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## Access to information

JNCC supports the collection and collation of biological and geological data. We also strive to support nature conservation by making information as accessible as possible

During the reporting year we continued to work closely with the country agencies and others to modernise the way in which biodiversity information is collected, held and made available to users.

Biodiversity data collection in the UK relies largely on the efforts of volunteers and JNCC's Recorder system has been developed to allow fieldworkers' records to be entered and collated in a standard digital form. In the reporting year we released Recorder version 6, which has a number of enhancements compared to previous versions.

We were also asked to adapt Recorder for use in the Falkland Islands and JNCC's Stuart Ball travelled to the islands in February to train recorders in the system's use.

In 1995 the UK Biodiversity Steering Group recommended the creation of a network of databases to bring together biodiversity data collected each year around the UK. The National Biodiversity Network (NBN) Trust came into being in 2000 to provide an evidence base for nature conservation action. Trustees include representatives from JNCC, the country agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Managed by JNCC, the NBN Gateway website [www.searchNBN.net](http://www.searchNBN.net) makes species records available in an accessible form. At the beginning of the reporting year the Gateway passed a significant milestone with the addition of its 20 millionth species entry – a common mayfly recorded in the Upper Tweed.

The site now receives an average of 120,000 visits each month and users include Government agencies, nature conservation organisations and members of the public. However, we recognise that the NBN needs to provide access to a much greater volume of data – our estimate is that the Gateway holds just a quarter of what is available.

To achieve the required growth access to new sources of data will be needed and to that end JNCC has agreed to increase support to the NBN.

JNCC has continued to promote public access to marine information and JNCC's Steve Wilkinson has contributed to Defra's initiative in establishing the Marine Data and Information Partnership. This initiative will have a key role to play in ensuring that those involved in marine nature conservation have access to the information they need to carry out their work.



## Rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome*

(Far left) Rockhopper penguin *Eudyptes chrysocome* is one of the most abundant bird species breeding on the Falkland Islands with around 210,000 pairs recorded in 2005; populations continue to decline for reasons that are not entirely clear.

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## Falklands biodiversity

(Left) JNCC's Recorder system allows users to input UK biodiversity data in a standardised digital form. It is now widely used and during the reporting year wildlife recorders in the Falkland Islands were trained to use a version of the system tailored for use on the islands.

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