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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 Atlantic Puffins (AOB) in Britain and Ireland 1969–2002.

| <i>Administrative area<br/>or country</i>                       | <i>Operation Seafarer<br/>(1969–70)</i> | <i>SCR Census<br/>(1985–88)</i> | <i>Seabird 2000<br/>(1998–2002)</i> | <i>Percentage change<br/>since Seafarer</i> | <i>Percentage change<br/>since SCR</i> | <i>Annual percentage<br/>change since SCR</i> |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Shetland  | 65,054                                  | 104,381                         | 107,676                             | 66%   | 3%                                     | 0.0%  |
| Orkney  | 63,330                                  | 54,883                          | 61,758                              | –2%   | 13%                                    | 0.9%  |
| North coast Caithness   |   | 2,076                           | 781                                 |   | –62%                                   | –7.2%   |
| East coast Caithness  |   | 599                             | 497                                 |   | –17%                                   | –1.4%   |
| <i>Caithness total</i>  | <i>28,198</i>                           | <i>2,675</i>                    | <i>1,278</i>                        | <i>–95%</i>                                 | <i>–52%</i>                            | <i>–5.5%</i>                                  |
| Northwest coast Sutherland                                      |   | 7,341                           | 9,046                               |   | 23%                                    | 1.6%  |
| <i>Sutherland total</i>   | <i>3,476</i>                            | <i>7,341</i>                    | <i>9,046</i>                        | <i>160%</i>                                 | <i>23%</i>                             | <i>1.6%</i>                                   |
| Banff & Buchan  | 636                                     | 213                             | 1,026                               | 61%   | 382%                                   | 10.9%   |
| Gordon  |   | 71                              | 619                                 |   | 772%                                   | 15.5%   |
| City of Aberdeen  |   |                                 | 75                                  |   |  |   |
| Kincardine & Deeside  | 139                                     | 599                             | 768                                 | 453%  | 28%                                    | 1.9%  |
| Angus   | 181                                     | 2,540                           | 190                                 | 5%  | –93%                                   | –17.1%  |
| Northeast Fife  | 2,580                                   | 12,000                          | 42,000                              | 1528%                                       | 250%                                   | 9.4%  |
| Kirkcaldy   |   | 860                             | 1,641                               |   | 91%                                    | 5.5%  |
| Dunfermline   |   |                                 | 40                                  |   |  |   |
| City of Edinburgh   |   |                                 | 22                                  |   |  |   |
| East Lothian  | 465                                     | 1,425                           | 28,412                              | 6010%                                       | 1894%                                  | 27.0%   |
| Berwickshire  | 39                                      | 92                              | 21                                  | –46%  | –77%                                   | –10.6%  |
| Stewartry   |   |                                 | 4                                   |   |  |   |
| Wigtown   | 2                                       | 5                               |                                     | –100%                                       | –100%                                  |   |
| Kyle & Carrick  | 18                                      |                                 | 20                                  | 11%   |  |   |
| Argyll & Bute   | 1,239                                   | 2,636                           | 2,597                               | 110%  | –1%                                    | –0.1%   |
| Lochaber  | 617                                     | 1,140                           | 1,073                               | 74%   | –6%                                    | –0.5%   |
| Skye & Lochalsh   | 502                                     | 628                             | 110                                 | –78%  | –82%                                   | –12.7%  |
| Western Isles–Comhairle<br>nan eilean                           | 243,535                                 | 246,612 <sup>1</sup>            | 234,666                             | –4%   | –5%                                    | –0.4%   |
| <b>Scotland Total</b>   | <b>410,011</b>                          | <b>438,101</b>                  | <b>493,042</b>                      | <b>20%</b>                                  | <b>13%</b>                             | <b>1.2%</b>                                   |
| Northumberland  | 7,200                                   | 29,559                          | 72,882                              | 913%  | 147%                                   | 6.4%  |
| North Yorkshire   |   | 139                             | 38                                  |   | –73%                                   | –8.3%   |
| Humberside  | 997                                     | 6,946                           | 2,612                               | 162%  | –62%                                   | –7.3%   |
| Isle of Wight   | 4                                       |                                 |                                     | –100%                                       |  |   |
| Dorset  | 35                                      |                                 | 26                                  | –26%  |  |   |
| Channel Islands   | 1,116                                   | 335                             | 311                                 | –72%  | –7%                                    | –0.6%   |
| Cornwall  | 233                                     | 66                              | 33                                  | –86%  | –50%                                   | –5.1%   |
| Isles of Scilly   | 100                                     | 106                             | 121                                 | 21%   | 14%                                    | 1.1%  |
| Devon   | 41                                      | 39                              | 13                                  | –68%  | –67%                                   | –7.6%   |
| Cumbria   | 6                                       | 13                              | 9                                   | 50%   | –31%                                   | –3.1%   |
| Isle of Man   | 82                                      | 93                              | 85                                  | 4%  | –9%                                    | –0.7%   |
| <b>England, Isle of Man and<br/>Channel Islands Total</b>       | <b>9,814</b>                            | <b>37,296</b>                   | <b>76,130</b>                       | <b>676%</b>                                 | <b>104%</b>                            | <b>6.9%</b>                                   |
| West Glamorgan  |   | 3                               | 2                                   |   | –33%                                   | –2.7%   |
| Dyfed   | 3,650                                   | 10,301                          | 9,170                               | 151%  | –11%                                   | –0.9%   |
| Gwynedd   | 605                                     | 812                             | 1,156                               | 91%   | 42%                                    | 2.5%  |
| <b>Wales Total</b>  | <b>4,255</b>                            | <b>11,116</b>                   | <b>10,328</b>                       | <b>143%</b>                                 | <b>–7%</b>                             | <b>–0.5%</b>                                  |
| <b>Great Britain, Isle of Man<br/>and Channel Islands Total</b> | <b>424,080</b>                          | <b>486,513</b>                  | <b>579,500</b>                      | <b>37%</b>                                  | <b>19%</b>                             | <b>1.7%</b>                                   |
| Co. Antrim  | 1,328                                   | 2,412                           | 1,610                               | 21%   | –33%                                   | –2.8%   |
| Co. Dublin  | 108                                     | 266                             | 295                                 | 173%  | 11%                                    | 0.9%  |
| Co. Wicklow   |   | 1                               | 1                                   |   | 0%                                     | 0.0%  |
| Co. Wexford   | 775                                     | 1,240                           | 1,822                               | 135%  | 47%                                    | 3.3%  |
| Co. Cork  | 412                                     | 4                               |                                     | –100%                                       | –100%                                  |   |
| Co. Kerry   | 18,428                                  | 12,424                          | 9,514                               | –48%  | –23%                                   | –2.1%   |
| Co. Clare   | 646                                     | 944                             | 1,365                               | 111%  | 45%                                    | 3.4%  |
| Co. Mayo  | 3,756                                   | 2,066                           | 5,053                               | 35%   | 145%                                   | 7.4%  |
| Co. Donegal   | 2,536                                   | 756                             | 1,591                               | –37%  | 110%                                   | 6.4%  |
| <b>All-Ireland Total</b>  | <b>27,989</b>                           | <b>20,113</b>                   | <b>21,251</b>                       | <b>–24%</b>                                 | <b>6%</b>                              | <b>0.5%</b>                                   |
| <b>Britain and Ireland Total</b>                                | <b>452,069</b>                          | <b>506,626</b>                  | <b>600,751</b>                      | <b>33%</b>                                  | <b>19%</b>                             | <b>1.6%</b>                                   |

**Note**

<sup>1</sup> Includes a count for the Shiant Islands of 76,900 AOB from 1970, as these were not surveyed as part of the SCR Census; a count of 6,250 AOB for Flannan Isles East from 1992

*Table 2 Changes in the number of breeding Atlantic Puffins (AOB) in Britain and Ireland at colonies where the same count units were used in the SCR Census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002). ID corresponds to the colony symbols in Fig. 2.*

| <i>ID</i> | <i>Colony</i>  | <i>SCR Census<br/>(1985–88)</i> | <i>Seabird 2000<br/>(1998–2002)</i> | <i>Percentage<br/>change<br/>since SCR</i> | <i>Annual<br/>percentage<br/>change since<br/>SCR</i> | <i>Percentage of<br/>population in<br/>Britain or Ireland<br/>1998–2002</i> |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1         | St Kilda <sup>1</sup>                                      | 154,001                         | 142,264                             | −8%  | −0.6%   | 24.5%   |
| 2         | Foula <sup>1</sup>   | 48,000                          | 22,500                              | −53%                                       | −5.7%   | 3.9%  |
| 3         | Sule Skerry <sup>1</sup>                                   | 46,900                          | 59,471                              | 27%  | 2.0%  | 10.3%   |
| 4         | Farne Islands <sup>1</sup>                                 | 26,329                          | 55,674                              | 112%                                       | 5.5%  | 9.6%  |
| 5         | Hermaness (SSSI) <sup>1</sup>                              | 25,413                          | 25,094                              | −1%  | −0.1%   | 4.3%  |
| 6         | Fair Isle  | 20,244 <sup>2</sup>             | 40,000 <sup>3</sup>                 | 98%  | 5.0%  | 6.9%  |
| 7         | Isle of May <sup>1</sup>                                   | 12,000                          | 42,000                              | 250%                                       | 9.4%  | 7.2%  |
| 8         | Bempton Cliffs (incl.<br>N. Flamborough Head) <sup>2</sup> | 7,000                           | 2,615                               | −63%                                       | −7.3%   | 0.5%  |
| 9         | Skomer   | 6,700 <sup>2</sup>              | 7,076 <sup>4</sup>                  | 6%   | 0.5%  | 1.2%  |
| 10        | Flannan Isles <sup>1</sup>                                 | 6,279                           | 15,761                              | 151%                                       | 8.8%  | 2.7%  |
| 11        | Clo Mor <sup>2</sup>                                       | 5,870                           | 1,502                               | −74%                                       | −10.7%  | 0.3%  |
| 12        | North Rona <sup>1</sup>                                    | 4,750                           | 5,265                               | 11%  | 0.7%  | 0.9%  |
| 13        | Shetland, SW Mainland:<br>The Nev to Kame <sup>2</sup>     | 4,682                           | 4,853                               | 4%   | 0.3%  | 0.8%  |
| 14        | Skokholm   | 3,582 <sup>2</sup>              | 2,055 <sup>4</sup>                  | −43%                                       | −4.5%   | 0.4%  |
| 15        | Coquet Island <sup>1</sup>                                 | 3,230                           | 17,208                              | 433%                                       | 11.8%   | 3.0%  |
| 16        | Berneray <sup>2</sup>                                      | 3,062                           | 1,979                               | −35%                                       | −3.3%   | 0.3%  |
| 17        | Whiting Ness to Ethie<br>Haven (SSSI) <sup>2</sup>         | 1,910                           | 138                                 | −93%                                       | −17.5%  | 0.0%  |
| 18        | Noss <sup>2</sup>  | 1,891                           | 1,892                               | 0%   | 0.0%  | 0.3%  |
| 19        | Canna <sup>2</sup>   | 1,000                           | 945                                 | −6%  | −0.4%   | 0.2%  |
| 20        | Inchkeith <sup>2</sup>                                     | 860                             | 1,641                               | 91%  | 5.5%  | 0.3%  |
| 21        | Handa <sup>2</sup>   | 803                             | 735                                 | −8%  | −0.6%   | 0.1%  |
| 22        | Great Saltee <sup>2</sup>                                  | 1,128                           | 1,522                               | 35%  | 2.5%  | 7.2%  |

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Counts of AOBs

<sup>2</sup> Counts of birds: 1 bird approximates to 1 AOB

<sup>3</sup> Counts of breeding adults: 2 adults approximate to 1 AOB

<sup>4</sup> Early season counts of birds: 1.5 birds approximate to 1 AOB

Table 3 International context.

| Country or region                            | Subspecies                  | Number of pairs |           | Year      | Source                              |               |               |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  |                             | Min             | Max       |           |                                     |               |               |
| Great Britain, Isle of Man and Channel Isles | <i>arctica</i> <sup>1</sup> | 600,000         | 600,000   | 1998–2003 | Seabird 2000                        |               |               |
| All Ireland                                  | <i>arctica</i> <sup>1</sup> | 21,000          | 21,000    | 1998–2001 | Seabird 2000                        |               |               |
| Fareoes                                      | <i>arctica</i> <sup>1</sup> | 550,000         | 550,000   | 1987      | Skov <i>et al.</i> (2002)           |               |               |
| France                                       | <i>arctica</i> <sup>1</sup> | 257             | 257       | 2000      | Siorat (in press)                   |               |               |
| Greenland                                    | <i>arctica</i>              | 5,000           | 8,000     | 1994      | Boertmann (1994)                    |               |               |
| Greenland                                    | <i>naumanni</i>             | 300             | 300       |           | Nettleship & Evans (1985)           |               |               |
| Iceland                                      | <i>arctica</i>              | 2,500,000       | 3,000,000 | 1998      | Petersen (1998)                     |               |               |
| Norway                                       | <i>arctica</i> <sup>2</sup> | 1,500,000       | 2,000,000 | 2000      | T. Anker-Nilssen (pers. comm.)      |               |               |
| Norway (Jan Mayen)                           | <i>naumanni</i>             | 1,000           | 1,000     | 1983      | van Franeker <i>et al.</i> (1998) ) |               |               |
| Norway (Spitsbergen)                         | <i>naumanni</i>             | 10,000          | 10,000    | 1989      | Bakken (2000)                       |               |               |
| Russia                                       | <i>arctica</i>              | 5,000           | 5,000     | 2000      | Anker-Nilssen & Tatarinkova (2000)  |               |               |
| Russia (Novaya Zemlya)                       | <i>naumanni</i>             | 50              | 50        | 1996      | Bakken (2000)                       |               |               |
| Canada                                       | <i>arctica</i>              | 350,000         | 400,000   | 2000      | Lowther <i>et al.</i> (2002)        |               |               |
| Canada <sup>3</sup>                          | <i>naumanni</i>             | 14              | 14        | 1998      | Robards <i>et al.</i> (2000)        |               |               |
| USA  | <i>arctica</i>              | 550             | 550       | 2002      | S. Kress (pers. comm.)              |               |               |
| Biogeographic region                         |                             | Min             | Max       | Min % GB  | Max % GB                            | Min % Ireland | Max % Ireland |
| Atlantic*                                    | <i>arctica</i>              | 5,500,000       | 6,600,000 | 9.1%      | 10.9%                               | 0.3%          | 0.4%          |
| World  | all                         | 5,500,000       | 6,600,000 | 9.1%      | 10.9%                               | 0.3%          | 0.4%          |

\* Stroud *et al.* (2001) used the total population of *grabae* as the relevant biogeographic population, but this is now considered to be indistinct from *artica*, so the total population for *arctica* has been used here.

#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Formerly considered as *P. a. grabae*

<sup>2</sup> Southern birds formerly considered as *P. a. grabae*

<sup>3</sup> Coburg Island, Nunayut (min only, max not given).

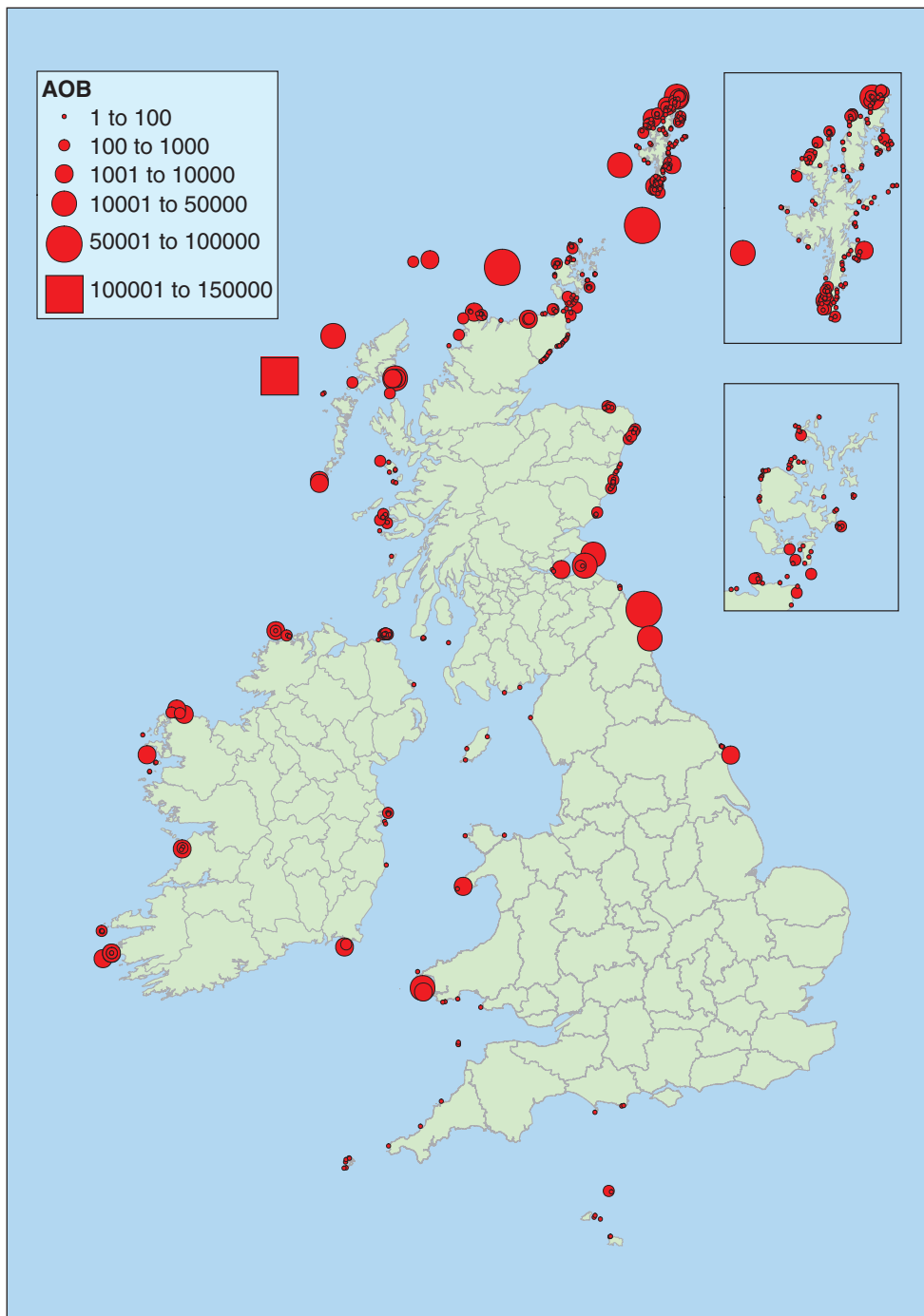


Figure 1 Abundance and distribution of breeding Atlantic Puffins in Britain and Ireland 1998–2002.

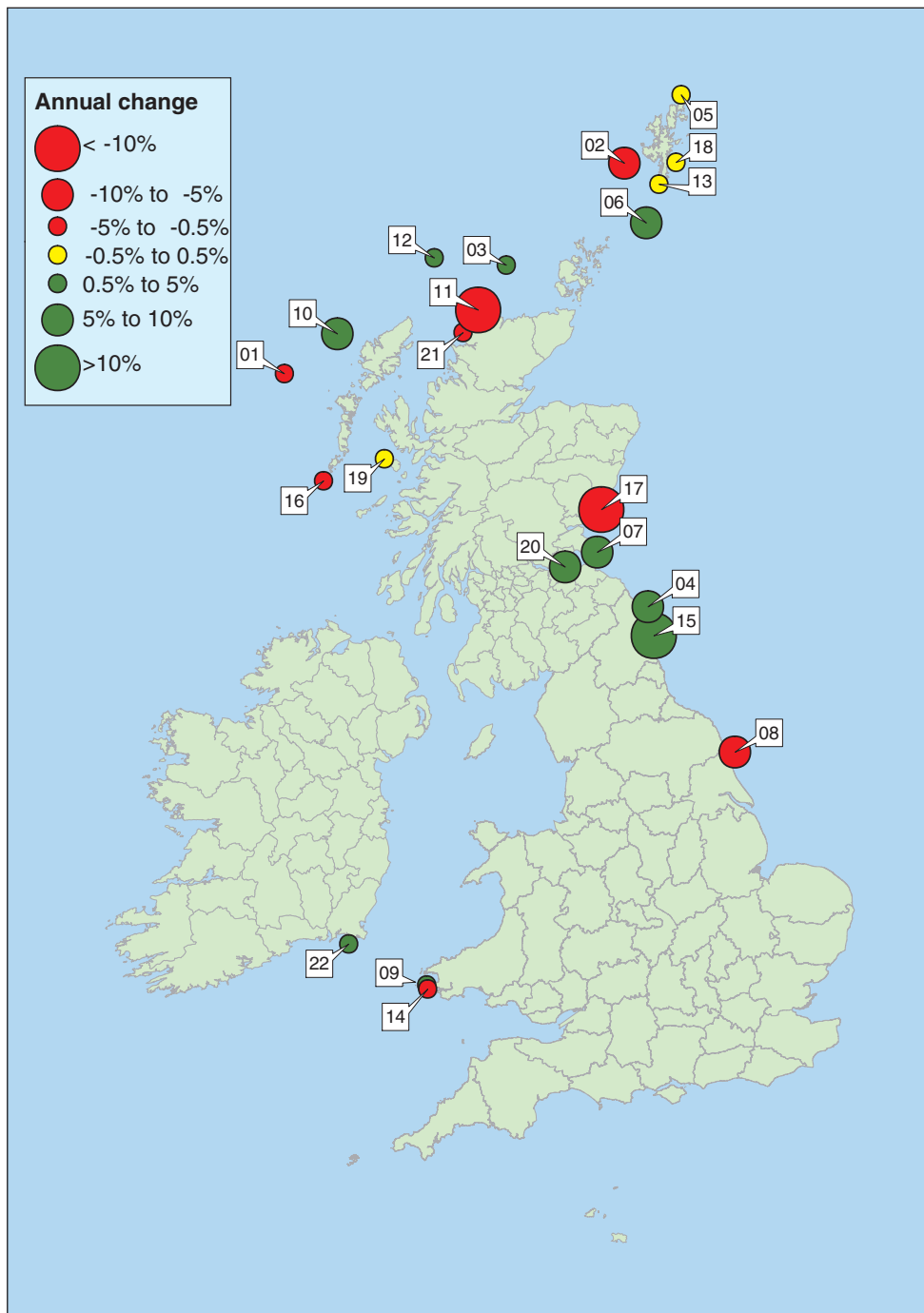


Figure 2 Changes in the number of Atlantic Puffins at colonies where the same count units were used in the SCR census (1985–88) and Seabird 2000 (1998–2002). Numbers correspond to the colonies in Table 2.