

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*

2003 2,953 pairs.

2004 2,985 pairs.

The Panel requests county summaries for Barn Owl only, asking recorders to provide a minimum figure for the number of pairs in their areas. The data provided thus range from detailed minima based on actual sightings, to broad brush estimates where a large local population is poorly reported. In addition, nest details from Schedule 1 licence returns are received and in some areas they add to the local picture. Where there appears to be some duplication, a cautious approach is taken, using minimum figures. Looking at 2003 and 2004, the accumulated numbers of pairs are similar, and continue the trend towards increasing numbers. Fewer records were received from some key counties in 2004, contributing to the slightly lower figure. Taking the higher total for each recording area in the two years gives a larger figure of 3,625, which is within the estimated UK population of 3,000 - 5,000 pairs (Baker *et al.* 2006). Given that the figures presented here represent a limited sample, it may be that the real population is now higher than this.

Regional breakdown

England, SW

2003 484 pairs 2004 446 pairs

England, SE

2003 427 pairs 2004 318 pairs

England, E

2003 365 pairs 2004 783 pairs

England, Central

2003 290 pairs 2004 187 pairs

England, N

2003 731 pairs 2004 575 pairs

Wales

2003 243 pairs 2004 180 pairs

Scotland, S

2003 272 pairs 2004 270 pairs

Scotland, Mid

2003 91 pairs 2004 103 pairs

Scotland, N & W

2003 50 pairs 2004 63 pairs

N. Ireland

2003 no reports 2004 60 pairs

County totals

Approximate county totals are listed in the table below; these should be treated as minima. Estimates are based on returns from county recorders where possible, based on sites holding Barn Owls in the breeding season. In some cases, only limited returns were available and consequently these are likely to gross underestimate; these are flagged with an asterisk. Zeroes mean no birds thought to be present, dashes mean no data for that year.

	2003	2004
England, SW	484	446
Avon	25	11
Cornwall	3*	6*
Devon	27	47
Dorset	16	18
Gloucestershire	15	18
Hampshire	75	75
Isle of Wight	50	50
Isles of Scilly	0	0
Somerset	80	35
Wiltshire	193	186
England, SE	427	318
Bedfordshire	55	65
Berkshire	15	17
Buckinghamshire	40	25
Essex	86	48
Hertfordshire	29	28
Kent	24	30
London	-	-
Oxfordshire	68	3
Surrey	3	5
Sussex	107	97
England, E	365	783
Cambridgeshire	41	130
Lincolnshire	150	500
Norfolk	117	122
Northamptonshire	5*	4*
Suffolk	52	27
England, Central	290	187
Derbyshire	40	31
Herefordshire	-	-
Leicestershire & Rutland	10	33
Nottinghamshire	28	18
Shropshire	140	38
Staffordshire	2	7
Warwickshire	55	60
West Midlands	-	-
Worcestershire	15	-
England, N	731	575
Cheshire & Wirral	83	76
Cleveland	3	4
Cumbria	150	143
Durham	-	-
Greater Manchester	9	20
Isle of Man	5	-
Lancashire & North Merseyside	140	22
Northumberland	50	34
Yorkshire	291	276
Wales	243	180

Anglesey	18	25
Brecon	28	19
Caernarfon	6	9
Carmarthen	7	1
Ceredigion	2	16
Denbigh & Flint	2	4
Glamorgan	18	8
Gower	17	2
Gwent	13	6
Meirionnydd	13	18
Montgomery	67	58
Pembroke	25	14
Radnor	27	-
Scotland, S	272	270
Ayrshire	-	-
Borders	69	72
Clyde	11	9
Clyde Islands	-	-
Dumfries & Galloway	167	151
Lothian	25	38
Scotland, Mid	91	103
Angus & Dundee	1	-
Fife	-	6
Forth	-	-
Perth & Kinross	31	37
Moray & Nairn	30	30
Northeast Scotland	29	30
Scotland, N&W	50	63
Argyll	31	29
Caithness	-	2
Highland	19	32
Orkney	0	0
Shetland	0	0
Western Isles	0	0
N. Ireland		60
Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Fermanagh, Londonderry, Tyrone	-	60