



## The Breeding Bird Survey 2011

The population trends of the UK's breeding birds



## The BBS Partnership

### British Trust for Ornithology



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The Breeding Bird Survey is run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is jointly funded by the BTO, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) (on behalf of the statutory nature conservation agencies: Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside, the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and Scottish Natural Heritage), and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

The members of the BBS Steering Committee in 2011 were Stephen Baillie (Chair, BTO), Deborah Procter (JNCC), Mark Eaton (RSPB), Andy Musgrove (BTO) and James Pearce-Higgins (BTO).

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Report production and design were by Kate Risely. We are grateful to John Marchant for proofreading the report. The report was printed by Reflex, Thetford, using paper from responsible sources.



## The BBS Team at the BTO

Kate Risely is the BBS National Organiser, responsible for the day-to-day running of the BBS, liaising with BTO Regional Organisers and volunteers, maintaining the database, promoting the scheme, and producing the annual report.

Dario Massimino, Research Ecologist in the Population Ecology and Modelling Team, produced the bird population trends in 2011, and Stuart Newson produced the mammal population trends. Alison Johnston is the BTO's Ecological Statistician. David Noble is the Principal Ecologist for Monitoring at the BTO, responsible for strategic developments in biodiversity monitoring. Andy Musgrove is the Head of the Monitoring Team, which includes the BBS and other surveys. Stephen Baillie is the Director of the Modelling and Demography Group at the BTO, and has overseen the BBS since its inception in 1994.

# The 2011 BBS Report

This is the seventeenth annual report of the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), containing the population trends of widespread UK bird species during the period 1994–2011.

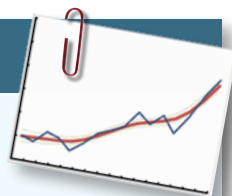
The BBS is the main scheme for monitoring the population changes of the UK's common and widespread breeding birds, providing an important indicator of the health of the countryside. BBS trends are produced each year for over 100 species, and the results are widely used to set conservation priorities.

<b>BBS news and research</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Background and methods</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>Coverage and online recording</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>List of all species recorded</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>UK population trends</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>England population trends</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Scotland population trends</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>Population trends in Wales and Northern Ireland, and coverage in Isle of Man and Channel Islands</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>Population trends in English regions</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Mammal monitoring</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Special thanks</b> .....	<b>back cover</b>

## Online Resources

Further information, including population trend graphs, can be found at [www.bto.org/bbs](http://www.bto.org/bbs), and a full species-by-species discussion of these results, and those from other surveys, can be found on the BirdTrends website at [www.bto.org/birdtrends](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends).

This report can be downloaded at [www.bto.org/bbs/results/bbsreport.htm](http://www.bto.org/bbs/results/bbsreport.htm).



# Mapping bird trends using BBS data

Exciting new ways of visualising changes in bird populations are being developed by the BTO's Population Ecology and Modelling Team.

By **Dario Massimino**, Research Ecologist and **Alison Johnston** Ecological Statistician, BTO

The BBS trends are an important tool for bird conservation, often providing the first notification of population declines. Trends are produced for the four separate countries within the UK, and for regions within England, thus helping to identify how trends vary spatially. For example, the Cuckoo population declined by 63% in England during 1995–2010, but was largely stable in Scotland. This kind of information helps inform local conservation priorities, but is still relatively broad-scale. Using various statistical techniques we can now produce maps of trends at much finer scale that are not tied to national and regional boundaries.

Not every 1-km square in the country is surveyed, so we use a statistical model that relates the numbers of birds counted in each BBS square to the habitat in that square, and to its location, because squares that are close together are likely to have similar densities of birds. We also use the distance-band data to estimate detectability of species, and account for this in the models. These statistical models allow us to fill in the gaps between surveyed squares using information on their location and habitat, helped by the fact that BBS survey squares are chosen randomly. By producing maps of density at 1-km resolution using data from years 1994 to 1996 and from years 2007 to 2009, we can produce fine-scale maps of modelled population trend based on the difference between the densities in the early years and the later years. These estimates account for the fact that some locations might have some opposite trends to squares around them, and present a likely average trend for each square, based on habitat and location. However, being estimates, they are unlikely to be exactly right for every location, particularly in areas with few BBS squares.

We illustrate this process for Curlew, demonstrating that densities have declined by more than 50% in many areas of the UK (the national trend is a 44% decline), as shown by the extent of the red colour on the map in Figure 1. Nonetheless, there appear to be areas where Curlew density has increased; the dark blue patches in the Pennines, eastern Scotland and Outer Hebrides show modelled increases of more than 50%. This information about the spatial variation of changes in population density is extremely useful in conservation. If we investigate why

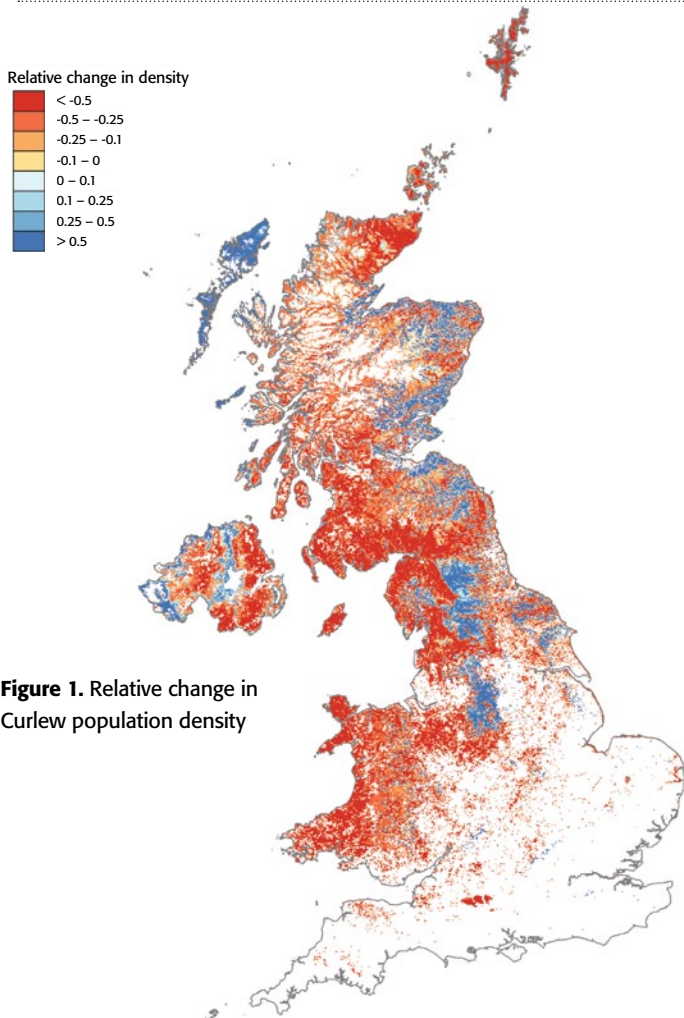
the Curlew population has fallen in Wales and many other western areas but has increased in others, we may be able to learn about the causes of decline and develop strategies for conservation.

Changes to population density will have different implications depending on whether they occur in areas where the species has its highest densities, or in more marginal areas. Large declines occurring in the species' strongholds may have substantial effects on the total population size and raise conservation concerns, as the species may be affected by harmful processes in its core areas. On the other hand, proportionally large declines occurring in marginal areas may have less influence on overall numbers, but have consequences for local extinctions. It is therefore useful to combine on the same map the information about actual population density and change in population density (Figure 2). The colour of the dots indicates the changes in population density (as in Figure 1). Their size, however, is related to population density itself. Large red dots indicate large declines in Curlew strongholds, while smaller red dots are showing proportionally large declines where the species is not so abundant.

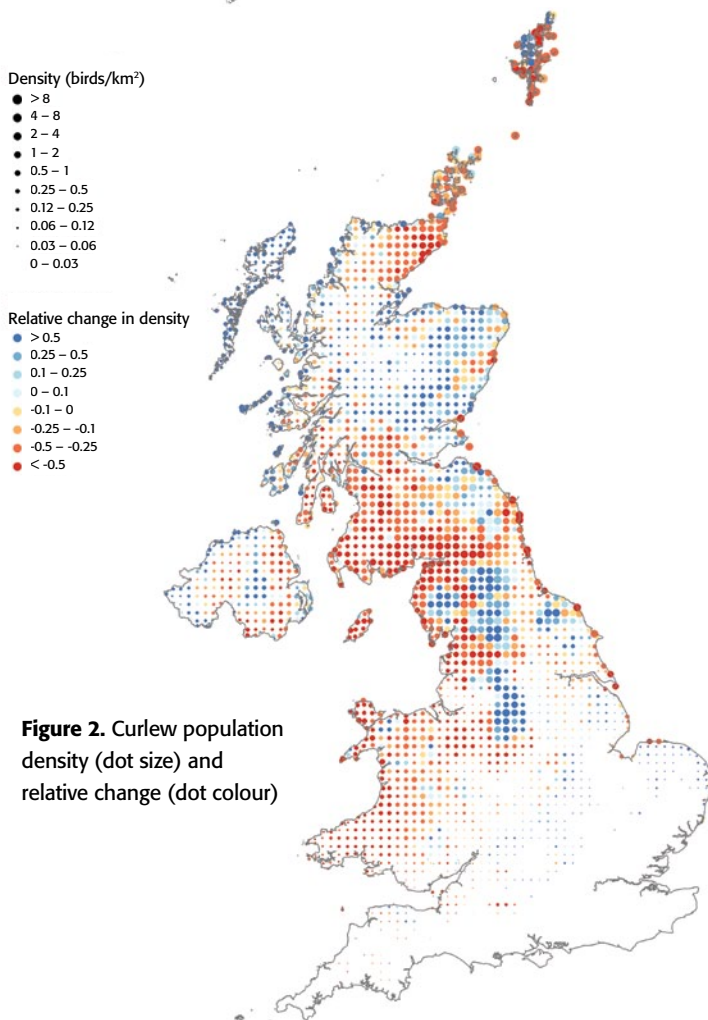
This is just one example of the range of maps we will be producing using BBS data, which will be available on the BBS website from summer 2012 ([www.bto.org/bbs](http://www.bto.org/bbs)). Do look at these to find out how bird populations may have changed in your region. An explanation of how these maps relate to those produced by the 2007–11 Bird Atlas can be found in *BTO News* (issue 300, July–August 2012).



## BBS NEWS AND RESEARCH



**Figure 1.** Relative change in Curlew population density



**Figure 2.** Curlew population density (dot size) and relative change (dot colour)

## Trial of methods to improve detectability analysis

In 2011 a small number of volunteers took part in a trial of potential new survey methods designed to improve detectability analysis.

These methods included the use of extra distance bands (at 10m and 50m), recording males and females, and recording how birds were detected (by song, call or by sight).

Following this trial it was decided that recording how birds were detected, and recording males and females, could be feasibly introduced as optional additions to the survey. It was decided that additional distance bands would not be introduced at this time. These potential changes are currently being considered.

## Opting out of paper BBS reports

The BBS partner organisations strive to reduce the use of paper where possible. While we will continue to produce paper BBS reports for the foreseeable future, we are looking at ways to reduce the number of copies printed.

If you are a BBS volunteer, and you would prefer to receive your copy of the BBS report electronically, please contact [bbs@bto.org](mailto:bbs@bto.org) to let us know. We will continue to send paper reports to volunteers unless we are instructed otherwise.

## Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2011

Over 700 squares were surveyed for the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey in 2011, a joint effort by BBS and Butterfly Conservation volunteers. The most abundant species recorded were Meadow Brown, Small, Large and Green-veined White, and Gatekeeper. It was an improved year for Red

Admiral, rising five places to become the sixth most frequently encountered species, but the biggest losers in 2011 were Small Tortoiseshell and Common Blue.

Full results from 2011 can be found on the BBS website, and we look forward to the results of the 2012 season.



# Large-scale impacts of deer browsing on woodland birds

New research has found that deer-related habitat modification may be affecting some bird species on far larger scales than previously thought.

By **Stuart Newson** Senior Research Ecologist, BTO

New analyses have found evidence for a large-scale negative association between three widespread and abundant deer species and population sizes of several woodland birds.

The research applied novel analytical methods to BBS bird and mammal data to examine whether populations of eleven woodland bird species that are associated with dense understorey habitats in lowland England have been depressed following increases in the abundance of three deer species: Reeves' Muntjac, Roe Deer and Fallow Deer. Whilst all three deer species have increased over the BBS period, maps of predicted relative abundance can be produced from the BBS mammal data, using similar techniques to those described for birds on page 4. For example, the maps below show the expansion of Reeves' Muntjac eastwards from central England to East Anglia where a high-density population has become established (Figure 3).

For five of the eleven understorey bird species considered there was evidence that increases in deer are associated with large-scale depression of abundance or population declines

in lowland England. Of these species, it was suggested that the impacts of deer are likely to have been greatest for two species of conservation concern, Nightingale and Willow Tit.

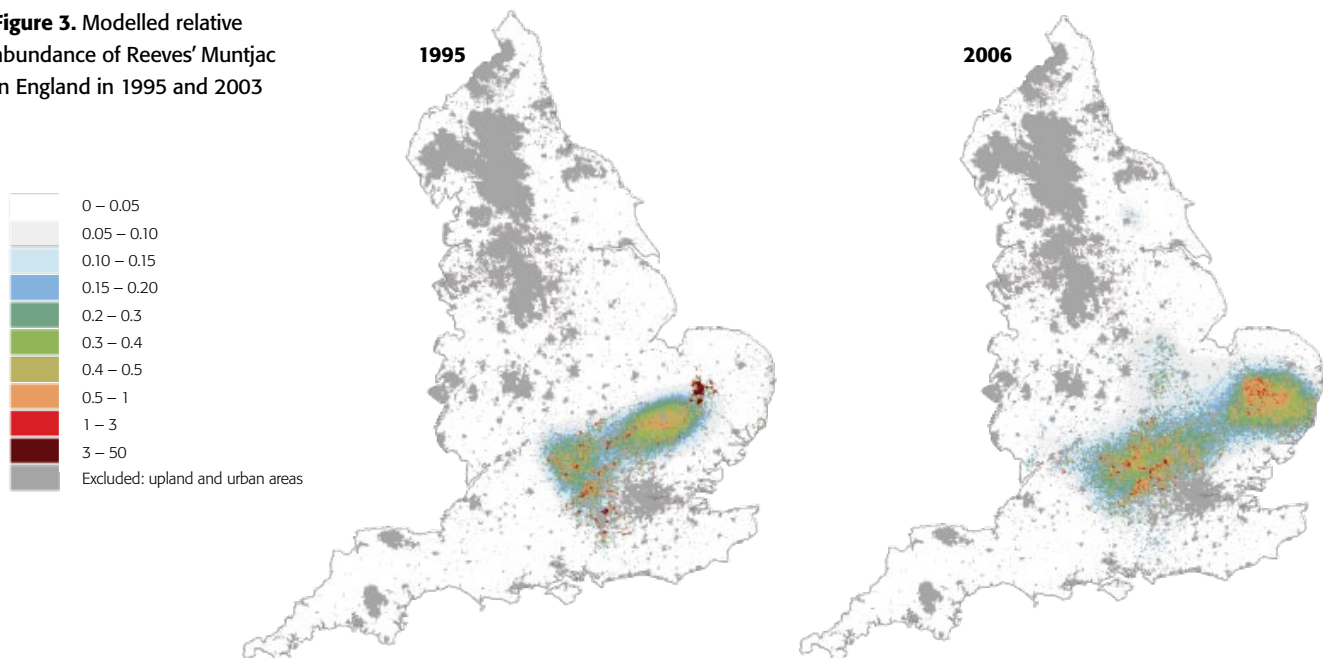
Whilst this study is not suggesting that deer are the only, or even the main, factor driving woodland bird declines, as many other issues are potentially implicated, these findings are consistent with those from small-scale experimental studies which suggest that increases in deer abundance may be affecting some bird species on far larger scales than previously appreciated.

This study shows how BBS bird and mammal data can be combined with spatial analytical techniques to identify causes of population decline in woodland birds.

## Find out more...

**Newson, S.E., Johnston, A., Renwick, A.R., Baillie, S.R. & Fuller, R.J.** 2012. Modelling large-scale relationships between changes in woodland deer and bird populations. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **49**: 278–286.

**Figure 3.** Modelled relative abundance of Reeves' Muntjac in England in 1995 and 2003



## BBS BACKGROUND AND METHODS

The BBS was launched, in 1994, to provide more representative habitat and geographical coverage than the main survey running at the time, the Common Birds Census (CBC). The CBC ended in 2000, and the overlap period between 1994 and 2000 allowed the BTO to develop methods for calculating long-term trends (from the 1960s to the present) using information from both schemes.

The BBS is a line-transect survey based on randomly located 1-km squares. Squares are chosen through stratified random sampling, with more squares in areas with more potential volunteers. The difference in sampling effort is taken into account when calculating trends. BBS volunteers make two early-morning visits to their square during the April–June survey period, recording all birds encountered while walking two 1-km transects across their square. Each 1-km transect is divided into five 200-m sections for ease of recording. Birds are recorded in three distance categories, or as ‘in flight’, in order to assess detectability and work out species density. Observers also record the habitat along the transects, and record any mammals seen during the survey. Surveying a BBS square involves around six hours of fieldwork per year, and the aim is for each volunteer to survey the same square (or squares) every year.

As BBS squares are randomly selected, they can turn up on any kind of habitat. Some squares can never be surveyed, and these truly ‘uncoverable’ sites are removed from the system. However, squares that are temporarily inaccessible, or which are not taken up due to their remote location, are retained in order to maintain the integrity of the sampling design.

The BBS National Organiser, based at BTO, is responsible for the overall running of the scheme, and is the main point of contact for the network of volunteer Regional Organisers (ROs). ROs are responsible for finding new volunteers and allocating squares to observers in their region. At the end of the season they validate submissions made online, and collect paper submissions and return them to BTO. We are very grateful for the assistance of the ROs.

The BBS provides reliable population trends for a large proportion of our breeding species. Trends can also be produced for specific countries, regions or habitats. For these analyses, we take the higher count from the two visits for each species, summed over all four distance categories and ten transect sections. Only squares that have been surveyed in at least two years are included in the analyses. Population changes are estimated using a log-linear model with Poisson error terms. Counts are modelled as a function of year and site effects, weighted to account for differences in sampling effort across the UK, with standard errors adjusted for overdispersion.

Since 2009, data from additional randomly selected 1-km squares surveyed as part of the Scottish Woodland BBS and the Upland BBS have been included in the BBS sample. These squares were surveyed using the same methodology as standard BBS squares, and results were incorporated into trends accounting for additional sampling effort.

Work has been carried out to assess the reliability of BBS trends, to ensure that reported trends are based on reliable data and sufficient sample sizes. This work has resulted in the following exclusions and caveats:

- We do not report population trends for five species of gull (Black-headed, Common, Lesser Black-backed, Herring and Great Black-backed), as a large proportion of the records are of non-breeding, wintering or migratory individuals.
- Trends for rare breeding species with substantial wintering populations (e.g. Fieldfare) are excluded.
- Trends for Cormorant, Grey Heron and Common Tern are reported with the caveat that counts may contain a high proportion of birds away from breeding sites.
- Trends for Tawny Owl and Barn Owl are reported with the caveat that the BBS monitors nocturnal species poorly.
- Counts for six wader species (Oystercatcher, Golden Plover, Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew and Redshank) are corrected to exclude counts from non-breeding flocks, and observations of Golden Plover in unsuitable breeding habitat are also excluded.

## Studies using BBS data

**Baker, D.J., Freeman, S.N., Grice, P.V. & Siriwardena, G.M.** 2012. Landscape-scale responses of birds to agri-environment management: a test of the English Environmental Stewardship scheme. *Journal of Applied Ecology* (published online 29-6-12).

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**Eglington, S.M. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W.** 2012. Disentangling the relative importance of changes in climate and land-use intensity in driving recent bird population trends. *PLoS ONE* **7**(3): e30407.

**Lawson, B., Robinson, R.A., Colvile, K., Peck, K.M., Chantrey, J., Pennycott, T., Simpson, V.R., Toms, M.P. & Cunningham, A.A.** 2012. The emergence and spread of finch trichomonosis in the British Isles. *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society, Series B*. In press.

**Le Voil, I., Jiguet, F., Brotons, L., Herrando, S., Lindström, Å., Pearce-Higgins, J.W., Reif, J., van Turnhout, C. & Devictor, V.** 2012. More and more generalists: two decades of changes in the European avifauna. *Biology Letters*. In press.

**Newson, S.E., Johnston, A., Renwick, A.R., Baillie, S.R. & Fuller, R.J.** 2012. Modelling large-scale relationships between changes in woodland deer and bird populations. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **49**: 278–286.

**Ockendon, N., Hewson, C.M., Johnston, A. & Atkinson, P.W.** 2012. Declines in British-breeding populations of Afro-Palaeartic migrant birds are linked to bioclimatic wintering zone in Africa, possibly via constraints on arrival time advancement. *Bird Study* **59**: 111–125.

**Oliver, T.H., Gillings, S., Girardello, M., Rapaciuolo, G., Brereton, T.M., Siriwardena, G.M., Roy, D.B., Pywell, R. & Fuller, R.J.** 2012. Population density but not stability can be predicted from species distribution models. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **49**: 581–590. doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02138.x.

**Renwick, A.R., Johnston, A., Joys, A., Newson, S.E., Noble, D.G. & Pearce-Higgins, J.W.** 2012. Composite bird indicators robust to variation in species selection and habitat specificity. *Ecological Indicators* **18**: 200–207.

**Renwick, A.R., Massimo, D., Newson, S.E., Chamberlain, D.E., Pearce-Higgins, J.W. & Johnston, A.** 2012. Modelling changes in species' abundance in response to projected climate change. *Diversity and Distributions* **18**: 121–132.

## Further reading

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**Eaton, M.A., Brown, A.F., Noble, D.G., Musgrove, A.J., Hearn, R.D., Aebischer, N.J., Gibbons, D.W., Evans, A. & Gregory, R.D.** 2009. Birds of Conservation Concern 3: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds* **102**: 296–341. (booklet at [www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u12/bocc3.pdf](http://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/u12/bocc3.pdf)).

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**JNCC** 2011. *Seabird Population Trends and Causes of Change: 2011 Report*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee. ([www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3201](http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-3201)).

**PECBMS** 2012. *Population Trends of Common European Breeding Birds 2012*. European Bird Census Council, Prague, Czech Republic. ([www.ebcc.info/wpimages/video/Leaflet2012.pdf](http://www.ebcc.info/wpimages/video/Leaflet2012.pdf)).

## SURVEY COVERAGE

3,222  
BBS squares  
surveyed in  
2011

# Consistent coverage

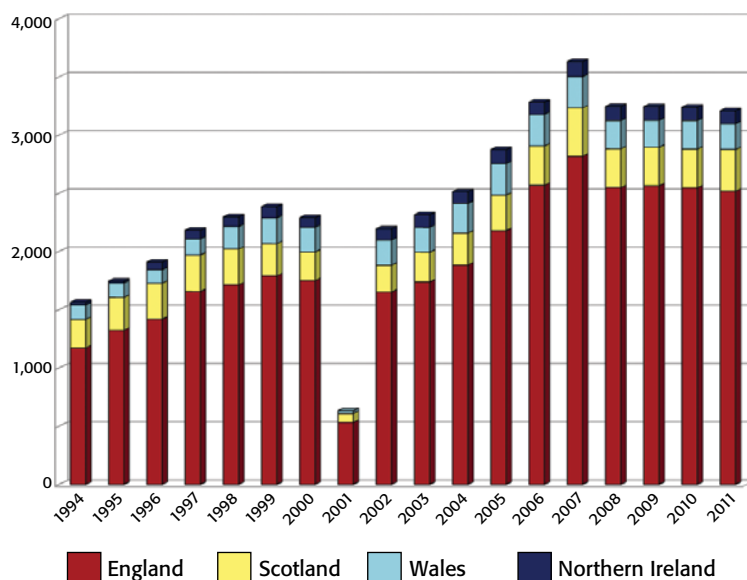
Survey coverage has remained remarkably stable for the last four years, during the period coinciding with fieldwork for the 2007–11 Bird Atlas. In 2011, 3,222 BBS squares were surveyed, slightly fewer than the previous year. We are very grateful to all volunteers for their continued commitment to the survey.

The 2011 total includes 76 'Adjacent Upland' squares, up from 52 in 2010, and 12 'Scottish Woodland' squares. These schemes are designed to improve sampling in under-represented habitats.

As in previous years, 52 squares in Northern Ireland were surveyed by professional fieldworkers, meaning that 3,170 squares were surveyed by volunteers. This coverage was achieved by 2,471 individual volunteers.

No professional 'add-on' surveys were carried out in 2011, but records collected by professionals in previous years were included when calculating the trends.

Number of BBS squares surveyed



**Table 1** Number of BBS squares surveyed

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
England	1,173	1,325	1,420	1,657	1,713	1,792	1,749	533	1,652	1,738	1,885	2,179	2,569	2,819	2,549	2,566	2,548	2,518
Scotland	245	283	308	313	309	275	246	78	231	255	274	305	336	414	333	329	331	358
Wales	122	121	116	138	192	223	213	22	215	214	254	271	271	269	242	232	245	221
Northern Ireland	25	17	65	75	85	95	83	0	97	109	102	120	107	129	121	116	115	110
Channel Islands	1	1	7	6	7	7	7	7	7	7	11	13	19	16	15	17	16	15
Isle of Man	4	4	4	6	6	5	3	0	3	4	6	3	5	4	1	0	0	0
<b>UK Total</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>1,920</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>2,397</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>2,205</b>	<b>2,327</b>	<b>2,532</b>	<b>2,891</b>	<b>3,307</b>	<b>3,651</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>3,260</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>3,222</b>

## BBS-Online

Results from 2,770 squares were submitted online in 2011; 86% of the total, and another welcome increase in online submissions.

Data submitted online can be processed more efficiently than from paper forms, and the BBS-Online application allows users to enter and edit bird, habitat, mammal and colony data online, and to view all historical records from their squares (including those submitted by previous observers).

To reduce the amount of paper we use we now issue reduced packs of forms to online users, with the paper summary sheets omitted.

The design of BBS-Online means that counts should be entered directly from the field recording sheets; counts should not be transferred to paper summary sheets beforehand. The system will add together counts where necessary, so individual records can be entered exactly as noted down on the field sheets.

Online users can view an Ordnance Survey map of their square, and map their transect route online.



The online recording system can be accessed at [www.bto.org/bbs](http://www.bto.org/bbs).

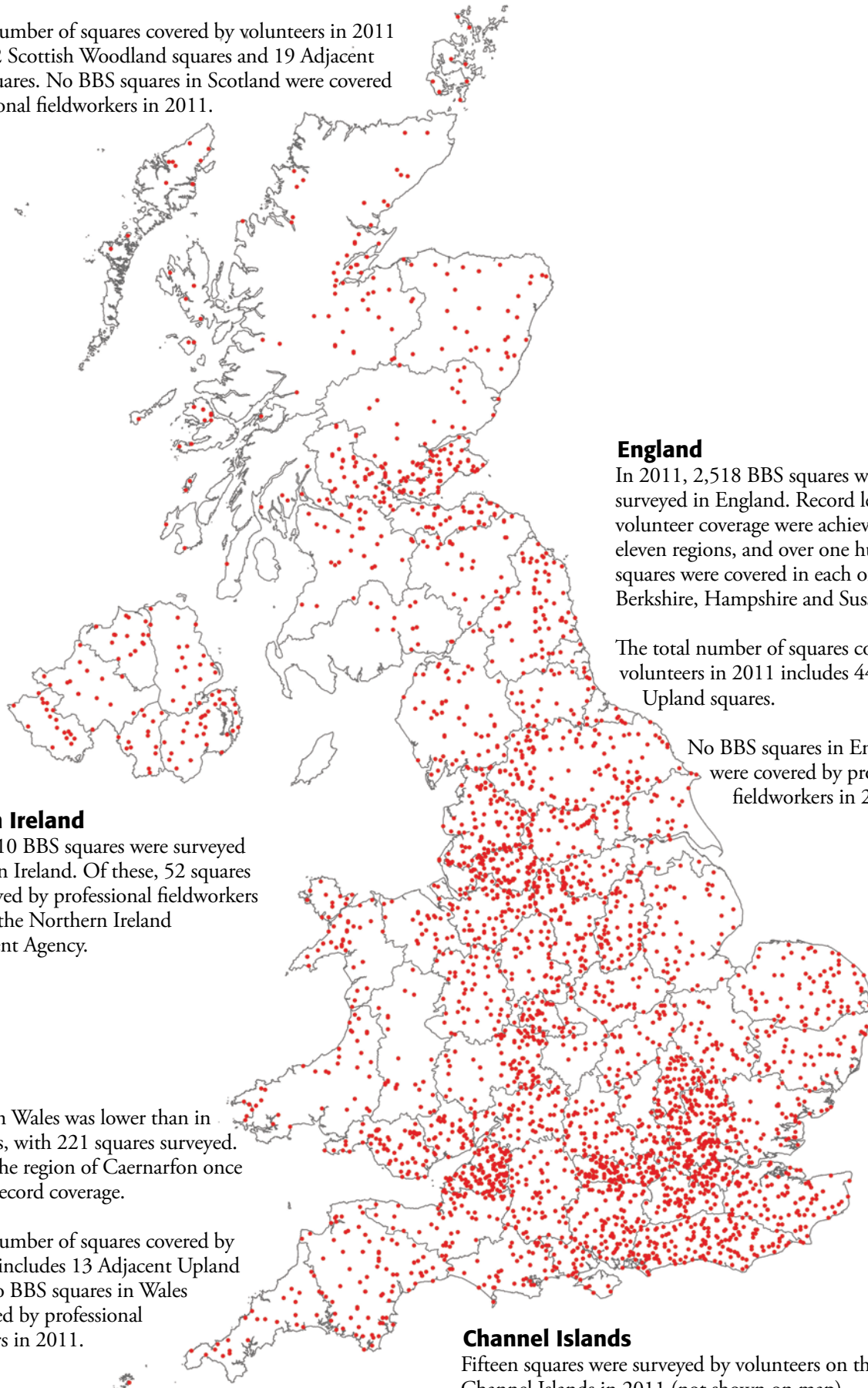


## Scotland

2011 saw Scotland's second-highest level of BBS coverage, at 358 squares. The regions of Borders, Central, Lothian and Inverness (East & Speyside) saw their highest-ever coverage, but more volunteers are needed in Kirkcudbright, Shetland and Wigtown in particular.

The total number of squares covered by volunteers in 2011 includes 12 Scottish Woodland squares and 19 Adjacent Upland squares. No BBS squares in Scotland were covered by professional fieldworkers in 2011.

## BBS squares covered in 2011, including Adjacent Upland squares



## England

In 2011, 2,518 BBS squares were surveyed in England. Record levels of volunteer coverage were achieved in eleven regions, and over one hundred squares were covered in each of Avon, Berkshire, Hampshire and Sussex.

The total number of squares covered by volunteers in 2011 includes 44 Adjacent Upland squares.

No BBS squares in England were covered by professional fieldworkers in 2011.

## Northern Ireland

In 2011, 110 BBS squares were surveyed in Northern Ireland. Of these, 52 squares were surveyed by professional fieldworkers funded by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

## Wales

Coverage in Wales was lower than in recent years, with 221 squares surveyed. However, the region of Caernarfon once again saw record coverage.

The total number of squares covered by volunteers includes 13 Adjacent Upland squares. No BBS squares in Wales were covered by professional fieldworkers in 2011.

## Channel Islands

Fifteen squares were surveyed by volunteers on the Channel Islands in 2011 (not shown on map).

## SPECIES RECORDED

# Updated species order

In 2010 the British Ornithologists' Union announced changes to the taxonomic order of British bird species, mainly affecting passerines. Following completion of fieldwork for the 2007–11 Bird Atlas the BTO has moved to introduce the new species order across all surveys and publications, with the result that the order of species shown here, and in the trend tables, differs from previous reports.

A total of 211 species were recorded on the 3,222 BBS squares surveyed in 2011 (Table 2). This total includes a number of domestic breeds and escapees (see footnotes).

Woodpigeon (recorded on 93% of squares), Chaffinch (92%) and Blackbird (92%) were the most widespread species, and the most numerous species were Woodpigeon (77,744 individual birds counted), Rook (36,401) and Blackbird (35,345). Particularly interesting species recorded on BBS visits in 2011 included a Ptarmigan in Sutherland and Cranes on a square in Norfolk.

The average number of species recorded on BBS squares in 2011 was 30, but the highest number was 64 species, on squares in Hampshire and the West Midlands. Of course, the value of the results does not depend on the number of species recorded, and we are particularly grateful to observers who survey species-poor, remote or urban areas, as it is just as important to know where there are few birds as where there are many.

Although we don't report population trends for all species, some indication of population status can be found on the BBS website, where we report the number of squares on which each species is recorded in each year. Full details of the number of individuals counted, for all years, can also be found on the BBS website: [www.bto.org/bbs](http://www.bto.org/bbs).

One fortunate observer recorded Cranes during their BBS visit



CRANES BY ANDY HAY (RSPB-IMAGES.COM)

**Table 2** Species recorded in 2011

Species	Scientific name	Squares	%
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	303	9.4
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>	2	0.1
Pink-footed Goose	<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>	9	0.3
White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	1	0.0
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>	319	9.9
Greylag Goose (domestic)*	<i>Anser anser</i>	21	0.7
Canada Goose (i)	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	616	19.1
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	3	0.1
Brent Goose	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	2	0.1
Egyptian Goose (i)	<i>Alopochen aegyptiaca</i>	40	1.2
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	155	4.8
Mandarin Duck (i)	<i>Aix galericulata</i>	49	1.5
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	8	0.2
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	52	1.6
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	30	0.9
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1,500	46.6
Mallard (domestic)*	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	22	0.7
Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	1	0.0
Showeler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	9	0.3
Red-crested Pochard	<i>Netta rufina</i>	2	0.1
Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	20	0.6
Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	172	5.3
Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	15	0.5
Common Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	1	0.0
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	10	0.3
Goosander	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	45	1.4
Red Grouse	<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>	157	4.9
Ptarmigan	<i>Lagopus muta</i>	1	0.0
Black Grouse	<i>Tetrao tetrix</i>	16	0.5
Red-legged Partridge (i)	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>	709	22.0
Grey Partridge	<i>Perdix perdix</i>	207	6.4
Quail	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	31	1.0
Pheasant (i)	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	2,249	69.8
Red-throated Diver	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	10	0.3
Black-throated Diver	<i>Gavia arctica</i>	2	0.1
Great Northern Diver	<i>Gavia immer</i>	4	0.1
Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	18	0.6
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	1	0.0
Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	13	0.4
Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	285	8.8
Shag	<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	14	0.4
Bittern	<i>Botaurus stellaris</i>	4	0.1
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	65	2.0
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	706	21.9
Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	71	2.2
Great Crested Grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>	78	2.4
Black-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	2	0.1
Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	2	0.1
Red Kite	<i>Milvus milvus</i>	231	7.2
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	37	1.1
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	14	0.4
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	15	0.5
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>	388	12.0
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>	1,480	45.9
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	9	0.3
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	8	0.2
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	684	21.2
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	14	0.4
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>	61	1.9
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	70	2.2
Water Rail	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	6	0.2
Corncrake	<i>Crex crex</i>	5	0.2
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	649	20.1
Coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>	303	9.4
Crane	<i>Grus grus</i>	1	0.0
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>	370	11.5
Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>	6	0.2
Stone-curlew	<i>Burhinus oedipnemus</i>	5	0.2
Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	9	0.3
Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>	28	0.9
Dotterel	<i>Charadrius morinellus</i>	2	0.1
Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	109	3.4
Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	2	0.1
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	685	21.3
Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	2	0.1
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	1	0.0



211  
species  
recorded in  
2011

Species	Scientific name	Squares	%
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	21	0.7
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	129	4.0
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	11	0.3
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	9	0.3
Bar-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	4	0.1
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	34	1.1
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>	528	16.4
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	61	1.9
Green Sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>	8	0.2
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	2	0.1
Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	9	0.3
Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	1	0.0
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	67	2.1
Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	4	0.1
Arctic Skua	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	1	0.0
Great Skua	<i>Stercorarius skua</i>	7	0.2
Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	3	0.1
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	649	20.1
Mediterranean Gull	<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>	17	0.5
Common Gull	<i>Larus canus</i>	190	5.9
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	881	27.3
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	886	27.5
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	139	4.3
Little Tern	<i>Sterna albifrons</i>	3	0.1
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	17	0.5
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	96	3.0
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	9	0.3
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	5	0.2
Black Guillemot	<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	3	0.1
Rock Dove	<i>Columba livia</i>	15	0.5
Feral Pigeon*	<i>Columba livia</i>	796	24.7
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>	993	30.8
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>	2,991	92.8
Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	1,619	50.2
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	62	1.9
Ring-necked Parakeet (i)	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	118	3.7
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	647	20.1
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	47	1.5
Little Owl (i)	<i>Athene noctua</i>	73	2.3
Tawny Owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>	108	3.4
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	2	0.1
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	10	0.3
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>	1,048	32.5
Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	45	1.4
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>	956	29.7
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos major</i>	1,520	47.2
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>	15	0.5
Chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>	7	0.2
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>	2,272	70.5
Jay	<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	995	30.9
Jackdaw	<i>Corvus monedula</i>	2,166	67.2
Rook	<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	1,540	47.8
Carrion Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>	2,842	88.2
Hooded Crow	<i>Corvus cornix</i>	138	4.3
Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	405	12.6
Goldcrest	<i>Regulus regulus</i>	835	25.9
Firecrest	<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>	12	0.4
Blue Tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	2,810	87.2
Great Tit	<i>Parus major</i>	2,720	84.4
Crested Tit	<i>Lophophanes cristatus</i>	5	0.2
Coal Tit	<i>Periparus ater</i>	1,053	32.7
Willow Tit	<i>Poecile montana</i>	33	1.0
Marsh Tit	<i>Poecile palustris</i>	172	5.3
Bearded Tit	<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>	4	0.1
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>	19	0.6
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	1,897	58.9
Sand Martin	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	181	5.6
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2,412	74.9
House Martin	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	1,033	32.1
Cetti's Warbler	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	39	1.2
Long-tailed Tit	<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>	1,223	38.0
Wood Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>	42	1.3
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>	2,141	66.4
Willow Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>	1,531	47.5
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>	2,258	70.1
Garden Warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>	526	16.3

Species	Scientific name	Squares	%
Lesser Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia curruca</i>	363	11.3
Whitethroat	<i>Sylvia communis</i>	1,902	59.0
Dartford Warbler	<i>Sylvia undata</i>	9	0.3
Grasshopper Warbler	<i>Locustella naevia</i>	178	5.5
Sedge Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>	372	11.5
Marsh Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus palustris</i>	1	0.0
Reed Warbler	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	174	5.4
Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla garrulus</i>	2	0.1
Nuthatch	<i>Sitta europaea</i>	710	22.0
Treecreeper	<i>Certhia familiaris</i>	442	13.7
Short-toed Treecreeper	<i>Certhia brachydactyla</i>	1	0.0
Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	2,796	86.8
Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	1,783	55.3
Dipper	<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>	60	1.9
Ring Ouzel	<i>Turdus torquatus</i>	28	0.9
Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	2,949	91.5
Fieldfare	<i>Turdus pilaris</i>	22	0.7
Song Thrush	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	2,322	72.1
Redwing	<i>Turdus iliacus</i>	4	0.1
Mistle Thrush	<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>	1,152	35.8
Spotted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	147	4.6
Robin	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	2,766	85.8
Nightingale	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>	43	1.3
Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>	33	1.0
Black Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>	1	0.0
Redstart	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	204	6.3
Whinchat	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>	48	1.5
Stonechat	<i>Saxicola rubicola</i>	103	3.2
Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	414	12.8
Dunnock	<i>Prunella modularis</i>	2,461	76.4
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1,909	59.2
Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	238	7.4
Yellow Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava</i>	171	5.3
Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	141	4.4
Pied Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	1,280	39.7
Tree Pipit	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>	152	4.7
Meadow Pipit	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	807	25.0
Rock Pipit	<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	21	0.7
Chaffinch	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	2,972	92.2
Brambling	<i>Fringilla montifringilla</i>	10	0.3
Greenfinch	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	2,018	62.6
Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>	2,259	70.1
Siskin	<i>Carduelis spinus</i>	214	6.6
Linnet	<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	1,336	41.5
Twite	<i>Carduelis flavirostris</i>	17	0.5
Lesser Redpoll	<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>	203	6.3
Common Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	86	2.7
Scottish Crossbill	<i>Loxia scotica</i>	5	0.2
Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	845	26.2
Yellowhammer	<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	1,321	41.0
Cirl Bunting	<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>	3	0.1
Reed Bunting	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>	578	17.9
Corn Bunting	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	139	4.3
[Black Swan]	<i>Cygnus atratus</i>	2	0.1
[Muscovy Duck]	<i>Cairina moschata</i>	2	0.1
[Wood Duck]	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	2	0.1
[Helmeted Guineafowl]	<i>Numida meleagris</i>	15	0.5
[Indian Peafowl (Peacock)]	<i>Pavo cristatus</i>	36	1.1
[Red-tailed Hawk]	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1	0.0

- Squares: number of squares on which the species was recorded, also shown as a percentage of the total number of squares.
- Entirely non-native species with self-sustaining populations in the UK (BOU category C, if not also BOU category A) are followed by (i).
- Entirely non-native species that are not thought to have self-sustaining populations in the UK (BOU category E, if not also BOU category A or C) are shown in square brackets.
- Species with an asterisk (\*) are races or forms rather than full species.

## POPULATION TRENDS

## United Kingdom

Whitethroats  
increased by  
**35%**  
between 2010  
and 2011

The latest population trends of the UK's common and widespread birds are shown in Table 3 opposite, and interesting results are highlighted below.

**Species recorded:** This year we present population trends for 108 species, including Peregrine for the first time. UK population trends are calculated for species recorded on an average of at least 40 BBS squares per year, and we also include trends for Gadwall and Nightingale, which meet the criteria for reporting in England, and Pied Flycatcher, for which the sample size has declined from above the threshold.

**Breeding waders** showed marked declines between 2010 and 2011, and four waders reached their lowest level since the start of the survey: Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Snipe and Curlew. To see how Curlew populations have changed across the country see the maps on p5.



**Ten species have declined by 50% or more since the start of the survey:**

Turtle Dove (-80%), Willow Tit (-79%), Wood Warbler (-65%), Whinchat (-57%), Grey Partridge (-55%), Nightingale (-52%), Yellow Wagtail (-50%), Pied Flycatcher (-50%), Spotted Flycatcher (-50%) and Starling (-50%).

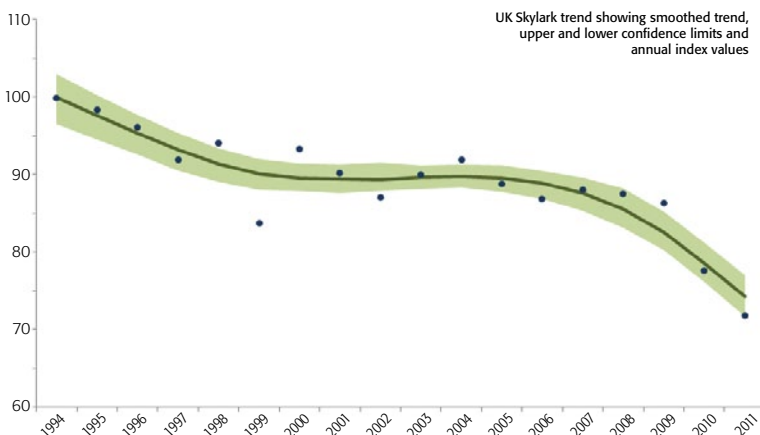
**2011 was a good year** for arid-zone migrants, including Sand Martin, Whitethroat, Sedge Warbler, Redstart and Yellow Wagtail, all of which increased significantly between 2010 and 2011, possibly due to high levels of rainfall in the Sahel region of Africa.

**Since the start of the BBS** 31 species have declined significantly, and 43 have increased significantly, with the greatest increases shown by Ring-necked Parakeet (>1,000%), Red Kite (572%), Barn Owl (390%), Greylag Goose (168%) and Great Spotted Woodpecker (141%). There were 21 species that declined significantly between 2010 and 2011, and 14 that increased significantly.

**Birds of Conservation Concern:** The BBS monitors 20 red-listed species, of which 14 have declined significantly since the start of the survey, and three – Song Thrush, Grasshopper Warbler and Tree Sparrow – have increased significantly, following earlier severe declines. Of the 37 amber-listed species monitored, 11 have declined significantly, and 13 increased significantly.

**Additional squares in English Uplands and Scottish Woodlands** were included in trends for 49 woodland and upland species. Add-on squares were surveyed using the same methodology as standard BBS squares, and the difference in sampling methodology was accounted for in the trend calculations. Sample sizes for Red Grouse, Golden Plover, Snipe, Tree Pipit, Siskin and Common Crossbill were increased by more than 10% by these squares.

### The Skylark decline has accelerated in recent years



**For species-by-species results see the BirdTrends website:**

[www.bto.org/birdtrends](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends)

**Table 3** UK population trends during 2010–11 and 1995–2010

Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL	Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL
Mute Swan	238	<b>2</b>	<b>23</b>	-2	67	Great Tit	2,101	<b>0</b>	<b>46*</b>	41	53
Greylag Goose	170	<b>26</b>	<b>168*</b>	15	435	Coal Tit	778	<b>4</b>	<b>17*</b>	4	33
Canada Goose	447	<b>-18</b>	<b>73*</b>	47	112	Willow Tit	51	<b>-15</b>	<b>-79*</b>	-86	-70
Shelduck	138	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	-47	68	Marsh Tit	143	<b>7</b>	<b>-22*</b>	-35	-7
Gadwall	35	<b>-21</b>	<b>83*</b>	5	225	Skylark	1,649	<b>-7*</b>	<b>-20*</b>	-25	-12
Mallard	1,229	<b>9</b>	<b>20*</b>	10	30	Sand Martin	123	<b>32*</b>	<b>60*</b>	0	167
Tufted Duck	147	<b>-21</b>	<b>46*</b>	6	98	Swallow	1,864	<b>4</b>	<b>35*</b>	26	45
Red Grouse	132	<b>-7</b>	<b>5</b>	-15	23	House Martin	901	<b>15*</b>	<b>-2</b>	-12	10
Red-legged Partridge	527	<b>4</b>	<b>27*</b>	14	43	Long-tailed Tit	913	<b>-10*</b>	<b>27*</b>	15	40
Grey Partridge	222	<b>6</b>	<b>-55*</b>	-64	-45	Wood Warbler	53	<b>-14</b>	<b>-65*</b>	-78	-44
Pheasant	1,712	<b>1</b>	<b>35*</b>	26	44	Chiffchaff	1,402	<b>26*</b>	<b>70*</b>	63	84
(Cormorant)	228	<b>-5</b>	<b>30*</b>	1	80	Willow Warbler	1,363	<b>17*</b>	<b>3</b>	-4	12
(Grey Heron)	636	<b>-5</b>	<b>-3</b>	-15	10	Blackcap	1,493	<b>33*</b>	<b>102*</b>	93	118
Little Grebe	67	<b>-18</b>	<b>4</b>	-22	51	Garden Warbler	435	<b>-4</b>	<b>-9</b>	-23	8
Great Crested Grebe	68	<b>-9</b>	<b>9</b>	-36	57	Lesser Whitethroat	262	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	-12	26
Red Kite	82	<b>26</b>	<b>572*</b>	253	1,325	Whitethroat	1,296	<b>35*</b>	<b>43*</b>	35	57
Sparrowhawk	340	<b>-5</b>	<b>-7</b>	-17	6	Grasshopper Warbler	79	<b>78*</b>	<b>59*</b>	12	117
Buzzard	882	<b>1</b>	<b>75*</b>	57	93	Sedge Warbler	289	<b>16*</b>	<b>14</b>	-4	42
Kestrel	635	<b>-2</b>	<b>-32*</b>	-41	-24	Reed Warbler	123	<b>9</b>	<b>36*</b>	13	64
Hobby	40	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	-17	65	Nuthatch	452	<b>2</b>	<b>80*</b>	61	101
Peregrine	44	<b>4</b>	<b>-26</b>	-51	13	Treecreeper	334	<b>8</b>	<b>-1</b>	-19	14
Moorhen	632	<b>-22*</b>	<b>1</b>	-6	12	Wren	2,356	<b>-17*</b>	<b>-2</b>	-6	4
Coot	258	<b>-5</b>	<b>32*</b>	11	67	Starling	1,705	<b>-5</b>	<b>-50*</b>	-54	-45
Oystercatcher	316	<b>-19*</b>	<b>-14*</b>	-23	-3	Dipper	57	<b>1</b>	<b>-36*</b>	-59	0
Golden Plover	61	<b>10</b>	<b>-13</b>	-37	8	Blackbird	2,379	<b>-7*</b>	<b>23*</b>	18	27
Lapwing	654	<b>-18*</b>	<b>-32*</b>	-40	-23	Song Thrush	1,909	<b>-16*</b>	<b>13*</b>	8	21
Snipe	156	<b>-40*</b>	<b>23</b>	-3	77	Mistle Thrush	1,146	<b>-11</b>	<b>-28*</b>	-34	-19
Curlew	500	<b>-13*</b>	<b>-44*</b>	-50	-37	Spotted Flycatcher	192	<b>-9</b>	<b>-50*</b>	-63	-35
Common Sandpiper	65	<b>-14</b>	<b>-7</b>	-33	20	Robin	2,281	<b>-15*</b>	<b>10*</b>	6	15
Redshank	82	<b>3</b>	<b>-39*</b>	-53	-17	Nightingale	31	<b>149*</b>	<b>-52*</b>	-66	-20
(Common Tern)	64	<b>-8</b>	<b>13</b>	-47	132	Pied Flycatcher	39	<b>5</b>	<b>-50*</b>	-67	-29
Feral Pigeon	660	<b>-10</b>	<b>-13</b>	-25	2	Redstart	155	<b>19*</b>	<b>19*</b>	1	35
Stock Dove	746	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	-1	23	Whinchat	74	<b>1</b>	<b>-57*</b>	-71	-40
Woodpigeon	2,368	<b>-4</b>	<b>37*</b>	30	45	Stonechat	150	<b>-2</b>	<b>19*</b>	2	74
Collared Dove	1,304	<b>-2</b>	<b>23*</b>	13	34	Wheatear	317	<b>-10</b>	<b>3</b>	-21	26
Turtle Dove	157	<b>-35*</b>	<b>-80*</b>	-84	-75	Dunnock	1,981	<b>-11*</b>	<b>22*</b>	16	28
Ring-necked Parakeet	56	<b>4</b>	<b>1,012*</b>	376	4,046	House Sparrow	1,539	<b>3</b>	<b>-2</b>	-9	6
Cuckoo	716	<b>4</b>	<b>-49*</b>	-54	-42	Tree Sparrow	166	<b>16</b>	<b>96*</b>	48	177
(Barn Owl)	43	<b>-43*</b>	<b>390*</b>	250	648	Yellow Wagtail	155	<b>36*</b>	<b>-50*</b>	-60	-38
Little Owl	97	<b>-33*</b>	<b>-40*</b>	-54	-24	Grey Wagtail	214	<b>-37*</b>	<b>-15</b>	-24	8
(Tawny Owl)	88	<b>33</b>	<b>-23*</b>	-39	-5	Pied Wagtail	1,219	<b>-5</b>	<b>-11*</b>	-19	-3
Swift	1,006	<b>-17*</b>	<b>-38*</b>	-46	-28	Tree Pipit	137	<b>18</b>	<b>-5</b>	-25	22
Kingfisher	52	<b>-12</b>	<b>-33*</b>	-49	-2	Meadow Pipit	778	<b>2</b>	<b>-23*</b>	-31	-15
Green Woodpecker	782	<b>-8*</b>	<b>40*</b>	29	52	Chaffinch	2,391	<b>-1</b>	<b>12*</b>	6	16
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	1,004	<b>-5</b>	<b>141*</b>	123	160	Greenfinch	1,737	<b>-13*</b>	<b>-9*</b>	-14	-2
Magpie	1,814	<b>4</b>	<b>-2</b>	-7	4	Goldfinch	1,503	<b>8*</b>	<b>91*</b>	78	106
Jay	728	<b>-9*</b>	<b>15*</b>	6	25	Siskin	160	<b>8</b>	<b>55*</b>	11	92
Jackdaw	1,613	<b>9*</b>	<b>44*</b>	30	61	Linnet	1,153	<b>4</b>	<b>-21*</b>	-30	-12
Rook	1,248	<b>-3</b>	<b>-16*</b>	-24	-6	Lesser Redpoll	155	<b>19</b>	<b>32</b>	-1	71
Carrion Crow	2,237	<b>1</b>	<b>10*</b>	1	19	Common Crossbill	55	<b>26</b>	<b>68</b>	0	153
Hooded Crow	130	<b>-7</b>	<b>4</b>	-20	53	Bullfinch	580	<b>29*</b>	<b>6</b>	-3	17
Raven	270	<b>-5</b>	<b>0</b>	-46	110	Yellowhammer	1,153	<b>5</b>	<b>-15*</b>	-22	-8
Goldcrest	740	<b>6</b>	<b>-15</b>	-26	4	Reed Bunting	463	<b>-12*</b>	<b>24*</b>	10	42
Blue Tit	2,229	<b>0</b>	<b>7*</b>	4	11	Corn Bunting	142	<b>0</b>	<b>-34*</b>	-48	-19

- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where the 95% confidence limits of the change do not overlap zero (indicating that there has been a significant change).
- Trends for species in brackets are reported with caveats (see p7).
- The sample is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded during 1994–2011.

- The trend since the start of the survey, covering the years 1994–2011, has been smoothed, and the end years truncated. This trend is labelled as 1995–2010.
- LCL and UCL are the lower and upper 95% confidence limits for the 1995–2010 trend.
- Red-listed and amber-listed species from 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' are shown in the relevant colour.

**TREND GRAPHS  
ONLINE:**

[www.bto.org/bbs/graphs](http://www.bto.org/bbs/graphs)



## POPULATION TRENDS

## England

Stonechats  
increased by  
**71%**  
in England between  
2010 and 2011

England-specific trends are calculated for the 100 species found on an average of at least 30 BBS squares in England per year, shown in Table 4 opposite.

**Species recorded:** In total, 192 species were recorded on the 2,518 BBS squares surveyed in England in 2011. The most widespread birds were Woodpigeon, Blackbird and Carrion Crow. The average sample sizes for Little Egret, Common Sandpiper and Dipper were just below the threshold for reporting trends, so an increase in survey coverage or species range should allow England-specific trends to be produced for these species in the future.

A large proportion of the populations of most UK bird species are in England, so England-specific trends are generally similar to UK trends. Of the 100 species for which trends can be calculated, 30 have declined significantly, and 36 increased significantly, since the start of the survey.



Redshank and Coot both declined significantly between 2010 and 2011 in England, by -33% and -13% respectively, but populations did not decline significantly in the UK overall.

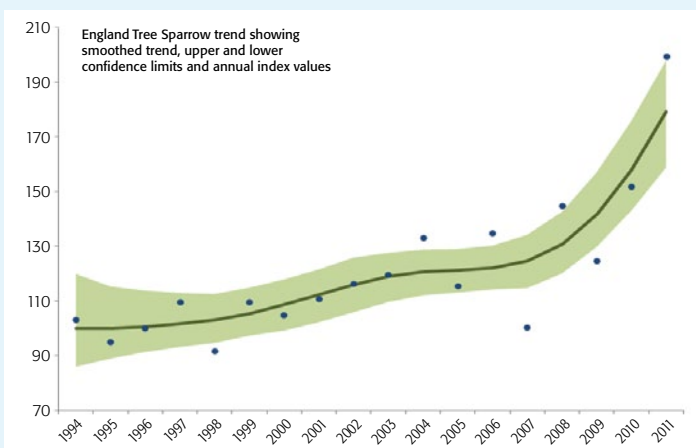
Stonechat and Tree Sparrow both increased significantly between 2010 and 2011 in England, but not in the UK overall.

The most severe declines since the start of the survey have been shown by Turtle Dove (-81%), Willow Tit (-78%), Cuckoo (-63%), Starling (-55%) and Spotted Flycatcher (-55%). The greatest increases have been shown by Red Kite (>1,000%), Ring-necked Parakeet (>1,000%), Barn Owl (369%), Greylag Goose (234%) and Buzzard (153%).

Additional squares in English Uplands were included in trends for 18 upland species. Add-on squares were surveyed using the same methodology as standard BBS squares, and the difference in sampling methodology was accounted for in the trend calculations. Sample sizes for Red Grouse, Snipe, Raven, Whinchat, Stonechat, Wheatear and Siskin were increased by more than 10% by these squares, and without these additional squares it would not be possible to produce an England-specific trend for Whinchat.



## Tree Sparrows increased significantly in England between 2010 and 2011



**Table 4** Trends in England during 2010–11 and 1995–2010

Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL	Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL
Mute Swan	203	2	6	-16	26	Great Tit	1,696	-3	41*	35	46
Greylag Goose	140	23*	234*	102	474	Coal Tit	510	-5	31*	12	55
Canada Goose	417	-17	63*	34	103	Willow Tit	45	-9	-78*	-86	-70
Shelduck	113	1	35	-20	91	Marsh Tit	129	4	-24*	-40	-7
Gadwall	33	-21	79*	0	225	Skylark	1,313	1	-24*	-29	-20
Mallard	1,036	3	30*	19	43	Sand Martin	79	63*	20	-25	55
Tufted Duck	128	-20*	33	-6	75	Swallow	1,440	3	37*	25	50
Red Grouse	74	-7	-6	-31	20	House Martin	711	18*	-14*	-24	-1
Red-legged Partridge	512	4	21*	10	36	Long-tailed Tit	805	-17*	22*	11	37
Grey Partridge	198	8	-52*	-60	-40	Chiffchaff	1,179	21*	69*	61	84
Pheasant	1,447	4	35*	27	44	Willow Warbler	900	11*	-28*	-34	-21
(Cormorant)	190	-6	19	-1	51	Blackcap	1,278	31*	84*	78	100
(Grey Heron)	526	-2	-8	-20	4	Garden Warbler	353	-2	-16*	-26	-3
Little Grebe	53	-4	-2	-33	41	Lesser Whitethroat	251	8	4	-14	17
Great Crested Grebe	62	-15	-13	-32	18	Whitethroat	1,120	33*	39*	31	50
Red Kite	58	20*	9,598*	4,322	11,654	Grasshopper Warbler	36	74*	1	-28	56
Sparrowhawk	280	-8	-9	-22	1	Sedge Warbler	185	22*	4	-16	31
Buzzard	578	2	153*	120	195	Reed Warbler	117	10	33*	8	62
Kestrel	556	6	-17*	-23	-8	Nuthatch	383	-1	82*	62	105
Hobby	39	16	21	-13	76	Treecreeper	246	17	-6	-19	11
Moorhen	586	-22*	1	-9	11	Wren	1,817	-13*	-1	-6	3
Coot	234	-13*	30*	5	58	Starling	1,398	-5	-55*	-58	-50
Oystercatcher	170	-9	48*	21	76	Blackbird	1,883	-5*	21*	16	25
Lapwing	544	-21*	-14*	-24	-4	Song Thrush	1,477	-13*	15*	10	22
Snipe	83	-45*	-13	-34	12	Mistle Thrush	901	-4	-35*	-40	-29
Curlew	318	-3	-31*	-40	-24	Spotted Flycatcher	135	-9	-55*	-65	-43
Redshank	58	-33*	-33*	-53	-9	Robin	1,787	-12*	16*	12	21
(Common Tern)	59	27	59	-10	204	Nightingale	30	153*	-49*	-61	-22
Feral Pigeon	548	-1	-20*	-29	-9	Redstart	87	42*	5	-14	27
Stock Dove	687	11	6	-8	21	Whinchat	32	-19	-47*	-73	-15
Woodpigeon	1,903	-4*	44*	35	53	Stonechat	68	71*	27	-15	120
Collared Dove	1,146	-1	22*	14	31	Wheatear	175	-15	12	-13	42
Turtle Dove	155	-40*	-81*	-84	-75	Dunnock	1,607	-8*	17*	11	23
Ring-necked Parakeet	55	4	1,012*	425	7,160	House Sparrow	1,269	6*	-14*	-22	-7
Cuckoo	560	13	-63*	-67	-60	Tree Sparrow	134	31*	58*	19	105
(Barn Owl)	41	-39*	369*	249	628	Yellow Wagtail	152	38*	-50*	-60	-36
Little Owl	94	-29*	-38*	-50	-22	Grey Wagtail	143	-25*	3	-14	26
(Tawny Owl)	75	27	-14	-34	14	Pied Wagtail	930	-2	-11*	-17	-4
Swift	870	-14*	-38*	-47	-29	Tree Pipit	73	28	-46*	-64	-25
Kingfisher	46	-5	-26	-43	9	Meadow Pipit	421	1	-16*	-28	-2
Green Woodpecker	725	-8*	48*	36	60	Chaffinch	1,843	-2	12*	8	16
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	876	-5	122*	106	140	Greenfinch	1,465	-13*	-8*	-13	-1
Magpie	1,521	0	-3	-8	2	Goldfinch	1,243	11*	82*	70	95
Jay	629	-5	8	-2	20	Siskin	55	-11	50	-20	174
Jackdaw	1,292	13*	49*	38	61	Linnet	934	7	-27*	-34	-20
Rook	991	0	-8	-18	5	Lesser Redpoll	61	31	-10	-48	54
Carrion Crow	1,847	-1	17*	9	27	Bullfinch	446	13*	2	-8	14
Raven	115	5	-32	-80	286	Yellowhammer	1,006	0	-23*	-27	-18
Goldcrest	518	6	5	-7	25	Reed Bunting	349	-8	28*	13	42
Blue Tit	1,798	1	6*	1	10	Corn Bunting	136	-2	-31*	-46	-15

- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where the 95% confidence limits of the change do not overlap zero (indicating that there has been a significant change).
- Trends for species in brackets are reported with caveats (see p7).
- The sample is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded during 1994–2011.

- The trend since the start of the survey, covering the years 1994–2011, has been smoothed, and the end years truncated. This trend is labelled as 1995–2010.
- LCL and UCL are the lower and upper 95% confidence limits for the 1995–2010 trend.
- Red-listed and amber-listed species from 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' are shown in the relevant colour.

**TREND GRAPHS  
ONLINE:**

[www.bto.org/bbs/graphs](http://www.bto.org/bbs/graphs)



## POPULATION TRENDS

## Scotland

Chiffchaffs  
increased by  
**51%**  
in Scotland between  
2010 and 2011

Scotland-specific trends are calculated for the 60 species found on an average of at least 30 BBS squares in Scotland per year, shown in Table 5 opposite.

**Species recorded:** In total, 156 species were recorded on the 358 BBS squares surveyed in Scotland in 2011. The most widespread birds were Chaffinch, Willow Warbler and Woodpigeon. The average sample sizes for Long-tailed Tit and Sand Martin were just below the threshold for reporting trends, so an increase in survey coverage or species range should allow Scotland-specific trends to be produced for these species in the future.



Of the 60 species for which trends can be calculated, eight have declined significantly, and 16 increased significantly, since the start of the survey.

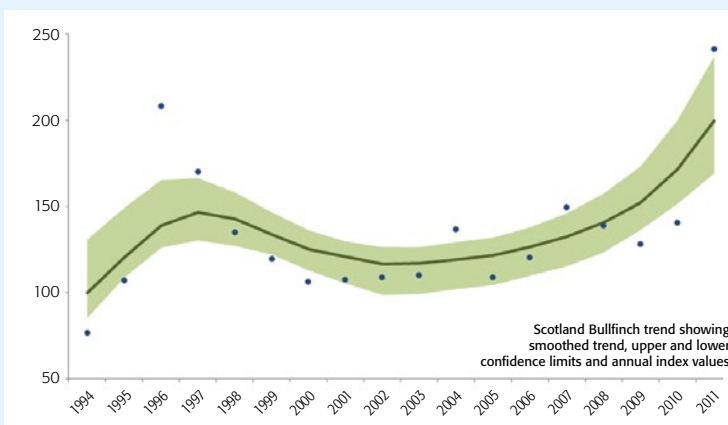
Birds that declined in Scotland between 2010 and 2011 included Kestrel, Skylark, House Martin, Mistle Thrush, Grey Wagtail and Reed Bunting.

Bullfinch increased the most in Scotland between 2010 and 2011. Four warbler species also showed large increases: Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Whitethroat.

The most severe declines since the start of the survey have been shown by Kestrel (-64%), Curlew (-55%), Lapwing (-48%), Swift (-39%) and Starling (-37%). The greatest increases have been shown by Chiffchaff (336%), Great Spotted Woodpecker (312%), Blackcap (264%), Goldfinch (133%) and Whitethroat (121%).

Additional squares in Scottish Woodlands were included in trends for 22 woodland species. Add-on squares were surveyed using the same methodology as standard BBS squares, and the difference in sampling methodology was accounted for in the trend calculations. Sample sizes for Great Spotted Woodpecker, Goldcrest, Coal Tit, Chiffchaff, Blackcap, Treecreeper, Mistle Thrush, Tree Pipit, Siskin, Lesser Redpoll and Bullfinch were increased by more than 10% by these squares, and without these additional squares it would not be possible to produce a Scotland-specific trend for Tree Pipit.

### Bullfinch numbers increased significantly in Scotland between 2010 and 2011





**Table 5** Trends in Scotland during 2010–11 and 1995–2010

Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL	Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL
Mallard	96	<b>28</b>	<b>-11</b>	-32	11	House Martin	60	<b>-26</b>	<b>104*</b>	35	213
Red Grouse	52	<b>6</b>	<b>-1</b>	-28	21	Chiffchaff	45	<b>51*</b>	<b>336*</b>	170	647
Pheasant	127	<b>-3</b>	<b>18</b>	-2	45	Willow Warbler	209	<b>23*</b>	<b>33*</b>	14	52
(Grey Heron)	48	<b>-5</b>	<b>8</b>	-24	50	Blackcap	55	<b>27*</b>	<b>264*</b>	145	456
Buzzard	138	<b>-7</b>	<b>33*</b>	4	75	Whitethroat	76	<b>41*</b>	<b>121*</b>	57	208
Kestrel	41	<b>-27</b>	<b>-64*</b>	-78	-39	Sedge Warbler	53	<b>17</b>	<b>36</b>	-14	105
Oystercatcher	125	<b>-22*</b>	<b>-29*</b>	-39	-13	Treecreeper	36	<b>-2</b>	<b>1</b>	-39	45
Golden Plover	38	<b>22</b>	<b>-21</b>	-51	3	Wren	220	<b>-17</b>	<b>-1</b>	-6	20
Lapwing	87	<b>-14</b>	<b>-48*</b>	-62	-33	Starling	143	<b>4</b>	<b>-37*</b>	-51	-21
Snipe	55	<b>-39*</b>	<b>30</b>	-4	98	Blackbird	192	<b>-13*</b>	<b>27*</b>	8	52
Curlew	119	<b>-20</b>	<b>-55*</b>	-66	-44	Song Thrush	172	<b>-20*</b>	<b>4</b>	-13	28
Common Sandpiper	30	<b>-16</b>	<b>-4</b>	-30	37	Mistle Thrush	75	<b>-28</b>	<b>-8</b>	-37	45
Feral Pigeon	61	<b>-33*</b>	<b>11</b>	-31	87	Robin	193	<b>-13</b>	<b>6</b>	-8	19
Woodpigeon	192	<b>-1</b>	<b>0</b>	-20	22	Stonechat	33	<b>7</b>	<b>-1</b>	-18	132
Collared Dove	49	<b>-11</b>	<b>-7</b>	-37	34	Wheatear	78	<b>-3</b>	<b>6</b>	-22	48
Cuckoo	72	<b>9</b>	<b>-5</b>	-27	17	Dunnock	137	<b>-8</b>	<b>56*</b>	30	91
Swift	49	<b>-36</b>	<b>-39*</b>	-66	-6	House Sparrow	90	<b>-12</b>	<b>40*</b>	3	87
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	46	<b>-15</b>	<b>312*</b>	190	546	Grey Wagtail	28	<b>-30</b>	<b>-16</b>	-47	55
Magpie	45	<b>25</b>	<b>13</b>	-26	68	Pied Wagtail	126	<b>-12</b>	<b>-15</b>	-34	2
Jackdaw	111	<b>9</b>	<b>29</b>	0	63	Tree Pipit	32	<b>27</b>	<b>72*</b>	16	126
Rook	108	<b>-15</b>	<b>-35*</b>	-49	-11	Meadow Pipit	199	<b>1</b>	<b>-32*</b>	-42	-23
Carrion Crow	181	<b>6</b>	<b>-6</b>	-29	21	Chaffinch	235	<b>-3</b>	<b>15*</b>	3	32
Hooded Crow	50	<b>-18</b>	<b>-21</b>	-49	33	Greenfinch	101	<b>-8</b>	<b>-14</b>	-33	10
Raven	43	<b>-13</b>	<b>59</b>	-10	161	Goldfinch	85	<b>-7</b>	<b>133*</b>	52	237
Goldcrest	91	<b>20</b>	<b>-14</b>	-34	26	Siskin	72	<b>7</b>	<b>52*</b>	4	113
Blue Tit	162	<b>-8</b>	<b>9</b>	-9	22	Linnet	87	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	-27	40
Great Tit	147	<b>5</b>	<b>48*</b>	25	76	Lesser Redpoll	45	<b>28</b>	<b>26</b>	-17	93
Coal Tit	127	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	-15	27	Bullfinch	39	<b>72*</b>	<b>42</b>	-6	90
Skylark	202	<b>-25*</b>	<b>-9</b>	-22	10	Yellowhammer	102	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	-6	55
Swallow	166	<b>-3</b>	<b>41*</b>	15	74	Reed Bunting	56	<b>-27</b>	<b>31</b>	-2	82

- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where the 95% confidence limits of the change do not overlap zero (indicating that there has been a significant change).
- Trends for species in brackets are reported with caveats (see p7).
- The sample is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded during 1994–2011.

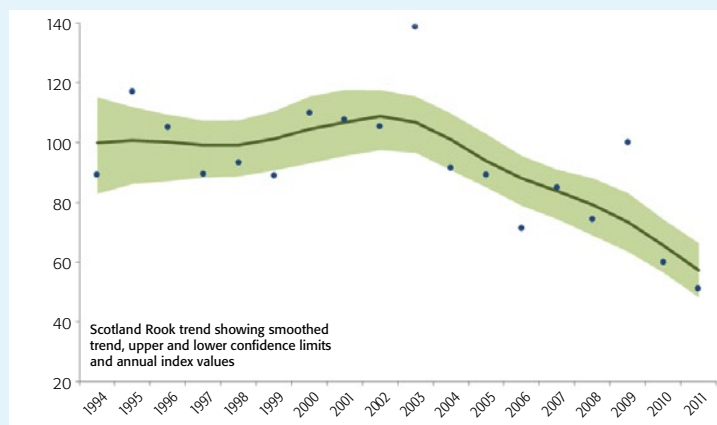
- The trend since the start of the survey, covering the years 1994–2011, has been smoothed, and the end years truncated. This trend is labelled as 1995–2010.
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- Red-listed and amber-listed species from 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' are shown in the relevant colour.

### TREND GRAPHS ONLINE:

[www.bto.org/bbs/graphs](http://www.bto.org/bbs/graphs)



## Rooks have declined significantly in Scotland since the start of the BBS



## POPULATION TRENDS

# Wales

Swallows  
increased by  
**21%**  
in Wales between  
2010 and 2011

Wales-specific trends are calculated for the 53 species found on an average of at least 30 BBS squares in Wales per year, shown in Table 6 opposite.

**Species recorded:** In total, 129 species were recorded on the 221 BBS squares surveyed in Wales in 2011. The most widespread birds were Carrion Crow, Chaffinch and Blackbird. The average sample sizes for Stock Dove and Reed Bunting were just below the threshold for reporting trends, so an increase in survey coverage or species range should allow Wales-specific trends to be produced for these species in the future.

Of the 53 species for which trends can be calculated, seven have declined significantly, and 17 increased significantly, since the start of the survey.

2011 was a good year for Skylark, Swallow and Meadow Pipit in Wales, which all showed significant increases not seen in the UK as a whole. House Sparrows have now increased by more than 100% in Wales since the start of the survey.

The most severe declines since the start of the survey have been shown by Starling (-67%), Swift (-57%), Curlew (-54%), Goldcrest (-51%) and Yellowhammer (-40%). The greatest increases have been shown by Great Spotted Woodpecker (192%), Blackcap (114%), Stonechat (106%), House Sparrow (106%) and Goldfinch (71%).



## Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland trends are calculated for the 32 species found on an average of at least 30 BBS squares in Northern Ireland per year, shown in Table 7 opposite. This includes trends for Blackcap and Bullfinch for the first time this year.

**Species recorded:** In total, 105 species were recorded on the 110 BBS squares surveyed in Northern Ireland in 2011. The most widespread birds were Chaffinch, Woodpigeon and Carrion Crow. Of the 32 species for which trends can be calculated, 13 have increased significantly since the start of the survey, and one, Skylark, has declined significantly.

Goldcrest, Pied Wagtail, Meadow Pipit and Linnet all declined significantly in Northern Ireland between 2010 and 2011; these declines were not seen in the UK as a whole.

The most severe declines since the start of the survey have been shown by Skylark (-43%), Meadow Pipit (-21%), Mistle Thrush (-12%), Reed Bunting (-12%) and Rook (-5%). The greatest increases have been shown by Blackcap (>1,000%), Goldfinch (773%), Great Tit (169%), Pheasant (159%) and Willow Warbler (109%).

## Isle of Man and the Channel Islands

No BBS squares were surveyed in the Isle of Man in 2011. Fifteen squares were covered on the Channel Islands in 2011, and 73 species were recorded.

**Table 6** Trends in Wales during 2010–11 and 1995–2010

Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL	Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL
Mallard	64	-2	-9	-49	55	Willow Warbler	155	11	-2	-21	18
Pheasant	89	-10	46*	1	103	Blackcap	116	43*	114*	80	169
(Grey Heron)	42	-39	-22	-44	8	Garden Warbler	56	11	-10	-43	41
Buzzard	137	10	4	-13	32	Whitethroat	80	37*	6	-14	35
Curlew	35	-15	-54*	-69	-38	Nuthatch	68	20	52*	13	99
Feral Pigeon	32	8	38	-13	82	Treecreeper	39	11	6	-34	61
Woodpigeon	181	-14	41*	18	69	Wren	189	-15*	-11*	-21	-2
Collared Dove	70	-19*	52*	7	117	Starling	79	-13	-67*	-77	-54
Cuckoo	56	-23	-34*	-51	-17	Blackbird	190	-4	42*	28	56
Swift	64	-37*	-57*	-71	-33	Song Thrush	162	-15*	17*	5	38
Green Woodpecker	46	-15	-9	-35	23	Mistle Thrush	97	-13	-1	-24	27
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	72	7	192*	117	283	Robin	186	-24*	-9	-16	1
Magpie	156	0	-9	-22	2	Redstart	55	13	27	-3	64
Jay	69	-31*	40*	6	79	Stonechat	34	-16	106*	11	242
Jackdaw	134	-10	31	-9	104	Wheatear	50	-26	-16	-36	10
Rook	77	-24	-16	-41	24	Dunnock	146	-22*	30*	11	59
Carrion Crow	195	0	2	-14	19	House Sparrow	118	8	106*	66	168
Raven	86	-16	22	-28	120	Pied Wagtail	111	21	-11	-29	11
Goldcrest	78	37	-51*	-70	-22	Tree Pipit	31	-18	-26	-52	9
Blue Tit	171	13	21*	5	39	Meadow Pipit	84	29*	-13	-24	0
Great Tit	165	8	60*	35	91	Chaffinch	192	5	-4	-21	13
Coal Tit	70	18	1	-27	45	Greenfinch	110	-21*	-3	-25	25
Skylark	100	38*	-15	-34	2	Goldfinch	122	9	71*	35	127
Swallow	165	21*	26*	4	50	Linnet	89	-15	-30	-51	0
House Martin	84	37	8	-26	47	Bullfinch	61	55*	-8	-31	23
Long-tailed Tit	57	-31*	11	-20	49	Yellowhammer	35	-24	-40*	-58	-16
Chiffchaff	132	37*	50*	25	78						

**Table 7** Trends in Northern Ireland during 2010–11 and 1995–2010

Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL	Species	Sample	10–11	95–10	LCL	UCL
Pheasant	38	-7	159*	41	273	Wren	87	-45*	22	-4	66
Woodpigeon	79	6	84*	27	133	Starling	75	-21	24	-7	66
Magpie	79	19*	17	-14	44	Blackbird	82	-16*	30	0	52
Jackdaw	72	5	87*	26	133	Song Thrush	73	-30*	39*	4	94
Rook	71	7	-5	-37	38	Mistle Thrush	56	-10	-12	-65	60
Hooded Crow	77	11	108*	49	161	Robin	84	-23*	9	-18	31
Goldcrest	42	-27*	1	-25	42	Dunnock	66	-30*	68*	6	115
Blue Tit	73	-1	8	-28	41	House Sparrow	50	3	57	-12	150
Great Tit	68	1	169*	96	197	Pied Wagtail	41	-36*	16*	Not estimable	
Coal Tit	59	28*	78*	20	132	Meadow Pipit	61	-27*	-21	-37	5
Skylark	32	-29*	-43*	-57	-33	Chaffinch	86	0	41*	5	59
Swallow	81	6	12	-14	49	Greenfinch	48	-13	-3	-39	64
House Martin	40	98*	64	-15	170	Goldfinch	45	2*	773*	Not estimable	
Chiffchaff	32	47*	36	-6	81	Linnet	35	-34*	60	-4	162
Willow Warbler	75	13*	109*	56	154	Bullfinch	30	41	32	-28	58
Blackcap	31	69*	>1,000*	Not estimable		Reed Bunting	31	3	-12	-43	51

- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where the 95% confidence limits of the change do not overlap zero (indicating that there has been a significant change).
- Trends for species in brackets are reported with caveats (see p7).
- The sample is the mean number of squares per year on which the species was recorded during 1994–2011.

- The trend since the start of the survey, covering the years 1994–2011, has been smoothed, and the end years truncated. This trend is labelled as 1995–2010.
- LCL and UCL are the lower and upper 95% confidence limits for the 1995–2010 trend.
- Red-listed and amber-listed species from 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' are shown in the relevant colour.

**TREND GRAPHS  
ONLINE:**

[www.bto.org/bbs/graphs](http://www.bto.org/bbs/graphs)



## POPULATION TRENDS

## English regions

Regional trends  
produced for

78

species in 2011

Bird population trends for English regions are shown in Table 8 opposite. Coverage varies considerably from one region to another, with the number of squares surveyed dependent on the number of BBS observers available in the area. Trends are reported only for species found on an average of at least 30 squares per year in that region over the survey period.

Trends discussed here are the population changes since the start of the BBS, and comparisons between regions are made below only if trends have been calculated in at least four regions. More detailed information is available on the BBS website, including population changes between 2010 and 2011 and population trend graphs.

For the first time it has been possible to produce a regional trend for Ring-necked Parakeet, in the London region.

Region	Counties	Squares 2011
1 North West	Cheshire, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside	283
2 North East	Cleveland, County Durham, Northumberland	105
3 Yorkshire and the Humber	East Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire	229
4 East Midlands	Derbyshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire & Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire	245
5 East of England	Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk	344
6 West Midlands	Birmingham, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire	213
7 South East	Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, Sussex	593
8 South West	Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Wiltshire	408
9 London	Greater London	98

**North West:** Sparrowhawk and Moorhen have declined more in the North West than in any other region for which trends can be calculated. Cuckoo and Mistle Thrush have declined less than in other regions, and it is the only region in which House Martin increased. Pheasant, Stock Dove, Goldcrest, Willow Warbler, Blackcap and Nuthatch all increased more than in any other English region. Of the 55 species for which trends can be calculated, Starling has shown the greatest decline, and Nuthatch the greatest increase.

**North East:** Pied Wagtail has increased more in the North East than in any other English region for which trends can be calculated. Woodpigeon and Blackcap have shown smaller increases than in other English regions, and it is the only region in which Jackdaw has declined. Of the 31 species for which trends can be calculated in this region, Starling has shown the greatest decline, and Chiffchaff the greatest increase.

**Yorkshire and the Humber:** Of the 49 species for which trends can be calculated in this region, Rook has shown the greatest decline, and Oystercatcher the greatest increase. Moorhen, Woodpigeon, Coal Tit, Long-tailed Tit, Blackbird and Reed Bunting have all shown greater increases than in other English regions, and it is the only region in which Skylark has not declined. Great Spotted Woodpecker and Whitethroat increased less than in other English regions. Grey Heron, Kestrel, Magpie, Rook and Pied Wagtail all declined more than in other regions.

**East Midlands:** We can now produce East Midlands trends for Buzzard and Garden Warbler, bringing the total number of species for which trends can be calculated to 54, of which Yellow Wagtail has shown the greatest decline and Buzzard the greatest increase. The East Midlands is the only region in which Kestrel numbers have increased, albeit by a small amount. Grey Heron, Buzzard, Lapwing, Green Woodpecker, Rook, Chiffchaff, Dunnock and Bullfinch have all increased more than in other regions, and Yellowhammer has declined less than in other regions. Red-legged Partridge, Stock Dove, Cuckoo, Swift and Skylark have shown more severe declines than in other regions.

**East of England:** We can now produce a trend for Buzzard in the East of England, bringing the total number of species for which trends can be calculated to 65, of which Turtle Dove has shown the greatest decline, and Buzzard the greatest increase. Swift numbers have declined less than in other regions, and Sparrowhawk, Collared Dove, Magpie, Jay, Jackdaw, Carrion Crow and Lesser Whitethroat have increased more. It is the only region in which Pheasant has declined. Garden Warbler, Mistle Thrush and Meadow Pipit have declined more, and Swallow increased less, than in other regions.

**West Midlands:** Mallard and Song Thrush have increased more in the West Midlands than in any other region. Canada Goose and Great Tit have shown smaller increases than in other regions, and it is the only region in which Collared Dove and Long-tailed Tit have declined. Feral Pigeon, Jay, Blue Tit, Chaffinch and Yellowhammer have all declined more than in any other region. Of the 51 species for which trends can be calculated, Cuckoo has shown the greatest decline, and Buzzard the greatest increase.

**South East:** The new trend for Reed Warbler in this region brings the total number of species to 67, of which Turtle Dove has shown the greatest decline, and Red Kite the greatest increase. Whitethroat has increased more, and Feral Pigeon declined less, than in other regions. Coal Tit, Chiffchaff, Nuthatch, Robin, Dunnock and Goldfinch all showed smaller increases than in other regions, and it is the only region in which Lesser Whitethroat has declined. Lapwing, House Martin, Willow Warbler, Wren, Greenfinch, Linnets, Bullfinch and Reed Bunting have declined more than other regions.

**South West:** We can now produce a trend for Reed Bunting in the South West, bringing the total number of species for which trends can be produced to 61, of which Cuckoo has shown the greatest decline and Great Spotted Woodpecker the greatest increase. Canada Goose, Red-legged Partridge, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Swallow and House Sparrow have all increased more than in other regions, and the declines in Garden Warbler and Meadow Pipit have been less pronounced. Starling has declined more than in other regions, while Buzzard and Green Woodpecker have shown smaller increases, and it is the only region in which Carrion Crow and Goldcrest have declined.

**London:** This year, for the first time, we are able to produce a regional trend for Ring-necked Parakeet. This brings the total number of species for which trends can be produced in London to 24, of which House Sparrow has shown the greatest decline and Ring-necked Parakeet the greatest increase. Blue Tit, Great Tit, Wren, Robin, Chaffinch, Greenfinch and Goldfinch have all increased more in London than in other English regions, and Starling has declined less than in other regions. Song Thrush and House Sparrow have declined more than in other regions, and it is the only region in which Mallard and Blackbird have declined.

**Table 8** Trends in English regions during 1995–2010

Species	North West	North East	Yorkshire	East Midlands	East of England	West Midlands	South East	South West	London	
Mute Swan					19	41	-21	53	9	32
Greylag Goose					85	37				
Canada Goose	99*	61		59	37	26	30	105	108*	43
Shelduck					33	34				
Mallard	22	147	47*	26*	15	69*	26*	215	50*	142
Red Grouse			2							
Red-legged Partridge			26	-21	-3	64*	107*	114	116*	51
Grey Partridge			43	-44	-51*	33	-68*	34		
Pheasant	110*	125	81*	22	-5	64*	32*	362	58*	251
(Cormorant)					-2		88*	43	-20	31
(Grey Heron)	-13	76	-29	21	-28*	11	0	116	-16	77
Red Kite							>1,000*	42		
Sparrowhawk	-40*	32			9		-13	65	1	46
Buzzard	115*	57		>1,000*	>1,000*	195*	922*	120	14	203
Kestrel	-22	66	-46*	3	-17*	-7	-18*	130	-35*	74
Moorhen	-19*	70	31	-17	7	-14	-4	140	12	63
Coot	20	30			10		12	60		
Oystercatcher	10	51	176*							
Lapwing	-28*	110	-15	13	0	-12	-39*	106		
Curlew	-47*	84	-38*	-6						
Feral Pigeon	-28	73	-30	-30	-10	-41*	-7	104	-13	66
Stock Dove	118*	49	69*	-48*	-2	25	12	180	-4	112
Woodpigeon	54*	199	87*	36*	51*	29*	31*	450	44*	321
Collared Dove	52*	125	1	39*	75*	-26*	16*	279	12	179
Turtle Dove					-81*		-84*	53		
Ring-necked Parakeet									>1,000*	30
Cuckoo	-50*	33	-63*	-79*	-65*	-66*	-57*	168	-76*	77
Swift	-45*	108	-39*	-52*	-10	-26*	-50*	166	-51*	138
Green Woodpecker				163*	151*	21	36*	286	11	121
Gt Spotted Woodpecker	149*	80	63	126*	80*	137*	113*	275	152*	142
Magpie	-13*	174	-28*	3	27*	-20*	12*	385	-6	268
Jay	23	63			69*	-23	-7	211	1	98
Jackdaw	61*	125	-1	41	70*	109*	54*	330	28*	247
Rook	-31	83	-16	-66*	29	23	15	229	-16	203
Carrion Crow	27*	206	11	68*	31	87*	0	169	12	432
Raven									-4	315
Goldcrest	43	38			23	34	11	174	-55	53
Blue Tit	-2	190	-2	3	-79*	-5	-22	119	-76*	77
Great Tit	40*	175	66*	56*	17*	17*	12*	438	3	306
Coal Tit	34	61	73	152*	30*	27*	32*	426	56*	294
Marsh Tit				22	8	62*	1	138	18	94
Skylark	-32*	112	-31*	0	-24*	-25*	-13	50	-24*	204
Swallow	24	182	47*	29	-39*	14	-28*	298	-24*	204
House Martin	10	96		45*	-27	26*	27*	297	73*	272
Long-tailed Tit	26	77		-19	-30*	-11	-45*	145	-7	141
Chiffchaff	26	77		48	42*	-5	1	226	34*	130
Willow Warbler	182*	85	174*	170*	237*	98*	99*	126	33*	330
Blackcap	22	136	-14	21	-48*	-66*	-40*	89	-67*	154
Garden Warbler	139*	103	54*	69*	69*	71*	83*	122	86*	346
Lesser Whitethroat				-20	-25	-13	-14	96	-2	61
Whitethroat	16	80	62*	15	21	26*	-27*	54	5	40
Sedge Warbler			11	69*	26*	44*	73*	275	46*	190
Reed Warbler					-6		26	33	44	31
Nuthatch	339*	32			13		32	30		
Treecreeper						127*	48*	159	82*	75
Wren	22*	196	-9	11	6	-4	5	84	-23	45
Starling	-52*	169	-60*	-59*	-42*	-41*	-58*	325	-70*	192
Blackbird	42*	199	30	53*	21*	8	36*	171	1	449
Song Thrush	51*	150	-19	47*	24	-4	76*	140	-10*	389
Mistle Thrush	-3	116	-22*	-52*	-25*	-53*	-13	85	-52*	225
Spotted Flycatcher							-66*	30	-33*	30
Robin	25*	189	18	37*	14	24*	30*	168	2	432
Wheatear	-3	42		20						
Duncock	34*	164	28	11	35*	17*	33*	154	5	390
House Sparrow	6	150	-23	4	7	-34*	-2	134	-36*	285
Tree Sparrow				49						
Yellow Wagtail				-80*		-41*				
Grey Wagtail									-17	30
Pied Wagtail	-18	120	7	-43*	-34	-5	-1	82	-16*	191
Meadow Pipit	-20	77	-8	-20	-30	-39*	-28*	48	-2	44
Chaffinch	24*	196	23	26*	32*	35*	6	439	-4	318
Greenfinch	7	147	-7	-8	5	13	-5	135	-24*	360
Goldfinch	139*	145	101*	139*	105*	43*	162*	111	36*	284
Linnnet	-13	88	-16	-12	-31*	-30*	-35*	215	-43*	215
Bullfinch	22	37		81	29	-8	15	49	-35*	127
Yellowhammer	-26*	56	-38*	-17	-5	-20*	-39*	103	-28*	241
Reed Bunting	8	56		60*	28	28	-21	57	-13	155
Corn Bunting					-22		-62*	30	52*	30

- This table shows the smoothed trend since the start of the survey (in bold) and sample sizes (normal font).
- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where the 95% confidence limits of the change do not overlap zero (indicating that there has been a significant change).
- Red-listed and amber-listed species from 'Birds of Conservation Concern 3' are shown in the relevant colour.
- Trends for species in brackets are reported with caveats (see p7).

## MAMMAL MONITORING

2,407  
BBS squares  
surveyed for  
mammalsMammals  
recorded in 2011

Mammal records were received from 2,407 squares, 75% of the total number of squares surveyed. This includes 'null' counts, where the recorder confirmed that no mammals were detected.

Table 9 shows the 15 most widespread species in 2011. For easily detectable diurnal species, such as Brown Hare, Rabbit, Grey Squirrel and some deer, the vast majority of records were of individuals seen and counted during the two BBS visits. However, a large proportion of the records for other mammals were based on field signs, dead animals, and local knowledge. These include those for mainly nocturnal or crepuscular species, such as Hedgehog, Mole and Badger.

**Table 9** Common mammal species in 2011

Species	Scientific name	Squares recorded	Squares seen	Individuals
Grey Squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>	921	829	1,833
Common Rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	107	26	39
Rabbit	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</i>	1,587	1,480	13,591
Brown Hare	<i>Lepus europaeus</i>	735	695	2,475
Mountain/Irish Hare	<i>Lepus timidus</i>	60	56	162
Hedgehog	<i>Erinaceus europaeus</i>	76	7	8
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>	499	0	0
Domestic Cat	<i>Felis catus</i>	326	275	504
Fox	<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>	562	310	403
Badger	<i>Meles meles</i>	290	17	21
Stoat	<i>Mustela erminea</i>	83	36	38
Reeves' Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	153	116	164
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	71	53	647
Fallow Deer	<i>Dama dama</i>	92	67	1,241
Roe Deer	<i>Capreolus capreolus</i>	566	486	987



Fallow Deer were recorded on  
92 BBS squares in 2011

FALLOW DEER BY BEN HALL (RSPB-IMAGES.COM)

In addition to those listed in Table 9, a further 29 species were recorded during BBS visits in 2011; these are listed in Table 10. The order of species within the tables follows Harris & Yalden (2008).

Live mammals were seen and counted during at least one bird-recording visit on 2,135 squares (89% of the mammal returns). On 103 squares (4%) the only mammal records were from extra visits, field signs, dead animals or local knowledge, leaving 169 squares (7%) on which the observer reported that they saw no evidence of any mammals. It is important that we continue to receive counts of zero mammals, to ensure that our records remain unbiased.

**Table 10** All other mammal species in 2011

Species	Scientific name	Squares recorded
Red Squirrel	<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	42
Common Dormouse	<i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>	1
Bank Vole	<i>Myodes glareolus</i>	23
Short-tailed Vole	<i>Microtus agrestis</i>	24
Water Vole	<i>Arvicola terrestris</i>	8
Harvest Mouse	<i>Micromys minutus</i>	1
Wood Mouse	<i>Apodemus sylvaticus</i>	27
Yellow-necked Mouse	<i>Apodemus flavicollis</i>	1
House Mouse	<i>Mus domesticus</i>	10
Common Shrew	<i>Sorex araneus</i>	36
Pygmy Shrew	<i>Sorex minutus</i>	4
Lesser White-toothed Shrew	<i>Crocidura suaveolens</i>	1
Daubenton's Bat	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>	1
Noctule	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>	2
Pipistrelle sp.	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus/pygmaeus</i>	23
Serotine	<i>Eptesicus serotinus</i>	1
Otter	<i>Lutra lutra</i>	34
Pine Marten	<i>Martes martes</i>	3
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>	48
Polecat	<i>Mustela putorius</i>	3
Ferret	<i>Mustela furo</i>	1
American Mink	<i>Mustela vison</i>	15
Common Seal	<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	1
Grey Seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>	4
Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	2
Sika Deer	<i>Cervus nippon</i>	9
Chinese Water Deer	<i>Hydropotes inermis</i>	6
Feral Goat	<i>Capra hircus</i>	5
Park Cattle	<i>Bos taurus</i>	1

- **Squares recorded:** number of squares on which the species was recorded, including counts, field signs, dead animals and local knowledge.
- **Squares seen:** number of squares on which the species was seen and counted.
- **Individuals:** total number of individuals counted, taking the maximum count from the two visits to each square.

# Mammal trends 1995–2010

BBS count data are used to calculate population trends for nine relatively widespread mammal species, shown in Table 11. These trends cover the period 1995–2010, the latest year for which estimates are available.

Of the nine mammals for which trends can be produced from BBS counts, four have increased significantly since 1995: Grey Squirrel (53%), Reeves' Muntjac (67%), Red Deer (99%) and Roe Deer (58%), with the greatest increase shown by Red Deer. Three mammals have declined significantly: Rabbit (-46%), Mountain/Irish Hare (-52%) and Fox (-24%).

Recent declines in Mountain/Irish Hares may represent population cycles, while the current decline in Rabbits, following a period of recovery from myxomatosis, could be linked to viral haemorrhagic disease. The downturn in Fox numbers is new, and follows a long-term increase attributed to increases in Rabbits and gamebird releases.

The information on species detected more often by signs of their presence than by sightings (e.g. Hedgehog, Mole and Badger) can also be used to estimate trends, although these require more careful interpretation. We will report periodically on these trends in occurrence.



BBS and NGC trends were very similar for Grey Squirrel

GREY SQUIRREL BY JOHN HARDING

**Table 11** UK mammal trends 1995–2010

Species	Trend 95–10	Sample
Grey Squirrel	<b>53*</b>	616
Rabbit	<b>-46*</b>	1,226
Brown Hare	<b>-6</b>	609
Mountain/Irish Hare	<b>-52*</b>	43
Fox	<b>-24*</b>	259
Reeves' Muntjac	<b>67*</b>	72
Red Deer	<b>99*</b>	54
Fallow Deer	<b>35</b>	48
Roe Deer	<b>58*</b>	325

- This table shows unsmoothed trends (in bold) and sample sizes (normal font).
- Population changes are shown for mammal species for which the sample size is at least 35 squares.
- Trends are percentage changes, and are marked with an asterisk (\*) where significant at the 95% level or more.
- The sample is the mean number of squares on which the species was recorded each year during the survey period 1995–2010.

## Comparison of BBS mammal trends with the National Gamebag Census

In 2011 the JNCC funded work to compare BBS mammal trends between 1995 and 2009 with another annual scheme: the National Gamebag Census (NGC), carried out by the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust. The NGC is a voluntary scheme that collects bag statistics from shooting estates, on average about 650 per year. The aim of the project was to produce an overview of trends in abundance and distribution.

Of nine species tested, none differed significantly in their trends between the two schemes. For four species where BBS indicated significant increases between 1995 and 2009, the NCG trend was either not significant (Red Deer, Roe Deer and Reeves' Muntjac) or also showed a significant increase (Grey Squirrel). Rabbit showed a significant decline on BBS whereas NGC found no significant change.

This work demonstrated the feasibility of producing joint BBS-NGC trends for assessing population change for statutory purposes where a single figure is needed. Results of the spatial mapping were also useful, in showing areas where species are most often detected and where the most marked changes had occurred. However, due to differences in sampling design and methods, the recommendation is to routinely report temporal and spatial results from the two schemes separately.



## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank all surveyors and ROs for making the BBS the success it is today. Space does not permit all observers to be acknowledged individually here, but we would especially like to thank the ROs for their efforts.

### BBS Regional Organisers in 2011:

#### ENGLAND

Avon  
Bedfordshire  
Berkshire  
Birmingham & West Midlands  
Buckinghamshire  
Cambridgeshire  
Cheshire (Mid)  
Cheshire (North-East)  
Cheshire (South)  
Cleveland  
Cornwall  
Cumbria  
Derbyshire (North, South)  
Devon  
Dorset  
Durham  
Essex (North-East)  
Essex (North-West)  
Essex (South)  
Gloucestershire  
Hampshire  
Herefordshire  
Hertfordshire  
Huntingdon & Peterborough  
Isle of Wight  
Isles of Scilly  
Kent  
Lancashire (East)  
Lancashire (North-West)  
Lancashire (South)

Leicestershire & Rutland  
Lincolnshire (East)  
Lincolnshire (North)  
Lincolnshire (South)  
Lincolnshire (West)  
London (North)  
London (South)  
Manchester  
Merseyside  
Norfolk (North-East)  
Norfolk (North-West)  
Norfolk (South-East)  
Norfolk (South-West)  
Northamptonshire  
Northumberland  
Nottinghamshire  
Oxfordshire (North)  
Oxfordshire (South)  
Shropshire  
Somerset  
Staffordshire (North, South, West)  
Suffolk  
Surrey  
Sussex  
The Wirral  
Warwickshire  
Wiltshire (North, South)  
Worcestershire  
Yorkshire (Bradford)  
Yorkshire (Central)  
Yorkshire (East, Hull)  
Yorkshire (Leeds & Wakefield)  
Yorkshire (North-East)  
Yorkshire (North-West)  
Yorkshire (Richmond)  
Yorkshire (South-East, South-West)  
Yorkshire (York)

The late John Tully  
Judith Knight  
Sarah & Ken White  
Steve Davies  
Roger Warren  
Mark Welch  
Paul Miller  
Mark Eddowes  
Charles Hull  
Vic Fairbrother  
Stephen Jackson  
Clive Hartley  
Dave Budworth  
Stella Beavan  
Simon Breeze  
David Sowerbutts  
Matt Shuter (now **VACANT**)  
Graham Smith  
**VACANT**  
Mike Smart  
Glynne Evans  
Chris Robinson  
Chris Dee  
Mick Twinn  
James Gloyd  
Will Wagstaff  
Geoff Orton  
Tony Cooper  
Jean Roberts  
Stephen Dunstan (now Stuart Piner)  
David Wright  
Phil Espin  
Chris Gunn  
Hugh Dorrington  
Peter Overton  
Ian Woodward  
Richard Arnold  
Judith Smith  
Bob Harris  
Chris Hudson  
Bob Osborne  
Rachel Warren  
Vince Matthews  
Barrie Galpin  
Muriel Cadwallender  
Lynda Milner  
Frances Buckel  
John Melling  
Allan Dawes  
Penny Allwright  
Gerald Gittens  
Mick Wright  
Penny Williams  
Helen Crabtree  
Paul Miller  
Mark Smith  
Bill Quantrill  
Harry Green  
Mike Denton  
Mike Brown  
Geoff Dobbs  
Colin Bonnington  
Mick Carroll  
Gerald Light  
John Edwards  
**VACANT**  
Rob Chapman

Lanark, Renfrew & Dunbarton  
Lewis & Harris  
Lothian  
Moray & Nairn  
Orkney  
Perthshire  
Rhum, Eigg, Canna & Muck  
Ross-shire  
Shetland  
Skye  
Sutherland  
Wigtown

**VACANT**  
Chris Reynolds  
Alan Heavisides  
Bob Proctor  
Colin Corse  
Richard Paul  
Bob Swann  
Simon Cohen  
Dave Okill  
Helen Crabtree  
Vacant (now Bob Swann)  
Geoff Sheppard

#### WALES

BTO Wales Officer  
Anglesey  
Brecknock  
Caernarfon  
Cardigan  
Carmarthen  
Clwyd (East)  
Clwyd (West)  
Glamorgan (Mid, South)  
Glamorgan (West)  
Gwent  
Merioneth

Montgomery  
Pembrokeshire  
Radnorshire

John Lloyd  
Tony White  
John Lloyd  
Geoff Gibbs  
Moira Convery  
Terry Wells  
Anne Brechley  
Mel ab Owain  
Wayne Morris  
Rhian Evans  
Jerry Lewis  
David Anning (now Geoff Gibbs)  
Jane Kelsall  
Annie Haycock  
Vacant (now Carlton Parry)

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

BTO Ireland Officer  
Antrim & Belfast  
Armagh  
Down  
Fermanagh  
Londonderry  
Tyrone

Shane Wolsey  
Ruth Wilson  
Stephen Hewitt  
Alastair McIlwain  
Michael Stinson  
Charles Stewart (now **VACANT**)  
Michael Stinson

#### CHANNEL ISLANDS

Channel Islands (excl. Jersey)  
Jersey

Phil Alexander  
Tony Paintin

#### ISLE OF MAN

Isle of Man

Pat Cullen

We would be grateful for help organising the BBS in regions currently without a Regional Organiser. If you live in one of these regions and would be interested in taking on the role, please let us know.

Many thanks are due to the following ROs who retired during the past year, having supported the BBS in their regions: Richard Allan, David Anning, Stephen Dunstan, Matt Shuter and Charles Stewart.

We also remember John Tully, RO for Avon, who sadly passed away in May 2012.

We would like to thank and welcome Geoff Gibbs, Carlton Parry and Stuart Piner, who have taken over as ROs during the past year.

Finally, we would like to thank all the landowners who kindly allow volunteers to carry out BBS surveys on their land.

#### SCOTLAND

Aberdeen  
Angus  
Argyll (Mull, Coll, Tiree & Morven)  
Argyll (mainland & Gigha) & Bute  
Ayrshire  
Benbecula & The Uists  
Borders  
Caithness  
Central  
Dumfries  
Fife & Kinross  
Inverness (East & Speyside, West)  
Islay, Jura & Colonsay  
Kincardine & Deeside  
Kirkcudbright

Paul Doyle  
Bruce Lynch  
Rod Little  
Richard Allan (now **VACANT**)  
Brian Broadley  
Yvonne Benting  
Graham Pyatt  
Donald Omand  
Neil Bielby  
Edmund Fellowes  
Norman Elkins  
Hugh Inslay  
John Armitage  
Graham Cooper  
Andrew Bielinski



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