

Recording areas of Great Britain

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Migrating Turnstones *Arenaria interpres* and a Dunlin *Calidris alpina* crossing an inland county boundary Alan Harris

It has recently become apparent that there are some confusions and anomalies in the way that national journals and organisations are reporting records received from County Recorders or taken from published sources. Examples of the problem can be seen in a recent *Ibis* paper on the British List (Dudley *et al.* 2006). We have, therefore, attempted to produce a definitive list of Recording Areas which will be acceptable to national and local authorities and which can be generally recognised. It is our intention to describe current practice, not to suggest corrections or improvements, except in some details of presentation.

The list incorporates all Recording Areas and relates them to old and new County, Regional and Unitary Authority boundaries, and (except in Scotland) to Watsonian Vice-counties. It is important that any code of practice should derive from County and Local Recorders themselves, and not be imposed upon them. In our view, a lesson can be learnt here from the recent attempt to establish vernacular names that would be internationally acceptable; these have been only partly adopted, and some have already been abandoned. Local patriotism is always stronger than bureaucrats assume, and we have to recognise that some areas may for years continue to be claimed by both new and original 'owners', whatever centralisers may propose.

The main problems are in the London area, around the borders of Yorkshire, and in North and South Wales. Others arise from the use of the titles of Metropolitan Counties, Scottish Regions and Districts, and other (often ephemeral) creations, of which some actively survive in ornithology (e.g. Avon, Greater Manchester), while others have never been used for recording or have not been universally accepted (e.g. Tyne & Wear, North and South Humberside, Strathclyde).

The system of Watsonian Vice-counties, invented in 1852 for botanists and still widely used outside ornithology, is of importance in Wales (where it closely but not absolutely corresponds with the pre-1974 county boundaries), and also in Surrey, Suffolk and Yorkshire. In the last two it gains support because county reports have been produced by sections of general natural history societies. Vice-counties have the great drawback that their boundaries are not marked on Ordnance Survey maps where they differ from those currently determined by Government. Although in general they approximate to the pre-1974 borders, familiar to older observers, there were many minor changes between 1852 and 1974, especially in the 1890s, following the introduction of County Councils, and in the early twentieth century, when cities such as Sheffield, Bristol and Manchester were expanding into neighbouring counties. The

ornithological interest of an area can affect decisions on who is entitled to record it: the most famously disputed site is the south side of Breydon Water, which until 1889 was clearly in Suffolk, and whose recorders still retain it. In Wales, some claims have recently been made to small areas where the shift of a border had passed unnoticed for more than a century.

Vice-counties have had no real effect on Scottish recording. Here, most local reports did not start until after 1974 and it was natural to look back to the system of Faunal Areas master-minded by Harvie-Brown before 1914. These were determined by geographical features, especially river basins, and their influence can be seen in the naming of central Scottish recording areas; part of the Clyde/Upper Forth border is a rare example of such a boundary not coinciding with any past or current political line. The controlling influence has been that of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC), founded in 1936, which produces an excellent map to define areas (www.the-soc.org.uk).

Occasions will arise when reference has to be made to pre-1974 records which were originally for counties that once had other names or boundaries than those of today. It is suggested that the standard form for this might be (for example): 'Chew Valley Lake (Avon; then [or 'formerly'] Somerset)'. Or (perhaps in a more strictly historical context): 'Chew Valley Lake (Somerset; now Avon)'.

There are some problems in marine recording. Obviously, birds visible with a telescope from the coast of a county can be safely claimed, at least up to the mid-line of a strait or estuary that marks the border with a neighbour. In England, Wales and the Isle of Man, there is no general policy on the inclusion within county or area frontiers of offshore records beyond these limits. Many such records used to come from manned lighthouses and lightvessels; the former, because they are built on rocks, can always be assigned to a Recording Area, but the latter may present problems. They remain of some historical importance, especially for records published by the British Association (1879–89, etc.) and by Eagle Clarke (1912). The SOC map defines the allocation of remote islands, including all lighthouses, and the division of seas crossed by regular ferries; it also establishes an offshore limit of three nautical miles (5.5 km) for those stretches of north and east Scotland where there are no complications

from ferry routes, islands or lighthouses. From the Humber to the English Channel, the situation is more complicated, largely because of offshore sandbanks, many of which used to be marked by manned lightvessels. Following automation, some of these have been replaced by floats or buoys, though a few survive and may be visible from the coast in good conditions, even if they are now visited only by service vessels. The writers of local avifaunas for coastal counties from Lincolnshire to Kent have often thought that they should mention records from such sites, which once included important rarities, but they have sometimes hesitated to accept them for a county list. It can be hard to find the exact position of marine sites, since land-based cartographers generally include as little sea as they can get away with; we suggest referring to the annual *Admiralty List of Lights and Fog Signals* (UK Hydrographic Office). Oil and gas platforms proliferate, especially in the North Sea; some that are permanently manned are regularly reported on by the North Sea Bird Club, which also covers records from service vessels. A few estuarine forts and other structures may attract breeding gulls (*Laridae*) and must therefore be assigned to Recording Areas.

Estuaries can raise local difficulties, such as those in the Tamar Complex (Devon and Cornwall). Boundaries are seldom mapped beyond the mouths of rivers, and some are unclear further upstream: the Lancashire & North Merseyside/Cheshire & Wirral border along the Mersey is marked as 'undetermined'. In the list below, the boundary should be assumed to be the midway line unless otherwise specified.

In the English Channel and the Irish Sea, the national boundaries are also normally assumed to be the midway line, but it is not clear whether such counties as the Isle of Wight, Devon or Lancashire & North Merseyside would actually claim records as far out as this, or how the Isle of Man fits into the system. The Isles of Scilly Bird Group has recently defined its own pelagic limits in the form of a rectangle around the islands. Many sightings from ferries must go unrecorded, for want of knowing who would deal with them, but they can be sent to the Editor of *Sea Swallow*, the journal of the Royal Naval Birdwatching Society. Beyond the limit of any possible county attributions, records within British waters should be assigned to the appropriate Sea Area.

Reservoirs have often been created from

rivers that form county boundaries. Sometimes the boundary has been diverted so as to place the water wholly within one county, but more often no change has been made, leaving an invisible submarine frontier, as in King George's Reservoir (Greater London/Essex). Local arrangements have sometimes been made for the recording of such sites.

Institutions such as the BTO are naturally eager to be given map references, which can be plotted on a computerised database, yet they must still be able to classify all entries by an agreed system of Recording Areas. Very few local observers use map references when submitting records, except perhaps for exact locations of breeding birds.

In order to compile a definitive list, we have consulted all current County Recorders and those national organisations that are most closely concerned with local recording. We received many replies, and corrections to a first draft. There are probably still confusions, and we should appreciate any suggestions, improvements or corrections.

List of recording areas

The order is that of the Vice-counties (VC), except for Scotland. There is no intention of emphasising their importance or of suggesting their general adoption, but they provide a convenient pattern and points of historical reference. In the Vice-county system, counties could be subdivided or merged; detachments (of which there were still many in 1852) were included with the surrounding county.

Very small differences between old and new borders are usually given only where an area is of some importance. The many minor adjustments and exchanges of parishes (especially in the West Midland Bird Club area and in Gloucestershire) are another argument against

the use of Vice-counties; for example, there were about 35 such adjustments to Worcestershire between 1895 and 1995, many of which have been long forgotten by its inhabitants.

The name in bold type is the **Recording Area**. This is then defined in relation to current or past administrative boundaries; all Unitary Authorities (UA) now functioning are mentioned, though hardly any of the wholly new ones have ornithological recognition. Some explanatory comment may be added, including a definition of any **Areas of Double Recording (ADR)**: that is, areas of any importance which are at present claimed by more than one county or area and regularly included in their reports. The question of whether there is any exchange of records has not been touched on. We suggest that when records from these are published in national literature, both areas might be given, the original county being placed first. Thus: 'Breydon Wall (Suffolk/Norfolk); Chingford (Essex/Greater London)'.

'Problem Areas' are places along the borders where records may be hard to assign definitely to either side. Their mention does not necessarily imply contentious claims; there are often local arrangements to assign, or duplicate, records. These may also concern river boundaries, which are far too common to mention individually. For coastal counties, there may be some detailed comment, including Sea Areas (SA) and lightvessels (LV).

The entry finishes with the titles of the main annual reports covering the whole Area, including the organisations responsible for their production and the dates of commencement in something like the present form. Current local reports are then listed; further details of these can be found in Ballance (2004, 2006). The many reports by ringing groups are included only if they regularly print a full species list.

England

1. Cornwall

VCS 1, 2; SA Plymouth, Lundy. Present county, but since 1969 excluding Isles of Scilly.

Problem areas: Tamar Estuary: that below the Tamar and Saltash Bridges is generally considered as Cornwall, but above these is an ADR (with Devon). Tamar Lakes are generally considered as Devon, though the west banks are in Cornwall.

Report: *Birds in Cornwall* (Cornwall Bird-watching & Preservation Society); 1931–.

Local Report: *Caradon Wildlife*

2. Isles of Scilly

VC 1; SA Sole, Fastnet and Plymouth.

Offshore and pelagic areas: Scilly lies in NE corner of SA Sole; SA Fastnet begins immediately to NW and SA Plymouth immediately to east, boundary being 06°15'W line of longitude. Pelagic area has recently been extended as follows: 50°15'N to 49°35'N, 05°50'W to 06°50'W.

Report: *Isles of Scilly Bird & Natural History*

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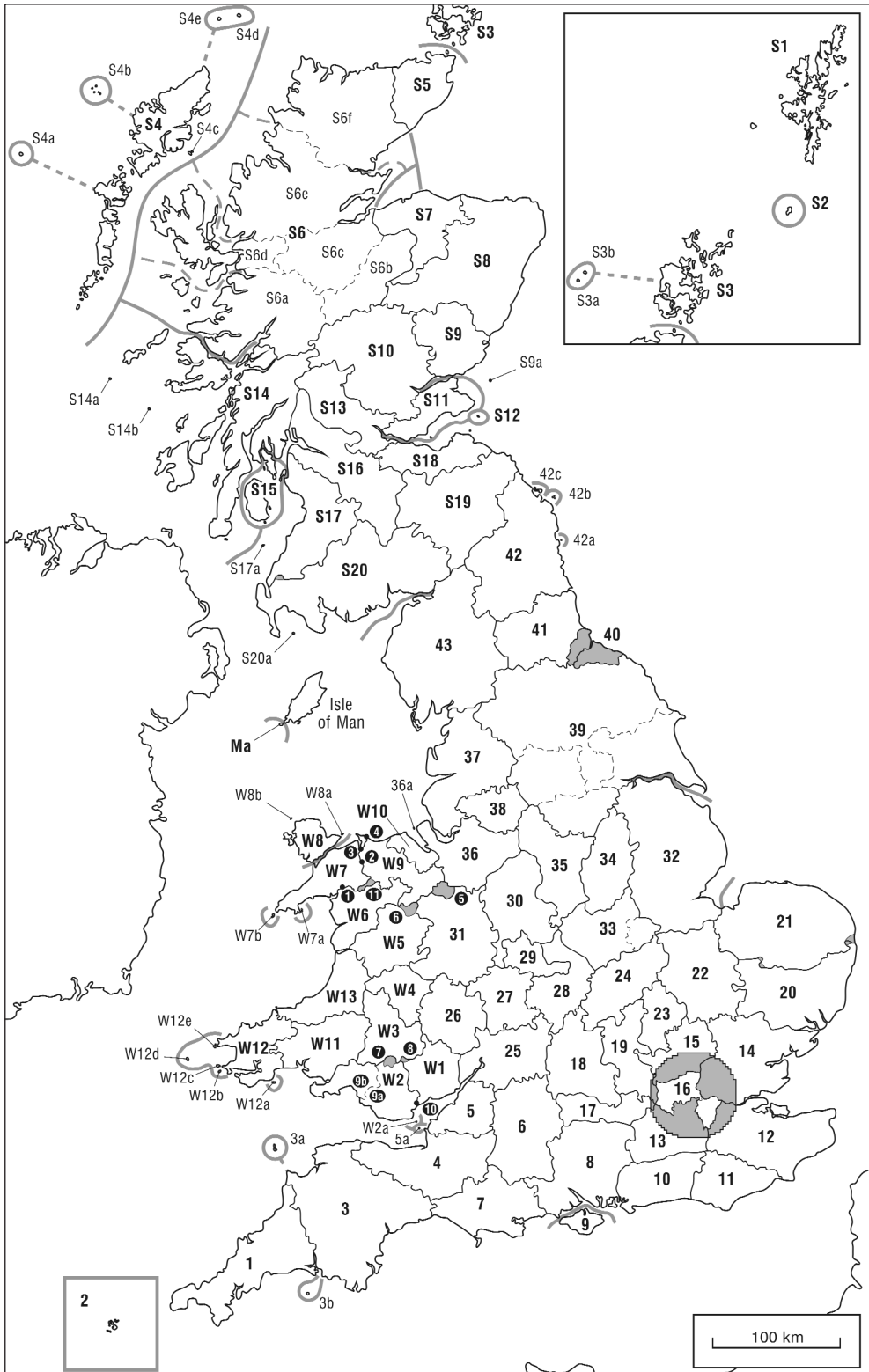


Fig. 1. Recording areas of Great Britain.

Review (Isles of Scilly Bird Group); 1969–.

3. Devon

VCs 3 (South Devon) and 4 (North Devon). Present county, including Lundy (3a) and the Eddystone (3b, for which see above under Cornwall), and incorporating UAs of Plymouth and Torbay.

Offshore and pelagic areas: those on south coast are in SA Portland east of Start Point and in SA Plymouth west of there; north-coast waters are in SA Lundy, and records from Bideford Bay, out to Lundy, are assumed to be for Devon; few come from centre of Bristol Channel, but Devon waters are deemed to extend to mid-line between north coast and Glamorgan.

Problem Areas: Tamar Valley (see Cornwall).

Report: *Devon Bird Report* (Devon Bird Watching & Preservation Society); 1929–.

Local Reports: Lundy, Dartmoor, Axe Estuary & Seaton, Exmoor (part).

4. Somerset

VC 5 (South Somerset) and part of 6 (North Somerset). Post-1974 county, excluding UAs of North Somerset (with Steep Holm) and Bath & NE Somerset, for which see Avon.

Offshore and pelagic areas: Somerset waters are deemed to extend to mid-line of Bristol Channel.

Problem Areas: Axe Estuary (with Avon).

Report: *Somerset Birds* (Somerset Ornithological Society); 1912–; in present form from 1924–.

Local Reports: Exmoor (part), Burnham-on-Sea.

5. Avon

Parts of VCs 6 (North Somerset) and 34 (South Gloucestershire). 1974–95 county, consisting of UAs of North Somerset (including Steep Holm (5a)), Bath & NE Somerset, Bristol, and South Gloucestershire.

Offshore areas: strictly, boundary of the City and County of Bristol projects into Bristol Channel so as to enclose shipping channel for Avonmouth/Portbury, and extends to Steep Holm on south and to SE point of Flat Holm on north; in practice, birds visible from Steep Holm are included in Avon, as are those seen moving from Flat Holm (in Glamorgan) towards Steep Holm. Further up-Channel, Denny Island is in Gwent, and Avon/Gwent border follows mid-line of Severn.

Problem Areas: Axe Estuary (with Somerset).

Report: *Avon Bird Report* (Avon Ornithological Group); 1974–.

Local Reports: North Somerset Levels, Bath, Steep Holm.

6. Wiltshire

VCs 7 (North Wiltshire) and 8 (South Wiltshire). Present county, incorporating UA of Swindon. For note on changes, see Gloucestershire.

Problem Areas: Cotswold Water Park West (with Gloucestershire).

Report: *Hobby* (Wiltshire Ornithological Society); in present form from 1974–.

Local Report: Bath (small part).

7. Dorset

VC 9, with SW corner of 11 (South Hampshire). Post-1974 county, incorporating UAs of Bournemouth and Poole.

Offshore and pelagic areas: in SA Wight from Christchurch west to St Aldhelm's Head; further west, in SA Portland.

Problem Areas: for older records only, former Hampshire areas.

Report: *Dorset Bird Report* (Dorset Bird Club); in present form from 1977–.

Local Reports: Christchurch Harbour, Portland Bird Observatory.

8. Hampshire

Most of VC 11 (South Hampshire) and all of 12 (North Hampshire). Post-1974 county, thus excluding Christchurch and Bournemouth areas (now with Dorset) and incorporating UAs of Southampton and Portsmouth.

Offshore and pelagic areas: east and west of Isle of Wight, all in SA Wight; boundary with Isle of Wight runs along mid-line of Solent/Spithead; of three forts in Spithead, Spitsand and Horse Sand belong to Hampshire, No Man's Land to Isle of Wight.

Problem Areas: see under Dorset.

Report: *The Hampshire Bird Report* (Hampshire Ornithological Society); 1958–.

Isle of Wight separately recorded since 1977.

Local Reports: Southampton, Lakeside Country Park, Moor Green Lakes (part).

9. Isle of Wight

VC 10. Present county. Separately recorded since 1977; the three earlier avifaunas included it with Hampshire.

Offshore and pelagic areas: to south, all in SA Wight; for Solent/Spithead, see above under Hampshire.

Report: *The Isle of Wight Bird Report* (Isle of Wight Natural History & Archaeological Society and Isle of Wight Ornithological Group); 1953–. Local Report: Newtown NNR.

10/11. Sussex

West Sussex, VC 13 and a fragment of 17 (Surrey) and East Sussex (VC 14). Generally recorded as one unit (Sussex) and always within same report. The two political divisions, introduced in 1865, have sometimes been treated separately, but that is not current practice; they do not exactly correspond with the VCs. Present counties, incorporating UA of Brighton & Hove. West Sussex includes Gatwick Airport, mostly from Surrey and an Area of Double Recording.

Offshore and pelagic areas: from Kentish border to Beachy Head in SA Dover; further west, in SA Wight (including Greenwich LV).

Report: *Sussex Bird Report* (Sussex Ornithological Society); 1948–.

Local Reports: Shoreham, Pagham Harbour LNR, Hastings & East Sussex.

12. Kent

VC 15 (East Kent) and most of 16 (West Kent). Post-1965 county, excluding areas taken into London in 1889 and into Greater London in 1965 (see London); incorporating UA of Medway. The parts of present county within 20-mile circle of Greater London are an Area of Double Recording from the Thames at Northfleet SW to Sevenoaks and Westerham.

Offshore and pelagic areas: from mouth of Thames to North Foreland, in SA Thames; west from there in SA Dover. For practical purposes, boundary extends in the Straits of Dover to the national boundary in mid Channel, including sandbanks and Varne and East Goodwin LVs; the Kentish Knock LV* may be better included

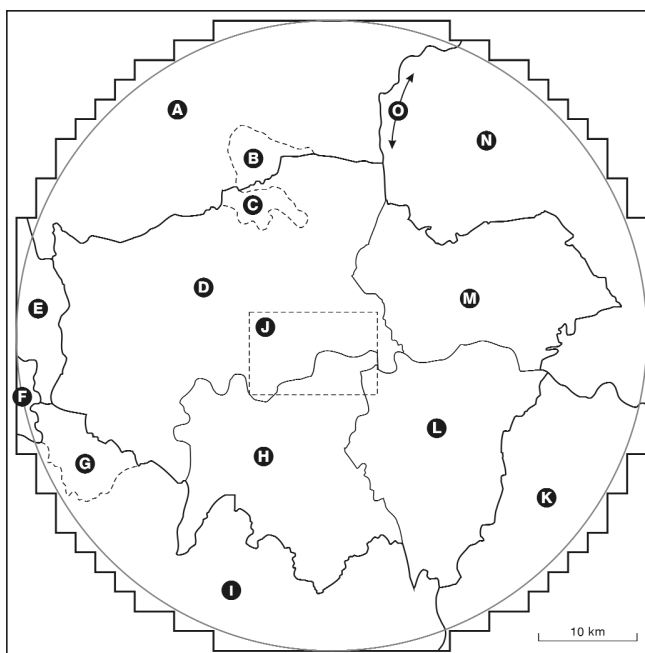


Fig. 2. The London Recording Area.

A: part of Hertfordshire; **B:** part of Middlesex (Potters Bar, etc.) transferred to Hertfordshire, 1965; **C:** part of Hertfordshire (Barnet area) transferred to Greater London, 1965; **D:** former county of Middlesex, now Greater London; **E:** part of Buckinghamshire; **F:** part of Berkshire; **G:** district of Spelthorne, formerly Middlesex, now Surrey but generally recorded by London; **H:** part of Surrey VC, now Greater London; **I:** part of Surrey; **J:** Inner London; **K:** part of Kent; **L:** parts of Kent transferred to London in 1889 & 1965; **M:** 'Metropolitan Essex'; **N:** part of Essex; **O:** various adjustments between Hertfordshire and Essex, 1965.

in Essex, but the Maunsell Fort is clearly in Kent.

Report: *The Kent Bird Report* (Kent Ornithological Society); 1952–.

Local Reports: Dungeness Bird Observatory, Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory (about to be revived), Boughton Park & Wierton Hill Farm.

13. Surrey

VC 17, thus incorporating the Greater London Boroughs of Richmond-upon-Thames, Kingston-upon-Thames, Wandsworth, Merton, Sutton, Lambeth, Croydon and Southwark, which are collectively an Area of Double Recording with Greater London, as are Walton-on-Thames Reservoirs and some or all of the Surrey Boroughs of Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Reigate & Banstead and Tandridge, where these fall within 20-mile London circle (see below). Part of site of Gatwick Airport transferred to West Sussex in 1974, but remains Area of Double Recording. Spelthorne, ceded by Mid-

dlesex to Surrey in 1965, is still recorded only by London. For some minor adjustments in VC, and Spelthorne boundaries, see Wheatley (2007).

Report: *Surrey Bird Report* (Surrey Bird Club); 1953–.

Local Reports: Surbiton, Beddington Farm, Wimbledon Common & Putney Heath, Croydon.

14. Essex

VCs 18 (South Essex) and 19 (North Essex); small parts of 15 (Hertfordshire). Pre-1965 county, thus incorporating Greater London Boroughs of Waltham Forest, Redbridge, Barking & Dagenham, Newham and Havering, which are collectively an **Area of Double Recording**, and UAs of Southend and Thurrock. Other parts of West Essex, in Epping Forest and as far out as Tilbury Docks, Brentwood, Chipping Ongar and south side of Harlow New Town, are also double-recorded within 20-mile London circle. All areas within this circle are known ornithologically as ‘Metropolitan Essex’. Changes along Herts. border in 1992, from Bishops Stortford area south to Waltham Abbey, now accepted by both counties. The endpaper map in Wood (2007) is unreliable in the SW corner, where it includes a small part of Hertfordshire.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Thames; Glegg (1929), who published an excellent map of the Thames Estuary and its approaches, included records from following LVs or Light-floats from four to 27 miles off Essex coast: Long Sand*, Galloper*, Kentish Knock*, Swin Middle*, Mouse*, Tongue* and Nore* (though this last surely belongs to Kent!); he might reasonably have claimed the Sunk LV, by the Thames pilot station.

Problem Areas: in theory, Suffolk border along R. Stour, which now follows low-water mark on Suffolk side, not mid-line of river, but any problems easily resolved with Suffolk.

Report: *The Essex Bird Report* (Essex Bird-watching Society); 1949–.

No current Local Reports.

15. Hertfordshire

VC 20, apart from adjustments with 21 (Middlesex) in 1965 and 18 (North Essex) in 1992. Post-1965 county. Parts of South and SW Hertfordshire (from Rye Meads along south side of Ware and Hertford to Hatfield, St Albans, King’s Langley and Rickmansworth) are **Areas of**

Double Recording with Greater London. For changes on Essex border in 1992, see Essex.

Report: *The Hertfordshire Bird Report*; in present form, 1968–.

Local Reports: Hilfield Park Reservoir, Rye Meads (triennial), Tyttenhanger Gravel Pits, King’s Meads, East Hyde (part).

16. Greater London

VC 21 (Middlesex); parts of 16 (West Kent), 17 (Surrey), 18 (South Essex), 20 (Hertfordshire) and 24 (Buckinghamshire). Recording area is circle of 20 miles from St Paul’s: for most purposes, now converted to polygon of grid-squares of slightly larger area. The only parts now recorded solely in *LBR* are: former county of Middlesex, including small additions made from Hertfordshire to Greater London in 1965 and the western district of Spelthorne, in Surrey since 1965 but not recorded by that county; and the London (post-1889 and post-1965) corner of West Kent. Additions to Greater London in 1965 within Surrey (south of Thames) and Essex are **Areas of Double Recording** with those counties; as are parts of Surrey, Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and (present-day) Berkshire that fall outside Greater London but inside 20-mile recording circle; for details see those counties. For a definition of ‘Metropolitan Essex’ see under that county. In referring to surrounding counties, London NHS has generally used VC boundaries rather than later ones. Apart from Spelthorne, records within the LNHS area, but outside Greater London, are normally assigned in *national* literature only to their current county; for example, most of the Rainham Marshes Reserve is in Essex, not Greater London (though it all lies within the LNHS circle). Fig. 2 has been adapted from Hewlett *et al.* (2002).

Problem Area: Wraysbury Reservoir was in Buckinghamshire from its opening in 1971 to 1974; it was then shared between Berkshire and Greater London (though administratively in Surrey, being in Spelthorne District) until 1991, when it was placed wholly in Spelthorne.

Report: *London Bird Report* (London Natural History Society); in present form, 1936–.

Local Report: Welsh Harp (others are in double-recorded areas).

17. Berkshire

Much of VC 22; part of 24 (Buckinghamshire) and very small area of 21 (Middlesex). Post-

1974 county, thus excluding NW part then lost to Oxfordshire, but including parts of South Buckinghamshire around Slough; in 1995 further slight eastward extension SW of the M25/M4 junction (around Colnbrook) brought county into 20-mile Greater London circuit.

Problem Area: for Wraysbury Reservoir, see Greater London.

Except for ceremonial purposes, now subdivided into six UAs: Bracknell Forest, Reading, Slough, West Berkshire, Windsor & Maidenhead, and Wokingham.

Report: *The Birds of Berkshire* (Berkshire Ornithological Club); in present form, 1974–.

Local Reports: Newbury District (perhaps in abeyance), Theale Area, Moor Green Lakes (part).

18. Oxfordshire

VC 23 and parts of 22 (Berkshire). Post-1974 county, thus including area gained from NW Berkshire.

Report: *Birds of Oxfordshire* (Oxford Ornithological Society); 1922–.

Local Reports: Banbury (also covers parts of Northamptonshire and Warwickshire), North Cotswold (part).

19. Buckinghamshire

Most of VC 24. Post-1974 county, thus excluding Slough area, then lost to Berkshire (with a further corner around Colnbrook in 1995), and incorporating UA of Milton Keynes. A corner of the SE, from area of Denham south to M4, is **Area of Double Recording** with Greater London.

Problem Area: for Wraysbury Reservoir, see Greater London.

Report: *Buckinghamshire Bird Report* (Buckinghamshire Bird Club); in present form, 1980–.

20. Suffolk

VCs 25 (East Suffolk) and 26 (West Suffolk). Both VCs. Lothingland area, in extreme NE, was transferred to Norfolk, partly in 1889 and more extensively in 1974, thus losing (from 1889) the south shore of Breydon Water. This remains an **Area of Double Recording** with Norfolk, as does the SW edge of Thetford (including headquarters of BTO!), ceded to Norfolk in 1894.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Thames; records from the Shipwash* and Outer Gabbard* LVs have been accepted, the former being eight miles offshore, the latter 20.

Other Problem Areas: see under Essex for Stour Estuary.

Report: *Suffolk Birds* (Suffolk Naturalists' Society & Suffolk Ornithologists' Group). 1950–.

Local Report: Trimley Marshes (biennial).

21. Norfolk

VCs 27 (East Norfolk), 28 (West Norfolk) and small parts of 25 (East Suffolk) and 26 (West Suffolk). Post-1974 county.

Problem Areas: Ouse Washes (with Cambridgeshire), where border was moved south in 1895. For overlaps with Suffolk, see above. Records for Wisbech Sewage Farm, active till the 1980s, were always entered jointly for Norfolk and Lincolnshire.

Offshore and pelagic areas: offshore waters all in SA Thames, except in The Wash, which is in SA Humber; however, along north coast, true pelagic records would be in Humber, the 53 degree line of latitude being within a few miles of coast. The Wash (with many sandbanks) is deemed to be divided between Norfolk and Lincolnshire by a line NE from Nene Mouth. Records from the Smith's Knoll*, Outer Dowsing*, Dudgeon* and Lynn Well* LVs have been mentioned, though not necessarily accepted; a 1914 record from the first of these was reckoned to be too far out to sea (19 miles) and Outer Dowsing and Dudgeon belong to Lincolnshire rather than Norfolk (Taylor *et al.* 1999).

Report: *Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report* (Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society); in present form, 1953–.

Local Reports: Nar Valley, Holme.

22. Cambridgeshire

VCs 29 (Cambridgeshire/Isle of Ely), 31 (Huntingdonshire) and part of 32 (Northamptonshire). Post-1974 county, including Huntingdonshire and the Soke of Peterborough. The last nominally became independent from Northamptonshire in 1888, but for some purposes was regarded as part of that county and remained within its VC. In 1965, it was joined with Huntingdonshire and the RD of Thorney in Cambridgeshire in a single county, which continued to 1974, when all were joined with Cambridgeshire. Before 1974, the Soke was recorded by Northamptonshire. From then to 1998 inclusive, annual report recorded birds from 'Old Cambridgeshire' separately from

those from Huntingdon & Peterborough. Peterborough became separate UA in 1997, but has remained in Cambridgeshire Recording Area.

Problem Areas: Ouse Washes (see Norfolk).

Report: *Cambridgeshire Bird Report* (Cambridgeshire Bird Club); 1927–. Up to 1980s, there was sometimes coverage of a wider area, extending to The Wash and Breckland.

Local Reports: Paxton Pits, Peterborough.

23. Bedfordshire

VC 30. Present county, incorporating UA of Luton.

Report: *The Bedfordshire Bird Report in Trans. Bedfordshire Natural History Society*; 1947–.

Local Reports: Priory Country Park, East Hyde (part).

24. Northamptonshire

Most of VC 32. Post-1974 county, thus now excluding the Soke of Peterborough (see Cambs.), which was recorded with Northamptonshire before 1974.

Problem Areas: Stanford Reservoir shared with Leicestershire.

Report: *Northants Birds* (Northamptonshire Bird Club); 1969– (temporarily in abeyance).

Local Report: Banbury (see Oxfordshire).

25. Gloucestershire

Vcs 33 (North Gloucestershire) and part of 34 (South Gloucestershire). Post-1974 county, thus excluding Bristol and South Gloucestershire (see Avon). Many minor alterations along borders with Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Wiltshire in 1930s, though few in important areas.

Problem Areas: Cotswold Water Park West (with Wiltshire).

Report: *Gloucestershire Bird Report* (Gloucestershire Ornithological Co-ordinating Committee); 1963–.

Local Reports: Slimbridge (temporarily in abeyance), North Cotswold (part), Cheltenham. [For VC 35, see below under Wales.]

26. Herefordshire

VC 36. Present county; merged with Worcestershire from 1974 to 1998, but with no effect on recording. Problem Areas: Malvern Hills (ridge forms part of Worcestershire border).

Report: *The Birds of Herefordshire* (Herefordshire Ornithological Club), briefly titled *The Yellowhammer* from 2001 to 2003; 1951–.

Local Report: Malvern Hills (part).

27. Worcestershire

Most of VC 37. Post-1974 county, thus excluding areas in NE transferred to Warwickshire in 1911 and to West Midlands in 1974. For other notes on boundary changes see Gloucestershire and Herefordshire.

Problem Areas: Malvern Hills (ridge forms part of Herefordshire border).

Report: *The Birds of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the West Midlands*; 1934–.

Local Reports: Upton Warren, Grimley Gravel Pit, Malvern Hills (part) and North Cotswold (part).

28. Warwickshire

Most of VC 38. Post-1974 county, thus excluding areas in NW (some gained from Worcestershire) which were then transferred to West Midlands. For other notes on boundary changes, see under Gloucestershire.

Report: see Worcestershire.

Local Reports: Brandon Marsh and Banbury (part).

29. West Midlands

Parts of VCs 37, 38 and 39 (Staffordshire). 1974–95 county, now dissolved for most purposes into its seven UAs: Coventry, Solihull and Birmingham (mainly VC 38); Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Dudley (mainly VC 39).

Report: see Worcestershire.

Local Reports: Smestow Valley & Dunstall Park, Sandwell Valley, Marsh Lane.

30. Staffordshire

Most of VC 39. Post-1974 county, thus excluding areas in SW then transferred to West Midlands, and incorporating UA of Stoke-on-Trent.

Problem Area: important site of Chasewater was from 1974 to 1995 partly in West Midlands, but is now again wholly in Staffordshire.

Report: see Worcestershire.

Local Reports: Belvide (apparently in abeyance), Tittesworth Reservoir.

31. Shropshire

VC 40. Present county, incorporating UA of Telford & Wrekin.

Report: *The Shropshire Bird Report* (Shropshire Ornithological Society); in this form, 1955–.

Local Reports: Upper Clun, Upper Onny.

32. Lincolnshire

VCs 53 (South Lincolnshire) and 54 (North Lincolnshire). Present county, incorporating UAs of North Lincolnshire and NE Lincolnshire.

Problem Areas: for the former Wisbech Sewage Farm, see Norfolk.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Humber; for The Wash boundary, see Norfolk; boundary with Yorkshire is mid-line of Humber Estuary; records from Inner* and Outer Dowsing* LVs sometimes included (as should also be those from Dudgeon* LV, occasionally given to Norfolk).

Report: *Lincolnshire Bird Report* (Lincolnshire Bird Club); 1947-96; this is in abeyance, but the Club now publishes *Lincolnshire Rare & Scarce Birds*, of which the first issue, in 2007, covers 1997-99-.

Local Reports: Gibraltar Point, Scunthorpe & NW Lincolnshire; part of Doncaster and small part of Thorne Moors (both from Yorks.).

33. Leicestershire & Rutland

VC 55. Present counties, incorporating UA of Leicester. Rutland was attached to Leicestershire from 1974 to 1995. Both counties covered by one Recorder.

Problem Areas: Eye Brook Reservoir is shared between the two counties, and Stanford Reservoir with Northamptonshire. Important that double title is used for all records; this covers the problem of Eye Brook Reservoir and ensures that the many records from Rutland Water are assigned to the correct part. (This seems simpler than styling Rutland an Area of Double Recording, though it has a history of individual reporting dating back to before 1907 and a fervent local patriotism. It might be best to specify, as a subheading, the county to which a record refers, unless this is obvious from the place-name.)

Report: *The Leicestershire and Rutland Bird Report* (Leicestershire & Rutland Ornithological Society); 1941-. Covers both counties.

Local Reports: Rutland; Loughborough (Leicestershire).

34. Nottinghamshire

VC 56. Present county, incorporating UA of Nottingham City.

Report: *The Birds of Nottinghamshire* (Nottinghamshire Birdwatchers); 1943-.

Local Reports: Attenborough (triennial),

Erewash Valley, King's Mill Reservoir, Netherfield; part of Doncaster (Yorkshire).

35. Derbyshire

Most of VC 57 and a small part of 58 (Cheshire).

Present county, incorporating UA of Derby and excluding some losses to Yorkshire in 1934 and 1968. See below for notes on local exchanges with Cheshire.

Report: *The Derbyshire Bird Report* (Derbyshire Ornithological Society); in this form, 1955-.

Local Reports: Ogston Reservoir, Carsington Reservoir, Carr Vale, Pleasley Pit; part of Sheffield (from Yorkshire).

36. Cheshire & Wirral

Most of VC 58 and small parts of 35 (Derbyshire) and 59 (South Lancashire). Post-1974 county, incorporating the UAs of Wirral (including Hilbre Island (36a)), Halton and Warrington. Many small adjustments along Lancashire/Greater Manchester and Derbyshire borders from 1932 to 1974.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Irish Sea; boundary between Cheshire & Wirral and North Merseyside stated by O.S. to be 'not clearly determined' from Hale down to Bootle/New Brighton, but deemed to be mid-line of Mersey. On Dee border with Flintshire, situation was complicated by digging of the New Cut up to Chester in 18th century, so that border does not follow mid-line, but includes in Flint reclaimed land (Shotton Pools etc.) on north bank; up to 1960s this was recorded by Cheshire, and it is included in the avifaunas of Coward (1900) and Bell (1962), but not in more recent work. All records should be classed as 'Cheshire & Wirral'.

Report: *Cheshire and Wirral Bird Report* (Cheshire & Wirral Ornithological Society); in this form, 1964-, but previously recorded with Lancashire.

Local Reports: Hilbre, Alderley Park & Radnor Mere, Woolston Eyes, Nantwich, SE Cheshire; Leigh (part, from Greater Manchester).

37. Lancashire & North Merseyside

Part of VC 59 (South Lancashire); all 60 (Mid Lancashire); and parts of 64 (Mid-west Yorkshire). Present county of Lancashire and UAs of Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens, Blackburn-with-Darwen and Blackpool. For note on exchanges with Cheshire, see above. Furness

(now in Cumbria) not recorded since 1973.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Irish Sea; platforms in Morecambe Bay are covered by *North Sea Bird Report* but now also by Lancashire.

All records should be classed under double title. Report: *The Lancashire Bird Report: the Birds of Lancashire & North Merseyside* (Lancashire & Cheshire Fauna Society); in this form, 1950–, but previously recorded with Cheshire back to 1915.

Local Reports: Lancaster & District, Chorley & District, Rossendale, Heysham Harbour, Fylde, East Lancashire, Stocks Reservoir; Leigh (part, from Greater Manchester).

38. Greater Manchester

Part of VC 59, and small parts of 58 (Cheshire) and 63 (South-west Yorkshire). Metropolitan County of Greater Manchester (1974–1986), now UAs of Wigan, Bolton, Salford, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham (including part of pre-1974 Yorkshire), Tameside, Stockport, Manchester and Trafford See comment on boundaries under Cheshire above.

Report: *Birds in Greater Manchester* (Greater Manchester Bird Recording Group); 1976–; formerly *Manchester Bird Report* (1959–75), which covered a 15-mile radius from Manchester Town Hall.

Local Reports: Leigh, Elton (in abeyance), Rochdale, Hollingworth Lake, Audenshaw Reservoirs, Shell Pool, Oldham, Piethorne Valley, Chorlton Water Park.

39. Yorkshire

VCS 61 to 65, of which only first remains entire within post-1974 borders. Present counties of North Yorkshire and East Riding of Yorkshire (incorporating UA of Kingston-upon-Hull), and UAs of York, Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees, Leeds, Wakefield, Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, Doncaster, Redcar & Cleveland and Middlesbrough. Last two (with part of Stockton-on-Tees) form SE part of 1974–95 county of Cleveland, the whole of which forms two **Areas of Double Recording** with VCs 62 and 66 (NE Yorkshire and Co. Durham); it has its own Recorder and Report (see 40. below).

Offshore and pelagic areas: off East Riding, in SA Humber; further north, in SA Tyne; for Humber boundary, see Lincolnshire.

Reports: *Yorkshire Bird Report* (Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, Ornithological Section);

1940–1997; no longer annual, but full report planned for 2005. Also *Rare & Scarce Birds in Yorkshire* (Y.N.U.); 1998/99–. Covers post-1974 area, plus Yorkshire part of Cleveland.

The five Recording Areas are the VCs, less their various 1974 excisions, but they include expansions of Yorkshire into Derbyshire, south of Sheffield (1934 and 1968), and into Lancashire west of Todmorden (1889).

Local Reports:

VC 61 (SE): Spurn, Filey, Flamborough, Hull Valley (formerly Tophill Low/East Yorkshire), Pulfin Bog, Saltmarshe Delph, North Cave Wetlands.

VC 62 (NE, other than Yorkshire parts of Cleveland): York (including parts of VCs 61 & 64), Scarborough & District, North Yorkshire Forests, Ryedale, Central Science Labs (Sand Hutton), New Earswick & West Huntington, Fylingdales Moor.

VC 63 (South & SW, apart from section transferred to Greater Manchester/Oldham in 1974, but including expansions of Sheffield into Derbyshire in 1934 and 1968): Bradford (two), Doncaster, Huddersfield, Barnsley, Potteric Carr, Sheffield, Rotherham (now on-line only), Cononley, Carlton Marsh, Thorpe Marsh, Old Moor & Broomhill Ings, Thorne Moors, Worsbrough Valley, Winterset, Halifax, Hatfield Moors (in abeyance), Southfield Reservoirs & Went Ings, Beal Carrs, Sprotbrough Flash & Don Gorge; part of East Lancashire (from Lancashire & N. Merseyside).

VC 64 (Mid-west, apart from section transferred to Lancashire in 1974, but including area west of Todmorden, transferred from Lancashire in 1889): Wharfedale, Harrogate, Leeds, Eccup Reservoir, Staveley, New Swillington Ings, Malham Tarn, Rodley NR, Fairburn Ings; part of East Lancashire and small part of Lancaster & District (both from Lancashire & N. Merseyside).

VC 65 (NW, apart from sections transferred to Cumbria and Durham in 1974): High Batts NR.

Areas of a number of West Yorkshire reports spill over (at least nominally on their maps) into Derbyshire, Greater Manchester and Lancashire. The ornithological world outside Yorkshire has tended to reject its claim to Cleveland (and to keeping or repossessing other lost areas!) and to adopt the four 1974–1995 divisions, which are still the Lord Lieutenancies:

East Yorkshire (i.e. 'North Humberside', now

again substantially the East Riding, but including York and Hull UAs);

South Yorkshire (Barnsley, Doncaster, Sheffield and Rotherham);

West Yorkshire (Wakefield, Leeds, Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees);

North Yorkshire (today's county, including Selby District).

There is much to be said for continuing this division, as VC boundaries cannot be found on O.S. maps. Neither the Editors of the *Yorkshire Bird Report* nor Mather (1986) have in the past made great use of the VC system in published records, but the issues of 1997 and 2005 do so. For rare and scarce breeders, 'Yorkshire' may be more desirable (cf. Highland below).

40. Cleveland

Parts of VCs 62 and 66. Recording Area since 1974, consisting of two **Areas of Double Recording**, (see also Durham and Yorkshire), in both of which, validation of rarity records lies with Cleveland.

Report: *Cleveland Bird Report* (Teesmouth Bird Club); 1974–.

41. Durham

VC 66 and part of 65 (NW Yorkshire). Present county, incorporating UAs of Stockton-on-Tees (in part) and Hartlepool (the NW parts of the former county of Cleveland, for which see above), and of Darlington, and UAs of Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland (from 1974 to 1995 south half of county of Tyne & Wear, which has had no ornithological recognition, though it remains a Lord Lieutenancy).

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Tyne.

Problem Areas: Derwent Reservoir (with Northumberland).

Report: *Birds in Durham* (Durham County Bird Club); 1970–.

Local Report: Cleveland (as above).

42. Northumberland

VCS 67 (South Northumberland) and 68 (North Northumberland [Cheviotland]). Present county, incorporating UAs of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and North Tyneside (north part of county of Tyne & Wear, as above) and including Coquet Island (42a), the Farne Islands (42b) and Holy Island (42c).

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Tyne.

Problem Areas: Derwent Reservoir (with Durham).

Report: *Birds in Northumbria* (Northumberland & Tyneside Bird Club). 1970–.

Local Report: Farne Islands.

43. Cumbria

VCS 69 (Westmorland & Lancashire Furness) & 70 (Cumberland), with part of 65 (NW Yorkshire). Post-1974 county.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Irish Sea.

Report: *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria* (Cumbria Naturalists' Union); 1972–.

Local Reports: Walney Bird Observatory, Bassenthwaite Lake; small part of Lancaster & District (Lancashire & N. Merseyside).

Wales

In addition to individual County Reports, covered by the annual *Welsh Bird Report* (Welsh Ornithological Society); 1998–. The terms **Powys, Clwyd, Gwynedd and Dyfed**, created by the amalgamations of 1974, should not now be used; records from these should be assigned to the appropriate VCs, as given below. **In general, Welsh Recording Areas are the VCs**, but some adjustments have been made. The index numbers in the Area sections correspond to those on the map; they indicate sites with problems, mainly where the accepted boundaries differ from the Watsonian ones.

W1 Gwent

VC 35 (Monmouthshire), less small parts along Glamorgan border; and a small area of 42 (Breconshire). Pre-1974 county of Monmouthshire, known as Gwent from 1974 to 1995, and now divided into UAs of Monmouthshire, Newport, Torfaen, Blaenau-Gwent and east part of Caerphilly. Includes Denny Island and the former Breconshire areas of Trefil, Brynmawr and Llanelly (8). The Glamorgan boundary is now accepted to be the Rhymney River (because the creation of Caerphilly UA, spanning the old border, would otherwise cause confusion), but near its mouth the area of Rumney and St Mellons (10), transferred to Glamorgan in 1974, remains in that county (in UA Cardiff).

Offshore areas: see Avon.

Report: *Gwent Bird Report* (Gwent Ornithological Society); 1965–.

W2 Glamorgan

VC 41; small parts of 42 (Breconshire) and 35

(Monmouthshire). Divided into two Recording Areas (9a and 9b), but, nationally speaking, all records are simply for **Glamorgan**.

East Glamorgan (9a) incorporating UAs of Bridgend, Rhondda/Cynon/Taff, Vale of Glamorgan, west part of Caerphilly, Cardiff, and Merthyr Tydfil (including Vaynor and Penderyn from VC 42 (Brecon) (7)). Includes Flat Holm (W2a). For agreed border with Gwent, see above.

Offshore and pelagic areas: see Somerset and Devon.

Report: *Eastern Glamorgan Bird Report* (Glamorgan Bird Club); 1962–. Known as *The Glamorgan Bird Report* to 1985, then as *The Mid and South Glamorgan Bird Report* from 1986 to 1995.

Local Report: Kenfig NNR.

Gower (9b), incorporating UAs of City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

Report: *Gower Birds* (Gower Ornithological Society); 1966–.

W3 Breconshire

Most of VC 42; sometimes known as Brecknockshire. Pre-1974 county (which is now part of Powys), apart from areas ceded in 1974: Vaynor and Penderyn (7) to Glamorgan, and the Trefil area, Brynmawr and Llanely (8) to Gwent.

Report: *Breconshire Birds* (Brecknock Wildlife Trust); 1962–.

W4 Radnorshire

VC 43. Pre-1974 county (which is now part of Powys).

No Report since 1987.

W5 Montgomeryshire

VC 44 and part of 50 (Denbigh). Pre-1974 county, which is now part of Powys and includes part of the Berwyn Mountains, formerly in Denbighshire; this is also now in Powys and considered an **Area of Double Recording** with Denbighshire (6).

No Report since 1998/1999.

The following three VCs are all reported in: *The Cambrian Bird Report* (Cambrian Ornithological Society); 1953/54–.

W6 Meirionnydd

Most of VC 48 (Merionethshire), and a small part of VC 50 (Denbighshire). 1974 District,

within Gwynedd; substantially the historic county. The NE section (part of Dee Valley and West Berwyns) then ceded to Clwyd (and now in Denbighshire), still included in Recording Area. The Nantmor section of the parish of Beddgelert (1) was ceded to Caernarfon in 1895, a change locally contested at the time but accepted in three recent avifaunas (Hope Jones 1974; Hope Jones & Dare 1976; Barnes 1997). For the **Double Recording Area** of The Migneint (11), ceded by Denbighshire in 1974, see that county.

W7 Caernarfonshire

Most of VC 49 (Caernarvonshire) and a small area of 48 (Merionethshire). 1974 District of Arfon, in Gwynedd; substantially the historic county, but excluding the salient of Maenan (2) east of the Afon Conwy, deemed to be now in Denbighshire (VC 50). UA of Conwy, created from parts of Denbigh, Caernarfon and Meirionnydd, has no ornithological recognition. The Ormes, Llandudno and Rhos Point (4) remain in Caernarfon. Includes St Tudwal's Islands (W7a) and Bardsey (Ynys Enlli) (W7b). The Conwy RSPB Reserve was apparently in Denbighshire VC in 1852, when the county boundary was shown by Watson to be at Telford's bridge, but by 1879, the first ed. of the six-inch Ordnance Survey map moved it south to the position it still occupied in 1974, though it was marked 'undefined'. The old border still appeared on the map in Forrest (1907), though he in fact assigned all 'Conway Estuary' records to Caernarfonshire. It has now been agreed to treat the Reserve as an **Area of Double Recording** with Denbighshire (3). For changes in the large parish of Beddgelert, see Meirionnydd.

Local Report: Bardsey Bird Observatory.

W8 Anglesey

VC 52. Post-1995 county of Isle of Anglesey (from 1974 to 1995 part of Gwynedd), including Puffin Island (Ynys Seiriol) (W8a) and The Skerries (Ynysoedd y Moelrhoniad) (W8b).

All offshore and pelagic areas for these in SA Irish Sea, mid-line of which is deemed the border with Ireland.

The following two VCs were reported on in the *Clwyd Bird Report* (Clwyd Bird Recording Group); title now changed (for 2004/05/06

issue) to *North-east Wales Bird Report*; 1974–. The boundaries between them, in their post-1995 revision, differ from the traditional ones of the VCs used in the *Report*.

W9 Denbighshire

Most of VC 50, including the two former detachments of Flintshire (5) and a small part of VC 49 (Caernarfon). Pre-1974 county, including as **Areas of Double Recording** the area of the Berwyns described under Montgomeryshire (6), the RSPB Conwy Reserve described under Caernarfonshire (3) and The Migneint (11), the SW ‘tongue’ of Denbighshire, which was ceded to Gwynedd in 1974. Excludes the part of Meirionnydd around Corwen which was ceded to Clwyd in 1974 and which remains administratively part of the new Denbighshire, and also Rhos Point (in VC 49) (4). Incorporates UA of Wrexham. The Afon Conwy is now deemed to be the Caernarfon border; for Maenan (2) in VC 49 but east of the river, see Caernarfonshire.

W10 Flintshire

VC 51. Pre-1974 county, without the two detachments. Of these, the larger (Maelor Saesneg) (5) was sometimes recorded by Shropshire (Rutter, Gribble & Pemberton, 1964).

Problem Area: Dee Estuary, for which see Cheshire & Wirral.

Offshore and pelagic areas for both these in SA Irish Sea.

W11 Carmarthenshire

VC 44. Present county (part of Dyfed, 1974–1995).

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Lundy.

Report: *Carmarthenshire Bird Report/Adroddiad Adar Sir Gaerfnyddin* (Carmarthenshire Ornithological Recording Committee); 1982–.

W12 Pembrokeshire

VC 45. Present county (part of Dyfed, 1974–1995), including all islands: Caldey (W12a), Skokholm (W12b), Skomer (W12c), Grassholm (W12d) and Ramsey (W12e).

Offshore and pelagic areas: from the eastern border, as far north as St David’s Head in SA Lundy; north of this in SA Irish Sea. Dividing line with Ireland is mid-line of St George’s Channel. Most of the former enclaves of Ceredigion south of the Teifi Estuary (on either side of St Dogmaels) have recently been

absorbed into Pembrokeshire, but remain in their original Recording Area.

Report: *Pembrokeshire Bird Report* (WT for South & West Wales); 1981–.

Local Report: *The Island Naturalist* (for Skomer and Skokholm) has now ceased, records being included in county report.

W13 Ceredigion

VC 46 (Cardiganshire). Present county (part of Dyfed, 1974–1995). For recent administrative changes, see Pembrokeshire.

Offshore and pelagic areas: all in SA Irish Sea; see Pembrokeshire for further comment.

Report: *Ceredigion Bird Report/Adroddiad Adar Ceredigion* (WT for South & West Wales) 1982/83–.

Isle of Man

VC 71, but now recorded as a separate unit from the UK. By special agreement, still included in *British Birds* Rarities Committee and Rare Breeding Birds Panel Reports. Present area, including the Calf of Man (Ma).

Offshore & pelagic areas: all within SA Irish Sea; the marine boundaries (at least with Lancashire & N. Merseyside, Cumbria, North Wales areas and Dumfries & Galloway) have not been fully defined, but are now under urgent consideration.

Report: in *Peregrine* (Manx Ornithological Society); 1944–.

Local Report: Calf of Man Bird Observatory.

Scotland

In addition to area reports, covered by an annual report in *Scottish Birds* (Scottish Ornithologists’ Club); 1968–. The following Regional terms, current from 1974 to 1995, should **not** now be used to define records: **Strathclyde, Central, Tayside, Grampian**.

The Scottish Raptor Group use the following divisions (with approximate SOC equivalents in brackets, where different): Dumfries & Galloway; Lothian & Borders; South Strathclyde (=Clyde, Clyde Islands and Ayrshire), Argyll, Central (=Upper Forth), Tayside (=Perth & Kinross and Angus & Dundee), North-east (including the eastern half of Moray & Nairn), Highland (including the western half of Moray & Nairn, and Caithness), Uists, and Orkney [there are as yet no contributors from Lewis/Harris or Shetland]. For offshore and pelagic limits, see note under S21 at end. There

are some annual scientific reports on breeding seabirds and wintering wildfowl which are not meant for public circulation (St Abb's Head, Canna, Moray Firth etc.); these have not been listed. All Scottish Recording Areas bear numbers, as given below:

S1 Shetland

VC 112 (Zetland), except Fair Isle. Present UA, excluding Fair Isle, which is Recording Area on its own.

Report: *Shetland Bird Report* (Shetland Bird Club); 1969–.

S2 Fair Isle

Part of VC 112. Administratively part of Shetland. Often treated separately in avifaunas, but included in Pennington *et al.* (2004); has its own Recorder.

Report: *Fair Isle Bird Report* (Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust); in present form, 1963–.

S3 Orkney

VC 111. Present UA. Includes Pentland Skerries (which were sometimes placed in Caithness), Sule Stack (S3a) and Sule Skerry (S3b); Bourne & David (2007) showed that this name for the former should be preferred to 'Stack Skerry', which is really an oxymoron.

Report: *Orkney Bird Report* (Orkney Bird Report Committee); 1974/75, thereafter annually–.

Local Report: Stronsay.

S4 Outer Hebrides

VC 110. Present UA of Western Isles. Includes: Lewis (before 1974 in Ross & Cromarty), Harris, North and South Uist, Benbecula and Barra (before 1974 in Inverness-shire); St Kilda (S4a), the Flannans (S4b), Sula Sgeir (S4c), North Rona (S4d), the Shiantas (S4e); [and perhaps (theoretically) Rockall!].

Report: *Outer Hebrides Bird Report* (Western Isles Natural History Society); 1979–.

For historical reasons, 'Outer Hebrides' should be preferred to 'Western Isles'.

S5 Caithness

VC 109. Pre-1974 county, now administered with Highland. Includes Stroma, but not now the Pentland Skerries, for which see Orkney.

No Report since 1997, but records in separate section of *Highland Bird Report* from 2004–.

S6 Highland

North part of VC 98 (Argyll Main); 97 (Wester-ness with North Argyll); 104 (North Ebudes); 105 and 106 (Wester and Easter Ross); 107 and 108 (East and West Sutherland). Post-1974 UA, including all Inner Hebridean and inshore islands from Muck to Eilean Roan, but excluding pre-1974 Nairnshire (see above) and Caithness (VC 109, but see below). Some internal use is still made of the Districts: Lochaber (S6a), Badenoch & Strathspey (S6b), Inverness District (S6c), Skye & Lochalsh (S6d), Ross & Cromarty (S6e; most of the former county of that name, apart from its Outer Hebridean component); and Sutherland (S6f; a slight expansion of the former county). These are not regarded as separate Recording Areas, but are often useful in locating sites in such a wide swathe of country, though they are not used in 'Rare & Scarce Breeding Birds' reports.

Report: *Highland Bird Report* (private & SOC); 1983–.

Local Reports: Sutherland (in abeyance), Eigg.

S7 Moray & Nairn

North part of VC 95 (Moray [=Elginshire]); part of 94 (Banffshire); and Nairnshire section of 96 (Easternness with Nairnshire, now in Highland).

Report: *Birds in Moray and Nairn* (private); 1985–.

S8 North-east Scotland

Vcs 91 (Kincardineshire), 92 and 93 (South and North Aberdeenshire), and NE part of 94 (Banffshire). Post-1995 Region, incorporating UAs of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City.

Report: *North-east Scotland Bird Report* (North-east Scotland Bird Club); 1974–.

Local Report: Ythan Estuary (waders & wildfowl only).

S9 Angus & Dundee

VC 90 Angus (Forfarshire). Present Region, incorporating UAs of Angus and Dundee City, and including the Bell Rock.

Report: *Angus & Dundee Bird Report* (Angus & Dundee Bird Club); 1970/71–.

S10 Perth & Kinross

Kinross-shire section of VC 85 (see also Fife, below); small part of 87 (South Perthshire); most of 88 (Mid Perthshire, except for SW part transferred to Stirling); and 89 (North [=East])

Perthshire). Before 1988, Kinross was recorded with Fife.

Report: *Perth & Kinross Bird Report* (private); 1974–.

S11 Fife

VC 85, excluding Kinross-shire, and a corner of 87 (South Perthshire). Nominally, excludes Isle of May, which has its own Recorder (see below), and Inchkeith and Inchcolm, which are reported in *Forth Islands Bird Report*, but records for the two last now also published in *Fife Bird Report*.

Report: *Fife Bird Report* (Fife Bird Club); 1980–. Local Reports: Forth Islands (see Lothian), Isle of May.

S12 Isle of May

Part of VC 85.

Report: *Isle of May Bird Observatory Report* (Isle of May Bird Observatory and Field Station Trust); in present form from 1985–.

Administratively in Fife, and was included in that county's *Atlas* (Elkins *et al.* 2003).

S13 Upper Forth

North and east parts of VC 86 (Stirlingshire), most of 87 (Clackmannanshire, South Perthshire), SW corner of 88 (Mid Perthshire) and a small area of 84 (West Lothian). The addition of 'Upper' should be used to distinguish it from the Firth. Now includes UAs of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk (created from parts of Stirling and West Lothian) and the parts of Stirling within the Forth Basin. For a small **Area of Double Recording**, see Clyde above.

Report: *Forth Area Bird Report* (in *Forth Naturalist & Historian*, published for Stirling University); 1974/75– (later issues annual).

S14 Argyll

Most of VC 98 (Argyll Main); 101 (Kintyre); 102 (South Ebudes) and 103 (Mid-Ebudes). Post-1995 UA of Argyll & Bute, but excluding the Bute section (for which see Clyde Islands) and the area between Loch Lomondside and Loch Long and north from Arrochar over Ben Vane to Maol Breac and the Lairig Anran (formerly part of West Dunbartonshire), for which see Clyde. Includes lighthouses of Skerryvore (S14a) and Dubh Artach (S14b).

Report: *Argyll Bird Report* (Argyll Bird Club); 1980–.

Local Reports: Islay, Machrihanish, Sanda (in

abeyance), Mull.

S15 Clyde Islands

VC 100 (Clyde Isles). The 'Clyde Islands Report' is a separate section within *Clyde Birds*. Regarded by SOC as separate Area, with its own Recorder. Includes Bute section of UA of Argyll & Bute (the Island of Bute, and Great and Little Cumbrae) and the Isle of Arran.

Local Report: Arran.

S16 Clyde

VCS 76 (Renfrewshire), 77 (Lanarkshire & East Dunbartonshire), 99 (West Dunbartonshire), SW part of 86 (Stirlingshire), and extreme NW tip of 87 (West or South Perthshire, now absorbed into Stirlingshire). Now includes: UAs of East and West Dunbartonshire (not identical with the old areas of the same names!); South and North Lanarkshire [omitted in the definition given in the 2001 *Scottish BR!*]; Glasgow City; East Renfrewshire, Renfrewshire and Inverclyde, and those parts of Stirling and Argyll & Bute that are in the Clyde Basin. The Carron Valley Reservoir is sometimes considered as an **Area of Double Recording** with Upper Forth, the north slope above the Reservoir belonging to Forth, and the south to Clyde. Report: *Clyde Birds* (SOC Clyde); in this form, 1987–.

S17 Ayrshire

VC 75. UAs of North, East and South Ayrshire. In the last, an area south of Ballantrae was ceded to Dumfries & Galloway in 1995, but is still recorded by Ayrshire. Also Horse Island, Lady Isle and Ailsa Craig (S17a). Arran and the Cumbraes, now in North Ayrshire, are recorded with **Clyde Islands** (see below).

Report: *Ayrshire Bird & Butterfly Report* (SOC Ayrshire); 1976–.

S18 Lothian

VCS 82 (East Lothian [Haddingtonshire] except as in last), 83 (Midlothian [Edinburghshire], except as in S19 below), and most of 84 (West Lothian [Linlithgowshire]). Now four UAs, including City of Edinburgh (created largely from Midlothian, with small area of West Lothian). Monynut Water drainage area in East Lothian ceded to Borders in 1995.

Report: *Lothian Bird Report* (SOC Lothian) 1979–. Covers all Forth Islands belonging to City of Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Local Reports: Aberlady Bay, Forth Islands (including those in Fife).

S19 Borders

VCs 78 (Peebles-shire), 79 (Selkirkshire), 80 (Roxburghshire), 81 (Berwickshire), SE corner of 83 (Midlothian) and a small part of 82 (East Lothian). Since 1974, all Scottish Borders Region. Monynut Water drainage area ceded by East Lothian in 1995.

Report: *Borders Bird Report* (SOC Borders); 1979–.

S20 Dumfries & Galloway

VCs 72 (Dumfries-shire), 73 (Kirkcudbrightshire) & 74 (Wigtownshire). Post-1974 Region, including The Scares [=Scar Rocks]. For an amendment, see Ayrshire.

Report: *Birds in Dumfries & Galloway* (private & SOC); in this form, 1976–2001; 2002 to 2005 in one issue–.

Local Report: Mersehead (VC 72).

S21 At Sea

The SOC Map provides for records under this category in the Scottish sections of British Waters: almost all SAs Forth, Cromarty, Hebrides and Fair Isle (which covers Orkney & Shetland and should not be confused with S21); most of SA Hebrides; the western parts of SAs Forties and Viking; the northern parts of SAs Rockall and Malin; the southern part of SA Bailey, and 'Waters North of Shetland'. In Forrester *et al.* (2007), the endpaper maps show some other marine boundaries used for the purposes of this book. In the *North Sea Bird Report* the North Sea Bird Club publishes records from a number of platforms and vessels, at present largely in SAs Forties, Viking, and North of Shetland; sites from which records were received from 1979 to 2005 are shown in Forrester *et al.* (2007).

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