

To: RBBP

From: Dawn Balmer & Simon Gillings

Subject: BTO Policy on mapping sensitive species

The BTO has undertaken a review of its policy on mapping of sensitive species. This has been prompted by the need for a policy for mapping species on BirdTrack (www.birdtrack.net) and in the forthcoming National Atlas (breeding and winter). On BirdTrack no sensitive species are published (at anytime of year) and this includes Goshawk, Hen Harrier, Osprey, Honey Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier etc and is based on treatment of these species in the 1988-91 Breeding Atlas. Clearly some species populations have changed significantly since then and it may now be possible to publish some maps at the 10km scale.

This review and suggested treatment of RBBP species is based on a document provided by Humphrey Crick with comments from Ken Smith and Malcolm Ogilvie. It is not entirely clear to us whether the suggestions refer to historical records, or to the future policy on publishing records (mainly at the 10km level). We seek advice from RBBP on whether it would be sensible to publish maps (online and on paper) of species currently on the RBBP list at the 10km, 50km and 100km level.

We also welcome guidance on the feasibility of publishing maps (primarily in the National Atlas) for Parrot Crossbill. This is currently a BBRC species but has a breeding population in Scotland.

We also welcome further information on the review policy of RBBP so we can suggest a review timescale for this BTO Policy Statement.

BTO Policy Statement on mapping of sensitive species

We wish to publish (online and on paper) all non Rare Breeding Bird Panel (RBBP) species year round. We propose the following protocol for RBBP species. During autumn and winter we will publish all records (August – February inclusive). During spring and the breeding season (March to July inclusive) we propose to categorise the RBBP species into six categories of treatment as detailed below.

The policy should be reviewed on a regular basis in line with RBBP reviews.

1. Vagrant RBBP species not to be mapped

These are the Vagrants – mostly BBRC with the exception of those with *.

Pied-billed Grebe	Purple Heron*	Gyr Falcon
Black-browed Albatross	Black Duck	Black-winged Stilt
Little Shearwater	Blue-winged Teal	Broad-billed Sandpiper
Little Bittern	Ring-necked Duck*	Spotted Sandpiper
Night Heron*	King Eider	Lesser Crested Tern

Least Tern
Snowy Owl
Bee-eater
Red-rumped Swallow
Citrine Wagtail
Thrush Nightingale
Fan-tailed Warbler

River Warbler
Savi's Warbler
Great Reed Warbler
Booted Warbler
Melodious Warbler
Marmora's Warbler
Spectacled Warbler

Desert Warbler
Greenish Warbler
Penduline Tit
Woodchat Shrike
Parrot Crossbill

2. Feral/introduced RBBP species – not to be mapped

Black Swan
Trumpeter Swan
All feral/introduced
geese*
Cape Shelduck

Ruddy Shelduck
Muscovy
Wood Duck
Bob-white Quail
Silver Pheasant

Reeve's Pheasant
Budgerigar
Alexandrine Parakeet
Monk Parakeet

**excludes Greylag and Canada Goose*

3. RBBP species not to be mapped at anything finer than 10-km resolution

Red-throated Diver
Black-throated Diver
Slavonian Grebe
Black-necked Grebe
Leach's Petrel
Bittern
Little Egret
Egyptian Goose
Wigeon
Gadwall
Pintail
Garganey
Red-crested Pochard
Pochard
Scaup
Long-tailed Duck
Common Scoter
Velvet Scoter
Goldeneye
Smew
Red Kite
White-tailed Eagle
Marsh Harrier
Hen Harrier

Goshawk
Golden Eagle
Osprey
Merlin
Hobby
Peregrine
Common Quail
Golden Pheasant
Lady Amherst's Pheasant
Spotted Crake
Corncrake
Common Crane
Avocet
Stone-curlew
Little Ringed Plover
Kentish Plover
Dotterel
Ruff
Black-tailed Godwit
Bar-tailed Godwit
Whimbrel
Greenshank
Red-necked Phalarope
Mediterranean Gull

Yellow-legged Gull
Glaucous Gull
Roseate Tern
Little Tern
Rose-ringed Parakeet
Barn Owl
Kingfisher
Woodlark
Black Redstart
Cetti's Warbler
Dartford Warbler
Firecrest
Bearded Tit
Crested Tit
Short-toed Treecreeper
Chough
Brambling
Common Crossbill
Scottish Crossbill
Parrot Crossbill
Snow Bunting
Cirl Bunting

4. RBBP species not to be mapped at anything finer than 50-km resolution

Great Northern Diver
Red-necked Grebe
Spoonbill
Whooper Swan
Bewick's Swan
Pink-footed Goose
Honey Buzzard

Montagu's Harrier
Sanderling
Temminck's Stint
Pectoral Sandpiper
Purple Sandpiper
Jack Snipe
Green Sandpiper

Wood Sandpiper
Turnstone
Little Gull
Black Tern
Eagle Owl
Snowy Owl
Hoopoe

Wryneck
Shore Lark
Waxwing
Bluethroat
Fieldfare

Redwing
Marsh Warbler
Icterine Warbler
Golden Oriole
Red-backed Shrike

Great Grey Shrike
Serin
Scarlet Rosefinch
Lapland Bunting

5. RBBP species not to be mapped at anything finer than 100-km resolution

Currently none

6. RBBP species not to be mapped at any resolution

Currently none

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