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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 coastal-breeding Great Black-backed 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) ²	SCR Census (1985–88) ²	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since Seafarer	Percentage change since SCR		
Shetland	2,674	3,094	2,875	8%	-7%	-0.5%	2,875
Orkney	5,999	5,657	5,505	-8%	-3%	-0.2%	5,505
North coast Caithness		171	30		-82%	-12.4%	30
East coast Caithness		842	181		-79%	-11.1%	181
<i>Caithness total</i>	<i>1,048</i>	<i>1,013</i>	<i>211</i>	<i>-80%</i>	<i>-79%</i>	<i>-11.3%</i>	<i>211</i>
Northwest coast							
Sutherland		805	1,058		31%	2.1%	1,058
East coast Sutherland		16	1		-94%	-18.6%	1
<i>Sutherland total</i>	<i>1,360</i>	<i>821</i>	<i>1,059</i>	<i>-22%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>1.9%</i>	<i>1,059</i>
West coast Ross & Cromarty							
East coast Ross & Cromarty		197	159		-19%	-1.5%	159
<i>Ross & Cromarty total</i>	<i>660</i>	<i>206</i>	<i>379</i>	<i>-43%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>379</i>
Inverness	1	47	5	400%	-89%	-14.9%	5
Nairn	20			-100%			
Moray	4	12	10	150%	-17%	-1.4%	11
Banff & Buchan	16	15	37	131%	147%	6.3%	37
Gordon	2	12	5	150%	-58%	-5.7%	5
City of Aberdeen			9				9
Kincardine & Deeside	23	4	21	-9%	425%	13.5%	21
Angus	1		8	700%			8
Perth & Kinross							2
Northeast Fife	4	2	27	575%	1250%	20.4%	27
Dunfermline			1				1
City of Edinburgh			2				2
East Lothian	1	7	11	1000%	57%	3.6%	11
Berwickshire			1				1
Stewartby	55	10	7	-87%	-30%	-3.1%	7
Wigtown	14	9	7	-50%	-22%	-1.8%	7
Kyle & Carrick	30	97	298	893%	207%	7.8%	298
Cunningham	82	135	133	62%	-1%	-0.1%	133
Inverclyde		2	18		800%	17.9%	18
Dumbarton		1	3		200%		3
Argyll & Bute	586	988	1,736	196%	76%	4.5%	1,736
Lochaber	157	245	247	57%	1%	0.1%	247
Skye & Lochalsh	218	342	151	-31%	-56%	-6.1%	151
Western Isles—Comhairle nan eilean	2,995	2,596	2,007	-33%	-23%	-1.9%	2,007
Scotland Total	15,950	15,315	14,773	-7%	-4%	-0.3%	14,776
Northumberland		0	2				2
Suffolk			4				4
Hampshire		1	2		100%	5.9%	2
Isle of Wight	6	9	10	67%	11%	0.7%	10
Dorset	16	10	74	363%	640%	14.2%	74
Channel Islands	200	180	310	55%	72%	4.4%	310
Cornwall	262	278	322	23%	16%	1.1%	322
Isles of Scilly	1200	999	807	-33%	-19%	-1.8%	807
Devon	106	165	166	57%	1%	0.0%	166
Somerset	17		1	-94%			1
Avon	42	13	18	-57%	38%	2.5%	18
Hereford & Worcester							1
Lancashire	1	1	9	800%	800%	23.3%	16
Cumbria	26	58	51	96%	-12%	-1.0%	53

Administrative area or country	Coastal colonies only ¹						Seabird 2000 inland and coastal
	Operation Seafarer (1969–70) ²	SCR Census (1985–88) ²	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since Seafarer	Percentage change since SCR	Annual percentage change since SCR	
Isle of Man	275	376	405	47%	8%	0.6%	405
England, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	2,151	2,090	2,181	1%	4%	0.3%	2,191
Gwent	33	10		-100%	-100%		
South Glamorgan			2				2
Dyfed	700	189	322	-54%	70%	4.1%	322
Gwynedd	172	90	101	-41%	12%	0.8%	103
Wales Total	905	289	425	-53%	47%	2.9%	427
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	19,006	17,694	17,379	-9%	-2%	-0.1%	17,394
Co. Antrim	91	114	16	-82%	-86%	-12.8%	16
Co. Down	149	163	55	-63%	-66%	-7.7%	55
Co. Armagh							1
Co. Fermanagh							4
Co. Dublin	230	538	486	111%	-10%	-0.8%	486
Co. Wicklow	7	2	2	-71%	0%	0.0%	2
Co. Wexford	505	204	76	-85%	-63%	-7.0%	76
Co. Waterford	75	101	62	-17%	-39%	-3.6%	62
Co. Cork	381	272	201	-47%	-26%	-2.1%	201
Co. Kerry	527	625	291	-45%	-53%	-5.9%	291
Co. Clare	135	9	28	-79%	211%	8.9%	28
Co. Galway	485	137	146	-70%	7%	0.5%	147
Co. Mayo	416	461	652	57%	41%	2.8%	653
Co. Sligo	82	81	133	62%	64%	3.7%	133
Co. Donegal	323	491	164	-49%	-67%	-8.3%	164
All-Ireland Total	3,406	3,198	2,312	-32%	-28%	-2.4%	2,319
Britain and Ireland Total	22,412	20,892	19,691	-12%	-6%	-0.4%	19,713

Notes

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

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

Table 2 Changes in the number of breeding Great Black-backed Gulls (AON) at major colonies in Britain and Ireland between the 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 50% of the Irish population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000. ID corresponds to colony symbols in Fig. 2.

ID	Colony	SCR Census (1985–88)	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since SCR	Annual percentage change since SCR	Percentage of population in Britain or Ireland 1998–2002
1	Isles of Scilly total	999	807	-19%	-1.8%	4.6%
2	Calf of Eday (SPA)	800	675	-16%	-1.2%	3.9%
3	North Rona (SPA)	733	983	34%	2.5%	5.7%
4	Copinsay	618	1189	92%	5.5%	6.8%
5	Hoy: Burn of Forse	613	207	-66%	-8.0%	1.2%
6	Stronsay and Papa Stronsay	504	595	18%	1.2%	3.4%
7	Hoy: Stourdale	450	176	-61%	-7.0%	1.0%
8	Lewis: Tolsta Head	258	2	-99%	-35.5%	0.0%
9	Holm of Faray	223	175	-22%	-1.8%	1.0%
10	Ramna Stacks and Gruney (SPA)	151	15	-90%	-14.3%	0.1%
11	Horse Island	150	80	-47%	-4.1%	0.5%
12	Mingulay (SPA)	150	44	-71%	-9.1%	0.3%
13	High Holm	145	5	-97%	-22.9%	0.0%
14	Stroma	134	18 ¹	-87%	-13.4%	0.1%
15	Shiant Islands	126	310	146%	7.2%	1.8%
16	Lewis: Cellar Head	125	3	-98%	-24.8%	0.0%
17	Coll	120	177	48%	3.0%	1.0%
18	Mullion Island	117	49	-58%	-6.0%	0.3%
19	Calf of Man	116	146	26%	1.7%	0.8%
20	Muckle Green Holm	115	150	30%	1.9%	0.9%
21	Fair Isle	113	32	-72%	-8.1%	0.2%
22	Hoy: Lochs of Suifca	100	6	-94%	-18.3%	0.0%
23	Lewis: Druim Moor	100	0	-100%		0.0%
24	Treshnish Islands including					
	Dutchman's Cap	99	342	245%	10.0%	2.0%
25	Lady's Holm	95	160	68%	3.5%	0.9%
26	Fara	94	48	-49%	-5.0%	0.3%
27	Switha (SPA)	90	120	33%	2.2%	0.7%
28	Little Cumbrae Island	80	120	50%	3.2%	0.7%
29	Linga Holm	79	94	19%	1.3%	0.5%
30	Swona	78	75	-4%	-0.3%	0.4%
31	Eilean Hoan	75	360	380%	14.0%	2.1%
32	Little Green Holm	75	75			0.4%
33	Strathy Point	72	86	19%	1.4%	0.5%
34	Kili Holm	70	60	-14%	-1.1%	0.3%
35	Sanday: Tafts Ness	60	181	202%	8.2%	1.0%
36	Lady Isle	55 ²	200	264%	7.5%	1.1%
37	Holm of Huip	45	150	233%	9.0%	0.9%
38	Ailsa Craig (SPA)	42	85	102%	5.2%	0.5%
39	Skomer	33	61	85%	4.9%	0.4%
40	Ynys Gwylan Fawr	17	61	259%	8.8%	0.4%
41	Little Havra	9	150	1567%	22.3%	0.9%
42	Colsay	4	80	1900%	23.8%	0.5%
43	Nigg Oil Terminal	0	149			0.9%
44	Orkney Mainland: Little					
	Billia Fiold	0	61			0.4%
45	St Patrick's Island	285	100	-65%	-7.2%	4.3%
46	Roaninish	250	29	-88%	-14.3%	1.3%
47	Inishtooskert	225	3	-99%	-28.3%	0.1%
48	Duvillalaun Islands	217	144	-34%	-3.1%	6.2%
49	Lambay Island	145	193	33%	2.4%	8.3%
50	Inishark	137	55	-60%	-7.9%	2.4%
51	Inishduff	135	nc			
52	Puffin Island	125	72	-42%	-3.6%	3.1%

<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>
53	Little Saltee	100	45	-55%	-6.4%	1.9%
54	Inishmurray	81	117	44%	2.7%	5.0%
55	Ireland's Eye	65	90	38%	2.5%	3.9%
56	Sovereign Islands	19	75	295%	10.3%	3.2%
57	Black Rock	17	55	224%	10.2%	2.4%
58	Inishkea Islands	nc	100			4.3%
59	Shenicks Island	0	90			3.9%
60	Illandavuck	nc	75			3.2%
61	Pig Island	nc	62			2.7%
62	Inishtrahull	nc	61			2.6%
63	Kings Head	0	57			2.5%

Notes

¹ Count conducted from sea so may have been an under estimate

² Counted in 1982

nc not counted

Table 3 Numbers of roof-nesting Great Black-backed Gulls (AON) in Britain 1976–2002.

<i>Administrative area or country</i>	<i>1976¹</i>		<i>1993–95²</i>		<i>1999–2002</i>		<i>Percentage change since 1976</i>	<i>Percentage change since 1993–95</i>
	<i>AON</i>	<i>Colonies³</i>	<i>AON</i>	<i>Colonies³</i>	<i>AON</i>	<i>Colonies</i>		
East coast Sutherland					1	1		
<i>Sutherland total</i>					1	1		
Inverness					5	1		
Moray					1	1		
City of Aberdeen		2	1		9	1		350%
Angus					2	1		
City of Edinburgh		1	1					
Kyle & Carrick		1	1					
Cunninghame		1	1		1	1		0%
Inverclyde		1	1		2	1		100%
<i>Scotland Total</i>		6	5		21	7		250%
Hampshire		1	1		1	1		0%
Dorset		1	1		4	2		300%
Channel Islands					6	1		
Cornwall	7	3			24	6	243%	
Devon			2	2	22	6		1000%
Lancashire					1	1		
Cumbria			1	1	3	1		200%
<i>England and Channel Islands Total</i>	7	3	5	5	61	18	771%	1120%
Dyfed					1	1		
<i>Wales Total</i>					1	1		
<i>Great Britain and Channel Islands Total</i>	7	3	11	10	83	26	1086%	655%

Notes

¹ Source data: Monaghan & Coulson (1977)

² Source data: Raven & Coulson (1997)

³ The numbers of colonies do not include those indicated in 1976 and 1993–95 that were not counted.

Table 4 International context.

<i>Country or region</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Britain	17,000	17,000	2000	Seabird 2000
Ireland	2,300	2,300	2000	Seabird 2000
Estonia	2,000	5,000	?	BirdLife International/EBCC (2000)
Denmark	1,500	1,600	1996–1998	Grell <i>et al.</i> 1998
Faroe Islands	1,200	1,200	1995	BirdLife International/EBCC (2000)
Finland	2,800	2,800	2001	Hario & Rintala (2002)
France	4,079	4,141	1997–1999	Monnat & Cadiou (in press)
Germany	19	19	1999	Köppen (2001); Knief <i>et al.</i> (2001); Südbeck & Hälterlein (2001); Dierschke <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Iceland	15,000	20,000	1998	Petersen (2000)
Netherlands	15	15	2000	van der Weide (2002)
Norway	40,000	40,000	early 1990s	Lorentsen (1994)
Sweden	15,000	15,000	1990	SOF (2002)
Russia	3,000	4,000	mid-late 1990s	Krasnov <i>et al.</i> (1995); Krasnov & Nikolaeva (1998); Anon. (1999a); Anon. (1999b); Semashko and Cherenkov (in press)
Greenland	3,000	5,000	1996	Boertmann <i>et al.</i> (1996)
Canada	25,455	25,455	1980–1990	Good (1998)
USA	35,260	35,260	1975–1995	Good (1998)
<i>Biogeographic region</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min % GB</i>	<i>Max % GB</i>
Europe (excluding Russia)*	100,000	110,000	16.8	17.0
World	170,000	180,000	8.4	10.0
<i>Min % Ireland</i>	<i>Max % Ireland</i>			
2.2	2.2			
1.2	1.3			

* Stroud *et al.* (2001)

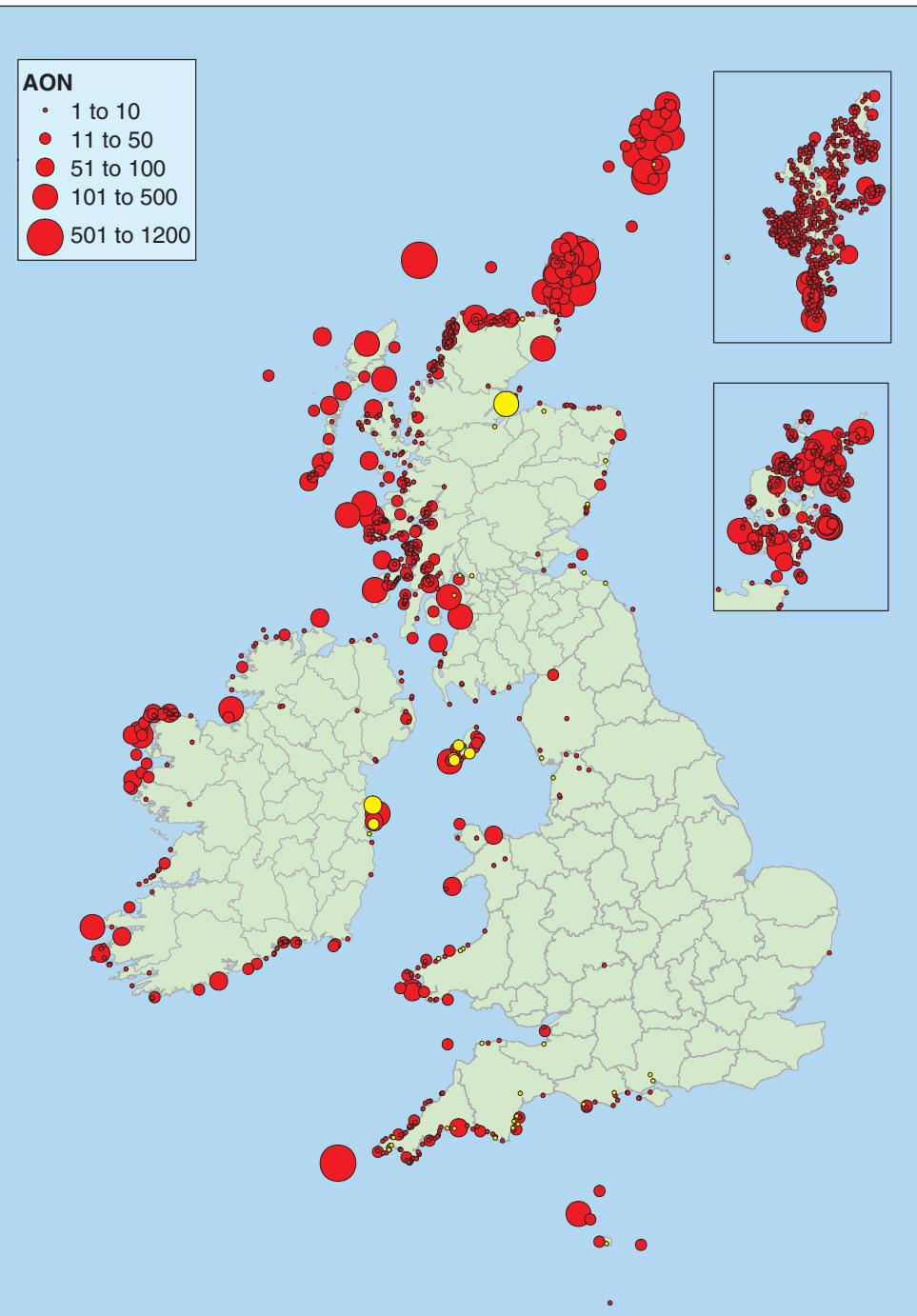


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding Great Black-backed Gulls in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002. Natural sites are shown in red and human-made sites (e.g. rooftops) are in yellow (the scale is the same for both types of site).

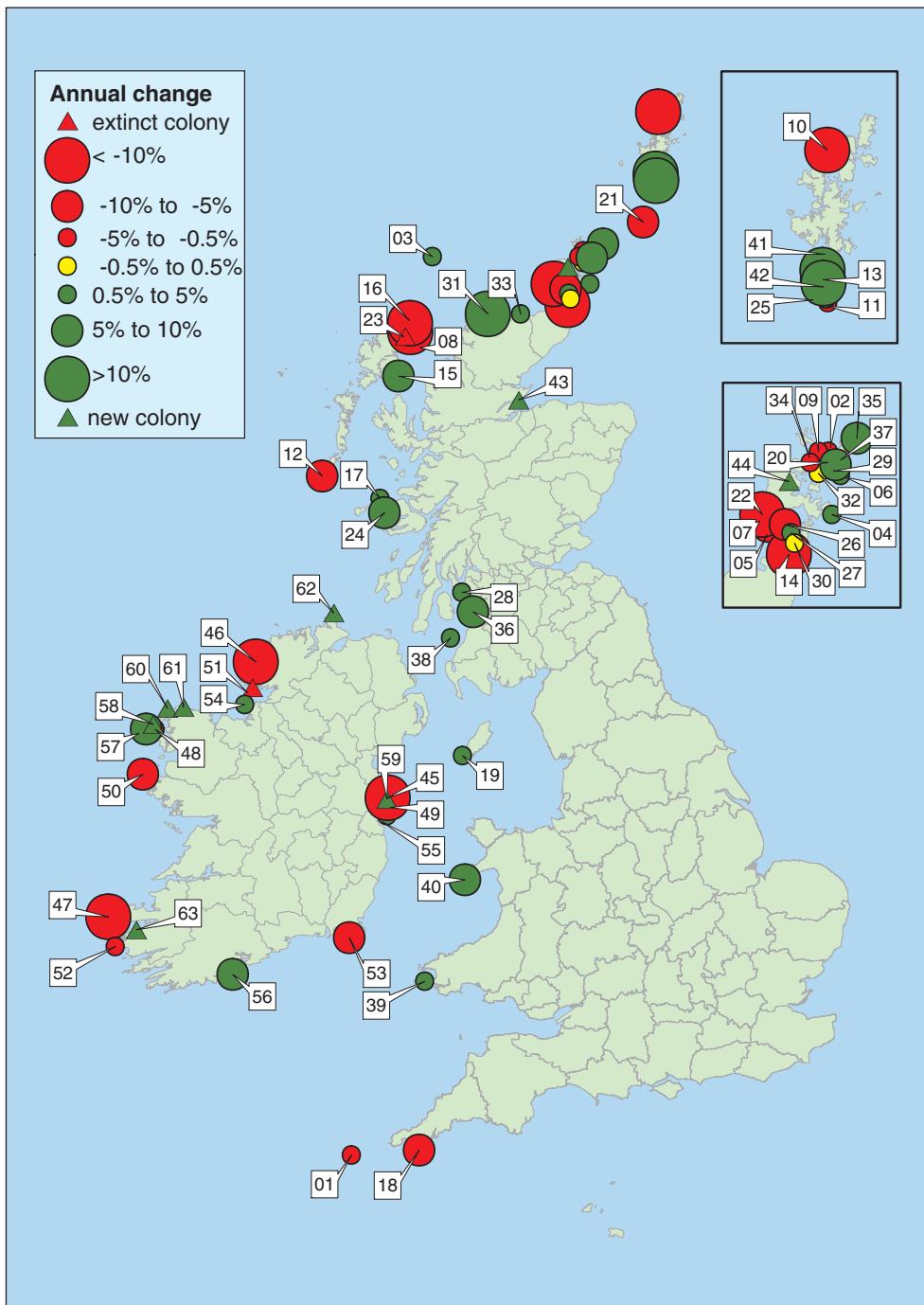


Figure 2 Changes in the number of breeding Great Black-backed Gulls (AON) at major colonies in Britain and Ireland between the SCR Census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002). Major colonies are those that contained the top 40% of the British population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000 or the top 50% of the Irish population during the SCR and/or Seabird 2000. Numbers correspond to colonies listed in Table 2.