



# Garganey

## *Anas querquedula*

### Status

Amber listed: BR, SPEC 3 (V)  
Schedule 1 of WCA 1981  
Annex II/1 of EC Wild Birds Directive

### National monitoring

Rare Breeding Birds Panel.  
WeBS.

### Population and distribution

The only wildfowl species which is entirely a summer visitor to the UK, garganey are sparsely distributed mainly in England (88–91 *Atlas*). Numbers fluctuate from year to year, being highest in warm springs following wet winters, when shallow floods remain on the water meadows and marshes. Numbers fell between the 1940s and the late 1980s, since when there has been a slight increase in the numbers of pairs proven to breed (*Red Data Birds*). There are an estimated 15–125 pairs of garganey breeding in the UK (*Population Estimates*).

### Ecology

Garganey arrive between mid-March and late May, and have left mainly by September. Their preferred breeding habitat is lowland wet grassland, marsh, fen or grassland with intersecting ditches often edged with reed *Phragmites*. A clutch of 8–11 eggs is laid between the end of April and late June. There is a single brood and the young fledge by mid-August (*Red Data Birds*).

### Breeding season survey

See *Dabbling and diving ducks* in the generic survey methods section.