

Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1976

J. T. R. Sharrock and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel



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The main purpose of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, already fully described (*Brit. Birds* 66: 172-174), is to provide a confidential repository for detailed information on scarce nesting species in the United Kingdom, so that changes in status can be monitored and the relevant details, which might otherwise be lost through the deaths of individuals keeping them secret, can be safeguarded for posterity. This annual report, the panel's fourth, is a spin-off; as usual, it includes only those data for which the recorders gave clearance for publication.

The panel is supported, morally and financially, by *British Birds*, the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; it also includes a representative of the Nature Conservancy Council. During 1976, the members were A. W. Colling, R. H. Dennis, I. J. Ferguson-Lees, Ian Prestt and Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (secretary).

Most records reach the panel from the county and regional recorders and editors (for names and addresses, see *Brit. Birds* 70: 356-360): individual observers are strongly encouraged to submit their data in this way, although a few send them direct. Forms are available free from the address at the end of this report; two copies should always be sent in on these special forms, which are filed under lock and key in two separate places as a safeguard against loss by fire, and to which only the panel's secretary has direct access.

With great pleasure, we can report that only two county societies withheld their records in 1976 (see fig 1); we especially welcomed the receipt of information for the first time from the Isle of Wight. The value of both the stored detail and these published summaries is in direct proportion to their completeness. We hope that the excellent results of 1976 will encourage continued co-operation in future and that Nottinghamshire and Sussex records will soon be submitted to give 100% coverage.

As usual, counties are named here only when permission has been given. In other cases, code letters are used: these are the same as in earlier reports, so that histories of decline or colonisation can be followed, even though the locations must remain secret to ensure freedom from disturbance. This report contains a mixture of new and old county names: we have used those supplied by the recorders, since conversion of old names could, in some cases, reveal information about the locations of breeding sites.

For most species, we have given a range of figures for 'pairs breeding', the lower figure representing the number confirmed breeding and the upper the maximum if, for instance, every singing male or single sighting represented a nesting pair. Although these ranges are often very wide, they can be consistently calculated each year and will, we hope, be valuable for comparisons. To ensure uniform treatment, figures for past years have been recalculated on this basis.

We regret that, yet again, we have to make our annual apology for the late appearance of this report. Some records reached us in August 1976, but the last batches were not received until the second half of October 1977, despite numerous reminders. We appreciate the difficulties and the pressures on county recorders, but nevertheless wish that we could receive all the data by, say, 1st February of the following year and publish our report seven or eight months earlier, in the May issue of *British Birds*.

Fig. 1. Areas covered by this report. Records (or negative returns) were supplied for all the areas shown black. Some individual observers supplied data for the counties left white, but records were not received from the local recorders, and so the picture may be very incomplete for these two areas. The panel does not collect records from the Republic of Ireland



The year's highlights

The year covered by this report will doubtless be long-remembered as 'the long, hot summer of '76', but it was less remarkable for rare breeding birds. The discovery, however, of several pockets of Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* in a completely new area must rank as the major event. The fine summer may have had some influence on the pleasing

harrier situation, with the greatest number of Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* for at least nine years and the first instances of successful breeding by Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* for four years. It was also the best year for Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* since these reports started (the most pairs located, the most pairs successful and the most young fledged) and Goshawks *Accipiter gentilis* did well too (the highest totals to date of proved breeding and young reared). Goldeneyes *Bucephala clangula* continued to colonise, Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* spread to a total of six sites, Temminck's Stints *Calidris temminckii* were proved to breed for the first time since 1971, and after a seven-year gap a male Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus* found himself a female and they reared one young. The strangest record was undoubtedly the Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola* feeding a brood of young wagtails, but there were also tantalising or hopeful signs from Red-necked Grebes *Podiceps grisegena*, Turnstones *Arenaria interpres*, a Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*, a Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* and Serins *Serinus serinus*. The debit side, however, included serious declines of Black-necked Grebes *Podiceps nigricollis*, Snowy Owls *Nyctea scandiaca*, Redwings *Turdus iliacus*, Firecrests *Regulus ignicapillus* and Red-backed Shrikes *Lanius collurio*.

Changes to the list

In view of the large number of individual records annually and the BTO census in 1977, we do not propose to include the Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros* in our reports in future. At the request of several county recorders, its place will be taken by the Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*, which appears to be declining in the UK.

Systematic list of 1976 records

There were no relevant records of the following species in 1976:

Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>	Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Bluethroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>

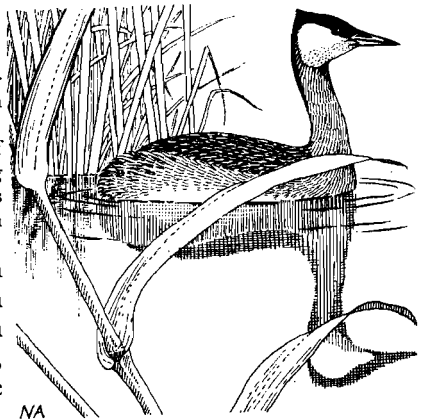
Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Four sites: four summering.

Lanark One site: single male seen regularly during second half of May and on 8th and 15th June.

County A Three sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one seen on 18 dates during May to October; (2) one seen on five dates during July to October; (3) one seen on three dates during June to August.

This is the third successive year in which individuals have summered in the UK, the annual totals rising from one in 1974 to two in 1975 and, now, four in 1976. Developments are awaited with keen interest.



Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

At least 23 sites: 70-75 pairs.

Inverness At least 21 sites, with evidence of breeding: (1) 18-19 pairs; (2) 14-15 pairs; (3) three pairs; (4) two to three pairs, unsuccessful; (5) one or two pairs, one rearing two young; (6) to (8) single pairs; (9) to (11) single pairs, all unsuccessful; (12) to (21) total of 20 pairs on at least ten lochs. Comments relating to sites (1) to (11), 'generally a better year and breeding success better, although no detailed counts of young', and to sites (12) to (21), 'breeding success was poor'.

Moray One site: five or six pairs, two of which reared a total of at least four young.

Perth One site: one pair reared two young.

More were found at the 23 sites in 1976 than at the 22 and 25 sites visited in the full surveys in 1973 and 1974 (52-53 pairs and 58-63 pairs); the 1975 total was 39-43 pairs at 12 sites. It is sad to see no Caithness records (1-3 pairs each year during 1973-75).

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

One site: ten pairs.

County B One site: at least ten pairs.

The situation appears bleak, with totals dropping in the past four years from 19 pairs at four sites in two counties down to ten pairs at one site.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Ten sites: six pairs confirmed breeding, eight more probably breeding and two possibly breeding; at least eight young reared.

Cambridge One site: one pair present on the Ouse Washes during May and June.

Inverness One site: one pair present.

Kirkcudbright One site: eggs laid, but probably did not hatch.

Orkney Seven sites on three islands involving a possible total of 13 pairs and some proof of breeding: (1) three pairs, two of which reared at least eight young and the third probably bred; (2) one pair with young; (3) female flushed from scrape; (4) one pair on several dates in mid April 'seemed territorial'; (5) two females with young; (6) four females together, all considered to be probably breeding; (7) one pair possibly breeding.

After a gradual build-up during 1973-75 (3-5 pairs, 10-11 pairs, 12-25 pairs), there was a partial slump in 1976, down to 6-16 pairs. This species remains one of our rarest breeding wildfowl, a fact that was not wholly apparent until five years of intensive *Atlas* fieldwork during 1968-72 produced confirmed breeding in only 35 10-km squares in Britain and Ireland (34 in the UK).

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

12 sites: 21-157 pairs breeding.

Caithness Five sites, with a possible total of 23 pairs hatching at least 67 young: (1) six pairs on 6th June, and two used nests and seven females with five broods of seven, six, five, one and one on 6th August; (2) two pairs and one male on 13th June, but no further evidence of breeding; (3) six females with five broods of eight, six, six, five and three on 22nd July, and two females with broods of six and two on 1st August; (4) three females, one with brood of 15 young in late July; (5) four females with four young on 22nd July.

Dunbarton/Stirling One site: seven pairs, two females with brood of three young on 10th July, two females with brood of four small young on 20th July.

Fermanagh Two sites, breeding success not known but probably poor: (1) 107 pairs; (2) six pairs.

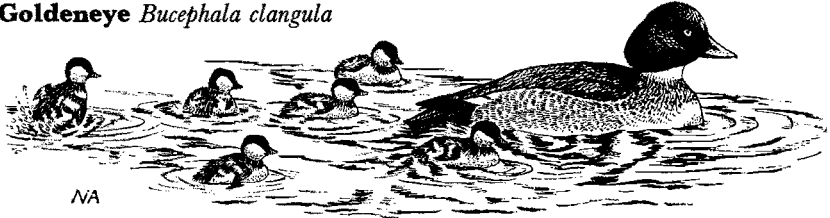
Inverness One site: in new locality, probably over ten pairs, seven nests with eggs in first week of June.

Perth Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) two females in June and July; (2) male in June and July.

Wigtown One site: adult male on 27th June.

The number of pairs has remained fairly steady (4-133, 10-142 and 32-159 in 1973-75). For the first time, a successful census was carried out in Caithness: although accounting for only 15% of the possible UK pairs, the county provided 91% of the young reported.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*



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Six sites: a total of at least five pairs hatched at least 46 young at three sites in one county.

Cumbria Three sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) male on 8th June; (2) female from 5th May to 30th June; (3) female from 10th May to 8th August.

Inverness Three sites, with successful breeding at each: (1) two or more pairs, females with nine and six young on 29th May, and six and one young on 15th June; (2) two or more pairs, females with 11 young on 7th June, and 12 and six young on 15th June (broods of 11 and 12 may have been the same); (3) at least one pair, female with 13 young on 18th May, and three young on 15th June. 'All five broods reared in RSPB nestboxes, but much interchange between lochs and river, so five pairs is minimum: there could have been up to another three females attempting to nest, possibly successfully.'

Establishment became firmer, with at least five pairs confirmed breeding, compared with one during 1970-72, three during 1973-74 and two in 1975 (maxima of five pairs in 1975 and 11 in 1976, if every summering bird bred).

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Probably at least five pairs, but details incomplete.

Bedford One site: one seen flying into wood in May.

Gloucester One site: single sightings on 11th and 23rd August.

Hampshire One site: one pair present all summer, but no attempt made to find nest. We know that other data have been withheld by observers.

Norfolk One site: a pair present from 22nd May and probable juvenile seen.

Yorkshire One site: one pair present throughout summer, seen carrying food and 'almost certainly reared successfully'.

County A One site: one regularly from May to August, displaying in May, three on 14th August. Observers have continued to trespass in search of these birds, which puts them at risk not only from disturbance, but at the hands of the irate landowner, with whom we have sympathy. We appeal again, as we did in our 1974 report (*Brit. Birds* 68: 494), to observers to stay away or keep to public roads.

County C Present throughout summer at several localities, display seen, at least three pairs suspected.

Although clearly incomplete, the number of breeding pairs reported to us during 1973-76 have been 1-2, 2-6, 0-5 and 1-9. There seems to be a welcome trend towards an increase in summering and breeding away

from the main area in the New Forest. Unfortunately, we still do not receive useful data from that main area, even though it is well-known to both egg-collectors and birdwatchers, and is swarming with picnickers and others on summer weekends. We wish that those who watch this population would share their information, since the Honey Buzzards' reactions to so much disturbance, and their nesting behaviour and fledging success, could have an important influence on protection measures at other British sites. The lack of data contrasts markedly with the detailed nest-by-nest information that is provided annually by those who monitor the Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* and the Red Kites *Milvus milvus*.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

Total of 34 pairs: 28 nests, of which 14 successful with 18 young reared.
County B Two sites, with breeding proved: (1) one pair reared two young; (2) one pair failed.

County C Total of 25 sites, with breeding proved: (1) (2) single pairs reared two young; (3) to (10) single pairs reared one young; (11) to (19) single pairs failed; (20) to (25) single pairs held territory, but did not breed.

County D Three sites, with breeding proved: (1) (2) single pairs reared one young; (3) one pair failed.

County E Three sites, with breeding proved: (1) one pair reared one young; (2) (3) single pairs failed.

County F One site: one pair reared one young, the first successful nest in the county for over 40 years.

There have been no breeding attempts in county A since 1973, when two pairs failed. The slow build-up during 1973-76 in the numbers of pairs (26, 32-33, 32 and 34) and nesting pairs (26, 27, 28 and 28) has been partly reflected by the numbers of successful pairs (10, 9, 15 and 14) and young reared (14, 12, 24 and 18).

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

Nine sites: 13 pairs, of which nine or ten successful in rearing at least 25 young.

Hampshire One site: one pair throughout summer may have raised two young.

Norfolk Four sites, five pairs, of which three reared a total of eight young: (1) two pairs each reared three young; (2) one pair reared two young; (3) one pair, laid three eggs, but later deserted; (4) one pair deserted nest.

Suffolk Four sites, seven pairs, of which six reared a total of 17 young: (1) at Minsmere, four pairs reared broods of five, five, one and one; (2) one pair reared three young; (3) one pair reared two young, other females present but did not breed; (4) one pair present, but no proof of breeding.

The totals of 11-13 pairs breeding and 25 young reared are both the highest for at least nine years; the 1973-75 totals of breeding females were five or six (rearing 14 young), six (ten young) and six to eight (18 young).

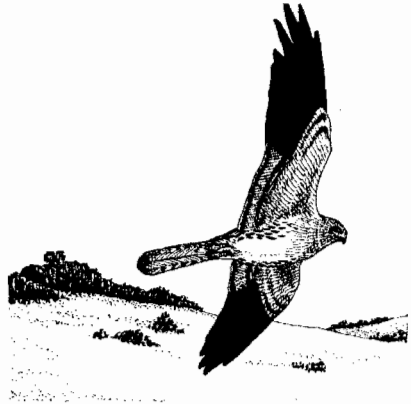
Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* Four sites: three males and four females held territory, three females nested, and two successfully reared a total of six young.

County B One site: one pair bred, male shot, two young reared with human aid (food supplied for female to collect).

County C Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one pair holding territory throughout breeding season; (2) one female on 13th June.

County D One site: one pair reared four young and the male also mated with a second female, but her nest was destroyed by farm machinery.

No sooner had we stated (*Brit. Birds* 70: 8) that 'the outlook for the future of the Montagu's Harrier as a British breeding species now seems very bleak' than there was this unexpected resurgence in the exceptional summer of 1976, with the first young known to have been reared in Britain for four years; there had not even been a recorded breeding attempt since 1973.



Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

About 18 sites: at least 12 pairs present, with nine breeding and eight successfully rearing at least 13 young.

Gloucester One site: single birds seen on four dates during May to August.

Gwent One site: one seen on 17th July in same area as 1975.

County D Eleven sites, eight pairs successful, rearing at least 13 young: (1) one pair reared three young; (2) to (8) single pairs each reared one or two young (total of at least ten); (9) one pair laid eggs, but nest robbed; (10) one pair displayed, but no further evidence of breeding; (11) one pair known not to have bred.

County L Three sites, but possibility of overlap: (1) up to six individuals; (2) three individuals; (3) one individual.

County M 'Present.'

County N One site: one pair failed.

With breeding proved for nine pairs and at least 13 young known to have fledged, 1976 was the best year to date, although the number of possible pairs was smaller than in 1975. Totals of pairs breeding during 1973-76 have been 6-12, 8-17, 4-31 and 9-18. Unfortunately, there are still some observers who withhold information from the panel, so these totals are known to be too low.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

14 sites: ten successful pairs reared 20 young. In view of recent increases in the activities of egg-collectors, we are this year discontinuing, perhaps only temporarily, the practice of listing the records from counties A to E individually.

Inverness Loch Garten: pair laid two eggs in usual nest and reared two young; the male, the same as in 1974, had been reared in Scotland in 1970.

Perth Loch of Lowes: male and two females, at least one female laid eggs, both incubated, but no eggs hatched.

Counties A, B, C, D, E Twelve sites: eggs laid in all 12 eyries, one pair robbed by egg-collectors, one nest destroyed by gale and one clutch failed to hatch, but other nine pairs reared 17 young (3, 3, 2, 2, 2 and 1 from clutches of 3; and 2, 1 and 1 from clutches of 2). 'A reasonable year.'

County G Several sightings, although fewer than usual and no indication of breeding.

Despite the failure at Loch of Lowes, one of the two publicised sites, it was a fairly satisfactory year. There has, however, been no sign of any recent growth in the population and the 1976 statistics were identical with those two years previously. During 1973-76 the figures have been: 16 sites, 10 pairs rearing 21 young; 14 sites, 7 pairs rearing 20 young; 14 sites, 7 pairs rearing 16 young; 14 sites, 10 pairs rearing 20 young.



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confirmed at four: (1) to (3) one pair, young seen flying; (4) one pair with one juvenile in August and September; (5) (6) single pairs, but breeding not confirmed.

Buckingham Three sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) two on several dates in second half of May; (2) one on 7th July; (3) seen frequently in feeding area, but breeding site not located.

Cornwall One site: one pair throughout June and July, but no evidence of breeding.

Devon 'Another good season, with young reared at several sites', but details have been withheld.

Dorset Total of 14 sites, with nesting proved at nine: (1) to (7) single pairs reared a total of 13 young; (8) one pair failed; (9) one pair robbed; (10) to (14) single pairs in territory.

Durham One site: one pair present 23rd May to 2nd June, then male only on 5th and 6th June. Also 'an unprecedented number of reports on passage'.

Hampshire Information from two New Forest sources, with unknown degree of overlap. (a) Five sites, with breeding proved at three: (1) to (3) single pairs bred successfully; (4) (5) single pairs, but breeding not confirmed. (b) A minimum of 16 pairs in an area of 150 km², of which seven proved to have bred. Outside this area, a further three or four pairs known.

Hereford Two sites, with evidence of breeding at one: (1) two juveniles in August, but nest not located; (2) one on 22nd May.

Hertford At least four sites, with breeding proved at three: (1) one pair reared one young; (2) 'two pairs nested'; (3) 'one pair nested'; (4) present in summer.

Kent One site: one pair in August, behaviour suggestive of feeding young.

Leicester Two sites, with breeding proved at both: (1) one pair reared three young; (2) one pair reared two young.

Northampton Four sites, with breeding proved: (1) one pair reared three young; (2) one pair reared two young; (3) (4) single pairs 'almost certainly bred'.

Nottingham One site: seen on a few occasions during May to August, at same site as in 1975, seems likely to be breeding locally.

Oxford Fourteen sites, with breeding proved at nine: details of only one site provided, where one pair reared one young.

Somerset Sixteen sites, with breeding proved at two: (1) one pair bred successfully at same site as 1974 and 1975; (2) two adults and two juveniles together on 3rd October; (3) two engaging in aerial display on 9th May; (4) to (16) single birds or pairs seen.

Stafford One site: one pair with young in nest.

Surrey Total of 17 pairs at 13 sites, of which 13 pairs proved breeding, 24 young reared:

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

120 sites: 52-131 pairs breeding, with 36 known to have reared 69 young.

Avon Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) single birds seen throughout June and July; (2) numerous sightings in breeding season.

Bedford Seven sites, with three pairs breeding successfully: (1) one pair reared three young; (2) one pair reared two young; (3) one pair reared at least one young; (4) to (7) single birds in suitable habitats.

Berkshire Six sites, with breeding confirmed

(1) three pairs, of which one reared three young, one reared two young, and one pair robbed; (2) two pairs reared three and two young; (3) two pairs each fledged two young; (4) (5) single pairs each reared three young; (6) one pair fledged two young; (7) (8) one pair with one fledged young; (9) one pair, breeding failed; (10) (11) one pair at each, success not known; (12) (13) pairs present, but no evidence of breeding.

Warwick Three sites for which details known, with breeding proved: (1) one pair reared three or four young; (2) one pair bred, but outcome not known; (3) one pair all summer and with one young in September. Recorder estimates five to ten pairs, but observers have withheld some records.

Wiltshire Five sites, with breeding proved: three pairs bred, but details withheld.

Worcester One site: one pair seen regularly in traditional feeding area, but nest site not found.

The long, hot summer of 1976 was a highly successful one for this slim falcon. More pairs were confirmed than in any of the previous three years (52-131 in 1976, compared with 22-60, 43-91 and 37-132 during 1973-75) and there were also record numbers of successful pairs and young fledged (36 pairs reared 69 young in 1976, compared with 12 rearing 24, 25 rearing 49, and 24 rearing 40 during 1973-75). The situation was almost certainly even better than these figures suggest, since we have never received any Sussex records and the full data from Devon, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire have been withheld. We appeal to these four societies to reconsider their position and contribute to what is becoming a valuable annual assessment of the Hobby population.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

One pair probably bred.

Perth One site: one pair holding territory in June and July, but no proof of breeding.

Although this species is doubtless under-recorded because of its skulking and crepuscular behaviour, the 'whip-lash' song is so highly distinctive as to be commented on by local non-ornithologists, in the same way as are itinerant Hoopoes *Upupa epops*. Events since 1973 reveal how scarce this species is as a breeding bird in the UK: 1973, no records; 1974, one or two heard at four sites; 1975, no records; and, now, just one pair present. All the 1973-76 records were in Scotland, as were 54% of those found during *Atlas* fieldwork in 1968-72.

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Five sites: 151 pairs reared 68 young.

Suffolk Two sites, with successful breeding at both: (1) on Havergate Island, 95 pairs reared only 12 young; (2) at Minsmere, 51 pairs reared 46 young. 'High salinities, no rainfall, very hot dry summer following cold spring—all resulting in poor food supply—combined to make it another disastrous year at Havergate.'

County A Two sites, with successful breeding at both: (1) two pairs, one reared three young, success of other not known; (2) two pairs, one reared three young.

County B One site: one pair reared four young.

The number of breeding pairs remained high (151 compared with 149, 125 and 158 during 1973-75), but success was almost as meagre as in 1974, when bad weather and poor feeding conditions resulted in only six young being reared on Havergate Island and the small total of 64 in the UK.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Probably well over 100 pairs, but only 16 proved breeding.

Berkshire One site: two seen on 14th May at traditional site, not properly covered later in season, probably bred.

Dorset Four sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) one pair with nest; (2) to (4) single pairs apparently holding territory. 'Perhaps a slight improvement on recent years.'

Essex Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) single birds on 25th April and 18th May; (2) one on 30th June.

Hampshire Details from only one site: one pair reared two young from believed repeat clutch of two eggs, four other pairs suspected in same general area. Within the county, 'A pilot survey was carried out . . . the results suggest a healthier population than we had feared.'

Hertford Total of 12-14 pairs in northeast of county.

Norfolk Total of 30 pairs in Norfolk Breckland, of which at least eight hatched clutches.

Oxford Three sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one pair in July; (2) flock of four in spring; (3) flock of six in spring. 'Numerous other reports', but details not supplied.

Suffolk At least 36 pairs: in coastal belt, five pairs, of which one reared young; in Suffolk Breckland, 31 pairs and 10-15 pairs reported independently, but overlap unknown.

Wiltshire Twelve sites, five pairs proved breeding, but no details supplied.

With only vague information from Hampshire and none from Sussex, it is not possible to do more than indicate minimal figures: reported pairs during 1973-76 have been 26-102, 28-63, 64-121 and 16-111. We suspect that co-ordinated all-night censuses by specialist teams would reveal more than are currently recorded, perhaps as many as the 300-500 pairs estimated in the *Atlas*.

Dotterel *Eudromias morinellus*

At least eight sites, but data very incomplete.

Argyll One site: pair seen and song heard on 18th and 27th May.

Cumbria At least one site: (1) two pairs, with clutches of one and three eggs on 7th June; (2) two pairs proved breeding, but perhaps same as (1).

Grampian 'Numbers as usual. Slightly better than average breeding: 0.5 to 1.0 young per adult.'

Perthshire One site: female on 17th June.

County D Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) (2) at least one pair at each.

County E One site: up to eight birds (including four males and three females) calling and showing courtship activity on 8th and 9th May.

County F One site: one male, two females and a chick seen on 29th June at locality where breeding attempted in previous years.

The details of 3-14 pairs breeding is hopelessly unrepresentative, especially in view of the Grampian comment which must be based on counts not made available to us. With full data supplied annually from the areas visited regularly, we could maintain a sample index to indicate population trends; we hope that reporting will improve in future and appeal for unsubmitted data for 1973-76 to be sent to us now.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Two sites: 1-4 pairs breeding.

County A One site: one individual reported.

County B One site: up to five individuals, nest with four eggs found, two adults displaying as late as 3rd July.

The first instance of confirmed breeding since 1971, in a different county from the site occupied regularly during 1969-74; there were also more summering than in any previous year, but it is disappointing that other sites have not been discovered.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Six sites: 4-17 or more females nesting.

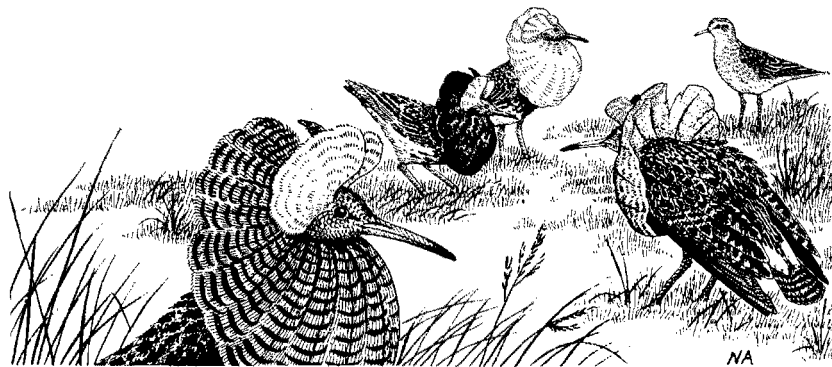
Caithness One site: up to six at various times, two males holding territory for two or three weeks in June, but no females seen.

Cambridge/Norfolk One site: 'good numbers' on the Ouse Washes and males lekking in early April, but no proof of breeding.

Kent Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one on 26th May and two on 23rd June; (2) present in breeding season.

Lancashire One site: four females nested; unlined scrape with one egg submerged by high tides in second week of May; second nest with two eggs on 24th June; third nest with four eggs on 28th June; fourth nest with three eggs on 9th July; some eggs subsequently damaged by cows, but hatching occurred in last three nests on 13th July and 'likely that five Ruff chicks survived at least two days'.

Norfolk One site: 'a few pairs may have bred'. See also Cambridge/Norfolk entry.



Females (reeves) become very elusive once they start to incubate; hence, the vague details from, for instance, the Ouse Washes and Norfolk. The annual totals of breeding pairs since 1973 (0-8, 2-12, 2-26 and, now, 4-17 or more) are, therefore, probably less indicative of the current trend than is the welcome increase in sites: one in 1973, one in 1974, four in 1975 and six in 1976.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

13 sites: probably 72-87 pairs breeding.

Cambridge/Norfolk One site: on the Ouse Washes, at least 58 pairs estimated, success not known, but thought to be very good.

Cumberland One site: three pairs confirmed breeding, a fourth probably bred.

Kent Three sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one pair April to May, behaviour suggesting attempted breeding; (2) 12 on 29th May and 13 on 6th July, but only singles in June; (3) three on 30th May and one on 1st June.

Norfolk One site: three pairs reared a total of at least four young. See also Cambridge/Norfolk entry.

Somerset Four sites, five pairs, but no firm proof of breeding: (1) two pairs whose behaviour indicated presence of young, and three non-breeders; (2) two in breeding plumage on 8th May; (3) one pair on 5th-6th April, mating on 5th; (4) two, one calling loudly, on 14th June.

Suffolk Two sites, with breeding proved: (1) at Minsmere, one pair laid two eggs, but these subsequently destroyed by Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*; (2) two pairs, one with young on 1st June.

With 70-80% of the UK population in just one locality, on the Ouse Washes in Cambridge/Norfolk, the figures depend greatly on recording there, but the high concentration and necessity to keep disturbance to a

minimum result in few data being available; the Ouse Washes total was, however, higher in 1976 than in any of the previous three years. The numbers away from this main area were also the best since the panel's reports started, the 1973-76 figures for pairs breeding being 4-10, 6-11, 8-16 and 8-23.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Three sites: 1-8 pairs breeding.

Inverness Two sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) agitated adult with young on 3rd July; (2) present 26th May to 20th June, two displaying on 8th June, but no proof of breeding.

Perth One site: five or six pairs in territory and possible change-over observed.

Another reasonably satisfactory year, although still not up to the standard of 1972, the best year to date, when *Atlas* fieldwork produced 5-8 breeding pairs at five sites; the 1973-75 totals were 0-2, 1-4 and 2-6 pairs. The Perthshire records, the first in the county since 1971, are especially pleasing, but we wonder how many other sites, perhaps only occasionally suitable for breeding, hold what may almost amount to small colonies for one or two seasons.

Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

One site: probable breeding.

Sutherland One site: on 9th August, agitated alarm-calls from adult; search then revealed downy chick one to two weeks old, but, unfortunately, its specific identity was not established.

Surely the first confirmed breeding record in the UK must come soon? There was display, song and alarm at three sites in Orkney and Shetland in 1975, and nesting has been suspected elsewhere in other years; the Northern Ireland Bird Records Committee has, however, informed us that it totally rejects the Co. Down record described by Rev. P. G. Kennedy *et al.* (1954, *The Birds of Ireland*, page 157) and briefly mentioned in the panel's last report (70: 11).

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Only four sites: 1-21 pairs breeding.

Shetland Two sites on one island: (1) (2) total of 16 to 19 pairs.

Western Isles Two sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) one pair failed; (2) one pair, but no details known.

Although we receive data from the main areas, there is insufficient detail to assess trends. Totals of breeding pairs during 1973-76 have been: 2-7 or more, 2-21, 18-32 and 1-21.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

One pair reared one young.

Hampshire One site: pair reared one young from clutch of single egg.

Up to six males held territories during 1969-75 and mixed pairings with female Black-headed Gulls *Larus ridibundus* occurred, but this was only the second record of nesting in the UK by a pure pair, the first having been in 1968 (J. H. Taverner, *Brit. Birds* 63: 67-79; 65: 185-186).

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

One site: one pair may have attempted to nest.

County B One site: pair displaying and mobbing observer on 12th May, but not present on 1st June; nesting was twice suspected at this site during 1968-72.

With numbers of Little Gulls still increasing in the UK, colonisation remains a possibility. The only confirmed nesting to date involved a pair on the Ouse Washes in 1975 (C. A. Carson *et al.*, *Brit. Birds* 70: 331-332).

Glaucous Gull *Larus hyperboreus*

One adult bred with a Herring Gull *L. argentatus*.

Shetland One site: adult paired with a Herring Gull and successfully reared young at same site as in 1975.

Only the second known breeding by a Glaucous Gull in the UK.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

One site: no breeding.

Shetland One site: on Fetlar, up to five females (two adults, three immatures), but no male (see *Brit. Birds* 70: 427).

It is sad to note that, after breeding on Fetlar for the nine consecutive years 1967-75 and rearing a total of 21 young, the old male disappeared; having driven off all the young males, he left the females without a mate.

Hoopoe *Upupa epops*

One site: one pair may have bred.

Kent One site: two on 13th May and then singles for a further six weeks; casual observation revealed no further evidence of breeding.

The only record submitted during 1973-75 involved a single bird which spent several weeks at a site in Hertfordshire in 1975. There has been no confirmed breeding record in the UK since those at one site in Cornwall in 1968 and 1969, and in Sussex in 1971.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Seven sites: 1-7 pairs breeding.

Inverness Three sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) pair feeding four or five young in nest on 3rd July in same tree stump as in 1975, young subsequently fledged; (2) two singing during 6th to 21st June; (3) one singing on 9th June. No intensive efforts made to prove breeding at sites (2) and (3).

Perth One site: two singing on 19th June and one 'agitated' on 25th June.

Surrey One site: two at former breeding locality on 11th and 12th May.

County A Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) adult seen June and July, and observer also reported 'seven to nine small fluffy juveniles', but county records committee has not given breeding unqualified acceptance; (2) one heard calling in early June.

A less exciting year than 1975, when there were 3-10 pairs, but the successful breeding in the same tree in Inverness-shire in two successive years is encouraging. There were 1-2 pairs breeding in 1973 and 1-5 in 1974.

Shore Lark *Eremophila alpestris*

One site: one pair may have bred.

County A One site: male on 18th May and 24th August in same area as 1972-73 records (*Brit. Birds* 66: 505-508; 67: 127; 68: 17-18).

Another hint, following the Grampian record in 1975 (*Brit. Birds* 70:

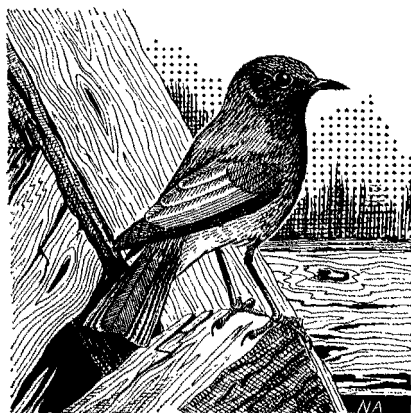
15), that developments might occur—as they did in 1977 (see *Brit. Birds* 70: 511 for preliminary details).

Citrine Wagtail *Motacilla citreola*

One site: male feeding young wagtails.

Essex One site: male feeding four young wagtails of uncertain parentage, 4th to 24th July, but no female seen.

This species had never been identified in the UK until 1954, but there have now been 24 records, all at coastal sites, mostly in September or October. Full details of this extraordinary record will be published shortly.



Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

47 sites: 31-74 pairs breeding.

Bedford One site: one pair present throughout summer and probable juveniles observed.

Berkshire One site: immature male singing from 5th May to 4th July at former breeding site.

Buckingham Two sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) one pair with first brood strongly on wing by 12th June and second brood four or five days out of nest on 20th July, second male present in early June; (2) male singing on 22nd May.

Devon One site: one pair summered, male singing in April.

Essex Five sites, with proof of breeding at three: (1) one pair reared three young from

two broods; (2) one pair reared two young; (3) one pair reared total of seven young in two broods; (4) one pair; (5) one pair in June 'probably nested'.

Grampian One site: male singing from April to mid July, female also reported, but any nest almost certainly lost during demolition work.

Greater London One site: one pair throughout summer, may have nested, but no juveniles seen. Some other Greater London records appear under Essex, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey.

Hampshire One site: three pairs, two of which reared young, but no details supplied.

Hertford Three sites, in two towns, with breeding proved: (1) two pairs nested; (2) (3) single pairs nested.

Huntingdon One site: two juveniles and possible male on 11th July, one or two juveniles until 25th August.

Kent Five sites, with breeding proved: (1) one pair reared three and three young from two broods; (2) one pair with nest and young at end of May; (3) one pair in early May, used nest found in September, report of young being seen by workmen; (4) one pair feeding two young on 19th July; (5) one pair reared two broods.

Middlesex One site: one pair on 16th April.

Norfolk Three sites, with breeding proved at two: (1) (2) total of ten singing males and breeding occurred at both sites; (3) two singing males.

Stafford One site in new area: either two pairs or one with two broods.

Suffolk Four sites, with 11-12 pairs and breeding proved: (1) five, possibly six pairs; (2) one pair bred successfully; (3) three pairs, of which two bred successfully; (4) two pairs bred and a third singing male in June.

Surrey Seven sites, with breeding proved at two: (1) at least four singing males, at least one pair bred, pair with three young on 21st June and adults with young on 9th August; (2) one pair bred; (3) male singing late April to early June; (4) one heard on 18th and 19th April; (5) one, possibly two, heard on 18th and 19th April; (6) male seen on 24th

May and 6th June; (7) pair on 14th May, not revisited.

Warwick One site: one pair, juvenile on 28th July.

West Midlands Seven sites, with breeding proved at three: (1) one pair raised two broods of two and four or five young, second male singing; (2) one pair feeding young; (3) male feeding female on 3rd June, two well-grown young on 14th June; (4) one pair in second half of May, but area not revisited; (5) male in late June at site where breeding occurred in previous year; (6) singing male in late June, two individuals seen in July; (7) male singing during May.

Wiltshire One site: one first seen on 28th April, sitting on eggs on 14th May, later feeding young.

Apparently a rather poor year, with the lowest number of pairs confirmed breeding since 1971, but the total of 74 possibly breeding was second only to the best-ever 91 in 1975. Pairs breeding during 1973-76 have been 53-68, 46-72, 47-91 and 31-74. In response to pressure from several county recorders, we are dropping this species from our list and 1977 records will not appear in our next report; we shall, however, welcome any 1973-76 additions, so that the picture for those years is as complete as possible.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Eight sites: two pairs confirmed breeding, six other instances of summering individuals.

Bedford One site: one adult on four dates in May-June, once carrying food.

Essex Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one on 23rd June; (2) one on three dates from 7th June to 8th August.

Grampian One site: one adult mobbed observers on three dates in May, two adults and three young on 3rd July.

Inverness One site: pair on 2nd July behaved as if breeding, but no nest found.

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: one or two present throughout summer, but no further evidence of breeding.

Midlothian One site: one adult on 8th and 11th July.

Stafford One site: 'one nesting pair located'.

Although breeding has been proved annually since the first nest in 1967, we still hear of only 1-3 instances each year; during 1973-76 the totals of breeding pairs have been 2-3, 3-6, 1-7 and, now, 2-8. Most records in the last ten years have been in Scotland or the northern half of England, doubtless Scandinavian migrants staying into summer, but the Fieldfare is pushing westwards in the Low Countries and it must be only a matter of time before southern England is colonised independently.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Six sites: 2-6 pairs breeding.

Argyll One site: one pair reared two young.

Grampian One site: birds present at former breeding site, but did not breed.

Inverness One site: male singing on 27th May. Steady decline noted since peak years of 1969-72.

Kirkcudbright Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) male singing on 20th April; (2) male singing on 20th May, area not revisited.

Nairn One site: one pair seen with juveniles on 22nd July.

There has plainly been a marked decline since the *Atlas* years of 1968-72, when a Scottish population of 300 pairs was suggested. Totals of pairs breeding during 1972-76 have been 12-42, 4-11, 3-26, 10-34 and, now, 2-6, the lowest for more than ten years.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

More than 20 sites: 8-80 or more pairs breeding.

Cornwall One site: one male singing from 4th April to 20th June.

Devon Three sites, with breeding proved at one; (1) present throughout year, breeding of one pair proved (adults carrying food and faecal sacs, five fledged young seen on 13th June), two or three pairs may have bred, at least eight singing in December; (2) one heard and seen from 27th November to end of year; (3) one from 24th October to 13th November, two on 23rd December.

Essex One site: two singing from 15th April to 8th June.

Hampshire One site: one singing from 13th to 19th June.

Hertford One site: one singing from 1st May to at least 10th August, second bird present from 8th to 27th May.

Kent No census, but numbers similar to 1975 (when 61 singing birds, 27 pairs, five proved breeding). Details from five sites with breeding proved at two: (1) ten singing males, two pairs carrying food, one nest with eggs on 16th May; (2) three pairs with newly fledged young in early July; (3) male from 5th May to end of year; (4) three pairs probably bred; (5) one pair present, but no evidence of breeding.

Norfolk Five sites, with breeding proved at one; (1) six males held territory in summer (but three possibly unmated), one pair proved breeding, two pairs probably reared young, ten singing in November; (2) five singing in breeding season; (3) three singing in breeding season, five singing in November; (4) two singing throughout breeding season; (5) two, one singing, on 31st May.

Suffolk Two sites, with probable breeding at one; (1) one pair from end of April to mid June probably bred; (2) one singing from 26th April to 6th May.

There was no increase in numbers comparable with those in previous years (1-14 pairs in 1973, 5-16 in 1974 and 8-75 in 1975), but the continuing spread is graphically shown by the 1973-76 totals of sites occupied in summer away from Kent: none in 1973, three in 1974, six in 1975 and, now, 12 in seven counties in 1976.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

Eight sites: nine singing males, but only one pair probably bred, and none was proved.

Hampshire One site: one singing male holding territory.

Kent Two sites, with probable breeding at one: (1) two males singing from 9th April, one unmated, one pair probably bred successfully; (2) one male singing on 12th June and 6th July.

Norfolk Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one male singing on 9th May; (2) one male singing on 24th May.

Suffolk Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) at Minsmere, one male singing from May to July, almost certainly did not breed; (2) two males singing in May and early June, probably did not breed.

Warwickshire One site: male singing at two localities 400 m apart from 14th to 19th July, about 3 km from site where one was heard and seen in May-June 1972 (*Brit. Birds* 66: 347); reporter regards it as 'likely that the area is being prospected'.

After a disappointing summer in 1975 (only three singing males in the whole of the UK), there was thus something of a return to former numbers. Totals of pairs breeding during 1973-76 were 0-13, 1-8, 1-3 and 0-9. Although only one pair probably bred in 1976, it is mildly encouraging to have reports from eight sites in five counties (the most during 1973-75 having been five sites in four counties).

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

Insufficient data from main area; three sites and 0-3 pairs breeding elsewhere.

Devon One site: one singing on 2nd and 3rd June, ringed on 13th, retrapped on 23rd.

Kent Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one male on 7th May; (2) one male on 26th May, one pair holding territory from late May into June.

Worcester Number of sites not known. 'Reported to be up to usual strength and breeding success above average, due to dry, hot weather.' Males singing at two sites north of usual range, from 20th to 23rd May and on 24th May.

The main area in Worcestershire has held an estimated 40-70 pairs each year since 1973, but we have received no details of any census. Elsewhere, Kent has also featured annually, with 2-12 pairs breeding (at six sites) in 1973, but only 0-2, 0-3 and 0-2 in the following three years. The only other counties involved have been Gloucestershire (2-5 pairs breeding in 1974), Warwickshire (0-2 pairs breeding in 1975) and Devon, which features for the first time this year.

Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One site: one singing male.

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: one male singing from 23rd May to end of June (sporadically after mid June); what was presumed to be same bird at two localities nearby on 11th July and 26th to 28th July.

This species has never been proved to breed in the UK and has not appeared in our report before. Males have, however, taken up temporary territories in large reed-beds on a number of occasions previously. The most spring records have been in 1960 (five), 1969 (seven) and 1976 (six). Sometime, surely, a vagrant female must stray within earshot.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Probably fewer than the 560 pairs of 1974 and 1975, due to decline in Dorset.

Devon Three sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) at least 12 pairs breeding; (2) present in October and November; (3) one male from 9th October to end of year.

Dorset Eighteen or more sites, with breeding proved: total well down on 1974-75, even before fires in summer 1976 destroyed much habitat, but at least 30 pairs bred successfully; at Arne, nine pairs and four unmated males, compared with 23 pairs in 1975. Factors contributing to this decline were heavy juvenile mortality in early winter 1975/76 and prolonged frosts in April 1976.

Hampshire Two sites, with breeding proved: (1) New Forest population of 250-300 pairs possibly 'at an all-time high since recording started; not much hit by fires that so plagued Dorset'; (2) three pairs proved breeding elsewhere in county.

Isle of Wight Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one on 1st April and 14th May; (2) one on 29th May.

Surrey Two sites, with breeding proved at both: (1) three pairs each raised two broods; (2) one pair reared at least one brood, presence of second pair suspected. A third site was burnt out and 'fires adversely affected the spread . . . but consolidation has continued and there was evidence of the birds seeking new sites to colonise.'

With no estimate from Dorset, the total population cannot be properly assessed, but it must have exceeded 300-350 pairs (a range which includes only the successful breeders in Dorset).

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

14 sites: 4-27 pairs breeding.

Bedford One site: male singing during 12th to 15th June.

Berkshire One site: male singing on four dates from 31st May to 4th July near location of previous records.

Buckingham One site, where large decrease occurred: 11 males singing in early June, one adult with three juveniles on 1st July (search-effort same as in previous years). Other former sites not visited.

Essex Two sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) one on 20th April and two on 15th May; (2) one on 4th May.

Gwent One site: at least one singing on 25th June.

Hampshire Two sites, with evidence of breeding at one: (1) one collecting nest material on 13th May; (2) male singing on 1st June.

Kent One site: one male singing during May.

Middlesex Two sites, confirmed breeding at one: (1) adult female with brood-patch trapped on 5th June; (2) two, one singing, on 24th April, but area not revisited.

Surrey One site: male singing on 9th June, still present 6th July.

Worcester One site: two males singing in late May.

County A One site: one to three from May to September, food-carrying and possible juveniles seen.

Although recorded in as many counties (11) as in 1975, there were huge reductions in the numbers of sites (down to 14 from 29) and pairs breeding (4-27 from 14-121). Despite this crash, however, 1976 was the second best year ever and, hopefully, this delightful species will resume its expansion in years to come.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Nine sites: 6-21 or more pairs breeding.

Derby One site: a male seen and heard on 13th June.

Gwent Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) (2) single males seen.

Hampshire One site: a female, an immature male and a third individual, probably another immature, during 12th July to 3rd August in a seldom-watched area.

Suffolk One site: perhaps as many as nine singing males, conservative estimate of six pairs, and at least two successful nests.

County A Four sites, with at least 24 birds calling in late summer: (1) five pairs reported by owner, at least ten calling in mid August; (2) at least five calling in mid August; (3) at least five calling in mid August; (4) at least four calling in mid August.

The discovery of the sizeable population in county A was one of the most exciting features of 1976; with the further consolidation in Suffolk, this resulted in the highest-ever estimate of pairs breeding in the UK. By comparison, totals during 1973-75 were a mere 1-8 pairs, 2-4 or more pairs and 2-7 pairs breeding.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Reported from three counties: only 3-25 pairs breeding.

Essex One site: male present throughout June.

Hampshire One site: three pairs nested and probably reared young, possibly two further pairs.

Norfolk No information supplied.

Suffolk Thirteen pairs in coastal belt and five or six pairs in Breckland.

Surrey 'Sadly it is worth recording that for the first time this century this species was not recorded in the county.'

The decline during the last 100 years was apparently decelerating (172 pairs in 1960, 127 in 1966, 81 in 1971 and 27-34 in 1973, then 30-52 in 1974 and 51-54 in 1975), but the 1976 total bodes ill for the Red-backed Shrike's future as an English breeding species. It is depressing to note that it was recorded in only three counties (or four, including those doubtless present in Norfolk), compared with seven or eight in each year during 1973-75.

Serim *Serinus serinus*

Two sites: two singing males.

Kent One site: male singing on 23rd May.

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: male singing from 5th to 7th May.

These two records of brief stays are meagre evidence of any intention to nest, but no Serins at all were reported to us during the previous three summers. The only published breeding records are still those in Dorset in 1967 and Sussex in 1969. When will they come?

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

At least four pairs.

Grampian No details supplied, but in Cairngorms 'better year than 1975; at least four pairs reared young (large broods)'.

Lack of detail makes comparison with earlier years difficult. Totals of pairs breeding in 1973-75 were 5-11 at six sites, 2-13 at seven sites and 2-20 at 13 sites, making 1975 one of the best of recent years; if 1976 was indeed a 'better year', it would be interesting to have more information.

Additions and corrections for 1974

(cf *Brit. Birds* 68: 489-503; 70: 22-23)

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Cumberland One site: one female with downy young.

This record raises the 1974 total to 10-11 pairs breeding.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Somerset Additional site: (2) one pair bred successfully.

This record raises the 1974 total to 43-91 pairs breeding.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Leicester Additional site: (2) one pair, unsuccessful.

Surrey Additional site: (2) one pair may have bred.

These records raise the 1974 total to 46-72 pairs breeding.

Lapland Bunting *Calcarius lapponicus*

Caithness One site: adult male in breeding plumage on 30th June.

This was the first indication of summering in a suitable breeding area in the UK.

Additions and corrections for 1975

(cf *Brit. Birds* 70: 2-22)

Pintail *Anas acuta*

Kent Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one pair from 8th to 11th May; (2) male on 8th May.

These records raise the 1975 total to 12-25 pairs breeding.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

Caithness Additional information: nest with seven eggs at site (5).

Dunbarton/Stirling Amended figures: at least five pairs, two broods.

Shetland Additional site: (3) female with two young.

These data raise the 1975 total to 32-159 pairs breeding.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

County A One site: one regularly from May to August, displaying in May, could have bred.

County C Present throughout summer at several localities, display seen, and at least three pairs suspected.

It seems likely that there were more than four breeding pairs in the UK in 1975.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

County C Correction: the pair at site (14) failed; thus, breeding was successful at only 13 of the 23 sites.

This amendment changes the 1975 totals to 32 pairs, of which 28 nested (one twice) and 15 were successful, rearing 24 young.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Hampshire One site: pair present throughout June and July, but no young seen.

This was the only record of a pair in the UK in 1975.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Dorset One site: one unmated female, present from April into 1976, built nest in May.

Gwent One site: single birds seen on many occasions from 2nd March to 29th July.

These records raise the 1975 total to 4-31 pairs breeding.

Rough-legged Buzzard *Buteo lagopus*

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: three from mid March to mid April, seen carrying twigs and tumbling in display flights.

Apart from unsubstantiated rumours, this is the first suggestion of breeding behaviour in the UK.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

Avon Three sites, but no proof of breeding: (1) single birds during June and July, and thought likely to be nesting nearby; (2) numerous sightings from June to September; (3) one pair.

Berkshire Two additional sites: (5) one on 25th June and 8th July; (6) one pair on numerous dates from 19th June to 5th September, breeding highly probable.

Hampshire Additional site: (2) pair with two fledged young on 7th August. 'Six pairs known' in New Forest—perhaps including sites (1) and (2)—and recorder 'would be surprised if less than 25 pairs away from the Forest'.

Hertford Four sites, with breeding proved at each: (1) two pairs nested; (2) to (4) single pairs nested.

Kent Three sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) two adults from June to 27th September, latterly feeding two young in the air; (2) single birds on 31st May, 1st June and 7th July; (3) single birds on nine dates from 1st June to 26th July at site where young reared in 1974.

Leicester One site: one pair with three fledged young 300 m from 1974 site.

Nottingham One site: seen on a few occasions during May to August, and thought likely to be breeding nearby.

Somerset Six sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) one pair bred successfully at same site as in 1974; (2) to (4) seen at traditional sites from 25th June to 22nd September, on 22nd May, and on 29th June; (5) (6) single birds on 1st June, 6th July and 7th August.

Wiltshire One pair proved breeding and two others probably nested, but details withheld.

These records raise the 1975 total to 37-132 pairs, but the data are still incomplete, with no information from Devon or Sussex.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicnemus*

Berkshire One site: one pair summered, display flights in June and July.

Hampshire Full details not provided, but 17 pairs located in area of about 65 km² and total 'must surely exceed 50 pairs'.

Hertfordshire At least 11 pairs in northeast of county.

Wiltshire 20 sites, with six pairs proved breeding, but further details withheld.

These records raise the 1975 total to 64-121 pairs breeding, but the data are still unsatisfactorily incomplete.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

Kent One site: up to 11 individuals from 20th May to 9th August, display observed, females inconspicuous after late May, breeding may have been attempted.

This record raises the 1975 total to 2-26 females breeding.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Cambridge One site: maximum of six individuals, one pair with nest and three or perhaps four eggs.

Cumberland One site: two pairs proved to have bred and probable third pair present.

Somerset One site: two pairs and one other adult from 6th April to 15th June, no proof of breeding, but behaviour of one pair suggested young hatched.

County E One site: two pairs, one of which had chicks.

These records raise the 1975 totals to 63-71 pairs breeding at ten sites.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

Shetland Two additional sites: (3) up to four females, but numbers of pairs not known; (4) at least one pair.

These records raise the 1975 total to 18-32 pairs breeding.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Hampshire One site: pair feeding young.

Kent One site: one singing on 10th May.

Northumberland One site: heard and seen during May, one fledgling later found on a windowsill.

Surrey One site: two at former breeding locality from 15th to 17th May and from 16th to 19th June.

These records raise the 1975 total to 3-10 pairs breeding.

Black Redstart *Phoenicurus ochruros*

Hampshire Two sites, with breeding proved at both: (1) two pairs reared total of eight young, and third pair possibly bred; (2) one pair reared at least six young.

Hertford Three sites, with breeding proved at each: (1) to (3) single pairs nested.

Kent Six additional sites, with breeding proved at five: (3) one pair reared three young; (4) one pair reared at least three young; (5) one pair reared broods of two and four; (6) one pair feeding young in nest; (7) male holding territory from 24th April to 16th May, female on 20th May; (8) four singing males, but only one fledged brood of three young seen.

Leicester One site: one pair with one young.

Surrey Additional site: (9) one pair bred (and may also have done so in 1974).

Wiltshire One site: pair reared two broods of four young, second brood of half-grown

young in nest on 7th August.

These records raise the 1975 total to 47-91 pairs breeding.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: two on 6th June, one remaining until 22nd.

This record raises the 1975 total to 1-7 pairs breeding.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

Shetland Two sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) up to five males singing in June, one pair with two newly fledged young on 5th August; (2) one singing male.

Sutherland Additional site: (6) nest with four well-grown young and one egg.

These records raise the 1975 total to 10-34 pairs.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

Hampshire Estimate of 250 or more pairs in the New Forest, where they 'seemed to be everywhere'.

Isle of Wight One site: recorded on numerous occasions between 6th April and 1st June, and three or four singing on 27th April, but no direct evidence of breeding.

These records confirm that, in 1975, the population was probably still at about the 1974 level of 560 pairs.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

Hampshire Two additional sites: (2) two pairs, one of which raised two young, no proof of breeding by second; (3) two males singing on 24th May. We believe that some New Forest records have been withheld.

Kent Four sites, with first proof of breeding in the county: (1) (2) total of 36 singing males in late May, 12 still singing in early July; (3) up to three singing males, nest-building seen on 26th May, juvenile on 30th July; (4) one male singing on 8th June.

Nottingham One site: one juvenile seen, breeding strongly suspected.

These records raise the 1975 total to 14-121 pairs breeding.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

Hampshire Additional site: (2) three, including one male, appeared late in breeding season and stayed some time, perhaps having bred nearby.

This record raises the 1975 total to 2-7 pairs breeding.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Avon One site: nest with three young on 24th June.

Bedford Correction: the comment 'This is the first breeding record in the county since 1968' was wrong, for a pair bred in 1971.

Essex Correction: delete entry for site (2).

Hampshire Information from two sources, perhaps overlapping: (a) three pairs bred in the New Forest, but success not known; (b) details from one site: male with one fledged young on 6th August.

Kent Two additional sites, but no evidence of breeding: (2) one male on 27th to 28th May at site where breeding occurred in 1972-74; (3) one male from 1st June to 14th July.

These records raise the 1975 total to 51-56 pairs breeding.

Great Grey Shrike *Lanius excubitor*

Lincoln/south Humberside One site: one in small area of wooded heathland from 25th May to 14th June, 'the second summer record in recent years', but no evidence of breeding.

This species has not appeared in our reports before.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Angus One site: one male singing in suitable habitat in late May.

This record raises the 1975 totals to 7-20 pairs at about 13 sites, with 2-4 pairs proved breeding.

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