



Number 15

April 1999



# Nest Record News

*A newsletter for supporters of the NEST RECORD SCHEME, forming part of the BTO's Integrated Population Monitoring programme funded by a partnership of the British Trust for Ornithology and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (on behalf of English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, and also on behalf of the Environment & Heritage Service in Northern Ireland).*

## 1998 Breeding Season Report

### Introduction to the breeding season

Record-breaking early clutches laid by Grey Heron, Long-eared Owl, Woodlark and Stonechat; breeding densities of Hobby and Dartford Warbler locally exceeding those of Kestrel and Stonechat respectively; Stone Curlew achieving their highest population levels in recent times: all were upbeat features of the 1998 breeding season. These were more than matched by negative news as unseasonably cold and often damp weather over Eastertide and at times in mid summer caused heaving nesting losses, notably through chilled clutches and moribund broods among many seabirds, waders, tits, flycatchers, open-nesting warblers and thrushes, among others.

It was a third successive 'below par' breeding season for a broad range of birds in 1998. Nest recorders scattered around the country described features of the year as: 'a flying start to the season by plovers, chats and thrushes before attempts fell away' (New Forest); 'wicked torrential downpours in April and June had a devastating effect on Blue Tit and Pied Flycatcher (Devon)'; 'scarce Swallows, martins and warblers really struggled' (Essex); 'coastal flooding hit waders, gulls and terns' (Hants); 'good year for Blackcap, Chiffchaff and thrushes' (Oxon); 'worst-ever season for nestbox-using tits in 25 years' (Notts); 'ground-nesting waders, Skylarks and pipits hit by predators' (Gwynedd); and 'large Redstart broods made up for grim tit and flycatcher losses' (Central Region).

### New Year warmth promotes premature nesting by wildfowl, owls and doves

Spells of Indian Summer heat in October and November 1997 aided late nesting attempts by Barn Owl, Mallard, Stock Dove, Feral Pigeon and House Sparrow, adults of each tending families into December. Winter 1997/98 was remarkably mild for long periods, with daily temperatures 2°C above the long term average, enabling nesting attempts by Blackbird and Collared Dove to successfully span the New Year, as the 1997 and 1998 nesting seasons effectively blended together. At the turn of the year, severe storm force winds, at times topping 100 knots, uprooted many trees and led to significant local losses of nest platforms and cavities traditionally used by Grey Heron, Buzzard, Goshawk, owls and corvids. A warm southerly airflow from 9-12th January brought unseasonably high daily temperatures, 11°C above normal, and biological clocks were thrown into confusion. Fuelled by high rat populations, Tawny Owls egg-laid, while Blackbirds fed young in a few localities. By the final few days of January, clutches had been started by Great Crested Grebe, Egyptian Goose, Robin, and widely by Collared Doves. The mild theme persisted throughout February, with daily temperatures 7-8°C above the expected values under a warm cloud blanket. By the

month's end vegetation in many parts was a full month ahead of schedule, and 17 species were noted with eggs or young in active nests. Not unexpectedly, Mallard, Feral Pigeon, Woodpigeon and Crossbill were incubating clutches in early February. More unusual were cases of Grey Heron, Moorhen, Dipper and Raven egg-laying by mid month, and very early breeding attempts undertaken by Water Rail, Long-eared Owl and Mistle Thrush in the final week.

### **Mixed March weather promotes further spring surprises**

March roared in like a lion, with heavy rain and blizzards affecting Scotland, less severely southern parts. Conditions were not severe enough to halt the majority of early breeding attempts, daily temperature values for the month overall averaging 2-3°C above the norm. As in March 1997 clement conditions aided egg-laying by a broad array of species, including Mute Swan, Cormorant and Tawny Owl, even Stonechat and Grey Wagtail by *mid month, soon to be followed by Long-tailed Tit, Starling and Woodlark* by the month's end. At this point, reports were received of healthy free-flying broods raised by Robin, Mistle Thrush and Blackbird. Showery weather compounded the winter legacy of flooded habitats, the result of persistent heavy rains in most regions, initially providing suitable coastal and inland marsh and lagoons, exploited by Water Rail, dabbling duck, Avocet, Redshank and Snipe, though water levels proved too deep in some washes and flashes. Initially, also, many tree-nesting Grey Heron, Rook, Carrion Crow, Magpie, diurnal raptors and doves were favoured by the scarcity of spring gales. As the month closed, pioneer Osprey, Little Ringed Plover, Wheatear and Garganey had returned to regular haunts and displayed nesting intent.

### **Easter snow and hail hits breeding waders, tits and thrushes**

Spring nesting by most resident birds and a few early summer visitors, including Swallow, Chiffchaff and Redstart, looked well set, but the coldest Easter in a decade brought many species back to earth with a bump. Hard frosts, hail and periodic torrential downpours, extending the length of the country, led to heavy losses, notably among tits, with Blue,

Great, Crested and the 'brown' species all adversely affected. A poor match of key invertebrate food supplies and developing young tits led to many small broods, protracted fledging periods and emaciated young. Nestbox scheme operators from Grampian and Cumbria to Notts and Devon described, variously, for tits and Pied Flycatchers 'grim', 'disastrous', 'poor' and 'mediocre' seasons, some their least productive season in 25 years and more. Rivers in spate destroyed many first nesting attempts by Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Coot, Moorhen and Grey Wagtail. Breeding grounds for some social and colonial nesting plovers, Black-tailed Godwits, gulls and terns were washed out, pairs relaying with modest success. Other essentially single brooded residents, including Chaffinch, Nuthatch and Great Spotted Woodpecker were hard hit. Summer visitors in general were slow to return, many checked by poor weather in the Mediterranean Basin. A timely spell of summer-like weather from 8-20th May finally opened the floodgates for many leaf and scrub warblers, Nightingale, flycatchers, Nightjar, Hobby, *among others, to return to breeding haunts and commence nesting.*

### **Cool dismal summer checks nesting migrants and residents alike**

Just as the cold damp months of May in 1996, then June in 1997, had proved the rogue months, destroying so many nesting attempts, so it was April in 1998. However, in 1998 the uncomfortable season was compounded by dull, often cool, unsettled weather that was a feature of June and July, even spilling over into August, as thunderstorms became a growing problem. Among summer visitors, nest recorders found many short distance travellers, notably Blackcap and Chiffchaff returning in high numbers and enjoying a productive season, in marked contrast to many longer distance trans-Saharan species, especially Sedge Warbler, Whitethroat, Swallow and Sand Martin. As in the previous year, many resident seed-eaters, including Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnets, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting, also endured a relatively poor and truncated season. The regular blend of showery midsummer weather and fluctuating temperatures promoted much luxuriant vegetation growth, favoured some soil invertebrates, but depressed a

broad range of aerial insects, often key foods for nesting birds. Buoyant populations of Blackbird, Wren and Robin thrived, raising several broods, while many corvids, chats, Woodlark, Starling and hirundines eventually raised second sets of young, even if these tended to be small in size. Unlike the previous two years, spells of clement Indian Summer weather were sadly lacking. Some species gained from mild changeable conditions in September, especially Blackbird, Song Thrush and Dunnock, but late nest attempts generally were few, though pairs of Stock Dove, Barn Owl and Feral Pigeon persisted, still tending families into November.

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## Evolution of the modified format Nest Record Card

### Why the need to change?

Funding cuts made to the Nest Record Scheme in April 1998 forced us to think of developing ways in which we could make the Scheme run more efficiently. Correcting observer and data processing errors on Nest Record Cards can be a lengthy process, so we decided to modify the card design in an attempt to iron out areas where observers have most problems in correctly recording their data, and to make it more user-friendly for data processing.

We decided that another area where money could be saved would be to remove the necessity for optically mark reading the back of the cards. Although the introduction of optically mark read sections of the card was a good idea in 1990, the present reduction in manpower within the Nest Records Unit means that it would be more beneficial for the Habitat and Nest Site information to be input by external data processors at the same time as they process the information from the front of the cards. To enable this to happen, the Habitat coding system has been retained but the codes now need to be written out longhand as a series of letters and numbers (as has been done in the past on Colony Nest Record Cards).

### Long-standing recorders assisted with design

We designed a prototype new card incorporating these changes and sent copies to 50 long-term

contributors to the Nest Record Scheme. In general, the response to proposed changes was very positive and we modified the prototype to take into account observers' comments. Thank you to everyone involved for your extremely helpful advice.

Copies of the new blue-and-white card, together with revised copies of the *Handbook*, were sent out to all current Nest Recorders in March 1999. If you did not receive any new cards or a new *Handbook* and would like to contribute to the Scheme in 1999, please contact us in the Nest Records Unit. If you still have any of the old orange-and-white cards, please either throw them away or keep them for personal use.

### Two new visit codes

To clarify the numbers of young successfully fledging the nest, we have devised a new status code: **SY** which means 'some young fledged; other live young still in nest'. This code may be used when only part of the brood fledge, leaving others still in the nest. If known, please make it clear how many young leave and how many remain in the nest. We have also changed the meaning of the code **SL** slightly, and this should now only be used when the **last** young is seen leaving the nest or when the whole brood is seen leaving together. (These two new codes will eventually be added to the Coding Card when current stocks run out.)

### Greater use of Nest Record Card data

We are sorry that we have had to modify the card again so soon after the major alterations made in 1990. However, we hope the changes won't prove too difficult to adjust to. Despite financial cuts, the Nest Record Card findings are being put to greater use than ever before, with the positive future well-being of the UK's nesting birds in mind. Never before has the completion of Nest Record Cards been so important, needed and highly applied. The BTO hopes that the collection of nest histories continues to provide a good measure of enjoyment in 1999. If difficulties arise, please feel free to contact Caroline Dudley in the Nest Records Unit for clarification or extra materials (see page 8 for contact details).

## Totals For Nest Record Scheme From Pre-1997 To 1998

SPECIES	Pre-97	1997	1998	TOTAL
<b>Red-throated Diver</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,241</b>
Black-throated Diver	194	3	4	201
Little Grebe	2,069	89	75	2,233
Pied-billed Grebe	1	.	.	1
Great Crested Grebe	3,156	132	113	3,401
Red-necked Grebe	1	.	.	1
Slavonian Grebe	181	.	.	181
Black-necked Grebe	25	5	.	30
Fulmar	4,857	640	216	5,713
Manx Shearwater	227	.	61	288
Storm Petrel	50	20	11	81
Leach's Petrel	7	.	.	7
Gannet	33	.	.	33
Cormorant	1,612	84	80	1,776
Shag	7,700	817	905	9,422
Bittern	22	5	11	38
Little Bittern	1	.	.	1
<b>Grey Heron</b>	<b>4,997</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>5,924</b>
Night Heron	3	.	.	3
Spoonbill	1	.	.	1
<b>Mute Swan</b>	<b>5,028</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>5,399</b>
Whooper Swan	8	1	1	10
Bar-headed Goose	1	.	1	2
Greylag Goose	590	17	8	615
Snow Goose	2	.	.	2
Canada Goose	2,982	235	127	3,344
Barnacle Goose	17	5	6	28
Egyptian Goose	49	8	14	71
Shelduck	287	8	4	299
Mandarin	360	15	14	389
Wigeon	164	2	5	171
Gadwall	105	16	9	130
Teal	220	.	4	224
Mallard	7,869	197	204	8,270
Pintail	23	.	.	23
Garganey	9	.	.	9
Shoveler	154	5	3	162
Pochard	126	9	6	141
Tufted Duck	1,126	40	18	1,184
Scaup	1	.	.	1
Elder	3,533	1,013	768	5,314
Common Scoter	42	.	1	43
Goldeneye	187	7	14	208
Red-breasted Merganser	262	5	3	270
Goosander	265	11	2	278
Ruddy Duck	106	6	9	121
Honey Buzzard	24	.	1	25
Red Kite	23	5	5	33
Marsh Harrier	48	.	6	54
<b>Hen Harrier</b>	<b>1,412</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>1,490</b>
Pallid Harrier	1	.	.	1
Montagu's Harrier	52	1	.	53
Goshawk	488	86	48	622
<b>Sparrowhawk</b>	<b>4,901</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5,086</b>
<b>Buzzard</b>	<b>4,590</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>4,971</b>
Golden Eagle	453	13	14	480
Osprey	53	7	1	61
<b>Kestrel</b>	<b>6,356</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>6,777</b>
<b>Merlin</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>3,007</b>

SPECIES	Pre-97	1997	1998	TOTAL
Hobby	569	29	34	632
<b>Peregrine</b>	<b>2,216</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>2,427</b>
Red Grouse	802	15	13	830
Ptarmigan	130	1	.	131
Black Grouse	62	9	2	73
Capercallie	79	1	.	80
Red-legged Partridge	449	2	5	456
Chukar	1	.	.	1
Grey Partridge	810	12	12	834
Quail	14	.	.	14
Pheasant	2,037	28	40	2,105
Golden Pheasant	6	.	.	6
Lady Amherst's Pheasant	1	.	.	1
Water Rail	81	.	1	82
Corncrake	30	.	.	30
<b>Moorhen</b>	<b>20,198</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>21,229</b>
Coot	14,205	686	542	15,433
<b>Oystercatcher</b>	<b>13,272</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>14,479</b>
Black-winged Stilt	2	.	.	2
Avocet	541	3	39	583
Stone Curlew	430	.	.	430
Little Ringed Plover	1,772	83	57	1,912
<b>Ringed Plover</b>	<b>8,149</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>8,756</b>
Kentish Plover	19	.	.	19
Dotterel	251	.	.	251
Golden Plover	818	23	16	857
<b>Lapwing</b>	<b>21,549</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>24,026</b>
Temminck's Stint	1	.	.	1
Purple Sandpiper	4	.	.	4
Dunlin	508	37	5	550
Ruff	4	.	.	4
<b>Snipe</b>	<b>1,524</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1,690</b>
Woodcock	611	9	6	626
Black-tailed Godwit	20	.	10	30
Whimbrel	60	.	.	60
<b>Curlew</b>	<b>2,701</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>2,870</b>
<b>Redshank</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Greenshank	158	.	.	158
Wood Sandpiper	2	.	.	2
<b>Common Sandpiper</b>	<b>1,386</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1,455</b>
Red-necked Phalarope	139	28	.	167
Arctic Skua	352	5	4	361
Great Skua	397	.	3	400
Little Gull	3	.	.	3
Black-headed Gull	8,809	702	44	9,555
Mediterranean Gull	6	.	1	7
Common Gull	4,173	359	433	4,965
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1,240	27	45	1,312
Herring Gull	5,557	177	206	5,940
Great Black-backed Gull	2,165	216	273	2,654
Kittiwake	9,429	1,145	1,009	11,583
Lesser Crested Tern	5	.	.	5
Sandwich Tern	1,813	.	.	1,813
Roseate Tern	723	3	.	726
Common Tern	5,120	551	224	5,895
Arctic Tern	6,232	1,469	538	8,239
Little Tern	4,826	274	249	5,349
Guillemot	1,104	6	.	1,110
Razorbill	847	73	98	1,018
Black Guillemot	1,308	95	27	1,430
Puffin	401	2	75	478

SPECIES	Pre-97	1997	1998	TOTAL
Rock Dove	424	54	3	481
Feral Pigeon	1,792	181	118	2,091
<b>Stock Dove</b>	<b>6,790</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>7,629</b>
Woodpigeon	23,328	991	508	24,827
<b>Collared Dove</b>	<b>3,983</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>4,343</b>
Turtle Dove	1,893	29	24	1,946
Ring-necked Parakeet	20	26	2	48
Cuckoo	2,002	20	42	2,064
<b>Barn Owl</b>	<b>3,719</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>4,539</b>
Snowy Owl	2	.	.	2
<b>Little Owl</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>1,826</b>
<b>Tawny Owl</b>	<b>7,787</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>8,577</b>
Long-eared Owl	681	19	11	711
Short-eared Owl	351	8	12	371
<b>Nightjar</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1,513</b>
Swift	1,423	104	45	1,572
<b>Kingfisher</b>	<b>591</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>619</b>
Hoopoe	1	.	.	1
Wryneck	23	.	.	23
Green Woodpecker	328	20	15	363
<b>Great Spotted Woodpecker</b>	<b>1,105</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1,213</b>
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	165	10	8	183
<b>Woodlark</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1,128</b>
<b>Skylark</b>	<b>6,731</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>7,285</b>
<b>Sand Martin</b>	<b>1,170</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>1,483</b>
<b>Swallow</b>	<b>47,233</b>	<b>1,738</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>50,391</b>
House Martin	8,100	297	326	8,723
<b>Tree Pipit</b>	<b>1,568</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1,637</b>
<b>Meadow Pipit</b>	<b>8,820</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>9,136</b>
Rock Pipit	726	19	20	765
Yellow Wagtail	982	5	2	989
<b>Grey Wagtail</b>	<b>5,324</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>5,532</b>
<b>Pied Wagtail</b>	<b>8,704</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>9,204</b>
<b>Dipper</b>	<b>8,873</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>9,300</b>
<b>Wren</b>	<b>13,989</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>14,638</b>
<b>Dunnock</b>	<b>28,797</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>29,424</b>
<b>Robin</b>	<b>18,855</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>19,592</b>
Nightingale	434	9	11	454
Bluethroat	1	.	.	1
Black Redstart	142	3	5	150
<b>Redstart</b>	<b>5,739</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>6,081</b>
<b>Whinchat</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>2,140</b>
<b>Stonechat</b>	<b>2,712</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>2,929</b>
<b>Wheatear</b>	<b>3,322</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>3,579</b>
Ring Ouzel	1,478	35	71	1,584
<b>Blackbird</b>	<b>122,576</b>	<b>1,671</b>	<b>1,607</b>	<b>125,854</b>
Fieldfare	7	.	.	7
<b>Song Thrush</b>	<b>70,676</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>71,967</b>
Redwing	111	2	.	113
<b>Mistle Thrush</b>	<b>7,388</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>7,677</b>
Cetti's Warbler	25	1	2	28
Grasshopper Warbler	362	6	3	371
Savi's Warbler	2	.	.	2
<b>Sedge Warbler</b>	<b>4,465</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>4,624</b>
Marsh Warbler	167	1	.	168
<b>Reed Warbler</b>	<b>11,188</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>779</b>	<b>12,896</b>
Dartford Warbler	438	7	8	453
Lesser Whitethroat	815	13	10	838
<b>Whitethroat</b>	<b>5,638</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>5,837</b>
<b>Garden Warbler</b>	<b>1,818</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>1,941</b>
<b>Blackcap</b>	<b>3,080</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>3,299</b>

SPECIES	Pre-97	1997	1998	TOTAL
<b>Wood Warbler</b>	<b>2,303</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,355</b>
<b>Chiffchaff</b>	<b>2,502</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>2,838</b>
<b>Willow Warbler</b>	<b>11,789</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>12,240</b>
Goldcrest	766	15	4	785
Firecrest	9	.	.	9
<b>Spotted Flycatcher</b>	<b>10,108</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>10,473</b>
Pied Flycatcher	33,325	1,479	1,470	36,274
Bearded Tit	79	9	4	92
<b>Long-tailed Tit</b>	<b>4,863</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>5,323</b>
<b>Marsh Tit</b>	<b>1,280</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>1,357</b>
Willow Tit	428	14	12	454
Crested Tit	339	25	25	389
Coal Tit	4,801	137	122	5,060
<b>Blue Tit</b>	<b>74,851</b>	<b>4,543</b>	<b>3,926</b>	<b>83,320</b>
<b>Great Tit</b>	<b>46,829</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>52,166</b>
<b>Nuthatch</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>3,196</b>
<b>Treecreeper</b>	<b>2,234</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>2,362</b>
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	.	.	1
Golden Oriole	41	.	.	41
Red-backed Shrike	256	.	.	256
Jay	1,435	29	40	1,504
<b>Maggie</b>	<b>6,989</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>7,492</b>
Chough	616	17	19	652
<b>Jackdaw</b>	<b>6,111</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>6,722</b>
<b>Rook</b>	<b>10,402</b>	<b>1,139</b>	<b>1,267</b>	<b>12,808</b>
<b>Carriion Crow</b>	<b>6,697</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>7,160</b>
Hooded Crow	1,072	14	12	1,098
<b>Raven</b>	<b>3,031</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>3,262</b>
<b>Starling</b>	<b>14,266</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>15,154</b>
House Sparrow	11,795	468	173	12,436
<b>Tree Sparrow</b>	<b>15,435</b>	<b>447</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>16,369</b>
<b>Chaffinch</b>	<b>20,562</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>21,454</b>
Brambling	2	.	.	2
Serin	1	.	.	1
<b>Greenfinch</b>	<b>13,272</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>13,685</b>
<b>Goldfinch</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3,087</b>
Siskin	75	1	5	81
<b>Linnet</b>	<b>26,261</b>	<b>562</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>27,012</b>
Twite	851	2	1	854
<b>Redpoll</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1,306</b>
Common Crossbill	150	.	3	153
Parrot Crossbill	4	.	.	4
Scarlet Rosefinch	1	.	.	1
<b>Bullfinch</b>	<b>5,237</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>5,440</b>
Hawfinch	174	12	1	187
Snow Bunting	193	.	9	202
<b>Yellowhammer</b>	<b>6,094</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7,131</b>
Clirl Bunting	253	2	.	255
<b>Reed Bunting</b>	<b>7,590</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>7,753</b>
<b>Corn Bunting</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>897</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,053,179</b>	<b>41,509</b>	<b>35,222</b>	<b>1,129,910</b>

NB A few records for some wildfowl species may relate to feral birds (eg Whooper Swan, Greylag Goose and Mallard).

Species highlighted in bold are those used within the BTO's Integrated Population Monitoring programme.

The totals for pre-1997 and 1997 have changed since those printed in *Nest Record News* No. 14 due to the addition of cards received at the BTO after March 1998.

# BIRD SPECIES PROTECTED UNDER THE WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981

The species listed below are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. If you wish to consider visiting the nests of any of these species, write to Jez Blackburn, the Licensing Officer, at the BTO for a licence application form. No nest may be visited without prior approval.

The majority of licenses issued during the breeding season are renewals for the same workers who held the appropriate approval during the previous season. Newcomers to the Nest Record Scheme, or recorders who have never held such a licence before, can apply for the relevant approval through the BTO. However, it is necessary to provide two references from 'respected' ornithologists eg County Recorder, BTO Regional Representative, Bird Club Chairman, BTO Bird Ringer etc, or a letter of support from a study group - relevant to the species application being sought. Please note that applications must be received before the end of February to be given priority; and no renewal can be granted until a report form has been submitted (including nil returns) for the previous season.

## List of Schedule 1 species

Avocet	Goose, Greylag	Ruff
Bee-eater	Goshawk	Sandpiper, Green
Bittern	Grebe, Black-necked	Sandpiper, Purple
Bittern, Little	Grebe, Slavonian	Sandpiper, Wood
Bluethroat	Greenshank	Scaup
Brambling	Gull, Little	Scoter, Common
Bunting, Cirl	Gull, Mediterranean	Scoter, Velvet
Bunting, Lapland	Harrier (all species)	Serin
Bunting, Snow	Heron, Purple	Shorelark
Buzzard, Honey	Hobby	Shrike, Red-backed
Chough	Hoopoe	Spoonbill
Corncrake	Kingfisher	Stilt, Black-winged
Crake, Spotted	Kite, Red	Stint, Temminck's
Crossbill	Merlin	Swan, Bewick
Curlew, Stone	Oriole, Golden	Swan, Whooper
Diver, Black-throated	Osprey	Tern, Black
Diver, Great Northern	Owl, Barn	Tern, Little
Diver, Red-throated	Owl, Snowy	Tern, Roseate
Dotterel	Peregrine	Tit, Bearded
Duck, Long-tailed	Petrel, Leach's	Tit, Crested
Eagle, Golden	Phalarope, Red-necked	Treecreeper, Short-toed
Eagle, White-tailed	Pintail	Warbler, Cetti's
Falcon, Gyr	Plover, Kentish	Warbler, Dartford
Fieldfare	Plover, Little Ringed	Warbler, Marsh
Firecrest	Quail	Warbler, Savi's
Garganey	Redstart, Black	Whimbrel
Goldeneye	Redwing	Woodlark
Godwit, Black-tailed	Rosefinch, Scarlet	Wryneck

*NB A rarer breeding species than these may be added to the Schedule 1 species list without warning, so if you find one, contact the BTO's Licensing Officer for clearance.*

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