



Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

Status

Amber listed: BR, WL
SPEC 4 (S)
Schedule 1 of WCA 1981
Annex I of EC Wild Birds Directive

National monitoring

Rare Breeding Birds Panel.
WeBS.

Population and distribution

Only a few pairs breed regularly in Britain, mainly in East Anglia, Kent and northern England. Nesting occurs on inland wet meadows, coastal grazing marsh and upland saltmarsh. Ruffs were once widespread in Britain, but land drainage and human persecution led to major declines in the 19th century. The wintering population is found inland and on the coast. There are currently estimated to be 2–24 ruff nests in the UK annually, and 700 ruff wintering (*Population Estimates*).

Ecology

Breeding habitat includes inland wet meadows, coastal grazing marsh and upland saltmarsh. Ruff wintering in Britain and Ireland are usually found singly or in small groups. They feed both nocturnally and during the day, and are often seen feeding in or near the muddy margins of lakes and pools, on seashores and tidal mudflats (*Winter Atlas*).

Breeding season survey – population

No method is given here for this rare breeding species.

Winter survey

WeBS.

See *Generic wintering bird monitoring methods* in the generic survey methods section.