

Themes from Birds of Conservation Concern 5

This assessment adds to a wealth of existing evidence that shows many of our bird populations are in trouble. At 70 species, the Red list is now longer than ever before, and is almost double the length of that in the first review in 1996. New Red-listed species include swift, house martin, ptarmigan, purple sandpiper, Montagu's harrier and greenfinch.

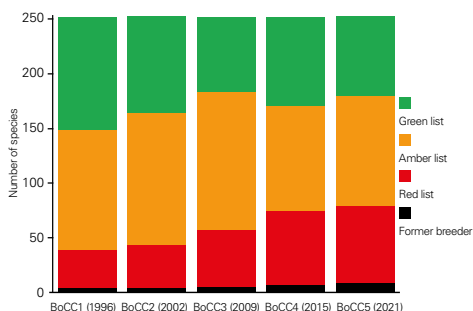
Previous reviews have highlighted the worrying plight of farmland, woodland and upland birds. There has been no improvement in the overall status of species associated with farmland and upland; indeed, more species have been Red-listed.

The status of long-distance Afro-Palaearctic migrants that spend the non-breeding season in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the humid tropics, continues to decline.

We also raise concerns over the status of our wintering wildfowl and wader populations, with Bewick's swan, goldeneye, smew and dunlin also joining the Red list. Pressures are wide-ranging and are complicated by 'short-stopping', whereby species have shifted their wintering grounds north-eastwards in response to increased temperatures caused by climate change.

There is also a worrying trend towards more of the UK's regularly occurring species being classed as threatened with global extinction; with the addition of Leach's storm-petrel and kittiwake, this increases the list to nine bird species.

It is not all bad news. Thanks to successful reintroduction projects, the white-tailed eagle



moves from the Red to Amber list. Song thrush, pied flycatcher, grey wagtail, redwing and black redstart also moved off the Red list to Amber, but the first three species remain close to the Red list threshold.

The UK has seen continued colonisation by new bird species, and we added four new breeding species (great white egret, cattle egret, little bittern and black-winged stilt) and one non-breeding species (yellow-browed warbler) to this review. While we welcome these additions to our wildlife, we should simultaneously recognise that the arrival of new species here owes much to man-induced climate change.

The full details of this assessment, including the Green list, can be found at Stanbury, A., Eaton, M., Aebischer, N., Balmer, D., Brown, A., Douse, A., Lindley, P., McCulloch, N., Noble, D., and Win I. 2021. The status of our bird populations: 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 114: 723-747. Available online at <https://britishbirds.co.uk/content/status-our-bird-populations>.

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Birds of Conservation Concern 5

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

giving nature a home

Looking out for birds

Joint Nature Conservation Committee

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdar na h-Alba

Natural Resources Wales

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Birds of Conservation Concern is compiled by a coalition of the UK's leading bird conservation and monitoring organisations and reviews the status of all regularly occurring birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

This is the 5th Birds of Conservation Concern review, with the first published in 1996. The bird species that breed or overwinter here have been assessed against a set of objective criteria and placed on the Green, Amber or Red lists to indicate an increasing level of conservation concern. Data delays prevented an assessment of breeding seabirds (apart from Leach's storm-petrel), so their status was carried over from *Birds of Conservation Concern 4*.

The quantitative criteria assessed the historical decline, recent trends in population and range, population size, localisation and international importance of each species, as well as its global and European threat status.

The assessments show that the status of UK bird populations continues to decline. Since the last review in 2015, the golden oriole has been lost as a breeding species. In addition, the length of the Red list has grown by three; 11 species have been added, but six have moved to Amber and two are now no longer assessed as they have either ceased breeding in the UK or were excluded from the process for other reasons. The length of the Amber list has also grown by seven species.

● The Birds of Conservation Concern 5 Red list

Grey partridge	Lapwing	Grasshopper warbler
Ptarmigan ^g	Whimbrel	House martin ^a
Capercaillie	Curlew	Wood warbler
Black grouse	Black-tailed godwit	Starling
Bewick's swan ^a	Ruff	Mistle thrush
White-fronted goose	Dunlin ^a	Fieldfare
Long-tailed duck	Purple sandpiper ^a	Ring ouzel
Velvet scoter	Woodcock	Spotted flycatcher
Common scoter	Red-necked phalarope	Nightingale
Goldeneye ^a	Kittiwake	Whinchat
Smew ^a	Herring gull	House sparrow
Pochard	Roseate tern	Tree sparrow
Scaup	Arctic skua	Tree pipit
Red-necked grebe	Puffin	Yellow wagtail
Slavonian grebe	Hen harrier	Hawfinch
Turtle dove	Montagu's harrier ^a	Greenfinch ^g
Swift ^a	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Twite
Cuckoo	Merlin	Linnet
Corncrake	Red-backed shrike	Redpoll
Leach's storm-petrel ^a	Marsh tit	Corn bunting
Balearic shearwater	Willow tit	Cirl bunting
Shag	Skylark	Yellowhammer
Dotterel	Marsh warbler	
Ringed plover	Savi's warbler	

a - species on the Amber list previously, g - species on the Green list previously

● The Birds of Conservation Concern 5 Amber list

Quail	Stone-curlew	Tawny owl
Whooper swan	Oystercatcher	Osprey
Brent goose	Avocet	Honey-buzzard
Barnacle goose	Black-winged stilt ^{na}	Marsh harrier
Greylag goose	Grey plover	Sparrowhawk ^g
Bean goose	Bar-tailed godwit	White-tailed eagle ^r
Pink-footed goose	Turnstone	Kestrel
Eider	Knot	Rook ^g
Red-breasted merganser ^g	Curlew sandpiper	Shorelark
Shelduck	Sanderling	Sedge warbler ^g
Garganey	Snipe	Yellow-browed warbler ^{na}
Shoveler	Common sandpiper	Willow warbler
Gadwall	Green sandpiper	Common whitethroat ^g
Wigeon	Spotted redshank	Dartford warbler
Mallard	Greenshank	Short-toed treecreeper
Pintail	Redshank	Wren ^g
Teal	Wood sandpiper	Dipper
Black-necked grebe	Black-headed gull	Song thrush ^r
Stock dove	Mediterranean gull	Redwing ^r
Woodpigeon ^g	Common gull	Pied flycatcher ^r
Nightjar	Lesser black-backed gull	Black redstart ^r
Spotted crane	Yellow-legged gull	Common redstart
Moorhen ^g	Caspian gull	Wheatear ^g
Crane	Iceland gull	Dunnock
Black-throated diver	Glaucous gull	Meadow pipit
Great northern diver	Great black-backed gull	Water pipit
European storm-petrel	Little tern	Grey wagtail ^r
Northern fulmar	Common tern	Bullfinch
Manx shearwater	Arctic tern	Parrot crossbill
Spoonbill	Sandwich tern	Scottish crossbill
Bittern	Great skua	Lapland bunting
Little bittern ^{na}	Black guillemot	Snow bunting
Cattle egret ^{na}	Razorbill	Reed bunting
Great white egret ^{na}	Guillemot	
Gannet	Short-eared owl	

r - species on the Red list previously, g - species on the Green list previously, na - not assessed previously

● Birds of Conservation Concern 5 Former breeding species

Great bustard	Black tern	Wryneck
Kentish plover	Great auk	Golden oriole ^r
Temminck's stint	Snowy owl	Serin

r - species on the Red list previously