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Rare breeding birds in the United Kingdom in 1982



Compiled by Robert Spencer and the Rare Breeding Birds Panel

This report continues the sequence begun in 1973. It is based on the same working methods and follows the same conventions. The preparation of it would not have been possible without the unstinting co-operation of numerous county recorders, and the Panel acknowledges with gratitude its deep indebtedness to them. It is hoped that this report, one function of which is to place each county's records in a national context, will provide some small reward for their labour.

Throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the response from recorders has been almost total. With but one exception, the Panel believes that those counties for which no breeding records are listed here had no records to report. The exception referred to is Sussex, the recording committee of which county being what might be described, by analogy, as conscientious objectors. The Panel ventures to hope that it will eventually win their confidence, and hence their co-operation. It should perhaps be mentioned that some counties do, from time to time, withhold information relating to some particular species. This is, in fact, the consistent policy of the Devon Bird Watching and Preservation Society which, whilst co-operating loyally with the Panel in all other respects, thinks it desirable to withhold all information which might reveal how many Hobbies *Falco subbuteo* breed in its county. Although it is the policy of the Panel to publish as much information as seems consistent with the well-being of the birds

concerned, the Panel has always been—and remains—ready to accept records on the basis that they should not be published (whether in detail or at all) until authorised to do so by the county concerned.

It is obvious from correspondence which the Panel has been having with county recorders that there is widespread concern for the safety of rare breeding birds, and not just because they are so obviously at risk from egg-collectors and people taking young from the nest. Several recorders have expressed anxiety about the growing numbers of birdwatchers who, apparently, 'do the rounds' of rare breeding species to get them on their year lists. The Panel members do not decry twitching and recognise that it can be an exciting and at times very skilful field sport. But if ever, or whenever, it jeopardises the breeding of those birds, the Panel believes that to be totally unacceptable to the large but unvociferous majority of caring, thinking birdwatchers.

This report highlights, as perhaps no other one has done, the ever-present and totally reprehensible persecution of birds of prey. The theft of Peregrines *Falco peregrinus*, a species not covered by the Panel, is well known, but surely must never become accepted through custom. In this report, the reader is referred to the entries for Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, for Red Kite *Milvus milvus* and, above all, for Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*. Some people are evidently pursuing their illegal interests with a ruthlessness more characteristic of the worst excesses of the Victorian era: we use the word 'ruthlessness' from the conviction that it cannot be mere thoughtlessness. It is partly with conservation in mind that the report sometimes uses the modern, larger administrative units rather than the old counties (e.g. 'Highland Region' rather than 'Inverness'). This practice may have to be extended in the interests of security, and the Panel anticipates that there will be changes in the style of presentation of its eleventh report, for 1983, now in preparation.

During 1982, the membership of the Panel was unchanged from 1981, being Dr L. A. Batten, R. H. Dennis, Ian Prestt, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock (Hon. Secretary) and Robert Spencer. Whilst its work is supported, both financially and in other respects, by the NCC, the RSPB, the BTO and *British Birds*, the Panel is autonomous. Members are appointed as individuals, albeit with a special knowledge of, but not directly responsible to, the sponsoring bodies.

Brief comments on the year 1982

In a year with many encouraging features, the most novel was the first known breeding of a pair of Scarlet Rosefinches *Carpodacus erythrinus*. Black-necked Grebes *Podiceps nigricollis* were reported from more sites than ever before in recent times, and the Garganey *Anas querquedula* had by far its best year since the species was added to the Panel's list. Marsh Harriers *Circus aeruginosus* and Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* continued the steady consolidation of their position. On paper, Redwings *Turdus iliacus* had their best year since the Panel was formed, but the increased numbers may be partly attributable to detailed fieldwork, especially in Sutherland. Cetti's Warblers *Cettia cetti* seem to have survived well in a winter with a severer than average

cold spell. In contrast, at least locally, the Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata* suffered considerable depletion. For the first time in recent years, there was reasonably comprehensive cover of potential Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris* terrain, with not discouraging results. A very thorough survey of the Cirl Bunting *Emberiza cirlus* provided an invaluable new datum line for future comparisons, but served to emphasise the extent of the species' contraction of range. This is, alas!, a long-term and well documented trend. For many species, the Panel's work tends to reveal the considerable extent to which population levels may fluctuate from year to year. The value of such information is self-evident, given a need to 'keep a finger on the pulse' of national populations. Indeed, the EEC Directive on Wild Birds correctly regards many of these populations as being European, and requires member states to monitor their numbers. It is for this reason that the Panel is seeking the advice of various experts about the problems of monitoring such difficult species as Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedicanus* and Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*, the data submitted for these in 1982 being fragmentary.

Systematic list

We have received no relevant 1982 records for the following species:

Great Northern Diver <i>Gavia immer</i>	Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>
Little Bittern <i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	Glaucous Gull <i>Larus hyperboreus</i>
Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	Black Tern <i>Chlidonias niger</i>
Scaup <i>Aythya marila</i>	Hoopoe <i>Upupa epops</i>
King Eider <i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Bee-eater <i>Merops apiaster</i>
Smew <i>Mergus albellus</i>	Shore Lark <i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Rough-legged Buzzard <i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Citrine Wagtail <i>Motacilla citreola</i>
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Bluthroat <i>Luscinia svecica</i>
Pectoral Sandpiper <i>C. melanotos</i>	Great Reed Warbler <i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>
Jack Snipe <i>Lymnocyrtus minimus</i>	Great Grey Shrike <i>Lanius excubitor</i>
Green Sandpiper <i>Tringa ochropus</i>	Woodchat Shrike <i>L. senator</i>
Spotted Sandpiper <i>Actitis macularia</i>	Lapland Bunting <i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>

Red-necked Grebe *Podiceps grisegena*

Two sites, involving two individuals.

Essex One site: one individual summered.

County B One site: adult, in breeding plumage, 12th April to 8th June.

1981 Northamptonshire One site: adult in breeding plumage and displaying, 4th May to 24th May.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	0	1	2	5	2	0	1	3	3	2
Pairs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Individuals in summer	0	1	2	5	2	0	1	4	2	2

Presence in breeding plumage well into the summer suggests that breeding may yet occur in Britain.

Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*

25 sites: 51-59 pairs breeding.

Inverness-shire 18 sites: (1)-(18) a total of 42-50 pairs, rearing 14-19 young. Some regular sites were not visited.

Kent One site: male in breeding plumage 19th to 20th April.

Perthshire Four sites: (1) pair first noted 9th June, one apparently sitting 11th July; (2) pair 9th June; (3) one 9th April; (4) one pair.

Strathspey Two sites: four pairs reared 2-5 young.

County A One site: about four pairs reared seven young.

1975 Inverness-shire ADDITION 11 sites: 23 pairs present, of which 15, and probably 18, nested. Six pairs certainly successful, probably 11. Eight young known to have fledged, and probably 13.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	22	25	23	23	15	18	27	36	35	25
Pairs proved breeding	52	58	54	70	42	37	58	53	52	51
Pairs possibly breeding	53	63	66	75	51	55	77	80	71	59

Black-necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis*

Twelve sites: 11-21 pairs breeding.



Central Scotland Two sites: (1) three pairs, with five young, 7th August; (2) pair in August, but no young seen.

Gwynedd One site: adult 30th April to 5th August.

Northumberland One site: five pairs bred, with broods of two, three, four and five on 31st May.

County A One site: adult with one juvenile on 4th and 11th September.

County B One site: two pairs bred, broods of one and three seen.

County J Six sites: (1) adult in breeding plumage 8th August, two moulting adults 30th September, last seen 18th October; (2) single

NA adult in breeding plumage on 15th August; (3) pair in breeding plumage 14th March; (4) single 13th June, three adults on 20th June, 23rd June and 16th July (two displaying on first date) with moulting adult on 27th July; (5) one from 27th July to 8th August, when moulting; (6) moulting adult on 14th August.

County K One site: single adult on several dates between 25th April and 24th July, two adults 24th to 28th July, then single adult until 2nd August.

1981 County A Two sites: (1) at least two pairs with well-grown young on 25th August; (2) pair and an immature on 15th April.

1981 County J One site: two adults in breeding plumage 5th August, staying to moult and last seen on 11th October.

1981 County K One site: one pair seen regularly displaying, with three adults present 9th to 27th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	4	2	4	2	7	6	6	9	7	12
Pairs proved breeding	18	15	2	10	11	13	12	11	5	11
Pairs possibly breeding	19	18	11	11	16	15	14	21	12	21

The largest number of sites ever reported to the Panel and at least 25

young hatched. The year 1981 now stands out as poor in an otherwise stable sequence.

Black-browed Albatross *Diomedea melanophris*

One site: one again summered with Gannets *Sula bassana*.

Shetland One site: adult from 14th February to 10th September.

This was an exceptionally long stay, 14th February being a week earlier than the previous earliest return.

Bittern *Botaurus stellaris*

15 sites: 1-35 pairs breeding.

Glamorgan, West One site: single on 18th July.

Kent One site: single booming briefly 16th May and 2nd June.

Lancashire One site: 12 booming.

Norfolk Seven sites: ten booming, but only for two were there sufficient indications of breeding to classify them as 'probable'.

Suffolk Four sites: 10-11 booming, one pair known to have bred.

County D One site: one booming in May.

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	18	17	21	19	16	15
Pairs proved breeding	0	2	1	4	1	1
Booming males	43	47	51	48	47	35

Two recorders attributed the fall in numbers to severe weather in winter 1981/82.

Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus*

1980 Hertfordshire CORRECTION The record published (*Brit. Birds* 75: 157) was for 1979, not 1980.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

One site: one summered.

Glamorgan One site: adult present 30th May to 10th August.

Whooper Swan *Cygnus cygnus*

One site: two feral pairs breeding.

Dunbartonshire One site: two feral pairs nested, one raising two young.

American Black Duck *Anas rubripes*

Two sites: single male and single female, both breeding with Mallards *Anas platyrhynchos*.

Gwynedd One site: male all year, six American Black Duck × Mallard hybrids on 19th November, breeding considered possible as only three hybrids were located in 1981.

Scilly One site: female paired with male Mallard, four young seen in July. In addition two apparent hybrids, one male and one female, were present in spring.

The reports suggest that a small hybrid population is becoming established at each site, but, without in-breeding, the American Black Duck genes will become increasingly diluted.

Pintail *Anas acuta*

18 sites: 7-32 pairs breeding.

Caithness Three sites: (1) female on seven eggs on 3rd May; (2) female and three young in June; (3) pair present 14th August.

Cambridgeshire One site: eight males and one female on 18th May, one pair only on 27th April, breeding not suspected.

Humberside One site: pair present 14th May to 17th June, then female only to 29th July.

Kent Three sites: (1) up to three during May, two in June, four in July, three in August; (2) pair on 22nd April and 5th May, male on 20th May; (3) female on 15th April.

Lancashire Two sites: (1) two males and one female in late May, three birds in June, one to three in July; (2) nine males and two females on 14th June.

Northamptonshire One site: pair from 15th April to 13th May, then one bird to 16th May.

Orkney Four sites: (1) female with five young, female with two young, probable brood of four, all on 16th July; (2) female with four young on 20th June; (3) nest with eight eggs on 6th May; (4) two females giving vigorous distraction display on 24th June.

Suffolk: Two sites: (1) pair until 18th May; (2) pair until 23rd May.

Wigtownshire One site: three pairs probably bred.

1981 Northamptonshire One site: one pair 10th May and 16th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	3	7	11	10	15	10	19	15	16	18
Pairs proved breeding	3	10	12	6	10	7	10	9	8	7
Pairs possibly breeding	5	11	25	16	26	23	41	25	31	32

Temporary occupation of a breeding site, often for only one year, seems characteristic of the species in its present stage of colonisation.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*

66 sites: 10-94 pairs breeding.

Avon One site: three pairs in late April, at least one pair present throughout the breeding season.

Bedfordshire Two sites: (1) one pair present from 27th March to 20th April; (2) a pair from 29th March to 9th April and a single on 27th and 28th June.

Buckinghamshire Two sites: (1) pair from 26th March to 4th May, then male only until 4th June, and male from 5th July to 21st September; (2) four males and three females on 2nd April, pair 19th April to 12th May, then male only until 21st May, three birds on 19th August. Single males at two other localities, on 23rd April and 27th May, were regarded as migrants.

Cambridgeshire Three sites: (1) two pairs present throughout April and male on 3rd June; (2) ten males on 18th May, one brood in June; (3) a pair on 19th April.

Cheshire Five sites: (1) pair on 27th March; (2) male and two females on 12th April; (3) probable pair on 13th April; (4) male on 10th July; (5) two immatures on 15th July.

Cornwall One site: one pair raised at least five young.

Derbyshire One site: pair arrived 27th April, female often absent, male last seen in late June.

Devon Four sites: (1) present from 4th April to 8th May, at least two males and two females involved; (2) up to seven, including five males, present from 25th March to 17th April; (3) pair present 27th March to 20th April; (4) pair(s) present on 1st and 11th April, thought to be passage birds.

Dorset Two sites: (1) pair reared four young; (2) two males and one female, with three juveniles, on 15th June.

Essex Two sites: (1) male on 22nd May; (2) male on 1st June.

Glamorgan, Mid One site: male on 13th June.

Gloucestershire One site: pair present 19th to 28th April.

Kent Two sites: (1) single male(s) on dates between 28th March and 28th May; (2) single male(s) 15th May to 24th July, two males on 31st July.

Lancashire Two sites: (1) two pairs 6th to 10th April, one pair remaining until 13th May, two males and one female on 17th May, reverting to single pair until 16th June; (2) male 28th to 31st May.

Lothians One site: male 2nd to 5th June.

Norfolk 17 sites: (1)-(17) one to four individuals at each on various dates, one pair known to have raised four young.

Northamptonshire Nine sites: (1)-(9) one to three individuals at each, including seven apparent pairs, but no evidence of breeding.

Nottinghamshire Number of sites not reported. About eight assumed passage birds, of which one or two may have summered.

Staffordshire One site: pair present 28th March to 23rd May, believed to have attempted breeding but failed.

Suffolk Six sites: (1) nest with six eggs, outcome unknown; (2) pair present; (3) pair bred; (4) two pairs bred; (5) two pairs thought to have bred; (6) male present on 23rd May.

Worcestershire Two sites: (1)(2) two birds at each throughout the breeding season, but evidence of breeding lacking.

1981 Cheshire Six sites: (1)-(6) only at one site was a pair present, and displaying in June, no further evidence of breeding.

1981 Lincolnshire/South Humberside Three sites: (1)-(3) thought probable that one pair bred at each.

1981 Northamptonshire One site: pair in eclipse plumage on 11th June.

1981 Yorkshire, West One site: pair present 16th April to 8th May. Almost certainly attempted to breed but thought to have failed.

	1980	1981	1982
Sites	34	48	66
Pairs proved breeding	4	8	10
Pairs possibly breeding	54	58	94

The Garganey is prone to occasional 'good' years and 1982 was obviously one of them, with the highest totals so far recorded.

Common Scoter *Melanitta nigra*

17 sites: 4-112 pairs breeding.

Argyll One site: female and two young in August.

Caithness Two sites: (1) two females on 24th July, female with brood of five on 30th July; (2) female with brood of three on 20th July.

Dunbartonshire/Stirlingshire One site: two pairs and additional male on 27th May, three pairs on 19th to 20th June, but no young located.

Co. Fermanagh Two sites: (1) two pairs; (2) 73 pairs, six broods seen totalling 33 young, earliest and latest known broods being 10th July and 27th July.

Inverness-shire Seven sites: (1)-(7) five pairs proved breeding, with broods of two, three, five, seven and seven; in all, 18 'possibles'.

Perthshire One site: five males and six females on 31st May, but none seen on 20th July.

Ross-shire Two sites: (1) female on 2nd June, male and female on 9th June; (2) three pairs displaying on 5th June.

Shetland One site: three males and two females, but no young seen.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	13	13	12	14	13	9	17	10	6	17
Pairs proved breeding	4	10	32	22	24	16	98	7	5	14
Pairs possibly breeding	133	142	159	159	156	141	128	113	82	112

As two localities were reported to have been inadequately covered, the improvement on the 1981 figure, both in sites and numbers, would appear to be genuine.

Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*

11 sites: 27-57 pairs breeding.

Cumbria Four sites: (1) male 23rd May to 1st August; (2) male and female on 6th June; (3) female 11th June to 10th August; (4) two females on 2nd May.

Essex Four sites: (1) two males and one female summered; (2) one injured male summered; (3) female on 2nd June; (4) male on 5th June.

Lancashire One site: a female summered.

Perthshire Two sites: (1) two on 8th May; (2) one on 3rd June.

County B Eggs laid in 44 nests, all but two in nest-boxes. Only 27 clutches were incubated, possibly because of inclement weather; 26 nests were successful with 220+ young. In a census attempted in late July, 76 fledged young were located, indicating good survival.

1981 Cheshire One site: female summered.

1981 Northamptonshire One site: female present 27th June and 2nd July.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	1	5	3	8	12	18	17	11	13	1
Pairs proved breeding	3	3	3	5	6	12	22	26	29	27
Pairs possibly breeding	3	7	6	12	14	27	43	37	54	57
Young hatched	22	19	10	46	11	40	110	165	286	220

Although late spring/early summer occurrences are noted for English counties it would be unwise to attach too much significance to them. In Scotland, owing to the number of suitable localities, the difficulty of the terrain and a different attitude towards recording casual observations, many comparable occurrences must go undetected or unreported.

Honey Buzzard *Pernis apivorus*

Two sites: 10-14 pairs present in breeding season.

Southern England The population of the main area is reported to have been stable for some years at 10-12 pairs.

Nottinghamshire One site: four birds, one pair attempting to breed. Failure was attributed to wet weather.

Excluding the main population referred to above, the position is as follows:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	1	3	2	7	8	8	3	3	8	2
Pairs proved breeding	0	1	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	1
Pairs possibly breeding	1	3	2	7	8	8	3	4	9	2

A marked decline in the number of counties, but whether this represents fewer birds or a failure to report is not known.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus*

47 or 48 pairs: 23 young reared by 19 pairs.

Central Wales A total of 47 pairs (possibly 48 if one nest was not a repeat after failure) of which 38 (or 39) laid eggs. A total of 19 pairs bred successfully, fledging 23 young. An additional 22 unmated birds, so minimum April population in breeding area was 116.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Total pairs	26	32	32	36	34	39	42	42	46	47
Breeding pairs	26	27	28	29	28	32	30	29	32	38
Successful pairs	10	9	15	15	12	13	14	21	18	19
Young reared	14	12	24	18	17	22	18	27	21	23

The figures suggest a very small reduction from the 120 recorded in 1981, following a severe winter. The number of breeding pairs was, however, the highest this century. Three nests were robbed by egg-collectors.

Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*

32 sites: 63 young reared.



Dyfed One site: pair seen on several occasions from end of April to first week in May; one female nearby on 15th May.

Essex: Three sites: (1) female most of the summer; (2) female 9th June; (3) female 12th June.

Glamorgan, Mid One site: immature male 23rd March, female on 12 dates from 12th April to 18th May.

Glamorgan, West Two sites: (1) immature female January to March, female 29th April to 14th August, immature male 18th October to end of year; (2) immature 8th April to 21st June, two immature females 10th April, immature male occasional from 12th May to end of year, two 10th September.

Humberside One site: pair reared two young.

Huntingdonshire Two sites: (1) singles 18th May, 2nd and 6th June; (2) female on six dates 15th to 26th June.

Kent Two sites: (1) female 30th-31st May; (2) male and female on several dates in April, three females in May, single male and three females all June, male and three females on 4th July, three males and one female on 25th July.

Lincolnshire/South Humberside One site: pair possibly bred, two juveniles/immatures present July to September.

Norfolk Twelve sites: (1)-(12) 14 males and 19 females nested or attempted nesting, rearing 42 young to flying stage.

Perthshire One site: one 13th and 14th May.

Suffolk Six sites: (1) two males and three females reared six young; (2) pair reared three young; (3) three nests produced two, three and five young; (4) pair present throughout breeding season; (5) pair present 13th May only; (6) hunting female and juvenile 26th and 27th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Total sites	4	4	8	11	14	12	19	32	22	32
Sites with successful nests	4	4	3	6	9	9	8	11	10	12
Breeding males	4	5	5	13	15	15	24	21	18	20
Breeding females	6	6	7	13	16	16	26	23	22	24
Nests	5	6	7	11	15	15	15	22	20	24
Successful nests	5	4	5	9	13	12	12	14	16	24
Young reared	16	10	18	25	44	34	39	40	49	63

The steady increase in the breeding population, coupled with good breeding success, must gratify the conservation bodies concerned.

Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus*

Seven sites: 3-8 pairs breeding, at least four young reared.

Derbyshire One site: immature male present 10th June to mid-August.

Huntingdonshire One site: female on three dates in July and August.

Kent One site: adult female on 18th and 25th May, male in June.

Norfolk One site: male and two females reared four flying young.

Suffolk One site: 'ring-tail' carrying food on 12th July.

County D One site: one pair bred successfully (number of young not reported).

County M One site: female seen 28th July, unconfirmed reports of more than one bird.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	5	3	3	4	2	7	4	8	8	7
Pairs proved breeding	2	0	0	3	1	2	2	2	2	3
Pairs possibly breeding	5	3	3	5	2	7	4	8	9	8
Young reared (minimum)	0	0	0	6	0	3	7	4	4	4

The situation seems to be stable, with the potential for a small increase in the breeding population. Larger modern fields may help the species, but the early harvesting of silage and hay may well hinder successful breeding.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

39 sites: 23-41 pairs.

Carmarthenshire One site: one pair bred successfully.

Cheshire One site: several sightings in spring and autumn, but no evidence of attempted breeding.

Cumbria Three sites: (1) male, March to May; (2) male on 15th May; (3) male on several dates in June.

Gwent One site: immature on 31st August.

Lancashire Four sites: (1) six records of singles in April and one on 13th June; (2) pair seen displaying in spring; (3) one, possibly two, present in May; (4) evidence of nesting, and pair with one juvenile in August.

Pembrokeshire One site: female on 21st March and pair displaying in late April.

Somerset Two sites: (1) pair on 16th May; (2) single on 23rd April.

Staffordshire One site: one pair reared young.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) male on several occasions in June; (2) pair, said to be nesting.

County C One site: four pairs said to have reared young.

County D Eight sites: (1) female incubating clutch of two eggs, deserted; (2) clutch of four eggs, from which three young fledged; (3) clutch of four eggs, from which two young fledged; (4) two or three nests built and lined, but not used, female found dead later; (5) pair present, but no evidence of nesting; (6) female incubating, but eggs stolen in May; (7) clutch of four eggs, from which two young fledged; (8) clutch of four eggs, from which two young fledged.

County G Two sites: (1) pair reared three young, flying 14th July; (2) pair built new nest, but no eggs laid.

County Q One site: clutch of three eggs, three young fledged.

County W Ten sites: (1) at least one bird present, 1981 nest repaired, but probably not used; (2) clutch of four eggs all hatched, one young died, three young stolen; (3) pair built up nest, but female died, male moved and remated, new female incubating by mid-May, but eggs stolen; (4) pair built and deserted twice, but laid clutch of four eggs in third nest and reared three young; (5) clutch of four eggs stolen; (6) nest from previous year repaired, but not used; (7) eggs stolen during incubation; (8) female laid twice, first clutch deserted, second clutch (in replacement nest) stolen; (9) pair displaying in April, but nest destroyed by person(s) unknown; (10) no evidence of nesting, but female carrying food in late June.

County Y One site: pair reported to have reared young.

County II One site: one, possibly two, birds summered.

1980 County D Eight sites: (1) pair hatched young, which were subsequently stolen; (2) birds present; (3) clutch of four eggs deserted, female believed shot; (4) brood of four reared; (5) clutch of four eggs, deserted; (6) clutch of four eggs, from which two young reared; (7) clutch of four eggs, from which three young reared; (8) eggs apparently stolen.

1980 County W Seven sites: (1) pair had part-completed nest which was not used; (2) eggs, laid in refurbished Sparrowhawk nest, stolen; (3) partly incubated eggs stolen; (4) clutch of two eggs stolen, replacement clutch of two eggs laid and two young fledged; (5) first clutch believed taken, repeat clutch of one successfully incubated, but the young was taken by a falconer; (6) nest built, but no eggs laid; (7) clutch of four eggs, from which two young reared.

1981 County D Eight sites: (1) new nest apparently not used; (2) clutch of three eggs stolen; (3) eggs laid but stolen; details of a repeat nest not known; (4) clutch of four eggs eventually deserted due to heavy snow; (5) female sitting, but eggs stolen; (6) clutch of three eggs stolen; (7) nest found at end of season, outcome unknown; (8) pair present, but no nest located.

1981 Cheshire One site: nest robbed of large young.

1981 County JJ One site: one bird, believed immature male, on 21st April.

1981 County P Six sites: (1) clutch of three eggs stolen; (2) clutch of four eggs, from which two young fledged; (3) partly incubated eggs stolen; (4) clutch of five eggs stolen; (5) clutch of two eggs stolen, replacement clutch successfully incubated in another nest, but young later stolen; (6) clutch of three eggs deserted after a period of bad weather.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Counties	6	10	14	10	15	18	20	20	25	16
Sites	12	20	32	28	33	37	36	41	48	39
Pairs proved breeding	6	9	5	12	15	14	21	17	14	23
Pairs possibly breeding	12	21	34	28	37	40	43	47	49	41

Detailed and very time-consuming checking of nests under licence reveals a truly shameful degree of persecution. The circumstances suggest that gamekeepers and irresponsible people involved with illegal trade in birds of prey for falconry or keeping in captivity are chiefly implicated. But for their activities, there seems little doubt that the species could quickly colonise most suitable sites in the country.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

30 sites: 27 pairs reared a total of 45 young; four, possibly five, clutches stolen by egg-collectors.

Inverness-shire Loch Garten: pair reared two young from three eggs.

Perthshire Loch of Lowes: pair reared three young.

Elsewhere in Scotland 28 pairs: 25 laid eggs and 19 bred successfully, rearing 40 young. Known broods fledging: nine of 3, three of 2, and seven of 1.

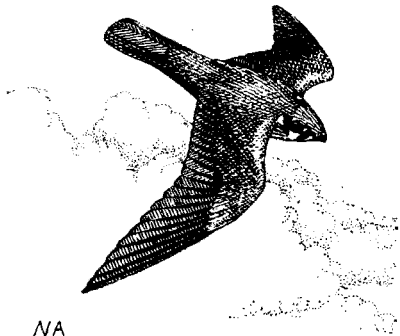


	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Pairs	16	14	14	14	20	22	25	25	25	30
Successful pairs	10	10	7	10	7	11	16	19	20	21
Young reared	21	20	16	20	13	19	30	41	42	45

The build-up in numbers continues, but, as with the Goshawk, it is cause for serious concern that nests are still being robbed.

Hobby *Falco subbuteo*

202 sites: 97-203 pairs breeding.



NA

Avon Four sites: (1) one pair probably breeding, adults seen carrying food July/August; (2) singles on 20th June, 24th July and 20th August; (3) one on 31st July; (4) singles on 3rd July and 14th August.

Bedfordshire Four sites: (1) pair raised two young; (2) pair, female seen on old nest; (3) singles present on several dates to 29th July; displaying pair on 1st May; (4) one or two seen on several dates from 22nd April to 8th September.

Berkshire Five sites: (1) one on 4th July; (2) one on several dates to 31st July; (3) two seen on 28th May; (4) one on 29th May; (5) one in summer.

Buckinghamshire 13 sites: (1)-(13) evidence indicative of successful breeding in five or six sites, pairs present at two localities (16th May to 7th June and July to August), sightings late May to early July in five other localities.

Cambridgeshire Three sites: (1) pair nested; (2) three sightings during June; (3) one on 28th June.

Cheshire Four sites: (1) one on 1st June; (2) two on 29th July; (3) one preying on Swallows *Hirundo rustica* at roost for two weeks in late July and early August; (4) one at Swallow roost on 8th September.

Derbyshire One site: seen in each month from May to September, three together in late August, breeding thought probable.

Dorset 15 sites: (1)-(15) 15 pairs, of which 12 reared a total of about 20 young; one, possibly two nests failed.

Essex One site: one pair reared three young.

Gloucestershire Two sites: (1) pair fledged one, possibly two young; (2) breeding suspected. The species is said to be under-recorded in the county.

Hampshire 48-49 sites: (1)-(49) 32 pairs bred in the county; an additional 16-17 sites were frequented by Hobbies on dates indicative of possible breeding; known broods fledging from nests in northeast: one of 3, three of 2 and one of 1.

Hertfordshire Ten sites: (1) pair bred, two juveniles seen 25th August; (2) pair with three young in nest in July; (3) pair from 7th May to 3rd June, with at least one juvenile on 29th August; (4) single on 11th May and family party of four on 4th September; (5) singles on 2nd and 3rd May and 10th August to 21st September, with adult and immature present on 15th September; (6) single on 30th May; (7) single on 10th June; (8) single on 27th June; (9) single on 3rd July; (10) single, calling anxiously, on 1st August.

Huntingdonshire Five sites: (1) one pair, family party seen on several occasions in August and September; (2) pair displaying on 15th June; (3) male chasing Carrion Crow *Corvus corone* on 7th June; (4) two or three on 16th July, including one juvenile; (5) pair fledged two young about 14th August.

Kent Seven sites: (1) one, possibly immature, on 13th June; (2) one on 13th June; (3) singles on 30th June and 22nd July; (4) one on 20th June; (5) one 25th August; (6) pair reared two young; (7) two singles, one in June and one in July.

Leicestershire Three sites: (1) pair, three immatures observed 14th August; (2) pair fledged three juveniles on 17th August; (3) adult feeding well grown young on 22nd August.

Northamptonshire 14 sites: (1) pair fledged three young; (2)-(3) pairs fledged two or three young; (4) adult 'teaching' juveniles on 16th August; (5) family party of two adults and two juveniles on 4th September in area where Hobbies seen all summer; (6) pair displaying during 3rd May to 8th May, three in August and September; (7)-(14) regular sightings during

breeding season in eight other areas, but some could have been of hunting birds from other breeding sites.

Nottinghamshire Perhaps six sites, in three or four of which Hobbies were regularly present, but no evidence of breeding.

Oxfordshire 14-20 sites: breeding proved at seven sites and possibly at two others; casual sightings suggest an Oxfordshire population double that number.

Somerset 16 sites: (1) pair reared two young; (2) adult on 4th June and juvenile on 25th August; (3)-(11) singles on single dates between 3rd June and 9th August; (12) singles on 14th May, 11th June and 30th August; (13) numerous reports of singles, with pair displaying 9th May; (14) singles on 6th May and 18th June; (15) singles on 22nd and 29th August; (16) singles during 29th August to 5th September.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) regular sightings between 16th May and 11th June; (2) pair said to have reared four young, a juvenile with crude jesses found in the area was thought to have been taken from this nest.

Surrey 14 sites: (1) two pairs fledged three and two young respectively; (2) pair fledged three young; (3)-(5) single pairs each had nests with three young and fledged at least two; (6) pair fledged two young; (7) pair with three young from which at least one fledged; (8) pair with two young, at least one fledging; (9)(10) pairs fledged at least one young; (11) nest, probably two young fledged; (12) very late nest, probably one young fledged; (13) nest with clutch of two eggs failed, four adults seen at this site on one occasion and could have represented two breeding pairs; (14) one seen on several occasions in traditional site.

Warwickshire One site: the adults occupied the site, but left prematurely and are presumed to have failed to breed.

Wiltshire 16 sites: (1)-(3) pairs reared two young each; (4) pair hatched young, but outcome unknown; (5)-(9) pairs present throughout breeding season, probably bred; (10)-(13) pairs possibly bred; (14)-(16) singles present during breeding season, but no evidence of breeding.

Worcestershire One site: pair bred successfully.

1981 Cheshire Three sites: (1)-(3) singles on 25th April, 12th July and 31st July, respectively.

1981 Northamptonshire Six sites: (1) eggs being incubated, but deserted, probably due to tree-felling; (2)-(6) breeding suspected due to the volume of sightings, birds seen carrying prey, and presence of family parties.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Pairs proved breeding	24	47	38	59	51	70	80	64	51	97
Pairs possibly breeding	65	96	133	143	119	156	132	155	160	203
Young reared (minimum)	24	51	42	69	78	96	72	86	89	63

No reports were received from Cornwall, Devon and Sussex, in which counties there are generally thought to be important breeding populations of this species. Even without them, we are moving slowly towards a more realistic estimate of the total population. We particularly appreciate the detailed information which some observers have been able to supply.

Spotted Crake *Porzana porzana*

Two sites: 0-4 breeding pairs.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) single singing during 24th to 26th April, 27th to 31st May, 5th and 26th July, immature seen 4th and 5th September; (2) two singing during May and June, three during 28th May and 1st June, one (probably juvenile) seen 3rd September.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	0	4	0	2	4	6	4	3	4	2
Singing males	0	5	0	2	7	6	8	4	9	4

Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Nine sites: successful breeding at seven sites, 190+ pairs rearing 150+ young.

Essex One site: adults, not counted, present all summer; two or three young in June.

Lancashire One site: one on 12th and 13th May, calling agitatedly.

Norfolk Three sites: (1) one pair reared three young; (2) one pair reared one young; (3) 26 pairs reared 55 young.

Suffolk Three sites: (1) 110 pairs reared 41 young; (2) 49 pairs reared 47 young; (3) two pairs bred, but success not known.

County C One site: two on 8th May and 12th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Breeding sites	4	4	6	5	6	3	3	5	5	9
Breeding pairs (minimum)	149	125	158	151	146	145	147	168	201	190
Young reared (minimum)	115	64	142	68	14	92	99	101	155	150

The number of sites was the highest ever. Since, at present, the breeding success tends to be greater away from the main site, it may augur well for the population provided that disturbance, from whatever source, can be kept to a minimum at the new sites.

Stone-curlew *Burhinus oedipnemus*

44-46 sites: 8-67 pairs breeding.

Berkshire Four sites: (1) one or more calling on 18th May; (2) one or two on 14th April, 18th May and 18th September; (3)(4) present in summer, no indication of numbers.

Cambridgeshire Ten to 12 sites: calling individuals at each detected during nocturnal survey.

Dorset Two sites: (1)(2) single pairs bred.

Essex One site: three adults present for most of summer.

Hertfordshire Three sites: (1) pair on 25th April, with singles on 1st and 4th May; (2) pair from 15th April, with three on 14th May; (3) one or two calling.

Norfolk Two sites: (1) three pairs; (2) 14 pairs. The recorder warns that this information gives a falsely pessimistic picture of the Stone-curlew's status and numbers in Norfolk.

Oxfordshire One site: one or two pairs present all season, breeding behaviour seen, but no nest or young located.

Suffolk Eight sites: (1) present; (2) pair present; (3) at least four pairs; (4)(5) single pairs; (6)(7) two pairs at each; (8) three pairs. Part of the county was described as 'grossly under-recorded'.

Wiltshire 13 sites: (1)(2) pairs each raised two young; (3)(4) pairs each raised one young; (5) young present; (6) agitated adults, suggesting that young were present; (7)-(12) single pairs present; (13) one unmated male present early in the season.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Pairs proved breeding	26	28	47	16	4	20	34	8	10	8
Pairs possibly breeding	90	67	72	109	27	34	81	45	53	67

The behaviour of the Stone-curlew is such that its status can not be determined reliably by random observations. The most valuable results are achieved, as for example in Wiltshire, when observer(s) commit themselves to a special study.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

One site: singles only.

Kent One site: singles on 26th May and 18th June.

At present, it seems likely that the breeding record in 1979 (*Brit. Birds* 74: 28) was an isolated event rather than part of a process of recolonisation.

Dotterel *Charadrius morinellus*

Of the three report forms submitted, only one related to Scotland. Until more information is received, the Panel is not in a position to make meaningful comments about this species. We hope to be able to publish a statement in the next report.

Temminck's Stint *Calidris temminckii*

Three sites: one pair proved breeding.

County B Two sites: (1) two adults displaying from 14th May onwards, four young hatched 1st July; (2) one, considered to be migrant, 3rd July.

County E One site: one displaying 16th May to 11th June, no proof of nesting.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	1	2	1	2	3	3	4	5	1	3
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1
Pairs possibly breeding	2	3	2	4	5	6	6	6	1	3

Purple Sandpiper *Calidris maritima*

One site: one pair bred.

Scotland One site: nest with four eggs on 24th June, one chick seen in July, possibly a second nesting attempt.

With, apparently, still only one breeding pair, the species remains highly vulnerable as a British breeding bird.

Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*

13 sites: 1-23 females breeding.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) 87 males, many in breeding plumage, and 34 females on 20th April, declining rapidly to three males and one female by 18th May; (2) four males on 19th May.

Essex One site: 12 engaged in communal display on 27th April, not seen subsequently.

Huntingdonshire One site: two females in early May, believed to be non-breeders.

Lancashire Four sites: (1) clutch of four eggs, of which two hatched; (2) 19 in breeding plumage on 9th May, only one by 27th May; (3) up to five males and three females present, lek behaviour and copulation observed; (4) present mid May to mid June with a maximum of six males and three females.

Lincolnshire/South Humberside Two sites: 23 present on 24th April with seven males lekking; (2) single females on 15th and 18th May, and 4th and 8th June: two different birds.

Norfolk One site: lek of ten or more males and four females.

County F Two sites: (1) present all May with a maximum of 21, occasional in June; (2) present all May and June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	2	2	5	6	6	4	12	10	10	13
Nests	0	2	2	4	0	0	3	3	0	1
Max. no. females breeding	8	12	27	17	16	4	22	13	13	23

In lekking species, breeding is often difficult to prove. The table (above) shows a steady trend towards more sites, and it is possible that there are now several nests annually.

Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

13 sites: 58-69 breeding pairs.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) 25 pairs, 17 of them with young, on 18th May; (2) seven pairs and two single birds on 19th May.

Humberside One site: one pair summered, and up to five seen in early autumn.

Lancashire One site: one on 31st May rose to a passing Herring Gull *Larus argentatus* as if on territory.

Norfolk One site: 20 pairs, 15 with young.

Somerset One site: seven present and at least one pair nested.

Suffolk Three sites: (1) pair bred; (2) two pairs bred; (3) pair holding territory in spring, site not visited later.

Shetland One site: pair reared two young.

County I Three sites: (1) single seen 30th April, behaviour suggestive of breeding; (2) one displaying in April, field subsequently ploughed; (3) perhaps 40 summered, including three pairs displaying, at least one nest, but destroyed by predator before hatching.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	9	12	10	13	11	13	13	11	5	13
Pairs proved breeding	55	51	63	72	37	50	39	52	22	38
Pairs possibly breeding	61	58	71	87	70	68	64	77	26	69

The year 1981 was singularly poor for this species and, as the table shows, the improvement in 1982 represented no more than a return towards what might be regarded as normal.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Four sites: three pairs bred.

Caithness One site: adult in site suitable for breeding on 27th May.

Inverness-shire One site: three nests, brood of four seen on 10th June and brood of one on 30th June.

Ross-shire One site: adult in suitable locality.

Scotland, West Central One site: one singing during 9th to 26th June.

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	5	3	4	5	3	4	7	3	4	1	4
Pairs proved breeding	5	0	1	2	1	2	4	2	7	1	3
Pairs possibly breeding	8	3	5	6	3	5	10	4	12	1	6

A better year, in which some of the 'possibles' might be thought 'probable'.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

One site; one pair.

County B One site: male from 24th May, a pair in June to 7th July, no proof of nesting, but rumours of egg-collectors.

No reports were received from the Western Isles or from Shetland, but will be included in the next report, if available.

Mediterranean Gull *Larus melanocephalus*

Two sites: two pairs attempted breeding.

Hampshire One site: eggs laid, but washed out by high tide.

County B One site: one pair attempted to breed, but failed; second pair present on 2nd June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	5	4	2
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	3	2
Max. no. pairs or singles	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	5	6	3

Colonisation is unlikely to prosper until the birds start to breed here successfully.

Little Gull *Larus minutus*

Three sites, but no suggestion of breeding.

Essex Three sites: (1) up to four present all summer; (2) three on 6th June; (3) the species was present most of the summer.

With successful colonies in the Netherlands, and the increasing frequency with which the species occurs in the Irish Sea, it would seem to be only a matter of time before the Little Gull becomes an established breeder in Britain.

Snowy Owl *Nyctea scandiaca*

One site: three females, two of them laying single, unfertilised eggs.

Shetland One site: on Fetlar, three females throughout the summer and four on 26th May, two of them laying single unfertilised eggs; no males.

Wryneck *Jynx torquilla*

Nine sites: 0-10 pairs breeding.

Huntingdonshire One site: one singing for 15-20 minutes on 12th April.

Northamptonshire One site: one singing for at least 20 minutes on 11th April.

Perthshire One site: one, probably two, singing in wood on 27th June.

County D One site: one singing during 7th to 26th May.

County E Five sites: (1) one singing on 30th May; (2) one singing on 26th April; (3) one singing during 9th May to 14th June; (4) singles on 30th May, 1st to 4th June and 2nd July: may have nested locally; (5) one seen during 13th to 16th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	3	6	10	7	17	22	7	11	2	9
Pairs proved breeding	2	1	3	1	7	4	1	1	0	0
Pairs possibly breeding	3	6	10	7	19	23	9	14	2	10

A rather more promising year than 1981, but with no proof of breeding. The English birds seem likely to have been on passage, but if pairing occurs soon after arrival, they do become silent and secretive almost at once.

Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

Seven sites: 2-7 pairs breeding.

Cumbria One site: single on 3rd May.

Inverness-shire Two sites: (1) pair feeding four young about five days old on 12th July; (2) two adults on 22nd July, but no suggestion of breeding.

Shetland One site: pair with five eggs on 8th July, failed.

Sutherland Two sites: (1) agitated adult on 6th May; (2) adult on 20th July.

Yorkshire, West One site: adult feeding with flock of Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* on 15th July, one adult and five juveniles feeding with Mistle Thrushes on 16th July.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	3	8	10	11	6	3	6	5	6	7
Pairs proved breeding	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	0	2
Pairs possibly breeding	3	7	10	12	6	4	6	5	6	7

Whilst breeding remains sporadic, the species cannot yet be thought of as well-established as a British breeding bird.

Redwing *Turdus iliacus*

42 sites: 30-62 pairs breeding.

Inverness-shire 21 sites: (1)-(21) 12 pairs proved breeding, and further 16 records of singing males.

Kent One site: present in July and August, possibly breeding.

Ross-shire Five sites: (1) two or three pairs in song from 17th April; (2) pair feeding young on 13th June; (3)-(5) one or two singing at each in May and, in one site, in June.

Shetland One site: pair reared six young.

Sutherland 14 sites: (1)-(14) 16 pairs reared young, and six other singing males.

1981 Inverness-shire Two sites: (1) three nests, with five, six and six young reared respectively, and at least four other pairs or singing males; (2) one nest, successful at second attempt.

1973 Lanarkshire One site: nest found containing four eggs, outcome not known.

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	?	12	28	25	10	10	12	6	18	6	42
Pairs proved breeding	12	5	4	13	3	2	3	2	7	4	30
Pairs possibly breeding	42	13	28	53	15	16	17	9	32	11	62

A much better year than 1981, but the improved figures arise largely from detailed fieldwork by a small number of observers. The number of proved breeding records was the highest in the Panel's history.

Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*

63 sites: 29-202 pairs breeding.

Cambridgeshire Two sites: (1) three singing, and four juveniles ringed between 1st July and 25th September; (2) one singing occasionally during the summer.

Cornwall Six sites: (1) male and two females, one nest with broods of two and three, second nest with brood of three; (2) pair bred, possibly second pair; (3) male present from 24th May to at least 2nd July; (4)-(6) maximum of three males, in April.

Devon Nine sites: (1) one singing during 3rd January to 22nd April; (2) one singing during February to December, but two heard during May; (3) one singing throughout the year; (4) up to 30 singing in April, with an estimated 20-25 breeding pairs; (5) three singing in January, two in February and May, one in June and one from September to November; (6) three singing on 28th February and 10th April, two singing on 24th April; (7) two singing from 15th April into May, one singing October; (8) two singing on 25th April, 7th and 25th May; (9) one singing in late May and June.

Dorset Seven sites: (1)-(7) nine, five, two, one, two, four and one males, respectively; one pair reported to have bred, but the figure likely to have been much higher.

Essex Two sites: (1) pair present from 21st April onwards; (2) male from 6th May onwards.

Hampshire Ten sites: (1) nine singing; (2) male on 7th June; (3) male April to May; (4) male in April; (5) male on 3rd May; (6) male during 17th April to 6th June; (7) male present, juvenile ringed 8th July; (8) one in mid June; (9) three males throughout the summer; (10) three males, with one pair proved breeding.

Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) male holding territory from 19th May to 7th July; (2) one singing 31st May. The species reported to be almost wiped out in the county by the hard winter of 1981/82.

Isle of Wight Two sites: (1) one heard on 21st February in a previously occupied site; (2) one heard on 8th February and 1st October.

Kent Five sites: (1)-(3) 45 singing males, with two pairs with young out of the nest at the time of the survey; (4) one or two singing males on five dates between 10th May and 30th June; (5) two singing males throughout April and May, then one until 26th June. A decline between 1980 and 1981, and a more pronounced one between 1981 and 1982 considered real rather than the result of poorer coverage.

Norfolk Eight sites: (1)-(3) single singing birds; (4)-(6) two singing birds at each; (7) three singing; (8) 12-14 singing.

Somerset Three sites: (1) two pairs present, the males singing from April to December; (2) pair with newly fledged young on 25th May, the first proved breeding for the county; (3) female present from 10th July to end of year.

Suffolk Eight sites: (1)-(5) single singing birds; (6) five singing; (7) six singing; (8) seven singing.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Counties	2	3	3	8	10	14	14	11	16	12
Sites (excluding Kent)	1	3	8	14	32	41	33	50	59	58
Pairs proved breeding	1	5	8	8	13	30	46	19	56	29
Pairs possibly breeding	14	16	75	80	153	174	163	198	162	202

Although there was some decline, the species appears to have survived the cold period of the 1981/82 winter rather well, and the number of 'possibles' was the highest yet recorded.

Savi's Warbler *Locustella luscinioides*

11 sites: 0-18 pairs breeding.

Cleveland One site: one during 21st to 28th May, brief attempt at mating with Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus scirpaceus* seen on 28th May.

Cumbria One site: bird singing on many dates between 6th April and 17th June.

Dorset One site: two pairs probably bred.

Kent Two sites: (1) two singing from 13th and 15th April to 2nd July; (2) one or two singing 15th to 27th April and one on 3rd July. A known egg-collector was found in the reeds.

Norfolk Four sites: (1) six pairs; (2)-(4) one singing at each.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) song heard from 25th April to 6th May; (2) pair present and thought to have bred.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	4	5	3	8	13	15	15	14	8	11
Pairs proved breeding	0	1	1	0	3	4	6	2	5	0
Pairs possibly breeding	13	8	3	9	26	28	30	29	15	18

If the two northern birds represent 'overshoot' it is curious that there were no reports from counties peripheral to the main breeding areas. It is doubtful whether any significance should be attached at this stage to the absence of proved breeding records.

Marsh Warbler *Acrocephalus palustris*

26 sites: 2-74 pairs breeding.



Dorset Two sites: (1) male from 18th May to 24th July; (2) male from 4th to 30th June.

Gloucestershire Four sites: (1)-(2) singles singing; (3) pair reared at least one young; (4) pair present, with two singing birds on one day; the most records for the county since 1974.

Kent One or two sites: (1) singing bird on 30th and 31st May; (2) an adult feeding juveniles on 31st July was thought to be of this species, one adult was present in the area on 1st August, a nest, not found until January 1983, was shown to an expert on the species and judged to be most likely that of a Marsh Warbler.

Worcestershire 18 sites: (1)-(18) 45 pairs probably bred, with a further 20 possibles.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	9	6	3	5	6	15	15	8	3	8
Pairs proved breeding	5	0	0	0	2	4	1	2	0	2
Pairs possibly breeding	15	7	5	5	11	15	23	12	3	9

The figures in the table (above) omit the Worcestershire records. If they are included, the sites increase to 26 and the possible breeding pairs to 74. It is evident that much careful fieldwork lies behind the valuable Worcestershire status survey. Whilst there are no signs of an increase, there is equally no evidence of a steady decline.

Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*

19 sites (counting the New Forest as one): 8-312 pairs breeding.

Cornwall Six sites (1)-(4) total of four, possibly five, pairs bred, single juveniles seen July to November; (5) one singing 31st May; (6) three pairs bred, adults carrying food.

Devon Two sites: (1) pair in late May; (2) one singing on 14th April, female and second singing male nearby on 15th and 16th April.

Dorset Two sites: (1)(2) total of 28 pairs, compared with 46 in 1981.

Hampshire Two sites: (1) 56 pairs or singing males in three main areas, extrapolated to give a total New Forest population of about 250 pairs, the severe weather of the 1981/82 winter thought to have had little effect on the population here; (2) three pairs bred (elsewhere in this part of the county, the species was wiped out by the extensive snow cover in winter 1981/82).

Isle of Wight One site: one seen 15th May, 11th July, 20th August; this site has been occupied in most recent years and breeding is considered probable.

Surrey Six sites: (1) one male; (2) five pairs; (3) six or seven pairs; (4) two pairs and one additional male; (5) one pair; (6) five pairs. The majority of the Surrey pairs are thought to have bred successfully. In common with northeast Hampshire, a big reduction in the breeding population, estimated at 60%.

We are grateful for the detailed information supplied, which makes this report more complete than usual. The winter losses, although locally severe, do not appear to have affected the total population too badly.

Firecrest *Regulus ignicapillus*

21 sites: 4-44 pairs breeding.

Avon One site: one singing from 2nd April to 11th June.

Buckinghamshire Three sites: (1) nine territorial males between 3rd April and 14th August, of which two reared young (this site held 14 males in 1981); (2) two singing, one during 5th to 9th May and one during 9th to 24th May; (3) one singing 1st June, but did not stay. Recorder commented that detailed mapping revealed that territories can be three or four times larger than those of Goldcrests *R. regulus*: this should be borne in mind when assessing numbers during any census.

Cambridgeshire One site: male during 4th and 11th June (one observer reported a pair).

Cheshire Two sites: (1) male on 8th May; (2) male on 14th May, two males (considered to be second and third individuals) on 15th May, and one male on 26th May (thus, three, possibly four, males singing within a linear distance of 3.5 km during 8th to 26th May, but note comment under Buckinghamshire).

Devon Three sites: (1) one during 20th February to 20th March, two on 21st March, male ringed on 30th May was retrapped on 13th June; (2) one singing on 30th April; (3) one singing on 27th March.

Essex One site: one singing during 14th March to 15th August, juvenile on 14th August.

Hampshire Four sites: (1) 12 'crests' singing Firecrest-like songs, three of which were definitely Firecrests, but two of which appeared to be Goldcrests *R. regulus* [we know of previous records of Firecrests mimicking the song of the Goldcrest (*Brit. Birds* 73: 477-478), but not vice versa. Eds]; (2) male displaying to female Goldcrest in May and June, with possibly a second male; (3) one singing on 19th May; (4) male on 15th May, presumed a migrant.

Hertfordshire One site: two singing on boundary with Buckinghamshire.

Kent One site: eight singing and holding territory on various dates during May to July, one paired (figures lower than for 1981, partly reflecting poorer coverage, but population clearly reduced at main site).

Norfolk One site: male paired with female Goldcrest and carrying either nest material or food on 31st May.

Suffolk One site: two pairs, juveniles seen with one.

Worcestershire Two sites: (1) male singing during 28th March to 13th April, female present during 11th to 13th April; (2) male on 10th May. The recorder comments 'Colonisation seems likely before long'.

1981 Cheshire One site: one singing 17th April.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	5	13	32	15	12	7	25	30	35	21
Pairs proved breeding	2	1	4	4	2	1	9	7	15	4
Pairs possibly breeding	18	37	123	28	31	11	73	78	102	44

These are the lowest numbers since 1978, but it would be premature to see in them a significant decline. Fieldwork during the year emphasised the difficulties of accurate census work due to the large territories which the species holds, and re-emphasised the risks of hybridisation with Goldcrests, now well attested.

Golden Oriole *Oriolus oriolus*

12 sites: 3-21 pairs breeding.

Berkshire One site: one singing at dawn on 6th June, no subsequent record.

Gwent One site: female on 26th May and male on 25th June.

Hertfordshire Two sites: (1) one singing on 1st and 5th May; (2) male paid brief visit to garden, date not recorded.

Huntingdonshire One site: male holding territory from mid May to early June.

Kent Four sites: (1) green bird singing on 19th May; (2) green bird singing on 17th May and yellow one seen on 30th May; (3) one flying west on 19th May; (4) a believed male seen and a second bird heard on 2nd June.

Suffolk Two sites: (1) ten or more males present, two or three family parties seen; (2) pair present throughout summer.

County E One site: one pair bred.

1980 Hampshire One site: two, probably three, birds in trees, behaving in a manner suggestive of breeding.

1979 Huntingdonshire One site: male seen and heard on several dates between May and July.

1980 Huntingdonshire One site: male seen and heard on three dates between early April and mid June, possible female seen in late May.

1980 County F Two sites: (1) male seen and heard on 15th and 16th May; (2) one present on 8th June.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	2	3	4	11	16	14	17	17	13	12
Pairs proved breeding	1	2	2	7	6	7	3	2	4	3
Pairs possibly breeding	8	4	7	23	21	28	30	28	26	21

A surprisingly inconspicuous, cover-haunting species which can often remain in an area without showing itself. Breeding is generally hard to prove without risking disturbance, and the numbers published are certainly minima.

Red-backed Shrike *Lanius collurio*

Eight sites: 5-8 pairs breeding (but no information from two key areas).

Suffolk Six sites: (1)-(6) single pairs, five known to have bred, one pair rearing two young and one three.

County A Two sites: (1) male on 17th May, not seen subsequently; (2) two seen on 1st June, but not subsequently.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Counties	8	8	7	5	13	11	10	5	5	2
Pairs proved breeding	30	30	51	3	48	13	14	23	10	5
Pairs possibly breeding	48	52	56	25	64	37	52	31	39	8

Unless there are unsubmitted records, 1982 was much the worst year on record. It should be noted, however, that there was a significant increase in 1977, after the last really poor year of 1976.

Brambling *Fringilla montifringilla*

Ten sites: 2-10 pairs breeding.

Caithness One site: one singing during 8th to 22nd June.

Lothians One site: one singing on 9th May.

Ross-shire One site: male seen on many dates between 20th May and 20th June, calling frequently, but almost certainly unmated.

Scotland Six sites: (1) pair fledged five young; (2) female feeding three fledged young on 5th

July, no male seen, but young appeared to be pure-bred; (3) male singing on 22nd May; (4) pair seen on 27th May, but no song heard; (5) male flew over, calling, on 17th June; (6) one singing on 14th June.

County C One site: male seen on 1st June.

1981 Northamptonshire One site: recently fledged juvenile caught and ringed on 11th July, judged too young to have travelled far.

1981 Inverness-shire One site: moulting female caught on 27th July.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	1	0	0	0	2	2	3	3	2	10
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Pairs possibly breeding	1	0	0	0	3	2	4	4	2	10

A year showing the kind of success which has been anticipated for almost a decade.

Serin *Serinus serinus*

Five sites: 1-7 pairs breeding.

Devon Three sites: (1) singles on 12th May, when singing, and 9th June; (2) present from 22nd March to 22nd August, with three singing males and one female, one pair reared seven young in two broods; (3) female on 11th April and male on 20th June.

Hertfordshire One site: one singing on 26th May, not recorded on further visits.

Kent One site: male and female during 28th February to 7th March, female only during 8th to 23rd March, one, probably a male, on 23rd October, two on 8th November, female during 21st to 23rd November.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	3	5
Pairs proved breeding	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1
Pairs possibly breeding	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	1	6	7

Another satisfactory year, but colonisation remains more potential than actual.

Scarlet Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

One site: one pair breeding.

Highland Region One site: nest found on 23rd June, contained two eggs and two nestlings estimated to be two or three days old on 4th July (*Brit. Birds* 77: 133-135).

This is the first known breeding record of the Scarlet Rosefinch in Britain. It had, however, been anticipated for some years, since the species has been extending its range westwards in Scandinavia and eastern Europe.

Yellow-breasted Bunting *Emberiza aureola*

One site: one in song in June.

Highland Region One site: a male, in song, on 14th June, not located on 16th June, and no sign of a female.

The bird was probably on passage, but colonisation by northern and eastern species is often preceded by a series of reports of birds seen in summer.

Chil Bunting *Emberiza cirulus*

100 sites: 38-167 breeding pairs.

Buckinghamshire Four sites: (1)-(3) single singing males; (4) three singing males and a female carrying food.

Cornwall Seven sites: (1) male singing regularly; (2) male singing, pair seen with nesting material; (3) male seen twice; (4) singing male, seen only once; (5) a pair, the male singing regularly; (6) male seen; (7) three singing males.

Devon Present in 74 tetrads, which have been counted as sites in assessing the national total above. There were 35 pairs proved breeding, 99 probable and 130 possible. In 1974, there were 136 possibles, which suggests that, in this key county, the species may be more or less holding its own.

Hampshire Two sites: (1) pair, and possibly second female; (2) one singing male.

Somerset Approximately 12 sites, with one pair proved breeding, 11 probable and 19 possible.

Surrey One site: singing male, with two on 26th April, but no female or juveniles seen.

This species was the subject of a special survey, organised by Humphrey Sitters on behalf of the BTO, and all records have been assessed by him to ensure uniform treatment. Because of the survey, the coverage was probably more thorough than usual.

Snow Bunting *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Twelve sites: 6-17 pairs breeding.

Argyll One site: three in possible habitat on 6th May (altitude lower than is typical of breeding birds, so may have been passage migrants).

Grampian Region Two sites: (1) three pairs on 26th May, four broods seen between 23rd June and early August; (2) at least one pair with young. Judged to be an about average year, with both first and second broods successful.

Inverness-shire Eight sites: (1) female with two juveniles and female with three juveniles joined two males around summit on 21st July; (2) pair on 21st July; (3) female on 21st July; (4) male, in song, on 29th July; (5) one in April, but none in late July; (6) pair, male in song, on 29th and 30th June; (7) female on 29th June; (8) male on 1st June, one or two males singing elsewhere on 6th July.

Ross-shire One site: one seen on 25th April.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Sites	5	7	13	1	5	3	13	4	2	12
Pairs proved breeding	6	2	2	4	4	3	7	4	2	6
Pairs possibly breeding	11	13	20	7	15	6	21	10	11	17

This report is based on a gratifying number of fairly detailed reports. There is no reason to suppose that the 1982 breeding distribution and numbers were anything but normal.

Unless there is a very special reason for doing otherwise, reports for the Panel should be sent via the relevant county recorder. Correspondence should be directed to the Panel's current secretary, Robert Spencer, at the address given below.

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