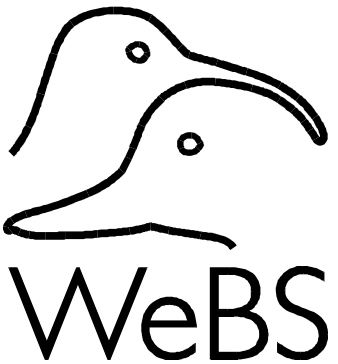
Waterbirds in the UK 2006/07
The Wetland Bird Survey

Graham Austin, Mark Collier, Neil Calbrade, Colette Hall and Andy Musgrove



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Cover: Colne Estuary at low tide by Richard Allen. Richard Allen is experienced in a whole range of illustration, although his interest in birds and wildlife led him to win the coveted title of "British Birds Bird Illustrator of the Year" in 1993. Richard has illustrated series of postage stamps as well as books including titles such as "Sunbirds and Flowerpeckers" and "The Handbook of Birds of the World". Currently, Richard gathers inspiration from the wildlife around his home on the Essex coast as well as from his travels to Asia, west Africa, North America and Europe. For more details about Richard's artwork visit his website at; www.richardallenillustrator.com.

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This report is provided free to all WeBS counters and those who participate in the other national waterbird surveys, none of whom receive financial reward for their invaluable work. Further feedback is provided to counters through the annual WeBS Newsletter. For further information please contact the WeBS Office at the BTO.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book represents the twenty-sixth report of the Wetland Bird Survey and comprises information from WeBS and complementary national and local surveys, *e.g.* goose censuses. It is entirely dependent on the many thousands of dedicated volunteer ornithologists who supply the data and to whom we are extremely grateful. The Local Organisers who coordinate these counts deserve special thanks for their contribution.

We are also grateful to the following people for providing technical assistance, supplementary information and additional data, and comments on draft texts:

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Grateful thanks to all and apologies to anyone who has inadvertently been missed.

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The WETLAND BIRD SURVEY

Organised and funded by

British Trust for Ornithology
The Nunnery, Thetford, Norfolk IP24 2PU
www.bto.org

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT
www.wwt.org.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire SG19 2DL
www.rspb.org.uk

Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Monkstone House, City Road, Peterborough PE1 1JY
www.jncc.org.uk

CONTACTS

WeBS National Coordinator: Andy Musgrove
WeBS Core Counts: Mark Collier
WeBS Low Tide Counts: Neil Calbrade

General queries: webs@bto.org

WeBS Office
British Trust for Ornithology
The Nunnery
Thetford
Norfolk IP24 2PU
UK
Tel: 01842 750050
Fax: 01842 750030
E-mail: firstname.surname@bto.org
or webs@bto.org
www.bto.org/webs

GOOSE AND SWAN MONITORING PROGRAMME

Organised and funded by the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee.
Contact: Richard Hearn
E-mail: Richard.Hearn@wwt.org.uk
or monitoring@wwt.org.uk

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Slimbridge
Glos GL2 7BT
UK
Tel: 01453 891900
Fax: 01453 891901
www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring

OTHER NATIONAL WATERBIRD SURVEYS

Details of and contacts for many of the other waterbird surveys used in this report, and of forthcoming surveys, can be obtained via the web sites of the four WeBS partner organisations.

ERRATA TO 2005/06 REPORT

Please note the following corrections to data presented in the 2005/06 WeBS annual report:

p131 Annual peaks for Dunlin for the Stour Estuary should read: 13026 (01/02), 9642 (02/03), 9268 (03/04), 8456 (04/05), 7019 (05/06) in March, Mean 9482.

p150-1 Counts of Black-headed Gull and Common Gull at Bewl Water should have included the following supplementary roost counts; Black-headed Gull 55,600 January 2006, Common Gull 90,000 February 2006.

p162 The total presented in 'Principal Sites' for Stour Estuary should have excluded Low Tide Counts as these are considered double-counts. The table should have read; 2001/02 48,113; 2002/03 39,485; 2003/04 41,056; 2004/05 40,847; 2005/06 37,959; Average 41,491.

CHANGES TO 2006/07 REPORT

As the introductory texts remains largely unchanged year-to-year, any key changes since the last report are are highlighted with underline.

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Summary

The Wetland Bird Survey and Waterbirds in the UK

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) is a joint scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) to monitor non-breeding waterbirds in the UK. The principal aims of the scheme are to identify population sizes, to determine trends in numbers and distribution, and to identify important sites for waterbirds. WeBS Core Counts are made annually at around 2,000 wetland sites of all habitats; estuaries and large still waters predominate. Monthly coordinated counts are made mostly by volunteers, principally from September to March, with fewer observations during summer months. Data from other sources, *e.g.* roost counts of grey geese, are included in this report where relevant.

This report presents total numbers counted for all species in the most recent year in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Annual indices are provided for the more numerous species, as are monthly indices showing relative abundance during the winter.

Species accounts provide yearly maxima for all sites supporting internationally and nationally important numbers. Sites with changed status are highlighted and significant counts are discussed. Counts are placed in an international context where possible, and relevant research is summarised. Waterbird totals are provided for all sites meeting criteria for international importance and species occurring in internationally important numbers on each are identified.

WeBS Low Tide Counts are made on selected estuaries to determine the distribution of birds during low tide and to identify important feeding areas that may not be recognised during Core Counts, which are made mostly at high tide. A summary of results for these estuaries, and distribution maps for selected species, are provided.

Waterbird totals recorded by the Irish Wetland Bird Survey, a similar scheme operating in the Republic of Ireland, are also included.

The 2006/07 year

This report summarises counts during 2006/07 and previous years (since 1960 for wildfowl, 1969 for waders and the early 1980s or 1990s for other species). During 2006/07, WeBS counters covered 3,825 count sectors at over 2,100 count sites. During the crucial 'winter' period of September to March just over 3,000 sectors were counted at least once and over 1,900 were covered in all months. This, again, represents a fantastic effort all around and a huge thank you must go to all those involved.

The numbers of wintering Bewick's Swans fell by around a third during 2006/07 and particularly low numbers were at the Ouse Washes. This decline is thought to have been due to mild conditions on the birds' wintering grounds further east meaning that fewer birds moved as far as Britain. Whooper Swan numbers were also down, although this was not evident at any of the individual key sites.

The number of Pink-footed Geese fell considerably, largely due to fewer birds using some of the main roosts. European White-fronted Geese continued to winter in Britain in smaller numbers. Greenland White-fronted Geese also showed further signs of decline in 2006/07. Icelandic Greylag Geese wintered in slightly lower numbers than in the past few years.

A further increase in Greenland Barnacle Geese was noted at several key sites including at the principal site, Islay. Numbers of Svalbard Barnacle Geese saw little change. Numbers of Dark-bellied Brent Geese rose slightly for the third year running. The East Canadian High Arctic population of Light-bellied Brent Goose remains fairly stable, whilst the trend for Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose was lower than in recent years.

Shelduck remained at a similar level to the past five years in both Britain and Northern Ireland. Numbers of Wigeon fell by around 20% with numbers at several key sites, most noticeably the Ouse Washes, lower than usual. Numbers in Northern Ireland continued to fall. Surprisingly, the number of Gadwall wintering in Britain fell for the first time, with few birds noted at

the principal site for this species, the Ouse Washes. Teal numbers also fell in both Britain and Northern Ireland. The long-term decline in the numbers of Mallard appears to have continued in both Britain and Northern Ireland. Pintail numbers in Northern Ireland continued to rise sharply, while in Britain a slight decline was seen. Shoveler declined in both Britain and Northern Ireland. As with many of the dabbling ducks numbers were low at the Ouse Washes due to unfavourable water levels.

Numbers of Pochard remained unchanged in Britain and rose slightly in Northern Ireland. Tufted Duck numbers remained fairly stable in Britain, while in Northern Ireland the decline continued with numbers now at their lowest level to date. Scaup numbers remained stable in Northern Ireland following the recovery from a crash over the past three years. In Britain, numbers of Scaup fell only slightly. Eider numbers rose slightly in both Britain and Northern Ireland. The counted maximum of Long-tailed Duck was the second highest recorded. The wintering population of Goldeneye in the UK remained low and both the British and Northern Irish indices showed slight declines in 2006/07. Red-breasted Merganser numbers fell slightly in Britain and rose in Northern Ireland. Numbers of Goosander remained relatively stable in Britain.

The British maximum for Red-throated Diver increased again and was the highest for four years, while the Northern Ireland total was half that of the previous year. Totals for Black-throated Diver were similar to usual and for Great Northern Diver was the highest to date. The British trend for both Little and Great Crested Grebes were similar to the recent years. Little Egret again continued to expand its population and range, particularly in the west. Moorhen remain fairly stable in Britain. Coot numbers in Britain fell slightly and in Northern Ireland remained low despite numbers remaining relatively high at Loughs Neagh and Beg.

Oystercatcher numbers remained fairly stable in both Britain and Northern Ireland. Avocets continued their long-term increase and reached record numbers. Numbers of Ringed Plover were similar to recent years although there was a slight decline in the numbers of wintering Golden Plover. Grey Plover numbers were similar to those of 2005/06, although the pattern is one of long-term decline. Lapwing numbers fell in both Britain and Northern Ireland. The British index for Knot fell for the second year running although numbers remain broadly similar to those of the past ten years; and yet a further increase was witnessed at the key site, The Wash. The trends for Sanderling rose for both Britain and Northern Ireland. Numbers of Purple Sandpiper, although relatively low, remained similar to those of the past few years. Dunlin continued to decline steadily in both Britain and Northern Ireland. Numbers of Black-tailed Godwit continued to increase in both Britain and Northern Ireland. Further declines were noted in the number of Bar-tailed Godwits wintering in Britain and numbers have now reached their lowest level to date. Curlew numbers remained stable with slight increases evident in both Britain and Northern Ireland. There was also a slight increase in the number of wintering Greenshank in Britain. Redshank numbers fell for the third year running to their lowest level for 20 years. Numbers of Turnstone appear fairly stable in Britain and in Northern Ireland an increase was seen.

The counted maximum of Black-headed Gull was higher than in the previous year. The same was true for Common Gull, which was a third higher than during 2005/06. Numbers of Lesser Black-backed and Herring Gulls also rose, although as with all gulls and terns numbers recorded are often a reflection of the level of coverage of these optional species. There was little change in the British maximum of Little Tern. Numbers of Sandwich Tern were the highest recorded by WeBS. Numbers of Common Tern were similar to those of the previous year.

Introduction

The UK is of outstanding international importance for waterbirds. Lying on some of the major flyways for Arctic-nesting species, large numbers of waterbirds are attracted, especially during winter, by the relatively mild climate and extensive areas of wetland, notably estuaries. The UK thus has both moral and legal obligations to conserve both these waterbirds and the wetlands upon which they depend.

As a signatory to a number of international conservation conventions, and as a member of the EU, the UK is bound by international law. In particular, the 'Ramsar' Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the EC Birds Directive and the EU Habitats and Species Directive, between them, require the UK to identify important examples of wetland and other habitats and sites important for birds and designate them for protection. Implicit in these obligations is the need for regular monitoring to identify and monitor such sites. These instruments also lay particular significance on the need to conserve migratory populations, and consequently most of the waterbird populations in the UK.

The UK has ratified the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) of the 'Bonn' Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. AEWA entered into force in 1999. It is a specific Agreement requiring nations to take coordinated measures to conserve migratory waterbirds given their particular vulnerability due to their migration over long distances and their dependence on networks that are decreasing in extent and becoming degraded through non-sustainable human activities. Article three of the Agreement requires, among other things, that sites and habitats for migratory waterbirds are identified, protected and managed appropriately, that parties initiate or support research into the ecology of these species, and exchange information and results. Explicit in this Agreement is that adequate monitoring programmes are set in place to fulfil these objectives and the Action Plan to the Agreement specifically requires that nations endeavour to monitor waterbird populations.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF WeBS

The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) aims to monitor all non-breeding waterbirds in the UK to provide the principal data on which the conservation of their populations and wetland habitats is based. To this end, WeBS has three main objectives:

- to assess the size of non-breeding waterbird populations in the UK;
- to assess trends in their numbers and distribution; and
- to assess the importance of individual sites for waterbirds.

These results also form the basis for informed decision-making by conservation bodies, planners and developers and contribute to the sustainable and wise use and management of wetlands and their dependent waterbirds. The data and the WeBS report also fulfil some of the objectives of the Conventions and Directives listed above. WeBS also provides UK data to Wetlands International to assist their function to coordinate and report upon waterbird monitoring at an international scale.

Structure and organisation of WeBS

WeBS is a partnership scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO), Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the last on behalf of Natural England (NE), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW), and the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland (EHS).

WeBS continues the traditions of two, long-running count schemes which formed the mainstay of UK waterbird monitoring since 1947 (Cranswick *et al*. 1997). WeBS Core Counts are made at a wide variety of wetlands throughout the UK. Synchronised counts are conducted once per month, particularly from September to March, to fulfil all three main objectives. In addition, WeBS Low Tide Counts are undertaken on selected estuaries with the aim of

identifying key areas used during the low tide period, principally by feeding birds; areas not otherwise noted for their importance by Core Counts which are normally conducted at high tide.

The success and growth of these count schemes accurately reflects the enthusiasm and dedication of the several thousands of volunteer ornithologists who participate. It is largely due to their efforts that waterbird monitoring in the UK is held in such international high regard.

Aim of this report

This report presents syntheses of data collected between July 2006 and June 2007 (see *The WeBS Year*), and in previous years, in line with the WeBS objectives. Data from other national and local waterbird monitoring schemes, notably annual goose censuses, are included where WeBS data alone are insufficient to fulfil this aim, so that the report provides a single, comprehensive source of information on waterbird status and distribution in the UK. All nationally and internationally important sites for which data exist are listed.

WEATHER IN 2006/07

This summary of UK weather is drawn from the Meteorological Office web site at www.metoffice.gov.uk. Bracketed figures following the month refer to the Core Count priority date for the month in question. Arctic breeding conditions for birds that winter in the UK are summarised from information collated by Soloviev & Tomkovich at the web site www.arcticbirds.ru.

United Kingdom

July (16) was generally warm, dry and sunny across much of the UK, however, a few areas experienced localised heavy rainfall.

Although above average temperatures remained into **August** (13) for much of the country, particularly the East Midlands, this was followed by heavy rainfall. Remarkably, East Anglia experienced double the amount of rainfall for the time of year.

September (17) was exceptionally warm and sunny for most of the country. Southwest England and South Wales experienced dry conditions although wetter weather prevailed in Northern Ireland.

Temperatures throughout **October** (8) across northern Scotland and Northern Ireland were well above average, although these areas also suffered heavy rainfall. Conditions across much of the rest of the UK were similar to, although slightly warmer than, average.

November (19) continued warm and wet across the entire UK, particularly in Scotland. Much of the rest of the UK recorded higher than average levels of sunshine.

Western areas of the UK experienced exceptionally high rainfall throughout **December** (17). In contrast, many eastern areas enjoyed drier than average conditions. Eastern Scotland and northeast England were predominantly sunny.

The wet and mild conditions continued into **January** (21), western areas experienced markedly high rainfall. With the exception of parts of Scotland eastern areas remained drier and sunny.

For the most part conditions in **February** (18) were wet, especially in southern England and central and eastern Scotland. In contrast, some areas of northern England were sunnier than average.

March (18) saw the arrival of drier and sunnier weather across much of the UK. Eastern England was particularly sunny and Northern Ireland remained warm.

Most of the UK experienced an exceptionally warm **April** (15), which was the warmest for many years. Rainfall was lower than average and conversely sunshine levels were high.

May (13) saw the return of wet and mild weather to most parts. East Anglia experienced twice the month's average rainfall making 2007 the wettest April since records began in 1914. Meanwhile, much of Scotland and Northern Ireland enjoyed sunnier conditions.

In **June** (17) wet weather spread across most of the UK with many areas being cloudy and wet. Average temperatures were generally slightly below average for most of the UK.

Arctic Breeding Conditions 2006

Early spring temperatures were below average in northern Fennoscandia and northern Greenland; however, arctic Russia experienced a warm start to the season. By mid-summer western Greenland and

eastern parts of arctic Canada were enjoying temperatures well above average. In contrast northern Scandinavia and parts of western Russia to the Taimyr Peninsula were much colder than average, although central Sibera was relatively warm.

Rodent abundance was low across most arctic regions including Greenland and arctic Russia, although average densities were recorded at a few sites in Greenland and Scandinavia.

Indications from sites in eastern arctic Canada and Greenland were of poor breeding succes. Results from arctic Russia, west of the Taimyr Peninsula suggested that 2006 was a more successful breeding season for the birds in those areas.

Table 1. The percentage of inland count units (lakes, reservoirs, gravel pits, rivers and canals) in the UK with any ice and with 75% or more of their surface covered by ice during WeBS counts in winter 2006/07 (England divided by a line drawn roughly between the Humber and the Mersey Estuaries).

Region	Ice	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Northern Ireland	>0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	>74%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scotland	>0%	0	0	2	7	9	5	<1
	>74%	0	0	<1	3	4	2	0
N England	>0%	0	0	1	1	<1	1	3
	>74%	0	0	<1	0	<1	<1	0
S England	>0%	0	0	1	<1	<1	1	<1
	>74%	0	0	<1	<1	<1	0	<1
Wales	>0%	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
	>74%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

SURVEY METHODS

The main source of data for this report is the WeBS scheme, providing regular monthly counts for most waterbird species at the majority of the UK's important wetlands. In order to fulfil the WeBS objectives, however, data from a number of additional schemes are included in this report. In particular, a number of species groups necessitate different counting methodologies in order to monitor numbers adequately, notably most geese and seaducks, and the results of other national and local schemes for these species are routinely included.

The methods for these survey types are outlined below and more detail can be found in Gilbert *et al.* (1998). It should be noted that site definition is likely to vary between these surveys (see *Interpretation of Waterbird Counts*).

WeBS Core Counts

WeBS Core Counts are made using so-called 'look-see' methodology (Bibby *et al.* 2000), whereby the observer, familiar with the species involved, surveys the whole of a predefined area. Counts are made at all wetland habitats, including lakes, lochs/loughs, ponds, reservoirs, gravel pits, rivers, freshwater marshes, canals, sections of open coast and estuaries. Numbers of all waterbird species, as defined by Wetlands International (Wetlands International 2006), are recorded. In the UK, this includes swans, geese, ducks, divers, grebes, cormorants, herons, Spoonbill, rails, cranes, waders and Kingfisher. Counts of gulls and terns are optional.

In line with the recommendations of Vinicombe *et al.* (1993), records of all species recorded by WeBS, including escapes, have been published to contribute to the proper assessment of naturalised populations and escaped birds. Following Holmes & Stroud (1995), non-native species, which have become established are termed 'naturalised'. These species are categorised according to the process by which they became established: naturalised feral (domesticated species gone wild); naturalised introduction (introduced by man); naturalised re-establishment (species re-established in an area of former occurrence); or naturalised establishment (a species which occurs, but does not breed naturally, *e.g.* potentially Barnacle Goose in southern England). With the exception of vagrants, all other non-native species have been classed as 'escapes'. The native range is given in the species account for naturalised species, escapes and vagrants.

Most waterbirds are readily visible. Secretive species, such as snipes, are generally under-recorded. No allowance is made for these habits by the observer and only birds seen or heard are recorded. The species affected by such biases are well known and the problems of interpretation are highlighted individually in the Species accounts. Most species and many subspecies are readily identifiable during the counts. Categories may be used, *e.g.* unidentified scoter species, where it is not possible to be confident of identification, *e.g.* under poor light conditions.

Species present in relatively small numbers or dispersed widely may be counted singly. The number of birds in large flocks is generally estimated by mentally dividing the birds into groups, which may vary from five to 1,000 depending on the size of the flock, and counting the number of groups. Notebooks and tally counters may be used to aid counts.

Counts are made once per month, ideally on predetermined 'priority dates'. This enables counts across the whole country to be synchronised, thus reducing the likelihood of birds being double counted or missed. Such synchronisation is imperative at large sites, which are divided into sectors, each of which can be practicably counted by a single person in a reasonable amount of time. Local Organisers ensure coordination in these cases due to the high possibility of local movements affecting count totals. The priority dates are pre-selected with a view to optimising tidal conditions for counters covering coastal sites at high tide on a Sunday (see *Coverage*). The dates used for individual sites may vary due to differences in the tidal regime around the country. Coordination within a site takes priority over national synchronisation.

Counts suspected to be gross underestimates of the true number of non-secretive species present are specifically noted, *e.g.* a large flock of roosting waders only partially counted before being flushed by a predator, or a distant flock of seaduck in heavy swell. These counts may then be treated differently when calculating site totals (see *Analysis*).

Data are input by a professional data input company. Alternativley counters can enter their own counts on an online database. Any particularly unusual counts are checked by the National Organisers and are confirmed with the counters if necessary.

WeBS Low Tide Counts

This survey aims to assess numbers of waterbirds present during low tide on estuaries, primarily to assess the distribution of feeding birds at that time (Musgrove *et al*. 2003; see the section *Low Tide Counts* for a full explanation of methods).

This survey occasionally provides higher counts for individual sites than Core Counts, for example, where birds feed on one estuary but roost on another. The potential for Low Tide Counts to have involved double-counting is assessed before being used for site assessment against 1% thresholds.

Supplementary daytime and roost counts

Supplementary counts are made at some sites where WeBS counts are known to under-represent the true value of the site. In particular, some species occur in much larger sites when using the site as a nighttime roost, *e.g.* geese, Goosander and gulls, that are not present during WeBS daytime counts. Some sites are also counted more frequently than once monthly by some observers.

Supplementary counts are collected by counters familiar with the site for WeBS survey, thus employing the same site definition and, for daytime counts, the same counting methods, and are submitted on standardised recording forms adapted from those used for WeBS Core Counts.

Goose roost censuses

Many geese (*Anser and Branta spp*) spend daylight hours in agricultural landscapes, and are therefore missed during counts at wetlands by WeBS. These species are usually best counted as they fly to or from their roost sites at dawn or dusk since these are generally discrete wetlands and birds often follow traditional flight lines approaching or leaving the site. Even in half-light, birds can generally be counted with relative ease against the sky, although they may not be specifically identifiable at mixed species roosts.

In order to produce population estimates, counts are synchronised nationally for particular species (see *National totals* below), though normally only one or two such counts are made each year. The priority count dates are determined according to the state of the moon, since large numbers of geese may remain on fields during moonlit nights. Additional counts are made by some observers, particularly during times of high turnover when large numbers may occur for just a few days.

In some areas, where roost sites are poorly known or difficult to access, counts of birds in fields are made during the daytime. As with WeBS Core Counts, the accuracy of the count is noted.

Additional counts

Additional, *ad hoc*, data are also sought for important sites not otherwise covered by regular monitoring, particularly open coast sections in Scotland, whilst the results of periodic, coordinated surveys - such as the International Greenland Barnacle Goose Census and International Whooper & Bewick's Swan Census - are included where the data collected are compatible with the presentation formats used in this report.

The accuracy of counts of waterbirds on the sea is particularly dependent on prevailing weather conditions at the time of or directly preceding the count. Birds are often distant from land, and wind or rain can cause considerable difficulty with identifying and counting birds. Wind not only causes telescope shake, but even a moderate swell at sites without high vantage points can hamper counts considerably. The need to count other waterbirds in 'terrestrial' habitats at the site often precludes the time required for an accurate assessment of seaducks. Many sites may be best covered using aerial surveys, though this technique has been

little used in the UK historically. Consequently, the best counts of most divers, grebes and seaduck at open coast and many estuarine sites are made simply when conditions allow; only rarely will such conditions occur by chance during WeBS counts. Synchronisation between different sites may be difficult or impossible to achieve, and thus coordination of most counts to date has occurred at a regional or site level, *e.g.* within the Moray Firth and within North Cardigan Bay.

The extensive use of aerial survey methods in nearshore marine waters in recent years means that data are available for a number of sites. However, the boundaries of such sites frequently do not correspond to those counted for WeBS Core Counts, and indeed the area surveyed from the air can vary between years. As a result, such aerial surveys are now tabulated separately within the relevant species accounts. These surveys employ a 'distance sampling' methodology (see Buckland *et al*. 2001, 2004), whereby only a proportion of birds is counted, and the missed proportion estimated by statistical means. Some published reports from these surveys provide only the counted number, whilst others include the calculated estimates also (which often have relatively wide confidence intervals).

Some data are provided directly by individuals (for example, reserve wardens), often undertaking counts for site survey purposes, but whose data are not formally published in a report.

A significant point is that these additional data are taken from published sources, from surveys with the specific aim of monitoring waterbirds, and where methods have been published - or where data have been collected by known individuals, usually undertaking site-based surveys, and are provided directly for use in *Waterbirds in the UK*. Casual records and data from, *e.g.* county bird reports, where the methods and/or site boundaries used are not documented, are not included. Reports and data for important sites from surveys that the authors know to have taken place in recent years are actively sought for inclusion in this report, but it is likely that other sources of suitable data are overlooked. The inclusion of additional data for some species and sites does not, thus, indicate that the tables in the Species accounts include all such suitable data.

Irish Wetland Bird Survey

The Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS) monitors non-breeding waterbirds in the Republic of Ireland (Crowe 2005). I-WeBS was launched in 1994 as a joint partnership between BirdWatch Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service of Dúchas, The Heritage Service of the Department of Environment and Local Government (Ireland), and WWT, with additional funding and support from the Heritage Council and WWF UK (World Wide Fund for Nature). I-WeBS is complementary to and compatible with the UK scheme. The main methodological difference from UK-WeBS is that counts are made only between September and March, inclusive.

Productivity monitoring

Changes in numbers of waterbirds counted in the UK between years are likely to result from a number of factors, including coverage and weather, particularly for European and Russian breeding species which may winter further east or west within Europe according to the severity of the winter. Genuine changes in population size will, however, result from differences in recruitment and mortality between years.

For several species of swans and geese, young of the year can be readily identified in the field and a measure of productivity can be obtained by recording the number of young birds in sampled flocks, expressed as a percentage of the total number of birds aged. Experienced fieldworkers, by observing the behaviour of and relationship between individuals in a flock, can record brood sizes as the number of young birds associating with, usually, two adults.

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION

In fulfilment of the WeBS objectives, results are presented in a number of different sections. An outline of the analyses undertaken for each is given here; further details can be provided upon request. A number of limitations of the data or these analytical techniques necessitate caution when interpreting the results presented in this report (see *Interpretation of Waterbird Counts*).

Count accuracy and completeness

Counts at individual sites may be hampered by poor conditions, or parts of the site may not be covered. This may result in counts missing a significant proportion of one or more species. It is important to flag such counts since using them at face value would under-represent the importance of the site and give misleading results, *e.g.* when used for trend calculations and assessment of site importance.

Counts at sites - and at individual sectors of large sites that are counted using a series of sub-divisions (known as 'complex sites') - are flagged as 'OK' or 'Low' by the counter, where 'Low' indicates that the counter feels a significant proportion of the birds present at the time of the count may have been missed, *e.g.* because all of the site or sector was not visited, or because a large flock of birds flew before counts were complete. Such assessments may be provided for individual species, or for all species present.

Similarly, at complex sites, one or more sectors may be missed in a particular month, again rendering the total count for the site incomplete to a greater or lesser degree for one or more species.

For single sector sites, counts are assessed as incomplete based on the 'OK/Low' information provided by the counter. For complex sites, an algorithm is used to assess whether missed sectors and/or 'Low' counts in some sectors constitute an incomplete count at the site level. The mean count of each sector is calculated based on 'OK' counts from a window extending a month either side of the month of the count in question, and using earlier or subsequent years, such that within this window the 15 nearest counts are used to make the assessment. The total count for the site in any one month is considered incomplete if the sectors for which the count is missing or 'Low' in that month tend to hold, on the basis of their mean values, more than 25% of the sum of all sector means. The assessment is made on a species-by-species basis, recognising the fact that species distribution is not uniform across a site that and a missed sector may be particularly important for some species but not for others.

Completeness assessments are made for all WeBS Core Counts, and for most goose roost counts (which, as single-sector sites, are made on the basis of the 'OK/Low' assessment provided by the counter).

Because the completeness calculation for complex sites is based on a moving window of counts, and the use of different parts of the site by species may change, the addition of new data each year may result in counts flagged in previous *Waterbirds in the UK* (prior to 2004/05 published as *Wildfowl and Wader Counts*) as complete now being considered incomplete, and *vice versa*.

Counts are not flagged as 'Low' if a large number of the birds present is routinely missed, *e.g.* because they are cryptic, secretive, or hide in reeds - such as Snipe, Teal and Water Rail. 'Low' indicates that a significant proportion of the birds that could reasonably be expected to be counted under normal conditions was considered to have been missed. Similarly, many counts of waterbirds on the sea may be undercounts. Indeed, if the distribution of a flock stretches beyond the limits of visibility, the counter - as with birds hidden in reeds - can never know with confidence whether the count included all birds present. Counts flagged as incomplete are treated differently in trend analysis and site importance assessments.

The WeBS Year

Different waterbird species occur in the UK at different times of year. Most occur in largest numbers during winter, some are residents with numbers boosted during winter, while others occur primarily as passage migrants or even just as summer visitors.

Although WeBS counts concentrate primarily on winter months, survey is made year-round. Accordingly, different 12-month periods are used to define a year to report upon different species, in particular, to define the 'annual' maximum and to identify the peak 'annual' count for assessing site importance.

For most species, the year is defined as July to June, inclusive. Thus, for species present in largest numbers during winter, counts during autumn passage and spring passage the following calendar year are logically associated with the intervening winter. For species present as summer visitors - notably terns, Garganey and Little

Ringed Plover - the calendar year is used to derive national and site maxima. The different format used for column headings (*e.g.* 06/07 or 2006) in the 'header' and tables in each species account identify whether a 'winter' or calendar year has been used.

Note that national totals (reported in Tables 3 and 4) present data for the period July 2006 to June 2007.

National totals and annual maxima

Total numbers of waterbirds recorded by WeBS and other schemes are presented (within Tables 3 and 4 and within individual species accounts). It is very important to appreciate that these national totals are not population estimates, as WeBS does not cover 100% of the population of any species. The totals are presented separately for Great Britain (including the Isle of Man but excluding the Channel Islands) and Northern Ireland in recognition of the different legislation that applies to each. Separate totals for England, Scotland, Wales, and the Channel Islands can be obtained from the BTO upon request. The count nearest the monthly priority date or, alternatively, the count coordinated with nearby sites if there is considered to be significant interchange, is chosen for use in this report if several accurate counts are available for the same month. A count from any date is used if it is the only one available.

Totals from different count methods are mostly not combined to produce national totals because the lack of synchronisation may result in errors, *e.g.* birds counted at roost by one method may be effectively double counted during the WeBS count at a different site in that month. Total counts from several national goose surveys are, however, used instead of WeBS Core Counts where the census total provides a better estimate of the total numbers, as follows:

- Pink-footed and Icelandic Greylag Geese in October, November and December;
- Greenland White-fronted Goose in December and March;
- Greenland Barnacle Geese in November and March;
- NW Scotland Greylag Geese in August and February;
- Canadian Light-bellied Brent Geese in October.

Additionally, counts of Svalbard Barnacle Geese from North Cumbria and Dumfries & Galloway are replaced by Solway-wide dedicated counts between October and May. Finally, the maximum British totals for both Bewick's and Whooper Swan do include roost counts from the Ouse and Nene Washes and Martin Mere in place of Core Counts at this site, given the particular concentration of these species feeding around and roosting at this site. Counts from other site or regional-based surveys, for example of seaducks, are not included in national totals. Where a census total replaces standard Core Count data these are indicated by '*'.

Some of the goose populations are identified according to location (from research into movements of marked birds) as they cannot be separated in the field by appearance alone. In such cases, a standard region of the UK is used each year to assign individual birds to particular populations and thus to derive national totals. For full details please contact BTO but broadly, the breakdown is as follows:

- NW Scotland Greylag Goose - Inner and Outer Hebrides plus Southwest Highland.
- Icelandic Greylag Goose - all other areas of Scotland plus Northumberland and North Cumbria.
- Re-established Greylag Goose - other areas.
- Greenland Barnacle Goose - Scottish west coast plus Shetland and Orkney.
- Svalbard Barnacle Goose - other Scottish regions plus Northumberland and North Cumbria.
- Naturalised Barnacle Goose - other areas.
- Canadian Light-bellied Brent Goose - Northern Ireland, Wales, western and northern Scotland, Cornwall, Devon, west coastal England, Irish Sea and Channel Islands.
- Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose - other areas.

(*Note that the separate populations overlap to some extent, and some birds are thus likely to be mis-assigned using these areas. This is particularly so in the case of Greylag Goose and future surveys are planned to help rectify this issue*).

Data from counts at all sites are used, irrespective of whether they are considered complete or not. Numbers presented in this report are not rounded. National and site

totals calculated as the sum of counts from several sectors or sites may imply a false sense of accuracy if different methods for recording numbers have been used, *e.g.* 1,000 birds estimated on one sector and a count of seven individuals on another is presented as 1,007. It is safe to assume that any large count includes a proportion of estimated birds. Reproducing the submitted counts in this way is, however, deemed the most appropriate means of presentation and avoids the summation of 'rounding error'.

Annual indices

Because the same sites are not necessarily covered by WeBS on every month in every year, relative changes in waterbird numbers cannot be determined simply by comparing the total number of birds counted each year (Tables 3 and 4). This issue is addressed by using indexing techniques that have been developed to track relative changes in numbers from incomplete data.

In summary, for occasions when a particular site has not been visited, an expected count for each species is calculated (imputed) based on the pattern of counts across months, years and other sites. This effectively means that a complete set of counts are available for all years and all months for a sample of sites. Only sites that have a good overall level of coverage are used (at least 50% of possible visits undertaken) and the underlying assumption is that the pattern of change in numbers across these sites (the index) is representative of the pattern of change in numbers at the country level (see *Interpretation of Waterbird Counts* below). Annual index values are expressed relative to the most recent year, which takes an arbitrary value of 100.

The 'Underhill index' was specifically developed for waterbird populations (see Underhill 1989, Prŷs-Jones *et al*. 1994, Underhill & Prŷs-Jones 1994 and Kirby *et al*. 1995 for a full explanation of this indexing process and its application for WeBS data). This report uses Generalized Additive Models (GAMs; Hastie & Tibshirani 1990) to fit both index values and a smoothed trend to the WeBS count data (see Maclean *et al*. 2005 for a full explanation of this process and its application for WeBS data) whilst retaining elements from the Underhill method that allows the assessment of whether or not counts flagged as incomplete should be treated as missing data. The generated smoothed trends are less influenced by years of abnormally high or low numbers and sampling 'noise' than are the raw index values. This makes them especially useful when assessing changes through time (*e.g.* WeBS Alerts; Maclean *et al*. 2008). Following recent development work undertaken by WeBS, winter indices for waders are based on data from the months of November to March inclusive while those for other species additionally include September and October. Exceptions are made for the indices for Icelandic Greylag Goose, Pink-footed Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose and Svalbard Barnacle Goose, for which annual census data are preferentially used to generate indices. Previously, the months used for indexing were assigned in a species-specific manner following established recommendations (Underhill & Prys-Jones 1994 and Kirby *et al*. 1995). The new approach, in addition to improving the robustness of the indices to changes in the timing of arrivals and departures with climate change and increasing comparability between species, brings WeBS indexing into line with other WeBS methodologies, specifically reporting of Alerts and computation of five-year mean of peaks.

Not all species are included in the indexing process. Gulls and terns are excluded because counting of these species is optional. Species that occur substantially on habitat not well monitored by WeBS (*e.g.* Moorhen and Snipe) are excluded as are species that occur at sites sporadically and/or in small numbers (*e.g.* Bean Goose and Smew).

Indices for wildfowl are presented for the period 1966/67 to the present. Data from 1974/75 onwards have been used for waders as a high proportion of counts before this winter were imputed. For species added later to the scheme, (*i.e.* Great Crested Grebe and Coot in 1982/83, Little Grebe in 1985/86, Cormorant in 1986/87 and gulls, terns, divers, rare grebes and other species from 1993/94), data from the first two years following their inclusion have been omitted from indices, as initial take-up by counters appears not to

have been complete, resulting in apparent sharp increases in numbers during this time. For similar reasons the first two years of data have been excluded from Northern Ireland indices.

Index values, where calculated, are graphed within each account. The underlying trend is shown using a broken line. The actual index values used to produce the graphs in this report can be obtained on request from the British Trust for Ornithology (see *Contacts*).

Monthly indices

The abundance of different waterbird species varies during the winter due to a number of factors, most notably the timing of their movements along the flyway, whilst severe weather, particularly on the continent, may also affect numbers in the UK. However, due to differences in site coverage between months, such patterns cannot be reliably detected using count totals. Consequently, an index is calculated for each month to reflect changes in relative abundance during the season.

The imputing process used to derive missing data for generating annual trends also allows monthly indices to be calculated across the same suite of sites. This reveals patterns of seasonality for the species considered. These are presented as graphs in the species accounts, giving the value for the most recent winter and the average value and range over the five preceding winters. Monthly graphs are not presented for the goose species for which annual indices are based on censuses as data for these are available for a limited number of months only.

Broad differences in the monthly values between species reflect their status in the UK. Resident species, or those with large UK breeding populations, *e.g.* some grebes and Mallard, are present in large numbers early in the winter. Declines through the winter result in part from mortality of first year birds, but also birds returning to remote or small breeding sites that are not covered by WeBS. The majority of UK waterbirds either occur solely as winter visitors, or have small breeding populations that are swelled by winter immigrants, with peak abundance generally occurring in mid winter.

The vast majority of the wintering populations of many wader species are found on estuaries, and, since coverage of this habitat is relatively complete and more or less constant throughout winter, meaningful comparisons of total monthly counts can be made for many species.

Site importance

Criteria for assessing the international importance of wetlands have been agreed by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention Bureau 1988). Under criterion 6, a wetland is considered internationally important if it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird, whilst any site regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds qualifies under criterion 5. Similar criteria have been adopted for identification of SPAs under the EC Birds Directive in the UK legislation. A wetland in Britain is considered nationally important if it regularly holds 1% or more of the estimated British numbers of one species or subspecies of waterbird, and in Northern Ireland, important in an all-Ireland context if it holds 1% or more of the all-Ireland estimate. More detailed information about SPAs and Ramsar sites in the UK can be accessed via the JNCC website at http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-4. There are currently 253 SPAs and 146 Ramsar sites in the UK.

Population estimates are revised once every three years, in keeping with internationally agreed timetables (Rose & Stroud 1994). International estimates used in this report follow recent revisions of international populations (Wetlands International 2006) and of estimates for Great Britain (Kershaw & Cranswick 2003, Rehfisch *et al.* 2003, Crowe *et al.* 2008). The relevant 1% and all-Ireland thresholds are given in Appendix 1. and are also listed at the start of each individual species account. (It should be noted that the estimates and thresholds for some species or populations which should be the same at an international and national level because all birds are found in Britain, *e.g.* for Pink-footed Goose, differ slightly because of the rounding conventions applied. In most species accounts, these differences have

been rationalised and only one or other of the estimates used).

For some species (*e.g.* Lapwing) no national thresholds are available and arbitrary levels have been used to compile the table of sites, the chosen level being given in the sub-heading of the table.

'National threshold' is used as a generic term to imply the 1% British threshold for sites in Great Britain, and the all-Ireland threshold for sites in Northern Ireland. Similarly, the term 'national importance' implies sites in Great Britain and in Northern Ireland that meet the respective thresholds.

Tables in the Species accounts rank the principal sites for each species according to the mean of annual maxima for the last five years (the five-year peak mean), in line with recommendations of the Ramsar Convention, and identify those meeting national and international qualifying levels (see also *Interpretation of Waterbird Counts*). For each site, the maximum count in each of the five most recent years, the month of occurrence of the peak in the most recent year, and the five-year peak mean are given. Incomplete counts are bracketed.

For all species except Ringed Plover and Sanderling, annual maxima are derived from any month in the appropriate 12-month period (see *The WeBS Year*). For Ringed Plover and Sanderling data are presented separately for autumn (Jul-Oct), winter (Nov-Mar) and spring (Apr-Jun) due to the substantial passage numbers. Data from other sources, often involving different methods, *e.g.* goose roost censuses, are used where these provide better, *i.e.* larger, counts for individual sites. The source of all counts, if not derived from WeBS Core Counts, is indicated using a superscripted number after the count (a list of sources is given at the beginning of the accounts).

In the first instance, five-year peak means are calculated using only complete counts; incomplete counts are not used if they depress the mean count. Incomplete counts are, however, included in the calculation of the mean if they raise the value of the mean. Where all annual maxima are incomplete, the five-year peak mean is the highest of these individual counts. Averages enclosed by brackets are based solely on incomplete counts.

Sites are selected for presentation using a strict interpretation of the 1% threshold (for convenience, sites in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man are identified using 1% thresholds for Great Britain and included under the Great Britain section of the tables). For some species with very small national populations, and consequently very low 1% thresholds, an arbitrary, higher level has been chosen for the inclusion of sites. Where no thresholds are given, *e.g.* for introduced species, and where no or very few sites in the UK reach the relevant national qualifying levels, an arbitrary threshold has been chosen to select a list of sites for this report. These adopted thresholds are given in the sub-headings of the table. A blank line has been inserted in the table to separate sites that qualify as nationally important from those with five-year peak mean counts of less than 50 birds.

All sites that held numbers exceeding the relevant national threshold (or adopted qualifying level) in the most recent year, but with five-year peak means below this value, are listed separately. This serves to highlight important sites worthy of continued close attention.

Where the importance of a site has changed since the previous *Waterbirds in the UK* (prior to 2004/05 published as *Wildfowl and Wader Counts*) as a result of the data collected since then - *i.e.* it has become nationally or internationally important but was not following the previous year, or it has changed from international to national importance or *vice versa* - this is indicated in the table to the right of the five-year peak mean. Sites with elevated status have a black triangle pointing up (▲) to the right of the average, whilst those with lowered status are indicated using a triangle pointing down (▼). Sites for which the average fell below the threshold for national importance following 2003/04 are listed at the end of the table.

It should be noted that a site may appear to have been flagged erroneously as having elevated status if the most recent count was below the relevant threshold. However, a particularly low count six years previously will have depressed the mean in the

previous report. The converse may be true for sites with lowered status and thus, in exceptional circumstances, a site may be listed in the relevant sections of the table as both no longer being of national importance yet also with a peak count in the most recent year exceeding the national threshold.

WeBS Alerts

WeBS Alerts have been developed to provide a standardised method of measuring and reporting on changes in wintering waterbird numbers at different temporal and spatial scales using WeBS data. Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) are used to fit smoothed trends to annual population indices (changes in population size calculated using these smoothed values are less susceptible to the effects of short-term fluctuations in population size or to errors when sampling than are results produced using raw data plots). Alerts are triggered for populations that have undergone major declines, and are intended to help identify where research into causes of decline may be needed and inform conservation management.

Proportional changes in the smoothed index value of a population over short- (5-year), medium- (10-year) and long- (25-year) term time frames are categorised according to their magnitude and direction. Population declines of between 25% and 50% trigger Medium Alerts and declines of greater than 50% trigger High Alerts. Increases of 33% and 100% (values chosen to be those necessary to return a population to its former size following declines of 25% and 50% respectively) are also identified, albeit that these are rarely of conservation concern.

National Alerts are generated for species (or specific populations of a species) using data from across the WeBS site network, for Great Britain and the constituent countries of the UK (Maclean *et al.* 2008). These Alerts provide some context for understanding finer scale changes in numbers. Alerts are calculated only for native species for which WeBS annual indices are calculated. Alerts are not available for some species over long time periods because there were only relatively recently included in WeBS Core Counts. Full results from the latest Alerts report are available to download from www.bto.org/webs/alerts/.

Principal sites

In addition to the assessment of sites against 1% thresholds in Species accounts, sites are identified for their importance in terms of overall waterbird numbers in the section *Principal Sites*. The peak count at each site is calculated by summing the individual species maxima during the season, irrespective of the month in which they occurred, or whether counts were complete or not. Data from all sources used for site assessment within the species accounts are used here, including wader numbers during passage periods. Non-native introduced or escaped species (*i.e.* those not in BOURC category A) are not included in these totals.

Counts made using methodologies that employ different site definitions to those used by WeBS (*e.g.* seaducks on the Moray Firth) are not incorporated into the calculations. Such sites are, however, listed at the end of the table.

INTERPRETATION OF WATERBIRD COUNTS

Caution is always necessary in the interpretation and application of waterbird counts given the limitations of these data. This is especially true of the summary form, which, by necessity, is used in this report. A primary aim here remains the rapid feedback of key results to the many participants in the WeBS scheme. More detailed information on how to make use of the data for research or site assessment purposes can be obtained from the British Trust for Ornithology (see *Contacts*).

Whilst the manner of presentation is consistent within this report, information collated by WeBS and other surveys can be held or used in a variety of ways. Data may also be summarised and analysed differently depending on the requirements of the user. Consequently, calculations used to interpret data and their presentation may vary between this and other publications, and indeed between organisations or individual users. The terminology used by different organisations may not always highlight these differences. This particularly applies to summary data. Such variations do not detract from the

value of each different method, but offer greater choice to users according to the different questions being addressed. This should always be borne in mind when using data presented here.

For ease of reference, the caveats provided below are broadly categorised according to the presentation of results for each of the key objectives of WeBS. Several points, however, are general in nature and apply to a broad range of uses of the data.

National totals

The majority of count data are collected between September and March, when most species of waterbird are present in the UK in highest numbers. Data are collected during other months and have been presented where relevant. Caution is urged, however, regarding their interpretation both due to the relative sparsity of counts from this period and the different count effort for different sites. Data are presented for the months July to June inclusive (see *The WeBS Year*), matching the period for which data are provided *en masse* by counters.

A number of systematic biases of WeBS or other count methodology must be borne in mind when considering the data. Coverage of estuarine habitats and large, standing waters by WeBS is good or excellent. Consequently, counted totals of those species which occur wholly or primarily on these habitats during winter will approach a census. Those species dispersed widely over rivers, non-estuarine coast or small inland waters are, however, likely to be considerably under-represented, as will secretive or cryptic species, such as snipes, or those which occur on non-wetlands, *e.g.* grassland plovers. Species which occur in large numbers during passage are also likely to be under-represented, not only because of poorer coverage at this time, but due to the high turnover of birds in a short period. Furthermore, since counts of gulls and terns are optional, national totals are likely to be considerable underestimates of the number using the WeBS network of sites. Only for a handful of species, primarily geese, can count totals be considered as a census.

One instance of possible over-estimation may occur if using summed site maxima as a guide to the total number of scarcer species. For species with mobile flocks in an area well covered by WeBS, *e.g.* Snow Goose in southeast England, it is likely that a degree of double counting will occur, particularly if birds move between sites at different times of the year.

The publication of records of vagrants in this report does not imply acceptance by the British Birds Rarities Committee (*e.g.* Fraser *et al*. 2007).

Annual indices

For most species, the long-term trends in index values can be used to assess changes in overall wintering numbers with confidence. However, the comments above concerning the differential coverage of different habitats remain important. For some species, a substantial proportion of wintering birds occur away from those sites monitored by the WeBS Core Count scheme or use these sites at certain times of day that make them unlike to be encountered by WeBS counters. Consequently, this incomplete coverage needs to be borne in mind when interpreting the indices for some species. The proportion of some of these species being monitored by the WeBS Core Count scheme can be quantified and biases understood by comparison to other surveys. For example, from the Non-estuarine Coastal Waterbird Survey (NEWS) it is known that WeBS Core Counts monitor between one tenth and one half of wintering Ringed Plover, Purple Sandpiper, Sanderling and Turnstone and that the indices and trends reported will be biased towards changes occurring on estuaries. Similarly, trends reported for seaduck and grassland plovers will be biased towards changes occurring within estuaries although in these species the proportion of overall numbers monitored by WeBS Core counts is less well understood. In the case of winter swans, although the sites on which they occur are generally well monitored by WeBS Core counts they are mainly used as roost sites by the birds and therefore changes in the birds' daily routine with weather or local feeding opportunities may have considerable influence on whether they are present during the WeBS count and thus affect the reported indices and trends.

Indices and trends for Pink-footed Goose, Greenland White-fronted Goose, Icelandic Greylag Goose and Svalbard Barnacle Goose

can be considered to be especially representative of national patterns. The numbers of these species are not well monitored by monthly WeBS Core Counts but rather are preferentially monitored by the annual coordinated censuses that cover the majority of British wintering birds. Indices for strictly or principally estuarine species (*e.g.* Wigeon and Knot) can also be considered especially representative as over 90% of British estuaries, including all major sites, are counted each month between September and March. Similarly, species that occur principally on larger inland waterbodies (*e.g.* Pochard) are well monitored by WeBS Core Counts although the proportion of the numbers not being monitored is largely unquantified. For these species the indices and trends reported can be considered representative of the national pattern. For more widespread species (*e.g.* Mallard, Tufted Duck and Curlew) a large proportion of birds occur at small inland sites and habitats not well monitored by WeBS Core Counts. The selection of such sites follows no formal sampling pattern and therefore it is unclear as to whether these wetlands are a representative sample of the country as a whole.

Because short-term fluctuations provide a less rigorous indication of population changes, care should be taken in their interpretation. The underlying trend, denoted by the smoothed line in the annual index graphs, will give a better overall impression of trends for species with marked inter-annual variation, although it should be noted that unusually high or low index values in the most recent year will have a disproportionate effect on the trend at that point.

Caution should be used in interpreting figures for species that only occur in small numbers. Thus, numbers tend to fluctuate more widely for many species in Northern Ireland, largely as a result of the smaller numbers of birds involved but also, being at the western most limit of their range, due to variable use being made of Ireland by wintering waterbirds.

It should be borne in mind that the imputed values, used in place of missing and incomplete counts, are calculated anew each year, as in the completeness calculation for 'complex sites' which may cause the same count to change from complete to incomplete or *vice versa* with the addition of a new year's data. Because the index formula uses data from all years, each new year's counts will slightly alter the site, month and year factors. In turn, the assessment of missing counts may differ slightly and, as a result, the index values produced each year are likely to differ from those published in the previous *Waterbirds in the UK* (prior to 2004/05 published as *Wildfowl and Wader Counts*). Additionally, data submitted too late for inclusion are subsequently added to the dataset. The indices published here represent an improvement on previous figures as the additional year's data allow calculation of the site, month and year factors with greater confidence.

Monthly indices

As for annual indices, the reduced numbers of both sites and birds in Northern Ireland result in a greater degree of fluctuation in numbers used in the analyses of data from the province.

Site definition

To compare count data from year to year requires that the individual sites - in terms of the area surveyed - remain the same. The boundary of many wetlands are readily defined by the extent of habitat (*e.g.* for reservoirs and gravel pits), but are less obvious for other sites (*e.g.* some large estuaries) and here count boundaries have often been defined over time by a number of factors to a greater or lesser degree, including the distribution of birds at the time of the count, known movements of birds from roost to feeding areas, the extent of habitat, and even ease of access.

Sites are defined for a variety of purposes, and the precise boundary of sites describing ostensibly the same wetland may differ accordingly. For example, the boundaries used to define a large lake may differ for its definition as a wetland (based on habitat), as a waterbird count area (some birds may use adjacent non-wetland habitat), and as a statutorily designated site for nature conservation (which may be constrained by the need to follow boundaries easily demarcated in planning and legal terms). It should be recognised that the boundary of a site for counting

may even differ between different waterbird surveys, particularly where different methodologies are employed, *e.g.* the 'Forth Estuary' comprises one large site for WeBS Core Counts, a slightly different area for Low Tide Counts, and two roost sites for Pink-footed Geese.

Data from different waterbird surveys have been used for assessment of site importance in this report if collected for ostensibly the same site, and are unlikely to cause significant discrepancies in the vast majority of cases (though see *Site importance*).

Particular caution is urged, however, in noting that, owing to possible boundary differences, totals given for WeBS or other sites in this report are not necessarily the same as totals for designated statutory sites (ASSIs/SSSIs, SPAs or Ramsar Sites) having the same or similar names.

It should also be borne in mind that whilst discrete wetlands may represent obvious sites for waterbirds, there is no strict definition of a site as an ecological unit for birds. Thus, some wetlands may provide all needs - feeding, loafing and roosting areas - for some species, but a 'site' for other species may comprise a variety of disparate areas, not all of which are counted for WeBS. Similarly, for some habitats, particularly linear areas such as rivers and rocky coasts, and marine areas, the definition of a site as used by waterbirds is not readily discerned without extensive survey or research that is usually beyond the scope of WeBS or other similar surveys. The definitions of such sites may thus evolve, and therefore change between *Waterbirds in the UK* (prior to 2004/05 published as *Wildfowl and Wader Counts*). Further, the number of birds recorded by WeBS at particular sites should not be taken to indicate the total number of birds in that local area.

In some cases, for example where feeding geese are recorded by daytime WeBS Core Counts over large sites, and again at discrete roosts within or adjacent to that same site, data are presented for both sites in the table of key sites given the very different nature or extent of the sites and often number of birds, even though the same birds will be counted at both.

Site importance

Sites are selected for presentation in this report using a strict interpretation of the 1% threshold. It should be noted, however that where 1% of the national population is less than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum qualifying threshold for the designation of sites of national importance. It should also be noted that the 'qualifying levels' used for introduced species are used purely as a guide for presentation of sites in this report and do not infer any conservation importance for the species or the sites concerned since protected sites would not be identified for these non-native birds.

It is necessary to bear in mind the distinction between sites that regularly hold wintering populations of national or international importance and those which may happen to exceed the appropriate qualifying levels only in occasional winters. This follows the Ramsar Convention, which states that key sites must be identified on the basis of demonstrated regular use (calculated as the mean winter maxima from the last five seasons for most species in this report), otherwise a large number of sites might qualify as a consequence of irregular visitation by one-off large numbers of waterbirds. However, the Convention also indicates that provisional assessments may be made on the basis of a minimum of three years' data. These rules of thumb are applied to SPAs and national assessments also. Sites with just one or two years' data are also included in the tables if the mean exceeds the relevant threshold for completeness but this does not, as such, imply qualification. This caveat applies also to sites that are counted in more than two years but, because one or more of the peak counts are incomplete, whose means surpass the 1% threshold based on counts from only one or two years.

Nevertheless, sites which irregularly support nationally or internationally important numbers may be extremely important at certain times, *e.g.* when the UK population is high, during the main migratory periods, or during cold weather, when they may act as refuges for birds away from traditionally used sites. For this reason also, the ranking of sites according to the total numbers of birds they support (particularly in *Principal Sites*) should not

be taken as a rank order of the conservation importance of these sites, since certain sites, perhaps low down in terms of their total 'average' numbers, may nevertheless be of critical importance to certain species or populations at particular times.

Peak counts derived from a number of visits to a particular site in a given season will reflect more accurately the relative importance of the site for the species than do single visits. It is important to bear this in mind since, despite considerable improvements in coverage, data for a few sites presented in this report derive from single counts in some years. Similarly, in assessing the importance of a site, peak counts from several winters should ideally be used, as the peak count made in any one year may be unreliable due to gaps in coverage and disturbance- or weather-induced effects. The short-term movement of birds between closely adjacent sites may lead to altered assessments of a site's apparent importance for a particular species. More frequent counts than the once-monthly WeBS visits are necessary to assess more accurately the rapid turnover of waterbird populations that occurs during migration or cold weather movements.

It should also be borne in mind that because a count is considered complete for WeBS, it does not imply that it fully represents the importance of the site. A site of importance for a wintering species may have been counted only in autumn or spring, and thus while a valid complete count is available for that year, it under-represents the importance of the site for that species. A similar issue arises for counts derived from different survey methods. For example, many sites important as gull roosts are identified on the basis of evening roost counts. Valid and complete counts may have been made by WeBS Core Counts during daytime over the course of a particular winter but, if no roost counts were made, the mean will be depressed by the much lower Core Count in that year. Thus, when counts appear to fluctuate greatly between years at individual sites on the basis of data from different sources - particularly for geese and gulls in the absence of roost counts, and for seaducks in the absence of dedicated survey - the five-year means and apparent trends over time should be viewed with caution.

Caution is also urged regarding the use of Low Tide Count data in site assessment. Whilst this survey serves to highlight the importance of some estuaries for feeding birds that, because they roost on other sites, are missed by Core Counts, the objectives of Low Tide Counts do not require strict synchronisation across the site and this may result in double counting of birds on some occasions. It should also be noted that count completeness assessments are not made for Low Tide Count totals at complex sites, and any undercounts from this scheme are not flagged in the tables, leading to under-estimation of the site's importance.

This list of potential sources of error in counting wetland birds, though not exhaustive, suggests that the net effect tends towards under- rather than over-estimation of numbers and provides justification for the use of maximum counts for the assessment of site importance or the size of a population. Factors causing under-estimation are normally constant at a given site in a given month, so that while under-estimates may occur, comparisons between sites and years remain valid.

It should be recognised that, in presenting sites supporting nationally or internationally important numbers of birds, this report provides just one means of identifying important sites and does not provide a definitive statement on the conservation value of individual sites for waterbirds, let alone other conservation interests. The national thresholds have been chosen to provide a reasonable amount of information in the context of this report only. Thus, for example, many sites of regional importance or those of importance because of the assemblage of species present are not included here. European Directives and conservation Conventions stress the need for a holistic approach to effect successful conservation, and lay great importance on maintaining the distribution and range of species, in addition to the conservation of networks of individual key sites.

For the above reasons of poor coverage, geographically or temporally, outlined above, it should be recognised that lists of sites supporting internationally and

nationally important numbers of birds are limited by the availability of WeBS and other survey data. Whilst the counter network is likely to cover the vast majority of important sites, others may be missed and therefore will not be listed in the tables due to lack of appropriate data.

Some counts in this report differ from those presented previously; this results from the submission of late data and corrections, and in some cases, the use of different count seasons or changes to site structures. Additionally, some sites may have been omitted from tables previously due to oversight. It is likely that small changes will continue as definitions of sites are revised, in the light of new information from counters. Most changes are minor, but comment is made in the text where they are significant.

Note that sites listed under 'Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels' represent those that would have been noted of national importance based on the preceding five years (*i.e.* 2001/02 to 2005/06) but which, following the 2006/07 counts, no longer met the relevant threshold. It is not an exhaustive list of sites, which at any time in the past have been of national or all-Ireland importance.

COVERAGE

WeBS Core Counts

Coordinated, synchronous counts are advocated to prevent double counting or birds being missed. Consequently, priority dates are recommended nationally. Due to differences in tidal regimes around the country, counts at a few estuaries were made on other dates to match the most suitable conditions. Weather and counter availability also result in some counts being made on alternative dates.

Table 2. WeBS Core Count priority dates in 2006/07

16 July	21 January
13 August	18 February
17 September	18 March
08 October	15 April
19 November	13 May
17 December	17 June

Standard Core Counts were received from 2,105 sites of all habitats for the period July 2006 to June 2007, comprising 3,825 count sectors (the sub-divisions of large sites for which separate counts are provided).

WeBS and I-WeBS coverage in 2006/07 is shown in Figure 1. The location of each count sector is shown using only its central grid reference. The grid references of principal WeBS count sites mentioned in the Principal Sites table (Table 6.) are given in Table A2. in Appendix 2. and are shown in Figure A1. in Appendix 2.

As ever, areas with few wetlands (*e.g.* inland Essex/Suffolk) or small human populations (*e.g.* much of Scotland) are apparent on the map as areas with little coverage. Northwest Scotland is usually poorly covered, although in 2006/07 this area was covered by surveys by the RAF Ornithological Society, which are reported upon in this report. Northern Ireland remains relatively uncovered aware from the major sites and further volunteers from here, or indeed anywhere in the UK, are always welcome.

Goose censuses

In 2006/07, supplementary counts of Bean Geese were submitted by the Bean Goose Action Group (Slamannan Plateau) (Maciver 2006) and the RSPB (Middle Yare Marshes). National surveys of Pink-footed and Icelandic Greylag Geese (the Icelandic-breeding Goose Census) were undertaken at roosts in October, November and December 2006. A census of the Northwest Scotland Greylag Goose population on the Uists was made in September 2006 and February 2007 (Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee), and counts of this population at other key sites were also undertaken where possible. Censuses of Greenland White-fronted Geese were carried out in autumn 2006 and spring 2007 by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study (Fox & Francis 2006). Greenland Barnacle Geese were counted regularly by SNH and others on Islay and other key locations whilst the Svalbard Barnacle Geese on the Solway were counted regularly by WWT staff and volunteers. Data were also provided by the International Light-bellied Brent Goose census.

Seaduck surveys

Monthly aerial and/or land-based counts of Common Scoter in Carmarthen Bay were carried out between September 2006 and

February 2007 (Banks *et al*. 2007). The surveys of the Eiders of the wider Firth of Clyde area were carried out during September 2006 (Waltho *pers. comm*.).

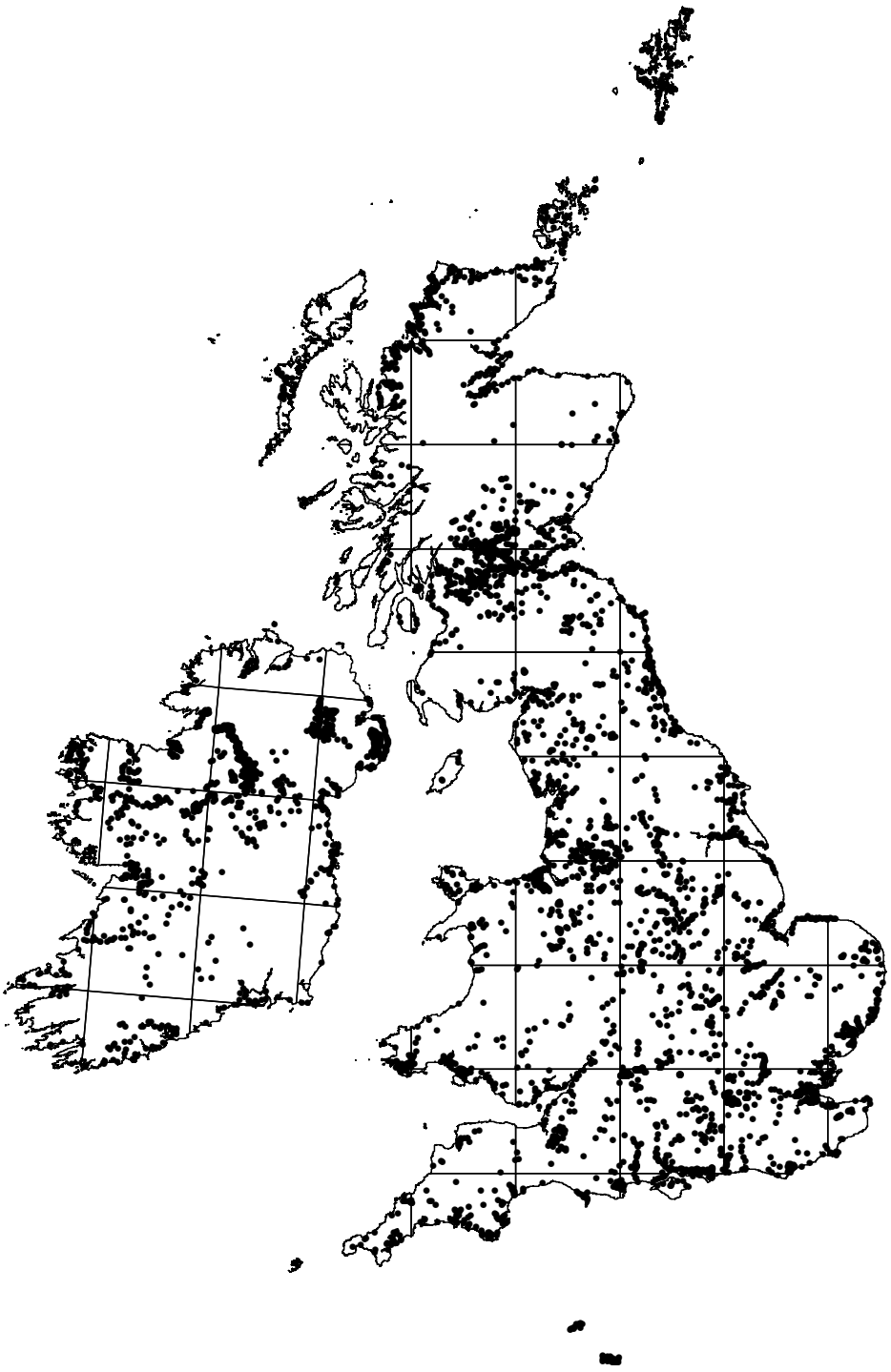


Figure 1. Position of all locations counted for standard WeBS and I-WeBS counts between July 2006 and June 2007.

PRINCIPAL SITES

Table 6 below lists the principal sites for non-breeding waterbirds in the UK as monitored by WeBS. All sites supporting more than 10,000 waterbirds are listed, as are all sites supporting internationally important numbers of one or more waterbird species. Naturalised species (*e.g.* Canada Goose and Ruddy Duck) and non-native species presumed to have escaped from captive collections have been excluded from the totals, as have gulls and terns since the recording of these species is optional (see *Analysis*). Table 7 lists other sites holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds, which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys but rather by the Icelandic Goose Census and aerial surveys.

A total of 241 sites are listed in tables 6 and 7. Of these 218 supported one or more species in internationally important numbers and 82 held a five-year mean peak of 10,000 or more birds. Typically there are few changes to the top twenty sites listed in the principal sites table, with the order of the top ten rarely changing. The Wash remains as the key waterbird site with regard to numbers and in 2006/07 held the second-highest numbers of the preceding five years. Mean numbers on the North Norfolk Coast rose yet again and surpassed that of the Ribble Estuary to become the second most important site in the UK in terms of numbers of waterbirds. However, numbers during 2006/07 were almost half those of the previous year and only the fifth highest.

Numbers at the Ribble Estuary fell for the fifth consecutive year, although due to a low total in 2001/02 the five-year mean increased slightly. Morecambe Bay also held fewer birds than in recent years and the mean here fell by around 2,500. High numbers at the Thames Estuary during 2006/07 pushed mean numbers above those of the Humber Estuary, which itself held its lowest total of the past five years. Conversely, numbers at the Somerset Levels were the highest of the past five years.

Although total numbers on the Ouse Washes in 2006/07 were around half that of the previous year, mean numbers surpassed those of both the Mersey Estuary and Forth Estuary; both of these sites have witnessed declines in the total number of waterbirds over the past five years.

Five-year averages of sites holding 10,000 or more waterbirds were relatively similar compared to the previous year, with 72 of the 82 sites undergoing changes of less than 10%. The greatest increases were experienced at Outer Ards Shoreline (27%) and Pagham Harbour (10%). The greatest decreases were seen at Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs (19%), Loch of Skene (18%), Montrose Basin (17%), Alt Estuary (15%), Eden Estuary (13%), Colne Estuary, Loch of Lintrathen and Blackwater Estuary (all 10%).

Table 6. Total number of waterbirds at principal sites in the UK, 2002/2003 to 2006/07 (includes data from all available sources) and species occurring in internationally important numbers at each. (Species codes are provided in Table 8.)

Site	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Average	Int.Imp.species
The Wash	343,608	338,408	369,530	398,364	390,602	368,102	PG DB SU PT OC RP GP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA CU RK
North Norfolk Coast	212,440	284,603	235,293	322,449	174,127	245,782	PG DB WN PT RP KN BW BA
Ribble Estuary	255,010	252,374	242,666	221,934	214,294	237,256	WS PG SU WN T. PT OC RP GV L. KN SS DN BW BA RK
Morecambe Bay	250,776	249,364	204,094	205,897	194,419	220,910	PG SU PT OC KN DN BW BA CU RK
Thames Estuary	197,462	160,182	172,439	186,380	223,274	187,947	DB T. SV OC AV RP GV KN DN BW BA RK
Humber Estuary	174,930	217,799	163,062	187,041	159,116	180,390	PG DB SU RP GP GV L. KN DN BW BA RK
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	127,015	171,911	115,301	130,351	125,433	134,002	QS SU PT OC KN DN BW RK
Solway Estuary	153,365	145,051	140,099	74,332	84,929	119,555	WS PG YS SU PT OC RP KN DN RK
Somerset Levels	102,799	85,154	99,756	87,809	108,146	96,733	MS WN GA T. SV L.

Site	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Average	Int.Imp.species
Ouse Washes	66,419	85,730	98,684	133,461	64,421	89,743	MS BS WS WN GA T. PT SV BW
Mersey Estuary	108,764	97,787	85,571	75,337	61,544	85,801	SU T. DN BW RK
Forth Estuary	109,461	91,993	84,778	78,859	57,365	84,491	PG JI SZ KN BA RK
Strangford Lough	79,362	88,427	78,450	83,281	90,753	84,055	MS QN SU KN BA RK
Breydon Wtr & Berney Mshs	64,808	75,828	110,698	106,430	54,909	82,535	PG WN SV AV GP BW
Swale Estuary	86,106	86,968	73,831	82,875	54,618	76,880	WN T. PT RP BW
Loch of Strathbeg	49,352	79,231	81,640	84,267	51,153	69,129	WS PG YS
Severn Estuary	68,657	65,160	64,054	79,950	66,022	68,769	MS BS SU PT SV RP DN
Blackwater Estuary	81,688	64,534	78,257	70,055	30,262	64,959	DB GP GV KN DN BW RK
Inner Moray/Inverness Firth	58,337	78,431	65,358	70,502	33,849	61,295	PG JI
Lindisfarne	64,138	56,842	53,340	58,432	47,900	56,130	PG YS QS WN BA
Loughs Neagh and Beg	53,401	59,026	56,258	58,253	50,733	55,534	MS WS PO SP CA
Alt Estuary	63,502	72,792	53,074	41,838	42,622	54,766	GV KN SS BA
Carmarthen Bay	36,917	47,064	55,750	45,081	45,936	46,150	CX SS
Burry Inlet	43,831	52,853	49,289	45,360	38,331	45,933	PT OC KN BW
Dengie Flats	39,325	23,893	45,746	58,301	61,845	45,822	DB GV KN BA
Chichester Harbour	44,825	43,732	43,376	47,675	44,024	44,726	DB DN BW
Montrose Basin	37,019	35,460	50,183	56,990	21,777	40,286	PG
Langstone Harbour	37,455	43,775	45,651	41,477	27,505	39,173	DB DN BW
Hamford Water	40,135	37,991	39,936	43,459	34,131	39,130	DB GV
Stour Estuary	39,496	41,057	40,849	37,952	34,922	38,855	GV KN BW
WWT Martin Mere	39,106	30,883	45,348	37,627	27,029	35,999	WS PG
Lough Foyle	34,154	37,292	33,076	38,324	34,850	35,539	WS QN BA
Dornoch Firth	39,105	37,815	36,320	33,712	28,057	35,002	JI BA
Lower Derwent Ings	33,262	32,629	34,617	38,491	.	34,750	
Loch Leven	39,589	37,333	33,773	40,355	21,679	34,546	MS PG
Cromarty Firth	26,160	41,245	37,901	36,653	23,230	33,038	JI BA
Nene Washes	52,872	20,912	29,270	20,701	29,366	30,624	BS PT BW
Duddon Estuary	22,185	32,593	29,177	35,351	28,597	29,581	PT
Alde Complex	29,648	22,905	31,838	34,368	24,771	28,706	AV BW
Rutland Water	26,192	28,237	26,197	31,189	30,375	28,438	MS GA SV
Abberton Reservoir	20,677	31,382	24,133	50,320	12,673	27,837	MS GA SV PO
Medway Estuary	27,291	26,174	27,067	30,867	24,111	27,102	PT AV BW
Crouch-Roach Estuary	21,377	18,219	34,262	29,553	27,626	26,207	DB
Tees Estuary	25,357	30,084	21,040	23,587	22,363	24,486	
Loch Spynie	19,526	15,748	30,735	27,245	.	23,314	PG JI
Cleddau Estuary	17,874	20,386	27,741	31,421	18,517	23,188	
Inner Firth of Clyde	23,200	23,741	19,915	23,721	24,553	23,026	
Orwell Estuary	24,844	25,284	20,015	25,236	17,084	22,493	BW
Poole Harbour	25,954	24,857	26,361	17,683	15,975	22,166	AV BW
Lavan Sands	21,778	21,144	22,012	19,273	22,542	21,350	
Tay Estuary	20,725	21,311	19,926	25,894	16,601	20,891	PG BA
Pegwell Bay	28,814	25,509	18,221	20,186	10,913	20,729	
Exe Estuary	20,582	22,895	20,124	19,137	17,173	19,982	BW
Belfast Lough	18,759	19,436	21,343	19,499	18,318	19,471	BW
Pagham Harbour	13,222	14,566	20,528	20,775	22,628	18,344	DB PT BW
Deben Estuary	17,082	17,871	19,050	19,080	17,171	18,051	
Wigtown Bay	14,473	21,601	19,049	14,994	18,101	17,644	WS PG YS
WWT Caerlaverock (Inland)	19,520	14,143	16,137	.	.	16,600	WS YS
Fleet and Wey	14,549	16,290	17,493	17,344	13,769	15,889	MS
Colne Estuary	4,187	19,342	18,425	19,104	16,657	15,543	DB
Portsmouth Harbour	15,004	16,420	9,663	17,230	14,271	14,518	DB
Southampton Water	16,684	15,440	15,039	12,560	11,510	14,247	
Loch of Skene	11,004	13,696	18,833	24,765	1,422	13,944	PG JI
North West Solent	10,071	15,139	16,225	13,705	13,910	13,810	
Taw-Torridge Estuary	11,833	10,315	16,421	17,237	13,139	13,789	
Middle Yare Marshes	10,683	9,739	17,520	18,133	12,048	13,625	
Ythan Estuary	10,754	8,046	13,579	17,742	15,837	13,192	
Carsebreck & Rhynd Lochs	15,252	16,531	12,262	17,028	4,628	13,140	PG
Walland Marsh	5,109	5,951	21,164	12,904	18,176	12,661	
Eden Estuary	15,122	15,359	14,210	12,175	5,680	12,509	
Dungeness Gravel Pits	13,885	11,672	11,001	12,625	12,431	12,323	
Dyfi Estuary	11,509	11,524	12,418	12,018	13,197	12,133	
Arun Valley	16,260	12,157	8,925	9,594	13,497	12,087	
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	10,855	16,924	9,720	11,600	8,546	11,529	
Cotswold Water Park (West)	9,166	12,475	10,176	12,151	12,139	11,221	
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	15,666	11,120	15,290	124	13,744	11,189	YS PT
Pitsford Reservoir	8,850	12,520	10,265	12,195	11,173	11,001	
Outer Ards Shoreline	12,141	12,107	8,790	9,334	11,716	10,818	
Loch of Lintrathen	9,241	16,418	11,067	10,330	4,588	10,329	PG

Site	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Average	Int.Imp.species
Beaulieu Estuary	11,141	6,140	10,793	10,753	12,463	10,258	
Carlingford Lough	10,557	9,970	10,864	10,220	9,400	10,202	
Loch of Harray	9,993	12,307	8,483	7,551	12,618	10,190	MS JI
Chew Valley Lake	8,369	10,108	9,286	13,537	8,019	9,864	SV
R. Avon: Ringw'd-Christch'	24,594	4,767	2,794	2,794	12,588	9,507	BW
Upper Lough Erne	8,777	9,237	9,369	9,151	8,711	9,049	MS WS
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	9,316	8,996	8,397	8,814	7,412	8,587	GA
Hule Moss	7,110	15,859	9,009	6,955	2,299	8,246	PG
R. Nith: Keltonbnk-Nunholm	6,667	10,006	5,972	.	8,114	7,690	PG YS
Tring Reservoirs	6,420	6,912	8,408	6,828	8,807	7,475	MS
Loch Fleet Complex	8,275	6,299	5,126	7,954	7,067	6,944	JI
Hornsea Mere	8,935	7,355	7,063	6,338	4,242	6,787	MS
R. Avon: Fordingbr'-Ringw'd	10,022	6,781	6,100	6,197	3,936	6,607	GA BW
Holburn Moss	6,375	10,501	5,398	3,000	.	6,319	PG
Loch of Boardhouse	5,256	7,109	5,905	7,151	5,983	6,281	JI
Slains Lochs (Meikle and Sand and Cotehill)	360	576	17,309	12,615	539	6,280	PG
Loch Eye	1,926	4,474	8,352	15,004	1,057	6,163	WS JI
Loch of Stenness	6,917	5,636	4,981	6,379	5,935	5,970	JI
Hickling Broad	6,109	6,290	4,980	6,211	3,662	5,450	BS
Milldam/Balfour Mains Pools	7,756	6,216	3,918	4,840	4,200	5,386	JI
Cameron Reservoir	4,495	11,224	5,089	2,843	1,961	5,122	PG
R. Clyde: Carstairs-Thanker'	4,683	6,623	4,510	5,785	3,667	5,054	PG
Orchardton and Auchencairn Bays	5,563	8,144	3,070	3,569	4,169	4,903	YS
Loch Gruinart Floods	3,540	5,021	4,298	4,142	3,673	4,135	JH
R. Tay: Haughs of Kercock	1,306	798	6,027	6,255	5,045	3,886	JI
Tweed Estuary	3,516	4,180	3,526	3,521	3,676	3,684	MS
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	2,643	3,076	2,800	5,938	3,931	3,678	JH
Island of Egilsay	2,562	3,543	5,388	3,601	3,048	3,628	JI
Dee Flood Meadows	3,888	2,859	1,653	4,109	5,534	3,609	PT
Kilconquhar Loch	3,941	5,872	2,985	3,731	1,190	3,544	JI
Loch Bee (South Uist)	3,044	2,673	4,257	3,427	3,908	3,462	MS JH
Lake of Menteith	4,958	4,639	6,459	728	514	3,460	PG
Loch Tullybelton	.	.	6,500	.	57	3,279	PG
Loch Scarmclate	2,869	3,196	2,698	3,864	3,639	3,253	JI
Loch of Skaill	3,354	3,041	2,644	4,288	2,539	3,173	JI
Loch of Hundland	4,343	3,100	2,563	2,819	2,411	3,047	JI
St Benet`s Levels	2,262	3,762	.	.	.	3,012	BS
Loch Lomond	4,224	2,967	3,193	2,185	2,146	2,943	NW
Lower Lough Erne	2,931	2,484	3,342	2,877	2,998	2,926	MS
Loch of Swannay	2,975	2,660	2,909	2,777	3,073	2,879	JI
Isle of Coll	2,296	2,027	3,072	4,000	2,056	2,690	NW JH YN
Dalreoch	.	.	.	.	2,586	2,586	WS JI
Loch Ken	4,216	4,030	2,331	618	1,168	2,473	NW
Loch Hempriggs	.	.	3,890	1,240	2,127	2,419	JI
Gadloch	2,782	2,565	2,071	2,049	2,305	2,354	JI
Loch Paible (North Uist)	2,253	2,607	2,696	1,701	2,061	2,264	JH
Balranald Nature Reserve	2,816	2,167	2,893	1,722	1,594	2,238	JH
Lower Teviot Valley	2,810	11,80	1,690	2,792	940	1,882	JI
Upper Quoile River	897	1,241	977	4,394	1,177	1,737	MS
Loch Garten	1,000	1,149	2,417	1,715	1,581	1,572	JI
Broubster Leans	.	.	75	1,123	2,979	1,392	JI
Baleshare (North Uist)	788	1,355	1,110	768	1,618	1,128	JH
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	777	1,135	1,173	1,580	845	1,102	JH
Loch Sandary (North Uist)	768	1,071	666	877	493	775	JH
Loch Riaghain (Tiree)	647	604	683	516	648	620	JH
Loch Gorm	2	.	187	1,629	.	606	NW JH YN
Loch An Eilein (Tiree)	569	492	643	865	433	600	JH
Moine Mhor & Add Estuary	586	1,072	344	471	71	509	JH
Kentra Moss and Lower Loch Shiel	214	277	364	306	262	285	JH
Traigh Luskentyre	291	251	319	.	203	266	ND
Balnakeil Bay	.	934	16	47	33	258	YN
Outer Loch Indaal	.	.	57	279	.	168	ND
Loch Slapin	.	65	85	59	.	70	ND

Table 7. Other sites in the UK holding internationally important numbers of waterbirds in 2006/07, which are not routinely monitored by standard WeBS surveys. (Species codes are provided in Table 8.)

Site	Int.Imp.species
Aberlady Bay Roost	PG
Auchrocar Wetlands	NW
Banks Marsh West	PG
Beauly Firth Roost	JI
Benbecula	JH
Berney Marshes	PG
Bridge of Crathies	WS
Bute	NW JI JH
Caithness Lochs	NW JI
Coll, Tiree and west Mull offshore	ND
Coll and Tiree offshore	ND
Colonsay/Oronsay	YN
Dingwall Bay	JI
Dupplin Lochs	PG
East Mainland	JI
East Mains Flood	JI
Easterton - Fort George	PG JI
Fala Flow	PG
Findhorn Bay Roost	PG
Hule Moss (West)	PG
Inner Cromarty Firth - Conor Island	JI
Inner Cromarty Firth - Urquhart	JI
Island of Eday	JI
Island of Islay	NW YN
Islands of Shapinsay	JI
Isle Of Oronsay	YN
Isle of Colonsay	NW
Isle of Lismore	NW
Isle of South Ronaldsay	JI
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	NW
Liverpool Bay	CX
Loans of Tullich	WS
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	WS PG JI
Loch Fleet	JI
Lune Estuary	PG
Machrihanish	NW JH
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	WS
Meikle Loch - Slains	PG
Moray Firth	SZ
Morecambe Bay:Wyre-Cockerham	PG
Munlochy Bay Roost	JI
Nigg Bay	JI
North Norfolk Coast & The Wash	PG
Heigham Holmes	PG
Holkham Bay Roost	PG
Holkham and Wells	PG
Holme and Thornham	PG
Horsey Mere	PG
Norton Marsh	PG
Scolt Head Roost	PG
Snettisham Roost	PG
Wells-next-the-Sea	PG
North Sutherland	YN
North Uist	JH YN
Baleshare & Carinish (Grimsay)	JH
Balmartin To Vallay	JH
Balranald Clettraval and Tigharry	JH
Berneray	JH YN
Boreray and Lingay	JH
Malaclate To Grenitote	JH
Oronsay	JH
Paible	JH
Trumisgarry Clachan & Newton	JH
Trumisgarry to Newton	JH
Orkney	JI, YN
South Walls (Hoy)	YN
Read`s Island Flats	PG
Rhunahaorine	NW
Rossie Bog	PG
Sanday	JI
Scapa Flow	ND
Scapa Flow and Shapinsay and Deer Sounds offshore	ND
Scarp to Vatersay offshore	ND
Skinflats Roost	PG
Solway Firth	YS
Sound of Barra (Barra)	ND
Sound of Gigha	ND
Sound of Harris (NW) (Harris)	YN
South Uist	JH, ND
West Coast	ND
Askernish To Smerclate	JH
Bornish To Askernish	JH
Drimore To Howmore	JH
Howbeg To Bornish	JH
Lochdar, Gerinish and Drimsdale	JH
Lochdar Gerinish To Drimore	JH
Southwest Lancashire	PG
Stranraer Lochs	NW
Strathearn (West)	PG JI
Stronsay (Whole Island)	JI
Tay Estuary - Tentsmuir Point	PG
Tay and Isla Valley	PG JI
Tayinloan	JH
Tiree	NW JH YN
West Mainland	JI
West Water Reservoir	PG
Wyre Estuary	PG
Wyre Estuary - Arm Hill	PG
Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	PG

Table 8. Species codes for species listed in tables 6., 7. and 9.

AV	Avocet
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit
BS	Bewick's Swan
BV	Black-throated Diver
BW	Black-tailed Godwit
CA	Cormorant
CO	Coot
CU	Curlew
CX	Common Scoter
DB	Dark-bellied Brent Goose
DN	Dunlin
E.	Eider
EW	European White-fronted Goose
GA	Gadwall
GG	Great Crested Grebe
GK	Greenshank
GP	Golden Plover
GV	Grey Plover
JH	Greylag Goose Northwest Scotland population
JI	Greylag Goose Icelandic population
KN	Knot
L.	Lapwing
LG	Little Grebe
MA	Mallard
MS	Mute Swan
ND	Great Northern Diver
NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose
OC	Oystercatcher
PG	Pink-footed Goose
PO	Pochard
PS	Purple Sandpiper
PT	Pintail
QN	Light-bellied Brent Goose Nearctic population
QS	Light-bellied Brent Goose Svalbard population
RH	Red-throated Diver
RK	Redshank
RM	Red-breasted Merganser
RP	Ringed Plover
RU	Ruff
SP	Scaup
SS	Sanderling
SU	Shelduck
SV	Shoveler
SZ	Slavonian Grebe
T.	Teal
TT	Turnstone
WN	Wigeon
WS	Whooper Swan
YN	Barnacle Goose Nearctic population
YS	Barnacle Goose Svalbard population

WeBS Low Tide Counts

AIMS

Estuarine sites in the UK provide the most important habitat for non-breeding waterbirds, acting as wintering grounds for many migrants but also as stopover feeding locations for other waterbirds passing along the East Atlantic Flyway. Core Counts on estuaries tend to quantify birds present at high tide roosts. Although important, knowledge of roost sites provides only part of the picture, and does not elucidate the use that waterbirds make of a site for feeding.

The WeBS Low Tide Counts scheme has flourished since its inception in the winter of 1992/93, with most of the major estuaries covered. The scheme aims principally to monitor, assess and regularly update information on the relative importance of inter-tidal feeding areas of UK estuaries for wintering waterbirds and thus to complement the information gathered by WeBS Core Counts.

The data gathered contribute greatly to the conservation of waterbirds by providing supporting information for the establishment and management of UK Ramsar sites and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), other site designations and whole estuary conservation plans. In addition, WeBS Low Tide Counts enhance our knowledge of the low water distribution of waterbirds and provide data that highlight regional variations in habitat use, whilst also informing protection of the important foraging areas identified. WeBS Low Tide Counts provide valuable information needed to gauge the potential effects on waterbirds of a variety of human activities which affect the extent or value of inter-tidal habitats, such as proposals for dock developments, recreational activities, tidal power barrages, marinas and housing schemes. Designing mitigation or compensation for such activities can be assisted using data collected under the scheme. Furthermore, the effects on bird distributions of climate change and sea level rise can be assessed.

METHODS

The scheme provides information on the numbers of waterbirds feeding on subdivisions of the inter-tidal habitat within estuaries. Given the extra work that Low Tide Counts entail, often by the same counters that carry out the Core Counts, WeBS aims to cover most individual estuaries about once every six years, although on some sites more frequent counts are made. Co-ordinated counts of waterbirds are made by volunteers each month between November and February on pre-established subdivisions of the inter-tidal habitat in the period two hours either side of low tide.

DATA PRESENTATION

Tabulated Statistics

Table 10. presents three statistics for 18 of the more numerous waterbird species present on 18 estuaries covered during the 2006/07 winter: the peak number of a species over the whole site counted in any one month; an estimate of the mean number present over the winter for the whole site (obtained by summing the mean counts of each species for each count section) and the mean density over the site (in birds per hectare), which is the mean number divided by the total area surveyed (in hectares). The area value used for these calculations is the sum of the inter-tidal and non-tidal components of each count section but omits the sub-tidal areas (*i.e.* those parts of the count section which are under water on a mean low tide).

Dot Density Maps

WeBS Low Tide Count data are presented as dot density maps, with subdivision of count sections into basic habitat elements. The reason for such a subdivision is to ensure species are plotted on appropriate habitat areas and to improve the accuracy of density estimates. Each section for which a count has been made is divided into a maximum of three different habitat components:

Inter-tidal: Areas that lie between mean high water and mean low water.

Sub-tidal: Areas that lie below mean low water. In more 'open-coast'-type situations, a sub-tidal zone reaching 500 m out from the inter-tidal sections has been created arbitrarily, to indicate the approximate extent of visibility offshore from land-based counts.

Non-tidal: Areas that lie above mean high water (usually saltmarsh although some grazing marshes are also covered).

The mean count for the sector is then divided amongst a varying number of the different components, dependent on the usual habitat preferences of the species involved. For example, Dunlin dots are plotted exclusively on inter-tidal sections whereas Wigeon dots are spread across inter-tidal, sub-tidal and non-tidal areas (in proportion to the relative areas of these three components).

Currently, throughout all WeBS Low Tide Count analyses, mean low tide and mean high tide are taken from the most recent Ordnance Survey 1:25000 maps (in Scotland, the lines on the OS maps are mean low water springs and mean high water springs instead). It is recognised, unfortunately, that these maps represent the current real shape of the mudflats, water channels and saltmarshes to varying degrees of accuracy. However, in the interests of uniformity across the UK, the Ordnance Survey outlines are adhered to throughout the analyses.

The maps display the average number of birds in each count section as dots spread randomly across habitat components of count sections, thus providing an indication of both numbers and density. **It is important to note that individual dots do not represent the precise position of individual birds; dots have been assigned to habitat components proportionally and are then randomly placed within those areas. No information about the distribution of birds at a finer scale than the count sector level should be inferred from the dot density maps.** For all maps in the present report, one dot is equivalent to one bird, except where stated. The size of individual dots has no relevance other than for clarity.

As most estuaries have now been covered more than once at low tide, density maps show the relative distributions of species in the winter of 2006/07 compared to an earlier winter of survey. It is hoped that comparative dot density distributions will lead to an easier and fuller appreciation of low tide estuarine waterbird distribution, and changes therein. The following colour conventions apply to density maps: red dots = 2006/07 winter; blue dots = earlier winter; pale blue = water; yellow = inter-tidal habitat (*e.g.* mudflat, sandflat); pale green = non-tidal habitat (*e.g.* saltmarsh, reedbed); grey or brown = not covered in one survey winter; dark blue = sector never covered. More detailed information concerning analysis and presentation of WeBS Low Tide Counts can be obtained from Neil Calbrade, the National Organiser (WeBS Low Tide Counts), or from the publication *Estuarine Waterbirds at Low Tide* (Musgrove *et al.* 2003).

ESTUARY ACCOUNTS

The main estuaries counted at low tide in the winter of 2006/07 are discussed. WeBS Low Tide Counts were carried out on 18 different sites, with estuary accounts encompassing 11 of these. Other counts, usually on limited numbers of sectors, were made in the winter of 2006/07 on Adur Estuary, Burry Inlet, Carmarthen Bay, Killough Harbour, Langstone Harbour, Swansea Bay and Tyne. These sites are not included in the estuary accounts, but data can be obtained from the WeBS Low Tide Count National Organiser upon request.

For the main site accounts, data were collected during the period November to February. Assessment of national and international importance is based on five year peak mean counts from the main species accounts in this volume of *Waterbirds in the UK*. Figure 58. shows the location of the sites discussed, and a site description is presented for each estuary. Distribution maps are presented for selected species, which are those of national or international importance, or are known to be undergoing site-level changes, where possible. General bird distribution is

described for the winter of 2006/07, focusing on species held in important numbers at the site in question.

Table 9. Sites with Estuary Accounts and important bird numbers held. Numbers in parentheses refer to the location in figure 58. For species codes see table 8.

	International Importance	**National Importance**
Belfast Lough (17)	BW	SU, SP, E., GN, RM, RH, BV, GG, OC, RP, PS, RK, TT
Breydon Water (5)	PG, WN, T., SV, GP, BW, RK	BS, EW, PT, AV, RU
Deben Estuary (6)	None	DB, SU, LG, AV, GV, BW, GK, RK
Exe Estuary (10)	BW	DB, RM, AV, GK
Firth of Tay (2)	BA	E., CA, SS, RK
Inland Sea (14)	None	None
Orwell Estuary (7)	None	DB, GA, PT, AV, KN, BW, RK
Stour Estuary (7)	BW	DB, SU, PT, AV, GV, DN, RU, RK, TT
Strangford Lough (16)	MS, WS, QN, SU, GP, KN, BA, RK	T., WN, MA, PT, SV, E., GN, RM, BV, GG, CO, RP, GV, L., DN, BW, CU, GK
Tees Estuary (4)	None	SV, LG, CA, SS, RU, GK, RK
Ythan Estuary (1)	PG	E., RU, GK, RK

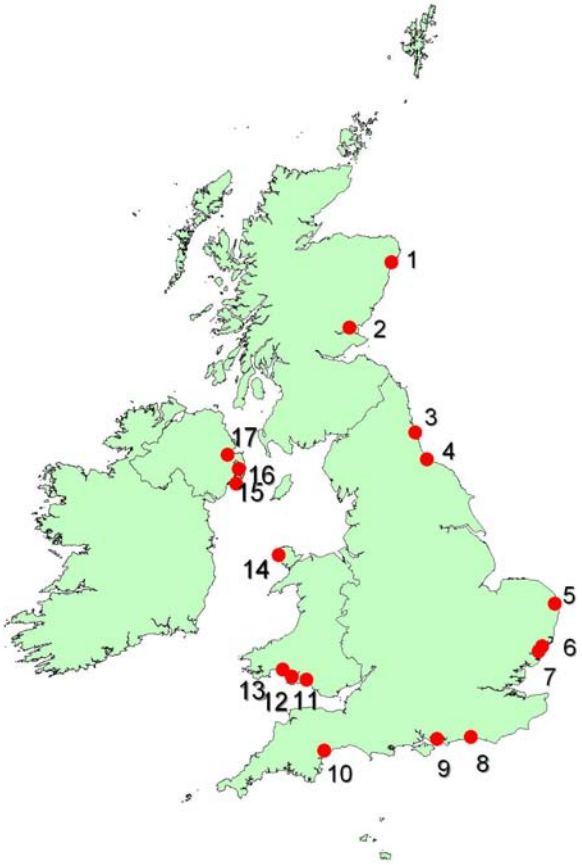


Figure 58. Map showing estuaries covered at low tide in the winter of 2006/07. 1: Ythan Estuary; 2: Firth of Tay; 3: Tyne Estuary; 4: Tees Estuary; 5: Breydon Water; 6: Deben Estuary; 7: Stour & Orwell Estuaries; 8: Adur Estuary; 9: Langstone Harbour; 10: Exe Estuary; 11: Swansea Bay; 12: Burry Inlet; 13: Carmarthen Bay; 14: Inland Sea; 15: Killough Harbour; 16: Strangford Lough; 17: Belfast Lough.

Table 10. Peak and mean counts and mean density (birds per ha) of 18 waterbird species across 18 estuaries covered by the 2006/07 WeBS Low Tide Counts. Stour and Orwell estuaries displayed separately. "+" indicates non-zero densities of <0.01 birds per ha.

	Adur Estuary			Belfast Lough			Breydon Water		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	1	0	+	59	28	0.06	1	1	+
Shelduck	0	0	0	313	210	0.46	116	86	0.21
Wigeon	6	3	0.04	196	159	0.35	14830	8623	21.45
Teal	53	29	0.39	428	341	0.75	162	101	0.25
Mallard	31	12	0.16	244	217	0.48	163	108	0.27
Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	269	123	0.31
Oystercatcher	7	5	0.07	4002	3538	7.76	128	44	0.11
Ringed Plover	125	106	1.41	141	92	0.2	4	1	+
Golden Plover	0	0	0	20	7	0.02	24930	12599	31.34
Grey Plover	22	18	0.24	0	0	0	21	7	0.02
Lapwing	1291	967	12.89	1303	1049	2.3	14110	9613	23.91
Knot	1	0	+	43	14	0.03	440	139	0.35
Dunlin	480	340	4.53	357	314	0.69	5755	3284	8.17
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	478	327	0.72	1421	1268	3.15
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	82	54	0.12	0	0	0
Curlew	2	0	+	779	503	1.1	584	312	0.78
Redshank	42	34	0.45	1397	1166	2.56	1083	934	2.32
Turnstone	39	20	0.27	405	322	0.71	0	0	0

	Burry Inlet			Carmarthen Bay			Deben Estuary		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	816	593	0.1	0	0	0	2073	891	1.37
Shelduck	472	444	0.08	177	133	0.03	616	471	0.72
Wigeon	886	823	0.15	500	405	0.1	1524	895	1.38
Teal	81	35	0.01	264	209	0.05	253	159	0.24
Mallard	18	11	+	244	157	0.04	178	121	0.19
Pintail	578	269	0.05	69	39	0.01	296	169	0.26
Oystercatcher	14339	10969	1.94	10154	10110	2.51	319	213	0.33
Ringed Plover	42	42	0.01	109	74	0.02	33	21	0.03
Golden Plover	200	200	0.04	3000	1284	0.32	918	464	0.71
Grey Plover	353	188	0.03	33	17	+	223	167	0.26
Lapwing	200	217	0.04	3314	2051	0.51	2315	1339	2.06
Knot	1580	1035	0.18	1722	1199	0.3	204	99	0.15
Dunlin	6218	5330	0.94	2968	2251	0.56	3500	2554	3.93
Black-tailed Godwit	300	95	0.02	101	53	0.01	177	157	0.24
Bar-tailed Godwit	37	16	+	70	25	0.01	6	3	+
Curlew	1041	720	0.13	348	260	0.06	451	361	0.56
Redshank	324	204	0.04	362	354	0.09	1431	1321	2.03
Turnstone	26	17	+	0	0	0	61	57	0.09

	Exe Estuary			Firth of Tay			Inland Sea		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	1215	1218	0.84	0	0	0	79	64	0.16
Shelduck	179	106	0.07	131	79	0.01	80	68	0.18
Wigeon	2109	1815	1.26	170	121	0.02	848	526	1.36
Teal	754	535	0.37	323	122	0.02	59	19	0.05
Mallard	367	323	0.22	482	375	0.07	39	23	0.06
Pintail	69	62	0.04	0	0	0	50	36	0.09
Oystercatcher	1602	1439	1	1616	1547	0.28	231	199	0.51
Ringed Plover	75	40	0.03	48	34	0.01	129	89	0.23
Golden Plover	125	117	0.08	44	11	+	631	341	0.88
Grey Plover	180	177	0.12	180	127	0.02	86	67	0.17
Lapwing	631	500	0.35	217	87	0.02	933	684	1.76
Knot	38	23	0.02	42	22	+	203	96	0.25
Dunlin	3091	2613	1.81	981	668	0.12	1144	912	2.35
Black-tailed Godwit	813	805	0.56	0	0	0	6	3	0.01
Bar-tailed Godwit	114	67	0.05	1002	763	0.14	67	25	0.06
Curlew	702	683	0.47	504	428	0.08	544	369	0.95
Redshank	309	260	0.18	784	448	0.08	304	220	0.57
Turnstone	73	71	0.05	47	32	0.01	56	35	0.09

	Killough Harbour			Langstone Harbour			Orwell Estuary		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	213	114	1.75	696	501	1.24	1500	868	0.71
Shelduck	2	1	0.02	183	131	0.32	727	564	0.46
Wigeon	127	81	1.25	142	103	0.25	1633	1351	1.1
Teal	11	7	0.11	35	10	0.02	1223	850	0.69
Mallard	0	0	0	8	6	0.01	461	393	0.32
Pintail	0	0	0	10	5	0.01	753	323	0.26
Oystercatcher	62	49	0.75	642	538	1.33	1861	1559	1.27
Ringed Plover	36	19	0.29	84	31	0.08	153	88	0.07
Golden Plover	1100	715	11	2	1	+	400	100	0.08
Grey Plover	0	0	0	291	227	0.56	234	170	0.14
Lapwing	486	255	3.92	164	99	0.25	2727	1631	1.33
Knot	42	15	0.23	121	46	0.11	1398	716	0.58
Dunlin	386	175	2.69	4682	3818	9.45	2962	2784	2.27
Black-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	44	34	0.08	390	235	0.19
Bar-tailed Godwit	0	0	0	38	19	0.05	2	1	+
Curlew	68	62	0.95	276	253	0.63	825	745	0.61
Redshank	92	72	1.11	193	177	0.44	2075	1650	1.34
Turnstone	0	0	0	61	56	0.14	257	191	0.16

	Stour Estuary			Strangford Lough			Swansea Bay		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	2049	1128	0.69	7179	3711	0.98	0	0	0
Shelduck	2312	1581	0.97	3413	2537	0.67	0	0	0
Wigeon	3471	3192	1.96	851	636	0.17	0	0	0
Teal	920	494	0.3	712	450	0.12	0	0	0
Mallard	274	212	0.13	496	357	0.09	8	2	+
Pintail	424	238	0.15	388	316	0.08	0	0	0
Oystercatcher	1333	1056	0.65	6421	5788	1.52	3878	1743	3.85
Ringed Plover	250	183	0.11	278	145	0.04	13	3	0.01
Golden Plover	5870	2541	1.56	8513	3618	0.95	0	0	0
Grey Plover	1699	1439	0.88	55	33	0.01	10	4	0.01
Lapwing	3225	2182	1.34	5154	3003	0.79	0	0	0
Knot	17796	10979	6.75	5380	3878	1.02	0	0	0
Dunlin	15663	13308	8.18	3151	2506	0.66	236	94	0.21
Black-tailed Godwit	764	485	0.3	535	361	0.09	0	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	182	109	0.07	419	296	0.08	3	1	+
Curlew	941	864	0.53	1918	1405	0.37	21	13	0.03
Redshank	1361	1255	0.77	2482	2081	0.55	75	41	0.09
Turnstone	490	377	0.23	185	189	0.05	57	47	0.1

	Tees Estuary			Tyne Estuary			Ythan Estuary		
	Peak	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*	*Peak*	*Mean*	*Mean*
Species	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Dns.*
Brent Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shelduck	504	471	1.18	0	0	0	229	90	0.45
Wigeon	212	150	0.38	0	0	0	1085	437	2.16
Teal	51	39	0.1	283	122	4.52	66	30	0.15
Mallard	0	0	0	4	2	0.07	218	76	0.38
Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	+
Oystercatcher	314	258	0.65	0	0	0	722	430	2.13
Ringed Plover	43	24	0.06	0	0	0	19	10	0.05
Golden Plover	6	2	0.01	2950	1592	58.96	3236	1272	6.3
Grey Plover	115	106	0.27	0	0	0	12	7	0.03
Lapwing	0	0	0	1025	608	22.52	4923	1723	8.53
Knot	143	58	0.15	0	0	0	220	141	0.7
Dunlin	174	139	0.35	171	66	2.44	608	276	1.37
Black-tailed Godwit	24	17	0.04	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bar-tailed Godwit	31	30	0.08	0	0	0	80	44	0.22
Curlew	328	267	0.67	4	3	0.11	1383	527	2.61
Redshank	556	462	1.16	258	174	6.44	1067	545	2.7
Turnstone	12	6	0.02	0	0	0	106	34	0.17

BELFAST LOUGH

Site description

Belfast Lough is a large sea lough in the northeast of Ireland, with the city of Belfast at its head. The area surveyed comprised the coast from Carrickfergus on the north shore around to the eastern end of Bangor on the south shore. Much of the site is afforded SPA and Ramsar status, with a further proposed SPA over open water. The outer parts of the Lough's shore are generally rocky with some sandy bays, although more extensive areas of intertidal mud are found toward Belfast. Industrial land claim has reduced the area of the mudflats over the last 150 years, and Belfast has become the main port in Northern Ireland for heavy cargo. More recently, all of the area, including the important Belfast Harbour Pools, has been given a degree of protection. Extensive areas of the lough support commercial shellfisheries. There are problems of refuse disposal, pollution and general disturbance, but notably bait diggers on the north shore can pose potentially high levels of disturbance.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 456 ha; Mean total birds 11,020; Mean bird density 24.2 birds per ha.

Counts were received from three months of the winter, but with 44 species recorded, this was the second highest diversity of the sites counted in 2006/07. Eider, Scaup and Great Crested Grebes are species that occur in nationally important numbers, all of which were again largely distributed along the west side of the lough south of Carrickfergus. The Belfast Harbour Pools once again supported high densities of birds, in particular wildfowl such as Wigeon and Teal. Redshank, Oystercatcher and also Scaup favoured the southwest corner of the lough, whilst Curlew favoured the more open stretches between Macedon Point and Carrickfergus. Amongst the more regular birds recorded were vagrant Ring-billed and Glaucous Gulls.

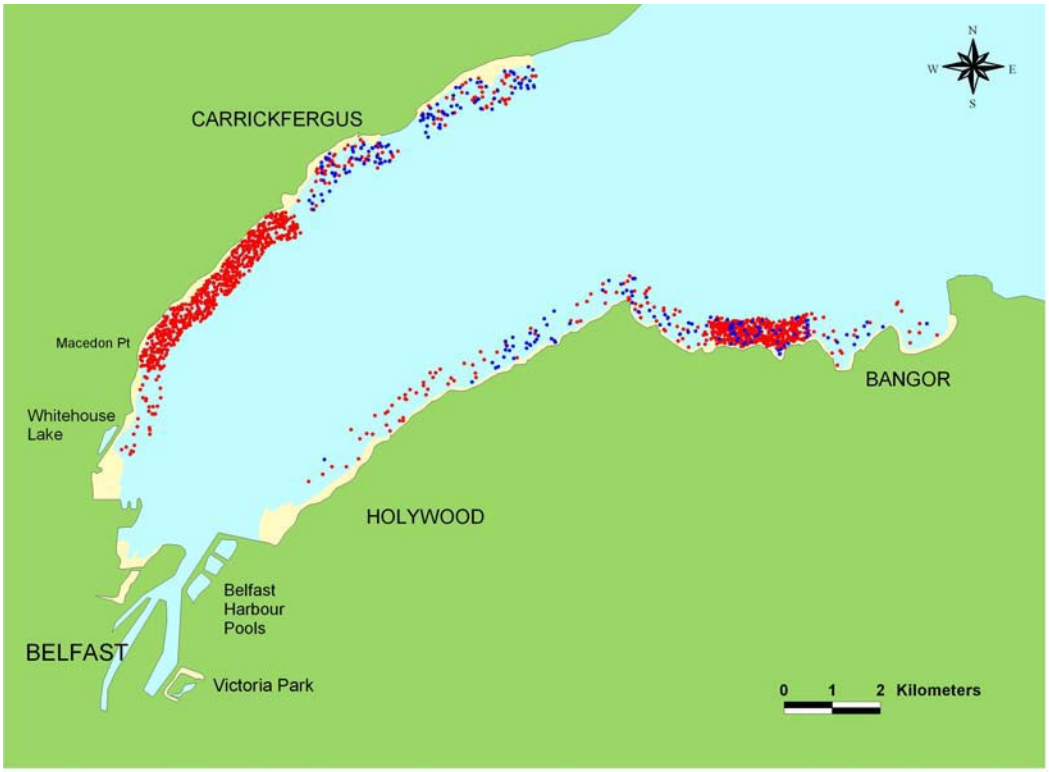
Comparative bird distribution

As reported in *WITUK 2005/06* (Musgrove *et al*. 2007), Eider numbers in Northern Ireland have increased steadily over the past twenty years, and Belfast Lough remains the key site for this species in the province. Figure 59. demonstrates the distribution of Eider in 2006/07 and ten years previously in 1996/97.

Across the lough, the mean density of the species has increased from 0.13 birds per ha to 0.56 birds per ha in 2006/07, reflecting the increase in the mean site count from 223 in 1996/97 to 941 (with peak counts of 352 and 1068 respectively).

Unlike Scaup which favour the southwest corner of the lough, the Eiders show two main areas of concentration, on the west side of the lough between Macedon Point and Carrickfergus, and also just to the west of Bangor. In the sector west of Bangor, the mean density has increased from 0.43 birds per ha in 1996/07 to 1.54 birds per ha in 2006/07.

In contrast, Knot is a species that has shown a decline over the same period, the site being issued with a High Alert over the ten-year period (Maclean & Austin 2008). Between 1996/97 and 2006/07, the mean density across the whole site dropped from 0.43 birds per ha to 0.03 birds per ha with the mean count dropping from 193 to just 14 birds. The distribution of the birds has contracted so much that they were only recorded in one area just south of Whitehouse Lake in 2006/07 whereas previously they were found near Holywood and west of Belfast Harbour. Even in this one sector, the mean count had decreased from 30 in 1996/97 to 14 in 2006/07. Within Northern Ireland, this species has traditionally been highly concentrated at Strangford Lough and, with the decline at Belfast Lough, this level of concentration has become even greater.



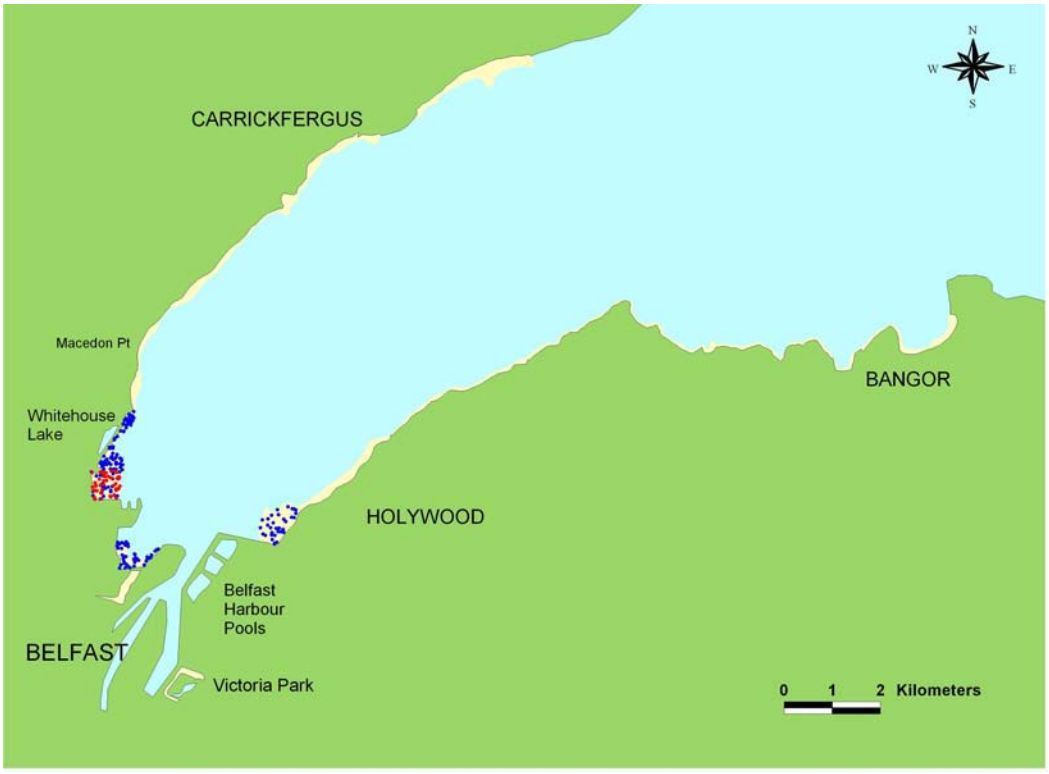


Figure 59. Low Tide distribution of Eider (above) and Knot (below) for the winters of 1996/97 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal. 1 dot = 1 bird

BREYDON WATER

Site description

Breydon Water is a bar-built estuary separated from the North Sea by the spit of land on which Great Yarmouth sits. The estuary forms the lower reaches of the Yare and Waveney rivers, which drain much of central East Anglia. The rivers are tidal for many miles inland but only the estuary area from the confluence of the rivers is considered here. At high tide, Breydon Water forms a large lake but as the tide recedes, the only water that remains forms a narrow channel, well marked by buoys for the numerous leisure cruisers. There are small areas of saltmarsh, principally at the eastern end. To the north of the estuary stretches the huge expanse of the Halvergate Levels, Breydon Marshes and Berney Marshes. These form an extensive area of grazing marsh that has been subject to varying degrees of drainage in recent years. The main high tide roosts occur at the RSPB reserve at Berney Marshes (only accessible by boat, train or a very long walk) and in the eastern saltmarsh. The site is designated as a SPA and is judged in favourable condition. The main conservation issues in the area involve boating, shooting and grazing marsh management. The river channel leading out through Great Yarmouth to the sea is highly industrialized.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 402 ha; Mean total birds 37,601; Mean bird density 93.5 birds per ha.

Breydon Water once again supported the highest overall mean density of all sites included in the 2006/07 Low Tide Counts, with 93.5 birds per ha. Only the Stour Estuary, which has four times the area of Breydon, produced a higher mean total of birds, which shows the importance of this site. The number of species present was slightly lower than in 2005/06 with 23 recorded. Golden Plover were again present in the highest mean numbers (12,599 birds) and densities (31 birds per ha on average across the winter), and were distributed densely from Breydon Junction to Acle Marshes. Again, the relatively small area for feeding supported high densities of Lapwing (23.91 birds per ha) and Wigeon (17.96 birds per ha).

Comparative bird distribution

Since 1998/99, WeBS has received regular counts of Breydon Water at low tide. The winters of 2006/07 and 1999/00 are compared for the distributions of two species, both apparently increasing at low water, Avocet and Pintail.

In common with many sites, Breydon Water has held increasing numbers of Avocets during the winter months. The mean site density has increased from 0.16 to 0.22 birds per ha between the two winters, with the mean winter count now nearly numbering 200 birds. The reasons for this change are not clear, although are probably due in part to increasingly mild winters in East Anglia; many of the birds wintering here are derived from continental breeders. Figure 60. shows how the distribution has changed between years, with birds formerly favouring the area by the Pump House north towards Breydon Junction. In 2006/07 however, the bulk of the birds congregated near Berney Marshes with very few found further northeast.

Numbers of wintering Pintail have also steadily increased, with a mean count of 122 in 2006/07 compared to 79 in 1999/00. This has also seen the mean site density increase from 0.17 birds per ha to 0.25 birds per ha between the years. In both winters, Pintail favoured the north side of Breydon Water although in 1999/00, they were found between Acle Marshes and Breydon Junction, whilst by 2006/07 had extended its range more towards Berney Marshes.

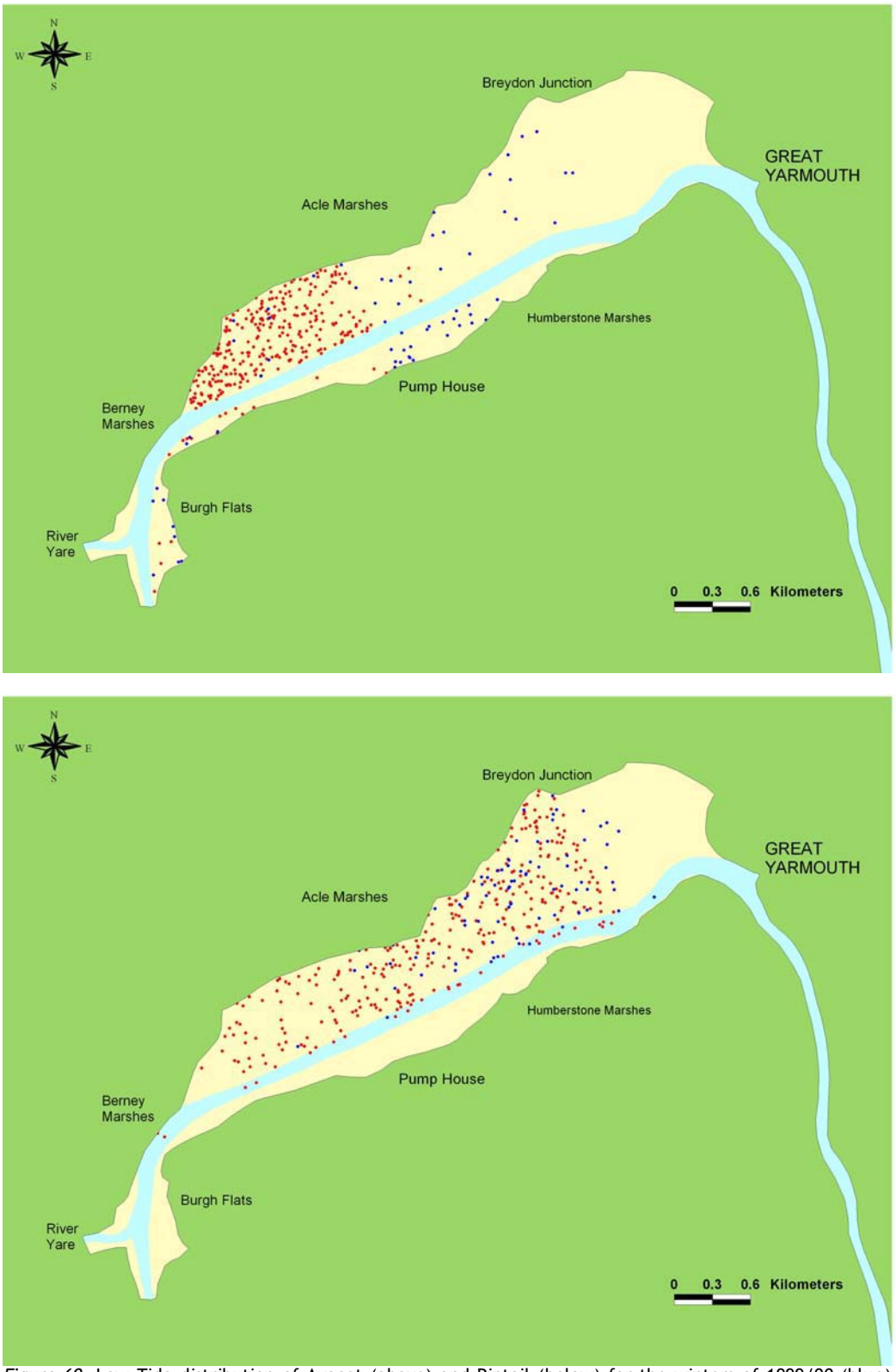


Figure 60. Low Tide distribution of Avocet (above) and Pintail (below) for the winters of 1999/00 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

DEBEN ESTUARY

Site description

The Deben is a long, narrow estuary on the Suffolk coast, with its head at Woodbridge and its mouth just to the northeast of Felixstowe. There are relatively wide mudflats on the inner part of the estuary but these are narrower towards the mouth. Most of the surrounding land is agricultural in nature, with much of the outer estuary flanked by low-lying grazing marshes. There is also a fringe of saltmarsh around much of the estuary. Martlesham Creek, on the west bank at the northern end of the site is the largest of a number of small side creeks. Recreational activities such as sailing and watersports are perhaps the most obvious sources of disturbance to waterbirds on the site.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 650 ha; Mean total birds 10,030; Mean bird density 15.4 birds per ha.

Despite its relatively small area, the Deben Estuary supports a good variety of birds, with 40 different waterbird species recorded, many in large numbers. Dunlin were present in the highest mean numbers (2,552 birds) and densities (5.33 birds per ha on average across the winter), and were distributed densely along the full length of the site. Redshank (mean count 1,225), Dark-bellied Brent Geese (mean count 890) and Wigeon (mean count 863) were also present in large numbers. Many species were distributed widely along the narrow estuary, though some species had favoured areas. Pintail, for example, were found exclusively just north of Stonner Point, whilst Golden Plover favoured the area opposite Kirton Marshes. Among the more unusual species recorded were Great Northern Diver and Shag.

Comparative bird distribution

The distributions of two species - Dark-bellied Brent Goose and Black-tailed Godwit, are considered here. The winters of 2006/07 and 1998/99 are compared.

Nationally, Dark-bellied Brent Geese numbers have fallen and then risen again over the period under consideration. The mean site density of Dark-bellied Brent Geese on the Deben Estuary has increased from 0.39 to 1.00 birds per ha between the two winters. This is also reflected in the peak count, which has risen from 648 to over 2,000 birds. Figure 61. shows Dark-bellied Brent Geese had three distinct favoured areas in both 1998/99 and 2006/07, north of Stonner Point, around Falkenham Marshes and the main concentration by Kirton Marshes and Kirton Creek. Brent Geese can sometimes be under-recorded on WeBS Low Tide Counts as they often favour fields that lie outside the recording area and as such can be missed. However, as the Peak Core Count in 2006/07 was 1,759 birds, this appears not to have been the case here.

Black-tailed Godwit numbers are increasing annually across the UK. The mean count on the Deben Estuary has more than doubled between 1998/99 and 2006/07, increasing from 68 to 155 birds, with peak counts of 104 and 177 respectively. Unlike the Brent Geese that favour the wider stretches of the estuary, figure 61. shows that Black-tailed Godwits favour the narrower creeks around Martlesham Creek and northwards towards Woodbridge.

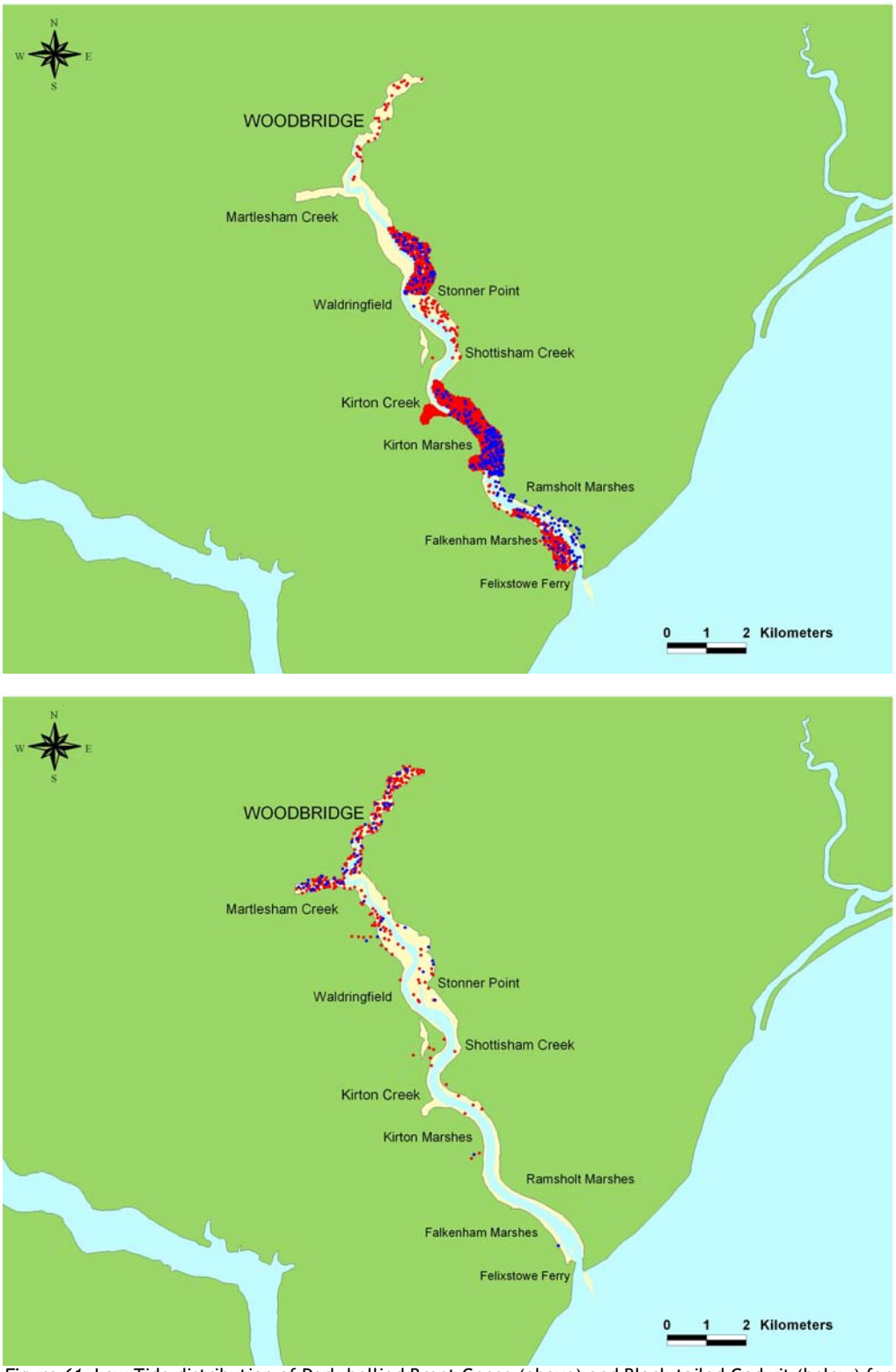


Figure 61. Low Tide distribution of Dark-bellied Brent Geese (above) and Black-tailed Godwit (below) for the winters of 1998/99 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

EXE ESTUARY

Site description

The Exe Estuary is located on the south coast of England in Devon. Comprising open water, foreshore, low-lying land and saltmarshes, the estuary extends 10km south from Exeter to the open sea at the SSSI at Dawlish Warren. The site is designated as an SPA due to the internationally important numbers of wintering and passage waterbirds it supports. The mud and sand flats hold mussel and eelgrass beds, which provide rich feeding grounds for many species. Potential threats posed to this site include sea-level changes that may lead to flooding, erosion and coastal defence improvements, disturbance from leisure activities and developments, the extension of workshops and cesspit construction, wildfowling and inappropriate land management (BirdLife International 2003). Other potential threats include habitat loss due to dredging, over-fishing and aquaculture projects, changes in water quality resultant from improvements to waste water discharges and recreational disturbance.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 1,443 ha; Mean total birds 11,804; Mean bird density 8.2 birds per ha.

Counts were received from two months of the winter (November and January) although a relatively high total of 41 species was still recorded. Dunlin were present in the highest mean numbers (3,091 birds) and densities (2.54 birds per ha on average across the winter), favouring the northern end of the estuary north of Powerham Sand and also at Lympstone and south of Starcross. Oystercatcher, Wigeon and Dark-bellied Brent Geese also averaged over 1,000 birds across the winter. Two Slavonian Grebes were present in January.

Comparative bird distribution

One of the species for which the site is designated as an SPA is the Avocet. At the time of designation in the mid 1990s the site supported about 28% of the British wintering population, but the proportion is now closer to 10%. This apparent decline in importance, however, is deceptive, as numbers have risen slightly on the Exe, but more steeply elsewhere in the UK (trends for species both on such designated sites, and for the country as a whole, are examined on a regular basis as part of the WeBS Alerts system – see http://www.bto.org/webs/alerts/).

Figure 62. illustrates the distribution of Avocets on the Exe in 2006/07 (red dots) compared with that recorded in 1993/94 (blue dots) when the last WeBS Low Tide Counts were carried out here. It appears that the distribution of Avocets between the two seasons has changed. The mudflats closest to Topsham were a favoured area in both years, and in 1993/94 they supported by far the highest proportion of the birds, with smaller numbers elsewhere along the eastern side of the estuary. However, in 2006/07 the western shore, particularly at Powderham Sand and just north of here also held good numbers of Avocets. Although this may just be due to more birds being on the site, this shift in the distribution was also evident in the densities of birds. In 1993/94, the mean count in the key sector at Topsham was 75 (2.98 birds/ha), whereas in 2006/07 the mean density had declined by 10% to 2.66 birds/ha. However, as Low Tide Counts just record a 'snapshot' of distribution, this apparent shift may be a within winter difference rather than a definite change of general distribution.

The Little Egret is now a familiar sight on many estuaries, with those in southern Britain especially well colonised. The scale of the increase is reflected well in Figure 62., which shows the distribution of the species on the Exe Estuary in the winters of 1993/94 and 2006/07. The influx of Little Egrets in the UK began in 1989 and the species has increased rapidly ever since. In 1993/94, only a handful of Little Egrets were present on the Exe Estuary, with a peak of just 7 birds recorded. By 2006/07, however, the peak count had risen to 55 birds, with a wide scattering of birds, many between Exmouth and Lympstone and also at Topsham.

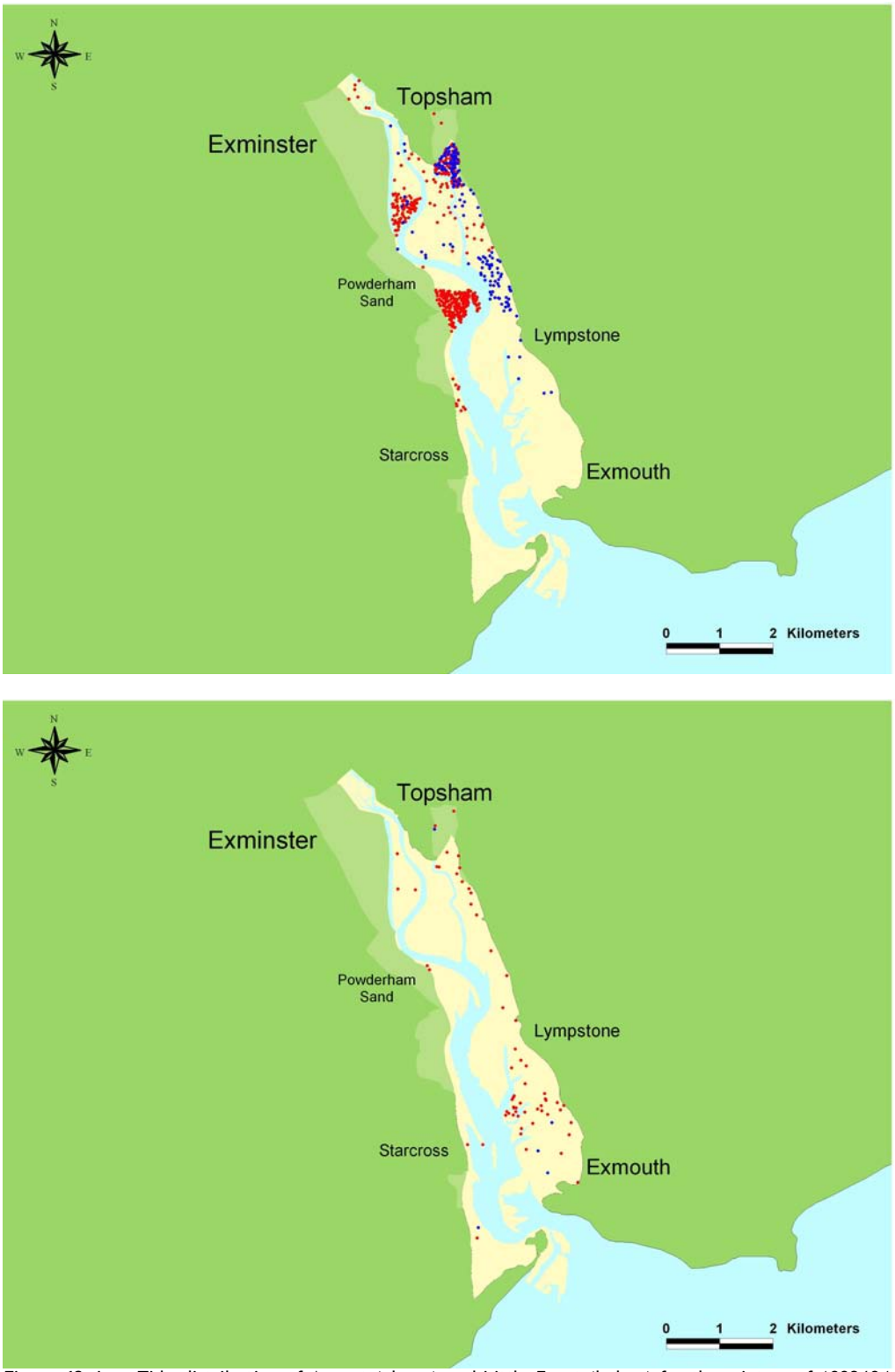


Figure 62. Low Tide distribution of Avocet (above) and Little Egret (below) for the winters of 1993/94 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

FIRTH OF TAY

Site description

The Firth of Tay is a large estuary located on the east coast of central Scotland, stretching for some 35km from near Newburgh to the estuary mouth. For much of its length, the most extensive intertidal flats are on the north side, west of Dundee, fringed by a dense *Phragmites* reed bed along the upper part of the shore. However, most waders favour the intertidal areas nearer the estuary mouth, where there are stony scars and mussel beds.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 5,446 ha; Mean total birds 7,710; Mean bird density 1.4 birds per ha.

The Tay was the largest site counted at low tide in 2006/07. Despite this, the mean total of birds was relatively low with less than 8,000 birds of 38 species counted. This resulted in the lowest density of any site counted at just 1.4 birds per hectare. The most numerous species by far was Eider, with a peak count of over 4,500 birds. These were largely congregated around Abertay Sands at the mouth of the estuary. Oystercatchers were the only other species with a four figure mean count, with an average of 1,548 counted, whilst good numbers of Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwits, Curlew and Redshank were also recorded. Other sea ducks, which are often overlooked on low tide counts, were well represented with small numbers of Long-tailed Ducks, Common Scoter, Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser seen.

Comparative bird distribution

This site was issued with a high alert for one species, Red-breasted Merganser (Maclean & Austin 2008). The distribution of this species and Bar-tailed Godwit are considered here. The winters of 2006/07 and 1996/97 are compared.

Red-breasted Mergansers are found throughout the site. The counting of these, along with other species of sea duck, is very much determined by the weather on the day of the count, and numbers fluctuate significantly during Core Counts. The number of Red-breasted Mergansers recorded on the low tide counts has halved in the two seasons under consideration. In 1996/97, the mean count was 99 birds, whereas in 2006/07 this had fallen to 45 birds. Numbers are greatest towards the mouth of the estuary although small numbers of birds frequent the narrower stretches as far as Newburgh. Although widely, though thinly distributed, concentrations of birds were obvious near Broughty Ferry and around Abertay Sands in 2006/07. In 1996/97 however, the north side of the firth such as Barry Sands was favoured.

During WeBS Core Counts, Bar-tailed Godwit numbers have fluctuated at this site over the last twenty years, with numbers peaking in 1996/97. The mean low tide site count then was 1,708 birds but numbers have decreased since then with a mean low tide count of 763 in 2006/07. In both winters, the distribution was very similar, with My Lord's Bank, the north shore between Broughty Ferry and Barry Sands, and Tayport and Tentsmuir Point on the south side being the favoured areas.

However, in 2006/07 Barry Sands was the most favoured area with fewer birds in particular around My Lord's Bank than in the winter of 1996/97, possibly due to increasing aircraft activity at the adjacent Dundee airport.

Both species are also believed to use uncounted areas outwith the firth, partly accounting for the apparent declines.

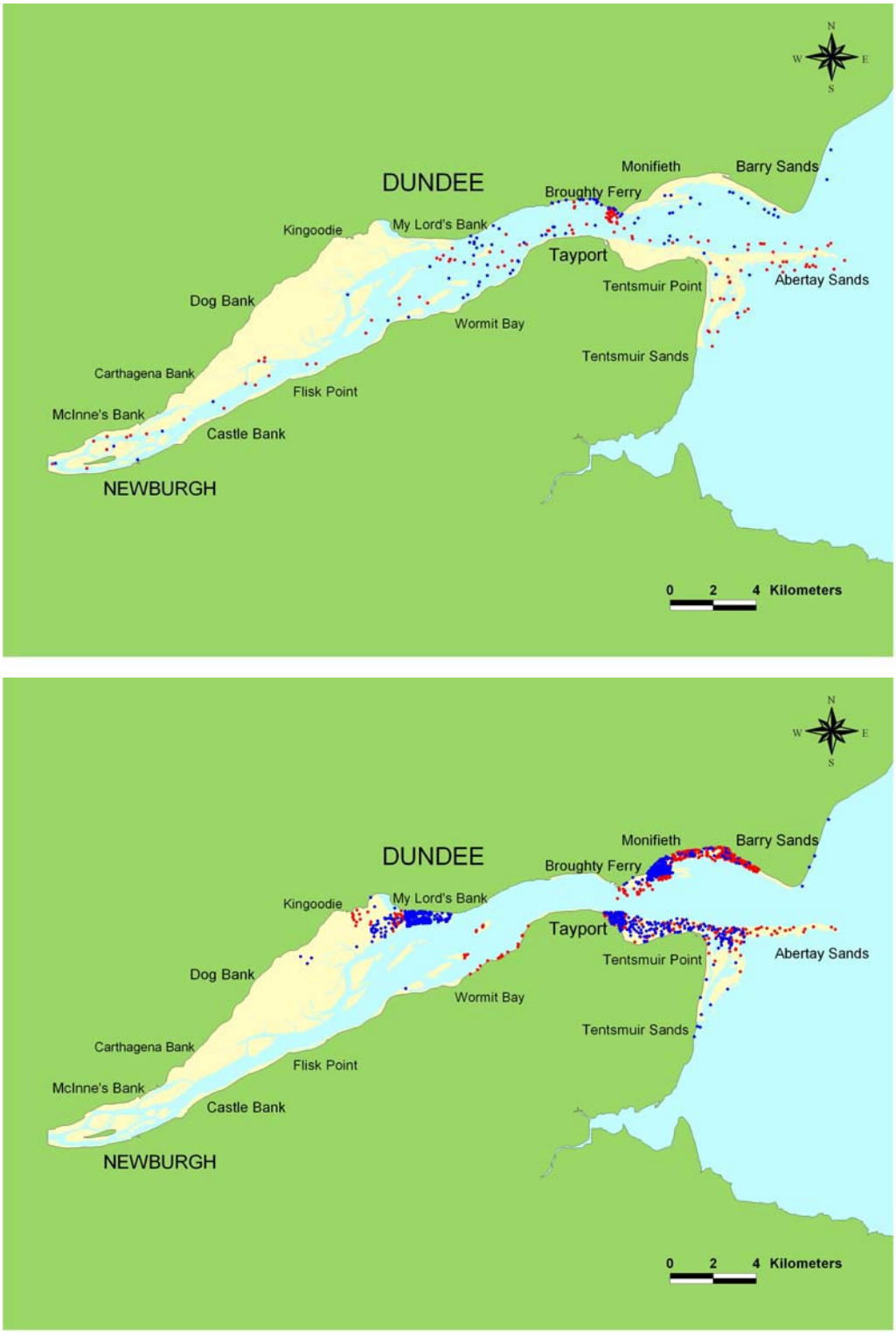


Figure 63. Low Tide distribution of Red-breasted Merganser (above) and Bar-tailed Godwit (below: 1 dot = 2 birds) for the winters of 1996/97 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

INLAND SEA / ALAW ESTUARY

Site description

The Inland Sea (Alaw Estuary) lies between Anglesey and Holy Island on the northwest Wales coast. Two road bridges border the site, Four Mile Bridge to the south and Stanley Embankment to the north. To the north of the Stanley Embankment is the small estuary of the Afon Alaw, which empties into Holyhead Bay past the sands of Traeth y Gribin. On the west side of the estuary lie the sheltered flats of Beddmanarch Bay. For the low tide counts, the whole intertidal area from Porth Dryw on the east shore and Gorsedd-y-penrhyn on the west shore south to Four Mile Bridge was counted.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 388 ha; Mean total birds 4,029; Mean bird density10.4 birds per ha.

Thirty-eight species of waterbird were recorded at low tide despite the site being one of the smallest areas covered. Dunlin were present in the largest numbers, with a mean count of over 900 birds through the winter. The intertidal area near Four-mile Bridge saw the highest densities of Dunlin with a mean density of nearly 10 birds per hectare recorded. This was also the favoured area for Redshank with a mean count of 105 birds recorded. Wigeon however were found largely between Beddmanarch Bay and Four Mile Bridge, with only a few birds further north. Amongst the more numerous species was a vagrant Long-billed Dowitcher and up to 2 each of Great Northern Diver and Slavonian Grebes.

Comparative bird distribution

The Inland Sea was previously counted under the WeBS Low Tide Count Scheme in 1995/96. Here, the distributions of two species, Light-bellied Brent Goose and Knot are compared between the winters of 2006/07 and 1995/96.

The mean count of Light-bellied Brent Geese (of the East Canadian High Arctic population, which winters mostly in Ireland) has doubled from 32 to 64 birds between the two winters. This slight increase comes as the national trend remains at about the same level. The change in distribution is quite striking, with a northwards shift (Figure 64.). In 1995/96, Brent Geese were found almost exclusively south of Beddmanarch Bay whereas in 2006/07 all the birds were recorded north of Beddmanarch Bay up to Porth Penrhyn-mawr.

Unlike many estuaries, Knot are not found in large numbers on the Inland Sea. However, between 1995/96 and 2006/07, the number of Knot has increased. In 1995/96, Knot were only recorded in one month, with a mean count of just 11 birds (0.13 birds per hectare) over the winter, all on Traeth y Gribin. By 2006/07, the mean count on this same section had risen to 71 birds (0.90 birds per hectare) with birds recorded in all four months. In 2006/07, Knot were also recorded in Beddmanarch Bay, the south end of Traeth y Gribin and also by Four Mile Bridge.

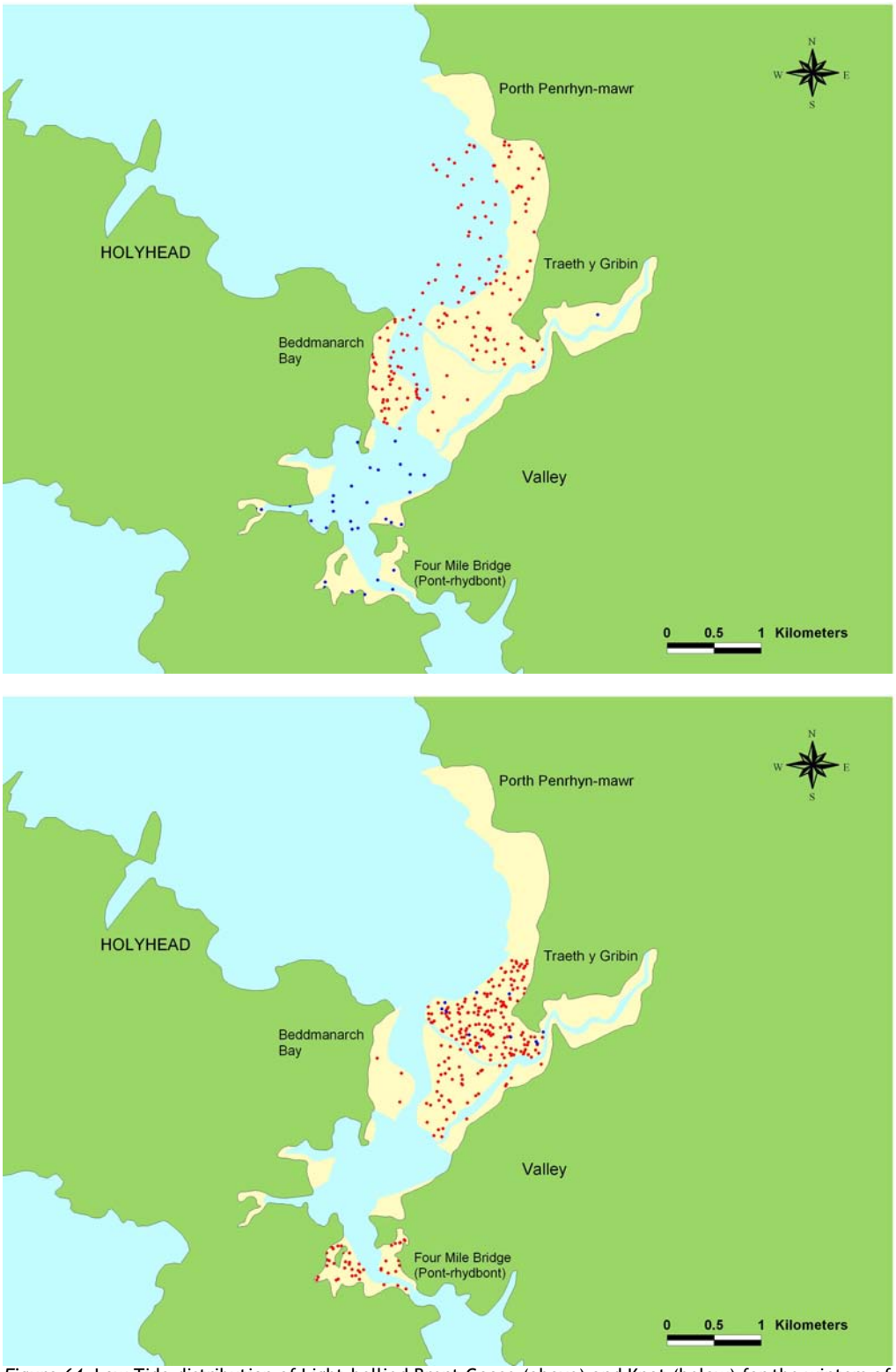


Figure 64. Low Tide distribution of Light-bellied Brent Goose (above) and Knot (below) for the winters of 1995/96 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

STOUR & ORWELL ESTUARIES

Site description

The Stour is a long and straight estuary, which forms the eastern end of the border between Suffolk and Essex. The estuary's mouth converges with that of the Orwell, which extends from Ipswich to Felixstowe, as the two rivers enter the North Sea. The outer Stour is sandy and substrates become progressively muddier further upstream. There are seven shallow bays along the estuary and sharply rising land or cliffs, covered with ancient coastal woodland and agricultural land, leaving little room for saltmarsh development, border much of its length. Much of the intertidal substrate of the Orwell is fairly muddy. In mitigation for the latest port development, both the north and south shores of the lower reaches of the estuary have had soft silts placed behind stiff clay bunds within the intertidal areas, changing the substrate again. Long stretches of farmland and wet meadow are situated along the mid-estuary, the latter providing roost sites for waterbirds. Nature conservation in the area includes the Stour & Orwell Estuaries Ramsar site and SPA, with management by RSPB, Woodland Trust, Essex Wildlife Trust and Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Some sailing and shooting occurs, though the major concern remains continued expansion of dock operations and subsequent land claim of important feeding areas. The estuaries are here considered together as one functional unit to reflect the extent of the SPA designation.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Areas covered 1,627/1,227 ha; Mean total birds 42,423/16,313; Mean bird density 26.1/13.3 birds per ha.

As in the winter of 2005/06, many areas of the Orwell held significant numbers of birds, including Jill's Hole, Trimley Marshes, Mulberry Middle, Loompit Lake and near Nacton. Favoured areas on the Stour were Holbrook Bay, Erwarton Bay, Copperas Bay, Bathside Bay, Jacques Bay, Stutton Mill, Seafield Bay and near Mistley. Single figure counts of Spotted Redshank were present on both estuaries, while other more unusual species recorded included Red-throated Diver, Slavonian Grebe, Black Brant and Scaup.

Comparative bird distribution

Black-tailed Godwits occur here in internationally important numbers, although they are a species that is undergoing a decline on this site with a Medium Alert being triggered (Maclean & Austin 2008). Comparisons with the winter of 1996/97 are displayed. In both winters, Black-tailed Godwits favoured the western end of the Stour Estuary around Jacques and Holbrook Bays west to Seafield Bay. However, in 2006/07, the largest concentration was in Seafield Bay and near Mistley with much fewer than in 1996/97 in Jacques Bay, Stutton Mill and the west side of Holbrook Bay. The mean count for the winter has decreased from 1,739 birds in 1996/97 to 484 by 2006/06. However, there has been a slight increase in the mean counts on the Orwell from 173 birds in 1996/97 to 234 in 2006/07, with the area near the Orwell Bridge to Mulberry hard and south of Redgate Hard seeing increased numbers. Pintail have undergone a similar pattern of decline, with numbers decreasing from a mean of 512 on the Stour in 1996/97 to 235 in 2006/07 although mean numbers increased from 167 to 323 in the same period on the Orwell. The main area of increase on the Orwell is Trimley Marshes where the density has increased from 0.16 to 3.49 birds per hectare. The main concentration on the Stour is near Mistley (5.98 birds per hectare in the main area in 2006/07) though in 1996/97 birds were much more widespread around the inner reaches of the estuary around Seafield Bay and Stutton Mill.

The Stour & Orwell Estuaries are counted by Suffolk Wildlife Trust under contract to Harwich Haven Authority. These data are generously made available to The Wetland Bird Survey.

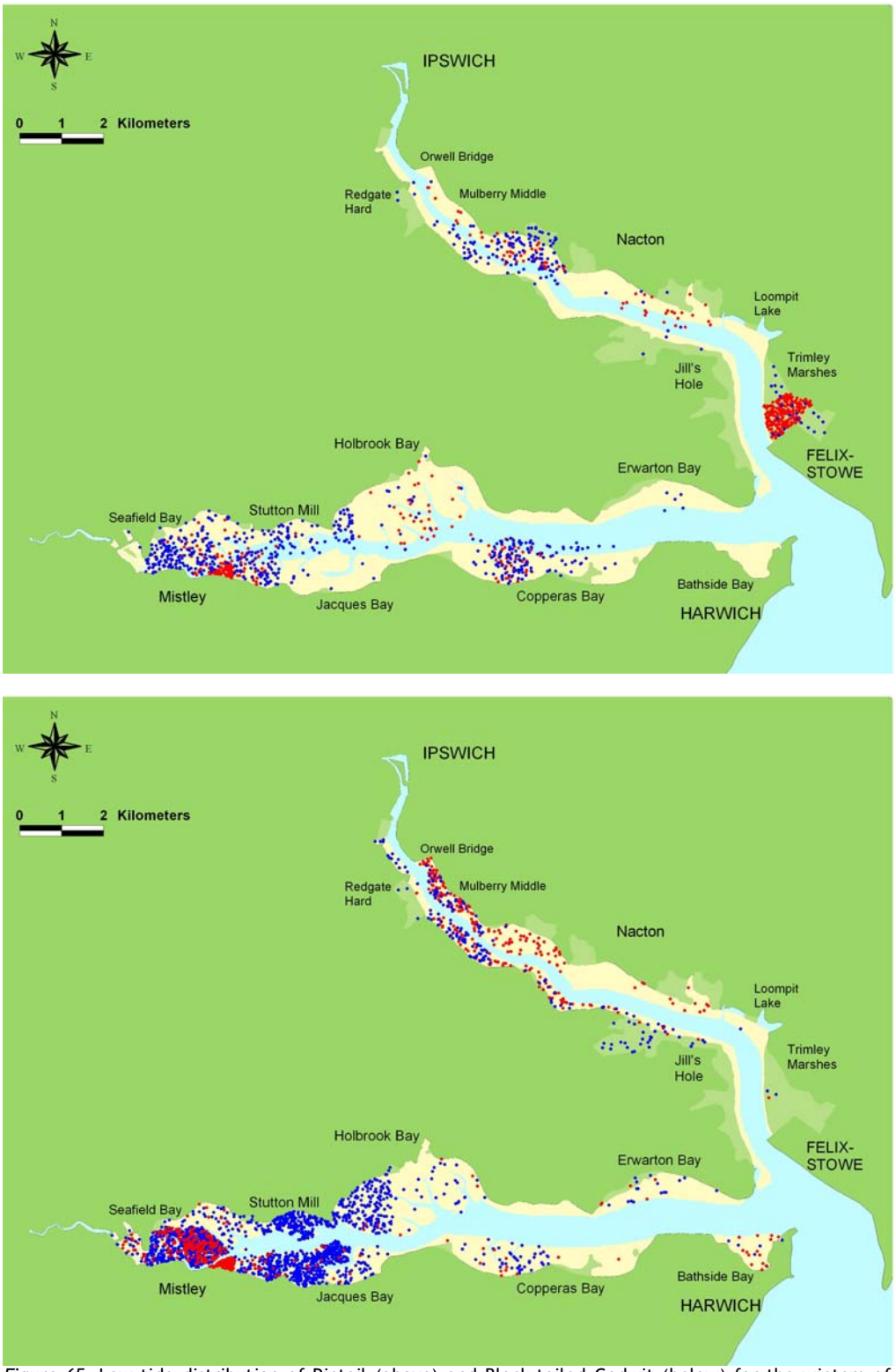


Figure 65. Low tide distribution of Pintail (above) and Black-tailed Godwit (below) for the winters of 1996/97 (blue dots) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale blue = subtidal; pale green = intertidal.

STRANGFORD LOUGH

Site description

Strangford Lough is a large shallow sea lough on the east coast of Northern Ireland, protected as a SPA, a Marine Nature Reserve, and a Ramsar Site. The site includes the Narrows, a deep rocky channel to the Irish Sea. The main body of the lough is sheltered to the east by the Ards Peninsula. Downpatrick and Newtownards are the largest human habitations nearby. Within the lough there are numerous rocky outcrops and small islands. The north of the lough in particular holds extensive intertidal mud and sand flats and there are countless other bays and inlets, and large expanses of open water, providing a wide diversity of habitat. Since 2001, mobile gear fishing has been banned in Strangford Lough to allow populations of the Horse Mussel *Modiolus modiolus* to recover. Static fishing and catching of crustaceans still occurs. There is some recreational activity within the lough, including sailing. Despite the enormity of Strangford Lough, dedicated counters are able to count along the majority of its shoreline, and do so at low tide annually – an impressive achievement.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 3,807 ha; Mean total birds 32,550; Mean bird density 8.6 birds per ha.

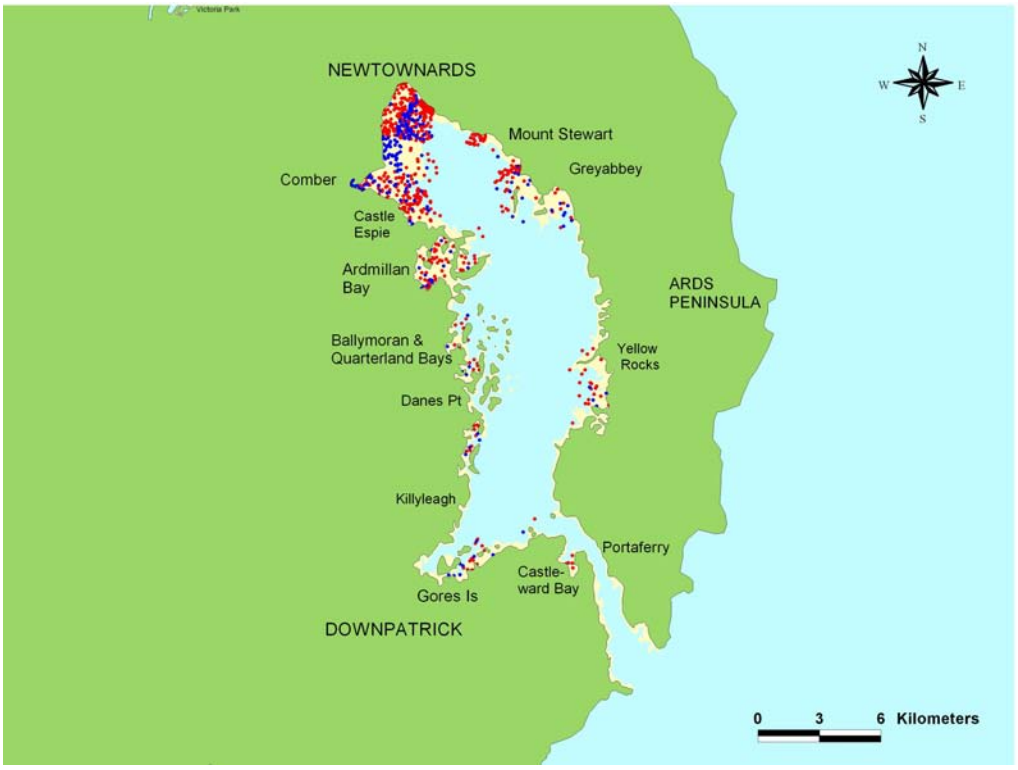
Once again, Strangford Lough produced the widest diversity of species recorded on the low tide counts with 49 different types of waders and wildfowl. Oystercatchers were present in the highest numbers, with a mean of over 5,700 birds recorded whilst other waders including Lapwing, Golden Plover, Knot, Dunlin, Curlew and Redshank were also found in large numbers. Light-bellied Brent Geese, (of the East Canadian High Arctic population) occur in internationally important numbers at Strangford Lough and are widespread. In the autumn and early part of the winter they are concentrated in the north end of the Lough but start to disperse and move either out of the Lough altogether or further south in the Lough as the winter progresses. Large numbers of Brent only use Strangford as a stop over for a few days before dispersing to other parts of Ireland. Other species however are very restricted in their range. For example, Gadwall were concentrated in Castleward Bay and Bar-tailed Godwits were found at Castle Espie and on the north east shoreline. An average of 33 Greenshank on the site was the highest recorded, with most sites counted at low tide recording single figures.

Comparative bird distribution

Figure 66. shows the distribution of two species that are undergoing different patterns of change. Distribution data from Low Tide Counts undertaken in 1996/97 are displayed for comparison with bird distribution ten years later in 2006/07, for Dunlin and Shelduck.

Shelduck are present at Strangford Lough in internationally important numbers. In keeping with the Northern Ireland trend, Shelduck numbers have been steadily increasing over the past ten years. This shows in a comparison of the mean winter count for the two winters; in 2006/07 the figure was 2,531, compared to 2,231 in 1996/07. Although widespread around the lough, Shelduck numbers were greatest at the northern end between Newtownards and Castle Espie.

In contrast, Dunlin numbers peaked in 1996/97 (Maclean & Austin 2008) but since then have seen a steep decline sufficient to trigger a High Alert. The mean low tide count for the winter of 2006/07 was 2,501 birds (0.66 birds per ha), compared with 10,296 (2.55 birds per ha) in 1996/97, reflecting a sharp decline in Dunlin at the site. As with Shelduck, the main concentrations of Dunlin are in the northern bays, especially around Comber, Newtownards and Greyabbey, though previously favoured areas such as Castle Espie in particular appear to be used by fewer birds than ten years previously.



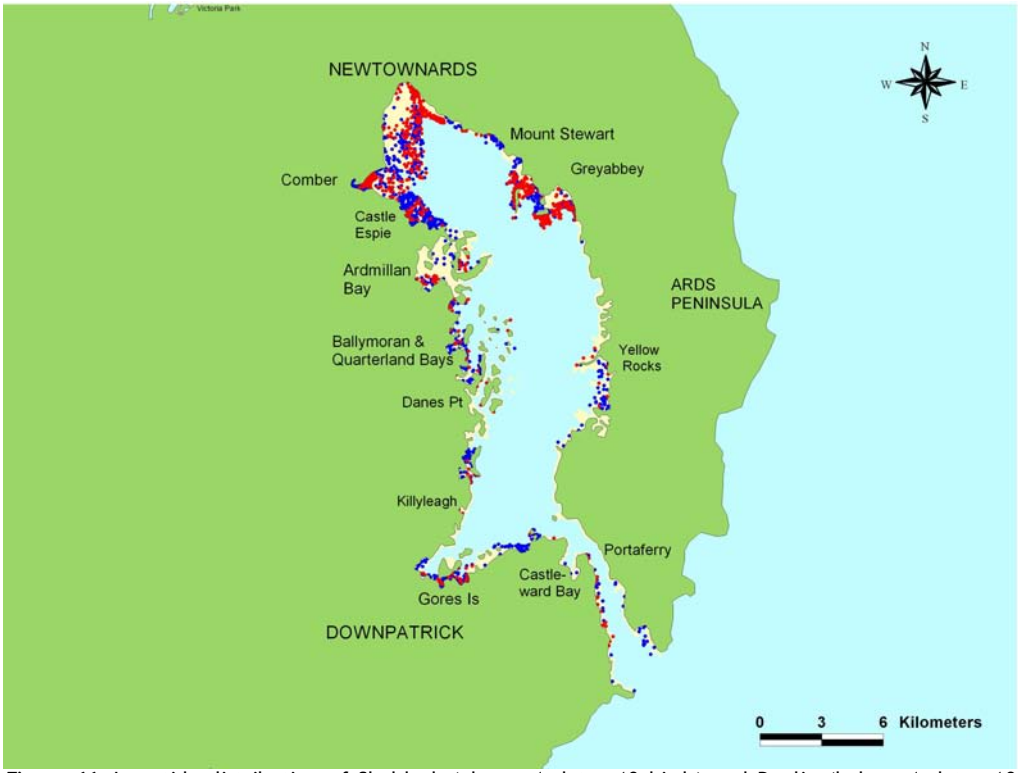


Figure 66. Low tide distribution of Shelduck (above: 1 dot = 10 birds) and Dunlin (below: 1 dot = 10 birds) for the winters of 1996/97 (blue dots) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale blue = subtidal; pale green = nontidal.

TEES ESTUARY

Site description

The Tees is, with the exception of Lindisfarne, the only sizeable estuarine site on the east coast between the Humber and the Forth. The surveyed area includes Seal Sands, Greatham Creek, Bran Sands and North and South Gares along with the sandy beaches between Hartlepool and Redcar. The estuary has been considerably modified by human activities, initially for agriculture, but more recently for industrial and port-related developments. The area is now highly industrialised, dominated by petrochemical plants, which pose a potential threat to the site's habitats and wildfowl. Changes in the sediment and possibly eutrophication are thought to be more serious long-term threats (Buck 1997).

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 400ha; Mean total birds 2,028; Mean bird density 5.1 birds per ha.

The Tees has only been counted once before at Low Tide, in 1996/97 when the whole site was covered. Coatham Sands and the area between North Gare and Hartlepool were not counted in 2006/07. This site was issued with alerts for four species of the five evaluated (Maclean & Austin 2006) – Shelduck., Lapwing, Knot and Sanderling.

Shelduck and Redshank were present in the highest numbers whilst Curlew, Oystercatcher, Dunlin and Wigeon were also recorded in three figure mean counts. Seal Sands supported the highest densities of birds of many species. Other favoured areas included North Gare Sands and Bran Sands.

Comparative bird distribution

Despite fluctuations, there has been a general trend of decreasing Shelduck numbers on the Teesmouth and Cleveland Coast SPA (Maclean & Austin 2008). The mean count of Shelduck has decreased from 627 birds in 1996/97 to 471 in 2006/07. Although not directly comparable due to the difference in areas covered between the two winters, the main area of concentration in both winters was on Seal Sands, so it is likely that this reflects a real decline. The mean count on Seal Sands has decreased from 565 birds (2.12 birds per hectare) in 1996/97 to 469 (1.87 birds per hectare) in 2006/07.

Curlew numbers, however, would appear to have increased on the Tees. Despite a smaller area being counted in 2006/07 than in 1996/97, the mean count has increased from 228 birds to 266 birds between the two years. Although most numerous on Seal Sands, the highest proportional increase occurred at Greatham Creek. Here the mean count has risen from 7 birds (0.13 birds per hectare) in 1996/97 to 33 birds (0.57 birds per hectare) in 2006/07. Smaller numbers of birds were also present near Port Clarence, Bran Sands and North Gare Sands.

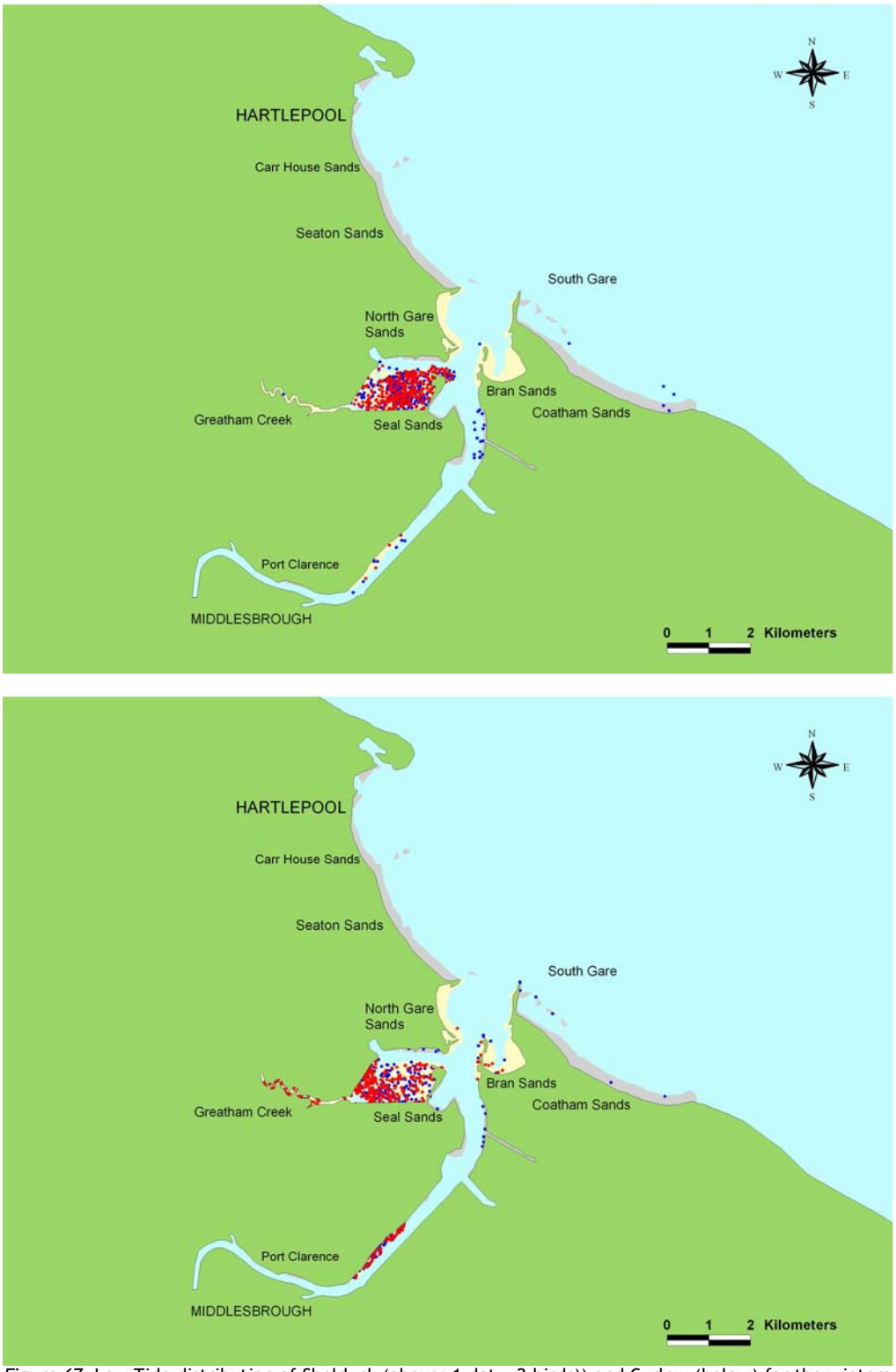


Figure 67. Low Tide distribution of Shelduck (above; 1 dot = 2 birds)) and Curlew (below) for the winters of 1996/97 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal. Grey areas not counted in 2006/07.

YTHAN ESTUARY

Site description

The Ythan is a relatively small estuary in northeast Scotland, about ten miles north of Aberdeen. Despite its small size, it is the largest estuary between the Montrose Basin and the Moray Firth and as such is important in a local context. The estuary has a narrow shape and is shielded from the sea by the important dune system known as the Sands of Forvie. The inner estuary is muddy and the outer stretches more sandy, but there is relatively little in the way of saltmarsh. The main human influences on the estuary are recreation, including wildfowling. The principal issue of conservation concern in recent years has been the level of nitrogen leaching into the Ythan from surrounding farmland, leading to algal growth covering the sediments; the catchment is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

General bird distribution 2006/07

Area covered 202 ha; Mean total birds 4,739; Mean bird density 23.5 birds per ha.

Probably best known for its large Eider population, the Ythan Estuary supported 27 species of waterbird during the low tide counts. The most numerous bird was Lapwing with a mean count of over 1,000 birds (5.23 birds per hectare). Golden Plover were abundant also with a mean count of just short of 1,000 birds (4.91 birds per hectare). Of the more coastal waders, Curlew were the most abundant, with a mean of 445 birds, followed by Redshank (395 birds), Oystercatcher (351 birds) and Dunlin (214 birds). Oystercatchers and Turnstone were found to be most numerous at the mouth of the estuary south of Inches Point whereas species such as Dunlin, Curlew and Redshank preferred in the inner reaches of the estuary north of Waterside Bridge.

Comparative bird distribution

The distributions of two species issued with medium alerts (Maclean & Austin 2008), Eider and Redshank, are considered here. The winters of 1997/98 and 2006/07 are compared.

Although long-term numbers of Eider at the Ythan have risen, since the peak in the mid 1990s, numbers have dropped somewhat. The peak low tide count in 1997/98 was 1,448 birds whereas in 2006/07, this peak didn't reach four figures, standing at 908 birds. The decline in the mean count between the two years was not so extreme, falling from 788 to 706 birds, with the overall density falling from 15.76 to 13.84 birds per hectare. However, the 1997/98 counts were only carried out in three months. The distribution of birds between the two winters has changed. In 1997/98, the majority of the birds were between Inches Point and the estuary mouth, whereas in 2006/07, the area north of Inches Point up to Waterside Bridge was favoured. Small numbers of birds were also found north of here towards the Snub.

Redshank numbers have fallen since the turn of the century, enough to trigger a medium alert, although in reality the picture has been one of fluctuations, especially in the 1990s. The mean count has actually risen from 367 (1.81 birds per hectare) to 395 birds (1.96 birds per hectare) between 1997/98 and 2006/07. Figure 68. shows that despite this rise, the relative distribution appears to have remained rather consistent between the two seasons.

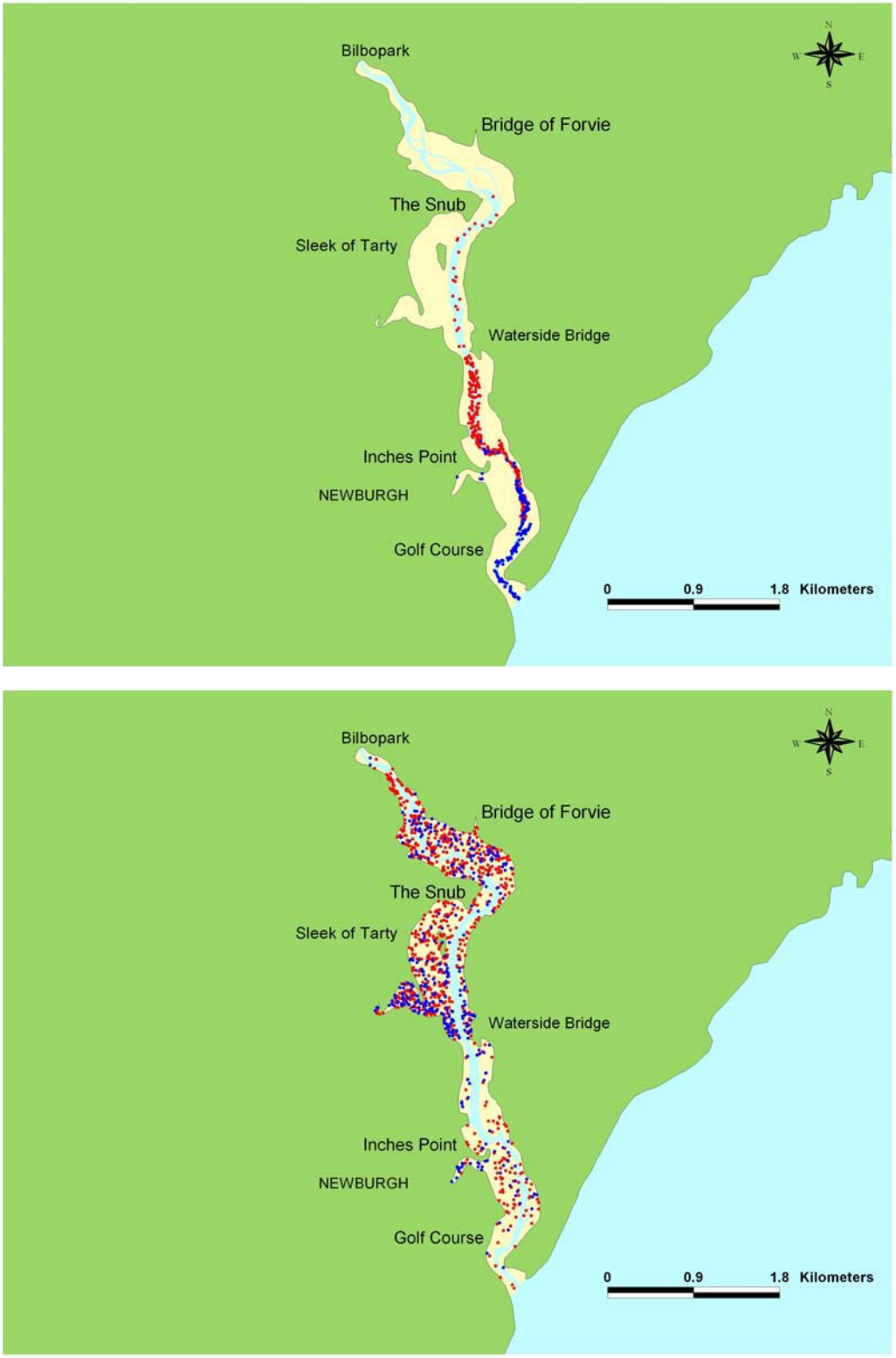


Figure 68. Low Tide distribution of Eider (above: 1 dot = 5 birds) and Redshank (below) for the winters of 1997/98 (blue) and 2006/07 (red). Yellow = intertidal; pale green = non-tidal; blue = subtidal.

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Sanderling (Al Downie)

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Glossary

The terms listed below are generally restricted to those that have been adopted specifically for use within WeBS or more widely for monitoring.

1% criterion The criterion identifies sites as being of *international importance* if at least 1% of the *waterbirds* of a particular migratory flyway or population regularly make use of a site during their annual cycle. The term thus relates to the proportion (1%) that is used as a criterion of site selection. First used in the Ramsar Convention, the 1% criterion is used widely in assessment of site importance.

1% threshold This logically derives from the *1% criterion* and relates to the number of birds that are used as the nominal 1% of the population for the purposes of site selection. Thus, an international population of 75,215 Shelduck has a derived 1% threshold (adopting rounding conventions) of 750.

African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) An independent international treaty developed under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals ('*Bonn Convention*'). Parties to the Agreement are called upon to engage in a wide range of conservation actions addressing key issues such as species and habitat conservation, management of human activities, research and monitoring, education and information, and implementation.

All-Ireland Comprises the whole island of Ireland (Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland).

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) The BTO is a well-respected organisation, combining the skills of professional scientists and volunteer birdwatchers to carry out research on birds in all habitats and throughout the year. Data collected by the various surveys form the basis of extensive and unique databases, which enable the BTO to objectively advise conservation bodies, government agencies, planners and scientists on a diverse range of issues involving birds.

Complex site A *WeBS site* that consists of two or more *WeBS sectors*.

Core Counts The fundamental WeBS counts that monitor all types of wetlands throughout the UK once per month on, or as near as possible to, pre-selected *priority dates*. Used to determine population estimates and trends and identify important sites.

Great Britain The countries of England Scotland and Wales (excludes the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man).

Incomplete counts When presenting counts of an individual species, a large proportion of the number of birds was suspected to have been missed, *e.g.* due to part coverage of the site or poor counting conditions, or when presenting the total number of birds of all species on the site, a significant proportion of the total number was missed.

I-WeBS An independent but complementary scheme operating in the Republic of Ireland to monitor non-breeding *waterbirds*, organised by BirdWatch Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland) and The *Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust*.

Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) JNCC is the statutory body constituted by the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to be responsible for research and advice on nature conservation at both UK and international levels. The committee is established by Natural England, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales, together with independent members and representatives from the Countryside Commission and Northern Ireland, and is supported by specialist staff.

Local Organiser Person responsible for coordinating counters and counts at a local level, normally a county or large estuary,

and the usual point of contact with the *WeBS office*.

Low Tide Counts (LTC) Additional WeBS counts made at low tide to assess the relative importance of different parts of individual estuaries as feeding areas for intertidal *waterbirds*.

Priority date Pre-determined dates published by the *WeBS Office* to aid coordination of surveys. Counters are asked to count on, or as near as possible to, priority dates to minimise the risk of missing birds or double counting.

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) The RSPB is the charity that takes action for wild birds and the environment in the UK. The RSPB is the national BirdLife partner in the UK.

United Kingdom *Great Britain* and Northern Ireland (excludes the Channel Isles and the Isle of Man).

Waterbirds WeBS follows the definition adopted by *Wetlands International*. This includes a large number of families, those occurring regularly in the UK being divers, grebes, cormorants, herons, storks, ibises and spoonbills, wildfowl, cranes, rails, waders, gulls and terns.

WeBS count unit The area/boundary within which a count is made. The generic term for *WeBS sites*, *WeBS sub-sites* and *WeBS sectors*.

WeBS Office Main administrative centre for the day-to-day running of WeBS and main point of contact for information or data pertaining to WeBS (see *Contacts* section).

WeBS Online The online database for the submission and retrieval of WeBS Core Count, Low Tide Count and supplementary data. www.bto.org/webs

WeBS sector The unit of division of large *sites* into areas that can be counted by one person in a reasonable time period. They are often demarcated by geographic features to facilitate recognition of the boundary by counters. The finest level at which data are recorded.

WeBS site A biologically meaningful area that represents a discrete area used by *waterbirds* such that birds regularly move within but only occasionally between sites. The highest level at which count data are stored.

WeBS sub-site A grouping of *sectors* within a *site* to facilitate coordination. In most cases, sub-sites also relate to biologically meaningful units for describing *waterbird* distribution.

WeBS Year Defined as July to June inclusive the WeBS Year is centred on the time when most *waterbird* species are present in their largest number, during *winter*. Counts during *autumn* passage and *spring* passage the following calendar year are logically associated with the intervening *winter*.

Wetlands International A leading global non-profit organisation whose mission is to sustain and restore wetlands, their resources and biodiversity for future generations through research, information exchange and conservation activities, worldwide.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) Founded by Sir Peter Scott in 1946, WWT is the largest international wetland conservation charity in the UK. WWT works to conserve wetlands and their biodiversity, focusing particularly on waterbirds and their habitats, and seeks to raise awareness of the value of wetlands, the threats they face and the actions needed to save them. WWT has nine visitor centres throughout the UK.

Appendices

APPENDIX 1. INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Any site recognised as being of international ornithological importance is considered for classification as a Special Protection Area (SPA) under the EC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (EC/79/409), whilst a site recognised as an internationally important wetland qualifies for designation as a Ramsar site under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat. Criteria for assessing the international importance of wetlands have been agreed by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention Bureau 1988). Under criterion 6, a wetland is considered internationally important if it regularly holds at least 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterbird, while criterion 5 states that any site regularly supporting 20,000 or more waterbirds also qualifies. Britain and Ireland's wildfowl belong, in most cases, to the northwest European population and the waders to the east Atlantic flyway population (Wetlands International 2006).

A wetland in Britain is considered nationally important if it regularly holds 1% or more of the estimated British population of one species or subspecies of waterbird, and in Northern Ireland important in an all-Ireland context if it holds 1% or more of the estimated all-Ireland population.

The 1% thresholds for British, all-Ireland and international waterbird populations, where known, are listed in Table A1. Thus, any site regularly supporting at least this number of birds potentially qualifies for designation under national legislation, or the EC Birds Directive or Ramsar Convention. The international population for each species and subspecies is also specified in the table. However, it should be noted that, where 1% of the national population is less than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum qualifying threshold for the designation of sites of national or international importance.

It was agreed at the meeting of the Ramsar Convention in Brisbane that population estimates will be reviewed by Wetlands International every three years and 1% thresholds revised every nine years (Rose & Stroud 1994; Ramsar Resolution VI.4). 1% thresholds have not been derived for introduced species since protected sites would not be identified for these birds.

Sources of qualifying levels represent the most up-to-date figures following recent reviews: for wildfowl in Britain see Kershaw & Cranswick (2003); for waders in Britain see Rehfisch *et al.* (2003); for gulls in Britain see Burton *et al.* (2003); for all-Ireland importance see Crowe *et al.* (2008). International criteria follow Wetlands International (2006).

It should be noted that for some populations, where the British total is the international total, the precise figure given for the estimates may differ because of different rounding conventions applied in the relevant publications.

Table A1. 1% thresholds for national and international importance

	Great Britain	all-Ireland	International	Subspecies/Population
Mute Swan: *British*	375	n/a	320	Britain
Irish	n/a	110	100	Ireland
Bewick's Swan	81	*20	200	*bewickii*, NW Europe (non-br)
Whooper Swan	57	130	210	Iceland (br)
Bean Goose: *Taiga*	*4	+	800	*fabalis*
Pink-footed Goose	2,400	+	2,700	Greenland, Iceland (br)
European White-fronted Goose	58	+	10,000	*albifrons*, Baltic-North Sea
Greenland White-fronted Goose	209	110	270	*flavirostris*
Greylag Goose: *Iceland*	819	50	870	*anser*, Iceland (br)
Hebrides/N Scotland	90	n/a	100	*anser*, NW Scotland
Barnacle Goose: *Greenland*	450	90	560	E Greenland (br)
Svalbard	220	+	270	Svalbard (br)

Table A1. continued

	Great Britain	all-Ireland	International	Subspecies/Population
Dark-bellied Brent Goose	981	+	2,000	*Bernicla,* W Siberia (br)
Light-bellied Brent Goose: *Canada*	+	220	260	*hrota*, Ireland (non-br)
Svalbard	*30	+	70	*hrota*, Svalbard, N Greenland (br)
Shelduck	782	150	3,000	NW Europe (br)
Wigeon	4,060	820	15,000	NW Europe (non-br)
Gadwall	171	20	600	*strepera*, NW Europe (br)
Teal	1,920	450	5,000	NW Europe (non-br)
Mallard	3,520	380	**20,000	*platyrhynchos*, NW Europe (non-br)
Pintail	279	20	600	NW Europe (non-br)
Garganey	+	+	**20,000	W Africa (non-br)
Shoveler	148	25	400	NW & C Europe (non-br)
Red-crested Pochard	+	+	500	C Europe & W Mediterranean
Pochard	595	400	3,500	NE & NW Europe (non-br)
Tufted Duck	901	370	12,000	NW Europe (non-br)
Scaup	76	*45	3,100	*marila*, W Europe (non-br)
Eider	730	*30	12,850	*mollissimma*, NW Europe[1]
Long-tailed Duck	160	+	**20,000	W Siberia, N Europe (br)
Common Scoter	500	230	16,000	*nigra*
Velvet Scoter	*30	+	10,000	*fusca*, Baltic, W Europe (non-br)
Goldeneye	249	95	11,500	*clangula*, NW & Central Europe (non-br)
Smew	*4	+	400	NW & C Europe (non-br)
Red-breasted Merganser	98	*35	1,700	NW & C Europe (non-br)
Goosander	161	+	2,700	*merganser*, NW Europe[2]
Red-throated Diver	170	*20	3,000	NW Europe (non-br)
Black-throated Diver	*7	*1	3,750	*arctica*
Great Northern Diver	*30	?	50	NW Europe (non-br)
Little Grebe	78	25	4,000	*ruficollis*
Great Crested Grebe	159	50	3,600	*cristatus*
Red-necked Grebe	*2	?	5,10	*grisegena*, NW Europe (non-br)
Slavonian Grebe	*7	?	55	*auritus*, NW Europe (large billed)
Black-necked Grebe	*1	?	2,200	*nigricollis*, Europe, N Africa
Cormorant	230	140	1,200	*carbo*, NW Europe
Shag	?	?	2,000	*aristotelis*
Little Egret	?	?	1,300	*garzetta*, W Europe, NW Africa
Grey Heron	?	30	2,700	*cinerea*, W Europe, NW Africa (br)
Moorhen	7500	?	**20,000	*chloropus*, Europe, N Africa (br)
Coot	1,730	330	17,500	*atra*, NW Europe (non-br)
Oystercatcher	3,200	680	10,200	*ostralegus*, Europe, NW Africa
Avocet	*35	+	730	W Europe (br)
Ringed Plover	330	150	730	*hiaticula*, Europe & N Africa (non-br)
Golden Plover	2,500	1,700	9,300	*altifrons*, Iceland & Faeroes, E Atlantic[3]
Grey Plover	530	65	2,500	E Atlantic (non-br)
Lapwing	**20,000	2,100	**20,000	Europe (br)
Knot	2,800	190	4,500	*islandica*
Sanderling	210	65	1,200	E Atlantic, W & S Africa (non-br)
Purple Sandpiper	180	*35	750	*maritima*, E Atlantic
Dunlin	5,600	880	13,300	*alpina,* W Europe (non-br)[4]
Ruff	*7	+	?	W Africa (non-br)
Jack Snipe	?	250	?	NE Europe (br)
Snipe	?	?	**20,000	*gallinago*, Europe (br)
Woodcock	?	?	**20,000	Europe (br)
Black-tailed Godwit	150	140	470	*islandica*
Bar-tailed Godwit	620	160	1,200	*lapponica*
Whimbrel	+	+	6,800	*islandicus*
Curlew	1,500	550	8,500	*arquata*
Spotted Redshank	+	+	900	Europe (br)
Redshank	1,200	310	2,800	*brittanica*[5]
Greenshank	*6	*20	2,300	Europe (br)
Green Sandpiper	?	?	17,000	Europe (br)
Common Sandpiper	?	?	17,500	N, W & C Europe (br)
Turnstone	500	120	1,500	*interpres*, NE Canada, Greenland (br)

Table A1. continued

	Great Britain	all-Ireland	International	Subspecies/Population
Little Gull	?	?	1,230	N, C & E Europe (br)
Black-headed Gull	19,000	?	**20,000	N & C Europe (br)
Common Gull	9,000	?	**20,000	*canus*
Lesser Black-backed Gull	500	?	5,500	*graellsii*
Herring Gull	4,500	?	5,900	*argenteus*[6]
Great Black-backed Gull	400	?	4,400	NE Atlantic
Kittiwake	?	?	**20,000	*tridactyla*, E Atlantic (br)
Sandwich Tern	?	?	1,700	*sandvicensis*, W Europe (br)
Common Tern	?	?	1,900	*hirundo*, S, W Europe (br)
Little Tern	?	?	490	*albifrons*, W Europe (br)
Black Tern	?	?	7,500	*niger*

? *Population size not accurately known.*
\+ *Population too small for meaningful figure to be obtained.*
* *Where 1% of the British or all-Ireland wintering population is less than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum qualifying level for national or all-Ireland importance respectively.*
** *A site regularly holding more than 20,000 waterbirds qualifies as internationally important by virtue of absolute numbers.*

1 The degree of interchange of UK Eiders with birds on the continent is unclear, and although Wetlands International (2006) has recommended that birds in Britain and Ireland should be treated as a separate biogeographical population, a recent review of available data by DEFRA's SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group has found limited evidence to support this conclusion, and recommended that for site-selection purposes, British Eider continue to be considered as a component of the four groups of the Northwest European groups of the race *mollissima* with an international 1% threshold of 12,850. It is hoped that future genetic studies will help clarify the situation.

2 Although Wetlands International (2006) considers Goosanders breeding in Scotland, northern England and Wales to be a discrete population, a recent review of available data by DEFRA's SPA and Ramsar Scientific Working Group has found limited evidence to support this conclusion for the time being, and recommended that for site-selection purposes, British Goosanders continue to be considered as a component of the NW and C European population of Goosander, with an international 1% threshold of 2,700.

3 Three populations of Golden Plover listed by Wetlands International (2006) overlap in the UK in winter. Draft guidelines from Ramsar suggest that the largest of the three thresholds (*i.e.* that for *altifrons,* Iceland & Faeroes, E Atlantic) should be used for site-selection purposes.

4 Whilst several populations of Dunlin occur in the UK at different times of the year, most wintering birds are referable to the listed population.

5 Three populations of Redshank listed by Wetlands International (2006) overlap in the UK in winter: *totanus* E Atlantic (non-br), *robusta* and *brittanica*. Most *totanus* winter outside the UK but the other populations are known to occur widely. Draft guidelines from Ramsar suggest that the larger of the two thresholds (*i.e.* that for *brittanica*) should be used for site-selection purposes.

6 Two populations of Herring Gull overlap in the winter in the UK; *argentatus* and *argenteus*. Whilst substantial numbers of *argentatus* appear to winter in the UK, the largest proportion of Herring Gulls in winter is probably of *argenteus*. Following Ramsar guidance and given the conservation status of British-breeding Herring Gulls, the threshold for *argenteus* is used in this report for site-selection purposes.

APPENDIX 2. LOCATIONS OF PRINCIPAL WeBS COUNT SITES

Table A2 provides details of principal WeBS sites that are mentioned in the Principal Sites table (Table 6.). Sites are listed alphabetically, with details of the Ordnance Survey 1-km square that the centre of the sites falls into. Numbers following Principal Core Count sites refer to the sites' location in Figure A1. Details of all sites covered by WeBS are available from the www.bto.org/webs or the WeBS Office, (see *CONTACTS*).

Table A2. Details for Principal Sites mentioned in Table 6. Numbers refer to the sites' location in figure A1.

Site	1-km sq	
Abberton Reservoir	TL9618	111
Alde Complex	TM4257	104
Alt Estuary	SD2903	85
Arun Valley	TQ0314	120
Baleshare	NF7862	18
Balnakeil Bay	NC3869	9
Balranald Nat. Res.	NF7169	15
Beaulieu Estuary	SZ4297	126
Belfast Lough	IJ3983	73
Blackwater Estuary	TL9307	110
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	TG4706	99
Broubster Leans	ND0361	10
Burry Inlet	SS5096	138
Cameron Reservoir	NO4611	40
Carlingford Lough	IJ1814	77
Carmarthen Bay	SN2501	139
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	NN8609	45
Chew Valley Lake	ST5659	135
Chichester Harbour	SU7700	122
Cleddau Estuary	SN0005	140
Colne Estuary	TM0614	109
Cotswold Water Park (West)	SU0595	136
Cromarty Firth	NH7771	26
Crouch-Roach Est.	TQ9895	105
Dalreoch	NN9917	46
Deben Estuary	TM2942	106
Dee Estuary England and Wales	SJ2675	89
Dee Flood Meadows	SJ4059	90
Dengie Flats	TM0302	112
Dornoch Firth	NH7384	29
Duddon Estuary	SD2081	80
Dungeness GPs	TR0619	119
Dyfi Estuary	SN6394	141
Eden Estuary	NO4619	39
Exe Estuary	SX9883	132
Fleet and Wey	SY6976	131
Forth Estuary	NT2080	48
Gadloch	NS6471	52
Hamford Water	TM2225	103
Hickling Broad	TG4221	96
Holburn Moss	NU0536	61
Hornsea Mere	TA1846	83
Hule Moss	NT7149	59
Humber Estuary	TA2020	84
Inner Firth of Clyde	NS3576	50
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	NH6752	28
Island of Egilsay	HY4831	1
Isle of Coll	NM2055	24
Kentra Moss and Lower Loch Shiel	NM7168	25
Kilconquhar Loch	NO4801	42
Lake of Menteith	NN5700	49
Langstone Harbour	SU6902	123
Lavan Sands	SH6474	142
Lee Valley GPs	TL3807	102
Lindisfarne	NU1041	62
Loch An Eilein	NL9843	22
Loch Bee	NF7743	17
Loch Bhasapoll	NL9746	21
Loch Eye	NH8379	30
Loch Fleet Complex	NH7896	27
Loch Garten	NH9718	36
Loch Gorm	NR2365	55
Loch Gruinart Floods	NR2766	56
Loch Hempriggs	ND3447	12
Loch Ken	NX6672	64
Loch Leven	NO1501	43
Loch Lomond	NS3599	51
Loch Paible	NF7168	14
Loch Riaghain	NM0347	23
Loch Sandary	NF7368	16
Loch Scarmclate	ND1859	11
Loch Slapin	NG5516	19
Loch Spynie	NJ2366	31
Loch Tullybelton	NO0034	47
Loch a` Phuill	NL9541	20
Loch of Boardhouse	HY2625	4
Loch of Harray	HY2915	7
Loch of Hundland	HY2926	3
Loch of Lintrathen	NO2754	38
Loch of Skaill	HY2418	5
Loch of Skene	NJ7807	35
Loch of Stenness	HY2813	8
Loch of Strathbeg	NK0660	32
Loch of Swannay	HY3128	2
Lough Foyle	IC5925	71
Loughs Neagh& Beg	IJ0475	72
Lower Derwent Ings	SE6939	82
Lower Lough Erne	IH0960	79
Lower Teviot Valley	NT6725	58
Medway Estuary	TQ8471	114
Mersehead RSPB	NX9255	66
Mersey Estuary	SJ4578	88
Middle Yare Marshes	TG3504	98
Milldam & Balfour Mains Pools	HY4817	6
Moine Mhor & Add Estuary	NR8293	53
Montrose Basin	NO7057	37
Morecambe Bay	SD4070	81
Nene Washes	TF3300	92
North Norfolk Coast	TF8546	95
North West Solent	SZ3395	127
Orchardton and Auchencairn Bays	NX8151	65
Orwell Estuary	TM2238	107
Ouse Washes	TL5394	93
Outer Ards Shoreline	IJ6660	76
Outer Loch Indaal	NR2353	54
Pagham Harbour	SZ8796	121
Pegwell Bay	TR3561	116
Pitsford Reservoir	SP7870	100
Poole Harbour	SY9988	130
Portsmouth Harbour	SU6204	124
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	NS9841	57
Ribble Estuary	SD3825	87
R.Avon: Fordingbr'-Ringwood	SU1410	128
R.Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	SZ1499	129
R.Nith: Keltonbank – Nunholm	NX9774	67
R.Tay: Haughs of Kercock	NO1339	44
Rutland Water	SK9307	91
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	TQ9418	117
Severn Estuary	ST5084	137
Slains Lochs (Meikle, Sand & Cotehill)	NK0230	33
Solway Estuary	NY1060	69
Somerset Levels	ST4137	134
Southampton Water	SU4507	125
St Benet`s Levels	TG3815	97
Stour Estuary	TM1732	108
Strangford Lough	IJ5460	74
Swale Estuary	TQ9765	115
Taw-Torridge Est.	SS4731	133
Tay Estuary	NO4828	41
Tees Estuary	NZ5528	70
Thames Estuary	TQ7880	113
The Wash	TF5540	94
Traigh Luskentyre	NG0599	13
Tring Reservoirs	SP9113	101
Tweed Estuary	NU0052	60
Upper Lough Erne	IH3131	78
Upper Quoile River	IJ4745	75
Walland Marsh	TQ9923	118
Wigtown Bay	NX4456	63
WWT Caerlaverock	NY0565	68
WWT Martin Mere	SD4214	86
Ythan Estuary	NK0026	34

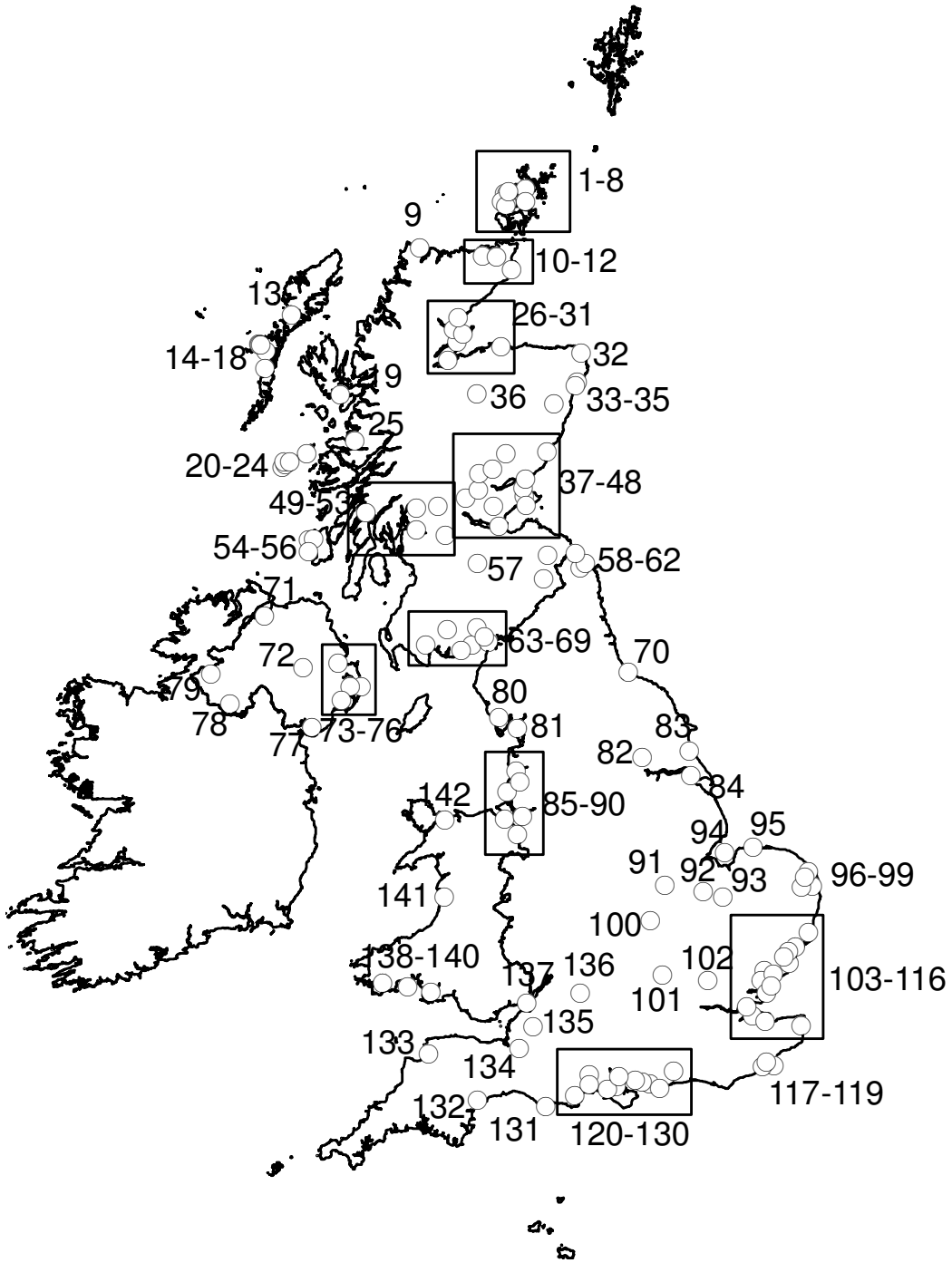

Figure A1. Locations of Core WeBS sites supporting more than 10,000 waterbirds or which support internationally important numbers of one or more waterbird species (see *PRINCIPAL SITES*). Numbers refer to sites listed in Table A2.

TOTAL NUMBERS

The total numbers of waterbirds recorded by WeBS in 2006/07 are given in Tables 3 and 4 for Great Britain (including the Isle of Man, but excluding the Channel Islands) and Northern Ireland, respectively. Counts of waterbirds in the Republic of Ireland by I-WeBS are provided in Table 5.

Site coverage for gulls and terns is given separately since recording of these species was optional.

Introduced and escaped waterbirds

Many species of waterbird occur in the UK as a result of introductions, particularly through escapes from collections. Several have become established, such as Canada Goose and Ruddy Duck. The British Ornithologists' Union Records Committee categorises each species occurring in Britain according to its likely origin. The categories are explained more fully at www.bou.org.uk/reccats.html. Species that have been recorded as 'introductions, human-assisted transportees or escapes from captivity, and whose breeding populations (if any) are not thought to be self-sustaining' are included in the BOURC's category E. WeBS records of these species are included in this report both for the sake of completeness and in order to assess their status and monitor any changes in numbers, a key requirement given the need, under the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement of the Bonn convention '. . . to prevent the unintentional release of such species . . .' and once introduced, the need '. . . to prevent these species from becoming a threat to indigenous species' (Holmes *et al.* 1998).

Numbers of established populations (*e.g.* Canada Goose and Ruddy Duck, which are placed in category C) are excluded from Figure 2 below since the large numbers involved would swamp numbers of other species. Additionally, species that occur in both categories A and E (*e.g.* Pink-footed Goose) are also excluded since separation of escaped from wild birds is not readily possible using WeBS methods. However, Ruddy Shelduck (categories B/E) is included; the BOURC does not consider any recent records to have been of wild origin. Additionally, a small number of species not yet assigned to category by the BOURC (*e.g.* Coscoroba Swan) are also included.

A total of 20 category E species were recorded in 2006/07 at 172 sites, only slightly lower figures to those seen in 2005/06. The summed site maxima of 464 birds was higher than during the last year but still lower than the three years prior to 2005/06. As in previous years, over half of this total was attributable to Black Swan and Muscovy Duck, followed in abundance by Bar-headed Goose, Emperor Goose, Ruddy Shelduck, Chinese Goose and Wood Duck; all of which were recorded in at least double-figures. Other species recorded were; Fulvous Whistling Duck, Lesser Whistling Duck, Black-necked Swan, Ross's Goose, Cackling Goose, Chiloe Wigeon, Speckled Teal, White-cheeked Pintail, Marbled Duck, Ringed Teal, Lake Duck, Great White Pelican and Blacksmith Lapwing.

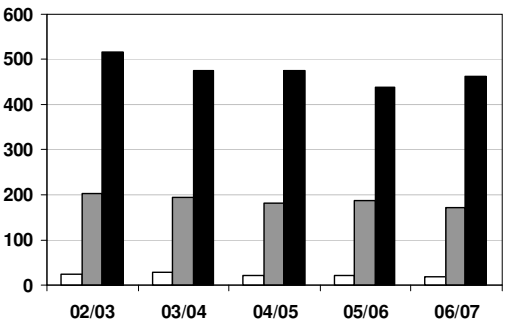

Figure 2. Number of species (white bars), number of sites at which birds were recorded (grey bars) and summed site maxima (black bars) for waterbirds in the BOURC's category E.

Table 3. Total numbers of waterbirds recorded by WeBS Core Counts in Great Britain in 2006/07. Census totals are indicated by '*'.

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*763*	*804*	*1399*	*1551*	*1656*
YV	Fulvous Whistling Duck	0	0	0	0	4
YU	Lesser Whistling Duck	0	0	1	0	0
MS	Mute Swan	11359	13258	17690	19869	20415
AS	Black Swan	23	38	46	44	51
AT	Black-necked Swan	0	0	0	2	0
BS	Bewick's Swan	0	0	0	1	*1334
WS	Whooper Swan	12	11	36	787	*7439
HN	Chinese Goose	5	7	11	17	10
BE	Bean Goose	0	0	0	239	282
PG	Pink-footed Goose	26	26	605	*158351	*203167
EW	European White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	12	109
NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose	0	0	4	8	779
LC	Lesser White-fronted Goose	0	0	1	1	1
JI	Icelandic Greylag Goose	2606	3235	5105	*11578	*73115
JH	NW Scotland Greylag Goose	925	631	1194	738	864
JE	Re-established Greylag Goose	12434	15640	27294	23593	27746
ZL	Greylag Goose (domestic)	168	142	242	363	357
HD	Bar-headed Goose	12	13	25	28	7
SJ	Snow Goose	15	15	11	11	16
RJ	Ross's Goose	0	0	2	0	0
EM	Emperor Goose	22	10	11	22	21
CG	Canada Goose	27933	29941	47237	50679	52486
ZE	Canada Goose x Bar-headed Goose	1	0	0	0	0
ZI	Canada Goose x domesticated Greylag	7	4	8	10	8
LQ	Cackling Goose	0	0	1	1	1
YN	Nearctic Barnacle Goose	5	8	2	184	*53962
YS	Svalbard Barnacle Goose	16	12	24	*24412	*24206
YE	Naturalised Barnacle Goose	335	239	734	621	588
ZH	Barnacle Goose x Canada Goose	2	1	0	0	0
ZG	Barnacle Goose x Greylag Goose	1	0	0	1	0
BG	Brent Goose	2	0	0	1	12
DB	Dark-bellied Brent Goose	38	107	1135	15126	70789
QN	Nearctic Light-bellied Brent Goose	0	0	0	24	178
QS	Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose	1	2	3339	3352	1849
BB	Black Brant	0	0	0	0	2
EB	Red-breasted Goose	0	0	0	3	4
UO	Unidentified goose	0	0	0	0	0
ZM	Hybrid goose	2	0	0	1	17
EG	Egyptian Goose	299	397	413	518	313
UD	Ruddy Shelduck	0	4	3	1	2
SU	Shelduck	27501	14086	35645	42644	48667
ZT	Hybrid shelduck	0	2	2	0	0
MY	Muscovy Duck	23	12	69	91	75
DC	Wood Duck	3	4	8	4	8
MN	Mandarin	75	109	372	531	267
WN	Wigeon	299	1583	75173	168735	264892
AW	American Wigeon	0	0	0	1	2
HL	Chiloe Wigeon	0	0	3	1	0
GA	Gadwall	2136	4741	10008	11248	14490
T.	Teal	1472	10451	58512	87161	106052
TA	Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	1	3
KQ	Speckled Teal	0	0	0	1	1
MA	Mallard	42285	63418	107890	121545	112753
ZF	Feral/hybrid mallard type	374	385	511	461	564
PT	Pintail	4	62	5938	13086	19098
PN	White-cheeked Pintail	0	0	1	0	0
GY	Garganey	11	47	37	15	0
SV	Shoveler	520	2220	7980	9194	9909
ZR	Hybrid duck	6	8	3	5	2
MB	Marbled Duck	0	0	1	1	0
IE	Ringed Teal	0	0	3	2	0
RQ	Red-crested Pochard	23	40	208	164	213
PO	Pochard	2703	7424	7712	12904	21722

Table 3. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*1697*	*1667*	*1815*	*1613*	*814*	*738*	*701*
YV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
YU	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
MS	20362	18247	18075	15815	9246	8873	9332
AS	47	42	46	52	28	36	34
AT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS	*3775	*2956	*3146	391	1	0	0
WS	*6803	*7055	*6491	*5521	69	18	15
HN	16	17	11	15	5	5	0
BE	312	277	281	1	0	0	0
PG	*189755	*56257	*66884	*52553	*15539	38	18
EW	322	1044	1341	382	1	1	0
NW	*13579	369	374	*12536	5	1	0
LC	2	1	1	1	2	2	1
JI	73740	16709	22419	24722	1134	760	2047
JH	1482	1071	1381	309	228	370	603
JE	26390	21606	16866	12316	6547	6831	12861
ZL	371	361	336	288	122	141	106
HD	9	6	7	11	7	7	8
SJ	13	13	3	5	4	3	1
RJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EM	21	10	0	20	16	10	20
CG	50559	51097	38998	27527	12730	11412	27652
ZE	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ZI	8	3	5	2	2	2	7
LQ	1	2	2	1	0	0	0
YN	801	298	1127	*66102	140	10	6
YS	*29635	*23536	*24661	*25647	*15699	*8501	7
YE	679	716	1077	570	345	195	286
ZH	4	3	2	2	1	1	0
ZG	0	0	0	0	1	0	6
BG	56	7	30	26	0	0	0
DB	76442	75816	88738	37813	12629	5267	52
QN	190	208	130	94	1	1	0
QS	1364	685	692	37	4	2	1
BB	2	4	5	2	1	0	0
EB	4	3	1	2	0	1	0
UO	0	5	0	1	0	0	0
ZM	4	10	11	5	3	2	5
EG	321	202	211	238	190	206	212
UD	10	0	1	2	1	0	3
SU	46837	46884	46483	33333	20448	15515	19247
ZT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MY	91	75	78	57	32	34	12
DC	7	7	6	5	3	3	2
MN	325	377	240	213	101	107	101
WN	324362	294254	268991	103998	3689	278	265
AW	4	5	5	2	0	0	0
HL	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
GA	15018	14159	12820	6162	3315	2041	2456
T.	127019	119349	104738	43367	7402	521	927
TA	3	21	6	5	0	0	0
KQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MA	119182	105208	75812	47122	25574	23673	30426
ZF	483	393	414	352	165	129	262
PT	23460	25348	21495	3288	176	16	15
PN	0	1	0	1	1	1	2
GY	1	1	1	9	27	38	9
SV	11687	11092	11285	8317	2047	559	487
ZR	5	19	17	13	13	10	14
MB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
IE	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
RQ	287	162	108	156	33	25	20
PO	25160	22380	22875	6521	1274	1000	1004

Table 3. continued

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*763*	*804*	*1399*	*1551*	*1656*
NG	Ring-necked Duck	1	1	1	1	6
FD	Ferruginous Duck	0	0	1	2	2
TU	Tufted Duck	19470	34413	45182	46116	51493
SP	Scaup	6	4	23	391	1676
AY	Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	1
ZD	Aythya hybrid	0	0	0	1	5
E.	Eider	11703	14681	15005	21530	10950
LN	Long-tailed Duck	1	0	3	79	537
CX	Common Scoter	1091	1108	5235	7437	5783
DX	Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0
FS	Surf Scoter	0	0	0	1	0
VS	Velvet Scoter	132	120	258	612	930
VH	Bufflehead	0	0	0	0	0
VG	Barrow's Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	1
GN	Goldeneye	151	241	334	981	6798
SY	Smew	0	0	0	0	6
RM	Red-breasted Merganser	427	869	881	1777	2299
GD	Goosander	795	1302	1167	943	1727
RY	Ruddy Duck	520	940	1830	1965	1647
OI	Lake Duck	0	0	0	0	0
UM	Unidentified duck	16	0	0	0	0
RH	Red-throated Diver	19	33	175	373	223
BV	Black-throated Diver	3	9	5	7	20
ND	Great Northern Diver	2	0	4	11	43
WV	White-billed Diver	0	0	0	0	0
UL	Unidentified diver	0	0	0	2	20
LG	Little Grebe	1285	2363	5090	5400	4554
GG	Great Crested Grebe	3390	4651	8020	8517	8096
RX	Red-necked Grebe	0	2	2	6	7
SZ	Slavonian Grebe	0	0	10	125	82
BN	Black-necked Grebe	21	10	28	14	23
YP	Great White Pelican	0	1	1	0	0
CA	Cormorant	5961	8511	16542	18116	16837
SA	Shag	123	349	929	1954	1265
XU	Unidentified Cormorant/Shag	9	0	25	1	0
BI	Bittern	0	2	3	5	17
EC	Cattle Egret	0	0	1	1	0
ET	Little Egret	1130	2342	3437	3350	2297
HW	Great White Egret	0	0	0	1	1
H.	Grey Heron	2223	2155	4026	4200	3384
OR	White Stork	0	0	0	0	0
IB	Glossy Ibis	0	0	0	0	0
NB	Spoonbill	3	2	4	1	20
WA	Water Rail	46	53	133	234	378
AK	Spotted Crake	0	2	1	0	0
JC	Little Crake	0	0	0	0	0
CE	Corncrake	0	0	0	0	0
MH	Moorhen	5002	6747	11273	12840	12993
CO	Coot	30395	48163	84783	89864	98679
KF	Kingfisher	124	190	473	469	381
	TOTAL WILDFOWL	**217733**	**297596**	**618847**	**1005720**	**1372033**

Table 3. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*1697*	*1667*	*1815*	*1613*	*814*	*738*	*701*
NG	2	3	8	4	2	0	0
FD	1	1	1	1	0	0	2
TU	53511	49209	48201	39452	18447	8134	7082
SP	2832	3038	2005	445	180	13	2
AY	1	3	7	3	2	0	0
ZD	1	3	2	0	0	0	0
E.	12371	21556	18548	9977	12629	10937	10008
LN	5942	5647	11433	331	187	27	2
CX	8863	5879	11466	4073	2907	3530	2274
DX	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
FS	2	2	5	2	3	2	0
VS	1035	390	345	204	250	8	3
VH	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
VG	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
GN	9327	10531	12171	7754	1291	57	43
SY	37	96	100	34	4	0	0
RM	2557	2809	3425	2357	1115	481	615
GD	2093	2502	2643	1320	286	168	301
RY	2078	1499	1021	596	483	352	277
OI	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
UM	0	25	0	33	0	6	0
RH	699	451	696	155	273	68	57
BV	19	72	156	49	60	27	7
ND	123	84	401	45	54	26	1
WV	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
UL	1	1	2	3	0	0	0
LG	3996	3375	3463	2316	1222	965	917
GG	7793	6480	7740	6086	3515	2867	2847
RX	10	9	10	6	0	0	0
SZ	142	121	268	31	12	3	1
BN	62	42	44	45	63	21	21
YP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	15265	12939	12162	9605	5843	4852	5114
SA	1456	1308	2188	429	372	407	275
XU	2	7	0	1	1	2	3
BI	17	19	23	7	5	9	3
EC	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
ET	1852	1739	1769	2050	1101	712	1010
HW	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
H.	3451	3723	3698	2989	2050	1584	1840
OR	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
IB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NB	14	13	11	8	6	10	14
WA	453	257	348	242	91	53	40
AK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
JC	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
CE	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
MH	12771	10614	11702	8389	4828	3530	3075
CO	98547	71060	59010	35224	16102	14146	16912
KF	350	223	231	183	82	91	105
	1438689	**1134105**	**1074031**	**670386**	**212471**	**139738**	**161386**

Table 3. continued

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*763*	*804*	*1399*	*1551*	*1656*
OC	Oystercatcher	42317	150438	216308	213729	213539
IT	Black-winged Stilt	0	0	1	0	0
AV	Avocet	1099	1644	2254	3601	4829
LP	Little Ringed Plover	163	70	8	1	0
RP	Ringed Plover	1337	11377	10742	8768	7883
KP	Kentish Plover	0	0	0	0	0
ID	American Golden Plover	0	0	0	1	0
IF	Pacific Golden Plover	1	0	0	0	0
GP	Golden Plover	3396	36704	78290	109951	175406
GV	Grey Plover	1317	17761	26696	23256	22735
KS	Blacksmith Lapwing	1	0	0	0	0
L.	Lapwing	26842	39512	101820	134568	199273
KN	Knot	26009	181690	233860	238333	203441
SS	Sanderling	1000	9214	10387	9148	8574
PZ	Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	0
LX	Little Stint	3	8	166	56	12
TK	Temminck's Stint	0	1	0	0	0
EP	Least Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	0
WU	White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	2
BP	Baird's Sandpiper	0	0	1	0	0
PP	Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	6	3	0
CV	Curlew Sandpiper	4	40	170	30	2
PS	Purple Sandpiper	107	71	177	69	510
DN	Dunlin	33233	63745	66703	83306	204873
BQ	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	0	0	2	1	0
RU	Ruff	132	292	398	510	373
JS	Jack Snipe	0	0	18	33	73
SN	Snipe	203	860	2769	4185	4953
LD	Long-billed Dowitcher	0	0	0	2	1
WK	Woodcock	0	0	2	1	30
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	9899	27985	29406	38985	20235
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit	4823	19685	34679	20505	27300
WM	Whimbrel	730	847	93	53	19
CU	Curlew	42785	62482	81975	83259	57754
CS	Common Sandpiper	755	762	207	91	52
PQ	Spotted Sandpiper	0	0	0	1	1
GE	Green Sandpiper	238	394	265	208	119
DR	Spotted Redshank	54	198	184	136	66
GK	Greenshank	641	1383	1348	798	328
LY	Lesser Yellowlegs	0	0	0	1	0
OD	Wood Sandpiper	4	37	8	2	0
RK	Redshank	18090	44356	66856	74883	61041
TT	Turnstone	1424	5736	9430	11950	11374
WF	Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	1	0	0
NK	Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0
PL	Grey Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0
U.	Unidentified wader	0	4	1	0	0
JW	Unidentified small wader	0	0	25	0	0
	TOTAL WADERS	**216607**	**669384**	**975258**	**1060425**	**1224798**

Table 3. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*1697*	*1667*	*1815*	*1613*	*814*	*738*	*701*
OC	203360	208156	183691	99493	55481	30117	26091
IT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AV	5225	4789	6615	2909	2427	1687	1419
LP	0	0	0	19	149	220	155
RP	6212	6697	6352	2403	3035	7664	1418
KP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
ID	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GP	177851	172831	169587	17435	5501	205	53
GV	24082	33808	31841	22897	18377	12815	240
KS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L.	266083	277549	327897	17127	6667	4374	8379
KN	331734	247062	177866	103031	59355	11862	7528
SS	7283	9619	8580	8394	4589	9693	460
PZ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LX	9	5	11	6	10	2	0
TK	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
EP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PP	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
CV	2	1	3	1	3	17	4
PS	784	1027	1124	701	332	79	0
DN	293882	282356	276187	64228	50382	80707	5866
BQ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RU	195	254	262	199	244	23	5
JS	84	122	113	114	4	1	0
SN	5438	4680	4684	2797	764	147	109
LD	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
WK	32	26	24	8	1	1	0
BW	26338	22495	22601	13737	9123	876	820
BA	26791	32819	33187	10865	4889	1262	582
WM	10	12	10	9	496	1249	151
CU	60507	71131	81129	41710	21064	3902	6734
CS	47	40	43	33	117	294	206
PQ	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
GE	110	92	108	85	58	2	55
DR	68	53	54	46	44	0	8
GK	274	291	251	230	212	33	24
LY	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
OD	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
RK	63979	60463	60590	43682	29049	2959	2996
TT	9709	11398	12990	9165	6549	2138	366
WF	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NK	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PL	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
U.	0	0	0	0	40	0	0
JW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	1510092	**1447778**	**1405802**	**461327**	**278966**	**172335**	**63670**

Table 3. continued

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*646*	*672*	*1118*	*1234*	*1347*
KI	Kittiwake	4373	1504	1090	844	342
BH	Black-headed Gull	77481	99417	126669	155187	154470
LU	Little Gull	246	57	220	44	2
MU	Mediterranean Gull	263	210	246	134	114
CM	Common Gull	5545	14340	17133	28891	27104
IN	Ring-billed Gull	1	2	0	1	3
LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull	30572	39035	20423	18513	15473
HG	Herring Gull	25816	33143	48239	50398	43025
YG	Yellow-legged Gull	50	82	28	100	34
YC	Caspian Gull	0	1	0	3	2
IG	Iceland Gull	0	0	0	0	1
GZ	Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	1
GB	Great Black-backed Gull	1632	2830	7488	7523	7580
UU	Unidentified gull	2670	295	1232	466	530
VU	Unidentified large gull	0	0	0	24	0
	TOTAL GULLS	**148649**	**190916**	**222768**	**262128**	**248681**

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*632*	*662*	*1081*	*1164*	*1263*
AF	Little Tern	811	384	119	2	0
WD	Whiskered Tern	0	0	0	0	0
BJ	Black Tern	0	14	69	8	2
TE	Sandwich Tern	12316	5961	2782	374	4
CN	Common Tern	5576	5610	905	254	30
RS	Roseate Tern	0	0	2	1	0
AE	Arctic Tern	1126	431	132	17	0
UI	Common/Arctic Tern	52	0	0	0	0
UT	Unidentified tern	66	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL TERNS	**19947**	**12400**	**4009**	**656**	**36**

Table 3. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*1352*	*1333*	*1449*	*1285*	*667*	*634*	*595*
KI	630	201	45	564	660	1745	1271
BH	178524	181090	193224	109838	42669	46719	45349
LU	206	30	5	14	163	21	21
MU	92	172	295	151	203	74	54
CM	39490	46254	60183	35807	5011	2393	2948
IN	1	1	3	2	1	0	0
LB	11293	7665	10591	11660	22978	35757	29004
HG	40783	71238	48982	44186	28105	27672	24922
YG	32	18	21	4	0	4	16
YC	5	1	1	1	0	0	0
IG	4	10	28	5	1	1	0
GZ	2	2	7	3	0	0	1
GB	7243	8155	5438	3147	1642	1721	1841
UU	1550	219	785	337	365	255	0
VU	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
	279855	**315057**	**319608**	**205719**	**101798**	**116362**	**105427**

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*1253*	*1239*	*1342*	*1215*	*648*	*631*	*598*
AF	0	0	0	0	42	657	946
WD	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
BJ	0	0	0	0	1	3	1
TE	3	2	2	24	2810	4153	3909
CN	1	0	8	4	273	2429	4051
RS	0	0	0	0	0	12	1
AE	0	0	0	0	2	593	528
UI	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
UT	0	2	0	0	0	20	14
	4	**4**	**10**	**28**	**3128**	**7869**	**9463**

Table 4. Total numbers of waterbirds recorded by WeBS Core Counts in Northern Ireland in 2006/07. Census totals are indicated by '*'.

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*2*	*3*	*15*	*16*	*15*
MS	Mute Swan	9	6	956	1066	1014
AS	Black Swan	0	0	0	0	0
BS	Bewick's Swan	0	0	0	0	0
WS	Whooper Swan	0	0	10	1112	1865
HN	Chinese Goose	0	0	0	0	0
PG	Pink-footed Goose	0	0	0	54	0
NW	Greenland White-fronted Goose	0	0	0	1	0
JE	Re-established Greylag Goose	0	0	289	140	385
HD	Bar-headed Goose	0	0	1	0	1
CG	Greater Canada Goose	0	0	162	247	0
YE	Naturalised Barnacle Goose	0	0	0	279	188
QN	Nearctic Light-bellied Brent Goose	0	0	3495	26673	9622
BB	Black Brant	0	0	0	0	2
SU	Shelduck	44	56	637	1589	3997
WN	Wigeon	0	0	3109	9766	3389
GA	Gadwall	0	0	174	62	115
T.	Teal	0	0	1537	3044	2887
TA	Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	2
MA	Mallard	50	171	7177	4804	3971
PT	Pintail	0	0	98	236	428
GY	Garganey	0	0	6	0	0
SV	Shoveler	0	0	54	80	85
PO	Pochard	0	0	114	232	6031
TU	Tufted Duck	0	0	931	1870	5335
SP	Scaup	0	0	16	598	4321
E.	Eider	0	0	2063	1039	1187
LN	Long-tailed Duck	0	0	0	1	11
CX	Common Scoter	0	0	10	0	0
GN	Goldeneye	0	0	29	207	2060
SY	Smew	0	0	0	0	0
RM	Red-breasted Merganser	0	171	347	523	383
GD	Goosander	0	0	0	0	1
RY	Ruddy Duck	0	0	22	21	3
RH	Red-throated Diver	0	0	5	22	29
ND	Great Northern Diver	0	0	0	5	5
LG	Little Grebe	0	0	495	473	333
GG	Great Crested Grebe	2	15	1502	1911	1583
SZ	Slavonian Grebe	0	0	0	2	1
CA	Cormorant	25	153	2683	2830	1359
SA	Shag	0	0	248	636	335
XU	Unidentified Cormorant/Shag	0	0	0	250	0
ET	Little Egret	0	1	20	5	14
H.	Grey Heron	20	65	517	423	255
WA	Water Rail	0	0	0	0	0
MH	Moorhen	0	2	92	162	133
CO	Coot	1	0	2607	1827	1196
KF	Kingfisher	0	0	7	9	1
	TOTAL WILDFOWL	**151**	**640**	**26081**	**61087**	**50662**

Table 4. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*18*	*26*	*16*	*24*	*3*	*2*	*2*
MS	854	1600	771	1163	11	21	26
AS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
BS	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
WS	1563	2594	2024	2944	0	0	0
HN	0	2	0	2	0	0	0
PG	10	6	5	17	0	0	0
NW	89	83	0	89	0	0	0
JE	616	1172	1141	1992	0	0	0
HD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CG	700	1036	0	642	0	0	0
YE	275	5	2	178	0	0	0
QN	4996	3389	3632	5017	653	0	0
BB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SU	3450	4182	3298	2260	136	74	83
WN	2061	4836	3502	3272	1	0	0
GA	2	111	91	97	0	0	0
T.	3110	3330	1778	2262	10	0	0
TA	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
MA	2956	4903	1907	1794	39	27	54
PT	515	470	307	37	0	0	0
GY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SV	55	112	44	29	0	0	0
PO	519	9320	5970	1000	0	0	0
TU	2222	8851	4061	6142	0	0	0
SP	897	4746	3959	3375	0	0	0
E.	1750	2612	2148	644	0	0	0
LN	7	17	16	6	0	0	0
CX	12	6	0	3	0	0	0
GN	471	3390	2831	3009	0	0	0
SY	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RM	341	348	420	422	11	2	0
GD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RY	0	42	21	5	0	0	0
RH	30	28	36	77	0	0	0
ND	12	11	6	22	0	0	0
LG	267	485	181	262	0	0	0
GG	1787	1359	1567	957	0	0	0
SZ	0	0	1	4	0	0	0
CA	676	1526	1147	850	14	29	31
SA	263	402	213	344	3	0	0
XU	12	200	0	0	0	0	0
ET	8	7	8	4	1	1	0
H.	186	302	144	158	12	10	41
WA	4	1	1	1	0	0	0
MH	172	261	107	126	1	0	0
CO	2132	3523	1202	1864	0	0	0
KF	2	3	0	3	0	0	0
	29624	**63469**	**40401**	**38269**	**892**	**164**	**235**

Table 4. continued

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*2*	*3*	*15*	*16*	*15*
OC	Oystercatcher	752	2268	11346	16920	13178
RP	Ringed Plover	0	68	354	770	509
GP	Golden Plover	0	0	437	13150	15203
GV	Grey Plover	0	0	23	7	174
L.	Lapwing	98	114	2252	5072	11281
KN	Knot	0	0	76	3050	984
SS	Sanderling	0	4	7	256	4
LX	Little Stint	0	0	3	0	1
WU	White-rumped Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	1
CV	Curlew Sandpiper	0	0	6	0	0
PS	Purple Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	4
DN	Dunlin	2	23	449	2280	4501
RU	Ruff	0	0	35	22	2
JS	Jack Snipe	0	0	0	0	0
SN	Snipe	0	0	61	46	59
BW	Black-tailed Godwit	4	23	535	570	593
BA	Bar-tailed Godwit	2	18	151	818	1549
WM	Whimbrel	1	3	3	1	0
CU	Curlew	307	1295	3399	5251	5352
CS	Common Sandpiper	2	6	1	2	0
GE	Green Sandpiper	0	1	1	0	0
DR	Spotted Redshank	0	0	0	0	0
GK	Greenshank	14	30	160	193	131
RK	Redshank	385	1543	7408	7621	6463
TT	Turnstone	0	240	935	2121	998
	TOTAL WADERS	**1567**	**5636**	**27642**	**58150**	**60987**

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*2*	*3*	*12*	*13*	*12*
KI	Kittiwake	0	0	80	164	3
BH	Black-headed Gull	734	567	8406	11968	11234
LU	Little Gull	0	0	1	0	0
MU	Mediterranean Gull	0	0	1	2	0
CM	Common Gull	45	111	3801	4094	3908
LB	Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	8	1891	1300	164
HG	Herring Gull	126	349	2919	5329	4707
IG	Iceland Gull	0	0	0	0	0
GZ	Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	0	1
GB	Great Black-backed Gull	89	90	697	824	943
	TOTAL GULLS	**996**	**1125**	**17796**	**23681**	**20960**

	Species	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
Number of sites visited		*2*	*3*	*10*	*10*	*9*
BJ	Black Tern	0	0	2	0	0
TE	Sandwich Tern	71	352	337	144	0
CN	Common Tern	11	77	3	0	0
AE	Arctic Tern	0	10	0	0	0
	TOTAL TERNS	**82**	**439**	**342**	**144**	**0**

Table 4. continued

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*18*	*26*	*16*	*24*	*3*	*2*	*2*
OC	14433	12921	10721	5550	995	839	580
RP	148	387	96	486	44	7	0
GP	9498	15202	13291	8826	2155	0	0
GV	74	137	184	26	0	0	0
L.	7905	12295	6199	318	0	1	143
KN	1065	5281	3437	358	0	3	0
SS	27	24	12	205	251	0	0
LX	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
WU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PS	3	68	9	122	0	0	0
DN	6180	9649	8256	569	18	378	2
RU	1	1	5	0	0	0	0
JS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
SN	34	67	45	92	0	0	0
BW	526	602	807	534	32	0	4
BA	790	1933	2886	324	0	0	0
WM	0	1	0	4	8	6	8
CU	5666	4830	5028	3066	364	47	152
CS	0	0	0	0	0	2	12
GE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DR	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
GK	107	118	90	98	2	11	15
RK	5046	5828	5234	6608	594	91	522
TT	958	2463	959	1886	47	0	1
	52463	**71809**	**57259**	**29074**	**4510**	**1385**	**1439**

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*14*	*20*	*13*	*18*	*3*	*2*	*2*
KI	0	303	2	7	0	0	0
BH	9571	12733	11067	10927	187	75	397
LU	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
MU	0	0	0	4	0	0	0
CM	1277	3483	3845	1787	35	4	108
LB	14	85	87	318	2	4	13
HG	6701	6413	6030	1505	32	40	137
IG	1	6	1	1	0	0	0
GZ	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
GB	1140	1120	1005	218	124	23	53
	18704	**24144**	**22037**	**14768**	**380**	**146**	**709**

	Dec	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**Jun**
sites	*10*	*11*	*10*	*9*	*3*	*2*	*2*
BJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TE	0	3	0	0	116	61	251
CN	0	0	0	119	0	0	29
AE	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
	0	**3**	**0**	**119**	**116**	**61**	**284**

Table 5. Total numbers of waterbirds recorded by I-WeBS in the Republic of Ireland in 2006/07.

Species	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**	**Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**
Number of sites visited	*100*	*121*	*140*	*128*	*220*	*143*	*122*
Red-throated Diver	12	13	122	81	75	89	46
Black-throated Diver	0	1	14	2	6	0	21
Great Northern Diver	4	20	249	178	323	164	240
Little Grebe	420	414	478	325	812	367	318
Great Crested Grebe	455	355	326	244	1029	402	312
Slavonian Grebe	0	2	0	3	8	1	4
Cormorant	1761	2315	1771	1232	2055	1399	852
Shag	32	118	222	99	359	723	238
Grey Heron	522	399	519	351	496	251	235
Little Egret	237	344	209	113	187	191	115
Spoonbill	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Mute Swan	1478	1638	2343	1882	3467	1856	1457
Black Swan	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Bewick's Swan	0	0	9	2	2	14	3
Whooper Swan	4	3382	1194	1596	4184	2102	1425
Pink-footed Goose	0	16	3	8	15	6	6
White-fronted Goose	0	0	15	0	0	0	0
Greenland White-fronted Goose	0	963	735	641	1595	423	661
Greylag Goose	954	923	1022	795	3215	1447	811
Canada Goose	171	188	17	12	232	2	1
Barnacle Goose	1	9	0	902	2317	451	1013
Brent Goose	0	0	458	431	260	1991	241
Dark-Bellied Brent Goose	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
Black Brant	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Light-bellied Brent Goose	6	1298	5545	11560	18064	7618	6124
Feral/hybrid Goose	72	8	87	75	108	90	77
Shelduck	148	834	2203	2080	4833	4805	2259
Wigeon	1708	15168	20240	20991	43153	18701	13393
American Wigeon	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Gadwall	27	89	167	208	198	218	191
Teal	3001	5286	8185	11280	20177	10658	6747
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
Mallard	6883	5177	6842	5647	8866	4219	2173
Black Duck	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pintail	15	119	98	381	918	703	118
White-cheeked Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	129
Garganey	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shoveler	115	590	1586	1263	2574	1704	858
Pochard	29	289	6938	1060	2642	2270	699
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Tufted Duck	925	2527	9602	3585	11040	3272	3200
Scaup	7	8	444	337	527	248	17
Eider	3	0	1	1	2	100	6
Long-tailed Duck	0	0	8	7	1	1	35
Common Scoter	297	51	3727	2763	3124	1732	449
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	1	3	3	0
Goldeneye	0	48	334	448	1571	566	320
Red-breasted Merganser	139	281	369	413	466	387	296
Goosander	0	0	0	2	7	7	0
Ruddy Duck	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Feral/hybrid Mallard type	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Coot	2592	5917	11592	4554	14219	2040	1159
Moorhen	297	277	329	312	457	328	615
Water Rail	13	6	19	13	15	15	6
Kingfisher	14	8	7	9	7	6	1
TOTAL WILDFOWL	**22343**	**49082**	**88029**	**75894**	**153619**	**71576**	**46878**

Table 5. continued

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Oystercatcher	19636	15774	27775	21634	25470	19152	9915
Ringed Plover	1762	2104	2867	2028	3557	2153	652
American Golden Plover	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Golden Plover	328	24982	59006	37520	70202	68053	15325
Grey Plover	317	87	314	318	4473	1466	1175
Lapwing	1903	9297	30056	33419	64363	32111	367
Knot	367	1287	4578	4720	8015	8870	9060
Sanderling	1200	1176	1454	1351	2392	852	609
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Little Stint	5	1	0	1	0	0	0
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Baird's Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curlew Sandpiper	32	6	0	0	0	0	0
Purple Sandpiper	0	0	18	21	143	18	17
Dunlin	2282	4434	11977	12982	37747	29277	9995
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruff	7	14	2	3	1	2	4
Jack Snipe	2	12	4	0	12	1	0
Snipe	101	89	233	200	324	396	136
Woodcock	0	1	1	17	2	0	0
Black-tailed Godwit	4932	6759	6648	4522	7971	5846	4873
Bar-tailed Godwit	2644	3529	2861	3214	8121	5144	2484
Whimbrel	75	13	23	0	0	2	14
Curlew	8192	8759	8715	9297	19556	13546	3726
Spotted Redshank	3	4	0	1	3	0	0
Redshank	9205	9844	6973	6968	11292	7682	7525
Greenshank	321	343	285	257	404	244	169
Lesser Yellowlegs	0	1	0	0	0	1	1
Green Sandpiper	8	0	1	1	4	1	3
Common Sandpiper	5	2	0	1	3	2	5
Turnstone	1448	1018	1603	1309	2912	1119	1395
TOTAL WADERS	**54779**	**89537**	**165395**	**139784**	**266968**	**195938**	**67450**

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Unidentified gull	0	0	0	0	0	325	0
Mediterranean Gull	14	27	27	29	19	14	23
Little Gull	0	0	1	3	16	0	1
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black-headed Gull	18176	9906	13903	9100	19451	11062	11524
Ring-billed Gull	5	0	2	2	11	2	7
Common Gull	3226	4173	3552	3019	6604	4039	3566
Lesser Black-backed Gull	930	784	583	209	1837	967	293
Herring Gull	2637	1144	2002	1139	2590	1417	1920
Yellow-legged Gull	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Iceland Gull	0	0	1	1	15	5	18
Glaucous Gull	0	0	0	1	7	1	1
Hybrid Glaucous/ Herring Gull	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Great Black-backed Gull	1667	881	1438	681	1070	882	848
TOTAL GULLS	**26655**	**16915**	**21509**	**14185**	**31622**	**18714**	**18203**

Species	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Unidentified Tern	244	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwich Tern	1164	25	0	0	0	0	2
Common Tern	223	3	0	0	0	0	3
Arctic Tern	18	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forster's Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Little Tern	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Terns	**1650**	**28**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**6**

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Key to symbols commonly used in the species accounts.

In headers and footnotes:

? population size not accurately known

\+ population too small for meaningful threshold

* where 1% of the national population is fewer than 50 birds, 50 is normally used as a minimum threshold for national importance

** a site regularly holding more than 20,000 waterbirds (excluding non-native species) qualifies as internationally important by virtue of absolute numbers

† denotes that a qualifying level different to the national threshold has been used for the purposes of presenting sites in this report

In tables of important sites:

\- no data available

( ) incomplete count

† same meaning as used for thresholds

▲ site was of a higher importance status in the previous five-year period

▼ site was of a lower importance status in the previous five-year period

[1,2] count obtained using different survey methodology from WeBS Core Counts (see table below)

Sources of additional information used in compiling tables of important sites are listed below. Non-WeBS counts are identified in the tables by the relevant number below given in superscript following the count.

1 RSPB/Talisman Energy studies, *e.g.* Stenning (1998)
2 WWT studies, *e.g.* Rees *et al.* (2000)
3 Bean Goose Working Group
4 RSPB *pers comm.*
5 Lancashire Goose Report, *e.g.* Forshaw (1998)
6 SNH `adopted` counts
7 WWT data
8 Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, *e.g.* Fox and Francis (2004)
9 SOTEAG reports, *e.g.* Heubeck & Mellor (2005)
10 WeBS Low Tide Counts
11 Roost counts
12 Supplementary daytime counts
13 WWT/JNCC National Grey Goose Census
14 Firth of Clyde Eider counts, *e.g.* Waltho, C.M. (2004)
15 R. Godfrey (*in litt.*)
16 SNH Greenland Goose Census
17 R. MacDonald (*in litt.*)
18 Little Egret Roost counts
19 C Hartley (*in litt.*)
20 WWT unpublished data
21 Dorset Bird Report
22 Judith Smith, Gr. Manchester County recorder
23 BTO/ Lucy Smith
24 Steve Percival`s counts of Lindisfarne – Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Geese
25 JNCC report of aerial surveys for seaducks, divers and grebes
26 WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Thames strategic area
27 WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Greater Wash strategic area
28 All Wales Common Scoter Survey. WWT reports to CCW
29 All-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose Census
30 Cormorant Roost Survey 2003
31 Worden et al 2004
32 RSPB data
33 SNH data
34 WWT UK-breeding Greylag Goose Survey
35 Frank Mawby *in litt.*
36 Shetland co-ordinated swan count
37 Supplementary counts
38 Winter Gull Roost Survey
39 BTO/CCW Carmarthen Bay surveys
40 KOS Great Crested Grebe records
41 B McMillan (*in litt.*)
42 C Langton (*in litt.*)
43 B Yates (*in litt.*)
44 Tiree non-estuarine counts, per J Bowler
45 A Stevenson (*in litt.*)
46 D Tate (*in litt.*)
47 Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee
48 Uists SPA wader survey (Ecology UK Ltd 2005)
49 P Wilson / Lancs Bird Report
50 W Aspin (*in litt.*)
51 Winter Swan Census
52 JNCC shore-based count
53 RSPB Bean Goose counts
54 SNH Argyll goose counts
55 WWT Dark-bellied Brent supplementary counts

Fulvous Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna bicolor

Escape
Native Range: C & S America, Africa, S Asia

GB max: 4 **Nov**
NI max: 0

There were four Fulvous Whistling Ducks recorded at Chichester Gravel Pits in November. This is the first time this species has been recorded by WeBS at this site, although two were at nearby Chichester Harbour in 2003/04.

Lesser Whistling Duck

Dendrocygna javanica

Escape
Native Range: S & E Asia

GB max: 1 **Sep**
NI max: 0

A single Lesser Whistling Duck was recorded at Poole Harbour in September and again in January. The only previous WeBS record was of one at the Severn Estuary in 1994/95.

Mute Swan

Cygnus olor

International threshold (British population): 320
International threshold (Irish population): 100
Great Britain threshold: 375
All-Ireland threshold: 120

GB max: 20,415 **Nov**
NI max: 1,600 **Jan**

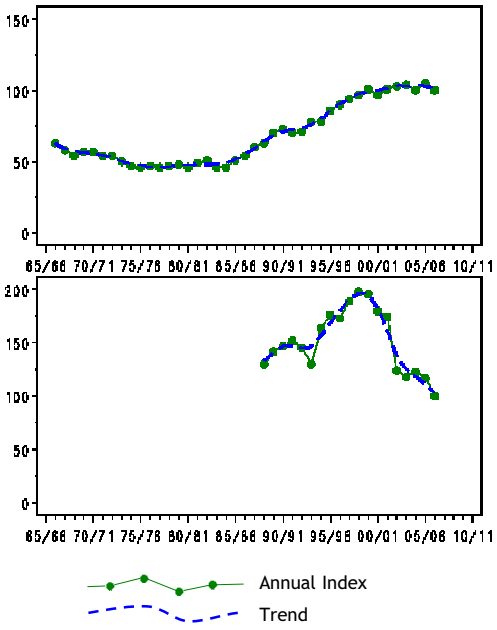

Figure 3.a, Annual indices & trend for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

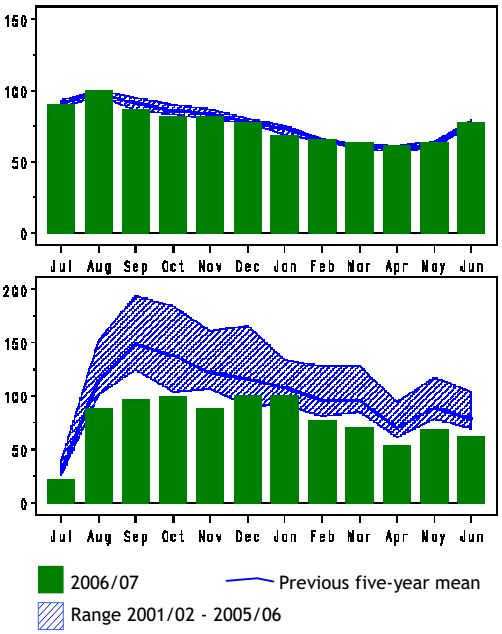

Figure 3.b, Monthly indices for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

National totals of Mute Swan for both Britain and Northern Ireland were only slightly lower than in the previous year. The long-term trend in Britain has been one of steadily increasing numbers since about 1985/86. However, in the last five or so years numbers have been more stable and in 2006/07 showed a slight decline, albeit well within the expected range of fluctuation. Numbers were typical throughout the year and only below average in September, October and January and even then only slightly. As would be expected for this long-lived and largely sedentary population, numbers at key sites varied little. Worthy of note is the count at the Inner Firth of Clyde, which was the highest ever recorded at this site. Also, numbers at Loch of Harray remained low for

the second year running after halving in 2005/06.

Figures from sites in Northern Ireland indicate that Mute Swan numbers have declined fairly dramatically since 1999/2000 and continued to do so in 2006/07, the index reaching a new low. Numbers here were below average throughout the year. During 2006/07, peak numbers at several of the key sites in Northern Ireland were similar to average, although at Loughs Neagh and Beg the peak count was one of the lowest ever recorded.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Fleet and Wey	1,368	1,092	1,118	1,147	1,013	Aug	1,148
Somerset Levels	(1,098)	(883)	1,076	1,024	1,164	Jan	1,091
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,510	920	949	1,024	770	Sep	1,035
Ouse Washes	782 [12]	606	806 [12]	427 [12]	508 [12]	Nov	626
Rutland Water	594	542	593	510	588	Jul	565
Tweed Estuary	414	582	614	460	583	Aug	531
Hornsea Mere	486	527 [12]	520 [12]	462	375	Jul	474
Loch of Harray	672	522	467	251	263	Dec	435
Loch Leven	550	526	202	319	542	Aug	428
Loch Bee (South Uist)	297	407	630	267	401	Dec	400
Severn Estuary	284	(318)	390	390	421	Feb	371
Abberton Reservoir	387	379	318	373	(399)	Aug	371
Tring Reservoirs	447	322	404	346	294	Jan	363
Upper Lough Erne	323	272	449	300	457	Jan	360
Lower Lough Erne	199	286	300	309	266	Mar	272
Strangford Lough	180	193	94	133	(59)	Mar	150
Upper Quoile River	71	108	108	134	121	Jan	108
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Inner Firth of Clyde	(122)	73	74	(82)	759	Dec	302

Black Swan

Cygnus atratus

Escape†
Native Range: Australia

GB max: **52 Mar**
NI max: **1 Sep**

Black Swans were recorded at 73 sites across Britain and at two, Loughs Neagh and Beg and Strangford Lough, in Northern Ireland. The British monthly maximum of 52 was slightly higher than for the previous year and the highest since 2000/01, albeit by just four birds. Just over half of all reports were of single birds, although 16 sites held peaks of three or more. Whilst eight birds were present at Abberton Reservoir in August, Arnot Park Lake remains a regular site for this species with up to seven birds present here throughout the year.

Sites with three or more birds in 2006/07†

Abberton Reservoir	8 Aug	Blatherwyke Lake	3 Oct
Arnot Park Lake	7 Nov	Copgrove Lake	3 Mar
Ramsbury Lake	6 Mar	Fairburn Ings	3 Nov
Stour Estuary	5 Feb	Kingsmill Reservoir	3 Jul
Fleet and Wey	4 Aug	Little Paxton Gravel Pits	3 Sep
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	4 Dec	Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	3 Jun
River Kennet: R'bury-Chilton Foliat	4 May	Roath Park Lake	3 Jun
Avon Valley: S'bury-Fordingbridge	3 Dec	Walthamstow Reservoirs	3 Sep

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of three has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Black-necked Swan

Cygnus melanocoryphus

Escape
Native Range: South America

GB max: **2 Oct**
NI max: **0**

Two Black-necked Swans were present at Ramsbury Lake in Wiltshire during October. The only previous record of this species during WeBS was of four in 2004/05, again at Ramsbury Lake.

Bewick's Swan

Cygnus columbianus

GB max:	3,775	Dec
NI max:	1	Jan
% Young	10.3	
Brood size	1.9	

International threshold (bewickii):	200
Great Britain threshold:	81
All-Ireland threshold:	20*

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

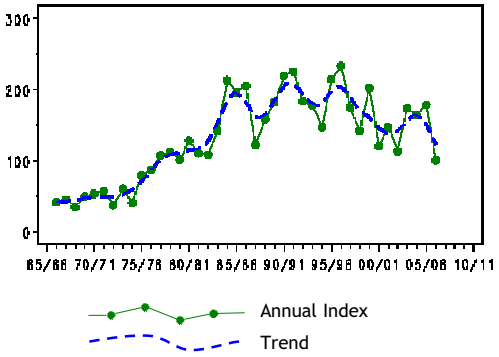

Figure 4.a, Annual indices & trend for Bewick's Swan for GB.

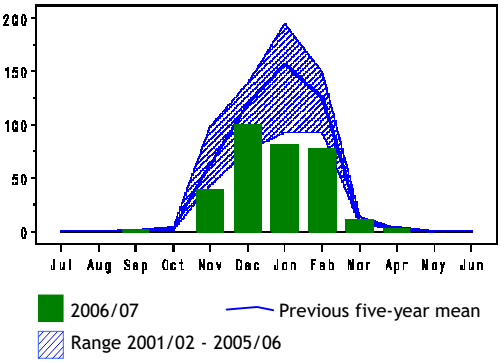

Figure 4.b, Monthly indices for Bewick's Swan for GB.

The counted British maximum was half that of the previous year and the lowest for over 30 years. This slump was reflected in the national index, which fell by around 45% and brought about a drop in the underlying trend. Much of the decline nationally was due to low numbers of Bewick's Swans in the East Anglian fens, with lower numbers recorded at the Ouse and the Nene Washes; both important night-time roost sites. Birds that roost here disperse during the day onto the surrounding farmland and as water levels at the Ouse Washes were particularly high during 2006/07 it might have been that fewer birds were gathering here. What seems more likely, however, is that birds are remaining further east and for longer, perhaps as a response to milder winters. There are also signs of a genuine decline at the population level (R. Hearn *pers. comm.*). Evidence for this can also be seen in The Netherlands, where fewer birds have been counted during the past two years and in 2006/07 many birds had started returning eastwards already by the end of December (K. Koffijberg *pers. comm.*). Numbers at Martin Mere and the Ribble Estuary were the lowest recorded.

Breeding success was assessed at sites throughout Britain including Slimbridge, the Ribble Estuary, Martin Mere and at several sites in eastern England. On average, young birds made up 10.3% of flocks and successful pairs raised an average of 1.9 young. The proportion of young recorded in Britain was similar to that in the Netherlands and was slightly below the average of the past five years.

Only one bird was recorded in Northern Ireland, at Loughs Neagh and Beg in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	5,177 [11]	6,330 [11]	7,491 [11]	5,449 [11]	3,407 [11]	Dec	5,571
Nene Washes	1,068 [11]	790 [11]	262 [11]	1,649 [11]	703 [11]	Jan	894
St Benet`s Levels	287	280					284
Hickling Broad			282 [51]				282
Severn Estuary	345 [7]	230	223 [7]	225	196	Feb	244
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	240	220	237	231	147 [11]	Feb	215
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Old Romney		184 [12]					184
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	315	221	175	(132)	24	Nov	184
Walland Marsh	220	148	140	135	130	Jan	155
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(70)	(92)	(101)	63	55	Feb	76

Whooper Swan

Cygnus cygnus

International threshold:	210
Great Britain threshold:	57
All-Ireland threshold:	130

GB max:	7,439	Nov
NI max:	2,944	Mar
% Young	15.4	
Brood size	2.4	

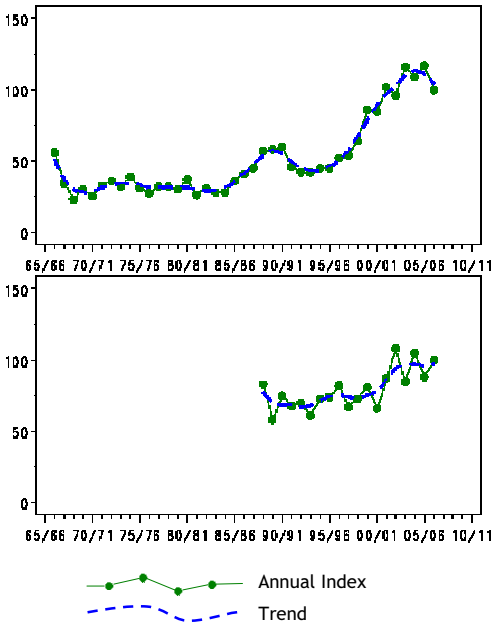

Figure 5.a, Annual indices & trend for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

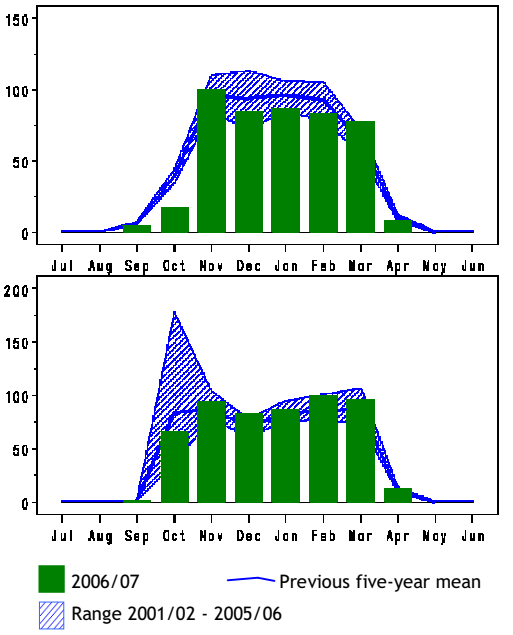

Figure 5.b, Monthly indices for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted maximum of Whooper Swan in Britain was around 8% lower than that of the previous year, while in Northern Ireland peak numbers rose by almost 7%. A slight drop was also noted in the British index; this however, follows a notable rise over the past few years. The Northern Ireland index rose slightly although the underlying trend suggests numbers have remained fairly stable here over the past few years.

Peak numbers at the Ouse Washes, the country's key site for this species, were similar to those of recent years. Mean peak numbers at Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary were slightly below those of the previous five-years. In Northern Ireland, Loughs Neagh and Beg held their highest numbers ever.

Breeding success was assessed at sites throughout Britain and Ireland and on average flocks consisted of 15.4% young, while the average brood size of successful pairs was 2.4. Both of these values were slightly below average, which may be explained by a high number of non-breeding sub-adults following a good breeding season two years earlier, as well as poor breeding success in Icelandic birds as a consequence of a cold spring.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	2,745 [11]	3,624 [11]	4,397 [11]	3,547 [11]	3,756 [11]	Jan	3,614
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	1,770 [7]	1,597	2,081 [51]	1,666	1,451	Dec	1,713
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,514	(867)	1,543	1,268	1,731	Mar	1,514
Lough Foyle	3,284	680	950 [51]	1,030	1,042	Oct	1,397
Upper Lough Erne	658	855	1,123	822	956	Jan	883
Loch of Strathbeg	(67)	794	355	680	285	Dec	529

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Solway Estuary	340 [7]	(250)	508 [51]	(150)	(194)	Feb	424	
Dalreoch					264	Dec	264	▲
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	141	322	275	518	61	Oct	263	
Loans of Tullich			253 [51]				253	
Wigtown Bay	(135)	255	205	(165)	(164)	Jan	230	▲
Bridge of Crathies			(220) [51]				(220)	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Norham West Mains			184 [51]	194 [12]	196	Jan	191	
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	168	118	194	259 [12]	152 [12]	Oct	178	
River Nith: Keltonbank-Nunholm	(108)	165	(104)		(90)	Jan	165	
Loch Heilen		24	60	360	(197)	Mar	160	
Nene Washes	143 [11]	111 [11]	104 [11]	215 [11]	216 [11]	Jan	158	
Lawers Pond				204 [12]	101	Nov	153	
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	(101)	91	110	220	188	Dec	152	
Black Cart Wtr: Gryfe-White Cart	176 [2]	151 [2]	112	112	(78)	Nov	138	
Lindisfarne	(90)	139	71	119 [10]	(170)	Mar	125	
Leven Cut			125 [51]				125	
River Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	116	109	75	132	162	Jan	119	
Strathearn South Kinkell			111 [51]				111	
Tarbat Ness	0	44	306	202	0		110	
East Fenton Farm Reservoir			89	156	65	Nov	103	
Loch Insh and Spey Marshes	91	110	124	82	96	Mar	101	
Loch of Lintrathen	166	93	69		54	Dec	96	
Caistron Quarry	67	164	96	66	65	Nov	92	
Dornoch Firth	23	94	18	84	241	Dec	92	▲
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	60	165	27	166	36	Feb	91	
Vasa Loch Shapinsay	68	96	119	12	147	Nov	88	
Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields	4	126	5	138 [12]	156	Mar	86	▲
Loch of Wester			128	56	70	Nov	85	
St Benet`s Levels	58	108					83	
Loch of Spiggie	86	89	69	77	94	Nov	83	
Lower Derwent Ings	91	52	102	74			80	
River Eden: Grinsdale-Sandsfield				98	59	Dec	79	
Montrose Basin	10	24	28	181	147	Jan	78	▲
River Earn - Lawhill Oxbows	0	0	113	193	49	Jan	71	
Kinnordy Loch	82	35	96	58	82	Feb	71	
Tyninghame Estuary	3	135	31	53	128	Mar	70	▲
Merryton Haughs				62	72	Dec	67	
Loch Leven	13	19	66	17	220	Feb	67	▲
Farmland near Monymusk			65 [51]				65	
Loch Moraig	20	121	87	37	55	Nov	64	▲
Morecambe Bay	6	(20)	63	(100)	(84)	Nov	63	
Loch Tuamister (Lewis)			63 [51]				63	
Farmland near Whitekirk			61 [51]				61	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(5)	(8)	(17)	16	104	Feb	60	▲
Warkworth Lane Ponds	128	47	0	0	125	Dec	60	▲
Lower Teviot Valley	(29)	(30)	(58)	(13)	(36)	Dec	(58)	
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	191	150	244	242	199	Nov	205	
Lough McNean Lower			124	103	108	Mar	112	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Killimster Loch					51	Jan	51	
Milldam and Balfour Mains Pools	41	86	0	84	45	Jan	51	
Broubster Leans			75 [51]	49	41	Feb	55	
Drem Pools			8	115	0		41	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Whittledene Reservoirs	14	36	19	24	123	Mar	43	
Loch of Mey	60	39	35	54	63	Feb	50	
Lochwinnoch	(40)	36	20	25	63	Feb	37	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland								
Upper Quoile River	6	10	9	0	104	Nov	26	

Chinese Goose

Anser cygnoides

Escape
Native Range: E Asia

GB max: **17** **Oct**
NI max: **2** **Jan**

The counted British maximum of Chinese Geese (the domestic strain of Swan Goose) was just two higher than during the previous year. Chinese Geese were recorded at eight sites in Britain and just one, the Outer Ards shoreline, in Northern Ireland. Diss Mere in Suffolk remains the site holding the largest numbers of this species with up to five birds here throughout the year. Ellesmere Lakes and Oerley Reservoir, both in Staffordshire, also remain regular sites with peak counts of four and three respectively.

Bean Goose

Anser fabalis

International threshold: **800**
Great Britain threshold: **4***
All-Ireland threshold: **+**

GB max: **312** **Dec**
NI max: **0**

% Young 18.2
Brood size 2.2

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

Almost the entire British wintering population of Taiga Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis fabalis*) can be found at just two sites, the Slamannan Plateau and the Middle Yare Marshes. Numbers at the Slamannan Plateau peaked slightly lower than the all-time high of the previous year, representing the first decline here for 15 years. Typically, most birds arrived during October, although many left a month earlier than usual and numbers had fallen by over one third by January.

A decrease was also witnessed at the Middle Yare Marshes as numbers fell to their lowest level since the late 1970s; this is more in line with the current trend, which has shown fewer birds using this site since the mid-1990s. The majority of birds arrived much later than usual, with the peak being in February. Consequently, numbers in February were five times higher than the month's average.

The low numbers of Taiga Bean Geese recorded at both of the key sites was possibly a consequence of mild winter temperatures across their wintering range. This might also explain the atypical timing of birds at both sites. During 2006/07, breeding success was assessed at the Slamannan Plateau, with 18.2% young and 2.2 young per successful pair.

Away from the two main sites Taiga Bean Geese were also noted at Loch of Elvister and the Orwell Estuary, where two were present in February. The majority of other records are most likely to be Tundra Bean Geese (*Anser fabalis rossicus*) and this race was certainly noted at North Warren and Thorpeness Mere, the Severn Estuary (one in December), Brading Harbour and the Colne Estuary (one in March). The six birds at the Ouse Washes in February were also most likely to be Tundra Bean Geese.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Slamannan Area	231 [3]	235 [3]	262 [3]	300 [3]	255 [3]	Nov	257
Middle Yare Marshes	183 [4]	140	156 [32]	169 [53]	111 [32]	Feb	152
Ouse Washes	8 [12]	4	87 [11]	9 [12]	6 [12]	Feb	23
Walland Marsh	0	0	86	0	0		17
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	0	3 [12]	38	10 [12]	2	Dec	11
Somerset Levels	(0)	0	14	(0)	0		5
Balnakeil Bay		5 [12]					5
Dungeness Gravel Pits	7	7	0		0		4
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Whitemoor Haye	0	0	17	0	0		3
Fleet and Wey	6	0	0	0	0		1
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch of Elvister	0	0	0	0	6	Oct	1
Brading Harbour	2	0	0	0	4	Jan	1

Pink-footed Goose

Anser brachyrhynchus

International threshold: 2,700
Great Britain threshold: 2,400
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 203,167 Nov
NI max: 54 Oct

% Young 19.3
Brood size 2.2

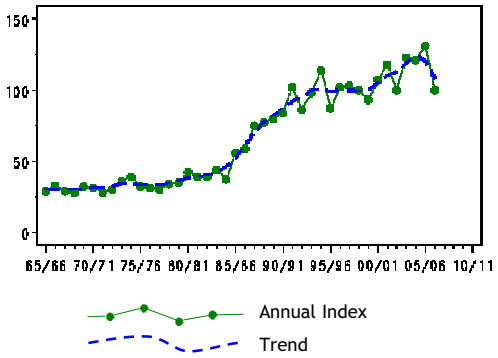

Figure 6.a, Annual indices & trend for Pink-footed Goose for GB.

During winter, Pink-footed Geese predominantly feed on farmland and generally only gather at waterbodies during overnight roosts. As such, this species is not well covered by standard WeBS counts so dedicated roost counts are undertaken at key sites, which add to coordinated census data collected through the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme (www.wwt.org.uk/research/monitoring).

The national index for Pink-footed Goose, which is based on these roost data, fell by around 25% in 2006/07. Although fewer sites were counted than in the previous year, the total population esitmate of 229,123, including estimated numbers for those sites not counted, was also around 25% lower than the 2005/06 estimate. These data revealed that during October numbers were highest in east central Scotland and by November numbers here had declined but increased in eastern England, which held over half of all birds counted by December.

This pattern of movement within Britain was noted at a number of key sites. Peak numbers were recorded at many Scottish sites, such as Loch of Strathbeg, Montrose Basin, Loch Leven and the Ythan Estuary & Slains Lochs, during October, while numbers at sites such as Scolt Head, Holkham Marshes and Breydon Water & Berney Marshes peaked later in the winter. Peak numbers at Scolt Head on the North Norfolk Coast were around a third of those in the previous year and were the lowest recorded here for some time, although there is a great deal of interchange between the Norfolk roosts.

Breeding success was assessed at a number of locations throughout Scotland and England. The proprtion of young birds in flocks was averaged at 19.3%, although this varied from 16.2% in east central Scotland to 21.7% in northeast Scotland. The mean brood size for pairs with any young was 2.2, which was equal to the mean of the preceding ten years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Scolt Head	62,500 [13]	80,000 [11]	66,000 [12]	55,000 [13]	17,200 [13]	Dec	56,140
Holkham Marshes	33,800 [13]	47,750 [13]	58,000 [12]	70,000 [13]	69,100 [13]	Dec	55,730
Loch of Strathbeg	39,900	66,000 [13]	65,000 [13]	68,000 [13]	37,396	Oct	55,259
West Water Reservoir	(40,000) [13]	34,210 [13]		57,382 [13]	43,252 [13]	Oct	44,948
Snettisham	37,050 [13]	27,350 [13]	35,360 [12]	49,610 [13]	33,485 [13]	Nov	36,571
Southwest Lancashire	31,645 [13]	27,025 [13]	43,950 [5]	31,860 [13]	39,030 [13]	Nov	34,702
Montrose Basin	11,500 [13]	10,149 [13]	31,896 [13]	30,181 [13]	25,000 [13]	Oct	21,745
Morecambe Bay	14,600 [5]	17,050 [5]	26,910 [5]	20,980 [13]	(7,145)	Dec	19,885
Loch of Skene	(8,420) [13]	(8,500) [13]	12,000 [13]	17,730 [13]	22,930 [13]	Nov	17,553
Aberlady Bay	22,200 [13]	15,040 [13]	18,430 [13]	14,250 [13]			17,480
Loch Leven	(12,874) [13]	15,120 [13]	14,750	22,175 [13]	14,600 [13]	Oct	16,661
Loch Spynie	11,700 [13]	11,100 [13]	27,000 [13]	23,000 [13]	9,000 [13]	Oct	16,360
Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	19,600 [13]	19,200 [13]	16,200	(1,800)	10,360 [13]	Oct	16,340
Findhorn Bay		25,000 [13]	18,000 [13]	9,400 [13]	3,800 [13]	Oct	14,050
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	7,100	17,100	12,784	11,213	17,800 [13]	Jan	13,199
Solway Estuary	(4,075)	(10,243)	2,612 [13]	(6,862)	23,313 [13]	Feb	12,963
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	10,320 [13]	11,450 [13]	8,770 [13]	11,130 [13]	12,600 [13]	Apr	10,854

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Easterton - Fort George				10,000 [13]			10,000
Loch of Lintrathen	(6,440) [13]	11,100 [13]	8,921 [13]	9,790 [13]	7,040 [13]	Oct	9,213
Hule Moss	5,850 [13]	14,200 [12]	7,950 [13]	6,000	2,250 [13]	Oct	7,250
Dupplin Lochs	9,500 [13]	14,100 [13]	2 [13]		1,450 [13]	Nov	6,263
Horsey Mere	4,000 [13]	8,200 [13]	7,231 [12]	6,240 [13]	5,430 [13]	Oct	6,220
Heigham Holmes				5,670 [13]			5,670
Wigtown Bay	(4,747)	8,662 [13]	(7,219)	802	(6,695)	Mar	5,625
Norton Marsh				4,500 [13]	6,650 [13]	Oct	5,575
Simonswood Moss				5,000 [13]			5,000
Humber Estuary	4,620 [13]	6,562	(5,638)	3,909	3,780 [13]	Oct	4,901
Lindisfarne	(3,679)	1,496	5,300 [13]	5,800 [13]	(6,132)	Oct	4,682
Loch Tullybelton			6,500 [13]		2,700 [13]	Oct	4,600
Holme and Thornham				5,000 [13]	4,000 [13]	Dec	4,500
Rossie Bog			6,290 [13]	2,250 [13]			4,270
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	14,050 [13]	546	900	3,226	1,116	Feb	3,968
Lake of Menteith	4,515 [13]	4,026 [13]	5,357 [13]	11	5,129 [13]	Oct	3,808
River Tay - Haughs of Kercock			4,000 [13]	3,500 [13]	3,702 [13]	Dec	3,734
River Nith: Keltonbank -Nunholm	(470)	(3,710)	(950)		(2,525)	Feb	(3,710)
Holburn Moss	4,250 [13]	6,500 [13]	2,300 [13]	2,950 [13]	2,400 [13]	Dec	3,680
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	3,350	5,300	(3,050)	4,500	1,540	Dec	3,673
Tay and Isla Valley	2,497 [13]	4,134 [13]	4,000	3,500	3,702	Dec	3,567
Cameron Reservoir	3,000	8,900 [13]	2,692 [13]	521	399	Dec	3,102
Skinflats	1,900 [13]	3,250 [13]	2,530 [13]	3,980 [13]	2,950 [13]	Oct	2,922
Fala Flow	2,790 [13]	5,450 [13]	741 [13]		2,170 [13]	Oct	2,788
Strathearn (West)	4,100 [13]				1,125 [13]	Nov	2,613
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields	32	5,500	4	4,563 [13]	2,000	Nov	2,420 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Tay Estuary	2,700 [13]	2,425 [13]	4,560 [13]	0	50	Nov	1,947
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Middlemuir (New Pitsligo Moss)					9,662 [13]	Nov	9,662
Winter Loch (St Fergus)					6,620 [13]	Nov	6,620
Floodwater south of Braco					3,290 [13]	Mar	3,290
South Medwin Pools	1,500	1,000	3,000	700	3,000	Jan	1,840
Munlochy Bay	210 [13]	2,800 [13]	127	1,200 [13]	2,600 [13]	Nov	1,387
Clatto Reservoir	320	800 [13]	170 [13]	0	2,500	Feb	758
Cresswell Pond	100	1	149	1	3,000	Nov	650

European White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons albifrons

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: 58
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 1,341 Feb
NI max: 0

% Young 16.7
Brood size 1.9

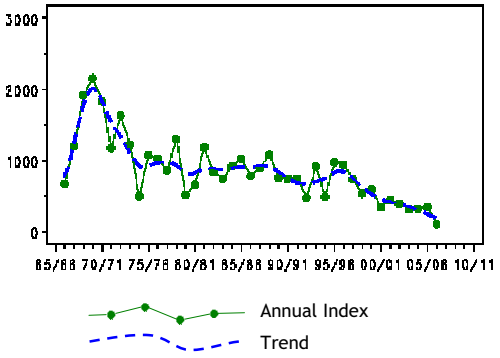

Figure 7.a, Annual indices & trend for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

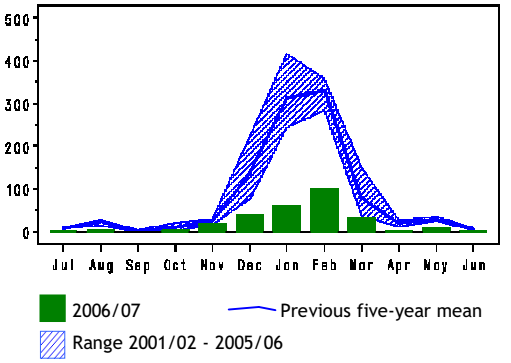

Figure 7.b, Monthly indices for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

The number of European White-fronted Geese wintering in Britain has declined dramatically over the past 35 years and in 2006/07 numbers fell by around 70% to their lowest level thus far. Peak numbers in Britain reached only 57% of the previous year's total and were the lowest ever recorded. As highlighted by the monthly indices, winter numbers were clearly well below any recorded in recent years. With the exception of the Swale Estuary, peak numbers at key sites were well below any recorded during the previous five years, and even here they only surpassed one count during this period. Furthermore, it was the first time in twenty years that no birds were recorded at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes.

Breeding success was assessed at a total of four sites in east and west England and on average flocks comprised of 16.7% young, while the average brood size of successful pairs was 1.9. Both of these values were considerably below the average of the past ten years and were possibly due to low rodent abundances in Arctic breeding areas, which increases predation pressure on the geese. However, whilst lower breeding success will have had an influence on the low numbers seen in 2006/07, it is likely that a continuing shift of the wintering range eastwards onto the continent, because of milder winter weather, is the most important factor driving this change.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Severn Estuary	990 [10]	780 [12]	745 [7]	750	542 [7]	Jan	761
Swale Estuary	655	327	(398)	430	355	Feb	442
North Norfolk Coast	347	540	340	404	200	Feb	366
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	310 [12]	190 [12]	302	330 [12]	180	Feb	262
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	181	455	267	290	0		239
Dungeness Gravel Pits	460	205 [12]	110	250	1	Jan	205
Walland Marsh	300	140	137	310	127	Feb	203
Alde Complex	385	54	25	12	0		95
Middle Yare Marshes	89	120	109	76	66	Jan	92
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Thames Estuary	89	42	(16)	86	0		54
Minsmere	1	175	9	2	0		37

Greenland White-fronted Goose

Anser albifrons flavirostris

International threshold: 270
Great Britain threshold: 209
All-Ireland threshold: 110

GB max: 12,536 Mar
NI max: 89 Dec

% Young 10.2
Brood size 3.36

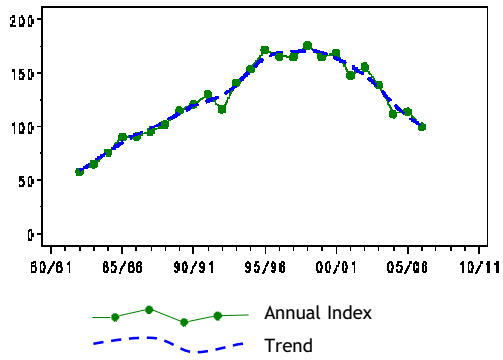

Figure 8.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenland White-fronted Goose for GB.

The annual census by the Greenland White-fronted Study was carried out in Britain during December 2006 and March 2007, when totals of 12,271 and 12,536 were recorded, respectively. During both surveys the vast majority of geese were found in Scotland and around half of these were on the island of Islay. Although no figures were available for many sites in Ireland, March totals for Wexford Slobs were unusally high.

These figures represent a futher decline in this population within Britain of around 12%. In autumn 2006, the decision to ban the hunting of Greenland White-fronted Geese on migration in Iceland took effect. In the first winter of this ban there is little sign that the population decline has slowed, although it might be a few years before increased juvenile survival is evident in the

breeding population.

The key site for this species remains the island of Islay and peak numbers here rose slightly compared to the previous year, but remain below the five-year mean. Other sites at which current peaks were below average were Tiree, Rhunahaorine and Isle of Colonsay. Numbers on Bute peaked higher than during the past five years. Up to 90 birds remained on the Dyfi Estuary throughout the winter.

Breeding success was assesed within a number of flocks on both Islay and elsewhere. The percentage of young within flocks varied from 0% to almost 24% and although the average of 10.2% was slightly above that of recent years it was still lower than the long-term average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Island of Islay	12,254 [6]	11,272 [6]	8,350 [8]	7,456 [8]	7,902 [8]	Mar	9,447
Machrihanish	1,501 [8]	1,377 [6]	1,407 [8]	1,433 [8]	1,716 [8]	Dec	1,487
Tiree	1,093 [8]	1,093 [16]	1,133 [32]	1,112 [8]	974 [8]	Feb	1,081
Rhunahaorine	1,450 [8]	1,156 [6]	894 [8]	955 [8]	940 [8]	Mar	1,079
Isle of Coll	611 [8]	495 [8]	814 [8]	778	687 [8]	Dec	677
Isle of Colonsay	87 [8]	79 [6]	1,718 [6]	111 [54]	76 [33]	Dec	414
Keills Peninsula & Isle of Danna	411 [8]	377 [6]	338 [8]	344 [8]	350	Nov	364
Stranraer Lochs	365 [8]	281 [8]	257 [8]	282	360	Dec	309
Isle of Lismore	310 [8]	290 [8]	310 [8]	320 [8]	273 [8]	Mar	301
Loch Lomond	450 [8]	260 [8]	240 [8]	210 [8]	210 [8]	Mar	274
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Loch Ken	275 [8]	300 [8]	215 [8]	220 [8]	206 [8]	Mar	243 ▲
Clachan and Whitehouse	250 [8]	215 [6]	209 [8]	193 [8]	186 [8]	Mar	211 ▲
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Bute	186 [8]	183 [8]	206 [8]	190 [8]	209 [8]	Mar	195

Lesser White-fronted Goose

Anser erythropus

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Scandinavia, E Europe, Asia

GB max: **2** **Dec**
NI max: **0**

Lesser White-fronted Geese were present at four sites during 2006/07. All records were of single birds and were at Testbourne Estate between September and May, Tundry Pond in October, Middle Yare Marshes in December and Llyn Traffwll from April to June.

Greylag Goose

Anser anser

Icelandic Population

International threshold: **870**
Great Britain threshold: **819**
All-Ireland threshold: **50**

GB max: **73,740** **Dec**
NI max: ****0**

% Young 20.6
Brood size 1.9

*** although small numbers of Icelandic Greylag Geese do occur in Northern Ireland these remain difficult to distinguish from the re-established population.*

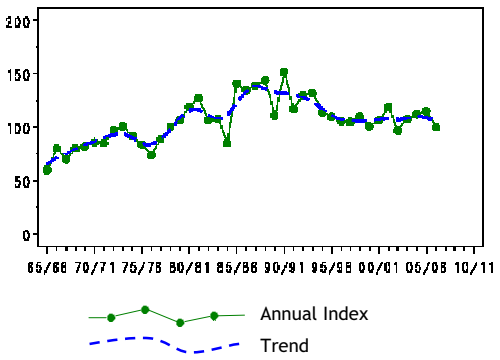

Figure 9.a, Annual indices & trend for Icelandic Population for GB.

Greylag Geese from the Icelandic breeding population winter almost solely in northern Britain, with smaller numbers in Ireland, the Faeroes, Norway and Iceland. The British counted maximum was around 5% lower than that of the previous year; this decline was evident in the index, which fell slightly following around ten years of relative stability. The peak number recorded by the Icelandic-breeding Goose Census (IGC) was 80,042, which was recorded over the period 11th-12th November; this includes counts from

Iceland, the Faeroes and Ireland. A population estimate of 82,339 was derived from this figure, which took into account missing sites and overlap with birds assumed not to be of Icelandic origin. This figure was around 16% lower than that of the previous year, although was thought to have included undercounts from several areas including Iceland and Shetland.

Typically, very few birds arrived in Britain by mid-October and those that had were concentrated at sites around north and eastern Scotland. The majority of the remaining birds arrived between mid-October and early November, by which time almost three-quarters were in northern Scotland and most of the remainder in east central Scotland, although by December many had dispersed from this latter area. Counts in Orkney were particularly high in December, while numbers at Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth were lower than usual, the peak being recorded in November. Numbers recorded at Caithness Lochs were also much lower than the high counts of the previous two seasons. Other sites at which relatively high numbers were recorded include the Dornoch Firth, Dalreoch and Strathearn (West). Overall, the continuing trend is that of a concentration of Icelandic Greylag Geese on Orkney, where the largest numbers are found on West Mainland.

Breeding success was assessed at several sites across Scotland and revealed an average of 20.6% young; this was slightly above average. Brood size of successful pairs, estimated at 1.9, was lower than in recent years but was based on only a small sample.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Orkney	26,505 [13]	43,097 [13]	42,697 [13]	40,403 [13]	55,521 [13]	Dec	41,645	
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	(7,028) [13]	6,523 [13]	8,313 [13]	13,269	2,463 [13]	Nov	7,642	
Caithness Lochs	2,792 [13]	2,971 [13]	11,755 [13]	8,727 [13]	2,734	Mar	5,796	
Easterton - Fort George				3,500 [13]			3,500	
Loch of Skene	(1,021) [13]	(2,600) [13]	4,500 [13]	4,700 [13]	500 [13]	Nov	2,664	
Dornoch Firth	2,916	2,259	1,720	1,632 [13]	2,858	Dec	2,277	
Loch Spynie	3,200 [13]	2,200 [13]	1,000 [13]	2,600 [13]	500 [13]	Oct	1,900	
Tay and Isla Valley	(1,700)	2,425 [13]	1,930	2,155	700	Nov	1,803	
Bute	1,380 [13]	2,000 [13]	1,780 [13]	2,110 [13]	1,051	Nov	1,664	
Dalreoch					1,580	Dec	1,580	▲
Loch Fleet Complex	817 [13]	905 [13]	990 [13]	3,000	1,762	Oct	1,495	
Loch Garten	1,000 [13]	1,000 [13]	2,100 [13]	1,700 [13]	1,150	Nov	1,390	
Forth Estuary	1,564	792	802	2,107	(471)	Mar	1,316	
Kilconquhar Loch	1,552	1,620	1,200 [13]	1,500 [13]	5	Oct	1,175	
Lower Teviot Valley	(1,800)	525	(833)	1,250	310	Dec	944	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Strathearn (West)	1,050 [13]	1,050 [13]			3,170 [13]	Nov	1,757	
Gadloch	994	650	650	1,020 [13]	1,100	Feb	883	▲
Beauly Firth	2,010 [13]	280 [13]	600 [13]	1,380 [13]	35 [13]	Dec	861	
Munlochy Bay	3,130 [13]	110 [13]	20 [13]	1,000 [13]	40 [13]	Dec	860	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Loch Ken	(1,106)	(1,280)	1,023	380 [13]	211	Jul	800	
Loch of Strathbeg	415 [13]	295 [13]	801 [13]	(853) [13]	285 [13]	Nov	530	
Lochs Davan and Kinord	2,700 [13]	920 [13]	135	105	300 [13]	Dec	832	
Inner Firth of Tay		754 [13]	842 [13]	850 [13]	157 [13]	Nov	651	
Haddo House Lakes	975	1,100 [13]	603	520	435 [13]	Dec	727	
Findhorn Bay		190 [13]	1,100 [13]	200 [13]	1,200 [13]	Nov	673	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Summerston and Millichen Flood	453	600	405	(340)	1,058	Dec	629	
East Chevington Pools	1,500	650	400	480	1,000	Oct	806	

Northwest Scottish Population

International threshold: 100
Great Britain threshold: 90

GB max: **8,246 Sep
NI max: 0

***Includes counts from Tiree undertaken in August*

% Young 31.2
Brood size 2.8

The counted British maximum, which was slightly lower than that of the previous year, was derived from counts obtained during the August Greylag Goose Census. However, as the Uists were counted in early September we have nevertheless included these counts in the national total so that counts are comparable with those of previous years.

Numbers on the Uists were around 10% lower than during the previous year. Nevertheless, the September count was thought to have been an undercount as the February census revealed that numbers were only around 5% below those of the previous year. The August census for Tiree revealed that numbers had increased by around 14% compared to the previous year; this represents an average increase of around 7.5% per annum over the past ten years.

Breeding success was assessed on Tiree and Coll and was deemed to have been good. Of the flocks assessed, 31.2% were young birds, post fledging, and 2.8 young per successful pair was recorded. Both of these figures were slightly above the average of the previous five years.

A full census of Greylag Geese in Scotland is scheduled for August 2008. However, as the northwest Scotland and re-established populations of Greylag Geese have both expanded in range and in areas of overlap are indistinguishable, difficulties are likely to occur in assigning birds to each population.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Tiree	3,516 [32]	3,563 [32]	4,005 [32]	3,892 [32]	4,005 [32]	Aug	3,796
North Uist	2,261 [17]	2,642 [17]	2,970 [47]	2,671 [34]	2,318 [34]	Sep	2,572
South Uist	2,095 [17]	2,102 [17]	2,111 [47]	2,119 [34]	1,719 [34]	Feb	2,029
Isle of Coll	675 [16]	740	960	980 [54]	856 [54]	Mar	842
Benbecula	488 [17]	319 [17]	414 [47]	473 [47]	224	Jan	384
Machrihanish				272 [54]			272
Moine Mhor and Add Estuary				254 [54]			254
Isle of Islay		16	42	509	166 [54]	Mar	183
Tayinloan				141 [54]			141
Kentra Moss & Lower Loch Shiel	93	102	136	107	90	Jan	106
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Melbost / Tong / Broad Bay		4	(86)	137	99	Feb	82
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch Ewe			70	25	110	Feb	68
Melbost / Tong / Broad Bay		4	(86)	137	99	Feb	82

Re-established Population

Naturalised re-establishment†

GB max: 27,746 Nov
NI max: 1,992 Mar

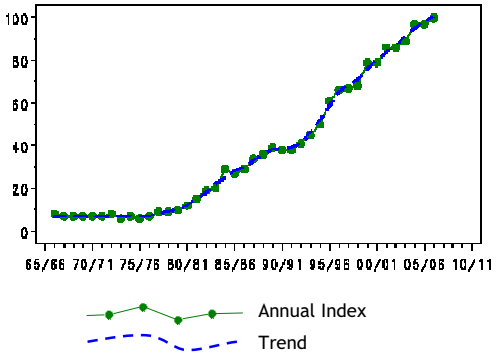

Figure 10.a, Annual indices & trend for Re-established Population for GB.

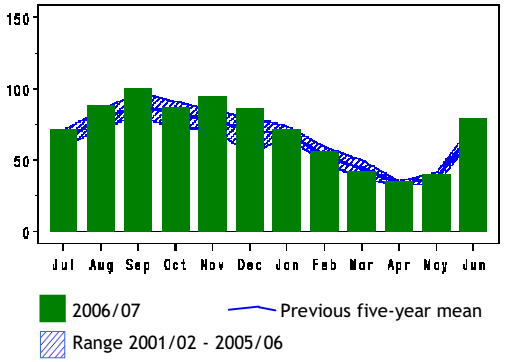

Figure 10.b, Monthly indices for Re-established Population for GB.

The counted British maximum was very similar to that of the previous year and was the second-highest on record. The British index, which has increased dramatically over the past 25 years continued to rise in 2006/07 to a new all-time high. The index has now doubled in just 12 years. Numbers were above average throughout the year and higher than those of the past five years in August, September, November, December and June.

The second-highest count at any single site was of 1,338 at King`s Dyke Pit Whittlesey, which was almost four times that of the previous year and the highest ever recorded there. Another huge increase was noted at Gunthorpe Gravel Pits / River Trent, at which numbers peaked at 11 times those of the previous year. Higher than average counts were also noted at Alton Water, Middle Yare Marshes and Point of Ayre Gravel Pit, whereas low totals were noted at Breydon Water & Berney Marshes and Lavan Sands.

The Northern Ireland maximum was around 10% lower compared to the figure of the previous year. Peak numbers at the top three sites in the regions, Loughs Neagh and Beg, Lough Foyle and Strangford Lough, were all considerably lower than their five-year means. Most other sites in the region held similar numbers to average, although the February count at Tullyratty Lake was the highest ever recorded here.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,746	(1,338)	2,215	1,663			1,875
North Norfolk Coast	1,657	(1,767)	(1,371)	(1,435)	1,725	Aug	1,716
Lower Derwent Ings	1,219	1,047	927	1,401			1,149
The Wash	895	1,011	1,038	1,005	1,337	Oct	1,057
Tophill Low Reservoirs	828	683	867	1,400	1,190	Sep	994
Livermere and Ampton Water	806	543	1,176	879			851
Eccup Reservoir	1,000	1,084	750	546	825	Sep	841
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	900	1,072	925	387	724	Nov	802
Humber Estuary	1,053	(769)	821	525	(778)	Oct	800
Swale Estuary	760	718	625	1,062	(548)	Nov	791
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	1,060	710	729	774	615	Aug	778
Ouse Washes	691 [12]	883 [12]	782	671	810	Oct	767
Morecambe Bay	(741)	629	786	881	(617)	Oct	765
Hornsea Mere	465	642	785	1,145	615	Aug	730
Tattershall Pits	730	1,015	445	950	400	Jan	708
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	600	803					702
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	1,176	407	950	424	494	Dec	690
Hickling Broad	28	1,106	831	909	529	Sep	681
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	723	720	1,148	491	279	Oct	672
Llyn Traffwll	769	891	341	395	941	Jul	667
Alton Water	577	571	419	612	1,056	Dec	647
Dungeness Gravel Pits	(502)	667	529	676	661	Aug	633
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	746	652	518	511	672	Oct	620
Orwell Estuary	587 [10]	677 [10]	543	(618)	671	Sep	620
Medway Estuary	(135)	(146)	589 [10]	(122)	(449)	Jan	589
WWT Martin Mere	580	600	620	530	532	Sep	572
Lavan Sands	1,037	623	406	560	214	Nov	568
Ardleigh Reservoir	560						560
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	223	(193)	(248)	800	580	Dec	534
Middle Yare Marshes	569	473	396	444	772	Sep	531
Welbeck Estate	(248)	(196)	(418)	480	549	Oct	515
Point of Ayre Gravel Pit	185	402	550	530	900	Aug	513
Scorton Quarry		460	800	196	590	Mar	512
Llyn Alaw	538	557	273	765	409	Sep	508
Hardley Flood	515	487	515				506
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,179	1,270	1,005	(630)	662	Feb	1,029
Lough Foyle	1,207	518	1,291	1,129	974	Mar	1,024
Strangford Lough	577	373	307	355	277 [10]	Dec	378
Belfast Lough	144	132	125	137	196 [10]	Nov	147
Lower Lough Erne	(71)	(54)	137	140	140	Mar	139
Ballysaggart Lough	70	66					68
Tullyratty Lake	0	57	29	0	213	Feb	60
Upper Lough Erne	18	(15)	52	62	73	Jan	51

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
King`s Dyke Pits Whittlesey		78	68	366	1,338	Nov	463
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	64	15	17	114	1,254	Sep	293
Windermere	683	12	32	488	985	Jun	440
Langtoft West End Gravel Pits	441	54	330	207	850	Dec	376
Hay-a-Park Gravel Pits	183	560	472	132	825	Dec	434
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	338	432	368	272	669	Jun	416
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	292	571	422	367	634	Sep	457
Ripon Race Course Gravel Pit		333	640	400	594	Nov	492
Selset Reservoir	221	215	102	47	540	Jun	225
Wicken Fen	270	204		149	530	Nov	288
Seaton Gravel Pits and River	185	365	110	683	512	Jan	371
Scaling Dam Reservoir	315	377	405	503	500	Jul	420

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 500 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Bar-headed Goose

Anser indicus

Escape
Native Range: Asia

GB max: **28** **Oct**
NI max: **1** **Sep**

Bar-headed Geese were noted at 45 sites throughout Britain as well as at Belfast Lough in Northern Ireland and Grouville Marsh in the Channel Islands. The peak total of 28 in October was slightly higher than in the last two years. The highest site total was 12 at the Deben Estuary in October. Up to four birds were seen throughout the year at Kilmardinny Loch and three were at Blenheim Park Lake in July and August. A single bird was at Belfast Lough in September and November, only the second time that this species has been noted for WeBS in Northern Ireland, the first being at Larne Lough in 2001/02.

Snow Goose

Anser caerulescens

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: **16** **Nov**
NI max: **0**

The British maximum of 16 in November was the lowest ever recorded by WeBS and was just over a quarter of the previous year's total. Lower numbers than in recent years at the Lower Windrush Valley and the Isle of Coll contributed to this; these two sites held over 50 birds between them in 2005/06. The highest single site total in 2006/07 was 14 at Blenheim Park Lake in September, which was followed by a count of 13 in October. Although most records refer to escaped individuals, possible candidates for being genuine vagrants were at Martin Mere in January, East Fortune Ponds in October to December, Loch of Skaill in December and Loch of Strathbeg in October.

Ross's Goose

Anser rossii

Escape and possible vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: **2** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

The only record of Ross' Goose was of two at Stiffkey Fen on the North Norfolk Coast in September. Up to two birds have regularly been recorded in this area in since 2002/03.

Emperor Goose

Anser canagicus

Escape
Native Range: Alaska, NE Siberia

GB max: 22 **Jul**
NI max: 0

The usual flock of Emperor Geese was present at South Walney Island in Morecambe Bay throughout 2006/07, peaking at 21 throughout the latter half of 2006. The only records away from Morecambe Bay were of singles at Derwent Water in July and Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve in October.

Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Naturalised introduction†
Native Range: N America

GB max: 52,486 **Nov**
NI max: 1,036 **Jan**

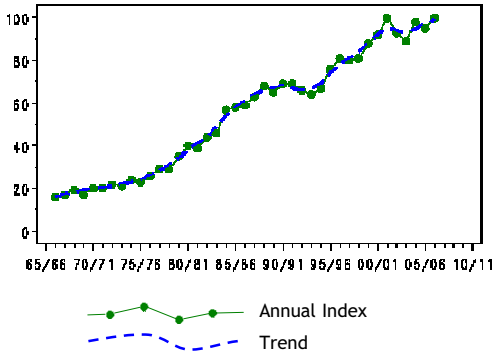

Figure 11.a, Annual indices & trend for Canada Goose for GB.

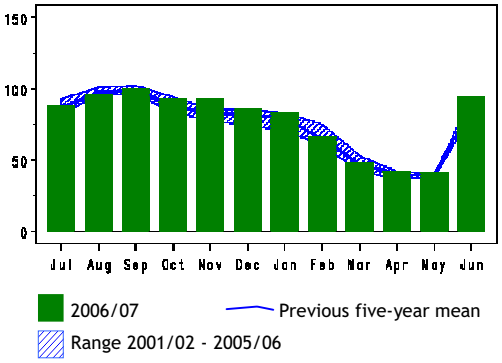

Figure 11.b, Monthly indices for Canada Goose for GB.

The long-term increase in Canada Geese in Britain looks set to continue with the index rising to its highest level to date. Numbers were above average in every month during 2006/07 and were higher than during the preceding five-years in November, December and June.

Higher than average counts were received from Osberton, Ribble Estuary, Stormont Loch & Haremyre and River Avon - Ringwood to Christchurch, whilst the peak count at Colliford Reservoir was the highest ever recorded at the site and was a third higher again than the five-year mean. Numbers at both the Stour Estuary and Bewl Water were lower than during recent years, both being the lowest at each site since 2000/01.

The Northern Ireland maximum was slightly higher than during the previous year with nearly all of this total being made up of birds at Upper and Lower Lough Erne. Peak numbers at Strangford Lough were only slightly below average while those at Lough McNean Lower were two-thirds lower than during the previous year.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 600 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Dyfi Estuary	3,029	2,437	2,380	2,947	2,420	Nov	2,643
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(2,568)	1,529	2,316	1,987	2,087	Jun	2,097
Mersey Estuary	1,437	1,177	2,088	2,188	1,923	Nov	1,763
Colliford Reservoir	1,884	1,284	1,477	841	2,439	Jun	1,585
Rutland Water	1,276	1,369	1,244	1,070	1,118	Jun	1,215
Fairburn Ings	823	893		2,509	609	Jul	1,209
Arun Valley	(1,754)	866	1,236	742	1,076	Dec	1,135
Taw-Torridge Estuary	1,179	526	(912)	(1,109)	986	Jan	942
Alde Complex	(514)	(896)	1,246	780	684	Dec	903
Ellesmere Lakes	751	812	1,348	668	873	Sep	890

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Doxey Marshes SSSI	(637)	881	893	(601)	802	Jan	859
Stour Estuary	983	1,135	978	622	569	Jan	857
Bewl Water	885	960	986	900	548	Jan	856
Osberton				427	1,212	Nov	820
Harewood Lake	700	686	870	888			786
Pitsford Reservoir	967	727	441	682	832	Aug	730
Ribble Estuary	443	(493)	552	626	(1,245)	Dec	717
Tring Reservoirs	962	560	1,550	308	186	Feb	713
Medway Estuary	(150)	(234)	365 [10]	935 [10]	823	Jan	708
Cleddau Estuary	765	655	622	585 [10]	890	Dec	703
Chew Valley Lake	830	785	810	650	435	Jun	702
Somerset Levels	1,378	555	432	778	367	Dec	702
Walthamstow Reservoirs	945	837	784	278	636	Jun	696
College Lake Reserve	444	773	919	973	260	Jan	674
King`s Bromley Gravel Pits	712	776	721	586	542	Jul	667
Thames Estuary	(706)	(329)	786	672	494	Dec	665
Watermead Country Park South	610	632	723	648	668	Jul	656
Foulridge Reservoirs					633	Dec	633
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	678	699	577	564	(488)	Jun	630
Humber Estuary	(456)	525	868	729	363	May	621
Exe Estuary	510	617	772	680	502	Nov	616
Roadford Reservoir	501	611	763	650	552	Jan	615
Carsington Water	848	680	500	490	546	Sep	613
Southampton Water	609	777	(548)	(674)	384	Dec	611
Llangorse Lake	700	415	936	537	450	Jan	608
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Upper Lough Erne	293	263	384	484	665	Jan	418
Lower Lough Erne	110	(343)	217	532	365	Jan	313
Strangford Lough	323	307	229	260 [10]	247	Oct	273
Lough McNean Lower			40	147	44	Mar	77
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Stormont Loch and Haremyre	66	6	2	518	1,000	Sep	318
R. Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	408	424	289	316	(917)	Nov	471
Eccup Reservoir	300	478	90	969	905	Jan	548
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	328	(385)	317	660 [12]	800	Sep	526
Nevern Estuary	0	16	70	323	780	Sep	238
Windermere	584	(433)	376	505 [12]	747 [12]	Oct	553
Tamar Lakes		400	45	675	732	Aug	463
The Wash	896	368	376	384	677	Nov	540
Croxall Pits	513	511	309	460	665	Jan	492
Fal Complex	53	132	(6) [10]	204	655	Oct	261
Bar Mere	480	400	473	600	625	Jan	516
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	279	33	168	103	622	Sep	241
Severn Estuary	371	(655)	409	580	606	Nov	524
Grimley New Workings		75	682	(420)	(600)	Jan	444

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 600 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Cackling Goose

Branta hutchinsii

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: **2** **Jan**
NI max: **0**

Cackling Goose has been formally recognised as a species since the 2004/05 report following taxonomic changes suggested by Sangster *et al*. (2005). Cackling Geese were noted at just two sites during 2006/07, Bothal Pond in January and February and Pennington Flash from September to March. As the Bothal Pond bird arrived in Northumberland with a flock of wild Barnacle Geese this bird at least was suspected to be of wild origin.

Barnacle Goose

Branta leucopsis

Greenland Population

GB max:	****66,102**	**Mar**
NI max:	**0**	

International threshold: 560
Great Britain threshold: 450
All-Ireland threshold: 90

*** includes counts from North Uist undertaken in February*

Barnacle Geese that breed along the east coast of Greenland winter exclusively in northwest Scotland and Ireland. Due to the dispersed nature of the winter population a full census is carried out every five years (with the most recent undertaken in spring 2008). However, many of the main sites are surveyed annually by SNH and the Uists Greylag Goose Management Committee.

The counted British maximum was around 17% higher than that of the previous year. Although the majority of counts from which this total was derived were undertaken in March, those on North Uist were actually carried out in February but as little or no interchange was thought to have taken place between the counts these figures have been combined. Islay held around 80% of the Greenland Barnacle Geese counted in 2006/07; numbers here have increased by around 10% per year over the past five years to the current record level. This increase was reflected at several other key sites including Tiree, Isle of Coll and Colonsay/Oronsay. Outside of the main wintering areas a flock of 198 birds, assumed to be from this population, was recorded at the Dyfi Estuary in December. Breeding success data for 2006/07 are not yet available.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Islay	36,478 [33]	40,018 [6]	44,186 [6]	47,303 [54]	52,709 [33]	Mar	44,139
Tiree	2,786 [32]	2,796 [32]	3,273 [32]	3,474 [32]	4,323 [33]	Mar	3,330
North Uist	2,732 [17]	560	2,836 [47]	4,648 [47]	2,119 [47]	Feb	2,579
South Walls (Hoy)	1,800 [33]		1,920 [33]	2,000 [33]	1,710 [33]	Nov	1,858
Isle of Coll	1,010 [32]	792 [6]	1,297	2,240 [54]	2,456 [33]	Mar	1,559
Colonsay/Oronsay	510 [32]	793 [6]	1,000 [6]	716 [33]	1,332 [33]	Dec	870
Sound of Harris (NW) (Harris)	706 [31]						706
North Sutherland	669 [31]						669
Balnakeil Bay		826 [12]		970	130	Feb	642
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	400 [6]	640 [6]	708 [6]	468 [54]	627 [33]	Mar	569

Svalbard Population

GB max:	**29,635**	**Dec**
NI max:	**0**	
% Young	14.6	
Brood size	2.2	

International threshold: 270
Great Britain threshold: 220

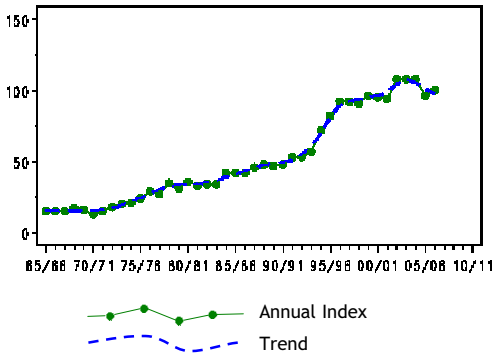

Figure 12.a, Annual indices & trend for Svalbard Population for GB.

Peak numbers at the country's key site, the Solway Firth, were recorded in December and although counts were coordinated across this site they were carried out over a particularly high tide and unusually high levels of movements within the site were noted. Hence, the total recorded may have incorporated some double counting and for this reason the national index is based on an adopted population estimate of 25,000. Nonetheless, this still represents an increase of about 5% on the estimate for the previous year. This increase means that the underlying trend has remained fairly

stable over the past ten years, only increasing by around 5% since 1997/98.

The vast majority of birds arrived back in Britain during October and small flocks were noted at Tyninghame Estuary, Carnbee Reservoir, East Chevington Pools and the Forth Estuary, but none of these birds remained for long. Elsewhere, however, small numbers remained at Loch of Strathbeg all winter and at Lindisfarne until January, though it cannot be certain that the latter were not Russian breeding birds that normally winter on the continent.

Breeding success was assessed throughout the winter at Caerlaverock with an average of 14.6% of birds being first-year birds. This was the highest proportion since 1998/99 and, along with an average brood size of 2.2 per pair with young, suggested a good breeding season in 2006.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Solway Firth	28,447 [7]	27,510 [7]	28,270 [7]	28,450 [7]	29,370 [7]	Dec	28,409
Loch of Strathbeg	138	95	1,100 [32]	2,168	181	Oct	736
Lindisfarne	(140)	786	160	300	1,202	Oct	612

Naturalised Population

Naturalised establishment†

GB max: 1,077 Feb
NI max: 279 Oct

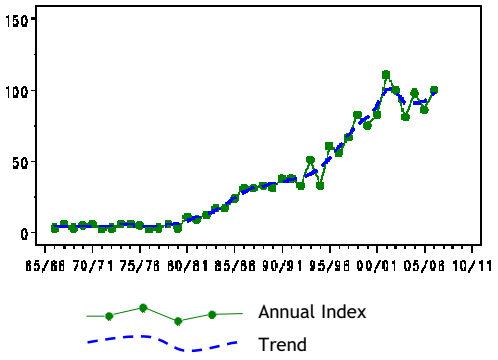

Figure 13.a, Annual indices & trend for Naturalised Population for GB.

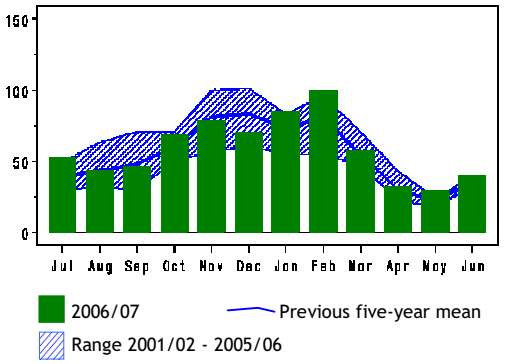

Figure 13.b, Monthly indices for Naturalised Population for GB.

Following a notable increase in the 20 years up to 2000/01, the index for the naturalised population of Barnacle Goose has remained relatively stable. Numbers were similar to average throughout the year, although in January and February were higher than those of the previous five years. The maximum counts for both Britain and Northern Ireland were higher than those of the previous year by around 12% in both cases. Strangford Lough remains the key site in Northern Ireland for naturalised Barnacle Geese, and numbers here have increased over the past few years, reaching their highest level to date in October.

In Britain, the highest total at any single site during 2006/07 was 359 at Benacre Broad in September. Only one other site, the Humber Estuary, held in excess of 300 birds, while a further six sites held in excess of 100 birds. Numbers at both Ullswater and the Severn Estuary have increased in recent years and reached their highest and second-highest levels, respectively. Peak numbers at Lound Waterworks were a quarter of those of the previous year. Site peaks in East Anglia vary greatly as the birds use a wide network of lakes, many of which are small and not counted for WeBS.

Counts of Barnacle Geese are assigned as naturalised birds purely on the basis of geographical location and as a result some extralimital birds from the Svalbard and Greenland populations (or North Russia/East Baltic birds from the wintering flocks in the Netherlands) may have been incorrectly assigned.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Lound Waterworks				393	104	Feb	249
Willington	84	298					191
Benacre Broad	120	250	130	52	359	Sep	182
Humber Estuary	(74)	80	(200)	88	318	Feb	172
Roxton Gravel Pits	107	262	120	195	128	Apr	162
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	219	158	107	62	49	Oct	119
Ullswater	2	135	110	143	186	Mar	115
Severn Estuary	96	(94)	101	111	126	Jan	109
Derwent Water	90	82	98	105	137	Jun	102
Frampton Pools	79	98	52	113	114	Mar	91
Hornsea Mere	132	96	73	71	72	Feb	89
Duddon Estuary	(1)	(65)	(0)	(88)	(10)	Dec	(88)
Minsmere	62	73	4	249	17	May	81
Middle Yare Marshes	104	72	82	74	70	Oct	80
The Hen Reedbeds		(0)	(0)	(68)	(0)		(68)
Barcombe Mills Reservoir	64	73	52	47	53	Nov	58
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Strangford Lough	223	232	248	251	279	Oct	247
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	5	57	5	1	90	Nov	32
Osberton				4	68	Oct	36

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Dark-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla bernicla

International threshold: 2,000
Great Britain threshold: 981
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: 88,738 Feb
NI max: 0

% Young 2.07
Brood size 1.6

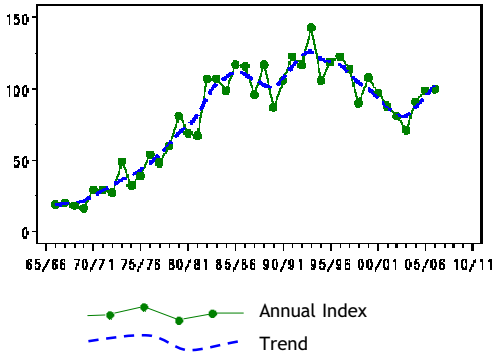

Figure 14.a, Annual indices & trend for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

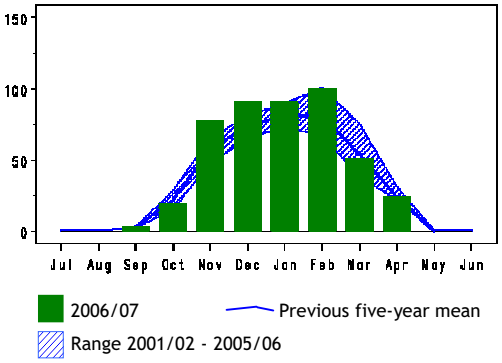

Figure 14.b, Monthly indices for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

The counted British maximum was around 5% higher than in the previous year and the highest since 2000/01. This increase was evident in the national index, which rose for the third consecutive year and shows clear signs of recovering following the ten year decline during the 1990s. Between November and January, numbers were higher than during the previous five years. As in 2005/06, a total of 13 sites qualified as internationally important and an additional 13 as nationally important. Almost all of the key sites for this species are on the south and east coasts of England, with the only outlier being the Burry Inlet.

Peak numbers at The Wash were slightly lower than during the previous two years, although very similar to the five-year mean. However, numbers at the Humber Estuary were the highest ever recorded at this site, perhaps suggesting some redistribution out of the Wash. Numbers at Chichester Harbour peaked at their highest level since 1995/96 and numbers at nearby Langstone

Harbour fell slightly, while those at Portsmouth Harbour rose. Interestingly, the difference between the peak totals at these three sites between 2005/06 and 2006/07 was just 14 birds. Away from the Solent, counts at Dengie Flats and both the Stour and Swale Estuaries were the highest for at least 10 years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	20,314	18,734	21,969	24,490	20,870	Feb	21,275
Thames Estuary	(8,908)	(6,741)	9,455	12,567	8,100	Nov	10,041
Chichester Harbour	7,358	8,290	7,436	9,018	9,605	Dec	8,341
North Norfolk Coast	9,180	5,722	6,607	8,831	7,091	Nov	7,486
Blackwater Estuary	6,100	4,892	7,178	5,946	(2,217)	Feb	6,029
Hamford Water	3,567	3,336	5,890	5,952	4,089	Jan	4,567
Langstone Harbour	4,686	1,765	5,069	5,496	4,650	Feb	4,333
Crouch-Roach Estuary	3,083	2,914	4,635 [10]	3,520	(4,312)	Feb	3,693
Humber Estuary	(2,351)	2,118 [10]	(2,667)	(2,636)	4,586	Feb	3,352
Portsmouth Harbour	(2,185)	(2,293)	1,725	2,925	3,162	Feb	2,604
Pagham Harbour	2,252	1,210	2,654	2,819	2,744	Dec	2,336
Colne Estuary	(409)	(1,959)	(2,538)	2,123	(1,296)	Feb	2,331
Dengie Flats	1,160	1,507	(1,538)	2,445	2,901	Dec	2,003 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
North West Solent	1,500	1,790	(2,208)	2,377	1,808	Jan	1,937 ▼
Beaulieu Estuary	1,512	835	1,498	2,173	3,439	Mar	1,891
Stour Estuary	1,753	1,914	1,782	1,617	2,063	Feb	1,826
Newtown Estuary	1,779	(1,235)	(1,444)	2,033	1,662	Feb	1,825
Swale Estuary	1,278	1,210	2,111	1,861	2,310	Jan	1,754
Deben Estuary	1,251	2,234	984	(1,449)	1,759	Jan	1,557
Exe Estuary	1,714	1,368	1,645	1,531	1,374	Nov	1,526
Fleet and Wey	398	1,337	2,625	1,436	1,554	Nov	1,470
Medway Estuary	(1,179)	836	1,834 [10]	(1,515)	(1,076)	Feb	1,395
Southampton Water	1,326	1,274	1,386	(783)	1,115	Jan	1,275
Orwell Estuary	1,525 [10]	1,396 [10]	976	1,477	1,500 [10]	Jan	1,375
Poole Harbour	(740)	(868)	(772)	1,160	1,146	Feb	1,153
Burry Inlet	917	(1,255)	811	1,121	937	Feb	1,008

Light-bellied Brent Goose

Branta bernicla hrota

East Canadian High Arctic Population

International threshold: **260**
Great Britain threshold: **+†**
All-Ireland threshold: **220**

GB max: **208** **Jan**
NI max: **26,673** **Oct**

% Young 1.96
Brood size *Not available*

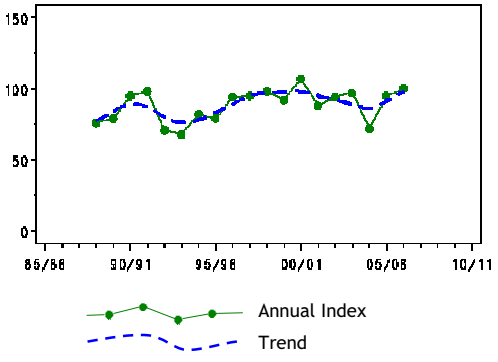

Figure 15.a, Annual indices & trend for East Canadian High Arctic Population for NI.

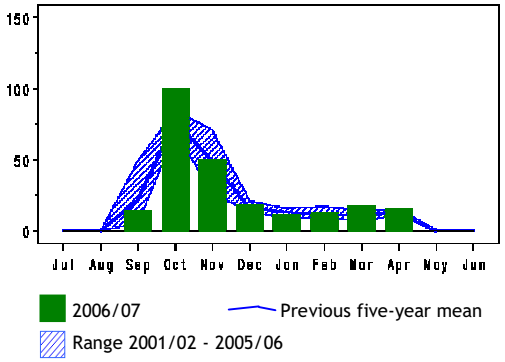

Figure 15.b, Monthly indices for East Canadian High Arctic Population for NI.

The all-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose census was carried out at all known sites in October 2006. A total of 28,940 was counted and over 80% of these were in Strangford Lough. The only other count that exceeded 1,000 was of 1,778 at Lough Foyle. The all-Ireland census detected a slight decline in this population, although over the long-term it has remained stable.

The Northern Ireland maximum was higher than during the previous year and although the index rose slightly the long-term trend has remained fairly stable for the past 12 years. Numbers peaked during October and were higher than during the past five years. Average numbers were recorded throughout the rest of the year.

Strangford Lough remains the key site for this species and in October numbers recorded during core counts were above the five-year mean for this site. Peak numbers at Lough Foyle were below average, although numbers here have fluctuated over the past five years and in 2006/07 were not dissimilar to recent figures.

The highest site total from Britain was 104 at the Dee Estuary (England & Wales) in January; slightly fewer than in the past two years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Strangford Lough	17,520 [29]	21,500 [29]	26,250 [29]	21,885 [29]	24,658	Oct	22,363
Lough Foyle	1,563 [29]	3,277 [29]	1,603 [29]	3,968	1,850	Oct	2,452
Outer Ards Shoreline	700	642	762	618	577	Mar	660
Carlingford Lough	319	(570)	538	508	542	Feb	495
Killough Harbour	472	383	434	516	282	Mar	417
Dundrum Inner Bay	242	188	302	640	575	Feb	389
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Larne Lough	139	235	254	218	256	Dec	220
Sites with mean peak counts of 25 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Traeth Melynog		117	146	262			175
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	25	66	121	138	104	Jan	91
Inland Sea & Alaw Estuary	76	95			79	Nov	83
Loch Gruinart	2	0	284	76	1	Oct	73
Foryd Bay	9	96	115	54	47	Nov	64
Loch Ryan	25	45	67	89	37	Jan	53
Morecambe Bay	62 [10]	53	31	22	65	Nov	47

† as no British threshold has been set a qualifying level of 25 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Svalbard Population

International threshold: **70**
Great Britain threshold: **30***

GB max: **3,352** **Oct**
NI max: **0**

% Young 2.5
Brood size 2.5

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

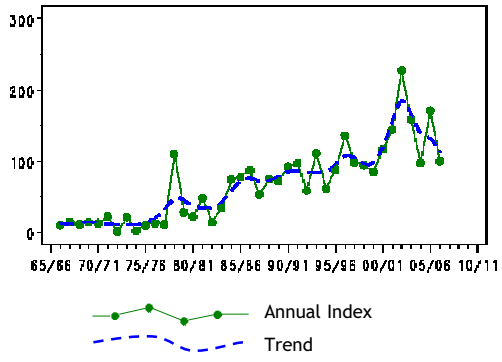

Figure 16.a, Annual indices & trend for Svalbard Population for GB.

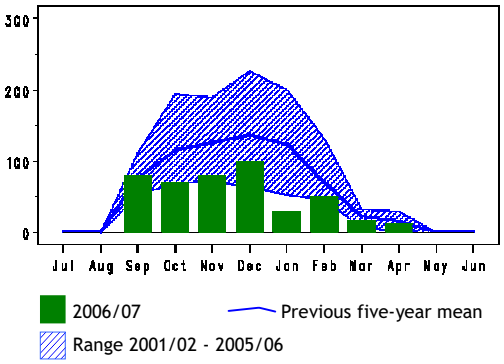

Figure 16.b, Monthly indices for Svalbard Population for GB.

This population of Light-bellied Brent Geese breed in Svalbard, Franz Josef Land and northeast Greenland and are also referred to as the East-Atlantic population. The counted British maximum of Svalbard breeding Light-bellied Brent Geese was just over 10% lower than that of the previous year. This change was due to numbers recorded at Lindisfarne, which accounts for almost the entire national total. Following a peak in the trend in 2002/03 numbers have fallen to levels more akin to those of the late 1990s. Numbers were lower than average throughout the winter, particularly in January when numbers were lower than those of the previous five years.

Lindisfarne held peak numbers slightly below those of 2005/06, although these were similar to the five-year mean for the site. Elsewhere along the British east coast, Light-bellied Brent Geese are generally assumed to be from the Svalbard population, whereas those along the west coasts are assigned to the East Canadian High Arctic population. Other flocks of note along the east coast were at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth in January and Seahouses to Budle Point in March.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Lindisfarne	(3,150)	3,716	2,505 [10]	3,688	3,350	Oct	3,315
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	100	55	18	81	43	Jan	59
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Seahouses to Budle Point	0	(0)	23	48	18	Mar	22

Black Brant

Branta bernicla nigricans

Vagrant
Native Range: N America and E Asia

GB max: **6 Feb**
NI max: **2 Nov**

Black Brant were recorded in every month from November to April and at a total of ten sites in Britain and a further two in Northern Ireland. All records were of single birds except for two at Pagham Harbour in both January and February. The majority of records were from sites along the English coast between The Wash and Portsmouth Harbour, although in November singles were at Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle in Northern Ireland.

Red-breasted Goose

Branta ruficollis

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: SE Europe, Central Asia

GB max: **4 Nov**
NI max: **0**

Red-breasted Geese were noted at six sites throughout England, from Windermere in the north down through Martin Mere, the Humber Estuary and into East Anglia at the North Norfolk Coast, Middle Yare Marshes and North Warren and Thorpeness Mere. All records seem likely to have referred to escaped birds, with the exception of the two birds seen at the Humber Estuary and later the North Norfolk Coast. First noted with Brent Geese in the Netherlands, this well-watched pair was noted at Somercotes-Donna Nook in October, Saltfleet in November and December, Grainthorpe Haven in January and then at Wells-next-the-Sea in March.

Egyptian Goose

Alopochen aegyptiaca

Naturalised introduction†
Native Range: Africa

GB max: **518 Oct**
NI max: **0**

Egyptian Geese were first regularly recorded by WeBS in 1993/94, since when numbers have shown a striking increase. Nationally the index for Britain has reached its highest-ever level, roughly doubling since 2000/01. This increase was also reflected in the British maximum, which was the highest ever recorded. Incidentally,

this species has yet to be recorded in Northern Ireland; the real stronghold remains eastern England.

Despite the noticeable upsurge in the number of Egyptian Geese nationally there were few obvious increases at the key sites; 69 at Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits being one exception. Furthermore, new site records were reached at The Wash and Theale Gravel Pits. As Egyptian Geese are regularly found near small inland waterbodies and relatively large numbers sometimes gather on flooded farmland the actual numbers present in the country far exceeds those recorded by WeBS; the British population was estimated between 2,520 and 3,160 in 2007 (Banks *et al*. 2007).

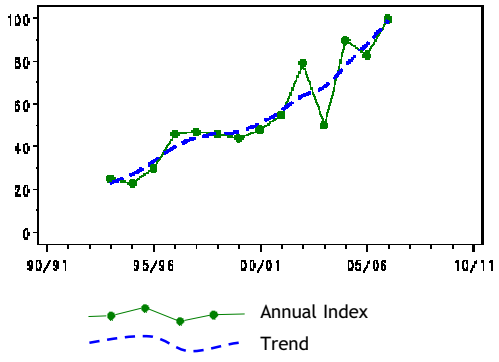

Figure 17.a, Annual indices & trend for Egyptian Goose for GB.

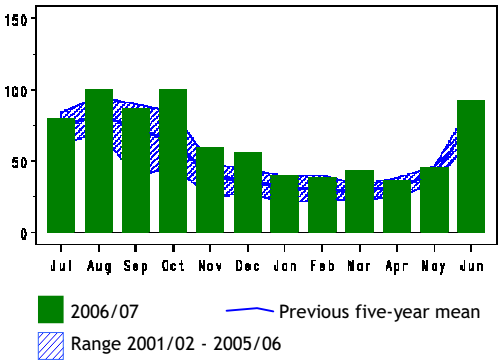

Figure 17.b, Monthly indices for Egyptian Goose for GB.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
North Norfolk Coast	233	(126)	(144)	(126)	211	Oct	222
Sennowe Park Lake Guist	98	85					92
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	63	65	82	85	55	Jul	70
Rutland Water	58	70	46	53	64	Jul	58
St Benet`s Levels	88	23					56
Yare Valley: Marlingford- Bawburgh					52 [12]	Jun	52
Middle Yare Marshes	(72)	24	(47)	(26)	(65)	Sep	47
Nunnery Lakes	21	51	36	31	36	Jun	35
Cranwich Gravel Pits	34						34
Weybread Pits	31	30	41				34
Spade Oak GP (Little Marlow)	33	6	37	49	11	Sep	27
Whitlingham Country Park	7	18	59	27	24	Jul	27
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	2	9	6	24	69	Oct	22
Lynford Gravel Pit					(21)	Dec	(21)
The Wash	12	6	21	10	39	Nov	18
Hickling Broad	0	(0)	21	42	5	Sep	17
Lound Waterworks				16	14	Dec	15
Barton Broad	18	14	13	16	8	Jul	14
Wimbledon Park Lake	18	16	7				14
Livermere and Ampton Water	(6)	29	8	2			13
Trinity Broads	20	10	22	7	8	May	13
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Theale Gravel Pits	0	0	(4)	(9)	22	Dec	8
Busbridge Lakes	0	5			17	Oct	7
Bedfont and Ashford Gravel Pits	0				12	Aug	6
Salhouse Broad	9	6	11	9	11	Jun	9
Tattershall Pits	4	7	10	11	11	Oct	9
Petworth Park Lakes	1	2	3	7	10	Jan	5

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ruddy Shelduck

Tadorna ferruginea

Escape and possible vagrant
Native Range: Asia, N Africa, SE Europe

GB max:	**10**	**Dec**
NI max:	**0**	

Reports of Ruddy Shelduck were submitted for nine months of 2006/07. The highest monthly total was of ten in December, five of which were at the North Norfolk Coast constituting the highest single site total (albeit much lower than the 20 noted there during the previous year). All other counts were of either one or two birds. With the exception of one bird at Erddig Park Lake and another on the Welsh side of the Dee Estuary all records were from England. Nationally, numbers were not unlike those in recent years, excluding the remarkably high total recorded in 2005/06.

Shelduck

Tadorna tadorna

International threshold: 3,000
Great Britain threshold: 782
All-Ireland threshold: 150

GB max:	**48,667**	**Nov**
NI max:	**4,182**	**Jan**

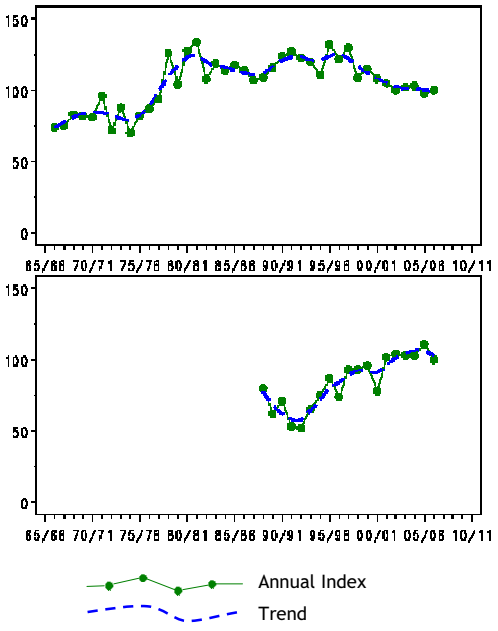

Figure 18.a, Annual indices & trend for Shelduck for GB (above) & NI (below).

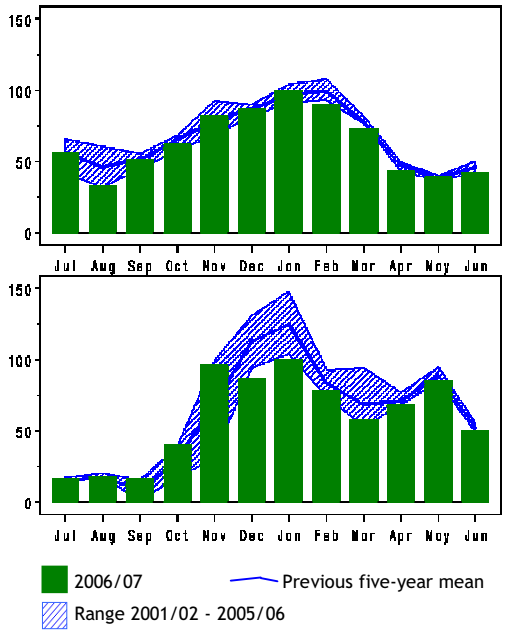

Figure 18.b, Monthly indices for Shelduck for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum for Shelduck was the lowest for about 30 years, albeit only slightly lower than that of 2005/06. The British index has revealed that numbers have remained relatively stable during the past five years suggesting a possible slowing in the decline witnessed since 1997/98. Numbers were similar to average throughout the year, only being noticeably lower in August and from February to April.

The total numbers recorded across Northern Ireland were also below those of the previous year, possibly in part due to the low numbers of Shelduck at Strangford Lough. This slight decline was reflected in the annual index, the underlying trend of which has remained relatively stable in recent years following the long-term rise witnessed since the early 1990s.

Peak numbers at the majority of key sites were similar to those in recent years although there were a few counts worthy of note. Following low numbers in 2004/05, peak numbers at the country's principal site

for this species, the Mersey Estuary, rose for a second year and were more akin to those of four to five years ago. Peak numbers at the Ribble Estuary have been declining steadily over the past few years and in 2006/07 were the lowest at the site since 2000/01. Other sites with below-average counts in 2006/07 were Chichester Harbour, Inner Dundrum Bay and the Bann Estuary.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Mersey Estuary	19,810	17,823	13,420	15,605	(16,721)	Jul	16,676
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	10,533	12,630	13,334	(8,872)	10,869	Oct	11,842
Morecambe Bay	7,164	8,228	7,728	1,023 [10]	8,880	Oct	8,000
The Wash	7,834	7,341	7,451	6,904	6,855	Dec	7,277
Humber Estuary	(4,819)	6,426 [10]	(4,188)	5,223	(4,576)	Sep	5,825
Solway Estuary	(4,324)	3,131	5,359	(882)	(784)	Oct	4,271
Strangford Lough	4,199 [10]	4,475	3,801	4,451 [10]	3,413 [10]	Dec	4,068
Severn Estuary	3,495 [10]	2,579	(3,460)	4,182	3,711	Nov	3,492
Forth Estuary	3,531	3,452	3,164 [11]	3,063	(3,538)	Aug	3,350
Ribble Estuary	3,063	3,829	3,850	2,935	2,577	Nov	3,251
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Thames Estuary	3,285	1,584	(2,318)	1,968	1,805	Feb	2,192
Blackwater Estuary	2,572	1,904	2,073	(1,828)	(1,499)	Jan	2,183
Medway Estuary	(1,257)	(2,177)	2,360 [10]	1,949	(1,156)	Jan	2,162
Swale Estuary	2,290	1,818	2,207	2,140	(875)	Feb	2,114
Poole Harbour	2,385	(2,072)	1,547	(1,857)	(1,043)	Feb	2,001
Stour Estuary	1,916	1,483	(2,149)	(1,421)	1,641	Jan	1,797
Hamford Water	1,903	1,657	1,951	1,493	(1,496)	Nov	1,751
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(385)	(342)	1,661 [10]	(397)	(398)	Feb	1,661
Lindisfarne	1,826	1,323 [10]	1,773 [10]	1,180 [10]	(1,661)	Dec	1,553
WWT Martin Mere	1,435	1,150	1,510 [11]	965	1,075	Jan	1,227
North Norfolk Coast	1,182	1,112	1,110	1,283	1,361	Jan	1,210
Montrose Basin	1,191	(1,240)	690	1,239 [10]	(1,106)	Nov	1,093
Alde Complex	945	1,124	1,025	925	899	Nov	984
Deben Estuary	864	802	883	707	837	Mar	819
Chichester Harbour	1,019	810	825	793	643	Feb	818
Colne Estuary	(263)	(804)	(701)	(471)	(326)	Jan	(804)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Larne Lough	637	633	808	880	832	Jan	758
Carlingford Lough	493	423	452	560	(349)	Feb	482
Belfast Lough	199 [10]	494 [10]	544 [12]	347 [10]	(378)	Feb	396
Lough Foyle	232	(315)	250	392	264	Dec	291
Loughs Neagh and Beg	146	205	260	98	124	Mar	167
Dundrum Inner Bay	99	138	330	96	70	Mar	147
Bann Estuary	87	104	92	86	70	Jun	88
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Tees Estuary	809	713	636	581	816	Dec	711

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata

Escape†

Native Range: S America

GB max: **91** **Oct**
NI max: **0**

Muscovy Duck were noted at 27 sites in 2006/07, four fewer than in the previous year. Most records were from sites in England but birds were also present at the Burry Inlet, Pond Twym (Llanelli) and Fendrod Pool in Wales and River Clyde (Lamington) in Scotland. The key site for this species remains Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park Lakes, where at least 22 were present throughout the winter and a maximum count of 43 in October was recorded. Similar numbers were also at Brayford Pool (Lincoln) throughout 2006/07, which was the first year that this species was recorded at this site. Nationally, the summed maxima reached 91 in both October and December and although higher than in the previous two years was similar to around five years ago.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Fort Henry Ponds & Exton Pk Lks	0	0	14	25	43	Oct	16
Brayford Pool Lincoln				0	26	Oct	13
Wilderness Pond	12	7					10
High Batts Recording Area		8	8				8
Derwent Water	6	6	11	7	5	Dec	7
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Sale Water Pk & Broad Ees Dole	0	0		0	9	Mar	2
River Wye - Bakewell to Haddon	0	0	0	0	7	Sep	1
Nafferton Mere	1	4	6	5	5	Dec	4

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Wood Duck

Aix sponsa

Escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: **8** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

As in 2005/06, Wood Duck were again noted at ten sites, although in 2006/07 there were no records from Northern Ireland. Peak numbers for Britain were just one higher than in the previous year, with Stanton Lake remaining the key site for this species, where up to six birds were present throughout the year. The majority of the remaining records were of single birds; exceptions being three at River Avon - Salisbury in August and two at both Burton and Chingford Ponds in September and Wilton Water in November.

Mandarin

Aix galericulata

Naturalised introduction†
Native Range: E Asia

GB max: **531** **Oct**
NI max: **0**

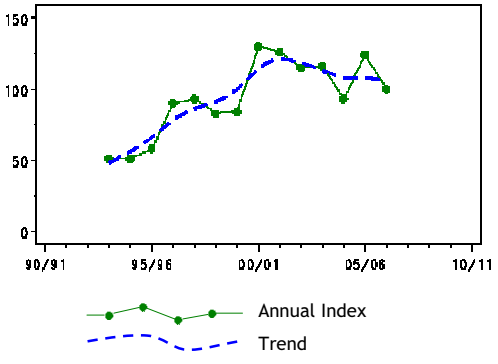

Figure 19.a, Annual indices & trend for Mandarin for GB.

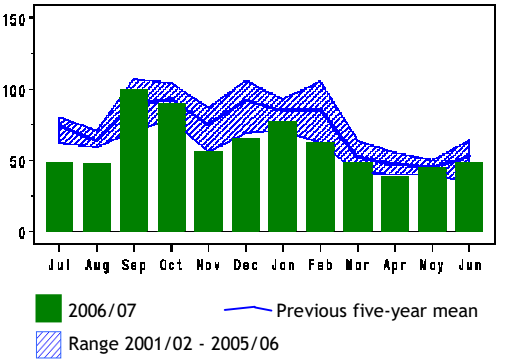

Figure 19.b, Monthly indices for Mandarin for GB.

Since the peak in the national trend in 2001/02, the number of Mandarin in Britain appears to have fallen a little with the current index being just below that of the past few years. However, there is a good deal of between-year variation, and this species is not particularly well monitored by WeBS, given its secretive behaviour and liking for small wooded pools. Although higher than that of the previous two years the summed site maximum was similar to the average of the past five years. Mandarins were recorded at 118 sites across Britain and at one site, Grouville Marsh, in the Channel Islands.

Despite a lack of counts from Forest of Dean Ponds and Bradley Pools, these two sites remain the principal sites for this species based on five-year figures. In 2006/07, the highest single-site count was 83 at the Dee Flood Meadows, which was a record count for this site. Other new site records for this species were noted at Darwell Reservoir and Strawberry Hill Ponds.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Forest of Dean Ponds	120 [12]	160 [12]	221 [15]	66 [15]			142
Bradley Pools	55	188	65	144			113
Headley Mill Pond	76	76	23	132	15	Feb	64
Stockgrove Country Park	70	43					57
Wraysbury Pond	63 [11]	61	51	48	51	Dec	55
Busbridge Lakes	47	72			41	Mar	53
Cuttmill Ponds	51	59	61	66	27	Oct	53
Bough Beech Reservoir	33 [42]	56 [42]	60 [42]	45 [42]	60	Jan	51
Dee Flood Meadows	49	32	42	36	83	Oct	48
Darwell Reservoir	25	56	13	58	74	Sep	45
Passfield Pond	67	73	16	15	30	Sep	40
Arun Valley	46	37	37	47	25	Aug	38
Connaught Water	31	44	32	35	44	Aug	37
Harewood Lake	53	35	31	15			34
River Thames at Staines Bridge	31						31
Strawberry Hill Ponds	30	23	15	32	44	Oct	29
Lost, Golding & Baldwins Hill Pds	78	5	12	7	20	Jan	24
Fonthill Lake	18	20	38	22	4	Dec	20
Linacre Reservoirs	14	17	23	23	25	Oct	20
Osterley Park Lakes	20	19	31	18	14	May	20
Paultons Bird Park	20						20
Sutton Place	21	32	20	4			19
Pen Ponds					17	Feb	17
Panshanger Estate	24	12	11	16	8	Nov	14
Allestree Park Lakes	4	5	5	37	16	Jul	13
Bramshill Park Lake	15 [12]	8	(9)	(2)	(6)	Jan	12
Woburn Park Lakes	24	8	6	18	4	Aug	12
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	13	12	12	12	13	Oct	12
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Fir Tree Flash	0	0	0	0	37	Dec	7
Powdermill Reservoir	(4)	1	6	7	18	Jan	8
Blackbrook Reservoir	0	2	2	17	16	Oct	7
Aldenham Reservoir		3	5	11	12	Jan	8
Ardingly Reservoir	0	0	0	2	12	Oct	3
Fleet Pond	1	0	3	0	12	Dec	3
Clumber Park Lake	1	0		2	10	Nov	3
Grimsthorpe Lake	0	8	0	0	10	Jan	4
Rostherne Mere	7	4	2	3	10	Jun	5

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Wigeon

Anas penelope

International threshold: 15,000
Great Britain threshold: 4,060
All-Ireland threshold: 820

GB max: 324,362 Dec
NI max: 9,766 Oct

Following several years of steady growth the Wigeon index for Britain fell by over 20% to its lowest level for seven years. Nationally, numbers were below average throughout much of the autumn and winter and between December and March were lower than at any time during the previous five-years. This decline was echoed in the British maximum, which was a quarter lower than in 2005/06. The low numbers recorded in Britain during 2006/07 may have been a consequence of the mild conditions around the North Sea and Baltic countries.

Numbers at several key sites were noticeably lower than average. Relatively low totals at the Ribble Estuary and Swale Estuary were possibly due to the incomplete coverage of these sites, whereas those at the Dornoch Firth, Cromarty Firth and the Thames Estuary were genuinely low. Peak numbers of birds at the Ouse Washes were less than half of those of the previous year. This was due to the unfavourably high water levels, which were in contrast to decidedly suitable levels the year before; Ouse Washes peaks of most of the other dabbling ducks were also low.

Wigeon numbers in Northern Ireland continued to fall and reached their lowest-ever level. This decline was evident throughout the winter with numbers below those of the previous five years between November and January. Despite figures being low for Northern Ireland as a whole, peak numbers at two of the key sites, Lough Foyle and Strangford Lough, were above the five-year mean.

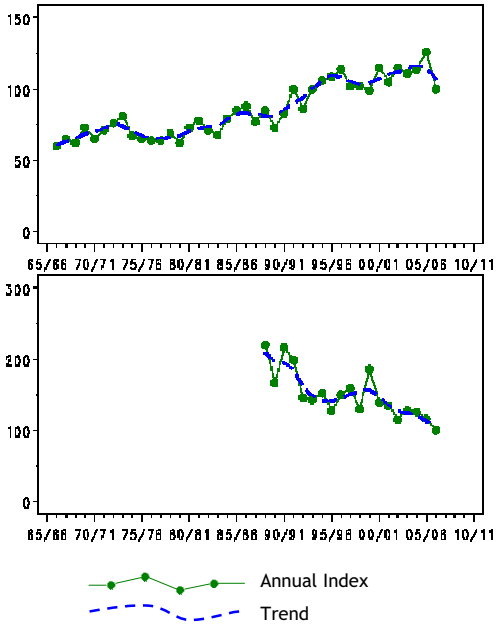

Figure 20.a, Annual indices & trend for Wigeon for GB (above) & NI (below).

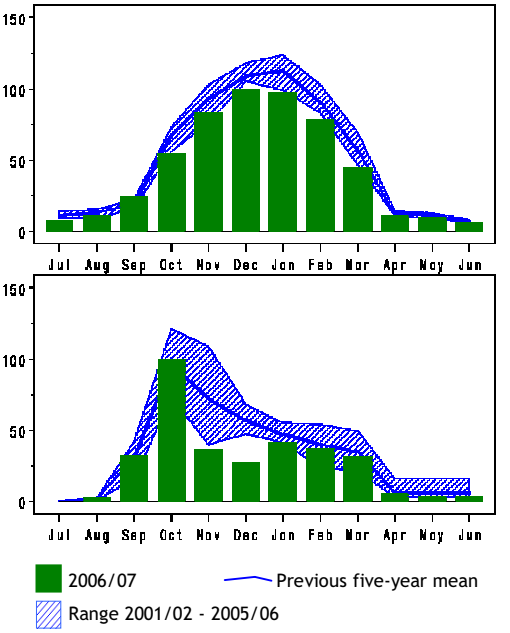

Figure 20.b, Monthly indices for Wigeon for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	75,617	82,627	86,157	79,659	(57,385)	Dec	81,015
Ouse Washes	26,753 [12]	33,773 [12]	34,853 [12]	55,816	26,984	Jan	35,636
Somerset Levels	(39,546)	29,397	15,346	18,142	27,391	Jan	25,964
Swale Estuary	22,827	20,772	13,832	16,651	(4,180)	Feb	18,521
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	15,999 [10]	16,811	19,019	22,134	15,905	Feb	17,974
North Norfolk Coast	16,056	20,694	17,444	18,426	16,750	Nov	17,874
Lindisfarne	(20,016)	(12,321)	15,960	13,614	10,840	Sep	15,108
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Dornoch Firth	16,979	12,485	14,746	13,749	9,763	Oct	13,544
Lower Derwent Ings	11,217	13,171	10,215	14,320			12,231
Cromarty Firth	(6,041)	12,877	13,487	12,652	8,510	Oct	11,882
Blackwater Estuary	10,976	7,057	7,385	6,708	(2,474)	Jan	8,032
Severn Estuary	7,019	9,110	8,058	6,249	9,343	Jan	7,956
Nene Washes	11,866	8,190	4,998	5,380	8,180	Mar	7,723
Morecambe Bay	5,634	7,151	8,095	8,929	(6,201)	Dec	7,452
Cleddau Estuary	3,720	6,045	8,468	9,441	7,643	Nov	7,063
Alde Complex	7,387	(4,956)	7,274	7,182	6,103	Dec	6,987
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	7,820	7,587	5,595	6,078	5,863	Oct	6,589
Thames Estuary	9,798	5,565	4,343	6,449	3,566	Dec	5,944
Middle Yare Marshes	5,508	4,998	7,846	6,291	3,890	Feb	5,707
The Wash	5,630	3,476	3,424	5,887	6,612	Dec	5,006
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	3,979	5,658	2,464	6,695	5,797	Oct	4,919
Fleet and Wey	5,360	(5,105)	4,469	6,122	3,087	Dec	4,829
Montrose Basin	4,752	5,488	(4,147)	5,065	3,047	Dec	4,588
Humber Estuary	(5,513)	4,734 [10]	(3,570)	3,662	2,805	Jan	4,179
Arun Valley	(6,237)	5,074	2,956	3,375	3,082	Dec	4,145

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	2,609	3,978	4,589	6,559	5,406	Oct	4,628
Strangford Lough	3,400	4,299	3,281	2,636	3,476	Oct	3,418
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,908	3,060	3,611	2,701	1,878	Mar	2,632
Upper Lough Erne	797	921	1,284	631	1,229	Jan	972
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Solway Estuary	(5,497)	(3,671)	(2,841)	3,342	2,803	Jan	3,828
Loch of Harray	(2,682)	4,823	4,265	3,095	2,595	Oct	3,695

American Wigeon

Anas americana

Vagrant
Native Range: N & C America

GB max: 5 Jan
NI max: 0

American Wigeon were recorded at seven sites across Britain between October and March. With the exception of two at Loch Bee in November (which was followed by one in February) and two at Camel Estuary in both January and February, all other records were of single birds. Long staying individuals were noted at Tophill Low Reservoirs from October to March and Cromarty Firth from December to February.

Chiloe Wigeon

Anas sibilatrix

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 3 Sep
NI max: 0

Two Chiloe Wigeon were present at the Otter Estuary in September, while singles were recorded at Exe Estuary in September, Elton Reservoir in October, Ramsbury Lake in March and the North West Solent in May.

Gadwall

Anas strepera

International threshold: 600
Great Britain threshold: 171
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

GB max: 15,018 Dec
NI max: 174 Sep

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

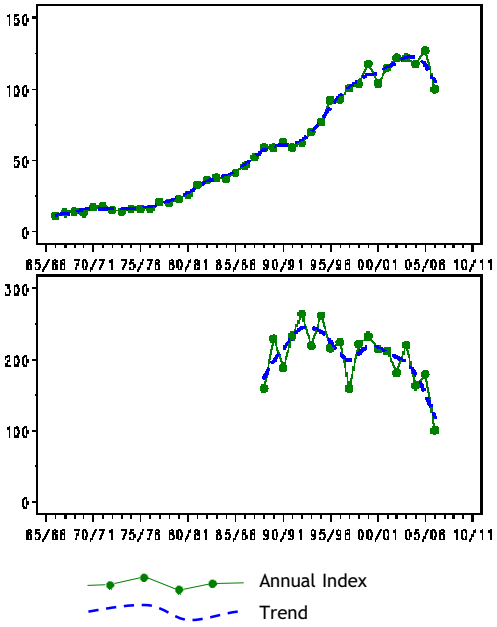

Figure 21.a, Annual indices & trend for Gadwall for GB (above) & NI (below).

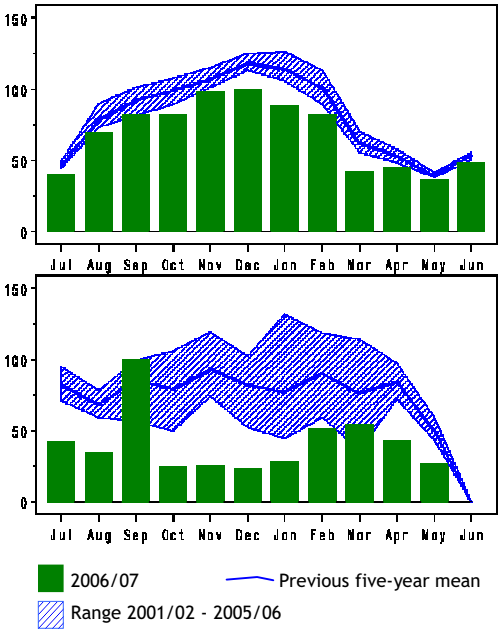

Figure 21.b, Monthly indices for Gadwall for GB (above) & NI (below).

Over the past thirty years the number of Gadwall wintering in Britain has increased steadily, with a nine-fold increase since the mid-1970s. In 2006/07, however, WeBS recorded a drop of over 20% with the British index falling to levels equivalent to those of ten years ago. Numbers remained lower than during the entire previous five years throughout the whole of 2006/07. The most dramatic crash was witnessed at the Ouse Washes where peak numbers fell to a tenth of those of the previous year. As for other species of wildfowl, high water levels at this site proved unfavourable compared to conditions during 2005/06 and are thought to explain the dramatic changes between the two years. Low numbers of Gadwall were also recorded at the Somerset Levels, Loch Leven and, especially, at Wraysbury Gravel Pits, where a decline from over 700 birds to virtually nil in just two years was thought to be linked to high levels of disturbance at the site.

Numbers also plummeted in Northern Ireland, reaching an all-time low. As in Britain, figures were extraordinarily low throughout the year, the one exception being October when numbers were above average. Numbers at key sites were unexceptional, although Strangford Lough recorded its lowest-ever peak count.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Ouse Washes	782	889 [12]	1,799 [12]	2,289 [12]	220	Nov	1,196	
Rutland Water	867	1,096	491	670	904	Aug	806	
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	824	701	684	653	(113)	Feb	716	
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	808	560	622	878	518	Nov	677	
Abberton Reservoir	730	519	425	1,024	(535)	Aug	675	▲
Somerset Levels	(1,077)	430	729	704	424	Jan	673	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Thames Estuary	815	(554)	471	377	414	Feb	526	
Loch Leven	840	635	360	392	309	Sep	507	
Pitsford Reservoir	164	898	124	482	444	Aug	422	
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	745	516	706	21	2	Nov	398	
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	336	219	400	378	553	Nov	377	
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(403)	375	327	427	330	Feb	372	
Orwell Estuary	465 [10]	446	234 [10]	347 [10]	340 [10]	Dec	366	
Theale Gravel Pits	(104)	(222)	(86)	(169)	357	Dec	357	
Minsmere	394	239	309	398	410	Nov	350	
Hickling Broad	407	(200)	216	340	356	Jan	330	
Tees Estuary	208	231	(289)	(332)	432	Oct	301	
Alton Water	270	360	182	495	166	Dec	295	
Chew Valley Lake	360	410	315	200	150	Aug	287	
Woolston Eyes	182	297	470	196	(84)	Sep	286	
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	275	339	225	315	215	Jan	274	
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	305	230	256	315	226	Feb	266	
Fairburn Ings	154	367		278	266	Sep	266	
Burghfield Gravel Pits	312	325	255	156	261	Dec	262	
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	58	198	307	(304)	425	Oct	258	
Severn Estuary	253	292	194	297	241	Dec	255	
Redgrave Lake					253	Nov	253	▲
Hoveton Great Broad	278	667		49	13	Oct	252	
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	360	264	217	252	136	Nov	246	
Hornsea Mere	285	219	235	315	162	Aug	243	
Meadow Lane Gravel Pits St Ives	321	190	153	354	165	Dec	237	
Edderthorpe near Darfield					237	Oct	237	▲
North Norfolk Coast	215	262	231	262	186	May	231	
Chichester Gravel Pits	349	319	176	149	148	Jan	228	
Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve	432	(225)	118	206	122	Sep	221	
Alde Complex	163	(244)	352	172	166	Dec	219	
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	229 [12]	113	353	170 [12]	220	Jan	217	
Thrapston Gravel Pits	(218)	207					213	
Buckden and Stirtloe Pits	208						208	▲
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	156	(255)	(69)	(74)	(131)	Jan	206	
Lower Derwent Ings	319	215	147	108			197	
Twyford Gravel Pits	189						189	▲
Ditchford Gravel Pits		192	180	178	184	Feb	184	▲

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Staines Reservoirs	162	126	455	126	47	Sep	183	
Blunham Gravel Pit	214	152					183	
Tring Reservoirs	94	217	252	107	238	Feb	182	▲
Whitlingham Country Park	222	358	72	149	111	Dec	182	
Blagdon Lake	17	335	204	287	52	Sep	179	
Lakenheath Fen	179	263	139	113	189	Sep	177	
Dungeness Gravel Pits	153	160	209	151	199	Sep	174	▲
Bainton Pits	118	168	200	206	(71)	Sep	173	▲
Earls Barton Gravel Pits	(207)	124	(146)	73	281	Feb	171	▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	149	247	144	160	130	Feb	166	
Dinton Pastures	144	97	138	260	109	Jan	150	
Ravensthorpe Reservoir	288	98	53	69	59	Dec	113	
Inner Firth of Clyde	1	0	(0)	560	1	Dec	141	
Sites with mean peak counts of 20 or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Loughs Neagh and Beg	149	173	130	172	143	Sep	153	
Strangford Lough	57	73	48	113 [10]	68 [10]	Dec	72	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Panshanger Estate	40	146	134	92	322	Feb	147	
Block Fen Pits				13	229	Dec	121	
Welbeck Estate	135	103	(98)	186	215	Sep	160	
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	99	91	97	80	196	Oct	113	
Potteric Carr	(140)	(114)	36	(216)	182	Sep	138	
Humber Estuary	176	104	82	(112)	(179)	Oct	135	

Teal

Anas crecca

International threshold: 5,000
Great Britain threshold: 1,920
All-Ireland threshold: 450

GB max: 127,019 Dec
NI max: 3,330 Jan

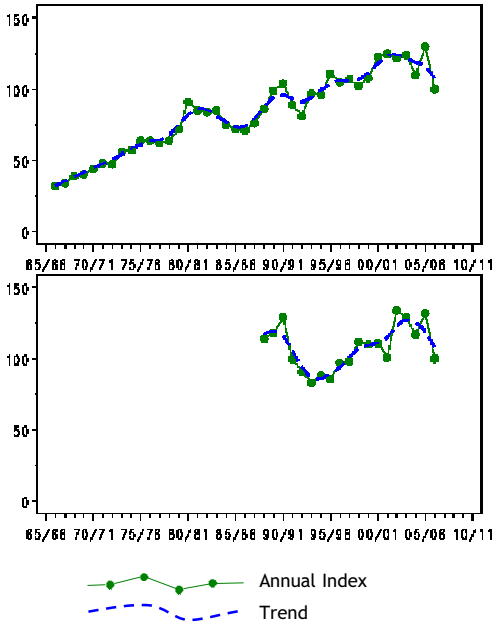

Figure 22.a, Annual indices & trend for Teal for GB (above) & NI (below).

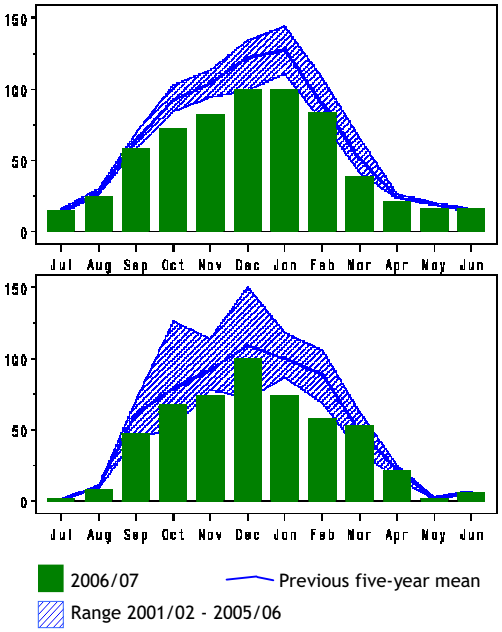

Figure 22.b, Monthly indices for Teal for GB (above) & NI (below).

The peak monthly totals of Teal in the UK were the lowest for several years; falling by a quarter in Britain and by almost half in Northern Ireland compared to the previous year. This decline was reflected in both the British and Northern Ireland indices, both

dropping to levels similar to those in 1998/99. However, the numbers of Teal have generally been increasing over the past decades and future data will be essential in determining the relevance of this year's decline.

At the start of 2006/07 numbers in Britain were similar to average but failed to reach usual levels from October onwards. Numbers remained lower than average until the following June. The pattern in Northern Ireland was similar with lower than average numbers from October onwards, however, numbers were more typical by March.

Peak numbers at most key sites were lower than average, in particular at Thames Estuary, Ouse Washes and also the Mersey Estuary where they were the lowest for over 35 years. One exception was the Somerset Levels where numbers were the highest for four years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Somerset Levels	(33,390)	17,225	7,161	8,719	21,581	Jan	17,615	
Ribble Estuary	4,671	7,421	8,688	9,571	(6,959)	Dec	7,588	
Mersey Estuary	7,855	8,364	6,023	9,200 [10]	2,249	Nov	6,738	
Thames Estuary	9,838	6,691	5,433	5,361	3,940	Dec	6,253	
Ouse Washes	4,433 [12]	5,102	7,014 [12]	9,772	4,333 [12]	Nov	6,131	
Swale Estuary	5,752	5,428	4,187	(5,783)	(2,582)	Oct	5,288	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Loch Leven	6,562	4,847	6,060	4,840	2,527	Oct	4,967	▼
WWT Martin Mere	2,750	5,100	8,300	3,800	1,430	Nov	4,276	
North Norfolk Coast	5,281	3,436	3,730	4,994	3,638	Sep	4,216	
Lower Derwent Ings	4,797	4,061	3,476	4,479			4,203	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	4,361	5,459	2,752	2,854	4,429	Jan	3,971	
Severn Estuary	3,748	3,006	3,466	5,293	4,233	Dec	3,949	
Hamford Water	3,628	6,579	2,164	3,276	(1,969)	Nov	3,912	
Otmoor	3,633		(2,138)	(369)			3,633	
Humber Estuary	2,681	(5,111)	2,349	3,739	(1,775)	Jan	3,470	
Alde Complex	2,609	(2,530)	3,028	3,913	3,560	Dec	3,278	
Abberton Reservoir	736	3,863	1,224	7,741	2,662	Nov	3,245	
Blackwater Estuary	3,721	(2,873)	(2,064)	2,751	(1,275)	Nov	3,236	
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,948 [10]	3,439	3,397	2,995	(1,890)	Feb	3,195	
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	3,100	2,850	2,900		3,900	Nov	3,188	
The Wash	1,918	4,223	2,578	4,107	2,138	Oct	2,993	
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	3,124	1,982	4,733	2,372	2,658	Feb	2,974	
Holburn Moss	2,250 [12]	3,500	3,000				2,917	
Hickling Broad	2,879	1,814	2,400	4,550	2,000	Oct	2,729	
Morecambe Bay	2,261	2,808	(3,699)	2,538	2,338	Jan	2,729	
Solway Estuary	(2,813)	(1,286)	1,941	3,152	(2,265)	Dec	2,635	
Dornoch Firth	2,502	2,619	2,451	2,044	(1,312)	Oct	2,404	
Minsmere	2,189	4,381	1,984	1,796	1,252	Sep	2,320	
Arun Valley	(3,934)	1,912	1,229	2,390	2,129	Dec	2,319	
Forth Estuary	1,984	(2,511)	1,880	2,130	2,509	Dec	2,203	
Loch Gruinart Floods	2,095	2,476	2,549	2,058	1,467	Nov	2,129	
Cleddau Estuary	2,095	2,129	2,269	2,435	1,389	Feb	2,063	
R. Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	4,841	695	(309)	410	(980)	Jan	1,982	
Nene Washes	4,046	2,730	726	584	1,677	Mar	1,953	▲
Poole Harbour	2,235	2,357	1,806	1,402	(874)	Nov	1,950	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	2,177	2,232	2,015	2,573	1,724	Oct	2,144	
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,887	2,732	2,019	1,427	1,049	Mar	1,823	
Lough Foyle	2,275	582	1,038	1,405	915	Nov	1,243	
Carlingford Lough	352	498	647	710	440	Nov	529	
Belfast Lough	417	667	544	520	488	Feb	527	
Upper Lough Erne	1,635	407	723	174	416	Dec	671	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Woolston Eyes	1,320	2,072	2,170	1,207	1,200	Jan	1,594	
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	1,170	1,183	2,500	3,633	831	Nov	1,863	
Middle Yare Marshes	(1,300)	(1,372)	(1,067)	(1,034)	(762)	Jan	(1,372)	

Green-winged Teal

Anas carolinensis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 7 Feb
NI max: 2 Nov

Green-winged Teal were noted at 15 sites in Britain and two in Northern Ireland between October and March. All records were of single birds and long staying individuals were present at Dee Estuary (England and Wales) from October to January, Belfast Lough from November to February and Woodhorn Flashes from November to February.

Speckled Teal

Anas flavirostris

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: 1 Oct
NI max: 0

During 2006/07, two Speckled Teal were recorded on WeBS counts, one at Elton Reservoir in October and another at Belvide Reservoir; both were new WeBS species for the sites.

Mallard

Anas platyrhynchos

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 3,520†
All-Ireland threshold: 380

GB max: 121,545 Oct
NI max: 7,177 Sep

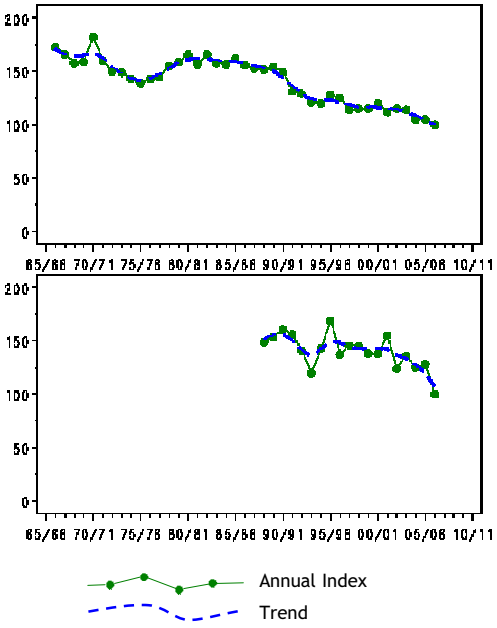

Figure 23.a, Annual indices & trend for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

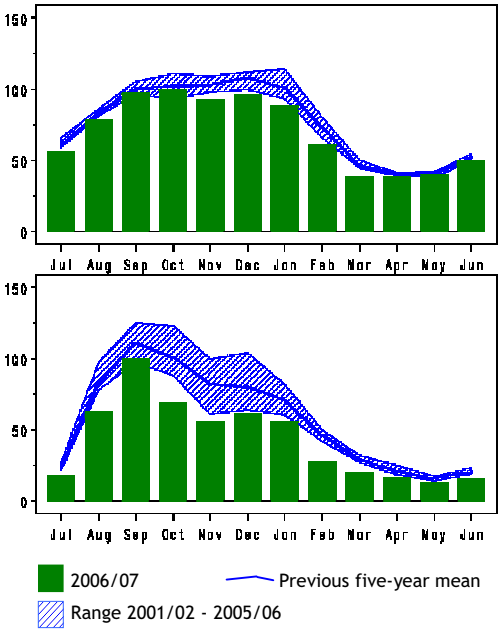

Figure 23.b, Monthly indices for Mallard for GB (above) & NI (below).

The possible reasons behind the long-term decline in Mallard have been speculated upon in past 'Waterbirds in the UK' and include fewer winter immigrants, poor breeding success, fewer released birds and fewer cold weather aggregations. This decline continued into 2006/07, with the British maximum falling around 10% since 2005/06 to its lowest level since 1977/78. This decline was reflected in the British index, which fell to its lowest-ever level. Numbers in Britain were below average throughout the year and the lowest of the past five years in every month except September, October and May.

The index for Northern Ireland also reached its lowest ever and dropped by around 20% compared to the previous year, numbers being the lowest of the past five years in every month except September. Interestingly, however, peak numbers at the key sites in the region were similar to average.

There were also few noteworthy changes at key sites in Britain, exceptions being the Ouse Washes, at which peak numbers remained low for a second year running, and WWT Martin Mere where peak numbers were the lowest since 1980/81. The decline at the Ouse Washes means that mean numbers at no British site reach the threshold for national importance.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,763	4,774	4,027	4,612	4,351	Sep	4,505
Strangford Lough	1,851	1,568	1,621	1,586	(1,010)	Jan	1,657
Lough Foyle	705	791	1,025	1,133	1,036	Oct	938
Lower Lough Erne	533	(494)	754	556	551	Jan	599
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Ouse Washes	3,580 [12]	3,988 [12]	3,595 [12]	2,454	2,606 [12]	Nov	3,245
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Severn Estuary	2,936	2,836	3,353	3,884	3,661	Sep	3,334
Ouse Washes	3,580 [12]	3,988 [12]	3,595 [12]	2,454	2,606 [12]	Nov	3,245
WWT Martin Mere	3,280	3,350	2,930	3,150	2,211	Oct	2,984
Livermere and Ampton Water	3,355	3,735	2,517	1,106			2,678
Humber Estuary	2,957	(2,347)	2,455	2,155	(1,752)	Dec	2,522
The Wash	2,384	2,639	2,437	2,534	2,417	Oct	2,482
Tring Reservoirs	2,800	2,000	1,557	2,500	1,988	Oct	2,169
Lower Derwent Ings	2,630	2,560	1,725	1,641			2,139
Morecambe Bay	2,455	2,208	1,891	1,740	1,837	Oct	2,026
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	1,148	2,784	2,143	1,686	2,027	Nov	1,958

† as few sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying level of 2,000 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Pintail

Anas acuta

International threshold: 600
Great Britain threshold: 279
All-Ireland threshold: 20*

GB max: 25,348 Jan
NI max: 515 Dec

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

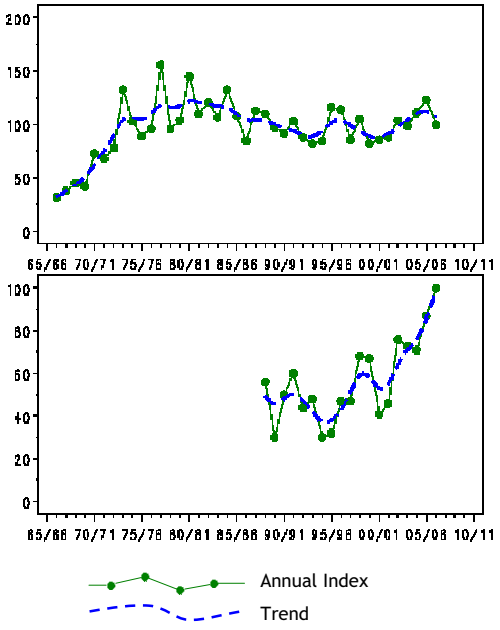

Figure 24.a, Annual indices & trend for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

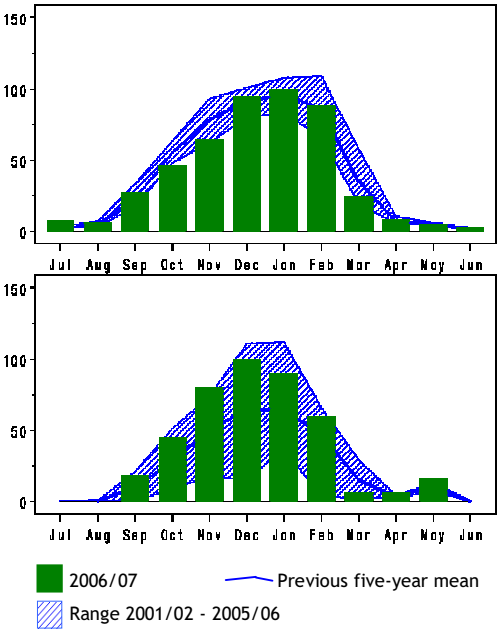

Figure 24.b, Monthly indices for Pintail for GB (above) & NI (below).

Pintail numbers in Britain have shown some fluctuation over the past few decades but on the whole are fairly stable. More recently, there have been signs of an increase, although a fall in 2006/07 has resulted in the current index value being similar to the mean of the past ten years. Throughout the winter, numbers were similar to those of the past five years, although there was a suggestion from the monthly indices that a proportion of the birds arrived later and departed earlier than normal; just the sort of pattern that might be expected with milder winter weather.

Peak numbers at most of the key British sites were similar to those of recent years. One notable exception was the Ouse Washes where numbers were the lowest since 2000/01. The low numbers of several of the duck species at this site can be explained by unfavourable water levels for much of the winter. Interestingly, however, numbers at the nearby Nene Washes were relatively high. At Morecambe Bay, the peak count was somewhat reduced compared to recent years.

Although the overall numbers involved are far lower, the index for Northern Ireland shows a dramatic increase over the past 12 years, with an increase of 15% between 2005/06 and 2006/07. This latest increase was clearly visible throughout the year with numbers above average in all months except March. Peak counts at the key site in the region, Strangford Lough, were similar to average although the peak at Lough Foyle was three times that of the previous five-year mean, with a steady increase noted here over the last five years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	6,000 [12]	6,317	4,312	6,330	6,172	Oct	5,826	
Burry Inlet	4,410	5,772	2,745	4,837	4,692	Feb	4,491	
Solway Estuary	(3,357)	4,183	(4,352)	(1,575)	(2,329)	Nov	4,268	
Morecambe Bay	3,628	(3,942)	3,620	3,045	2,609	Oct	3,369	
Ouse Washes	2,844 [12]	2,277 [12]	3,557 [12]	3,343 [12]	1,823 [12]	Feb	2,769	
Ribble Estuary	1,405	(2,562)	(3,058)	3,579	(1,094)	Jan	2,651	
Duddon Estuary	(415)	(1,299)	1,626 [10]	2,210 [10]	(2,317)	Jan	2,051	
Nene Washes	3,478	1,779	327	281	1,931	Feb	1,559	
Severn Estuary	(891)	(354)	(784)	905	(1,161)	Jan	1,033	
The Wash	1,253	1,086	915	567	1,215	Feb	1,007	
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	1,140	480	970		1,010	Dec	900	
Medway Estuary	(333)	(95)	812 [10]	(809)	(582)	Feb	812	
Swale Estuary	946	962	672	579	(231)	Feb	790	
North Norfolk Coast	475	(768)	712	657	753	Feb	673	
Pagham Harbour	304	477	834	893	566	Feb	615	
Dee Flood Meadows	(628)	(580)	300 [12]	(329)	916	Jan	615	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Somerset Levels	(1,315)	494	261	333	530	Dec	587	▼
WWT Martin Mere	487	463	710 [11]	(535)	580	Jan	560	
R.Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	2,013	25	46	1	(456)	Feb	521	
Blackwater Estuary	498	461	555	(387)	(68)	Nov	505	
Arun Valley	(775)	403	293	290	574	Dec	467	
Stour Estuary	460	467	289	473	467	Feb	431	
Lower Derwent Ings	660	573	296	167			424	
North West Solent	96	391	412	670	484	Dec	411	
Lindisfarne	330	384	301	536	445	Jan	399	
Orwell Estuary	372 [10]	325 [10]	165 [10]	308 [10]	753 [10]	Nov	385	
Wigtown Bay	(320)	(359)	(654)	349	166	Feb	370	
Blyth Estuary	213	(40)	425 [12]	(209)	394	Jan	344	
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	310	258	518	281	314	Jan	336	
Malltraeth Cob and Pools		207	421	397	287	Dec	328	
Otmoor	481 [12]		168 [12]	(46)			325	▲
Alde Complex	403	(330)	313	307	259	Dec	322	
Crouch-Roach Estuary	385	267	(281)	380	221	Dec	313	
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	571	271 [10]	248	202	162 [10]	Dec	291	
Poole Harbour	191	316	338	(208)	(140)	Jan	282	
Fleet and Wey	149	(281)	420	360	188	Jan	280	
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	378	582	349	643 [10]	496	Dec	490	
Lough Foyle	21	22	52	94	123	Jan	62	▲

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Severn Hams	(80)	(250)	70	(101)	(275)	Feb	155
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	38	149	1	16	554	Feb	152
Foryd Bay	248	80	136	449	330	Nov	249
Traeth Bach	130	82	80	65	325	Jan	136
Dornoch Firth	252	140	291	263	293	Jan	248

Pintail (Jill Pakenham)

White-cheeked Pintail

Anas bahamensis

Escape
Native Range: C & S America

GB max: **2** **Jun**
NI max: **0**

Single White-cheeked Pintail were noted at two sites in 2006/07. These were the same as in the previous year with birds at Stanton Lake in September, May and June and Doddington Pool in January, March and April.

Garganey

Anas querquedula

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: +†
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: **83** **Sep 2006**
NI max: **6** **Sep 2006**

As a summer visitor, Garganey are considered here for the calendar year 2006. Peak numbers were recorded in September in both Britain and Northern Ireland (where the species was recorded by WeBS for the first time, at Loughs Neagh and Beg). The British maximum was the second lowest since 1992, although was only nine below the average of the past five years. In total birds were present at 91 sites across Britain, most records being of either one or two birds. High counts included nine at Dungeness Gravel Pits in August, eight at the Duddon Estuary in June and seven at both the Erme Estuary in March and Pitsford Reservoir in September.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	15	12	14	12	6	Sep	12
Middle Yare Marshes	(0)	(7)	(0)	(0)	(0)		(7)
Ouse Washes	7	2	4	10	0		5
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	9	2	3	8	3	Apr	5
Thames Estuary	(5)	(2)	(3)	(2)	(1)	Aug	(5)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Duddon Estuary	0	0	0	0	8	Jun	2
Erme Estuary	0	0	0	0	7	Mar	1
Pitsford Reservoir	0	1	0	4	7	Sep	2
Chew Valley Lake	1	3	1	4	6	May	3
Camel Estuary	0	0	1	3	5	Aug	2
Abberton Reservoir	0	1	2	2	(4)	Aug	2
Par Sands Pls & St Andrews Rd	0	0	(0)	0	4	Jul	1

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of four has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Shoveler

Anas clypeata

International threshold:	400
Great Britain threshold:	148
All-Ireland threshold:	20*

*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

GB max: 11,687 Dec
NI max: 112 Jan

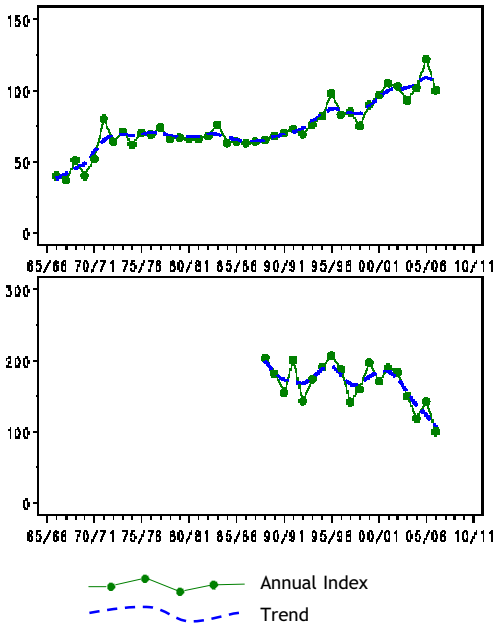

Figure 25.a, Annual indices & trend for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

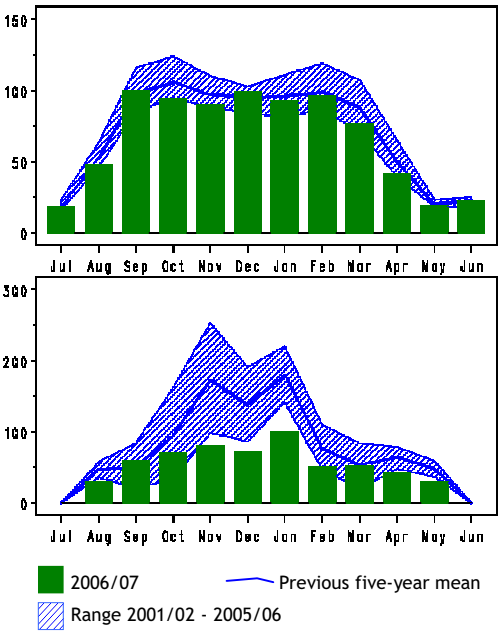

Figure 25.b, Monthly indices for Shoveler for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum was around 5% lower than the previous year. This was reflected in the national index, which fell slightly on that of 2005/06, although numbers were similar to the average of the past few years. The monthly indices suggest that average numbers arrived by September, but then were slightly below average for much of the rest of the winter (except in December). The index for Northern Ireland also fell slightly, reaching an all-time low (albeit the numbers of birds involved being far lower than in Britain). The monthly indices for the region suggest that numbers were particularly low between November and February. Numbers at the region's key site, Strangford Lough, were half those of the five-year mean.

Numbers at the Severn Estuary remained high for the second year running resulting in average numbers above those of the internationally important threshold. In contrast, mean numbers at Dungeness Gravel Pits have fallen below this threshold, although the site remains of national importance for this species. One of the most noticeable counts was at the Ouse Washes where peak numbers were a third those of the five-year mean. This decline is likely to be due to unfavourable water levels at the site, which were particularly suitable for wildfowl during the previous year. Other notably low counts were made at Chew Valley Lake, Abberton Reservoir, the Burry Inlet, Staines Reservoirs and Chichester Gravel Pits. Three sites no longer qualify as supporting nationally important numbers, with the most dramatic decline having been at Wraysbury Gravel Pits; anecdotal evidence suggests that increased disturbance at this site may have been an important factor.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ouse Washes	1,125	1,104 [12]	2,725 [12]	1,548 [12]	696 [12]	Nov	1,440
Somerset Levels	(2,190)	784	(902)	845	1,520	Feb	1,335
Rutland Water	504	475	663	680	495	Sep	563
Chew Valley Lake	535	565	395	660	300	Oct	491
Abberton Reservoir	422	488	355	(674)	(152)	Aug	485

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Thames Estuary	697	415	402	357	(407)	Feb	468	
Severn Estuary	368 [10]	325	266	603	600	Jan	432	▲
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	415	322	468	333	540 [10]	Jan	416	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Dungeness Gravel Pits	320	378	340	574	357	Oct	394	▼
Loch Leven	550	295	386	204	279	Sep	343	
Burry Inlet	397	327	344	437	101	Oct	321	
Swale Estuary	440	330	292	199	(144)	Dec	315	
Staines Reservoirs	377	261	308	469	149	Oct	313	
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	244	202	272	384	400	Oct	300	
Lower Derwent Ings	442	319	314	107			296	
Ribble Estuary	197	231	219	286	532	Jan	293	
Nene Washes	262	200	177	213	448	Feb	260	
Medway Estuary	(20)	(26)	19 [10]	248	(509)	Nov	259	
North Norfolk Coast	182	212	234	278	380	Dec	257	
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	308	246	275	282	164	Jan	255	
Pitsford Reservoir	91	378	70	347	329	Sep	243	
Blagdon Lake	75	146	160	(220)	542	Sep	231	
Llynnau Y Fali	337	233	232	210	135	Dec	229	
Fairburn Ings	159	221		288	226	Sep	224	
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	361	188	149	195	(65)	Jan	223	
Tees Estuary	245	181	(145)	145	303	Sep	219	
Alde Complex	229	(106)	175	253	216	Dec	218	
Edderthorpe near Darfield					210	Oct	210	▲
Minsmere	233	180	227	183	218	Dec	208	
Arun Valley	(259)	195	175	98	278	Jan	201	
Grafham Water	51	112	266	357			197	
Chichester Gravel Pits	238	321	173	165	67	Jan	193	
Walthamstow Reservoirs	135	212	265	142	155	Sep	182	
Woolston Eyes	71	175	157	317	(109)	Sep	180	
Malltraeth RSPB	186	124	173	147	250	Dec	176	
Morecambe Bay	(82)	184	167	159	174	Dec	171	
Middle Yare Marshes	(169)	(96)	(111)	(170)	(84)	Sep	(170)	
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	167	204	162	120	174	Jan	165	
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(218)	91	126	163	222	Dec	164	▲
Hickling Broad	307	81	108	100	163	Dec	152	
Chetwynd Pool	166	156	220	57	150	Oct	150	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	199	201	119	147	139 [10]	Nov	161	
Loughs Neagh and Beg	24	42	51	55	34	Sep	41	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Walland Marsh	125	120	120	60	140	Jan	113	
Hampton & Kempton Reservoirs	(88)	165	(134)	144	77	Oct	130	
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	221	97	172	21	8	Dec	104	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Llyn Traffwll	60	58	58	178	207	Apr	112	
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	43	66	37	53	168	Dec	73	
Theale Gravel Pits	(60)	74	92	(128)	157 [12]	Jan	113	
Mersehead RSPB Reserve	85	45	115		154	Dec	100	
North West Solent	82	89	88	164	152	Jan	115	
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	10	108	150	(68)	152	Oct	105	
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	156 [12]	120 [12]	166	108 [12]	151	Feb	140	
Wicken Fen	42	76		143	148	Feb	102	

Marbled Duck

Marmaronetta angustirostris

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: S Europe, N Africa, W Asia

GB max: **1 Sep**
NI max: **0**

A single Marbled Duck was present at Christchurch Harbour in September and October while a single bird was also recorded at Holland Marshes in December. This was the first time that this species has been recorded by WeBS and although the records may well refer to escaped individuals, it is not inconceivable that wild birds could make it to Britain from southern Europe.

Ringed Teal

Callonetta leucophrys

Escape
Native Range: S America

GB max: **3** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

Ringed Teal were present at six sites in 2006/07 with records in September, October, January and March. These were Allington Gravel Pit, Coate Water, Elton Reservoir, Lacock Gravel Pits, River Avon (Ringwood to Christchurch) and Vyne Flood. All records were of single birds.

Red-crested Pochard

Netta rufina

International threshold: **500**
Great Britain threshold: **?†**
All-Ireland threshold: **?†**

GB max: **287** **Dec**
NI max: **0**

Following a period of relative stability during the mid-1990s to early-2000s the number of Red-crested Pochard in Britain has doubled in the past four years. In line with this increase the monthly maximum was the highest recorded by WeBS. Red-crested Pochard were noted at 55 sites during 2006/07, most in England although birds were also at Rosebush Reservoir in Wales and Loch Gelly and Loch of Lintrathen in Scotland. The majority of records were of single birds although peaks of 10 or more were noted at 10 sites, all of which were in England. The key area for this species remains the Thames Valley, especially the Cotswold Water Park where peak numbers at both the West and East areas reached their highest ever. Other site records were noted at Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits, Colne Valley Gravel Pits and Bourton-on-the-Water Gravel Pits.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(74)	114	81	119	207	Dec	130
Cotswold Water Park (East)	40	33	48	70	106	Oct	59
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	5	6	19	41	26	Jan	19
Hanningfield Reservoir	6	(43)	2	21	17	Aug	18
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	8	(23)					16
Arnot Park Lake	0	12	19	18	16	Jul	13
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	7	6	16	12	22	Dec	13
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	2	2	3	8	23	Dec	8
Bourton-on-the-Water GPs	0	2	5	12	17	Mar	7
Rutland Water	3	1	3	1	10	Nov	4

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Pochard

Aythya ferina

International threshold: **3,500**
Great Britain threshold: **595**
All-Ireland threshold: **380**

GB max: **25,160** **Dec**
NI max: **9,320** **Jan**

The number of Pochard wintering in Britain has declined steadily over the past ten years and the national index is currently at its lowest ever level. The British maximum, although higher than in 2005/06, was the second lowest for 40 years. During 2006/07, numbers were lower than average throughout the year particularly in January which were the lowest of the past five years. Higher than average numbers were noted at Loch Leven, Chew Valley Lake, both east and west Cotswold Water Park and the Ouse Washes (the latter in contrast to the picture for many dabbling ducks), whilst numbers were low at Hornsea Mere.

Following a dramatic decline in the three years up to 2003/04, Pochard numbers in Northern Ireland seem to be showing tentative signs of recovery, although they remain well below those prior to the crash. Peak numbers at the region's principal site for this species, Loughs Neagh and Beg, rose for the second year running. Numbers at Upper Lough Erne also rose in 2006/07,

although remain slightly below the site average.

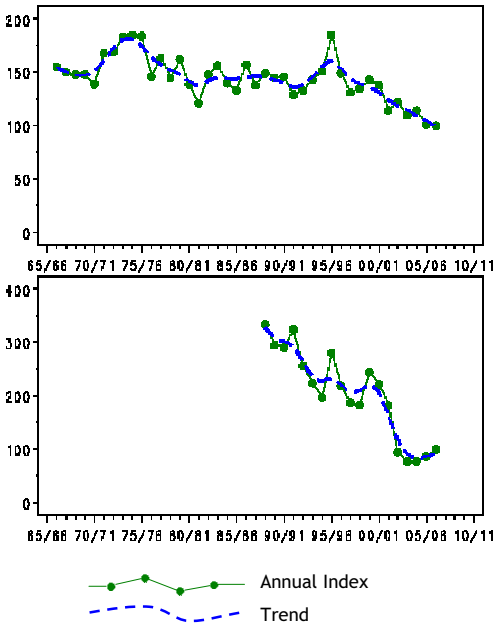

Figure 26.a, Annual indices & trend for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

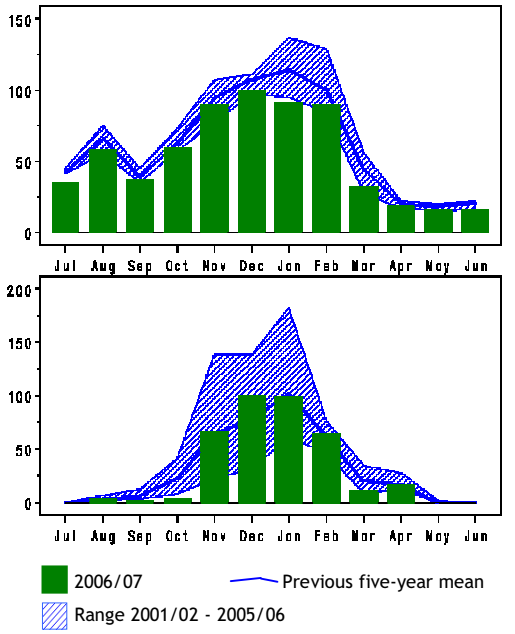

Figure 26.b, Monthly indices for Pochard for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	9,082	7,835	6,764	8,256	8,884	Jan	8,164
Abberton Reservoir	4,325	5,290	3,188	2,852	3,167	Nov	3,764
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	4,583	3,304 [12]	2,134 [12]	1,227	4,197	Feb	3,089
Loch Leven	2,934	2,548	2,193	1,715	3,666	Oct	2,611
Hornsea Mere	1,415	1,325	1,150	1,150	710	Jan	1,150
Dungeness Gravel Pits	765	855	788	1,053	1,045	Aug	901
Chew Valley Lake	475	480	635	1,580	1,220	Dec	878
Fleet and Wey	926	850	746	682	879	Nov	817
Lower Derwent Ings	1,973	1,236	39	20			817
Severn Estuary	772	905	652	760	786	Jan	775
Brogborough Clay Pit	1,207	183					695
Loch of Boardhouse	605	705	770	709	623	Dec	682
Nene Washes	2,853	66	32	88	57	Mar	619
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Upper Lough Erne	916	801	473	329	503	Dec	604
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(442)	(203)	(56)	(12)	(296)	Jan	(442)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Cotswold Water Park (East)	371	629	410	524	993	Oct	585
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(377)	499	(571)	573	(641)	Jan	571

Ring-necked Duck

Aythya collaris

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: **8** **Feb**
NI max: **0**

Ring-necked Ducks were noted at 11 sites in England and a further five in Scotland. Birds were recorded in every month between July and April, peaking at eight in February. All records were of single birds except for two at College Reservoir in November and Loch Riaghain (Tiree) in February. Long-staying birds were at Avonmouth Sewage Works between July and February, Foxcote Reservoir between December and February and Bough Beech Reservoir between February and April.

Ferruginous Duck

Aythya nyroca

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Europe, Africa & C Asia

GB max:	**2**	**Nov**
NI max:	**0**	

Ferruginous Duck were present at four sites with records throughout 2006/07. A long-staying individual remained at Chew Valley Lake between August and November with another record there the following June. Singles were also recorded at Leybourne and New Hythe Gravel Pits between November and February, William Girling Reservoir in March and Blagdon Lake in June.

Tufted Duck

Aythya fuligula

International threshold: 12,000
Great Britain threshold: 901
All-Ireland threshold: 370

GB max:	**53,511**	**Dec**
NI max:	**8,851**	**Jan**

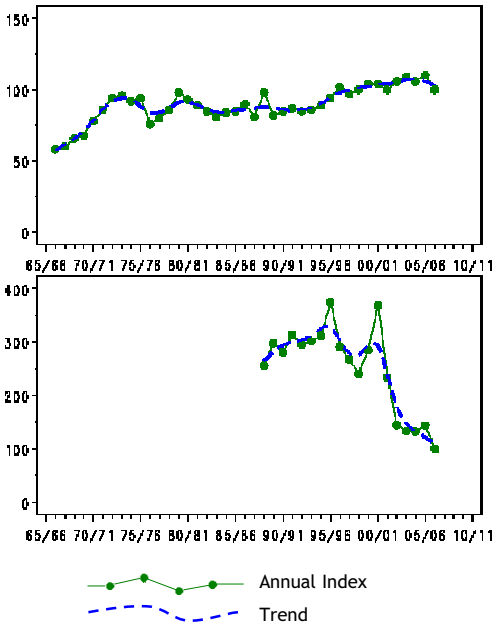

Figure 27.a, Annual indices & trend for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

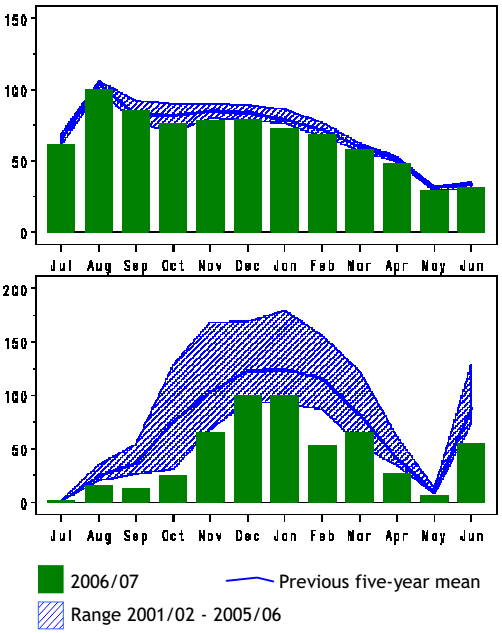

Figure 27.b, Monthly indices for Tufted Duck for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British trend showed a slight decline in 2006/07, following a slight but steady increase over the past decade and, as always, additional data will be required to verify if this drop represents the start of a genuine fall in numbers. The monthly indices suggest that numbers were lower than average throughout the year except in September. Although the British maximum was only slightly lower than in 2005/06, this was the lowest total for ten years.

Declines were noted at several key sites including Abberton Reservoir, Pitsford Reservoir, Hornsea Mere and Wraysbury Gravel Pits, whilst higher than average peaks were recorded at Rutland Water, Hanningfield Reservoir and the Ouse Washes (where numbers of many of the dabbling ducks were much lower than usual).

The decline in Tufted Ducks witnessed in Northern Ireland continued into 2006/07, with the index now at its lowest ever level. Numbers were well below average throughout the year and the largest declines were noted at Loughs Neagh and Beg; peak numbers here were the lowest for 20 years. The decline at Loughs Neagh and Beg, which holds the largest proportion of birds of any Northern Irish site monitored by WeBS, may be due to increased nutrient input that might have led to a change in the invertebrate community, which in turn are a major dietary component for this species (Maclean *et al* 2006). Whatever the reason

for the decline, the number of Tufted Duck wintering on the lough has fallen by over three quarters in the past ten years. In contrast, numbers using Upper and Lower Lough Erne were at their highest of the last five years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rutland Water	7,496	6,818	6,488	8,487	9,758	Sep	7,809
Loch Leven	4,872	3,913	3,826	3,802	3,553	Oct	3,993
Abberton Reservoir	2,487	2,067	5,112	(4,857)	1,187	Apr	3,142
Pitsford Reservoir	2,441	2,226	2,506	2,066	1,374	Sep	2,123
Hanningfield Reservoir	1,641	3,109	400	1,573	2,194	Aug	1,783
Walthamstow Reservoirs	1,867	1,772	1,771	1,828	1,516	Aug	1,751
Staines Reservoirs	1,971	1,133	792	2,844	1,865	Aug	1,721
Ouse Washes	1,192	973 [12]	2,251 [12]	1,140 [12]	2,057	Feb	1,523
Chew Valley Lake	1,080	1,465	1,235	2,115	1,325	Nov	1,444
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(915)	(325)	(129)	(64)	1,243	Feb	1,243
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	1,248	1,404	1,222	985	1,215	Nov	1,215
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(789)	1,199	960	1,199	1,372	Dec	1,183
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	2,422	846	1,015	465	429	Dec	1,035
Alton Water	815	1,440	644	1,063	1,008	Nov	994
Hornsea Mere	1,225	1,050	900	840	600	Jan	923
Theale Gravel Pits	(502)	(198)	(212)	(193)	(918)	Jan	(918)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	9,771	8,999	9,277	7,871	6,441	Jan	8,472
Upper Lough Erne	1,065	1,236	1,295	1,457	1,478	Dec	1,306
Lower Lough Erne	635	580	674	575	705	Mar	634
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Thames Estuary	(436)	(461)	(584)	1,079	510	Nov	795
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Blagdon Lake	(123)	571	462	547	(1,131)	Aug	678
Chasewater	580		315	906	1,004	Oct	701

Scaup

Aythya marila

International threshold: 3,100
Great Britain threshold: 76
All-Ireland threshold: 45*

GB max: 3,038 Jan
NI max: 4,746 Jan

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

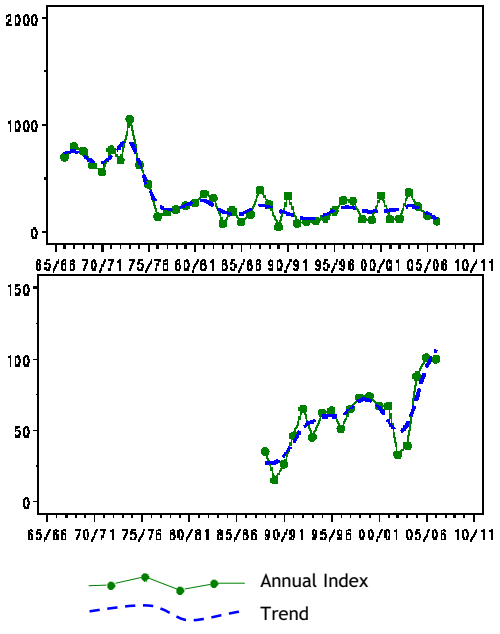

Figure 28.a, Annual indices & trend for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

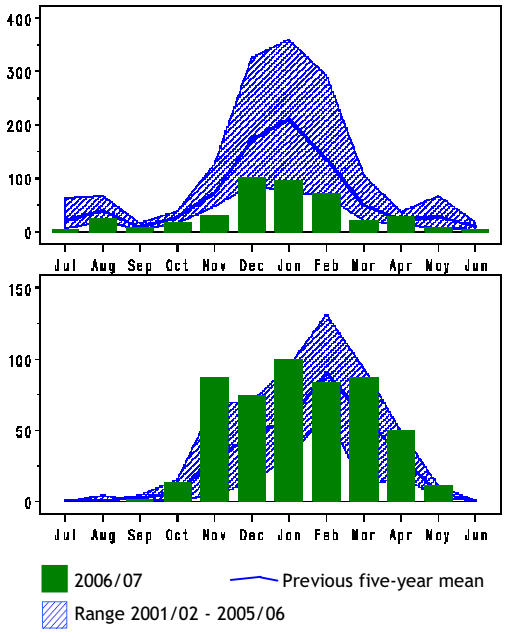

Figure 28.b, Monthly indices for Scaup for GB (above) & NI (below).

Scaup are one of the few species that are counted by WeBS in greater numbers in Northern Ireland than in Britain; in 2006/07 the British maximum was two-thirds that of the Northern Ireland total. The British trend has remained fairly stable over the past few decades and the decline seen in the past few years is within the range of fluctuation over this period. However, compared to the past five years numbers were below average throughout most of the year and in particular between November and February. In contrast, numbers in Northern Ireland were above average in all months except February. As a result, the national index was similar to that of 2005/06. Peak numbers at the primary site, Loughs Neagh and Beg, were slightly above average, while core counts at Belfast and Carlingford Loughs were slightly below. Numbers at the top British site, the Solway Estuary, were half that of the five-year mean and as a consequence peak numbers have fallen below the internationally important threshold. It is important to recognise that getting accurate counts of this species at the larger coastal sites can be very dependent upon weather and sea-conditions on count dates. Even so, the numbers on the Forth Estuary have remained consistently low for some years now.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Firth of Clyde	Jan	232	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	2,565	2,674	5,144	5,826	4,349	Jan	4,112
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	(1,077)	(1,782)	(4,610)	(575)	1,060	Nov	2,132
Loch Ryan	907 [12]	986	1,577	1,020	1,047	Dec	1,107
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	923	518	2,641 [1]	576	690	Feb	1,070
Inner Loch Indaal	755	1,003					879
Loch of Harray	(185)	420	490	360	306	Dec	394
Loch of Stenness	309	266	315	306	429	Nov	325
Cromarty Firth	160 [1]	13	47	400	401	Jan	204
Dornoch Firth	163	70	150 [12]	77	222	Dec	136
Ayr to North Troon	120	(12)	(14)				120
Auchenharvie Golf Course		145	107	97	98	Feb	112
Rough Firth	0	107	204 [10]				104
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	642	669 [10]	1,224 [10]	833	849 [10]	Feb	843
Carlingford Lough	168	(158)	233	222	225	Jan	212
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Forth Estuary	130	14 [10]	22	(12)	13	Dec	45
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	10	(3)	3	0	70	Jan	21

Lesser Scaup

Aythya affinis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: **7 Feb**
NI max: **0**

Lesser Scaup were noted at three sites in England and eight in Scotland. Birds were noted in every month between November and April. All records were of single birds except for two at Loch Leven in February and two at Loch a` Chinn Uacraich (Coot Loch) in Benbecula in February and March; followed by a single bird in March. The only other site at which Lesser Scaup was noted in more than one month was at Baleshare (North Uist) in January and February.

Eider

Somateria mollissima

GB max: 21,556 Jan
NI max: 2,612 Jan

International threshold: 12,850
Great Britain threshold: 730
All-Ireland threshold: 30*

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

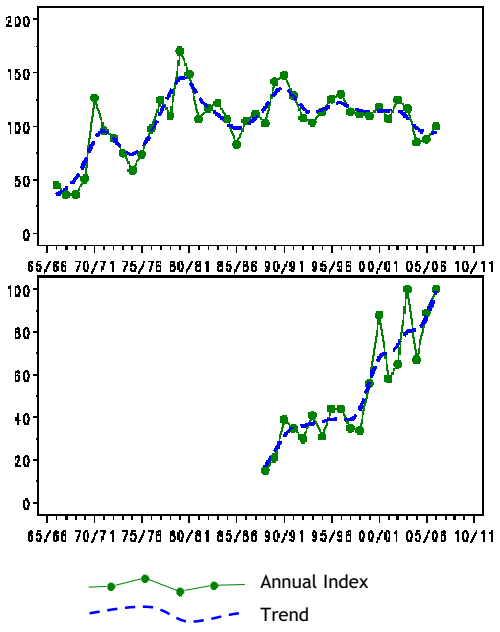

Figure 29.a, Annual indices & trend for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

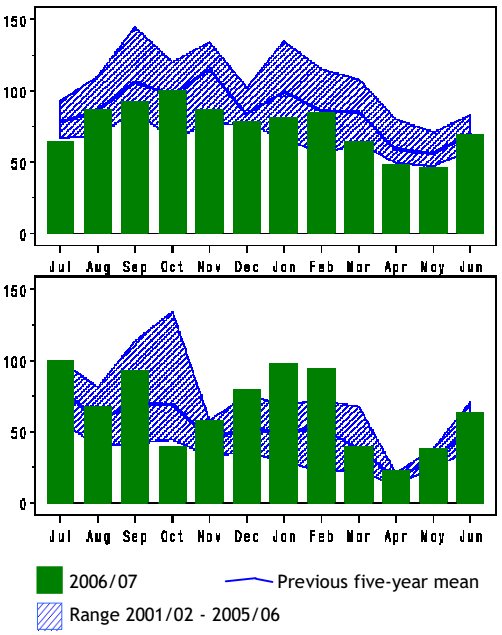

Figure 29.b, Monthly indices for Eider for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index rose slightly, although still remains slightly below that during the period of stability between the mid-1990s and 2003/04. Numbers remained below the average of the previous five years for most of the year, only surpassing the average in August and October. The British maximum was almost a third lower than the unusually high figure recorded in the previous year, although was in line with the average of the past five years.

The Northern Ireland maximum was the second highest ever recorded by WeBS being just ten birds short of the all-time peak counted in 2003/04. This was reflected in the national index, which reached its highest level to date continueing a sharp increase since 1998/99. This increase was noted throughout the year with numbers being above the average of the preceding five years in all months except October and with especially high numbers between December and February.

Peak numbers recorded at the greater Firth of Clyde area (again tabulated in whole and as its constituent parts) were below average for the second year running and the mean of the peak numbers here has fallen below the threshold for international importance. Similarly, the peak count at Lindisfarne was the lowest since WeBS began. The peak numbers recorded at Strangford Lough have been increasing steadily over the past four years and in 2006/07 reached their highest-ever level.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Firth of Clyde	Mar	829	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	791	not available	Lewis 2008
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	789	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
FIRTH OF CLYDE	14,297 [14]	15,276 [14]	13,042 [14]	8,055 [14]	9,590 [14]	Sep	12,052	▼
Tay Estuary	6,000	4,700	5,636	11,500	(9,164)	Jan	7,400	
Forth Estuary	7,616	7,014	4,750	5,047	5,080	Aug	5,901	
Aberdeen Bay offshore		1,756 [52]	6,003 [52]	5,302 [52]	6,269 [25]	Aug	4,833	
Inner Firth of Clyde	4,730	6,194	4,152	3,837	4,881	Sep	4,759	
Morecambe Bay	4,541	3,950	5,300 [14]	3,815	3,374	May	4,196	
Killantringan Bay			3,600 [14]				3,600	
Ythan Estuary	2,082	3,417	(4,212)	3,580	2,315	Jul	3,121	
Gare Loch	2,619 [14]	3,263 [14]	2,713 [14]	2,582 [14]	2,782 [14]	Sep	2,792	
Montrose Basin	3,051	2,075	1,754	4,322	2,584	Dec	2,757	
Irvine Bay			1,547 [14]				1,547	
Loch Long and Loch Goil	1,459 [14]	1,390 [14]	1,614 [14]	1,458 [14]	796 [14]	Sep	1,343	
Moray Firth	747	1,639	1,673	1,390	1,199	Feb	1,330	
Lindisfarne	2,043	1,241	1,202 [10]	1,097 [10]	469	Feb	1,210	
Holy Loch to Toward Point	1,146 [14]	1,114 [14]	2,225 [14]	766 [14]	634 [14]	Sep	1,177	
Loch Ryan	1,188 [14]	1,803	1,150 [14]	539	(385)	Sep	1,170	
Gourock to Largs	1,773 [14]	2,220 [14]	614 [14]	370 [14]	755 [14]	Sep	1,146	
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	874	852	865	1,673			1,066	
Inner Loch Fyne	1,358 [14]	956 [14]	868 [14]	759 [14]	817 [14]	Sep	952	
Lower Loch Long			914 [14]				914	
The Wash	2,546	703	91	557	491	Oct	878	
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Sds	631 [9]	790 [9]	855 [9]	992 [9]			817	▲
Girvan to Turnberry	1,198	330	1,500 [14]	415	370 [14]	Sep	763	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Belfast Lough	1,016 [10]	1,813	1,490 [10]	1,839 [10]	1,482	Jan	1,528	
Lough Foyle	551	645	431	164	528	Sep	464	
Outer Ards Shoreline	428	256	271	335	976	Jan	453	
Strangford Lough	165	259	282	480	728	Feb	383	
Larne Lough	120	55	69	67	76	Sep	77	
Port Stewart - Portrush			34 [14]				34	
Ballycastle - Fair Head			26 [14]				26	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Ayr to North Troon	458 [14]	1,064	225 [14]	(380)	349 [14]	Sep	524	
Bann Estuary	21	10	26	11	6	Mar	15	

Eider (Howard Lacey)

Long-tailed Duck

Clangula hyemalis

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 160†
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: 11,433 Feb
NI max: 17 Jan

The British maximum was the second highest on record, being only 5% lower than that of the previous year and 40% higher than the mean of the past ten years. The Northern Ireland total was not dissimilar to those of recent years. As usual, most records were from sites in Scotland, the highest counts away from here were nine on the North Norfolk Coast in February and six at Hell's Mouth on the Lleyn Peninsula in April. The Moray Firth remains by far the most important site for Long-tailed Duck in the UK with numbers exceeding 10,000 for the second year running and the second highest at any site after the 2005/06 counts here. Counts from other key sites were few and far between, highlighting the difficulty of monitoring this, and other species regularly occurring offshore, through standard WeBS Core Counts; counts are strongly influenced by the sea conditions on the day affecting both visibility and the actual location of the birds.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	393	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	250	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain							
Moray Firth	3,585 [1]	5,446 [1]	6,402 [1]	11,565	10,878	Feb	7,575
Sound of Harris		230 [45]	500 [45]				365
South Uist West Coast	411 [45]	440 [45]	185 [45]				345
Scapa Flow, Shapinsay & Deer Sds				300 [25]			300
Forth Estuary	435	249	(240)	237	213	Feb	284
Loch Branahuie (Lewis)			272				272
Branahuie Banks (Lewis)			196				196
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Sds	59 [9]	249 [9]	303 [9]	160 [9]			193
Broad Bay (Lewis)	72 [45]	300 [45]					186
South Yell Sound	108 [9]	201 [9]	91 [9]	169 [9]			142
Scapa Flow	43 [25]	210 [25]	146 [25]				133
Island of Papa Westray	182	184	102	10			120
Loch of Stenness	182	105 [12]	89	96	107	Jan	116
Sound of Barra (Barra)		132 [45]	80 [45]				106
Burra and Trondra		97 [9]	117 [9]	99 [9]			104
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay	116 [25]	159 [25]	32 [25]				102
Scarp to Vatersay offshore	183 [25]	84 [25]	54 [25]	75 [25]			99
Quendale to Virkie	122 [9]	103 [9]	100 [9]	57 [9]			96
Bressay Sound	176 [9]	66 [9]	90 [9]	44 [9]			94
St Andrews Bay	97	107	232	17	0		91
Allasdale Bay to Borve (Barra)		112 [45]	68 [45]				90
West Coast (Benbecula)	63 [45]	92 [45]					78
Water Sound	155	80	60	37	51	Mar	77
Thurso Bay	30	43	(40)	30	200	Nov	76
Traigh Luskentyre	50 [45]		100 [45]		37	Feb	62
Dee Mouth to Don Mouth			84	37	(2)	Feb	61
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	21 [9]	73 [9]	(4) [9]	78 [9]			57
Gulberwick Area				56 [9]			56
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	63 [9]	34 [9]	21 [9]	87 [9]			51
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Melbost Sands,Tong Saltings & Broad Bay		0	0	11	121	Nov	33

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no Northern Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 50 and 30 have been chosen to select sites, respectively, for presentation in this report

Common Scoter

Melanitta nigra

International threshold: 16,000
Great Britain threshold: 500
All-Ireland threshold: 230

GB max: 11,466 Feb
NI max: 12 Dec

Common Scoters were recorded at 94 sites across Britain and at two in Northern Ireland. In Britain, the highest site total during WeBS was 4,960 at the North Norfolk Coast in December. Five sites held peak totals in excess of 1,000 birds, with 100 or more birds recorded at a further 10 sites. A number of sites, including the Moray Firth and the Forth Estuary, held notably fewer birds than in previous winters. Peak numbers at The Wash, however, were the highest for five years, but as may be the case at many coastal sites, numbers recorded during WeBS are dependent on the actual location of the flocks and the visibility during the day. Peak counts at sites in Northern Ireland were of 12 at Belfast Lough in December and three at Carlingford Lough in March.

Common Scoters winter in large flocks offshore and consequently, most areas are poorly monitored by WeBS. This point is demonstrated at Carmarthen Bay, the first site to be classified as a marine SPA, on the basis of its importance for Common Scoter; only two birds were recorded here during November 2006 during WeBS, in comparison to over 14,000 birds during specific scoter surveys in February 2007. Although the number recorded during these specific surveys in 2006/07 means the five-year mean remained above 20,000, the peak was considerably lower than in previous years, and for the first time since the late 1990s fell below the 1% threshold of 16,000.

A review of the status of Carmarthen Bay ten years after the *Sea Empress* oil spill indicates that numbers of Common Scoter have recovered to a similar level to that prior the spill (Banks *et al*. 2008). Following the incident in 1996, fewer than 5,000 birds were recorded at the site but by 1999/2000 numbers had fully recovered, and birds had returned to feeding areas previously affected by oil. Continued monitoring at this key site will be crucial in future years.

A recent summary of the status of Common Scoters in Welsh Waters and Liverpool Bay highlighted the importance of the British coast for the species (Smith *et al* 2007). Based on peak estimated numbers (calculated by applying *Distance* analysis to counts from aerial surveys), the five-year mean for 2001/02 to 2005/06 was 51,400, which qualifies the site as internationally important. Aerial surveys of Liverpool Bay in 2006/07 recorded an estimated 63,400 Common Scoters (WWT Consulting 2008). This is the third time since aerial surveys began in 2000/01, that numbers at the site have surpassed 60,000: peak of 79,100 in February 2003 and 60,200 in February 2006. The importance of Liverpool Bay is currently being assessed regarding possible designation as a SPA (Webb *et al*. 2006).

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Liverpool Bay	Feb/Mar	26,329	63,387 (39,318-92,340)	WWT Consulting 2008
Carmarthen Bay	Jan	7,028	13,447 (8,609-21,004)	Banks *et al.* 2007

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Carmarthen Bay	23,288 [23]	20,271 [39]	24,460 [39]	20,287 [39]	14,412 [39]	Feb	20,544
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Moray Firth	8,351	7,987	4,265	6,842	1,908	Feb	5,871
North Norfolk Coast	5,051	2,252	4,866	6,830	4,960	Dec	4,792
Alt Estuary	1,818	2,169	3,000	4,300	3,288	Feb	2,915
Aberdeen Bay offshore		2,992 [25]	3,475 [25]	3,514 [25]	1,525 [25]	May	2,877
Forth Estuary	3,255	1,349	(985)	1,495	576	Feb	1,669
Towyn to Llanddulas	975	(1,737)	(252)	(1,680)	1,800	Sep	1,548
Cardigan Bay	(4,219)	198	183	339	(69)	Dec	1,235
St Andrews Bay	584	1,170	2,660	447	0		972
Durham Coast	(151)	(0)	(40)	685	(181)	Nov	685
The Wash	452	(15)	372	100	1,810	Feb	684 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	5	26	17	40	2,009	Oct	419
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Glyne Gap	1	0	0	117	(533)	Feb	130

Black Scoter

Melanitta americana

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 1 **Mar**
NI max: 0

The Black Scoter that has spent the past few winters at Lavan Sands was recorded again in 2006/07, albeit only once in March off Llanfairfechan Saltings.

Surf Scoter

Melanitta perspicillata

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: 5 **Feb**
NI max: 0

Surf Scoter were recorded at just three sites, all of which were in Scotland. Up to two birds were present at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth between October and January and two were at Forth Estuary between January and March. The highest count was at Traigh Luskentyre where four birds were present in February and two in both April and May.

Velvet Scoter

Melanitta fusca

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: 30*
All-Ireland threshold: +

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

GB max: 1,035 **Dec**
NI max: 0

During 2006/07, Velvet Scoter were noted at 18 sites, nine of which were in Scotland and nine in England. Most records were of single birds, although numbers at the Forth Estuary were regularly in treble figures and peaked at 926 in November. Numbers at the Moray Firth peaked at 743, which was far lower than in recent years. Nationally, numbers were considerably lower than in recent years and although this may be in part due to a lack of counts from several offshore areas of Scotland it could also indicate a genuine drop in numbers.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Moray Firth	4,398	2,103	1,169	1,261	743	Dec	1,935
Forth Estuary	1,487	1,008	1,007	775	(926)	Nov	1,069
St Andrews Bay	2	90	1,050	8	0		230
Lunan Bay	105	(300)	125	120	2	Jun	130
Aberdeen Bay offshore		17 [52]	50 [52]	89 [52]			52
Dee Mouth to Don Mouth			6	(60)	(0)		33
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
North Norfolk Coast	55	14	45	25	3	Oct	28

Bufflehead

Bucephala albeola

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N America

GB max: 1 **Dec**
NI max: 0

A single Bufflehead was present at Uyea Sound throughout December and January. This was the fourth record of this species during WeBS and the first for two years.

Barrow's Goldeneye

Bucephala islandica

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: N Europe, N America

GB max: 1 **Nov**
NI max: 0

A Barrow's Goldeneye was found during a WeBS count on the River Teith at Callander in November and was also seen at nearby Loch Venachar in December. This was the second record of this species during WeBS, the first being at Strangford Lough in 2005/06.

Goldeneye

Bucephala clangula

International threshold: 11,500
Great Britain threshold: 249
All-Ireland threshold: 95

GB max: 12,171 Feb
NI max: 3,390 Jan

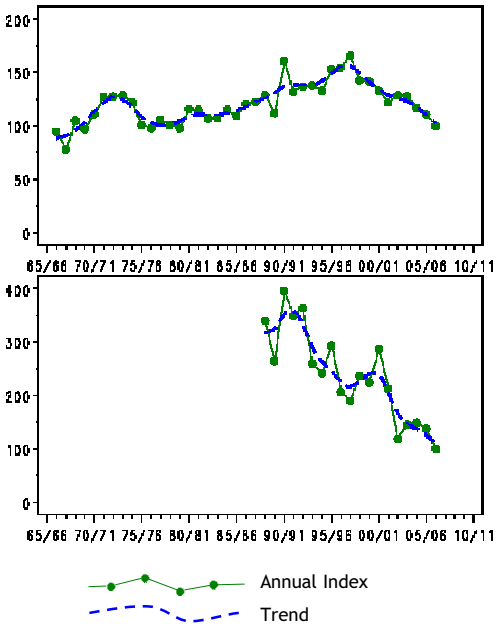

Figure 30.a, Annual indices & trend for Goldeneye for GB (above) & NI (below).

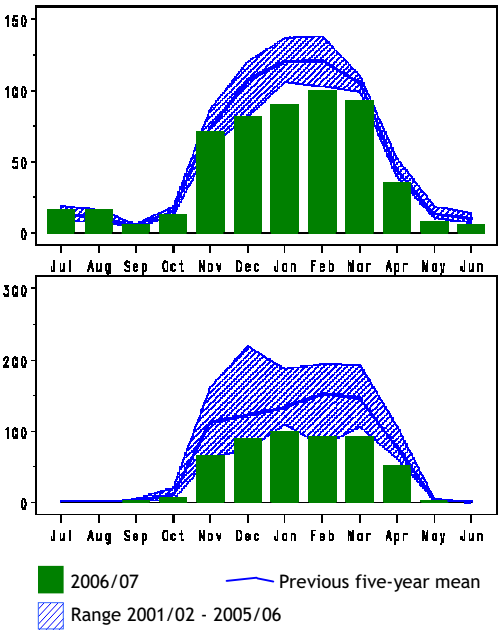

Figure 30.b, Monthly indices for Goldeneye for GB (above) & NI (below).

Goldeneye in Britain showed a steady increase from the mid-1970s to the mid-1990s, after which time numbers have fallen steadily and have now reached levels akin to those prior to the period of increase. The current decline was evident throughout the winter with numbers below those of the past five years between December and April.

The Northern Ireland index also fell again in 2006/07; a pattern that has been witnessed since the early 1990s. As in Britain, numbers in Northern Ireland remained well below average throughout the winter and in January, March and April were the lowest of the past five years. Peak numbers at all the key sites in Northern Ireland were below average, with a particularly major drop in numbers at Loughs Neagh and Beg. Similarly, some British sites witnessed their lowest peak for some time; these included the Forth Estuary and Hornsea Mere. Elsewhere, peak counts were higher than average at Inner Firth of Clyde and Loch Leven, the latter site now supporting nationally important numbers as a result.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	1,241	(753)	879	(379)	328	Jan	816
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,352 [10]	709 [1]	1,165 [1]	186	221	Feb	727
Abberton Reservoir	469	431	394	588	478	Feb	472
Humber Estuary	618	296	595	449	401	Jan	472
Inner Firth of Clyde	264	514	159	636	688	Feb	452
Rutland Water	428	511	420	521	356	Feb	447
Loch Leven	153	86	385	289	517	Nov	286 ▲
Hornsea Mere	(480) [12]	235	325	280	91	Dec	282
Morecambe Bay	(280)	204	(297)	(249)	(191)	Feb	258
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,661	4,497	5,787	5,688	2,780	Jan	4,483
Lower Lough Erne	218	337	319	254	169	Mar	259
Strangford Lough	295	253	161	187	83 [10]	Nov	196
Belfast Lough	249	242 [10]	164 [10]	103	(108)	Jan	190
Larne Lough	130	95	73	155	97	Feb	110

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Tweed Estuary	240	390	273	140	174	Dec	243
Stour Estuary	573	262	88	139	146	Feb	242
Loch of Skene	(192)	298	207	334	128	Nov	242
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch of Strathbeg	(126)	294	86	202	334	Dec	229
Windermere	224	185	226	256 [12]	271 [12]	Feb	232

Smew

Mergellus albellus

International threshold: 400
Great Britain threshold: 4*
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 100 Feb
NI max: 1 Jan

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The counted British maximum was the lowest since 1991/92 and was less than half that of the previous year's figure. During 2006/07, Smew were recorded at 59 sites, 13 of which were in Scotland and the remainder in England. Most records were of one or two birds, although double-figure counts were noted at Walthamstow Reservoirs, Cotswold Water Park (West), Dungeness Gravel Pits and Wraysbury Gravel Pits. The count of 19 at Wraysbury Gravel Pits in January constituted the highest single-site total in 2006/07, although was the lowest peak at this site for over ten years.

Counts at most regular wintering sites for this species were lower than in recent years, especially at Rye Harbour and Pett Level, Thorpe Water Park and Seaton Gravel Pits. In contrast, the peak recorded at Walthamstow Reservoirs was the highest since January 1996. Only one bird was noted in Northern Ireland, at Loughs Neagh and Beg in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	63	55	68	38	19	Jan	49
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(32)	20	(18)	33	13	Feb	25
Dungeness Gravel Pits	18	33	14	17	17	Feb	20
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	29	23	8	9	7	Jan	15
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	28	19	10	8	3	Jan	14
Thorpe Water Park	11	18	10	20	3	Jan	12
Twyford Gravel Pits	12						12
Seaton Gravel Pits and River	7 [12]	14	8	11	1	Feb	8
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	11	16	4	5	3	Dec	8
Rutland Water	8	8	4	14	5	Feb	8
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	6	8	7	6	8	Feb	7
Thrapston Gravel Pits	2	11					7
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	8	4	12	5	4	Jan	7
Belhus Woods Country Park	7	10	6	0			6
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(0)	2	10	10	0		6
Marsh Ln GPs Hemingford Grey	6		9	5	2	Dec	6
Tophill Low Reservoirs	5	6	7	9 [12]	2	Feb	6
Grange Waters Complex	11	0	5	5			5
Sonning Eye & Henley Rd GPs	9	0	9		2	Dec	5
Pitsford Reservoir	2	3	3	11	4	Feb	5
Deeping St James	5	6	2	8	2	Dec	5
Bedfont and Ashford Gravel Pits	(6)				1	Feb	4
Abberton Reservoir	4	5	9	2	2	Feb	4
Cassington & Yarnton GPs	(0)	10	1	5	0		4
Earls Barton Gravel Pits	7	7	0	6	0		4
Blunham Gravel Pit	3	4					4
Meadow Lane Gravel Pits St Ives	17	3	0	0	0		4
Eyebrook Reservoir	1	3	3	7	4	Jan	4
Fairburn Ings	6	4		1	(1)	Feb	4
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(5)	1	(0)		0		2
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Walthamstow Reservoirs	1	0	0	0	10	Feb	2
Loch Leven	0	0	0	0	6	Jan	1
Bray Gravel Pits	0	1	0	1	4	Feb	1

Red-breasted Merganser

Mergus serrator

GB max:	3,425	Feb
NI max:	523	Oct

International threshold:	1,700
Great Britain threshold:	98
All-Ireland threshold:	35*

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

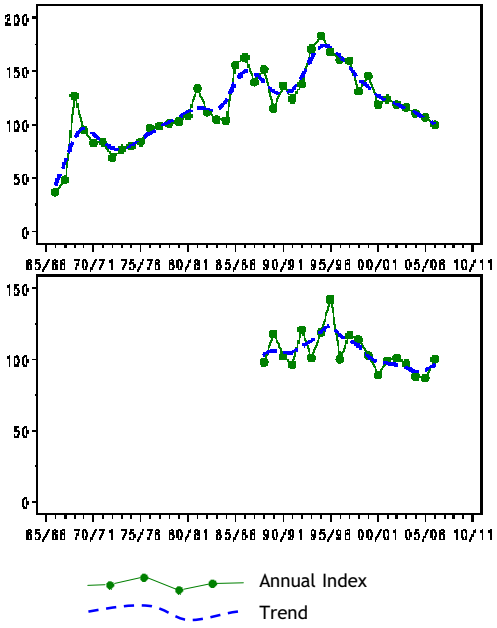

Figure 31.a, Annual indices & trend for Red-breasted Merganser for GB (above) & NI (below).

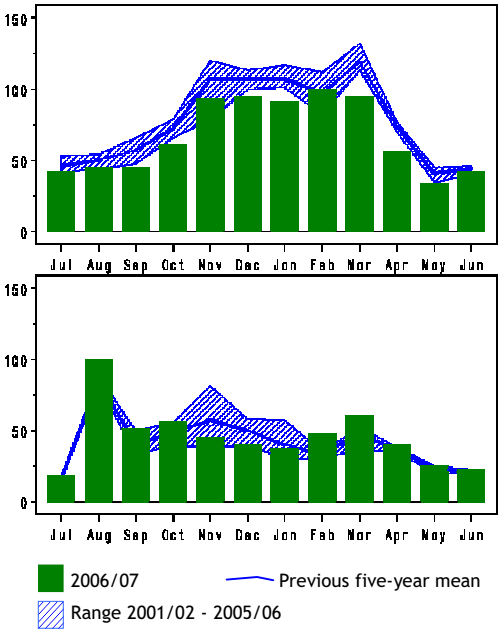

Figure 31.b, Monthly indices for Red-breasted Merganser for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index has declined steadily since the all-time peak of the mid-1990s and continued to do so in 2006/07. Numbers were lower than those of the past five years and only surpassed the average in February. The Northern Ireland index showed signs of an increase following a period of decline since the mid-1990s, although future years' data will need to be considered before the significance of this year's rise can be assessed. On the whole, numbers were above those of the past five years throughout much of the year, although were lower than average from November to January.

The highest single site total of 347 at the Forth Estuary was the lowest here for 15 years and was just over half of the five-year site mean. Other sites at which lower than average counts were noted included Fleet and Wey, Poole Harbour, Moray Firth, Duddon Estuary and Lavan Sands, whilst higher counts than in recent years were recorded at the Isle of Arran and the Exe Estuary. In Northern Ireland, the region's total was boosted by high counts at the Outer Ards and Carlingford Lough.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	769	791	544	489	347	Oct	588
Fleet and Wey	358	425	413	438	284	Feb	384
Poole Harbour	469	(392)	315	(250)	213	Jan	347
Moray Firth	355	338	300	254	211	Oct	292
Morecambe Bay	(265)	(170)	167	263	(118)	Mar	232
Chichester Harbour	184	191	194	212	217	Feb	200
Lavan Sands	170	264	(211)	196	81	Aug	184
Inner Firth of Clyde	141	(164)	107	252	195	Aug	174
Duddon Estuary	220	167	152	(121)	106	Oct	161
Inner Loch Indaal	172	138					155
Langstone Harbour	158	127	128	187	159	Dec	152
Loch Ryan	133 [12]	74	179	180	106	Dec	134
Loch Lomond	(4)	(14)	(4)	(129)	(8)	Jun	(129)

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Jersey Shore					126	Feb	126	▲
Montrose Basin	33	139	(39)	163	135	Jun	118	▲
North Norfolk Coast	109	105	126	132	92	Feb	113	
Arran	126	103	90	113	(129)	Aug	112	
Loch of Tankerness			222	1			112	
Exe Estuary	112	(132)	82	78	139	Jan	109	
Sound of Barra (Barra)	97 [45]		106 [45]				102	▲
Loch Nan Gabhar	100						100	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	187	188	189	263	390 [10]	Dec	243	
Larne Lough	123	135	211	151	196	Sep	163	
Belfast Lough	228	216	91 [12]	104	110	Feb	150	
Carlingford Lough	106	40	154	118	171	Aug	118	
Lough Foyle	37	122	52	169	35	Sep	83	
Outer Ards Shoreline	62	48	54	31	108	Mar	61	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Goring	35	(35)	(102)				57	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Eden Estuary	64	72	73	73	118	Aug	80	
Cardigan Bay	(47)	(88)	(93)	76	104	Feb	91	

Goosander

Mergus merganser

International threshold: 2,700
Great Britain threshold: 161†
All-Ireland threshold: +

GB max: 2,643 Feb
NI max: 1 Nov

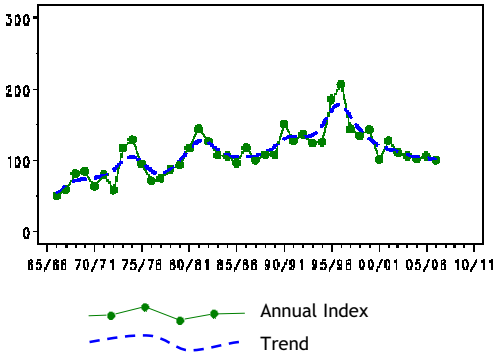

Figure 32.a, Annual indices & trend for Goosander for GB.

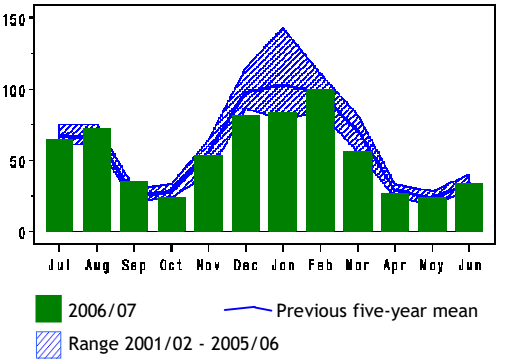

Figure 32.b, Monthly indices for Goosander for GB.

The British trend has shown signs of levelling off following the decline that started in 1997/98. The index is currently at a similar level to that during the period of stability in the mid-1980s. In general, numbers were slightly below average for most of the year, although in August, September, February and June surpassed the mean of the preceding five years. The monthly indices followed the usual pattern of high numbers in late summer, which fall in September and October (as birds leave the country for moulting areas in Scandinavia) before rising again to peak in winter and then tailing off in spring as birds disperse to breed. The winter peak, recorded in February, was slightly lower than that of the previous year and the average of the past five years.

In general, Goosanders are poorly recorded by WeBS. Although a distinctive species and easily detected when on larger waterbodies, many winter on rivers, which are presently under represented by WeBS.

The highest single-site total in 2006/07 was recorded at the Tay Estuary and was the highest since 1973/74. The peak at Loch Lomond was a site record; the last time peak numbers exceeded 200 was in 1997/98. Peak counts at Spittal to Cocklawburn and the Tweed Estuary were also the highest for some time, while numbers at the Solway Estuary were the lowest for five years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Loch Lomond	(84)	(23)	(15)	(19)	(261)	Sep	(261)
Tay Estuary	248	192 [12]	263	153	313	Jul	234
Sites with mean peak counts of 70 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Tyninghame Estuary	97	177	189	69	157	Aug	138
R.Tweed: Kelso-Coldstream	179	61	112	113	74	Dec	108
Eccup Reservoir	95	137	94	115	82	Nov	105
Yetholm Loch	(13)	(16)	(54)	167	32	Dec	100
Castle Loch Lochmaben	82	137	88		85	Nov	98
Forth Estuary	(89)	53	81	119	(60)	Jun	86
Spittal to Cocklawburn	7	92	86	72	116	Aug	75
Tweed Estuary	78	42	65	64	123	Aug	74
Solway Estuary	72	(105)	84	(47)	29	Sep	73
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Audenshaw Reservoirs	70 [11]	60	40	40	91	Oct	60
Windermere	24	(70)	48	127	76 [12]	Feb	69

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no Northern Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 70 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ruddy Duck

Oxyura jamaicensis

Naturalised introduction†
Native Range: N & S America

GB max: 2,078 Dec
NI max: 42 Jan

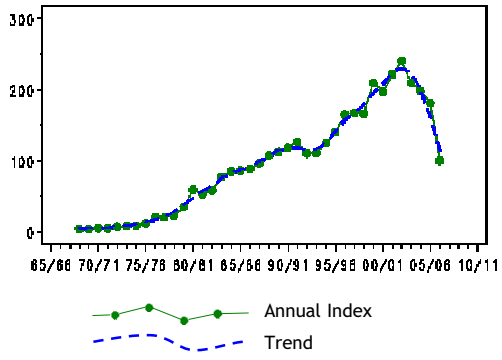

Figure 33.a, Annual indices & trend for Ruddy Duck for GB.

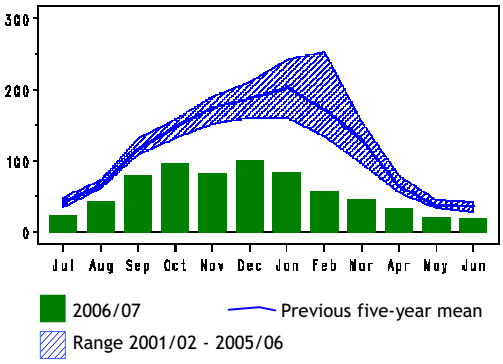

Figure 33.b, Monthly indices for Ruddy Duck for GB.

The number of Ruddy Duck in Britain continues to decline with the monthly maximum at similar levels to those of 1985/86. This decline is also clearly evident in the British index, which fell around 45% to levels akin to those of the late 1980s. This trend has been driven by the control programme intended to reduce numbers with the aim of aiding the conservation of the White-headed Duck in southern Europe. However, the species was still widespread in 2006/07, with over 30 recorded from 34 sites during the season.

As would be expected, the peak numbers at most key sites were lower than in recent years. This was most notable at Staines Reservoirs, Abberton Reservoir, Chew Valley Lake, Blagdon Lake and Rutland Water. Exceptions to this trend were Hilfield Park Reservoir and the Tees Estuary, where numbers surpassed those of the past five years. The only birds recorded in Northern Ireland were at Loughs Neagh and Beg, where numbers peaked at 42 in January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Staines Reservoirs	(696)	694	695 [37]	521 [37]	277	Sep	577
Abberton Reservoir	493	678	403	455	261 [37]	Dec	458
Hanningfield Reservoir	(664)	285 [37]	412 [37]	330	276	Dec	393
Chew Valley Lake	427 [12]	488 [37]	220 [37]	257 [37]	(130)	Dec	348
Dungeness Gravel Pits	264	222	287	250	189	Dec	242
Blagdon Lake	394	249	151 [37]	172	85	Nov	210
Pitsford Reservoir	358	103	178	311 [37]	102	Feb	210
Rutland Water	482	200	251	57	17	Oct	201
Hilfield Park Reservoir	125	187	241 [37]	176	263	Oct	198
Blithfield Reservoir	187	180 [37]	401	59 [37]	23 [37]	Dec	170
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits		115	189	202	106	Jan	153
King George V Reservoirs	135	268	(23)	83	45	Dec	133
Anglers Country Park Lake	76	78	180 [37]	185	34	Oct	111
Tophill Low Reservoirs	89	110 [37]	124	131	85 [37]	Jan	108
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(120)	96	58 [37]	126 [37]	(16)	Feb	100
Carsington Water	132	0	82 [37]	182	101	Dec	99
Stanford Reservoir	97	277 [37]	76	29	6 [37]	Dec	97
Walthamstow Reservoirs	(67)	118	90	86 [37]	74	Feb	92
Thames Estuary	106	(82)	85	85	77 [12]	Jan	88
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(60)	127	125	59	34	Nov	86
Brent Reservoir	104	25	133	77	85	Sep	85
Humber Estuary	55	116	84	(27)	59 [37]	Dec	79
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	12	16	33	215 [37]	99 [37]	Dec	75
Tees Estuary	77	70	37	63	108	Aug	71
Llyn Traffwll	80	83	78	52	55	Sep	70
Colwick Country Park		88 [37]	100 [37]	51	37 [37]	Dec	69
Wigan Flashes	49	60	86		73 [37]	Dec	67
Fairburn Ings	94	115	5 [37]	49	(30)	Feb	66
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	108	118 [37]	55 [37]	37	6	Sep	65
Hollowell Reservoir	39	191	53	19	21	Dec	65
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	26	46	175	13	64	Oct	65
Llyn Alaw	44	2	45	95	92	Dec	56
Clumber Park Lake	72	76	16 [37]	41	66	Dec	54
Llynnau Y Fali	86	57	70	39	16	Apr	54
Blackwater Estuary	53	69	71	39	25 [37]	Dec	51
London Wetland Centre	36	43	59	49 [37]	40 [37]	Dec	45
Hurworth Burn Reservoir	34		9	130	3 [37]	Dec	44
Newsham Park		42 [37]					42
Thoresby Lake	3 [37]	69 [37]	46 [37]	42 [37]	52 [37]	Jan	42
Hampton & Kempton Reservoirs	(30)	39	14	76	33	Sep	41
Knight & Bessborough Res	29	23	46	45	58	Dec	40
Old Moor	47	28	24	71	20	Sep	38
Swithland Reservoir	10	61	62	38	18	Dec	38
Hornsea Mere	18	11	98	11	(18)	Dec	35
Pugneys Country Park Lakes	7	63	27	50 [37]	25	Jan	34
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	67	56	33	36	42	Jan	47
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Attenborough Gravel Pits		4	22	43	40	Jan	27
Aqualate Mere	21	11	4	7	35	Oct	16
Mere Farm Quarry - Chelford	0	0	0	10	35	Sep	9
Fleet and Wey	18	11	24	25	34	Dec	22

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 30 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Lake Duck

Oxyura vittata

Escape

Native Range: S America

GB max: **1 Feb**

NI max: **0**

A single Lake Duck was noted at Dulwich Park Lake in February. This was the first time this species had been noted at this site during WeBS counts.

Red-throated Diver

Gavia stellata

International threshold:	3,000
Great Britain threshold:	170
All-Ireland threshold:	20*

GB max:	699	Dec
NI max:	77	Mar

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The British maximum of Red-throated Diver recorded by WeBS was around a third higher again than the 2005/06 total and was the highest for four years. Birds were noted at 158 sites throughout Britain and a further seven in Northern Ireland. Although Red-throated Divers are the most widespread divers in Britain, over half of all sites at which this species was recorded were in Scotland. A total of 11 sites qualified as nationally important during 2006/07, one more than during the previous year. The highest count from any site was of 226 at the North Norfolk Coast in December. A further three sites in Britain held peak numbers above the national threshold during 2006/07.

The Northern Ireland maximum was around half that of the previous year although very similar to the average of the past five years. The highest count here was of 64 at the Outer Ards Shoreline, which was the highest ever recorded at this site. However, it is important to recognise that many Red-throated Divers in UK waters occur far offshore, so WeBS counts do not include all of the birds present. Indeed, at individual sites, counts may vary more with the weather conditions during a count than with real variation in numbers.

Aerial surveys along the English east and southeast coasts, from Flamborough Head, Yorkshire, to Dover, Kent, estimated 3,300 divers to be present during February/March 2007 (WWT Consulting 2008). While this is notably lower than the 2005/06 peak of 7,998, coverage in 2007 was less extensive, particularly in the Thames area, where the majority of divers are usually observed; a peak counted total of 632 divers was recorded in the Greater Thames (covering the Suffolk, Essex and Kent coasts) in 2007, compared with 1,361 in 2005/06. Similarly, numbers in Liverpool Bay (Fleetwood to Anglesey) were lower than the previous winter, with an estimated total of 680 in February/March 2007, compared with 1,518 in 2005/06.

Aerial surveys of British nearshore waters have revealed the presence of a greater number of divers, with a far more widespread distribution, than was previously known. Consequently, a revised British wintering estimate for Red-throated Diver has recently been published, primarily using data from these surveys, supplemented with county records and WeBS counts (O'Brien *et al.* 2008). The total was estimated to be 17,166 individuals (13,198-21,034, 95% confidence intervals), of which 7,500 occurred in the Greater Thames; the previous British estimate was 4,850 individuals. Because of the change in the population estimate, the 1% threshold for national importance has now also increased, to 170 birds. Consequenlty, only Aberdeen Bay (offshore) now qualifies as nationally important.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Greater Wash/Thames	Feb/Mar	726	3,268 (2,574 – 4,092)	WWT Consulting 2008
Liverpool Bay	Feb/Mar	117	680 (464 – 975)	WWT Consulting 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Aberdeen Bay offshore		225 [25]	423 [52]	352 [52]	175 [25]	Sep	294	
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†								
Inner Firth of Clyde	151	126	34	202	182	Feb	139	
Moray Firth	126	166	117	81	46	Feb	107	
Thames Estuary	(344) [26]	23	32	66	32	Feb	99	
Forth Estuary	106	61	132	87	49	Oct	87	
Loch Ryan	111 [12]	89	81	49	83	Oct	83	
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	35	49	61	163			77	
Lavan Sands	202 [12]	59 [12]	22	8	43	Feb	67	
North Norfolk Coast	37	11	30	18	226	Dec	64	▲
Dengie Flats	114	50	15	(2)	(10)	Feb	60	
Glyne Gap	0	35	6	103	126	Dec	54	▲

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Lough Foyle	29	147	21	98	13	Mar	62	
Belfast Lough	31	13	16 [12]	30	22	Nov	22	
Outer Ards Shoreline	1	6	14	8	64	Mar	19	▲
Carlingford Lough	19	(4)	4	15	8	Feb	12	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Cardigan Bay	32	22	30	(67)	(46)	Dec	39	
Pegwell Bay	215	0	10	5	0		46	
Lade Sands	100	10	0	0	0		22	
Strangford Lough	2	0	2	1	6	Dec	2	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Minsmere	3	57	3	2	56	Dec	24	

† *as few sites exceed the British threshold, a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Black-throated Diver

Gavia arctica

International threshold: 3,750
Great Britain threshold: 7*
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 156 Feb
NI max: 3 Dec

Black-throated Diver were counted at 58 sites in Britain, the majority of these in Scotland. However, the highest single count was of 60 at Gerrans Bay, Cornwall, in January, where double figures were present from November until May. An additional four sites held in excess of 10 birds, with the count of 40 at Loch Ewe particularly notable. A total of 12 sites held mean numbers over and above the threshold for international importance, one more than during the previous year. The British maximum was similar to that of the previous year. Only three Black-throated Diver were recorded in Northern Ireland, all at Strangford Lough in December.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Firth of Clyde	Mar	7	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Gerrans Bay	53	37	47	70	60	Jan	53	
Sound of Barra (Barra)	37 [45]	31 [45]		35 [45]			34	
Loch Slapin		21 [41]	26 [41]				24	
Broad Bay (Lewis)		21 [45]					21	
Moray Firth	18	48	6	19	9	Feb	20	
Loch Gairloch			28	6	14	Feb	16	
Loch Ewe			0	3	40	Feb	14	▲
Loch Roag	13 [45]						13	
Girvan to Turnberry	20	19	(9)	5	1	Feb	11	
Little Loch Broom			3	(10)	13	Feb	9	
Applecross Bay			5	14	2	Feb	7	
Red Point to Port Henderson			0	13 [12]	8	Feb	7	
Sites with mean peak counts of one or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Strangford Lough	8	0	4	0	3	Dec	3	
Outer Ards Shoreline	(0)	(0)	1	2	(0)		2	
Belfast Lough	1	4 [10]	2 [12]	1	1 [10]	Dec	2	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Forth Estuary	9	5	3	10	3	Sep	6	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Poll Creadha			0	0	10	Feb	3	
Glyne Gap	(0)	0	0	8	(9)	Feb	4	

† *as no All-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 1 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Great Northern Diver

Gavia immer

International threshold:	50
Great Britain threshold:	30*†
All-Ireland threshold:	?†

GB max: 401 Feb
NI max: 22 Mar

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The British maximum was the highest to date and was a fifth higher again than the previous year's total. Great Northern Diver were noted at 108 sites in Britain and a further seven in Northern Ireland. Over twice as many were counted in Scotland as in England, although in both countries birds were recorded at 50 sites. Given the relative difficulty of surveying this marine and rather mobile species, it is sometimes difficult to assess the significance of individual site counts, although the peak of 62 at Uyea Sound was particularly notable. A further 10 sites held peak counts in excess of 10 birds, only two of which (Gerrans Bay and Lough Foyle) were outside of Scotland. A total of five sites qualified as internationally important, although only one of these, Traigh Luskentyre, was counted during 2006/07.

This is a species for which many of the key sites are quite remote and monitoring benefits greatly from supplementary counts from a number of sources. In particular, the RAF Ornithological Society has carried out a number of expeditions to northwest Scotland in recent winters and have contributed a high proportion of the counts of this species.

Aerial surveys employing distance sampling

Area	Date	Counted	Estimate (confidence intervals)	Ref
Sound of Gigha	Mar	171	not available	Lewis 2008
Outer Hebrides	Mar	128	not available	Lewis 2008
Scapa & North Orkney	Feb	115	not available	Lewis 2008
Luce Bay	Mar	40	not available	Lewis 2008
Moray Bay (extended)	Feb	31	not available	Lewis 2008

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Sound of Barra (Barra)	142 [45]	96 [45]	94 [45]				111	
Outer Loch Indaal			20	108			64	
South Uist West Coast	(57) [45]	(48) [45]	(63) [45]				(63)	
Traigh Luskentyre	60 [45]	70 [45]	22		58	Feb	53	▲
Loch Slapin		44 [41]	59 [41]				52	
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†								
Moray Firth	60	(109)	37	14	2	Dec	44	▼
Inner Loch Indaal	68	18					43	▼
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	22 [9]	50 [9]	(2) [9]	37 [9]			36	
Loch Ewe			19	33	53	Feb	35	
Gruinard Bay			26	40	37	Feb	34	
Scousburgh to Maywick				32 [9]			32	
Sound of Harris	35 [45]	20 [45]	42 [45]				32	
Broadford Bay	35	(43)	24	(20)	15	Dec	29	
Pontllyfni to Aberdesach		28 [12]					28	
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	34 [9]	27 [9]	30 [9]	11 [9]			26	
Quendale to Virkie	22 [9]	24 [9]	22 [9]	27 [9]			24	
Gualan and Balgarva		23 [45]					23	
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	19 [9]	30 [9]	4 [9]	17 [9]			18	
Uyea Sound	10	5	5	7	62	Feb	18	
Scalloway Islands		19 [9]	13 [9]	19 [9]			17	
Island of Papa Westray	20	22	(1)	5			16	
Gerrans Bay	17	15	14	16	15	Apr	15	
Red Point to Port Henderson			17	22 [12]	4	Feb	14	
Loch Eriboll			0	3	36	Feb	13	
Little Loch Broom			8	(7)	16	Feb	12	
Island of Egilsay	3	(0)	10	21	8	Dec	11	
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Lough Foyle	26	24	5	60	17	Mar	26	
Carlingford Lough	(15)	25	2	17	4	Jan	13	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†								
Loch Ryan	1 [12]	0	4	0	12	Dec	3	
Kyle of Tongue			0	0	11	Feb	4	

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set, a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

White-billed Diver

Gavia adamsii

Scarce
Native Range: N America, N Europe, N Siberia

GB max:	**2**	**Mar**
NI max:	**0**	

White-billed Divers were noted at the Hayle Estuary and The Houb (Whalsay) in March and Burra Firth (Head), Unst in April. There have been only two previous records of this species during WeBS, in 1994/95 at the Forth Estuary and 2001/02 at the Farne Islands.

Little Grebe

Tachybaptus ruficollis

International threshold:	**4,000**
Great Britain threshold:	**78**
All-Ireland threshold:	**25***

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

GB max:	**5,400**	**Oct**
NI max:	**495**	**Sep**

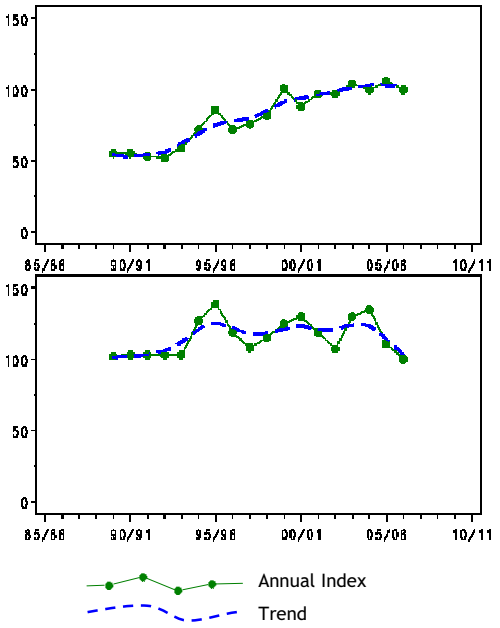

Figure 34.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

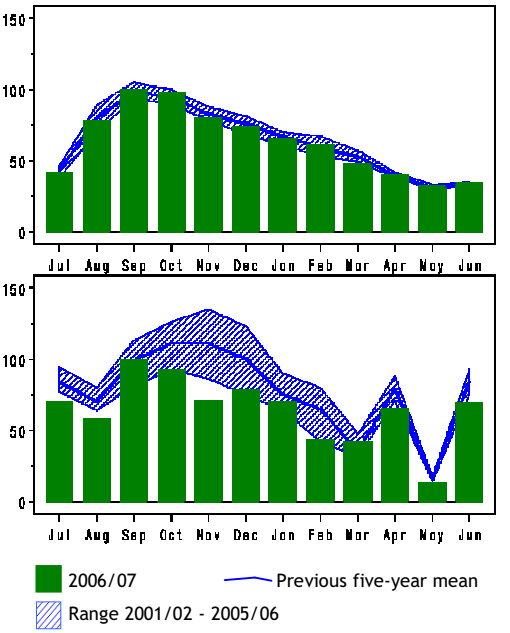

Figure 34.b, Monthly indices for Little Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS albeit only slightly higher than the previous highest, which was recorded in 2005/06. The steady rise witnessed in the British index over the past decade has started to slow with numbers remaining similar over the past four years. Numbers were very similar to average throughout the year and as usual peaked in late autumn and fell slightly though the winter. Numbers peaked at the Thames Estuary at their highest-ever level; average numbers now exceed 400 birds for the first time. Similarly, numbers at Lee Valley Gravel Pits increased and were half as high again as during the previous year, whilst the peak count at Cameron Reservoir was also especially notable. At Bewl Water, however, there appears to have been a steady decline and the site no longer qualifies as nationally important.

The Northern Irish trend fell for the second consecutive year to a similar levels as the early 1990s. Peak numbers were also below those of recent years, being the lowest ever recorded by WeBS. The key site in the province remained Loughs Neagh and Beg, although counts here were the lowest for around 15 years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Thames Estuary	378	(198)	444	377	499	Oct	425
Chichester Harbour	111	125	135	95 [10]	66	Jan	106
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits		55	120	114	105	Sep	99
Chew Valley Lake	70	110	110	95	80	Oct	93
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	71	83	102	77	126	Oct	92
Hamford Water	68	(92)	89	114	87	Jan	90
Alde Complex	54	(47)	109	112	76	Nov	88
Deben Estuary	73	76	74	90	82	Nov	79
Tees Estuary	104	70	54	88	78	Sep	79
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Rutland Water	58	87	70	96	67	Oct	76
Blagdon Lake	18	127	98	(69)	49	Sep	73
Bewl Water	136	94	80	43	28	Sep	76
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	438	433	466	330	278	Sep	389
Upper Lough Erne	75	131	104	78	106	Mar	99
Strangford Lough	113	83	76	75	80	Oct	85
Lower Lough Erne	39	57	53	54	78	Jan	56
Larne Lough	32	65	77	52	20	Oct	49
Lough Money	41	39	51	48	40	Nov	44
Hillsborough Main Lake	37	27	28	21	28	Oct	28
Lough Foyle	20	31	31	32	28	Sep	28
Upper Quoile River	13	28	35	33	20	Sep	26
Belfast Lough	37	30	28	23	12	Sep	26
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Cameron Reservoir	36	47	47	60	133	Oct	65
Pitsford Reservoir	37	57	50	86	96	Oct	65
Humber Estuary	(55)	(58)	60	64	94	Oct	73
The Wash	51	50	44	70	88	Jan	61
Severn Estuary	68	54	52	87	86	Sep	69

Great Crested Grebe

Podiceps cristatus

International threshold: 3,600
Great Britain threshold: 159
All-Ireland threshold: 55

GB max: 8,517 Oct
NI max: 1,911 Oct

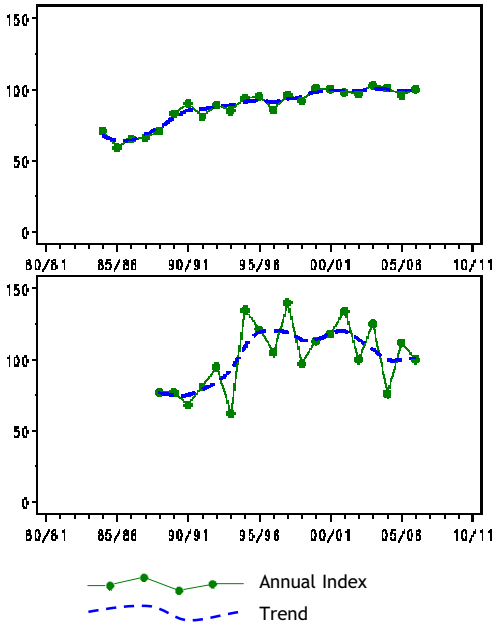

Figure 35.a, Annual indices & trend for Great Crested Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

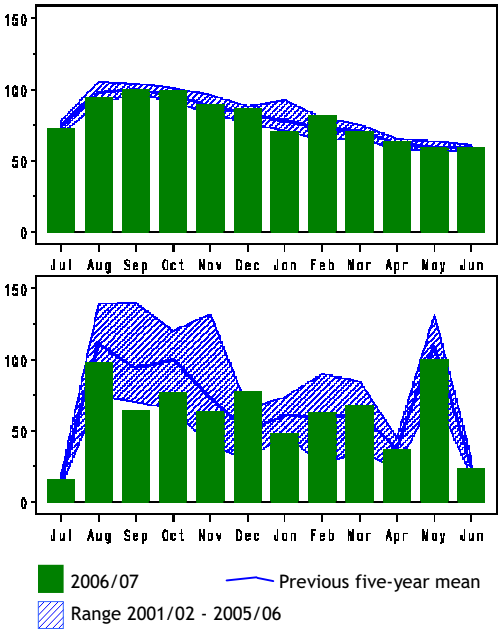

Figure 35.b, Monthly indices for Great Crested Grebe for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was very similar to that of the previous year. The trend has levelled slightly following a long period of steady increase. Numbers were close to average throughout the year, although dipped slightly in January. The count of zero from Lade Sands in Kent was notable, given the large numbers recorded offshore here in recent years; in view that counts were only available up to December further years' counts will be needed to determine if this is a real decline or simply of reflection of poor counting conditions during this winter. Other low offshore counts at Rye Harbour, Forth Estuary, Loch Ryan and Pegwell Bay are similarly difficult to attribute. Elsewhere, relatively high numbers were noted at Chew Valley Lake and Lavan Sands, whereas counts were below average at Queen Mary Reservoir, Bewl Water (where Little Grebes also decreased) and Solway Firth.

In Northern Ireland, Belfast Lough remained the top site, although in 2006/07 peak numbers were around 10% below the mean of the past five years. A further seven Northern Irish sites currently qualify as nationally important, five of which held in excess of 100 birds during 2006/07. The Northern Ireland trend has remained fairly stable over the couple of years following a slight fall in the early 2000s.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Lade Sands	1,600	1,080 [12]	860	700	0		848
Rutland Water	607	619	815	771	655	Nov	693
Grafham Water	311	463	526	463			441
Chew Valley Lake	320	330	330	275	430	Oct	337
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(188)	(245)	283	354	284	Sep	307
Pitsford Reservoir	203	341	309	308	267	Oct	286
Lavan Sands	308	176 [12]	(446)	57	329	Feb	263
Queen Mary Reservoir	267	495	262	126	130	Jun	256
Bewl Water	356	190	330	204	188	Sep	254
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	48	365	186	621	44	Jan	253
Forth Estuary	(389)	295	(313)	123	95	Sep	243
Loch Ryan	(300)	210	299	193	77	Oct	216
Morecambe Bay	187	218	(91)	(138)	(62)	May	203
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	169	204	(147)	175	(124)	Oct	183
Pegwell Bay	604	20	233	38	0		179
Solway Firth	119	88	(333)	233	100	Jan	175
Draycote Water	255	151	98				168
Loch Leven	127	204	127	150	198	Oct	161
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	1,214	1,832	1,577	2,095	1,482	Dec	1,640
Loughs Neagh and Beg	930	1,695	518	449	959	Oct	910
Lough Foyle	782	1,030	50	169	116	Sep	429
Carlingford Lough	174	184	232	246	116	Feb	190
Upper Lough Erne	110	112	191	147	206	Mar	153
Lower Lough Erne	71	66	117	48	123	Mar	85
Strangford Lough	(36)	(43)	(64)	(82)	(65)	Nov	(82)
Larne Lough	105	115	50	56	84	Sep	82
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Swale Estuary	(42)	316	63	(52)	51	Feb	143
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Glyne Gap	0	0	42	(116)	213	Dec	74
Hanningfield Reservoir	(42)	129	18	42	200	Nov	97
Bridlington Bay	(0)			123	189	Jan	156
Theale Gravel Pits	(53)	(49)	37	(33)	170	Feb	104

Red-necked Grebe

Podiceps grisegena

International threshold:	**510**
Great Britain threshold:	**2***
All-Ireland threshold:	**?**

GB max: **10 Dec**
NI max: **0**

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The counted British maximum was the lowest recorded by WeBS and was a third of the previous year's total. Red-necked Grebe were noted at 16 sites in England and at five in Scotland. Birds were noted in all months between November and March. All records were of single birds except for peaks of four at Forth Estuary and North Norfolk Coast and of two at Chichester Harbour, Glyne Gap and Lindisfarne. The count at the Fourth Estuary was the lowest at this site for some time due to the lack of counts from Port Seton to Craigielaw Point, which has held double-figures in recent years. However, this site remains the most important for this species.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Forth Estuary	44	16	24	32	4	Jan	24
North Norfolk Coast	2	2	1	6	4	Feb	3
Lindisfarne	4 [10]		1 [10]	3 [10]	2	Dec	3
Traeth Dulas		2	3				3
Poole Harbour	(2)	(0)	(0)	(0)	(0)		2
Loch Ryan	(0)	3	0	2	1	Oct	2
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Chichester Harbour	0	0	0	1	2	Nov	1
Moray Firth	1	1	2	2	1	Oct	1

Slavonian Grebe

Podiceps auritus

International threshold:	**55**
Great Britain threshold:	**7***
All-Ireland threshold:	**?†**

GB max: **268 Feb**
NI max: **4 Mar**

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The British maximum was around a third higher than the previous year's total and the highest for five years. Slavonian Grebe were noted at a total of 82 sites in Britain, just over half of which were in Scotland. Most birds were recorded between October and February, with none noted in July and August. A total of 12 sites held ten or more birds. Peak numbers at the Forth Estuary were the lowest ever recorded at the site, although no counts were received from Port Seton to Craigielaw Point, a key area for this species. Conversely, numbers at Loch Ewe were the highest ever recorded, with noteworthy double-figure counts also at Loch Watten and Loch of Stenness.

In Northern Ireland, Slavonian Grebe were noted at just two sites, Lough Foyle in October, February and March, and the Bann Estuary in October and November. All records were of single birds except for four at Lough Foyle in March. This represented a major decline since the peak here of 61 birds in 2003/04. The maximum for Northern Ireland was the lowest since 1999/2000 and was 38 lower than the previous year's total.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Forth Estuary	80	110	73	55	25 [12]	Feb	69
Moray Firth	69	62	55	42	50	Feb	56
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	55 [9]	55 [9]	59 [9]	52 [9]			55 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Inner Firth of Clyde	45	(20)	16	35	41	Feb	34
Sound of Gigha	51 [11]		20 [11]	30 [11]			34
Traigh Luskentyre	50 [45]	44 [45]	31		11	Oct	34
Loch Ryan	31 [12]	32	42	23	39	Oct	33
Inner Loch Indaal	31	30					31
Loch of Harray	25	23	49	24	16	Oct	27
Lindisfarne	23 [10]	(2)	30 [10]	22 [10]	18	Feb	23
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	13 [9]	17 [9]	(16) [9]	20 [9]			17

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Blackwater Estuary	9 [10]	41	11	2 [10]	(2)	Dec	16
Loch Na Keal	12 [11]	18 [11]					15
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	11 [9]	6 [9]	18 [9]	22 [9]			14
Loch of Swannay	10	11	19	10	15	Dec	13
Gualan and Balgarva	12 [45]		11 [45]				12
Pagham Harbour	6	28	8	8	3	Feb	11
Loch Ewe			0	13	18	Feb	10
Broadford Bay	10	6	10	(7)	13	Feb	10
Gerrans Bay	3	4	5	26	5	Dec	9
Lavan Sands	15 [12]	6	14 [12]	2	6	Feb	9
South Yell Sound		9 [9]					9
Sound of Harris	8 [45]	5 [45]	10 [45]				8
Sullom Voe	6 [9]	6 [9]	13 [9]	7 [9]			8
Goring	(1)	(0)	(7)				(7) ▲
Hornish	4 [45]	10 [45]					7 ▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Jersey Shore					4	Jan	4
Upper Loch Torridon			0	17	0		6
Sites with mean peak counts of 4 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Lough Foyle	13	61	10	42	4	Mar	26
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Loch of Stenness	6	2	1	2	11	Feb	4
Loch Watten	1	1	3	2	10	Nov	3
Glyne Gap	0	0	0	4	(8)	Jan	2
Little Loch Broom			0	(0)	7	Feb	4

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of four has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Black-necked Grebe

Podiceps nigricollis

International threshold: 2,200
Great Britain threshold: 1*†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 65 Apr
NI max: 0

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

The British maximum for Black-necked Grebe was the lowest for three years, although similar to the average of the past five years. Birds were noted at 59 sites in England and one each in Scotland, Wales and the Channel Islands. The January count at Langstone Harbour was the highest at this site for ten years, but winter numbers at the Fal Complex were very low. Several sites featured in the key sites table have been kept confidential following the advice of the Rare Breeding Birds Panel and/or local counters.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
William Girling Reservoir	16	21	27	21	26	Dec	22
Woolston Eyes	6	23	35	13	(35)	Apr	22
Fal Complex	15	7	19	56	4	Dec	20
Langstone Harbour	15	11	16 [10]	20	24 [12]	Jan	17
Confidential Northumberland Site	11	10	11	16	10	Apr	12
Lower Derwent Ings	0	1	47	0			12
Confidential Hertfordshire Site	7	17	12	10	9	Mar	11
Teignmouth to Berry Head		4	18				11
Staines Reservoirs	5	1	6	11	9	Mar	6

† as the British threshold is so low and no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Great White Pelican

Pelecanus onocrotalus

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: E Europe, Asia, Africa

GB max: 1 Aug
NI max: 0

Single Great White Pelicans were at Bough Beech Reservoir in August and the Tay Estuary in September. The only previous record of this species during WeBS was of one at Wigtown Bay in 1998/99.

Cormorant

Phalacrocorax carbo

GB max:	**18,116**	**Oct**
NI max:	**2,830**	**Oct**

International threshold:	**1,200**
Great Britain threshold:	**230**
All-Ireland threshold:	**140**

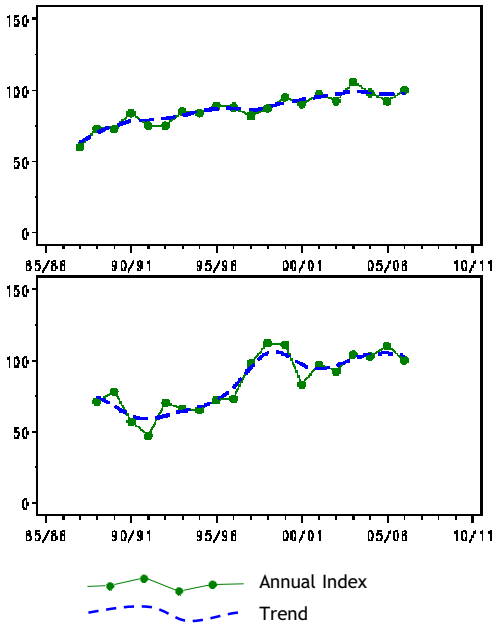

Figure 36.a, Annual indices & trend for Cormorant for GB (above) & NI (below).

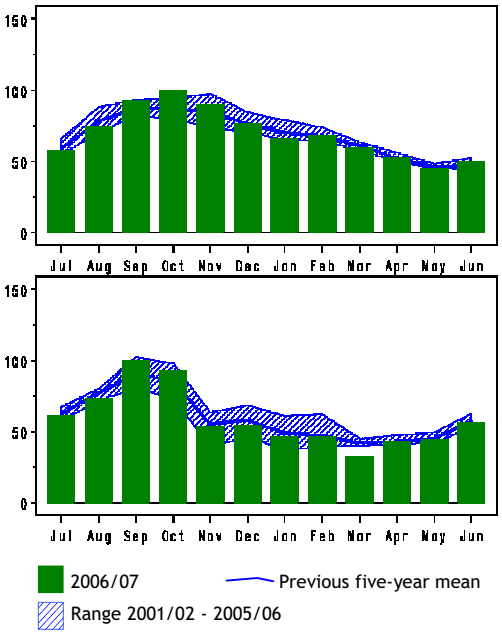

Figure 36.b, Monthly indices for Cormorant for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index for Cormorant has shown a steady increase over the past 20 years, although over the past five years numbers have remained more stable. This levelling might be explained by an increase in the licences issued for culling since 2004/05. As in recent years, numbers peaked during autumn, with the October peak being higher than those of the preceding five years, before tailing off through the winter. On the whole, numbers were similar to those of the past five years although were slightly below average in January.

The Northern Irish trend has remained fairly stable following a rise in the late 1990s. The annual pattern is similar to that of Britain with the highest numbers typically recorded during autumn. In 2006/07 the peaks in September and October were higher than average, while numbers during March were lower than during the previous five years.

Peak numbers at the UK's key site, Loughs Neagh and Beg, were the highest since 1998/99. Higher than average numbers were also noted at the Alt Estuary, the Dee Estuary (England and Wales), Hanningfield Reservoir, Wraysbury Gravel Pits and the Tay Estuary. An extraordinarily high count at King George VI Reservoir in October was balanced by below average counts at Staines Reservoirs and Queen Mary Reservoir, and relatively low peaks were also noted at the Tees Estuary and the Ouse Washes. Numbers at the other main Northern Irish sites were similar to average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,383	1,468	1,591	1,490	1,665	Sep	1,519
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Alt Estuary	569	739	984	1,079	1,168	Nov	908
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	668	718	780	623	1,003	Nov	758
Rutland Water	529	788	697	825	918	Sep	751
Forth Estuary	(982)	631	669	713	613	Sep	722
Morecambe Bay	(657)	(539)	681	655	(641)	Sep	668
Thames Estuary	736	596	654	526	434	Dec	589
Inner Firth of Clyde	553	425	452	(740) [11]	514	Oct	537
Tees Estuary	438	773	471	511	329	Aug	504
Walthamstow Reservoirs	570	505	453	306	640	Jul	495
Dungeness Gravel Pits	235 [30]	251	870	622	415	Sep	479
Solway Estuary	500	(594)	(454)	270	(526)	Dec	469
The Wash	502	449	538	371	467	Jan	465
Poole Harbour	558	(412)	431	408	374	Sep	443
Abberton Reservoir	600	480	450	324	342	May	439
Ribble Estuary	398	(456)	543	293	316	Feb	401
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	340	382	446	466	362	Jun	399
Wraysbury Reservoir	132	899	83				371
Grafham Water	349	193	344	531			354
Besthorpe & Girton GP & Fleet	415	372	336	363	274	Apr	352
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	181	607	119	306	533	Nov	349
North Norfolk Coast	581	276	242	272	265	Aug	327
Queen Elizabeth II Reservoir	308 [30]	340	295	360	295	Oct	320
Ouse Washes	347	252 [11]	294	254 [12]	454 [12]	Mar	320
Medway Estuary	(136)	305	(68)	(93)	(30)	Nov	305
Hanningfield Reservoir	189 [30]	411	109	318	500	Nov	305
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	293	(168)	(256)	(93)	(48)	Nov	293
Rostherne Mere	293	306	256	273	273	Jun	280
Queen Mother Reservoir	91	850	25	252	120	Oct	268
Pagham Harbour	240	303	225	308	258	Jul	267
Queen Mary Reservoir	342	768	44	85	88	May	265
Staines Reservoirs	41	773	21	436	49	Sep	264
Ranworth and Cockshoot Broads	270 [11]	324 [11]	257 [11]	310 [11]	151	Feb	262
Drakelow Gravel Pit	261	253 [11]	230 [11]	303	212 [12]	Sep	252
Blackwater Estuary	104	473	191	224	(46)	Nov	248
Tay Estuary	233	236	(243)	198	310	Sep	244 ▲
Durham Coast	(13)	(2)	(52)	236	(63)	Aug	236
Alde Complex	84	(106)	549	99	206	Dec	235
Ayr to North Troon	169	(110)	292	(97)	(51)	Feb	231
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Loch Leven	68	310	222	180	255	Sep	207
Colne Estuary	(29)	423	297	81	47	Jan	212
Sites with mean peak counts of 130 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	652	563	350	455	397	Oct	483
Strangford Lough	358	400	405	455	422	Oct	408
Belfast Lough	388	348	350 [12]	378	350	Nov	363
Carlingford Lough	206	154	221	238	230	Sep	210
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
King George VI Reservoir	11	8	104	93	872	Oct	218
Island of Egilsay	287	57	104	72	310	Oct	166
Loch Leven	68	310	222	180	255	Sep	207
Fairburn Ings	219	187		265	241	May	228
Somerset Levels	149	(123)	180	156	235	Nov	180

Shag

Phalacrocorax aristotelis

International threshold:	2,000
Great Britain threshold:	?†
All-Ireland threshold:	?†

GB max:	2,188	Feb
NI max:	636	Oct

The counted maximum of Shag in Britain was around 20% higher than in the previous year, although was similar to the average of the past five years. The Northern Irish total was the highest ever recorded by WeBS and was again around 20% higher than the previous year's figure. However, as WeBS only records a small proportion of the total number of Shag present around the country, it is unlikely that any changes detected by WeBS truly reflect actual changes in the Shag population.

Shag were recorded at 187 sites around Britain and a further 11 in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was from the Forth Estuary, at which 605 were present in October, however, this figure was around half that of the five-year mean of the site. Below average peak counts were also noted at Inner Moray and Inverness Firth, whilst above average peaks were recorded at Widewall Bay, Loch Ewe, Island of Egilsay, Thurso Bay and Loch Ryan. Peak counts in Northern Ireland were relatively average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Forth Estuary	2,315	(1,664)	(760)	420	605	Oct	1,251
South Yell Sound	710 [9]	893 [9]	558 [9]	790 [9]			738
Moray Firth		413 [1]	995 [1]	308 [1]			572
Hacosay, Bluemull & Colgrave Snds	423 [9]	709 [9]	232 [9]	625 [9]			497
Burra and Trondra		476 [9]	441 [9]	287 [9]			401
Kirkabister to Wadbister Ness	172 [9]	778 [9]	(97) [9]	198 [9]			383
Scalloway Islands		424 [9]	255 [9]	448 [9]			376
North Bressay	53 [9]		728 [9]	128 [9]			303
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	636 [1]	108 [1]	663 [1]	31	22	Oct	292
Widewall Bay	68	580	140	150	390	Nov	266
Scousburgh to Maywick				245 [9]			245
Quendale to Virkie	123 [9]	176 [9]	97 [9]	503 [9]			225
Inner Firth of Clyde	(213)	(159)	190	(115)	197	Feb	200
Loch Ewe			197	115	261	Feb	191
Gulberwick Area				189 [9]			189
Ayr to North Troon	184	(26)	(30)	(6)	(2)	Dec	184
Rova Head to Wadbister Ness	166 [9]	132 [9]	126 [9]	299 [9]			181
South Unst		206 [9]	63 [9]	246 [9]			172
Easter Ross Coast		214 [1]	122 [1]				168
Arran	100	(151)	131	304	123	Dec	165
Moray Coast (Consolidated)	121	180	251	33	193	Oct	156
Broadford Bay	150	(100)	150	152	150	Dec	151
Red Point to Port Henderson			92	246	105	Feb	148
Bressay Sound	114 [9]	100 [9]	272 [9]	97 [9]			146
Whiteness to Skelda Ness	149 [9]	169 [9]	138 [9]	115 [9]			143
Loch Ryan	(110)	79	144	127	179	Oct	132
Island of Papa Westray	107	210	50	150			129
Winterfield to Catcraig					120	Oct	120
Helmsdale to Lothbeg			103 [1]				103
Sullom Voe	106 [9]	104 [9]	133 [9]	68 [9]			103
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	227	(187)	280	236	284	Jan	257
Strangford Lough	189	226	218	295	291	Oct	244
Belfast Lough	215	194 [10]	133 [12]	49	191 [10]	Dec	156
Carlingford Lough	48	(37)	60	55	57	Feb	55
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Island of Egilsay	78	62	67	47	230	Feb	97
Lindisfarne	156 [10]	48 [10]	104 [10]	40 [10]	122	Sep	94
Thurso Bay		100	80	20	170	Dec	93

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 100 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Bittern

Botaurus stellaris

International threshold: 65
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 23 Feb
NI max: 0

During 2006/07, Bittern were noted at 34 sites across England and an additional four in Wales; none were recorded from Scotland or Northern Ireland. Birds were recorded in all months except July with most records being of single birds. Up to two birds were present at Leybourne and New Hythe Gravel Pits, Potteric Carr, Pugneys Country Park Lakes, River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge, Stodmarsh NNR and Collards Lagoon and The Hen Reedbeds between November and March. Three were at Upton Warren Local Nature Reserve in November and the Humber Estuary in May, while four were at Minsmere in May (although this represents only a proportion of the birds known to be present). The British maximum of 23 was similar to that of the previous year.

Cattle Egret

Bubulcus ibis

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: 1 Sep
NI max: 0

Cattle Egrets were recorded from three sites in four months. All reports were of single birds, which were at Christchurch Harbour in September, the North Norfolk Coast in October and the Otter Estuary in March and April.

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

International threshold: 1,300
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 3,437 Sep
NI max: 20 Sep

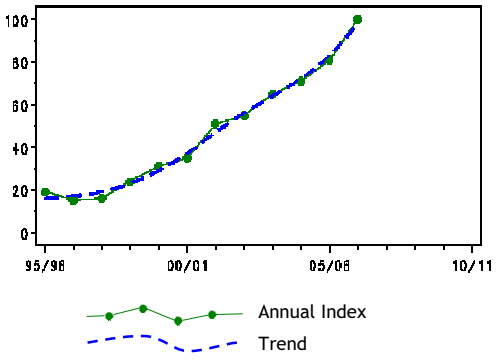

Figure 37.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Egret for GB.

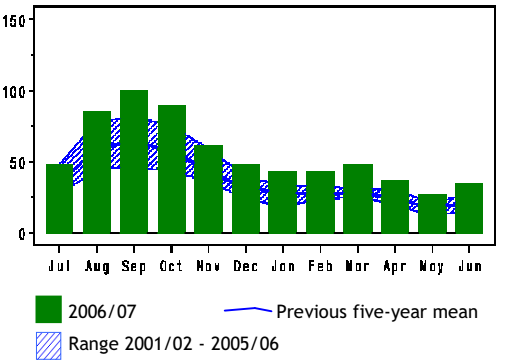

Figure 37.b, Monthly indices for Little Egret for GB.

Little Egrets increased in number yet again, with the British index rising by around 25% during 2006/07 to its highest ever level. This increase was reflected in the maximum counted numbers, in September, also the highest yet to be recorded by WeBS. Interestingly, in August 2006 the number of Little Egret counted by WeBS outnumbered those of Grey Heron for the first time (although, of course, there are many more Grey Herons dispersed away from WeBS sites in the UK than there are Little Egrets). With Little Egret becoming a regular sight in many parts of the country throughout the year it is unsurprising that numbers were the highest recorded in every month in 2006/07. Whilst there are still no official 1% thresholds for Little Egret, we have increased the table-qualifying level, to select sites for presentation in this report, from 30 to 50. A further 19 sites held mean peak numbers of 30 or more and a further 28 held mean peaks of 10 or more.

Little Egrets were noted at an incredible 265 sites in 2006/07. Most peak counts were in single figures although ten sites hosted

numbers in excess of 100. Given the national pattern, it is unsurprising that many individual sites hosted their highest numbers to date, with particularly notable counts at the Wash, Stour Estuary, Hamford Water, Lavan Sands, Dee Estuary (England and Wales) and Grouville Marsh.

The Northern Ireland maximum was twice that of the previous year and the highest to date. Birds were recorded here at four sites between August and May with the highest count of 13 at Dundrum Inner Bay in September.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Medway Estuary	(125)	413 [11]	(76)	(62)	(32)	Nov	413
Thames Estuary	201	(262)	295	260	316	Sep	268
Chichester Harbour	218	228	129	(206)	192	Sep	195
Poole Harbour	(140)	(179)	(116)	(112)	(84)	Nov	(179)
North Norfolk Coast	81	149 [11]	228 [11]	170 [11]	193	Sep	164
Blackwater Estuary	(51)	(66)	(159)	133	(58)	Sep	146
The Wash	29	72	92	139	323	Oct	131
Tamar Complex	129	143	120	(129)	97	Sep	124
Swale Estuary	(59)	131	95	(100)	(72)	Oct	113
Burry Inlet	87	(141)	103	108	86	Sep	105
Exe Estuary	67	131	93	107	116	Sep	103
Jersey Shore					98	Feb	98
Kingsbridge Estuary	105	(99)	86	85	89	Mar	93
Langstone Harbour	88	90	87	91	77	Oct	87
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(60)	(74)	(56)	93	78	Aug	86
Longueville Marsh	145	105	102	60	12	Mar	85
Stour Estuary	32	57	87	102	143	Oct	84
Pagham Harbour	76	63	(60)	94	90	Sep	81
Branston Fen				80 [11]			80
Southampton Water	(19)	(51)	(39)	(44)	(80)	Aug	(80)
Lavan Sands	15	67	71	107	133	Oct	79
Portsmouth Harbour	110 [11]	(34)	51	45	96	Oct	76
Camel Estuary	64	65	71	96	80	Aug	75
Fal Complex	55	(52)	89	60	82	Oct	72
Hamford Water	20	53	81	72	135	Sep	72
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	20	32 [11]	59 [11]	112 [11]	132 [11]	Aug	71
Severn Estuary	41	47	66	104	74	Oct	66
Cleddau Estuary	48	36	71	83	(68)	Sep	61
Crouch-Roach Estuary	42	43	73 [10]	(35)	57	Oct	54
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(79)	19	57	48	57	Jan	52
North West Solent	(25)	42	(51)	56	53	Oct	51
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 2006/07†							
Grouville Marsh	2	2	2	50	165	Nov	44
Pegwell Bay	23	26	(48)	56	71	Sep	45
Fowey Estuary	48	35	33	37	64	Oct	43
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	19	22	42	61	64	Oct	42
Somerset Levels	26	(12)	24	(35)	64	Feb	38
Fleet and Wey	38	25	46	56	59	Dec	45
Carmarthen Bay	(9)	23	35	41	57	Sep	39
Orwell Estuary	37 [11]	56 [11]	9 [10]	27	54	Sep	37
Dart Estuary	20	44	34	(39)	52	Sep	38
Newtown Estuary	22	41	(21)	(30)	52	Sep	38
Dengie Flats	15	(27)	31	45	51	Nov	36

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Great White Egret

Ardea alba

Vagrant
Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: **1 Nov**
NI max: **0**

A single Great White Egret was present at River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood in October, November and January. This individual was noted on many of the count sections of this site and the presence of colour-rings helped identify it as having been ringed in Lac de Grand-Lieu in France in May 2003 (M. Grantham *pers. comm.*).

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

GB max:	**4,200**	**Oct**
NI max:	**517**	**Sep**

International threshold:	**2,700**
Great Britain threshold:	**?†**
All-Ireland threshold:	**30***

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

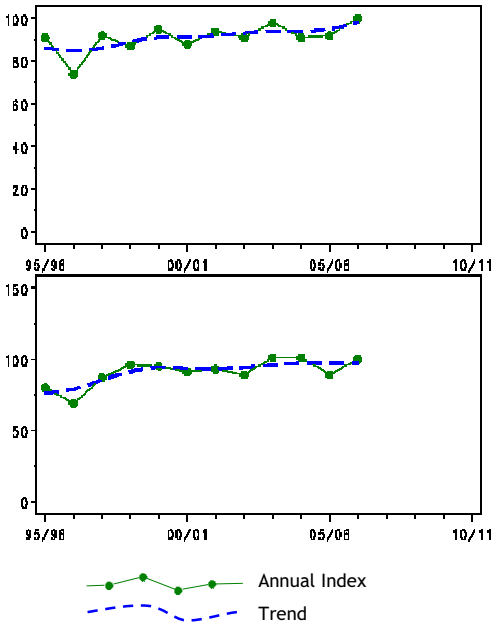

Figure 38.a, Annual indices & trend for Grey Heron for GB (above) & NI (below).

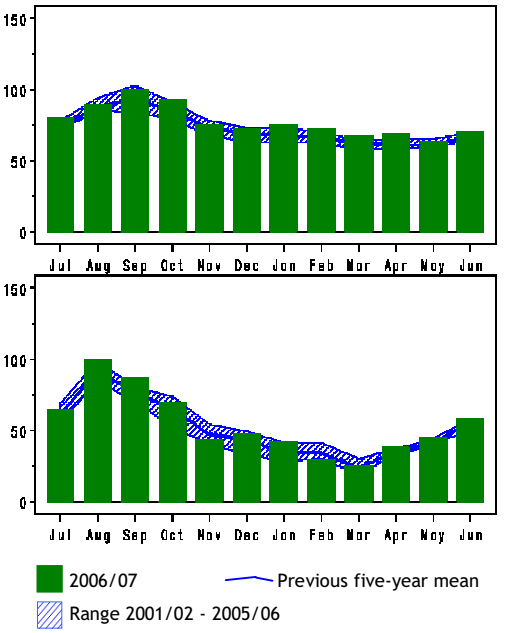

Figure 38.b, Monthly indices for Grey Heron for GB (above) & NI (below).

The number of Grey Heron recorded by WeBS has remained fairly stable over the past decade with an average of around 4,100 counted in Britain and a further 400 in Northern Ireland. The British trend showed a slight upturn in 2006/07 and monthly indices revealed that numbers were above average throughout the year. Interestingly, data from the BTO Heronry Census has revealed a long-term increase in breeding Grey Herons with a notable increase during the past ten years from fewer than 12,000 to over 13,000 pairs (Baillie *et al*. 2007). This rate of increase has not been detected by WeBS, perhaps indicating that birds are dispersing onto smaller waterways that are not comprehensively covered by WeBS.

As usual, Grey Herons were recorded on almost three quarters of all sites counted during 2006/07. Just six sites held peak numbers in excess of 100 birds, compared to seven in the previous year. The highest single-site total was of 225 at Loughs Neagh and Beg, which was slightly higher than the site average. Peak numbers at Coombe Country Park were the lowest for seven years, being just a quarter of those in 2005/06.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(83)	150	(80)	(106)	(114)	Mar	150
Somerset Levels	136	130	151	119	143	Jan	136
Coombe Country Park	159	159	105	120	30	Jan	115
Thames Estuary	(124)	(94)	100	117	89	Dec	108
Forth Estuary	62	78 [10]	104	108	108	Sep	92
Morecambe Bay	101	91	68	88	105	Sep	91
Inner Firth of Clyde	87	81	90	93	(100)	Oct	90
Ouse Washes	104 [12]	78	163 [12]	36	55 [12]	Mar	87
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(111)	87	67	(48)	61	Jul	82
Solway Estuary	(69)	(70)	72	(28)	(32)	Oct	72
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	91	67	55	68	68	Oct	70

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Severn Estuary	104 [10]	81	69	55	43	Jul	70
Walthamstow Reservoirs	133	64	60	16	75	Jan	70
Tees Estuary	66	64	56	62	81	Sep	66
The Wash	54	76	50	52	59	Oct	58
Cromarty Firth	44	73	47	58	64	Oct	57
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	44	76	56	62	36	Feb	55
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	34	22	58	96	64	Dec	55
R.Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringwood	46	28	56	73	65	Oct	54
Tamar Complex	53 [10]	52	49	67	48	Oct	54
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(41)	77	30	29	72	Jul	52
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	226	208	172	202	225	Sep	207
Strangford Lough	102	102	90	121 [10]	95 [10]	Nov	102
Lough Foyle	31	45	54	34	42	Sep	41
Belfast Lough	35	29 [10]	36	36	(32)	Sep	34
Carlingford Lough	20	23	30	41	51	Sep	33
Larne Lough	19	34	47	19	30	Sep	30
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Besthorpe & Girton GPs & Fleet	8	(23)	(16)	(19)	(96)	Apr	32
Tring Reservoirs	32	31	35	32	78	Feb	42
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	37	56	33	(32)	60	Mar	47
Radnor Mere	44	46	42	35	60	Mar	45
Bewl Water	7	23	21	12	56	Sep	24
Durham Coast	41	41	42	42	55	May	44
Montrose Basin	24	54	(40)	32	55	Sep	41
Bough Beech Reservoir	27	17	25	13	54	Apr	27

† as no British threshold has been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

White Stork

Ciconia ciconia

Vagrant and escape
Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: **2** **Apr**
NI max: **0**

The only records of White Stork were both of single birds and were both in April; these were at Castle Howard Lake and the Humber Estuary.

Glossy Ibis

Plegadis falcinellus

Vagrant
Native Range: Worldwide

GB max: **1** **Jun**
NI max: **0**

A single Glossy Ibis was noted at Freckleton Marsh in the Ribble Estuary during June. The only previous record of this species during WeBS was a single bird at the Exe Estuary that was present between November 2002 and April 2004.

Spoonbill

Platalea leucorodia

International threshold: **110**
Great Britain threshold: **?**
All-Ireland threshold: **?**

GB max: **20** **Nov**
NI max: **0**

Spoonbill were recorded in every month during 2006/07 and the maximum of 20 in November was similar to the average of the past five years. Most birds were recorded from sites in England although one was at the Forth Estuary in Scotland in November and December, while in Wales singles were at the Dyfi Estuary in May and Foryd Bay from November to May. Spoonbill were present at eight sites in England, most counts being of one or two birds although seven were at the Taw-Torridge Estuary in November, December and February, eight were at the North Norfolk Coast in May and 11 were at Poole Harbour in November.

Water Rail

Rallus aquaticus

GB max:	**453**	**Dec**
NI max:	**4**	**Dec**

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

Despite their secretive nature, which makes them difficult to detect using standard WeBS methodology, Water Rail were recorded at 331 sites in Britain during 2006/07 plus an additional three in Northern Ireland. The British maximum was only slightly lower than the average of the past five years; however, numbers counted by WeBS only represent a tiny fraction of the birds present in the country.

Numbers at most key sites were fairly similar to recent years, although numbers at Kenfig Pool, Loe Pool and Lee Valley Gravel Pits were slightly lower than the mean of the peak counts during the past five years. In contrast, peak counts at Woolston Eyes, West Myre and Inner Firth of Clyde were higher than usual for these sites. Typically, only a handful of birds were recorded in Northern Ireland, these were at Belfast Lough and Upper and Lower Lough Erne; again this represents only a tiny proportion of the birds actually present.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Somerset Levels	(45)	45	63	50	58	Nov	54
Grouville Marsh	25	20	20	30	(10)	Oct	24
Poole Harbour	24	(10)	(12)	(6)	(6)	Nov	24
Kenfig Pool	39	27	17	12	14	Dec	22
Longueville Marsh	15	15	20	20	(10)	Oct	18
Middle Yare Marshes	17	18	(4)	(5)	(5)	Sep	18
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	28	20	15	9	14	Mar	17
Thames Estuary	21	(8)	11	(10)	16	Jan	16
Burry Inlet	10	18	16	(0)	(0)		15
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	22 [12]	7	8	22	15	Feb	15
Southampton Water	18	(7)	11	20	10	Dec	15
Chichester Harbour	16	6	13	14	15	Nov	13
Loe Pool	19	(16)	10	12	8	Dec	13
Severn Estuary	15	5	6	25	13	Feb	13
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	13	(5)	16	10	8	Dec	12
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	18	12	(7)	11	7	Feb	12
Ingrebourne Valley	14	12	7	10			11
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Woolston Eyes	4	0	3	3	15	Dec	5
West Myre	0	0	0	0	14	Feb	3
Inner Firth of Clyde	2	3	3	10	13	Nov	6
Malltraeth RSPB	5	5	8	(4)	11	Dec	7
Minsmere	7	6	5	4	10	Oct	6
Rutland Water	10	8	8	9	10	Nov	9

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Water Rail (John Harding)

Spotted Crake

Porzana porzana

Scarce

GB max: 2 **Aug**
NI max: 0

Spotted Crake were noted at three sites during 2006/07, all records being during late summer and autumn. Singles were noted at the Humber Estuary and Camel Estuary in August and at the Exe Estuary in September.

Little Crake

Porzana parva

Vagrant
Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: 1 **Jun**
NI max: 0

A single Little Crake was present at Burra Firth (Head) on Unst in June. This is only the second time this species has been recorded by WeBS. This first was in 2005/06 at the Severn Estuary.

Corncrake

Crex crex

Scarce

GB max: 3 **May**
NI max: 0

Corncrake were noted at three sites during 2006/07; all were in the Uists and were during the summer months.

Moorhen

Gallinula chloropus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 7,500†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 12,993 **Nov**
NI max: 261 **Jan**

The counted British maximum was the lowest since 1998/99 albeit only 10% lower than the average of the past five years. With Moorhen being extremely widespread and found in even very small wetland areas the numbers recorded by WeBS only represent a small proportion of total number of birds actually present in the country. A total of 28 sites held peak numbers in excess of 100 birds and six of these held peak counts exceeding 300 birds. The highest single site total was 546 at the Severn Estuary in January, this was the highest count at this site for five years. Peak numbers at Pitsford Reservoir were the highest recorded at the site. Lower than average peak counts were noted at the Burry Inlet and the Thanet Coast.

The Northern Irish maximum was very similar to those of recent years. The highest site total during 2006/07 was of 98 at Loughs Neagh and Beg. Numbers at Upper Lough Erne peaked at their highest level for eight years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Severn Estuary	476	465	409	465	546	Jan	472
WWT Martin Mere	490	440	420	490	438	Oct	456
Lower Derwent Ings	463	444	321	366			399
Thames Estuary	472	324	371	383	(323)	Feb	388
Somerset Levels	325	276	327	410	430	Mar	354
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	312	340	301	292	(300)	Oct	311

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Pitsford Reservoir	209	326	133	266	389	Sep	265
North Norfolk Coast	243	280	192	281	223	May	244
Arun Valley	202	176	146	175	246	Dec	189
Rutland Water	189	191	192	188	157	Nov	183
Humber Estuary	215	224	(170)	142	136	Dec	179
Chichester Gravel Pits	149	161	167	228	139	Jan	169
Bewl Water	254	215	165	61	100	Sep	159
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(56)	143	112	178	(92)	Dec	144
Burry Inlet	175	169	202	(104)	8	Apr	139
London Wetland Centre	131	137	135				134
Chew Valley Lake	105	245	125	80	90	Nov	129
Durham Coast	160	(0)	(158)	133	57	Nov	127
Grand Western Canal	80	103	132	137	178	Dec	126
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(116)	(121)	(86)	(97)	(78)	Nov	(121)
Tring Reservoirs	106	115	135	110	138	Nov	121
Fairburn Ings	73	154		134	116	Sep	119
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	118	112	94	108	158	Dec	118
Old Moor	(131)	116	45	(80)	(171)	Jun	116
Ouse Washes	70	95	102 [12]	111	201	Dec	116
Hamford Water	134	(156)	90	(91)	71	Feb	113
River Wye - Bakewell to Haddon	131	126	109	104	90	Dec	112
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	71	116	117	151	101	Feb	111
Grantham Canal: Cotgrave-Gamston				97	122	Oct	110
Tees Estuary	115	110	103	102	116	Dec	109
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(49)	(89)	73	132	117	Nov	107
Thanet Coast	123	169	133	65	42	Mar	106
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(112)	(58)	(122)	86	95	Nov	104
Orwell Estuary	100 [10]	164 [10]	109 [10]	90 [10]	55 [10]	Aug	104
R. Cam: Owlstone Rd-Baits Bite Lk	93	76	117	126	105	Dec	103
Southampton Water	(81)	125	83	114	81	Dec	101
Sites with mean peak counts of 30 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	211	177	124	143	98	Oct	151
Upper Lough Erne	46	32	46	60	75	Jan	52
Belfast Lough	62	27	65 [12]	54	43	Dec	50
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Medway Estuary	(21)	(10)	19 [10]	84	131	Jan	78
Welbeck Estate	70	(74)	52	86	126	Dec	84
Alton Water	61	47	12	90	105	Sep	63
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	(33)	43	(35)	(35)	105	Sep	74
Carsington Water	65	30	43	93	101	Nov	66

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 100 and 30 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Coot

Fulica atra

International threshold: 17,500
Great Britain threshold: 1,730
All-Ireland threshold: 330

GB max: 98,679 Nov
NI max: 3,523 Jan

The counted British maximum fell below 100,000 for the first time since 1992/93. This fall was reflected in the national index, which fell by around 15% since the previous year. Numbers were low throughout the year being the lowest of the past five years in all months. Indeed, between November and January numbers were between 15% and 20% lower than the average of the previous five years.

The highest total at any single site was of 6,233 at Rutland Water in December and this was the second highest peak ever recorded at this site. Peak numbers at many key sites were similar to those of recent years although numbers at the Ouse Washes peaked at just over a third of those recorded during the previous year. The December count at Carsington Water was the highest ever for the site.

Following a sharp fall since 2000/01 the decline in the Northern Ireland index appears to be slowing. However, the current value represents a decline of

around 55% in that time. Numbers here remained below average throughout most of the year; only in December were figures above the mean of the previous five years. Peak numbers at Loughs Neagh and Beg were the second lowest for the site and were over 20% lower than the five-year mean.

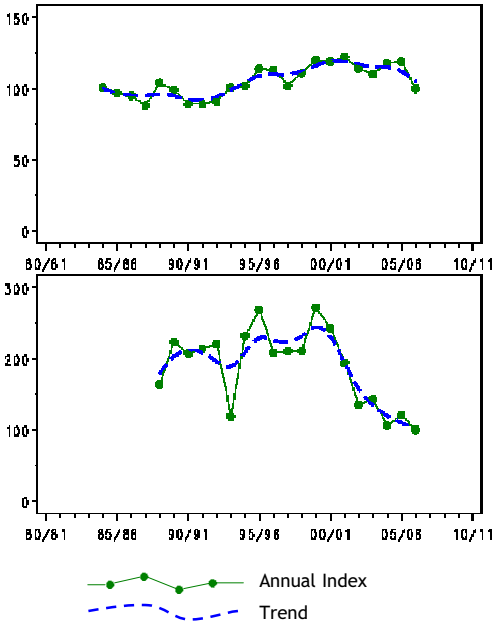

Figure 39.a, Annual indices & trend for Coot for GB (above) & NI (below).

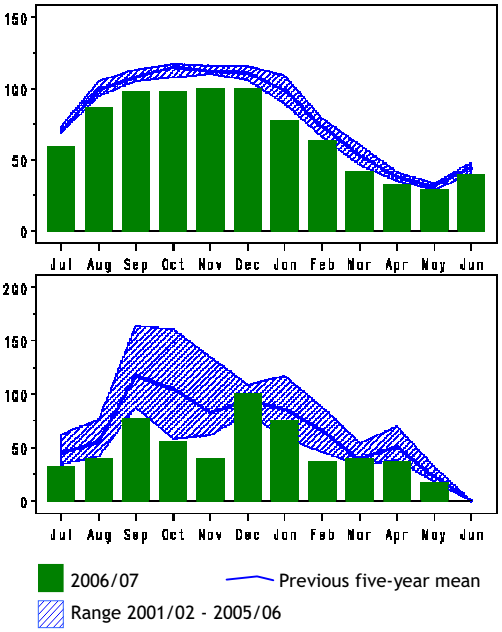

Figure 39.b, Monthly indices for Coot for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Abberton Reservoir	6,885	6,166	9,697	10,965	(2,088)	Aug	8,428
Rutland Water	3,969	4,021	4,733	3,490	6,233	Dec	4,489
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(2,528)	4,042	4,077	4,548	4,001	Dec	4,167
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	3,250	3,213	3,435	3,459	(2,417)	Nov	3,339
Cheddar Reservoir	2,975	3,100	3,873	3,140	3,380	Dec	3,294
Chew Valley Lake	3,715	3,285	3,335	2,205	2,360	Aug	2,980
Fleet and Wey	2,353	(2,923)	3,275	2,699	2,650	Nov	2,780
Ouse Washes	1,349	2,039	4,229	4,354	1,834	Feb	2,761
Loch Leven	3,205	2,650 [12]	2,375	1,610	2,820	Sep	2,532
Hanningfield Reservoir	3,426	3,791	463	2,000	1,692	Aug	2,274
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	2,016	2,341	2,075	(1,338)	(1,179)	Nov	2,144
Pitsford Reservoir	1,949	1,823	2,354	2,212	2,287	Sep	2,125
Cotswold Water Park (East)	2,365	2,296	1,850	2,045	1,835	Nov	2,078
Blagdon Lake	628	1,993	2,080	3,151	1,400	Sep	1,850
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,344	4,124	1,890	2,506	2,371	Sep	3,047
Upper Lough Erne	1,447	2,062	1,462	2,023	1,696	Dec	1,738
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Chichester Gravel Pits	2,213	1,250	1,393	1,266	601	Oct	1,345
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	(1,284)	(559)	(393)	(15)	(388)	Jan	(1,284)
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Carsington Water	1,332	526	1,731	1,614	2,136	Dec	1,468
Tees Estuary	1,463	1,638	1,498	1,632	1,925	Nov	1,631
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	1,531	835	1,626	(1,718)	1,903	Oct	1,523

Oystercatcher

Haematopus ostralegus

International threshold: 10,200
Great Britain threshold: 3,200
All-Ireland threshold: 680

GB max: 216,308 Sep
NI max: 16,920 Oct

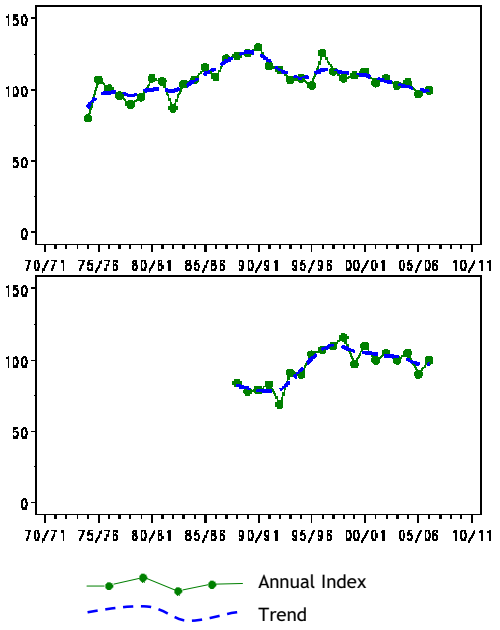

Figure 40.a, Annual indices & trend for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

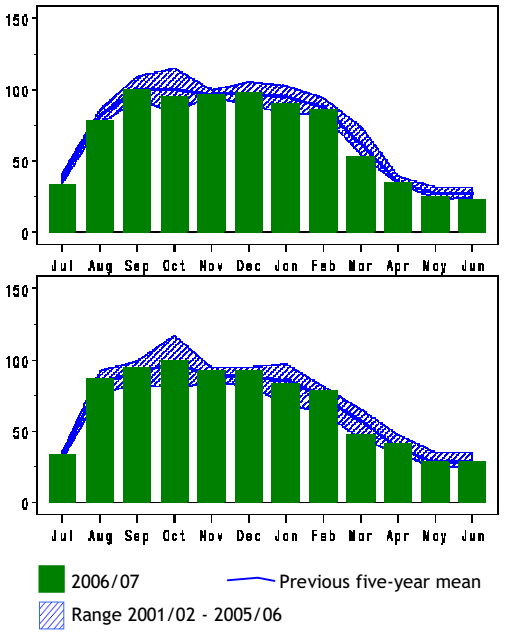

Figure 40.b, Monthly indices for Oystercatcher for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum for this widespead and numerous species was only slightly higher than that of the previous year and was around 10% lower than the average of the past ten years. During this period there has been a slight but steady decline in the number of Oystercatchers in Britain. Numbers were a little below average in all months except December. A similar pattern of decline has been witnessed in Northern Ireland, the index again showing a fall of around 10% since 1996/97. However, numbers were similar to the mean of the past five years for most of the year, although with an apparently more rapid than usual departure by March.

Peak numbers at the country's key site, Morecambe Bay, were similar to the mean of the past five years. Lower than average counts were noted at the Dee Estuary (England and Wales), which were the lowest here for seven years, as well as at the Ribble Estuary and the Swale Estuary. Relatively high numbers were noted on the Thames Estuary and Lavan Sands. Peak numbers at most sites in Northern Ireland were similar to those of recent years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Morecambe Bay	72,653	56,745	55,072	46,760	55,874	Sep	57,421
Solway Estuary	(48,339)	37,907	30,961	(10,507)	(22,685)	Nov	39,069
Thames Estuary	26,803	23,858	20,393	22,956	27,836	Nov	24,369
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	21,727	23,906	25,956	22,847	15,808	Sep	22,049
The Wash	21,680	28,795	16,395	18,677	22,963	Aug	21,702
Ribble Estuary	23,881	19,915	14,095	(6,378)	10,872	Feb	17,191
Burry Inlet	14,570	13,831 [10]	16,219	11,728	15,110 [12]	Dec	14,292
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Carmarthen Bay	(4,530)	(5,747)	6,736	7,754	10,154 [10]	Feb	8,215
Forth Estuary	9,279	8,930	(8,213)	6,598	7,933	Sep	8,191

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Lavan Sands	7,612	6,796	5,718	5,926	9,587	Dec	7,128
Duddon Estuary	(6,476)	8,683	6,241	5,577	5,758	Dec	6,565
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	6,400	9,644	5,376	4,930	5,099	Feb	6,290
Inner Firth of Clyde	5,386	4,982	4,759	5,880	5,308	Oct	5,263
Swale Estuary	5,058	5,858	5,225	5,011	3,762	Dec	4,983
Swansea Bay	3,797	3,177	4,605	3,511	3,878 [12]	Oct	3,794
North Norfolk Coast	3,011	3,858	3,778	3,707	3,238	Feb	3,518
Humber Estuary	3,165	3,305 [10]	(4,582)	(3,468)	2,942	Sep	3,492
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	8,557	7,459	9,018	6,861	(6,842)	Dec	7,974
Belfast Lough	5,542 [10]	4,321	5,299	4,756	(4,411)	Oct	4,980
Lough Foyle	2,999	(3,219)	3,095	1,805	2,347	Feb	2,693
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,993	1,822	1,740	1,747	1,825	Oct	1,825
Carlingford Lough	1,489	1,525	1,419	1,442	1,552	Nov	1,485
Dundrum Inner Bay	1,940	1,425	(1,252)	1,389	1,027	Jan	1,445
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Dengie Flats	3,034	(1,450)	1,865	1,595	2,925	Jan	2,355

Black-winged Stilt

Himantopus himantopus

Vagrant

Native Range: Europe, Africa, Asia

GB max: **1** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

A lone Black-winged Stilt was present at Carmarthen Bay in September.

Avocet

Recurvirostra avosetta

International threshold: **730**
Great Britain threshold: **35***

GB max: **6,615** **Feb**
NI max: **0**

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

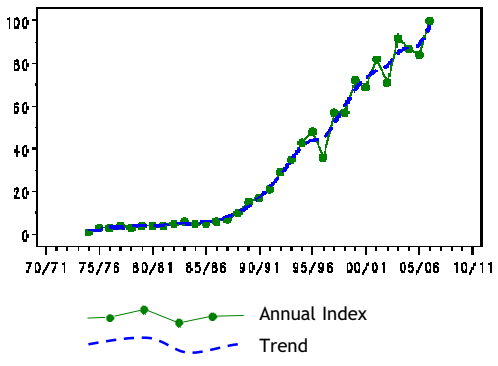

Figure 41.a, Annual indices & trend for Avocet for GB.

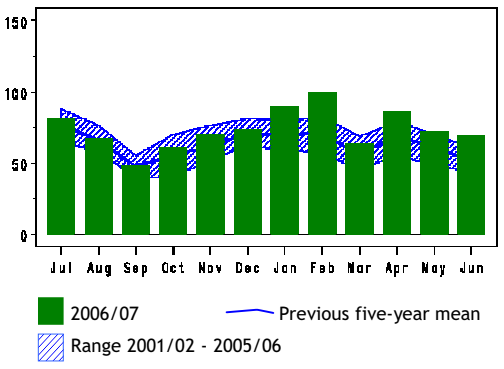

Figure 41.b, Monthly indices for Avocet for GB.

Avocet continued to increase in number as a wintering bird in Britain, the index reaching a record high during 2006/07, representing a rise of 16% on the previous year. The counted British maximum was also the highest ever recorded. Numbers were above the mean of the past five years throughout the year and especially high in January, February and April. Of the 53 sites at which Avocet were recorded during 2006/07 all except three were in England, and most of these in the southern half of the country. Perhaps surprisingly, considering the increase nationally, there were few exceptional counts from key sites, perhaps suggesting that as numbers increase birds are spreading away from the key locations. Two proportionately high

peaks were at the Stour Estuary and the Humber Estuary, the latter forming the northern end of the core range on the east coast. Two other sites on the extremity of the range, the Ribble Estuary and WWT Martin Mere, also held record numbers. The late-summer peak at Breydon Water was lower than seen over the last few years.

The only record from Scotland was the Eden Estuary, at which a single bird was recorded during February. Away from the Severn Estuary the only record in Wales was of one at Carmarthen Bay in February. There have been no WeBS records of this species in Northern Ireland since 1993/94.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Poole Harbour	1,007	(1,493)	1,480 [10]	1,387	(1,303)	Feb	1,334
Alde Complex	1,089	1,073	1,058	1,392	1,031	Nov	1,129
Thames Estuary	839	658	1,153	1,663	1,312	Feb	1,125
Medway Estuary	(650)	(757)	(490)	(557)	(1,027)	Feb	(1,027)
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	1,027	1,069	1,012	1,044	706	Aug	972
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	318	731	1,290	320	(344)	Feb	665
North Norfolk Coast	363	591	712	617	645	Apr	586
Hamford Water	491	461	663	488	(629)	Dec	546
The Wash	(390)	417	532	760	322	Jun	508
Blackwater Estuary	(158)	295	428	622	(125)	Dec	448
Humber Estuary	392	334	425	374	652	Feb	435
Blyth Estuary (Suffolk)	(168)	(2)	(409)	208	660	Jan	434
Tamar Complex	317 [10]	394	438	494	465	Jan	422
Exe Estuary	436	353	297	(500)	380	Nov	393
Deben Estuary	170	353	323	236	315	Nov	279
Colne Estuary	(383)	205 [12]	150 [12]	(285)	(30)	Jan	256
Minsmere	158	139	203	171	190	May	172
Orwell Estuary	162	(63)	68	162	105 [10]	Jan	125
Stour Estuary	3	0	26	(89)	428	Jan	114 ▲
Crouch-Roach Estuary	23	(17)	288 [10]	26	(20)	Feb	112
Ouse Washes	81	124	96 [12]	11 [12]	4 [12]	Mar	63
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Ribble Estuary	13	19	24	38	76	Apr	34
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	6	14	23	45	59	May	29
WWT Martin Mere	0	6	12	19	43	May	16

Little Ringed Plover

Charadrius dubius

International threshold: 2,500
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 178 May 2006
NI max: 0

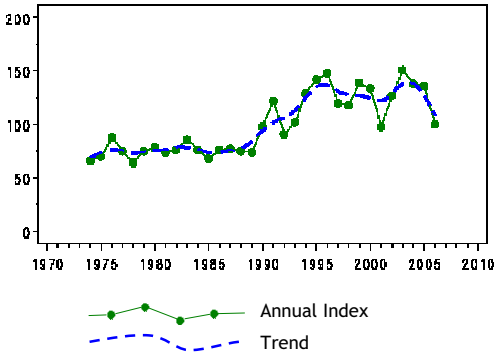

Figure 42.a, Annual indices & trend for Little Ringed Plover for GB.

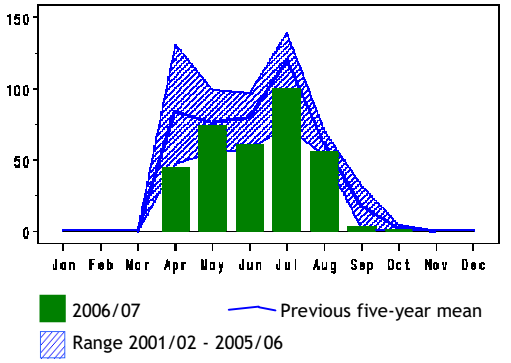

Figure 42.b, Monthly indices for Little Ringed Plover for GB.

As a summer visitor, we report on Little Ringed Plover for the calendar year of 2006. The species was recorded at 124 sites during 2006, most of which were in England with five in Wales and three in Scotland. Birds were recorded in every month from March to October, most records being between May and August. The highest site count was of 11 at Dolydd Hafren in March, a record for this site, with 11 also at Upton Warren Local Nature Reserve in July where birds were present from April through to October. The count of ten at Morecambe Bay in July was also noteworthy. Conversely, peak numbers at Rutland Water were a little lower than in recent years.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	(7)	(6)	(18)	11			15
Rutland Water	23	18	10	14	8	Jul	15
Old Moor	(0)	20	7	14	10	Jun	13
London Wetland Centre	14	10	15	9			12
Thames Estuary	(8)	(4)	(12)	(8)	(3)	Jul	(12)
Belvide Reservoir			14	11	9	Jul	11
Upton Warren LNR	11	11	12	6	11	Jul	10
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Dolydd Hafren	4	7	5	5	11	Mar	6
Morecambe Bay	1	0	(5)	5	10	Jul	4

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Ringed Plover

Charadrius hiaticula

International threshold: 730
Great Britain threshold: 330
All-Ireland threshold: 150

GB max: 11,377 Aug
NI max: 770 Oct

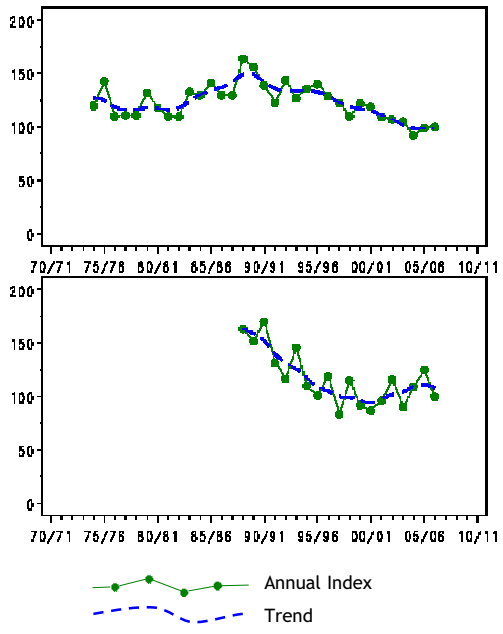

Figure 43.a, Annual indices & trend for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

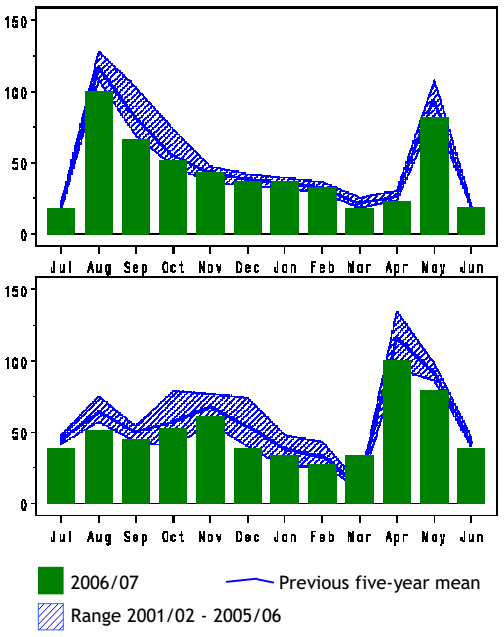

Figure 43.b, Monthly indices for Ringed Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Given that the passage numbers of Ringed Plover moving through the UK each spring and autumn are substantially higher than those remaining to overwinter, the main table of site counts presented here is limited to data from November to March, with key passage counts from the other months tabulated separately.

Following a decade and a half of steady decline, the British index has remained at a similar level for the past two years, suggesting that winter numbers might be beginning to stabilize. The winter trend for Northern Ireland has shown a decline throughout the 1990s followed by a rise about 2000. Although the 2006/07 index value represents a 20% fall compared to the previous year, there is much fluctuation between years and further data would be required to ascertain if this was a true decline or not. Numbers peaked in Northern Ireland in October.

Peak winter numbers at the Thames Estuary were the highest for six years and counts at the Orwell Estuary and Chichester Harbour were also notably high. Conversely, the peak winter count at Swansea Bay was very low and that at Morecambe Bay was the lowest for over 20 years. In Northern Ireland, winter counts at Strangford Lough were low, but numbers nearby at the Outer Ards were at their highest since 1998/99.

During autumn 2006 and spring 2007, a total of 17 sites had counts in excess of at least the national importance threshold. Passage numbers at the Severn Estuary were over twice those of the previous year, whereas those at the Humber Estuary fell by almost 50%. As was the case for most sites in Northern Ireland, passage numbers peaked at Carlingford Lough during October, although it is worth stating that relatively few counts are made in Northern Ireland outside the September to March period. It is difficult to determine how significant year-to-year shifts in passage peaks might be. This is because the timing of peak passage may coincide better with recommended count dates in some years compared to others.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)							
Thames Estuary	794	(654)	872	846	952	Nov	866
Sites of national importance in Great Britain in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)							
Tiree				648 [44]			648
Solway Estuary	(599)	(286)	(305)	(162)	(180)	Jan	(599)
Duddon Estuary	(227)	222	350 [10]	757 [10]	(495)	Nov	456
Hamford Water	201	(576)	(333)	(361)	(328)	Dec	360
Morecambe Bay	246	303	357	587	212	Nov	341
North Norfolk Coast	262	464	411	231	322	Mar	338
Medway Estuary	(249)	(136)	332 [10]	(94)	(115)	Jan	332
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)							
Strangford Lough	236 [10]	277 [10]	342	449	278 [10]	Nov	316
Outer Ards Shoreline	315	(198)	142	308	338	Mar	276
Carlingford Lough	(240)	(161)	223	247	183	Nov	223
Belfast Lough	189	234 [10]	109 [10]	168 [10]	180	Jan	176
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 (Nov-Mar)							
Humber Estuary	225	418 [10]	(194)	(241)	(175)	Nov	322
Swansea Bay	269	330	431	453	124	Nov	321
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain (Nov-Mar)							
Orwell Estuary	234	291 [10]	160 [10]	330 [10]	475	Nov	298
Chichester Harbour	250 [12]	(129)	288	252	365	Jan	289
South Ford	373	250	400	250	340	Feb	323
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland (Nov-Mar)							
Dundrum Inner Bay	30	0	0	88	142	Nov	52

Sites of international importance in the UK during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)					
North Norfolk Coast	2,046	Aug	Ribble Estuary	1,016	May
Severn Estuary	1,453	Aug	Humber Estuary	783	May
Thames Estuary	1,197	Aug	South Ford	743	Sep
The Wash	1,127	May			
Sites of national importance in the UK during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)					
Lindisfarne	581	May	Stour Estuary	390	Aug
Swale Estuary	465	Sep	Orwell Estuary	359	Oct
Solway Estuary	461	Sep	Morecambe Bay	355	May
Tees Estuary	440	Aug			
Sites of national importance in Northern Ireland during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)					
Carlingford Lough	247	Oct	Belfast Lough	148	Oct
Outer Ards Shoreline	198	Oct			

Kentish Plover

Charadrius alexandrinus

Scarce

GB max: 1 **May**
NI max: 0

The only Kentish Plover recorded during WeBS in 2006/07 was at the Fal Complex in May. This is the first time that this species was recorded at this site for WeBS.

American Golden Plover

Pluvialis dominica

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 **Oct**
NI max: 0

A single American Golden Plover was reported from the North West Solent in October. This species has been noted at this site once before in November 1999.

Pacific Golden Plover

Pluvialis fulva

Vagrant
Native Range: SW & S Asia, E Africa, Russia

GB max: 1 **Jul**
NI max: 0

A Pacific Golden Plover was found at the Thames Estuary in July. This was the third time that this species was recorded for WeBS, previous records being in July 2000 at the Humber Estuary and August 1995 at the Tees Estuary.

Golden Plover

Pluvialis apricaria

International threshold: 9,300
Great Britain threshold: 2,500
All-Ireland threshold: 1,700

GB max: 177,851 **Dec**
NI max: 15,203 **Nov**

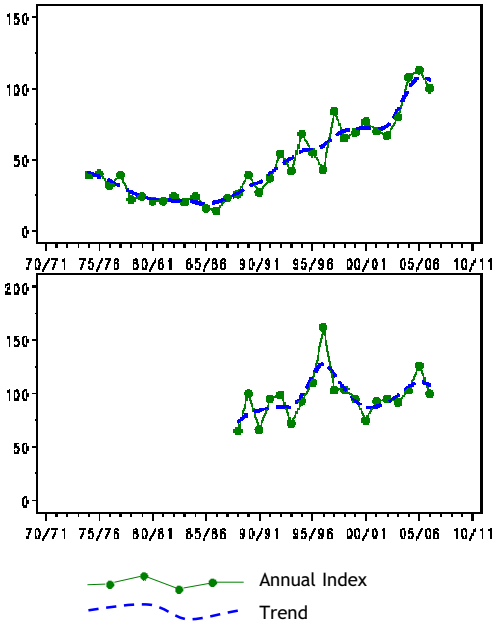

Figure 44.a, Annual indices & trend for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

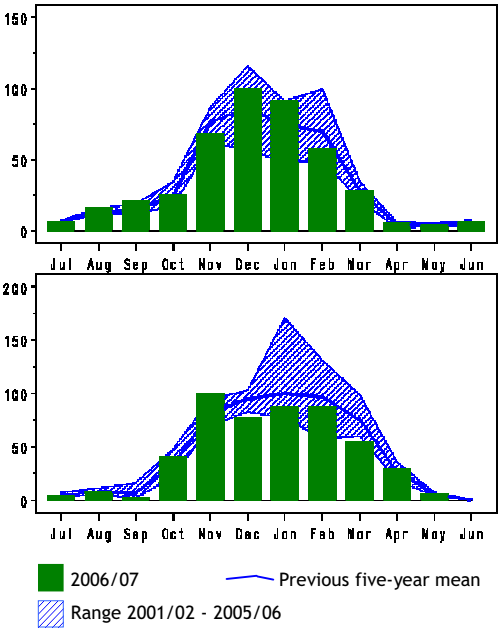

Figure 44.b, Monthly indices for Golden Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was about 25% lower than that of the previous year. However, as large numbers of Golden Plover winter away from wetland habitats, this figure possibly represents less than half of the total wintering population. The trend

for Golden Plover on WeBS sites in Britain has increased considerably since the early 1980s though the index fell slightly during 2006/07 to slightly below those of the previous two years. Numbers were above average during December and January and similar to the mean of the previous five years for most of the remainder of the year. A total of six sites held in excess of 10,000 birds, the highest single count being of 47,088 at the Humber Estuary in November which was similar to other counts at this site in recent years. Notably high counts in 2006/07 were noted at Carmarthen Bay, Somerset Levels, Clifford Hill Gravel Pits, Ouse Fen, Pagham Harbour and Potteric Carr. Conversely, relatively low counts were recorded at Breydon Water, Pegwell Bay, Chichester Harbour, St Mary's Island and, especially, the Cleddau Estuary.

The Northern Irish maximum was around 40% lower than in the previous year although remained similar to the average of the past five years. Except in November and October, numbers were slightly below the mean of the previous five years throughout 2006/07. Peak numbers at Lough Foyle were the highest ever recorded at this site. Conversely, at Strangford Lough numbers peaked at a level below that of the five-year mean for the site, which has now fallen below the threshold of international importance.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Humber Estuary	40,585	(50,662)	43,217	47,118	47,088	Nov	45,734	
The Wash	19,587	25,817	34,900	26,996	31,350	Jan	27,730	
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	8,900	10,464	30,940	28,220	17,700 [10]	Dec	19,245	
Blackwater Estuary	12,455 [10]	6,986	12,747	11,949	(5,020)	Oct	11,034	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Swale Estuary	3,282	10,935	(6,560)	12,014	(10,520)	Feb	9,188	▼
Carmarthen Bay	(500)	9,832	7,661	4,047	12,700	Jan	8,560	
Somerset Levels	1,260	8,609	8,136	5,018	12,054	Jan	7,015	
Pegwell Bay	7,229 [10]	8,000	5,330	7,000	3,730	Nov	6,258	
Thames Estuary	(3,268)	(1,823)	6,440	7,401	4,781	Feb	6,207	
Nene Washes	4,320	650	13,000	4,500	8,500	Feb	6,194	
Old Moor	(7,700)	7,000	2,100	(6,200)	6,500	Dec	5,900	
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons		5,700					5,700	
Solway Estuary	(3,708)	5,063	6,145 [10]	(3,762)	5,744	Jan	5,651	
Dengie Flats	3,288	2,275	3,660	12,678	5,520	Dec	5,484	
Morecambe Bay	3,481	(7,304)	4,431	5,768	(3,429)	Dec	5,246	
Hamford Water	2,384	3,204	5,606	8,859	(5,362)	Nov	5,083	
Lindisfarne	(3,383)	3,822 [10]	3,920	(7,081)	(3,236)	Sep	4,941	
Ouse Washes	2,828 [12]	2,844	5,450 [12]	10,069	3,312 [12]	Nov	4,901	
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(2,165)	(1,354)	4,771 [10]	(3,718)	(1,687)	Feb	4,771	
Forth Estuary	(4,632)	6,940 [10]	3,844	3,326	(1,167)	Oct	4,703	
North Norfolk Coast	2,391	5,039	5,975	5,315	4,552	Feb	4,654	
Taw-Torridge Estuary	(2,612)	3,300	(6,000)	2,550	(4,360)	Feb	4,053	
Camel Estuary	727	515	4,750 [10]	9,000	(3,000)	Dec	3,748	
Durham Coast		(0)	(2,000)	(3,704)	(2,800)	Oct	(3,704)	
Cleddau Estuary	1,060	(2,664)	4,273	8,630	200	Dec	3,541	
Lower Derwent Ings	890	2,005	4,130	6,776			3,450	
Ribble Estuary	(2,671)	(3,300)	1,998	3,829	(3,950)	Dec	3,269	
Walland Marsh	500	600	6,500	3,200	5,000	Feb	3,160	
Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	2,500	2,740	1,600	3,000	4,500	Dec	2,868	
Mersey Estuary	(600)	(4,200)	(1,000)	1,500 [10]	(1,000)	Oct	2,850	
Severn Estuary	1,215 [10]	2,060	3,100	4,370	2,642	Dec	2,677	▲
Loch of Strathbeg	2,364	(2,200)	3,623	1,176	3,500	Oct	2,666	▲
Middle Yare Marshes	85	(96)	4,400	2,597	3,500	Feb	2,646	▲
Wigtown Bay	605	(3,604)	(2,500)	3,175	(3,200)	Mar	2,617	▲
Chichester Harbour	2,237	(2,822)	3,048	(3,586)	824	Nov	2,503	
Bennerley Marsh					2,500	Feb	2,500	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	8,766	15,988 [10]	4,578	7,970	8,513 [10]	Jan	9,163	▼
Lough Foyle	3,320	7,647	7,372	7,640	9,534	Oct	7,103	
Loughs Neagh and Beg	4,631	7,091	3,447	6,537	6,475	Feb	5,636	
Bann Estuary	1,400	2,265	2,100	2,610	2,100	Feb	2,095	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007								
St Mary`s Island	3,000	3,200	3,000		650	Mar	2,463	

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(2,118)	150	1,500	3,000	5,011	Dec	2,415
Maer Lake	2,100	1,984	2,193	2,100	3,750	Dec	2,425
Potteric Carr	0	0	(0)	700	3,000	Feb	925
Pagham Harbour	156	595	423	1,554	2,651	Feb	1,076
Malltraeth Cob and Pools		0	0	2,000	2,600	Dec	1,150
Brandesburton Ponds West	2,000	230	(25)	2,000	2,500	Nov	1,683

Grey Plover

Pluvialis squatarola

International threshold: 2,500
Great Britain threshold: 530
All-Ireland threshold: 65

GB max: 33,808 Jan
NI max: 184 Feb

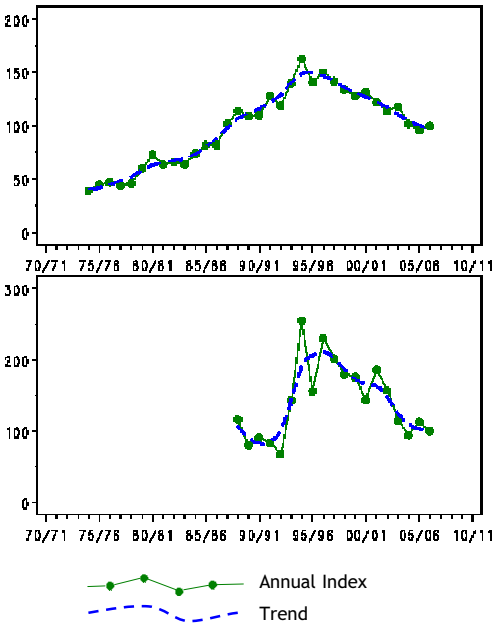

Figure 45.a, Annual indices & trend for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

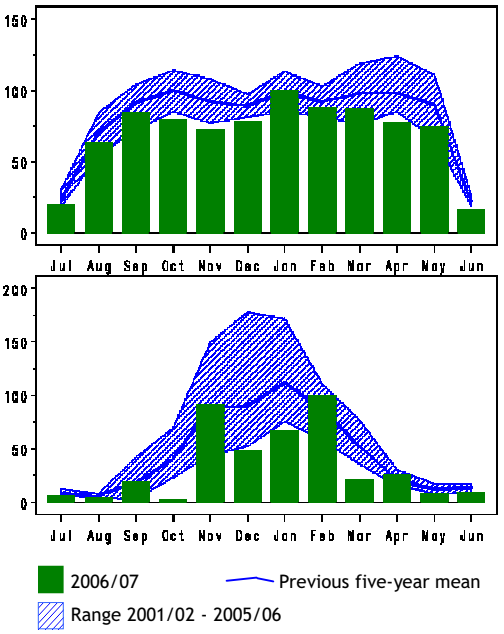

Figure 45.b, Monthly indices for Grey Plover for GB (above) & NI (below).

Although the British index increased slightly, the underlying trend in Grey Plover numbers remains downwards, as it has been since the mid-1990s. With the exception of January, monthly figures were well below average throughout the year. The counted British maximum was around 20% lower than in the previous year and was the lowest since 1987/88. Much of this decline has been attributed to an eastward shift in the wintering population (Maclean *et al. in press*) and this has also been evident through increasing numbers in the Waddenzee and southern delta of The Netherlands (van Roomen *et al.* 2007).

Numbers on the Dengie Flats peaked at their highest level for six years and Lindisfarne also held higher numbers than in recent years. There has also been a sustained rise in numbers on the Crouch-Roach Estuary, which will be interesting to follow in the future following the extensive habitat creation scheme here at Wallasea Island. Peak counts at most other key sites were either similar to recent years or slightly lower. Numbers at The Wash, however, were almost 20% below the five-year mean for the site whilst the Deben Estuary peak was also relatively low compared to recent years.

The decline in the Northern Irish trend has started to slow over the past few years and figures were similar to the three previous winters. This trend, however, is based on only a couple of hundred birds, the majority of which occur at Strangford Lough. Figures here were lower than in the previous year yet similar to those for the two previous seasons.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	15,056	12,442	13,480	8,604	9,750	Sep	11,866
Thames Estuary	3,195	(3,812)	3,975	13,028	5,664	Feb	6,466
Dengie Flats	4,170	2,943	2,912	4,909	7,239	Jan	4,435
Ribble Estuary	(4,580)	5,568	3,529	(3,813)	3,518	Feb	4,299
Humber Estuary	(6,135)	2,285 [10]	(1,901)	(2,792)	1,923	Nov	3,284
Blackwater Estuary	3,230	2,415	4,043	2,650	(2,248)	Feb	3,085
Hamford Water	2,984	(1,746)	(2,915)	(2,198)	(2,685)	Dec	2,984
Stour Estuary	3,013	2,975	2,507	3,263	2,355	Nov	2,823
Alt Estuary	3,756	3,098	2,234	2,837	1,244	May	2,634
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Swale Estuary	2,181	1,953	(1,451)	(1,244)	(1,186)	Mar	2,067
Chichester Harbour	1,700	1,515	2,140	2,017	1,592	Dec	1,793
Lindisfarne	(1,412)	(1,786)	(962)	1,361	2,171	Jan	1,773
North Norfolk Coast	2,535	1,421	1,386	1,483	1,626	Aug	1,690
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	966	1,851	1,214	1,091	1,214	Dec	1,267
Medway Estuary	938	1,544	(762)	989	(467)	Nov	1,157
Morecambe Bay	1,270	778	1,001	1,074	1,065	Feb	1,038
Pagham Harbour	704	1,348	873	1,067	902	Feb	979
Jersey Shore					939	Feb	939 ▲
Langstone Harbour	982	1,119	782	(879)	701	Jan	896
Colne Estuary	(141)	(705)	(623)	(800)	(840)	Jan	(840)
Deben Estuary	402	656	1,037	(719)	342	Sep	631
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	398 [10]	137	114	249 [10]	141	Nov	208
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Eden Estuary	690	410	450	(356)	400	Jan	488
Solway Estuary	(466)	509	602 [10]	(475)	319	Jan	477
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Crouch-Roach Estuary	282	212	518	595	815	Mar	484
Beaulieu Estuary	188	46	560	381	640	Feb	363
Burry Inlet	774	236	254	327	577	Jan	434

Grey Plover (Jill Pakenham)

Blacksmith Lapwing

Vanellus armatus

Escape

Native Range: S & E Africa

GB max: **1 Jul**

NI max: **0**

The report of a Blacksmith Lapwing present at Southampton Water in July undoubtedly refers to an escaped individual. This was the first time that this species has been recorded for WeBS.

Lapwing

Vanellus vanellus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 20,000**†
All-Ireland threshold: 2,100

GB max: 327,897 Feb
NI max: 12,295 Jan

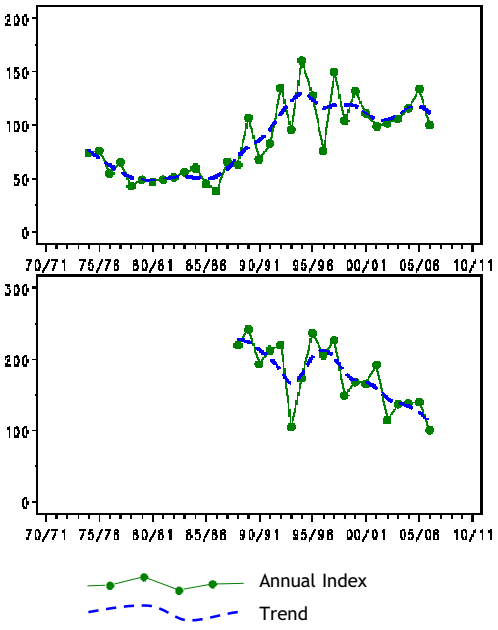

Figure 46.a, Annual indices & trend for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

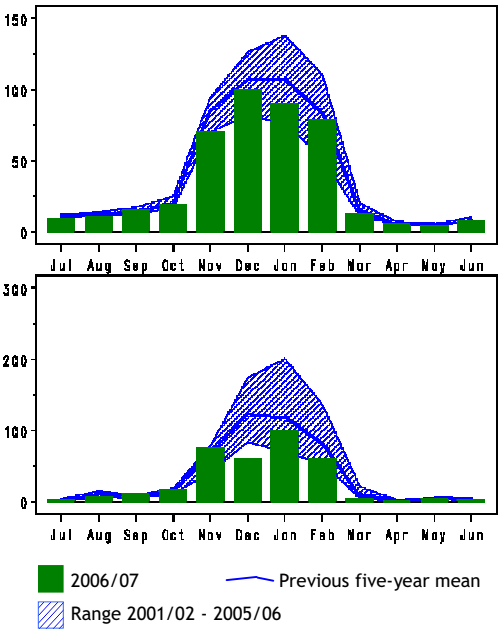

Figure 46.b, Monthly indices for Lapwing for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maxmum was two-thirds that of the previous year and the lowest for four years. This was reflected in the index, which fell slightly, although the underlying trend has remained at a fairly similar level for the past decade. Numbers remained below the average of the preceding five years throughout the year. As Lapwing frequently occur in large numbers away from wetland habitats, especially on agricultural land, it is important to remember that a large proportion of the wintering population will be overlooked by WeBS. When available, the results from the 2006/07 Winter Plover Survey should provide an improved population estimate for this species.

Numbers at Breydon Water and Berney Marshes were the lowest since 1989/90 and have pulled the five-year mean number below the threshold of international importance. During 2006/07, peak numbers at the Ribble Estuary, Morecambe Bay, Pegwell Bay, the Tees Estuary and the Alde Complex were all much lower than their recent means. Conversely, numbers at the North Norfolk Coast were the second highest there, after those of 2005/06.

The Northern Irish maximum was almost half that of the previous year and the lowest since 1983/84. Again, this decline was reflected in the index for the regions, which revealed a further drop in the underlying trend. Numbers were below average for much of the year, particularly between December and March. All three of the most important sites for this species in the region witnessed considerable declines. Peak core count numbers at Strangford Lough were the lowest ever recorded at this site and were half those of the low tide count peak. The number of Lapwing at Loughs Neagh and Beg and Lough Foyle were 19% and 46% lower than during the previous year, respectively.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	43,672	29,350	43,822	36,327	36,998	Dec	38,034
Somerset Levels	16,053	23,641	60,834	48,116	38,388	Feb	37,406
Humber Estuary	(36,309)	(39,865)	(16,856)	27,421	(17,481)	Dec	34,532
Ribble Estuary	(14,500)	(15,374)	25,991	24,265	13,821	Feb	21,359
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	6,977	8,884 [10]	5,792	6,635	5,154 [10]	Jan	6,688
Loughs Neagh and Beg	3,090	6,282	7,584	6,684	5,421	Jan	5,812
Lough Foyle	2,629	4,240	3,606	4,745	2,543	Nov	3,553
Sites with mean peak counts of 5,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	15,230	15,890	29,136	25,140	14,110 [10]	Feb	19,901
Morecambe Bay	(13,714)	(20,750)	16,701	19,192	13,484	Jan	17,532
Ouse Washes	8,125 [12]	13,577	26,072 [12]	25,835	13,026	Nov	17,327
Swale Estuary	14,974	16,523	(13,270)	14,913	(10,840)	Feb	15,470
Thames Estuary	16,036	10,229	14,657	18,662	15,676	Feb	15,052
Severn Estuary	12,129 [10]	(6,889)	11,312	19,434	9,895	Feb	13,193
Mersey Estuary	(5,675)	(12,150)	(9,370)	10,098 [10]	(2,280)	Dec	11,124
North Norfolk Coast	5,124	7,358	7,833	13,305	11,560	Feb	9,036
Nene Washes	21,016	3,870	7,050	6,070	4,720	Feb	8,545
Solway Estuary	(7,340)	8,218	(5,989)	(8,681)	(7,420)	Jan	8,450
Blackwater Estuary	11,053 [10]	7,472	6,785	6,766	(2,800)	Feb	8,019
Pegwell Bay	10,282 [10]	10,000	5,420	(8,100)	4,600 [12]	Dec	7,680
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	6,470	7,853	7,512	8,800	6,775	Jan	7,482
Crouch-Roach Estuary	4,939	5,386	11,288 [10]	8,464	7,236	Jan	7,463
Lower Derwent Ings	3,986	5,119	7,920	7,520			6,136
Walland Marsh	1,800	1,700	10,000	5,000	8,000	Feb	5,300
Tees Estuary	6,017	6,623	4,571	5,334	3,146	Dec	5,138
Alde Complex	4,358	(3,841)	5,472	7,843	2,509	Dec	5,046
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Arun Valley	2,280	2,326	3,430 [12]	1,818	5,505	Feb	3,072
Forth Estuary	(5,293)	(3,800)	4,170	4,369	5,465	Sep	4,824
Medway Estuary	(1,755)	(661)	3,442 [10]	(3,019)	5,184	Feb	4,313
Pagham Harbour	1,450	2,718	3,589	4,660	5,177	Feb	3,519

† as the international and British national thresholds are equal, a qualifying level of 5,000 has been chosen to select further sites for presentation in this report

Knot

Calidris canutus

International threshold: 4,500
Great Britain threshold: 2,800
All-Ireland threshold: 190

GB max: 331,734 Dec
NI max: 5,281 Jan

The counted British maximum was the highest since 1971/72 and, unusually, exceeded the peak national total of Dunlin. The British index, however, declined by just under 10% while the underlying trend revealed that numbers remained relatively stable. With the exception of November numbers were above average between August and January and slightly below average from February onwards. Numbers at The Wash peaked at their second-highest level for almost 15 years, the October count being around 25% higher than the mean for the site. The December count at the Thames Estuary was the highest ever recorded here and was almost double the mean for the site. Relatively low peaks were recorded at Morecambe Bay, North Norfolk Coast, Dee Estuary (England and Wales) and Montrose Basin. Such large between-year fluctuations are quite typical for this very mobile species.

Following several years of increase the Northern Irish index also fell. Numbers were well above average in October, January and February although lower than average during the rest of the winter. The highest single site total in the province was of 5,193 at Strangford Lough in January, which was lower than the current mean for the site. Peak counts at both Lough Foyle and Dundrum Inner Bay were the lowest for five years.

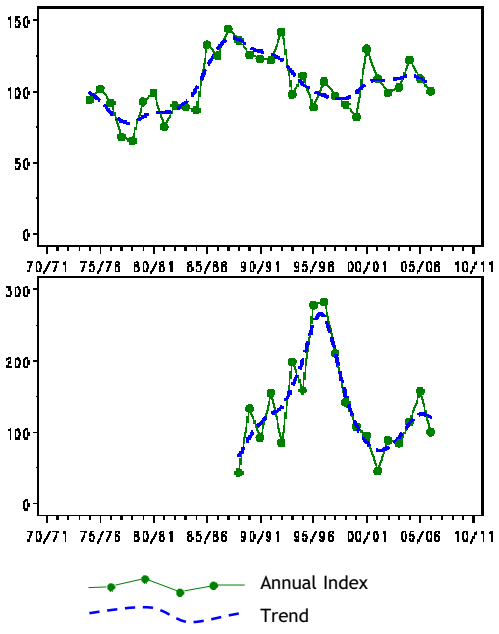

Figure 47.a, Annual indices & trend for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

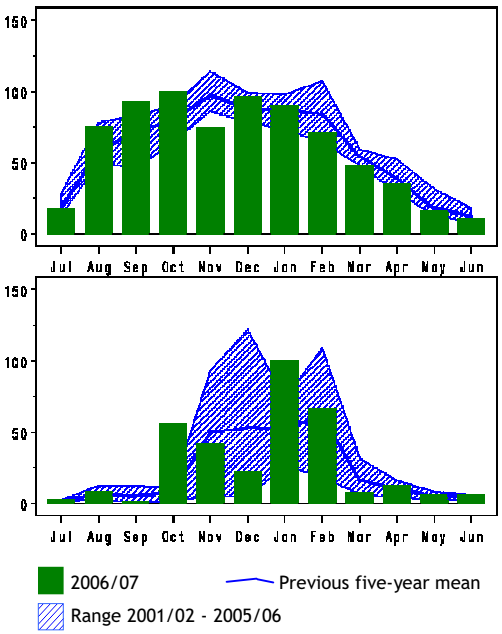

Figure 47.b, Monthly indices for Knot for GB (above) & NI (below).

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	62,801	76,346	105,912	139,270	135,889	Oct	104,044
Morecambe Bay	(61,968)	67,959	(24,749)	31,245	19,635	Dec	45,202
Thames Estuary	30,060	43,873	33,024	24,254	83,716	Dec	42,985
Ribble Estuary	45,989	44,947	36,200	(26,106)	(41,681)	Oct	42,379
Humber Estuary	18,936	50,557 [10]	(37,015)	35,004	(33,529)	Aug	35,378
North Norfolk Coast	40,832	37,124	38,714	25,551	22,928	Sep	33,030
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	26,769	38,070	10,243	24,505	12,937	Nov	22,505
Alt Estuary	25,045	30,000	19,006	12,454	15,011	Oct	20,303
Dengie Flats	10,550	8,000	22,700	15,650	30,500	Dec	17,480
Solway Estuary	(9,620)	8,725	13,142	(7,662)	(8,893)	Jan	10,934
Strangford Lough	10,340 [10]	4,058	5,730	8,014 [10]	5,380 [10]	Jan	6,704
Forth Estuary	8,936	6,907 [10]	5,077	4,685	(3,542)	Jan	6,401
Stour Estuary	(4,746)	(4,964)	8,454	6,701	3,028	Nov	6,061
Burry Inlet	3,800	3,500	8,259	4,301	4,300	Dec	4,832
Blackwater Estuary	1,700 [10]	(5,982)	6,273	(5,326)	(2,055)	Nov	4,820
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Lindisfarne	(4,512)	(6,751)	4,197	(4,172)	1,475	Jan	4,221
Cromarty Firth	3,132	4,932	5,000	3,132	1,104	Jan	3,460
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,873	3,663	3,446	5,146	2,762	Jan	3,378
Swale Estuary	1,500	4,050	2,538	4,060	4,506	Feb	3,331
Hamford Water	2,935	4,160	2,481	3,185	3,550	Jan	3,262
Medway Estuary	4,085	1,817	3,024 [10]	3,574	(550)	Feb	3,125
Orwell Estuary	3,172 [10]	4,021	2,115 [10]	3,569 [10]	1,825	Feb	2,940
Montrose Basin	5,800	(2,562)	1,990	3,360	505	Feb	2,914
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Lough Foyle	345	942	470	470	225	Oct	490
Dundrum Inner Bay	603	320	475	270	100	Oct	354
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Dornoch Firth	2,960	1,500	2,680	4,215	1,400	Feb	2,551

Sanderling

Calidris alba

International threshold: 1,200
Great Britain threshold: 210
All-Ireland threshold: 65

GB max: 10,387 Sep
NI max: 256 Oct

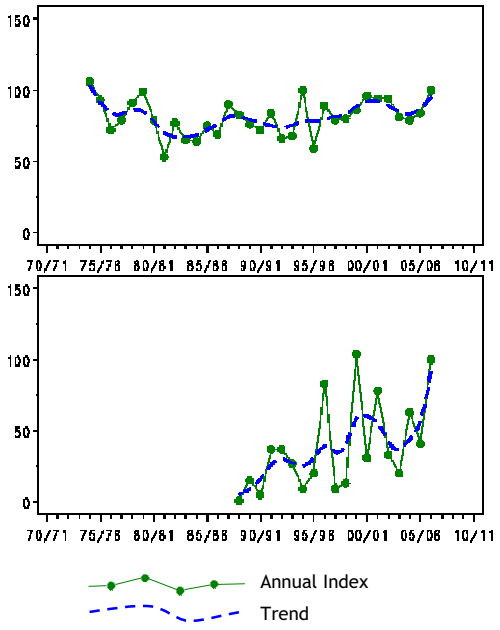

Figure 48.a, Annual indices & trend for Sanderling for GB (above) & NI (below).

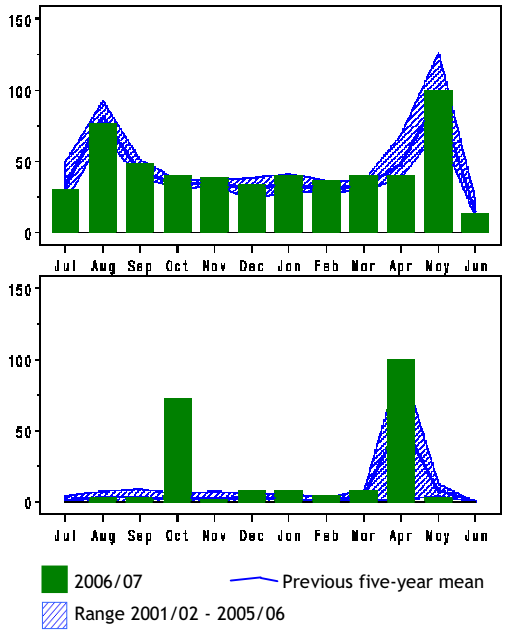

Figure 48.b, Monthly indices for Sanderling for GB (above) & NI (below).

Given that the passage numbers of Sanderling moving through the UK each spring and autumn are substantially higher than those remaining to overwinter, the main table of site counts presented here is limited to data from November to March, with key passage counts from the other months tabulated separately.

The counted British maximum was only slightly lower than that of the previous year but the lowest since 2000/01. The British index has, however, showed signs of an increase over the past few years and has reached its highest level since 1994/95. Even so, the long-tern trend has been fairly stable or increasing slightly. The monthly indices suggest that numbers were about average throughout much of the year.

Sanderling peaked in Britain during passage periods, with the peak monthly British total between November and March being 9,619 in January. In the winter months, peak counts at some of the key sites, including the Ribble Estuary, Carmarthen Bay, Alt Estuary, Lindisfarne and Thames Estuary, were higher than average, whereas the peaks at Ardivachar Point and the Forth Estuary were on the low side. Most of the key sites during the passage months were the same ones as they also support substantial wintering flocks; the peak count of 4,960 on the Ribble Estuary in May was higher than during the last two years.

The Northern Irish maximum was very similar to that of the previous year, although the annual indices suggest an underlying pattern of increase. Higher numbers of Sanderling occur in Northern Ireland during passage periods. However, most of the key sites are only regularly counted during the winter months, so the monthly indices presented here should be treated with great caution (as they will have been based on a great deal of imputed data). The winter peak of 180 at Dundrum Inner Bay was the highest ever recorded at this site. Passage counts peaked at the Bann Estuary in April and at Lough Foyle in October, although more widespread counts in Northern Ireland in the spring and late summer months could be interesting for this species.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)							
Ribble Estuary	2,680	2,400	(1,453)	(2,155)	3,250	Jan	2,777
Carmarthen Bay	(1,770)	(833)	769	(800)	2,370 [10]	Nov	1,636
Sites of national importance in Great Britain in winter 2006/07 (Nov-Mar)							
Alt Estuary	1,431	913	815	624	1,007	Mar	958
Jersey Shore					831	Feb	831
North Norfolk Coast	1,150	601	889	506	873	Dec	804
Thames Estuary	875	385	562	457	870	Dec	630
The Wash	496	317	395	1,091	490	Feb	558
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	286	(379)	274	1,020	370	Nov	488
Tiree				468 [44]			468
Humber Estuary	440	370 [10]	(96)	(159)	(362)	Dec	405
Ardivachar Point (South Uist)	398	460	400	350	320	Feb	386
Thanet Coast	444	342	418	307	322	Feb	367
Duddon Estuary	287	(585)	361	192	(114)	Jan	356
Morecambe Bay	240	306	225	652	332	Dec	351
Swansea Bay	410	200	234	467	440 [10]	Jan	350
Lindisfarne	283 [10]	221	388 [10]	294	446	Nov	326
Howmore Estuary SSSI Coast		312 [48]					312
Solway Estuary	(266)	(370)	(302)	165	(167)	Dec	254
North Bay (South Uist)	67	235	340	300	318	Jan	252
Forth Estuary	389	269 [10]	181	256	152	Mar	249
Tees Estuary	280	240	199	253	191	Feb	233
South Ford	120	250	430	150	200	Dec	230
Tay Estuary	(160)	65	88	635	115	Mar	226
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 (Nov-Mar) in Great Britain							
Chichester Harbour	184 [12]	74	77	109	324	Feb	154
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in winter 2006/2007 (Nov-Mar) in Northern Ireland							
Dundrum Inner Bay	30	0	(48)	5	180	Mar	54 ▲

Sites of international importance in the UK during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)						
Ribble Estuary	4,690	May	Carmarthen Bay	1,557	Sep	
Alt Estuary	3,090	Aug	The Wash	1,504	Sep	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)						
North Norfolk Coast	973	Aug	Tay Estuary	303	Sep	
Thames Estuary	485	Oct	North Bay (South Uist)	267	Sep	
Duddon Estuary	434	Apr	Humber Estuary	242	Sep	
Lindisfarne	420	Apr	Thanet Coast	219	Oct	
Ardivachar Point (South Uist)	350	Sep	South Ford	218	Sep	
Solway Estuary	335	Oct				
Sites of national importance in Northern Ireland during autumn 2006 (Jul-Oct) and spring 2007 (Apr-Jun)						
Bann Estuary	251	Apr	Lough Foyle	190	Oct	

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Calidris pusilla

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: **1** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

A single Semipalmated Sandpiper was present at the Hurst to Lymington section of the North West Solent in September. Despite occurring in the UK in most years, this was the first WeBS record for six years.

Little Stint

Calidris minuta

International threshold: **2,000**
Great Britain threshold: **?†**
All-Ireland threshold: **?†**

GB max: **166** **Sep**
NI max: **3** **Sep**

Autumn 2006 was a relatively good season for Little Stint in the UK. During the year, the species was recorded at 63 sites, including six in Scotland, three in Wales and three in Northern Ireland. At about half of the sites, only single birds were recorded, with a further 26 sites supporting peak counts of fewer than ten birds. The highest single site total was 28 at the North Norfolk Coast in September. The British maximum was over three times that of the previous year and was the highest for five years.

Sites with ten or more birds in Great Britain in 2006/07

North Norfolk Coast	28	Sep	Severn Estuary	10	Sep
Humber Estuary	16	Sep	Loch of Strathbeg	10	Sep
Carmarthen Bay	13	Sep	Swale Estuary	10	Oct

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Temminck's Stint

Scarce

Calidris temminckii

GB max: **2 May**
NI max: **0**

There were three records of Temminck's Stint in 2006/07, all from the North Norfolk Coast. The first record was at Titchwell in August, while singles were at Cley and Norton Marsh in the following May.

Least Sandpiper

Vagrant

Calidris minutilla

Native Range: America

GB max: **1 Sep**
NI max: **0**

A single Least Sandpiper was present at the Hayle Estuary in September. Surprisingly, for this relatively regular vagrant, this was the first time that this species has been recorded during WeBS counts.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Vagrant

Calidris fuscicollis

Native Range: America

GB max: **2 Nov**
NI max: **1 Nov**

Records of White-rumped Sandpiper were restricted to late autumn. All records were of single birds and were from The Wash in October and Belfast Lough, North Norfolk Coast and Loch Paible (North Uist) in November.

Baird's Sandpiper

Vagrant

Calidris bairdii

Native Range: America

GB max: **1 Sep**
NI max: **0**

The only Baird's Sandpiper reported during a WeBS count in 2006/07 was at the Tamar Complex in September. This was the 15th record of this species during WeBS and the first for this site.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Vagrant

Calidris melanotos

Native Range: America, N Siberia, Australia

GB max: **6 Sep**
NI max: **0**

There were ten records of Pectoral Sandpiper in 2006/07, the highest for three years. During September six birds were counted across five sites with singles at Loch a` Phuill (Tiree), Montrose Basin, Ouse Washes, WWT Martin Mere and two at North Warren and Thorpeness Mere. A further three were recorded in October at Blagdon Lake, Loch of Strathbeg and Maxey Pits and one was at the North Norfolk Coast in May.

Curlew Sandpiper

Calidris ferruginea

GB max:	**170**	**Sep**
NI max:	**6**	**Sep**

International threshold:	**10,000**
Great Britain threshold:	**?†**
All-Ireland threshold:	**?†**

Curlew Sandpiper were recorded in every month during 2006/07 with peak numbers recorded during September. National maxima reached double-figures in August, September and the following May and up to three birds were recorded during the winter period. Of the 53 sites at which Curlew Sandpiper were recorded six held peak counts of 10 or more birds. The September British total was very similar to the peak count in August 2005, but coming a month later presumably involved more juvenile birds.

All records in Northern Ireland were during September, with four at Dundrum Inner Bay and singles at both Carlingford Lough and Lough Foyle.

Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†

Swale Estuary	19	Sep	The Wash	13	Sep
Severn Estuary	18	Sep	North Norfolk Coast	11	Sep
Humber Estuary	18	Sep	Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	11	Aug

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Purple Sandpiper

Calidris maritima

GB max:	**1,124**	**Feb**
NI max:	**122**	**Mar**

International threshold:	**750**
Great Britain threshold:	**180†**
All-Ireland threshold:	**35***

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

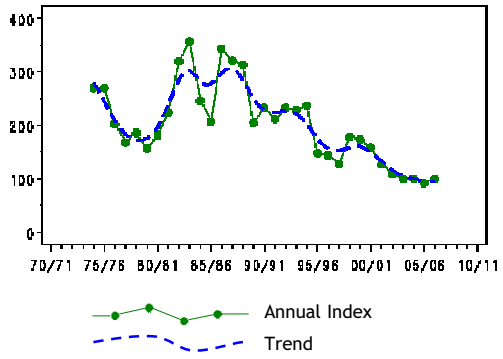

Figure 49.a, Annual indices & trend for Purple Sandpiper for GB.

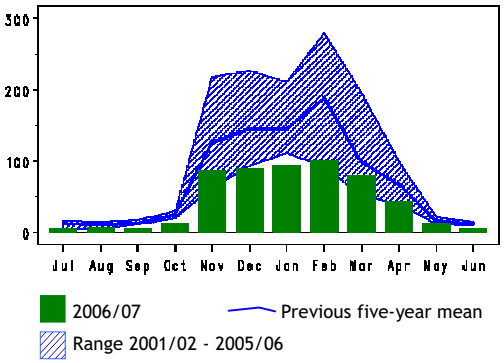

Figure 49.b, Monthly indices for Purple Sandpiper for GB.

The British maximum was slightly below that of the previous year, although the trend revealed that the recent decline seems to have slowed with numbers now remaining similar to those of the past few years. Numbers in Britain were low for much of the winter and the lowest of the past five years in both December and January. However, as Purple Sandpipers occur in low concentrations around much of the coast of Britain, particularly rocky shores that are poorly covered by WeBS, any changes shown above will not necessarily reflect the trend for the entire country. Data from the recent Non-estuarine Coastal Waterbird Survey (NEWS), carried out in January 2007, highlighted that only around 10% of the British population is monitored by WeBS (Austin *et al*. 2008). Consequently, the recent decline in the British index might actually refer to birds remaining further north, where WeBS coverage is less complete. The importance of the Scottish coast for this species is highlighted in the key sites listed below, with only the Farne Islands and Outer Ards Shoreline outside of Scotland.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Tiree				368 [44]			368
Island of Papa Westray	120	216	385	431			288
Farne Islands	280	307	375	116	160	Sep	248
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	122	83	84	60	122	Mar	94
Sites with mean peak counts of 100 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Balranald Nature Reserve	280	180	0				153
Ardivachar Point (South Uist)	120	110	144	200	139	Jan	143
Island of Egilsay	141	195	81	130	(90)	Mar	137
Dee Estuary (Scotland)	92	81	185	157			129
Forth Estuary	248	92	93	112	72	Dec	123
Howmore Estuary SSSI Coast		120 [48]					120
Bornish & Ormiclate Machairs		112 [48]					112
Moray Coast	89	127	134	118	67	Jan	107
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
The Houb (Whalsay)	72	100	29	82	146	Apr	86
Beadnell to Seahouses	70	61	72	74	110	Mar	77

† as few sites exceed the British threshold a qualifying level of 100 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Dunlin

Calidris alpina

International threshold: 13,300
Great Britain threshold: 5,600
All-Ireland threshold: 880

GB max: 293,882 Dec
NI max: 9,649 Jan

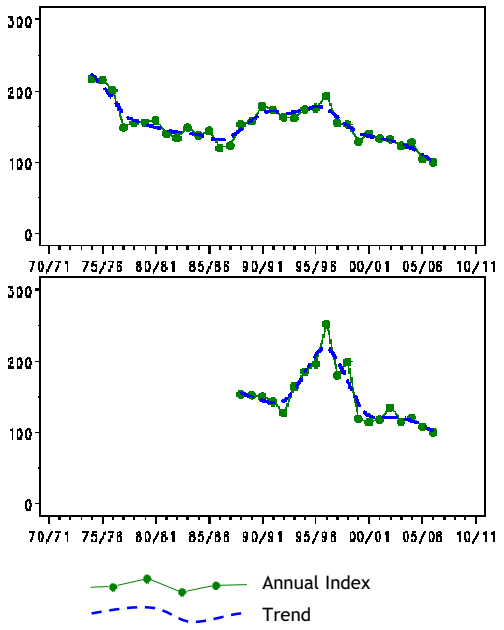

Figure 50.a, Annual indices & trend for Dunlin for GB (above) & NI (below).

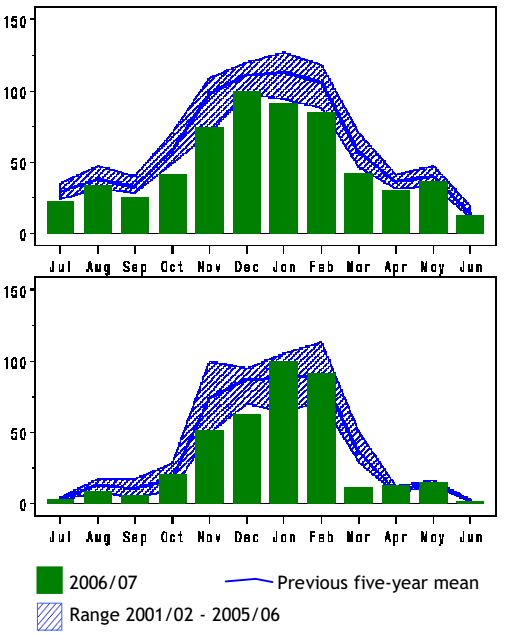

Figure 50.b, Monthly indices for Dunlin for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British maximum for Dunlin was the lowest since 1970, a time when far fewer sites were counted for WeBS. This decline was clearly evident in the national trend, which has shown a steady decline over the past decade and is now at its lowest ever level. As usual peak numbers were recorded between November and February. Peak counts of Dunlin at the Thames Estuary, The Wash, the Severn Estuary and Langstone

Harbour, all supporting internationally important numbers, were between 15% and 40% lower than during the previous year, although numbers at the Ribble Estuary and the Dee Estuary (England and Wales) were somewhat higher than seen in recent winters. Numbers peaked at the Forth Estuary at their lowest level for 15 years.

In Northern Ireland, the number of wintering Dunlin fell slightly compared to the past few years, the index here also reaching its lowest level to date. Numbers in the region were above average in January but well below recent averages for most other months. The peak Core Counts at Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle were the lowest since 2000/01 and 1987/88, respectively. However, numbers at the Outer Ards Shoreline peaked at their highest level for 17 years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Mersey Estuary	58,463	40,170	43,020	34,731 [10]	34,600	Dec	42,197	
Thames Estuary	54,205	(27,318)	40,838	39,889	32,882	Jan	41,954	
The Wash	44,518	39,731	42,361	35,468	25,913	Dec	37,598	
Ribble Estuary	(30,186)	24,445	(27,847)	29,305	(33,506)	Aug	29,058	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	21,266	41,679	16,878	19,867	35,834	Jan	27,105	
Morecambe Bay	18,214	18,847	17,848	(27,110)	38,248	Dec	24,053	
Humber Estuary	24,168	19,182 [10]	(14,733)	(26,305)	(14,856)	Sep	23,218	
Severn Estuary	25,734	23,801	(16,069)	19,561	16,625	Dec	21,430	
Langstone Harbour	17,320	24,286	28,239	22,356	12,950	Jan	21,030	
Blackwater Estuary	18,806	13,958	(16,007)	15,178	(5,472)	Feb	15,987	
Solway Estuary	12,850	17,576	(14,628)	(8,315)	(6,492)	Jan	15,213	
Chichester Harbour	15,661	12,552	12,651	12,989	14,152	Feb	13,601	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Swale Estuary	14,761	6,346	9,181	7,830	(4,612)	Feb	9,530	
Stour Estuary	9,642	9,268	(8,156)	7,019	7,231	Jan	8,290	
Forth Estuary	12,143	7,840 [10]	9,132	6,422	5,487	Dec	8,205	
Alt Estuary	6,885	12,743	8,540	5,184	7,630	Jan	8,196	
Lindisfarne	(9,991)	(9,503)	5,885	(5,540)	6,826	Dec	8,051	
Medway Estuary	6,901	(8,086)	9,373 [10]	7,367	(5,222)	Nov	7,932	
Dengie Flats	7,710	2,700	8,254	13,018	(7,340)	Apr	7,921	
Portsmouth Harbour	8,139 [10]	9,641	3,933	9,228	6,592	Feb	7,507	
Poole Harbour	(6,323)	(5,463)	(7,026)	(2,182)	(2,196)	Jan	(7,026)	
Burry Inlet	4,955	10,150	6,318	6,965	6,021	Jan	6,882	
Duddon Estuary	3,942	7,680 [10]	6,970 [10]	8,741 [10]	6,542	Jan	6,775	
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	4,408 [10]	4,967 [10]	4,934	7,669 [10]	3,151 [10]	Nov	5,026	
Lough Foyle	4,209	4,212	1,688	3,334	1,592	Jan	3,007	
Carlingford Lough	(2,872)	(2,339)	2,238	1,573	(2,185)	Jan	2,241	
Outer Ards Shoreline	960	993	742	1,119	2,810	Jan	1,325	▲
Belfast Lough	1,193	1,461 [10]	1,136 [10]	920	(1,712)	Feb	1,284	▲
Bann Estuary	830	1,060	1,100	1,090	1,030	Feb	1,022	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007								
Hamford Water	3,064	(3,476)	(4,290)	(3,534)	(3,735)	Jan	3,620	
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	5,273 [10]	4,100	4,387	8,072 [10]	2,970	Dec	4,960	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Dornoch Firth	4,186	4,981	5,160	2,577	5,681	Dec	4,517	

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Tryngites subruficollis

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: **2 Sep**
NI max: **0**

During autumn 2006, three Buff-breasted Sandpipers were recorded during WeBS counts. All reports were of single birds, at the Exe Estuary and Humber Estuary in September and Severn Estuary in October.

Ruff

Philomachus pugnax

GB max:	**510**	**Oct**
NI max:	**35**	**Sep**

International threshold:	**12,500**
Great Britain threshold:	**7***
All-Ireland threshold:	**+†**

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

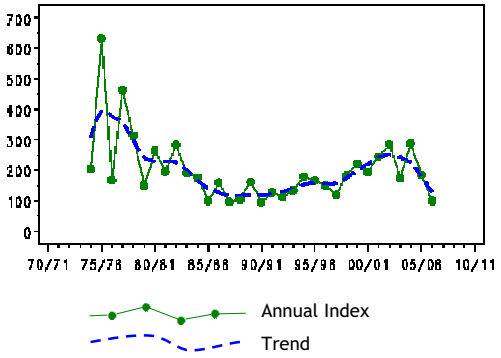

Figure 51.a, Annual indices & trend for Ruff for GB.

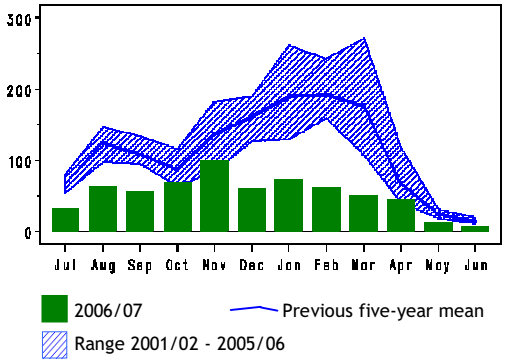

Figure 51.b, Monthly indices for Ruff for GB.

The British maximum was slightly lower than in the previous year. Although Ruff have wintered in slightly increasing numbers over the ten years to 2003/04, the trend has shown a decline in the past three years. This is, however, likely to reflect a decrease in the number of birds at just a few key sites, namely The Wash, the North Norfolk Coast, the Nene Washes and Breydon Water and Berney Marshes. Numbers were below average, and infact below any of the past five years, throughout much of 2006/07. A further 26 British sites held double-figures including Loch a` Phuill (Tiree) and Fen Drayton Gravel Pits.

Ruff were recorded at three sites in Northern Ireland. Peak numbers reached 34 at Loughs Neagh and Beg in September and six at Lough Foyle in October, while singles were at Belfast Lough from November to January.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Ouse Washes	359	232 [12]	(431)	357 [12]	82 [12]	Feb	292
North Norfolk Coast	178	243	270	193	121	Oct	201
Lower Derwent Ings	179	99	73	50			100
WWT Martin Mere	151	86	83	(50)	76	Mar	99
Humber Estuary	167	(110)	35	84	61	Oct	91
Swale Estuary	95	(54)	128	37	(49)	Oct	87
Nene Washes	275	128	16	2	4	Feb	85
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	119	100	86	72	14	Nov	78
Middle Yare Marshes	82	17	53	40	27	Feb	44
Morecambe Bay	33	(20)	(3)	4	92	Apr	43
The Wash	54	71	(5)	14	11	Oct	38
Blackwater Estuary	82	19	24	18	(0)		36
Rutland Water	41	52	20	32	29	Sep	35
Ribble Estuary	76	21	29	17	32	Jan	35
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(106)	42	2	2	4	Mar	31
Thames Estuary	35	43	28	38	3	Nov	29
Walland Marsh	6	7	30	55	33	Apr	26
Somerset Levels	29	33	10	(12)	29	Jan	25
Tees Estuary	13	44	8	(29)	33	Aug	25
Abberton Reservoir	2	51	6	36	(9)	Aug	24
Arun Valley	22	52	24	6	10	Nov	23
Hamford Water	51	20	17	18	5	Sep	22

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Dungeness Gravel Pits	42	15	14	(12)	12	Nov	21	
Severn Estuary	21	18	13	16	33	Feb	20	
Minsmere	24	18	9	12	20	Feb	17	
Hardley Flood	33	18	0				17	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	15	13	29	(10)	9	Sep	17	
Sandbach Flashes	26	16	13	13	14	Oct	16	
Holland Marshes	6	12	14	10	17	Jan	12	
Stour Estuary	1	1	3	55	1	Feb	12	
Crouch-Roach Estuary	6	5	42 [10]	4	2	Aug	12	
Orwell Estuary	(11)	30	3	5	9	Aug	12	
East Chevington Pools	2	13	12	28	6	Sep	12	
Ythan Estuary	42	0	(0)	7	0		12	
Stodmarsh & Collards Lagoon	22	10	2	14	5	Dec	11	
Solway Estuary	15	29	2	8	3	Feb	11	
Loch of Strathbeg	5	8	7	21	8	Sep	10	
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	2	7	0	1	33	Mar	9	▲
Tophill Low Reservoirs	12	23	4	4	0		9	
Cresswell Pond	6	17	6	6	10	Oct	9	
R. Cam: Upware-Dimmocks Cote	9	13	8		0		8	
Hagnaby Lock Fen	19	9	11	1	0		8	
Blithfield Reservoir	19	6	0				8	▲
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	12	5	10	6	0		7	
Pegwell Bay	10	2	3	11	(1)	Aug	7	
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	8	7	11	3			7	
Forth Estuary	(7)	2	5	(9)	14	Sep	7	
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Loughs Neagh and Beg	0	0	7	5	34	Sep	9	▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007†								
Pool of Virkie	0	0	0	2	7	Sep	2	
Druridge Pool	(5)	8	0	2	5	Aug	4	
Carmarthen Bay	(13)	(0)	3	(0)	2	Sep	6	
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	6	17	0	0	1	Dec	5	
Colne Estuary	9	(1)	(0)	2	(0)		6	
Hurworth Burn Reservoir				10	0		5	
Loch Leven	0	3	0	22	0		5	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	0	1	2	3	14	Sep	4	
Alde Complex	4	(2)	1	1	11	Dec	4	
Old Moor	(0)	1	0	6	11	Sep	5	
N. Warren & Thorpeness Mere	4 [12]	7 [12]	1 [12]	0	10	Mar	4	
Foryd Bay	0	0	2	0	7	Sep	2	
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay				0	7	Sep	4	
Pitsford Reservoir	0	9	3	1	7	Sep	4	
Pool of Virkie	0	0	0	2	7	Sep	2	

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of seven has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Jack Snipe

Lymnocryptes minimus

International threshold: **?**
Great Britain threshold: **?†**
All-Ireland threshold: **250†**

GB max: **122** **Jan**
NI max: **1** **Mar**

The British maximum of Jack Snipe was slightly lower during 2006/07 than in the previous year. The highest single count was of 37 at Chichester Harbour in March, the highest here for several years, whilst the other double-figure counts originated from Scotland. Birds were recorded in every month from September to May although only between January and March did the national totals reach three-figures. As with any species that is as difficult to detect as Jack Snipe, the figures recorded using WeBS methodology are unlikely to accurately reflect the actual changes in the number of birds present across the country. In particular, many of the higher counts are made as a result of deliberate searches for this species. Only one Jack Snipe was recorded in Northern Ireland, on the Outer Ards Shoreline in March.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Chat Moss	46 [22]	28 [22]	34 [22]	14 [22]			31
Doxey Marshes SSSI	(30)	16	61	18	9	Mar	27
Chichester Harbour	39	7	6	18	37	Mar	21
Lower Derwent Ings	11	22	27	24			21
Bickershaw Colliery Area	17 [22]	11 [22]	14 [22]	18 [22]			15
Humber Estuary	13	(5) [10]	(2)	(3)	5	Jan	9
Severn Estuary	7 [12]	5	10	19	6	Feb	9
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(13)	23	3	1	2	Dec	8
Waulkmill Glen & Littleton Res	10	12	10	6	4	Dec	8
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	13	8	5	2	7	Oct	7
Langstone Harbour	13	0	12	9	0		7
Ardrossan-West Kilbride	8	2	6	6	10	Feb	6
Boat of Garten Pools			6				6
Ribble Estuary	(5)	(2)	4	(3)	8	Sep	6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Pks	0	0	0	0	14	Jan	3
Somerset Levels	4	1	2	3	9	Jan	4
Kinsham Pool	3	0	1	8	7	Dec	4
R. Kennet: Ramsbury-Chilton Foliat	2	1	4	2	6	Feb	3
Wigan Flashes	0	0	2		6	Dec	2
Shipton On Cherwell Quarry	6	2	4	2	5	Sep	4

† as few sites exceed the All-Ireland threshold and no British threshold has been set, a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Snipe

Gallinago gallinago

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 5,438 Dec
NI max: 92 Mar

The British maximum was around a quarter lower than during the previous year and was the lowest total for over 15 years. However, due to its secretive nature Snipe are known to be poorly recorded by WeBS despite being widespread and locally common on many wetland sites. Snipe were noted at 675 sites throughout Britain and a further 13 in Northern Ireland during 2006/07. Birds were present throughout the year, although national totals were highest between September and February.

The highest single count from any site was of 1,012 at the Somerset Levels in December, a site that regularly supports large numbers of this species. Although it is difficult to interpret between-year variation in site peaks for this species, the peaks for most of the top British sites were lower than average in 2006/07.

In Northern Ireland birds were recorded throughout the winter, with the peak count of 68 at the Outer Ards Shoreline being the highest at this site since 1995/96.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Lower Derwent Ings	997	269	3,125	1,182			1,393
Somerset Levels	972	308	1,513	713	1,012	Dec	904
Doxey Marshes SSSI	365	390	716	455	224	Mar	430
Severn Estuary	240	519	349	337	113	Dec	312
Malltraeth RSPB	131	54	570	251	261	Dec	253
Maer Lake	8	403	378	280	105	Dec	235
Cleddau Estuary	283	311	144	233	136	Jan	221
Middle Yare Marshes	257	124	(210)	(237)	(34)	Dec	207
Morecambe Bay	112	(147)	(265)	304	140	Feb	205
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	48	86 [10]	45 [10]	170	33	Feb	76
Loughs Neagh and Beg	129	151	22	31	33	Sep	73
Strangford Lough	97 [10]	55	56	68 [10]	(21)	Sep	69
Ballysaggart Lough	51	53					52
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Adur Estuary	148	147	273	52	(291)	Jan	182
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	15	17	9	6	68	Mar	23

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 200 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Long-billed Dowitcher

Limnodromus scolopaceus

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 2 Oct
NI max: 0

A single Long-billed Dowitcher was present at Tamar Lakes in October while another stayed at the Swale Estuary from October through to December. The Stour Estuary played host to a single bird during March and April.

Woodcock

Scolopax rusticola

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 32 Dec
NI max: 0

Woodcock were noted at 66 sites during 2006/07, this is almost two-thirds lower than during 2005/06. Additionally, the British maximum was half that of the previous year and the lowest since 1999/2000. Birds were recorded in every month between September and May and double-figure totals only between November and February. The highest count from any one site was of six at Esso Pools (Wales) in November. Counts of five were recorded at Cors Caron (Cors Tregaron) in December and Grouville Marsh in February. The majority of the remaining records were of single birds. Due to its secretive nature and preference for wooded areas Woodcock remain poorly monitored by WeBS methodology.

Black-tailed Godwit

Limosa limosa

International threshold: 470
Great Britain threshold: 150
All-Ireland threshold: 140

GB max: 29,406 Sep
NI max: 807 Feb

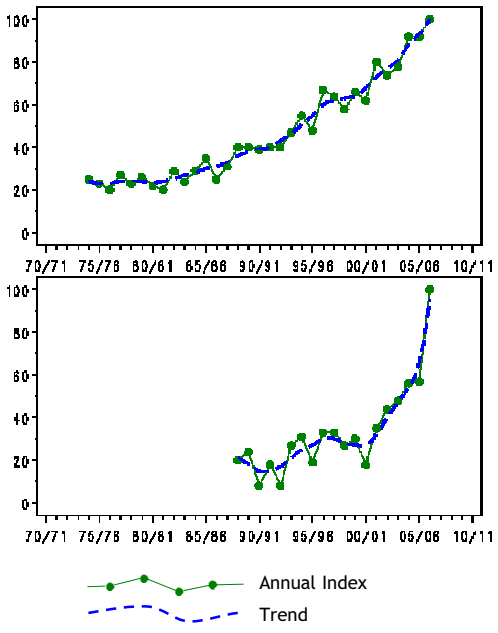

Figure 52.a, Annual indices & trend for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

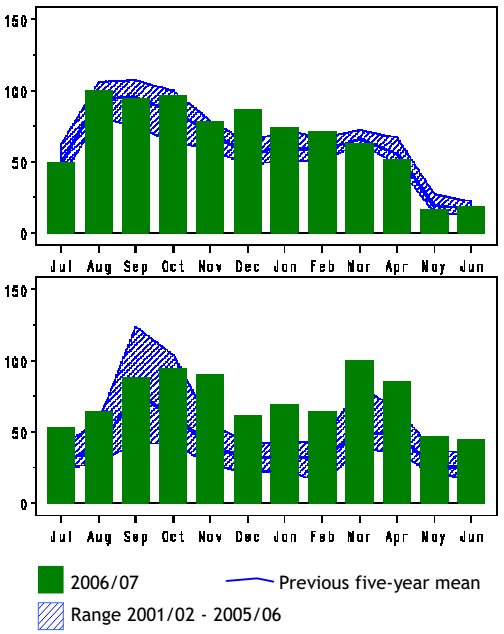

Figure 52.b, Monthly indices for Black-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

The counted British maximum was slightly below that of the previous year's figure, falling just below 30,000 birds for the first time in five years. However, the British index continued to rise and reached its highest ever level. Numbers were high throughout the year, particularly between October and February, although in March, April and May were slightly below the mean of the past five years.

Numbers at The Wash peaked during August and were similar to the five-year mean of the site. An increase was evident at the Alde Complex where numbers peaked at their highest level ever recorded, whilst proportionately high counts were also made at the Ribble Estuary, Humber Estuary, Deben Estuary and along the Hampshire Avon Valley. The number of birds at the Dee Estuary (England and Wales) has been in steady decline over the past couple of years and has reached its lowest level for six years. A large decline has been witnessed at the Mersey Estuary, where peak numbers during 2006/07 were a mere fifth of the five-year mean. Numbers at the Burry Inlet were lower than during recent years.

Despite the Northern Irish index doubling since 2005/06, the peak total for the province was considerably lower than during the past two years, albeit similar to those of three and four years ago. The monthly indices suggest numbers were higher than average throughout the year, and particularly so from November to April. Peak numbers at Strangford Lough have been increasing in recent years, but the Lough Foyle count much lower than normal.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
The Wash	11,451	7,610	5,546	8,205	8,090	Aug	8,203	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	4,231	4,493	6,452	5,379	3,713	Sep	4,854	
Thames Estuary	3,800	(2,254)	3,757	5,221	4,893	Sep	4,418	
Ribble Estuary	(5,583)	(2,175)	2,936	2,921	5,095	Dec	4,134	
Humber Estuary	2,390 [12]	(2,108)	2,435	3,296	5,323	Sep	3,361	
Ouse Washes	3,468	3,137 [12]	3,424	4,154 [12]	1,790 [12]	Mar	3,195	
Blackwater Estuary	(2,939)	(1,804)	2,356	(1,243)	(751)	Mar	2,648	
Poole Harbour	(2,691)	(2,133)	1,732	(1,431)	1,907	Feb	2,116	
Mersey Estuary	1,985	2,407	2,950	2,510	418	Jan	2,054	
Stour Estuary	1,927	1,717	1,972	1,507	1,215	Feb	1,668	
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	1,179	1,630	1,612	1,675	1,421 [10]	Feb	1,503	
Swale Estuary	1,045	1,511	1,782	(1,389)	(1,277)	Nov	1,446	
R. Avon: Ringwood-Christchurch	3,002	170	26	1	(3,000)	Jan	1,240	
Medway Estuary	(199)	(398)	(518)	(190)	(1,120)	Mar	(1,120)	
Exe Estuary	890	(1,079)	1,054	1,090	999	Jan	1,022	
North Norfolk Coast	477	774	1,577	940	645	Aug	883	
Chichester Harbour	715	1,050	545	(995)	685	Nov	798	
Alde Complex	405	600	298	1,181	1,385	Nov	774	
Orwell Estuary	(523)	768	(277)	975	523	Sep	755	
Belfast Lough	774	706	857	642	(586)	Feb	745	
Morecambe Bay	(227)	403	722	747	928	Feb	700	
Pagham Harbour	826	541	664	340	(764)	Jan	627	
Langstone Harbour	618	457	758	665	562	Oct	612	
Burry Inlet	92	(410)	845	994	300 [10]	Jan	558	
Nene Washes	51	185	770	(156)	1,120	Feb	532	▲
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	260	0	(1)	0	(1,750)	Mar	503	▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Deben Estuary	319	(466)	305	575	622	Sep	457	
Hamford Water	490	414	314	625	372	Jan	443	
Newtown Estuary	510	(173)	(113)	374	(223)	Oct	442	
Crouch-Roach Estuary	197	(261)	729 [10]	265	(541)	Feb	433	
Severn Estuary	193	540	(450)	(435)	297	Nov	383	
North West Solent	(261)	373	311	474	353	Jul	378	
Forth Estuary	301	478	348	380	348	Sep	371	
Southampton Water	218	(434)	291	489	295	Feb	345	
Colne Estuary	(190)	253	472	171	(477)	Jan	343	
Portsmouth Harbour	246 [10]	211	360	(494)	(398)	Oct	342	
Eden Estuary	290	403	374	181	294	Apr	308	
Carmarthen Bay	(29)	331	307	237	101 [10]	Nov	244	

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Beaulieu Estuary	147	116	326	190	317	Dec	219
Sandbach Flashes	11	360	151	254	92	Apr	174
Solway Estuary	53	200	(275)	(94)	81	Nov	152
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Strangford Lough	189 [10]	267	176	717 [10]	535 [10]	Jan	379
Lough Foyle	132	161	983	397	60	Mar	347
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Blyth Estuary	129	(25)	(76)	194	121	Nov	148
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Fen Drayton Gravel Pits	0	0	31	0	571	Mar	120
N.Warren & Thorpeness Mere	11	1 [12]	20	23	460	Dec	103
Alt Estuary	69	134	52	116	241	Sep	122
Ouse Fen & Pits (Hanson/RSPB)	(411)	135	1	0	187	Jan	147
Minsmere	40	62	53	43	177	Mar	75

Bar-tailed Godwit

Limosa lapponica

International threshold: 1,200
Great Britain threshold: 620
All-Ireland threshold: 160

GB max: 34,679 Sep
NI max: 2,886 Feb

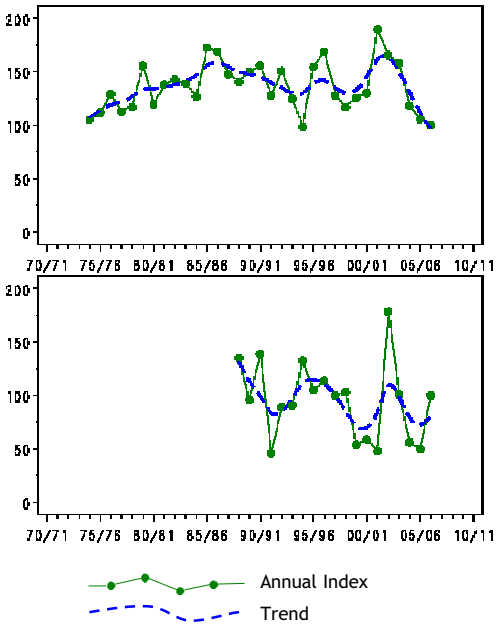

Figure 53.a, Annual indices & trend for Bar-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

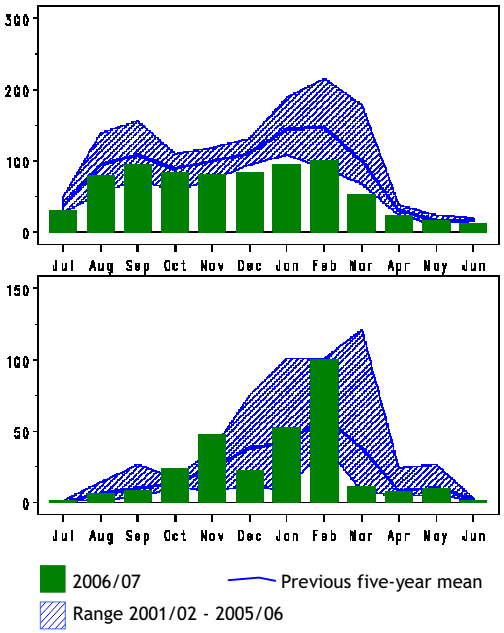

Figure 53.b, Monthly indices for Bar-tailed Godwit for GB (above) & NI (below).

Bar-tailed Godwit has shown a dramatic decline over the past five years, the British trend reaching its lowest level to date. Numbers were below average throughout the year, especially in December, January and March. The counted British maximum was the second lowest, after that of 2005/06, for 30 years, and remains at around half that of five years ago.

The highest count from any single site was of 11,900 at The Wash in September. This total was the highest peak for three years, although still around 20% below the five-year mean for the site. Lower than average numbers were noted at several key sites, including the Ribble Estuary, the North Norfolk Coast and Cromarty Firth. Furthermore, peak numbers at the Solway Estuary were the lowest since 1979/80, this site no longer holds internationally important numbers.

The Northern Irish maximum was the highest for three years and around twice that of the previous year. Numbers were

particularly high in October and November. Lough Foyle remains the key site and peak numbers here were the highest for four years, and much higher than the five year mean. Numbers at Strangford Lough were less than half those of recent years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
The Wash	18,374	21,086	11,268	9,849	11,900	Sep	14,495
Ribble Estuary	15,005	11,301	4,657	(3,510)	4,628	Sep	8,898
Thames Estuary	(5,395)	8,989	6,595	6,613	8,629	Sep	7,707
Alt Estuary	7,103	8,120	4,138	4,221	4,100	Aug	5,536
North Norfolk Coast	5,894	7,429	1,360	3,273	2,990	Oct	4,189
Morecambe Bay	5,718	4,424	1,752	2,158	(2,157)	Nov	3,513
Humber Estuary	2,688	4,291 [10]	(2,460)	(2,227)	(1,865)	Sep	3,490
Lindisfarne	(3,000)	(4,078)	2,900	1,787 [10]	2,483	Dec	2,850
Lough Foyle	4,108	1,019	630	1,133	2,672	Feb	1,912
Cromarty Firth	2,212	3,439	2,311	651	803	Dec	1,883
Dengie Flats	3,112	1,550	1,250	1,550	1,062	Jan	1,705
Forth Estuary	1,793	1,750 [10]	1,599	1,188	1,500	Sep	1,566
Tay Estuary	1,351	2,664	1,680	1,050	1,002 [10]	Jan	1,549
Strangford Lough	1,079	2,019	1,422	1,378	529	Oct	1,285
Dornoch Firth	1,561	1,068	1,495	1,681	541	Jan	1,269
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Solway Estuary	1,761	1,572	1,050	958	529	Sep	1,174
Hamford Water	(487)	803	(647)	(657)	(1,239)	Nov	1,021
Chichester Harbour	872	(910)	863	(1,200)	630	Jan	895
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	997	830	901	770	785	Feb	857
South Ford	549	950	1,040	422	782	Feb	749
Loch Bee SSSI Coast		713 [48]					713
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	127	1,209	132	328	187	Nov	397

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus

International threshold: 6,800
Great Britain threshold: +†
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: 1,249 May
NI max: 8 Apr

Whimbrel were recorded at 122 sites throughout Britain and at five in Northern Ireland during 2006/07. Birds were recorded in all months although peak numbers were in July and August and the following April, May and June. The highest count from any single site was of 233 at The Wash in July, which was similar to the five-year mean for this site, although annual peaks typically show great variation due to differences in the timing of passage. The three other three-figure peaks were all in May. The vast majority of Whimbrel in Britain are recorded during passage with only a few birds overwintering each year. A maximum of four birds were at the Tamar Complex and three were at Southampton Water, Pagham Harbour and the Fal Complex between December and February.

In Northern Ireland, birds were recorded in every month except November, December and February. The highest count was of eight at Dundrum Inner Bay in June and seven were at the Bann Estuary in April. However, it should be pointed out that relatively few sites in Northern Ireland are counted for WeBS during the peak Whimbrel months of May to August.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Barnacre Res & Grizedale Lea	654 [49]	575 [49]	553 [49]	270 [50]			513
Brockholes Quarry	401 [50]	329 [50]	289 [50]	154 [50]			293
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	353 [43]	214 [43]	373 [43]	222 [50]	6	May	234
The Wash	87	86	414	292	233	Jul	222
Severn Estuary	204	240	(197)	101	186	May	186
Exe Estuary	98	298	42	(48)	109	May	137
Burry Inlet	35	110	175	111	223	May	131
North Norfolk Coast	61	141	166	129	70	Jul	113

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Chichester Harbour	106	142	143	78	31	Aug	100
Lower Derwent Ings	129 [46]	35 [46]	139 [46]	95 [50]			100
Morecambe Bay	35	(54)	(182)	60	(53)	Aug	77
Swale Estuary	(55)	(77)	(13)	(17)	(20)	Aug	(77)
Humber Estuary	41	(53)	(82)	(107)	(78)	Jul	72
Langstone Harbour	45	(62)	78	96	58	Aug	69
Southampton Water	(14)	(33)	(29)	63	(27)	Apr	63
Taw-Torridge Estuary	39	(21)	45	89	(42)	May	58
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	55	66	74	59	6	Aug	52
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	39	75	(25)	29	66	May	52
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
North West Solent	11	12	35	26	52	Apr	27

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Curlew

Numenius arquata

International threshold: 8,500
Great Britain threshold: 1,500
All-Ireland threshold: 550

GB max: 83,259 Oct
NI max: 5,666 Dec

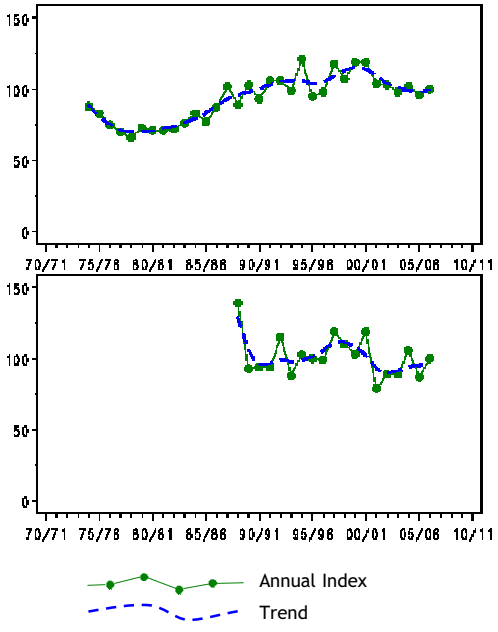

Figure 54.a, Annual indices & trend for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

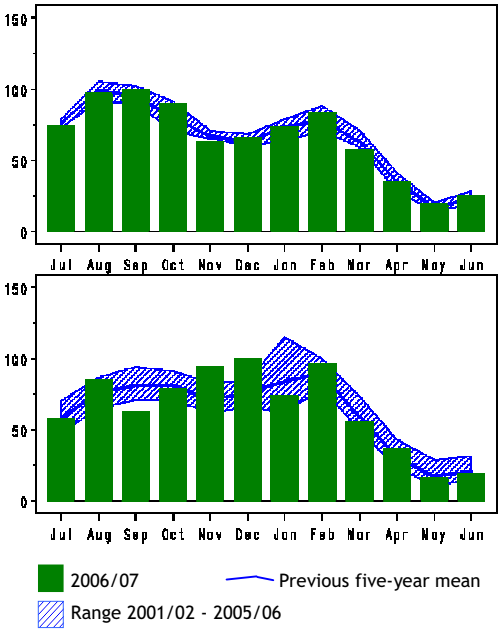

Figure 54.b, Monthly indices for Curlew for GB (above) & NI (below).

During 2006/07 the counted British maximum of Curlew was around 10% higher than in the previous year, although was in line with the average of the past five years. The decline in the British trend that was witnessed in the five years since 2000/01 has alleviated with numbers remaining stable for the past couple of years. Numbers were similar to those of the past five years throughout the year, although were slightly higher than average in September, October and February.

Morecambe Bay remains the principal location for this species, with the peak count the highest at the site for four years. Peak counts at the Forth Estuary were the highest recorded at the site, whilst those at Lavan Sands were the highest for 20 years. Conversely, peak numbers at the Burry Inlet were the second lowest of the past 30 years. The Northern Irish maximum was very similar to that of the past few years and the index suggests that numbers here have been fairly stable. Numbers were

especially high in November and December. Peak numbers at the key Northern Irish sites were fairly typical.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Morecambe Bay	19,170	(11,196)	8,328	9,515	14,027	Sep	12,760	
The Wash	10,048	15,336	6,978	5,140	9,710	Oct	9,442	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	3,673	5,727	6,933	4,666	5,565	Sep	5,313	
Thames Estuary	(4,414)	(2,651)	3,352	(3,611)	6,993	Oct	5,173	
Solway Estuary	(3,701)	(4,561)	(3,328)	(2,986)	(3,647)	Oct	(4,561)	
Humber Estuary	3,941	3,530 [10]	3,751	(4,818)	5,067	Feb	4,221	
Forth Estuary	(3,939)	3,941	(2,827)	3,599	4,345	Sep	3,962	
Severn Estuary	3,615 [10]	2,898	2,613	2,514	3,230	Jan	2,974	
Lavan Sands	2,283	2,118	2,413	1,955	3,243	Sep	2,402	
Duddon Estuary	2,280	(2,756)	1,883	(1,816)	2,113	Sep	2,258	
Burry Inlet	2,664	(2,283)	1,831	2,587	1,413	Aug	2,156	
North Norfolk Coast	1,952	2,350	1,835	2,284	2,190	Jan	2,122	
Mersey Estuary	2,726	2,480	1,830	1,792	1,379	Sep	2,041	
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,324	1,809	2,137	1,838	(1,939)	Feb	2,027	
Chichester Harbour	1,764	1,680	1,628	1,889	2,052	Oct	1,803	
Blackwater Estuary	(1,720)	1,366	1,848	1,914	(790)	Dec	1,712	
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,989	1,739	1,301	1,417	2,017	Aug	1,693	
Poole Harbour	1,605	1,427	(2,472)	(1,013)	1,135	Jan	1,660	
Langstone Harbour	1,817	1,255	1,525	1,811	1,343	Sep	1,550	▲
Ribble Estuary	1,553	(1,857)	1,460	1,189	1,497	Feb	1,511	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Lough Foyle	1,956	2,127	3,115	2,038	2,681	Nov	2,383	
Strangford Lough	1,227	1,788	1,594	1,523	1,918 [10]	Jan	1,610	
Carlingford Lough	647	684	732	576	754	Aug	679	
Belfast Lough	771	743	650	479	547	Dec	638	
Outer Ards Shoreline	357	475	838	632	519	Oct	564	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007								
Alt Estuary	1,834	1,433	1,601	1,294	1,270	Aug	1,486	
Lindisfarne	1,338 [10]	(1,072)	1,715 [10]	1,548	1,174	Jul	1,444	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Swale Estuary	1,612	1,593	(953)	1,118	(1,516)	Jan	1,460	

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

International threshold: 17,500
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 762 Aug
NI max: 12 Jun

Common Sandpiper were recorded at 388 sites across Britain and an additional four in Northern Ireland. Birds were noted in every month during 2006/07 and, as usual, the highest numbers were recorded in July and August. The British maximum, which was in August, was slightly higher than that of the previous year, although remains lower than the average of the past ten years. Nationally, around 40 birds were recorded throughout the winter in Britain. The Northern Irish peak count of 12 birds in June consisted entirely of the count from Dundrum Inner Bay. The highest single-site total was of 93 in July at Pegwell Bay, the highest for this site since 1971/72. Peak numbers at the Tees Estuary matched the site-record, which was noted in August 1998.

Sites with 20 or more birds in 2006/07†

Pegwell Bay	93	Jul	Camel Estuary	24	Aug
Thames Estuary	50	Aug	The Wash	22	Aug
Morecambe Bay	48	Jul	Inner Firth of Clyde	21	Jul
Abberton Reservoir	41	Aug	Tees Estuary	21	Aug

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 20 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Vagrant
Native Range: America

GB max: 1 Oct
NI max: 0

A single Spotted Sandpiper was at the Tamar Lakes during October and a single bird was also recorded at the Hayle Estuary in every month between November and March.

Green Sandpiper

Tringa ochropus

International threshold: 17,000
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 394 Aug
NI max: 1 Aug

As usual, August was the peak month for Green Sandpipers and numbers were slightly higher in 2006/07 than during the previous year, though remain below the average of the past five years. Birds were noted at over 250 sites throughout Britain and at just two sites, Dundrum Inner Bay and Loughs Neagh and Beg, in Northern Ireland. Green Sandpipers were recorded in every month, the highest numbers being from July to October. The highest counts were of 35 in August at the Thames Estuary, which was closely followed by 32 the following month. In the winter period of November to March birds were noted at 136 sites, which was similar to the 2005/06 figure. The highest counts during this period were 11 at Beddington Sewage Farm in January, 10 at Avon Valley - Salisbury to Fordingbridge in November, nine at the Thames Estuary in November and December and seven at the Medway Estuary in February.

Sites with 15 or more birds in 2006/07†

Thames Estuary	35	Aug	Southampton Water	17	Aug
Swale Estuary	19	Aug	Pegwell Bay	15	Jul
Tophill Low Reservoirs	18	Jul			

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 15 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Spotted Redshank

Tringa erythropus

International threshold: 900
Great Britain threshold: +†
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: 198 Aug
NI max: 1 Oct

The British maximum for Spotted Redshank was over 20% higher than that of the previous year and was the highest since 2002/03. Birds were seen in every month except May and, as usual, most were recorded during autumn passage, peak counts being between August and October. During the main winter months of November to March between 46 and 68 birds were recorded throughout Britain. The highest single-site count during this time was of 19 at the North Norfolk Coast in December. During spring both the North Norfolk Coast and the Dee Estuary (England and Wales) held peaks of 13 birds in April.

The only records from Northern Ireland were of single birds in December, January and March at Dundrum Inner Bay and in October at Strangford Lough.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†							
The Wash	65	36	39	39	86	Aug	53
Swale Estuary	48	(1)	(2)	(4)	(2)	Aug	48
North Norfolk Coast	29	35	34	35	42	Aug	35
Blackwater Estuary	33	4	42	24	(1)	Sep	26
Humber Estuary	20	(27)	21	10	25	Aug	21
Minsmere	23	58	3	14	3	Aug	20

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Thames Estuary	26	(3)	(3)	3	(3)	Aug	15
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	17	31	8	8	5	Oct	14
Medway Estuary				0	25	Oct	13
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	17	12	12	8	14	Mar	13
Abberton Reservoir	0	20	0	26	(0)		12
Tamar Complex	20	5	7	(6)	11	Nov	11
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Beaulieu Estuary	6	12	6	8	10	Oct	8

† *as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 10 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report*

Greenshank

Tringa nebularia

GB max: **1,383** **Aug**
NI max: **193** **Oct**

International threshold: **2,300**
Great Britain threshold: **6***
All-Ireland threshold: **20***

**50 is normally used as a minimum threshold*

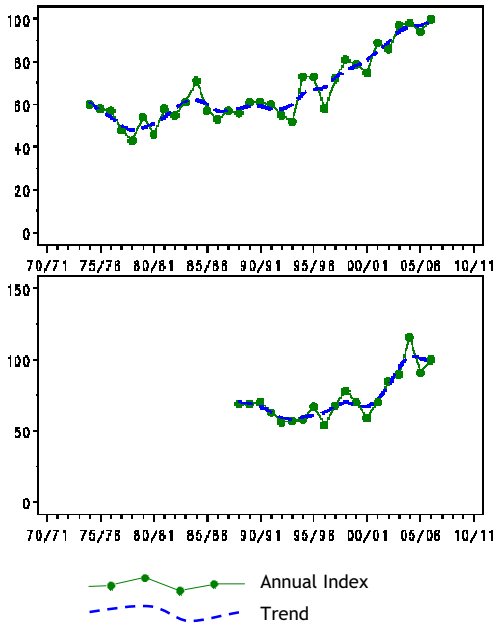

Figure 55.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

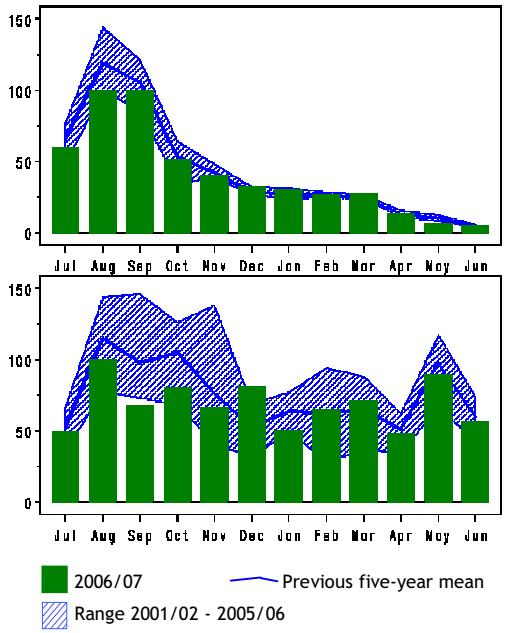

Figure 55.b, Monthly indices for Greenshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

Typically, peak numbers of Greenshank were recorded in August in Britain, although the August total was the lowest since 1993/94. The British trend, which refers to birds counted between November and March, revealed an increase in the numbers of wintering birds over the past 15 years, which in 2006/07 reached their highest level. Monthly indices for Britain showed that numbers between July and September were below average and for much of the rest of the year were only slightly higher than those of the previous five years.

The Northern Irish trend showed similar numbers to recent years with numbers in December, February and March higher than average.

The highest single site count was of 201 at The Wash in August, which was lower than recent totals at this site. A further four sites held peak counts of more than 100, all but one recorded in August. Up to 27 birds wintered at the Kingsbridge Estuary, while in Northern Ireland 85 were present at Strangford Lough in November.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
The Wash	304	336	204	258	201	Aug	261
Thames Estuary	240	(88)	259	144	196	Aug	210
Blackwater Estuary	(102)	169	147	(84)	(73)	Sep	158
Chichester Harbour	191	179	80	91	132	Sep	135
North Norfolk Coast	162	131	118	147	118	Aug	135
Medway Estuary	98	(36)	(35)	(4)	(10)	Oct	98
Stour Estuary	85	68	88	78	106	Aug	85
Humber Estuary	(79)	(48)	(34)	(33)	(21)	Sep	(79)
Hamford Water	85	49	69	104	79	Sep	77
Exe Estuary	41	72	56	38	71	Sep	56
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	74	(76)	36	(16)	32	Sep	55
Morecambe Bay	42	34	94	33	59	Sep	52
Fal Complex	27	(37)	52	58	59	Aug	49
Swale Estuary	29	56	(24)	(55)	(15)	Aug	47
Langstone Harbour	44	45	44	38	51	Sep	44
Tamar Complex	37	57	42	36	29	Aug	40
Kingsbridge Estuary	41	(36)	50	35	27	Jan	38
Burry Inlet	47	78	24	34	4	Feb	37
Montrose Basin	73	45	(6)	5	19	Sep	36
Cleddau Estuary	28	27	26	42 [10]	25	Mar	30
Pegwell Bay	12	26	(6)	36	42 [12]	Jul	29
Camel Estuary	(17)	22	32	(21)	(20)	Sep	27
Jersey Shore					26	Nov	26
Taw-Torridge Estuary	37	31	11	29	22	Oct	26
North West Solent	(16)	21	(16)	(17)	29	Sep	25
Southampton Water	13	(26)	(33)	(21)	(18)	Aug	22
Solway Estuary	20	(10)	(24)	(2)	(6)	Aug	22
Queens Valley Reservoir	19		22				21
Foryd Bay	22	21	32	15	11	Oct	20
Poole Harbour	20	(9)	17	(9)	(19)	Oct	19
Severn Estuary	12	30	(14)	15	20	Aug	19
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	41	13	18	16	8	Jul	19
Kentra Bay				25	10	Jan	18
Tees Estuary	13	16	23	(15)	17	Aug	17
Grouville Marsh	31	25	15	0	11	Oct	16
Beaulieu Estuary	11	13	21	14	20	Oct	16
Yealm Estuary	15	18	16	21	6	Sep	15
Ribble Estuary	18	(3)	(11)	17	10	Sep	15
Forth Estuary	(9)	15	(18)	17	9	Nov	15
Abberton Reservoir	12	7	19	18	(13)	Aug	14
Dengie Flats	28	(20)	(4)	9	0		14
Deben Estuary	25	(16)	14	6	10	Sep	14
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(14)	28	4	2	15	Aug	13
Lavan Sands	19	12	9	12	13	Jan	13
Inner Firth of Clyde	14	13	11	13	13	Sep	13
Tyninghame Estuary	12	19	12	11	10	Jan	13
Eden Estuary	11	16	21	9	7	Jan	13
Orwell Estuary	3	31	1	4	23	Oct	12
Pembroke Mill Ponds	0	15	8	37	0		12
Helford Estuary	14	7	14	4	16	Nov	11
Carmarthen Bay	(1)	2	15	14	13	Nov	11
Hunterston Lagoon		9	10	13	11	Oct	11
Loch nan Capull (South Uist)	7	14					11
Colne Estuary	4	(14)	12	8	(1)	Jul	10
Inland Sea and Alaw Estuary	5	14					10
Loch of Strathbeg	18	15	8	5	3	Jul	10
Broadford Bay	(15)	(9)	(12)	(8)	7	Dec	10
Rye Harbour and Pett Level	11	11	11	14	0		9
Rutland Water	10	9	6	8	12	Aug	9
Ythan Estuary	9	11	(5)	1	13	Jul	9
Ceann a Bhaigh	8		5	11	11	Apr	9
Brading Harbour	9	8	6	8	7	Jan	8

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Pagham Harbour	29	2	6	3	1	Oct	8	
Dyfi Estuary	2	16	14	(2)	1	Sep	8	
Rough Firth	8	8	7				8	
Dornoch Firth	4	9	10	5	(14)	Oct	8	
Newtown Estuary	6	9	(7)	(3)	7	Sep	7	
St Andrews Bay	(1)	(0)	(1)	6	8	Jul	7	▲
Dungeness Gravel Pits	(1)	15	2	4	3	Aug	6	
Alde Complex	10	(2)	8	4	2	Nov	6	
Tophill Low Reservoirs	5	3	10	(2)	4	Aug	6	▲
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland								
Strangford Lough	131	82	117	84	85	Nov	100	
Lough Foyle	34	35	37	74	34	Jan	43	
Carlingford Lough	24	34	26	39	40	Oct	33	
Dundrum Inner Bay	25	58	18	22	24	Oct	29	
Larne Lough	15	19	19	7	9	Sep	14	
Outer Ards Shoreline	4	14	5	5	17	Oct	9	▲
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in 2006/07								
Durham Coast	3	6	3	0	2	Sep	3	
Lindisfarne	(5)	1	7	8	(1)	Aug	5	
Ditchford Gravel Pits		(1)	4	(0)	(0)		4	
Blyth Estuary	3	(0)	6	0	0		2	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in 2006/07								
Irvine and Garnock Estuary	(0)	3	(0)	0	10	Dec	4	
Les Mondrins Gravel Pit	0	0	0	0	10	Jan	2	
Alnmouth	0	0	2	3	9	Aug	3	
Christchurch Harbour	2	2	2	5	8	Sep	4	
R. Nith: Keltonbank-Nunholm	(4)	(1)	0		7	Sep	4	
Belvide Reservoir		0	0	2	6	Aug	2	
Tay Estuary	5	4	2	2	6 [12]	Aug	4	

Lesser Yellowlegs

Tringa flavipes

Vagrant

Native Range: N & S America

GB max: **2** **Apr**
NI max: **0**

Single Lesser Yellowlegs were recorded at three sites, the Severn Estuary in October and Kenchester Pools and Stretton Sugwas Sand Pit in April.

Wood Sandpiper

Tringa glareola

International threshold: 10,500
Great Britain threshold: +†
All-Ireland threshold: +†

GB max: **37** **Aug**
NI max: **0**

During 2006/07, Wood Sandpiper were noted at 28 sites in England, three in Scotland and two in Wales. Birds were present from July to October and in the following April and May, and most records involved single birds. The peak of 37 in August was the highest for two years. The latest birds of the year were singles at the Severn Estuary and Weirwood Reservoir in October. The only spring records were one at Southampton Water in April and singles at both Bennerley Marsh and Old Moor in May.

Sites with 3 or more birds in 2006/07†

North Norfolk Coast	4	Aug	Camel Estuary	3	Aug
Foxcote Reservoir	4	Aug	Swale Estuary	3	Aug

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of three has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Redshank

Tringa totanus

GB max:	**74,883**	**Oct**
NI max:	**7,621**	**Oct**

International threshold: 2,800
Great Britain threshold: 1,200
All-Ireland threshold: 310

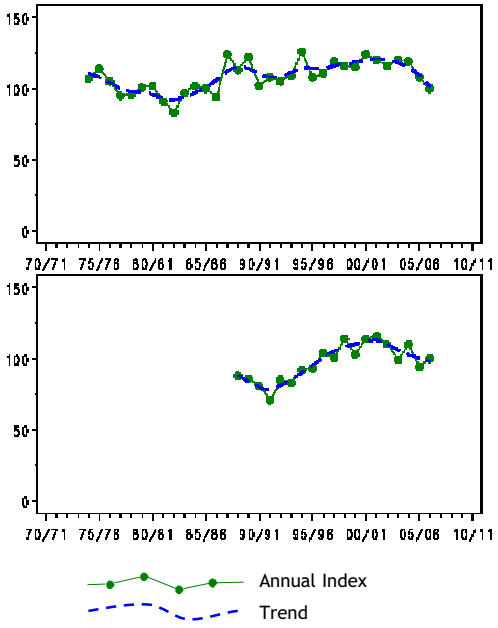

Figure 56.a, Annual indices & trend for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

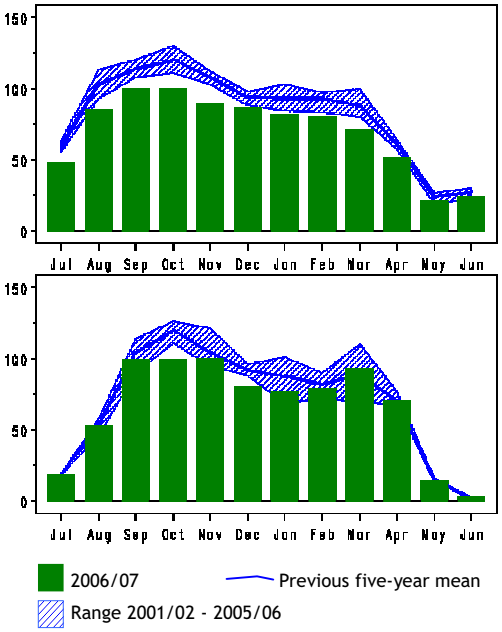

Figure 56.b, Monthly indices for Redshank for GB (above) & NI (below).

The British index for Redshank has fallen for the third year running and has now reached its lowest level since 1986/87. This decline was reflected in the monthly indices that revealed that numbers were the lowest of the past five years in every month of the year except May and June. Peak numbers at the country's key site for this species, the Dee Estuary (England and Wales), were slightly below the average for the site and were the lowest here since 2001/02. Lower than average counts were also noted at The Wash and the Humber Estuary, where peak numbers were the lowest for 10 years, and the Ribble Estuary and the Mersey Estuary, which were the lowest peak counts for 17 and 23 years, respectively. Conversely, peak counts were slightly higher than average at Chichester Harbour, the Deben Estuary and the Stour Estuary.

The Northern Irish maximum was a third lower than during the previous year and was the lowest for almost 10 years. Numbers were below average for most of the year, only surpassing the mean of the previous five years in March. Peak numbers at key sites in Northern Ireland were all around 5-15% below average.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	10,683	11,014	10,208	12,367	9,384	Oct	10,731
Morecambe Bay	8,816	6,715	7,106	7,283	(8,254)	Oct	7,635
The Wash	6,628	9,339	6,760	6,052	5,605	Oct	6,877
Humber Estuary	(6,049)	(8,362)	(8,494)	4,682	3,830	Sep	6,283
Forth Estuary	5,759	5,462	5,501	6,039	4,567	Dec	5,466
Thames Estuary	(4,413)	(4,383)	5,081	4,811	4,134	Oct	4,675
Strangford Lough	4,035	5,244	4,505	4,099	3,632	Sep	4,303
Mersey Estuary	4,280	6,050	3,618	3,622	1,535	Nov	3,821
Solway Estuary	(2,528)	(3,421)	3,617	(1,240)	(1,822)	Oct	3,617
Blackwater Estuary	(3,728)	(1,931)	3,034	(2,472)	(1,965)	Jan	3,381
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(592)	(496)	3,299 [10]	(556)	(1,110)	Oct	3,299
Ribble Estuary	3,882	2,752	2,211	4,078	1,491	Feb	2,883

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Duddon Estuary	1,849	2,508	1,956	3,698	3,122	Dec	2,627
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	2,942	2,317	2,846	1,910	(1,658)	Feb	2,504
Severn Estuary	2,439 [10]	(1,913)	2,516	1,930	2,362	Nov	2,312
Ythan Estuary	1,854	1,030	(1,797)	(5,274)	1,481	Sep	2,287
Montrose Basin	2,539	2,649	1,641	2,237	1,794	Aug	2,172
Chichester Harbour	1,911	2,450	1,695	1,754	(2,535)	Oct	2,069
Deben Estuary	2,017	1,869	1,707	2,037	2,710	Sep	2,068
Cromarty Firth	1,604	2,569	2,094	2,266	1,491	Dec	2,005
Inner Firth of Clyde	(1,589)	1,974	1,977	1,984	1,915	Sep	1,963
Orwell Estuary	1,825 [10]	1,939 [10]	1,799	1,813 [10]	2,075 [10]	Feb	1,890
Tees Estuary	1,575	2,455	1,723	1,731	1,865	Aug	1,870
Hamford Water	2,334	1,892	1,699	1,695	1,266	Sep	1,777
North Norfolk Coast	1,482	1,983	1,845	1,608	1,786	Aug	1,741
Stour Estuary	1,422	1,984	1,431	1,814	1,988	Mar	1,728
Lindisfarne	(2,036)	(1,789)	1,737	1,104	(1,267)	Sep	1,667
Swale Estuary	1,296	(1,352)	1,715	(1,727)	(1,062)	Nov	1,579
Alde Complex	1,456	1,430	1,957	1,608	1,204	Nov	1,531
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes	1,497 [10]	1,630 [10]	1,406	1,663 [10]	1,310	Mar	1,501
Lavan Sands	1,525 [10]	1,248	(1,947)	1,644	1,016	Oct	1,476
Tay Estuary	1,082	1,979	(1,347)	(1,950) [12]	849	Sep	1,441
Medway Estuary	(972)	(1,221)	1,068 [10]	(1,405)	(307)	Dec	1,231
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Belfast Lough	2,059	1,493	1,667	1,754	(1,698)	Sep	1,743
Lough Foyle	1,606	1,198	1,404	1,314	1,177	Mar	1,340
Carlingford Lough	1,211	1,027	1,471	1,554	1,128	Nov	1,278
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,351	1,228	1,121	1,307	1,160	Jan	1,233
Dundrum Inner Bay	866	942	(594)	723	759	Aug	823
Larne Lough	427	356	462	737	379	Feb	472
Bann Estuary	394	240	290	400	261	Sep	317

Turnstone

Arenaria interpres

International threshold: 1,500
Great Britain threshold: 500
All-Ireland threshold: 120

GB max: 12,990 Feb
NI max: 2,463 Jan

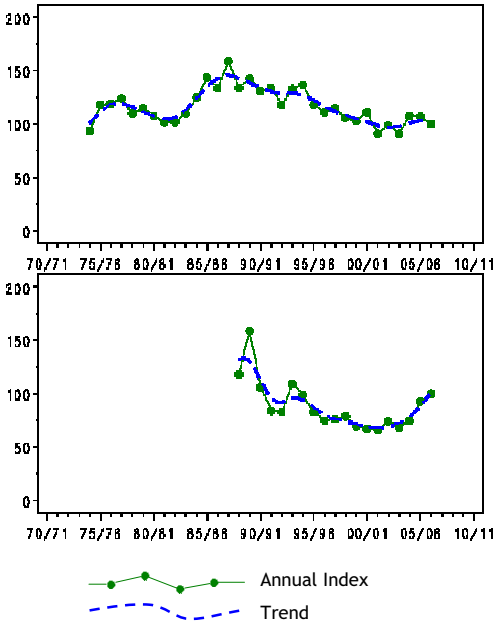

Figure 57.a, Annual indices & trend for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

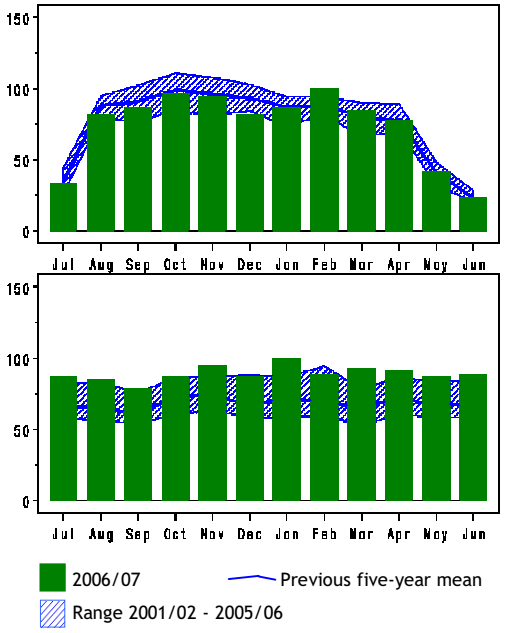

Figure 57.b, Monthly indices for Turnstone for GB (above) & NI (below).

Following a long and steady decline between the late 1980s and early 2000s the Turnstone trend for Britain has started to show signs of a recovery. The underlying trend has risen for the fourth consecutive year and numbers are similar to those of 2000/01. Numbers were similar to average throughout the year and higher than any of the past five years in February. The highest count at any single site was of 1,477 at the Thanet Coast in February, which was the highest at this site since 1987/88. The only other site in Britain holding a peak exceeding 1,000 birds was Morecambe Bay. Peak numbers at The Wash were the lowest for six years and were almost half those of the previous year.

The counted maximum for Northern Ireland was the highest for 12 years. This was reflected in the trend, which has shown a definite increase following several years of stability between the late 1990s and early 2000s. Numbers in Northern Ireland were well above average throughout the year. In Northern Ireland, Turnstone were recorded in highest numbers along the Outer Ards Shoreline, although peak numbers at all four key sites in the province were not dissimilar to those in recent years.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Tiree				1,191 [44]			1,191
Thanet Coast	1,118	1,192	1,130	949	1,477	Feb	1,173
The Wash	1,324	1,044	1,244	1,169	657	Aug	1,088
Morecambe Bay	1,150	766	(1,054)	1,269	1,163	Apr	1,087
North Norfolk Coast	833	727	1,028	928	678	Aug	839
Forth Estuary	940	716	778	847	554	Feb	767
Humber Estuary	(529)	723 [10]	(570)	(183)	(542)	Oct	723
Thames Estuary	(599)	(569)	711	680	680	Jan	690
Stour Estuary	(640)	537	705	655	569	Feb	621
Farne Islands	850	282	438	606	(445)	Sep	544
Langstone Harbour	702	342	459	742	450	Oct	539
Jersey Shore					526	Dec	526 ▲
Solway Estuary	(300)	(283)	(509)	(280)	(219)	Nov	(509)
Sites of all-Ireland importance in Northern Ireland							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,086	1,081	1,035	1,203	1,292	Jan	1,139
Belfast Lough	419	485	508	418	436	Jan	453
Carlingford Lough	206	230	624	356	480	Oct	379
Strangford Lough	224	225	235	435	382	Dec	300
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	726	471	421	427	409	Mar	491
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Winter 2006/2007 in Great Britain							
Pagham Harbour	523	484	333	395	723	Oct	492

Wilson's Phalarope

Vagrant

Phalaropus tricolor

Native Range: America

GB max: **1** **Sep**
NI max: **0**

The Camel Estuary played host to a single Wilson's Phalarope in September. This was the 18th record for WeBS and the first time that this species was noted at this site.

Red-necked Phalarope

Scarce

Phalaropus lobatus

GB max: **1** **Jun**
NI max: **0**

Just one Red-necked Phalarope was recorded during WeBS in 2006/07, at a breeding site in the Western Isles in June where up to four were noted during the previous summer.

Grey Phalarope

Scarce

Phalaropus fulicarius

GB max: **1** **Dec**
NI max: **0**

Grey Phalarope were noted at just two sites, with singles at the Camel Estuary in December and the Thames Estuary from January to March.

Kittiwake

Rissa tridactyla

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 4,373 Jul
NI max: 303 Jan

The British maximum was the highest for several years with the count for the Loch of Strathbeg making up three-quarters of this total. Peak numbers at Beadnell to Seahouses and Glyne Gap were above average. The Northern Irish maximum was the highest for nearly 10 years, involving mostly birds on the Outer Ards Shoreline.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	940	6,300	152	1,130	3,282	Jul	2,361
Lunan Bay	400	3,400	100	250	133	Jun	857
Tay Estuary	1,100	133	690	740	(190)	Aug	666
The Wash	(481) [27]						(481)
Tweed Estuary	470	860	114	340	410	Oct	439
Tees Estuary	30	1,492	(56)	61	112	Jun	424
Beadnell to Seahouses	160	350	140	512	850	May	402
Arran	185	290	340	701	400	Sep	383
Durham Coast	(0)	(0)	(279)	(250)	(363)	May	(363)
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	1,128	276	104	54	204	Jul	353
Forth Estuary	(453)	(426)	170	(276)	(128)	Nov	331
Winterfield to Catcraig					285	Sep	285
Nigg Bay to Cove Bay			846	0	0		282
Glyne Gap				19	457	Dec	238
Don Mouth to Ythan Mouth	0	153	534	(165)			229
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Morecambe Bay	(33)	77	150	159	329	Mar	179
Anstruther Bay	4	20	15 [12]	550	263	May	170
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	0	0	0	0	300	Jan	60

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Black-headed Gull

Larus ridibundus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 19,000†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 193,224 Feb
NI max: 12,733 Jan

In Britain, Black-headed Gulls are the most widespread and familiar of all gulls. The counted British maximum exceeded that of all other gulls combined. The highest Core Count from any single site was of just over 30,000 at The Wash in October and a further six sites held numbers in excess of 10,000 birds. Peak numbers at Bewl Water were twice those of the highest Core Count and were recorded during dusk roost counts. Peak numbers at the Blyth Estuary in Suffolk were the highest ever recorded at the site, whilst those at the Ribble Estuary were the highest since 2000/01.

Numbers in Northern Ireland peaked in January but this peak total for the region was the lowest since 1997/98. A total of seven sites in Northern Ireland held numbers in excess of 1,000 birds, with relatively high numbers on Larne Lough but a lower core count peak than usual on Strangford Lough.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	63,000 [11]	31,000 [38]	69,000 [38]	55,600 [11]	67,840 [11]	Dec	57,288
Chew Valley Lake		29,800 [38]					29,800
Thames Estuary	(30,275)	43,601 [38]	40,048	13,848	9,138	Feb	27,382
Humber Estuary	(363)	21,450 [38]	(1,028)	(2,298)	(819)	Oct	21,450
Lower Derwent Ings	25,300	28,000		11,000			21,433
Sites with mean peak counts of 10,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
The Wash	(15,999)	17,582 [38]	11,093	15,595	30,097	Oct	18,592
Poole Harbour	(12,461)	17,707 [38]	(11,811)	(5,720)	(3,830)	Nov	17,707
Queen Mary Reservoir		16,836 [38]					16,836
Blithfield Reservoir			16,500 [38]				16,500
Morecambe Bay	17,772	12,574	16,757	16,695	(15,232)	Aug	15,950
Church Wilne Reservoir		15,000 [38]					15,000
Grafham Water		14,470 [38]					14,470
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Pks		12,600 [38]					12,600
Southfield Reservoir		12,000 [38]					12,000
Blyth Estuary	(2,010)	7,000 [38]	(3,500)	4,203	23,700	Feb	11,634
Exe Estuary			11,577 [11]				11,577
Derwent Reservoir	4,300 [11]	(2,572)	30,000 [11]	10,000 [11]	1,723	Dec	11,506
Eyebrook Reservoir		11,300 [38]					11,300
Tophill Low Reservoirs	11,900	8,900	8,385	15,000 [11]	(0)		11,046
Ribble Estuary	(821)	7,419 [38]	9,750 [38]	10,228	15,261	May	10,665
Pitsford Reservoir	12,000 [11]	10,000 [38]	10,000 [11]	10,000 [11]			10,500
Severn Estuary	9,209 [10]	13,139 [38]	9,656 [38]	8,278 [38]	(3,589)	Oct	10,071
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Belfast Lough	5,503 [10]	7,095 [10]	7,515 [10]	9,936 [10]	(6,823)	Dec	7,512
Outer Ards Shoreline	4,945	5,113	2,419	4,566	3,800	Jan	4,169
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(4,036)	(1,593)	(2,267)	(3,472)	(3,978)	Mar	(4,036)
Strangford Lough	3,518 [10]	3,388	3,111	4,011 [10]	3,889 [10]	Nov	3,583
Lough Foyle	2,780	1,300 [38]	1,057	2,565	2,091	Nov	1,959
Upper Lough Erne	(65)	(595)	(439)	(405)	1,740	Mar	1,740
Larne Lough	733	831	1,396	591	2,245	Feb	1,159
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Haweswater Reservoir	300 [11]	726 [12]	200 [11]	541 [11]	17,185 [11]	Mar	3,790
Rutland Water	1,000	21,000 [38]	300	5,500	12,000	Mar	7,960
Doddington Pool	600	150	11,000 [38]	12,000	11,000	Dec	6,950

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 10,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Black-headed Gull (Mark Collier)

Little Gull

Larus minutus

International threshold: 1,230
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 246 Jul
NI max: 1 Sep

Little Gulls were noted at 45 sites across Britain and at a further two in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was of 206 at the Tay Estuary in Scotland, which was the highest recorded at this site. Whilst Hornsea Mere provided the second-highest peak, numbers were much lower than the huge count of two years earlier, and the spring count at the Alt Estuary was also lower than usual. Most sites supported counts in single figures. There were just three records from Northern Ireland, these were all of single birds and were at Loughs Neagh and Beg in September and the Bann Estuary in March and June.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Hornsea Mere	1,350 [11]	(940) [12]	7,000	160	195	Sep	2,176
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Alt Estuary	218	432	201 [11]	530 [11]	141	Apr	304
Tophill Low Reservoirs	10	110 [12]	90 [12]	375 [11]	0		117
Forth Estuary	41	75 [25]	321	(0)	25	Oct	116
Tay Estuary	50	36	28	26	206	Jul	69
North Norfolk Coast	9	38	8	32	176	Dec	53
Monikie Reservoirs	60	0	38	(0)			33
Lindisfarne	(0)	26	(0)	(0)	(0)		26
Minsmere	(15)	73	1	8	0		21
Alde Complex	0	0	(0)	49			16
East Chevington Pools	29	12	18	3	14	Jul	15
Morecambe Bay	1	36	7	3	14	Jan	12
Rescobie Loch	(11)						(11)
Yetholm Pond	0				20	Dec	10
Moray Firth			8 [1]	9 [1]			9
Outer Tay & St Andrews Bay		13 [25]	4 [25]				9
Dengie Flats		8	0	22	0		8
Humber Estuary	(2)	(12)	(0)	3	(0)		8
Tring Reservoirs	1	40	0	0	0		8
St Andrews Bay			7				7
Staines Reservoirs	18	11	1	1	6	Apr	7
Thames Estuary	17	(2)	3	1	(2)	Apr	7
King George VI Reservoir	1	20	1	1			6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Tees Estuary	2	7	3	4	6	Jun	4

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Mediterranean Gull

Larus melanocephalus

International threshold: 6,600†
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 295 Feb
NI max: 4 Mar

The counted British maximum was around 10% lower than during the previous year, although it was still the second highest recorded. Birds were noted at 105 sites in Britain and at four in Northern Ireland. A total of 30 sites held peak counts of five or more birds, two of which, Southampton Water and Wootton Creek, held a peak in excess of 100 birds. In Britain, most of the key sites for Mediterranean Gull are along the south coast. Concentrations away from here included 33 at Swansea Bay and eight at Morecambe Bay.

Birds were recorded in September, October and March in Northern Ireland, where most records were of single birds, except for two at both Larne Lough and the Outer Ards Shoreline during March.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 5 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Folkestone: Copt Pt & East Wear Bay			157 [38]				157
Brading Harbour	126	57	92	148	91	Aug	103
Newtown Estuary	80	(15)	(42)	57	31	Feb	56
Pagham Harbour	16		2	60	71	Feb	37
Thames Estuary	20	27	27	30	71	Sep	35
Ryde Pier to Puckpool Point	45	9	47	45	22	Sep	34
Southampton Water	(0)	1 [38]	0	(2)	(112)	Apr	29
Breydon Watr & Berney Marshes				27 [38]			27
Tamar Complex	30	0	(26)	39	34	Jul	26
Wootton Creek	2	1	3	12	102	Jul	24
Swansea Bay	16	19	12 [38]	28	33	Feb	22
Camel Estuary	8	25	26	18	11	Sep	18
Chichester Harbour	(16)	(14)	(8)	(22)	12	Mar	16
Foreland	1	4	4	50	20	Nov	16
Fleet and Wey	2	4	8	23	39	Feb	15
Glyne Gap				5	(15)	Feb	10
North Norfolk Coast	13	8	5	6	18	May	10
Taw-Torridge Estuary	7	(3)	(5)	12	11	Aug	10
The Wash	2	8	15	7	16	May	10
Blyth Estuary	5	0	18	5	13	Mar	8
Minsmere	5	2	12	10	10	May	8
Morecambe Bay	(4)	(4)	4	12	(8)	Oct	8
Poole Harbour	3	(7)	12	8	(4)	Mar	8
Portsmouth Harbour	5 [10]	(1) [38]	(6)	7	11	Jan	8
Aberarth	0	0	6	22			7
Medway Estuary	(5)	(2)	2	(1)	(13)	Apr	6
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Fal Complex	1	(1)	1 [10]	1	8	Nov	3
North West Solent	(0)	0	1 [10]	0	8	Apr	2
Beaulieu Estuary		0	0	9	6	Feb	4
Belmont Reservoir			0	1	6	Mar	2
Alt Estuary	6	3	4	3	5	Aug	4
Guernsey Shore	0	(0)	(0)	(2)	5	Jan	3
Hamford Water	2	1	5	1	5	Feb	3
Hayle Estuary	2	1	2	2	5	Nov	2

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of five has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Common Gull

Larus canus

International threshold: 20,000**
Great Britain threshold: 9,000†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 60,183 Feb
NI max: 4,094 Oct

Although the British maximum was a third higher than the 2005/06 total, it was similar to the average of the past five years. However, as the recording of all gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS, numbers counted often reflect the change in coverage as much as any fluctuation in actual numbers. Three sites, Bewl Water, Haweswater Reservoir and Rutland Water, held peaks in excess of 10,000 birds and a further 19 sites held more than 1,000 birds. Mean numbers at Rutland Water have now surpassed the threshold for national importance and similarly, Hallington Reservoir has become of international importance. The key site in Northern Ireland was Lough Foyle where numbers peaked at a third lower than in the previous year.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Bewl Water	52,000 [11]	75,000 [38]	75,000 [38]	90,000 [11]	18,920 [11]	Dec	62,184
Derwent Reservoir	11,800 [11]	(6,500) [38]	80,000 [11]	40,000 [11]	5,030	Feb	34,208
Hallington Reservoir	24,000 [11]	25,000 [38]	13,300 [11]	34,000 [11]			24,075 ▲
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Chew Valley Lake		18,200 [38]		(0)	(0)		18,200
Haweswater Reservoir	13,674 [11]	27,986 [12]	22,000 [11]	12,535 [11]	10,398 [11]	Feb	17,319
Tophill Low Reservoirs	23,100	16,530	6,500	21,600 [11]	(0)		16,933 ▼

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Eyebrook Reservoir		16,100 [38]					16,100
Humber Estuary	(2,077)	29,000 [38]	2,005	(120)	(74)	Oct	15,503
Ullswater		11,470 [12]					11,470
West Water Reservoir		10,050 [38]					10,050
Rutland Water	100	12,080 [38]	14,500	10,000	10,000	Mar	9,336 ▲
Sites with mean peak counts of 3,000 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level		8,600 [38]					8,600
Solway Estuary	7,193	9,564 [38]	(2,275)	(285)	(2,463)	Aug	8,379
Ribble Estuary	(146)	6,036	9,817	(253)	(1,973)	Jan	7,927
Lower Derwent Ings	14,200	3,720 [38]		5,500			7,807
Colt Crag Reservoir	8,200 [11]	4,700 [38]	9,900 [11]				7,600
Loch of Lintrathen		(0)	10,000		2,250	Dec	6,125
Blyth Estuary	424	12,000 [38]	(822)	4,914	6,300	Feb	5,910
Southwold Sole Bay		5,000 [38]					5,000
Inner Firth of Clyde	1,106	(7,723)	2,304	2,463	6,234	Feb	3,966
St Mary`s Island-N. Shields Fish Quay				3,900 [11]			3,900
Loch of Skene	433	17,284 [38]	361	370	889	Dec	3,867
Tees Estuary	2,970	4,033	6,193 [38]	2,103	3,518	Dec	3,763
Moray Firth	5,037 [1]	5,208 [1]	809 [1]				3,685
Forth Estuary	(1,356)	6,321 [38]	2,500 [38]	2,100 [38]	(500)	Dec	3,640
Hule Moss	6,300 [12]	5,600 [12]	3,550	1,850	40	Oct	3,468
Severn Estuary	746 [10]	3,714 [38]	4,259 [38]	5,110 [38]	(1,076)	Jan	3,457
Wet Sleddale Reservoir	1,740 [11]	9,418 [12]	2,330 [11]	1,765 [11]	2,020 [11]	Sep	3,455
Chichester Harbour	4,142	3,389	3,778	2,379	3,225	Jan	3,383
Morecambe Bay	3,194	4,358	3,633	2,802	2,322	Sep	3,262
Pitsford Reservoir	4,000 [11]	3,000 [38]	3,000 [11]	3,000 [11]			3,250
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Park		3,200 [38]					3,200
North Norfolk Coast	1,283	5,600 [38]	(2,163)	4,342	1,550	Apr	3,194
Wigtown Bay	1,427	3,251	7,269	675	(3,291)	Jan	3,183
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	4,182	5,311	692	(309)	2,281	Feb	3,117
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Lough Foyle	4,606	(5,930)	2,322	4,354	2,836	Nov	4,010
Belfast Lough	2,718	2,644 [10]	1,937 [10]	2,156	1,405 [10]	Feb	2,372
Outer Ards Shoreline	772	2,543	1,171	1,328	984	Jan	1,360
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Dee Flood Meadows	(750)	(1,350)	(400)	1,000	3,800	Feb	2,400
Longnewton Reservoir	2,800	4,400	1,300	2,700	3,400	Dec	2,920
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Northern Ireland†							
Larne Lough	338	514	(644)	84	1,194	Feb	555

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 3,000 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Ring-billed Gull

Larus delawarensis

Vagrant
Native Range: N America

GB max: **3** **Nov**
NI max: **0**

With the exception of September, Ring-billed Gulls were recorded in all months between July and April. All records were of single birds, although multiple counts were noted at Portsmouth Harbour between October and February and at the Thames Estuary between August and March. Nationally, the highest monthly totals were three in both November and February. Birds were present at six sites in England, one (Llys-y-fran Reservoir) in Wales and at the Guernsey Shore in the Channel Islands.

Lesser Black-backed Gull

Larus fuscus

International threshold: **5,500**
Great Britain threshold: **500**
All-Ireland threshold: **?†**

GB max: **39,035** **Aug**
NI max: **1,891** **Sep**

The British counted maximum was higher than in 2005/06 although slightly below the average of the past five years. It is important to remember, however, that as the counting of gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS national totals reflect

changes in counting effort as much as in actual numbers. Morecambe Bay remains the principal site for this species and holds mean numbers four times higher than any other site counted by WeBS, largely due to the breeding colony at Walney Island. A further 12 sites held peak numbers in excess of 1,000 birds, the same as during the previous year. Peak numbers at Llys-y-fran Reservoir were the second highest ever recorded at this site. The highest count at a single site in Northern Ireland was of 1,136 at Loughs Neagh and Beg in October; this figure was similar to the mean for the site.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of international importance in the UK								
Morecambe Bay	36,461	31,479	33,004	21,932	29,576	Aug	30,490	
Severn Estuary	(3,072)	(8,073)	(10,036)	4,696 [38]	(115)	May	7,602	▲
Chew Valley Lake		7,015 [38]		(0)	(0)		7,015	
Queen Mary Reservoir		6,656 [38]					6,656	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
Theale Gravel Pits	3	20,000 [38]	1,152 [38]	74	(1)	Jan	5,307	
Solway Estuary	(673)	(971)	(154)	(253)	4,701	May	4,701	
R. Avon: Fordingbridge-Ringw'd	2,309	6,550 [38]	3,500	5,100	3,150	Sep	4,122	
Cotswold Water Park (West)	(25)	5,800 [38]	(44)	(141)	314	Nov	3,057	▼
Belvide Reservoir		3,000 [38]					3,000	
Ribble Estuary	(244)	106	(113)	3,011	5,525	May	2,881	
Longnewton Reservoir	2,680	1,890	2,930	3,310	2,740	Sep	2,710	
Blithfield Reservoir			2,620 [38]				2,620	
Great Pool Westwood Park	2,000	3,800 [38]	2,500	2,500	2,000	Dec	2,560	
Rutland Water	5,000	2,500	200	1,200	50	Feb	1,790	
Alt Estuary	4,341	945	556	809	1,980	Aug	1,726	
Hule Moss	2,100 [12]	250 [12]	2,900 [12]	2,500	550	Sep	1,660	
Alde Complex	4,474	388 [38]	1,833	1,162	134	Dec	1,598	
Thames Estuary	1,507	1,898 [38]	2,966	775	273	Aug	1,484	
Llys-y-fran Reservoir	2,000	90	650	600	(4,000)	Feb	1,468	
Lower Windrush Valley GPs	871	484	1,343	1,071	2,756	Oct	1,305	
Roadford Reservoir	70	6,031 [38]	110	71	56	Jul	1,268	
Pitsford Reservoir	1,000 [11]	2,000 [12]	550 [11]	1,500 [11]			1,263	
Bartley Reservoir		1,200 [38]					1,200	
Hurleston Reservoir	700	1,500 [38]	3,500 [38]	84	35	Oct	1,164	
The Wash	855	898	1,039	1,075	1,027	Sep	979	
Haweswater Reservoir	400 [11]	1,450 [12]	1,796 [11]	337 [11]	775 [11]	Sep	952	
Lakenheath Fen			(0)	1,500	358	Nov	929	
Chelmarsh Reservoir	(34)	3,500 [38]	83	56	47	Oct	922	
Cleddau Estuary	659	723	1,537	552	786	Mar	851	
Inner Firth of Clyde	544	705	509	769	1,253	Jul	756	
Llangorse Lake	1,110 [11]	1,140 [12]	1,400 [11]	28	74	Dec	750	
Ouse Washes	104	760 [38]	256	2,305	44	Feb	694	
Wellington Gravel Pits	(1,400)	750	100		400 [12]	Mar	663	
Heaton Park Reservoir	920 [11]	200 [38]	870 [38]				663	
Hayle Estuary	130	940	980	(552)	566	Mar	654	
Heathfield Gravel Pits	300	(1,000)					650	
Burghfield Gravel Pits		618 [38]					618	
Portworthy Mica Dam	419	700	960 [38]	469	475	Dec	605	
Carsington Water	194	1,160 [38]	97	68	1,450	Dec	594	▲
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	1,560	218	328	80			547	▲
Hollowell Reservoir		500 [38]					500	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Dee Flood Meadows	(0)	(4)	(0)	600	360	Jan	480	
Frampton Pools	(250)						(250)	
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,218	1,115	(434)	997	1,136	Oct	1,117	
Belfast Lough	279	310	246	792	(935)	Sep	512	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	13	26	3	6	862	Sep	182	
Doddington Pool	3	10	80	400	700	Dec	239	
Ditchford Gravel Pits		276	534	367	662	Nov	460	
Wintersett & Cold Hiendley Res	1				580	Oct	291	
Colliford Reservoir	144	92	455	172	557	Jan	284	

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Herring Gull

Larus argentatus

International threshold: 5,900
Great Britain threshold: 4,500†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 71,238 Jan
NI max: 6,701 Dec

The counted British maximum of Herring Gull was the second highest of the last six years and was half as much again as the 2005/06 total. However, as the counting of gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS summed national maxima reflect changes in counting effort as much as in actual numbers. The peak at the Ribble Estuary in January was by far the highest site total, with only a further four sites holding peaks in excess of 5,000 birds. As in the previous year, a total of seven sites qualify as internationally important for this species and five sites, one fewer than in 2005/06, qualify as nationally important in Great Britain. In Northern Ireland only one site, Belfast Lough, is of international importance. Numbers here during 2006/07 were the lowest for some time but this was due, at least in part, incomplete coverage of the site.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
Ribble Estuary	(209)	14,859 [38]	(31,090)	2,060	25,336	Jan	18,336
Forth Estuary	(1,925)	7,376 [38]	(15,434)	(1,780)	(1,419)	Sep	11,405
Morecambe Bay	14,373	10,551	8,311	7,545	8,553	Aug	9,867
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	27,956 [10]	2,341	2,003	(3,000)	2,352	Oct	8,663
Queen Mary Reservoir		8,279 [38]					8,279
Belfast Lough	7,046	7,536 [10]	7,903 [10]	10,296 [10]	6,655 [10]	Nov	7,887
Moray Firth	10,335 [1]	6,468 [1]	2,349 [1]				6,384
The Wash	7,640	10,703 [38]	3,258	3,527	6,212	Jan	6,268
Sites of national importance in Great Britain							
Rye Harbour and Pett Level		5,850 [38]					5,850
Hastings to Bexhill		5,700 [38]					5,700
Isle of May				5,220 [38]			5,220
Thames Estuary	3,330	(4,349)	8,504	3,680	4,456	Oct	4,993
Hamilton Low & Strathclyde Park		4,600 [38]					4,600
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007							
Llandegfedd Reservoir			4,710 [38]		10	Nov	2,360
Sites with mean peak counts of 2,500 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Guernsey Shore	2,127	2,759	(3,744)	(2,362)	(5,704)	Sep	3,584
North Norfolk Coast	3,964	(3,047)	5,307	2,340	2,474	Mar	3,521
Alt Estuary	3,153	3,825 [38]	7,155	2,150	1,005	Aug	3,458
Roughrigg Reservoir	1,121	15,144 [38]	416	210	135	Nov	3,405
Chew Valley Lake		3,400 [38]					3,400
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	3,602	4,052 [38]	4,244	1,210	(2,613)	Jan	3,277
Severn Estuary	2,981 [10]	3,500 [38]	(3,164)	(2,666)	(279)	Oct	3,241
Troon Meikle Craigs		3,174 [38]					3,174
Caldey Island		2,800 [38]					2,800
Solway Estuary	3,281	2,189 [38]	(1,051)	(480)	(1,009)	Aug	2,735
Durham Coast	(31)	(62)	(618)	1,501	3,949	Sep	2,725
Sites with mean peak counts of 1,000 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Outer Ards Shoreline	1,001	(1,351)	1,179	1,304	1,602	Oct	1,287
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Linton Pond Ellington	642	320	92	1,750	4,000	Jan	1,361
Carmarthen Bay	(2,111)	(371)	(3,066)	1,423	2,860	Sep	2,450
Glyne Gap				1,486	(2,700)	Feb	2,093
Tweed Estuary	1,120	1,540	1,240	1,210	2,570	Oct	1,536

† as few sites exceed the British threshold and no All-Ireland threshold has been set qualifying levels of 2,500 and 1,000 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

Yellow-legged Gull

Larus michahellis

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 100 Oct
NI max: 0

Yellow-legged Gulls were recorded at 40 sites in England, two in Scotland and two in Wales; there were no records from Northern Ireland. Birds were noted in every month except April, with the peak of 100 in October. This total was the lowest recorded by WeBS for some years and although Caspian Gull is now recognised as a full species, and therefore not included in this total any longer, this only accounts for a small proportion of this total. Much of the variation in the British total can be explained by figures at the top few sites. In 2006/07, fewer birds than in recent years were at the Lower Test Marshes in Southampton Water, which accounts for nearly all of this year's change.

Sites with 5 or more birds in 2006/07†

Southampton Water	60	Aug	North Norfolk Coast	10	Jul
River Avon - Fordingbridge to Ringwood	30	Oct	Queen Mary Reservoir	8	Dec
Thames Estuary	22	Oct	Orwell Estuary	8	[10] Jan
Glyne Gap	14	Oct	Portworthy Mica Dam	6	Aug
Rutland Water	14	Oct			

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 5 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Caspian Gull

Larus cachinnans

International threshold: 7,000
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 5 Dec
NI max: 0

Caspian Gulls were noted at six sites during 2006/07, all of which were in England. Birds were recorded in August and in every month from October to March. All records were of single birds except for two in October and four in December at Ditchford Gravel Pits.

Iceland Gull

Larus glaucoides

International threshold: 2,000
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 28 Feb
NI max: 6 Jan

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS, surpassing the 2004/05 record by two. Birds were recorded in every month from November to May in Britain and from December to April in Northern Ireland. The highest total at a single site was eight at Loch A Chairn Bhain in February; however, most counts were of single birds. Iceland Gulls were noted at 30 sites in Britain, 22 of which were in Scotland, and an additional three sites in Northern Ireland.

Glaucous Gull

Larus hyperboreus

International threshold: 10,000
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 7 Feb
NI max: 1 Nov

As usual, most records of Glaucous Gulls were of birds in Scotland with birds being noted at ten sites around the region. All Scottish records were of single birds and were at Applecross Bay, Bay of Clachtoll, Braewick Loch, Loch A Chairn Bhain, Loch a` Phuill (Tiree), Loch Eriboll, Loch Fleet, Loch Inver, Loch of Skaill and Scourie Bay.

The earliest records were from Dundrum Inner Bay and Middle Yare Marshes in November and the latest was from Braewick Loch in June. Other birds, all singles, were at, Belfast Lough, Ribble Estuary, North Norfolk Coast, Camel Estuary and Guernsey Shore.

Great Black-backed Gull

Larus marinus

International threshold:	**4,400**
Great Britain threshold:	**400**
All-Ireland threshold:	**?†**

GB max: **8,155** **Jan**
NI max: **1,140** **Dec**

The British maximum was the second lowest since gulls were first counted for WeBS in 1993/94. However, as the recording of all gulls and terns remains optional during WeBS, numbers counted often reflect the change in coverage as much as any fluctuation in actual numbers. The highest single site total during 2006/07 was of 1,900 at Linton Pond Ellington, the most ever recorded at this site. An additional three sites - The Wash, Thames Estuary and Tees Estuary - held numbers in excess of 1,000 birds.

The counted maximum for Northern Ireland was lower than that of the previous year but was only the fourth time that this total has surpassed 1,000 birds. The highest single site total from the region was recorded at Belfast Lough, where numbers were low compared to those of 2005/06 (although there was incomplete coverage of the whole site), but slightly higher than the five-year mean.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean	
Sites of national importance in Great Britain								
The Wash	1,959	4,628	(1,480)	1,773	1,186	Sep	2,387	
Humber Estuary	(113)	2,200 [38]	(226)	(66)	(20)	Mar	2,200	
Thames Estuary	1,236 [10]	857 [38]	1,648	1,972	1,096	Nov	1,362	
Tees Estuary	702	1,523	1,657	(366)	1,027	Jan	1,227	
Lynemouth Ash Lagoons		1,074					1,074	
Grafham Water		1,050 [38]					1,050	
Coquet Island		980 [38]					980	
Ogston Reservoir		900 [38]					900	
Durham Coast	(21)	(41)	(684)	776	(659)	Nov	776	
Lower Derwent Ings	777	1,041 [38]		500			773	
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	1,432 [10]	70	(93)	(4)	(5)	Dec	751	
Pegwell Bay	1,305 [10]	305	610	1,190	163	Oct	715	
Tophill Low Reservoirs	3,030	223 [38]	120	17	0		678	
Moray Firth	1,001 [1]	674 [1]	336 [1]				670	
Guernsey Shore	(353)	(560)	(404)	(477)	(619)	Jan	(619)	
North Norfolk Coast	617	1,051	327	471	262	Oct	546	
Loch of Strathbeg	569	(606)	191	795	525	Jan	537	
Brogborough Clay Pit	59	997 [38]					528	▲
Hastings to Bexhill		520 [38]					520	
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	(169)	519 [38]	(169)	(58)	(176)	Oct	519	▲
Glyne Gap				355	655	Sep	505	▲
Eyebrook Reservoir		500 [38]					500	
Southfield Reservoir		408 [38]					408	
Heaton Park Reservoir	380 [11]	494 [38]	340 [38]				405	▲
Hoveringham & Bleasby GPs		1,600 [38]	2	0	0		401	
Linton Pond Ellington	10	62 [38]	18	14	1,900	Jan	401	▲
Romney Sands		400 [38]					400	
Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007								
Hanningfield Reservoir	1,098 [38]	437 [38]	0	140	15	Dec	338	
Dungeness Gravel Pits		1,000 [38]	0		1	Feb	334	
Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Northern Ireland†								
Belfast Lough	397	436 [10]	1,008	1,281	(827)	Feb	790	
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain								
Morecambe Bay	353	(322)	296	(313)	466	Jan	372	
East Chevington Pools	240	120	(80)	230	400	Nov	248	
Llyn Coron	0	0	1	0	400	Nov	80	

† as no All-Ireland threshold has been set a qualifying level of 500 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Little Tern

Sternula albifrons

International threshold: 490
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 811 **Jul 2006**
NI max: 0

The British counted maximum was similar to those of the past few years; as usual no birds were recorded in Northern Ireland. Birds were present at 44 sites in Britain, most of which were in England with a few in Scotland and one in Wales. The highest count during 2006 was of 284 at the North Norfolk Coast in June, similar to the five-year mean for the site. Peak numbers at the Dee Estuary (England and Wales) were lower than in recent years, although this site remains the top site on average for the species. Higher than average counts were noted at the Thames Estuary, while those on The Wash were the lowest for three years.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	242	(256)	300	411	250	Jul	301
North Norfolk Coast	280	405	233	246	284	Jun	290
The Wash	(36)	68	(108)	182	83	Aug	111
Thames Estuary	(100)	(28)	33	74	154	Aug	90
Duddon Estuary	28	42	84	92	52	May	60
Fleet and Wey	59	62	69	24	66	May	56
Durham Coast	(6)		(0)	(67)	39	Jul	53
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Humber Estuary	(25)	(14)	27	(22)	(59)	Jul	43

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Gull-billed Tern

Gelochelidon nilotica

Vagrant
Native Range: S & E Europe, America, Asia

GB max: 1 **May 2006**
NI max: 0

A single Gull-billed Tern was reported at the Taw-Torridge Estuary (Caen to Whitehouse section) during May. This was the fourth record for WeBS, the last being at Drift Reservoir in September 2002.

Black Tern

Chlidonias niger

International threshold: 7,500
Great Britain threshold: ?
All-Ireland threshold: ?

GB max: 69 **Sep 2006**
NI max: 2 **Sep 2006**

During 2006, Black Terns were recorded on WeBS counts from 29 sites. Just four were noted in May, with the remainder of records typically in the autumn period from August to November. As usual, the species was most widespread in September, with most records in England but a handful in Scotland (Castle Loch Lochmaben and Loch a` Phuill), Wales (Llynnau Y Fali and Dyfi Estuary) and Northern Ireland (Bann Estuary). Whilst most records involved one or two birds, more notable flocks were recorded from Chew Valley Lake (18) and Deeping St James (16). The last were two on the Ribble Estuary in November.

Sandwich Tern

Sterna sandvicensis

International threshold: 1,700
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 12,316 Jul 2006
NI max: 352 Aug 2006

The British maximum was the highest ever recorded by WeBS, being a third higher again than that of the previous year. The Northern Ireland maximum was similar to that of the past few years. The majority of birds were present between April and October although a few records were received outside of this period. Birds were noted at around 130 sites, eight of which were in Northern Ireland. The highest single-site total was 8,062 at the North Norfolk Coast in July, this was the highest ever recorded at any site. The numbers counted at the Forth Estuary remain well below the five-year mean for the site, although this is largely due to incomplete coverage of the site. Lower than average counts were noted at Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon (although no colony counts were received), the Tees Estuary and the Dee Estuary (England and Wales).

Most records from Northern Ireland were of birds at Dundrum Inner Bay, with a total of 311 birds present here in August. Belfast Lough held 126 in October and birds were noted in every month at the Bann Estuary between May and September.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites of international importance in the UK							
North Norfolk Coast	4,600	4,170	5,533	3,228	8,062	Jul	5,119
Forth Estuary	(2,317)	2,802	(1,526)	(1,243)	(1,018)	Aug	2,802
Cemlyn Bay and Lagoon		2,455	2,700	2,000	12	Apr	1,792
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Tees Estuary	974	2,601	(333)	221	490	Jul	1,072
Humber Estuary	(396)	(303)	(324)	(325)	(957)	Jul	(957)
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	1,632	716	759	829	530	Jul	893
Duddon Estuary	704	955	1,144	604	843	May	850
Pegwell Bay	360	(930)	(680)	824	650 [12]	Jul	689
Solway Estuary	(206)	(548)	(282)	(209)	(339)	Aug	(548)
Ythan Estuary	930	150					540
Morecambe Bay	(220)	531	500	110	190	Apr	333
Tay Estuary	461	310	96	126	(377)	Aug	274
Eden Estuary	124	112	139	33	766	Aug	235
The Wash	150	223	208	307	164	Sep	210
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Northern Ireland†							
Dundrum Inner Bay	722	264	173	133	311	Aug	321
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Lindisfarne		4	80	(7)	300	May	128
St Andrews Bay	16	18	15	37	242	Aug	66
Inner Firth of Clyde	(85)	(160)	116	195	216	Aug	176
Alt Estuary	41	178	219	116	207	Jul	152

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Common Tern

Sterna hirundo

International threshold: 1,900
Great Britain threshold: ?†
All-Ireland threshold: ?†

GB max: 5,610 Aug 2006
NI max: 77 Aug 2006

The British maximum for 2006 was similar to those of the past few years. Birds were recorded at nearly 300 sites across Britain and Northern Ireland and the majority of counts were in single figures, although totals of ten or more birds were noted at a third of these sites. Most birds were present between April and October, with only a handful recorded outside this period.

Peak numbers at the country's key site, the Alt Estuary, were lower than in the previous year, although similar to the average of the past few years. The peak count for The Wash was the highest ever

recorded at the site, being almost three times the site average. Higher than average totals were also noted nearby at the North Norfolk Coast. A few sites held fewer birds than usual; these included the Tees Estuary and the Humber Estuary, although incomplete coverage at the latter may explain some of this figure. In Northern Ireland almost all records of Common Tern were of birds at Dundrum Inner Bay, with 77 here in August.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 200 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Alt Estuary	900 [11]	1,664	1,135	2,010	1,503	Aug	1,442
Tees Estuary	696	1,678	1,251	(521)	866	Jul	1,123
North Norfolk Coast	321	419	476	450	606	Jul	454
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	422	(384)	(180)	(109)	454	Jun	438
Forth Estuary	(691)	193	(183)	287	(176)	Aug	390
The Wash	(102)	122	199	129	1,092	Aug	386
Thames Estuary	(158)	(224)	(553)	219	(206)	Aug	332
Humber Estuary	(291)	280	(160)	(61)	(19)	Aug	286
Loch of Strathbeg	108	199	151	449	326	Jul	247
Tay Estuary	700	23	40	123	(100)	Aug	222
Ythan Estuary	18	415					217
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Rutland Water	120	100	112	120	228	Jul	136

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 200 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Roseate Tern

Scarce

Sterna dougallii

GB max: **2** **Sep 2006**
NI max: **0**

Roseate Terns were reported from only two sites during 2006, the lowest number of records to date. Two were at Lindisfarne in September and a late bird was recorded at Pagham Harbour in October.

Arctic Tern

Sterna paradisaea

International threshold: **?**
Great Britain threshold: **?†**
All-Ireland threshold: **?†**

GB max: **1,126** **Jul 2006**
NI max: **10** **Aug 2006**

Of the 84 sites at which Arctic Terns were recorded at during 2006 there was roughly an equal split of sites in Scotland and England. However, the larger counts were recorded at sites in Scotland and northern England with most records from southern England being of one or two birds. The British maximum was half that of the previous year, but for any species that is largely recorded during passage or at a few breeding locations the total recorded during WeBS counts can be highly variable. The highest single-site total of 214 at Nor Wick and Skaw was around a tenth that of the previous year's top count. The majority were recorded between May and September with only a handful of birds in April and October.

The only records from Northern Ireland were of ten at Dundrum Inner Bay in August.

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Loch of Strathbeg	35	(68)	40	2,100	164	May	585
Ythan Estuary	106	860					483
Forth Estuary	(1,214)	197	(186)	7	32	Sep	327
Loch of Beith	150 [12]	31		1,000	45	May	307
Loch An Duin (Aird Point) (Lewis)				300			300
Tay Estuary	660	290	0	10	(50)	Aug	240
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	477	150	120	58	37	Jun	168

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Mon	Mean
The Houb (Whalsay)	120	82	300	3	200	Jul	141
Morecambe Bay	94	(178)	(59)	(16)	(11)	Jun	136
Eden Estuary	125	320	4	0	209	Jul	132
Cambois to Newbiggin	246	0					123
St Andrews Bay	29	(0)	192	70	110	Jul	100
Ness of Sound					90	Aug	90
Nor Wick and Skaw	32	32	(10)	9	214	Jul	72
Inner Loch Indaal	51	76					64
Braewick Loch	170	50	30	47 [12]	18	May	63
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in Summer 2006 in Great Britain†							
Loch Bhasapoll (Tiree)	22	36	9	50	80	Jun	39
Beadnell to Seahouses	0	1	0	53	62	Sep	23
Loch Mor (Benbecula)				0	60	Jun	30
Harold`s Wick	20	10	4	5	51	Jul	18

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 50 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report

Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis

International threshold: **?**
Great Britain threshold: **?†**
All-Ireland threshold: **?†**

GB max: **473** **Sep**
NI max: **9** **Oct**

The British counted maximum for Kingfisher was similar to the average of the past five years. However, it is important to remember that the WeBS methodology is not ideal for monitoring species as widespread and elusive as Kingfisher. Fourteen sites held mean peak counts of seven or more birds during 2006/07; this was a similar number to the past few years. The highest single site totals were at the Somerset Levels and Wraysbury Gravel Pits, other double-figure counts were at Lee Valley Gravel Pits and Ditchford Gravel Pits.

The Northern Irish maximum has always been in single figures and the 2006/07 total was the highest to date. Birds were noted at eight sites in the province, the highest counts being of four at Loughs Neagh and Beg in both September and October.

	02/03	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	Mon	Mean
Sites with mean peak counts of 7 or more birds in Great Britain†							
Somerset Levels	(14)	(12)	20	(18)	17	Feb	19
Wraysbury Gravel Pits	19	12	18	16	17	Oct	16
Ditchford Gravel Pits		13	12	13	12	Aug	13
Southampton Water	(5)	(6)	9	(11)	(8)	Nov	10
North Norfolk Coast	7	6	8	10	14	Sep	9
Thames Estuary	9	(7)	7	10	9	Oct	9
Chichester Gravel Pits	4	7	9	11	7	Nov	8
Colne Valley Gravel Pits	(4)	(4)	5	9	9	Feb	8
Lee Valley Gravel Pits	4	10	6	9	(13)	Oct	8
Avon Valley: Salisbury-Fordingbr'	(4)	(6)	(5)	(7)	(4)	Oct	(7)
Eversley Cross & Yateley GPs	8	10	6	8	5	Sep	7
Lower Derwent Ings	11	3	6	7			7
Pitsford Reservoir	9	11	(3)	6	3	Aug	7
Stour Estuary	(11)	6	(6)	6	4	Apr	7
Other sites surpassing table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2006/2007 in Great Britain†							
Grand Western Canal	3	6	4	6	9	Aug	6
Camel Estuary	(3)	(7)	3 [10]	6	7	Dec	6
Barton Broad	4	5	3	3	7	Oct	4
Gunthorpe GPs & River Trent	3	2	(2)	5	7	Oct	4
River Test - Broadlands Estate	1	0	2	3	7	Sep	3

† as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set a qualifying level of 7 has been chosen to select sites for presentation in this report