYSHIRE Two localities: pair bred, plus one pair. SHROPSHIRE One locality: one pair. STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: one pair. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: one pair.

England, N

Seven localities: 6-11 pairs. CUMBRIA Two localities: two pairs. LANCASHIRE Two localities: pair bred, one other pair. YORKSHIRE Three localities: five pairs bred, two other pairs.

Wales

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. ANGLESEY One locality: one pair. GWENT One locality: one pair. PEMBROKE One locality: one pair.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: 0-5 pairs. ARGYLL Two localities: two pairs. ORKNEY Two localities: two pairs. WESTERN ISLES One locality: one pair.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	87	90	90	73	65	80	60	85	86	77	50
Confirmed (pairs)	14	12	16	14	13	9	15	10	22	37	30
Possible/ probable (pairs)	97	82	144	149	98	108	63	119	122	71	77
Max. total pairs	111	94	160	163	111	117	78	129	144	108	107

A very similar year to 1999 in terms of the actual totals, but the number of localities with pairs decreased significantly. Some of the drop may, however, be attributed to County Recorders being selective in submitting records, omitting sightings of males and early pairs, which may be on passage.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina*

545 pairs.

England, SW

40 pairs. AVON 12 pairs. DEVON One pair (the first breeding record for the county). HAMPSHIRE 17 pairs. SOMERSET 10 pairs.

England, SE

282 pairs. ESSEX 133 pairs. GREATER LONDON Three pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE 13 pairs. KENT 119 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE Nine pairs. SURREY Five pairs.

England, E

82 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 33 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One pair. LINCOLNSHIRE One pair. NORFOLK 28+ pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two pairs. SUFFOLK 17 pairs.

England, Central

24 pairs. DERBYSHIRE Two pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 14 pairs. SHROPSHIRE Three pairs. WARWICKSHIRE Two pairs. WEST MIDLANDS Two pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE One pair.

England, N

71 pairs. CHESHIRE 22 pairs. CLEVELAND Five pairs. CUMBRIA One pair. GREATER MANCHESTER Two

pairs. LANCASHIRE 19 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND Three pairs bred. YORKSHIRE 19 pairs.

Wales

33 pairs. ANGLESEY 19 pairs. CAERNARFON One pair. CARMARTHEN Two pairs. GWENT 11 pairs.

Scotland, S

Three pairs. BORDERS Three pairs.

Scotland, Mid

Seven pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE Two pairs. PERTH & KINROSS Five pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Three pairs. ORKNEY Three pairs.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Max. total pairs	293	428	558	416	638	494	369	380	444	394	545

A much better year with good reporting from important counties such as Essex and Kent, though more patchy elsewhere.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

16 localities: 2-59 pairs.

Scotland, Mid

Three localities: up to five pairs reported.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Three localities: nine pairs reported. HIGHLAND Ten localities: 45 pairs, two with broods of chicks, located on a sample of waters.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	9	14	32	38	47	61	10	8	16	49	16
Confirmed (pairs)	6	9	9	16	5	nc	11	2	6	14	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	23	21	62	72	79	76-89	32	33	35	44	57
Max. total pairs	29	30	71	88	84	89	43	35	41	58	59

Only a sample of waters was checked this year, although this included two of the most important sites in the Flow Country, which held 14 and 13 pairs, respectively. The last full census was in 1995 (Underhill *et al.* 1998), when the British and Irish population was estimated to be 195 pairs.

Common Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

Only sample data are available from nestbox schemes in Highland.

England, E

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two localities: single summering birds.

England, Central

Three localities: 0-3 pairs. DERBYSHIRE One locality: female and immature male summered. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: single summering females.

England, N

Four localities: 0-4 pairs. CUMBRIA Three localities: one male and two females summered. LANCASHIRE One locality: male summered.

Scotland, S

No count of localities: 0-19 pairs. AYRSHIRE Seven summering birds. BORDERS Five summering birds. CLYDE Three summering birds. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Four summering birds.

Scotland, Mid

At least five localities: 2-10 pairs. CENTRAL One locality: pair bred. FIFE Three summering birds. MORAY &

NAIRN Two localities: pair plus two females, no evidence of breeding. NORTHEAST One locality: one pair bred. PERTH & KINROSS One locality: two pairs, no evidence of breeding.

Scotland, N & W

36 pairs. HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) Spey Valley including Insh Marshes: 34 nest boxes in use, no report of success; (2) Glen Urquhart: two pairs bred. There was no survey at the RSPB Abernethy reserve.

Summering by small numbers in England continues, but the breeding record in Borders in 1999 was not repeated this year.

European Honey-buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

30 pairs breeding; minimum of 40 young reared.

Great Britain

15 pairs fledged two young, ten pairs fledged one young, five pairs bred but failed, one because the female was shot. There were an additional 11 pairs, including one displaying pair, one locality with two males, and eight localities with single birds, at least one of which showed breeding behaviour.

The breakdown of the above into countries is England (24 pairs bred, plus 19 probable/possible pairs), Wales (four pairs bred) and Scotland (two pairs bred, plus two probable/possible pairs).

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Confirmed (pairs)	3	2	8	6	9	9	14	14	17	13	30
Max. total pairs	19	22	26	27	28	30	34	39	37	43	51

The first-ever survey of this species in Britain was carried out in 2000, organised by the Panel, and Batten (2001) published a preliminary summary suggesting that there were 29 confirmed pairs and a further 29 probable or possible breeding pairs. The above totals reflect a full re-analysis of the records received. The findings reveal one more confirmed pair, but a reduction in the number of possible/probable pairs, mainly due to the discarding of observations of single birds which could have been wanderers from adjacent territories of known pairs or migrants. The total number of confirmed pairs is well in excess of any previous total reported to the Panel and reinforces the belief that this species has been considerably under-reported in the past. Unfortunately, the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in 2001 prevented the planned repeat of the survey, but it is hoped that observers will continue both to record and report breeding-season observations of European Honey-buzzards from now on.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Wild and re-established populations. 201 pairs bred in Wales and raised 141 young, and at least 171 breeding pairs from released stock in England and Scotland reared at least 310 young. The year 2000 saw the first combined UK survey of this species using methods agreed by the UK Red Kite Steering Group.

Wales

201 pairs were proved to breed and there were a further 48 non-breeding pairs. Of these, 103 were successful, rearing 141 young. Although the total number of pairs rose, the number of successful pairs, and the number of young reared, fell below the levels in either 1999 or 1998, the main reason for this is believed to be the cold and wet weather during much of May. Mean brood size was low and 90 nests were known to have failed completely. Counts of unmated birds in spring and of the total population in spring and autumn were not undertaken, as it has been decided that their accuracy had fallen below an acceptable level with little possibility of improvement as the population continues to increase and spread.

Wales	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total pairs	84	92	101	115	138	146	161	180	200	228	249
Breeding pairs	65	76	84	104	111	127	130	152	167	181	201
Successful pairs	47	41	60	61	70	79	90	99	112	118	103
Young reared	73	62	96	82	99	117	119	129	174	165	141
Young/territorial pair	0.9	0.7	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.6

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

England, S

A total of 109 breeding pairs and a further 17 territorial pairs were located, with over 200 young reared. This population has become increasingly hard to survey, but it is believed that the breeding population lay between 96 and 124 pairs, and the total number between 107 and 145. These totals include a pair which bred outside the main southern England breeding area, rearing two young.

England, Central

In the East Midlands release area, all 16 territorial pairs bred, of which ten were successful, rearing 22 young (1.4/pair).

England, N

The first release, of 23 birds from the Chilterns, took place in 1999. Already in 2000, three pairs, two of which comprised first-year birds, laid eggs but none hatched. A third pair, consisting of a first-year male and an older female, rescued from illegal captivity and rehabilitated, reared two young. Nineteen more birds from the Chilterns were released in 2000.

England	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total territorial pairs	2	7	12	22	26	nc	61	87	nc	146
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	20	24	37+	57	76	83	131+
Successful pairs	0	4	8	17	22	nc	50	67	78	nc
Young reared	0	9	14	37	55	80	111	146	172	226+
Young/territorial pair	–	1.3	1.2	1.7	2.1	–	1.8	1.7	–	1.5

Scotland, Central

Eight breeding pairs reared a total of ten young.

Scotland, N

Of the 36 pairs located, 32 bred and 30 of these were successful, fledging 74 young (2.1/pair). Although the number of pairs is only rising very slowly, partly because of the effects of illegal persecution, the breeding success was the best so far recorded.

Scotland	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Total territorial pairs	2	8	11	17	22	27	30	39	44
Breeding pairs	1	5	8	15	17	23	25	36	40
Successful pairs	1	3	6	11	16	19	22	26	38
Young reared	1	7	13	26	39	39	47	59	84
Young/territorial pair	0.5	0.9	1.2	1.5	1.8	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.9

Re-establishment in England continues apace, with very rapid breeding at the new Yorkshire release site. It was a very successful year at both Scottish release sites, though the number of pairs in north Scotland continues to grow disappointingly slowly. The Panel is grateful to English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the RSPB for the above information.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Re-establishment.

Scotland

There was a total of 20 territory-holding pairs, plus a single bird with a territory. Between 18 and 20 pairs laid clutches and between 11 and 13 of these hatched young, but only eight pairs were successful, fledging 12 young (four broods of two and four of one). One failure was due to egg thieves, the remainder were thought to be natural, though human disturbance may have contributed at one nest.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Breeding pairs/ trios (min)	9	8	9	6	8	9	12	11	18	18	20-21
Clutches laid	9	8	9	6	8	9	12	11-13	16-17	15-16	18-20
Successful pairs	2	4	4	4	4	5	7	5	9	6	8
Young reared	2	7	7	5	5	7	9	9	13	11	12
Young/territorial pair	0.2	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6

Although breeding success failed to improve on 1999, the slow increase in the number of pairs is encouraging. For the first time no trio was involved, as a new male appeared at the site which had formerly contained two females and one male, and a new pair was formed. Another welcome event was the successful breeding by a pair consisting of a three-year-old male and a four-year-old female (both released birds). Such early breeding in the re-established population is unprecedented. The Panel is grateful to the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information. The Project is supported jointly by JNCC, SNH and the RSPB.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

183-206 pairs bred, rearing at least 377 young.

England, SW

Three localities: 0-4 pairs. HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair built nest but did not lay. ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: female nest-building, male present only briefly. SOMERSET One locality: two females.

England, SE

Eight localities or areas: 32-35 pairs. ESSEX One locality: pair fledged three young; many reports of summering individuals. KENT Six localities or areas: (1) 24 nests produced at least 21 young; (2) four pairs fledged 11 young; (3) Pair plus female attempted but failed; (4) pair fledged two young; (5) pair bred, success unknown; (6) pair present. SUSSEX One locality: pair present, did not breed.

England, E

26 localities or areas: 138-144 pairs bred. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Six localities: (1) nine pairs fledged at least 19 young; (2) two pairs bred, no young fledged; (3) pair fledged two young, second pair present; (4) pair fledged one young; (5) pair probably bred; (6) pair possibly bred. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One locality: pair fledged three young. LINCOLNSHIRE Three areas: (1) 18 pairs fledged 42+ young; (2) 12 pairs fledged 37+ young; (3) 10 pairs fledged 30+ young. NORFOLK Eight localities or areas: (1) 21 pairs fledged 32+ young; (2) 17 pairs fledged 54 young; (3) 15 pairs fledged 27 young; (4) pair fledged two young, second female seen regularly; (5) pair fledged two young; (6) pair bred; (7) pair probably bred; (8) pair present. SUFFOLK Eight localities: (1) nine pairs fledged 22+ young; (2) eight pairs fledged 20+ young; (3) six pairs fledged 12 young; (4) pair fledged five young; (5) pair fledged three young; (6) pair fledged two young; (7) pair fledged one young; (8) pair bred but failed.

England, N

Ten localities: 7-14 pairs bred. CUMBRIA One locality: displaying male in June. LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1) one male and two females bred and fledged one young; (2) female summered. YORKSHIRE Seven localities: (1) three pairs fledged two young; (2) pair fledged three young; (3) pair fledged two young; (4)(5) single pairs present; (6) three birds present; (7) single present at former breeding site.

Wales

One locality: 0-1 pairs. ANGLESEY One locality: pair displaying and nest-building, no evidence of successful breeding.

Scotland, Mid

Five localities: 6-8 pairs. FIFE One locality: pair fledged four young. MORAY & NAIRN One locality: two summering females. NORTHEAST One locality: pair fledged four young. PERTH & KINROSS Two localities: (1) two pairs fledged six young; (2) male and two females bred and fledged two young.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Breeding males	73	83	92	84	114	151	135	131	137	145	184
Breeding females	110	91	107	110	129	156	136	132	138	145	206
Young	145	198	229	244	255	277	263	206	292	256	377

A substantial increase, both in the number of breeding birds and in the number of young reared. This is partly down to better coverage, but also to a genuine increase and spread. The breeding records in Fife and Northeast Scotland are both firsts for those areas. It should be noted that non-breeding birds are often not reported from the core areas of Norfolk and Lincolnshire, while production of young is, for many areas, a minimum.

Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus*

The following summary information has been received. For each area, the figures are 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, Central	1	0	0	0
England, N (all counties)	14	9	13	0.93
Wales	19	8	28	1.47
Borders & Lothian	10	5	10	1.00
Dumfries & Galloway	18	13	41	2.28
South Strathclyde	30	8	21	0.70
Stirling	6	1	2	0.33
Angus	4	3	9	2.25
Perthshire	22	9	26	1.18
Northeast Scotland	13	8	26	2.00
Moray & Nairn	6	6	13	2.17
Argyll & Bute	32	16	58	1.81
Highland	19	22	47	2.47
Orkney	21	17	25	1.19
Western Isles	23	9	26	1.13
TOTALS	238	135	345	1.45

The total number of monitored territories rose compared with last year, and breeding success was very similar. The results of the national census in 1998 have been published (Sim *et al.* 2001). The total number of territorial pairs found by the census was 570 (range 499-640), little changed 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*

18 localities: 9-19 pairs reared 7-8 young.

England, SW

Four localities: (1) two pairs bred unsuccessfully; (2) pair fledged one or two young; (3)(4) single males seen.

England, E

Eleven localities: (1)(2) pairs fledged three young; (3)-(6) three pairs and an additional female bred, but failed; (7)(8) pairs present; (9) immature pair in July; (10) female summered; (11) male in May-June.

England, Central

Two localities: (1) male in May; (2) female in June.

Wales

One locality: male present, including display.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	9	14	12	8	15	14	16	13	11	11	18
Breeding males	8	5	7	5	7	8	6	7	3	4	8
Other males	4	3	2	2	9	8	8	6	10	4	8
Breeding females	11	7	8	6	12	9	7	9	3	4	9
Other females	2	6	4	1	11	4	7	3	5	5	5
Young	20	14	12	9	13	26	14	11	8	12	7-8

Although the number of localities with birds was the highest since these reports began and the number of breeding birds rose from the low point in 1999, breeding success was extremely poor.

Northern Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 225 localities or areas: 237-322 pairs breeding.

England

At least 71 localities in 20 counties; 98 pairs known to have bred, plus 63 other pairs.

Wales

69 localities in seven counties: 69 pairs known to have bred, plus 7 other pairs.

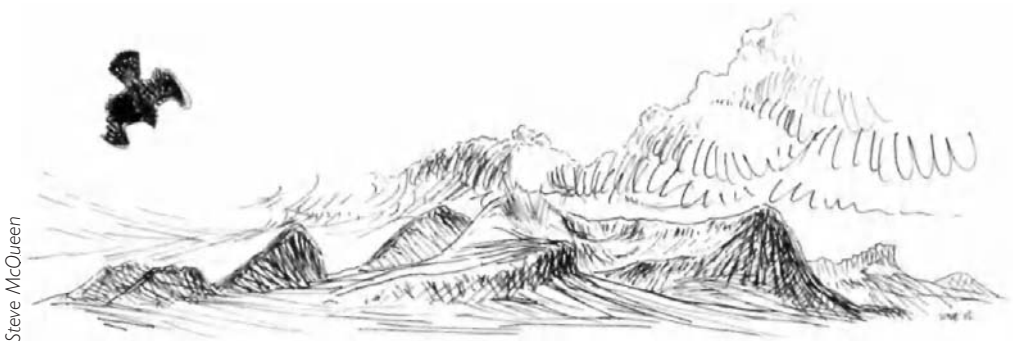
Scotland

85 localities in nine recording areas: 70 pairs known to have bred, plus 15 other pairs.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. counties	30	36	34	35	33	38	33	41	38	42	36
Confirmed (pairs)	93	158	150	199	145	249	160	247	179	198	237
Possible/ probable (pairs)	79	71	93	100	80	70	53	100	70	95	85
Max. total pairs	172	229	243	299	225	319	213	347	249	293	322

A further improvement in reporting from most areas, for which the Panel is grateful. We continue to urge that all information should be deposited with the Panel to assist the conservation of this species, not least by having available more-complete data on the scale of persecution.

Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*



Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* performing 'sky dance' display, Sutherland.

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

Productivity rose slightly from the low of 0.41 young/territorial pair of 1999, but was still poor. The Panel is grateful to the Scottish and Cumbrian Raptor Study Groups for much of the above information.

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Min. no. young fledged	Min. young/territorial pair
England, N	1	0	0	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2	2	0	0
Borders	2	2	2	1.00
Central Scotland	10	4	4	0.40
Tayside	13	6	9	0.69
Northeast Scotland	19	5	6	0.32
Argyll	59	19	22	0.37
Highland	95	49	52	0.55
Western Isles	22	9	11	0.50
TOTALS	223	96	106	0.48

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

151 pairs with nests: 125 pairs laid eggs, rearing 209 young.

England, Central

RUTLAND: 12 more young were translocated from Scotland to Rutland Water, all of which fledged and left the area. A translocated chick from 1997 and an unringed female formed a pair and built a nest rather late in the season; no eggs were laid.

England, N

CUMBRIA Three localities: (1) pair fledged one young; (2)(3) pairs nest-built and one pair seen copulating, but no breeding attempts made.

Scotland, S

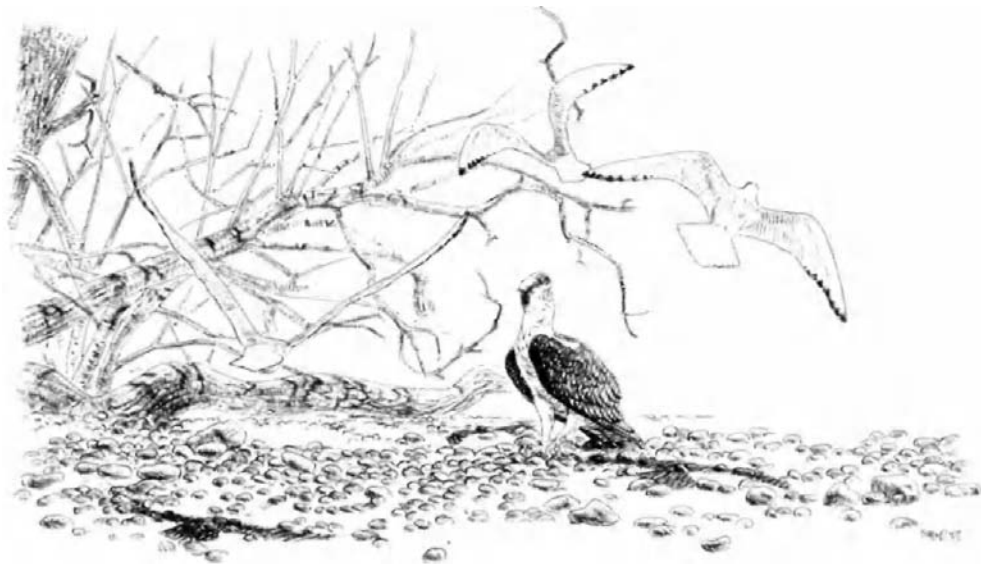
BORDERS One locality: pair fledged two young.

Scotland, Mid

CLYDE Pair fledged two young. FORTH Seven pairs laid of which six fledged 14 young. TAYSIDE 50 occupied territories, 36 clutches laid; 52 young fledged. ELSEWHERE 14 pairs laid, of which 12 fledged 28 young.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Four pairs were all successful, fledging nine young. HIGHLAND 70 pairs were found of which 61 bred and 49 fledged 101 young.



Steve McQueen

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* mobbed by Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus*.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Pairs with nests	62	73	76	88	95	99	104	111	131	136	151
Pairs with eggs	56	64	63	78	83	92	93	102	117	125	125
Successful pairs	44	44	47	56	69	73	74	77	93	87	nc
Young reared	90	82	103	111	146	146	155	159	194	183	209
Young/territorial pair	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.5	1.3	1.4

The highlight of the year was the successful nesting of a pair in Cumbria, the first known breeding of Ospreys in England for about 150 years. One of the translocated birds at Rutland Water got as far as nest-building with an unringed female.

The population in some areas of Scotland has now increased to the extent that it is becoming difficult to monitor all the pairs and their breeding success. The number of successful pairs in Tayside was unknown, while the total number of young reared is a minimum figure.

Breeding success was poor, with cold weather at the start of April disrupting the return migration, and resulting in several regular sites being unoccupied. Successful breeding again took place in southern Scotland. The Panel is grateful for the information supplied to it by the Osprey Study Group and the Scottish Raptor Study Groups.

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	0	0	0
England, Central	15	5	11	0.73
England, N	65	43	92	1.42
Wales	28	11	31	1.11
Borders & Lothian	26	16	57	2.19
Dumfries & Galloway	9	5	10	1.11
South Strathclyde	0	0	0	0
Angus	18	12	44	2.44
Stirling	3	0	0	0
Perthshire	20	13	31	1.55
Northeast Scotland	31	22	82	2.65
Argyll & Bute	8	4	13	1.63
Highland	43	29	109	2.53
Orkney	8	4	13	1.63
Shetland	10	8	27	2.70
Western Isles	9	9	31	3.44
TOTALS	294	181	551	1.87

The number of occupied territories and breeding pairs was well down on previous years, although coverage in northern England in particular was lower. Breeding success was very similar to that in previous years. The Panel is grateful to the Cumbria 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).



Mike Langman

Merlin *Falco columbarius* chasing Meadow Pipits *Anthus pratensis*.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 381-711 pairs breeding.

England, SW

32-137 pairs. AVON 4-15 pairs. DEVON 12-19 pairs. DORSET 1+ pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE five pairs. HAMPSHIRE 8-65 pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT 0-2 pairs. SOMERSET 2-30 pairs.

England, SE

250-334 pairs. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE four pairs. ESSEX 20-30 pairs. GREATER LONDON 4-7 pairs. KENT 175-200 pairs. OXFORDSHIRE 6-7 pairs. SUSSEX 41-86 pairs.

England, E

44-111 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 12-19 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 3-12 pairs. NORFOLK 10-16 pairs. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 12-25 pairs. SUFFOLK 7-39 pairs.

England, Central

36-92 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 22-24 pairs. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE four pairs. SHROPSHIRE 3-30 pairs. WARWICKSHIRE 4-30 pairs. WEST MIDLANDS 1-2 pairs. WORCESTERSHIRE two pairs.

England, N

9-26 pairs. CHESHIRE 5-7 pairs. CUMBRIA 0-1 pairs. LANCASHIRE 0-2 pairs. NORTHUMBERLAND 2-4 pairs. YORKSHIRE 2-12 pairs.

Wales

10-11 pairs. BRECON One pair. GWENT four pairs. RADNOR 5-6 pairs.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Confirmed (pairs)	154	159	255	152	170	161	190	167	161	246	381
Possible/ probable (pairs)	287	310	327	341	330	269	264	457	514	307	330
Max. total pairs	441	469	582	493	500	430	454	624	675	553	711

A record number of confirmed and total pairs, helped by a full survey of Kent which found many more Hobbies than had been suspected there previously. This total is still well below a recent estimate of the total British breeding population of 2,200 pairs (Clements 2001), which was derived by extrapolation from known breeding densities in well-studied areas.

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	75	27	57	0.76
England, SE	28	12	24	0.86
England, Central	48	28	54	1.13
England, N	130	67	163	1.25
Wales	126	60	132	1.05
Borders & Lothian	51	23	54	1.06
Dumfries & Galloway	78	48	103	1.32
South Strathclyde/Arran	25	13	30	1.20
Angus	34	26	26	0.76
Central	23	18	38	1.65
Perthshire	36	27	48	1.33
Northeast Scotland	36	12	21	0.58
Moray & Nairn	12	3	4	0.33
Argyll	16	13	24	1.50
Highland	20	13	20	1.00
Orkney	15	3	5	0.33
Western Isles	0	0	0	0.00
TOTALS	753	393	803	1.07

The number of pairs reported has fallen for the second year running, with reduced reporting from several areas of England. Breeding success was poor over much of the country. The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for most of the Scottish information, and to the English and Welsh Raptor Study Groups. The most recent estimate of the UK Peregrine population is 1,263 pairs in 1991 (Crick & Ratcliffe 1995). A more up-to-date figure will soon be available from the national survey held in 2002 (postponed from 2001).

Common Quail *Coturnix coturnix*

2-203 pairs breeding.

England, SW

0-20 pairs. AVON Three singing males. DEVON One singing male. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Five singing males. HAMPSHIRE Seven singing males. SOMERSET Four singing males.

England, SE

0-7 pairs. ESSEX Three singing males. KENT Four singing males.

England, E

1-58 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Ten singing males. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Two singing males. NORFOLK One brood seen and 34 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Five singing males. SUFFOLK Six singing males.

England, Central

0-25 pairs. DERBYSHIRE Four singing males. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Three singing males. SHROPSHIRE Nine singing males. STAFFORDSHIRE Two singing males. WARWICKSHIRE Six singing males. WORCESTERSHIRE One singing male.

England, N

0-42 pairs. CHESHIRE Three singing males. CLEVELAND 12 singing males. GREATER MANCHESTER One singing male. LANCASHIRE Ten singing males. NORTHUMBERLAND Six singing males. YORKSHIRE Ten singing males.

Wales

0-5 pairs. ANGLESEY Two singing males. CAERNARFON One singing male. CEREDIGION One singing male. RADNOR One singing male.

Scotland, S

1-23 pairs. BORDERS One brood seen and 20 singing males. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Two singing males.

Scotland, Mid

0-18 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE Two singing males. FIFE Three singing males. MORAY & NAIRN Five singing males. NORTHEAST Eight singing males.

Scotland, N & W

0-5 pairs. ORKNEY Three singing males. SHETLAND Two singing males.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Confirmed (pairs)	13	2	9	1	8	15	5	4	5	5	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	364	105	481	202	604	500	330	863	523	312	201
Max. total pairs	377	107	490	203	612	515	335	867	528	317	203

Overall, a much worse year even than 1999, mainly as a result of particularly low numbers in the southern half of England. In northern England and southern Scotland, the number of singing males was comparable with 1999.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

22 localities: 3 pairs bred or probably bred, plus 31 singing males or individuals.

England, SW

Four localities: pair probably bred, plus five singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) three singing males in early May only; (2) singing male in mid May only. SOMERSET Two localities: (1) juvenile seen 28th July – probable breeding record; (2) singing male in mid May only.

England, E

Six localities: ten singing males. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: (1) five singing males; (2)(3) single singing males. NORFOLK Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. SUFFOLK One locality: singing male.

England, N

Five localities: pair bred, plus four singing males. CHESHIRE One locality: singing male. LANCASHIRE One locality: singing male. NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. YORKSHIRE One locality: pair bred – downy chick seen.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: three singing males. NORTHEAST Two localities: (1) two singing males; (2) one singing male.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: pair bred, plus nine singing males or individuals. ARGYLL One locality: singing male. HIGHLAND One locality: pair bred, plus four other singing males. ORKNEY One locality: two singing males, breeding suspected. WESTERN ISLES Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) casual record of one in late July.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. counties	5	5	9	12	4	5	5	7	11	25	14
No. localities	10	7	12	19	5	8	8	13	16	40	22
No. pairs/singing males	17	14	14	31	11	10	13	14	31	46-77	34

Following the first-ever census of this species in Britain in 1999 (Gilbert 2002), it was inevitable that the totals found this year would fall back, though it is welcome that both the number of localities and birds are above the level of 1998.

Corn Crane *Crex crex*

622 pairs or singing males.

England, E

One locality: one singing male. NORFOLK One locality: singing male, 1st May only.

England, Central

One locality: one singing male. DERBYSHIRE One locality: singing male, 8th-12th July.

Scotland, S

One locality: one singing male. BORDERS One locality: singing male, 14th June.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: two singing males. CENTRAL Two localities: (1) singing male, 21st-22nd June; (2) singing male, 8th July.

Scotland, N & W: Mainland

Three main areas: 24 singing males. CAITHNESS Total of nine singing males in suitable habitat. SUTHERLAND Total of 13 singing males in suitable habitat. WEST INVERNESS Two singing males in May.

Scotland, N & W: Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland

16 localities or areas: 593 singing males.

Totals of singing males: HIGHLAND – INNER HEBRIDES 26 (Skye 23, Muck 3), STRATHCLYDE – INNER HEBRIDES 244 (Coll 53, Tiree 153, Mull 0, Iona 9, Colonsay & Oronsay 21, Islay 8), ORKNEY 11, SHETLAND 2, WESTERN ISLES 310 (Lewis 55, Harris 3, Berneray 1, North Uist 66, Benbecula 31, South Uist 98, Barra & Vatersay 56).

The total of 593 singing males on all Scottish islands shows a further increase over 1999 and is the second highest recorded since regular monitoring began in 1988. Overall, there were increases on seven islands, including a welcome return to Muck after a gap of five years, and declines on seven. Numbers on the mainland of Scotland also continue to rise slowly and there were the usual scattered records from farther south. The Panel is grateful to RSPB for all the island data above.

Common Crane *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

England, E

NORFOLK One locality: four pairs nested, but no young were reared, with predation of both eggs and young occurring.

It is disappointing to report a breeding failure after three consecutive successful years.

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 seven years remained throughout 2000 (*Brit. Birds* 94: 468).

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

39 localities: 980-1,020 pairs reared a minimum of 172 young.

England, SE

13 localities: 373-393 pairs. ESSEX Six localities: (1) 60-80 pairs bred; (2) 51 pairs bred; (3) 49 pairs, 11 of which

fledged 29 young; (4) seven pairs bred; (5) three pairs bred; (6) one pair bred. KENT Seven localities: (1) 55 pairs present; (2) 41 pairs bred of which 33 successful; (3) 40 pairs bred; (4) 33 pairs bred; (5) 24 pairs bred, one young fledged; (6) 8 pairs bred; (7) pair fledged four young.

England, E

24 localities: 585-605 pairs. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: 50 pairs. NORFOLK 15 localities: (1) 60-80 pairs bred, two young fledged; (2) 53 pairs bred, 15 young fledged; (3) 52 pairs bred, 26 young fledged; (4) 37 pairs bred, 11 young fledged; (5) 36 pairs bred; (6) 26 pairs bred, all nests washed out, 11 relays fledged 12 young; (7) 24 pairs bred, four young fledged; (8) 12 pairs bred; (9) nine pairs bred, three young fledged; (10) five pairs bred, four young fledged; (11) four pairs bred, three young fledged; (12)(13) three pairs bred; (14) two pairs bred, two young fledged; (15) pair bred. SUFFOLK Eight localities: (1) 98 pairs bred, eight young fledged; (2) 75 pairs bred, seven young fledged; (3) 13 pairs bred, six young fledged; (4) eight pairs bred, nine young fledged; (5) eight pairs bred, three young fledged; (6) four pairs bred, all failed; (7) pair bred, two young fledged; (8) pair bred, one young fledged.

England, N

Two localities: 22 pairs. CUMBRIA One locality: pair bred, three young fledged. YORKSHIRE One locality: 21 pairs bred, 17 young fledged.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	21	21	29	25	29	25	25	35	48	36	39
Confirmed (pairs)	355	448	492	436	623	613	592	654	834	655	980
Young reared (min.)	200	305	336	347	181	149	189	238	536	444	172

A record number of pairs bred, but even though the number of young fledging is not known for several colonies, it is apparent from the results of those where this information is available that 2000 was a disastrous breeding season, with large numbers of nests washed out by heavy rain and/or spring high tides.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Five counties: 253-270 pairs fledged a minimum of 168 young.

England, SW

64-79 pairs. HAMPSHIRE 22 pairs, 20 of which bred, 18 young fledged. WILTSHIRE 57 pairs, of which 44 bred, 29 young fledged.

England, SE

Seven pairs. BERKSHIRE Seven pairs bred, eight young fledged.

England, E

182-184 pairs. NORFOLK Brecks: 88 pairs bred, fledging 49 young. Elsewhere: seven pairs bred. SUFFOLK Brecks: 86 pairs, 84 of which bred and fledged 58 young. Elsewhere: three pairs bred, six young fledged.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Confirmed (pairs)	139	139	155	146	141	165	174	192	215	235	253
Possible/ probable (pairs)	10	16	4	16	32	9	14	11	11	11	17
Max. total pairs	149	155	159	162	173	174	188	203	226	246	270
Min. no. of young fledged	112	123	111	101	91	164	155	167	165	163	168

Although there were no breeding records from Cambridgeshire and Oxfordshire in 2000, the number of breeding pairs elsewhere continues to increase. A record number of breeding pairs nested in 2000 and produced a record number of young, though breeding success per pair actually fell. The Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green for his assistance in compiling the data.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

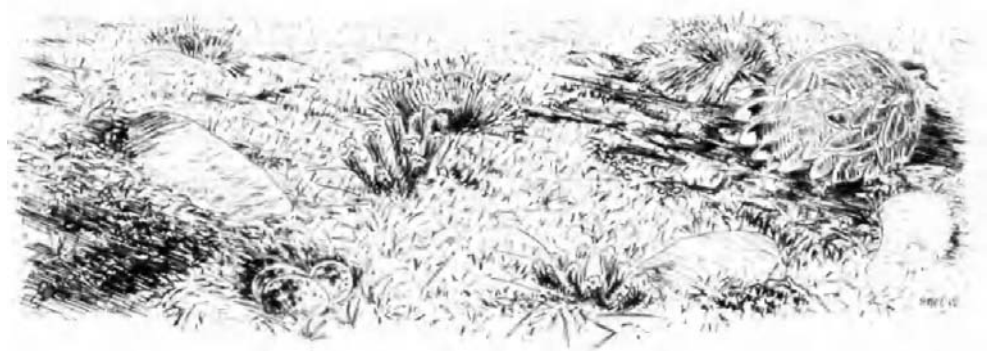
The following summary information has been received. For each area, it is based on a non-randomised sample rather than a complete census.

Area	Possible/ probable pairs	Confirmed breeding pairs	Total pairs
England, SW	18	12	30
England, SE	14	46	60
England, E	6	44	50
England, Central	28	104	132
England, N	81	122	203
Wales	55	14	69
Scotland, Mid	0	1	1
TOTALS	202	343	545

The total number of pairs is a considerable reduction on the 636 recorded in 1999. This species' habit of breeding adventitiously on industrial and waste sites makes accurate reporting difficult in some areas. The most recent estimate of the British population was 825-1,070 pairs in 1991 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

No reports were received from outside main Scottish breeding areas. 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 in the region of 840-950 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).



Steve McQueen

Male Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus* feigning injury near the nest, Cairngorm.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Two localities: up to three pairs.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) two males displaying in mid June, no females seen; (2) single male displaying in May.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	2	3	4	3
Max. total pairs	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	4	3

There were birds at two localities for the second year running, though no females were seen at either.

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One locality: one bird.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: single bird seen during the breeding season.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	1	3	1	1	4	1	2	3	2	0	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Max. total pairs	1	4	2	1	4	1	2	3	3	1	1

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Five localities: one pair probably bred, plus four leks.

England, SE

Two localities: pair probably bred, plus one lek. KENT Two localities: (1) pair almost certainly attempted to breed as display and copulation were seen and the female was present throughout the summer, but no young were seen; (2) three males lekking in early May, but not seen thereafter.

England, N

Three localities: three leks. LANCASHIRE Two localities: (1) lek of 11 males in late April; (2) lek of seven males in late April. YORKSHIRE One locality: lek of nine males with two females, no other signs of breeding.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	8	9	21	10	13	7	8	6	5	3	5
No. of leks	1	4	7	7	3	3	3	5	2	3	4
Nests/broods	3	7	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0-1

A probable breeding record was the highlight of an otherwise poor year, in which there were no reports of leks from formerly regular sites in eastern England, although birds did return to sites in northern England which were empty in 1999.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

17 localities: 39-49 pairs breeding.

England, SE

Three localities: 4-5 pairs bred. KENT Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, no young fledged; (2) two pairs bred, success unknown. SUSSEX One locality: pair in suitable habitat, but did not breed.

England, E

Three localities: 26-28 pairs bred. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) 24 pairs fledged six young; (2) two pairs bred, but failed, third pair present. SUFFOLK One locality: pair seen displaying, but no evidence of nesting.

England, N

Five localities: 4-8 pairs bred. LANCASHIRE Three localities: (1) three pairs bred, at least one successful; (2) two pairs holding territory, did not breed; (3) pair displaying, did not breed. YORKSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair fledged one young; (2) pair displaying, but site flooded.

Scotland, N & W

Six localities: 5-8 pairs bred.

ORKNEY Three localities: (1) three pairs bred fledging at least two young; (2)(3) single pairs probably bred. SHETLAND Three localities: (1)(2) single pairs bred, both failed; (3) pair present, probably did not breed.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	16	18	24	16	22	15	12	11	13	18	17
Confirmed (pairs)	33	28	20	28	20	28	34	42	38	45	39
Possible/ probable (pairs)	33	25	38	5	16	7	7	5	12	8	10
Max. total pairs	66	53	58	33	36	35	41	47	50	53	49

Although breeding success was very poor, mainly because of floods at critical times, the population is still above the level of the mid 1990s.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Away from the species' stronghold in Orkney and Shetland: one pair bred, plus two territory-holding singles.

Wales

GWYNEDD One locality: a pair bred and fledged three young.

Scotland, N

Two localities: two singles. HIGHLAND Two localities: (1)(2) singles in suitable habitat, one where breeding suspected in the past.

A first breeding record for Wales at the same location at which a pair held territory in 1999. The Scottish population is estimated at 530 pairs (Stone *et al.* 1997).

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

The following limited information was received.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND 53 pairs reported from 15 localities. SHETLAND Two pairs reported. WESTERN ISLES 26 pairs reported.

This is a particularly difficult species to survey accurately, and all records from likely breeding areas would be welcome. In particular, information from birdwatchers visiting the Highlands, who see or hear display or song, can help to supplement the survey information from local observers in this vast and underwatched region. The Scottish population is estimated at 1,100-1,600 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*

One locality: one pair.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: pair bred, fledging two young.

A pair bred for the second year running at the same locality. The only confirmed breeding record prior to 1999 was in Inverness-shire in 1959 (*Brit. Birds* 52: 430-432).

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Three localities: 4-6 pairs bred.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: adult seen in mid June.

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: (1) four pairs bred, but success unknown; (2) birds present at regular site.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	2	2	4	4	8	6	3	5	5	3	3
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	2	6	7	8	0	8	2	4
Possible/ probable (pairs)	1	1	5	6	5	4	0	9	2	4	2
Max. total pairs	2	2	6	8	11	11	8	9	10	6	6

A poor year, although the lack of data from one regular site, which was occupied in 2000, weakens comparisons with past years.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Twelve localities: 13 breeding males reared 4+ young.

Scotland, N & W

12 localities. ARGYLL One locality: pair present at same site as in 1999, mating seen, but not thought to have bred. SHETLAND Three localities: (1)(2) Fetlar, nine breeding males, at least two young fledged; (3) four breeding males, at least two young fledged. WESTERN ISLES Eight localities: (1) five females in June, no males seen; (2) up to three females and two males; (3) agitated male and, later, pair; (4) up to three birds in May/June; (5) pair in early June; (6)(7) single birds in early June; (8) moulting bird in early July.

2000 was a very poor year in Shetland, with a decline in breeding birds (and the lowest total of males since at least 1990) and very low productivity. Last year's successful breeding in the Western Isles was not repeated, but there were several more sightings, including at new locations, which may bode well for the future.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

28 localities: 90-109 pairs.

England, SW

Five localities: 49-52 pairs. DORSET One locality: at least five pairs bred, success unknown. HAMPSHIRE Three localities: (1) 38 pairs fledged 41 young; (2) pair present, did not breed; (3) two pairs present, but not after mid May. ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: six pairs bred, but all failed.

England, SE

10 localities: 33-37 pairs. ESSEX Five localities: (1) three pairs bred, one young fledged; (2) two pairs bred, but failed; (3) two pairs, did not breed; (4)(5) single pairs, did not breed. KENT Three localities: (1) ten pairs bred, success unknown; (2) eight pairs bred, all failed; (3) five pairs bred, success unknown. SUSSEX Two localities: (1) four pairs fledged six young; (2) pair fledged two young.

England, E

Seven localities: 8-13 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH Two localities: (1)(2) single summering birds in Black-headed Gull *L. ridibundus* colonies. NORFOLK Three localities: (1) two pairs bred, success unknown; (2) three pairs displaying, but did not breed; (3) pair started to breed, but deserted. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) three pairs fledged three young; (2) two pairs fledged two young.

England, N

Six localities: 0-7 pairs. CHESHIRE One locality: pair nest-built, but did not breed. CUMBRIA Two localities: (1) three summering birds in Black-headed Gull colony; (2) two summering birds in Black-headed Gull colony. GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair held territory but did not lay. LANCASHIRE One locality: two summering birds. YORKSHIRE One locality: pair displaying, but area washed out.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	10	13	15	14	16	16	18	24	27	28	28
Confirmed (pairs)	11	15	19	15	16	18	31	33	54	60	90
Possible/ probable (pairs)	5	8	12	17	14	10	14	20	11	19	19
Max. total pairs	16	23	31	32	30	28	45	53	65	79	109

A substantial increase in the number of breeding pairs, but heavy rain and high tides meant that overall productivity was relatively poor. No mixed pairings with Black-headed Gull were reported for the first time in several years.

Yellow-legged Gull *Larus cachinnans*

Two localities: two mixed pairs, one of which bred.

England, SE

One locality: One mixed pair. KENT One locality: bird paired with Herring Gull *L. argentatus*; did not breed.

England, E

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 lost to predators exactly as in 1999 at the same locality.

No breeding by a full pair this year, though a mixed pair tried and failed, as in 1999.

Roseate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

Seven localities: 52-56 pairs breeding, fledging a minimum of 38 young.

England, E

One locality: one pair bred unsuccessfully, second pair and single adult displayed, but did not breed.

England, N

Two localities: (1) 34 pairs fledged 33 young; (2) one pair fledged one young.

Wales

Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, both unsuccessful; (2) pair present, but did not breed.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: 10-11 pairs laid in 11 nests, but this may include a pair which re-laid after an earlier failure; four young fledged.

Northern Ireland

One locality: four pairs bred, but no young fledged.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	15	13	15	18	14	15	11	14	11	8	7
Confirmed (pairs)	93	52	62	84	74	72	66	54	50	61	52
Possible/ probable (pairs)	31	5	10	21	24	13	9	1	7	3	4
Max. total pairs	124	57	72	105	98	85	75	55	57	64	56

After last year's better figures, numbers have fallen back and, apart from the largest colony, productivity was poor.

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	Pairs in 2000
England, SW	260	218	235	155
England, SE	182	152	103	199
England, E	561	642	776	694
England, NE	104	146	151	100
England, NW	9	42	50	45
Wales	80	45	86	nc
Scotland	185	215	253	304
TOTALS	1,381	1,460	1,654	1,497

While coverage is not necessarily the same from year to year, the comparisons with the last three years are presented above. The latest estimate of the total British population was 2,430 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

1,625-1,642 pairs

England, SW

211 pairs. AVON 6. DEVON 42. DORSET 4. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 16. HAMPSHIRE 60. ISLE OF WIGHT 45. SOMERSET 37. WILTSHIRE 1.

England, SE

217+ pairs. BERKSHIRE 2. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 19. ESSEX 60+. HERTFORDSHIRE 5. KENT 24. OXFORDSHIRE 38. SURREY 4. SUSSEX 65.

England, E

207-214 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 13. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 13. LINCOLNSHIRE 64. NORFOLK 34. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 42-49. SUFFOLK 41.

England, Central

107 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 27. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 27. SHROPSHIRE 11. STAFFORDSHIRE 2. WARWICKSHIRE 30. WEST MIDLANDS 2. WORCESTERSHIRE 8.

England, N

373 pairs. CHESHIRE 7. CLEVELAND 1. CUMBRIA 61. GREATER MANCHESTER 4. LANCASHIRE 130. NORTHUMBERLAND 15. YORKSHIRE 155.

Wales

109-119 pairs. ANGLESEY 3. BRECON 10-20. CAERNARFON 4. CARMARTHEN 11. CEREDIGION 14. GLAMORGAN 3. GWENT 5. MONTGOMERY 47. MERIONETH 5. PEMBROKE 7.

Scotland, S

276 pairs. AYRSHIRE 14. BORDERS 51. CLYDE 24. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 184. LOTHIANS 3.

Scotland, Mid

19 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE 2. FIFE 1. FORTH 3. MORAY & NAIRN 9. NORTHEAST SCOTLAND 2. PERTH & KINROSS 2.

Scotland, N & W

116 pairs. ARGYLL 111. HIGHLAND 5.



Rosemarie Watts/Powell

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*.

The total of between 1,625 and 1,642 pairs is slightly more than in 1999. Coverage was good in many counties, but several County Recorders emphasised that their information was incomplete, and in such cases estimates based on past surveys were used. There is also some variation in how sightings of single birds are reported.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

914-946 pairs.

England, SW

102-104 pairs. AVON 10-12. CORNWALL 1. DEVON 4+. DORSET 1. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 14. HAMPSHIRE 29. ISLE OF WIGHT 1. SOMERSET 42.

England, SE

138-149 pairs. BERKSHIRE 3. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 4. ESSEX 27. GREATER LONDON 5. HERTFORDSHIRE 2. KENT 33. SURREY 30. SUSSEX 34-45.

England, E

117 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE 12. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH 18. LINCOLNSHIRE 1. NORFOLK 13. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 39. SUFFOLK 34.

England, Central

118-137 pairs. DERBYSHIRE 9. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 21. SHROPSHIRE 20. STAFFORDSHIRE 5. WARWICKSHIRE 31-50. WEST MIDLANDS 14. WORCESTERSHIRE 18.

England, N

343 pairs. CHESHIRE 30. CLEVELAND 3. CUMBRIA 70. GREATER MANCHESTER 37. LANCASHIRE 100. NORTHUMBERLAND 23. YORKSHIRE 80.

Wales

23 pairs. BRECON 4. CAERNARFON 1. CARMARTHEN 4. CEREDIGION 1. GLAMORGAN 5. GWENT 4. MERIONETH 3. PEMBROKE 1.

Scotland, S

40 pairs. AYRSHIRE 5. BORDERS 22. CLYDE 10. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY 2. LOTHIANS 1.

Scotland, Mid

25 pairs. ANGUS & DUNDEE 2. FIFE 4. FORTH 8. MORAY & NAIRN 2. NORTHEAST 4. PERTH & KINROSS 5.

Scotland, N & W

8 pairs. HIGHLAND 8.

The reports show between 914 and 946 pairs, rather more than in 1999, but still below the total reached in 1998. Although many of the totals are estimates, Atlas surveys in some counties have been very helpful in producing a more realistic figure.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

One locality: singing male.

England, N

One locality: male singing for two days in May.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	6	6	1	6	1	3	4	5	2	2	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	6	5	2	5	1	3	4	4	2	1	1
Max. total pairs	6	6	2	6	1	3	4	5	2	2	1

The lowest total since 1994, and hopes of a recovery now seem misplaced. No reports were received from Scotland, which is disappointing following last year's breeding record.

Wood Lark *Lullula arborea*

Information was received from 19 counties (see table on p. 573) and is compared with data from the previous three years, which include the full census in 1997.

Complete or partial surveys were carried out in Hampshire, Surrey, Norfolk, Suffolk and Sussex. The totals for the first three include some estimates by the County Recorders. It is clear that the population has continued its steady increase.

Horned Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One locality: single bird.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: female present in suitable breeding habitat not far from 1977 nest site.

This is the second year running that a bird has been present at this locality.

Wood Lark County	Pairs in 1997	Pairs in 1998	Pairs in 1999	Pairs in 2000
Cornwall	0	0	0	0
Devon	53	7	12	10
Dorset	105	54	66	2
Hampshire	294	174	179	c.325
Somerset	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	3	2	9	0
Bedfordshire	1	1	0	0
Berkshire	63	2	40	nc
Buckinghamshire	6	3	5	0
Essex	0	3	2	0
Kent	3	6	1	3
Surrey	171	134	135	c.162
Sussex	71	60	nc	78
Lincolnshire	37	40	51	nc
Norfolk	248	326	364	c.300
Suffolk	457	459	474	470
Nottinghamshire	31	78	135	57
Staffordshire	7	3	0	0
Yorkshire	2	19	27	22
TOTALS	1,552	1,371	1,500	1,429

Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba*

'White Wagtail' *M. a. alba*

Five localities: three bred, plus pair, plus hybrid pair.

Scotland, N & W

ARGYLL Two localities: (1) adult feeding young, mate not seen; (2) adult associating with Pied Wagtail *M. a. yarrellii*. WESTERN ISLES Three localities: (1) adult with four juveniles, mate not seen, 14th June; (2) adult collecting food, 23rd June; (3) displaying pair, 2nd-11th June.

Although the possibility of mixed pairings with Pied Wagtail was not excluded in any of the above reports, this is the most records received in any one year.

Bohemian Waxwing *Bombicilla garrulus*

One locality: a pair.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: two birds in suitable breeding habitat, 2nd May, and one in same area, 5th June.

This is the second year running that this species has appeared in these reports. This record is a most intriguing one; the additional June sighting suggests that this might have been more than just a late pair passing through.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

39 localities: 24-66 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Five localities: 1-5 pairs. HAMPSHIRE Five localities: (1) pair bred, success unknown (2)-(5) singles in April-May.

England, SE

23 localities or areas: 18-39 pairs. ESSEX Nine localities: (1)-(9) total of 4 pairs bred, plus 10-11 possible pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: pair bred. LONDON One area: pair bred, plus three singing males. KENT 11 localities: (1) three pairs bred, fourth pair present; (2) three pairs bred; (3)(4) two pairs bred; (5)(6) single pairs bred; (7)(8) single pairs probably bred; (9)-(11) single pairs present. SURREY One locality: singing male.

England, E

Four localities: 1-11 pairs. HUNTINGDON & PETERBOROUGH One locality: three singing males. SUFFOLK Three localities: (1) pair bred, plus two singing males; (2) four singing males; (3) singing male.

England, Central

Four localities or areas: 2-7 pairs. DERBYSHIRE Two localities: (1) singing male; (2) single in May. STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: pair bred. WEST MIDLANDS One area: pair bred, plus another pair and two singing males.

England, N

Three localities: 2-4 pairs GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair probably bred. LANCASHIRE One locality: pair bred. YORKSHIRE One locality: pair bred, plus singing male.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	50	36	44	53	66	58	46	67	71	39	39
Confirmed (pairs)	28	23	14	32	32	19	28	33	32	15	24
Possible/ probable (pairs)	46	46	57	44	63	63	37	66	59	35	42
Max. total pairs	74	69	71	76	95	82	65	99	91	50	66

A better year, thanks to more survey work in Kent, though the important City of London area was not covered.

Bluethroat *Luscinia svecica*

Two localities: two singing males.

Scotland, S

One locality: singing male in May.

Scotland, N & W

One locality: territory-holding male, 5th-12th June.

Casual records of singing males occur from time to time. The last confirmed breeding record was in 1995. There was also a singing male in southeast England in June 1999, which was not included in last year's report. This bird was trapped and found to have been ringed as a juvenile at the same locality in August 1997, raising the possibility that breeding may have occurred nearby in that year, and that this individual had returned to its natal area two summers later.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Ten localities: 2-10 pairs breeding.

England, SE

Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging one young; (2) single in early May and early June.

England, E

One locality: one with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus*, 28th June.

England, Central

One locality: singing male on 25th May.

England, N

Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging four young; (2) single in suitable habitat, mid May.

Scotland, S

Two localities: (1)(2) pairs in suitable habitat in late May, but no evidence of breeding.

Scotland, Mid

Two localities: (1)(2) pairs in suitable habitat in early May, but no evidence of breeding.

A remarkable resurgence, including two confirmed breeding records, to follow the completely blank year in 1999, which was the first such year since the Panel began collecting records in 1973.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	12	13	7	5	5	6	6	2	4	0	10
Confirmed (pairs)	5	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	7	11	8	3	5	5	5	2	4	0	8
Max. total pairs	12	13	10	5	5	6	6	2	4	0	10

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Six localities: 4-9 pairs breeding.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: pair bred.

Scotland, N & W

Five localities: (1) two pairs bred, plus one other pair; (2) pair bred, plus unmated male nearby; (3) pair probably bred; (4)(5) summering individuals.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	17	15	13	22	15	9	28	7	15	20	6
Confirmed (pairs)	6	7	9	5	4	3	3	3	0	2	4
Possible/ probable (pairs)	15	13	15	22	15	11	35	14	18	27	5
Max. total pairs	21	20	24	27	19	14	38	17	18	29	9

An extremely poor year. We urge observers to note when they see or hear this species during the breeding season and to submit the records.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

678 'pairs' or singing males.

England, SW

391 pairs or singing males. AVON 13 singing males. CORNWALL 12 singing males. DEVON 53+ singing males. DORSET 40 singing males. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Three pairs and one singing male. HAMPSHIRE 170 singing males. ISLE OF WIGHT Nine singing males. SOMERSET 90 singing males.

England, SE

53 singing males. ESSEX Five singing males. KENT 33 singing males. SUSSEX 15 singing males.

England, E

171 pairs or singing males. NORFOLK 3 pairs and 140 singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two singing males. SUFFOLK 26 singing males.

England, Central

Seven singing males. WARWICKSHIRE Three singing males. WORCESTERSHIRE Four singing males.

Wales

56 singing males. ANGLESEY Six singing males. BRECON One singing male. CARMARTHEN 19 singing males. CEREDIGION & PEMBROKE Three singing males. GLAMORGAN 20+ singing males. GWENT Seven singing males.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. counties	21	17	18	21	23	25	28	24	27	24	23
Confirmed ('pairs')	19	27	15	11	14	15	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Possible/ probable ('pairs')	326	214	283	306	318	426	574	361	496	563	678
Max. total 'pairs'	345	241	298	317	332	441	574	361	496	563	678

A new record total even though there were some gaps in reporting, e.g. in southeast England.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Two localities: 1-2 pairs breeding.

England, SE

One locality: one pair. SUSSEX One locality: pair bred, fledging two broods of four.

England, N

One locality: 0-1 pair. LANCASHIRE one locality: singing male.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	5	13	13	5	7	2	3	4	2	7	2
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Possible/ probable (pairs)	9	16	20	4	9	3	3	5	2	9	1
Max. total pairs	10	16	22	8	10	3	3	5	2	9	2

The optimism engendered by the improved showing in 1999 was sadly misplaced, as shown by another desperately poor year. It seems that the demise of Savi's Warbler as a British breeding bird is imminent, although the reasons why this should be so are unclear.

Blyth's Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus dumetorum*

One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: singing male on 7th-22nd June in suitable habitat at Nigg Bay (*Brit. Birds* 94: 489).

For the second year running this species has appeared in this report, although the bird in 1999 was only singing on one day.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

21 localities: 0-31 pairs breeding.

England, SE

11 localities: six pairs and 15 singing males or individuals. ESSEX One locality: singing male. KENT Nine localities: (1) three pairs and two singing males; (2) three pairs; (3)(4) three singing males; (5)-(9) single birds or singing males. SUSSEX One locality: singing male.

England, E

Seven localities: seven singing males or individuals. NORFOLK One locality: one present. SUFFOLK Five localities: (1)-(5) single singing males. SURREY One locality: singing male.

England, Central

One locality: one singing male. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: singing male on one date only.

England, N

Two localities: two singing males. NORTHUMBERLAND Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	12	15	13	15	22	16	11	17	10	22	21
Confirmed (pairs)	13	9	9	12	0	2	3	5	9	3	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	11	23	26	46	48	29	19	27	15	26	31
Max. total pairs	24	32	35	58	48	31	22	32	24	29	31

A second good year, helped by a thorough survey by the Kent Ornithological Society. This was, however, balanced by a reduction in the number of records from northern England.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One locality: one singing male.

England, Central

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE One locality: singing male at Earl's Barton, 10th-28th June (*Brit. Birds* 94: 489).

Almost every year, at least one singing male turns up somewhere, but all have failed to attract a mate.

Icterine Warbler *Hippolais icterina*

One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, N & W

SHETLAND One locality: singing male, 20th-22nd May.

This species has bred in Britain on a handful of occasions.

Melodious Warbler *Hippolais polyglotta*

One locality: one singing male.

England, SE

One locality: singing male on 29th May in suitable habitat.

A bird singing in suitable habitat meets the Panel's criteria.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Up to of 1,925 territories identified.

England, SW

County totals: DEVON 196, DORSET 107 (incomplete), HAMPSHIRE 800+ (largely estimated), ISLE OF WIGHT 7, SOMERSET 80.

England, SE

County totals: SURREY 595, SUSSEX 106 (both including some estimation).

England, E

County totals: NORFOLK 1, SUFFOLK 33.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. counties	8	8	7	11	10	12	12	11	12	11	9
Confirmed (pairs)	55	67	63	93	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc	nc
Possible/ probable (pairs)	873	634	863	1,053	1,675	1,679	552	915	947	1,747	1,925
Max. total pairs	928	701	926	1,146	1,675	1,679	552	915	947	1,747	1,925

The above county totals include population estimates to a varying degree, especially in Hampshire where the substantial population in the New Forest was not surveyed this year. It is of interest that although the population continues to grow and to spread in some counties, Devon reported a 21% decline compared with the 1999 total, itself 10% down on the previous year.

Iberian Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus ibericus*

One locality: one singing male.

England, SW

CORNWALL One locality: singing male near Bodmin, 13th to at least 31st May (*Brit. Birds* 94: 494).

This is the second year running that this species has appeared in these reports.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapilla*

33 localities or areas: 2-103 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Six localities or areas: 1-53 pairs. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) singing male. HAMPSHIRE Three localities or areas: (1) 37 pairs at 16 sites; (2) 12 pairs at five sites; (3) singing male. SOMERSET One locality: singing male.

England, SE

12 localities: 1-29 pairs. ESSEX Three localities: (1)-(3) total of five singing males. KENT Two localities: (1) two singing males; (2) singing male. SURREY Four localities: (1) pair bred; (2) three singing males; (3)(4) single singing males. SUSSEX Three localities or areas: (1) up to ten singing males; (2) up to four singing males; (3) singing male.

England, E

11 localities: 0-17 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: singing male. NORFOLK Eight localities: (1) pair, plus four singing males; (2) two singing males; (3)-(8) single singing males. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) two singing males; (2) pair.

England, Central

One locality: 0-1 pairs. WARWICKSHIRE One locality: singing male on 10th May only.

Wales

Two localities: 0-2 pairs. GWENT One locality: singing male in May. MERIONETH One locality: singing male in May.

Scotland, Mid

One locality: 0-1 pairs. NORTHEAST One locality: singing male, 24th-27th April.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	48	19	15	20	41	35	35	26	30	37	33
Confirmed (pairs)	9	2	3	3	4	4	4	2	0	3	2
Possible/ probable (pairs)	88	20	16	25	62	52	56	46	62	100	101
Max. total pairs	97	22	19	28	66	56	60	48	62	103	103

Another good year, comparable with 1999. As with all secretive species, the numbers included within these totals depends on particular areas being surveyed, with Hampshire and Sussex being well covered again this year. Detailed survey work is especially rewarding for this attractive species.

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*

The following information has been received, comprising 483-520 pairs.

England, SW

DORSET 12 pairs at two localities. HAMPSHIRE 16-18 pairs. SOMERSET 6 pairs.

England, SE

ESSEX 6-10 pairs at two localities, third not counted. KENT 57 pairs. SUSSEX 17-18 pairs at three localities.

England, E

NORFOLK County total of 80-100. SUFFOLK County total of 140 pairs at seven localities.

England, N

LANCASHIRE 65 pairs at one locality. NORTHUMBERLAND Pair bred at same locality as last year. YORKSHIRE 55 pairs at one locality.

Wales

GLAMORGAN One pair.

Scotland, Mid

MORAY & NAIRN Up to two males and two females at same locality as in the last two years, but no evidence of breeding. PERTH & KINROSS One extensive locality containing a population estimated, from capture-recapture data, at c.190 birds, or, in the region of 25-35 pairs. The first breeding at this locality took place in 1991, but the size of the reedbeds has made accurate assessment of breeding numbers difficult.

This is the highest total recorded since the Panel took on this species in 1996, and well above the 339-408 pairs estimated in 1992 by Campbell *et al.* (1996). With a large increase in the numbers breeding in Kent and a substantial population now breeding in Scotland, a strong case can be justified for a full survey of this species.

Crested Tit *Parus cristatus*

Scotland, Mid

MORAY & NAIRN Estimated county total 50-100 pairs; 12 pairs in nestboxes in one study area fledged 63 young; 13 pairs (11 in boxes) in second area fledged c.20 young.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND Five areas or localities: (1)-(5) total of 14 pairs, of which four fledged 21 young.

These data, which present a very incomplete picture of the Scottish population, were received from local studies. The estimated total population is 900 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

20 localities: 5-20 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Two localities: (1) male in song, 19th-25th May; (2) male in song, 12th June; both were possibly migrants.

England, SE

Four localities: (1)-(3) singing males, no sign of any females; (4) female, 19th June, no evidence of breeding.

England, E

13 localities or areas: 43 sites visited in study area, with presence of birds confirmed at ten. Only five pairs were confirmed as breeding, three of which probably produced fledged young (but no count of young was possible), while the other two nests were predated. Pairs were present at three other sites where breeding probably occurred, and two other sites held males only. Away from the study area, a pair probably bred (success unknown), a singing male was present at a second locality, and a female was seen on 17th May at a third.

England, Central

One locality: singing male on 25th June.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	38	27	37	33	34	34	22	23	19	24	20
Confirmed (pairs)	10	16	14	14	7	8	7	9	10	5	5
Possible/ probable (pairs)	32	12	23	19	28	27	15	15	12	19	15
Max. total pairs	42	28	37	33	35	35	22	24	22	24	20

2000 was even worse than 1999, with bad weather at critical times affecting rearing and fledging success and, quite probably, increasing the predation risk. 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*

Four localities: 0-4 pairs breeding.

England, SW

Two localities: (1) male in early June; (2) female on 15th June. Although probable migrants, the female at least was close to a former breeding area.

England, E

Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males, possibly the same bird.

Another poor year, with no reports from northern Scotland where there have been a handful of recent breeding records.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	7	5	13	6	7	1	3	6	9	5	4
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Possible/ probable (pairs)	7	4	12	6	7	1	3	5	9	4	4
Max. total pairs	8	5	13	6	8	1	3	6	9	5	4

Red-billed Chough *Pyrrhonorax pyrrhonorax*

Area	Occupied sites	Successful pairs	Young reared	Young/territorial pair
Wales				
Anglesey	34	11	25	0.7
Caernarfon	14	13	46	3.3
Ceredigion	23	14	20	0.9
Glamorgan	2	1	4	2.0
Pembroke	8	Not reported	92	1.6
Scotland				
Dumfries & Galloway	1	1	0	0.0
Colonsay & Oronsay	12	8	Not known	–
Mull	1	0	0	0.0
TOTALS	146	51+	187	1.3

Several areas, including Islay and the Isle of Man, were not surveyed this year.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

One locality: one singing male.

Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND One locality: singing male.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	1	2	2	2	4	8	0	1	0	5	1
Confirmed (pairs)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	2	3	1	4	8	0	1	0	5	1
Max. total pairs	1	2	3	2	4	8	0	1	0	5	1

European Serin *Serinus serinus*

One locality: two individuals.

England, SE

One locality: one, unsexed, on 16th May and a male on 28th June. Although probable migrants, these are worth recording.

Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*

The following information was received for England and Wales. The few Scottish records submitted are not presented.

England, SW

DEVON Three pairs bred at one locality. GLOUCESTERSHIRE Pair bred, plus several singing males. HAMPSHIRE At least 12 pairs. ISLE OF WIGHT Pair bred (first breeding record), plus three other pairs. SOMERSET Six birds in suitable habitat.

England, SE

KENT Nine pairs. SURREY 18 pairs. SUSSEX 41-45 pairs.

England, E

NORFOLK Family parties at five localities. SUFFOLK Six pairs bred, plus 12 pairs, at ten localities.

England, Central

DERBYSHIRE Pair bred. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 11 pairs bred, plus one non-breeding pair, at five localities.

SHROPSHIRE Up to ten pairs.
STAFFORDSHIRE Pair bred.

England, N

CUMBRIA 10-15 pairs.
GREATER MANCHESTER Pair bred. YORKSHIRE Ten pairs present in county.

Wales

BRECON Two pairs.

A better year than 1999, with many more reports of wintering birds staying on into the spring. The species remains very difficult to survey.



Common Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra*.

Rosemarie Watts/Powell

Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*

Scotland, N & W

Two localities: seven pairs.

No reports were received from the two main study areas so this information is much less complete than we would have liked. See Summers *et al.* (2002) for more information on the distribution and habitats of this species.

Parrot Crossbill *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

Several localities: population size unknown.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

HIGHLAND Present and breeding at the RSPB's reserve at Abernethy, where four pairs fledged three young in 2000. Probable breeding was reported in Curr Wood, Glenmore Forest and Rothiemurchus (Inverness-shire), Culbin Forest (Morayshire) and Glen Tanar, Ballochbuie and Mar Lodge (Aberdeenshire).

The distribution, status and breeding biology of this species were discussed recently (Summers 2002; Summers *et al.* 2002), but neither paper gave any estimate of population size.

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Four localities: two pairs and four singing males.

England, E

NORFOLK One locality: immature male singing on 18th June.

England, N

YORKSHIRE One locality: two pairs, both seen nest-building, and third singing male, but no evidence of egg-laying.

Scotland, S

BORDERS Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males in early June.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No. localities	3	1	13	6	6	5	6	8	7	5	4
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	2	2	15	7	8	7	10	7	7	5	6
Max. total pairs	3	2	20	7	8	7	10	8	7	5	6

The first indications of breeding for two years, even if nothing came of it.

Mike Langman



Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Five areas or localities: up to six pairs.

Scotland, Mid and N & W

NORTHEAST SCOTLAND/HIGHLAND Four areas or localities: up to four pairs or singing males. WESTERN ISLES One locality: one or two pairs between late April and early July.

The above casual records are not representative of this species, which has an estimated population of 70-100 pairs (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirius*

None was reported from Cornwall, and no survey was undertaken in Devon this year. The next full census will take place in 2002.

References

- Batten, L. A. 2001. European Honey-buzzard survey 2000 and 2001: preliminary results and request for further surveys. *Brit. Birds* 94: 143-144.
- Campbell, L., Cayford, J., & Pearson, D. 1996. Bearded Tits in Britain and Ireland. *Brit. Birds* 89: 335-346.
- Crick, H. Q. P., & Ratcliffe, D. A. 1995. The Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* breeding population of the United Kingdom in 1991. *Bird Study* 42: 1-19.
- Gibbons, D. W., Reid, J. B., & Chapman, R. A. 1993. *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*. London.
- Gilbert, G. 2002. The status and habitat of Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* in Britain in 1999. *Bird Study* 49: 79-86.
- Rebecca, G. W., & Bainbridge, I. P. 1998. The breeding status of the Merlin *Falco columbarius* in Britain in 1993-94. *Bird Study* 45: 172-187.
- Sim, I., Gibbons, D. W., Bainbridge, I., & Mattingley, W. 2001. Status of the Hen Harrier *Circus cyaneus* in the United Kingdom and the Isle of Man in 1998. *Bird Study* 48: 341-53.
- Stone, B. H., Sears, J., Cranswick, P. A., Gregory, R. D., Gibbons, D. W., Rehfish, M. M., Aebischer, N. J., & Reid, J. B. 1997. Population estimates of birds in Britain and the United Kingdom. *Brit. Birds* 90: 1-22.
- Summers, R. W. 2002. Parrot Crossbills breeding in Abernethy Forest, Highland. *Brit. Birds* 95: 4-11.
- Summers, R. W., Jardine, D. C., Marquiss, M., & Rae, R. 2002. The distribution and habitats of crossbills *Loxia* spp. in Britain, with special reference to the Scottish Crossbill *Loxia scotica*. *Ibis* 144: 393-410.
- Underhill, M. C., Gittings, T., Callaghan, D. A., Kirby, J. S., Hughes, B., & Delany, S. 1998. Pre-breeding status and distribution of the Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra* in Britain and Ireland in 1995. *Bird Study* 45: 146-156.

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

