



NEST RECORD

NEWS

A Newsletter prepared specially for supporters of the BTO's NEST RECORD SCHEME

STAFF CHANGES

It has been a case of 'all change' with the administration of the Nest Record Scheme. Sadly the Trust lost the services of Robert Morgan as Nest Record Officer in mid-January, when he left to join the Research Unit of the British Antarctic Survey at Cambridge. Robert has already been sorely missed by members and staff both at Beech Grove and away from the Trust's headquarters. In addition, Liz McHugh, who helped service the scheme, left in early May and has been replaced by Mercedes Gibbs.

David Glue has taken over Robert Morgan's role. David has been involved with the Nest Record Scheme since joining the Trust 16 years ago and has published papers dealing with the breeding biology of species ranging from Little Owl and Long-eared Owl, Stone Curlew and Ring Ousel, to Cuckoo and Kingfisher.

Philip Whittington has been largely responsible for the task of preparing past Nest Record Card material for the computer, testing analysis programs with the Director, Raymond O'Connor, and feeding the data into the computer, aided by Liz McHugh and Judith Baker.

It is anticipated that later this year Manpower Services Commission employees will join the BTO staff on a short term basis to tackle the mammoth task of feeding further historical Nest Record Card information into the computer. With more rapid analyses of cards feasible and a regular feedback of results to contributors anticipated, the scheme has a bright and interesting future.

OUR NEST RECORD CARD HOLDINGS

For your interest the annual card totals for the period 1978 to 1983 and overall current holdings are listed in the centre section of this Newsletter. It should be stressed that the 1983 figures, in particular, are provisional as several contributions - including some sizeable ones - have been promised but not yet received. The totals for previous years may also increase slightly as outstanding cards are added. This late submission of records does slow the administration at Beech Grove and is to be avoided if possible.

The year to year totals show some interesting trends. Whilst those for certain birds subject to special studies - nestbox users like Great Tit and Pied Flycatcher for example - are well represented, there has been a worrying downward trend in the number of cards received in recent years, especially for many 'common' open nesters such as Blackbird, Dunnock and Chaffinch. More good quality, multi-visit, cards for these 'bread and butter' birds are especially welcome.

With some 200 species represented by over half a million nest histories, the Trust holds a precious store of unique information on the breeding biology of Britain's birds. The cards for many species have been examined - some merit an up-dated analysis - but much remains to be done.

THE 1983 CARD INTAKE

Although the story is still incomplete, it is interesting to scan the 1983 figures. Contributions have been received so far from over 275 recorders - each valuable whether for one or over a hundred cards - and the chance is taken now to thank everyone for their welcome support.

For interest's sake a broad selection of a few contributors are listed below, in alphabetical order, together with a few of their more notable species card totals. Certain observers provide an extremely helpful service in co-ordinating the activities of a single bird club, ringing group, bird observatory, or natural history society, whilst promoting the scheme within such organizations at the same time. One observer, therefore, may reflect the efforts of a dozen or more hard working individuals. If you can encourage fellow nest finders to contribute, to help guide their fieldwork, or send us the addresses of possible future supporters, this would be appreciated.

W.D. Allen (Shropshire) 173 cards including 34 Blue Tit; R.E. Batty (Middlesex) 154 cards including 48 Blackbird; G. Bottomley (RSPB, Cumbria) 111 cards including 38 Great Tit, 37 Pied Flycatcher; K. Briggs (Lancaster Birdwatching Society, Lancs) 967 cards including 62 Blue Tit, 42 Song Thrush, 30 Dunnock, 25 Chaffinch; J.E.A. Brook & R. Cooke (Warwickshire) 400 cards including 22 Moorhen, 90 Blackbird; P. Burton et al. (Herts) 611 cards including 23 Sparrowhawk, 54 Kestrel, 20 Little Owl, 38 Tawny Owl; T. Carruthers (Co. Kerry) 116 cards including 28 Song Thrush, 31 Blackbird, 11 Robin; J.E.S. Cooper (Sussex) 150 cards including 48 Great Tit, 42 Blue Tit; J.G. Cranfield (Stanford Ringing Group, Leics) 215 cards including 36 Coot, 26 Reed Bunting; P.G. & S.G. Davis (Surrey) 147 cards including 16 Stonechat, 8 Dartford Warbler, 20 Willow Warbler, 20 Meadow Pipit; F. Davison (Northumbria Ringing Group) 243 cards including 34 Swallow, 88 Great Tit, 44 Pied Flycatcher; R.A. Denyer (Surrey) 102 cards including 20 Swallow; N. Dymond (Shetland) 114 cards including 21 Red-throated Diver, Merlin, Whimbrel, and Peregrine; H.R. Hammacott (Bristol Naturalists Society) 313 cards including 40 Lapwing, 50 Willow Warbler; A. Harris (Rye Meads Ringing Group, Herts); 251 cards including 48 Reed Warbler, 18 Sedge Warbler, 21 Linnet; R.J. Haycock (Dyfed) 121 cards including 14 Great Tit, 60 Pied Flycatcher; I. & P. Hildred (Lincs) 245 cards including 26 Song Thrush, 36 House Sparrow; P.R. Holness (Norfolk) 244 cards including 88 Swallow; J. Kieser (Hants) 206 cards including 32 Blue Tit; R. Lambert (Gibraltar Point Bird Obs. Lincs) 202 cards including 64 Ringed Plover, 25 Little Tern, 44 Tree Sparrow; J.M.S. Lewis (Gwent) 128 cards including Hen Harrier, Peregrine, Crossbill; J.V. Lloyd (Dyfed) 138 cards including 22 Pied Flycatcher; R.J. Louch/D. Tompson (Oxon) 500 cards including 84 Blackbird, 18 Sedge Warbler, 20 Blackcap, 26 Yellowhammer; C.F. Mapletoft (Birkland Ringing Group, Notts) 607 cards including 86 Great Tit, 142 Blackbird, 42 Dunnock, 26 Chaffinch; C. Matthews et. al (Avon) 114 cards including 23 Swallow; P. Maynard (Hants) 130 cards including Hobby, 12 Swallow; P.F.J. Playford (Gwent) 100 cards including 73 Pied Flycatcher; J. Richardson (Durham) 282 cards including 2 Goosander, 22 Blue Tit, 37 Song Thrush, 45 Blackbird; I.T. Rowlands (Glos.) 276 cards including 170 Blue Tit, 46 Great Tit, 51 Pied Flycatcher; R. Smith (Aberdeen) 141 cards including 12 Sedge Warbler, 26 Whitethroat, 24 Willow Warbler; R. Squires (Powys) 141 cards including 66 Pied Flycatcher, Red Kite; R.J. Stevens (Trent Valley Birdwatchers, Notts) 104 cards including 30 Coot, 11 House Martin; R.L. Swann (Glenurquhart Bird Club, Inverness) 202 cards including 18 Buzzard, Peregrine, 19 Tawny Owl, 2 Redwing, 9 Redstart; S. Tyler (Gwent) 127 cards including Merlin, 44 Dipper, 15 Pied Flycatcher, 22 Grey Wagtail; S. Unwin (Staffs) 174 cards including 10 Moorhen, 44 Blackbird, 10 Dunnock, 14 Linnet; L.L.J. Vick (Edinburgh) 195 cards including 88 Dipper, 18 Ring Ouzel, 38 Wheatear, 39 Whinchat; D. Warden (Bristol) 171 cards including 13 Great Crested Grebe, 15 Coot, 43 Reed Warbler; I. Wolfenden (Liverpool) 159 cards including 66 Skylark, 21 Meadow Pipit, 13 Linnet.

EARLY RETURN OF CARDS WELCOMED

Do please send on those outstanding 1983 cards as soon as possible but not at the expense of current fieldwork! An early return of the present season's cards (by the end of the year please) would help us at the BTO to form an early picture of the successes and failures during 1984. Do bear in mind, however, those multi-brooded species and aim, where possible, to obtain records for the whole season, which for some birds lasts from March to August, or even later. Members are already commenting on the early success of certain waterfowl and resident passerines during an exceptionally sunny April and early May enjoyed in most areas. This followed a delayed season as northern Britain was held in the grip of severe weather during parts of February and March. This year already promises to be an interesting one for nest recorders and it is hoped to publish the story in later issues of BTO News.

A BETTER SPREAD OF RECORDS

Cards from all situations are welcomed but certain regions and habitats are noticeably under-recorded and merit greater attention. Extra contributions away from the Home Counties, especially from SW England, E. England, the north Midlands, NW England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are needed. Broad-leaved woodland, young forestry plantations, scrub, coastal habitats, heath and moor, downland, arable farmland, wetlands and, surprisingly, urban housing areas are among those habitats worthy of extra coverage.

KEY SPECIES TO AIM FOR

It cannot be stressed too strongly how much cards for all species are welcome, but a range of 'target' birds merit special attention. These 'key' species worth bearing in mind are:

Great Crested Grebe, Little Grebe, Mute Swan, Mallard, Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, Kestrel, Moorhen, Coot, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Lapwing, Snipe, Curlew, Redshank, Common Sandpiper, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Common Tern, Arctic Tern, Stock Dove, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Turtle Dove, Cuckoo, Little Owl, Swift, Swallow, House Martin, Meadow Pipit, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Stonechat, Wheatear, Ring Ousel, Blackbird, Song Thrush, Mistle Thrush, Sedge Warbler, Reed Warbler, Whitethroat, Blackcap, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Spotted Flycatcher, Long-tailed Tit, Coal Tit, Treecreeper, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Raven, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch, Linnet, Redpoll, Bullfinch, Yellowhammer, Reed Bunting.

These birds fall into two categories. They include a range of 'indicator' species which can be used to assess variations in breeding performance between years, regions and habitats. Others are nearing the stage where a sufficiently large sample is available to merit a detailed analysis and publication of a summary paper on the bird's breeding biology.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NEST RECORDERS

Information gathered by the Nest Record Scheme provides a vital link for the Trust in its attempt to understand the mechanics that govern the annual cycle of Britain's birds. Furthermore, the year by year assessment of breeding success rates can provide an invaluable check on the quality of the environment. It is encouraging to know that pure science and conservation are being helped each time a small green card is completed.

TOTALS FOR NEST RECORD SCHEME FROM 1977 - 1983

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Red-throated Diver	594	54	47	58	19	54	87	27	940
Black-throated Diver	76	10	4	7	4	3	5	8	117
Little Grebe	850	79	55	63	54	36	27	23	1187
Great Crested Grebe	1202	86	71	33	31	23	26	41	1513
Slavonian Grebe	90	6	4	2	7	4	4	1	118
Black-necked Grebe	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Fulmar	1114	45	101	52	25	28	37	24	1426
Manx Shearwater	51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51
Storm Petrel	14	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	18
Gannet	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Cormorant	613	18	22	11	5	9	107	-	785
Shag	1332	27	53	23	152	73	59	23	1742
Bittern	7	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	11
Grey Heron	1311	32	48	72	52	64	30	7	1616
Mute Swan	1756	88	112	81	85	87	92	43	2344
Greylag Goose	92	8	11	15	13	12	11	3	165
Canada Goose	524	41	51	43	38	28	47	18	790
Shelduck	121	9	4	8	8	2	1	4	157
Mandarin	32	3	2	5	9	8	7	7	73
Wigeon	66	5	3	4	2	4	3	-	87
Gadwall	30	-	1	1	1	2	5	-	40
Teal	117	11	4	3	3	5	1	3	147
Mallard	3465	254	251	219	237	174	134	92	4826
Pintail	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Garganey	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Shoveler	62	3	5	2	4	1	1	1	79
Pochard	66	5	2	3	1	2	1	2	82
Tufted Duck	373	27	27	33	41	14	6	13	534
Eider	830	24	39	37	20	17	10	8	985
Common Scaup	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
Red-breasted Merganser	153	11	8	8	1	3	4	1	189
Goosander	59	-	10	7	4	2	8	5	95
Ruddy Duck	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Honey Buzzard	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Red Kite	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5
Marsh Harrier	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hen Harrier	88	16	15	14	20	18	32	88	291
Montagu's Harrier	29	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	29
Goshawk	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	10
Sparrowhawk	884	166	189	173	181	126	95	148	1962
Buzzard	1355	119	80	66	89	86	77	118	1990
Golden Eagle	137	4	5	15	5	11	17	24	218
Osprey	15	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	17
Kestrel	1993	118	129	129	119	92	126	87	2793
Merlin	346	54	54	57	45	13	27	55	651
Hobby	107	15	24	7	17	19	21	19	229
Peregrine	233	11	26	18	21	27	21	79	436
Red Grouse	300	19	16	12	13	7	12	7	386
Ptarmigan	53	3	3	4	1	10	2	1	77
Black Grouse	27	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	30
Capercaillie	47	2	4	2	-	1	3	1	60

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Red-legged Partridge	243	14	17	18	15	8	7	9	431
Grey Partridge	545	28	26	19	11	15	8	13	665
Quail	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Pheasant	1210	70	50	46	27	19	35	27	1484
Water Rail	43	2	2	-	1	3	-	1	52
Corncrake	22	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Moorhen	11404	646	600	513	439	300	280	168	14350
Coot	5284	342	355	339	215	252	216	149	7152
Oystercatcher	4316	422	370	372	451	261	257	148	6597
Avocet	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Stone Curlew	214	40	33	15	33	12	8	11	366
Little Ringed Plover	529	37	60	40	55	49	45	51	866
Ringed Plover	2756	233	202	188	159	77	193	120	3928
Kentish Plover	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Dotterel	63	2	5	3	5	3	8	7	96
Golden Plover	286	26	45	10	11	22	18	9	427
Lapwing	9658	464	548	590	663	508	237	175	12843
Dunlin	250	10	13	8	8	35	34	43	401
Snipe	810	57	32	36	42	37	27	21	1062
Woodcock	313	23	19	8	18	15	16	19	431
Black-tailed Godwit	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Whimbrel	31	4	-	1	1	1	3	3	44
Curlew	1194	86	47	54	67	35	42	21	1546
Redshank	1108	110	81	75	53	33	29	13	1502
Greenshank	51	5	7	3	10	9	9	3	97
Wood Sandpiper	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common Sandpiper	581	40	44	40	46	27	24	22	824
Red-necked Phalarope	20	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	26
Arctic Skua	124	3	5	4	5	15	4	4	164
Great Skua	236	2	7	1	-	1	3	2	252
Black-headed Gull	2070	43	304	86	75	88	59	44	2769
Common Gull	1047	57	57	49	147	52	123	20	1552
Lesser Black-backed Gull	592	5	6	26	19	14	10	6	678
Herring Gull	2183	56	149	198	221	191	151	37	3186
Great Black-backed Gull	524	25	8	9	47	63	52	3	731
Kittiwake	959	65	42	6	19	5	48	18	1162
Sandwich Tern	123	1	12	1	1	-	-	-	136
Roseate Tern	55	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	63
Common Tern	1548	57	144	55	99	42	104	51	2100
Arctic Tern	729	25	81	7	28	64	4	8	946
Little Tern	1247	128	70	97	60	10	182	111	1905
Guillemot	482	10	3	4	5	-	-	9	513
Hazorbill	213	15	11	10	4	9	4	12	278
Black Guillemot	127	3	3	4	1	9	2	1	150
Puffin	64	1	-	-	1	4	5	-	75
Rock Dove	62	14	4	4	2	4	2	3	95
Feral Pigeon	345	59	74	67	64	46	34	47	736
Stock Dove	2201	140	168	180	183	71	135	100	3178
Woodpigeon	10997	797	632	565	512	324	351	175	14353
Collared Dove	996	127	113	79	77	70	83	49	1594
Turtle Dove	1203	65	73	61	33	28	36	23	1522
Ring-necked Parakeet	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Cuckoo	920	25	42	44	56	29	34	47	1197
Barn Owl	575	28	41	20	21	30	26	44	785
Snowy Owl	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Little Owl	615	32	36	34	62	21	54	32	886
Tawny Owl	1943	141	138	142	173	135	146	186	3004
Long-eared Owl	249	16	21	17	15	10	10	16	354
Short-eared Owl	83	9	6	12	3	6	7	7	133
Nightjar	282	12	7	15	29	45	39	35	464
Swift	538	66	37	26	24	11	18	12	732
Kingfisher	226	23	16	10	13	11	7	11	317
Hoopoe	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wryneck	15	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	17
Green Woodpecker	164	7	8	3	6	3	8	1	200
Great Spotted Woodpecker	303	31	47	26	31	20	24	15	497
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker	66	10	7	4	4	3	-	3	97
Woodlark	129	19	21	6	38	65	14	14	306
Skylark	3590	255	293	219	111	80	47	121	4716
Sand Martin	431	110	10	11	7	26	28	10	633
Swallow	17725	1287	1515	1238	1378	653	767	620	25183
House Martin	1644	192	145	195	121	86	58	47	2488
Tree Pipit	721	39	36	38	34	29	38	31	966
Meadow Pipit	3696	290	374	305	324	169	173	208	5539
Rook Pipit	333	18	13	8	7	9	10	4	402
Yellow Wagtail	568	28	28	21	28	21	24	8	726
Grey Wagtail	1682	121	166	122	202	170	51	86	2600
Pied Wagtail	3238	307	275	206	247	512	160	115	5060

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Dipper	2144	213	175	132	255	213	201	268	3601
Wren	7447	402	461	169	299	308	124	210	9420
Dunnoek	19919	746	808	594	462	529	294	267	23619
Robin	10366	601	487	352	436	440	235	207	13124
Nightingale	265	8	4	5	15	7	10	5	319
Bluethroat	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Black Redstart	54	26	1	2	13	7	4	1	108
Redstart	2028	85	105	148	133	133	146	83	2861
Whinohat	665	52	55	56	60	56	50	63	1057
Stoneohat	1188	110	76	32	54	45	34	44	1583
Wheatear	877	180	147	131	128	103	25	114	1705
Ring Ousel	620	35	38	45	68	40	39	43	928
Blackbird	79503	3099	3351	2799	2537	2354	1492	1336	96471
Fieldfare	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Song Thrush	50527	1729	1666	1294	1135	1604	917	648	59520
Redwing	30	-	2	1	7	10	2	4	56
Mistle Thrush	3809	246	214	187	217	144	142	101	5060
Grasshopper Warbler	188	3	3	12	4	7	3	8	228
Savi's Warbler	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sedge Warbler	2164	93	70	48	97	96	117	70	2755
Marsh Warbler	93	5	5	-	1	2	-	-	106
Reed Warbler	5055	311	449	416	317	215	164	146	7073
Dartford Warbler	138	5	8	4	7	5	5	10	182
Lesser Whitethroat	429	30	25	14	11	15	18	13	555
Whitethroat	3660	103	57	78	62	78	80	106	4224
Garden Warbler	776	30	22	23	40	17	24	45	977

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Blackcap	1295	82	53	60	75	56	75	62	1758
Wood Warbler	698	22	32	42	53	71	103	101	1122
Chiffchaff	976	47	50	45	61	65	30	28	1302
Willow Warbler	5863	420	249	248	307	335	327	306	8055
Goldcrest	427	21	15	7	11	26	13	15	535
Firecrest	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Spotted Flycatcher	5074	276	288	254	240	260	197	157	6746
Pied Flycatcher	6321	706	683	678	761	684	486	573	10856
Bearded Tit	32	2	2	-	4	1	1	2	44
Long-tailed Tit	2182	168	156	70	79	77	85	61	2878
Marsh Tit	605	33	36	23	30	28	29	22	806
Willow Tit	230	14	11	5	9	11	11	7	298
Crested Tit	37	8	9	8	16	12	25	20	135
Coal Tit	2493	85	94	88	82	81	73	83	3079
Blue Tit	21473	1406	1454	1524	1738	2043	1282	1288	32208
Great Tit	12880	845	1149	1045	1193	1389	811	1064	20376
Nuthatch	603	49	84	44	69	70	47	72	1038
Treecreeper	1034	69	52	39	44	40	66	46	1390
Short-toed Treecreeper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Red-backed Shrike	234	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	236
Jay	791	43	30	37	33	16	29	33	1012
Magpie	2407	208	211	183	152	98	115	130	3504
Chough	109	5	11	1	6	11	43	52	238
Jackdaw	2335	93	90	88	88	55	71	176	2996
Rook	1956	110	174	106	97	34	56	22	2555
Carriion Crow	2572	184	151	164	120	80	81	67	3419
Hooded Crow	282	47	16	24	12	31	30	45	487

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pre 1977</u>	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>Total</u>
Raven	1148	39	50	36	32	32	54	68	1459
Starling	6010	406	427	388	435	387	245	206	8504
House Sparrow	7923	236	219	163	191	134	98	84	9048
Tree Sparrow	8751	422	685	495	283	300	141	148	11225
Chaffinch	11242	500	306	413	371	424	282	314	13852
Greenfinch	8864	314	265	198	230	257	205	75	10409
Goldfinch	1741	191	76	46	62	44	39	26	2225
Siskin	19	1	1	2	2	3	1	4	33
Linnet	17196	700	775	450	430	410	317	225	20503
Twite	614	13	11	16	32	8	7	5	706
Redpoll	819	90	36	26	35	43	12	13	1080
Common Crossbill	31	4	2	3	3	8	4	8	63
Bullfinch	3614	154	108	76	114	100	73	54	4293
Hawfinch	74	1	1	1	4	2	1	-	84
Snow Bunting	8	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	9
Yellowhammer	4052	136	136	120	128	108	127	104	4911
Cirl Bunting	52	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	55
Reed Bunting	4731	248	224	162	140	138	110	108	5861
Corn Bunting	248	7	3	2	4	5	5	2	276

NOTE:

Totals for 1983 taken at April 1984

However, nest recording is a dwindling art in some parts. More birdwatchers are, understandably, questioning the possibility of disturbance. If you have any worries do please write for a copy of the CODE OF CONDUCT which outlines how to plan your nest visits to the best affect and least imposition on the birds. Better still, make sure that a copy of the BTO Guide No. 12 The Nest Record Scheme by Henry Mayer-Gross is to hand (price fl.50 from Beech Grove). This examines conduct at the nest in depth and includes details of laying seasons, fledging periods and number of broods. An additional aid to nest finding A Field Guide to Birds' Nests, by Bruce Campbell and James Ferguson-Lees (Constable, London 1972) is thoroughly recommended if you can locate a copy.

A reminder that the species listed on the enclosed sheet are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If you wish to consider visiting the nests of any of these species do write to the BTO for an application form to be licensed by the Nature Conservancy Council first. No nest of the species listed may be visited without prior approval.

RESULTS IN THE PIPELINE

The Nest Record Scheme has made a major contribution to our knowledge of the biology of Britain's birds over the last 45 years but much remains to be done. A number of analyses of cards are currently well under way, for species such as Tawny Owl, Short-eared Owl, Nightjar, the three woodpeckers, Jay, Redstart, Wheatear, the Phylloscopus warblers and Nuthatch. Meanwhile the BTO computer offers the scheme greater scope and speed of handling data. So far cards for over 65 species have been fed into the computer and analyses are in progress. We look forward to seeing the results of these in print.

A firsthand knowledge of basic breeding biology is important for any birdwatcher's full appreciation of his subject and, surprisingly, there is still scope for individuals to make sizeable and unique contributions to our knowledge. For birds like Little Grebe, Ruddy Duck, Curlew, Little Owl, Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, Jackdaw, Willow Tit, Marsh Tit, Nuthatch, Goldcrest, Corn Bunting and many more we still have fundamental gaps in our knowledge. Why not contemplate a local study of your own?

Whilst the library at Beech Grove receives copies of most reports, a number of in-depth local studies are published and go undetected. Do please pass copies to the BTO so that we can be sure that a permanent record is maintained in the Trust's headquarters for all visiting researchers and staff to consult.

HOPING TO HEAR FROM YOU

Finally, if you require extra cards, a fresh set of Instructions, code of conduct, please write to the Nest Record Officer, BTO, Beech Grove, Tring, Herts HP23 5NR. He would also value any comments on interesting aspects of the breeding season for possible inclusion in BTO News or future Nest Record Newsletters.

DAVID GLUE