

1. The project

Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS)

- PBMS is a national project, operating since 1960's.
- It uses predatory birds to track pollution in the environment.
- Monitors persistent and bioaccumulative contaminants
- Informing policy, regulation, and management
- Identifies potential risks to wildlife and ecosystems,
- Maintains an internationally significant tissue archive.
- More information at <https://pbms.ceh.ac.uk/>



Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme

2. The Challenge: Bird flu has caused a dramatic decline in bird submissions

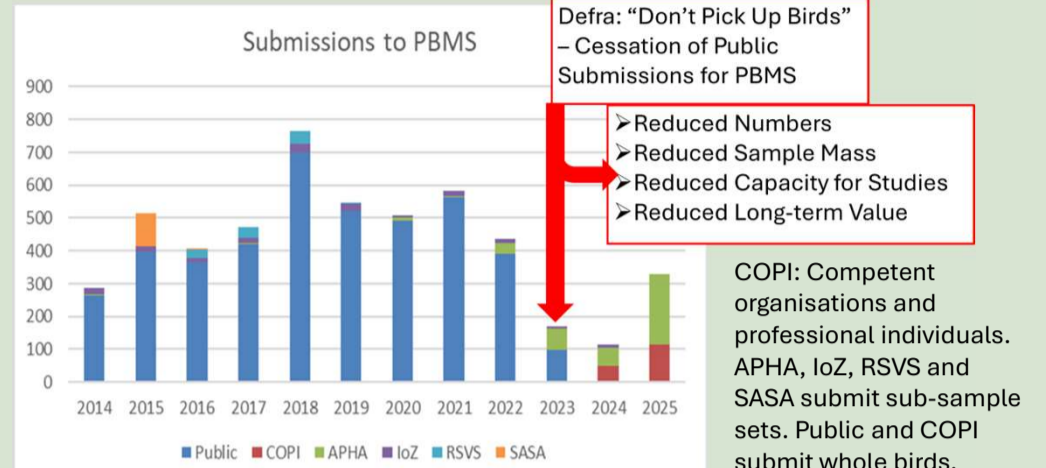


Fig 1. The number of birds received by PBMS. Cessation of submissions from the public due to restrictions with increased levels of HPAI. Partial replacement with submissions from COPI and sub-sample sets from collaborative organisations.

3. Objectives of stakeholder engagement

We have secured funding from NERC for a two-year stakeholder engagement project to:

- Develop a network of trained volunteers - ensuring the ability to monitor the wider environment;
- Regional focus - widen the geographical area for submissions (Fig 2);
- Increased bird submissions – enhanced ability to carry out monitoring;
- Ensure a sustainable tissue archive – increase potential for wider analysis of contaminants.

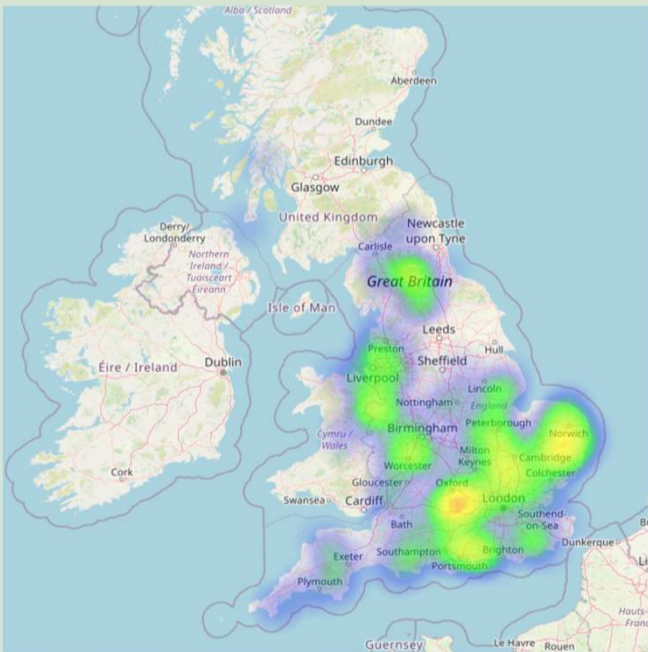


Fig 2. Heat map of submissions of birds and sample sets in 2025. Colouration is relative with number declining from yellow, through green, purple to clear (no submission within 30km). Map generated by gridreferencefinder.com

6. Acknowledgements

The PBMS receives financial support from Natural England (CPD026), NERC as part of their National Capability for UK Challenges programme (NE/Y006208/1), and the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use. We also thank the public and our collaborative organisations who have submitted carcasses to the Predatory Bird Monitoring Scheme (PBMS) for their efforts; which are key to the success of the scheme.

4. Tiered and phased approach to stakeholder engagement

Phase 1 & 2

Identification & prioritisation of trainees

Training and comms resources, and feedback

Stakeholder Tier 1 & 2

Phase 3

Training pilot

Engagement & needs assessment

Stakeholder Tier 3

Phase 4

Implementation & expansion

Stakeholder Tier 4 & 5

Phase 5

Success assessment & sustainability plan.

Resources needed to further expand and maintain network

Stakeholder Tier Group:-

Tier 1. – PBMS staff; Tier 2. – UKCEH colleagues; Tier 3. – WILDCOMS (partners and Previous Contributors); Tier 4. – Wildlife & rehabilitation organisations; Tier 5. – Environmentally engaged members of the public.

5. Future Proofing the PBMS

A successful project will result in:-

- A more active relationship with contributors;
- Building a more resilient network of volunteers and developing a community;
- Developing a sustainability plan;
- Continued training initiatives - onboarding new volunteers;
- Restoring and enhancing the tissue archive to enable continued monitoring of sentinel species;
- The PBMS continuing to answer questions of pollution and contamination in the environment.
- Can you help? If so contact pbms@ceh.ac.uk