



Author guidelines for original figures

Creating the figure

If you create figures in Photoshop or Illustrator and supply original files and EPS or TIFF (.eps or .tif) files, they can be used directly. Files from other drawing software cannot yet be accepted by professional typesetting software, so it is likely that the printed version will be scanned. If you follow these guidelines, your figures will be reproduced with better quality.

Coloured photographs and coloured maps with good contrast can usually be printed in black-and-white and may appear in colour online. Colour can be printed in the journal and is encouraged, but the cost has to be borne by the author. Please ask for a print estimate if your data need to be reproduced in colour.

Drawing the figure

Many drawing packages allow fancy representations that do not reproduce well in the journal and distract the reader from the data.

The figure should be as simple as possible while displaying the data clearly. Single column figures are preferred to save space.

It should be drawn to fit the journal page. An 82-mm wide figure will fit into one column; a 172-mm wide figure will fit across the page. The maximum depth is 222 mm but this should include an allowance for the caption.

Figures should be produced at the exact final size with a resolution of 600 dpi.

Avoid three-dimensional representations unless absolutely necessary.

Avoid background grid lines.

Please use the preferred symbol, shading and line styles and thicknesses (see next page). Avoid fine shading, grey tones or complex symbols. If tinted shading cannot be avoided use at 300 dpi. Do not apply screens to tints.

Use a sans serif font such as Helvetica – it is clearer than Times. The preferred type sizes are: 10 pt bold for parts of a figure, e.g. a, b, etc.; 9 pt for axis labels; 8 pt for subsidiary lettering; 8 pt for labelling a key.

Simplify graphs by only drawing in the necessary axes. Do not box in.

Place tick marks outside the axis to avoid clashes with data inside.

Make sure all lines, including map outlines, are thick enough not to disappear when printed (0.25 pt minimum; 0.5 pt for axes).

Label each axis with the name of the variable followed by the units in brackets.

Supplying the electronic file

Supply your figures saved in various formats so we can use the version that gives the best quality. Supply original software files but also EPS or TIFF (.eps or .tif), and print quality PDF (.pdf) files. Photoshop, Illustrator and some Microsoft Office files (.doc, .ppt, .xls) can be used directly. To test if PDFs are usable, print at exact final size and check for pixelation. JPEG (.jpg) files do not have enough definition.

Photographs and half-tones (greyscale) should be supplied at 300 dpi. Line art at 600 dpi.

Printing the figure

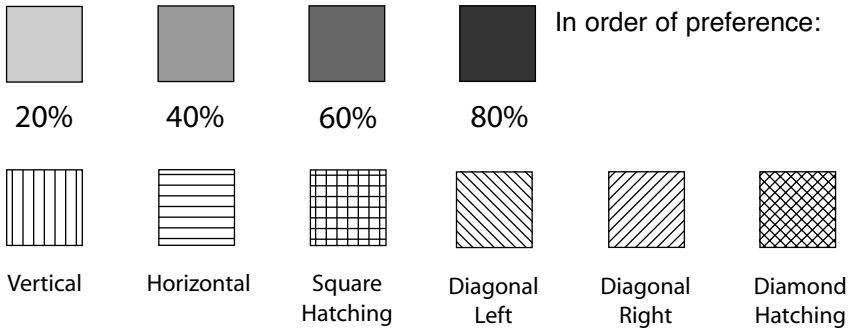
Use best quality paper.

Print at exact final size.

Preferred style

The lines and symbols below will look clear when reproduced on a journal page.

Shading



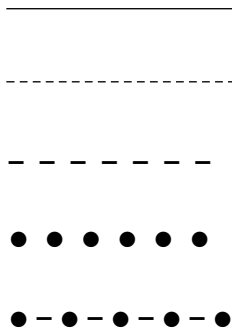
Symbols

In order of preference:



Lines

In order of preference:



Example figures attached

Figure 1. Produced following the guidelines.

Figure 2. Produced not following the guidelines.

Figures 3 and 4. Figures 1 and 2 as they would reproduce on a journal page.

Figure 5. This figure was originally produced with very complex shading for the many different areas but also with circles to show the locations of birds within the areas. When it was reduced to fit on a page, the areas were very difficult to distinguish and the extra data on bird locations made it more confusing. It was simplified by removing the bird locations altogether and choosing bolder, more easily distinguished shading for the area. It is still very difficult to read.

Figure 1. Produced following the guidelines.

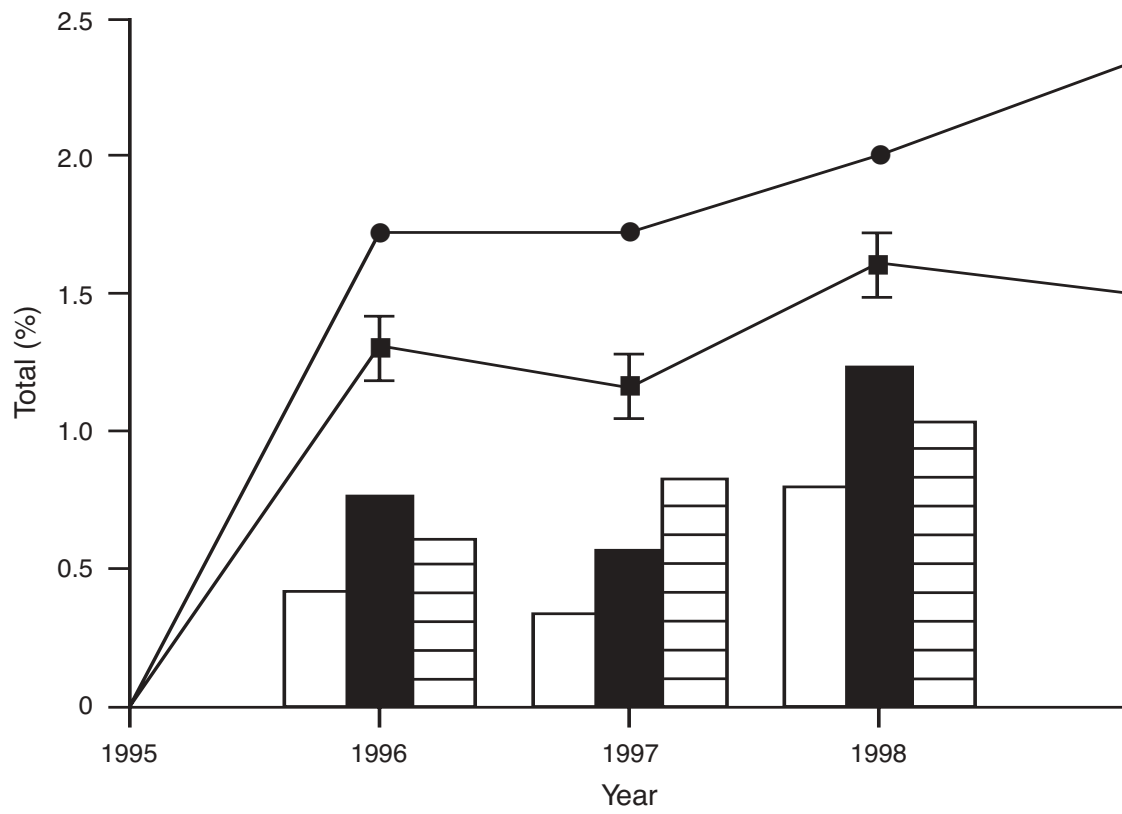
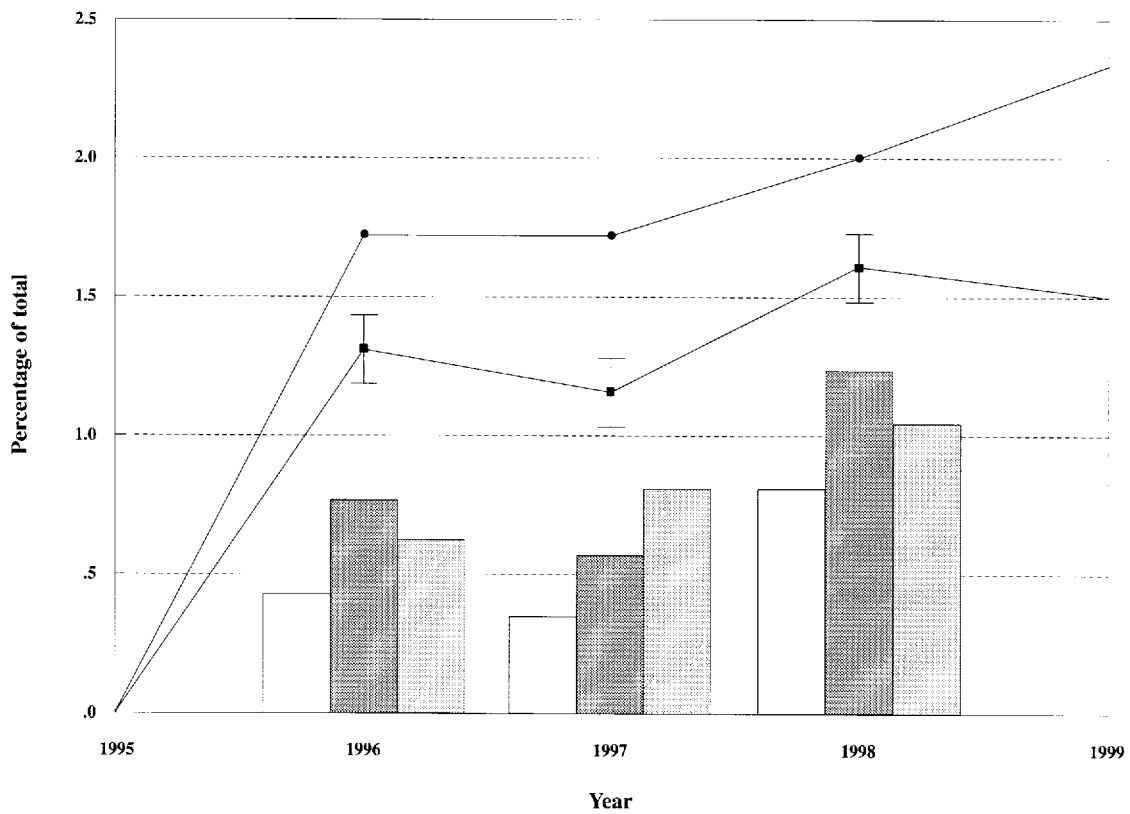


Figure 2. Produced not following the guidelines.



Figures 3 and 4. Figures 1 and 2 as they would reproduce on a journal page.

2 A.N. other author

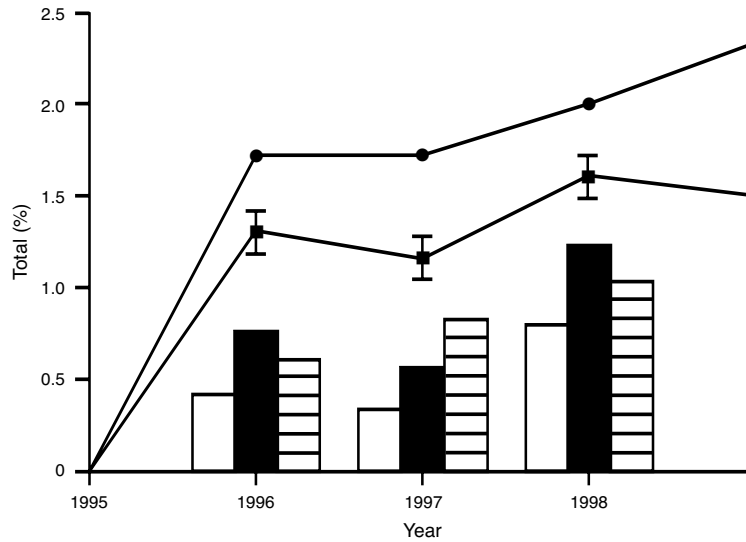


Figure 3. Figure 1 as it would reproduce on a journal page.

artefact, as Lough Ree, which held 87 birds during Visit 2, was not surveyed.

Over half the occupied sites (52%) in Britain held only one or two individuals (Fig. 3), but notable concentrations were recorded on two sites in West and South Scotland (42 and 23 birds, respectively) and on one site on Islay (24 birds). Despite these concentrations, the density of birds in West and South Scotland was the lowest in Britain, reflecting the

occupation of larger sites in this area (Table 4). The large Irish sites similarly held large absolute numbers of birds at low density.

Sex ratios were male biased in all areas and stabilized at 1.1–1.3 males per female once all birds had arrived, with the exception of West and South Scotland where the sex ratio did not fall below 1.5:1 (Table 5). In most areas, the majority of females present were paired during the second visit. The decrease in the proportion

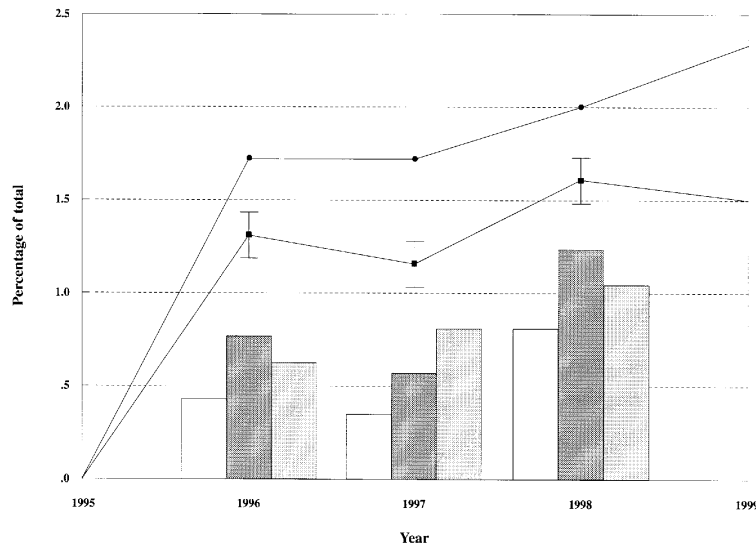


Figure 4. Figure 2 as it would reproduce on a journal page.

Figure 5. This figure was originally produced with very complex shading for the many different areas but also with circles to show the locations of birds within the areas. When it was reduced to fit on a page, the areas were very difficult to distinguish and the extra data on bird locations made it more confusing. It was simplified by removing the bird locations altogether and choosing bolder, more easily distinguished shading for the area. It is still very difficult to read.

