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## Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*

### Key facts

**Conservation listings:** Global: **Least Concern**

Europe: **Least Concern**

UK: **red** (breeding population decline); at race level, *vulgaris red*, *zetlandicus amber*

**Long-term trend:** England: rapid decline

**Population size:** 1,900,000 (1,700,000-2,200,000) pairs in 2009 (**APEP13**: distance-sampling estimate for 2006 (**Newson et al. 2008**) updated using BBS trend)

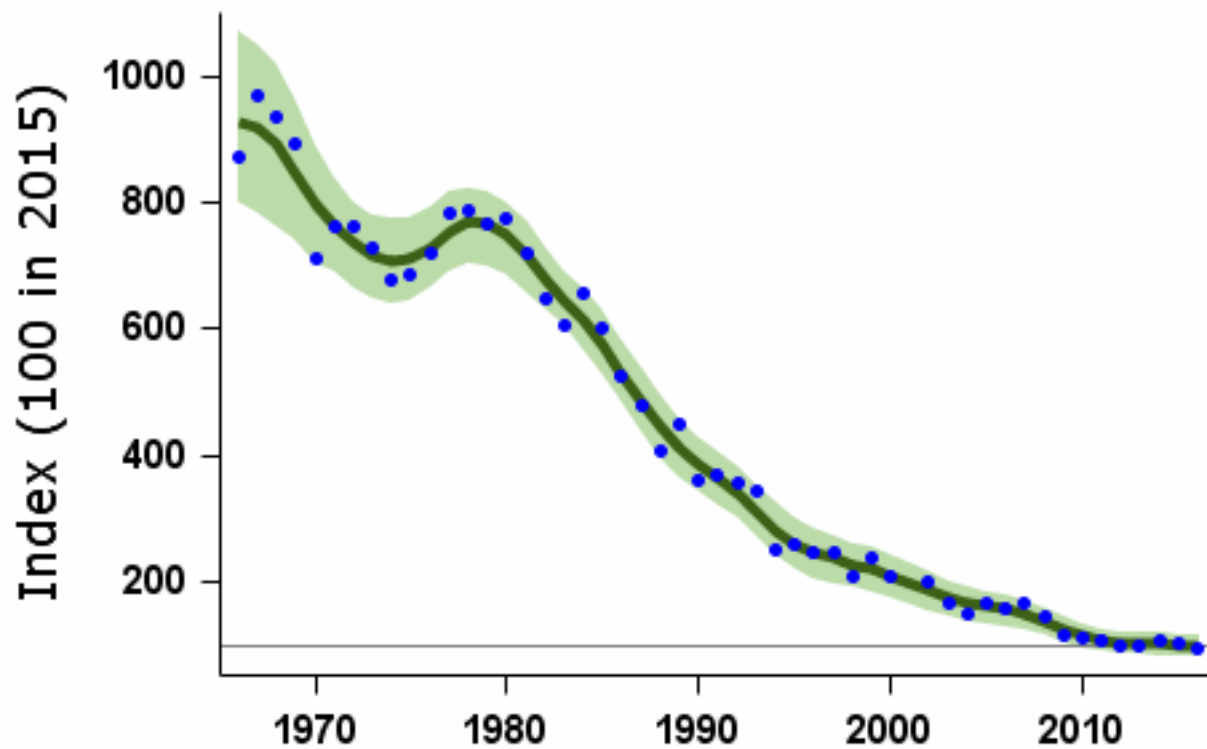


<b>Migrant status</b>	Resident	<b>Nesting habitat</b>	Cavity nester
<b>Primary breeding habitat</b>	Farmland	<b>Secondary breeding habitat</b>	
<b>Breeding diet</b>	Animal	<b>Winter diet</b>	Vegetation

### Status summary

The abundance of breeding Starlings in the UK has fallen rapidly, particularly since the early 1980s and especially in woodland (**Robinson et al. 2002, 2005a**), and continues to be strongly downward. The BBS [map](#) of change in relative density between 1994-96 and 2007-09 indicates that decrease has been widespread across England and eastern Scotland but that some increase has occurred in Northern Ireland, western Scotland and Cumbria. Recent BBS data suggest that populations are decreasing also in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where the trends were initially upward. The species' UK conservation listing has been upgraded from amber to red as the decline has become more severe. Widespread declines in northern Europe during the 1990s outweighed increases in the south, and the European status of this species is no longer considered 'secure' (**BirdLife International 2004**). There has been widespread moderate decline across Europe since 1980 (**PECBMS: PECBMS 2016a**).

CBC/BBS England 1966-2016  
Starling



### Population changes in detail

### Population trends by habitat

- **BirdTrends 2017:** trends in numbers, breeding success and survival for UK breeding birds

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### Species links

Alphabetic species...

- Barn Owl
- Blackbird
- Blackcap
- Blue Tit
- Bullfinch
- Buzzard

Taxonomic species...

- Mute Swan
- Greylag Goose
- Canada Goose
- Shelduck
- Mandarin Duck
- Gadwall

- [Key to species texts](#)

### Section links

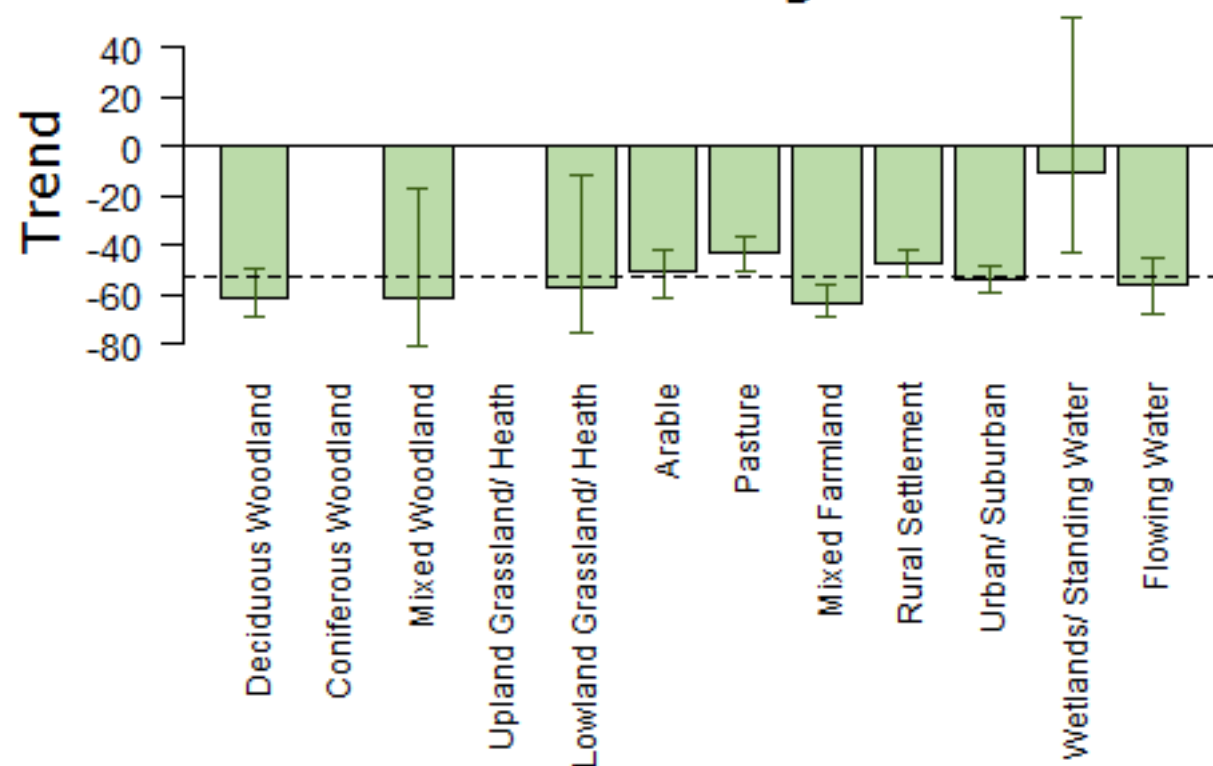
- [Population changes](#)
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- [Causes of change](#)

### Additional info

- [Distribution maps for Britain and Ireland](#)
- [BirdFacts page on species biology](#)
- [BirdTrack results](#)
- [Garden BirdWatch results](#)



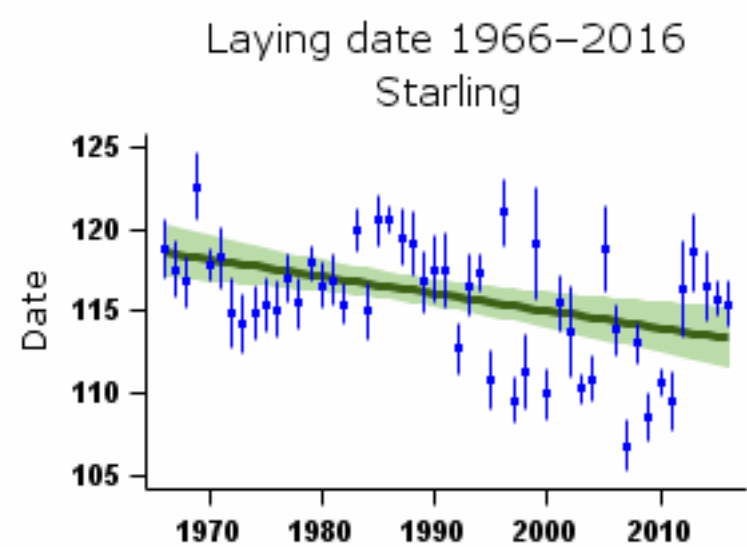
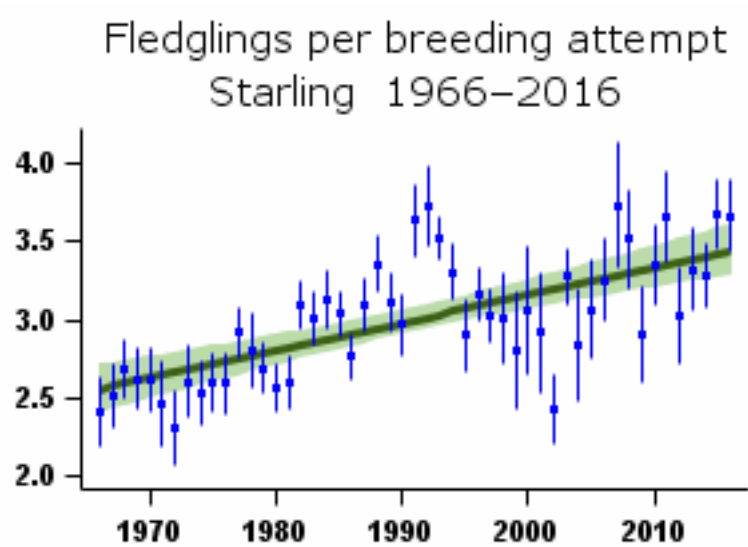
## Habitat-specific trend 1995 - 2011 Starling



Note that habitat trend graphs are not updated every year. Trends are not reported here or in more detail for habitats where the species was recorded in fewer than 30 plots per year.

[More on habitat trends](#)

## Demographic trends



[More on demographic trends](#)

## Causes of change

There is good evidence that changes in first-year overwinter survival rates best account for observed population change. Although the ecological drivers of Starling decline are poorly understood, changes in the management of pastoral farmland are thought to be largely responsible.

Change factor	Primary driver	Secondary driver
Demographic	Decreased juvenile survival	
Ecological	Agricultural intensification	

[Further information on causes of change](#)

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BTO, Thetford. [www.bto.org/birdtrends](http://www.bto.org/birdtrends)

