

Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 - Licensing statistics - Other Birds

Details of licences granted by Natural England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for birds other than waterfowl, use of prohibited methods and fish-eating species are detailed in the tables below. Also included licences granted historically by Defra. A more detailed table can be downloaded which gives licensing statistics for all birds. These data will be updated annually.

[0] Outstanding information not yet received. Please note that this data in brackets may only be incomplete because reports of action taken were not all due for return to Natural England at the time the statistics were published.

| 2010 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Species | Number of Applications Processed | Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse | Number of Licences Granted | Licensing Purpose | Action Type | Number of Licences for Action Type | Total Number licensed | Total Number Affected |
| Other birds | 959 | 147 | 812 | Preserving public health & air safety | Cage trap | 6 | 205 | 126 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 48 | 2040 | 363 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 9 | 510 | 153 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 50 | [0] |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage to agriculture, crops & livestock | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 9 | 463 | 131 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conservation | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 9 | [0] | [0] |
| | | | | Science & Education | Various | 299 | [0] | [0] |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Photography | Observation / use of photographic equipment | 52 | [0] | [0] |
| | | | | Falconry/ aviculture | Falconry | 44 | 1635 | 367 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Sale | Captive bred birds with incorrect leg rings | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | Egg consumption | Collection & sale | 24 | 73200 | 24820 |
| | | | | | Sale | 14 | n/a | 20648 |
| | | | | Exhibition/ competition | Exhibition | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Total | 516 | [78104] | [46608] |

| 2009 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Species | Number of Applications Processed | Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse | Number of Licences Granted | Licensing Purpose | Action Type | Number of Licences for Action Type | Total Number licensed | Total Number Affected |
| Other birds | 1018 | 73 | 945 | Preserving public health & air safety | Cage trap | 54 | 246 | [14] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 47 | 267 | [49] |
| | | | | | Other | 23 | 139 | [16] |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 3 | 200 | [74] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage to agriculture, crops & livestock | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 14 | 807 | [224] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conservation | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 37 | 249 | [0] |
| | | | | Science & Education | Various | 213 | 7030 | [0] |
| | | | | Photography | Observation / use of photographic equipment | 463 | 101 | [0] |
| | | | | Falconry/ aviculture | Falconry | 37* | 1361 | 307 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 1000 | 33 |
| | | | | Sale | Captive bred birds with incorrect leg rings | 13 | 76 | n/a |
| | | | | Egg consumption | Collection & sale | 25 | 77200 | 30848 |
| | | | | | Sale | 15 | n/a | 42661** |
| Exhibition/ competition | Exhibition | 0 | n/a | n/a | | | | |
| | | | | Total | 945 | 88676 | [74226] | |

2008

| Species | Number of Applications Processed | Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse | Number of Licences Granted | Licensing Purpose | Action Type | Number of Licences for Action Type | Total Number licensed | Total Number Affected |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Other birds | [1044] | [71] | 973 | Preserving public health & air safety | Cage trap | 49 | 423 | [26] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 51 | 269 | [69] |
| | | | | | Other | 33 | 320 | [64] |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 3 | 200 | [0] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage to agriculture, crops & livestock | Cage trap | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 9 | 620 | 450 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | Conservation | Cage trap | 1 | 2 | [0] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 22 | 795 | [0] |
| | | | | Science & Education | Various | 476 | 4472 | n/a |
| | | | | Photography | Observation / use of photographic equipment | 173 | 144 | n/a |
| | | | | Falconry/ aviculture | Falconry | 94 | 1126 | 293 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | n/a | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 1000 | 208 |
| | | | | Sale | Captive bred birds with incorrect leg rings | 25 | n/a | n/a |
| | | | | Egg consumption | Collection & sale | 26 | 77200 | 40399 |
| | | | | | Sale | 9 | n/a | 64525 |
| Exhibition/ competition | Exhibition | 1 | 1 | n/a | | | | |
| | | | Total | 973 | 86572 | [106034] | | |

| 2007 | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Species | Number of Applications Processed | Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse | Number of Licences Granted | Licensing Purpose | Action Type | Number of Licences for Action Type | Total Number licensed | Total Number Affected |
| Other birds | 335 | 51 | 283 | Preserving public health & air safety | Cage trap | 56 | 456 | [54] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 47 | 216 | [62] |
| | | | | | Other | 23 | 246 | [6] |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 1 | 100 | [0] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage to agriculture | Cage trap | 1 | 6 | 6 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 8 | 1285 | [89] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | Protecting a collection of wild birds | Other | 2 | 2000 | 540 |
| | | | | Falconry/ aviculture | Falconry | 93 | 1163 | 338 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Sale | Captive bred birds with incorrect leg rings | 9 | 350 | [0] |
| | | | | Egg consumption | Collection & sale | 26 | 84600 | 33390 |
| | | | | | Sale | 12 | n/a | 45030* |
| | | | | Exhibition/ competition | Exhibition | 4 | 5 | 5 |
| Total | | | | | | 283 | 90429 | 79522 |

| 2006 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Species | Number of Applications Processed | Number of Applications Rejected or Minded to Refuse | Number of Licences Granted | Licensing Purpose | Action Type | Number of Licences for Action Type | Total Number licensed | Total Number Affected | | | | |
| Other birds | 338 | 81 | 257 | Preserving public health & air safety | Cage trap | 58 | 468 | [52] | | | | |
| | | | | | Shoot | 53 | 256 | [54] | | | | |
| | | | | | Other | 24 | 148 | [44] | | | | |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage to agriculture | Cage trap | 1 | 5 | [0] | | | | |
| | | | | | Shoot | 8 | 1986 | 977 | | | | |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| | | | | Falconry/ aviculture | Falconry | 65 | 927 | 140 | | | | |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| | | | | | Other | 2 | 1500 | 1083 | | | | |
| | | | | Egg consumption | Collection & sale | 28 | 85200 | 39745 | | | | |
| | | | | | Sale | 13 | n/a | 46760 | | | | |
| | | | | Exhibition/ competition | Exhibition | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | Total | 257 | 90499 | 88864 |

| 2005 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Species | Number of applications processed | Number of applications rejected | Number of licences granted | Purpose | Action type | Number of licences for action type | Total number birds licensed | Total number birds affected |
| Other birds | 324 | 65 | 259 | Preserving public health/ air safety | Cage trap | 34 | 34 | [6] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 17 | 154 | [10] |
| | | | | | Other | 14 | 116 | [27] |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 2 | 100 | 2 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage | Cage trap | 2 | 6 | 1 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 12 | 456 | [345] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| | | | | Falconry/ Aviculture | Falconry | 104 | 1248 | 284 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Shoot | 5 | 190 | 131 |
| | | | | | Other | 7 | 1604 | 1531 |
| | | | | Sale | | 6 | 268 | 268 |
| | | | | eggs consumption | | 39 | 103300 | 103300 |
| | | | | Exhibition/ competition | | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| | | | | | Total | 246 | 107510 | 103300 |

| 2004 | | | | | | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Species | Number of applications processed | Number of applications rejected | Number of licences granted | Purpose | Action type | Number of licences for action type | Total number birds licensed | Total number birds affected |
| Other birds | 85 | 35 | 50 | Preserving public health/air safety | Cage trap | 6 | 9 | [2] |
| | | | | | Shoot | 31 | 45 | [15] |
| | | | | | Other | 9 | 45 | [5] |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 3 | 15 | [1] |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
|--------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | | | Total | 50 | 116 | 23 |
| 2003 | | | | | | | | |
| Species | Number of applications processed | Number of applications rejected | Number of licences granted | Purpose | Action type | Number of licences for action type | Total number birds licensed | Total number birds affected |
| Other birds | 82 | 26 | 56 | Preserving public health/air safety | Cage trap | 4 | 10 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 37 | 76 | 18 |
| | | | | | Other | 9 | 40 | 29 |
| | | | | Preventing the spread of disease | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 2 | 7 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| | | | | | Shoot | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| | | | | | Other | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | | Total | 56 | 146 | 53 |

2002

| Species | Number of applications processed | Number of applications rejected | Number of licences granted | Purpose | Action type | Number of licences for action type | Total number birds licensed | Total number birds affected |
|--------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Other birds | 34 | 9 | 25 | Preserving public health/air safety | Cage trap | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 19 | 23 | 6 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage | Cage trap | 1 | 20 | 3 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | | | | | Total | 25 | 54 | 10 |
|-------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2001 | | | | | | | | |
| Species | Number of applications processed | Number of applications rejected | Number of licences granted | Purpose | Action type | Number of licences for action type | Total number birds licensed | Total number birds affected |
| Other birds | 21 | 3 | 18 | Preserving public health/air safety | Cage trap | 1 | 2 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 11 | 18 | 14 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Preventing serious damage | Cage trap | 2 | 22 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 4 | 17 | 4 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | Conserving wild birds | Cage trap | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Shoot | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | Other | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | |