



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

STATISTICAL RELEASE: 17 OCTOBER 2013



WILD BIRD POPULATIONS IN THE UK, 1970 TO 2012¹

- Overall breeding bird populations in the UK have declined slightly compared with 40 years ago. In 2012 the **all-species** index was five per cent below its 1970 level, and there was a small but significant decline of three per cent from 2006 to 2011. However, trends vary greatly between individual bird species, between groups of species that share the same habitat type and between habitat type.
- The largest declines in **farmland bird** populations occurred between the late seventies and the early nineties, but there has been a recent decline of 13 per cent since 2003.
- There has been an increase of four per cent in UK **woodland bird** populations between 2006 and 2011. The greatest decline in the series occurred from the late eighties until the mid nineties.
- In 2008 **breeding water and wetland bird** populations in the UK were at approximately the same level as they were in 1975, although there has been a decline of 17 per cent since 2000.
- **Seabird** populations in the UK have fallen by 17 per cent since a peak in 1999; however, they remain 17 per cent higher than when data collection began in 1970.
- In the winter of 2011-12 populations of **wintering waterbirds** in the UK were 94 per cent higher than in the winter of 1975-6, although there has been a 12 per cent decline in numbers since their peak in 2001-2.

¹ A separate Defra National Statistics Release, Wild bird populations in England, 1970 to 2012, was also published today

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Factors affecting bird populations^{2,3}

★ The large declines in some **farmland birds** have several known and potential causes. Many of the declines have been caused by land management changes and the intensification of farming that took place over a long period, such as the loss of mixed farming, a move from spring to autumn sowing of arable crops, change in grassland management (e.g. a switch from hay to silage production), increased pesticide and fertiliser use, and the removal of non-cropped features such as hedgerows. The rate of these changes, which resulted in the loss of both suitable nesting and feeding habitats, and a reduction in available food, was greatest during the late 1970s and early 1980s, the period during which many farmland bird populations declined most rapidly.

★ Some farming practices still have negative impacts on bird populations, but farmers can and do take positive steps to conserve birds on their land. In particular, a number of incentive schemes⁴ encourage improved environmental stewardship in farming, with some measures specifically designed to help stabilise and recover farmland bird populations. The ongoing decline experienced by some species may, to a lesser extent, be further driven by other pressures. For example, there is evidence of an adverse impact for some species from weather effects and disease. ★

The historical declines in **breeding waders** such as those featured in the water and wetland indicator resulted from the land management changes such as drainage, the intensification of grassland management and the conversion of coastal and floodplain grazing marshes to arable land. Where populations persist in small fragments of high quality habitat, their nests and young are vulnerable to predation from increasing numbers of a range of generalist predator species, such as foxes and carrion crows. Predation is currently thought to be limiting the recovery of several species of breeding wader⁵.

The declines in **woodland birds** have several known and potential causes including a lack of woodland management and increased deer browsing pressure, both of which result in a reduced diversity of woodland structure and, therefore, reduced availability of suitable nesting and foraging habitats. In addition, several declining woodland birds are long-distance migrants, and climate change or a decline in the extent or quality of habitats used outside the breeding season may be affecting these species.

² For more information see: "[Understanding the Causes of Decline in Breeding Bird Numbers in England](#)", and,

³ Newton, I. (2004) The recent declines of farmland bird populations in Britain: an appraisal of causal factors and conservation actions. *Ibis* **146**, 579–600.

⁴ See 'Main notes' for more information.

⁵ Ausden, M. *et al.* (2009) Predation of breeding waders on lowland wet grassland – is it a problem? *British Wildlife* **21**, 29-38.

Populations of **wintering wetland birds** are affected by a range of factors including conditions in the countries where the birds are breeding, the condition and amount of wetland habitat in the UK and changes in migratory patterns, which may be affected by climatic changes.

Why monitor bird populations?

Bird populations have long been considered by scientists to provide a good indication of the broad state of wildlife because birds occupy a wide range of habitats, they tend to be near or at the top of food chains and there are considerable long-term data on changes in bird populations which help in the interpretation of shorter term fluctuations in numbers. Birds also have huge cultural importance and are viewed as a highly valued part of the UK's natural environment by the general public. 

Whilst it may not be possible to determine actual bird abundance with accuracy, it is possible to make estimates of the changes or trends in populations, based on a range of national surveys and monitoring schemes coordinated by expert organisations.⁶ 

Trends in bird populations are used by policy makers and non-governmental organisations as part of the evidence base to assess the effects of land management such as farming practices (including interventions intended to address declines in farmland birds) and other environmental interventions, and to determine whether our natural environment is being managed sustainably. 

Understanding the bird population indices

 Individual bird species population trends, based on expert surveys, are calculated as an index. This relates the population in a given year to a 'baseline' – the first year that data are available – which is given a notional value of 100. Thereafter the index is expressing the population as a percentage of this 'baseline'.

This annual Defra National Statistics Release presents trends up to 2012 in populations of birds that are native to, and breed in, the UK, with trends overall and for four main habitat groups (see Annex A for a list of birds in each group): 

- i) 'All species', covering all species for which there is sufficient information to calculate a trend (128 species)
- ii) Farmland birds (19 species)
- iii) Woodland birds (38 species)
- iv) Water and wetland birds (26 species)
- v) Seabirds (19 species)

⁶ See 'Main notes' at the end for more details of the surveys sources used.

The Release also presents population trends in

- vi) Wintering water birds: water birds that over winter in the UK (46 species and/or sub-species).

The charts presented combine individual species indices⁷ into a single indicator to provide an overall trend for each group mentioned above. The indices are considered to give reliable medium to long-term trends but strong reliance should not be attached to short term changes from year to year.

The indices show the year-to-year fluctuation in populations, reflecting the observed changes in the survey results, and smoothed trends⁸, which are used to formally assess the statistical significance of change over time.

★ Smoothed trends are used for assessments as they reduce the short-term peaks and troughs resulting from, for example, year to year weather and sampling variations. These smoothed trends, derived using a published statistical methodology⁹, have been used to make assessments of change over the most recent five-year period possible, from 2006 to 2011. Due to the methods used to produce smoothed trends, the most recent year of data, i.e. 2012 in this update, is likely to change following the inclusion of 2013 data in next year's update. As a result it is not appropriate to make assessments based on this figure. Where results from the smoothed indices are quoted this is clearly indicated. ★

The bird population indices have been compiled in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC).

⁷ Using a geometric mean - an average calculated by multiplying a set of index values and taking the n^{th} root, where n is the number of index values.

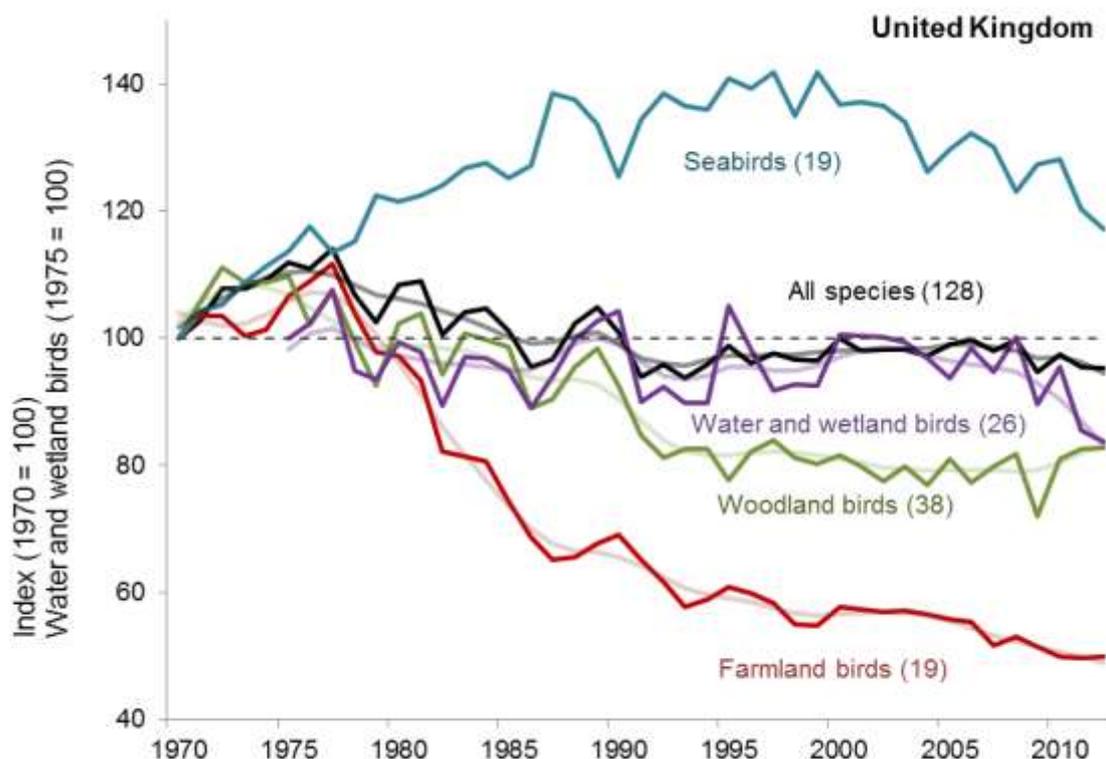
⁸ There are currently no smoothed trends available for seabirds but this is under review for the 2014 Release.

⁹ See analytical methods on BTO website (www.bto.org/birdtrends2011/methodology.htm)
Fewster et al. 2000. Ecology 81: 1970-84.



Native breeding wild bird populations in the UK

Figure 1: Populations of wild birds, 1970 to 2012



Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species within each group,
 - ii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.
- In 2012, the **all-species index in the UK** was five per cent below its 1970 level. The smoothed index showed a small but statistically significant decline of three per cent between 2006 and 2011.

Trends in specific species

The all-species index comprises 128 species of birds, which is all widespread species for which we have sufficient data. Species trends within this index vary widely from species increasing several-fold (e.g. Cetti's warbler, blackcap, great spotted woodpecker and collared dove) to those having declined to less than a tenth of 1970 levels (turtle dove, corn bunting and willow tit). The main patterns and drivers of change are best considered by looking at the indices of species grouped by habitat (below).

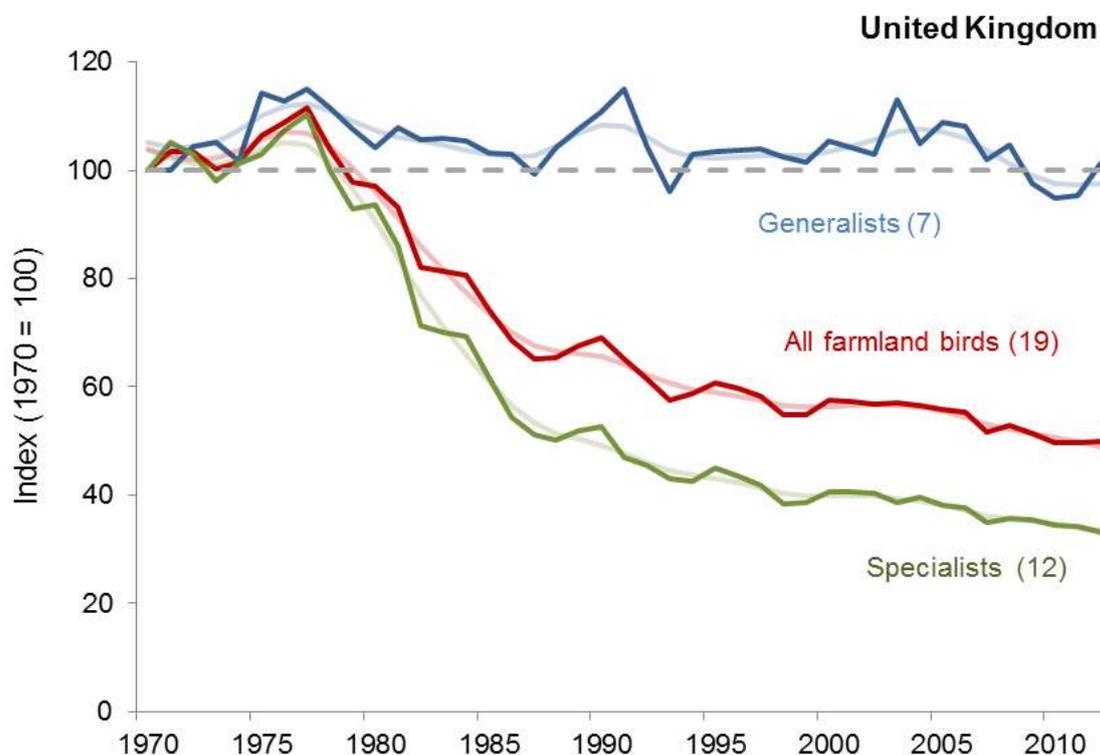
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Breeding farmland bird populations in the UK

Figure 2: Populations of farmland birds, 1970 to 2012



Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species,
 - ii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.
- In 2012, the breeding **farmland bird index in the UK** remained at half (50 per cent) of its 1970 level – the lowest level recorded, which it first fell to in 2010.
 - Most of the decline for the farmland bird index occurred between the late seventies and the early nineties, largely due to the impact of rapid changes in farmland management during this period.
 - The smoothed indicator shows a significant on-going decline of eight per cent between 2006 and 2011.

Trends in specific species

The farmland bird index comprises 19 species of bird. The long term decline of farmland birds in the UK has been driven mainly by the decline of those species that are restricted to, or highly dependent on, farmland habitats (the 'specialists'). Between 1970 and 2012, populations of farmland specialists declined by 67 per cent while farmland generalist

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populations increased by one per cent. However between 2006 and 2011, the smoothed index of farmland generalists shows a significant decline of eight per cent and the farmland specialists a significant decline of nine per cent.

Changes in farming practices, such as the loss of mixed farming systems, the move from spring to autumn sowing of arable crops, and increased pesticide use, have been demonstrated to have had adverse impacts on farmland birds such as skylark and grey partridge, although other species such as woodpigeon have benefitted. Four farmland specialists, grey partridge, turtle dove, tree sparrow and corn bunting have declined by over 85 per cent relative to 1970 levels. By contrast two farmland specialists (stock dove and goldfinch) have doubled, or nearly so, over the same period, illustrating how pressures and responses to pressures varies between species.

As would be expected from viewing the index, generalist species have fared better although one, the yellow wagtail, has declined by over 60 per cent relative to 1970. However, woodpigeon and jackdaw saw their populations more than double over the same period. Nevertheless, the smoothed indices show that between 2006 and 2011 both specialist and generalist farmland birds have declined: the populations of farmland specialists declined by nine per cent while farmland generalist populations declined by eight per cent. A number of species have shown marked trends over this five-year period, with turtle dove decreasing by 62 per cent and greenfinch by 35 per cent (the latter related to the disease trichomonosis), whereas goldfinch and tree sparrow both increased by over 50 per cent.

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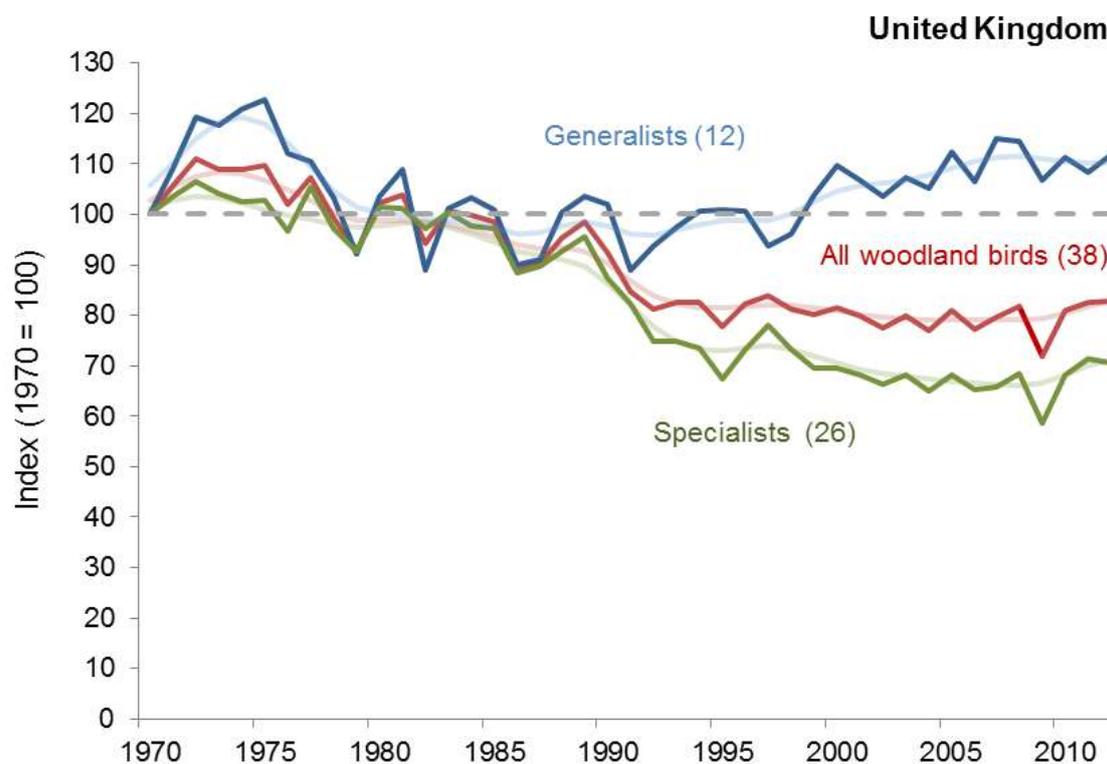
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Breeding woodland bird populations in the UK

Figure 3: Populations of woodland birds, 1970 to 2012



Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species,
 - ii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.
- In 2012, the breeding **woodland bird index in the UK** was 17 per cent lower than its 1970 level.
 - The greatest decline of woodland birds occurred from the late eighties until the early nineties, and the index has shown improvement in recent years; the smoothed index showed a significant increase of four per cent between 2006 and 2011.

Trends in specific species

There are 38 species of bird included in the woodland bird index, and these can either be specialist (highly dependent on woodland habitats) or generalist (found in a range of habitats, including woodland). Although the index of generalist woodland birds has increased by 12 per cent relative to 1970, the index for specialist woodland birds decreased by 30 per cent over the same period. Smoothed trends for both showed little change between 2006 and 2011: specialist woodland birds showed a small significant increase of five per cent and generalists no change over this

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period.

A number of woodland specialists (wood warbler, tree pipit, spotted flycatcher, lesser spotted woodpecker, lesser redpoll and willow tit) have declined by over 70 per cent relative to 1970 levels, with the last named species being down by more than 90 per cent. By contrast five other woodland specialists (blackcap, great spotted woodpecker, green woodpecker, nuthatch and sparrowhawk) saw their populations more than double over the same period.

Woodland generalist populations of blackbird, bullfinch, dunnock, song thrush and tawny owl have declined relative to 1970. In contrast the long-tailed tit population has more than doubled since 1970.

Although there remains uncertainty over the drivers of the overall decline in woodland bird populations in the UK, factors such as changes in woodland structure that occur as woodland ages, a decline in active woodland management and overgrazing by deer are implicated in the steep declines in a number of woodland specialists. In addition, problems overseas may be implicated in the declines of a number of long-distance migrants which breed in UK woodlands and spend the winter in Africa. Milder winters in the last decades may have been beneficial for a number of resident and short-distance migrant species.

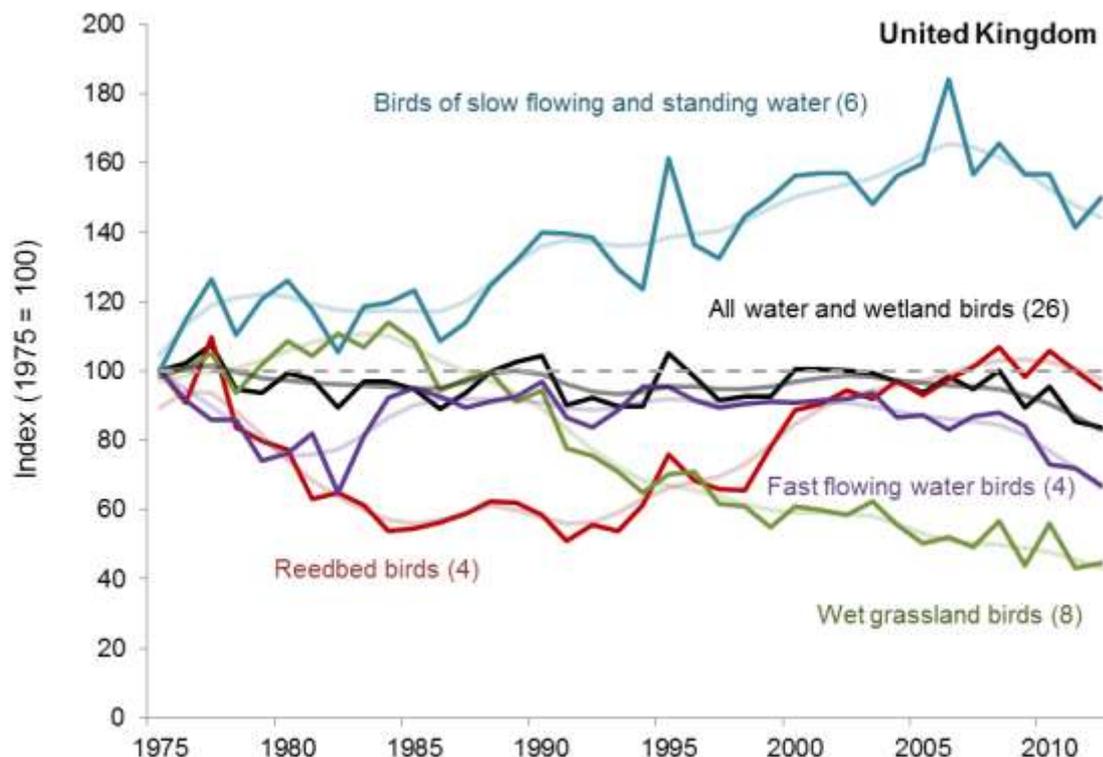
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Breeding water and wetland bird populations in the UK

Figure 4: Populations of water and wetland birds, 1975 to 2012



Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of water and wetland species overall, and in each landscape category (excluding four more generalist species),
- ii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.

- In 2012, the breeding **water and wetland bird index in the UK** was 16 per cent lower than its 1975 level. There was a significant decline in the smoothed index of nine per cent between 2006 and 2011.

Trends in specific species

There are 26 species of bird included in the water and wetland bird index. The water and wetland bird index can be split into four sub-habitat indicators showing differing trends, although it should be borne in mind that all are derived from relatively few species trends.

Birds of slow flowing and standing water have shown the most positive trend having increased by 50 per cent since 1975. Conversely, the index for wet grassland birds decreased by 56 per cent, and the index for fast flowing water birds decreased by 33 per cent compared to 1975. The index for reed bed birds declined slightly over this period (by five per cent).

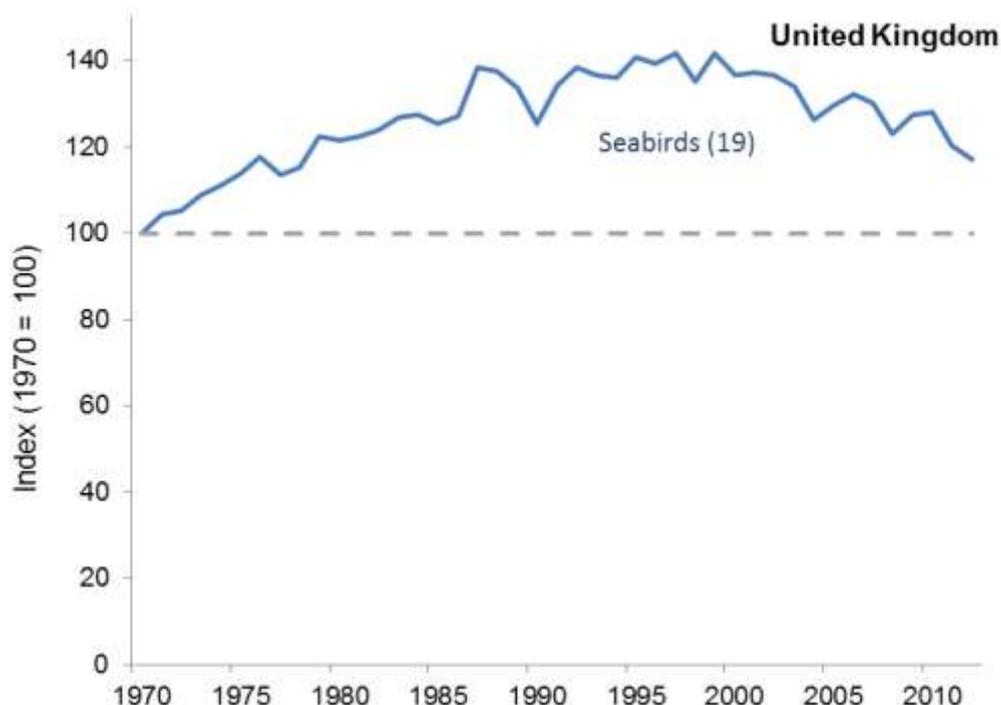
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Breeding seabird populations in the UK

Figure 5: Populations of seabirds, 1970 to 2012



Source: RSPB, BTO, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species,
- ii) the smoothed trend line for the seabirds indicator is not currently available.

- In 2012 the breeding **seabird index in the UK** was 17 per cent higher than its level in 1970; since the peak in 1999, however, populations of seabirds have declined by 17 per cent.

Trends in specific species

The seabird index comprises 19 species of birds. Constituent species of the seabird index have had mixed fortunes; although 12 species have increased since the beginning of the index, only six have done so since 1999. Black-legged kittiwakes declined by 53 per cent since 1970 and Arctic skuas, although increasing between 1970 and 1985, declined by over 80% of the peak value thereafter, whereas guillemots increased by 145 per cent since 1970. Declines of black-legged kittiwakes, which are surface feeders, have been linked to increases in sea surface temperatures, a result of climate change. Some seabirds have been impacted through predation by invasive non-native mammals such as rats and mink, though successful eradication programmes have been implemented in a number of areas and populations of some species have increased dramatically as a result.

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Note: The seabirds index in England¹ in 2012 shows different patterns from the UK index (with an increase in England of two per cent from the baseline in 1986). There are several reasons why the two indices may be different. Many seabirds have the bulk of their populations in northern parts of the British Isles and, in England, some species are absent or represented by only a single very large colony (e.g. gannet). In other cases, there are insufficient data to generate an England-only trend. In addition, in the England seabird index a more restrictive definition of seabirds has been applied than for the UK. The England definition excludes all species that do not live solely in the marine environment, with the result that gull species are not included in the England index.

¹ A separate Defra National Statistics Release, Wild bird populations in England, 1970 to 2012, was also published today

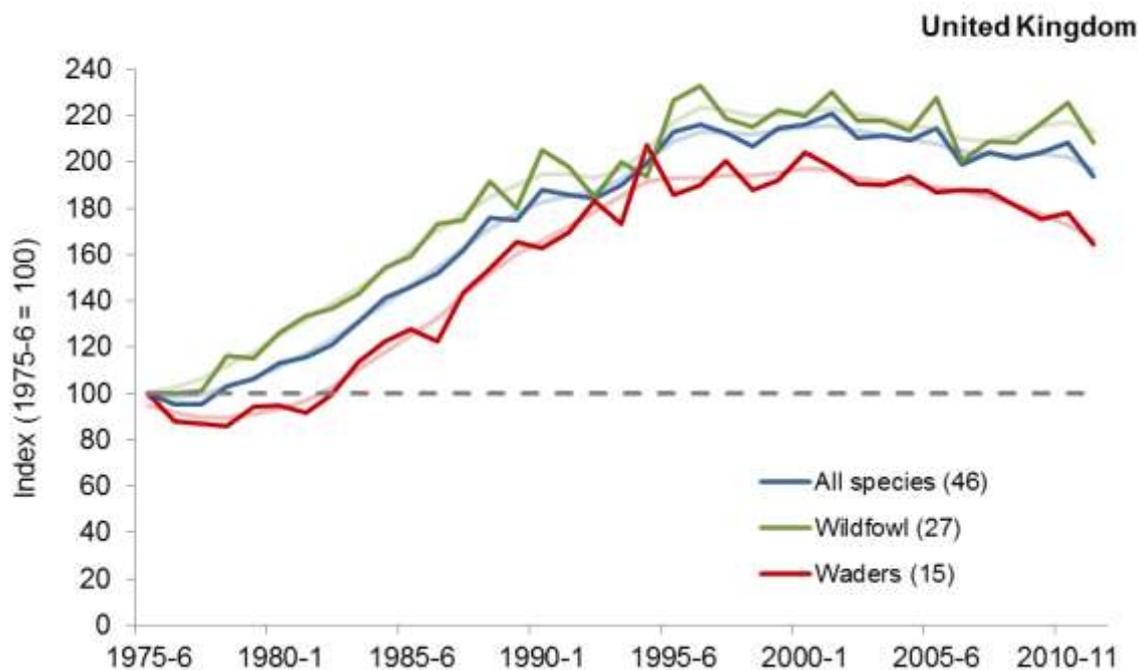
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Wintering waterbird populations in the UK

Figure 6: Populations of wintering waterbirds, 1975-6 to 2011-12



Source: RSPB, BTO in association with WWT, JNCC, Defra

Note:

- i) figures in brackets show the number of species within each group,
- ii) four species (little grebe, great crested grebe, cormorant and coot) are included in the all species line along with the 27 wildfowl population trends and the 15 waders,
- iii) within each category, darker lines show unsmoothed data and paler lines of the same colour show smoothed trend data.

- In the winter of 2011-12, the **wintering waterbird index in the UK** was 94 per cent higher than its 1975-6 level. The index peaked in 2001-2, and has declined since. There was a non-significant decline in the smoothed index of three per cent between 2005-6 and 2010-11.

Trends in specific species

There are 46 species of bird included in the wintering waterbird indicator, which shows a drop of seven per cent between 2010-11 and 2011-12 to an index value 94 per cent higher than in 1975-6. The drop between 2010-11 and 2011-12 was the same for waders and wildfowl; both indices fell by eight per cent. Overall, populations of wildfowl and waders have increased by 108 per cent and 64 per cent, respectively, since 1975-6. In the shorter term, between 2005-6 and 2010-11, the smoothed indices for wildfowl increased by one per cent and for waders declined by nine per cent.

Amongst wildfowl, scaup numbers are down by two-thirds and European white-fronted goose, and pochard populations by almost half compared with

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1975-6. In contrast, numbers of Svalbard light-bellied brent goose and gadwell increased by 16 and 14 fold respectively over the same period.

Amongst waders, populations of avocet increased by a factor of 56 since 1975-6. However, some species fared less well over the same period; ringed plover and dunlin numbers showed the steepest declines, both of more than 40 per cent relative to the winter of 1975-6.

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Main notes

1. The bird population indices have been compiled in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) from a wide range of sources, principally:
 - the [Common Birds Census](#) (from 1966 to 2000),
 - the [BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey](#) (from 1994 to 2012),
 - the [BTO/ Waterways Bird Survey](#) (from 1974 to 2007),
 - the [BTO/Environment Agency for England and Wales \(EA\) Waterways Breeding Bird Survey](#) (from 1998 to 2012),
 - the [BTO/Wildfowl & Wetland Trust/RSPB/JNCC Wetland Bird Survey counts](#) (from 1975-76 to 2011-12),
 - the WWT [Goose & Swan Monitoring Programme](#) in partnership with the JNCC and Scottish Natural Heritage,
 - the [Seabird Monitoring Programme](#) (from 1986 to 2012),
 - the Periodic Seabird censuses supplied by JNCC, RSPB, the Seabird Group, SOTEAG (Shetland Oil Terminal Environmental Advisory Group) and other partners,
 - Monitoring of scarce and rare breeding birds by the Statutory Conservation Agency and RSPB Annual Breeding Bird Scheme (SCARABBS) and the [Rare Breeding Birds Panel](#).

Regional analysis is published as part of the [Breeding Bird Survey](#).

The census sources provide an indication of the average annual rate of change between censuses for some species, and this is assumed to apply to each year between censuses.

More information about individual species trends, including photographs, background to the changes in population are available via the [BTO](#) website. Some regional analysis is also published as part of the [Breeding Bird Survey](#), including for other constituent countries of the UK. More information about the [State of UK birds](#) can be accessed through the RSPB website. Details on the monitoring of scarce and rare breeding birds, including annual reports, can be found on the [website](#) of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.

2. The indices cover birds that are native to the UK, excluding rare (less than 500 breeding pairs) and introduced species. The indices portray the annual changes in abundance. Within the indices, each species is given equal weighting, and the overall index is the geometric mean of the species indices. Individual species populations within the index may be increasing or decreasing, irrespective of the overall trends. Species indices are derived by modelling count data and estimates are revised when new data or improved methodologies are developed and applied retrospectively to earlier years.

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3. The indices are considered to give reliable medium to long-term trends but strong reliance should not be attached to short term changes from year to year.
4. The individual species included within each indicator are given in Annex A. The underlying unsmoothed figures for England can be downloaded from [the Gov.uk website](#).
5. Smoothing is a standard procedure in the generation and reporting of bird population trends (www.bto.org/birdtrends2010/methodology.htm) by the BTO and partners in its major bird monitoring schemes, i.e. RSPB and JNCC. The smoothing methodology involves the application of a thin plate smoothing spline to remove the short-term peaks and troughs due to weather effects and any between year sampling error. Research by the BTO and RSPB further developed this procedure to enable the production of an indicator based on smoothed individual species' indices. Bootstrapping, a standard statistical technique, is used to calculate 95 per cent confidence intervals in the indicators and in change over any specified period.
6. For the farmland bird index it should be noted that although 20 species were originally chosen for the index, a reliable annual index is not available for barn owl, so for that reason it is excluded.
7. Details of agri-environmental schemes designed to improve environmental management in farming can be found via the following administering bodies:
 - [Natural England](#)
 - [Welsh Assembly Government](#)
 - [Scottish Government](#)
 - [Department for Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland](#)

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Annex A: Bird species by habitat¹⁰ group in the UK**Farmland (19)**

Generalists (7)

greenfinch (<i>Carduelis chloris</i>)	reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>)	yellow wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)
jackdaw (<i>Corvus monedula</i>)	rook (<i>Corvus frugilegus</i>)	
kestrel (<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>)	woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	

Specialists (12)

corn bunting (<i>Emberiza calandra</i>)	linnet (<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>)	tree sparrow (<i>Passer montanus</i>)
goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)	turtle dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>)
grey partridge (<i>Perdix perdix</i>)	starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)	whitethroat (<i>Sylvia communis</i>)
lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	stock dove (<i>Columba oenas</i>)	yellowhammer (<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>)

Woodland (38)

Generalists (12)

blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	dunnock (<i>Prunella modularis</i>)	robin (<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>)
blue tit (<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>)	great tit (<i>Parus major</i>)	song thrush (<i>Turdus philomelos</i>)
bullfinch (<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>)	lesser whitethroat (<i>Sylvia curruca</i>)	tawny owl (<i>Strix aluco</i>)
chaffinch (<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>)	long-tailed tit (<i>Aegithalos caudatus</i>)	wren (<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>)

Specialists (26)

blackcap (<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>)	hawfinch (<i>Coccothraustes coccothraustes</i>)	siskin (<i>Carduelis spinus</i>)
capercaillie (<i>Tetrao urogallus</i>)	jay (<i>Garrulus glandarius</i>)	sparrowhawk (<i>Accipiter nisus</i>)
chiffchaff (<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>)	lesser redpoll (<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>)	spotted flycatcher (<i>Muscicapa striata</i>)
coal tit (<i>Parus ater</i>)	lesser spotted woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos minor</i>)	tree pipit (<i>Anthus trivialis</i>)
crossbill (<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>)	marsh tit (<i>Poecile palustris</i>)	treecreeper (<i>Certhia familiaris</i>)
garden warbler (<i>Sylvia borin</i>)	nightingale (<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>)	willow tit (<i>Poecile montana</i>)
goldcrest	nuthatch	willow warbler

¹⁰ Habitat classifications are generally based on 'Gibbons, D.W., Reid, J.B. & Chapman, R.A. 1993. The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991. London: T. & A.D. Poyser.

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(<i>Regulus regulus</i>)	(<i>Sitta europaea</i>)	(<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>)
great spotted woodpecker (<i>Dendrocopos major</i>)	pie flycatcher (<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>)	wood warbler (<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix</i>)
green woodpecker (<i>Picus viridis</i>)	redstart (<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>)	

Water and wetland birds (26)

Fast-flowing (4)

common sandpiper (<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>)	goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	grey wagtail (<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>)
dipper (<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>)		

Slow/Standing (6)

coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)	moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>)
great-crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)

Reedbed (4)

Cetti's warbler (<i>Cettia cetti</i>)	reed warbler (<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>)	reed bunting (<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>)
sedge warbler (<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>)		

Wet Grasslands (8)

curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)
lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)	yellow wagtail (<i>Motacilla flava</i>)
little egret (<i>Egretta garzetta</i>)	snipe (<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>)	

All species only

grey heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>)	oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	sand martin (<i>Riparia riparia</i>)
kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)		

Seabird (19)

arctic skua (<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>)	European shag (<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>)	mew gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)
arctic tern (<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>)	great black-backed gull (<i>Larus marinus</i>)	Northern fulmar (<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>)
Atlantic puffin (<i>Fratercula arctica</i>)	great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)	Northern gannet (<i>Morus bassanus</i>)
black-headed gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>)	great skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>)	razorbill (<i>Alca torda</i>)
black-legged kittiwake (<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>)	herring gull (<i>Larus argentatus</i>)	Sandwich tern (<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>)
common guillemot	lesser black-backed gull	

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(<i>Uria aalge</i>)	(<i>Larus fuscus</i>)	
common tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>)	little tern (<i>Sternula albifrons</i>)	

Wintering water birds (46)

Wildfowl (27)

Bewick's swan (<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>)	Icelandic greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	scaup (<i>Aythya marila</i>)
British/Irish greylag goose (<i>Anser anser anser</i>)	mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>)	shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)
dark-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i>)	mute swan (<i>Cygnus olor</i>)	shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)
eider (<i>Somateria mollissima</i>)	Nearctic barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)	Svalbard barnacle goose (<i>Branta leucopsis</i>)
European white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>)	NW Scotland greylag goose (<i>Anser anser</i>)	Svalbard light-bellied brent goose (<i>Branta bernicla hrota</i>)
gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)	pink-footed goose (<i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>)	teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)
goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)	pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>)	tufted duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)
goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)	pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>)	whooper swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>)
Greenland white-fronted goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>)	red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)	wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>)

Wader (15)

avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>)	golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>)	purple sandpiper (<i>Calidris maritima</i>)
bar-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>)	redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>)
black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>)	knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>)
curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>)	lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>)	sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>)
dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>)	oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>)	turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>)

Other (4)

coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>)	great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)	little grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>)
cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)		

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Bird species included in the All-Species index in the UK

The all-species line is comprised of all 128 available population trends for widespread breeding species in the UK, from all landscape types. It excludes rare species (with less than 500 breeding pairs) and all species for which no UK trend information is available.

The species composition of all species index (128 species) includes:

- 19 farmland* species trends (i.e. those in the farmland bird index)
 - 38 woodland bird species (ie those in the woodland bird index)
 - 26 breeding wetland* species (ie those in the breeding birds of waterways and wetlands index)
 - 19 seabirds
- and
- 29 other species trends, including birds of urban areas, heathlands, uplands, coasts and species with no strong habitat preferences (generalists).

Dartford warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>)	red grouse (<i>Lagopus lagopus</i>)	red-breasted merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>)
woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>)	meadow pipit (<i>Anthus pratensis</i>)	great skua (<i>Stercorarius skua</i>)
avocet (<i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i>)	mistle thrush (<i>Turdus viscivorus</i>)	greylag goose (naturalised) (<i>Anser anser</i>)
curl bunting (<i>Emberiza cirlus</i>)	piebald wagtail (<i>Motacilla alba</i>)	gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>)
buzzard (<i>Buteo buteo</i>)	swallow (<i>Hirundo rustica</i>)	hobby (<i>Falco subbuteo</i>)
corncrake (<i>Crex crex</i>)	shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>)	common gull (<i>Larus canus</i>)
peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>)	collared dove (<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>)	cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>)
cuckoo (<i>Cuculus canorus</i>)	hen harrier (<i>Circus Cyaneus</i>)	shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>)
pochard (<i>Aythya farina</i>)	quail (<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>)	Mediterranean gull (<i>Larus melanocephalus</i>)
firecrest (<i>Regulus ignicapilla</i>)	bearded tit (<i>Panurus biarmicus</i>)	

* Note that trends for three species (yellow wagtail, reed bunting and lapwing) are included in two separate habitat-specific indicators (farmland and breeding wetland) due to their reliance on both of these habitats. The same trends as used in the farmland bird indicator are used for these three species in the all-species indicator to avoid duplication.

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