

Place-name and archaeological evidence on the recent history of birds in Britain

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Abstract. The history of birds in Britain is revealed both by the place-names that invoke them and the archaeological evidence. This is a partial survey, concentrating on wild rather than domestic species. Both sets of evidence are biased towards larger and conspicuous birds, and Cranes, Ravens and birds of prey are highlighted in both.

Key words: place-names; eagle, raven, crane, archaeological sites, Britain.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Most place-names in England are of Anglo-Saxon or Norse origin, and typically date to 1500-1000 years ago. They usually combine a noun and an adjective, or two nouns in apposition. Thus Cranmere and Tranmire both mean crane-lake, one being Anglo-Saxon and the other Norse (BOISSEAU & YALDEN 1998). Such names reveal something about the widespread occurrence and habitat preferences of birds in the past. The archaeological record also documents these, and this paper compares about 900 place-names in which birds feature with about 1700 archaeological records of birds to assess the extent to which these complement each other. Cranes *Grus grus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and Ravens *Corvus corax* LINNAEUS, 1758 feature largely in both lists.

I am very grateful to three undergraduate students, Simon BOISSEAU, Christopher JOHN and James WHITTAKER, whose third-year projects compiled a lot of the raw data on which this paper is based. Terry O'CONNOR helped considerably by supplying literature to them and me. The inspiration of my friend the late Don BRAMWELL must also be acknowledged.

II. PLACE-NAME STUDIES

Scholars of English place-names have scoured ancient documents and maps in an effort to understand the basis of the place-names. Their work is summarised in a number of reference works, most notably the county surveys published by the English Place-name Society. These give derivations for all the major and minor place-names that appear on recent Ordnance Survey maps at 1:25000, arranged by parish within each county, and the more recent volumes also list the names of

fields in each parish. Not all counties have so far been surveyed in this series, but other volumes fill some of the gaps. A full bibliography of available sources is given by AYBES & YALDEN (1995) and BOISSEAU & YALDEN (1998). Most long-established place-names have an Old English (OE, = Anglo-Saxon) basis, and must date back to 1500-1000 years ago, except in northern England where the Norse settlement of around 1000 years ago supplied most names (Old Norse, = ON). Animal-derived place-names could of course have also been conferred more recently. It is a notable feature of English places that previous Celtic and Roman names were mostly lost or supplanted, with the exception that many rivers retained earlier Celtic names. In Wales, Scotland and Ireland, Celtic and Gaelic names have survived much more generally, though sometimes anglicized or supplanted, and the study of their place-names is a different topic, generally not considered here.

Place-names typically consist of two words, often a noun and adjective, sometimes two nouns. Where birds (and other animals) are involved, the second word often tells something of the habitat of the bird concerned. One problem in this study is that the names might have been, or become, the names of individual humans, rather than the animals. One can imagine “hrafn”, Raven, referring to an individual who had black hair or a deep voice, and the use of “wulfa”, Wolf, as a personal name is well documented, both in old documents and in place-names, not only in its simple form but also in such well-known compounds as Beowulf and Ethelwulf. Sometimes the second element of the place-name makes it clear that people, rather than animals, were involved – suffixes such as -ham (village) and -ton (town) surely relate to people. Names of farms and clearings are more difficult to assign, and could be either the farm owned by someone of that name, or the farm frequented by that animal. Hills, cliffs, valleys and woods are more likely to be associated with animal inhabitants. Often the names have altered over the years, and it is the earliest recorded forms that most likely indicate their original meaning. It is in recording these early forms that the county volumes of the English Place-name Society are so valuable. Generally, the judgements of their authors have been accepted in compiling the lists used for this paper.

P l a c e - n a m e r e c o r d s

Domestic birds (hen, fowl, duck, goose) appear regularly in place-names, as do domestic mammals, but the evidence on them has not (yet) been collated, nor has that on swans, which might also have been wild or domestic. They may be more numerous than the names of any wild birds. Among the latter, however, the most extensive lists are those for Cranes and Ravens. These are of course large and conspicuous birds, but would probably not have been common enough to occur everywhere, so that their regular (or even, their exceptional) occurrence at some point in the landscape might well have been used to name it. There are some 225 crane-derived names listed by BOISSEAU & YALDEN (1998), some 48% of which are grouped with second elements implying water or marsh, as would seem appropriate. The OE roots “cran”, “cranuc” (cf. German “kranich”) but also “corn”, which rarely seems to mean cereals in place-names, and the ON “trani” (cf. Swedish “trana”) are the usual roots. There is some possibility of confusion between Heron *Ardea cinerea* and Crane *Grus grus* in these names, for some local recent usage certainly uses the vernacular name Crane for *Ardea cinerea* LINNAEUS, 1758. This seems to be a case of name-transference from an extinct species to a somewhat similar survivor after the extinction of the once-familiar animal: similar cases are recorded for Beaver to Badger or Otter, Urus/Aurochs to Bison/Wisent and Capercaillie/“woherhuhn” to Pheasant (YALDEN 1999). There is no doubt that the Anglo-Saxons knew both, equating their “cran” with the Roman “grus”, and their “hragra” to the Roman “ardea”. There only appear to be 12 Heron place-names, but these are mostly modern, and use the root “heron”, rather than the ancient “hragra”; Rawreth, Essex, though, is OE “hragra, rid”, heron stream.

Names derived from OE “hraefn, hremn” or ON “hrafn” for Raven are also frequent; of the 143 names, 74 (52%) are combined with roots relating to uplands, cliffs and remote valleys, and another 22 to woodland and tree suffixes. Though there is a concentration in the Pennines and Lake District, there is also a scatter of names throughout southern England, a reminder that its recent confinement to the north and west is indeed a recent historical feature, largely brought about by 19th century persecution.

Birds of prey, as a group, also figure widely in the place-names of England, but the precise species cannot always be specified. The OE “earn”, giving the modern Erne or White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* (LINNAEUS, 1758), surely referred to any species of eagle, though most were probably this species rather than Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* (LINNAEUS, 1758). In place-names, it often got corrupted to Arn- or Yarn-, sometimes to Hern-. At least 53 names trace to these roots, and interestingly most names combine with woodland elements rather than cliffs or hills. Tree-nesting by White-tailed Eagles is usual in lowland, especially eastern, Europe, whereas the Golden Eagle is more confined to uplands everywhere (BAXTER 1993, BOND & O’CONNOR 1999). The OE elements “hafoc”, hawk; “cyta”, probably buzzard rather than kite; “gleoda” glider, ie kite or harrier; “puttoc”, probably also kite and “wrocca”, buzzard, and the ON “haukr”, hawk, appear frequently. Deciding which species these represent is difficult. The Anglo-Saxon glossaries associate “cyta” with the Latin “buteo”, “glida” with “milvus”, and “hafoc” with “accipiter”, but “wrocca” is omitted. Place-names based on “glida” are more common in northern England (where the dialect name glead for kite is recorded), while “cyta” is more common in southern England, so there may have been local variations in names. Probably the names were used somewhat interchangeably for any broad-winged raptor; collectively, they appear in at least 300 place-names.

III. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

Ornithologists have been poor at incorporating evidence from the archaeological and palynological record into their understanding of bird distributions (TOMIAŁOJC 2000), though zooarchaeologists must accept some of the blame for this: they have been poor at accumulating and disseminating the knowledge they have. Most British ornithologists regard the Eagle Owl *Bubo bubo* (LINNAEUS, 1758) as an introduced species (MEAD 2000), though there is good evidence of its former presence in Britain, and are quite unaware that the Hazel Hen *Bonasa bonasia* (LINNAEUS, 1758) was formerly also a British bird (HARRISON 1980). Conversely, they seem not to realise that the Great Bustard *Otis tarda* LINNAEUS, 1758 cannot possibly have lived in Britain until farmers cleared the wildwood: it did breed in Britain during the Medieval period, but must have colonised from Europe somewhere in post-Neolithic times (there are archaeological records from Roman Fishbourne and Mediaeval London; EASTHAM 1971, BRAMWELL 1975a). It may be significant that there seem to be no places named after it.

A survey of 127 archaeological sites in the British Isles (Table I, Fig. 1), ranging from Mesolithic through to post-Medieval dates, yields 1737 species-records belonging to some 160 species/species groups (some records identify only to finch, chat, plover, etc., rather than to species). Undoubtedly not a comprehensive list of all known records, it is never-the-less a representative sample, covering cave and conventional archaeological sites. It includes 419 records of Roman age, reflecting the very useful compilation by PARKER (1988), and 475 Medieval records, reflecting the predominance of sites of this age.

Table I

Archaeological sites for birds in Britain, as used to compile the maps and records cited

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
1 Star Carr	TA0281	Mesolithic	CLARK (1954), HARRISON (1980)
2 Thatcham	SU5167	Mesolithic	KING (1962)
3 Gough’s Cave, Cheddar	ST4754	Mesolithic	HARRISON (1980)
4 Hazleton	SP0718	Mesolithic	SAVILLE (1990)
5 Dog Hole Fissure, Creswell Crags	SK5374	Mesolithic	JENKINSON (1984)

Table I (continued)

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
6 Soldier's Hole, Somerset	ST5456	Mesolithic	BRAMWELL (1960)
7 Morton, Fife	NO4625	Mesolithic	COLE (1971)
8 Mount Pleasant, Dorset	SY7189	Neolithic	HARCOURT (1979)
9 Formby Point	SD2606	Neolithic	ROBERTS et al. (1996)
10 Durrington Walls	SU1543	Neolithic	HARCOURT (1971)
11 Oronsay	NM5959	Neolithic	BAYNTON (1880)
12 Grime's Graves	TL8290	Neolithic	MERCER (1981)
13 Papa Westray, Orkney	HY4851	Neolithic	BRAMWELL (1983a)
14 Stonehenge	SU1242	Neolithic	SERJEANTSON (1995)
15 Ravenscliffe Cave	SK1773	Neolithic	HARRISON (1980)
16 Isbister, Orkney	HY4010	Neolithic	BRAMWELL (1983b)
17 Quanterness, Orkney	HY4114	Neolithic	RENFREW (1979)
18 Jarlshof, Shetland	HU3909	Bronze Age	PLATT (1933)
19 Burwell Fen	TL5967	Bronze Age	NORTHCOTE (1980)
20 Ballycotton	W9864	Bronze Age	NEWTON (1923)
21 Brean Down	ST2858	Bronze Age?	LEVITAN (1990)
22 Barton Mere	TL9166	Bronze Age	FISHER (1966)
23 Norwich	TG2308	Bronze Age?	NEWTON (1923)
24 King's Cave, Tarbert, Jura	NR5-8-	Bronze Age	HARRISON & COWLES (1977)
25 Wigber Low, Derbyshire	SK2051	Bronze Age	MALTBY (1983a)
26 Borwick, Lancashire	SD5273	Bronze Age	JONES et al. (1987)
27 Runnymede Bridge	TQ0171	Bronze Age	DONE (1980)
28 Elsay Broch, Caithness		Bronze Age	HARRISON (1980)
29 Bishop's Caning Down	SU0566	Bronze Age	GINGELL (1992)
30 Dean Bottom	SU1474	Bronze Age	GINGELL (1992)
31 Rockley Down	SU1573	Bronze Age	GINGELL (1992)
32 Birderop Down	SU1676	Bronze Age	GINGELL (1992)
33 Glastonbury	ST4938	Iron Age	HARRISON (1980)
34 Meare Lake Village	ST4541	Iron Age	GRAY (1966)
35 Meare East	ST4541	Iron Age	LEVINE (1966)
36 Woodbury Settlement	SY0189	Iron Age	HARRISON (1980)
37 Haddenham	TL4675	Iron Age	EVANS & SERJEANTSON (1988)
38 Gussage All Saints	SU0010	Iron Age	HARCOURT (1979)
39 Blunsdon St. Andrew	SU1398	Iron Age	COY (1982)
40 Danebury	SU3237	Iron Age	COY (1984a), SERJEANTSON (1991)
41 Budbury	ST8261	Iron Age	WAINWRIGHT (1970)
42 North Bersted	SU9200	Iron Age	KING & BEDWIN (1978)
43 Glastonbury, Wirral Park	ST4936	Iron Age	COY (1991)
44 Aylesbury	SP8213	Iron Age	ALLEN & DALWOOD (1983)

Table I (continued)

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
45 Ulrome Lake	TA1656	Iron Age	HARRISON (1980)
46 Howe, Orkney	HY2710	Iron Age	BRAMWELL (1994)
47 Cleavel Point, Ower	SZ0086	Iron Age	COY (1981)
48 Camulodunum	TL9925	Iron Age	HARRISON (1980)
49 Wylze	SU0135	Iron Age	HARRISON (1980)
50 Sollas, North Uist	NF8174	Iron Age	FINLAY (1991)
51 Newgrange, Co Meath	O0073	Iron Age	van WIJNGAARDEN-BAKKER (1974)
52 Kesh Caves, Co Sligo	G71111	Iron Age/Med.	NEWTON (1903)
53 Slonk Hill, Shoreham	TQ2206	Iron Age/Rom.	SHEPPARD (1977)
54 Holcombe, Devon	SY3192	Iron Age/Rom.	POLLARD (1974)
55 Werrington, Cambridge	TF1603	Iron Age/Rom.	BRAMWELL & HARMAN (1988)
56 Dragonby	SE9013	Iron Age/Rom.	HARMAN (1996)
57 Newstead	NT5734	Roman	EWART (1911)
58 Papcastle	NY1031	Roman	MAINLAND & STALLIBRASS (1990)
59 Corbridge	NY9864	Roman	BELL (1922)
60 Ossom's Eyrie	SK0955	Roman	BRAMWELL et al. (1987)
61 Piercebridge	NZ2115	Roman	PARKER (1988)
62 York, Blake St.	SE6052	Roman	ALLISON (1986)
63 York, colonia	SE6052	Roman	PARKER (1988)
64 York, Minster	SE6052	Roman	ALLISON (1995)
65 Chester	SJ4066	Roman	PARKER (1988)
66 Wroxeter	SJ5608	Roman	PARKER (1988)
67 Lincoln	SK9771	Roman	DOBNEY et al. (1996)
68 Wakerley	SP9599	Roman	JACKSON & AMBROSE (1978)
69 Caerleon	ST3390	Roman	HAMILTON-DYER (1993)
70 Claydon Pike	SU1999	Roman	PARKER (1988)
71 Silchester	SU6462	Roman	MALTBY (1984)
72 Exeter	SX9192	Roman	MALTBY (1979)
73 Dorchester	SY6990	Roman	MALTBY (1993)
74 Gorhambury	TL1107	Roman	PARKER (1988)
75 Stonea	TL4493	Roman	STALLIBRASS (1996)
76 Camulodunum (Sheepen)	TL9825	Roman	LUFF (1982)
77 London Wall	TQ3280	Roman	HARRISON (1980)
78 London, St Mildred's	TQ3280	Roman	BRAMWELL (1975)
79 Derby	SK3535	Roman	BRAMWELL & HARMAN (1985)
80 Barnsley Park, Glos.	SP0806	Roman	BRAMWELL (1985ac)
81 Wookey Hole, Somerset	ST5347	Roman	BALCH & TROUP (1910)
82 St Alban's	TL1507	Roman	BATE (1945)
83 Caerwent, Monmouthshire	ST4690	Roman	NEWTON (1900, 1911), BRAMWELL (1983c)

Table I (continued)

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
84 Waddon Hill	SY4994	Roman	BRAMWELL (1964)
85 Carlisle, Blackfriar's St.	NY3955	Roman	RACKHAM (1990)
86 Godmanchester	TL2470	Roman	ANON. (no date)
87 Frocester Court, Glos.	SO7803	Roman	BRAMWELL (1979)
88 Portchester	SU6204	Roman	EASTHAM (1975)
89 Fishbourne	SU8304	Roman	EASTHAM (1971)
90 Brancaster	TF7743	Roman	JONES, LANGLEY & WALL (1985)
91 Ower, Purbeck	SY9681	Roman	SUNTER & WOODWARD (1987)
92 Catterick	SE2457	Roman	MEDDENS (1990)
93 Uley Shrines, Glos.	ST7898	Roman	COWLES (1993)
94 Hucclecote Villa	SO8617	Roman	HARRISON (1980)
95 London Wall	TQ2979	Roman	HARRISON (1980)
96 Witcombe Villa	ST4721	Roman	HARRISON (1980)
97 Gloucester, Westgate	SO8318	Roman	MALTBY (1979)
98 Ilchester	ST5222	Roman/Med.	LEVITAN (1982)
99 Colchester	TL9925	Roman/Med.	BRAMWELL (1982)
100 Taunton	ST2324	Roman/Med.	LEVITAN (1984)
101 Carlisle	NY4056	Roman/Med.	STALLIBRASS (1993)
102 Southwark	TQ3280	Roman/Med.	LOCKER (1988)
103 Hartlepool	NZ5032	Saxon	ALLISON (1989)
104 Flixborough	SE8715	Saxon	DOBNEY et al. (1994)
105 Aylesbury, Walton	SP8213	Saxon	BRAMWELL (1976)
106 North Elmham Park	TF9820	Saxon	BRAMWELL 1980
107 Thetford	TL8783	Saxon	JONES (1984)
108 West Stow	TL8170	Saxon	CRABTREE (1989)
109 Ipswich	TM1744	Saxon	JONES & SERJEANTSON (1983)
110 London, Shorts Gardens	TQ3081	Saxon	STEWART (pers. comm.)
111 London, Barking Abbey	TQ4483	Saxon	WEST (in press)
112 London, Westminster Abbey	TQ3079	Saxon	WEST (in press)
113 London, Jubilee HALL	TQ3494	Saxon	WEST (1993)
114 Thetford	TL8783	Saxon	JONES (1984)
115 Lewes	TQ4110	Saxon	BEDWIN (1975)
116 Ramsbury	SU2771	Saxon	COY (1980)
117 Southampton (Hamwic)	SU4213	Saxon	BOURDILLON & COY (1980)
118 Buckquoy, Orkney	HY3627	Pict./Scand.	BRAMWELL (1977)
119 Lagore	N9852	8-10th C.	STELFOX (1938), HENCKEN (1950)
120 York, Fishergate	SE6052	Saxon	O'CONNOR (1991)
121 York, Coppergate	SE6052	Anglo-Scand.	O'CONNOR (1989a)
122 Steyning	TQ1711	Saxon/Med.	O'CONNOR (1978)

Table I (continued)

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
123 Jarrow	NZ3665	Saxon/Med.	NODDLE (1987)
124 Ipswich	TM1644	Saxon/Med.	CRABTREE (unpub.)
125 Carlisle, cathedral	NY3958	Medieval	STALLBRASS (pers. comm.)
126 Peel, Isle of Man	SC2484	Medieval	FISHER (pers. comm.)
127 Walton Abbey	SE4648	Medieval	NEWTON (1923)
128 York, Walmgate	SE6052	Medieval?	O'CONNOR (1984)
129 York, Coppergate	SE6052	Medieval	O'CONNOR (1989a)
130 York, Tanner Row	SE6052	Medieval	O'CONNOR (1988)
131 Lincoln, Flaxengate	SK9771	Medieval	O'CONNOR (1982)
132 Oxford, St. Ebbe's	SP5305	Medieval	WILSON et al. (1989)
133 Aylesbury, Walton	SP8213	Medieval	BRAMWELL (1976)
134 Northampton	SP7561	Medieval	BRAMWELL (1979)
135 Kings Langley	TL0602	Medieval?	LOCKER (1977)
136 London, Baynard's Castle	TQ3280	Medieval	BRAMWELL (1975a)
137 London, Peabody Site	TQ3181	Medieval	WEST (1989)
138 Beverley, Turk Lane	TA0440	11-13th C.	SCOTT (1991)
139 Beverley, Eastgate	TA0339	Medieval	SCOTT (1992)
140 Beverley, Priory	TA0440	Medieval	GILCHRIST (1986)
141 York, Parliament St.	SE6052	11-13th C.	CARROTT et al. (1995)
142 King's Lynn	TF6120	13-14th C.	BRAMWELL (1977)
143 Okehampton Castle	SX5895	14th C.	MALTBY (1982)
144 Southampton, Cuckoo Lane	SU4213	14th C.	BRAMWELL (1975b)
145 Launceston	SX3384	13-15th C.	ALBARELLA & DAVIS (1996)
146 Southampton, Westgate	SU4213	14-15th C.	COY (1980)
147 Newcastle, Quayside	NZ2564	14-16th C.	ALLISON (1988)
148 Leominster Old Priory	SO4959	Medieval	LOCKER (1994)
149 Cliffe, Lewes	TQ4110	Medieval	STEVENS (1991)
150 Reading Abbey	SU7173	Medieval	COY (1990)
151 Bramber, W. Sussex	TQ1810	Medieval	STEVENS (1990)
152 Hartlepool, Church St.	NZ5233	Medieval	ALLISON (1988)
153 Oxford, Hamel	SP5106	Medieval	BRAMWELL & WILSON (1986)
154 Nantwich	SJ6552	Medieval	FISHER (1986)
155 Trowbridge, Wiltshire	ST8557	Medieval	BOURDILLON (1993)
156 Lougher, W. Glamorgan	SS5798	Medieval	LEWIS (1993)
157 Rattray, Aberdeenshire	NO1745	Medieval	MURRAY (1993)
158 Copt Hay, Tetsworth	SP6803	Medieval	BRAMWELL (1973)
159 Dryslwyn Castle	SN6242	Medieval	GILCHRIST (1987)
160 Winchcombe	SP0228	Medieval	LEVITAN (1985)
161 Abingdon	SU4997	Medieval	WILSON (1975), BRAMWELL & WILSON (1979)

Table I (continued)

Site	Grid Ref	Age	Source
162 York, Coffee Yard Site	SE6052	Med/Post-Med	O'CONNOR (1989b)
163 Coventry	SP3378	Med/Post-Med	BRAMWELL (1986)
164 Hereford City	SO5140	Med/Post-Med	BRAMWELL (1985b)
165 Gloucester	SO8318	Med/Post-Med	MALTBY (1983b)
166 Chepstow	ST5393	Unknown	BRAMWELL (1991)
167 Hackney Marsh	TQ3686	no date	HARRISON (1980)
168 Clare caves	R3373	no date	NEWTON (1906)
169 London, East Cheap	TQ3380	no date	STEWART (pers. comm.)
170 London, Cannon Street	TQ3280	no date	STEWART (pers. comm.)
171 London, Rangoon Street	TQ3380	no date	STEWART (pers. comm.)
172 London, Borough High Street	TQ3279	no date	STEWART pers. (comm.)

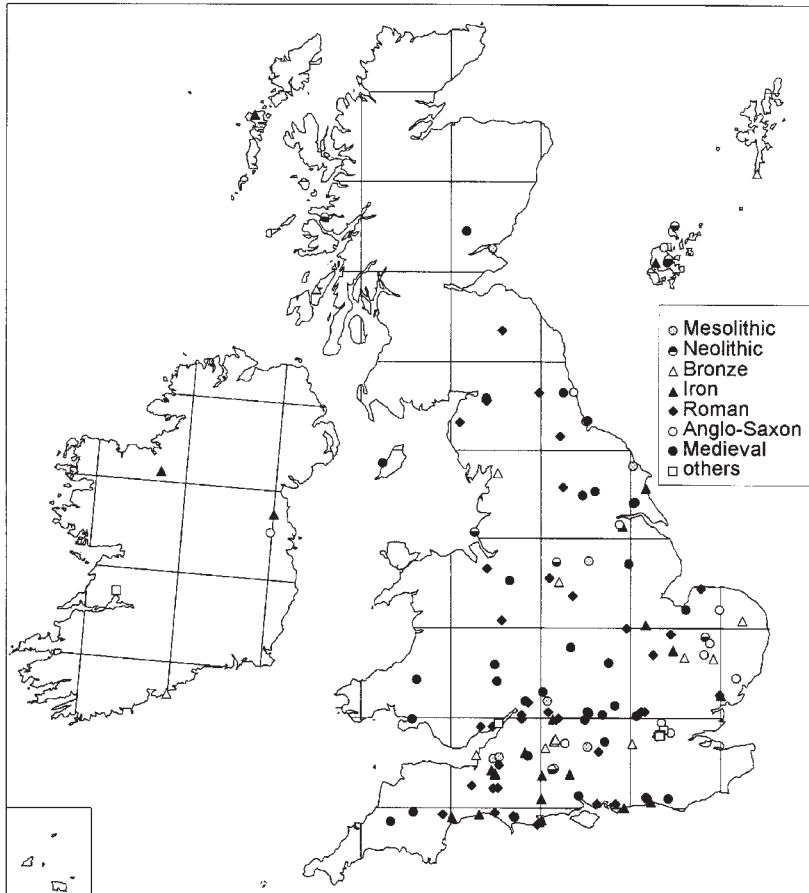


Fig. 1. Distribution of archaeological sites in Britain, as listed in Table I. At some sites, most obviously York, several excavations, of different dates, have been reported; only one symbol, usually the latest, is shown. Map created with Dr Alan Morton's DMAP programme.

The most numerous species are prime human food – 92 records of Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* LINNAEUS, 1758 and another 29 *Anas* sp., 71 records of *Anser* sp. and 50 of Greylag Goose *A. anser* LINNAEUS, 1758, 51 records of Teal *Anas crecca* LINNAEUS, 1758, and 58 records of Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* LINNAEUS, 1758. The 46 records of Crane (Table II) might be counted among the food species, and make an interesting contrast with only 16 records of Heron, which must always have been more numerous, but less palatable. The most abundant of the non-food species is Raven, with 74 records; Carrion/Hooded Crow *Corvus corone* LINNAEUS, 1758 contribute 35 and there are 32 Rook *C. frugilegus* LINNAEUS, 1758, but only 11 Magpie *Pica pica* (LINNAEUS, 1758), now so abundant in Britain, fewer than the smaller Jay *Garrulus glandarius* (LINNAEUS, 1758) (14 records) or the similar sized Jackdaw *C. monedula* LINNAEUS, 1758 (with 42).

Table II

Archaeological records of birds used in compiling this paper (sites numbered as in Table I)

Crane <i>Grus grus</i>	1, 2, 8, 19, 21, 33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 39, 56, 66, 71, 73, 75, 80, 81, 95, 99, 118, 121, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 118, 119, 121, 124, 130, 131, 132, 139, 145, 147, 155, 168.
Red Kite <i>Milvus milvus</i>	10, 33, 40, 44, 46, 56, 73, 75, 83, 106, 116, 120, 130, 134, 136, 137, 139, 143, 145, 162, 164.
Buzzard <i>Buteo buteo</i>	1, 13, 17, 27, 34, 38, 39, 40, 48, 56, 60, 81, 87, 90, 99, 106, 107, 108, 117, 119, 120, 124, 131, 154, 155, 163.
Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	16, 17, 21, 33, 51, 56, 60, 98, 109, 121, 142, 152, 154, 160, 162.
Sparrowhawk <i>Accipiter nisus</i>	98, 99, 103, 106, 113, 124, 154, 156, 162, 164, 168.
Golden Eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	34, 60.
White-tailed Eagle <i>Haliaeetus albicilla</i>	14, 16, 19, 33, 34, 46, 47, 55, 56, 69, 75, 91, 93, 99, 102, 119, 121, 154.
Raven <i>Corvus corax</i>	10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 25, 38, 39, 40, 41, 48, 49, 56, 60, 66, 69, 71, 73, 75, 79, 84, 85, 86, 88, 89, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 98, 99, 106, 107, 109, 113, 118, 119, 120, 121, 123, 124, 130, 131, 132, 140, 142, 145, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 162, 163, 164, 165.
Crow <i>Corvus corone</i>	7, 16, 33, 40, 54, 55, 60, 66, 67, 69, 75, 79, 80, 87, 99, 109, 115, 117, 118, 119, 122, 124, 132, 139, 145, 151, 155, 159, 161, 162.
Rook <i>Corvus frugilegus</i>	15, 27, 29, 34, 38, 40, 52, 60, 69, 73, 76, 80, 81, 83, 105, 119, 120, 130, 140, 145, 154, 164, 161.
Jackdaw <i>Corvus monedula</i>	5, 15, 40, 38, 52, 54, 60, 66, 67, 69, 75, 73, 81, 87, 88, 93, 97, 98, 99, 102, 106, 111, 115, 120, 121, 123, 124, 132, 139, 142, 148, 153, 159, 161, 162, 163, 165, 168.
Magpie <i>Pica pica</i>	60, 66, 67, 93, 120, 149, 154, 165, 168.
Jay <i>Garrulus glandarius</i>	30, 40, 41, 38, 52, 60, 67, 106, 120, 142, 140, 161, 168.
House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	38, 40, 52, 60, 66, 69, 75, 80, 93, 101, 103, 120, 152, 159, 161, 162, 168.

Passerines feature rather rarely, but it is worth noting that the 19 records of House Sparrow *Passer domesticus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) begin only in Iron Age times, the same time that House Mice and domestic cats appear in Britain, while Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris* LINNAEUS, 1758, often considered a late arrival by ornithologists, has a record of 34 occurrences, extending continuously back to Mesolithic times.

Birds of prey are likewise relatively scarce. There are only 2 records of Golden Eagle, well outnumbered by 18 records of White-tailed Eagle (and there are another 14 records from other sites). The abundant Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) contributes only 16 records, but the surely much rarer Goshawk *A. gentilis* (LINNAEUS, 1758) occurs 15 times. It might be thought that

this is due to a greater presence in Medieval times, when it might have been used in falconry, but only 6 records date to that period, as do 7 records of *A. nisus*, while the even more useful Peregrine *Falco peregrinus* TUNSTALL, 1771 contributes only 7 records overall, 3 of them in this period. Other raptors include 29 Buzzard *Buteo buteo* (LINNAEUS, 1758), 23 Red Kite *Milvus milvus* (LINNAEUS, 1758) and 6 harriers (3 *Circus cyaneus* (LINNAEUS, 1766), 2 *C. aeruginosus* (LINNAEUS, 1758), 1 *C. pygargus* (LINNAEUS, 1758).

IV. DISCUSSION

Cranes outnumber Ravens in the place-name evidence, but not in the archaeological record: presumably, they were more conspicuous or noteworthy. However, the abundant record of both species in both place-name and archaeological record supports assumptions about the frequency and widespread presence of both species in earlier times. Among the raptors, the archaeological record confirms the presumption that White-tailed Eagles were the likely donors of eagle-derived place-names. The relative evenness of (Red) Kites and Buzzards in place-name and archaeological records is reassuring; both must have been quite common, even if we cannot be sure that they were always correctly identified by our forebears. Archaeological identifications are more certain, and offer more extensive evidence about the former avifauna of Britain. The well-known occurrences of Dalmatian Pelican *Pelecanus crispus* BRUCH, 1832 at Glastonbury, King's Lynn, Feltwell Fen and Burnt Fen (FORBES et al. 1958), the record of Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* PALLAS, 1773 at Abingdon (COWLES 1982) and the 7 records of White Stork *Ciconia ciconia* (LINNAEUS, 1758), along with the records of Crane, emphasize that wetlands in particular were once much more extensive and once had a more diverse avifauna. The Mute Swan, *Cygnus olor* (GMELIN, 1789), usually regarded as a late introduction, has actually been present at least since Neolithic times (NORTHCOTE 1980), and must be accepted as a long-established native. These less common species have either not yielded place-names, or the relevant names have not (yet?) been recognised or extracted.

Both the archaeological record and the place-name evidence yield useful clues about the former status of birds in Britain. Obviously, both offer a biased and anthropocentric view; smaller birds must always have been much more common than the large species discussed here, but are poorly recovered from archaeological sites and too common to merit noticing as place-names. Food species, and those of special status in culture, including falconry, dominate the archaeological record, and for similar reasons are likely to dominate in place-names too. It is reassuring, then, to find that the two lines of evidence do suggest a similar pattern.

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Archaeologists are claiming to have discovered the oldest house in Britain. The circular structure, found at a site near Scarborough, North Yorkshire, has been dated as being made in 8,500BC. Described as a "sensational discovery" by archaeologists, this is 500 years earlier than the previous oldest house. The teams from the universities of Manchester and York are also examining a nearby wooden platform, which is being claimed as the oldest example of carpentry in Europe. Archaeologists believe that the house had been rebuilt over time and that there were likely to have been other houses at the site. It suggests that people of this era were more attached to settlements than had been previously thought - staying in one place rather than drifting across the landscape. In a masterful attempt at confusion, archaeologists have named these enclosures "camps", which they aren't. In only one case out of a score of these camps is there any evidence of even a temporary dwelling within the enclosed space. What were they used for, then? Probably as a multi-purpose gathering place, combining the functions of livestock pen, trading centre, church, feasting area, and ceremonial arena. Hill figures Here and there throughout England, usually on the slopes of the chalk hills of the south, are incised figures of huge proportions cut into the earth. Often visible for miles around, these hill figures give off an air of ancient sanctity. Well, don't sniff that sanctified air too closely, you may find it rancid.

