

Birds of Conservation Concern 5 breeding seabird update

The status of all regularly occurring breeding seabirds and other birds
in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man



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Full details of this assessment can be found at: Stanbury, A., Burns, F., Aebischer, N., Baker, H., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Dunn, T., Lindley, P., Murphy, M., Noble, D., Owens, R., & Quinn L. 2024. The status of UK's breeding seabirds: an addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man and second IUCN Red List assessment of extinction risk for Great Britain. British Birds (britishbirds.co.uk/seabird-bocc5a).

Birds of Conservation Concern is a periodic status review of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. This document presents the results of a breeding seabird addendum to the fifth Birds of Conservation Concern review, published in 2021.

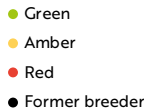
The overall status of the UK’s breeding seabird populations has continued to deteriorate since the last comprehensive assessment in 2015. Due to severe population declines, five species have joined the UK Red list: Leach’s Storm-petrel, Common Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Arctic Tern and Great Skua. For Great Skua, this has been due to the severe impacts of an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which first emerged in 2021. Kittiwake, Herring Gull, Roseate Tern, Arctic Skua and Puffin remain Red-listed.

On a more positive note, Shag and Black Guillemot have moved from Red to Amber and Amber to Green, respectively.

Of the 26 currently occurring breeding seabird species, 10 (38%) were placed on the Red list, 14 (54%) on the Amber list and two (8%; Cormorant and Black Guillemot) on the Green list. Great Auk and Black Tern were classed as former breeders.

The UK remains internationally important for its breeding seabird assemblage, which includes most of the global populations of Manx Shearwater, Gannet and Great Skua.

Fig. 1. Length of the Red, Amber and Green lists across the five BoCC reviews for the 28 UK breeding seabird species. Yellow-legged Gull was added to the species list in BoCC3.

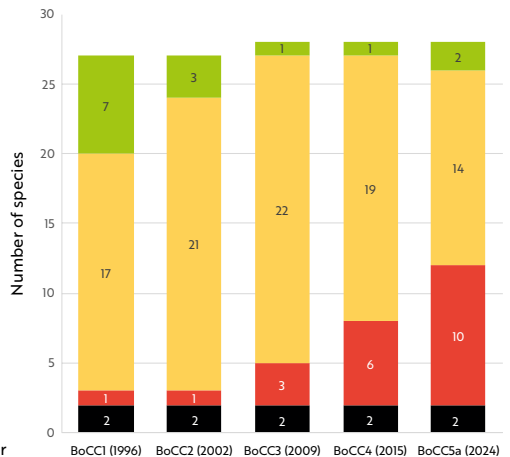


Seabird populations in the UK are exposed to a growing list of threats and pressures, which include a reduction in prey availability due to overfishing, incidental bycatch, non-native and native predators and offshore renewable energy development. Furthermore, there is the growing threat from climate change and the emergence of epizootic diseases such as HPAI. These increasing factors raise further concerns about the resilience of UK seabird populations.

The full UK *Birds of Conservation Concern* Red list now contains 73 species, with 99 on the Amber list, 73 on the Green list and nine former breeders.

Compiled by a partnership of the UK’s leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations, the Birds of Conservation Concern seabird addendum updates the status of 28 breeding seabird species by assessing them against a set of quantitative criteria. Each species is then placed on the Green, Amber or Red lists to indicate an increasing level of conservation concern.

The quantitative criteria were used to assess historical decline, recent trends in population and range, population size, localisation and international importance of each species, as well as their global and European threat status.



● **Birds of Conservation Concern 5 breeding seabird addendum Red list**

Leach's Storm-petrel ●	Great Black-backed Gull ●	Arctic Skua
Kittiwake	Roseate Tern	Puffin
Common Gull ●	Arctic Tern ●	Great Skua ●
Herring Gull		

● - species on the Amber list in BoCC4.

● **Birds of Conservation Concern 5 breeding seabird addendum Amber list**

European Storm-petrel	Black-headed Gull	Common Tern
Northern Fulmar	Mediterranean Gull	Sandwich Tern
Manx Shearwater	Lesser Black-backed Gull	Razorbill
Gannet	Yellow-legged Gull	Guillemot
Shag ●	Little Tern	

● - species on the Red list in BoCC4.

Birds of Conservation Concern 5 status for other UK species

Other former breeders

Great Bustard	Snowy Owl	Golden Oriole
Kentish Plover	Wryneck	Serin
Temminck's Stint		

Other Red list species

Grey Partridge	Ringed Plover	House Martin
Ptarmigan	Lapwing	Wood Warbler
Capercaillie	Whimbrel	Starling
Black Grouse	Curlew	Mistle Thrush
Bewick's Swan	Black-tailed Godwit	Fieldfare
White-fronted Goose	Ruff	Ring Ouzel
Long-tailed Duck	Dunlin	Spotted Flycatcher
Velvet Scoter	Purple Sandpiper	Nightingale
Common Scoter	Woodcock	Whinchat
Goldeneye	Red-necked Phalarope	House Sparrow
Smew	Hen Harrier	Tree Sparrow
Pochard	Montagu's Harrier	Tree Pipit
Scaup	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Yellow Wagtail
Red-necked Grebe	Merlin	Hawfinch
Slavonian Grebe	Red-backed Shrike	Greenfinch
Turtle Dove	Marsh Tit	Twite
Swift	Willow Tit	Linnets
Cuckoo	Skylark	Redpoll
Corncrake	Marsh Warbler	Corn Bunting
Balearic Shearwater	Savi's Warbler	Cirl Bunting
Dotterel	Grasshopper Warbler	Yellowhammer

Other Amber list species

Quail	Cattle Egret	Kestrel
Whooper Swan	Great White Egret	Rook
Brent Goose	Stone-curlew	Shore Lark
Barnacle Goose	Oystercatcher	Sedge Warbler
Greylag Goose	Avocet	Yellow-browed Warbler
Bean Goose	Black-winged Stilt	Willow Warbler
Pink-footed Goose	Grey Plover	Common Whitethroat
Eider	Bar-tailed Godwit	Dartford Warbler
Red-breasted Merganser	Turnstone	Short-toed Treecreeper
Shelduck	Knot	Wren
Garganey	Curlew Sandpiper	Dipper
Shoveler	Sanderling	Song Thrush
Gadwall	Snipe	Redwing
Wigeon	Common Sandpiper	Pied Flycatcher
Mallard	Green Sandpiper	Black Redstart
Pintail	Spotted Redshank	Common Redstart
Teal	Greenshank	Wheatear
Black-necked Grebe	Redshank	Duncock
Stock Dove	Wood Sandpiper	Meadow Pipit
Woodpigeon	Caspian Gull	Water Pipit
Nightjar	Iceland Gull	Grey Wagtail
Spotted Crake	Glaucous Gull	Bullfinch
Moorhen	Short-eared Owl	Parrot Crossbill
Crane	Tawny Owl	Scottish Crossbill
Black-throated Diver	Osprey	Lapland Bunting
Great Northern Diver	Honey-buzzard	Snow Bunting
Spoonbill	Marsh Harrier	Reed Bunting
Bittern	Sparrowhawk	
Little Bittern	White-tailed Eagle	

Endorsed by:

