

Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Red-backed Shrike
Lead Partner/Agency	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Steering Group/Other organisations	Steering group in existence? Please state yes or no. Please list the organisations represented. No
Work programme in existence?	Please state yes or no. If in existence, please use the agreed work programme to update Field 3 and Table B. No formal work programme in existence but working to previously written RSPB Red-backed shrike Species Action Plan.

Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Ensure the success of any pairs of red-backed shrikes which attempt to breed in the UK and therefore maximise the chances of re-colonisation.	✓	✓		✓		Now overtaken by events as red-backed shrike may now be extinct as a breeder in England. Now only recorded very sporadically as a breeder in Scotland

Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.2.1 Where the species is found to occur, ensure that its conservation needs are actively considered in development policies and proposals.		✓		✓		✓	Ongoing.
5.3.1 Maintain nest site confidentiality (but see 5.6.1 below) and investigate all reliable reports of egg collecting.		✓		✓		✓	Ongoing.
5.3.2 Consider wardening of sensitive, accessible sites to prevent undue disturbance from birdwatchers or members of the public		✓		✓		✓	Ongoing.

5.4.1 Provide advice to landowners/site managers on the prevention of disturbance and habitat management to maintain and, if possible, enhance habitat suitability of breeding sites.		✓		✓		✓	Not Started.
5.5.1 Monitor breeding attempts through the Rare Breeding Birds Panel.	✓					No	Ongoing.
5.5.2 Encourage research into the ecology and management needs of this throughout the year in order to improve the chances of re-colonisation and the success of any breeding attempts.	✓					✓	PhD research project carried out on birds feeding ecology carried out in Austria (RSPB/University of Sheffield)
5.6.1 In co-operation with landowners/occupiers, consider providing a public viewing facility where nesting occurs in a popular public site and where some form of wardening effort is required.		✓		✓		No	Ongoing.

Field 4: Assessment of status

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
UK					✓		
England						✓	
Northern Ireland	✓						
Scotland				✓			
Wales	✓						
Brief text description justifying assessment of status: (~ no more than 100 words for each country/region). Red backed-shrike may now be extinct as a breeding species in England where it is now at best only a very occasional breeder. In Scotland, where colonisation from Scandinavia may be occurring, only very occasional confirmed breeding has been recorded in recent years, although young have successfully fledged. However, numbers of territorial birds fluctuate greatly and are linked to prevailing weather conditions during spring migration (i.e. some year are better than others).							

Field 5: Summary statement

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Red-backed shrike is now a very rare breeder in the UK and in recent years confirmed breeding records have been restricted to Scotland. Where territorial birds are detected some effort is made to monitor them but there are no comprehensive annual surveys. All breeding information where available is sent to the Rare Breeding Birds Panel for collation. Shortage of suitable breeding habitat appears not to be a limiting factor as confirmed breeding has occurred in a wide variety of habitats i.e. forestry restocks, heather moorland with scrub, young plantations, etc. This year (1999) appears to have been a good year for this species in north Scotland with at least one successful breeding attempt recorded and above average numbers of territorial birds. However, numbers were linked to prevailing easterly conditions during spring migration (May).

Learning more about the habitat needs and therefore management requirements of this species may be crucial if re-colonisation is to be assisted. At present with only a sporadic population the main priority for the species is to provide wardening to protect breeding pairs (but only where a clear need is identified) and, where necessary, to keep the whereabouts of any breeding pairs confidential (except to landowners and to relevant statutory agency/NGO staff).

Field 6: Signing off

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	Colin Crooke	Dr Andy Douse
Organisation	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Scottish Natural Heritage
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	07 October 1999	29 October 1999

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

*Biodiversity Information Service
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee
 Monkstone House
 City Road
 Peterborough PE1 1JY
 Tel: 01733 562626
 Fax: 01733 555948
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk*

Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country-specific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target (For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)	4.1 etc				
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
UK					
England					
Northern Ireland					
Scotland					
Wales					
Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region):					

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)		
Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)		
Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)		
Description of work taken and organisation responsible	Please provide details of progress to date, including information about outputs, deadlines, which organisations and where action is being undertaken.	
Output and timescale		Action by
Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)		
Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)		
Next steps	Please outline future action/work including an indication of expected output, timescale and organisation responsible.	
Output and timescale		Action by