

Counting birds with BTO

Dawn Balmer
Head of Surveys



100 staff

150 Regional
Representatives

70,000 volunteers

19,000 BTO members

Working in partnership



Key questions

Status

How many?

Where?

Migration routes?

Trends and change

Numbers

Distribution

Phenology

Movements

Demography

Behaviour

Drivers

What is behind these changes?



Core schemes

Breeding Bird Survey
(BTO/JNCC/RSPB)

Waterways BBS
(BTO/JNCC/RSPB)

Wetland Bird Survey
(BTO/RSPB/JNCC/
WWT)

Heronries Census
(BTO)

Non-Estuarine
Waterbird Survey

Winter Gull
Roost Survey

Ringling
(BTO/ JNCC & CA's/Ringer)

Nest Record Scheme
(BTO/JNCC & CA's)

Constant Effort Sites

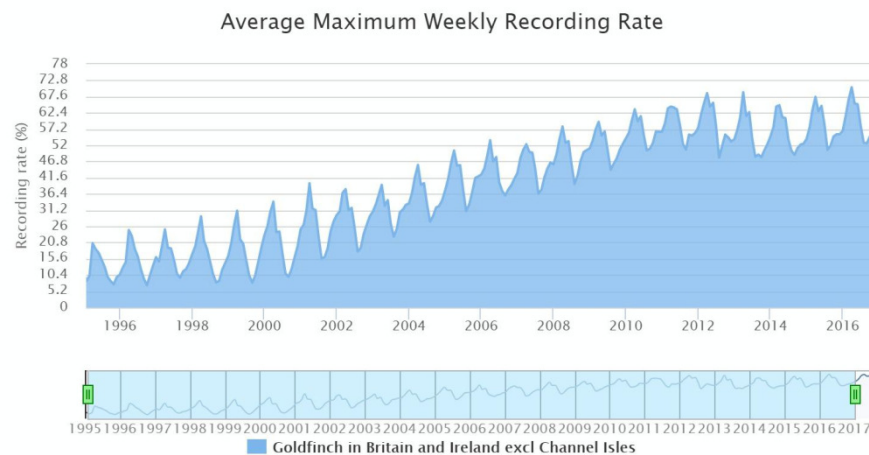
Retrapping Adults for Survival

Ongoing monitoring

Garden Bird Feeding Survey
1970/71
BTO

Garden BirdWatch
1995
BTO

BirdTrack
BTO/RSPB/BirdWatch Ireland/SOC/WOS



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BirdTrack

Welcome Dawn Balmer

Your options

My details & settings

Add records

Species list

Cancel

Rolling

Bulk upload (beta)

Bulk upload casual/roving

Global data entry

My records

Explore my records

View/edit list

View/edit casual/roving

Sites

Create new site

Manage my sites

Help

Old Data Home

BirdTrack Partners

BTO

RSPB

BirdWatch Ireland

SOC

WOS

Map guide

All Species

Records from last 30 days

National only

Local only

Threshold breakers

Other records

Top BirdTrackers

Complete lists this month

1. Cat & Debra Jones 145
2. Andy Hill 132
3. Dawn Clough-Jones 81
4. Peter Cox 75
5. Bob & Viv Smith 70
6. Ian Stewart 70

Species recorded this year

1. Lee Evans 232
2. Frank Clark 224
3. John Macdonald 210
4. Stephen Jones 204
5. Bob & Viv Smith 202
1000. Dawn Balmer 65

BirdTrack photos

More BirdTrack

Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*

Graph guide

Reporting rates: the percentage of complete sites that contain each species (on a point-to-point basis) of counting the sites and dividing by the number of sites. They will highlight seasonal changes in the detectability of resident species.

The blue line shows the reporting rate for the current year, the red line shows the average reporting rate for all previous years. Hovering over a data point reveals the statistics for that week.

% of complete sites

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Reporting rate (this year) Reporting rate (historical)

Periodic surveys

Woodcock Survey

2003, 2013
(BTO/GWCT)

Peregrine Survey

1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2002, 2014
(Country Agencies/BTO)

Nightjar Survey

1957, 1981, 1992, 2004
(BTO/RSPB/NE/Forestry Commission)

Dartford Warbler Survey

1974, 1984, 2006
(BTO/BirdWatch Ireland/SOC)

Nightingale Survey

1980, 1999, 2012
(BTO)

Woodlark Survey

1986, 1997, 2004
(BTO/RSPB/JNCC/NE)

Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows

1982, 1989
(BTO/RSPB)

Rook Survey

1944, 1975, 1980, 1996
(BTO/DETR)

Sawbills Survey

1987, 1997
(BTO/DETR)

Ringed & Little Ringed Plover Survey

1973, 1984, 2007
(NE/SNH/CCW/E&HS, Anglian Water)

Tawny Owl Survey

1989, 2005, 2018
(BTO)

One-off surveys

Breeding Waders of English Upland Farmlands
(NE)

Dispersed Waterbird Survey
(BTO/JNCC/RSPB/WWT)

Winter Farmland Bird Survey
(JNCC)

Winter Skylark Survey
(JNCC)

Organic farms
(DEFRA)

Winter Plovers Survey
(BTO/JNCC)

Lapwings in Plots
(NE)

Scarce Woodland Birds
(JNCC)

Ptarmigan Survey
(Scottish executive)

Short-eared Owl Survey
(BTO/SNH/RSPB/CCW/JNCC)

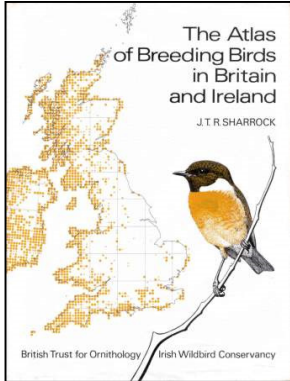

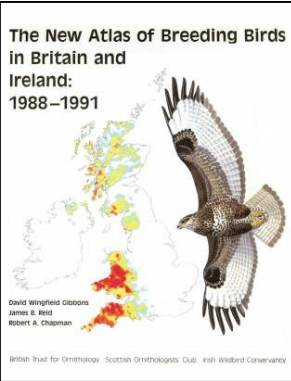
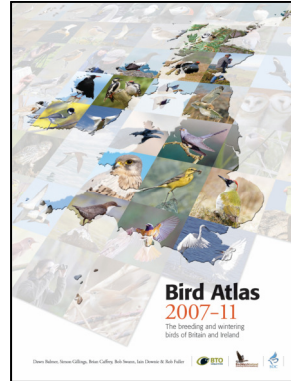
House Sparrow Survey
(BTO)

Winter Thrushes Survey
(BTO Appeals)

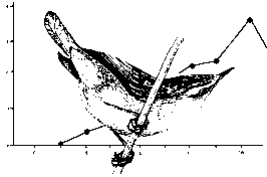
Naturalised Goose Survey
(Civil Aviation Authority)

House Martin Survey
(BTO Appeals)

Bird Atlases

				
10-km distribution	●	●	●	●
Breeding fieldwork	●		●	●
Winter fieldwork		●		●
Abundance		●	●	●
Distribution change			●	●
Abundance change				●

Spectrum of BTO-run schemes



BirdTrack



Structured recording

Good...

- Skilled volunteers
- Information on effort
- Species detected/not detected
- Robust analytical approaches
- Other taxa

Challenges...

- Habitat bias?
- Geographical coverage bias?
- Smaller sample size?

Less/unstructured recording

Good...

- All seasons, all habitats
- Lots of data
- Flexible
- Anyone can take part

Challenges...

- **Variation**
(effort, detectability, expertise)
- **Error**
(identification, abundance)
- **Bias**
(site-selection, spatial, temporal, species)
- **New analytical solutions**

BTO Regional Network





[Norfolk \(Northeast\)](#)

Regional Rep: Chris

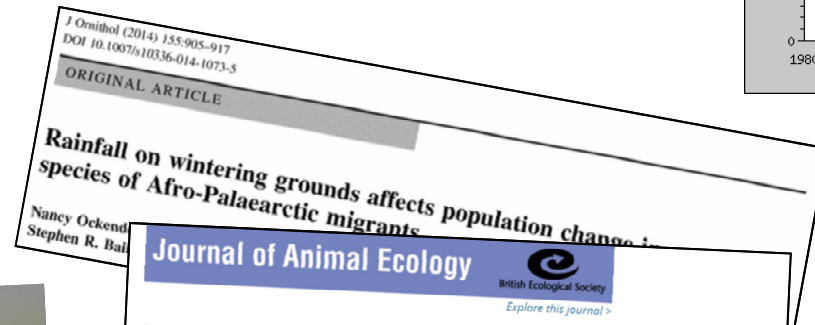
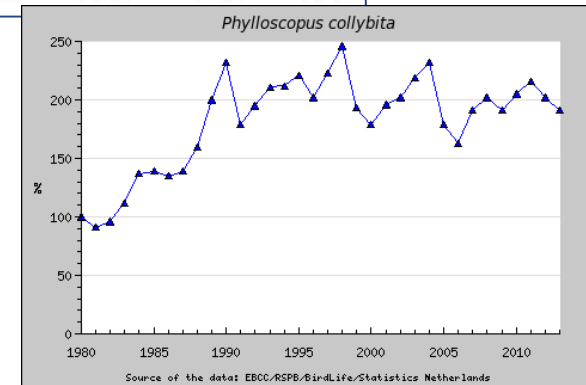
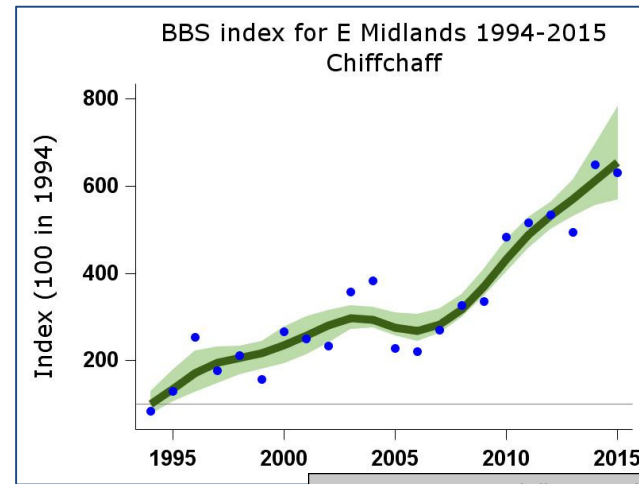
Hudson

01603 868805

chris697@btinternet.com

[More Information](#)

BBS outputs





home » about birds » birdtrends » species home

- BirdTrends 2016: trends in numbers, breeding success and survival for UK breeding birds

- Key findings
- Introduction
- Methods
- Species
 - Key to species texts
- Summary tables
- Discussion
- Utilities

Species links

Alphabetic species...

- Tree Creeper
- Tufted Duck
- Turtle Dove
- Wheatear
- Whinchat
- Whitethroat

Taxonomic species...

- Swallow
- House Martin
- Cetti's Warbler
- Long-tailed Tit
- Wood Warbler
- Chiffchaff

- Key to species texts

Section links

- Population changes
- Demographic trends
- Causes of change

Additional info

- Distribution maps for Britain and Ireland

Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Key facts

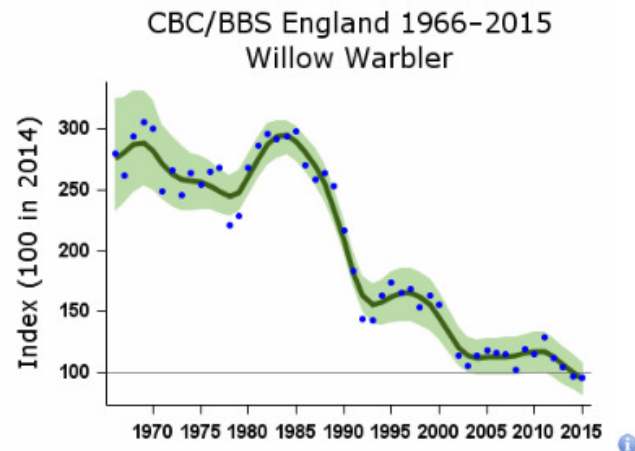
Conservation listings: Global: Least Concern
 Europe: Least Concern
 UK: amber (breeding population decline); at race level, *trochilus* amber, *acredula* green
Long-term trend: England: rapid decline
Population size: 2.4 million territories in 2009 (APEP13: 1988-91 Atlas estimate updated using CBC/BBS trend)

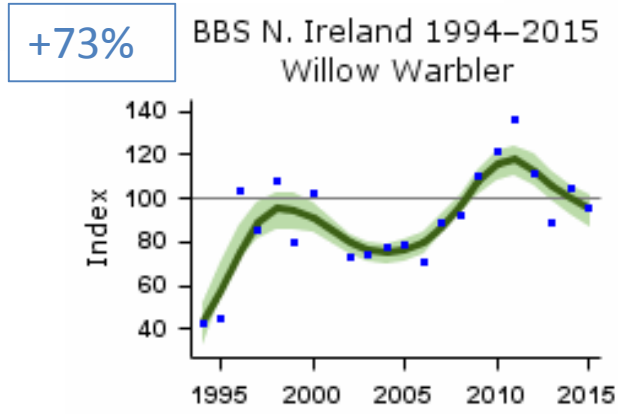
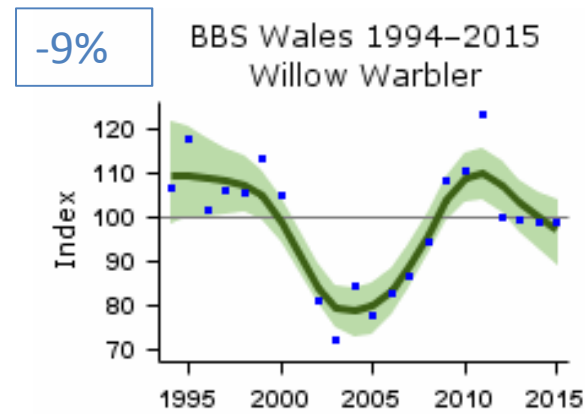
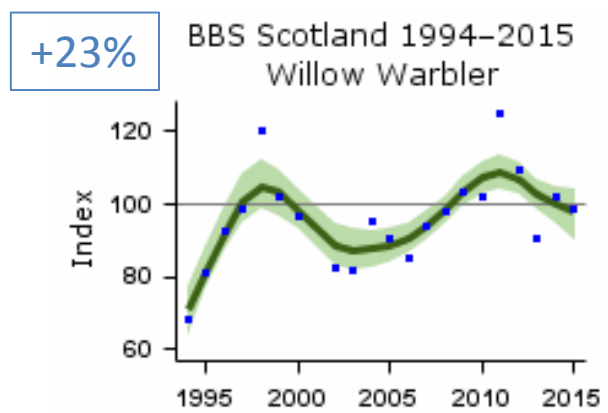
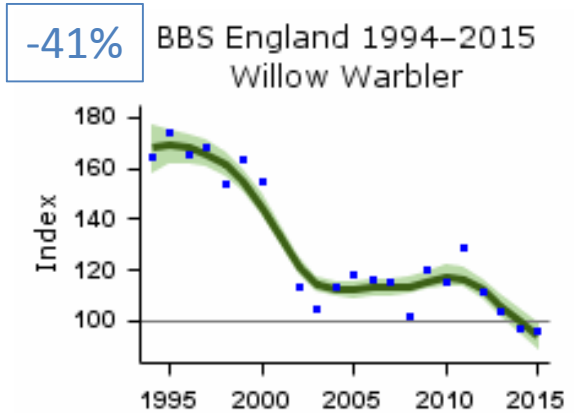
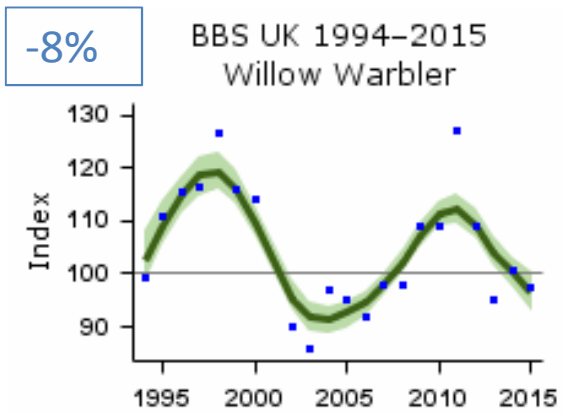


Status summary

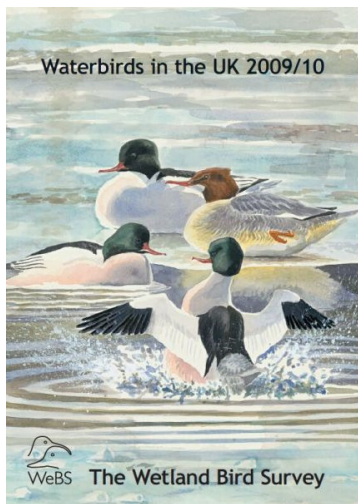
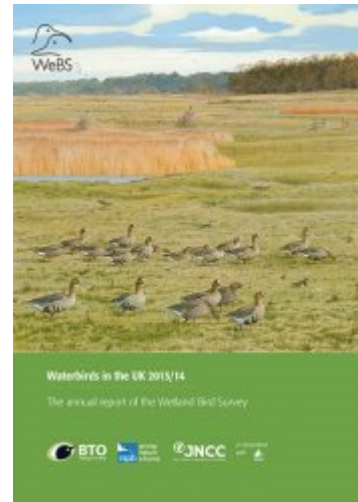
Willow Warbler abundance has shown regionally different trends within the UK (Morrison *et al.* 2010, 2013a, 2015, Massimino *et al.* 2013, Balmer *et al.* 2013). The overall CBC/BBS trend shows a rapid decline during the 1980s and early 1990s, after 20 years of relative stability, and, on the strength of a 31% decline on CBC plots between 1974 and 1999, the species was moved from the green to the amber list. This decline occurred mainly in southern Britain, however, accompanied by a fall in survival rates there (Peach *et al.* 1995a), with Scottish populations remaining unaffected. BBS figures since 1994 indicate a contrast between an upward trend in Scotland and in Northern Ireland, and continued severe decreases in England, with no overall trend in Wales. The BBS map of change in relative density between 1994-96 and 2007-09 indicates that strong decrease has been widespread across England and Wales, with little change across Northern Ireland, northern England and most of Scotland and increases in the far northwest.

There has been widespread moderate decline across Europe since 1980 (PECBMS: PECBMS 2016a; see also Lehtikoinen *et al.* 2014).





WeBS outputs



<http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/webs/publications/webs-annual-report/waterbirds-in-the-uk>

Online report

WeBS Report Online

Waterbirds in the UK: 15/16

Location: Search locations... Species: **Wigeon**

Species: Wigeon
Anas penelope

International threshold: 15,000
Great Britain threshold: 4,400
All-Ireland threshold: 630
GB max: 352,338
NI max: 5,839

Further information: [Birdlife](#) [BirdFacts](#)

Now displaying: Page 1 of 1
 Include supplementary counts where available

Country/County: Dorset Habitat: all (do not filter)

Annual Peaks

Site	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	Mon	5yr avg	Cur avg
Poole Harbour	1,654	3,600	2,904	2,663	2,641	Nov	2,692	2,692
Fleet and Wey	2,813	1,886	2,810	1,318	2,280	Nov	2,221	2,221
Christchurch Harbour	870	429	770	616	847	Nov	706	706
Bardolf Water Meadows	650	775	645	576	280	Nov	585	585
Lower Frome	71	111	56	27	80	Nov	69	69
Crichel Lake	150	74	15	65	0		61	61
Longham Lakes	54	18	124	12	16	Oct	45	45
Moors Valley Country Park	1	0	0	0	0		0	0
River Stour - Shapwick to Spasbury	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
River Stour - Whitehill to Shapwick	2	0	0	0	0		0	0
Sherborne Lake	1	0	0	0	0		0	0
Studland Bay	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
The Lake, Lulworth		0	0	0	0		0	0
Wimborne St Giles Lake	0	0	0	0	0		0	0
Woodsford Water Meadows	0	0					0	0
Bryantspiddle Pond								
Cogden Beach to West Boxington								
Hatch Pond								
Milton Abbas Lake								
Morden Park Lake								
Redhill								
River Allen (Clargate to Wimborne)								
River Frome (Frampton)								
River Stour (Maiden Newton)								
River Stour (Corfe Mullen)								

Annual and Monthly Trends (where applicable)

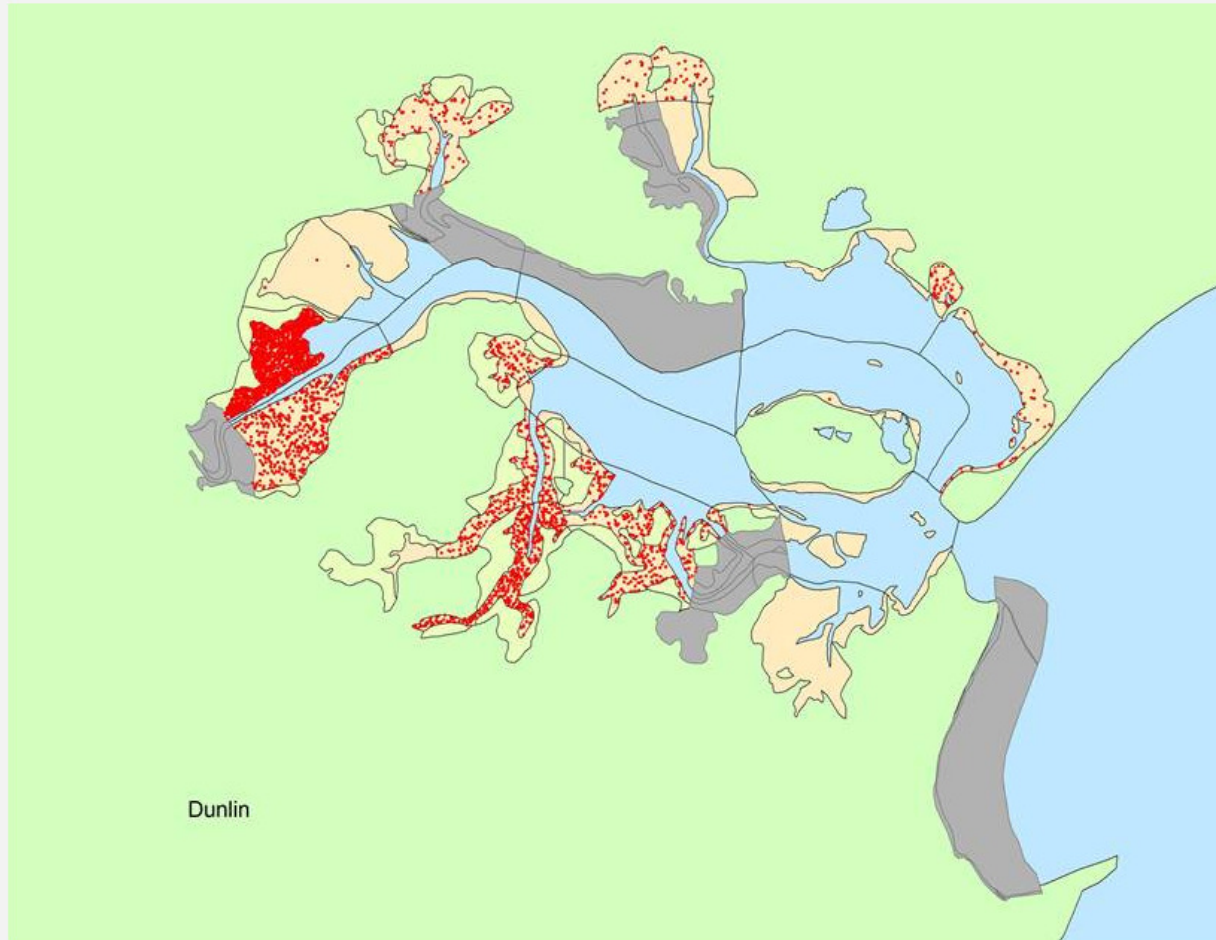
United Kingdom annual, United Kingdom monthly, Northern Ireland annual, Northern Ireland monthly, Great Britain annual, Great Britain monthly, England annual, England monthly, Wales annual, Wales monthly, Scotland annual, Scotland monthly

Choose Species

Show only Dorset counts



One of the largest natural harbours in the world, Poole Harbour, Dorset, comprises extensive intertidal flats and saltmarsh, with non-tidal refuges such as Brownsea Island. Unusual tidal patterns and low tidal range coupled with poor flushing characteristics help to preserve the extent of intertidal habitat, and the vast majority of the site is in favourable condition. The importance of Poole Harbour is underlined by its protective legislation, being designated as a Ramsar site, SPA and SSSI. The site incorporates National Nature Reserves and both RSPB and National Trust management areas of Poole Harbour. Surrounding habitat is diverse. To the south and west, the Purbecks are dominated by heath and grassland, whereas to the north and east the Poole-Bournemouth conurbation includes a major dock in addition to urban development. Coastal erosion and sea-level rise are potential future concerns, and recreational disturbance may influence patterns of feeding bird distribution at low tide.



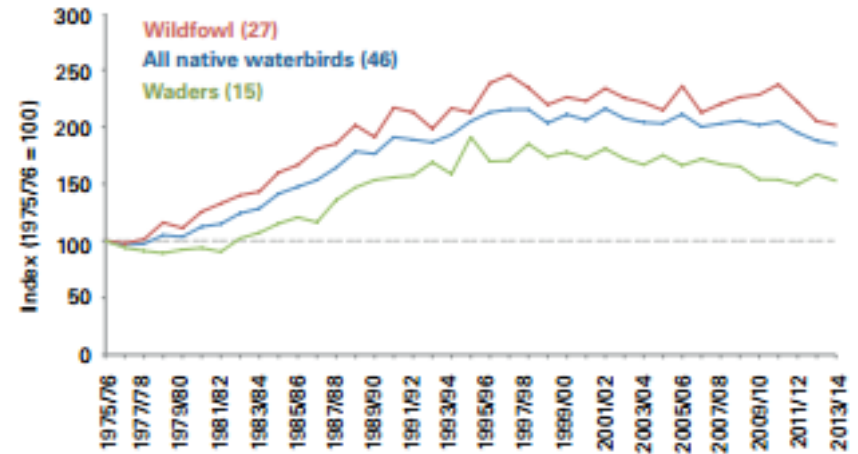
Low Tide Count year: 04/05 ▾

Display Map	English Name	Month Peak	Monthly average	Average density
<input type="radio"/>	Brent Goose (Dark-bellied)	720	466	0.15
<input type="radio"/>	Brent Goose (Light-bellied)	35	10	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Shelduck	1439	1016	0.34
<input type="radio"/>	Wigeon	1517	1080	0.36
<input type="radio"/>	Teal	1793	1184	0.40
<input type="radio"/>	Mallard	71	58	0.02
<input type="radio"/>	Pintail	123	102	0.03
<input type="radio"/>	Oystercatcher	1360	1175	1.10
<input type="radio"/>	Ringed Plover	16	7	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Golden Plover	2	<1	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Grey Plover	152	65	0.06
<input type="radio"/>	Lapwing	1505	762	0.53
<input type="radio"/>	Knot	4	1	<0.01
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Dunlin	6551	3430	3.14
<input type="radio"/>	Black-tailed Godwit	1684	1307	0.89
<input type="radio"/>	Bar-tailed Godwit	78	52	0.05
<input type="radio"/>	Curlew	2374	1841	1.28
<input type="radio"/>	Redshank	592	443	0.31
<input type="radio"/>	Turnstone	26	16	0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Mute Swan	107	59	0.04
<input type="radio"/>	Canada Goose	355	132	0.04
<input type="radio"/>	Gadwall	15	4	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Shoveler	31	22	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Pochard	4	2	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Tufted Duck	7	2	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Long-tailed Duck	2	<1	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Goldeneye	88	63	0.04
<input type="radio"/>	Smew	1	<1	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Red-breasted Merganser	305	203	0.13
<input type="radio"/>	Little Grebe	10	3	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Great Crested Grebe	81	35	0.02
<input type="radio"/>	Slavonian Grebe	1	<1	<0.01
<input type="radio"/>	Black-necked Grebe	2	1	<0.01

The state of the UK's birds 2015



UK wintering waterbird indicator



Working together to give nature a home

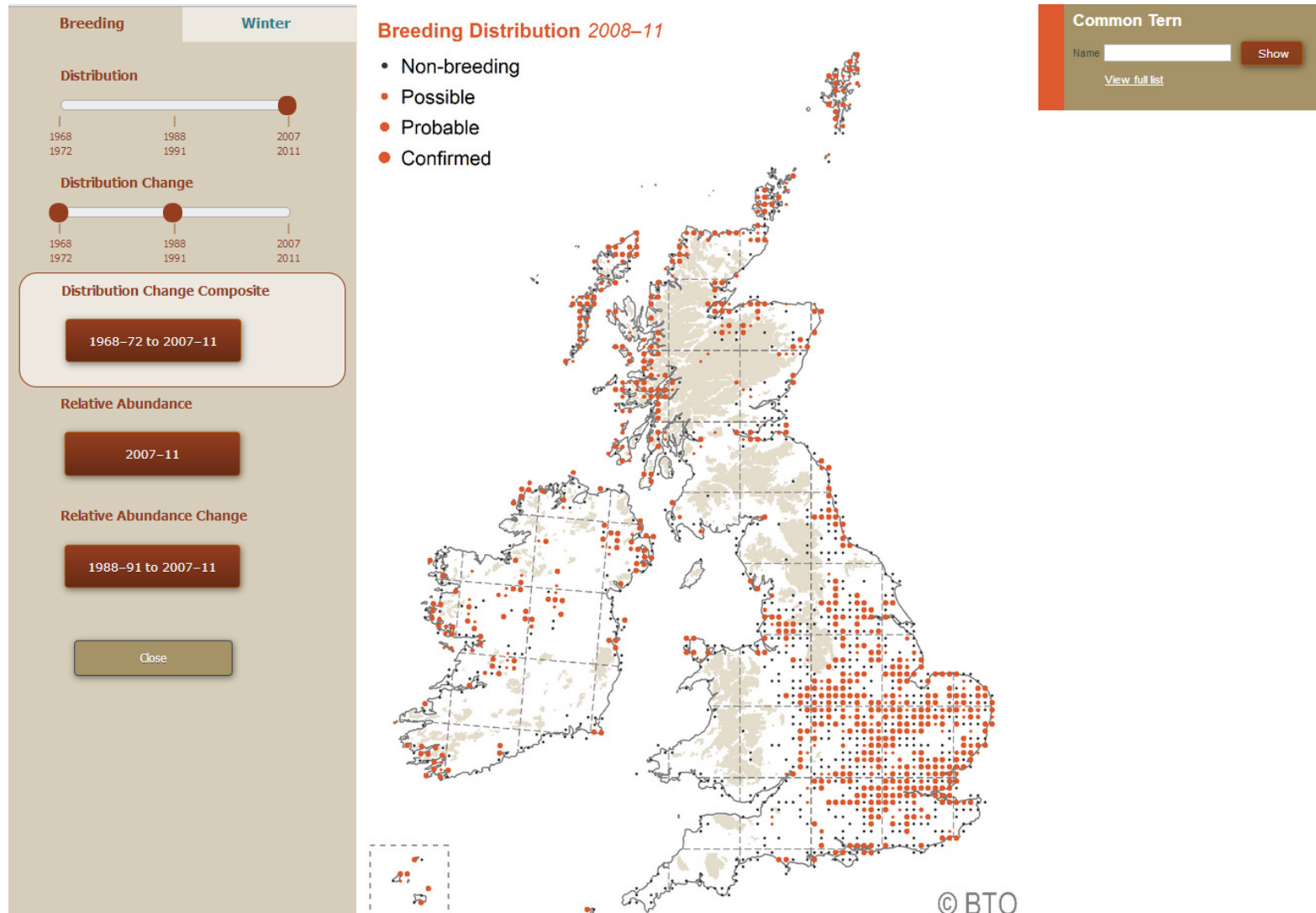


Front cover image: lapwing by Ray Kennedy (rspb-images.com)
 Produced by the RSPB, a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654
 210-0423-15-16

Bird Atlas Mapstore – free online

www.bto.org/mapstore

3683 maps



- Report a Ringed Bird
- Ringers' Pages
- IPMR Page
- DemOn

[home](#) » [volunteer-surveys](#) » [ringing](#)

Online Ringing

These summaries provide information (recoveries) of ringed birds recorded in Britain and Ireland, as well as the area (in Britain) or county (Ireland) where the bird was found in earlier years.

Useful Notes: The bird record books are covered by two or more recording squares will appear in both summaries if they were received by the site of ringing or of finding it deliberately inaccurate. Maps of

View the timing of [breeding](#)

What do you want

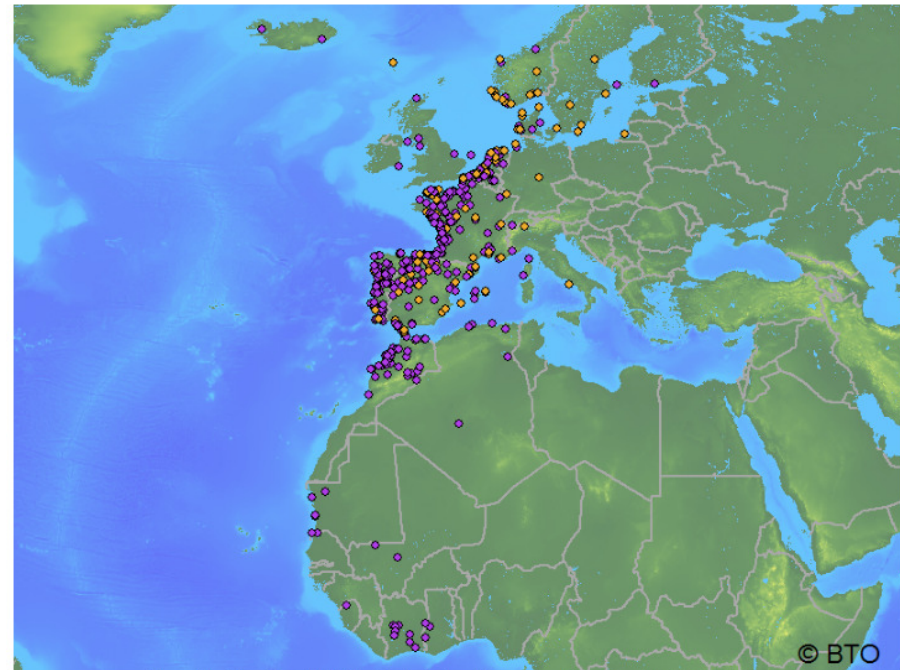
Ringling totals - by Area Britain &

Ringling totals - by Species

Number of birds ringed or recovered in counties of Britain & Ireland, or countries overseas

County	Ringed in	Found in	Country	Ringed in	Found in
Cavan	0	1	Algeria	0	6
Clare	3	3	Belgium	18	13
Cork	6	4	Ceuta	1	1
Donegal	1	7	Channel Islands	36	45
Dublin	1	1	Cote d' Ivoire	0	8
Galway	33	34	Denmark	9	9
Kerry	0	1	English Channel and Irish Sea	0	4
Kildare	5	9	Faroe Islands	2	0
Mayo	7	8	Finland	0	2
Monaghan	0	1	France	30	141
Offaly	1	0	Germany	7	6
Roscommon	0	2	Ghana	0	3
Sligo	0	4	Gibraltar	2	3
Tipperary	1	4	Iceland	0	3
Waterford	3	0	Italy	1	0
Westmeath	0	1	Mali	0	2
Wexford	20	10	Mauritania	0	5
Wicklow	3	4	Melilla	0	1
Angus & Dundee	32	32	Morocco	1	40
Argyll	37	43	North Atlantic Ocean (other parts)	0	1
Anglesey	8	9	North Sea	0	3
Avon	66	64	Norway	17	8
Ayrshire					
Buckinghamshire					
Bedfordshire					
Berkshire					
Borders					
Badenoch & Strathspey					
Cambridgeshire					
Ceredigion					
Caernarfonshire					
Cheshire & Wirral					
Cardiganshire					
Cornwall					
Cotswolds					

Foreign location of birds ringed or recovered in Britain & Ireland:



Colour of location: Ringed in Britain & Ireland, Found Here; Ringed Here, Found in Britain & Ireland