

## 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
- <sup>1,2</sup> 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.

- RSPB/Talisman Energy studies, e.g. Stenning
- 1 (1998)
- 2 M. Howe (in litt.)
- 3 WWT studies, e.g. Rees *et al.* (2000)
- Bean Goose Working Group, e.g. Smith *et al.*
- 4 (1994)
- 5 RSPB *pers comm.*
- 6 Lancashire Goose Report, e.g. Forshaw (1998)
- 7 SNH 'adopted' counts
- 8 WWT data
- Greenland White-fronted Goose Study, e.g. Fox *et al.* (2009)
- 9 *al.* (2009)
- 10 SOTEAG reports, e.g. Heubeck (1998)
- 11 WeBS Low Tide Counts
- 12 Roost counts
- 13 Supplementary daytime counts
- 14 WWT/JNCC National Grey Goose Census
- 15 Firth of Clyde Eider counts, e.g. Waltho (2009)
- 16 R. Godfrey (in litt.)
- 17 SNH Greenland Goose Census
- 18 R. MacDonald (in litt.)
- 19 Little Egret Roost counts
- 20 C Hartley (in litt.)
- 21 WWT unpublished data
- 22 Dorset Bird Report
- 23 Judith Smith, Gr. Manchester County recorder
- 24 BTO/ Lucy Smith
- 25 Paul Daw, County recorder for Argyll
- 26 Steve Percival's counts of Lindisfarne - Svalbard
- 27 JNCC; aerial surveys of seaducks, divers & grebes
- 28 WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Thames

- strategic area
- WWT report to DTI. Aerial survey of Greater Wash
- 29 strategic area
- All Wales Common Scoter Survey. WWT reports to
- 30 CCW
- 31 All-Ireland Light-bellied Brent Goose Census
- 32 Cormorant Roost Survey 2003
- 33 Worden *et al.* 2004
- 34 RSPB data
- 35 SNH data
- 36 WWT UK-breeding Greylag Goose Survey
- 37 Supplementary counts
- 38 Winter Gull Roost Survey
- 39 BTO/CCW Carmarthen Bay surveys
- 40 B McMillan (in litt.)
- 41 C Langton (in litt.)
- 42 B Yates (in litt.)
- 43 Tیره non-estuarine counts, per J Bowler
- 44 A Stevenson (in litt.)
- 45 D Tate (in litt.)
- 46 Uist Greylag Goose Management Committee
- 47 Uists SPA wader survey (Ecology UK Ltd 2005)
- 48 P Wilson / Lancs Bird Report
- 49 W Aspin (in litt.)
- 50 Winter Swan Census
- 51 JNCC shore-based count
- 52 RSPB Bean Goose counts
- 53 SNH Argyll goose counts
- 54 WWT Dark-bellied Brent supplementary counts
- 55 Norfolk Bird Report

# White-faced Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna viduata*

Escape  
Native Range: S America, Africa

GB max: 1 May  
NI max: 0

A single White-faced Whistling Duck was recorded at Sherborne Lake in May. The only previous WeBS record is of one at Lee Valley Gravel Pits in March 1997.

# Mute Swan

*Cygnus olor*

International threshold (British population): 320  
International threshold (Irish population): 100  
Great Britain threshold: 375  
All-Ireland threshold: 110

GB max: 22,255 Nov  
NI max: 1,636 Dec

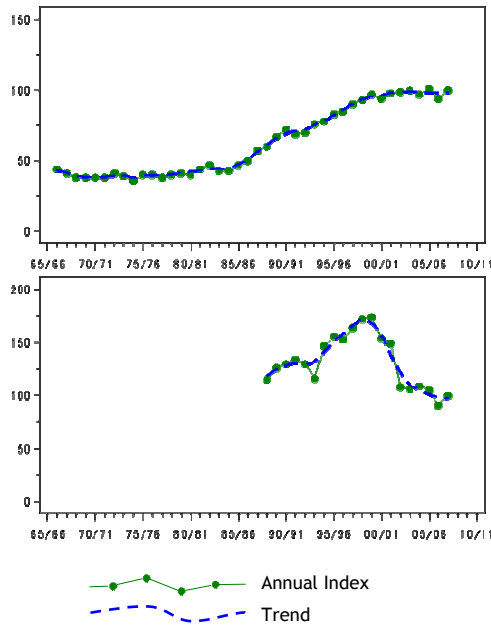


Figure 3.a, Annual indices & trend for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

Mute Swans occurring in Britain and Ireland are generally sedentary except for localised movements to coastal waters (especially in cold weather), freshwater marshes and agricultural fields. Many habitats frequented by Mute Swans are poorly covered by WeBS, and hence a relatively small proportion of the species' population is monitored by the survey from year to year. The most recent complete UK census was carried out in 2002 and estimated the population at 31,700 birds (Ward *et al.* 2007).

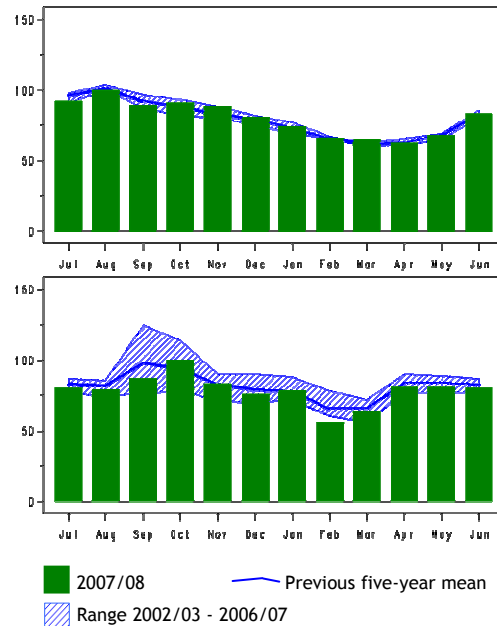


Figure 3.b, Monthly indices for Mute Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

In 2007/08, the monthly peak for Britain was 9% higher than that of the previous year. Similarly, after a drop in 2006/07 the national index returned to the level of preceding years which had exhibited a plateauing off of the increase shown by the species since the early 1980s.

The recent pronounced decline in Northern Ireland was halted where the peak count from the key site, Loughs Neagh & Beg, increased by some 300 birds following a marked drop the previous year. Eighteen sites in the UK

qualified as being of international importance, five of which are in Northern Ireland. Notably, the five-year means at Dungeness & Rye Bay and Stour Estuary surpassed the threshold for this qualification for the first time.

The highest count of the year received was a total of 1,151 at Ouse Washes in November, representing the highest ever number for the site. In contrast, the monthly maxima of birds at Fleet & Wey in Dorset fell below 1,000 for the first

winter since 1989/90. It is unclear whether this drop was linked to the outbreak of the H5N1 strain of 'avian influenza' identified at Abbotsbury Swannery in January; perhaps not, considering that numbers of swans present during autumn 2007 appear to have already been somewhat below average. Furthermore, detailed studies at the site suggested that overall mortality was no higher there during winter 2007/08 than in previous winters.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Somerset Levels	883	1,076	1,024	1,164	1,098	Nov	1,049
Fleet and Wey	1,092	1,118	1,147	1,013	867	Aug	1,047
Loughs Neagh and Beg	920	949	1,024	770	1,012	Oct	935
Ouse Washes	606	806 <sup>13</sup>	427 <sup>13</sup>	508 <sup>13</sup>	1,151	Nov	700
Rutland Water	542	593	510	588	499	Oct	546
Tweed Estuary	582	614	460	583	364	Jul	521
Hornsea Mere	527 <sup>13</sup>	520 <sup>13</sup>	462	375	290	Sep	435
Loch Leven	526	202	319	542	520	Aug	422
Loch Bee (South Uist)	407	630	267	401	399	Nov	421
Severn Estuary	(318)	390	390	421	477	Feb	420
Dungeness and Rye Bay	297	393	315	410	476	Feb	378 ▲
Upper Lough Erne	272	449	300	457	354	Jan	366
Abberton Reservoir	379	318	373	(399)	311	Aug	356
Loch of Harray	522	467	251	263	206	Oct	342
Stour Estuary	252	232	288	347	544	Oct	333 ▲
Lower Lough Erne	286	300	309	266	311	Dec	294
Strangford Lough	193	94	133	(59)	252	Nov	168
Upper Quoile River	108	108	134	121	144	Dec	123
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Tring Reservoirs	322	404	346	294	98	Jul	293

## Black Swan

*Cygnus atratus*

Escape†

Native Range: Australia

GB max: 58 Nov

NI max: 1 Sep

Black Swans were recorded at 90 sites across Britain and one in Northern Ireland, with a monthly maximum of 58 in November. The majority of records related to singles or pairs, but maxima of

seven were noted at Abberton Reservoir, Arnot Park Lake and Ramsbury Lake; all three regular sites for this species in recent years.

### Sites with four or more birds in 2007/08†

Abberton Reservoir	7	Sep	Whinefell Tarn	5	Jul
Arnot Park Lake	7	Jul	Blatherwyke Lake	4	Oct
Ramsbury Lake	7	Jan	Burghfield Gravel Pits	4	Nov
Eastbourne Park Lakes	5	Jan	Clifford Hill Gravel Pits	4	Jul
Fairburn Ings	5	Feb	Fleet and Wey	4	Jul
Southampton Water	5	Sep	R.Kennet: R'bury-Chilton Foliat	4	Aug
Stour Estuary	5	Apr			

† 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

## Black-necked Swan

*Cygnus melanocoryphus*

Escape  
Native Range: S America

GB max: 3 Nov  
NI max: 1 Nov

During the 2007/08 winter, up to three Black-necked Swans were present at Auchenreoch Loch with further singles at

Lough Foyle and Loughs Neagh & Beg. These represent the first WeBS records for Scotland and Northern Ireland respectively.

## Bewick's Swan

*Cygnus columbianus*

GB max: 3,917 Jan  
NI max: 0

% young 4.7  
Brood size 1.4

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

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

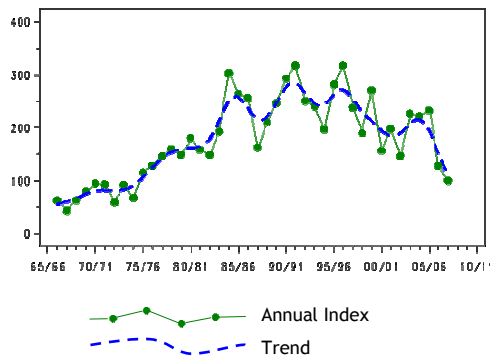


Figure 4.a, Annual indices & trend for Bewick's Swan for GB.

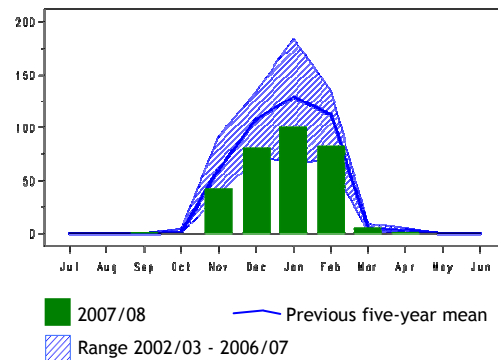


Figure 4.b, Monthly indices for Bewick's Swan for GB.

Bewick's Swans breed in the northern Russian tundra and winter primarily in Britain and the Netherlands. In recent years, there has been a contraction of the wintering range in an easterly direction, with notably fewer birds utilising traditional sites in southwest England in particular. These observations have helped to establish that, probably as a result of climate change and associated warmer winters, more swans are tending to remain closer to breeding grounds. Co-ordinated roost counts were again carried out at Ouse Washes and Nene Washes, the peak count being 3,128 at the former site in early January representing a further reduction compared to numbers recorded there in 2006/07. Declines were again noted at other regularly used smaller sites; for example, the steadily falling peaks noted at Severn Estuary and Martin

Mere & Ribble Estuary over the course of the last five years epitomise the trend of sites situated at the edge of the species' range. Similarly, a sad milestone was the fact that 2007/08 was the first year with no WeBS records from Northern Ireland.

Breeding productivity was assessed at three wintering sites in the UK during 2007/08; WWT Slimbridge, WWT Martin Mere/Ribble Estuary, and the Ouse Washes. Across the three sites, 4.7% of birds in the surveyed flocks were young birds, an indication of very poor breeding success in 2007. A similarly poor level was recorded on the continent and it has been suggested that a late spring thaw in the Pechora Delta in 2007 may have affected the breeding success of swans nesting within that part of the breeding range at least.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Ouse Washes	6,330 <sup>12</sup>	7,491 <sup>12</sup>	5,449 <sup>12</sup>	3,407 <sup>12</sup>	3,128 <sup>12</sup>	Jan	5,161
Nene Washes	790 <sup>12</sup>	262 <sup>12</sup>	1,649 <sup>12</sup>	703 <sup>12</sup>	642 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	810
Hickling Broad		282 <sup>50</sup>					282
St Benet's Levels	280						280
Severn Estuary	230	223 <sup>8</sup>	225	196	180	Jan	211
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Old Romney	184 <sup>13</sup>						184
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	220	237	231	147 <sup>12</sup>	87 <sup>13</sup>	Feb	184 ▼
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	221	175	(132)	24	(12)	Nov	140
Dungeness and Rye Bay	148	140	135	130	127	Feb	136
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	92	(101)	63	55	82	Feb	79

## Whooper Swan

*Cygnus cygnus*

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

GB max: 8,907 Feb  
NI max: 2,820 Feb

% young Brood 20.7  
2.6

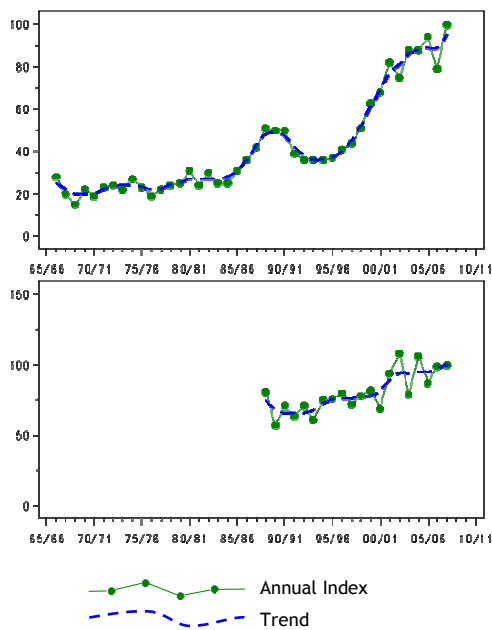


Figure 5.a, Annual indices & trend for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

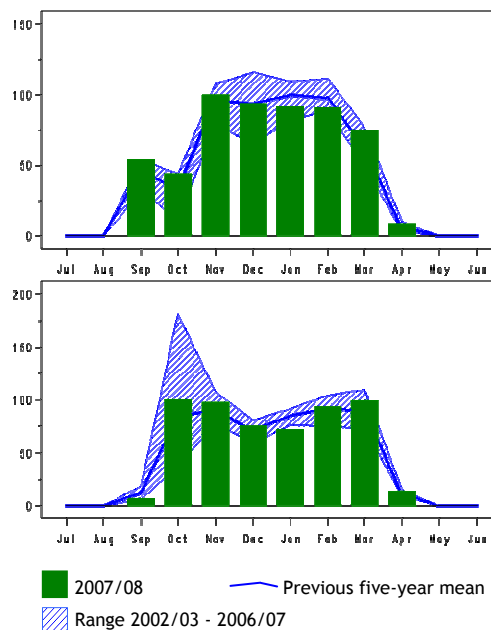


Figure 5.b, Monthly indices for Whooper Swan for GB (above) & NI (below).

The increasing number of Whooper Swans wintering in Britain and Ireland originate mostly from breeding grounds in Iceland. The index for Britain increased to its highest ever level, and maxima recorded either during Core counts or by way of supplementary roost information rose at the four most important sites. Typically the

largest aggregations were noted at the Ouse Washes where a peak of 3,960 was recorded at the end of February. As a result of the Whooper Swan's restricted global wintering range, Ouse Washes is one of fifteen sites in the UK that are of international importance for the species. In addition, a whole suite of 40 other sites

qualify as being important at the national level. Recent increases have also been noted in Northern Ireland, where three major sites, Loughs Neagh & Beg, Lough Foyle and Strangford Lough, all hosted their highest counts for several years. During the winter, breeding success was assessed at four locations in the UK; WWT Martin

Mere/Ribble Estuary, Ouse Washes, WWT Caerlaverock and Highland/Inner Hebrides. The percentage of young at 20.7% was above average; the species was considered to have experienced high breeding productivity as a result of warm, dry conditions across Iceland in May to July 2007.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Ouse Washes	3,624 <sup>12</sup>	4,397 <sup>12</sup>	3,547 <sup>12</sup>	3,756 <sup>12</sup>	3,960 <sup>12</sup>	Feb	3,857
Martin Mere and Ribble Estuary	1,597	2,081 <sup>50</sup>	1,666	1,451	1,819	Jan	1,723
Loughs Neagh and Beg	(867)	1,543	1,268	1,731	1,734	Mar	1,569
Lough Foyle	680	950 <sup>50</sup>	1,030	1,042	1,167	Oct	974
Upper Lough Erne	855	1,123	822	956	680	Jan	887
Loch of Strathbeg	794	355	680	285	92	Nov	441
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	322	275	518	61	399 <sup>50</sup>	Nov	315
Solway Estuary	250	508 <sup>50</sup>	150	194	(97)	Mar	276
Dalreoch				264			264
Strangford Lough	150	244	242	199	432	Nov	253 ▲
Loans of Tullich		253 <sup>50</sup>					253
Wigtown Bay	255	205	(165)	(164)	267	Feb	242
Dornoch Firth	138	324	213	241	(86)	Dec	229 ▲
Bridge of Crathies		(220) <sup>50</sup>					(220)
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Norham West Mains		184 <sup>50</sup>	194 <sup>13</sup>	196			191
East Fenton Farm Reservoir		89	156	143	340 <sup>13</sup>	Nov	182
River Nith: Keltonbank to Nunholm	165	(104)		(90)			165
Loch a` Phuill (Tiree)	118	194	259 <sup>13</sup>	152 <sup>13</sup>	103	Nov	165
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	91	110	220	188	173	Feb	156
Nene Washes	111 <sup>12</sup>	104 <sup>12</sup>	215 <sup>12</sup>	216 <sup>12</sup>	110 <sup>12</sup>	Dec	151
Loch Heilen	24	60	360	(197)	84	Jan	145
River Tweed: Kelso to Coldstream	109	75	132	162	230	Dec	142
Lindisfarne	(139)	71	119 <sup>11</sup>	(170)	(8)	Dec	125
Leven Cut		125 <sup>50</sup>					125
Loch Bailfinlay				(0)	115	Mar	115 ▲
River Eden: Grinsdale to Sandsfield			98	59	186	Feb	114
Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields	126	5	138 <sup>13</sup>	156	146	Feb	114
Black Cart Water (Gryfe-White Cart)	151 <sup>3</sup>	112	112	(78)	76	Feb	113
Loch Leven	19	66	17	220	242	Oct	113
Montrose Basin	24	28	181	147	(182)	Mar	112
Loch Insh and Spey Marshes	110	124	82	96	148	Feb	112
Morecambe Bay	(20)	63	(100)	(84)	158	Nov	111
Strathearn South Kinkell		111 <sup>50</sup>					111
St Benet's Levels	108						108
Lowers Pond			204 <sup>13</sup>	101	0		102
Rossie Bog					99	Feb	99 ▲
Loch of Wester		128	56	70	134	Mar	97
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	165	27	166	36	73	Feb	93
Vasa Loch Shapinsay	96	119	12	147	85	Jan	92
Castron Quarry	164	96	66	65	59	Dec	90
Loch Moraig	121	87	37	55	127	Nov	85
Lower Derwent Ings	52	102	74	104	88	Jan	84
Loch of Spiggie	89	69	77	94	76	Oct	81
Tynninghame Estuary	135	31	53	128	51	Mar	80
River Earn - Lawhill Oxbows	0	113	193	49	7	Feb	72
Killimster Loch				51	90	Mar	71 ▲
Kinnordy Loch	35	96	58	82	(76)	Jan	69
Loch of Lintrathen	93	69		54	56	Nov	68
River Earn: Millands Marsh & Floods	(76)	15	63	12	168	Nov	67 ▲
Glaslyn Marshes					65	Jan	65 ▲
Farmland near Monymusk		65 <sup>50</sup>					65
Loch Tuamister (Lewis)		63 <sup>50</sup>					63

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Farmland near Whitekirk		61 <sup>50</sup>					61
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Warkworth Lane Ponds	47	0	0	125	90	Feb	52
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	(8)	(17)	16	104	39	Mar	53
Merryton Haughs			62	72	34	Dec	56
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Loch Bee (South Uist)	24	14	4	23	128	Apr	39
Houb of Urafirth	16	9	8	3	111	Oct	29
Threipmuir & Harlaw Reservoirs	3	8	9	35	107	Nov	32
Lower Teviot Valley	30	(58)	13	36	98	Nov	47
Warkworth Lane Ponds	47	0	0	125	90	Feb	52
Mersey Estuary	38	54	21	46	75	Jan	47
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Northern Ireland</b>							
Lower Lough Erne	19	31	42	(56)	190	Dec	71

## Chinese Goose

*Anser cygnoides*

Escape  
Native Range: E Asia

GB max: 14 Oct  
NI max: 0

Chinese Geese (the domestic strain of Swan Goose) were recorded at eight sites in Britain. In Scotland, up to three at both Airthrey Loch and Auchenreoch Loch were first records for those locations. The remainder of records related to pairs, most

of which appeared to be resident at regular sites. In England, Diss Mere (Suffolk), Ellesmere Lakes and Oerley Reservoir (both Shropshire) continued to hold birds from previous years.

## Bean Goose

*Anser fabalis*

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

GB max: 438 Nov  
NI max: 0

% young 25.2  
Brood 2.2

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Slamannan Area	235 <sup>4</sup>	262 <sup>4</sup>	300 <sup>4</sup>	255 <sup>4</sup>	300 <sup>4</sup>	Nov	270
Middle Yare Marshes	140	156 <sup>34</sup>	169 <sup>52</sup>	111 <sup>34</sup>	136 <sup>52</sup>	Nov	142
Ouse Washes	4	87 <sup>12</sup>	9 <sup>13</sup>	6 <sup>13</sup>	3 <sup>13</sup>	Jan	22
Dungeness and Rye Bay	7	86	0	0	11	Feb	21
North Warren & Thorpeness Mere	3 <sup>13</sup>	38	10 <sup>13</sup>	2	8 <sup>13</sup>	Feb	12
Balnakeil Bay	5 <sup>13</sup>						5
Somerset Levels	0	14	(0)	0	0		4

The contrasting fortunes of Taiga Bean Geese at the two key sites in Britain, Slamannan Plateau and Yare Valley, were further illustrated in 2007/08. A peak of 300 birds at Slamannan Plateau throughout the winter from October onwards represented an increase of 45 on the maximum seen during 2006/07 and equalled the previous maximum recorded in 2005/06. At Yare Valley, the peak of 136 in November despite being an increase of 26 compared to the previous year, is again one

of the lowest maxima recorded there since the mid 1970s.

Continued monitoring of the Slamannan Plateau population by the Bean Goose Working Group indicated no major changes in phenology during 2007/08. Timing of arrival was typical with a rapid build-up noted during October, followed by stable numbers until late February upon commencement of the return migration. Breeding productivity was estimated at 2.2

young per successful pair, with 25.2% of the population being first-year birds.

Away from these key areas, Bean Geese were recorded at nine other sites during Core counts. Most of these records are likely to refer to birds of the race *rossicus*, known as Tundra Bean Goose. Those specifically assigned to that race were one at Blackwater Estuary and two at Micklemere in January, seven at North

Warren and Thorpeness Mere in February, and singles at Hornsea Mere and Scaling Dam Reservoir in April. Bean Goose records not assigned to race comprised two at Camel Estuary in November and December, three at Ouse Washes and eleven at Dungeness & Rye Bay in February (one of which remained into May) and a single at River Forth in March.

## Pink-footed Goose

*Anser brachyrhynchus*

GB max: 284,856 Oct  
NI max: 14 Oct

% young 20.0  
Brood 2.3

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

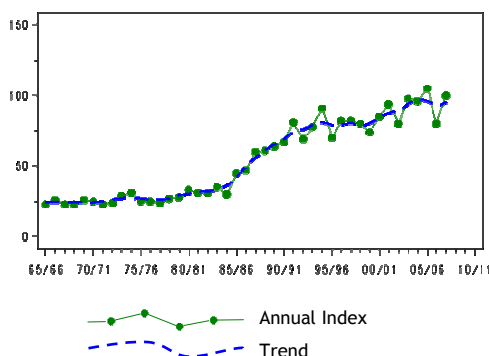


Figure 6.a, Annual indices & trend for Pink-footed Goose for GB.

An annual census of Pink-footed Geese is carried out through the Goose and Swan Monitoring Programme co-ordinated by WWT.

In 2007/08, numbers were higher in all three months in which the census was undertaken (October, November and December) compared to the comparable counts from the previous year. Typically, the distribution of birds changed over the course of the three counts. East

Central Scotland held the greatest numbers of birds in October, but by November numbers had decreased there but had increased substantially in East England. By December, over half of the population was present in East England, whilst numbers in Northeast Scotland and East Central Scotland had declined. At the individual site level, the drop in the peak numbers recorded at Scott Head continued. However Pink-footed Geese wintering in Norfolk utilise a number of sites, therefore the trend for that site should be examined alongside those for Holkham Marshes and Snettisham both of which have been largely stable or increased slightly in recent years.

Breeding success was assessed at several locations throughout Scotland and England. The proportion of birds within flocks aged as first-years was 20.0% and the mean brood size for pairs with young was 2.3, both very similar figures to the previous year.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Holkham Marshes	47,750 <sup>14</sup>	58,000 <sup>13</sup>	70,000 <sup>14</sup>	69,100 <sup>14</sup>	56,000 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	60,170
Loch of Strathbeg	66,000 <sup>14</sup>	65,000 <sup>14</sup>	68,000 <sup>14</sup>	37,396	39,370 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	55,153
Scolt Head	80,000 <sup>12</sup>	66,000 <sup>13</sup>	55,000 <sup>14</sup>	17,200 <sup>14</sup>	7,870 <sup>14</sup>	Jan	45,214
West Water Reservoir	34,210 <sup>14</sup>		57,382 <sup>14</sup>	43,252 <sup>14</sup>	27,960 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	40,701
Snettisham	27,350 <sup>14</sup>	35,360 <sup>13</sup>	49,610 <sup>14</sup>	33,485 <sup>14</sup>	47,530 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	38,667
Southwest Lancashire	27,025 <sup>14</sup>	43,950 <sup>6</sup>	31,860 <sup>14</sup>	39,030 <sup>14</sup>	46,025 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	37,578
Montrose Basin	10,149 <sup>14</sup>	31,896 <sup>14</sup>	30,181 <sup>14</sup>	25,000 <sup>14</sup>	23,945 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	24,234
Morecambe Bay	17,050 <sup>6</sup>	26,910 <sup>6</sup>	20,980 <sup>14</sup>	(7,145)	(3,376)	Mar	21,647



	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Loch of Skene	(8,500) <sup>14</sup>	12,000 <sup>14</sup>	17,730 <sup>14</sup>	(22,930) <sup>14</sup>	19,000 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	17,915
Aberlady Bay	15,040 <sup>14</sup>	18,430 <sup>14</sup>	14,250 <sup>14</sup>		23,415 <sup>14</sup>	Sep	17,784
Loch Leven	15,120 <sup>14</sup>	14,750	22,175 <sup>14</sup>	14,600 <sup>14</sup>	16,300 <sup>14</sup>	Apr	16,589
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	17,100	12,784	11,213	17,800 <sup>12</sup>	22,785 <sup>13</sup>	Jan	16,336
Ythan Estuary and Slains Lochs	19,200 <sup>14</sup>	16,200	(1,800)	10,360 <sup>14</sup>	16,300 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	15,515
Findhorn Bay	25,000 <sup>14</sup>	18,000 <sup>14</sup>	9,400 <sup>14</sup>	(3,800) <sup>14</sup>	7,800 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	15,050
Loch Spynie	11,100 <sup>14</sup>	27,000 <sup>14</sup>	23,000 <sup>14</sup>	9,000 <sup>14</sup>	150 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	14,050
Carsebreck and Rhynd Lochs	11,450 <sup>14</sup>	8,770 <sup>14</sup>	11,130 <sup>14</sup>	12,600 <sup>14</sup>	11,200 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	11,030
Solway Estuary	10,243	2,612 <sup>14</sup>	(6,862)	23,313 <sup>14</sup>	5,500 <sup>14</sup>	Mar	10,417
Easterton - Fort George			10,000 <sup>14</sup>				10,000
Loch of Lintrathen	11,100 <sup>14</sup>	8,921 <sup>14</sup>	9,790 <sup>14</sup>	7,040 <sup>14</sup>	8,410 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	9,052
Hule Moss	14,200 <sup>13</sup>	7,950 <sup>14</sup>	6,000	2,250 <sup>14</sup>	6,850 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	7,450
Wigtown Bay	8,662 <sup>14</sup>	(7,219)	802	(6,695)	11,720 <sup>14</sup>	Mar	7,101
Middlemuir (New Pitsligo Moss)				9,662 <sup>14</sup>	4,500 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	7,081
Horsey Mere	8,200 <sup>14</sup>	7,231 <sup>13</sup>	6,240 <sup>14</sup>	5,430 <sup>14</sup>			6,775
Winter Loch, St Fergus				6,620 <sup>14</sup>			6,620
Heigham Holmes			5,670 <sup>14</sup>				5,670
Norton Marsh			4,500 <sup>14</sup>	6,650 <sup>14</sup>	4,850 <sup>14</sup>	Jan	5,333
Lindisfarne	1,496	5,300 <sup>14</sup>	5,800 <sup>14</sup>	(6,132)	6,900 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	5,126
Humber Estuary	6,562	5,638	3,909	3,780 <sup>14</sup>	3,703	Oct	4,719
Dupplin Lochs	14,100 <sup>14</sup>	2 <sup>14</sup>		1,450 <sup>14</sup>	2,100 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	4,413
Holme and Thornham			5,000 <sup>14</sup>	4,000 <sup>14</sup>	3,865 <sup>14</sup>	Jan	4,289
Simonswood Moss			5000 <sup>14</sup>	3,000 <sup>14</sup>	4,500 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	4,167
R Clyde: Carstairs to Thankerton	5,300	(3,050)	4,500	1,540	(4,720)	Mar	4,015
Loch Tullybelton		6,500 <sup>14</sup>		2,700 <sup>14</sup>	2,800 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	4,000
River Nith: Keltonbank to Nunholm	(3,710)	(950)		(2,525)			(3,710)
Holburn Moss	6,500 <sup>14</sup>	2,300 <sup>14</sup>	2,950 <sup>14</sup>	2,400 <sup>14</sup>	2,300 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	3,290
Floodwater South Of Braco				3,290 <sup>14</sup>			3,290
Tay and Isla Valley	4,134 <sup>14</sup>	4,000	3,500	3,702	86	Oct	3,084
Rossie Bog		6,290 <sup>14</sup>	2,250 <sup>14</sup>		655 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	3,065
Fala Flow	5,450 <sup>14</sup>	741 <sup>14</sup>		2,170 <sup>14</sup>	3,650 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	3,003
Skinflats	3,250 <sup>14</sup>	2,530 <sup>14</sup>	3,980 <sup>14</sup>	2,950 <sup>14</sup>	2,176 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	2,977
Lake of Menteith	4,026 <sup>14</sup>	5,357 <sup>14</sup>	11	5,129 <sup>14</sup>	329	Mar	2,970
River Tay: Haughs of Kercock	2	4,000 <sup>14</sup>	3,500 <sup>14</sup>	3,702 <sup>14</sup>	3,165 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	2,874 ▲
East Chevington Pools	3,032 <sup>14</sup>	2,540 <sup>14</sup>	1,953 <sup>14</sup>	2,000	4,000 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	2,705 ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Folly Loch and Fairnington Fields	5,500	4	4,563 <sup>14</sup>	2,000	850	Jan	2,583
Cameron Reservoir	8,900 <sup>14</sup>	2,692 <sup>14</sup>	521	399	42	Jan	2,511 ▼
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	546	900	3,226	1,116	2,600 <sup>14</sup>	Feb	1,678
Strathearn (West)				1,125 <sup>14</sup>	1,200 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	1,163
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Kilconquhar Loch	2,100 <sup>14</sup>	1,400 <sup>14</sup>	1,250 <sup>14</sup>	90	7,010 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	2,370
Biggar Moss		1,000	50	0	6,500	Oct	1,888
Gladhouse Reservoir	4,570 <sup>14</sup>	0	0	2,300 <sup>14</sup>	3,200 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	2,014
Munloch Bay	2,800 <sup>14</sup>		1,200 <sup>14</sup>	2,600 <sup>14</sup>	2,500 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	2,275



*Pink-footed Geese (Chas Holt)*

# European White-fronted Goose

## *Anser albifrons albifrons*

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

GB max: 1,491 Jan  
 NI max: 0

% young 24.3  
 Brood 1.9

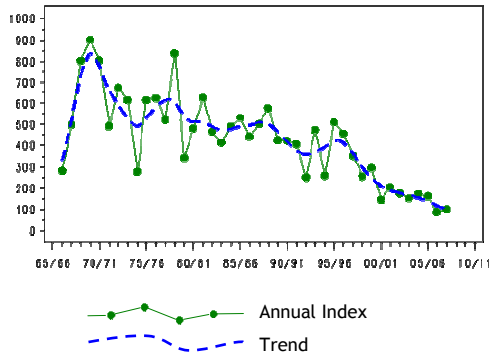


Figure 7.a, Annual indices & trend for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

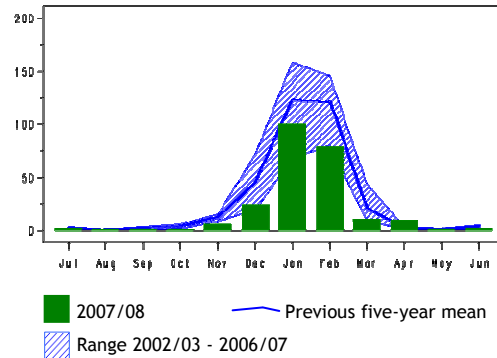


Figure 7.b, Monthly indices for European White-fronted Goose for GB.

The north-west European population of European White-fronted Geese breed on the Taimyr Peninsula and winter exclusively in the Netherlands and southern Britain. UK numbers exhibited the typical pattern of recent winters by peaking in the January/February period, and although the peak monthly total was slightly higher than that in 2006/07 there was little indication that the decline shown by this species at British sites will be reversed in the near future. Recent years have seen a progressive eastward shift of wintering birds, including the presence of increasing numbers in the Netherlands. Furthermore,

in 2007/08 the peak count from the Severn Estuary, traditionally the site supporting the largest numbers in the UK, was the lowest ever and beaten by the largest count for several years from Heigham Holmes within the Norfolk Broads and almost surpassed by a count from the Suffolk coast.

The overall proportion of young within the population, assessed at eight localities in December and January, was 24.3%, while a mean brood size of 1.9 young per successful pair was the same as in 2006/07 but considerably lower than average.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Severn Estuary	780 <sup>13</sup>	745 <sup>8</sup>	750	542 <sup>21</sup>	520	Jan	667
Heigham Holmes	505 <sup>55</sup>	450 <sup>55</sup>	512 <sup>55</sup>	570 <sup>55</sup>	800 <sup>55</sup>	Feb	567
Swale Estuary	327	(398)	430	355	315	Jan	365
North Norfolk Coast	540	340	404	200	275	Feb	352
North Warren & Thorpeness Mere	190 <sup>13</sup>	302	330 <sup>13</sup>	180	452 <sup>13</sup>	Jan	291
Dungeness and Rye Bay	205 <sup>13</sup>	238	550	151	194	Feb	268
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	455	267	290	0	61 <sup>13</sup>	Feb	215
Middle Yare Marshes	120	109	76	66	193	Jan	113
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Alde Complex	(54)	25	12	0	58	Feb	30
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Pegwell Bay	(0)	0	0	(0)	118	Feb	39
Alde Complex	(54)	25	12	0	58	Feb	30

# Greenland White-fronted Goose

*Anser albifrons flavirostris*

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

GB max: 13,113 Mar  
NI max: 67 Feb

% young 9.7  
Brood 3.3

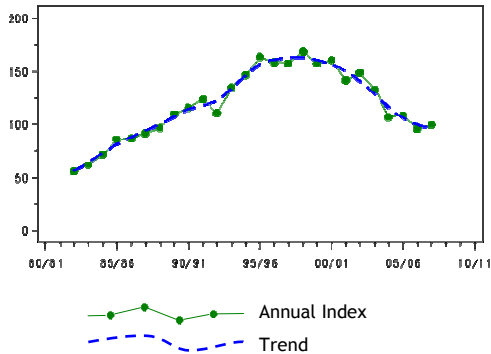


Figure 8.a, Annual indices & trend for Greenland White-fronted Goose for GB.

Greenland White-fronted Geese breed in the low arctic coastal fringe of west Greenland, and migrate southwards through south and west Iceland during September and October to winter exclusively in Britain and Ireland.

An international census organised by the Greenland White-fronted Goose Study and National Parks & Wildlife Service was carried out in December 2007 and March 2008. This derived a global total of 23,208 birds, down by 6.8% on the last world estimate in 2006 (Fox *et al.* 2009).

Since peaking in the late 1990s, the number wintering in Britain has steadily declined, however the peak of 13,113 in spring 2008 does represent an increase of 5% compared to numbers recorded during the previous year. Two-thirds of the Scottish population winter on Islay, the remaining located mostly in western Scotland, with Tiree, Coll, Rhunahaorine and Machrihanish supporting the largest numbers. In 2007/08, numbers were largely consistent with recent years at all the individual locations. In North Wales, Dyfi Estuary again hosted a wintering flock, with 73 birds present in March.

Breeding success has been consistently poor in recent years and it is thought that competition with Canada Geese at breeding sites in Greenland may be a contributory factor. In response to the population decline, in autumn 2006 the Icelandic Government banned the hunting of White-fronted Geese in Iceland. However, in view of the decline noted in the global population between international censuses, further years' data are required in order to be able to assess whether the slight upturn in numbers recorded in Britain in 2007/08 represents a result of this policy.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Island of Islay	11,272 <sup>7</sup>	8,350 <sup>9</sup>	7,456 <sup>9</sup>	7,902 <sup>9</sup>	7,980 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	8,592
Machrihanish	1,377 <sup>7</sup>	1,407 <sup>9</sup>	1,433 <sup>9</sup>	1,716 <sup>9</sup>	3,855 <sup>14</sup>	Jan	1,958
Rhunahaorine	1,156 <sup>7</sup>	894 <sup>9</sup>	955 <sup>9</sup>	940 <sup>9</sup>	1,451 <sup>9</sup>	Mar	1,079
Tiree	1,093 <sup>17</sup>	1,133 <sup>34</sup>	1,112 <sup>9</sup>	974 <sup>9</sup>	803 <sup>9</sup>	Mar	1,023
Isle of Coll	495 <sup>9</sup>	814 <sup>9</sup>	778	687 <sup>9</sup>	445 <sup>9</sup>	Mar	644
Isle of Colonsay	79 <sup>7</sup>	1,718 <sup>7</sup>	111 <sup>53</sup>	76 <sup>35</sup>	109 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	419
Keills Peninsula & Isle of Danna	377 <sup>7</sup>	338 <sup>9</sup>	344 <sup>9</sup>	350 <sup>9</sup>	202 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	322
Isle of Lismore	290 <sup>9</sup>	310 <sup>9</sup>	320 <sup>9</sup>	273 <sup>9</sup>	240 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	287
Stranraer Lochs	281 <sup>9</sup>	257 <sup>9</sup>	282 <sup>9</sup>	360 <sup>9</sup>	247 <sup>9</sup>	Mar	285
Caithness Lochs	(12)	(83)	(170)	(275)	(152)	Mar	(275) ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Loch Lomond	260 <sup>9</sup>	240 <sup>9</sup>	210 <sup>9</sup>	210 <sup>9</sup>	223 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	229 ▼
Loch Ken	300 <sup>9</sup>	215 <sup>9</sup>	220 <sup>9</sup>	206 <sup>9</sup>	177 <sup>9</sup>	Feb	224
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Clachan and Whitehouse	215 <sup>7</sup>	209 <sup>9</sup>	193 <sup>9</sup>	186 <sup>9</sup>	120 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	185
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Broadford Bay	59 <sup>9</sup>	62 <sup>9</sup>	35 <sup>9</sup>	48 <sup>9</sup>	300 <sup>9</sup>	Apr	101
Bute	183 <sup>9</sup>	206 <sup>9</sup>	190 <sup>9</sup>	209 <sup>9</sup>	240 <sup>9</sup>	Nov	206

## Lesser White-fronted Goose

*Anser erythropus*

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: SE Europe, Asia

GB max: 4 Jun  
NI max: 0

Lesser White-fronted Geese were seen at six sites during 2007/08. These included four at Conwy Estuary in June and two in Yare Valley, and single birds at Llyn

Traffwll, Maxey Pits, Testbourne Estate and North Norfolk Coast, the last which probably represents the only realistic candidate for being a genuine vagrant.

## Icelandic Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

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

GB max: 95,359 Dec  
NI max: \*\*0

% young 21.7  
Brood 2.6

*\*\*although small numbers occur in Northern Ireland these remain difficult to distinguish from re-established birds*

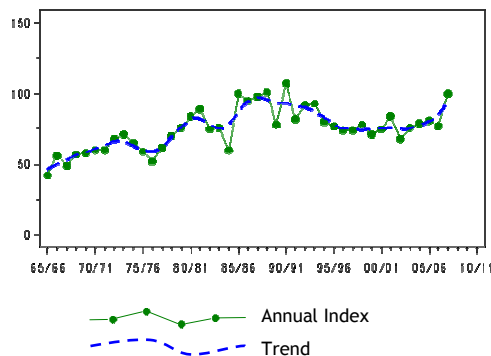


Figure 9.a, Annual indices & trend for Icelandic Greylag Goose for GB.

Counts of Icelandic Greylag Goose were undertaken in October, November and December as part of the 48th consecutive Icelandic-breeding Goose Census (IGC). This census incorporates monitoring of sites in Britain, Ireland, the Faeroes, Norway and Iceland. The December count was carried out for a third trial year, as part of an attempt to ascertain whether it is a more appropriate month in which to carry out a coordinated census. Adjusted totals for the

three months were 4,352 in October, 107,137 in November and 95,359 in December. The estimate specifically for Britain of 85,282 represents an increase of 13.1% compared to 2006/07 (Mitchell 2008).

Breeding success was assessed at several sites in Scotland and was slightly higher than average with flocks containing 21.7% young, while a mean brood size of 2.6 goslings per successful pair was close to average for the most recent ten-year period.

Numbers in December on the Orkney archipelago, the most important area, were the highest since monitoring began. The peak there was 22% higher than that recorded in 2006/07. Elsewhere, the majority of other sites held numbers similar to recent years.

In order to be able to effectively monitor the status of migratory Greylag Geese in Britain, it is desirable that increased effort goes in to monitoring both the reproductive success and range expansion of the re-established population (Mitchell 2008).

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Orkney	43,097 <sup>14</sup>	42,697 <sup>14</sup>	40,403 <sup>14</sup>	55,521 <sup>14</sup>	67,540 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	49,852
Loch Eye and Cromarty Firth	6,523 <sup>14</sup>	8,313 <sup>14</sup>	13,269	2,463 <sup>14</sup>	7,112 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	7,536
Caitness Lochs	2,971 <sup>14</sup>	11,755 <sup>14</sup>	8,727 <sup>14</sup>	2,734	6,802 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	6,598
Easterton - Fort George			3,500 <sup>14</sup>				3,500
Loch of Skene	(2,600) <sup>14</sup>	4,500 <sup>14</sup>	4,700 <sup>14</sup>	500 <sup>14</sup>	520 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	2,555
Dornoch Firth	2,259	1,720	1,632 <sup>14</sup>	2,858	3,310 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	2,356
Strathearn (West)	1,050 <sup>14</sup>			3,170 <sup>14</sup>	1,400 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	1,874

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
Bute	2,000 <sup>14</sup>	1,780 <sup>14</sup>	2,110 <sup>14</sup>	1,051	1,960 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	1,781
Loch Fleet Complex	905 <sup>14</sup>	990 <sup>14</sup>	3,000	1,762	2,100 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	1,752
Tay and Isla Valley	2,425 <sup>14</sup>	1,930	2,155	700	973 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	1,637
Dalreoch				1,580			1,580
Loch Garten	1,000 <sup>14</sup>	2,100 <sup>14</sup>	1,700 <sup>14</sup>	1,150	1,306 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	1,452
Loch Spynie	2,200 <sup>14</sup>	1,000 <sup>14</sup>	2,600 <sup>14</sup>	500 <sup>14</sup>	30 <sup>14</sup>	Nov	1,266
Forth Estuary	792	(802)	2,107	(471)	875	Mar	1,258
Kilconquhar Loch	1,620	1,200 <sup>14</sup>	1,500 <sup>14</sup>	5	138	Nov	893
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Beaully Firth	280 <sup>14</sup>	600 <sup>14</sup>	1,380 <sup>14</sup>		987 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	812
Gadloch	650	650	1,020 <sup>14</sup>	1,100	600	Sep	804
Lower Teviot Valley	525	(833)	1,250	310	70	Nov	598
Munlochy Bay	110 <sup>14</sup>	20 <sup>14</sup>	1,000 <sup>14</sup>		525 <sup>14</sup>	Dec	414
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Loch Insh and Spey Marshes	566	504 <sup>14</sup>	483 <sup>14</sup>	293	943	Dec	558
River Eden - Little Salkeld			(450)	100	(860)	Nov	470

## NW Scotland Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

International threshold: 100  
Great Britain threshold: 90

GB max: 10,472 Aug  
NI max: 0

% young 30.4  
Brood 2.67

The two most important areas for the 'Northwest Scotland' Greylag Goose population, Tiree and the Uists, are monitored annually; in late summer, typically August, and in late winter, typically February. However there are no systematic counts from the remainder of the range.

A total of 6,440 Greylag Geese (including goslings) was counted on the Uists in August, an increase of 55% compared to the equivalent count for the previous year (although counts in late summer of both 2005 and 2006 were considered to be underestimates). On Tiree, an August count of 3,694 birds represents a decrease of 8% on the count in 2006, although the long term trend there is one of increase.

Breeding success was assessed on Tiree where both the percentage of young (30.4%) and average brood size (2.7) were slightly above average compared to recent years.

Since the last full national census in 1997, the 'Northwest Scotland' Greylag Goose population is considered to have increased both in number and range. In some parts of Scotland, the 'Re-established' and 'Northwest Scotland' populations now overlap and are therefore indistinguishable. It is therefore likely that it will become increasingly difficult to separate these populations in future, and this will have associated consequences for the effectiveness of national monitoring schemes.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Tiree	3,563 <sup>34</sup>	4,005 <sup>34</sup>	3,892 <sup>34</sup>	4,005 <sup>34</sup>	3,694 <sup>34</sup>	Aug	3,832
North Uist	2,642 <sup>18</sup>	2,970 <sup>46</sup>	2,671 <sup>36</sup>	2,318 <sup>36</sup>	2,294 <sup>34</sup>	Aug	2,579
South Uist	2,102 <sup>18</sup>	2,111 <sup>46</sup>	2,119 <sup>36</sup>	1,719 <sup>36</sup>	1,141 <sup>34</sup>	Aug	2,013
Isle of Coll	740	960	980 <sup>53</sup>	856 <sup>53</sup>			893
Benbecula	319 <sup>18</sup>	414 <sup>46</sup>	473 <sup>46</sup>	224			402
Machrihanish			272 <sup>53</sup>				272
Moine Mhor and Add Estuary			254 <sup>53</sup>				254
Tayinloan			141 <sup>53</sup>				141
Kentra Moss and Lower Loch Shiel	102	136	107	90	140	Mar	115
Island of Islay	16	42	509	166 <sup>53</sup>			
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Loch Broom		0	(7)	40	137	Feb	59
Loch Ewe		70	25	110	(90)	Feb	74

## Re-established Greylag Goose

*Anser anser*

GB max: 29,449 Sep  
NI max: 2,259 Feb

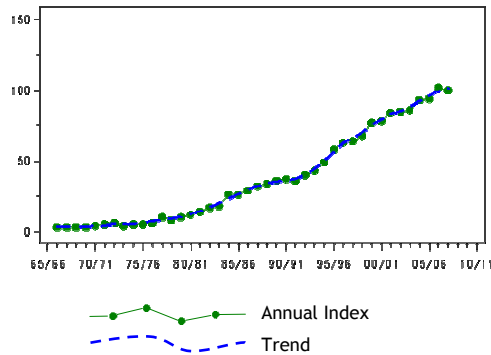


Figure 10.a, Annual indices & trend for Re-established Greylag Goose for GB.

## Naturalised re-establishment†

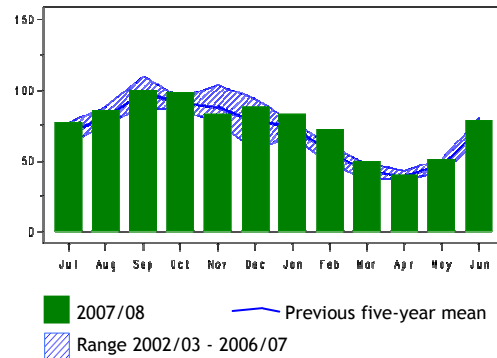


Figure 10.b, Monthly indices for Re-established Greylag Goose for GB.

There are increasing difficulties with monitoring the status of the different Greylag Goose populations in the United Kingdom because of rising levels of range overlap. The primary driver in this complication is the continued rapid expansion of the re-established breeding population (Baillie *et al.* 2009), whose numbers recorded by WeBS grew again in 2007/08.

September saw the largest ever single site count, 2,819 at Nosterfield Gravel Pits, contributing to a highest ever counted monthly maximum of 29,449. Nosterfield Gravel Pits was one of eleven sites where peak counts reached four-figures, several of which passed that particular milestone for the first time. These included especially notable increases, in the order of 50% between years, at Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits and Medway Estuary.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 500 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
Nosterfield Gravel Pits	(1,338)	2,215	1,663	1,898	2,819	Sep	2,149
North Norfolk Coast	(1,767)	1,371	(1,435)	1,725	1,270	Jan	1,533
Lower Derwent Ings	1,047	927	1,401	1,228	1,056	Jan	1,132
The Wash	1,011	1,038	1,005	1,337	1,159	Jun	1,110
Tophill Low Reservoirs	683	867	1,400	1,190	1,230	Dec	1,074
Livermere and Ampton Water	543	1,176	879		1,285	Nov	971
Bolton-on-Swale Gravel Pits	710	729	774	615	1,585	Oct	883
Hickling Broad	1,106	831	909	529			844
Baston and Langtoft Gravel Pits	803						803
Swale Estuary	718	625	1,062	632	885	Jan	784
Ouse Washes	883 <sup>13</sup>	782	671	810	687 <sup>13</sup>	Dec	767
Morecambe Bay	629	786	881	(617)	(290)	Sep	765
Humber Estuary	(769)	821	525	(778)	906	Aug	760
Alton Water	571	419	612	1,056	1,068	Dec	745
Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits	1,072	925	387	724	600	Nov	742
Point of Ayre Gravel Pit	402	550	530	900	1,165	Sep	709
Hay-a-Park Gravel Pits	560	472	132	825	1,503	Oct	698
Eccup Reservoir	1,084	750	546	825	264	Jan	694
Hornsea Mere	642	785	1,145	615	145	Feb	666
Tattershall Pits	1,015	445	950	400	506	Jun	663
Breydon Water & Berney Marshes	720	1,148	491	279			660
Orwell Estuary	677 <sup>11</sup>	543	(618)	671	674 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	637
Llyn Traffwl	891	341	395	941	589	Jul	631

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
River Cam - Kingfishers Bridge	(193)	(248)	800	580	344	Sep	575
Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve	903	249	583	487	620	Sep	568
Sutton and Lound Gravel Pits	407	950	424	494	563	May	568
Medway Estuary	(146)	589 <sup>††</sup>	122	449	1,076	Jan	559
Scorton Quarry	460	800	196	590	730	Feb	555
Tees Estuary	518	(623)	(360)	430	(590)	Oct	540
Middle Yare Marshes	473	396	444	772	591	Sep	535
WWT Martin Mere	600	620	530	532	390	Nov	534
Welbeck Estate	(196)	(418)	480	549	550	Jan	526
Little Paxton Gravel Pits	652	518	511	672	257	Dec	522
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Loughs Neagh and Beg	1,270	1,005	(630)	662	1284	Mar	1056
Lough Foyle	518	1,291	1,129	974	716	Feb	926
Strangford Lough	373	307	355	253	431	Feb	344
Belfast Lough	132	125	137	159	134	Nov	137
Lower Lough Erne	(54)	137	140	140	38	Dec	114
Ballysaggart Lough	66						66
Tullyratty Lake	57	29	0	213	5	Mar	61
Upper Lough Erne	15	52	62	73	64	Jan	53
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Blackwater Estuary	124	(566)	(347)	(3)	790	Sep	493
Windermere	12	32	488	985	767	Jun	457
River Cam - Upware to Dimmocks Cote	242	14		52	655	Oct	241
Hamford Water	258	539	415	329	645	Oct	437
Castle Howard Lake		250		370	638	Jan	419
Scaling Dam Reservoir	377	405	503	500	555	Jun	468
Bough Beech Reservoir	597	500	400	201	540	Sep	448
Grimsthorpe Lake	272	405	535	295	540	Feb	409
Severn Estuary	337	489	450	436	526	Dec	448
Yare Valley - Marlingford to Bawburgh				282	510	Sep	396

<sup>†</sup> 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: S Asia

GB max: 19 Sep  
NI max: 0

Bar-headed Geese were recorded at 33 sites throughout Britain, with a monthly peak of 19 in September. Sites where more than two individuals were seen included

Chichester Harbour, Seaton Gravel Pits, and Blenheim Park Lake where twelve were present in September. There were no records from Northern Ireland.

## Snow Goose

*Anser caerulescens*

Vagrant and escape

Native Range: N America

GB max: 22 Nov  
NI max: 0

Snow Geese were reported from 27 sites during the year, with a British maximum of 22 birds in November representing another relatively poor total following the lowest ever monthly maximum recorded in 2006/07. The highest site total was twelve

at both Lower Windrush Valley in September and Blenheim Park Lake in November. Typically, the majority of birds refer to escapes, but those seen at The Wash and North Norfolk Coast in mid winter may well have had better credentials.

**Ross's Goose**  
*Anser rossii*

Escape and possible vagrant  
Native Range: N America

GB max: 2 Aug  
NI max: 0

Seven sites hosted Ross's Geese during 2007/08, all single birds apart from two at Norton Marsh on the North Norfolk Coast in August (which have been regularly recorded in the area since 2002/03). Elsewhere,

winter records from nearby Holkham, plus Colne and Blackwater Estuaries in Essex, and the Solway Firth, could relate to genuine vagrants.

**Emperor Goose**  
*Anser canagicus*

Escape  
Native Range: Alaska, NE Siberia

GB max: 20 Nov  
NI max: 0

A resident flock of Emperor Geese was again present at South Walney Island in Morecambe Bay throughout 2007/08, peaking at 19 in November. Elsewhere singles were at Lackford Lakes Nature

Reserve in November and Kirkby-on-Bain Gravel Pits in January. This species is classified as globally threatened within its native range of coastal Alaska, USA and north-west Siberia.

**Canada Goose**  
*Branta canadensis*

Naturalised introduction†  
Native Range: N America

GB max: 54,942 Sep  
NI max: 812 Jan

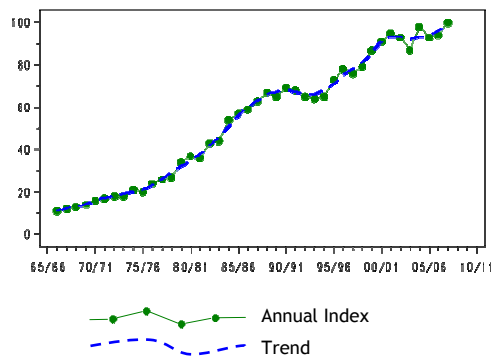


Figure 11.a, Annual indices & trend for Canada Goose for GB.

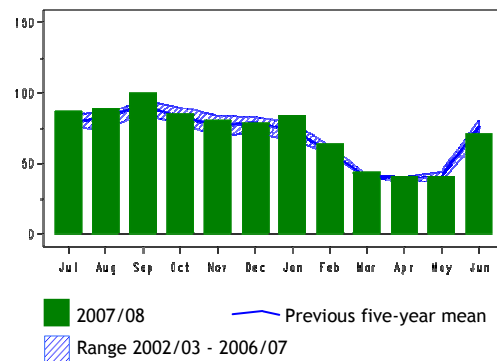


Figure 11.b, Monthly indices for Canada Goose for GB.

It would appear that Britain's population of non-native Canada Geese remains well short of the potential carrying capacity. This is evidenced by the latest jump in the national index to its highest ever level, thereby continuing the steady increase in numbers observed since standardised monitoring began. Compared to previous years, counts undertaken in 2007/08 appear to have been particularly high in late summer and autumn, suggestive of a

successful breeding year. For the first time, all three principal sites surpassed the five-year mean threshold of 2,000 birds, with Mersey Estuary showing an especially pronounced increase this year probably as a result of some interchange of birds between there and Dee Estuary. Furthermore, counts in excess of 1,000 birds were noted at several sites for the first time, namely Medway Estuary, Harewood Lake, Doddington Pool and Fal complex, while the



peak at Abberton Reservoir was the highest there for seven years. Conversely, lower than normal numbers were seen at Arun Valley and Ellesmere Pools.

In Northern Ireland, where the general trend has also been of a steady increase albeit more fluctuating in nature, a decline was noted to a level similar to that at the turn of the decade.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 600 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Dyfi Estuary	2,437	2,380	2,947	2,420	2,799	Jan	2,597
Dee Estuary (England and Wales)	1,529	2,316	1,987	2,087	2,536	Sep	2,091
Mersey Estuary	1,177	2,088	2,188	1,923	2,706	Jul	2,016
Colliford Reservoir	1,284	1,477	841	2,439	(1,340)	Jul	1,510
Rutland Water	1,369	1,244	1,070	1,118	1,009	Jul	1,162
Fairburn Ings	893		2,509	609	436	Feb	1,112
Ribble Estuary	(493)	552	626	(1,245)	(1,494)	Aug	979
Alde Complex	(896)	1,246	780	684	1,131	Dec	960
Arun Valley	866	1,236	742	1,076	570	Dec	898
Bewl Water	960	986	900	548	1,039	Jul	887
Medway Estuary	(234)	365 <sup>11</sup>	935 <sup>11</sup>	824	1,413	Jan	884
Taw-Torridge Estuary	526	(912)	(1,109)	986	(565)	Oct	883
Harewood Lake	686	870	888		1,080	Dec	881
Ellesmere Lakes	812	1,348	668	873	491	Sep	838
Doxey Marshes SSSI	881	893	(601)	802	726	Sep	826
Osberton			427	1,212	790	Aug	810
Dolydd Hafren	(500)	(500)	(800)	(500)			(800)
Stour Estuary	1,135	978	622	569	625	Dec	786
Abberton Reservoir	639	(616)	607	(213)	1,036	Aug	761
King's Bromley Gravel Pits	776	721	586	542	848	Aug	695
Cleddau Estuary	655	622	585 <sup>11</sup>	890	686	Jul	688
College Lake Reserve	773	919	973	260	469	Sep	679
Chew Valley Lake	785	810	650	435	590	Jul	654
Pitsford Reservoir	727	441	682	832	587	Oct	654
Watermead Country Park South	632	723	648	668	597	Jul	654
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland<sup>†</sup></b>							
Upper Lough Erne	263	384	484	665	390	Jan	437
Lower Lough Erne	(343)	217	532	365	286	Dec	350
Strangford Lough	307	229	260 <sup>11</sup>	247	316 <sup>11</sup>	Nov	272
Lough McNea Lower		40	147	44	148	Jan	95
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Doddington Pool	249	829	360	578	1,215	Oct	646
Fal Complex	132	(6) <sup>11</sup>	204	655	1,035	Sep	507
Holme Pierrepont Gravel Pits	(364)	(714)	345	556	965	Sep	645
Bramshill Park Lake	206	(390)	188	(560)	(855)	Sep	440
Dorchester Gravel Pits	610	820	442	503	827	Sep	640
Windermere	(433)	376	505 <sup>13</sup>	747 <sup>13</sup>	796	Jul	606
Middle Tame Valley Gravel Pits	334	(171)	(89)	(322)	(748)	Sep	541
Dee Flood Meadows	(478)	510 <sup>13</sup>	580	515	725	Jan	583
Somerset Levels	555	432	778	367	700	Dec	566
Walthamstow Reservoirs	837	784	278	636	695	Jul	646
Portworthy Mica Dam	200	297	305	385	660	Oct	369
Severn Floodplain: Atcham Br. to Wroxeter				600	650	Jan	625

<sup>†</sup> as no British or All-Ireland thresholds have been set qualifying levels of 650 and 50 have been chosen to select sites, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland respectively, for presentation in this report

## Lesser Canada Goose

*Branta hutchinsii*

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: N America

GB max: 2 Jun  
NI max: 0

Two records of Lesser Canada Geese in Estuary, are both likely to refer to escapes from June, from Conwy Estuary and Ribble from captivity.

## Barnacle Goose

*Branta leucopsis*

### Greenland Population

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

GB max: 58,269 Mar  
 NI max: 0

% young 9.8  
 Brood 2.2

Greenland Barnacle Geese, i.e those breeding along the east coast of Greenland, winter exclusively at sites in north and west Scotland and Ireland. Generally, only the key sites are surveyed annually by SNH and the Uists Greylag Goose Management Committee, but March 2008 saw a full census undertaken of the islands and mainland sites along the west and north coasts of Scotland and Ireland.

In Scotland, 40 sites held a total of 58,269 Greenland Barnacle Geese. The total wintering population (including 12,232 counted in Ireland) was estimated at 70,501

birds, representing an increase of 25.0% on the 2003 population census total.

Numbers on Islay have increased in recent years. An increase of 23.3% has occurred since the survey of spring 2003, compared to a previous increase of 3.7% from 1999 to 2003. Likewise, numbers of geese throughout the remainder of Scotland have increased by 23.5%, compared with 7.9% in the earlier period. Results from age counts undertaken in 2007/08 show that breeding success in 2007 was average; the proportion of young (9.8%) and mean brood size (2.2) were both slightly higher than their respective ten-year averages.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Islay of Islay	40,018 <sup>7</sup>	44,186 <sup>7</sup>	47,303 <sup>53</sup>	52,709 <sup>53</sup>	44,961 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	45,836
Tiree	2,796 <sup>34</sup>	3,273 <sup>34</sup>	3,474 <sup>34</sup>	4,323 <sup>35</sup>	3,393 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	3,452
North Uist	560	2,836 <sup>46</sup>	4,648 <sup>46</sup>	2,119 <sup>46</sup>	3,630 <sup>56</sup>	Feb	2,759
South Walls (Hoy)		1,920 <sup>35</sup>	2,000 <sup>35</sup>	1,710 <sup>35</sup>	1,874 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	1,876
Isle of Coll	792 <sup>7</sup>	1,297	2,240 <sup>53</sup>	2,456 <sup>53</sup>	800 <sup>56</sup>	Dec	1,517
Colonsay/Oronsay	793 <sup>7</sup>	1,000 <sup>7</sup>	716 <sup>35</sup>	1,332 <sup>35</sup>	1,200 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	1,009
Balakeil Bay / North Sutherland	826 <sup>13</sup>		970	130	1,037 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	741
Keills Peninsula and Isle of Danna	640 <sup>7</sup>	708 <sup>7</sup>	468 <sup>53</sup>	627 <sup>53</sup>	711 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	631
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
North Skye					521 <sup>56</sup>	Mar	521 ▲

## Svalbard Population

International threshold: 270  
 Great Britain threshold: 220

GB max: 20,502 Oct  
 NI max: 0

% young 12.8  
 Brood 2.4

The population of Svalbard-breeding Barnacle Geese continues to increase. Between October 2007 and May 2008, twenty counts undertaken across the Inner Solway Estuary were used to derive a population estimate for 2007/08 of 29,000. This represents an increase of nearly 16% on the comparable estimate for 2006/07.

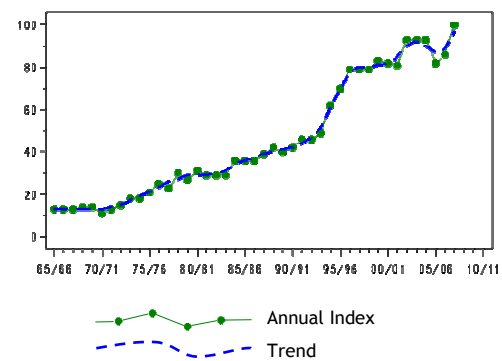


Figure 12.a, Annual indices & trend for Svalbard Barnacle Goose for GB.

Breeding success was assessed throughout the winter at sites around the Solway Firth. The overall percentage of young present in flocks was 12.8%, ranging from 7.0% to 70.7% within individual flocks. As in the 2006/07 season, this value is well above the current ten-year mean thus

indicative of a good breeding season. Mean brood size per successful pair was 2.4 goslings (with brood sizes ranging from one to five goslings), higher than both the previous year and the mean for the current ten-year period.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Solway Firth	27,510 <sup>8</sup>	28,270 <sup>8</sup>	28,450 <sup>8</sup>	29,370 <sup>8</sup>	29,815 <sup>8</sup>	Nov	28,683
Loch of Strathbeg	95	1,100 <sup>34</sup>	2,168	181	121 <sup>14</sup>	Oct	733
Lindisfarne	786	160	300	1,202	(27)	Oct	612
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Forth Estuary	57	(85)	95	42	291	Oct	121

## Naturalised Population

GB max: 1,046 Sep  
NI max: 276 Sep

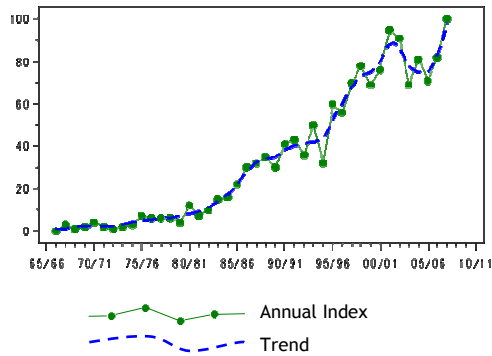


Figure 13.a, Annual indices & trend for Naturalised Barnacle Goose for GB.

Following an apparent slowing of the rapid increase in the population of naturalised Barnacle Geese during the last four years, the national index increased again in 2007/08 to its highest ever level; more akin to the trend of the previous twenty years. The species therefore returns to the band of naturalised goose species exhibiting marked increases in Britain.

It is standard procedure for counts for Barnacle Geese to be assigned as naturalised birds purely on the basis of geographical location. As a result, it is possible that some extra-limital birds from the Svalbard and Greenland populations are incorrectly assigned. Furthermore, the

## Naturalised establishment†

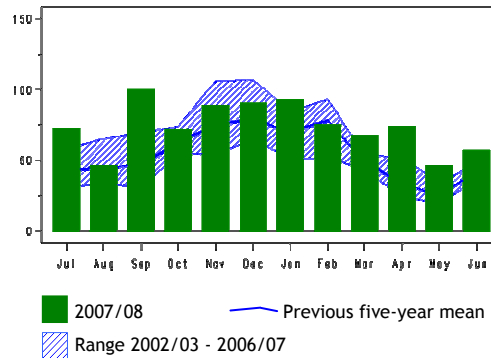


Figure 13.b, Monthly indices for Naturalised Barnacle Goose for GB.

Netherlands supports a wintering flock of North Russia/East Baltic origin - and it is considered probable that sites on the east coast of Britain receive visits from these birds.

Such movements from the near-Continent, either of birds of migratory or naturalised origin, could be supplementing the increasing number of resident birds present on the Humber Estuary - where a peak of 631 was reached in September 2007.

In Northern Ireland, numbers present at Strangford Lough were consistent with the gradual increase witnessed in recent years.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
Humber Estuary	(80)	(200)	88	318	631	Sep	346
Lound Waterworks			393	104	50	Mar	182
Roxton Lake	262	120	195	128	170	Jun	175
Benacre Broad	250	130	52	359	52	Sep	169
Ullswater	135	110	143	186	230	Jan	161
Willington	298				5	May	152
Derwent Water	82	98	105	137	184	Apr	121
Minsmere	73	4	249	17	240	Nov	117
Severn Estuary	(94)	101	111	126	126	Nov	116
Frampton Pools	98	52	113	114	118	Mar	99
Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits	158	107	62	49	36	Dec	82
Hornsea Mere	96	73	71	72	73	Nov	77
Duddon Estuary	(65)	(0)	(88)	(10)	65	Oct	73
Middle Yare Marshes	72	82	74	70	57	Oct	71
The Hen Reedbeds	(0)	(0)	(68)	(0)	(1)	Oct	(68)
North Warren and Thorpeness Mere	57	5	1	90	147	Mar	60
Barcombe Mills Reservoir	73	52	47	53	56	Mar	56
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 50 or more birds in Northern Ireland†</b>							
Strangford Lough	232	248	251	279	275	Sep	257
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain†</b>							
Osberton			4	68	71	Nov	48

† 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: 91,604 Feb  
NI max: 0

% young 11.0  
Brood 2.57

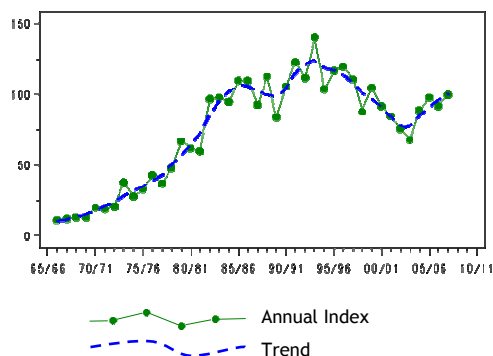


Figure 14.a, Annual indices & trend for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

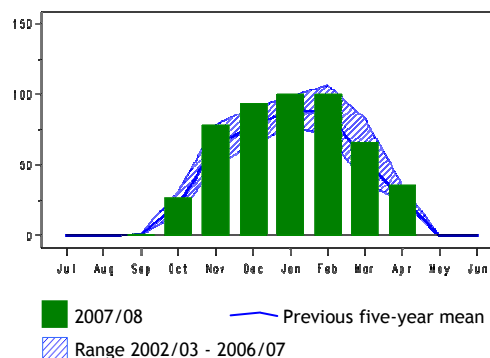


Figure 14.b, Monthly indices for Dark-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

The Dark-bellied Brent Goose winters exclusively along the coasts of western Europe, the majority at sites on the Atlantic west coast of France, the south and east coasts of England, southwest Netherlands and the Wadden Sea.

Following a 24% decline in the British index between 1990/91 and 2003/04, the last four years have seen a recovery to a

level similar to the numbers present in the mid 1980s. The most recent British population estimate of 98,100 birds represented some 46% of the estimated total flyway population (Kershaw & Cranswick 2003).

In 2007/08, fourteen sites qualified as being of international importance, all typically located between the Humber

Estuary on the east coast and the Hampshire estuaries on the south coast. Examination of the principal sites table indicates the typical arrival of birds in south-east England in October, illustrated by an exceptional peak at Thames Estuary which proved to be the largest site count of the year. The other major site to experience a particularly notable increase in Dark-bellied Brent Geese was Chichester Harbour, where the five-year mean rose by almost 1,000 following this year's peak of 12,171 in January.

As with a suite of species nesting in the Arctic, breeding success varies greatly from

year to year, from as low as 1-2% young in 'poor' years to 20-30% in 'good' years. In the last three years, breeding success has been 'good' (28.4% young) in 2005, 'poor' (2.0% young) in 2006, and 'variable' (11% young) in 2007. This follows a similar pattern to lemming abundance on the breeding grounds, of which exceptionally high numbers were present in 2005, followed by a crash in 2006 and a more variable year in 2007.

Further years of monitoring are required to substantiate this pattern, but these results suggest that breeding success may be returning to a three-yearly cycle.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
The Wash	18,734	21,969	24,490	20,870	21,101	Dec	21,433
Thames Estuary	(6,741)	9,455	12,567	8,100	22,047	Oct	13,042
Chichester Harbour	8,290	7,436	9,018	9,605	12,171	Jan	9,304
North Norfolk Coast	5,722	6,607	8,831	7,091	7,824 <sup>11</sup>	Feb	7,215
Blackwater Estuary	4,892	7,178	5,946	(2,217)	8,278	Feb	6,574
Langstone Harbour	5,049	5,069	5,496	4,906	5,263	Feb	5,157
Hamford Water	3,336	5,890	5,952	4,089	4,157	Mar	4,685
Crouch-Roach Estuary	(2,914)	4,635 <sup>11</sup>	3,520	(4,471)	4,534	Feb	4,290
Humber Estuary	2,118 <sup>11</sup>	(2,667)	(2,636)	4,586	(2,430)	Feb	3,352
Portsmouth Harbour	(2,293)	1,725	2,925	3,162	(2,500)	Dec	2,604
Dengie Flats	1,507	(1,538)	2,445	2,901	(3,560)	Jan	2,603
Colne Estuary	(1,959)	(2,538)	(2,123)	(1,296)	(2,536)	Nov	(2,538)
Pagham Harbour	1,210	2,654	2,819	2,744	2,341	Feb	2,354
North West Solent	1,790	(2,208)	2,377	1,808	2,101	Jan	2,057 ▲
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Newtown Estuary	(1,235)	(1,444)	2,033	1,662	2,115	Jan	1,937
Stour Estuary	1,914	1,782	1,617	2,063	2,038	Nov	1,883
Swale Estuary	1,210	2,111	1,861	2,310	1,857	Jan	1,870
Medway Estuary	(836)	1,834 <sup>11</sup>	(1,515)	(1,076)	(1,367)	Jan	1,834
Fleet and Wey	1,337	2,625	1,436	1,554	1,810	Dec	1,752
Beaulieu Estuary	835	1,498	2,173	3,439	774	Dec	1,744
Deben Estuary	2,234	984	(1,449)	1,759	(1,409)	Jan	1,659
Exe Estuary	1,368	1,645	1,531	1,374	1,820	Nov	1,548
Orwell Estuary	1,396 <sup>11</sup>	976	1,477	1,500 <sup>11</sup>	1,601 <sup>11</sup>	Feb	1,390
Southampton Water	1,274	1,386	949	1,151	1,674	Feb	1,287
Poole Harbour	(868)	(772)	1,160	1,146	(721)	Feb	1,153
Jersey Shore				733	1,317	Dec	1,025 ▲
<b>Sites no longer meeting table qualifying levels in WeBS-Year 2007/2008</b>							
Burry Inlet	(1,255)	811	1,121	937	764	Feb	978
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Holland Marshes	0	0	28	4	1,250	Jan	256

## Light-bellied Brent Goose

*Branta bernicla hrota*

### East Canadian High Arctic Population

International threshold: 260

Great Britain threshold: +<sup>†</sup>

All-Ireland threshold: 220

GB max: 355 Apr

NI max: 33,948 Oct

% young 29.5

Brood 2.71

Light-bellied Brent Geese which breed on the Arctic islands of north-east Canada migrate across Greenland and Iceland to

winter mostly in Ireland. Strangford Lough typically hosts over 75% of the population during the late autumn and is now by far

the most important site. Lough Foyle has also become increasingly important in recent years as a landfall site. As the winter progresses, some traditionally move south and utilise sites not only in the

Republic of Ireland, but also in western Britain, Channel Islands, and the Atlantic coasts of France and Spain.

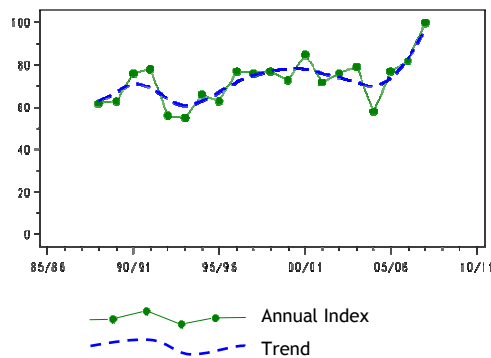


Figure 15.a, Annual indices & trend for Nearctic Light-bellied Brent Goose for NI.

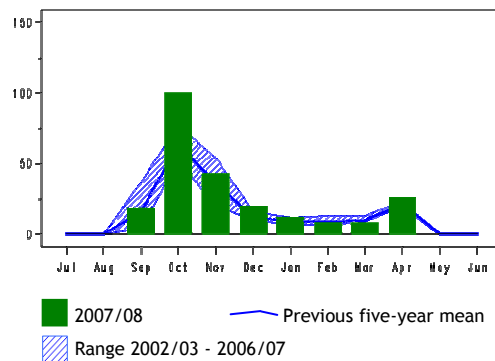


Figure 15.b, Monthly indices for Nearctic Light-bellied Brent Goose for NI.

Provisional results from the 2007 International Census of East Canadian High Arctic Light-bellied Brent Geese indicate numbers have increased by 30% since the previous year and reached their highest level to date. Similarly, the WeBS annual index indicates a continuing increase in numbers with Strangford Lough topping 30,000 birds for the first time. Both Strangford Lough and Lough Foyle supported peak totals in excess of their respective five-year means during the month of October, after which numbers

declined from December onwards. In England, site maxima were recorded at both Dee Estuary in January and Morecambe Bay in April, the latter involving birds on return migration. Breeding success was very good in 2007, the proportion of young being the highest recorded since 2000/01.

The presence of small numbers in west Cornwall is a relatively recent occurrence (*per* www.birdguides.com); this year's peak of 50 at Par Sands Pools & St Andrews Road is the most ever recorded by WeBS in the county.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Strangford Lough	21,500 <sup>31</sup>	26,250 <sup>31</sup>	21,885 <sup>31</sup>	24,658	30,457	Oct	24,950
Lough Foyle	3,277 <sup>31</sup>	1,603 <sup>31</sup>	3,968	2,177	3,251	Oct	2,855
Outer Ards Shoreline	642	762	618	577	946	Mar	709
Dundrum Inner Bay	287	302	640	575	1,108	Feb	582
Carlingford Lough	(570)	538	508	542	483	Dec	528
Killough Harbour	383	434	516	282			404
Larne Lough	235	254	218	256	369	Jan	266 ▲
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 25 or more birds in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Traeth Melynog	117	146	262				175
Dee Estuary (England & Wales)	66	121	138	104	199	Jan	126
Foryd Bay	96	115	54	47	181	Nov	99
Inland Sea & Alaw Estuary	95			79			87
Loch Gruinart	0	284	76	1	0		72
Morecambe Bay	53	31	22	65	129	Apr	60
Loch Ryan	45	67	89	(37)	28	Jan	58
Derbyhaven Bay		39					39
Jersey Shore				23	(36)	Mar	30
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain<sup>†</sup></b>							
Par Sands Pools and St Andrews Road	0	(0)	0	0	50	Oct	13

<sup>†</sup> 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: 2,765 Dec  
NI max: 0

% young 13.6  
Brood 2.24

\*50 is normally used as a minimum threshold

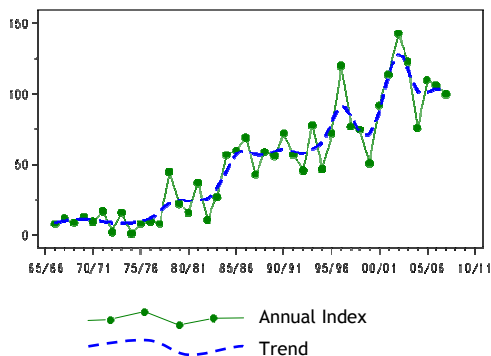


Figure 16.a, Annual indices & trend for Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

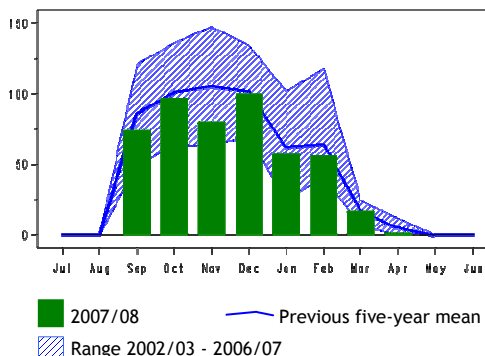


Figure 16.b, Monthly indices for Svalbard Light-bellied Brent Goose for GB.

The population of Light-bellied Brent Geese which breeds in Svalbard, north-east Greenland and Franz Josef Land has shown a trend of fluctuating increase over the last twenty or so years. In 2007/08, the counted monthly maximum fell for the second year in succession, due to lower numbers recorded at Lindisfarne which traditionally supports virtually the entire wintering population. The main wintering sites used to be Mariager & Randers Fjords in Denmark but Lindisfarne has become more and more important, with numbers there increasing from 200 birds in the 1950s to typically over

3,000 in the 2000s. Elsewhere this year, 69 at Eden Estuary in February represented the most ever counted at the site where peak numbers have steadily increased in recent years.

Breeding success was assessed through monitoring of the Lindisfarne birds, and at 13.6% proved to be the highest recorded since 1996/97. The percentage of young in wintering flocks has remained generally low over the past ten years, only exceeding 10% on four occasions since 1992/93; in 1993 (when it was 31.4%), 1996, 2000 and now 2007.

	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites of international importance in the UK</b>							
Lindisfarne	3,716	2,505 <sup>11</sup>	3,688	(3,350)	(2,727)	Dec	3,315
<b>Sites of national importance in Great Britain</b>							
Inner Moray and Inverness Firth	55	18	81	43	37	Jan	47
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain</b>							
Eden Estuary	15	9	27	18	69	Feb	28

## Black Brant

*Branta bernicla nigricans*

Vagrant

Native Range: N America and E Asia

GB max: 5 Feb  
NI max: 0

Black Brants were recorded in flocks of Dark-bellied Brent Geese at six traditional sites along the English coast between north

Norfolk and Portsmouth Harbour. All records related to singles apart from two at Cley Marsh in February.

## Red-breasted Goose

*Branta ruficollis*

Vagrant and escape  
Native Range: SE Europe, Asia

GB max: 3 Feb  
NI max: 0

Red-breasted Geese were recorded at nine sites in England, including several sites along the Suffolk and Essex coast which probably relate to the same one or two individuals. Most are likely to involve known escapes, the exception being one with

Dark-bellied Brent Geese in Chichester Harbour from November to January.

In the core of the range, 90% of the global population winter at just five roost sites within Bulgaria and Romania (Wetlands International 2006).

## Egyptian Goose

*Alopochen aegyptiaca*

Naturalised introduction<sup>†</sup>  
Native Range: Africa

GB max: 654 Sep  
NI max: 0

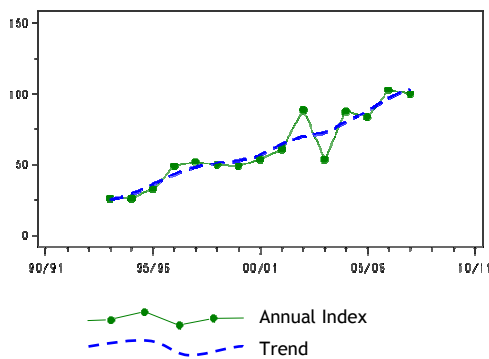


Figure 17.a, Annual indices & trend for Egyptian Goose for GB.

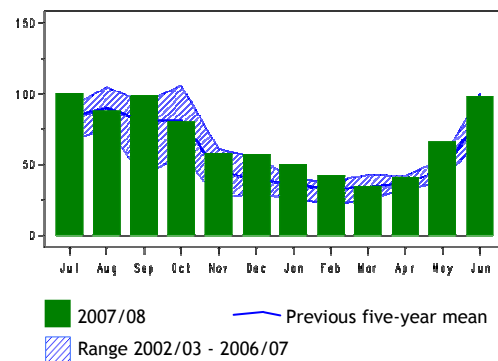


Figure 17.b, Monthly indices for Egyptian Goose for GB.



Egyptian Geese (Dawn Balmer)

The national index for Egyptian Goose in Britain showed a slight dip in 2007/08 but the overall trend continues to be of a steady increase.

The counted maximum of 654 in September represented the highest ever monthly total. In total, the species was recorded at a record 126 sites, including three in Wales, although for the second year running there were no records from Scotland.

However further range expansion away from the traditional stronghold of Norfolk was exemplified by site maxima recorded at a number of sites in English counties to the west and south of the core area. These included particularly notable late-summer counts of 60 at Summerleaze Gravel Pits in September and 47 at Queen Mary Reservoir in August; presumably both are evidence of successful breeding activity in those areas.



	03/04	04/05	05/06	06/07	07/08	Mon	Mean
<b>Sites with mean peak counts of 10 or more birds in Great Britain†</b>							
North Norfolk Coast	(126)	(144)	126	211	125	May	154
Sennowe Park Lake Guist	85						85
Breydon Water and Berney Marshes	65	82	85	55	134 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	84
Rutland Water	70	46	53	64	56	Jul	58
Yare Valley - Marlingford to Bawburgh				52 <sup>13</sup>	(61)	Sep	57
Middle Yare Marshes	24	(47)	26	65	(81)	Sep	49
Eversley Cross and Yateley Gravel Pits	9	6	24	69	96	Nov	41
Nunnery Lakes	51	36	31	36	36	Jun	38
Weybread Pits	30	41					36
Whitlingham Country Park	18	59	27	24	24	Jul	30
Spade Oak Gravel Pit (Little Marlow)	6	37	49	11	19	Dec	24
Hickling Broad	(0)	21	42	5			23
St Benet's Levels	23						23
The Wash	6	21	10	39	32	Dec	22
Barton Mere					19 <sup>13</sup>	Sep	19
Livermere and Ampton Water	29	8	2		38	Oct	19
Summerleaze Gravel Pits		0	8	2	60	Sep	18
Lynford Gravel Pit				(21)	13	Jul	17
Trinity Broads	10	22	(7)	8	26	Jul	17
Barton Broad	14	13	16	8	13	Jul	13
Busbridge Lakes	5			17	17	Dec	13
Felix Lane Gravel Pits				7	17	Sep	12
Lound Waterworks			16	14	5	Jun	12
Redgrave Lake				7	17	Oct	12
Lackford Lakes Nature Reserve	(17)	10	4	17	6	Feb	11
<b>Sites below table qualifying levels but exceeding threshold in WeBS-Year 2007/08 in Great Britain†</b>							
Queen Mary Reservoir	0	0	0	0	47	Aug	9
Ouse Washes	1 <sup>13</sup>	2 <sup>13</sup>	4 <sup>13</sup>	2 <sup>13</sup>	17 <sup>13</sup>	Oct	5
East Wretham Meres	2	2	14	6	16	Oct	8
Colne Fen Gravel Pits	0	0	1	0	15	Oct	3
Ditchford Gravel Pits	(0)	0	(0)	(0)	11	Feb	6
Dart Estuary	(4)	6	7	6	(10)	Jul	7

## Australian Shelduck

*Tadorna tadornoides*

Escape

Native Range: Australasia

GB max: 1 Nov  
NI max: 0

Escapes were recorded at Blenheim Park Lake in November and Severn Estuary in May. These are the first WeBS records since September 2002.

## Ruddy Shelduck

*Tadorna ferruginea*

Escape and possible vagrant

Native Range: Asia, N Africa, S Europe

GB max: 8 Aug  
NI max: 0

2007/08 was an uneventful year for Ruddy Shelduck in the UK. A peak monthly total of just eight in August included a flock of six at Kinsham Pool in Worcestershire - which may relate to Dutch birds that have a tendency to disperse westwards in late summer. Elsewhere, except for three on the River Welland in March, all records were of one or two birds.