

BBS Statement to Accompany Report

- Amendments made to the data
- Strengths and limitations of the methodology
- BTO's analysis of the data

After the publication of the Peak District Moorland Breeding Bird Survey report in November 2019, we became aware that the data had not been processed in an identical way to the previous surveys of 1990 and 2004. Through a series of collaborative discussions with the consultants and partners, two areas which required attention were identified. Updating these would bring the method in line with previous surveys, which would allow robust scientific comparisons of data from the different surveys to be made. The two areas were:

1. The final stage of the application of distance thresholds using the Brown & Shepherd methodology was applied to the data. This helps to reduce potential double counting of the same birds when they are seen in similar areas on the two visits. The application of this stage resulted in some records being removed, and as such fewer birds being reported.
2. Further documented information was provided to explain the data processing that occurred between the field maps and digitised dataset, to make the whole process fully transparent.

This survey provides information on the distribution and abundance of different species across the Peak District Moors. The Brown and Shepherd methodology is ideal for surveying large areas in a single survey season of three months. Due to the requirement of covering a large area in a short period of time, it provides an estimate of the numbers of birds present rather than a complete census. As such, there is an inherent uncertainty associated with large-scale surveys such as this.

BTO are performing an analysis to quantify the direction and magnitude of population trends between the surveys. As there were slightly different areas surveyed in 1990 and 2004 the overall results of the three surveys cannot be compared directly. BTO's analysis accounts for the different areas covered by each survey and compares changes across the 1990, 2004, and 2018 data with results from analysis of annual BTO/ JNCC/ RSPB Breeding Bird Survey data from the Peak District and South Pennines. This provides an independent 'sense check' of the Peak District Moorland breeding bird survey data to see if species' trends match between the two methods. Results from this analysis are expected in August 2021. **We would urge readers to wait for this analysis before actively using the data in this report, as this analysis will inform and clarify the findings from this survey.**