

counts being made. The exposed substrate at low tide is divided into small count areas enabling the distribution of feeding birds to be determined in fine detail. Data are available at either the count section or whole estuary level. At the count area level, for each species noted information is given on the peak number, peak density, mean number and mean density section for the winter in question.

Heronries Census: 1928 onwards

Over 75% of UK heronries are visited each year and the number of occupied nests is recorded. Nest counts are available for each year that the colony was visited.

Ornithological Sites Register: late '60s/early '70s and 1985/86

A wide variety of sites were visited in all seasons and details of habitat features and ornithological interest were recorded. A selection of these sites were re-visited during 1985/86 to note any changes in the habitat or bird species present. This resulted in the 'Review of Site Changes 1985/86' dataset. OSR provides useful background information for sites of ornithological interest and copies of the original survey cards are available.

Ringling Recoveries: 1909 onwards

The BTO, with support from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, operates a nationwide ringing scheme involving specially trained volunteers. Subsequent reports (recoveries) of ringed birds are recorded by the BTO. Data are available on bird movements to and from a specific site and in some cases more specialised information e.g. moult record cards are also obtainable.

Nest Record Scheme: 1939 onwards

This scheme records the breeding success rates of many species of British breeding birds. Data are available on clutch size, brood size etc.

EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL SURVEYS

Winter Farmland Bird Survey 1999-2003.

A major survey covering 1090 1km squares throughout Britain. 30 priority species were recorded by all observers, additional optional species also recorded by many. Data are available in three forms; square surveys (4-hour timed search of farmland within 1km squares), casual records (submitted sightings of 'large' flocks of priority species – large definite by threshold flock size for each species) and 'winter walks' (Records of all species from repeated visits to areas chosen by the observer).

Breeding Waders of Wet Meadows: 1982 and 1989

These surveys were run in conjunction with RSPB. Areas of damp floodplain and coastal grazing marsh in England and Wales were visited and the numbers of breeding waders and habitat details were recorded. The 1989 survey re-visited a sample of sites from the 1982 survey using similar methods.

Nightjar Surveys: 1981 & 1992

This survey was carried out jointly with the RSPB. For each site data are available on the number of birds, their sex, their breeding status and the broad habitat type of their territory.

Woodlark Survey 1986

For each site data are available on the number of birds, their breeding status and the surrounding habitat type.

Breeding Skylarks 1997

Data available as for Woodlarks

Lapwing 1998

For each site data are available on the number of breeding pairs per tetrad (and 1-km square within the tetrad) plus total number per tetrad from the 1987 survey.