

Themes from Birds of Conservation Concern 4

- Birds of Conservation Concern 4 has placed more species onto the Red list than ever before.
- Three species have moved to the list of former breeders. The wryneck is the first once-widespread species to have been lost as a breeding bird from the UK in nearly 200 years.
- Farmland birds are still a major concern. Twelve farmland species remain on the Red list and some, such as the turtle dove, are continuing to decline alarmingly.
- There are more birds of woodland on the Red list than of any other habitat. The woodcock, nightingale and pied flycatcher are the latest additions.
- The largest growth in the Red list was in upland species, with five new species including the curlew and dotterel.
- There is cause for concern for our breeding seabirds with the addition of puffin, kittiwake and shag to the Red list. In global terms they are amongst the UK's most important birdlife.
- The number of long-distance migrants on the Red list, particularly those that winter in sub-Saharan Africa and more specifically in the humid tropics, continues to grow. Whinchat and pied flycatcher joined the cuckoo and wood warbler on the Red list.
- Climate change may be having a negative impact upon some of our Red-listed birds, disrupting marine food chains for seabirds, moving the suitable climate space for northern breeders out of the UK, and affecting migrants throughout their flyways.
- There is some cause for hope, as the review demonstrates that conservation can work if properly targeted and funded. Two species, the bittern and nightjar, have moved from Red to Amber thanks to the creation and management of suitable habitat, stimulated by species action plans.

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- A net increase in the Green list of 14 species is also good news, a consequence of the eight species moving to Amber or Red being outnumbered by 22 species moving from Amber to Green. Nine of the moves to Green were due to changes in the assessment process, but 13 were genuine improvements in status.

The full details of this assessment can be found in Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015) Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds* 108, 708–746. Available online at britishbirds.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/BoCC4.pdf



Partners:



The RSPB is a registered charity in England & Wales 207076, in Scotland SC037654. Cover photo: curlew by Andrew Parkinson (rspb-images.com). 332-0425-15-16

 Birds of Conservation Concern



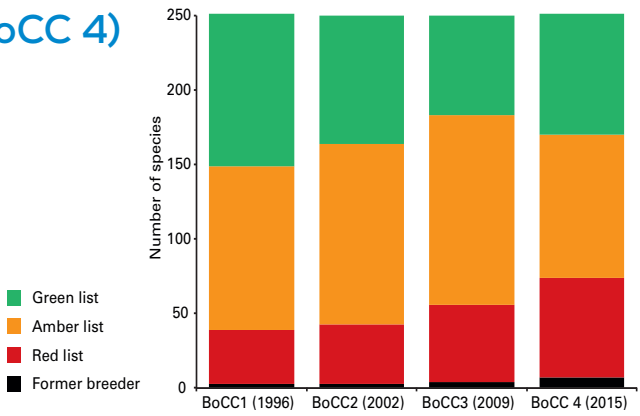
Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC 4)

The UK’s leading bird conservation organisations have worked together to review the status of birds in the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

The bird species that breed or overwinter were assessed against a set of objective

criteria to be placed on the Green, Amber or Red list – indicating an increasing level of conservation concern.

The review used up-to-date information on the status of birds in the UK and elsewhere in their ranges, drawing on data collated through the UK’s bird monitoring schemes.



BoCC4 Red list

White-fronted goose ^a	Ringed plover ^a	Golden oriole	Nightingale ^a
Pochard ^a	Dotterel ^a	Red-backed shrike	Pied flycatcher ^a
Scaup	Whimbrel	Willow tit	Black redstart ^a
Long-tailed duck ^a	Curlew ^a	Marsh tit	Whinchat ^a
Common scoter	Black-tailed godwit	Skylark	House sparrow
Velvet scoter ^a	Ruff	Wood warbler	Tree sparrow
Black grouse	Red-necked phalarope	Grasshopper warbler	Yellow wagtail
Capercaillie	Woodcock ^a	Savi’s warbler	Grey wagtail ^a
Grey partridge	Arctic skua	Aquatic warbler	Tree pipit
Balearic shearwater	Puffin ^a	Marsh warbler	Hawfinch
Shag ^a	Roseate tern	Starling	Linnet
Red-necked grebe ^a	Kittiwake ^a	Ring ouzel	Twite
Slavonian grebe ^a	Herring gull	Fieldfare	Lesser redpoll
White-tailed eagle	Turtle dove	Song thrush	Yellowhammer
Hen harrier	Cuckoo	Redwing	Cirl bunting
Corncrake	Lesser spotted woodpecker	Mistle thrush ^a	Corn bunting
Lapwing	Merlin ^a	Spotted flycatcher	

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

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

A total of 247 species were considered. Three of these – the Temminck’s stint, wryneck and serin – no longer breed in the UK and were moved to the list of former breeders.

There are 67 species on the Red list, 96 on the Amber list, and 81 on the Green list. The Red list has grown by 15 since the last review in 2009. Twenty species have been added, but three have moved to Amber and two are now no longer assessed as they have ceased breeding in the UK.

The figure opposite shows how the Red, Amber and Green lists have changed since the first assessment in 1996.

BoCC4 Amber list

Mute swan ^a	Manx shearwater	Common sandpiper	Stock dove
Bewick’s swan	European storm petrel	Green sandpiper	Tawny owl ^a
Whooper swan	Leach’s petrel	Spotted redshank	Short-eared owl
Bean goose	Gannet	Greenshank ^a	Nightjar ^r
Pink-footed goose	Bittern ^r	Wood sandpiper	Swift
Greylag goose	Spoonbill	Redshank	Kingfisher
Barnacle goose	Black-necked grebe	Snipe	Kestrel
Brent goose	Honey buzzard	Great skua	Shorelark
Shelduck	Marsh harrier	Black guillemot	House martin
Wigeon	Montagu’s harrier	Razorbill	Willow warbler
Gadwall	Osprey	Guillemot	Dartford warbler
Teal	Spotted crane	Little tern	Short-toed treecreeper
Mallard	Crane	Sandwich tern	Dipper ^a
Pintail	Stone-curlew	Common tern	Common redstart
Garganey	Avocet	Arctic tern	Duncock
Shoveler	Oystercatcher	Black-headed gull	Meadow pipit
Eider	Grey plover	Mediterranean gull	Water pipit
Goldeneye	Bar-tailed godwit	Common gull	Bullfinch
Smew	Turnstone	Lesser black-backed gull	Mealy redpoll ^a
Quail	Knot	Yellow-legged gull	Scottish crossbill
Red grouse	Curlew sandpiper ^a	Caspian gull ^{na}	Parrot crossbill
Black-throated diver	Sanderling ^a	Iceland gull	Snow bunting
Great northern diver	Dunlin ^r	Glaucous gull	Lapland bunting
Fulmar	Purple sandpiper	Great black-backed gull	Reed bunting

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