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|-----|---------------------|----|--------------------|
| CZ  | Kulík bledý         | I  | Pivieressa         |
| D   | Kiebitzregenpfeifer | NL | Zilverplevier      |
| E   | Chorlito Gris       | P  | Tarambola-cinzenta |
| F   | Pluvier argenté     | PL | Siewnica           |
| FIN | Tundrakurmitsa      | R  | Тулеч              |
| G   | Αργυροπόδι          | S  | Kustpipare         |
| H   | Ezüstle             |    |                    |

Non-SPEC, Threat status S (P)

The Grey Plover has a circumpolar distribution and breeds over the whole Eurasian high-arctic mainland and on most offshore islands, from the Kanin Peninsula in the W to Chukotskiy Peninsula and Anadyr Bay in the E.

In Europe, it nests in several types of tundra. In the Kanin Peninsula, the habitat is mainly undulating heath tundra, whereas the mosses and lichens of bare tundra predominate further E, as in the Malozemel'skaya tundra (the River Indiga to the lower reaches of the Pechora) and the Bol'shezemel'skaya tundra (the Pechora to Prince Yugorskiy Peninsula). Poorly developed grasses (*Luzula confusa*, *Poa arctica*, *Calamagrostis holmii*) and a few higher taxa (purple saxifrage *Saxifraga oppositifolia*, mountain avens *Dryas octopetala*, bog rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*, Labrador tea *Ledum palustre*) comprise the vegetation. Inadequately drained soils and bogs are less favoured for breeding (Seebohm & Harvie-Brown 1876, Estafiev 1991, Yu. Mineyev, pers obs).

The Grey Plover nests on littoral tundras, within 20km of the coast, generally in clusters. E of the Pechora mouth, such areas are larger and breeding may occur 20–50km inland, even within the northern limits of the forest tundra (Estafiev 1991, Morozov 1992, Yu. Mineyev, pers obs). On the Timan coast (Malozemel'skaya), the Grey Plover prefers dryer soils with adjacent bare sandy patches, unlike the Golden Plover *P. apricaria*.

Like other Arctic breeding waders, breeding densities fluctuate considerably from year to year not only because of variable weather conditions, but also because of predator pressure in poor lemming (*Lemmus sibiricus*, *Dicrostonyx torquatus*) years. From long-term (1976–91) summer research over vast areas, densities of birds/km<sup>2</sup> are as in

Table A Densities of Grey Plovers

Area	Birds/km <sup>2</sup>
Malozemel'skaya tundra	0.68–2.53; mean (1986–91) 1.57 (Yu. Mineyev, in prep)
Bol'shezemel'skaya tundra	0.39–1.95; mean (1976–79) 1.01. Divided into:
Littoral tundra	1.73–1.95; mean (1976–77) 1.84
Central tundra	0.00–0.39; mean (1978–9) 0.2 (Estafiev 1991)
Yugorskiy Peninsula	0.18–4.07; mean (1981–4) 1.52 (Estafiev 1991)
Vaygach Island	2.4 (1965)

Table B Densities of Grey Plover nests

Area	Nests/km <sup>2</sup>
Bol'shezemel'skaya tundra (two vast areas)	
Littoral tundra	0.8 (1976) and 0.7 (1977)
Central tundra	0.0 (1978 and 1979)
Yugorskiy Peninsula	0.0, 0.49, 0.0 and 1.1, 1981–84
Vaygach Island	1.0, 1965

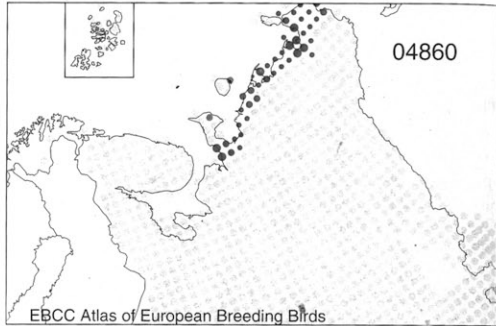


Table A. However, densities of nests/km<sup>2</sup> were much lower (Table B) over much of the same area (Estafiev 1991). Vaygach Island may be a stronghold (Karpovich & Khokhanov 1967).

The Table B averages are higher than for long-term (1982–91) nest counts in Central Yamal (0.00–0.04) but considerably lower than for N Yamal (2.2–3.6) (Ryabitshev & Alekseeva 1992).

A minimum estimate of 10 000bp in Europe is probably extremely conservative (10 000–100 000), yet in the early 1950s it was considered comparatively rare. Its western expansion and population increase are therefore very significant. The recent sharp increase in wintering numbers reported in some areas in W Europe (Kirby *et al* 1991) may reflect its changing breeding distribution.

Long-term investigations by Yu. Mineyev (in prep) and Estafiev (1991) established that the highest densities (in birds/km<sup>2</sup>) in N European Russia were restricted to four prime habitats: the W coast of the Kanin Peninsula, between the Rivers Shemza and Kiya, c3.0; the Russkiy Zavorot Peninsula, 1.6; the coast of Khaypudirskaya Bay, 1.8; the W coast of Yugorskiy Peninsula, between the Rivers Bolshaya and Belkovskaya, 2.7, and the River Lymbadaykha, 4.0.

Grey Plover populations migrating through or wintering in W Europe are known to breed as far E as the Taymyr Peninsula. Recoveries of birds ringed in Sweden, Denmark and Great Britain indicate that some of these migrants winter as far S as the Gulf of Guinea. Strong evidence supports a smaller movement via the Mediterranean Flyway, probably of birds wintering in South Africa (Branson & Minton 1976).