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Table 1 Numbers of coastal-breeding Herring Gulls (AON) in Britain and Ireland 1969–2002. Numbers breeding inland and on the coast during Seabird 2000 (1998–2002) are also given.

Administrative area or country	Coastal colonies only ¹						Seabird 2000 inland and coastal
	Operation Seafarer (1969–70)	SCR Census (1985–88) ²	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since Seafarer	Percentage change since SCR	Annual percentage change since SCR	
Shetland	9,273	4,944	4,027	–57%	–19%	–1.4%	4027
Orkney	7,831	2,726	1,933	–75%	–29%	–2.5%	1933
North coast Caithness		374	240		–36%	–3.3%	240
East coast Caithness		9,659	3,503		–64%	–7.5%	3503
<i>Caithness total</i>	<i>22,483</i>	<i>10,033</i>	<i>3,743</i>	<i>–83%</i>	<i>–63%</i>	<i>–7.2%</i>	<i>3743</i>
Northwest coast Sutherland		2309	544		–76%	–10.3%	544
Inland Sutherland							3
East coast Sutherland		450	33		–93%	–17.6%	33
<i>Sutherland total</i>	<i>7,035</i>	<i>2,759</i>	<i>577</i>	<i>–92%</i>	<i>–79%</i>	<i>–11.0%</i>	<i>580</i>
West coast Ross & Cromarty		1,033	634		–39%	–3.5%	634
Inland Ross & Cromarty							1
East coast Ross & Cromarty		97	1,345		1287%	22.2%	1345
<i>Ross & Cromarty total</i>	<i>12,983</i>	<i>1,130</i>	<i>1,979</i>	<i>–85%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>	<i>1980</i>
Inverness	3	137	356	11767%	160%	7.1%	356
Nairn	300		80	–73%			80
Moray	1,043	539	581	–44%	8%	0.6%	709
Banff & Buchan	27,748	6,689	6671	–76%	–0%	–0.0%	6671
Gordon	4,037	3,330	853	–79%	–74%	–8.7%	853
City of Aberdeen	130	259	3,522	2609%	1260%	22.4%	3522
Kincardine & Deeside	10,682	8,217	4,226	–60%	–49%	–4.9%	4227
Angus	1,571	5,576	1,060	–33%	–81%	–11.0%	1064
Perth & Kinross							126
City of Dundee		150	296		97%	5.2%	296
Northeast Fife	15,808	2,101	2,846	–82%	35%	2.4%	2846
Kirkcaldy		4,091	3,590		–12%	–1.0%	3590
Dunfermline	55	1,090	700	1173%	–36%	–3.5%	700
Clackmannan							35
Falkirk			19				24
City of Edinburgh	10	160	424	4140%	165%	8.5%	424
East Lothian	7,371	3,593	3,553	–52%	–1%	–0.1%	3553
Berwickshire	1,516	1,852	945	–38%	–49%	–5.0%	945
Nithsdale			11				11
Stewartry	5,305	624	748	–86%	20%	1.6%	748
Wigtown	1,523	539	487	–68%	–10%	–0.7%	487
Kyle & Carrick	1,909	3,285	3,615	89%	10%	0.7%	3615
Cumnock & Doon Valley							15
Cunninghame	1,250	4,773	2,561	105%	–46%	–4.8%	2561
Kilmarnock & Loudoun							15
Eastwood							1
East Kilbride							20
Motherwell							1
City of Glasgow		3	7		133%	6.6%	19
Renfrew			1				1
Inverclyde		22	102		364%	13.2%	102
Clydebank			0				0
Bearsden & Milngavie							6
Strathkelvin							5
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth							17
Dumbarton		3	30		900%	19.9%	106
Argyll & Bute	11,004	14,946	15,370	40%	3%	0.2%	15370
Lochaber	3,150	3,109	2,798	–11%	–10%	–0.8%	2798
Skye & Lochalsh	1,427	2,934	1,283	–10%	–56%	–6.1%	1283
Western Isles–Comhairle nan eilean	3,790	3,336	2,665	–30%	–20%	–1.6%	2665
Scotland Total	159,237	92,950	71,659	–55%	–23%	–1.9%	72130
Northumberland	452	327	999	121%	206%	8.8%	1,040
Tyne & Wear	80	350	262	228%	–25%	–2.2%	273
Durham	11			–100%			
Cleveland	1,016	647	1,140	12%	76%	4.1%	1,175
North Yorkshire	1,059	907	2,299	117%	153%	6.4%	2,299

Administrative area or country	Coastal colonies only ¹						Seabird 2000 inland and coastal
	Operation Seafarer (1969–70)	SCR Census (1985–88) ²	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since Seafarer	Percentage change since SCR	Annual percentage change since SCR	
Humberside	1,265	901	659	–48%	–27%	–2.3%	659
Bedfordshire							1
Norfolk		28	1,311		4582%	33.6%	1,311
Suffolk	151	3,393	1,248	726%	–63%	–6.5%	1,248
Essex			167				175
Greater London		3	76		2433%	22.7%	79
Kent	663	1,249	770	16%	38%	–3.1%	780
East Sussex	857	67	1,459	70%	2078%	25.8%	1,459
West Sussex	1	43	684	68300%	1491%	22.4%	685
Hampshire	3	1	59	1867%	5800%	33.9%	59
Isle of Wight	1,221	174	244	–80%	40%	2.1%	244
Dorset	2,125	200	606	–71%	203%	8.2%	606
Channel Islands	3,970	3,551	4,347	9%	22%	1.6%	4,347
Cornwall	9,630	2,589	4,940	–49%	91%	5.0%	4,979
Isles of Scilly	1,000	1,278	900	–10%	–30%	–2.9%	900
Devon	12,752	3,193	4,035	–68%	26%	1.7%	4,037
Somerset	3,207	92	286	–91%	211%	9.3%	531
Avon	5,990	800	1,164	–81%	46%	3.1%	1,578
Gloucestershire	49	10	85	73%	750%	16.6%	107
Hereford & Worcester							3
West Midlands							6
Derbyshire							3
Merseyside			59				59
Lancashire	2	1	939	46850%	93800%	58.6%	1,415
Cumbria	20,580	11,344	19,541	–5%	72%	4.0%	19,654
Isle of Man	9,977	9,062	7,126	–29%	–21%	–1.8%	7,126
England, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	76,061	40,210	55,405	–27%	38%	2.4%	56,838
Gwent	199	25	68	–66%	172%	6.9%	76
South Glamorgan	211	638	294	39%	–54%	–5.0%	294
Mid Glamorgan	196		3	–98%			3
West Glamorgan	189	13	519	175%	3892%	26.6%	519
Dyfed	15,394	5,242	8,424	–45%	61%	3.6%	8,424
Gwynedd	31,660	5,060	4,424	–86%	–13%	–0.9%	4,460
Clwyd	727	111	198	–73%	78%	3.7%	198
Wales Total	48,576	11,089	13,930	–71%	26%	1.6%	13,974
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	283,874	144,249	140,994	–50%	–2%	–0.2%	142,942
Co. Londonderry		17			–100%		
Co. Antrim	9,245	5,843	101	–99%	–98%	–24.5%	101
Co. Down	6,757	11,701	608	–91%	–95%	–19.5%	608
Co. Fermanagh							5
Co. Monaghan							7
Co. Dublin	13,407	6684	2,905	–78%	–57%	–6.0%	2,905
Co. Wicklow	374	150	29	–92%	–81%	–11.9%	29
Co. Wexford	6,590	1770	75	–99%	–96%	–20.2%	75
Co. Waterford	4,060	1654	409	–90%	–75%	–10.2%	409
Co. Cork	3,511	1,990	300	–91%	–85%	–12.2%	300
Co. Kerry	4,458	428	276	–94%	–36%	–3.5%	276
Co. Clare	1,426	36	69	–95%	92%	5.2%	69
Co. Galway	1,844	75	46	–98%	–39%	–4.2%	49
Co. Mayo	2,078	186	369	–82%	98%	5.5%	369
Co. Sligo	611	214	123	–80%	–43%	–4.4%	123
Co. Donegal	5,351	2,068	810	–85%	–61%	–7.2%	910
All–Ireland Total	59,712	32,816	6,120	–90%	–81%	–12.0%	6,235
Britain and Ireland Total	343,586	177,065	147,114	–57%	–17%	–1.4%	149,177

Notes

¹ Operation Seafarer and the SCR Census did not survey inland.

² The figures for the SCR are actual counts and do not include adjustments to totals made in order to account for unsurveyed colonies (see Lloyd *et al.*, 1991)

Table 2 Changes in the number of breeding Herring Gulls (AON) at major colonies in Britain and Ireland between SCR Census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002). Major colonies are those that contained the top 40% of the British population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000 or the top 75% of the Irish population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000. ID number corresponds to 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	South Walney	10,000	10,129	1%	0.1%	7.1%
2	Inchkeith	4,091	3,580	–12%	–0.9%	2.5%
3	Little Cumbrae Island	3,500	2,000	–43%	–4.2%	1.4%
4	Orfordness	3,390	700	–79%	–10.0%	0.5%
5	Ethie Cliffs, including Red Head Cliffs	2,875	118	–96%	–20.5%	0.1%
6	Ailsa Craig (SPA)	2,350	1,450	–38%	–3.4%	1.0%
7	Craigleith	2,280	1,969	–14%	–1.1%	1.4%
8	Stack of Occumster to Uamh Ron	2,222	690	–69%	–8.3%	0.5%
9	Isle of May (SPA)	2,100	2,845	35%	2.2%	2.0%
10	Sanda Islands (SSSI)	1,900	700	–63%	–7.4%	0.5%
11	Jersey	1,500	1,546	3%	0.2%	1.1%
12	Isle of Man: Glen Maye to Peel	1,475	957	–35%	–3.0%	0.7%
13	Tiree	1,430	787	–45%	–4.5%	0.6%
14	Whinnyfold Cliffs	1,304	365	–72%	–8.1%	0.3%
15	Tremuda Bay to Old Hall Bay	1,297	112	–91%	–17.1%	0.1%
16	Isle of Man: Peel to Glen Mooar	1,276	707	–45%	–4.4%	0.5%
17	Gardenstown to Collie Head	1,236	614	–50%	–4.6%	0.4%
18	Calf of Man	1,200	670	–44%	–4.8%	0.5%
19	Grey Mare to Slains Castle	1,153	826	–28%	–2.2%	0.6%
20	Lundy	1,117	777	–30%	–2.5%	0.5%
21	Bodorgan Head	1,110	0	–100%		0.0%
22	Colonsay and Oransay	1,079	1,121	4%	0.3%	0.8%
23	Sands of Forvie (SPA)	1,048	272	–74%	–8.6%	0.2%
24	Inchcolm	1,040	621	–40%	–3.4%	0.4%
25	Eilean an Roin	993	0	–100%		0.0%
26	Logie Head to Sandend	989	837	–15%	–1.1%	0.6%
27	Canna and Sanday (SPA)	977	1,138	16%	1.2%	0.8%
28	Meg's Craig to Deils Heid North	975	127	–87%	–13.6%	0.1%
29	Inchmarnock Island	950	1,550	63%	3.1%	1.1%
30	Puffin Island (SSSI)	919	400	–56%	–5.4%	0.3%
31	St Cyrus	909	2	–100%	–35.4%	0.0%
32	Lady Isle	900	1,500	67%	2.9%	1.0%
33	Old Slains to Collieston	884	216	–76%	–9.0%	0.2%
34	Trelong Bay	802	665	–17%	–1.3%	0.5%
35	Steep Holm Island	750	956	27%	2.1%	0.7%
36	Rockcliffe Marsh ¹	708	7,200	917%	23.5%	5.0%
37	Cardigan Island	700	746	7%	0.4%	0.5%
38	Caldey Island	684	2,134	212%	7.9%	1.5%
39	Tarnbrook Fell ²	420	475	13%	0.8%	0.3%
40	The Skerries (SPA)	361	840	133%	6.2%	0.6%
41	Bardsey Island (SPA)	205	663	223%	8.7%	0.5%
42	Burnt Islands	190	659	247%	11.0%	0.5%
43	Bach Island	100	810	710%	19.2%	0.6%
44	Birchington ³	20	575	2775%	25.1%	0.4%
45	Outer Trial Bank, The Wash	10	1,003	9930%	43.0%	0.7%
46	Scarborough ³	1	870	86900%	49.1%	0.6%

Table 2 continued

<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>
47	Aberdeen City ³	nc	3350			2.3%
48	Hesketh and Banks Marshes, Ribble Estuary (part of SPA)	nc	750			0.5%
49	Whitby ³	nc	528			0.4%
50	Lambay Island	5,500	1,806	−67%	−8.9%	29.0%
51	Rathlin Island (SPA)	4,037	14	−100%	−33.3%	0.2%
52	Old Lighthouse Island and Mew Island	4,000	97	−98%	−20.8%	1.6%
53	Big Copeland Island	3,000	258	−91%	−13.4%	4.1%
54	Gun's and Sandy Islands	1,665	0	−100%		0.0%
55	Strangford Lough (SPA)	1,736	253	−85%	−13.6%	4.1%
56	Burial Island	1,250	0	−100%		0.0%
57	Great Saltee	825	43	−95%	−20.2%	0.7%
58	Little Saltee	600	30	−95%	−22.1%	0.5%
59	Ireland's Eye	540	246	−54%	−5.9%	3.9%
60	Garvan Isles	531	nc			
61	Rathlin O'Birne	505	nc			

Notes

¹ SCR 1988 count estimated from a mixed count of 2,500 AON of Herring Gulls and Lesser Black-backed Gulls using a ratio of 2.53LBBG:1HG measured in 1990.

² Inland

³ Roof-nesting

⁴ The colony on Lambay Island was reduced by culling from 20,000 AON in 1985

nc not counted

Table 3 Numbers of roof-nesting Herring Gulls (AON) in Britain and Ireland 1976–2002.

Administrative area or country	1976 ¹		1993–95 ²		1999–2002		Percentage change since 1976	Percentage change since 1993–95
	AON	Colonies ³	AON	Colonies ³	AON	Colonies		
Shetland	6	1	59	1	21	1	250%	–64%
North coast Caithness			58	1	50	1		–14%
East coast Caithness			73	1				
<i>Caithness total</i>			<i>131</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>1</i>		–62%
East coast Sutherland					33	1		
<i>Sutherland total</i>					<i>33</i>	<i>1</i>		
East coast Ross & Cromarty	1	1	35	5	83	7	8200%	137%
<i>Ross & Cromarty total</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>83</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8200%</i>	<i>137%</i>
Inverness	3	1	150	1	356	1	11767%	137%
Nairn	9	1			80	1	789%	
Moray	1	1	32	1	153	2	15200%	378%
Banff & Buchan			322	6	444	4		38%
City of Aberdeen	1	1	2,000	1	3,350	1	334900%	68%
Angus			448	2	398	2		–11%
Perth & Kinross					1	1		
City of Dundee	9	1			296	1	3189%	
Northeast Fife			1	1				
Kirkcaldy					10	1		
Dunfermline					18	3		
Clackmannan					35	1		
Falkirk					24	2		
West Lothian			5	2	nc			
City of Edinburgh			42	3	nc			
East Lothian			23	2	nc			
Berwickshire	22	2	125	2	194	1	782%	55%
Kyle & Carrick			133	2	144	4		8%
Cunninghame			3	1	19	1		533%
Kilmarnock & Loudoun	3	1			15	1	400%	
East Kilbride					20	1		
Motherwell					1	1		
City of Glasgow			6	1	26	1		333%
Inverclyde			35	1	40	3		14%
Strathkelvin					5	1		
Cumbernauld & Kilsyth			13	1	17	1		31%
Dumbarton			5	1	10	1		100%
Scotland Total	55	10	3,568	36	5,843	46	10524%	64%
Northumberland	33	1	216	1	252	2	664%	17%
Tyne & Wear	459	2	1,236	2	125	1	–73%	–90%
Durham			1	1				
Cleveland	27	1	422	5	604	2	2137%	43%
North Yorkshire	434	5	556	6	1,749	6	303%	215%
Humberside			1	1	17	2		1600%
Suffolk					421	3		
Essex					28	2		
Greater London	5	1	5	1	77	1	1440%	1440%
Kent	301	4	1,491	11	696 ⁴	6	131%	–53%
East Sussex	244	4	nc		1,033	11	323%	
West Sussex			nc		510	6		
Hampshire			20	3	48	2		140%
Dorset	29	3	47	2	201	4	593%	328%
Channel Islands	1	1	129	1	190	1	18900%	47%
Cornwall	152	4	647	9	1,487	35	878%	130%
Devon	141	7	1,040	16	1838	34	1204%	77%
Somerset	2	1	19	1	411	8	20450%	2063%
Avon	69	2	183	2	622	4	801%	240%
Gloucestershire	60	1	46	2	107	2	78%	133%
Hereford & Worcester					3	1		

Table 3 continued.

Administrative area or country	1976 ¹		1993–95 ²		1999–2002		Percentage change since 1976	Percentage change since 1993–95
	AON	Colonies ³	AON	Colonies ³	AON	Colonies		
West Midlands					6	1		
Derbyshire					3	1		
Merseyside	1	1	20	1	59	2	5800%	195%
Lancashire			11	2	185	4		1582%
Cumbria	3	1	422	6	1,606	4	53433%	281%
Isle of Man	1	1	13	3	6	1	500%	–54%
England, Isle of Man and Channel Isles Total	1,962	40	6,525	76	12,284	146	526%	88%
Gwent	69	2	19	3	76	2	10%	300%
South Glamorgan	435	3	148	2				
Mid Glamorgan	74	2	1	1				
West Glamorgan	82	1	161	2	472	3	476%	193%
Dyfed			31	2	434	6		1300%
Gwynedd	260	4	289	5	674	10	159%	133%
Clwyd	7	1	123	1	170	5	2329%	38%
Wales Total	927	13	772	16	1,826	26	97%	137%
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	2,944	63	10,865	128	19,953	218	578%	84%
Co. Antrim			1	1	8	1		700%
Co. Dublin	2	1	121	4	180	5	8900%	49%
Co. Waterford	12	1	24	1	29	1	142%	21%
All-Ireland Total	14	2	146	6	217	7	1450%	49%
Britain and Ireland Total	2,958	65	11,011	134	20,170	225	582%	83%

Notes

¹ Source data: Monaghan & Coulson (1997)² Source data: Raven & Coulson (1997)³ The numbers of colonies do not include those in 1976 and 1993–95 that were not counted.⁴ Colonies were not surveyed at Dover and Folkestone, which held a combined total of 900 AON in 1983–85.

nc not counted

Table 4 International context.

Country or region	Subspecies	Number of pairs		Source			
		Min	Max				
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	<i>argenteus</i>	143,000	143,000	Seabird 2000			
All-Ireland	<i>argenteus</i>	6,500	6,500	Seabird 2000			
Belarus	<i>argentatus</i>	100	200	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Belgium	<i>argentatus/argenteus</i>	683	683	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Denmark	<i>argentatus</i>	55,000	58,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Estonia	<i>argentatus</i>	40,000	40,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Faeroe Islands	<i>argenteus</i>	1,500	1,500	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Finland	<i>argentatus</i>	28,300	28,300	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
France (Brittany)	<i>argenteus</i>	60,300	60,300	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
France (excluding Brittany)	<i>argentatus/argenteus</i>	27,800	27,800	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Germany (western)	<i>argentatus/argenteus</i>	50,000	50,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Germany (eastern)	<i>argentatus</i>	1,500	1,700	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Iceland	<i>argenteus</i>	2,500	2,500	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Latvia	<i>argentatus</i>	550	600	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Lithuania	<i>argentatus</i>	300	350	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Netherlands	<i>argentatus/argenteus</i>	67,000	67,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Norway	<i>argentatus</i>	150,000	200,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Poland	<i>argentatus</i>	2,200	2,200	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Russia	<i>argentatus</i>	8,000	8,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Sweden	<i>argentatus</i>	60,000	100,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Switzerland	<i>argentatus?</i>	5	6	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Mediterranean/ Western France/Iberia	<i>michabellis</i>	158,000	208,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Russia/Ukraine	<i>cachinnans</i>	25,000	30,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Armenia/Turkey	<i>armenicus</i>	20,000	20,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
North America (Canada/USA)	<i>smithsonianus</i>	150,000	150,000	Malling Olsen & Larsson (2003)			
Biogeographic region		Min	Max	Min % GB	Max % GB	Min % Ireland	Max % Ireland
NW Europe & Iceland/W Europe*	<i>argentatus</i> & <i>argenteus</i>	705,000	799,000	17.9%	20.3%	0.8%	0.9%
World	all	1,100,000	1,200,000	11.9%	13.0%	0.5%	0.6%

* Stroud *et al.* (2001)

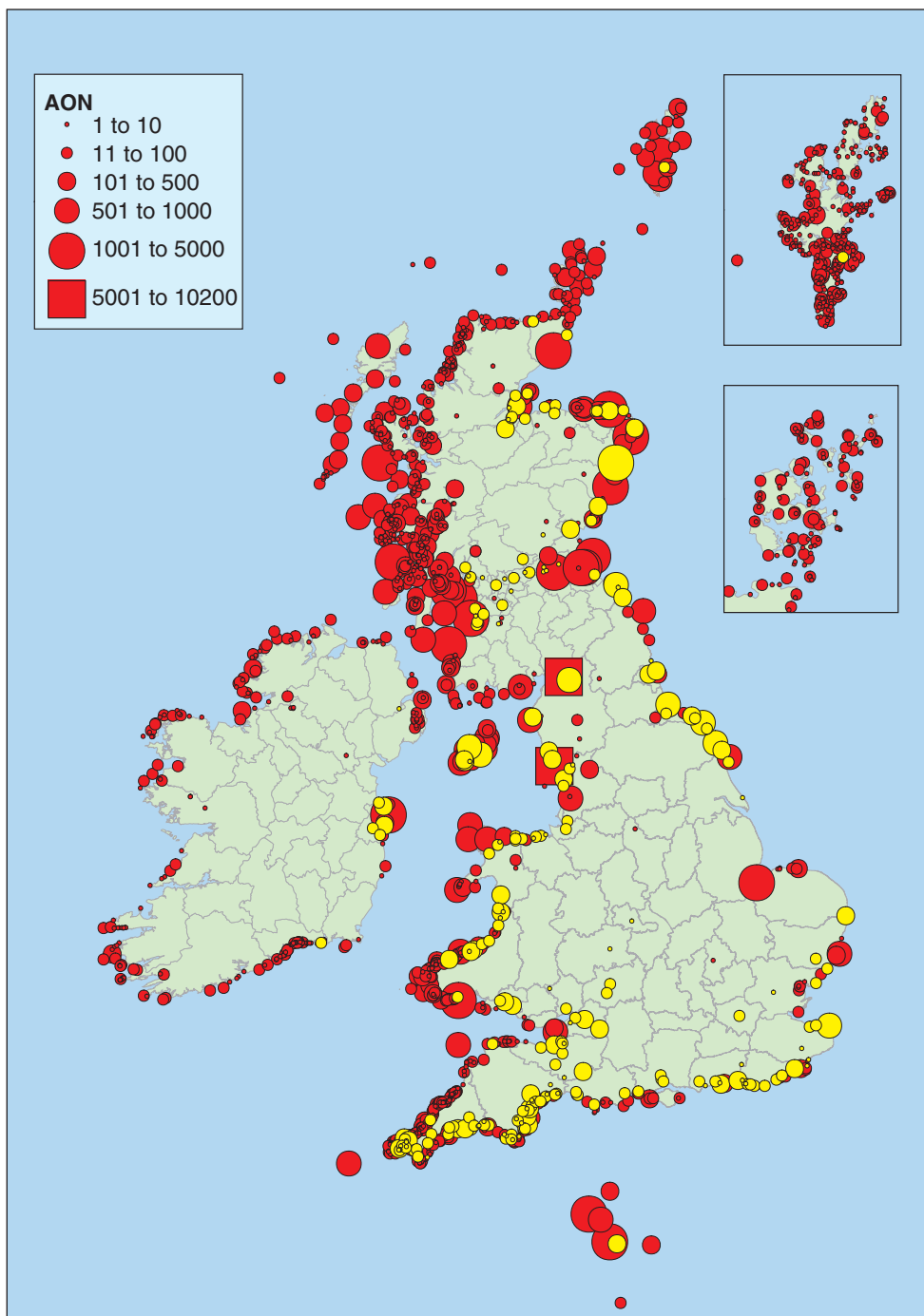


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding Herring Gulls in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002. Natural sites are shown in red and man-made sites (e.g. rooftops) are in yellow (the scale is the same for both types of sites).

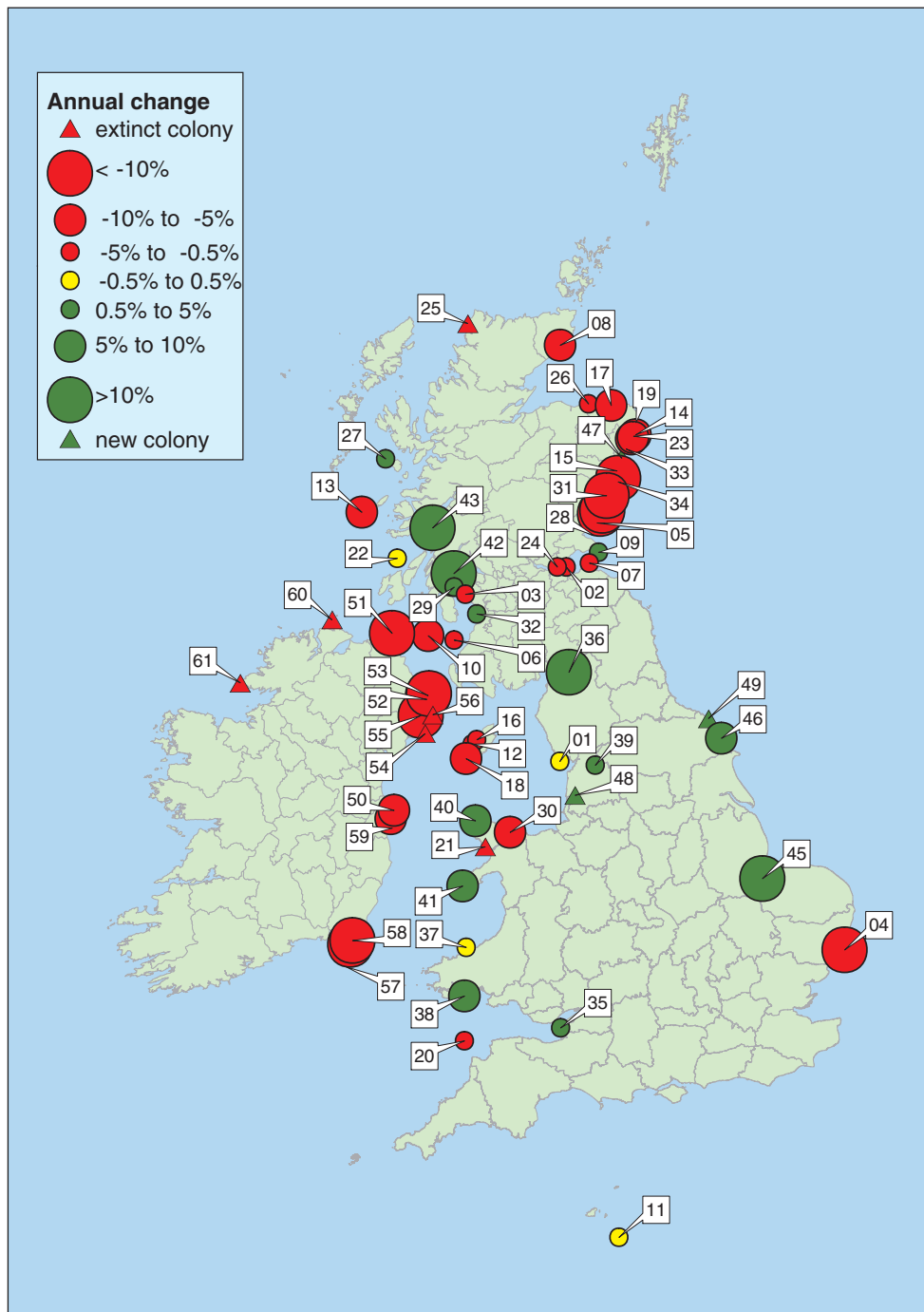


Figure 2 Changes in the number of breeding Herring Gulls (AON) at major coastal colonies in Britain and Ireland between the SCR Census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002). Major coastal colonies are those that contained the top 40% of the British population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000 or the top 75% of the Irish population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000. Numbers correspond to colonies listed in Table 2.