

RARE BREEDING BIRDS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM IN 1996

MALCOLM OGILVIE AND THE RARE BREEDING BIRDS PANEL



Brooding female Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (Stuart Brocklehurst)

This, the twenty-fourth annual Report of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel, contains information on the breeding in 1996 of the species on the Panel's newly enlarged list, whether proven, probable or possible. As usual, the amount of detail included varies according to the perceived sensitivity of the species to intentional disturbance or to nest robbery. Thus, for the majority, the records are grouped into the Panel's ten regions (see below), though for some it is possible to list the actual counties. For a few species, only country totals are given.

THE PANEL

The current (March 1999) membership of the Panel is Dr L. A. Batten, Dr C. J. Bibby, Dr H. Q. P. Crick, Dr J. T. R. Sharrock, Dr K. W. Smith, D. A. Stroud and Dr M. A. Ogilvie (Secretary). The individual members of the Panel serve in a personal capacity, but four of them are additionally able to reflect the interests and

needs of the respective sponsoring bodies. The work of the Panel is supported financially by the JNCC (on behalf of the country conservation agencies), with further contributions coming from the RSPB, the BTO and *British Birds*.

The Panel collects records from the whole of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, but not from the Republic of Ireland. Coverage in 1996 was not quite complete, though at least some records (or nil returns) were received from virtually every county and region. Information for some species remains patchy, however, and any known gaps are mentioned in the species accounts.

While bird-photographers may, in appropriate circumstances, be granted licences to photograph rare breeding birds in the UK, the RBBP does not wish to foster the expansion of this beyond the present level. Photographs of rare breeding birds are deliberately, therefore, not included with the Panel's annual reports.

THE PANEL'S LIST

This year saw the implementation of the Panel's decision to extend the list of species that it deals with, to take in all those on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The rationale behind this was described by Ogilvie (1997). Although this has meant that county and regional bird recorders were asked for even more information than before, the simplifying of the records requested for the commoner species has, it is hoped, saved them an equivalent amount of time in form-filling.

The commoner species are now mostly dealt with in a more abbreviated form than before, though still, it is hoped, giving informative summaries. The way in which data are presented is not fixed and can be expected to evolve in future years.

The Panel's list also now includes the scarcer introduced and naturalised species, and a separate report on these is being prepared for publication in *British Birds* later in the year.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1996

The winter of 1995/96 was colder and snowier than normal and continued into the coldest March for about ten years, while early April was, if anything, even colder. This undoubtedly had an adverse effect on the earlier nesting species, such as Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* and Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*, which were very late in starting in several areas. May was also colder than average, with several spells of wet weather, and, while June became hot and sunny over many parts of the country, for some species this was too late to improve their nesting success.

Slavonian Grebes *Podiceps auritus* had a disappointing season, with declines in the number of localities and the number of pairs. Only 17 young were known to have been reared to fledging, compared with 46 in 1995. Several early clutches of Great Bitterns *Botaurus stellaris* were thought to have succumbed to the cold weather in May, though it is pleasing to be able to report a slight increase in the number

of booming males. Despite the off-putting spring weather, the long-expected first breeding of Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* took place, in Dorset, with nest-building or other related activity noted at a number of other sites. Spoonbill *Platalea leucorodia* would appear likely to be the next such colonist.

Most of the wildfowl did moderately well, though the number of Garganeys *Anas querquedula* was well down on last year, especially in Scotland. The decline in the number of Common Pochards *Aythya ferina* may reflect the change in reporting methods since last year, but there is some evidence that it is real, at least in some areas.

Reporting of birds of prey necessarily includes a degree of secrecy associated with their vulnerability to persecution. We appeal to all observers to pass their records to the Panel, where they are treated with the utmost confidentiality, so that a full picture of distribution and numbers does exist in at least one archive. Honey-buzzards *Pernis apivorus* appeared to have had a good year, with 18 young fledged, the largest number ever recorded. Even so, the existence of further breeding pairs is known to the Panel and, if details were submitted, even with an instruction for non-publication, the size and health of the British breeding population would be much easier to assess.

Red Kites *Milvus milvus* continue to increase, both the wild population in Wales, although production was down thanks to the cold spring, and the re-established populations in England and Scotland. The other re-established species, White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, also did well, with record numbers of pairs breeding and young reared. Both Marsh Circus *aeruginosus* and Montagu's Harriers *C. pygargus* suffered declines compared with 1995, but Ospreys *Pandion haliaetus* increased yet again, to top 100 breeding pairs, probably the first time that that number has bred in Scotland for 200 years. Production was good, too, despite the taking of some clutches by thieves, and the failure of 12 other nests, mostly as a result of bad weather.

It was a relatively modest year for Common Quails *Coturnix coturnix*, while Spotted Crakes *Porzana porzana* did no better than last year. It is pleasing, however, to report a further increase in the number of singing Corn Crakes *Crex crex*. The poor weather and the continued high predation by, especially, Red Foxes *Vulpes vulpes* kept the number of young Avocets *Recurvirostra avocetta* to under 200, despite a new record number of breeding pairs (592-654). Stone-curlews *Burhinus oedipnemus* also suffered from nest failures and slightly lowered production in the cold spring, but they, too, achieved a new highest number of breeding pairs in recent years. Ruffs *Philomachus pugnax* were very scarce and the one breeding attempt failed. Black-tailed Godwits *Limosa limosa*, on the other hand, had quite a good year, though at a reduced number of localities. The rarer northern waders just about held their own, while Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus* followed the pattern of the southerly breeding species in having an increased number of breeding birds but reduced production of young.

Following several years of little change, a record number of pairs of Mediterranean Gulls *Larus melanocephalus* bred. Roseate Terns *Sterna dougallii* did slightly worse than last year in Britain, but this was more than offset by increases in the Republic of Ireland.

Hoopoes *Upupa epops* bred for the first time in Wales, and for the first time in Britain for ten years, but four singing Wrynecks *Jynx torquilla* were all that was reported. Numbers of Black Redstarts *Phoenicurus ochruros* depend critically on surveys in a few city centres. The bomb in the centre of Manchester prevented that area being checked, while observations in both London and Birmingham were incomplete.

The first full survey of Cetti's Warblers *Cettia cetti* revealed a total of 519-574 singing males, about 25% up on the numbers reported to the Panel in 1995 and showing the value of periodic detailed

censuses. Savi's Warblers *Locustella luscinioides* failed to breed for the second year running, and Marsh Warblers *Acrocephalus palustris* showed a further decline, back to the levels in the late 1980s. Golden Orioles *Oriolus oriolus* continue to struggle, not helped by their obvious susceptibility to poor spring weather, both cold and wet. A pair of breeding Serins *Serinus serinus* was unexpected. Numbers of Cirl Buntings *Emberiza cirlus* were down, but productivity was quite good.

CONSERVATION USES OF PANEL DATA

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

PUBLICATIONS

The bibliography at the end of this report gives details of published results of surveys into the numbers and distribution of several Panel species.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

The following specialist contributors are also deserving of thanks: Jake Allsopp and the Golden Oriole Group, Colin Croke, Peter E. Davis, Roy Dennis, Dr Andy Evans, Dr Ian Evans, Dr Rhys Green, Bob Image, Steve Petty and Dr Ron Summers.

We are grateful to the licensing officers of the three country agencies – Peter Clement (English Nature), John Ralston (Scottish Natural Heritage) and Iwan Hughes (Countryside Commission for Wales) – for their ready co-operation in supplying information. Sandra Lambton and Dr David Gibbons of the RSPB kindly provided survey information.

We should also like to express our sincere thanks to all the very many individuals whose fieldwork produced the observations which make up this report.

KEY TO GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Note that recent further reorganisation of local government throughout Britain has made some of the names below obsolete. Exactly as happened after the last major reorganisation in 1974, however, some English county and area bird societies have changed their recording areas and others have not. So, without defining the precise boundaries of the ‘counties’ given below, these are, so far as possible, the names used by the local recorders who sent the Panel their information.

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

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

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

ENGLAND, E Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Northamptonshire, Suffolk.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Derbyshire,

Herefordshire, Leicestershire (with Rutland), Nottinghamshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, West Midlands, Worcestershire.

ENGLAND, N Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Durham, Greater Manchester, Isle of Man, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, North Humberside, Tyne & Wear, Yorkshire (North, South and West).

WALES The Watsonian vice-counties of Anglesey (Môn), Brecon (Brycheiniog), Carmarthen (Caerfyrddin), Caernarfon, Ceredigion, Denbigh (Dinbych), Flint (Fflint), Glamorgan (Morgannwg), Gwent, Meirionnydd, Montgomery (Trefaldwyn), Pembroke (Penfro), Radnor (Maesyfed).

SCOTLAND, S The local bird-recording areas of Dumfries & Galloway, Borders, Lothian, Ayrshire, Clyde (comprising the former Dunbartonshire, Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire), Clyde Islands (Arran, the Cumbraes, Bute).

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

SCOTLAND, N & W The local bird-recording areas of Argyll & Bute (less the island of Bute), Caithness, Highland (Badenoch & Strathspey, Inverness, Ross & Cromarty, Sutherland), Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides.

NORTHERN IRELAND Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

The definitions of ‘Confirmed breeding’, ‘Probable breeding’ and ‘Possible breeding’ used in the Panel’s reports follow those recommended by the European Ornithological Atlas Committee (now part of the European Bird Census Council). Within tables, the abbreviations ‘Confirmed (pairs)’ and ‘Possible/probable (pairs)’ mean ‘Number of pairs confirmed breeding’ and ‘Number of pairs possibly or probably breeding’, respectively.

RED-THROATED DIVER *Gavia stellata*

Three surveys carried out. Other, more casual, breeding observations not listed.

SCOTLAND, N & W

SHETLAND The 58 successful pairs located in Shetland Ringing Group study area had a ratio of one-chick to two-chick broods of 1 : 0.6, close to the long-term average.

ORKNEY Of 110 pairs on Mainland and Hoy, 97

probably bred, and 42 young were reared from 93 proved breeding attempts, with below-average production of 0.43 per pair.

ARGYLL Up to 34 pairs located (incomplete survey), but only six of 14 known to have bred were successful.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The Shetland study, carried out by the local ringing group, was begun in 1979. The number of successful pairs fluctuates mainly between 40 and 65. The total British breeding population was estimated at 935 pairs in 1994 (Gibbons *et al.* 1997).

BLACK-THROATED DIVER *Gavia arctica*

A total of 120 sites was monitored by the RSPB, of which 96 were occupied, fledging 47 young, mean production per breeding pair 0.49. Mean production for raft nests was 0.68 young/pair and for natural nests 0.41. The following detailed information is included in this total.

SCOTLAND, N & W

HIGHLAND Total of 83 sites monitored, 73 of which were occupied by breeding pairs and a total of 38 young fledged, with about-average production of 0.52 young per breeding pair.

ARGYLL Of six breeding pairs, four reared a total of five young; up to four pairs did not breed.

SCOTLAND, S

CLYDE Three pairs at two sites, but only one, unsuccessful, breeding attempt. **ELSEWHERE** Singles at three sites.

SCOTLAND, MID

PERTH & KINROSS Five pairs, of which one known to have been successful. **FORTH** Of four pairs at three sites, two nested, both failed.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The research and monitoring carried out by the RSPB has conclusively shown the value of rafts in increasing breeding success. The most recent national survey (1994) showed a total British population of 155-189 pairs (RSPB unpublished data).

PIED-BILLED GREBE *Podilymbus podiceps*

No breeding records.

Although there were two records from Cornwall at the end of the year (*Brit. Birds* 90: 457), one of which was found dead, there were no records from the 1994 breeding site at Stithians Reservoir.

RED-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps grisegena*

Eight localities in six counties: one displaying pair, one possible pair and one single displaying adult.

ENGLAND, E Four localities: (1) one from 6th January to 7th September, with second from 3rd February to 31st March; (2) one in summer plumage, 16th April, calling and displaying; (3) usual adult, 31st March to 1st September; (4) one, 24th February to 30th March.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality: single from

January to at least 5th May.

ENGLAND, N One locality: adult on 25th May.

SCOTLAND, S One locality: usual pair summered with some display and platform-building, but no proof of breeding.

SCOTLAND, MID One locality: adult on 16th June.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	5	10	8	6	5	3	9	7	10	6	8
No. individuals	5	9	12	9	3	4	12	7	13	10	10
No. pairs	1	1	3	3	2	1	3	0	1	4	2

Once again, the southern Scotland birds demonstrated that they were indeed a pair, but got no further than platform-building. Elsewhere, the increased activity shown last year was reduced to lower, more usual, levels.

SLAVONIAN GREBE *Podiceps auritus*

24 localities: 49-55 pairs breeding.

SCOTLAND, MID AND N & W 24 localities: just 17 young to fledging; also six unmated (1)-(24) total of 49 pairs bred producing birds.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	43	39	22	39	36	31	34	33	32	31	24
Confirmed (pairs)	68	33	31	70	74	61	72	73	51	58	49
Possible/probable (pairs)	19	6	6	8	12	13	5	4	8	7	6
Max. total pairs	87	39	37	78	86	74	77	77	59	65	55

After last year's slight increase, a disappointing decline and particularly poor production, only 17 young known to have fledged, compared with 46 in 1995. The young reared per pair was only 0.35, much lower than the long-term average of 0.62. The only bright note was the first proved breeding for many years in Caithness (two pairs, one of which reared three young). The Panel is grateful to the North of Scotland Regional Office of the RSPB for information on numbers and breeding performance.

BLACK-NECKED GREBE *Podiceps nigricollis*

34 localities in 19 counties: minimum 23-57 pairs breeding, fledging at least 14 young.

ENGLAND, SW Three localities: 0-6 pairs.

AVON One locality: single in summer plumage.

HAMPSHIRE One locality: pair in April-May where four pairs bred in 1995; two other birds; no sign of breeding.

WILTSHIRE One locality: five adults in breeding plumage including pair displaying.

ENGLAND, SE One locality: 0-1 pair.

HERTFORDSHIRE One locality: adult and immature seen at past nesting locality from 31st July to late August; no proof of breeding at this site.

ENGLAND, E One locality: 0-1 pair.

NORFOLK One locality: single in suitable habitat.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Ten localities: 0-10 pairs.

LEICESTERSHIRE Five localities: pair and five singles, all adults in summer plumage.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: two singles. WARWICKSHIRE Two localities: four adults in breeding plumage. WORCESTERSHIRE One locality: pair.

ENGLAND, N Eight localities: 15-19 pairs.

CHESHIRE Two localities: three pairs bred, plus one pair. GREATER MANCHESTER

Three localities: three pairs bred, fledging two young; three pairs probably bred but failed.

NORTHUMBERLAND Three localities: nine pairs bred, fledging seven young, plus three other pairs.

WALES One locality: 0-1 pair.

GWENT One locality: single in summer plumage.

SCOTLAND, S Two localities: 2-3 pairs.

BORDERS Two localities: pair bred and fledged two young; two singles.

SCOTLAND, MID Seven localities: 6-12 pairs.

ABERDEENSHIRE Two localities: two pairs, did not breed. ANGUS & DUNDEE One locality: six pairs bred, fledging two young. FIFE Two localities: two pairs, did not breed. PERTH & KINROSS Two localities: two pairs, did not breed.

N IRELAND One locality: 0-1 pair.

ANTRIM/LONDONDERRY One locality: single in summer plumage (also present in 1995).

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	15	19	22	19	19	25	29	31	32	30	32
Confirmed (pairs)	11	27	15	25	21	19	26	24	27	30	20
Possible/probable (pairs)	22	12	20	15	16	34	34	26	54	47	33
Max. total pairs	33	39	35	40	37	53	60	50	81	77	53

A relatively poor total, though there were some gaps in coverage, notably in eastern England.

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS *Diomedea melanophris*

There was no report of the regular Hermaness bird this year, last seen in July 1995 (*Brit. Birds* 89: 485).

GREAT BITTERN *Botaurus stellaris*

Ten localities with 22 booming males; at least eight young fledged from minimum of eight nests known to have been active. Also seen at six other sites.

ENGLAND, SW Two localities: (1) booming male, possibility of breeding; (2) single seen in March in suitable habitat.

ENGLAND, SE Three localities: (1) presumed pair in early April; (2) single on three dates in March and early June; (3) single in late April.

ENGLAND, E Nine localities: (1) six booming

males, two nests; (2) four booming males, one nest; (3)-(8) single booming males, nests at two sites; (9) adult present, not booming or breeding.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality: adult (present since June 1995) last seen mid May.

ENGLAND, N One locality: five booming males, three nests, at least five young fledged.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. booming localities	12	17	14	14	12	13	14	13	16	13	10
Confirmed nests	0	1	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	11	8
Booming males	23	22	30	30	20	19	19	17	20	20	22

Not a good season in terms of the number of sites where breeding took place, or for breeding success, with most first clutches in eastern England thought to have been deserted or to have failed around hatching as a result of the exceptionally cold weather during May. On the other hand, there was a small, but nevertheless encouraging, increase in the number of booming males. The Panel is grateful to the RSPB for supplying many of these data.

LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*

24 localities; at least one pair bred and seven other pairs may have done so.

ENGLAND, SW At least 23 localities.

CORNWALL A total of 31 birds present through summer at eight localities, with breeding activity noted at three, including nest-building and apparent incubation, though without success.

DEVON A total of 51 birds at 13 localities in May and 42 birds at ten localities in June. One occupied nest at one site, outcome unknown.

DORSET Pair raised three young at Brownsea

Island, Poole Harbour.

HAMPSHIRE Adult with recently fledged young on 3rd June, origin unknown, but indication of perhaps two other pairs in county.

WALES One locality.

PEMBROKE Six birds seen displaying at heronry in March and two pairs thought to have built nests and one may have incubated eggs, but no young seen.

The first breeding of this species in Britain duly took place (Lock & Cook 1998), as had been well forecast. Although successful breeding was known to have taken place only at one locality, breeding attempts were probable at at least six more. Little Egrets were present in several other counties during the summer months, but only in those listed above did any breeding activity take place.

EURASIAN SPOONBILL *Platalea leucorodia*

At least 16 localities; at least 30-35 birds involved.

ENGLAND, E Present during the summer months at at least 15 different localities, though movement makes it difficult to determine precisely how many birds were involved. The largest number at any one locality was the peak count of 19 at Minsmere, Suffolk, in July. There were groups of up to

eight in Norfolk.

ENGLAND, N CHESHIRE Pair (including one ringed at Dutch colony) attempted breeding, Frodsham Marsh, with display and nest-building observed in May and June; up to three other individuals also present and occasionally nest-building.

It seems likely, from the increasing numbers summering and the observed activity in Cheshire, that breeding will take place before long.

WHOOPEE SWAN *Cygnus cygnus*

Five localities: two pairs bred successfully, two others failed.

SCOTLAND, MID One locality: two pairs bred, but both nests flooded and eggs destroyed.

SCOTLAND, N & W Four localities: (1) pair bred and fledged three young; (2) pair

bred, seen with three half-grown young in July at locality where failed breeding attempt in 1995; (3) pair held territory; (4) pair summered.

Two apparently wild pairs bred successfully, while the pairs derived from captive stock failed. There were no reports from England this year.

BLACK DUCK *Anas rubripes*

One locality: one bird.

ENGLAND, SW One locality: one male.

SCILLY The male, which had been present on

Tresco since 1st April 1994, stayed throughout 1996 (*Brit. Birds* 90: 462).

In 1995, this male was seen to be paired to a female Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, but in 1996 he remained solitary.

EURASIAN WIGEON *Anas penelope*

Breeding reports were received as follows:

ENGLAND, SE ESSEX Four pairs at three localities, of which two certainly bred. **HERTFORDSHIRE** Singles summering at three localities.

ENGLAND, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two pairs bred at one locality, six pairs present at four other localities. **SUFFOLK** Four birds summered at one locality and singles at two more.

ENGLAND, N NORTHUMBERLAND Six pairs bred at one locality (23 young seen) and single pairs at two more.

SCOTLAND, S DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Four pairs at one locality in April, one pair in June, no young seen. **BORDERS** Breeding at five localities, one brood seen. **CLYDE** Bred at

one locality.

SCOTLAND, MID ANGUS & DUNDEE 12 pairs at five localities, four broods seen. **FIFE** Pair bred at one locality, seven adults at second locality in June. **GRAMPIAN** Two pairs bred, of four present at one locality; one out of five at a second; pair bred at third. **MORAY & NAIRN** Two pairs at two localities, one brood seen.

SCOTLAND, N & W ARGYLL Two pairs bred at one locality, two pairs at second. **CAITHNESS** Bred at two localities. **HIGHLAND** 28 pairs at one locality. **ORKNEY** 12 pairs bred at six localities, pairs at three more. **SHETLAND** Bred at four or five localities. **WESTERN ISLES** Two broods seen at one locality.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The information presented above, referring to about 120-130 pairs, relates to a population estimated at 300-500 pairs (*The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*). With the great majority of those in remote areas of north and west Scotland, the value of having this as a Panel species will be in monitoring the status and distribution away from this core area.

GADWALL *Anas strepera*

Breeding reports were received as follows:

ENGLAND, SW HAMPSHIRE 22 pairs proved to breed and 13 pairs probably bred. **SUSSEX** Three pairs bred at one locality and one at a second. **WILTSHIRE** Three pairs bred at one locality, pair at second.

ENGLAND, SE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Three pairs bred at one locality and one at a second. **ESSEX** Six pairs proved to breed and 37 pairs probably bred, at 17 localities. **HERTFORDSHIRE** 46 pairs bred (33 at one locality where 199 young), plus ten females. **KENT** 23 pairs proved to breed, six pairs probably bred, plus four pairs. **MIDDLESEX** Four pairs bred, at three localities.

ENGLAND, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE 57 pairs proved to breed, 108 pairs probably bred, plus 13

pairs. **NORTHAMPTONSHIRE** At least eight pairs bred, at seven localities. **SUFFOLK** 22 pairs reported from four localities.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL DERBYSHIRE Nine pairs proved to breed and two pairs probably bred. **WARWICKSHIRE** About 17 pairs reported, no broods seen. **WORCESTERSHIRE** Three pairs bred, at three localities.

ENGLAND, N CHESHIRE 24 pairs bred at one locality. **CLEVELAND** Two pairs bred, at two localities. **GREATER MANCHESTER** Pair bred. **LANCASHIRE & MERSEYSIDE** At least 11 pairs bred, at four localities.

WALES ANGLESEY At least one pair bred. **CARMARTHEN** Seven birds at one locality in June.

SCOTLAND, S BORDERS Pair possibly bred.

CLYDE 11 pairs bred, at three localities. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Two pairs, at two localities. LOTHIAN Pair bred (first since 1961). SCOTLAND, MID ANGUS & DUNDEE 17 pairs, at four localities (12 pairs and 48 young at one).

FIFE Pair bred. PERTH & KINROSS Pair at one locality.

SCOTLAND, N & W ARGYLL Pair bred. HIGHLAND Pair bred. ORKNEY Six pairs (three broods seen), at two localities.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. Although incomplete, with several counties not submitting records or estimates, the total reported above, of about 460-470 pairs, is a reasonable proportion of the estimated British breeding population of about 770 pairs (*The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*), and the Panel should be able to monitor its spread north and west from its original stronghold in East Anglia.

NORTHERN PINTAIL *Anas acuta*

33 localities: 8-53 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW One locality: 0-1 pair. SOMERSET One locality: pair in suitable habitat, no evidence of breeding.

ENGLAND, SE Five localities: 0-7 pairs. ESSEX One locality: pair probably bred. KENT Three localities: four pairs, and a single. SUSSEX One locality: pair.

ENGLAND, E Four localities: 0-6 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: four pairs, and a male, no evidence of breeding. SUFFOLK One locality: pair possibly bred.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality: 0-1 pair. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair until mid May, female to early June.

ENGLAND, N Two localities: 1-4 pairs. CHESHIRE Two localities: pair bred, plus three pairs.

WALES One locality: 0-2 pairs. PEMBROKESHIRE One locality: two pairs probably bred, but no young seen.

SCOTLAND, S Two localities: 0-2 pairs. DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: pair, no evidence of breeding. LOTHIAN One locality: male in June.

SCOTLAND, MID One locality: 0-1 pair. ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: pair in June.

SCOTLAND, N & W 16 localities: 7-29 pairs. ARGYLL Five localities: two pairs bred, three further pairs present. INVERNESS One locality: two pairs bred, third pair present. ORKNEY Nine localities: three pairs bred, eight pairs probably bred, two other pairs and six males. SHETLAND One locality: two pairs, no evidence of breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	14	16	20	16	20	28	23	23	49	25	33
Confirmed (pairs)	6	7	14	11	9	4	13	4	20	11	8
Possible/probable (pairs)	12	14	15	28	27	39	35	43	56	34	45
Max. total pairs	18	21	29	38	36	43	48	47	76	45	53

Number of pairs and the number of localities are slightly up on last year, but note the effect of the full survey of Orkney in 1994, when 16 pairs and 11 singles were found.

GARGANEY *Anas querquedula*

60 localities: 15-78 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW Five localities: 1-10 pairs. AVON One locality: male in May. CORNWALL Two localities: (1) male in May/June and female/immature in August; (2) three juveniles from 22nd July into August, perhaps locally bred. DEVON All birds seen, including in May, thought to be migrants. DORSET One locality: pair displaying in May. SOMERSET One locality: pair bred, five further pairs present.

ENGLAND, SE 13 localities: 4-14 pairs. HERTFORDSHIRE Four localities: three pairs and a single in May and early June. KENT Four localities: pair bred, two other pairs and a single. SUSSEX Five localities: three pairs bred, two other pairs and a female.

ENGLAND, E 27 localities: 8-35 pairs. CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: seven

pairs bred, two successfully, one pair probably bred. HUNTINGDONSHIRE Four localities: three pairs and two males. NORFOLK 12 localities: pair bred, pairs or singles at ten other localities, up to six birds at one. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Four localities: four pairs. SUFFOLK Four localities: four males.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality: 0-1 pair. LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair.

ENGLAND, N Two localities: 1-3 pairs. CHESHIRE One locality: pair LANCASHIRE One locality: pair bred, second pair possibly bred.

WALES One locality: 0-1 pair. ANGLESEY One locality: pair, no evidence of breeding.

SCOTLAND, S Three localities: 0-4 pairs. CLYDE One locality: pair and two males in May,

female summered and may have bred unsuccessfully. **LOTHIAN** Two localities: (1) pair in May; (2) 18 birds, perhaps two family parties, on 5th August, in which case indicating successful breeding somewhere else in Scotland.

SCOTLAND, MID Three localities: 1-4 pairs.

ANGUS & DUNDEE One locality: pair bred, plus one other pair. **ABERDEENSHIRE** One

locality: pair in June, male into July. **PERTH & KINROSS** One locality: male in May and June.

SCOTLAND, N & W Five localities: 0-6 pairs.

ARGYLL Three localities: pair possibly bred, two females at second site, and one male at a third. **HIGHLAND** One locality: pair in May and June, no evidence of breeding. **ORKNEY** One locality: male in May and June, breeding suspected.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	42	36	37	81	87	90	90	73	65	80	60
Confirmed (pairs)	8	8	11	18	14	12	16	14	13	9	15
Possible/probable (pairs)	47	37	40	80	97	82	144	149	98	108	63
Max. total pairs	55	45	51	98	111	94	160	163	111	117	78

The maximum total pairs and the number of localities were the lowest since 1988, although confirmed breeding pairs were well up. This increase in confirmed breeding numbers was, however, largely influenced by the one site in Cambridgeshire.

COMMON POCHARD *Aythya ferina*

98 or more localities or areas: 269-369 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW Eight localities: 11-14 pairs.

AVON One locality: two pairs bred.

CORNWALL One locality: single summered.

HAMPSHIRE Three localities: seven pairs bred.

SOMERSET Three localities: two pairs bred, two pairs probably bred.

ENGLAND, SE 17 or more localities: 111-155 pairs.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: five pairs bred.

ESSEX 29 pairs bred, 40 pairs probably bred.

MIDDLESEX & INNER LONDON Eight localities: 27 pairs bred.

HERTFORDSHIRE Three localities: three pairs bred.

KENT 45 pairs bred, two other pairs present.

SURREY Three localities: two pairs bred, one other pair.

SUSSEX One locality: pair probably bred.

ENGLAND, E 25 localities: 71-82 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: three pairs bred, one other pair.

LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: six pairs bred.

NORFOLK Nine localities: 60 pairs bred (broods seen), no count of other pairs.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Seven localities: up to seven pairs.

SUFFOLK Five localities: two pairs bred, three other pairs.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Ten or more localities: 2-36 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE Ten pairs, no evidence of breeding.

LEICESTERSHIRE Five localities: up to six pairs and seven males.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: pair bred.

WARWICKSHIRE Pair bred,

pair probably bred, and six other pairs.

WORCESTERSHIRE Three localities: pair and two singles summered.

WEST MIDLANDS One locality: pair summered.

ENGLAND, N 15 localities: 28-31 pairs.

CHESHIRE Two localities: two pairs bred, plus two pairs.

CLEVELAND One locality: three pairs bred.

CUMBRIA One locality: pair bred.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: pair bred, pair probably bred.

LANCASHIRE Four localities: 13 pairs bred.

NORTHUMBERLAND Five localities: at least eight pairs bred.

WALES Five localities: 9-11 pairs.

ANGLESEY Two localities: eight pairs bred.

GLAMORGAN One locality: pair bred.

ELSEWHERE Two localities: pair, and female.

SCOTLAND, S Nine localities: 12-14 pairs.

BORDERS Seven localities: 12 pairs bred.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: male summered.

LOTHIAN One locality: pair in May.

SCOTLAND, MID Seven localities: 9-10 pairs.

ANGUS & DUNDEE Two localities: three pairs bred.

FIFE Two localities: two pairs bred at each.

GRAMPIAN One locality: pair in May.

PERTH & KINROSS Two localities: two pairs bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: pair.

ORKNEY One locality: pair bred.

N IRELAND One area: 15 pairs.

Lough Neagh basin: 15 broods seen.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	68	63	138	116	133	161	145	117	158	142	98+
Confirmed (pairs)	126	130	185	260	207	284	266	237	347	309	269
Possible/probable (pairs)	59	44	162	76	86	144	292	179	291	185	100
Max. total pairs	185	174	347	336	293	428	558	416	638	494	369

The new method of reporting this less-rare species means that, for counties where it is most common, the number of localities is no longer requested and there is less emphasis on summering singles which would formerly have gone in the 'Possible/probable' total. The reduction in the total of confirmed pairs does, however, seem genuine, with a number of counties reporting reduced numbers.

GREATER SCAUP *Aythya marila*

Eight localities: ten single males.

SCOTLAND, MID One locality: male from 4th May to 20th June. on 23rd May; (2)-(7) single males in May or June, no evidence of breeding.

SCOTLAND N Seven localities: (1) three males

No females were seen this year, and most if not all of these summering males are probably of little significance in the context of possible breeding.

COMMON SCOTER *Melanitta nigra*

Ten localities: 11-43 pairs.

SCOTLAND, MID PERTH & KINROSS Four localities: up to nine pairs seen, one brood. ten broods.

SCOTLAND, N & W ARGYLL Two localities: 13 pairs. **HIGHLAND** Three localities: 17 pairs, **N IRELAND FERMANAGH** One locality: four males, no proof of breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	35	15	36	7	9	14	32	38	47	61	10
Confirmed (pairs)	8	29	14	8	6	9	9	16	5	n.c.	11
Possible/probable (pairs)	92	33	76	32	23	21	62	72	79	76-89	32
Max. total pairs	100	62	90	40	29	30	71	88	84	89	43

After the full survey in 1995 (Underhill *et al.* 1998), no systematic counts were made this year of the main breeding area in the Flow Country.

COMMON GOLDENEYE *Bucephala clangula*

Breeding occurs predominantly in one extensive nestbox scheme in Scotland, for which only sample data are available, so there is no longer an estimate of the total number of breeding pairs. Increasing numbers are summering elsewhere, with breeding proved at three other Scottish sites, plus breeding by a released/escaped pair in England.

ENGLAND, E One locality.

NORFOLK One locality: female summered.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Seven localities.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: adult female in July.

LEICESTERSHIRE Three localities: (1) female to 25th May; (2) five birds until 19th May, none in June, two throughout July and August; (3) male until 2nd May. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** Three localities: (1) female summered; (2)(3) singles in June.

ENGLAND, N Two localities.

LANCASHIRE One locality: released pair bred, but no young reared. **NORTHUMBERLAND** One locality: female on 10th June in suitable habitat.

WALES One locality.

ANGLESEY One locality: female on 19th May.

SCOTLAND, S 11 localities.

Summering birds in **AYRSHIRE, BORDERS, CLYDE (8) and DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY.**

SCOTLAND, MID Seven localities.

MORAY & NAIRN One locality: pair bred.

TAYSIDE Five localities: (1) two broods, up to five males seen together; (2)-(4) pairs or singles in May-June, but no breeding evidence.

SCOTLAND, N & W Two localities.

HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) RSPB Abernethy Reserve nestboxes: 21 pairs bred, 19 nests successful, 138 young fledged (7.3 per successful nest); two or three pairs nested in natural sites; (2) RSPB Insh Marshes Reserve nestboxes: 29 pairs bred, 18 nests successful, 111 young fledged (6.2 per successful nest). An estimated 25 additional pairs are thought to have bred in Badenoch and Strathspey area.

The results from Highland Region refer to a sample only of the many boxes available to the species. Elsewhere, successful breeding continued in Tayside, but there was no evidence of breeding farther south in Scotland.

EUROPEAN HONEY-BUZZARD *Pernis apivorus*

27 localities in 11 counties: 14-34 pairs breeding; minimum of 18 young reared.

GREAT BRITAIN 27 localities: (1) two pairs, one raised one young; (2) pair raised two young, third adult present; (3)-(6) single pairs raised two young; (7)-(13) single pairs each raised one young; (14) pair bred, but apparently failed; (15) pair and single present

at regular site, but no evidence of breeding; (16)-(18) single pairs in breeding season; (19) up to five birds over wide area, relationships unknown; (20)-(25) singles in suitable habitat; (26)-(27) singles on single dates only, perhaps migrants.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	2	3	2	8	6	9	9	14
Max. total pairs	6	7	10	20	19	22	26	27	28	30	34

The population continues to creep up, while the minimum of 18 young reared is the largest number recorded. The above information is incomplete, with no reports received from two known breeding areas, and the Panel appeals to all observers to submit their records for safekeeping and to enable the size of the British population to be assessed more accurately.

RED KITE *Milvus milvus*

130 wild pairs reared 119 young, and at least 54 pairs from released stock reared 119 young.

WALES 130 pairs were proved to breed, of which 80 were successful, rearing 119 young. Although all three totals are new record highest, they were all only very slightly up on 1995, despite a greater increase in the total number of pairs. Cold winter weather may have reduced available prey and prevented more birds coming into breeding condition. Poor weather around hatching was probably responsible for brood reductions and some total nest

failures. In addition, there were a further 31 non-breeding pairs, while 122 unmated individuals were identified during the spring. The total population was estimated as at least 444 birds in April and 556 in August, an increase of 42 since August 1995. (The Panel's thanks go to Peter Davis for his detailed report. His work is funded by the RSPB and the Welsh Office 'Kite Country Initiative', with additional support from the Countryside Council for Wales.)

WALES	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total pairs	58	59	68	71	84	92	101	115	138	146	161
Breeding pairs	40	44	49	54	65	76	84	104	111	127	130
Successful pairs	23	27	27	33	47	41	60	61	70	79	80
Young reared	29	39	38	49	73	62	96	82	99	117	119
Young/successful pair	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5

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

ENGLAND Not all nests were located, but at least 37 pairs bred, rearing 80 young. Pairs have now moved away from the original release site and are nesting in other counties

in southern England. In addition, a further 16 birds were released at a new site in the East Midlands, where 11 were released in 1995.

ENGLAND	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total pairs	2	7	12	22	26	n.c.
Breeding pairs	2	4	9	20	24	37+
Successful pairs	0	4	8	17	22	n.c.
Young reared	0	9	14	37	55	80
Young/successful pair	-	2.2	1.8	2.2	2.5	-

SCOTLAND The number of breeding pairs increased only slightly, to 17, but 16 of these reared 39 young, 50% up on last year (mean 2.4 young per successful pair). There were five non-

breeding pairs holding territories. In addition to this original release area, 19 Red Kites from Germany were released in a new area at the beginning of August.

SCOTLAND	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total pairs	2	8	11	17	22
Breeding pairs	1	5	8	15	17
Successful pairs	1	3	6	11	16
Young reared	1	7	13	26	39
Young/successful pair	1.0	1.0	2.2	2.4	2.4

WHITE-TAILED EAGLE *Haliaeetus albicilla*

Re-establishment.

SCOTLAND 12 territories were occupied, including two by trios of a male with two females. A record 12 clutches were laid and nine young were reared from seven broods, also new records. Four nests failed during incubation (including two involving one of the trios) and one

when the young were small. For the first time, a Scottish-bred pair was successful. There were no other territory-holding pairs. A further ten chicks were brought from Norway, reared and then released. At least 15 of the 26 birds released during 1993-95 were known to be alive in 1996.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Breeding pairs	5	6	6	6	9	8	9	6	8	9	12
Successful pairs	1	2	1	3	2	4	4	4	4	5	7
Young reared	2	3	2	5	2	7	7	5	5	7	9
Young/successful pair	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.7	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.3

Although there were five nest failures, the increased number of successful pairs and young reared make this the best year yet. The Panel is grateful to the Sea Eagle Project Team for providing it with information. The Project is jointly supported by JNCC, SNH and RSPB.

MARSH HARRIER *Circus aeruginosus*

135 males and 136 females bred, rearing at least 263 young.

ENGLAND, SW Two localities: 1-2 pairs.
AVON One locality: female in May and juvenile in August, but did not breed here. **SOMERSET** One locality: pair reared three young.
ENGLAND, SE 18 localities or areas: 24-38 pairs.
ESSEX 11 localities: 11 summering singles or pairs. **KENT** Seven localities or areas: 24 pairs bred, rearing at least 57 young, two pairs probably bred, and one other pair.
ENGLAND, E 34 localities or areas: 81-87 'pairs' bred.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: up to four pairs and one trio (one male and two females) reared seven young. **LINCOLNSHIRE** 11 localities or areas: 25 pairs bred, rearing at least 61 young, two pairs probably bred, and three pairs possibly bred. **NORFOLK** 17 localities or areas: 51 pairs bred, rearing at least 86 young, one other pair possibly bred. **SUFFOLK** Three localities: 21 pairs bred, ten of which reared 31 young.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Four localities: 0-4 pairs.
LEICESTERSHIRE Three localities: singles in April, also one in May. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** One locality: female on several dates from early June to late August.
ENGLAND, N Four localities: 4-6 'pairs'.
CLEVELAND One locality: pair reared three young. **LANCASHIRE** Two localities: three pairs reared seven young, and a trio (male and two females) summered. **NORTHUMBERLAND** One locality: female summered.
WALES One locality: 0-1 pair.
CEREDIGION One locality: male in June and July.
SCOTLAND, S Two localities: 0-2 pairs.
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY One locality: pair probably bred. **LOTHIAN** One locality: female summered.
SCOTLAND, MID Five localities: 3-6 'pairs'.
ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: male and three females in May, pair in early June. **FIFE** One locality: pair or trio summered, no evidence of breeding. **PERTH & KINROSS** Three localities:

three pairs bred and two reared six young, one pair probably bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: one pair. One locality: pair bred, rearing two young.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Breeding males	26	40	42	58	73	83	92	84	114	151	135
Breeding females	32	46	56	66	110	91	107	110	129	156	136
Young	82	126	145	172	145	198	229	244	255	277	263

After last year's surge in numbers, there has been a decline, though the total is still above the level in 1994. A paper on the status of the Marsh Harrier in Britain during 1983-95 has been published recently (Underhill-Day 1998).

HEN HARRIER *Circus cyaneus*

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

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Minimum no. young fledged	Young/ successful nest
England, N (all counties)	12	7	28	4.0
Wales	25	8	26	3.25
Borders & Lothian	4	1	4	4.0
Dumfries & Galloway	22	11	36	3.3
South Strathclyde	37	15	55+	1.48
Angus	1	0	0	
Perthshire	32	?	45	
Northeast Scotland	15	5+	12+	
Argyll & Bute	34	24	83	3.45
Strathspey/Moray	10	6	15	2.5
East Sutherland/Easter Ross	9	7	25	3.6
Orkney	28	?	18	
TOTALS	229		347	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The last survey into the status of the Hen Harrier in Britain, in 1988-89, concluded that there were about 630 pairs (Bibby & Etheridge 1993). A new national survey was carried out in 1998. The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for much of the above information.

MONTAGU'S HARRIER *Circus pygargus*

16 localities: six males and seven females reared a minimum of 14 young.

ENGLAND, SW Nine localities: (1) pair fledged three young; (2) pair bred, but nest destroyed by predator, second female seen once; (3) pair; (4)-(6) single males; (7)-(9) single females.

ENGLAND, SE One locality: pair bred, but nest destroyed by predator; also a second male.

ENGLAND, E Six localities: (1) male and two females fledged seven young from two nests; (2) pair fledged four young; (3) pair laid, but nest destroyed by predator; (4) two males and one female in May and June; (5) male displaying; (6) single female.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	10	10	14	15	9	14	12	8	15	14	16
Breeding males	7	4	5	4	8	5	7	5	7	8	6
Other males	3	4	4	5	4	3	2	2	9	8	8
Breeding females	7	5	6	6	11	7	8	6	12	9	7
Other females	3	4	4	7	2	6	4	1	11	4	7
Young	13	13	17	14	20	14	12	9	13	26	14

A disappointingly poor year, following last year's good production, although the number of localities was slightly up. All three failed nests were destroyed by predators, with Red Foxes thought to have been responsible for two of them.



Montagu's Harrier *Circus pygargus* (Donald Watson) from *The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991*, compiled by D. W. Gibbons, J. B. Reid and R. A. Chapman.

NORTHERN GOSHAWK *Accipiter gentilis*

At least 227 localities or areas: 160-213 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND Up to 111 localities in 21 counties; 64 pairs known to have bred, plus 32 other pairs.

WALES Up to 38 localities in five counties: 38 pairs known to have bred, plus three

other pairs.

SCOTLAND Up to 78 localities in seven recording areas: 58 pairs known to have bred, plus 18 other pairs.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. counties	31	31	31	23	30	36	34	35	33	38	33
Confirmed (pairs)	57	54	108	112	93	158	150	199	145	249	160
Possible/probable (pairs)	59	40	68	54	79	71	93	100	80	70	53
Max. total pairs	116	94	176	166	172	229	243	299	225	319	213

The picture shown by the totals in the table is less complete for 1996 than for previous years. In counties where the Goshawk is now relatively plentiful, recorders are now asked to provide summary information on the number of pairs and not, as in the past, all sightings of singles and possible pairs. Some counties are also withholding information because of the persecution to which this species is subject. We would urge that all information should be deposited with the Panel in order to assist this species' conservation.

GOLDEN EAGLE *Aquila chrysaetos*

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

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Minimum no. young fledged	Young/successful nest
England, N	1	1	1	1.0
Borders & Lothian	1	0	0	
Dumfries & Galloway	2	1	1	1.0
South Strathclyde	4+	2	?	
Central Scotland	9	3	3	1.0
Tayside	25	9	12+	1.2+
Northeast Scotland	8	6	7	1.2
Argyll	54	25	29	1.2
Highland	?	36	44	1.2
Lewis & Harris	7	2	2	1.0
Uists	10	6	7	1.2
TOTALS	121+	91	106+	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The most recent population estimate of the number of Golden Eagles breeding in Britain is 422 (Green 1995). The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for much of the above information. They report that breeding success was generally poor in 1996 owing to bad weather in the early part of the year, and especially low in Tayside, Northeast Scotland and the western Highlands.

OSPREY *Pandion haliaetus*

104 pairs: 93 pairs laid eggs, rearing 155 young.

ENGLAND, SW Two localities: singles summered, one joined briefly by a second bird.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Rutland Water: eight young translocated from Scotland, of which four fledged and left the area. Two adults present from 21st April to 26th May, including perching on nesting platforms.

ENGLAND, N Three localities: (1) single from late March to mid June, joined by second bird

for several days in late May; (2)(3) singles from early July.

SCOTLAND, S One locality: single from early April.

SCOTLAND, MID AND N & W A total of 104 occupied nests was found. Five further pairs seen, but no nests located or they did not attempt breeding. Eggs were laid in 93 nests, of which 76 hatched young and 74 reared 155 young. All are new record totals.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Pairs	42	50	53	58	62	73	76	88	95	99	104
Successful pairs	24	30	38	38	44	44	48	56	69	73	74
Young reared	48	56	81	81	90	82	101	111	146	146	155
Young/successful pair	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.1

This is the first time since the eighteenth century that over 100 pairs have bred in Scotland. Although the number of successful pairs was hardly up on last year, productivity did show a small, but welcome, increase. Four, or possibly five, clutches were stolen and one nest was shot out. Twelve other nests failed, with strong winds in May a factor in at least three. The Panel is grateful for the information supplied to it by Roy Dennis and the Osprey Study Group.

MERLIN *Falco columbarius*

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

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Minimum no. young fledged	Young/successful nest
England, SW	4	3	9	3.0
England, Central	22	5	17	3.4
England, N	164	124	431	3.5
Wales	24	15+	24+	
Borders & Lothian	34		6+	
Dumfries & Galloway	9	8	24+	3.0
South Strathclyde	10	8	17+	2.1
Angus	14	9	27	3.0
Perthshire	26	11	27	2.5
Northeast Scotland	33	28	93+	3.3+
Argyll & Bute	2	0		
Highland	20	16	56	3.5
Orkney	20	8	19	
Shetland	19	16	56	3.5
TOTALS	401	251+	806+	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The most recent estimate of the British Merlin population is 1,300 (1,100-1,500) pairs in 1993-94 (Rebecca & Bainbridge 1998). The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for most of the Scottish information.

HOBBY *Falco subbuteo*

Minimum of 190-454 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW 47-105 pairs.
AVON 4-5 pairs. **CORNWALL** 1 pair. **DEVON** 12 pairs. **DORSET** 6 pairs. **GLOUCESTERSHIRE** 1 pair. **HAMPSHIRE** 17-55 pairs. **SOMERSET** 1 pair. **WILTSHIRE** 5-24 pairs.
ENGLAND, SE 78-197 pairs.
BERKSHIRE 5-9 pairs. **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE** 2-10 pairs. **ESSEX** 30-43 pairs. **GREATER LONDON** 4-7 pairs. **HERTFORDSHIRE** 6-46 pairs. **KENT** 11-22 pairs. **OXFORDSHIRE** 8-30 pairs. **SURREY** 10-25 pairs. **SUSSEX** 2-5 pairs.
ENGLAND, E 25-69 pairs.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE 14-29 pairs. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE** 4-11 pairs. **NORFOLK** 4-9 pairs.

SUFFOLK 3-20 pairs.
ENGLAND, CENTRAL 29-57 pairs.
DERBYSHIRE 17 pairs. **LEICESTERSHIRE** 2-6 pairs. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** 2 pairs. **SHROPSHIRE** 1 pair. **WARWICKSHIRE** 5-29 pairs. **WORCESTERSHIRE** 1 pair. **WEST MIDLANDS** 1 pair.
ENGLAND, N 2-7 pairs.
GREATER MANCHESTER 0-3 pairs
NORTHUMBERLAND 1-2 pairs. **YORKSHIRE** 1-2 pairs.
WALES 9-19 pairs.
BRECONSHIRE 1-3 pairs. **GWENT** 5-9 pairs.
RADNOR 3-6 pairs. **MONTGOMERY** 0-1 pair.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Confirmed (pairs)	91	108	103	140	154	159	255	152	170	161	190
Possible/probable (pairs)	202	164	226	250	287	310	327	341	330	269	264
Max. total pairs	293	272	329	390	441	469	582	493	500	430	454

A slight increase on last year, though it should be noted that this species is now classed as less scarce, with only summary information coming from more counties. There is also variation between counties in the recording of singles, many of which may be on passage, hence the most reliable figure for year-on-year comparison is the number of confirmed pairs, which rose again, though not so high as the 1992 figure.

PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*

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

Area	Occupied territories	Territories known to have fledged young	Minimum no. young fledged	Young/ successful nest
England, SW	27	20	No data	
England, SE	10	6	No data	
England, Central	23	17	No data	
England, N	93	53	148	2.8
Wales	104	46	91	2.0
Borders & Lothian	52	26	70	2.7
Dumfries & Galloway	80	47	95	2.0
South Strathclyde	17	11	23	2.1
Angus	31	20	47	2.4
Perthshire	41	24	84+	3.5+
Central Scotland	30	22	43	2.0
Northeast Scotland	65	31	72+	2.3+
Argyll & Bute	13	9	16	1.8
Highland	33	28	56	2.0
Uists	8	8	14+	1.8+
Orkney	19	10	20+	2.0+
Shetland	1	1	4	4.0
Northern Ireland	94	58	146	2.5
TOTALS	741	437	929+	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The most recent estimate of the United Kingdom Peregrine population is 1,263 pairs in 1991 (Crick & Ratcliffe 1995). The Panel is grateful to the Scottish Raptor Study Groups for most of the Scottish information.

COMMON QUAIL *Coturnix coturnix*

At least 275 localities: 5-335 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW 105 localities: 1-117 pairs.

AVON Two localities: three singing males.

CORNWALL Six localities: nine singing males.

DEVON Two localities: four singing males.

DORSET Up to 12 localities: 12 singing males.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Six localities: ten singing males.

SOMERSET Seven localities: nine singing males.

WILTSHIRE Up to 70 localities: pair bred, and 69 singing males.

ENGLAND, SE 40 localities: 2-45 pairs.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Three localities: pair bred and two singing males.

ESSEX Five localities: six singing males.

HERTFORDSHIRE Three localities: two singing males, plus male in August.

KENT Ten localities: pair bred, another pair probably bred, and 12 singing males.

OXFORDSHIRE Up to 14 localities: 14 singing males.

SUSSEX Five localities: five singing males.

ENGLAND, E 51 localities: 0-75 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Up to 14 localities: 14

singing males. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE** Two

localities: two singing males. **NORFOLK**

20 localities: up to 40 singing males.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Eight localities: eight

singing males. **SUFFOLK** Seven localities: 11

singing males.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL 12 localities: 0-16 pairs.

DERBYSHIRE Five localities: five singing males.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: one singing

male. **NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** Five localities:

nine singing males. **WARWICKSHIRE** One

locality: singing male.

ENGLAND, N 27 localities: 0-37 pairs.

CHESHIRE Ten localities: 15 singing males.

CLEVELAND One locality: six singing males.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: two

singing males. **LANCASHIRE** Three localities:

three singing males. **NORTHUMBERLAND** Up

to 11 localities: 11 singing males.

WALES 15 localities: 1-18 pairs.

BRECON Two localities: two singing males.
 GLAMORGAN One locality: four singing males.
 GWENT One locality: singing male.
 MEIRIONNYDD One locality: singing male.
 PEMBROKE Three localities: three singing males.
 RADNOR Up to seven localities: pair bred, and six singing males.
SCOTLAND, S 14 localities: 0-14 pairs.
 AYRSHIRE Three localities: three singing males.
 BORDERS Four localities: four singing males.
 DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY Three localities:

three singing males. LOTHIANs Four localities: four singing males.
SCOTLAND, MID Five localities: 1-6 pairs.
 ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: two singing males.
 ANGUS & DUNDEE Four localities: pair bred, and three singing males.
SCOTLAND, N & W Six localities: 0-7 pairs.
 ARGYLL One locality: singing male.
 ORKNEY One locality: two singing males.
 ROSS & CROMARTY One locality: singing male.
 SHETLAND Three localities: three singing males.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	152	130	904	255	88	319	172	359	320	275
Confirmed (pairs)	1	5	27	13	2	9	1	8	15	5
Possible/probable (pairs)	245	158	1,628	364	105	481	202	604	500	330
Max. total pairs	246	163	1,655	377	107	490	203	612	515	335

A relatively poor year in most areas. Numbers were up a little in Wales and in southwest England, though much reduced in central England.

SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana porzana*

Eight localities: 0-13 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, E Two localities: 0-4 pairs.
 CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) up to three singing males in June and July; (2) singing male on one date in June.
ENGLAND, N One locality: 0-1 pair.
 CLEVELAND One locality: one singing male in May.
SCOTLAND, S & W One locality: 0-2 pairs.

CLYDE One locality: two singing males in early April.
SCOTLAND, MID Three localities: 0-3 pairs.
 ABERDEENSHIRE Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males during breeding season.
SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: 0-3 pairs.
 ARGYLL One locality: three singing males in May.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. counties	3	4	5	7	6	5	9	12	4	5	5
No. localities	3	7	6	14	14	7	12	19	5	8	8
No. singing males	4	18	10	21	21	14	14	31	11	10	13

Another indifferent year, with slightly more singing males than in 1995, but the same number of localities.

CORN CRAKE *Crex crex*

605 pairs or singing males.

ENGLAND, N One locality: 0-1 pair.
 CLEVELAND One locality: singing male on 26th May only.
WALES Three localities: 1-3 pairs.
 CAERNARFON One locality: pair probably bred.
 MONTGOMERY One locality: singing male on 30th April.
 RADNOR One locality: singing male on 28th April.
SCOTLAND S One locality: 0-1 pair.
 CLYDE One locality: singing male on 25th May.
SCOTLAND, MID Five localities: 0-5 pairs.
 ABERDEENSHIRE Five localities: five singing males.
SCOTLAND, N & W MAINLAND Five localities: 1-10 pairs.

CAITHNESS Two localities: pair bred, and two singing males.
 ROSS & CROMARTY Singing male on several nights in July.
 SUTHERLAND Two localities: (1) four or five singing males in May and June; (2) two singing males.
SCOTLAND, N & W ISLANDS 0-584 pairs.
 Totals of singing males: HIGHLAND – INNER HEBRIDES 21 (Skye 21), STRATHCLYDE – INNER HEBRIDES 177 (Coll 40, Tiree 117, Iona 5, Colonsay & Oronsay 8, Islay 7), ORKNEY 43, SHETLAND 1, WESTERN ISLES 342 (Lewis 104, Harris 5, Berneray 1, North Uist 66, Benbecula 27, South Uist 81, Barra & Vatersay 58).
N IRELAND One pair.
 ANTRIM One locality: pair bred.

A total of 584 singing males was found by RSPB, SNH and Scottish Crofters' Union teams on the Scottish islands this year, compared with 537 in 1995 and 463 in 1994. This exceeds the 540 reported in 1988. The increase was patchy, with larger numbers on all the Outer Hebridean islands, but fewer on some of the Inner Hebrides, including the most important, Tiree. The return of a single bird to Berneray, after a two-year gap, was pleasing. The Small Isles are, however, still deserted. The increases can be seen to reflect the widespread implementation of the RSPB/SNH/SCU Corncrake Initiative and it is certainly encouraging that it is having a beneficial effect.

The breeding record from Northern Ireland is the first confirmed there since 1989.

COMMON CRANE *Grus grus*

One extensive locality.

ENGLAND, E

NORFOLK One locality: up to nine birds

present. Two pairs attempted to breed, but both were unsuccessful.

This is the eighth year running with no young reared.

BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

One locality: single male.

ENGLAND, E One locality: male present all year.

The single bird present at Titchwell, Norfolk, throughout 1995 stayed on this year, too (*Brit. Birds* 90: 468).

AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

At least 25 localities: 592-654 pairs reared a minimum of 189 young.

ENGLAND, SE 12 localities.

ESSEX Five localities: (1) 46 pairs bred, 31 young fledged; (2) 62 pairs of which 16 bred, all nests destroyed by predator; (3) 16 pairs bred, only four young seen; (4) three pairs seen with broods; (5) two pairs bred successfully. KENT Five localities: (1) 61 pairs bred, 58 young fledged; (2) 28 pairs bred, only four young fledged; (3) 26 pairs of which ten bred, all failed; (4) 14 pairs bred, 16 young fledged; (5) three pairs and three young seen on 31st July. SUSSEX Two localities: (1) pair raised one young; (2) pair built nest, no young reported.

ENGLAND, E 12 localities.

NORFOLK Nine localities: (1) 52 pairs bred, 30

young fledged; (2) 38 pairs bred, success unknown; (3) 37 pairs bred, seven young fledged; (4) 24 pairs bred, success unknown; (5) 18 pairs bred, success 'poor'; (6) 16 pairs bred, all failed; (7) ten pairs bred, all failed; (8) seven pairs bred, ten young fledged; (9) pair raised one young. LINCOLNSHIRE One locality: 14 pairs bred, five young fledged. SUFFOLK Two localities: (1) 83 pairs bred, 16 young fledged; Red Foxes accounted for 50 nests just before hatching; (2) 91 pairs bred, no young fledged owing to predation by several different species.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality.

LEICESTERSHIRE One locality: pair laid twice, but failed both times.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	15	18	27	24	21	21	29	25	29	25	25
Confirmed (pairs)	255	341	389	521	355	448	492	436	623	613	592
Young reared (min.)	227	315	136	150	200	305	336	347	181	149	189

The number of confirmed pairs has declined a little, and poor weather and, especially, predation continue to keep production at low levels, with some of the largest colonies suffering the worst. Of interest were the two inland breeding attempts by single pairs, at Welney, on the Ouse Washes, and at Rutland Water.

STONE-CURLEW *Burhinus oedicanus*

Seven counties: 174-188 pairs.

ENGLAND, SW 51-59 pairs.

HAMPSHIRE 19 pairs bred and fledged 15

young, plus two other pairs. WILTSHIRE 32 pairs bred and fledged 17 young, plus six other pairs.

ENGLAND, SE 5-6 pairs.

BERKSHIRE Four pairs bred and fledged five young, plus one other pair. OXFORDSHIRE Pair bred and fledged two young.

ENGLAND, E 118-123 pairs.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two pairs, not proved to

breed. NORFOLK Brecks: 59 pairs bred and fledged 60 young, plus one other pair. Elsewhere: four pairs bred and fledged three young. SUFFOLK Brecks: 54 pairs bred and fledged 53 young, plus one other pair. Elsewhere: pair bred unsuccessfully, plus one other pair.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Confirmed (pairs)	103	137	126	126	139	139	155	146	141	165	174
Possible/probable (pairs)	12	0	3	17	10	16	4	16	32	9	14
Max. total pairs	115	137	129	143	149	155	159	162	173	174	188
Min. no. young fledged	n.c.	n.c.	62	79	112	123	111	101	91	164	155

An increase in the number of breeding and non-breeding pairs, but a slight reduction in the number of young fledged. The cold weather in May caused a number of nest failures. The Panel wishes to thank Dr Rhys Green, RSPB, for his assistance in compiling the data.

LITTLE RINGED PLOVER *Charadrius dubius*

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

Area	Possible/probable pairs	Definite breeding pairs	Total pairs
England, SW	1	34	35
England, SE	51	85	136
England, E	20	56	76
England, Central	31	57	88
England, N	49	105	154
Wales	1	58	59
Borders	1	0	1
Angus & Dundee	2	0	2
Northeast Scotland	0	1	1
Moray & Nairn	0	1	1
TOTALS	156	397	553

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The most recent estimate of the British Little Ringed Plover population is 825-1,070 pairs in 1991 (Gibbons *et al.* 1993).

DOTTEREL *Charadrius morinellus*

Outside main Scottish breeding areas: one pair probably breeding

ENGLAND, N One locality.

CUMBRIA One locality: pair in May.

The Panel seeks records only if away from the main breeding range, which lies north of a line from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Tay, and accepts that at least some of the birds on hilltops in southern Scotland and northern England will be on passage. A paper examining the history of breeding by Dotterels in northern England will be published shortly in *British Birds*.

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

One locality: up to two pairs.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: two males and at least one female at a traditional site in late

May and June; both males were seen displaying and a female was seen going to a nest.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	1	4	2	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1
Possible/probable (pairs)	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	2	1
Max. total pairs	3	5	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	2

To avoid unnecessary disturbance, the minimum amount of monitoring of this species is carried out, just enough to establish presence.

PURPLE SANDPIPER *Calidris maritima*

One locality: two pairs bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: two adults were giving alarm calls and performing distraction displays about 1 km apart at a traditional site.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
Confirmed (pairs)	1	3	2	2	1	3	1	1	4	1	2
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
Max. total pairs	2	3	2	4	1	4	2	1	4	1	2

As with the preceding species, only minimal monitoring is carried out.

RUFF *Philomachus pugnax*

Eight localities: breeding occurred at one.

ENGLAND, SE One locality.

SUSSEX One locality: male and six females; eggs laid, but no young fledged.

ENGLAND, E One locality.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE One locality: three males and two females, but no lekking.

ENGLAND, N Six localities.

CHESHIRE Five localities: up to 25 in April, six in May and only one in June; display at two sites. **YORKSHIRE** One locality: at least 17 birds present, but no evidence of breeding.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	7	16	14	15	8	9	21	10	13	7	8
No. leks	3	10	6	6	1	4	7	7	3	3	3
Nests/broods	1	1	1	1	3	7	0	0	2	0	1+

Another poor year, even though there was a proved breeding attempt.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

12 localities: 34-41 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SE Four localities.

ESSEX One locality: pair attempted to breed, but no young seen. **KENT** Three localities: (1) two pairs bred, no young fledged; (2) pair bred, success unknown; (3) two pairs, but no evidence of breeding.

ENGLAND, E Four localities.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Three localities: (1) 14 pairs bred and fledged at least 12 young, two other pairs; (2) nine pairs bred and fledged at least ten young; (3) pair, but no evidence of breeding.

NORFOLK One locality: three pairs bred, all failed.

ENGLAND, N One locality.

NORTH YORKSHIRE One locality: pair probably bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W Three localities.

ORKNEY One locality: pair bred and fledged two young.

SHETLAND Two localities: (1) two pairs bred and fledged two young, third pair present briefly; (2) pair bred, not known if young fledged.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	19	13	17	14	16	18	24	16	22	15	12
Confirmed (pairs)	23	28	36	34	33	28	20	28	20	28	34
Possible/probable (pairs)	24	12	28	22	33	25	38	5	16	7	7
Max. total pairs	47	40	64	56	66	53	58	33	36	35	41

The number of sites has further declined, but the number of breeding pairs is the highest for several years. The total of 26 young fledged is also satisfactorily higher than last year's 16. Those in Scotland are likely to be mostly of the race *islandica*.

WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus*

Away from Orkney and Shetland: one pair bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality. apparently successfully, in locality where
SUTHERLAND One locality: pair bred, believed also to have bred in 1995.

This is the first confirmed breeding away from Orkney and Shetland for five years, though note that the site was also used last year.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

The following limited information was received:

SCOTLAND, MID SCOTLAND, N & W
ABERDEENSHIRE One locality: pair bred. ARGYLL One locality: pair probably bred at regular site.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The breeding population of this species in Britain is estimated to be 1,440 pairs (Hancock *et al.* 1997). The bulk of these are in Highland region.

GREEN SANDPIPER *Tringa ochropus*

One locality: 0-1 pair.

SCOTLAND, N & W
HIGHLAND One locality: pair probably bred, agitated behaviour and calling observed.

Breeding was also strongly suspected in 1995, when a pair was seen displaying and singing during 3rd May to 12th June (1995 *Scottish Bird Report*: 34), but the species was not included in the Panel's report. The only confirmed breeding by this species in Britain took place on Speyside, Scotland, in 1959 (Clifton 1959).

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Three localities: eight pairs bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W Three localities: (1)(2) three fledged; (3) two pairs bred and young known to have fledged.
pairs bred at each site and young known to have fledged.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	2	3	4	6	2	2	4	4	8	6	3
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	6	7	8
Possible/probable (pairs)	1	1	1	4	1	1	5	6	5	4	0
Max. total pairs	3	4	4	6	2	2	6	8	11	11	8

Only these three sites were monitored, but successful breeding was reported from all three.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE *Phalaropus lobatus*

Two localities: 40 breeding males reared at least 37 young.

SCOTLAND, N & W Two localities.

SHETLAND Two localities on Fetlar: (1) 36

breeding males, at least 34 young fledged; (2) four breeding males, at least three young fledged.

Although the number of breeding males was the highest ever, the production was comparatively poor this year.

MEDITERRANEAN GULL *Larus melanocephalus*

18 localities: 31-45 pairs.

ENGLAND, SW Three localities.

DORSET One locality: six pairs bred, but all failed.

HAMPSHIRE Two localities: (1) five pairs bred, but success unknown; (2) pair holding territory.

ENGLAND, SE Seven localities.

ESSEX Four localities: (1) five pairs probably bred, plus adult; (2)-(4) singles present.

KENT Three localities: (1) nine pairs fledged 12 young, plus three other pairs; (2) three pairs fledged four young, plus one pair; (3) three pairs bred, success unknown.

ENGLAND, E Six localities.

NORFOLK Four localities: (1) two pairs

fledged two young; (2) pair incubated, but failed; (3)(4) single displaying pairs. **SUFFOLK** Two localities: (1) two pairs bred, no young fledged; (2) pair present and displaying, but no breeding attempt.

ENGLAND, N One locality.

CHESHIRE One locality: pair (adult and second-summer) summered in colony of Black-headed Gulls *L. ridibundus*.

SCOTLAND One locality

REGION WITHHELD A single adult was present in a colony of Black-headed Gulls in April and May.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	5	3	9	5	10	13	15	14	16	16	18
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	5	6	11	15	19	15	16	18	31
Possible/probable (pairs)	4	2	10	3	5	8	12	17	14	10	14
Max. total pairs	5	3	15	9	16	23	31	32	30	28	45

After apparently levelling off, the number of breeding pairs has leapt up. At least 18 young were reared.

LESSER CRESTED TERN *Sterna bengalensis*

One locality: one female bred with Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandoicensis*.

ENGLAND, N One locality.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: female bred

with Sandwich Tern, fledged one hybrid young at usual site on Farne Islands (*Brit. Birds* 90: 487).

This is the third hybrid young to fledge from this pairing; the others were in 1989 and 1992.

ROSEATE TERN *Sterna dougallii*

11 localities: 66-75 pairs breeding, fledging a minimum of 34 young.

ENGLAND, SW One locality: pair bred, success unknown.

ENGLAND, E Two localities: (1) pair bred, but nest washed out, second pair present, but did not attempt to breed; (2) pair displaying, but no breeding attempt.

ENGLAND, N Four localities: (1) 24 pairs bred, fledging 26 young; (2) 14 pairs bred, success unknown; (3) two pairs bred, success unknown,

five other pairs; (4) pair bred, fledging one young, second pair present.

WALES One locality: pair bred, success unknown.

SCOTLAND, MID Two localities: (1) seven pairs bred, no young fledged; (2) pair bred, one young fledged, second pair present; (3) pair bred, no young fledged.

NORTHERN IRELAND One locality: 13 pairs bred and fledged six young.

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	10	13	17	15	13	15	18	14	15	11
Confirmed (pairs)	169	164	172	93	52	62	84	74	72	66
Possible/probable (pairs)	164	33	5	31	5	10	21	24	13	9
Max. total pairs	333	197	177	124	57	72	105	98	85	75

A further decline in numbers of both localities and breeding pairs. Better news comes, however, from the Republic of Ireland, where a minimum of 557 pairs was recorded at Rockabill, Co. Dublin, similar to the high level in 1995, while the numbers at Lady's Island Lake, Co. Wexford, doubled to 120 pairs.

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

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

Area	Pairs in 1995	Pairs in 1996	% change
England, SW	90	95	+5.6
England, SE	156	144	-7.7
England, E	687	742	+8.0
England, NE	219	187	-14.6
England, NW	51	60	+17.6
Wales	65	78	+20.0
Scotland	52	92	+76.9
TOTALS	1320	1398	+5.9

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The figures above are taken from Thompson *et al.* (1997) and are a sample of the total British breeding population, estimated at 2,400 pairs in 1985-87 (Lloyd *et al.* 1991).

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

The following summary information has been received. Several county recorders emphasised how incomplete their information was and added estimates, which are shown.

Area	Possible/ probable pairs	Proved pairs	Total pairs	County comment
Avon		5	5	
Cornwall	5	6	11	Believed complete
Devon	2	40	42	Believed complete
Hampshire	13	12	25	Est. at least 100 pairs
Wiltshire			74	No breakdown available
Buckinghamshire		6	6	Est. 20+ pairs
Essex		30	30	Est. about 100 pairs
Hertfordshire	1	4	5	
Kent	13	13	26	Believed complete
Surrey	7	6	13	Considerable underestimate
Sussex	15	9	24+	Considerable underestimate
Cambridgeshire	14	12	26	

Area	Possible/ probable pairs	Proved pairs	Total pairs	County comment
Huntingdonshire		3	3+	Underestimate
Lincolnshire		22	22	
Norfolk		59	59	No count of non-breeding pairs
Northamptonshire	40	15	55	Believed complete
Suffolk	14	6	20	Believed complete
Derbyshire		4	4	
Nottinghamshire		22	22	Est. 50-100 pairs
Shropshire		3	3	
Warwickshire	7	3	10	Underestimate
Worcestershire	12	?	12	Est. 20+ pairs
Cheshire		12	12	Known to have nested
Cleveland	1		1	Believed (nearly) complete
Cumbria		7	7	
Greater Manchester		3	3	Believed complete
Lancashire		20	20+	
Northumberland	9+	7+	16+	Underestimate
Yorkshire		16	16	
Anglesey		10	10	Underestimate
Brecon		5	5	Underestimate
Caernarfon			25-30	Believed complete, no breakdown
Ceredigion	2	12	14	Underestimate
Gwent	2	1	3	
Montgomery		11	11	Underestimate
Pembroke	18	2	20	Est. about 100 pairs
Borders	1		1	Believed complete
Ayr	4	10	14	Underestimate
Clyde	5	5	10	Believed complete
Clyde islands		4	4	
Dumfries & Galloway	15+	47	62+	Survey areas only
Lothian		2	2	Believed complete
Forth	2		2	
Aberdeenshire	2	1	3	Believed complete
Fife			0	No breeding since 1993
Moray & Nairn	5	5	10	Believed complete
Argyll	15	26	41	Survey areas only
Highland	2	10	12	Believed complete
TOTALS	226+	496+	821-826	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The British breeding population of the Barn Owl was estimated at 4,400 in 1982-85 (Shawyer 1987) and 4,000 pairs in 1996-98 (Toms in prep.).

COMMON KINGFISHER *Alcedo atthis*

The following information has been received. Several county recorders emphasised how incomplete their information was and added estimates, which are shown.

Area	Possible/ probable (pairs)	Proved (pairs)	Total pairs	County comments
Cornwall	1	1	2	Believed complete
Devon	19		19	Believed complete
Hampshire	28		28	200-350 pairs in 1992
Wiltshire	18		18	20-29 pairs in 1990-95
Buckinghamshire	c.50		c.50	Est. 100 pairs in 1992
Essex	c.100		c.100	Est. 200 pairs in 1989
Hertfordshire	18	12	30	Est. 100 pairs in 1993
Kent	18	6	24	Believed complete
Middlesex	6		6	Believed complete
Surrey	29		29	No estimate
Sussex	10	1	11	
Cambridgeshire	18	13	31	Believed complete
Huntingdonshire		6	6	Believed complete
Norfolk		10-13	10-13	Believed complete
Northamptonshire	21	6	27	Believed complete
Suffolk	27	3	30	Believed complete
Derbyshire	5++	15	20++	
Warwickshire	9	2	11+	Closer to 50 pairs
Worcestershire	24	3	27	Definitely under-recorded
West Midlands	5	1	6	Underestimate
Cheshire		7	7	
Cleveland	1		1	
Greater Manchester		30-40	30-40	1995 estimate
Lancashire		16	16	
Northumberland	11+	4+	15+	Believed complete
West Yorkshire	1	3	4	
Brecon	12		12	
Ceredigion		3+	3+	No reliable information
Pembroke				Est. 50 pairs in 1994
Gwent		5	5	
Borders	13	3	16	Believed complete
Clyde & Ayr	10	1	11	Believed complete
Dumfries & Galloway		3-5	3-5	Believed complete
Lothian	5	1	6	Believed complete
Forth	5	1	6	Believed complete
Angus & Dundee	5		5	Believed complete
Fife	5		5	Believed complete
Perthshire & Kinross		1	1	
Moray & Nairn	2		2	Believed complete
Argyll	1		1	Believed complete
Highland		2-4	2-4	Believed complete
TOTALS	477++	159-176	636-653	

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The British breeding population was estimated at 3,300-5,500 pairs in 1988-91 (Stone *et al.* 1997).

HOOPOE *Upupa epops*

One locality: pair bred.

WALES

MONTGOMERY One locality: pair bred and fledged three young.

This totally unexpected record is the first proven breeding for Wales and the first confirmed breeding in Britain since 1977, when no fewer than four pairs bred in southern England.

WRYNECK *Jynx torquilla*

Four localities: four singing males.

ENGLAND, SW One locality: male singing on 18th April.

SCOTLAND, N & W Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing males in May or June.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	9	10	9	8	6	6	1	6	1	3	4
Confirmed (pairs)	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	8	9	9	7	6	5	2	5	1	3	4
Max. total pairs	9	10	10	8	6	6	2	6	1	3	4

Slightly up on 1995, but still not amounting to much.

WOOD LARK *Lullula arborea*

809 pairs or singing males.

ENGLAND, SW 170 breeding pairs or singing males.

DEVON Two main areas; 13 singing males.

DORSET 32 singing males. HAMPSHIRE 124 pairs or singing males in incomplete survey.

WILTSHIRE One locality: pair present.

ENGLAND, SE 121 breeding pairs or singing males.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Three singing males.

KENT One locality: two pairs. SURREY Whole

county: 79 breeding pairs or singing males.

SUSSEX Whole county: 37 breeding pairs or

singing males.

ENGLAND, E 513 breeding pairs or singing

males. NORFOLK Two main areas: 177 breeding pairs

or singing males. SUFFOLK Two main areas: 336

breeding pairs or singing males.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Five breeding pairs or

singing males in an un-named county.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. counties	13	11	12	10	14	12	14	13	13	16	11
Confirmed (pairs)	47	28	88	156	64	39	124	213	100	261	n.c.
Possible/probable (pairs)	181	165	157	54	272	303	535	408	524	586	n.c.
Max. total pairs	228	193	245	210	336	362	659	621	624	847	809

The census which took place in 1997 should give a better picture of both numbers and distribution. The above figures are known to be incomplete. No distinction is possible between confirmed pairs and possible/probable pairs.

BLUETHROAT *Luscinia svecica*

Two localities: two singles.

ENGLAND, E One locality: female in late June and July.

ENGLAND, N One locality: male in early July.

After last year's breeding record, there were no reports from Scotland.

BLACK REDSTART *Phoenicurus ochruros*

46 localities: 28-65 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW Five localities: 4-6 pairs.

DORSET One locality: pair bred and fledged two young. **HAMPSHIRE** Three localities: (1) pair bred and fledged seven young in two broods; (2) pair bred and fledged two young, plus singing male; (3) singing male in late May and early June. **SOMERSET** One locality: pair bred and fledged two young (first breeding record for county).

ENGLAND, SE 22 localities: 16-30 pairs breeding.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) single, July-September. **ESSEX** Two localities: (1) two pairs bred successfully; (2) pair bred. **INNER LONDON & MIDDLESEX** Five localities: (1) pair bred, plus singing male; (2) pair; (3) two singing males; (4)(5) single singing males. **KENT** Ten localities: (1) three pairs bred, young seen; (2) two pairs bred and fledged nine young; (3) pair bred, plus singing male; (4)(5) single pairs bred; (6) pair; (7)-(10) single singing males. **SURREY** Three localities: (1) two pairs bred; (2) pair bred; (3) singing male.

ENGLAND, E 11 localities: 5-20 pairs breeding.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two localities: (1) pair bred, plus two pairs; (2) singing male.

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

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two localities: (1) two singing males; (2) singing male.

SUFFOLK Four localities: (1) pair bred, plus four singing males; (2) at least three pairs bred; (3)(4) single pairs probably bred.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Five localities: 1-9 pairs breeding.

DERBYSHIRE One locality: pair bred, plus singing male. **LEICESTERSHIRE** One locality: juvenile in August, possibly locally bred.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: four singing males. **WEST MIDLANDS** Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

ENGLAND, N Two localities: two pairs breeding.

GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair bred and fledged at least one young. No search of city centre because of access restrictions following bomb. **LANCASHIRE** One locality: pair bred.

SCOTLAND, S One locality: juvenile, with yellow gape, on 4th August, perhaps bred locally.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	92	77	70	56	50	36	44	53	66	58	46
Confirmed (pairs)	81	46	54	36	28	23	14	32	32	19	28
Possible/probable (pairs)	38	63	58	46	46	46	57	44	63	63	37
Max. total pairs	119	109	118	82	74	69	71	76	95	82	65

Numbers have declined further, but some areas were not surveyed, or only partially covered.

FIELDFARE *Turdus pilaris*

Six localities: 1-6 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality: adult carrying food in May; no further details.

ENGLAND, N Two localities: (1) one carrying food on 5th June; (2) pair apparently holding territory in early June.

SCOTLAND, S One locality: single in May-June,

possibly paired with Mistle Thrush *T. pilaris*.

SCOTLAND, N & W Two localities: (1) one or two adults seen in June, one in July; two juveniles trapped in late August and early September, presumed bred; (2) two adults on 4th August, with third bird, possibly juvenile; breeding suspected.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	2	7	7	12	12	13	7	5	5	6	6
Confirmed (pairs)	2	1	2	3	5	2	2	2	0	1	1
Possible/probable (pairs)	0	6	5	10	7	11	8	3	5	5	5
Max. total pairs	2	7	7	13	12	13	11	5	5	6	6

A very similar picture to the last few years.

REDWING *Turdus iliacus*

28 localities: 3-38 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SE Two localities: (1) one singing in May; (2) one seen in May.

SCOTLAND, MID Seven localities: (1) pair; (2)-(6) singles singing; (7) one seen in suitable habitat.

SCOTLAND, N & W 19 localities: (1) pair bred; (2)(3) single pairs bred, but failed; (4)(5) single pairs probably bred; (6)-(19) total of 24 singing males.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	32	39	22	38	17	15	13	22	15	9	28
Confirmed (pairs)	20	9	10	12	6	7	9	5	4	3	3
Possible/probable (pairs)	26	41	30	39	15	13	15	22	15	11	35
Max. total pairs	46	50	49	51	21	20	24	27	19	14	38

A larger number than usual, but still small in comparison with the likely population.

CETTI'S WARBLER *Cettia cetti*

168 localities: 519-574 singing males.

ENGLAND, SW 107 localities: 393-432 singing males.

AVON Two localities: one or two singing males.

CORNWALL Six localities: 25-28 singing males.

DEVON 12 localities: 79-88 singing males.

DORSET 29 localities: 89-97 singing males.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Two localities: four singing males.

HAMPSHIRE 33 localities: 129-143 singing males.

ISLE OF WIGHT One locality: singing male.

SOMERSET 20 localities: 63-67 singing males.

WILTSHIRE Two localities: two singing males.

ENGLAND, SE 18 localities: 33-39 singing males.

BERKSHIRE Six localities: 15-16 singing males.

ESSEX One locality: one or two singing males.

KENT Four localities: six to eight singing males.

OXFORDSHIRE Two localities: three singing males.

SURREY One locality: one singing male.

SUSSEX Four localities: seven to nine singing males.

ENGLAND, E 21 localities: 48-55 singing males.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (including HUNTING-

DONSHIRE & PETERBOROUGH) One locality:

singing male. NORFOLK 15 localities: 41-48

singing males. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Two

localities: two singing males. SUFFOLK Three

localities: four singing males.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Three localities: five singing males.

WARWICKSHIRE Two localities: four singing

males. WORCESTERSHIRE One locality:

singing male.

WALES 19 localities: 40-43 singing males.

CARMARTHEN Six localities: 14 singing males.

CEREDIGION One locality: four or five singing

males. GLAMORGAN Two localities: 12 singing

males. GWENT Six localities: seven or eight

singing males. PEMBROKE Four localities: three

or four singing males.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. counties	11	14	14	15	21	17	18	21	23	25	28
Confirmed (pairs)	4	31	24	12	19	27	15	11	14	15	n.c.
Possible/probable (pairs)	175	156	174	196	326	214	273	306	318	426	} 519-574
Max. total pairs	179	187	198	208	345	241	298	317	332	441	

The figures set out above come from the first systematic survey of this species in Britain, which was carried out in summer 1996 and produced, as expected, the highest count since colonisation took place in the early 1970s (Wotton *et al.* 1998).

RIVER WARBLER *Locustella fluviatilis*

Two localities: two singing males (*Brit. Birds* 90: 499).

ENGLAND, CENTRAL STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: singing male, Doxey Marshes, from 20th June to 22nd July.

ENGLAND, N NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: singing male, near Bellingham, on 16th-30th June.

Singing males reported for the fourth year running, both staying for longer than any previous individual.

SAVI'S WARBLER *Locustella luscinioides*

Three localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SE One locality.

KENT One locality: single on 27th June.

ENGLAND, E One locality.

NORFOLK One locality: singing male from 24th July to 1st August. SUFFOLK Two, both

considered to be on passage.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL One locality.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE One locality: singing male on 9th-12th June.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	9	16	10	13	5	13	13	5	7	2	3
Confirmed (pairs)	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	1	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	11	20	13	17	9	16	20	4	9	3	3
Max. total pairs	12	20	13	17	10	16	22	8	10	3	3

Another poor year, and none singing in Suffolk.

MARSH WARBLER *Acrocephalus palustris*

11 localities: 3-22 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW One locality: singing male on 21st May only.

ENGLAND, SE Six localities: (1) pair bred, plus five pairs; (2)(3) single pairs bred; (4) four pairs present and probably bred; (5) two pairs present and probably bred; (6) two pairs.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Two localities: (1) two singing males, no females seen; (2) singing male in early June.

ENGLAND, N Two localities.

GREATER MANCHESTER Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	18	11	13	10	12	15	13	15	22	16	11
Confirmed (pairs)	12	10	6	11	13	9	9	12	0	2	3
Possible/probable (pairs)	16	11	14	11	11	23	26	46	48	29	19
Max. total pairs	28	21	20	22	24	32	35	58	48	31	22

A further worrying decline, with no breeding reported from Worcestershire this year.

GREAT REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus arundinaceus*

One locality: one singing male (*Brit. Birds* 90: 500).

ENGLAND, SE KENT One locality: singing male, Elmley, from 30th May to 16th June.

The seventh consecutive year in which males have been reported in song, but as last year only one record.

ICTERINE WARBLER *Hippolais icterina*

Three localities: three singing birds.

ENGLAND, SW HAMPSHIRE One locality: one singing, Lower Test NR, on 12th June.

ENGLAND, E NORFOLK Two localities: (1)(2) single singing birds, one on 28th May, one on 30th May.

Not so exciting as the recent breeding record, but recorded in line with the Panel's policy.

DARTFORD WARBLER *Sylvia undata*

Up to 552 territories identified.

ENGLAND, SW County totals: AVON 2, CORNWALL 11, DEVON 163-222, DORSET no count, HAMPSHIRE 83-85 in very incomplete survey, ISLE OF WIGHT 6, SOMERSET 31.

ENGLAND, SE County totals: BERKSHIRE 1, SURREY 144, SUSSEX 45.

ENGLAND, E County totals: NORFOLK 2, SUFFOLK 3.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. counties	5	8	6	5	8	8	7	11	10	12	12
Confirmed (pairs)	15	8	26	23	55	67	63	93	n.c.	n.c.	n.c.
Possible/probable (pairs)	293	239	616	499	873	634	863	1,053	1,675	1,679	552
Max. total pairs	308	247	639	522	928	701	926	1,146	1,675	1,679	552

The total is not very meaningful in the absence of systematic surveys of several very important areas (e.g. Dorset and Hampshire).

FIRECREST *Regulus ignicapillus*

35 localities: 4-60 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SW 13 localities: 2-32 pairs breeding.

DEVON One locality: singing male in June.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE Four localities: (1) two singing males; (2)-(4) single singing males.

HAMPSHIRE Three localities: (1) pair bred, and 14 singing males; (2)(3) single singing males.

SOMERSET One locality: pair feeding young.

WILTSHIRE Four localities: (1) four singing males; (2) two singing males; (3)(4) single singing males.

ENGLAND, SE 16 localities: 1-21 pairs breeding.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: two singing males.

ESSEX Two localities: (1) two singing males; (2) singing male. **HERTFORDSHIRE** Two localities: (1) pair, including male singing; (2)

singing male. **KENT** Two localities: (1)(2) single singing males. **LONDON** One locality: singing male. **SURREY** Two localities: (1) pair bred and three singing males; (2) singing male. **SUSSEX**

Six localities: (1) pair, including singing male; (2)-(6) single singing males.

ENGLAND, E Two localities: 0-2 pairs breeding.

NORFOLK One locality: pair, including singing male. **SUFFOLK** One locality: singing male.

ENGLAND, CENTRAL Four localities: 1-5 pairs breeding.

DERBYSHIRE Two localities: (1) male bred, paired with Goldcrest *R. regulus*, second singing male; (2) singing male. **LEICESTERSHIRE** One locality: singing male. **WORCESTERSHIRE** One locality: singing male.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	19	37	44	52	48	19	15	20	41	35	35
Confirmed (pairs)	1	8	11	19	9	2	3	3	4	4	4
Possible/probable (pairs)	28	74	72	112	88	20	16	25	62	52	56
Max. total pairs	29	82	83	131	97	22	19	28	66	56	60

Slightly up on last year and including a hybrid pairing (with Goldcrest).

BEARDED TIT *Panurus biarmicus*

The following incomplete information has been received, amounting to 221-232 pairs.

ENGLAND, SW DORSET No information received. **HAMPSHIRE** 15-17 pairs.

ENGLAND, SE ESSEX 17 pairs. **KENT** Two pairs (incomplete). **SUSSEX** 25 pairs.

ENGLAND, E CAMBRIDGESHIRE Two pairs, did not breed. **NORFOLK** 71-75 pairs and declining. **SUFFOLK** 49-54 pairs.

ENGLAND, N LANCASHIRE 40 pairs.

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. In 1992, the British breeding population was estimated at 339-408 pairs (Campbell *et al.* 1996), but it is thought to have declined since then.

GOLDEN ORIOLE *Oriolus oriolus*

22 localities: 7-22 pairs breeding, producing a minimum of 16 young.

ENGLAND, SE One locality: one singing male.

ENGLAND, E 69 sites surveyed, of which 20 held birds. A minimum of seven breeding pairs found, of which six are known to have fledged young and

one nest failed. Two other pairs probably bred, and there were pairs or singing males at 11 other sites.

SCOTLAND, S One locality: singing male in early June.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	13	22	35	29	38	27	37	33	34	34	22
Confirmed (pairs)	5	11	16	15	10	16	14	14	7	8	7
Possible/probable (pairs)	11	20	25	22	32	12	23	19	28	27	15
Max. total pairs	16	31	41	37	42	28	37	33	35	35	22

A poor year, though numbers are down partly because of less survey work outside the core area in Eastern England. The Panel is most grateful for the detailed information on the eastern England population supplied by the Golden Oriole Group.

RED-BACKED SHRIKE *Lanius collurio*

Three localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, E Three localities: (1)-(3) singles seen in May.

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
No. localities	3	8	6	3	7	5	13	6	7	1	3
Confirmed (pairs)	4	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	2	11	6	6	7	4	12	6	7	1	3
Max. total pairs	6	13	7	6	8	5	13	6	8	1	3

The three birds reported were all in suitable habitat, but two stayed only a day or two, and the third was seen on two occasions three weeks apart.

RED-BILLED CHOUGH *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*

The following information was received:

Area	Breeding pairs	Young reared (pairs)	Productivity
WALES			
Anglesey	26		
Caernarfon (Bardsey only)	61-68	7 (5)	1.4
Meirionnydd	13-15		
Ceredigion	20	42 (15)	2.8
Pembroke	46	95 (46)	2.1
Montgomery	2		
SCOTLAND			
Dumfries & Galloway	1	2 (1)	2.0
Colonsay	10	8 (4)	2.0
Islay (The Oa only)	6	10 (5)	2.0
Mull	1	0	
TOTALS	186-195	164 (76)	2.2

This species has now been added to the Panel's list. The male in Dumfries & Galloway had lost his mate before the 1995 breeding season, but found a new female and nested in the usual site.

BRAMBLING *Fringilla montifringilla*

No reports of summering anywhere in Scotland. This is particularly disappointing after 1995 proved to be the best year since 1984.

EUROPEAN SERIN *Serinus serinus*

Six localities: 1-6 pairs.

ENGLAND, SW One locality.

CORNWALL One locality: singing male in May and June.

ENGLAND, SE One locality.

KENT One locality: pair bred successfully.

ENGLAND, E Four localities.

NORFOLK Four localities: (1)(2) single singing males; (3) female on 11th-12th April; (4) single on 21st April.

A breeding record from Kent was a pleasant surprise, particularly as there was no sign of breeding in Devon in 1996.

COMMON CROSSBILL *Loxia curvirostra*

Although this species is now on the Panel's list, by virtue of its being on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, no meaningful information was received.

SCOTTISH CROSSBILL *Loxia scotica*

The only information received on this species, new to the Panel's list, was that 17 nests were found in Northeast Scotland as part of an RSPB study.

PARROT CROSSBILL *Loxia pytyopsittacus*

One locality: pair bred.

SCOTLAND, N & W One locality: pair bred and thought to be several additional pairs in same area.

As reported last year, birds referable to this species appear to be breeding in Scotland, but more work is proceeding to discover just how common they are.

COMMON ROSEFINCH *Carpodacus erythrinus*

Six localities or areas: 0-10+ pairs breeding.

ENGLAND, SE One locality: male on 26th June.

ENGLAND, E Three localities: (1)-(3) single singing immature males.

SCOTLAND N & W Marked influx in Orkney

and Shetland during 20th May to 10th June, with up to 32 birds involved, several of which sang, but had largely dispersed by the end of the month.

These somewhat inconclusive observations suggest that talk of colonisation, which seemed quite likely a few years ago, is still premature. A paper by D. I. M. Wallace on this species will be published shortly in *British Birds*.

SNOW BUNTING *Plectrophenax nivalis*

Seven areas or localities: up to 19 pairs breeding.

SCOTLAND, MID AND N & W Seven areas or localities: 19 pairs or singing males.

A very small number of mainly casual observations.

CIRL BUNTING *Emberiza cirrus*

337 breeding pairs.

ENGLAND, SW

CORNWALL Three localities: (1) territorial male, also seen carrying food, though no female or young seen; (2) singing male; (3) female in April. DEVON The sample tetrad

survey now carried out on an annual basis, led to an estimate of 333 pairs as a county total. A study of 31 nests showed productivity of 1.85 young per nest. SOMERSET One locality: pair visiting bird-table during April to June.

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Confirmed (pairs)	36	48	98	113	92	43	42	n.c.
Possible/probable (pairs)	83	85	143	207	269	369	337	337
Max. total pairs	119	133	241	320	361	412	379	337

The tetrad survey suggests a decline in numbers for the second year running. The Panel is grateful to the RSPB for the Devon data.

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