

THE LATEST TREND INFORMATION ON UK BREEDING BIRDS

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INFORMACION DE ULTIMA HORA SOBRE TENDENCIAS EN AVES REPRODUCTORAS DEL REINO UNIDO

Breeding Birds in the Wider Countryside 2005 was published on the BTO website in November (Visit www.bto.org/birdtrends). The latest in this series of annual reports provides a one-stop shop for information on trends in the numbers and breeding performance of widespread UK bird populations. It is a tribute to the hard work of many thousands of volunteer census workers, ringers and nest recorders that we are able to produce such timely and comprehensive information on the status of our bird populations. The website is produced within the BTO/JNCC partnership and includes results from the BTO/JNCC/RSPB Breeding Bird Survey.

IMPROVEMENTS TO THIS YEAR'S REPORT

The 113 individual species pages include current conservation listing status, a summary of population trends and their likely causes, graphs and tables showing trends and changes in population size and breeding performance over the past 36 years and alerts based on 50% and 25% declines. We have added improved navigation to the sections on population changes and productivity trends. A new section on additional information provides links to relevant data from Atlases, BirdFacts, BirdTrack and Garden BirdWatch. We have also added the latest population size estimates. Feral Pigeon

has been added to the species coverage.

We are continually working to improve the analyses included in the report. This edition sees improved analytical methods applied to the Constant Effort Sites scheme, for which we are now able to produce smoothed trends with confidence intervals (Fig. 1).

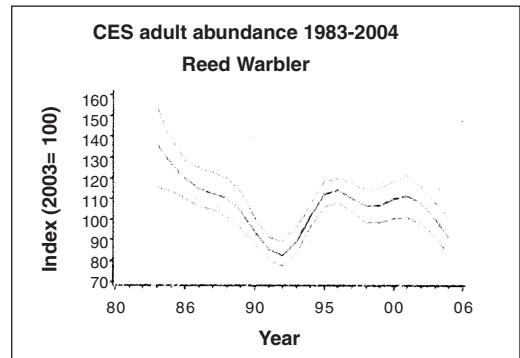


FIGURE 1. CES smoothed trend for Reed Warbler.

KEY FINDINGS

The key findings across all species are summarized on a single page while the discussion and summary tables provide more detailed assessments of trends across species. The key patterns do not vary greatly from year to year because we are looking at smoothed changes from long-term trends. We continue to highlight the ongoing declines of many Red and

Amber listed species, including those associated with farmland and woodland. Yellow Wagtail, Willow Warbler and Cuckoo continue to show declines in excess of 50%, and as such are potential candidates for future Red listing. Although based on limited data, the joint CBC/BBS trend for Tawny Owl now shows a 27% decline over 25 years, making this year's

survey particularly timely. The trends are not all gloomy with a few previously declining species showing positive trends over the last 10 years. These include Whitethroat (+41%), Grey Wagtail (+29%) and Song Thrush (+23%).

Stephen Baille and John Marchant on behalf of the Wider Countryside Report team