

# Little Ringed Plover 1945

## Title

Little Ringed Plover 1945-1957

## Description and Summary of Results

The Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* first nested in Britain at Tring Reservoirs in 1938. In 1946, for the third successive year, birds were present in the London area in the breeding season. Members of the London Natural History Society kept watch on over one hundred gravel pits but, as in previous years, the birds known to have stayed the summer were concentrated in a fairly small area, with four pairs found in three localities, although there was no conclusive proof that any young fledged.

By 1953 nesting had been reported in every county east of a line from Southampton to Hull, except for Oxfordshire, Rutland and Norfolk. West of this Little Ringed Plovers had bred in the West Riding of Yorkshire and in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and Gloucestershire.

The increase was steady rather than spectacular and most of the new localities could be explained by a slow spread from the original centres, rather than by fresh invasions. In 1950, the 29 pairs known to have spent the summer were distributed around London (18 pairs in Kent, Surrey, Essex, Middlesex and Berkshire), in Sussex (4 pairs), in Suffolk (1 pair) and in Lincolnshire, Derbyshire and Yorkshire (6 pairs).

The 1954 paper reporting on 1951-1953 includes a full list and history of numbers in each county.

## Methods of Data Capture

The survey was conducted by E R Parrinder almost entirely by collating casual records of breeding birds although observers were coordinated in at least the London area to check known and potential sites.

## Purpose of Data Capture

To determine the numbers and localities of breeding Little Ringed Plovers in each year.

## Geographic Coverage

All of Britain but in practice mainly restricted to the southeast and especially the gravel pits around London.

## Temporal Coverage

Every breeding season from 1945 to at least 1957 (and there were later surveys covering later years with a variable amount of effort put in).

**Other Interested parties**

The BTO helped the organiser with publicity.

**Organiser(s)**

E R (John) Parrinder

**Current Staff Contact**

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**Publications**

The main reports are:

Parrinder, E.R. 1947. The Little Ringed Plover in the London area. *British Birds* 40: 109-111;  
and

Parrinder, E.R. 1954. The Little Ringed Plover in Great Britain 1951-53. *British Birds* 47: 198-203.

**Available from NBN?**

No.

**Computer data -- location**

None.

**Computer data -- outline contents**

N/A.

**Computer data -- description of contents**

N/A.

**Information held in BTO Archives**

2 boxes containing 3 bundles of cards and 7 folders of papers.

**Notes on Access and Use****Other information****Notes on Survey Design****Specific Issues for Analysis**