

July 2011



THE DATA AND MAPS PRESENTED IN THESE PAGES WAS INITIALLY PUBLISHED IN SEABIRD POPULATIONS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND: RESULTS OF THE SEABIRD 2000 CENSUS (1998-2002).

The full citation for the above publication is:-

P. Ian Mitchell, Stephen F. Newton, Norman Ratcliffe and Timothy E. Dunn (Eds.). 2004.
Seabird Populations of Britain and Ireland: results of the Seabird 2000 census (1998-2002).
Published by T and A.D. Poyser, London.

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 Common Terns (AON) in Britain and Ireland 1969–2002.

<i>Administrative area or country</i>	<i>Operation Seafarer (1969–70)</i>	<i>SCR Census (1985–88)/ All Ireland Tern Survey (1984)²</i>	<i>Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)/ All Ireland Tern Survey (1995)</i>	<i>Percentage change since Seafarer</i>	<i>Percentage change since SCR/AITS (1984)</i>	<i>Annual percentage change since SCR/AITS (1984)</i>
Shetland	404	1,020 ¹	104	–74%	–90%	–10.8
Orkney	213	244 ¹	125	–41%	–49%	–3.3
North coast Caithness		36	42		17%	1.1%
Inland Caithness		2	2		0%	0.0%
East coast Caithness		11			–100%	
<i>Caithness total</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>–6%</i>	<i>–10%</i>	<i>–0.8%</i>
Northwest coast Sutherland		138	95		–31%	–2.7%
East coast Sutherland		108	25		–77%	–9.9%
<i>Sutherland total</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>246</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>–51%</i>	<i>–5.1%</i>
West coast Ross & Cromarty		18	109		506%	13.8%
East coast Ross & Cromarty		104	497		378%	11.9%
<i>Ross & Cromarty total</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>122</i>	<i>606</i>	<i>299%</i>	<i>397%</i>	<i>12.2%</i>
Inverness	106	315	10	–91%	–97%	–22.6%
Nairn	12			–100%		
Moray	43	166	24	–44%	–86%	–13.8%
Banff & Buchan	33	118	202	512%	71%	4.0%
Gordon	475	163	31	–93%	–81%	–12.0%
City of Aberdeen			68			
Kincardine & Deeside			13			
Angus	9	139	50	456%	–64%	–7.6%
Perth and Kinross		6	7		17%	1.3%
Northeast Fife	55	22	303	451%	1277%	20.7%
Dunfermline	55	97	135	145%	39%	2.7%
Falkirk		30	114		280%	9.4%
City of Edinburgh		592	700		18%	1.3%
East Lothian	865	128	0	–100%	–100%	
Tweeddale		1			–100%	
Nithsdale	138			–100%		
Stewartry	99	50	6	–94%	–88%	–15.7%
Wigtown	48	52	55	15%	6%	0.4%
Kyle & Carrick	184		1	–99%		
Cunninghame	98	113	12	–88%	–89%	–14.8%
Inverclyde	1			–100%		
Dumbarton			16			
Stirling		2	1		–50%	–6.1%
Argyll & Bute	788	2,137	1,362	73%	–36%	–3.4%
Lochaber	69	375	130	88%	–65%	–7.8%
Skye & Lochalsh	244	44	43	–82%	–2%	–0.2%
Western Isles–Comhairle nan eilean	56	553	502	796%	–9%	–0.6%
Scotland Total	4,285	6,784	4,784	12%	–29%	–2.3
Northumberland	1,765	997	1,207	–32%	21%	1.5%
Tyne & Wear		3	5		67%	4.2%
Durham	30		32	7%		
Cleveland		30	369		1130%	18.9%
North Yorkshire		1	5		400%	11.3%
Humberside			2			
West Yorkshire		6	21		250%	10.6%
South Yorkshire		2			–100%	
Lincolnshire	122	40	46	–62%	15%	1.0%
Leicestershire		2	72		3500%	31.7%
Cambridgeshire		82	64		–22%	–1.7%
Northamptonshire			30			
Bedfordshire		9	44		389%	14.2%
Buckinghamshire		12	64		433%	12.6%
Hertfordshire		52	61		17%	1.2%

Table 1 continued

<i>Administrative area or country</i>	<i>Operation Seafarer (1969–70)</i>	<i>SCR Census (1985–88)/ All Ireland Tern Survey (1984)²</i>	<i>Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)/ All Ireland Tern Survey (1995)</i>	<i>Percentage change since Seafarer</i>	<i>Percentage change since SCR/AITS (1984)</i>	<i>Annual percentage change since SCR/AITS (1984)</i>
Berkshire		1	84		8300%	44.8%
Surrey		15			–100%	
Norfolk	1,904	810	502	–74%	–38%	–3.5%
Suffolk	313	85	184	–41%	116%	6.0%
Essex	53	404	289	445%	–28%	–2.4%
Greater London		14	40		186%	8.8%
Kent	419	516	333	–21%	–35%	–3.2%
East Sussex	118	70	57	–52%	–19%	–1.6%
West Sussex	33	57	1	–97%	–98%	–25.5%
Hampshire	254	456	311	22%	–32%	–2.8%
Isle of Wight	1	1	9	800%	800%	17.1%
Dorset	74	172	262	254%	52%	2.9%
Channel Islands	107	227	174	63%	–23%	–2.1%
Isles of Scilly	150	193	96	–36%	–50%	–5.7%
Gloucestershire			12			
Wiltshire			4			
Oxfordshire			18			
Warwickshire		20	28		40%	2.6%
Hereford & Worcester			4			
West Midlands		1	3		200%	9.6%
Staffordshire		1	30		2900%	28.7%
Derbyshire		10	56		460%	14.9%
Merseyside		1	157		15600%	40.4%
Lancashire	572	519	103	–82%	–80%	–11.3%
Cumbria	291	77	71	–76%	–8%	–0.6%
Isle of Man	1	7		–100%	–100%	
England, Isle of Man and Channel Isles Total	6,207	4,893	4,850	–22%	–1%	–0.1%
Gwynedd	222	327	184	–17%	–44%	–4.1%
Clwyd	70	187	490	600%	162%	7.7%
Wales Total	292	514	674	131%	31%	2.1%
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	10,784	12,191	10,308	–4%	–15%	–1.1
Co. Derry		8	2		–75%	–8.3
Co. Antrim	385	248	608	58%	145%	5.8
Co. Down	917	783	1,068	16%	36%	2.0
Co. Armagh		44	14		–68%	–6.9
Co. Fermanagh		13	12		–8%	–0.5
Co. Cavan		37	10 ³		–73%	–11.2
Co. Westmeath		5	0 ³		–100%	
Co. Dublin	68	132	847	1146%	542%	12.3
Co. Wicklow	15		0	–100%		
Co. Wexford	1,038	86	480	–54%	458%	11.3
Co. Cork	579	57	252 ³	–56%	342%	14.5
Co. Kerry	533	51	62 ³	–88%	22%	1.8
Co. Limerick		35	2 ³		–94%	–22.9
Co. Tipperary		28	55 ³		96%	6.3
Co. Clare			111 ³			
Co. Galway	189	654	177 ³	–6%	–73%	–11.2
Co. Roscommon		4	4 ³		0%	0.0
Co. Longford		14	120 ³		757%	21.6
Co. Mayo	119	211	118 ³	–1%	–44%	–3.6
Co. Sligo	133		47 ³	–65%		

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Co. Tyrone		32	0 ³		– 100%	– 100.0
Co. Donegal	130	228	200 ³	54%	– 12%	– 1.2
All-Ireland Total	4,106	2,670	4,189	2.0%	56.9%	
Britain and Ireland Total	14,890	14,861	14,497	-2.6%	-2.4%	

Notes

¹ Northern Isles surveyed in 1980 (Bullock & Gomersall, 1982)

² All SCR counts in Ireland were conducted during the All Ireland Tern Survey in 1984 (Whilde, 1995)

³ All counts in this administrative area were conducted during the All Ireland Tern Survey in 1995 (Hannon et al., 1997)

Table 2 International context.

Country or region	Subspecies	Number of pairs		Year	Source		
		Min	Max				
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	<i>hirundo</i>	10,000	10,000	2000	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
All Ireland	<i>hirundo</i>	4,200	4,200	1995, 2000	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Albania	<i>hirundo</i>	500	1,000	1991	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Austria	<i>hirundo</i>	100	130		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Belarus	<i>hirundo</i>	14,000	40,000	1988–98	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Belgium	<i>hirundo</i>	2,246	2,246	2002	Stienen (pers. comm.)		
Bulgaria	<i>hirundo</i>	200	500	1990–97	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Croatia	<i>hirundo</i>	3,000	4,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Czech Republic	<i>hirundo</i>	250	300	1985–95	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Denmark	<i>hirundo</i>	1,000	1,000	1993–96	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Estonia	<i>hirundo</i>	5,000	5,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Finland	<i>hirundo</i>	40,000	60,000	1990–95	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
France	<i>hirundo</i>	4,680	5,000	1997–98	Siblet (in press)		
Germany	<i>hirundo</i>	8,769	8,799	1996	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Greece	<i>hirundo</i>	1,000	1,500		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Hungary	<i>hirundo</i>	800	900	1998	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Italy	<i>hirundo</i>	4,000	5,000	1988–97	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Latvia	<i>hirundo</i>	1,500	2,000	1986	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Lithuania	<i>hirundo</i>	5,000	7,000	1996–98	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Moldova	<i>hirundo</i>	350	450	1988	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Netherlands	<i>hirundo</i>	18,000	19,500	1998–2000	Stienen (2002)		
Norway	<i>hirundo</i>	10,000	20,000	1990	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Poland	<i>hirundo</i>	5,500	7,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Portugal (Azores)	<i>hirundo</i>	4,000	4,500	1989	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Portugal (Madeira)	<i>hirundo</i>	100	200	1991	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Romania	<i>hirundo</i>	5,000	8,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Russia	<i>hirundo</i>	30,000	60,000	1984–88	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Slovakia	<i>hirundo</i>	20	40		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Slovenia	<i>hirundo</i>	150	150		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Spain (Canary Islands)	<i>hirundo</i>	38	51	1987	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Spain (Mainland)	<i>hirundo</i>	5,800	11,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Sweden	<i>hirundo</i>	20,000	25,000	1990	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Switzerland	<i>hirundo</i>	340	380	1993–96	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Turkey	<i>hirundo</i>	3,500	10,000	1998	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Ukraine	<i>hirundo</i>	11,000	18,000	1986	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Mauritania	<i>hirundo</i>	200	300		Urban <i>et al.</i> (1986)		
North America, East Coast	<i>hirundo</i>	90,000	90,000		Nisbet (1999)		
North America, Great Lakes	<i>hirundo</i>	9,000	10,000		Nisbet (1999)		
North America, Interior	<i>hirundo</i>	36,000	36,000		Nisbet (1999)		
Caribbean	<i>hirundo</i>	290	490		Buckley & Buckley (2000)		
Asian highlands	<i>tibetana</i>	3,000	30,000		Wetlands International (2002)		
China (northeast)	<i>longipennis</i>	P	P		Nisbet (2002)		
Iran	<i>hirundo</i>	P	P		Gallagher <i>et al.</i> (1984) Common		
breeder in wetlands							
Russia (northeast Siberia)	<i>longipennis</i>	88400	89400		Kondratyev <i>et al.</i> (2000)		
Russia (western & central Siberia)	<i>hirundo</i>	P	P		Nisbet (2002)		
Turkmenistan	<i>hirundo</i>	14,700	21800	1972–79	Golovkin (1984)		
Biogeographic region	Sub species	Min	Max	Min % GB	Max % GB	Min % Ireland	Max % Ireland
Europe*	<i>hirundo</i>	220,000	340,000	2.9%	4.5%	1.2%	1.9%
World	All	460,000	620,000	1.6%	2.2%	0.7%	0.9%

* Stroud *et al.* (2001)

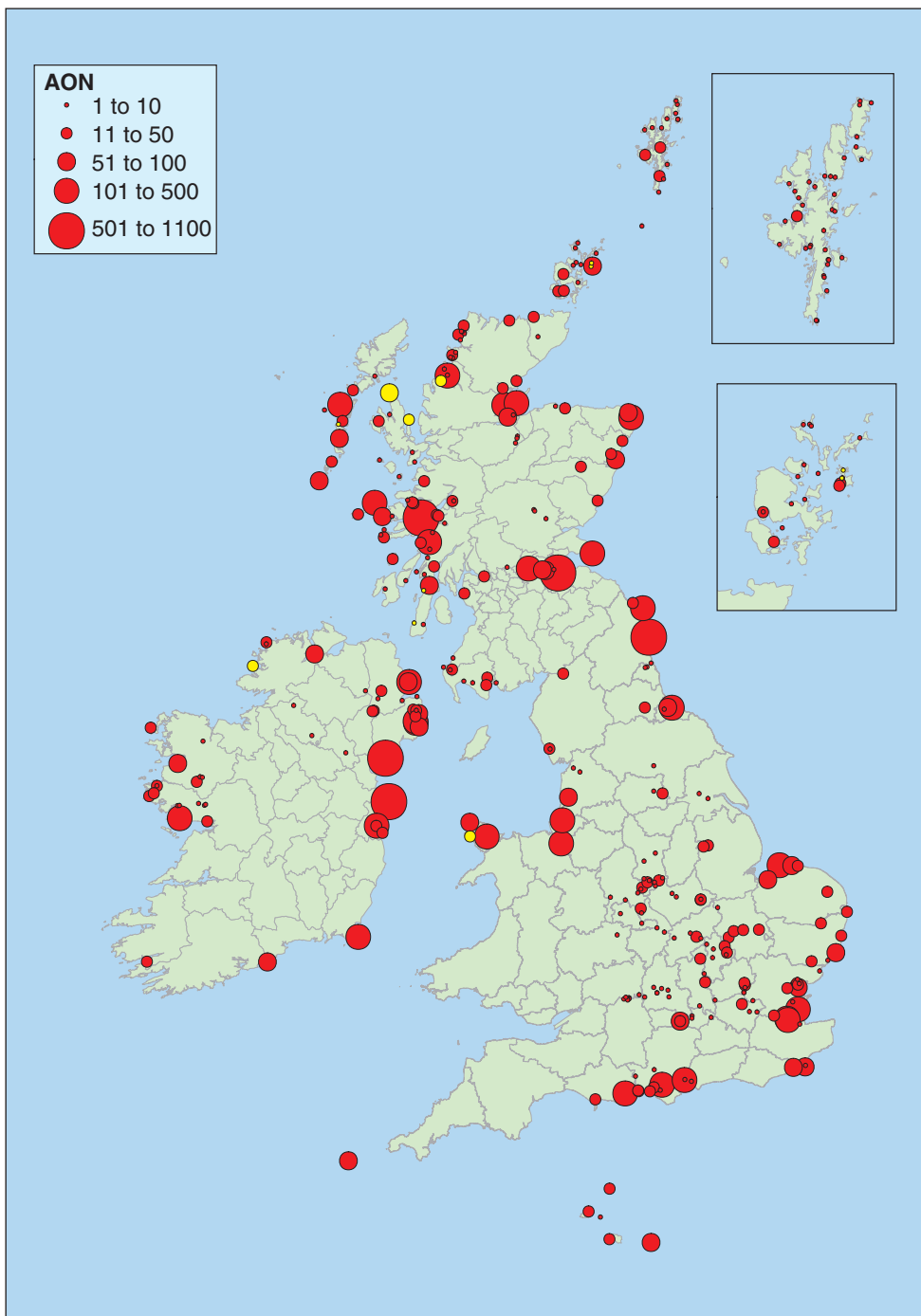


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding Common Terns in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002. Colonies of ‘commic terns’ (i.e. undistinguished Arctic and Common terns) are shown in yellow (the scale is same for Commic Terns and Common Tern colonies).