

Criteria for categorising Spotted Crake breeding evidence in the UK

EBCC breeding categories	Specific interpretation for Spotted Crakes	Notes/rationale
Possible breeding		
1. Species observed in breeding season in possible nesting habitats.	Spotted Crake seen in possible nesting habitats between 1 April and 31 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Earlier records assumed to be passage migrants. ● Records after 31 July probably relate to autumn migrants or post-breeders from other sites.
2. Singing male(s) present (or breeding calls heard) in breeding season.	Singing males from 1 March – 31 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most UK records. ● Where song heard on fewer occasions than Criterion 4, <i>i.e.</i> song once or for a total period of less than a week. ● Records of singing birds from September – February are not considered indicative of local breeding activity.
Probable breeding		
3. Pair observed in suitable nesting habitat in breeding season.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Includes pair <i>heard</i> in suitable habitat in breeding season (e.g. female responding to male calling).
4. Permanent territory presumed through registration of territorial behaviour (song <i>etc.</i> on at least two different days a week or more apart at the same place).	Singing males from March – August inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where song heard on more occasions than Criterion 2. ● Records of singing birds from September – February not considered indicative of breeding activity.
5. Courtship and display.		
6. Visiting probable nest site.		
7. Agitated behaviour or anxiety calls from adults.		
8. Brood patch on adult examined in the hand.		
9. Nest building or excavating nest-hole.		

C. Confirmed breeding		
10. Distraction-display or injury-feigning.		
11. Used nest or eggshells found (occupied or laid within period of survey).		
12. Recently fledged young (nidicolous species) or downy young (nidifugous species).	Recently fledged should be interpreted as downy or less than full-sized young or juveniles in care of a parent. In any case young of year seen before 15 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Later records of young at wetlands possibly relate to birds moving from breeding areas. Date is an arbitrary cut-off for records in the absence of knowledge of movements of birds from nesting areas. Note in Sweden there is a high proportion of double-brooding suggesting that late young may be recently hatched. ● Criterion relates to recently fledged young as distinct from juveniles and it may be worth emphasising this as juveniles can be seen on passage in September (and maybe even August).
13. Adults entering or leaving nest-site in circumstances indicating occupied nest (including high nests or nest-holes, the contents of which can not be seen) or adult seen incubating.		
14. Adult carrying faecal sac or food or young.		
15. Nest containing eggs.		
16. Nest with young seen or heard.		