

Reviews of pre-1950 rarities

Many reviews of county avifaunas are currently taking place, which involves examining records of rarities that occurred before 1950. Some of these records have been found wanting, and both BBRC and BOURC have, in some cases, been asked to help with the review. Unfortunately, neither body has the resources to carry out this work for all such records. Indeed, the work falls outside the scope of BOURC, whose remit is to examine records

of 'firsts' for Britain, while BBRC has no expertise in researching local natural history archives (something which, in pre-1950 records, is often as important as the description itself).

Following the recent AGMs of both BOURC and BBRC, the two committees have agreed on the following approach and hope that counties will find it acceptable. BOURC will consider any pre-1950 record if it constitutes one of the

first five records of the species for Britain. For other records, we ask counties to make the decisions themselves. We would ask county records committees to notify both BBRC and BOURC of any changes made as a result of such reviews, so that we can update our statistics.

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