



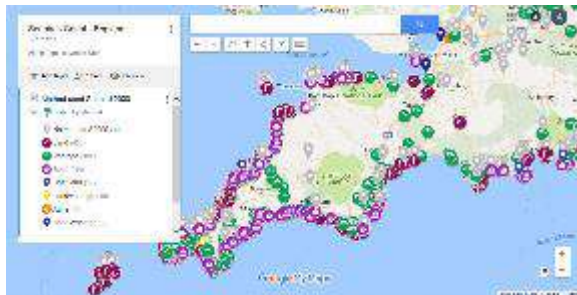
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Capturing seabird data in the South West – bringing monitoring and citizen science together

Sophy Allen, Natural England

Improving seabird monitoring in the SW

- Seabirds are relatively easy and inexpensive to observe, study and record.
- Monitoring could be improved in the SW using existing tools
- Data could be usefully incorporated into the SWME reports

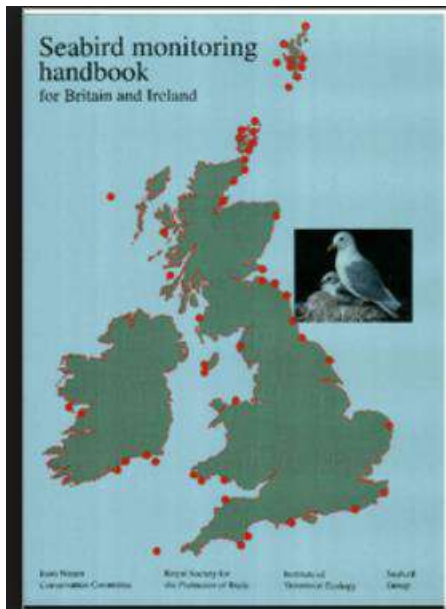
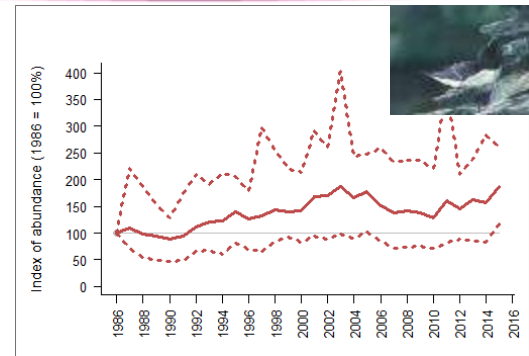


South-West Marine Ecosystems Report 2016



Why monitor seabirds?

- To assess the status of seabird populations
- As indicators of wider ecosystem health



- Abundance measures can be slow to respond (need long time series)
- Other measures can examine more immediate responses to marine environment (productivity, provisioning rate, diet)

How to record seabirds

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There are two key resources:

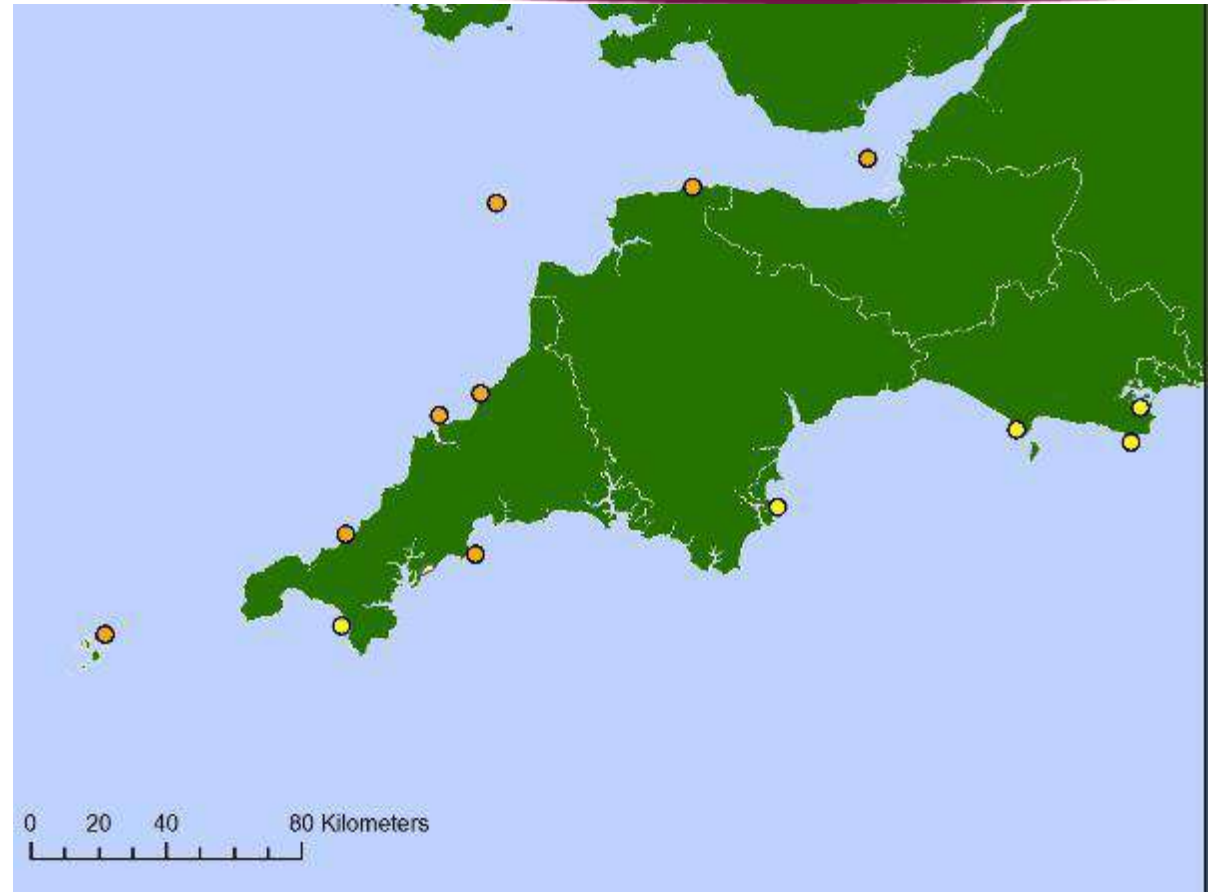
The **Seabird Monitoring Programme** to record breeding bird data (at the nest) and guide on monitoring approaches and sites

The BTO app/website **Bird Track** to record all observations from land and sea of seabirds



Recording breeding season data (nests)

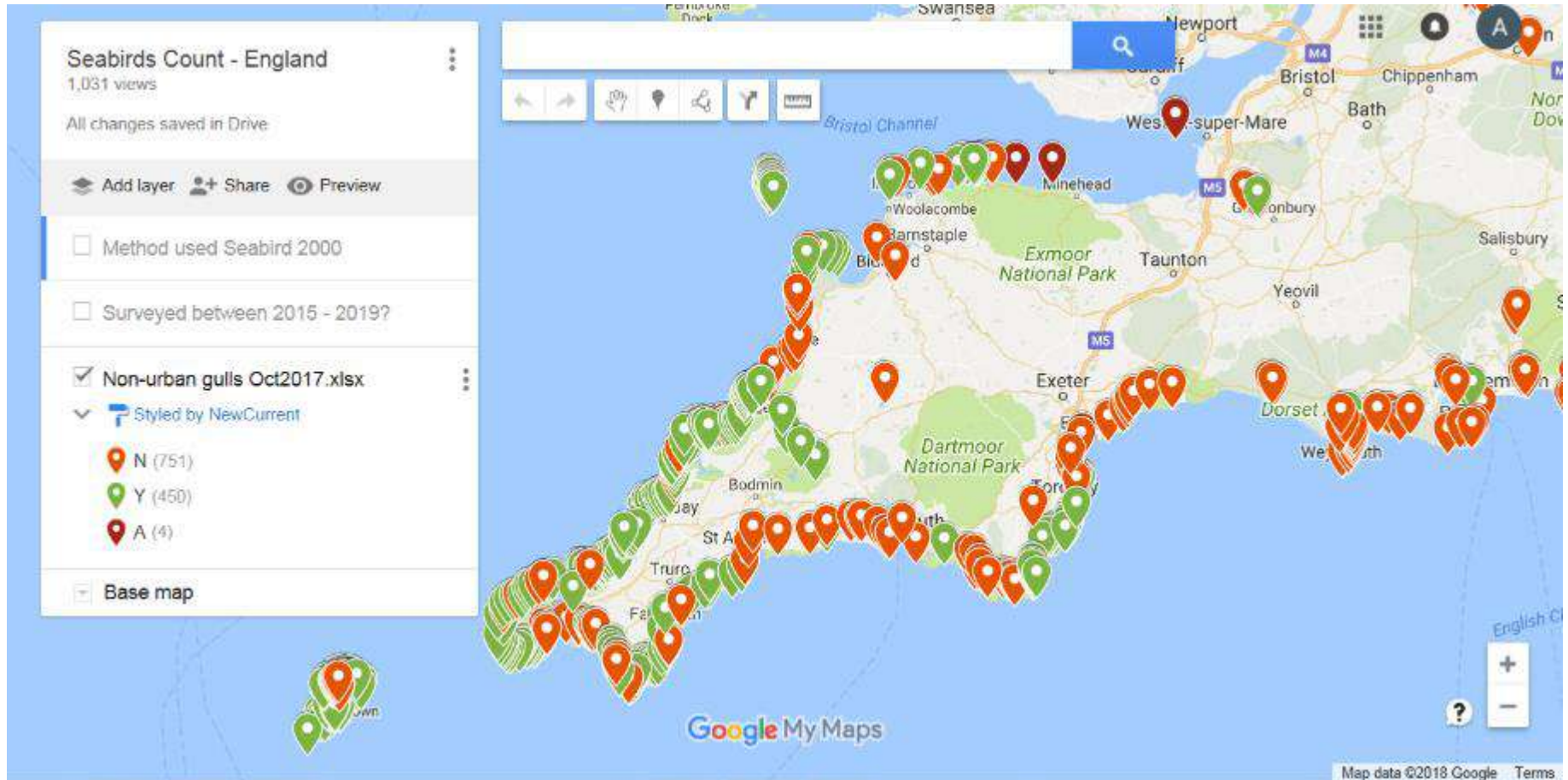
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<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1550>

National breeding seabird census

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SeabirdsCountCoordinator@jncc.gov.uk

BirdTrack



Welcome
Scott Mayson
Log Out

Your options

- Home
- Add records
- My records
- My places
- My preferences
- Management
- Upload records
- Explore data
- Help
- Contact us

BirdTrack Partners

Welcome to BirdTrack's global data entry tool. The original BirdTrack site for Britain and Ireland still exists here. [More details ...](#)

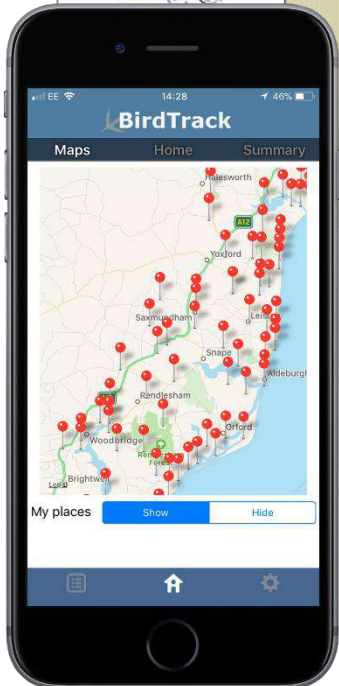
Reporting rate

Peak count by week

BirdTrack photos

Tweets by @BirdTrack

Review of the Week: 14-20 March 19500-1910: A herd of White-necked Storks arrived, a new American Herring Gull was in Ireland and, further afield, the Kelp Gull returned to Paris. Josh Jones reports



Website www.birdtrack.net

Android app available at Google Play store

iOS app available from App store

 @birdtrack



BirdTrack - Overview



- Partnership project between BTO, RSPB, Birdwatch Ireland, Scottish Ornithologists' Club, and Welsh Ornithological Society
- Started in 2002 as 'Migration Watch' with the initial aim to map spring migration.
- Re-named BirdTrack in 2004 and expanded to cover all seasons not just spring migration.
- Over 6.2 million records logged in 2017 and > 50 million records in total.
- Over 7000 active users



Ways to record sea birds using BirdTrack



- Plot your route at sea by creating a 'path' via the BirdTrack website
- Highlight interesting records whilst at sea using the pinpoint function within the BirdTrack app.
- Plot routes in UK waters using 1km, 2km or 10km grid squares.
- Use the app whilst sea watching from land.



Recording at sea



16:34 40%

< Visit Records Edit visit

Scillonian Pelagic
Date:20/03/2018 Start:Not set End:Not set

Species

Count - + c + Add

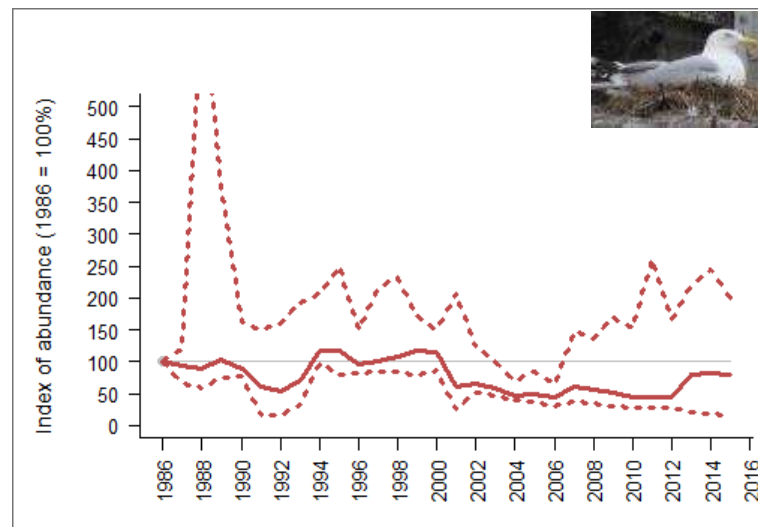
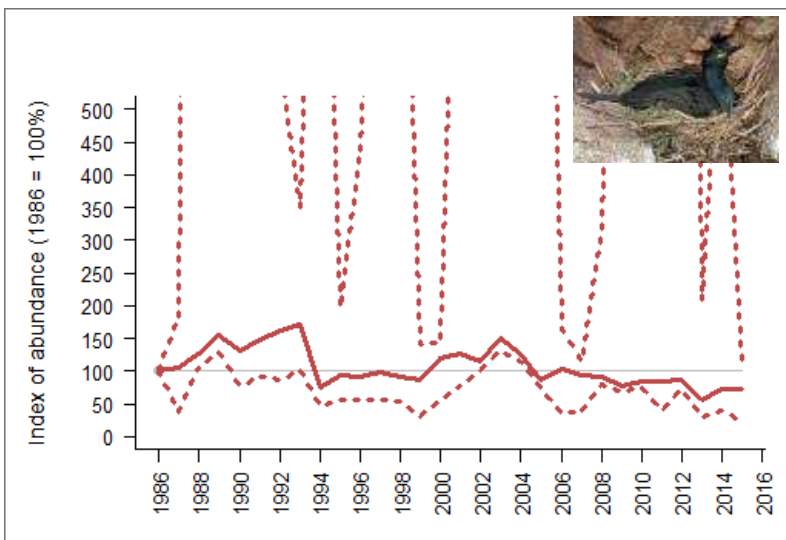
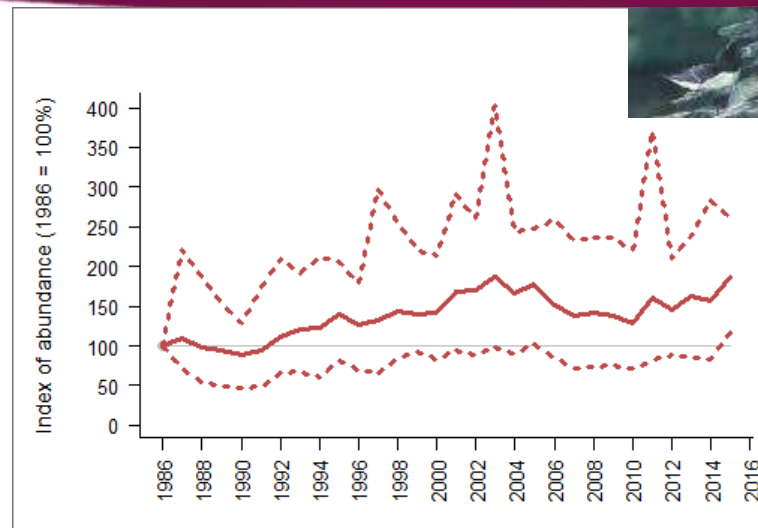
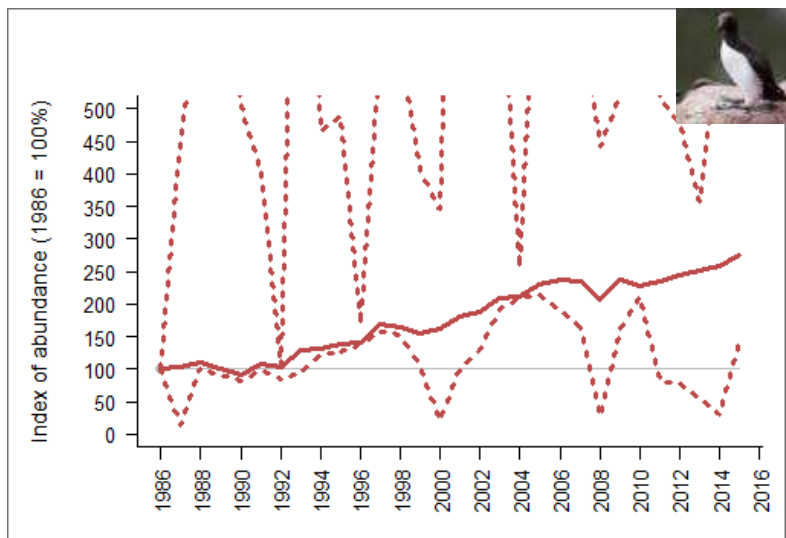
Great Skua	-	5	+
Black-headed Gull	-		+
Herring Gull	-		+
Grey Phalarope	-	1	+
Puffin	-	46	+
Guillemot	-	54	+
Long-tailed Skua	-	2	+
Manx Shearwater	-	c100	+
Storm Petrel	-	200+	+

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A sightings list can be compiled on the fly adding species and numbers as you go.

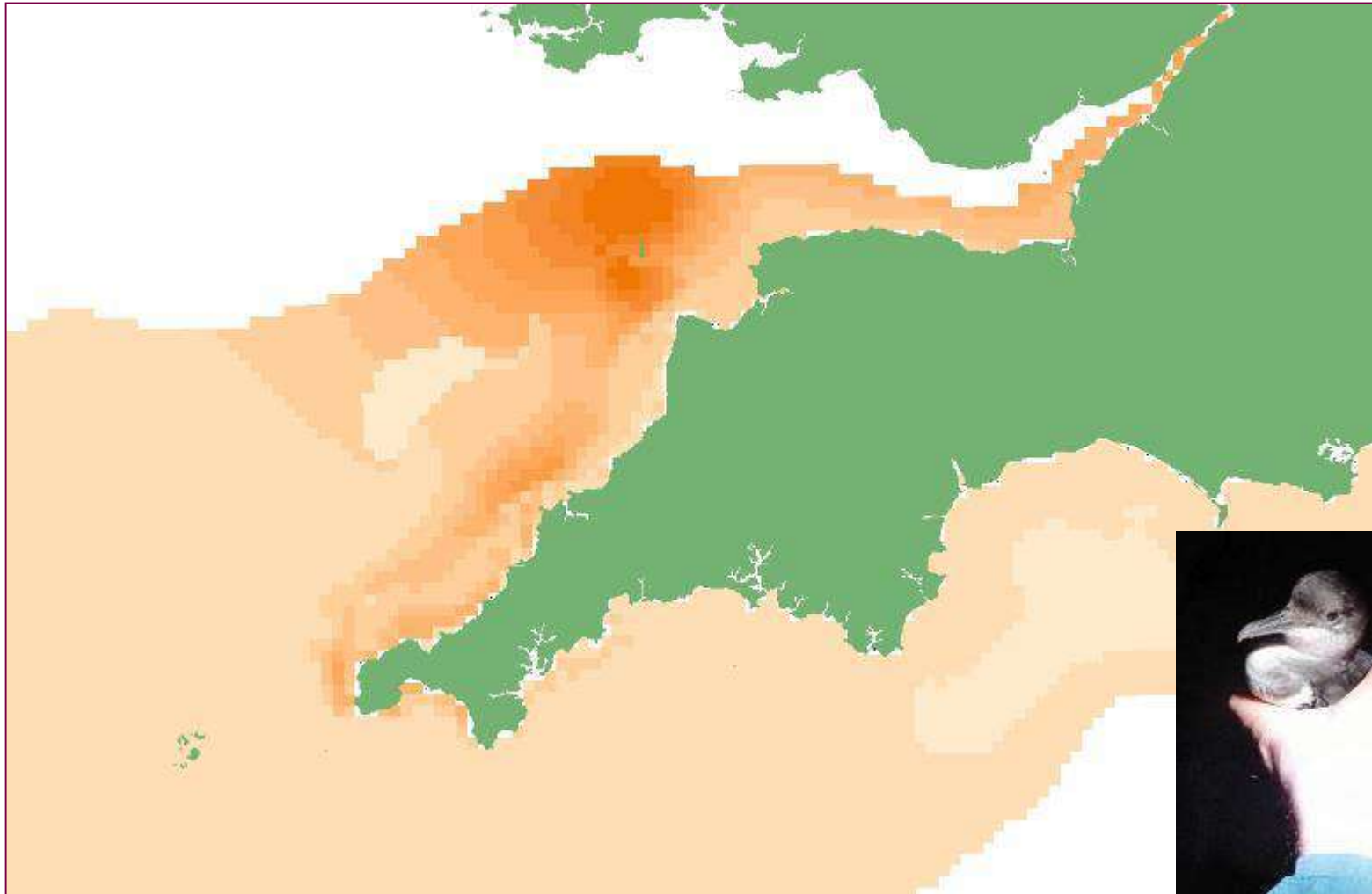


Uses of breeding bird data



Uses of bird data (at sea)

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Lots of opportunities for professionals and citizen scientists to get involved in seabird monitoring, either short or long term.

Encourage people to submit casual observations of birds at sea and on land to Bird Track – invaluable resource

The more data we can capture, the better we can understand our ‘sentinels of the sea’ and appreciate trophic interactions / changes in wider marine ecosystems

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<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1550>



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www.birdtrack.net