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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 Arctic 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	7,295	30,332 ¹	24,716	239%	–19%	–1.7
Orkney	32,535	33,455 ¹	13,476	–60%	–60%	–5.6
North coast Caithness		697	585		–16%	–1.3%
Inland Caithness		4	9		125%	6.0%
East coast Caithness		13	0		–100%	
<i>Caithness total</i>	2,073	714	594	–71%	–17%	–1.3%
Northwest coast Sutherland		311	265		–15%	–1.2%
East coast Sutherland		13	236		1715%	23.0%
<i>Sutherland total</i>	587	324	501	–15%	55%	3.2%
West coast Ross & Cromarty		72	26		–64%	–7.2%
East coast Ross & Cromarty		7	129		1743%	23.3%
<i>Ross & Cromarty total</i>	257	79	155	–40%	96%	5.0%
Inverness	6	180	25	317%	–86%	–13.1%
Nairn	2	1		–100%	–100%	
Moray	89	30	244	174%	713%	16.2%
Banff & Buchan	45	58	184	309%	217%	8.6%
Gordon	125	49	76	–39%	55%	3.4%
Kincardine & Deeside	2	28	0	–100%	–100%	
Angus	70	103	82	17%	–20%	–1.8%
Northeast Fife		128	910		611%	15.1%
Dunfermline		20			–100%	
City of Edinburgh		24	0		–100%	
East Lothian	38	43	0	–100%	–100%	
Nithsdale	2			–100%		
Stewartry	23	10		–100%	–100%	
Wigtown	13	63	5	–62%	–92%	–18.3%
Kyle & Carrick	66	16	2	–97%	–88%	–13.8%
Cunninghame	12	6	7	–42%	17%	1.2%
Dumbarton						
Argyll & Bute	1,548	2,614	1,823	18%	–30%	–2.8%
Lochaber	139	542	149	7%	–73%	–9.9%
Skye & Lochalsh	281	1,258	209	–26%	–83%	–11.5%
Western Isles–Comhairle nan eilean	1,177	1,101	4,146	252%	277%	9.6%
Scotland Total	46,385	71,178	47,306	2%	–34%	–3.6
Northumberland	4,256	4,474	3,559	–16%	–20%	–1.8%
Norfolk	14	4	5	–64%	25%	1.6%
Suffolk						
Lancashire	1	20	2	100%	–90%	–14.7%
Cumbria	198	46	33	–83%	–28%	–2.5%
Isle of Man	29	22	8	–72%	–64%	–7.0%
England, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	4,498	4,566	3,610	–20%	–21%	–1.7%
Gwynedd	436	732	1705	291%	133%	6.5%
Wales Total	436	732	1,705	291%	133%	6.4%
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Islands Total	51,319	76476	52,621	3%	–31%	–3.2
Co. Antrim	38		4	–89%		
Co. Fermanagh		7			–100%	
Co. Down	83	425	763	819%	80%	
Co. Longford		1			–100%	
Co. Dublin	129	30	99	–23%	230%	7.7

<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>
Co. Wexford	75	24	235	213%	879%	15.3
Co. Cork	115	119	29 ³	–75%	–76%	–12.0
Co. Kerry	51	168	288 ³	465%	71%	5.0
Co. Clare		6			2100%	2100.0
Co. Galway	188	691	1,061 ³	464%	54%	4.0
Co. Mayo	129	397	585	353%	47%	2.5
Co. Sligo		9	113 ³		1156%	25.9
Co. Donegal	161	411	325 ³	102%	–21%	–2.1
All-Ireland Total	969	2288	3502	261%	53%	
Britain and Ireland Total	52288	78764	56123	7%	–29%	

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, 1985)

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	Number of pairs		Year	Source		
	Min	Max				
Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Isles	52,600	52,600	2000	Seabird 2000		
All Ireland	3,500	3,500	1995, 1999, 2000	Seabird 2000		
Belgium	1	1	1996	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Denmark	8,000	9,000	1993–1996	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Estonia	7,000	8,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Faeroe Islands	2,000	2,000	1995	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Finland	50,000	60,000	1990–95	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
France	1	5		Klassen & Lemmetyinen (1998)		
Germany	6,000	6,000	1999	Hälterlein <i>et al.</i> (2000)		
Greenland	30,000	60,000	1996	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Iceland	250,000	500,000	1990	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Latvia	80	100		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Lithuania	0	5	1996–98	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Netherlands	1,900	2,300	1998–2000	Kasemir & Lutterop (2002)		
Norway	20,000	60,000	1990	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Norway (Jan Mayen)	500	1,000		Klassen & Lemmetyinen (1998)		
Norway (Svalbard)	1,000	10,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Russia (Europe)	25,000	30,000		BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Sweden	20,000	25,000	1990	BirdLife International / EBCC (2000)		
Canada (East)	10,000	1,000,000		Lloyd <i>et al.</i> (1991)		
USA (East coast)	5,740	5,740	1999–2002	Hatch 2002		
Russian (Far East)	6,500	6,500		Kondratyev <i>et al.</i> 2000		
Russia (Central)	P	P		Hatch 2002		
USA (Alaska)	300,000	900,000		Lensink (1984)		
<i>Biogeographic region*</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min % GB</i>	<i>Max % GB</i>	<i>Min % Ireland</i>	<i>Max % Ireland</i>
Europe & N. Atlantic*	493,000	1,800,000	2.9%	10.7%	0.2%	0.7%
World	800,000	2,700,000	1.9%	6.6%	0.1%	0.4%

* Stroud *et al.* (2001)

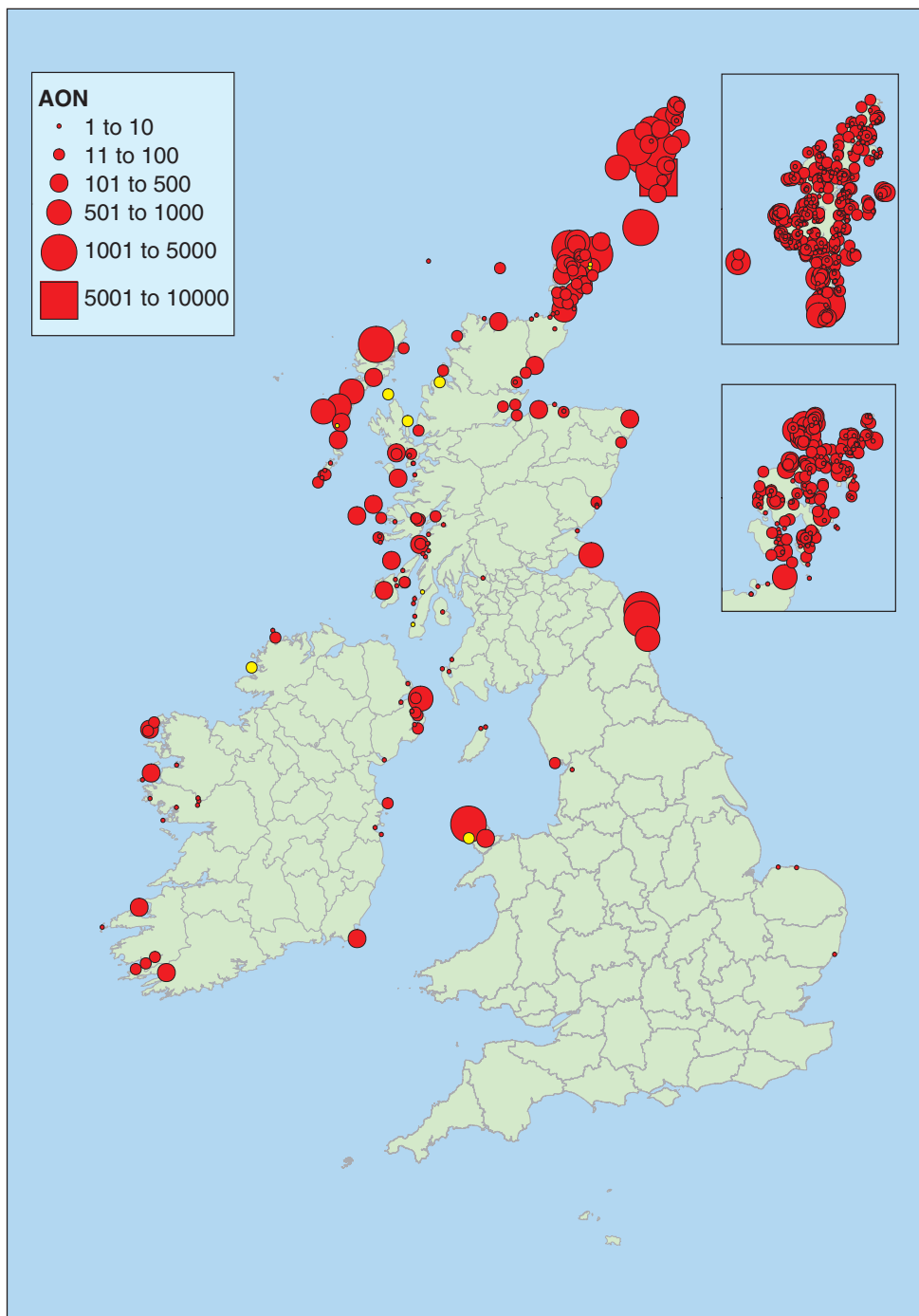


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding Arctic Terns in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002. Colonies of 'commic' terns (i.e. undistinguished Arctic and Common Terns) are shown in yellow (the scale is the same for Commic Tern and Arctic Tern Colonies).