



Derbyshire’s Birds of Conservation Concern

Richard Winspear, Roy Frost and Carl Cornish

Introduction

The purpose of developing a county list of Birds of Conservation Concern is to highlight the species that need special monitoring or conservation activity. Records of these species have the highest conservation value and it is particularly important to add accurate locations, counts and breeding evidence (where relevant) to any records. The species listed are either declining, rare or potential colonists in the county. Schedule 1 species from the Wildlife & Countryside Act have also been included because of their relevance to site protection from development. It is largely based upon the national Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC), which has been published regularly by the RSPB, BTO, GWCT and Statutory Agencies since 1996. The fifth review (Stanbury et al, 2021) showed 70 species are now on the Red list (of the 245 assessed), compared to 36 species in the first review in 1996. So, almost doubling over the 25 years the review has been conducted. In addition, three species have stopped breeding in the UK since BoCC began (Wryneck, Golden Oriole and European Serin), 103 species are on the Amber list and 72 are on the Green list. The criteria for allocating species to the appropriate list are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. criteria for national red and amber lists

Red list criteria	Amber list criteria
Globally threatened	Threatened in Europe
Historic decline in breeding population since 1800	Historic decline followed by partial recovery
Breeding population declined >50% since 1969 or over the last 25 years	Breeding population declined >25% since 1969 or over the last 25 years
Breeding range declined >50% between breeding bird atlas periods	Breeding range declined >25% between breeding bird atlas periods
	Rare breeding species (<300 pairs in UK)
	Localised breeding species (50% of UK population in ten or fewer sites)
	Internationally-important breeding population (UK holds at least 20% of the European population)
Non-breeding population declined >50% since 1969 or over the last 25 years	Non-breeding population declined >25% since 1969 or over the last 25 years
Non-breeding range declined >50% between wintering bird atlas periods	Non-breeding range declined >25% between wintering bird atlas periods
	Rare non-breeding species (<900 individuals in UK)
	Localised non-breeding species (50% of UK population in ten or fewer sites)
	Internationally-important non-breeding population (UK holds at least 20% of the European population)



Developing the list of Birds of Conservation Concern for Derbyshire.

There are a few reasons why the Derbyshire list differs from the national lists. Species on the national list which do not regularly breed or overwinter in the county, or are largely feral in origin, are excluded. The red list species excluded for this reason are:

- Capercaillie
- Black Grouse*
- Ptarmigan
- White-fronted Goose
- Velvet Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Corncrake*
- Dotterel
- Purple Sandpiper
- Red-necked Phalarope
- Roseate Tern
- Arctic Skua
- Puffin
- Leach's Storm Petrel
- Balearic Shearwater
- Shag
- Montagu's Harrier
- Red-backed Shrike*
- Marsh Warbler
- Savi's Warbler
- Nightingale*
- Cirl Bunting

* Former breeding species in Derbyshire

The amber list species excluded for this reason are:

- Bean Goose
- Eider
- Spotted Crake
- Crane
- Stone-curlew
- Black-winged Stilt
- Great Skua
- Guillemot
- Razorbill
- Black Guillemot
- Black-throated Diver
- Great Northern Diver
- Storm-petrel
- Fulmar
- Manx Shearwater
- Gannet
- Spoonbill
- Little Bittern
- Honey Buzzard
- White-tailed Eagle
- Shore Lark
- Yellow-browed Warbler
- Dartford Warbler
- Short-toed Treecreeper
- Water Pipit
- Parrot Crossbill
- Scottish Crossbill
- Lapland Bunting

Species are excluded if the reasons why they are listed do not apply to the county. Other species which are excluded from the Derbyshire list are listed with reasons for their exclusion in Table 2.



Table 2. Red and Amber list species regularly seen in Derbyshire which are not on the Derbyshire list of Birds of Conservation Concern.

Species	Reason for their exclusion from the Derbyshire list
Brent Goose	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is a rare visitor
Barnacle Goose	Amber listed for 50% of the wintering population on ten or fewer sites – does not apply to Derbyshire where most records refer to the resident feral population and is otherwise a rare visitor
Greylag Goose	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites – does not apply to Derbyshire where the population is largely feral in origin and is otherwise a rare visitor
Pink-footed Goose	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is a passage migrant
Whooper Swan	Amber listed for rare breeding status and 50% of wintering population in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire, where it is an uncommon winter visitor
Wigeon	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population, but the Derbyshire population is less than 1% of the national population (450,000)
Pintail	Amber listed for moderate decline in breeding population and range and an internationally important wintering population with 50% in fewer than ten sites – none of these are relevant to Derbyshire where it is an uncommon winter visitor with an insignificant proportion of the UK wintering population
Teal	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population, but Derbyshire population less than 1% of the national population (435,000)
Common Scoter	Red listed for declining breeding population and 50% of wintering population in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is an uncommon passage migrant
Stock Dove	Amber listed for internationally important breeding population, not of conservation concern in Derbyshire
Woodpigeon	Amber listed for internationally important breeding population, not of conservation concern in Derbyshire
Slavonian Grebe	Red listed for declining breeding population and 50% of wintering population in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is a rare winter visitor and passage migrant
Oystercatcher	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites and internationally important breeding population – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is a scarce breeding bird
Grey Plover	Amber listed for declining wintering population, but in Derbyshire, it is a scarce passage migrant
Whimbrel	Red listed for declining breeding population and rare winter population, but is an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire



Bar-tailed Godwit	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is an uncommon passage migrant
Black-tailed Godwit	Red listed for declining breeding population and localised wintering population, but in Derbyshire, it is an uncommon passage migrant
Turnstone	Amber listed for declining wintering population, but is an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Knot	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population with 50% in ten or fewer sites – neither apply to Derbyshire where it is a scarce passage migrant
Ruff	Red listed for it's rare, declining breeding population, but is an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Curlew Sandpiper	Amber listed for threatened European population, but is only an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Sanderling	Amber listed because 50% of the wintering population is in ten or fewer sites, but in Derbyshire, it is an uncommon passage migrant
Wood Sandpiper	Amber listed because of the small breeding and wintering population, but it is only a scarce passage migrant in Derbyshire
Spotted Redshank	Amber listed because it is a rare wintering species, but in Derbyshire, it is a scarce passage migrant
Greenshank	Amber listed because 50% of the breeding population is in ten or fewer sites, but it is an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Kittiwake	Red listed because of the declining breeding population, but it is just an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Common Gull	Amber listed for internationally important wintering population, but the Derbyshire wintering population is not a significant proportion of the UK population (<1% of the est. 710,000 wintering in the UK)
Yellow-legged Gull	Amber listed for rare breeding population, but is an uncommon winter visitor to Derbyshire
Sandwich Tern	Amber listed for the declining, localised breeding population, but is a scarce passage migrant in Derbyshire
Little Tern	Amber listed for the declining, localised breeding population, but is a scarce passage migrant in Derbyshire
Common Tern	Amber listed for 50% of breeding population in ten or fewer sites, but the Derbyshire breeding population is an insignificant proportion of the UK population
Arctic Tern	Amber listed for the declining breeding population, but is an uncommon passage migrant in Derbyshire
Rook	Amber listed for internationally important breeding population, not of conservation concern in Derbyshire
Wren	Amber listed for internationally important breeding population, not of conservation concern in Derbyshire
Fieldfare	Red listed for declining breeding population – does not apply to Derbyshire where it is a common winter visitor



Redwing	Amber listed for rare, declining breeding population but is a winter visitor to Derbyshire
Snow Bunting	Amber listed for it's rare breeding status, but is a scarce winter visitor and passage migrant in Derbyshire

Former breeding species that are unlikely to recolonise, such as Nightingale are not included on the Derbyshire list. Other species which have not bred in the county in the last five years are retained on the lists to ensure that we can continue to monitor the situation. These include the Turtle Dove and Corn Bunting. Some species are on the lists for their breeding status, even though they have not bred in the county, but are potential colonists. These include the Avocet and Osprey.

Other reasons for adding species to the Derbyshire list are a rare, restricted or declining breeding or wintering population (including all species monitored by the Rare Breeding Birds Panel (RBBP)), all species on Schedule 1 (sch 1) of the Wildlife & Countryside Act and species where more than 1% of the UK population winters in the county (Shoveler and Gadwall). We have also added species where there are known local threats to their conservation status, such as Goshawk and Red Kite. Some of these criteria relate to species which are listed Green on the national list. The reasons for their inclusion on the Derbyshire list are given in Table 3.

Table 3. Green List species added to the Derbyshire list of Birds of Conservation Concern and the rationale.

Species	Rationale
Little Ringed Plover	Declining and schedule 1 species
Cormorant	Restricted breeding species in the county
Little Egret	Rare, restricted breeding species in the county
Honey Buzzard	Potential colonist and potential for persecution and schedule 1
Goshawk	Uncommon breeding species in the county prone to persecution and schedule 1
Red Kite	Recent colonist in the county and potential for persecution and schedule 1
Barn Owl	Subject of DOS Conservation Project and schedule 1 species
Long-eared Owl	Rare breeding species in the county
Kingfisher	Schedule 1
Hobby	Uncommon breeding species in the county and schedule 1
Peregrine	Uncommon breeding species in the county prone to persecution and schedule 1
Woodlark	Rare breeding species and schedule 1
Cetti's Warbler	Schedule 1
Crossbill	Scarce and schedule 1

The final list for Derbyshire Birds of Conservation Concern is given in Table 4.



Table 4. The Derbyshire list of Birds of Conservation Concern

	Species	National status	Derbyshire Status					
			Breeding				Wintering	
			Potential breeder	Rare, restricted or declining	Sch 1	RBBP species	>1% national	Rare or declining
1	Grey Partridge	Red		Declining				
2	Quail	Amber		Declining	Yes	Yes		
3	Bewick's Swan	Red						Declining
4	Shelduck	Amber		Declining				Declining
5	Garganey	Amber		Rare	Yes	Yes		
6	Shoveler	Amber		Scarce		Yes	Yes	
7	Gadwall	Amber					Yes	
8	Mallard	Amber						Declining
9	Pochard	Red		Scarce		Yes		Declining
10	Scaup	Red						Declining
11	Goldeneye	Red						Declining
12	Smew	Red						Rare and declining
13	Red-breasted Merganser	Amber		Scarce		Yes		Rare and declining
14	Nightjar	Amber		Rare				
15	Swift	Red		Declining				
16	Cuckoo	Red		Declining				
17	Turtle Dove	Red		Declining; rare in county		Yes		
18	Moorhen	Amber		Declining				
19	Red-necked Grebe	Red						Declining
20	Black-necked Grebe	Amber		Possible occasional breeder	Yes	Yes		Rare
21	Avocet	Amber	Yes		Yes	Yes		
22	Lapwing	Red		Declining				Declining
23	Ringed Plover	Red		Declining				
24	Little Ringed Plover	Green		Declining	Yes	Yes		
25	Curlew	Red		Declining				Declining
26	Dunlin	Red		Declining range				
27	Woodcock	Red		Declining range				
28	Snipe	Amber		Declining				Declining
29	Common Sandpiper	Amber		Declining				
30	Green Sandpiper	Amber						Rare



31	Redshank	Amber		Declining (pop. and range)				
32	Black-headed Gull	Amber						Moderate decline
33	Mediterranean Gull	Amber	Yes	Restricted*	Yes	Yes		
34	Great Black- backed Gull	Amber						Declining
35	Glaucous Gull	Amber						Rare
36	Iceland Gull	Amber						Rare
37	Herring Gull	Red		Rare*				Declining
38	Caspian Gull	Amber						Rare
39	Lesser Black- backed Gull	Amber	Yes	Restricted*				
40	Cormorant	Green		Restricted (mainly one site)				
41	Bittern	Amber	Yes	Rare	Yes	Yes		
42	Cattle Egret	Amber	Yes			Yes		
43	Great White Egret	Amber	Yes			Yes		
44	Little Egret	Green		Restricted		Yes		
45	Osprey	Amber	Yes		Yes	Yes		
46	Honey Buzzard	Green	Yes		Yes	Yes		
47	Sparrowhawk	Amber		Declining				
48	Goshawk	Green		Rare	Yes	Yes		
49	Marsh Harrier	Amber	Yes		Yes	Yes		
50	Hen Harrier	Red		Rare	Yes	Yes		
51	Red Kite	Green		Rare	Yes			
52	Barn Owl	Green		DOS Conservation Project	Yes			
53	Tawny Owl	Amber		Declining				
54	Long-eared Owl	Green		Rare		Yes		
55	Short-eared Owl	Amber		Declining		Yes		
56	Kingfisher	Green			Yes			
57	Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	Red		Declining		Yes		
58	Kestrel	Amber		Declining				
59	Merlin	Red		Historical decline	Yes	Yes		
60	Hobby	Green			Yes	Yes		
61	Peregrine	Green		Rare	Yes	Yes		
62	Marsh Tit	Red		Declining				



63	Willow Tit	Red		Declining				Declining
64	Woodlark	Green		Rare	Yes	Yes		
65	Skylark	Red		Declining				
66	Cetti's Warbler	Green			Yes			
67	Wood Warbler	Red		Declining				
68	Willow Warbler	Amber		Declining				
69	Sedge Warbler	Amber		Declining				
70	Grasshopper Warbler	Red		Declining				
71	House Martin	Red		Declining				
72	Whitethroat	Amber		Declining				
73	Starling	Red		Declining				
74	Ring Ouzel	Red		Declining				
75	Song Thrush	Amber		Declining				
76	Mistle Thrush	Red		Declining				
77	Spotted Flycatcher	Red		Declining				
78	Pied Flycatcher	Amber		Declining				
79	Black Redstart	Amber	Yes	Rare	Yes	Yes		
80	Redstart	Amber		Declining				
81	Whinchat	Red		Declining				
82	Wheatear	Amber		Declining				
83	Dipper	Amber		Declining				
84	House Sparrow	Red		Declining				
85	Tree sparrow	Red		Declining				
86	Dunnock	Amber		Declining				
87	Tree pipit	Red		Declining				
88	Yellow Wagtail	Red		Declining				
89	Grey Wagtail	Amber		Declining				
90	Meadow Pipit	Amber		Declining				
91	Hawfinch	Red		Declining		Yes		
92	Bullfinch	Amber		Declining				
93	Greenfinch	Red		Declining				
94	Twite	Red		Declining				
95	Linnet	Red		Declining				
96	Lesser Redpoll	Red		Declining				
97	Crossbill	Green			Yes			
98	Corn bunting	Red		Declining				Declining
99	Yellowhammer	Red		Declining				
100	Reed bunting	Amber		Declining				

* Indicates species on Derbyshire list for reasons unrelated to their inclusion on the national list



Reference:

Stanbury et al, 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>.