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More information on the seabirds of Britain and Ireland can be accessed via <http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1530>.

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Table 1 Numbers of breeding European Shags (AON) in Britain and Ireland 1969–2002.

<i>Administrative area or country</i>	<i>Operation Seafarer (1969–70)</i>	<i>SCR Census (1985–88)</i>	<i>Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)</i>	<i>Percentage change since Seafarer</i>	<i>Percentage change since SCR</i>	<i>Annual percentage change since SCR</i>
Shetland	10,536	7,341	6,147	–42%	–16%	–1.3%
Orkney	3,724	2,539	1,872	–50%	–26%	–2.2%
<i>North coast</i>						
<i>Caithness</i>		120	61		–49%	–5.0%
<i>East coast</i>						
<i>Caithness</i>		2,532	1,075		–58%	–6.4%
Caithness total	1,595	2,652	1,136	–29%	–57%	–6.3%
<i>Northwest coast</i>						
<i>Sutherland</i>		1,808	880		–51%	–5.3%
Sutherland total	2,096	1,808	880	–58%	–51%	–5.3%
<i>West coast Ross & Cromarty</i>		474	505		7%	0.5%
<i>East coast Ross & Cromarty</i>		30	270		800%	15.7%
Ross & Cromarty total	594	504	775	30%	54%	3.0%
Moray		1	33		3200%	31.0%
Banff & Buchan	243	552	656	170%	19%	1.2%
Gordon	10	23	25	150%	9%	0.6%
City of Aberdeen	3	4	3	0%	–25%	–2.0%
Kincardine & Deeside	37	54	13	–65%	–76%	–9.6%
Angus	28		21	–25%		
North East Fife	880	1,916	734	–17%	–62%	–6.6%
Kirkcaldy		12	21		75%	4.8%
Dunfermline		28	7		–75%	–10.9%
City of Edinburgh		24	33		38%	2.7%
East Lothian	438	996	298	–32%	–70%	–9.3%
Berwickshire	149	641	349	134%	–46%	–4.5%
Stewartry	12	5	3	–75%	–40%	–4.5%
Wigtown	129	156	55	–57%	–65%	–7.2%
Kyle & Carrick	211	47	476	126%	913%	19.9%
Cunninghame	22	11	109	395%	891%	19.3%
Argyll & Bute	1,774	3,093	3,341	88%	8%	0.6%
Lochaber	1,173	2,063	973	–17%	–53%	–5.5%
Skye & Lochalsh	660	2,389	866	31%	–64%	–7.5%
<i>Western Isles–Comhairle nan eilean</i>	2,763	4,701	2,661	–4%	–43%	–4.5%
Scotland Total	27,077	31,560	21,487	–21%	–32%	–2.9%
Northumberland	164	1,255	1,299	692%	4%	0.3%
North Yorkshire	45		0	–100%		
Humberside	13	31	32	146%	3%	0.2%
Isle of Wight	10	1	4	–60%	300%	9.0%
Dorset	55	84	67	22%	–20%	–1.6%
Channel Islands	570	1,443	1,403	146%	–3%	–0.2%

<i>Administrative area or country</i>	<i>Operation Seafarer (1969–70)</i>	<i>SCR Census (1985–88)</i>	<i>Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)</i>	<i>Percentage change since Seafarer</i>	<i>Percentage change since SCR</i>	<i>Annual percentage change since SCR</i>
Cornwall	686	680	1,109	62%	63%	3.6%
Isles of Scilly	1,000	1,199	1,092	9%	−9%	−0.8%
Devon	138	241	260	88%	8%	0.6%
Isle of Man	567	575	912	61%	59%	3.6%
England Total	3,248	5,509	6,178	90%	12%	0.9%
West Glamorgan	2	1	1	−50%	0%	0.0%
Dyfed	198	167	230	16%	38%	2.4%
Gwynedd	350	617	683	95%	11%	0.7%
Wales total	550	785	914	66%	16%	1.1%
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel total	30,875	37,854	28,579	−7%	−25%	−2.1%
Co. Antrim	195	378	281	44%	−26%	−2.2%
Co. Down	23	62	20	−13%	−68%	−8.3%
Co. Dublin	271	1,736	1,359	401%	−22%	−1.9%
Co. Wicklow	5	8	19	280%	138%	6.9%
Co. Wexford	327	504	268	−18%	−47%	−4.5%
Co. Waterford	105	165	26	−75%	−84%	−13.0%
Co. Cork	215	419	221	3%	−47%	−4.3%
Co. Kerry	449	432	208	−54%	−52%	−5.6%
Co. Clare	131	70	49	−63%	−30%	−2.6%
Co. Galway	152	49	43	−72%	−12%	−1.1%
Co. Mayo	214	259	504	136%	95%	5.4%
Co. Sligo	34	241	104	206%	−57%	−6.3%
Co. Donegal	880	793	625	−29%	−21%	−1.9%
All-Ireland Total	3,001	5,116¹	3,727	24%	−27%	−2.4%
Britain and Ireland Total	33,876	42,970	32,306	−5%	−25%	−2.1%

Note

¹ The total of 5,116 AON represents actual counts. Lloyd *et al.* (1993) estimated there to be a total of 8,800 AON in Ireland in 1985–88 in order to account for unsurveyed colonies.

Table 2 Changes in the number of breeding European Shags (AON) at major colonies in Britain and Ireland between the SCR Census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1999–2002). Major colonies are those that contained the top 50% of the British population or the top 75% of the Irish population during the SCR Census. ID corresponds to the colony symbols in Fig. 2.

<i>ID</i>	<i>Colony</i>	<i>SCR Census (1985–88)</i>	<i>Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)</i>	<i>Percentage change since SCR</i>	<i>Annual percentage change since SCR</i>	<i>Percentage of population in Britain or Ireland 1998–2002</i>
1	Foula	2,400	2,277	–5%	–0.4%	8.0%
2	Isle of May	1,916	734	–62%	–6.6%	2.6%
3	Shiant Islands	1,776	506	–72%	–9.2%	1.8%
4	Canna	1,447	740	–49%		
5	Berriedale Cliffs (SSSI)	1,428	839	–41%	–4.0%	2.9%
6	Farne Islands	1,248	1,287	3%	0.2%	4.5%
7	Isles of Scilly	1,199	1,092	–9%	–0.8%	3.8%
8	Fair Isle	1,099	663	–40%	–3.3%	2.3%
9	Sanda Islands	950	500	–47%	–5.2%	1.7%
10	Sule Skerry	874	724	–17%	–1.6%	2.5%
11	St Abb's Head to Fast Castle Head (SSSI)	626	329	–47%	–4.7%	1.2%
12	Jersey	525	423	–19%	–1.8%	1.5%
13	Mingulay	500	183	–63%	–7.5%	0.6%
14	Sumburgh Head	481	270	–44%	–4.0%	0.9%
15	Flannan Isles	400	77	–81%	–15.2%	0.3%
16	Corr Eilean & Eilean Ghamnha	345	70	–80%	–11.6%	0.2%
17	Fladda-chuain, Gaeilavore & Gearran Islands	345	46	–87%	–14.9%	0.2%
18	Hoy & South Walls	318	161	–49%	–4.9%	0.6%
19	The Lamb	301	76	–75%	–10.0%	0.3%
20	Handa	233	109	–53%	–5.3%	0.4%
21	Rubha Rodha	225	17	–92%	–16.8%	0.1%
22	Calf of Man	225	218	–3%	–0.2%	0.8%
23	Berneray	221	95	–57%	–6.3%	0.3%
24	Unst: Virdik to Brei Wick	209	8	–96%	–23.8%	0.0%
25	Papa Stour	195	240	23%	1.5%	0.8%
26	Harris: Toe Head	182	90	–51%	–5.3%	0.3%
27	Rhu Stoer	175	79	–55%	–5.5%	0.3%
28	Lambay Island	1,597	1,122	–30%	–2.9%	30.1%
29	Great Saltee	385	240	–38%	–3.3%	6.4%
30	Inishtooskert	275	3	–99%	–29.4%	0.1%
31	Inishmurray	237	104	–56%	–5.7%	2.8%
32	Horn Head	191	111	–42%	–4.4%	3.0%
33	Inishkeeragh	174	61	–65%	–7.2%	1.6%
34	The Maidens	161	97	–40%	–4.1%	2.6%
35	Roaninish	146	6	–96%	–23.5%	0.2%
36	Little Saltee	112	28	–75%	–10.9%	0.8%
37	St Patrick's Island (Skerries)	110	200	82%	4.7%	5.4%
38	Rathlin Island	109	58	–47%	–4.4%	1.6%

Table 3 International context.

Country or region	Subspecies	Number of pairs		Year	Source		
		Min	Max			Min % GB	Max % GB
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	<i>aristotelis</i>	29,000	29,000	1999–2002	Seabird 2000		
All Ireland	<i>aristotelis</i>	3,700	3,700	1999–2002	Seabird 2000		
Faeroes	<i>aristotelis</i>	1,000	2,000	1987–2001	B. Olsen & J.-K. Jensen (pers. comm)		
France (Atlantic)	<i>aristotelis</i>	6,059	6,130	1997–99	Monnat & Pasquet (in press)		
Iceland	<i>aristotelis</i>	8,000	9,000	1998	Petersen (1998)		
Norway	<i>aristotelis</i>	15,000	20,000	1999–2001	T. Anker-Nilssen (pers. comm.), NINA unpubl.		
Portugal (Atlantic)	<i>aristotelis</i>	150	150	1995–99	Velando & Alvarez (in press)		
Russia	<i>aristotelis</i>	350	350	1999	Røv <i>et al.</i> (2000)		
Spain (Atlantic)	<i>aristotelis</i>	2,912	2,912	1995–99	Velando & Alvarez (in press)		
Albania	<i>desmarestii</i>	20	20		Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Bulgaria	<i>desmarestii</i>	25	30	1970–85	Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Croatia	<i>desmarestii</i>	2,000	4,000		Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Cyprus	<i>desmarestii</i>	40	50		Wanless & Harris (1997)		
France (Corsica)	<i>desmarestii</i>	971	971	2002	J. C. Thibault & I. Guyot (pers. comm.)		
Gibraltar	<i>desmarestii</i>	7	8	2002	J. E. Cortes (pers comm)		
Greece	<i>desmarestii</i>	1,000 ¹	1,000 ¹		Handrinos & Akriotis (1997)		
Italy (Sardinia)	<i>desmarestii</i>	1,600	2,000	1983–93	Harris & Wanless (1997)		
Spain (Balearics)	<i>desmarestii</i>	1,050	1,050	2002	D. Oro (pers. comm.)		
Turkey	<i>desmarestii</i>	50	350		Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Ukraine	<i>desmarestii</i>	250	400	1978	Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Libya	<i>desmarestii</i>	50	50		Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Tunisia	<i>desmarestii</i>	30	30	1975–90	Wanless & Harris (1997)		
Morocco	<i>riggenbachi</i>	20	40		Thévenot <i>et al.</i> (2003)		
<i>Biogeographic region</i>		<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>			<i>Min % Ireland</i>	<i>Max % Ireland</i>
NE Atlantic*	<i>aristotelis</i>	66,000	73,000			5.1%	5.6%
World	all	73,000	83,000			4.5%	5.1%

*Stroud *et al.* (2001)**Note**¹ at least 1,000 pairs

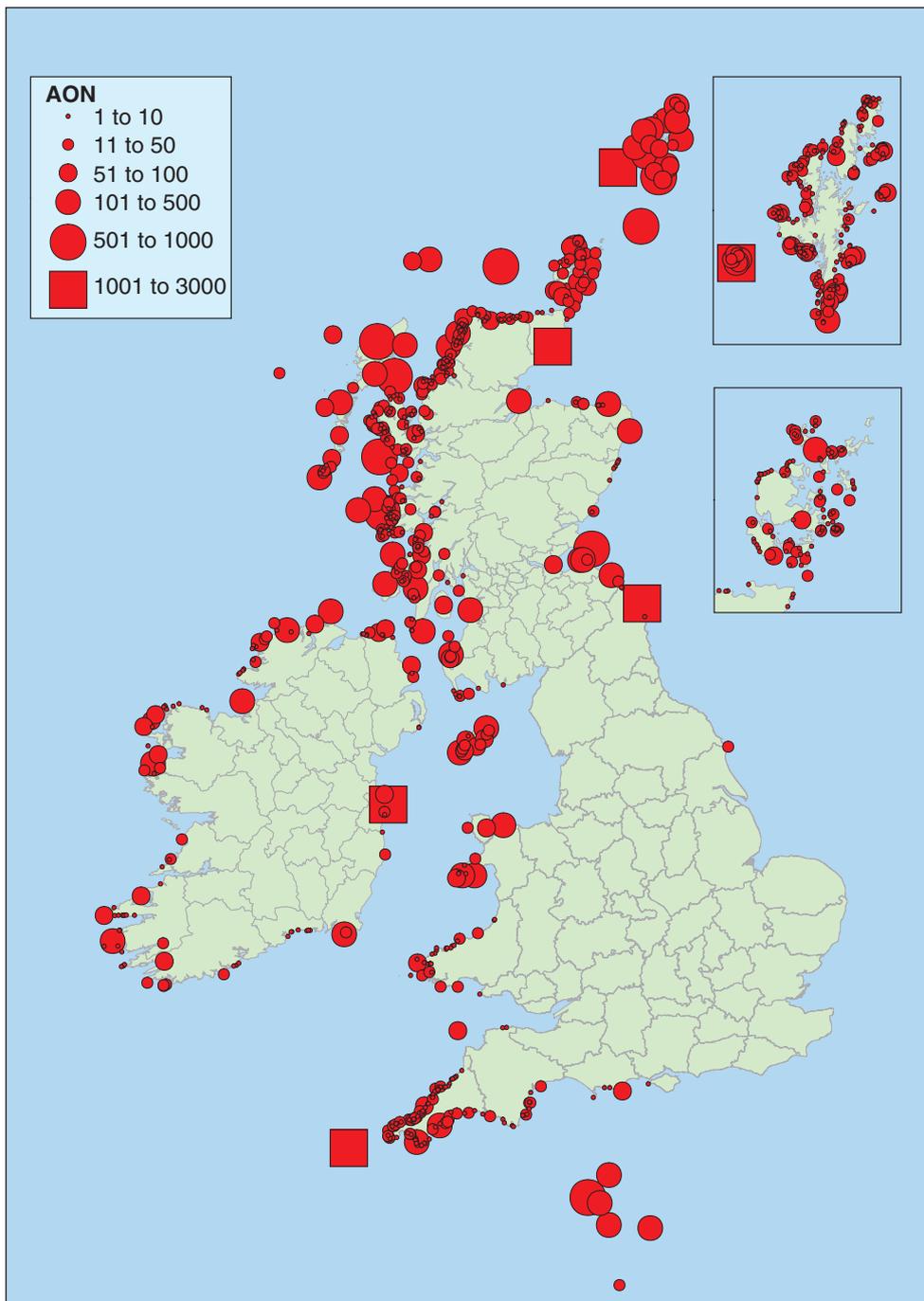


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding European Shags in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002.

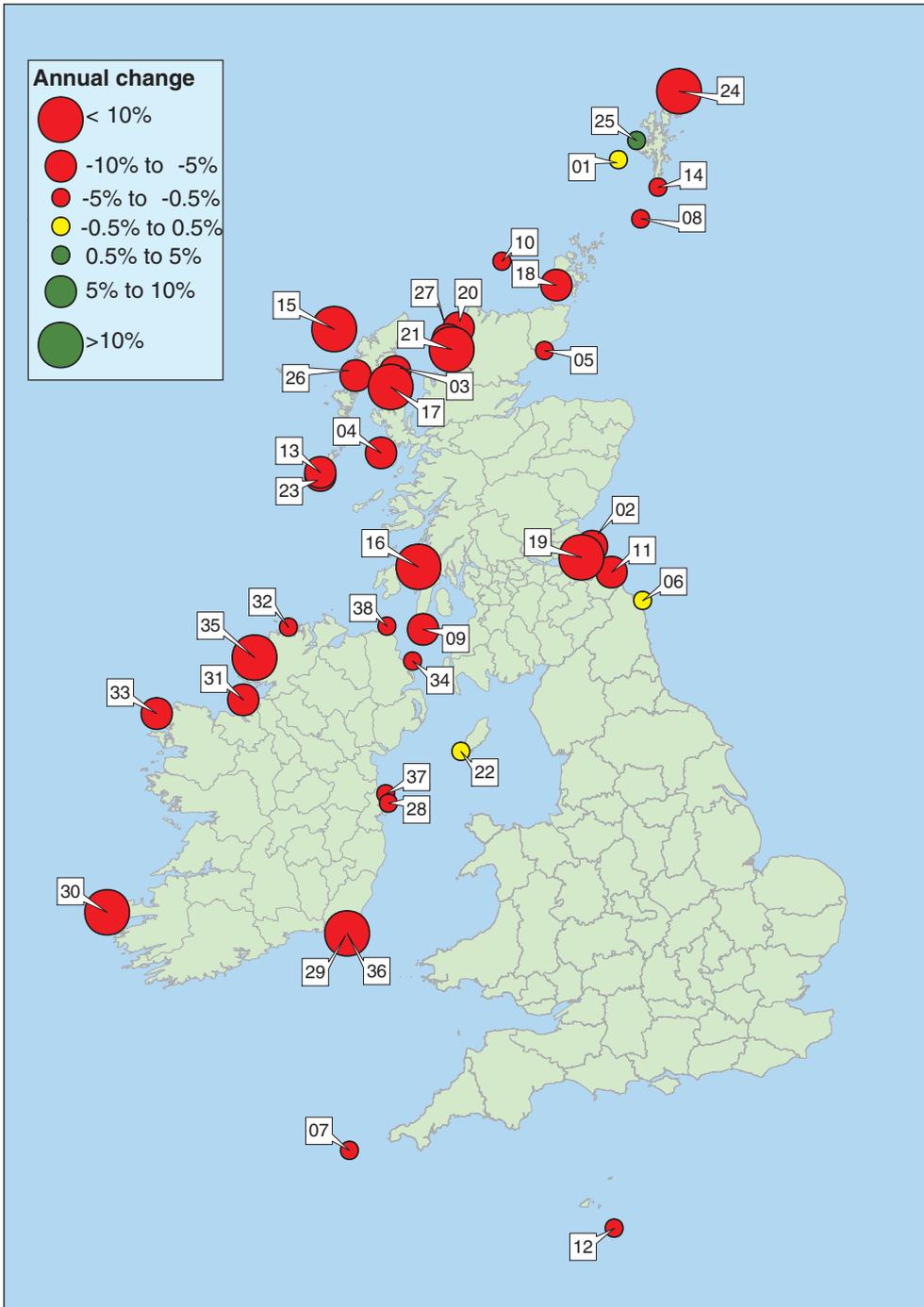


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