

# Fieldfare *Turdus pilaris*

## All accounts from RBBP reports, 1973-2021



### 2021

*Very rare 2 bp 25y trend: strong decrease -73%. High*

**Two sites: 0-2 pairs.** There was a fall in numbers in 2021, following 1-5 pairs reported in 2020.

#### Scotland, Mid

**Perth & Kinross** One site: one possible breeding pair.

#### Scotland, N & W

**Highland** One site: one possible breeding pair.

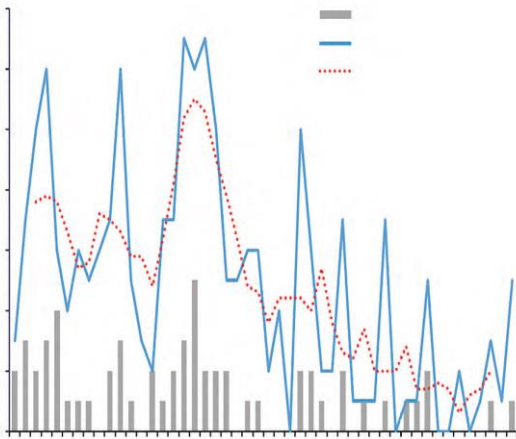
### 2020

*Very rare 2 bp 25y trend: strong decrease -74%. Moderate*

#### Unknown lockdown impact on monitoring

**Five sites: 1-5 pairs.** While 2020 was a relatively good year for Fieldfare records, it seems likely that birdwatching effort in suitable areas was nonetheless reduced. Always a very rare breeding bird in the UK, with marked year-on-year fluctuations, the Fieldfare has declined as a breeding species since a peak around 30 years ago (fig. 9). There have been only five confirmed breeding pairs in the last ten years, and there was a gap of five years with no confirmed records.

Most recent records have come from the upland margins in southern Scotland and northern England, particularly from the margins of conifer plantations with adjacent damp rushy pastures. There are extensive areas of suitable habitat which are infrequently visited by birdwatchers, so it may well be that breeding is more regular than fig. 9 suggests.



#### England, N

**Northumberland** One site: one probable breeding pair.

#### Scotland, S

**Dumfries & Galloway** Two sites: one confirmed breeding pair feeding young, and one possible breeding pair.

#### Scotland, Mid

**North-east Scotland** One site: one possible breeding pair.

#### Scotland, N & W

**Shetland** One site: one probable breeding pair.

### 2019

*Very rare 1 bp 25y trend: strong decrease -84%. High*

**Two sites: 0-1 pairs.** Collin (2021) reviewed recent records in Dumfries & Galloway, suggesting that there may be breeding attempts going undetected, and urging observers to put more effort into looking for Fieldfares in conifer plantations adjoining damp, rushy pasture, particularly in northern England and southern Scotland.

#### Scotland, S

**Ayrshire** One site: one bird in suitable habitat in mid-June.

### 2018

*Occasional breeder*

**Three sites: 1-3 pairs.** Fieldfare numbers have dwindled in recent years, with the species seemingly disappearing as a breeding bird in the UK, so it is good to report the first confirmed breeding since 2012.

#### England, N

**Yorkshire** One site: a single bird in suitable breeding habitat on 26th June.

#### Scotland, S

**Borders** One site: three birds present on 26th May, with an unreported number still present at the site on 4th July.

**Dumfries & Galloway** One site: a single bird seen carrying food to a nest site on 19th June.

### 2017

### *Occasional breeder*

In **Northumberland**, a single bird remained in suitable breeding habitat from early May until 16th June; there have been other summer records in this general area in recent years and the last confirmed breeding, in 2012, when two pairs bred, was also in Northumberland.

### **2015**

*Very rare 8 bp 25y trend: strong decrease -80%. Moderate*

**Two sites: 0-2 pairs.** The limited information from two sites does not provide much evidence of breeding having occurred, but the last confirmed breeding of Fieldfare was in Northumberland in 2012, and breeding occurred at a similar lowland site in Lothian in 2008.

#### **England, N**

**Northumberland** One site: one, probably two, birds in suitable breeding habitat on 6th June.

#### **Scotland, S**

**Lothian** One site: One alarming adult was found in suitable breeding habitat on 19th May but despite several subsequent visits could not be relocated.

### **2012**

*Very rare: 5-yr mean 3 bp. Coverage: moderate. Red*

Five sites: 2-5 pairs. The occurrence of potentially nesting Fieldfares is highly unpredictable and it is sometimes difficult to distinguish potential breeders from late migrants. Breeding has been confirmed in May, but often it is later, as illustrated by the two breeding records in 2012, both in Northumberland.

#### **England, E**

**Norfolk** One site: one singing male on 3rd June.

#### **England, N**

**Northumberland** Two sites: (1) One pair bred. A recently fledged juvenile was photographed on 5th-6th August. (2) One pair bred. One bird was seen collecting and carrying food into woodland on 27th May. **Yorkshire** One site: one singing male on 8th May and then it or another bird seen feeding nearby on three dates until 27th May.

#### **Scotland, S**

**Dumfries & Galloway** One site: one possible breeding pair. A single bird was recorded from May through to October, with it or another reported from a nearby farm in summer (no dates).

### **2011**

*Very rare: 5-yr mean 2 bp. Coverage: moderate. Red*

One site: one pair bred. There is no real consistency of site usage over the years, other than a general tendency for pairs to settle in areas at higher altitude.

#### **Scotland, N & W**

**Highland** One site: one pair bred. In late April a male was seen taking food to a nest, but there were no records after 1st May, so the breeding attempt may have failed. This is an unusually early date for breeding Fieldfares.

### **2010**

*Very rare: 5-yr mean 2 bp. Coverage: moderate. Red*

One site: one pair bred. This remains an unpredictable species, both in terms of where and when breeding pairs are found, and how many there are each year. Up to seven pairs were found in 2004 and 2008, only one in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2010, and none in 2009. The 2010 pair may well have been missed if the fieldworker had not been in the area looking for Hen Harriers!

#### **Scotland, S**

**Dumfries & Galloway** One site: one pair bred. A pair was seen in late May, with one adult carrying food into a small mature spruce plantation.

### **2008**

7 sites: 1-7 pairs. Fieldfares are renowned for their fluctuating breeding numbers (see fig. 4 in Holling *et al.* 2009) and, following just a single breeding pair in 2007, there were seven potential breeding records in 2008. These were spread widely across Scotland, as well as in northern England and North Wales, but the only confirmed breeding was in Shetland, where one pair laid eggs but failed to rear any young. Two records of single, one-day birds in late May (Borders) and late June (Denbigh & Flint) are not included in the totals, although it is possible that they were of summering birds.

#### **England, C**

**Derbyshire** One site: one pair probably bred, with two present on 23rd May and one seen on five dates in early June.

#### **England, N**

**Cumbria** One site: one pair probably bred. A single bird was recorded on five dates between 5th May and 3rd June, and both a male and a female were recorded separately on one date.

#### **Scotland, S**

**Borders** One site: one reported on three dates in May and July. **Clyde** One site: one pair possibly bred. A pair was seen feeding together on 26th May but there was no further evidence from this site. **Lothian** One site: one pair probably bred. Several sightings of one bird in early May culminated in a record of an alarming pair on 8th May but there were no further sightings despite regular searching.

#### **Scotland, N & W**

**Highland** One site: one pair possibly bred. **Shetland** One site: one pair bred, laying a clutch of five eggs, which did not hatch.

## 2007

One site: one pair bred. As in 2006, only one record of breeding Fieldfares was received. The successful attempt was in Derbyshire, where breeding was last confirmed in 1989. The recent BoCC review Red-listed the Fieldfare owing to the long-term decline in breeding numbers.

### England, C

**Derbyshire** One site: one pair bred, with 3-4 large young seen in the nest.

## 2006

One site: one pair bred. The fortunes of the Fieldfare as a nesting bird in the UK seem to vary from year to year (fig. 4), with no apparent pattern and no site fidelity. The maximum number recorded in any one year has been 13, during a period of relative abundance in the early 1990s. Since the blank year of 1999, there have been four years with only one or two potentially breeding pairs, and two years (2000 and 2004) with as many as ten. In that seven-year period, breeding has been confirmed in Borders (which has proved to be one of the most regularly used areas by this species), Cumbria, Fife, Highland, Kent, North-east Scotland and Orkney.

### Scotland, S

**Borders** One site: an adult was seen carrying food on 12th June, but despite searches no Fieldfares were found in the area in subsequent weeks.

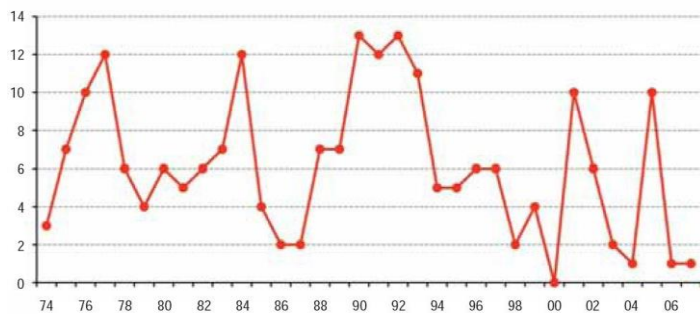


Fig. 4. There is no consistency in the number of potentially breeding Fieldfares *Turdus pilaris* recorded in the UK.

## 2005

One site: 0-1 pairs. Single birds, but no indications of breeding, were recorded during June-July, in five areas: Cambridgeshire, Derbyshire (two birds), Greater Manchester, Borders and North-east Scotland. The only suggestion of possible breeding was a male in Shetland heard singing occasionally from 8th June and remaining until late September.

## 2004

Seven sites: 2-7 pairs. Although 1-2 pairs bred in 2000-02, there were only two breeding-season records in 2003, in Yorkshire and Northern Ireland. In 2004, however, there were two definite breeding records, both in Scotland, as well as a third record which points to another pair nesting in Scotland or northeast England. Despite their conspicuous nature at other times of year, Fieldfares can be surprisingly elusive during the breeding season and breeding is not always easy to confirm, so the four records in England may also relate to breeding attempts.

### England, E

**Lincolnshire** Two sites: (1) single bird on 30th May; (2) single bird on 8th June.

### England, C

**Derbyshire** Two sites: (1) single bird apparently engaged in distraction display on 2nd June; (2) single bird seen on two dates in June.

### Scotland, S

**Borders** One site: a juvenile on 10th August at a coastal location seemed early for a Scandinavian migrant, but may not have fledged locally.

### Scotland, Mid

**Fife** One site: one pair bred, present 28th April to 26th May, and food-carrying and excited alarming seen until 22nd May. A search under licence could not locate a nest and no young were seen. The observer felt that the nesting attempt may have failed at the chick stage or the young may have died soon after fledging.

### Scotland, N & W

**Orkney** One site: one pair bred. Three recently fledged juveniles were seen on 14th June.

## 2003

Two sites: two single birds only. Although 1-2 pairs bred in 2000-02, there were only two breeding-season records in 2003, in Yorkshire and Northern Ireland. In 2004, however, there were two definite breeding records, both in Scotland, as well as a third record which points to another pair nesting in Scotland or northeast England. Despite their conspicuous nature at other times of year, Fieldfares can be surprisingly elusive during the breeding season and breeding is not always easy to confirm, so the four records in England may also relate to breeding attempts.

### England, N

**Yorkshire** One site: single bird on 8th June.

### Northern Ireland

**Co. Down** One bird in a garden on 28th June.

## 2002

Six localities: 1-2 pairs breeding. These were the only reports, fewer than in recent years and with none in England, but confirmed breeding for the third year running.

#### Scotland, N & W

HIGHLAND Two localities: (1) pair bred; (2) adult in suitable habitat.

#### 2001

Six localities: 2-6 pairs breeding. Although found at fewer localities than in 2000, breeding was confirmed for the second year running. During the past ten years, the number of confirmed pairs has varied between none and two (mean 1.0), and the maximum total of pairs between none and ten (mean 5.4).

#### England, E

One locality: pair displaying in early May.

#### England, N

Two localities: (1) pair bred, feeding unknown number of young; (2) agitated pair present in late June.

#### Scotland, S

Two localities: (1) pair in suitable habitat in mid June, but no evidence of breeding; (2) flock of five on 21st July, potential family party.

#### Scotland, Mid

One locality: pair bred, adult carrying food.

#### 2000

Ten localities: 2-10 pairs breeding.

#### England, SE

Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging one young; (2) single in early May and early June.

#### England, E

One locality: one with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus*, 28th June.

#### England, Central

One locality: singing male on 25th May.

#### England, N

Two localities: (1) pair bred, fledging four young; (2) single in suitable habitat, mid May.

#### Scotland, S

Two localities: (1)(2) pairs in suitable habitat in late May, but no evidence of breeding.

#### Scotland, Mid

Two localities: (1)(2) pairs in suitable habitat in early May, but no evidence of breeding.

A remarkable resurgence, including two confirmed breeding records, to follow the completely blank year in 1999, which was the first such year since the Panel began collecting records in 1973.

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
<b>No. localities</b>	12	13	7	5	5	6	6	2	4	0	10
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	5	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Possible/probable (pairs)</b>	7	11	8	3	5	5	5	2	4	0	8
<b>Max. total pairs</b>	12	13	10	5	5	6	6	2	4	0	10

#### 1998

Four localities: 0-4 pairs breeding.

#### England, N

One locality: single in early July.

#### Scotland, N & W

Three localities: (1) singing male in early May; (2)(3) singles in suitable habitat in mid May.

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
No. localities	7	12	12	13	7	5	5	6	6	2	4
Confirmed (pairs)	2	3	5	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Possible/probable (pairs)	5	10	7	11	8	3	5	5	5	2	4
Max. total pairs	7	13	12	13	11	5	5	6	6	2	4

Slightly better than last year, but still very poor compared with just a few years ago.

#### 1997

Two localities: 0-2 pairs breeding.

#### Scotland, S

One locality: single in late July with post-breeding Mistle Thrush *T. viscivorus* flock.

#### Scotland, N & W

One locality: single in suitable habitat in May.



No. localities	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7	5
Confirmed (pairs)	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2	2
Possible (pairs)	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8	3
Max. total pairs	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	11	5

The poorest year since 1986. Are we at the bottom of some kind of cycle, as in the mid 1980s? Certainly the scattered sightings in northern and eastern England have virtually ceased in the last two years, leaving just the hard core of breeding pairs in Scotland. Coverage for this species remains difficult, however, especially in the remoter parts of Scotland, and this may well be contributing to some of the fluctuations.

## 1992

Seven localities: 2-10 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality.

ESSEX One locality: one with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* for two weeks in June, the third such sighting in this part of the county in the last five years.

**England, N** Two localities.

TYNE & WEAR One locality: pair on 10th July.

YORKSHIRE One locality: adult on 6th July.

**Scotland, S** Two localities.

BORDERS Two localities: (1) one alarming on 10th May, but not seen later; (2) adult on 6th June, about 3 km from a sighting of one in June 1990.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities.

CAITHNESS One locality: three juveniles seen, but could have been early migrants.

SHETLAND One locality: two pairs nested within a few metres of each other, laying clutches of 6 and 5 and rearing broods of 5 and 2, respectively.

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>No. localities</b>	7	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13	7
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	2	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2	2
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	5	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11	8
<b>Max. total pairs</b>	7	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13	10

A poorer year, with fewer sightings than in recent years in England (three, compared with nine in 1991), and just the two proved cases of breeding, at the one site.

## 1991

13 localities: 2-13 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** Two localities.

ESSEX One locality: one with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* in early June, the second such sighting there in the last four years.

KENT One locality: adult feeding recently fledged young on 30th May.

**England, E** One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: single on 9th June.

**England, Central** Four localities.

DERBYSHIRE Four localities: (1) pair in May, giving alarm calls; (2)-(4) singles in June.

**England, N** Two localities.

CUMBRIA One locality: pair, including singing male, in May, but breeding not proved.

DURHAM One locality: adult seen several times between 25th May and 6th July.

**Scotland, S** Two localities.

BORDERS Two localities: (1)(2) singles 'alarming' in late April, but not seen subsequently.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality.

GRAMPIAN One locality: pair with two juveniles on 19th June.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality.

CAITHNESS One locality; four, possibly a family party, flew over on 8th July.

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
<b>No. localities</b>	6	7	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12	13
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	0	2	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5	2
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	6	5	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7	11
<b>Max. total pairs</b>	6	7	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12	13

Although only two pairs were proved to be breeding, the number of localities and number of possible pairs maintain the slightly higher levels of recent years. The wide geographic spread should be noted, including the second case in the last four years of confirmed breeding in southern England, the previous occasion being in Berkshire in 1988. Clearly, nowhere is impossible, while the continued reports of association with Mistle Thrushes are also worth bearing in mind.

## 1990

12 localities: 5-12 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE One locality: one on 12th June 'schaking' and reluctant to leave the area.

**England, N** Four localities.

NORTHUMBERLAND Three localities: (1) one on 9th June; (2) one collecting food, presumably for nestlings or fledglings, on 9th June; (3) one in May and June, followed by four young on 16th July.

YORKSHIRE One locality: five eggs laid from which three young reared.

**Wales** One locality: one giving alarm calls on one date in early July.

**Scotland, S** Two localities.

BORDERS Two localities: (1) one on 14th June; (2) one singing on 15th May.

**Scotland, Mid** Two localities.

GRAMPIAN Two localities: (1) pair in suitable habitat throughout the season; (2) pair with young.

**Scotland, N & W** Two localities.

CAITHNESS One locality: two displaying on 4th April.

SUTHERLAND One locality: brood of five on 29th June, of which four were ringed.

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
<b>No. localities</b>	5	6	7	10	4	3	2	7	7	12	12
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	1	2	3	5
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	4	6	5	9	4	3	0	6	5	10	7
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	5	6	7	12	4	3	2	7	7	13	12

With five pairs proved breeding, this was the best year yet for Fieldfares in the UK, the previous highest total being four in 1977. With over 700 pairs of this migrant species breeding as close to southern England as the Netherlands (*Brit. Birds* 84: 233), increases and range expansion throughout much of Europe over recent decades and almost continuous presence here as a breeding bird since the first (in Orkney) as long ago as 1967 (*Scot. Birds* 5: 31-32), establishment is tantalisingly slow and cannot yet be regarded as firm. *JTRS*

## 1989

12 localities: 3-13 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality.

BERKSHIRE One locality: adult from 24th July to 11th August, four on 14th August and eight on 17th August.

KENT One locality: single on 11th June.

**England, E** One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: one, feeding with Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus*, on 20th June.

**England, Central** Three localities.

DERBYSHIRE Three localities: (1) one, carrying food, on 28th and 30th May; (2) one on 1st June; (3) one with bad leg, hopping impaired, date(s) not reported.

**England, N** One locality.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: one collecting food on 20th June.

**Isle of Man** One locality: one, very agitated, on 19th April, and flock of about nine on 5th August, several of which were judged to be juveniles.

**Scotland, S** Two localities.

BORDERS Two localities: (1) one in full song on 17th May, but not seen thereafter; (2) one on 14th May, and alarm-calling nearby on 5th June, but no other indications of possible breeding.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality.

FIFE One locality: single, in suitable habitat for breeding, on dates between 7th June and 14th July.

**Scotland, N & W** Three localities.

BANFFSHIRE One locality: one carrying food into a dense plantation of Sitka spruce *Picea silchensis*, and alarm-calling on 25th June.

INVERNESS-SHIRE Two localities: (1) two in late June; (2) territorial adult in late April and May.

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989
<b>No. localities</b>	6	5	6	7	10	4	3	2	7	7	12
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	1	2	3
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	5	4	6	5	9	4	3	0	6	5	10
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	6	5	6	7	12	4	3	2	7	7	13

The best year recorded in the Panel's files, although four pairs were confirmed breeding in 1977. Berkshire might not be the first county to come to mind as a likely breeding area, yet in 1988 there was a report of a party of four fledged young there. The Panel's reports for 1982 and 1984 gave cases of Fieldfares associating with Mistle Thrushes. The assessment of this species' status is complicated by the presence of late winterers/late migrants in May and the occurrence in Britain, as early as July in some years, of juveniles reared on the Continent.

## 1988

Seven localities: 2-7 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality.

BERKSHIRE One locality: four fledged young moving as a family group on 25th June.

**England, E** One locality.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE One locality: one on several dates in mid June in potentially suitable habitat, not heard to sing.

**England, N** Two localities.

CUMBRIA One locality: adult in suitable breeding habitat on 10th May, two adults seen for about a week from 2nd July, much agitated and using alarm calls.

NORTHUMBERLAND One locality: pair on 30th July escorting three newly fledged young.

**Scotland, S** Three localities.

BORDERS Three localities: (1) one singing and driving off other thrushes *Turdus* on 30th April, but not located during the next 2-3 weeks; (2) one present on 15th May, but not seen subsequently; (3) one present and singing from 5th to 15th May, but not found thereafter. The recorder adds: 'all could have vanished in vastly underwatched suitable areas'.

	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
<b>No. localities</b>	3	6	5	6	7	10	4	3	2	7	7
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	1	2
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	3	5	4	6	5	9	4	3	0	6	5
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	4	6	5	6	7	12	4	3	2	7	7

Currently, there are few signs of the species establishing itself in an area as, for several years, it did in the Peak District. One might hazard a guess that, if there is a present centre of gravity, it lies somewhere in the border lands between England and Scotland. Note the comment by the recorder for the Borders Region.

## 1987

Seven localities: 1-7 pairs breeding.

**England, E** One locality.

SUFFOLK One locality: one trapped at a coastal site on 28th June.

**England, N** One locality.

LANCASHIRE One singing in fell country on 11th June.

**Scotland, S** Three localities.

BORDERS Three localities: (1) one giving anxiety calls on 26th April; (2) two giving anxiety calls from 25th to 28th April; (3) one calling persistently from 22nd to 31st May and one nearby from 7th to 10th June.

**Scotland, Mid** One locality.

LOTHIAN One locality: single during 12th-17th July.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality.

INVERNESS-SHIRE One locality: pair laid two clutches, but both infertile.

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
<b>No. localities</b>	6	3	6	5	6	7	10	4	3	2	7
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	4	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	2	1
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	2	3	5	4	6	5	9	4	3	0	6
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	6	4	6	5	6	7	12	4	3	2	7

The summer occurrences were rather more widespread than for several years, but hardly constitute evidence that the process of colonisation has resumed.

## 1986

Two localities: two pairs breeding.

**England, N** One locality.

CUMBRIA One locality: adult with three juveniles, on 4th August and 3rd September.

**Scotland, N & W** One locality.

INVERNESS-SHIRE One locality: pair laid two clutches of five eggs, fledging one from the first and five from the second.

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986
<b>No. localities</b>	11	6	3	6	5	6	7	10	4	2	2
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	3	4	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	0	2
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	9	2	3	5	4	6	5	9	4	2	0
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	12	6	4	6	5	6	7	12	4	2	2

The summertime appearance of the species is now very erratic, with no area being occupied in successive summers as they were a few years ago.

## 1985

Three localities: 1-3 pairs breeding.

**England, SE** One locality.

KENT One locality: one on 14th and 23rd June.

**England, Central** One locality.



STAFFORDSHIRE One locality: one pair bred.

**Scotland, S** One locality.

BORDERS One locality: one fledged juvenile seen on 3rd June; down still showing on rump, flight weak, and movements 'unco-ordinated'. The recorder considers breeding in the locality to be still not proven, but adds that it was suspected in the general area in both 1983 and 1984.

	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
<b>No. localities</b>	10	11	6	3	6	5	6	7	10	4	3
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	2	3	4	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	1
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	8	9	2	3	5	4	6	5	9	4	2
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	10	12	6	4	6	5	6	7	12	4	3

If not hatched in the vicinity of where it was found, the Borders bird must surely have been reared in Britain. Even so, from the low 1985 figures, one must conclude that the Fieldfare has lost something of its momentum in the colonisation of Britain.

### 1985 (from 1988 report)

**England, N** One locality: eight on 8th May.

### 1984

Three localities: 0-3 pairs breeding.

**England, N** Two localities.

GREATER MANCHESTER One locality: pair, considered to have attempted breeding, but unsuccessfully.

NORTH YORKSHIRE One locality: single calling from a tree-top on 30th June.

**Scotland, N** One locality.

SUTHERLAND One locality: two seen carrying food on 3rd July.

	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
<b>No. localities</b>	8	10	11	6	3	6	5	6	7	10	3
<b>Confirmed (pairs)</b>	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	0	2	3	0
<b>Possible (pairs)</b>	4	8	9	2	3	5	4	6	5	9	3
<b>Max. total (pairs)</b>	7	10	12	6	4	6	5	6	7	12	3

This was the poorest year for breeding Fieldfares since 1973, but, because 1983 was a relatively good year for the species, it would be premature to attempt any conclusions.

### 1984 (from 1985 report)

1984 BORDERS One locality: pair showing signs of maintaining territory, and agitated when seen on 29th and 30th April, but not located subsequently.

1984 POWYS One locality: female giving alarm call in suitable breeding area on 12th June, but not seen subsequently.

### 1983

Nine sites: 3-11 pairs breeding.

**England, N** One site.

YORKSHIRE, WEST One site: adult and two juveniles feeding with small flock of Mistle Thrushes *Turdus viscivorus* on 12th August, adult and at least two juveniles on 14th August, two juveniles

feeding with Mistle Thrushes on 20th August.

**Scotland, S** Two sites.

EAST Lothian Two sites: (1) agitated adult on 22nd April; (2) moulting adult in Mistle Thrush flock on 27th July about 4Vs km from site 1.

**Scotland, Mid** Three sites.

PERTSHIRE Three sites: (1) single on 2nd June; (2) flock of 15 on 12th August; (3) flock of five on 26th August.

**Scotland, N & W** Four sites.

SUTHERLAND (1) single singing on 29th May; (2) pair carrying food on 2nd June.

SHETLAND (1) pair reared two young; (2) two individuals holding territory.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
Sites	3	8	10	11	6	3	6	5	6	7	9
Pairs proved breeding	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	0	2	3
Pairs possibly breeding	3	7	10	12	6	4	6	5	6	7	11

The association with Mistle Thrushes, reported from two counties, is interesting and may be worth following up in future seasons.

### 1983 (from 1984 report)

**Wales** One locality.

WEST GLAMORGAN One locality: two, one in partial moult, in association with Mistle Thrushes *Turdus viscivorus*. (For association with Mistle Thrushes see the Panel's report for 1983.)

### 1982

Seven sites: 2-7 pairs breeding.

**Cumbria** One site: single on 3rd May.

**Inverness-shire** Two sites: (1) pair feeding four young about five days old on 12th July; (2) two adults on 22nd July, but no suggestion of breeding.

**Shetland** One site: pair with five eggs on 8th July, failed.

**Sutherland** Two sites: (1) agitated adult on 6th May; (2) adult on 20th July.

**Yorkshire, West** One site: adult feeding with flock of Mistle Thrushes *T. viscivorus* on 15th July, one adult and five juveniles feeding with Mistle Thrushes on 16th July.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
<b>Sites</b>	3	8	10	11	6	3	6	5	6	7
<b>Pairs proved breeding</b>	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	0	2
<b>Pairs possibly breeding</b>	3	7	10	12	6	4	6	5	6	7

Whilst breeding remains sporadic, the species cannot yet be thought of as well-established as a British breeding bird.

## 1981

Six sites: 0-6 pairs breeding.

**Borders** One site: territorial pair throughout May and into mid June.

**Cumbria** One site: male on 30th May.

**Grampian** One site: pair on 17th May, one on 24th May.

**Perthshire** Two sites: (1) two or more on 19th July; (2) singly on 27th May and 8th June.

**Sutherland** One site: pair during 3rd-16th May.

Rather than the expected consolidation and expansion, colonisation seems to be petering out.

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
<b>Sites</b>	3	8	10	11	6	3	6	5	6
<b>Pairs proved breeding</b>	2	3	2	3	4	1	1	1	0
<b>Pairs possibly breeding</b>	3	7	10	12	6	4	6	5	6

## 1980

Four sites: probably four late/early migrants.

**Cumbria** One site: male singing on 6th May.

**Lincolnshire/south Humberside** One site: single on 7th June.

**County A** Two sites: (1) single on 17th May; (2) single on 8th July.

The colonisation of Britain by this fine thrush seems to be flagging:

	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
<b>Sites</b>	3	8	9	11	6	2	6	4
<b>Pairs proved breeding</b>	2	3	1	3	4	0	1	0
<b>Pairs possibly breeding</b>	3	7	9	12	6	2	6	4

## 1980 (from 1981 report)

**Yorkshire, South** One site: nest containing about five young almost ready to fly on 7th June.

## 1979

Five sites: one to five pairs breeding.

**Bedfordshire** One site: agitated adult reluctant to leave area (close to 1976 site) on 21st and 28th April.

**East Sussex** One site: apparent Fieldfare described by member of public and nest, examined by Rarities Committee, similar to that of Redwing *T. iliacus* but too large, sent to Dr C. J. O. Harrison for expert examination, but lost in post; regarded as 'possible breeding'.

**Grampian** One site: single on one date.

**Perthshire** One site: two adults with three fledged young from 13th-18th June.

**Suffolk** One site: single from 2nd May to 6th July.

Below the 1973-78 average of 2-5.5 pairs breeding.

## 1979 (from 1980 report)

**Surrey** One site: three (one suspected juvenile) on 8th July.

## 1978

Two sites: no proof of breeding.

**Kent** One site: adult on 14th August and immature on 14th September.

**Stafford** 'No evidence of breeding in the usual area.'

**Suffolk** One site: one during June.

The two-pronged colonisation of the UK, from Scandinavia and from the Low Countries, came to an unexpected halt in 1978. Totals of pairs breeding during 1973-78 have been: 2-3, 3-6, 1-7, 3-9, 4-6 and, now, 0-2.

## 1978 (from 1981 report)

**Derbyshire.** One site: pair carrying food in summer, perhaps a second pair present.

## 1977

Six sites: 4-6 pairs breeding.

**Bedford** One site: one at end of May appeared agitated.

**Cumbria** Two sites: (1) (2) single adults carrying food suggests young being reared at both.

**Grampian** Two sites: (1) one fledged young on 7th July; (2) adult singing on 8th July.

**Stafford** One site: 'one pair nested', but fuller details not reported.

The sporadic, rather scattered, breeding and attempted breeding of this recent coloniser is obviously continuing.

## 1976

Eight sites: two pairs confirmed breeding, six other instances of summering individuals.

**Bedford** One site: one adult on four dates in May-June, once carrying food.

**Essex** Two sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one on 23rd June; (2) one on three dates from 7th June to 8th August.

**Grampian** One site: one adult mobbed observers on three dates in May, two adults and three young on 3rd July.

**Inverness** One site: pair on 2nd July behaved as if breeding, but no nest found.

**Lincoln/south Humberside** One site: one or two present throughout summer, but no further evidence of breeding.

**Midlothian** One site: one adult on 8th and 11th July.

**Stafford** One site: 'one nesting pair located'

Although breeding has been proved annually since the first nest in 1967, we still hear of only 1-3 instances each year; during 1973-76 the totals of breeding pairs have been 2-3, 3-6, 1-7 and, now, 2-8. Most records in the last ten years have been in Scotland or the northern half of England, doubtless Scandinavian migrants staying into summer, but the Fieldfare is pushing westwards in the Low Countries and it must be only a matter of time before southern England is colonised independently

## 1976 (from 1977 report)

**South Yorkshire** One site: adult incubating on 28th April, but breeding not successful, perhaps due to predation by Carrion Crows *Corvus corone*.

The revised 1976 total is now three to nine pairs breeding.

## 1976 (from 1980 report)

**Kent** Two sites: (1) two to five during 27th-31st July; (2) single on 29th July.

## 1975

Reported from six sites in two counties, but only one pair proved breeding.

**Grampian** Four sites, but no evidence of breeding: (1) one bird scolding observer on 29th June, but not found later; (2) (3) (4) single birds on 21st June and 1st and 3rd July.

**Staffordshire** Two sites, with breeding proved at one: (1) one pair nested little more than a metre from the 1974 site, but no details of success; (2) one pair probably bred, as in 1974.

After the first nest in Orkney in 1967, the *Atlas* recorded confirmed breeding in 15 squares and probable in three, although not more than half a dozen pairs were found nesting in any year. The above records are fewer than in 1974 and again it seems likely that some have not been reported to us, though without the intensive *Atlas* fieldwork in Scotland it may well be that a higher proportion is being overlooked.

## 1975 (from 1976 report)

**Lincoln/south Humberside** One site: two on 6th June, one remaining until 22nd.

This record raises the 1975 total to 1-7 pairs breeding

## 1975 (from 1980 report)

**Lancashire** Two sites: (1)(2) singles, on 26th May and 29th June.

## 1975 (from 1981 report)

**Derbyshire** One site: pair with four recently fledged young on 28th-29th June.

## 1974

Seven or eight sites: three pairs certainly bred and three more probably did so.

**Derby:** one pair present in June; probable used nest found later.

**Midlothian:** at one site, a male singing on 13th June and seen again on 15th June; one giving alarm calls 3 km away on 17th June.

**Orkney:** one pair feeding two young in mid-June.

**Ross:** one pair feeding at least one fledgling on 11th July.

**Stafford:** two sites. One pair reared four young; second pair probably bred.

**Shetland:** scolding birds at usual site on 9th June, but breeding not proved. After the first British breeding record in Orkney in 1967, this species has increased in numbers annually. We suspect that other records were not reported to us.

### **1974 (from 1980 report)**

**Kent** One site: one or two daily throughout June.

### **1973**

Three sites: two pairs proved breeding.

**Aberdeen:** one bird on 25th June.

**Kincardine:** young bird unable to fly properly but no adults seen.

**Shetland:** one pair nested but success not known.

Palaearctic (northern two-thirds of Europe from Switzerland, Germany and Fenno-Scandia east across much of Asia). First bred Orkney 1967 and Shetland 1968, since when the published records show few pairs each year in north-east Scotland and once in northeast England. This is another Scandinavian species which has recently colonised Scotland; it has also been extending its range in central Europe and colonised Denmark as recently as 1960.