

Acrocephalus palustris (Marsh Warbler)

Full report outputted on the 30/07/2003 16:39:03

1. Status of the habitat / species

Please give your most accurate assessment of the status of your species or habitat for the UK and for each country. Leave the row blank where the species or habitat does not occur in that country.

	Amount:	Units:	Year:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	31	Displaying males ▼	2000	Best guess ▼	Rare Birds Breeding Panel Data 2000
E	31	Displaying males ▼	2000	Informed guess ▼	Rare Birds Breeding Panel Data 2000
NI		Displaying males ▼	2000	Best guess ▼	Rare Birds Breeding Panel Data 2000
S	0	Displaying males ▼	2000	Best guess ▼	Rare Birds Breeding Panel Data 2000
W	0	Displaying males ▼	2000	Best guess ▼	Rare Birds Breeding Panel Data 2000

Information originally entered by Simon Busuttill on Monday, November 04, 2002

Information last changed by Simon Busuttill on Monday, November 18, 2002

2. Trend in Biological Status

Please give your best estimate of the current trend for your species or habitat for the UK, and each appropriate country, using the following categories. Please give an estimate unless there is absolutely no information on which to assess status.

	Trend:	Accuracy:	Reference for data:
UK	Fluctuating / No clear trend ▼	Partial or sample survey ▼	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
E	Fluctuating / No clear trend ▼	Partial or sample survey ▼	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
NI	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	Best guess ▼	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
S	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	Best guess ▼	Rare Bird Breeding Panel
W	Not applicable (does not occur in this country) ▼	Best guess ▼	Rare Bird Breeding Panel

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3. Status of knowledge

To what extent is our scientific knowledge of the habitat / species (e.g research information, autecological knowledge, knowledge for effective re-introduction or habitat restoration/re-creation) sufficient to deliver the plan targets?

Please give an assessment for the UK overall but if there is significant difference in knowledge between different countries this should be noted.

Status of knowledge:	Know ledge insufficient and no suitable research programme in place. ▼
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Notes:

Whilst there is some knowledge of the breeding habitat of this species in the UK, we do not know enough about either the factors affecting the numbers that arrive in the UK in spring (ie the potential breeding population) nor why the habitat actually occupied appears to be less than the potential habitat available - ie whether the limiting factor is numbers arriving or habitat quality - and therefore what the limitations are of any conservation work directed at this species.

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4. Progress on targets

Each of the revised targets from the 2001 Targets Review is listed below.

For each one please give a qualitative assessment of progress for the UK and each country. You can also enter quantitative information on progress by entering data in each of the target boxes and entering the current amount in the amount box. For more information see Help.

T1: Maintain the marsh warbler as a British breeding species.

Target start date:

1998

Target end date:

ongoing

Target units:

Individuals

	Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
UK	Target achieved		31	Best guess	Yes
E	Target achieved		31	Best guess	Yes
NI	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes
S	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes
W	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes

T2: In the long term, encourage a natural expansion of the marsh warbler population.

Target start date:

1998

Target end date:

2010

Target units:

Displaying males

Progress	Target	Current	Accuracy	Monitoring
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UK	No progress		31	Best guess	Yes
E	No progress		31	Best guess	Yes
NI	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes
S	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes
W	Not applicable		0	Best guess	Yes

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5. Current factors affecting the habitat

When your plan was published the factors (threats) that were thought to be causing loss or decline were listed (in section 2). Re-assessing the current situation may help prioritise actions for your species or habitat. In addition, this enables identification of the main threats to biodiversity across all plans. It is useful to assess whether the importance of different factors is changing and whether there are new issues emerging.

The threat section from the original plan is duplicated below, and a first attempt at categorising the threats has been made. Please confirm that you agree with the categorisation of the original threats identified in the plan (by deleting any wrongly categorised threats and adding the correct category). Please also add to the list any significant threats that have emerged recently, being mindful of environmental issues that have increased in profile or been recognised since plan publication (e.g. climate change). Once you are happy that the list contains all the threats identified in the published plan together with any new ones, please rank them in order of severity (1= highest threat). If the situation has changed and one of the published threats is no longer significant, please leave this in the list but give this rank = 0.

Current factors affecting the habitat from the original publication:

- 2.1 The reasons for the decline in the lower Avon population are not well known but some marsh warbler sites have been lost as a result of vegetation change and riverine channel modification.
- 2.2 Climatic factors have been suggested as a partial cause of the long-term UK decline, since the species occurs at the northern edge of its range here, and breeds only in the warmer southern counties of England. However, many aspects of its ecology are poorly understood and numerous apparently suitable nesting areas have never been occupied.
- 2.3 Geographical isolation has been proposed as a possible reason for the near-extinction of the western population. However, the species has had a fragmented and scattered distribution in this country for many decades.
- 2.4 The marsh warbler is prone to disturbance by birdwatchers and others. The nest is relatively easy to find and a number of incidents of egg collecting have been recorded in the Worcestershire breeding area.

Keyworded factors:

To add factors click the add button, to delete factors check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Rank:	Keyword:
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Habitat loss / degradation - freshwater River engineering works
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Harvesting Collection - scientific/leisure
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Human disturbance Interference / displacement
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Intrinsic Factors Restricted range
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Pollution - atmospheric Global warming / sea-level rise

6. Constraints (optional)

Select the three most significant constraints to achieving the targets of the plan, and indicate the order of priority (1-3 with 1 being the most significant constraint). Only include constraints that are acting as a real blockage to delivering the plan targets or leading to a substantial delay in their delivery. For each constraint, please indicate whether you feel that it is within the ability of the lead partner or steering group to resolve the constraint.

Constraint 1:	
Constraint keyword:	Country:
Species and habitat management International: lack of protection in other countries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UK <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> NI <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> W
Solution:	Solution type:
Migratory species - no known possibility of positively affecting the potential breeding population (ie numbers arriving in UK in spring) which MAY be main constraint on achieving BAP targets	Other
Able to resolve:	<input type="checkbox"/>
Constraint 2:	

Constraint keyword:

Research, survey and information | Impacts/ threats - little understanding

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:

Research (including international?) to determine factors influencing potential breeding population (see Constraint 1)

Solution type:**Able to resolve:****Constraint 3:****Constraint keyword:**

Research, survey and information | Autecology - poor knowledge

Country:

UK E NI S
 W

Solution:**Solution type:**

Research (including international?) to determine factors influencing why actual breeding population is less than potential breeding population (see Constraint 1)

Able to resolve:

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7. Steering Group

Please list all organisations that are represented on the steering group for your species/habitat (include all organisations that have contributed either directly or by correspondence within the last 3 years). Where a steering group does not exist please leave this form blank.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

Delete:	Organisation:
<input type="checkbox"/>	English Nature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment Agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent Ornithological Society
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kent Wildlife Trust

- Kentish Stour Countryside Project
- Medway River Project
- Romney Marsh Countryside Project
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
- Sandwich Bay Bird Observatory
- Sussex Ornithological Society
- White Cliffe Countryside Project
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

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8. Other Groups/Organisations

Please list any additional groups/organisations that are actively involved in implementing your action plan. (This is to try to assess which groups are involved where there is no steering group and any additional contributors). If you do not have any other organisations involved, click here.

To add organisations click the add button, to delete organisations check the delete box and then click the delete button.

9. Linkages to LBAPs

a) Which of the following most accurately describes your interaction with LBAPs, up to now?

Good contact with LBAPs, information exchanged.

b) If you have been in contact with LBAPs how was it initiated?

By Both

c) Irrespective of current contact, how important do you consider LBAP co-ordinated action will be in achieving the targets of the plan? Select from category:

Unimportant

d) If you consider LBAP action to be anything other than unimportant, which of the following forms of engagement do you think would be appropriate? (Note, you may tick more than one category.)

- Indirect contact (e.g. posting information on UKBAP website, sharing work programmes, meeting schedules, articles in Biodiversity News, newsletter)
- Provision of generic information on habitat and/or species (e.g. advice and guidance on habitat/species ecology and management)
- Direct provision of advice (e.g. proactive approach to LBAP, response to consultations from LBAPs, advice on LBAP target setting)
- Reciprocal attendance at meetings

Development of collaborative projects

Other (please specify):

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10. Successes (optional)

Have there been key successes in the implementation of your plan that should be drawn to the attention of government, the wider BAP partnership, or the public? Please give a brief description (i.e. 2-3 sentences) of up to three successes and allocate a topic area to each of them:

Success 1:

Description:

Threat of egg thieves to this species especially at major UK
know n site identified

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Research, survey and information | Other

Success 2:

Description:

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

Success 3:

Description:

Country:

UK E NI S W

Keyword:

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Thankyou for answering the questions. You have not yet completed all of the questions. You can go back and answer the additional ones or edit the ones you have already answered whenever you want.

Sign-off:

When you have completed all of the questions that you are able to, you must sign off your reporting.

I agree that the steering group (if present) have agreed the information in this report and that the following contact point has also signed it off:

Contact point:

RSPB

email:

simon.busuttil

Your name:

Simon Busuttil

Date:

24 December
