

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>.

To find out more about JNCC visit <http://www.jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1729>.

Table 1a Numbers of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) in Scotland 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>
Shetland	709	1,946	1,120	58%	−42%
Orkney	256	1,190 ¹	720	181%	−39%
Western Isles— Comhairle nan eilean	36	60	156	333%	160%
Caithness	10	57 ²	71	610%	25%
Sutherland	1	31	48	4700%	55%
Argyll and Bute	27	104	21	−22%	−80%
Scotland Total	1,039	3,388	2,136	106%	−37%

Notes

¹ Extrapolated from a count of 1,034 AOT in 1982 (Meek *et al.*, 1985) using previous trend data (Furness, 1986) to estimate numbers in 1986 (see Lloyd *et al.*, 1991)

² 47 AOT in Caithness were counted during the NCC moorland bird survey in 1979–80 (Reed *et al.*, 1983)

Table 1b Numbers of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) in Orkney in 1982, 1992 and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002).
ID corresponds to areas shown in Fig 1b.

<i>ID</i>	<i>Local area</i>	1982	1992	<i>Seabird 2000</i> (1998–2002)	Percentage change since 1982	Percentage change since 1992
1	Auskerry	2	2	1	-50%	-50%
2	Burray (Hunda)	2	3	2	0%	-33%
3	Calf of Eday	22	14	7	-68%	-50%
4	Cava	nc	1	0		-100%
5	Eday	80	106	69	-14%	-35%
6	Egilsay	1	0	0	-100%	
7	Eynhallow	19	13	9	-53%	-31%
8	Fara	28	20	13	-54%	-35%
9	Faray (including Holm)	1	2	0	-100%	-100%
10	Flotta	26	80	66	154%	-18%
11	Gairsay	38	31	29	-24%	-6%
12	Helliar Holm	nc	1	1		0%
13	Holm of Huip	0	1	0		-100%
14	Holm of Papa Westray	1	2	0	-100%	-100%
15	Holm of Scockness	1	0	0	-100%	
16	Hoy and South Walls	406	211	72	-82%	-66%
17	Linga Holm	2	0	1	-50%	
18	Mainland	64	79	120	88%	52%
19	North Ronaldsay	1	1	1	0%	0%
20	Papa Westray	96	151	64	-33%	-58%
21	Rousay	96	137	115	20%	-16%
22	Sanday	25	28	21	-16%	-25%
23	Shapinsay	nc	10	6		-40%
24	South Ronaldsay	7	8	3	-57%	-63%
25	Stronsay	44	40	29	-34%	-28%
26	Sweyn Holm	1	1	1	0%	0%
27	Swona	nc	1	1		0%
28	Westray	45	98	88	96%	-10%
29	Wyre	3	2	1	-67%	-50%
	Total	1,011 ^{1,2}	1,043	720	-29%	-31%

Notes Description

nc not counted

¹ Prior to extrapolation

² Meek *et al.* (1985) gave a total of 1,034 AOT

Table 1c Numbers of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) in Shetland in 1985–86, 1992 and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002).
 ID corresponds to areas shown in Fig. 1b.

<i>ID</i>	<i>Local area</i>	1985–86 ¹	1992 ²	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Percentage change since 1982	Percentage change since 1992
1	East Mainland	190	177	84	−56%	−53%
2	Fair Isle	115	109	78	−32%	−28%
3	Fetlar	189	152	95	−50%	−38%
4	Foula	174	159	107	−39%	−33%
5	North Mainland	175	159	146	−17%	−8%
6	Papa Stour	94	101	47	−50%	−53%
7	South Mainland	324	344	154	−52%	−55%
8	Unst	279	339	189	−32%	−44%
9	West Mainland	173	139	77	−55%	−45%
10	Whalsay	41	25	25	−39%	0%
11	Yell	192	168	118	−39%	−30%
	Total	1,946	1,872	1,120	−42%	−40%

Notes

¹ Totals derived from raw data held on Seabird Colony Register database. Sears *et al.* (1995) gave a total of 1,912 AOT.

² Totals derived from raw data supplied by RSPB. Sears *et al.* (1995) gave a total of 1,878 AOT.

Table 2 Changes in the number of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) at major colonies or areas 1969–2002.

Colony/Area	AOT				Rank			
	Operation Seafarer (1969–70)	1982/85–86	1992	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	Seabird 2000 (1998–2002)	1992	1982/85–86	Operation Seafarer (1969–70)
Unst	80 ¹	279	339	189	1	2	3	4
South Mainland								
Shetland	>70 ²	324	344	154	2	1	2	5
North Mainland								
Shetland	>50	175	159	146	3	6.5	7	9
Mainland								
Orkney	5	64	79	120	4	17	15	14
Yell	55	192	168	118	5	5	4	8
Rousay	11	96	137	115	6	11	11.5	12.5
Foula	100	174	159	107	7	6.5	8	3
Fetlar	200	189	152	95	8	8	6	1
Westray	67	45	98	88	9	15	16	7
East Mainland								
Shetland	No data	190	177	84	10	4	5	–
Fair Isle	180	115	109	78	11	12	10	2
West Mainland								
Shetland	No data	173	139	77	12	10	9	–
Hoy	68	406	211	72	13	3	1	6
Eday	11	80	106	69	14	13	14	12.5
Flotta	1	26	80	66	15	16	17	15
Papa Westray	25	96	151	64	16	9	11.5	10
Papa Stour	20	94	101	47	17	14	13	11

Notes¹ Source: Bourne & Dixon (1974)² Source: Everett (1982)

Table 3 International context.

	<i>Number of pairs</i>			
<i>Country or region</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Source</i>
Great Britain (Scotland)	2,100	2,100	1999–2002	Seabird 2000
Faeroes	500	1,000	Early 1990s	Phillips (2001)
Finland	400	400	1980s	Phillips (2001)
Greenland	1,000	10,000	1980s	Evans (1984)
Iceland	5,000	10,000	1990s	Hagemeijer & Blair (1997)
Norway	5,000	10,000	1990s	Hagemeijer & Blair (1997)
Norway (Svalbard)	1,000	1,000	1994	Anker-Nilssen <i>et al.</i> (2000)
Sweden	400	500	1980s	Phillips (2001)
Canada	10,000	100,000	1980s	Furness (1987)
Russia	50,000	100,000	1980s	Ilyichev & Zubakin (1988)
USA (Alaska)	10,000	100,000	1980s	Furness (1987)
<i>Biogeographic region</i>	<i>Min</i>	<i>Max</i>	<i>Min % GB</i>	<i>Max % GB</i>
NE Atlantic*	15,000	35,000	6.0%	14.0%
World	85,000	340,000	0.6%	2.5%

* Stroud *et al.* (2001)

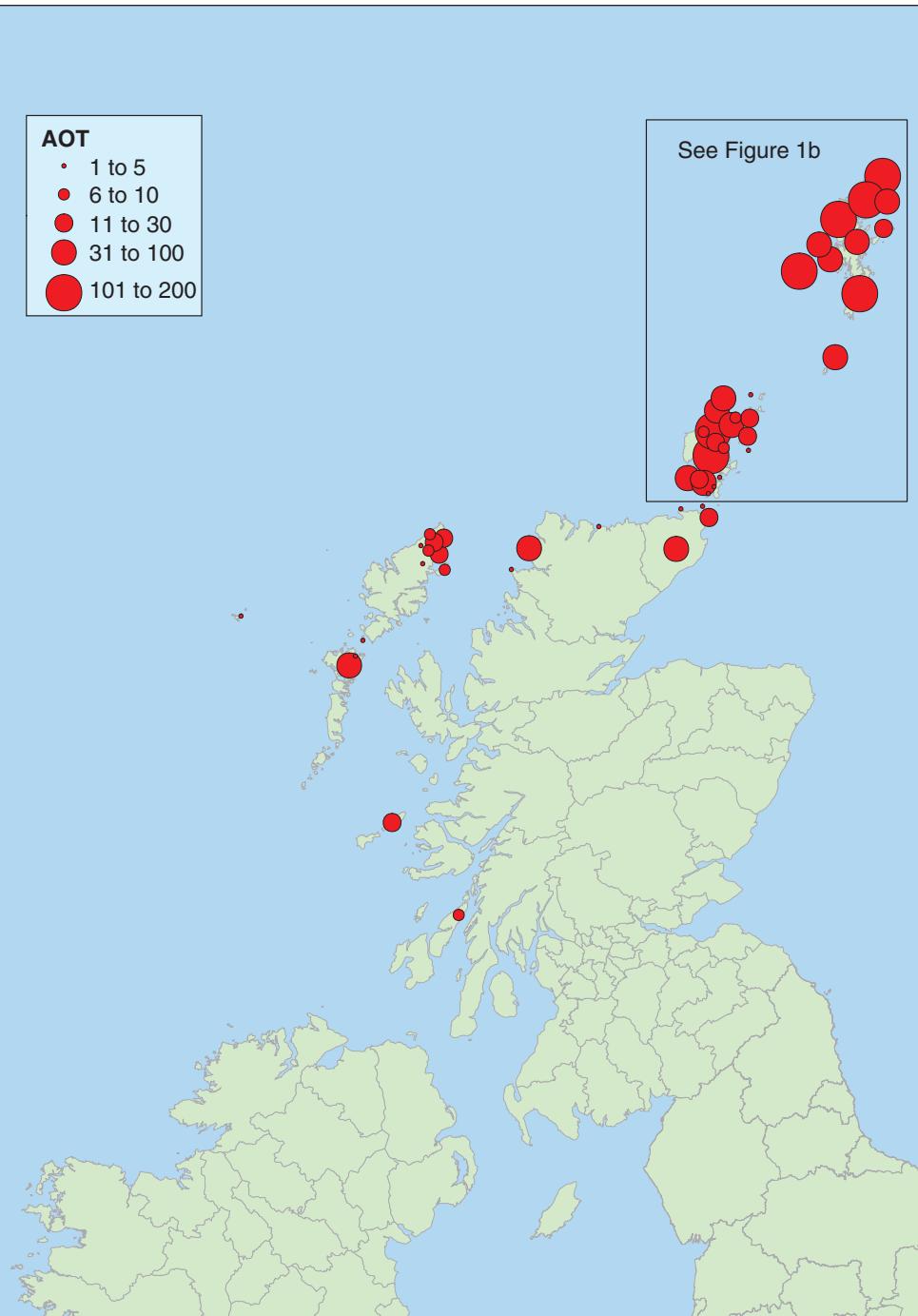


Figure 1a Abundance and distribution of breeding Arctic Skuas in Britain 1998–2002.

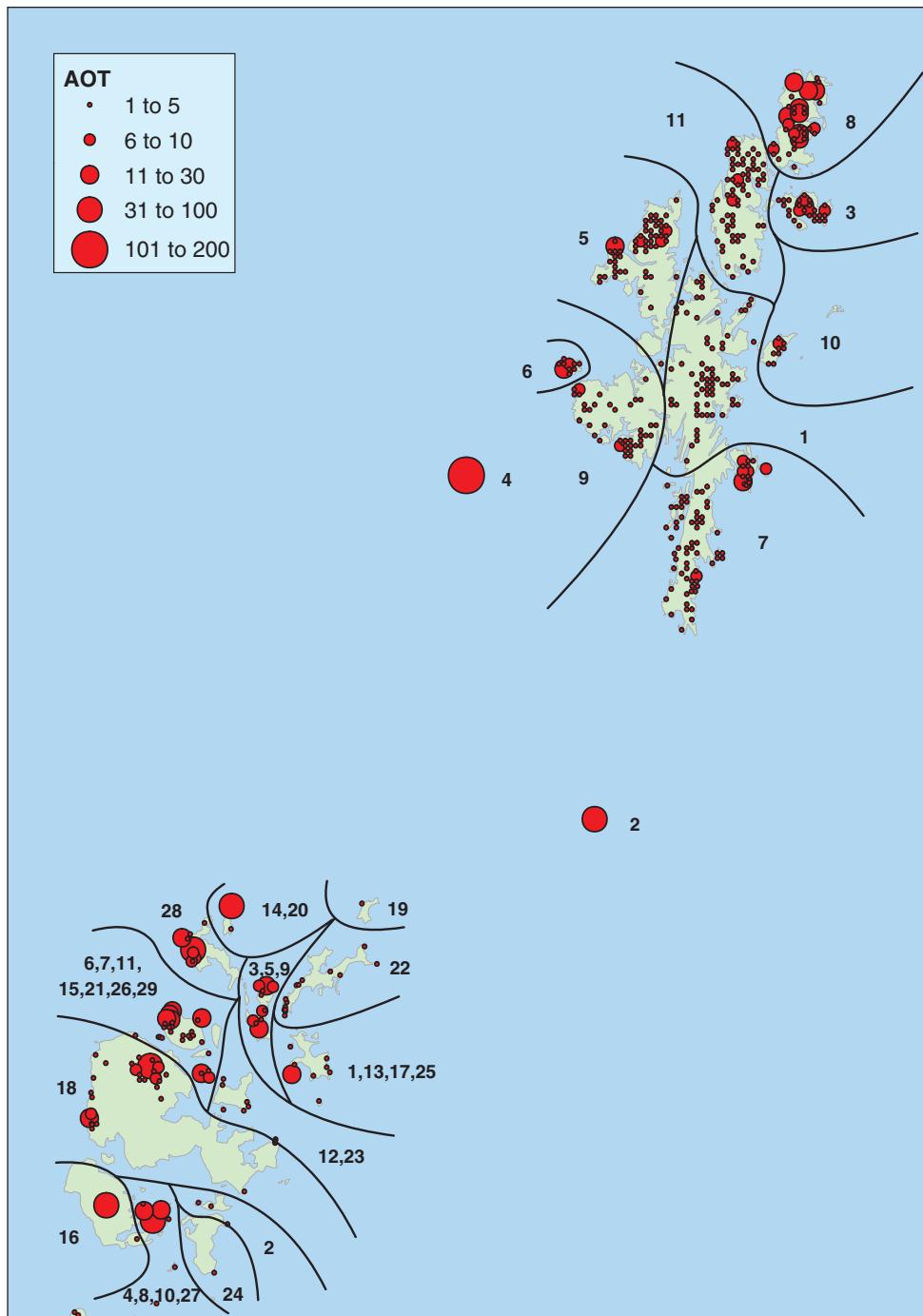


Figure 1b Abundance and distribution of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) in Orkney and Shetland 1998–2002. Numbers correspond to areas listed in Tables 1b, c.

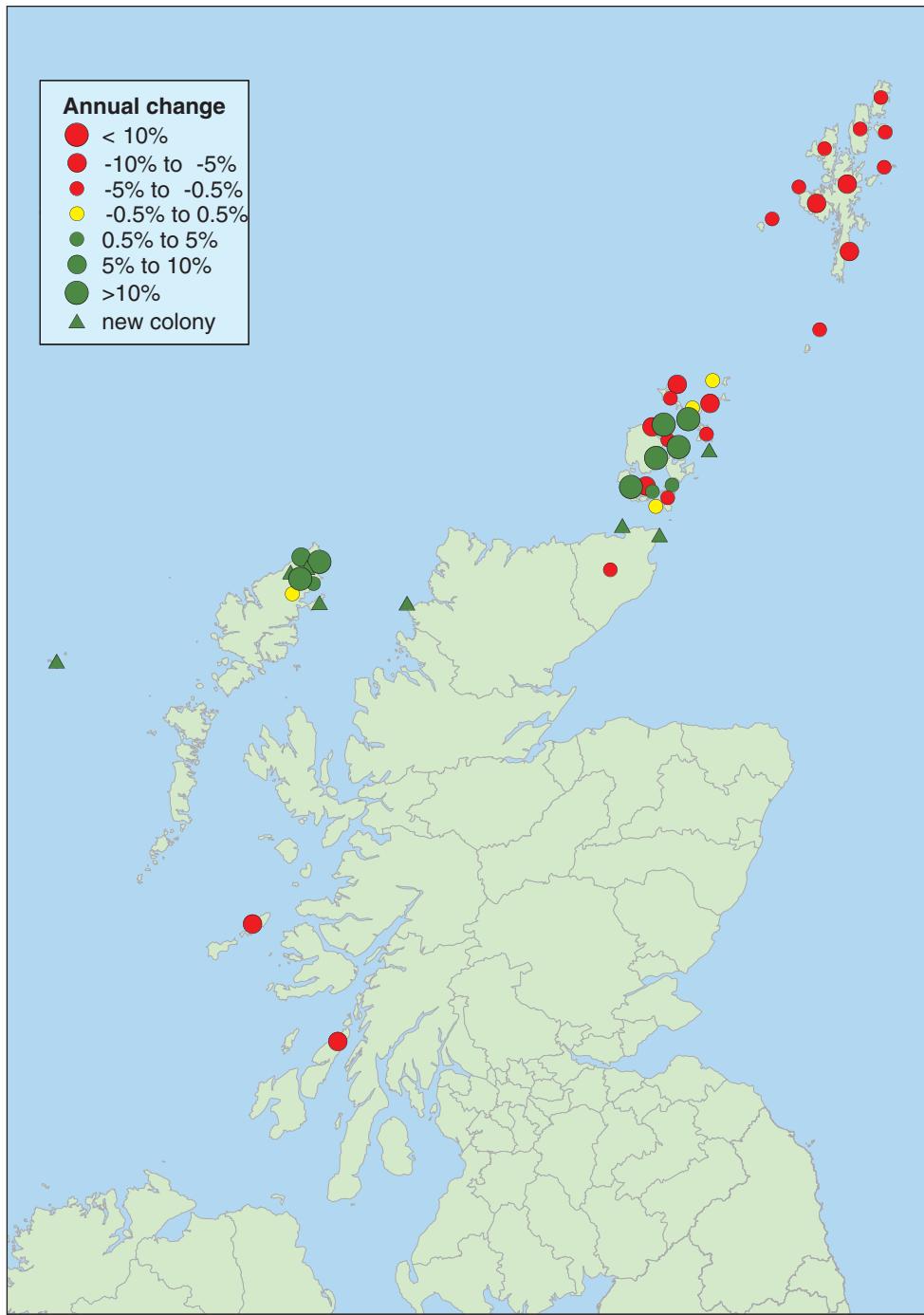


Figure 2 Changes in the number of breeding Arctic Skuas (AOT) at all colonies (except in Orkney and Shetland where change is denoted for each count area—see Fig 1b and Tables 1b, c for definitions) from 1979–88 to 1998–2002.